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### What's News

#### Business & Finance

- Millions of Americans headed to stores on Black Friday, but retailers are navigating through a holiday season in which shoppers aren't splurging as much as they have in recent years. A1
- ◆ An obscure zinc smelter in Tennessee is sitting on two minerals vital to producing chips for smartphones and radar systems, landing it in the middle of a global trade war. **B1**
- ◆ Stocks solidified a fourth consecutive week of gains, after bouncing between small gains and losses Friday. The S&P 500 and Dow rose 0.1% and 0.3%, respectively, while the Nasdaq fell 0.1%. B11
- ♦ Sectors that have been bruised by higher interest rates and recession fears are rebounding to help drive a year-end surge in the stock market. B1
- Amazon faced strikes in the U.S. and Europe, hitting the company at the start of the busy holiday shopping weekend. B9
- ♦ Nissan is expanding its electric vehicles and battery manufacturing capacity in the U.K. with investments of up to \$2.39 billion. B9
- **♦ LG Electronics will set up** a new sales and marketing entity to oversee international business. B10

### World-Wide

- ♦ Hamas has released 24 hostages taken from Israel, according to Israeli and Qatari officials, the initial phase in a deal that has paused fighting in the Gaza war. The first 39 Palestinian women and teenagers were also released from Israeli prisons. A1
- ◆ The Israeli military has stepped up efforts to produce evidence that Gaza's largest hospital was a Hamas command center, as the humanitarian fallout from war and seizure of Al-Shifa Hospital has heaped pressure on Israel. A8
- **◆** A former executive assistant to Andrew Cuomo has sued the former New York governor for sexual harassment. A3
- ◆ Ireland witnessed its worst civil disorder in decades as rioters marauded through Dublin city center looting shops and setting buses and police cars on fire, seemingly in response to a stabbing attack that injured three children. A7
- ◆ Oscar Pistorius, the former Olympic and Paralympic track star who was convicted of murdering his girlfriend, was granted parole after serving half of his 15year sentence. A7
- ◆ Sean "Diddy" Combs was accused of sexual abuse in two lawsuits, a week after the rapper and entrepreneur settled a separate case with a former girlfriend. A6

### **NOONAN**

We should all give thanks for Taylor Swift A13

CONTENTS Gear & Gadgets D10-11 Heard on Street....B12

Markets Digest.... B6 Sports...... A14 Style & Fashion D2-3 U.S. News..... A2-4,6



### **Releases Keep Shaky Pact on Track**





FREEDOM RIDES: Top, a helicopter carrying hostages released by Hamas arrives Friday at Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel in Petah Tikva. Above, Palestinians who were let out of Israeli prisons as part of the exchange celebrate near Ramallah in the West Bank.

# Cease-Fire **Deal Frees** 24 Hostages

By Rory Jones AND SUMMER SAID

Hamas released 24 hostages taken from Israel, according to Israeli and Qatari officials, in the initial phase in an agreement that has paused fighting in the Gaza war.

The release of the hostages, which keeps a fragile ceasefire on track, was the result of weeks of negotiations over a deal between Israel and Hamas that was brokered by Qatar and Egypt with the help of the U.S. The return of the hostages to Israel will bring relief to their families, who have waited nearly seven weeks to bring them home. As part of the agreement, Israeli authorities released a group Palestinian prisoners, made up of women and teenagers.

The exchange of hostages and prisoners is the first stage of a wider deal that included a cessation of fighting starting at 7 a.m. local time Friday. Along with 13 Israelis, Hamas also released 10 Thais and a Philippines citizen who were surprise last-minute additions and whose freedom wasn't part of the broader agree-Please turn to page A8

◆ Israel details case against Gaza hospital...

◆ Deal cements Qatar's role as global mediator...

### Hamas Game Plan: **Delay and Survive**

TEL AVIV—Hamas leaders are heading into a temporary cease-fire with a singular mission: survival.

> By Rory Jones, Dov Lieber and Abeer Ayyoub

Israel has defined its war aims as toppling Hamas from power, killing its leadership, freeing the more than 200 hostages in Gaza and ending any security threat from the strip. The four-day pause gives Hamas time to prepare a new phase of the war that could last

tional pressure to end the conflict without achieving its goals, military analysts said. "The most important thing

for now is to guarantee their survival," Yossi Kuperwasser, former head of research in Israel's military intelligence division, said. The group, designated a terrorist organization by the U.S., hopes it can release hostages gradually, turning "this entire idea of defeating Hamas into something that will never happen," he said.

Israel says the pause in fighting isn't going to deter it from destroying Hamas's abilmonths, with the aim of sap- ity to launch attacks. But ping the momentum of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Ne-

### Pro-Trump **GOP Vote Poses Test** For Haley

By John McCormick

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa-The fate of Nikki Haley's presidential campaign rests on a central question: Can she be all things to all Republicans?

As the Republican presidential primary field begins to narrow, Haley's rise in polls represents the re-emergence of a more traditional Republican at a time when former President Donald Trump dominates the party.

Haley, a former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador, has made progress in consolidating the anti-Trump vote. But that won't be enough to win the nomination, surveys suggest, if she can't figure out how to peel off at least some Trump support.

Her effort to straddle the two factions, as she has since entering the race in February, is a test of whether anyone can unite a party that's deeply divided over its central figure.

Haley sounds like a pre-Trump Republican when she speaks her "hard truths" on fiscal discipline and entitlement reform, as well as when she calls for support for Ukraine and Israel. More Trump-like tones emerge when she talks about immigration and China.

In an interview, Haley declined to say whether she identifies more with the Trump Please turn to page A4

## Shoppers Flock to Black Friday Sales, But Retailers Brace for a Tricky Season

By Sarah Nassauer

Millions of Americans visited stores on Black Friday, but retailers are bracing for shoppers who are less willing to splurge this holiday season.

Many households have already begun their gift buying in a year when high prices for food and other essentials have sapped demand for apparel, home décor and other items that people may want but not need.

Several retailers, including Macy's and Walmart, reported larger crowds at stores this Please turn to page A2

- ♦ The Numbers: Shoppers fall for fake reviews.
- ◆ Amazon faces Black Friday strikes, protests..



A bargain hunter carried a television in a Best Buy store Friday in Union City, Calif.

### **EXCHANGE**



**BIG WINNER** Microsoft's CEO emerges victorious from the OpenAI fracas. **B1** 

Energy and water rules slow down machines; consumers devise hacks.

Why 'Efficient' Washers Take Forever to Run

By Austen Hufford

For months, Donna King experimented with the various settings of her washing machine, trying to get her clothes to stop coming out covered in detergent residue. In the era of tightening water and energy standards, King thinks the machine just doesn't use enough water, with clothes emerging nearly dry to the touch.

She regularly runs her Tshirts through the machine a second time. The hairstylist in Oak Ridge, Tenn., sometimes brings laundry loads into work

"I'm all for saving the envi-

ronment but this ain't the way

to do it, if you got to do something two or three times, 59-year-old said. "The standard is great on paper, but when it comes to practical and real life situations, it's a

bunch of s-.' King hacked her machine with a water pitcher— ing workarounds for their modshe now adds seven or more pitchers filled with water to

to use the heavy duty setup the machine, both at the start and midway through the cycle. That extra water tricks the machine into thinking there is a

bigger load, so the washer adds even more water.

King says her clothes now come out cleaner. "There is nothing convenient about any of Counting down it," she said.

Other consumers are also MacGyver-

ern home appliances, as planned Please turn to page A6