

FOOD

Cookies! Holiday recipes for the whole family **EXPANDED SECTION**



2023 IN PICTURES

Enduring images in a year of disasters and triumphs **SPECIAL SECTION**



THE CALL OF TOKITAE

Lessons from a life in captivity for a beloved orca **SPECIAL SECTION**

A WAKE UP-CALL IN TONGA

Undersea volcanoes and a nation almost wiped out **SPECIAL SECTION**

# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

RE V1 V2 V3 V4



Partly sunny 47/32 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 46/36 **B6**

*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023 • \$5

## Southern city latest war front in Gaza

Khan Younis offensive sees school bombed, hospital overwhelmed

*This article is by Loay Ayyoub, Hajar Harb, Loveday Morris, Hazem Balousha and Ruby Mellen*

**KHAN YOUNIS, GAZA STRIP** — They were brought to the doors of southern Gaza's al-Nasser Hospital in private cars, in trucks and on carts.

The injured and the dead had imagined that sheltering in a school would provide some safety. But as has happened so often in Gaza during this war, it did not.

The bodies of around 20 people killed in a strike, wrapped in white sheets, lay in the yard outside the hospital morgue Tuesday morning. Relatives shouted and wept.

The Israel Defense Forces on Tuesday pushed into Khan Younis, expanding its war against Hamas on a new front and bringing fresh horror to Palestinians who say they now have nowhere to run. Until now, southern Gaza's largest city had been a haven for civilians fleeing Gaza City and the north.

More than 80 percent of Gaza's population of more than 2 million has been displaced, according to **SEE GAZA ON A24**

**Hamas's numbers:** Israel believes military wing still mostly intact. **A24**



COURTNEY BEESCH/THE WASHINGTON POST

HOME-SCHOOL NATION

## What home schooling hides: A boy tortured and starved by his stepmom

Nobody could find Roman Lopez.

His family had searched, taping hand-drawn "missing" posters to telephone poles and driving the streets calling out the 11-year-old's name. So had many of his neighbors, their flashlights sweeping over the sidewalks as the winter darkness settled on the Sierra Nevada foothills.

The police were searching, too, and now they had returned to the place where Roman had gone missing earlier that day:

Years of abuse went undetected after Roman Lopez was pulled out of school

BY PETER JAMISON

his family's rented home in Placerville, Calif. Roman's stepmother, Lindsay Piper, hesitated when officers showed up at her door the night of Jan. 11, 2020, asking to comb the house again. But she had told them that Roman liked to hide in odd places — even the clothes dryer — and agreed to let them in.

Brock Garvin, Roman's 15-year-old stepbrother, was sitting in the dimly lit base-

**SEE ABUSE ON A8**

## A rankings revolt heard 'round the dean's office

Yale Law led a U.S. News boycott in 2022 as others fretted about following

BY JACK STRIPLING

The decision late last year by Yale Law School to stop cooperating with U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings drew giddy applause from some deans, who cheered the prospect of a larger uprising. After years of misgivings about the rankings' influence, school leaders hoped that a public stand by Yale — the publication's perennial No. 1 law program — might finally loosen U.S. News's grip.

"The revolution has begun!!"

Richard Moberly, dean of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln law school, wrote in an email shortly after the announcement to his then-counterpart at the University of Minnesota. "I have been wanting to do this for years but my guess is that people will follow Yale more than they would have followed Nebraska ...." (At the time, Nebraska was No. 78.)

Law school deans have long complained that the U.S. News metrics value students with high test scores at the expense of those with other worthy attributes. On the other hand, many deans say that even small bumps in the rankings can help them raise money and recruit stronger students and faculty.

Interviews with administrators **SEE RANKINGS ON A10**



MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

### Homeowner's troubling history

Investigators at the site of a house explosion in Arlington on Tuesday. Police said James W. Yoo had a history of filing "frivolous" lawsuits before Monday's standoff and blast. **Story, B1**

## Tuberville drops hold on military promotions

BY LIZ GOODWIN AND DAN LAMOTHE

Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.) announced Tuesday that he would lift his blanket hold on military promotions, ending a nearly 10-month standoff over a Biden administration abortion policy that made the former football coach the target of bipartisan ire.

"It's been a long fight, we fought hard," Tuberville said after announcing his decision to his colleagues at a closed-door lunch. "We just released them."

The hold, which Tuberville began in February, applied to all senior military promotions, and hundreds of officers were caught up in its net. As officers increasingly complained of the toll on military readiness and morale, and as a war raged in the Middle East, Tuberville faced increasing pressure from his fellow Republicans to drop the hold.

He has now narrowed his hold to the 10 or so promotions at the four-star rank. Tuberville said he relinquished the hold because he wanted to keep Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) from bringing up a vote to **SEE TUBERVILLE ON A4**

BY GERRY SHIH AND ANANT GUPTA

**MUMBAI** — Over a three-decade career, the filmmaker Anurag Kashyap often trained a critical eye on his native India as he wove tales about rogue cops, rotten ministers and the hypocrisies of the Indian middle class. He garnered standing ovations at Cannes and received fan mail from Martin Scorsese. He landed lucrative deals with Netflix after

the American streaming platform entered India in 2016, looking to produce edgy, Hindi-language shows.

But in 2021, Kashyap said, Netflix shelved what would have been his magnum opus: an adaptation of the nonfiction book "Maximum

RIISING INDIA, TOXIC TECH

## With dissent under fire, streaming giants bend

City," which explores Hindu bigotry and the extremes of hope and despair in Mumbai.

When the U.S. streaming giants, Netflix and Amazon's Prime Video, entered India seven years ago, they promised to shake up one of the world's most important

entertainment markets, a film-obsessed nation with more than 1 billion people and a homegrown moviemaking industry with fans worldwide.

In the past four years, however, a chill has swept through the streaming industry in India as

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party tightened its grip on the country's political discourse and the American technology platforms that host it. Just as the BJP and its ideological allies have spread propaganda on WhatsApp to advance their Hindu-first agenda and deployed the state's coercive muscle to squash dissent on Twitter, they have used the threat of criminal cases and coordinated mass pub-

**SEE INDIA ON A14**

## IN THE NEWS

**Tax case** The Supreme Court seems poised to uphold a 2017 provision on offshore earnings, an outcome that experts say would avoid imperiling wide swaths of the code. **A4**

**D.C. killings** Over five days, four people were charged with murder, including in a June crossfire death, and three were fatally shot. **B1**

**THE NATION** **Math scores** for American students fell to an all-time low on international exams. **A6** **Senators traded** blame for the dim prospects that additional Ukraine aid will be approved. **A7**

**THE WORLD** **The Taliban**, which long banned immunization campaigns, has declared war on polio. **A12** **The Islamic State** is surging in Africa, a shift from strongholds in Iraq and Syria. **A17**

**THE ECONOMY** **There's still time** to capitalize on clean energy tax credits for purchases of heat pumps, electric vehicles and more. **A18** **After closing** arguments, the fate of a proposed merger between JetBlue and Spirit rests with a federal judge. **A20**

**THE REGION** **Federal judges** are weighing whether to block a Maryland school district's decision to disallow opt-outs for LGBTQ+ books. **B1** **The Prince George's** County Council elevated new leaders who called for unity after a year of division. **B1**

**STYLE** **Is Balenciaga**, the brand that excelled with athleisure and streetwear, losing its stride? **C1** **SPORTS** **The NCAA** proposed a new economic model for college sports that would allow schools to pay their athletes directly. **D1**

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