



Cloudy, shower 78/61 • Tomorrow: T-storm 70/60 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024 • \$3

## EPA limits chemical plants' air pollution

Rule aims to prevent cancer in low-income areas near such facilities

BY MAXINE JOSELOW  
AND AMUDALAT AJASA

Five months after moving into her home in Texas City, Tex., encircled by industrial facilities, Nina Patton was diagnosed with breast cancer. She wondered if the pollution billowing from these plants was to blame.

Cancer-causing gases and other toxic air pollution from chemical operations in Patton's community — and others like it nationwide — will be cut under a rule the Environmental Protection Agency finalized Tuesday. The rule, the first update to national standards in nearly two decades, aims to prevent cancer in low-income and minority neighborhoods that are disproportionately located near such plants.

The regulation specifically targets ethylene oxide, which is used to sterilize medical devices, and chloroprene, which is used to make rubber. Long-term exposure to these two chemicals can increase the risk of certain types of cancer, including lymphoma, leukemia, breast cancer and liver cancer. The agency last month finalized a separate rule that will limit ethylene oxide from facilities that sterilize medical equipment, rather than chemical plants.

Patton, 68, said she hopes the rule finalized Tuesday will improve air quality and eliminate

SEE CHEMICALS ON A6

**Climate politics:** Tougher rules weighed for new gas plants. **A18**

## On eve of Masters, chasm still divides golf

PGA Tour, LIV battle for relevance as players, fans hope for resolution

BY RICK MAESE

AUGUSTA, GA. — Golf's biggest buzzword on the eve of its biggest tournament has nothing to do with technique or equipment or any of the superstars converging this week on Augusta National Golf Club. The topic du jour is sustainability — or, rather, the perceived unsustainability of the current landscape, which has the world's best pros competing on separate tours, their much-anticipated alliance still up in the air, and a sport enjoying surging participation but fearing a decline in fan interest.

"Things need a correction," Rory McIlroy, one of the faces of the PGA Tour, said last week in Texas, "and things are unsustainable."

"And it needs to happen fast," Bryson DeChambeau, the LIV Golf star, said in Florida. "It's not a two-year thing. It needs to happen quicker rather than later just for

SEE GOLF ON A6

**Svrluga:** In pain but still defiant, Tiger Woods returns to Augusta. **D1**



DIANA ZEYNEB ALHINDAWI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Hunger stalks war-ravaged Sudan as aid is blocked and stolen

In Sudan's post-apocalyptic cities, in the desert battlegrounds of Darfur and even in the war-ravaged farmlands of the south, families are beginning to starve.

It has been nearly a year since fighting broke out between the military, headed by Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), headed by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, universally referred to as Hemedti. The war plunged the nation of 49 million people into chaos, forcing more than 8 million from their homes.

The United Nations' World Food Program says the roots of the hunger problem are twofold: access and funding. Within Sudan, WFP trucks have been blocked, hijacked, attacked, looted and detained. Outside Sudan, makeshift camps are swollen with hungry and sick arrivals — but there's no money to feed them. Most have fled into South Sudan and Chad. In Chad, a funding crisis meant only the newest arrivals had been receiving food. All food distribution in Chad — home to 1.1 million refugees — will cease entirely within a week, said Cindy McCain, executive director of WFP.

Nearly a year after fighting broke out, a bigger food disaster 'than Gaza' looms

BY DIANA ZEYNEB ALHINDAWI  
AND KATHARINE HOURELD  
IN EL GENEINA, SUDAN

**Mawada Mohamed, 17, holds her 1-year-old sister, Aza Ismail, a patient at a therapeutic feeding center at El Geneina Teaching Hospital in West Darfur, Sudan.**

**When fighting reached the sisters' area on the outskirts of the city of El Geneina, a piece of shrapnel pierced Aza's head. The injury led to life-threatening complications, which in turn have led to malnutrition.**

"This is a huge, looming problem, and they are very close to famine," McCain told The Washington Post. "Kids are dying of starvation within Darfur and other parts of the country."

Getting permission from the government for food convoys can take up to three weeks, if it's granted at all, and the military won't authorize opening key routes into the country. Aid workers also say there's no clarity on engagement with the RSF, which has been declared a terrorist group by the military. During fighting, the RSF and its allies have repeatedly looted warehouses full of aid, although the paramilitary group is trying to encourage aid organizations to work in areas fully under its control. In other areas, no one is fully in control. Residents say some roads have become a patchwork of fiefdoms run by armed groups, each wanting to extract payments from passing traffic. Many gunmen survive off what they can extort and steal, including from aid convoys.

If the situation continues, McCain said, Sudan "will be a bigger disaster than Gaza in terms of food."

Many cities have been devastated by

SEE SUDAN ON A14

## Gaza cease-fire talks at 'critical point' once again

New pressures, particularly on Israel, raise hopes for a deal

BY STEVE HENDRIX,  
SUSANNAH GEORGE  
AND CLAIRE PARKER

JERUSALEM — For Gazans and Israelis yearning for a cease-fire and a deal to free hostages, feelings of cautious optimism have been dashed so many times that any optimism now seems incautious.

Once again, attention has turned to talks in Cairo amid reports that an agreement may be within reach. Once again, leaks from the parties are contradictory and hard to interpret, with hopeful signals quickly scrambled by dour assessments.

Egyptian officials have suggested that the basics of a deal are nearly settled. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said Monday that negotiations have reached a "critical point." Hamas dismissed the terms on the table as "nothing

SEE TALKS ON A13



ALAA AL SUKHNI/REUTERS

**The Jordanian military drops aid parcels over the Gaza Strip on Tuesday. Israel's foreign minister said cease-fire talks with Hamas are at their most advanced "since the first deal," reached in November.**

## In Ariz., abortion set to be a crime

COURT INVOKES 1864 LAW FORBIDDING IT

Providers could face prison in near-total ban

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE  
AND MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE

Arizona's conservative Supreme Court on Tuesday revived a near-total ban on abortion, invoking an 1864 law that forbids the procedure except to save a mother's life and punishes providers with prison time.

The 4-2 decision supersedes the previous rule, which guarded the right to end a pregnancy by the 15-week mark, resetting policy to the pre-*Roe v. Wade* era and adding Arizona to the roster of 16 other states where abortion is virtually outlawed.

The ruling cannot be enforced for 14 days, the judges wrote, during which Planned Parenthood Arizona, as a party to the court case, could raise constitutional questions before a lower court. And because of a separate ruling in a parallel case that sets a second clock ticking, the organization expects to provide abortion services through May, officials said during a Tuesday briefing.

Under the 1864 territorial law, which went into effect 48 years before Arizona became a state, anyone who administers an abortion could face a mandatory prison sentence of two to five years.

SEE ARIZONA ON A8

**The Take:** Trump's abortion gambit is upended, Dan Balz writes. **A8**

## Some Jan. 6 rioters win early release before ruling

Their return depends on high court's decision on key obstruction charge

BY SPENCER S. HSU

Federal judges have begun ordering the early release pending appeal of Jan. 6 defendants who challenged their sentences even though the Supreme Court is a week away from hearing arguments on whether a key charge brought against them is legally sound.

A Delaware man who carried a Confederate flag into the Capitol will be let go one year into his three-year term. An Ohio man who overran police lines and became one of the first rioters to enter the Capitol will be set free six months into a 19-month term. And a man who entered the just-evacuated Senate chamber with a Trump flag as a cape was released after serving five months of a 14-month term.

If the Supreme Court ultimately determines the charge they faced was legitimate, they and others who are released early pending appeal could be ordered to return to prison — but that is not a certainty.

The truncated sentences are the latest complications in the

SEE JAN. 6 ON A9

## IN THE NEWS

**Shooter's parents sentenced** James and Jennifer Crumbley, whose son killed four Michigan high school classmates in 2021, will serve as much as 15 years in prison. **A3**

**Japanese premier's U.S. visit** Fumio Kishida will trumpet the two nations' partnership at a time of tumult in East Asia. **A10**

**THE NATION**  
**A judge denied** Donald Trump's latest bid to delay his New York criminal trial. **A4**  
**Senate Democrats** unveiled a bill expanding federal powers related to pandemic fraud. **A18**

**THE WORLD**  
**A court found** that Switzerland's inaction on global warming violated human rights. **A12**  
**The Pentagon** has given Ukraine seized weapons of Iranian origin, U.S. officials said. **A16**

**THE ECONOMY**  
**Norfolk Southern** announced a \$600 million settlement in the East Palestine, Ohio, train derailment. **A17**  
**Manischewitz**, the 136-year-old Kosher food brand synonymous with Passover, has changed its look to broaden its appeal. **A17**

**THE REGION**  
**A grand jury** indicted a former Virginia elementary school official in the shooting of a teacher by a 6-year-old student. **B1**  
**OBITUARIES**  
**Nobel-winning** physicist Peter Higgs, 94, launched a search for the particle that would later bear his name. **B4**

**STYLE**  
**Kathryn Murdoch**, the liberal daughter-in-law of Rupert, fears that doomsayers have scared a generation from acting on climate change. **C1**

**FOOD**  
**For 50 years**, the journalist Eunice Fried has worked to break down the wine patriarchy. **E1**

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