

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, turning cloudy, rain in the afternoon, high 51. **Tonight**, some rain in the evening, mostly cloudy, low 44. **Tomorrow**, mostly cloudy, milder, high 57. Weather map, Page B10.

VOL. CLXXIII . . . No. 59,989 © 2023 The New York Times Company FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023 Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00



JENN ACKERMAN AND TIM GRUBER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Corn harvest near Cairo, Neb. Corn is a water-intensive crop and it can take hundreds of gallons to produce a single gallon of ethanol.

Water Supply Perils Undercut Promise of Corn-Powered Aircraft

This article is by **Max Bearak**, **Dionne Searcey** and **Mira Rovanasakul**.

Vast stretches of America are dominated by corn, nearly 100 million acres of it, stretching from Ohio to the Dakotas. What once was forest or open prairie today produces the corn that feeds people, cattle and, when made into ethanol, cars.

Now, the nation’s airlines want to power their planes with corn, too.

Their ambitious goals would likely require nearly doubling ethanol production, which airlines say would slash their greenhouse gas emissions. If they succeed it could transform America’s Corn Belt yet again, boosting farmers and ethanol producers alike, but also potentially further damaging one of the nation’s most important resources: groundwater.

Corn is a water-intensive crop and it can take hundreds of gallons to produce a single gallon of ethanol. But as airlines embrace

UNCHARTED WATERS

Hidden Risks of a Renewable Fuel

the idea of ethanol, prompting lobbyists for ethanol makers and corn growers alike to push for clean-energy tax credits in Washington, vital aquifers face serious risks.

“We’re on track to massively increase water usage without any real sense of how sensitive our aquifers are,” said Jeffrey

Broberg, who is concerned about groundwater in Minnesota, a major corn state, where he is a water-use consultant and founder of the Minnesota Well Owners Organization.

United Airlines this year signed a deal with a Nebraska ethanol company to buy enough sustainable aviation fuel, as the biofuel is known, to power 50,000 flights a year. In August, Delta announced a plan to create a sustainable fuel hub in Minnesota, a major corn

Continued on Page A14

Biden Proposal Would Rid U.S. Of Lead Pipes

By **CORAL DAVENPORT**

The Biden administration is proposing new restrictions that would require the removal of virtually all lead water pipes across the country in an effort to prevent another public health catastrophe like the one that came to define Flint, Mich.

The proposal on Thursday from the Environmental Protection Agency would impose the strictest limits on lead in drinking water since federal standards were first set 30 years ago. It would affect about nine million pipes that snake throughout communities across the country.

“This is the strongest lead rule that the nation has ever seen,” Radhika Fox, the E.P.A.’s assistant administrator for water, said in an interview. “This is historic progress.”

Digging up and replacing lead pipes from coast to coast is no small undertaking. The E.P.A. estimates the price at \$20 billion to \$30 billion over the course of a decade. The rule would require the nation’s utilities — and most likely their ratepayers — to absorb most of that cost, but \$15 billion is available from the 2021 infrastructure law to help them pay for it.

Tom Dobbins, the chief executive of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, said his members would need both technical help and more financial assistance from the federal government to comply with the proposed regulations. He urged the E.P.A. to “focus on providing drinking water systems with the resources and

Continued on Page A13

Refugee From Nazis, He Shaped World History

By **DAVID E. SANGER**

Henry A. Kissinger, the scholar-turned-diplomat who engineered the United States’ opening to China, negotiated its exit from Vietnam, and used cunning, ambition and intellect to remake American power relationships with the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War, sometimes trampling on democratic values to do so, died on Wednesday at his home in Kent, Conn. He was 100.

His death was announced in a statement by his consulting firm.

Few diplomats have been both celebrated and reviled with such passion as Mr. Kissinger. Considered the most powerful secretary of state in the post-World War II era, he was by turns hailed as an ultrarealist who reshaped diplomacy to reflect American interests and denounced as having abandoned American values, particularly in the arena of human rights, if he thought it served the nation’s purposes.

He advised 12 presidents — more than a quarter of those who have held the office — from John F. Kennedy to Joseph R. Biden Jr. With a scholar’s understanding of diplomatic history, a German-Jewish refugee’s drive to succeed in his adopted land, a deep well of insecurity and a lifelong Bavarian accent that sometimes added an indecipherable element to his pronouncements, he transformed almost every global relationship he touched.

At a critical moment in American history and diplomacy, he was second in power only to President Richard M. Nixon. He joined the

This is the full version of the abridged obituary that ran in some Thursday editions.

HENRY A. KISSINGER, 1923-2023



SAUL LOEB/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Henry A. Kissinger, the most powerful secretary of state of the postwar era, sought to strike and maintain balances of power.

Nixon White House in January 1969 as national security adviser and, after his appointment as secretary of state in 1973, kept both titles, a rarity. When Nixon resigned, he stayed on under President Gerald R. Ford.

Mr. Kissinger’s secret negotiations with what was still called Red China led to Nixon’s

most famous foreign policy accomplishment. Intended as a decisive Cold War move to isolate the Soviet Union, it carved a pathway for the most complex relationship on the globe, between countries that at Mr. Kissinger’s death were the world’s largest (the United States) and second-largest econo-

Continued on Page A20

ISRAELIS SAW PLAN FOR HAMAS ATTACK OVER A YEAR AGO

Officials Brushed Off Detailed Blueprint, Concluding It Couldn’t Be Done

By **RONEN BERGMAN** and **ADAM GOLDMAN**

TEL AVIV — Israeli officials obtained Hamas’s battle plan for the Oct. 7 terrorist attack more than a year before it happened, documents, emails and interviews show. But Israeli military and intelligence officials dismissed the plan as aspirational, considering it too difficult for Hamas to carry out.

The approximately 40-page document, which the Israeli authorities code-named “Jericho Wall,” outlined, point by point, exactly the kind of devastating invasion that led to the deaths of about 1,200 people.

The translated document, which was reviewed by The New York Times, did not set a date for the attack, but described a methodical assault designed to overwhelm the fortifications around the Gaza Strip, take over Israeli cities and storm key military bases, including a division headquarters.

Hamas followed the blueprint with shocking precision. The document called for a barrage of rockets at the outset of the attack, drones to knock out the security cameras and automated machine guns along the border, and gunmen to pour into Israel en masse in paragliders, on motorcycles and on foot — all of which happened on Oct. 7.

The plan also included details about the location and size of Israeli military forces, communication hubs and other sensitive information, raising questions about how Hamas gathered its intelligence and whether there were

leaks inside the Israeli security establishment.

The document circulated widely among Israeli military and intelligence leaders, but experts determined that an attack of that scale and ambition was beyond Hamas’s capabilities, according to documents and officials. It is unclear whether Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or other top political leaders saw the document, as well.

Last year, shortly after the document was obtained, officials in the Israeli military’s Gaza division, which is responsible for defending the border with Gaza, said that Hamas’s intentions were unclear.

“It is not yet possible to determine whether the plan has been fully accepted and how it will be manifested,” read a military assessment reviewed by The Times.

Then, in July, just three months

Continued on Page A9



SERGEY PONOMAREV FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Smoke rising in Gaza City, seen from Kfar Azza, Israel.

Wounded in Bodies and Minds, Freed Hostages Recount Ordeals

This article is by **Katherine Rosman**, **Emma Bubola**, **Rachel Abrams** and **Russell Goldman**.

Some of the hostages were held in sweltering tunnels deep beneath Gaza, while others were squeezed into tight quarters with strangers or confined in isolation. There were children forced to appear in hostage videos, and others forced to watch gruesome footage of Hamas’s Oct. 7 terrorist attack. They bore physical and psychological wounds.

As some hostages captured that day in the Hamas-led assault on southern Israel have been released, they have relayed these and other stories of their captivity to family members. While their individual experiences differ in some details, their accounts share

features that corroborate one another and suggest that Hamas and its allies planned to take hostages.

The New York Times interviewed the family members of 10 freed hostages, who spoke on behalf of their relatives to relay sensitive information.

The relatives who spoke to The Times described how the freed hostages, many of them children, were deprived of adequate food while in Gaza. Many said they had received just a single piece of bread per day for weeks. Others were fed small portions of rice, or pieces of cheese. The Red Cross said it was denied access to the hostages.

Many of the hostages who have returned to Israel in the past week — part of a cease-fire deal be-

Continued on Page A8

‘Mistake’ in Tell-All Reignites Royal Racism Furor in Britain

By **MARK LANDLER**

LONDON — As book rollouts go, the one for Omid Scobie’s latest offering about the British royal family, “Endgame,” has been a hot mess — splashy, gaudy, tantalizing but ultimately a bit withholding — which is to say, par for the course for a putative tell-all account of the world’s most covered, least decoded family.

The withholding part involves an unconfirmed, thoroughly radioactive nugget that turned up in the Dutch edition of Mr. Scobie’s book, published on Tuesday: the identity of two members of the royal family who once reportedly

expressed concerns about the skin color of the unborn child of Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan.

Mr. Scobie’s Dutch publisher, Xander, quickly withdrew the book from shelves and online sites in the Netherlands at the behest of the author and his agent, citing an unspecified “mistake” that it said would be corrected in time for the book to go back on sale on Dec. 8. The family members are not identified in either the British or American editions, which were published by imprints of Harper-

Continued on Page A11

BUSINESS B1-6 State Returns to Mining Roots North Carolina, after decades of stagnation, is riding a lithium rush fostered by demand for car batteries. PAGE B1	INTERNATIONAL A4-11 Climate Summit in Petrostate Activists have balked at the fact that a leading oil producer, the U.A.E., is hosting the U.N. climate talks. PAGE A4	NATIONAL A12-25 Biden’s Ties to India Tested An alleged assassination plot illustrates how complicated it can be for U.S. presidents to balance their relationships with deeply imperfect allies. PAGE A19	WEEKEND ARTS C1-16 A Procrastinator? Big Time. After 21 years, Peter Gabriel has a new album. “I kept making music, but I didn’t get to finishing stuff,” he said. PAGE C1	OBITUARIES B12-13 Frontman for the Pogues Shane MacGowan, who romanticized whiskey-soaked rambles and hard-luck stories of emigration, was 65. PAGE B13
Cybertruck Debut Arrives Tesla began delivering its highly anticipated electric pickup on Thursday, two years behind schedule. PAGE B1	Russia’s Gay Rights Crackdown A declaration by the Supreme Court that the movement is “extremist” could threaten L.G.B.T.Q. people. PAGE A10	G.O.P. Battles Civics Education Virginia, Florida and South Dakota’s new standards focus on patriotism, Christianity and anti-communism. But current events? Not allowed. PAGE A12	Making Their Moves A stage version of a J.M. Coetzee novel set amid a South African war includes both actors and puppets. PAGE C1	An On-the-Fly Photographer Larry Fink captured society figures, boxers, musicians and his neighbors in rural America. He was 82. PAGE B12
	SPORTS B7-11 A Very Early Mock Draft Who goes first in the April N.F.L. draft, Drake Maye or Caleb Williams? Who gets Marvin Harrison Jr.? Any defensive players in the Top 10? PAGE B9	Pope’s Patience Is Running Out Vatican observers see a leader more willing to crack down on critics seeking to derail his agenda for the Roman Catholic Church. PAGE A13		OPINION A26-27 Ben Rhodes PAGE A26
				