



# IDF enters former haven for displaced

Thousands driven to overcrowded camps as Israeli strikes intensify

BY STEVE HENDRIX, MIRIAM BERGER, HAZEM BALOUSHA AND RUBY MELLEN

JERUSALEM — Fighting in South Gaza intensified Wednesday as Israeli troops entered Khan Younis, once a haven for Palestinians fleeing the hostilities, driving thousands more displaced civilians to makeshift tent cities in areas farther south that are jammed with refugees.

A strike also was reported in Rafah, an area Israel has told Gazans to flee to for their safety.

The Israeli army said its tanks had reached the center of Khan Younis, the largest city in the south and reportedly the stronghold of Yehiya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Commanders said they were engaged in some of the fiercest fighting of the war.

Khan Younis has been crowded with civilians displaced by earlier fighting in northern Gaza. On Wednesday, Israel warned thousands of residents and refugees to evacuate, setting many on the move for the second or third time in two months of war.

Dozens were killed Tuesday in an Israeli strike on a school in Khan Younis, witnesses told The Washington Post. Gaza health

SEE GAZA ON A8

Oct. 7 planning: Hamas lulled Israel into complacency. A9

# Acquittal in fatal Md. shooting of cuffed man

Pr. George's officer cleared of murder, other counts in 2020 encounter

BY WASHINGTON POST STAFF

Michael Owen Jr., the first Prince George's County police officer to be charged with murder for actions taken in uniform, was found not guilty on all the counts he faced in the fatal shooting of a handcuffed man, including second-degree murder and voluntary manslaughter.

The case hinged upon whether Owen, who fatally shot 43-year-old William Green six times while the man had his hands cuffed behind his back, pulled the trigger in self-defense on the night of the Jan. 27, 2020, shooting. Prosecutors argued at trial that Green, who had been found earlier passed out in a car, posed no threat and that Owen failed to "respect the sanctity of human life" by firing his service weapon at the man. But Owen, who testified in his own defense this week and had fatally shot someone earlier in his career, asserted that there was a violent struggle in the car and that he shot Green to protect himself.

The jury, which heard five days of testimony in the case, also

SEE VERDICT ON A6

## CHINA'S GLOBAL LEAP



PHOTOS BY MARCELO PEREZ DEL CARPIO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

# China's space program worries U.S.

Pentagon sees defense capabilities in Beijing's growing global network of facilities

BY CATE CADELL AND MARCELO PEREZ DEL CARPIO

EL ALTO, BOLIVIA — On a plateau 13,000 feet above sea level in the Bolivian Andes, llama herders and Indigenous farmers share the sparse landscape with an unusual neighbor: a towering cluster of Chinese-built satellite dishes.

The Amachuma Ground Station exchanges data 24 hours a day with Bolivia's only state-owned satellite, Tupac Katari I, which orbits some 22,300 miles above Latin America. The remote ground station has another, largely invisible, use: It allows Beijing to surveil skies 10,000 miles from China, according to officials from the Bolivian space agency and Chinese scientists and company officials familiar with the program.

The Pentagon is increasingly concerned that China's growing network of facilities in Latin America and Antarctica for its civilian space and satellite programs has defense capabilities. U.S. officials say the ground stations — which allow countries to maintain uninterrupted communication

SEE SPACE ON A10



Students in Bolivia view a model of a Venezuelan communications satellite during a visit to the Bolivian space agency's Amachuma Ground Station, top. Apart from two ground stations in Bolivia, China has built space facilities in Venezuela, Peru and Argentina.

NORMAN LEAR 1922-2023

# Reinvented the sitcom through social commentary

BY LOUIS BAYARD

Norman Lear, the TV writer and producer who transformed the bland porridge of situation comedy into a zesty stew of sociopolitical strife and brutally funny speech and who gave the world such embattled comic archetypes as Archie Bunker, Fred Sanford, Maude Findlay and George Jefferson, died Dec. 5 at his home in Los Angeles. He was 101.

A family spokeswoman, Lara Berghold, announced the death but did not provide an immediate cause.

Mr. Lear's entertainment career spanned the late 1940s to the 21st century, and he also found prominence in later life as a liberal political activist. But his legend was sealed in the 1970s, when he created a handful of shows that transformed the television medium into a fractious national town meeting and showcased the American family in all its hopes and dysfunctions.

Racial prejudice, divorce, rape, Black inner-city struggle, upward social mobility — themes almost nonexistent on commercial television — were suddenly brought to compelling life through Mr. Lear's juggernaut of hits, including "All in the Family," "Sanford and Son," "Maude," "Good

Creator of 'All in the Family' and spinoffs brought once-taboo topics to television



MARVIN JOSEPH/THE WASHINGTON POST

Norman Lear, a 2017 Kennedy Center honoree, also found prominence as a liberal political activist.

Times," "The Jeffersons" and "One Day at a Time."

Far from sermonizing, the shows were master classes in broad comedy. Their success was undeniably due in large measure to the actors, who brought shadings of empathy to troubled, worried and often deeply flawed characters.

"Norman Lear took television away from the pimps, hookers, hustlers, private eyes, junkies, cowboys and rustlers that constituted television chaos, and, in their place, he put the American people," screenwriter Paddy Chayefsky once observed. "He took the audience and put them on the [TV] set."

By the 1990s, the adult sensibility that Mr. Lear brought to television found a new home in cable drama. "You can trace the impact of his shows in 'The Sopranos,' 'The Shield,' 'The Wire,' wherever you have complex characters of questionable morality," said Ron Simon, a curator at the Paley Center for Media in New York. "Nothing was ever neatly wrapped up in Lear's world."

At his professional peak, Mr. Lear

SEE LEAR ON A2

Appreciation: For Lear, curiosity was the key to longevity. C1

# Trump remark raises alarms

'DICTATOR' ANSWER REVIVES SCRUTINY

Rhetoric defies allies' attempts to minimize it

BY MARIANNE LEVINE, ISAAC ARNSDORF AND JOSH DAWSEY

Donald Trump's campaign asked allies on Capitol Hill in recent days to publicly counter criticism that the former president would govern like a dictator in a second term, according to people familiar with the matter.

Yet on Tuesday, Trump reignited that criticism. Pressed twice on the topic during a televised town hall with Fox News host Sean Hannity, including on whether he "would never abuse power as retribution against anybody," Trump replied: "Except for Day 1," before going on to talk about drilling for oil and closing the border.

The conflicting messages underscored what some experts and lawmakers see as Trump's continued embrace of authoritarian rhetoric and ideas, and his refusal to fully rebuke some dire warnings about how he'd govern

SEE TRUMP ON A4

Nevada electors: 6 more charged in 2020 play to usurp Biden win. A3

Wisconsin: GOP electors concede 2020 outcome, settling lawsuit. A4

# McCarthy retiring as year comes to a close

Ex-speaker, known for fundraising skills, says he'll serve in 'new ways'

BY MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR, MARIANA ALFARO, JACQUELINE ALEMANY AND LEIGH ANN CALDWELL

Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), who was ousted as the 55th House speaker in October after a revolt by hard-right members, will not seek reelection to his congressional seat and will retire at the end of the month, he announced Wednesday.

"I have decided to depart the House at the end of this year to serve America in new ways," McCarthy said in a Wall Street Journal op-ed. "I know my work is only getting started."

McCarthy's retirement will end a 17-year House career in which he rose quickly through the ranks of Republican leadership by using his affable nature to maintain relationships and keep obstructionists close, culminating with a nine-month stint as speaker. His ouster marked the first time in history that the House voted to remove its leader, a move that threw the chamber into a period of instability.

SEE MCCARTHY ON A5

## IN THE NEWS

**Malaria surged in 2022** Global cases of the sometimes-deadly disease spiked, a change driven by extreme weather and other crises, the World Health Organization said. A18

**Md. transportation cuts** Plans to fill a hole in the budget would delay highway construction and prompt reductions of transit services. B1

**THE NATION** **The Supreme Court,** after reviewing the case of a female police sergeant, appeared poised to make it easier for workers to pursue job discrimination claims over transfers. A3

**THE WORLD** **In Australia,** the mullet isn't a hairstyle, it's a lifestyle. It even has a festival. A7 **Boris Johnson** was both defensive and contrite before a pandemic panel in Britain. A11

**THE ECONOMY** **Safety at Amazon** is under unprecedented scrutiny, but regulators often have limited ability to enforce rules. A13 **A \$3 billion grant** will go toward a project to build a private passenger railroad between Las Vegas and Southern California. A14

**THE REGION** **A 17-year-old** was arrested in a carjacking involving an FBI agent in Washington last week, police said. B1 **Talks involving** D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D), Police Chief Pamela A. Smith and House lawmakers yielded a measure of progress. B1

**STYLE** **Union members** at the New Yorker magazine stood up in the face of announced layoffs. C1 **LOCAL LIVING** **From place mats** to pet bowls to cocktail glassware to wool throws, check out 10 great gift ideas for the home this holiday season.

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