

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, mostly sunny, dry, not as cold, high 48. Tonight, cloudy, remaining dry, low 42. Tomorrow, increasing clouds, rain in the afternoon, high 51. Weather map appears on Page A24.

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MAX WHITTAKER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Tallac Hotshots monitored a line on the Yeti Complex fire near Happy Camp, Calif., in August 2022.

On Front Lines With Wildfire Fighters

A relatively quiet wildfire season in the American West is all but over with the arrival of rain and snow in recent weeks. But for the Tallac Hotshots, an elite federal firefighting crew, the work barely stopped. From the Fourth of July to Thanksgiving week, smoke and fire were near-constant companions. A profile of some of the federal government’s hardest-working employees. **SPECIAL REPORT, PAGES A11-14**

Weed or a Gun? Federal Law Says Choose.

By SERGE F. KOVALESKI

For Vera Cooper, the time had come to buy a gun.

In her mid-70s at the time and widowed several years earlier, she was already feeling vulnerable, living by herself. Then came the tipping point: The plumbing business that Ms. Cooper owns in the Florida Panhandle had to fire a worker, and he stormed out of the office, threatening vengeance.

At a nearby gun store, she settled on a .22-caliber pistol that “felt good in my hand.” Then came the problem. A question on the firearms transaction form she was required to complete asked whether she was an “unlawful user” of marijuana or any other drug categorized by the federal government as a controlled substance.

Ms. Cooper is registered in Florida’s medical marijuana program and relies on the drug to ease her chronic knee pain and sleeplessness. She answered the query accordingly and was told that as long as she held a marijuana card, buying a gun was not possible.

“I’d feel safer with a gun,” she said. But without the marijuana before bed, she said, she couldn’t sleep anyway. It was a tough choice.

There are relatively few limitations at the federal level on who is eligible to purchase or possess firearms and ammunition. The national background check system looks for issues like a criminal conviction, mental health problems, a dishonorable military discharge, unlawful immigration status or a domestic violence restraining order.

But even as a growing number of states have legalized marijuana, either for recreational or medical use, participating in a state’s medical marijuana system remains a barrier to gun ownership.

The issue is shaping up to be one of the next legal frontiers in

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HENRY A. KISSINGER, 1923-2023



MIKE LIEN/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Henry A. Kissinger in 1971. He was seen as the most powerful post-World War II secretary of state.

A Strong-Willed Architect of the Cold War Era

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 Connecticut. He was 100.

His death was announced in a statement released 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 diplo-

macy 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.

At a critical moment in American history and diplomacy, he was second in power only to President Richard M. Nixon. He joined the 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 then still called Red China, leading to Nixon’s most famous foreign policy accomplishment, was intended to be a decisive Cold War move to isolate the Soviet Union.

Instead, 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 economies, completely intertwined and yet constantly at odds as a new Cold War seemed to loom.

For decades he remained the country’s most important voice on managing China’s rise. He was the only American to deal with every Chinese leader from Mao to Xi Jinping. In China, even as relations with Washington turned adversarial, he was treated like visiting royalty.

To almost two generations of Americans, however, who grew up after he left office more than 40 years ago, Mr. Kissinger was largely a distant figure at his

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In West Bank, Trust in Hamas Only Deepens

Prisoners’ Release Adds to Image as Protector

By CHRISTINA GOLDBAUM and HIBA YAZBEK

DEIR ABU MASHA’AL, West Bank — The two cousins spotted each other on the bus leaving the prison, as shocked to see the other as they were by their sudden freedom. “Pinch me,” Anwar Atta, 18, told his younger cousin. “I need to know if this is a dream.”

Then, early Sunday morning, the bus pulled out of Ofer Prison in the West Bank and into a throng of cheering Palestinians. Before the cousins’ feet could touch the ground, they were hoisted into the air and carried through the streets of Ramallah, surrounded by people waving Palestinian and Hamas flags, revving their motorcycle engines and whistling in excitement.

“This is thanks to the resistance in Gaza,” Anwar said hours later from his family’s home on the outskirts of the city.

Anwar and his cousin Mourad Atta, 17, are among the 210 Palestinian teenagers and women freed from Israeli prisons in recent days, the largest such release of prisoners and detainees in more than a decade. Their freedom is part of a deal in which the Palestinians were traded for 101 hostages, many of them children, captured during the Hamas-led terrorist attack in Israel on Oct. 7. The deal also included a temporary cease-fire in the war in Gaza, which has killed more than 13,000 people, according to Gazan officials.

Israel’s bombardment of Gaza and the elation over the prisoners’ release have deepened support for Hamas in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where the Palestinian Authority has administered cities and towns for more than two decades. Gaza, the other Palestinian enclave, has by contrast been controlled since 2007 by Hamas, a militant group.

Now, as many in the West Bank fear the war could spread to the occupied territory, some believe Hamas and other armed groups are the only ones they can trust to protect them.

The Palestinian Authority — which is controlled by the Fatah political faction — is deeply unpopular and widely seen as a subcontractor to the Israeli occupation. Long-simmering frustrations with the authority’s leadership and accusations of corruption have been exacerbated in the past year by an uptick in violence by Israeli settlers.

For some Palestinians living under military occupation in the West Bank, the freed prisoners have become a potent symbol of

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MEDIATORS SEEK SERIES OF PAUSES TO HELP END WAR

LARGER GOAL FOR GAZA

Israelis Vow to Return to Fighting Until Hamas Is Eliminated

By BEN HUBBARD

ISTANBUL — Top officials from Qatar, Egypt and the United States pushed on Wednesday to lock in another temporary extension of the cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, seeing it as the best way to ease the embattled territory’s humanitarian crisis, secure the release of more Israeli hostages and slow the war’s escalating death toll for at least a little longer.

But some officials briefed on the talks said they also hoped that the succession of short-term pauses would pave the way toward a larger goal: negotiations over a longer-term cease-fire between Israel and Hamas to bring the war to a close.

Amid international pressure to prolong the pause in fighting, Israeli leaders rejected out of hand the notion of a long-term truce, reiterating their vow to fight until Hamas and its leaders have been eliminated.

“In recent days I have heard a question: After completing this stage of the return of our hostages, will Israel go back to the fighting? My answer is an unequivocal yes,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement on Wednesday. “There is no situation in which we do not go back to fighting until the end.”

As of Wednesday, Hamas had freed at least 100 hostages, mostly women and children, according to a New York Times tally, and Israel had released 210 Palestinian women and teenagers.

President Biden confirmed Wednesday afternoon that one of the hostages released was a dual Israeli-American citizen and said his administration was committed

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POOL PHOTO BY SAUL LOEB

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken was set to visit Israel.

Apple Opens Path for Healing Green and Blue Divide in Texts

For more than a decade, smartphone users everywhere have faced a major problem in how we communicate: the “green versus blue bubble” disparity.

BRIAN X. CHEN

TECH FIX

When iPhone users send texts to other iPhones, the messages appear blue and can tap into exclusive perks like fun emojis and animations. But if an iPhone user texts an Android user, the bubble turns green, many features break, and photos and videos deteriorate in quality.

Over time, the annoyance and frustration that built up between blue and green bubbles evolved into more than a tech problem. It created a deeper sociological divide between people who judged one another by their

phones. The color of a bubble became a symbol that some believe reflects status and wealth, given a perception that only wealthy people buy iPhones.

Now part of this problem will soon be addressed.

This month, Apple announced that it would improve the technology used to send texts between iPhone and Android users, starting next year, by adopting a standard that Google and others integrated into their messaging apps years ago. Texts sent between iPhones and Androids will remain green, but images and videos will look higher-quality and security features like encryption may eventually arrive, Apple said.

But that’s where the good

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NATIONAL A11-21, 24

Haley Builds Momentum

The crowds are growing in early primary states, but Nikki Haley faces a hard climb to catch Donald J. Trump. **PAGE A16**

Wolverines Gain Protection

The predators, threatened by climate change, join the Endangered Species List in the lower 48 states. **PAGE A15**



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

In Search of a ‘Zeitenwende’

German troops were promised a seismic “change of era” nearly two years ago. It has yet to materialize. **PAGE A4**

An Eviction at the Vatican?

Pope Francis is said to be looking to evict Cardinal Raymond Burke, who has emerged as his top critic. **PAGE A10**

OBITUARIES B11-12

Buffett’s Brilliant Partner

A billionaire himself, Charles T. Munger was the witty vice chairman of Warren Buffett’s powerhouse firm Berkshire Hathaway. He was 99. **PAGE B12**

BUSINESS B1-6

U.A.W. Eyes Nonunion Shops

The effort follows the success of the auto workers union in winning big raises from Detroit carmakers. **PAGE B1**

Dubai’s Costly Water World

The city has spent billions to provide fresh water it doesn’t have, straining the Persian Gulf’s resources. **PAGE B1**

SPORTS B7-10

North Korean Star Re-emerges

Han Kwang-song’s recent appearances in World Cup qualifiers were his first ones overseas since 2020, when U.N. sanctions led to a career break. **PAGE B7**

THURSDAY STYLES D1-8

Vacuum Cleaner Love

Dyson’s cordless stick has become a status symbol, and more. It is “almost weirdly sexy,” says one owner. **PAGE D1**

Fashionable in Tokyo

Plaids, corduroy and kogal: Signs of fall abound in the Japanese capital. Simbarascha Cha takes a look. **PAGE D6**



ARTS C1-8

A Winning Collaboration

“Poor Things,” directed by Yorgos Lanthimos and starring Emma Stone, is viewed as an Oscar contender. **PAGE C1**

Looking for Local Talent

When top jobs at Italy’s museums last opened up, many went to foreign candidates. This time, that’s unlikely. **PAGE C1**

OPINION A22-23

Chuck Schumer

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