

Trump Solicits Billion Dollars At Oil Dinner

Vows to Upend Biden's Environmental Rules

This article is by Lisa Friedman, Carol Davenport, Jonathan Swan and Maggie Haberman.

Former President Donald J. Trump told a group of oil executives and lobbyists gathered at a dinner at his Mar-a-Lago resort last month that they should donate \$1 billion to his presidential campaign because, if elected, he would roll back environmental rules that he said hampered their industry, according to two people who were there.

About 20 people attended an April 11 event billed as an "energy round table" at Mr. Trump's private club, according to those people, who asked not to be identified in order to discuss the private event. Attendees included executives from ExxonMobil, EQT Corporation and the American Petroleum Institute, which lobbies for the oil industry.

The event was organized by the oil billionaire Harold Hamm, who has for years helped to shape Republican energy policies. It was first reported by The Washington Post.

Mr. Trump has publicly railed for months against President Biden's energy and environmental agenda, as Mr. Biden has raced to restore and strengthen dozens of climate and conservation rules that Mr. Trump had weakened or erased while in office. In particular, Mr. Trump has promised to eliminate Mr. Biden's new climate rules intended to accelerate the nation's transition to electric vehicles, and to push a "drill, baby, drill" agenda aimed at opening up private lands to oil and gas exploration.

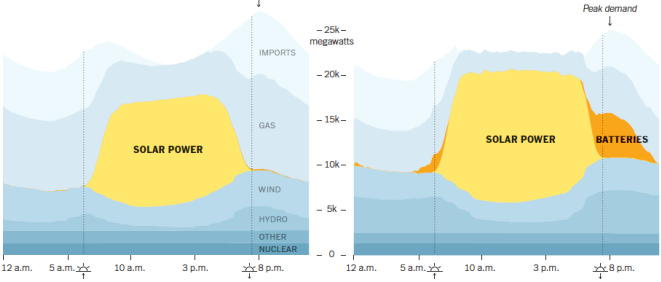
Mr. Biden has called climate change an existential threat and has moved to cut the pollution that is dangerously heating the planet and supercharging storms, heat

Continued on Page A14

BACK ON STAND Stormy Daniels Echoed Donald J. Trump's Style as She Resisted Attacks

How California Powered Itself in April 2021 ... and in April 2024.

Average daily generation, by fuel type



Shipping-Container-Size Batteries Are Revamping U.S. Energy

By BRAD PLUMER and NADJA POPOVICH

California draws more electricity from the sun than any other state. It also has a timing problem: Solar power is plentiful during the day but disappears by evening, just as people get home from work and electricity demand spikes. To fill the gap, power companies typically burn more fossil fuels like natural gas.

That's now changing. Since 2020, California has installed more giant batteries than anywhere in the world apart from China. They can soak up excess solar power during the day and store it for use when it gets dark. Those batteries play a pivotal role in California's electric grid, partially replacing fossil fuels in the evening. Between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on April 30, for example, batteries supplied more than one-fifth of California's electricity and

Growing Power Source After the Sun Sets

for a few minutes, pumped out 7,046 megawatts of electricity, akin to the output from seven large nuclear reactors. Across the country, power companies are increasingly using giant batteries the size of shipping containers to address renewable

energy's biggest weakness: the fact that the wind and sun aren't always available. "What's happening in California is a glimpse of what could happen to other grids in the future," said Helen Kou, head of U.S. power analysis at BloombergNEF, a research firm. "Batteries are quickly moving from these niche applications to shifting large amounts of renewable

Continued on Page A13

Life After Guantánamo

In a quick but eventful year since his release from prison, Majid Khan reunited with his wife, met his daughter and added to his family with a son. PAGE A4

Rescue Effort in South Africa

At least eight are dead and dozens are missing three days after a four-story building under construction collapsed in a thunderous instant. PAGE A11

3 Russian Oil Facilities Struck

Analysis says Ukraine is trying to disrupt the country's logistical routes and combat operations and strain its enemy's most important industry. PAGE A6



Expanding Offshore Drilling

Oil companies say they have an economic reason for planning more drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. PAGE B1

Soul-Crushing Ad

A commercial meant to showcase Apple's iPad as the ultimate creative toy isn't being received that way. PAGE B1

Narrowing the Wealth Gap

The nonprofit Harlem Children's Zone is giving students in its charter schools \$100,000 each to invest, payable when they turn 25, with conditions. PAGE A2

Dog Trainers Unleashed

The governor of South Dakota defends her story of shooting her dog, but not everyone in her state does, especially its bird dog lovers. On Politics. PAGE A16

Rare Fish Makes a Comeback

The spring population of the critically endangered pupfish is at a 25-year high, a surprising rebound in a tiny, but deep, desert cave in Death Valley. PAGE A12

Waking Up C-12

The Costume Institute show features outfits so fragile they can no longer be displayed on mannequins. PAGE C1

More Teeth-Baring Action

The latest installment of the "Planet of the Apes" film franchise finds mythology turning into power. PAGE C1

SPORTS B-12

A Fan Base Rejuvenated

Fifty years after the Knicks lost a championship, a promising teen has captured its hometown. PAGE B8

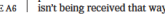
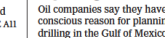
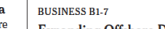
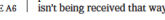
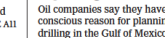
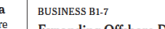
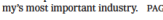
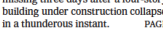
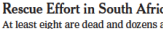
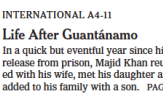
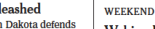
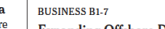
Red-Hot Start for Phillies

Philadelphia has had a better start only twice before in franchise history, and plans to ride the wave. PAGE B11

OPINION A22-23

David Brooks

PAGE A22



U.S.-ISRAEL DIVIDE GROWS OVER PLAN TO INVADE RAFAH

TALKS IN CAIRO PAUSED

Attack Can Go Forward Without Further Aid, Spokesman Says

This article is by Adam Rasgon, Julian E. Barnes and Michael Levson.

JERUSALEM — Israeli leaders declared on Thursday that they would not be deterred by President Biden's threat to withhold more arms shipments if the military launched a major assault on densely populated areas of Rafah in southern Gaza.

Defiant and at times disdainful of the Biden administration's stance, their comments made clear the widening rift between Israel and the United States over the war and the prospect of a full-scale invasion of Rafah, where about a million Palestinians are sheltering.

And they came as high-level negotiations aimed at reaching a cease-fire and hostage deal were derailed — at least for the moment — amid anger by some of the participants over a military incursion into Rafah by Israeli forces earlier this week.

After that incursion, Mr. Biden said the United States, Israel's closest ally, would not ship more weapons to Israel's military in the crowded sections of Rafah. On Thursday, an Israeli military spokesman said his nation had enough munitions on hand to proceed with its plans.

Other Israeli leaders said the military would press ahead with its campaign to destroy Hamas, which led the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel.

"I turn to Israel's enemies, as well as to our best of friends, and say: The state of Israel cannot be subdued," Israel's defense minister, Yoav Gallant, said at a memorial ceremony. He said the country would do "whatever is necessary" to defend its citizens and "to stand up to those who attempt to destroy us."

Continued on Page A8

Israelis Seethed Over Al Jazeera Well Before Ban

This article is by Vivian Jay, Emma Badola and Liam Stack.

CAIRO — When Israel ordered Al Jazeera on Sunday to shut down operations there, the network had a reporter covering a government meeting in West Jerusalem, another in an East Jerusalem hotel room, a third in northern Lebanon and a fourth in Tel Aviv.

But the cameras stopped rolling when Walid al-Omari, the network's bureau chief in Ramallah, in the West Bank, ordered all of them to go home. Israeli authorities descended on a room used by Al Jazeera in the Ambassador Hotel in East Jerusalem, confiscating broadcast equipment, Israel television and internet providers cut off its channels and blocked its websites, though people were still able to find it online.

Al Jazeera, the influential Arab news network, says it will continue reporting and broadcasting from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. But its departure from Israel marks a new low in its long-strained history with a country that much of Al Jazeera's audience in the Arab world and beyond sees as an aggressor and an occupier.

The shutdown order, which Continued on Page A7



Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel might "stand alone."

Loneliness Shapes Behaviors, And May Reshape Our Brains

By DANA G. SMITH

Everyone feels lonely from time to time — after, say, a move to a new school or city, when a child leaves for college, or following the loss of a spouse.

Some people, though, experience loneliness not just transiently but chronically. It becomes a personality trait, something that's pretty sticky," said Dr. Ellen Lee, an associate professor of psychology at the University of California, San Diego. These individuals seem to have "this persistent emotion that then shapes their behavior."

Research is mounting that this type of entrenched loneliness is bad for our health and can even change our brains, raising the risk

for neurodegenerative diseases. Humans evolved to be social creatures probably because, for our ancient ancestors, being alone could be dangerous and reduce the odds of survival. Experts think loneliness may have emerged as a unique type of stress signal to prompt us to seek companionship.

With chronic loneliness, that stress response gets stuck and becomes disadvantageous — similar to the way in which anxiety can shift a helpful fear response to a maladaptive mental illness.

"Small, transient episodes of loneliness rarely motivate people to then seek out social connection," said Dr. Smith.

Continued on Page A19

