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THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Lisi Misa
being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that she is a representative of the Anchorage Daily News, a daily newspaper. That said newspaper has been approved by the Third Judicial Court, Anchorage, Alaska, and it now and has been published in the English language continually as a daily newspaper in Anchorage, Alaska, and it is now and during all said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of said newspaper. That the annexed is a copy of an advertisement as it was published in regular issues (and not in supplemental form) of said newspaper on

November 14, 21, 28/2023

and that such newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period. That the full amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is not in excess of the rate charged private individuals.

Signed Lisi Misa

Subscribed and sworn to before

me this 1st day of December

2023 Jada L. Nowling

Notary Public in and for
The State of Alaska.
Third Division
Anchorage, Alaska
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
7/14/2024

Jada L. Nowling
ELECTRONIC NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF ALASKA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 07/14/2024

FYI

Brookhaven Animal Shelter and Adoption Center

Mimi, who went missing in 2012, was brought to a shelter in New York in December 2022.

A cat named Mimi went missing in 2012. Almost a decade later, she turned up at a shelter.

When Richard and Maria Price got a call from a New York area code, the couple — who now live in Spain — figured it was just another spam call.

But then the phone rang again, the same number popping up on the screen.

"Did you used to own a black-and-white cat?" the person on the other end asked them.

They had — a fluffy, skittish cat named Mimi. But they hadn't seen her in a decade.

Mimi went missing in 2012 after fleeing through an open door, two years after the Price family had adopted her. They'd spent more than a year searching around New York, but to no avail, and had lost hope that they'd ever reunite with her. Last year, the couple moved to Valencia, Spain, after Richard Price retired. They brought along three cats they'd adopted since losing Mimi: Patch, Tiny and Groot.

But on Dec. 5, 2022, someone from Miller Place, N.Y., where Mimi had gone missing a decade ago, brought her to the Brookhaven Animal Shelter and Adoption Center. Workers there found the cat had a microchip, which identified her owners.

"This is an incredibly rare Christmas miracle," Richard Price told The Washington Post.

Since they found out the cat was still alive, Price has been getting calls from people in Miller Place filling him in on possible Mimi sightings over the years. As far as he knows, Mimi had become a vagabond in Miller Place, bouncing between neighborhoods and finding people who'd feed her.

Julia Ray and her father, Lawrence, were among them. Mimi constantly popped up in their gazebo, often found snuggled in the cushion of one of the outdoor chairs or in the heated home they set up for her during the winter, Julia Ray, 23, said.

For years, she and her father called the cat "Kitty." Through severe storms and bitter winters, she kept coming back, and the Rays fed her whenever they saw her.

Even after Julia Ray left for college, her father kept taking care of the cat. Then, her father died, in April. His house was sold.

"I almost considered selling the house on the condition that you had to be good to the cat and feed it," Julia Ray said.

But luckily, she didn't need to. Mimi had found another Miller Place resident who took on the duty: Gary Guiseppone. Guiseppone noticed that Mimi's fur was matted. Worried she'd gotten caught in brush or tree branches, Guiseppone brought her to Brookhaven on Dec. 5.

He expected to pick her up later that day, but then the shelter called and told him that they'd found Mimi's owners.

Now Richard and Maria Price had a new mission: getting Mimi to Spain. Richard Price is heading back to the United States next month to pick her up. For now, Mimi is staying with his sister and niece.

— The Washington Post

SHARI L. GROSS / Minneapolis Star Tribune/TNS

The debut Barbie and Ken are on exhibit at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn.

He wasn't 'Kenough': National Toy Hall of Fame snubs Mattel's Ken

For most of his existence, Ken has lived in the shadow of his tiptoed better half — functioning exclusively as arm candy for a Barbie with myriad careers and ambitions. That is, until this summer, when director Greta Gerwig's smash hit elevated the boy toy to bubble-gum-pink stardom.

Since the movie's release, Ken has spawned memes and inspired merch. His ballad, "I'm Just Ken," has been streamed more than 88 million times on Spotify. And his wardrobe — from a neon roller-skating fit to a Sylvester Stallone-inspired fur coat — not only became Halloween inspiration but also sparked the trendy "Kencore" aesthetic.

But, alas, it was simply not "Kenough" for the National Toy Hall of Fame. Though Ken was chosen as one of 12 nominees up for induction, Barbie's sidekick lost out to baseball cards, Cabbage Patch Kids, the Fisher-Price Corn Popper and Nerf foam toys.

But the door might not be completely shut. Toy Hall of Fame spokesman Shane Rhinewald told the Record that Ken had won points for his longevity and recent stardom.

— The Washington Post

UNITED KINGDOM

EX-PRIME MINISTER CAMERON RETURNS TO U.K. GOVERNMENT

LONDON — Former British Prime Minister David Cameron made a shock return to high office on Monday, becoming foreign secretary in a major shakeup of the Conservative government that also saw the firing of divisive Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

Cameron, who led the U.K. government between 2010 and 2016, was appointed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in a Cabinet shuffle in which he sacked Braverman, a divisive figure who drew anger for accusing police of being too lenient with pro-Palestinian protesters.

She was replaced by James Cleverly, who had been foreign secretary.

Cameron's appointment came as a surprise to seasoned politics-watchers. It's rare for a non-lawmaker to take a senior government post, and it has been decades since a former prime minister held a Cabinet job.

The government said Cameron was being appointed to Parliament's unelected upper chamber, the House of Lords. The last foreign secretary to serve in the Lords, rather than the elected House of Commons, was Peter Carrington, who was part of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government in the 1980s.

NATION

FIVE US ARMY SOLDIERS KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH IDENTIFIED

The five U.S. Army soldiers who died in a helicopter crash over the Mediterranean Sea were publicly identified Monday by the Pentagon.

All five victims were special operations soldiers. They were:

- Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephen R. Dwyer, 38 of Clarksville, Tenn.
- Chief Warrant Officer 2 Shane M. Barnes, 34, of Sacramento, Calif.
- Staff Sgt. Tanner W. Grone, 26, of Gorham, N.H.
- Sgt. Andrew P. Southard, 27, of Apache Junction, Ariz.
- Sgt. Cade M. Wolfe, 24, of Mankato, Minn.

They were flying in an MH-60 Blackhawk helicopter late Friday night over the eastern Mediterranean when the aircraft had "an in-flight emergency," according to the Department of Defense. The Blackhawk was part of an aerial refueling training mission, the Pentagon said.

CALIFORNIA

ARSON LIKELY CAUSED FIRE THAT DAMAGED VITAL LA FREEWAY

LOS ANGELES — Arson likely caused a massive weekend fire that has indefinitely closed a vital section of a freeway in Los Angeles, California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday.

He did not say whether there were any suspects or persons of interest. The fire left the columns of Interstate 10 charred and chipped and the deck guardrails were twisted and blackened. Crews shored up the most damaged section for the safety of workers clearing the debris. It's still unclear what structural damage, if any, the blaze caused to the freeway.

Engineers were assessing the situation Monday. The freeway is used by 300,000 vehicles daily and the closure is expected to be felt well beyond the city, including possibly slowing the transport of goods from the twin ports of LA and Long Beach, federal officials have said.

"We know that the origin of this is arson," LA Mayor Karen Bass said. "We do not know other information." She emphasized there also is no reason to assume it was started by people who are homeless living under that section of freeway.

MASSACHUSETTS

PRINCE'S 'PURPLE RAIN' SHIRT, OTHER PIECES GO UP FOR AUCTION

BOSTON — Fans of Prince, who was known nearly as much for his extravagant wardrobe as for his chart-topping hits, will have a chance to bid on some of the late musician's sartorial splendor in an online auction this week.

The collection, which includes more than 200 lots up for sale, was assembled by a French collector who initially hoped to open a museum celebrating the musician but later scrapped the plan, according to RR Auction of Boston, which is overseeing the sale.

The collector had reached out to individuals who worked closely with Prince to gather the items, believing that the trend-setting artist, who died in 2016, was not only a musical virtuoso but also a fashion icon, according to the auction house.

One of the highlights of the auction is a white ruffled shirt worn by Prince during his 1985 American Music Awards performance of the song "Purple Rain."

The auction house estimated its value at $15,000.

KAMRAN JEBREILI / Associated Press

Frecce Tricolori (Tricolor Arrows), the Italian Air Force aerobatic display team, perform Monday during the opening day of the Dubai Air Show, United Arab Emirates.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

CARRIER OPENS DUBAI AIR SHOW WITH $52B AIRCRAFT PURCHASE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Long-haul carrier Emirates opened the Dubai Air Show on Monday with a $52 billion purchase of Boeing Co. aircraft, showing how aviation has bounced back after the groundings of the coronavirus pandemic, even as Israel's war with Hamas clouds regional security.

Its low-cost sister airline, FlyDubai, followed up with an $11 billion order of 30 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, the first wide-body aircraft in its fleet. Together, the sales marked a significant win for Virginia-based Boeing Co. on the first day of the air show, as airlines appear poised for even more billion-dollar deals this year.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AGENTS PROTECTING BIDEN'S GRANDDAUGHTER OPEN FIRE

WASHINGTON — Secret Service agents protecting President Joe Biden's granddaughter opened fire after three people tried to break into an unmarked Secret Service vehicle in the nation's capital, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

The agents, assigned to protect Naomi Biden, were out with her in the Georgetown neighborhood late Sunday night when they saw the three people breaking a window of the parked and unoccupied SUV, the official said. The official could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to the AP on Monday on the condition of anonymity.

One of the agents opened fire, but no one was struck by the gunfire, the Secret Service said in a statement. The three people were seen fleeing in a red car, and the Secret Service said it put out a regional bulletin to Metropolitan Police to be on the lookout for it.

NEW YORK

MARYANNE TRUMP BARRY, FORMER PRESIDENT'S OLDER SISTER, DIES

NEW YORK — Maryanne Trump Barry, a retired federal judge and former president Donald Trump 's oldest sister, has died at age 86 at her home in New York.

Until her retirement in 2019, Barry was a senior judge on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a level below the Supreme Court.

The NYPD confirmed that officers were sent to Barry's Manhattan home just before 4:30 a.m. and discovered a deceased 86-year-old woman. The cause of death was not immediately clear. Her death was confirmed by a judicial official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the news hadn't been announced publicly by either the court or Trump's family.

Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Barry had stayed largely out of the spotlight during her brother's presidency, but drew headlines after her niece, Mary Trump, revealed that she had secretly recorded her aunt while promoting a book that denounced the former president. In the recordings, Barry could be heard sharply criticizing her brother, at one point saying the former president "has no principles" and is "cruel."

LEBANON

MONITOR: AT LEAST 8 PRO-IRAN FIGHTERS KILLED IN U.S. STRIKES

BEIRUT — At least eight pro-Iranian fighters were killed as a result of U.S.-led coalition airstrikes in eastern Syria, a monitoring group said on Monday.

"During the past few hours the number of dead pro-Iranian militias in Deir al-Zour has risen to eight, most of whom were non-Syrian nationals," said Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory said the airstrikes targeted weapons and ammunition depots and a missile launch pad near the Syrian-Iraqi border.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Sunday night that U.S. forces had "conducted precision strikes" on sites in eastern Syria "in response to continued attacks against U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria."

NATION

STARBUCKS UNIONIZED BARISTAS PLAN LARGEST-EVER STRIKE

Unionized Starbucks Corp. baristas plan to hold their biggest strike yet this week, accusing the coffee giant of refusing to fairly negotiate at cafes that voted to organize.

Thousands of employees at hundreds of sites will mount one-day work stoppages on Thursday, according to the union Starbucks Workers United. The strike is pegged to the company's Red Cup Day, a popular promotional event when Starbucks gives out holiday-themed reusable cups. The union says Starbucks has illegally refused to negotiate over issues including staffing and scheduling that are particularly onerous during such promotions.

"Starbucks has made it clear that they won't listen to workers, so we're advocating for ourselves by going on strike," Oklahoma City employee Neha Cremin said in an emailed statement.

NATION

NIKKI HALEY CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCES $10 MILLION AD BUY

The Republican presidential campaign of Nikki Haley on Monday announced plans to launch a $10 million ad buy in Iowa and New Hampshire starting in early December as she jockeys with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis to become the main GOP alternative to former president Donald Trump.

The sizable advertising investment for Haley, a former U.N. ambassador and South Carolina governor, comes at a critical point in the GOP presidential campaign cycle. The number of Republicans seeking the nomination is dwindling as the start of the presidential nominating contests near, and candidates are seeking to position themselves to directly take on Trump, the front-runner in the race.

Haley's campaign initially struggled to gain traction, but she rose in stature over the summer, bolstered by solid performances at the Republican debates. Her aides have argued that she is better-positioned than DeSantis to perform well in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. The DeSantis campaign has steered a large share of its resources toward Iowa.

— Daily News wire reports

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First National Bank Alaska

FORECLOSURE SALE

11/16/2023 at 10:00 AM
Boney Courthouse
303 K Street, Anchorage, Alaska

Property Type: Single Family Residence
3 Bedrooms / 2 Baths / 1237 Sq. Ft.
Property Address: **1370 N DOUBLE B ST, PALMER ALASKA 99645**
Matanuska-Susitna Borough 2023 Assessed Value: $282,700.00
Minimum Bid: $245,519.76

PROPERTY SOLD AS IS, WHERE IS.
Call (907) 777-3392
Sale date and bid amount are subject to change

Anchorage Daily News - 11/21/2023

WORLD

A Gazan family, a premature newborn, a painful choice to stay

Louisa Loveluck and Hajar Harb
The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — Even amid a war of searing brutality, the images shared around the world were striking: babies in a Gaza City hospital removed from their incubators, tiny arms straining and beating at tiny chests.

But less than 15 miles away, the parents of little Anas Esbeita had not seen them. Communications were too shaky for the widely circulated news photos to reach them. From their corner of a packed displacement shelter, they thought their newborn, like others at Gaza's largest hospital, was dead.

The news that a United Nations team had evacuated more than two dozen babies from al-Shifa Hospital reached them through a friend. He told Ali Esbeita, the child's 35-year-old father, to head straight to the Emirati Maternity Hospital in Rafah. Ali scanned the list and saw Anas's name.

His joy, he said, was "incredible."

The child now sleeps peacefully, photographs shared by the family show. But the dilemma before his parents encapsulates the impossible choices confronting Gazans every day through this month-and-a-half-long war.

When the World Health Organization carried at least 26 of the newly evacuated babies into Palestine Red Crescent ambulances Monday for passage onward to Egypt and medical care outside a war zone, Anas and his family stayed behind.

"If his mother accompanies him, who will take care of his seven brothers?" Ali asked in a telephone interview. "If I travel with him, who will take care of my wife and children?"

"No one would refuse to let his son be healthy. But if he travels, what if he survives only to find that his family have been killed?"

Hamas fighters entered Israel early on Oct. 7, killed about 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals, and took more than 240 back to Gaza as hostages. Israel has responded with a military campaign to end Hamas rule in Gaza.

That campaign has devastated the enclave's health care system. The World Health Organization has recorded 164 attacks on health care-related facilities there since the conflict began. By the time Israeli troops laid siege last week to the al-Shifa complex, which military officials allege held multiple Hamas command-and-control centers, the hospital had been reduced to the most basic of functions.

Medical staff at al-Shifa have denied that the militant group used their hospital as a command-and-control center. Israeli investigators have been examining the facility but have presented little evidence to support their claims.

LOAY AYYOUB for The Washington Post

More than two dozen premature babies were evacuated from the besieged al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, where a lack of fuel meant there was no electricity to power incubators, leaving the children in critical condition.

Without fuel to generate the electricity to power the incubators, medical staff wrapped the babies in blankets and medical scrubs and watched as they grew sicker by the day. When WHO officials arrived Saturday, at least 32 of the babies were in critical condition inside the facility. They described it as a "death zone."

With fighting still raging outside the hospital, the U.N. health agency could stay only one hour, the organization said, as its officials scoped out the facility ahead of the first evacuations the following day. Two of the infants didn't survive the night.

Ali had seen al-Shifa, but only in better times. Before Oct. 7, it was Gaza's most advanced and best-equipped referral facility. Anas was born prematurely there on Aug. 16; the doctors said his organs were undeveloped. He had been lying in the incubator ever since, his mother, Warda, pumping milk for him at home and his father delivering it to the hospital almost every day. Their last visit was Oct. 4.

Three days later, Hamas militants overran Israeli border communities, sending raw shock through Israel and leaving Palestinians across Gaza bracing for the war they knew would follow.

Warplanes pummeled northern Gaza; the Esbeita family fled almost immediately. As the airstrikes increased, Ali and Warda shepherded Anas's seven siblings through two different temporary shelters and eventually to the southern city of Khan Younis.

But they were wracked with guilt. All they had of Anas was the photographs they had kept on their cellphones. "We were blaming each other for leaving him, for abandoning him," Anas said. "The feeling of helplessness was killing me."

Cellphone communications in Gaza often go down for hours. When the news reached the family that Israeli troops last week had stormed al-Shifa, they despaired. They believed Anas was dead.

Thousands of civilians were still sheltering inside the hospital. Most of them left Saturday, many walking the 15 miles to Khan Younis, bringing with them horror stories of the dire conditions they had fled.

When the WHO team arrived, they found that none of the babies had mothers there. Palestinian officials had only limited information about their whereabouts. Some were believed to be dead.

In a photograph shared by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO's director general, a member of the U.N. team in blue helmet and flak jacket scoops a small baby gently from a hospital bed. The protective gear, necessary for the team's "high risk" mission through a war zone, reinforced just how miraculous the babies' survival had been.

The doctors who looked after them, Ghebreyesus said, had shown "extraordinary bravery."

The Gaza Ministry of Health urged parents who believed that their children might be among the surviving babies to gather at another hospital in the southern city of Rafah. The ministry said they could register to travel in an ambulance convoy out of Gaza and toward a hospital far from the bombs and the fear.

At the Emirati hospital, newly arrived babies fought serious infections from the lack of medical supplies and other difficulties during the final days at al-Shifa. Most were suffering from severe hypoglycemia — insufficient blood sugar, a potentially fatal condition — because they hadn't been able to drink enough milk, said Ahmed al-Shaer, the deputy head of the nursing department.

Only six mothers had been reachable, al-Shaer said. He did not know what became of the others.

"We expect that they were killed during the war, or displaced and do not know that their children were taken to the Emirati hospital," he said.

As at least 26 of al-Shifa's surviving infants were taken to Egypt, Anas stayed behind. In photographs taken by his parents, he finally looked at peace. He and others lay close together in their incubators, with fresh diapers and blankets. In one image, Ali and Warda watch over them, their expressions tender but anxious. They said a doctor had suggested that Anas may be ready for discharge soon.

"I know it won't be in ideal circumstances if we are all living in a shelter, but at least he will be in my hands," Ali said.

The infants who were evacuated to Egypt on Monday were received by a fleet of medics. Ali and Warda said they stood by their refusal, but they feared for the future. The Israeli army said during the weekend that it was now pivoting its ground offensive toward Hamas operations in the south.

"With every passing day there are fewer places in which Hamas terrorists can roam about," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Friday. The people of southern Gaza would soon witness the same "lethal strength," he said, as Israeli forces had demonstrated in the north.

The south is where the Esbeita family is taking shelter. They'll stay together now, Ali said, no matter what.

"Do you know what it means to leave your child alone and weak for 45 days, so he falls prey to war, hunger, cold and occupation?" he asked. "That's why I refuse to let him leave. My family and I believe we must live together or die together. The only solution is for this senseless war to stop."

FROM PAGE A1

GAZA

wounded patients remain stranded at the Shifa compound, which Israeli forces stormed days ago.

Gaza's hospitals play a prominent role in the battle of narratives over the war's brutal toll on Palestinian civilians, thousands of whom have been killed or buried in rubble since the conflict was sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7 rampage into southern Israel. In the wake of the assault, Israeli leaders vowed to eradicate Hamas, destroy its ability to rule Gaza and uproot its militant infrastructure.

Israel says Hamas uses civilians as human shields and that the militants operated a major command hub inside and under Shifa, a claim hospital officials and Hamas deny. Critics say Israel's siege and relentless bombardment amount to collective punishment of the territory's 2.3 million Palestinians.

Israeli troops were battling Hamas fighters in the Jabaliya refugee camp, a densely built-up district on Gaza City's northeastern side that has been heavily hit by bombardment for weeks. The military said that after moving through the center of the city to Shifa, its forces were now working to uproot Hamas fighters from eastern areas.

Dozens of dead and wounded in airstrikes and shelling overnight flowed into Indonesian Hospital, near Jabaliya, said Marwan Abdallah, the medical worker there. He said Israeli tanks were operating less than 200 yards away and Israeli snipers could be seen on the roofs of nearby buildings. As he spoke on the phone, the sound of gunfire could be heard in the background.

Hamas' Health Ministry spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qidra, said roughly 200 wounded patients and their companions were evacuated from the hospital to southern Gaza in a rescue effort coordinated by the U.N. and the International Committee for the Red Cross. Many of the evacuees were being treated at al-Nasser hospital in the southern town of Khan Younis, he said.

Between 400 and 500 wounded remain at Indonesia Hospital, Ashraf told Al-Jazeera. Some 2,000 displaced Palestinians also are sheltering there.

In a separate development that could relieve some of the pressure on Gaza's collapsing health system, dozens of trucks entered from Egypt on Monday with equipment from Jordan to set up a field hospital. Jordan's state-run media said the hospital in Khan Younis would be up and running within 48 hours.

More than 250 patients with severely infected wounds and other urgent conditions remain in Shifa. The complex can no longer provide most of the wounded there treatment after it ran out of water, medical supplies and fuel for emergency generators.

Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants outside its gates for days before entering the facility on Wednesday.

Israel's army said it has evidence that Hamas maintained a sprawling command post inside and under the hospital's 20-acre complex, which includes several buildings.

On Sunday, the military released a video showing what it said was a tunnel discovered at the hospital, 60 yards long and about 33 feet below ground. It said the tunnel ended at a blast-proof door with a hole in it for gunmen to fire out of. Troops have not opened the door yet, it said.

Israeli forces also released security camera video showing what they said were two foreign hostages, one Thai and one Nepalese, who were captured by Hamas in the Oct. 7 attack and taken to the hospital. Hamas said its fighters brought them in for medical care.

The army also said an investigation had determined that Israeli army Cpl. Noa Marciano, another captive whose body was recovered in Gaza, had been wounded in an Israeli strike on Nov. 9 that killed her captor, but was then killed by a Hamas militant in Shifa.

The military has previously released images of several guns it said were found inside an MRI lab and said that the bodies of two hostages were found near the complex.

The Associated Press was not able to independently confirm the military's findings.

Israel has repeatedly ordered Palestinians to leave northern Gaza and seek refuge in the south, which was also been under aerial bombardment. Some 1.7 million people, nearly three quarters of Gaza's population, have been displaced, with 900,000 packing into crowded U.N.-run shelters, according to the U.N.

Strikes in the Nuseirat and Bureij refugee camps Monday killed at least 40 people, according to hospital officials, and residents said dozens more were buried in the rubble. Bundled against a chilly wind from Gaza's approaching winter, a line of men prayed over more than a dozen bodies on the grounds of the nearby morgue in Deir al-Balah before loading them onto a truck.

More than 12,700 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry in the West Bank, which coordinates with officials in the Health Ministry of Hamas-run Gaza. Officials there say another 4,000 are missing. Their counts do not differentiate between civilians and combatants. Israel says it has killed thousands of militants.

Violence also has surged in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where attacks by Jewish settlers are on the rise and where more than 200 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the war, mostly in gunbattles triggered by Israeli military raids.

About 1,200 people have been killed on the Israeli side, mainly civilians during the Oct. 7 attack, in which Hamas dragged some 240 captives back into Gaza. The military says 66 Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza ground operations.

Hamas has released four hostages, Israel has rescued one, and the bodies of two were found near Shifa.

Israel, the United States and Qatar, which mediates with Hamas, have been negotiating a hostage release for weeks. Israel's three-member war Cabinet met with representatives of the hostages' families Monday evening, and a relative of a hostage said the officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, told families the government will not prioritize the hostages' release to defeating Hamas.

"What we've heard is that taking down Hamas and bringing the hostages are … equally important," said Udi Goren, whose cousin Tal Chaimi is in captivity in Gaza. "This is incredibly disappointing because … we know that taking down Hamas, we keep hearing from them (it) is going to take months or years and it's going to take a long time."

Goren said the war cabinet did not share details about any possible deal to release the hostages.

HATEM ALI / Associated Press

A Palestinian boy carries water looted from humanitarian aid trucks during the ongoing Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip at the border with Egypt in Rafah on Monday.

OHAD ZWIGENBERG / Associated Press

Israeli soldiers work on armored military vehicles Monday along Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, in southern Israel. The Israeli military has deployed hundreds of thousands of troops in and around Gaza as it conducts a ground offensive against Hamas militants inside the territory.

Enlighten Alaska Old Seward, LLC doing business as Enlighten Alaska, located at 7317 Old Seward Highway, Anchorage, AK 99518 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of controlling interest in a Retail Marijuana Store (3 AAC 306. 300), license #34403. The transfer involves a change in ownership percentage from Jane Stinson 50%, Evan Levinton 25% and Leah Levinton 25% to LiveWell, LLC 100%.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq at jana@jdwcounsel.com or 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Enlighten Alaska, LLC doing business as Enlighten Alaska, LLC, located at 2600 Spenard Road, Anchorage, AK 99503-8934 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of controlling interest in a Retail Marijuana Store (3 AAC 306. 300), license #10021. The transfer involves a change in ownership percentage from Jane Stinson 50%, Evan Levinton 25% and Leah Levinton 25% to LiveWell, LLC 100%.

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Essenkay, LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.300 for a new Retail Marijuana Store license, license #37255, doing business as Double Eagle Cannabis, located at 2500 Spenard Road, Unit B, Anchorage, AK, 99503, UNITED STATES.

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Enlighten Extracts, LLC doing business as Enlighten Extracts, located at 524 E 48th Avenue, 1A, Anchorage, AK 99503 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of controlling interest in a Standard Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility (3 AAC 306. 500(a)(1)), license #21552. The transfer involves a change in ownership percentage from Jane Stinson 50%, Evan Levinton 25% and Leah Levinton 25% to LiveWell, LLC 100%.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq at jana@jdwcounsel.com or 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Enlighten Alaska Greenery, LLC doing business as Enlighten Gardens, located at 524 E 48th Avenue, 1B, Anchorage, AK 99503 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of controlling interest in a Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility (3 AAC 306. 400(a)(1)), license #21551. The transfer involves a change in ownership percentage from Jane Stinson 50%, Evan Levinton 25% and Leah Levinton 25% to LiveWell, LLC 100%.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq at jana@jdwcounsel.com or 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503.

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CRIME & COURTS

Police ID person killed in West Anchorage shooting as 21-year-old man

Anchorage Daily News

A 21-year-old man was killed in a shooting early Saturday in West Anchorage that also injured two others, Anchorage police said in an update Monday.

Police have said officers found a man dead in a home with gunshot wounds to his upper body when they responded just before 4 a.m. to the 3400 block of Greenland Drive. The area is west of Minnesota Drive between Benson Boulevard and Spenard Road in the Spenard neighborhood.

The Anchorage Police Department on Monday identified the man who died in the shootings as Jaivion Hawkins. Police spokeswoman Renee Oistad said Hawkins had a driver's license issued out of Georgia.

Police on Saturday said a second man found in a vehicle with gunshot wounds to his upper body was taken to a hospital with injuries they described as life-threatening. A third man shot in the lower body went to a hospital on his own with injuries described as not life-threatening, they said.

An update on the condition of the other people described as victims was not immediately available.

Oistad in an email Monday said police were "not releasing any more details as of now" in response to questions including whether any suspects had been questioned or whether the shootings were carried by one or more people.

Police asked anyone with information about the shooting, including surveillance video, to call dispatch at 311 (option 1) or 907-786-8900 (option 0).

CHIPPING AWAY AT WINTER'S LEAVINGS

BILL ROTH / ADN

Avori Richards helps chip ice from a parking lot at the Econo Inn along Fifth Avenue during the above-freezing temperatures on Monday.

FROM PAGE A1

GUARDIAN

due to not having the capacity to accept this volume of cases," Stinson said in an email.

In at least 20 cases previously under McDuffie's care "the ward's physical health or safety is in imminent danger without the assistance of a guardian," according to Monday's court order. In those cases, there is an "immediate potential for loss of housing and no viable emergency housing other than shelters, unattended health needs, and the distress of the ward having no contact with their guardian."

In at least 20 other cases, "the status of benefits, timely payment of expenses such as housing, and timely medical care was in question."

Before McDuffie surrendered his license, Aarseth had reviewed 67 of his cases, leaving 40 that had not been reviewed. Some are "likely in crisis," Aarseth wrote.

'Critical' cases

Aarseth found that some of McDuffie's cases "were in very poor order or critical" condition due to a lapse in Medicaid, neglect of medical needs, unstable housing, homelessness, not knowing the location of the client, or McDuffie never having met the client, even months after being appointed to a case. In all but one of those cases, OPA "had been previously appointed as guardian/conservator."

OPA, which according to state law serves as guardian for individuals who cannot find or afford a private guardian, has been short-staffed — with caseloads far exceeding national recommendations — for years, according to public documents.

> *"It does no good to pretend that OPA accepting these cases solves the problem. It doesn't. It will simply implode the last remaining leg of the guardianship system in the State of Alaska. What happened to Cache Integrity can happen to OPA."*
>
> — OPA Director James Stinson

After OPA requested in 2022 that dozens of its cases to be transferred to McDuffie, OPA Deputy Director Beth Goldstein promised that the agency could reassume responsibility for the cases transferred to McDuffie "if there are issues." But less than a year later, OPA told the courts it would no longer agree to take on new cases until the number of cases per guardian went down substantially. Still, the agency has failed to hire and retain enough guardians to significantly reduce its load.

Stinson said that a public guardian carrying 104 cases gave notice on Monday of their intent to resign. Another guardian with 101 cases is "unexpectedly hospitalized."

The agency's total caseload stands at 1,586 and many public guardians handle between 80 and 104 cases at a time, according to a November letter signed by Goldstein and Stinson.

In an interview last month, McDuffie acknowledged that after taking on dozens of cases in just a year, he had not fulfilled the basic requirements of a guardian in at least some of the cases, including by letting months go by without seeing some of his clients — who depended on him for their most basic needs.

Reached by phone last week, McDuffie declined to answer questions about his decision to surrender his license. McDuffie said he is "not giving out any information at this time" and hung up.

The court order issued Monday states that a court visitor submitted requests for review in 53 of McDuffie's cases on Nov. 20, describing that "McDuffie was experiencing a medical emergency, that he felt unfit to continue his guardianship duties." The court filings cited an email from McDuffie dated Nov. 19 "explaining his hospitalization and intent to surrender his professional license," according to the court order.

'Just a mess'

To explain his inability to meet the needs of some of his clients, McDuffie has pointed to decisions by some of his former staff members to leave Cache Integrity Services. In interviews, several of the former staff members said they left the agency because McDuffie expected them to take on more cases than they could handle.

One of those former staff members was Trudy Storch, who worked for McDuffie for several months before resigning in January. Storch, who continued to practice as a guardian after leaving Cache Integrity Services, had more than 20 guardianship and conservatorship clients as of last week. But her guardianship license expired on Wednesday, and she did not renew it, leaving an additional caseload of over 20 individuals without a guardian.

Storch said she decided to let her license expire because she had recently become the full time caretaker for her father, but also because of McDuffie, who she said was "constantly wanting to pull us into his drama and blame us for why his business failed."

"It's just a mess right now — the guardian world — and I just think it's time to step away," said Storch.

Storch said she had for weeks appealed to the courts to lighten her caseload, but the courts did not remove her as guardian, saying "'we literally don't have anyone else right now,'" by Storch's telling.

"I felt like my only way out was just letting my license expire," said Storch. "I was legally responsible and I wasn't doing everything for every client."

Storch said she is willing to continue helping her former clients when she can, but without active licenses, she and McDuffie are not allowed to sign any new documents or orders for their clients. Rebecca Koford, a spokesperson for the court system, said McDuffie's and Storch's clients can turn to court visitors if they have an immediate need — but the court visitors don't have the authority to make decisions and sign paperwork.

That had already become a problem, according to Storch. On Monday, a home health provider called her and said they needed new documents signed to continue caring for one of Storch's clients. Storch couldn't sign the documents, but she didn't know who else could, because the courts had yet to appoint a new guardian.

"They're saying she doesn't get home care anymore until the documents are signed. So who signs it? I don't know," said Storch.

'The option of last resort'

Though the public guardian "is the option of last resort," Aarseth wrote that "if a person is incapacitated and is in need of protection, the public guardian must fill that role of guardian/conservator if no other person is available."

Whether or not OPA can decline guardianship cases is a question currently under consideration by the Alaska Supreme Court. If the court can order OPA to take on cases even when OPA objects, the public agency contends that would force it to accept new clients even if its staff does not have the ability to care for them. If the court cannot compel OPA to take on new clients, that could leave people in need of a public guardian — who are often handicapped or ill, are dependent on public benefits, and sometimes struggle with homelessness — with no one to submit benefits requests and make decisions on their behalf.

OPA was appointed to serve as guardian in all but seven of McDuffie's cases — where a family member or other individual had been appointed. The new appointment was made without a hearing, but both the clients and OPA can object.

"The public guardian is in a very fragile situation," Stinson said on Monday. "Accepting every case would be dishonest — there is no way the Public Guardian can provide the services these individuals deserve given the current lack of capacity."

As the courts grapple with how to address the more than 120 cases previously handled by McDuffie and Storch, earlier this month, Goldstein and Stinson sent a letter telling the courts that OPA had the ability to take on only two new cases in Anchorage and two new cases in Palmer.

"Through the efforts of the current moratorium on accepting new guardianship and conservatorship appointments and internal caseload structuring, hiring and promotion, the Public Guardian currently has the immediate ability to accept a total of two new appointments from Anchorage two new appointments from Palmer," Goldstein and Stinson wrote in their Nov. 20 letter, before McDuffie and Storch had surrendered or expired licenses.

Since announcing their moratorium on new cases in April, OPA has maintained a waitlist for guardianship clients. As of earlier this month, that list had eight would-be clients in Anchorage and four in Palmer.

"OPA wants to accept all of these cases, but it can only do so if it actually has the ability to help these people. We are looking at every option at our disposal," Stinson wrote.

Stinson said in an email last week that the agency has "provided the court system with our waitlist and current wards per public guardian so the court visitors can prioritize appointments based on need."

"It does no good to pretend that OPA accepting these cases solves the problem. It doesn't. It will simply implode the last remaining leg of the guardianship system in the State of Alaska," Stinson said Monday. "What happened to Cache Integrity can happen to OPA."

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