



Yankees storylines we can't wait to cover at spring training

SPORTS, 1B

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DAILY MESSENGER

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Three former U.S. officials said the descriptions in the USAID cable were unusually graphic and would have commanded the attention of senior U.S. officials had the message been widely circulated within former President Joe Biden's administration. EVELYN HOCKSTEIN /REUTERS FILE

USAID raised early alarm on Gaza crisis

Warning suppressed over lack of balance

Erin Banco, Jonathan Landay and Humeyra Pamuk
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – U.S. Agency for International Development staffers in early 2024 drafted a warning to senior officials in Joe Biden's administration: Northern Gaza had turned into an "Apocalyptic Wasteland" with dire shortages of food and medical aid.

Three months after the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attacks and Israel's incursion into the Gaza Strip, the internal message laid out in gruesome detail scenes observed by United Nations staff who visited the area on a two-part humanitarian fact-finding mission in January and February.

The staff reported seeing a human

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U.S. ambassador to Jerusalem, Jack Lew, and his deputy, Stephanie Hallett, blocked a cable from U.S. Agency for International Development staffers in early 2024 from wider distribution within the United States government because they believed it lacked balance, according to interviews with four former officials and documents seen by Reuters.

GIL COHEN-MAGEN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE



Mike Murphy
Eat, Drink and Be Murphy
Messenger Post Media
USA TODAY NETWORK - ATLANTIC

Popular brewery and kitchen set to close

The Rebel Sailor Brewing Co. and Kitchen in Shortsville will close at the end of the month, according to a Feb. 6 post on the brewery's Facebook page.

Co-owner Robert Payne and his partners opened Rebel Sailor in 2023 on state Route 21. The brewery's final day will be Feb. 28, timed to coincide with its third anniversary.

"Although it's a sad time, we also want to celebrate those three years with all of the folks that made this such a special journey," the post said.

During its run, Rebel Sailor became a regular presence at community events, including keg tree lightings and the popular Stout Month, when local breweries release stout beers to draw customers during typically slow January weeks. The brewery also gained attention for seasonal offerings like Reindeer P, a holiday beer made

See BREWERY, Page 2A

Senate bill proposes three-year data center moratorium

Steve Howe
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

A bill in the New York State Senate would push pause on data center development in the state for three years as part of a broad moratorium amid concerns on utility prices, environmental impacts and water consumption.

Sen. Liz Krueger, D-Manhattan, held a press conference on Jan. 6 to announce the legislation, which would

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