

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, partly sunny, dry, windy, high 41. **Tonight**, partly cloudy, dry, breezy, low 30. **Tomorrow**, breezy, cooler, dry, mostly sunny, high 36. Weather map appears on Page A22.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



LYNSEY ADDARIO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sleeping in a Tent After Russia Knocks Out the Heat
With defiant ingenuity, residents in Kyiv are trying to find ways to stay warm during a cruel winter made worse by the war. Page A6.

Trump Knew About Epstein, Ex-Chief Said

By LUKE BROADWATER
WASHINGTON — After it became known that Jeffrey Epstein was under investigation in the 2000s, one of the first calls the Palm Beach police received was from Donald J. Trump, the local police chief at the time told the F.B.I. more than a decade later. Mr. Trump reportedly told the chief, Michael Reiter, “Thank goodness you’re stopping him, everyone has known he’s been doing this,” according to a document recounting their conversation that is part of the tranche of Epstein files released by the Justice Department. Mr. Trump said it was known in New York circles that Mr. Epstein was disgusting and suggested that the police also focus their investigation on Mr. Epstein’s associate Ghislaine Maxwell, according to the memo. “She is evil,” Mr. Trump reportedly said. Mr. Trump also told the police chief that he was around Mr. Epstein once when teenagers were present and that he “got the hell out of there,” according to Mr. Reiter’s account. The former chief described his conversation with Mr. Trump to the F.B.I. in October 2019, two months after Mr. Epstein was found dead in his jail cell while awaiting trial on federal sex trafficking charges, the memo shows. The account highlights the inconsistent statements Mr. Trump

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RUSSIA Jeffrey Epstein sought to build relationships with top Kremlin officials, files show. PAGE B1

An American Tragedy at an Irish Luxury Hotel

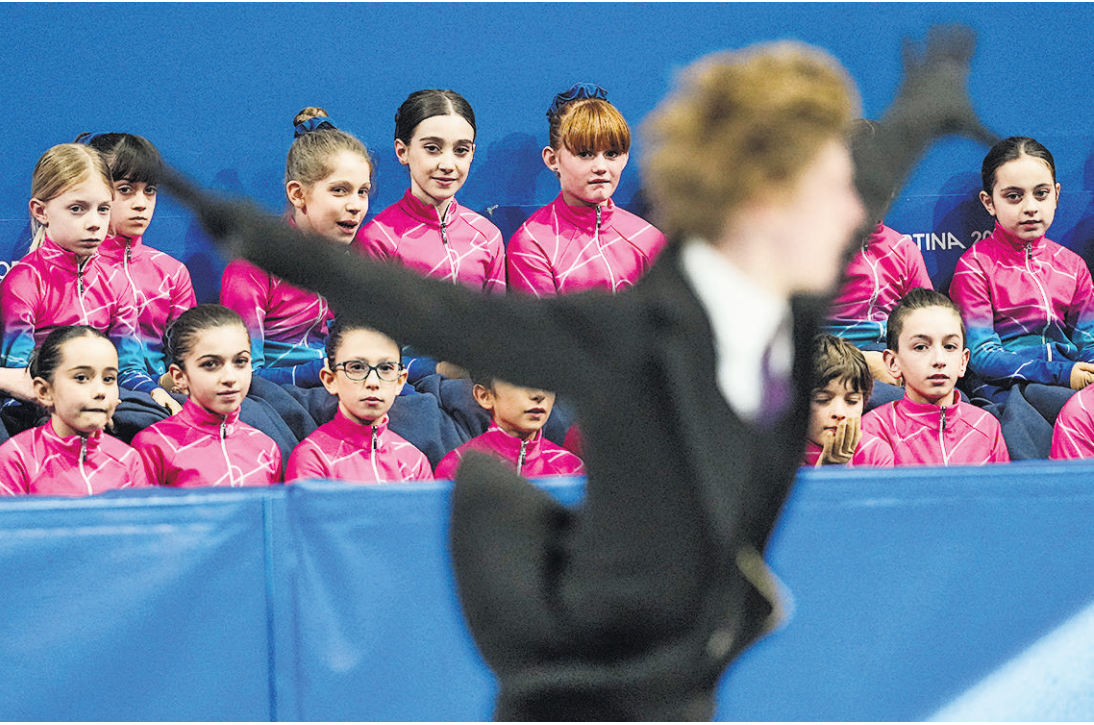
By KATHERINE ROSMAN
John T. McGowan had hoped that sitting in a periodontist’s chair in Ridgefield, Conn., for a three-hour root canal would be the worst part of his day. In fact, he was praying it would be. It was Nov. 11, 2024, and John, 66, knew he had a long afternoon of worry ahead. His youngest son, Henry, was struggling with significant mental health issues and was traveling in Europe, far from his parents, his four siblings and his psychiatrist. In a long phone conversation from Paris the night before, Henry

don and was alarmed. Henry, who stood 6-foot-2 and usually dressed conservatively, was roaming the city in a hot pink faux fur jacket and had, the friend thought, a wild look in his eyes. The friend was alarmed by Henry’s mystifying and paranoid ramblings, and thought that he might be in free fall, a danger to others and to himself. John and his wife, MaryAnne, were anguished. They discussed whether she should go to church to light a candle for their son. Within hours, Henry, then 30, was sending troubling text mes-

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A Father Who Rushed to Help His Troubled Son Is Dead

had promised to cut his trip short and come back to the States in a day or two, after a quick stop in London and then Dublin. Henry’s family members, a close-knit crew, were holding their collective breath awaiting his return. After the appointment, John received a call. A close friend had just met Henry for lunch in Lon-



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

All Eyes on the Skaters
The figure skating men’s singles short program stood out on Day 4. Olympics coverage, Page B7.

Coffee and Tea May Cut Dementia Risk, So Have a Second Cup

By PAM BELLUCK
If you think your daily doses of espresso or Earl Grey sharpen your mind, you just might be right, new science suggests. A large new study provides evidence of cognitive benefits from coffee and tea — if it’s caffeinated and consumed in moderation: two to three cups of coffee or one to two cups of tea daily. People who drank that amount for decades had lower chances of

developing dementia than people who drank little or no caffeine, the researchers reported. They followed 131,821 participants for up to 43 years. “This is a very large, rigorous study conducted long term among men and women that shows that drinking two or three cups of coffee per day is associated with reduced risk of dementia,” said Aladdin Shadyab, an associate professor of public health and medicine at the University of

Long-Term Study Shows Benefits of Caffeine

California, San Diego, who wasn’t involved in the study. The findings, published Monday in JAMA, don’t prove caffeine causes these beneficial effects, and it’s possible other attributes protected caffeine drinkers’ brain health. But independent experts

said the study adjusted for many other factors, including health conditions, medication, diet, education, socioeconomic status, family history of dementia, body mass index, smoking and mental illness. The caffeine correlation held regardless of whether people had genetic risk factors for Alzheimer’s or other dementias. The study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, didn’t distin-

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D.H.S. Claims In 4 Shootings Fizzle in Court

Trump Officials Often Place Blame Quickly

By ALEXANDRA BERZON and ALLISON McCANN
The Trump administration was quick to pin the blame. Days after a federal immigration agent shot at Phillip Brown, a U.S. citizen, last October at a busy commercial intersection in Washington, D.C., a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security claimed Mr. Brown had made a “deliberate attempt” to run officers down with his car. Mr. Brown, 33, was arrested, charged with a felony — fleeing from law enforcement — and spent three days in jail. In court, however, the case against Mr. Brown quickly unraveled as a judge found that the government failed to present any evidence supporting its claims. The judge dismissed the charges and said the agent had fired his weapon “for reasons that are completely unclear to me.” Mr. Brown’s case is among the 16 shootings by on-duty federal immigration agents patrolling in U.S. cities and towns over the past year, including those that took the lives of Minnesota protesters Renee Good and Alex Pretti. The Trump administration’s rush to declare Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti at fault for instigating violence was quickly undercut by a barrage of viral videos. But a New York Times review of the other shootings found that similar claims by officials fell apart more quietly when the cases went to court. In four of the shootings where prosecutors brought assault or other charges, including against Mr. Brown, the cases fizzled after evidence emerged that contradicted the administration’s initial description of events. Either the charges were dismissed or prosecutors dropped the case. Charges against six other people who were shot at by immigration agents are pending. Five of the defendants have denied aspects of the D.H.S. accusations or presented differing accounts in court. Two cases are going to trial in April.

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ICE RESTRICTIONS Democrats have proposed reforms such as ending roving patrols. PAGE A11

At the Stonewall Monument, The Pride Flag Is Taken Down

This article is by **Liam Stack, Jonathan Wolfe and Yan Zhuang.**

A large Pride flag was quietly removed from the Stonewall National Monument in Manhattan after a directive from the federal government, the latest step in the Trump administration’s nationwide assault on diversity initiatives and the second time in less than a year it has targeted the Greenwich Village site, which commemorates the birth of the L.G.B.T.Q. rights movement. The flag’s removal came weeks after the Department of the Interior issued federal guidance on displaying “non-agency” flags in the National Park System, which includes a small park in front of the Stonewall Inn, the bar for which the federal monument is named. Elected officials and bar employees said they realized the rainbow flag was gone on Monday morning. On Tuesday, a bare flagpole stood on the monument’s grounds as steely clouds hung overhead. Stacy Lentz, an owner of the bar, said its owners had been surprised by the removal, especially since a year has passed since the

ATTACK ON RULES IN CLIMATE CRISIS IS NEAR ‘VICTORY’

TRUMP AIDES LED FIGHT

E.P.A. Ready to Toss Key Finding and Tie Later Presidents’ Hands

By LISA FRIEDMAN and MAXINE JOSELOW
WASHINGTON — In the summer of 2022, Democrats in Congress were racing to pass the biggest climate law in the country’s history and President Joseph R. Biden Jr. was declaring that global warming posed a “clear and present danger” to the United States. But behind the scenes, four Trump administration veterans were plotting to obliterate federal climate efforts once Republicans regained control in Washington, according to documents reviewed by The New York Times and interviews with more than a dozen people familiar with the matter. Two of them, Russell T. Vought and Jeffrey B. Clark, were high-profile allies of Donald Trump. Mr. Vought, who has railed against “climate alarmism,” and Mr. Clark, who has called climate rules a “Leninistic” plot to seize control of the economy, drafted executive orders for the next Republican president to dismantle climate initiatives. The other two, Mandy Gunasekara and Jonathan Brightbill, were lesser-known conservative attorneys with long histories of fighting climate initiatives. Ms. Gunasekara, a onetime aide to the most vocal global warming denialist in the Senate, and Mr. Brightbill, who had argued in court against Obama-era climate regulations, collected an “arsenal of information” to chip away at the scientific consensus that the planet is warming, documents show. The overwhelming majority of scientists around the world agree that carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases are dangerously heating the planet and supercharging storms, droughts, heat waves and sea level rise, directly contradicting the four conservatives. Nevertheless, their efforts are now paying off. In the coming days, the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to revoke

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HIROKO MASUIKE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The flag last February. It was missing on Monday morning.

administration removed references to transgender people from the monument’s website and other materials. “To think you can go to Stonewall and just take down the Pride flag — that is telling of the time we are living in,” Ms. Lentz said. “It is unbelievable. The flag is not just an abstract symbol; it tells

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New Clues in Guthrie Case
Video images released Tuesday show a masked person on Nancy Guthrie’s doorstep before her abduction. PAGE A17

Secret Food Networks Emerge
As fear of being swept up by ICE in Minneapolis hinders access to groceries, a sly supply chain steps up. PAGE A9

INTERNATIONAL A4-8
Vietnam’s Leader Is in a Hurry
With promises to make his Communist country rich and influential, To Lam took an unusual path to the top. And now he holds unusual power. PAGE A4

U.S. Weighs Nuclear Expansion
Now that a last Cold War treaty has expired, President Trump’s intentions are unclear to some experts. PAGE A8

SPORTS B7-11
A Super Bowl Setback
New England quarterback Drake Maye was overwhelmed by the Seahawks, and then his emotions. PAGE B11



BUSINESS B1-6
Trump Statue Awaits a Home
Cryptocurrency investors backing a meme coin hope it will end up at one of the president’s golf courses. PAGE B1

Musk’s Conglomerate Dreams
The billionaire’s decision to merge his A.I. start-up with his rocket company will test Wall Street’s interest. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-6
She Had Big Stilettoes to Fill
Playing Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy in “Love Story,” Sarah Pidgeon faced a backlash before filming even finished. She “had to just keep betting on myself and what my instincts were.” PAGE C1

How Black Cinema Expanded
“The Flying Ace,” “Killer of Sheep,” “Bamboozled” and seven other films to stream for Black History Month highlight the emergence of groundbreaking directors, actors and stories. PAGE C2

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Bret Stephens PAGE A20



FOOD D1-8
Are These the New Oxtail?
Beef shanks are an economical cut suddenly in demand among some Taiwanese restaurants in this country for their velvety texture. PAGE D7

