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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

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

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

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-

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 messages.

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All Eyes on the Skaters

The figure skating men's singles short program stood out on Day 4. Olympics coverage, Page B7.

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 quickly 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 one-time aide to the most vocal global warming denier 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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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

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

NATIONAL A9-18

New Clues in Guthrie Case

Video images released Tuesday show a masked person on Nancy Guthrie's doorstep before her abduction. PAGE A17

Super Bowl Setback

New England quarterback Drake Maye was overwhelmed by the Seahawks, and then his emotions. PAGE B11

Artificial Intelligence

AI is becoming more advanced, but it's not yet as smart as we think. PAGE C1

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Cryptocurrency investors backing a memecoin hope it will end up at one of the president's golf courses. PAGE B1

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

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