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That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times



JAMES HILL FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Fast Way Down

Kellie Delka of the United States in the skeleton second heat on Friday; she slipped to 24th place. More from Milan, Pages D4-10.

Digital Dragnet Helps Iran Round Up Dissenters

This article is by Adam Satariano, Paul Mozur and Farnaz Fassihi.

When Iranians began protesting their government in late December, an ominous text message landed in some of their phones.

Their “presence at illegal gatherings” had been noted and they were under “intelligence monitoring,” the Iranian authorities texted them. “It is advised that you refrain from attending such illegal gatherings, which are desired by the enemy.”

Iran’s government most likely tracked the protesters through location data emitting from their phones, researchers later concluded. The move was part of a new phase by the authorities to combat opposition by tapping a vast digital surveillance infrastructure to track down dissenters who participated in the recent

Facial Recognition and Cellphone Data Make Hiding Difficult

antigovernment demonstrations, according to human rights groups, researchers and documents.

Iran, like China, has some of the world’s most expansive known surveillance abilities. Technology to monitor mobile devices, apps and web traffic has been integrated throughout communications and internet networks, along with facial recognition and other tracking methods, according to groups that have studied Iran’s capabilities.

These digital surveillance abilities have received less attention than the internet blackouts that

the government imposed during the violent crackdown to end the protests last month. But as authorities slowly restore some online access, they have detained people who were believed to have attended protests and subjected them to hours of interrogation based on facial recognition and phone data, according to accounts from Iranians and a government security official in the country.

Some people who posted on social media about the protests and other political topics have had their phone SIM cards suspended — effectively shutting off access to mobile networks — while others received warning phone calls and faced banking service interruptions, according to a report that was released this week by Holistic Resilience, a digital rights group focused on Iran.

The authorities’ hope was to

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2020 Denier In Lead Role For Midterms

This article is by Shawn McCrещ, Alexandra Berzon and Nick Corasaniti.

One of the more extraordinary aspects of President Trump’s second term is this: Some of the most far-out election conspiracists who helped him spread

lies about the 2020 election and then tried to overturn it

are now inside the government, using the power of the state to keep Mr. Trump’s denialism alive.

This dynamic came into focus on Tuesday when an unsealed F.B.I. search warrant affidavit revealed that the recent criminal investigation into the 2020 election results in Fulton County, Ga., had been instigated by Kurt Olsen, a rather prominent character in Mr. Trump’s election denialism movement. Mr. Olsen, who is a lawyer, was considered by people in the first Trump administration to be a fringe menace.

In the second Trump administration, he is the director of “elec-

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Songs Will Play on Ice, if Skaters Got the Rights

By TARIQ PANJA

MILAN — The Canadian ice dancing pair had the crowd going from the moment that the first bars of 1990s-themed pop music started blasting from the speakers. Getting spectators excited by the right song choice was a big part of their planning, said Zachary Lagha, who, with his partner, Marjorie Lajoie, enjoyed one of the biggest fan reactions of the night.

What most of those in attendance at the Milano Ice Skating Arena on Monday didn’t know was that the thumping beats they enjoyed were the result of a sudden change the duo had been forced to make to the routine that they had originally practiced for this month’s Winter Olympics in Italy.

Olympians Performing Legal Acrobatics We Don’t See

Just weeks earlier, Lagha and Lajoie learned that they were at risk of breaching copyright law because of their use of a musical composition featuring hits by the Australian rockers AC/DC that they had not been cleared to use. So they pivoted.

The intricacies of intellectual property law have been the talk of the figure skating competition in Milan unlike at any previous Games. Several athletes have found themselves caught up in copyright controversies before and during one of the biggest com-

petitions of their careers, illustrating the complex and error-prone process skaters must navigate to gain permission to use others’ music in their routines.

Athletes, coaches and experts say that international broadcast rights, social media and new music tracking tools are placing more attention on skating performances at major competitions like the Olympics, drawing the attention of copyright owners.

Just ask Amber Glenn, the American figure skater who unexpectedly found herself at the center of an online dispute over music licensing on Sunday night, only hours after she had helped the United States win the team competition.

A Canadian musician, Seb McKinnon, posted on social media

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A man proposed to his wife via the Sunday crossword.

A wife surprised her husband with the Schwinn bike of his childhood dreams.

One man threw an entire party just to talk to his now-wife again.

In honor of Valentine’s Day,

we asked Times readers to share a moment when they have felt truly swept off their feet — or have been the ones doing the sweeping. The answers warmed our hearts. Page A10.

THE WEATHER

Today, a flurry early, becoming partly sunny, high 45. Tonight, partly cloudy, dry, low 31. Tomorrow, early sun, afternoon clouds, dry, high 41. Weather map, Page A18.

F.A.A. Tussles With Military Over Air Rules

Dispute Over Laser Use Shut Airport Down

This article is by Kate Kelly, Karoun Demirjian and Eric Schmitt.

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration was alarmed.

The Defense Department had passed along new laser technology to border officials who were planning to use it to interdict drones crossing into the United States from Mexico. But F.A.A. officials were concerned about the potential hazards of using lasers near the airspace where commercial planes were landing at El Paso International Airport, and they wanted more information.

After border officials went ahead and used the technology, ignoring the pleas, the F.A.A. determined it had no further leverage to use. So it played its only card — or perhaps overplayed it.

Late Tuesday night, it abruptly closed El Paso’s airspace, an extraordinary measure that disrupted travel and shocked local residents.

It was the latest dust-up in an increasingly fractious relationship between two powerful government agencies, the F.A.A. and the Defense Department, as they attempt to fulfill differing objectives in a chaotic administration.

The F.A.A. is responsible for the safety of the national airspace and the more than three million people who travel through it every day. The Defense Department is tasked with keeping the United States safe, at home and abroad.

Those twin goals collided this week in an embarrassing spectacle, after the F.A.A., frustrated by its inability to obtain its desired safety briefing on the new anti-drone laser technology, announced a 10-day shutdown of the airspace for a city of nearly 700,000 people.

Officials there felt the military had not provided them with the information they needed to ensure that airplanes could maneuver safely through the skies while the technology was being tested, according to three people who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the decisions.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth lent the technology to Customs and Border Protection personnel because the agency had wider legal authority inside the United States to use such tools, said two U.S. officials who requested anonymity to talk about operational matters.

But the episode turned bizarre when C.B.P. officials used the

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D.H.S. EXPANDING PUSH TO IDENTIFY OPPONENTS OF ICE

ON SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Google, Meta and Others Said to Receive Legal Requests for Data

By SHEERA FRENKEL and MIKE ISAAC

SAN FRANCISCO — The Department of Homeland Security is expanding its efforts to identify Americans who oppose Immigration and Customs Enforcement by sending tech companies legal requests for the names, email addresses, telephone numbers and other identifying data behind social media accounts that track or criticize the agency.

In recent months, Google, Reddit, Discord and Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, have received hundreds of administrative subpoenas from the Department of Homeland Security, according to four government officials and tech employees privy to the requests. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Google, Meta and Reddit complied with some of the requests, the government officials said. In the subpoenas, the department asked the companies for identifying details of accounts that do not have a real person’s name attached and that have criticized ICE or pointed to the locations of ICE agents. The New York Times saw two subpoenas that were sent to Meta over the last six months.

The tech companies, which can choose whether or not to provide the information, have said they review government requests before complying. Some of the companies notified the people whom the government had requested data on and gave them 10 to 14 days to fight the subpoena in court.

“The government is taking more liberties than they used to,” said Steve Loney, a senior supervising attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania. “It’s a whole other level of frequency and lack of accountability.” Over the last six months, Mr. Loney has represented people whose social media account information was sought by the Department of Homeland Security.

The department said it had “broad administrative subpoena authority” but did not address questions about its requests. In court, its lawyers have argued that they are seeking information to help keep ICE agents in the field safe.

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Where Children Are Detained by the Hundreds

This article is by Miriam Jordan, Sarah Mervosh and Allison McCann.

A 7-year-old in Oregon was seeking treatment for a nosebleed last month when immigration agents detained her and her parents outside a hospital emergency room. They were taken to a federal detention center in Texas for three weeks.

In Chicago, a 5-year-old was at a laundromat with her mother last fall when they were surrounded by agents and flown to Texas.

And a teenager who had been living in the United States for a decade was getting ready for school one morning last year when the police showed up at his family’s door. He, too, ended up confined in Texas with his mother, even though she had begged for him to be allowed to stay with family members who are American citizens, according to court records.



JAMIE KELTER DAVIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

An immigrant father with mementos of his detained son, 13.

The number of children in federal custody has climbed sharply since President Trump revived the practice of detaining families last year, as part of his promise to deport immigrants who are in the

country illegally. The most prominent example came last month, when 5-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos, still wearing his Spider-Man backpack, was detained along

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BUSINESS B1-6

Even Pros Make Tax Missteps

You’d think a financial planner married to another financial planner would have it easy come tax time. Alas, no. PAGE B1

Costs Keep Mothers on the Job

Labor force participation for women with young children continues to float above prepandemic levels. PAGE B1



NATIONAL A10-20

Justice Dept. Sues Harvard

The school is accused of failing to produce documents about whether its admissions process discriminates against white applicants. PAGE A15

ICE Agents Placed on Leave

A federal judge dismissed the charges against an immigrant in Minnesota and two ICE agents were accused of making false statements. PAGE A12

Cold War Nuclear Waste

New Mexico is demanding that the Energy Department expedite the clean-up of so-called legacy waste at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. PAGE A17

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

How Trump Sees the World

The president’s public comments reveal an unusual — and self-focused — lens through which he views other nations, according to a Times analysis. PAGE A4

U.S. Pushes for Ukraine Deal

As the U.S. midterms loom, the Trump administration wants concessions from Kyiv on territory and elections. PAGE A6

SPORTS D1-10

There’s One Clear Standout

We asked nine N.F.L. coaches and team executives to rate the 10 head-coaching hires this offseason. PAGE D2

ARTS C1-6

Rolling Over Beethoven

Gustavo Dudamel, Cate Blanchett and Jeremy O. Harris reimagine “Egmont” to bring it to our times. PAGE C1

‘Get Off My Lawn!’

Harrison Fishman and Dylan Redford are obsessed with neighbor conflicts, so they made a docuseries. PAGE C1



TRAVEL C7-9

Stylish Hotels for City Lovers

From Santa Fe, N.M., to Rome to Dubai, new accommodations offer urban culture and creature comforts. PAGE C7

Air Travel at Its Worst

Who could love turbulence, reheated food and the middle seat? Some people do, and we can learn from them. PAGE C8

OPINION A22-23

Jessica Grose

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