

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, rainy early, turning breezy and chillier, high 58 then temperatures fall. Tonight, clearing, colder, low 32. Tomorrow, breezy, sunny, high 43. Weather map, Page B12.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



RENAUD PHILIPPE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Line of Defense in the Ice

Canadian soldiers deployed to the Arctic to show they can fight in a contested part of the world. It did not go as planned. Page A6.

Trump Renews Threats, Then Extends Deadline To Reopen Critical Strait

Conflict Is Stern Test of Freestyle Tactics

Biggest Fall in Stocks Since Start of War

By MICHAEL CROWLEY

WASHINGTON — President Trump's war with Iran is testing the limits of his unorthodox diplomatic style as he grasps for a deal to end the conflict shaking the Middle East and the global economy.

As the war stretches longer than Mr. Trump seems to have anticipated, he appears to be casting about for a diplomatic offramp even as he threatens to escalate the conflict.

In a social media post on Thursday, Mr. Trump seemed confounded by the challenge, calling Iranian officials "very different and 'strange'" and claiming that they were "begging" for a deal while insisting that they "better get serious soon."

It is unclear who in the Trump administration may be in charge of talking with a battered Tehran's surviving leadership. On Tuesday, Mr. Trump said that Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio would join his special envoy Steve Witkoff and his son-in-law Jared Kushner in any negotiations. "They're doing it, along with Marco, JD, we have a number of people doing it," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Vance is a past opponent of U.S. intervention in the Middle East generally and Iran in particular. Mr. Rubio, by contrast, is an Iran hawk who has publicly defended Mr. Trump's decision to attack the country.

That jumble of emissaries — a friend, a family member, a dove and a hawk — reflects Mr. Trump's improvisational approach to foreign dealings and his disdain for career diplomats and their often cumbersome protocols. The picture is further muddied by Mr. Trump's stream-of-consciousness commentary on social media and before the TV cameras during which he declares, revises and sometimes reverses his threats and demands.

The situation is testing the bravado many Trump officials expressed about their early foreign policy initiatives. "Turns out a lot of diplomacy boils down to a simple skill: don't be an idiot," Mr. Vance posted on social media last March, in praise of Mr. Witkoff.

Iran has publicly rejected a 15-point cease-fire proposal circulated on Page A10

This article is by Erica L. Green, Adam Rasgon, Eshe Nelson and Thomas Fuller.

WASHINGTON — After a day of escalating threats against Iran to negotiate an end to the war, President Trump said on Thursday afternoon that he would extend by 10 days a deadline for Tehran to open the Strait of Hormuz.

The president's remarks, which came as financial markets in the United States convulsed, with stocks on Wall Street seeing their steepest daily decline at the close since the start of the war, were a marked change in tone.

On a day when Israel said it had killed an Iranian naval commander who played a pivotal role in effectively shutting down the Strait of Hormuz, Mr. Trump started the day by saying Tehran must negotiate or "we'll just keep blowing them away."

But by late afternoon, the president had said on social media that the talks were going "very well." He said that his postponement of the deadline to open the strait had come as result of an "Iranian Government request," and that the new deadline was April 6 at 8 p.m. The president first made the threat against Iran to open the strait on Saturday, saying he would destroy its power plants if it did not comply within 48 hours, a potential major escalation in the war that risked Iranian reprisals of oil infrastructure across the Gulf. Then, he issued an extension to Friday.

The Iranians did not immediately respond to the latest extension.

Investors nervous about the war sent the S&P 500 down 1.7 percent at market close on Thursday. Oil prices also rose sharply, with the price of Brent crude, the global benchmark for oil, rising about 5.7 percent, to \$108.01 a barrel.

Earlier, Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump's special envoy, had said that he and Jared Kushner, Mr. Trump's son-in-law, had received "strong signs" from Iran that peace was possible after sending a 15-point "action list" to Tehran through Pakistani mediators.

"We will see where things lead and if we can convince Iran that this is the inflection point with no good alternatives for them, other than Page A10

Big Investors in Clean Energy Move to Punish Its Opponents

By LISA FRIEDMAN and BRAD PLUMER

WASHINGTON — President Trump's sweeping tax law last year eliminated most federal support for wind and solar energy, electric vehicles and other clean technologies. Now, a group of wealthy investors is coming after its architects, trying to prove that green energy knows how to play hardball politics.

Their first target is Chip Roy, a Republican representative from Texas who led the push to kill subsidies for clean tech in the tax law, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The investors, who include Chris Larsen, the billionaire co-founder of the cryptocurrency platform Ripple, are pouring money into defeating Mr. Roy's campaign for attorney general in Texas.

Clean energy backers have already bought \$650,000 of TV ads attacking Mr. Roy, which helped



MASON TRINCA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A backer called clean energy's old political tactics "too wimpy."

force him into a primary runoff this month. They plan to announce this week that they will put another \$500,000 into the runoff and develop a list of other races they will engage with this fall.

Mr. Roy's top Republican campaign rival, Mayes Middleton, is no friend to renewables: A Texas

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Bitten by a Tick, Then Severely Allergic to Meat

By JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN

A decade ago, Scott Curatolo-Wagemann knew of only one person stricken with a tick-borne ailment called alpha-gal syndrome — the husband of his wife's cousin.

The list has since grown in his corner of Long Island: His sister, who was bitten this past summer, has it. So does his sister's best friend. Then there's the mother of a boy on his son's baseball team. The phlebotomist at the Labcorp office where he gets blood drawn has it.

And, yes, Mr. Curatolo-Wagemann has alpha-gal, too.

Syndrome Is Spreading With Clusters Found on Long Island

Once regarded as a rarity, the disease, which involves an allergy to red meat that develops after a tick bite, has emerged as a significant health menace, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimating that as many as 450,000 people nationwide may have had it in the past 15 years. And that is probably an under-

count, said Dr. Scott Commins, who helped solve the mystery of alpha-gal syndrome about two decades ago.

More recently, Dr. Commins was involved in testing, largely at random, 3,000 samples from blood donors in 10 states for alpha-gal antibodies. A forthcoming study shows that in Arkansas, Kentucky and Missouri, nearly 30 percent of samples tested positive, although that doesn't mean that all — or even most — had allergic symptoms, he said.

Dr. Commins, a professor at the University of North Carolina at

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JORGE LUIS BAÑOS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Liagny Acosta holding her 2-week-old, Aíran, hospitalized this month with a respiratory illness in Havana. When blackouts come, nurses have to work ventilators manually until generators kick in.

Cubans Dying in U.S. Oil Blockade, Doctors Say

By ED AUGUSTIN and JACK NICAS

HAVANA — As a nationwide blackout in Cuba stretched into a second day last weekend, the stakes were rising for Jorge Pérez Álvarez.

The 21-year-old suffers from a genetic disease preventing his lungs from pumping air on their own. He needs a ventilator at all times to keep breathing.

Hit to a Health System Already Struggling

His ventilator's backup battery is supposed to last more than a day, but that has been tested repeatedly in recent weeks, including in three nationwide outages that each pushed up against its

limits. And with the power out for hours every day, there is hardly enough time to recharge it.

"I don't know how long we can keep going," said his mother, Xenia Álvarez, standing near her son's crumpled body in his bedroom in a poor neighborhood of Havana. "His life depends on electricity."

The U.S. oil blockade on Cuba,

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NATIONAL A12-19

A City Reckons With Chavez

San Jose, Calif., where Cesar Chavez looms large, is confronting his legacy after sexual abuse revelations. PAGE A12

Trump Will Be in Your Wallet

President Trump is set to be the first sitting president to have his signature appear on the dollar bill. PAGE A19

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

An Influencer's Sudden Death

Zhang Xuefeng was known for blunt advice about success in China's educational rat race. He died at 41. PAGE A5

Health Care a War Casualty

In rural Ukraine, fighting has ravaged medical infrastructure, and the elderly are going without medicine. PAGE A9

OBITUARIES A20-21

Luminous 'Waterfalls' Painter

Spilling paint onto canvas and letting it streak down as it pleased, Pat Steir often said her celebrated works painted themselves. She was 87. PAGE A20



SPORTS B8-11

Vanderbilt's 'Generational' Star

Mikayla Blakes, the nation's top scorer, is in the N.C.A.A. tournament's round of 16. Her feats seem inevitable. PAGE B8

A Narrative That Won't Die

Aaron Boone, the Yankees manager, pushed back on the idea that the team's front office sets his lineup. PAGE B11

BUSINESS B1-7

Juries and Child Online Safety

A pair of verdicts held social media companies accountable for harming young users, highlighting a growing backlash as Congress struggles to pass legislation. PAGE B1

A Challenging Airport

Regulators, pilots and others in aviation have worried about the kind of accident that happened Sunday at LaGuardia, but didn't consider the airport an outlier when it came to safety risks. PAGE B1

OPINION A22-23

David French

PAGE A22



WEEKEND ARTS C1-12

The Radiance From Raphael

A new exhibition has such sublimity and grace, our critic says, it's "hard to square with the cold world outside." Above, "Portrait of Bindo Altoviti." PAGE C1

