

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, more sunshine than clouds, high 53. Tonight, partly cloudy, low 46. Tomorrow, warmer with some sun, cloudy in the afternoon, high 66. Weather map appears on Page 30.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

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KEREM YUCEL/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES



VINCENT ALBAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES

“No Kings” demonstrations were held across the nation in liberal cities and Republican strongholds on Saturday. Clockwise from top: the Capitol of Georgia in Atlanta; Gallagher Park in Omaha; Minnesota’s Capitol in St. Paul; and in Washington. Page 18.

Portrait of Trump at War: Impulse and Ultimatums

Swinging Between Boasts About U.S. Might and Frustration Over Unmet Aims

By ERICA L. GREEN

WASHINGTON — President Trump was fresh off the golf course, and his fury was building. It was March 21, and as he settled back into his Mar-a-Lago estate for the evening, he was reading another news account about how, for all the military success the United States had in Iran, he had yet to achieve his political objectives.

At 7:44 p.m., the president made his frustration known with an extraordinary ultimatum: If Iran did not reopen the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours and allow much of the world’s oil and gas to flow through, he would bomb Iran’s civilian electric power plants. It was the kind of attack that could constitute a war crime under the Geneva Conventions.

But just hours before the Monday deadline expired, Mr. Trump delayed his threat by five days, easing fears of an imminent escalation with profound military, diplomatic and economic implications.

Still, he warned that “we’ll just keep bombing our little hearts out” if Iran would not make a deal, and as the week progressed he made new threats that left allies off balance and spooked the markets. So on Thursday afternoon, after stocks on Wall Street suffered their largest daily decline since the start of the war, he added another 10 days to the clock, again seeking to ease the fears ignited by his own hard-line positions.

It is too soon to know whether the extra time will result in productive diplomacy. But it is already clear that Mr. Trump’s wild swings — from optimism to frustration and anger, from de-escalation to escalation — have combined to give his management of the war an erratic, make-it-up-as-it goes feel.

Ever since the United States, alongside Israel, launched the war on Feb. 28, Mr. Trump has vacillated between chest-thumping about U.S. military superiority and deep frustration that the tactical achievements on the battlefield did not seem to be producing the strategic outcome he predicted.

Although the supreme leader and many top military and intelligence leaders have been killed, the regime in Tehran remains in control. Iran’s leaders have all but sealed off the Strait of Hormuz, sending gas prices skyrocketing and rattling investors. And Iran retains control of the material it would need to produce a nuclear weapon, the main threat cited by Mr. Trump in taking the nation into the war in the first place.

Mr. Trump has said he understands there will be short-term pain from the war, which he accepts as a necessary price to ensure that Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon. And the president’s allies have always said that his unpredictability is his superpower, and that it keeps his enemies guessing.

But it also suggests an inconsistency of purpose that has led the president to keep shifting his goals, even as the risks of the war grow bigger by the day.

Continued on Page 8

Will Primal Scream of ‘No Kings’ Echo in Voting Booths?

By JEREMY W. PETERS

Deflated by their electoral losses and demoralized by President Trump’s return to power, millions of his most ardent opponents turned out at two nationwide protests last year and found an outlet for their discontent.

They hit the pavement again on Saturday for the third “No Kings” protests, a boisterous show of

force that filled television screens, social media feeds, and cities and towns in all 50 states.

“We’ve got to rise up,” said Mitch Campbell, 72, who brought a sign that said “No Kings Except Elvis” to the protest in Oxford, Miss., an hour’s drive from Elvis Presley’s birthplace.

“It’s reached a point now where — how can people ignore this?” Mr. Campbell said. “They’re just

Crowds Tear at Trump From Many Angles

trampling on the Constitution. Whether it’s gas, or the tariffs, or cost of living, or whatever, I mean, we’re just not paying attention.”

Organizers hoped Saturday’s protests would turn out to be the

largest yet. But as the marchers tried to fulfill that promise, it remained an open question whether another big turnout would be enough to influence the course of the nation’s politics. Can the protests harness that energy and turn it into victories in the November midterm elections? How can they avoid a primal scream that fades into a whimper?

Continued on Page 19

WAR WIDENS The Houthis said they fired a missile at Israel, and an Iranian strike on a Saudi base injured U.S. service members. PAGE 10

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE President Trump mocks European leaders for not helping in Iran, but they face domestic resistance to the war. PAGE 9

Be ‘Thorough’ When You Talk About Thoreau

By SARAH LYALL

Jeff Goldblum was in the recording studio, voicing the title character for the new PBS documentary “Henry David Thoreau,” when something unsettling happened. The script called for him to utter the great man’s name for the first time. Naturally, he said it in the usual way: “Thu-RO.”

Uh, no. “Let’s do that again,” one of the directors said.

That was when Goldblum learned that, like everyone else, he had been mispronouncing the name of the author of “Walden” and “Civil Disobedience” his whole life. It turns out that the accent does not belong on the second syllable, as in “merlot” or “Poirot.” It rests on the first syllable, like “thorough” — as in, “I am thoroughly confused by this strange turn of events.”

Ruh-roh! Or, actually “THU-ro.”

This front-loaded pronunciation has apparently always been there, hiding in plain sight in the halls of academe, even if no one told us about it. “There is a consensus that “THU-ro” is the correct way to pronounce it,” John J. Kucich, co-president of the nonprofit Thoreau Alliance, said in an interview. “But somehow “Thu-RO” — here Kucich uttered the word the common way — “got into the cul-



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Henry David Thoreau advocated simple living. A new documentary shows the pronunciation of his name is not so simple.

ture, and it’s in the water to pronounce it that way.”

The three-episode documentary, which premieres on Monday, was produced by Ken Burns and the Eagles musician Don Henley, a lifelong Thoreau-ophile and the

chairman of the Walden Woods Project. The film focuses not just on Thoreau’s two years at Walden Pond — the famous “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately” part of his life — but

Continued on Page 21

As Cuba Reels, Castro Dynasty Reasserts Itself

By SIMON ROMERO and DAVID C. ADAMS

MEXICO CITY — When President Miguel Díaz-Canel of Cuba acknowledged this month that his government was engaged in secret talks with the Trump administration, he revealed that the person guiding the negotiations was the “historical leader of the revolution.”

That honorific is reserved for Raúl Castro, 94, who succeeded his brother Fidel Castro as Cuba’s president from 2008 to 2018, before retreating from the public eye to project an image of a civilian transition under Mr. Díaz-Canel.

But with Cuba on the brink of economic collapse from a U.S. oil blockade and gripped by a worsening humanitarian crisis, other members of the Castro family have emerged. One has spoken directly with Marco Rubio, the U.S. secretary of state. Another is taking part in the negotiations with the Trump administration. Yet another is the public face of Cuba’s groundbreaking (and tantalizing) decision to allow Cuban exiles to invest in the island.

The family’s new profile reflects a dynasty that never really exited the political scene, but instead evolved.

Continued on Page 12



DANIEL BEREHULAK/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Eager to Join the Fight

Iranian Kurdish fighters are training in the Iraqi border mountains, waiting to go to battle against the regime in Iran. Page 6.

Kentucky Republican Thinks Hate From Trump Is ‘Worth It’

By CATIE EDMONDSON

CYNTHIANA, Ky. — Representative Thomas Massie was wedged in the back of a pickup truck careening through the hills and hollers of his district back to his off-the-grid farm here in Kentucky, scrolling on his phone through the litany of memes his legion of online fans have created on his behalf.

Then he landed on his favorite, a photo of himself playing the banjo, with accompanying text that read: “Here’s a little song I wrote called ‘I’ll still win, but if I lose, it was worth it.’”

That has become Mr. Massie’s battle cry these days as the only Republican in the country center-

ing his re-election bid unapologetically on his willingness to buck his own party, even if it means defying President Trump. He has been singled out by Mr. Trump as “disloyal” and “a complete and total disaster” after leading the charge within the G.O.P. to release the Epstein files. A thorn in the president’s side on everything from federal spending to the war in Iran, Mr. Massie is now embroiled in the toughest fight of his political career, a contest set to be the most expensive congressional primary in the nation.

A die-hard libertarian with a puckish sensibility and a yen for

Continued on Page 16

INTERNATIONAL 4-13

- Rebranding a Dictatorship**
Fifty years after a coup, Argentina’s government is promoting a revisionist account of the junta’s crimes. PAGE 4
- A Masked Celebration**
A tradition called Mid-Lent that has its roots in medieval France survives today in a few spots in Canada. PAGE 11

NATIONAL 14-22

- Alaska’s Faltering Fiscal Model**
The oil-fueled system that paid for ample public services while sending annual dividend checks to the state’s residents is under threat. PAGE 14



- SPORTS 23-26**
- A Coach’s Next Assignment**
Kara Lawson, who has led Duke to March Madness success, has also been entrusted with the biggest job in women’s basketball. PAGE 23

- SUNDAY OPINION**
- Cal Newport** PAGE 6

METROPOLITAN

- Trials of a Jailhouse Lawyer**
Obsessed with proving his innocence, Quentin Lewis devoted years in isolation to learning the law. PAGE 1
- Racing to Find a Private Chef**
In the Hamptons, many wealthy households are already competing to secure a cook for the summer. PAGE 1
- ARTS & LEISURE**
- Memes of ‘Real Housewives’**
The Bravo TV empire, which turns 20 this month, has also been a gold mine for the internet, with staying power even out of context. PAGE 11



- SUNDAY BUSINESS**
- Graduates Feel Betrayed**
The post-college life is not what they dreamed. Many see no path to jobs suiting their credentials. PAGE 5

SUNDAY STYLES

- Inflated Egos and Success**
Impostor syndrome? No time for that. Those with limited experience aren’t just faking it till they make it. They’re ditching humble brags and pitching themselves as experts. PAGE 10
- At 70, a Literary Comeback**
Nancy Lemann published her first novel at 28. Then came “the doom.” Now, with a new book, “The Oyster Diaries,” she’s not exactly comfortable with the spotlight. PAGE 1

