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"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, partly sunny and breezy, high 58. **Tonight,** mainly clear with winds dwindling, a low of 46. **Tomorrow,** plenty of sunshine, dry and warmer, high 62. Weather map, Page D8.

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CLEMENTINE SCHNEIDERMANN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

In Wales, Never Too Many Elvises
Fans gather in a Welsh seaside town each year to celebrate the life and career of a music superstar who lived an ocean away. Page C5.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Clear Message to Trump, But Hazy Future for U.S.

Parties Face a Gap Until His Term Ends

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — In the days since his defeat, he has sounded like a man in denial.

With his party still picking through the wreckage of a political earthquake, a seemingly oblivious President Trump signed a steel beam for his new White House ballroom and flew to Florida to give a speech on the space program. He seems flat these days, maybe a little dazed.

If Donald Trump is still processing the election that swept his party from power in Congress last week, so too is Donald Trump's America. Both parties are still absorbing the stunning reality of Democratic victories in states like Texas, Kansas and South Carolina — and possibly even Mississippi — that were long G.O.P. strongholds.

But as clear as the midterm verdict was, the future is cloudier. After a decade in which Mr. Trump has dominated national politics, the country now faces a period of profound uncertainty, an interregnum between the time that Americans effectively decided that they were done with Mr. Trump and the time when he is actually done.

How does an unpopular, lame-duck president spurned by the electorate govern in his final two years in office? How does a shattered Republican Party rebuild itself for a post-Trump era while Mr. Trump himself is still around and unwilling to cede the stage? How do newly empowered Democrats use their majorities in Congress and define themselves beyond simply being the anti-Trump party?

To those who wondered whether Mr. Trump would choose conciliation or confrontation in response to his party's defeat, his decision on Friday to install Stephen Miller, his top ideological warrior, as the next White House chief of staff provided an answer — and it was not conciliation. In case the message was not received, on Saturday he posted an offer on social media for Dana White, the Ultimate Fighting Championship chief executive, to be his press secretary. Mr. Trump may be wounded, but a wounded animal can thrash around powerfully.

Yet those in his circle wasted no time looking past him. Two senior members of his team, Vice President JD Vance and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, quickly

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Rare Coalition Has Mississippi On the Cusp of a Black Senator

By CAMPBELL ROBERTSON and EMILY COCHRANE

On Tuesday morning, Angela Lewis got off her overnight shift as a psychiatric nurse, drove to her polling place in Meridian, Miss., and then sat in the parking lot and prayed.

That morning, she asked that God's will be done; the day before, she said a prayer of thanks to her father, James Chaney, one of the three civil rights organizers murdered by Mississippi Klansmen in June 1964, days after she was born. It is because of people like her father that she could vote at all.

The man she had come to vote for on Tuesday was Scott Colom, who now appears to be edging toward becoming the first Black senator from Mississippi since Reconstruction.

"I called all my kids," Ms. Lewis said, "and I told them that if they love me and if they ever want to talk to me again, they better get out of that bed in the morning and they better go vote."

They did, as did hundreds of thousands of Black voters, white voters, enthusiastic college students, angry suburbanites and discontented small-town conservatives, an unparalleled coalition that has put Mississippi on the cusp of history. If he wins, Mr. Colom will take the seat once held by Hiram Revels, the nation's first Black senator, who was elected in 1870, the middle of the Reconstruction era.

The last Black senator from Mississippi, Blanche K. Bruce,



RORY DOYLE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Scott Colom is leading in the Senate vote in Mississippi.

served from 1875 to 1881, as Reconstruction was in its final days, raising alarms about the violence faced by Black voters but expressing his confidence "in the endurance, capacity and destiny of my people."

On Saturday morning, more

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Jeffries, With Strong Majority, Cautiously Considers Big Ideas

By ANNIE KARNI

WASHINGTON — Back in May, Representative Hakeem Jeffries, Democrat of New York and the minority leader, saw a crucial piece of his strategy for winning control of the House slipping away.

Republicans, spurred by President Trump, had redrawn congressional districts in Florida to favor themselves, and Representative Jared Moskowitz, a centrist Democrat from Coral Springs, was thinking of quitting rather than fighting for a third term in a far more conservative district.

Death threats were already jamming up his voice mail, and Mr. Moskowitz was frightened of what would happen to his family as Republicans trained their attacks on him.

Mr. Jeffries would not hear of it. In calls and meetings, he leaned hard on Mr. Moskowitz to stay in the race, telling him he was the key to a play to hold on to all four Democratic districts that Republicans in the state had carved up to protect the G.O.P. majority.

"You're the only one who can win that seat," Mr. Jeffries told him, promising to match the torrent of Republican money that would be spent against him. "You're the linchpin for the other three."

On Tuesday, the plan worked. Mr. Moskowitz won one of the most expensive races in the country, and the three other Florida Democrats who were under threat held on or were ahead in



KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Representative Hakeem Jeffries is set to be speaker.

ballot counting.

"It was Jeffries who got me comfortable to have me do this," Mr. Moskowitz said in an interview on Wednesday.

It was part of a broader blueprint Mr. Jeffries pursued relentlessly over the past year that posi-

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Texas Democrats Plot Rollback Of Harsh Immigration Policies

By JAZMINE ULLOA

Texas spent years as the nation's fiercest proving ground for hard-line immigration enforcement.

Gov. Greg Abbott and Republican leaders became indispensable White House allies in President Trump's mass deportation campaign, aggressively pushing the bounds of state power to counter what they defined as an "invasion" at the southern border.

The state supplied detention beds, floating river barriers and miles of concertina wire. Officials empowered local police to arrest migrants and drafted the legal playbook to advance stringent policies, unwind deportation protections and target pro-immigration advocacy groups.

Last week's surprise Democratic sweep is expected to throw that approach into reverse. It is a shift likely to reverberate far beyond Austin, as newly minted lawmakers in Texas, Washington and

The National Strategy of a Party Is Likely to Face Resistance

across the country prepare to reshape the national battleground over the Trump administration's mass deportation campaign.

Already, in Houston and Austin, mayors John Whitmire and Kirk Watson have directed city police officers to limit their cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement during traffic stops, bucking a policy imposed on Texas' cities by Mr. Abbott.

Still, Democrats looking to usher in a new era of accountability will find that the institutional and legal challenges remain formidable.

The incoming cohort of new leaders is by no means united on how to overhaul a national immi-

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When to Share Sleeping Bag With a Walrus: An Alaskan Rescue

By ISHANI DESAI

The sun was glinting off the waves on a beach in Alaska when Violet Anniskett saw what she thought were four dead walruses on the sand.

Then Ms. Anniskett, 19, stepped closer to the pile of blubber and saw one body, smaller than the rest.

Its stomach was heaving. Suddenly, the walrus's eyes opened.

Ms. Anniskett gasped.

"I was in shock," she said.

The calf's mother was nowhere in sight.

The five-month-old baby walrus, a male, would later be named Annautaq (pronounced ah-NOW-tuk), after Ms. Anniskett's father, who, like her, is Inupiat, a member of a group of northern Indigenous people. Annautaq's rescuers cared for him for four days near Point Lay in northern Alaska, near the Chukchi Sea.

Annautaq was eventually transported to SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla., making him a rare success story of humans rescuing a baby walrus, without its mother, from a perilous fate.

When Ms. Anniskett spotted the calf on Sept. 11, polar bear prints surrounded Annautaq and sea gulls flew overhead, ready to perhaps eat chunks of his exposed flesh, she said.

"He was so still, that's why he was very smart," Ms. Anniskett said. "I think that's how the bears didn't really go to him."

Ms. Anniskett called out to Anthony Fischbach, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, whom she was shadowing during her internship.

Annautaq rubbed his head on one of the carcasses as Ms. Anniskett and Mr. Fischbach devised a rescue plan.

Annautaq, at 185 pounds, weighed at least as much as Mr. Fischbach, meaning that Ms. An-

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UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Violet Anniskett, 19, with Annautaq, the walrus calf she discovered orphaned while she was shadowing a wildlife biologist.

War Both Slows and Advances Quest for an Energy Transition

By LISA FRIEDMAN

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The war in Iran has been very good for renewable energy. More than 40 countries have started or accelerated projects involving wind, solar, electric and other low-carbon technologies.

South Korea unveiled a plan to spend $747 billion to develop at least 100 gigawatts of wind and solar power by 2030. Britain and the Philippines saw a massive surge in rooftop solar installations, Thailand introduced a plan for data centers to source at least 60 percent of electricity from clean energy, and Vietnam accelerated the deployment of battery storage systems. Across Europe, Australia and India, demand for electric vehicles surged.

But the pivot to clean energy is only part of the story. The disruption of a once-reliable trade of oil and gas in the Middle East has caused much of the world to double down on fossil fuels in a desperate scramble for secure, and immediate, supplies.

Countries are using more coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel. Nations with oil and gas in abundance went to extraordinary lengths to export crude to their customers, investing to strengthen infrastructure and build new trade routes to outlast the current crisis. All along, governments tapped their budgets for billions of dollars used to shield consumers from higher energy costs, money that did nothing to dampen demand.

This week, diplomats from nearly 200 countries are gathering in Antalya, Turkey, for the 31st

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Questions in Colombia Killings
Military-involved deaths have roiled a country with an iron-fisted leader and a history of extrajudicial deaths. PAGE A6

Fading by the Side of the Road
Giant attractions have helped put hundreds of towns on the map. But novelty fades, and costs pile up. PAGE A4



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Insurers Push Back on Law
Legislation aimed at ending surprise medical bills has generated some big payouts for doctors, but health plans are often withholding money. PAGE B1

Diesel Costs Undo an Industry
Many small trucking firms that are operating with little margin for error are facing bankruptcy. PAGE B1

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A Long-Performing Maestro
Herbert Blomstedt, 99, wasn't the most splashy conductor, but he drew acclaim until virtually the end of his life.

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A Wave of N.B.A. Injuries
More and more of the league's top players are being sidelined early this season, creating a quality issue for what fans watch. PAGE D1

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Jensen Huang, the C.E.O., disclosed that he had been intimate with a woman tied to Chinese intelligence. PAGE A16

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The Trump administration is scaling back or stalling investments to fortify vulnerable locations. PAGE A11



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A new documentary explores the legacy of this sketch series, five decades after it made its debut in Canada. PAGE C1

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