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"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, cloudy, rain, thunderstorms with gusty winds and downpours, high 58. **Tonight,** rainy, breezy, cooler, low 41. **Tomorrow,** rain, colder, high 46. Weather map, Page B12.

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GABRIELA BHASKAR/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A dangerously strong El Niño has brought a pounding surge to oceanfront properties in Dana Point, Calif., as wildfires burn nearby.

Colom Attains A Major Upset In Mississippi

Elected as Its First Black Senator Since 1800s

By EMILY COCHRANE

The last Black man to represent Mississippi in the Senate was born into slavery and left office in 1881.

More than a century later, on Wednesday, Scott Colom, a Democrat, defeated Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Republican of Mississippi, according to The Associated Press, delivering a remarkable upset and becoming the first Black person to be elected to the Senate in his state since the Reconstruction era.

Mr. Colom's victory, which came by a slim margin after more than a week of ballot tallying following the Nov. 3 election, puts an exclamation point on the sweeping Democratic victories across the country during this year's midterms.

For Republicans, the outcome was a jarring rebuke in a reliably conservative stronghold.

Mr. Colom's victory was powered by a diverse coalition that included Black voters angered by policies that targeted their communities and their voting power; white voters frustrated with high prices and the Trump administration's agenda; and some Republicans dissatisfied by Ms. Hyde-Smith's loyalty to the president and his policies.

For much of this year, Ms. Hyde-Smith had been heavily favored to defeat Mr. Colom, a district attorney, and win a second term. President Trump carried Mississippi by 23 percentage points in 2024, and Republicans have long dominated statewide elections.

But the race tightened toward the end. Mr. Colom, who barreled across the state to homecoming celebrations, city halls and college campuses, worked to introduce himself and capitalize on frustration with Mr. Trump and his Republican allies.

The contest attracted national attention in its final stretch. Mr. Trump campaigned for Ms. Hyde-Smith in the state days before the election, while former President Bill Clinton and former Vice President Kamala Harris stumped for Mr. Colom.

As Democrats racked up win after win, taking back control of the House and Senate in the Nov. 3 election, the contest in Mississippi remained unsettled. Mr. Colom held a razor-thin lead as lawyers from both parties scrutinized the counting of mail votes as well as affidavit ballots, which are similar to provisional ballots in other states, cast by voters who were

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ADMINISTRATION ISSUES A THREAT ABOUT INQUIRIES

LETTER TO A DEMOCRAT

Claiming Investigations Planned by Congress May Be a Crime

*This article is by **Charlie Savage**, **Jonathan Swan** and **Michael Gold**.*

WASHINGTON — The White House's top lawyer has warned the Democrat in line to lead the House's chief investigative committee that aggressive oversight of the Trump administration "may cross the line into blatant criminality," a threat that experts called legally dubious.

In a three-page letter to Representative Robert Garcia of California, the incoming chairman of the Oversight Committee, the White House counsel, Will Scharf, said Democrats had "evinced a clear intent to transgress" constitutional limits on congressional investigations. He predicted that their inquiries would be used "to harass and aggrandize, rather than to advance any legitimate legislative end."

The warning from the White House was dated Monday, a day after Attorney General Todd Blanche said on CNN that members of Congress had "done nothing but threaten everything that's happening in this administration."

"That is not governing, that is not leading, that is not oversight," Mr. Blanche said. He, like Mr. Scharf, once represented Mr. Trump as a defense lawyer.

Taken together, their statements signal that Mr. Trump's administration is likely to follow the playbook his first administration used after Democrats took the House in 2019. Then, Mr. Trump vowed to fight "all" subpoenas, his administration routinely refused to comply and the disputes ended up in court.

But the threat of launching criminal investigations goes even further than the stance he took in his first term. It indicates how far Mr. Trump is willing to push the Justice Department to try to protect the White House from legislative investigations.

In a statement, Mr. Garcia dismissed the letter, which his office said it had not received as of Wednesday morning. Arguing that Congress has broad authority to conduct investigations, Mr. Garcia suggested Mr. Trump had "something to hide" and accused the White House of threatening legislators.

"The Trump administration continues to weaponize the gov-

Continued on Page A13

NEWS ANALYSIS

Trump and Xi May Smile, but Knives Are Out

By DAVID PIERSON

HONG KONG — As President Trump and China's leader, Xi Jinping, prepare to meet next week to extend a fragile trade truce, a fresh espionage scandal has shown that behind their diplomacy is a fierce intelligence rivalry.

At its center is Jensen Huang, the Nvidia leader and an influential ally of Mr. Trump's, who has acknowledged having an affair with a Chinese businesswoman whom U.S. intelligence officials suspect of spying for Beijing. China has denied the espionage allegation.

Nvidia Chief's Scandal Unveils a Spy War

Under Mr. Xi, the Chinese Communist Party has built a more sophisticated and assertive spy service that regularly highlights the importance of technological security and of threats posed by the United States. At the same time, the Central Intelligence Agency has said Chinese companies are a legitimate target for espionage in areas like artificial intelligence, semiconductors and biotechnology.

Nvidia's computer chips power the global A.I. boom and sit at the center of Washington's efforts to keep that technology out of China's hands. That makes Mr. Huang, who has lobbied Mr. Trump to ease restrictions on the export of advanced chips to China, a prime target, analysts say.

"It is not at all surprising, given the centrality of Nvidia to U.S.-China tech competition, and the importance of tech competition in the overall U.S.-China rivalry, that someone like him would be a top target for Chinese intelligence collection," said Sheena Chestnut Greitens, an

Continued on Page A10

In California, El Niño Lands Big 1-2 Punch

By DAVID GELLES

DANA POINT, Calif. — First came the flood. Then the fire.

In a matter of weeks, neighboring cities in Orange County were battered by dueling disasters that laid bare the risks posed to California as the world warms.

In early September, powerful waves from the Pacific Ocean began to wallop the houses along Beach Road, a ribbon of multimillion-dollar waterfront properties hugging the coast in the picturesque hamlet of Dana Point.

Several factors conspired to create the strongest swell that anyone in the area can recall. But a main culprit was El Niño, the natural climate pattern that typically happens a few times a decade and scrambles weather patterns worldwide. The current El Niño is dangerously strong.

In California, it is elevating sea levels and creating more intense storms. A phenomenon known as a Kelvin wave — a huge, slow-moving pulse of warm water in the ocean that's linked to El Niño — is raising sea levels as well.

Dozens of Dana Point homes have been badly damaged. Ten

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ETIENNE LAURENT/EPA, VIA SHUTTERSTOCK

Ann Lawani working in California during the pandemic. She was "siphoned into an abyss" after her arrest, her brother said.

A Shackled Nurse Disappeared Into the ICE System, by Design

By MIRIAM JORDAN

Ann Lawani, a highly regarded nurse and professor, was still in her pajamas when federal agents detained her at her home in Lodi, Calif., on Sept. 16.

She placed a call that day to family from a nearby holding facility. After that, however, her siblings and lawyer could not find her in a public database that shows where detainees are being held. They got no answers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Ms. Lawani had simply vanished.

"It was the worst time of my life, knowing she had been siphoned into an abyss and there was nothing I could do about it," said her older brother, Sam Lawani, 45, a U.S. citizen. When he heard from her three days later, Ms. Lawani was at a detention center in Louisiana.

Her disappearance was no accident. Ms. Lawani, a 39-year-old from Nigeria, was arrested the day after the Department of Homeland Security conveyed that most detainees with final deportation orders — tens of thousands of immigrants — would no longer appear on the public database.

A document announcing the change, which was obtained by The New York Times, provided a script for contractors to use with

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Agent in Killing Vented Hatred Of Immigrants

By KATIE BENNER and ALEXANDRA BERZON

AUGUSTA, Maine — David Brouillette, the rookie Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer who fatally shot a Colombian migrant in Maine this summer, has a troubling work history and past complaints of domestic violence and abuse, as well as mental health issues.

He also has a record of deep-seated anti-immigrant hostility, especially against Colombians.

In 2021, four years before he joined ICE, Mr. Brouillette, a former U.S. Army sergeant, raged against his sister and their relatives in a series of emails, castigating her for her longtime relationship with a Colombian man, with whom she had two children.

"He can takes his non citizen ass back to his country and enjoy his third world luxuries," Mr. Brouillette wrote in an email thread riddled with typos, a copy of which was shared with The New York Times.

"He does not emulate what it means to be an American" but "rather he emulates what it's like to be entitled and think he has a seat" at a table "that has no room for his (or your ignorance)," he wrote. Mr. Brouillette continued

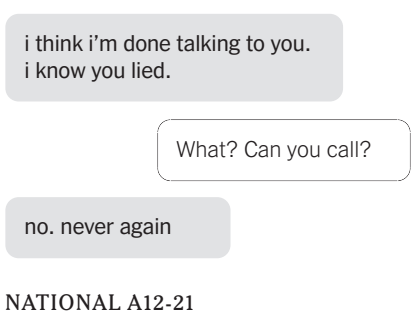
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DETAINED A third grader from Haiti was taken from his family at an ICE check-in. PAGE A17



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Honoring Those Who Served
Veterans at Arlington cemetery during the annual wreath-laying ceremony Wednesday. Page A14.



NATIONAL A12-21

Text Messages at the Center Of the Cornell Rape Inquiry
After a student said fraternity members had sexually assaulted her, university investigators amassed a trove of communications from the student and the men she accused. PAGE A20

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A Russian Voice Is Silenced
For more than 30 years, the independent paper Novaya Gazeta covered an increasingly repressive country. PAGE A4

Unfinished Quest in Antarctica
After his father died trying to cross the continent, Max Worsley has set out to complete the grueling journey. PAGE A6

OBITUARIES B10-11

Renowned Fishmonger
Stanley Zabar, who helped run the family-owned gourmet emporium in Manhattan that became a culinary and cultural landmark, was 94. PAGE B11

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Data Centers Steamroll Ahead
Despite a resounding midterm vote against giant A.I. projects, big tech has the means to weather delays. PAGE B1

Anthropic's New Bestie
After years of distance, Nvidia plans to invest $10 billion in the A.I. company alongside its I.P.O. PAGE B1

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N.F.L. Trade Deadline Winners
The Jaguars, the Vikings and Fernando Mendoza had reason to smile after the shuffling, our writer says. The Chargers once again fell short. PAGE B7

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At Home in the Uncomfortable
The comedian Jordan Jensen likes to make people laugh at really messed up things, and she's got a long list. PAGE D1

Illeana Douglas on a Catfight
After writing a book about the 1939 film "The Women," the star talks about her career and her role in #MeToo. PAGE D4



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'It's Been Awful' Sums It Up
Isaiah Rashad's new album turns some recent bad times, including a leaked sex tape, into his best work yet. PAGE C1

Look Who's Going to Movies
Contrary to the Gen Z stereotype of social media addicts, younger people have been flocking to theaters. PAGE C1

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Carlos Lozada PAGE A23

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