

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, humid, partly cloudy, high 81. Tonight, cloudy, thunderstorms, humid, low 69. Tomorrow, remaining humid, cloudy with thunderstorms, high 83. Weather map, Page 20.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$6.00

## She Said Yes, And the Deals Started Rolling

### Tiffany Trump’s Spouse Leverages Proximity

This article is by **Justin Scheck, Tariq Panja, Jo Becker and Bradley Hope.**

ATHENS — Michael Boulos was an aspiring businessman, just a few years out of college, when he knelt in the White House Rose Garden in January 2021 and asked President Trump’s daughter Tiffany Trump to marry him.

Almost immediately after she said yes, Mr. Boulos, his family and their associates were benefiting financially from his proximity to his soon-to-be in-laws.

The first deal was a family affair. Mr. Boulos, working for his cousin’s international yacht brokerage, sold his future brother-in-law Jared Kushner on an investment in a roughly 50-meter superyacht. Unbeknown to Mr. Kushner, the firm overcharged him and worked to conceal the true price from him, contemporaneous text messages show. The exact amount is unclear but the messages and a lawyer’s written description of the deal say the overcharge was \$2.5 million.

The second arrangement involved something less tangible: access to the Trumps. Mr. Boulos’s cousin promised to get a Saudi businessman invited to the Boulos-Trump wedding so that the businessman could pose for photographs with the Trumps and project a closeness with the family. “We want you to be at the top of the guest list,” the cousin, Jimmy Frangi, wrote.

Everyone involved denies wrongdoing, and both deals went bad. Mr. Kushner’s yacht sits unfinished in Greece. And the Saudi businessman never got the access (or the wedding invitation) that he had been offered. But Mr. Boulos received about \$300,000 from the yacht sale, his cousin says, and \$100,000 from the Saudi businessman.

A spokesman for Mr. Boulos and Ms. Trump said that Mr. Boulos had received only a prenegotiated finder’s fee in the yacht deal and had since ended his business relationship with Mr. Frangi, the yacht broker. “Mr. Boulos is proud of and honored by his close, familial relationship with Mr. Kushner,” the spokesman said in an email.

As for the money from the Saudi businessman, the spokesman said it had nothing to do with access to

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## Wounded in War, a Combat Photographer Returns to a Changed Afghanistan



JOAO SILVA/THE NEW YORK TIMES



JOAO SILVA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



LINDA DAVIDSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Fifteen years after Joao Silva lost his legs, he visited Deh-E Kuchay. Sher Ahmad, top, remembered the blast. Left, soldiers near where Mr. Silva stepped on a land mine in 2010. Right, Maj. Sarah Shirley blessed Mr. Silva before surgery. Page 10.

## Jan. 6 Rioters Walked. Prosecutors Were Shown the Door.

By **DAN BARRY** and **ALAN FEUER**

TAMPA, Fla. — The lawyer took the elevator 32 floors to the U.S. attorney’s office, where for eight years he had worked as a highly regarded prosecutor. He had a container of homemade chocolate chip cookies to share and some thoughts to keep to himself.

“You have to be polite,” the lawyer, Michael Gordon, said as the elevator rose. “But I don’t want to minimize it, or make it seem like everything’s OK. It’s not.”

Mr. Gordon was heading up on this steaming late July day in Tampa, Fla., to collect his things and say goodbye. Three weeks earlier, and just two days after receiving yet another outstanding performance review, he had been interviewing a witness online when a grim-faced colleague interrupted to hand him a letter. It said he was being “removed from federal service effective immediately” — as in, now.

Although the brief letter, signed by Attorney General Pam Bondi, provided no justification, Mr. Gor-

### Praised Before Purge, Officials Are Stunned

don knew the likely reason: Jan. 6, 2021.

He was being fired for successfully prosecuting people who had stormed the United States Capitol that day — assaulting police officers, vandalizing a national landmark and disrupting that sacrosanct moment in a democracy, the transfer of presidential power.

He was being fired for doing his job.

The letter did more than inform Mr. Gordon, a 47-year-old father of two, that he was unemployed. It confirmed for him his view that the Justice Department he had been honored to work for was now helping to whitewash a traumatic event in American history, sup-

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**DEPLOYMENT** Examining what federal law enforcement officials have been doing in D.C. PAGE 17

## Along the Gulf, A Joyful Return Onto the Tracks

By **EMILY COCHRANE**

MOBILE, Ala. — There it was again, after all these years: an Amtrak passenger train, its red and blue cars gleaming in the moonlight as it idled at a platform in Mobile, Ala.

An eager crowd had gathered before dawn on Monday, ready to board the train for its inaugural trip on the restored Gulf Coast line, newly christened the Mardi Gras Service, between Mobile and New Orleans. And many more travelers were waiting at stations along the way.

Two decades after Hurricane Katrina decimated entire coastal communities and wiped out passenger rail service along the Gulf Coast, the return of Amtrak last week — with two trains daily in each direction — sent a jolt of excitement down the coast.

“It’s almost like it’s one more step toward the healing,” said Charlotte Welco, 60, who boarded in New Orleans with her mother in the afternoon, bound for Biloxi,



VINCENT ALBAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Aboard Amtrak’s Mardi Gras Service to New Orleans, restored 20 years after Hurricane Katrina.

Miss., near her home in Ocean Springs. “This is just something else to get us excited.”

The trains also stop in the Mississippi cities of Pascagoula, Gulfport and Bay St. Louis during a journey that takes about four hours in all. At a peak speed of

about 79 miles an hour, it is not particularly fast, compared with some of its international counterparts.

But that didn’t seem to matter as the 6:30 a.m. train out of Mobile prepared to trundle through the shipyards, mossy woods and

marshlands that line the coastal route.

“I’ve just always wanted to ride Amtrak,” said Pat Stancliff, 71, as she waited to board her first train ever. Jittery, she had arrived at the station in Mobile two hours early.

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## Why Is Cuomo Still Running? The Answer May Lie in 1977.

By **ADAM NAGOURNEY** and **BENJAMIN ORESKES**

He had lost the Democratic mayoral primary in New York. Overnight, labor unions and party leaders abandoned him for his opponent. His campaign headquarters emptied as his own allies urged him to quit the race.

But he would not concede. He stayed on the ballot through November, convinced he could win.

The year was 1977, and the candidate was Mario M. Cuomo, a young, relatively unknown New York secretary of state, who had been defeated in the Democratic mayoral primary and in a runoff 10 days later by Edward I. Koch, a congressman from Greenwich Village. Mr. Cuomo then ran as a Liberal and on a smaller third-party line, and lost again to Mr. Koch in November.

Now, 48 years later, a startlingly similar political drama is unfolding in a New York mayoral race, but with a different Cuomo: Andrew, the oldest son of Mario.

Andrew, like his father, lost the Democratic primary for New York



UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Mario M. Cuomo lost the New York City mayor’s race in 1977.

City mayor. Andrew, like his father, was urged to quit the race. Andrew, like his father, is pushing ahead and, defying polls, running in the general election, this time against Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani, who, like Mr. Koch, was the choice of Democratic primary voters.

And Andrew Cuomo, who was a

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### INTERNATIONAL 4-12

#### A P.O.W. Comes Home

Back in Ukraine, Serhiy Hrebiniy, 25, seems sadder and more reserved than he was before his three years in Russian captivity. PAGE 4

#### Sun, Sand and Potions

Siquijor, an island in the Philippines, tries to attract tourists by capitalizing on a centuries-old association with the occult and mysticism. PAGE 9

#### Detour to the Classroom

Mexican companies are racing to make sure their drivers learn enough English to communicate with U.S. officials and avoid a penalty. PAGE 12



### NATIONAL 13-22

#### Hope Blossoms From Ashes

Altadena, Calif., was left in ruins by a fire. But a surprising sign of life has emerged: roses. Lots of them. PAGE 13

### METROPOLITAN

#### This Might Be Amusing

An invitation-only event in Manhattan, populated almost entirely by professional funny people, is a place where the buzzing comedy scene and pickup basketball collide. PAGE 1

#### Mamdani’s Inner Circle

In his run for mayor of New York City, the 33-year-old Democratic nominee typically relies on two trusted advisers, along with aides notably younger than those in rival campaigns. PAGE 4

### SUNDAY OPINION

#### Jeff Goodell

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### SUNDAY STYLES

#### Sharapova Has an Edge

The star athlete paved the way for a “merger of sport and fashion.” PAGE 4

### SPORTS

#### U.S. Open Preview

As the year’s final Grand Slam tennis tournament gets underway, a guide.

### SUNDAY BUSINESS

#### Inside the ‘Hard Tech’ Era

With the rise of artificial intelligence, Silicon Valley toughens up, bringing an end to job perks and the coddling of coders. PAGES 4-10

### ARTS & LEISURE

#### Disarray Isn’t Her Downfall

The pop-soul singer Lola Young has had some tough times of late, and her new album catalogs her “crawling out of my own self-sabotage.” PAGE 7



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