

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

VOL. CLXXV No. 60,722

© 2025 The New York Times Company

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00



ADRIANA LOUREIRO FERNANDEZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela has taken to showing up unannounced at political rallies, as he did in Caracas on Monday.

Maduro, Fearing Attack by U.S., Changes Beds and Bodyguards

By ANATOLY KURMANAEV

President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela has tightened his personal security, including changing beds, and leaned on Cuba, a key ally, amid a growing threat of a U.S. military intervention in the country, according to multiple people close to the Venezuelan government.

They described an atmosphere of tension and concern gripping the president's inner circle while adding that Mr. Maduro believed he remained in control and could ride out the latest and gravest threat to his 12-year rule.

Mr. Maduro has tried to protect himself from a potential precision strike or a Special Forces raid by frequently changing sleeping locations and cellphones, the people said. Those precautions have ac-

Venezuelan Strongman Is Upbeat in Public as He Clings to Power

celerated since September, some of the people said, when the United States started amassing warships and striking boats the Trump administration claimed were smuggling drugs from Venezuela.

To reduce the risk of betrayal, Mr. Maduro has expanded the role of Cuban bodyguards in his personal security detail and attached more Cuban counterintelligence officers to Venezuela's military, one of the people said.

In public, however, Mr. Maduro

Continued on Page A8

Trump's A.I. and Crypto Czar Benefits Himself and His Allies

This article is by Cecilia Kang, Tripp Mickle, Ryan Mac, David Yaffe-Bellany and Theodore Schleifer.

WASHINGTON — In July, David Sacks, one of the Trump administration's top technology officials, beamed as he strode onstage at a neo-Classical auditorium just blocks from the White House. He had convened top government officials and Silicon Valley executives for a forum on the booming business of artificial intelligence.

The guest of honor was President Trump, who unveiled an "A.I. Action Plan" that was drafted in part by Mr. Sacks, a longtime venture capitalist. In a nearly hour-long speech, Mr. Trump declared that A.I. was "one of the most important technological revolutions

Holding a White House Role While Working in Silicon Valley

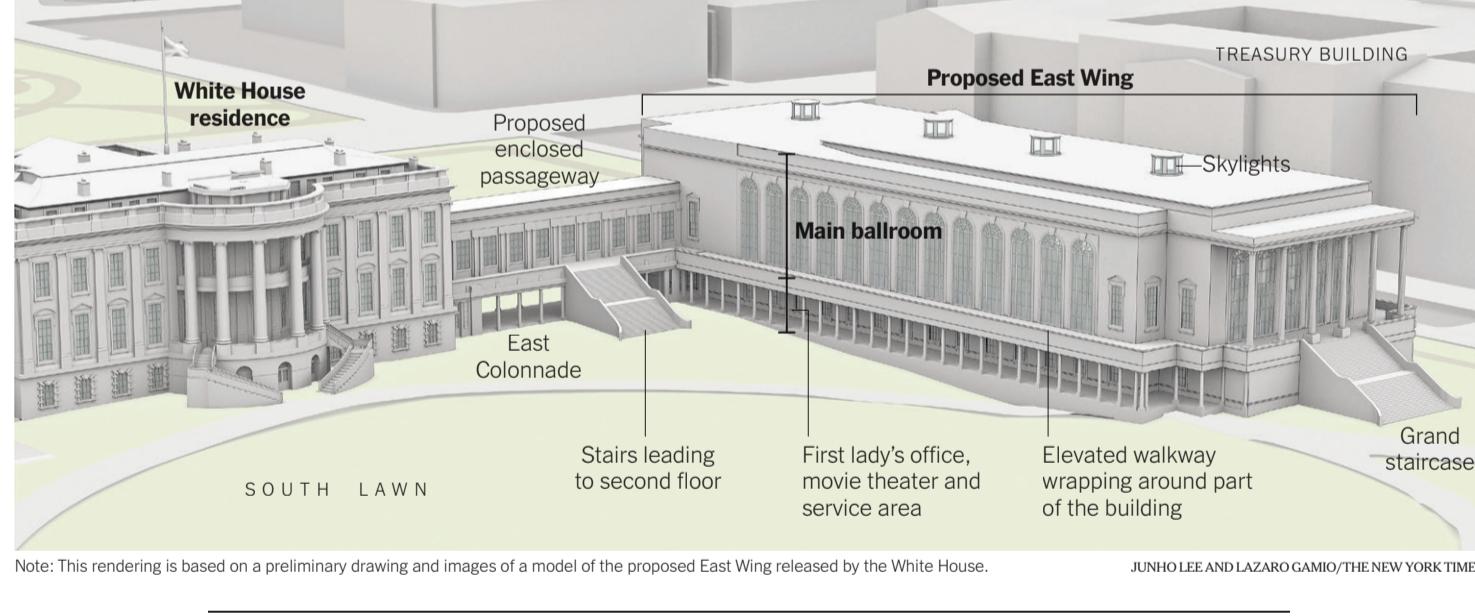
in the history of the world." Then he picked up his pen and signed executive orders to fast-track the industry.

Almost everyone in the high-powered audience — which included the chief executives of the chip makers Nvidia and AMD, as well as Mr. Sacks' tech friends, colleagues and business partners — was poised to profit from Mr. Trump's directives.

Among the winners was Mr. Sacks himself.

Since January, Mr. Sacks, 53,

Continued on Page A18



Note: This rendering is based on a preliminary drawing and images of a model of the proposed East Wing released by the White House.

Trump Puts His Imprint on Ballroom's Ever-Expanding Blueprint

By LUKE BROADWATER

WASHINGTON — As President Trump took a stroll on the White House roof in August, generating headlines and questions about what he was up to, the man walking beside him was little noticed.

Wearing his signature bow tie, James McCrery, a classical architect who runs a small Washington firm known for its work building Catholic churches, was discussing

how to execute Mr. Trump's vision for a ballroom on the White House grounds.

Mr. McCrery's work has been embraced by conservatives who believe federal buildings should be designed with an eye toward the grandeur of ancient Greek and Roman structures. He often talks of how his design work is carried out in service of God and the church, according to people who have worked with him.

It might have seemed an odd

Inside the Push to Erase Obstacles to His Plan

pairing: a man who designs cathedrals working for a man who once built casinos, and is now president of the United States.

But McCrery Architects got to work on the initial drawings for the project, sketching out a design with high ceilings and arched windows

reminiscent of Versailles' Hall of Mirrors. It would have the latest security features, including bulletproof glass. Gold furniture, known to please the president, was added to the renderings.

It was flashy enough to impress a man of Mr. Trump's tastes, while largely matching the style of the historic White House without overshadowing it.

That's when things got tricky. In offering up his initial design,

Continued on Page A16

Mamdani, Foe Of Surveillance, Set to Oversee It

By MARIA CRAMER

When Zohran Mamdani, the mayor-elect, announced that he would retain New York City's police commissioner, Jessica S. Tisch, it meant he would be holding onto one of the architects of the department's pervasive surveillance network.

The network, called the Domain Awareness System, is used to track crime and help identify suspects by synthesizing vast amounts of data from video, license plate readers, audio gunshot detectors, 911 call logs, criminal histories, summonses, arrests, warrants and more. It stores feeds from thousands of cameras across the five boroughs that record New Yorkers as they shop, grab pizza or rush into subway stations.

Law enforcement officials say it is a key tool to help solve crimes and defuse terrorist threats. Civil libertarians see it as an unconstitutional intrusion.

Now it belongs to Mr. Mamdani.

The mayor-elect, whose views were shaped by the department's heavy-handed spying on Muslim communities after the Sept. 11 attacks, has made it clear that he is generally wary of police surveillance.

Continued on Page A15

\$6 Billion Gift From the Dells To Aid Children

By NICHOLAS KULISH

Michael and Susan Dell announced on Tuesday that they would deposit \$250 in individual investment accounts for 25 million children, an amount totaling \$6.25 billion. It is one of the largest philanthropic gifts ever to go directly to Americans.

The money expands the number of children who will receive seed money for the investment accounts, known as "Trump accounts." The federal government will give \$1,000 to babies born between Jan. 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2028. The Dells' gift extends to children up to 10 years old, though it limits eligibility to those who live in a ZIP code where the median household income is below \$150,000.

The federal government is expected to set up the accounts next summer, but many details of how they will work are still to be determined. There is no system in place yet for registering, and it is unclear where the accounts will reside.

Mr. Dell, the chairman and chief executive of Dell Technologies, first made his fortune by selling personal computers directly to

Continued on Page A17



NATIONAL A10-20

Mamdani Revives a Debate

New York City's next mayor has spoken forcefully about integrating America's largest school system.

PAGE A10

Vaccine Schedule Shift on Tap?

Trump officials have signaled that major changes are probably coming to the childhood schedule.

PAGE A20

Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner met with the president of Russia for five hours in the Kremlin to discuss ending the war with Ukraine.

PAGE A7

Pope Visits Beirut Waterfront

Leo celebrated Mass near the site of a 2020 blast that rocked the city, capping his three-day visit to Lebanon.

PAGE A7

A reporter had full access to the Michigan men's basketball team as it rolled to a tournament title.

PAGE B6

At the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Diana McBride is known for her lemonade, and much more.

PAGE C1

Bret Stephens



FOOD D18

Refined Japanese Fare

At Yamada, which offers the height of kaiseki cuisine in New York, there is a commitment to the smallest details.

Above, chawanmushi.

PAGE D1

OPINION A22-23

Boeing's 'War on Defects'

Two years after a panel flew off a 737 Max, the aircraft manufacturer is doing more inspections, completing work in its intended order and making other changes.

PAGE B1

India Mandates Tracking App

The government said the app must be installed in all cellphones to prevent theft and other crime. Its opponents and privacy activists regard it as a tool of mass surveillance.

PAGE BI

COUNTRY MUSIC'S SWEETENER

At the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Diana McBride is known for her lemonade, and much more.

PAGE C1

Bret Stephens

PAGE A22

Barack Obama's former chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, has joined the Biden administration as a special adviser on immigration.

He will advise the president on how to

PAGE A19

handle the issue of illegal immigration, including how to deal with the surge of Central American migrants crossing the border.

Mr. Emanuel, 55, will also help

PAGE A19

with the administration's efforts to

protect Dreamers and other immi-

PAGE A19

grants.

Mr. Emanuel, a former Illinois

PAGE A19

representative and Chicago mayor,

will serve as a bridge between the

PAGE A19

two administrations.

He will also help the president

PAGE A19

with the administration's efforts to

protect Dreamers and other immi-

PAGE A19

grants.

Mr. Emanuel, a former Illinois

PAGE A19

representative and Chicago mayor,

will serve as a bridge between the

PAGE A19

two administrations.

He will also help the president

PAGE A19

with the administration's efforts to

protect Dreamers and other immi-

PAGE A19

grants.

Mr. Emanuel, a former Illinois

PAGE A19

representative and Chicago mayor,

will serve as a bridge between the

PAGE A19

two administrations.

He will also help the president

PAGE A19

with the administration's efforts to

protect Dreamers and other immi-

PAGE A19

grants.

Mr. Emanuel, a former Illinois

PAGE A19

representative and Chicago mayor,

will serve as a bridge between the

PAGE A19

two administrations.

He will also help the president

PAGE A19

with the administration's efforts to

protect Dreamers and other immi-

PAGE A19

grants.

Mr. Emanuel, a former Illinois

PAGE A19

representative and Chicago mayor,

will serve as a bridge between the

PAGE A19

two administrations.

He will also help the president

PAGE A19</div