



DIEGO IBARRA SANCHEZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Trying to Save Lives**  
Amid reports of starvation, a Jordanian Air Force plane dropped 20 tons of aid packages on southern Gaza on Thursday. Page 10.

## Texas Pushes Redistricting Into Era of ‘Maximum Warfare’

**By SHANE GOLDMACHER and NICK CORASANITI**  
The aggressive push by President Trump and Republicans in Texas to squeeze as many as five House Democrats out of office before a single vote is cast in the 2026 midterm elections has opened up a new chapter in an era of unconstrained partisan warfare.  
For six months, Democrats

have watched, sometimes helplessly and sometimes hopelessly, as Mr. Trump and his allies have bent much of the country's political, legal and educational systems to his will.  
But the bald attempt to redraw the Texas congressional map to shore up House Republicans has pushed many Democrats, including some longtime institutionalists, to a breaking point. Now, they are vowing to “fight fire with fire” and even to embrace some of the

**Democrats Preparing to Pull Out All Stops**  
very gerrymandering tactics they have long decried as anti-democratic.  
“The Texas Republicans are taking us on a race to the bottom,” said Representative Jamie Raskin, a Maryland Democrat

who lamented in an interview that his party must reluctantly participate in “this rotten system.”  
Voters are the immediate casualty in this escalating arms race, reduced almost to bystanders as Republicans essentially admit to trying to determine the outcome of Texas races long before the elections are held.  
The result is a democracy determined less by public opinion than by raw political might.  
*Continued on Page 16*

## It’s ‘Crunchtime’ As Tariff Effects Hit the Shelves

**By SYDNEY EMBER**  
Companies are starting to shift more tariff-related costs onto consumers.  
Many businesses chose to absorb the additional tax during the early days of President Trump's trade war. But evidence is emerging that they are running out of options to keep prices stable in the face of deteriorating profit margins, suggesting that the tariffs could have a more pronounced effect on prices in the months ahead.  
Government data, including from the Commerce Department last week, show that prices rose in June on items heavily exposed to tariffs, such as home furnishings, toys and appliances.  
And in recent days — before Mr. Trump announced tariffs for much of the world on Thursday night — Adidas, Procter & Gamble, Stanley Black & Decker and other large corporations told investors that they either had increased prices or planned to do so soon to offset the tariff costs. Companies like Walmart and the toy-makers Hasbro and Mattel had already warned that tariffs would lead to higher prices.  
“We have no interest in running a lower-margin business, particularly due to tariffs,” Richard Westerberger, the chief financial officer of Carter's, a children's apparel maker, said on a call with analysts on July 25. “And if this is  
*Continued on Page 6*



LUIS ANTONIO ROJAS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Flip Gordon, an American wrestler, prepared to execute a stunt during a match in Mexico City.

## This Gringo G.I. Is No ‘Rudo’: Lucha Libre Fans Love Him

**By JAMES WAGNER**  
MEXICO CITY — Flip Gordon was down on the mat.  
He was in the arena as a lucha libre wrestler in Mexico, taking a pounding in a recent tag-team match.  
What was most remarkable, while bodies flew around the ring and the muscular Mr. Gordon struggled to get back on his feet, was the brief chant that rang in the air as he battled that night: “Gringo! Gringo! Gringo!”  
When Mr. Gordon, whose real name is Travis Gordon Lopes Jr., flings himself into the ring, his presence raises some potentially uncomfortable questions.  
What happens when an American, and a former U.S. soldier at that, competes in a profoundly Mexican form of entertainment — known for colorful masks,

outlandish outfits and high-flying acts — while wearing camo, boots and dog tags? Can a fan base bound up in Mexican nationalism, spurred by President Trump's threats of military action in their country, embrace and cheer for a man dressed like G.I. Joe?  
And what happens to a wrestler who has become an immigrant in Mexico at a moment of intense strain between his country of origin and his new home?  
Regardless of their costume, foreigners in the world of lucha libre often wrestle as a “rudo,” a rule-bending bad guy who uses brute force. But in a twist, and despite his American soldier's garb, Mr. Gordon actually wres-  
*Continued on Page 22*

## Hired to Fight Haiti Gangs, American Firm Loses 2 Men, and Rifle Cache Is Stolen

*This article is by Frances Robles, David C. Adams and André Paultre.*  
Miot Patrice Jacquet, a U.S. Navy veteran, did not hesitate to help an American military contractor with a dangerous mission in his native Haiti.  
The company, Studebaker Defense, had an impressive pedigree: Its board is run by Wesley K. Clark, a retired American general

and a former NATO supreme allied commander.  
But instead of helping wrest Haiti back from gangs, the operation collapsed. The American team was forced to leave early, a cache of AR-15-style rifles was stolen and seven months ago, two people working with the team — including Mr. Jacquet — were abducted, remain missing and are most likely dead.  
Suspicion has focused on corrupt police officers, according to two high-ranking Haitian police officials.  
With Haiti engulfed in gang-fueled violence and other nations largely unwilling to send significant military aid, the government says it has no choice but to turn to private defense contractors, including the Blackwater founder Erik Prince, to regain control of

the country.  
But the aborted Studebaker mission — and the abductions and possible killings of a police officer, Steeve Duroseau, and his Haitian American cousin, Mr. Jacquet, an assistant hotel manager in Haiti who worked with Studebaker — underscores the complicated risks of private military contract work in a country where graft, killings and kidnappings are rampant.  
This account is based on interviews with diplomats, two high-ranking police officials, a senior Haitian government official, the victims' relatives and other people familiar with the case. Many of them spoke on the condition of anonymity because of grave concerns about their safety and a sense that the case leads to the  
*Continued on Page 8*

### INTERNATIONAL 4-11

**Trying to Right an Old Wrong**  
The Naga people of India are working to regain an Oxford museum's collection of objects, including human remains, taken in Colonial times. PAGE 4  
**A Stalwart Defender of Israel**  
Mike Huckabee, a Baptist minister and the U.S. ambassador, “has engendered deep trust” among Israelis. PAGE 11

### NATIONAL 12-19

**Nevada's Solar Energy Boom**  
Las Vegas, known for its extravagant energy use, is saving money by harnessing the desert sun. PAGE 12



### METROPOLITAN

**In the Aftermath of Etan Patz**  
The shocking disappearance of a 6-year-old in 1979 may have forever altered how we raise children. PAGE 1

### SUNDAY STYLES

**A Vintage Man of Mystery**  
Doug Bihlmaier holds a mythic position in the world of men's fashion: He finds and buys cool old stuff. PAGE 9  
**They're Funny, and They Rock**  
Middle Aged Dad Jam Band, consisting of comedic actors and writers, fulfill their musical fantasies. PAGE 1

### SPORTS 21-24

**Salary Cap Wouldn't Be Fitting**  
Curt Flood paved the way for free agency at great sacrifice, and his daughter says Juan Soto's contract “would have blown my father's mind.” PAGE 23



### ARTS&LEISURE

**Surely He Can't Be Serious**  
At 73, Liam Neeson is rebooting his career by venturing into slapstick comedy and starring in “The Naked Gun,” a reboot itself. PAGE 8

### SUNDAY OPINION

**Michelle Goldberg** PAGE 6

### SUNDAY BUSINESS

**A Degree You Can't Bank On**  
For decades, a Ph.D. in economics was a nearly foolproof path to a lucrative career in academia, on Wall Street or with the government. Those glory days seem to be ending. PAGE 1  
**Listening to Economic Insiders**  
The podcast “Odd Lots” goes deep on lentils in Saskatchewan, the tractor supply and the trucking market. It has a borderline cult following. PAGE 6

