

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

**THE WEATHER**  
 Today, partly sunny, breezy, cold, high 36. Tonight, clear early, clouds late. Low 28. Tomorrow, clouds, some sun, brisk, cold, snow at night, high 40. Weather map, Page B10.

Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00



SPASIANA SERGIEVA/REUTERS

## Corruption Convulses Bulgaria

An antigovernment rally in Sofia this week. Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov has resigned after less than a year in office. Page A6.

## Judge Orders U.S. to Release Abrego Garcia

By ALAN FEUER

A federal judge on Thursday released Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia from immigration custody, saying that the Trump administration had detained him for nearly four months "without lawful authority" despite repeated vows to re-expel him from the country.

The ruling by the judge, Paula Xinis, was a stinging defeat for the administration, which had often promised that Mr. Abrego Garcia would never walk free on U.S. soil. It was also the latest twist in a long and byzantine saga that, over the past year, transformed him from an unknown migrant living in Maryland who was wrongfully deported to El Salvador in March into one of the best-known symbols of President Trump's aggressive deportation agenda.

Judge Xinis' ruling, issued in Federal District Court in Maryland, meant that Mr. Abrego Garcia would be both free from custody and, at least for now, out from under the immediate shadow of being deported from the country yet again.

But while the ruling was a stern rebuke of how Trump officials have handled his multiple, intersecting cases, it is unlikely to be the final word. The Justice Department is likely to appeal the decision, and administration officials could also seek to open a new immigration proceeding against him.

Moreover, Mr. Abrego Garcia is still facing separate criminal charges of smuggling undocumented immigrants in a different court altogether in Nashville.

Still, Andrew Rossman, one of

Continued on Page A14

## Struggling to Cope and Get Help After Seeing Deaths on the Tracks

This article is by Jonah Markowitz, Bianca Pallaro and Ana Ley.

The fallout from being at the controls when a subway train strikes a person — the panic attacks, the sleepless nights, the crippling guilt — can linger for years.

It is a burden that train operators in New York City know well.

In part because of its sheer size and the continuous nature of its operations — millions of rides per week over 665 miles of track that are in use 24 hours a day — New York's subway system is the setting for more train strikes per year than any other system in America.

But many other systems make it easier for

train drivers to get help afterward, a New York Times examination has found.

New York's transit agency has often lagged behind others in providing even basic services for those drivers, records and interviews show, hampered by poor communication, paralyzing bureaucracy and a macho culture that encourages operators to shake the incidents off and get back to work.

Against this backdrop, some train drivers have gotten robust treatment only by happenstance — because they knew someone who had been through a similar experience — and not because agency officials reached out to suggest that they pursue it.

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JONAH MARKOWITZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

**'I didn't cry as much on the second one.  
And that's sad, right?'**

NIOKA BAPTISTE, above, an M.T.A. operator, whose train has struck two people.

## States Raking In Billions From the Slot Machines on Your Phone

By BEN BLATT

Most casinos in Las Vegas take sports bets, but that's not where the real money is. The bulk of their profit comes from games like slot machines and blackjack.

Many states have legalized online sports betting in recent years, but a handful have learned the same lesson: If the goal is to increase tax revenue, the big money

comes from allowing a full legal casino, slot machines and all, on your phone.

Pennsylvania is one of seven states to have done that. It legalized both online casino gaming and online sports betting, for ages 21 and up, in 2017.

By last year, the state was collecting \$1.05 billion in taxes from digital casinos, compared with \$188 million from sportsbook

### Greater Tax Revenues Than Sports Apps

apps. The revenue from casino games is significant: Pennsylvania's entire state budget is about \$50 billion.

The state taxes online slots at a higher rate, which explains some

of the difference. But Pennsylvanians are also losing a lot more money to online casino games than they are on sports bets.

Donna Buschelberger, 57, lives in Littlestown, Pa., and works as a home care worker. She said she had never gambled until she downloaded casino apps during the pandemic. In the last few years, she has lost at least \$15,000.

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SPORTS B6-10

### Idea Out of Left-Center Field

Doubles and triples are vanishing in Major League Baseball as outfielders play deeper and cut off drives hit into the gaps. Could a line in the grass revive some excitement?

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NATIONAL A12-21, 24

### 'Historic Levels' of Floods

Washington State ordered 100,000 to leave as days of heavy rain caused potentially deadly conditions.

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OPINION A22-23

### Ross Douthat

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

### Rebuilding Syria's Forces

Critics say a government is hobbling military preparedness as it redoes the country's forces from scratch.

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### Russian Spies in Mexico

Despite warnings from the United States, Mexico has stood by as Moscow accelerates covert operations.

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BUSINESS B1-5

### Tariffs Shrank Trade Deficit

The export imbalance in September fell to its lowest level in five years after the president's imposition of sweeping levies worldwide.

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### Hatching a New Automobile

Desperate to catch up with Chinese automakers, Ford is redesigning its fleet with an elite team.

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### OBITUARIES B11-12

### Author of 'Shopaholic' Series

Sophie Kinsella, the pseudonym of Madeleine Wickham, built an international following. She was 55.

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WEEKEND ARTS C1-12

### They Had Clear Intentions

Agnes Martin and Jay De Feo spent a lifetime searching for clarity of thought. Their works glow in two exhibitions.

Above, some of Martin's works.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

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