



HIROKO MASUIKE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

One Championship, for All

The W.N.B.A. champion Liberty were honored along the Canyon of Heroes on Broadway, only the third time a women’s team has been granted that privilege. Page B8.

Wanted Militant Recasts Himself as a Statesman in Afghanistan

By CHRISTINA GOLDBAUM  
KABUL, Afghanistan — For the better part of two decades, one name above all others inspired fear among ordinary Afghans: Sirajuddin Haqqani. To many, Mr. Haqqani was a boogeyman, an angel of death with the power to determine who would live and who would die during the U.S.-led war. He deployed his ranks of Taliban suicide bombers, who rained carnage on Amer-

ican troops and Afghan civilians alike. A ghostlike kingpin of global jihad, with deep ties to Al Qaeda and other terrorist networks, he topped the United States’ most-wanted list in Afghanistan, with a \$10 million bounty on his head. But since the Americans’ frantic withdrawal in 2021 and the Taliban’s return to power, Mr. Haqqani has portrayed himself as something else altogether: A pragmatic statesman. A reliable diplomat. And a voice of relative moderation in a government

Taliban Leader Is Eager for West to See He’s a Force for Change

steeped in religious extremism. Mr. Haqqani’s makeover is part of a larger conflict that has roiled the Taliban over the past three years, even as the group works to present a united front. At the center is the Taliban’s emir and head

of state, Sheikh Haibatullah Akhundzada, a hard-line cleric whose evisceration of women’s rights has isolated Afghanistan on the global stage. As Sheikh Haibatullah has seized near total control over major policy, Mr. Haqqani has emerged as his most persistent challenger. Mr. Haqqani has privately lobbied for girls to be allowed to return to school beyond the sixth grade and for women to resume work in government of-

Continued on Page A8

Writing Orders Set for Trump To Sign in ’25

By KEN BENSINGER and DAVID A. FAHRENTHOLD  
Late this summer, a prominent right-wing think tank invited conservatives from around the country to learn how to work in a second Donald J. Trump administration. In a series of training sessions in Washington, former Trump officials shared strategies with attendees for combating leftist civil servants in the federal government and dealing with the mainstream media. Participants were sent home with a thick binder of materials for further study. One section’s title: “Tales From the Swamp: How Federal Bureaucrats Resisted President Trump.” The classes could easily have been the work of Project 2025, the conservative policy blueprint and personnel project that was created by loyalists to Mr. Trump and that has been turned into a political cudgel by Democrats seeking to link its most radical prescriptions to the former president. But the meetings had nothing to do with that enterprise or its prin-

Continued on Page A13

L.A. Prosecutor To Seek Review For Menendezes

By TIM ARANGO and MATT STEVENS  
LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County district attorney said on Thursday that he would request the resentencing of Lyle and Erik Menendez, who killed their parents in 1989, a step that could lead to their release from prison. The district attorney, George Gascón, announced his decision at a news conference at the Hall of Justice in Los Angeles. “I believe that they have paid their debt to society,” he said. Mr. Gascón, who was surrounded by members of his office and members of the Menendez family, said he would file a request with the court on Friday that the brothers be resentenced to a murder charge that comes with the possibility of parole. It is not clear when a Los Angeles Superior Court judge will decide on the resentencing request. If a judge agrees with Mr. Gascón, the brothers will have to appear before a parole board. But the reviews by the court and the parole board could take many more weeks, and the brothers’ release is far from guaranteed. The district attorney noted that there was disagreement in his office about whether to move forward with the resentencing. He cited a recent documentary that

Continued on Page A18



DANIEL BRENNER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Shrek, a rare Przewalski’s horse, was rescued in Aurora, Colo., from the equine slaughter pipeline.

The Mule Was a Menace. But He Wasn’t a Mule.

By SARAH MASLIN NIR  
The animal that arrived at Hannah Huckabay’s barn this past summer had been advertised as a mule, but it didn’t look like any mule she’d ever seen. She had bought it cheaply online from a livestock auction with thoughts of reselling it or putting it up for adoption, as she does with many last-chance equines at her stables in Aurora, Colo.

A Near-Extinct Horse’s Stubborn Survival

It had a broom-bristle mane and a wedge-shaped head, an equine silhouette more often found in a cave painting than on a ranch. “I looked at him, with my daughters, and we thought, ‘Is he a Przewalski’s?’ Or however you say it?”

Ms. Huckabay later said. “But that seemed very impossible — those horses are critically endangered.” It couldn’t be, could it? The Przewalski’s — most commonly pronounced che-VAL-ski’s — is so rare that the horse, native to Mongolia, was once extinct in the wild. Its scant bloodlines are tracked by zoos, and individual animals are part of multinational conservation

Continued on Page A20

Hoopla of Presidential Politics Visits a ‘Blue Dot’ in Nebraska

By DIONNE SEARCEY  
OMAHA — For many in Nebraska, autumn typically involves screaming at the television during Cornhusker football games, but the state’s sudden potential to swing the outcome of the super-close presidential race has given voters here something equally exciting: electoral relevance. High-profile politicians and their surrogates have been parachuting into Nebraska, which is often derided as flyover country when it comes to elections and beyond. The airwaves are clogged with spirited political advertising. Yards are dotted with red or blue

signs. Bulletins in churches are stuffed with opinionated voting guides, and preachers are delivering election thoughts from the pulpit. Nebraska is one of just two states that split its Electoral College votes. (The other is Maine.) By some calculations in the complicated math of predicting the unpredictable outcome of this neck-and-neck race, the Omaha area’s Second Congressional District — a “blue dot” in an otherwise red state — could deliver a single tiebreaking vote for Vice President.

Continued on Page A14

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Israeli Border Town in Tatters  
Abandoned and off limits to civilians, Metula, a symbol of early pioneering Zionism, is left half-ruined by Hezbollah’s rockets and missiles. PAGE A4

Symbol of #MeToo Movement  
Shiori Ito discusses “Black Box Diaries,” a documentary about her fight against Japan’s patriarchal justice system. It opens on Friday. PAGE A10

Ireland Could Be Greener  
Eoghan Dalton rewilded his land on the country’s southwestern coast with simple ecological fixes, and wants more of Ireland to do the same. PAGE A11



BUSINESS B1-7  
Boeing Workers Reject Pact  
The union’s vote, hours after the company reported a \$6.1 billion loss, extends a nearly six-week-long strike. PAGE B1

Once Barred, Now Back on X  
Many users reinstated by Elon Musk keep sharing the kinds of posts that once got them suspended. PAGE B1

NATIONAL A12-21  
A Balm to Native Americans  
President Biden is expected to apologize for the boarding schools where hundreds of children died. PAGE A21

Missed Signs in a Boy’s Death  
A 4-year-old was found emaciated in a Harlem home. His family’s child-welfare case had ended in 2022. PAGE A19

OBITUARIES A22-23  
Father of Liberation Theology  
The Rev. Gustavo Gutiérrez’s belief in empathy and advocacy for the poor has become a central tenet of Catholic social teaching. He was 96. PAGE A22

WEEKEND ARTS C1-12  
Star-Crossed Lovers, Updated  
The Broadway revival of “Romeo + Juliet” tries to get young people interested in Shakespeare’s tragic tale, but the result is “less terrifying than teenifying,” our critic writes. PAGE C1

Starting a New Chapter  
As it moves to a building in TriBeCa from its longtime home on West 57th Street, the Marian Goodman Gallery tips its hat to its history, while bringing new artists into view. PAGE C1

OPINION A24-25  
Nate Silver PAGE A24

SPECIAL SECTION

WORLD SERIES

2024

PREVIEW

0 354613 9