

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, mostly cloudy, high 48. Tonight, rain, some snow around daybreak, low 35. Tomorrow, rain and snow early, colder in the afternoon, high 35. Weather map, Page B12.

Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

## SIX PROSECUTORS QUIT AS A WIDOW FACES AN INQUIRY

### FALLOUT OF ICE KILLING

One of Those Leaving in Minnesota Oversaw a Major Fraud Case

By ERNESTO LONDOÑO

Six federal prosecutors in Minnesota resigned on Tuesday over the Justice Department's push to investigate the widow of a woman killed by an ICE agent and the department's reluctance to investigate the shooter, according to people with knowledge of their decision.

Joseph H. Thompson, who was second in command at the U.S. attorney's office and oversaw a sprawling fraud investigation that has roiled Minnesota's political landscape, was among those who quit on Tuesday, according to three people with knowledge of the decision.

Mr. Thompson's resignation came after senior Justice Department officials pressed for a criminal investigation into the actions of the widow of Renee Nicole Good, the Minneapolis woman killed by an ICE agent on Jan. 7.

Mr. Thompson, 47, a career prosecutor, objected to that approach, as well as to the Justice Department's refusal to include state officials in investigating whether the shooting itself was lawful, the people familiar with his decision said.

The Minneapolis police chief, Brian O'Hara, said in an interview that Mr. Thompson's resignation dealt a major blow to efforts to root out rampant theft from state agencies. The fraud cases, which involve schemes to cheat safety net programs, were the chief reason the Trump administration cited for its immigration crackdown in the state. The vast majority of defendants charged in the cases are American citizens of Somali origin.

"When you lose the leader responsible for making the fraud cases, it tells you this isn't really about prosecuting fraud," Mr. O'Hara said.

The other senior career prosecutors who resigned include Harry Jacobs, Melinda Williams and Thomas Calhoun-Lopez. Mr. Jacobs had been Mr. Thompson's deputy overseeing the fraud inquiry, which began in 2022. Mr. Calhoun-Lopez was the chief of the violent and major crimes unit.

Mr. Thompson, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Williams and Mr. Calhoun-Lopez declined to discuss the reasons they resigned. The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Tuesday's resignations followed tumultuous days at the U.S. attorney's office in Minnesota as prosecutors there and in Wash-

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**CLASHES IN MINNESOTA** Tensions between residents and federal agents have risen in recent days. From top: Agents arrested a woman after smashing her car window; a woman threw a snowball at agents who had tossed tear gas canisters; and a protester was arrested after a scuffle. Page A15.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID GUTTENFELDER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Evidence of Deadly Brutality Peeks Through Iran's Blackout

This article is by Erika Solomon, Farnaz Fassihi, Sanam Mahoozi and Sanjana Varghese.

As the Iranian authorities impose a near-total communication blackout on a country convulsed by mass protests, videos and witness accounts slowly emerging suggest that the government is waging one of its deadliest crackdowns on unrest in more than a decade.

Eyewitnesses say government forces have begun opening fire, apparently with automatic weapons and at times seemingly indiscriminately, on unarmed protesters. Hospital workers say protesters had been coming in with

pellet injuries but now arrive with gunshot wounds and skull fractures. One doctor called it a "mass-casualty situation."

Despite the communications blackout, a recurring image has made its way out of Iran: rows and rows of body bags.

In videos uploaded by opposition activists on social media, families can be seen sobbing as they huddle together over bloodied corpses in unzipped bags. And in footage aired on Iranian state television, a morgue official, sheathed in blue scrubs, stands amid bags neatly arranged along the floor of a white room, under glaring fluorescent lights.

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## As Fears Grow, Citizens Join Military to Protect Migrant Parents

By GREG JAFFE

THE DALLES, Ore. — She believed that the key to being a good recruiter was not just pitching the military and its benefits, but herself. Sgt. First Class Rosa Cortez wanted potential recruits to notice the pictures of her smiling children, her college diploma and the awards she had earned in the course of her nearly 20 years with the Oregon National Guard.

Her goal was to "radiate positivity," she said. "People will see it and want to align with you."

Lately though, she, along with hundreds of other recruiters around the country, had been offering something else: protection from the government she served.

President Trump's second term

### In Oregon, a Recruiter for the Guard Draws on Her Own Story

has been defined by an extensive crackdown on undocumented immigrants that has set off waves of fear in places with large Hispanic populations. In many of these areas, a little-known government program called Parole in Place has become a refuge of last resort and a powerful recruiting tool.

Only U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible to enlist in the military.

The Parole in Place program, started in 2013, provides the undocumented parents and spouses

of service members protection from deportation, and an expedited pathway to permanent residency.

In early December, Sergeant Cortez was working with six potential recruits who wanted to use the program. One of them was Juan, a 23-year-old with messy black hair and a gold earring. (Juan requested that his last name be withheld to protect his undocumented family members.)

Juan had seen a video that Sergeant Cortez posted on social media and contacted her about enlisting. "I would like it if you could provide me some more information before I come to a decision," he wrote in a text message in late September.

Sergeant Cortez sent a message

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AMANDA LUCIER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES  
Lindsey Vazquez's mother and father are on track to receive permanent residency cards.

INTERNATIONAL A4-12

### Scamming the World

In Myanmar, a rare look inside one of the compounds where the online fraud industry makes its billions. PAGE A16

### Rediscovering Syria's Gems

Fueled by a sense of hope, a hiking group has begun exploring areas once off limits during the civil war. PAGE A12



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### What Seniors Are Leaving Out

Students are worried that sharing information — about their race, gender and immigration status — could hurt their college chances. PAGE A13

### Hochul Echoes Mamdani

In her State of the State, Gov. Kathy Hochul adopted the New York City mayor's affordability message. PAGE A21

BUSINESS B1-5

### China Picks at U.S. Poverty

The state media is using the galling phrase "kill line" to assert political superiority over America. PAGE B1

OBITUARIES B10-11

### A Recurring Acting Governor

Richard J. Codey, a New Jersey legislator for 50 years, filled in as the top executive over 100 times. He was 79. PAGE B10

### The Creator of 'Dilbert'

Scott Adams, 68, wrote a popular comic strip that satirized office life. Racist comments undid his career. PAGE B10



SPORTS B6-9

### Her Final Quest for Gold

Brittany Bowe, who has become mentor and medal contender for U.S. speedskaters, is heading to her fourth and last Olympics. PAGE B6

### M.L.B. Schedule Shake-Up?

The idea of having an in-season tournament akin to the N.B.A. Cup presents possibilities and challenges. PAGE B8

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### Your Favorite Spot No More

What to do when the restaurant you love shuts down? Our writer has some thoughts on the matter. PAGE D1

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### Sharing Musical Genes

We chat with the pop phenom 2hollis and his father, John Herndon, of the post-rock band Tortoise. PAGE C1

### Inside a Marital Breakup

Belle Burden shook off her natural reserve to turn her viral essay on divorce into a bracing memoir. PAGE C1

OPINION A22-23

### Thomas L. Friedman

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