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Confections Along Fifth Avenue
Manhattan’s Easter bonnet parade drew throngs of participants and onlookers near St. Patrick’s Cathedral on Sunday. Page A22.

As Protests
Shake Israel,
Talks Resume

This article is by Adam Rasgon, Vivian Yee and Javier C. Hernández.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced growing challenges to power on Sunday as thousands gathered outside Parliament to call for early elections in what were shaping up to be one of the largest demonstrations against the government in Israel since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip.

Some protesters carried signs calling for Mr. Netanyahu’s “immediate removal.” Others wielded posters calling for elections, saying “those who destroyed can’t be the ones to fix.”

The protest came a day after thousands took to the streets of Tel Aviv, waving flags and carrying pictures of the Israeli hostages with signs reading “Hostage deal now.”

Elad Dreifuss, a 25-year-old university student demonstrating in Jerusalem on Sunday, said that protesting against the government at a time of war was a difficult decision, but that “if the government can’t live up to its responsibility, something has to change.”

The protests in Jerusalem, which were planned to continue through Wednesday, came as in-person talks resumed in Cairo concerning a possible cease-fire and the release of hostages held by Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. Bassam Naim, a spokesman for Hamas, said the group had not sent a delegation there.

Mr. Netanyahu has faced increasing pressure at home and abroad over Israel’s prosecution of the war in Gaza.

Close allies like the United States have criticized the heavy toll on civilians and have called on Israel to allow more aid into the enclave, where death and hunger are widespread. And many Israelis have demanded that Mr. Netanyahu prioritize the release of the hostages, taken by Hamas on Oct. 7 and still held in Gaza, as part of a cease-fire deal.

Some of the demonstrators outside the Knesset, the Israeli Legislature, in Jerusalem, were expected to remain in a cluster of tents there for several days.

“I believe Israel is facing one of the most difficult moments in its history,” said Moshe Radman, an entrepreneur who is helping organize the protest. “We need a gov-

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A Devastating Diagnosis, and Agonizing Choices

By GINA KOLATA

SALT LAKE CITY — Ashlee Wiseman, a waitress at a Sizzler in Idaho Falls, Idaho, was 10 weeks pregnant when a nurse phoned with crushing news: a test of fetal DNA in her blood had found that her baby girl had trisomy 18, a catastrophic genetic abnormality, and was unlikely to survive.

Devastated, she called her partner, Clint Risenmay, who was at work. He broke down in tears.

Ashlee’s response was different.

“A still small voice took over me,” she said. “I’m like, ‘I’m not going to listen to them. There has to be something that can help her.

Two Families Take Two
Different Paths to
Care for Babies

And there has to be someone who can help.”

A social media search led her to Dr. John Carey, a professor emeritus of pediatrics at the University of Utah, who has devoted his life to helping families dealing with trisomy 18. He supports pregnant women who chose abortion, but also helps couples who want to have babies with this rare condition, though most will be stillborn

or die within a year.

Ashlee and Clint were undeterred. They could do it, they assured Dr. Carey. They would lovingly care for a baby with complex medical needs.

The consequences of trisomy 18 are dire. The babies have three copies of chromosome 18 instead of two and, as a result, have serious medical and developmental problems. Nearly all are unable to eat, walk or talk, and all have severe cognitive disabilities. They often need open-heart surgery and feeding and breathing tubes. Many women, after hearing what is in store, choose abortion.

In Texas last year, Kate Cox,

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IVOR PRICKETT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Jean-Michel Sibelle, a prizewinning farmer, is retiring amid high costs and unchecked competition.

For Farmers in France, a Fierce Battle to Survive

By ROGER COHEN

CURTAFOND, France — Gazing out from his 265-acre farm to the silhouetted Jura mountains in the distance, Jean-Michel Sibelle expounded on the intricate secrets of soil, climate and breeding that have made his chickens — blue feet, white feathers, red combs in the colors of France — the royalty of poultry.

The “poulet de Bresse” is no ordinary chicken. It was recognized in 1957 with a designation of ori-

In Europe, Far Right
Sees an Opportunity

gin, similar to that accorded a great Bordeaux. Moving from a diet of meadow bugs and worms to a mash of corn flour and milk in its final sedentary weeks, this revered Gallic bird acquires a unique muscular succulence. “The mash adds a little fat and softens the muscles formed in the

fields to make the flesh moist and tender,” Mr. Sibelle explained with evident satisfaction.

But if this farmer seemed passionate about his chickens, he is also drained by harsh realities. Mr. Sibelle, 59, is done. Squeezed by European Union and national environmental regulations, facing rising costs and unregulated competition, he sees no further point in laboring 70 hours a week.

He and his wife Maria are about to sell a farm that has been in the

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Potential Witnesses Draw
Trump’s Praise, or Wrath

More Aggressive Tactic in Focus as Cohen
Prepares to Testify in Criminal Trial

This article is by Ben Protess, William K. Rashbaum, Maggie Haberman, Jonathan Swan and Alan Feuer.

Donald J. Trump watched anxiously from the White House in April 2018 as news broke about federal agents searching the home of Michael D. Cohen, the man entrusted to conceal some of the president’s deepest secrets. After initially coming to Mr. Cohen’s defense, Mr. Trump washed his hands of his fixer within weeks, brushing aside Mr. Cohen’s feelers about a pardon and disavowing his legal bills.

Mr. Trump took a different tack when prosecutors shifted their scrutiny to Allen H. Weisselberg, the Trump family’s longtime financial gatekeeper. Mr. Trump’s company paid Mr. Weisselberg’s legal bills and awarded him a \$2 million severance, with a condition: He could not voluntarily cooperate with any law enforcement agency.

After Mr. Weisselberg signed the deal last year, Mr. Trump’s lawyers privately pressed him to testify in a civil fraud case filed against the former president, hoping the finance chief’s testimony would aid their defense, according to people with knowledge of the discussions, which have not previously been reported. But prosecutors say Mr. Weisselberg lied during his testimony, and in March he pleaded guilty to perjury.

The fixer and the moneyman both landed behind bars. But while Mr. Weisselberg remained

loyal, refusing to implicate his boss, Mr. Cohen is poised to become a central witness for the Manhattan district attorney at Mr. Trump’s criminal trial in April, the first prosecution of a former U.S. president.

The contrasting cases of Mr. Cohen and Mr. Weisselberg — detailed in court records and interviews with 18 people directly involved in the cases, some of whom requested anonymity to discuss confidential conversations — demonstrate the power and peril of Mr. Trump’s tactics for avoiding a crisis like the one he now faces. The trial, in which Mr. Trump is accused of covering up a sex scandal surrounding the 2016 presidential campaign, is the realization of his long-held fear that prosecutors would flip trusted aides into dangerous witnesses.

The former president, facing four indictments and several lawsuits while seeking to reclaim the White House, bounces from one case to the next, seeking to exert control over witnesses. In screeds posted on his social media site, he mixes enticements with threats, praise with scorn, and when all else fails, he makes life miserable for anyone audacious enough to cross him.

Mr. Trump’s company praised Mr. Weisselberg as a “fine and honorable man,” but Mr. Cohen felt the brunt of the former president’s attacks. Mr. Trump has sued him, called him a “rat” and referred to him as “death.”

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Small Investors
Play Star Role
In Disney Fight

By BROOKS BARNES
and LAUREN HIRSCH

Gavin Doyle used allowance money in 2009, when he was 11, to buy a few shares of Disney stock. They cost \$31 apiece.

He now owns a little over 400 shares — barely enough to be a speck of dust in the Disney investment galaxy. But the entertainment company, which has 1.8 billion shares outstanding, has nonetheless bargained him for months with political-style campaign materials (letters, email, social media ads) that urge him to elect certain people to its board.

“I guess every vote matters,” said Mr. Doyle, 26, who runs MickeyVisit, a blog unaffiliated with Disney that focuses on theme park vacation planning.

In most cases, global companies pay little attention to individual shareholders. Powerful institutional investors like mutual funds and index funds typically run the show.

But Disney finds itself in an atypical situation as it scrambles to thwart Nelson Peltz, an activist investor who is seeking two board seats, including one for himself.

Up to 40 percent of Disney shares are held by individuals — retail investors, as Wall Street sometimes refers to them, with a hint of derision. On average among public companies, individuals represent closer to 15 percent of the ownership, according to analysts and academic studies.

“In the retail market, a lot of individuals don’t feel comfortable investing in companies they’ve never heard of,” said David Reibstein, a professor at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. “Disney is known: I can relate to it, I have taken my kids there, I’ve seen their movies.”

In other words, the Disney-

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CASSIDY ARAIZA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Housing costs are a source of economic anxiety in Phoenix.

A Crucial State
Where Housing
Is Out of Reach

By PETER S. GOODMAN

PHOENIX — In the five years since they began their life together in the desert sprawl of greater Phoenix, Devon Lawrence and Eren Mendoza have bounced from one itinerant home to another.

They have camped alongside a freeway off-ramp, using a gas station sink as their bath and a plastic tarp as their refuge from the relentless sun. They have slept on an air mattress in a friend’s living room. For the last two years, they have crammed into rooms at motels, paying as much as \$650 a week.

Ms. Mendoza and Mr. Lawrence are both 32, and both have jobs. She works at a supermarket deli counter. He stocks shelves at a convenience store. Together, they earn about \$3,500 a month. Yet they have been stymied in their reach for a modest dream: They cannot find an affordable home in a safe neighborhood in Phoenix, where rents have roughly doubled over the last decade.

“These prices are just wild,” Ms. Mendoza said. “It’s pretty much all anybody talks about. The fact

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Hydrating India’s Tech Hub
Bengaluru gets plenty of rain. But the city did not adapt as its soaring population strained water sources. PAGE A4

A Very Royal Scavenger Hunt
Taking part in mass online sleuthing can feel thrilling. But the same impulses can take a dark turn. PAGE A6

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New migrants from Africa marking Ramadan have joined a changing community, injecting youthful energy but also bringing challenges. PAGE A13

Repeal Near on Adultery Ban
New York lawmakers seem poised to pass a bill to strike the antiquated and seldom-enforced state law that classifies the act as a misdemeanor. PAGE A15

Seafarers Stuck in Baltimore
Twenty-two people from India find themselves not only trapped in the ship that hit the Francis Scott Key Bridge, but also in the spotlight. PAGE A17



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‘Gross Outfits’ Worn at Work
In a Chinese social media movement, some young people are choosing to avoid the compulsion to strive. PAGE B1

Meta Glasses Level Up
An A.I. upgrade gets a test run with Tech Fix. There were lots of mistakes, but also laughs and wonder. PAGE B1

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The Bobbleheads Are Back
After the mysterious theft of 19,000 Jaromir Jagr figurines, the Pittsburgh Penguins went on a strange search to recover the stolen cargo. PAGE D2

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Renowned Washington Hostess
Esther Coopersmith provided access to networks of money, influence and power across cultural and political divides. She was 94. PAGE B5

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A White-Hatted Heroine
On the “Cowboy Carter” album, Beyoncé interrogates categories and stereotypes and ignores formulas, playing fast and loose, and twangy, with genre. PAGE C1

