"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, humid, partly cloudy, high 84. **Tonight,** turning cloudy, humid, low 72. **Tomorrow**, cloudy, a couple of heavy afternoon thunderstorms, high 83. Weather map is on Page 23.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$6.00



After Ukraine Made Russia a Battlefield

In a corner of the Kursk region, homes and even a church, above, lay in ruins, and unburied bodies remained in the fields. Page 10.

UnitedHealth Applies Legal Pressure to Try to Quiet Critics

By DAVID ENRICH

Mary Strause, a filmmaker in Wisconsin, logged on to Amazon's video-streaming service in late May so she could share a link to her latest project, a docuseries that harshly criticized the U.S. health care industry. She was surprised to see that her video had vanished.

Ms. Strause had no way of knowing it, but the video had been taken down after a law firm working for UnitedHealth Group, one of the country's largest health care companies, sent a letter warning Amazon and another streaming service, Vimeo, that the video was defamatory.

It was the latest salvo in an aggressive and wide-ranging campaign to quiet critics. In recent months, UnitedHealth has targeted traditional journalists and news outlets, a prominent investor, a Texas doctor and activists like Ms. Strause and her father, who complained about a United-Health subsidiary.

In legal letters and court filings, UnitedHealth has invoked last

Invoking Murder Stifles Negative Coverage

year's murder of Brian Thompson, the chief executive of the company's health insurance division, to argue that intense criticism of the company risks inciting further violence.

The tactics have had an impact. Amazon and Vimeo both removed Ms. Strause's film. The Guardian postponed publishing an investigation of the company after UnitedHealth sued over a previous article it said was defamatory.

UnitedHealth joins a growing group of companies and wealthy individuals, including President Trump, who are using legal threats and lawsuits to deter or penalize criticism.

Over the years, there have been scattered examples of embattled companies — such as Purdue Pharma, the maker of the highly addictive painkiller OxyContin deploying legal offensives against

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Crypto Perfects Art of the Spiel To Sway Trump

An Industry's Courtship Flipped the President

By DAVID YAFFE-BELLANY and KENNETH P. VOGEL

Just over a year ago, while sitting around a table in an ornate meeting room at Mar-a-Lago, David Bailey and a group of top Bitcoin executives made a pitch to Donald J. Trump.

They were looking for a savior. For years, cryptocurrency companies had endured a sweeping crackdown in Washington — a cascade of lawsuits, regulatory attacks and prosecutions that threatened the industry's survival.

Mr. Trump wasn't an obvious sympathizer. He had once dismissed Bitcoin as a "scam." But he welcomed the executives into his private club in Florida because the industry had suddenly gotten his attention. Mr. Bailey was mobilizing crypto investors to vote for Mr. Trump and had called on his colleagues to raise \$100 million for the election effort.

At Mar-a-Lago, Mr. Bailey brought along representatives of several large Bitcoin mining firms — an energy-guzzling sector that has drawn noise complaints and environmental concerns. They pitched Mr. Trump on the economic benefits of Bitcoin, before pivoting to a bold request: Could Mr. Trump write a supportive post on his social media site?

The proposed language was included at the bottom of a bulletpointed meeting agenda, according to a copy reviewed by The New York Times. Mr. Trump said he would "consider it," Mr. Bailey, who runs the digital currency firm BTC Inc., recalled in an interview. "We had no idea if that was going to happen.' That night, Mr. Trump fired off a

Truth Social post containing the exact message proposed by the executives: "We want all the remaining Bitcoin to be MADE IN

Continued on Page 20

E.U. AND MEXICO FACE 30% TARIFF, TRUMP DECLARES

FEARS OF A TRADE WAR

Move Upends Months of **Negotiations With Pivotal Partners**

> By JEANNA SMIALEK and ANA SWANSON

BRUSSELS Trump announced on Saturday that he would place a 30 percent tariff on goods from the European Union and Mexico, upending months of careful negotiations and threatening a trade war with two of America's biggest economic partners.

The tariffs, which Mr. Trump announced in letters posted to social media, would take effect on Aug. 1, like those on many other trading partners.

But the letters to the leaders of Mexico and the European Union were especially notable. Mexico is America's largest source of imports, and the European Union, a trading bloc of 27 nations, collectively makes up the world's third-largest economy. Both governments have been in intense trade negotiations with the United

Mr. Trump had already imposed a 10 percent "base line" tariff on most countries, but E.U. policymakers were hoping to negotiate exceptions for important products. They were eager to end the uncertainty that Mr. Trump's onand-off trade announcements had unleashed on German carmakers. Italian wine exporters, Irish pharmaceutical companies and other industries that depend heavily on sales to the United States.

But things changed with Mr. Trump's announcement on Saturday of a flat 30 percent tariff, and a threat to make that rate even higher should the bloc retaliate.

The new tariff on Mexico was Continued on Page 8

Beloved Owners Looming Large At Texas Camp

By RUTH GRAHAM

For generations of girls at Camp Mystic, Dick Eastland was a fixture of the landscape — like the high rocky bluff with the big "Mystic" sign that welcomed campers, or the Guadalupe River winding through the cypress trees. Mr. Eastland, the camp's executive director, had moved to its grounds in the Texas Hill Country in the 1970s with his wife, Willetta, who everyone calls Tweety.

Mr. Eastland, 70, died there on July 4, after his truck was swept into the river as flash floods pushed through the camp in the middle of the night. Twenty-seven campers and counselors also died in the flood, according to Camp Mystic. Kerr County officials said on Thursday that five campers and one counselor were still miss-

State inspectors approved the camp's disaster safety plan just days before the flood. But multiple cabins lay within the river's flood zones, including the structures where the camp opted to house its youngest campers. Teenage counselors were left to communicate with flashlights and screams as the waters quickly rose. Unlike several other summer camps along that stretch of the river, Mystic was not accredited by the American Camp Association, a national body that maintains standards on camp safety and emergency preparedness.

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A Commanding Victory

Iga Swiatek didn't lose a game to Amanda Anisimova as she won her first Wimbledon title. Page 31. | four years. What is so striking in

Trump's Way Forward Is to Go In Reverse, by About a Century

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON-Fluoridewas introduced into drinking water starting in 1945. The flu vaccine was first made available to the general public a year later. Fuel efficiency

standards for cars **ANALYSIS** were adopted in 1975. Such innovations long ago

became stitched into the fabric of American life, largely accepted by most Americans who came to rely on them or gave them little thought. That is, until President Trump and his team came along and began methodically rolling back widespread practices and dismantling long-established institutions.

It should come as no surprise that Mr. Trump would try to undo much of what President Joseph R. Biden Jr. did over the past

Mr. Trump's second term is how much he is trying to undo changes that happened years and even decades before that. It seems as if he is trying to repeal much of the 20th century. On matters big and small, Mr.

Trump has hit the rewind button. At the broadest level, he has endeavored to reverse the globalization and internationalism that have defined U.S. leadership around the globe since World War II, under presidents of both parties. But even at a more prosaic level, it has become evident that Mr. Trump, 79, the oldest president ever inaugurated, simply prefers things the way he remembers them from his youth, or even before that.

He has made clear that he wants to return to an era when "Cats" was the big hit on Broad-

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If You Want to Make Italians Really Jittery, Just Jack Up the Price of Their Java

By PATRICIA MAZZEI

TURIN, Italy — Andrea Consilvio did something this spring that he called "a little crazy." He bought an old and well-known coffee bar in the northwestern Italian city of Turin, his hometown.

Brewing coffee for coffee-obsessed Italians, the people who invented espresso and the commercial machines and stovetop pots to

make it, might hardly seem like a leap of faith. Nearly three-quarters of Italians drink coffee — by which they almost always mean espresso — at least once a day. Most Italians consider their daily coffee ritual to be sacrosanct.

Yet they also expect their coffee to be cheap, available for little more than pocket change at any bar counter in the country. And that, amid a global jump in coffee bean prices caused in part by

trade disruptions and climate change, has set off simmering anxiety among Italians. They worry that higher costs could push up retail prices and unsettle a part of the food and beverage economy that feels distinctively

Among the most worried: the owners of the country's ubiquitous coffee bars. "The world of coffee is chang-

ing," said Mr. Consilvio. "If prices

continue to increase, it could become a serious danger" to both livelihoods and tradition.

Luigi Morello, the president of the Italian Espresso National Institute, which safeguards the quality of Italian espresso (it should be hazel brown to dark brown, with foam, among other things), said higher coffee prices had "rightfully alarmed" consumers.

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INTERNATIONAL 4-12

Casualties of War on Houthis

In April, U.S.-made bombs destroyed a detention facility that held Ethiopian refugees in Yemen. The survivors are left wondering why.

NATIONAL 13-24

Helping L.A. or Avoiding ICE Immigrant workers are central to re-

covery efforts after the wildfires, but raids have kept them home. PAGE 13

Virginia's Herb Harvest

Farmers make the market for remedies, part of Appalachia's heritage, more sustainable and profitable.



SPECIAL SECTION

Where to Call Home

It's one of the most critical financial decisions in life. Climate change is making it harder. A guide to help.

The Living Also Like It Here

Richard J. Moylan helped transform Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn during his nearly 40 years as president before retiring last month PAGE 1

A Proposal to Waive Fares

City buses are getting new attention thanks to Zohran Mamdani's vow to make the service free for all.

ARTS & LEISURE

METROPOLITAN

The Women of 'Too Much'

Lena Dunham and her cast discuss how they wanted to open up the world of romantic comedies.



SUNDAY STYLES

In a Word: Bespoke

The novelist Gary Shteyngart has taken a sartorial turn from Brooklyn plaid to Milanese silk, while living well.

Summer Interns Work It Out

A new crop of young people are in New York and ready to "hustle" in all kinds of fields that will have them.

SUNDAY BUSINESS

Using A.I. to Predict Weather

Companies like WindBorne hope to usher in a new era of forecasting, but they rely on government data. PAGE 4

She Is Still Pro-Trade

The economist Pietra Rivoli says she is "not a fan of this hardball approach" to tariffs. But it's complicated.

SUNDAY OPINION

Nathan Taylor Pemberton PAGE 6

