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Prices in Canada may be higher

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ANDREW TESTA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Famous Visitor Is Coming
President Trump is soon to visit Scotland, where he is unpopular despite his family tie and investments in golf resorts, above. Page A7.

MOTIVE IN IDAHO REMAINS ELUSIVE

**Anguished Families Vent
as Killer Is Sentenced**

This article is by Mike Baker, Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs and Thomas Fuller.

BOISE, Idaho — For more than an hour and a half on Wednesday, Bryan C. Kohberger stared ahead impassively as the families of the four college students he killed poured out their anguish, anger and bewilderment.

“Do you feel anything at all?” intoned Alivea Goncalves, the sister of one of the victims, Kaylee Goncalves.

After the last of the family members had spoken, the judge, Steven Hippler, turned to Mr. Kohberger.

One of the case’s enduring mysteries — for the family members, the roommates who weren’t attacked and the numerous podcasters, journalists and documentary makers who have been following it since Day 1 — was what turned a Ph.D. candidate in criminology into one of Idaho’s most notorious murderers. Perhaps this would be the moment for Mr. Kohberger to explain.

Judge Hippler asked him whether he would like to address the court.

Mr. Kohberger leaned forward. “I respectfully decline,” he said.

The courtroom was quiet as families and lawyers digested those three words, which were spoken as if they might have been rehearsed.

“Coward,” a male voice said, breaking the silence.

Mr. Kohberger’s sentencing was the culmination of a wrenching two and a half years for the victims’ families, who have tried in vain to understand why Mr. Kohberger stabbed the students to death on a cold night in November 2022.

Investigators said at a news conference after the hearing that they never found a “single connection” between Mr. Kohberger and any of the four victims: Ms. Goncalves, 21; Madison Mogen, 21; Xana Kernodle, 20; and Ethan Chapin, 20.

Mr. Kohberger, 30, was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole. It came three weeks after he struck a deal with prosecutors, pleading guilty to the

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No Refuge for Trans Clinics, Even in Blue States

By JILL COWAN

LOS ANGELES — In Texas, Tennessee and other Republican-led states, legislators have passed scores of laws restricting the lives of transgender people. They have made it illegal for transgender minors to get certain medical treatments and have threatened to have their parents investigated.

It made Jesse Thorn, the father of two transgender daughters, angry and sad. But he was never afraid. His family lives in California.

“For months and months and months,” Mr. Thorn said, “when

**California Centers Are
Latest to Close Amid
Trump Pressure**

someone would say, ‘I’m so sorry this is happening to you,’ I would say, ‘Thank you for loving my family, but it’s not happening to me. My kids are fine. Let’s see what we can do to take care of other kids.’”

All of that has changed. The clinic where Mr. Thorn’s family has received treatment for years is closing.

It is one of three prominent health care providers in California that are sharply cutting back gender-related treatments for transgender youths under pressure from the Trump administration. The moves have sent shock waves through L.G.B.T.Q. communities in a Democratic-controlled state long known for its trans-friendly politics and culture.

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles on Tuesday shuttered its Center for Transyouth Health and Development, one of the nation’s oldest and largest clinics for transgender and gender nonconforming young

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ELLIE SMITH FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bats Aside, a Lovable Sort

British fans honoring Ozzy Osbourne. Despite his image, the rocker was quite endearing. Page C1.

A Mysterious String of Explosions Unsettles Iran

By FARNAZ FASSIHI
and ERIKA SOLOMON

For more than two weeks, mysterious explosions and fires have erupted across Iran, setting ablaze apartment complexes and oil refineries, a road outside a major airport and even a shoe factory.

In public, Iranian officials have shrugged off the events as mere coincidence or blamed aging infrastructure, trying to soothe the

**Quietly, Suspicion Falls
on Israeli Sabotage**

frayed nerves of a population still traumatized by the country’s war with Israel and the United States in June.

But in private, three Iranian officials, including a member of the country’s powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, said they

believed that many of them were acts of sabotage.

While Iran’s government has many enemies that would like to see it falter, the officials have trained their suspicions on Israel, pointing to its history of covert operations in Iran, including explosions and assassinations. And after Israel’s 12-day bombing campaign last month, a senior Israeli intelligence official had vowed to continue operating in Iran.

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Trump Intends To Unleash A.I. To Spur Boom

**Cutting Red Tape but
Demanding No Bias**

By DAVID McCABE
and CECILIA KANG

WASHINGTON — President Trump said on Wednesday that he planned to speed the advance of artificial intelligence in the United States, opening the door for companies to develop the technology unfettered from oversight and safeguards, but added that A.I. needed to be free of “partisan bias.”

In a sweeping effort to put his stamp on the policies governing the fast-growing technology, Mr. Trump signed three executive orders and outlined an “A.I. Action Plan,” with measures to “remove red tape and onerous regulation” as well as to make it easier for companies to build infrastructure to power A.I.

One executive order barred the federal government from buying A.I. tools it considered ideologically biased. Another order would speed up the permitting process for major A.I. infrastructure projects, and a third focused on promoting the export of American A.I. products around the world.

“America is the country that started the A.I. race,” Mr. Trump said in a Wednesday evening speech in front of administration officials and tech executives, including Jensen Huang, the chief executive of the chipmaker Nvidia. “And as president of the United States, I’m here today to declare that America is going to win it.”

Mr. Trump’s plan signals that his administration has embraced A.I. and the tech industry’s arguments that it must be allowed to work with few guardrails for America to dominate a new era defined by the technology. It is a forceful repudiation of other governments, including the European Commission, that have approved regulations to govern the development of A.I.

But it also points to how the administration wants to shape the

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More on the White House

NEW GROUND Student arrests, and a suit to fight them, have no obvious legal parallel. PAGE A18

RETRIBUTION The president is again targeting his most prominent rivals. PAGE A17

EPSTEIN Pam Bondi informed the president that his name appeared in files on the financier. PAGE A16

Freed by Trump From Venezuela: American Convicted in 3 Killings

This article is by Julie Turkewitz, José Bautista and Frances Robles.

When the State Department secured the release of 10 Americans and permanent legal residents from a Venezuela prison last week, Secretary of State Marco Rubio hailed the action as part of an effort to safeguard the well-being of Americans unjustly held abroad.

But one of the men released from the prison, an American-Venezuelan dual national named Dahud Hanid Ortiz, had been convicted in Venezuela for the murder of three people in Spain in 2016, according to an official at the prosecutor’s office in Madrid and Venezuelan court records reviewed by The New York Times.

The official asked not to be identified speaking publicly about the case.

Mr. Hanid Ortiz, 54, had served 19 years in the United States

THE WEATHER

Today, sunny, more humid, high 87. Tonight, mainly clear, warm, humid, low 74. Tomorrow, partly cloudy, hot, humid, a late-day thunderstorm, high 97. Weather map, Page B12.

U.S. TRADE DEAL PUTS 15% TARIFF ON JAPAN’S GOODS

2 ALLIES EASE TENSIONS

**Trump Says Tokyo Is Set
to Invest \$550 Billion
Into America**

By ANA SWANSON
and RIVER AKIRA DAVIS

WASHINGTON — President Trump said Tuesday that he had reached a “massive” trade deal with Japan, helping to allay fears of heightened trade tensions between the United States and one of its closest Asian allies.

In a social media post Tuesday evening, the president wrote that Japan had agreed to open its country to imports of American cars, trucks, rice and other agricultural products, as well as invest \$550 billion into the United States. He said that Japanese exports to the United States would be charged a tariff of 15 percent, lower than the 25 percent tariff he



ISSEI KATO/REUTERS

Japanese carmakers have faced a 25 percent tariff since April.

had threatened against the country’s products if Japan did not strike a deal.

The deal will also lower the tariff the United States charges on Japanese auto exports, which are subject to a separate tariff schedule, to 15 percent, including a pre-existing tariff of 2.5 percent. That will come as a relief to Japanese carmakers, which, like manufacturers in other countries, have faced an additional 25 percent tariff since April.

Japan’s prime minister, Shigeru Ishiba, told reporters in Tokyo on Wednesday morning that he had received an initial report about the agreement from Ryosei Akazawa, Japan’s chief trade negotiator, who is in Washington. “I will receive a report on the details in the future and examine them carefully,” Mr. Ishiba said.

In a social media post, Mr.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-13

Survey or Reconnaissance?

Chinese ships are researching the seas for science and resources where naval rivals may one day clash. PAGE A12

Gaza’s Growing Hunger Crisis

More than 100 organizations warned of “mass starvation,” adding to calls for aid restrictions to be eased. PAGE A11

NATIONAL A14-21, 24

Rewriting Our History

Scores of signs at parks and historic sites are being reviewed to remove or cover up materials that “inappropriately disparage Americans.” PAGE A14

A Minnesota Mamdani?

Omar Fateh, a young democratic socialist, beat an established Democrat for endorsement in Minneapolis. PAGE A20

SPORTS B6-9

U.S. Restricts Trans Olympians

The national committee for the Games quietly barred transgender women from women’s competitions. PAGE B7



ARTS C1-8

Ramshackle No More

The Delacorte Theater, free Shakespeare’s Central Park home, dazzles after an \$85 million renovation. PAGE C1

All Fed Up With ‘Empathy’

It was once considered a virtue. So why do some people, on both right and left, seem to think it’s a bad thing? PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-5

Preachers to Same Choir Fight

As President Trump and Rupert Murdoch trade blows, they are constrained by the thing that has kept them linked for a decade: their shared reliance on Fox News die-hards. PAGE B1

As Dollar Slips, the Euro Gains

A bloc’s currency is drawing investors seeking new havens amid political turmoil and the chaotic rollout of the Trump tariffs, but its rise poses risks to the continent’s economy. PAGE B1

OPINION A22-23

Nicole Gelinas

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THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

A Risky American Dream

Jacob Long bet his family, his livelihood and his personal philosophy about the quality of craftsmanship in the nation on a textile mill in Connecticut. PAGE D5

