



National Guard troops in Washington on Tuesday. The president is deploying 800 Guard members in a policing takeover. Page A14.

A Key Inflation Measure Rises, Indicating the Effects of Tariffs

By COLBY SMITH

A key measure of underlying inflation rose in July as businesses grappled with President Trump's tariffs, although the overall increase was probably not significant enough to deter the Federal Reserve from lowering interest rates at its next meeting.

The Consumer Price Index stayed steady at 2.7 percent compared with the same time last year. On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.2 percent from June. But an important gauge tracking consumer prices that strips out volatile food and energy prices accelerated more rapidly.

"Core" C.P.I., which is closely watched by the central bank, jumped 0.3 percent over the course of the month, or 3.1 percent year over year. That is one of the largest monthly increases so far this year and the fastest annual pace in five months. In June, core inflation rose 0.2 percent from the previous month, or 2.9 percent from June 2024.



The July data, which was released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, provides a clear sign that businesses are being affected by tariffs. Some have begun to pass along those related costs more readily to their customers after a prolonged period of muted price gains. Still, the inflation data came in more or less as expected, suggesting the central bank can move

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WASHINGTON MEMO With Takeover, Viewing D.C. As a Real Estate Mess to Fix

By ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS

WASHINGTON — To hear President Trump tell it, the nation's capital is something akin to a blighted property in need of repair.

Washington, he says, is "unsafe" and "dirty" and "disgusting." It is menaced by "blood-thirsty criminals" and marred by homelessness. It needs to be cleaned up and made "beautiful again."

Mr. Trump's bleak description of Washington is consistent with his view of American cities as dangerous and violent, dating to his time in New York City in the 1970s and '80s during a period of rampant crime.

On Monday, as he announced a temporary federal takeover of Washington's police, Mr. Trump suggested that his background as a New York real estate developer made him more suited than the local authorities to blot out

crime and homelessness in the nation's capital.

"It's a natural instinct as a real estate person," Mr. Trump told reporters as he compared his envisioned makeover of Washington to his recent gold-trimmed makeover of the White House. "I was very good at that, and I was very good at fixing things up. I like fixing things up."

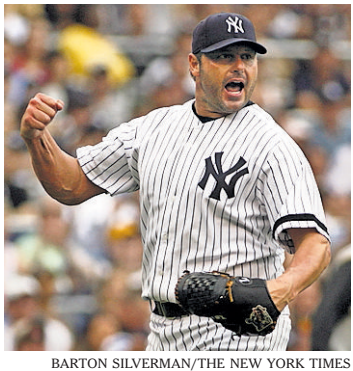
He promised to rid Washington of trash, graffiti, potholes, homeless people and more, even as he ignored the fact that violent crime has fallen recently to a 30-year low. While Washington has struggled with youth crime, particularly robberies and car-jackings, overall crime has fallen sharply in recent years.

In 2024, Washington had a violent crime rate of about 1,005 per 100,000 residents, according to data reported to the F.B.I. That

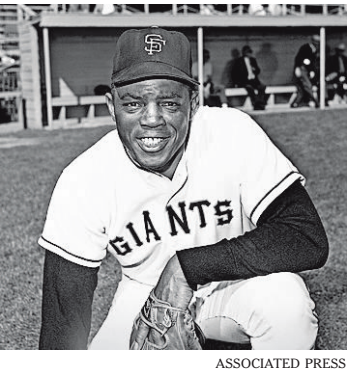
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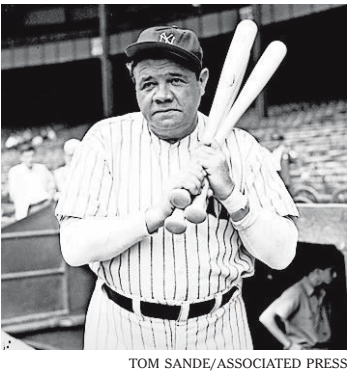
ROBERT CAPLIN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



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A methodology used historical data and carefully weighed assumptions in comparing players by placing their achievements in the context of a given year's talent pool. The new model rates Barry Bonds No. 1, followed by Roger Clemens, Willie Mays and Babe Ruth.

Bonds Over the Babe? Statisticians Say It's So, Across Any Era.

By ALEXANDER NAZARYAN

Every sport has its arguments over which player was the greatest, but no sport takes the debate as seriously as baseball does. It is a game informed by an obsession with statistics, such that passions are often checked by numbers: *How could anyone love a player with such a miserable on-base percentage?*

It is something consequential, then, when anyone makes a declarative statement regarding anything about baseball. But a

team of statisticians did just that. They have spent years devising a definitive ranking of baseball's best performers, no matter what era or which team was involved. Their new method compared players across history by placing the respective achievements within the context of a given year's pool of eligible baseball talent.

The controversial answer: The Greatest of All Time title no longer belongs to the New York Yankee legend Babe Ruth but to Barry Bonds.

'State of the Art' Rating of Players in History

The poor Bambino isn't even second. That spot belongs to Roger Clemens, who pitched for both the Boston Red Sox and the Yankees. He is followed by Bonds's godfather, Willie Mays (both men are generally associated with the San Francisco Giants, though they played for other teams as well). Ruth ranks fourth,

followed by Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee, and later Atlanta, Braves. Mickey Mantle, who won seven World Series rings while wearing Yankee pinstripes, falls to 23rd.

Baseball purists may object, noting that Bonds and Clemens are among several high-profile major league players accused of using steroids during the 1990s. (This likely explains why neither player is enshrined in Cooperstown, the sport's Hall of Fame in update New York.)

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Ex-Trump Officials Warn Of Manipulation by Putin

Meeting Will Test U.S. Leader, Analysts Say, as He Pushes to End War in Ukraine

By MICHAEL CROWLEY

Standing beside President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in Finland's presidential palace on a midsummer's day seven years ago, President Trump proved that he still had the power to shock.

At a news conference after meeting privately with the Russian leader, Mr. Trump sided with Mr. Putin on whether the Kremlin had meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

"President Putin says it's not Russia. I don't see any reason why it would be," Mr. Trump said, contradicting his own intelligence officials before recounting discredited conspiracy theories.

Top Republicans were horrified. Senator John McCain called it a "disgraceful performance." Mr. Trump's own national security adviser at the time, John R. Bolton, would later write that "Putin had to be laughing uproariously at what he had gotten away with in Helsinki."

Mr. Trump plans to see Mr. Putin on Friday in Alaska for the first time since his return to the White House to discuss the U.S. president's goal of ending the war between Russia and Ukraine.

With Mr. Putin pressing peace proposals that heavily favor Russia, many analysts and former Trump officials worry that he will once again turn a meeting with Mr. Trump to his advantage.

During Mr. Trump's first term, he and Mr. Putin met six times in person and had several more phone conversations. (His successor, Joseph R. Biden Jr., met Mr. Putin only once, in June 2021, before the Russian invasion of Ukraine.)

Those interactions alarmed many of Mr. Trump's senior aides, who watched as the U.S. president disregarded their advice, excluded them from meetings with the Russian leader and proposed impractical ideas that appeared to have been planted by Mr. Putin, like creating a U.S.-Russia "impenetrable Cyber Security unit." The idea was dropped as soon as

Mr. Trump got back to Washington.

The relationship has grown more complicated in Mr. Trump's second term. In recent months Mr. Trump, eager to fulfill his promises of settling the war between Russia and Ukraine, has grown irritated by Mr. Putin's unwillingness to de-escalate the conflict.

Mr. Putin will land in Alaska determined to rewind Mr. Trump's view of the war to February, when he berated President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine at a contentious White House meeting for not showing more gratitude for U.S. support, while speaking warmly about Mr. Putin.

"Since the blowup between Trump and Zelensky in the Oval Office, Europeans, Ukrainians and Ukraine's supporters inside the administration have cobbled together a policy of helping Ukraine stay in the fight and preventing the lurch by Trump to embrace Russia's view of the conflict," said Andrew Weiss, the vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"The real test on Friday will be how much of that policy survives the first in-person contact between Trump and Putin in his second term," Mr. Weiss added.

The White House portrays the meeting as an example of Mr. Trump's dedication to stopping the bloodshed in Ukraine and defends his unconventional style as a needed break from slow-moving diplomatic customs.

But critics worry that the hastily planned conversation will play into the hands of Mr. Putin, a former K.G.B. agent known as a master manipulator.

"I think he believes he should reel Trump back in, and believes his K.G.B. skills will do that," Mr.

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HACK Investigators say Russia was part of a cyberattack into federal court records. PAGE A7

A Strange Trip To Psychedelics For a Governor

By ROBERT DRAPER

On a Tuesday morning in September 2023 in a medical clinic just outside of Tijuana, Mexico, Rick Perry, the former Republican presidential candidate, energy secretary and Texas governor, lay down on a mattress, put on an eye mask and soon began to believe that he was hurtling through space.

Objects flew past him. Some of them appeared to resemble Maya hieroglyphics. He saw an arm reaching out for him, and attached to it was a figure with horns. "Satan, get behind me," he heard himself say. The figure instantly disappeared.

Mr. Perry's hallucinations, induced by the powerful psychotropic drug ibogaine he had taken about 45 minutes before putting on his eye mask, continued for more than 12 hours. The experience was an ordeal. He vomited intermittently and lost much of his body coordination. It took all of Wednesday to recover.

But on Thursday morning, Mr. Perry recalled in describing his experience publicly for the first time, "I woke up very clear-headed, with this very warm feeling in my body. I was as calm and as happy as I'd been in memory."

Since that experience, Mr.

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An Ivy Leaguer Propels a Siege On Top Schools

By MICHAEL C. BENDER

WASHINGTON — When President Trump wants to rattle academia, he turns to his deputy chief of staff, Stephen Miller. And then Mr. Miller turns to May Mailman.

Ms. Mailman, a 37-year-old Harvard-trained lawyer, is the most important, least-known person behind the administration's relentless pursuit of the nation's premier universities. The extraordinary effort has found seemingly endless ways to pressure schools into submission, including federal funding, student visas and civil rights investigations.

Ms. Mailman's hand in deploying these levers of power was evident from the beginning of Mr. Trump's second term. As his ambitions around reshaping higher education expanded, so did her remit. She is credited as an animating force behind a strategy that has intimidated independent institutions and undercut years of medical and scientific research.

The policies Ms. Mailman helped devise — and is now leveraging as she leads the White House's negotiations with colleges — have sent shock waves through higher education, dividing faculty and alarming some students who see an effort to silence dissent. The aggressive tac-

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INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Rethinking Years of Revolution

Zakaria Zubeidi, who inspired Palestinians and horrified Israelis, questions what progress has been made. PAGE A4

Deadly Heat in South Europe

Wildfires erupted in France, Spain and Portugal as temperatures soared above 110 degrees Fahrenheit. PAGE A8

NATIONAL A9-17

Democrats Have Work to Do

Working-class Americans who long voted Democratic said the party should not count on a backlash to President Trump to win them back. PAGE A9

Children and Covid Shots

The Food and Drug Administration may withdraw an endorsement for the vaccine in children under age 5. PAGE A13

SPORTS B6-9

Texas Tech's New Millionaires

Determined to win the Big 12 football title for the first time, the school spent lavishly to attract transfers. PAGE B6



ARTS C1-6

Blown Away by a Pop Art

Graham Maxwell, above, and others are delighting crowds with bubble blowing at the Edinburgh Fringe. PAGE C1

More Than Just Fan Mail

Joey Fatone and other actors divulge some of the gifts they have received during their runs on Broadway. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-5

Businesses Brace for Tariffs

Large companies with big bank balances and workers already in jobs will have an easier time navigating the economic waves. Smaller firms and shops won't be so lucky. PAGE B1

A Trump Pick Stirs Alarm

Economists on the left and right have criticized the president's choice to lead the labor data agency, E. J. Antoni, for misunderstanding the information he would now be overseeing. PAGE B1

OPINION A18-19

Zeynep Tufekci PAGE A19



FOOD D1-8

Just One Scoop Won't Do

The key to making a batch of truly delicious homemade ice cream is in the dairy aisle, our writer says, but it is not heavy cream or eggs. PAGE D1

