

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, very cold, breezy, increasing cloudiness, high 18. **Tonight**, cloudy, very cold, snow late at night, low 13. **Tomorrow**, snow likely, cold, cloudy, high 22. Weather map, Page B12.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

Senator Reels After Crossing The President

Even Backing Kennedy Fails to Salvage Bond

By KATIE GLUECK

BATON ROUGE, La. — When Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana recently brought Senator John Thune, the majority leader, to a local oyster bar, he called it a “Baton Rouge favorite.”

That description may no longer apply to Mr. Cassidy, though, if the lunchtime crowd there this week was any indication. As patrons trickled into Phil’s Oyster Bar and Seafood Restaurant, some muttered insults and declarations about never voting for him again.

“I like Trump,” Christy Meyer, a retiree from Bayou Blue, La., said on her way to lunch at the restaurant, which is plastered in Louisiana State University memorabilia and known for its charbroiled oysters. “He goes against Trump a lot.”

Mr. Cassidy did go against President Trump in 2021, when he was one of seven Republican senators who voted for an impeachment conviction after the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. He has spent considerable time since then trying to make amends. But for Mr. Cassidy, a physician who led a vaccination campaign in Louisiana and then backed Mr. Trump’s choice of a vaccine skeptic to serve as the nation’s health secretary, it wasn’t enough.

Mr. Trump upended Mr. Cassidy’s re-election bid last week with a surprise endorsement of a challenger, imperiling the senator’s already-shaky standing with Republicans back home.

To Mr. Cassidy’s critics on the left, it was poetic justice, proof that appeasement of Mr. Trump never pays off. To his right-wing detractors, it was confirmation of their suspicions that he wasn’t a true ally of the president.

And to some in Louisiana who have known the senator for years, it was another bitter twist of the Trump era.

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Vaccine Adviser Places Choice Before Health

By APOORVA MANDAVILLI

Offering a startlingly candid view into the philosophy guiding vaccine recommendations under the Trump administration, the leader of the federal panel that recommends vaccines for Americans said shots against polio and measles — and perhaps all diseases — should be optional, offered only in consultation with a clinician.

Dr. Kirk Milhoan, a pediatric cardiologist who is chair of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, said that he did have “concerns” that some children might die of measles or become paralyzed with polio as a result of a choice not to vaccinate. But, he said, “I also am saddened when people die of alcoholic diseases,” adding, “Freedom of choice and bad health outcomes.”

In the case of an infectious disease, a personal choice to decline a vaccine may also affect others, including infants who are too young to be vaccinated or people who are immunocompromised. But a person’s right to reject a vaccine supersedes those risks, Dr. Milhoan said.

“If there is no choice, then informed consent is an illusion,” he said. “Without consent it is medical battery.”

The polio and measles vaccines are widely acknowledged as staggering successes in public health,

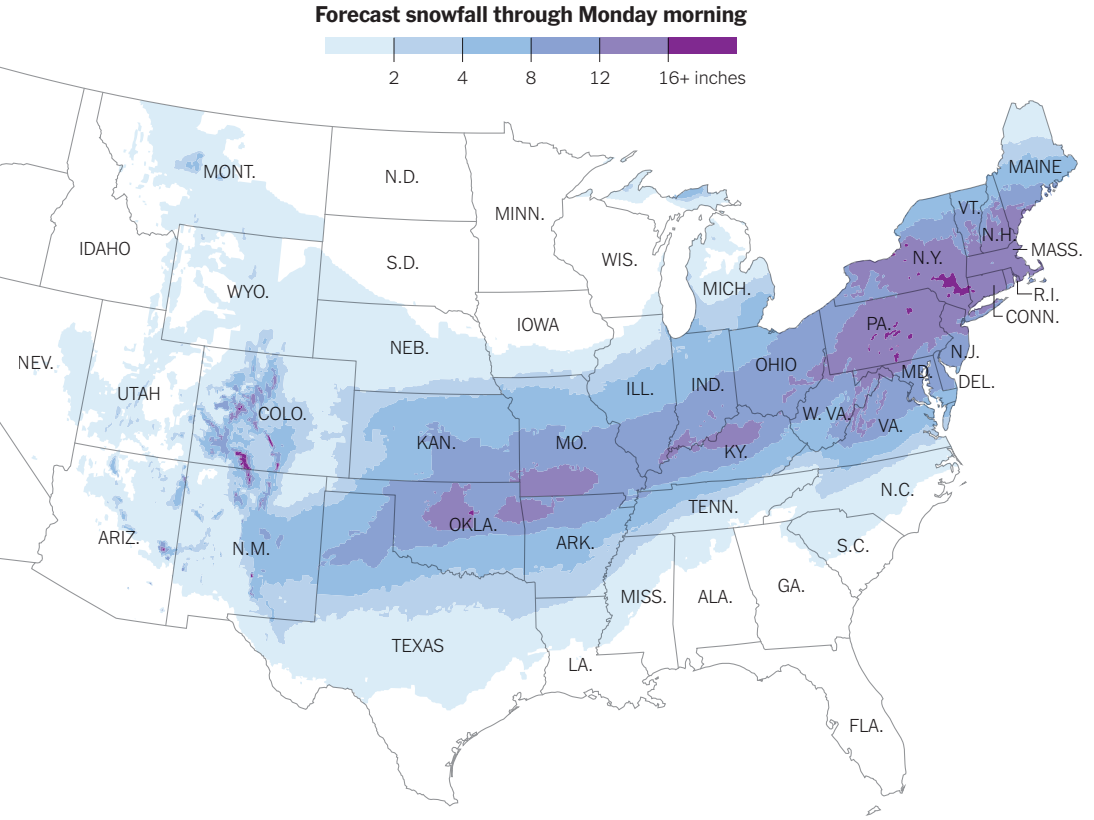
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CORNELL WATSON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Gathering for the Storm

Americans stocked up on supplies as over 160 million people across the country were expected to face snow, ice and cold in the coming days, according to the National Weather Service. Page A20.



Big Perks Get Mobile Gamers to Keep Spending

By MICHAEL THOMSEN

CSR 2 Realistic Drag Racing is a simple game, even by smartphone standards. Players compete in short street races — tapping a button onscreen to change gears at just the right time — for virtual currency that lets them buy new parts to make their hot rod a few tenths of a second faster.

It does not take long for the races to seem like distractions from the more consequential ac-

Tiered V.I.P. Programs Can Be Money Traps

tivity: scrolling through menus looking for new spark plugs or a better set of tires.

Players who want to upgrade their vehicles more quickly can spend real money. And they have. The Custom Street Racing series has generated more than \$1 billion

in revenue since the first game was released in 2012.

To keep people splurging in mobile games like the Custom Street Racing, FarmVille and Words With Friends franchises, their publisher, Zynga, uses a secretive V.I.P. program that treats players like royalty. It is a tactic borrowed from casinos, which may offer a free meal or show tickets when they notice a player is losing more than usual on a slot machine

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ANDREW TESTA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mark and Karen Rawlings in the Old Thatch, the pub in southern England where a protest began.

Trump Razes Old Order, Letting China Fill Void

U.S. Cedes Global Economic Leadership

By PETER S. GOODMAN

DAVOS, Switzerland — In his long, rambling address this week that was by turns bombastic, aggrieved and self-congratulatory, President Trump pronounced last rites on American leadership of the liberal democratic order forged by the United States and its allies after World War II.

Mr. Trump used his keynote speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Wednesday — a pilgrimage site for adherents of globalization — to assert that the United States was done offering its markets and its military protection to European allies he derided as freeloaders. And he vowed to advance his trade war. He characterized tariffs as the price of admission to a land of 300 million consumers.

“The United States is keeping the whole world afloat,” Mr. Trump said. “Everybody took advantage of the United States.”

By that evening, Mr. Trump had flip-flopped on Greenland. He said in a social media post that he would no longer use tariffs to try to wrest control of the Danish territory, at least while discussions between his top aides and Europeans carried forth. The announcement spared the sovereignty of the island, but there was no taking back the significance of Mr. Trump’s attack on the global economic order just hours earlier.

The American president appeared in the same auditorium where, nine years earlier, the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, gave a speech claiming credentials as a champion of international cooperation. Mr. Xi captivated the village of Davos with his endorsement of what he described as “economic globalization.” His 2017 address, delivered days before Mr. Trump was inaugurated for his first term, resonated as a clear yet futile effort to stave off the trade war that soon unfolded.

“Pursuing protectionism is just like locking oneself in a dark room,” Mr. Xi said that day. “While wind and rain may be kept outside, that dark room will also block light and air. No one will emerge as a winner in a trade war.”

Then as now, deep skepticism greeted China’s bid for recognition as a responsible superpower in contrast to Mr. Trump’s vision of “America First.” China’s government has long subsidized the making of factory goods that have threatened jobs from Indiana to Indonesia. China’s surveillance state has jailed dissidents, labor organizers and journalists. Its military has menaced the self-governing island of Taiwan and neighbors in Southeast Asia. Not even its greatest allies would describe China as a paragon of

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Heaps of Dead Protesters Show Brutality of Crackdown in Iran

By ERIKA SOLOMON and KIANA HAYERI

The families rooted frantically through the piles of corpses, so crammed together that the living had to take care not to step on the dead.

Wailing and cursing, they searched the body bags for the number assigned to their loved one for burial — a surreal veneer of bureaucracy imposed onto a chaotic nightmare.

But the breaking point only came when weary-looking cemetery workers arrived in refrigerated trucks to dump still more corpses on the ground. The body bags landed with sickening thuds in front of onlookers who had come to bury their children, siblings, fathers, mothers.

“That moment — it broke people. People couldn’t just watch

Families Left to Search Through Body Bags

them throwing the bodies out like that,” said Kiarash, a witness who described the scene this month at Behesht-e Zahra, the largest cemetery in Tehran. “There was a mother lying on her child’s body, begging for help so they wouldn’t throw him somewhere,” Kiarash added.

Enraged, the crowds began pushing their way into the hallway of the mortuary, cursing Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — a criminal offense in the country — as security forces looked on.

“Mothers were crying, shouting,” Kiarash said. “And all the

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How U.K. Pubs Kill a New Tax: Deny Labour Lawmakers Ale

By STEPHEN CASTLE

WIMBORNE, England — With its wooden beams, thatched roof and open log fire, the 17th-century Old Thatch pub offers a warm welcome to customers in southern England.

But one influential group of Britons can expect a frosty reception: lawmakers from the governing Labour Party.

The Old Thatch is one of more than 1,400 pubs and restaurants to have banned all Labour legislators in a protest over a planned increase in a property tax, which landlords say will cost them thousands of pounds a year. Announced just before Christmas, when many Britons gather in pubs to celebrate the holiday, the pub ban gained a lot of attention. And it appears to have worked.

1,400 Hit Party’s Plan Right in the Gut

The government is expected to announce concessions within days, the latest in a series of policy flip-flops that critics have seized on as evidence of Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s weakness.

“We have them on the run,” said Andy Lennox, landlord of the pub in Wimborne near Bournemouth, where the rebellion began. He wants to see the detail of the policy reversal before calling off the ban: “If you don’t have the stick, you don’t get the carrot.”

Few parts of British life generate as much affection as pubs, and angering landlords has produced

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Peace Talks for Ukraine
Ukrainian, Russian and U.S. envoys met, marking the first trilateral talks since the 2022 start of the war. PAGE A7

Celebrating Valentino in Rome
The funeral for the celebrated fashion designer was held in the city that its mayor said he embodied. PAGE A6



NATIONAL A9-17, 20

Protest Strike in Minnesota
Hundreds of businesses in the state closed their doors in response to ICE’s actions during a federal immigration crackdown. PAGE A10

Worth of Humans to E.P.A.: \$0
The agency has stopped estimating the dollar value of lives saved in the cost-benefit analyses for new rules. PAGE A14

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TikTok Legal Saga Ends
The parent company of the video app said non-Chinese investors would create a U.S. TikTok to avoid a ban. PAGE B1

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Philanthropy, Then Hollywood
Darren Walker, a former Ford Foundation leader, will lead the production company Anonymous Content. PAGE C1

Black Musicals on Broadway
An exhibition at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts illuminates a 200-year history. PAGE C1



SPORTS B6-9

Intigue From Canada
After the country’s Olympic skeleton team pulled several sliders from a qualifier, competitors complained it was a maneuver that made it harder for others to advance. PAGE B6

Quarterbacking a Broadcast
After struggling through his rookie season with Fox Sports, Tom Brady and his co-workers describe how, in just his second season, he became one of the top N.F.L. TV analysts. PAGE B7

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Lydia Polgreen PAGE A18

SPECIAL SECTION



THIS WEEKEND

