

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, breezy in the morning, sunny, high 41. **Tonight**, clear to partly cloudy, low 35. **Tomorrow**, plenty of sunshine, breezy in the afternoon, high 46. Weather map, Page D8.

VOL. CLXXV No. 60,762

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MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

An Oval Encircled by Gold
Using hundreds of photos, The Times created a detailed view of an office guided by the president’s “maximalist” tastes. Pages A13-15.

In Trump Era, Latin America Shows Cracks

By JACK NICAS and ANA IONOVA

MEXICO CITY — By the time dawn broke on Jan. 3, WhatsApp had already lit up across Latin America with frantic messages from heads of state, grappling with how to respond to perhaps the region’s biggest political event in decades.

It was what some had wanted and others had feared: The United States had just swept into Venezuela and captured its president. The responses exposed the fault lines that were already cracking Latin America apart.

The region’s three largest nations — Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, all led by leftists — criticized the American seizure of President Nicolás Maduro with varying degrees of outrage and diplomacy.

A growing roster of right-wing countries, including Argentina, El Salvador and Ecuador, cheered on President Trump.

And a collection of smaller nations, like Guatemala and Peru, kept their heads down so Washington might not notice.

The divergent reactions show how an increasingly aggressive Trump administration is scrambling the politics of Latin America. While the countries’ public responses may be different, they all appear to share a common goal in a new era of U.S. interventionism: self-preservation.

Continued on Page A6

MADURO CASE Prosecutors will have to navigate complex legal issues to earn a win. PAGE A7

Anchor of Grateful Dead’s Psychedelic Sound

By BEN SISARIO and MARK WALKER

Bob Weir, a guitarist and songwriter who was a founding member of the Grateful Dead, which rose from jug band origins to become the kings of psychedelic rock, selling millions of records and inspiring a small nation of loyal fans, has died. He was 78.

His family announced the death in a statement on Saturday, saying that Mr. Weir had “succumbed to underlying lung issues” after receiving a cancer diagnosis in July. The statement did not say when or where he died.

The band, which was founded in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1965, blended rock, folk, blues and country, with mellow ease and a gift for improvisation that became its trademark. In a rock milieu that was still based on short songs and catchy hooks, the Grateful Dead created a niche for meandering, exploratory performances that each seemed to have their own personalities.

The band became the pied pipers of the wider hippie movement, providing the soundtrack for 1960s dropouts and LSD dabblers.

Even after hippie culture faded, the band retained a gigantic fan base — called Deadheads, a term worn with pride and later adapted for numerous other fandoms — which followed the group wherever it played, traded recordings of its concerts and set up mini-campments, complete with craft bazaars, oceans of tie-dye and no small amount of drugs.

It was one of rock’s original subcultures. “Our audience is like people who like licorice,” the band’s lead guitarist and singer, Jerry Garcia, once said. “Not even.”

Continued on Page A22



THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bob Weir, a founding member of the Grateful Dead, performing with Dead & Company in 2024.

How Mississippi Transformed Its Schools to Become Nation’s Envy

By SARAH MERVOSH

HAZLEHURST, Miss. — In Kim Luckett-Langston’s first year as principal of Hazlehurst Elementary School, one of the lowest performing schools in what had been one of the lowest performing states, she quickly diagnosed the problem.

Children at her school, outside Jackson, Miss., were suffering from what she calls A.B.T.: “Ain’t been taught.”

Kindergartners arrived not knowing their letters from their numbers. After a few years in school, they were still far behind. A decade ago, just 12 percent of Hazlehurst students were reading on grade level.

Today, Hazlehurst has clawed that figure to 35 percent. And Mississippi has emerged as one of the best places in the country for a poor child to get an education.

Mississippi has gone from 49th in the country on national tests in

Accountability, as Well as Reading, Is Key

2013, to a top 10 state for fourth graders learning to read — even as test scores have fallen almost everywhere else.

Poverty remains a driving factor in student achievement, and wealthy states like Massachusetts still have the highest share of stu-

dents proficient in reading and math.

But adjusted for poverty and other student demographics, Mississippi is No. 1 for fourth grade reading and math, and at or near the top in eighth grade, according to the Urban Institute, a left-leaning think tank.

“If you want to ask the question, ‘Which states are helping kids coming from difficult circumstances learn as much as they

Continued on Page A18

Trump’s Moves Turning Up Dial on a Warming Planet

Scientists Alarmed by Shifts to Fossil Fuels and Away From Global Cooperation

By LISA FRIEDMAN

By pulling the United States out of the main international climate treaty, seizing Venezuelan crude oil and using government power to resuscitate the domestic coal industry while choking off clean energy, the Trump administration is not just ignoring climate change, it is most likely making the problem worse.

President Trump has never been shy about rejecting the scientific reality of global warming: It’s a “hoax,” he has said, a “scam,” and a “con job.”

In recent days his administration has slammed the door on every possible avenue of global cooperation on the environment. At the same time, it is sending the message that it wants the world to be awash in fossil fuels sold by America, no matter the consequences.

The moves follow one of the hottest years on record, during which scientists say climate change supercharged raging wildfires in Los Angeles, deadly flooding in Texas, and a Category 5 hurricane that ravaged Caribbean islands.

The planet is on course to heat up more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) compared with preindustrial levels. That’s the threshold beyond which scientists say the risks of catastrophic storms, droughts, wildfires and heat waves, as well as species extinction, increase significantly. The Earth has already warmed by between 1.3 and 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Under President Trump, the United States has become the only nation to renege on a pledge to try to keep warming to 1.5 degrees. Its actions will make the global fight harder, scientists said.

“Emissions will be higher,” warned Justin S. Mankin, an associate professor at Dartmouth College who researches climate variability. “Trump’s greenhouse gas emissions will cause Trump’s heat waves, Trump’s droughts,

Trump’s floods and Trump’s wildfires.”

America’s carbon dioxide emissions from burning coal, oil and gas, which have made it the biggest polluter since the start of the Industrial Age, had been declining steadily since 2007. But last year, after Mr. Trump returned to the White House, emissions rose 1.9 percent, according to the federal government.

Researchers attributed the rise to an increased use of coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel. Scientists said U.S. emissions should ultimately decline again, in large part because renewable energy remains



BENJAMIN RASMUSSEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have started to increase again.

cheaper than fossil fuels. But the decrease could be slower and smaller than a safe atmosphere requires.

“The science is clear that every action matters and every ton of carbon matters,” said Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist and professor at Texas Tech. “There’s a price to pay for every ton of carbon we produce, and that price is being added to our global debt.”

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump announced that he was withdrawing the United States from a long list of United Nations organizations, including the treaty that underpins international cooperation on

Continued on Page A12

This League Calls for 2 Things: Lots of Flab and a Funny Bone

By THOMAS FULLER

DALLAS — When two men showed up a few months ago at the adult soccer league in suburban Dallas, Anthony Williams took the men’s measurements — height, weight and waist circumference — and came back with disappointing news.

“I told them, ‘Sorry, you’re not fat enough,’” Mr. Williams, one of the league’s coaches, recounted last week as he watched two of the league’s teams, Fat Man United and Totten-Ham and Cheese, battle in an indoor arena an hour’s drive from downtown.

The Man v Fat League is reserved for hefty players, who are lured by competitive soccer and heavy doses of self-deprecating humor to shed pounds.

Founded in Britain in 2014 as an answer to weight-loss programs that primarily attracted women, Man v Fat expanded to the United States in 2024. Now it has more than a dozen leagues in New York, New Jersey, Florida and Texas that appeal to men like Joseph Alvarado Delgado, 26, who gained 50 pounds while working at fast-food restaurants in the Dallas area after high school.

Since he joined, Mr. Delgado said, “I’m much more energetic, I sleep a lot better and my wife says I don’t snore as much.”

Mr. Williams weighs the players before each match and reviews a log of what they have eaten over the past week. The league stand-



DESIREE RIOS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The soccer team names in the Man v Fat League rely on puns.

ings are based both on matches won and on pounds lost.

For Mr. Delgado, a goalie in Man v Fat, copious portions of macaroni and cheese, burgers, fries, beer, spiced rum — and heartburn — yielded the realization that he needed to do something. An abdominal scan brought more alarming news. A doctor told him “my liver was inflamed and looked like it belonged to a 40-year-old alcoholic,” Mr. Delgado said.

He radically changed his diet, cut back on alcohol and joined the

Continued on Page A18



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

An Arctic Tug of War
An archipelago called Svalbard has served as a rare refuge of international cooperation. But no more. PAGE A8

Protests Spread in Iran
Bazaars were closed and demonstrators met with violence from security forces as the nation’s finances caved. PAGE A7

NATIONAL A11-19

Immigration Agents and Cars
There have been at least 10 instances of shots being fired into vehicles the last four months, leaving two people dead and raising questions. PAGE A17

A Test for Somali Americans
A Minnesota community with many civil war escapees is facing a crackdown over fraud allegations. PAGE A16

OBITUARIES A22, B8

A Believer in Alien Visitors
Erich von Däniken, 90, sold hundreds of thousands of copies of his 1968 book, “Chariots of the Gods.” PAGE B8



ARTS C1-6

Connecting Onscreen and Off
“Is This Thing On?” relies on the shared history of Bradley Cooper, Will Arnett and Laura Dern. PAGE C1

Television in Smaller Doses
“The Pitt” is promoting a return to old-fashioned weekly viewing habits. But it’s a great binge watch, too. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-7

Outgrowing Meme Stocks
Some Gen Z-ers were excited and inspired to first enter the markets and start building wealth during the pandemic. They have since become more patient investors. PAGE B1

Sluggish Year for Job Creation
Economists pointed to the president’s immigration crackdown and cuts to the federal bureaucracy as hiring slows, while White House aides made the case for optimism in 2026. PAGE B1

OPINION A20-21

Carlos Lozada PAGE A20



SPORTS D1-8

Seeking One More Marathon
Jeff Galloway, a long-ago U.S. Olympian who popularized the run-walk-run method, hopes to overcome some daunting obstacles at 80. PAGE D1

