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Three Years Later

For Ukrainians, Feb. 24 was a day to remember what has been lost in the three years since Russia’s full-scale invasion. Page A9.

How Wealth of Dr. Oz Collides With Medicare

By REED ABELSON and SUSANNE CRAIG
Dr. Mehmet Oz, the celebrity TV doctor nominated by President Trump to oversee Medicare and Medicaid, has been a relentless promoter of controversial private insurance plans for older Americans.
“I’d be signing up,” he told viewers, directing them to a call center in an episode that is still available on his YouTube channel.
What Dr. Oz did not tell the audience was that he made money from touting the plans, known as Medicare Advantage. The for-profit company operating the call center, TZ Insurance Solutions, paid to be featured.
Dr. Oz even became a licensed broker for TZ Insurance in almost

Nominee Holds Many Ties With Industries He May Regulate

every state, according to regulatory filings newly unearthed by The New York Times, with the idea that he could sell plans directly to viewers.
He may be one of America’s best-known daytime TV personalities, or “America’s doctor,” as Oprah Winfrey called him. But little is known about exactly how he monetized his fame over the years. All told, his business and family ventures are valued in the neighborhood of roughly \$90 million to \$335 million.

An examination by The Times of his myriad financial interests revealed not only opaque ties with the industries he may soon regulate but also a coziness with health care companies that lawmakers have already highlighted in questioning his independence.
He has made tens of millions of dollars hawking dietary supplements on his show and on social media, often without any mention of his financial interest. He has been paid by medical device firms and health-related ventures, and his money was invested in a dizzying array of businesses. Many of those companies would be affected by any decisions he would make in the government post and many already benefit from agency funding.
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ROBERTA FLACK, 1937-2025

A Majestic Chart-Topper Who Thrilled Us Softly

By GIOVANNI RUSSONELLO
Roberta Flack, the magnetic singer and pianist whose intimate blend of soul, jazz and folk made her one of the most popular artists of the 1970s, died on Monday in Manhattan. She was 88.
She died en route to a hospital, according to Suzanne Koga, her manager and friend. The cause was cardiac arrest, she said. Ms. Flack revealed in 2022 that she had been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, which left her unable to perform.
After spending almost 10 years as a Washington, D.C., schoolteacher and performing nights downtown, Ms. Flack zoomed to worldwide stardom in 1972, after her version of “The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face” was featured in the Clint Eastwood film “Play Misty for Me.”
The song had been released three years earlier, on her debut album for Atlantic Records, but came out as a single only after the 1971 film was released. Within weeks it was at No. 1 on the Billboard chart — a perch she would reclaim two more times, with “Killing Me Softly With His Song” (1973) and “Feel Like Makin’ Love” (1974).
In both 1973 and ’74, she won Grammy Awards for record of the year, and in both years the composers of her hits won for song of the year. In 1973, she and Donny



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Roberta Flack, a singer-pianist who defied categorization, in 1971.
Hathaway shared the award for best pop vocal performance by a duo, group or chorus, for “Where Is the Love.” A year later, she won in the pop vocal performance, female category for “Killing Me Softly.”
Ms. Flack’s steady, powerful voice could convey tenderness, pride, conviction or longing, but hardly ever despair. Most of her best-known albums included at least a few funk and soul tracks, driven by a slapping backbeat and rich with observational social commentary. But her biggest hits were always something else: slow

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If Gaza Truce Ends in Days, What Is Next?

By PATRICK KINGSLEY and RONEN BERGMAN
When Israel and Hamas agreed to a six-week cease-fire in January, there were hopes that it would evolve into a longer and more stable truce.
Now, those hopes are dwindling.
Both sides have accused each other of breaking the terms of the existing deal, which have allowed for the exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners. Over the weekend, Israel delayed the release of several hundred prisoners, protesting the humiliating manner in which Hamas had paraded hostages before handing them over.
With just days before the current truce lapses on Sunday, the sides have yet to begin negotiations for an extension.
Steve Witkoff, the Mideast envoy for the Trump administration, said he would return to the region on Wednesday to push for a new truce.
Though a brief extension is possible, the likelihood of a long-term

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New York’s Fickle Egg Hunt, and Pecking Order

By DIONNE SEARCEY and ASHLEY SOUTHALL
The inquiries start casually. “Hey, I haven’t seen you in a while. How have you been?” But when Alex LaMond’s phone lights up with texts from her Brooklyn neighbors, she knows what’s coming.
Quickly, the conversations turn to chickens.
They ask after Agnes and Charlene and the other hens that jut across the brightly colored coop in the community garden where Ms. LaMond volunteers. And then comes the real point of the texts: eggs.
“Do you have any extra?” she said the neighbors ask. “People try anything they can to get the eggs.”
Across the United States, the spread of bird flu has sent egg prices that were already high soaring. The culling of flocks and subsequent grocery store and restaurant price markups on eggs

Putin Ambition Gets New Life Under Trump

Opening Path to Wider Influence in Europe

By PAUL SONNE
BERLIN — President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia took the stage in Sochi, Russia, last fall, two days after Donald J. Trump won the U.S. presidential election, and spoke of the dawn of a new world order.
“In a sense,” Mr. Putin said, “the moment of truth is coming.”
It may have already arrived.
After three years of grinding warfare and isolation by the West, a world of new possibilities has opened up for Mr. Putin with a change of power in Washington.
Gone are the statements from the East Room of the White House about the United States standing up to bullies, supporting democracy over autocracy and ensuring freedom will prevail.
Gone, too, is Washington’s united front against Russia with its European allies, many of whom have begun to wonder if the new American administration will protect them against a revanchist Moscow, or even keep troops in Europe at all.
Mr. Trump, having voiced desires to take Greenland, has pursued a rapid rapprochement with the Kremlin while sidelining shocked European allies and publicly assailing President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine.
It is a rapid shift of fortunes for Mr. Putin. He dug in on the battlefield — despite mounting pressures and costs — to wait out Western resolve in a far longer and more onerous conflict than Moscow had expected. Now, the Russian leader may believe his moment has come to shift the balance of power in favor of the Kremlin, not only in Ukraine.
“I think he sees real opportunity, both to win the war in Ukraine, effectively, but also to sideline the U.S. not just from Ukraine but from Europe,” said Max Bergmann, a Russia analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington who worked at the State Department during the Obama administration.
The Russian leader’s “grandiose objective,” Mr. Bergmann said, is the destruction of NATO, the 32-country military alliance led by the United States that was established after World War II to protect Western Europe from the Soviet Union.
“I think that is right now all on the table,” Mr. Bergmann said.
The opening represents one of the biggest opportunities for Mr. Putin in his quarter-century in power in Russia.

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EUROPE’S LEADERS SHOW SOLIDARITY IN UKRAINE VISIT

ANNIVERSARY OF WAR

Talks Center on How to Support Kyiv if U.S. Cuts Assistance

This article is by Kim Barker, Jeanna Smialek and Steven Erlanger.
BRUSSELS — President Trump was barely acknowledged in a meeting between President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine and 13 Western leaders who visited Kyiv in person on Monday to mark the third anniversary of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.
Still, he was everywhere. In the subtle rebukes thrown his way. In how European leaders talked about further aid to Ukraine. In how they emphasized the importance of Ukrainian sovereignty, even as Trump officials have been talking about dialing back U.S. support for Kyiv and troop numbers in Europe.
On the invasion’s somber anniversary, European leaders and other Western allies descended on Kyiv to demonstrate their resolute support and pledge more money and military assistance to Ukraine. Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, the European Union’s executive arm, said that strengthening Ukraine’s defenses and energy infrastructure was critical and that it was also essential to not back down now.
“The autocrats around the world are watching very carefully,” she said.
The show of solidarity in Ukraine on Monday comes at a head-spinning moment for Europe. For three years, the United States has been a major supporter of Ukraine’s resistance against Russia’s invasion, diplomatically, financially and militarily, pulling the allies together in the leadership role it has played since World War II.
But Mr. Trump is in the process of upending that, or at least threatening to do so.
The United States angered European allies by voting against a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly condemning Russian aggression and calling for the withdrawal of invading Russian troops from Ukraine. An American resolution simply called for the war’s end. [Page A8.]
Also on Monday, Mr. Trump said that the fighting could be over “within weeks” and suggested

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GRAHAM DICKIE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Pamela’s Green Deli in the Bronx sells “loosies” in plastic bags.
have exasperated shoppers. In New York City, the egg shortage has injected a particular kind of chaos among the miles of sidewalks where supply is unreliable and prices vary wildly block to block.
In a city that values local knowledge and exclusivity, a new kind of

power structure is emerging for anyone who has eggs or knows where to get them cheap, or even at all.
Signs of this dynamic were evident on a recent day at one Manhattan grocery store, where a worker passed the empty egg

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Not in My English Town
Intent on economic revival, the British government has intervened in a local squabble over a film studio. PAGE B1

Lester Holt to Step Down
The longtime newscaster said he would leave “NBC Nightly News” at the start of the summer. PAGE B4

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Struggling a month ago, Germany’s Die Linke party surged into Parliament powered in part by a social-media-forward message. PAGE A7

Trump’s Deportation Plan
Sending migrants to Central American countries removes many political and legal hurdles for the U.S. PAGE A11

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Congestion pricing in Midtown Manhattan is on track to raise billions for mass transit repairs. PAGE A15



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Europe’s newest dark-sky sanctuary is a wild Scottish island with 40 residents and celestial lighting. PAGE D8

Deep-Space Mining Prospector
AstroForge’s mission to survey a potentially metallic asteroid is all packed and ready to lift off. PAGE D1

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A Rebuild From Rock Bottom
The Chicago White Sox lost 121 games last season, a record for futility. But the team’s new manager, Will Venable, is smiling and eager to help. PAGE B6

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Clint Hill, 93, a Secret Service agent who leaped to help the first couple after gunshots in Dallas, was haunted by his inability to save the president. PAGE A22

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New Life for Wu-Tang Clan
RZA, the chief architect of the path-breaking group, has brought it together for one last tour. All of the surviving original members will take part. PAGE C1

