



ERIN SCHAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Glenn Valley Foods meatpacking plant in Omaha. Federal agents arrested dozens of its workers, severely disrupting production.

‘It’s a Wipeout’: The Aftershocks of an ICE Workplace Raid

By ELI SASLOW

OMAHA — They gathered in a conference room for the weekly management meeting, even though there was hardly anyone left to manage. Chad Hartmann, the president of Glenn Valley Foods in Omaha, pushed a few empty chairs to the side of the room and then passed around a sheet totaling the latest production numbers. “Take a deep breath and brace yourselves,” he said.

For more than a decade, Glenn Valley’s production reports had told a story of steady ascendance

— new hires, new manufacturing lines, new sales records for one of the fastest-growing meatpacking companies in the Midwest. But, in a matter of weeks, production had plummeted by almost 70 percent. Most of the work force was gone. Half of the maintenance crew was in the process of being deported, the director of human resources had stopped coming to work, and more than 50 employees were being held at a detention facility in rural Nebraska.

Hartmann, 52, folded the printed sheet into tiny squares and waited out the silence.

“So, this gives you a pretty good

A Business in Peril and Families Split Apart

sense of the work we have ahead of us,” he said.

“It’s a wipeout,” said Gary Rohwer, the owner. “We’re building back up from ground zero.”

It had been almost three weeks since dozens of federal agents arrived at the factory’s door with a battering ram and a warrant for 107 workers who they said were undocumented immigrants using false identification — part of a

wave of workplace raids carried out by the Trump administration this summer. The president’s advisers had set a target of 3,000 arrests per day, shifting the focus of enforcement away from the border and into the heart of the American economy.

Trump had vowed to pursue “bloodthirsty criminals” during his campaign, but he had also promised the “largest mass deportation in history,” which meant agents were rounding up hundreds of immigrants from restaurant kitchens, avocado groves, construction sites and meat pro-

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Debate Roiling Garden State: Turf vs. Grass

By KEN BELSON and HIROKO TABUCHI

RIDGEWOOD, N.J. — Across the country, cities and towns are replacing grass fields with synthetic turf, a change that is driven by youth sports teams eager for more year-round playing spaces and the multibillion-dollar turf industry working to convince communities that plastic fields are better than natural ones.

Many local officials, at the urging of families involved in youth sports, say turf fields can easily be played on after it rains and don’t need to be mowed or reseeded.

But some residents, environmentalists and coaches are pushing back, claiming turf — which is made of plastic blades that mimic the look of grass and often sit on a layer of crumb rubber — is expensive to maintain because it must be replaced after several years, is vulnerable to flooding and exposes children to harmful chemicals and hotter temperatures.

The debate over whether to install turf over grass fields has become a referendum on sports, health, the environment and the use of scarce public resources. In 2022, Boston effectively banned the installation of artificial turf, and municipalities in California, Connecticut and elsewhere have followed suit.

The rift has been particularly intense in Ridgewood, N.J., a bedroom community of 26,000 residents about 15 miles west of Man-

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ARASH KHAMOOSHI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Picturesque, but Parched

After years of drought and poor management, Iran is in danger of depleting all of its water. Page 10.

Diplomats Headed to a Climate Summit May Find a Stripper Pole in Their Room

By ANA IONOVA

BELÉM, Brazil — The suite, with its crisp white sheets and tiny soaps, could almost pass for any no-frills hotel room. That is, if it weren’t for the mirrored ceilings and the dance pole by the bed.

The décor of Motel Secreto, on the fringes of the Brazilian city of Belém, normally serves as a backdrop for lunch-hour trysts, clan-

destine affairs and passion-struck lovers seeking a few hours of privacy away from cramped family homes.

But the love motel, like others across Belém, is now preparing rooms that range from the sensual to the raunchy for a different kind of guest: diplomats and climate scientists, civil servants and environmental activists, all descending on the city in November for the

30th United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP30.

“We’re taking out anything too erotic from the rooms,” said Yorann Costa, 30, the owner of Motel Secreto, Portuguese for “Secret Motel.” “And the location is perfect.”

The 12-day summit, the first global climate gathering to be held in the Amazon region, has set

off a rush to prepare Belém, a port city of 1.3 million, for tens of thousands of visitors. To meet the demand for hotel rooms, officials vowed to nearly triple the city’s stock, from 18,000 beds in 2023 to 50,000 for the event.

As the summit nears though, uncertainty over whether there will be enough lodging has pushed hotel rates above \$1,000 a night and threatened to cause a diplo-

matic crisis, with some delegations complaining that eye-watering prices may bar poorer nations — often grappling with the worst impacts of climate change — from attending.

Seeking to calm jitters, Brazil said this month it had struck a deal with two cruise ships to provide some 6,000 additional beds, which will first be offered to devel-

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ISRAELI OFFICIALS REBUT NETANYAHU ON HAMAS THEFTS

BASIS FOR FOOD CURBS

Routine Stealing of U.N. Aid Is Unproved, Say Some in Military

By NATAN ODENHEIMER

JERUSALEM — For nearly two years, Israel has accused Hamas of stealing aid provided by the United Nations and other international organizations. The government has used that claim as its main rationale for restricting food from entering Gaza.

But the Israeli military never found proof that the Palestinian militant group had systematically stolen aid from the United Nations, the biggest supplier of emergency assistance to Gaza for most of the war, according to two senior Israeli military officials and two other Israelis involved in the matter.

In fact, the Israeli military officials said, the U.N. aid delivery system, which Israel derided and undermined, was largely effective in providing food to Gaza’s desperate and hungry population.

Now, with hunger at crisis levels in the territory, Israel is coming under increased international pressure over its conduct of the war in Gaza and the humanitarian suffering it has brought. Doctors in the territory say that an increasing number of their patients are suffering from — and dying of — starvation.

More than 100 aid agencies and rights groups warned this past week of “mass starvation” and implored Israel to lift restrictions on humanitarian assistance. The European Union and at least 28 governments, including Israeli allies like Britain, France and Canada, issued a joint statement condemning Israel’s “drip-feeding of aid” to Gaza’s two million Palestinian residents.

Israel has largely brushed off the criticism.

David Mencer, a government spokesman, said this week that there was “no famine caused by Israel.” Instead, he blamed Hamas and poor coordination by the United Nations for any food shortages.

On Saturday night, however, the Israeli military announced that it would revive the practice of dropping aid from airplanes, and make

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SAHER ALGHORRA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Palestinians with food hand-outs from aid trucks northwest of Gaza City last month.

INTERNATIONAL 4-12

A Fight for Toronto’s Streets

Drivers have applauded a law that would have the city rip out miles of bike lanes, but those two-wheel commuters would like a word. PAGE 4

Revolutionaries Removed

When a Mexico City mayor hauled away statues of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, criticism came from all sides. PAGE 6

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A.I.-Driven Schooling on Move

An expensive private artificial intelligence-based school in Austin, Texas, will be replicating itself nationwide. PAGE 13



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YouTube said its podcasts were drawing more than a billion people a month, a sign of a transformed industry. PAGE 1

Of Skibidi, Seggs and Sigmas

The linguist Adam Aleksic, who posts as Etymology Nerd on social media, argues that algorithms are reshaping the English language. PAGE 9

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During a historian’s 18-year quest for rare Chinese typewriters, there was one he thought he would never find. PAGE 1

For Help, Cater to the Elites

The Parrish Art Museum is among many institutions facing federal funding cuts. Maybe a gala can help. PAGE 1

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Tax Break for a \$9,000 Sauna?

A start-up run by an aide to Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is expanding the definition of a medical expense. PAGE 1

The Obsession With Protein

The breakout success of the David bar is proof that one macronutrient is king. But can the protein craze last? PAGE 6

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