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Former President Donald J. Trump with senior staff during a Super Tuesday watch party at Mar-a-Lago, in Palm Beach, Fla.

Geologists Say It’s Not Time to Declare a Human-Created Epoch

By RAYMOND ZHONG

The Triassic was the dawn of the dinosaurs. The Paleogene saw the rise of mammals. The Pleistocene included the last ice ages. Is it time to acknowledge humankind’s transformation of the planet with its own chapter in Earth history, the “Anthropocene,” or the human age?

Not yet, scientists have decided, after a debate that has spanned nearly 15 years. Or the blink of an eye, depending on how you look at it.

A committee of roughly two doz-

en scholars has, by a large majority, voted down a proposal to declare the start of the Anthropocene, a newly created epoch of geologic time, according to an internal announcement of the voting results seen by The New York Times.

By geologists’ current timeline of Earth’s 4.6-billion-year history, our world right now is in the Holocene, which began 11,700 years ago with the most recent retreat of the great glaciers. Amending the chronology to say we had moved on to the Anthropocene would represent an acknowledgment that recent, human-induced changes

Earth’s Changes Don’t Signal Start of New Era, Panel Rules

to geological conditions had been profound enough to bring the Holocene to a close.

The declaration would shape terminology in textbooks, research articles and museums worldwide. It would guide scientists in their understanding of our still-unfolding present for genera-

tions, perhaps even millenniums, to come.

In the end, though, the members of the committee that voted on the Anthropocene over the past month were not only weighing how consequential this period had been for the planet.

They also had to consider when, precisely, it began.

By the definition that an earlier panel of experts spent nearly a decade and a half debating and crafting, the Anthropocene started in the mid-20th century, when nuclear bomb tests scat-

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Russia Widens Its Air Attacks, But Pays Price

By CONSTANT MÉHEUT

KYIV, Ukraine — The Ukraine war has been fought largely on the ground in the past two years, with troops often locked in back-and-forth battles with heavy artillery and drone support. The countries’ air forces have played second fiddle because of Ukraine’s limited fleet of planes and Russia’s inability to gain the air supremacy it once expected.

But as the Russian military presses on with attacks in the east, its air force has taken on a greater role. Military analysts say Russia has increasingly used warplanes near the front lines to drop powerful guided bombs on Ukrainian positions and clear a path forward for the infantry. That tactic, used most notably in Avdiivka, the strategic eastern city captured by Russian forces last month, has yielded good results, experts say.

It has also come with risks.

“It’s a costly but quite effective tool that Russia is now using in the war,” said Serhiy Hrabyskiy, a retired Ukrainian army colonel. “It’s dangerous for them to send their fighter jets” close to the front line, he added, but it can “impact Ukrainian positions effectively.”

The Ukrainian Army last week said it had shot down seven Su-34 fighter jets, nearly all operating in the east, just a few days after

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FATMA FAHMY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A vendor sorted jewelry at a shop in the Khan el-Khalili market, home to many of Cairo’s gold shops.

In Egypt, Buying and Selling Gold to Stay Afloat

By VIVIAN YEE and NADA RASHWAN

CAIRO — Inside the wood-paneled shop in Cairo’s famed Khan el-Khalili market, the price of gold was slumping fast, and Rania Hussein was feeling the future slip through her fingers.

She and her mother watched the gold merchant weigh the necklace and three bangles they had brought in — jewelry Ms. Hussein had bought for her mother as a

In Turbulent Economy, Hesitant Speculators

present five years ago but which they now needed to sell. Her brother was getting married, an expensive undertaking even in normal times, but the economic crisis and soaring inflation that have gripped Egypt for more than two years left the family no choice.

Years of reckless spending and economic mismanagement had come to a head in 2022, when Russia’s invasion of Ukraine helped plunge Egypt into a financial crisis. The war in Gaza has only deepened the pain.

The crisis has jacked up the price of eggs at the grocery store as well as the new furniture her brother is required, by tradition, to buy for the marital home, Ms. Hussein said. It also has shut her

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Passing Years Cloud Memory Of Trump Term

Polarization May Yield ‘Collective Amnesia’

By JENNIFER MEDINA and REID J. EPSTEIN

Not all that long ago, many Americans committed hours a day to tracking then-President Donald J. Trump’s every move. And then, sometime after the riot at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and before his first indictment, they largely stopped.

They are having trouble remembering it all again.

More than three years of distance from the daily onslaught has faded, changed — and in some cases, warped — Americans’ memories of events that at the time felt searing. Polling suggests voters’ views on Mr. Trump’s policies and his presidency have improved in the rearview mirror. In interviews, voters often have a hazy recall of one of the most tumultuous periods in modern politics. Social scientists say that’s unsurprising. In an era of hyper-partisanship, there’s little agreed-upon collective memory, even about events that played out in public.

But as Mr. Trump pursues a return to power, the question of what exactly voters remember has rarely been more important. While Mr. Trump is staking his campaign on a nostalgia for a time not so long ago, Mr. Biden’s campaign is counting on voters to refocus on Mr. Trump, hoping they will recall why they denied him a second term.

“Remember how you felt the day after Donald Trump was elected president in 2016,” the Biden campaign wrote in a fundraising appeal last month. “Remember walking around in disbelief and fear of what was to come.”

For now, the erosion of time appears to be working in Mr. Trump’s favor, as swing voters base their support on their feelings about the present, not the past. A New York Times/Siena College poll conducted late last

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TRUMP AND BIDEN PILE UP VICTORIES ON SUPER TUESDAY

HALEY MAKES NO DENT

A Former Governor Must Decide Whether to Stay in the Race

By JONATHAN WEISMAN

Former President Donald J. Trump romped through the Republican Super Tuesday primaries, piling up delegates and positioning himself to possibly sweep all 15 states on his way to a likely rematch with President Biden in November.

By late on Tuesday night, Mr. Trump had defeated Nikki Haley in every state called by The Associated Press, including Texas and North Carolina, the states with the second and third largest delegate counts on Tuesday.

California, with the largest, had not been called, but it appeared possible that Ms. Haley, the former governor of South Carolina, would be left pinning her hopes on tiny Vermont, where she and Mr. Trump were locked in a tight contest. It was hard to see what state she could win if she could not secure Vermont, a Democratic state led for the past seven years by a moderate Republican governor.

For Ms. Haley, Super Tuesday was quickly shaping up to be a major disappointment. After winning the Republican primary in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, she was hoping the Northern Virginia suburbs would mirror that city’s voting and deliver the state of Virginia to her. They did not. After that, one state after another slipped from her grasp.

Neither Mr. Trump nor Mr. Biden could win enough delegates on Tuesday to make them the presumptive nominees of their parties. But sweeps for both men would make them the prohibitive favorites.

Mr. Biden faced only nominal opposition, though in Minnesota,

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Accidental Creator of ’50s Skirt For Cool Cats With Poodle Flair

By MARGALIT FOX

What’s a nice Jewish viscountess to do when she has a title but no money, a party invitation but no clothes and a pair of scissors but no sewing skills?

Invent the poodle skirt, of course.

That, quite by accident, is what Juli Lynne Charlot did in late 1947, in the process creating a totem of midcentury material culture as evocative as the saddle shoe, the Hula-Hoop and the pink plastic lawn flamingo.

Ms. Charlot, a New York native who died at 101 on Sunday at her home in Tepoztlán, Mexico, had been a Hollywood singer before her marriage in the mid-1940s to a viscount, or British nobleman. Fashion conscious but hopeless with a needle, she stumbled by necessity onto a pattern for a striking skirt that involved no sewing: Take a large swath of solid-colored felt, cut it into an expansive circle, adorn it with jaunty appliquéd figures in contrasting colors, snip a hole in the center and pop yourself in.

The result, the embellished circle skirt, was ubiquitous throughout the 1950s, bought in droves by women and, in particular, adolescent girls. With its voluminous fabric that flared prettily when the wearer twirled, it was just the thing for a sock hop.

Over the years, circle skirts by



VIA CHARLOT FAMILY

Juli Lynne Charlot in 2008. Collectors prize her designs.

Ms. Charlot and her many imitators came adorned with a range of figurative appliqué, often comprising small visual narratives. But because the garment’s most popular incarnation sported images of poodles, all such skirts came generically to be known as poodle skirts.

“When I was a teenager, every girl in the entire Western world wore a poodle skirt,” the humorist Erma Bombeck wrote in a 1984

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Two Giants in a Tiny Paradise

China and India are crowding the Maldives with building projects, tossing its newborn democracy to and fro. PAGE A4

The Princess and the Press

Journalists in Britain are trying to balance the right to privacy with a thirst for royal stories. PAGE A9

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Bitcoin Bounces Back Big

The price of the volatile cryptocurrency hit a record high, surging above \$69,000, breaking the record the digital currency set in November 2021. PAGE B1

China’s Robust Growth Goal

Beijing is aiming for about 5 percent, but remains resistant to deficit spending for economic stimulus. PAGE B1

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A College Team Unionizes

The Dartmouth men’s basketball team formed a union, a big step in classifying student-athletes as employees. PAGE B9



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A team of veterinarians is rushing to save cows, horses, donkeys, cats and dogs from devastation. PAGE A11

Weight Pills and Pregnancy

More turn to weight-loss drugs in hopes of having a healthy pregnancy, but the risks aren’t understood. PAGE A12

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Higher Wages for Servers

Our nation’s capital is raising pay for restaurant workers, and other areas, including the State of New York, may soon follow suit. We check to see what that will mean for the rest of us. PAGE D1

The Best Way to Roast Veggies

A roasted vegetable is a delight, even when it is cooked with just oil, salt and pepper. But one method of roasting will give you caramelized and crisp yet tender results all year long. PAGE D7

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A Builder of Community

Riken Yamamoto of Japan was awarded the Pritzker Prize for designs that inspire social connection and both literal and figurative transparency. PAGE C1