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NICOLE CRAINE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Neither the Justice Department nor the F.B.I. would say what prompted the search of the Fulton County elections office near Atlanta.

## Judge Scuttles Death Penalty For Mangione

This article is by **Hurubie Meko, Benjamin Weiser and Anusha Bayya.**

A Manhattan federal judge on Friday ruled that prosecutors would not be able to seek the death penalty at the trial of Luigi Mangione, the 27-year-old man accused of assassinating United-Healthcare’s chief executive in 2024.

The judge, Margaret Garnett of Federal District Court, said the case would still proceed to trial on two other counts, which carry a maximum sentence of life in prison without parole, in the killing of the executive, Brian Thompson.

But she dismissed two charges, including one that carried the death penalty, she said in a 39-page opinion.

Judge Garnett also said in a separate 43-page order that she would allow federal prosecutors to use evidence seized from a backpack that Mr. Mangione had when he was arrested on Dec. 9, 2024, five days after the shooting.

The decisions came before a hearing in the case held in federal court on Friday. At the hearing, Mr. Mangione sat flanked by his lawyers, wearing the tan scrubs that are the standard issue for prisoners in federal jail.

After the setback for the prosecution, the U.S. attorney’s office for the Southern District of New York said it was not prepared to decide if it would appeal the judge’s ruling. Dominic A. Gentile, a prosecutor, said the government was “prepared to go to trial, and we are prepared to meet the schedule that has been set.”

Jury selection is set to start on Sept. 8 in the federal case before Judge Garnett.

The judge’s decision is a blow to the Trump administration’s efforts to revive the use of the death penalty in federal cases.

Attorney General Pam Bondi announced in April that prosecutors would seek the death penalty against Mr. Mangione. Her decision came after “careful consideration,” she said, and was in line with President Trump’s executive order directing the Justice Department to renew death penalty requests after President Joseph R. Biden Jr. declared a moratorium on capital punishment for most federal offenders in 2021.

Mr. Mangione’s lawyers have argued that the decision was “explicitly and unapologetically political.”

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## Trump Shows, for Him, 2020 Election Isn’t Over

This article is by **Glenn Thrush, Nick Corasaniti, Julian E. Barnes, Alan Feuer and Richard Fausset.**

WASHINGTON — President Trump’s undisputed victory in 2024 did little to diminish his drive for revenge and redemption after his gnawing defeat in 2020, and no state has been a greater focus of this rearview mirror fixation than Georgia, which he lost by fewer than 12,000 votes.

On Wednesday, that obsession translated into action, when a team of F.B.I. agents, armed with a search warrant, descended on the Fulton County, Ga., elections hub outside Atlanta to seize ballots, voter rolls and scanner images — even though previous investigations have found no evidence to support his false claims of widespread fraud.

But if the search was rooted in the past, it might also be a harbinger of things to come, signaling Mr. Trump’s growing willingness to use the vast powers of federal law enforcement to intervene in election matters in the lead-up to the critical 2026 midterms, which will determine the extent of his authority for the remainder of his

### F.B.I. Search in Georgia Hints at Challenges for Midterms

second term.

The evidence used to obtain the search warrant, issued by a federal magistrate judge, is not yet known. But Democrats and election security experts say its primary purpose is to intimidate Trump opponents while empowering Trump supporters seeking an excuse to take control of the elections office in Fulton County and to undermine confidence in the process.

The icy ripple of the search spread far beyond Georgia. Mr. Trump has said he intends to stop Democrats from stealing the election. Top Justice Department and F.B.I. leaders have refused to say he lost the 2020 election, and have

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NICK OXFORD FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Summer Boismier storing the books that prompted Oklahoma to revoke her teaching certification.

## How a Book Booster Got Barred From Teaching

By **DANA GOLDSTEIN**

YUKON, Okla. — Summer Boismier hauled open the garage door of her storage unit and searched for the boxes of books that ended her career.

She lugged a few into the trunk of her car and drove to her mom’s suburban house in Yukon, Okla., where she now lives. Kneeling on the rug in the living room, she began peeling off the dried packing tape, opening the cardboard tops for the first time since she had closed them in 2022.

In eight years and one day of

### Fought a Law Against ‘Divisive Concepts’

teaching public school in her home state, Ms. Boismier, 37, had amassed a 500-volume classroom library, procured on her \$58,000 salary. She lent the books to high school students in an effort to get them reading something that sparked their interest in a screen-addled world.

She began pulling books out to show a reporter: “Night,” “The

Sound and the Fury,” “Lord of the Flies.” But also more contemporary choices: “Long Way Down,” about a Black teenager confronting gun violence and racism. “The Girl From the Sea,” a lesbian coming-of-age graphic novel.

She remembered when one student who was often absent and rarely participated in class took her copy of “March,” about the life of John Lewis, and never returned it. Ms. Boismier didn’t mind. Recommending a book that a teenager fell in love with was “a high like no other,” she said.

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## Justice Dept. Investigating Pretti’s Death

### A Civil Rights Inquiry Signals a Major Shift

By **ALAN FEUER**

The Justice Department has opened a civil rights investigation into the shooting of Alex Pretti, the intensive care nurse who was killed in Minneapolis last weekend by federal immigration agents, Todd Blanche, the deputy attorney general, said on Friday.

The announcement marked a significant reversal in the department’s approach to Mr. Pretti’s killing, suggesting that after a week of lacerating criticism, it had decided to handle the high-profile incident in a manner more in keeping with how investigators have traditionally dealt with fatal shootings by law-enforcement officers.

But even as Mr. Blanche disclosed the existence of the inquiry, he sought to downplay it.

“I don’t want to overstate what is happening,” he said. “I don’t want the takeaway to be there is some massive civil rights investigation. I would describe it as a standard investigation by the F.B.I.”

Still, all of this sounded quite different from the Trump administration’s stance at the beginning of the week.

On Monday, officials revealed in court papers that the inquiry into the shooting would be led by investigators from the Department of Homeland Security and would focus not on the broad question of whether immigration agents had deprived Mr. Pretti of his civil rights in the incident, but rather on the narrower issue of whether the agents’ use of force had violated internal protocols and training standards.

The court papers also said Homeland Security Investigations, an arm of the Homeland Security Department, would take the lead in the inquiry, assisted by both Customs and Border Protection and the F.B.I.

But on Friday, a Homeland Security spokesperson said that the bureau would now take the lead in the inquiry and that H.S.I. would

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### THE WEATHER

Today, cold, partly cloudy, dry, high 20. Tonight, very cold, cloudy, breezy, dry, low 14. Tomorrow, still cold, clouds, afternoon sun, windy, high 24. Weather map, Page A22.

## EYEING RATE CUT, TRUMP LINES UP A NEW FED CHAIR

### EX-GOVERNOR OF BANK

#### Nominee Is Likely to Face a Contentious Battle for Confirmation

This article is by **Colby Smith, Tony Romm and Ben Casselman.**

President Trump announced on Friday that he was nominating Kevin M. Warsh to serve as the next chair of the Federal Reserve, positioning the former central bank governor to take a pivotal role in steering an institution that has faced a barrage of attacks from the administration over its reluctance to more aggressively lower interest rates.

In a post on Truth Social, Mr. Trump praised Mr. Warsh, saying, “He will go down as one of the GREAT Fed Chairmen, maybe the best.”

“On top of everything else, he is ‘central casting’ and will never let you down,” the president wrote.

Mr. Trump repeated that line during remarks at the White House and said that while he did not get a commitment from Mr. Warsh to cut rates, he expected that he would do so.

“He certainly wants to cut rates, I’ve been watching him for a long time,” Mr. Trump said.

Still, there are substantial questions about what direction Mr. Warsh will ultimately lead the central bank if he is confirmed by the Senate.

For much of his career, Mr. Warsh was seen as a “hawk” who favored higher interest rates to keep inflation at bay. Only more recently, as he has sought the Fed job, has he begun calling for the lower interest rates that Mr. Trump prefers.

“The question is, which Warsh are we going to get?” said Michael

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Kevin Warsh

### More on the White House

**LEMON ARRESTED** The former CNN anchor and three others were accused of violating federal law during a church protest. PAGE A14

**FACT CHECK** President Trump and officials trying to shift blame over two shootings use various claims for the influx of U.S. agents. PAGE A15

CATHERINE O’HARA, 1954-2026

## An Actress of Blockbuster Hits And Quirky Comedic Brilliance

By **ALEX WILLIAMS and RYLEE KIRK**

Catherine O’Hara, the Emmy Award-winning comic actress who endeared herself to audiences, blending a maternal Everywoman quality with a sly touch of the surreal, as showcased in blockbusters like the “Home Alone” films as well as offbeat fare like the hit TV series “Schitt’s Creek,” died on Friday at her home in Los Angeles. She was 71.

Creative Artists Agency, which represented her, confirmed her death in a statement, which did not cite a cause, saying only that she had been briefly ill.

A native of Toronto, Ms. O’Hara began her climb to fame as an understudy to Gilda Radner with the Second City, the improvisational comedy troupe. Second City gave rise to the acclaimed Canadian sketch comedy show “SCTV,” which functioned as a north-of-the-border answer to “Saturday Night Live” and became a similar conveyor belt of Hollywood talent.



DANNY MOLOSHOK/REUTERS

Catherine O’Hara in 2019.

Her co-stars included John Candy, Rick Moranis and Eugene Levy.

Mr. Levy and Ms. O’Hara, equally matched in oddball charm, had a running history over the years, starting in their days in Canada. “When I was waitressing, we tried dating, actually,” Ms. O’Hara said in a 2019 interview with The New Yorker. “There’s

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### Russia Finds Ukraine’s Gaps

The swift advance of Moscow’s forces into the town of Huliapole showcases a central challenge for Kyiv. PAGE A7

### Syria’s Deal to Merge Forces

The government and a Kurdish-led militia sealed a long-anticipated agreement to integrate. PAGE A6

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Josh D’Amaro is widely considered a front-runner to be the company’s next C.E.O. His big challenge may be escaping Robert A. Iger’s shadow. PAGE B1

### A Google Founder’s Big Push

Sergey Brin’s \$20 million donation to an effort to solve California’s housing crisis may help ward off a wealth tax. PAGE B1

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### 36 Hours in Mexico City

Vivid street life, perfect weather, countless art spaces and exceptional food await in Mexico’s capital. PAGE C9



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### History of Westminster’s Stars

For nearly a century, photographers for The New York Times have captured red carpet galas of best in show. PAGE C1

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### Setting a World Record at 81

After losing her husband of 60 years, Bonnie Sumner did what she had to do, and then returned to the gym. She discovered she had a special skill for hanging from a pull-up bar. PAGE A10

### Speaking Up in Minnesota

Federal agents began Operation Metro Surge in Minnesota’s Twin Cities late last year. After the deaths of two U.S. citizens, many residents say they feel overwhelmed. PAGE A13

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### Jean Guerrero

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### He Is Still Going Strong

Novak Djokovic, 38, beat Jannik Sinner to reach the Australian Open final. He can become the oldest man to win a Grand Slam tennis singles title. PAGE B8



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