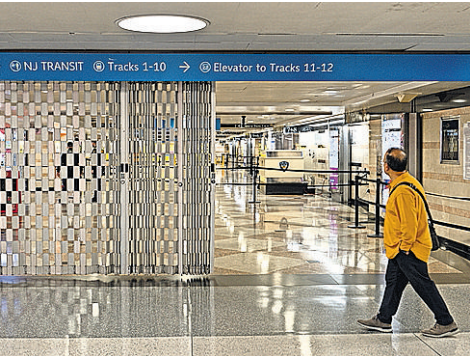




BRYAN ANSELM FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



KARSTEN MORAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



JUAN ARREDONDO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



DAVE SANDERS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Clockwise from top: Waiting for a New Jersey Transit train at the Brick Church station in East Orange, N.J., before realizing a strike canceled service on Friday; the system’s bus routes ran as normal; Pennsylvania Station in New York; engineers walking off the job.

In New Jersey,
Transit Strikers
Roil Commute

By PATRICK MCGEEHAN
The first statewide transit strike in New Jersey in more than 40 years left a fleet of passenger trains parked in rail yards and thousands of commuters stranded, annoyed and bewildered Friday morning.
The strike followed months of negotiations between New Jersey Transit, the nation’s third-largest commuter rail network, and the union that represents train drivers, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen. Union members began picketing at stations on Friday after contract talks broke down late Thursday night.
State officials said they hoped to resume negotiations with the union over the weekend so that the strike would end before Monday.

Gov. Philip D. Murphy apologized to commuters whose trips had been disrupted and blamed union leaders for refusing to accept an offer that he said was fair to their members and fiscally responsible for the state.
“It is frankly a mess of their own making and it is a slap in the face of every commuter and worker who relies on N.J. Transit,” Mr. Murphy, a Democrat, said at a news conference in Aberdeen, N.J.
Thomas Haas, the union’s general chairman, said his negotiating team had been optimistic about reaching an agreement until late Thursday.
“They decided to walk away,” Mr. Haas said. “It’s definitely frustrating, but we’re willing to go back to the table.”
Some commuters did not learn about the shutdown until they arrived at their local train stations early Friday.
Leslie Bell, 34, was stuck at the station in Trenton, trying to get to his job as supervisor at a Wawa store in Newark. He had bought

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Louisiana Seeks to Ditch Desegregation Orders

By SARAH MERVOSH
Republican leaders in Louisiana are pushing to end the last remnants of federally ordered school desegregation in their state, arguing that the era of racial exclusion is in the past and that the U.S. government has forced burdensome requirements on school districts long enough.
They may have found allies in the Trump administration, as it seeks to slash federal bureaucracy and roll back diversity efforts across the country.
It has been 71 years since the Supreme Court made racially segregated schools illegal in its landmark 1954 ruling, Brown v. Board of Education. Louisiana officials

Minorities’ Legal Tool
No Longer Needed?

say that federal orders forcing school districts to comply with the decision are outdated and no longer needed, and that the country needs to move on.
Civil rights advocates see the effort as part of a broader attack on Black students and civil rights under the Trump administration, at a time when U.S. schools are only growing more segregated.
Nationally, more than 300 desegregation orders are estimated to still be on the books from the 1960s and 1970s, when school dis-

tricts resistant to integration were put under the supervision of federal courts. In the decades since, many orders have gone dormant, with little federal enforcement.
In Louisiana, one of several Southern states with the bulk of remaining orders, the attorney general, with the support of the governor, is reviewing orders statewide and has vowed to work with school districts to “officially put the past in the past.”
The Justice Department has already dismissed one order, in a district south of New Orleans, that it said was left open by mistake. Federal officials are open to lifting others.
“I don’t think it serves the inter-

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CHARLES STROUSE, 1928-2025

Composer of Broadway’s Enduring Earworms

By MARGALIT FOX
Charles Strouse, an accidental Broadway composer whose work — including hits like “Annie” and “Bye Bye Birdie” — earned him three Tony Awards, a Grammy and an Emmy, died on Thursday at his home in Manhattan. He was 96.
His death was confirmed by Jim Byk, a spokesman for the family.
Mr. Strouse had more than a dozen Broadway shows to his credit and composed some of the most enduring musical theater numbers of his era: “Put On a Happy Face” and “Kids (What’s the Matter With Kids Today?)” from “Bye Bye Birdie,” which opened in 1960 and featured lyrics by his frequent collaborator Lee Adams; “But Alive” from “Applause” (1970), a musical adaptation of “All About Eve” starring Lauren Bacall, with lyrics by Mr. Adams; and “Tomorrow” and “It’s the Hard-Knock Life” from “Annie” (1977), with lyrics by Martin Charnin.
All three shows earned Tonys for Mr. Strouse — “Birdie” and “Applause” for best musical and “Annie” for best original score. Both “Birdie” and “Annie” were made into hit movies.
Mr. Strouse’s music has been recorded by Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Duke Ellington and Jay-Z, who sampled the corresponding number from Broadway’s “Annie” on his 1998 rap single “Hard Knock Life (Ghetto Anthem).”
Some of Mr. Strouse’s numbers became so ubiq-

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BENTLEY ARCHIVE/POPPERFOTO, VIA GETTY IMAGES

Charles Strouse, seated in 1972 beside his frequent collaborator Lee Adams, wrote catchy hits for “Annie” and “Bye Bye Birdie.”

G.O.P. Tax Bill May Help
Richest Above All Others

Revolt by Far Right
Seeking Deep Cuts
Halts a Measure

By CATIE EDMONDSON
WASHINGTON — Conservatives on the House Budget Committee on Friday blocked their party’s megabill from advancing toward the floor, citing concerns that the legislation to fulfill President Trump’s domestic agenda would add too much to the deficit.
It was a remarkable revolt that threatened to upend the party’s goal of pushing the legislation through the House before its Memorial Day recess and sent Republican leaders scrambling to try to put down the uprising.
The setback underscored the treacherous balancing act that Speaker Mike Johnson is trying to pull off. Without the support of Republican hard-liners on the Budget Committee, the bill cannot advance. But any changes to win their backing could alienate the more moderate Republicans whose votes will also be needed to pass the measure on the House floor.
Five Republicans representatives — Chip Roy of Texas, Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Josh Brecheen of Oklahoma, Andrew Clyde of Georgia, and Lloyd Smucker of Pennsylvania — joined Democrats in voting to block the legislation. The vote was 16 to 21 on a motion to advance the bill.
“This bill falls profoundly short; it does not do what we say it does with respect to deficits,” Mr. Roy said ahead of the vote, explaining his opposition. “Deficits will go up in the first half of the 10-year budget window, and we all know it’s true, and we shouldn’t do that. We shouldn’t say that we’re doing something we’re not doing.”
A few hours after the vote failed, committee leaders announced that the panel would reconvene Sunday at 10 p.m. to reconsider the legislation. It was not clear what, if any, changes Republican leaders agreed to before calling lawmakers back.
But immediately after the vote, they had not seemed optimistic: The committee’s chairman, Rep-

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Analysts See Harm
for Poor and Small
Gains for Most

By TONY ROMM
WASHINGTON — As Representative Jason Smith commenced a marathon session this week to consider a sprawling and expensive Republican tax package, he took special care to emphasize his party’s commitment to “hard-working Americans.”
“Pro-growth tax policy will shift our economy toward one that serves them, not the wealthy and well-connected,” Mr. Smith, the Missouri lawmaker who leads the House’s top tax panel, proclaimed.
But the proposal he is trying to get to President Trump’s desk ultimately tells a more complicated story. The Republican tax plan may offer only modest gains to ev-

The Latest Assessment

The Penn Wharton Budget Model’s assessment of the Republican tax cuts, including plans to pay for them by slashing spending on programs like Medicaid and food stamps.
LOSS People making \$17,000 to \$51,000 could lose about \$700 on average in after-tax income in 2026 and more after.
GAIN People with incomes over \$4.3 million would gain on average more than \$389,000 in after-tax income in 2026.

eryday workers, according to a wide range of tax experts, and some taxpayers may actually be left in worse financial shape if the bill becomes law.
The latest assessment arrived Friday from the Penn Wharton Budget Model, a nonpartisan scorekeeper closely watched on Capitol Hill. Economists found that many Americans who make less than \$51,000 a year would see their after-tax income fall as a result of the Republican proposal beginning in 2026.
The Penn Wharton estimate sought to analyze the full scope of the Republican tax package, com-

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More on the White House

C.I.A. Diversity efforts once deemed essential to the agency are being dismantled. **PAGE A8**
MADE FOR TV Could immigrants win citizenship on a reality show? It’s not off the table. **PAGE A11**
‘HE GETS US’ Many Saudis have become big Trump fans, because he shares their values. **PAGE A5**
HEALTH CARE A new study found that Medicaid’s expansion has saved thousands of lives. **PAGE A11**

Justices Temporarily Block Use
Of Enemy Law on Venezuelans

By ABBIE VANSICKLE
WASHINGTON — The Trump administration will not be allowed to deport a group of Venezuelan detainees accused of being members of a violent gang under a rarely invoked wartime law while the matter is litigated in the courts, the Supreme Court said on Friday.
The justices sent the case back to a federal appeals court, directing it to examine claims by the migrants that they could not be legally deported under the Alien Enemies Act, the centuries-old wartime law invoked by the Trump administration. The justices said the appeals court should also examine what kind of notice the government should be required to provide that would allow migrants the opportunity to challenge their deportations.
The court said its order would remain in place until the U.S.

Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled and the Supreme Court considered any appeal from that ruling.
Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. wrote a dissent, arguing that the justices had no authority to hear the dispute at this stage. He was joined by Justice Clarence Thomas.
The ruling deals a sharp blow to the Trump administration’s efforts to deploy the wartime law to pursue swift, sweeping deportations of Venezuelan migrants accused of being members of the gang, Tren de Aragua.
It also suggests that a majority of the justices may be skeptical of whether the migrants have been afforded enough due process protections by the administration before being deported, potentially to a prison for terrorists in El

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BUSINESS B1-7
An Answer to Expensive Cars?
Slate Auto, a start-up backed by Jeff Bezos, plans to sell a small, spartan electric truck that comes with no paint, stereo or touch-screen display. **PAGE B1**

A Future Making Solar Panels
For India, global wariness of Chinese solar and E.V. domination, and some incentives, gives it an opening. **PAGE B1**

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A Grand Hotel Spruces Up
The landmark Hotel del Coronado near San Diego has been meticulously restored to its former glory. **PAGE C7**

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Romania’s Presidential Race
George Simion, a nationalist who calls himself a “MAGA ticket” candidate, is considered the favorite. **PAGE A4**

Russia-Ukraine Prisoner Swap
Each side agreed to release 1,000 soldiers. But they failed to broker a meeting between their two leaders. **PAGE A6**




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Big Cities Are Sinking
New research shows that too much groundwater is being pumped out, threatening buildings and infrastructure nationwide. **PAGE A9**

Questioning Testimony
Lawyers for Sean Combs pushed to undermine one of the most damaging allegations in his trial — that he raped Casandra Ventura. **PAGE A17**

Rushdie’s Attacker Sentenced
Hadi Matar, who was found guilty in a 2022 stabbing that left the acclaimed author blind in one eye, received a prison term of 25 years. **PAGE A17**

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Wading Into a Debate
A social media celebrity known as Ms. Rachel defends making the plight of children in Gaza a focus. **PAGE C1**

Billy Woods Will Alarm You
The hip-hop artist’s 12th solo album, “Golliwog,” arrives full of horror stories at a peak in his career. **PAGE C1**



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Triple Crown Conundrum
Once again, a Kentucky Derby winner will not be in the running for the sport’s top prize. Commentary. **PAGE B11**

Pitcher Stares Down Cancer
Nic Enright was on the way to his major-league dream. A diagnosis changed — but did not stop — his plans. **PAGE B8**

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