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Prices in Canada may be higher

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LUCIA BELL-EPSTEIN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Bedtime Exhibition

Sleepovers returned to the American Museum of Natural History after 5 years with a reading of “The Night at the Museum.” Page C1.

Sexual Crimes At Sea Are Up, To Little Justice

By CEYLAN YEGINSU

Two days into a 12-night Caribbean cruise on the Norwegian Sun, after an evening watching karaoke with her parents, a 20-year-old woman went to the nightclub to meet people her age.

After ordering a drink around 11 p.m., the woman, referred to as Jane Doe in a lawsuit filed against the cruise line in December 2024, said she remembered nothing until the early morning, when she stumbled down the corridors, frantically tapping her key card on door after door until she found the stateroom she shared with her parents.

They heard her come in around 2 a.m. but didn’t fully awaken until someone banged on their door at 5 a.m. Through the peephole, Doe’s father saw two men shouting his daughter’s name. Her mother called security; it was then she saw her daughter on the bed shaking.

“She had a few drinks, but this was another level of intoxication,” her mother, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, recalled, speaking on the condition of anonymity to protect her daughter’s privacy.

When the security officer asked Doe if she knew the men, she started crying and made references to having had sexual activity with them.

It wasn’t until hours later, when she tested positive for an ingredient commonly used in date rape drugs that Doe said she knew she had been sexually assaulted: “I realized what they did to me when I got the drug test results.”

Doe’s experience was one of 120 alleged sexual assaults on cruise ships that were reported to the F.B.I. in 2024, up from 101 in 2019, a year before the pandemic shut down the industry. From January to September this year, 102 cases were reported, compared with 95 for the same period last year. Those figures are likely higher as many cases go unreported, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, a U.S.-based anti-sexual-assault organization.

As cruising hits record demand, with 34.6 million passengers last year, crime on ships sailing from the United States has also risen. Among the crimes that ships must report — including thefts of items worth more than \$10,000 and

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Not a Sanctuary, but Still a Border Patrol Target

By EDUARDO MEDINA

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The city of Charlotte was just maturing into a glossy, multiethnic metropolis when Dora Martinez moved here from Mexico nearly three decades ago.

She watched as the city’s banking industry, the country’s second-largest behind New York, created a boom for construction workers, many of them undocumented, and transformed Charlotte into a haven for immigrants, especially from Latin America.

Now she looked out at her sliver of East Charlotte, a walkable immigrant enclave, and saw it de-

void of foot traffic. She had seen the masked men in paramilitary uniforms zooming past her house in black S.U.V.s and had decided not to venture out for groceries or for shifts at a nearby laundromat. But she allowed herself a few moments of fresh air at dusk to hide from agents of “la migra” — slang for the Border Patrol — searching for undocumented people like her.

Resting on Sunday evening on a plastic chair, Ms. Martinez wondered when the agents would leave the city that now felt more like home than Mexico.

“Why here?” she asked. “Why us?”

As the Trump administration’s crackdown on illegal immigration spreads, North Carolina’s largest city has emerged as an unexpected target far from any border, shaking a region that has quietly

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CITY BY CITY A look at how U.S. agents and troops have been put to use in various states. PAGE A11



CORNELL WATSON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

All Saints Orthodox Church in Raleigh, N.C., is among congregations having a boom in converts.

An Ancient Church Draws Young American Men

By RUTH GRAHAM

Something is changing in an otherwise quiet corner of Christianity in the United States, one that prides itself on how little it has changed over time. Priests are swapping stories about record attendance numbers. Older members are adjusting — or not — to the influx of new attendees. Parishes are strategizing about how to accommodate more prospective converts than existing clergy can reasonably handle on their own.

Orthodoxy ‘Appeals to the Masculine Soul’

Across the country, the ancient tradition of Orthodox Christianity is attracting energetic new adherents, especially among conservative young men. They are drawn to what they describe as a more demanding, even difficult, practice of Christianity. Echoing some of the rhetoric of the so-called manosphere, new waves of young

converts say Orthodoxy offers them hard truths and affirms their masculinity.

“In the whole history of the Orthodox Church in America, this has never been seen,” the Very Rev. Andrew Damick, an Antiochian Orthodox priest and author in Eastern Pennsylvania, said of the large groups of young people showing up at many parishes. “This is new ground for everyone.”

In the United States, Orthodox Christianity is by far the smallest

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N.Y.P.D. Head Agrees to Stay For Mamdani

Tisch and Mayor-Elect Form Unlikely Team

By MARIA CRAMER and EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

Zohran Mamdani, the mayor-elect of New York City, said on Wednesday that Jessica Tisch had agreed to stay on as police commissioner, forging an unlikely and high-stakes partnership.

The announcement came after weeks of speculation over whether Commissioner Tisch would agree to stay after Mr. Mamdani said he wanted to retain her — and after her demand to retain the power to discipline officers. The two leaders have many differences on policing, but her appointment could provide continuity as the Police Department faces pressing challenges.

“He’s asked me to serve as police commissioner in his administration, and after several conversations with him, I have agreed,” Commissioner Tisch said in an email sent to officers on Wednesday morning. “Leading this department is the greatest privilege of my life, and I am proud to continue doing it.”

Mr. Mamdani praised Commissioner Tisch for continuing to bring down crime and “cracking down on corruption” inside the department. He said in an interview that he had spoken to her about the importance of creating a Department of Community Safety that would divert some 911 calls to mental health teams in the hopes of allowing police officers to focus on violent crimes.

“We share a commitment to delivering safety and justice in tandem and a recognition of the fact that we are currently asking police officers to do far more than simply police,” he said.

The relationship between the mayor-elect and the leader he has chosen to oversee America’s largest police department will be closely watched once Mr. Mamdani takes office on Jan. 1. He is a democratic socialist who once called for defunding the police. She is a data-centric billionaire heiress who has sharply criticized laws to relax bail.

Mr. Mamdani has said he wants to empower the Civilian Complaint Review Board, the independent agency that investigates

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FINAL INDICTMENT WAS NOT SHOWN TO COMEY JURORS

PROSECUTORS GRILLED

Irregularities by the U.S. Attorneys That Could Derail the Case

By ALAN FEUER and DEVLIN BARRETT

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A federal judge grilled the prosecutors pursuing charges against James B. Comey, the former F.B.I. director, on Wednesday, interrogating them with a series of questions that underscored irregularities in the case, including that the full grand jury did not see the indictment it was supposed to have approved.

The questioning by the judge, Michael S. Nachmanoff, took place at an excruciatingly awkward hearing in Federal District Court in Alexandria, Va., that was nominally held to consider the narrow issue of whether the charges against Mr. Comey had been filed as an act of vindictive retribution by President Trump.

But Judge Nachmanoff peppered prosecutors with questions on a range of topics, including Mr. Trump’s own statements about wanting Mr. Comey to be indicted, and an earlier decision by career members of the U.S. attorney’s office in Alexandria to forgo bringing charges.

In one remarkable moment, the judge posed some of his questions directly to Lindsey Halligan, the U.S. attorney handpicked by Mr. Trump to bring the case, quizzing her on how she had presented it to the grand jury. Just this week, that subject led another judge involved in the case to suggest that she may have engaged in prosecutorial misconduct.

Judge Nachmanoff’s inquiries were extraordinary by almost any measure. But the answers prosecutors gave him in return were even more so.

At one point, Ms. Halligan admitted that she had never shown the second — and final — version of the Comey indictment to the full grand jury before the foreperson signed the charging document. Mr. Comey’s lawyers immediately seized on that irregularity, calling

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Where Did That Butterfly Go? Now a Radio Tag Can Track It.

By DAN FAGIN

For the first time, scientists are tracking the migration of monarch butterflies across much of North America, actively monitoring individual insects on journeys from as far away as Ontario all the way to their overwintering colonies in central Mexico.

This long-sought achievement could provide crucial insights into the poorly understood life cycles of hundreds of species of butterflies, bees and other flying insects at a time when many are in steep decline.

The breakthrough is the result of a tiny solar-powered radio tag that weighs just 60 milligrams and sells for \$200. Researchers have tagged more than 400 monarchs this year and are now following their journeys on a cellphone app created by the New Jersey-based company that makes the tags, Cellular Tracking Technologies.

Most monarchs weigh 500 to 600 milligrams, so each tag-bearing migrator making the transcontinental journey is, by weight, equivalent to a half-raisin carrying three uncooked grains of rice.

“There’s nothing that’s not amazing about this,” said Cheryl Schultz, a butterfly scientist at



HANNAH BEIER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A butterfly in Cape May, N.J., with a tiny solar-powered radio tag that weighs 60 milligrams.

Washington State University and the senior author of a recent study documenting a 22 percent drop in butterfly abundance in North America over a recent 20-year period. The movements of monarchs and other flying insects are cloaked in mystery, and “now we will have answers that could help us turn the tide for these bugs.”

Tracking the world’s most famous insect migration may also have a big social impact, with monarch lovers able to follow the progress of individual butterflies on the free app, called Project Monarch Science. Many of the

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Extreme Heat, Less Milk

Climate change is stressing Italy’s cows and challenging cheesemakers of in-demand favorites like burrata. PAGE A6

Zelensky’s Political Plight

The president’s allies are accused of enriching themselves while Ukraine’s soldiers die on the battlefield. PAGE A8

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A Story That Won’t Go Away

President Trump is being held captive to a news cycle that he can’t control when it comes to the sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. News Analysis. PAGE A15

Zeroing In on Ship Outage

Investigators said a tiny sticker had caused a wire to disconnect before a ship struck the Key Bridge. PAGE A13

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Top Aide to a New York Mayor

Sid Davidoff, the brash lieutenant of John V. Lindsay who also was his bodyguard and all-purpose fixer, was 86.

BUSINESS B1-8

Tariffs’ Impact on Trade

President Trump’s policies led to a contraction in imports in August, which narrowed the trade deficit, newly released data shows. PAGE B1

Vying for a Hollywood Prize

Paramount, Comcast and Netflix aim to buy all or part of Warner Bros. Discovery, an industry crown jewel. PAGE B1

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Unfurling Black Flag Again

Greg Ginn, 71, has remade his punk rock band once more — this time with some much-younger bandmates. PAGE C1



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Divine at Gardening, Too

Surrounded by sunflowers, hibiscuses and tomato plants, Bette Midler talks trash — and also compost. PAGE D7

Breaking Through Lifetimes

Jordan Firstman, of HBO’s “I Love LA,” discusses past lives, good fortune and his role on “English Teacher.” PAGE D1

SPORTS B9-12

A Riddle Within a Scandal

Guardians closer Emmanuel Clase, accused in a gambling case that jolted M.L.B., is an enigma to many. PAGE B9

James Seems Immune to Time

As he began his 23rd season, an N.B.A. record, LeBron James, 40, conjured memories of when it all began. PAGE B11

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