

TRUMP AND VANCE SCOLD ZELENSKY IN BLOWUP



President Trump accused President Volodymyr Zelensky of not being grateful enough for U.S. aid. Excerpts of the exchange, Page A6.

‘You’re gambling with the lives of millions of people. You’re gambling with World War III.’
President Trump

‘I think it’s disrespectful for you to come to the Oval Office to try to litigate this in front of the American media.’
Vice President JD Vance

‘You have nice ocean and don’t feel [the Russia threat] now, but you will feel it in the future.’
Volodymyr Zelensky, president of Ukraine

Santa Fe Life
Let Hackman
Try New Roles

By JULIA JACOBS
Years after Gene Hackman retired from acting, he was at dinner with a friend in New Mexico who wanted to know how actors were able to cry on cue.
“He put his head down at the table for about 30 seconds and raised his head up and there are tears coming down,” the friend, Doug Lanham, recalled. “He looked at me and goes, ‘How do you like that?’”
After a long career in movies that won him two Oscars and the admiration of generations of film lovers, Mr. Hackman left Hollywood behind for Santa Fe, where he spent his final decades enjoying its striking scenery, trying his hand at painting and writing novels while living what appeared to be a quiet but full life with his wife, Betsy Arakawa.
He played an active role in the city’s civic and social life during his early years there before slowing down and growing a bit more reclusive as he entered his late 80s and then his 90s, friends said. Some had been expecting to get word of his death from Ms. Arakawa one of these days.
So it was shocking for them to learn this week that Mr. Hackman, 95, had been found dead in the mud room of his home in Santa Fe and that Ms. Arakawa, 65, had been found dead in a bathroom near an open prescription bottle and scattered pills. One of the couple’s dogs, a German shepherd, was found dead in a nearby closet.
The Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Office, which is investigating after finding the bodies on Wednesday, said that there were no signs of
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Crypto Scandal Ensnares Argentina’s President

By JACK NICAS and DAVID YAFFE-BELLANY
The scandal began with a tweet. “The world wants to invest in Argentina,” Javier Milei, Argentina’s president, posted at 7:01 p.m. on Valentine’s Day, offering a code to buy a new cryptocurrency.
The digital coin was called \$Libra, and it had been created 23 minutes earlier.
Over the next few hours, thousands of people invested. \$Libra’s value skyrocketed.
Then it swiftly collapsed. The

\$250 Million Is Lost as
Coin Caves in Hours

largest stakeholders had sold their coins, leaving almost everyone else with a collective \$250 million in losses.
To cryptocurrency veterans, it was a classic “rug-pull.” A celebrity touts a new digital coin, prices soar and then insiders who own most of the coins pull the rug: They sell their stakes for a big

profit at the expense of amateur investors who got in later.
To Argentina, it was a national scandal. The president, critics said, had just scammed his constituents. The opposition called for impeachment. Argentine citizens filed a dozen criminal complaints. A federal prosecutor opened an investigation, with Mr. Milei as a target.
Then Mr. Milei left for Washington. At the Conservative Political Action Conference on Saturday, he gave a combative speech ahead of
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Tasting Flavors
From Far Away
Is Getting Close

By VERONIQUE GREENWOOD
Imagine you are video chatting with a distant friend who is eating lunch, and your pal’s sandwich looks delicious. What if you could ask your friend to dip a sensor into the meal, and give you a taste?
Remote snacking has moved a bit closer to virtual reality. In a paper on Friday in the journal Science Advances, Yizhen Jia, a graduate student in materials engineering at Ohio State University, his adviser Jinghua Li and their colleagues report that they helped volunteers taste flavors meant to represent distant samples of coffee, lemonade, fried eggs, cake and fish soup.
In an interview, Mr. Jia discussed a picture of him modeling one version of a device he and his colleagues built, which relies on microfluidics. Dangling from his lip are what look like five or six
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Arraignment for Drug Lord
A Justice Department image showed Rafael Caro Quintero arriving in Brooklyn from Mexico to answer U.S. charges. Page A16.

NEWS ANALYSIS
Jettisoning Ukraine
in Favor of Russia

By DAVID E. SANGER
WASHINGTON — After five weeks in which President Trump made clear his determination to scrap America’s traditional sources of power — its alliances among like-minded democracies — and return the country to an era of raw great-power negotiations, he left one question hanging: How far would he go in sacrificing Ukraine to his vision?
The remarkable shouting match that played out in front of the cameras Friday afternoon from the Oval Office provided the answer.
As Mr. Trump admonished President Volodymyr Zelensky and warned him that “you don’t have the cards” to deal with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, and as Vice President JD Vance dressed down the Ukrainian leader as being “disrespectful” and ungrateful, it was clear that the three-year wartime partnership between Washington and Kyiv was shattered.
Whether it can be repaired, and whether a deal to provide the United States with revenue from Ukrainian minerals that was the ostensible reason for the visit can be pieced back together, remains to be seen.

But the larger truth is that the venomous exchanges — broadcast not only to an astounded audience of Americans and Europeans who had never seen such open attacks on each other, but to Mr. Putin and his Kremlin aides — made evident that Mr. Trump regards Ukraine as an obstacle to what he sees as a far more vital project.
What Mr. Trump really wants, one senior European official said this week before the blowup, is a normalization of the relationship with Russia. If that means rewriting the history of Moscow’s illegal invasion three years ago, dropping investigations of Russian war crimes or refusing to offer Ukraine long-lasting security guarantees, then Mr. Trump, in this assessment of his intentions, is willing to make that deal.
To anyone listening carefully, that goal was bubbling just beneath the surface as Mr. Zelensky headed to Washington for his dis-
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Visit Abruptly Ends,
Imperiling a Deal
for Peace

By PETER BAKER
WASHINGTON — The United States’ relationship with Ukraine erupted in a storm of acrimony on Friday as President Trump and Vice President JD Vance berated President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine in an explosive televised Oval Office showdown and abruptly cut short a visit meant to coordinate a plan for peace.
In a fiery public confrontation unlike any seen between an American president and foreign leader in modern times, Mr. Trump and Mr. Vance castigated Mr. Zelensky for not being grateful enough for U.S. support in Ukraine’s war with Russia and sought to strong-arm him into making a peace deal on whatever terms the Americans dictated.
With his voice raised and temper flaring, Mr. Trump threatened to abandon Ukraine altogether if Mr. Zelensky did not go along. After journalists left the Oval Office, Mr. Trump canceled the rest of the visit, including a planned joint news conference and signing ceremony for a deal on rare minerals, and U.S. officials told the Ukrainians to leave. A grim-faced Mr. Zelensky strode out, climbed into a black sport utility vehicle and departed the White House grounds.
“I have determined that President Zelenskyy is not ready for Peace if America is involved, because he feels our involvement gives him a big advantage in negotiations,” Mr. Trump wrote on social media. “I don’t want advantage, I want PEACE. He disrespected the United States of America in its cherished Oval Office. He can come back when he is ready for Peace.”
The White House later sent out Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina and a close Trump ally, to tell reporters that Mr. Zelensky should consider stepping down. “He either needs to resign and send somebody over that we can do business with or he needs to change,” Mr. Graham said on the White House driveway.
The president’s verbal assault on Mr. Zelensky was a stunning display of anger and resentment toward the leader of a country that has been invaded by a larger power intent on eliminating it as
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NEWS ANALYSIS
Trump Team’s Grip on Lawyers
Makes It Difficult to Say ‘No’

By CHARLIE SAVAGE
WASHINGTON — After President Trump lost the 2020 election, his allies thought about what to do differently if he returned to power. One lesson from his first term, they decided, was that government lawyers, even very conservative Republican political appointees, had frequently raised legal objections to ideas he or his White House advisers put forward.
If they got another shot, they said in campaign interviews, they would install much more permissive gatekeepers. Now, a month into a term that has been defined by Mr. Trump’s radical challenges to the basic structure of government, his administration is moving aggressively to curb a critical internal check: independent legal thinking.
His appointees have swiftly cleared the Justice Department’s

top ranks of career lawyers, even as Mr. Trump stocked leading posts with his own defense attorneys. His aides sidelined the department’s Office of Legal Counsel, bypassing its traditional role of vetting draft executive orders and giving it no acting chief. Last week, Attorney General Pam Bondi added to the purge by firing the top lawyer at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.
This subjugation of lawyers has now extended to the Pentagon. Late last Friday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth fired the top judge advocates general for the military. As three-star uniformed lawyers, they give independent and nonpolitical advice about the international laws of war and domestic legal con-
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Who Governs if Pope Can’t?
Officials said Francis was alert, but his two-week hospital stay poses uncomfortable, unanswered questions about Vatican decision-making. PAGE A10

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Risks to Volcano Monitoring
The Trump administration’s spending freeze could disrupt systems that warn communities when eruptions appear to be imminent. PAGE A15

BUSINESS B1-6
Royal Mint Finds New Purpose
As demand for coins has diminished, the company whose main task was making currency is mining old electronics to make gold jewelry. PAGE B6

ARTS C1-7
Bracing to Host the Oscars
It can be considered a thankless gig, but that’s part of the appeal for Conan O’Brien. “I am drawn to the things that scare me,” he said. PAGE C1

OPINION A18-19
Ben Stiller
PAGE A19

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YEARS

AUDEMARS PIGUET
Le Brassus

ROYAL OAK