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People gathered on Thursday to mourn, clockwise from top left, victims of bombings for which the Islamic State took responsibility; militants killed in a U.S. drone attack in Baghdad; Saleh al-Arouri, a Hamas leader killed in Beirut; and relatives hit by Israeli strikes.

Few Take Paxlovid, Even as Covid Surges Again

By CHRISTINA JEWETT
As Covid rises again, killing about 1,500 Americans each week, medical researchers are trying to understand why so few people are taking Paxlovid, a medicine that is stunningly effective in preventing severe illness and death from the disease.
A study of a million high-risk people with Covid found that only about 15 percent who were eligible for the drug took it. If half of the eligible patients in the United

States had gotten Paxlovid during the time period of the study, 48,000 deaths could have been prevented, authors of the study, conducted by the National Institutes of Health, concluded.
It's not because people don't

know about the drug — most do — but the reluctance seems to come from doctors worried about interactions with other drugs and people wary of a possible rebound case or the metallic aftertaste.
Regional differences offer a clue, with uptake highest in the Democratic strongholds of the Northeast and the Pacific Northwest regions of the United States and lowest in red areas, including Florida and Indiana. Yet no careful study has clarified why so few people used the medication, which
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Eyes on 1991, Moscow Finds A New Enemy

By ANDREW HIGGINS
VILNIUS, Lithuania — When the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant last year for President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, a Moscow court launched a surprise counterattack: It ordered the arrest of a 70-year-old retired judge in Lithuania.
The judge, Korneliya Maceviciene, was not connected in any way to the case against Mr. Putin in The Hague or to investigations into Russian war crimes in Ukraine.
Her “crime,” as the Moscow court sees it, was handing down “unjust” guilty verdicts against former Soviet officers, nearly all Russians, for their role in a brutal crackdown against pro-independence protesters who had gathered at a television tower in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, on Jan. 13, 1991.
In a bloody episode that helped seal the demise of Soviet power, 14 protesters — one of them a young woman crushed by a tank — were killed and hundreds of others were injured when Soviet forces stormed the tower in an abortive last-ditch attempt to prevent Lithuania from escaping Moscow's grip.
After examining copious evidence showing who in 1991 gave the orders to use deadly force and who carried them out, Ms. Maceviciene and two fellow judges
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Menendez Case Offers Glimpse Of Qatar’s Efforts to Build Clout

By VIVIAN NEREIM and TARIQ PANJA
When Senator Robert Menendez arrived in Qatar in 2022 to attend the country's lavish production of the men's soccer World Cup, he gave an unusual interview to the authoritarian government's news agency praising the progress that Qatar had made on labor rights.
The tiny Gulf state was facing an onslaught of international criticism over its preparations for the world's biggest sporting event, including over the exploitation of migrant workers who built the tournament's infrastructure. But Mr. Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, said he preferred to

A Nation Is Cultivating Ties to the Powerful Across the World

highlight positive aspects of the games, and the host nation.
Traveling to Qatar gave Mr. Menendez “the experience to say wow!” he said, according to the Qatari state news agency. “My short visit to Doha was joyful and I saw that the global community came to Qatar and were well received and well respected.”
Less than a year later, Mr. Menendez, 70, was charged in a federal
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Protesters Are Swept Out of a Berkeley Park
The University of California has been trying for years to build student housing at the site. Page A11.

From Skeptic to Champion of G.O.P.’s Hard Line on Immigration

By KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
WASHINGTON — When Speaker Mike Johnson and scores of House Republicans converged in Eagle Pass, Texas, on Wednesday to call for a crackdown on migrants at the border, they had a

somewhat unlikely host.
It was only months ago that Representative Tony Gonzales, the Texas Republican who represents the busy border crossing and the majority-Hispanic district that surrounds it, broke with his party in opposition to parts of its hard-line approach on immigration.

Back then, he warned his colleagues against an overly draconian approach and urged them not to politicize the issue.
Now Mr. Gonzales, who has faced a constituent backlash and multiple primary opponents in his competitive district, has swung into line with the zeal of a convert,

becoming a chief champion of the Republicans' strict border enforcement bill and a proponent of efforts to use it as political leverage against President Biden.
He has endorsed calls to make border security improvements a precondition of securing military

Weighing the Fate of a Robber Who Got Caught Pink-Handed

By DAN BARRY
The man left the bank like a satisfied customer who hadn't just robbed it. With an envelope of cash smoldering in his right pocket, he began walking down a Newark street with studied nonchalance.
A few steps into his casual getaway, a dye pack inside the envelope exploded like an ill-timed gender reveal, into a misty puff of pink. Only then did he hurry away, leaving in his wake a cartoonish contrail and some surveillance-video distraction for the Covid-infected summer of 2021.
When the man, Esau Grant, was arrested two days later, a Newark police official could not resist joking that he had been caught “red-handed.” And public attention moved on to the next viral moment of human folly.
Perhaps there is no profound takeaway in the case of Mr. Grant. Perhaps it offers nothing more than a chance to imagine yourself in the pink-stained sneakers of a



Video of a dye pack exploding was used at Esau Grant's trial.
desperate, hapless bank robber — as I did when I served on the jury that recently heard the state's case against him.
On the cool, wet Saturday morning of July 3, 2021, Mr. Grant joined a long line in the small Capital One bank on Springfield Avenue. It was the beginning of the month and the day before the Fourth: busy banking time.
Tall and lanky, the 27-year-old man wore a light blue durag, a
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Soon-to-Be Queen of Denmark
Princess Mary, a common-born former Australian, never dreamed of royalty. “I wanted to be a veterinarian.” PAGE A7

Balloons Float Over Taiwan
Some analysts say the objects are a calculatedly ambiguous reminder to voters that China is watching. PAGE A10

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Oligarch Sues Sotheby's
At a trial next week, a Russian billionaire is accusing the auction house of helping an art dealer trick him into wildly overspending. PAGE A15

A Busy January for Trump
The former president faces Iowa's caucuses and New Hampshire's primary as he pursues the G.O.P. nomination, but he also has two trials. PAGE A14

Subway Collision in Manhattan
A subway train struck a work train near West 96th Street, causing it to derail. Two dozen people were injured, none of them seriously, officials said. PAGE A20

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Oil Flows Despite Attacks
Militia raids on tankers in the Red Sea leave operators with a choice: Accept the risks or lose business. PAGE B1

French Retailer Drops PepsiCo
The supermarket chain Carrefour says the maker of Pepsi, Lay's and 7-Up is “unacceptably” expensive. PAGE B1

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Her Forecast Delayed D-Day
Maureen Sweeney detected stormy weather and helped save General Eisenhower's Normandy invasion from potential disaster. She was 100. PAGE B9



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An Expensive Fantasy
A blockbuster restaging of Luna Luna, an “art amusement park,” aims to recover the lost element of fun. PAGE C8

Somehow, Life Goes On
In the film “Good Grief,” Daniel Levy applies a light but wise hand to a man navigating life after loss. PAGE C1

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Rich College Sports Deal
The N.C.A.A. and ESPN reached a \$920 million deal for broadcast rights to 40 college championships. PAGE B5

The All-Free-Agent Team
Shohei Ohtani and Yoshinobu Yamamoto are spoken for, but plenty of fine players remain on the market. PAGE B7

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