

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, sunny to partly cloudy, high 83. **Tonight**, mainly clear, light wind, low 71. **Tomorrow**, sunshine, hot, more humid, late day thunderstorm, high 90. Weather map is on Page B5.

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## DEPT. OF JUSTICE RETURNS CONTROL OF POLICE TO D.C. URGENT COURT HEARING

### Administration Retreats, but Questions Linger on Federal Reach

By CAMPBELL ROBERTSON  
and ZACH MONTAGUE

Facing a lawsuit and pointed questions from a federal judge, the Trump administration agreed on Friday to pull back its attempt to take direct control over the District of Columbia police department by installing a Trump administration official to run the agency.

The legal fight, which prompted an emergency court hearing on Friday afternoon, was the most contentious episode since the Trump administration announced on Monday that it was placing the city’s police department under “federal control.” The retreat by Justice Department officials represented a significant, if narrow, victory for the city’s government as it faces federal intervention.

A host of other issues raised by the city about the federal intervention were not resolved on Friday, including the scope of demands that the administration can place on the local police. A hearing on those issues is scheduled for next week.

In court on Friday, U.S. District Judge Ana C. Reyes asked pointed questions of the Justice Department lawyer, Yaakov Roth, and appeared to take a skeptical view of the president’s broad interpretation of his authority under the 1973 Home Rule Act, the federal law granting the citizens of D.C. the right to limited self government.

“The statute would have no meaning at all if the president can just say, ‘We’re taking over your police department,’” said Judge Reyes, who was nominated to the

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## Fleeting Tenure As I.R.S. Chief For Trump Ally

### Power Skirmish With Treasury Secretary

By ANDREW DUEHREN  
and MAGGIE HABERMAN

WASHINGTON — The meeting between Billy Long and President Trump in the gilded Oval Office last month was supposed to mark a victory for both men.

For Mr. Trump, the ceremonial swearing-in of Mr. Long to his role as the commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service underscored that he at last had a political loyalist and friend, rather than the typical technocrat, at the head of the powerful tax agency.

For Mr. Long, a former Republican congressman from Missouri, it signified the completion of a political comeback. After Mr. Long suffered a dismal showing in Missouri’s 2022 Republican Senate primary, his unwavering and, at times, over-the-top support for Mr. Trump had finally panned out.

As members of his family and close aides from his time in Congress looked on, he was put in charge of one of the federal government’s most visible and fundamental agencies, responsible for collecting roughly \$5 trillion in tax revenue each year. By all appearances, Mr. Long had the full support of the president, who had also invited him to a private lunch that day and structured the July 18 swearing-in around it.

But within days, Mr. Long began to lose his grip on a job that he had held for barely a month. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had already ousted one White House-installed I.R.S. commissioner this year. He would soon orchestrate the removal of another, culminating in the agency having its seventh leader since January.

At the center of Mr. Bessent’s concerns was the fact that Mr. Long had been trying to put together an independent plan for the I.R.S. without informing the Treasury Department, according to five people familiar with the

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DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and President Trump on Friday after arriving in Anchorage for a meeting on the war in Ukraine.

## Trump and Putin End Talks Without Ukraine Deal

By PETER BAKER  
and KATIE ROGERS

ANCHORAGE — President Trump and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia reached no agreement to end the war in Ukraine at a high-profile summit meeting on Friday, although they reported making unspecified progress during a strikingly convivial reunion on American soil.

Mr. Trump had hoped to seal a deal for an immediate cease-fire, but he acknowledged that the two leaders fell short, at least for now. “We haven’t quite got there, but we’ve made some headway,” he told reporters after hours of meetings on a U.S. military base in

Alaska. “There’s no deal until there’s a deal.”

But if the substance remained unsettled, the atmospherics were extraordinary. The president rolled out a literal red carpet and applauded as he welcomed Mr. Putin, who is under U.S. sanctions and faces an international arrest warrant for war crimes. The two laughed and spoke warmly with each other, and Mr. Trump even invited Mr. Putin to ride with him in the armored presidential limousine to their meeting.

At their subsequent joint appearance, they heaped praise on one another. “We really made some great progress today,” Mr. Trump said. “I’ve always had a fantastic relationship with Presi-

### Presidents Offering Few Substantive Details About Summit

dent Putin, with Vladimir”

Mr. Putin referred to Mr. Trump as a “dear neighbor” with whom he can do business. “President Trump and I have established a very good, businesslike and trustworthy contact,” he said.

The Russian president even suggested that Mr. Trump visit him in the Russian capital. “Next time in Moscow,” he said, breaking into English.

“Ooh, that’s an interesting one,” Mr. Trump replied. “I’ll get a little heat on that one, but I can see it possibly happening.”

The two ended their encounter in Alaska, however, in a cloud of uncertainty. Mr. Trump referred obliquely to “agreement” on some undisclosed points but not on others, while Mr. Putin referred to it as an “understanding.” Neither explained nor took questions from reporters. Mr. Trump said he would follow up by calling fellow NATO leaders and President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine.

The hurriedly arranged meeting at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson was meant to break the

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### MORE ON THE WHITE HOUSE

**CRIME** The actions, and in some case the inaction, of the Trump administration have hobbled Washington’s efforts to reduce crime, city leaders say. PAGE A10

**NEWSOM** California’s governor opened a campaign for a proposition that asks voters to approve a new congressional map, countering a Texas G.O.P. push. PAGE A13

**TRIBAL COLLEGES** The Trump administration has quietly pursued funding cuts that threaten institutions that rely on federal dollars to operate. PAGE A12

**PBS STARVED** The nonprofit is slashing its budget by 21 percent as its affiliates struggle to make up for their own shortfalls amid congressional cutbacks. PAGE B4

**EPSTEIN** As discontent grows over the handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files, President Trump has turned to deflection, denial and downplaying. PAGE A9



ERIC LEE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Commuters in Union Station in Washington, as members of the National Guard stand nearby.

## Health Dept. Won’t Push Curbs On Pesticides, Report Suggests

This article is by Dani Blum, Benjamin Mueller and Alice Callahan.

A highly anticipated White House report on the health of American children would stop short of proposing direct restrictions on ultraprocessed foods and pesticides that the health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has called major threats, according to a draft of the document that was reviewed by The New York Times.

The report, if adopted, would be good news for the food and agriculture industries, which feared far more restrictive proposals than the ones outlined in the draft. Through his “Make America Healthy Again” movement, Mr. Kennedy has sought to overhaul the nation’s diet by pushing those industries to make major changes.

### Draft of Study Retreats on Kennedy Priority for Child Diets

The draft includes an array of policy proposals calling for research into topics as distinct as electromagnetic radiation and children’s oral health.

It also recommends action on health initiatives, like efforts to increase breastfeeding rates, address infertility and educate the public on the dangers of vaping.

Questions about a possible push for new pesticide regulations were raised in May when the White House released an initial report, from a presidential com-

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## Mamdani Doesn’t Have Hochul’s Backing. Yet.

By GRACE ASHFORD

Gov. Kathy Hochul might ordinarily relish the king-making power that she wields in New York as its most powerful Democrat.

But in the New York City mayor’s race, Ms. Hochul pointedly avoided making an endorsement in the Democratic primary and still has not backed its winner, Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani.

“I’m having very interesting conversations right now,” Ms.

### Governor Weighs Risks as Own Race Looms

Hochul deflected earlier this month when asked again whom she might support, adding, “There’s no urgency.”

The governor is not alone in her hesitancy. Prominent Democrats from New York — including the Senate minority leader, Chuck

Schumer; Senator Kirsten Gillibrand; and the House minority leader, Hakeem Jeffries — have not made an endorsement in the race. Of the 10 House Democrats in New York City, only four have endorsed Mr. Mamdani.

Like House Democrats, Ms. Hochul is facing re-election next year, potentially against Representative Elise Stefanik, a top Republican supporter of President Trump. Some political observers

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## Her Grit Yields 2.3 Carat Diamond in the Rough

By MARK WALKER

By the end of her trip, Micherre Fox had almost made peace with the fact that she would leave Arkansas with nothing but bug bites and tattered hiking boots.

For three weeks, Ms. Fox, who lives in Manhattan, had been camping at Crater of Diamonds State Park and going out to dig for gems each day. She rose before dawn, paid the \$15 entry fee, walked the half-mile to the fields

with her battered tools, and dug, sifted and rinsed until her hands ached. She was on a mission: to find a diamond for her engagement ring.

Wake, walk, work, hope. Repeat.

On her last day there, she slept in and planned to search for an amethyst instead.

“I was coming to terms with the fact I was likely leaving without a diamond,” she said.

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MICHERRE FOX

The white diamond discovered at an Arkansas state park.



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### Shelters for After a Disaster

Factory-built houses aspire to faster delivery, a longer life than trailers — and to “lift people’s spirits.” PAGE C1

### ‘Mamma Mia!’ Is Back

The Abba jukebox musical returns to Broadway as part of a 25th-anniversary North American tour. PAGE C1

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### Kabul Is Running Dry

The six million people living in Afghanistan’s capital could be out of water by 2030. The government is scrambling for solutions, but money is scarce. PAGE A4

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### Pardon to Block Deportation

New York’s governor pardoned an immigrant who had been convicted of manslaughter as a teenager. PAGE A16

### Adams Embraces Veto Power

Many won’t survive, but he seems eager for a fight over bills affecting grocery delivery workers. PAGE A15

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### In Nepal, E.V.s Lead the Way

The transition is moving quickly in a nation where electric vehicles last year accounted for 76 percent of all passenger vehicles and half of the light commercial vehicles sold. PAGE B1

### Maybe They Like Economics?

A colony of bats has taken up residence at a storied Wyoming lodge, where central bankers and policymakers will soon convene for what’s usually a more exclusive gathering. PAGE B1

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### Jessica Grose

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### Discover Real Roman Food

The city center is dominated by tourist spots, but if you hop on a train or bus, you can find authentic dishes. PAGE C7



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### Improving Morale In Miami

Coach Mike McDaniel said too many distractions held back the Dolphins last season, and he has pushed to rebuild the team’s culture. That meant some players had to go. PAGE B8

### Soccer’s Never-Ending Cycle

The Premier League is booming, but its top clubs are feeling the strain from recent expansions in competitions such as the Champions League and FIFA’s Club World Cup. PAGE B10

