

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

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MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

THE WEATHER
Today, breezy in the morning, sunny, high 41. Tonight, clear to partly cloudy, low 35. Tomorrow, plenty of sunshine, breezy in the afternoon, high 46. Weather map, Page D8.

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

An Oval Encircled by Gold

Using hundreds of photos, The Times created a detailed view of an office guided by the president's "maximalist" tastes. Pages A13-15.

In Trump Era, Latin America Shows Cracks

By JACK NICAS
and ANA IONOVA

MEXICO CITY — By the time dawn broke on Jan. 3, WhatsApp had already lit up across Latin America with frantic messages from heads of state, grappling with how to respond to perhaps the region's biggest political event in decades.

It was what some had wanted and others had feared: The United States had just swept into Venezuela and captured its president.

The responses exposed the fault lines that were already cracking Latin America apart.

The region's three largest nations — Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, all led by leftists — criticized the American seizure of President Nicolás Maduro with varying degrees of outrage and diplomacy.

A growing roster of right-wing countries, including Argentina, El Salvador and Ecuador, cheered on President Trump.

And a collection of smaller nations, like Guatemala and Peru, kept their heads down so Washington might not notice.

The divergent reactions show how an increasingly aggressive Trump administration is scrambling the politics of Latin America. While the countries' public responses may be different, they all appear to share a common goal in a new era of U.S. interventionism: self-preservation.

Continued on Page A6

MADURO CASE Prosecutors will have to navigate complex legal issues to earn a win. PAGE A7

How Mississippi Transformed Its Schools to Become Nation's Envy

By SARAH MERVOSH

HAZLEHURST, Miss. — In Kim Luckett-Langston's first year as principal of Hazlehurst Elementary School, one of the lowest performing schools in what had been one of the lowest performing states, she quickly diagnosed the problem.

Children at her school, outside Jackson, Miss., were suffering from what she calls A.B.T.: "Ain't been taught."

Accountability, as Well as Reading, Is Key

2013, to a top 10 state for fourth graders learning to read — even as test scores have fallen almost everywhere else.

Poverty remains a driving factor in student achievement, and wealthy states like Massachusetts still have the highest share of stu-

dents proficient in reading and math.

But adjusted for poverty and other student demographics, Mississippi is No. 1 for fourth grade reading and math, and at or near the top in eighth grade, according to the Urban Institute, a left-leaning think tank.

"If you want to ask the question, 'Which states are helping kids coming from difficult circumstances learn as much as they

Continued on Page A18



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

An Arctic Tug of War

An archipelago called Svalbard has served as a rare refuge of international cooperation. But no more. PAGE A8

Protests Spread in Iran

Bazaars were closed and demonstrators met with violence from security forces as the nation's finances caved. PAGE A7

NATIONAL A11-19

Immigration Agents and Cars

There have been at least 10 instances of shots being fired into vehicles the last four months, leaving two people dead and raising questions. PAGE A17

A Test for Somali Americans

A Minnesota community with many civil war escapees is facing a crackdown over fraud allegations. PAGE A16

OBITUARIES A22, B8

A Believer in Alien Visitors

Erich von Däniken, 90, sold hundreds of thousands of copies of his 1968 book, "Chariots of the Gods." PAGE B8



ARTS C1-6

Connecting Onscreen and Off

"Is This Thing On?" relies on the shared history of Bradley Cooper, Will Arnett and Laura Dern. PAGE C1

Television in Smaller Doses

"The Pitt" is promoting a return to old-fashioned weekly viewing habits. But it's a great binge watch, too. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-7

Outgrowing Meme Stocks

Some Gen Z-ers were excited and inspired to first enter the markets and start building wealth during the pandemic. They have since become more patient investors. PAGE B1

Sluggish Year for Job Creation

Economists pointed to the president's immigration crackdown and cuts to the federal bureaucracy as hiring slows, while White House aides made the case for optimism in 2026. PAGE B1

OPINION A20-21

Carlos Lozada



SPORTS D1-8

Seeking One More Marathon

Jeff Galloway, a long-ago U.S. Olympian who popularized the run-walk-run method, hopes to overcome some daunting obstacles at 80. PAGE D1



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