

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

VOL. CLXXV No. 60,792

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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\$4.00



LYNSEY ADDARIO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sleeping in a Tent After Russia Knocks Out the Heat

With defiant ingenuity, residents in Kyiv are trying to find ways to stay warm during a cruel winter made worse by the war. Page A6.

Trump Knew About Epstein, Ex-Chief Said

By LUKE BROADWATER

WASHINGTON — After it became known that Jeffrey Epstein was under investigation in the 2000s, one of the first calls the Palm Beach police received was from Donald J. Trump, the local police chief at the time told the F.B.I. more than a decade later.

Mr. Trump reportedly told the chief, Michael Reiter, "Thank goodness you're stopping him, everyone has known he's been doing this," according to a document recounting their conversation that is part of the tranche of Epstein files released by the Justice Department.

Mr. Trump said it was known in New York circles that Mr. Epstein was disgusting and suggested that the police also focus their investigation on Mr. Epstein's associate Ghislaine Maxwell, according to the memo. "She is evil," Mr. Trump reportedly said.

Mr. Trump also told the police chief that he was around Mr. Epstein once when teenagers were present and that he "got the hell out of there," according to Mr. Reiter's account.

The former chief described his conversation with Mr. Trump to the F.B.I. in October 2019, two months after Mr. Epstein was found dead in his jail cell while awaiting trial on federal sex trafficking charges, the memo shows.

The account highlights the inconsistent statements Mr. Trump

Continued on Page A17

RUSSIA Jeffrey Epstein sought to build relationships with top Kremlin officials, files show. PAGE B1

Coffee and Tea May Cut Dementia Risk, So Have a Second Cup

By PAM BELLUCK

If you think your daily doses of espresso or Earl Grey sharpen your mind, you just might be right, new science suggests.

A large new study provides evidence of cognitive benefits from coffee and tea — if it's caffeinated and consumed in moderation: two to three cups of coffee or one to two cups of tea daily.

People who drank that amount for decades had lower chances of

developing dementia than people who drank little or no caffeine, the researchers reported. They followed 131,821 participants for up to 43 years.

"This is a very large, rigorous study conducted long term among men and women that shows that drinking two or three cups of coffee per day is associated with reduced risk of dementia," said Aladdin Shadyab, an associate professor of public health and medicine at the University of

Long-Term Study Shows Benefits of Caffeine

California, San Diego, who wasn't involved in the study.

The findings, published Monday in JAMA, don't prove caffeine causes these beneficial effects, and it's possible other attributes protected caffeine drinkers' brain health. But independent experts

said the study adjusted for many other factors, including health conditions, medication, diet, education, socioeconomic status, family history of dementia, body mass index, smoking and mental illness.

The caffeine correlation held regardless of whether people had genetic risk factors for Alzheimer's or other dementias. The study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, didn't distinguish

Continued on Page A18



NATIONAL A9-18

New Clues in Guthrie Case

Video images released Tuesday show a masked person on Nancy Guthrie's doorstep before her abduction. Page A17

Secret Food Networks Emerge

As fear of being swept up by ICE in Minneapolis hinders access to groceries, a sly supply chain steps up. Page A9

INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Vietnam's Leader Is in a Hurry

With promises to make his Communist country rich and influential, To Lam took an unusual path to the top. And now he holds unusual power. PAGE A4

U.S. Weighs Nuclear Expansion

Now that a last Cold War treaty has expired, President Trump's intentions are unclear to some experts. PAGE A8

SPORTS B7-11

A Super Bowl Setback

New England quarterback Drake Maye was overwhelmed by the Seahawks, and then his emotions. PAGE B11

BUSINESS B1-6

Trump Statue Awaits a Home

Cryptocurrency investors backing a memecoin hope it will end up at one of the president's golf courses. PAGE B1

Musk's Conglomerate Dreams

The billionaire's decision to merge his A.I. start-up with his rocket company will test Wall Street's interest. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-6

She Had Big Stilettos to Fill

Playing Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy in "Love Story," Sarah Pidgeon faced a backlash before filming even finished. She "had to just keep betting on myself and what my instincts were." PAGE C1

How Black Cinema Expanded

"The Flying Ace," "Killer of Sheep," "Bamboozled" and seven other films to stream for Black History Month highlight the emergence of groundbreaking directors, actors and stories. PAGE C2

OPINION A20-21

Bret Stephens

PAGE A20

FOOD D1-8

Are These the New Oxtail?

Beef shanks are an economical cut suddenly in demand among some Taiwanese restaurants in this country for their velvety texture. PAGE D7

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THE WEATHER
Today, partly sunny, dry, windy, high 41. Tonight, partly cloudy, dry, breezy, low 30. Tomorrow, breezy, cooler, dry, mostly sunny, high 36. Weather map appears on Page A22.

ATTACK ON RULES IN CLIMATE CRISIS IS NEAR 'VICTORY'

TRUMP AIDES LED FIGHT

E.P.A. Ready to Toss Key Finding and Tie Later Presidents' Hands

By LISA FRIEDMAN and MAXINE JOSELOW

WASHINGTON — In the summer of 2022, Democrats in Congress were racing to pass the biggest climate law in the country's history and President Joseph R. Biden Jr. was declaring that global warming posed a "clear and present danger" to the United States.

But behind the scenes, four Trump administration veterans were plotting to obliterate federal climate efforts once Republicans regained control in Washington, according to documents reviewed by The New York Times and interviews with more than a dozen people familiar with the matter.

Days after a federal immigration agent shot at Phillip Brown, a U.S. citizen, last October at a busy commercial intersection in Washington, D.C., a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security claimed Mr. Brown had made a "deliberate attempt" to run officers down with his car. Mr. Brown, 33, was arrested, charged with a felony — fleeing from law enforcement — and spent three days in jail.

In court, however, the case against Mr. Brown quickly unraveled as a judge found that the government failed to present any evidence supporting its claims. The judge dismissed the charges and said the agent had fired his weapon "for reasons that are completely unclear to me."

Mr. Brown's case is among the 16 shootings by on-duty federal immigration agents patrolling in U.S. cities and towns over the past year, including those that took the lives of Minnesota protesters Renee Good and Alex Pretti.

The Trump administration's rush to declare Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti at fault for instigating violence was quickly undercut by a barrage of viral videos. But a New York Times review of the other shootings found that similar claims by officials fell apart more quickly when the cases went to court.

In four of the shootings where prosecutors brought assault or other charges, including against Mr. Brown, the cases fizzled after evidence emerged that contradicted the administration's initial description of events. Either the charges were dismissed or prosecutors dropped the case.

Charges against six other people who were shot at by immigration agents are pending. Five of the defendants have denied aspects of the D.H.S. accusations or presented differing accounts in court. Two cases are going to trial in April.

Continued on Page A10

ICE RESTRICTIONS Democrats have proposed reforms such as ending roving patrols. PAGE A11

Continued on Page A13

At the Stonewall Monument, The Pride Flag Is Taken Down

This article is by Liam Stack, Jonathan Wolfe and Yan Zhuang.

A large Pride flag was quietly removed from the Stonewall National Monument in Manhattan after a directive from the federal government, the latest step in the Trump administration's nationwide assault on diversity initiatives and the second time in less than a year it has targeted the Greenwich Village site, which commemorates the birth of the L.G.B.T.Q. rights movement.

The flag's removal came weeks after the Department of the Interior issued federal guidance on displaying "non-agency" flags in the National Park System, which includes a small park in front of the Stonewall Inn, the bar for which the federal monument is named.

Elected officials and bar employees said they realized the rainbow flag was gone on Monday morning. On Tuesday, a bare flagpole stood on the monument's grounds as steely clouds hung overhead.

Stacy Lentz, an owner of the bar, said its owners had been surprised by the removal, especially since a year has passed since the

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Continued on Page A13

The flag last February. It was missing on Monday morning.

administration removed references to transgender people from the monument's website and other materials.

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