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MARK ABRAMSON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



ERIK S LESSER/EPA, VIA SHUTTERSTOCK

Clockwise from top left: Products like strawberries and avocados from Mexico and lumber, much of it from Canada, will probably become more expensive because of the tariffs that President Trump imposed early on Tuesday, and retail prices are expected to rise.

# Zelensky Tries To Make Peace On Every Front

By MARC SANTORA

KYIV, Ukraine — President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine on Tuesday offered a course of action that he said could end the war, while trying to assure the Trump administration that his government was dedicated to peace.

“Our meeting in Washington, at the White House on Friday, did not go the way it was supposed to be,” Mr. Zelensky wrote on X. “It is regrettable that it happened this way. It is time to make things right.”

He was referring to an explosive meeting at the White House last week in which President Trump berated Mr. Zelensky and called him ungrateful. Mr. Trump followed up on Monday by announcing that he was pausing all U.S. military aid to Ukraine.

The Ukrainian leader said he was ready to release Russian prisoners of war, stop long-range drone and missile strikes aimed at Russian targets, and declare a truce at sea immediately — moves that he said would help establish a pathway to peace.

Only, however, “if Russia will do the same,” he added.

Mr. Zelensky’s proposal seemed designed to shift the burden for ending the war onto Russia, which launched its invasion three years ago. The White House has claimed that the Ukrainian leader is the main obstacle to peace.

In his post, Mr. Zelensky offered effusive praise for American support, noting specifically “the moment when things changed when President Trump provided Ukraine with Javelins.”

“We are grateful for this,” he wrote. “Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer,” he added. “My team and I stand ready to work under President Trump’s strong leadership to get a peace that lasts.”

There was no immediate reaction from the Kremlin to Mr. Zelensky’s proposal. Despite the fe-

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# In Swing District, Cautious Optimism on Trump

By KELLEN BROWNING

PHOENIX — Keith Mann, a self-described independent voter, sat out the 2024 election, dismayed by both candidates for president.

He still does not care for President Trump’s character. But more than a month into Mr. Trump’s second term, Mr. Mann, a 41-year-old Phoenix resident, said he was cautiously optimistic about what he had seen so far.

“He’s doing what he said he would do,” Mr. Mann said. He was encouraged by reports of fewer migrants crossing the border, in

## Support for Some Cuts and Mixed Feelings on Ukraine Aid

favor of reducing aid to Ukraine and hopeful that Elon Musk would root out excessive government spending and, “like Robin Hood,” deliver the savings to citizens in the form of \$5,000 dividend checks.

“I’m just waiting to see how it pans out,” Mr. Mann said. “At the end of the day, he’s our president

— you can’t just wish him bad.”

As Mr. Trump prepared to address a joint session of Congress on Tuesday evening — a stand-in for the State of the Union during a president’s first year in office — voters in battleground districts around the country were trying to make sense of the frenzy of executive orders and other actions that have so far defined Mr. Trump’s second term.

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**SPEECH** The president addressed Congress for the first time this term. Coverage at nytimes.com.



DANIEL DORSA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Opening day for Pacific Palisades Baseball, less than two months after the Los Angeles fires.

# Words of Hope and Renewal in L.A.: ‘Play Ball!’

By BILLY WITZ

LOS ANGELES — Boys and girls dressed in new uniforms put down their baseball gloves long enough to tackle plates of pancakes and sausages. Parents with coffee cups in hand greeted one another with hugs in the brisk morning air. There were familiar hallmarks of the opening day of

baseball season: keynote speakers, the national anthem, red, white and blue balloons and a ceremonial first pitch.

At last came the siren call: Play ball!

The start of every season brings with it the promise of hope and renewal, but those eternal themes carried particular resonance on Saturday, opening day for the Pa-

cific Palisades Baseball Association, less than two months after the devastating Los Angeles fires.

Though Rancho Park, a bustling public park, is far from the community’s familiar coastal quiet and manicured baseball diamonds, the participants in the Palisades youth baseball program — like so many of the families who

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# CANADA AND CHINA HIT BACK AT TRUMP WITH OWN TARIFFS

## Pressure Drives Pride in ‘Made in Mexico’

By JAMES WAGNER

MEXICO CITY — Claudia Sheinbaum, the president of Mexico, stood underneath a giant Mexican flag and before troops at a military installation in Mexico City. It was Flag Day last month, and she used her speech as an opportunity to, figuratively and literally, rally around it.

“Mexico must be respected,” she said, adding later: “Its people are brave. We know that when our people unite around their history, their country and their flag, there is no force in the world that can break their spirit.”

Times had changed, she said: Mexico would not bow down to foreign governments.

Given the circumstances — President Trump’s steep tariffs against Mexico went into effect in the first minutes of Tuesday — Ms. Sheinbaum’s optics were fitting. As Mr. Trump once again targeted Mexico, using the hammer of tariffs as a negotiating tool, a sense of Mexican nationalism has been strengthened.

The Mexican government and businesses have rekindled a “Made in Mexico” campaign. Some Mexicans have called for boycotts of U.S. companies and products, while others have put together lists of Mexican stores and brands to support instead of American ones.

Ms. Sheinbaum is frequently featured on the front page of local newspapers with members of the country’s military or in front of a giant Mexican flag. Private companies have taken out nationalistic advertisements, one featuring the president leading the masses and carrying a banner saying, “Mexico united, never defeated!”

And Ms. Sheinbaum, who has been trying to balance a pro-Mexico drumbeat against advocating cooperative dialogue with American officials, has seen her approval ratings rise as high as 80 percent, according to one poll. She has not only succeeded a popular president, Andres Manuel López

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## Economic Upheaval For U.S. Is Feared

This article is by Ana Swanson, Matthew Mpoke Bigg, Keith Bradsher and Thomas Fuller.

Sweeping tariffs imposed by President Trump threatened economic upheaval for consumers and businesses in the United States on Tuesday as the country’s biggest trading partners struck back, raising fears of an escalating trade war.

Canada and China swiftly condemned the tariffs and announced retaliatory tariffs against American exports. President Claudia Sheinbaum of Mexico said that if the U.S. tariffs were still in place on Sunday, she, too, would announce countermeasures.

“This is a time to hit back hard and to demonstrate that a fight with Canada will have no winners,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada said in a stern and, at times, biting address on Tuesday.

The U.S. tariffs were a stark turnabout from the free-trade evangelism that has shaped much of postwar American foreign policy. The measures amounted to 25 percent tariffs on all imports from Canada and Mexico and a 10 percent tariff on all imports from China. They came on top of a 10 percent tariff on Chinese goods put into effect one month ago and a variety of older levies, including those that remain from the China trade war during Mr. Trump’s first term.

Amid the tariff dispute, the niceties and flattery that some foreign leaders had employed in the first weeks of the Trump administration seemed to fall away.

Addressing Mr. Trump as “Donald,” Mr. Trudeau said at a news conference in Ottawa: “You’re a very smart guy. But this is a very dumb thing to do.”

The Canadian government said

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**COUNTER-TARIFFS** China imposed levies on food from the U.S. and clamps on 15 companies. PAGE B1

PETER SICHEL, 1922-2025

# A Spymaster in the Cold War And a Sales Master for Wine

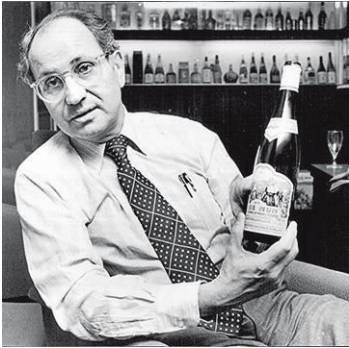
By ERIC ASIMOV

Refugee, prisoner, wine merchant, spy: Peter Sichel was many things in his long, colorful life, but he was probably most often identified as the man who made Blue Nun one of the most popular wines in the world in the 1970s and ‘80s. At its peak, in 1985, 30 million bottles of this slightly sweet German white wine — its label featuring smiling nuns holding baskets of grapes in a vineyard — were sold.

By the time Mr. Sichel (pronounced sea-SHELL) took charge of his family’s wine business in 1960, he had lived a long, clandestine life. For 17 years, first in the Office of Strategic Services during World War II, and then in the Central Intelligence Agency — from its formation in 1947 until he resigned in 1959 — he played a crucial role in gathering intelligence for the United States.

He died on Feb. 24 at his home in Manhattan, his daughter Bettina Sichel said. He was 102.

As a 19-year-old German émigré to the United States who volunteered for the U.S. Army the day after Pearl Harbor, Mr. Sichel was recruited to join the O.S.S. as part of an effort to build an Ameri-



GRANT PETERSON/FAIRFAX MEDIA

Peter Sichel left the C.I.A. and made Blue Nun a global hit.

can intelligence-gathering force where none existed.

He served in Algiers in 1942 and ‘43, and then as head of the O.S.S. unit attached to Gen. George S. Patton’s Third Army as it drove from Southern France toward Alsace in late 1944. Among his jobs were interrogating German prisoners of war and recruiting volunteers to infiltrate the German lines and report back to him.

One of Mr. Sichel’s O.S.S. colleagues, George L. Howe, wrote a novel about one such case, made into the highly regarded 1951 film “Decision Before Dawn,” directed

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NATIONAL A12-19

## A Scenic Route Under Threat

In Del Mar, near San Diego, most agree a rail line must move off eroding bluffs. But a fix seems a long way off. PAGE A12

## A Short-Lived Effort

The Pentagon’s program to protect civilians began under the first Trump term. Now it’s being eliminated. PAGE A14

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

## Ultimatum to Single Workers

As China’s government worries about the nation’s falling birthrate, some private employers have ordered workers to marry, or else. PAGE A5

## Arab Summit on Gaza Crisis

Countering President Trump’s plan to “clean out” the strip, leaders wish to forge their own vision. PAGE A9

OBITUARIES A20-21

## He Created Oases in the City

M. Paul Friedberg made his mark as a designer of experimental playgrounds in New York. He was 93. PAGE A20



ARTS C1-6

## His Own Comfort Zone

Hamilton Leithauser will play his seventh residency at Café Carlyle, performing songs from his latest album. PAGE C1

## City Ballet at Its Best

During the winter season, there were moments that inspired real celebration, if not quite pandemonium. PAGE C1

SPORTS B7-10

## Do Astros Have Enough Left?

Though big league teams often experience significant turnover, the postseason mainstay Houston faces a daunting challenge, with Kyle Tucker, Alex Bregman and Ryan Pressly gone. PAGE B7

## Steamrolling the Competition

The Duke men’s basketball team won its fourth straight game by 30 points or more. Are the Blue Devils the most dominant team ever in the Atlantic Coast Conference? PAGE B8

OPINION A22-23

## Bret Stephens

PAGE A23



FOOD D1-8

## The Tools of Her Trade

From her TriBeCa shop, Saori Kawano has long supplied chefs with knives and housewares, and helped spread the word about Japanese cuisine. PAGE D6

