

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, cloudy, humid, an afternoon thunderstorm, high 85. **Tonight**, cloudy, humid, low 73. **Tomorrow**, sunny, humid, a stray thunderstorm, high 85. Weather map, Page B12.

VOL. CLXXIV . . . . No. 60,577 © 2025 The New York Times Company FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025 Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

## Fatal Overdose Helped Expose A Drug Empire

### Prosecutor’s Fight Led to Her Hometown

By BENJAMIN WEISER

“Where’s your emergency?” the 911 operator asked.

“Rodeway Inn on Woodstock Avenue in Rutland,” the caller replied, her voice barely under control. “My boyfriend lay down for a nap and he’s not breathing.”

The operator began explaining how to perform CPR, asking whether the boyfriend could be lowered to the floor. The caller, Ginger Parker, was immediately distracted: Their 18-month-old daughter had crawled on top of the still body.

“Honey, get off of him — please!” Ms. Parker pleaded, explaining to the operator that the toddler just wanted to help.

The man she was trying to save that evening in August 2012 was David Blanchard III, who worked the night shift at Rutland Plywood in the small Vermont city. The 28-year-old with a neat goatee, dark hair and kind face lay on his back in a dingy motel room strewn with clothes, a sheet, children’s toys and books, and a pink rubber duck.

The operator told Ms. Parker to place the heel of one hand on the center of her partner’s bare chest, the other on top and to intertwine her fingers. “Push hard and push fast,” the operator said. “You’re going to do it a hundred times a minute.”

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U.S. ATTORNEY’S OFFICE FOR THE SDNY  
Flow, a potent brand of heroin, ravaged a Bronx neighborhood and a small city in Vermont.

## Mamdani Open To Keeping On Leader of Police

By EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS  
and MARIA CRAMER

Zohran Mamdani, the front-runner to be the next mayor of New York, and Jessica Tisch, the city’s police commissioner, might not seem like natural allies.

He is a democratic socialist who has questioned whether billionaires should exist. She is a billionaire heiress who has called for stricter criminal justice laws.

But if Mr. Mamdani wins November’s general election, both appear open to working together — a potential partnership being pushed by influential business leaders and some of Mr. Mamdani’s more powerful Democratic allies.

Mr. Mamdani, a state assemblyman who decisively won the Democratic primary last month, has said he would consider keeping Commissioner Tisch, and has praised her on the campaign trail and in private for improving public safety and running the Police Department more responsibly amid the tumult that has typified Mayor Eric Adams’s tenure.

Ms. Tisch, in turn, believes that she has made progress in making the city safer since taking command of the department seven months ago, and would want to stay in the job regardless of the

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Scott and Connie Towery took in the destruction on Wednesday at the River Inn in Texas, where Scott is general manager.

## Desperation, Heroism and Survival: One Night on the Guadalupe River

By MEREDITH HONIG  
and JOHN BRANCH

HUNT, Texas — The screams were coming from outside, through the dark and the din of the thunderstorm. People along the overflowing Guadalupe River were desperate, scared for their lives.

The rain had been coming down hard, into the grim early hours of July 4, but it was the lightning and thunder that kept people awake. The electric sky lit up the landscape like a strobe light, providing glimpses of what was happening and adding a surreal effect to the night.

In a flash, the manager of an inn saw the river where he had never imagined it could reach. A family saw into the house next door, where furniture floated in the living room.

What is happening? Room to room, house to house, minds tried to make sense of the water rising all around. A woman in bed saw animals run past her window, not realizing that they were logs and debris being carried by a river that had climbed 30 feet in the dark. A woman told neighbors that she awoke in bed to discover her two dogs swimming toward her. People awoke to strangers banging on their doors.

It was the middle of the night. The water was rising. And somewhere out there, people were screaming.

As all this played out around Marymeade Drive and the River Inn Resort, in Texas’ Hill Country, other scenes of horror unfolded up and down the river in the early morning of July 4.

At Camp Mystic, an overnight camp for



The River Inn at 3:29 a.m. on July 4. The Guadalupe River would normally be in the distance, but it rose quickly over a couple of hours after midnight.

girls about a mile downstream, hundreds were in their beds and bunks. The youngest campers slept closest to the water. At least 27 of the campers and counselors died in the flood.

Other places were epicenters of heartbreak, too, like the R.V. park and campground with waterfront cabins, pull-through sites for trailers and, across a small bridge, on a low-lying island, people staying in tents. Many would die that night.

They were victims of the cruelest per-

fect storm: a severe, stalled weather cell wringing out over a remote river basin in midsummer holiday, all in the dark of night.

Had this one come 12 hours before or after, when the light of day would have allowed people to see what was happening before it was too late, there would likely have been far fewer fatalities. A 1932 flood of similar scope struck the region during midday. It ripped away six cabins at Camp

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**Deadly Strike Near a Gaza Aid Clinic**  
Children were among the 18 people killed by Israel’s attack in Deir al-Balah on Thursday. Page A6.

## Your Rental Car Get Dinged? You Will, Too, Thanks to A.I.

By GABE CASTRO-ROOT

The next time you rent a car, that ding on the door might not slip under the radar. Powerful new A.I.-driven tools are helping Hertz and other companies catch every little scratch, and puzzled renters are being asked to pay up.

Hertz, one of the world’s largest car rental companies, debuted the technology last fall at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and it’s now in use at five other U.S. airports, said Emily Spencer, a Hertz spokeswoman.

Developed by a company called UVeye, the scanning system works by capturing thousands of high-resolution images from all angles as a vehicle passes through a rental lot’s gates at pickup and return. A.I. then compares those images and flags any discrepancies.

The system automatically creates and sends damage reports, Ms. Spencer said. An employee reviews the report only if a customer flags an issue after receiving the bill. She added that fewer than 3 percent of vehicles scanned by the A.I. system show any billable damage.

Still, unexpected charges for damage that’s barely visible to the naked eye are leaving renters wondering what’s going on.

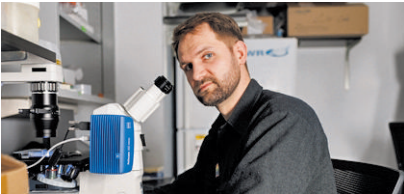
Kelly Rogers and her husband rented a car from Hertz at the Atlanta airport over the July 4 weekend to travel to a family wedding in Birmingham, Ala. The couple,

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### NATIONAL A11-21

**ICE Faces Pressure to Unmask**  
Elected officials in liberal states are trying to bar immigration officers from hiding their faces in public. PAGE A14

**Science Cuts in Trump Country**  
The N.I.H. has terminated hundreds of grants to young researchers from places that supported the president. PAGE A20



### INTERNATIONAL A4-10

**Weaning Off Antidepressants**  
Warnings about withdrawal from the drugs have rippled through society in recent years. A new study claims they are overblown. PAGE A10

**Pondering Sanctions on Russia**  
European leaders’ flattery has led President Trump to consider what they want for Ukraine. News Analysis. PAGE A8

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**Ireland’s King of Concerts**  
Henry Mount Charles saved his manor, Slane Castle, by turning it into a rock ‘n’ roll destination. He was 74. PAGE B10

### BUSINESS B1-5

**Bessent Auditions for the Fed**  
The Treasury secretary is breaking with tradition in publicly assailing the central bank’s policies as President Trump looks for its next leader. PAGE B1

**Nvidia Worth \$4 Trillion**  
The A.I. chip maker reached the landmark before Apple and Microsoft after its stock ended the day trading just above \$164 a share. PAGE B1

**Student Loan Interest to Restart**  
It will kick back in on Aug. 1 for people in the SAVE repayment program, whose payments have been on hold since last summer. PAGE B4

### WEEKEND C1-8

**A Pottery Nerd’s Inspirations**  
A Jonathan Adler exhibition offers a provocative lesson on humor and irreverence in the field of ceramics. PAGE C1

**Big Operas Fill a Tiny Theater**  
A Des Moines company squeezes works usually done in front of thousands into a startlingly intimate space. PAGE C1



### SPORTS B6-9

**On Grass, the Return Reigns**  
A big serve is important at Wimbledon, but the ability to get the ball back in play can make the difference. PAGE B6

**Astros Rookie a Quick Study**  
Cam Smith played only 32 games in the minor leagues before making Houston’s roster out of spring training. PAGE B7

OPINION A22-23  
**Ross Douthat** PAGE A23

