



KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Trump received disaster briefings and surveyed fire damage on Friday in the Pacific Palisades section of Los Angeles.

Israel Unlikely
To Pull Soldiers
From Lebanon

This article is by Patrick Kingsley, Ronen Bergman and Natan Odenheimer.

JERUSALEM — Israel is set to occupy parts of southern Lebanon after a deadline for its full military withdrawal lapses on Sunday, the Israeli government implied in a statement on Friday, amid Israeli concerns that Hezbollah remains active there and doubts about the Lebanese Army’s ability to stymie the militia’s resurgence.

Under the terms of a truce between Israel and Hezbollah in late November, Israeli troops were supposed to withdraw within 60 days from areas of Lebanon that they had recently wrested from the group’s control. Hezbollah was also required to withdraw from the region, allowing the Lebanese military to assert its control over an area where Hezbollah, an Iran-backed Shiite force and political movement, had long dominated.

Less than two days before the deadline, the office of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, announced that Israel’s withdrawal was dependent on the Lebanese Army asserting its full control over the area, adding that the timeline was flexible and implying that Israeli troops would remain in Lebanon beyond the cutoff.

“Since the cease-fire agreement has not yet been fully enforced by Lebanon, the gradual withdrawal process will continue under full cooperation with the United States,” the statement from the Israeli prime minister’s office said.

Asked for clarification, the prime minister’s office declined to say if this meant that Israeli troops would definitely remain in

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For Newsom, a Tenure Defined by Catastrophe

By ADAM NAGOURNEY

LOS ANGELES — Gov. Gavin Newsom came into office in 2018 confronting one of the deadliest and most destructive fires in the state’s history: the Camp fire. Even before he was sworn in, Mr. Newsom accompanied Donald Trump, then the president, and Jerry Brown, then the governor, in inspecting a blaze that killed 85 people and consumed over 153,000 acres around the Butte County town of Paradise.

On Friday, more than six years later, Mr. Newsom once again greeted Mr. Trump when the president came to Los Angeles to view

Political Test Looms for
Governor as Trump
Visits California

the aftermath of the latest devastating wildfires that have swept California.

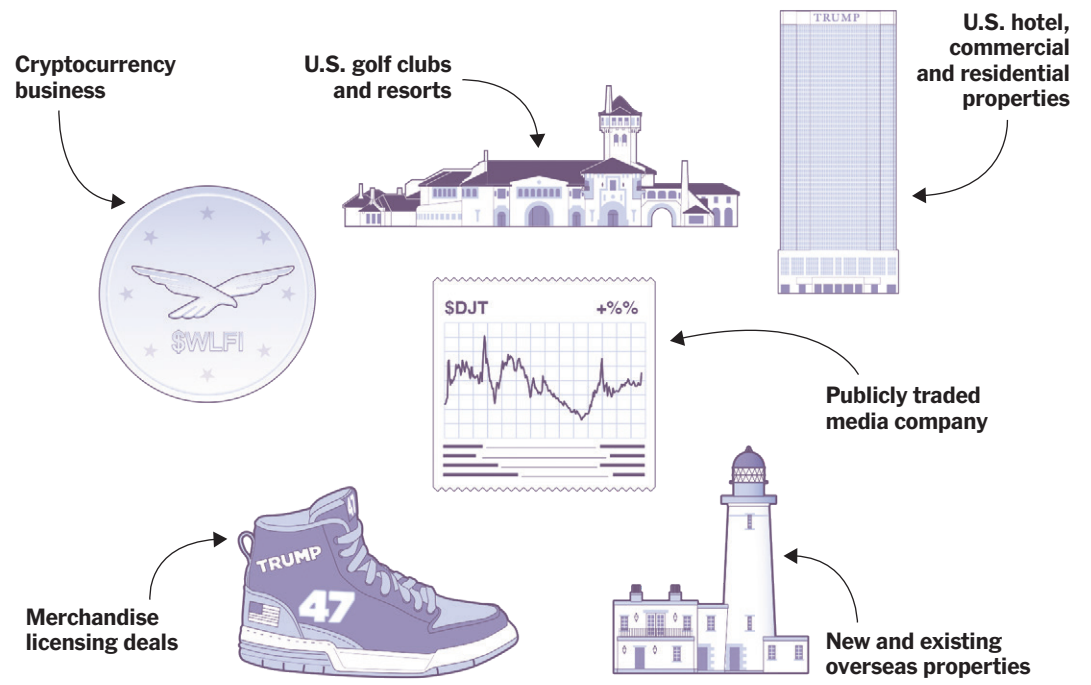
These new fires — in the Pacific Palisades section of Los Angeles and in Altadena — serve as a reminder that Mr. Newsom’s tenure as governor has been defined by catastrophe and crisis, whether natural or man-made: fires, mudslides, atmospheric rivers, the

Covid pandemic, the at-times violent protests against police brutality after the murder of George Floyd.

“It’s mind-boggling the number of natural disasters and otherwise he has to deal with,” said Anthony Rendon, who served as speaker of the California Assembly from 2016 to 2023. “It is something that has bracketed — and maybe even defined — his time in office as governor.”

But the challenge of the Palisades and Eaton fires, both in extinguishing them and in overseeing the rebuilding of entire neighborhoods in the most populous

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Trump’s Growing Risk of Conflicts of Interest

New additions to the president’s business empire — watches, Bibles, fragrances and cryptocurrency tokens — could attract more people seeking to gain influence, experts say. Pages A10-11.

The Perfect Cacio e Pepe Recipe Does Exist. Just Ask Scientists.

By ALEXANDER NAZARYAN

A group of Italian physicists has dared to tinker with the traditional recipe for cacio e pepe, the challenging Roman dish consisting of pasta, pecorino cheese and black pepper. In a new study, the scientists claim to have “scientifically optimized” the recipe by adding an ingredient: cornstarch.

Cacio e pepe, which means cheese and pepper, is a showcase of Italian cuisine, with fresh ingre-

dients producing bold flavor. The dish was supposedly invented by shepherds “who had to stuff their saddlebags with hypercaloric ingredients,” according to the new paper. Today, it is a staple at Rome’s classic pasta joints, where chefs steeped in tradition may not look kindly at scientific lessons on culinary thermodynamics.

The authors were aware they were treading on sensitive ground. “I hope that eight Italian authors is enough,” said Ivan Di

Solution to the Goo in
Rome’s Classic Pasta

Terlizzi, a statistical physicist at the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems in Dresden, Germany, who is originally from Puglia, Italy.

The recipe may be simple, but getting it right is anything but. The silky sauce comes together

when pecorino cheese and ground peppercorns are mixed into the starch-heavy water drained from the cooked pasta. Doing so will ideally create an emulsion — a détente between substances that wouldn’t otherwise mix, as when oil and water form mayonnaise.

But as many have discovered, mixing cheese and steaming pasta water can catastrophically result in what the researchers called the “mozzarella phase.”

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Musk May Use
His Tech Skills
To Pare Costs

Has Help From Allies,
but Needs Congress

This article is by Michael C. Bender, Madeleine Ngo and Theodore Schleifer.

WASHINGTON — The initial plan for retooling the federal government under President Trump started with three loyal billionaires: the banker Howard Lutnick, the tech leader Elon Musk and the entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy.

Now, it’s down to one. Mr. Lutnick emerged as Mr. Trump’s pick to run the Commerce Department. Mr. Ramaswamy decided to step aside from the project just before Mr. Trump assumed office on Monday.

As a result, Mr. Musk, the world’s richest man, now has full command of the federal cost-cutting effort, which Mr. Trump has hailed as “potentially, ‘The Manhattan Project’ of our time.” How exactly Mr. Musk wields his consolidated power to set the tempo and targets of the so-called Department of Government Efficiency remains to be seen. But his first moves suggest he will oversee something closer to an I.T. project than the sweeping operation to slash at least \$2 trillion from the federal budget that Mr. Musk had once promised.

The Musk-led project debuted this week with a bit of bureaucratic jujitsu: the takeover of an existing arm of the White House that, for the past decade, had focused on improving government technology. The office, the United States Digital Service, now renamed United States DOGE Service, was created in 2014 to fix failing computer systems that threatened the success of President Barack Obama’s health insurance overhaul.

Mr. Musk, who cut 80 percent of the jobs at Twitter after he bought the social media company two years ago, aims to conduct a review of at least some of the roughly 200 employees who work in the office before deciding whether to keep them in their jobs, according to two people familiar with his plan, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal plans.

From this new perch in the administration, Mr. Musk immediately gains a road map to the federal bureaucracy, which could allow him to swiftly assess the technological capacities of agencies and departments and identify potential changes. He is also expected to maintain an office in the West Wing, which will help him keep crucial access to Mr. Trump

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TRUMP OFFICIALS
TARGET MIGRANTS
BIDEN ALLOWED IN

SEEK SWIFT REMOVAL

Temporary Legal Status
Given to 1.4 Million
Is Now at Risk

By HAMED ALEAZIZ

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is giving Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials the power to quickly deport migrants who were allowed into the country temporarily under Biden-era programs, according to an internal government memo obtained by The New York Times.

The memo, signed Thursday night by the acting head of the Homeland Security Department, offers ICE officials a road map on how to use expansive powers that were long reserved only for encounters at the southern border to quickly remove migrants. It also appears to give the officials the ability to expel migrants in two major Biden-era programs that have allowed more than a million people to enter the country temporarily.

Those programs — an app called CBP One that migrants could use to try to schedule appointments to enter the United States, and an initiative that let in certain migrants fleeing Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Haiti — were key pillars of the Biden administration’s efforts to discourage illegal entries by allowing certain legal pathways. Immigrant advocates also worried that the memo could apply to Afghan and Ukrainian immigrants brought to the United States under separate programs.

The decision indicates that President Trump will try to use every facet of the immigration enforcement apparatus to crack down on a system he has long said has been abused, and that he intends to target not just those who sneaked across the border but even those who followed previously authorized pathways to enter.

It is also sure to raise fears among a large class of immigrants, many of whom had fled desperate conditions, who believed that they were in the country legally and might be afraid to return to their often-dangerous home countries.

Both of former President Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s signature programs had faced heavy criticism from Republicans, including Trump administration officials, as a way to facilitate illegal immigration.

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Shelves Empty and Prices Surge
As Bird Flu Upends Egg Market

By JULIE CRESWELL

On a trip to a Walmart in Ozark, Mo., in early January, Laura Modrell was surprised to see shoppers “standing around and gasping” in the grocery’s dairy section. As she got closer, she saw that the shelves, where there would normally be stacks of egg cartons, were nearly empty.

“All of the normal-size cartons of eggs were practically gone,” Ms. Modrell said. “I heard some elderly people being really upset.”

Across the country, shoppers in grocery stores are facing empty shelves and higher prices for what has traditionally been an inexpensive source of protein: eggs.

And it’s likely to get worse. Volatile egg prices have been a part of the grocery shopping experience partly because of inflation, but also because of an avian influenza, or bird flu, that made its way to the United States in 2022. That



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

The dwindling egg supply this week in a Miami grocery store.

influenza, caused by the H5N1 virus, has infected or killed 136 million birds thus far.

But the outbreak has recently intensified. More than 30 million chickens — roughly 10 percent of the nation’s egg-laying population — have been killed in just the last

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INTERNATIONAL A4-7

Deluge of Aid Arrives in Gaza

Hundreds of truckloads of food, fuel and other supplies have arrived each day since the cease-fire took effect. PAGE A4

U.S.-North Korea Talks?

President Trump is hinting, but Kim Jong-un has grown more assertive since their last efforts. PAGE A7

NATIONAL A8-17

Faulty Wiring in Three Fires

A blaze at a Bronx apartment building on Jan. 10 was the third to break out in recent years at a property owned by the same landlord. PAGE A17

Potential New Abortion Pill

A study cited an alternative to mifepristone. But it shares a key ingredient with the morning-after pill. PAGE A13

TRAVEL C7-9

36 Hours in Barbados

The island nation is becoming more popular with American travelers, but doesn’t feel overcrowded. PAGE C9



ARTS C1-6

A Soprano Takes the Stage

Once accustomed to rejection, Angel Blue is singing the title role in “Aida” at the Metropolitan Opera. PAGE C1

From 900 Episodes, One Film

The musician Questlove is a director of a documentary about the musical history of “Saturday Night Live.” PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-5

India’s Economy Slows Down

Industrial growth, the stock market and the rupee are sinking, and most consumers earn too little to buoy them, stymieing the country’s drive to become a developed economy. PAGE B1

Meta to Pay \$65 Billion for A.I.

Much of the capital investment, a big jump from 2024, will fund expansion of the company’s data centers, which provide the computing power needed by products and algorithms. PAGE B1

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Ana Raquel Minian

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SPORTS B6-10

Leader of the Commanders

Terry McLaurin, a two-time Pro Bowl receiver, is a mentor and tutor off the field whom his teammates have readily followed. PAGE B6

