

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, partly sunny, not as hot, less humid, high 86. **Tonight**, clear, low humidity, light wind, low 69. **Tomorrow**, sunshine, late-day clouds, high 85. Weather map is on Page B10.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



BRIDGET BENNETT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Visitors at the Grand Canyon’s South Rim on Tuesday as smoke from the Dragon Bravo fire, which spread rapidly beyond containment lines, rose over the North Rim.

Battle Leaves Pall of Death On Syria City

By CHRISTINA GOLDBAUM
and REHAM MOURSHED

After several days of hunkering down at his home as violence seized the southern Syrian city of Sweida, 33-year-old Hossam emerged on Thursday to survey the damage. Wherever he went, the smell of death lingered in the air.

Scattered across the roads, he said, were burned-out cars. Storefront windows were smashed, their shelves looted. Pools of blood stained the streets.

“The smell of corpses in Sweida is unbearable,” said Hossam, who asked to be identified only by his first name for fear of retribution. “The smell is everywhere.”

Since Sunday, the southern province of Sweida has been consumed by violence that has killed more than 500 people, according to the Britain-based war-monitoring group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. It is the deadliest violence in this corner of Syria since the height of the country’s nearly 14-year civil war, and it has deepened fears among residents like Hossam that Syria’s new authorities are unable to provide for their security.

Hossam said he had barricaded himself inside his house for days as clashes between government forces and militias of the Druse minority raged around him. Hossam, who is Druse, ventured outside only after a truce calmed the fighting and drove around his city.

At the city of Sweida’s public hospital, he saw cars speed up to the emergency entrance every few minutes, carrying people injured in the clashes. Others came in search of relatives they had lost contact with, now feared dead, he said.

They streamed through the hospital’s morgue, which was packed with bodies of soldiers and civilians killed, according to Hossam and a nurse at the hospital. Scores more bodies were laid out in a yard outside, covered with tarps after the body bags ran out.

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U.S. Is Seeking Day of Prison In Taylor Raid

By GLENN THRUSH

WASHINGTON — The chief of the Justice Department’s civil rights unit has asked a federal judge to sentence a Louisville police officer convicted in the 2020 killing of Breonna Taylor to one day in prison, a stunning reversal of the unit’s longstanding efforts to address racial disparities in policing.

Last year, a federal jury in Kentucky convicted Brett Hankison, the officer, of one count of violating Ms. Taylor’s civil rights by using excessive force in discharging several shots through Ms. Taylor’s window during a drug raid that went awry.

He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison, and a judge will consider the government’s request at a sentencing scheduled for next week.

On Wednesday, Harmeet K. Dhillon, the assistant attorney general for civil rights, asked the judge in the case, Rebecca Grady Jennings, to sentence Mr. Hankison to one day in prison — essentially the brief time he had served when he was charged — and three years of supervised release.

In the filing, Ms. Dhillon suggested that the prosecution was excessive, arguing that the Justice Department under President Joseph R. Biden Jr. had secured a conviction against Mr. Hankison after his acquittal on state charges and the ending of his first federal trial in a mistrial.

“In this case, two federal trials were ultimately necessary to obtain a unanimous verdict of guilt,” Ms. Dhillon wrote, adding that Mr. Hankison, now a felon who was fired from his job five years ago, had already paid a substantial penalty for his actions.

“The jury’s verdict will almost certainly ensure that defendant Hankison never serves as a law enforcement officer again and will also likely ensure that he never legally possesses a firearm again,” the filing added.

Such requests are typically filed

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Flames Shroud Future of Canyon’s North Rim

By JACK HEALY

JACOB LAKE, Ariz. — Melinda Rich Marshall pointed her white S.U.V. toward a billowing tower of smoke on Tuesday and gunned it down the now-empty roads leading to the charred North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

A few days earlier, she had joined hundreds of tourists and seasonal employees who fled a wildfire roaring through the parched sagebrush and ponderosa pines. Now, she was headed back to check on the Jacob Lake Inn, her family’s 102-year-old lodge just outside Grand Canyon National Park.

“We don’t know how we’ll pay our employees,” Ms. Marshall, 43, said, looking toward months or years of economic losses as the park rebuilds from one of the most destructive fires in its history. “What do we do? How do we live?”

Residents like Ms. Marshall, along with Arizona’s political lead-

Tourism Lifeline Burns as Officials Question Federal Response

ers, are asking why the Dragon Bravo fire, sparked by lightning on July 4, was allowed to burn for days in hot, dry conditions before it exploded beyond containment lines and tore through the heart of the North Rim. Some are also demanding to know whether the Trump administration’s budget freezes and Forest Service layoffs could be playing a role, not just at the Grand Canyon but at fires raging around national parks in Colorado and Washington.

Fire crews initially decided to manage the fire in a way that would allow it to burn through excess vegetation and would maintain the health of the landscape, according to the park’s social media updates. But howling night-

time winds over the weekend launched the fire into the heart of the North Rim, destroying the century-old Grand Canyon Lodge, along with a visitors center, tourist cabins and some employee housing.

“There’s other ways to take care of this than letting it burn,” said Julie Langi, whose great-grandparents founded the Jacob Lake Inn, and who is now one of its owners.

Wildfires are both part of the ecosystem and a continual threat around the Grand Canyon, their recent history written on scorched tree trunks and scarred ravines. But drought, a warming climate and decades of firefighting policies that suppressed natural fires have turned many grasslands and forests here and across the West into tinderboxes.

Some people who live and work along the North Rim have long joked that their side of the canyon is the neglected stepchild of an

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SENATE APPROVES TRUMP’S EFFORT TO CANCEL FUNDS

RARE CEDING OF POWER

Push Advances to Revoke \$9 Billion for Foreign Aid, NPR and PBS

By CATIE EDMONDSON

WASHINGTON — The House prepared on Thursday to approve a White House request to claw back \$9 billion for foreign aid and public broadcasting, after Republicans in the Senate bowed to President Trump in an unusual surrender of congressional spending power.

The Senate’s overnight 51-to-48 vote came over the objections of two Republicans, who argued that their party was ceding Congress’s constitutional control over federal funding. The House was expected to give final approval to the package as soon as Thursday evening, sending it to Mr. Trump for his signature.

The bulk of the funds targeted — about \$8 billion — was for foreign assistance programs. The remaining \$1.1 billion was for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which finances NPR and PBS. The Republicans who opposed the measure were Senators Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

The debate on the measure laid bare a simmering fight over Congress’s power of the purse. Since Mr. Trump began his second term, the White House has moved aggressively and at times unilaterally, primarily through the Department of Government Efficiency, to expand the executive branch’s control over federal spending, a power the Constitution gives to the legislative branch.

Top White House officials, led by Russell T. Vought, the budget office director, have sought to rein in the size of the federal government, including by freezing funds appropriated by Congress. It is part of a wider campaign to claim far-reaching powers over federal spending for the president.

This time, the administration

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More on the White House

SENATE DISPUTE Republicans advanced the nomination of Emil Bove III for a lifetime post after Democrats stormed out. PAGE A13

FED BATTLE The president says he is toying with firing the Fed chair, but is that legal? PAGE A13

CONNIE FRANCIS, 1937-2025

Powerful Singer Who Wrung Every Teardrop From Ballads

By WILLIAM GRIMES

Connie Francis, who dominated the pop charts in the late 1950s and early ’60s with sobbing ballads like “Who’s Sorry Now” and “Don’t Break the Heart That Loves You,” as well as up-tempo soft-rock tunes like “Stupid Cupid,” “Lipstick on Your Collar” and “Vacation,” died on Wednesday. She was 87.

Her publicist, Ron Roberts, announced her death in a post on Facebook. He did not say where she died or cite a cause. Two weeks ago, Ms. Francis used Facebook to tell her fans that she had been hospitalized for extreme pain after suffering a pelvic fracture.

Ms. Francis had an easy, fluid vocal style, a powerful set of lungs and a natural way with a wide variety of material: old standards,

rock ‘n’ roll and country, as well as popular songs in Italian, Yiddish, Swedish and a dozen other languages.

Between 1958 and 1964, when her brand of pop music began to fall out of favor, Ms. Francis was the most popular female singer in the United States, selling 40 million records. Her 35 Top 40 hits during that period included 16 songs that made the Billboard Top 10, including “Lipstick on Your Collar” (No. 5 in 1959) and “Vacation” (No. 9 in 1962) and three No. 1 hits: “Everybody’s Somebody’s Fool” and “My Heart Has a Mind of Its Own” in 1960 and “Don’t Break the Heart That Loves You” in 1962.

She was best known for the

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CURT GUNTHER/ TV GUIDE, VIA EVERETT COLLECTION

Connie Francis in 1958, when she began a run of hits through 1964 that made her the most popular female singer in the U.S.

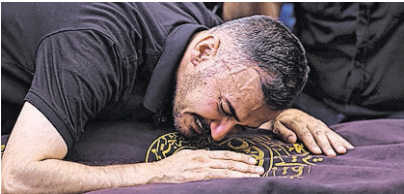
INTERNATIONAL A4-11

China’s Bold Military Flex

Recent drills near Japan involving aircraft carriers reflect Beijing’s ambitions to extend its influence. PAGE A11

Dozens Die in Iraqi Mall Fire

Officials blamed shoddy construction and a lack of preparedness for the scale of the tragedy at the site. PAGE A8



NATIONAL A12-21

Questioning Guard Mission

Thousands of National Guard troops have served in the Los Angeles region since June. Six soldiers spoke of low morale over the deployment. PAGE A17

Suing Over ICE in Courthouses

A class-action suit is challenging Immigration and Customs Enforcement for detaining immigrants appearing for routine court dates. PAGE A17

Monster Price for Dinosaur

The \$30.5 million paid at Sotheby’s for the juvenile specimen of Ceratosaurus, a 150-million-year-old dinosaur, is the third-highest on record. PAGE A20

BUSINESS B1-6

The Student Loan Gap

The federal cap on the amounts people can borrow means some of them will fall short. That’s especially true for those in professional schools. PAGE B1

Nvidia’s Chips-to-China Push

Jensen Huang, the company’s chief executive, got the Trump administration to change course on restrictions. PAGE B1

OBITUARIES A24, B12

‘You’re Here to Care’

Andrew Kassoy helped start a movement to reconsider capitalism as a force for social good. He was 55. PAGE B12

WEEKEND ARTS C1-10

Creativity on Display

Our critic offers suggestions on what to see at a far-flung art festival in upstate New York this weekend. PAGE C7

A Ballerina’s Graceful Exit

After 29 years, the American Ballet Theater principal Gillian Murphy bids farewell with “Swan Lake.” PAGE C1



SPORTS B7-11

Family-Style Home Run Derby

A choice Todd Raleigh made in 2011, to go home to his wife and kids, paid off at this year’s slugging contest. PAGE B7

Overhyped or Under the Radar

With N.F.L. training camps starting soon, we look at the teams that could be surprising this season. PAGE B11

OPINION A22-23

David Brooks

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