

All the News
That's Fit to Print

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, heavy rain, very windy, high 60. Tonight, heavy rain and thunderstorms, very windy, low 44. Tomorrow, rain ending, windy, cooler, high 46. Weather map is on Page 26.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$6.00

Trump’s Stance Toward NATO Alarms Europe

Worries That Ukraine Could Be Abandoned

This article is by **Jonathan Swan**, **Charlie Savage** and **Maggie Haberman**.

For 74 years, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has been America’s most important military alliance. Presidents of both parties have seen NATO as a force multiplier enhancing the influence of the United States by uniting countries on both sides of the Atlantic in a vow to defend one another.

Donald J. Trump has made it clear that he sees NATO as a drain on American resources by free-loaders. He has held that view for at least a quarter of a century.

In his 2000 book, “The America We Deserve,” Mr. Trump wrote that “pulling back from Europe would save this country millions of dollars annually.” As president, he repeatedly threatened a United States withdrawal from the alliance.

Yet as he runs to regain the White House, Mr. Trump has said precious little about his intentions. His campaign website contains a single cryptic sentence: “We have to finish the process we began under my administration of fundamentally re-evaluating NATO’s purpose and NATO’s mission.” He and his team refuse to elaborate.

That vague line has generated enormous uncertainty and anxiety among European allies and American supporters of the country’s traditional foreign-policy role.

European ambassadors and think tank officials have been making pilgrimages to associates of Mr. Trump to inquire about his intentions. At least one ambassador, Finland’s Mikko Hautala, has reached out directly to Mr. Trump

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ANTHONY KWAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dimming a Once-Electric City

In Hong Kong, a government crackdown on neon signs has come to symbolize the loss of much more than flashy lights. Page 8.

The Guns Were Said to Be Destroyed. They Were Just Reborn.

By **MIKE MCTINTIRE**

When Flint, Mich., announced in September that 68 assault weapons collected in a gun buyback would be incinerated, the city cited its policy of never reselling firearms.

“Gun violence continues to cause enormous grief and trauma,” said Mayor Sheldon Neeley. “I will not allow our city government to profit from our community’s pain by reselling weapons that can be turned against

Flint residents.”

But Flint’s guns were not going to be melted down. Instead, they made their way to a private company that has collected millions of dollars taking firearms from police agencies, destroying a single piece of each weapon stamped with the serial number and selling the rest as nearly complete gun kits. Buyers online can easily replace what’s missing and reconstitute the weapon.

Hundreds of towns and cities have turned to a growing industry that offers to destroy guns used in

Many Buybacks Go to Secondary Markets, Not the Pulverizer

crimes, surrendered in buybacks or replaced by police force upgrades. But these communities are in fact fueling a secondary arms market, where weapons slated for destruction are recycled into civilian hands, often with no background check required, ac-

cording to interviews and a review of gun disposal contracts, patent records and online listings for firearms parts.

Some public officials and gun safety advocates said they had no clue this was happening. The Rev. Chris Yaw, whose Episcopal church outside Detroit has sponsored buybacks with local officials, said in an interview that he was “aghast and appalled” when told by a reporter how the process works.

“It tells me that our society is

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Tiny Vehicles Lead Big Shift Away From Oil

This article is by **Somini Sen-gupta**, **Abdi Latif Dahir**, **Alex Travelli** and **Clifford Krauss**.

NAIROBI, Kenya — Big Oil faces a tiny foe on the streets of Asia and Africa. The noisy, noxious vehicles that run on two and three wheels, carrying billions of people daily, are quietly going electric — in turn knocking down oil demand by one million barrels a day this year.

In Kenya and Rwanda, dozens of start-ups are vying to replace oil-guzzling motorcycle taxis with battery-powered ones. In India, more than half of all new three-wheeled vehicles sold and registered this year were battery-operated. Indonesia and Thailand are also encouraging electrification of motorcycle taxis.

China dominates the market. Its government began promoting electric vehicles decades ago in a bid to clean its smog-choked cities, which explains why a vast majority of the world’s electric two-wheelers are in China.

The shift to electric mobility overall has reduced global oil demand by 1.8 million barrels every day, according to BloombergNEF, a research arm of Michael Bloomberg’s financial data and media company. Two- and three-wheelers account for 60 percent of that reduction, or 1.08 million barrels.

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INDIA’S DAUGHTERS



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREA BRUCE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Two young women ran for their lives — one to escape a brutal arranged marriage, the other for a shot at a coveted job that would transform her future — as they each fought for a place in a rapidly changing country. Special Section.

Star of Ruthian Proportions Joins the Dodgers for \$700 Million

By **ANDY McCULLOUGH**
The Athletic

Shohei Ohtani’s singular pursuit of history reached another summit on Saturday when he agreed to the largest contract in the annals of major North American team sports, a 10-year, \$700 million deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Ohtani announced his decision to sign with the Dodgers on Instagram; his agency revealed the

terms of the contract.

The deal ends years of feverish speculation about Ohtani’s future. Ohtani, a 29-year-old sensation unique in modern baseball for being an elite pitcher and an elite hitter, has captivated the industry since he left Japan for Major League Baseball heading into the 2018 season. He has done things that appeared impossible in the current era, feats that harked back to Babe Ruth, the last great

two-way player. As he traveled the country with the Los Angeles Angels this past summer, fans serenaded him with recruiting pitches. When he entered free agency, a dozen teams lined up, curious to see if they could meet his eye.

Ohtani will now be compensated for his immense talent and his unparalleled star power. His contract eclipsed the \$360 million record for free agents set last winter by the New York Yankees slug-

ger Aaron Judge and also surpassed the record-setting \$426.5 million extension from Ohtani’s former Angels teammate Mike Trout. His price tag exceeded even those outside of baseball, topping the \$450 million contract signed by Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

Ohtani’s individual brilliance was not enough to lift the Angels

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Penn’s President Felled by Furor Over Testimony

This article is by **Stephanie Saul**, **Alan Blinder**, **Anemona Hartocollis** and **Maureen Farrell**.

The president of the University of Pennsylvania, M. Elizabeth Magill, resigned on Saturday, four days after she appeared before Congress and appeared to evade the question of whether students who called for the genocide of Jews should be punished.

Support for Ms. Magill, already shaken in recent months over her approach to a Palestinian literary conference and the university’s initial response to the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, unraveled after her testimony. Influential graduates questioned her leadership, wealthy contributors moved to withdraw donations, and public officials besieged the university to oust its president.

By Saturday evening, a day before Penn’s board of trustees was expected to meet, Ms. Magill said that she would quit. Scott L. Bok, the board’s chairman, said in an email to the Penn community that Ms. Magill had “voluntarily tendered her resignation.”

Less than two hours later, Mr. Bok announced that he, too, had resigned, deepening the turmoil at one of the nation’s most prestigious universities.

Ms. Magill is the first university president to step down in connec-

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NATIONAL 18-28

‘The Coroner to the Stars’
At the medical examiner’s office in Los Angeles County, investigations of sudden celebrity deaths come with the territory.

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SUNDAY BUSINESS

Silicon Valley’s New Fervor

A loosely organized movement is devoted to a no-holds-barred pursuit of technological progress, with no guardrails for artificial intelligence.

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OBITUARIES 29-31

‘Love Story’ Leading Man

Ryan O’Neal garnered an Academy Award nomination for his role in the 1970 blockbuster, but years of personal problems followed. He was 82.

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ARTS & LEISURE

The Best of 2023

Our critics and writers recall what floored them, exalted them and moved them in the vast world of the arts during the past year.

SUNDAY OPINION

Nicholas Kristof

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MAKING SCENTS OF NEW YORK SINCE 2003



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