

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, mostly sunny with low humidity, high 78. **Tonight**, cloudy, increasing humidity, low 66. **Tomorrow**, cloudy, humid, afternoon showers, high 79. Weather map, Page B12.

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## Iran Intensifies Nuclear Work And Warnings

### Additional Centrifuges Amid Israel Tension

By DAVID E. SANGER and FARNAZ FASSIHI  
WASHINGTON — With the rest of the world distracted by wars in Gaza and Ukraine, Iran has moved closer than ever to the ability to produce several nuclear weapons, installing 1,400 next-generation centrifuges in recent weeks inside a facility buried so deep that it is all but impervious to bunker-busting bombs.  
The sharp technological upgrade goes hand in hand with another worrisome change: For the first time, some members of Iran's ruling elite are dropping the country's decades-old insistence that its nuclear program is entirely for peaceful purposes. Instead, they are publicly beginning to embrace the logic of possessing the bomb, arguing that recent missile exchanges with Israel underscore the need for a far more powerful deterrent.  
In interviews with a dozen American, European, Iranian and Israeli officials and with outside experts, the cumulative effect of this surge appears clear: Iran has cemented its role as a “threshold” nuclear state, walking right up to the line of building a weapon without stepping over it.  
American officials are divided on the question of whether Iran is preparing to take that final step or whether it will determine it is safer — and more effective — to stay just on the cusp of a weapons capability, without openly abandoning the last of its commitments as a signer of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.  
Most officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because so much about Iran's nuclear program, from assessments of its status to secret efforts to infiltrate and slow it, is highly classified.  
And they caution that while Iran could now produce the fuel for three or more bombs in days or weeks, it would still take considerable time — maybe 18 months — for Iran to fabricate that fuel into a warhead that could be delivered on missiles of the kind it launched at Israel in April.  
But Iran's nuclear expansion comes at the most delicate of moments.  
The Iranians are acutely aware that the United States is determined to avoid a broadening of the conflict in the Middle East, and there have been back-channel  
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**VOICES UNHEARD** Many Iranians doubt that the presidential election Friday will improve their lives and plan to sit it out. Page A8.

## From Abroad, China Targets Critic’s Child

By STEVEN LEE MYERS and TIFFANY HSU  
Deng Yuwen, a prominent Chinese writer who now lives in exile in the suburbs of Philadelphia, has regularly criticized China and its authoritarian leader, Xi Jinping. China's reaction of late has been severe, with crude and ominously personal attacks online.  
A covert propaganda network linked to the country's security services has barraged not just Mr. Deng but also his teenage daughter with sexually suggestive and threatening posts on popular social media platforms, according to researchers at both Clemson University and Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram.  
The content, posted by users with fake identities, has appeared in replies to Mr. Deng's posts on X, the social platform, as well as the accounts of public schools in their community, where Mr. Deng's daughter, who is 16, has been falsely portrayed as a drug user.  
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## A Grim Churn as Russia Floods the Front Lines

This article is by Julian E. Barnes, Eric Schmitt and Marc Santora  
WASHINGTON — May was a particularly deadly month for the Russian army in Ukraine, with an average of more than 1,000 of its soldiers injured or killed each day, according to U.S., British and other Western intelligence agencies.  
But despite its losses, Russia is recruiting 25,000 to 30,000 new soldiers a month — roughly as many as are exiting the battlefield, U.S. officials said. That has allowed its army to keep sending wave after wave of troops at Ukrainian defenses, hoping to overwhelm them and break through the trench lines.  
It is a style of warfare that Russian soldiers have likened to being put into a meat grinder, with commanding officers seemingly oblivious to the fact that they are sending infantry soldiers to die.  
At times, this approach has proved effective, bringing the Russian army victories in Avdiivka and Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine. But Ukrainian and Western officials say the tactics were less successful this spring, as Russia tried to take land near the city of Kharkiv.  
American officials said that Russia achieved a critical objective of President Vladimir V. Putin, creating a buffer zone along the border to make it more difficult for the Ukrainians to strike into the country.  
But the drive did not threaten Kharkiv and was ultimately stopped by Ukrainian defenses, according to Western officials.  
“President Putin and Moscow have really tried to make big gains, to break through the front lines this spring,” Jens Stoltenberg, the NATO secretary general, said in an interview with The New York Times editorial board. “They tried and they  
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OMAR AL-QATTA/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

### Frantic Evacuation of Gaza City

The Israeli military re-entered an area that had seen intense fighting earlier in the war. Page A9.

## Crusader or Reckless Radical? Assange’s Polarizing Journey.

By MARK LANDLER and MEGAN SPECIA  
LONDON — In his two-decade odyssey from Australian hacker to new-age media celebrity, hunted figure, perennial prisoner and finally, a free man, Julian Assange has always been easier to caricature than characterize.  
The lack of an agreed-upon label for Mr. Assange — is he a heroic crusader for truth or a reckless leaker who endangered lives? — makes any assessment of his legacy ambiguous at best.  
Whatever history's judgment of Mr. Assange, his appearance Wednesday in a courtroom on a remote Pacific island, where he pleaded guilty to a single count of violating the U.S. Espionage Act, was an appropriate coda to a story that has always seemed stranger than fiction.  
From the time he established WikiLeaks in 2006, Mr. Assange, 52, was a polarizing figure, using the internet to solicit and publish government secrets. His disclosures, from confidential diplomatic cables to civilian deaths in the American wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, made him courageous to those who believed in his gospel of radical transparency. To others who feared the information he revealed could get people killed, he was destructive, even if there was never  
*Continued on Page A6*



CHUNG SUNG-JUN/GETTY IMAGES  
Julian Assange left the U.S. territory Saipan on Wednesday.

## Oklahoma Moves to Require Teaching the Bible in Public Schools

By SARAH MERVOSH and ELIZABETH DIAS  
Oklahoma's state superintendent on Thursday directed all public schools to teach the Bible, including the Ten Commandments, in an extraordinary move that blurs the lines between religious instruction and public education.  
The superintendent, Ryan Walters, who is a Republican, described the Bible as an “indispensable historical and cultural touchstone” and said it must be taught in certain, unspecified grade levels.  
The move comes a week after Louisiana became the first state to mandate that public schools display the Ten Commandments in every classroom, which was quickly challenged in court.  
The Oklahoma directive could also be challenged and is likely to provoke another fight over the role of religion in public schools.  
The efforts to bring religious texts into the classroom reflect a growing national movement among conservatives — particularly Catholics and evangelicals who oppose abortion, transgender rights and what they view as liberal school curriculums — to openly embrace the idea that America's democracy needs to be grounded in their Christian values.  
That movement had a major victory in overturning Roe v. *Continued on Page A19*

## JUSTICES’ RULING IMPERILS AID DEAL FOR OPIOID CRISIS

### PURDUE PHARMA CASE

#### Sackler Family Loses Its Shield From Liability in Drug Epidemic

By ABBIE VANSICKLE  
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said on Thursday that members of the Sackler family cannot be shielded from liability for civil claims related to the opioid epidemic, jeopardizing a bankruptcy plan that would have offered such protection in exchange for channeling billions of dollars toward addressing the crisis.  
In a 5-to-4 decision, the justices found that the deal, carefully negotiated over years with states, tribes, local governments and individuals, had broken a basic tenet of bankruptcy law by shielding members of the Sackler family from lawsuits without the consent of those who might sue.  
The plan for Purdue Pharma, the maker of the prescription painkiller OxyContin, the drug widely considered to have ignited the crisis, was unusual because it offered broad protections that the Sackler family, who controlled the company, had demanded for years even as the Sacklers avoided declaring bankruptcy themselves.  
“The Sacklers have not filed for bankruptcy and have not placed virtually all their assets on the table for distribution to creditors, yet they seek what essentially amounts to a discharge,” Justice Neil M. Gorsuch wrote, joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito Jr., Amy Coney Barrett and Ketanji Brown Jackson.  
While he acknowledged that the decision left the plan in limbo, Justice Gorsuch wrote that the threat of future lawsuits from opioid victims, states, government entities and others might compel the Sacklers “to negotiate consensual releases on terms more favorable to opioid victims.”  
“If past is prologue,” Justice Gorsuch wrote, citing the U.S. Trustee Office, which challenged the deal, “there may be a better deal on the horizon.”  
It was not immediately clear what the decision would mean for other settlements involving claims of mass injury, including one involving the Boy Scouts of America and victims of sexual abuse.  
In a strongly worded dissent, Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh, joined by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, warned of the consequences for the tens of thousands of families seeking compensation. The “decision is wrong on the law and devastating for more than 100,000 opioid victims and their families,”  
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**ABORTION** The justices reinstated a ruling permitting emergency procedures in Idaho. PAGE A14

**POLLUTION** A plan to protect downwind states from harmful emissions was blocked. PAGE A14

#### INTERNATIONAL A4-11

##### A Simpatico Prime Minister

If Keir Starmer wins the general election in Britain next week, it may put a smile on King Charles III, who largely shares his concerns. PAGE A6

##### Starvation Spreads in Sudan

A civil war is pushing the nation toward full-blown famine, with at least 750,000 at risk of dying, experts say. PAGE A7

#### OBITUARIES B10-11

##### Television D.I.Y. Pioneer

Russell Morash produced how-to shows in the days long before HGTV and YouTube. He was 88. PAGE B10

#### NATIONAL A12-19

##### Trump Eyes Bigger Trade War

The former president envisions a 10 percent tariff on most imports and 60 percent on goods from China. PAGE A16

##### Boston Murder Rate Plummets

There have been only four homicides in the city this year, a combination of good luck and a strategic precision. PAGE A12



#### BUSINESS B1-6

##### Anger Over Boeing Disclosures

The National Transportation Safety Board said Boeing violated rules when it released details about a panel blowout on an Alaska Airlines flight. PAGE B1

##### Gyms Find Room to Grow

High real estate vacancies have allowed health clubs to expand their footprints and offer luxury amenities. PAGE B1

#### SPORTS B7-9, 12

##### Legendary N.H.L. Draft Pick

Taro Tsujimoto was drafted by the Buffalo Sabres in the 11th round in 1974. The wrinkle? He wasn't real. PAGE B7

#### WEEKEND ARTS C1-10

##### Giving Stonewall Its Due

What's the best way to honor the uprising that looms so large in gay rights history? Our critic has ideas. PAGE C1

##### Visions of the Graffiti Twins

The creations of the street artists Osge-meos rocked Brazil. Maybe they could do the same thing in the U.S. PAGE C1



#### ONLINE

##### Squaring Off in Atlanta

In the first presidential debate of 2024, a high-stakes rematch between a sitting president and his predecessor, President Biden and former President Donald J. Trump each hoped to demonstrate in real time why his rival was unfit to serve another four years in the Oval Office. Coverage at nytimes.com.

#### OPINION A20-21

##### Daniela J. Lamas

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