

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, sunny, hot, humid, high 92.
Tonight, partly cloudy, warm, hu-
mid, low 76. Tomorrow, hot, humid,
sun, a late thunderstorm, high 94.
Weather map appears on Page B12.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

NEWS ANALYSIS

Putin Signals Chilling Shift In Pyongyang

Moscow Aid Amplifies
Nuclear Fears in West

By DAVID E. SANGER

As Vladimir V. Putin’s Russia and Xi Jinping’s China deepened their confrontation with the West over the past decade, they were always united with the United States on at least one geopolitical project: dismantling or at least containing North Korea’s nuclear arsenal.

That is, until the war in Ukraine broke out two years ago.

In one of the starkest back-to-the-Cold War moments yet, Mr. Putin’s visit Wednesday to Pyongyang — and the announcement of a pact to provide “mutual assistance in the event of aggression” — underscored that efforts by the world’s three biggest nuclear powers to halt nuclear proliferation by North Korea had been dying for some time. Mr. Putin and Kim Jong-un, the North’s leader, just presided over the memorial service.

Mr. Putin did far more than drop any semblance of a desire to ensure nuclear restraint. He promised unspecified technological help that — if it includes the few critical technologies Mr. Kim has sought to perfect — could help the North design a warhead that could survive re-entry into the atmosphere and threaten its many adversaries, starting with the United States.

Nowhere in the statements made Wednesday was there even a hint that North Korea should give up any of its estimated 50 or 60 nuclear weapons. To the contrary, Mr. Putin declared: “Pyongyang has the right to take reasonable measures to strengthen its own defense capability, ensure national security and protect sovereignty” — though he did not address whether those measures included further developing the North’s nuclear weapons.

While the shift has been clear-cut, what it could portend is stunning. “This is a renewal of

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2 Belugas Get A Safer Space Far From War

By MARC SANTORA
and EMILY ANTHERS

KYIV, Ukraine — It was a whale of an evacuation. Actually, two.

In what experts said was among the most complex marine mammal rescues ever undertaken, the pair of beluga whales were extricated from an aquarium in the battered city of Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine and transported to Europe’s largest aquarium in Valencia, Spain, on Wednesday morning.

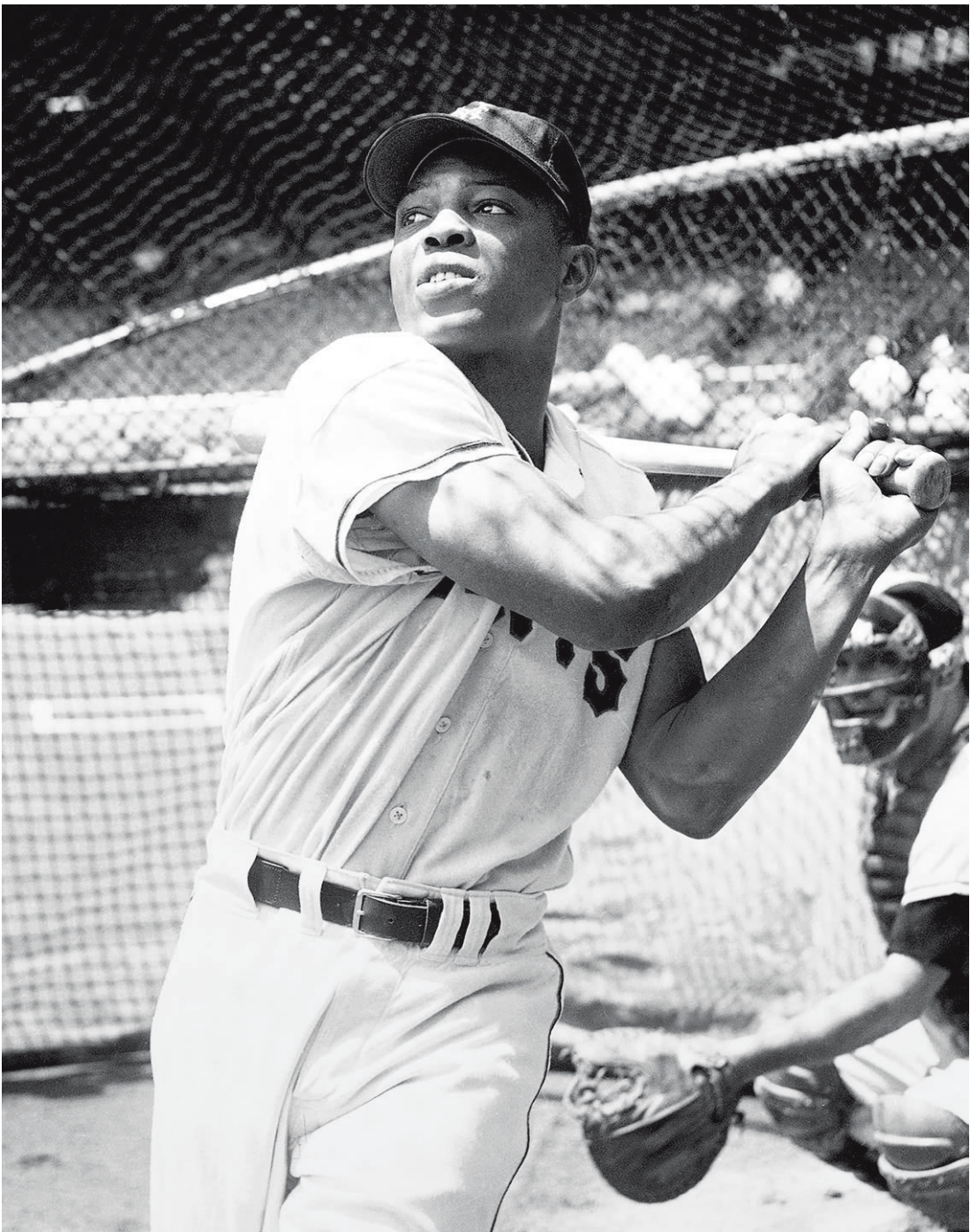
As Russian aerial bombardments of Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, have intensified, the evacuation of Plombir, a 15-year-old male, and Miranda, a 14-year-old female, came just in time, marine mammal experts said.

“If they had continued in Kharkiv, their chances of survival would have been very slim,” said Daniel Garcia-Párraga, director of zoological operations at Oceanogràfic de Valencia, who helped lead the rescue.

Belugas, whose natural habitat is the Arctic, need cold water to survive. The devastation of the power grid in Kharkiv meant that the aquarium there had to rely on generator power, making it challenging to keep the waters cooled.

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WILLIE MAYS, 1931-2024



JOHN LENT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Willie Mays during batting practice in 1954. With 660 home runs, he ranks sixth on the career list.

Forceful, Graceful, Joyful Gem on the Diamond

By RICHARD GOLDSTEIN

Willie Mays, the spirited center fielder whose brilliance at the plate, in the field and on the basepaths for the Giants led many to call him the greatest all-around player in baseball history, died on Tuesday in Palo Alto, Calif. He was 93.

Larry Baer, the president and chief executive of the Giants, said Mays, the oldest living member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, died in an assisted living facility.

Mays compiled extraordinary statistics in 22 National League seasons with the Giants in New York and San Francisco and a brief return to New York with the Mets, preceded by a time in the Negro leagues, from 1948 to 1950. He hit 660 career home runs and

Often Called the Best All-Around Player in Baseball History

had 3,293 hits and a .301 career batting average.

But he did more than personify the complete ballplayer. An exuberant style of play and an effervescent personality made Mays one of the game’s, and America’s, most charismatic figures, a name that even people far afield from the baseball world recognized instantly as a national treasure.

Charles M. Schulz was such a fan that Mays often came up by name in Schulz’s “Peanuts” comic strip. (Asked to spell “maze” in a

spelling bee, Charlie Brown ventured, “M... A... Y... S.”) Woody Allen’s alter ego in “Manhattan” ranked Mays No. 2 on his list of joys that made life worthwhile. (Groucho Marx was No. 1.) In 1954, the R&B group the Treniers recorded “Say Hey (the Willie Mays Song).”

“When I broke in, I didn’t know many people by name,” Mays once explained, “so I would just say, ‘Say, hey,’ and the writers picked that up.”

Mays propelled himself into the Hall of Fame with thrilling flair, his cap flying off as he chased

Continued on Page A22

LEGACY With the death of Willie Mays, a celebration in Alabama takes on new meaning. PAGE B9



HIROKO MASUIKE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Water Bottle Ballet

As a torrid heat wave sat over much of the nation for a third day, people seeking relief in New York City, where city pools are not yet open for the summer, were forced to improvise. Page A20.

Scientists Say Warning Label Lacks Context

There’s ‘Good and Bad’
in Social Media Use

By ELLEN BARRY

When the U.S. surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy, announced on Monday that he was planning to push for a mental health warning label on social media platforms, he was met with cheers from many parents and teachers, who described a long, lonely struggle to wrench children away from a habit that was hurting them.

He got a cooler reaction, however, from some scientists who study the relationship between social media and mental health. In interviews, several researchers said the blanket warning Dr. Murthy has proposed — “social media is associated with significant mental health harms for adolescents” — stretches and oversimplifies the scientific evidence.

For many years, researchers have tried to determine whether the amount of time a child spent on social media contributed to poor mental health, and “the results have been really mixed, with probably the consensus being that no, it’s not related,” said Dr. Mitch Prinstein, the chief science officer at the American Psychological Association.

What seems to matter more, he said, is what they are doing when they are online — content about self-harm, for example, has been shown to increase self-harming behavior.

“It’s kind of like saying, ‘Is the number of calories that you eat good for you or bad for you?’” said Dr. Prinstein, who testified before the Senate on the subject last year. “It depends. Is it candy, or is it vegetables? If your child is spending all day on social media following The New York Times feed and talking about it with their friends, that’s probably fine, you know?”

Like other scientists interviewed, Dr. Prinstein applauded Dr. Murthy for drawing attention to the mental health crisis. He said he was very optimistic about policy changes that might follow, to keep social media use from interfering with school, sleep and physical activity. After Dr. Murthy’s announcement, Gov. Gavin Newsom of California called for a statewide ban on smartphone use in California schools.

“What’s happening out there, and what I think the surgeon general has tapped into so well, is that parents are feeling so incredibly

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PHONE BAN California Gov. Gavin Newsom has called for a statewide ban in schools. PAGE A19

In Louisiana, Commandments Required in Public Classrooms

By RICK ROJAS

ATLANTA — Gov. Jeff Landry signed legislation on Wednesday requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in every public classroom in Louisiana, making the state the only one with such a mandate and reigniting the debate over how porous the boundary between church and state should be.

Critics, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the Freedom From Religion Foundation, vowed a legal fight against the law they deemed “blatantly unconstitutional.” But it is a battle that proponents are prepared, and in many ways, eager, to take on.

“I can’t wait to be sued,” Mr. Landry said on Saturday at a Republican fund-raiser in Nashville, according to The Tennessean. And on Wednesday, as he signed the measure, he argued that the Ten Commandments contained valu-

1,000 AID TRUCKS REMAIN STRANDED IN SPITE OF PAUSE

GANGS IMPERIL ROUTES

Supply Convoys to Gaza
Stall With No Police
to Deter Attacks

By VIVIAN YEE
and AARON BOXERMAN

CAIRO — The extreme anarchy that has gripped the Gaza Strip is making it too dangerous and difficult to distribute desperately needed aid in the south, relief groups and others say, despite a daily pause in fighting that Israel is observing along a key road there.

Days after the pause took hold, over 1,000 truckloads of supplies remained stranded in Gaza near the Kerem Shalom border crossing with Israel, with thousands of tons of food, medicine and other goods mere miles from Palestinians who need them, aid groups and Israeli officials say.

The threat of looting and attacks by armed gangs have forced relief groups to stop delivering assistance in southern Gaza. Trucks using supply routes have been riddled with bullet holes. Businesspeople sending commercial goods into the territory and aid agencies



AMIR LEVY/GETTY IMAGES

Supplies near the Kerem Shalom border crossing.

have decided they cannot risk employees’ lives on the drive.

As a result, the Israeli military’s decision to pause fighting for hours each day along the aid route has so far produced scant humanitarian benefit.

The grim situation is part of the domino effect of the Israeli campaign in Gaza, which has toppled much of the Hamas government without any civilian administration to take its place.

In much of Gaza, there are no police officers to prevent chaos, few municipal workers to clean up heaping mounds of rubble and

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Gaza’s Historic Heart in Ruins

The Great Omari Mosque, on an ancient holy site, is one of many landmarks damaged by Israel’s military. PAGE A6

Whose Alexander the Great?

North Macedonia’s creative historical claims have annoyed the Balkan nation’s neighbors. PAGE A4



NATIONAL A12-20

Unanimous Clamor

Polarized U.S. lawmakers are spending most of their time not on actual legislative work but on trying to corner their rivals on hot-button issues. PAGE A17

Black Farmers Cool to Biden

White farmers in Georgia filed lawsuits to block a debt forgiveness initiative, but the Biden administration is still bearing the blame. PAGE A12

Conspiracy of (and by) Ravens

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. keeps two of the birds as wild pets. They’re better behaved than his old emu, Toby, who would attack his wife. PAGE A13

BUSINESS B1-5

An Expensive Life Lesson

They signed up for life coaching but found themselves trapped in what they described as a pyramid scheme that drained their savings. PAGE B1

A Guide to Flight Risks

You’re on the runway when you notice hydraulic fluid is leaking. Just how panicked should you be? PAGE B1

SPORTS B6-11

Next Messi in the Making?

The Copa América and World Cup provide an opportunity to make U.S. soccer players household names. PAGE B11

ARTS C1-6

A Seaworthy Adventure

The choreographer Mayfield Brooks explores grief and decomposition in the hull of a 19th-century cargo ship. PAGE C1

The Blue Connection

Lita Albuquerque redraws her “Malibu Line,” the first of her earthworks that tie into both land and cosmos. PAGE C1



THURSDAY STYLES D1-8

Showbiz Dream Within Grasp

Murray Hill has been climbing the rungs of the entertainment industry for 30 years. Now he’s breaking out. PAGE D7

Gathering at the Lay Out

A series of summer gatherings in Brooklyn intended “to center Black joy” returned over the weekend. PAGE D1

OPINION A24-25

Bret Stephens

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