

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, windy, clouds and sunshine, high 52. Tonight, partly cloudy, not as windy, low 42. Tomorrow, sunshine to start, then becoming cloudy, dry, high 54. Weather map, Page 27.

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Msgr. Jamie J. Gigantiello and his financial deals are at the center of a fight that has reached the highest levels of the Brooklyn diocese.

## The Priest, the Pop Star and the Mayor’s Power Broker

**By KATHERINE ROSMAN**  
Just a few days after Mayor Eric Adams was indicted on corruption charges, the pop star Sabrina Carpenter stood onstage at Madison Square Garden and said something startling into her glittery microphone: “Should we talk about how I got the mayor indicted?”  
Ms. Carpenter’s quip was both tantalizing and quite obviously false: The singer played no role in the investigation and prosecution

of Mr. Adams.  
But her offhand remark in front of 20,000 fans in September did pull back the curtain, ever so slightly, on a bizarre side plot in the Adams affair — a story whose contours sound almost like the beginning of a joke: Did you hear the one about the pop star, the politician and the priest?  
The priest is Msgr. Jamie J. Gigantiello, who has led three Brooklyn parishes over his 30-year career and has known Mr. Adams, the former Brooklyn borough president, for decades. The

### Brooklyn Church Brawl Draws Prosecutors

priest is also a close friend of Frank Carone, the mayor’s former chief of staff.  
Now the monsignor is at the center of an unholy brawl. The fight has reached the highest levels of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and the offices of federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York, who have

subpoenaed records from transactions worth nearly \$2 million between the monsignor’s parish and businesses connected to Mr. Carone.  
The nature of the federal investigation — or who its target might be — is not publicly known. Nobody has been charged with a crime, and it is unclear whether the priest or Mr. Carone did anything improper or illegal.  
Monsignor Gigantiello had already been demoted over his decision to allow Ms. Carpenter to film  
*Continued on Page 18*

## How Hegseth Changed Tune On War Crimes

### Dysfunction in Military Embittered His View

**By DAVE PHILIPPS and CAROL ROSENBERG**  
When Pete Hegseth was an earnest, young Army lieutenant in Iraq in 2005, he was cleareyed on how he viewed crimes committed by soldiers in war.  
Soldiers in his own infantry company in Iraq in 2006 had shot civilians, executed prisoners and tried to cover up the crimes.  
“Those are a no-brainer,” he told an audience at the University of Virginia after his deployment. He called the acts of those soldiers, who served in a sister platoon in his company, “atrocities” and added: “Of course that’s wrong. No one is here to defend that.”  
By the end of his Army career, though, he was repeatedly doing exactly that.  
As a presenter on Fox News, he portrayed other troops charged with war crimes as “heroes.” The military prosecuting them was, he said, “throwing warriors under the bus.” The once circumspect officer glossed over crucial details, told his TV audience that troops were just “doing the job they were hired to do” and pushed relentlessly for President Donald J. Trump to intervene.  
It was a stark shift for the man President-elect Trump picked this month to lead the Defense Department. Soldiers who served with Mr. Hegseth say the change was driven in part by a string of military deployments — once to Guantánamo Bay, once to Iraq and once to Afghanistan — that each taught him a new lesson in military dysfunction.  
The experience transformed him from a neoconservative believer in U.S. military might into an outsider so distrustful of the national security establishment that he repeatedly sided with convicted murderers over Pentagon leadership.  
“He’s a product of these broken wars, and pretty much our whole generation feels the same way,” Mathew Golsteyn said in an interview with The New York Times. Mr. Golsteyn, a former Army Green Beret, was charged with murdering a captive he believed was a Taliban bomb maker in Afghanistan, and appeared several times on Fox with Mr. Hegseth.  
The military leadership “sent us repeatedly into a hornets’ nest with no plan,” Mr. Golsteyn added. “They gave us an impossible job, then blamed us when things went wrong.”  
Mr. Hegseth’s confirmation is far from certain, as he faces questions over character. On Wednesday, the City of Monterey, Calif., released a redacted police file containing the accusation of an unnamed woman who said that Mr.



Pete Hegseth

## FIRMS ELBOWING TO LOBBY TRUMP OVER HIS TARIFFS

### FIGHT FOR EXEMPTIONS

#### A Record of Pardoning Favored Companies in His First Term

**By ANA SWANSON**  
WASHINGTON — The sweeping tariffs that President-elect Donald J. Trump imposed in his first term on foreign metals, machinery, clothing and other products were intended to have maximum impact around the world. They sought to shutter foreign factories, rework international supply chains and force companies to make big investments in the United States.  
But for many businesses, the most important consequences of the tariffs, enacted in 2018 and 2019, unfolded just a few blocks from the White House.  
In the face of pushback from companies reliant on foreign products, the Trump administration set up a process that allowed them to apply for special exemptions. The stakes were high: An exemption could relieve a company of tariffs as high as 25 percent, potentially giving it a big advantage over competitors.  
That ignited a swift and often successful lobbying effort, especially from Washington’s high-priced K Street law firms, which ended up applying for hundreds of thousands of tariff exemptions. The Office of the United States Trade Representative, which handled exclusions for the China tariffs, fielded more than 50,000 requests, while the Commerce Department received nearly 500,000 exclusion requests for the tariffs on steel and aluminum.  
As Mr. Trump dangles new and potentially more expensive tariffs, many companies are already angling to obtain relief. Lawyers and lobbyists in Washington say they are receiving an influx of requests from companies that want to hire their services, even before the full extent of the president-elect’s tariff plans becomes clear.  
In his first term, Mr. Trump imposed tariffs of as much as 25 percent on more than \$300 billion in Chinese goods, and 10 percent to 25 percent on steel and aluminum from a variety of countries, including Canada, Mexico and Japan.  
This time, Mr. Trump has threatened to impose a 60 percent tariff or more on China, and tariffs of 10 percent to 20 percent on most other countries. He has also suggested targeting particular companies or industries.  
It remains unclear which of these plans he intends to follow through on, and he has not clarified whether he would once again offer companies exclusions from the tariffs. On Friday, Mr. Trump announced that he had picked Scott Bessent, a billionaire hedge fund manager, as his Treasury secretary. Mr. Bessent has de-

## Hack by China: Long Unknown, Tough to Expel

*This article is by David E. Sanger, Julian E. Barnes, Devin Barrett and Adam Goldman.*  
WASHINGTON — Leaders of the top telecommunications companies were summoned to the White House on Friday to discuss a security problem that has been roiling the government: how to expel Chinese hackers from the deepest corners of the nation’s communications networks.  
The meeting in the Situation Room came after weeks in which officials grew increasingly alarmed by what they had uncovered about the hack.  
They now believe the hackers from a group called “Salt Typhoon,” closely linked to China’s Ministry of State Security, were lurking undetected inside the networks of the biggest American telecommunications firms for more than a year.  
They have learned that the Chinese hackers got a nearly complete list of phone numbers the Justice Department monitors in its “lawful intercept” system, which places wiretaps on people suspected of committing crimes or spying, usually after a warrant is issued.  
Officials do not believe the Chinese listened to those calls, but the hackers were probably able to combine the phone numbers with geolocation data to create a detailed intelligence picture of who was being surveilled.  
*Continued on Page 16*



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### A Daring Escape

Abducted by a Boko Haram offshoot years ago, two women made a bold flight to freedom. Page 8.

## Bathing in Oil Might Seem Crude Near a Climate Summit, but Locals Swear by It

**By ANTON TROIANOVSKI**  
NAFTALAN, Azerbaijan — I bathed in oil during the U.N. climate summit.  
It was crude oil from a half-mile underground, pumped into a bathtub at a hotel in Azerbaijan. It crept into every crevice of my submerged body and every fold of my skin. It smothered the hair

on my limbs, making me look a little like an animal stuck in an oil spill.  
Then came an attendant to scrape it all off.  
Just a day earlier, I had been covering the United Nations’ annual climate conference, COP29, which is being held this month in Baku, Azerbaijan, a place that helped give rise to the modern oil industry more than a

century ago, enabling and endangering our civilization. Much has been made of the incongruity of those fighting to reduce fossil-fuel emissions gathering in a petrostate, but Azerbaijanis are proud of their oil, whatever conference attendees might think of it. For instance, it fueled the

Soviet defeat of the Nazis in World War II.  
Another point of pride lies beneath the dusty, shrub-dotted hills of Naftalan, a city a four-hour drive from Baku. The chocolate-colored oil extracted there doesn’t burn. Instead, the locals and Azerbaijani scientists say, it heals. If you bathe in it.  
*Continued on Page 12*



EMILE DUCKE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES  
People flock to oil health resorts in Naftalan, Azerbaijan.

INTERNATIONAL 4-16 <b>Sorcery and Retribution</b> In a brutal cycle, tragedies in Papua New Guinea are often followed by accusations of sorcery and unspeakable acts of violence. PAGE 4	SUNDAY STYLES <b>A Jacked Up Tournament</b> Aron D’Souza, a venture capitalist, is hoping to start the Enhanced Games, a major athletic competition that would embrace doping. PAGE 12	SUNDAY BUSINESS <b>Olympian’s Broken Promises</b> Michael Hyatt persuaded a string of women to open up their homes and wallets to him. He left them bitter, disillusioned and in debt. PAGE 6	ARTS & LEISURE <b>The Giant of Late Night</b> A new biography of Johnny Carson, who hosted “The Tonight Show” for 30 years, prompts the critic Jason Zino-man to reassess his legacy. PAGE 10	SUNDAY OPINION <b>Jeneen Interlandi</b> PAGE 6
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Holidays

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