



EDMUND D. FOUNTAIN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Cross-Country Storm’s Destruction
Tornado damage in Tylertown, Miss., on Sunday. At least 37 deaths across seven states have been attributed to the system. Page A15.

Greenpeace Vies to Save Entity
Larger Than the Whales: Itself

By KAREN ZRAICK
Greenpeace is among the best-known environmental organizations in the world, the result of more than 50 years of headline-grabbing protest tactics. Its activists have confronted whaling ships on the high seas. They’ve hung banners from the Eiffel Tower. They’ve occupied oil rigs. A (fictional) activist even sailed with Greenpeace in an episode of “Seinfeld,” in hopes of capturing Elaine’s heart. Now, Greenpeace’s very existence is under threat: A lawsuit seeks at least \$300 million in damages. Greenpeace has said such a loss in court could force it to shut down its American offices. In the coming days, a jury is expected to render its verdict. The lawsuit is over Greenpeace’s role in protests a decade ago against a pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. The pipeline’s owner, Energy Transfer, says Greenpeace enabled illegal at-

A \$300 Million Lawsuit
Reflects a Tense Era
for Eco-Activism

tacks on the project and led a “vast, malicious publicity campaign” that cost the company money. Greenpeace says that it played only a minor, peaceful role in the Indigenous-led protest, and that the lawsuit’s real aim is to limit free speech not just at the organization, but also across America, by raising the specter of expensive court fights. The suit comes at a time of immense challenges for the entire environmental movement. Climate change is making storms, floods and wildfires more frequent and more dangerous. The Trump administration has commenced a historic effort to overturn decades of environmental

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Champagne Region Frets Levy
Will Wreak Havoc in the Hills

By LIZ ALDERMAN
ÉPERNAY, France — French Champagne producers do nearly a billion dollars’ worth of business with the United States every year. But on Friday in Épernay, the world capital of sparkling wine, the only number on anybody’s lips was 200. That was the percent tariff that President Trump has threatened to impose on Champagne and other European wines and spirits exported to the United States, in a trade war that exploded this past week after the European Union countered Mr. Trump’s penalties on steel and aluminum with its own duties on American products. The triple-digit menace landed like a thunderbolt in Épernay, rattling workers in nearby fields, producers in small villages and the venerable houses that line the Avenue de Champagne, Épernay’s central boulevard and a UNESCO Heritage site that oozes tasteful wealth. “A 200 percent tariff is designed

Threat of a 200 Percent
Tariff From Bubbly’s
Top Foreign Buyer

to make sure that no Champagne will be shipped to the United States,” said Calvin Boucher, a manager at Michel Gonet, a 225-year-old Champagne house on the avenue. With 20 to 30 percent of the 200,000 bottles it makes yearly exported to American wine merchants and restaurants, “that business would be crushed,” he said, adding that the price of a \$125 Champagne would more than triple overnight. Épernay sits in the heart of a region that produces the world’s finest bubbly. The United States is its biggest foreign market, with 27 million bottles shipped there in 2023, valued at around 810 million euros (\$885 million). Chardonnay, pinot noir and me-

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Russia Forces Ukraine
Out of Kursk Territory
Once Seen as Leverage

Kyiv’s Vast Gains Are Reduced to a Sliver

By MARC SANTORA
EASTERN UKRAINE — Ukrainian forces have pulled almost entirely out of the Kursk region of Russia, ending an offensive that had stunned the Kremlin last summer with its speed and audacity. Ukrainian soldiers at the front described a retreat that was organized in places and chaotic in others, as Russian forces stormed through their lines and forced them back to a sliver of land along the border. By the time one Ukrainian assault platoon retreated from its position less than a week ago, all their vehicles had been destroyed, drones hunted them night and day and they were almost out of ammunition. Russian forces were closing in from all directions, said the platoon’s commander, “prompting our retreat.” The commander, who asked to be identified only by his call sign, Boroda, in keeping with military protocol, said it took his unit two days to hike more than 12 miles from their positions near the Russian village of Kazachya Loknya to the Ukrainian border. By then, “the area where our positions had been was already occupied by Russian forces,” he said when reached by phone. At the height of the offensive, Ukrainian forces controlled some 500 square miles of Russian territory. By Sunday, they were clinging to barely 30 square miles along the Russia-Ukraine border, according to Pasi Paroinen, a military analyst with the Finland-based Black Bird Group. “The end of the battle is coming,” Mr. Paroinen said in a phone interview. How much Russian territory Ukraine still controls in Kursk could not be independently confirmed, and soldiers reported that fierce fighting continued. But the fighting near the border was now less about holding Russian land, Ukrainian soldiers said, and more about trying to prevent Russian forces from pouring into the Sumy region of Ukraine and opening a new front in the war. The soldiers said they were trying to set up strong defensive positions along ridgelines on the Russian side of the border. “We continue to hold positions

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Overcoming Stigma, Women
Unmask Rape in Ukraine War

By CARLOTTA GALL and OLEKSANDR CHUBKO
A 77-year-old former high school teacher, turned out in a neat dress and hat, has been creating a quiet revolution in the villages of the Kherson region in southern Ukraine. Standing before a group of 10 women in a tent in the center of a village last summer, she recounted her ordeal three years ago under Russian occupation. “What I went through,” said the woman, named Liudmyla, her voice wavering. “I was beaten, I was raped, but I am still living thanks to these people.” Beginning last year, Liudmyla and two other survivors, Tetyana, 61, and Alisa Kovalenko, 37, have spoken at a series of village meet-

Experts Say Cases Run
Into the Thousands

ings to raise awareness about conflict-related sexual violence. The meetings have been among the first efforts by survivors of sexual assault to bring into the open one of the most painful aspects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine: what prosecutors and humanitarian workers say is widespread sexual assault of Ukrainian women under Russian occupation. Liudmyla and Tetyana asked that their surnames and village names not be published to protect their privacy. Ms. Kovalenko has long spoken openly about the as-

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Activist Showed His Face. Then He Paid a Price.

This article is by Michael Wilson, Michael Rothfeld and Ana Ley.

Crowds of masked student protesters raging against the war in Gaza filled the Columbia University lawns last spring, while counterprotesters and journalists surrounded the tent city that had been erected there. One man stood out. He was Mahmoud Khalil, a graduate student in his 20s, older than most of the students around him. Mr. Khalil, a Syrian immigrant of Palestinian descent, quickly emerged as a vocal and measured leader during rallies and sit-ins, doing on-camera interviews with the media in a zip-up sweater. And he was unmasked. Many other international students wore masks and kept to the background of the protests, for fear of being singled out and losing their visas. His wife worried. “We’ve talked about the mask thing,” Noor Abdalla, a 28-year-old dentist from the Midwest, said in an interview last week. “He always tells me, ‘What I am doing wrong that I need to be covering my face for?’” Mr. Khalil was a negotiator on behalf of Columbia University



BING GUAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mahmoud Khalil near Columbia University’s campus last spring.

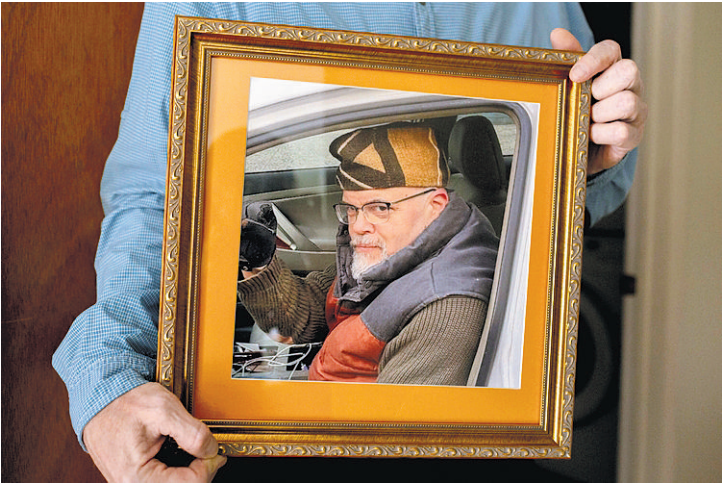
Apartheid Divest, the main coalition of protesting student groups, and one with its own spectrum of attitudes toward violence and dark rhetoric. His decision to quite literally be the face of a deeply divisive movement would have huge consequences for Mr. Khalil. He was called out by critics by name on social media, and on March 8, seven weeks after the inauguration of Donald J. Trump, federal agents

arrived at his door. He was swiftly taken to a detention center in Louisiana, where he is still being held for what officials have described, without providing details, as leading activities aligned with Hamas, an allegation he has denied. Mr. Khalil’s friends and family have expressed outrage at his detention and possible deportation. But they also say they are not surprised by his activism in a move-

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He Interrupted His Death to Save Another Life

By DAN BARRY
The family of Brendan Costello gathered in the hospital half-light. He had overcome so much in life, but the profound damage to his brain meant he would never again be Brendan. It was time. Brendan had spent four months enduring three surgeries and a lengthy rehab after infections further destabilized his damaged spine. He had returned to his apartment on the Upper West Side in late December to begin reclaiming the life he had put on hold — only to go into cardiac arrest three weeks later and lose consciousness forever. His younger sister, Darlene, stayed by him in the intensive care unit at Mount Sinai Morning-side hospital. She made sure that his favorite music streamed non-stop from the portable speaker propped near his bed. The gravely revelations of Tom Waits. The “ah um” cool of Charles Mingus. The knowing chuckle of New Orleans jazz. The music captured Brendan: the dark-humored Irish fatalism flecked with hope and wonder. And yes, he used a wheelchair, but woe to anyone who suggested this



SARAH BLESENER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dr. Sylvio Burcescu with a photo of Brendan Costello, his donor.

somehow defined the man. After tests confirmed no chance of regaining consciousness, a wrenching decision was made. Brendan’s ventilator would be removed at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 19, five days after his collapse. He was 55. Now it was Sunday, heavy and gray with dread. Several of Brendan’s closest relatives ringed his bed, including his sister and the aunt and uncle who had raised

him. Waits growled, Mingus aahed, the clock ticked. Then, just two minutes before the appointed hour, as tears dampened cheeks and hands reached for one last squeeze, a nurse stepped into the moment to say that Ms. Costello had a phone call. What? A phone call. You have to take it. You HAVE to take it.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-10



Nightclub Fire Kills Dozens
At least 59 were killed and more than 100 were injured in North Macedonia after fireworks set the building’s roof ablaze during a pop concert, the country’s interior minister said.

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Haitian Gangs Burn Hospital

A fire at the country’s largest public health center underscores long-simmering issues on the island, which is heavily dependent on foreign aid.

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NATIONAL A11-19

A Symbolic Plaza Is Gone
The “Black Lives Matter” painted in bold yellow near the White House has been erased. Advocates ask what comes next for social justice.

PAGE A11

Measles Patients Led Astray
In West Texas, residents seem to be heeding Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s advice on unproven treatments.

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SPORTS D1-8

No Fans Saw Their Moment
Twenty-four players made M.L.B. debuts in the Covid-shortened 2020 season, and haven’t made it back.

PAGE D1

ARTS C1-6



thly of a New York treasure.

A Writer’s Los Angeles
For almost four decades, the author and producer Michael Connelly has set many of his characters loose in a city of big dreams and lucky breaks.

PAGE C1

Transforming The Frick
The museum, which is based in Henry Clay Frick’s Beaux-Arts mansion on Fifth Avenue, reopens next month with a \$220 million expansion and refurbishment wor-

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BUSINESS B1-5

Finding a Way Out of Debt
People in financial trouble sometimes consider taking drastic measures when their situation appears hopeless. But help is available to make it through hard times.

PAGE B1

Conservatives Rally for Tesla
President Trump made a sales pitch for Elon Musk’s car company, but there may not be enough Republicans willing to buy the electric vehicles to make up for a boycott by many liberals.

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OPINION A20-21

Zeynep Tufekci

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OBITUARIES A22, B6



name Lady Edison and held dozens of patents. Overlooked.

Extraordinary Inventor

Beulah Henry was so prolific — finding a better way to make things as varied as toys, typewriters, umbrellas and ice-cream makers — that she earned the nickname Lady Edison and held dozens of patents. Overlooked.

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