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That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times



JUAN ARREDONDO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Aftermath of an Earthquake
A makeshift roadblock in Pereira, Colombia, to bar cars that could create vibrations collapsing buildings damaged in Monday’s quake.

JUDGE TOSSES SUIT AGAINST HARVARD

Rejecting Trump’s Claim
of Hostility to Jews

By MARK ARSENAULT

A federal judge in Boston on Thursday dismissed the Trump administration’s antisemitism lawsuit against Harvard University, dealing a blow to the government’s efforts to force the school to make a deal.

The lawsuit was part of a broader pressure campaign to force the university to comply with a variety of government demands on issues that include its handling of antisemitism and race in admissions.

Judge Richard G. Stearns of the U.S. District Court in Massachusetts granted Harvard’s motion to throw out the case, saying that the antisemitic incidents cited in the administration’s March lawsuit were “too isolated and episodic” to show that Harvard is breaking the law.

In its lawsuit, filed in the spring, the Trump administration had accused the university of turning “a blind eye to antisemitism and discrimination against Jews and Israelis.” The administration said that Harvard had allowed anti-Israel protesters to violate school rules “with impunity” after the war in Gaza began in 2023.

A spokesman for Harvard declined to comment. The Trump administration did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Thursday.

The administration accused Harvard of violating Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans discrimination in programs that receive federal money.

The lawsuit stated that Jewish and Israeli students had been subject to “hostility, harassment and intimidation,” during a time when students were holding pro-Palestinian protests.

It cited a conflict from 2023 in which a Jewish student trying to film a “die-in” at Harvard was surrounded by protesters, who tried to block his camera with scarves and jostled him. The lawsuit repeatedly cited the report of a task force Harvard created to investigate episodes of antisemitism.

The university argued in a June brief that Harvard for several years had “engaged in sustained, institution-wide efforts to identify and address antisemitism on campus.”

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Mangione Expected to Plead Guilty in U.S. Case

This article is by Benjamin Weiser, Devlin Barrett and Hurubie Meko.

Luigi Mangione is expected to plead guilty on Friday in Manhattan federal court, where he faces charges of stalking resulting in the death of a health insurance executive in 2024, according to two people with knowledge of the matter.

Mr. Mangione was set to go on trial in federal court in January for the stalking charges in connection with the killing of Brian Thompson, the chief executive of United-Healthcare, charges that carry a potential life sentence. Mr. Man-

Move Could Let Suspect
Seek Dismissal of
State Charges

gione is not charged with murder in the federal case. The two people spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the ongoing talks, which could fall apart before or even during a scheduled hearing in federal court on Friday.

The potential plea in the federal case comes less than a month before Mr. Mangione, 28, is sched-

uled to go on trial on a state murder charge on Sept. 8 for Mr. Thompson’s killing.

Mr. Mangione’s legal team did not respond to a request for comment. When asked at an unrelated news conference on Wednesday about a potential plea, Jamie McDonald, the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan, said there was a court conference scheduled for Friday, adding, “That’s all we can say at this time.”

Mr. Mangione has pleaded not guilty to all charges against him, in both federal and state court.

Mr. Thompson’s killing on one of the most congested patches of

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NICOLE TUNG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Russia Steps Up Maritime Attacks
Blesson Sebastian was burned in July in a strike on his ship carrying corn from Ukraine. Page A6.

Trump’s Vanishing Act? For Putin, It’s Routine.

By ANTON TROIANOVSKI

President Trump’s Air Force One subterfuge was a stunning episode of official deception.

But it pales in comparison with the secrecy surrounding President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, whose activity is shrouded in so much mystery that journalists have tried to track it by assessing the wilting of his office plants.

That is the method some reporters resorted to this year as they

In Russia, a Plane Ruse
Is Like ‘Child’s Play’

worked to ascertain whether the Russian leader’s televised meetings took place when the Kremlin said they did. The apparent reversal of the leaf decay seen in Mr. Putin’s plants suggested that the meetings took place in a different order and on different days.

For Mr. Putin, such deceit is par for the course. The White House, by contrast, has been criticized for not revealing Mr. Trump’s secret plane switch on a Turkish tarmac last month until The Washington Post broke the story this week.

“Compared to Russia,” said Mikhail Rubin, a Russian investigative reporter, “this is child’s play.”

Mr. Rubin and other reporters have found that Mr. Putin has outfitted his residences with nearly

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In Minnesota, U.S. Surveilled Groups on Left

Many That Were Never
Accused of Crimes

By ALAN FEUER
and ERNESTO LONDOÑO

Four days after Alex Pretti was fatally shot while filming officers taking part in the Trump administration’s immigration crackdown in Minnesota, the Homeland Security Department quietly opened an investigation at its office in St. Paul.

The target was not the Border Patrol agents who had killed Mr. Pretti, a 37-year-old government nurse, in late January. Instead, it was several left-leaning political organizations — labor unions, a climate change group, socialist collectives — that investigators believed had provided help and money to what they described as the “violent opportunists and agitators” on the street, according to newly released government documents.

As part of their inquiry, the documents show, homeland security officials used an array of invasive tactics during the first half of this year to gather information on many groups and individuals who were never accused of crimes, crossing the line that has traditionally stood between investigating criminal activity and political dissent.

In one instance, officials used administrative subpoenas to obtain more than three years of financial records from the Sunrise Movement, an environmental action group, and a labor union, the Communications Workers of America. That time frame went well beyond the civil unrest in Minnesota, which was prompted by the deployment of thousands of immigration agents to the state during the winter.

In another, investigators scrutinized three years’ worth of wire transfers made by the nation’s biggest health care workers union, the Service Employees International Union, in what they referred to as an inquiry into “domestic terrorist financing.”

The documents further detailed an expansive covert surveillance operation in which undercover agents spied on protesters and organizers at meetings held online, as well as in libraries, parks and churches, taking down not only what they said, but also their names and sometimes license plate numbers. The undercover agents also infiltrated group chats on Signal, listening as activists discussed coming demonstrations and their political opinions.

So far, none of the organizations targeted by the homeland security inquiry, conducted with the U.S. attorney’s office in Minnesota, have faced charges. And yet, as the investigation moved forward,

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THE WEATHER
Today, less humid, partly sunny, high 84. Tonight, partly cloudy, light winds, low 68. Tomorrow, sunny, low humidity, a slight northeast breeze, high 81. Weather map, Page A16.

AT \$464 MILLION, FLEET OF PLANES THAT SELDOM FLY

SPIKE IN NO-BID DEALS

Homeland Security Said
Deportations Created
an Urgent Need

This article is by David A. Fahr-enthold, Andrea Fuller, Julie Tate, Nicholas Nehamas and Hamed Aleaziz.

WASHINGTON — Starting last fall, the Department of Homeland Security spent \$464 million on a no-bid contract to buy 10 used airplanes from a firm in Northern Virginia.

That was an enormous price tag, but the department said it had no time to consider other offers. The planes were needed urgently for deportation flights.

But since then, the department has barely used this new fleet — for deportations, or anything else.

Three of the aircraft are luxury business jets. Just months after acquiring them, the department sought to loan or lease two to other agencies, including one for the use of the F.B.I. director, Kash Patel, according to a letter to the department sent Wednesday by top Democrats on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The other seven are older Boe-



KATHLEEN FLYNN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Boeing 737 passenger jet parked in Lake Charles, La.

ing 737 passenger jets, which the government has left parked at an airport in Lake Charles, La., for months at a time. An internal government document, obtained by The New York Times, said the agency did not have the staff necessary to operate them.

The acquisitions were part of a surge of rushed contracts handed out recently by the Homeland Security Department, which has repeatedly used the need for “urgency” to bypass regular contracting procedures. The idled planes highlight the risks of that approach. The agency rushed headlong to spend nearly half a billion dollars, only to end up with planes it did not fly.

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Boy’s Birth in Texas Caps Fight About Abortion and Surrogacy

By J. DAVID GOODMAN

HOUSTON — A bitter confrontation over surrogacy, abortion and parental rights that stretched across three states culminated on Wednesday with the birth of the baby at the center of the conflict at a Dallas hospital.

The fate of the baby, who has a severe birth defect, became a cause this summer among anti-abortion activists, who provided legal representation for the surrogate, McKenna West, and helped her travel to Texas for medical care. This week, she also received support from the Texas attorney general, Ken Paxton, who took legal action to compel medical treatments for the newborn.

The dispute began in the spring after the discovery at around 20

weeks of pregnancy that the fetus had a rare and life-threatening congenital heart condition, hypoplastic left heart syndrome, and would require multiple surgeries to survive.

The intended parents, who live in Los Angeles, opted to terminate the pregnancy.

But Ms. West, who lives in Alaska, refused to have an abortion. Instead, she went to Texas, which bans abortion, to seek specialists who could treat the baby’s defect.

On Wednesday, amid overlapping legal actions in the three states, Ms. West gave birth to a boy in Dallas whom activists have called “Baby Gabriel.” His legal

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More ballistics are coming

Kyiv — incoming ballistic missile! Second one

Kyiv — incoming ballistic missile! Third one

Clear for now

INTERNATIONAL A4-10
A Buzz Means Seek Shelter
Ukrainians rely on smartphone notifications from social media channels to warn them about incoming Russian missiles or drones. PAGE A6

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Pressing a Workaround
A vote to add “Restored and Renovated” by President Trump is a test of a judge’s order to remove his name from the Kennedy Center. PAGE A17

When Arbitration Strikes Out
Players vs. teams. Doctors vs. insurers. How the same method for resolving pay disputes has led to wildly different results. PAGE A18

‘Zombie’ Vaccine Theory
Experts criticized President Trump’s call for immunizations for measles, mumps and rubella to be given individually instead of together. PAGE A12

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Automakers Betting on Robots
Proponents of humanoids say they could boost U.S. manufacturing productivity. But experts are more skeptical. PAGE B1

Friendship Led to Lakers Bid
Bob Iger, the former chief of Disney, and Josh Kushner, the venture capitalist, were set up by their wives. PAGE B1

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Hard Feelings on the Court
W.N.B.A. ratings have soared since the “Caitlin Clark effect” introduced a new audience, but a constant cycle of tension is wearing down fans. PAGE B6

OBITUARIES B10
Cooter, Then Congressman
Ben Jones played a car mechanic on “The Dukes of Hazzard” before serving two terms as a Democratic congressman from Georgia. He was 84.

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Ben Rhodes PAGE A20

WEEKEND ARTS C1-8
Women in Puppetry
Two exhibitions at a festival in Manhattan feature trailblazing women in the field. Above, Theodora Skipitares with some of her creations. PAGE C1

