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"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, clouds and sun, warm, high 61. **Tonight,** partly cloudy, low 50. **Tomorrow,** turning cloudy, rain from late morning on, cooler, high 56. Weather map appears on Page B8.

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GABRIELA BHASKAR/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Pinal Airpark in Arizona is one of several desert parking lots for unused aircraft. Demand for engines is surging, Pinal officials say.

Quiet Partner Helped C.I.A. Inside Mexico

Foothold for Operations Against Drug Cartels

By STEVE FISHER and JACK NICAS

CHIHUAHUA CITY, Mexico — When the Central Intelligence Agency was looking to quietly expand its operations in Mexico last year, it found an especially useful partner.

Mexico had tight restrictions on how freely U.S. forces could operate in the country. The nation's president, Claudia Sheinbaum, had repeatedly said she didn't want them taking part in operations on the ground in Mexico, asserting that it was a violation of her country's sovereignty.

To the C.I.A., Guillermo Zuany Portillo, a prosecutor and former police commander in the border state of Chihuahua, offered a different kind of partnership.

He could pair C.I.A. officers with Mexican police units on counter-cartel operations — and he was in a bind that made him uniquely cooperative, Mexican and U.S. officials said.

Just months earlier, the United States had revoked Mr. Zuany's visa because of his suspected ties to the very cartels the C.I.A. wanted to root out, according to a letter Mexican officials sent to the F.B.I. that was viewed by The New York Times.

And the C.I.A. wanted help going beyond the logistical support and intelligence sharing that Ms. Sheinbaum repeatedly said was the extent of the two countries' security cooperation.

For more than six months, Mr. Zuany shepherded C.I.A. officers as they trained Chihuahua State forces, joined those forces on certain missions and provided expertise during ground operations, according to nine officials and law enforcement officers in Mexico and the United States. In return, officials said, Mr. Zuany's U.S. visa was reinstated.

Then, in April, a truck carrying two C.I.A. officers drove off a cliff, killing all four passengers. The crash blew the C.I.A.'s cover in Chihuahua and set off a national scandal.

Now, Mr. Zuany is on the run.

A Mexican investigation ruled the car crash an accident, but Mexican authorities this month issued a warrant for Mr. Zuany's arrest on charges related to his involvement with the C.I.A. They then arrested his former boss, Chihuahua's former attorney general, César Jáuregui, and charged him with treason, accusing him of also welcoming the agency into the state.

The charges revealed Mr. Zuany's connection to the C.I.A. But the depth of his involvement with the agency and the fact that

Continued on Page A11

G.O.P. HEADS OFF PUSH TO IMPEACH DEFIANT HEGSETH

MIRED IN HOUSE PANEL

Charges Against Defense Secretary Over War and Other Moves

By ROBERT JIMISON

WASHINGTON — House Republicans banded together on Tuesday to shelve an effort to impeach Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, shielding him from a damaging rebuke and a potential ouster after their party suffered crippling losses in an election that turned on voters' discontent about the Iran war.

The action spared Republicans a vote on whether to impeach Mr. Hegseth on eight separate charges, including violating the Constitution to wage war in Iran and elsewhere without congressional authorization, flouting laws to mitigate civilian casualties and abusing his power by retaliating against a senator for public statements.

The vote was 211 to 204 to refer the charges to a committee, which would allow Republicans to slow the process indefinitely. Only one Republican, Representative Thomas Massie of Kentucky, who spearheaded the effort, voted with Democrats against doing so.

The outcome was an unexpected reprieve for Mr. Hegseth, one of President Trump's most outspoken and combative cabinet members and the public face of the war with Iran. Democrats could still move to impeach him next year when they assume power, but have so far not indicated whether they will attempt to do so.

Mr. Hegseth's conduct has, at times, drawn bipartisan criticism from members of Congress, and his standing in the administration was further thrown into question following sweeping Republicans losses in the midterm elections, in which voters' discontent about the war was a major factor.

The vote came hours after Mr. Hegseth defended himself defi-

Continued on Page A18



ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP — GETTY IMAGES

Pete Hegseth said the accusations reflected on U.S. troops.

A Spy Scandal And a Woman Near to Power

This article is by ***Paul Mozur****,* ***Ana Swanson****,* ***Tripp Mickle*** *and* ***Michael Forsythe****.*

TAIPEI, Taiwan — In December 2023, a Chinese executive who goes by Alice Huang met with Nvidia's chief executive, Jensen Huang, and a small group of colleagues at an Italian restaurant in Singapore.

In a photo of the previously unreported meeting, which was confirmed by The New York Times, Ms. Huang smiled as she posed next to Mr. Huang, who was in his trademark black leather jacket. He held a glass of red wine.

For Ms. Huang, there was reason to celebrate. Backed by



An undated photo of Alice Huang and Jensen Huang from her WeChat Moments.

wealthy investors in Shanghai, she had just restructured a company that would soon buy billions of dollars in Nvidia artificial intelligence chips. The U.S. government had barred Chinese companies from buying the advanced chips, but Ms. Huang had sidestepped this prohibition by creating a firm, Megaspeed, through a Singaporean shell company.

Her close relationship with Nvidia's leader also appeared to smooth the way. Four days after the ownership change Megaspeed was named a Nvidia cloud partner, giving it access to the coveted components.

Their relationship is now at the center of a global geopolitical competition between China and

Continued on Page A9

SPY CLAIMS President Trump was reminded of reports of China spying on Jensen Huang before they flew to Beijing. PAGE A9

A.I. Taps Old, Polluting Jet Engines for Energy

By HIROKO TABUCHI

DIRTIER AIR, DIRTIER WATER
Data Centers' Environmental Toll

TUCSON, Ariz. — Across wide stretches of the sun-bleached Sonoran Desert in Arizona, thousands of retired aircraft sit nose to tail in graveyards of metal known as boneyards.

Many of their engines haven't been fired up for years. But America's soaring demand for electricity to power data centers is bringing them back to life.

Several companies are racing to strip the engines out of old aircraft to convert them into electrical generators. And data centers, desperate for power, are snapping them up.

"They're getting creative," said Bill Kleyman, chief executive of Apolo, an A.I. platform and infrastructure company. "Just a few years ago, a traditional data center would have been like: 'Are you kidding me? This is ridiculous.'"

Now, data center developers are obsessed with "speed to power," Mr. Kleyman said. "It's like, 'How fast can you get me energy?'"

President Trump, aware that the rapid construction of data centers has prompted concerns over rising electricity prices, has pressed center developers to generate their own power. "It was my idea," he told reporters in August. "Data centers now are mandated by me that they build their own electricity, so they're not taking it from the grid."

Jet engines are a plentiful and untapped source. In January, the federal Energy Information Administration said that the engines from the 4,000 old military jets it parks at a single desert base in Tucson could create 40,000 megawatts of power. That's more than the generation capacity of the entire state.

But repurposed aircraft turbines tend to be less efficient and more polluting than engines designed for conventional gas-burning plants. And data centers need

Continued on Page A16

She Rules All of the Sunken Titanic. For Now.

By MARC DAVIS

NORFOLK, Va. — From her seat in the old Art Deco federal courthouse in Norfolk, Va., Judge Rebecca Beach Smith presides over perhaps the most intriguing case in maritime law: the salvaging of the Titanic.

Since 1987, the company R.M.S. Titanic Inc. has raised about 5,500 artifacts from the ship with the court-sanctioned understanding that it can never sell the objects. But it can put them on display. The company has permanent exhibitions in Las Vegas and Orlando, plus traveling shows that have been seen by 35 million people.

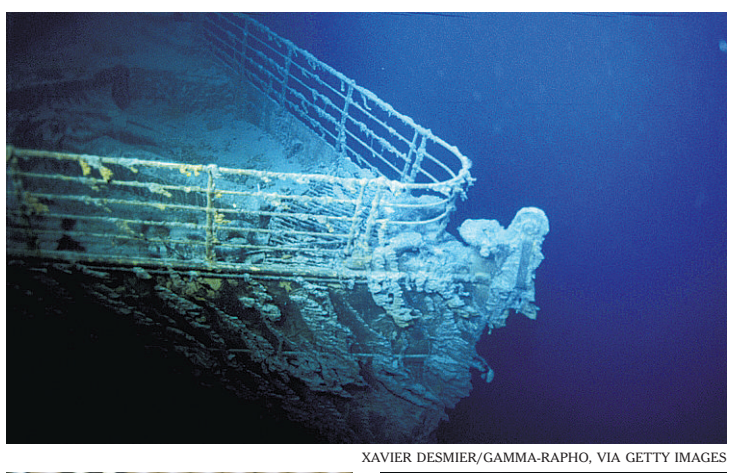
In March, though, the company argued it was broke — so broke, it said in court papers, that it needed to auction hundreds of the artifacts so it can take good care of the rest and pay off its debts.

Judge Smith was skeptical. Years ago, as a younger judge, she sometimes raised her voice and stared down lawyers whom she questioned. But at a Titanic hearing in August, she spoke in a conversational tone as she questioned the depth of the company's financial straits, her authority firmly established by four decades on the bench.

"There seems to have been misrepresentations to the court in this regard," she said icily.

Two weeks later, she extended a temporary ban on any sale.

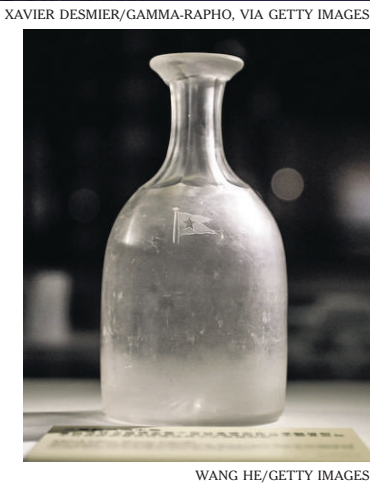
For decades, Judge Smith, 77, has controlled all matters involving the Titanic. She decides what can be salvaged and how, what can or cannot be touched and what must be done with the brittle artifacts after they are raised.



XAVIER DESMIER/GAMMA-RAPHO, VIA GETTY IMAGES



UNITED STATES COURTS



WANG HE/GETTY IMAGES

Judge Rebecca Beach Smith has overseen salvaging the Titanic for decades, after her predecessor granted jurisdiction when a wine decanter from the ship was brought to his courthouse.

The Titanic's original owner, the White Star Line, is defunct. The insurers who paid out after the 1912 disaster are long out of the picture. Judge Smith comes as close to operating as the wreck's owner as anyone alive.

"She has a real passion for using maritime law to protect the Titanic and keep the artifact collection together," said Ole Varmer, a maritime lawyer and co-author of "Titanic Law and Policy."

But how did Judge Smith come to oversee the remains of a ship

Continued on Page A20

Not a Drop of the Blue Wave Splashed Into South Dakota

By JULIE BOSMAN

PARKER, S.D. — As Consuelo Myers made lattes for her regulars last week in Parker, S.D., she detected only a whisper of buzz around the midterm elections.

One customer at Twig and Treasures, a gift and coffee shop, seemed surly about the results, saying that she needed a pick-me-up "in light of what happened," Ms. Myers said.

"I could tell it was tough for her," said Ms. Myers, an independent. But, she added, the midterms still seemed like a faraway event. "There's a lot of things that happen in the country that don't happen in South Dakota."

One such thing was the huge Democratic triumph last week that reshaped American politics overnight. Even as the blue wave drenched Iowa, Kansas, Georgia and Texas, a few states like South Dakota stayed dry.

In rural South Dakota, the conversations since the election have more often been about the recent stretch of unrelenting rain that left cornfields swamped and farmers rushing to finish the harvest before cold weather sets in. Hunters in blaze-orange vests who fanned out on prairies with their dogs were more focused on searching for ring-necked pheasant than on politics.

The midterm results didn't seem to change a thing in places like Parker, population 1,200, where campaign signage was

Continued on Page A14



INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Island Life in the Atlantic
The daily rhythms of Tristan da Cunha, a dot of land midway between Cape Town and São Paulo. PAGE A6

Push for Oct. 7 Inquiry
The call came as dozens of first-time lawmakers were sworn into the Israeli Parliament. PAGE A10

NATIONAL A12-22

Rejection of a Billionaire Tax
The ballot initiative failed in California, dealing a blow to progressives and injecting uncertainty into the idea on a national level. News Analysis. PAGE A15

Dragnet Sweeps Up Truckers
Ukrainians who fled war and came to the United States under a Biden-era program have been arrested. PAGE A19

SPORTS B7-11

Rethinking the Rangers' Fox
Adam Fox is reinforcing his importance to the team, and his high-end status as a defenseman in the N.H.L. PAGE B7



FOOD D1-8

Counting on Christmas
Snacks and drinks help fuel food-filled Advent calendars, a $2.6 billion industry that serves up a treat a day. PAGE D8

Saving Mom's Business
A daughter's viral video helped rescue a struggling Scottish restaurant, but online fame had its drawbacks. PAGE D1

BUSINESS B1-6

Rivaling the Pollsters
Whether prediction markets like Kalshi and Polymarket can accurately anticipate election results has become a key question after the midterms. The Times analyzed the results. PAGE B1

C.P.I. Pressures the Fed
October's Consumer Price Index rose 0.4 percent, showing a broadening of price pressures that has renewed concerns about the central bank's control over inflation. PAGE B1

OPINION A24-25

Molly Jong-Fast PAGE A24



ARTS C1-6

Bandits on the Run
"Wanted," a new Broadway musical, follows twin Black sisters who pass for white and become vigilantes in 1890s Texas. PAGE C1

0 354613 9