

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026 - VOL. CCLXXXVII NO. 77
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YEN 159.59

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **The U.S. will impose tariffs of up to 100% on branded pharmaceuticals, the White House said, though nations or drugmakers will be offered paths to reduce them, subject to conditions. A1**
- ◆ **Major U.S. stock indexes ended mixed after early weakness following Trump's prime-time speech, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq rising 0.1% and 0.2%, respectively, and the Dow falling 0.1%. B9**
- ◆ **Mortgage rates rose to the highest level since September in a fifth straight weekly increase that lifted the average 30-year fixed-rate loan to 6.46%. A2**
- ◆ **OpenAI acquired TBPN, an online talk show that aims to compete with Bloomberg and CNBC in instant analysis of tech news and executive interviews. B1**
- ◆ **A vendetta between the founders of Two Sigma flared up last month, prompting a new leadership battle at their hedge-fund firm. B1**
- ◆ **KKR closed a \$23 billion fund focused on private-equity investments in North America, its largest of the kind. B9**
- ◆ **Saks Global secured \$500 million in financing from key bondholders to support the retailer's planned exit from bankruptcy this summer. B3**
- ◆ **Publicis will acquire sports-marketing agency 160over90 from talent firm WME as sports have become essential to brands seeking extensive reach. B3**
- ◆ **Bed Bath & Beyond agreed to acquire The Container Store and its brands Elfa and Closet Works in a deal valued at \$150 million. B3**

Worldwide

- ◆ **Trump ousted Attorney General Pam Bondi, ending a yearlong tenure atop the Justice Department marked by failed efforts to prosecute his favored targets and a view by the president and his advisers that she mismanaged the Epstein scandal. A1**
- ◆ **Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ousted the Army's top general, the latest senior military leader removed in a Pentagon that has been purged of many of its top ranks under the Trump administration. A3**
- ◆ **Iran responded to the threat of a ground operation on its soil by strengthening the defense of its biggest oil port, menacing a wider array of targets and recruiting volunteers for home-guard duty. A1, A6**
- ◆ **The CFTC sued Arizona, Illinois and Connecticut over their attempts to ban sports and elections-related betting on Kalshi and other platforms. A2**
- ◆ **Trump said he would sign an order to pay all DHS employees to overcome a congressional funding standoff that has interrupted many agency workers' paychecks. A3**
- ◆ **Maine is poised to freeze large data-center construction as communities grapple with the consequences of the artificial-intelligence boom. A3**
- ◆ **After a hiatus of nearly a decade, China is jump-starting its island-building in the South China Sea as it seeks to command disputed waters. A6**
- ◆ **Pakistan confirmed it was in peace talks with Afghanistan's Taliban government in China, which is attempting to broker a cease-fire between Islamabad and Kabul. A8**

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President Fires Bondi Amid DOJ Tumult

Tenure marked by failed prosecutions, Epstein controversy; Zeldin eyed for post

President Trump ousted Attorney General Pam Bondi, ending a yearlong tenure atop the Justice Department marked by failed efforts to prosecute his favored targets and a view by the president and his advisers that she mismanaged the

Jeffrey Epstein scandal. "Pam Bondi is a Great American Patriot and a loyal friend, who faithfully served as my Attorney General over the past year," Trump wrote on social media on Thursday afternoon. The president, a Republican, said Bondi would soon transition to a "much needed and important new job in the private sector." He didn't provide details on her new job. Bondi said in a statement that she would work over the

next month to transition the attorney general's office to Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, who will take over on an acting basis, before moving to her new role. "Leading President Trump's historic and highly successful efforts to make America safer and more secure has been the

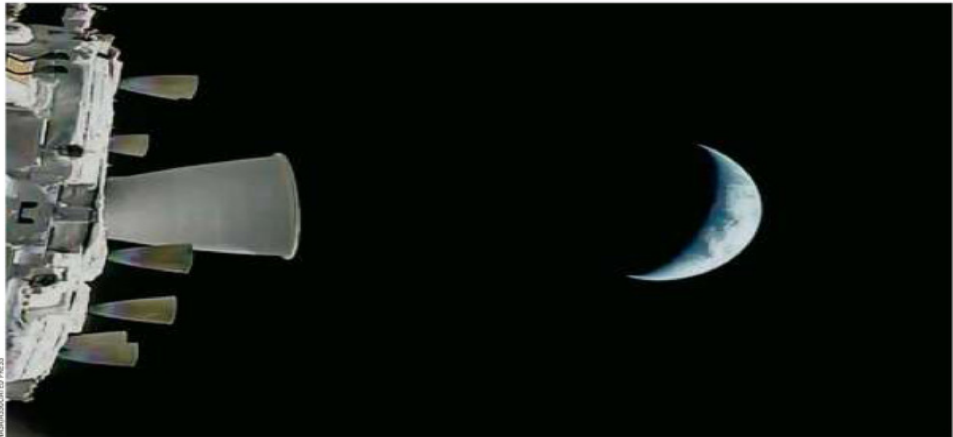
honor of a lifetime, and easily the most consequential first year of the Department of Justice in American history," she wrote. Bondi didn't provide details about her new role, but said she was "thrilled" about it and would "continue fighting for President Trump and this Administration." Blanche, a former personal lawyer for Trump who was confirmed last year to the second-ranking Justice Department role, said in a social-me-

dia post: "Pam Bondi led this Department with strength and conviction and I'm grateful for her leadership and friendship." Trump is considering nominating Lee Zeldin, the director of the Environmental Protection Agency, as attorney general, although no final decision has been made, people familiar with the matter said. Rep. Jamie Raskin, a Maryland Democrat who clashed with Bondi during recent

By Josh Dawsey, Sadie Gurman and C. Ryan Barber

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Astronauts Orbit Earth, Head Toward Moon



NEXT PHASE: An overshadowed Earth is seen from the Artemis II astronauts' Orion spacecraft on Thursday. The crew resolved several glitches before firing the main engine and heading at more than 20,000 miles an hour on their way to lunar orbit. A2

Investors Fueling Private Credit Flee To Exits

By ANNA MARIA ANDRIOTIS AND PETER RUDGEBAIR

The rush of investors trying to pull their money from private-credit funds intensified this week, hitting unprecedented levels and raising the specter of prolonged pressure on the firms that had become the new kings of Wall Street.

Blue Owl, once the poster child for the explosion of private-credit funds that nearly raised from wealthy individuals, revealed on Thursday that investors sought to pull \$5.4 billion from a pair of its funds in the first quarter. The redemption requests amounted to 22% of its \$36 billion private-credit fund and 41% of a technology-focused fund.

It comes after weeks of elevated redemption figures trickling out from competitors including Apollo, Blackstone, BlackRock and Cliffs. Each saw funds receive requests of more than 5% of shares outstanding, the threshold at which most funds limit redemptions.

In total, investors asked to pull nearly \$4 billion in the first quarter from the type of private-credit funds known as business-development companies that make loans to mostly junk-

◆ **Heard on the Street: Test for fund flows starts... B10**

Iran Girds Against U.S. Ground Threat

By BENJOT FAUCON

Iran is responding to the threat of a ground operation on its soil by stepping up defenses around its biggest oil port, while threatening to attack a wider array of targets around the Persian Gulf and launching a mass recruitment drive reminiscent of its 1980s war with Iraq.

The steps come as President Trump has ordered thousands of Marines and Airborne troops

to the Middle East. While the president hasn't said he plans to put boots on the ground, the deployments would give the U.S. more options for ground assaults or raids, and they have set off preparations and a wave of new threats from Iran.

In a Wednesday prime-time address, the president assured the public that the U.S. would eventually end the war with Iran and that the Strait of Hormuz would "open up naturally" thereafter. But Trump also

pledged to hit Iran "extremely hard" in the coming weeks, sending oil prices surging 11% to a near four-year high. Stocks were mixed, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average lower and the S&P 500 and Nasdaq indexes slightly higher.

The U.S. military struck the B1 Bridge, which links Tehran to neighboring Karaj on Thursday, a senior U.S. official said. The attack was part of a larger U.S. effort to sever military resupply routes, the official said.

Analysts and people familiar with Iranian military tactics said the country is gearing up for a fierce fight that could give it the chance to inflict more casualties than it can against the U.S. and Israel's dominant air forces.

Tehran is also mobilizing its

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◆ **Control of Hormuz Strait will determine victory... A6**
◆ **Islands help Tehran tighten grip on shipping route... A6**

INSIDE



BUSINESS & FINANCE
Starbucks expands tipping and adds bonuses to reward baristas. B1



MANSION
Homeowners are ditching all-white interiors for something less vanilla. M1

The Heavyweight Fight Over Ali's Missing Shorts

Sports collector and IRS chief are locked in a grudge match over prized boxing trunks

By JAMES FANELLI

Frank Bisignano has two demanding jobs, running the Social Security Administration and serving as the CEO of the Internal Revenue Service during tax season. But these days the Trump administration heavyweight has something else to worry about: He's locked in a fight over a pair of Muhammad Ali's boxing shorts.

Eric Inselberg, a sports memorabilia buff and entrepreneur, said he gave the prized gear to his former friend Bisignano years ago as

collateral for a \$500,000 loan. Inselberg said he settled the debt but Bisignano has nonetheless refused to return the trunks, which he estimates are now worth \$800,000.

Bisignano countered he was never given the white shorts with black stripes, which Ali wore the last time he fought at Madison Square Garden in 1977.

Their fight isn't exactly the Rumble in the Jungle, but there have been plenty of upsets over the years.

Bisignano said he and Inselberg were never friends

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Trump to Impose Tariffs as High As 100% on Branded Drug Imports

By GAVIN BADE AND XAVIER MARTINEZ

The U.S. will impose tariffs of up to 100% on branded pharmaceuticals, the White House said Thursday, though nations or drugmakers that strike deals with the Trump administration or commit to build manufacturing facilities in the U.S. can receive lower levies.

The 100% tariff will apply to patented imported pharmaceuticals from companies that

haven't committed to invest in the U.S. and haven't entered into "most favored nation" agreements to match their U.S. prices to the lowest they charge in other developed countries, a senior administration official said on Thursday.

But the full 100% tariff might apply to only a few drugmakers or none at all. If a company pledges to invest in U.S. drug manufacturing in the coming years, its tariff rate will fall to 20%, the senior

administration official said. The company would have to complete the factory by the end of President Trump's term in the White House, the official said, or tariffs could be increased.

Additionally, if a company that has made a U.S. manufacturing pledge also strikes a most-favored-nation agreement...

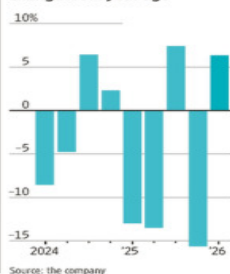
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◆ **Steel tariffs are redrawn to ease compliance... A2**

Tesla Sales Charge Up

Tesla's vehicle deliveries rose 6.3% in the first quarter, but missed expectations. B1

Tesla quarterly sales, change from year ago



Source: the company

Nursing Is New Path To Career Prosperity

Plentiful jobs and potential six-figure incomes draw young people

By JEANNE WHALEN

Miranda Mammen became a licensed practical nurse after earning a community-college diploma. Later, she went back to school for a bachelor's in nursing and worked in an emergency room during the pandemic. Four years ago, she got her doctorate and became a nurse practitioner. With each step, the 33-year-old has boosted her pay and responsibilities. These days she is working at a primary-care clinic in Lincoln, Neb., earn-

ing about \$120,000 a year. She conducts annual physicals, treats respiratory illness and abdominal pain, and manages chronic conditions.

She and her husband, a garage-door technician, own a three-bedroom home, contribute to their 401(k)s and are taking their child on a trip to Florida this summer. "We don't really have to worry about getting our bills paid," Mammen said. "That definitely takes away the stress of the economy that I

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GETTY IMAGES

NCAA: Final Four showdown begins

Insightful previews of men's and women's games in **Sports** and online at usatoday.com/sports.

Jon Hamm teases 'Neighbors' secrets

Actor chats about second season of Apple TV's drama, viral dancing meme and Bad Bunny. In **Life**

Come hungry for all things chocolate

Read how it is woven into history, why we crave it and what we can create with it. In **Weekend Extra**



ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

AG Bondi ousted after criticism over Epstein files

President Donald Trump on April 2 fired Attorney General Pam Bondi after her handling of documents related to accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein came under fire and several investigations against Democrats were thwarted. Read the latest developments at usatoday.com.

Iran war: Fast start, murky ending?

Trump: U.S. is 'on track,' but destination unclear



Susan Page
Washington Bureau Chief
USA TODAY

On day 33 of the war with Iran, President Donald Trump declared victory was at hand. Almost.

In a prime-time address from the White House, Trump extolled what he called "swift, decisive, overwhelming victories on the battlefield" — victories so decisive he suggested the war would wind down after another two or three weeks of military strikes that could "bring them back to the stone ages, where they belong."

"We are on track to complete all of America's military objectives shortly, very shortly," he said.

But he made it clear he was prepared to leave a messy and problematic situation behind.

The 19-minute speech included no new details about the war's course and no more than a brief reference to the possibility of negotiated settlement.

But he also didn't mention the possibility of expanding the war by deploying the thousands of U.S. ground forces now being massed in the region. And he recast what had been described as a fundamental goal — to gain control of the highly enriched uranium now buried in Iranian territory — as a step he no longer sees as necessary.

The sites were under "intensive satellite surveillance and control," and

See **PAGE**, Page 3A

For up-to-date coverage, visit us at usatoday.com

Follow the latest news on the Iran war and the stranglehold on oil supplies.

Vast migrant centers planned across U.S.

But amid backlash, future of ICE initiative in question



This warehouse in Social Circle, Georgia, is among the largest bought by the Trump administration in an effort to expand migrant detention spaces by converting facilities nationwide into huge holding centers. MEGAN VARNER/REUTERS

How big is the ICE warehouse in Georgia?

At more than 1 million square feet, a warehouse in Social Circle, Georgia, more than contains the footprints of two Yankee Stadiums. The warehouse is among the largest purchased by the Department of Homeland Security for conversion into an immigration detention center.

Christopher Cann and Swasti Singhai
USA TODAY

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have spent months advancing a controversial effort to drastically expand its detention space by buying up warehouses nationwide and converting them into holding centers.

Internal documents show the agency had plans to buy and retrofit 24 commercial warehouses, boosting its detention capacity to more than 92,000 beds in a matter of months.

The largest of the proposed facilities, which ICE has described as "megacenters," was intended hold 7,000 to 10,000 people at a time and would serve as the primary location for deportations. ICE also planned to buy 16 warehouses to convert into "processing centers," which would hold 1,500 detainees for an average of five to seven days, documents show.

But the project's future has become increasingly unclear two weeks into recently confirmed DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin's tenure.

In an emailed statement to USA TODAY, the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, said that "as with any transition, we are reviewing agency policies and proposals."

The former Oklahoma senator has expressed some hesitancy with the expansion, noting at his confirmation hearing in March that "it's important that we're talking to the

IMAGES Google Earth; USA TODAY
Stephen J. Beard/USA TODAY

See **WAREHOUSES**, Page 2A

Pay phones used to connect Gen Zers with older adults

Free social experiment aims to fight loneliness

Rachel Hale
USA TODAY

Gen Z is notoriously bad at picking up the phone. Boomers grew up on it.

A new social experiment wants to get them talking — to each other.

Outside of a busy coffee shop on Boston University's campus, a sign on a bright yellow pay phone invites passersby to "call a boomer." In a lobby across the country at Sierra Manor, a subsidized senior housing facility in Reno, Nevada, a similar pay phone reads, "call a zoomer." When a user on either end of the line picks up the phone, it automatically dials the companion phone. The calls are free for both users.

The biotech startup Matter Neuroscience installed the phones as a social experiment to connect Gen Z with older adults, two age demographics experiencing high levels of loneliness. The phones, installed the first week of March, will stay up at least until April 9.

"They're two demographics that often are at odds as far as perspectives and just outlooks on the world, and you

See **PAY PHONES**, Page 6A



Gen Z notoriously hates calls, but college students in Boston are lining up to use a pay phone that connects them with boomers in Reno, Nevada. PROVIDED BY MATTER NEUROSCIENCE



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MACRON IS VOICE FOR FRUSTRATION OVER WAR IN IRAN

GLOBAL ECONOMIC PAIN

Calling for Serious Talk as Trump Threatens 'Stone Age' Attack

This article is by Mark Landler, Erika Solomon and Thomas Fuller.

PARIS — Scathing criticism by the French president. Taunts and more missile strikes from Iran. Surging oil prices.

President Trump's 19-minute speech on Wednesday night, in which he threatened to bomb Iran "back to the Stone Ages" and said the war would last several more weeks, failed to appease deep global anxieties over where the war was leading.

President Emmanuel Macron of France expressed blunt disapproval on the handling of the war on Thursday, chastising Mr. Trump for speaking cavalierly and contradicting himself.

"When we're serious, we don't say every day the opposite of what we said the day before," Mr. Macron told reporters in response to a question about Mr. Trump's threat to continue the war and bomb Iran intensively. "And, maybe, one shouldn't speak every day."

Mr. Macron, speaking of Mr. Trump's verbal attacks against NATO, also said, "If you create doubt every day about your commitment, you hollow it out."

His comments came during a trip through Asia, the region hit hardest by Iran's selective closure of the Strait of Hormuz to oil tankers and other maritime traffic crucial to the global economy.

Iran's defiance on Thursday came in the form of mocking statements and missiles fired across the Middle East.

"Your information about our military power and equipment is incomplete," a spokesman for the leadership of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps said in a video statement on Thursday. It came after Mr. Trump, in his speech on Wednesday, said that Iran's ability to launch missiles and drones had been "dramatically curtailed."

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AN AREA HIT BY U.S.-ISRAELI STRIKES IN TEHRAN IN MARCH.

TRUMP FIRES BONDI AFTER BUMPY TENURE



Attorney General Pam Bondi is being replaced by Todd Blanche, her deputy, on an interim basis.

Attorney General's Work on Epstein and Prosecutions Drew His Anger

By TYLER PAGER and GLENN THRUSH

President Trump fired Attorney General Pam Bondi on Thursday, removing the nation's top law enforcement officer after privately venting his frustrations for months over her handling of the Epstein files and her failed efforts to prosecute his political enemies.

In a social media post, Mr. Trump said he was replacing Ms. Bondi with Todd Blanche, her deputy, on an interim basis. "We love Pam, and she will be transitioning to a much needed and important new job in the private sector, to be announced at a date in the near future," Mr. Trump wrote.

Ms. Bondi is the second cabinet member in recent weeks to lose her job, after Mr. Trump ousted Kristi Noem, the secretary of homeland security, last month.

The firing of Ms. Bondi, 60, ends a turbulent 14-month tenure as attorney general in which she tried desperately to appease a boss who demanded unimpeded control of the Justice Department to pursue politically motivated investigations against targets of his choosing, even when prosecutors warned that there was no evidence to do so.

In the process, Ms. Bondi surrendered much of the department's historic independence and oversaw the exodus of experienced career officials, leaving the department's public corruption and national security units, along with many local U.S. attorneys' offices, weakened and demoralized.

Yet Mr. Trump remained annoyed by Ms. Bondi's inability to secure indictments of people he referred to as "scum" during a speech in the department's Great Hall about a year ago.

The president's support for Ms. Bondi has steadily eroded since last summer, when her early

stumbles in managing the release of the Epstein files created a political liability for Mr. Trump among a segment of his supporters. He has also complained about her shortcomings as a communicator and TV surrogate.

Whoever replaces Ms. Bondi on a permanent basis will face the difficult task of executing on Mr. Trump's appetite for retribution. Ms. Bondi tried to fulfill Mr. Trump's demands — launching investigations and trying to indict some of his political opponents, purging agents and lawyers who worked on cases involving the president and installing inexperienced loyalists in top prosecutorial positions around the country. But even still, Ms. Bondi came up short, largely because judges and juries rejected the department's efforts.

At a high-profile hearing in February at Capitol Hill, where lawmakers grilled Ms. Bondi on the Epstein investigation, she refused to apologize to survivors of Mr. Epstein, and offered few detailed answers and no admissions of fault. Mr. Trump said privately that he liked how she jostled with Democrats, but it was seen overall as a damaging performance.

Ms. Bondi spent much of the last day making her case to stay in the cabinet, according to two people familiar with the situation. But her team could sense those chances slipping away when Mr. Trump issued only a lukewarm statement when The New York Times requested comment on reporting that she was about to be removed.

"Attorney General Pam Bondi is a wonderful person and she is doing a good job," he said on Wednesday, a day before he announced that she was fired.

Continued on Page A16

Trump Has Boxed Himself In On a War With No Clear End

By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON — More than a month into a war that he insists will come to an end within two or three weeks, President Trump has put himself in a strategic box from which he is finding no easy exit.

Talks with Iran about a deal to end the conflict, to the degree they are substantive, have so far shown little promise. The key metrics of success described at various points by Mr. Trump — keeping Iran from possessing the fuel to make a nuclear weapon, helping the Iranian people topple a government much of the populace despises and reopening the Strait

of Hormuz — remain in the distance, at best.

Iran's tolerance for pain appears far higher than Mr. Trump anticipated, and despite devastating losses to its arsenal, it retains some ability to strike Israel with missiles. It did so even while Mr. Trump spoke about the war on Wednesday evening.

That televised, prime-time address was intended to reassure Americans that the costs of the war would be transitory, that an end to hostilities and a return to normal economic life were imminent. But the markets reacted to his speech with deep skepticism.

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WITH INTERNET AS 'COOKBOOK,' DEADLY DRUGS FLOOD STREETS

By MATT RICHTER

On a warm night three summers ago, Kai Raydon, a student at the University of Colorado, Boulder, opened a package of orange-white powder that he had purchased through an encrypted site on the dark web. He had ordered qualudes, an illegal sedative, but wasn't taking chances.

THE NEW DRUG WAR

Thwarting Good Intentions

He placed a sample on a fentanyl test strip: negative.

Mr. Raydon weighed out a gram using a digital scale that sat on the coffee table in his room at his fraternity. Grateful Dead posters decorated the walls. Delilah, his

rat terrier, sat with him on the couch. With a rolled-up 50-peso bill, he inhaled the gram.

"Just tried the ludes and they are just as good as people say," he messaged a friend on social media. "Holy Hell. Doses are \$20."

His girlfriend, Emma Buck, had been in the hallway on a call. She returned to find Mr. Raydon pacing — an odd reaction, "uncharacteristic of a sedative," she said.

It wasn't a sedative. It was something new and unknown — and part of an explosion of novel lab-made chemicals that is redefining the illicit drug market. In recent years, hundreds of ultra-potent drugs have emerged, often identified by health authorities and law enforcement only after they have shown up in the toxicology report of someone who has overdosed.

Most of these substances originate in traditional medical research, in scientific papers and patents that were published by legitimate scientists and companies and then copied and modified by illicit chemists. This is the science-to-street pipeline, and it has come to dominate the illicit drug market.

In his fraternity room that night, July 22, 2023, Mr. Raydon started to feel sick. He took a cold shower, put on an anti-nausea bracelet and lay with his head on Ms. Buck's lap. The pair had fallen hard for each other that spring. He was a neuropharmacology major, fascinated by the brain. "He was the most intellectually curious

Continued on Page A19



Synthetic opiates called nitazenes, including N-desethyl etonitazene, are increasingly causing fatal overdoses in North America.

ActBlue Was Told It May Have Misled Congress

By REID J. EPSTEIN and SHANE GOLDMACHER

WASHINGTON — In early 2025, a law firm working for ActBlue, the Democratic fund-raising behemoth, delivered the organization a startling warning.

The firm concluded that ActBlue's chief executive had given a potentially misleading response to congressional Republican investigators in a 2023 letter explaining how the organization vetted donations to ensure that they

Lawyers Warned About Foreign Donor Vetting

were not illegally coming from foreign citizens.

The letter from the chief executive, Regina Wallace-Jones, said ActBlue carried out "multi-layered" screenings of contributions that helped "root out" those from overseas. In fact, the law firm found, some of the steps she had

described were not always followed.

"This presents a substantial risk for ActBlue," the law firm, Covington & Burling, wrote in one of two memos expressing legal concerns. One memo raised the specter of a criminal investigation if prosecutors believed that ActBlue had tried to conceal facts about its efforts to prevent foreign contributions.

Federal election law prohibits foreign citizens or people who are

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Staying, Not Staying Quiet

While many Russian journalists have fled into exile, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dmitri A. Muratov is still there and still speaking out. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A10-23

Artemis II, Flying to the Moon

The crew members are the first humans to travel to the moon in over 50 years. They will not land on the surface but will inform future visits. PAGE A12

BUSINESS B1-6

An Unhappy Labor Balance

Lower immigration has brought supply in line with shaky demand, but economists fear a slow-moving job market is at risk of toppling over. PAGE B1

WEEKEND ARTS C1-10

Palette of Crossed Boundaries

A new exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum highlights the Senegalese artist Iba Ndiaye's myriad influences from across the globe. PAGE C1

OPINION A24-25

Stephen I. Vladeck

PAGE A24



TIFFANY & CO. With Love, Since 1837

Trump ousts Bondi as attorney general

BY JEREMY ROEBUCK,
NATALIE ALLISON,
EMILY DAVIES
AND PERRY STEIN

President Donald Trump announced Thursday that he was ousting Pam Bondi as attorney general, ending a tumultuous 14-month tenure in which she transformed the Justice Department into a tool for avenging the president's grievances but frustrated him with her struggles to prosecute his enemies and her handling

of files related to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The president called Bondi "a Great American Patriot" and loyal friend in a social media post about her departure. He named Todd Blanche, Bondi's chief deputy and Trump's former personal lawyer, to take over as acting attorney general until a permanent replacement could be confirmed.

"We love Pam, and she will be transitioning to a much needed important new job in the private sector, to be announced in the

DEPUTY BLANCHE GIVEN JOB IN ACTING ROLE

President vexed by her struggles to prosecute his foes

near future," Trump wrote. He did not elaborate on the new position.

Bondi, in a post of her own, said she remains "eternally grateful for the trust that President Trump placed in me to Make America Safe Again." She said her transition out of the job would take place over the next month.

Bondi's departure makes her the second Cabinet secretary Trump has ousted in the span of weeks, following his decision last month to remove Kristi L. Noem as homeland security secretary. Within minutes of Trump's announcement Thursday, names of possible successors began circulating among Republican lawmakers, conservative influencers and prominent Trump allies.

The president has privately discussed Lee Zeldin, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, as a possible replacement in recent days, according to a person familiar with his thinking who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss those conversations.

He met with Zeldin at the White House, a different person with



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST
The firing ends Pam Bondi's tumultuous 14-month tenure.

Repairs put off before bursting of sewage line

D.C. work proposed in 2018 delayed amid long environmental reviews

BY AARON C. DAVIS

The D.C.-area utility responsible for a massive sewer line that failed catastrophically in January had planned to reinforce the aging section years ago but repeatedly delayed construction as federal officials studied potential environmental impacts, including risks to a blue wildflower and an endangered bat species, a Washington Post investigation found.

D.C. Water asked the National Park Service for permission to fast-track repairs in 2018, after inspectors found widespread corrosion and detached rebar in one area of the six-foot-wide concrete pipe that runs under federal parkland in Maryland, records show. The utility sought to strengthen a three-quarter-mile section that included the point that later ruptured.

Left unaddressed, it warned, the corrosion could lead to a catastrophic failure leading to the release of raw sewage into soil, groundwater, and waterways," records show.

But the National Park Service's environmental review dragged on for years and was still not complete when the pipe collapsed — a delay that experts said appeared to flout a 2020 federal rule requiring such examinations be done within one year.

"That's a process gone wrong,"

SEE PIPELINE ON A8



KATARINA PREMFORIS/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Muzaffar Ali Ghulam traveled here four years ago at the invitation of his cousin, hoping to build the house of his dreams back in Pakistan for his young family.

The 27-year-old worked 12-hour days as a driver in Dubai, sending most of his salary home to his wife and three children, said his cousin, Masood, who spoke on the condition that only his first name be used because of security concerns. When Iran started firing missiles and drones at the United Arab Emirates a month ago, Masood said, there was no discussion of fleeing Dubai. There was no way they could afford it.

Migrant workers keep Dubai running but can't afford to flee Iranian strikes

BY RACHEL CHASON
IN DUBAI

Mohammed Shabbaz, who moved to Dubai from Pakistan 10 years ago, and other migrant workers risk their lives to earn money that they can send home to their families.

Shrapnel from an Iranian strike hit Ghulam's car March 7, Emirati officials said, killing him instantly.

"I miss him every day, and I still don't believe he is gone," Masood said in an interview in Al Lisaili, an area where the city gives way to desert and many migrant workers live. "Sometimes I think he is still here with us."

Ghulam was one of more than a dozen civilians killed across the Persian Gulf since the United States and Israel began pummeling Iran with strikes Feb. 28 and Iran began retaliating by striking wealthy Gulf nations that for years had been heralded for their stability.

SEE IMMIGRANTS ON A14

Ballroom commission altered file at White House's request

BY JONATHAN EDWARDS
AND DAN DIAMOND

An independent planning commission reviewing President Donald Trump's ballroom building softened its own official documentation about the project at the White House's request, records show.

The National Capital Planning Commission voted Thursday to approve the project, the final procedural obstacle to building a 90,000-square-foot structure that would dramatically remake one of the most recognized symbols of American power and democracy. Emails obtained by The Washington Post through a public records request show the commission changed what would become a public FAQ document about the ballroom after a White House staffer asked it to soften language about the com-

mission's authority over the project. The commission then released the document ahead of its Jan. 8 meeting to provide information about its role in reviewing federal construction projects, when it would take up the ballroom and whether it had reviewed previous White House projects.

The draft included the sub-head "Why is the National Capital Planning Commission reviewing the project?" under which it definitively stated that the White House sits on federal land — a fact that "requires" federal agencies to get commission approval, according to a Dec. 19 email sent by commission General Counsel Meghan Hotel-Cox. White House staffer Heather Martin

SEE BALLROOM ON A4

Review: Panel packed with Trump allies approves ballroom plans. A4



HEIDI LEVINE/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Celebrating Passover underground

Israelis in Tel Aviv pass out boiled eggs, symbolizing sacrifice but also the "circle of life," Wednesday evening at a communal Passover seder in an underground parking lot that also serves as a bomb shelter and a respite from air raid sirens. Story, A11

IN THE NEWS

2020 election case A Colorado appeals court tossed the nine-year sentence for Tina Peters, a former Mesa County clerk convicted on charges related to stolen-election claims. A3

Army chief of staff The defense secretary asked the service's top general to step down, an extraordinary move amid the Iran war. A6

THE NATION
Two lawsuits have been filed challenging the president's order limiting mail ballots. A3
The death of a blind refugee left in a parking lot by Border Patrol was ruled a homicide. A5

THE WORLD
In parts of Asia, war-time fuel shortages have spawned panic, killings and robberies. A12
Sexual violence in Sudan is being used as a weapon in the civil war, an aid group says. A12

THE ECONOMY
The more people use social media, the less likely they are to support democracy, a survey found. A7
The president ordered a new 100 percent tariff on imported drugs made by companies that have not agreed to lower their retail prices. A18

STYLE
The gothic, orchestrated aesthetic of London quintet the Last Dinner Party marries the eye and the ear. B1

SPORTS
The Nationals' home opener is Friday. Here are five takeaways from the team's six-game opening road trip. B7

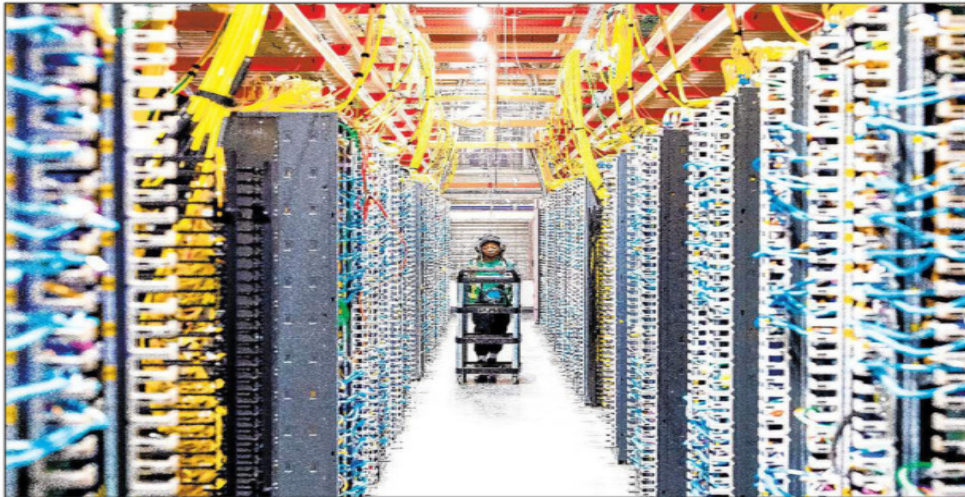
THE REGION
Some students at George Washington University will face costs nearing \$100,000 next school year. B12

WEEKEND
Batter up: The experience at Nationals Park will be different this baseball season. Here's what you need to know.

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The Washington Post
Year 118, No. 9540





NOAH BERGER Associated Press

A TECHNICIAN makes the rounds at an Amazon Web Services AI data center in New Carlisle, Ind., last year.

A year later, the cost of 'tariff mania'

U.S. consumers and businesses bear the brunt of levies and the burden of uncertainty.

By MICHAEL WILNER

WASHINGTON — One year ago, Donald Trump stood in a sun-kissed, unpaved Rose Garden and defiantly announced a new era of global trade, raising tariffs on countries worldwide and sending shock waves through the global economy.

The president promised short-term pain rippling through American households would make way for a U.S. economy that would soon take off.

But experts say they are still waiting for receipts — and question whether they will ever come.

Tariff rates shifted so unpredictably for so long — across countries and with remarkable speed — that companies are still struggling to build stable, long-term supply chains capable of supporting future planning and growth.

U.S. markets recorded one of the most volatile years in history, marked by extreme swings and modest gains driven by a handful of stocks for tech companies largely inoculated from import duties.

Federal customs duties brought in tens of billions of dollars. But a study published this week by the European Central Bank found that U.S. importers and consumers, not foreign exporters, bore the brunt of the costs that paid for it — and that an even larger share of the burden will fall on American households and companies the longer Trump's tariff policies stay in place.

Despite the president's pronouncements, tariff earnings have barely made a dent in the federal debt.

Tax cuts and additional spending on defense and immigration enforcement have increased the annual deficit. In the months of January and February alone, net customs duties hit an average of \$27 billion — a significant figure that has essentially offset the costs of Trump's war with Iran, now estimated to be more than \$57 billion since its start.

In February, the Supreme Court ruled that Trump had exceeded his authority by bypassing Congress to impose tariffs on an emergency basis. But the decision has merely prompted the Trump administration

[See Tariffs, A10]

In land of AI boom, data centers are a bust

Californians' worries about pollution, higher power bills are driving sites — and jobs — out of the state

By NILESH CHRISTOPHER

Bryan Marsh was booed by the crowd as he approached the podium in Monterey Park's City Hall. Things weren't going as planned.

In front of a wall of people holding "No Data Center" placards, he outlined how his company, Australia's HMC StratCap, invested tens of millions of dollars and became the city's largest landowner after years of negotiations, clearances and hearings.

City officials had previously welcomed its plans to build a sprawling new data center and the jobs and tax revenue that would follow, he said, but then things sud-

denly changed. "There was no widespread opposition" until late last year, he said as people in the room yelled, "You're a liar!" "Now, for the last few months, the city has faced intense public pressure."

California's notorious NIMBY, or not in my backyard, adherents have a new cause. They are worried that the data centers that power artificial intelligence will lead to pollution, higher power bills and worse. It is a nationwide movement gaining momentum and is particularly poignant in California, arguably the birthplace of the AI boom.

It's also one of the reasons most blue-collar jobs tied to the unprecedented build-out of data centers are

going to other states.

Medhi Paryavi advises governments and companies on data center projects across the country. When he recently suggested California to a European executive looking to invest hundreds of millions of dollars, he was quickly dismissed.

"Absolutely not," the executive snapped back, said Paryavi, the chairman of the Washington-based think tank International Data Center Authority.

The aversion to California is pretty standard in the industry. Land is expensive, electricity rates are high and there are too many regulations. Meanwhile, new roadblocks pop up regularly as the state's outspoken citi-

[See Data centers, A13]

In reversal, Johnson embraces Senate's Homeland Security bill

By KEVIN FREKING AND JOE CAPPELLETTI

WASHINGTON — Less than a week after he and other House Republican lawmakers rejected a Senate plan to fund the Department of Homeland Security — but not its immigration enforcement operations — Speaker Mike Johnson has made a complete about-face.

Johnson's embrace of a two-track Senate bill marks a sharp reversal, after he had derided it as a "joke," and said he was "quite convinced

that it can't be that every Senate Republican read the language of this bill."

But now that Johnson appears to be fully on board, securing support from his own conference could prove more difficult after a sizable group of House Republicans blasted the Senate-passed bill last week.

President Trump said Thursday that he will sign an order to pay all Homeland Security employees who have gone without paychecks during the partial government shutdown that has reached a record 48 days.

Big Sky, big savings as rich motor through a loophole

Luxury car buyers in California register their rides in Montana to avoid paying taxes.

By SUHAUNA HUSSAIN

The "Montana loophole" is pretty simple.

Luxury car buyers in California and other states wanting their fancy ride but not wanting to pay sales taxes turn to Montana, which has no sales or personal property tax. They register the car there, which they can do from anywhere

with paperwork, and bring it back to their home state.

The Montana detour has become a well-known path for the rich to save some money on their Maybach and Maserati.

But California is now fighting back.

Facing its own budget problems, state officials are investigating more Montana car registrations. Shannon Robinson of the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration said those who register in Montana simply to avoid taxes could be violating the law.

More than a year ago, the agency sent a letter to Cali-

fornia auto dealers, warning that they could be held liable for taxes if they neglected to maintain proper shipping and delivery documents, or if they maintained such documentation but did not actually ship the vehicle out of state. The letter also urged dealers to explain the potential tax issues associated with out-of-state limited liability companies.

Robinson said there is a "significant tax gap" the state is looking to close through investigations.

"We're talking about really large, hefty sales prices on these vehicles. So

[See Loophole, A10]

President fires Bondi after a tumultuous 14-month term

Epstein files, failed cases against Trump's enemies dogged the attorney general.

By ANA CEBALLOS AND KEVIN RECTOR

WASHINGTON — President Trump fired Pam Bondi as attorney general on Thursday, ending a tumultuous 14-month tenure marked by mass firings of career prosecutors, a bungled handling of Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking investigation and a string of investigations into the president's political foes, including prominent California Democrats.

Trump announced the ouster of the former Florida attorney general in a social media post, praising her as a "Great American Patriot." It caps months of controversy surrounding Bondi's leadership, which critics called an unprecedented assault on

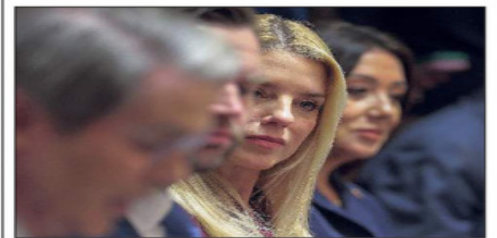
the independence of the nation's top law enforcement agency.

Deputy Atty. Gen. Todd Blanche, Trump's former personal criminal defense attorney, will serve as acting attorney general until a permanent replacement is named. Blanche, like Bondi, has been a loyal backer of Trump while at the Justice Department.

Blanche has denounced past criminal cases against Trump as baseless and politically motivated, even while championing new criminal cases against Trump's political opponents. He has also echoed Trump's sharp criticisms of the federal judiciary, declaring the Justice Department is at "war" with a cadre of "rogue activist judges."

Bondi, in a post on X, promised to assist with the transition while defending her tenure — in part by citing historic declines in homicides.

"Leading President [See Bondi, A7]



CHIP SOMODEVILLA Getty Images

DEMOCRATIC House members say they still expect Pam Bondi to testify about the Epstein investigation.

Trump's Iran speech fails to allay worries, at home and abroad

By KEVIN RECTOR

President Trump's meandering speech on the Iran war late Wednesday — in which he paired promises of a swift exit with new threats of escalated bombing and denied responsibility for the Strait of Hormuz — did little to assuage U.S. allies and world markets concerned about the conflict's ongoing disruptions to the global oil supply.

Stocks dropped after markets opened Thursday and oil prices soared, with the price of U.S. crude oil jumping more than 10%, to above \$110.

In the wake of the speech, diplomats from more than 40 nations — not including the U.S. — met to strategize

on how to lift Iran's continued stranglehold on the Strait, the vital oil corridor that the U.S.-Israeli war drove Iran to restrict but which Trump on Wednesday said wasn't his problem.

Iranian officials remained unbowed, asserting the U.S. and Israel "know nothing" of its remaining capabilities, that "not a single life will be spared" if either attempts a ground incursion into its territory, and that "every last" Iranian would become a soldier if necessary.

"Iranians don't just talk about defending their country. They bleed for it," Iranian parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, a pugilistic figure and one of Iran's most prominent

[See Iran, A3]

Crackdown on hospice fraud

Eight people were arrested and 15 charged in an alleged scheme to steal over \$50 million in healthcare funds. CALIFORNIA, B1

Grocery Outlet closing 36 stores

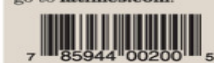
Six of the three dozen underperforming U.S. sites are in Southern California. BUSINESS, A12

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 81/58. B6

Markets

For the latest news, go to latimes.com. A13



7 85944 00200 5



JESSICA CHRISTIAN S.F. Chronicle PUKA Nacua entered a rehab facility in March.

Rams' Nacua checks into rehab

Star wide receiver is facing allegations in a civil lawsuit that he hit a woman on New Year's Eve. SPORTS, B10

EL MUNDO

Viernes, 3 de abril de 2026. Año XXXVI. Número: 13.253. Edición nacional. Precio: 2 € con La Lectura.

LOC



REGATAS El Rey estrenará el velero 'Vesper', un auténtico fórmula 1, mientras el viejo 'Aifos' será destinado a los cadetes de la Armada

PRIMER PLANO Los 50 años de la macrofuga de etarras de la cárcel de Segovia



PANEL EL MUNDO-SIGMA DOS (I)

Los votantes socialistas censuran el indefinido retraso de los Presupuestos

Solo el 29% de los afines al PSOE lo justifica ● El 71% de los españoles rechaza el aplazamiento ● Los que apoyan a Sánchez y Díaz también admiten que no lo hace por su falta de apoyos

Sánchez premia a Cataluña y al País Vasco con el 65% de los traspasos para afianzar el poder

Ambas comunidades autónomas copan 30 de las 46 transferencias hechas desde que llegó a la Moncloa en 2018

POR RAÚL PEÑA Páginas 8 y 9

5 años salvajes del Gobierno en Indra: cuatro presidentes, 37 millones y 35 consejeros

La tecnológica es víctima de los juegos de poder desde que en 2021 la Sepi maniobró para forzar el relevo de Abril Martorell

JOSÉ M. RODRÍGUEZ SILVA Pág. 24

MARTA BELVER MADRID

El Gobierno ha vuelto a incumplir el límite temporal que se impuso para presentar los Presupuestos Generales del Estado. Se había propuesto tener las cuentas en el primer trimestre de 2026, pero se ha escudado en la guerra para no hacerlo. En palabras del presidente, Pedro Sánchez: «Nadie lo preveía».

Según revela la encuesta de Sigma Dos para EL MUNDO, el 56% de los votantes socialistas censura el retraso indefinido de las cuentas, porcentaje que se eleva hasta el 90% en el caso de los que votan al PP. Es más, el 71% de los españoles ve desasturada la estrategia del Gobierno de aplazar los números. Y solo un 12% acepta la excusa de que la guerra de Irán y el escudo social han impedido al Gobierno la presentación de los Presupuestos. **Página 10**



Imagen de la Luna tomada desde la nave espacial 'Orión' en la misión Artemisa 2. NASA / AP

Test y órbita terrestre para dar el gran salto a la Luna

Los tripulantes de 'Orión' solucionan problemas técnicos y preparan su aproximación a nuestro satélite **POR PABLO R. SUANZES Y TERESA GUERRERO PAPEL**

Del chat de astronautas al orgullo de la exploración espacial **SARA GARCÍA**

Ambición temeraria y algunas dudas sobre Artemisa 2 **RAFAEL BACHILLER**

Trump fulmina a la fiscal general con la guerra y el petróleo fuera de control

El presidente de EEUU destituye a la gestora de los archivos del 'caso Epstein' mientras el crudo sube otro 7% ante la incertidumbre en Irán

POR PABLO R. SUANZES, PABLO SCARPELLINI Y DANIELA SALTOS Págs. 19 y 21



ÁNGELA 'LA ESCULTORA' BUSCA MUSEO "CREANDO ESPANTABA MIS PESADILLAS... PASAR A LA HISTORIA ME IMPORTA UN PEPINO"

Por Sara Polo

El PP propone que homenajear a ETA se multe como al franquismo

Lanza una reforma para sancionar con hasta 150.000 euros los actos que quedan fuera del Código Penal con el mismo régimen que Sánchez incluyó en la Ley de Memoria Democrática

Ana Sánchez **P10 y 11**



Trump momentos antes de dirigirse a la nación en un discurso televisado en el que amenazó a Irán con hacerlos «retroceder a la Edad de Piedra». Alex Brandon/ AFP

Trump, más amenazas que certezas para acabar una guerra

Pide a los estadounidenses, cada vez más frustrados, una prórroga para «completar la misión» de acabar con el riesgo nuclear iraní mientras la gasolina se eleva por encima del umbral psicológico alcanzado al principio de la guerra de Ucrania

Javier Ansorena **P16 y 17**

'Clube da Luta': Nos 30 anos do livro, que ganha edição especial, autor conta como obra se tornou bode expiatório de esquerda e de direita

SEGUNDO CADERNO

No cinema. Brad Pitt no filme que ajudou a fazer do romance um fenômeno cultural



O GLOBO

Irineu Marinho (1876-1925) (1904-2003) Roberto Marinho

RIO DE JANEIRO, SEXTA-FEIRA, 3 DE ABRIL DE 2026 ANO CI - Nº 33.842 - PREÇO DESTE EXEMPLAR NO RJ - R\$ 700

COMBUSTÍVEIS

Pacote para diesel, gás e frete sofre resistências e liga alerta no governo

De distribuidoras ao Congresso, há entraves às medidas para deter efeitos econômicos da guerra

O governo Lula tem enfrentado obstáculos para garantir o efeito das medidas pensadas para evitar uma crise de combustível e inflação no país como efeito da guerra. Três grandes distribuidoras do país decidiram não aderir por ora à subvenção do diesel anunciada pelo governo, por causa da exigência de um teto de preço no país

muito abaixo do mercado internacional. Já um leilão de gás de cozinha da Petrobras irritou Lula por resultar em preços acima dos da tabela da estatal. Outro problema pode estar no Congresso: a MP do Frete, aceno do Planalto aos caminhoneiros, pode ter o texto mudado se a relatoria cair com um nome da oposição. PÁGINAS 11 e 12

EDITORIAL

DECISÃO SOBRE 'PENDURICALHOS' AMPLIOU INCERTEZA PÁGINA 2

VERA MAGALHÃES

No Supremo, quem deveria se explicar isola Fachin PÁGINA 2

BERNARDO MELLO FRANCO

Ministros confundem defesa do STF com acobertamento PÁGINA 3

PABLO ORTELLADO

Patriotismo dos Bolsonaros é vermelho, azul e branco PÁGINA 3

JANAÍNA FIGUEIREDO

Comédia de erros de bandeira brasileira em Caracas PÁGINA 16

THIAGO GOMIDE

No Rio, o Oriente Médio vive em harmonia PÁGINA 21

RUTH DE AQUINO

Tragédia anunciada: trânsito do Rio virou uma zona total

PF investiga dinheiro de Vercaro no exterior, ponto sensível no acordo de delação

Investigadores do caso Master rastreiam as transações no exterior da teia de fundos ligados a Daniel Vercaro. A estimativa é que ele tenha cerca de R\$ 10 bilhões fora do país. A devolução de recursos é um dos pontos centrais da negociação da delação premiada do banqueiro. PÁGINA 4

Mal-estar entre Fachin e ala do STF impede consensos e tem 'indiretas' em discursos

Ministros como Alexandre de Moraes, Gilmar Mendes e Flávio Dino têm tido embates nem sempre velados com o presidente da Corte. Desconfiança em torno de plano de longo prazo para o tribunal foi episódio mais recente, conta THIAGO BRONZATTO. PÁGINA 5

JOGO POLÍTICO / THIAGO PRADO

A candidatura Zema e o dilema do Novo ante o bolsonarismo

Integrantes do partido defendem que ex-governador desista da corrida ao Planalto para apoiar Flávio Bolsonaro, em divisão interna que reflete debate mais profundo sobre o papel da sigla na direita. PÁGINA 7

Lula rebate críticas de relatório do governo dos EUA ao Pix

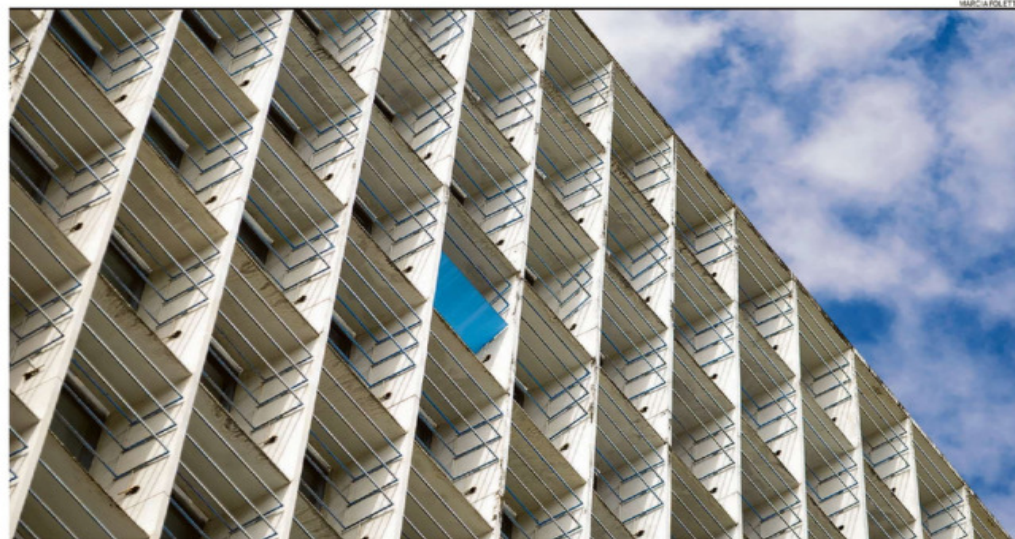
Documento afirma que sistema do BC é prejudicial a empresas americanas (como bandeiras de cartões de crédito). "O Pix é do Brasil e ninguém vai fazer a gente mudar", discursou o presidente. PÁGINA 14

PM de SP aposenta com salário acusado de matar a esposa

Polícia afirma seguir a lei e que aposentadoria não elimina o processo contra o tenente-coronel Geraldo Neto. PÁGINA 30

Avanço desordenado das bikes elétricas e falta de regras claras agravam risco no trânsito

"Zona cinzenta" entre a legislação nacional e a fiscalização municipal amplia disseminação das cenas de perigo com os veículos nas ruas do Rio. PÁGINA 20



MARCELO POLETTI

Arquitetura incompleta

Reaberto após seis anos de obras, o Palácio Capanema, ícone modernista no Centro do Rio, está sem seu sistema de quebra-sol, característico da fachada do prédio projetado por nomes como Lucio Costa e Oscar Niemeyer. As mais de mil lâminas, chamadas de "brises", foram retiradas em 2022 e dependem de nova licitação para serem reinstaladas. PÁGINA 19

Marina deixa governo com legado de queda do desmatamento e reveses políticos

Ministra reabilitou a fiscalização do Ibama e obteve bons números, como a redução de 58% na devastação na Amazônia entre 2022 e 2025. Autoridade Climática não saiu do papel, e governo não conseguiu evitar derrotas ambientais no Congresso. PÁGINA 9



ANDRÉ LUIS FERREI

Levantamento inédito em hospital liga alerta sobre uso de drogas na gravidez

Hospital das Clínicas gaúcho mostra que dar à luz ainda com substâncias como maconha ou cocaína no sangue não é tão raro, e detalha risco aos bebês. PÁGINA 17

Falha no banheiro, um susto na espaçonave

Novidade da missão Artemis em relação à Apollo, nos anos 1960 e 1970, o banheiro usado pelos quatro astronautas teve problemas no primeiro dia, já resolvidos. A espaçonave Orion deixou ontem a órbita terrestre para entrar em rota para a Lua. PÁGINA 16



GENEVIEVE PEREIRA/AGF

Insatisfeito com condução do caso Epstein, Trump demite secretária de Justiça

Uma das mais leais aliadas do presidente, Pam Bondi teve gestão marcada pela tentativa de perseguição judicial a adversários de Trump e atuação claudicante na divulgação dos arquivos do caso Epstein. PÁGINA 16



MICHAEL CARMICHAEL/GETTY IMAGES/AGF

13-14 NACIONAL

Kaiser y Parisi en tribunales: querrela de exdiputado podría llegar a juicio



17-18 CULTO

La historia de los "Jesucristo Superestrella" que se han montado en el país



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2-3 PULSO

Chile lidera alza de combustibles en países de la OCDE, pero tiene uno de los precios más bajos

► Invasión de EE.UU. e Irán: la fuerte subida del valor del petróleo. En nuestro país el efecto es especialmente sensible, debido a su condición de importador neto de crudo.

► La gasolina de 95 octanos se ha incrementado 14,2% y el diésel casi 30% en las últimas dos semanas. Sin embargo, el valor del litro de gasolina es el séptimo menor del bloque.



15 DEPORTES

El plan de la UC para recibir a 2 mil hinchas de Boca Juniors en el Claro Arena

► Este jueves, por la Liga de Primera, el equipo cruzado venció 6-1 a Palestino.

► Finalmente, la Delegación Presidencial aprobó tierra visitante para la Libertadores.

4-5 POLÍTICA

Kast confirma viaje a Argentina en medio de incierto escenario por Galvarino Apablaza

► Abogado de familia Guzmán: "Si está fugado cambia el foco"

20 MUNDO

Récord de 61% de desaprobación: la caída en la popularidad de Milei

20 NACIONAL

Scoters: accidentes crecen 30% y Las Condes es la comuna más afectada



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Chicago Tribune



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Fierce Trump backer Bondi fired

Attorney general didn't quell furor on Epstein or bring trials against president's perceived enemies

By Alanna Durkin Richer, Eric Tucker, Michael Balsamo and Michelle L. Price
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday that Pam Bondi is out as his attorney general, ending the contentious

tenure of a loyalist who upended the Justice Department's culture of independence from the White House, oversaw large-scale firings of career employees and moved aggressively to investigate the Republican president's perceived enemies. The departure followed months

of scrutiny over the Justice Department's handling of files related to the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking investigation and failed efforts to meet Trump's unwavering demands for criminal cases against his adversaries. As Trump's own frustrations mounted, he began privately discussing firing Bondi, people familiar with the matter say.



Bondi

"Pam Bondi is a Great American Patriot and a loyal friend, who faithfully served as my Attorney General over the past year," Trump said in a statement. He added: "We love Pam, and she will be transitioning to a much needed and important new job in the private sector, to be announced at a date in the near future."

Trump named Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, one of his former personal lawyers, as the acting attorney general. Three people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Thursday that he has privately discussed Lee Zeldin, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, as a permanent pick.

In her own statement, Bondi

See BONDY on Page A9



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

'I no longer have my child'

Dionne Mhoon, mother of slain Chicago police Officer Aréanah Preston, stands in the lobby of the Leighton Criminal Court Building in Chicago on Thursday after a plea deal for one of the defendants accused of killing Preston in May 2023. Joseph Brooks, 22, pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to 55 years in prison, the first of four defendants charged to have his case resolved. Trevell Breeiland, Jakwon Buchanan and Jaylan Frazier are still facing pending charges in the slaying of the officer. **Chicagoland, Page A3**

Company told to finish asphalt spill cleanup

By Christiana Freitag
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois officials have secured a court order requiring a petroleum storage company to resume cleanup of a major asphalt spill in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship

Canal after federal regulators ended their oversight in November.

Over a year ago, half a million gallons of liquid asphalt spilled into the canal near Forest View. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency initially oversaw the

remediation efforts, removing more than 2,000 tons of material before it stepped away from enforcing further cleanup efforts.

An Illinois Environmental Protection Agency review of the site in December found toxic sludge still in the waterway, and

state officials became concerned the cleanup had been ended prematurely.

In March, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul filed a lawsuit alleging the St. Louis-

See SPILL on Page A4

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Death of Latino leaders grows

Official's departure comes amid calls for more representation

By Kate Armanini
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Alfonso Carmona, the second-in-command of Chicago Public Schools, is stepping down Friday as acting chief education officer — less than a week after the appointment of CPS CEO Macquiline King and amid calls for greater Latino representation in her cabinet.

Carmona accepted a superintendent position in Lake County in November, which begins in July. Though CPS has not announced his official departure date, Carmona confirmed to the Tribune that Friday will be his last day.

A Colombian immigrant and 22-year veteran of CPS, Carmona has been one of the district's most prominent Latino leaders. His departure leaves a top role vacant during a key transition period for the district.

A CPS spokesperson said the district intends to fill Carmona's role "as soon as possible."

Recent leadership shake-ups at CPS have resurfaced long-standing questions about race and representation in the nation's fourth-largest school district. Almost half of the district's 315,000 students are Latino, and about a third are Black.

On Wednesday, a coalition of school board members, elected

See CPS on Page A4

WILL COUNTY

Panel split on sprawling solar farm

By Alicia Fabbre and John Lippert
FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Plans for a solar farm that would sprawl across 45 miles of prime farmland will move to the Will County Board for a final vote without a recommendation from its land-use committee.

The board's committee deadlocked 3-3 on a vote Thursday to recommend approval of a special-use permit for Earthrise Energy's proposed development, dubbed Pride of the Prairie.

Republicans Judy Ogalla, whose district covers the proposed project area, and Raquel Mitchell were joined by Democrat Dawn Bullock in voting against the project that would cover 6,100 acres of farmland in Wilton, Green Garden and Manhattan townships. Democrats Sherry Newquist, whose district also covers a portion of the project, Herb Brooks and Destinee Ortiz voted in support.

Meanwhile, the same committee voted 4-2, with Ogalla and Mitchell voting no, to recommend approval of Earthrise's 2,400-acre Plum

Valley solar farm project in Crete Township. Both proposals will go to the county board April 16 for a final vote.

The vote on Pride of the Prairie presents a difficult choice for a board evenly split between Republicans and Democrats.

"There's going to be a lawsuit either way so you're going to have to figure out which side you are on," Jeff Becker, a Green Garden Township resident and chair of an environmental group called the

See SOLAR on Page A5



Will County Board members Judy Ogalla, left, and Raquel Mitchell react during a Will County Land Use and Development Committee meeting at the Renaissance Center in Joliet on Thursday. **JOSH BOLAND/TRIBUNE**

Agents spotted at courthouse

Cook County leaders decried an appearance by federal immigration agents Thursday at a domestic violence-focused courthouse, blasting the effort as a violation of state law. **Chicagoland, Page A5**

Airline covering new ground

American Airlines' new bus service helps connect passengers traveling from South Bend and Rockford to Chicago O'Hare International Airport, where they can catch flights to their final destinations. **Business**

Iran persists with air attacks

Iran fired more missiles at Israel and Gulf Arab states Thursday, demonstrating Tehran's ability to strike even as the U.S. claimed any threat from the country was nearly eliminated. **Nation & World, Page B4**

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WEATHER FORECAST

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178th year No. 93 © Chicago Tribune



Petrobras estuda cancelar leilão de gás de cozinha com ágio de 117%

Após críticas públicas do presidente Lula (PT), a estatal avalia como rever o leilão realizado na terça (31) que terminou com mais que o dobro do valor de refinaria e pode afetar o preço final do gás. O petista classificou o leilão como uma "bandagem" que desrespeitou a orientação do governo. O Ministério de Minas e Energia fez uma representação à Secretaria Nacional de Defesa do Consumidor. **Economia A13**

guiafolha

ILHABELA É TOMADA POR CULINÁRIA

Festival Folha Sabores da Praia promove cardápio especial em estabelecimentos da cidade litorânea **C8**

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Artemis 2 deixa a órbita da Terra rumo à Lua **A40**

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Plano de Ancelotti de azeitar seleção está atrasado **A42**

Vagas de um a dois salários mínimos puxam 87% da alta no emprego desde 2023

Melhora indica mercado aquecido para postos com menos qualificação

Trabalhadores brasileiros que ganham de um a dois salários mínimos representaram 87,3% do crescimento da população ocupada entre 2023 e 2025. Nesses três anos, houve um aumento de 4 milhões no número de ocupados formais e informais nessa faixa de renda, segundo o IBGE.

Nesse período, a ocupação como um todo cresceu 4,6 milhões.

Esse retrato é considerado positivo por especialistas, pois a taxa de desemprego entre os mais pobres é mais elevada. Flexibilização de benefícios sociais, maior escolaridade e formalização são algumas das explicações.

A melhora na base mostra que o mercado está aquecido para vagas que exigem menos qualificação. Pesquisadores alertam, contudo, que a despeito desse cenário a maior parte da população ocupada ganha até dois salários mínimos, reflexo de um país pobre e desigual. **Economia A11**



Daniilo Verpa/Folhapress

Palacete de Ramos de Azevedo em SP é redescoberto após décadas de abandono

Prédio centenário no centro da cidade estava sem uso permanente e será transformado em espaço cultural por empresário **Cotidiano A34**

Guerra no Irã desloca milhões e deve agravar crises

Mais de 4,5 milhões de pessoas saíram de suas casas no último mês, desde que os Estados Unidos e Israel atacaram o Irã. Entre este país e o Líbano, o saldo é de 3.235 mortos, suscitando uma nova crise humanitária conectada a impasses econômicos. **Mundo A30**

economia

Clientes driblam ovo e bacalhau na Páscoa **A26**

Suzana H. Houzel

IA apenas cospe requentado do que alguém um dia escreveu **A40**

Dora Kramer

PT vive inferno no Senado ao indicar Messias para vaga na corte **A3**

Combo que une STF a Vorcaro pressiona investigação da PGR

Os elos revelados entre ministros do Supremo e o ex-banqueiro Daniel Vorcaro deixam a Procuradoria-Geral da República sob pressão para que os fatos envolvendo Dias Toffoli e Alexandre de Moraes sejam apurados nas investigações do Banco Master. **Política A7**

Viagens fretadas, como as de Viviane Barci, são raras

Voar em aviões fretados, como fez a mulher do ministro Alexandre de Moraes, é raro, segundo advogados. O comum, mesmo em causas milionárias, é usar voos regulares. **A8**

PF quer rastrear suspeita de mesada a Lulinha, mas evita devassa em suas contas **A9**

Secretária de Justiça dos EUA é demitida após caso Epstein **A32**

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Federalizar BRB seria fazer contribuinte pagar por má gestão **Sobre crise do banco.**

A guerra santa de Trump A respeito de sentidos religiosos atribuídos ao conflito no Irã.

Governo vai enviar projeto para acabar com a escala 6x1

Lula decidiu mandar ao Congresso um projeto próprio sobre o assunto, para dar andamento mais urgente a um potencial ativo eleitoral. A iniciativa contraria o presidente da Câmara, Hugo Motta (Republicanos-PB), que queria tratar do tema por PEC. **Economia A12**

Ministro da Fazenda quer acabar com a declaração do Imposto de Renda **A21**



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GASTRONOMIE
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LES OURS EN CHOCOLAT
LES PLUS SAVOUREUX **PAGES 38 ET 39**

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À Séoul, Macron réplique vertement à Trump

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Droits de douane : Trump loin d'avoir atteint ses objectifs

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CHAMPS LIBRES

« Carlo Masala : « La Russie a une fenêtre d'opportunité parfaite pour attaquer l'Europe et regarder l'Otan s'effondrer »

« Les tribunes de Jacques de Saint-Victor et d'Édouard Tétreau

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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de jeudi :

La France a-t-elle raison de refuser le survol de son territoire par des avions américains armés ?

OUI 49% NON 51%

VOTANTS : 163 230

Êtes-vous choqué par le retour du député Insoumis et fondateur de la Jeune Garde, Raphaël Arnault, à l'Assemblée nationale ?

Téléchargez l'appli du Figaro pour voter

PLEIN CŒUR, BOUCHONNE LE FIGARO

Lecornu face au casse-tête du prix des carburants

Alors que les caisses de l'État sont vides, le premier ministre peut difficilement aller au-delà d'aides ciblées pour soutenir les Français, qui voient leur pouvoir d'achat amputé par la crise.

Agriculteurs, pêcheurs, infirmiers libéraux... Les Français sont nombreux à subir la hausse des prix à la pompe et à demander l'aide de l'État. En déplacement à Bordeaux, Sébastien Lecornu a affirmé jeudi qu'il envisageait de

nouvelles aides ciblées et qu'il a d'ores et déjà demandé à ses ministres de lui « faire de nouvelles propositions en début de semaine prochaine ». Sommé de répondre à l'angoisse des Français, le chef du gouvernement est aussi sous

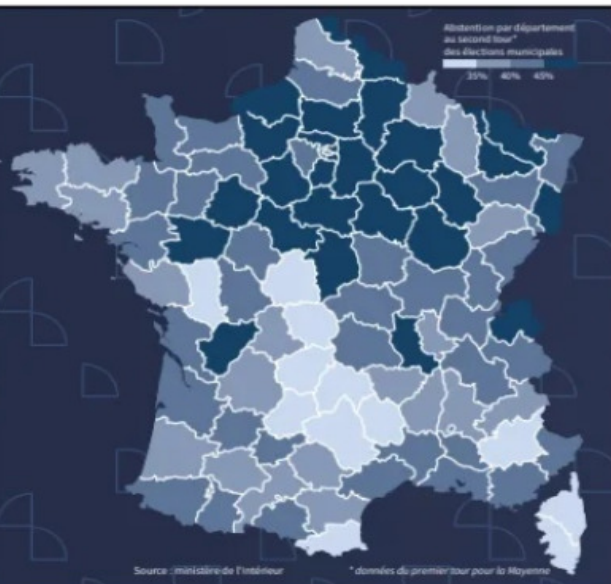
pression face à ses opposants politiques. Accusé par Marine Le Pen de « mensonge » et de profiter de la crise pour encaisser des surplus fiscaux, le premier ministre défend qu'il n'y a pas de « cagnotte » dans un pays qui affiche un déficit

de 5,1% du PIB. Et Sébastien Lecornu de tancer les responsables politiques « qui parfois nous ont fait la leçon sur le déficit à l'automne dernier » et qui « sont cette semaine les premiers à demander des chèques à l'aveugle ».

→ DANS L'OPINION, LE SPECTRE D'UNE NOUVELLE CRISE TYPE « GILETS JAUNES »
→ LES FINANCES PUBLIQUES NE PROFITENT PAS DE LA CRISE
→ LE SYSTÈME DES FRANÇAIS ÉTRANGLÉS PAR LA HAUSSE DES PRIX DU CARBURANT
PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Municipales : radiographie de l'abstention par Jérôme Fourquet

La nouvelle chute de la participation (57%) aux dernières élections s'explique par la crise du lien politique local et la montée en puissance des intercommunalités, mais traduit aussi un bouleversement de la sociologie rurale, analyse l'écrivain et politologue, spécialiste des fractures et des mutations de la société française. **PAGES 16 ET 17**



Raphaël Arnault : retour sous haute tension à l'Assemblée

Le fondateur de la Jeune Garde, au cœur de la polémique depuis le lynchage de Quentin Deranque à Lyon, a fait son retour au Palais Bourbon ce mercredi. Après plus d'un mois et demi d'absence, l'élu du Vaucluse a siégé dans l'Hémicycle, suscitant la colère de ses opposants, dont certains appellent à son exclusion. Pour sa part, LFI assume totalement ce retour, mis en scène à grand renfort de messages de soutien. En parallèle, le Conseil d'État se penche ce vendredi sur la dissolution de la Jeune Garde, contestée par le groupuscule. **PAGE 5**

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thériard

Le syndrome de la cagnotte

Face à la flambée des prix des carburants, le gouvernement s'en est tenu jusque-là à des mesures limitées. Mais la pression monte. Tentant d'ajuster son discours, le premier ministre suggère à présent de faire profiter les Français des « surplus » de recettes fiscales générés par la crise. Mal lui en a pris ! C'était prévisible : les « surplus » sont vite devenus une cagnotte dans la bouche de ses interlocuteurs. Laurent Wauquiez, lui-même, l'estime à quelque 2 milliards ou 3 milliards d'euros ! Une évaluation faite au doigt mouillé qui, de fil en aiguille, en passant de la droite à la gauche de l'échiquier politique, sera multipliée à l'envi. Et prise pour argent comptant.

Sébastien Lecornu était encore adolescent quand Lionel Jospin, qui vient de s'éteindre, occupait l'Hôtel de Matignon. Il ne peut néanmoins ignorer que son lointain prédécesseur a payé très cher une même histoire de cagnotte. Supérieure aux prévisions, la croissance avait dégagé plus de rentrées fiscales. Où étaient-elles passées ? Les Français les avaient cherchées partout. En vain. Lionel Jospin, tout socialiste qu'il était, avait eu, qui plus est, le malheur de

dire un soir de septembre 1999 au journal télévisé : « Il ne faut pas attendre tout de l'État ou du gouvernement. » Des milliers d'emplois venaient d'être supprimés par Michelin en Europe. La présidentielle de 2002 est arrivée. On connaît la suite...

Sacrés Français ! Tout le monde le sait et en convient aujourd'hui : les caisses de l'État sont vides et la dette de la France est abyssale. La politique du « quoi qu'il en coûte » est accusée de toutes parts. Mais

De Lionel Jospin à Sébastien Lecornu

dès qu'une crise se profile dans notre pays, comme d'habitude, c'est vers l'État que se tournent les regards. Les démagogues de tout poil sont alors de sortie, dans une course à l'échalote effrénée. Le premier ministre se laissera-t-il déborder par le syndrome de la cagnotte ? Il dispose de peu de marge pour faire comprendre que les surplus de TVA ne sont qu'un mirage quand, dans le même temps, la consommation et la croissance baissent. Si la cagnotte de Jospin était introuvable, celle de Sébastien Lecornu est purement imaginaire. ■

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HOLIDAY

Home away from home



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

Passover is the holiday that commemorates the Jewish people's liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt. It's a day to celebrate freedom and come together as family, such as Batya Wolvovskiy, setting up a Seder plate before hosting a Passover Seder for young people and others at Intown Chabad, a synagogue in the Uptown neighborhood of Dallas, on Wednesday.

Passover Seder at Intown Chabad catering to young people

By ISABELLA VOLMERT
Staff Writer
isabella.volmert@dallasnews.com

When 28-year-old Rebecca Pels called her mother Wednesday morning, her mom said she couldn't wait to see her extended family from the New York City area at Passover Seder that night.

"I had that pang in my heart," said Pels, who moved to Dallas

about a year ago. "I really want to be with my people tonight."

She looked up "Seder near me" online and connected with Intown Chabad, a small synagogue tucked into the State Thomas neighborhood of Uptown.

On Wednesday, Intown Chabad held a Seder — typically hosted by family and friends — for the first night of Passover as a place for

young North Texas transplants to find a piece of home away from home. Intown Chabad specifically ministers to young Jewish people early in their careers and adult lives to provide a space to meet friends and form community.

"People want to be with their community, with their tribe, with their people, so they'll look for a place to celebrate," said Rabbi Zvi

Drizin with Intown Chabad. "And we're happy to offer that to them."

Passover is the holiday that commemorates the Jewish people's liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt. It's a day to celebrate freedom and come together as family.

Drizin founded the synagogue in the mid 2000s after he saw a gap in

See **PASSOVER** Page 4A

ENVIRONMENT

D-FW breaks 119-year-old heat record

Much of the western U.S. saw above normal temperatures in March

By JULIA JAMES
Staff Writer
julia.james@dallasnews.com

No matter how you count it, this March was the hottest Dallas-Fort Worth has ever seen.

As of March 30, the average temperature for the month was 67.4 degrees, about three-quarters of a degree above the previous record in 1907. The average high was one degree higher, and the average low was four-tenths of a degree higher.

This climate record isn't the first

to get shattered. The delayed arrival of cool fall nights, toasty heat on Christmas Day and daily temperature stats have all been part of a broader trend statewide. Climate change has driven warming across all seasons, according to a 2024 report from the Office of the Texas State Climatologist.

Human-caused climate change stems primarily from burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and methane gas, which creates heat-trapping pollution in the atmosphere. That activity has been the primary force reshaping our climate, but other sources of natural variability, like the El Niño

See **MARCH** Page 4A



2024 File Photo/Elias Valverde II

The average temperature for March was 67.4 degrees, about three-quarters of a degree above the previous record.

DART

Finding a new leader

Agency's next CEO tasked with keeping the public transit system on right track

By LILLY KERSH
Staff Writer
lilly.kersh@dallasnews.com

Wanted: A transit CEO who can hold together a regional system under political strain.

Dallas Area Rapid Transit is looking for a new CEO and president, a job managing a coalition of differing member cities, navigating pressure to shrink the system, carrying out high-stakes reforms and proving its value in a region divided over its future.

The next leader won't just run buses and trains. They'll be expected to steady an agency tested by threats of withdrawal and competing visions for transit in North Texas.

"DART is in a new chapter," said board member Enrique MacGregor of Cockrell Hill and Dallas, shaped by months when several cities weighed

See **DART** Page 4A

POLITICS

Bondi out as attorney general

Trump frustrated over her handling of the Epstein files and the client list

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER,
ERIC TUCKER,
MICHAEL BALSAMO
and MICHELLE L. PRICE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday that Pam Bondi is out as his attorney general, ending the contentious tenure of a loyalist who upended the Justice Department's culture of independence from the White House, oversaw large-scale firings of career employees and moved aggressively to investigate the Republican president's perceived enemies.

The departure followed months of scrutiny over the Justice Department's handling of files related to the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking investigation and failed efforts to meet Trump's unwavering demands for criminal cases against his adversaries. As Trump's

See **BONDI** Page 5A

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Warm, evening storms

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NATION & WORLD

Trump to bypass Congress

President Donald Trump said he will soon sign an order to pay all DHS employees who have gone without paychecks. **2A**

METRO

Art projects approved

Council members approved \$189,141 in commission contracts for the creation of two art installations in Fort Worth. **1B**

BUSINESS

End of an era

Chuy's, a well-known Tex-Mex restaurant that opened on Dallas' McKinney Avenue in 1993, has been bulldozed. **3B**

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We are seeing a Christian revival



The celebrities who are actually nice... and those who aren't



Features

The Daily Telegraph

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

M&S attacks lawless Britain

Retailer rebukes Khan and Labour on crime as shopkeepers brace for weekend of chaos

By Hannah Boland, Charles Hymas and Will Bolton

MARKS & SPENCER has hit out at Sir Sadiq Khan for failing to get a grip on crime, warning that lawlessness is putting the public at risk.

In its most significant intervention on the issue to date, the retailer urged the Mayor of London to "prioritise effective policing" as "more brazen, more organised and more aggressive" attacks ramp up across Britain's high streets.

Shopkeepers are bracing for what is feared will be a weekend of chaos. Mobs of youths have run riot this week in London, including invading a Marks & Spencer shop. It has fuelled fears of growing lawlessness and prompted a warning from the Metropolitan Police to parents and teenagers before the bank holiday weekend.

Thinus Reeve, Marks & Spencer's retail director, said staff had been head-butted and taken to hospital following an ammonia attack in the last week as they urged Labour to do more to tackle shoplifting and crime.

Marks & Spencer executives have written to both Sir Sadiq and Shabana Mahmood, the Home Secretary, demanding they do more to address the problem. Mr Reeve said attacks were becoming "more routine".

Despite the disorder, Sir Sadiq dismissed claims of London being unsafe as "lies" this week.

Marks & Spencer urged the mayor and the Home Secretary to come clean on "the true scale and impact" of shoplifting, calling for more transparency around crime statistics.

Writing in *The Telegraph*, Mr Reeve said: "I keep hearing crime is falling, especially in London - something none of us believes, and very few people working in retail would see. Without a Government seriously cracking down on crime and a mayor that prioritises effective policing, we are powerless."

Large groups of teenagers ran riot in the streets and in shops this week, forc-

ing retailers to barricade their doors. Footage emerged of almost 100 teenagers storming shops, including a Marks & Spencer branch on Clapham High Street, last Saturday. On Tuesday, dozens of black-clad youths were seen lighting fires in south London.

Mr Reeve said incidents were "not isolated", "it is systemic, and it is getting worse, not better," he added.

Marks & Spencer's call for Sir Sadiq and Ms Mahmood to act marks the biggest intervention to date by supermarkets. Shop bosses have consistently argued more must be done to tackle shoplifting, but have largely focused their attention on the police.

The Co-op has been among the most vocal in demanding action, arguing that organised criminals were behind the attacks rather than people struggling with rising household bills.

Ken Murphy, Tesco's chief executive, has said his workers "don't deserve to deal with the anxiety of witnessing aggressive thefts or to have to wonder if the same criminals will come back the next day for another go".

Recent figures from the British Retail Consortium suggested there were 1,600 incidents of violence and abuse against retail workers every day last year. The trade group said rates were likely much higher as "many incidents were going undetected".

Shopkeepers in south London fear a repeat of the chaotic scenes earlier this week in Clapham. The Metropolitan Police have issued a warning to parents and teenagers before the Easter bank holiday weekend.

The disorder is linked to a social media trend in which teenagers arrange to meet and run riot through shops and high streets. Six teenage girls were arrested after the so-called "link-ups".

Under the new surcharge, properties in the top three council tax bands - F, G, and H - will be revalued. There will be

Continued on Page 2

We have lift-off



Bruno, dressed as an astronaut for the occasion, watches a live broadcast of the Artemis II launch in Florida. The 10-day mission, which will take astronauts to the far side of the Moon, is NASA's first lunar expedition since Apollo 17 in 1972. Reports: Page 3

Badenoch: Trump has made a mess in the Middle East

By Emily Smith and Akhtar Makool

KEMI BADENOCH has said that Donald Trump has made a mess in the Middle East.

In a rare attack on the president, the Tory leader said that Mr Trump should not "abandon" the region after starting the war, quoting former US secretary of state Colin Powell: "If you break it, you own it."

In a speech on Wednesday night, Mr Trump told Nato allies to "grab and cherish" the Strait of Hormuz, which carries a fifth of the world's oil and is effectively being blockaded by Tehran, raising fuel prices and threatening a global recession.

Speaking after he told *The Telegraph* that he was strongly considering pulling the US out of Nato, Mr Trump urged other countries to "build up some delayed courage" and seize the strait, claiming: "The hard part is done, so it should be easy."

Yesterday, Mrs Badenoch criticised the US campaign in the Middle East, saying: "It doesn't feel like there is a co-ordinated plan."

She said: "As Colin Powell, a former US secretary of state, said, 'If you break it, you own it'. So that's what I want to see now, less of the chit-chat, more of a plan, and, you know, a clear, organised way of bringing this conflict to an end and working for Western interests, and from my perspective, the British national interest, too. He should now not be abandoning a mess that he's made, if he thinks that it is a mess."

Nigel Farage, the Reform UK leader, also criticised Mr Trump, saying Sir Keir Starmer was right not to join the US campaign. He added that "it's difficult listening to the press conferences sometimes" to work out why Washington chose to start the conflict.

The two leaders' comments are the latest sign that the British Right is turning away from Mr Trump.

The remarks came as Pete Hegseth sacked the highest-ranking officer in the US army, including the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, general Charles "CQ" Brown, whom he fired without explanation in February 2025.

Mrs Badenoch's criticism of Mr Trump's White House follows her remarks last month, in which she condemned the president's attacks on Sir Keir as "very childish" and "unseemly".

The row between the White House and the Prime Minister began after Sir Keir initially denied the US permission to conduct strikes on Iran from RAF bases, citing international law. Since then, Mr Trump has said his British counterpart was "not Winston Churchill", and he

Continued on Page 7

Mansion tax in chaos as thousands of homeowners will overturn levy

By Madeleine Ross and Dan Martin

LABOUR'S "mansion tax" is rapidly unravelling after Britain's fiscal forecaster warned that nearly half of homeowners who appealed the levy would successfully overturn it.

An estimated 165,000 homeowners are expected to be dragged into paying the "high-value council tax surcharge" on homes worth £2m or more from 2028, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) said yesterday.

It was forced to publish a report amid criticism that the tax would hit ordinary

homeowners, including those below the threshold. Sir James Cleverly, the shadow housing secretary said: "Under Labour, everyone is paying more council tax. Not content with hiking council tax on an average Band D home by £1.143 across this Parliament, they are now hitting family homes with yet another punishing charge."

"The OBR's own figures show it will harm the wider economy and housebuilding, reducing other tax revenue."

Under the new surcharge, properties in the top three council tax bands - F, G, and H - will be revalued. There will be

four price bands with the tax rising from the lowest £2m for a property valued in the £2.5m to £2.5m band to £7,500 for a property valued in the highest band of more than £5m.

An estimated 70,000 homes will fall into the first band, with another 79,000 valued between £2.5m and £5m, the OBR said. Approximately 15,000 homeowners will pay the highest rate of £7,500 a year, which is expected to raise an estimated £12.5m.

London and the South East are likely to be the worst affected, as house prices in the region are higher. The bands will

increase with inflation each year. The OBR said that the levy would raise £400m in its first year, rising to £435m by 2030-31. But the watchdog said Treasury revenue would fall by around £370m before April 2028 because of reduced stamp duty, capital gains tax and inheritance tax receipts as households sold or downsized.

The forecaster said 20 per cent of homeowners would probably appeal, with 40 per cent of those appeals likely to be successful. The report said: "The success rate of these appeals is provisionally assumed to be 40 per cent due

to narrow bands and higher-value properties than for council tax."

It said behavioural changes, such as homeowners selling properties to avoid the levy, could reduce the number of homes liable by nearly 10,000 in 2028-29. Meanwhile, those buying the most expensive properties were expected to pay just under a mansion tax threshold in order to reduce their annual bill, the analysis found.

It added that an exemption from the mansion tax for social housing would reduce the number of eligible homes by 2.5 per cent. The tax may also mean a

"reduction in the delivery of high-value new builds", as housebuilders won't want to build homes that won't sell.

The Government is set to launch its own consultation on the mansion tax and an appeals process shortly.

A Treasury spokesman said: "This government is addressing a longstanding unfairness in our country, where a Band D home in Darlington or Blackpool pays nearly £300 more in council tax than a £10 million mansion in Mayfair. The figures referenced in the OBR's supplementary release are based on provisional analytical assumptions."

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ISSN 0307-1235

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NEWS

BBC culture will never be fixed, admits Davie

The outgoing BBC director-general has said that its staff culture will never be "fully fixed" as he answered questions from employees about the Scott Mills controversy. Tim Davie said it became "very clear" that the Radio 2 DJ had to be sacked when the corporation received new information about a historical allegation of sex offences. On his last day in the job, Mr Davie held an all-staff call where he faced questions about Mills's sacking and about the broadcaster's culture.

Page 5

BUSINESS

Shadow bank chaos fuels fears of crash

A leading Wall Street shadow bank has said that it has an unprecedented surge in withdrawal requests from spooked investors, amid warnings of a 2008-style financial meltdown. Blue Owl Capital said it would block some redemptions from two major funds after it was swamped by demands from its financial backers to withdraw more than \$5m in cash. The unprecedented rush for the exits has fuelled fears on Wall Street about the health of the private credit sector.

Page 19

MATT

There are Easter eggs hidden in the garden, but Ed Milliband says we have to leave them where they are!

Catnap

Tiger pictured asleep after arrest

Sport

COMMENT

Griff Rhys Jones

There's nothing worse than two weeks on a tropical island

Page 16

B.C. seeks to pause portions of landmark Indigenous rights law

Eby says DRIPA, once hailed as leading effort on reconciliation, has exposed province to legal risk

JUSTINE HUNTER VICTORIA

The B.C. government wants to temporarily suspend portions of its groundbreaking legislation enacting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Premier David Eby said Thursday.

Just a day earlier, Mr. Eby had said proposed amendments that would have permanently weakened the law were non-negotiable.

First Nations leaders rejected those amendments. On Thursday, he met with them to present a new proposal, which would only suspend portions of the law, allowing the work of reconciliation to con-

tinue, he told reporters at a news conference.

Mr. Eby said his NDP government's law, called the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, or DRIPA, has exposed the province to legal liability. A B.C. Court of Appeal decision in December found that the province's mineral claims regime is "inconsistent" with DRIPA's requirements.

"The fact that we have to put this pause in place on certain sections of the act to address the litigation risk is very unfortunate," he said.

"We have to do something. A pause is, in my opinion, hopefully the least invasive way of addressing government's concern."

The law was heralded when it was passed in 2019 as a landmark for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada. The federal government followed up with its own UNDRIP legislation in 2021. UNDRIP is the acronym for the United Nations declaration.

The provincial government's move to pause parts of DRIPA marks a significant reversal of what once was seen as a BC NDP priority.

The Court of Appeal case challenged B.C.'s Chief Gold Commissioner over the province's automated online registry system, which allowed prospecting and claims for mineral rights on Crown land.

■ DRIPA, A7

Joly rejects Stellantis plan to assemble Chinese EV kits at idled plant

ERIC ATKINS
ADAM RADWANSKI

Industry Minister Mélanie Joly has rejected Stellantis NV's plan to assemble electric cars with kits shipped from China at the automaker's idled factory near Toronto.

Stellantis has proposed assembling the cars made by its partly owned partner in China, Leapmotor, according to Unifor, the union representing 3,000 of the Brampton plant's laid-off workers. The automaker is seeking a way to fulfill its public funding agreement at the plant, which was retooled with millions of taxpayer dollars.

News of the plan on Wednesday was met by opposition from Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Unifor. They say the process of assembling cars from what are known as knock-down kits requires few jobs and contributes nothing to the local parts-supplier base.

Ms. Joly, speaking to reporters in Vancouver on Thursday, said production at the plant must be supported by Ontario and the union.

"We can't bring cars in a kit to Canada," Ms. Joly told reporters. The plant's production "needs to support the local supply chain."

The Brampton plant closed more than two years ago for retooling. Stellantis had planned to make its Jeep Compass there, but moved production to Illinois last year after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed 25-per-cent tariffs on Canadian-made cars.

■ STELLANTIS, A7

Trump ousts A-G Bondi after criticism over handling of Epstein files

NANDITA BOSE
ANDREW GOUDSWARD
JANA WINTER

U.S. President Donald Trump ousted Attorney-General Pam Bondi on Thursday after mounting frustration with her performance, especially over the release of files on late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Mr. Trump also felt Ms. Bondi was not moving quickly enough to prosecute critics and adversaries whom he wanted to face criminal charges, according to sources.

Deputy Attorney-General Todd Blanche, a former personal lawyer to Mr. Trump, will lead the Justice Department temporarily. Mr. Trump said in a social-media post.

In the post, Mr. Trump praised Ms. Bondi as a "Great American Patriot and a loyal friend" who had overseen a "massive crack-down in Crime." Mr. Trump said she will soon move to a job in the private sector, but he gave no details.

In her own social-media post, Ms. Bondi said: "Leading President Trump's historic and highly successful efforts to make America safer and more secure has been the honour of a lifetime."

She said she would spend the next month transitioning the role to Mr. Blanche.

On social media, Mr. Blanche thanked Mr. Trump and praised Ms. Bondi, promising to do "everything in our power to keep America safe."

■ BOND1, A15

— POLITICS —

LEGAULT'S LAST PLEA

Premier reflects on his tenure and calls on Quebec to protect its values in emotional final address to the legislature ■ A6



François Legault waves to the stands as he attends his last Question Period as Premier at the National Assembly in Quebec City on Thursday. Mr. Legault, 68, announced his resignation in January. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Building a community: Foreign buyers snap up European ghost towns in hopes of giving them new life

PAUL WALDIE
EUROPE CORRESPONDENT
SALTO DE CASTRO, SPAIN

Jason Lee Beckwith smiled as he stood at the altar of the Church of Santiago and surveyed the dilapidated sanctuary.

The floor was strewn with dirt, bits of wood and rubble. The stained glass windows had been smashed ages ago, and part of the roof was missing. The altar was covered in graffiti, as was almost every wall.

Mr. Beckwith, an infectiously upbeat American, could only see the possibilities. He spoke excitedly about plans for a conference space, a recording studio and a new name: the Church of Peace.

He's the proud owner of the church and everything else in Sal-



to de Castro, a picturesque village in northwestern Spain that's perched on the side of a mountain overlooking the Duero River, which winds into Portugal. No one has lived here for more than

20 years. Mr. Beckwith is hoping to change that with a new vision for this once thriving community, built in the 1940s for workers constructing two small dams and power stations on the river.

He's among a growing number of foreigners who are snapping up ghost towns across Spain, Portugal and Italy and turning them into everything from resorts and communes to retreats for digital nomads.

Mr. Beckwith bought Salto for €310,000 (\$488,000) — all 44 buildings, two swimming pools, a restaurant, a military barracks and seven cement structures that housed dozens of chicken coops. He wants to create an artistic centre with a spa, a winery and a hostel for tourists of all income brackets.

■ VILLAGES, A8

ALBERTA
Province moves to limit access in public libraries to books it deems sexually explicit ■ A3

SCIENCE
A mighty engine burn tosses Artemis II away from Earth on a path to the moon ■ A3

REPORT ON BUSINESS
Oil prices surge again after Trump's vow to intensify attacks on Iran ■ B1

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FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

New security rules set at Tewksbury Hospital

Ban on pepper gel, other defensive tools seen as safety threat by some

By Jason Laughlin
GLOBE STAFF

The mounting tensions inside Massachusetts state hospitals, which are treating greater numbers of mentally ill patients accused of crimes, were underscored in an incident last year when a security worker at Tewksbury Hospital used a form of pepper spray to subdue a patient.

The patient had already injured one worker and engaged in a 25-minute standoff in the Sept. 30 incident before a security worker hit him with pepper gel, an irritant using oleoresin capsiicum derived from chili peppers.

The episode has triggered a debate over security protocols at the institution, where an overhaul of procedures last year was intended to address violence and incidences of patients leaving without permission and going into the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Now, the Tewksbury facility is barring security staff from using an array of defensive tools, including pepper gel, handcuffs, and batons, its chief executive on Thursday saying they are inappropriate in a hospital setting.

"Tewksbury Hospital is a place of healing," the CEO, Amy Dumont, wrote in a letter outlining the new policy. "Every decision we make, from how we care for our patients to how we design our spaces to how we train our staff,

TEWKSBURY, Page A7

Vt. news site seeks stability as it grows

VTDigger started strong, now it faces challenges

By Aidan Ryan
GLOBE STAFF

Over the course of nearly two decades, VTDigger built itself into one of the scrappy success stories of nonprofit digital news — growing to fill the gap left by Vermont's vanishing local and regional outlets.

But VTDigger, now 30 staffers strong and one of the state's premier news sources, finds itself set back by editorial departures and ongoing financial losses.

The organization has been operating in the red since just before its founder left in 2022, and the chief executive who succeeded her is now leaving. Meanwhile, VTDigger is in the market for its third top editor in just over a year after a bruising contract negotiation with the newsroom union.

The challenges at the acclaimed newsroom have sounded alarm bells: "Is VTDigger In Trouble?" local journalist John Walters asked in a column earlier this year. "I see many troubling signs, and I am concerned."

But current executives argue the organization is on sound financial and editorial footing

VTDIGGER, Page A7

Bondi is out as attorney general

Trump loyalist fired amid president's frustration over handling of Epstein files

By Tyler Pager
and Glenn Thrush
NEW YORK TIMES

President Trump fired Attorney General Pam Bondi on Thursday, removing the nation's top law enforcement officer after privately venting his frustrations for months over her handling of the Epstein files and her failed efforts to prosecute his political enemies.

In a social media post, Trump said he was replacing Bondi with Todd Blanche, her deputy, on an interim basis.

"We love Pam, and she will be transitioning to a much needed and important new job in the private sector, to be announced at a date in the near future," Trump wrote.

Bondi is the second Cabinet member in recent weeks to lose her



ALEX BRANDON/AP/FILE

Pam Bondi is the second Cabinet member to lose her job in recent weeks, after Kristi Noem was

job, after Trump ousted Kristi Noem, the secretary of homeland security, last month.

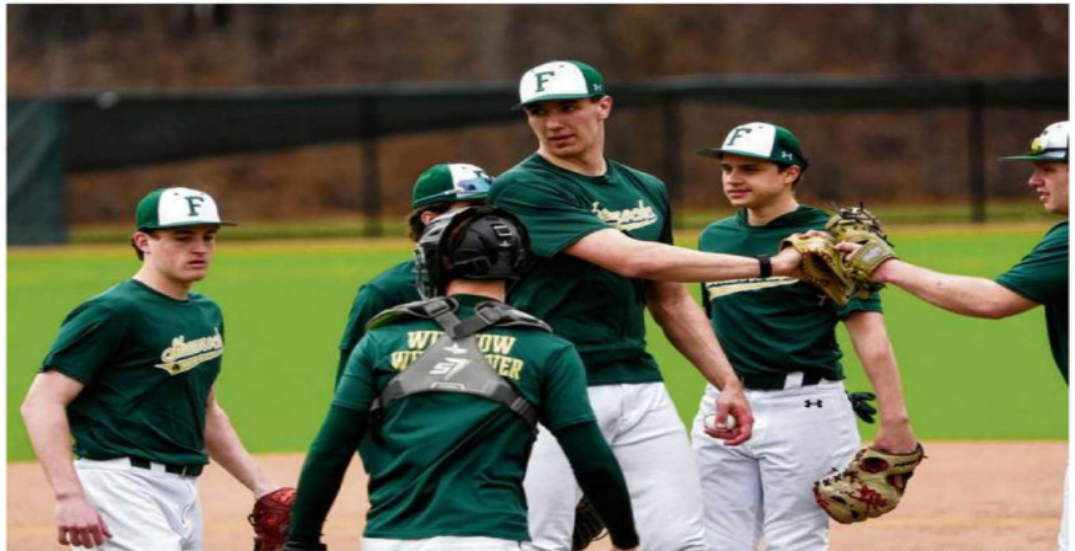
The firing of Bondi, 60, ends a turbulent 14-month tenure as attorney general in which she tried desperately to appease a boss who demanded unimpeded control of the Justice Department to pursue politically motivated investigations against targets of his choosing, even when prosecutors warned that there was no evidence to do so.

In the process, Bondi surrendered

BONDI, Page A5

A pitching catch

Feehan senior has size and speed — and the eye of MLB scouts



PHOTOS BY BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

Brody Bumila is a 6-foot-9-inch, 250-pound, 18-year-old lefthander whose fastball can reach triple digits.



Bumila led Bishop Feehan to the Division 1 state basketball title, and the next day returned to the pitching mound.

By Matt Porter
GLOBE STAFF

ATTLEBORO — First pitch was minutes away. The starting pitcher was done warming. The loudspeakers at Bishop Feehan were pumping Keshia's 2010 club anthem, "We R Who We R."

Brody Bumila exited the home bullpen and strutted toward his waiting teammates like he was in a music video. "Hot and dangerous, if you're one of us then roll with us," lip-synched the biggest kid on campus. "You don't wanna mess with us, got Jesus on my necklace."

With elevated levels of size, swagger, and studiousness, Bumila has major league teams watching his every move this spring. The Raynham native averaged 42 points and 20 rebounds in Feehan's surprise run to a Division 1 basketball state championship, but pro baseball front offices are rubbernecking at these numbers:

He is a 6-foot-9-inch, 250-pound, 18-year-old lefthander whose smoothly delivered fastball touches 101 miles per hour.

"The ceiling is as high as humanly possible for a high school prospect," said his agent, Alex Ott, who calls it a

"He was a great young man. ... Everyone knew he was great."

JULIO GARCIA MAZARA, uncle of Enrique Delgado-Garcia

Dead police recruit boxed with toughest cadet



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

State Police Sergeant Jennifer Penton (center) and Trooper David Montanez (right) after their arraignment.

Details revealed as supervisors appear in court

By Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

It was the day before "boxing day" at the State Police academy in September 2024, and none of the other cadets wanted to warm up with a fight against the most skilled, toughest recruit in the class. The only trainee willing was Enrique Delgado-Garcia. He ended up with concussion-like symptoms in the unauthorized, unsupervised sparring practice.

The next day, they again

paired him with the same recruit. And again, he suffered severe blows to the head and was knocked down multiple times until eventually, according to prosecutors, he could not get back up. He was taken to the hospital, where he later died.

Meanwhile, prosecutors said, supervisors at the academy changed records about the two sparring sessions, inaccurately describing both days' events.

Those details were disclosed in court documents Thursday as three of the supervisors appeared in court for the first time on manslaughter charges relat-

RECRUIT, Page A6

A federal commission approved President Trump's planned White House ballroom, but the project's future remains uncertain. **A2.**

French President Emmanuel Macron lashed out at President Trump for what he said was an unserious approach to the war in Iran. **A3.**

A housing court jury found a Somerville renter was legally living in his apartment, while also determining that his landlord did not retaliate against him. **B1.**

The second building in the long-planned \$1.4 billion overhaul of Charlestown's sprawling Bunker Hill public housing complex will break ground this spring after the project landed a \$122 million construction loan. **B5.**



Spring, a leak

Friday: Drizzle early, then sun. High: 60-65. Low: 50-55.

Saturday: Cloudy, breezy. High: 54-59. Low: 36-41.

Sunrise: 6:23 Sunset: 7:12

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VOL. 309, NO. 93

Suggested retail price \$4.00





plan is uniting Republicans and Democrats in Texas: 'This is insane.'



In today's paper SPORTS: Sandy Alcantara finally looks like an ace again. That's critical for the Marlins, 13A

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Miami Herald

A sneak peek at new home for Messi and Inter Miami

BY MICHELLE KAUFMAN mkaufman@miamiherald.com

Lionel Messi and his Inter Miami teammates trained at their new \$350 million home, Nu Stadium, for the first time Thursday morning as season-ticket holders got a sneak peek of the long-awaited, 26,700-seat venue adjacent to Miami International Airport.

The stadium gates officially open on Saturday for the 7:30 p.m. game against Austin FC. Despite the dust and ongoing construction inside and outside the building, it will be game-ready and fan-friendly, assured managing owner Jorge Mas, who addressed the fans from the field.

"Welcome to your new home; this is our gift to your city," he said, proudly surveying the seats, alternating in pink, black, gray and white with some black seats used to spell out "Inter Miami" and form the shape of a heron, the team's mascot.

Co-owner David Beckham, the British soccer icon who for 12 years dreamed of a Miami MLS stadium in the heart of the city, was among the first to kick a ball on the newly laid field before the players showed up.

The Bermuda grass pitch and locker room drew praise from coach Javier Mascherano and the players. The luxury lounges are ready. The two-story team store, the

SEE STADIUM, 2A

A ROARING SENDOFF Humans head to the moon



The Artemis II crewed lunar mission lifts off from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral on Wednesday. Four astronauts (three Americans and one Canadian) are on a journey to go around the moon, the first crewed lunar flyby in more than 50 years.

BY KENNETH CHANG NYT News Service

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

A towering orange-and-white NASA rocket blasted off from Florida, lifting four astronauts toward space and transporting spectators' imaginations to a future in which Americans might again set foot on the moon.

As they did during the heyday of the Apollo program, which first put men on the lunar surface, spectators squeezed onto the beaches along Central Florida's Space Coast on Wednesday. The crowds cheered when the powerful rocket launched into the clear sky at 6:35 p.m. It traveled eastward, over the Atlantic Ocean, on a journey that will take astronauts around the moon but not land there.

"We have a beautiful moonrise and we're headed right at it," said Reid Wiseman, the NASA astronaut who is the commander of the mission, as the crew headed into space.

Tens of thousands of excited spectators exclaimed and hugged along Cocoa Beach and surrounding communities as the rocket shot into the sky on a column of fire and a long white vapor trail.

"The contrast against the blue sky was absolutely remarkable," said Anthony Rodriguez, 35, of Orlando. "It's just an unforgettable sight."

The flight aboard a spacecraft named Integrity is taking Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen on what is expected to be a round trip of more than 695,000 miles to clear a path for more exploration, a new lunar landing, eventually a sustained human presence on the moon and journeys farther out into the solar system.

The last time astronauts traveled that far was Apollo 17, in December 1972.

"After a brief 54-year in-

SEE MOON, 2A

Trump fires Bondi, whose time as attorney general was defined by her handling of Epstein files

BY TYLER PAGER AND GLENN THURSH NYT News Service

President Donald Trump fired Attorney General Pam Bondi on Thursday, removing the nation's top law-enforcement officer after privately venting his frustrations for months over her handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files and her failed efforts to prosecute his political enemies.

In a social-media post, Trump said he was replacing Bondi with Todd Blanche, her deputy, on an interim basis.

Bondi is the second Cabinet member in recent weeks to lose her job.



ALEX BRANDON / UP

Trump ousted Kristi Noem, the secretary of homeland security, last month.

But unlike Noem, Bondi isn't being placed in an-

SEE BONDII, 6A

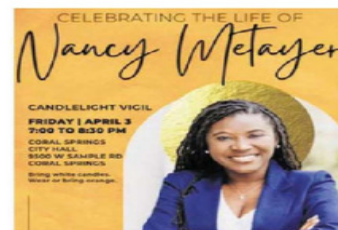
Attorney General Pam Bondi arrives at the White House in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday to hear President Donald Trump deliver a prime-time address to the nation.

Coral Springs vice mayor was shot three times with shotgun by her husband, report says

BY MILENA MALAVER mmalaвер@miamiherald.com

When Coral Springs Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer Bowen failed to appear at a commission meeting Wednesday, her colleagues immediately sensed something was wrong. They texted her husband, Stephen Bowen, asking if he had heard from her — not yet knowing that, hours later, he would be arrested and accused of shooting her to death.

Metayer Bowen, 38, had been scheduled to attend two meetings that morning, one at 8:30 a.m.



MORE INSIDE

She is remembered as a champion for Haitians, 4A

and another at 9 a.m., police said. Instead, she

A candlelight vigil celebrating the life of Coral Springs Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer Bowen will take place from 7-8:30 p.m. today at Coral Springs City Hall.

was found dead later that day in the second-floor primary bedroom of the home that she shared with her husband.

SEE VICE MAYOR, 4A



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'I'm having the time of my life'

Swedish pop sensation Zara Larsson

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The Guardian

You have to be serious, Macron tells Trump in rebuke over Nato

Jon Henley
Europe correspondent

Emmanuel Macron sharply criticised Donald Trump's inconsistent and often contradictory pronouncements on the Iran war and Nato yesterday, saying if "you want to be serious" it was better not to say something different every day.

"There is too much talk ... and it's

all over the place," the French president said during a state visit to South Korea. "We all need stability, calm, a return to peace - this isn't a show!"

Macron added: "You have to be serious. When you want to be serious, you don't go around saying the opposite every day of what you just said the day before. And perhaps you shouldn't talk every day."

The French president's comments came as US airstrikes inflicted intense

damage on Iranian infrastructure. A day after threatening to bomb Iran "back to the stone ages", Trump released a video of a \$400m suspension bridge between Karaj and Tehran collapsing after an apparent US airstrike.

Iran said a specialist medical unit in Tehran was also hit yesterday and added that it would respond with "more crushing, broader and more destructive" attacks.

Macron yesterday mounted a strong defence of Nato, accusing Trump of undermining the transatlantic defence alliance through repeated remarks questioning the United States's commitment to its continued membership.

"I believe organisations and alliances like Nato are defined by what is left unsaid - that is, the trust that underpins them," the president said. "If you cast doubt on your

commitment every day, you erode its very substance."

The comments follow mixed messages this week from the US president and others in Washington on the progress of the war, as well as criticism of European leaders for declining to back it and suggestions that the US may leave Nato.

Trump has suggested variously that the war is as good as won and the US does not



▲ A view of Earth from Nasa's Orion spacecraft as it orbits above the planet during the Artemis II flight, which launched on Wednesday PHOTOGRAPH: NASA/REUTERS

**What a view ...
Looking back to Earth
during Artemis II mission**

News Page 14 →

Fifa selling World Cup final tickets for \$10,990

Tom Lutz

Fifa increased the top ticket price for this year's World Cup final to \$10,990 (£8,300) as it released a new batch of tickets for sale yesterday.

The news, which came after the names of the 48 teams taking part in the World Cup were finalised, will do

little to quell claims that Fifa is pricing fans out of the tournament. The most expensive ticket for the 2022 final in Qatar was about \$1,600, and \$1,000 for the 2018 final in Moscow.

The price is also an increase from the last wave of ticket sales, when the most expensive tickets for the final were \$8,680. Prices have also risen for cheaper bands of tickets to the final. Category 2 tickets are now \$7,380, up

from \$5,575 in December, while category 3 tickets are priced at \$5,785, an increase from \$4,185.

Fifa is using the widely criticised dynamic pricing model for this year's World Cup, in which prices can increase or decrease depending on demand. Fifa has said profits from the tournament will help fund grassroots football across the world.

The final will be held at

Reform fires official over Grenfell comments

Ben Quinn
Political correspondent

Reform UK's housing spokesperson was sacked from his role yesterday after he described the Grenfell Tower fire as a "tragedy" but said that "everyone dies in the end".

Keir Starmer had called on Nigel Farage to sack Simon Dudley, a former head of Homes England, after comments that were condemned by Grenfell families and others.

Dudley announced in February that he was joining Reform as Nigel Farage said he was planning to bring more "experts" onboard to advise the party.

He was embroiled in controversy on Wednesday night after he gave an interview to Inside Housing magazine in which he described building safety regulations introduced after the 2017 Grenfell tragedy as "regulation which is not working".

After Reform initially appeared to stand by Dudley, Farage said at a media appearance that he had "gone" as a result of his "deeply shocking" comments.

Dudley's remarks overshadowed Farage's press



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FRIDAY, April 3, 2026

XI'S VISION | HIGH-QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

Bioproduction drives push for greener growth

China's new industrial strategy promises opportunities for domestic, foreign entities

By MA SI masi@chinadaily.com.cn

In an era defined by the urgent need for sustainable solutions to drive development, an innovative production paradigm is quietly revolutionizing industries. Industrial exhaust is being converted into fish feed, used cooking oil into jet fuel, and crop straw into biodegradable film.

This is biomanufacturing, or the convergence of biology, chemistry and engineering to transform waste into wealth. Characterized by low carbon emissions, high efficiency and renewable prospect, this technology is now at the heart of China's industrial strategy and is promising abundant opportunities for both domestic and foreign enterprises.

China has officially designated biomanufacturing as a cornerstone of its future industries, embedding it in the blueprint for its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30). The goal is clear: upgrading traditional sectors and forging new drivers for a greener economy.

In January, during this year's first group study session of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, President Xi Jinping emphasized that cultivating future industries is of great significance for developing new quality productive forces, building a modernized industrial system, improving people's quality of life, promoting people's well-rounded

development and fostering all-around social progress.

On Feb 9, when Xi visited Beijing E-Town, a cradle for emerging and future industries, he toured a national information technology innovation park, turning his attention once again to representative sci-tech innovations.

Zhang Linsan, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research of the National Development and Reform Commission, said that as a typical representative of new quality productive forces and future industries, biomanufacturing is at a critical stage of transitioning from the laboratory to industrialization.

"This holds strategic significance for China to seize the opportunities of the new technological revolution and build long-term competitive advantages," Zhang said.

Ye Yaoping, head of the consumer products industry department at the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said the scale of China's biomanufacturing industry has reached 1.1 trillion yuan (\$159.5 billion).

According to Chinese investment platform CEC Capital, China's market size is projected to grow to 1.8 trillion yuan by 2030, accounting for nearly 25 percent of the global market and positioning the country as one of the world's key biomanufacturing hubs.

See **Bioproduction**, page 3

Space gallery



The Shenzhou XXI astronauts flash thumbs-up to the camera on Wednesday with artworks displayed behind them aboard China's space station for the fifth Tiangong Art Exhibition, which features 80 paintings by teenagers across the country. The offline exhibition, which runs through May 24 at the Capital Museum in Beijing, brings together works displayed during the first five editions of the exhibition. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY See story, page 5

FM: UN steps should aim for de-escalation

By ZHANG YUNBI zhangyunbi@chinadaily.com.cn

In a series of phone conversations on Thursday, Beijing said that any actions by the United Nations Security Council should help de-escalate the situation in the Gulf region and the Middle East and avoid escalation of confrontations.

Security Council actions should help to ease tensions and end hostilities, and facilitate the resumption of talks, rather than endorsing illegal acts of war or adding fuel to the fire, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a phone conversation on Thursday with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullahi bin Rashid Al Zayani.

Bahrain is currently the rotating chair of the Gulf Cooperation

Council's Supreme Council.

China is willing to work with Bahrain to help put an end to the conflict, restore peace in the Gulf region and the Middle East, and promote lasting stability in the region, Wang said on Thursday.

Al Zayani said Bahrain is willing to play a role through the UN Security Council to resolve the issue of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, and it hopes to strengthen communication and coordination with China.

During a phone call with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Thursday, Wang noted that the conflict has caused massive casualties and losses, and has had an impact on the security and stability of Gulf countries.

The issue of navigation through

Bridging time



Zhong Xindi, daughter of Red Army martyr Zhong Yanzhu, holds a portrait of her father on Wednesday in Ruijin, Jiangxi province. The portrait was created by students from Anhui Normal University in Anhui province and other colleges as part of an initiative to draw faces of over 100 martyrs with Ruijin origins who fell on the Chinese Red Army's Long March — an epic strategic retreat from 1934 to 1936. The project, led by Ye Qinghua — also a Red Army martyr descendant — began in 2021 and uses hand-drawing and artificial intelligence technology to help martyrs' families see the faces of their ancestors. ZHOU MI / XINHUA

CAKED IN NOSTALGIA: TASTY TREAT IS QINGMING STAPLE

Herby delicacy not only captures fleeting flavors of spring, but also evokes memories of simpler times

By LI YINGXUE liyingxue@chinadaily.com.cn

As early as the first stirrings of spring, Ye Lijun, a 38-year-old entrepreneur and co-founder of a guesthouse in Songyang county, Zhejiang province, begins her annual ritual. In the mist-cloaked mountains of her hometown, she kneads freshly foraged wild herbs into glutinous rice dough, preparing traditional Qingming cakes (Qingming guo), which have become both a beloved seasonal offering and a special gift to her guests.

Both Qingming cakes and their rounder cousins, qingtuan, are quintessential delicacies of Qingming Festival — a traditional holiday and one of China's 24 solar terms, which marks the height of spring and falls on Sunday this year. Colored by the natural green of spring herbs, they are more than just food — they are symbols of renewal. These delicacies offer a way to preserve the fleeting beauty of the season.

Dating back to ancient times when they were used as ceremonial offerings, the cakes remain an essential part of the region's food culture. For Ye, who returned to her hometown in 2014 to start her business, they represent a deeply nostalgic link to her childhood.

She said that, as a young girl with no toys, helping her grandmother make these cakes was never a chore, but a joyful activity that bonded her with the older generation.

"Our homemade Qingming cakes retain the roots and fibers of the plants, and they truly capture the essence of spring," she said. "They hold the fragrance of the earth itself."

She recalled how the wild herbs, harvested at exactly the right time, added a distinctive, untamed flavor that mass-produced, city-bought versions lacked.

While the countryside holds tight to its rustic, unpolished traditions, the world of refined gastronomy also sees the Qingming



Qingtuan are prepared at a hotel in Beijing on March 25. WANG ZHUANGFEI / CHINA DAILY



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cake as a delicate canvas for culinary expression. At the Yangzhouyuan restaurant in Beijing, 31-year-old executive chef Luo Chenglin brings his own artistry to qingtuan, the sweeter green dumpling counterpart, blending refined Huaiyang cooking techniques with the season's freshest ingredients.

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Crackdown on human trafficking tightened

By CAO YIN caoyin@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese courts are ramping up efforts to tackle new forms of human trafficking.

The Supreme People's Court in a release on Thursday said the number of abductions and trafficking crimes involving children and women in China has shown a significant decline, with a nearly 78 percent drop in 2025 compared with the peak in 2012.

However, while traditional methods of trafficking, such as abductions, have declined, there has been a rise in cases where the internet and fraudulent relationships are being used to facilitate trafficking.

For instance, the use of coded language to post information and conduct transactions online transcends geographical boundaries and is highly covert, posing challenges to investigations and judicial processes, the nation's highest court said.

The top court said that it is intensifying research into these new challenges and working to clarify legal standards to ensure consistency in rulings by formulating relevant judicial interpretations or documents and by publicizing notable cases.

In one case revealed on Thursday, an individual surnamed Qiu was sentenced to life imprisonment for exploiting six women with mental illnesses or intellectual disabilities under the guise of arranging marriages from 2018 to March 2021. He sold them as wives for a profit of 190,000 yuan (\$27,600) and raped two of them.

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to bring an end to the conflict as soon as possible and restore peace and stability in the region, he said.

In a phone conversation with Kaja Kallas, the high representative for foreign affairs and security policy of the European Commission, Wang said that it is the shared duty of China and the European Union to strengthen communication and cooperation and to uphold the international system centered on the UN and the international order based on international law.

China is willing to maintain communication and cooperation with the EU to restore peace, he said.

Earlier this week, China and Pakistan issued a five-point initiative for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf region and the Middle East.

Observers said Beijing's latest efforts and comments for easing the situation show China's great sense of responsibility as a major

country and a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Niu Xinchun, executive director of the China-Arab Research Institute at Ningxia University, said: "In the Middle East, China has pursued a balanced policy for many years and has maintained friendly relations with all major countries in the region. As a result, China's efforts to promote peace and dialogue have been welcomed and valued by various parties."

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told reporters on Thursday that "all parties should work together to de-escalate the situation and prevent instability in the region from having a greater impact on the global economy and energy security."

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