

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, cloudy, humid, a heavy storm, high 77. Tonight, cloudy, humid, a heavy storm, low 69. Tomorrow, cloudy, a heavy thunderstorm, high 77. Weather map, Page B12.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



FINBARR O'REILLY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ebola Virus Stalks Crowded Camps in Congo
There are a million people displaced by violence in the epicenter. They live in dangerous conditions and are fighting the virus with very little clean water. Page A10.

Hope vs. Fear As Fire Nears French Refuge

By MARK LANDLER and GIULIA IMBERT

BORDEAUX, France — As a fierce, fast-moving and capricious wildfire spread to within a few miles of Bordeaux on Monday, the city, France's sixth largest, had become a refuge for thousands of people evacuated from their towns and villages.

Many of them took shelter in Bordeaux's cavernous exhibition center, united by fear, confusion and a determination to get back their homes, which they desperately hoped would be spared by the flames.

There are differing voices in this instant community, attesting to the divergent lives of the people across the Gironde region. Fear is leavened by hope, gratitude to the firefighters is tinged by anger toward the authorities, and optimism in a swift recovery is offset by uneasiness about the natural forces that led to this disaster.

"I don't want to start again at zero to find a new apartment," said Imane El Idrissi, 35, a single mother who fled at 4 a.m. on Saturday, after the police pounded on her door to warn her it was time to leave. "I don't have the means."

Ms. El Idrissi, who was born in Morocco, said she had carefully gathered all her immigration and residency documents, filling her suitcase with papers in place of

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Tours Must Go On at Gutted Kennedy Center

By ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

WASHINGTON — Some days no one turns up for a tour at all. Most days there are only a few, including those curious about all the reports of ruin. When people do come, what do they see?

In the Opera House, which no longer has an opera, there is an empty orchestra pit scattered with trash. On the grand terrace overlooking the Potomac River, the flower beds are wilting and weedy. In the corridors and lounges, artwork has disappeared.

And yet Sandy Weisswasser, a retired sixth grade teacher who for 18 years has given hundreds of people free tours of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, keeps reporting for duty. In a dogged demonstration of love and loyalty for an institution that has elevated life for her and millions of visitors, she still arrives every Monday for her tour day, knowing she may soon find the doors locked.

"This place used to be really thriving and busy and crowded," Ms. Weisswasser, 87, said. "Now it's a black hole."

No one yet knows whether President Trump, who in his second term gutted the center's leadership, purged its programming and whose handpicked board had his name drilled into the building front, will close the Kennedy Center in the coming weeks, as part of what he says is a two-year renovation plan. The center's board is expected to make a final determination in August. But at this point it scarcely matters, Ms. Weisswasser said.

Last month the National Symphony Orchestra played its final Kennedy concert for the season, unsure of when or if it will return. Marquee bookings and artists have fled. Everywhere is the heavy, closed-curtain silence of an institution that has lost some 90 percent of its employees and 100 percent of its paying audience.

Ms. Weisswasser keeps coming to give tours, she said, to bear witness, to tell her dwindling visitors that the shabby emptiness they see is not what the Kennedy Center was. For more than half a century it was a grand democratic project, she tells them, bringing the beauty and inspiration of the arts to everyone.

Ms. Weisswasser offers herself as proof its mission did not fail. She is a daughter of Polish immigrants whose grandmother was lost in World War II and presumed by the family to have died in a Nazi

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Dedicated Guides Wait as Visitors Decline



ALEX KENT/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sandy Weisswasser said visitors used to crowd the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, but "now it's a black hole."

Balancing Act As Netanyahu Heads to U.S.

By ISABEL KERSHNER

JERUSALEM — For Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, a meeting with President Trump is always an opportunity to showcase their close relationship even if they, at times, disagree.

This time, the stakes are especially high.

Both leaders are facing electoral challenges in the months ahead and are expected to meet at the White House on Tuesday as their interests appear to be diverging sharply on the war with Iran.

Before departing for Washington on Monday, Mr. Netanyahu said in a statement that this would be his eighth meeting with Mr. Trump since the president was elected for his second term, and that Iran would be "first and foremost" on the agenda.

"I am embarking on this mission with one clear goal — to ensure the security, strength, and future of our dear state of Israel," he added.

Mr. Netanyahu, who is trailing in the opinion polls at home before Israel's fall vote, is under pressure to show his domestic audience that he still has a close working relationship with Mr. Trump, analysts say, despite their differences. Mr. Trump is heading into U.S. midterm elections in November after an unpopular war that many believe he was dragged into

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HOUTHIS LOCATED SAUDI WEAK SPOT IN U.S.-IRAN WAR

SHIP ROUTES IN RED SEA

Hoping Pressure on Oil Exports Yields More Power in Yemen

By VIVIAN NEREIM and SHUAIB ALMOSAWA

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — After four years of political deadlock in Yemen, the Houthis were growing increasingly frustrated. A truce between the Iranian-backed militia and neighboring Saudi Arabia had turned into a brittle stalemate, and the Houthis, feeling they had little to lose, wanted greater authority over Yemen and its oil resources.

Saudi officials, for their part, had no interest in another clash with the Houthis. Their previous bombing campaign in Yemen had turned into a decade-long quagmire that contributed to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis from violence, hunger and disease. They wanted to avoid another expensive conflict that could endanger their plans to transform the kingdom into a business and tourism hub.

Into this tinderbox, the U.S. war with Iran flung a spark. Over the past few weeks, the Houthis and Saudi Arabia have spiraled into new clashes that risk expanding into another full-blown war.

"The Houthis have one solution for every problem in the world, which is go to war," said Farea al-Muslimi, a Yemen-focused fellow at the London-based research group Chatham House. "The Saudis solve every problem by trying to shower it with money," he added, "and the Houthis by shooting at it."

The last Saudi-Houthi war pushed Yemen to the brink of famine, until it paused with a fragile truce in 2022. By then, the Houthis had created a de facto state in northern Yemen, and the south was nominally controlled by Yemen's internationally recognized government, which is financially and militarily dependent on Saudi Arabia. Talks toward a durable peace deal eventually stalled.

The limbo was never going to last, but Saudi Arabia, distracted by other crises, appeared to hope it would hold a bit longer.

The Saudi ambassador to Yemen, Mohammed al-Jaber, said in a social media post on Saturday that the kingdom was keen to de-escalate. He blamed the Houthis for "insisting on a path of escalation

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MOHAMMED HUWAIS/AFP — GETTY IMAGES

Portraits of the Houthi leader, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi.

Cubans Counter an Oil Blockade With Ingenuity

By JACK NICAS

HAVANA — For months, President Trump has been predicting that Cuba is about to collapse. "It's just going to fall," he told reporters on Jan. 4, a day after taking control of Venezuela's oil, which had been Cuba's lifeline.

He then imposed an oil blockade that has pushed the island into its worst-ever energy crisis, with mass blackouts now lasting nearly all day. And yet, more than six months later, the Cuban government and people are still standing.

This month, we visited the country to understand how. After a week on the ground, we found that while Cubans are clearly suffering, they are also doing what perhaps they do best: adapting.

They are swapping their gas-guzzling 1950s American cars for electric motorcycles and rickshaws from China; importing hefty lithium batteries to keep televisions and fans running through blackouts; jury-rigging generators to run on more acces-

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On Police Academy, a Name and an Inspiration

By MARIA CRAMER

Officer Steven McDonald could not move or speak.

He had been lying in a bed at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan for nearly nine months, recovering from gunshot wounds that had severed his spinal cord and left him paralyzed from the neck down. Shavod Jones, the 15-year-old boy who had shot him on July 12, 1986, was behind bars.

Officer McDonald's 1-month old son, Conor, was about to be baptized in the hospital chapel in front of reporters and news photographers.

Officer McDonald was eager to send a message to the teenager who shot him. But all he could do was mouth his words, which his wife, Patti Ann McDonald, wrote down.

"I'm sometimes angry at the teenage boy who shot me, but more often I feel sorry for him," Ms. McDonald said, reading his words to reporters, as his respiration

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A Once-Outlawed Art Form

Young Maori in New Zealand are embracing ta moko, the ritual tattoos banned under British rule. PAGE A4

Feeling Unsafe in Berlin

The killing of a woman last weekend rattled a gay community that has faced a surge in threats. PAGE A6

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Filing to Restrict Mail Voting

The Trump administration asked the Supreme Court to intervene after an appeals court blocked key parts of a mail-in voting executive order. PAGE A16

Baby Bust in Beehive State

Utah, known for its big Mormon families, now leads the country in plummeting fertility rates. PAGE A16

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Author of 'Pumping Iron'

Charles Gaines, 84, wrote the book and movie that made Arnold Schwarzenegger a household name. PAGE A22

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Depp's Humbug Era

The actor's career seemed to spiral downward a few years ago, but he will be back in "Ebenezer: A Christmas Carol," out this November. PAGE C1

Where Westeros Took Him

The "House of the Dragon" star Fabien Frankel discusses a pivotal point in his long journey on the show. PAGE C1

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Failure to Communicate

Commissioner Cathy Engelbert over-sees a prospering W.N.B.A. But she can't seem to earn acceptance. PAGE B8



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Resurrecting a Nuclear Reactor

The first U.S. attempt at reopening a shuttered power plant is encumbered by one thing after another. PAGE B1

Open-Source Safety Alliance

Days after reports of A.I. models going rogue, Nvidia announced a coalition to work on shared security tools. PAGE B1

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New Take on Rare Ailments

A nonprofit wants gene therapy for unusual diseases to be more of a routine procedure. PAGE D1

Defending What Lies Above

Residents who live near Mexico in West Texas say a border wall will threaten the region's spectacular sky. PAGE D8

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Jeffrey Toobin PAGE A20

