

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, breezy, hot, gusty afternoon thunderstorms, high 93. **Tonight**, cloudy, a late-night shower, low 58. **Tomorrow**, cooler, mostly cloudy, high 70. Weather map, Page A23.

“All the News That’s Fit to Print”

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



A national laboratory where samples from suspected Ebola cases are tested on Tuesday in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo.

I.R.S. Ordered to Drop Audits Against Trump As Part of Payout Deal

Family and Businesses Are Also Shielded

This article is by Alan Feuer, Andrew Duehren and Glenn Thrush.

The Justice Department has granted President Trump, his family and businesses immunity from ongoing inquiries into their taxes, a potentially lucrative arrangement that could shield the president from significant financial liability.

The provision, quietly inserted on Tuesday as a supplement to a remarkable deal that also created a \$1.8 billion compensation fund aimed at benefiting Mr. Trump's allies, protects the president, his relatives and his businesses from pending audits and tax prosecutions.

The one-page document, signed by the acting attorney general, Todd Blanche, said that the government would be “FOREVER BARRED and PRECLUDED from prosecuting or pursuing” pending tax claims against Mr. Trump, his family members and businesses.

The provision invited immediate criticism as tax experts raised the possibility that it was illegal.

That the addendum to the deal was posted, without fanfare, on the department's website belied its bare-knuckled audacity. It revealed the determination of Mr. Trump and his appointees to ram through maximalist measures with minimum outside scrutiny at a moment when they still have uncontested control of government.

The provision was the latest in a series of maneuvers this week that blurred the all-but-vanished boundary between official department business and the private interests of a president intent on using his power to extract financial gain from the federal government for himself and his allies.

A day earlier, Mr. Trump agreed to drop his \$10 billion lawsuit

against the Internal Revenue Service in exchange for the establishment of a fund for people he believes were wronged by federal investigations or prosecutions.

Justice Department officials had in part defended the creation of the fund by pointing to the fact that Mr. Trump and his family members would not be paid by it.

But protection from audit could be quite financially beneficial for Mr. Trump, who has always said that there was no wrongdoing in his tax filings. In 2024, The Times reported that a loss in an I.R.S. audit could cost Mr. Trump more than \$100 million.

It was unclear if that examination had concluded or if Mr. Trump, his family members or affiliated entities were under other audits. I.R.S. procedures call for the mandatory audit of the president's tax returns annually.

Neither the Justice Department nor the I.R.S. responded to requests seeking comment. The top lawyer at the Treasury, Brian Morrissey, resigned on Monday after the Justice Department announced the settlement with Mr. Trump.

Federal law prohibits the president, vice president and other executive officers from instructing the I.R.S. to start or stop specific audits. But that broad prohibition appears to include a carve-out for the attorney general.

Brandon DeBot, a senior attorney adviser at New York University's Tax Law Center, said in a statement that the audit protection may still be illegal.

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GIVING IN Lawyers at the I.R.S. planned a defense, but the Justice Department still settled. PAGE A18

Guard Killed At a Mosque Called a Hero

This article is by Christina Morales, Jill Cowan and Tim Arango.

Every morning, before he headed to work across town as a security guard at the Islamic Center of San Diego, Amin Abdullah would arrive at a tiny, worn-down mosque.

Just as he would at his job, he would sweep the perimeter, using a flashlight to check every corner. And then he would go inside and pray, a friend, Khalid Alexander, said.

Mr. Abdullah, who was a Muslim convert, felt he had a calling as a security guard at the Islamic Center after he was pained by the 2019 terrorist attack against the Muslim community in Christchurch, New Zealand.

On Monday, Mr. Abdullah was killed in service of that calling, protecting the children inside the Islamic Center when terror arrived at its door.

The authorities said Mr. Abdullah and two other members of the Islamic Center community were shot and killed on Monday by two teenagers who later killed themselves in a vehicle blocks away. The killings at the mosque were being investigated as a hate crime and set off new concerns of Islamophobia in the United States.

The attack began when both suspects ran past Mr. Abdullah, the security guard, to get into the Islamic Center, and they likely did not see him there initially, Chief Scott Wahl of the San Diego Police Department said at a news conference on Tuesday. Once Mr. Abdullah saw the gunmen, he quickly reached for his radio and ordered a lockdown. Then, he shot at both gunmen.

The gunmen returned fire at Mr. Abdullah, and Chief Wahl said that he “continued to engage in a gun battle with the two suspects.”

“His actions — without a doubt — delayed, distracted and ultimately deterred these two individuals from gaining access to the greater areas of the mosque, where as many as 140 kids were within 15 feet of these suspects,” Chief Wahl said. “Tragically, he died in that gun battle.”

While the police in San Diego have not publicly named either suspect, two law enforcement officials briefed on the matter identified the teenagers as Cain Clark, 17, and Caleb Vazquez, 18. The teenagers, both from San Diego,

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Ebola Raged in Congo for Weeks Before Alarm

By RUTH MACLEAN

DAKAR, Senegal — As soon as Ebola was identified in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda late last week, the severity of the outbreak was clear. There were already hundreds of suspected cases and dozens of suspected deaths.

Shortly after the outbreak was announced, the World Health Organization declared it a global health emergency.

But by then, the virus had already been circulating for weeks.

Congo has surveillance systems meant to identify outbreaks early so that they can be effec-

Early Safeguards Didn't Identify Rare Species of the Virus

tively contained. The country has added several laboratories in recent years and has extensive experience with previous, devastating Ebola outbreaks.

And yet, precious time was lost when officials in Ituri, the province at the heart of the current outbreak, did not raise the alarm when patients began to show symptoms. Samples may not have been sent quickly enough to Kin-

shasa, the capital, for testing.

“The alert was out very late,” said Dr. Marie-Roseline Belzaira, a doctor and epidemiologist who is leading the W.H.O. response to the outbreak.

The consequences of such a long delay could prove catastrophic. There are no vaccines or treatments for Ebola Bundibugyo, the rare species of the virus that is responsible for the current outbreak.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the W.H.O., said at a meeting in Geneva on Tuesday that he was “deeply concerned” about the scale and speed of the outbreak, shortly after Con-

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Staying Silent, Trump's in Bind On Abortion Pill

By PAM BELLUCK and SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

With the midterm elections less than six months away, Republicans are facing challenging political headwinds, including an unpopular war, escalating inflation and President Trump's sinking approval ratings. Now another issue is putting the administration in a political bind.

Abortion. Four years after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, which established a national right to abortion in 1973, abortion remains widely available, and the number per year has actually increased slightly. Much of that is because of the availability of abortion pills. The Food and Drug Administration has so far not walked away from a decision made during the Biden administration to allow access to the abortion pill mifepristone through the mail.

But a lawsuit against the F.D.A. now threatens that access, and the Trump administration has remained strikingly silent about it, even as the case reached the Supreme Court this month.

The suit, brought by the state of Louisiana, led a federal appeals court to temporarily bar a policy allowing abortion providers to prescribe mifepristone through

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PRIMARIES Results of Tuesday's races in six states, including key battles in Kentucky and Georgia. Coverage at nytimes.com.



Fire Unsettles Southern California

Thousands were under evacuation orders with wind-driven blazes threatening suburban homes.

Political Money Takes Murky Trail to Influencers

By KEN BENSINGER

Last month, Carlos Eduardo Espina, a progressive influencer, revealed a surprising endorsement to his 14.5 million followers on TikTok: He would support Tom Steyer, the billionaire running for California governor as a Democrat.

“I really believe Tom Steyer is different,” Mr. Espina said in a speech that he posted on social media. “He could be traveling around the world or doing what-

Endorsements Slide by Disclosure Rules

ever he wants, but he wants to serve the people of this state.”

Unmentioned in Mr. Espina's post: Mr. Steyer's campaign was paying him \$100,000 to help win the election.

A few days earlier, Mr. Espina, who lives in Texas, had noted in a video that the campaign hired him

to consult on issues related to Latinos, which are the primary focus of Mr. Espina's social media posts. But none of his several dozen subsequent posts on TikTok, Instagram or Threads promoting Mr. Steyer noted the financial arrangement.

The \$100,000 fee, buried in campaign finance records, is described as a payment for “strategic advice and campaign surrogacy.” The money went to a limited liability company in Texas

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Book on Truth In the A.I. Age Has A.I. Gaffes

By BENJAMIN MULLIN

The author of a nonfiction book about the effects of artificial intelligence on truth has acknowledged that he included numerous made-up or misattributed quotes concocted by A.I.

The author, Steven Rosenbaum, whose book “The Future of Truth” was released this month to great fanfare, incorporated more than a half-dozen misattributed or fake quotes in sections of the book reviewed by The New York Times.

The Times asked Mr. Rosenbaum about the quotes on Sunday and Monday. On Monday night, Mr. Rosenbaum acknowledged in a statement that the book had “a handful of improperly attributed or synthetic quotes” and said that he had started his own investigation.

He said that the inclusion of the incorrect quotes was an accident and that he had “no intention of fabricating any viewpoints” while writing the book.

“As I disclosed in the book's acknowledgments, I used A.I. tools ChatGPT and Claude during the research, writing and editing process,” Mr. Rosenbaum said in the statement. “That does not excuse these errors, of which I take full responsibility. I am now working with the editors to thoroughly review and quickly correct any affected passages; any future editions will be corrected.”

“The Future of Truth” was published by an imprint of BenBella Books and distributed by Simon

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Waiting for the Best Seller

It was a tough year for public libraries after a venerable distributor of print books went bankrupt. PAGE A12

Limits on PFAS to End

The Trump administration said it would drop some restrictions on “forever chemicals” in drinking water. PAGE A20

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Backstory of Autocrats' Minions

Research sheds light on how would-be authoritarians promote middling people, a.k.a. “loyal losers,” to do their dirty work. News Analysis. PAGE A4

Disaster on the Black Sea

Ukraine's strikes on Russian refineries have brought pitch-black smoke, oil-laden rain and a large spill. PAGE A9

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A Fish With a Patriotic Flavor

Once celebrated as a Revolutionary War savior, shad has become a rarity. Fans still seek it out, though. PAGE D1



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Adding Dance to the Palette

The abstract painter Julie Mehretu and the choreographer John Jasperse are collaborating on an exhibition. PAGE C1

Struggles Behind the Stardom

Hayden Panettiere, 36, has lots of grief and trauma to fill her new memoir. But she has much to celebrate, too. PAGE C1

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Challenges for Tech Titans

The collapse of Elon Musk's lawsuit against OpenAI and Sam Altman will speed up the artificial intelligence juggernaut even as public opposition to it is growing. News Analysis. PAGE B1

New Fee for Electric Vehicles

Congress may require owners of electric vehicles and hybrid cars to pay an annual fee to cover their share of the cost to repair roads, which could further depress sales of those models. PAGE B1

OPINION A26-27

Lydia Polgreen

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SPORTS B7-10

Going South to Play Ball

Justin Turner thought he would have an M.L.B. job this season, even at age 41. Instead, he is starring in Mexico, vowing to play as long as he can. PAGE B7

