

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, sunny, hot and humid, afternoon storm, high 95. Tonight, humid, evening storm, low 75. Tomorrow, cloudy, cooler, thunderstorm, high 86. Weather map is on Page A20.

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SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

One Nation, Many Americas



RACHEL WISNIEWSKI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

PHILADELPHIA Caleb and Joshua Fendrick came from Florida with their family for a parade that was canceled because of the heat, but other events are on Saturday.



LOREN ELLIOTT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

COUNCIL, IDAHO Brooks Lucas, 6, after a boost from his grandfather Kevin Roach in a soap box derby race.



VINCENT ALBAN/REUTERS

SANDY HOOK, N.J. High on the rigging of one of the tall ships set to parade in New York's harbor on Saturday.



DESIREE RIOS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

MANSFIELD, TEXAS The Filipino American Alliance Church held a potluck while waiting for fireworks.

U.S. ASSIGNS ARMY OF F.B.I. ANALYSTS TO VOTE INQUIRY

GEORGIA RECORDS EYED

Escalating Trump's Push of Debunked Claims About 2020

This article is by Nick Corasaniti, Alan Feuer, Dustin Volz and Richard Fausset.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is assigning an army of 260 investigative analysts to a "priority" investigation related to the 2020 election in Fulton County, Ga., a reflection of President Trump's ongoing push to prove his baseless claims that the 2020 election there was rigged.

The effort is outlined in an internal memo obtained by The New York Times and confirmed by a person familiar with the investigation. The memo says that the surge is part of a "priority" effort by Kash Patel, the director of the F.B.I. The analysts will work to complete "approximately 708 records checks," according to the memo. The type of records being checked is unknown.

The deployment of such a large number of F.B.I. personnel to the most populous county in Georgia comes amid the Justice Department's ongoing criminal investigation into the 2020 election in the state. In January, the F.B.I. raided an election warehouse in Fulton, seizing more than 600 boxes of election materials — including original ballots from the 2020 election.

But an unsealed affidavit that was used to obtain the search warrant for that raid relied heavily on debunked claims about ballot anomalies in 2020. Those claims have been revived inside the White House by Kurt Olsen, an election denier who works in the Trump administration and who set off the current investigation, according to the affidavit.

Few presidential contests in modern American history have been as thoroughly investigated as the 2020 election. Over more than five years, every conspiracy theory from Mr. Trump and his allies — including false claims about election workers, mail ballots and election machines — has been investigated and debunked by election officials from both political parties and, in many cases, by members of Congress, judges and law enforcement.

That hasn't stopped Mr. Trump or his allies from continuing to try to prove their many baseless claims. In the process, they have sowed doubt and distrust in American elections, and called for the passage of federal election legislation known as the SAVE America Act, which voting rights advocates say would make it harder for many Americans to vote.

A spokesperson for the F.B.I. Continued on Page A15



THIS WEEKEND Visions of America: Everyday Founders

MAMDANI SPEECH The mayor of New York City warned of blind patriotism. PAGE A17

By MICHAEL LEVENSON

Two hundred and fifty years after men from 13 disparate colonies made the fateful decision to adopt the Declaration of Independence, a country whose size and diversity they could have scarcely imagined will strive to set aside its divisions on Saturday and throw itself a massive sea-to-sea celebration of liberty and happiness.

Hoover, Ala., will dish up free apple pie and ice cream and try to set a Guinness record by opening the most cans of Coke simultaneously. Mount Morris, Ill., is breaking out extra bouncy houses and juicing up the finale of its annual fireworks show.

"They're going to wake up Dixon," said Bryon West, who is

Across Its Divides, a Country Takes Time to Celebrate Its 250th Birthday

helping with the event, referring to a city about 20 miles away.

Los Angeles and Philadelphia will throw star-studded concerts. New York City and Washington will have military jets streaking overhead and fireworks shows for the ages crackling over their skylines.

And in a backyard in Paramus, N.J., Aanand Dadawala, 50, will serve Tex-Mex food and samosas to his family before lighting off fireworks for an extra patriotic punch.

"Two-fifty is a big number, so go

big or go home," he said.

All across the United States on Saturday, millions of Americans will take part in festivals, parades and cookouts that together form a portrait of the country in all its messy, star-spangled complexity.

The celebrations, scattered across small towns and big cities, from Presque Isle, Maine, to Chicago, to Tumwater, Wash., arrive at an uncertain moment in the nation's long march from 1776. The Trump administration is holding out a tenuous peace in the Middle East, with gas prices slowly

decreasing. Artificial intelligence is on the rise, potentially reshaping the economy.

Many fear that the democracy the founders envisioned may be slipping away. A recent Pew Research Center poll found that 69 percent of Americans are dissatisfied with the country's direction, and 59 percent think the nation's best years have passed.

Arlene Lewis of Newark was shopping for fireworks this week with her partner and daughter under a tent in a mall parking lot in Union, N.J., but said she did not feel any special excitement about the milestone holiday. She and her partner said the prices of necessities like gas and groceries were more front of mind.

Continued on Page A17

Hot? Put On a Black Caftan, Pop a Pepper and Take a Nap.

By HIROKO TABUCHI

Long before air-conditioning, people around the world came up with ingenious ways to beat the heat. But, really — wear dark, billowing robes? And drink tea?

The science can be surprising. As big chunks of the United States and Canada roast through the weekend, some of these ideas might be worth a closer look.

In Japan's sweltering summer months, you might see storekeepers with a bucket of cold water, dousing hot pavement outside their stores.

The practice, called uchimizu, grew out of Japan's tea-ceremony

The World's Traditional Ways for Cooling Off

tradition. It was originally a purifying ritual and an act of welcome for guests. But uchimizu also has an effect on temperature thanks to what's known as evaporative cooling — when water evaporates, it pulls heat out of the hot ground.

A 2018 study in the journal Water found that uchimizu caused air temperatures to drop by as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit near the ground, even with small amounts

Continued on Page A6



JUTHARAT PINYODOONYACHET FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mrs. and Mr. Americana

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's wedding had been shrouded in secrecy. There were signs of a starry party on Friday. Page A14.

Candidate Tests Socialist Label In Wisconsin's Governor Race

By KELLEN BROWNING

Jeff Hanneman was infuriated to learn about a proposal this spring to build a 220-acre data center on the site of a shuttered paper mill near his house in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.

Worried that the project would pollute the tranquil waters of the nearby Wisconsin River, Mr. Hanneman, 43, planted a "No Data Center" sign in his yard. And, although he's a Republican who voted for President Trump, he decided to support a democratic socialist who has called for a pause in data center construction and is running for governor.

Democrats See Risk in Swing State Battle

"I really don't think or care about the label," said Mr. Hanneman, who planted a "Francesca Hong for Governor" yard sign next to the other one. "If she was voted into office, she could do a lot of good things for our state."

The progressive movement is surging this election cycle, as liberal voters — furious with a Democratic establishment they view as old, tepid and beholden to cor-

Continued on Page A15

NATIONAL A12-21

A Murky Construction Spree

The cost of the president's D.C. projects may pass \$1 billion, with taxpayers and secret donors footing the bill. PAGE A18

Drinking Like It's 1776

Boston is celebrating with booze, but however tipsy tourists get, the founders probably had them beat. PAGE A12



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Claiming the English Flag

The St. George's flag has been adopted by Britain's far right. But politics-agnostic soccer fans are reclaiming it to cheer for their World Cup team. PAGE A4

Miraculous Venezuela Rescue

A 44-year-old security guard was pulled alive from a pancaked basement, offering a fleeting moment of hope amid a soaring death toll. PAGE A6

Funeral for Iran's Slain Leader

After lying in state in Tehran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's body will be taken to some of the holiest sites in Shiite Islam during a four-day procession. PAGE A9

BUSINESS B1-6

Financial Weirdness in U.S.A.

For all that's good about our relationship with money, some distinctly American things are suboptimal. Please, can the 1040 fit on a postcard? PAGE B1

Can Money Change Iran?

U.S. officials hope prosperity's lure will draw the nation into new policies. That approach has failed before. PAGE B1

TRAVEL C7-9

Revolutionary Journeys

You can follow the footsteps of some of the United States' founders this summer in London. PAGE C8

ARTS C1-6

America in Video Games

Players can imagine living during the Great Depression and other stormy periods in U.S. history. PAGE C1

Who Needs an Art Museum?

Entertainment centers are wooing those who once might have gone to a museum to view art. PAGE C1



SPORTS B7-10

Tough Training at Its Peak

Many of the world's top cyclists decamp to the mountains of southern Spain to prepare for the Tour de France. PAGE B7

Mexico Soccer's Disputed Roots

Mineral del Monte, a former mining town, claims the game started there. So does nearby Pachuca. PAGE B8

OPINION A22-23

Robin Givhan

PAGE A22



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