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HardWear by Tiffany
A gift that celebrates love's strength.

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"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

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THE WEATHER
Today, clouds, some sun, breezy, chilly, an afternoon sprinkle, high 45. **Tonight,** partly cloudy, low 40. **Tomorrow,** sunny, breezy, chilly, high 48. Weather map, Page B10.

F.A.A. Halts Bulk of Flights Around Nation

Communications Issue Strands Thousands

By KAROUN DEMIRJIAN

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration announced a rare nationwide ground stop on Friday afternoon, halting nearly all flight departures and stranding thousands of passengers because of a major outage affecting its air traffic control system.

Markwayne Mullin, the homeland security secretary, blamed the ground stop on a telecommunication outage but said Trump administration officials did not yet know the precise cause, adding that it would take an extended period of time to fix the issues.

By 6:30 p.m. Eastern time, about two and a half hours after the stop began, more than 3,000 flights had been canceled and thousands more delayed, according to FlightAware, a flight-tracking service. It was unclear how many of the delayed flights would eventually be able to depart. Over 370 flights had already been canceled for Saturday.

Chaos spread at airports across the country as travelers sought answers from airline and airport employees. Many passengers gave up and went home or to hotels, while others prepared for long nights waiting in terminals.

In Denver, passengers were taken off their flights with their suitcases. Passengers at Asheville Regional Airport in North Carolina were told over the public address system at 4:30 p.m. that there would be no updates until midnight.

All over the country, planes that had been about to take off were halted and turned back. "I have no idea when or if they're going to al-

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ALYSSA SCHUKAR FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on Friday. After the stop began, chaos quickly spread at airports across the country.

PRESIDENT URGED NVIDIA'S FOUNDER TO FIGHT FOR JOB

SPYING FEARS IGNORED

Chip Giant Underpinned Strategy to Dominate China in A.I. Race

*This article is by **Maggie Haberman**, **Jonathan Swan**, **Tripp Mickle** and **Julian E. Barnes**.*

President Trump called Jensen Huang on Tuesday, before the Nvidia chief stepped down amid a rapidly unfolding spy scandal, and urged him to keep fighting for his job, according to two people briefed on the conversation.

The call was the latest instance of Mr. Trump defending and protecting Mr. Huang, who had become a high-profile ally and an influential adviser on artificial intelligence. The president continued to back him to the end, even after U.S. intelligence agencies had concluded that Mr. Huang was having an affair with a woman believed to be a Chinese spy.

Nvidia announced on Thursday that Mr. Huang, who built the company into the world's leading supplier of advanced A.I. chips, had been replaced as chief executive following revelations not just of the affair with the woman suspected of being a spy, but also another with one of his employees.

A representative for Mr. Huang did not provide a comment for this article. Neither Mr. Trump nor the White House responded to requests for comment about his call to Mr. Huang.

The president had been warned at least twice about Mr. Huang's relationship with a Chinese citizen known as Alice Huang, whom intelligence agencies concluded had been recruited by China's Ministry of State Security, The New York Times has reported. The first warning was late last year, and the second was in the spring.

Mr. Trump took no action either time, and brought Mr. Huang with him on a trip to China in May. In recent days, he has publicly praised Mr. Huang and expressed sympathy for him, saying in a social media post on Thursday that he was a "legend."

The president's advisers said he was blasé about the national security implications when told of the intelligence community assessments related to Mr. Huang. One aide said that Mr. Trump saw

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FEAR AFTER FALL Asian Americans worry the spy scandal will bring them scrutiny. PAGE A11

LOSING BOOSTER With Jensen Huang out, A.I.'s loudest voice in Washington is gone. PAGE B1

By Wielding Belief, Colom Shocked His Skeptics in Mississippi

Beating Senator Who Denied Him Lifetime Position as Judge

By MICHAEL KRUSE and EMILY COCHRANE

COLUMBUS, Miss. — Barely more than a year ago, Scott Colom sat at the kitchen table at his parents' house not far from his own home in northeastern Mississippi, using his lunch breaks from his job as district attorney to call potential donors.

Mississippi hadn't had a Democratic senator since the 1980s. It hadn't had a Black senator since the 1880s. But Mr. Colom made his pitch. The response, in the recollection of his mother, Dorothy Colom, was typically a one-two beat:

You sound impressive.

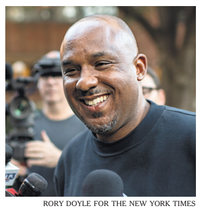
You can't win.

"It was just the two of us," she said in an interview this week at her home in Columbus, Miss. "And my role was just to write down what the donors said."

Now Mr. Colom, 43, is Mississippi's senator-elect — and at the top of the list of Democrats whose unlikely wins in the midterm elections reordered the balance of power in Washington and scrambled longstanding preconceptions about who can win where.

A seventh-generation Mississippian descended from an en-

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RORY DOYLE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Scott Colom, the senator-elect.

The All-Encompassing Grip of K-Pop Contracts

Group Found Out High Cost of Quitting

By SARAH HURTES and JIN YU YOUNG

SEOUL — Two years ago, the five members of the record-shattering girl group NewJeans, some still in their teens, did what no K-pop stars of their stature had done in a generation. They quit their record label.

"Staying at the company will only prolong our psychological pain," one of the members, Hanni Pham, told reporters, about a year after their album "Get Up" debuted at No. 1 on the U.S. charts.

What followed was one of the most explosive controversies in K-pop history, a legal and power struggle over artistic freedom in an industry where companies tightly control aspiring stars starting from early adolescence. Executives warned that if NewJeans could walk away, the multibillion dollar K-pop industry might collapse.

Underpinning this fight are the secret contracts that the singers signed while ages 14 to 17, when they were mostly unknowns, dreaming of stardom. The con-

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LAM YIK FEI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

NewJeans last year. Their deal omitted South Korean government guarantees for overall health.

Amid Left's Grumbles, Jeffries Moves to Lock In Speakership

By ANNIE KARNI

WASHINGTON — Representative Hakeem Jeffries, Democrat of New York and the minority leader, is pressing to wrap up his nomination to be speaker next week quickly and overwhelmingly, leaving potential detractors little room to maneuver around him even as some of them complain about an undemocratic process.

His allies this week began asking Democrats to sign a letter publicly signaling their backing for Mr. Jeffries ahead of the House Democrats' closed-door leadership elections on Wednesday. Some of them think he deserves to be elected unanimously during that session, bypassing a vote by secret ballot that would give any dissenters a chance to register opposition. It would be a show of overwhelming unity and support, although Mr. Jeffries has not yet indicated whether he is seeking it.

But his allies are soliciting group endorsements to lock in backing from large factions, effectively shutting down any conversation about other options in an implicit sign that his nomination is

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BERNICE GOTTLIEB, 1931-2026

Led Adoptions of Stigmatized Korean Children

By MAGGIE JONES

When Bernice Gottlieb arrived at a village in South Korea, Mi Yun Lee, who was 9, had never seen anyone like her. Gottlieb was tall and exuded an Audrey Hepburn glamour — a scarf carefully tied around her glossy black hair, high cheekbones, large, welcoming eyes. To Mi Yun, she was an angel who had descended from the sky, holding promises of a new future.

It was March 1974, and Gottlieb had flown from the United States with her husband to visit St. Lazarus, a community for people with leprosy, as Hansen's disease was known then. About 400 people lived in the village's dormitories and one-room homes. There was a medical clinic (a doctor came once a month), a church, a school.

Though it was about 15 miles from Seoul, St. Lazarus was sequestered from mainstream Korean life, its residents shunned by families and society. By the 1970s, doctors knew that the disease was

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VIA GOTTLIEB FAMILY

Gottlieb and Susannah.

INTERNATIONAL A4-9
Still Seeking NATO Retreat
In talks with President Trump's envoys, Russian officials have revived a demand that the alliance retrench to secure a Ukraine deal. PAGE A8

NATIONAL A10-19
How a Tragedy Unfolded
The deadly collapse of an apartment building in Brooklyn turned a busy neighborhood into a disaster zone and left families devastated. PAGE A18

ARTS C1-6
Dominic Fike Misses the Mess
In the wake of a viral hit, new sobriety and fatherhood, the rocker still likes some creative messiness and has put out an album to prove it. PAGE C1

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In-Season Success Is Rewarded
The Cubs' Pete Crow-Armstrong and the Astros' Yordan Alvarez each swept M.V.P. honors as baseball continued its 2026 awards season. PAGE B7

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Sharon Waxman PAGE A23

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