"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

National Edition
Upper Midwest: Periodic clouds and sunshine. Showers mostly north and west. Highs in 70s to low 80s. Showers north tonight. Lows in 56s to 60s. Weather map is on Page A18.

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"Upholding the rule of law means applying the law evenly, without fear or favor," Attorney General Merrick B. Garland said Thursday.

GARLAND PUSHING TO SHOW WARRANT FOR TRUMP SEARCH

Some of the Materials Are Said to Involve Highly Classified Intelligence

This article is by ***Glenn Thrush, Maggie Haberman*** *and* ***Ben Protess.***

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland moved on Thursday to make public the legal authorization for the F.B.I.'s search of former President Donald J. Trump's home in Florida, which was carried out as part of the government's effort to account for documents that one person briefed on the matter said related to some of the most highly classified programs run by the United States.

Mr. Garland said he had personally approved the search after the failure of "less intrusive" attempts to retrieve material taken from the White House by Mr. Trump.

Mr. Garland provided no details, but the person briefed on the matter said investigators had been concerned about material from what the government calls "special access programs," a designation even more classified than "top secret" that is typically reserved for extremely sensitive operations carried out by the United States abroad.

Government officials have expressed concern that allowing highly classified materials to remain at Mr. Trump's home could leave them vulnerable to efforts by foreign adversaries to acquire them, according to another person familiar with the Justice Department's thinking.

In a clipped, two-minute statement to reporters at the Justice Department's headquarters, Mr. Garland said he decided to break his silence and make a public statement because Mr. Trump had disclosed the action himself. The attorney general also cited the "surrounding circumstances" of the case and the "substantial public interest in this matter."

But Mr. Garland also used the appearance to defend, at least implicitly, the Justice Department's handling of the case against the torrent of criticism directed at it by Mr. Trump and his allies.

"Upholding the rule of law means applying the law evenly, without fear or favor," Mr. Garland said. "Under my watch that is precisely what the Justice Department is doing."

Minutes before Mr. Garland took the podium, a top official in the Justice Department's national

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STEVE HELBER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former President Donald J. Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate.

TRUMP'S MOVE After the former president portrayed the search as political, the attorney general called his bluff. News Analysis. PAGE A13

C.D.C. Relaxes Its Guidelines For Pandemic

By EMILY ANTHES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention loosened Covid-19 guidelines on Thursday, freeing schools and businesses from the onus of requiring unvaccinated people exposed to the virus to quarantine at home.

The changes are a sharp move away from measures such as social distancing requirements and quarantining, which had polarized much of the country, and effectively acknowledge the way many Americans have been navigating the pandemic for some time. The agency's action comes as children across the country return to school and many offices have reopened.

"We know that Covid-19 is here to stay," Greta Massetti, a C.D.C. epidemiologist, said at a news briefing on Thursday. "High levels of population immunity due to vaccination and previous infection, and the many tools that we have available to protect people from severe illness and death, have put us in a different place."

The C.D.C.'s new guidelines come after more than two years of a pandemic in which more than one million Americans have died. With the highly contagious B.A.5 subvariant of Omicron spreading, the United States is recording more than 100,000 cases and nearly 500 deaths a day on average.

But many Americans dispensed with practices such as social distancing, quarantining and mask-wearing long ago.

"I think they are attempting to meet up with the reality that everyone in the public is pretty much done with this pandemic," said Michael T. Osterholm, an infectious disease expert at the University of Minnesota, referring to the C.D.C.

The agency has been working for months on the new guidance, which builds on previous recommendations issued in February, when the agency shortened isolation times for many Americans. The C.D.C. said it is making changes now because vaccination and prior infections have granted many Americans some degree of

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Years of Conflict With the Keepers of U.S. Secrets

By MARK MAZZETTI

NEWS ANALYSIS

WASHINGTON — After four years of President Donald J. Trump's raging against his intelligence services, posting classified information to Twitter and announcing that he took the word of President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia over that of his own spies, perhaps the least surprising thing he did during his final days in office was ship boxes of sensitive material from the White House to his oceanside palace in Florida.

Trump Viewed as Risk to Share Sensitive Information

The F.B.I. search of Mar-a-Lago on Monday was a dramatic coda to years of tumult between Mr. Trump and American intelligence and law enforcement agencies. From Mr. Trump's frequent rants against a "deep state" bent on undermining his presidency to his cavalier attitude toward highly classified information that he viewed as his personal property and would occasionally use to advance his political agenda, the relationship between the keepers of America's secrets and the erratic president they served was the most poisoned of the modern era.

Mr. Trump's behavior led to such mistrust within intelligence agencies that officials who gave him classified briefings occasionally erred on the side of withholding some sensitive details from him.

It has long been common practice for the C.I.A. not to

Continued on Page A12

KIRAN RIDLEY/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Researchers found a warming rate of four times the global average, with some places even higher.

A Signal of Climate Change Just Got More Dire

By HENRY FOUNTAIN

The rapid warming of the Arctic, a definitive sign of climate change, is occurring even faster than previously described, researchers in Finland said Thursday.

Over the past four decades, the region has been heating up four times faster than the global average, not the two to three times that has commonly been reported. And some parts of the region, notably the Barents Sea north of Norway and Russia, are warming up to seven times faster, they said.

Arctic Is Heating Faster Than We Believed

One result of rapid Arctic warming is faster melting of the Greenland ice sheet, which adds to sea-level rise. But the impacts extend far beyond the Arctic, reaching down to influence weather like extreme rainfall and heat waves in North America and elsewhere. By altering the temperature difference between the North Pole and the Equator, the warming Arctic appears to have affected storm tracks and wind speed in North America.

Manvendra K. Dubey, an atmospheric scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory and an author of an earlier study with simi-

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Relief at Pump As Gas Prices Fall Under $4

By ISABELLA SIMONETTI

Gas prices in the United States fell below $4 a gallon on Thursday, retreating to their lowest level since March, a sign of relief for Americans struggling with historically high inflation and a political boost for President Biden, who has been under pressure to do more to bring down prices.

The national average cost of a gallon of regular gasoline now stands at $3.99, according to AAA. That's still higher than it was a year ago but well below a peak of nearly $5.02 in mid-June. The average price has fallen for 58 consecutive days.

Energy costs feed into broad measures of inflation, so the drop is also good news for policymakers who have struggled to contain rising prices. It is a welcome development for Mr. Biden, who has spent recent weeks trumpeting the drop in gasoline prices, even as he pledges to do more to bring costs down. Mr. Biden has criticized oil companies for their record profits, and this year he released some of the nation's stockpile of oil in an effort to reduce price pressures.

More than half the cost of gasoline at the pump is determined by global oil prices, which have tumbled to their lowest point since the war in Ukraine began in February,

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Gunman Killed After Storming An F.B.I. Office

This article is by ***Kevin Williams, Alan Feuer, Adam Goldman*** *and* ***Mitch Smith.***

WILMINGTON, Ohio — After an hourslong standoff that closed an interstate and disrupted rural life, law enforcement officers shot and killed a man who they said tried to break into the F.B.I.'s Cincinnati office on Thursday.

Ohio authorities declined to confirm the man's name or describe his motives. But two law enforcement officials familiar with the matter said investigators were looking into whether the man, whom they identified as Ricky Shiffer, had ties to extremist groups, including one that participated in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

On Tuesday, the day after former President Donald J. Trump's residence in Florida, Mar-a-Lago, was searched by the F.B.I., someone with an account bearing Mr. Shiffer's name posted messages on Mr. Trump's social media platform, Truth Social, recommending that "patriots" go to Florida and kill federal agents. On Thursday, the same account also appeared to confess to an attack on the F.B.I.

The events in Ohio came a day after the F.B.I. director told reporters that online threats against federal law enforcement were "de-

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Gun Violence in Philadelphia
More than 1,400 people have been shot this year in the city, hundreds of them fatally — a higher toll than in much larger U.S. cities. PAGE A11

BUSINESS B1-5

Retiring in a Downturn
Market declines during the first five years of retirement can have a significant effect, but remaining flexible can mitigate the damage. PAGE B1

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A Little Confusion in Qatar
A last-minute change of the World Cup's start date was only the latest bit of uncertainty to surround soccer's showcase event. PAGE B6

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Pondering Her Distant Father
Aya Ogawa, an experimental theater maker, deals with failure and forgiveness through her work "The Nosebleed" at Lincoln Center. PAGE C1

OPINION A20-23

Michelle Goldberg PAGE A21

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

What's News

Business & Finance

The SEC is looking into Melvin Capital Management's risk controls and investor disclosure after the hedge fund was crippled by the meme-stock rally last year, said people familiar with the matter. A1

◆ **Walgreens is offering** signing bonuses up to $75,000 to pharmacists in some markets as it struggles to fill jobs amid a chronic worker shortage. A1

◆ **Samsung's de facto leader,** Lee Jae-yong, will receive a pardon, South Korea's presidential office said, a reprieve underpinned by expectations that he would help propel the nation's economy. A16

◆ **U.S. suppliers raised** prices in July at the slowest annual pace since last fall as energy costs dropped, adding to signs that price pressures have eased slightly. A2

◆ **The S&P 500 and Nasdaq** ended lower, losing 0.1% and 0.6%, respectively, while the Dow Industrials eked out a gain of 0.1%. B11

◆ **Faced with** slowing subscriber growth in their core domestic markets, some streaming services are shifting focus from adding users to growing their bottom line. B1

◆ **Rivian said** its net loss in the second quarter nearly tripled to $1.7 billion, adding to pressure on the firm to conserve cash and move quickly to fill customer orders. B1

◆ **Activist investor ValueAct** has taken a 6.7% stake in New York Times Co. and intends to push the media company to more aggressively market subscriber-only content. B1

World-Wide

◆ **Trump said** late Thursday that he won't oppose the release of court documents used in the FBI search warrant of his Mar-a-Lago home earlier this week, after the Justice Department asked a Florida judge to unseal the information. A1

◆ **The CDC scaled back** guidance for quarantining and testing to screen for Covid-19, a relaxation of pandemic precautions that reflects higher protection from vaccines, treatments and prior infection. A1

◆ **EU diplomats** trying to break a deadlock in talks over an Iran nuclear accord have proposed a significant new concession to Tehran aimed at speedily ending a U.N. investigation into Iran's past atomic activities. A8

◆ **Four days before** Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, Chinese leader Xi got on the phone with Biden and delivered a message: Now isn't the time for a full-blown crisis. A16

◆ **The FTC said** it would begin considering new rules to expand online privacy protections by targeting online surveillance and lax data-security practices by tech firms. A5

◆ **A man armed** with a rifle tried to break into the security screening area of the FBI's Cincinnati field office before being fatally shot and being killed in a gunbattle with police, officials said. A3

◆ **Legislation to speed the** approval process for energy infrastructure projects is facing political headwinds in the Senate. A4

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Images Show Warplanes Destroyed Despite Russia's Denial

WIPED OUT: Satellite images from before and after explosions at a Russian air base in Crimea appear to show several destroyed warplanes, contradicting Moscow's official account that no aircraft were lost in the blasts. A7

Trump Won't Oppose Warrant's Release

Garland asks court to unseal information, says he personally approved search

WASHINGTON—Former President Donald Trump said late Thursday he won't oppose the release of court documents used in the FBI search warrant of his Mar-a-Lago home earlier this week, after the Justice Department asked a Florida judge to unseal the information.

By Sadie Gurman, Alex Leary and Aruna Viswanatha

The former president said on his social media site that he wouldn't oppose releasing the documents, writing, "I am going a step further by ENCOURAGING the immediate release of those documents," while adding that he viewed the process as partisan.

The request by Attorney General Merrick Garland, and Mr. Trump's acceptance, raise the prospect that underlying reasons for the extraordinary search of the former president's home and a list of items taken from there could soon become public.

"I personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter," Mr. Garland said in his first public remarks since Monday's search. "The department does not take such a decision lightly."

Mr. Garland said he filed the motion in light of Mr. Trump's confirmation of the search and the "substantial public interest" in the matter.

Mr. Trump was given a copy of the warrant and a list of items that were taken during the search.

News organizations had submitted court filings asking for the public release of the search warrant and related materials. Ultimately, that de-

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SEC Investigates Hedge Fund Hit by Rally in Meme Stocks

The Securities and Exchange Commission is looking into Melvin Capital Management's risk controls and investor disclosure after the hedge fund was crippled by the meme-stock rally last year, said people familiar with the matter.

By Juliet Chung, Shaun Pallison and Dave Michaels

The regulator has contacted investors in the hedge fund in recent months as part of an investigation into what Melvin founder Gabriel Plotkin and other senior executives told them following the meme-stock rally in January 2021 and whether it misled investors when it raised money last year.

The SEC has obtained from Melvin its general communications with investors and has sought information about what the firm disclosed about the risks of its investment strategy to clients, the people said.

Melvin is winding down after Mr. Plotkin surprised investors in May by telling them he would return their money.

The investigation is in its early stages and may not lead to any formal claims of wrongdoing. It is being handled by the enforcement division's asset-management unit in Washington, D.C., the people said. The SEC and other law-enforcement authorities have investigated the frenzied trading in early 2021 that sent shares of GameStop Corp. and others soaring. It couldn't be learned whether the broader inquiries are related to the SEC's probe

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Walgreens Steps Up Bonuses to Druggists

By SHARON TERLEP

Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. is offering signing bonuses up to $75,000 to pharmacists in some markets as the company struggles to fill jobs amid a chronic worker shortage that became acute during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Deerfield, Ill.-based pharmacy chain said it is ramping up spending on labor to alleviate the shortfall, which has dented drug sales and angered workers, some of whom have quit and posted calls on social media for the company to improve working conditions.

Bonuses are on offer in certain markets in every state, according to job postings reviewed by The Wall Street Journal and people familiar with the matter. The $75,000 bonus that Walgreens is paying is rare; more common at the chain are awards of $30,000 or $50,000. The bonuses come with a requirement for pharmacists to remain in their jobs for a period, usually a year or more.

A Walgreens spokesman said the bonuses are part of a larger investment focused on recruitment and retention. "This is one of many steps to address pharmacy staffing in some areas," he said.

Pharmacy chains paid bonuses to employees earlier in the pandemic when the compa-

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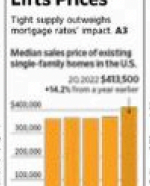
Home Demand Lifts Prices

Tight supply outweighs mortgage rates' impact A3



Burst Housing Bubble Deepens China's Woes

As home sales and prices drop, the damage is imperiling the economy

By Rebecca Feng and Cao Li

China's deflating property bubble is imperiling the world's second-largest economy with effects that could ripple for years.

Home prices are dropping in many cities after a long period of increases, data from Chinese real-estate developers and official statistics show. Sales of apartments nationwide by the country's largest developers have slumped annually for 18 consecutive months, according to industry-data provider China Real Estate Information Corp.

And millions of "presold" apartments that buyers have paid for remain unfinished, leading some purchasers to threaten to withhold mortgage payments. Some buyers could refuse to pay back up to $370 billion in home loans if their apartments aren't finished, analysts estimate. Most Chinese banks, they say, should be able to absorb the losses, making a financial crisis unlikely.

The bigger risk is to China's economy. Bank of America research analysts noted in a report last month that approximately 9% of the housing floor space that was presold in 2020 and 2021 risks not being completed on schedule because of developers' financial troubles, affecting roughly 2.4 million house-

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Many D.C. Agencies Have Own Police—Why Not the Zoo?

* * *

Armed force walks beat, keeps the peace;
lost crane and a cheeky orangutan

By James V Grimaldi

WASHINGTON—Sgt. Ron Gaskins has walked this police beat before, and he knows trouble when he sees it.

A crowd had gathered and was watching a curious character shimmying along two cables, stretched from pole to pole. "Where they're standing now might not be good," Sgt. Gaskins said.

"Folks," the officer warned, gesturing to a painted sidewalk, "you might want to stay clear of the gray concrete."

The subject of interest—a sometimes moody resident known as Bonnie—squatted. A long, steady stream sprayed onto the sidewalk 50 feet below. The crowd squealed upon realizing that Bonnie, an orangutan at the National Zoo, was peeing.

"That looked intentional," the patrolman said. Could she be arrested? "No statute for that one," he deadpanned.

It was a typical summer day for Sgt. Gaskins of the National Zoological Park Police, a

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CDC Relaxes Guidance For Covid Precautions

By Brianna Abbott

Federal health officials scaled back guidance for quarantining and testing to screen for Covid-19, a relaxation of pandemic precautions that reflects higher protection from vaccines, treatments and prior infection.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday said it no longer recommends that people quarantine after being exposed to the virus, so long as they don't feel sick, get tested after five days and wear a high-quality mask around others for 10 days. People should still isolate from others for at least five days if they test positive, the CDC said.

The agency also no longer recommends screening asymptomatic people for the virus in most settings. The CDC said screening might still be beneficial in high-risk places including long-term care and correctional facilities.

For schools and child-care settings, the CDC no longer recommends quarantining for students exposed to the virus, mirroring changes in its gen-

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◆ North Korea declares victory over Covid outbreak..... A7