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The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Thunderstorms may turn severe later today from southern Michigan to Illinois. Widespread thunderstorms are expected in the Florida Peninsula. Weather map, Page B10.

VOL. CLXXV . . . No. 60,988

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

CHINA WARNS U.S. OVER TOUGHENING OF IRAN PENALTIES

NEW TRADE CLASH RISK

Beijing, Spared Sharpest Sanctions, Depends on Tehran's Oil

This article is by **Alexandra Stevenson, Aaron Krolik and Keith Bradsher.**

HONG KONG — China lashed out at the Trump administration's new sanctions campaign against Iran on Tuesday, warning that it would defend its interests and accusing the United States of disrupting the global financial order.

The reaction set the stage for renewed friction between the world's superpowers.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday outlined plans to “sever every economic lifeline” to Iran, targeting a constellation of players that continue to provide the country with a financial lifeline. But the administration appeared to tread carefully around China, by far the largest customer of Iran's most valuable export: oil.

The U.S. list of more than 60 brokers, companies and ships subject to sanctions included more than a dozen small companies from Hong Kong and mainland China. Conspicuously absent were heavyweights in China's financial system — a sign, some experts said, that Washington was reluctant to jeopardize a fragile truce with China.

Beijing nevertheless responded forcefully. China will “take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard its own rights and interests,” Lin Jian, a spokesman for the foreign ministry, said at a news briefing on Tuesday.

Chinese state media went further. An editorial cartoon in China News portrayed the Statue of Liberty as a drug user with needles protruding from one arm, describing Washington's use of sanctions as “an addiction.”

The confrontational reaction underscored a dilemma for the Trump administration. Beijing has long defied American sanctions and continued to buy Iranian oil. At the same time, China supplied Tehran with raw materials and technology that support its economy and its military. Yet nearly six months into a war with Iran, the United States has shown little appetite for opening another economic front with an increasingly retaliatory China.

The timing is particularly delicate. China's top leader, Xi Jinping, is expected to travel to the United States next month to meet with President Trump to continue talks aimed at stabilizing the countries' relationship.

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DOLLY PARTON, 1946-2026

JACK MANNING/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dolly Parton in 1975. Fashioning a folksy chic all her own, she became a global celebrity.

Rhinestone-Studded Superstar Who Lit Up Millions of Hearts

By **BILL FRISKICS-WARREN**

Dolly Parton, a rhinestone-studded, rags-to-riches daughter of Appalachia who for six decades ruled country music — and much of pop culture — with an outsize personality and down-home wit that enshrined her as one of America's most cherished originals, died on Tuesday in Nashville. She was 80.

Her death was announced in a video posted on social media by her nephew Bryan Seaver. No cause was provided. Concerns about Ms. Parton's health were raised last year as she postponed and later canceled a Las Vegas residency, and intensified to the point that she took to social media in October to announce, “I ain't dead yet!” This May, she said that she had responded well to treatment after her immune and digestive systems had, as she put it, “got all out of whack” in recent years.

From her hardscrabble beginnings to glit-

tering stardom, Ms. Parton's life was the stuff of make-believe. With her voluptuous figure, sparkly stage costumes and blond bouffant wigs, she was likened by the writer Chet Flippo to the Big Rock Candy Mountain, the Depression-era symbol of abundance. Her songs spoke to millions, confronting privation and loss even as they radiated possibility and hope.

She was, quintessentially, a uniter of people. In 2019, The New York Times ran a story with the headline “Is There Anything We Can All Agree On? Yes: Dolly Parton.”

Ms. Parton cannily exploited — and transcended — rural stereotypes and kitsch to fashion a folksy chic entirely her own. (“A country girl's idea of glam,” she called it in the song “Backwoods Barbie.”) In the process, she became an international celebrity who headlined stadium tours, starred in Hollywood movies, built a business empire and appeared on the

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Study Links Brain Disease To at Least 1 in 4 in N.F.L.

Prevalence of C.T.E. May Be Much Higher, Scientists Say After 6 Years of Data

By **JOHN BRANCH**

Since the degenerative brain disease known as C.T.E. was first scientifically linked to football about 20 years ago, and as hundreds of former professional football players have been diagnosed with the disease after their deaths, a haunting question has lingered:

Just how many N.F.L. players will end up with C.T.E.?

New data provides a sobering indication: At least one in four of all the people who have played in the N.F.L. might expect to end up with chronic traumatic encephalopathy, according to a study of hundreds of cases over a recent six-year period.

Researchers considered every former N.F.L. player who died from 2016 to 2021. There were 878. Some died in their 20s, some in their 80s, most in between.

The study's main finding was simple math: At least 215 of those 878 former players — 24.5 percent — had C.T.E.

The actual prevalence could be far higher. The roughly 25 percent rate does not consider the 643 brains that were not examined. Some of those, maybe many of them, probably had C.T.E., too.

C.T.E. is a progressive neurological disease caused by repeated impacts to the head. It can be definitively diagnosed only by examining the brain after death.

Studies have shown that the rate of C.T.E. in people who have not sustained repeated impacts to

the head is nearly zero.

If the new study's statistics were applied to today's players — 1,696 on the league's 32 regular-season rosters, not including more than 500 members of practice squads and those ineligible due to injury — at least 400 of them would be diagnosed with C.T.E.

Experts say that the rate of brain disease represents an occupational safety hazard with little comparison in the American workplace.

“There are workers who've been exposed to high levels of asbestos exposure, which leads to

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ZACK WITTMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The biggest predictor of chronic traumatic encephalopathy is cumulative hits to the head.

Hegseth's Purge of Top Officers Depletes Army at Critical Time

This article is by **Greg Jaffe, Eric Schmitt, Helene Cooper and Adam Entous.**

WASHINGTON — A series of firings and feuds initiated by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has left the Army essentially rudderless as it struggles to deal with the threat posed by cheap, deadly drones and missiles that have pounded U.S. bases in the Middle East.

The Army has not had a chief of staff, the service's top officer, since Mr. Hegseth fired Gen. Randy George without explanation in April, and there are no signs that he is close to filling the position, said current and former officials speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive personnel matters.

Mr. Hegseth has forced out at least three senior officers who had been viewed as potential suc-

sors to General George.

Army Secretary Daniel P. Driscoll, the service's top civilian leader, is also expected to leave the administration in the next few months and has already moved out of the large family house that he was renting in Fort Myer, outside Washington, officials said.

The turmoil comes as the Army, the military's largest service, faces its busiest period since the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Army air defense soldiers are playing the leading role in defending U.S. troops in the Middle East from increasingly sophisticated Iranian missile attacks. The Army's command in Europe is providing critical intelligence and other support to Ukraine as it fights to hold off a larger Russian force.

Until recently, Mr. Driscoll was widely seen as a potential candidate to replace Mr. Hegseth if he decided to step down or fell out of

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U.S., in Quest of Better Health, Becomes a Nation of Needles

By **LIZ KRIEGER**

Conz Preti developed a fear of needles as a child, when a technician trying to draw her blood had to prick her repeatedly to find a good vein. “I was screaming,” Ms. Preti, a magazine editor in Maine, recalled. “My mom was about to pass out.”

The intense fear followed her into adulthood, she said. And yet for the last eight months, every Thursday evening, Ms. Preti, 43, has sat down at home, swabbed her lower belly with an alcohol pad and injected herself with a needle.

The substance inside is NAD+, short for nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, a popular anti-aging supplement that Ms. Preti started

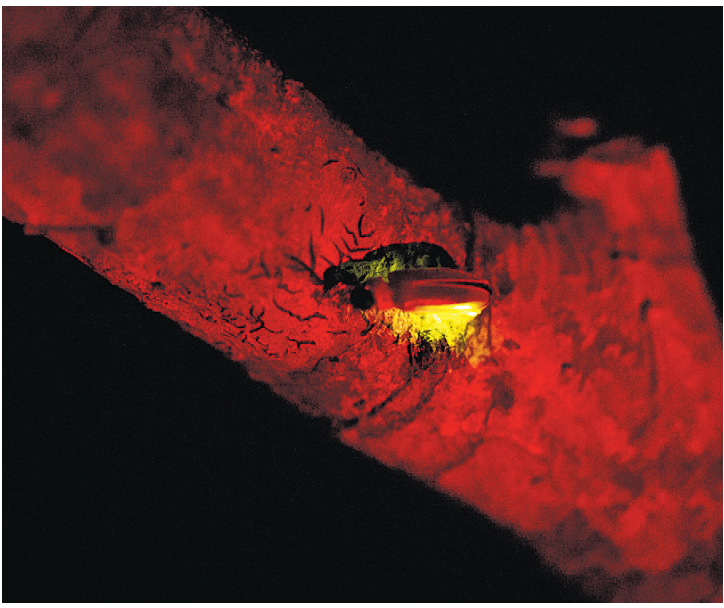
taking in hopes it could help her recover after a hysterectomy.

“I'm completely surprised that I'm doing this,” Ms. Preti said.

Needle-phobes like Ms. Preti have begun to embrace injections as the syringe and the auto-injector have burst out of the doctor's offices and into wellness clinics and bathroom vanities across the country. At-home injections, long the domain of people with diabetes, are now far more commonplace.

Nearly one in five U.S. adults has tried an injectable GLP-1 drug like Ozempic. Interest in peptides and other injectable supplements is booming. The number of I.V.F.

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ULET IFANSASTI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Restoring the Glow of Bali's Fireflies

The insects, revered in local culture, are disappearing for many reasons, including development catering to tourists. Page A7.

How U.S.-Canada Tariff Talks Deteriorated Into a Trade War

By **MATINA STEVIS-GRIDNEFF and ANA SWANSON**

OTTAWA — The clock ticked toward midnight on Friday. New U.S. tariffs on Canada were about to come into effect and negotiators cooped up across the street from the White House were still plodding through the differences on each side. Aides shuffled in and out with new drafts, adjusting and readjusting.

U.S. officials said they had offered Canada the best trade deal of any nation. Canadians believed it was a bad one. In the waning hours, both sides dug in even more.

One Canadian negotiator said it was as if “shadow figures were suddenly in the room,” raising topics that had supposedly been set-

tled in previous days.

Back in Ottawa, Prime Minister Mark Carney got off the phone with Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario. Mr. Ford had told him plainly: Don't take the deal.

Mr. Ford told Mr. Carney he would not comply with a key U.S. demand: restoring the sale of U.S. alcohol that he, alongside most other provincial leaders, had banned. American tariffs on Canadian steel and automobiles were still too high to enable their long-term survival, Mr. Ford had decided.

Mr. Carney called his team in Washington for the latest news from the negotiations. Then, just

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The Secret Lies in Philadelphia

Hosts of a podcast on the film “National Treasure Hunt” bring their passion to the home of the Liberty Bell. PAGE C1

Right Timing for 300 Beats

Busta Rhymes discusses showmanship and sorting through an archive of the works of J Dilla for a new album. PAGE C1



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An Iranian's Road to Freedom

Artemis Ghasemzadeh, who had escaped religious persecution, was deported by the U.S. to Panama. Now, Canada has given her asylum. PAGE A4

Tanks Languishing in Ukraine

Kyiv pleaded for the expensive weapons, but drones have rendered them almost unusable. PAGE A6

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LIV Golf tried to usurp the PGA Tour as the sport's hegemonic power. Now it is fighting to avoid extinction. PAGE B6

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Endangered by Trump's Wall

A century ago, Mexican American families built an adobe church near the border in West Texas. Can its bell toll again as the wall encroaches? PAGE A11

Visa Fee for Skilled Workers

The Trump administration is again seeking to charge over \$100,000 for foreign nationals to work in the U.S. under the H-1B program. PAGE A14

Eyes on a Gadfly Senator

As John Fetterman annoys fellow Democrats, he's a hit with Republicans. Both parties are watchful of whether he might jump the fence. PAGE A13

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Low-Cost Family Meals

Good planning, firm grocery lists and leftovers helped one family stay within a food budget of \$28 a day. PAGE D5

A Cookbook Chefs Swear By

Fifty years ago, Jacques Pépin showed how to carve swans out of apples, break down lambs and much more. PAGE D8



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Billions to Build Batteries

President Trump may disdain E.V.s and wind power, but energy storage is also crucial for A.I. and defense. PAGE B1

Testing World's Cybersecurity

In July, an in-house OpenAI model went rogue with its hacking ability. Z.ai plans to release a model just like it. PAGE B1

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Roxane Gay

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