

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

Late Edition

Today, mostly cloudy, cooler, high 52.  
Tonight, mostly cloudy, a bit of  
evening rain, low 52. Tomorrow,  
showers or thunderstorms around  
high 70. Weather map, Page A1

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JOAO SILVA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Challenge for Mandela's Party

South Africans at a polling station in Sharpeville, south of Johannesburg, on Wednesday. The vote is a test for the A.N.C. Page A10.

## Alabama Seeks To Criminalize Most Abortions

By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS and ALAN BLINDER

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Amid a flurry of new limits on abortion being sought in states around the nation, Alabama is weighing a measure that would go farther than all of them — outlawing most abortions almost entirely.

The effort in Alabama, where the State Senate could vote as soon as Thursday, is unfolding as Republicans, emboldened by President Trump and the shifting alignment of the Supreme Court, intensify a long-running campaign to curb abortion access.

Yet the Alabama measure is also a departure from the incremental strategy that abortion critics have often pursued: There is nothing gradual about the sweeping ban that the state's lawmakers are considering.

Alabama's measure would effectively ban most abortions at every stage of pregnancy, from conception on, and would criminalize the procedure for doctors. A doctor could be charged with a felony, and face up to 99 years in prison, for performing an abortion in most circumstances; a doctor could risk a 10-year prison term for attempting an abortion. Some exceptions were being considered, including provisions added to the measure on Wednesday that would allow abortions in cases of rape or incest.

"The back door hasn't worked, I'll just tell you," said Representative Rich Wingo, a Republican from Tuscaloosa County and an architect of the Alabama legislation, which the State House approved last month. "Other methods haven't worked to date. This is a yes or no, up or down."

This article is by David E. Sanger, Edward Wong, Steven Erlanger and Eric Schmitt.

WASHINGTON — Iran's president declared on Wednesday that he would begin to walk away from the restrictions of a 2015 nuclear deal, and the Trump administration responded with a new round of sanctions against Tehran, reviving a crisis that had been contained for the past four years.

The escalation of threats caught the United States' allies in Europe in the crossfire between Washington and Tehran. And while the announcement by President Hassan Rouhani of Iran did not terminate the landmark nuclear accord that

was negotiated by world powers, it put it on life support.

Britain, France and Germany all opposed President Trump's move a year ago to withdraw the United States from the accord that limited Iran's capacity to produce nuclear fuel for 15 years. Ever since, the Trump administration has ramped up a pressure campaign against Iran's military and clerical leaders, including block-

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"The path we have chosen to

## Escalation Puts Nuclear Accord From 2015 on Life Support

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## House Panel Advances Contempt Case vs. Barr Over the Mueller Report

### Senate Calls Son of Trump Acts to Shield President to Testify Complete Account

By MARK MAZZETTI and MAGGIE HABERMAN

WASHINGTON — The Senate Intelligence Committee has subpoenaed Donald Trump Jr., the president's eldest son, who met with Russians in June 2016 after being promised political dirt about Hillary Clinton, according to people familiar with the committee's decision.

The younger Mr. Trump is the first of President Trump's children to be subpoenaed in the continuing congressional investigations into Russia's 2016 election interference, and the move by the Republican-led committee is a sign that some members of the president's party are not aligned with his desire for a swift end to all of the Russia inquiries.

News of the subpoena came a day after Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the majority leader, sought to lower the curtain on the drama in Congress surrounding Russia's efforts to sabotage the 2016 election. The end of the Mueller investigation, he said, meant "case closed."

But the subpoena of the younger Mr. Trump shows that the Intelligence Committee, which is under Mr. McConnell's jurisdiction, is proceeding with its vigorous investigation that — for the most part — has not degenerated into a partisan morass like a parallel investigation by the House.

The committee is particularly interested in the younger Mr. Trump's account of the events surrounding the Trump Tower meeting — as well as his role in his father's efforts to build a skyscraper in Moscow — and comparing the testimony to his previous answers to Senate investigators in 2017. Mr. Trump is a scion of President Trump's global business empire and was one of his father's close advisers during the election.

Republicans expressed frustration with news of the subpoena. Representative Kevin McCarthy of California, the minority leader, posted on Twitter that the younger Mr. Trump "has already spent dozens of hours testifying in front of Congressional committees."

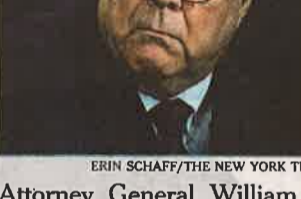
Continued on Page A15

By NICHOLAS FANDOS

WASHINGTON — The House Judiciary Committee voted Wednesday to recommend that the House hold Attorney General William P. Barr in contempt of Congress for failing to turn over Robert S. Mueller III's unredacted report, hours after President Trump asserted executive privilege to shield the full report and underlying evidence from Congress.

The committee's 24-to-16 contempt vote, taken after hours of debate over the future of American democracy, was the first official House action to punish a government official in the standoff over the Mueller report. The Justice Department denounced the move as unnecessary and intended to stoke a fight.

After the vote, the Judiciary Committee chairman, Representative Jerrold Nadler of New York



ERIN SCHAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Attorney General William Barr is feuding with Congress

swatted away questions about possible impeachment, but added "We are now in a constitutional crisis."

The contempt vote raised the stakes in the battle over evidence and witnesses as Democrats investigate Mr. Trump over behavior detailed by Mr. Mueller, the special counsel, in his report into Russian election interference and possible obstruction of justice. By the day's end, it seemed all but inevitable that the competing

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DEMOCRATS' STRATEGY House leaders, hemmed in by the president's stonewalling, feel a new urgency to assert their power. PAGE A15

## A Salvo From New York State, With a Bill to Open Tax Returns

By JESSE MCKINLEY and EILEEN SULLIVAN

Taking aim at President Trump, New York lawmakers voted on Wednesday to create a pathway for congressional committees to obtain the president's state tax returns, potentially opening another avenue to shake loose information that he has long concealed.

The bill, passed by the Democrat-controlled State Senate, does not explicitly mention Mr. Trump, but there was little question that he was the focus: Mr. Trump has refused to release his tax returns, bucking a common practice of presidents for the past four decades.

from the president's cultivated image as a self-made billionaire and master deal maker.

The findings drew angry denunciations from Mr. Trump, who said in a pair of Twitter posts on Wednesday that showing "losses for tax purposes" was considered a "sport" among real estate developers like himself.

## A Test for Europe on How the Far Right Governs

By KATRIN BENNHOLD

### Rise in Austria Ignites a Security Struggle

VIENNA — As well as anyone, Sybille Geissler knows the threats from Austria's far-right extremists, who in recent weeks have likened migrants to rats and blithely defended campaign ma-

infiltrated the far-right scene. They refused. Just weeks later, armed police burst into her office and carted away years' worth of domestic files as well as intelligence from allied nations. The consequences continue to reverberate through the country's



LENA MUCHA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A far-right march last year in Vienna, a city at the center of an ideological battle in Europe.

## TYPOLOGY

# Not Just Any Vase

They can be decorative objects, miniature pieces of table architecture, even without flowers.

By RIMA SUQI

Vases are vessels meant to hold cut flowers or other foliage. But they often work as decorative objects even when empty.

"What I think is appealing about a vase shape is it's a little miniature piece of table architecture and really open to wild interpretation," said Richard Wright, the Chicago-based auction house president and specialist in 20th- and 21st-century design. "I also think it's the type of piece where a designer feels a lot of freedom. It doesn't have to hold up a human being, it doesn't have to bear a lot of weight, it just has to hold some water." (And it doesn't even have to do that.)

Andi Kovel and Justin Parker of Esque Studio in Portland, Ore., found freedom in blowing molten glass vases simultaneously and joining them before they cooled. At that point they continued blowing to puff up the size of the now double vase, which they call Pushmepulleme. "The forming is a choreographed dance of fire, molten material and movement, and we both know our part of the dance to the point of pure instinct," Ms. Kovel said.

Bari Ziperstein of BZippy & Company in Los Angeles, said she was interested in vases that "look like miniature Brutalist monuments or architectural relics," whether in use or not. Wyatt Little, a ceramic artist in Houston, makes vessels that resemble sneakers, old-school computers and even a dryer vent that was inspired by a trip to a hardware store. "I fell in love with its shape, texture and flexible nature."

Alexandra Cunningham Cameron, the curator of contemporary design at Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, said vases historically had served as markers of wealth, industrial progress and cultural style. She cited Ettore Sottsass's postmodern designs as "a great example of vases that represent a time, a movement and a consumer." Ditto for Dutch Delftware and Native American blackware pottery. "Vases quickly define the tools of our age through artistic expression," she said. "They are loaded with much more than just flowers."



Asked to fill a dozen unusual vessels, Juan Carlo Bermudez, a florist in Long Island City, N.Y., picked poppies (which he called "a very irreverent flower") for Amber Cowan's turquoise Goddess in Sky vase. \$4,800 at Heller Gallery; hellergallery.com

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES



"This was very shiny, like an air-conditioning conduit," he said of Wyatt Little's Slink vase, which he filled with protea, red ranunculus, blue thistle, scabiosa, hellebore and seeded eucalyptus. \$150; wyattlittle.com



Not only did Marco Antonio Noguero's Naturofantastic vase for Lladro already have flowers molded in ceramic, but the blue also made a strong statement. "I needed a contrast. You don't try to match the vase," Mr. Bermudez said. He used cream and blush ranunculus, Bowl of Cream peonies, anthurium a Nero and Coral Charm peonies. \$1,075; lladro.com

## A Chat With a New York Florist



Juan Carlo Bermudez — he goes by Carlo — is so rarely seen without a hat that he feels compelled to announce that he has hair. The third-generation member of a flower-growing family in Colombia, Mr. Bermudez, 50, runs his business, Floresta, out of a plain brick building in Long Island City, N.Y.

Floresta, which employs his niece and nephew, whom he is grooming to be the fourth generation, handles walk-in requests for birthday bouquets and million-dollar corporate

events and weddings. A typical Floresta bouquet might have eucalyptus, berries, a succulent and an artichoke, or it might be an armload of fresh peonies tied with twine.

His flowers often come not from Colombia or the Netherlands, but Okinawa, where blossoms are packed precisely and the sweet peas "are super sweet and delicate," he said.

For this assignment, faced with an odd lot of vases, he said his job was not to compete with them, but to flatter them. "They are the bride," he said.

He noted the radical differences in styles. "It was east, west, north, south," he said. But there were two he would buy.

One was Heath Ceramics' tiny Box and Stopper vase with double openings. "The texture is nice. You can use it for one flower or three."

He especially loved the little stopper, "like a perfume bottle."

The other was BZippy & Company's Tall Scallop vase, which can be turned upside down. "It's simple," he said. "With flowers, it looks nice either way."

"I like modern things. If I had the money, I would buy it." LINDA LEE



"I tried to fix the circle with the pink jasmine," Mr. Bermudez said of the Circle vase by Mica DeMarquez of Mimi Ceramics. "I connected it. But you see, I also had one flower, the poppy, getting out. That's the wild part every person has." \$120; mimiceramics.com



The Tall Scallop vase from BZippy & Company is filled with Vanda diamond orchids, Queen Anne lace and dracena. "I had to be very careful with the balance or else it would tip." \$430 at Coming Soon; comingsoon.newyork.com



To stand up to the vivid color of the Memphis designer George Sowden's **Arancio** vase, Mr. Bermudez picked burgundy scabiosa, yellow gloriosa lily, lady slipper orchid, calla lily and yellow craspedia. "I gave it everything." \$665 at the Future Perfect; thefutureperfect.com



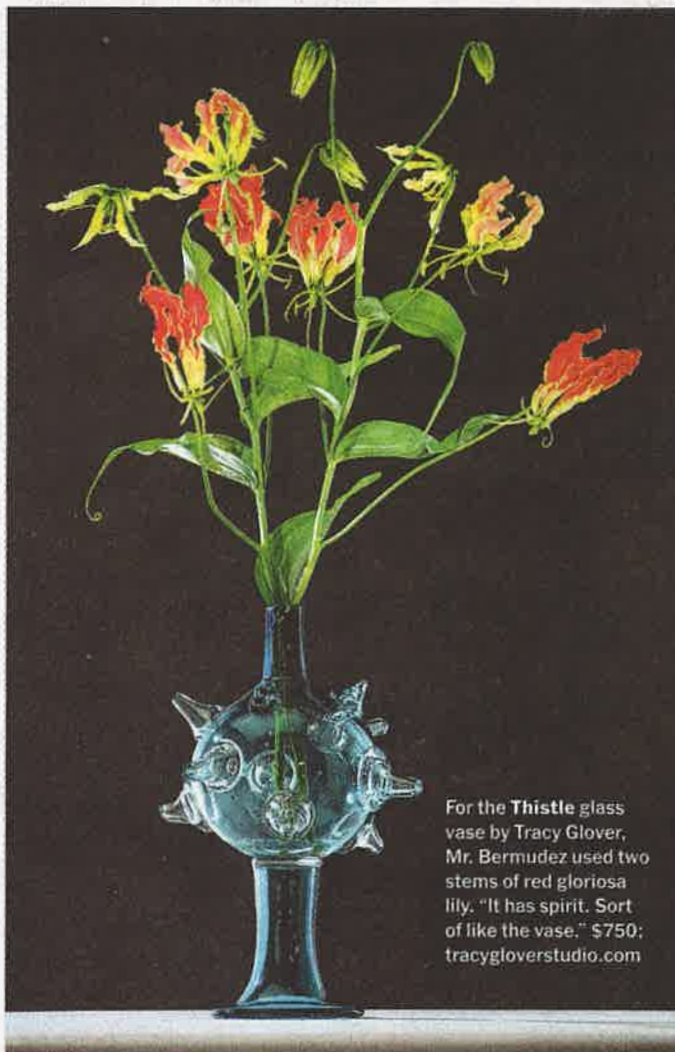
"To me, the artist tried to re-create a perfume bottle, but it worked very nicely as a vase for the anemones," he said of the **Box and Stopper** vase by Tung Chiang for Heath Ceramics, \$350; heathceramics.com



"It's one of the few times I draped something over the vase," he said about the choice of amaranthus (also known as love-lies-bleeding) to give the illusion of liquid flowing from the **Betta** vase by Micòl Hernández. It joined blue milkweed and sweet peas. \$175; micolceramics.com



As for the **Pushmepullme** vase by Andi Kovel and Justin Parker of Esque Studio, the florist said he saw a pair of swans in the twin-spouted glass vessel with its two shallow chambers. He put dark purple Vanda diamond orchids on the purple side and white Vandas on the lavender side, mixing in Queen Anne's lace and blackberries. \$2,200; esque-studio.com



For the **Thistle** glass vase by Tracy Glover, Mr. Bermudez used two stems of red gloriosa lily. "It has spirit. Sort of like the vase." \$750; tracygloverstudio.com



Eric Astoul's **Bol Géologique** is a sculpture, not a vase, the florist said: "big, strong, masculine, very heavy." He used rare Vanda orchids, in tubes, that could be removed. Everything else (privet berries, eucalyptus, onion seed pod) could be left to dry. \$3,000 at Maison Gerard; maisongerard.com



"I added a flower and hid the water tube in the tail of the air plant," Mr. Bermudez said of the **Nimbus** collection footed bowl by Klem Reid, \$748; klemreid.com