

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Showers and thunderstorms will spread eastward across parts of the Midwest today. Rain will linger in Southern California and Arizona. Weather map appears on Page A22.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

On Ukraine's Killing Fields

The civilians who gather dead Russian soldiers face many of the war's perils along the front, where death is ubiquitous. Page A8.

Grim Milestone for U.S. Reporter in Russian Cell

By KATIE ROBERTSON

One year ago on Friday, Ella Milman and Mikhail Gershkovich received a chilling phone call from the managing editor of The Wall Street Journal. Their son, Evan, a foreign correspondent for The Journal who was on a reporting assignment in Russia, had missed his daily security check-in.



NATALIA KOLESNIKOVA/AFP — GETTY IMAGES

Evan Gershkovich in February.

ment, making him the first American reporter to be held on espionage charges in Russia since the end of the Cold War.

Since his arrest, Mr. Gershko-

vich, 32, has been held in the notorious high-security Lefortovo prison in Moscow, the same facility holding the people accused in the deadly attack at a concert venue in the city this month. The Journal and the U.S. government have vehemently denied that Mr. Gershkovich is a spy, saying he was an accredited journalist doing his job.

On Tuesday, Mr. Gershkovich's detention was extended for yet another three months. A trial date has not been set.

"Every day is very hard — every day we feel that he is not here," Ms. Milman said. "We want him at home, and it has been a year. It's

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EMISSIONS RULE TARGETS TRUCKS

U.S. Moves to Push Sales Of Electric Vehicles

By CORAL DAVENPORT and JACK EWING

The Biden administration on Friday announced a regulation designed to turbocharge sales of electric or other zero-emission heavy vehicles, from school buses to cement mixers, as part of its multifront attack on global warming.

The Environmental Protection Agency projects the new rule could mean that 25 percent of new long-haul trucks, the heaviest on the road, and 40 percent of medium-size trucks, like box trucks and landscaping vehicles, could be nonpolluting by 2032. Today, fewer than 2 percent of new heavy trucks sold in the United States fit that bill.

The regulation would apply to more than 100 types of vehicles including tractor-trailers, ambulances, R.V.s, garbage trucks and moving vans.

The rule does not mandate the sales of electric trucks or any other type of zero or low-emission truck. Rather, it increasingly limits the amount of pollution allowed from trucks across a manufacturer's product line over time, starting in model year 2027. It would be up to the manufacturer to decide how to comply. Options could include using technologies like hybrids or hydrogen fuel cells or sharply increasing the fuel efficiency of the conventional trucks.

The truck regulation follows another rule made final last week that is designed to ensure that the majority of new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the United States are all-electric or hybrids by 2032, up from just 7.6 percent last year.

Together, the car and truck rules are intended to slash carbon dioxide pollution from transportation, the nation's largest source of the fossil fuel emissions that are driving climate change and that helped to make 2023 the hottest year in recorded history. Electric vehicles are central to President

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Pandemic Effect: Absence From Schools Is Soaring

Habit of Daily Attendance Broken, and the Shift Turns Education 'Optional'

By SARAH MERVOSH and FRANCESCA PARIS

In Anchorage, affluent families set off on ski trips and other lengthy vacations, with the assumption that their children can keep up with schoolwork online.

In a working-class pocket of Michigan, school administrators have tried almost everything, including pajama day, to boost student attendance.

And across the country, students with heightened anxiety are opting to stay home rather than face the classroom.

In the four years since the pandemic closed schools, U.S. education has struggled to recover on a number of fronts, from learning loss, to enrollment, to student behavior.

But perhaps no issue has been as stubborn and pervasive as a sharp increase in student absenteeism, a problem that cuts across demographics and has continued long after schools reopened.

Nationally, an estimated 26 percent of public school students were considered chronically absent last school year, up from 15 percent before the pandemic, according to the most recent data, from 40 states and Washington, D.C., compiled by the conservative-leaning American Enterprise Institute. Chronic absence is typically defined as missing at least 10 percent of the school year, or about 18 days, for any reason.

The increases have occurred in districts big and small, and across income and race. For districts in wealthier areas, chronic absenteeism rates have about doubled, to 19 percent in the 2022-23 school year from 10 percent before the pandemic, a New York Times

analysis of the data found. Poor communities, which started with elevated rates of student absenteeism, are facing an even bigger crisis: Around 32 percent of students in the poorest districts were chronically absent in the 2022-23 school year, up from 19 percent before the pandemic.

Even districts that reopened quickly during the pandemic, in fall 2020, have seen vast increases.

"The problem got worse for everybody in the same proportional way," said Nat Malkus, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, who collected and studied the data.

The trends suggest that something fundamental has shifted in American childhood and the culture of school, in ways that may be long lasting. What was once a deeply ingrained habit — wake up, catch the bus, report to class — is now something far more tenuous.

"Our relationship with school became optional," said Katie Rosanbalm, a psychologist and associate research professor with the Center of Child and Family Policy at Duke University.

The habit of daily attendance — and many families' trust — was severed when schools shuttered in spring 2020. Even after schools reopened, things hardly snapped back to normal. Districts offered remote options, required Covid-19 quarantines and relaxed policies around attendance and grading.

Today, student absenteeism is a leading factor hindering the nation's recovery from pandemic

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CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Jin-Oh Hyun, a botanist who propagates king cherries, wants "to see Yoshino cherries go away."

Japanese Cherry Blossoms Ruffle South Korea

By JOHN YOON, MIKE IVES and HISAKO UENO

GYEONGJU, South Korea — Shin Joon Hwan, an ecologist, walked along a road lined with cherry trees on the verge of blooming last week, examining the fine hairs around their dark red buds.

The flowers in Gyeongju, South Korea, an ancient capital, belong

Push for Native Variety Over Colonial Type

to a common Japanese variety called the Yoshino, or Tokyo cherry. Mr. Shin's advocacy group wants to replace those trees with a kind that it insists is native to South Korea, called the king

cherry.

"These are Japanese trees that are growing here, in the land of our ancestors," said Mr. Shin, 67, a former director of South Korea's national arboretum.

Mr. Shin's nascent project, with a few dozen members, is the latest wrinkle in a complex debate over the origins of South Korea's cherry trees. The science has

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BUSINESS B1-6

Solar Leader Is Now Lagging

German manufacturers are caught between China's low prices and U.S. protectionist policies. PAGE B1

Facing Wrath of Censors

The filmmaker Wang Xiaoshuai is among the few Chinese artists who won't bend to state limitations. PAGE B1

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

New England to Notre-Dame

Hank Silver, a carpenter from Massachusetts, is among a handful of foreigners helping to rebuild the Paris cathedral. The Saturday Profile. PAGE A4

Airstrikes Kill Dozens in Syria

Multiple targets were hit in what appeared to be one of the heaviest Israeli attacks in the country in years. PAGE A6

SPORTS B7-10

They're Crazy for Clark

The Iowa basketball star is a role model in the state who has girls rushing to take the court. PAGE B7



ARTS C1-6

A Tradition Under Pressure

St. Thomas Church in New York may close its boarding school for choristers, one of only a few in the world. PAGE C1

To the Beat of His Own Album

After decades of playing for artists like Nick Cave and PJ Harvey, the drummer Jim White has gone solo. PAGE C1

NATIONAL A10-19

Heart Pump Tied to 49 Deaths

The Food and Drug Administration faulted the device's maker for delayed notice of mounting complications, citing reports that use of the pump perforated the walls of the heart. PAGE A17

Political Fight Over Pipeline

The battle over Line 5 in Michigan and Wisconsin could have sweeping implications for the power of states to regulate, and the issues raised are bound to surface in the election. PAGE A10

OPINION A20-21

Tressie McMillan Cottom PAGE A21



OBITUARIES B11-12

A Drill Sergeant Who Cared

Louis Gossett Jr. was the first Black performer to win a best supporting actor Oscar, for "An Officer and a Gentleman" in 1983. He was 87. PAGE B11



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