



Casey O'Neill <coneill@mammothusd.org>

Fwd: The Morning: Little black cameras

1 message

Lisa Okamoto <lokamoto@mammothusd.org>

Mon, Aug 10, 2026 at 3:46 PM

To: Annie Rinaldi <arinaldi@mammothusd.org>, Casey O'Neill <coneill@mammothusd.org>

I have seen on local fb a backlash towards the town's flock cameras, this is just an FYI. I am sure you are aware of this sentiment.

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From: **The New York Times** <nytdirect@nytimes.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 10, 2026 at 3:40 AM

Subject: The Morning: Little black cameras

To: <lokamoto@mammothusd.org>

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How can I help you today?

Zoe Maxwell
Create a launch plan canvas for the new Partner Portal release.

Slackbot
Sure, I can create an overview of the launch plan.

Creating Canvas...
Researching "Partner Portal" project docs...

The New York Times

The Morning

August 10, 2026

SUPPORTED BY SLACK FROM SALESFORCE



By Evan Gorelick

Good morning. Today we're going to tell you about the little black cameras that are causing a national uproar.



Desiree Rios for The New York Times

I, spied

Ever notice one of these cameras in your neighborhood? If you drive a car, one of them has almost certainly noticed you. Odds are you've been clocked hundreds, maybe thousands, of times.

A company called Flock has deployed 120,000 such devices atop lampposts and on street corners all around the United States. ([See them on a map.](#)) They photograph passing cars, recording every license plate number. They can identify a car's make and model, as well as its dents and dings and even its bumper stickers. (Your car climbed Mount Washington? Flock knows.)

It all goes into an enormous database, which a police department pays for access to. Departments can, and usually do, share their data with other departments, creating a national network.

The pitch is simple: Flock says its cameras help track stolen cars, find criminals and solve crimes. The company started teaming up with police departments less than six years ago and now has contracts with 7,000 of them, or 40 percent of the national total.

Flock's surveillance dragnet is so huge and diffuse that it has become an almost-invisible fact of life. The company says it scans 20 billion license plates a month. To put that number into perspective: With about 300 million registered motor vehicles in the United States, according to the Federal Highway Administration, a vehicle, on average, is scanned about 800 times a year.

Not so fast



Desiree Rios for The New York Times

Police officers can query Flock's databases to track people in intimate detail without a warrant. Some have used them to [stalk romantic partners](#). ICE agents

[have used them](#) to hunt immigrants. One Texas officer used them [to track a woman](#) across state lines who was suspected of having an abortion.

We're accustomed to surveillance cameras, of course; we put them on our doorbells and tolerate them in offices and restaurants. But Flock's cameras have [become objects of intense antipathy](#), even violence, my colleagues Fernando Alfonso III and Kashmir Hill report.

People are cutting them down, splattering them with paint, covering them with trash bags and shooting them with guns. A Tennessee congressional candidate, charged with felony vandalism on an accusation of shooting four Flock cameras, has received more than \$13,000 in GoFundMe donations for his legal defense.

Privacy advocates are creating apps and websites meant to undermine Flock. One, FlockHopper, plots driving routes that avoid the cameras. Another, Have I Been Flocked?, lets people search police departments' Flock search logs, obtained through public-record requests. DeFlock invites users to "discover and report automatic license plate readers" in their communities. YouTube [videos](#) with millions of views show how Flock's security vulnerabilities allowed it to be hacked and then watched like a sort of "Netflix for stalkers."

It's not exactly shocking that many Americans are upset to learn they're being watched. Flock embodies a bigger, more abstract notion of mass surveillance. Its name is uttered in the same breath as that of Palantir, the data-analysis firm known for, among other things, helping ICE collate data on immigrants. The difference is you can see — and shoot at — a Flock camera.

"It feels bad to always be watched and scrutinized," said DeFlock's creator, a software engineer in Boulder, Colo., named Will Freeman. The city says its 31 Flock cameras have reduced motor vehicle theft by 34.5 percent.



Desiree Rios for The New York Times

But where the technology is proliferating, the backlash — much like the backlash against data centers — has been fierce, and often bipartisan. In Texas, Flock's contracts have been canceled in liberal Austin as well as in Bandera, a conservative town of about 900 people. Last month, a Republican congressman introduced a bill that would require federal agents to obtain a warrant before obtaining Flock's data.

Fernando and Kashmir interviewed the company's chief executive and got hands-on to see how the system worked. [Read their full story here.](#)

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THE LATEST NEWS

The Middle East

- Benjamin Netanyahu [rejected a plan](#) proposed by President Trump's Board of Peace to disarm Hamas.
- Iran elevated a longtime military commander to a top security post, a sign that [the old guard is consolidating power](#).
- The country sees [control over the Strait of Hormuz](#) as its best chance of getting Trump to deliver on promises he agreed to in June.

Politics



Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Alex Kent/The New York Times

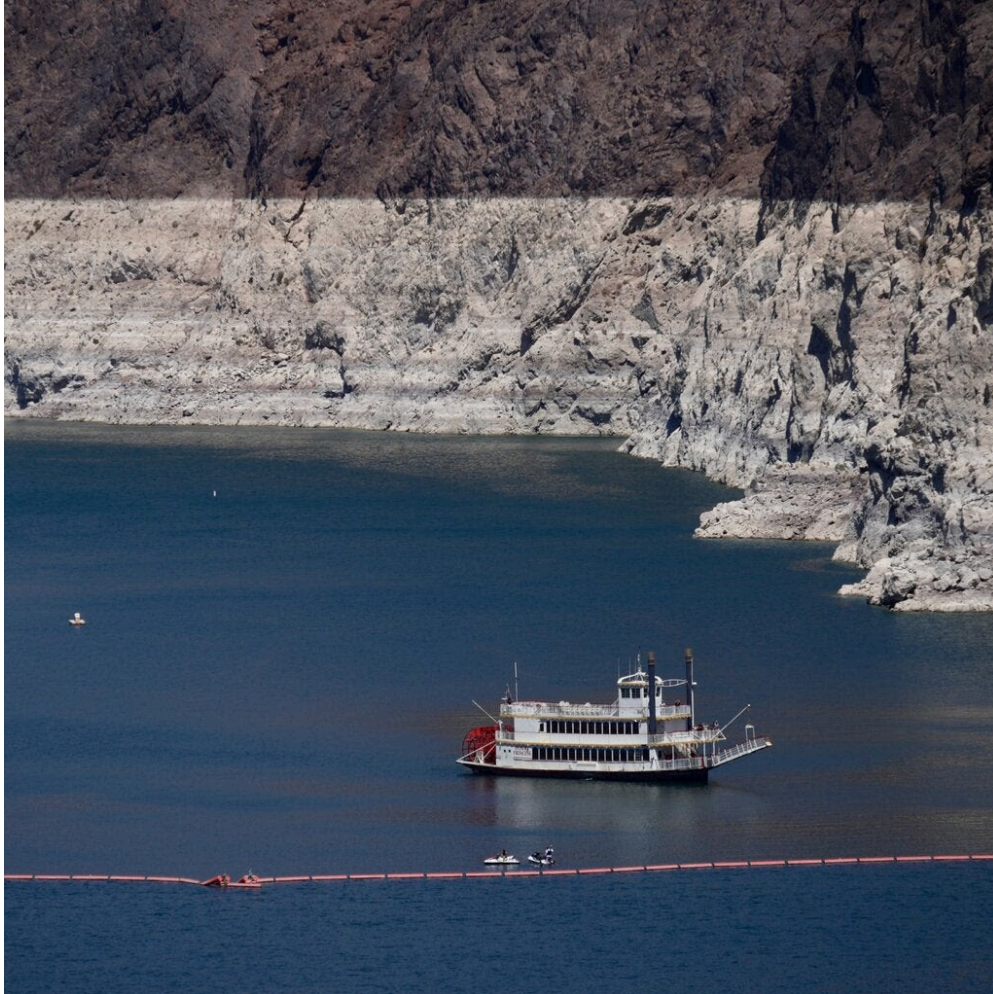
- Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez announced on social media that [she was freezing her eggs](#), saying she wanted “to show more depictions of women having full lives in every context and every choice.”
- Trump named Will Scharf, his current staff secretary, [as White House counsel](#).
- Mike Rogers, the Republican candidate for Senate in Michigan, is [embracing election skepticism](#) as he prepares to take on Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic nominee.

Around the World

- A powerful typhoon hit **China**, forcing [more than a million people to evacuate](#).

- At least one person has died in [an out-of-control wildfire](#) in **British Columbia**.
- A Ukrainian drone attack [killed at least 13 people](#) in an industrial city deep inside **Russia**.

Other Big Stories



On Lake Mead near the Hoover Dam. Ty O'Neil/Associated Press

- Water levels in Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the United States, [are at record lows](#).
- Meta [released an open-source version](#) of its most powerful A.I. model.
- Taylor Farms, the company linked to the cyclospora outbreak, said it was recalling products made with fresh jalapeños that had been [tied to a salmonella outbreak](#).

OPINIONS



Peggy Flanagan and Angie Craig, the Minnesota Democratic Senate candidates.
Illustration by The New York Times; source photographs by Abbie Parr/Associated Press and Bill Clark/Getty Images

Minnesota's primaries take place tomorrow. **Times Opinion** assembled a panel of local leaders and experts to debate [whom Democratic voters should send to the Senate](#).

Everyone under 30 dresses like gibberish. **Thomas Morton**, a former Vice editor, considers what's lost as the internet [erodes subcultures and self-expression](#).

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MORNING READS



In Pakistan. Asim Hafeez for The New York Times

We've made these links free for you.

Extreme heat: Farmers in Pakistan are trying to adapt their spicy chiles to a hotter, drier world. [See these incredible photos.](#)

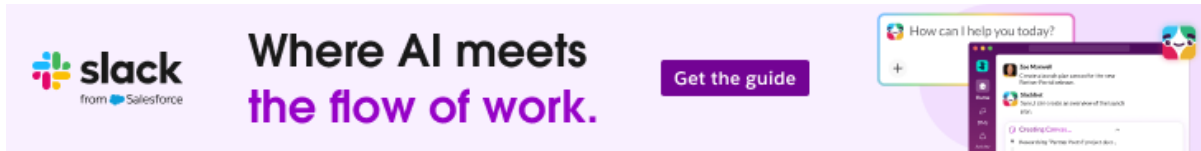
Going “furthur”: Ken Kesey’s psychedelic bus, a symbol of 1960s counterculture San Francisco, is [preparing for one more run.](#)

Making it happen: The largest croissant in Paris? A record-setting champagne shower? [No request is too absurd](#) for Olivia Ferney, who has built her business (and a social media following) fulfilling the whims of her ultrarich travel clients.

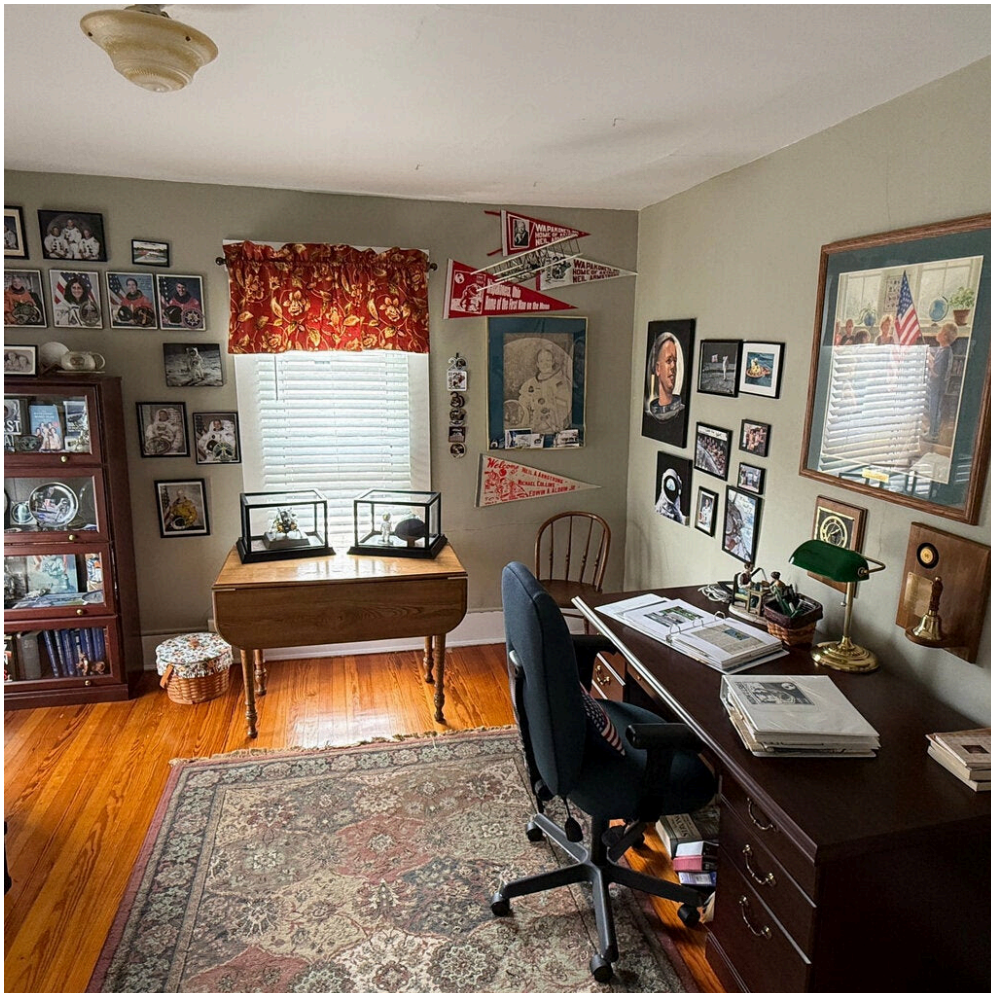
Your pick: The most clicked link in The Morning yesterday was about [the Senate's lack of votes to pass Trump's voting bill](#).

Jazz singer: After a successful performance career, Geraldine de Haas became the driving force behind Chicago's jazz resurgence, founding a concert series, festivals and a nonprofit. [She died at 91](#).

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A purple banner for Slack. On the left is the Slack logo with the text "from Salesforce". In the center, the text "Where AI meets the flow of work." is displayed, with "the flow of work." in purple. To the right of this text is a purple button that says "Get the guide". On the far right is a screenshot of the Slack interface showing a chat window with a bot named "How can I help you today?" and a list of messages.

TODAY'S NUMBER



Patrick Aftoora-Orsagos/Associated Press

\$430,000

— That is how much the [childhood home of Neil Armstrong](#), the first man on the moon, is selling for. The two-story house, built in 1908 in Wapakoneta, Ohio, was purchased by the Armstrong family in 1944, and a retired history teacher has owned the home since 1988. Armstrong used to launch model airplanes from his second-floor bedroom window. A historical marker was placed in the front yard in 2018. Buzz Aldrin, among other astronauts, has visited the property.

SPORTS

N.B.A.: Don Nelson won five titles as a player with the Boston Celtics. As a coach, he pioneered his own style of play — “Nellie Ball.” [He died at 86.](#)

Gymnastics: Hezly Rivera [repeated as champion](#) at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships.

M.L.B.: Mike Trout, a Los Angeles Angels player, invited his teammates to his private golf club in New Jersey on Aug. 3 for a round of team bonding. Four of them [were traded during the outing](#).

RECIPE OF THE DAY



Christopher Testani for The New York Times. Food Stylist: Simon Andrews.

[Fettuccine Alfredo](#), a famously rich pasta dish, may seem an odd choice for the summer, but it's fast (15 minutes!) and it satisfies picky eaters (because it's basically mac and cheese). This version came to The Times [in a 2004 story about Elaine Kaufman](#), the founder and proprietress of the famed New York hot spot that bore her name and where this dish was served.

WHO KILLED TUPAC?

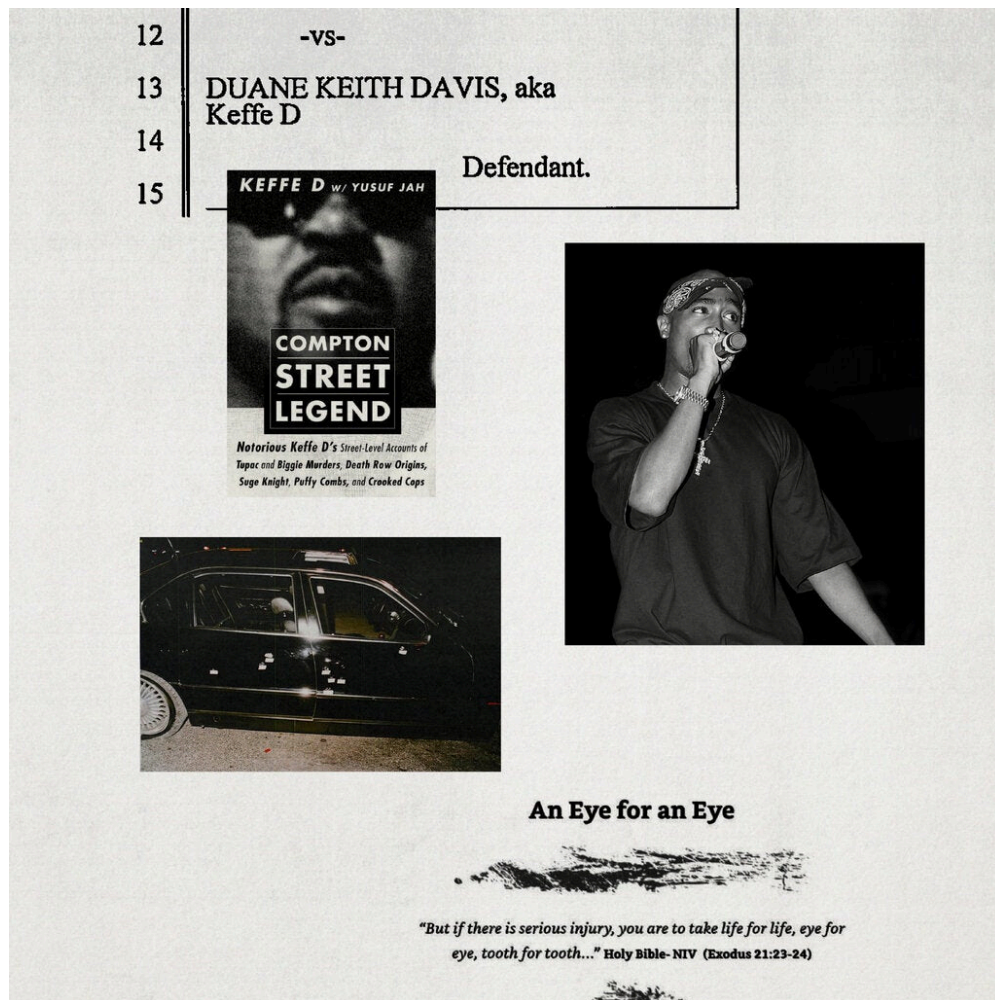


Illustration by The New York Times; Raymond Boyd/Getty Images, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

For years, the identity of **Tupac Shakur**'s killers was one of hip-hop's burning questions. The trial of Duane Keith Davis, scheduled to begin today, may finally provide answers. Davis [boasted of his role](#) in the killing in his 2019 memoir — claims that led prosecutors to reopen the decades-old case. Now he says the book is fiction. Here's [what to know about the trial](#).

More on culture

- Is it OK to say you DNF? Three little letters, standing for “did not finish,” have turbocharged a longstanding debate over [putting down a book you don't enjoy](#).
- At the Edinburgh Fringe, **Amanda Knox** is trying [to turn her tabloid infamy into standup humor](#).

THE MORNING RECOMMENDS



Michael Hession/NYT Wirecutter

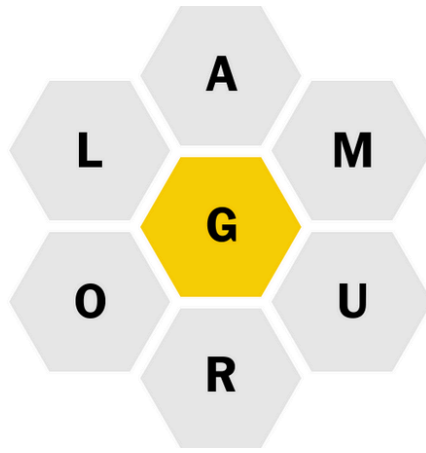
Eat better instant ramen. [Try one of these varieties.](#)

Reduce knee pain and keep your joints healthy by [staying active.](#)

Optimize your [morning routine](#) for back-to-school with tips from the child wranglers at Wirecutter.

Take [our news quiz.](#)

GAMES



Here is [today's Spelling Bee](#). Yesterday's pangrams were *chocolate* and *echolocate*.

And here are [today's Mini Crossword](#), [Wordle](#), [Connections](#), [Crossplay](#) and [Strands](#).

Thanks for spending part of your morning with The Times. See you tomorrow.

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