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Publisher testifies after heated hearing on Trump's gag order

BY JONAH E. BROMWICH AND BEN PROTSS
NYT News Service

NEW YORK

A key witness in Donald Trump's criminal trial pulled back the curtain Tuesday on

what prosecutors say was a conspiracy to influence the 2016 presidential election, describing how he used his tabloid to aid Trump's campaign.

The witness, David Pecker, the longtime publisher of The National Enquirer, described a

2015 meeting with Trump and his fixer at the time, Michael Cohen. Prosecutors described the meeting, which took place at Trump's midtown Manhattan headquarters, as the "Trump Tower conspiracy."

Prosecutors say that meeting

is where the trio hatched their efforts to conceal several sex scandals during the 2016 campaign. One of those efforts, a \$130,000 hush-money payment Cohen made to porn actor Stormy Daniels, is at the heart of the case.

Before court adjourned for the day, Pecker testified that Cohen and Trump had asked him what he and his magazines could do "to help the campaign," a crucial statement that supports the prosecution's argument that the men were not just protecting Trump's personal reputation, but aiding his presidential bid.

"I would be your eyes and ears," Pecker recalled telling them, as he explained the tabloid practice of "catch and kill,"

in which an outlet bought the rights to a story, only to never publish it.

Pecker is expected to return to the stand when the trial resumes Thursday. Court will not be in session Wednesday.

During roughly three hours of testimony on Tuesday, the tabloid publisher described how Cohen communicated with him to protect Trump from negative stories, including a door attendant's apparently false claim that Trump had fathered a child out of wedlock. Pecker testified that Cohen had told him "the boss would be very pleased" to have that story suppressed.

Pecker also described working

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Gov. Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom plant a valley oak tree during the dedication for the new Dos Rios State Park near Modesto on Monday.

Newsoms dedicate state's newest park near Modesto

BY JOHN HOLLAND
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Gov. Gavin Newsom came to the Modesto area Monday to dedicate Dos Rios Ranch State Park.

The park will open June 12 close to where the Tuolumne River joins the San Joaquin. It sits about eight miles west of Modesto, amid 1,600 acres of restored floodplain and other habitat.

The governor and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom saw the first phase of the attractions during an Earth Day tour. Dos Rios has shaded picnic tables, trails, benches, temporary restrooms and bare-bones parking.

The next year will add a welcome center and better parking. Future funding could bring a campground, boat ramp and other amenities. The public can advise California State Parks on what it would like to see.

"There's no better way to spend Earth Day than celebrating California's first new state park in nearly a decade," Newsom said at the dedication. "The Golden State's natural beauty is unmatched and we're laser-focused on ensuring every Californian can enjoy these spaces."

The parks department has moved relatively quickly since Newsom proposed the first \$5 million in funding in 2022. That paid for the site purchase and



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American labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta speaks during the dedication of the new Dos Rios State Park in the San Joaquin Valley on Monday.

early construction. An additional \$3.3 million is in the annual

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Cal Poly Humboldt closed as Gaza protests roil universities

Bee wire reports

Officials shut down the campus of Cal Poly Humboldt on Monday night after masked pro-Palestinian protesters occupied an administrative building and barricaded the entrance as Gaza-related demonstrations

roiled campuses across the nation.

At New York University, police swept in to arrest protesting students Monday night, ending a standoff with the school's administration.

At Yale University, police placed protesters' wrists into zip ties Monday morning and

escorted them onto campus shuttles to receive summonses for trespassing.

Columbia University kept its classroom doors closed Monday, moving lectures online and urging students to stay home.

Harvard Yard was shut to the public. Nearby, at campuses including Tufts and Emerson,

administrators weighed how to handle encampments that looked much like the one that police dismantled at Columbia last week - which protesters quickly resurrected. On the West Coast, a new encampment bubbled at the University of California, Berkeley.

Less than a week after the arrests of more than 100 protesters at Columbia, administrators at some of the country's most influential universities were struggling, and largely

SEE PROTESTS, 7A

Tribal leaders hopeful as salmon released into Klamath River

BY IAN JAMES
Los Angeles Times

While work crews continued dismantling dams on the Klamath River, leaders of four tribes gathered on a riverbank last week to watch and offer prayers as a valve on a tanker truck was opened. From a chute, a stream of water filled with wriggling fish poured into the river.

Over two days, workers from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife released 16 truckloads of juvenile salmon that were raised in a newly built hatchery. About 500,000 salmon swam downriver, and tribal leaders said they expect these fish will flourish when they migrate back upstream in a few years to spawn in a free-flowing river.

"They're a symbol of hope," said Phillip Williams, a member of the Yurok Tribal Council.

Williams said as he watched the fish disappear into the river that he thought about how he and many other tribal members will be able to catch some of those salmon when they return in three or four years.

"They're going to feed families," Williams said. "So that was really, really emotional."

The young fish were raised at the Fall Creek Fish Hatchery and included about 90,000 coho salmon, a threatened species, as well as more than 400,000 fall-run Chinook salmon.

The last time state workers released Chinook salmon in February, they let loose more than 800,000 fish in a tributary upstream of Iron Gate Dam, which is slated to be removed, and the fish were later found dead in the river. Biologists determined the salmon died as they passed through a tunnel beneath the dam.

To prevent that from happening again, state officials selected another location just downstream of Iron Gate Dam.

They also ran a test ahead of time, placing groups of young salmon into the river in 2-foot-long plastic cylinders, called "live cars," to ensure the water quality was right for the fish to survive their journey to the ocean. That two-day test confirmed the fish stayed healthy in

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