

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, areas of fog early, then sun- shine, high 82. **Tonight**, partly cloudy, low 66. **Tomorrow**, sunny, rather warm for mid-September, high 80. Weather map, Page A22.

VOL. CLXXIII . . . No. 60,277 © 2024 The New York Times Company SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

Rejecting Deal, Workers Leave Jobs at Boeing

Strike Could Be Costly to Reeling Company

**By NIRAJ CHOKSHI
and DANIELLE KAYE**

Thousands of Boeing workers went on strike on Friday after overwhelmingly rejecting a contract their union negotiated, a potentially costly disruption to the aerospace giant as it tries to recover from a series of safety crises.

The strike, the first at Boeing in 16 years, brought airplane production to a halt in the Seattle area, home to most of Boeing’s commercial plane manufacturing. The slowdown could also disrupt the company’s supply chain.

Boeing plays a substantial role in the U.S. economy. It employs almost 150,000 people across the country — nearly half of them in Washington State — and is one of the nation’s largest exporters. The company, which also makes military jets, rockets, spacecraft and Air Force One, is a global symbol of America’s manufacturing strength.

The White House said on Friday that it was in touch with Boeing and the union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. And on Friday evening, a federal mediation service said it would convene talks between the company and the union early next week.

Boeing’s stock tumbled 3.7 percent on Friday and has fallen nearly 40 percent this year. The company’s debt rating is also in jeopardy.

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Caroline Isaksson
New research focuses on pigments in city and rural birds.

City Birds Lose Colors but Gain A Survival Edge

By MARTA ZARASKA

Some popular city dwellers appear to be losing their colorful allure, and not just the dirty birds.

According to a study published this summer in the journal *Landscape and Planning* that looked at 547 bird species in China, birds that live in cities are duller and darker on average than their rural counterparts. A similar conclusion emerged from an analysis of 59 studies published in March in *Biological Reviews*: Urban feathers are not as bright, with yellow, orange and red feathers affected most.

Often, city birds are covered in grime. But even if you could give them all a good bird bath, chances are their brightness still wouldn’t match that of their country cousins. That’s because of the way pollution, and heavy metals in particular, can interact with melanin, a pigment that makes feathers black, brown and gray.

Studies show that melanin can bind to heavy metals like lead. That means toxic chemicals may be more likely to be stored in plumage in darker and duller birds. And that, in turn, can confer

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Mark Abramson for The New York Times
Mourners paying their respects to Alberto Castañeda Aco, who was a garment worker in Los Angeles decades after leaving Mexico.

Built on Lies, And Not Nice To the Kittens

By CHARLES HOMANS

By the time the Arizona Republican Party’s digital billboards urging Phoenix residents to “EAT LESS KITTENS” and “Vote Republican!” went up on Tuesday, the story they referred to had already been widely debunked.

The previous week, claims that Haitian immigrants were stealing and eating pet cats in Springfield, Ohio, had begun circulating on social media. None of the reports had been substantiated, and local officials in Springfield — a small city where, in recent years, public services have been strained by a large influx of Haitian migrants — said they had seen no evidence that any of them were true. Major conservative media outlets had given them only fleeting attention.

But while the story has so far not proved credible, it has proved meme-able — and that has given it a life far beyond the right-wing internet.

For days, images and videos of former President Donald J. Trump and cats have proliferated online, delivered with a knowing wink and an understood endorsement of Mr. Trump’s hard-line immigration message. Their over-the-top imagery gives them the feel of an inside joke. A “just kidding” is implied, allowing political figures who might otherwise have hesitated to circulate debunked material to get in on it. The reality is beside the point.

Memes have been a regular, if enigmatic, feature of American politics since the primordial days of social media. But the early months of the Trump-Harris race have offered a twist on this familiar phenomenon: More than once, memes that are mostly or completely detached from actual events have spilled off the internet into the three-dimensional reality of the campaign itself.

They are now on the billboards in Arizona and were, more significantly, on the debate stage Tuesday night, where Mr. Trump exclaimed: “The people on television say their dog was eaten by the people that went there!”

Mr. Trump’s debate remarks have themselves become a meme on the left since Tuesday,

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A Mended Life Is Lost in a Flash in a Crosswalk

By CORINA KNOLL

LOS ANGELES — He was usually there on early evenings, a gray-haired man with crinkles around his eyes trudging east along the cracked pavement of Adams Boulevard.

Those who passed by him may have noticed the blue satchel over his shoulder, the black boots on his feet.

His name was Alberto Castañeda Aco and he was on his way home, having spent the day, as he often did, stitching together colored shirts and cotton trousers.

Once, long ago, he had been an amateur boxer in Mexico, dubbed “Campeon” by those who saw him spar professional fighters. But children came, three daughters, two sons, and the aspirations of a champion gave way to practicality.

And so Mr. Castañeda Aco built a different sort of life, one in which he prided himself on his handiwork at garment factories around Los Angeles.

At 72 years old, he found comfort in the buzz of the sewing machines and the company of colleagues. They laughed at his one-liners, called him Don Alberto. He had no plans to retire.

“He still felt useful,” his daughter Martha Correa, 49, said.

Mr. Castañeda Aco did not own a car, nor was he fond of public transportation. He often walked nearly 2.5 miles home on streets lined with warehouses and auto repair shops.

On a Wednesday in January, he was headed toward the yellow house in which he rented a room big enough for a twin bed and television, and where he enjoyed sitting by the balcony window, listening to the trill of his landlord’s lovebirds.

At the corner of Adams Boulevard

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Graham Dickie/The New York Times
“The Power Broker” at 50
The book, by Robert Caro, above, is being celebrated at the New-York Historical Society. Page C1.

Boar’s Head Shuttters Virginia Plant Linked to Listeria Outbreak

**By CHRISTINA JEWETT
and TEDDY ROSENBLUTH**

Boar’s Head announced on Friday that it would indefinitely shut down the troubled Virginia deli meat plant that it acknowledged had caused a deadly listeria outbreak, killing nine people and sickening dozens more in 18 states.

The company also said it had identified liverwurst processing as the source of contamination and would permanently discontinue the product.

“Given the seriousness of the outbreak, and the fact that it originated at Jarratt, we have made the difficult decision to indefinitely close this location,” the company said in a statement posted on its website Friday. The shutdown affects about 500 workers in Jarratt, Va., a small rural town whose economic livelihood largely depended on the plant’s business.

Federal inspectors had repeatedly found health and sanitation violations at the plant.

**Discontinuing Product
Blamed in Deaths**

“In response to the inspection records and noncompliance reports at the Jarratt plant, we will not make excuses,” the company said in a statement.

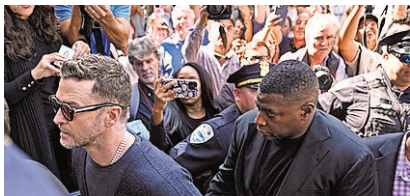
Two years ago, inspectors conducted an extensive review and concluded that conditions at the plant — rife with mold, rust and holes in walls — posed an “imminent threat” to food safety.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9
Francis Wraps Up Asia Visit
The long trip by a frail, 87-year-old pope was seen as a bold endeavor and a muscular step for a global church looking to the East. **PAGE A4**

Inviting Putin to Talk Peace
For Ukraine and Russia, battlefield gains now might provide an upper hand in any negotiations later. **PAGE A6**

SPORTS B7-10
Seeking Clarity in the Middle
Without a big ranked matchup, the top college football games could help define or expose several teams. **PAGE B9**



NATIONAL A10-19, 22
Timberlake Pleads Guilty
The pop star will pay a \$500 fine for driving impaired in the Hamptons and do community service. **PAGE A19**

Shattered Sense of Security
Students at Apalachee High School in Georgia haven’t returned to class since a shooter killed four people. **PAGE A10**

BUSINESS B1-6
Hard Road to Stay in U.S.
Young Chinese émigrés looking to remain in America after finishing school are facing obstacles, including a brutal visa lottery. **PAGE B1**

Trying to Regain Tech Clout
Japanese chip companies are collaborating with foreign firms as part of new government policies. **PAGE B1**

TRAVEL C9-10
All Aboard, It’s Party Time
Baltic Sea ferry trips, like the 16-hour ride between Stockholm and Helsinki, are known for being festive. **PAGE C9**

ARTS C1-7
Wistful at a Young Age
The song “These Days” was written by a teenager but has often been delivered as a lament by people looking back on their lives. Its author, Jackson Browne, now 75, reflects on it. **PAGE C1**

An Epic Night at the Theater
S. Shakthidharan’s three-and-a-half-hour play “Counting and Cracking” follows generations of a family over several decades, from war-torn Sri Lanka to Australia. **PAGE C1**

OPINION A20-21
Jake Halpern **PAGE A20**

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THIS WEEKEND

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