

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, windy, humid, heavy thunderstorms, high 81. Tonight, windy, humid, tropical downpours at times, low 71. Tomorrow, breezy, sunny, high 83. Weather map, Page B12.

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CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Golden Again
Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone won a second straight gold in the 400-meter hurdles, doing so at the Paris Games in a world-record-setting 50.37 seconds. Her compatriot, Noah Lyles, took bronze in the 200 meters, later revealing he has Covid. Sports Page B6.

Paris Strategy Of the Dutch: Fist Taps Only

This article is by **Rory Smith, Talya Minsberg and Jenny Vrentas.**
PARIS — Duco Telgenkamp came to the Paris Olympics with his strategy clear in his mind. The keys, he knew, were to be decisive and clear and, above all, to go early. “You have to get your move in first,” he said. “You have to give people a sign it will be a fist bump.”
The assertiveness is necessary. Like all athletes and staff members in the Netherlands’ Olympic delegation, Telgenkamp, a member of his country’s field hockey team, was told before arriving in Paris that handshakes, high-fives and hugs were forbidden. Official team policy held that the fist bump was the only permissible physical greeting.

The Dutch approach is, of course, a legacy of the one word that nobody involved with the Paris Games likes to mention: coronavirus. Pandemic-era restrictions hollowed out the last two editions of the Games, in Tokyo in 2021 and Beijing a year later. Paris styled itself as the moment the Olympic flame could at last be — safely — reignited.

For fans, that has meant packed stands and a carnival-like atmosphere. For athletes, it has meant a completely different experience from the ones in Japan and China, where bubbles were imposed to allow the events to take place.

After qualifying for those Games, athletes had to navigate a bureaucratic Covid maze. They needed multiple negative tests from specific clinics, an endless stack of paperwork, a health-tracking app on their phones and a flurry of QR codes to present to officials upon arrival.

In Tokyo, athletes, visiting officials and members of the news media were tested for Covid every four days. In Beijing, everyone was tested daily. The only time athletes were unmasked was during competition, and even then their time without face coverings was minimal. Athletes gasping for breath at the National Stadium in Tokyo were handed masks and hand sanitizer seconds after finishing grueling races.

When athletes tested positive, they were immediately placed in
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A City Plagued by Opioids Responds With Silence

By **ADAM WILLIS and ALISSA ZHU**

BALTIMORE — For years, Baltimore’s leaders gave overdoses little public attention, even as the death rate swelled to unprecedented levels. But for a few weeks this summer, it seemed that the city would respond to its drug epidemic with new urgency.

The City Council was about to hold four hearings — planned after The New York Times and The Baltimore Banner reported that the overdose rate here was far higher than in any other major American city. And Mayor Brandon Scott had just announced a

Focused on Legal Fight, Baltimore’s Leaders Cede Transparency

\$45 million legal settlement with a drug manufacturer, raising the possibility of well-funded new public health efforts to combat the epidemic, which had claimed nearly 6,000 lives here in the past six years.

But hours before the first hearing, as demonstrators prepared to rally outside City Hall, the council president abruptly canceled the

session, at the request of Mr. Scott’s administration.

The administration said that holding any of the public meetings would jeopardize a lawsuit the city had filed accusing numerous opioid makers and distributors of causing the crisis by flooding Baltimore with pills. City leaders believe the case could result in a transformative amount of money for its overdose response — far more than the \$45 million it collected in a settlement with a single company that shipped relatively few drugs to Baltimore.

The decision to cancel the hearings was in keeping with the city’s

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THOMAS KRONSTEINER/GETTY IMAGES

After a terror plot canceled Taylor Swift’s Vienna shows, her fans gathered for a cathartic singalong.

Swifties Trade Tears, and Bracelets, in Vienna

By **SARAH MASLIN NIR**

VIEENNA — Just as she was boarding her flight at Boston Logan International Airport headed for a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna, Mary DePetrus excitedly checked the online fan group, Swiftie Nation.

Austrian authorities had discovered a terrorist plot targeting Taylor Swift’s Eras Tour in the city, she read. On Wednesday, just

Fans Flood the Streets After Cancellations

before takeoff, organizers canceled all three shows. Ms. DePetrus, 47, stepped onto the plane and broke the news to some of her fellow passengers.

“Half the plane was crying,” Ms. DePetrus said. “It’s not just about

the shows, it’s the community coming together and feeling safe at her concerts, and Swifties letting their guard down. And this just shifted all of that,” she said. “How can we do that now that we feel we are targeted?”

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PLOT Two suspects aimed to kill as many people as possible, Austrian authorities said. PAGE A6

Time in House Paved the Way For Walz’s Rise

Democrat Successful in Conservative District

By **CATIE EDMONDSON and LUKE BROADWATER**

WASHINGTON — Representative Tim Walz was traveling across his conservative, rural district in 2014, holding town halls across southern Minnesota, when a voter confronted him with a prickly question about his support for the Affordable Care Act.

President Barack Obama’s signature legislation was supposed to save families thousands of dollars in health care premiums but still proved costly for some, the voter said. “What happened?” the man demanded.

Some Democrats in politically vulnerable swing seats like Mr. Walz’s who had supported the bill tried to backpedal from their vote, a choice that voters punished them for at the ballot box later that year.

Not Mr. Walz. Instead, Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, who shared the stage with Mr. Walz, recalled in an interview that he stood by his decision. “He didn’t try to hide from the vote,” she said. “He leaned into it.”

Mr. Walz acknowledged there was still work to be done on health care but defended the law to the crowd. “Don’t pretend that there was some type of safe harbor before this where everything was just peachy keen,” he said.

Mr. Walz, who served in the House for more than a decade, often took liberal votes even as a politically vulnerable incumbent, including pushing the Affordable Care Act and the failed climate “cap and trade” bill on greenhouse gas emissions. He supported a successful effort to raise the minimum wage and opposed Republican-advanced legislation that could subject doctors who perform abortions to criminal penalties.

At the same time, his voting record reflected the conservative tilt of his district. He voted in favor of a measure calling for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq within 90 days, but after it failed, he approved legislation providing fresh funds for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was endorsed by the National Rifle Association, took its campaign donations and once received an “A” rating from the group — a score that would abruptly fall once he ran for governor and began to champion tighter firearm restrictions, including an assault weapons ban.

He won his House seat repeatedly despite being a perennial Republican.
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TRUMP REINVENTS PLATFORM IN A BID TO COURT VOTERS

FROM TAXES TO TIKTOK

Economic Agenda Vastly Different From Term in White House

By **ALAN RAPPEPORT**

WASHINGTON — At his convention speech last month, former President Donald J. Trump declared that his new economic agenda would be built around a plan to eliminate taxes on tips, claiming that the idea would uplift the middle class and provide relief to hospitality workers around the country.

“Everybody loves it,” Mr. Trump said to cheers. “Waitresses and caddies and drivers.”

While the cost and feasibility of



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Donald J. Trump’s agenda has some notable reversals.

the idea has been questioned by economists and tax analysts, labor experts have noted another irony: As president, Mr. Trump tried to take tips away from workers and give the money to their employers.

The reversal is one of many that Mr. Trump has made in his bid to return to the presidency and underscores his malleability in election-year policymaking. From TikTok to cryptocurrencies, the former president has been reinventing his platform on the fly as he aims to attract different swaths of voters. At times, Mr. Trump appears to be staking out new positions to differentiate himself from Vice President Kamala Harris or, perhaps, just to please crowds.

To close observers of the machinations of Mr. Trump’s first term,
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DEBATE The presidential candidates have agreed to meet Sept. 10 in a matchup on ABC. PAGE A13

In Congresswoman’s Defeat, Israel Lobby Shows Its Clout

By **LUKE BROADWATER**

WASHINGTON — After Representative Cori Bush, Democrat of Missouri, became the second member of the left-wing “squad” to lose her re-election bid, she placed the blame for her defeat solely on one organization: the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

“All they did was radicalize me, so now they need to be afraid,” Ms. Bush said in a fiery speech after her loss on Tuesday evening.

“AIPAC, I’m coming to tear your kingdom down!” she shouted.

The pro-Israel organization made no secret of its plans to target Ms. Bush, who had opposed providing Israel with funding for the war in Gaza. Through a political action committee, the group pumped more than \$8 million into the race.

On Tuesday, its investment paid off: Wesley Bell, the St. Louis County prosecutor who aligned himself with Israel, defeated Ms. Bush in the Democratic primary as voters in the district rallied behind him.

“Last night, Wesley Bell, a pro-Israel progressive, achieved a consequential victory over an incumbent anti-Israel detractor,” said Marshall Wittmann, a spokesman for AIPAC. “Once again, a progressive pro-Israel Democrat has prevailed over a candidate who represents the extremist fringe that is hostile to the Jewish state.”

It was the second time in recent months that AIPAC has played a critical role in a Democratic primary race. In June, another candi
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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Ukraine Opens a New Front

Russian authorities in the Kursk region declared a state of emergency in the face of a cross-border advance. PAGE A9

Israel Prepares for Attacks

Anticipating a response from Iran and Hezbollah, officials advised residents to stock up on food and water. PAGE A9

SPORTS B6-12

Hip-Hop Arrives at the Games

Breaking spread across the globe in the decades after it originated in the streets of New York City. Its roots will be on display in Paris. PAGE B7

OBITUARIES A16-17

Led Baseball on Diversity

As an outfielder, Billy Bean hid his sexual identity from his teammates before retiring and becoming a force for inclusion. He was 60. PAGE A17

OPINION A18-19

Sarah Smarsh

PAGE A18



NATIONAL A10-15

California’s Stubborn Wildfire

The rapidly spreading Park fire has consumed over 426,000 acres since it started burning on July 24. PAGE A12

Leaving Maui Behind

Many have moved off the island after struggling to find housing and work in the wake of last year’s wildfire. PAGE A10

WEEKEND ARTS C1-10

Green Day’s Enduring Power

The long-running punk band brought a show focused on two classic LPs to New York, and multiple generations turned out for the spectacle. PAGE C3

‘Chain Saw’ Still Reverberates

Eli Roth, Paul Feig and other directors who have movies on this month explain how a gory horror classic has inspired their own efforts. PAGE C1

A Bewitching ‘Cuckoo’

Dan Stevens and Hunter Schafer star in an undeniably nutty horror-comedy about cross-species pollination. PAGE C6



BUSINESS B1-5

India’s Long Haul

A trucker’s careful journey reveals how far the country’s infrastructure has come and how far it has to go. PAGE B1



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