

All the News
That's Fit to Print

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, partly sunny, hot, humid, high 93. Tonight, thunderstorms early, low 69. Tomorrow, cooler with clouds, sun and a stray shower, high 76. Weather map is on Page B10.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

We Moved On. Covid Has Not. So Now What?

With Caution Cast Off, Cases Are Surging

By EMILY BAUMGAERTNER

Jason Moyer was days away from a family road trip to visit his parents when his 10-year-old son woke up with a fever and cough. Covid?

The prospect threatened to upend the family's plans.

"Six months ago, we would have tested for Covid," Mr. Moyer, 41, of Ohio, said. This time they did not.

Instead, they checked to make sure the boy's cough was improving and his fever was gone — and then set off for New Jersey, not bothering to tell the grandparents about the incident.

In the fifth summer of Covid, cases are surging, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported "high" or "very high" levels of the virus in wastewater in almost every state. The rate of hospitalizations with Covid is nearly twice what it was at this time last summer, and deaths — despite being down almost 75 percent from what they were at the worst of the pandemic — are still double what they were this spring.

As children return to schools and Labor Day weekend travel swells, the potential for further spread abounds. But for many like Mr. Moyer, Covid has become so normalized that they no longer see it as a reason to disrupt social, work or travel routines. Test kit sales have plummeted. Isolation after an exposure is increasingly rare. Masks — once a ubiquitous symbol of a Covid surge — are sparse, even in crowded airports, train stations and subways.

Human behavior is, of course, the reason that infections are



Masks, once ubiquitous, are now infrequently seen.

soaring. But at some point, many reason, we need to live.

"I no longer even know what the rules and recommendations are," said Andrew Hoffman, 68, of Mission Viejo, Calif., who came down with respiratory symptoms a few weeks ago after his wife had tested positive for Covid. He skipped synagogue, but still went to the grocery store.

"And since I don't test, I can't follow them," he said.

Epidemiologists said in interviews that they do not endorse a lackadaisical approach, particularly for those spending time around older people and those who are immunocompromised. They still recommend staying home for a couple of days after an

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Court workers against a plan by Mexico's president to overhaul the judiciary protested at the Supreme Court in Mexico City last week.

Mexico, Irked By U.S. Envoy, Halts Relations

By SIMON ROMERO and EMILIANO RODRIGUEZ MEGA

MEXICO CITY — For months, tensions have been building in Mexico over the president's sweeping plans to overhaul the judiciary, shaking the country's political system and straining diplomatic ties with the United States.

This week, those tensions exploded into the open.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico said on Tuesday that his government was "pausing" relations with the United States Embassy in response to criticism by the U.S. ambassador over the president's push in the final weeks of his six-year term to make changes to the judiciary, potentially forcing thousands of judges from their jobs.

"Hopefully there will be a statement from them that they are going to be respectful of the independence of Mexico," Mr. López Obrador said of the United States during his daily news conference. "As long as that doesn't happen and they continue with that policy, then there is a pause with the embassy."

"'Pause' means that we are going to take a break," he added, saying it would also extend to the U.S. State Department. But Mr. López Obrador said that overall relations would not be affected, seeking to allay concerns over a potential effect on trade. Mexico is the United States' top trading partner, and there are growing concerns and warnings about the effect of the judicial reforms on business confidence and the economy.

Mr. López Obrador also announced a pause in relations with the Canadian Embassy after its

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Doctors Saved Her Life, Even Over Her Wishes

By KATE RAPHAEL

Marie Cooper led her life according to her Christian faith. She baked pies for her neighbors in northern West Virginia and said grace before even a bite of food. She watched Jimmy Swaggart, a televangelist preacher — a little too loudly, in her daughter Sherry Uphold's opinion. And she always said that at the end of her life, she did not want to be resuscitated.

"My mother's religious belief is when it is her time to go, that's God's choosing, not hers," Ms. Uphold said. "She was very adamant about that."

Last winter, doctors found cancer cells in Ms. Cooper's stomach.

mother in the recovery room and saw her in a panic. Despite having an oxygen tube in her nose, Ms. Cooper was gesturing as if she could not breathe. She was able to force out just one word at a time.

Ms. Uphold called for help and was ushered to a waiting room while the medical team called an emergency code. Ms. Cooper grew even more distressed and "uncooperative," according to medical records. Doctors restrained her and inserted a breathing tube down her throat, violating the wishes outlined in her medical chart.

Ms. Uphold, livid, confronted the doctors, who could not explain

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Fires in Brazil Threaten Wildlife

Wildfires are laying waste to the Pantanal, a wetland and a vital biodiversity sanctuary. Page A8.

Lonely, Retired and Longing for 'Twilight Love'

By ALEXANDRA STEVENSON

SHANGHAI — For Shanghai's lonely and retired, love is elusive. Divorced or widowed residents gather in a dating corner in People's Park every weekend looking for a chat. They mill about an Ikea canteen on Tuesdays in search of some fun.

They arrive dressed a little nicer than usual, ready to talk about their virtues, their past lives and the future.

Looking for a Spark at Shanghai Meet-Ups

"I'm simple. I don't smoke cigarettes or play mahjong," said Xu Xiaoduo, 70, a twice-divorced former primary-school teacher who volunteers details about his pension (around \$1,250 a month) and his dancing abilities (a good). "But," he added with a sigh, "I

can't find true love." Others share his frustrations, but downplay any yearning to find love. More than a few say they have lost hope.

It should not be this hard. There are more people in China who are 65 or older than there are in any other country. And Shanghai has more older adults than any other Chinese city. Most of these residents stopped working long ago because China has one of the lowest retirement ages in the world,

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An Outlier Court That Trump Sees as a Model

By MATTATHIAS SCHWARTZ

The Supreme Court term that ended this summer delivered a number of big wins for traditional conservative causes. The court made it easier to challenge federal regulations. It made it harder to prosecute former presidents. And it delivered another decision that expanded the rights of gun enthusiasts.

Those rulings left no doubt that the court, with a six-justice super-

Fifth Circuit Could Be a Standard-Bearer

majority that had already upended abortion rights and affirmative action, is the most ideologically conservative Supreme Court since the early 1930s.

Yet it is almost certainly not the most conservative federal court in the country.

About 1,000 miles away, in New Orleans, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has turned its corner of the federal judiciary into a proving ground for some of the most aggressive conservative arguments in American law. Six of the 17 judges were nominated by former president Donald J. Trump, who has vowed to continue transforming the federal judiciary with further nominations if elected again in November.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Israeli Forces Rescue Hostage

Farhan al-Qadi, 52, a Bedouin Arab citizen of Israel, was found alone in an underground warren.

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Dueling Protests in Germany

After a Syrian man is accused of fatal stabbings, Solingen finds itself at the center of the migrant debate.

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BUSINESS B1-5

Threat to Affordable Homes

Developers of subsidized housing, who cannot raise rents or charge more for starter homes, say insurance costs are derailing their efforts.

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SPORTS B6-9

Best Ever? Stats Tell a Story.

Caitlin Clark entered the W.N.B.A. with high expectations, and is on pace for a historic rookie run.

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The Doubles Team to Beat

The Americans Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury carry an 18-match winning streak into the U.S. Open.

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NATIONAL A10-17

Restoring a Way of Life

Native tribes expect the removal of four dams on the Klamath River will mean the revival of the salmon runs.

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Superseding Jan. 6 Indictment

Charges against the former president were revised to reflect the Supreme Court's immunity ruling.

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ARTS C1-6

That Old 'Beetlejuice' Spirit

The actors Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder and Catherine O'Hara and the director Tim Burton, look back on the first movie, the "Day-O" scene and their ghost comedy's sequel.

PAGE C1

Success Amid the Homicides

Michael Cyril Creighton has gone from Off Off Broadway to a regular spot on Hulu's "Only Murders in the Building."

"My entire career has been a series of pinch-me moments," he said.

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OPINION A18-19

Julia Angwin

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FOOD D1-8

Summer Classics, Upgraded

We have some recipes that would be perfect for any party. Above, sweet corn with honeyed goat cheese.

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