

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, very warm, humid, gusty afternoon thunderstorm, high 87. **Tonight**, showers and a thunderstorm, low 66. **Tomorrow**, some sun, less humid, high 80. Weather, Page A16.

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SAUL MARTINEZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

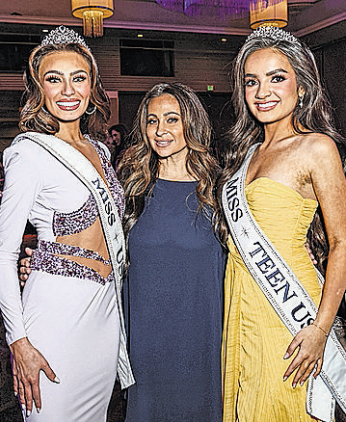
Storms Soak Southern Florida

Storms deluged part of the state, including Hallandale Beach, above, as a rainy season has become more unpredictable. Page A16.

At Miss USA, Tensions Dim Crown’s Lure

By MADISON MALONE KIRCHER and CALLIE HOLTERMANN

Laylah Rose says she won her first pageant at the age of 2. With dark, glossy hair and a measured smile, she went on to enter many more. Yet, even as a girl, she dreamed of something bigger. Ms. Rose didn’t only want to wear a sash, as her mother and grandmother had done before her: She wanted to run Miss USA. Last summer Ms. Rose, 45, whose legal name is Laylah Loiczly, finally achieved that goal. In an email, she said she saw “opportunities to improve, enhance and in many ways repair the iconic brand.”



CHELSEA LAUREN/SHUTTERSTOCK FOR MISS USA Laylah Rose, the head of Miss USA, between Noelia Voigt, left, and UmaSofia Srivastava, who both quit after their wins.

Those repairs were sorely needed. In recent years, Miss USA has weathered allegations of racism and sexual harassment, and has passed from owner to owner — one of them being Donald J. Trump. The 2022 suicide of Miss USA 2019 sent the organization reeling. In 2023, Ms. Rose’s predecessor was suspended after accusations of pageant rigging. In her first months in charge of the pageant, Ms. Rose got to work. (She bought the rights to manage Miss USA for an initial payment of \$1.5 million, according to a preliminary report.)

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Maximalist Demands Make Gaza Peace Elusive

By ISABEL KERSHNER

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel called Hamas’s response to the latest peace proposal for Gaza “negative.” Hamas insisted it was dealing with it “positively.” Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, speaking in Qatar, said Hamas had demanded changes, some of which were “workable” and some not. A Hamas official told an Arabic television channel that the group had not raised any new ideas and that Mr. Blinken saw things through an Israeli lens and “speaks Hebrew.”

NEWS ANALYSIS

Gaps Seem as Wide as Ever After Months of Negotiations

The Biden administration has pledged to keep working with the Qatari and Egyptian mediators to bridge the gaps. But after days of intensive diplomacy in the region, a monthslong effort to end the war in Gaza seems as stuck as ever, as each side clings stubbornly to maximalist demands unacceptable to the other. Asked at the Group of 7 summit meeting in Italy if he still

thought a deal could be reached, President Biden said, “I haven’t lost hope, but it’s going to be tough.”

At the crux of the disagreement over the three-phase deal, according to officials and experts, is Hamas’s goal of essentially securing a permanent cease-fire from the outset and a withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Gaza before handing over most of the hostages.

Israel says it is willing to negotiate a permanent cessation of the war, now in its ninth month, but only after dismantling Hamas’s military and governing capabilities. That clashes with

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With New Powers, City Cracks Down on Rogue Cannabis Shops

By ASHLEY SOUTHALL

Gold balloons announcing the “GRAND OPENING” of Zaza City Convenience in southeast Queens were still floating in the shop last month when the authorities cleared its shelves of cannabis and tobacco products that were illegal to sell in New York. After the police officers had bagged and weighed the contraband and sent it off in an evidence van, a sheriff’s sergeant sealed the entrances to the store with padlocks.

Similar scenes have played out across New York City as a task force led by the Sheriff’s Office has flexed its new emergency powers to lock down unlicensed cannabis shops, which officials recently estimated outnumbered licensed retailers in the city by about 2,900 to 62. From May 7 to June 3, inspection teams closed 311 stores, seized \$10.4 million worth of products and issued \$23.4 million in fines, according to the mayor’s office. An additional 325 shops were put on notice.

Previously, shuttered stores could reopen within hours of inspections while officials sought court orders to shut them down permanently. But changes enacted in this year’s state budget and the city code have given the Sheriff’s Office the power to declare the shops an imminent threat to the public and close them



ANDRES KUDACKI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A special task force has shut down 311 unlicensed cannabis shops in the city since early May.

immediately for up to a year.

Sheriff Anthony Miranda, in an interview at his office in Queens, said that the padlocks cut off income that the shops relied on to absorb the cost of violations. While some stores continue to evade enforcement by warning

each other when inspectors are nearby or shifting to delivery services — even reviving weed trucks — others have stopped selling cannabis or shut down completely, he said.

“It’s not just the cost of doing business anymore,” he said.

“They’re going to feel this.”

Following the state’s legalization of cannabis for recreational use in 2021, rogue smoke shops multiplied like an invasive species. Convenience store owners seized an opportunity to shore

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JUSTICES MAINTAIN WIDE AVAILABILITY OF ABORTION PILL

9-0 Decision on Procedural Grounds — Drug May Face Other Challenges

By ABBIE VANSICKLE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Thursday maintained access to a widely available abortion pill, rejecting a bid from a group of anti-abortion organizations and doctors to undo the Food and Drug Administration’s approval of the drug.

In a unanimous decision, written by Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh, the court held that the anti-abortion groups lacked a direct stake in the dispute, a requirement to challenge the F.D.A.’s approval of the pill, mifepristone.

“The plaintiffs do not prescribe or use mifepristone,” Justice Kavanaugh wrote. “And F.D.A. is not requiring them to do or refrain from doing anything.”

He added, “A plaintiff’s desire to make a drug less available for others does not establish standing to sue.”

The case originally sought to erase the F.D.A.’s approval of mifepristone. But by the time it reached the Supreme Court, the question had been narrowed to whether the agency had acted legally in 2016 and 2021, when it broadened distribution of the pill, eventually including telemedicine and mail options.

The ruling handed a muted victory to abortion rights groups. Even as they praised the decision for averting severe restrictions on the availability of the pill, they warned that the outcome could be short-lived.

Anti-abortion groups vowed to press ahead, promising that the fight was far from over and raising the possibility that other plaintiffs, states in particular, would mount challenges to the drug.

The ruling did not affect separate restrictions on the pill in more than a dozen states that have passed near-total bans on abor-

tion since the court eliminated a constitutional right to the procedure in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*. (The bans do not distinguish between medication and surgical abortion.)

Access to abortion remains broadly popular, and ever since the court overturned *Roe v. Wade* two years ago, prompting some states to swiftly enact bans, the issue has been a major focus of political campaigns. Democrats



ERIC LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The mifepristone ruling gave a muted victory to rights groups.

have succeeded in galvanizing voters to defeat anti-abortion measures and plan to highlight abortion rights in the November elections.

By dodging a ruling on the substance of the case, the justices avoided delivering a clear, substantive win to either political party or a decision they could use to motivate their base.

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STARBUCKS RULING In a blow to labor regulators, the justices curbed their authority. PAGE B1

Secret Weapon Of Biden Camp Is Movie Mogul

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — When President Biden made clear last year that he was planning to run for another term, some important Democratic contributors expressed doubt. He was too old, they feared. He was not up to another four years.

It fell to Jeffrey Katzenberg to tell them they were wrong. When some still did not believe him, Mr. Katzenberg challenged them to come to Washington and find out for themselves — then arranged to bring the dubious donors to the White House to sit down with the octogenarian president to convince them he was still sharp enough.

“He was like, ‘Trust me. And if you don’t trust me, trust, but verify. Come with me and see for yourself and engage with the president,’” Gov. Gavin Newsom of California, a longtime ally of Mr. Katzenberg, recounted in an interview. “And he started doing that in a consistent way.” In the end, Mr. Newsom added, “He really was instrumental in getting people off the sidelines and getting them to dive headfirst in this campaign.”

Few have dived headfirst into

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

A Key City for Halting Russia

Faced with an assault from the northeast, Ukrainian forces made their stand in Vovchansk. The front line is still there, but little else is.

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NATIONAL A10-19

A Rare Plant Re-emerges

A Vermont biologist studying turtles came upon an herb that the state botanist identified as one not seen there in more than a century.

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BUSINESS B1-6

Splash Mountain Overhaul

The ride was closed because of its tie to a racist film. Disney changed it to focus on Tiana, its first Black princess, drawing praise and backlash.

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SPORTS B7-10

Lord of the Rings

Jason Arasheben, a Beverly Hills jeweler, is wowing champion sports teams with reversible faces and detachable compartments.

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OPINION A20-21

Jesse Wegman

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