

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, cloudy, a shower in the afternoon, cooler, high 69. Tonight, partly cloudy, light wind, low 56. Tomorrow, morning clouds, seasonable, high 72. Weather map, Page B12.

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Broadway Hits Reap Millions In Tax Breaks

The Breadth of Covid Aid Draws Criticism

By JAY ROOT
and MICHAEL PAULSON

There is no greater success story on Broadway than “The Lion King.” It is reliably among the top-grossing stage shows in New York, where it has brought in nearly \$2 billion over its 26-year run; its global total is five times that amount.

The musical’s producer is the theatrical division of the Walt Disney Company, an entertainment industry behemoth that earned \$89 billion in revenue during its last fiscal year.

And yet, the show was one of roughly four dozen productions that have received millions of dollars in assistance from New York State under a program designed to help a pandemic-hobbled theater industry in New York City.

Over the three years since the program was established, New York State has bestowed more than \$100 million on commercial Broadway productions.

“The Lion King,” along with other juggernauts like “Aladdin,” “The Book of Mormon” and “Wicked,” each got the maximum \$3 million subsidy.

The program was initiated by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, as theaters were nervously preparing to reopen after being shut for a year and a half. It was later tripled to \$300 million by Gov. Kathy Hochul, who is considering whether to seek an extension when it expires next year.

Some state lawmakers and fiscal watchdogs say the theater initiative, called the New York City Musical and Theatrical Produc-

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MELISSA PHILLIP/HOUSTON CHRONICLE, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS



JON SHAPLEY/HOUSTON CHRONICLE, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Path of Destruction in Houston

At least four people were killed when a powerful storm ripped through Texas. There was widespread damage in the area around Houston, including blown-out windows in storefronts and downtown high-rises, toppled trees, and downed power lines. Page A16.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

WORKERS REJECT BID IN ALABAMA FOR AUTO UNION

A SETBACK FOR LABOR

Voters Seem to Be Wary
of U.A.W.’s Effort in
Southern States

By JACK EWING

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Workers at two Mercedes-Benz factories near Tuscaloosa, Ala., voted on Friday against allowing the United Automobile Workers to represent them, a stunning blow to the union’s campaign to gain ground in the South, where it has traditionally been weak.

The defeat came after Kay Ivey, Alabama’s governor, and other Republican leaders argued that a pro-union vote would choke off the investment that has transformed the state into a major auto producer. The union’s setback dims the chances that it will be able to quickly organize workers at Hyundai and Honda, which also have large factories in Alabama.

The vote had national significance as a test of whether the U.A.W. could build on a string of recent victories and gain ground in a state whose elected officials have been hostile to organized labor. The union has said it wants to organize every automobile factory in the United States, expanding its membership to include the employees of companies like Toyota and Tesla.

But the loss at the Mercedes plants will almost surely slow down the union’s campaign and probably force it to do more spadework to secure the support of workers before seeking to hold elections at other auto plants. Union leaders will want to spend time figuring out how best to counter the messages and tactics of local lawmakers and company executives.

“This loss stings,” Shawn Fain, the president of the U.A.W., said at the storefront headquarters of the union’s local branch down the road from the Mercedes factories in Vance and Woodstock, Ala.

But “most of us lost elections in

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Some Christians Seek Truce in the Gender Wars

By RUTH GRAHAM

Andrew and Debbie James are evangelical Christians. Born in England, the couple moved to Denver years ago and raised their children there. Mrs. James had a profound religious conversion experience early in parenthood, and their large nondenominational church quickly became the focal point of their lives. They used to say that if the doors were open, they were there.

“We always joked that we had this perfect little scenario,” Mrs. James said. “We had our boy, then we had our girl, and they were two years apart and they were just perfect.” They were strict parents — too strict, they say in hindsight, with the goal to “shield them from

Conservatives Trying to Shift From Judgment to Understanding

absolutely everything.”

When the couple’s older child was 19, living at home as a college student, Mrs. James got a call from the pharmacy informing her that her child’s prescription for estradiol, or estrogen, was ready. In a panic, she searched the teenager’s room, confronting her that evening.

It went badly. They initially refused to use their daughter’s chosen name, Lilia, and Mrs. James could barely be in the same room

with her when she was wearing a skirt. Then a pastor at the church encouraged them to kick their daughter out of their home.

“This must be biblical advice,” she recalled thinking. “This must be what we’re supposed to do.”

Many progressive and Mainline Christian congregations have moved to affirm transgender and nonbinary members. But for many conservative Christians, the rise of transgender identities in both visibility and in sheer numbers, particularly among young people, has been a profoundly destabilizing shift. Almost 90 percent of white evangelicals believe gender is determined by sex at birth, according to the Pew Research Center, compared with

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New Norms of Name-Calling Have Ugly Effect in Congress

By VANESSA FRIEDMAN

Debates can get, well, ugly in Congress, but rarely do they descend to the level of physical taunts. Yet that is exactly what happened on Thursday during a meeting of the House Oversight Committee.

During a discussion about whether Attorney General Merrick B. Garland should be held in contempt of Congress, Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Republican from Georgia, told Representative Jasmine Crockett, a Democrat from Texas, “I think your

fake eyelashes are messing up what you’re reading.”

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat from New York whose own signature red lipstick has become something of an online lightning rod, then leaped to Ms. Crockett’s defense.

“How dare you attack the physical appearance of another person,” she said.

Further name-calling ensued, culminating in Ms. Crockett’s covertly returning the insult by asking the chair, James R.

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When the Sport Came to Town, An Indigenous Boy Took Flight

By JAMES WAGNER

CABO DE LA VELA, Colombia — They came from all over the world to this remote stretch of Colombia’s Caribbean coast. Two hailed from India. Two traveled from Switzerland. One from the Netherlands. Another from Seattle. They all wanted to be taught by Beto Gomez, a professional kite surfer, in the spot where he first learned the sport.

La Guajira Peninsula is ideal for kite surfing. In Cabo de la Vela, Mr. Gomez’s hometown, with nearly 1,000 residents and desert terrain, the windy season lasts nine months and the waves are flat.

So for five days this year, amateur kite surfers — drawn by Mr. Gomez’s social media and competitions broadcast online — trav-

In Remote Colombia, a Transformation

eled here for his classes.

“In India, we were really cheering for him,” said Shyam Rao, 33, who arrived with his wife.

Kite surfing, using a kite to propel a rider across the water and through the air, is not native to this part of the world or to the Wayuu, Colombia’s largest Indigenous group, which governs the area.

It was brought to Cabo de la Vela nearly two decades ago by visiting foreigners, or *arrijuna*, a term in the Wayuu Indigenous language that includes Colombians who aren’t Wayuu.

Not everyone in the community,

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FEDERICO RIOS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Beto Gomez on Colombia’s Caribbean coast. Mr. Gomez is the only professional Wayuu kite surfer.

TikTok Reins In Troubling Posts On Weight Loss

By TALYA MINSBERG

Emma Lembke did not know what an algorithm was when she started using social media.

The then-12-year-old was thrilled when her parents gave her permission to join Instagram. She quickly followed all kinds of accounts — from Kim Kardashian to Olive Garden, she said — and was soon spending five to six hours a day on the app. Then one day she searched for “ab workouts,” and her feed shifted. She started seeing 200-calorie recipes, pro-anorexia posts and exercise routines that “no 12-year-old should be doing in their bedroom,” she said.

Ms. Lembke, now 21, testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in February 2023 about how social media led her to disordered eating, and what she and other advocates see as a dire need for stronger regulation to protect social media’s youngest users.

Social media platforms have promised to take more action. On Friday, TikTok enacted what some experts called one of the most well-defined policies by a social media company yet on weight and dieting posts. The company’s updated guidelines, which come as

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A drone attack targeted oil centers and a substation, leading to rolling blackouts in southwestern Russia. PAGE A8

Bringing His Brand to Japan
Kei Kobayashi, who earned three Michelin stars in France, has greater ambitions. The Global Profile. PAGE A4



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Republicans paint Senator Jon Tester as a Washington sellout, while their own candidate faces scrutiny over how he sustained a gunshot wound. PAGE A11

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Several universities struck agreements with pro-Palestinian demonstrators to end their encampments. Some of those deals are already under fire. PAGE A15

Conservative Scion Sentenced
Leo Brent Bozell IV, the son and grandson of influential right-wing figures, was sentenced to 45 months in prison for his role in the Jan. 6 attack. PAGE A16

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Policymakers unveiled a rescue package that included \$41.5 billion in cheap loans to help state-owned enterprises purchase unsold housing. PAGE B1

OpenAI’s Old-Timey Tribute
OpenAI may be changing technology, but its headquarters feature an homage to the written word: a library. PAGE B5

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After two seasons on the Netflix show “Bridgerton,” the actor Luke Newton is moving to its forefront. PAGE C1

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Making the latest “Mad Max” movie was no easier than making the previous ones, which is saying a lot. PAGE C1



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As an exhilarating title race ends, the Premier League is a picture of health on the field. Off the field, it’s a mess. PAGE B6

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Bob Baffert is still barred from the Kentucky Derby but returns to Pimlico to attempt a repeat. PAGE B7

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