

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

LATE EDITION
Today, humid, cloudy, thunderstorms, high 86. **Tonight**, thunderstorms, low 75. **Tomorrow**, cloudy, thunderstorms, flooding possible, high 83. Weather map, Page B12.

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Actors and writers near Netflix’s office in Los Angeles on Friday. It is the first time since 1960 that both unions are on strike at once. JENNA SCHOENFELD FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sitcom Queen In New Role: Strike Leader

By JOHN KOBLIN and NICOLE SPERLING
The stage was different, and so was the tone. But the voice was unmistakable.
Fran Drescher, the owner of a distinctly nasal, Queens-inflected accent, made her name in Hollywood for her starring role in the sitcom “The Nanny.” On Thursday, she appeared before dozens of cameras as the president of the actors’ union that voted unanimously earlier in the day to go on strike, delivering a fiery argument depicting the stakes of the decision.
“The eyes of the world and particularly the eyes of labor are upon us,” Ms. Drescher said. “What happens to us is important. What’s happening to us is happening across all fields of labor.”
She shook her fists in indignation. “I am shocked by the way the people that we have been in business with are treating us!” she continued. “It is disgusting. Shame on them!”
Ms. Drescher is the latest in a long line of familiar faces — Ronald Reagan, Patty Duke and Charlton Heston among them — to run SAG-AFTRA, the union that represents tens of thousands of screen actors. But it amounts to a surprising plot twist in her long career.
As the Thursday news conference made clear, she is now a leading face of a resurgent labor movement nationally. How she handles it in the coming weeks, and possibly months, could help determine the fate of 160,000 actors.
The actors’ strike, which went into effect on Friday, is a crisis point for Hollywood, which had already been rocked in recent years

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Europe Is Struggling to Adapt to Extreme Heat

By GAIA PIANIGIANI
FLORENCE, Italy — Tourists sheltered under umbrellas as they lined up at Florence’s majestic cathedral this week, looking for shade. Street vendors peddled fans and straw hats. Locals splashed their faces at water fountains, all seeking a respite from Europe’s latest heat wave.
“It feels like home,” said Alina Magrina, a 64-year-old tourist from California, parts of which, like much of the southern United States, have been hit by sweltering temperatures, too. “But at home, we move from one air-conditioned space to the next.” Walking in the sun in Florence was making her chest hurt, she said, stopping to buy an extra fan on the Italian city’s iconic Ponte Vecchio.
Extreme heat has now become a fixture of summer months in many parts of the world, not only in the United States, but especially in Europe, a continent defined by its almost immutable architecture and ways of life. Yet, though Europe is warming more swiftly than the global average, each year it seems particularly unprepared.
Experts say Europe’s governments have in significant ways failed to heed the alarms sounded nearly 20 years ago, when a heat wave in 2003, the continent’s hottest year on record, left 70,000 people dead by some estimates. A report published this week attributed 61,000 deaths in Europe to its searing temperatures last summer.
This year threatens to repeat the calamity. In some parts of southern Europe, heat waves started as early as May. The most recent heat wave — called Cerberus for the multiheaded dog that guards the gates of the underworld — tilted temperatures well above 37 degrees Celsius, or nearly 99 degrees Fahrenheit, in Florence, Rome and parts of Sardinia and Sicily this week.
Another round of high temperatures, part of the heat wave caused by an African anticyclone, is expected in the coming days, with peaks of 48 degrees Celsius,
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Cooling down at a public fountain in Florence, Italy, where temperatures have hit deadly highs. FRANCESCA VOLPI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Pizza Crusts Helped Police Identify Suspect in Unsolved Killings

This article is by Maria Cramer, William K. Rashbaum, Joseph Goldstein and Corey Kilgannon.
The bodies were unearthed near remote Gilgo Beach on Long Island’s South Shore more than a decade ago, terrifying residents and leaving the victims’ families bereft. In all, the remains of nine women, a man and a toddler were discovered.
Since then, investigators have tried to determine whether the killings had been committed by one person or by multiple attackers. But for more than a decade the cases went unsolved.
Then Rex Heuermann, an architect who had lived most of his life in Nassau County and worked in Manhattan, was taken into custody on Thursday, accused of killing three women and is suspected in the murder of a fourth. Before his arrest, investigators had sifted through clues as simple as a monogrammed belt wrapped around one of the victims and as sophisticated as the electronic signals of disposable mobile phones.
Mr. Heuermann was charged with three counts of first degree murder and three counts of second degree murder in the killings of Amber Lynn Costello, Megan Waterman and Melissa Barth.
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Long Island Man Held in 3 Women’s Deaths

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A Narrow Win Could Backfire On the G.O.P.

Focus on Culture Wars May Tip Tight Races

By ANNIE KARNI
WASHINGTON — Representative Jen Kiggans, a minivan-driving mom and Navy veteran, narrowly won election last year in her suburban Virginia swing district after a fiercely competitive race that focused on her opposition to abortion rights.
The issue remains a top priority for voters in her district, and appearing too extreme on it could make her vulnerable again when she faces re-election in 2024. But Ms. Kiggans was one of dozens of Republicans from competitive districts who voted this week to support adding a bevy of deeply partisan restrictions to the annual defense policy bill, including one that would reverse a Pentagon policy aimed at preserving access to abortion services for military personnel, no matter where they are stationed.
Democrats said the G.O.P. provision was a steppingstone to instituting more abortion bans across the nation, while Republicans argued it merely preserved a longstanding bar against allowing federal funds to be used to pay for abortions.
The vote put lawmakers like Ms. Kiggans, a top target of Democrats whose seat is up for grabs in next year’s congressional elections, in a politically perilous position. And it raised the question of whether, in scoring the short-term victory of keeping his party united behind the annual defense bill — which passed on a near-party-line vote on Friday — Speaker Kevin McCarthy may have embraced a strategy that could ultimately cost his party the House majority.
Ms. Kiggans and other similarly situated Republicans said they had no problem backing the abortion restriction or the bill itself, which emerged from the House loaded with other conservative policy dictates, including one barring the military health care program from providing transgender health services and another limiting diversity training for military personnel.
“Taxpayers should not be paying for elective surgery,” Ms. Kiggans, who ran as a moderate focused on kitchen-table economic issues, said in an interview on Friday, explaining her vote. “This wasn’t a bill about abortion; it was about taxpayers paying for travel for military members for elective procedures.”
Still, Democrats’ House campaign arm wasted no time in at
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REPUBLICANS RAM DIVISIVE MEASURE TO HOUSE VICTORY

ANNUAL DEFENSE BILL

Restrictions on Abortion and Transgender Care Face Senate Fight

By KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
WASHINGTON — Republicans on Friday rammed through the House a deeply partisan defense bill that would limit abortion access, transgender care and diversity training for military personnel, setting up a showdown with the Senate. The coming fight could imperil the crucial annual measure to provide a pay raise for troops, set defense policy to counter U.S. adversaries and sustain Pentagon programs at a time of rising threats.
The House passed the measure on a vote of 219 to 210 with nearly unanimous Republican support, a significant victory for the far-right faction that forced a reluctant Speaker Kevin McCarthy to open the bill to an array of social policy prescriptions by threatening to block it if they did not get their way. But the move left the fate of the measure deeply in doubt, advancing a bill that has little chance of passing the Democratic-controlled Senate and raising ques-



House Speaker Kevin McCarthy defended the bill on Friday. TOM BRENNER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

tions about whether a compromise can be reached that could be enacted into law this fall.
And the outcome suggested even more intense battles ahead on Capitol Hill to avert a government shutdown. Mr. McCarthy’s capitulation to the right, despite knowing it could cost him critical Democratic support for the must-pass bill, was a gamble that could become a playbook for the coming fight over federal spending, where hard-liners are pressing to impose similar socially conservative poli-
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Forgotten Villages of Ukraine: Empty, Ruined and Overgrown

This article is by Thomas Gibbons-Neff, Natalia Yermak and Mauricio Lima.
SULYHIVKA, Ukraine — Leave the eastern Ukrainian city of Izium and turn west onto rougher roads, where dead trees and twisted power lines give way to a string of shattered villages.
These enclaves, once the backbone of Ukraine’s agricultural eastern steppe, were reduced to ruin as the war passed over them like a flood tide.
Despite being recaptured by Ukraine’s military last fall, the villages of Sulyhivka, Virnopolia and Kamianka are now at risk of being lost — not to artillery or pitched battles, but to overgrown weeds, wildflowers and minefields. They are another kind of casualty in a war that has claimed many.
The few residents who returned home after the Russians retreated are struggling to live. They have waited 10 months, in vain, for elec-
tricity to be restored, for their fields to be cleared of explosives, and for neighbors to come back to restore some semblance of community. The Ukrainian government’s attempt to formalize some type of reconstruction effort has changed little.
The New York Times spent several days traveling across what was once part of Ukraine’s frontline between the cities of Izium and Kharkiv, visiting these ghost villages — just three of many that have been decimated — and listening to residents describe their lives. The distant sound of artillery was still audible, like an un-moving summer thunderstorm.
There were Victor and Anatolii, the two lone residents of Sulyhivka who have taken up a close friendship. Nina, the village elder of Virnopolia, who is toiling to keep her community from disappearing. And Svitlana, a woman from Kamianka, consumed with her neighbor’s betrayals.
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A rap producer who has A.L.S. asked a comedian to recapture his distinctive voice. The Saturday Profile. PAGE A4

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Chandrayaan-3, a partial redo of a 2019 mission that ended in a crash, is expected to land in late August. PAGE A10

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