

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER Today, much cooler, variably cloudy, high 66. Tonight, partly cloudy, seasonable, low 51. Tomorrow, clouds and sunshine, an afternoon shower, high 63. Weather map, Page B12.

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JON CHERRY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The pristine paddock at Churchill Downs. Saturday's Kentucky Derby kicks off Triple Crown season one year after seven horses died at the track the week of the race.

Last Year's Deaths Cast Long Shadow on Racing

By JOE DRAPE and MELISSA HOPPERT

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Kentucky Derby has been run through two World Wars, the Great Depression, civil rights unrest and, most recently, a life-paralyzing pandemic. Now, on the 150th anniversary of America's most famous race, the Sport of Kings faces another formidable foe: itself.

Last year, beneath Churchill Downs's iconic twin spires, seven horses died during the week of the showpiece event — two of them in races in the hours leading up to the Derby. In the days after, five more sustained fatal injuries, prompting Churchill officials to move their races to another Kentucky racetrack.

It got worse. A colt trained by the sport's most recognized and controversial trainer, Bob Baffert, died at Pimlico Race Course hours before Mr. Baffert saddled the winner of the Preakness Stakes, the second leg of the Triple Crown. Two more horses not trained by

Unsavoring Practices and Doping Leave Sport at a Crossroads

Mr. Baffert died in races surrounding the Belmont Stakes, the third leg, in June.

At the historic Saratoga Race Course in New York, 13 horses died while racing and training at the sport's signature summer meet, including two who seemed poised to win their races before breaking down near the finish line on nationally televised broadcasts.

Over the past 12 months, The New York Times analyzed confidential documents and covert recordings made by law enforcement, and obtained exclusive interviews as part of an investigation into why so many horses, supposedly in peak physical condition, were breaking down so frequently. In the documentary "The

New York Times Presents: Broken Horses," now streaming on Hulu, The Times found that reckless breeding and doping practices, compromised veterinarians and trainers, and decades-long resistance to changes that could save horses' lives have placed a multibillion-dollar ecosystem in peril and put the social acceptability of one of America's oldest sports at risk.

"There's a genuine feeling that this is the inflection point, and if we don't act, it may be too late," said Lisa Lazarus, the chief executive of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, or HISA, the federal agency that now regulates the sport.

In Louisville, Ky., on Saturday, racing officials and horse lovers will hold their collective breath and hope that every horse can

Continued on Page A22

A RACE'S ROOTS A look at those who started, captured and continued the Kentucky Derby. PAGE B8

NEWS ANALYSIS

Gap Between U.S. and Israel Only Grows on Gaza Endgame

By EDWARD WONG and ISABEL KERSHNER

TEL AVIV — Nearing the end of a whirlwind Middle East trip this week, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken finished meetings with the Israeli president and relatives of American hostages held by Hamas, left his beachside hotel in Tel Aviv and shook hands with protesters gathered outside.

He looked them in the eye and said there was a new hostages-for-peace deal on the table that Hamas should take.

"Bringing your loved ones home is at the heart of everything we're trying to do, and we will not rest until everyone — man, woman, soldier, civilian, young, old — is back home," he said.

That public show of empathy with frustrated protesters is something that Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu has avoided since the war began in October. And, lately, he has focused his recent public comments on an imminent ground offensive — an invasion of the city of Rafah in southern Gaza "with or without" a cease-fire deal, as the Israeli leader put it on Tuesday.

Though it was not the first time Mr. Netanyahu had promised to invade the last Hamas stronghold in Gaza, U.S. officials were taken aback by the timing of the comment. Threatening an offensive in Rafah can put pressure on Hamas to take the deal — but only if Hamas leaders think freeing hostages for Palestinian prisoners and a six-week pause in fighting could eventually lead to a permanent cease-

Continued on Page A10

BIDEN DENOUNCES CAMPUS VIOLENCE, BREAKING SILENCE

BACKS LAWFUL DISSENT

President Rejects 'Chaos' Over War in Gaza as Arrests Increase

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — President Biden broke days of silence on Thursday to finally speak out on the wave of protests on American college campuses against Israel's war in Gaza that have inflamed much of the country, denouncing violence and antisemitism even as he defended the right to peaceful dissent.

In a previously unscheduled televised statement from the White House, Mr. Biden offered a forceful condemnation of students and other protesters who in his view have taken their grievances too far. But he rejected Republican calls to deploy the National Guard to rein in the campuses.

"There's the right to protest, but not the right to cause chaos," Mr. Biden said in his first personal remarks on the campus fray in 10 days. "People have the right to get an education, the right to get a degree, the right to walk across the campus safely without fear of being attacked." Antisemitism, he added, "has no place" in America.

The president's comments came as universities across the nation continued to struggle to restore order. Police officers in riot gear arrested about 200 people as they cleared a protest encampment at the University of California, Los Angeles, while other officers removed demonstrators occupying a library at Portland State University in Oregon. Activists erected 30 tents at the University of Wisconsin-Madison a day after the police removed tents and detained 34 people.

The confrontations on Thursday followed a tense 24 hours during

Continued on Page A21



MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

PROTESTS Inside the tensions at U.S. colleges. Pages A18-19.

A Tale of Geopolitics, Forgery and Vanishing Russian Literature

By RACHEL DONADIO

PARIS — In April 2022, soon after Russia invaded Ukraine, two men arrived at the library of the University of Tartu, Estonia's second-largest city. They told the librarians they were Ukrainians fleeing war and asked to consult 19th-century first editions of works by Alexander Pushkin, Russia's national poet, and Nikolai Gogol.

Speaking Russian, they said they were an uncle and nephew researching censorship in czarist Russia so the nephew could apply for a scholarship to the United States.

Eager to help, the librarians obliged. The men spent 10 days studying the books.

Four months later, during a routine annual inventory, the library discovered that eight books the men had consulted had disappeared, replaced with facsimiles of such high quality that only expert eyes could detect them. "It

Continued on Page A9



WOJTEK RADWANSKI/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

A forged copy of an 1822 first edition by Alexander Pushkin was found at the University of Warsaw.

Biden Faces Unfamiliar Hurdle: Competitive Race for Re-election

By REID J. EPSTEIN

WASHINGTON — In October 1984, Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware was invited to address a conservative Baptist church near Wilmington as he campaigned for a third term.

Mr. Biden, hardly the favorite of social conservatives, was in hostile political territory. But as the incumbent, he was given the first speaking slot — and he used it to hold court uninterrupted for nearly an hour. Mr. Biden's Republican opponent barely got to introduce himself before time was up for the event, while the dozens of other candidates there for the forum never got a word in.

The episode, from "Only in Delaware," a political history of Delaware by Celia Cohen, a longtime Wilmington journalist, illustrates just how easily Mr. Biden was able to sweep challengers to the side — not just in that race, but through-

out his Senate career. Incumbency gave him a staggering advantage.

In 30 years, Mr. Biden never encountered a serious threat to his office. His Republican opponents were underfunded, little-known, inexperienced or some combination of the three. None of them took more than 41 percent of the vote against him.

His re-election fight against former President Donald J. Trump — his 13th bid for federal office, all told — is shaping up to be the opposite of those long-ago Senate campaigns: travel-intensive, nasty and close. A rival is, for the first time with him atop the ticket, forcing him to make a compelling case for his return.

Before his 2020 presidential campaign, which in the general election was light on in-person

Continued on Page A17

INTERNATIONAL A4-13

Myanmar's Civil War Wears On

Three years after a military coup, the Southeast Asian nation is teetering on the brink of chaos. PAGE A12

A Portrait Artist Fit for a King

Jonathan Yeo's rendering of Charles III will be unveiled at Buckingham Palace this month. The Global Profile. PAGE A4



NATIONAL A14-22

Mistrial in Abu Ghraib Case

A federal jury says it could not reach a verdict in a suit filed by three Iraqi men who said they were tortured while held at the notorious prison. PAGE A21

A Deal Discussed on Tape

The jury heard a tape of Michael Cohen telling former President Donald J. Trump about a payment he made to a former Playboy model. PAGE A16

'Trauma' and Menendez Cash

Senator Robert Menendez's lawyers want a psychiatrist to testify at his corruption trial about the impact of his father's death by suicide. PAGE A15

BUSINESS B1-5

Self-Storage Bottom Falls Out

A pandemic surge spurred investments in new storage facilities, but demand has lately taken a sharp turn. PAGE B1

Big Tech's Big Trial

Google and the U.S. began final arguments in a case over what is fair game for dominant tech companies. PAGE B1

OBITUARIES B10-11

Patron of Psychedelics

Peggy Mellon Hitchcock, a scion of a storied family, supported the counterculture and found a spot for Timothy Leary to experiment. She was 90. PAGE B10

WEEKEND ARTS C1-14

Pre-Streaming Viewing

The film "I Saw the TV Glow" looks back to when we all watched the top weekly shows at the same time. PAGE C1

A Rich, Cross-Cultural Mix

The Frieze New York art fair features an impressive collection of painting, textiles and collage in its booths. PAGE C12



SPORTS B6-9, 12

Coach Prime's Castoffs

Deion Sanders's roster makeover at Colorado led to dozens of college players entering the transfer portal. PAGE B6

The Gift of Time

Making short work of the Heat gives the Celtics a chance to adjust to Kristaps Porzingis's absence. PAGE B7

OPINION A24-25

David Brooks

PAGE A25

