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The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, very humid, thunderstorms may bring flooding and damaging winds, high 87. **Tonight**, thunderstorms, humid, low 75. **Tomorrow**, hot, high 91. Weather map, Page B10.

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Many Backers Of Biden in ‘20 Want a Plan B

Voters in Swing States Express Frustration

This article is by Jack Healy, Mitch Smith, Eduardo Medina and Robert Chiarito.

PHOENIX — Jeanne Winograd, 72, a Democrat in Phoenix, is such a ride-or-die fan of President Biden that, on Valentine’s Day, she mailed him a card to say his vigor, not his age, would shape the presidential election. But after a week of panic attacks after his dismal debate performance, she felt compelled to send him another card.

This one said: Thanks for everything, but it’s time to go. “I just love Biden, but he’s frail,” Ms. Winograd said. “Pass the baton.”

As Mr. Biden and his allies have scrambled to fix the damage from the debate last week, and to insist he will not bow out of the race, dozens of Democratic voters have said they no longer believe he can accomplish the one thing they urgently want — a defeat of former President Donald J. Trump. They are desperate for the party to find a Plan B.

In 80 interviews at Independence Day parades, pie-eating contests and political events this holiday in the political battlegrounds of Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin and North Carolina, more than half of voters who had supported Mr. Biden in 2020 now said he should drop out of the race. About a quarter said he should stay in. The rest were unsure.

The turmoil engulfing the Democratic Party had left them sleep-deprived and divided about a path forward, with some saying it would be pragmatic to dump Mr. Biden and others arguing that he was Democrats’ best — or only? — option in November.

Several voters said Vice President Kamala Harris was the

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A VOW TO STAY President Biden was forceful in a visit to Wisconsin, a key state. PAGE A14



ANDREW TESTA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Britain’s new prime minister, Keir Starmer, outside 10 Downing Street on Friday. His Labour Party won around a third of the vote.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Volatile Public Gives Labour ‘Loveless’ Win

Older U.K. Parties Lose Support to Newcomers

By MARK LANDLER

LONDON — Britain’s voters handed the Labour Party a landslide election victory this week, but one laden with asterisks.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer took office on Friday with a commanding majority in the British Parliament, yet in terms of the total number of ballots cast, his party won only a third of the vote, less than what it got in 2017 when it lost to the Conservatives. Labour made inroads across Britain, yet its wins were often eclipsed by the Tory losses, including that of Liz Truss, the unpopular former prime minister who was evicted from her seat.

The thundering mutiny of the voters may have been the single biggest message of Britain’s election. It has ushered in a new era of Labour government, left the Conservatives to nurse the worst defeat in their history, and stands as a warning to incumbents everywhere of the hazards of failing to deliver on your promises.

But Labour’s triumph was only one of several crosscurrents that revealed the extraordinary volatility of the modern British electorate: the rise of Reform U.K., an insurgent anti-immigration party, which won more than four million votes; the plummeting vote share of the major parties; the lowest voter turnout in decades, and the flare-up of the Gaza War as a campaign issue that stung Labour candidates, even Mr. Starmer.

While he comfortably held his own seat in London, Mr. Starmer won 17,000 fewer votes than in 2019, thanks in part to a challenge by an independent who channeled anger on the left over Labour’s stance on Israel and the war in Gaza.

It all added up to a complex election that defies easy categorization: a landslide, but not a straightforward realignment of the political map; a pivot to the center-left, but one that gave the populist right a valuable foothold; a thumping Labour win, but without the euphoria that suffused Tony Blair’s runaway victory in 1997. “A loveless landslide,” one commentator said on Friday morning.

“We wanted change,” said Anand Menon, a professor of European politics at King’s College London, summing up the complicated state of British politics, “but we aren’t inspired by Labour.”

At one level, Britain’s embrace of a center-left party sets it apart from the right-wing wave that is rising across Europe and possibly in the United States. When Mr. Starmer travels to Washington next week for a NATO summit

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WHITE HOUSE MEMO

Presidential Race Shows Parties in Stark Relief

By PETER BAKER

One of America’s political parties has a presidential candidate who is really old and showing it. The other has a presidential candidate who is a convicted felon, adjudicated sexual abuser, business fraudster and self-described aspiring dictator for a day. And also really old.

One of the parties is up in arms about its nominee and trying to figure out how to replace him at the last minute. The other is not.

The spectacle of the week since the nationally televised debate between President Biden

As Democrats Fret Over Biden, G.O.P. Defers to Trump’s Power

and former President Donald J. Trump has thrown into sharp relief two political parties that agreed to be led by flawed putative nominees whose vulnerabilities have become even more painfully apparent just months before the election.

But the distinction of recent weeks has been striking. After Mr. Trump was found guilty of 34

felonies by a Manhattan jury in May — a verdict that came after civil judgments against him for personal and professional misdeeds — there was no significant groundswell within the Republican Party to force him out of the race in favor of a less-tainted candidate. Even though many Republican officeholders and strategists privately loathe him, they fell in line and made clear they would stick with him no matter how many scandals piled up.

Until last week, Democrats had also resigned themselves to a candidate many considered far

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Saudis Praise, And Sentence, A Netflix Star

By VIVIAN NEREIM

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — From the outside, the last few years looked like the peak of Abdulaziz Almuzaini’s career.

As the head of an animation studio in Saudi Arabia, he signed a five-year deal with Netflix in 2020. A sardonic cartoon franchise that he helped create, “Masameer,” likened to a Saudi version of “South Park,” was soon streaming to audiences around the world. And as the conservative Islamic kingdom loosened up, Mr. Almuzaini was being publicly celebrated — as recently as a few months ago — as one of the homegrown talents shaping its nascent entertainment industry.

Behind the scenes, though, he was on trial in an opaque national security court, as Saudi prosecutors — who accused him of promoting extremism through the cartoon series and social media posts — sought to ensure that he would spend the rest of his life in prison or under a travel ban.

Mr. Almuzaini, a dual U.S.-Saudi citizen and father of three, recently described his plight in a video pleading for the Saudi leadership to intervene, saying that he was awaiting a final ruling from the kingdom’s Supreme Court.

“I might bear the consequences of what happens after this, and I’m ready,” he said in the 18-minute video, which he said he

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Japan, at Last, Is Phasing Out Its Floppy Disks

This article is by John Yoon, Hisako Ueno and Kiuko Notoya.

Japan scrapped every regulation requiring the use of floppy disks for administrative purposes this week, catching up with the times 13 years after the country’s producers manufactured their last units.

The floppy disk, invented in the 1970s, was once a ubiquitous part of computing. Other forms of memory like flash drives and internet cloud storage have since taken over. In the 1990s, along with the cassette tape, it was inching toward the dustbin of outdated tech.

But not in Japan. While renowned for its consumer electronics giants, robots and some of the world’s fastest broadband networks, the country has also been wedded to floppy disks and other old technologies like fax machines and cash.

Japan began moving away from the 1990s storage devices, magnetic disks encased in plastic, just two years ago, when Taro Kono, the country’s digital minister, declared a “war on floppy disks.”

When he encountered an image of a highway billboard for an American cancer clinic that read, “If you know what a floppy disk is it may be time for your cancer screening,” Mr. Kono responded

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic delegates supporting Al Smith, who called the Ku Klux Klan a threat to democracy.

Divisions From a Century Ago Resonate Today

By DAN BARRY

Things should have been settled. The weary delegates should have already chosen a presidential nominee, packed up their Welcome to New York souvenirs and returned home in time for the nation’s celebration of what it stood for.

Instead, the study in indecision that was the Democratic National Convention of 1924 staggered through the Fourth of July week-

In 1924, Tensions Over American Identity

end, its 3,000 delegates all but ensnared in the red-white-and-blue bunting adorning a tired Manhattan arena slated for demolition.

The convention, which lasted 16 days and an astounding 103 ballots, is notorious both for being the longest in history and for being in-

fectured by the Ku Klux Klan, which cast a long shadow over the America of that time. Just a few dozen miles to the south, it was celebrating a white-nationalist Independence Day with a hood-and-robe parade right down the Broadway of a beachside New Jersey city.

The simultaneous events reflected the divide over what it meant to be an American. Instead of proudly asserting who we are, that distant summer day raised a

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FEDERICO RIOS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Bird-Watching Paradise

Colombia — home to more species than any other area on Earth — is now more open to birders after a peace treaty. Pages A8-9.

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Bolsonaro Accused of Theft

Brazil’s former president may soon face criminal charges for stealing gifts from the Saudis. PAGE A7

Kazakh Journalist Is Killed

Aidos Sadykov, an opposition activist, was shot dead in Ukraine, where he was living in exile. PAGE A6



NATIONAL A12-17

Changing Economic Picture

Donald J. Trump slapped tariffs on trading partners and cut taxes as president. But after inflation’s return, that course would be risky. PAGE A15

Ballot Drop Boxes Return

A decision by the new liberal majority of the Wisconsin Supreme Court reverses a ruling delivered by conservative jurists two years ago. PAGE A12

Thieves on Wheels

At restaurants in Brooklyn and Manhattan, robbers have stolen watches worth tens of thousands of dollars and then fled on motorbikes. PAGE A12

BUSINESS B1-5

Job Growth Surges On

Employers had another solid month of hiring in June, the Labor Department said, adding 206,000 jobs in the 42nd consecutive month of growth. PAGE B1

Making the Olympics Greener

Le Pavé, a French manufacturing start-up, has created podiums and stadium seating out of recycled plastic. PAGE B1

TRAVEL C7-8

36 Hours in Dublin

As Ireland’s capital becomes a center of European tech innovation, it holds onto its personality and hospitality. PAGE C8

SPORTS B6-9

England’s New Siege Mentality

At the European Championship, the players have often been on the defensive when faced with criticism. PAGE B8

Evert’s Battle With Cancer

After a second course of treatment, the tennis Hall of Famer is vocal about the importance of early testing. PAGE B6



ARTS C1-6

Where Anything Goes

Andy Cohen’s “Watch What Happens Live,” on Bravo, is now cable’s highest-rated late-night talk show. PAGE C1

The Story Behind a Song

A quarter century ago, “Back That Azz Up” almost instantly became the national anthem of twerking. PAGE C1

OPINION A18-19

Adam Grant

PAGE A18

