"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

NATIONAL EDITION

Rain will continue in western Washington today, while isolated showers spread into the Plains. A few severe afternoon storms likely in Texas. Weather map appears on Page A24.

VOL. CLXXII ... No. 59,589 © 2022 The New York Times Company THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022 Prices in Canada may be higher $3.00

USA/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, VIA GETTY IMAGES

A Day of Mourning and Turmoil in Iran

Thousands on Wednesday headed to Saghez, the hometown of Mahsa Amini, whose death in custody has ignited protests. Page A11.

Putin Turning A City's Misery Into a Weapon

By ANDREW E. KRAMER

MYKOLAIV, Ukraine — As Elizaveta Kachuk waited in line for drinking water, a daily ritual that is not always successful, she cursed the Russians who bombed her city. But she also voiced discontent with her fellow Ukrainians still running it.

She has grown weary of the inability of local leaders to restore essential services. At times, tanker trucks dispensing clean water run dry before she reaches them, and she goes home empty-handed.

"Yes, Russia blew up the pipes, but a lot depends on our leaders," she said. "If they spent the money as it's needed, we wouldn't have this problem."

She's not alone in her frustration. Residents of Mykolaiv, where orange-colored salt water now sputters from taps, and electricity blinks on and off, are grumbling about the lack of progress with repairs — even as they recognize that the Russians are to blame, and that the near-daily shelling of the city makes restoring services difficult.

The city's woes have made it an unwilling test case in the strategy by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia for defeating Ukraine. Struggling to gain victories on the battlefield, he has adopted an approach of degrading Ukrainian life, not only making people miserable as the first full winter of the war approaches, but hoping to fo-

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BIDEN'S TASK The president faces new obstacles in maintaining the pro-Ukraine coalition. PAGE A10

No Permits Needed, More Texans Are Carrying

Police See Spontaneous Shooting on the Rise by Armed Citizens

By J. DAVID GOODMAN

HOUSTON — Tony Earls hung his head before a row of television cameras, staring down, his life upended. Days before, Mr. Earls had pulled out his handgun and opened fire, hoping to strike a man who had just robbed him and his wife at an A.T.M. in Houston.

Instead, he struck Arlene Alvarez, a 9-year-old girl seated in a passing pickup, killing her.

"Is Mr. Earls licensed to carry?" a reporter asked during the February news conference, in which his lawyer spoke for him.

He didn't need one, the lawyer replied. "Everything about that situation, we believe and contend, was justified under Texas law." A grand jury later agreed, declining to indict Mr. Earls for any crime.

The shooting was part of what many sheriffs, police leaders and district attorneys in urban areas of Texas say has been an increase in people carrying weapons and in spur-of-the-moment gunfire in the year since the state began allowing most adults 21 or over to carry a handgun without a license.

At the same time, mainly in rural counties, other sheriffs said they had seen little change, and proponents of gun rights said more people lawfully carrying guns could be part of why shootings have declined in some parts of the state.

Far from an outlier, Texas, with its new law, joined what has been an expanding effort to remove nearly all restrictions on carrying handguns. When Alabama's "permitless carry" law goes into effect in January, half of the states in the nation, in places as disparate as Maine and Arizona, will not require a license to carry a handgun.

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ILOS ANTONIO BEGALE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

After 8 Years, a Mystery Endures

Mexico said it had solved the abduction of 43 college students, but the case soon fell apart. Page A4.

The Mood of America Goes Up and Down With the Price of Gas

Pumps Shape Feelings on Cost of Living

By EMILY BADGER and EVE WASHINGTON

Ask Americans their outlook on the country — its future, its economy, its president — and their mood has risen and fallen in surveys this year in striking sync with the price of gas. Gas prices go up, and fear that the country is on the wrong track often does, too. Gas prices go down, and so does unhappiness with the president.

It's of course not the case that fuel prices alone dictate the optimism (or surliness) of the nation. But these patterns suggest that gas, distinct from other things we buy, wields real power over how Americans think about their personal circumstances, the wider economy and even the state of the nation. Yes, this year has been marked by economic uncertainty, Supreme Court shock waves, Jan. 6 revelations and enduring pandemic divides. But lurking in the background of it all has been the whipsawing price of gas.

And it is, by the way, now trending down again with two weeks to go to the election.

This year's turbulent prices — the national average peaked at over $5 in June, tumbled into September, then leveled off — have offered a real-time demonstration of

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Big Tech Feels Economic Chill As Sales Falter

Slump May Be Sign of Tough Days Ahead

By TRIPP MICKLE

Google this week reported a steep decline in profits. Social media companies such as Meta said that advertising sales — the heart of their businesses — have rapidly cooled off. And Microsoft, perhaps the tech industry's most reliable performer, predicted a slowdown through at least the end of the year.

Tech companies led the way for the U.S. economy over the past decade and buoyed the stock market during the worst days of the coronavirus pandemic. Now, amid stubborn inflation and rising interest rates, even the biggest giants of Silicon Valley are signaling that tough days may be ahead.

The companies are navigating the same problems as the rest of the economy. Pumped up by aggressive consumer spending during the pandemic, they invested to keep up with demand. Now, as that spending is slowing, they're trying to adjust. It hasn't been easy.

Amazon, which had 798,000 employees at the beginning of 2020, is reining in expansion of its warehousing operations, mothballing buildings, pulling out of leases and delaying plans to open facilities. The company employed 1.52 million people in the second quarter, almost 100,000 fewer than at the end of March.

Most companies would love to have the problems of the tech industry's leaders. Between them, Google and Microsoft made $31.5 billion in profits in their most recent quarter. On Thursday Apple is expected to say that it made more than $20 billion in profits in a quarter that will otherwise be considered a disappointment.

But their sudden slowdown is exposing a weakness. The big tech companies haven't really found a new, very profitable idea in years. Despite years of investment in new businesses, Google and Meta still rely mostly on ad sales. The iPhone, 15 years after it upended the industry, still drives Apple's profits.

That has left some of them vulnerable to the disruptive upstarts that they once were. YouTube, which is owned by Google, and Meta's Facebook and Instagram

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DEBATE SHOWING ELICITS WORRIES IN PENNSYLVANIA

PIVOTAL SENATE RACE

A Focus on Fetterman's Health and Abortion Comment by Oz

By LISA LERER and KATIE GLUECK

The debate performance on Tuesday night by Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, the Democratic nominee for Senate in Pennsylvania, left party officials newly anxious, injecting a fresh dose of unpredictability into one of the country's most important contests less than two weeks before Election Day.

Five months after surviving a serious stroke, Mr. Fetterman cut a sharp contrast with Mehmet Oz, a quick-spoken former talk show host, as he haltingly provided answers to questions using closed captioning to accommodate the auditory processing impairments he has been confronting. At times, Mr. Fetterman seemed to pause to seek the right words or offered a jumble of sentences to express his positions. In some cases, he contradicted himself or appeared to state the opposite of his actual view.

The contentious matchup between Mr. Fetterman and Dr. Oz, his Republican rival, was a kind of political duel rarely seen in American life, upending the traditional pageantry of rapid-fire debates.

Mr. Fetterman's performance thrust questions about health and disability into the center of the final weeks of a nearly deadlocked race. Even as doctors and disability rights advocates praised his delivery, saying that his speech did not reflect any cognitive impairment and that he had offered an inspiring model for others with disabilities, some Democrats worried that ordinary voters might see it differently.

"I was nervous before the debate began, and I'm still nervous," said Ed Rendell, a Democratic former governor of Pennsylvania, who added that the format — with 60-second answers and 15- and 30-second rebuttals — made it more difficult for Mr. Fetterman to respond fluidly. "You never know which way this goes."

One senior Democratic official

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How a Pillow Pitchman Became A Ringleader of Election Deniers

This article is by **Alexandra Berzon, Charles Homans and Ken Bensinger.**

Three days after federal agents seized his cellphone as part of an investigation into voting machine tampering, Mike Lindell seemed energized and ready to sell pillows.

He strode onstage at a rally of Trump supporters in western Idaho, defiantly waving a cellphone. Eric Trump greeted him with a hug.

"When they start attacking the MyPillow guy," the former president's son declared, "you know we have a large problem in this country."

Mr. Lindell, smiling broadly in a blue suit and red tie, leaned into the mic. "Use promo code 'FBI' to save up to 66 percent!" he yelled, raising his fist in the air. The crowd roared its approval.

And pillows were sold. On Sept. 14, the day after Mr. Lindell's encounter with the F.B.I., daily direct sales at his bedding business, MyPillow Inc., jumped to nearly $1 million, from $700,000 the day before, according to Mr. Lindell. Propelled by a blizzard of promotions, memes and interviews on right-wing media outlets, sales remained elevated for two days.

JOSHUA ROBERTS-BAAR FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mike Lindell, the C.E.O. of MyPillow, at a Trump rally.

American entrepreneurs have long mixed their business and political interests. But no one in recent memory has fused the two quite as completely as Mr. Lindell. In less than two years, the infomercial pitchman has transformed his company into an engine of the election denial movement, using his personal wealth and advertising dollars to propel the falsehood that the 2020 elec-

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES | News Corp ★★★★★ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022 - VOL. CCLXXX NO. 100 WSJ.com ★★★★ $5.00

DJIA 31839.11 ▲ 2.37 0.01% NASDAQ 10970.99 ▼ 2.0% STOXX 600 410.31 ▲ 0.7% 10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 23/32, yield 4.014% OIL $87.91 ▲ $2.59 GOLD $1,664.00 ▲ $11.20 EURO $1.0086 YEN 146.39

What's News

Business & Finance

Facebook parent Meta posted its second revenue decline in a row as the company confronts challenging conditions that have combined to shave more than half a trillion dollars from its market value so far this year. A1

◆ **The SEC voted** 3-2 to complete a rule that will make public companies take back executives' incentive pay if significant errors are found in financial statements. A1

◆ **Sales of newly built homes** dropped 10.9% in September from August, the latest sign that rising interest rates are causing an abrupt slowdown in the housing market. A2

◆ **Boeing said** its losses deepened in the third quarter as fresh problems with its defense business added to supply-chain and regulatory woes in its commercial-jet arm. B3

◆ **The S&P 500 and Nasdaq** lost 0.7% and 2%, respectively, dragged down by falling tech stocks, while the Dow edged up 0.01%. B12

◆ **Shares of Mobileye rose** 38% in their trading debut, providing a rare bright spot for an IPO market that is having its worst year in memory. B1

◆ **Credit Suisse is nearing** a deal to sell its securitized-products group to Apollo and Pimco, people familiar with the matter said. B1

◆ **Ford swung** to a third-quarter loss because of a hefty charge associated with the shutdown of its autonomous-driving venture Argo AI. B3

◆ **The Bank of Canada** raised its main interest rate by a smaller-than-expected half-percentage point to 3.75%. A9

World-Wide

◆ **With their narrow** majorities in Congress imperiled, some key Democrats are urging their midterm election candidates to confront head-on high inflation and economic anxiety and boost efforts to define Republicans as obstructing attempts to rein in costs facing Americans. A5

◆ **Ukraine called** for more air-defense systems from the West to defend against Russian missile-and-drone attacks that have targeted its energy infrastructure in recent weeks, a senior Ukrainian official said. A6

◆ **Iran was rocked** by unrest, with massive protests in Tehran and other parts of the country marking 40 days since the death of Mahsa Amini in police custody sparked an enforcement movement. A8

◆ **The DOJ's antitrust probe** of pro golf includes Augusta National Golf Club and the United States Golf Association, in addition to the PGA Tour, according to people familiar with the matter. A1

◆ **Three men were** convicted of plotting to kidnap Michigan Gov. Whitmer despite a defense that argued they were just talking about the crime with no intent of carrying it out. A3

◆ **A judge has ordered** Mark Meadows to testify before a special grand jury in Atlanta investigating efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. A5

◆ **A jury found** a Wisconsin man guilty of six counts of homicide for driving into a Christmas parade in Waukesha last year. A3

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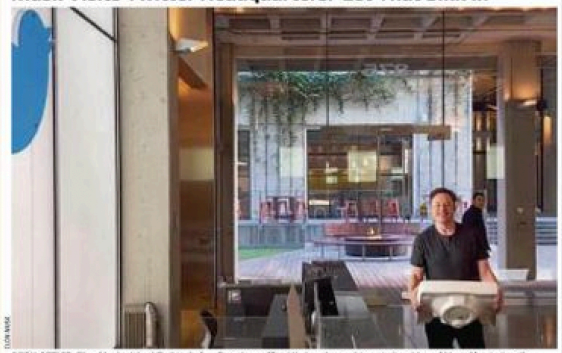
Musk Visits Twitter Headquarters: 'Let That Sink In'



ELON MUSK

OPEN OFFICE: Elon Musk visited Twitter's San Francisco office Wednesday and tweeted a video of himself entering the building carrying a sink, just days ahead of a deadline for him to complete his acquisition of the company. Banks backing the takeover started sending $13 billion in funding for the $44 billion deal, people familiar with the matter said. B1 and B4

SEC Rule to Hit Executives' Bonuses for Accounting Errors

By PAUL KIERNAN

WASHINGTON—Regulators will make public companies take back executives' incentive pay if they find significant errors in financial statements, aiming to improve corporate accountability at a time of rising shareholder discontent over pay practices.

The Securities and Exchange Commission voted 3-2 Wednesday to complete the so-called clawback rule, with all Democrats approving and Republicans dissenting. Required by the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act to discourage fraud and accounting mischief, the rule's implementation has been delayed for years.

The approved rule will apply clawback provisions broadly to public companies, extending a practice that has become widespread in compensation agreements set by corporate boards in recent years. However, those voluntary policies sometimes set a high bar for recouping previously awarded compensation and can be difficult to enforce. That has led some companies to withhold executives' incentive pay for longer periods to avoid the hassle of having to get it back after the fact.

SEC Chairman Gary Gensler, a Democrat appointed by President Biden, reopened a 2015 proposal, which was never implemented, last year to collect fresh public feedback on the idea.

The rule passed Wednesday requires companies to set up procedures for recovering erroneously awarded compensation whether or not there was misconduct involved. It is also broader than the 2015 proposal, which would have triggered clawbacks only if companies identified major accounting errors that required a restatement of prior years' financial results. Under the completed version, compa-

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Meta Losing Streak Rattles Investors

Facebook parent's stock plunges 20% after bell as its sales decline accelerates

By SALVADOR RODRIGUEZ

Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc. posted its second revenue decline in a row, as the social-media giant confronts a vortex of challenging business conditions that have combined to shave more than half a trillion dollars from its market value so far this year.

The company reported quarterly revenue of $27.7 billion, down more than 4% compared with a year ago, after posting a 1% decrease last quarter. Meta's share price fell more than 5% on Wednesday, amid a broad selloff of tech shares, and is now trading at a price last seen in 2017.

Meta shares dropped a further 20% in after-hours trading following the earnings report.

Meta is battling a host of challenges, including the tough macroeconomic climate, growing competition from rival TikTok and the fallout from Apple Inc. ad-tracking changes, all of which have taken a toll on its massive advertising business.

Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he is

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◆ **S&P 500, Nasdaq fall on weak tech profit reports...** B12

◆ **Heard on the Street: Meta's reverse darkens dream....** B12

Microsoft's Struggles Enter the Metaverse

Problems plagued HoloLens headset; 'We had the opportunity to own this market'

By AARON TILLEY

With its futuristic HoloLens headset, Microsoft Corp. grabbed an early lead in the race to the metaverse. Seven years later, its big push into augmented reality, which blends virtual imagery with views of the real world, has bumped up against the limits of the technology and the patience of company management.

The device, a ring-shaped computer worn like a crown that displays digital information on attached goggles, hasn't become a hit. Microsoft shelved a planned new version and has struggled to meet technical requirements for its biggest buyer, the U.S. Army.

More than 100 employees have left the HoloLens team over the past two years, including its longtime leader, according to former employees and LinkedIn profiles. Microsoft has restructured the group that developed the headsets, which has numbered more than 1,000, and trimmed its budget, part of a companywide effort to reduce expenses and the size of its workforce as earnings growth slows.

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INSIDE

PERSONAL JOURNAL
A possible convergence of the flu, RSV and Covid-19 this fall has doctors worried. A11

BUSINESS & FINANCE
Global demand for fossil fuels is forecast to peak starting later this decade. B1

Andreessen Made Big Bet on Crypto At a Tough Time

By ROBBIE JIN

As cryptocurrency prices soared last year, no investor bet more on the sector than Andreessen Horowitz.

The venture-capital firm had developed a reputation as Silicon Valley's greatest crypto bull, thanks largely to a 30-year-old partner named Chris Dixon who was one of the earliest evangelists for how the blockchain technology powering cryptocurrencies could change business. His unit was one of the most-active crypto investors last year and in May announced a $4.5 billion crypto fund, the largest ever for such investments.

The timing wasn't good.

Prices for bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies have plunged this year, erasing billions of dollars in paper gains for Andreessen's funds. Consumer demand has vanished for some of the firm's most-prized crypto startups, while others face increased scrutiny from regulators.

Andreessen's flagship crypto fund shed around 40% of its value in the first half of this year, according to people familiar with the matter. That decline is much larger than the 10% to 20% drops recorded by other venture funds, which have largely avoided the risky practice of purchasing volatile cryp-

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Now Toting AARP Cards: Gen Z

* * *

Young consumers join the group for the discounts

By VERONICA DAGHER

Some people dread receiving their AARP card in the mail. These young people can't wait.

A rite of passage for those 50 and older, an AARP membership also is drawing younger folks determined to get discounts to cope with inflation. They shamelessly flash their cards at restaurants, often confusing the wait staff and amazing and embarrassing their friends and family.

Morissa Schwartz, 28, couldn't believe it when she saw a TikTok of someone in his 30s saying young people could join AARP to score

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Federal Pro Golf Probe Eyes Augusta, USGA

By LOUISE RADNOFSKY AND ANDREW BEATON

The Justice Department's antitrust investigation into professional golf includes the powerhouse bodies Augusta National Golf Club and the United States Golf Association, in addition to the PGA Tour, according to people familiar with the matter.

The PGA Tour is battling the upstart, Saudi-backed LIV Golf's bid to establish a rival golf tour that has already lured away a number of star players. The DOJ antitrust division's scrutiny of the PGA Tour was first reported by The Wall Street Journal in July. Players' agents have received inquiries about the Tour's bylaws as they pertain to players' participation in non-PGA Tour events, and the Tour's actions relating to LIV Golf.

The DOJ investigation, however, is wider than was previously known, extending to some of the other most important bodies in golf. People familiar with the matter said those groups include Augusta National, which oversees the iconic Masters tournament each spring. The famously secretive club has produced documents for the Justice Department probe, those people said.

A spokeswoman for Augusta National declined to comment. Craig Waldman, a lawyer at Jones Day representing Augusta National in the matter, had no comment.

The USGA, which governs the sport in the U.S. and oversees the U.S. Open, also is a subject of the investigation, a USGA spokeswoman confirmed. The USGA intends to fully comply with any and all requests, the spokeswoman said.

The PGA of America, which is distinct from the PGA Tour and runs the PGA Championship, is another body whose actions are being examined as

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RANK	COMPANY	2021-02 REVENUE
No. 1	Palantir	$1,392M
No. 2	Microsoft	$1,252M
No. 3	IBM	$776M
No. 4	AWS	$688M
No. 5	Google	$536M

Source: SDC worldwide Artificial Intelligence Platforms Software Market Shares, 2021-10 Ranking Least 3+ More Unique Users Than Over (2020)

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The information presented in the table above has been compiled and analyzed by SDC using their proprietary methodology and information collected from various sources. The data presented in the table above covers the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Ranking criteria is based on Unique Users Than Over (2020) based on competitive SDC's website analytics which can include traffic, attention, and visits to competitive websites as the accuracy or completeness of the data contained in this report.