

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, plenty of sunshine with a warmer afternoon, high 80. Tonight, clear skies, low 60. Tomorrow, a good deal of sunshine, still warm, high 76. Weather map, Page A20.

All the News That's Fit to Print

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

L.G.B.T.Q. in Japan

Though same-sex unions remain outlawed in Japan and bullying remains a risk for children, those who are gay, transgender or nonbinary can find their own distinctive paths. A glimpse of their lives, hopes and fears. Pages A8-9.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bids for Votes Are Drowning 7 Swing States

This article is by Adam Nagourney, Alan Blinder, Julie Bosman, Benjamin Oreskes, Mitch Smith and Jonathan Weisman.

Electronic billboards along Route 22 in eastern Pennsylvania, usually a flickering procession of ads for car dealerships, are now flashing images of Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald J. Trump.

In Arizona, college students are opening their phones to text messages reminding them to vote for Ms. Harris.

For the vast majority of voters, the presidential election is playing out at something of a distance, to be followed on television, news sites, TikTok, Instagram, X, Substack, Facebook and blogs.

That is true in all seven of the swing states that will decide the winner of the Electoral College — Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Georgia, Nevada and Arizona — but particularly in states like Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and Nevada, where critical Senate and House contests are also being fought.

I'm a Pennsylvania native and have been through many election cycles in a state that is no stranger to high-profile competitive campaigns.

Continued on Page A15

Musk the Contractor vs. Musk the U.S. Adviser

This article is by Eric Lipton, David A. Fahrenthold, Aaron Krolik and Kirsten Grind.

WASHINGTON — Elon Musk's influence over the federal government is extraordinary, and extraordinarily lucrative.

Mr. Musk's rocket company, SpaceX, effectively dictates NASA's launch schedule. The Defense Department relies on him to get most of its satellites to orbit.

His entanglements with federal regulators are also numerous and adversarial. His companies have been targeted in at least 20 recent investigations or reviews, including over the safety of his Tesla cars and the environmental damage caused by his rockets.

Continued on Page A12

Conflict of Interest Seen If He Leads a Trump 'Efficiency' Panel

That would essentially give the world's richest man and a major government contractor the power to regulate the regulators who hold sway over his companies, amounting to a potentially enormous conflict of interest.

Through a review of court filings, regulatory dockets and government contracting data, The New York Times has compiled an accounting of Mr. Musk's multi-pronged business arrangements with the federal government, as well as the violations, fines, consent decrees and other inquiries federal agencies have ordered against his companies.

Given Mr. Musk's immense business footprint, he will be a major player no matter who wins the election.

But he has thrown his fortune and power behind former President Donald J. Trump and, in return, Mr. Trump has vowed to make Mr. Musk head of a new "government efficiency commission" with the power to recommend wide-ranging cuts at federal agencies and changes to rules.

Continued on Page A12

Trump Becomes the Star Of Harris's Closing Pitch

Democrat Shifts Strategy, Using His Words to Portray Him as Unfit to Serve

This article is by Jess Bidgood, Lisa Lerer and Michael Gold.

With the presidential race a dead heat two weeks before Election Day, Vice President Kamala Harris is moving aggressively to make sure voters in the battlegrounds remember precisely why they rejected Donald J. Trump four years ago.

Gone is the euphoria of her joyful first weeks as the Democratic presidential nominee. She is no longer trying simply to diminish the former president. Now, he looms large. Literally.

"See for yourself," she told a crowd in Ashwaubenon, Wis., on Thursday, gesturing to two large television screens installed at the rally.

The video screens lit up with a 40-second montage of Mr. Trump bragging about overturning Roe v. Wade.

As Ms. Harris stood watching like a late-night host observing the audience's reaction, the crowd booted and then began a chant of "Lock him up."

Deploying his words as her sharpest weapons, Ms. Harris is pointing to Mr. Trump's erratic behavior and increasingly outlandish and antidemocratic statements to paint him as unfit, unstable and, above all, too dangerous for another term.

"I do believe that Donald Trump is an unserious man," she said at a rally in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Friday.

Ms. Harris's pointed attacks on the former president are landing as she struggles to overtake his advantage on the economy, the issue that voters are most likely to prioritize.

Continued on Page A13

outreach to key constituencies that Democrats believe are repelled by Mr. Trump's polarizing style and divisive rhetoric.

She plans to spend the coming days wooing suburban women and moderates with a series of events featuring former Representative Liz Cheney, the highest-profile Republican to endorse her candidacy.

The strategy is a return to President Biden's original tack of amplifying Mr. Trump in order to force the contest into a referendum not on his administration, but the former president's words and deeds.

But it comes with a risk. Voters now view Mr. Trump slightly more favorably than they did when he left office, and surveys indicate that he is making inroads with new voters, including Black and Latino men, groups that could potentially be decisive on Election Day.

Mr. Trump's allies say his approach, a swaggering romp through purple and blue states alike that will take him to Madison Square Garden next week, is going to work — even if they can't quite say how or why.

"It's like dealing with a giraffe or a panda; you can't explain him in normal terms," said former Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Republican. He added, "I think Trump has reason to believe that the

Continued on Page A13

Palestinian's Dreams of Escape End in Flames Seen Worldwide

By BILAL SHBAIR and ERIKA SOLOMON

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip — He was the son his mother boasted about: He memorized the entire Quran as a boy, and rose to the top of his university class. He wanted to become a doctor.

Since Israel launched its devastating retaliation for the Hamas-led attack just over a year ago, Mr. al-Dalou had written impassioned pleas on social media, posted videos from his family's small plastic tent and even launched a GoFundMe page calling out to the world for help getting out of the Gaza Strip.

Instead, the world watched him burn to death.

Mr. al-Dalou, 19, was identified by his family as the young man helplessly waving his arms, engulfed in flames, in a video that has become a symbol of the horrors of war for Gazans, trapped inside their blockaded enclave as the international community looks on.

On Oct. 14, Israel said it conducted a "precision strike" on a Hamas command center operating near Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al Balah, a coastal city in central Gaza.

Continued on Page A6



AL-DALOU FAMILY, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shaaban al-Dalou, 19, in a photograph from his family.

national laws forbidding most attacks on medical facilities would ensure their safety.

The Israeli military said that the fire that erupted afterward was probably caused by "secondary explosions," without specifying what that meant. It added that "the incident is under review."

As fire consumed the Dalou family's tent, Mr. al-Dalou's father, Ahmed, ran back inside. He carried his young son, and then his two older daughters, out to safety.

"I could see him, sitting there, he was lifting his finger and praying," he said, referring to the Muslim shahada, a creed of faith recited upon birth and at death.

Continued on Page A6



JOHN TAGGART FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Stores have begun selling frightful wares earlier and earlier, a phenomenon called "holiday creep."

How Halloween Retail Became Its Own Monster

By AIMEE ORTIZ

On Nov. 1, 1876, The New York Times declared Halloween "departed," destined for the grave.

In 2024, consumers are expected to spend \$11.6 billion celebrating the holiday, up from \$3.3 billion in 2005. Perhaps it is time to eat some crow.

Continued on Page A15

has transformed from a pagan feast to a celebration with lovingly homemade costumes and treats to one of the largest consumer spending holidays in the United States.

did this holiday with humble origins become an economic juggernaut with growing global appeal? Halloween is a marketer's dream, said Tom Arnold, a finance professor and retail expert at the University of Richmond.

Continued on Page A16



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Lining Up to Lead Oxford

This year, a particularly broad range of people have applied for the university's chancellor role.

PAGE A4

Pivotal Choice for Moldovans

Voters are weighing whether to enshrine an "irreversible" commitment to abandon Russian influence.

PAGE A4

BUSINESS B1-6

Trust in a Man's Method

Seth Keshel has become a darling among 2020 conspiracy theorists by factoring voter fraud claims, though dismissed, into his predictions.

PAGE B1

Threatening the Media

If elected, Donald J. Trump would have some influence with the federal regulators who oversee TV networks.

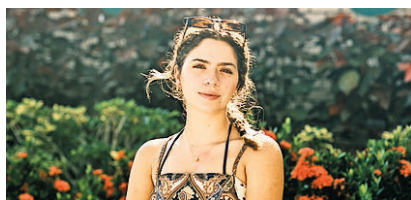
PAGE B1

OBITUARIES B7-8

Producer of Classical Music

A trained violinist, Adam Abeshouse possessed technical brilliance in the studio control room. He was 63.

PAGE B8



NATIONAL A11-16, 20

Awaiting Promised Visas

A program that offers immigrant victims of crime a chance to stay in the U.S. leaves many in limbo.

PAGE A11

A Fatal Gangway Collapse

The accident at a ferry boarding area on Sapelo Island, Ga., killed seven people and hospitalized three.

PAGE A16

SPORTS D1-8

N.B.A. Season Preview

A look at some of the key players and bold predictions, and an examination of why the salary cap has brought about an absence of repeat champions in recent years.

PAGES D1-6

A Wild Football Weekend

In an upset, the defense of No. 5 Georgia unleashed havoc against the offense of No. 1 Texas, while an Alabama team that is in its first season under Coach Kalen DeBoer is faltering.

PAGE D7

OPINION A18-19

Neal K. Katyal

PAGE A18



ARTS C1-6

An Architect's Rise and Fall

Some of Paul Rudolph's Brutalist works, praised decades ago, have been demolished. Above, the Burroughs Wellcome building in North Carolina.

PAGE C1

