

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, sunny, brisk, breezy, high 44.
Tonight, mainly clear, cold, low 34.
Tomorrow, partly cloudy, rain in the
afternoon, continuing overnight,
high 46. Weather map, Page D8.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

Invisible Battle Is Being Fought Above Ukraine

Control of Radio Waves Pivotal for Weapons

By **PAUL MOZUR**
and **AARON KROLIK**

KYIV, Ukraine — The drones began crashing on Ukraine's front lines, with little explanation. For months, the aerial vehicles supplied by Quantum Systems, a German technology firm, had worked smoothly for Ukraine's military, swooping through the air to spot enemy tanks and troops in the country's war against Russia. Then late last year, the machines abruptly started falling from the sky as they returned from missions.

"It was this mystery," said Sven Kruck, a Quantum executive who received a stern letter from Ukraine's Ministry of Defense demanding a fix.

Quantum's engineers soon homed in on the issue: Russians were jamming the wireless signals that connected the drones to the satellites they relied on for navigation, leading the machines to lose their way and plummet to earth. To adjust, Quantum developed artificial intelligence-powered software to act as a kind of secondary pilot and added a manual option so the drones could be landed with an Xbox controller. The company also built a service center to monitor Russia's electronic attacks.

"All we could do is get information from the operators, try to find out what wasn't working, test and try again," Mr. Kruck said.

A battle is raging in Ukraine in the invisible realm of electromagnetic waves, with radio signals being used to overwhelm communication links to drones and troops, locate targets and trick guided weapons. Known as electronic warfare, the tactics have turned into a cat-and-mouse game between Russia and Ukraine, quietly driving momentum swings in the 21-month old conflict and forcing engineers to adapt.

"Electronic warfare has impacted the fighting in Ukraine as much as weather and terrain," said Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, a think tank in Washington, adding that every operation in the conflict now has to take into account enemy moves in the electromagnetic spectrum.

Electronic warfare has been a feature of wars for more than 100 years. During World War II, the British mimicked German radio signals to deceive targeting systems that bombers used, which Winston Churchill popularized as the "battle of the beams." In the Cold War, the Soviet Union invested heavily in electronic weapons to gain an asymmetric advantage against the missiles and planes from the United States.

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MOHAMMED ABED/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

A medic cared for premature babies taken to a hospital in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday from Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

In Mortgages, Inequity Finds 30-Year Home

By **BEN CASSELMAN**

Buying a home was hard before the pandemic. Somehow, it keeps getting harder.

Prices, already sky-high, have gotten even higher, up nearly 40 percent over the last three years. Available homes have gotten scarcer: Listings are down nearly 20 percent over the same period. And now interest rates have soared to a 20-year high, eroding buying power without — in defiance of normal economic logic — doing much to dent prices.

None of which, of course, is a problem for people who already own homes. They have been insulated from rising interest rates and, to a degree, from rising consumer prices. Their homes are worth more than ever. Their monthly housing costs are, for the most part, locked in place.

The reason for that divide — a big part of it, anyway — is a unique, ubiquitous feature of the U.S. housing market: the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage.

That mortgage has been so common for so long that it can be easy to forget how strange it is. Because the interest rate is fixed, homeowners get to freeze their monthly loan payments for as much as three decades, even if inflation picks up or interest rates rise. But because most U.S. mort-

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Stress of War Snaps an Informal Back Channel

By **PATRICK KINGSLEY**

JERUSALEM — For 17 years, on and off, two men maintained a secret line of communication between Israel and Hamas, the armed Palestinian group that opposes Israel's existence.

Starting in 2006, Gershon Baskin, an Israeli peace activist based in Jerusalem, and Ghazi Hamad, a senior Hamas official in Gaza, nurtured an informal back channel between officials in Jerusalem and in Gaza, even as each side refused to engage with the other directly.

The men's relationship survived countless rounds of violence between Israel and Hamas, and helped end several of them.

Even after Oct. 7, when Hamas and its allies raided Israel, killed an estimated 1,200 people and kidnapped roughly 240 others, according to Israeli officials, Mr. Baskin and Mr. Hamad kept in contact, including discussing a deal to release some hostages. As Israeli warplanes pounded Hamas-controlled Gaza, killing more than 10,000 Gazans, according to Gaza's health authorities, their unlikely relationship endured.

Then, something snapped. The impact of the Hamas-led attack has shattered the idea that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could be perpetually contained without being resolved. It has since displaced more than 1.5 million, mostly in Gaza, and brought the Middle East to the brink of a regional war.

And one of its more intimate

2 Men Enabled Israel and Hamas to Talk

consequences has been the falling-out between Mr. Baskin and Mr. Hamad.

On Oct. 24, Mr. Hamad began publicly justifying Hamas's assault and calling for additional attacks. "The existence of Israel is what causes all that pain, blood

and tears. It is Israel, not us," he said in a televised interview, adding, "Everything we do is justified."

A week later, Mr. Baskin watched the interview, aghast.

"I think you have lost your mind and you have lost your moral code," he wrote in a text message to Mr. Hamad that Mr. Baskin later showed to The New York Times.

"I never want to speak to you

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Even the Young Get C.T.E.

They loved football as kids. Some stopped playing and only a few came close to the pros. Yet they all died with C.T.E., the degenerative brain disease, before reaching 30. Grieving families are left wondering if children should play football at all. Page D1.

Argentina Elects Milei in Victory for Far Right

By **JACK NICAS**

Argentines on Sunday chose Javier Milei, a far-right libertarian who has drawn comparisons to Donald J. Trump, as their next president, a lurch to the right for a nation struggling under an economic crisis and a sign of the enduring strength of the global far right.

Mr. Milei, 53, an economist and former television personality, has

Former TV Personality Likened to Trump

burst onto the traditionally closed Argentine political scene with a brash style, an embrace of conspiracy theories and a series of extreme proposals that he says are needed to upend a broken economy and government.

Sergio Massa, 51, Argentina's center-left economy minister, conceded defeat even before official results were released because the campaigns' early numbers showed he had been defeated.

As president, Mr. Milei has pledged to slash spending and taxes, close Argentina's central bank and replace the nation's currency with the U.S. dollar. He has also proposed banning abortion,

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ROSALYNN CARTER, 1927-2023

First Lady and Influential Partner to a President

By **KATHARINE Q. SEELYE**

Rosalynn Carter, a true life partner to Jimmy Carter who helped propel him from rural Georgia to the White House in a single decade and became the most politically active first lady since Eleanor Roosevelt, died on Sunday in Plains, Ga. She was 96.

The Carter Center in Atlanta announced her death. It had disclosed on May 30 that Mrs. Carter had dementia. "She continues to live happily at home with her husband, enjoying spring in Plains and visits with loved ones," a statement by the center said at the time. On Friday, the center said she had entered hospice care at home.

Mr. Carter, 99, the longest-living



KATHRYN SCOTT/THE OREGONIAN, VIA AP

president in American history, has also been in hospice care at their home, but he has defied expectations. The Carter Center had announced in February that he was stopping full-scale medical care "after a series of short hospital

stays," and his family was preparing for the end. But he has hung on — and celebrated his most recent birthday on Oct. 1.

Mrs. Carter was the second longest-lived first lady; Bess Truman, the widow of President Harry S. Truman, was 97 when she died in 1982.

Over their nearly eight decades together, Mr. and Mrs. Carter forged the closest of bonds, developing a personal and professional symbiosis remarkable for its sheer longevity.

Their extraordinary union began formally with their marriage in 1946, but, in a manner of speaking, it began long before that, with a touch of kismet, just after Rosalynn (pronounced ROSE-a-lynn)

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INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Rebuilding in Morocco

Experts say the country should preserve its cultural heritage, while also building quake-resistant homes. But for now, many are living in tents. PAGE A4

Storm Left a Deadly Trail

Hurricane Otis inflicted its worst blow on boat workers who are a pillar of the tourism industry. PAGE A5

OBITUARIES A17-19, 22

Soviet Pilot and Defector

When he fled in 1976, Viktor Belenko brought with him a much-feared secret weapon. He was 76. PAGE A22

NATIONAL A11-16

A Mother's Search for Answers

Bettersten Wade went months without being told that an off-duty officer driving an S.U.V. had killed her son. PAGE A16

A Lake in Death Valley?

Visitors flock to Death Valley to take in the barren landscape. But this fall, they've been drawn by water. PAGE A11



BUSINESS B1-6

Apple's Grip on Your iPhone

The tech company codes its popular devices with software that complicates repairs by triggering safety warnings and malfunctions. PAGE B1

China Tries to Raze a Crisis

The halting revitalization of one "urban village" in Shenzhen shows the challenges of fixing a real estate crash after years of overborrowing. PAGE B1

Crypto's 'Salvation' Fuels Prices

Investors anticipate regulatory approval of an exchange traded fund linked to Bitcoin, which they hope will encourage more people to invest. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-6

Building Upon a Star

An Off Broadway jukebox musical features hits by Alicia Keys (including "Fallin'"; "If I Ain't Got You" and "No One") and a story much like her own. Jesse Green has the review. PAGE C1

Victorious at Latin Grammys

Top honors at the awards show went to women: Karol G, Shakira and Natalia Lafourcade. The ceremony took place in Seville, Spain, the first time it was held outside the United States. PAGE C3

OPINION A20-21

Mark Chiusano

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SPORTS D1-6

Formula 1 Wins Big Bet

The Las Vegas Grand Prix overcame many hurdles to deliver one of the season's best races, which was won by Red Bull's Max Verstappen. PAGE D6

