

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

How Money, Ego and Fear Lit A.I.’s Fuse

A Heated Competition,
Fueled by Distrust

This article is by **Cade Metz, Karen Weise, Nico Grant and Mike Isaac.**

SAN FRANCISCO — Elon Musk celebrated his 44th birthday in July 2015 at a three-day party thrown by his wife at a California wine country resort dotted with cabins. It was family and friends only, with children racing around the upscale property in Napa Valley.

This was years before Twitter

THE A.I. RACE

Promise and Peril

became X and Tesla had a profitable year. Mr. Musk and his wife, Talulah Riley — an actress who played a beautiful but dangerous robot on HBO’s science fiction series “Westworld” — were a year from throwing in the towel on their second marriage. Larry Page, a party guest, was still the chief executive of Google. And artificial intelligence had pierced the public consciousness only a few years before, when it was used to identify cats on YouTube — with 16 percent accuracy.

A.I. was the big topic of conversation when Mr. Musk and Mr. Page sat down near a firepit beside a swimming pool after dinner the first night. The two billionaires had been friends for more than a decade, and Mr. Musk sometimes joked that he occasionally crashed on Mr. Page’s sofa after a night playing video games.

But the tone that clear night soon turned contentious as the two debated whether artificial intelligence would ultimately elevate humanity or destroy it.

As the discussion stretched into the chilly hours, it grew intense, and some of the more than 30 partiers gathered closer to listen. Mr. Page, hampered for more than a decade by an unusual ailment in his vocal cords, described his vision of a digital utopia in a whisper. Humans would eventually merge with artificially intelligent machines, he said. One day there would be many kinds of intelligence competing for resources, and the best would win.

If that happens, Mr. Musk said, we’re doomed. The machines will destroy humanity.

With a rasp of frustration, Mr. Page insisted his utopia should be pursued. Finally he called Mr. Musk a “specieist,” a person who favors humans over the digital life-forms of the future.

That insult, Mr. Musk said later, was “the last straw.”

Many in the crowd seemed gobsmacked, if amused, as they dis-

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A crater left by an Israeli airstrike Sunday in Rafah, in southern Gaza. It was unclear whether a southern ground invasion had begun.

Displaced Gazans Crowd Shelters, Hospitals and Strangers’ Homes

An estimated 1.8 million Palestinians have been forced to flee their homes since Israel began its bombardment of Gaza. As Israel orders new evacuations, data shows displaced Gazans have not been protected from fighting. Page A10.

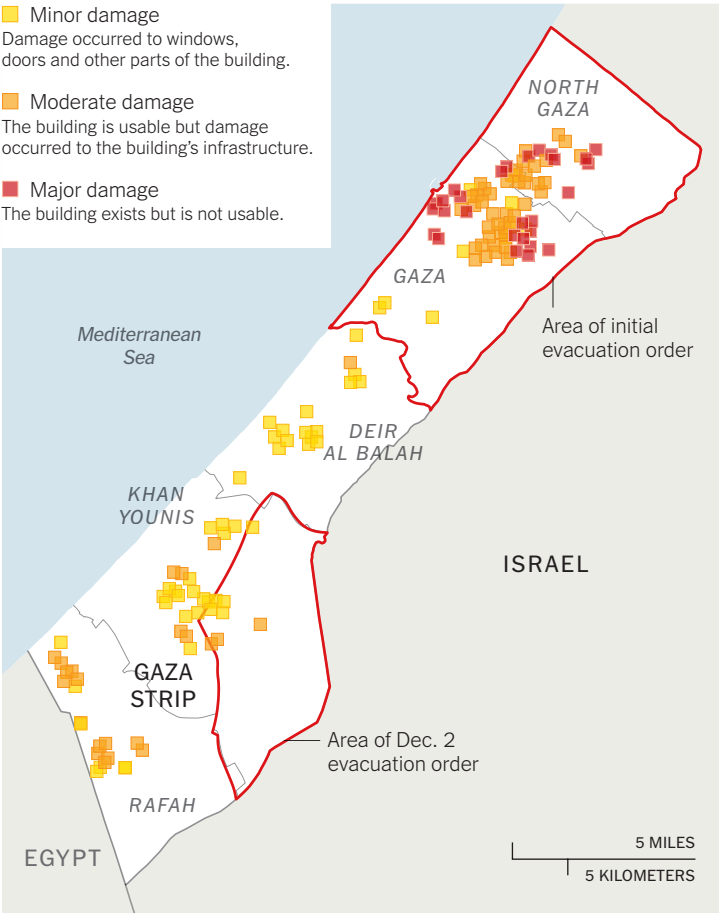
Where displaced people are staying at U.N. and government shelters



Note: Shelter locations shown are primarily schools; data for medical facilities and other buildings serving as shelters was not available. Data as of Nov. 28.

Sources: ReliefWeb Response (shelter populations); UNICEF (shelter damage); Israeli military (evacuation zone boundaries)

Schools that have sheltered displaced people and have been damaged



Note: Map includes government schools only. Data as of Dec. 1.

ZACH LEVITT AND AMY SCHOENFELD WALKER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE WEATHER

Today, clouds and sun, breezy, high 53. **Tonight**, partly to mostly cloudy, breezy, low 39. **Tomorrow**, sun and patchy clouds, brisk and cooler, high 46. Weather map is on Page D8.

ISRAEL IS URGING GAZANS IN SOUTH TO DECAMP AGAIN

OFFENSIVE IS GROWING

Civilians Are Directed to
Tiny Areas That Are
Already Overrun

This article is by **Vivian Yee, Ameerah Harouda and Thomas Fuller.**

Amid a barrage of airstrikes, Israel sharply expanded its evacuation orders in the Gaza Strip on Sunday in preparation for an expected ground invasion in the southern part of the territory.

The new orders, coming three days after the collapse of a week-long truce, sowed confusion and fear among Gaza residents, some of whom have already been displaced at least once before.

Images from Gaza on Sunday showed plumes of dark smoke rising above a rubble-covered landscape and bloodied children waiting in dust-covered hospital wards. Mourners stood beside rows of bodies wrapped in white sheets.

Late Sunday night, a military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said Israel “continues and expands its ground operations against Hamas strongholds all across the Gaza Strip,” but did not elaborate.

Military officials declined to comment on whether Rear Admiral Hagari’s comments meant an Israeli ground invasion of the south had begun.

Ashraf al-Qudra, a spokesman for the Health Ministry in Gaza, said Israeli airstrikes had killed more than 15,500 people since Oct. 7, when Israel began its assault after Hamas militants crossed the border into Israel and killed 1,200 people.

The Israeli military said over the weekend that it had approved plans for a larger ground invasion. Israeli forces have already taken control of large parts in and around Gaza City following a ground invasion from the north. The Times of Israel quoted Israeli officials saying on Sunday that the Israeli military had launched 10,000 airstrikes since the initial ground invasion.

John F. Kirby, the spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council, defended the Israeli military on Sunday, saying he believed “they have been receptive to our messages here of trying to minimize civilian casualties.”

“There’s not a whole lot of modern militaries,” Mr. Kirby said, that would “telegraph” their actions, referring to Israel’s evacuation orders to civilians. “So they

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Supreme Court to Rule on Deal Worth Billions to Opioid Victims

By **JAN HOFFMAN**

In 2014, when the first opioid lawsuits were filed against Purdue Pharma, Tiffinee Scott’s daughter was still years away from her fatal overdose from addictive prescription painkillers, including Purdue’s OxyContin, which she was taking to manage sickle cell pain.

That year, Dede Yoder’s teenage son was struggling with an addiction that began with an OxyContin prescription for a sports injury. He would die from an overdose in 2017, after attempting rehab eight times.

It would be years before Gary Carter’s son, who had been filching his grandparents’ OxyContin, would die from an overdose of fentanyl, an illicit opioid that many people who became addicted to prescription painkillers eventu-

The Sacklers’ Liability Is Also on the Line

ally turned to over the past decade.

The three families and others who have ended up suing Purdue shared their stories in letters to the Supreme Court, which will hear oral argument Monday on the remaining sticking point in the yearslong effort to settle litigation that has ballooned into nearly 3,000 cases. A multi-billion-dollar agreement is at stake.

A ruling upholding the disputed provision would finally start the flow of payments from the company and its owners — members of the billionaire Sackler family — to cities, states, tribes and individuals.

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Exiting the Corridors of Power To Parties Spangled With Stars

By **JACOB BERNSTEIN**

Henry A. Kissinger, the powerful diplomat who was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize and accused of being a war criminal for his realpolitik approach to foreign affairs, had a kind of second career on the society circuit, especially in the years after he served as secretary of state under Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

Even as he published heavyweight books and advised presidents and business leaders on geopolitical matters, Mr. Kissinger, who died at his second home in Kent, Conn., at age 100 on Wednesday, was a frequent presence in gossip columns.

His intellectual pursuits and social aspirations fortified each other as he moved with pirouette precision through benefit galas and became part of the scene at

Politics and Celebrity Mingled for Kissinger

Studio 54. He beat Donald J. Trump, whom he advised late in life, to the idea that celebrity and politics are not separate spheres in American life, and he made sure that he was firmly entrenched in both.

“Henry was not designed for intellectual monasteries,” said the diplomat Richard Haass, who, as the former president of the Council on Foreign Relations, often booked Mr. Kissinger to speak at events on global politics. “He was designed to be around people.”

“Henry had a rare conceptual intelligence,” Mr. Haass continued. “He could connect dots and

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Activists, Citing Religion, Aiming To Limit Child Vaccine Mandates

By **SHERYL GAY STOLBERG**

JACKSON, Miss. — For more than 40 years, Mississippi had one of the strictest school vaccination requirements in the nation, and its high childhood immunization rates have been a source of pride. But in July, the state began excusing children from vaccination if their parents cited religious objections, after a federal judge sided with a “medical freedom” group.

Today, 2,100 Mississippi schoolchildren are officially exempt from vaccination on religious grounds. Five hundred more are exempt because their health precludes vaccination. Dr. Daniel P. Edney, the state health officer, warns that if the total number of exemptions climbs above 3,000, Mississippi will once again face the risk of deadly diseases that are now just a memory.

Some Experts Warn of Disease Rebound

“For the last 40 years, our main goal has been to protect those children at highest risk of measles, mumps, rubella, polio,” Dr. Edney said in an interview, “and that’s those children that have chronic illnesses that make them more vulnerable.” He called the ruling “a very bitter pill for me to swallow.”

Mississippi is not an isolated case. Buoyed by their success at overturning coronavirus mandates, medical and religious freedom groups are taking aim at a new target: childhood school vaccine mandates, long considered the foundation of the nation’s de-

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NATIONAL A12-19

Watch Them Appear

Only about 8 percent of stage magicians are women. A new generation of performers wants to change that. Page A12

Faculty Dismay in Florida

Liberal-leaning professors are leaving coveted jobs, and recruiting scholars has perhaps become harder. Page A16

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Refugees in Germany Feel Torn

Displaced Ukrainians were welcomed with safety, services and jobs. But as the war at home grinds on, giving that up is not a simple decision. Page A11

Climate Summit Considers A.I.

The idea of using A.I. to fight emissions is intriguing, but the energy it requires could make matters worse. Page A8

OBITUARIES B7-8

A Model of Sophistication

Mica Ertegun was known for her glamorous interior design and for her philanthropy. She was 97. Page B8



BUSINESS B1-6

Long Trek From China to U.S.

Navigating the perilous Darién Gap is a risk worth taking for migrants who have lost hope in Beijing. Page B1

Hawaiian Airlines to Be Sold

Alaska Airlines’ deal, valued at \$1.9 billion, is likely to face close scrutiny by federal antitrust regulators. Page B1

SPORTS D1-7

Unbeaten and Left Out

Florida State, which lost its star quarterback, did not make the College Football Playoff field. One-loss Texas and Alabama did, as did unbeaten Michigan and Washington. Page D1

Big Names on the Move?

Baseball’s winter meetings will be held this week. Some top stars could be involved in blockbuster trades. Here are some of the possibilities, including a big addition for the Yankees. Page D2

OPINION A20-21

Jesse Wegman

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ARTS C1-6

A Commanding Presence

Beyoncé’s new concert film provides a look at “an entertainer at peak command of her art and therefore herself,” Wesley Morris writes. Page C1

