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THE WEATHER

Today, mostly cloudy skies, cool, high 63. **Tonight,** cloudy, spotty showers, steadier rain overnight, low 49. Tomorrow, spotty rain, cool,

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

Fighting Tears, Trump Ex-Aide Recalls Crises

Hicks Testimony Could Help Either Side

This article is by Ben Protess, Jonah E. Bromwich, Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan.

Her voice low, her posture tense, the woman who spent years steering Donald J. Trump through strife and scandal stepped to the witness stand on Friday carrying a different burden. She was there under the fluorescent lights of a dreary Manhattan courtroom, seated 15 feet from the former president she once fiercely defended, to testify at his criminal

"I'm really nervous," Hope Hicks, the onetime Trump spokeswoman, messaging maestro and all-around adviser, acknowledged to the prosecutor questioning her, declaring what was already obvious to the riveted courtroom.

Ms. Hicks's unease came to a head hours later as Mr. Trump's lawyer began to cross-examine her — and she began to cry As her voice cracked, Mr. Trump locked his eyes on her.

The question that initially unnerved Ms. Hicks was about her time at the Trump Organization, the family's business, where she had fond memories of working. Ms. Hicks left the stand, and the trial paused so that she could compose herself. She returned minutes later to continue her testimony, occasionally dabbing her eyes with a tissue.

The striking show of emotion reflected Ms. Hicks's discomfort with testifying against a man who launched her career and entrusted her with his reputation.



Donald J. Trump at one point

Each time the questioning conjured up another memory of working for Mr. Trump — at his company, on his campaign and finally in his White House - Ms. Hicks appeared to fight back tears.

locked eyes on his ex-press aide.

Ms. Hicks, who fell out of favor with Mr. Trump once it emerged that she had privately voiced anger at the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol by his supporters, said in her testimony that they had not spoken in nearly two years.

Mr. Trump, who faces up to four

vears in prison if convicted, is on trial for 34 felony charges of falsifying records to cover up a sex scandal involving a porn star. The case, brought by the Manhattan district attorney's office, is the

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In Taiwan, a Spectacle Grounded in Spirituality

Elaborate pilgrimages for Mazu, a sea goddess, were once dominated by older people but are attracting younger audiences. Page A8.

Congressman Faces Charges Of Bribery Plot

By GLENN THRUSH and LUKE BROADWATER

WASHINGTON - Representative Henry Cuellar, a Texas Democrat in a crucial swing district, and his wife were charged with participating in a yearslong \$600,000 bribery scheme involving Azerbaijan and a Mexican bank, according to a federal indictment unsealed in Houston on Friday.

The accusations against Mr. Cuellar, 68, and his wife Imelda, 67, center on allegations of bribery and money laundering in connection with their efforts on behalf of an oil and gas company owned by Azerbaijan's leaders as well as an unnamed bank based in Mexico City, according to the 54-page complaint.

Mr. Cuellar, a Laredo native first elected in 2004, is also accused of acting as an agent of a foreign entity while a U.S. government official — by delivering a speech favoring Azerbaijan in Congress and inserting provisions into aid bills to benefit those who were paying bribes to his family.

The government claimed that Mr. Cuellar, who once served as Texas secretary of state, was paid to back legislation intended to stymie regulation of the payday loan industry, which has been accused of predatory lending practices against the poor. He also tried to weaken money laundering laws that affected Mexico's banking sector, according to pros-

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Mortar Crews Reporting Signs of Brain Injuries

By DAVE PHILIPPS

After firing about 10,000 mortar rounds during four years of training, one soldier who joined the Army with near-perfect scores on the military aptitude test was struggling to read or do basic

Another soldier started having unexplained fits in which his internal sense of time would suddenly come unmoored, sending everything around him whirling in fast-forward.

A third, Sgt. Michael Devaul,

Grim Symptoms After Years of Training at U.S. Army Bases

drove home from a day of mortar training in such a daze that he pulled into a driveway, only to realize that he was not at his house but at his parents' house an hour away. He had no idea how he got

"Guys are getting destroyed,"

said Sergeant Devaul, who has fired mortars in the Missouri National Guard for more than 10 years. "Heads pounding, not being able to think straight or walk straight. You go to the medic. They say you are just dehydrated, drink water."

All three soldiers fired the 120millimeter heavy mortar - a steel tube about the height of a man, used widely in training and combat, that unleashes enough explosive force to hurl a 31-pound bomb four miles. The heads of the sol-

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Played in England, Watched Globally

This season's Premier League title race draws eyes everywhere, including Nigeria, above. Page B9.

ISRAEL WEIGHING **DEAL WITH ARABS** IN POSTWAR GAZA

A POWER-SHARING PLAN

Resistance Is Likely, but Idea May Be Starting Point for Talks

By PATRICK KINGSLEY

JERUSALEM — For months. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has avoided detailed public discussion about Gaza's postwar future. Trying to placate both his far-right allies, who seek to rebuild Israeli settlements in Gaza, and Israel's foreign partners, who want Gaza returned to Palestinian governance, Mr. Netanyahu has stopped short of any specific declaration.

Behind the scenes, however, senior officials in his office have been weighing an expansive plan for postwar Gaza, in which Israel would offer to share oversight of the territory with an alliance of Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the United States, according to three Israeli officials and five people who have discussed the plan with members of the Israeli government.

According to that proposal, Israel would do so in exchange for normalized relations between itself and Saudi Arabia, according to the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity given the sensitivity of the matter.

Far-right members of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition are almost certain to dismiss such an idea, and so are the Arab countries mentioned as possible participants. But it is the clearest sign yet that officials at the highest levels of Israel's government are thinking about Gaza's postwar future, despite saying little in public, and could be a starting point in future negotiations

The disclosure comes against the backdrop of intense international efforts to get Israel and Hamas to agree to a cease-fire that could become a permanent truce, and it follows growing pressure on Israel to plan for what comes next. Israel's reluctance to determine how to govern Gaza has created a power vacuum in much of the territory, leading to lawlessness and worsening the dire humanitarian situation.

Arab officials and analysts have called the power-sharing plan unworkable because it does not create an explicit path toward a Palestinian state, which the Emirati and Saudi governments have said is a prerequisite for their involvement in postwar planning. But others have cautiously welcomed the proposal because it at least greater suggests flexibility among Israeli leaders than their public statements indicate.

Under the proposal, the Arab-Israeli alliance, working with the United States, would appoint Gazan leaders to redevelop the devastated territory, overhaul its education system and maintain

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Taking His Bronx Cheers to the Kentucky Derby As Students Revolt, Some Professors Join Them

By JOE DRAPE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — In the world according to Mike Repole, everyone involved in horse racing is a dummy. Except him, Mike from Queens or the Commish, as some of his followers on X call Stuart S. Janney III, chairman

of the nonprofit Jockey Club, is

clueless and tone-deaf and has run the sport into the ground, Repole says. Churchill Downs Inc., which hosts the Kentucky Derby, is cheap: The \$5 million purse for America's most famous race should be much more, and the racetrack treats Repole and other owners badly.

Forget about John Stewart, a new owner bringing fresh energy

and big money into the game. He is "arrogant, free-spending" and such a rube that he has an "\$8

All the above, and many others, are among Repole's frequent targets on social media and various podcasts. Repole, a prominent horse owner who made his fortune in the beverage industry,

Continued on Page A20

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

Earlier this week, some faculty members at the University of California, Los Angeles, had an emergency call with students who were active in the pro-Palestinian pro-

"We just got a really clear message from them: 'We feel unsafe, and we'd like your help in fixing

associate professor of political sci-

this," recalled Graeme Blair, an

In that moment, several dozen faculty activists volunteered to join the students in shifts around the clock at their encampment on campus.

And in the dark hours of Thursday morning, as the police cracked down on the protests, those faculty members were linking arms with students, allowing themselves to be arrested.

It was one of the clearest instances of a little-noted fact of the student demonstrations against the war in Gaza — that a small fraction of faculty members at U.C.L.A., Columbia and other universities have provided logistical

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INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Trouble for U.K. Conservatives

Local election losses absorbed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's party sent an ominous message about its chances in a coming general election.

NATIONAL A11-20

NASA Losing Eyes on Earth

Three aging satellites will soon go dark, making it more difficult for scientists to forecast weather, manage wildfires and monitor ozone levels

BUSINESS B1-6

U.S. Job Market Eases

Employers added 175,000 jobs in April, a milder pace than in the winter months, though layoffs were low and most sectors appear stable.

ARTS C1-6

On the Piers and in the Street Stanley Stellar has been documenting

gay New York since the 1970s. His photographs are on view this weekend at the Frieze New York art fair. PAGE C1 OPINION A22-23

Michelle Cottle

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