Tonight, cloudy, humid, thunder-storms, low 72. **Tomorrow,** cloudy,

humid, heavy thunderstorms, high 80. Weather map is on Page B10.

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Hezbollah Sees

Risks at Home

In Israel Attack

Backlash in Lebanon

By MARIA ABI-HABIB

and HWAIDA SAAD

a senior commander of the Leba-

nese militant faction Hezbollah,

weeks later, however, the re-

Lebanon is already deep in tur-

and economic crisis, and its citi-

zens are tired of strife. The coun-

for years by an ineffectual care-

Iran-backed Shiite Muslim group,

is both part of that coalition gov-

As the dominant political and military force in the entire coun-

try, Hezbollah has everything to

lose and knows it must tread care-

The group has cemented its po-

sition over the last three decades

after outmaneuvering its domes-

tic foes in a political system that

divides power by sect. The group

has amassed a large and potent

arsenal and is more powerful than

benefit from a plethora of services

run by Hezbollah, including qual-

ity health care, free education and

even a boy scouts program. Mean-

while, a broken and broke Leba-

nese state struggles to provide

even the most basic services, such

as electricity, for all its citizens.

And no other political party has

the funds or organization to pro-

vide for their own sect as well as

Continued on Page A6

Hezbollah.

power underpinning Lebanon.

risks of a backlash at home.

well turn against it.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024

Prices in Canada may be higher

HARRIS LAYS OUT **ECONOMIC VISION**

\$4.00

DRAWING A CONTRAST

FOR MIDDLE CLASS

She Says Policies Look to **Future While Trump** Looks to Past

This article is by Erica L. Green, Jim Tankersley and Nicholas Ne-

hamas.

RALEIGH, N.C. — Vice President Kamala Harris unspooled her economic agenda on Friday in her first major policy address, casting her vision as one for the future and former President Donald J. Trump's as of the past, as she argued that she would improve the lives of middle-class Americans and benefit generations of their descendants.

In a roughly 30-minute speech in Raleigh, N.C., she painted a sharp contrast between herself and Mr. Trump, who has spent more time attacking President Biden's economic policies than laying out his own.

'This election, I do strongly believe, is about two very different visions for our nation," Ms. Harris said. "One — ours — focused on the future and the other focused on the past. We see that contrast clearly in many ways, including when it comes to how we think about the economy."

The speech reflected her fight with Mr. Trump over how to frame the economic debate in the election. While she tries to make it a choice between competing policy agendas, with diverging possible effects on workers, families and the nation's economic health, Mr. Trump has tried to present the issue as a referendum on the economic stewardship of Ms. Harris and Mr. Biden. Mr. Trump has focused particularly on the surge of inflation on the Biden administra-

tion's watch. In her speech, Ms. Harris emphasized middle-class Americans' everyday experiences, like sitting at the kitchen table paying their bills or browsing grocery-store shelves. She detailed how she would build what she called an "opportunity economy" would reduce the cost of living, provide economic security and re-

Continued on Page A9



Vice President Kamala Harris sought to personalize the impact of her economic policies, as she spoke in Raleigh, N.C., on Friday.

Russia Is Advancing in Donetsk Despite an Offensive by Ukraine

By CONSTANT MÉHEUT

KYIV, Ukraine - Russian troops are closing in on the strategic eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk, according to openits attacks elsewhere on the bat-

After capturing several villages in the area and pushing along a railway line, Russian forces are now about eight miles from Pokrovsk, one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds in the Donetsk region, according to the maps, which are based on combat footage and satellite images.

The capture of the city would bring Russia a step closer to its long-held goal of seizing the entire Donetsk region, much of which it

Kyiv's Goal of Diverting Invaders Is in Doubt

netsk that is still held by Ukraine.

The situation is so dire that the city's military administration has urged residents to leave, although it has not issued a formal order. "The enemy is rapidly approaching the outskirts of Pokrovsk," Serhii Dobriak, the head of the military administration, said on Thursday. "Evacuation is underway in the community. Don't de-

Russia's advance toward Continued on Page A5

Defying Trump Over Election Costs a Republican, Literally

By NICK CORASANITI

Brad Raffensperger, Georgia's Republican secretary of state, has

from the defamation lawsuit he has been fighting, he and his law-

\$500,000 Tab to Pay for His Legal Defense

fensperger for defamation over how he described the video in his book, "Integrity Counts." He wrote that the video "had been deceptively sliced and edited." Ms. Pick, who is married to the Texas multimillionaire and megadonor Doug Deason, claims she was defamed, even though Mr. Raffensperger's book never mentioned her by name.

Ms. Pick's lawyers let it be known that if Mr. Raffensperger Continued on Page A10

the national military. It controls or has oversight of the country's been forced to spend half a million most important infrastructure. dollars defending himself in court And it has lifted up its constituents The plaintiff in the case, Jacki already controls. Pokrovsk, a city source battlefield maps, casting for having stood up to former in the process, empowering, en-Pick, a Texas-based Republican with a prewar population of about doubts on Ukraine's hopes that its President Donald J. Trump's efriching and providing services to podcast host who guided the law-60,000, sits on a key road linking new offensive into western Russia forts to overturn the 2020 election. Shiites in Lebanon, a historically makers through the 30-minute several cities that form a defenwill prompt Moscow to scale back The only way to spare himself marginalized sect. sive arc protecting the part of Dopresentation, sued Mr. Raf-Many of Lebanon's Shiites now

yer say, would be to lie.

The lawsuit centers on a 2020 video that purported to show election fraud in Georgia. The video, which was presented to state lawmakers, showed security footage of election workers tabulating ballots in Atlanta. Multiple news media outlets and the secretary of state's office have debunked the claims of election fraud made in the video presentation to legisla-

move barriers to building generational wealth. "As president, I will be laser-fo-

In the Last Days of Perry's Life

By JULIA JACOBS and MATT STEVENS

On the day Matthew Perry died, his live-in personal assistant gave him his first ketamine shot of the morning at around 8:30 a.m. About four hours later, while Mr. Perry watched a movie at his home in Los Angeles, the assistant gave him another injection.

It was only about 40 minutes later that Mr. Perry wanted another shot, the assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa, recalled in a plea agreement that he signed

"Shoot me up with a big one," Mr. Perry told Mr. Iwamasa, according to the agreement, and asked him to prepare his hot tub.

So Mr. Iwamasa filled a syringe with ketamine, gave his boss a third shot and left the house to run some errands, according to court papers. When he returned, he found Mr. Perry face down in the water, dead.

Mr. Iwamasa was one of five people who the authorities in California said this week had been charged with a conspiracy to distribute ketamine, a powerful anesthetic, to Mr. Perry. The defendants also included two doctors, a



The actor Matthew Perry died last year after taking ketamine.

woman accused of being a dealer and an acquaintance who pleaded guilty to acting as a middleman.

Mr. Perry, a beloved figure who rose to fame playing Chandler Bing on the sitcom "Friends," had long struggled with addiction. Court papers filed in the case shed light on the desperate weeks leading up to Mr. Perry's death on Oct. 28 at the age of 54.

In his last days, law enforce-Continued on Page A13

A Scramble to Get More Drugs | Football Dream Over? NASCAR Has a Job It'd Like to Discuss.

BV KEN BELSON

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — D.J. Twitty was taking it all in: the jackmen lifting the racecars, the whizzing of air guns screwing in lug nuts, the slinging of 50-pound wheels. For a South Carolina native like the 24-year-old Twitty, the cacophonous scene was just this side of paradise.

"I'm ready to make this my home," Twitty said. He was one of 55 recruits who attended the annual pit crew combine for Hendrick Motorsports. The auto racing team's coaches and trainers use the all-day event in June and a smaller, three-day minicamp held last week — to find a half dozen or so athletes capable of jumping onto a track, gassing a car and changing tires in less than 10 seconds.

Twitty, a former running back at the University of South Carolina, was in attendance because Hendrick and other teams have learned that former football players often make the best prospects for five-man crews, thanks to their strength, agility and speed. So teams scour college campuses looking for players like Twitty who didn't catch on with an N.F.L. team and want to trade their football helmets for fireproof suits. A few,



Max Marsh, a former Kansas State football player, joined 54 recruits at a pit crew combine in June.

like Twitty, know about NASCAR he grew up rooting for the driver Denny Hamlin — but most are new to the sport and can barely change the oil on their own

"You don't grow up playing pit

crew in your backyard," said Keith Flynn, Hendrick's developmental pit crew director, who has recruited athletes for 14 years. "Most of these football guys had no idea that this is even an opportunity. But once they come on

campus and see the place, they

get pretty excited." NASCAR races can cover up to 600 miles, with cars zipping around the track approaching 200 miles per hour. Yet races are often

Continued on Page A15



INTERNATIONAL A4-7

Proudly Waving Kenya's Flag

Some protesters are using it as a symbol of resistance, defying the country's strict rules about displaying it. PAGE A4

Familiar Rulers in Thailand

The rise of the scion of a political family is widely seen as the continued undermining of Thai democracy.

NATIONAL A8-15

New York's Mayor Subpoenaed A new round of federal subpoenas in the investigation of Mayor Eric Adams and his 2021 fund-raising seeks a wide range of information. PAGE A8

Menendez Ends Senate Bid

The New Jersey senator, recently convicted of taking bribes, told officials to strike his name from the ballot. PAGE A13

SPORTS B6-9

A Rookie's Standout Summer

Jackson Chourio, the Brewers' outfield phenom, even won a battle against the pitcher Clayton Kershaw.



BUSINESS B1-5

It's No Joke for The Onion

The satirical site is hoping a new print edition with fake stories and fake ads will lead to real money.

An Economic Divide Narrows

Research shows that the Black-white opportunity gap closed by about 30 percent for people born poor. PAGE B1

Now Open in the Adirondacks

A visual artist and a jazz trumpeter created the Mill, an 11,000-square-foot arts and music center in far upstate New York, hoping to create "a cultural oasis" in a town of 1,300.

Cinematic Dynamite

In New York, Film Forum's Blaxploitation, Baby! series includes genre mainstays like "Shaft" and "Blacula" along with surprises such as "Thomasine & Bushrod," a Western.

OPINION A18-19

Doug Sosnik

PAGE A18



THIS WEEKEND

