



Paula Acosta, 62, right, and her family and dogs took refuge from Hurricane Milton at a high school in Tampa, Fla., on Wednesday.

EMILY KASK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

# Hospitals Ration Storm-Hit Supply of IV Fluids

By CHRISTINA JEWETT  
U.S. officials approved airlifts of IV fluids from overseas manufacturing plants on Wednesday to ease shortages caused by Hurricane Helene that have forced hospitals to begin postponing surgeries as a way to ration supplies for the most fragile patients.

The current shortage occurred when flooding coursed through western North Carolina and damaged a Baxter plant, which is now closed for cleaning. The plant makes about 60 percent of the United States' supply of fluids used in IVs, for in-home dialysis and for people who rely on IV nutrition. They include premature babies in intensive care and patients who rely on tube feeding to

## U.S. Clears Using Stock From Plants Abroad for Patients at Risk

survive.  
The situation could become even more dire now that Hurricane Milton is hitting Florida. On Tuesday, workers at B. Braun, makers of a fourth of the nation's IV fluids, loaded trucks at the company's plant in Daytona Beach with the medical bags and drove them north through the night to what they hoped would be a safer location.  
The Baxter plant, in Marion, N.C., and the B. Braun site in Day-

tona Beach manufacture about 85 percent of the nation's supply of IV fluids. Experts on shortages have long pointed out the risk of such over-concentration of critical supplies, citing exposure to disasters like those now at hand. Even before the latest storm, supplies were tight and reflected a long-standing problem of how few companies are willing to produce crucial but low-cost and low-profit medical products.

A spokeswoman for the B. Braun site in Florida said that the company was working with federal officials and that the plant's staff would be off work Wednesday and planned to return on Friday once the hurricane had moved on.

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# Dire Concerns As Milton Hits Florida Coast

This article is by Patricia Mazzei, Jacey Fortin and Michael Levenson.

SARASOTA, Fla. — Hurricane Milton crashed into Florida with drenching rain, driving wind and a surge of seawater on Wednesday, menacing millions in a state still recovering from Hurricane Helene's fury less than two weeks ago.

Milton's eye was expected to make landfall before midnight. The storm was forecast to pack hurricane-force winds all night long as the center plowed inland, crossed the Orlando region and headed toward the Atlantic coast. It was threatening to bring up to 18 inches of rain over parts of the Florida peninsula.

Forecasters warned that a dangerous storm surge of up to 13 feet could swamp low-lying communities along more than 70 miles of Florida's western coastline.

Parts of Sanibel Island, about 20 miles southwest of Fort Myers, were already flooding, according to the fire chief, Kevin Barbot, who warned residents earlier in the day that if they did not leave, "your life is in danger."

Cellphones blared with warnings as the hurricane marched across Florida. In Orlando, the rain was coming down in sheets as cars splashed through pools of water on the highway, and many gas stations were out of fuel. People huddled in the entryway of a Wawa gas station that still had fuel, moments after a tornado warning was issued, one of many that flashed across the state.

"It's getting worse," one employee said as she went to stock shelves.

Almost 300,000 customers across Florida had lost power as of Wednesday evening, according to

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# Battling for Pennsylvania, Which Could Tip Election

## Prize Where Campaigns Splurge the Most

By SHANE GOLDMACHER

ERIE, Pa. — When Vice President Kamala Harris rolled out her economic agenda, she went to Pittsburgh. When she unveiled her running mate, she went to Philadelphia. And when she had to pick a place for Barack Obama's first fall rally this Thursday, it was back to Pittsburgh.

Former President Donald J. Trump has earmarked the greatest share of his advertising budget for Pennsylvania and has held more rallies in the state than in any other battleground since Ms. Harris joined the race — including two on Wednesday and three in the last week.

Welcome to the United States of Pennsylvania.

There may be seven main battlegrounds in the race for the White House in 2024, all of which could prove crucial. But Pennsylvania stands apart as the state that top strategists for both Ms. Harris and Mr. Trump have circled as the likeliest to tip the election.

Both candidates are pouring more money, time and energy into the state than anywhere else, with Ms. Harris, Mr. Trump and their allies set to spend \$350 million just on television ads in Pennsylvania — \$142 million more than the next closest state and more than Michigan and Wisconsin combined.

Part of Pennsylvania's pivotal role is its sheer size: The state's 19

electoral votes are the biggest prize of any battleground. Part of it is polling: The state has been virtually tied for months. And part of it is math: It is daunting for either Mr. Trump or, especially, Ms. Harris to reach the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win without it.

"If we win Pennsylvania," Mr. Trump said at a recent rally in the state, "we win the whole thing."

What makes Pennsylvania so compelling — and confounding — for both parties is the state's unusual mix of demographic and geographic forces.

It is home to urban centers such as Philadelphia with a large population of Black voters whom Democrats must mobilize. It has fast-growing, highly educated and mostly white suburbs where Republicans have been bleeding support in the Trump years. There are struggling industrial towns where Mr. Trump needs to maximize his vote, and smaller cities booming with Latino immigrants where Ms. Harris aims to make gains. And there is a significant, albeit shrinking, rural population. White voters without college degrees, who make up Mr. Trump's base, still account for roughly half the vote.

"This is almost a microcosm of America," said Austin Davis, Pennsylvania's Democratic lieu-

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STEPHEN CROWLEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A meeting of Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and Donald J. Trump in 2017 helps explain Mr. Trump's animus toward Ukraine.

# Putin Seized Opportunity to Use Trump's Grudge Against Ukraine

By MARK MAZZETTI and ADAM ENTOUS

WASHINGTON — On July 7, 2017, after President Donald J. Trump and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia shook hands in Hamburg, Germany, to conclude their first face-to-face meeting, Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson walked out of the sterile conference room, removed notes from his pocket and gave anxious White House aides a summary.

"We've got work to do to change the president's mind on Ukraine," Mr. Tillerson said.

The secretary of state had just watched Mr. Putin, the former K.G.B. spymaster, put on a master class in seeking to shape the thinking of the new American

president.

The Russian leader disparaged Ukraine, a former Soviet republic with aspirations of joining the European Union and NATO. Ukraine, he told Mr. Trump, was a corrupt, fabricated country. Russia, which had seized the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine three years earlier and backed pro-Russia separatists in a border region, had every right to exert its influence over the country, he insisted.

Mr. Trump told Mr. Putin that his administration was considering giving weapons to Ukraine. "What do you think?" Mr. Trump

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DIEGO IBARRA SANCHEZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Preparing Meals in Beirut for the Displaced

Nearly a million Lebanese civilians have fled the fighting, the U.N. warned on Wednesday. Page A7.

# Airline Posed Questions to Boeing Before Crash

By MARK WALKER and JAMES GLANZ

In late 2018, Ethiopian Airlines' chief pilot sent an urgent message to Boeing, the manufacturer of the 737 Max airliner.

Barely a month earlier, a 737 Max operated by Lion Air of Indonesia had plunged into the sea, killing everyone on board. The cause appeared to be a problem

## Ethiopian Safety Query Was Turned Aside

with the plane's flight control system.

The Ethiopian carrier also flew the 737 Max, and the chief pilot wanted more information from Boeing about the emergency pro-

cedures to follow if the same problem that doomed the Lion Air flight should recur. At the time, Boeing was providing detailed briefings to pilots in the United States who were asking the same types of questions about how to respond.

But Boeing chose not to answer the Ethiopian pilot's questions beyond referring him to a public doc-

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# Burns Altered Her Face. A Placenta Restored It.

By KATE MORGAN

Marcella Townsend remembers looking around the kitchen in shock. In the silence just after the explosion, before the pain kicked in, she found herself almost in awe of the crushed stove and the caved-in cabinets.

"It was like Bigfoot had walked across the counters," she said.

In the aftermath of a propane

## Underutilized Medical Tool in Plain Sight

explosion at her mother's house in Savannah, Ga., in 2021, Ms. Townsend spent more than six weeks in an induced coma in a burn trauma unit. She had second- and third-degree burns over most

of her body, and her face had become unrecognizable.

Searching for a way to help her, surgeons turned to a rarely utilized tool: human placenta. They carefully applied a thin layer of the donated organ to her face, which Ms. Townsend said was "the best thing they could have done, ever." She still has scars from grafts elsewhere on her

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### INTERNATIONAL A4-11

#### Art or Trash? Or Both?

A 1988 artwork depicting two beer cans was on display in a museum near Amsterdam. Then a worker unwittingly tossed the cans in the garbage. PAGE A11

#### Policing a Lawless Haiti

A tiny, underequipped Kenyan-led force is trying to carve out patches of order in a country where gangs reign. PAGE A6

### NATIONAL A12-22

#### Death Row Case Splits Court

Supreme Court justices wrestled with the extent of the court's power to grant relief to an Oklahoma inmate. PAGE A15

#### Abortion Rights Effort at Risk

A New York ballot measure has become a target for opponents who have cast it as an attack on family values. PAGE A19

### SPORTS B8-12

#### College Football 101

College sports have undergone seismic changes. Coach Deion Sanders and his University of Colorado football team best exemplify the new terrain. PAGE B8



### ARTS C1-6

#### In Seattle, Jazz Finds a Home

For now, at least. A nonprofit group has carved out a performance space in a historic building up for lease. PAGE C1

#### Book Banning, the Quiet Way

Weeding out old, damaged or outdated library books has become a cover for removing those some object to. PAGE C1

### BUSINESS B1-7

#### Search for Bitcoin's Creator

The identity of Satoshi Nakamoto, the pseudonymous crypto figure, has eluded sleuths for years. Kevin Roose asks whether finding the real Mr. Nakamoto really matters. PAGE B1

#### Split Over Downtown Revamp

A plan to remake Salt Lake City's core would please the owner of the city's N.B.A. and N.H.L. teams. Others, including classical musicians whose home is at risk, are fighting back. PAGE B1

### OPINION A24-25

#### Mara Gay

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### THURSDAY STYLES D1-8

#### Close to Their Heart

Jay Pharoah, Phaedra Parks and other celebrities tell about the meaning and memories that imbue their jewelry with more than sparkle. PAGE D4-5

