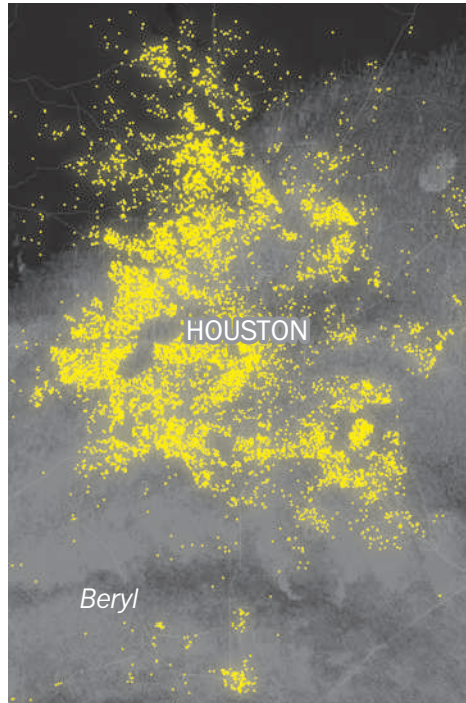
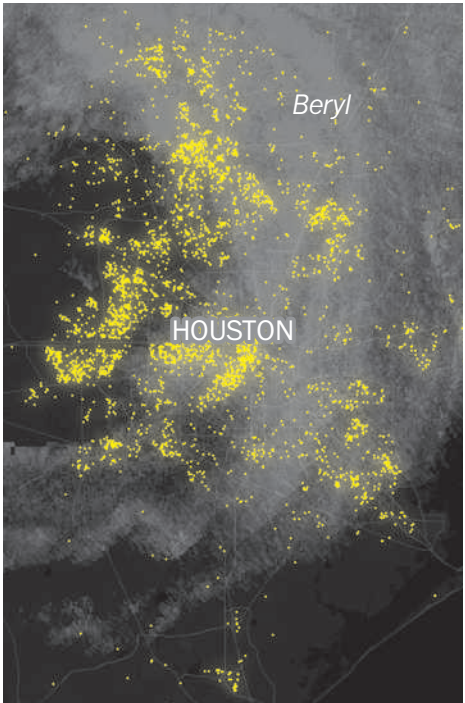


How Tropical Storm Beryl caused a citywide blackout in Houston

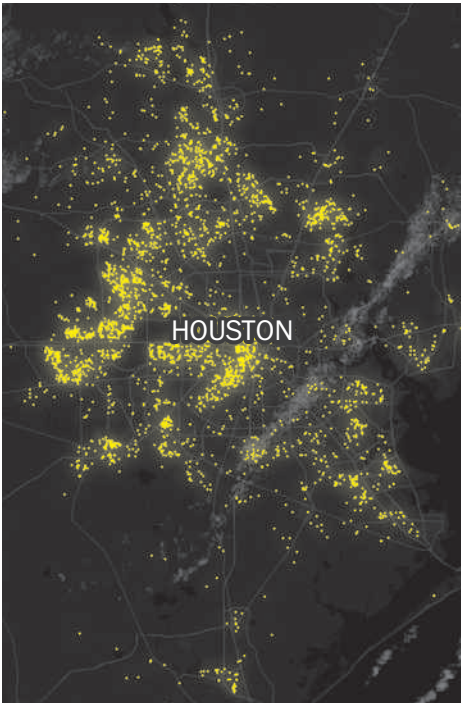
Each yellow dot is a home with power



July 8, 2 a.m.
1% of homes without power



10 a.m.
66%



2 p.m.
71%

A blackout. A heat wave. U.S. unprepared for deadly combo.

BY NIKO KOMMENDA, SHANNON OSAKA AND SIMON DUCROQUET

In the early hours of July 8, Tropical Storm Beryl headed for the city of Houston after causing widespread devastation in the Caribbean. Winds up to 90 mph flooded the city's highways and knocked trees and debris into power lines. Within eight hours, two-thirds of homes in Houston and its suburbs were without power. Some of them would remain in the dark for more than a week. Then came the heat. For days, residents of Houston struggled to survive as temperatures rose. They shared generators, filled buckets and bathtubs with ice, packed air-conditioned hotels and emergency rooms. The

most vulnerable struggled to get the care they needed. Many died. But in some ways, Houston was narrowly spared. Temperatures rose to the high 90s, but only for a couple of days. If the heat had stayed, the human toll could have been far worse. Experts warn that this type of catastrophe — a combined power outage with a heat wave — is a scenario that cities and states are unprepared for. "I don't think it's likely — I think it's an absolute certainty," said Brian Stone, a professor and director of the Urban Climate Lab at the Georgia Institute of Technology. "I think it's an absolute certainty that we will have an extreme

heat wave and an extended blackout in the United States." The Washington Post analyzed the risks of a prolonged, citywide blackout coinciding with a more severe heat wave. The results show that such a heat wave could kill between 600 and 1,500 people in the Houston metro area over five days. With the power grid working normally, the same heat wave would lead to about 50 deaths. To estimate the number of deaths, The Post created a statistical model that follows a peer-reviewed study from 2023 with some simplifying assumptions. The analysis incorporates detailed models of

SOURCE: WHISKER LABS / TING FIRE PREVENTION SENSORS

ELECTION 2024

Pa. shapes up as a prized piece in electoral chess

TRUMP, HARRIS 'WALLS' OVERLAP KEY STATE

Sides thread needle in compressed battleground map

BY MICHAEL SCHERER

Democrats have spent the last year eyeing a familiar trio of northern states that would deliver the White House in November: Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania are the "clearest pathway" to victory, Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign leaders wrote in July — as long as she also picks up a single electoral vote in the Omaha area. The Trump team, meanwhile, has been focused on its own path in the Eastern time zone, a veritable "Red Wall" trifecta that overlaps with the northern "Blue Wall" around the Great Lakes. "As long as we hold North Carolina, we just need to win Georgia and Pennsylvania," a

Trump campaign official told reporters last month in a strategy briefing. "That is all we need to win. So when everybody is running around with all the machinations, she's still playing defense." The different strategies, which both hinge on a win in Pennsylvania, have been reflected in ad spending by both campaigns and the super PACs supporting them, according to AdImpact, which tracks spending and reservations on television, radio and digital

The Sunday Take: Trump spirals into false tales after debate loss. **A2**

Racist trope: Trump's pet-eating claim mirrors slur since 1800s. **A14**

As Trump demonizes immigrants, two targeted cities fear what's next

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE AND KARIN BRULLIARD

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO — The Haitian eatery cooks were preparing for Thursday's lunch rush when the phone rang. "Got any cats or dogs?" a mocking voice asked. Romane Pierre, the 41-year-old manager of Rose Goute Creole, didn't want to alarm his staff. They were already nervous. During the presidential debate barely 36 hours earlier, Republican nominee Donald Trump had targeted Haitians in Springfield, falsely accusing them of "eating

the pets of the people that live there." Pierre summoned his customer-service politeness. "No," he replied, "but we have chicken and pork." A crackpot call was a minor disruption compared with that morning's bomb threat on city hall, conveyed in a message the mayor described as "hateful" toward immigrants. By Friday, two elementary schools in this southwestern Ohio city had gone into lockdown and evacuated their students. Pierre's team, who usually kept the restaurant open

SEE IMMIGRANTS ON A6

Before being killed by police, he worked to quell violence

His outlook was informed by having been both 'behind the gun and in front of the gun'

BY ELLIE SILVERMAN, JENNY GATHRIGHT AND BRITTANY SHAMMAS

Twelve hours after D.C. police officers opened fire on a man working with the city to quell violence, a teenage boy from Southeast Washington texted his teacher: "Hey, don't you got two twin sons?" asked Jesiah Swann, 14, referring to the identical twins he had heard long-time educator Sheldon Pinder talk about as if they were his own. "One was killed this morning," came the response. Jesiah was quick to text back: "Oh my goodness. Is it the one that was telling me that I should always follow my dreams?" Yes, the teacher confirmed. It was. The Sept. 1 police killing of Justin Robinson, a 25-year-old Southeast Washington native, set off a wave of anger across the District. It came as the city was already reeling over the arrest of a council member, the death of a police officer and the expected sentencing of two officers in a murder case. Robinson's death meant losing



Justin Robinson

someone who understood the city's violence better than most, because he had been on both sides of it. From an early age, those close to him had noticed his desire to help other kids growing up in a part of the District where childhood is often interrupted by gunfire. That was true even after he became caught up in it, serving time in prison for his role at the age of 16 in a murder that unfolded the day of his older brother's funeral. Although Robinson did not pull the trigger, he said the shooter "could smoke" the victim, a young man from a rival neighborhood. That Robinson knew what it was to get into serious trouble with the law, that he had served his time and come out of it wanting something different, made him credible to those he tried to reach — formally, as a violence interrupter for D.C.'s Cure the Streets program, and informally, through his onetime teacher. "They talk about him being locked up," said Pinder, who was an associate dean at Ballou High

SEE ROBINSON ON A16



A van burned in an Israeli strike is seen from U.N. peacekeepers' vehicle near Ebel El Saqi, Lebanon. The force monitored a cease-fire for years, but now fighting is almost continuous.

Caught between Israel and Hezbollah

When attacks begin, the U.N. peacekeeping force takes cover

BY KAREEM FAHIM

EBEL EL SAQI, LEBANON — The peacekeepers passed scorched fields and bombed houses and hollowed-out towns, the landscape of southern Lebanon's stop-and-start war. On the road, in white armored vehicles waving the blue

flag of the United Nations, they encountered people who could not leave the conflict zone, who refused to go or were paid to stay: Lebanese soldiers, Syrian farmhands, a cafe owner thrilled to see them and other residents who barely seemed to notice them. For years, the U.N. peace-

keeping force in Lebanon, UNIFIL, monitored a cease-fire between Lebanon and Israel that had more or less held since 2006. But since October, fighting between Israel and the

SEE LEBANON ON A18

Vaccine battle: As polio appears in Gaza, is the U.S. at risk? **A11**

Boeing strikers dig in heels for now-or-never fight for wages

BY LAUREN KAORI GURLEY AND RACHEL LERMAN

The 33,000 Boeing workers who walked off the job Friday morning, despite an offer of 25 percent wage gains over four years, join a wave of American union members telling U.S. employers that a good deal just won't cut it. In an astonishing showing of resistance, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District 751 workers, who build the company's flagship planes mostly in the Pacific Northwest, voted 96 percent to strike, rejecting a deal hailed by their own union president as "the best contract we've negotiated in our history." Many striking Boeing workers told The Washington Post they would not settle until Boeing offered a deal with wage gains closer to the 40 percent over four years requested by the union — up from the 25 percent offered. They also told The Post they had been saving up to go on strike for months and even years. "If we have any power to show the world that Boeing is continuing to make bad decisions, it would be now," said Alex Mutch, a quality inspector at Boeing's

SEE BOEING ON A13

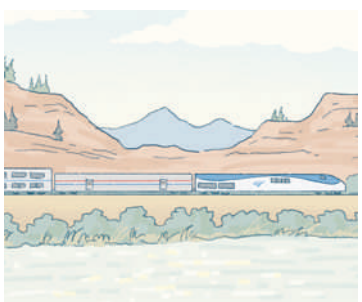
METRO
Virginia voters support bans on cellphones in schools, a poll finds.

SPORTS
Josh Harris is beginning to leave his imprint on the Commanders.



ARTS & STYLE
War changed Paris — and art — in the bloody origins of impressionism.

BOOK WORLD
Max Boot's biography deflates the legacy of Reagan's importance.



TRAVEL
Life on the rails: What it's like to ride from California to New York.

BUSINESS
Weight-loss drugs are altering shopping habits as Americans downsize.