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For weary Floridians, more dire warnings

Evacuations rise as hurricane intensifies into fearsome storm

By Patricia Mazzei and Elisabeth Parker
NEW YORK TIMES

MIAMI — Weary Floridians on Monday steeled themselves for a second major hurricane in two weeks, wrestling with anxiety about whether to leave their homes and where the storm might go as the rapidly intensifying Hurricane Milton took aim at much of the state's battered Gulf Coast.

The vulnerable Tampa Bay region, a metropolitan area that is home to more than 3 million people, faced mass evacuations of low-lying communities that were flooded only days ago by the devastating storm surge of Hurricane Helene. Evacuation orders extended south along the coast, where Hurricane Ian made landfall in 2022, killing about 150 people.

Milton, which formed as a tropical storm Saturday afternoon, grew from a Category 1 to a Category 5 hurricane over a few hours Monday morning. Forecasters expect it to weaken somewhat before making landfall Wednesday somewhere between Naples and Cedar Key, with possible storm surge of up to 12 feet.

Although Floridians were suffering from hurricane fatigue, the fresh memories of Helene, Ian, and Hurricane Idalia, **HURRICANE, Page A5**

Trump leads; no, Harris is in front; no . . .

With polls, confusion reigns; critics point to quality, methodology

By Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris leads Donald Trump by 3 percentage points in Michigan. Or maybe it's by 1 point. Or maybe Trump leads by 2. Or 4. It depends on the poll.

Which raises the question: Why is there so much variation?

Big picture, this fall's election is shaping up to be a very close race, and polls reflect that. But there is an explosion in the number of polls — and, importantly, the style of polls — out there, making for a confusing picture for voters trying to glean a sense of how things will shake out.

There are a few reasons for the variation, pollsters say. One is simply that some poor quality polls are to blame for throwing things off. Another explanation is that polling firms are having to make some educated guesses about how the electorate will look in November, and **POLLS, Page A6**



JOHN WESSELS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

During a ceremony on Monday at the Nova memorial near Kibbutz Reim in southern Israel, attendees embraced among relatives and supporters of those slain last Oct. 7, as Israelis marked the first anniversary of the deadly attacks in their country.

Jews reckon with a crushing legacy

One year after Oct. 7 attacks, heartbreak lingers, as do painful reminders of bigotry



OMAR AL-QATTAA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

A Palestinian man viewed a road lined with rubble in the Shujaiya neighborhood of Gaza City on Monday.

By Mike Damiano
GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — It had been almost exactly a year since the first time that members of the Harvard Jewish community gathered in front of Widener Library to support one another and mourn the victims of the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

Some of the stories they told from the steps on a damp Monday evening — while at least 200 people held candles and Israeli flags and draped their arms around one another — were eerily similar to those that could be heard last fall. Yet again, they called for the return of hostages who were taken by Hamas and its collaborators. Charlie Covit, a Harvard sophomore, told the story of two grandparents who recently traveled to the Israel-Gaza border to scream for the return of their grandson, Edan Alexander, a 20-year-old from New Jersey.

But this year there was also a new thread laced through the speakers' remarks, a sense that Oct. 7 and the war in Gaza it sparked have unsettled life for Jews here. Speaking from the steps, Eric Nelson, a Harvard government professor, said it was a small mercy that his grandfather, a Holocaust survivor, had not lived long enough to see Oct. 7. He was grateful, he

War spreads
Israel pounded southern Lebanon and struck back at Hamas in Gaza. **A3.**

OCTOBER 7, Page A4

A new landscape on New England campuses

College students lament a plunge in diversity since affirmative action ruling

By Omar Mohammed
GLOBE STAFF

PROVIDENCE — Brown University sophomore Eliana Rivas Marte worried how the campus might change after the Supreme Court banned race-conscious admissions a year ago. This fall, her fears were realized when the

class of incoming freshmen included significantly fewer students of color. "It was very jarring, honestly, but not surprising," Marte, who is from Boston and studying economics and education, said on a recent cloudy afternoon on this picturesque campus, which saw the number of students

from historically underrepresented groups plunge 9 percentage points from a year ago. "Affirmative action was so important in ensuring that students of color were entering universities like the Ivy League's, like Brown."

Brown is among several top universities in New England to report sharp declines among students of color, particularly those who identify as Black and Hispanic, enrolling this fall. Colleges such as Yale and Prince-

ton have fared better so far. Higher education experts say it's too soon to draw long-term conclusions based on the new data.

But interviews with students at Brown, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Amherst College revealed deep unease about the future of diversity on campuses, especially at elite institutions.

The students fear that fewer stu-

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, Page A10

Their work leads to possible cures — and Nobel prize



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

It took awhile for Victor Ambros to get the word about his Nobel, but once he did, he celebrated with his wife, Rosalind "Candy" Lee, in Worcester.

By Robert Weisman and Emily Sweeney
GLOBE STAFF
and Izzy Bryars
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Two Massachusetts research scientists were awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine on Monday for their discovery of tiny building blocks, called microRNA, that control the cellular activity of plants and animals and have helped spawn a growing cluster of drug discovery activity in Massachusetts and beyond.

The award — science's most prestigious — will be shared by Gary Ruvkun, a professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School and a member of the Mass General Research Institute in Boston, and Victor Ambros, a professor of natural science at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School in Worcester.

Their findings are being used at pioneering companies such as Alnylam Pharmaceuticals to deactivate genes that contribute to cancers, heart disease, and other disorders.

At a news conference Monday morning, Ruvkun credited the researchers in his MGH lab and their collaborators for creating

NOBEL PRIZE, Page A10



Gary Ruvkun

Patriots safety Jabrill Peppers was arraigned Monday for allegedly choking a woman before forcing her from his apartment, court records state. C1.

The Georgia Supreme Court reinstated a law that prohibits abortions beyond six weeks of pregnancy while it considers an appeal to a lower court decision. A2.

Boston officials have no current plans to expand a rat birth control experiment citywide. B1.

Drops out of sight

Tuesday: Sun is back, breezy. High 65-70, low 47-52.

Wednesday: More sun. High 61-66, low 45-50. Sunrise: 6:49. Sunset: 6:13. Weather and comics, **D5-6.** Obituaries, **C9.**

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