

## Monster Helene menaces millions

Category 4 storm’s winds and flooding may swamp areas far beyond Florida

BY BRADY DENNIS, MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE AND DANIELLE PAQUETTE

CEDAR KEY, FLA. — Hurricane Helene rapidly gained strength as it hurtled toward Florida’s northwest coast Thursday, bringing Category 4 wind and rain that forecasters warned could cause inland flooding even hundreds of miles from the massive storm’s eye.

The National Hurricane Center cautioned that “catastrophic and deadly” storm surge could inundate wide swaths of the state’s peninsula, particularly along the Big Bend. Floodwaters may rise up to 20 feet high, officials said, potentially rendering some areas “unsurvivable.”

By 9 p.m., the center announced, Helene’s maximum sustained winds had increased to 140 mph. Landfall was expected between 11 p.m. and midnight just to the southeast of Tallahassee.

“The height of the storm surge is fatal,” said Felecia Bowser, a meteorologist in Tallahassee for the National Weather Service. “This means if you remain there and you ignore the mandatory evacuation requirements, you will not make it out alive.”

SEE HELENE ON A6

**Evacuations:** Many defied orders despite lessons from 2022. **A7**

**Around D.C.:** A likely dousing today and a dampened weekend. **B1**

### ELECTION 2024

## Poll shows Alsobrooks gaining steam in Senate bid

BY ERIN COX, KATIE SHEPHERD, SCOTT CLEMENT AND EMILY GUSKIN

Democrat Angela Alsobrooks has pulled clearly ahead in Maryland’s unusually competitive U.S. Senate race with a double-digit lead among likely voters, according to a Washington Post-University of Maryland poll, in a contest critical to deciding control of the chamber next year.

Alsobrooks leads Republican Larry Hogan — a former governor elected twice in the deep-blue state — by 11 percentage points among likely voters, even though the poll shows Hogan has won over a sizable portion of Democrats and remains about as popular with voters as his rival.

With tens of millions of dollars yet to be spent on the airwaves, a debate ahead and national attention locked on the race, Alsobrooks’s 51 percent to 40 percent advantage is significant and demonstrates momentum, but it is not enough to put a Hogan upset out of the question.

Democrats outnumber Republicans in Maryland by more than 2 to 1. Independent voters, including those affiliated with the Green and Libertarian parties, make up

SEE MARYLAND ON A20

**Texas:** Democrat Colin Allred tries to flip the script on the border. **A20**

### THE MONEY WAR

## WASHINGTON TARGETED ‘CORRUPT’ MINES.



## WORKERS PAID THE GREATEST PRICE.



PHOTOS BY DANIELE VOLPE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

BY JEFF STEIN AND CLAUDIA MÉNDEZ ARRIAZA IN EL ESTOR, GUATEMALA

José Trabaninos and his uncle Edi Alarcón were arguing again. Sitting by the wire fence that cuts through the dirt between their shacks, surrounded by children’s toys and stray dogs and chickens ambling through the yard, the younger man pressed his desperate desire to travel north.

It was spring 2023. About six months earlier, American sanctions had shuttered the town’s nickel mines, costing both men their jobs. Trabaninos, 33, was struggling to buy bread and milk for his 8-year-old daughter and worried about anti-seizure medication for his epileptic wife. If he made it to the United States, he believed he could find work and send money home.

“I told him not to go,” recalled Alarcón, 42. “I told him it was too dangerous.”

**The Guatemala-based subsidiaries of the international firm Solway have been shuttered since U.S. sanctions were imposed in 2022. Candida Caal’s husband lost his job when the mine closed, and he left their town in search of work.**

U.S. Treasury Department sanctions imposed on Guatemala’s nickel mines in November 2022 were meant to help workers like Trabaninos and Alarcón. For decades, mining operations in Guatemala have been accused of abusing employees, polluting the environment, violently evicting Indigenous groups from their lands and bribing government officials to escape the consequences. Many activists in Guatemala long wanted the mines closed, and a Treasury official said the sanctions would help bring consequences to “corrupt profiteers.”

But the economic penalties did not alleviate the workers’ plight. Instead, it cost thousands of them a stable paycheck and plunged thousands more

SEE GUATEMALA ON A10

## New York mayor is charged with bribery and fraud

### ILLEGAL FOREIGN DONATIONS ARE ALLEGED

Defying fellow Democrats, he vows to remain in office

BY SHAYNA JACOBS, DEVLIN BARRETT AND JOSH DAWSEY

NEW YORK — Mayor Eric Adams was charged Thursday with bribery, wire fraud and seeking illegal campaign donations — a years-long catalogue of alleged crimes stemming from what prosecutors called his “corrupt relationships” with rich foreigners.

Defiant, the police officer turned politician vowed to remain in office and fight the charges, even as he faced the prospect of years in prison and calls from fellow Democrats to resign.

“I’m the mayor of the city of New York,” he said during a news conference, where he was flanked by clergy members and other supporters while he was heckled by some spectators. “From here, my attorneys will take care of the case

so I can take care of the city. My day-to-day will not change. I will continue to do the job for 8.3 million New Yorkers that I was elected to do.”

A 57-page indictment unsealed in Manhattan federal court alleged that Adams “sought and accepted improper valuable benefits, such as luxury international travel, including from wealthy foreign businesspeople and at least one Turkish government official seeking to gain influence over him.”

Prosecutors said those corrupt relationships began before Adams became mayor and continued after — his rise in big-city politics fueled in part by a criminal scheme to take expensive gifts of

SEE ADAMS ON A4

**A career in jeopardy:** Suddenly, Adams’s swagger is gone. **A4**

## Israel rejects three-week cease-fire with Hezbollah

The White House calls Netanyahu’s vow to keep fighting a bait and switch

BY KAREN DEYOUNG AND RACHEL CHASON

Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday dismissed a U.S.-backed push for a 21-day cease-fire with Hezbollah in Lebanon and vowed that fighting would continue, even as Biden administration officials complained that Israel was fully informed of the truce proposal and indicated Netanyahu had agreed to it.

After arriving in New York for a speech Friday morning to the U.N. General Assembly, the Israeli

leader told reporters, “The policy is clear: We will continue striking Hezbollah with full force — we will not stop until we achieve all of our objectives.” Earlier, his office called reports that Israel had eased up on fighting in Lebanon “the opposite of the truth.”

Less than a day before, administration officials had described a statement, signed by the United States and major European and Middle East allies, released Wednesday night as a major development. It was accompanied by a high-level background briefing for reporters. The statement called for a temporary halt in the escalating conflict to negotiate a more permanent cease-fire.

In a sharp pushback to Netanyahu,

SEE ISRAEL ON A13

**War’s financial impact:** The Israeli economy is in “serious danger.” **A13**



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Israeli troops in northern Israel. “We will not stop until we achieve all of our objectives,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.**

## Zelensky, amid appeal to Biden, confronts U.S. partisan split

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, appealing urgently to President Joe Biden on Thursday to let the country extend its use of American weapons, waded into a heightened partisan divide over the Russia-Ukraine war, with

the U.S. presidential election weeks away.

Biden met with Zelensky at the White House on Thursday, but he did not grant Kyiv’s request for permission to fire American-made missiles deeper into Russia. Instead, he announced the delivery of more military aid and new air defense capabilities, as the

White House sought to show strong support for Ukraine while rejecting the country’s primary plea.

Former president Donald Trump, meanwhile, announced that he would meet with Zelensky on Friday morning, apparently a last-minute addition to the Ukrainian leader’s schedule following

growing tensions between Zelensky and Republican leaders.

Zelensky’s trip to the United States comes at an intense, potentially pivotal moment in both the Ukraine war and the American election. The Ukrainian president at times struggled to navigate the turbulence of the U.S. political landscape at a moment when

some Republicans are increasingly hostile to his country’s war effort and more sympathetic to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Zelensky’s recent stop at a Pennsylvania factory that makes shells for Ukraine’s war effort, for example, prompted an angry reaction from Trump, who accused

SEE ZELENSKY ON A9

### IN THE NEWS

**Supreme overhaul** Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) filed sweeping legislation to add six justices to the bench, among other judicial revamps. **A5**

**Giuliani disbarred in D.C.** The former New York mayor’s challenges to the 2020 election results were “utterly false” and “recklessly so,” the D.C. Court of Appeals said. **B1**

**THE NATION**  
**Police in Lexington, Miss.,** ran an illegal “debtor’s prison,” a DOJ report found. **A2**  
**Attorneys for Donald Trump** argued for tossing a \$478 million fraud verdict in New York. **A5**

**THE WORLD**  
**Russian strikes** on energy sites threaten a long, cold winter for weary Ukrainians. **A8**  
**Japan** will soon have a new prime minister: a look at the record nine candidates. **A14**

**THE ECONOMY**  
**Geoffrey A. Fowler** discusses his talk with a soulless Judi Dench, via an AI chatbot coming soon to Facebook. **A15**  
**A safety board** issued recommendations to the FAA and Boeing about rudder control systems that could malfunction in some jets. **A16**

**THE REGION**  
**A new bill** before the D.C. Council would make it easier for landlords to evict tenants who won’t pay rent. **B1**  
**A GWU** student group organized a voting fair to help students streamline the registration process and boost civic engagement. **B1**

**STYLE**  
**Tucker Carlson** takes his brash — and sometimes bawdy — brand on the road. **C1**  
**WEEKEND**  
**The People’s House,** a new White House museum, offers a high-tech interactive tour of the executive mansion.

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