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## High court set to take on fraught docket

Contentious issues abound, but the election may define this term

#### BY ANN E. MARIMOW

The Supreme Court wades back into hot-button issues including gun control, the death penalty and gender-affirming care for minors in the term that begins Monday, even as the fastapproaching presidential election could end up dominating the docket.

Last term was marked by blockbuster rulings on the scope of former president Donald Trump's immunity from prosecution and place on the 2024 ballot, as well as federal agency power, social media regulation and abortion pills.

The cases on the court's calendar so far pose other significant questions for the justices: Can states prevent transgender adolescents from obtaining certain gender-affirming medical treatments? Can the Biden administration regulate homemade "ghost guns" in the same way as other firearms? Do age-verification requirements to protect minors from online pornography violate the First Amendment rights of adults?

Looming in the background is the November contest between Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris — and the likelihood that a slew of lawsuits over counting ballots and voting access will draw the Supreme Court into election-related dis-

That would put the justices in a pivotal position reminiscent of their role in the 2000 election, when the Supreme Court's decision assured victory for George SEE SUPREME COURT ON A4

Key storylines: What experts are watching for in new court term. A4



# A kibbutz where Oct. 7 never ends

BY STEVE HENDRIX

KIBBUTZ BEERI, ISRAEL — Just after sunrise, Yasmin Raanan squatted on a white stool in her cluttered garden, packing soil into one of the potted plants she is trying to nurse back to health.

She spends most of her days out here, where there is more light and life than inside the house, its doors still riddled with bullet holes from the day she and her husband spent barricaded in the safe room listen-

ing to their neighbors being killed. Just over her shoulder is the gate the men in black poured through almost a year ago, by motorcycle, in trucks and on foot, on a rampage that claimed the lives of 132 residents, visitors and soldiers in Beeri. Thirty others were dragged away as hostages. Of the 10 who remain in captivity, only three are believed to



TOP: An Israeli flag is hung inside a house that was destroyed at Kibbutz Beeri during a Hamas-led attack from Gaza on Oct. 7, 2023. ABOVE: In her garden, Yasmin Raanan nurses her plants back to life amid the surrounding ruin.

The gate is repaired now and topped with new concertina wire. But most wounds are still fresh here — one of the deadliest places on Israel's deadliest day. Raanan is among a few dozen residents who didn't wait for the kibbutz to rebuild — or for the war next door to end - before coming home.

She lives now among charred houses, along streets chewed by tank treads, everything shrouded, especially at night, in a ghostly silence, broken only by the occasional thunder of shells or the thump-thump of machine-gun fire from Gaza.

As she pulled dead leaves from a limp plant, an armored vehicle trundled by on the lane just outside the fence, emerging dusty from a SEE ISRAEL ON A12

Hezbollah: Israel has momentum in fight; experts ask what's next? A11

# Monster storm aims at Florida

#### **CAPACITY OF FEMA** WILL BE TESTED

Milton expected to slam Tampa as Category 3

BY MAXINE JOSELOW AND DOUGLAS MACMILLAN

Florida officials are calling for what they expect to be the state's largest evacuation in seven years as a new storm barrels toward the region with the potential for significant destruction, all while relief workers continue to help communities battered in six states by Hurricane Helene.

A second disastrous hurricane within two weeks would test the capacity of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which has deployed more than 1,500 personnel in communities throughout the Southeast but faces questions about its dwindling disaster relief

money and limited staffing levels. While FEMA has enough money to meet the immediate needs of Helene survivors, it lacks enough funding for long-term disaster recovery efforts - a shortfall that Biden administration officials are warning another storm would exacerbate. Lawmakers appear poised to provide additional funding, but they have debated whether that needs to happen before the November election.

The National Hurricane Center predicted Sunday that "an intense hurricane with multiple lifethreatening hazards" will probably slam the west coast of the Florida Peninsula by midweek. The storm, SEE FLORIDA ON A9

Double whammy: Poor areas of Georgia face added struggles. A8

Finding faith: Congregants gather for first time since Helene hit. A9

### Police seldom disclose use of facial recognition in arrests

Many defendants in U.S. unaware that software linked them to crimes

BY DOUGLAS MACMILLAN. DAVID OVALLE AND AARON SCHAFFER

Hundreds of Americans have been arrested after being connected to a crime by facial recognition software, a Washington Post investigation has found, but many never know it because police seldom disclose their use of the controversial technology.

Police departments in 15 states provided The Post with rarely seen records documenting their use of facial recognition in more than 1,000 criminal investigations over the past four years. According to the arrest reports in those cases and interviews with people who were arrested, authorities routinely failed to inform defendants about their use of the software - denying them the opportunity to contest the results of an emerging technology that is prone to error, especially when identifying people of color.

In fact, the records show that officers often obscured their reliance on the software in public-facing reports, saying that they identified suspects "through investigative means" or that a human source such as a witness or police officer made the initial identifica-

In Evansville, Ind., for example, police said they identified a man who beat up a stranger on the street from his tattooed arms, long hair and previous jail booking photos. And in Pflugerville, Tex., police said they learned the name of a man who helped steal \$12,500 in merchandise from Ulta Beauty "by utilization of investigative da-

Both of these suspects were identified with the aid of facial recognition, according to internal police records — information that was never shared with the accused, according to them or their attorneys. A spokeswoman for Pflugerville declined to answer questions about this case. Evansville police did not respond to requests for comment.

The Post requested records from more than 100 police departments that have publicly acknowledged using facial recognition; only 30 provided arrest records from cases in which they used the software. Most declined to answer questions about their use of the technology. A few said they use it to identify potential leads but never make an arrest based solely on a computer match, so they're not required to disclose it to the people arrested.

SEE SOFTWARE ON A18



Washington fan Tarrick Moore shows off his Jayden Daniels jersey - the top seller in the NFL.

## For elated Commanders fans, Daniels jerseys are wearing well

BY SAM FORTIER

Some bought it right after the draft. Others did so as optimism grew over the summer. But for many, the moment came over these past few whirlwind weeks, as the Washington Commanders became one of the hottest teams in the National Football League and their fans allowed themselves to believe things might actually be different now. They pulled out their credit cards and purchased the jersey of rookie quarterback Jayden Daniels, each transaction a little data point of hope.

"After the touchdown deep to Terry [McLaurin] to ice the [Cincinnati] game, I was like, 'All right, he's the truth; I'm ready to get one," Dennis Blann said, referencing the Monday night win against the Bengals.

"I was buying my jerseys from China, [but] SEE COMMANDERS ON A7

Inside: Winning streak hits four in 34-13 victory. **D1** 

**ELECTION 2024** 

### Blue states taking action in case Trump wins again

BY REIS THEBAULT

Washington and Massachusetts are stockpiling abortion pills. California is cutting climate deals directly with automakers. Colorado is rushing to protect the right to same-sex marriage. And attorneys general across the country are marshaling legal resources and privately plotting courtroom strat-

From the West Coast to the East, blue states are preparing for the possibility that former president Donald Trump wins in November by attempting to shield their policy priorities from the reach of a future Trump administration.

This preemptive strategy -"Trump-proofing" - encompasses a wide range of issues and programs that Democratic leaders fear could be targeted in another Trump presidency, based on his previous actions and his current campaign prom-

Even as they pursue such safeguards, Democrats are projecting confidence in their nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, SEE TRUMP ON A6

### IN THE NEWS

Hacking investigation U.S. officials said that Chinese hackers have breached at least three major U.S. telecom providers in an apparent counterintelligence operation. A14

Gaza war protest Organizers said they were unaware of a journalist's plans to self-immolate near the White House. B1

THE NATION

Trump allies threatened Deloitte contracts after messages from JD Vance became public. A5 The House speaker would not acknowledge that Joe Biden won the 2020 election. A18

**THE WORLD** Mount Hoverla, the highest mountain in

Ukraine, has taken on new significance since Russia's invasion, becoming a pilgrimage site for hikers hoping to set aside their grief. A10

THE ECONOMY A study found that conservatives and

Trump supporters are more likely than liberals and Biden supporters to have their posts taken down or their accounts suspended on major social media platforms because they post more disinformation. A15

**THE REGION In Prince George's** County, officials and

community leaders are trying to address a sharp increase in cases of domestic violence. B1 At the Red Mass mark-

ing a new Supreme Court term, there were calls for civility amid political division. B1

**STYLE** The author of the

Steele dossier is promising more dirt on Donald Trump, but will people believe him? C1

**SPORTS** The New York Liberty advanced to the WNBA Finals, eliminating the defending champions, the Las Vegas Aces. D1

**BUSINESS NEWS** OBITUARIES.

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