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THE WEATHER

Today, sunny, temperatures around average, high 70. Tonight, cloudy, late showers, low 61. Tomorrow, cloudy early, then sunshine, breezy, high 70. Weather map is on Page 24.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$6.00



Praying in the pews of Mar Charbel Church in Annaya, a Maronite Christian village in the mountains north of Beirut in Lebanon.

Nuclear Plans Divide Villages On Polish Coast

By ANDREW HIGGINS

CHOCZEWO, Poland — It appeared to be a typical harvest festival on Poland's picturesque Baltic coast, with women in traditional dress singing folk songs and local farmers displaying their wares.

But among the stalls selling sausages and hams was a more unusual sight: men in white lab coats talking about nuclear radiation (not a problem, they said soothingly), and protesters in T-shirts emblazoned with the message, "No Atoms on the Baltic!"

Arguments over atomic technology might seem odd for a village fair celebrating the gathering of crops. But in Choczewo — a district in northern Poland dotted with farms, forests and white-sand beaches — the debate over nuclear energy is very real.

It started 40 years ago with an ill-fated Communist-era plan to construct Russian-designed reactors at a nearby lake. That effort buried a village in concrete and became a lightning rod for anti-Russian sentiment, but, aborted in 1990 by Poland's first post-Communist government, it never produced electricity.

Poland, which has since joined NATO, is trying again.

Plans are underway to place three American-made Westinghouse reactors on the Choczewo district's Baltic shore, just 10 miles from the abandoned ruins of the Soviet plant.

Expected to cost more than \$35 billion, it would be Poland's first operating nuclear plant, a project of huge economic and strategic significance. The venture is an emblem not only of Poland's close relations with the United States but also of wider geopolitical calculations in a region badly shaken by the war in Ukraine.

"We've been really pulling out the stops for this project," said Andrzej Duda, Poland's president.

Continued on Page 13

In Lebanon, It's War. It's Just Not Theirs.

By VIVIAN YEE and HWAIDA SAAD

ANNAYA, Lebanon — When Hezbollah announced that its longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah, had been killed in an Israeli airstrike, the talk among many of the group's Shiite Muslim followers was of defiance and vengeance.

But many others in Lebanon say that this is not their war to fight.

"How is anyone benefiting from what's going on?" said Rana Khalil, 45, an owner of a small clothing and accessories store in Beirut, the capital. "We're the ones being injured, we are the ones being killed."

Hezbollah, the Iran-allied militia, began launching rockets at Israeli positions a year ago. It said it was acting in support of Hamas, the Iran-backed Palestinian

People of Many Faiths Feeling Trapped by Hezbollah's Fight

armed group that controls Gaza and came under blistering assault after carrying out the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel.

A conflict largely confined to the border region had simmered ever since. But in recent weeks, Israel has unleashed a dizzying series of back-to-back attacks aimed at erasing the threat Hezbollah poses to northern Israel — killing a string of commanders, bombarding large swaths of the country and staging a ground invasion. Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese civilians have fled their homes, and the bloodshed has now reached parts of Lebanon that had been totally calm.

A small Mediterranean country half the size of Vermont, Lebanon has 18 officially recognized religious groups in a population of only 5.4 million. Now, no matter their opinions on Hezbollah, they all find themselves caught between Israel's onslaught and the weakened militia's decision to fight on.

Many people are outraged that Hezbollah is dragging Lebanon into a war that can only spell more disaster for their crisis-racked country, already frail after one of the world's worst economic collapses and years of political paralysis.

In Annaya, a Maronite Christian village, residents are bracing for the worst.

Continued on Page 6

BRACING The Middle East was on edge in anticipation of Israel launching retaliatory strikes against Iran. PAGE 8



After Helene, Hundreds Remain Missing

Cajun Navy 2016 volunteers combed the area near Laurel Ridge, N.C., on Thursday. Page 14.

Rainbows and Drag Save a Bruising Sport in an Old Mill Town

By RORY SMITH

KEIGHLEY, England — Kaue Garcia and Ryan O'Neill had owned a sports team for no more than six months when they decided the time was right to shake things up. What they needed more than anything else, they felt, was a drag queen.

They were not entirely sure what the reaction would be. Keighley Cougars, the English club they had bought almost as an act of mercy, was not an obvious place to start pushing boundaries.

Keighley is an old textile town, surrounded by the windswept moors of Yorkshire's Brontë Country. The scars of postindustrial decay remain vivid here: spectacular scenery that houses some of the most deprived areas in England. And the Cougars play Rugby League, an especially brutal iteration of a famously bruising discipline.

Largely the exclusive preserve of old pit towns in northern England and northeastern Australia, Rugby League involves 26 musclebound players charging into

each other at full speed for 80 minutes. Think N.F.L.-level collisions, but without all the helmets and padding. It is a tough game, played by tough people, in tough places.

The plan hatched by Mr. Garcia and Mr. O'Neill, then — to arrange a Pride-themed day at Keighley's stadium, and to employ a drag queen to perform.

Continued on Page 30

Campaigns Seek Any Edge To Sway a Tossup Election

With 30 Days to Go, Harris and Trump Are Digging In for 'Trench Warfare'

This article is by Lisa Lerer, Reid J. Epstein and Maggie Haberman.

As Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald J. Trump begin the final 30-day push for the White House, they are locked in a neck-and-neck race from the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt.

With polling averages showing all seven battleground states nearly tied, many Democrats believe their biggest advantage may be an extensive ground game operation that their party has spent more than a year building across the country. Mr. Trump's campaign thinks that recent events — the escalating conflict in the Middle East and hurricanes that have killed more than 200 people across the Southeast — will give them an edge in the final weeks.

In some ways, the two approaches mirror the final days of the 2016 race, when Hillary Clinton's campaign boasted about a massive, data-driven field organization while Mr. Trump pressed a national message based on stoking anti-immigrant sentiment and improving the economy with a relatively meager staff and almost no field operation in the key states. Mr. Trump, of course, prevailed, helped by the F.B.I. director's reopening of an inquiry into the Democratic nominee's emails.

This time, Democrats have no such overconfidence. Although Mr. Trump and his party have lost or underperformed in every major election since then, many Democrats believe this year is one they could lose.

"Anybody would be a fool to write Trump off," said Julián Castro, the former San Antonio mayor who ran for president in 2020. "I think she's going to win, but am I absolutely sure she's going to win? No. The 2016 experience taught all of us that you can't count this guy out."

Veterans of presidential campaigns say this year's contest is distinct for how little impact major political events seem to be having on the relative standing of the two candidates. Two assassination attempts on Mr. Trump, a presidential and vice-presidential debate and the party conventions have brought both him and Ms. Harris temporary bumps in support, but no enduring shifts in public opinion.

The result is what top officials in both campaigns describe as a grind-it-out race, where movements measured in a few thousand votes could sway the outcome of the entire election.

Ralph Reed, a socially conservative activist in Georgia who is helping turn out voters for the Trump campaign, said he could not recall a presidential race since 2000 in which so many states were effectively tied this late in the campaign.

"In the battleground states, it is like trench warfare during the First World War," he said. "Everybody is dug in. Everybody is throwing artillery and machine gun fire, and it's just a no man's land."

The tightness of the race has meant an onslaught of spending, especially in those battlegrounds of Georgia, Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Officials from both campaigns refused to rank the states in order of importance, saying they all remain very competitive.

"There is not, in my mind, a blue wall path or a Southern path or a Western path," said Dan Kanninen, the Harris campaign's battleground states director. "We're competing to win close races across all seven, because at the end of the day, I believe any one of them could swing the election."

Continued on Page 21

IN THE MAGAZINE Donald J. Trump has threatened to prosecute his rivals and critics should he regain the White House, so we surveyed 50 former officials, most from the Justice Department, about how likely he would be to succeed and how he could sidestep, or eliminate altogether, the guardrails designed to stop him.

ELECTION GUIDE We examine the races that will determine the balance of power in the House, the Senate and the White House. Grab a calculator (and some scissors). A Special Section.

Churches Near Dallas Abound. So Do Their Pastors' Scandals.

By RUTH GRAHAM

DALLAS — On a Sunday morning, the pastor of Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas, took the stage with his wife to reassure their congregation.

"Lisa is the only woman I've ever been with, and I'm the only man she's ever been with — and I say 'been with' in a biblical sense," said Ed Young, who founded the church in the late 1980s.

About 4,000 people were in the room, with thousands more watching online. The pastor added, "We don't have to worry about any sexual skeletons in our closet coming from the past."

In normal circumstances, it was the kind of claim that many churchgoers would hope went without saying. But in the Dallas-Fort Worth area this year, a pastor with a clean reputation is not to be taken for granted.

The Youngs' joint sermon came in late June, days after Robert Morris, the founder of the nearby Gateway Church, resigned as senior pastor after being accused of sexually abusing a child in the 1980s.

The week before, another local pastor with a national profile, Tony Evans, shocked many evangelists by stepping away from the pulpit over an undisclosed "sin."



The pastor Ed Young and his wife, Lisa, both assured church members of their fidelity.

Gateway is one of the largest churches in the metro area, which is known for its many and mammoth-size congregations. Mr. Evans's predominantly Black church in South Dallas, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, claims a membership of about 10,000 people.

The drumbeat of downfalls, sur-

Continued on Page 23

INTERNATIONAL 4-13

Moose vs. Motorists

The huge animals are involved in hundreds of collisions in Newfoundland each year. But they're also an accepted part of the culture. PAGE 4

Ukraine's Donbas Strategy

With something like a rope-a-dope tactic, the idea is to let Russian forces exhaust themselves. But it's far from clear whether it will succeed. PAGE 12

A 179-Year-Old Arctic Mystery

Newly identified remains offer clues about the fate of more than 100 explorers on the Franklin expedition off the coast of Canada. PAGE 10



ARTS & LEISURE

The Show Went On (and On)

As the 50th season of "Saturday Night Live" begins, some original cast members and others look back. PAGE 12

METROPOLITAN

Caution in the Night

In an industrial area along the border between Brooklyn and Queens, the deaths of three men have prompted vigilance among clubgoers. PAGE 8

NATIONAL 14-23

Schools Under Investigation

After last spring's campus protests, dozens of discrimination complaints have spawned federal inquiries that some fear could chill free speech. PAGE 18

SUNDAY OPINION

The Editorial Board

PAGE 4



SUNDAY STYLES

Swinging Into Autumn

The Brooklyn Open golf tournament is by turns a competition, a block party and a rite of fall for golfers. PAGE 10

A Jack Nicholson Impression

A performance artist's full-body metamorphosis turned heads at the Balenciaga show in Paris. PAGE 1

SUNDAY BUSINESS

It Began With a Podcast

The actors Sean Hayes, Will Arnett and Jason Bateman started their "SmartLess" podcast early in the pandemic. They didn't know it would turn into something far more ambitious. PAGE 4

The Benefits of Hindsight

In his new book, the journalist Malcolm Gladwell admits that some of the arguments he made in his first book, "The Tipping Point," were wrong. PAGE 1

