



Rain 70/64 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 72/63 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024 • \$3

# Israeli troops move into Lebanon

‘Limited’ invasion aims to push Hezbollah away from border

This article is by Ellen Nakashima, Shira Rubin, Mohamad El Chamaa, Loveday Morris and Louisa Loveluck

Israel sent ground troops into southern Lebanon overnight Monday, the Israeli military said in a statement, aimed at destroying Hezbollah infrastructure and pushing the group’s fighters away from villages near the border after nearly a year of drone and rocket strikes on northern Israel.

The invasion, described by the Israel Defense Forces as “limited, localized, and targeted ground raids” backed by air forces and artillery, came after discussions over the weekend between U.S. and Israeli officials over the scope of the operation.

Israel had apparently scaled back plans for a major ground campaign, a U.S. official told The Washington Post on Monday, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. Israel told Washington it would launch more limited incursions, the U.S. official said, focused on destroying Hezbollah rocket launchers and weapons caches, then pulling back.

Earlier Monday, even before the IDF statement, Israeli forces had begun laying the groundwork for the operation, carrying out small

SEE **LEBANON** ON A13

**Limited influence:** U.S. entreaties have gone ignored by Israel. **A12**

**Nasrallah strike:** Visuals indicate Israel used U.S.-made bombs. **A13**



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Porter Edwards, 10, helps his father clean up debris at Mad Co. Brew House in Marshall, N.C., on Monday. Several towns in the western part of the state are struggling to receive basic resources in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene’s destruction.

# A Ky. mom got sober. Her challenges weren’t over.

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE  
IN LOUISVILLE

Who are you?  
What would you like to be?  
What interests you now that the drugs are gone?

Mulling these questions could save her life, according to the recovery specialist, so Grace Bechtel tried to conjure answers in the quiet of the halfway house.

On this fall morning, like most mornings now, she was alone with her 5-month-old daughter,

Struggling to find help in a state where drug use and mental health issues hit mothers hard

Lana. The baby was asleep in her crib. Bechtel, 22, had adorned their room with fairy lights that glowed purple, the color for “overdose awareness.”

Two friends in two years had relapsed and died. They had also had infants. They had also sought treatment. But finding help as an addict wasn’t the hardest part,

Bechtel thought. It was finding help as a mom.

“I didn’t even know how to take care of myself,” she said.

The recovery specialist had warned her: Among pregnant women and new mothers, “mental health conditions,” including suicide and overdose, are a top cause of death in the United States. The

toll has been especially devastating in Kentucky, a deep-red state rocked by the opioid crisis, where a near-total ban on abortion means someone who becomes pregnant while grappling with addiction has few options but to have the baby.

A 2023 study stressed the danger. “Substance use,” it found, was involved in more than half of Kentucky’s maternal deaths.

In the past five years, the state boosted its number of drug- and alcohol-treatment beds by

SEE **KENTUCKY** ON A8

DIKEMBE MUTOMBO 1966-2024

# A shot-blocking 7-footer with an outsize legacy off the court

BY HARRISON SMITH

Dikembe Mutombo, a shot-blocking, finger-wagging basketball Hall of Famer who dominated on defense at Georgetown and in the NBA, turning opponents away from the rim while building an off-court legacy through his humanitarian work in Central Africa, died Sept. 30 in Atlanta. He was 58.

The cause was brain cancer, according to a statement from National Basketball Association Commissioner Adam Silver. The statement did not say where Mr. Mutombo died.

A 7-foot-2 center with size-22 sneakers and a gravelly basso profundo voice, Mr. Mutombo was an outsize presence in the NBA for 18 seasons, scooping up rebounds, swatting down opponents’ shots and taunting competitors with his signature finger wag, like a teacher scolding a naughty schoolboy.

By the time he retired in 2009, he had blocked 3,289 shots, second in league history only to Hakeem Olajuwon.

“There’s nobody else in our league who has the intimidating

presence he has in the hole,” said Golden State Warriors Coach Don Nelson, describing Mr. Mutombo’s impact around the basket in a 1994 interview with Sports Illustrated. “He’s one of a kind.”

Raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo, then known as Zaire, Mr. Mutombo spoke nine languages, but he barely understood English — or what a zone defense was — when he came to the United States in 1987 to study at Georgetown University. He had planned to pursue a career in medicine but instead embraced basketball under Hoyas Coach John Thompson, who was known for cultivating tenacious, defense-minded big men such as Patrick Ewing.

Mr. Mutombo evolved into a top prospect, setting a Big East Conference record when he swatted down 12 shots in a game. Selected by the Denver Nuggets with the fourth overall pick in the 1991 draft, he went on to star for the Atlanta Hawks and Philadelphia 76ers while becoming one of the NBA’s elite defenders, leading the league in rebounds for two seasons and blocks for three.

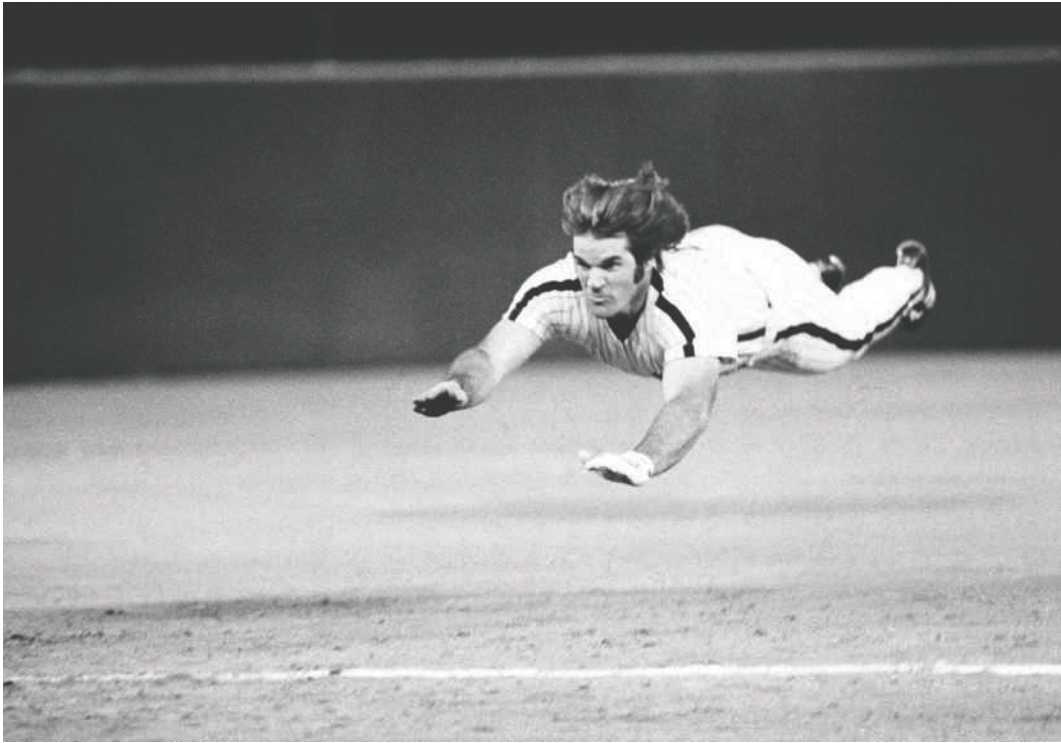
SEE **MUTOMBO** ON A9



1995 PHOTO BY MARK HUMPHREY/AP

**A star was born**

Kris Kristofferson was a giant in country music as a songwriter and performer who made an impact in Hollywood with charisma and deep-set blue eyes. **Pages B4, C1, D1**



RUSTY KENNEDY/AP

Pete Rose was known for his hustle on the field, but his gambling off it led to his banishment.

PETE ROSE 1941-2024

# Popular — then disgraced — hit king

BY MICHAEL S. ROSENWALD

Pete Rose, who won two World Series titles with his hometown Cincinnati Reds on his path to breaking the all-time hits record but whose stardom disintegrated after he was caught gambling on his team as manager, leading to his banishment from the game and exclusion from the Hall of Fame, died Sept. 30 in Clark County, Nev. He was 83.

His death was confirmed by the county medical examiner’s office, which did not share additional details.

Known as Charlie Hustle for his aggressive

and showy style of play — diving headfirst into bases, sprinting to first base after a walk — Mr. Rose was also one of baseball’s most popular, versatile and polarizing players during his 24-year playing career.

After stints with the Cincinnati Reds, Philadelphia Phillies and Montreal Expos, Mr. Rose retired as a player in 1986 with 4,256 hits and a career batting average of .303, hitting above .300 for a season 15 times. Most baseball historians and stat aficionados presume that the combination of Mr. Rose’s skill and longevity — the average MLB career is about six years — will

SEE **ROSE** ON A17

# Death toll from Helene tops 100

HELP BEING SURGED TO NORTH CAROLINA

Water systems down, searches are hindered

This article is by Brady Dennis, Nicolás Rivero, Ben Brasch, Emily Wax-Thibodeaux and Dan Lamothe

SWANNANOA, N.C. — Days after Helene made landfall in Florida as a major hurricane and began spiraling through the southeast, roads remain inaccessible in towns from Georgia to eastern Tennessee, communication systems are challenged, search-and-rescue efforts continue, and people are still waiting for water.

At least 111 deaths have been confirmed. In North Carolina, there have been at least 42 deaths. In South Carolina at least 29 deaths; Georgia, 25; Florida, 11; Tennessee, two; and Virginia, two. Roughly 1.8 million people don’t have power in these states, according to poweroutage.us.

“We’re waiting on resources. I think everybody is,” Josh Harrold, town manager for Black Mountain, N.C., said outside the local police station. “Water is our big concern.”

Harrold said the small mountain town had requested whatever help it could get — from FEMA, from the state, from other fire and police and public works departments. Some help has begun to trickle in, but slowly.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper (D) visited Buncombe County, home to Black Mountain as

SEE **HURRICANE** ON A22

# Warnings in N.C. no match for destruction

Isolated geography, flash flooding would’ve made any escape treacherous

BY SCOTT DANCE, BRIANNA SACKS AND BRADY DENNIS

CANTON, N.C. — Doris Towers awoke to the beeping of her husband’s dialysis machine early Friday morning, meaning it had lost power. Her neighbor’s Christmas lights, still up from last year, had gone out. Those were early hints of Helene’s destruction to come. She hadn’t known a storm was on the way.

Across the mountains in Swannanoa, Joe Dancy and Jenna Shaw got up before dawn to walk their dog and saw floodwaters creeping toward their house. An hour later, they were climbing out a window with the help of a National Guard soldier.

Before this scenic, rustic Great Smoky Mountain refuge turned

SEE **EVACUATION** ON A6

**Emergency broadcasts:** A country music station has been a lifeline. **A7**

**Political winds:** Harris and Trump bicker over storm aid strategy. **A7**

## IN THE NEWS

**Who belongs?** In a Wisconsin county, citizens and the board of supervisors argue over a resolution against refugee resettlement. **A4**

**Campus expression** A pro-Palestinian student group at the University of Maryland urged a judge to compel the school to allow an Oct. 7 vigil to mourn people killed in Gaza. **B1**

**THE NATION**  
**In a letter,** advocacy groups asked Congress to commit to certifying the election results. **A2**  
**A breach** of the VA medical files of JD Vance and Tim Walz is under investigation. **A3**

**THE WORLD**  
**Mexico’s** first female president takes office Tuesday amid a swirl of uncertainty. **A10**  
**The closure** of Britain’s last coal-powered electrical plant marks the end of an era. **A15**

**THE ECONOMY**  
**Epic Games,** the creator of the popular online video game Fortnite, sued Google, saying it violated antitrust law again. **A16**  
**Port operators** are bracing for a prolonged longshoremen’s strike that would affect the East Coast. **A18**

**THE REGION**  
**A pandemic program** to help D.C. residents apply for housing aid has dried up, largely because of overwhelming demand. **B1**  
**A former** Virginia hospital worker went on trial in the case of a man who died while being restrained last year. **B1**

**STYLE**  
**The Onion** will revive its cable news parody series with former MSNBC anchor Joshua Johnson as its host. **C1**  
**HEALTH & SCIENCE**  
**As the coronavirus** continues to evolve, there are still plenty of questions. We have answers. **E1**

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