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That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, cloudy, a few showers, high 71. **Tonight**, cloudy, some rain and drizzle, low 62. **Tomorrow**, cloudy early, perhaps a little clearing late, high 69. Weather map, Page B8.

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Homes on Friday in the Gulf Coast community of Dekle Beach, Fla., southeast of Tallahassee, that were leveled by Hurricane Helene.

## Hurricane Cuts a Staggering Path of Destruction

This article is by *Emily Cochrane, Abigail Geiger, Patricia Mazzei, Rachel Nostrant, Isabelle Taft and Juliet Macur.*

STEINHATCHEE, Fla. — Hurricane Helene forged a devastating path of floods and wind damage after slamming into Florida’s Big Bend region on Thursday night, submerging much of the state’s Gulf Coast before continuing its destructive march through Georgia and into the mountains of Appalachia. More than 40 people were reported dead in four states as the huge storm spawned flash floods and landslides on its way north.

In the densely populated

### Florida’s Gulf Swamped — at Least 40 Deaths Across Four States

Tampa Bay region of Florida, neighborhoods were underwater on Friday, the result of a powerful storm surge. In southern Georgia, search teams pulled trapped residents, some with injuries, out of damaged buildings. More than two million people in North Carolina were under flood warnings, and millions, including some as far north as Virginia, were without power.

The destruction stretched at

least 800 miles north from where the storm came ashore in a sparsely populated area of Florida called the Big Bend, which sits in the crook of coastline where the Panhandle connects to the Florida peninsula.

Near the town of Newport, Tenn., concerns about a potential dam collapse triggered a flash flood warning for 20,000 people and led officials to order many in the 7,000-person community to evacuate.

In mountainous western North Carolina, landslides threatened homes and blocked major roads. Emergency officials issued an evacuation warning for residents living below a large dam, the Lake

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## A NOT-GUILTY PLEA AS ADAMS DIGS IN

### Lawyer Assails Evidence of Bribery and Fraud

This article is by *Dana Rubinstein, William K. Rashbaum and Michael Wilson.*

A muted but defiant Mayor Eric Adams, in back-to-back appearances inside a federal courthouse in Manhattan and outside its granite facade on Friday, professed his innocence of criminal charges including bribery and fraud and stood by as his lawyer railed against the evidence in a case that threatens to topple his embattled administration.

“I am not guilty, your honor,” Mr. Adams said at his midday arraignment before Magistrate Judge Katharine Parker in a 26th-floor courtroom in Lower Manhattan, as reporters looked on from the gallery and via livestreams in several overflow courtrooms.

The indictment against Mr. Adams, a 57-page description by prosecutors of free, or heavily discounted, overseas trips and illegal campaign contributions from Turkey in return for political favors, has upended New York City’s political landscape. The will-he-or-won’t-he questions about whether Mr. Adams would resign seemed to overshadow even the upcoming presidential election as a tumultuous week in the city drew to a close.

Mr. Adams gave no sign that he was considering stepping down, and such an outcome seemed unlikely to happen at least before his next scheduled court appearance on Wednesday, when his lawyer has indicated he plans to attack the government’s case.

“This case isn’t even a real case,” the lawyer, Alex Spiro, said to reporters outside the courthouse. “This is the ‘airline upgrade corruption’ case.”

At around the same time, federal and state agents seized the phone of the mayor’s chief adviser and perhaps closest ally, Ingrid P. Lewis-Martin, a friend of the mayor’s for 40 years and his deputy when he was Brooklyn borough president.

Ms. Lewis-Martin was served with a subpoena and told about the search on Friday when she landed at Kennedy Airport after

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## ISRAEL, HUNTING HEZBOLLAH CHIEF, BOMBS DWELLINGS

### Stronghold South of Beirut Hit Just After Fiery U.N. Speech by Netanyahu

This article is by *Ronen Bergman, Julian E. Barnes, Liam Stack, Far-naz Fassihi and Michael Levenson.*

The Israeli military bombed residential buildings south of Beirut on Friday that it said stood over the central headquarters of Hezbollah, barely an hour after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered a combative address to the United Nations in which he vowed to defeat the group and other Iranian-backed militias.

A huge blast shook the Dahiya, an area south of Beirut where Hezbollah holds sway, and thick black smoke began rising above the skyline, in what appeared to have been the most intense bombing in the area since the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah began last October.

The strike targeted Hassan Nasrallah, the cleric who since 1992 has led Hezbollah, the powerful Lebanese armed group and political party, according to Israeli and American officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence. It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Nas-

rallah had been killed, though there were growing concerns in Tehran that he was in the buildings when they were hit, three Iranian officials said.

Lebanon’s health minister, Firas Abiad, said the bombing had caused the “complete decimation” of four to six residential buildings. At least six people were killed and more than 90 others wounded, the Health Ministry said. Mr. Abiad warned that the toll was likely to rise.

“They are residential buildings. They were filled with people,” Mr. Abiad told The New York Times. “Whoever is in those buildings is now under the rubble.”

Photos and videos showed emergency workers with flashlights searching the rubble and a heavy-duty excavator digging through piles of jagged concrete and twisted metal.

The Lebanese prime minister, Najib Mikati, said the attack proved that “the Israeli enemy pays no heed at all to the efforts and international calls for a ceasefire.” He urged world leaders to

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Lebanese soldiers amid the rubble in suburbs bombed by Israel.

## Doping Agency Lost Key Data Before Games

By **TARIQ PANJA and MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT**

Just weeks before this summer’s Olympics in Paris, officials at the headquarters of the World Anti-Doping Agency got some startling news.

Lawyers for the organization told a meeting of top officials in late May that a series of problems with its databases had led to corrupted, missing or incorrect data related to at least 2,000 cases, and as a result, the agency had even lost track of more than 900 test results from athletes who had been accused of breaking antidoping rules.

That stunning revelation came with another unsettling disclosure: Because of the data problems, the agency could no longer determine which cases it should be monitoring, and its lawyers were now unsure if its staff was properly tracking cases of athletes who might soon be heading to Paris.

“The more we dig,” the lawyers admitted in a PowerPoint presentation used at the meeting, “the more we find.”

The previously undisclosed account of the meeting raises serious new questions about the performance of the agency, known as WADA, which has come under intense scrutiny this year for its

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## TV Interviews Seem to Expose Harris’s Nerves

By **REBECCA DAVIS O’BRIEN**

The first question Vice President Kamala Harris faced on Wednesday night, in her first solo interview with a major cable network as the Democratic presidential nominee, was posed as a gentle hypothetical: What would she say to the many Americans who do not see how her economic policies would serve them?

“Well,” Ms. Harris began, shaking her head, “if you are hard-working, if you have the dreams and the ambitions and the aspirations — of what I believe you do — you’re in my plan.”

She paused and smiled.

“You know, I have to tell you,” she said, eyes lightly closed, hands raised, “I really love and am so energized by what I know to be the spirit and character of the American people.”

In her dizzying ascent to the top of the Democratic ticket, Ms. Harris has proved to be a disciplined and effective debater and a tireless campaigner, nimble and energetic in rallies. But one-on-one televised interviews with journalists have long been a weakness in her political arsenal. She often winds her way slowly toward an answer, leaning on jargon and rehearsed turns of phrase, using language that is sometimes derided as “word salad” but might be

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MAGGIE SMITH, 1934-2024



Maggie Smith celebrating her Oscar for best actress in “The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie” in 1970.

## A Spellbinding ‘Downton Abbey’ Grande Dame

By **ANITA GATES and ROBERT BERKIVIST**

Maggie Smith, one of the finest British stage and screen actors of her generation, whose award-winning roles ranged from a free-thinking Scottish schoolteacher in “The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie” to the acid-tongued dowager

countess on “Downton Abbey,” died on Friday in London. She was 89.

Her death, in a hospital, was announced by her family in a statement issued by a publicist. It did not specify the cause of death.

American moviegoers barely knew Ms. Smith (now Dame Maggie to her countrymen) when she starred in “The Prime of Miss

Jean Brodie” (1969), about a teacher at a girls’ school in the 1930s who dared to have provocative views — and a love life. Vincent Canby’s review in The New York Times described her performance as “a staggering amalgam of counterpointed moods, switches in voice levels and ob-

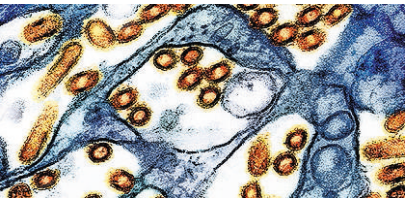
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Pope Francis expelled 10 members of Sodalitium Christianae Vitae after investigators reported cases of physical abuse and cultlike control. PAGE A4

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Among the standouts at this year’s New York Film Festival, which runs through Oct. 14, is “Nickel Boys,” RaMell Ross’s expressionistic adaptation of Colson Whitehead’s 2019 novel. PAGE C1

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THIS WEEKEND

