



Mostly sunny 74/51 • Tomorrow: Sunny 67/48 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024 • \$3

Trump secretly sent Putin covid tests

Woodward book says pair talked up to 7 times since White House exit

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER

As the coronavirus tore through the world in 2020, and the United States and other countries confronted a shortage of tests designed to detect the illness, President Donald Trump secretly sent coveted tests to Russian President Vladimir Putin for his personal use.

Putin, petrified of the virus, accepted the supplies but took pains to prevent political fallout — not for him, but for his American counterpart. He cautioned Trump not to reveal that he had dispatched the scarce medical equipment to Moscow, according to a new book by Washington Post associate editor Bob Woodward.

Putin, according to the book, told Trump, “I don’t want you to tell anybody because people will get mad at you, not me.”

Four years later, the personal relationship between the two men appears to have persisted, Woodward reports, as Trump campaigns to return to the White House and Putin orchestrates his bloody assault on Ukraine. In early 2024, the former president ordered an aide away from his office at Mar-a-Lago, his private club and residence in Florida, so he could conduct a private phone call with the Russian leader, according to Woodward’s account.

The book does not describe what the two men purportedly discussed, and it quotes a Trump campaign official casting doubt on the supposed contact. But the unnamed Trump aide cited in the book indicated that the GOP stan-

SEE BOOK ON A2

Rules on ghost guns likely to be upheld

Justices use omelets and HelloFresh to weigh validity of regulations

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL

The Supreme Court seems likely to uphold a major gun regulation imposed by the Biden administration that requires background checks, serial numbers and sales records for the nearly untraceable firearms known as ghost guns.

A majority of the justices seemed skeptical during oral argument on Tuesday of the position taken by gun owners, parts makers and Second Amendment groups: that the government exceeded its authority in 2022 when it imposed new rules for the weapons.

Ghost guns, which have been used in a growing number of crimes over the past decade, are typically assembled at home using parts, kits or pieces printed by 3D printers. Manufacturers say they don’t have to comply with regulations on other guns sold commercially because ghost guns don’t meet the legal definition of

SEE GHOST GUNS ON A4



JOSE LUIS GONZALEZ/REUTERS

Marine Corps Sgt. Delmonte Battle and others prepare sandbags Tuesday in Orlando, roughly 100 miles inland from where Hurricane Milton is expected to make landfall. Milton is set to hit many areas staggered by Hurricane Helene’s arrival less than two weeks ago.

Amid debris, a clear choice to evacuate

In St. Petersburg-area enclave, many who endured Helene have beaten a path out of harm’s way

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE AND BRYAN PIETSCH

ST. PETE BEACH, FLA. — Neighbors in Vina Del Mar Island, a subdivision off the coast of St. Petersburg, Fla., were debating whether and when to leave ahead of Hurricane Milton.

Many had stayed late last month to weather Hurricane Helene, as they had past storms. But Helene proved worse than ex-

pected, flooding homes, destroying cars and boats and killing an elderly resident as well as a half-dozen others on nearby barrier islands.

This time, as neighbors sat in still-waterlogged living rooms and watched radar projecting Milton to be headed straight for them with a Wednesday landfall, most planned to evacuate.

“They’re going to Jacksonville. He’s in Greece. They’re in Nash-

ville. She’s going to South Tampa,” Kim Tynan said as she walked her street in a light rain, pointing to flooded houses battered down with blue tarps and homemade sandbags ahead of the storm, debris still piled out front from Helene.

Tynan, 52, who works in administration at a hospital and runs the St. Pete Beach Electric Boat Company with her husband, planned to evacuate her family

and two dogs to Orlando. She phoned a friend across the lagoon who had not yet decided whether to leave. The friend was looking at both options.

The neighborhood felt besieged. Dozens of dump trucks, accompanied by sheriff’s escorts, raced to haul Helene debris across the bridges and out of the area ahead of the storm, to lessen the chances it would be turned

SEE EVACUATIONS ON A6

Landmark EPA rule requires removal of all lead pipes in U.S.

BY AMUDALAT AJASA AND SILVIA FOSTER-FRAU

The Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule Tuesday requiring water utilities to replace all lead pipes within a decade, a move aimed at eliminating a toxic threat that continues to affect tens of thousands of American children each year.

The move, which also tightens the amount of lead allowed in the nation’s drinking water, comes

Water utilities have 10 years for project that’s estimated to cost \$45B

nearly 40 years after Congress determined that lead pipes posed a serious risk to public health and banned them in new construction.

Research has shown that lead,

a toxic contaminant that seeps from pipes into the drinking water supply, can cause irreversible developmental delays, difficulty learning and behavioral problems among children. In adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lead exposure can cause increased blood pressure, heart disease, decreased kidney function and cancer.

But replacing the lead pipes that deliver water to millions of

U.S. homes will cost tens of billions of dollars, and the push to eradicate them only gathered momentum after a water crisis in Flint, Mich., a decade ago exposed the extent to which children remain vulnerable to lead poisoning through tap water.

Speaking in Milwaukee on Tuesday, President Joe Biden said the United States should have addressed the danger lead pipes pose to the country’s drinking water years ago.

“For too long, local communities have known how important it was to deal with this problem,” he said during an event at the Milwaukee Department of Public Works. “It hadn’t been given the national priority it demanded though. I’m here today to tell you that I am finally insisting that it gets prioritized, and I’m insisting it get done.”

The groundbreaking regulation, called the Lead and Copper

SEE LEAD ON A24

ELECTION 2024

Harris proposes plan for costs of long-term care

Medicare would pay for at-home services to help those tending to parents

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB

Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday announced a plan for Medicare to cover long-term-care services at home, a significant expansion of the program that would be aimed at helping tens of millions of Americans who are caring for aging parents.

Harris’s announcement was designed to address the growing number of elderly Americans with serious medical needs who hope to stay in their own homes, as well as the children and other relatives who tend to them with little financial help.

The problem has grown increasingly acute in recent years as the baby-boomer generation ages, studies suggest. Medicare offers coverage for at-home services only under narrow circumstances and on a short-term basis, and most private insurance plans do not cover long-term, at-home care.

That leaves many Americans placing their elderly parents in nursing homes, which can cost thousands of dollars a year, if not more.

Harris, in an appearance on ABC’s “The View,” a daytime show hosted by a panel of women, said she wanted to help the “sandwich generation” in particular — people

SEE HARRIS ON A13

‘Day one’ priorities: A look into Trump’s hundreds of promises. A12

Housing: Vice president calls for increased supply, affordability. A18



LORENZO TUGNOLI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

In Lebanon, unexpected places of refuge

Lebanese displaced by Israel’s fight against Hezbollah take shelter on the dance floor of Skybar, one of Beirut’s top nightclubs. “We started off with 70 people, and now we’re around 400,” said the club’s manager. Others are taking over high-end condos left empty by Lebanon’s economic crisis. Story, A14

IN THE NEWS

U.S.-Israel tensions A visit by Israel’s top defense official was delayed, casting doubt on the White House’s diplomatic leverage ahead of an expected retaliatory strike on Iran. A5

Deficit hits \$1.8 trillion Interest payments on the national debt now exceed the Pentagon’s budget, the CBO reported. A24

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A former official under Eric Adams faces charges tied to the New York mayor’s 2021 race. A2
An exoskeleton let a paralyzed man walk. Then the manufacturer refused to fix it. A3

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For a second day, Russia felt the effects of a cyberattack on its court websites. A17

THE ECONOMY
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Social Security isn’t rising fast enough to account for retirees’ health costs, Michelle Singletary writes. A20

THE REGION
Loudoun County held a food show allowing students to taste new higher-quality, diverse school lunch recipes. B1
A D.C. man was charged with torture and abuse in the death of his 5-year-old son, a boy remembered for his “vibrant personality.” B1

STYLE
HBO filmmaker Cullen Hoback thinks he may have uncovered the mysterious identity of bitcoin’s inventor. C1

FOOD
From dishwasher to co-owner: An immigrant from El Salvador rises to lead D.C.’s Pizzeria Paradiso restaurants.

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The Washington Post
Year 147, No. 53999

