

NATION & WORLD

DIGEST

Biden sets deadline to replace lead pipes

WASHINGTON — A decade after the Flint, Michigan, water crisis raised alarms about lead in tap water, President Joe Biden set a 10-year deadline Tuesday for cities across the U.S. to replace their lead pipes, aimed at ensuring that drinking water is safe for all Americans.

Biden announced the final Environmental Protection Agency rule during a visit to swing state Wisconsin amid a tight presidential campaign. It highlights an issue — safe drinking water — that Democrat Kamala Harris prioritized as vice president and during her presidential campaign.

The new rule supplants a looser standard set by Republican former President Donald Trump's administration and is the strongest overhaul of lead-in-water standards in roughly three decades.

Lead is a neurotoxin that can cause a range of disorders from behavioral problems to brain damage; it lowers IQ scores and stunts development in children and increases blood pressure in adults.

State court dismisses transgender cake suit

Colorado's Supreme Court dismissed a lawsuit on procedural grounds Tuesday against a Christian baker who refused to bake a cake for a transgender woman. Justices declined to weigh in on the free speech issues that brought the case to national attention.

Attorney Autumn Scardina sued baker Jack Phillips in 2017 after Phillips' Denver-area bakery refused to make a pink cake with blue frosting to celebrate her gender transition.

Justices said in the 6-3 majority opinion that Scardina had not exhausted her options to seek redress through another court before filing her lawsuit. Scardina's attorney, John McHugh, expressed disappointment and said he would evaluate if any legal options remain.

BRIEFLY

PLOT: The FBI arrested Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, of Oklahoma City, an Afghan man who officials say was inspired by the Islamic State militant organization and was plotting an Election Day attack targeting large crowds in the U.S., the Justice Department said Tuesday.

HAWAII WILDFIRE: Unemployment and poverty are up and incomes are down among survivors of a 2023 deadly wildfire in Maui, a report published Tuesday found.

DRUG RAID: Gerald Goines, 60, a former Houston police officer, was sentenced to 60 years in prison Tuesday for the murder of married couple Dennis Tuttle, 59, and Rhogena Nicholas, 58, during a January 2019 drug raid with a no-knock warrant that revealed systemic corruption in the department's narcotics unit.

BRAZIL: The Brazilian Supreme Court's Justice Alexandre de Moraes authorized the restoration of social media platform X's service Tuesday in Brazil, more than a month after its nationwide shutdown, according to a court document made public.

THREATS: Britain faces a rise in attempts at assassination, sabotage and other crimes on U.K. soil by Russia and Iran, as the two states recruit criminals to "do their dirty work," the head of Britain's domestic intelligence agency said Tuesday.

NYC: Former New York City official Mohamed Bahi was charged Tuesday with witness tampering and destroying evidence in the federal investigation that led to Mayor Eric Adams' bribery indictment.

— Associated Press

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SEVERE WEATHER

People flee Tampa area

Milton could be first major hurricane to hit the region since 1921

TERRY SPENCER AND HAVEN DALEY
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Fearful Florida residents streamed out of the Tampa Bay region Tuesday ahead of what could be a once-in-a-century direct hit from Hurricane Milton, as crews worked furiously to prevent furniture, appliances and other waterlogged wreckage from the last big storm from becoming deadly projectiles in this one.

The preparations marked the last chance for millions of people in the Tampa metro area to prepare for lethal storm surges, ferocious

winds and possible tornadoes in a place that has narrowly avoided a head-on blow from a major storm for generations.

"Today's the last day to get ready," said Craig Fugate, a former FEMA director who previously ran the state's emergency operation division. "This is bringing everything."

Gov. Ron DeSantis said the state deployed more than 300 dump trucks that removed 1,300 loads of debris left behind by Hurricane Helene by Tuesday afternoon.

After weakening slightly, Milton regained strength Tuesday afternoon and became a Category 5 storm again. It could make landfall Wednesday night in the Tampa Bay area, which has a population of more than 3.3 million people. The

11 Florida counties under mandatory evacuation orders are home to about 5.9 million people, according to population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Those who defy the orders are on their own, and first responders are not expected to risk their lives to rescue them at the height of the storm.

Tampa Bay has not been hit directly by a major hurricane since 1921, and authorities fear its luck is about to run out. Tampa Mayor Jane Castor issued increasingly dire warnings, noting that a 15-foot surge could swallow an entire house.

"So if you're in it, basically that's the coffin that you're in," she said. Milton's forecast trajectory wobbled slightly Tuesday, mean-

ing it could make landfall in less populated areas south of Tampa Bay, according to the National Hurricane Center. Still, the whole region is expected to get slammed by the storm.

Milton is forecast to cross central Florida and to dump as much as 18 inches of rain while heading toward the Atlantic Ocean, according to the National Hurricane Center. That path would largely spare other states ravaged by Helene, which killed at least 230 people on its path from Florida to the Carolinas.

The arrival of back-to-back hurricanes that rapidly intensified into mighty storms comes as climate change exacerbates conditions that are allowing them to thrive in warming waters.

MIDDLE EAST



ARIEL SCHALIT, ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man examines his damaged apartment Tuesday that was hit by a rocket fired from Lebanon in Kiryat Yam, northern Israel.

Israeli military sends more troops

Hezbollah militants continue cross-border rocket fire campaign

BASSEM MROUE AND TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Hezbollah fired another barrage of rockets into Israel on Tuesday, and the militant group's acting leader vowed to keep up pressure that forced tens of thousands of Israelis from their homes near the Lebanese border.

The Israeli military said it sent more ground troops into southern Lebanon and that a senior Hezbollah commander was killed in an airstrike.

Dozens of rockets fired by Hezbollah were aimed as far south as Haifa, and the Israeli government warned residents north of the coastal city to limit activities, prompting the closure of more schools. The Israeli military said Hezbollah launched about 180 rockets across the border.

Sheikh Naim Kassem, Hezbollah's acting leader, said its military capabilities remain intact after weeks of heavy Israeli airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon, and attacks that killed its top commanders in a matter of days. He said Israeli forces have not been able to advance since launching a ground incursion into Lebanon last week.

An Israeli airstrike on a bunker in Beirut last month killed longtime Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Hashem Safieddine, a cousin of Nasrallah who oversees the group's political affairs, was generally regarded as the heir apparent, but no announcement has been made on a successor.

In a statement addressed to the people of Lebanon, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Hezbollah "weaker than it has been for many, many years."

"We took out thousands of terrorists, including Nasrallah himself, and Nasrallah's replacement, and the replacement of his replacement," he said, without naming them.

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, an Israeli military spokesman, said Tuesday night that Israel was still checking the status of Safieddine.

The Israeli military said it has dismantled militant infrastructure along the border and killed hundreds of Hezbollah fighters. On Tuesday, it said a strike in Beirut killed Suhail Husseini, who it described as a senior commander responsible for overseeing logistics, budget and management of the militant group.

The Israeli military said it deployed a fourth division in southern Lebanon and operations expanded to the west, but its focus still appears to be a narrow strip along the border.

Supreme Court seems open to ghost gun rules

Biden administration places restrictions on hard-to-trace weapons

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court seemed likely Tuesday to uphold a Biden administration regulation on ghost guns, the difficult-to-trace weapons found in increasing numbers at crime scenes.

Key conservative justices seemed open to the government's argument that kits allowing people to make nearly untraceable guns at home can be regulated like other firearms.

Two conservative justices, Chief John Roberts and Amy

Coney Barrett, previously joined with the three liberals to allow the rule to go into effect and seemed skeptical of the arguments that the Biden administration overstepped by trying to regulate gun parts rather than finished weapons.

Some of the justices' questions focused on whether the kits were close enough to functioning weapons to be regulated as guns.

Many ghost gun kits require only the drilling of a few holes and removal of plastic tabs.

A ruling is expected in the coming months.

While guns are at the center of the case, *Garland v. VanDerStok*, the legal issues are about the power of federal agencies rather than Second Amendment rights.

TikTok addictive to kids, states claim in lawsuits

More than a dozen attorneys general say the design is harmful

ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than a dozen states and the District of Columbia filed lawsuits against TikTok on Tuesday, saying that the popular short-form video app is designed to be addictive to kids and harms their mental health.

The lawsuits stem from a national investigation into TikTok, which was launched in March 2022 by a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from many states, including New York, California, Kentucky and New Jersey. All of the complaints were filed in

state courts.

At the heart of each lawsuit is the TikTok algorithm, which powers what users see on the platform by populating the app's main "For You" feed with content tailored to people's interests. The lawsuits note TikTok design features that they say addict children to the platform, such as the ability to scroll endlessly through content, push notifications that come with built-in "buzzes" and face filters that create unattainable appearances for users.

The latest lawsuits come nearly a year after dozens of states sued Instagram parent Meta Platforms Inc. in state and federal courts for deliberately designing addictive features that keep kids hooked on their platforms.