

The Washington Post

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Partly sunny 70/45 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 62/42 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024 • \$3

Explosions in Tehran as Israel retaliates

'Precise strikes' launched against military assets after Iran's Oct. 1 barrage

BY STEVE HENDRIX, MIKHAIL KLIMENTOV, SUSANNAH GEORGE, MISSY RYAN AND ANDREW JEONG

JERUSALEM — Israel said it was carrying out "precise strikes" against military targets in Iran early Saturday local time, an assault that was expected to last several hours as Iranian state media reported the sounds of explosions in and around the capital, Tehran.

It was not immediately clear how widespread the attacks would be, but the targets included military assets, including missile manufacturing facilities and aerial defense sites, according to a person briefed on the planning who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive strikes.

Another Israeli official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss classified plans, said the attacks would not hit Iran's oil production or nuclear research sites — targets considered the most likely to provoke yet another escalation in the cycle of attack and counterattack the two countries have been engaged in for months.

Israel said Saturday's round was a response to the barrage of

SEE ISRAEL ON A2

'Do what you have to do': Trump signals support for Netanyahu. **A8**
Lebanon diplomacy: A U.S. push for political reform hits a wall. **A12**

Washington Post declines to issue an endorsement

Decades-old practice is over, publisher says, drawing heated criticism

BY MANUEL ROIG-FRANZIA AND LAURA WAGNER

The Washington Post's publisher said Friday that the paper will not make an endorsement in this year's presidential contest, for the first time in 36 years, or in future presidential races.

The decision, announced 11 days before an election that most polls show as too close to call, drew immediate and heated condemnation from a wide swath of subscribers, political figures and media commentators. Robert Kagan, a longtime Post columnist and editor-at-large in the opinion department, resigned in protest, and a group of 11 Washington Post columnists co-signed an article condemning the decision. Angry readers and sources flooded the email inboxes of numerous staffers with complaints.

In a column published on the Post's website Friday, publisher and CEO William Lewis described the decision as a return to the newspaper's roots of non-endorsement. The Post did not begin regularly endorsing presidential candidates until 1976,

SEE POST ON A8

ELECTION 2024



PHOTOS BY SARA STATHAS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

At Door County Democratic Party headquarters in Sturgeon Bay, Deb Whitelaw Gorski makes notes for her canvassing assignment.

In Wis., unease with both choices

Door County voters picked the winner in the last 7 presidential races. This time, some are undecided.

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE AND SABRINA RODRIGUEZ

DOOR COUNTY, WIS. — One of his neighbors supported Vice President Kamala Harris with a yard sign: "Hate will not make us great."

Another planted a banner backing former president Donald Trump: "Had enough yet? Save America."

Neither message appealed to David Hilsabeck, an undecided voter in a county so swingy that residents have sided with the winner in the past seven presidential races.

Weeks before Election Day, as autumn leaves drifted onto his



Election signs at a home in Sturgeon Bay, which is the seat of Door County, where Joe Biden won by 292 votes in 2020.

otherwise empty lawn, the grocery store manager recalled the moment his once-preferred candidate gave him the political ick.

He had been at home, watching the presidential debate last month with his 13-year-old son. Irritation flickered after a moderator asked Trump how he would fulfill his long-standing pledge to replace the health insurance law known as Obamacare.

"He said he has 'concepts of a plan,'" Hilsabeck scoffed on his front steps, quoting the Republican nominee's response. "Concepts of a plan? You've had years!"

Now his ballot is up for grabs, he said, until someone impresses

SEE WISCONSIN ON A7

How Trump talks: Abrupt shifts, profane insults, confusing sentences

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF AND JOSH DAWSEY

Donald Trump debuted a name for his idiosyncratic, digressive speaking style this summer: "the weave."

The Republican presidential nominee, now 78, was frustrated with news coverage describing his

speeches as rambling and speculating about cognitive decline, according to people who have talked with him, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Trump decided to brand his habit of going off on wide-ranging tangents as the mark of a vibrant and sophisticated mind, they said

— trying to turn what many voters, and some of his advisers, saw as a weakness into a strength.

I call it 'the weave.' And some people think it's so genius. But the bad people, what they say is, 'You know, he was rambling.' That's not a ramble. There's no rambling. This is a weave. I call it the weave. You need an extraordinary memo-

ry because you have to come back to where you started. (Oct. 9 interview with Andrew Schulz on the "Flagrant" podcast)

Trump's recent public appearances have been strikingly erratic, coarse and often confusing, even for a politician with a history of ad-libbing in three consecutive

SEE TRUMP ON A6



MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES

Dodgers walk it off in Game 1

First baseman Freddie Freeman hit a walk-off grand slam with two outs in the 10th inning, lifting Los Angeles to a dramatic 6-3 win over the New York Yankees in Game 1 of the World Series at Dodger Stadium. Freeman has been hobbled by an ankle injury during the postseason. **Story, D1**

The last battle for a 'cursed' giant emerald

D.C. court to settle matter of Brazilian crystal's ownership

BY TERENCE MCCOY

RIO DE JANEIRO — Many extraordinary stories have been told about the Bahia Emerald, a large portion of them false.

It has been asserted that panthers, or some other ferocious beasts, attacked a mule-drawn cart that was transporting the rock through a Brazilian jungle. It has been claimed that Brazilian warlords — or perhaps it's the Brazilian mafia — are in violent pursuit of what's believed to be the world's largest emerald.

One story even held that the

giant stone was swallowed by the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina.

That one is actually true.

So it has always gone with this great sphinx of a rock. Truth and mistruth. Claim and counterclaim. Crude, misshapen, mysterious, frustrating: the emerald defies convention. The mini-fridge-size rock, studded with green crystals, doesn't dazzle; it bewitches. Many have coveted it. Some have died coveting it. A few have been sent to prison over it.

People, particularly journalists, like to call the thing cursed. Since it was wrenched from a Brazilian mine in 2001, the value, significance and ownership of the Bahia Emerald have been in dispute.

Some say it's worth nearly \$1 billion. Others say it's worth

SEE EMERALD ON A11

IN THE NEWS

Chinese hacking plot The phones of Donald Trump and JD Vance were targeted and the devices of campaign staff were thought to have been compromised, officials said. **A4**

Arlington National Cemetery An Army report described an altercation involving Trump staff in August as a "simple assault." **A4**

THE NATION President Joe Biden apologized to Native Americans for Indian boarding schools. **A2**
Rubonia, a historically Black enclave in Florida, fights for survival after hurricane flooding. **A3**

The White House has expanded its student loan relief proposal, even as the initiative is being litigated. **A3**
The former CEO of the retailer Abercrombie & Fitch pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking. **A14**

THE ECONOMY The union vote to prolong a strike at Boeing means the company must focus on reaching a deal with workers before turning to its other financial issues. **A13**
Boeing workers' demand for traditional pensions reflects a longing for a bygone era. **A13**

THE REGION A federal judge barred Virginia from purging voters from its rolls in the election's home stretch. **B1**
The creator of a poop statue to "honor" the Jan. 6 rioters secured a permit to display the work on the National Mall until Oct. 30. **B1**

STYLE The musician known as Soccer Mommy has released her fourth album, and it's her most intimate one yet. **C1**

SPORTS Jayden Daniels returned to Commanders practice but was listed as questionable for the team's game Sunday. **D1**

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