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THE WEATHER

Today, mostly sunny, warm, high 83. Tonight, clear, warm, low 70. Tomorrow, sunny, a light breeze, high temperature will approach the record, high 95. Weather map is on Page D8.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



Michelle Villemaire, top, in her uninhabitable home. Above, left to right: Her daughter Pearl Abrahams at Palisades Charter High School, which reopened in time for the end of her senior year; ash in the house; the former Sears where students attended classes.

Prices Test Voters' Patience With Trump's Assurances

War Causes Spike for Gas and Other Goods as Anxiety Spreads Before Midterms

By TONY ROMM and BEN CASSELMAN

WASHINGTON — Swept into power by voters who were frustrated with the nation's economic trajectory, President Trump promised at his inauguration to "bring prices down."

But that was January 2025, more than a year before the White House would forge ahead with an agenda that has sent inflation roaring back, testing the patience — and the finances — of a cost-wary American electorate once again.

For Mr. Trump, the nation's political and economic strains are laid bare in a series of four reports released over the past two weeks. Consumer prices last month rose at their fastest clip in about three years, outpacing workers' wages, while businesses saw their costs increase at a rate not seen since 2022.

Americans are racking up more debt. Families are saving less. And a key measure of consumer confidence dipped to an all-time low this month. The anxiety has bled into recent political polls, which have registered broad public disapproval of Mr. Trump's handling of the economy.

At the heart of matter is the war with Iran, which sent the average gallon of gasoline to about \$4.52 nationally, according to AAA. That is a more than 40 percent jump from a year ago, an uptick that has cut across the global economy, affecting everything from the cost of workers' daily commutes to the prices of goods at grocery stores.

Yet the president has largely dismissed those recent signals, telling reporters at one point last week: "I don't think about Americans' financial situation."

Mr. Trump had been asked about the extent to which the economy factored into his plans to

end the war, and responded that disarmament was his sole concern. Otherwise, the president has maintained that the U.S. economy is strong and will rebound quickly once the war concludes, precipitating a rapid fall in gas prices in the United States.

Stephen Moore, a conservative economist who has advised Mr. Trump, said the recent turbulence was not a "surprise." But he acknowledged that voters might not be forgiving come November's midterm election, given that the president promised he would bring down the cost of living.

"Republicans could face a tsunami election in November if inflation continues to stay high,"

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KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The president has largely dismissed four economic signals.

KENTUCKY A G.O.P. congressional incumbent opposed to the strikes on Iran faces a challenge. PAGE A9

In Pacific Palisades, a Mother's Agonizing Dilemma

Daughter Eager to Get Back to School, Where Toxins Released by Wildfires May Lurk

By EMILY BAUMGAERTNER NUNN

The evening before Pearl's senior year began, Michelle Villemaire watched her daughter unravel. The school hadn't released her class schedule yet, Pearl complained. She knew there were logistical complexities to operating a 2,400-student high school in a retrofitted department store, but couldn't they get just this one

thing right? And how could it take so long to get back to their real campus?

In the next breath, she started pressing Michelle about the status of their smoke-damaged home in the Pacific Palisades, a mile and a half from the school's grounds. Why wasn't Pearl allowed to go pick up a dress that was still hanging in her closet there? Wasn't there a way to wash the toxic metals off?

Michelle could see the frustration and grief swirling in her daughter's eyes.

It had been seven months since they had gotten word that, after one of the most destructive wildfires in Los Angeles history, their home and Pearl's high school — though badly damaged — still stood. There was talk of the community rising from the ashes, carrying on with resilience. Pearl and her classmates were told that,

soon enough, life would return to normal.

But the house repair was moving slowly, and school administrators had pushed back the expected date of return. Now it was August, and Pearl was starting the last year of her childhood in an Airbnb more than an hour away, tears streaming down her face.

Oh, God, Michelle thought. Maybe there was more riding on Continued on Page A10

Sex Harassment Is Still Rampant On Capitol Hill

This article is by Annie Karni, Michael Gold and Jill Cowan.

WASHINGTON — Jillian McLaughlin felt trapped. "I feel like there's no way out," she wrote in her journal in 2024, after a year of working for former Representative Eric Swalwell, Democrat of California, as his driver and assistant.

Ms. McLaughlin, who was in her early 30s at the time, had landed in Mr. Swalwell's orbit about a year earlier when she had been hired for a weekend to drive him to the Super Bowl. That led to a full-time job in Washington, where she became a fixture by the side of the powerful and charismatic congressman, in charge of getting him to votes on time and helping to keep his schedule running.

There were other aspects of the job that made her uncomfortable. Mr. Swalwell invited her to spend a weekend with him in Miami (she did not go). He would ask her to join in when he was out drinking with colleagues (she sometimes did, limiting herself to one drink). Late at night, the congressman would text her his feelings about his day.

Ms. McLaughlin never had a physical relationship with Mr. Swalwell, who resigned last month facing multiple accusations of sexual assault and harassment, charges he denies. But the experience soured her on Washington, prompting her to leave for good and to conclude that Capitol Hill was a toxic work Continued on Page A12

For Democrats On Two Coasts, Guard Changes

By BENJAMIN ORESKES and HEATHER KNIGHT

Although tiny in size, Manhattan and San Francisco loom large in the American psyche. Think the Empire State Building and the Transamerica Pyramid, or the lush expanses of Central Park and Golden Gate Park. Both places have top museums, Michelin-starred restaurants and thriving waterfronts.

And now these communities, known for the liberal views and feisty politics of their residents, share another connection: The elections in their core congressional districts, New York's 12th and California's 11th, are wide open with the retirements of the Democratic stalwarts Jerrold Nadler and Nancy Pelosi.

The fiercely competitive primaries to succeed them are drawing national attention and could help shape Congress for decades to come.

These districts comprise some of New York's wealthiest neighborhoods — the Upper East Side, the Upper West Side and Midtown Manhattan — and most of San Francisco, excluding its working-class pockets on the southern border.

The winners in these two small districts will gain national name recognition, a base from which to influence the trajectory of the Democratic Party and a bullhorn to share their views on the biggest issues in the country, such as the regulation of artificial intelligence companies and aid for Israel.

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Ebola Outbreak in Congo and Uganda Is Called Global Emergency

This article is by Yan Zhuang, Matthew Mpoke Bigg and Apoorva Mandavilli.

The World Health Organization has declared that the spread of the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda was a global health emergency.

The announcement on Saturday was made a day after Africa's leading public health authority reported that an outbreak in a province in the northeast of Congo was linked to dozens of suspected deaths.

By Saturday, cases had also been confirmed in Kinshasa, Congo, and in Kampala, Uganda, the capital cities of each country, the W.H.O. said.

In Congo's Ituri Province, where the outbreak was first identified, 246 suspected cases and 80 deaths attributed to the virus had been reported, although only eight cases had been definitively linked to the virus through laboratory testing. There is no approved vaccine or therapeutics for the Bundibugyo species of Ebola behind the outbreak, according to the W.H.O.

The scale of the outbreak could be far larger than has been de-



VICTOIRE MUKENGE/REUTERS

A hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Ituri Province, where an Ebola surge is confirmed.

tected and reported, the W.H.O. said in declaring a "public health emergency of international concern." It added that there were "significant uncertainties" about the number of people infected and the "geographic spread."

The W.H.O.'s declaration sig-

nals a public health risk requiring a coordinated international response, and is intended to prompt member countries to prepare for the virus to spread and to share vaccines, treatments and other resources to contain the outbreak.

The U.S. Agency for Interna-

tional Development has played a major role in containing previous outbreaks, but last year it was shuttered by the Trump administration. It is unclear how that might have affected the response to this outbreak. The administra-

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INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Apps Create Birding Hot Spot

Colombia, home to the most known species, is building a tourism industry out of interest from afar. PAGE A7

Searching for the Vanished

One of the most prominent activists for Mexico's disappeared found the remains of one missing son. PAGE A4

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China Carmaker's Rising Star

Geely is challenging the giant BYD by adapting quickly to swings in demand and seizing on interest in electric vehicles fueled by the war in Iran. PAGE B1

War Cripples Wealthy Qatar

Iranian attacks and its blockade have paralyzed Qatar's vital gas exports, stalling economic plans. PAGE B1

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Foe of the Flu

Nancy Cox led the C.D.C.'s influenza division, tracking a wily opponent with a global network. She was 77. PAGE A17



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The Cost of Defiance

Senator Bill Cassidy, who lost a Republican primary in Louisiana, paid a price for crossing President Trump. PAGE A14

Plan for the Control Tower

An F.A.A. report suggests better scheduling could reduce how many new air traffic controllers are needed. PAGE A15

SPORTS D1-8

Building a Legacy of His Own

Ajay Mitchell said his father, who died in December, pushed him to be his own man. The breakout player for Oklahoma City listened, and is living a dream for both of them in the N.B.A. PAGE D1

A Mantra for Montreal

Canadiens Coach Martin St. Louis has many sayings. None are more important, after a Game 6 loss to the Sabres, than the one coined by one of his best players: "Bounce forward." PAGE D2

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Way Off Broadway, a Real Hit

Derek Klena is an actor with a Tony nomination to his name. But he's found a bigger audience with the madcap Savannah Bananas baseball team. PAGE C1



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