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Partly sunny 78/70 • Tomorrow: Cloudy, showers 77/64 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

As Johnson flounders, Brexit left in limbo

Parliamentary defeats cap a stormy 6 weeks for new prime minister

BY KEVIN SULLIVAN
AND KARLA ADAM

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has staked his job on his ability to deliver Brexit, suffered two major losses in Parliament on Wednesday, leaving his governing authority in doubt and the terms of Britain's pending divorce from the European Union unclear.

The resounding votes against Johnson capped a dramatic week in which protesters marched across the country and legislators switched loyalty or were excommunicated from their party. Britons of every ideology have been left angry, frustrated and often overwhelmed by a national emergency that won't seem to end.

At the center of the storm stands Johnson, a bombastic and polysyllabic former journalist, who is seen as a crusading hero for British independence by his fans and an untrustworthy, undemocratic charlatan by his enemies.

After just six weeks on the job, Johnson has lost his governing majority, exiled some of his party's most honored members and been slapped down by lawmakers

SEE BREXIT ON A8

Trump's view: "Boris knows how to win. Don't worry about him." A8

A race to rescue survivors in Dorian's wreckage



SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Hurricane Dorian's devastation is vast on Great Abaco. The rescue effort includes locals on water scooters, U.S. Coast Guard cutters, the British Royal Navy and American first responders. By Wednesday evening, Dorian had sustained winds of 110 mph, just below Category 3.

'There's nothing left': Storm turns paradise into a miserable heap

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA

GREEN TURTLE CAY, BAHAMAS — The New Plymouth Hardware store has been smashed to kindling. More important, Curry's

dining room table to the hole. Two more windows exploded, and then his door. He took shelter in his basement.

"We fought that storm for two days," he said. "Now we're home-



DEATH TOLL AT LIKELY TO RISE

Still ferocious, hurricane threatens Caribbean

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA
MARIA SACCHETTI
TIM CRAIG
AND JOEL ACHENBERG

NASSAU, BAHAMAS — A search-and-rescue effort is scouring the islands of Great and Grand Bahama amid growing awareness that Hurricane Dorian unleashed a catastrophe unlike anything seen in the world.

The death toll late Wednesday was 20, according to Minister of Health Duane Sands, and likely to rise further as emergency responders work their way through the debris and rubble of the drowned neighborhoods. Rescue workers are racing through flooded terrain looking for survivors and the bodies of victims.

The U.S. Coast Guard patched nine cutters from West and has been deploying helicopters, pre-staged in the Bahamas as Dorian approached to transport the injured to facilities in Nassau — the capital on the island of New Providence south of the devastation. The U.S. Navy, British Royal Navy, numerous volunteer groups, and first responders from Fairfax County, Va., and Leesville have joined, or are in the process of joining, the Bahamian rescue and relief efforts.

Dorian weakened for Wednesday, but the eye more organized as the storm moved on, and the top winds built again. By evening, Dorian maintained a powerful storm with 110 mph sustained winds and a 15-foot eyewall, just below Category 3. The hurricane continued

LOCAL LIVING



Managing middle school: What adults can do to help

PAGE 12

Home Pillow talk: Experts share their secrets for making the most of these decorating staples. 6

Gardening As summer winds down, it's time to plant bulbs that will provide late-winter beauty. 9

Wellness Americans are eating more cheese than ever. Here's how to do so wisely. 10

Home sales **L6**
Crime report **L14**
Health code violations **L11**

Designers share their secret tricks for using decorative pillows

BY JURA KONCIUS

A benefit (and hazard) of my job as a design writer is spending chunks of time with decorating experts in beautiful homes. I always learn something from pros who have a refined eye for detail.

Pillows can so easily be changed up for a new look, whether seasonally or just to add some new colors and textures to a room. Walk into any HomeGoods, and you'll see aisles and aisles of pillows for about \$20 that are organized by color and size. Are some better than others?

I decided to dig into this subject with a few designers. Although they usually go with custom pillow designs for clients, they still had plenty of advice about off-the-rack pillow purveyors.

Make your pillows stand out with vintage fabrics

Virginia Tupker says she's always on the lookout for vintage textiles to make into pillows to mix into the assortments she selects to add texture and pattern to a room. You can look for such fabrics on your travels or on eBay.

"To cover a chair or a sofa is a big fabric commitment. But for a pillow, an antique or vintage textile can be a splash of color, and you can change it out for the seasons," the Connecticut-based designer says. "It adds so much personality and feels eclectic and lived-in and everything doesn't just feel brand new. It adds a lot of soul."

Turkish-corner pillows are a favorite shape for interior designers, she says. She says this technique tucks in the corners so they appear rounded. "It's an Old World technique coming back," she says. "This shape feels extremely chic and makes you think of Bunny Mellon and her home in Antigua. It's very popular with my younger clients now."

Tupker's favorite off-the-rack sources: 1stdibs and Les Indiennes.

Pillows should have the same fabric on both sides

Warrenton designer Barry Dixon says there are a lot of reasons pillows should be made of the same fabric on both sides. "I tell clients that if a pillow has a print on one side with a plain backing, it's like combing the front of your hair and forgetting about the back," Dixon says. "You're not finished." He says you can always



PETER VITALE

Warrenton designer Barry Dixon advises clients to buy two-sided pillows with the same fabric on both sides. That way, you get twice the wear and the pillow doesn't look unfinished.



KIP DAWKINS

To make pillows look plump and inviting, Kelley Proxmire usually stuffs hers with a form that's two inches bigger than the pillow cover.

see the back of a pillow from a corner or looking over a sofa, and if the back of it's just white or plain canvas, "your eye will go to it and notice."

If both sides are the same, you'll get twice the wear out of the pillow. "One side doesn't have to take all the abuse," Dixon says. "Every time I fluff a sofa, I turn over the cushions and the pillows as well — because it immediately looks plump and fresh. It's as important as turning a mattress."

Dixon's favorite off-the-rack sources: Anichini, Ann Gish, Anthropologie.

Go for the plumpest look possible

Kelley Proxmire loves picking

out pillow fabric. Sometimes it's the first thing she selects for a space, and she doesn't hesitate to use the most expensive fabric in the room on the pillows. It will help them stand out and have the most impact, she says.

To make them look fuller and plumper, Proxmire says, she stuffs a form two inches bigger than the pillow size into the cover. (She would use a 24-inch form for a 22-inch cover.) "It makes them look nice and full," says Proxmire, whose office is in Bethesda. She also recommends hidden zippers for a more polished look.

Proxmire's favorite off-the-rack sources: Crate & Barrel, Ballard Designs, Wisteria, Frontgate.



MIKKEL VANG

Designer Virginia Tupker suggests lining a sofa with pillows in different fabrics to reflect your own style. These include some cotton designs by Les Indiennes.



GEOFFREY HODGSON

Erin Paige Pitts recommends buying larger pillows for a full and fluffy look — and don't forget the karate chop. "Don't buy 18-inch or 20-inch pillows," she says. "They look cheap."

Pick a larger size square for a richer look

If you have a keen eye, you can find some great-looking pillows in big-box stores such as Homesense, but don't buy the smallest pillow on the shelf, designer Erin Paige Pitts says.

"The problem for me with many pre-made pillows is they are too small. I prefer larger pillows — 22 inches square or 24 inches square," says Pitts, who has offices in Annapolis and Delray Beach, Fla. "Don't buy 18-inch or 20-inch pillows. They look cheap."

To keep the filling full and lofty, she suggests a 90/10 or 80/20 mix of feather and down. "I still do the karate chop on my pillows," she

says. "But I don't like them totally pointy on the ends. Shake them to loosen them up a bit so the points aren't as sharp."

Pitts's favorite off-the-rack sources: Serena & Lily or Restoration Hardware.

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Chat Thursday at 11 a.m.

Kevin Brasler, executive editor of Consumers' Checkbook, a nonprofit advocacy group, joins staff writer Jura Koncius for our weekly online Q&A on decorating and household advice. Submit questions at live.washingtonpost.com.

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