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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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ELECTION 2024

Trump escalates attacks on Liz Cheney

Suggestion to have guns ‘trained on her face’ is probed by Arizona AG

BY HANNAH KNOWLES, MARIANNE LEVINE AND ISAAC ARNSDORF

GLENDAL, ARIZ. — Republican nominee Donald Trump faced a fresh controversy on Friday after he suggested former congresswoman Liz Cheney (R-Wyoming) should have guns “trained on her face,” escalating his vilification of a prominent critic from within his party, as well as his use of violent imagery.

The former president’s campaign reacted by criticizing media coverage that interpreted his remark to imagine putting Cheney in front of a firing squad rather than sending her into combat. Cheney said Trump’s intent was to intimidate anyone who challenges him. Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes (D) said her office is investigating whether Trump’s comments could have violated state laws involving intimidation of public officials, spokesperson Richie Taylor said.

“This is how dictators destroy free nations,” Cheney, who lost her position in House Republican leadership for condemning Trump’s actions on Jan. 6, 2021, and went on to serve as vice chair of the committee that investigated the attack on the Capitol, said Friday on social media. “They threaten those who speak against them with death. We cannot entrust our country and our freedom to a petty, vindictive, cruel,

SEE CHENEY ON A4

Pennsylvania: Harris and Trump are nearly even, a Post poll finds. A6

Russia hones its meddling, aims to stoke U.S. disarray

BY JOSEPH MENN

Refining its past approach toward undermining U.S. elections, Russia is trying to disrupt the current one by playing on divisive American narratives to gain traction with powerful influencers.

On Friday, top U.S. intelligence officials said Russians were behind the latest in a slew of faked propaganda videos, this one featuring purported Haitians boasting that they were voting multiple times in Georgia. The day-old video had been pushed on X by Amy Kremer, a member of the Republican National Committee and co-founder of Women for Trump.

The video played to a disinformation narrative championed by Donald Trump and other conservatives involving Haitian immigrants in Ohio and targeted it at voters in a nearly must-win state for the Republican nominee.

It was also more evidence of a marriage of convenience between Moscow’s narratives of U.S. dysfunction and Americans who agree or appreciate the enhanced audience engagement, and in some cases money, that Russia can arrange.

SEE RUSSIA ON A16



DAVID PEINADO/ANADOLU/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. slow to stanch illicit pipeline

Federal response to migrant smugglers languished until a new task force moved in

BY MARY BETH SHERIDAN IN HUEHUETENANGO, GUATEMALA

He called himself a simple onion farmer, a Mayan Indian with four kids and a fourth-grade education.

U.S. prosecutors knew better. By his late 30s, Felipe Diego Alonzo had built a crime route stretching from Central America to Texas, allegedly paying off Mexican drug cartels along the way. He tooled around Guatemala’s western highlands in a loaded silver Ford Ranger pickup. When the police finally raided his ranch, they found a study in rural narcotic: wooden chalets, a swimming pool, a show horse valued at \$100,000.

What they didn’t find was a narco. Alonzo’s business “was more profitable than drug trafficking,” said one of the Guatemalan officials who detained him.

SEE MIGRATION ON A13



DANIELE VOLPE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: Migrants wait for nightfall to cross from Mexico into the United States. At least 80 percent of unlawful border-crossers hire smugglers, according to the Department of Homeland Security. **ABOVE:** Migrants eat at a restaurant in Camojá, in the Guatemalan state of Huehuetenango.

In a society on edge, homesteading takes root

Influenced by faith as well as climate and food fears, self-sufficiency trend finds purchase across U.S.

BY BRITTANY SHAMMAS

FRONT ROYAL, VA. — Cassandra Daniel held a quail in one hand, nestling the yellowish-brown-feathered bird’s head between her fingers. In her other hand, she grasped a pair of kitchen shears. The slide on a large screen next to the bubbly, always-in-motion millennial hinted at what would happen next inside Tent A at the Warren County Fairgrounds. The title of the slide: Quail Dispatching.

As an audience of a few hundred people watched raptly from rows of folding chairs, Daniel turned to the four volunteers who had joined her. They were all women, one in a shirt with the Bible verse “Let all that you do be done in love.” Each held a quail they tried to keep calm.

“Ladies, I’m going to need you to commit,” said Daniel, 39, whose ordinarily cheerful face had turned serious. She didn’t want the birds, which she’d raised in her Maryland backyard, to suffer.

One by one, the four knelt over

SEE HOMESTEADERS ON A9



VALERIE PLESCH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Cassandra Daniel, center, author of the blog Becoming a Farm Girl, gives a quail to Justina Geiswite during last month’s Homesteaders of America Conference in Front Royal, Virginia.

U.S. job gains are lowest in years

STORMS, STRIKES BLUR HIRING DATA

Trump uses weak labor report to criticize Harris

BY LAUREN KAORI GURLEY

The economy picked up just 12,000 jobs in October, the slowest pace since December 2020, as a labor market cooldown was exacerbated by major hurricanes and labor strikes in the final jobs report before the presidential election.

The unemployment rate held at 4.1 percent, which remains a historically low level, though higher than in recent years.

The job gains landed significantly below forecasters’ predictions, though it remains unclear how much of the pressure came from strikes and hurricanes rather than labor market weaknesses. That could be viewed as bad news for Vice President Kamala Harris days before the election, but the data was widely predicted to be weak for temporary reasons beyond the administration’s control.

“This is what a soft landing looks like in the month of a hurricane,” said Justin Wolfers, an economist at the University of Michigan. “The goal has been to get inflation down, and the economy delivered it with one-tenth or one-hundredth of the pain that most expected,” he said, referencing expectations that higher interest rates would trigger job losses.

The labor market has become a key issue in the presidential

SEE JOBS ON A16

Israel reduces vast swaths of Lebanon’s south to ruins

BY MEG KELLY, IMOGEN PIPER, EVAN HILL AND ABBIE CHEESEMAN

Nearly a quarter of all buildings in 25 Lebanese municipalities near the Israeli border had been damaged or destroyed as of Saturday, according to an analysis of satellite data by The Washington Post — illustrating the far-reaching toll of Israel’s land and air war against Hezbollah.

Across the borderlands, at least 5,868 buildings have been damaged or destroyed, including nearly half of structures in the two hardest-hit areas, Ayta al-Shab and Kfar Kila. The vast majority of the damage — almost 80 percent — has occurred since Oct. 2, the day after Israel launched its ground invasion.

Since then, the destruction has continued at a rapid pace, roughly doubling every two weeks, even as Israeli officials signal they are willing to begin negotiations to wind down the war.

The Post reached its findings by reviewing satellite imagery from southern Lebanon, verifying videos and obtaining an analysis of Sentinel-1 satellite ra-

SEE LEBANON ON A12

Mideast: Beirut area hit; U.N. says situation “apocalyptic” in Gaza. A12

IN THE NEWS

Swing-state voting Supreme Court justices cleared the way for Pennsylvanians to submit provisional ballots as a remedy for improperly cast absentee ballots. A6

2020 fatal police raid A federal jury found a former Louisville police officer guilty of violating Breonna Taylor’s civil rights. A2

THE NATION Some GOP strategists are angered by leaders’ spending in the race to win back the Senate. A2
As daylight saving time ends on Sunday, it’s time to fall back for most of us. A3

THE WORLD Russia has been using drones to kill civilians just across the river in Kherson. A10
Experts say money and attention may be behind Kim Jong Un’s sending troops to Russia. A14

THE ECONOMY Arizona Republican congressman David Schweikert pitches unusual, and possibly unpopular, ideas to tame the national debt. A15
Google was fined \$20 decillion — more than all the world’s total wealth — by a Russian court. A15

THE REGION A lawsuit over a “ghost gun” resulted in a \$2 million settlement for families of two slain Fairfax teenagers. B1
A man wielding a skateboard like an ax destroyed a statue that mysteriously appeared in Freedom Plaza earlier this week. B1

STYLE HBO’s miniseries adaptation of “Like Water for Chocolate” doesn’t innovate, but it’s still sumptuous. C1

SPORTS Detroit Lions QB Jared Goff has broken out as an NFL MVP candidate eight years after being the No. 1 draft pick. D1

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