



T-storms, windy 82/71 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 88/66 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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ELECTION 2024

Trump agrees to debate Harris

Republican nominee fills news conference with frustrations, falsehoods

BY MICHAEL SCHERER, JOSH DAWSEY AND PATRICK SVITEK

PALM BEACH, FLA. — Donald Trump defended people who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, saying they had been treated “very unfairly,” and bragged about his crowd size that day. He gave a noncommittal answer when asked if he would rule out restricting medication abortion, rekindling one of Democrats’ top political issues. He repeatedly flashed frustration with early Democratic enthusiasm for Vice President Kamala Harris’s presidential campaign, complaining about coverage of her crowds. He told a reporter it was a “stupid question” to ask why he was not campaigning more.

And he agreed to debate Harris on Sept. 10 on ABC, reversing his previous insistence on only debating at another time with a different network.

The former president made the remarks Thursday during a meandering hour-long news conference at his gilded club, with its logo affixed to a lectern inside a cavernous lobby where he bragged about its size and its

SEE CAMPAIGN ON A9

AIPAC: Advertising played key role in defeats of Bush and Bowman. **A7**

Pelosi: She says Biden’s campaign gave party no route to winning. **A9**

GOP vows to gut one of region’s key sectors

BY LAURA VOZZELLA AND GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER

Former president Donald Trump touts himself as a businessman who will grow industry and jobs, but his policy proposals call for deep cuts and drastic changes to the D.C. area’s most valuable employer:

The federal government.

Trump’s Agenda47 policy manifesto and his Republican Party platform seek to “shatter the Deep State” with actions that experts say could be devastating to the area’s economy, such as: Moving up to 100,000 federal government positions “out of Washington to places filled with patriots who love America.” Stripping civil service protections from tens of thousands of federal employees and installing political allies in their jobs. Eliminating the U.S. Department of Education. Undertaking an “overhaul” of other federal departments and agencies, including those overseeing national security and intelligence.

“It goes without saying, the D.C. area would be more affected by shrinking the federal government than just about any other part of the country,” said Hamilton Lombard, a demographer at the University of Virginia’s

SEE ECONOMY ON A10



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

After finishing third in the 200 meters Thursday at Stade de France, American Noah Lyles knelt, then lay on his back, trying to catch his breath. He later revealed that he had tested positive for the coronavirus Tuesday. “It’s one and done,” he said. “There’s no holding back.”

Instead of a legend, Lyles becomes a reminder



Jerry Brewer

COLUMN

he gasped for air, the man seemingly with caffeine in his veins — the one who claimed the crown as world’s fastest by a whisker-thin margin

SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE — Noah Lyles, energy personified, collapsed on the track after his double-gold quest ended. He stayed on his back for a disturbing while. He rolled over on his left side. He struggled into a sitting position. As

Sunday — moved like a snail wearing a weighted vest.

Lyles hunched over on his left knee, braced himself with his left hand and lowered his head. He rose eventually and tried to shuffle out of sight. He had finished third in the men’s 200 meters Thursday at Stade de France, but there was no way he could take the U.S. flag and parade around the track. There was also no way he could be disappointed about falling short of becoming the 10th man in Olympic history to accomplish the 100-200 double. His

only reaction was to ask for help. He gestured for water and fell to the track again as soon as he received it. He needed a wheelchair to exit.

Soon after, we learned why he wore a mask before his signature race, why he seemed mortal during it and why he looked completely depleted afterward: Lyles had covid-19. To reporters, he recalled waking up early Tuesday morning with a sore throat, chills and an aching body. He took a test, and at 5 a.m., he knew the results. Still, he wanted to compete.

SEE BREWER ON A6

Hometown hero: In Alexandria, fans have cheered Lyles for years. **B1**

Seeing pink: The color everywhere at the Games has met mixed reactions. **C1**

Pure dominance: McLaughlin-Levrone sets world record in the 400 hurdles. **D1**



TOM BRENNER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Hannah Zellman, left, and Leah Shepperd of Philadelphia signed a pledge not to cast a ballot if strikes on Gaza do not end and Vice President Kamala Harris does not commit to an arms embargo on Israel.

Activists weigh a stand at the polls

Even with a new Democratic ticket, tensions linger over Israel’s war in Gaza

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE

PHILADELPHIA — She had backed Democrats in every presidential election since the political rise of Barack Obama. She had knocked on doors, taped up campaign signs and called strangers to ask: Are you ready to vote?

Now her party’s nominee was only three miles away, drawing exuberant crowds in the urban heart of this swing state, and Leah Shepperd couldn’t even bring herself to watch on television.

“I just can’t stomach it,” she said.

Over at Temple University, Vice President Kamala Harris had just introduced her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (D). Applause for the pair cracked “120+ decibels,” one journalist at the Tuesday rally reported, citing his Apple watch. Walz thanked Harris for “bringing back the joy.”

Shepperd, 49, could feel none of that joy. Not when the United Nations had accused Israel of a “crime against humanity,” and

when, in her view, the White House — Harris included — wasn’t doing enough to help the people of Gaza.

“I do want to vote,” she said. “But ethically, I’m stuck.”

During the primaries, pro-Palestinian activists urged voters to withhold their support for President Joe Biden over his handling of the Israel-Gaza war. Roughly

SEE VOTERS ON A8

Cease-fire: U.S., Egypt and Qatar call for negotiations to resume. **A13**

A foiled Vienna plot, an Eras Tour heartbreak

BY SAMANTHA CHERY AND HERB SCRIBNER

Taylor Swift fans from around the world, who had swarmed to Vienna with friendship bracelets on their wrists and the pop star’s lyrics etched in their minds, were left heartbroken after an averted attack derailed their plans.

Expletives and sobs filled the hallways of Kristi Hovington’s Swiftie-packed hotel in Vienna when the news broke this week that all three shows in the city would be canceled, after two suspects with alleged Islamic State links had been arrested and accused of plotting to kill a large crowd of concertgoers with explosives and other weapons. Hovington and her daughter Esme had come from Barcelona

to celebrate the teen’s 14th birthday at a show. Esme cried all night instead.

“The happiest that we had ever seen her was when we told her last year that we got the tickets,” Hovington said. “And the saddest we have ever seen her was when we told her last night that the shows were canceled.”

The Eras Tour — the highest-grossing concert tour in history — is scheduled to resume Aug. 15 with the first of five shows in London’s Wembley Stadium. The canceled shows in Vienna mark a disruption to a tour that also had a November show in Rio de Janeiro postponed following extremely hot temperatures that led to a fan’s death.

SEE SWIFT ON A14



ELISABETH MANDL/REUTERS

Taylor Swift fans gather following the cancellation of three concerts in Vienna after a planned terrorist attack was thwarted.

IN THE NEWS

Nixon’s resignation Fifty years later, revisit photos and Post coverage of the final hours of a presidency brought low by scandal. **A2**



THE NATION **A national monument** will honor Frances Perkins, the first female Cabinet secretary. **A4** **The pro-Trump majority** on Georgia’s election board enacted changes to state voting rules. **A8**

THE WORLD **Catalan leader** Carles Puigdemont reemerged in Spain, then vanished while evading arrest. **A11** **Israel targeted** two schools in Gaza City, saying Hamas used them as command centers. **A12**

THE ECONOMY **An anti-monopoly** ruling against Google challenges the idea that Big Tech has outgrown U.S. antitrust law. **A15** **Data shows** U.S. counties most exposed to floods and fires gained more people than they lost from July 2022 to July 2023. **A16**

THE REGION **A top D.C. buildings** official resigned after a probe found she also had a full-time private-sector job. **B1** **Senate candidates** Larry Hogan and Angela D. Alsobrooks have booked \$13 million in post-primary political advertising. **B1**

STYLE **Full-body deodorants** are being heavily marketed, but do they pass the smell test? **C1** **WEEKEND** **It’s the summer** of the tomato cocktail, and bartenders around D.C. are thinking beyond the Bloody Mary.

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