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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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A worker signals for the departure of an evacuation train from Pokrovsk as Russian troops close in, placing much of the area within range of artillery and drone attack. Said one Ukrainian soldier of the Russians' push: "They are coming, and coming, and coming."

Final boarding call to flee advancing Russians

BY SIOBHÁN O'GRADY, TETIANA BURANOVA AND SERHIY MORGUNOV

POKROVSK, UKRAINE — The civilians gathered on their city's train station platform by the hundreds — some young, some old, some disabled — all bringing only what they could carry, all unsure if they would ever return home.

As an evacuation train pulled in, police in protective vests and helmets picked up children in shorts and sandals and carried them aboard. Volunteers moved the elderly from wheelchairs and stretchers into tarps to get them into the train. Adults dragged their luggage behind them, some with

Ukrainians and their pets crowd evacuation trains to escape an eastern city once thought safe

confused cats and dogs in tow.

Those staying and those leaving wept in the thick August heat — stunned by how quickly Russian forces are advancing on Pokrovsk, a key supply hub in eastern Ukraine that until now was seen as a relatively safe fallback city, far enough from the front line to stay in. Russian troops are now just eight miles from the city center,

putting much of the area within range of attacks by artillery and first-person-view drones.

The Russian assault on Pokrovsk has continued even as Ukraine solidifies its control over a swath of land in Russia's Kursk region far to the north, where Ukrainian troops — including some moved recently from Pokrovsk — launched a surprise attack this month. Some civilians fleeing Thursday said they couldn't understand why troops were moved away from their defensive positions to attack Russia, especially

Modi in Kyiv: Indian prime minister urges Ukraine to hold peace talks with Russia. **A10**

Jobs prime Fed chair to signal a rate cut

Mindful of 'cooling' labor market, Powell all but tees up September move

BY RACHEL SIEGEL

JACKSON HOLE, WYO. — The Federal Reserve is ready to cut interest rates, confident that inflation is easing to normal levels and wary of any more slowing in the job market.

"The time has come for policy to adjust," Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell said Friday, in his most anticipated speech of the year. "The direction of travel is clear."

Powell did not specify a timeline or forecast how much Fed leaders were preparing to lower rates. But his remarks came as close as possible to teeing up a cut at the Fed's next policy meeting, in mid-September. Rates currently sit between 5.25 and 5.5 percent, where they have remained since July 2023. The open question now is whether officials will opt for a more aggressive cut next month — a half-point instead of a more typical quarter-point.

Joe Brusuelas, chief economist

SEE POWELL ON A12



Hiwot Gebru and her daughters, Yodit Tefera, left, and Lydia Tefera, right, run Dukem Ethiopian Restaurant on U Street NW. The struggling restaurant saw a recent TikTok-fueled boost in business.

An Ethiopian restaurant in D.C. was struggling. Then its TikTok went viral.

Impromptu video brings a surge of support for Dukem's food and history

BY MICHAEL BRICE-SADDLER

After yet another difficult discussion with her family about the future of their D.C. Ethiopian restaurant, Lydia Tefera decided to act. The 29-year-old walked outside, picked up her phone and hit record.

"Nearly almost 30 years in, it's coming to the point where we don't know how much longer this business is going to last," Tefera said in the impromptu TikTok video. "If someone's seeing this, tell a friend to tell a friend about my family's restaurant."

Tefera says her digital plea to

boost patronage at Dukem Ethiopian Restaurant wasn't intended to go viral. But it racked up nearly 1 million views in just five or so days. Customers said in interviews and in comments on the post that they were stunned to learn Dukem and its eye-catching

SEE DUKEM ON A12

ELECTION 2024

Kennedy halts independent bid, endorses Trump

BLAMES TWO-PARTY SYSTEM AND MEDIA

He plans to pull name off battleground-state ballots

BY MERYL KORNFIELD

PHOENIX — Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who struggled to gain traction as a third-party insurgent, said he would suspend his long-shot White House bid Friday, withdraw from battleground states' ballots and endorse Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Kennedy announced that he would suspend his campaign with a number of caveats, after several turbulent months of declining polling numbers, accumulating debt and reemerging controversies from his past. He said he would stop campaigning in criti-

cal states and withdraw his name from their ballots, but also that he would remain an option in blue and red states to ensure he doesn't spoil the election. Kennedy blamed the two-party system and unfair media coverage when explaining his decision to a room of reporters and hardcore supporters gathered Friday.

"In an honest system, I believe I would have won the election," he said. "In my heart, I no longer believe that I have a realistic path for electoral victory in the face of this relentless, systematic censorship and media control."

Kennedy, who appeared to wipe away tears, gave an emotional speech. He said he expected his name to be on the ballot in "most"

SEE KENNEDY ON A4

Compiling history: An archivist gathers DNC protest remnants. **A5**

Black women leaders: In Harris, they see a leap, and work to do. **A6**

As polls tighten, fears of election interference rise

Democrats are leery of Trump allies' efforts to create doubt about result

BY AMY GARDNER AND YVONNE WINGETT SANCHEZ

CHICAGO — As invigorated Democrats celebrated Vice President Kamala Harris's nomination this week, some of them were doing so with a wary eye on new developments in what they fear could be efforts by former president Donald Trump's allies to create doubt about the election and muddy the result should it not go his way.

Nearly 700 miles south of the Chicago convention, in Atlanta, the Georgia State Election Board on Monday approved a rule that critics said would empower county election officials to with-

hold certification of results without justification, potentially thwarting a popular result. The board's Trump-supporting majority also signaled plans to adopt nearly a dozen additional rules in coming weeks despite warnings from state and local officials that the lateness of the calendar all but guaranteed confusion and mistakes.

Also this week, election officials in at least three battleground states received nearly identical letters from the American Conservative Union explaining their plan to monitor ballot drop boxes and scrutinize those using them to vote. The letters prompted concerns from election officials about privacy and the possibility of voter intimidation.

In Wisconsin, meanwhile, the Texas-based group True the Vote, which peddled false claims of widespread ballot fraud after the

SEE ELECTION ON A7

Slowed at 82, Jesse Jackson is still keeping hope alive

He didn't speak in Chicago, but his legacy was everywhere

BY DAVID MARANISS

CHICAGO — Jesse Jackson sat in a wheelchair near the back wall of a darkened restaurant at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. It was late Thursday morning, the final day of the Democratic National Convention. Slowed by Parkinson's disease at age 82, the reverend was eating, or trying to eat, a breakfast of strawberries, grapes and cantaloupe.

With determined effort, he would stab his fork into a piece of fruit, then lift it slowly toward his mouth. Five seconds, 10 seconds, finally his lips would part and the fruit would go in. Sometimes it got stuck there, caught halfway, but he kept working at it, keeping hope alive, as he has been doing for all of his long and singular life.



Jesse Jackson onstage Monday at the Democratic convention.

The room was closed to the public, leaving Jackson alone with a nurse and two aides, Shelley Davis and Christopher Hodges, who called themselves handlers. That meant taking care of a range of tasks, from arranging their boss's toiletries in the morning to scheduling his trips and visitors to translating his every word. Back in the 1980s, when he

SEE JACKSON ON A7

IN THE NEWS

Overselling on Gaza? U.S. officials insisted a cease-fire deal is near, but diplomats said they are glossing over intense disagreements. **A10**

Missing Virginia woman The husband of a Manassas Park nurse and mother gave "inconsistent statements" and purchased cleaning supplies, prosecutors said. **B1**

THE NATION A plan by Florida's governor to bring golf courses to protected parks faces pushback. **A3**

A federal antitrust lawsuit alleges collusion among landlords to price-fix rents. **A3**

THE WORLD Mexico disputed a U.S. description of judicial reform as a "major risk" to democracy. **A8**

A newly active volcanic system in Iceland erupted for the sixth time since December. **A10**

THE ECONOMY The furor over DEI has hit tech diversity groups, which are now closing or rebranding to stay afloat. **A11**

Political chat at work is frequent and fraught, a Gallup survey found, with nearly half of workers sharing views in a month-long period. **A11**

THE REGION The abrupt shuttering of Eagle Academy in D.C. has left teachers and families of students shocked, confused and scrambling. **B1**

A man awaiting trial in the 2017 killing of his girlfriend's parents was found dead in his cell in the Fairfax jail. **B1**

STYLE A rumor that Beyoncé would appear at the convention started on X, got big on CNN and ended in disappointment. **C1**

SPORTS Dylan Crews, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2023 draft, is set to make his MLB debut Monday with the Nationals. **D1**

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