



ELECTION 2024

A historic race, down to the wire

Trump scales back his bravado in final push

BY ASHLEY PARKER AND JOSH DAWSEY

RALEIGH, N.C. — Donald Trump took the stage at the first of four events on the final full day of campaigning Monday, repeating an unofficial mantra of sorts.

“It’s ours to lose,” Trump told the Raleigh crowd. “Does that make sense to you? It’s ours to lose.”

But the outward bravado of his words belied a more existential question: Did that make sense to him?

After all, in the final stretch before Election Day, Trump — to the chagrin of many aides and allies — has seemed unable to curb his own worst impulses, lashing out at Democrats and other enemies and struggling to deliver a closing message centered on the economy, immigration and other issues that benefit him politically.

And the crowds that greeted Trump at his first two stops of the day — first in Raleigh, then in Reading, Pennsylvania — were hardly the packed, raucous stadiums that have characterized much of Trump’s political rise, and to which he has so often pointed as signs of his dominance. The crowd was larger in a third nighttime rally in Pittsburgh.

Trump — his voice raspy — seemed as much determined to get through the day as to bask in his final hours as a candidate. In Raleigh, he took the stage before his openers — Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida) and Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders — in an

SEE TRUMP ON A9



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Former president Donald Trump in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he was more subdued than in some recent angry appearances.

**‘Stop the Steal’:** Fringe group is an organized army 4 years later. A3

**Protecting D.C.:** After 2017 and 2021, precautions are taken. B1

**Puerto Ricans:** Democrats make a final push to boost support. A7

**Out of the loop:** For some, election ignorance will be bliss. C1



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Vice President Kamala Harris in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where her supporters voiced optimism and anxiety about her chances.



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SEE HARRIS ON A9

Harris wraps up bid in optimistic yet skittish mood

BY MATT VISER AND YASMEEN ABUTALEB

ALLENTOWN, PA. — The bass turned up, the drumbeat became relentless and methodical, the strains of Beyoncé’s voice echoed above the cheers in the college gymnasium.

“Freedom! Freedom! I can’t move!”

Kamala Harris emerged for her first of three rallies Monday, the last of the 106 days after she became a candidate. The sprint of a race had included one presidential debate, a flurry of celebrity endorsements, millions of doors knocked on during the last weekend alone and countless bags of the vice president’s favorite snack, nacho cheese Doritos.

“Hey! Imma keep running. ‘Cause a winner don’t quit on themselves.”

As one of the most unusual campaigns in recent political history barreled to a thunderous close on Monday, the Harris campaign was projecting a sense of assuredness that she had delivered the best three months she was capable of and that the final week had produced the moments needed to put her on the cusp of history.

“One more day,” she said, with both relief and disbelief. “And momentum is on our side.”

But within the campaign and among her supporters, there was also a nagging anxiety that the positive data at their disposal could somehow be faulty. That voters could surprise (again). That this margin-of-error race could put them on the side of,

Preemptive legal challenges kindle many ‘little fires’

BY AMY GARDNER AND COLBY ITKOWITZ

It’s Election Day again and America is on edge, not only about the vote but about what might follow.

For four years, Donald Trump and his allies have prepared to

challenge the outcome if he loses again. They have spent months filing lawsuits, laying the groundwork to contest ballots, results and the eligibility of voters. They have recruited thousands of volunteers to monitor polling places, drop boxes and counting facilities.

And, without evidence, they have claimed that the cheating has already begun — priming their staunchest supporters for confrontation, intimidation and, in the worst case, violence.

State and federal authorities have been preparing, too. After

SEE FIRES ON A8

Divided: A marriage, a town, a nation

BY HANNAH KNOWLES

DULUTH, GA. — Cathy and Ken Parker walked up to their polling site unable to understand each other. The married couple of 34 years had always disagreed on politics, but in this election, the rifts ran especially deep.

Ken, 71, said Donald Trump stands for law and order.

“Really?” replied Cathy, 63, who is supporting Kamala Harris. “How many times has he been convicted?”

When Ken said he thinks the government was behind an attempt to assassinate Trump this

summer, a baseless theory, Cathy jumped in with her own thoughts on the gunman: “He should have been a better shot.”

A deeply divided nation is headed to the polls to elect its 47th president after an unprecedented campaign encompassing

SEE ELECTION ON A10

QUINCY JONES 1933-2024

Savvy artist, executive raised pop to new heights

Producer who made history with Michael Jackson’s ‘Thriller’ also left indelible mark on movies, TV

BY TIM GREIVING

From bebop to hip-hop, Quincy Jones exemplified the musical producer and arranger as star. He elevated the voices of dozens of entertainers — most indelibly Michael Jackson, but also Frank Sinatra and Aretha Franklin — with his unsurpassed artistry in combining jazz, rhythm and blues, and classical orchestration.

By the time of his death on Nov. 3 at 91 at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles, he had become a renaissance impresario of music, film and television, catapulting the careers of Oprah Winfrey and Will Smith and smashing barriers for other African Americans. Mr. Jones’s death, of undisclosed causes, was announced by his publicist, Arnold Robinson, and in a family statement.

Mr. Jones’s seven-decade career was nothing short of Zelig-like.

SEE JONES ON A18



DUDLEY M. BROOKS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Quincy Jones, seen in 1986, won 28 Grammys and an Emmy and earned seven Oscar nominations.

A tiny culprit may be behind soaring methane emissions

Study finds microbes are driving dangerous levels of planet-warming gas

BY SHANNON OSAKA

Almost two decades ago, the atmosphere’s levels of methane — a dangerous greenhouse gas that is over 80 times as potent as carbon dioxide in the short term — started to climb. And climb.

Methane concentrations, which had been stable for years, soared by 5 or 6 parts per billion every year from 2007 onward. Then, in 2020, the growth rate nearly doubled.

Scientists were baffled — and concerned. Methane is the big question mark hanging over the world’s climate estimates; although it breaks down in the atmosphere much faster than carbon dioxide, it is so powerful that higher-than-expected methane levels could shift the world toward much higher temperatures.

But now, a study sheds light on what’s driving record methane emissions. The culprits, scientists believe, are microbes — the tiny organisms that live in cows’ stomachs, agricultural fields and wetlands. And that could mean a dangerous feedback loop — in which these emissions cause warming that releases even more greenhouse gases — is already underway.

“The changes that we saw in the last couple of years — and even since 2007 — are microbial,” said Sylvia Michel, lead author of the paper published last month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. “Wetlands, if they are getting warmer and wetter, maybe they’re producing more methane than they used to.”

It’s difficult for scientists to identify all the sources of methane in the world. It comes from leaking oil and gas operations, from cows belching, from landfills and marshes, and from thawing permafrost in the Arctic. When methane emissions increase, finding the cause is like solving a complicated algebra problem

SEE METHANE ON A2

IN THE NEWS

**Bomb plot** Officials suspect Russian proxies were behind incendiary devices destined for DHL flights in Europe, and U.S.-bound planes may have been a future target. A2

**What makes Bernie Sanders run?** The progressive lion has embraced pragmatism as he wields his influence in the Senate. A4

**THE NATION**  
**The election** will determine the trajectory of Donald Trump’s criminal cases, but even a loss means a serpentine appeals path, even to the Supreme Court, and an uncertain outcome. A2

**THE WORLD**  
**Protesters threw** mud at Spain’s king, queen and prime minister in a town hit by floods. A11  
**Many Israeli** airstrikes in eastern Lebanon are hitting outside the evacuation zone. A12

**THE ECONOMY**  
**If Trump** is elected, he might reverse pro-union policies and loosen worker safety rules, experts said. A13

**OBITUARIES**  
**Ida G. Rubin**, 95, a tenacious Maryland legislator for 32 years, rose to president pro tem of the state Senate. B1

**THE REGION**  
**Arrest warrants** were issued for a Virginia polo academy owner charged with misdemeanor sex crimes. B1  
**The mystery artist** behind the poop sculpture that was exhibited on the National Mall gave away tiny copies on Monday. B2

**STYLE**  
**An early projection** of Arizona for Joe Biden roiled Fox News in 2020. Could it happen again? C1

**HEALTH & SCIENCE**  
**An ability** to hyperfocus can help make sports a productive outlet for neurodivergent athletes. E1

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