

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Plenty of sun 66/48 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 70/53 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024 • \$3

Chinese hackers accessed U.S. calls

State-backed group said to have collected audio from political staff

BY ELLEN NAKASHIMA AND JOSH DAWSEY

Chinese state-affiliated hackers have collected audio from the phone calls of U.S. political figures, according to three people familiar with the matter. Those whose calls have been intercepted include an unnamed Trump campaign adviser, said one of the people.

The hackers are said to be part of a Chinese government-affiliated group that American researchers have dubbed Salt Typhoon. They were able to collect audio on a number of calls as part of a wide-ranging espionage operation that began months ago, according to the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because a federal investigation is underway.

The government is still seeking to determine how much audio the hackers have, one of the people said.

They were also able to access unencrypted communications, including text messages, of the individual, the people said. End-to-end encrypted communications such as those on the Signal platform are believed to have not been hacked, they said.

The development heightens concerns over the extent of the infiltration as the 2024 election is in high gear as well as the potential threat to long-term national security.

The FBI declined to comment on the matter.

A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington has previously **SEE HACKERS ON A9**

Overheated Russian economy powers war

BY ROBYN DIXON

In Siberia, there are not enough men to drive the buses. On Russian farms, milkmaids are commanding wages similar to those of IT workers, while hotels struggle to hire waiters, cleaners and cooks.

Instead of cratering as had been widely predicted with the Western sanctions regime after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the Russian economy is running hot and in danger of overheating.

Massive military spending including high payments to soldiers has fueled economic growth, as well as high wages and inflation, as companies are forced to match military salaries to attract workers.

Russia can afford to fund its war in Ukraine for several more years, according to economists, because of massive oil revenue and Western sanctions failures, particularly the oil price cap put in place by the Group of Seven nations, which has failed to squeeze Russia's oil income.

The economy is overheating partly because of President Vladimir Putin's need to replace **SEE RUSSIA ON A13**

Heaven sent



SCOTT TAETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

The Commanders' Noah Brown (85) celebrates with fellow wide receiver Terry McLaurin after pulling in a miraculous 52-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Jayden Daniels on the game's final play, giving Washington a shocking 18-15 victory over the Chicago Bears on Sunday at Northwest Stadium. **More coverage in Sports, D1**

Harris appeals to Black and Latino voters in Philadelphia

BY TYLER PAGER

PHILADELPHIA — Vice President Kamala Harris spent Sunday crisscrossing Philadelphia, focusing on reaching Black and Latino voters, and hoping to boost turnout in the Democratic stronghold just nine days before Election Day.

"Philadelphia is a very important part of our path to victory, and it is the reason I'm spending time here," she told reporters. "But I'm feeling very optimistic about the enthusiasm that's here and the commitment from folks of every background."

After three days of massive rallies and celebrity guests, in-

cluding Barack and Michelle Obama, Bruce Springsteen and Beyoncé, Harris spent most of Sunday in much smaller settings — a church, a barbershop, a bookstore and a Puerto Rican restaurant. She concluded the visit with a rally at a youth basketball facility in North Philadelphia.

At Freddy and Tony's Restaurant, Harris discussed her new agenda for Puerto Rico focused on strengthening the economy, rebuilding the power grid and improving health care on the island. Pennsylvania is home to one of the country's largest populations of Puerto Ricans — more **SEE HARRIS ON A4**

Trump praises 'inclusion' at NYC rally laden with insults

BY HANNAH KNOWLES AND ISAAC ARNSDORF

NEW YORK — A comedian who warmed up the crowd at Donald Trump's rally here Sunday described Puerto Rico as an "island of garbage," attracting widespread criticism and triggering a Trump campaign statement disavowing the remark.

The comedian, Tony Hinchcliffe of the "Kill Tony" podcast, was one of several opening speakers who lobbed sexist, racist and otherwise demeaning insults at a variety of targets during a Madison Square Garden rally meant to showcase Trump's broad-based support in the home stretch of the

presidential campaign.

Pennsylvania, perhaps the most critical swing state, is home to one of the largest populations of Puerto Ricans in the country. Danielle Alvarez, a Trump campaign senior adviser, said in a statement that Hinchcliffe's "joke does not reflect the views of President Trump or the campaign."

Trump's campaign did not disavow other comments made by warm-up speakers at Sunday's rally.

At an earlier point in his speech, referring to migrants in general, Hinchcliffe said: "Believe it or not, people, I welcome migrants to the United States of **SEE TRUMP ON A8**

In a warming world, British bubbly rises to the top

Climate change has made the U.K.'s sparkling wines the equal of French champagne

BY WILLIAM BOOTH

DORCHESTER, ENGLAND — Not too long ago, if you asked a French bon vivant if they would like a nice glass of British bubbly, they may have laughed, as in, surely you jest.

Not anymore. English sparkling wines are winning gold medals in blind tastings and routinely competing with (and occasionally besting) wines from the fabled champagne houses in France.

You probably can guess why: climate change.

Since the 1990s, the average temperature in Britain has risen by 1 degree Celsius, or 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit. All 10 of the warmest years in the United Kingdom have occurred since 2003 — with 2022 the hottest year on record.

While this kind of warming may appear subtle in the drizzly English countryside, the grapes can certainly feel it.

"It doesn't sound like a lot, does it? One degree?" said meteorologist Stephen Dorling, who studies British viticulture. But it makes all the difference to a pinot noir vine, which needs 14 degrees Celsius, not 13 degrees Celsius, to thrive.



AYESHA KAZIM FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Vineyards at the Langham Wine Estate in England. Langham, which produces sparkling wine, was named producer of the year in 2020 by the International Wine and Spirit Competition.

A generation ago, Britain had no discernible wine industry. Today the growth is explosive. There are now more than 1,000 vineyards and 400 winemakers

in the south of England.

The area has the same fast-draining, chalky soil found in France's Champagne region, and so British growers are culti-

vating their expertise in the big three grape varieties that make sparkling wine: chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier.

SEE CHAMPAGNE ON A12

ELECTION 2024

Voters courted by dark money

INFLUENCERS DON'T HAVE TO DISCLOSE

Campaigns pour millions into unregulated market

BY CAT ZAKRZEWSKI

Political campaigns and their surrogates are pouring millions of dollars into social media influencers with scant regulatory oversight or public transparency, as they embrace a marketing tactic that has revolutionized the U.S. economy.

Online influencers who usually traffic in makeup, crocheting or parenting are earning thousands of dollars for a single TikTok or Instagram post on behalf of groups backing Vice President Kamala Harris or former president Donald Trump. Creators flooded both parties' conventions this summer, posting selfies with speakers, recording videos backstage and attending parties catering to social media.

Political groups that use other forms of advertising are required to disclose their affiliations — think of the politician who intones, "I approve of this message" at the end of a TV spot. But freelance online creators are under no such obligation for political posts, even though federal regulations demand they say so when promoting a commercial product.

"If an influencer is paid to endorse a brand of toothpaste, that has to be disclosed," said **SEE INFLUENCERS ON A9**

Rehoboth Beach: Biden's refuge isn't a total escape from vitriol. **A6**

Hot pink party drug popular—and deadly

BY DAVID OVALLE

MIAMI — It's hot pink, like cotton candy. It even smells sweet. But there is danger lurking in the mind-altering powder known, variously, as pink cocaine or tusi.

The party drug that's garnering attention because of its alleged connection to music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs — and the recent death of former One Direction star Liam Payne — typically contains no cocaine. Instead, market-savvy drug dealers concoct the brightly colored powders from a number of substances, often illicit ketamine mixed with ecstasy, law-enforcement officials say.

Traffickers may seek to expand beyond the party scenes in big cities such as New York and Miami. Officials warn that users may not sufficiently appreciate the risks of ingesting unknown substances that include ketamine, a potent anesthetic already surging as a prescription medication and which led to the death of actor Matthew Perry.

In Miami, the risks were underscored in August when a social media model was arrested on allegations that she became so **SEE TUSI ON A14**

IN THE NEWS

Favorite haunts From decked-out yards to neighborhood plays, these residents of the D.C. area take Halloween to the next level. **B1**

Elon Musk The billionaire denied having worked illegally in the United States in the wake of a Post report that said he lacked the legal status to build a start-up in the '90s. **A3**

THE NATION From Israel to crypto, Donald Trump takes a transactional approach to issues. **A2**

Kamala Harris is increasingly talking about her faith, but she's walking a careful line. **A4**

THE WORLD Israel achieved "all its objectives" in its attack on military targets in Iran, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, while Iranian leaders said their nation would respond. **A10**

THE ECONOMY Apple is trying a new approach to protecting kids — letting them notify the company about unwanted nudes. **A15**

THE REGION The District's only for-profit psychiatric hospital is rife with incidents of abuse and neglect, a watchdog reports. **B1**

A federal appeals court upheld the ruling of a Virginia judge who struck down an effort by state officials to automatically cancel voter registrations of suspected noncitizens. **B1**

Candidates running for Montgomery County school board share their views. **B1**

STYLE At 90, Frankie Valli has become the subject of viral memes and jokes about lip-syncing. But he defends his live performances and his love for being onstage. **C1**

A poop-themed sculpture on the National Mall is great public art, our critic writes. **C1**

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OPINION PAGES.....A16
TELEVISION.....C6
WORLD NEWS.....A10

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