

Some rain 60/29 • Tomorrow: Windy 36/28 C14

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2025 · \$4

ICE shifts focus from arrests at local jails

Analysis finds number of migrants apprehended in communities has soared

> BY MARIANNE LEVINE, **EMMANUEL MARTINEZ** AND ÁLVARO VALIÑO

The Trump administration's mass deportation campaign has led to a significant change in strategy, as federal officers shift away from focusing on arresting immigrants already held in local jails to tracking them down on the streets and in communities, according to a Washington Post analysis of government data

The result has been a huge surge of such at-large arrests, with Immigration and Customs Enforcement tallying about 17,500 in September and on pace to exceed that in October. (The data The Post examined had been updated through the middle of that month.) That was far more than any other month included in the data, which dated back to October

Before this year, the highest number of at-large arrests came in January 2023, when the Biden administration made more than 11,500. ICE is making more than four times as many at-large arrests per week as it did in President Donald Trump's first term, the analysis found.

The Post's analysis highlights a broader pattern in how the Department of Homeland Security is approaching enforcement, even as authorities insist that immigration officers are focusing on violent criminals whom they describe as "the worst of the worst." Government data shows that more than 60 percent of the people detained in at-large arrests since June did not have criminal convictions or pending charges.

Former DHS officials said the effort demonstrates a less targeted approach and reflects mounting pressure from senior White House and DHS officials to boost deportation totals.

SEE ICE ON A14



President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida, on Sunday. The leaders met privately with their delegations to discuss a peace proposal to end Russia's invasion, but key details are still to be resolved.

For trans runner, racing was not hardest challenge

Verónica García pushed through poverty to become a track champion. Then came the public vitriol.

BY CASEY PARKS IN SPOKANE VALLEY, WASH.

erónica García woke up, as she always did, on the floor. Her head hurt. Her stomach cramped with hunger. It was the morning of her first race of the season, and she had longed the night before to carbo-load with Olive Garden breadsticks, but her family didn't have money for that. Instead, the 17-year-old had cooked the only substitute she could find — a quarter-pack

of spaghetti with no sauce. She nudged her school-issued laptop awake and searched: "Washington State transgender athlete." A TV station was reporting that a school district two hours south had filed an "urgent complaint," asking President

Donald Trump to keep Verónica off the track.

"This male unfairly competed last year," the complaint said. "Not only does his current inclusion in the 2025 season directly violate Title IX and President Trump's Executive Orders, but it is also 'demeaning, unfair, and dangerous' to the young women with whom he competes.'

Verónica shifted on the thin pad where she slept and considered her frame. Dangerous? She was 5-foot-7 and skinny in a way that concerned her coaches.

"I'm a twig," Verónica told her mother, Traci Brown. "Who could I hurt?"

Brown nodded, then closed her eyes. She and her other daughter were half-asleep in the SEE TRACK ON A4



Verónica García, 17, a transgender girl, goes for a run in February. She ran at East Valley High School in Spokane Valley, Washington.

Hurdles remain in peace process

TRUMP, ZELENSKY **MEET IN FLORIDA**

U.S. will help facilitate Russia-Ukraine talks

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF, SIOBHÁN O'GRADY AND SAMMY WESTFALL

President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday took steps toward agreeing on a proposal to end Russia's invasion, but difficult sticking points remain to be resolved and it's unclear if Russia would agree to their recommen-

The leaders, who met Sunday at Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida, said talks involving the three countries would continue in January. Trump, Zelensky and European leaders all praised Sunday's progress, despite the absence of a

clear breakthrough. "This is not a one-day-process deal. This is very complicated stuff," Trump said of the negotiations, which earlier on Sunday he called "pretty complex, but not that complex."

During a joint news conference with Zelensky, Trump cited "one or two" unresolved problems that he didn't specify.

One appeared to be the future of the Donbas region of Ukraine, which is largely occupied by Russian forces. Last month, Ukraine rejected Russia's demand to pull troops from parts of the region to create a demilitarized zone. Now, Zelensky is proposing that both sides withdraw from the area to create an economic free zone with international troops and monitors

"The word 'agreement' is too strong," Trump said in response to a reporter's question about the zone. "I would say not 'agreed,' but we're getting closer to an SEE UKRAINE ON A10

BRIGITTE BARDOT | 1934-2025

French femme fatale and cultural phenomenon

BY ADAM BERNSTEIN

The first indelible image of her: sunbathing on the French Rivi-

Her figure, from her tawny hair to her golden feet, stretches the width of the movie screen in languid sensuality. A dapper older suitor stops by, and he is not the last to be captivated and shattered by her bemused smile and insolent pout. Later, barefoot in a nightclub, she performs a mambo of such erotic exhibitionism that it drives her movie husband, gun in hand and cuckolded by his virile brother, to the brink of insanity.

Never had a femme been so fatale.

The brazen carnality she projected made French actress Brigitte Bardot, then 21, an international sensation and emblem of female sexual emancipation. The film, "And God Created Woman" (1956), heralded the arrival of a personality who would scandalize, tantalize and hypnotize the public long after she declared herself done with movies and her parade of lovers and retired from the screen in 1973 to pursue SEE BARDOT ON A2



French actress Brigitte Bardot on the set of the film "Don Juan" in Stockholm on Aug. 4, 1972.

Amid fraying global will, a toilet project collapses

Without vast web of U.S. aid, a sanitation plan key to poverty goals ends

BY CHICO HARLAN

TOAMASINA, MADAGASCAR -The centerpiece of the aid project was a toilet known as the Minimal Value Product: the

It did the things any adequate toilet should do, like contain waste, limit odors and prevent flies. When it became available last year in this crowded port city, those capabilities made the American-sponsored toilet nothing less than an instant phenom-

Hundreds of MVP1s sold in the first few months. Jean Christian Tahasy, one of 14 people hired to sell the toilet door to door, so believed in the model that he carried invoices with him even after his shift ended and would pitch strangers while having beers at the bar.

Encouraged by the early re-

sults, the international aid organizations leading the project planned to expand to other cities and roll out other toilet models. It seemed a real chance to spur a sanitation revolution in the world's fifth-poorest country.

"A true innovation," said Tahasy, 31, who earned the nickname Mr. Toilet.

In many parts of the world, people flush without a thought. But almost half of humanity doesn't have that luxury, leaving them exposed to life-threatening diseases and compounding social and economic problems.

For more than a decade, 193 nations agreed that should change. They set targets - the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals - that provided a blueprint of progress for humankind and included a call for universal access to adequate sanitation by 2030. Nations pursued those goals unevenly, but with unanimous support, up until the precise point that 489 MVP1s were sold in Toamasina.

That's when the Trump administration halted the work of the U.S. Agency for International SEE TOILET ON A8

IN THE NEWS

A question of integrity Gambling scandals have eroded sports fans' trust in an era when leagues have an unholy marriage with legalized betting. C1

Connection through manicures GlamourGals offer glow-ups to seniors — and also help combat social isolation. C10

THE NATION

Younger family members are increasingly providing unpaid care for elderly relatives, leading to emotional and physical demands and underscoring the need for support. A3

THE WORLD

Defunct U.S. brands like Pan Am are being revived as fashion labels in South Korea. A9 Benjamin Netanyahu's hawkishness is butting up against peacemaking efforts in Gaza. A10

THE ECONOMY

A woman's genderswap experiment underscored concerns about stereotyping on LinkedIn. A11

STYLE

The costumes on "Heated Rivalry" build a heteronormative sports world around a passionate gay romance. B1

The biggest blockbuster in the literary world this year is the product of a nearly 70-year-old

THE REGION Incoming governor

debut novelist. B1

Abigail Spanberger has begun to fill out her Cabinet in Virginia. See who she has chosen. C10

Washington Gas cus**tomers** in the region might see rate hikes of almost 13 percent this winter as a pipeline replacement project in the District continues. C10

HEALTH & SCIENCE The section is taking a break this week. It will return on Jan. 5.

BUSINESS NEWS OBITUARIES.

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