

Swift Rise Puts
Trump Loyalist
In the Spotlight

Bluster Masks Lack of
Experience, Foes Say

By ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON
WASHINGTON — As President Donald J. Trump battled public outrage in the summer of 2019 over his effort to enlist Ukraine in digging up dirt on former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., he summoned a small group of top advisers to the Oval Office. Among them was Charles Kupperman, the deputy national security adviser, who was surprised to see a relatively low-level staff member in one of the four chairs arrayed before the president's desk: Kashyap “Kash” Patel.

Mr. Patel, a newcomer to the National Security Council staff from the House Intelligence Committee, had impressed the president as the primary author of the secret “Nunes memo,” a key element in the effort of House Republicans to undermine the Justice Department’s investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election. Now Mr. Trump was suggesting an additional role for Mr. Patel.

“He wanted to make Kash a political executioner, to root out and fire individuals on the White House staff who weren’t being as loyal as he thought they should be,” Mr. Kupperman said in a recent interview.

Alarmed, Mr. Kupperman pushed back, as did Pat Cipollone, the White House counsel, and John Eisenberg, the National Security Council’s legal counsel, who were both there that day. All three said that loyalty tests would create legal and morale problems.

Eventually Mr. Trump stood down. But Mr. Kupperman today sees the incident as a warning of Mr. Trump’s intention to stock a second administration with people like Mr. Patel: valued more for subservience than expertise, and eager to pursue a vengeful president’s whims.

“Trump’s people are concerned with having a very weak civil service who are just automatons, loyal to him,” he said, referring to Mr. Trump’s pledge to reclassify tens of thousands of executive branch employees in a way that would enable the president to fire

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ROSS D. FRANKLIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS
Kashyap “Kash” Patel at an Arizona rally on Sunday.

With \$1 Billion in Harris Coffers,
It’s Not Easy to Appeal for More

By THEODORE SCHLEIFER
PHILADELPHIA — When 300 top fund-raisers for Vice President Kamala Harris filed into Philadelphia’s Academy of Fine Arts on Sunday evening for a 10-to-a-table dinner, they got to hear from Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania and Jaime Harrison, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

The message from Ms. Harris’s surrogates to her top donors: Yes, you’ve raised a lot of money for us. Now, please raise even more.

The donors, dining on grilled cod and beef medallions, had good reason to chortle. Finance leaders had told them earlier in the evening that they had raised a



DIEGO IBARRA SANCHEZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

“I don’t want to close the hospital,” said Elie Hachem, the director of St. Therese Hospital, near Beirut. “The community needs us.”

NEWS ANALYSIS

Trump’s Ideas
For the Border
Slim on Detail

By ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS
WASHINGTON — During a rally in Arizona on Sunday, former President Donald J. Trump left out a crucial detail when promoting his proposal to hire 10,000 new agents to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border.

He did not say where these legions of new agents would come from.

Given its longtime struggles with recruitment, it would take the U.S. Border Patrol years to ramp up hiring to that extent, if it ever could.

But that was just one of several aggressive moves he said would be coming to protect the border if he is elected. He pledged mass deportations, but it is unclear whether he could harness the resources to round up millions of immigrants. He proposed funneling some of the military’s budget toward border security, though he did not say how he would get the courts to sign off on that.

Mr. Trump’s plans as outlined on Sunday were the latest reminder that when it comes to the former president’s vision for border security, hyperbolic rhetoric, rather than substantive solutions, often wins out.

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Lebanon’s Hospitals Buckle Amid an Onslaught

By EUAN WARD

BEIRUT, Lebanon — It was 12:54 a.m., and Elie Hachem had not slept in days when the chief nurse at his Beirut hospital called him in a panic.

The Israeli military had announced that it would begin striking “Hezbollah facilities” in the area, and had ordered the hospital to evacuate. Dozens of staff members and patients were still inside, among them premature babies hooked up to incubators, Mr. Hachem said.

“We only had 20 minutes,” he said, describing the events this month at St. Therese Hospital, where he is the director, on the outskirts of Beirut. “Maybe less.”

The airstrike landed just 80

‘Indiscriminate’ Strikes
Overwhelm Health
System, U.N. Says

yards from the hospital and caused heavy damage, collapsing ceilings and flooding parts of the health facility, though no one was harmed, Mr. Hachem said.

The next day, fearing their luck would run out, Mr. Hachem ordered the Christian hospital shut down. “The staff are traumatized,” he said.

St. Therese is near Dahiya, a densely packed civilian area adjoining Beirut where Hezbollah holds sway and which has been pounded by Israeli airstrikes. It is

one of at least nine hospitals in Lebanon that are now shuttered or only partly functional, according to the World Health Organization.

The United Nations said some hospitals had shut down after they were damaged in attacks. Others have been abandoned after staff fled, fearing for their safety. The ones that remain operational say they are quickly running out of beds as patients evacuated from other facilities are brought in.

Last month, Israel mounted a major offensive in Lebanon, targeting the leaders of Hezbollah, the Shiite militant and political group, and destroying much of its arsenal. The bombing has forced nearly one million people to leave their homes.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM PEREZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Feeling Let Down in Nevada

Fallout from the pandemic has fostered mistrust in the government from Latino voters. Page A18.

She Thought of Harming Her Baby. Doctors Kept Them Together.

By CHLOE W. SHAKIN

LONDON — The blood dripping from the bathroom faucet was the first sign that something was wrong. A few days later, Alexandra Hardie saw cockroaches scuttle from beneath the bed. Soon, she noticed spiders crawling up the wall.

One day in May 2016, four months after giving birth to her

first child, Ms. Hardie began shouting that the devil was in the room. She became so agitated that she smashed a bottle of red wine on the floor of her Edinburgh apartment. Her husband, James, called 999, Britain’s emergency number. He pinned his wife, who was threatening to harm herself, to the floor to prevent her from grabbing a kitchen knife.

A few hours later, Mr. Hardie

Postpartum Treatment
Under Watchful Eye

was driving his wife and infant daughter to a specialized psychiatric ward, where Ms. Hardie would remain for nearly six months as a team of psychiatrists, nurses, therapists and social

workers treated her for postpartum psychosis, a psychiatric disorder that can cause hallucinations and delusional thoughts, often centered on a woman’s child. This rare condition is thought to be caused by a combination of genetics, sleep deprivation and biological changes after childbirth.

But the center, a type of facility known as a mother-and-baby unit,

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2 Guests Get a Giant Welcome
“Panda diplomacy” between Washington and Beijing is on display again for the first time in nearly a year. PAGE A6

Tomb Reveals ‘Stunning’ Find
A recent excavation has unearthed human skeletons and other items in Jordan under Petra’s stone. PAGE A4

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NASA Launches an Explorer
The Europa Clipper lifted off Monday on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, embarking on a nearly six-year journey to Jupiter. PAGE A13

Trump Sidesteps Putin Query
But the former president says it would be a “good thing” for him to have stayed in touch with Russia’s leader. PAGE A14

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Their Passion and Pain
The Liberty have lost the W.N.B.A. finals five times. But their fans can’t help believing, again, this year. PAGE B7

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Another Treasure Returned
The Met Museum has sent a second ancient cup back to Italy after investigators found it too had been looted. PAGE C1

An Enduring Force in Jazz
The saxophonist and composer Tim Berne says he detests pretense. That’s why he enjoys playing in bars. PAGE C1

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After the killing of a Japanese boy in China, some Chinese are taking public action, even at personal risk, to counter what they view as the government’s xenophobic prejudice. PAGE B1

Setback for Fraud Victims
Not having much insight into what may happen next in the case of a fraud orchestrated by Robert Allen Stanford, many of the victims sold the rights to any future payout. PAGE B1

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Ezra Klein PAGE A22

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A Fiery Variation
There’s no hot wing like a Korean American Atlanta hot wing, though this interpretation of the classic dish has largely faded away over time. PAGE D4

