

ELECTION 2024

Harris hits the trail in Wis., packs first rally

She draws wave of donations, endorsements as Trump retools attacks

BY MAEVE RESTON, DYLAN WELLS, PATRICK MARLEY AND ISAAC ARNSDORF

WEST ALLIS, WIS. — Vice President Harris made her presidential campaign trail debut Tuesday with record grass-roots fundraising, the largest Democratic crowd to date and new polling showing the race is now a toss-up, as former president Donald Trump began adapting to her swift ascent to a likely Democratic nomination.

To a roaring crowd of thousands in this Milwaukee suburb, Harris moved to redefine the November election as a choice between the future and the past, a prosecutor and a felon. “I know Donald Trump’s type,” the former California attorney general said to chants of “Ka-ma-la.” The crowd, so large that organizers said they had to move the rally to a larger venue, also made a chorus out of her pledge: “We are not going back.”

She arrived in this pivotal swing state with a stacked lineup of Democratic officials, embodying how the party has rapidly coalesced behind her candidacy since President Biden withdrew Sunday and backed her as his successor. Biden plans to give a speech Wednesday to elaborate on his decision to step aside, which followed weeks of pressure

SEE CAMPAIGN ON A6

Abortion rights: Harris’s record is re-energizing election efforts. **A7**

In Virginia: State’s DNC delegates unanimously back Harris. **B1**

Loss of words sapped Biden of treasured political gift

First an obstacle, then a strength, speech faltered when he needed it most

BY MATT VISER

President Biden has always had a complicated relationship with words. As a child, he overcame a stutter by reading Irish poets and practicing conversations ahead of time to work out the right phrases. As an up-and-coming senator, he won praise from senior colleagues for his rhetorical flourishes — until his first presidential campaign was derailed by accusations that he stole someone else’s words and used them as his own.

This year, his bid for reelection was ultimately and irrevocably derailed by his inability to find the right words in a 90-minute debate. The man who long prided himself on carefully crafting his words — who has given eulogies and commencement addresses, spoken at political ral-

SEE BIDEN ON A11

Historians’ view: Withdrawal isn’t a bad sign for U.S. democracy. **A10**



People stand outside a classroom at a school sheltering individuals displaced by the war in Omdurman, Sudan, on June 15.

EDUARDO SOTERAS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Every day, fighting between the military and a powerful paramilitary group confronts Sudanese with agonizing choices.

A father must decide whether to leave his other children behind and try to rescue a son trapped behind the front lines of Sudan’s devastating civil war.

A doctor must choose whether to run home to rescue his parents, who had come under bombardment, or stay with the hospitalized children whose lives depend on him.

An impoverished young man must weigh a militia recruiter’s promise of riches against the prospect of death in battle.

Restrictions on reporting have largely obscured the catastrophic toll of Sudan’s war, abetting inter-

Inside Sudan, devastating warfare forces desperate choices

Rare reporting trip reveals confluence of hunger, violence and displacement

BY KATHARINE HOURELD AND HAFIZ HAROUN IN OMDURMAN, SUDAN

national neglect. But a rare reporting trip inside the country provided glimpses of fear, despair and remarkable heroism.

Now in its 15th month, the war is getting worse. The Rapid Support Forces paramilitary is advancing, capturing more territory and displacing millions of Sudanese, in turn fueling the world’s largest hunger crisis. Famine looms. About 750,000 people are on the brink of starving to death, the United Nations says. The United States estimates the war has already killed 150,000 people.

Foreign countries are taking up sides, fueling the conflict, and assorted militias and mercenaries are joining the fray. The conflict in Africa’s third-largest country is spilling across the borders and

SEE SUDAN ON A16

Netanyahu visit showcases U.S. partisan divide

BY ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER AND LIZ GOODWIN

Israel’s embattled prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, will address a joint meeting of Congress on Wednesday, an event that is expected to draw crowds of protesters and provide a sharp contrast between the United States’ two political parties in their evolving approach to one of America’s closest allies.

Netanyahu comes to Capitol

Dozens of Democrats are skipping speech to protest actions in Gaza

Hill at a fraught time in both Israeli and American politics. Already a divisive figure before Hamas’s cross-border Oct. 7 attack that left some 1,200 Israelis dead and ignited the war in the Gaza

Strip, Netanyahu faces a growing tide of dissent at home, where two-thirds of the Israeli public want to see him leave office.

In Washington, Netanyahu has come to embody the Biden administration’s frustrations with an ally that some officials see as having exploited America’s support to mete out excessive punishment to civilians in Gaza and the West Bank. Republicans, by contrast, have embraced Netanyahu — seeking to portray the right-wing

leader as a cherished ally, betrayed and undermined by President Biden and the Democrats in Israel’s most critical hour of need.

Netanyahu’s speech Wednesday before Congress, in response to an invitation initially extended by House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) alone, presents an uncomfortable moment for Democrats,

SEE NETANYAHU ON A5

Harris on Gaza: How she created distance from Biden on war. **A5**



MIKE KAI CHEN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

At an Oakland Ballers game this month, a fan takes a selfie with team co-founder Bryan Carmel and mascot Scrappy the Possum. The upstart team is part of the independent Pioneer League.

Jilted by the bigs, Oakland fields a minor sensation

DIY baseball team inspires hope in a city rocked by political crisis, major league departures

BY REIS THEBAULT

OAKLAND, CALIF. — In a city famously forsaken by professional sports, Opening Day could not come soon enough.

Sure, it was just minor league baseball, but what were the majors good for anyway? Lately, all they did was break Oakland’s heart. And the city badly needed a win, on the diamond and off.

Enter the Oakland Ballers, a team founded by a pair of Oaklanders who vowed to make something radically different from the succession of clubs that had abandoned the city in recent years. Aching for a fresh start, some of the country’s most passionate sports fans embraced the upstart

squad, and they were counting down the days until its sold-out home opener.

But before the first pitch could be thrown, the Field of Dreams needed finishing — the team’s roll-out had gone so fast that its stadium, a renovated public park, was still under construction just 48 hours before the scheduled debut. The locker rooms had no lockers.

Residents — fans — came to the rescue. Responding to a public plea for help, dozens of volunteers flocked to an industrial district in West Oakland to spend their weekend hammering and sweeping, practically willing the team and its park over the finish line.

SEE OAKLAND ON A12

IN THE NEWS

Menendez to resign The Democratic senator from New Jersey will step down Aug. 20 after he was convicted of trading on his political influence, accepting gold, cash and a car. **A2**

Seeking rodent relief Residents of an infested Dupont Circle apartment complex are fighting rats as well as the building’s owner. **B1**

THE NATION The **Army** acknowledged lapses preceded a mass killing by a reservist last year in Maine. **A3** The **country** is making progress on its climate goals but still falling short, a report found. **A3**

THE WORLD **Ukraine’s** labor shortage is pinching the economy but giving opportunities to women. **A15** **China brokered** a unity declaration among Palestinian factions in a bid to be a mediator. **A18**

THE ECONOMY **Meta** released an open-source artificial intelligence model it says rivals technologies from OpenAI and Google. **A19** **Regulators said** they would examine Delta Air Lines’ treatment of passengers following last week’s global IT outage. **A22**

THE REGION A **retired admiral** charged with bribery could see a romantic partner become a key government witness. **B1** **For Sen. J.D. Vance’s** tenant on Capitol Hill, watching him become the vice-presidential nominee was an “only in D.C.” moment. **B1**

SPORTS **Katie Ledecky**, 12 years into a swimming career like no other, gets ready for Paris by sticking to a well-honed routine. **D1**

FOOD A **stunning** blue punch with tropical flavors is the next best thing when you can’t be near turquoise waters. **E1**

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