

ELECTION 2024

Trump brings back promise on border wall

Barrier visit accidentally touts Obama-era section; campaign renews theme

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF, MARIANNE LEVINE AND ERIN PATRICK O'CONNOR

MONTEZUMA PASS, ARIZ. — A brown ribbon carved a straight gash across a vast, flat desert basin, the only mark of human civilization visible on this wilder-ness. The partition charged up a steep hill in Montezuma Canyon, then suddenly stopped. Extra pieces lay in piles nearby, rusting monuments to an unfinished campaign promise.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump came here on Thursday to heap praise on the structure standing to his right — “the Rolls-Royce of walls,” he called it — and lament the unused segments lying to his left. Joining him, Border Patrol union leader Paul A. Perez called the standing fence “Trump wall” and the idle parts “Kamala wall,” after Trump’s Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris.

Those labels were inaccurate. This section of 20-foot steel slats was actually built during the administration of President Barack Obama. Trump added the unfinished extension up the hill-side, an engineering challenge that cost at least \$35 million a mile. The unused panels of 30-foot beams were procured during the Trump administration and never erected.

“Where you were, that was kind of a joke today,” John Ladd, a Trump supporter whose ranch extends along the border, said while driving the dirt road along the barrier, the gapped panels making a flipbook out of the shrubby trees and grass on the other side. “Had to be in front of Trump’s wall, but you went to Montezuma, and that’s Obama’s wall.”

The Cochise County Sheriff’s Office confirmed that the barrier next to Thursday’s campaign stop

SEE TRUMP ON A4

Spirit’s Olympians share golden moment with fans



JOHN MCDONNELL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Washington Spirit forward Trinity Rodman takes selfies with fans after scoring a goal in a 4-1 win over the KC Current at Audi Field. Sunday’s game served as a celebration of the Spirit players who helped the United States win gold at the Paris Olympics: Rodman, Casey Krueger, Croix Bethune and alternate Hal Hershfelt. **Story, D1.**

Strikes increase Mideast tension

ISRAEL, HEZBOLLAH ESCALATE FIRE

Both sides signal desire to avoid all-out war

This article is by Steve Hendrix, Mohamad El Chamaa, John Hudson, Susannah George and Susan Haidamious

JERUSALEM — Israel and Hezbollah on Sunday exchanged their heaviest strikes since the Gaza war began in October, with Israeli war planes bombing sites across southern Lebanon and Hezbollah firing a barrage of drones and rockets across the border — a dramatic but contained escalation that stopped short of all-out war.

Israel said it launched a pre-emptive strike on “thousands” of Hezbollah rocket and missile systems that were poised to take part in a major attack on Israeli targets. The Lebanese militant group, for its part, said the attack went according to plan, and had only targeted military installations.

Two Hezbollah members were killed, according to the group, along with a fighter from the allied Amal Movement, while state media in Lebanon reported damage to electricity and water infrastructure in the south.

Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah said the rocket volleys were meant to overwhelm Israel’s air defense systems so that drones could “pass through.” But Israeli officials said most of the more than 150 projectiles were intercepted by air defense systems, and there were no reports of deaths or injuries inside Israel.

“Nasrallah in Beirut and Khamenei in Tehran should know that this is another step on the way to changing the situation in the north,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday as he gathered his cabinet in Tel Aviv, referring to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of

SEE ISRAEL ON A8

School desegregation experience sets Harris apart

BY LAURA MECKLER

Early one morning in September 1970, 5-year-old Kamala Harris walked to the corner of her street to wait for a school bus that would take her up the hills and into the Whiter, wealthier part of Berkeley, Calif.

She didn’t realize it until later, but Berkeley was making history as one of the few places to voluntarily desegregate its schools, doing on its own what other communities were fighting against in the courts and in the streets. Berkeley’s program wasn’t ordered by a judge, but created by people living there who believed in the promise of shared community. And unlike in some other busing communities, the Berke-

A 1970s busing program in Berkeley shaped her views on diversity

ley program went both ways: Black students were bused to mostly White neighborhoods, and vice versa, so Harris experienced diversity both close to home and away from it.

“Looking at the photo of my first-grade class reminds me of how wonderful it was to grow up in such a diverse environment,” Harris wrote in her 2019 memoir, “The Truths We Hold.” “Because the students came from all over the area, we were a varied bunch;

some grew up in public housing and others were the children of professors.”

Children who participated in the program were forever changed, according to interviews with about a dozen people who, like Harris, were bused in Berkeley in the early to mid-1970s. The period shaped their worldviews, and some of Harris’s childhood friends and classmates say the program was the reason they have felt comfortable in diverse environments ever since. The desegregation program also was hard for many students, with some describing fights and bullying between students of different races and economic statuses and schools that did little to help them work through the tensions.

The result: Busing exposed children in Berkeley to both the hope for an America that can rise above racial strife and the reality of how hard it is to achieve it.

“It really helped mold the person I am today,” said Michele Lewis, a Black woman who, like Harris, was bused from her home in the flatlands of Berkeley to an elementary school in the hills. She developed a multiracial group of friends there that she maintains to this day, more than 50 years later, and she said the experience has made her better at her work in human resources.

But others described stress, particularly in grades four to six, when White students from the hills were bused to schools in the

SEE BUSING ON A6

Dueling images of White emerge in bribery case

FBI’s allegations suggest a D.C. Council member living a split-screen life

BY PAUL SCHWARTZMAN AND ELLIE SILVERMAN

On a Wednesday in late June, D.C. Council member Trayon White Sr. went on Instagram to perform a role his constituents have come to expect from him. He posted a video of himself describing the plight of families who “lost everything” in a fire at a Southeast Washington apartment complex.

On that same day, June 26, FBI agents secretly recorded White (D-Ward 8) purportedly engaging in a far different kind of conduct. Still in the same shirt and plaid blazer he wore in the social media video, White sat in a car with a government contractor who the FBI says offered a \$15,000 bribe.

“What you need me to do, man?” the council member asked, according to a 37-page FBI

affidavit, before he was surreptitiously recorded slipping a cash-stuffed envelope into his blazer pocket. “I don’t wanna feel like you gotta gimme something to get something. We better than that.”

The exchange is among four alleged illegal payments that prompted FBI agents to apprehend White on a bribery charge, an arrest that unsettled the city’s political establishment and imperiled the council member’s quest for a third term representing Washington’s poorest ward.

Lined up side-by-side, the dueling images of White performing his official duties and photos that the FBI says show him pocketing bribes suggest a public official toggling between the extremes of a split-screen life. In between allegedly taking about \$35,000 in cash over the course of six weeks, White’s Instagram, Facebook and X followers — more than 100,000 between the three platforms — saw him hosting a “unity” kick-ball game for children, promoting free produce delivery and health screenings, and visiting

SEE WHITE ON A5

SpaceX voyage aims for historic civilian spacewalk

Billionaire Jared Isaacman is leading a high-orbit mission that seeks to push new boundaries



MARK ABRAMSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

SpaceX’s Polaris Dawn mission, which is scheduled to launch Tuesday, would put a crew of four in the highest orbit since the Apollo era and potentially lead to the first spacewalk by private citizens.

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT

HAWTHORNE, CALIF. — Three years ago, billionaire entrepreneur Jared Isaacman made history when he led the first all-private astronaut mission to orbit. Now he’s spending more of his fortune on another nongovernment voyage: a SpaceX rocket flight early Tuesday that would put a crew of four in the highest orbit since the Apollo era and, even more dramatically, have them open the hatch and perform the first spacewalk by private astronauts.

If successful, the flight, known as Polaris Dawn, will mark a significant milestone for the commercial space sector as NASA increasingly relies on companies like SpaceX, Blue Origin and Intuitive Machines to build the rockets and spacecraft as well as develop the technologies required for its flagship space endeavors.

For years, NASA has relied on the private companies to fly cargo as well as astronauts to the International Space Station. Now the space agency is also looking to the private sector to build the space

SEE POLARIS ON A11

IN THE NEWS

**Columbia University** The campus community is bracing for disruptive protests over the war in Gaza to resume as the school’s interim president pushes for calm. **A3**

**Prisoner swap** Russian opposition activist Ilya Yashin now must learn to oppose Vladimir Putin’s regime from abroad. **A7**

**THE NATION** **The dismissal** of Donald Trump’s classified-documents case in Florida by U.S. District Judge Aileen M. Cannon could jeopardize the work of acting prosecutors, legal experts said. **A3**

**THE WORLD** **Federal prosecutors** in Germany cited terrorism as the suspected motive in a stabbing attack. **A9** **Australia** is offering the United States a new military launchpad in case of conflict with China. **A9**

**THE ECONOMY** **Pavel Durov**, the Russian-born CEO of the platform Telegram, was detained in France. **A10**

**THE REGION** **A federal** appeals court upheld Maryland’s requirement that gun owners first go through training and pass a background check. **B1**

**Carey Wright**, who was lauded for her work as the top education official in Mississippi, is beginning her first full academic year as Maryland’s state schools superintendent. **B1** **Arlington welcomed** home Olympic swimmer Torri Huske, who won five medals in Paris. **B1**

**STYLE** **First-time director** Zoë Kravitz discusses “Blink Twice,” a thriller touching on cancel culture, celebrity obsession, sexual trauma and greed. **C1** **TikTok food critic** Keith Lee visited D.C.-area restaurants, bringing some a wave of new business. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A10  
COMICS.....C6  
OBITUARIES.....B4  
OPINION PAGES.....A12  
TELEVISION.....C4  
WORLD NEWS.....A7

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