

## FBI probes suspected hacking of campaigns

Since June, agents have pursued evidence of Iran targeting Trump, Biden

This article is by Devlin Barrett, Josh Dawsey, Tyler Pager, Isaac Arnsdorf and Shane Harris

The FBI is investigating suspected hacking attempts by Iran targeting both a Trump associate and advisers to the Biden-Harris campaign, according to people familiar with the matter, as the agency formally acknowledged Monday it has opened a high-stakes national security investigation months before Election Day.

Three staffers on the Biden-Harris campaign received spear phishing emails that were designed to appear legitimate but could give an intruder access to the recipients' communications, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe a sensitive investigation. So far, investigators have not found evidence that those hacking attempts were successful, these people said.

The FBI began the investigation in June, suspecting Iran was behind the attempts to steal data from two U.S. presidential campaigns. Agents contacted Google, among other companies, to discuss what appeared to be a phishing effort targeting people associated with the Biden campaign, these people said.

The new details show the investigation is broader and involves more potential victims than previously known. It also underscores the degree to which hacking by foreign nations targeting U.S. political candidates may simply be a recurring feature

SEE HACKING ON A5

### ELECTION 2024

## In Senate, Harris took spotlight as a Trump foil

BY LIZ GOODWIN AND LEIGH ANN CALDWELL

Jeff Sessions, then Donald Trump's attorney general, had faced only about three minutes of a freshman senator's fusillade of questions before he began to crack.

Testifying in front of his former colleagues on the Senate Intelligence Committee as they investigated Russia's influence on the 2016 election, Sessions fiercely pushed back on criticism that he had failed to disclose his earlier interactions with the Russian ambassador to the United States. But it was a brand-new member of the panel, Kamala Harris, who elicited his rawest reaction at the June 2017 hearing, when she pressed Sessions repeatedly on whether he had interacted with other Russian nationals during the campaign, in a rapid-fire style that left him visibly flustered.

"I'm not able to be rushed this fast. It makes me nervous," Sessions said.

It was a viral moment — and the first of many for Harris during her four years as a Democrat representing California in the Senate, where she deployed

SEE HARRIS ON A8

## Dangerous wildfire rages around Greek capital



ALEXANDROS AVRAMIDIS/REUTERS

People stand on the roof of a building as smoke rises from a wildfire burning in Vrilissia, outside Athens. The fire, with flames that have reached up to 80 feet, has prompted mass evacuations from several suburbs. **Story, A9**

## Putin demands to regain control in Kursk

More civilians evacuated as Kyiv solidifies foothold in invader's homeland

BY ROBYN DIXON

Nearly a week into a stunning Ukrainian incursion into western Russia, the acting governor of the Kursk region told President Vladimir Putin and other security officials Monday that the situation is "complicated," with Kyiv's forces having advanced 7½ miles into the country and controlling more than two dozen villages.

"As of today, the enemy is in control of 28 communities, having advanced 12 kilometers into the Kursk region on a 40-kilometer-wide front," Alexei Smirnov told the officials via video conference. "For us, the problem is that



Source: Institute for the Study of War

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there is no clear front line, no understanding of where the [Ukrainian] combat units are. It is very important to know where the enemy is and at what time."

Putin, in the operational meeting broadcast on the Kremlin's website, demanded that the military eject Ukrainian forces from Kursk and insisted that Russia would prevail.

"The main goal facing the Defense Ministry is definitely to oust and knock the enemy out of our territories and along with the Border Service reliably guarantee border security," Putin said. "The enemy will certainly get an appropriate response, and all the goals facing us will undoubtedly be achieved."

Also Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for the first time fully acknowledged Ukraine's incursion into Kursk, claiming in a meeting with senior

SEE RUSSIA ON A11

## Locals swelter in Death Valley's relentless heat

When average daily temperatures stay above 100 degrees, how do residents survive?

BY REIS THEBAULT

DEATH VALLEY, CALIF. — Early in the year, when so much water flooded this place that kayaks could float across it, or later, when its hills burst with radiant color, the moniker could feel like a misnomer.

But in the summer months — which keep getting hotter, setting records on a nearly annual basis — Death Valley earns its name.

For the sightseers and second-home dwellers, the infernal heat is a novelty. But full-time residents have to live in Death Valley's extreme temperatures day in, day out. And lately, it's getting harder.

"You have this sensation that you can't get cool," said Brian Brown, who owns and operates the China Ranch Date Farm in Tecopa, a small rural community near the southern end of Death Valley National Park. "It makes me doubt my sanity."

In July, the hottest and driest place in America outdid itself. Last month in Death Valley was

SEE DEATH VALLEY ON A6



BRIDGET BENNETT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Brian Brown, owner and operator of the China Ranch Date Farm in Tecopa, Calif., takes a break indoors during a workday. He and his workers continually douse their shirts with water to keep cool.

## Wary of war, Iran waits

MIDDLE EAST HOLDS ITS BREATH

Tehran wrestles with retaliation against Israel

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE, SUZAN HAIDAMOUS AND MUSTAFA SALIM

BEIRUT — Since Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh's assassination, Israel, Washington and the wider Middle East have nervously waited — and waited — for Iran's promised retaliation. Nearly two weeks later, the response has yet to come, as Tehran wrestles with how to calibrate its counter-attack.

In public, Iranian officials are continuing to warn of a "tough" reprisal to "punish" Israel. But in private meetings with the leaders of its armed proxies, according to those familiar with the conversations, Iran has called for caution — seeking to balance any show of force with the desire to avoid an all-out war in the region.

Striking that balance will be difficult. Iran's first direct attack on Israel — when it unleashed more than 300 drones and missiles in April in retaliation for a deadly Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic facility in Syria — erased red lines that had long contained the countries' shadow war. The two sides avoided a wider confrontation, as Israel and a U.S.-backed alliance intercepted most of the incoming fire. This time, Iran is more politically unsettled at home, and less certain of Israeli restraint.

SEE IRAN ON A10

## Lead lurks in schools' taps, but water is often untested

BY SILVIA FOSTER-FRAU

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y. — When the state of New York became the first in the nation to require all public schools to test their drinking water for lead in 2016, Keyry Broncano learned that water drawn from 68 different taps at her high school contained dangerously high lead levels.

Then Broncano, at the time a high school junior, discovered that the water she'd been drinking since kindergarten in the East Ramapo Central School District, about an hour north of New York City, probably contained elevated lead levels: Water from 23 taps at her elementary school was found to contain at least 15 parts per billion of lead. At her middle school, 85 taps had high lead levels.

"I was like, 'I think I've been drinking poison,'" Broncano said, recalling rushing home to explain the news to her mother, a Guatemalan immigrant.

It's an experience that has been repeated in schools across the country since 2014, when a crisis involving lead in the water in Flint, Mich., prompted some states to adopt new testing requirements for schools and day-care centers.

Whenever states, counties or

SEE LEAD ON A4

### IN THE NEWS

X marks the spot Donald Trump's much-anticipated discussion with Elon Musk on the social media platform was marred by technical errors, starting 40 minutes late. **A7**

**Blast victims identified** A homeowner and a utility worker were killed when a house exploded in Bel Air, Md., on Sunday. **B1**

**THE NATION** Fewer candidates are showing up for political debates, a phenomenon some observers attribute to an increasingly divided landscape and technological changes in campaigning. **A3**

**THE WORLD** The United States has ramped up deployment of vessels to the Middle East in anticipation of an attack on Israel in retaliation for the killing of Hamas's political leader. **A10**

**THE ECONOMY** A Coca-Cola ad that was meant to distance the company from Israel and quell boycotts backfired. **A12** Boeing's manufacturing woes long preceded a midair blowout on an Alaska Airlines flight in January, NTSB hearings showed. **A16**

**THE REGION** A campaign to recall Ward 6 D.C. Council member Charles Allen failed to get enough signatures to make the ballot. **B1** At least seven people in Montgomery County have lost \$6.3 million to gold bar scams this year, authorities said. **B1**

**STYLE** A right-wing YouTube purchase of a DIY skate park in West Virginia riled skaters, who don't want to be associated with him. **C1**

**HEALTH & SCIENCE** Doctors couldn't figure out a woman's sudden episodes of outbursts and confusion. **E1**

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