

ELECTION 2024



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Sen. J.D. Vance (Ohio), the Republican vice-presidential nominee, speaks at the party's convention in Milwaukee on Wednesday.

Vance recounts long journey to RNC

A focus on his humble beginnings in Ohio

BY ASHLEY PARKER

MILWAUKEE — Donald Trump's running mate, Sen. J.D. Vance of Ohio, recounted his hardscrabble Ohio upbringing and his post-Sept. 11 military service as he introduced himself and his young family to the nation at the Republican National Convention here Wednesday night.

Unfurling the tale of a boy who grew up in poverty in southwest Ohio with an absent father and a drug-addicted mother — a boy who is now a 39-year-old man nominated to become the next vice president — Vance offered an up-from-the-bootstraps story that the Trump-Vance ticket hopes will resonate with working-class and rural America.

Vance spoke of being raised in Middletown, Ohio, midway between Cincinnati

SEE CONVENTION ON A8

Timothy Mellon: Reclusive banking heir is the Trump campaign's biggest donor. **A11**

Speech by Teamsters chief draws labor ire

BY LAUREN KAORI GURLEY AND JEFF STEIN

White House officials, congressional Democrats and several labor leaders say they are angry about Teamsters President Sean O'Brien's prime-time address to the Republican National Convention on Monday night, which marked a striking departure for a powerful union that for decades has supported Democrats.

In a speech closely watched by other union officials, O'Brien praised former president Donald Trump — calling him “one tough SOB” after Saturday's assassination attempt — as well as his running mate, Republican Sen. J.D. Vance of Ohio, for “truly [caring] about working people.”

Breaking from nearly all other speakers at the Republican convention, O'Brien did not

SEE TEAMSTERS ON A14

Mixed message: GOP's “economic populism” clashes with Trump's pitch to donors. **A14**

The staggering shift to vice-presidential pick

BY MARIANNE LEVINE AND MERYL KORNFELD

MILWAUKEE — Last week, Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) was in the Senate, voting against Biden nominees, one to become a judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and another to become a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

On Wednesday night, he delivered a prime-time speech as Donald Trump's vice-presidential pick, the most consequential moment of the 39-year-old freshman senator's political career. It capped a whirlwind 48 hours since Vance became Trump's pick that he has spent in part writing his acceptance speech, which focused heavily on his personal biography and how it tied to Trump's “America First” movement. He was widely cheered in the convention hall as he

SEE VANCE ON A9

Mike Lindell: At convention, MyPillow's CEO won't rest with his election-fraud claims. **C1**

Secret Service was warned of security gap

NO POLICE OUTSIDE BUILDING SHOOTER USED

Lawmakers scrutinize agency's planning, leadership

This article is by Carol D. Leonnig, Isaac Stanley-Becker, Maria Sacchetti, Jacqueline Alemany and Jon Swaine

Local police alerted the Secret Service before former president Donald Trump's rally Saturday that they lacked the resources to station a patrol car outside a key building where a gunman later positioned himself and shot at Trump, according to local and federal law enforcement.

Richard Goldinger, the district attorney in Butler County, Pa., where the Trump rally took place, said the Secret Service “was informed that the local police department did not have manpower to assist with securing that building.”

Goldinger's account was confirmed by Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi. Guglielmi said the proposal to station a patrol car and officer outside the Agr International building complex had been part of the Secret

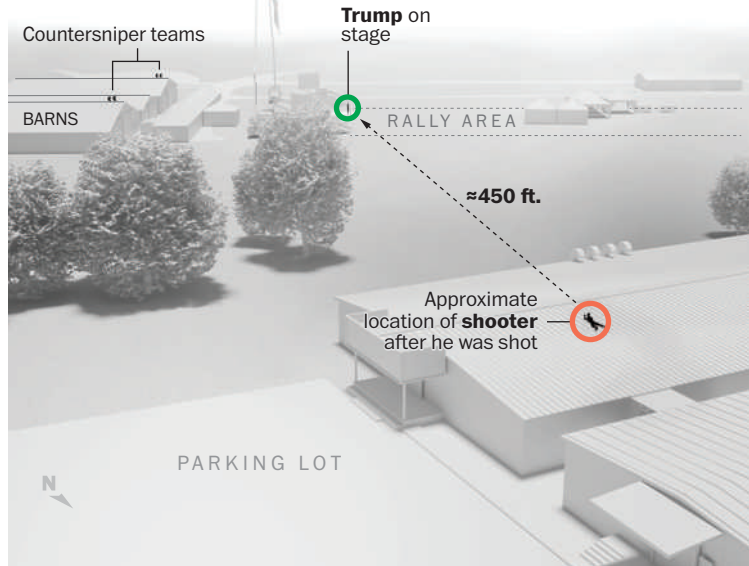
Service's advance planning for securing the prominent structure, which had an expansive roof with an unobstructed view of the rally stage less than 150 yards away, where Trump would later stand.

At all public events, the Secret Service works to guard against the risk that a shooter on high ground could have a clear line of sight on the president or other senior officials under the agency's protection. Five former agents with experience securing similar events told The Washington Post that a police officer stationed outside the building might have helped detect the gunman sooner.

Guglielmi said that about 20 to 30 minutes before the shooting, local police assigned to the inside of the building warned the Secret Service security team by radio of a suspicious person with a golf range finder and backpack. Those officers also forwarded a

SEE SECRET SERVICE ON A4

3D analysis: The countersnipers' response may have been delayed by an obstructed view from nearby trees and the slant of the gunman's roof. **A6**



AARON STECKELBERG/THE WASHINGTON POST

Maryland wants to hook you on snakehead

To fight the invasive fish and others like it, the state hopes to make them palatable to a wary public

BY JOE HEIM

Branson Williams feels the weight of his responsibilities. The 39-year-old Marylander is tasked with defeating an elusive and relentless enemy that shows no signs of weakening.

Failure in this war is not an option. But a complete and convincing victory is unlikely.

“I stay up late at night thinking about this,” Williams says. “Eradication is not possible at this point. Their abundance and densities are way too great. What we do hope is that we can prevent further spread.”

The menace causing Williams to lose sleep? Fish.

Specifically, he worries about blue and flathead catfish and northern snakehead, the terrible trio of invasive fish that has been wreaking environmental havoc in Maryland waters for decades.

The fish are responsible, state officials say, for feasting on native species, reducing their numbers and altering the entire ecosystem. The total catches of hard blue crab, rockfish (also known as striped bass), yellow perch and



WESLEY LAPOINTE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Branson Williams, Maryland's invasive fishes program manager, holds a snakehead. He recently helped prepare the fish for tasters.

other native Maryland species have declined between 27 percent and 91 percent since 2012, according to the state. The invasives' rampage through the region has been so devastating that last year Maryland Gov. Wes Moore (D) asked the federal government to declare a commercial fishing dis-

aster in the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Faced with potentially dire consequences, Maryland is bumping up its counteroffensive. Williams, who last year became the first invasive fishes program manager for Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, over-

sees several efforts to track the invasive population and keep it under control. One approach has shown promise: encouraging Marylanders to consume catfish and snakehead (despite the unappetizing name.)

“If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em” may prove to be the most effective strategy.

Rapacious — but tasty — predators

On a hot Saturday last month, Williams traveled to Gunpowder Falls State Park, northeast of Baltimore, for the Snakes on the Dundee fishing derby. The annual event is one of several supported by state and federal partners to encourage the harvest of snakehead and educate the public about the damage they are causing. Anglers are given tips on the best way to catch the fish, including bowfishing demonstrations and suggestions for which lures and methods are most successful.

But catching the fish was just one component of the day. Teaching people how to prepare the fish and encouraging them to eat

SEE FISH ON A2

Jeffries and Schumer tell Biden he's hurting party

In private talks, they say candidacy could deprive Democrats of majorities

BY TYLER PAGER AND MICHAEL SCHERER

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, in separate private meetings with President Biden last week, told him that his continued candidacy imperils the Democratic Party's ability to control either chamber of Congress next year.

Jeffries (D-N.Y.) met with Biden on Thursday night at the White House, and Schumer (D-N.Y.) met with him on Saturday in Rehoboth Beach, Del. In the meetings, the congressional leaders discussed their members' concerns that Biden could deprive them of majorities, giving Republicans a much easier path to push through legislation, according to four people briefed on

the meetings who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the private talks.

In a separate one-on-one conversation, a person close to Biden told the president directly that he should end his candidacy, saying that was the only way to preserve his legacy and save the country from another Trump term, the person said. Biden responded that he adamantly disagreed with that opinion and that he is the best candidate to defeat Donald Trump. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe a private conversation.

The Democratic leaders released short statements after the meetings, acknowledging only that they occurred but saying little or nothing about the substance. The Biden campaign and the White House also have not provided public summaries of the meetings.

White House spokesman Andrew Bates said Biden told Schumer and Jeffries in their private meetings that he would remain at the top of the ticket. “The

SEE BIDEN ON A4

IN THE NEWS

A daunting task Mexico's next president has vowed to make the country a leader in tackling climate change, but politics and a lack of money may stand in her way. **A15**

Guilty plea in fraud case The founder of the D.C. nonprofit group Casa Ruby admitted to diverting pandemic aid for her own use. **B1**

THE WORLD Paris's mayor swam in the Seine and declared it sufficiently clean for Olympics men. A16
Ukrainian men are avoiding the draft by paying to be smuggled across the border. A17

THE ECONOMY OpenAI illegally barred its employees from airing safety concerns, whistleblowers say. A18
Donald Trump's allies are drafting a proposal to bolster the use of AI in the military. A19

THE REGION Incumbents in competitive congressional races in Virginia have the lead in fundraising, according to campaign finance reports. B1
Police in Maryland said gold bar scammers bilked nearly \$1 million from an 82-year-old woman. B1

STYLE The Emmy nominations were mostly what people expected — with a few twists. C1
LOCAL LIVING Puzdell about how you should wash a delicate article of clothing? The costume director of the Washington National Opera has laundry tips.

SPORTS With ratings on the rise, the WNBA has the framework in place for a media rights deal worth about \$200 million a year. D1
After years of work to attract more Black American players, Major League Baseball sees signs of hope. D1

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The Washington Post
Year 147, No. 53916

