

SECRET SERVICE CHIEF ADMITS LAPSES

Gunman was seen on roof 18 minutes before Trump took stage at rally, official reveals to angry lawmakers.

BY RICHARD WINTON, NATHAN SOLIS AND JON HEALEY

In a stunning admission, the embattled director of the U.S. Secret Service said Monday that local authorities observed and photographed the man who shot at former President Trump 18 minutes before he took the stage at a rally in Pennsylvania.

It was one of several security lapses revealed at a congressional hearing into what Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle described as the “most significant operational failure” of the agency in decades.

The new information sparked outrage from lawmakers and a rare moment of agreement between committee Chair James R. Comer Jr. (R-Ky.) and ranking member Jamie Raskin (D-Md.), who called on her to resign.

“I also didn’t see any daylight between the members of the two parties today at the hearing in terms of our bafflement and outrage about the shocking operational failures that led to this disaster,” Raskin said.

At a campaign event on July 13, Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, fired eight shots at Trump from a rooftop, injuring Trump’s ear and wounding three spectators, one of them fatally. Within 10 seconds of the first shot, he was killed by a Secret Service sniper.

But questions from members of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability about how a man with a rifle was able to get within firing range of the former president — on a rooftop uncovered by the Secret Service, no less — went mostly unanswered.

“I am here today because I want to answer questions,” Cheatle said before being cut off by Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio). “I don’t think you’ve answered one question from the chairman, the ranking member, or me,” Jordan said.

The director repeatedly provided vague or nonresponsive answers when pressed for specifics on the number and types of agents

[See Cheatle, A5]



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI AFP/Getty Images

IN HER first public appearance since President Biden dropped out of the race, Vice President Kamala Harris speaks to college sports teams at the White House as her bid for the Democratic nomination gains steam.

Harris’ biggest historic turn

After a career of electoral firsts, she is poised to become the Democratic Party’s new standard-bearer

BY MARIA L. LA GANGA AND HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

Kamala Harris is making history yet again — this time in a manner few could have envisioned.

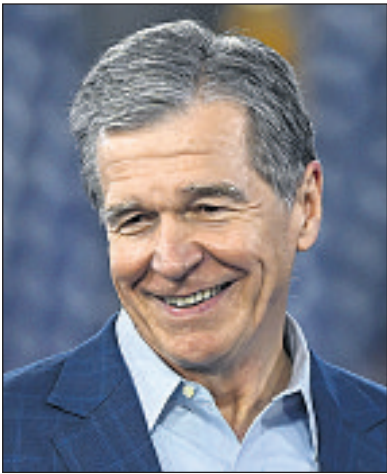
She already has blazed trails: As San Francisco’s first female district attorney. As California’s first female attorney general. As the second Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate. And, of course, as the country’s first female, first Black and first Asian American vice president.

Now, at a pivotal moment in American history, Harris,

a 59-year-old Democrat, is poised to become the Democratic nominee for president, after President Biden’s departure from the race on Sunday.

Biden, 81, beset by concerns about his age and electability, dropped out of the race — a decision that Harris called a “selfless and patriotic act” — and endorsed his second-in-command.

[See Harris, A10]



MATT KELLEY Associated Press

NORTH CAROLINA Gov. Roy Cooper, left, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear and Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly are VP possibilities, as are Josh Shapiro, Gretchen Whitmer, Raphael Warnock and Pete Buttigieg.



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY Associated Press



MANUEL BALCE CENETA Associated Press

The leading candidates to fill her shoes

If she becomes the Democratic presidential nominee, as many people expect, Vice President Kamala Harris will have a wide variety of potential running mates, many from battleground states crucial to both parties in the 2024 presidential race.

Conventional wisdom suggests the choice of a swing state

Governors, senators and a Cabinet member are likely contenders to join Harris at top of ticket

BY JAMES RAINEY

candidate would be wise, but such a pick is no guarantee the Democrats would carry the state. That thought could open the door to other politicians who have simply shown an ability to appeal to voters across the country’s sharp ideological divide.

Here’s a quick look at those

[See Vice president, A10]

Donors, leaders flock to support Harris

Pelosi endorsement shows growing momentum for candidate, who gets record cash haul.

BY FAITH E. PINHO, SEEMA MEHTA AND NOAH BIERMAN

Vice President Kamala Harris is quickly drumming up support among top Democrats and donors, making her road to become the Democratic presidential nominee seem almost inevitable.

In the 24 hours after President Biden ended his reelection bid and backed her to be his successor, Harris raked in \$81 million, setting a new record for the most money raised in 24 hours by any candidate in presidential history. A slew of Democratic leaders also threw their support behind Harris — including her highly influential Bay Area colleague, San Francisco Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

“Officially, I have seen Kamala Harris’ strength and courage as a champion for working families, notably fighting for a woman’s right to choose. Personally, I have known Kamala Harris for decades as rooted in strong values, faith and a commitment to public service,” Pelosi said in a statement Monday. “Politically, make no mistake: Kamala Harris as a woman in politics is brilliantly astute — and I have full confidence that she will lead us to victory in November.”

Still, Harris said her “intention is to earn and win this nomination,” a nod to the fact that it is not a sealed deal. The vice president spent Sunday calling more than 100 Democrats, including members of Congress, governors and labor and civil rights leaders, according to

[See Support, A5]

U.S. allies praise Biden for decision

The president receives an outpouring of respect from leaders, who seem relieved. **WORLD, A3**

A snap election, American style

The sudden change on the presidential ticket leaves Democrats with little time. **NATION, A4**

Cyberattack closes courts

Courthouses in L.A. County are expected to reopen today after being hit by a ransomware attack. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Simone Biles’ soaring science

The most decorated gymnast ever is bringing the gravity-defying Yurchenko double pike to Paris. **SPORTS, B10**

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 88/66. **B6**

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ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

THE CURTAIN IS FALLING

Regency closes Westwood’s Village and Bruin cinemas on Thursday. The Village will reopen; the Bruin’s fate is uncertain. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

How Joe Biden’s tenacity became his Achilles’ heel

DOYLE McMANUS

Joe Biden never hid his ambition to be president, or the chip he carried on his shoulder from feeling underestimated for most of his long career.

He needed three tries to reach the White House. When he began running the first time, in 1987, he was 44; when he finally won the prize he sought, in 2020, he was 77.

That victory wasn’t easy, either. In 2020, when Biden finished fourth in the Iowa caucuses and fifth in the New Hampshire



primary, pundits gave him up for dead. But he shook off the naysayers to win the Democratic nomination and defeated then-President Trump by a convincing 4.5-point margin in the popular vote in November.

Long before 2020, persistence in the face of adversity was Biden’s story. His national political career began in tragedy when his wife and daughter were killed in a traffic accident shortly before his first swearing-in as a senator in 1973.

“When you’re knocked down, you get up,” he said after every setback in his life — and there were many.

When Biden was right, that tenacity was one of his most useful traits. When he was

[See McManus, A5]



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