



AT THE opening of the Republican convention in Milwaukee, supporters cheer Monday as former President Trump officially secured the nomination, picked his vice president and won a favorable ruling in a legal case.

# After rally shooting, internet awash in conspiracy theories

Two camps emerge: one blaming the ‘deep state’ and the other claiming assassination attempt was staged.

By FAITH E. PINHO

The attempted assassination of former President Trump at a rally Saturday in Pennsylvania almost immediately gave rise to internet conspiracy theories that experts say will influence how the nation deals with political violence.

The Trump attack marks the first time in decades someone had tried to take a presidential candidate’s life. Although previous assassinations — notably the killing of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 — have brought conspiracy theories, the rise of partisan social media allows such claims to spread rapidly and in unexpected ways.

The Trump shooting claims typically came from random social media users — the writers casting aspersions or seeking to affix blame based on their place in the nation’s intensely po-

[See **Conspiracies**, A6]



SUPPORTERS of Donald Trump gather in Huntington Beach on Sunday, a day after he was wounded.

## ANALYSIS

# Trump case dismissal was Justice Thomas’ goal

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — A Florida federal judge’s dismissal Monday of the criminal case accusing former President Trump of illegally keeping classified documents after leaving office did not come out of nowhere.

Two weeks ago, Justice Clarence Thomas called for halting the federal prosecutions against Trump on the grounds that the appointment of special prosecutor Jack Smith was unconstitutional.

“There are serious questions whether the Attorney General has violated that structure [of the Constitu-

tion] by creating an office of the Special Counsel that has not been established by law,” Thomas wrote this month in a concurring opinion in the Trump vs. United States case about presidential immunity. “Those questions must be answered before this prosecution can proceed.”

Thomas spoke only for

himself, but he gave voice to an argument that has gained traction on the right. The Supreme Court’s conservative majority is skeptical of Smith’s prosecution, so the justices may well agree his appointment is unconstitutional if the issue reaches the high court.

And it has now led U.S. District Judge Aileen Can-

non in Florida to dismiss a case that accused Trump of mishandling classified documents.

The Supreme Court dealt a severe blow to the Justice Department’s prosecution of Trump when it ruled this month that the former president — and all future and former presi-

[See **Thomas**, A6]

J.D. Vance once positioned himself to Republican voters as an alternative to Donald Trump, questioning his ability to solve the problems of average Americans and branding Trump as “cultural heroin.”

But in time the Ohio senator and author of the acclaimed memoir “Hillbilly Elogy” became one of Trump’s most fervent supporters, and Trump rewarded that loyalty Monday by naming Vance his running mate. By a resounding voice vote, the delegates at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee approved Vance as the Republican nominee for vice president.

In Vance, Trump has a feisty and often aggressive ally who will appeal to the former president’s base.

“As Vice President, J.D. will continue to fight for our Constitution, stand with our Troops, and will do everything he can to help me MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN,” Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

Vance entered the convention auditorium Monday, grinning and shaking hands with attendees, as Merle Haggard’s country song “America First” played in the background.

“J.D. is the embodiment of the American dream. He came from humble beginnings. And even as his life took him to places he might have never imagined, he never forgot where he came from,” said Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, who formally nominated Vance. “Ohio values are in his blood.”

Trump’s decision defied speculation early in the campaign that the former president would choose a person of color or a woman to broaden his political base. Instead, Trump-Vance creates the kind of team found throughout American history: two men, both white, though

[See **Vance**, A12]

## Many shrug as COVID spreads

Cases of the virus are increasing, but even sick people are often not curtailing activity. CALIFORNIA, B1

## MLB, Olympics a good match

The league should embrace sending its best to the Games, Dylan Hernández says. SPORTS, B10

## How to prevent porch piracy

Amazon and other delivery services offer options that are more secure than your front steps. BUSINESS, A8

## Weather

Partly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 82/62. B6

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## COLUMN ONE

# L.A. dry cleaner struggles to hang on

Owner wonders how long he’ll last in downtown ‘zombie building’



DON KOHAN, owner of Cleaners Depot in the building still known as AT&T Center, helps an employee sort through garments.

By THOMAS CURWEN

A little before 8 one summer morning, the canyons of downtown Los Angeles still hold the cool of night.

Santiago Lopez walks down 6th Street into the deep and familiar shade of a high-rise lofting above him between Hope and Grand. If any homeless resident bedded down beneath the building’s generous overhang, security has cleared them out.

Lopez unlocks the door to Cleaners Depot. He’s pushing 10 years at a dry cleaner that’s just like any other dry cleaner in any other town, except this is downtown Los Angeles and it’s one of the few here. He wonders how much longer he’ll last.

Since the pandemic, the service sector has been struggling. Side-

[See **Cleaner**, A9]

# Trump secures nomination again, makes his pick for VP

Assassination attempt dominates talk as GOP convention opens

By SEEMA MEHTA AND JAMES RAINEY

MILWAUKEE — Two days after he survived an assassination attempt, former President Trump swept Monday to his third consecutive Republican nomination for the nation’s highest office — a momentous day on which he named Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance as his running mate and saw a federal judge throw out a criminal case against him in Florida.

The shooting at a Pennsylvania campaign rally had party loyalists reacting with new fervor about their determination to help Trump defeat President Biden, who has been trailing narrowly in most key polls. The former president planned to build on the enthusiasm by choosing Vance — one of his most outspoken supporters — as his No. 2.

“President Trump has one of the most dynamic, young leaders in the country” in Vance, Donald Trump Jr. said on the social media site X.

Saturday’s shocking violence remained the dominant topic at the gathering of 2,400 delegates, who opened their first Republican National Convention session Monday with a moment of silence to pray for the victims. The bullets apparently intended for Trump killed a father and severely wounded two other

[See **Convention**, A7]

## Will assassination bid spur change?

The shooting wasn’t altogether surprising, Mark Z. Barabak writes. PERSPECTIVES, A2

## Trump and gun glorification

Incident politicized fast, Michael Hiltzik writes. PERSPECTIVES, A2

# RUNNING MATE IS FORMER CRITIC VANCE, 39

The Ohio senator, now a fervent supporter, wrote ‘Hillbilly Elogy.’

By FAITH E. PINHO