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Democracy Dies in Darkness

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024 • \$5

Federal officials investigate incident as an attempted assassination

One spectator is killed, and two others are critically wounded

Trump injured in rally shooting



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

With blood on his face, former president Donald Trump raises his fist during a campaign rally in Butler, Pa., on Saturday. Shots were fired minutes into his remarks.

DOING ‘FINE’ AFTER RUSHED OFFSTAGE

Rooftop gunman was also killed, officials say

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF, HANNAH KNOWLES, MERYL KORNFIELD AND DEVLIN BARRETT

BUTLER, PA. — Former president Donald Trump on Saturday was rushed offstage with blood dripping down his face after a shooting that the authorities are investigating as an assassination attempt. One attendee was killed and two others were critically injured at the campaign rally, the Secret Service said, a shocking turn in a tense election season where concerns about violence had already been running high.

During the rally, “a suspected shooter fired multiple shots toward the stage from an elevated position outside of the rally venue,” according to Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi. The suspected shooter is dead, said Guglielmi, who confirmed the other death and injuries.

Trump, in a social media post Saturday night, said he was shot in his upper right ear and offered his thanks to law enforcement. He also extended his condolences to the families of the person who was shot and killed and the person who was injured. A campaign spokesman said the former president was taken to a medical facility but is “fine.”

SEE TRUMP ON A6

Election: The shooting upends the already dark presidential race. **A9**

Conservatives blame Biden, Democrats for rhetoric

BY MICHAEL SCHERER

Top allies of Donald Trump quickly accused President Biden and his supporters of using rhetoric that led to a shooting and potential assassination attempt Saturday at a Trump campaign rally in Butler, Pa., even as Biden condemned the attack and called on the nation to unite against political violence.

Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio), a potential Trump running mate, said in a statement on social media that the shooting was “not just some isolated incident.”

“The central premise of the Biden campaign is that President Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs,” Vance wrote. “That rhetoric led directly to President Trump’s attempted

assassination.”

At the time of that statement, there was no public reporting on the motives of the shooter. Trump said he was wounded in his ear at the event, and was rushed from the scene. His campaign released a statement saying “he is fine,” while being checked out at a nearby medical facility.

SEE REACTION ON A6

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF AND JABIN BOTSFORD

BUTLER, PA. — The gunshots were high-pitched pops, slight and hollow in the open air.

Donald Trump, the former president set to accept the Republican nomination in days, was less than 10 minutes into his speech here to a crowd of tens of thousands. A miles-long line of

cars crawled for hours to pass through metal detectors and bag inspections, just like any Trump event, until these green fairgrounds became a sea of red hats.

Trump was almost an hour late, and his supporters waited impatiently under the blazing sun amid thumping music. In the middle of the crowd, opposite the stage, a platform of TV cameras pointed at the stage, with report-

ers huddled underneath for shade.

Finally Trump walked out, as usual, to chants of “USA” and marveled: “This is a big crowd. This is a big, big, beautiful crowd.” A bright-red MAGA cap shaded his eyes, and his white shirt was open-collared in the heat as he leaned his arms on the lectern.

SEE SCENE ON A7

90 killed as Israeli attack targets a top Hamas leader

This article is by Kareem Fahim, Mohamad El Chamaa, Hajar Harb, Jonathan Baran and Louisa Loveluck

Israeli strikes on a stretch of Gaza filled with displaced residents killed at least 90 people on Saturday, according to the local health ministry, an attack Israel said had targeted top Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif.

It was not clear whether Deif, who heads Hamas’s armed wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, was killed in the strike. “There is still no absolute certainty” that Deif was among the dead, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a news conference Saturday. “But one way or another, we will reach every senior member of Hamas.”

In a statement, Hamas called

SEE GAZA ON A20

Ancestry, slavery and a political dynasty

A Maryland man discovers that Bush presidents’ ancestors owned his forebears

BY TARA BAHRAMPOUR

Charles Holman had been researching his family tree for more than half a century when he stumbled upon a piece of information that left him slack-jawed.

Holman, 66 and African American, had spent much of his life collecting loose threads — stories passed down through the generations, birth and death certificates, centuries-old bills of sale, Census Bureau records and DNA matches. His training as a lawyer had taught him to be thorough, and his gentle manner had won over strangers through letters and emails and in person. He had connected with distant relatives both Black and White, who had helped him weave a family tapestry that mirrored America’s complicated and fraught racial history.

Along the way, he had attended a gathering of White relatives who shared his name and whose ancestors had enslaved his. He had visited the sites of three

SEE SLAVERY ON A12



BILL O’LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Charles Holman had spent decades piecing together his family tree, poring over documents and connecting with White and Black relatives, when he discovered his ties to the Bush family.

RUTH WESTHEIMER
1928-2024

Sex therapist was known for her frank advice on the art of love

BY EMILY LANGER

Ruth Westheimer, a child survivor of the Holocaust who became known to millions as Dr. Ruth, the perky sex therapist whose frankness on her long-running radio and television call-in shows made her a go-to guide for tips on the art and science of lovemaking, died July 12 at her home in Manhattan. She was 96.

Her death was confirmed by Pierre Lehu, a publicist and her co-author on several books, but no cause was noted.

Described as the first superstar sex therapist, Dr. Westheimer was over 50 when she debuted in 1980 on New York’s WYNY with “Sexually Speaking.” The radio program initially aired in 15-minute installments and was later syndicated and extended to two hours to

SEE WESTHEIMER ON A14

BOOK WORLD

Books that can help us make sense of our politics-besieged nation.

ARTS & STYLE

Maika Monroe, star of “Longlegs,” has become a defining horror actor.



SPORTS

Barbora Krejčíková beats Jasmine Paolini to prevail at Wimbledon.

BUSINESS

“The Sims” is more than a video game. It helped some change their lives.



OBITUARIES

Richard Simmons, the “pied piper of pounds,” has died at 76. **A19**

TRAVEL

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