



ELECTION 2024

Vance rose in politics on wings of tech elites

Venture capitalists relish idea of one of their own in the White House

BY ELIZABETH DWOSKIN, CAT ZAKRZEWSKI, NITASHA TIKU AND JOSH DAWSEY

In the weeks before former president Donald Trump announced his vice-presidential pick, some of tech's biggest names launched a quiet campaign to push for one of their own: Sen. JD Vance of Ohio.

The former president fielded repeated calls from tech entrepreneur David Sacks, Palantir adviser Jacob Helberg and billionaire venture capitalist Peter Thiel, Vance's former employer and mentor, imploring him to add the onetime Silicon Valley investor to the ticket, according to three people familiar with the entreaties, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the private conversations.

Vance's most forceful Silicon Valley advocates are euphoric about the former Never Trumper's rise in the GOP. They see Vance as their emissary in Washington, spreading a doctrine that government and entrenched corporate giants from Google to Lockheed Martin stifle innovation, while nimble, bold-thinking start-ups — especially their own — can propel the national interest. And while the ascension of Vice President Harris has invigorated many left-

SEE VANCE ON A8

Rocky debut: Some in GOP wait to see if Vance bet will pay off. **A8**

Harris team raced to flip entire script of campaign

BY MICHAEL SCHERER AND TYLER PAGER

As long as Joe Biden still believed, there could be no Plan B.

The boss had earned that much. Vice President Harris approved no discussions. Campaign advisers did not break ranks in public.

But some key preparations were still put in place for the most spectacular transformation in recent American political history — a flash-bang midsummer swap at the top of a presidential ticket, an outpouring of volunteer energy, a rebound in the polls and a flood of campaign cash best described in fractions of \$1 billion.

The national party bosses quietly consulted their rule books. State party chairs met in secret. Others operated without orders to prepare the ground.

Donna Brazile, the former Democratic Party chair, and Bakari Sellers, the former South Carolina state lawmaker, started running their own delegate whip operation weeks before Biden bowed out. There was no public list of the 4,000 or so first-ballot convention voters — the risk of it leaking, causing harassment and death threats, hung in the air. But Brazile and Sellers knew the local politicians, the union leaders and

SEE HARRIS ON A4

Running-mate contest: Hopefuls race to pitch themselves. **A4**



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Relatives on Sunday mourn Alma Ayman Fakher Eldin, one of 12 victims of a strike on a soccer field in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. While Israel and the United States blame Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed militant group denies connection to the attack.

Israel hits targets in Lebanon

Strikes against Hezbollah installations muted amid international calls for restraint

This article is by Heidi Levine, Rachel Pannett, Niha Masih, Kareem Fahim, Jennifer Hassan and Steve Hendrix

MAJDAL SHAMS, GOLAN HEIGHTS — Israel struck Hezbollah targets deep inside Lebanon on Sunday, officials said, the day after a rocket strike from Lebanon killed 12 people, most of them teenagers and children, in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, raising the specter of all-out war.

Sunday's strikes, on what the Israeli military said were Hezbollah weapons caches and infrastructure, fell short of the furious response Israeli officials threatened after the strike Saturday on a soccer field in the Golan where children were playing. Diplomats worked feverishly Sunday to blunt any Israeli retaliation. Lebanon's gov-

ernment, which would suffer from any escalation, entreated the United States to urge restraint from Israel, Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib told Reuters.

Israel's security cabinet — which met on Sunday afternoon after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returned from the United States — authorized the prime minister and defense minister to decide on the "manner and timing" of the response against Hezbollah, according to a statement issued by Netanyahu's office Sunday evening.

Israel, citing military intelligence and an assessment of the scene, blamed the Saturday strike in Majdal Shams on Hezbollah, as did the United States. Hezbollah denied any connection to the attack.

It was the deadliest single attack on Israel since Hamas rampaged through several

communities near the Gaza Strip on Oct. 7, drawing Israel's military response there. The shocking scenes from the Golan — the bodies of children in weekend soccer clothes, blown apart — followed a flood of warnings from the United Nations and diplomats that months of largely contained fighting between Hezbollah and Israel along the border could ignite if given a deadly spark.

Egypt's foreign ministry warned Sunday of the "dangers of opening a new war front in Lebanon" that could push the Middle East into a regional conflict, echoing admonitions from other Arab states over the dangers of failing to secure a cease-fire in Gaza. Hezbollah has said it would end its attacks against Israel in the event of such a

SEE ISRAEL ON A14



FRED GREAVES/REUTERS

Calm in the center of the firestorm

As the West burns, a small agency allocates scarce firefighting resources

BY JOSHUA PARTLOW

BOISE, IDAHO — As Sean Peterson took his seat Friday morning in the nation's nerve center for fighting wildfires, 104 large blazes raged uncontained across the United States.

The federal government's firefighting resources were already fully committed, but requests from regional commands kept pouring in.

The day before, his office had turned away

requests for 37 aircraft, 40 fire engines, and hundreds of specialists, from dispatchers to heavy equipment bosses. Six hundred more requests had landed that morning. The Park Fire in Northern California was exploding at a pace that horrified and amazed even the hardened veterans here. A firefighter injured by a tree had been evacuated to an Idaho hospital. And an aircraft had gone missing overnight amid the smoke billowing from

SEE FIRE ON A12

The Park Fire in Northern California is among the many large blazes raging in the West.

A new, unlikely face of homelessness: Workers

High rents, shortage of affordable housing create an unseen 'catastrophe'

BY ABHA BHATTARAI

They are plumbers and casino supervisors, pizzeria managers and factory workers. They deliver groceries, sell eyeglasses and unload trucks at Amazon.

And they're the new, unlikely face of homelessness: Working Americans with decent-paying jobs who simply can't afford a place to live.

Homelessness, already at a record high last year, appears to be worsening among people with jobs, as housing becomes further out of reach for low-wage earners, according to shelter interviews and upticks in evictions and homelessness tallies around the country. The latest round of point-in-time counts — a tally of people without homes on one given night — show a discernible uptick in homelessness in many parts of the United States, including Southeast Texas (up 61 percent from a year ago), Rhode Island (up 35 percent) and northeast Tennessee (up 20 percent).

While there is no federal data on unhoused workers, shelter

administrators and local groups report a spike in first-timers with jobs. In Tulsa, for example, where homelessness rose 26 percent this year, lack of affordable housing ranked as the top reason people said they were homeless, beating out mental health struggles or job loss.

"I work 50 hours a week, and it's still really hard to keep up," said Aaron Reed, 22, who makes \$21 an hour at an Amazon warehouse near Nashville, and returns to his mother's Hyundai SUV to sleep. He shares the back seat with their black Lab, Stella, while his mom sleeps up front.

Years of fast-rising rents and a shortage of affordable housing have created a situation where even a strong labor market and rising wages haven't been enough to offset the financial strains of inflation.

"We are pushing working people into homelessness because they just can't afford the rent," said Margot Kushel, director of the Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative at the University of California at San Francisco. "The general public doesn't see these folks as homeless — they're not as visible as the people who occupy public spaces, who have substance abuse issues or mental health problems. But it's a catastrophe, and it's happening just under our

SEE UNHOUSED ON A11

IN THE NEWS

Simply golden Arlington's Torri Huske pulls off a stunner at the Paris Olympics, beating fellow U.S. standout and world record holder Gretchen Walsh in the 100-meter butterfly. **D1**

Rally shooting The Trump team complained it was not informed of reports of a suspicious person before the attempt on his life. **A6**

THE NATION Tenant advocates are pushing for stronger protections against extreme heat. **A3**
Two NASA astronauts are stuck indefinitely on the International Space Station. **A12**

THE WORLD F-16s are set to be flying in Ukraine within weeks, but they may not tip the advantage. **A13**
Canada's top court ruled that the nation owes First Nations for breaches of treaties. **A14**

THE ECONOMY Hackers are racing to win millions of dollars in a contest to thwart cyberattacks with AI. **A17**

THE REGION A man who prosecutors said killed his son's mother and grandmother the day he met the infant was convicted of two counts of murder. **B1**

More than 100 Advisory Neighborhood Commission seats in D.C. did not have a single interested candidate as of last week. **B1**
Amtrak took over Union Station after a years-long battle in court. What should riders know about the change? **B1**

STYLE Young people are repurposing PowerPoint for parties, pickup lines and even pitching their parents. **C1**

SPORTS Simone Biles battled through an injury scare to impress during gymnastics qualifying at the Paris Games. **D1**

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