

ELECTION 2024

# Threats push race into new territory

Security is elevated as violent undercurrent approaches the surface

BY HANNAH KNOWLES AND HANNAH ALLAM

On a quiet Sunday afternoon in the presidential race, a Secret Service agent opened fire on a man who poked a rifle through a fence as former president Donald Trump golfed. Just two months earlier, a different gunman tried to kill Trump at a campaign rally. The shooting left one dead and two wounded.

Bomb threats have forced evacuations and lockdowns in Springfield, Ohio, schools, city hall and hospitals after Trump and other politicians amplified a false claim and racist trope that Haitian immigrants there are eating pets.

And both presidential candidates have had to speak from behind bulletproof glass at outdoor events. Federal authorities are already ramping up security for when Congress gathers to certify the winner in January.

The 2024 election season has been repeatedly marked by extraordinary acts and threats of violence that have become a more contentious issue in the race, escalating tensions in an already-heated political environment and prompting heightened security measures at events with seven weeks of campaigning left to go.

Trump is blaming his Democratic opponents, declaring this week, as Sunday's incident was still under investigation, that "their rhetoric is causing me to be shot at." Officials have yet to describe a motive, and there is no evidence that Vice President Kamala Harris or President Joe Biden specifically inspired the attack. At the same time as he has faulted the words of Democrats,

SEE CAMPAIGN ON A8

Arizona: Lawsuit filed over voters' missing citizenship records. A10



Wael Hamzeh/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock

An ambulance arrives at a Beirut hospital after the attack in Lebanon. Health officials described facilities being overrun with casualties.

# Indictment against Combs spans length of career

Prosecutors say mogul used his vast influence to manipulate and abuse

BY TRAVIS M. ANDREWS, ANNE BRANIGIN AND SHAYNA JACOBS

A grand jury indicted rapper and music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs on charges of racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking, according to a federal document unsealed Tuesday. The charges stem from 16 years of allegations and decades of rumors that Combs used his power to physically and sexually abuse women.

He was arrested on Monday evening and is being held without bail — a stunning chapter in the public life of a man who once ruled over the world of entertainment and celebrity.



Shannon Stapleton/Reuters

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams shows photos during a news conference Tuesday in Manhattan to announce the unsealing of an indictment with three charges against Sean "Diddy" Combs.

Inside the indictment: Details about the criminal counts Combs faces. A4

The indictment accuses Combs of using his lifestyle, media and music companies to help orchestrate a widespread criminal enterprise. Participants in these criminal activities included Combs's security, personal assistants and staff, according to the indictment. These associates helped Combs abuse, threaten and coerce women and others to "fulfill his sexual desires, protect his reputation and conceal his conduct," the court filing alleges.

The crimes Combs and his associates are accused of committing and covering up include sex trafficking, narcotics distribution, arson and kidnapping. Many of these alleged crimes took place at illegal sex parties that Combs referred to as "freak offs."

During these parties, Combs allegedly threw objects at the victims and dragged them by their hair. His associates allegedly booked hotel suites, recruited

SEE COMBS ON A4

# Pagers explode in mass attack

9 KILLED, 2,800 HURT ACROSS LEBANON

Experts suspect sabotage of Hezbollah devices

This article is by Suzan Haidamous, Mohamad El Chamaa, Kareem Fahim, Rachel Chason and Ellen Nakashima

BEIRUT — Thousands of people were injured across Lebanon on Tuesday when electronic pagers used by the militant group Hezbollah simultaneously exploded around 3:30 p.m., the group and Lebanese officials said, in what experts said may have been an unprecedented attack by Israel that possibly involved sabotaging the devices before they were delivered.

"Each one who received a new pager, throw it away," said a voice message that was circulated to Hezbollah members, according to one of the members, who shared it with The Washington Post.

The suspected attack appeared to be the latest salvo in the nearly year-long conflict between Israel and Hezbollah tied to the war in Gaza. It triggered the worst mass casualty event in Lebanon of the war, leaving the country's health system reeling: At least 2,800 people were injured across the country, mostly with wounds to the face, hands or stomach, Health Minister Firas Abiad said. At least nine people were killed.

Hezbollah blamed Israel for the explosions and vowed to retaliate. The Israeli military declined to comment Tuesday on whether it was responsible for the attack.

Health officials reported bedlam at hospitals as ambulances poured in and facilities were

SEE PAGERS ON A14

Border with Lebanon: Israel says military action may be needed. A15

POWER GRAB

# Inside the tech industry's backbone

A tour gives insights into the massive energy needs of the data centers that power our digital lives

BY ANTONIO OLIVO AND WILLIAM NEFF

The concrete black-paneled building known as DC12 looks like a regular corporate office, its tinted lobby windows reflecting the surrounding suburban landscape in Northern Virginia.

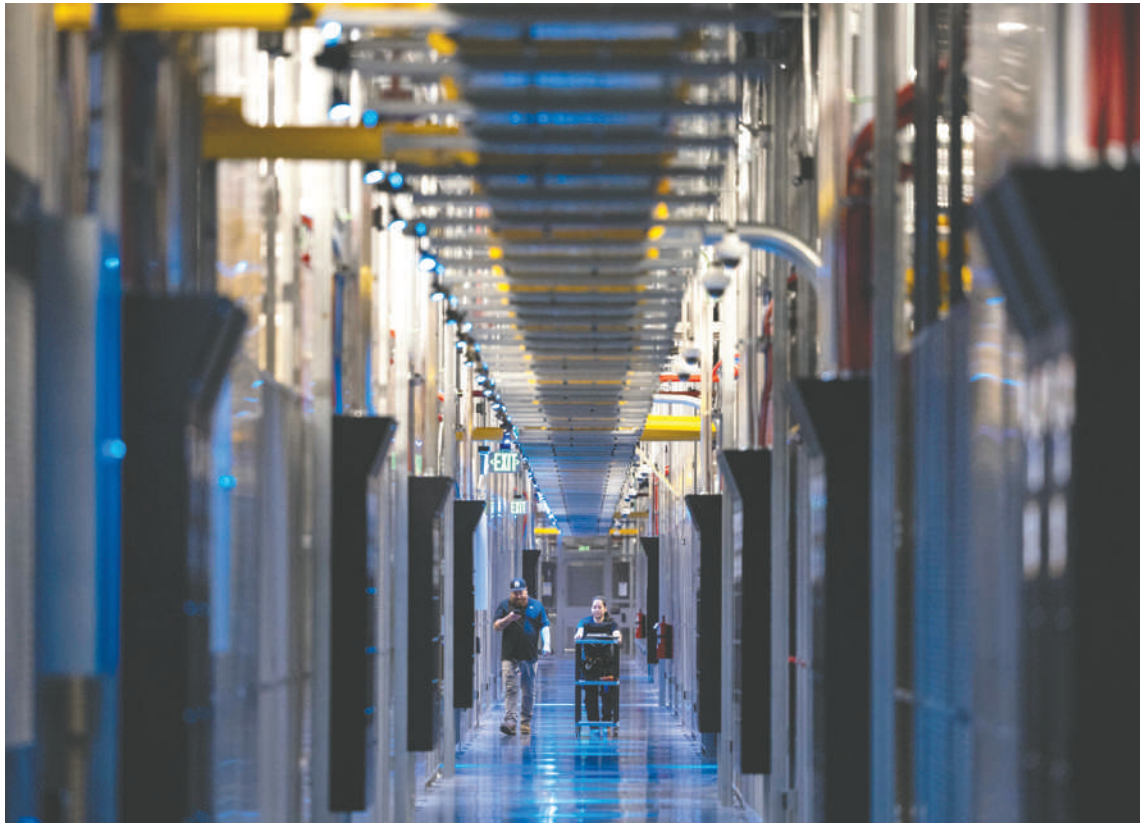
But beyond a double-locked entry chamber are the computer servers, fiber-optic cables and other technology that make up the infrastructure of our digital lives.

This 114,300-square-foot facility, owned by a company called Equinix, is one of the world's nearly 7,000 data centers, which serve society's insatiable addiction to smart technology. Thousands of computer servers here process bank transactions, stream movies, execute retail purchases or run algorithms for artificial intelligence software.

Equinix, which owns 264 data centers in 33 countries, offered The Washington Post a tour of

SEE DATA CENTER ON A21

A key workforce: What is it like to stand watch in a data center? A22



Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post

The Equinix facility in Northern Virginia, home to the world's largest concentration of data centers.

# Boar's Head plant closure jolts a tiny Virginia town

Hundreds are out of work after shutdown in Jarratt

BY LAURA VOZZELLA

JARRATT, VA. — Raheem Bittle needed a job straight out of high school and knew just where to go in this tiny rural town in Southside Virginia: Boar's Head.

"I had a son on the way and I went there to support them," said Bittle, 27, who started eight years ago at \$500 to \$600 a week, moving pallets of meat products around the plant. "That was good money fresh out of high school. You could rank up real quick there."

Bittle was one of many residents left reeling last week as Boar's Head announced that it was shutting the plant down indefinitely following a listeria outbreak that killed nine people and hospitalized at least 57 in 18 states. Although Bittle eventually moved on — he became a commercial truck driver, then a Sussex County sheriff's deputy — the plant that helped him get his financial footing has done the same for many others in Jarratt.

The plant was the largest private employer in Jarratt (pop-

ulation 637) and overlapping Greensville County, an area that also has relied on a state prison for jobs as work in manufacturing and peanut farming dried up. About 500 union workers were affected by the closure, a sizable and sudden hit for a community accustomed to a long, slow slide.

Many more expect to feel the pain as that jolt plays out across the local economy. "They are a good employer in the community, and there aren't a lot of other options for folks," said Jonathan Williams, a spokesman for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400, which represents the employees at the shuttered plant.

Among those workers is a Mexican immigrant and single mother of four young children who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear that she would lose her severance. She wondered whether she could find another job paying \$18 an hour — a step up from the restaurant work she had done before.

"It was a good job," she said in

SEE JARRATT ON A17

## IN THE NEWS

Child online safety Instagram introduced "teen accounts" with new protections and parental oversight features, though the changes did little to assuage critics. A18

Key Bridge collapse The widow of one of the six workers who died in the March tragedy opens up about grief and gratitude. B1

THE NATION An ex-officer charged in Tyre Nichols's fatal beating testified that the man posed no threat. A6 Democrats pushed anew to highlight unpopular GOP stances on reproductive rights. A11

THE WORLD In Ukraine, a police investigator tallies civilian deaths to document the war's toll. A12 Norway became the first nation to have more electric vehicles than gas-powered cars. A13

THE ECONOMY Generations of workers coveted Boeing jobs in the Seattle area, but those striking say a sense of shared prosperity has all but vanished. A16 The White House extended its review of Nippon Steel's proposed acquisition of U.S. Steel to past Election Day. A20

THE REGION The D.C. Council voted to disband a committee chaired by Trayon White Sr. after his arrest on federal bribery charges and began its own probe. B1 A Virginia man was charged with murder in connection with what authorities allege was a double-homicide plot. B1

STYLE After years out of the limelight, longtime television journalist Connie Chung is back to promote her frank and funny memoir. C1

FOOD These six tips can help any beginning cook gain confidence and competence in the kitchen. E1

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