



Witnesses warned police of shooter

People alerted officer at least 86 seconds before gunfire, video shows

This article is by Jon Swaine, Abbie Cheeseman, Jonathan Baran, Isaac Stanley-Becker and Shawn Boburg

Almost immediately after the assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump at his campaign rally in western Pennsylvania on Saturday, some in the crowd told reporters that they had tried to alert law enforcement that a suspicious man was on a nearby roof. Now, a newly surfaced video backs up those accounts of warnings, showing a chaotic scene in which bystanders started calling out to police nearly a minute and a half before the shots rang out.

The footage, posted to social media late Sunday, shows several witnesses yelling and directing at least one police officer toward the roof of a neighboring business. Authorities say that 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks shot at Trump and attendees from the roof before he was killed by law enforcement.

In the new video, one man shouts “Officer! Officer!” as others point toward the building. “He’s on the roof!” a woman says. The video also shows a police officer in a black uniform looking up toward the top of the building.

Growing evidence that law enforcement were made aware of Crooks before he opened fire has put the Secret Service under pressure to explain what analysts have described as a major security failure.

SEE WARNING ON A13

Rifle used by rally gunman was bought in 2013

FBI continues to search cellphone data, other evidence for motive

This article is by Tim Craig, Jasmine Hilton, Devlin Barrett, Emily Davies and Holly Bailey

BETHEL PARK, PA. — Federal investigators have determined that the rifle used in an assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump on Saturday was legally purchased by the gunman’s father in 2013, according to a person familiar with the investigation.

The 20-year-old gunman, Thomas Matthew Crooks, bought 50 rounds of ammunition at a gun store the morning of the shooting, according to this person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share information that has not been publicly released.

The FBI said Monday that agents have accessed the data on the cellphone belonging to Crooks, and technical experts “continue to analyze his electronic devices,” the agency said in a statement.

Officials are trying to determine why Crooks opened fire at the rally for Trump in Butler, Pa., leaving the former president wounded, one rallygoer dead and two others critically injured. Even

SEE GUNMAN ON A12

Retropolis: U.S. history is rife with violence toward politicians. **B1**

Judge tosses Trump classified documents case

BY DEVLIN BARRETT AND PERRY STEIN

A judge on Monday dismissed the federal indictment against former president Donald Trump on charges of mishandling classified documents — his second seismic legal victory in less than a month, after a historic Supreme Court decision on immunity.

U.S. District Judge Aileen M. Cannon’s 93-page ruling that special counsel Jack Smith was im-

Defense succeeds with long-shot motion about legality of special counsel

properly appointed is a triumph for Trump, even if it is eventually reversed. Smith’s office vowed to appeal the ruling, saying the judge’s legal reasoning was at odds with past decisions on the issue.

It came less than 48 hours after Trump survived an assassination attempt in Butler, Pa., and as Trump was preparing to be formally nominated as the Republican presidential candidate at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.

Defense attorneys often file every possible motion to dismiss indictments, but it is rare for them to succeed and result in entire cases being tossed. In the Florida case, Trump’s lawyers at-

tempted long-shot argument after long-shot argument before this gambit succeeded far beyond expectations.

By dismissing the entire indictment, Cannon’s decision also means that the charges are dropped for Trump’s two co-defendants, Waltine “Walt” Nauta and Carlos De Oliveira. The Justice Department’s appeal of the issue might eventually reach the Supreme Court.

“The dismissal of the case devi-

ates from the uniform conclusion of all previous courts to have considered the issue that the Attorney General is statutorily authorized to appoint a Special Counsel,” said Peter Carr, a spokesman for Smith. “The Justice Department has authorized the Special Counsel to appeal the court’s order.”

SEE DOCUMENTS ON A4

New scrutiny: Dismissal puts judge in Fla. back in spotlight. **A4**

ELECTION 2024

RNC opens with Vance on ticket



JOSHUA LOTT/THE WASHINGTON POST

Donald Trump, with his ear bandaged after an assassination attempt, and Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio), who was introduced Monday as the party’s vice-presidential nominee, stand with House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) on Monday at the Republican National Convention.

VP nomination marks a shift in narrative from elegies to odes

BY AMY B WANG AND MERYL KORNFELD

When Donald Trump ran for president in 2016, one of his steadfast critics within the Republican Party was J.D. Vance — then a young military veteran, Yale Law School graduate and Silicon Valley venture capitalist who in June of that year published “Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis,” about his upbringing in Appalachia and the Rust Belt.

“I can’t stomach Trump,” Vance told NPR that August. “I’m a ‘Never Trump’ guy. I never liked him,” Vance told Charlie Rose in October 2016, weeks before Trump was elected president.

In eight years, everything would change. The best-selling “Hillbilly Elegy” — which depicted Vance’s childhood in a steel mill community in Ohio in a family beset by drug addiction and poverty — became compulsory reading for many seeking to

SEE VANCE ON A7

Trump, after a string of wins, basks in his moment

BY ASHLEY PARKER AND JOSH DAWSEY

MILWAUKEE — A somber Donald Trump — his right ear covered by a small white bandage — strode into the Republican National Convention on Monday evening, lightly pumping his right fist and gently waving the same hand.

The crowd was primed for the former president. They cheered as the announcer introduced Lee Greenwood, who sings Trump’s walk-on music, “God Bless the

USA,” and some stood on chairs as they craned to capture video of Trump as he entered Milwaukee’s Fiserv Forum.

But Trump himself was uncharacteristically subdued and visibly emotional, acknowledging the crowd with waves and fist pumps and occasional thumbs up as he repeatedly mouthed “Thank you” and slowly climbed the stairs to the suite where his family and several friends stood waiting.

There, he first shook hands

SEE TRUMP ON A6

TRUMP APPEARS TO CHANTS OF ‘FIGHT!’

Biden’s record, policies critiqued on Day 1

BY DAN BALZ AND HANNAH KNOWLES

MILWAUKEE — The Republican National Convention opened Monday in the shadow of an assassination attempt against Donald Trump and amid growing hopes among united delegates and others in a remade GOP that the November election will restore the former president to the White House.

Monday had begun with one major unanswered question, which was the name of Trump’s running mate. But early in the afternoon, Trump ended the suspense, posting on Truth Social that he had selected first-term Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio), a one-time Trump critic who has emerged as one of the most outspoken voices on behalf of the former president’s populist, “America First” agenda.

Trump appeared in the convention hall in the final hour of the evening, his right ear bandaged, to an enormous ovation from the delegates, who chanted “Fight! Fight! Fight!” and “We love Trump!”

Joining members of his family in their box in the Fiserv Forum, Trump stood next to his newly nominated running mate, whose selection after weeks of intense speculation created the biggest news of the day.

Monday’s prime-time programming began a planned critique on the record and policies of President Biden’s administration, with an opening night focus on the

SEE CONVENTION ON A6

In his words: The party’s platform echoes Trump’s rhetoric. **A10**

Shift in stance: GOP approves revised abortion platform. **A11**

Lara Trump: Daughter-in-law takes on an outsize role in campaign. **C1**

This butterfly went extinct decades ago. Scientists hope to replace it.

BY DINO GRANDONI

Durrell Kapan propped himself on his elbows to inspect a shrubby plant. He peered through a monocular in search of a sign that a pioneering experiment to restore something missing from these coastal dunes in San Francisco was working.

The caterpillars he was trying to find are so small, he said, it’s like they’re “living in a different world.”

More than eight decades ago, a mesmerizing butterfly with irides-

A species related to the Xerces blue butterfly has been released to become its surrogate

cent cobalt wings and stunning spots called the Xerces blue vanished from San Francisco. When it disappeared, the Xerces became perhaps the most famous insect to go extinct.

So this spring, the California Academy of Sciences, where Ka-

pan is a senior research fellow, and its partners released dozens of butterflies from a closely related species in the Presidio, a park along the water at the north tip of San Francisco.

Kapan was looking for any off-spring of those released butterflies, surrogates he and his colleagues hope will fill an empty spot in this ecosystem.

“This is a very powerful idea,” Kapan said: “the idea of a surrogate species for an extinct species.”

Amid a biodiversity crisis in

SEE BUTTERFLY ON A24



CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Keeping their cool

Ángel Gabriel Alfaror and Javinson Gabriel play in a splash pad as officials urge residents to protect themselves from the heat. **Story, B1**

IN THE NEWS

Desire for ‘fresh voices’ Democrats inside the effort to reelect President Biden are concerned that he is not getting the full range of data about his political standing. **A3**

Funding families A D.C. school will pay some of its families during the next school year, part of a program to help reduce truancy. **B1**

THE NATION President Biden plans to unveil a plan to cap rising rental costs. **A2**
The jury in Sen. Bob Menendez’s corruption trial will resume deliberations after asking the judge questions. **A2**

THE WORLD Israelis, worn down by the Gaza fight, look warily toward possible war in Lebanon. **A16**
President Biden made a bold deal with Venezuela’s strongman. Its test comes soon. **A17**

THE ECONOMY Hackers stole phone records from almost all AT&T wireless customers. What should you do if that includes you? **A19**
A proposed rule that would protect workers from excessive heat on the job is facing stiff resistance from employers. **A20**

STYLE Former DCist staffers are launching the 51st, a site that will deliver local news relevant to D.C.-area residents. **C1**
HEALTH A medical mystery about piercing headaches, and what it’s like to have measles. **E1**

SPORTS CJ Abrams of the Nationals grew up watching the All-Star Game with his father. Now he’s playing in it. **D1**
As the U.S. women’s national soccer team’s youth movement arrives, so does 23-year-old midfielder Croix Bethune. **D1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A18
COMICS.....C6
OBITUARIES.....B4
OPINION PAGES.....A21
TELEVISION.....C4
WORLD NEWS.....A16

CONTENT © 2024
The Washington Post
Year 147, No. 53914

