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What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **Google parent Alphabet** is in advanced talks to acquire cybersecurity startup Wiz for about \$23 billion, according to people familiar with the matter, in what would be its largest acquisition ever. **A1**

◆ **China's economy** slowed sharply in the second quarter, piling pressure on the country's leaders to act more aggressively to rev up growth as they gather in Beijing to chart the course of the economy over the next half-decade. **A18**

◆ **A proposed bill** on sweeping changes to Delaware corporate law could give more power to influential shareholders, letting them make more deals on behalf of the company without board oversight. **B1**

◆ **The Justice Department** signaled that it isn't done scrutinizing how real-estate agents are paid, as the industry prepare to abandon its longstanding commission structure next month. **B1**

◆ **Extreme heat in the U.S.** is causing tens of billions of dollars in damage each year, much of which standard insurance policies, designed for different kinds of risk, won't cover. **B1**

◆ **WH Group, the Chinese** parent of Smithfield Foods, said it plans to float the pork company's business in the U.S. and Mexico on the New York Stock Exchange or the Nasdaq. **B3**

◆ **Some gamblers who** manage to beat sportsbooks say that online wagering companies are shutting them down when they succeed too much, prompting bettors and regulators to seek clarity on the caps. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **Trump's near** assassination presents the biggest crisis for the Secret Service in decades, raising the question of how a 20-year-old lone shooter was able to take up an exposed firing position on an open rooftop not much more than a football field's length away from the former president. **A1**

◆ **The man authorities said** was the attacker was a quiet student who took advanced classes, a sometimes-bullied loner who wasn't vocal about his political views, classmates said. **A1**

◆ **The chaos witnessed** in western Pennsylvania, and the fear, anger and images it generated, are certain to alter the contours of a campaign where even small shifts of voter support could prove decisive. **A1, A3**

◆ **Billionaire entrepreneur** Elon Musk and hedge-fund manager Bill Ackman formally threw their support behind Trump in the wake of Saturday's attempt on the candidate's life, endorsing him for president. **A4**

◆ **Israel's military** was assessing on Sunday whether it killed Hamas commander Mohammed Deif in an airstrike in southern Gaza a day earlier, military officials said. **A8**

◆ **China and Russia's** naval forces began a joint exercise at a port in southern China, the Xinhua News Agency reported, days after NATO allies called Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war in Ukraine. **A8**

◆ **Died: Ruth Westheimer**, 96, sex counselor. **A2** ... **Shannen Doherty**, 53, star of "Beverly Hills, 90210." **WSJ.com** ... **Richard Simmons**, 76, fitness guru. **B3**

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Trump Assassination Attempt Probed

Shooter wasn't vocal about politics, was sometimes bullied, ex-schoolmates say

BETHEL PARK, Pa.—Students in the 2022 graduating class at western Pennsylvania's Bethel Park High School gave boisterous hoots and cheers for most of their classmates when they shuffled in caps and gowns to a podium to accept their diplomas. Thomas Matthew Crooks's name drew only faint applause.

By Sadie Gurman, Kristina Peterson, Clare Ansberry, Anthony DeBarros, and Jack Gillum

The man who authorities said tried to assassinate former President Donald Trump was a quiet student who took advanced classes, a sometimes-bullied loner who wasn't vocal about his political views, classmates said on Sunday, as a portrait began to emerge of the gunman who shocked an American public already becoming inured to escalating political violence.

Classmates said Crooks, at times dressed in camouflage or hunting attire, had few friends and interacted awkwardly at school. "If someone would say something to his face, he would just kind of stare at them," said Julianna Grooms, who graduated one year after Crooks. "People would say he was the student who would shoot up high

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Clockwise from photo at lower right: Secret Service agents rushed Donald Trump off a stage in Butler, Pa., after he was shot Saturday; outside Trump Tower in New York on Sunday; law enforcement surrounded the Bethel Park, Pa., home of Thomas Matthew Crooks on Sunday.



Secret Service faces its biggest crisis in decades as officials seek an explanation

By C. Ryan Barber, James Fanelli and Jan Wolfe

open rooftop not much more than a football field away from the former president?

Scrutiny is likely to focus heavily on the Secret Service's advance work to secure buildings near the Butler, Pa., rally, including one belonging to American Glass Research, where Thomas Matthew Crooks was perched when he shot at Trump.

"The reality is there's just no excuse for the Secret Service to be unable to provide sufficient resources to cover an open rooftop 100 yards away from the site," said Bill Pickle, a former deputy assistant Secret Service director. "And there's no way he should've got those shots off."

A Secret Service sniper shot and killed the suspected gunman just moments after he fired multiple rounds. Crooks used an AR-style rifle that had been purchased by his father, according to people familiar with the investigation. Author-

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Pennsylvania Attack Leaves Americans Exhausted, Divided

By Valerie Bauerlein and Rachel Wolfe

On a surreal Sunday, dismal weather provided a rare point of unity in a country that has seldom felt more divided.

In a suburb of New Orleans, Reverend David Watson woke up at 4 a.m. to rewrite his Sunday service, addressing the attempted assassination of Donald Trump.

"We seek understanding in the midst of seemingly chaotic situations where our human-

ity has turned us against one another," he told his congregation at Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church hours later.

He went on to ask how many people had gotten a great night's sleep. None of the 15 worshipers raised their hands.

That weariness was palpable nationwide as The Wall Street Journal spoke with more than four dozen people. They pointed fingers and expressed anger, fear and heartbreak. But nearly all also ex-

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Shooting Changes Contours Of Presidential Campaign

MILWAUKEE—The nation's political contrast could hardly be more stark: images of a defiant and bloodied Donald Trump surviving an assassina-

By Vivian Salama, John McCormick, Annie Linskey and Alex Leary

tion attempt cast against persistent questions about President Biden's mental sharpness and ability to stay in the race.

In an already turbulent contest, the jarring chaos witnessed in western Pennsylva-

nia Saturday night—and the fear, anger and images it generated—are certain to alter the contours of a campaign where even small shifts of voters could prove decisive.

As the GOP descended on Milwaukee for this week's Republican National Convention, the former president's supporters grew more vocal than ever in condemning political attacks against him, saying he literally has taken a bullet for the American people. Republicans who had rallied behind Trump as criminal indictments piled up appeared to

More Coverage

- ◆ **Attack raises fear of political violence..... A3**
- ◆ **Butler, Pa., reflects Republican shift..... A3**
- ◆ **Musk and Ackman endorse Trump..... A4**

become even more fervent in their support in the hours after the shooting. Democrats were mostly reserved, saying little about the race beyond condemning the shooting and calling for calm.

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Google Nears \$23 Billion Deal For Cybersecurity Startup Wiz

By Lauren Thomas and Berber Jin

Google parent Alphabet is in advanced talks to acquire cybersecurity startup Wiz for about \$23 billion, according to people familiar with the matter, in what would be its largest acquisition ever.

A deal could come together soon, assuming the talks don't fall apart, the people said.

Alphabet is eyeing the deal at a time of intense antitrust

scrutiny of the search company and other tech giants. The acquisition also could help boost Alphabet's efforts in cloud computing, an important and growing business in which the company has lagged behind its peers.

Wiz's valuation has soared since it was founded in 2020 by Chief Executive Assaf Rappaport and several colleagues. The company, which offers cybersecurity software for cloud computing, raised \$1 billion

earlier this year at a valuation of \$12 billion. It is one of only a few startups outside the artificial-intelligence industry to raise money at a higher valuation in 2024.

Most startups are still suffering the hangover effects of the tech boom that peaked earlier this decade, during which a low-interest-rate environment fueled ballooning valuations that far surpassed business growth.

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Alcaraz Takes Wimbledon



Jason Gay on how the young and ruthless Carlos Alcaraz steamrolled Novak Djokovic at the All England Club on Sunday. The 21-year-old Spaniard beat the Serbian 6-2, 6-2, 7-6(4). **A14**

Grinding Debate: What Should Go Into the Garbage Disposal?

Celery? Sausage? Rib bones? Controversial appliance stirs opinions. 'It's very strong.'

By John Keilman

Some subjects are best avoided in the interest of a peaceful family gathering—money, religion and what can go into a garbage disposal.

Laura Bassett learned that the hard way just before Thanksgiving last year, when her brother and mother got into a heated row over the wisdom of putting sausage into the disposal. Bassett, a journalist, tweeted about the fight; her post was viewed more than 400,000 times and sparked

dozens of responses about what should or should not meet its fate in the appliance's metal guts.

"Why couldn't sausage go down the disposal?" said the winner of the argument, Bassett's mother, Cecette, who overrode her son Scott's concerns about the fatty food's sink-clogging potential. "Everything can. Except celery, because it's stringy. And meat bones, obviously."

Garbage disposals are the most controversial home appliance. Please turn to page A10

INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL
Theme parks lure visitors with special edible treats like cinnamon bread. **A11**

BUSINESS & FINANCE
Heat waves are causing billions of dollars in damage, much of it not covered by insurance. **B1**

Trillions in Hidden Debt Threaten China

Local governments borrowed big for projects, driving nation's growth

By Brian Spegele and Rebecca Feng

LIUZHOU, China—Officials were bullish about the future of their factory town in early 2019. The economy was prospering, a new industrial district was on the way and an elevated light-rail system was taking shape.

"The achievements of the past year have not come easily," Mayor Wu Wei said in a city report at the time. He

credited the grit of local party leaders but didn't mention an ace in the hole.

For years, Liuzhou and scores of other Chinese cities together amassed trillions of dollars in off-the-books debt for economic development projects. The opaque financing was the yeast that helped China rise

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◆ **China's economy slowed in second quarter..... A18**