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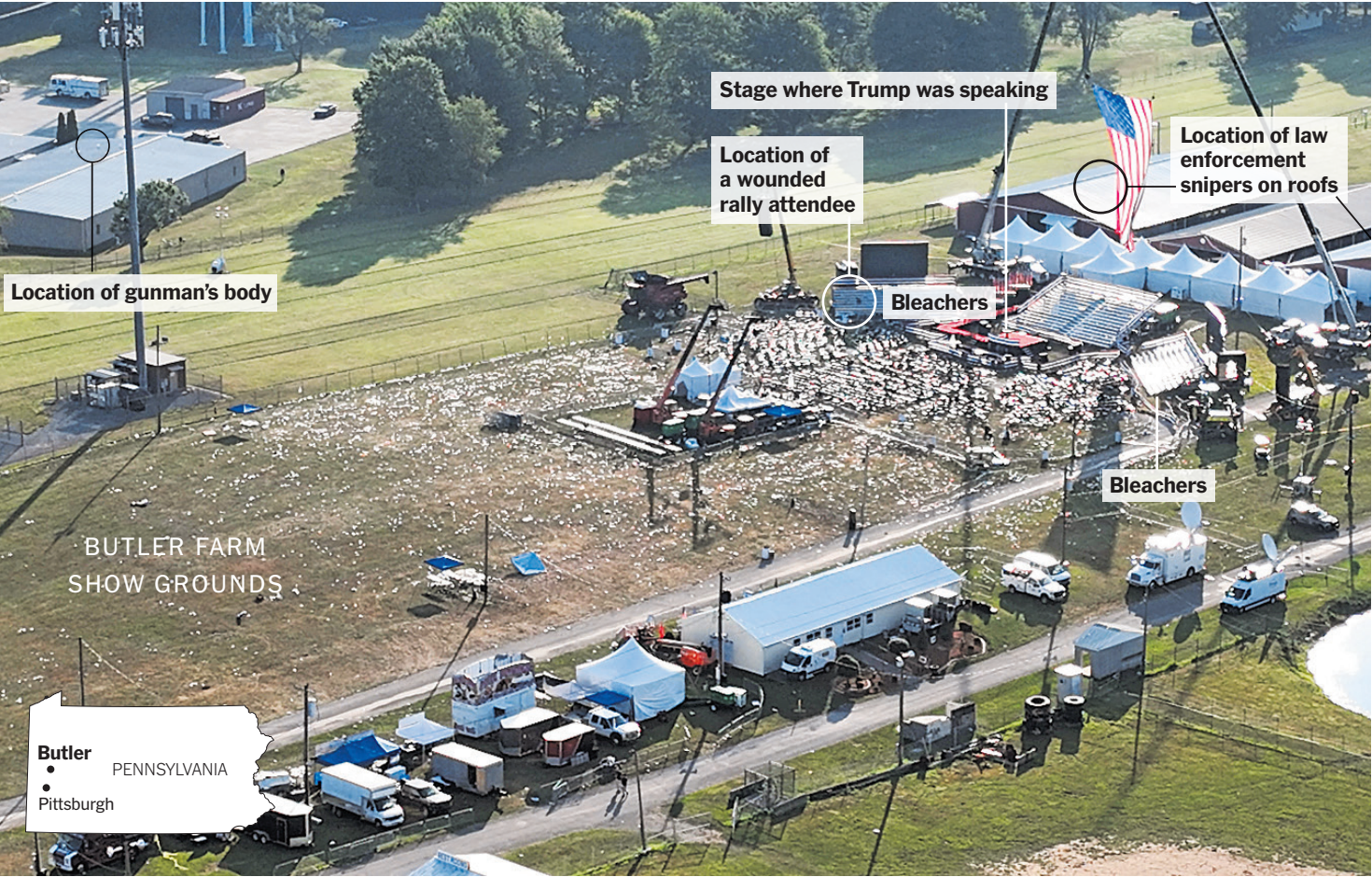
THE WEATHER
Today, partly sunny, hot, humid, a late storm, high 95. **Tonight**, warm, sticky, an evening storm, low 76. **Tomorrow**, partly cloudy, hot, humid, high 95. Weather map is on Page D8.

VOL. CLXXIII No. 60,216 © 2024 The New York Times Company MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024 Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

Gunman’s Motive Sought as Trump Vows to Go to R.N.C.

The Aftermath of the Rally

The shooter in Butler, Pa., fired from a nearby rooftop on Saturday and was killed by the Secret Service. Former President Donald J. Trump and at least three spectators were struck. One of them, a 50-year-old man, died.



THE NEW YORK TIMES; PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN SUNDAY BY DORAL CHENOWETH/USA TODAY NETWORK, VIA REUTERS

F.B.I. Finding Few Red Flags On the Shooter

This article is by **Campbell Robertson, Jack Healy, Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs and Glenn Thrush.**

Federal investigators racing to unravel how and why a 20-year-old nursing home employee carried out an assassination attempt against former President Donald J. Trump at a political rally in Pennsylvania said on Sunday that the gunman had used an AR-15 style rifle purchased by his father, and had left behind explosives materials in the vehicle he drove to the event.

But many details of the life and motives of the gunman, Thomas Matthew Crooks, were still unclear. Federal authorities said the gunman had no history of mental health issues or previous threats, and had not been on the radar of federal law enforcement.

Investigators were scouring his online presence and working to gain access to his phone, but so far had not found indications of strongly held political beliefs or any evidence that shed light on a motive. Mr. Crooks was shot and killed by Secret Service agents moments after he began firing from a rooftop outside the rally where Mr. Trump was speaking.

Kevin P. Rojek, the F.B.I. official in Pittsburgh who is leading the investigation, said Mr. Crooks is believed to have acted alone and that there were no additional public safety concerns.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said that the shooting was “an attack on our democracy” and that federal authorities would use every available resource to investigate the gunman.

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U.S. Is Likely To Be Ripped Further Apart

By **PETER BAKER**

WASHINGTON — When President Ronald Reagan was shot by an attention-seeking drifter in 1981, the country united behind its injured leader. The teary-eyed Democratic speaker of the House, Thomas P. O’Neill Jr., went to the hospital room of the Republican president, held his hands, kissed his head and got on his knees to pray for him.

But the assassination attempt against former President Donald J. Trump seems more likely to tear America further apart than to bring it together. Within minutes of the shooting, the air was filled with anger, bitterness, suspicion and recrimination. Fingers were pointed, conspiracy theories advanced and a country already bristling with animosity fractured even more.

The fact that the shooting in Butler, Pa., on Saturday night was two days before Republicans were set to gather in Milwaukee for their nominating convention invariably put the event in a partisan context. While Democrats bemoaned political violence, which they have long faulted Mr. Trump for encouraging, Republicans instantly blamed President Biden and his allies for the attack, which they argued stemmed from incendiary language labeling the former president a proto-fascist who would destroy democracy.

Mr. Trump’s eldest son, his campaign strategist and a running mate finalist all attacked the

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DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

An annotated photograph by Doug Mills of The Times, who reflected on his experience at Donald J. Trump’s rally. Page A2.

Volunteer Firefighter Is Killed Shielding Family From Gunfire

This article is by **Ernesto Londoño, Isabelle Taft, Christina Morales and Brian Conway.**

Corey Comperatore, 50, was a family man who loved to fish. He worked at a plastics manufacturing company, volunteered as a firefighter and went to church.

An “avid supporter” of Donald J. Trump, as Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania put it, Mr. Comperatore attended the former president’s campaign rally in Butler, Pa., on Saturday with his family, alongside thousands of fellow fans who gathered on a sweltering evening.

When a gunman fired shots from the roof of a nearby building, Mr. Comperatore threw himself over his family members to shield

them, according to the governor. Mr. Comperatore was shot in the head and died at the scene, authorities said. Two other rally attendees were critically injured in the shooting.

Officials and Mr. Comperatore’s sister, Dawn Comperatore Schafer, confirmed his identity on Sunday. “We watched him die on the news,” she said in a phone interview, through tears. “That’s how we found out.”

Mr. Shapiro, a Democrat, said on Sunday that Mr. Comperatore “died a hero,” adding that “Corey was the very best of us.”

Mr. Comperatore, of Sarver, Pa., had two daughters — Allyson, 27, and Kaylee, 24. He and Jeff Lowers, a longtime friend, were volun-

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Father Bought Rifle, F.B.I. Says — Car Held Explosive Device

This article is by **Michael D. Shear, Glenn Thrush, Peter Baker and Michael Levenson.**

Investigators searched on Sunday for a motive that would explain why a 20-year-old armed with an AR-15-style semiautomatic rifle shot at former President Donald J. Trump, just days before he was to accept the Republican nomination for president.

The assassination attempt, which wounded Mr. Trump and killed one of his supporters, was being treated by the F.B.I. as a possible act of domestic terrorism. And it immediately raised questions about why the Secret Service and other law enforcement agencies had not secured a nearby building outside the large outdoor venue where Mr. Trump held his rally.

The gunman apparently climbed onto the building’s rooftop with a rifle and fired multiple times, wounding Mr. Trump just minutes into his speech on a sweltering Saturday afternoon in Butler, Pa., north of Pittsburgh.

Within moments, someone shouted “shooter down” and Secret Service agents, agitated but in control, began moving Mr. Trump offstage to safety. “Wait, wait, wait, wait,” he called out. He then made a point of pumping his fist at the crowd and seemed to defiantly shout, “Fight! Fight!” The moment — captured in photos that showed Mr. Trump’s fist held aloft, his cheek bloody, with the American flag behind him — roused Mr. Trump’s stunned supporters, who broke out in chants of “U.S.A.!”

Mr. Trump was taken to the hospital on Saturday night but was able to walk off his plane unaided when it landed in New Jersey hours later. On Sunday, he vowed to remain “defiant in the face of wickedness” and flew to Milwaukee for the start of the Republican National Convention on Monday, saying he would not let the assassination attempt change his “scheduling, or anything else.”

The gunman, who was identified by the F.B.I. as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pa., a Pittsburgh suburb, was killed by the Secret Service, the agency said. Law enforcement officials later found a possible rudimentary explosive device in his car, Paul Abbate, deputy director of the F.B.I., said.

An AR-15-type semiautomatic rifle found next to Mr. Crooks’s body had been bought by Mr. Crooks’s father, the F.B.I. said. It was not clear if he had given Mr. Crooks the weapon, or if Mr. Crooks had taken it without permission.

The gunman did not have a criminal history in Pennsylvania’s public court records. A Pennsylvania voter-registration record showed that Mr. Crooks had registered as a Republican. Federal campaign-finance records also show he donated \$15 to the Progressive Turnout Project, a liberal voter turnout group, through the Democratic donation platform ActBlue in January 2021.

Mr. Crooks worked as a dietary aide at a nursing home in his hometown, according to Marcie

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Secret Service Will Face Review And Assess Convention Security

This article is by **Zolan Kanno-Youngs, David A. Fahrenthold, Hamed Aleaziz and Eileen Sullivan.**

WASHINGTON — President Biden on Sunday called for an “independent review” of security measures before and after the attempted assassination of former President Donald J. Trump, while directing the Secret Service to review all of its security measures for the Republican National Convention this week.

Mr. Biden’s directive, though brief and without specifics, is likely to increase the scrutiny of the decisions and possible failures of the agency charged first and foremost with protecting the lives of the country’s current and former leaders, and their families.

Less than 24 hours after Mr. Trump was injured at a campaign rally in Butler, Pa., members of Congress were promising hearings and former law enforcement officials were questioning why the warehouse roof where the would-

be assassin, Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pa., fired shots was not covered by the Secret Service’s security perimeter, despite being within the range of some guns.

Mr. Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, was herded off the stage and pronounced fine, but the gunman came shockingly close to succeeding. A spectator was killed in the shooting and two others were critically wounded.

“Congress will do a full investigation of the tragedy yesterday to determine where there were lapses in security and anything else that the American people need to know and deserve to know,” Speaker Mike Johnson, Republican of Louisiana, said Sunday on NBC.

The chair of the House oversight committee also asked the Secret Service director, Kimberly A. Cheatle, to testify at a hearing on July 22.

The demand for answers from

Continued on Page A16

INVESTIGATION The F.B.I., though still seeking many answers about the 20-year-old shooter, believed that he acted alone. PAGE A16

AT THE SCENE Rally attendees recounted a day of merriment turned to horror minutes after Donald J. Trump took the stage. PAGE A14

TUMULT The rally was the latest escalation of political violence and a reminder of the fragility of peaceful democracy in the U.S. PAGE A15

RICHARD SIMMONS, 1948-2024

TV’s ‘Clown Prince of Fitness’ Kept Us Sweating

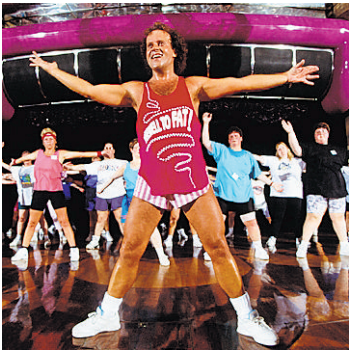
By **ALEX TRAUB**

Richard Simmons, who with dances, confessions, screeches, comedy sketches and pep talks established himself as America’s most popular fitness instructor, died on Saturday at his home in Los Angeles. He was 76.

A representative for Mr. Simmons, Tom Estey, confirmed the death.

The Los Angeles police and fire departments responded to Mr. Simmons’ address at 10 a.m. on Saturday. A Fire Department spokesman said that personnel there determined he had died of natural causes.

In March, Mr. Simmons said he had been treated for basal cell carcinoma, which he said first appeared as a “strange looking



EVAN HURD/SYGMA, VIA GETTY IMAGES

Richard Simmons on a cruise.

bump” under his eye.

From the 1980s until his death, Mr. Simmons was the dominant incarnation of a longstanding figure from American pop culture, dating at least to the muscle show

impresario and magazine publisher Bernarr Macfadden (1868-1955). Mr. Simmons shared much with Jack LaLanne. Each man became a television and self-help sensation by promoting a personal story of being born again: a miserable youth of sinful junk-food gluttony, followed by the discovery that physical fitness confers happiness and virtue.

“I think I’m just a good example of a chubby, fat, unhappy kid who lived in New Orleans, Louisiana, and dreamed, and now all my dreams are coming true,” Mr. Simmons told the TV host Huell Howser in 1980.

A TV fitness act would seem to demand a balance between masculinity and theatrics. Mr. Simmons showed otherwise. He

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PAUL CHILDS/REUTERS

Floating to Victory

Carlos Alcaraz beat Novak Djokovic in straight sets to earn his second Wimbledon title. Page D2.

INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Too Much Cocaine in Colombia

Domestic and foreign shifts in the global drug industry have devastated many poor citizens whose livelihoods are tied to the powder. PAGE A8

NATIONAL A9-17, 20

Harm From Hot Sidewalks

The risk of serious contact burns is increasing as temperatures soar and as more people move to the desert Southwest. PAGE A13

OBITUARIES B7-8

Star of ‘Beverly Hills, 90210’

Shannen Doherty, who also starred in “Charmed,” had continued to work after receiving a breast cancer diagnosis. She was 53. PAGE B8

ONLINE

Full R.N.C. Coverage

Follow developments from Milwaukee at nytimes.com, where reporters will be providing live updates, analysis and commentary on opening night.

OPINION A18-19

Bernie Sanders

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