

U.S. told Russia that venue could be attacked

Officials say sharing specific warning with an adversary was unusual

BY SHANE HARRIS

More than two weeks before terrorists staged a bloody attack in the suburbs of Moscow, the U.S. government told Russian officials that Crocus City Hall, a popular concert venue, was a potential target, according to U.S. officials familiar with the matter.

The high degree of specificity conveyed in the warning underscores Washington's confidence that the Islamic State was preparing an attack that threatened large numbers of civilians, and it directly contradicts Moscow's claims that the U.S. warnings were too general to help preempt the assault.

The U.S. identification of the Crocus concert hall as a potential target — a fact that has not been previously reported — raises new questions about why Russian authorities failed to take stronger measures to protect the venue, where gunmen killed more than 140 people and set fire to the building. A branch of the Islamic State has taken credit for the attack, the deadliest in Russia in 20 years. U.S. officials have publicly said the group, known as Islamic State-Khorasan, or ISIS-K, “bears sole responsibility,” but Russian President Vladimir Putin has tried to pin the blame on Ukraine.

SEE ATTACK ON A12

From Calif. billionaire, a lifeline for Trump

Auto-loan executive who covered \$175M bond says it's business, not politics

BY MICHAEL KRANISH AND JONATHAN O'CONNELL

As former president Donald Trump struggled last month to post a bond for more than \$450 million to keep authorities from seizing his properties, California billionaire Don Hankey and his wife, Debbi, started discussing a solution: Hankey's business could cover it.

Hankey, a Trump supporter who made a fortune providing high-interest auto loans to customers with poor credit, soon reached out to Trump's team to negotiate a deal that would allow Trump to stay the penalty while he appealed a massive New York civil fraud judgment. But when a court reduced the bond to \$175 million last week and Trump said he had the cash to post it himself, the matter seemed moot, Hankey told The Washington Post.

Then, to his surprise, the Trump team last week revived the talks and asked Hankey if he would back the new amount. Hankey promptly agreed. He said that his company is charging Trump a “modest fee,” which he declined to disclose, and that the arrangement allowed Trump to

SEE BOND ON A6



AHMED ZAKOT/REUTERS

Mourners gather around the body of Saifeddin Issam Ayad Abutaha, one of seven World Central Kitchen workers killed in an Israeli strike on the group's convoy Monday. Israel said it was the result of a “misidentification”; WCK said two vehicles had logos on top.

Along a humanitarian path, a team of 7 ferrying food aid is struck down

BY STEVE HENDRIX, IMOGEN PIPER, MEG KELLY AND MIRIAM BERGER

SUVs and trucks bearing the distinctive logo of World Central Kitchen had become increasingly common in the Gaza Strip by late Monday, when three of WCK's vehicles were traveling along on the coastal road used as a humanitarian corridor.

The dynamic international food aid group has been one of the few organizations able to get supplies into the embattled enclave and distributed to hungry civilians from north to south. Two

of the SUVs traveling Monday were armored and bore the frying pan logo on the roof, the group said. A third was an unmodified “soft-skin” vehicle.

None of them would return to base.

Inside the vehicles were seven of the group's employees and volunteers, including a Palestinian as well as aid workers from the United States, Britain, Poland, Australia and other countries drawn to the globe's worst

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Abutaha



Chapman



Flinkinger



Frankcom



Henderson



Kirby



Soból

'It was shocking': World Central Kitchen victims are mourned and revered for going to great lengths to deliver aid. A10



MARK FELIX FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A Houston city train on the day of a Beyoncé concert last September. The end of covid lockdowns has brought travel and entertainment spending increases and a fall in the personal savings rate.

Post-lockdown spending surge on travel, events roars into 2024

BY ABHA BHATTARAI

Ariel Vinson hadn't traveled much before the pandemic. Now she can't stop.

The 28-year-old writer leaves her Dallas apartment every chance she gets: to see Beyoncé in Atlanta, Usher in Chicago and for girls' trips in Jamaica and Mexico. When a favorite artist announces new tour dates, Vinson starts rallying friends and snapping up tickets, flights and hotel rooms for their next hurrah.

“My mind-set has completely changed after

covid: When I see something I want to do, I make it happen,” she said, adding that her new priorities have required some financial rejigging. “For a while I was going to dinner all the time. I was getting things delivered, but now I'm like, ‘I don't want to waste money on that.’ I want to travel and go to shows.”

Whatever you call it — doom spending, soft saving, YOLOing (“you only live once”) — the coronavirus pandemic has changed the way Americans spend money. They are saving less

SEE SPENDING ON A22

Ruling nearly exhausts South's abortion access

Florida's 6-week ban will force some patients to travel 14 hours or more

BY CAROLINE KITCHENER

More than 80,000 women get an abortion in Florida in a typical year — accounting for about 1 in 12 abortions in the country.

Now, most of those women will need to find somewhere else to go.

With the Florida Supreme Court's decision Monday night upholding an existing 15-week ban and allowing a strict new six-week ban to take effect in 30 days, the court has cut off nearly all abortion access across the South, where all other states have either implemented similar bans or outlawed abortion entirely since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

The new law will affect more women seeking abortions in the first trimester than any other single abortion ban to date, upending an already precarious new landscape for abortion access that has developed in the wake of the June 2022 U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

The Florida justices issued a separate ruling Monday that greenlighted an initiative to put abortion on the ballot in November.

But even if voters decide to establish a constitutional right to abortion in the state, thousands of women will have to reckon with unwanted pregnancies in the eight months between May 1, when the new ban will take effect, and next January, when such an amendment could be added to the constitution.

Anya Cook, who nearly died after she was denied an abortion under Florida's existing 15-week ban in 2022, had a message Monday for women in the Sunshine State who now encounter pregnancy complications after the six-week mark.

“Run,” she said. “Run, because you have no help here.”

The closest clinic where abortion will now be legal after the six-week mark for someone living at Florida's southernmost tip will be a 14-hour drive away in Charlotte. A patient whose pregnancy has progressed beyond 12 weeks, the point at which North Carolina bans abortion, will have to drive 17 hours, to southern Virginia.

“I think the minority [of patients] are going to be able to do that,” said Chelsea Daniels, a doctor and abortion provider with Planned Parenthood of South, East and North Florida. “There are certain types of

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Florida 'in play': Abortion rulings energize the state's Democrats. A8

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A Panama Canal expansion that took hold in 2016 put bigger vessels like the Dali on course for Baltimore. B1

STYLE Marlon Brando shaped generations of leading men, but none have been able fill his boots on the screen. C1

FOOD Valerie Bertinelli, actress and food personality, finds freedom in the kitchen with her new cookbook.

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