



Trump rally shooter's motive unclear

GOP convention is expected to go on as planned

This article is by Maeve Reston, Josh Dawsey, Hannah Knowles, Shayna Jacobs and Molly Hennessy-Fiske

MILWAUKEE — The assassination attempt that injured former president Donald Trump reshaped the presidential race and injected uncertainty Sunday into plans for this week's Republican National Convention in Wisconsin, as both parties recalibrated to address the concerns of a stunned and unsettled nation.

Vowing on social media that he would not allow “a ‘shooter,’ or potential assassin” to force scheduling changes or “anything else,” Trump flew to Milwaukee late Sunday afternoon, abandoning plans to delay his trip by two days. Expressing his eagerness to address supporters this week, he posted on Truth Social that he and his movement would “remain resilient in our Faith and Defiant in the face of Wickedness” and surprised his staff by instructing them to weave a “unity” message into the four-day convention.

The shooting adds a new layer of darkness and unpredictability to an already extraordinary contest

SEE CONVENTION ON A6



MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

Cori Gasmen bows her head at a Prayer Vigil for America for former president Donald Trump in Milwaukee on Sunday.

FATHER OF SUSPECT LEGALLY BOUGHT GUN

20-year-old described as polite, unremarkable

BY EMILY DAVIES, DEVLIN BARRETT, JASMINE HILTON AND PERRY STEIN

BETHEL PARK, PA. — The FBI said Sunday that investigators have not yet identified any ideology fueling the gunman who fired at former president Donald Trump at a packed campaign rally, and they believe he carried out the horrifying assassination attempt on his own.

The gunman was identified as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, of Bethel Park, a strong math student in high school who was working as a nursing home employee.

Seconds after he opened fire from a rooftop outside the rally's security perimeter Saturday evening, using an AR-style rifle that was legally purchased by his father, he was fatally shot by the Secret Service, authorities said.

“At this time, the information that we have indicates that the shooter acted alone and that there are currently no public

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‘My heart stopped when he went down’

This article is by Peter Jamison, Michael Kranish, Beth Reinhard, Emmanuel Felton, Meryl Kornfield, Colby Itkowitz and Jon Swaine

Among the sunbaked thousands gathered in a Pennsylvania field, many strained to place the sound that interrupted former president Donald Trump's speech.

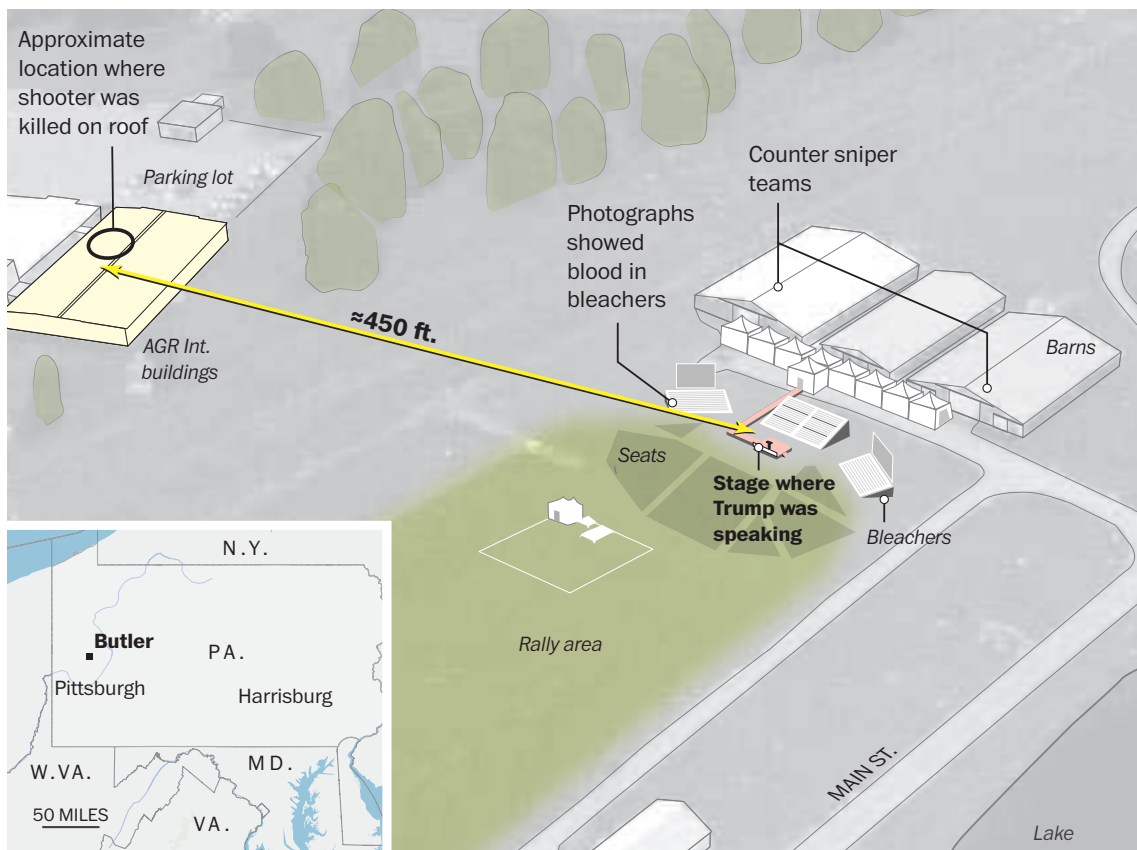
Rico Elmore, a former state candidate, and Erin Autenreith, a real estate agent, both surprised fireworks — a late Fourth of July celebration. So did Paul Kosko, a 63-year-old retiree in the eighth row.

Cindy Hildebrand, who leads a local GOP group, heard popping.

Onstage, Trump was startled by a loud whiz — and then, belatedly, a blast.

Jondavid Longo, the 33-year-old mayor of nearby Slippery Rock, Pa., and a Marine Corps

SEE SHOOTING ON A13



Sources: OpenStreetMap contributors, Imagery Google, Airbus, Maxar Technologies, Map data



STEVE WARHEIT

Corey Comperatore “died a hero,” his wife said. More about the Pa. firefighter: Page A10.

GOP: What to know about the convention that begins today. A6

Biden: President calls for unity, pauses campaign efforts. A8

Dan Balz: Even still, political warfare rages on, he writes. A9

Media coverage: Shooting imagery could change America. C1

Secret Service scrutinized over apparent lapse

BY CAROL D. LEONNIG, ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER AND JOSH DAWSEY

For more than a half-century, since the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Secret Service has routinely surveyed and secured all structures near major national political events to prevent gunfire from reaching a president or anyone else under the agency's protection.

But somehow on Saturday, a man wielding a semiautomatic rifle was able to access a roof just 140 yards from the stage where former president Donald Trump was speaking.

Now under scrutiny for its worst security breach since the 1981 attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan, the Secret Service is facing pressure to determine whether it failed to devote

SEE SECRET SERVICE ON A11

Pentagon faces divide over Gold Star honors

BY DAN LAMOTHE

First Lt. Daniel Weiss was a 25-year-old Army Ranger preparing for his fourth combat deployment to Afghanistan when he died by suicide at his Tacoma, Wash., apartment in 2012. There were difficult days after that, recalled his father, Andy. But what proved both surprising and hurtful, he said, were efforts to ensure his son's death was viewed differently than those of fellow service members who had been killed in action.

The family learned, for instance, that Daniel's name would be excluded from a monument at Joint Base Lewis-McChord memorializing casualties of war. A few years later, at a brunch for military survivors back home in Illinois, the Weisses were told their invitation had been an accident. Though they were allowed to stay, he said, it was made clear the event was for Gold Star families.

“To this day,” Andy Weiss said he feels a “profound sense of loss” when thinking about his son — a pain made worse by “this divisive ‘you're a Gold Star and you're not.’” There should be no distinction, in his view. To suggest otherwise, he added, is “ridiculous.”

Weiss's frustrations are part of a larger, emotionally charged dispute over how America recognizes the families of deceased U.S. troops. The debate was expected to come to a head soon, after the Biden administration spent months reviewing the recommendations of a congressionally appointed working group assigned to settle on a standardized definition for Gold Star families — a process that included consideration of not only troops killed in combat but also suicide victims like Daniel Weiss, and those who die in tragic accidents, such as helicopter crashes, or from fatal

SEE MILITARY ON A4



ANDREJ ISAKOVIC/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Still the champ

Catherine, Princess of Wales, congratulates Carlos Alcaraz after he defeated Novak Djokovic to defend his Wimbledon title. The 21-year-old Spanish star claimed his second Grand Slam title of 2024 to deny Djokovic an eighth Wimbledon crown. **Sports, D1**

Isolated Taliban tackles climate crisis on its own

BY RICK NOACK

KABUL — When Afghanistan's Taliban rulers headed to the country's first “international climate change conference” earlier this year in the eastern city of Jalalabad, few foreign guests turned up.

Afghanistan remains a global pariah in large part because of the Taliban's restrictions on female education, and that isolation has deprived the country of foreign funding for urgently needed measures to adapt to climate change.

So, for now, the Afghan government is largely confronting the impacts of global warming on its own and putting the blame for floods and sluggish governmental aid on foreigners. Some former Taliban commanders view global carbon emissions as a new invisible enemy.

“Just like they invaded our country, they've invaded our cli-

mate,” Lutfullah Khairkhwa, the Taliban's deputy higher education minister, said in his opening speech at the Jalalabad conference. “We must defend our climate, our water, our soil to the same extent we defend ourselves against invasions.”

With parched deserts and deforested, flood-prone valleys, Afghanistan is deemed by researchers to be among the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change. Hundreds of people died, for instance, during recent flash floods that officials blamed on ominous changes in the climate.

Kanni Wignaraja, the regional director for Asia and the Pacific at the United Nations Development Program, said prolonged drought in Afghanistan has so hardened soils that flash floods are particularly violent here. “The damage is huge,” she said in an interview.

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IN THE NEWS

In Paris The French capital celebrates Bastille Day with the arrival of the Olympic flame before the Summer Games. A15

Finding her voice Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-Va.), who has a Parkinson's-like condition, is able to speak again through an AI-generated approximation. B1

THE NATION The family of a teen who died after eating a spicy chip is suing the manufacturer. A2
Latinos could decide abortion ballot measures in multiple states this fall. A3

THE WORLD A music contest in China created a new stage for the rivalry with the United States. A16
Gambia could be the world's first country to end a ban on female genital cutting. A18

THE ECONOMY Right-leaning tech leaders used their online megaphones to speak out after the shooting at former president Donald Trump's rally. A14
President Biden wants U.S. ports to use American-built ship-to-shore cranes, but they don't exist. A19

THE REGION The D.C. public defender's office deployed emergency measures to offset a \$3 million shortfall. B1
An 11-year-old transgender girl and her parents are suing a Virginia school district after she was barred from the girls' tennis team. B1

STYLE Literary professors grapple with how to teach about Alice Munro after her daughter's revelations of abuse by the writer's husband. C1
SPORTS Spain defeats England to secure its fourth title at soccer's European Championship. D2

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The Washington Post
Year 147, No. 53913

