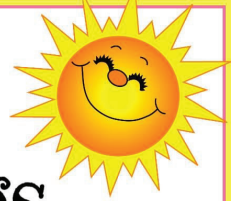


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## Monday Blessings



May God go  
before you  
this week  
and make the  
rough roads  
smooth. May  
His Joy be  
your  
strength, and  
His Presence  
fill your  
heart.

Good Morning



### Monday, July 15

Senior Menu: Chicken Alfredo, broccoli, peaches, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Pantry open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Legion at Redfield, 5:30 p.m. (1)

Jr. Legion at Redfield 7:30 p.m. (1)

Softball at Mellette: U10B at 6 p.m. (DH), U12 at 7:30 p.m. (DH)

Jr. Teener Tournament in Groton

### Tuesday, July 16:

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, apple crisp, breadstick.

T-Ball B/G Scrimmage, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Common Centers Community Thrift Store open, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry Open, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Legion at Milbank, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 12:30 p.m.

Jr. Teener Tournament in Groton

**Groton Daily Independent**  
**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**  
**Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460**

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# 1440

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## Trump Assassination Attempt

Former President Donald Trump survived an assassination attempt during a campaign rally Saturday. The 20-year-old suspect was killed by a Secret Service sniper after a bullet pierced the upper part of Trump's right ear. The attack killed one rally attendee, 50-year-old Corey Comperatore, and left two others critically injured.

Trump was roughly six-and-a-half minutes into his speech in Butler, Pennsylvania, when the gunman opened fire from a nearby warehouse rooftop. Immediately following the attack, Trump was covered by Secret Service agents before being ushered offstage, raising his fist in the air.

The FBI has not identified a motive for the suspect, a man from nearby Bethel Park. His father had purchased the weapon—a semi-automatic rifle—at least six months before. Explosive materials were later discovered in the suspect's home and car.

The attack marked the first attempted assassination of a US president since Ronald Reagan in 1981. It also raised questions about security lapses, given the gunman's ability to scale a rooftop roughly 400 feet from the former president. House leaders have launched their own investigation.

After a temporary hospitalization, Trump has confirmed he will speak at the Republican National Convention beginning today in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## Hamas' Top Commander

Israel said it targeted Hamas' top military leader in an airstrike Saturday, killing at least 90 people and wounding over 300 others, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry; the agency does not differentiate between civilians and combatants.

Mohammed Deif is one of a few people Israel has named as architects of the group's Oct. 7 attacks, and the second-in-command to Hamas' top official in Gaza. The airstrike took place in al-Mawasi, an area along Gaza's western coast Israel had declared a humanitarian zone. Israel accuses Hamas of establishing a compound in the zone and says another high-level commander was killed in the strike. Hamas denied Deif was present, dismissing the claim as justification for the deadly strike.

Deif's status was unclear as of this writing. The news comes as Hamas and Israel are considering a US-proposed cease-fire deal. Hamas says it has not withdrawn from cease-fire talks following the strike.

## EU Charges X

The European Union charged social media company X with several breaches of the bloc's 2022 Digital Services Act, including its broad use of blue checkmarks for user verification. The preliminary rulings, released Friday by the European Commission, could result in a fine of 6% of the company's annual global revenue if confirmed.

Coming into full effect last year, the Digital Services Act was passed to protect European users from harmful policies at large internet platforms. The commission alleged X, formerly known as Twitter, opened its users to potential deception by verifying any user willing to pay for a blue check. The commission also alleges X failed to make its public data and advertisement database accessible to researchers and auditors. Chairman Elon Musk informally refuted the claims Friday.

The rulings are the latest against a big tech company after antitrust allegations were brought against Meta, Google, and Microsoft in the last month.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Spain tops England 2-1 to win record fourth UEFA European Championship.

Copa América final delayed over an hour as fans break through entry gates.

Cleveland Guardians take Oregon State's Travis Bazzana with top pick in 2024 MLB Draft.

Richard Simmons, iconic TV fitness guru, dies at age 76.

Shannen Doherty, actress best known for "Beverly Hills, 90210," dies at age 53 of breast cancer.

Dr. Ruth Westheimer, pioneering sex therapist, dies at age 96.

Carlos Alcaraz tops Novak Djokovic to win back-to-back Wimbledon titles.

Barbora Krejčíková edges Jasmine Paolini to win her second career Grand Slam singles championship.

## Science & Technology

OpenAI reportedly working on AI model capable of advanced reasoning; project, codenamed "Strawberry," would navigate the internet on its own and perform deep research.

Oldest-known relative of modern spiders identified in nearly 500-million-year-old fossil; the specimen lived in what is now the South Pole, family includes scorpions and horseshoe crabs.

3D imaging reveals the last meal of a crocodile mummified by ancient Egyptians; researchers believe the animal was deliberately caught by fishermen for a ritual.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher Friday (S&P 500 +0.6%, Dow +0.6%, Nasdaq +0.6%) with gains partially driven by Caterpillar and Home Depot.

Alphabet is reportedly in final talks to acquire cybersecurity startup Wiz for \$23B; acquisition would mark the largest purchase ever for Google's parent company.

Cost of First-Class postage stamps rise by 5 cents, tied for highest-ever jump as US Postal Service navigates reduced volume and a projected net loss of \$6.3B this fiscal year.

## Politics & World Affairs

President Joe Biden cancels planned trip to Texas following assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump; live interview with NBC News' Lester Holt reportedly still on track to air tonight at 9 pm ET.

UN-mediated cease-fire talks underway for Sudanese Armed Forces and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces to end 15-month war that has left over 19,000 people dead and over 33,000 wounded, per UN figures.

North Korea threatens to resume campaign of sending trash-filled balloons to South Korea as sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un accuses South Korea of continuing to send leaflets into the country.



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## Department of SD VFW Baseball 14U Class B Region 1 Bracket All games to be played at Locke-Karst Field in Groton



The car show was held Sunday in the Groton City Park. (Panoramic photo by Paul Kosel)



## "If your happy and you know it clap your hands"

"If you're happy and you know it clap your hands." A song familiar to all of us. However, how familiar is the awareness of our body clues of feeling happy to all of us to truly "know it"? Recognizing body clues and sensations to aid in the next steps of labeling emotions is the first key skill in emotional intelligence. Unfortunately, these are not skills we are taught.

Mental health development across the lifespan is as vital as physical and cognitive development. Understanding the biology of our nervous system, the sensations and body clues linked to emotions, and the outcomes of attending to these sensations and body clues, allows us to increase wanted outcomes within our lives. There is a growing trend towards normalizing the practice of

developing mental health skills among adults, mirroring the emphasis long placed on physical and academic education. This shift recognizes that mental well-being is integral to overall health and productivity in adulthood. Initiatives promoting mindfulness, stress management, and emotional resilience are gaining traction in workplaces and community settings. Employers are offering resources such as mental health days, counseling services, and workshops on mental health topics. By prioritizing mental health alongside professional development, organizations aim to create healthier, more productive environments where individuals can thrive personally and professionally. This holistic approach acknowledges that mental health skills are essential for navigating the complexities of adult life and achieving long-term well-being.

Dr. Mark Brackett, from Yale University, is renowned for his work on emotional intelligence and the role of emotions in learning, decision-making, and overall well-being. Brackett's research and teachings focus on how sensations in the body signal emotional states and how acknowledging these feelings can enhance emotional regulation and decision-making. He emphasizes the significance of recognizing comfort levels as a crucial aspect of emotional awareness, suggesting that attunement to one's emotional comfort can lead to better self-regulation and improved interpersonal interactions.

Practicing these skills is as simple as getting curious about what is happening within our body and noticing if our body is comfortable or uncomfortable. Regularly check in with yourself throughout the day to assess your emotional sensations. Ask yourself how you're feeling and whether any discomfort or stress is present. Get curious about yourself.

Developing emotional awareness and comfort with these skills is a gradual process that requires patience, self-compassion, and consistency. Be gentle with yourself and celebrate small improvements along the way. By incorporating these practices into your routine, you can cultivate greater emotional awareness, understand your comfort levels more deeply, and create more outcomes you desire to have. You will also truly be able to live the song, "If you're happy and you know it clap your hands."

Nikki Eining is a private independent practice licensed social worker who serves as the Statewide Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program Coordinator for The USD Center for Disabilities and Owner of Grace Grit Growth Counseling LLC in Brookings, SD. Nikki brings a diverse set of experiences and passions spending over 18 years working in the mental health field. Her previous experience has focused on supporting youth and families in office, school, and community settings without outpatient behavioral health services and prevention programming. She has professional experience in clinical mental health, education, research design, non-profit, program development, and trauma-informed care practices.

Nikki is passionate about trauma and healing-informed practices, the power of protective factors and collaboration across communities to help decrease barriers for youth and families. Nikki is a Theraplay Level 1, 2 and Group trained therapist, SAPST trained prevention provider, and an ACE Interface Certified educator. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and on Facebook and Instagram featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show celebrating its 22nd season of health information based on science, built on trust, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



Nikki Eining, CSW-PIP, QMHP

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

We're inching closer to training camp, which will begin next week – which means we're inching closer to preseason, which will begin next month. Football is almost back!

To get you ready for the 2024 NFL season, we continue our breakdown of the Minnesota Vikings' roster. This week, we focus on the linebackers. Historically, the Vikings have run a 4-3 defense (four defensive linemen, three linebackers), but they have recently switched to a 3-4 defense. The biggest difference in a 3-4 defense is at linebacker, because instead of having the defensive ends line up with their hands in the dirt, they are now considered outside linebackers who have more responsibilities than simply rushing the passer. So for today's roster breakdown, we'll divide the linebackers into two groups – inside linebackers and outside linebackers.

### Inside Linebackers

The Vikings currently have seven inside linebackers on the roster, a number that will need to be cut in half by the start of the regular season (the Vikings kept four ILBs last season).

Ivan Pace Jr. – Perhaps the best story of the 2023 season, Ivan Pace Jr. was an undrafted, undersized player who has a motor that just won't stop (eerily similar to Hall of Fame defensive tackle John Randle). Pace was trusted to wear the green dot while Jordan Hicks was injured last season, and with Hicks leaving in free agency, it's likely Pace will wear the dot full-time this season (the green dot means the player has a headset in his helmet, so that player is responsible for receiving the play call from the sidelines and relaying it to the team).

Blake Cashman – The former Golden Gopher is back in Minnesota after playing for the Texans (2022-23) and the Jets (2019-21). Cashman was signed in free agency to start alongside Pace Jr at the inside linebacker position.

Brian Asamoah II – Entering his third year in the NFL, this will be Asamoah's last chance to prove he can stay healthy and help the team win. When he's on the field, Asamoah is a fast, instinctive linebacker who is gifted enough to help the team. If he can stay healthy, he'll have a spot on the roster, but his days of battling for a starting spot seem to be behind him at this point.

Kamu Grugier-Hill – The player with the inside track for the final ILB roster spot, Grugier-Hill is entering his ninth season in the NFL. He was drafted by the Patriots in 2016 (Brian Flores was the Patriot's linebackers coach at the time), and later played for the Dolphins in 2020 when Flores was the head coach.

Abraham Beuplan, K.J. Cloyd, and Dallas Grant – all three are pretty much extra bodies for training camp, although one of the three may impress the coaches enough to earn a spot on the practice squad.

### Outside Linebackers

The Vikings currently have nine OLBs on the roster, which will likely be whittled down to five by the start of the regular season.

Jonathan Greenard – The Vikings and Texans traded a ton of players this offseason, and no switch was more meaningful than Danielle Hunter for Greenard. While at first glance it might seem like a slight downgrade, Greenard is younger than Hunter and is a natural outside linebacker, whereas Hunter is a defensive end who was asked to play OLB when the Vikings made the switch to the 3-4 defense.

Dallas Turner – The Vikings' other first-round pick, Turner was perhaps the best pass rusher in the draft. He might not start right away in week one, but once he's comfortable with the Vikings' system, he will undoubtedly enter the starting lineup. He is the top (non-QB) player I'm interested in watching this preseason.

Andrew Van Ginkel – Originally brought in to start opposite Greenard, Van Ginkel will likely be the starter until Dallas Turner is ready. AVG had a breakout season in 2023 for the Dolphins, and even if he eventually becomes the backup, he will see plenty of snaps on defense this season.

Pat Jones II – Entering his fourth season, Jones has the inside track for one of the backup OLB spots on the roster. But he will have to go out there and earn it because there is a ton of younger players gunning for his spot.

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Andre Carter II – An undrafted player in 2023, Carter appeared in 12 games last season, mostly on special teams.

Gabriel Murphy – Continuing the trend of identifying and signing top-notch undrafted players, Murphy was perhaps the top undrafted rookie this year. He will be in the mix for an OLB spot.

Jihad Ward – The final player who will be in the mix for a roster spot, Ward was signed as a free agent this offseason. He is entering his ninth season in the NFL and is big enough that he can play on the defensive line if needed. That versatility might be what lands him a spot.

Owen Porter, and Bo Richter – Two rookies who will have a very steep hill to climb if they want to stick around on the practice squad.



**50th Wedding Celebration  
Honoring Neal & Wynella Abeln  
Saturday, July 20, 2024  
Food & Visiting 6 pm – 8 pm  
Barn Dance 8 pm – 11 pm  
AT: Tim & Lacey Grabow's  
15689 456th Ave  
South Shore, SD 57263  
FUN FOR ALL  
No gifts please**



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## Unit 39 American Legion Auxiliary news

All Unit 39 ALA members are reminded to bring a salad along with the recipe that lists all of the ingredients to the Legion hall by 10 am on Wednesday, July 17. Please include your name on the recipe, lid, and bowl.

The officers for 2024-2025 Auxiliary year are Tami Zimney, President; Meri Erickson, 1st VP; Sarah Grant, Secretary; Lori Giedt, Treasurer, Samantha Oswald, Chaplain; and Coralea Wolter, Historian.

Groton Unit 39 memberships goal was 105 and we achieved 90% of that goal so we end our year with 16 junior and 78 senior members for a total of 94. For 2025: The membership chairman for Groton Unit 39 is Jan Seibel (not Gertie Erickson). Membership dues remain the same as last year; seniors \$31 and juniors \$5.50. You may send your dues to Jan anytime after September 1st, and her address is 42541 102nd St., Britton SD 57430. Your check is made to Groton Unit 39 ALA. Nationals does not send out your renewal notice until after their national convention which is September so your cards will be mailed AFTER that month. You may wait and pay your dues at the first meeting which will be Tuesday, September 3 at 6:00 pm at the Groton Legion hall. Membership cards are available at every meeting for you to pick up after paying your dues. All dues need to be paid by Dec. 31, 2024 for membership year 2025.

All Groton Unit ALA members are encouraged to donate back-to-school items for our Give 10 to Education Program by August 15. A drop off box will be placed in the Legion. You can call and ask teachers what their needs are, look through BTS lists, donate gift cards, make baked goods, clothes, winter hats/gloves, volunteer time at the school, buy books, etc. for this "Give 10 to Education" Program. Any questions should be directed to Jan Seibel, 605-448-3002.

Groton Unit 39 is looking to send CARE packages to enlisted soldiers and honor blue star families of our Groton graduates and beyond during the holidays. Please reach out to Jan Seibel at 605-448-3002 or email information to seibelj@venturecomm.net and let her know the soldier's name, branch of service, were stationed, and anything else of importance.

### Upcoming events for Unit 39:

Unit 39 will be hosting our Annual Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 from 11 am to 1 pm. Enjoy a ham sandwich as well as a variety of salads, bars, coffee, and water. The cost is \$8 per person and you may buy your tickets at the door.

Back-to-School drive for our "Give 10 to Education" Program from July 17 to August 17. Bring in ANY type of school supply (pen, pencil, notebook, markers, erasers, etc.), gift card, winter hat/gloves, volunteer and hour or two in a classroom, playground, library etc. This program is for members and nonmembers of the American Legion Auxiliary. Drop off box at the Legion hall.

Veterans Day program. Mr. Wanner's classes will interview veterans during September and October and then they will write their service reports to read at the program. Groton Unit member Karen Wolter, is sewing the quilts for each honored veteran and quilts will be delivered to those veterans interviewed at the Veterans Day program on November 11.

## Groton Locke Electric 2024 Defeat Hitmen Amateurs On Multiple Hit Performance By Ty Sieber

By GameChanger Media

Ty Sieber collected three hits in four at bats, as Groton Locke Electric 2024 defeated Hitmen Amateurs 9-5 on Sunday. Sieber doubled in the fourth inning, tripled in the ninth inning, and singled in the third inning.

Groton Locke Electric 2024 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Brian Hansen singled, and Austin Jones grounded out, each scoring one run.

Groton Locke Electric 2024 added to their early lead in the top of the third inning after Hansen singled, Bradin Althoff singled, Hitmen Amateurs committed an error, and Althoff stole home, each scoring one run.

Jones earned the win for Groton Locke Electric 2024. The righty surrendered two hits and two runs over four and one-third innings, striking out three and walking seven. Gunner Brueggman took the loss for Hitmen Amateurs. They went nine innings, allowing nine runs (three earned) on 11 hits, striking out 11 and walking three. Aaron Severson and Spencer Locke each appeared in relief for Groton Locke Electric 2024.

Groton Locke Electric 2024 amassed 11 hits in the game. Sieber and Hansen each collected three hits for Groton Locke Electric 2024. Althoff and Hansen were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Groton Locke Electric 2024. Ben Althoff collected two hits for Groton Locke Electric 2024 in five at bats. Groton Locke Electric 2024 ran wild on the base paths, accumulating five stolen bases for the game. Groton Locke Electric 2024 turned two double plays in the game.

Bennett Cassens, Hitmen Amateurs's number nine hitter, led the team with two hits in four at-bats. Tyler Cunningham, Brueggman, Cassens, and Ryan Engle each drove in one run for Hitmen Amateurs. Jett Kleinsasser led Hitmen Amateurs with four walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, amassing 17 walks for the game. Hitmen Amateurs turned two double plays in the game.

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## Groton Locke Electric 2024 9 - 5 Hitmen Amateurs

📍 Away 📅 Sunday July 14, 2024

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
GRTN	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	2	9	11	3
HTMN	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	5	4	7

### BATTING

Groton Locke Electric 2024	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
D Frey #6 (LF)	5	1	1	0	0	2
T Sieber #19 (SS)	4	3	3	1	1	0
B Althoff #1 (3B)	5	2	2	1	0	1
B Hansen #37 (2B)	5	1	3	2	0	0
B Althoff #14 (1B)	4	1	2	2	0	1
A Jones #7 (P)	3	0	0	0	0	1
S Locke #15 (P)	2	0	0	0	0	1
A Sippel #5 (CF)	3	0	0	0	2	3
R Groebelin... #3 (C)	5	0	0	0	0	1
A Sever... #33 (RF)	4	0	0	0	0	1
CR: E Erickson #22	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>

**2B:** T Sieber, B Althoff, **3B:** T Sieber, **TB:** T Sieber 6, B Althoff 3, B Althoff 2, B Hansen 3, D Frey, **SF:** B Althoff, **CS:** A Jones, **SB:** B Althoff, B Althoff, B Hansen, A Sippel, E Erickson, **LOB:** 8

### PITCHING

Groton Locke Electric 2024	IP	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Jones #7	4.1	2	2	7	3
<b>S Locke #15</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
A Seve... #33	4.0	2	1	6	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>

**W:** A Jones, **P-S:** A Severson 66-31, A Jones 92-38, S Locke 25-8, **BF:** A Severson 18, A Jones 22, S Locke 7

Hitmen Amateurs	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
P McDo... #29 (CF)	5	0	0	0	1	1
P Geditz #2 (SS)	5	2	1	0	1	0
J Kleins... #48 (RF)	1	2	0	0	4	0
G Brueggm... #1 (P)	2	0	1	1	3	1
L Winter #30 (C)	4	1	0	0	1	0
R Engle #25 (3B)	4	0	0	1	1	0
T Cunnin... #15 (2B)	2	0	0	1	3	1
S Rosela... #35 (1B)	3	0	0	0	2	0
B Cassens #17 (LF)	4	0	2	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>

**2B:** P Geditz, G Brueggman, **TB:** B Cassens 2, P Geditz 2, G Brueggman 2, **CS:** J Kleinsasser, **SB:** J Kleinsasser, **LOB:** 15

Hitmen Amateurs	IP	ER	BB	SO	HR
G Brueg... #1	9.0	11	9	3	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

**L:** G Brueggman, **P-S:** G Brueggman 161-98, **WP:** G Brueggman 2, **BF:** G Brueggman 44



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## Brand New Program at

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101  
Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460  
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



### \$20 Monthly Membership

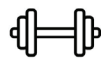
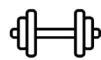
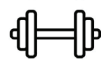
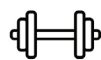
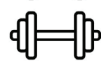
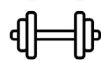
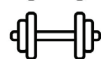
- ☞ for people 60 years of age and older
- ☞ for those who need equipment for physical therapy!



Downtown  
Groton

24/7 access to the facility ~ Cancel any time

### Staying fit and practicing healthy nutrition can be linked to benefits, such as:

-  Reduced levels of stress and anxiety
-  Improved cognitive function
-  Increased energy levels and productivity
-  Controlled blood pressure
-  Better blood flow circulation
-  Strengthened bones and muscles
-  Reduced risk of heart disease and other illnesses

Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460

Call/Text Tina at 605-397-7285

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is plywood a viable sustainable material for furniture and home building? –P.K.

Plywood is a manufactured composite material consisting of multiple wooden sheets layered on top of one another and glued together. To assess its sustainability, one needs to assess that of its constituent parts, both the wood sheets and the glue in between them. Scientists utilize Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) to assess the environmental impact of the material from production, transportation and utilization to end of life. By observing the carbon footprint in each part of the material's lifetime, we can then gain a holistic understanding of the true net carbon footprint of a material.

Using LCA, a research group from the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute analyzed the carbon footprint of plywood across its lifetime. The group concluded that plywood can be a carbon-negative material (removes carbon from the atmosphere) as its wooden material absorbs carbon given that it is not incinerated. In fact, the entire process of production and transportation of plywood produces fewer carbon emissions than the amount of carbon it contains, thus making it carbon-negative.

However, the environmental impact of the glue in plywood is not as clear cut. Countless types of glues can be used in the production of plywood, with each differing in their environmental impact. Glues can be categorized into two groups: those containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) like formaldehyde and those that do not. Formaldehyde is a harmful substance released as a gas during the lifetime of the glue. Prolonged exposure to formaldehyde can cause a plethora of human and animal health problems. Thus, plywood is only safe for the environment when it is produced with glues not containing VOCs. However, when produced with safe glues, plywood is highly safe for the environment. Compared to aluminum, plastic and concrete, plywood is crowned as the most sustainable material.

So, plywood is a green material, but is it good for making furniture or for home construction? Plywood is cheaper, more durable and more flexible than solid wood, making it a versatile material for many furniture-making applications. Manufactured in thin large sheets, plywood is perfect for assembling into shelving, tables and beds. Plywood can also be an excellent material for home construction because of its ease of working and its dimensional stability. Because plywood comes in pre-processed sheets, it can be used at the construction site easily without further processing. Moreover, plywood is dimensionally stable, meaning it tends to maintain its structure over time, making it a great material for areas in need of structural rigidity. So, in home construction, plywood can be found commonly used to construct floors, walls and roofs to provide the home with excellent structural support.

To an environmentally conscious consumer, plywood serves as a great carbon-negative alternative to materials like plastic, aluminum and solid wood. However, it is imperative to make sure the plywood you purchase is produced in a way that is produced responsibly. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-profit organization that certifies wood that is sustainably harvested. When purchasing plywood, ensure it is FSC certified and that it contains no added formaldehyde.



**Plywood is cheaper, more durable & more flexible than solid wood, making it a useful for construction & furniture-making applications.**

Credit: Pexels.com.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Biden asks the nation for unity, promises security review after Trump shooting**

**BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - JULY 14, 2024 3:48 PM**

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden Sunday called for unity and pledged an independent review following the campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Saturday where former President Donald J. Trump was shot and injured.

"An assassination attempt is contrary to everything we stand for as a nation," Biden said in remarks from the White House Sunday afternoon, adding that "there is no place in America for this kind of violence or any violence for that matter."

Biden said the independent review will "assess exactly what happened and we'll share the results of that independent review with the American people as well."

"Unity is the most elusive goal of all, but nothing is (more) important than that right now," Biden said. "We'll debate and we'll disagree, that's not going to change. But we're not gonna lose sight of the fact (of) who we are as Americans."

Biden added that he is directing the U.S. Secret Service to assess the security measures for the Republican National Convention beginning Monday in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the GOP will formally nominate Trump for president.

Trump wrote on Truth Social that he was initially planning to delay his trip to the RNC by two days, but said he could not "allow a 'shooter,' or potential assassin, to force change to scheduling, or anything else" and so would arrive later Sunday.

Outraged congressional Republicans on Sunday demanded answers from the Secret Service as to how the shooter was able to access a rooftop within range of the former president, and committee leaders began planning hearings and probes. The FBI is investigating the shooting as an attempted assassination.

South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham said on NBC's "Meet the Press" he was grateful the former president "survived an assassination attempt," and noted how dangerous the situation was.

"How could this happen?" Graham asked. "How could somebody get within 130 yards of the president with a rifle?"

On Sunday night, in an address from the Oval Office, Biden repeated his plea for unity and called for Americans to cool down their political rhetoric.

"Remember, we may disagree. We are not enemies. We're neighbors. We're friends, coworkers, citizens. And most importantly, we're our fellow Americans. We must stand together," he said.

Biden stressed that political participation needed to remain peaceful.

"In America, we resolve our differences at the ballot box," he said. "Not with bullets."

### **Pennsylvanian killed**

Several loud pops rang out as Trump was beginning a campaign event Saturday that quickly ended with him cupping blood on the side of his face and defiantly pumping his fist at the crowd and shouting "Fight, fight, fight," before he was whisked off-stage by Secret Service agents.

Trump was injured but pronounced safe by the Secret Service and he later wrote on his social media site Truth Social that he was shot "with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear."

An attendee at the rally was killed, and two others were injured in the shooting.

Pennsylvania Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro on Sunday identified the person killed as Corey Comperatore.



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Local news reports said he was a former fire chief.

"Corey died a hero," Shapiro said during a news conference. "Corey dove on his family to protect them last night."

Shortly after the shooting, Secret Service spokesperson Anthony Guglielmi said in a statement the shooter "fired multiple shots toward the stage from an elevated position outside of the rally venue," and Secret Service personnel shot and killed the individual.

The FBI identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania.

Congressional Republicans said they want answers from the Secret Service about how the event unfolded and if there were any security shortcomings.

The Secret Service is responsible for the safety of current and former presidents, and certain government officials.

Guglielmi on Sunday morning on X addressed "an untrue assertion that a member of the former President's team requested additional security resources & that those were rebuffed."

He said that was "absolutely false."

"In fact, we added protective resources & technology & capabilities as part of the increased campaign travel tempo," he said.

The agency falls under the Department of Homeland Security, and congressional Republicans have clashed with DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, to the point of impeachment. The Senate, controlled by Democrats, dismissed the two articles of impeachment.

## House GOP inquiry

Hours after the Saturday night shooting, House Speaker Mike Johnson wrote on X that the House will conduct an investigation of the incident.

On the "Today" show Sunday, Johnson said that the House's probe will "determine where there were lapses in security and anything else that the American people need to know and deserve to know."

Republican Rep. Mark Green of Tennessee, who chairs the House Homeland Security Committee, wrote a letter to Mayorkas saying he was concerned how the shooter was able to "access a rooftop within range and direct line of sight of where President Trump was speaking."

"The seriousness of this security failure and chilling moment in our nation's history cannot be understated," Green wrote in the letter. "Had the bullet's trajectory been slightly different, the assassination attempt on President Trump might have succeeded."

Green asked Mayorkas to provide the committee with several documents by July 22, such as the security plan for the rally, Secret Service protocol for assassination attempts and copies of briefing materials given to Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris about the incident.

Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri sent a letter to Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Gary Peters of Michigan to push for an investigation into the shooting.

Hawley, who sits on the committee, said the investigation "must include public testimony, hearings, and robust oversight over the relevant federal departments as they respond to this assassination attempt."

Montana Democratic Sen. Jon Tester, who also sits on the committee, made the same request, and argued the need for an investigation because "individuals and groups will use yesterday's tragedy to sow division in our country," and that the committee "can help push back on those efforts by investigating and publicizing the facts surrounding yesterday."

An aide to Peters, speaking on background, said the "committee will be conducting an investigation," and that the committee has requested a briefing for members as soon as possible.

Peters, a Democrat, is "speaking with Secretary Mayorkas today, and committee staff are receiving a briefing from the department this afternoon," the aide said.

"As we learn more about what happened, the investigation will likely include additional steps including hearings," the aide said.

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## Comer wants Secret Service director to testify

Chair of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee GOP Rep. James Comer of Kentucky said in a statement that he will send a formal invitation for Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle to appear for a hearing.

"There are many questions and Americans demand answers," Comer said.

Biden, who spoke Sunday night briefly after the shooting, denounced political violence and declined to say if the incident was an assassination attempt.

"I have an opinion, but I don't have any facts," Biden said, speaking from the Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, police department, near his vacation home. "So I want to make sure we have all the facts before I make some comment."

## 'Cool things down'

Lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle immediately condemned the political violence.

On Sunday, they took to various talk shows and urged for a cooling down of political rhetoric. "We've got to turn the temperature down in this country," Johnson said.

Rep. Dan Meuser of Pennsylvania, who was at the rally Saturday, made similar remarks on "Meet the Press," where he said "we all need to take responsibility and cool things down."

Melania Trump, the president's wife, on Sunday called for Americans to "reunite."

"Dawn is here again," she said in a statement. "This morning, ascend above the hate, the vitriol, and the simple-minded ideas that ignite violence. We all want a world where respect is paramount, family is first, and love transcends."

## Shootings, threats, attacks

Threats against lawmakers and political violence have increased over the years.

Then-Rep. Gabby Giffords of Arizona, a Democrat, was shot at a constituent event in 2011. Her husband, Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, on X condemned the violence: "No one should ever have to experience political violence — we know that firsthand."

And House Republican Majority Leader Steve Scalise of Louisiana was shot and injured in 2017 during a congressional baseball practice.

Of the 7,501 threats made to members of Congress during 2022, only 22 led to prosecution, the U.S. Capitol Police confirmed to States Newsroom.

Two years ago, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, Paul Pelosi, was attacked and injured in their home in California and a kidnapping and assassination attempt was thwarted in 2020 against Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

And in the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection on the U.S. Capitol, a mob of pro-Trump supporters breached the building in an attempt to stop Congress from certifying the electoral results.

## No motive cited yet

The motivation behind the attack is still under investigation. According to The Associated Press, there were bomb-making materials found in Crooks' home.

Crooks is a registered Republican, according to Pennsylvania voting records, and he made a \$15 donation to Progressive Turnout Project PAC in 2021, according to Federal Election Commission records.

The shooting came two days before thousands of Republicans gather for the Republican National Convention, where they will formally nominate Trump on Thursday. Trump also will announce his running mate at some point.

Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican convention host committee in Milwaukee, said on ABC News that he spoke with Trump after the shooting and that the former president wants the convention to move forward.

"It's not going to be scaled back," Priebus said. "In fact, if you had to ask me, I would say this conven-

tion is going to be epic.”

Senior advisers to the Trump campaign, Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita, said in a joint statement after the shooting that Trump wasn't changing his plans for the RNC.

“President Trump looks forward to joining you all in Milwaukee as we proceed with our convention to nominate him to serve as the 47th President of the United States,” they said. “As our party's nominee, President Trump will continue to share his vision to Make America Great Again.”

*Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.*

## **Victims and shooter identified in assassination attempt on Trump** **Motive of 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks still under investigation**

**BY: KIM LYONS - JULY 14, 2024 8:54 AM**

The FBI said early Sunday it had identified the man who shot former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Saturday as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. Crooks was killed at the scene.

Trump was pronounced safe shortly after the incident. Corey Comperatore, 50, of Sarver, who was at the rally with his family, was killed in the shooting and two others were injured. Local news reports identified Comperatore as a former fire chief for Buffalo Township.

“Tonight we had what we're calling an assassination attempt on our former president, Donald Trump,” Special Agent in Charge Kevin Rojek of the FBI Pittsburgh field office said at a press conference late Saturday. “We do not currently have an identified motive.”

### **Victims identified**

Gov. Josh Shapiro on Sunday said flags will be flown at half-staff at Pennsylvania facilities, public buildings, and grounds across the state.

“Corey was a girl dad. Corey was a firefighter. Corey went to church every Sunday. Corey loved his community and most especially, Corey loved his family,” Shapiro said during a press conference.

“Corey was an avid supporter of the former president, was so excited to be there last night with him in the community. I asked Corey's wife if it would be OK for me to share that we spoke. She said yes. She also asked that I share with all of you that Corey died a hero. That Corey dove on his family to protect them last night at this rally. Corey was the very best of us. May his memory be a blessing.”

Pennsylvania State Police identified the other two victims as David Dutch, 57, of New Kensington, and James Copenhaver, 74, of Moon Township. Both were listed in stable condition Sunday afternoon, PSP said.

“These victims and their families are certainly in our thoughts today,” state police Col. Christopher Paris said Sunday. “The Pennsylvania State Police continue to work tirelessly alongside our federal, state and local partners as this investigation continues.”

### **Little known about shooter**

State voter records show Crooks was a registered Republican, and a Federal Election Commission filing showed he made a \$15 donation on Jan. 20, 2021, to the “Progressive Turnout Project,” before he would have been old enough to vote. He was a 2022 graduate of Bethel Park High School, the school district confirmed in a statement.

The U.S. Secret Service said Saturday night that the shooter “fired multiple shots toward the stage from an elevated position outside of the rally venue.”

### **Trump posts message**

Trump thanked well-wishers in a post to Truth Social Sunday morning. “Thank you to everyone for your

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thoughts and prayers yesterday, as it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening. We will FEAR NOT, but instead remain resilient in our Faith and Defiant in the face of Wickedness," he wrote.

"Our love goes out to the other victims and their families," he continued. "We pray for the recovery of those who were wounded, and hold in our hearts the memory of the citizen who was so horribly killed.

"In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win. I truly love our Country, and love you all, and look forward to speaking to our Great Nation this week from Wisconsin."

## Authorities seek info

The site of the shooting — at the Butler Farm Show Inc. about 40 minutes north of Pittsburgh — remained an active crime scene, although authorities said they did not believe there was any ongoing threat.

Anyone who attended the rally or has information is asked to call 1-800-call-fbi, or go to [fbi.gov/butler](https://fbi.gov/butler).

The shooting began shortly after Trump took the stage at about 6 p.m. Saturday. Several loud pops could be heard and a bloodied Trump was whisked from the stage, but not before pumping his fist toward the crowd.

Trump said in a post to Truth Social a few hours after the shooting that he had been shot. "I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear," he wrote.

## Reaction pours in

How the shooter was able to get so close to the former president was not clear. Rojek said it was "surprising," and added "the Secret Service really needs to answer that question, they conduct the initial site survey, they do the initial security assessments and determine where the different security locations should be, and they're the ones who are in charge of securing the scene."

President Joe Biden condemned the shooting in a brief statement from Delaware Saturday night. "There's no place in America for this kind of violence," Biden said.

Congressional Republicans, meanwhile, have initiated an investigation into the incident. Rep. James Comer, R-Kentucky, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, sent an email to Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle requesting her to appear at a committee hearing July 22.

The Trump campaign said Saturday the former president, who was out of the hospital and at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, would attend the Republican National Committee in Milwaukee this week as planned. He will receive the GOP's formal nomination as its 2024 presidential candidate on Thursday.

*Kim Lyons, editor of the Pennsylvania Capital-Star, is a veteran western Pennsylvania journalist who has covered people and trends in politics and business for local and national publications including Pittsburgh City Paper, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the New York Times and Columbia Journalism Review.*

## GOP convention to go on as planned in Milwaukee, with Trump in attendance

**BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - JULY 14, 2024 8:50 AM**

WASHINGTON — Thousands of Republicans will gather in Milwaukee beginning Monday for the party's presidential nominating convention — a typically joyous occasion that will likely take on a different tone this year after a gunman shot at Donald Trump, injuring him, on Saturday.

Trump, who will be formally nominated as the GOP's presidential nominee on Thursday, still plans to attend the convention and officials stress the four-day event will go on as normal.

The shooting at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania is being investigated as an attempted assassination and the FBI identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pa. The U.S. Secret Service "neutralized the shooter, who is now deceased," the Secret Service said.

Trump, who has been declared "safe" by the Secret Service, posted on social media Sunday morning



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that he was still looking “forward to speaking to our Great Nation this week from Wisconsin.”

“Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers yesterday, as it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening,” Trump wrote. “We will FEAR NOT, but instead remain resilient in our Faith and Defiant in the face of Wickedness. Our love goes out to the other victims and their families. We pray for the recovery of those who were wounded, and hold in our hearts the memory of the citizen who was so horribly killed. In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win.”

Senior advisors to the Trump campaign Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita released a statement hours after the shooting on Saturday to say that the former president wasn’t changing his plans.

“President Trump looks forward to joining you all in Milwaukee as we proceed with our convention to nominate him to serve as the 47th President of the United States,” Wiles and LaCivita wrote in a joint statement. “As our party’s nominee, President Trump will continue to share his vision to Make America Great Again.”

Reince Priebus, chairman of the MKE 2024 Host Committee, said in a separate statement that he was “heartbroken that reports indicate that at least one innocent person has been killed and perhaps others have been injured. This horrific violence has no place in America.”

“Guests have already begun to arrive in Wisconsin, and we look forward to working with the Republican National Committee to welcome everyone to Milwaukee this week,” Priebus added.

Political party conventions are designated as National Special Security Events, or NSSEs, and come with extremely heightened security compared to a typical campaign rally.

The Secret Service will have at least two security perimeters around the Fiserv Forum in downtown Milwaukee and the city itself will be swarming with additional federal, state and local law enforcement officers.

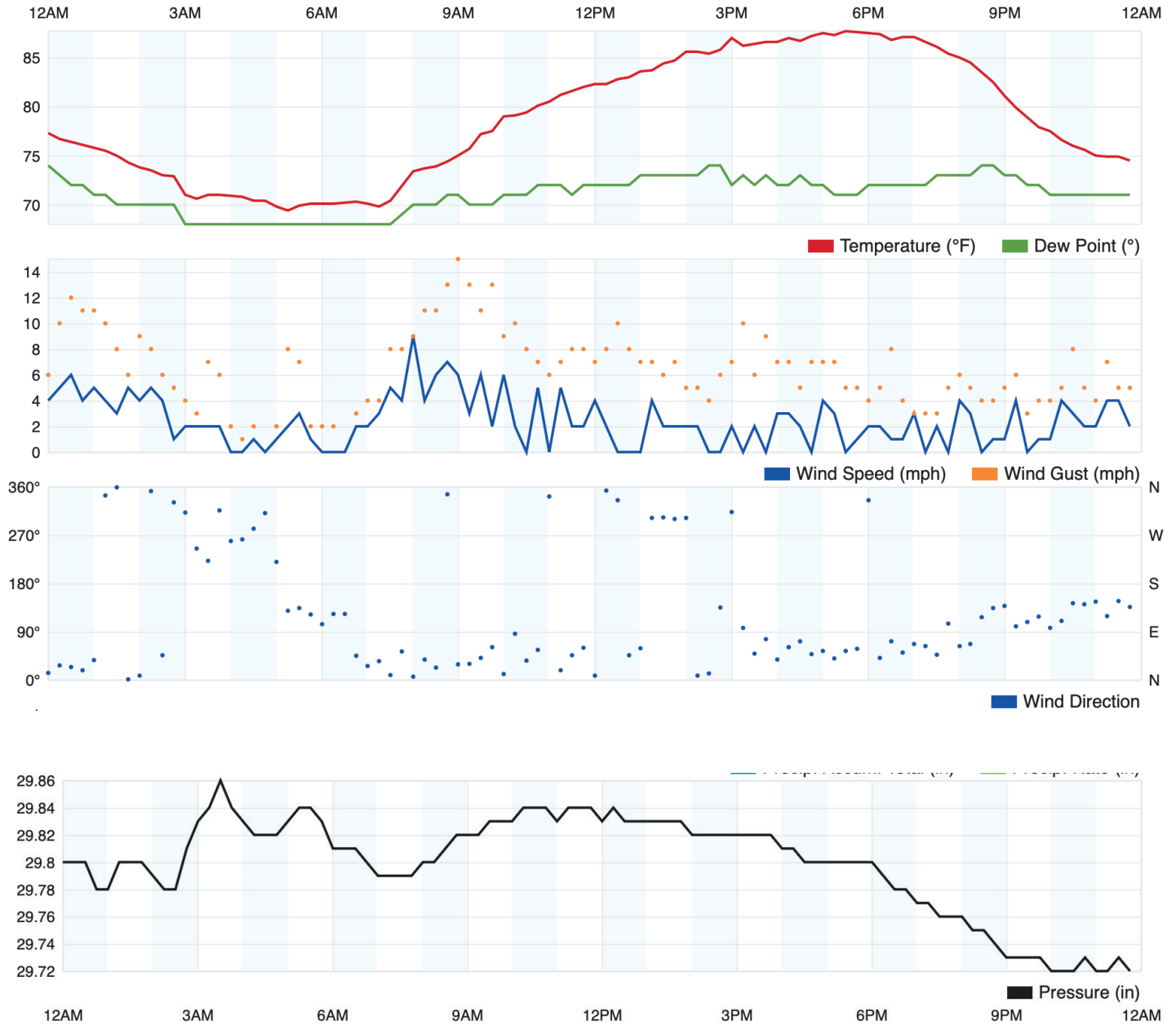
The convention will still host speeches throughout the week and the dozens of side events hosted by state Republican Parties and conservative organizations were still expected to continue, though likely with a more somber mood than was planned before the shooting.

*Jennifer covers the nation’s capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Monday



High: 83 °F

Slight Chance  
T-storms then  
Mostly Sunny

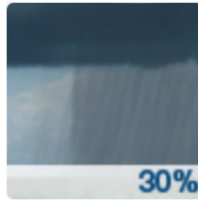
Monday Night



Low: 58 °F

Mostly Clear

Tuesday



High: 78 °F

Chance  
Showers

Tuesday Night



Low: 53 °F

Mostly Clear

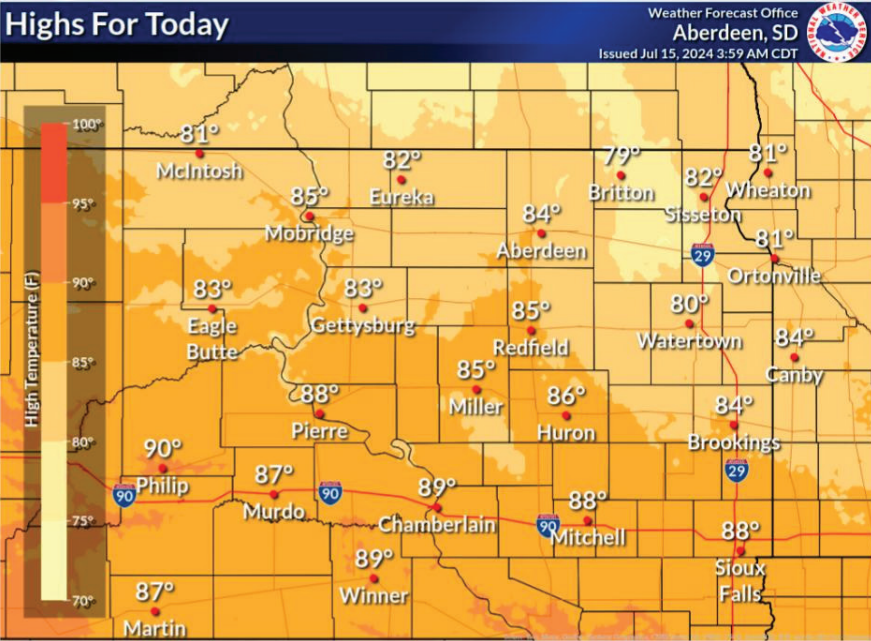
Wednesday



High: 77 °F

Sunny

## Not As Hot Today With Storms Tuesday July 15, 2024 4:20 AM



	Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)										7/17 Wed Maximum
	7/16 Tue										
	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	10	
Aberdeen	5	10	30	30	30	30	30	10	10	28	
Britton	0	5	20	20	20	20	20	5	5	21	
Brookings	0	0	5	25	35	35	30	20	20	35	
Chamberlain	5	5	30	35	50	50	35	20	20	48	
Clark	0	5	35	35	35	35	15	15		37	
Eagle Butte	15	30	45	45	45	25	25	10	10	45	
Ellendale	5	10	30	30	30	25	25	5	5	28	
Eureka	10	15	35	35	35	20	20	5	5	34	
Gettysburg	10	20	45	45	45	30	30	15	15	47	
Huron	0	0	20	45	45	40	25	20	20	43	
Kennebec	15	15	35	35	45	45	45	20	20	47	
McIntosh	10	35	35	35	35	15	15	5	5	37	
Milbank	0	5	10	10	15	15	15	10	10	14	
Miller	5	10	55	55	55	45	45	20	20	54	
Mobridge	10	20	35	35	35	15	15	5	5	36	
Murdo	15	25	35	35	50	50	50	20	20	49	
Pierre	15	25	40	40	40	40	40	15	15	39	
Redfield	5	10	45	45	45	35	35	15	15	44	
Sisseton	0	5	15	15	15	15	15	10	10	16	
Watertown	0	5	25	25	25	25	25	15	15	26	
Webster	0	5	25	25	25	25	25	10	10	26	
Wheaton	0	0	10	10	10	10	10	5	5	11	

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Not as hot today with highs ranging in the 80s, warmest over south central SD. More chances (20-55%) of showers and thunderstorms late tonight through Tuesday.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 88 °F at 5:27 PM

Low Temp: 69 °F at 5:16 AM

Wind: 15 mph at 8:58 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 21 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 114 in 1931

Record Low: 41 in 1912

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 1.69

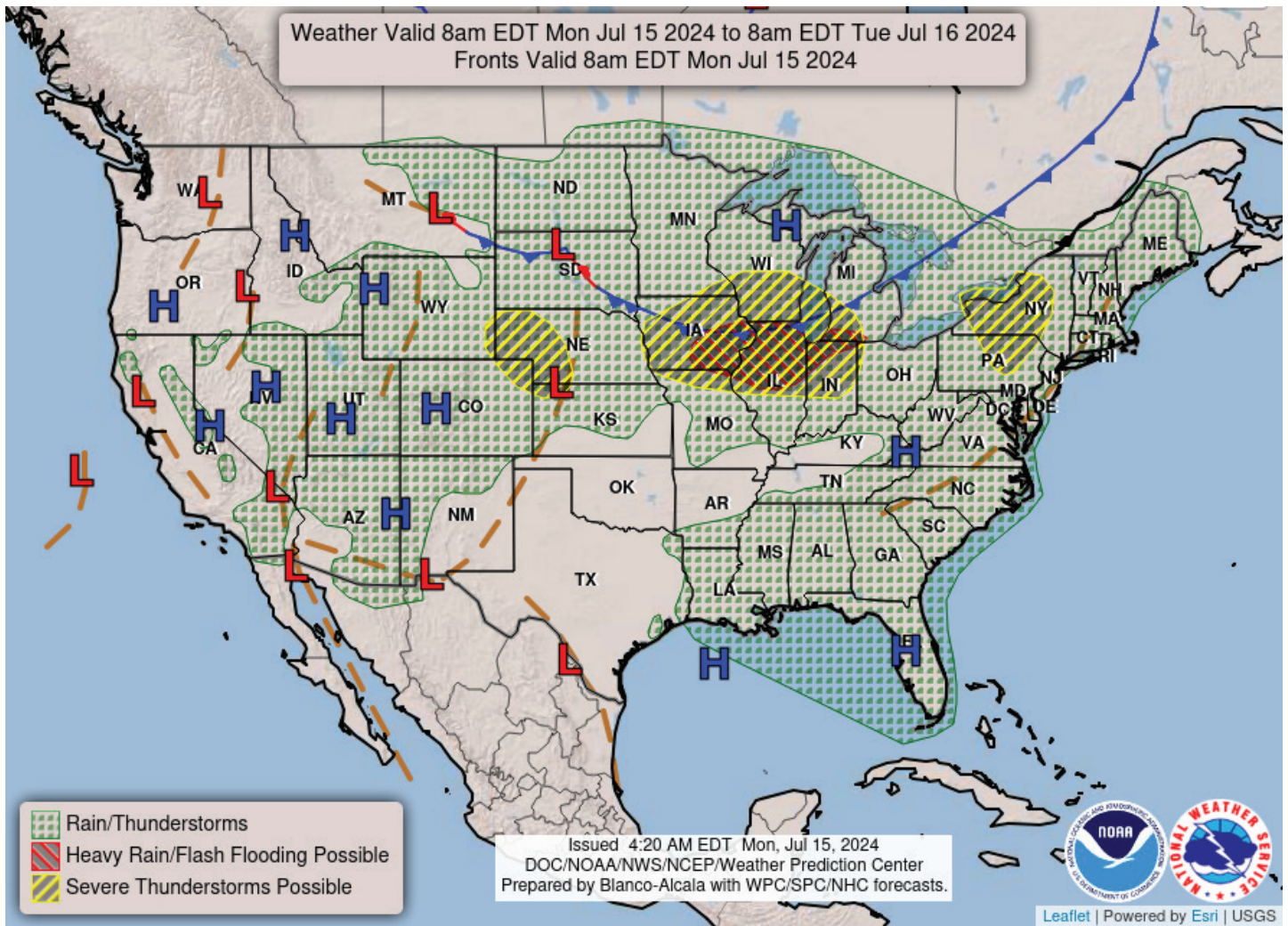
Precip to date in July: 3.56

Average Precip to date: 12.70

Precip Year to Date: 14.51

Sunset Tonight: 9:19:24 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:58:31 am





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## Today in Weather History

July 15, 1885: The first of three damaging tornadoes hit 7 miles NNE of Highmore, Hyde County, and moved to the northeast. Two small homes were destroyed before the funnel turned to the east, then northeast and north before lifting. This tornado was estimated to have an F2 strength and was seen in all directions for 20 miles. The second tornado appeared to be motionless 3 miles east of Harrold, and then moved east to Holabird, in Hyde County, where it destroyed two homes and dissipated. A third tornado, this one with an estimated F3 strength, formed to the west of Highmore and moved east into town, then lifted about 4 miles east of town. Three homes were destroyed, and about 20 other buildings were damaged at Highmore. A farmer was killed 2 miles east of town. Losses totaled about \$55,000, which included many new buildings, including a church and a skating rink.

July 15, 1986: Thunderstorms brought locally heavy rainfall to portions of Walworth to Marshall Counties. Three inches of rain in an hour and a half was reported in extreme northwest Marshall County. The highest rainfall amount was seven inches southeast of Bowdle. The rains caused lowland flooding, with water over several roads in Marshall County, including Highway 10, two miles east of Britton. In Britton, 3.86 inches of rain was reported.

July 15, 2006: Record heat occurred across central and north central South Dakota and into parts of northeast South Dakota. Afternoon high temperatures ranged from 105 to as high as 120 degrees. Record highs were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, and Timber Lake. Pierre set a new all-time record high of 117 degrees, and Mobridge tied their all-time record high of 116 degrees. Kennebec and Timber Lake both hit a record high temperature of 112 degrees. The coop observer station 17 miles west-southwest of Fort Pierre tied the state record high temperature with 120 degrees. Other high temperatures for the day were 116 degrees at Onida and Mission Ridge, 114 degrees at Murdo, 112 degrees at Redfield and Blunt, 111 degrees at Stephan, 110 degrees at Conde and Gann Valley, and 109 degrees at Aberdeen.

July 15, 2011: A large upper-level high-pressure area built over the region bringing sweltering and humid conditions. This heat was the worst to hit the area since July 2006. Beginning on Friday, July 15th and persisting through Wednesday, July 20th, many locations experienced high temperatures in the 90s to lower 100s, with low temperatures in the 70s at night. Also, humidity levels rose to extreme levels. Surface dew point temperatures in the 70s and lower 80s brought extreme heat index values of up to 110 to 125 degrees. The dew points were some of the highest ever recorded in the region on July 17th. The dew point at Aberdeen tied the previous record with 82 degrees. Sisseton also tied their record with 83 degrees. Watertown came a degree shy of matching their record with 80 degrees.

The prolonged heat took its toll on livestock with fifteen hundred cattle perishing during the heat. Numerous sports and outdoor activities were canceled. Some of the highest heat index values included; 110 degrees at Mobridge; 111 degrees at Watertown; 113 degrees at Miller and Gettysburg; 114 degrees at Wheaton and Faulkton; 116 degrees at Pierre; 118 degrees at Sisseton; and 121 degrees at Aberdeen. The highest heat index value occurred at Leola with a temperature of 98 degrees and a dewpoint of 82 degrees, and the heat index hit 125 degrees. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

1888: The Bandai volcano erupts on the Japanese island of Honshu on this day in 1888, killing hundreds and burying many nearby villages in ash. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1901: The city of Marquette, Michigan set their all-time record high temperature with 108-degree reading.

1916 - A dying South Atlantic Coast storm produced torrential rains in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Altapass, NC, was drenched with more than 22 inches of rain, a 24 hour rainfall record for the state. Flooding resulted in considerable damage, particularly to railroads. (David Ludlum)

1954 - The temperature at Balcony Falls, VA, soared to 110 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1983 - The Big Thompson Creek in Colorado flooded for the second time in seven years, claiming three lives, and filling the town of Estes Park with eight to ten feet of water. (The Weather Channel)

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### QUIET PLEASE

The young boys in a Paris school felt that they had learned enough for one week and decided that they would go to the park that Friday afternoon. One of them picked up a pebble and began to tap it on a bench as he sat gazing across a bed of flowers. Intrigued, a boy at the other end of the bench knelt down and put his ear to the board and was able to hear the tapping.

Smiling, he said to his friend, "I heard two quiet taps, a pause and then several loud taps."

A doctor sat watching them with great interest. Suddenly he stood up with a distant look in his eyes as though he was trying to imagine something he had not seen before. At that moment an idea was born in his mind. Whenever he wanted to hear the sounds going on in a person's body he would place his ear above the organs he was trying to hear. He wondered if it were possible to hear the sounds of a patient's organs more clearly if he placed a hollow tube on the person's body. From that idea the stethoscope was born.

You and I are "God's stethoscopes." He has given us ears to hear the cries of those around us who are suffering and crying out for His hope, help and healing. It is sad, however, that our ears are often so filled with the noises of this world that we cannot hear those who are calling out to Him for His love and salvation.

Prayer: Lord, all around us are those who need someone to hear their cries, wipe away their tears and share Your love. Help us to see, hear and respond. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help. Psalm 34:15



We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.24

15 35 48 53 68 8

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$226,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 23  
DRAW: Mins 49 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.13.24

8 20 27 34 49 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$5,050,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 38 Mins 49  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.14.24

9 13 16 20 23 11

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 16 Hrs 53 Mins 49  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.13.24

1 8 10 25 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$35,000**

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 53  
DRAW: Mins 49 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.13.24

40 57 59 64 65 15

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 22 Mins 49  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.13.24

9 55 59 66 69 21

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$64,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 22 Mins 49  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)



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## Upcoming Groton Events

- 07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center
- 07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
- 07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day
- 07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm
- 07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- 07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
- 07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm
- 08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center
- 08/02/2024 Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
- 08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm
- 08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament
- 08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm
- 09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm
- 11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.
- 12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party & Tour of Homes with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close
- 04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
- 05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
- 07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

## News from the Associated Press

### Former fire chief who died at Trump rally used his body to shield family from gunfire

By RON TODT, MARK SCOLFORO and KIMBERLEE KRUESI Associated Press

BUFFALO TOWNSHIP, Pa. (AP) — The former fire chief who was killed at a Pennsylvania rally for Donald Trump spent his final moments diving down in front of his family, protecting them from the gunfire that rang out Saturday during an assassination attempt against the former president.

Corey Comperatore's quick decision to use his body as a shield against the bullets flying toward his wife and daughter rang true to the close friends and neighbors who loved and respected the proud 50-year-old Trump supporter, noting that the Butler County resident was a "man of conviction."

"He's a literal hero. He shoved his family out of the way, and he got killed for them," said Mike Morehouse, who lived next to Comperatore for the last eight years. "He's a hero that I was happy to have as a neighbor."

Comperatore died Saturday during an attempt to kill Trump at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. At least two other people were injured: David Dutch, 57, of New Kensington, Pennsylvania, and James Copenhaver, 74, of Moon Township, Pennsylvania, according to the Pennsylvania State Police. Both were listed in stable condition as of Sunday.

As support for Comperatore's family began to pour in from across the country, President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden also extended their "deepest condolences."

"He was a father. He was protecting his family from the bullets that were being fired and he lost his life, God love him," said Biden, who added he was praying for the full recovery of the wounded.

Separately, Texas U.S. Rep. Ronny Jackson said in a statement Sunday that his nephew was injured but "thankfully his injury was not serious."

"My family was sitting in the front, near where the President was speaking," Jackson said. "They heard shots ringing out — my nephew then realized he had blood on his neck and something had grazed and cut his neck. He was treated by the providers in the medical tent."

The Secret Service said it killed the suspected shooter, who attacked from an elevated position outside the rally venue.

The former president was showing off a chart of border-crossing numbers when at least five shots were fired. Trump was seen holding his ear and got down on the ground. Agents quickly huddled in a shield around him. When he stood, his face bloodied, he pumped his fist to cheering supporters as he was whisked off stage by Secret Service agents.

Trump later extended his condolences to Comperatore's family.

Randy Reamer, president of the Buffalo Township volunteer fire company, called Comperatore "a stand-up guy" and "a true brother of the fire service." He said Comperatore served as chief of the company for about three years but was also a life member, meaning he had served for more than 20 years.

"Just a great all-around guy, always willing to help someone out," Reamer said of Comperatore. "He definitely stood up for what he believed in, never backed down to anyone. ... He was a really good guy."

A crew was power-washing the front of the Buffalo Township Volunteer Fire Company on Sunday with plans to install memorial drapery to honor the slain former chief.

Assistant Chief Ricky Heasley of Sarver, who knew Comperatore for more than a decade, remembered him as very outgoing and full of life.

"He never had a bad word," Heasley said.

And in the front yard of the Comperatores' two-story home in Butler County, a small memorial had sprung up of a U.S. flag and small bunches of flowers.

For Morehouse, Comperatore's death was an emotional blow — but it also has inspired political action. Morehouse says he plans on casting a ballot for the first time in his life come November and he plans on

checking Trump's name.

"As soon as I heard what happened and then learned that it was to Corey, I went upstairs as soon as I got home and I registered to vote," Morehouse said. "This is the first time I've ever voted and I think it will be in his memory."

A GoFundMe launched to support Comperatore's family had already surpassed more than \$696,000 in donations as of Sunday.

## Trump heads to convention as authorities investigate motive, security in assassination attempt

By JULIE CARR SMYTH, JILL COLVIN, COLLEEN LONG, MICHAEL BALSAMO, ERIC TUCKER and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

BUTLER, Pa. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump called for unity and resilience Sunday after an attempt on his life injected fresh uncertainty into an already tumultuous presidential campaign, while President Joe Biden implored Americans to "cool it down" in the final stretch and "resolve our differences at the ballot box."

The opponents' statements followed an attack that shook the firmament of the American political system, causing at least a temporary detente in a heated presidential campaign expected to resume again in earnest amid the pageantry of the upcoming Republican National Convention.

A full day after the shooting, the gunman's motive remained a mystery, with investigators saying they believe he acted alone before he was fatally shot by Secret Service agents. Biden ordered an independent security review of the attack, which killed a bystander, critically wounded two others and prompted questions about how a gunman was able to open fire from a rooftop near a Pennsylvania campaign rally. The FBI was investigating the shooting as a potential act of domestic terrorism.

Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, said the upper part of his right ear was pierced by a bullet. His aides said he was in "great spirits" and doing well. He arrived in Milwaukee on Sunday evening for the convention, which begins Monday. He told the Washington Examiner that he had rewritten his speech for the event to focus more on national unity than on the policies of Biden.

In a post Sunday on his social media site, Trump said: "In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win."

In a prime-time address, Biden urged the public to recommit to civil debate. "There is no place in America for this kind of violence — for any violence. Ever. Period. No exception," he said. "We can't allow this violence to be normalized."

Trump on Saturday night spoke briefly with Biden, whose Sunday night speech marked his third time addressing the shooting.

The rallygoer who was killed was Corey Comperatore, a former fire chief from the area, according to Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, who said Comperatore "died a hero."

"His wife shared with me that he dove on his family to protect them," Shapiro said. The two wounded bystanders were listed in stable condition.

FBI investigates shooting as possible domestic terrorism

The FBI identified the gunman as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from the scene of the shooting.

The gunman had his father's AR-style rifle and was perched atop a nearby roof when some rallygoers pointed him out to local law enforcement, said two law enforcement officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing criminal probe.

A local law enforcement officer climbed to the roof and found Crooks, who pointed the rifle at the officer. The officer retreated down the ladder, and the gunman quickly fired toward Trump, the officials said. That's when U.S. Secret Service gunmen shot him, the officials said.

Questions abounded about how the gunman got so close in the first place. Kevin Rojek, the agent in

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charge of the FBI's Pittsburgh field office, said "it is surprising" the gunman was able to open fire on the stage before the Secret Service killed him.

Bomb-making materials were found inside both Crooks' vehicle and at his home, officials said. The FBI described the devices as "rudimentary."

His motive remained unclear. Crooks wasn't on the FBI's radar, and he was believed to have acted alone. Investigators combed through his social media accounts but found no immediate threatening writing or posts, or communications indicating an ideological motive. His family was cooperating. Relatives didn't return messages seeking comment from AP.

Crooks' political leanings weren't clear. Records show him registered as a Republican voter in Pennsylvania, but federal campaign finance reports also show he gave \$15 to a progressive political action committee on Jan. 20, 2021, the day Biden was sworn in.

The absence of a clear ideological motive added to deepening questions about the shooting.

Biden urged Americans to stay patient. "Please, don't make assumptions about his motives or his affiliations," he said.

Most serious assassination attempt since 1981

The attack was the most serious attempt to kill a president or presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981. It drew new attention to concerns about political violence in a deeply polarized U.S. less than four months before the election.

FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate said agents have seen increasingly violent rhetoric online since the rally, along with people posing online as the dead shooter. He said the FBI was focused on the upcoming political conventions in Milwaukee and Chicago.

Biden on Sunday ordered a security review of operations for the Republican National Convention, which is proceeding as planned. The Secret Service said it was "confident" in the security plan, and no additional changes were planned.

Biden said the two men had a "short but good" conversation Saturday night. Biden returned to Washington from his Delaware beach home where he met with leaders in the Situation Room about the attack.

Many Republicans blamed the violence on Biden and his allies, arguing that sustained attacks on Trump as a threat to democracy have created a toxic environment.

It's unclear whether Biden will be forced to recalibrate a campaign largely focused on Trump as a threat to democracy. It is a situation the U.S. has not seen since Teddy Roosevelt was shot a month before the election in 1912 while campaigning to regain the White House as a third-party candidate.

A rally disrupted by gunfire

Trump was showing off a chart of border crossing numbers when the gunfire began after 6:10 p.m. Saturday.

As the first pop rang out, Trump said "oh," raised his hand to his right ear and looked at it, then quickly crouched to the ground. People in the stands behind him also crouched as screams rang out.

Someone could be heard near the microphone saying, "Get down, get down, get down, get down!" as agents rushed to the stage. They piled atop Trump to shield him as other agents took up positions on stage to search for the threat.

Afterward, voices were heard saying, "Shooter's down" several times, before someone asked, "Are we good to move?" and "Are we clear?" Then someone ordered, "Let's move."

Trump got to his feet moments later and could be seen reaching with his right hand toward his face, streaked with blood. He then pumped his fist in the air and appeared to mouth the word "fight" twice, prompting cheers and chants of "USA. USA. USA."

His motorcade left moments later. Video showed Trump turning back to the crowd and raising a fist right before he was put into a vehicle.

Witnesses heard gunshots and ducked for cover

When the firing began, "everybody went to their knees or their prone position," said Dave McCormick, the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania, who was sitting to Trump's right on stage.



As he saw Trump raise his fist, McCormick said, he looked over his shoulder and noticed someone had been hit in the bleachers behind the stage.

Eventually, first responders were able to carry the wounded person out, McCormick said.

Reporters heard five or six shots, and many ducked for cover, hiding under tables. After the first two or three bangs, people in the crowd looked startled but not panicked. An AP reporter described the noise as sounding like firecrackers at first, or perhaps a car backfiring.

When it was clear the situation was contained and Trump wouldn't return to speak, attendees started filing out. Police soon told everyone to leave, and Secret Service agents described the site as "a live crime scene."

Republican Rep. Mike Kelly, who represents the area where the shooting occurred, attended with his wife and grandchildren and was just behind Trump when he was wounded. Kelly said he was "in a state of bewilderment of how and what has happened to the United States of America."

"I just wish people — tone it down," he said. "Quit trying to find, to blame somebody. The blame lies somewhere in the psyche of America."

## **In prime-time address, Biden asks Americans to reject political violence and 'cool it down'**

By WILL WEISSERT and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Sunday urged Americans to reject political violence and recommit themselves to resolving their differences peacefully, saying the upcoming presidential election will be a "time of testing" in the aftermath of the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump.

In a prime-time national address from the Oval Office, Biden said political passions can run high but "we must never descend into violence." The president said his party and the Republicans can compete forcefully over different policy visions — but must do it in a civil fashion.

"All of us now face a time of testing as the election approaches," Biden said. "There is no place in America for this kind of violence — for any violence. Ever. Period. No exception. We can't allow this violence to be normalized."

Biden spoke for six minutes in his third address to the nation since Saturday evening's attack by a shooter that left Trump with a bloodied ear, killed one rallygoer and seriously injured two others. His warning came hours after FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate said agents have seen increasingly violent rhetoric online since the attack at the Trump rally.

Since the shooting, the president and his team had been grappling with how to calibrate the political path forward after the weekend attack targeting the very person Biden is trying to defeat in November's election. Biden sharply condemned the attack, but indicated he plans to continue to press his campaign agenda and has "no doubt" Republicans will do the same when they open the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee on Monday.

He emphasized that said those disagreements must remain peaceful.

"We can do this," Biden pleaded, saying the nation was founded on a democracy that gave reason and balance a chance to prevail over brute force. Biden also warned that political tensions were being inflamed by a balkanized media environment and exploited by American enemies.

"Here in America we need to get out of our silos, where we only listen to those with whom we agree, where misinformation is rampant, where foreign actors fan the flames of our division to shape the outcomes consistent with their interests, not ours," Biden said.

Earlier Sunday, Biden was briefed in the White House Situation Room and condemned the attempted assassination of Trump as "contrary to everything we stand for as a nation." He said he was ordering an independent security review of how such an attack could have happened.

The president said he has also directed the U.S. Secret Service to review all security measures for the RNC. Hours later, Audrey Gibson-Cicchino, the Secret Service's coordinator for the convention, said the weekend attack against Trump did not warrant any changes to the agency's security plan for the event

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and officials "are fully prepared."

Biden promised a "thorough and swift" review and asked the public not to "make assumptions" about the shooter's motives or affiliations.

The president said he and first lady Jill Biden were praying for the family of Corey Comperatore, a former fire chief who was shot and killed during the Trump rally Saturday night in Butler, Pennsylvania.

"He was protecting his family from the bullets," Biden said. "God love him."

The president also said he'd had a "short but good conversation" with Trump in the hours after the shootings and said he was "sincerely grateful" that the former president is "doing well and recovering."

Trump, who has called for national resilience since the shooting, posted on his social media account after Biden's remarks, "UNITE AMERICA!"

Biden, who has set out to brand Trump as a dire threat to democracy and the nation's very founding principles, put a temporary pause on such political messaging after the shooting. Shortly after Saturday night's attack, Biden's reelection campaign froze "all outbound communications" and worked to pull down its television ads.

The president also postponed a planned trip to Texas on Monday, where he was to speak on the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act at the Lyndon B. Johnson presidential library. An NBC News interview between Biden and anchor Lester Holt will now occur at the White House, instead of in Texas, as initially planned.

Biden's campaign said that, after the NBC interview airs on Monday night, the Democratic National Committee "will continue drawing the contrast" with Trump over the course of the GOP convention. It was unclear when campaign ads will resume.

Biden still plans to make a planned trip to Las Vegas, which will include a campaign event Wednesday. Vice President Kamala Harris postponed her planned campaign trip to Florida on Tuesday, where she had been set to meet with Republican women.

Trump, meanwhile, arrived Sunday evening in Milwaukee for the Republican convention, where criticism of Biden and the Democrats is sure to be searing.

The weekend developments were only the latest upheaval in a campaign that has been extraordinarily topsy-turvy in recent weeks.

Biden's shaky debate performance on June 27 so spooked his own party that some top surrogates and donors turned on him, and nearly 20 Democratic members of Congress called on the president to leave the race outright. Facing mounting questions about whether he was fit for a second term, Biden and his top advisers have been scrambling to salvage his campaign by adding events around the country and more aggressively criticizing Trump.

Saturday's attack upended — at least temporarily — that counteroffensive. The campaign hoped that Sunday's Oval Office address let Biden further drive home his point about unity while demonstrating leadership that could assuage nervous critics within his own party.

"We'll debate and we'll disagree, that's not going to change," Biden said in his afternoon remarks. "But we'll not lose sight of who we are as Americans."

Biden tied Saturday's shooting to other incidents of political violence, from the 2017 death of a counterprotester at a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, to the Capitol insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, by Trump supporters seeking to prevent the certification of the Electoral College count.

Although investigators are still in the early stages of determining what occurred and why, some Biden critics were calling out the president for telling donors in a private call Monday that "it's time to put Trump in the bullseye."

A person familiar with those remarks said the president was trying to make the point that Trump had gotten away with a light public schedule after last month's debate while the president himself faced intense scrutiny. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to more freely discuss private conversations.

In the donor call, Biden said: "I have one job and that's to beat Donald Trump. ... I'm absolutely certain I'm the best person to be able to do that."

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He continued: "So, we're done talking about the debate. It's time to put Trump in the bullseye. He's gotten away with doing nothing for the last 10 days except ride around in his golf cart, bragging about scores he didn't score. ... Anyway I won't get into his golf game."

## Argentina wins record 16th Copa America title, beats Colombia 1-0 after Messi gets hurt

By ALANIS THAMES AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Lionel Messi pumped his arms. The trophy bounced up and down in his grasp. Tears of frustration from an hour or so earlier had turned to laughs and hugs for the two-time Copa America champion and World Cup winner.

Messi was forced to watch much of the second half and extra time because of a leg injury. Still, Argentina won its second straight Copa America championship, beating Colombia 1-0 Sunday night on Lautaro Martínez's 112th-minute goal.

"Leo is the greatest player in history," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said through an interpreter. "He never wants to leave the pitch. He has a swollen ankle and wants to keep playing. I prefer those players. He wants to play not because he is egotistical or selfish. He wants to keep playing because he doesn't want to leave his teammates. ... He was born to be on the pitch."

Messi appeared to sustain a non-contact injury while running and falling in the 64th minute. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner covered his face with his hands as he sat on the bench and sobbed.

Martínez later ran to that bench to hug his 37-year-old captain after the goal that propelled Argentina to its record 16th Copa title.

Appearing to be limping after the final whistle sounded well past midnight, Messi beckoned for his senior teammates to lift the trophy with him: 36-year-old Nicolás Ottamendi and Ángel Di María, who is retiring from the national team. As white confetti cascaded, the trio hugged.

"The truth is, it's hard to describe," Di Maria said. "It was written like that. I told the guys last night at dinner that I dreamt it. That's why I said it was my last Copa America. I dreamt we made it to the final and we won it so I could go out this way.

"I'll be always grateful to this generation who gave me everything, helped me win what I always wanted and today, I am leaving like this," Di Maria said. "It could not be better."

In a match that started 1 hour, 22 minutes late because of crowd trouble at Hard Rock Stadium, Argentina won its third straight major title following the 2021 Copa America and 2022 World Cup and matched Spain, which won the 2008 and 2012 European Championships around the 2010 World Cup.

Argentina also stopped Colombia's 28-game unbeaten streak dating to a 1-0 loss to Albiceleste in a February 2022 World Cup qualifier, also on a Martínez goal.

Martínez entered in the 97th minute Sunday and scored from Giovani Lo Celso's perfect pass after Leandro Paredes stripped the ball from a Colombian with a sliding tackle near the center stripe. Paredes exchanged passes with Martínez, then threaded the ball to Lo Celso, who one-timed a through ball as Martínez sprinted past defender Carlos Cuesta.

Martínez ran onto the ball, took a touch that sent him into the penalty area and struck a right-foot shot through the upraised arms of sliding goalkeeper Camilo Vargas for his 29th international goal, his tournament-high fifth.

Colombia coach Néstor Lorenzo said many Colombia players finished with severe cramping. Temperatures were in the upper 80s with humidity around 73%.

"It is not easy to play a final. It's not easy for anyone," Lorenzo said through an interpreter. "They played six matches in 21 days and started feeling the results. They all left feeling cramps, some of them in both legs. They all left the pitch feeling the wear down and the tiredness."

Making his 39th and possibly last Copa America appearance, Messi had one goal in the tournament. He went down in the 36th minute after his left ankle was caught by Santiago Arias but walked back onto the field three minutes later.

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Messi looked to the bench as soon as he fell to the field in the second half, appearing to know his tournament was over. He took off his right boot as he walked off and slammed it in frustration, and his ankle appeared to swell. With his right foot bare, he stood by the bench and raised his arms while teammates ran onto the field when Martínez scored.

The start was delayed from 8 p.m. EDT to 9:22 p.m. because of crowd control issues outside the stadium, including troves of fans breaching security gates at a venue to be used for the 2026 World Cup.

Days after Uruguay players were involved in a brawl with Colombia fans following their semifinal match in Charlotte, North Carolina, video showed fans climbing fences and railings to get inside the championship match, with officials unable to keep track of who had purchased tickets and who didn't.

Hard Rock Stadium released a statement after the game, saying the venue "takes pride in hosting world-class events year-round in a safe and successful manner."

"We understand there are disappointed ticket holders who were not able to enter the stadium after the perimeter was closed," the statement said, "and we will work in partnership with CONMEBOL to address those individual concerns. Ultimately, there is nothing more important than the health and safety of all guests and staff, and that will always remain our priority."

Colombia was more aggressive and forced goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez to make four saves in the first half, but Argentina began to threaten more in the second.

Nicolás Tagliafico thought he scored in the 75th minute but was ruled offside. Nicolás González, who replaced Messi, was stopped by Vargas in the 95th minute.

Numerous players lost their footing during the second half of Sunday's match. The grass was heavily watered with sprinklers following the halftime performance by Colombian pop star Shakira, which caused an extended halftime break.

Halftime was increased from the normal 15 minutes to around 25 minutes because of the performance.

Lorenzo was critical of the extra time before the final match, noting sanctions given to coaches for late second-half returns to the pitch earlier in the tournament. Sunday, he said continuity in halftime rules would be best to "safeguard the fitness and physical aptitude of the players."

Colombia's James Rodríguez was selected best player of the tournament, with six assists.

## **A decade after deadly MH17 crash, the father of one victim is still waiting for Russia to say sorry**

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

HILVERSUM, Netherlands (AP) — Quinn Schansman dreamed of becoming the youngest-ever CEO of an American company. A decade ago, he'd just finished the first year of an international business degree in Amsterdam as a step toward that lofty goal.

But the 18-year-old dual Dutch American citizen's future — whatever it may have held — was cruelly cut short when he was one of the 298 people killed as a Soviet-era Buk surface-to-air rocket, launched from territory in eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russian rebels, destroyed Malaysia Airlines flight 17.

The conflict in Ukraine has since erupted into full-scale war following Russia's invasion in February 2022.

On Wednesday, Quinn's father, Thomas Schansman, will read out his name and those of other victims during a commemoration marking 10 years since the tragedy at a monument near Schiphol, the airport flight MH17 left on its way to Kuala Lumpur on July 17, 2014.

Schansman has learned to live with the loss of his son, but what he still can't accept is Moscow's blunt denials of responsibility for the downing of the Boeing 777, which shattered in midair and scattered bodies and wreckage over agricultural land and fields of sunflowers in eastern Ukraine.

An international investigation concluded that the Buk missile system belonged to the Russian 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade and that it was driven into Ukraine from a Russian military base near the city of Kursk and returned there after the plane was shot down.

In 2022, after a trial that lasted more than two years, a Dutch court convicted two Russians and a pro-Russian Ukrainian in absentia of murder for their roles in transporting the missile. They were given life



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prison sentences but remain at large because Russia refused to surrender them to face trial. One other Russian was acquitted.

Russia steadfastly denies any responsibility.

More legal action is underway at the European Court of Human Rights and the International Civil Aviation Organization Council to hold Russia to account under international law for the attack.

If those organizations rule that Moscow was responsible, Schansman says it will be a moment to celebrate — but it wouldn't be the end of the story.

"That does not provide closure. For me, closure is the acknowledgment by Russia that they delivered the Buk, the recognition that they must also take responsibility for it," Schansman told The Associated Press. "I want to hear apologies. The simple 'Sorry.'"

Nationals of 16 countries killed

People killed in the crash were citizens of the Netherlands, Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, the Philippines, Canada, New Zealand, Vietnam, Israel, Italy, Romania, the United States and South Africa.

Australian Attorney General Mark Dreyfus will also be in the Netherlands for the commemoration. He honored families of the dead in a statement earlier this month, saying that 38 of the victims "called Australia home."

"I pay tribute to their bravery, their strength and their perseverance. Seeking justice for those aboard flight MH17 has required many of those who loved them most to tell and re-tell their stories of loss in successive legal proceedings," he said.

Dreyfus said the anniversary and a commemoration at Parliament House in Canberra would be "a moment to pause and remember those whose lives were tragically cut short in a senseless act of violence. It will be a moment to commit ourselves to continue to seek accountability for those responsible for this despicable crime."

Schansman said he no longer cares if other people who were involved in firing the missile are brought to justice because "it won't bring my son back."

He just wants Russia to admit responsibility.

"The fact that for all these years — right up to today — they continue to deny and to spread disinformation, that hurts," Schansman said. "That is irritating and it makes you at certain times a bitter person."

Mark Rutte, the former Dutch prime minister who was in office when the Boeing 777 was shot down, said the disaster and its decade-long aftermath was "perhaps the most drastic and emotional event of my entire premiership. I have always tried to be a support to the relatives."

Rutte's administration helped coordinate a complex operation to repatriate the remains of the victims to the Netherlands. Thousands of people solemnly lined highways as convoys of hearses carried coffins from a military airbase to a barracks where the painstaking process of identification took place.

Wednesday's ceremony will be held at the national MH17 memorial, a park near Schiphol Airport that is planted with 298 trees — one for each victim — and sunflowers, reflecting the flowers that grew at the crash scene.

And while Wednesday will mark the 10th anniversary of Quinn's death, his name lives on. His sister Nerissa recently gave birth to her first daughter, named Frida Quinn Schansman Pouw.

## A timeline of the assassination attempt on former President Trump

By JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump was the target of an assassination attempt at a Pennsylvania rally Saturday that set off panic as a bloodied Trump was surrounded by Secret Service and hurried into his vehicle.

A former fire chief attending the rally with family was killed, as was the gunman. Two other people were critically wounded.

An AP analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos from the scene of the Trump rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, as well as satellite imagery of the site, shows the shooter was able to get astonishingly close

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to the stage where the former president was speaking.

Here's what's known so far about the timeline of the shooting.

6:02 p.m. ET

Trump takes the stage to the strains of "God Bless the U.S.A." He waves at the cheering crowd and begins his regular rally speech, with spectators both in front of him and behind him on risers.

Around 6:10 p.m.

— After officers were told that a man acting suspiciously and pacing near magnetometers was climbing a ladder on a nearby building, according to a local law enforcement officer who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation, a local officer climbed to the roof, according to Butler County Sheriff Michael Slupe.

— A man identified by the FBI as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks turned toward the officer just before the officer dropped down to safety, Slupe said.

— Trump is showing off border-crossing numbers when gunfire begins.

— As the first pop rings out, Trump say "Oh," and raises his hand to his right ear and looks at it, before quickly crouching to the ground behind his lectern.

— Secret Service agents rush to the stage and pile atop the former president to shield him.

— Corey Comperatore, a 50-year-old former fire chief attending the rally, is shot and killed. Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said Sunday that Comperatore used his body as a shield to protect his wife and daughter.

— Secret Service counter snipers fire back and shoot Crooks.

About 1 minute after the shots

— Video shows Trump getting to his feet and reaching with his right hand toward his face, which was smeared with blood.

— As Trump stands up, he pumps to the crowd with his right fist.

— He appears to mouth the word "fight" twice to his crowd of supporters, prompting loud cheers and then chants of "USA. USA. USA."

About 2 minutes after the shots

Trump turns back to the crowd and again raises a fist right before agents put him into a vehicle and he is taken to a local hospital.

6:50 p.m.

Secret Service says "the former President is safe."

8:42 p.m.

Trump posts on his social media site that he was injured in the upper part of his right ear. "I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin," he said.

About 12:10 a.m.

Trump's private jet lands at Newark Liberty International Airport.

Video posted by an aide showed the former president deplaning, flanked by U.S. Secret Service agents and heavily armed members of the agency's counter assault team. It was an unusually visible show of force by his protective detail.

Trump travels to his private golf club in nearby Bedminster, New Jersey, to spend the night.

## **GOP convention protests are on despite shooting at Trump rally**

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Activists gathering in Milwaukee for the start of the Republican National Convention say the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump won't affect their long-standing plans to demonstrate outside the convention site this week.

A diverse range of organizations and activists is expected outside the downtown Fiserv Forum. The largest expected demonstration was slated to start Monday morning. The Coalition to March on the RNC,

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comprised largely of local groups, planned to protest for access to abortion rights, for immigrant rights, and against the war in Gaza among other issues.

"The shooting has nothing to do with us," said Omar Flores, a coalition spokesman, speaking about the Saturday evening shots fired at Trump during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. "We're going to continue with the march as we planned."

The U.S. Secret Service has said security plans — in the works for more than a year — remain the same after the Saturday shooting in which Trump has said his ear was pierced by a bullet and images show blood streaming from a wound. A nearby audience member was fatally shot and two others critically injured in the assault, which has prompted widespread calls to evaluate security measures.

The progressive coalition protesting the RNC has touted their Monday demonstrations as "family friendly." Organizers expect an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 attendees. Separately, the Philadelphia-based Poor People's Army, which organizes for economic justice, plans an afternoon march. Smaller organizations also plan to demonstrate inside parks closer to the convention site where Trump is set to officially accept the party's presidential nomination later this week.

Milwaukee's leaders reiterated their confidence in security plans Sunday as delegates, activists and journalists started arriving in town. An estimated 30,000 people are expected.

Trump arrived in Milwaukee on Sunday.

"We take this matter very, very seriously. We take public safety very, very seriously," Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson said Sunday. "And I have been so pleased to work in collaboration not just with the United States Secret Service but also with local law enforcement and public safety on the ground here."

Police Chief Jeffrey Norman said law enforcement was "working around the clock" to be ready.

Before the shooting in Pennsylvania, the activist coalition had been at odds with the city and law enforcement for months over a march route. Activists lost a lawsuit over restrictions on where they could demonstrate and had raised concerns about their message being stifled.

But on Friday they announced a "handshake agreement" over their route that includes allowing a city representative to accompany their protest to "make sure things go without a hitch."

City officials and federal authorities have repeatedly said their priority is safety and insist they've made free speech accommodations. The city has allowed protests at two parks near the convention. One, Haymarket Square Park, is visible from the convention site. There is to be a city-provided stage in the vicinity and speakers will get 20 minutes apiece. A city sign-up lists more than 100 people with a wide range of agendas, including anti-abortion rights activists, veterans groups and political candidates. The other park, Zeidler Union Square, is just under a mile away.

Activists say they'll infuse their messages with moments of levity, including costumes and a television ventriloquist who is bringing a Trump puppet.

Heavy police presence is also assured.

Many activists are using the experience in Milwaukee to prepare for the Democratic National Convention in Chicago next month. That event is expected to draw even more people, and Chicago police have been undergoing training on constitutional policing and preparing for the possibility of mass arrests.

Milwaukee police have done some exercises related to the convention, though not widespread training.

"With any very large gathering, people must always be on top of their toes," said Hilario Deleon, chairman of the Milwaukee County Republican Party. "If it's successful, the city is successful."

## From basement to battlefield: Ukrainian startups create low-cost robots to fight Russia

By DEREK GATOPOULOS and ANTON SHTUKA Associated Press

NORTHERN UKRAINE (AP) — Struggling with manpower shortages, overwhelming odds and uneven international assistance, Ukraine hopes to find a strategic edge against Russia in an abandoned warehouse or a factory basement.

An ecosystem of laboratories in hundreds of secret workshops is leveraging innovation to create a robot

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army that Ukraine hopes will kill Russian troops and save its own wounded soldiers and civilians.

Defense startups across Ukraine — about 250 according to industry estimates — are creating the killing machines at secret locations that typically look like rural car repair shops.

Employees at a startup run by entrepreneur Andrii Denysenko can put together an unmanned ground vehicle called the Odyssey in four days at a shed used by the company. Its most important feature is the price tag: \$35,000, or roughly 10% of the cost of an imported model.

Denysenko asked that The Associated Press not publish details of the location to protect the infrastructure and the people working there.

The site is partitioned into small rooms for welding and body work. That includes making fiberglass cargo beds, spray-painting the vehicles gun-green and fitting basic electronics, battery-powered engines, off-the-shelf cameras and thermal sensors.

The military is assessing dozens of new unmanned air, ground and marine vehicles produced by the no-frills startup sector, whose production methods are far removed from giant Western defense companies'.

A fourth branch of Ukraine's military — the Unmanned Systems Forces — joined the army, navy and air force in May.

Engineers take inspiration from articles in defense magazines or online videos to produce cut-price platforms. Weapons or smart components can be added later.

"We are fighting a huge country, and they don't have any resource limits. We understand that we cannot spend a lot of human lives," said Denysenko, who heads the defense startup UkrPrototyp. "War is mathematics."

One of its drones, the car-sized Odyssey, spun on its axis and kicked up dust as it rumbled forward in a cornfield in the north of the country last month.

The 800-kilogram (1,750-pound) prototype that looks like a small, turretless tank with its wheels on tracks can travel up to 30 kilometers (18.5 miles) on one charge of a battery the size of a small beer cooler.

The prototype acts as a rescue-and-supply platform but can be modified to carry a remotely operated heavy machine gun or sling mine-clearing charges.

"Squads of robots ... will become logistics devices, tow trucks, minelayers and deminers, as well as self-destructive robots," a government fundraising page said after the launch of Ukraine's Unmanned Systems Forces. "The first robots are already proving their effectiveness on the battlefield."

Mykhailo Fedorov, the deputy prime minister for digital transformation, is encouraging citizens to take free online courses and assemble aerial drones at home. He wants Ukrainians to make a million of flying machines a year.

"There will be more of them soon," the fundraising page said. "Many more."

Denysenko's company is working on projects including a motorized exoskeleton that would boost a soldier's strength and carrier vehicles to transport a soldier's equipment and even help them up an incline.

"We will do everything to make unmanned technologies develop even faster. (Russia's) murderers use their soldiers as cannon fodder, while we lose our best people," Fedorov wrote in an online post.

Ukraine has semi-autonomous attack drones and counter-drone weapons endowed with AI and the combination of low-cost weapons and artificial intelligence tools is worrying many experts who say low-cost drones will enable their proliferation.

Technology leaders to the United Nations and the Vatican worry that the use of drones and AI in weapons could reduce the barrier to killing and dramatically escalate conflicts.

Human Rights Watch and other international rights groups are calling for a ban on weapons that exclude human decision making, a concern echoed by the U.N. General Assembly, Elon Musk and the founders of the Google-owned, London-based startup DeepMind.

"Cheaper drones will enable their proliferation," said Toby Walsh, professor of artificial intelligence at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. "Their autonomy is also only likely to increase."



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## Floor fights, boos and a too-long kiss. How the dramatic and the bizarre define convention history

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In 1948, the Republican and Democratic parties did something unthinkable in today's climate of ferocious political animosity: They not only held their national conventions in the same city, but shared some of the props.

Both gathered in Philadelphia, largely because its Municipal Auditorium had already been fitted with the wiring needed for then-groundbreaking live convention coverage on national television.

To save money, Democrats asked Republicans to leave the American flags and bunting up to be reused at its event 17 days later. The GOP complied, though some items became faded and worn in the interval.

Like party comradery, the more informal way conventions were staged has evaporated. Once bare-knuckled showdowns to hammer out presidential nominees, modern gatherings have evolved into carefully scripted, made-for-TV events meant to showcase party unity.

Republicans are largely on track to deliver that as they nominate former President Donald Trump in Milwaukee this week. The Democratic convention could feature more drama when it opens on Aug. 19, given the bitter debate over whether President Joe Biden should stay atop the party's ticket.

But even with conventions now choreographed down to tiny details, the unexpected can still happen. Here's a look at the floor fights, street battles, and other memorable convention scenes that were uplifting, outlandish or just plain awkward:

**Ted Cruz's non-endorsement**

As the last candidate Donald Trump defeated during the 2016 GOP primary, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz amassed enough delegates to address the party's convention in Cleveland — but balked at endorsing his former rival.

Still smarting over Trump calling him "Lyin' Ted," mocking his wife Heidi Cruz's appearance and suggesting that the senator's Cuba-born father was involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Cruz implored delegates to "vote your conscience." It drew prolonged boos.

Cruz reversed himself and endorsed Trump that fall, and today is among his staunchest defenders. But, at the time, the vitriol was high enough that Heidi Cruz was led from the convention floor, just in case.

**Clint Eastwood's empty chair**

A head-scratching moment came in 2012, when Clint Eastwood addressed the Republican gathering in Tampa, Florida, with an empty chair standing in for then-President Barack Obama.

The actor and director spent 12 minutes conversing with the piece of furniture, and even dodging barages of imaginary obscenities from it.

"What do you mean shut up?" Eastwood crowed.

He also joked about then-Vice President Biden's reputation for gaffes — launching criticisms that may prove prescient given current questions about whether Biden can handle a second term, following his disastrous debate performance.

"Of course, we all know Biden is the intellect of the Democratic party," Eastwood told the chair. "Just kind of a grin, with a body behind it."

**'Audacity of hope'**

The year 2004 was otherwise terrible for Democrats, President George W. Bush won reelection and Republicans retained control of Congress. But one bright spot came from Obama, then a little-known Illinois state senator, electrifying his party's Boston convention.

Obama dubbed himself "a skinny kid with a funny name who believes that America has a place for him, too" and summed up his political philosophy as being built around "the audacity of hope."

**Gore's extra-long kiss**

As he stepped on stage to deliver a speech accepting his party's 2000 presidential nomination in Los Angeles, Al Gore embraced his wife Tipper and gave her a full-mouthed kiss, hanging on much longer than usual for a display of passion in public.

The crowd cheered, but the kiss eventually encompassed an uncomfortable three seconds of screen time.

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Gore had been battling criticisms that he was too stiff during public appearances, which may have explained how hard he leaned in. Regardless, the smooch was remembered more than Gore's speech.

He went on to narrowly lose that November to Bush. A decade later, the Gores separated after 40 years of marriage.

### Women on the ticket

At the Democrats' 1984 convention in San Francisco, presidential nominee Walter Mondale announced Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate, making her the first woman on a major presidential ticket. Ferraro declared, "America is the land where dreams can come true for all of us," though she and Mondale went on to win just 13 electoral votes compared to President Ronald Reagan's 525.

Twenty years later, Sen. John McCain chose Sarah Palin as his vice presidential candidate, and her speech at the Republican convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, was a hit, mixing the then-Alaska governor's compelling personal story with humor and political punch. It gave McCain a boost, but he still lost to Obama.

At the 2016 Democratic convention in Philadelphia, Hillary Clinton became the first major party female presidential nominee, declaring, "When any barrier falls in America, for anyone, it clears the way for everyone." She eventually lost to Trump.

Kamala Harris was the first woman on a winning ticket, accepting being Biden's running mate during a mostly virtual convention last cycle — and now is some Democrats' choice to replace Biden in this year's presidential race.

### Opposing the incumbent

In 1976, Reagan, then California's governor, challenged President Gerald Ford from the right and touched off a bitter struggle at the GOP's convention in Kansas City. Ford narrowly prevailed with 1,187 votes to 1,070, but lost that November to Democrat Jimmy Carter.

Four years later, at the Democratic convention in New York, Carter himself faced a floor challenge from Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy, who badly trailed the president in delegates but tried to loosen rules on how they were pledged to vote. Tensions ran high and, though the change was defeated, Carter later lost to Reagan.

### Eagleton's 18-day vice presidential candidacy

Biden facing increasing pressure to leave the race is without modern precedent at the top of a presidential ticket — but not when it comes to a nominee's running mate.

Shortly after the 1972 Democratic convention in Miami, reports surfaced that Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern's vice presidential pick, Missouri Sen. Thomas Eagleton, had previously undergone electroshock therapy to treat depression.

A divided convention had prompted McGovern to tap Eagleton on its final day, after he was turned down by several alternatives. Eagleton therefore didn't receive much vetting of his record, which might have surfaced the medical disclosures earlier.

Eagleton resigned after 18 days on the ticket and was replaced by Sargent Shriver. Incumbent Republican President Richard Nixon went on to win 49 out of 50 states that November.

### Chaos in Chicago

After President Lyndon B. Johnson opted not to seek reelection and Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, Vice President Hubert Humphrey secured the 1968 Democratic nomination at the party's convention. But that was only after a raucous floor fight which ended with delegates defeating a peace platform seeking an end to the Vietnam war.

What happened at the convention was overshadowed by thousands of anti-war protesters who marched in the streets. Demonstrators were attacked by police, sparking such turmoil that the tear gas fired reached the 25th floor hotel suite where Humphrey was preparing for his appearance at a hotel five miles from the convention site.

The Democratic convention returns to Chicago in a few weeks, and widespread demonstrations are being planned to oppose the Biden administration's support for Israel in its war with Hamas — leaving some to wonder whether a 1968 redux could be coming. With questions about Biden staying in the race still being raised, things inside the convention might get equally heated.

## In a world of moving pictures, photographs capture indelible moments in Trump assassination attempt

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

The photograph of a bloodied Donald Trump with his fist in the air and an American flag looming in the background is quickly emerging as the pivotal image of Saturday's shooting, and it wouldn't exist without a journalist who acted quickly and on a hunch.

Video of the assassination attempt at a Pennsylvania rally filled television screens before it was even clear what had happened. Yet the work of The Associated Press' Evan Vucci, Getty's Anna Moneymaker and Doug Mills of The New York Times — whose picture caught apparent evidence of a bullet whizzing past Trump's head — proved the enduring potency of still photography in a world driven by a flood of moving pictures.

Vucci's image, one of many he took on Saturday, could also have political implications from many directions — as indelible images often do in the days and years after seismic events happen.

"Without question, Evan's photo will become the definitive photo from the (assassination) attempt," said Patrick Witty, a former photo editor at Time, The New York Times and National Geographic. "It captures a range of complex details and emotions in one still image — the defiantly raised fist, the blood, the agents clamoring to push Trump off stage and, most importantly, the flag. That's what elevates the photo."

The New York Post ran the photo across the tabloid's front page on Sunday with a headline describing the former president as "bloodied but unbowed." Time magazine has put it on its cover. "A legendary American photograph," The Atlantic wrote in a headline over a story about the image.

It all made one thing clear: After more than 175 years of photography, freezing a moment in time for posterity remains as powerful as recounting it in video — and, sometimes, even more so.

An immediate recognition of the power of the captured moment

Many news photographers, including AP's Gene Puskar, were on assignment in various locations around Saturday's rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles north of Pittsburgh. Vucci was one of four stationed between the stage and audience. Covering a political rally is a routine assignment the Washington-based journalist has done hundreds of times; left unspoken is the duty to be in position if history beckons in the manner that it did Saturday.

When he heard popping sounds, Vucci, who has covered combat situations in Iraq and Afghanistan, said he knew instantly it was gunfire. He rushed to the stage at Trump's right, but his view of the former president was quickly blocked by Secret Service agents. He sensed that the agents would try to hustle Trump offstage and into a vehicle from the other side, so he darted over there.

From that position, he said, "everything kind of opened up for me."

Trump's attempts to rise to his feet and pump his fist gave Vucci a clear view of the ex-president. He said the blue sky and flag in the background were an important part of the composition. "I think that kind of told the story of where we are right now," he said.

Witty, like some others, compared it to Joe Rosenthal's AP photo of U.S. Marines raising the American flag on Iwo Jima in World War II — an image so memorable to so many that it inspired a memorial.

"I think it will last and come to symbolize the time that we're in," said Ron Burnett, former president of the Emily Carr University of Art and Design and an expert on images.

The intersection of imagery and politics

The presence of the flag may prove a lightning rod, because it also makes the photo a potent political image — in keeping with the increased politicization of the Stars and Stripes in the years since the 9/11 attacks. "Already one of the most iconic photographs in American history — and one that I suspect will propel Donald Trump back to the White House," British journalist Piers Morgan wrote on X.

The photo with the full flag from Saturday has already been used 2,327 times, while the one without the flag has been used 1,759 times by AP media customers, the news organization said. Typically, the most-used photo for a full week is seen 700 or 800 times.

It's not hard to imagine the flag-draped image being seen in Trump campaign advertisements or paraphernalia, much like his mug shot from his Georgia arrest quickly did. At least one website was already selling T-shirts with the photo on them.

"I can see it being used in a whole variety of ways as part of the entourage of images that he surrounds himself with," said Burnett, who marveled at Trump's ability to seemingly be conscious of how it would all look in the midst of such a traumatic experience.

Vucci said that how the image is used in the public discourse is not for him to worry about. "The way I look at it is, I was present and I did my job," said Vucci, who won a 2021 Pulitzer Prize for his work covering demonstrations following the George Floyd shooting. "I kept my head and I told the story."

There was other impressive work by photographers at the scene. Getty's Moneymaker, for example, caught an extraordinarily intimate image of Trump on the floor of the stage, taken peephole-style through the legs of a Secret Service agent shielding him.

Mills' photograph for The Times is one of a series that shows Trump reaching for his ear after it had been hit. In one of them, barely visible unless the photo is blown up, there's a streak behind Trump's head that likely illustrates the displacement of air from a fast-moving projectile, according to a retired FBI special agent quoted in the newspaper. The Times did not discuss the issue on Sunday.

The agent, Michael Harrigan, told the newspaper: "Given the circumstances, if that's not showing the bullet's path through the air, I don't know what else it would be."

## **The RNC's first day will still focus on the economy. Here's what to know about Trump's plans**

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump goes into the Republican National Convention with bold promises about the U.S. economy, but he has sketched out notably few details about how his plans would actually work.

The convention's first day is still expected to focus on the economy even after Saturday's shooting at a Trump rally in Pennsylvania in which the former president was injured.

If the program goes ahead as planned, expect speakers to argue that Trump's agenda of sweeping tariffs and lower taxes would jump-start the economy.

The former president says he wants tariffs on trade partners and no taxes on tips and would like to knock the corporate tax rate down a tick. The Republican platform also promises to "defeat" inflation and "quickly bring down all prices," in addition to pumping out more oil, natural gas and coal.

The platform would address illegal immigration in part with the "largest deportation program in American history." And Trump would also scrap President Joe Biden's policies to develop the market for electric vehicles and renewable energy.

Democrats and several leading economists say the math shows that Trump's ideas would cause an explosive bout of inflation, wallop the middle class and — by his extending his soon-to-expire tax cuts — heap another \$5 trillion-plus onto the national debt.

Trump has released few hard numbers and no real policy language or legislative blueprints. Instead, his campaign is betting that voters care more about attitude than policy specifics.

The Associated Press sent the Trump campaign 20 basic questions in June to clarify his economic views and the campaign declined to answer any of them. Spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt insisted that Trump best speaks for himself and directed the AP to video clips of him.

By contrast, Biden has an exhaustive 188-page budget proposal that lays out his economic vision, even as his campaign had increasingly devolved before Saturday's rally shooting into questions about his age and whether he should remain the nominee after a self-defeating June 27 debate.

A recent analysis by the Peterson Institute of International Economics showed that deporting 1.3 million workers would cause the size of the U.S. economy to shrink by 2.1%, essentially creating a recession.

Stephen Moore, an informal Trump adviser and economist at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative



think tank, said Trump is unique in that he's already been president and voters can judge him off his record in office.

"You want to know what he's going to do in his second term, look at what he did in his first term," Moore said.

Democrats have argued that Trump would be more extreme in his second term, using his own remarks to say he would put independent federal agencies under his direct control and use the federal government to settle scores with his perceived enemies. The Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 blueprint is a template for what a second term would look like, they argue, a claim that Trump has disputed.

But Moore said he believes that Trump would be pragmatic in office and focus on the needs of business to drive economic growth.

"There is an idea that it's going to be like slash and burn — I don't think it's going to be a radical agenda," Moore said.

Some of Trump's plans have gotten bipartisan backing. Both of Nevada's senators, Jacky Rosen and Catherine Cortez Masto, are Democrats who would like to ban taxes on tips paid to workers, even as the Biden White House favors a higher minimum wage for tipped workers.

Companies do like Trump's ideas to cut regulations and further lower the corporate tax rate from 21% to 20%. The tax rate had been 35% when he became president in 2017. Democrats, by comparison, want a 28% corporate tax rate in order to fund programs for the middle class and deficit reduction.

But Trump has also floated huge tariffs that he says would protect U.S. manufacturing jobs. Biden preserved the tariffs on China that Trump introduced and went a step further by banning exports of advanced computer chips to China.

Companies generally dislike tariffs — which are taxes on imports — because they can raise costs, which are then likely borne by consumers. An analysis by the economists Kimberly Clausing and Mary Lovely found that Trump's tariffs would cost a typical U.S. household \$1,700 a year in what would effectively be a tax hike.

Trump's tariff plans could worsen inflation as a result, even though the Republican says in videos that he would reduce inflation. It's unclear how Trump would lower inflation, which peaked in 2022 at 9.1% and has since eased to 3% annually.

"The tariff issue is extremely important — and people are not paying enough attention to the magnitude of the Trump tariff policy, what the consequences would be," said Clausing, a former Biden Treasury Department official and professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

But tariffs might be more of a political winner than an economic strategy, according to a research paper earlier this year by the economists David Autor, Anne Beck, David Dorn and Gordon Hanson. The research found that the tariffs during Trump's first term did not increase employment, but the tariffs did help Trump politically in the 2020 election in the industrial areas that lost jobs to China and other countries.

Clausing noted that Trump is proposing tariffs on more than \$3 trillion of imports, a 10-fold increase over what he did in his first term. She noted that the tariffs could make it more expensive to bring in the raw materials that U.S. factories need while also raising prices for consumers already struggling with high inflation. She said she wants people to understand the risks Trump's economic policies could pose before it's too late.

"I think people will notice when everything gets wildly expensive," she said. "This is going to be a huge disaster."

## What to know about Trump assassination attempt and the investigation into the shooting

BY AYANNA ALEXANDER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities want to know how a shooter was able to get on top of a roof so close to where former President Donald Trump was speaking and open fire.

That is one of the focuses of the investigation into Saturday's assassination attempt on Trump as Re-

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publicans gather in Milwaukee for their national convention and President Joe Biden implored Americans to reject political violence.

Here's a look at what we know so far:

How did a gunman get so close to Trump?

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating how the gunman armed with an AR-style rifle was able to get on a nearby roof and shoot and injure the former president at a rally Saturday in Pennsylvania.

The gunman, who officials said was killed by Secret Service personnel, fired multiple shots at the stage from an "elevated position outside of the rally venue," the agency said. Trump was bloodied and says he was "shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear." A spectator was killed.

An Associated Press analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos taken at the Trump rally, as well as satellite imagery of the site, shows the shooter was able to get astonishingly close to the stage where the former president was speaking.

The roof was fewer than 150 meters (164 yards) from where Trump was speaking. Biden has directed an independent review of the security at the rally.

What is known about the Trump rally shooter?

Thomas Matthew Crooks, the 20-year-old nursing-home employee from suburban Pittsburgh who tried to shoot Trump was, a registered Republican who packed explosives in the vehicle he drove to the campaign rally an hour from his home.

Authorities said it was attempted assassination but haven't determined what motivated Crooks to try to kill Trump.

Law enforcement officials were working Sunday to learn more about the young man from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, to determine what motivated him.

The FBI has not yet identified any underlying ideology or threatening writing or social media posts from Crooks, who had no past criminal cases against him, according to public court records. The FBI believes Crooks acted alone and the shooting was being investigated as a potential act of domestic terrorism.

What do we know about the other victims?

Gov. Josh Shapiro on Sunday said the man killed at the Trump rally, Corey Comperatore, "dove on his family to protect them."

"Corey died a hero," the governor said. Comperatore, 50, was a former fire chief.

Pennsylvania State Police identified two other men who were shot as David Dutch, 57, of New Kensington, and James Copenhaver, 74, of Moon Township. Both men remained hospitalized and were listed in stable condition, state police said.

Biden decries violence in national address

In a prime-time national address, the president said Sunday that political passions can run high but "we must never descend into violence."

"We can do this," Biden implored, saying the nation was founded on a democracy that gave reason and balance a chance to prevail over brute force.

"American democracy — where arguments are made in good faith. American democracy where the rule of law is respected. Where decency, dignity, fair play aren't just quaint notions, they're living, breathing realities."

Trump arrives in Milwaukee as RNC goes on

The former president is Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention.

Trump's airplane touched down Sunday. The four-day event kicks off Monday with thousands of Republicans coming together to formally choose him as their 2024 presidential nominee.

His aides said he was in "great spirits" and doing well.

Saturday's attack on Trump has put a heightened focus on safety and security of the event.

Trump said he was going to delay his trip by two days because of the attempted assassination "but have just decided that I cannot allow a 'shooter,' or potential assassin, to force change to scheduling, or anything else."

Have there been other presidential assassination attempts?

Saturday's attack was the most serious attempt to assassinate a president or presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981, but there have been multiple instances of political violence targeting U.S. presidents, former presidents and major party presidential candidates. Four U.S. presidents have been assassinated - Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley and John Kennedy.

## Hamas says Gaza cease-fire talks haven't paused and claims military chief survived Israeli strike

By WAFAA SHURAFU and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

MUWASI, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hamas said Sunday that Gaza cease-fire talks were ongoing and the group's military commander was in good health, a day after the Israeli military targeted Mohammed Deif with a massive airstrike that local health officials said killed at least 90 people, including children.

Deif's condition was still unclear after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday night "there still isn't absolute certainty" he was killed. Army chief Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi told journalists Israel attacked a compound where Deif "was hiding" but added: "It's still too early to summarize the results of the attack, which Hamas is trying to hide."

Hamas representatives gave no evidence to back up their assertion about the health of a chief architect of the Oct. 7 attack that sparked the war. His killing would mark the highest profile assassination of any Hamas leader by Israel since the war began.

Deif has long topped Israel's most-wanted list and has been in hiding for years.

The Israeli military said Rafa Salama, a Hamas commander it described as one of Deif's closest associates, was killed in Saturday's strike. Salama commanded Hamas' Khan Younis brigade. Netanyahu said all of Hamas' leaders are "marked for death" and asserted that killing them would move Hamas closer to accepting a cease-fire deal.

Hamas rejected the idea that mediated cease-fire discussions had been suspended. Spokesperson Jihad Taha said "there is no doubt that the horrific massacres will impact any efforts in the negotiations" but added that "efforts and endeavors of the mediators remain ongoing."

Hamas political officials also insisted that communication channels remained functional between the leadership inside and outside Gaza after the strike in the territory's south. Witnesses said it occurred in an area that Israel had designated as safe for hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians. Israel's military would not confirm that.

On Sunday, some survivors were angry that the attack targeting Deif occurred without warning in an area they were told was safe.

"I heard the first hit, and my son came screaming, 'Daddy, daddy,' and took cover with me," said Mahmoud Abu Yaseen, who clutched his children but then woke up in the hospital to find his son had died. The family had already been displaced five times since the war began. "Where do we go?" he asked.

A United Nations official described utter chaos at Nasser hospital where victims were taken, many treated on bloodstained floors with few supplies available.

"I witnessed some of the most horrific scenes I have seen in my nine months in Gaza," Scott Anderson said in a statement. "I saw toddlers who are double amputees, children paralyzed and unable to receive treatment and others separated from their parents." He said restrictions on humanitarian aid to Gaza hamper efforts to provide needed medical and other care.

On Sunday, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant praised the pilots who carried out the strike and said Hamas is being eroded every day, with no ability to arm itself, organize or "care for the wounded."

At least 300 people were wounded in the strike, one of the deadliest in the nine-month war sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7 assault on southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took more than 200 hostage.

More than 38,400 people in Gaza have been killed in Israeli ground offensives and bombardments since then, according to the territory's Health Ministry. The ministry does not distinguish between combatants

and civilians in its count.

On Sunday, an Israeli strike in Nuseirat in central Gaza killed at least 14 people at the gate of a school used as a shelter for displaced people, according to an Associated Press journalist who visited two hospitals. Children were among the 15 others wounded. Israel's military in a statement said it struck "terrorists" operating in the area of a school run by the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees.

"They are targeting everything," said a displaced Palestinian, Um Fadi Al-Zeer.

Also on Sunday, police said a Palestinian resident of east Jerusalem carried out a car-ramming attack in central Israel that injured four Israelis, two of them seriously. Israeli border police at the scene shot the attacker dead after he hit people waiting at two bus stops along a busy road. Israel's military said four of its personnel were wounded, two of them severely.

Israeli police commissioner Kobi Shabtai said such attacks were often triggered by events like Saturday's airstrike in Gaza.

## **Texas Gov. Greg Abbott demands answers as customers remain without power after Beryl**

By JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — With around 270,000 homes and businesses still without power in the Houston area almost a week after Hurricane Beryl hit Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott on Sunday said he's demanding an investigation into the response of the utility that serves the area as well as answers about its preparations for upcoming storms.

"Power companies along the Gulf Coast must be prepared to deal with hurricanes, to state the obvious," Abbott said at his first news conference about Beryl since returning to the state from an economic development trip to Asia.

While CenterPoint Energy has restored power to about 2 million customers since the storm hit on July 8, the slow pace of recovery has put the utility, which provides electricity to the nation's fourth-largest city, under mounting scrutiny over whether it was sufficiently prepared for the storm that left people without air conditioning in the searing summer heat.

Abbott said he was sending a letter to the Public Utility Commission of Texas requiring it to investigate why restoration has taken so long and what must be done to fix it. In the Houston area, Beryl toppled transmission lines, uprooted trees and snapped branches that crashed into power lines.

With months of hurricane season left, Abbott said he's giving CenterPoint until the end of the month to specify what it'll be doing to reduce or eliminate power outages in the event of another storm. He said that will include the company providing detailed plans to remove vegetation that still threatens power lines.

Abbott also said that CenterPoint didn't have "an adequate number of workers pre-staged" before the storm hit.

Following Abbott's news conference, CenterPoint said its top priority was "power to the remaining impacted customers as safely and quickly as possible," adding that on Monday, the utility expects to have restored power to 90% of its customers. CenterPoint said it was committed to working with state and local leaders and to doing a "thorough review of our response."

CenterPoint also said Sunday that it's been "investing for years" to strengthen the area's resilience to such storms.

The utility has defended its preparation for the storm and said that it has brought in about 12,000 additional workers from outside Houston. It has said it would have been unsafe to reposition those workers inside the predicted storm impact area before Beryl made landfall.

Brad Tutunjian, vice president for regulatory policy for CenterPoint Energy, said last week that the extensive damage to trees and power poles hampered the ability to restore power quickly.

A post Sunday on CenterPoint's website from its president and CEO, Jason Wells, said that over 2,100 utility poles were damaged during the storm and over 18,600 trees had to be removed from power lines, which impacted over 75% of the utility's distribution circuits.



## America's toxic political climate faces calls to 'tone it down' after assassination attempt on Trump

By LISA MASCARO and GARY FIELDS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Tone it down!"

That was the plea from one Republican congressman as he came to grips with the assassination attempt against Donald Trump at a political rally in the Butler Farm area where he grew up.

"I am in a state of bewilderment of how and what has happened to the United States of America," Rep. Mike Kelly, R-PA., told The Associated Press early Sunday.

The shocking attempt on Trump's life has brought into stark relief the toxic climate in America's political life. While the details of the shooter's motive remain unclear, the violence is a further gauge of how what was once unacceptable, if not unthinkable, in American society has become painfully commonplace.

As the 2024 election enters a crucial phase ahead of the national conventions, how the nation responds will test the first presidential contest since 2020, an election that became defined by efforts to overturn Trump's defeat and the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

On Sunday, civic leaders, pastors and elected officials from President Joe Biden on down appealed to Americans for unity, urging an end to vitriol.

"We can't allow this violence to be normalized," Biden said in an evening address to the nation from the Oval Office.

Under a charged atmosphere, the Republican National Convention opens this week in Milwaukee to renominate Trump to lead the ticket, while Democrats prepare for their own convention next month uncertain if the party will stick with the incumbent Biden in an expected rematch.

Trump's rhetoric, though tempered in the immediate aftermath of the shooting, had taken on deeper and darker tones in this, his third campaign for the White House.

This spring, Trump who has accused migrants of "poisoning the blood of the country" and vowed to launch the largest domestic deportation operation, told autoworkers there would be a "bloodbath" in this country if he is not reelected.

"If we don't win, I think our country is finished," he said during the New Hampshire primary.

Trump has promised retribution on his political rivals, particularly those in the Justice Department after he was indicted on federal charges of storing classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago home and in the conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election.

Trump also made make light of violence. When Nancy Pelosi's husband, Paul Pelosi, was attacked by an intruder looking for the former House speaker at the family's San Francisco home in 2022 — beaten over the head with a hammer — Trump mocked the security fencing she had installed as insufficient.

Trump drew chuckles in a speech before California Republicans last year when he asked, "How's her husband doing, by the way?"

Biden, in turn, has warned that Trump's return to power poses a grave threat to the country's civic traditions. He chose a location near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, for his initial 2024 campaign event, portraying the likely rematch as "all about" whether democracy can survive.

Addressing the nation Sunday, Biden pointed to past examples of political upheaval, including Jan. 6 and more recently harassment of election workers, and said, "There's no place in America for this kind of violence, for any violence, ever."

Still, one of Trump's potential vice-presidential picks, Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, said on social media over the weekend that Biden's earlier rhetoric against Trump "led directly" to the attempted assassination.

And House Speaker Mike Johnson, who said it's time to "turn the temperature down in this country," also singled out for blame Biden's recent comments during a call with political donors in which the president said, "It's time to put Trump in the bullseye."

Johnson said he knows Biden didn't literally mean Trump should be targeted, but added, "that kind of

language on either side should be called out.”

Nick Beauchamp, an associate professor of political science at Boston’s Northeastern University, said there is an opportunity now for political leaders to “start framing their critiques of the others in words that explicitly denounce violence.”

From the the 1968 killings of American leaders Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. to the 1981 attack on President Ronald Reagan, to shootings of Republicans and Democrats in the past decade, the violent strain has always been part of American politics.

Other violent incidents have intersected more recently with the nation’s political struggles in frightful ways.

Outside Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh’s suburban home, a man with a knife and gun who threatened to kill the justice was arrested in 2022. Members of Congress have experienced increased security threats. And harassment against elections officials from cities and states across the nation has led to a wave of departures because of threats on their livelihoods.

Last summer, FBI agents fatally shot a Utah man who had threatened to assassinate Biden and had referred to himself as a “MAGA Trumper.” That followed a series of drive-by shootings earlier in the year targeting Democrats in New Mexico, a startling outburst that led to criminal charges against a failed state legislative candidate who had parroted Trump’s rigged-election rhetoric.

A gunman who died in a shootout in 2022 after trying to get inside the FBI’s Cincinnati office apparently went on social media and called for federal agents to be killed “on sight” following the search at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate.

Jacob Ware, a research fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations who focuses on domestic terrorism, said, “The warning lights have been blinking red regarding violence in this election cycle for months, if not years now.”

As Trump took the stage Saturday evening, he had opened the rally in Pennsylvania as he often does, marveling at the “big beautiful crowd” gathered to see him — and demeaning Biden’s own crowds as paltry in comparison.

The former president had just started his speech, launching into his mass deportation agenda and complaints of a nation in decline.

“Our country is going to hell,” Trump said.

Minutes later, shots rang out.

Rep. Dan Meuser of Pennsylvania, who was sitting with other Republican officials behind Trump, called it all just a terrible tragedy. “The level of lack of civility and hostility, maybe this will send a ringing signal to all those to cool it,” he told the AP.

As Americans took stock Sunday, the common message was a call for unity.

The Rev. Chris Morgan, senior pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park, which is a few streets away from where the shooter lived, urged his congregation during a morning service to pray for the country.

“Clearly there’s a lot going on and a lot that is causing people to have great anxiety and great struggle,” he said. “I want to encourage you to be praying for those that have been involved that they too can find what it means to show kindness to others.”

## **Authorities hunt for clues, but motive of man who tried to assassinate Donald Trump remains elusive**

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, MICHAEL BALSAMO and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 20-year-old man who tried to assassinate former President Donald Trump first came to law enforcement’s attention at Saturday’s rally when spectators noticed him acting strangely outside the campaign event. The tip sparked a frantic search but officers were unable to find him before he managed to get on a roof, where he opened fire.

In the wake of the shooting that killed one spectator, investigators were hunting for any clues about

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what may have drove Thomas Matthew Crooks, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, to carry out the shocking attack. The FBI said they were investigating it as a potential act of domestic terrorism, but the absence of a clear ideological motive by the man shot dead by Secret Service led conspiracy theories to flourish.

"I urge everyone — everyone, please, don't make assumptions about his motives or his affiliations," President Joe Biden said in remarks Sunday from the White House. "Let the FBI do their job, and their partner agencies do their job. I've instructed that this investigation be thorough and swift."

The FBI said it believes Crooks, who had bomb-making materials in the car he drove to the rally, acted alone. Investigators have found no threatening comments on social media accounts or ideological positions that could help explain what led him to target Trump before Secret Service rushed the presumptive Republican presidential nominee off the stage, his face smeared with blood.

Trump said on social media the upper part of his right ear was pierced in the shooting, but advisers said he was "great spirits" ahead of his arrival Sunday in Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention. Two spectators were critically injured, while a former fire chief from the area, Corey Comperatore was killed. Pennsylvania's governor said Comperatore, 50, died a hero by diving onto his family to protect them.

Relatives of Crooks didn't respond to numerous messages from The Associated Press. His father, Matthew Crooks, told CNN late Saturday that he was trying to figure out "what the hell is going on" but wouldn't speak about his son until after he talked to law enforcement. An FBI official told reporters that Crooks' family is cooperating with investigators.

Several rallygoers reported to local officers that Crooks was acting suspiciously and pacing near the magnetometers, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation. Officers were then told Crooks was climbing a ladder, the official said. Officers searched for him but were unable to find him before he made it to the roof, the official added.

Butler County Sheriff Michael Slupe told the AP that a local officer climbed to the roof and encountered Crooks, who saw the officer and turned toward him just before the officer dropped down to safety. Slupe said the officer couldn't have wielded his own gun under the circumstances. The officer retreated down the ladder, and Crooks quickly took a shot toward Trump, and that's when Secret Service snipers shot him, according to two officials who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

FBI officials said Sunday that they were combing Crooks' background and social media activities while working to get access to his phone. The chatting app Discord, a social media platform popular with people playing online games, said Crooks appears to have had an account but used it rarely and not in the last several months. There's no evidence he used his account to promote violence or discuss his political views, a Discord spokesperson said.

Crooks' political leanings were not immediately clear. Records show Crooks was registered as a Republican voter in Pennsylvania, but federal campaign finance reports also show he gave \$15 to a progressive political action committee on Jan. 20, 2021, the day Biden was sworn into office.

Crooks graduated from Bethel Park High School in 2022. In a video of the school's graduation ceremony posted online, Crooks can be seen crossing the stage to receive his diploma, appearing slight of build and wearing glasses. The school district said it will cooperate fully with investigators. His senior year, Crooks was among several students given an award for math and science, according to a Tribune-Review story at the time.

Crooks tried out for the school's rifle team but was turned away because he was a bad shooter, said Frederick Mach, a current captain of the team who was a few years behind Crooks at the school.

Jason Kohler, who said he attended the same high school but did not share any classes with Crooks, said Crooks was bullied at school and sat alone at lunch time. Other students mocked him for the clothes he wore, which included hunting outfits, Kohler said.

"He was bullied almost every day," Kohler told reporters. "He was just a outcast, and you know how kids are nowadays."

Crooks worked at a nursing home as a dietary aide, a job that generally involves food preparation. Marcie

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Grimm, the administrator of Bethel Park Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, said in a statement she was "shocked and saddened to learn of his involvement." Grimm added that Crooks had a clean background check when he was hired.

A blockade had been set up Sunday preventing traffic near Crooks' house, which is in an enclave of modest brick houses in the hills outside Pittsburgh and about an hour's drive from the site of the Trump rally. Police cars were stationed at an intersection near the house and officers were seen walking through the neighborhood.

Crooks used an AR-style rifle, which authorities said they believe was purchased by his father. Kevin Rojek, FBI special agent in charge in Pittsburgh, said that investigators do not yet know if he took the gun without his father's permission.

A video posted to social media and geolocated by AP shows Crooks wearing a gray t-shirt with a black American flag on the right arm lying motionless on the roof of a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds where Trump's rally was held.

The roof where Crooks lay was less than 150 meters (164 yards) from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized target. That is a distance at which U.S. Army recruits must hit a scaled human-sized silhouette to qualify with the M-16 rifle.

Images of Crooks' body reviewed by AP show he appears to have been wearing a T-shirt from Demolition Ranch, a popular YouTube channel that regularly posts videos of its creator firing off handguns and assault rifles at targets that include human mannequins.

Matt Carriker, the Texas-based creator of Demolition Ranch, did not respond to a phone message or email on Sunday, but posted a photo of Crooks' bloody corpse wearing his brand's T-shirt on social media with the comment "What the hell."

## Minutes after Trump shooting, misinformation started flying. Here are the facts

By DAVID KLEPPER and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Within minutes of the gunfire, the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump spawned a vast sea of claims — some outlandish, others contradictory — reflecting the frightening uncertainties of the moment as well as America's fevered, polarized political climate.

The cloudburst of speculation and conjecture as Americans turned to the internet for news about the shooting is the latest sign of how social media has emerged as a dominant source of information — and misinformation — for many, and a contributor to the distrust and turbulence now driving American politics.

Mentions of Trump on social media soared up to 17 times the average daily amount in the hours after the shooting, according to PeakMetrics, a cyber firm that tracks online narratives. Many of those mentions were expressions of sympathy for Trump or calls for unity. But many others made unfounded, fantastical claims.

"We saw things like 'The Chinese were behind it,' or 'Antifa was behind it,' or 'the Biden administration did it.' We also saw a claim that the RNC was behind it," said Paul Bartel, senior intelligence analyst at PeakMetrics. "Everyone is just speculating. No one really knows what's going on. They go online to try to figure it out."

Here's a look at the claims that surfaced online following the shooting:

Claims of an inside job or false flag are unsubstantiated

Many of the more specious claims that surfaced immediately after the shooting sought to blame Trump or his Democratic opponent, President Joe Biden, for the attack.

Some voices on the left quickly proclaimed the shooting to be a false flag concocted by Trump, while some Trump supporters suggested the Secret Service intentionally failed to protect Trump on the White House's orders.

The Secret Service on Sunday pushed back on claims circulating on social media that Trump's campaign had asked for greater security before Saturday's rally and was told no.



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"This is absolutely false," agency spokesman Anthony Guglielmi wrote Sunday on X. "In fact, we added protective resources & technology & capabilities as part of the increased campaign travel tempo."

Videos of the shooting were quickly dissected in partisan echo chambers and Trump supporters and detractors looked for evidence to support their beliefs. Videos showing Secret Service agents moving audience members away from Trump before the shooting were offered as evidence that it was an inside job. Images of Trump's defiantly raised fist were used to make the opposite claim — that the whole event was staged by Trump.

"How did the USSS allow him to stop and pose for a photo opp if there was real danger??" wrote one user, using the abbreviation for the U.S. Secret Service.

Social media bots helped amplify the false claims on platforms including Facebook, Instagram, X and TikTok, according to an analysis by the Israeli tech firm Cyabra, which found that a full 45% of the accounts using hashtags like #fakeassassination and #stagedshooting were inauthentic.

An image created using artificial intelligence — depicting a smiling Trump moments after the shooting — was also making the rounds, Cyabra found.

Moments like this are 'cannon fodder' for extremists

Conspiracy theories quickly emerged online that misidentified the suspected shooter, blamed other people without evidence and espoused hate speech, including virulent antisemitism.

"Moments like this are cannon fodder for extremists online, because typically they will react with great confidence to whatever has happened without any real evidence" said Jacob Ware, a research fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. "People will fall into spirals and will advance their own ideologies and their own conclusions."

Before authorities identified the suspect, photos of two different people circulated widely online falsely identifying them as the shooter.

In all the speculation and conjecture, others were trying to exploit the event financially. On X on Sunday morning, an account named Proud Patriots urged Trump supporters to purchase their assassination-attempt themed merchandise.

"First they jail him, now they try to end him," reads the ad for the commemorative Trump Assassination Attempt Trading Card. "Stand Strong & Show Your Support!"

Republicans cast blame on Biden

After the shooting, some Republicans blamed Biden for the shooting, arguing sustained criticisms of Trump as a threat to democracy have created a toxic environment. They pointed in particular to a comment Biden made to donors on July 8, saying "it's time to put Trump in the bullseye."

Ware said that comment from Biden was "violent rhetoric" that is "raising the stakes," especially when combined with Biden's existential words about the election. But he said it was important not to make conclusions about the shooter's motive until we know more information. Biden's remarks were part of a broader approach to turn scrutiny on Trump, with no explicit call to violence.

Trump's own incendiary words have been criticized in the past for encouraging violence. His lies about the 2020 election and his call for supporters to "fight like hell" preceded the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, which led to his second impeachment on charges of incitement of insurrection. Trump also mocked the hammer attack that left 80-year-old Paul Pelosi, the husband of the former House speaker, with a fractured skull.

Surveys find that Americans overwhelmingly reject violence as a way to settle political differences, but overheated rhetoric from candidates and social media can motivate a small minority of people to act, said Sean Westwood, a political scientist who directs the Polarization Research Lab at Dartmouth College.

Westwood said he worries that Saturday's shooting could spur others to consider violence as a tactic.

"There is a real risk that this spirals," he said. "Even if someone doesn't personally support violence, if they think the other side does, and they witness an attempted political assassination, there is a real risk that this could lead to escalation."

## Spain wins record fourth European Championship title by inflicting another painful loss on England

By STEVE DOUGLAS AP Sports Writer

BERLIN (AP) — Spain is the king of European soccer for a record fourth time. For England, it's another agonizing near-miss in the team's decades-long tale of underachievement.

Completing a tournament the team dominated from start to finish, Spain beat England 2-1 in the European Championship final on Sunday with Mikel Oyarzabal the unlikely match-winner in the 86th minute.

Oyarzabal, a backup striker who came on as a substitute for captain Alvaro Morata, slid in to poke home a left-wing cross by Marc Cucurella, just when the game at Berlin's Olympiastadion seemed destined for extra time.

England, the birthplace of soccer, is still without a major title in the men's game since winning the 1966 World Cup and its players watched on forlornly as Morata raised aloft the silver trophy to backdrop of confetti and fireworks inside the stadium built for the 1936 Olympics.

Add 2024 to the titles won by Spain in 1964, 2008 and 2012.

"Here we are, champions of Europe," said Nico Williams, whose opening goal for Spain in the 47th minute was canceled out by England substitute Cole Palmer in the 73rd. "We are thrilled and hope this can keep going and we can go for the (2026) World Cup."

Lamine Yamal, the prodigy who turned 17 on Saturday and is the youngest player to have appeared at a European Championship, set up Williams' goal with an inside run before passing across the face of the area. The two wingers have become the poster boys of an exciting, multicultural team that reflects Spain's changing demographics.

Yamal's mother is from Equatorial Guinea and his father is from Morocco, while the 22-year-old Williams has Ghanaian parents who made the long journey to Europe looking for a better life. To make it to Spain, they had to ride on the back of a crowded truck and walk barefoot through the Sahara desert.

"I believe there is a historical change, we are really grateful," said Williams, the player of the match with his darting runs and his second goal of Euro 2024.

"My parents have suffered a lot to get here. They are the ones who have suffered the most and they have instilled this sort of respect and loyalty in me," he said. "I'm really happy because we are making history."

Unlike his brother Inaki, who is a Ghana international, Nico chose to play for Spain and will now be regarded as a national hero there.

Spain is back as a major player in senior soccer after winning both the Women's World Cup — also against England — and the men's UEFA Nations League in 2023.

Since 2001, Spanish men's teams have won 23 consecutive major finals in club and international soccer.

"I said before the tournament, nobody can hang with us," Williams said.

Spain won all seven games at this European Championship — an unprecedented feat — and broke the record for goals scored in a single tournament, with 15.

There were joyous scenes after the final whistle, with defender Dani Carvajal piled on by jubilant teammates after slumping to the ground. Spain coach Luis de la Fuente was thrown into the air by his players. Both Cucurella and Yamal led Spain's players in jumping over the advertising boards to reach the red-and-yellow-clad Spanish fans in the stadium's east end.

"This is the best (birthday) gift I could have asked for," Yamal said. "It is a dream come true."

After getting his medal, the teenager turned and shook his fist in celebration, stuck his tongue out and showed off a beaming grin. By then, Yamal and his team mates were wearing Spain jerseys with "Kings of Europe" and the number "4" on the back.

Meanwhile, fans who had watched the game on a big screen in Madrid celebrated wildly, chanting "champions, champions" in Spanish. It was a great sporting day for the nation, with Carlos Alcaraz winning the Wimbledon men's singles title for a second straight year hours before the Euro 2024 final.

As for England, the men's team has now lost back-to-back Euro finals — it was defeated in a penalty shootout by Italy on home soil in the final in 2021 — and this was another painful loss for a team that will

have gone six decades without a major title by the next World Cup.

England's women have been more successful, though, winning the European Championship in 2021 and reaching the World Cup final two years later.

"This time it just wasn't meant to be," Prince William, who attended the final alongside other dignitaries including Spain's King Felipe, wrote on social media. "We're all still so proud of you."

It was the fourth straight game that the English came from behind since the group stage, but their resilience wasn't rewarded this time.

A team that has produced big moments when it really mattered at Euro 2024 — including Jude Bellingham's 95th-minute overhead kick against Slovakia in the round of 16 — couldn't deliver another one, with Spain midfielder Dani Olmo clearing the ball off the line at a corner in the 89th minute.

"It has been a difficult ride, we have done extremely well to get here, but ultimately we are going to be judged on this game," England captain Harry Kane said.

"It's extremely painful," he added. "It's going to hurt for a long, long time."

England coach Gareth Southgate, who has been in charge for eight years and also led the team to the World Cup semifinals in 2018, said it wasn't the time to make a decision on his future. His contract expires in December.

"Most of this squad are going to be around not just for the World Cup but the next Euros as well," Southgate said. "There's a lot to look forward to but at this moment that's not any consolation."

## **Donald Trump arrives in Milwaukee for RNC after assassination attempt heightens security fears**

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Former President Donald Trump has arrived in Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention a day after he was targeted in an attempted assassination at a campaign event.

Trump's airplane touched down Sunday, the day before the four-day event kicks off with thousands of Republicans coming together to formally elect him as their 2024 presidential nominee.

The shocking scenes of violence at his Saturday campaign rally that injured his right ear, killed a spectator and injured another set a dark backdrop for the convention, which is typically four days of party pageantry, political speeches, policy platforms and the presidential nominee's keynote address.

The attack on Trump has put a heightened focus on safety and security of the event.

The former president said in a social media post earlier Sunday that he was going to delay his trip by two days because of the attempted assassination "but have just decided that I cannot allow a 'shooter,' or potential assassin, to force change to scheduling, or anything else."

Trump is not expected to speak at the RNC until Thursday night.

## **The Secret Service is investigating how a gunman who shot and injured Trump was able to get so close**

By REBECCA SANTANA, MICHAEL BIESECKER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Secret Service is investigating how a gunman armed with an AR-style rifle was able to get close enough to shoot and injure former President Donald Trump at a rally Saturday in Pennsylvania, in a devastating failure of one of the agency's core duties.

The FBI on Sunday identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania.

The gunman, who officials said was killed by Secret Service personnel, fired multiple shots at the stage from an "elevated position outside of the rally venue," the agency said.

An Associated Press analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos taken at the Trump rally, as well as satellite imagery of the site, shows the shooter was able to get astonishingly close to the stage where the former president was speaking. A video posted to social media and geolocated by the AP shows Crooks' body lying motionless on the roof of a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds, where Trump's rally was held. A different image shows Crooks wearing a gray T-shirt with a black American

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flag on the right arm, with a bloody wound to his head.

The roof was fewer than 150 meters (164 yards) from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized target. For reference, 150 meters is a distance at which U.S. Army recruits must hit a human-sized silhouette to qualify with the M16 assault rifle in basic training. The AR-style rifle, like that of the gunman at the Trump rally, is the semiautomatic civilian version of the military M16.

President Joe Biden said Sunday he has directed an independent review of the security at the rally.

Biden said he also directed the U.S. Secret Service to review all security measures for the Republican National Convention, which begins Monday in Milwaukee. Audrey Gibson-Cicchino, the Secret Service's coordinator for the convention, told reporters later the agency was satisfied with what she called its comprehensive planning for the Republican convention.

Biden urged Americans not to make assumptions about the motive of the shooter. He said investigators are working swiftly to investigate the attack.

"Unity is the most elusive goal of all," he said, but "nothing is more important than that right now."

Calls for an investigation came from all sides.

Rep. Mark Green, a Tennessee Republican who chairs the House Committee on Homeland Security, sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Sunday raising questions about the shooting and demanding information about the former president's Secret Service protection.

"The seriousness of this security failure and chilling moment in our nation's history cannot be understated," Green wrote.

The Secret Service did not have a speaker at a news conference Saturday night where FBI and Pennsylvania State Police officials briefed reporters on the shooting investigation. FBI Special Agent in Charge Kevin Rojek said it was "surprising" that the gunman was able to fire at the stage before he was killed.

Members of the Secret Service's counter-sniper team and counterassault team were at the rally, according to two law enforcement officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss details of the investigation.

The heavily armed counterassault team, whose Secret Service code name is "Hawkeye," is responsible for eliminating threats so that other agents can shield and take away the person they are protecting. The counter-sniper team, known by the code name "Hercules," uses long-range binoculars and is equipped with sniper rifles to deal with long-range threats.

Mayorkas said his department and the Secret Service are working with law enforcement to investigate the shooting. Maintaining the security of presidential candidates and their campaign events is one of the department's "most vital priorities," he said.

"We condemn this violence in the strongest possible terms and commend the Secret Service for their swift action today," Mayorkas said. "We are engaged with President Biden, former President Trump and their campaigns, and are taking every possible measure to ensure their safety and security."

Green also noted reports that the Secret Service had rebuffed requests from the Trump campaign for additional security. A spokesman for the Secret Service, Anthony Guglielmi, said on X Sunday that those allegations were "absolutely false" and that they had added resources and technology as the campaign's travel increased.

Green said he would be talking with Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle on Sunday.

Former top Secret Service agents told The AP that Crooks should never have been allowed to gain access to the roof, and the agency will have to figure out how that happened. They said such a lapse could have been caused by officers neglecting their posts or a flaw in the event's security plan.

The agency is "going to have to go through the security plan and interview a number of people from the director on down" to figure out what went wrong, said Stephen Colo, who retired in 2003 as an assistant director after a 27-year career in the service.

Colo said presidential candidates and former presidents don't typically get the same level of protection as the sitting president. In fact, Colo said he was surprised that the agency had staffed the event with a



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counter-sniper team. Such a valuable resource — there are not many of those highly trained agents — is usually reserved for the president. Candidates don't usually get such teams.

Timothy McCarthy, a former agent who retired from the agency in 1994, said the Secret Service "better be doing a deep dive into what happened there and doing whatever it takes to figure it out" because the gunman should not have been able to occupy such a vantage point.

"How did that person get up on that building?" said McCarthy, 75, who in 1981 took a bullet when President Ronald Reagan was shot outside the Washington Hilton Hotel. "How did that happen? I mean, that's the key to the entire thing. And what measures were put in place to prevent it?"

James Comer, a Kentucky Republican who is the House Oversight Committee chairman, said he contacted the Secret Service for a briefing and called on Cheate to appear for a hearing. Comer said his committee will send a formal invitation soon.

"Political violence in all forms is un-American and unacceptable. There are many questions and Americans demand answers," Comer said in a statement.

U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres, a New York Democrat, called for investigating "security failures" at the rally.

"The federal government must constantly learn from security failures in order to avoid repeating them, especially when those failures have implications for the nation," Torres said.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, posted on X that he and his staff are in contact with security planning coordinators ahead of the Republican National Convention set to begin Monday in Milwaukee. "We cannot be a country that accepts political violence of any kind — that is not who we are as Americans," Evers said.

The FBI said it will lead the investigation into the shooting, working with the Secret Service and local and state law enforcement.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said the Justice Department "will bring every available resource to bear to this investigation."

"My heart is with the former President, those injured, and the family of the spectator killed in this horrific attack," Garland said in a statement. "We will not tolerate violence of any kind, and violence like this is an attack on our democracy."

## Treason and espionage cases are rising in Russia since the war in Ukraine began

By DASHA LITVINOVA Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — When Maksim Kolker's phone rang at 6 a.m., and the voice on the other end said his father had been arrested, he thought it was a scam to extort money. A day earlier, he had taken his father, prominent Russian physicist Dmitry Kolker, to the hospital in his native Novosibirsk, when his advanced pancreatic cancer had suddenly worsened.

The phone kept ringing and Kolker kept hanging up until finally his father called to confirm the grim news. The elder Kolker had been charged with treason, the family later learned, a crime that is probed and prosecuted in absolute secrecy in Russia and punished with long prison terms.

Treason cases have been rare in Russia in the last 30 years, with a handful annually. But since the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, they have skyrocketed, along with espionage prosecutions, ensnaring citizens and foreigners alike, regardless of their politics.

That has brought comparisons to the show trials under Soviet dictator Josef Stalin in the 1930s.

The more recent victims range from Kremlin critics and independent journalists to veteran scientists working with countries that Moscow considers friendly.

These cases stand out from the crackdown on dissent that has reached unprecedented levels under President Vladimir Putin. They are investigated almost exclusively by the powerful Federal Security Service, or FSB, with specific charges and evidence not always revealed.

The accused are often held in strict isolation in Moscow's notorious Lefortovo Prison, tried behind closed doors, and almost always convicted, with long prison sentences.

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In 2022, Putin urged the security services to "harshly suppress the actions of foreign intelligence services, promptly identify traitors, spies and saboteurs."

The First Department, a rights group that specializes in such prosecutions and takes its name from a division of the security service, counted over 100 known treason cases in 2023, lawyer Evgeny Smirnov told The Associated Press. He added there probably were another 100 that nobody knows about.

The longer the war goes on, "the more traitors" the authorities want to round up, Smirnov said.

Treason cases began growing after 2014, when Russia illegally annexed Crimea from Ukraine, threw its weight behind a separatist insurgency in the eastern part of the country and fell out with the West for the first time since the Cold War.

Two years earlier, the legal definition of treason was expanded to include providing vaguely defined "assistance" to foreign countries or organizations, effectively exposing to prosecution anyone in contact with foreigners.

The move followed mass anti-government protests in 2011-12 in Moscow that officials claimed were instigated by the West. Those changes to the law were heavily criticized by rights advocates, including those in the Presidential Human Rights Council.

Faced with that criticism at the time, Putin promised to look into the amended law and agreed "there shouldn't be any broad interpretation of what high treason is."

And yet, that's exactly what began happening.

In 2015, authorities arrested Svetlana Davydova, a mother of seven in the western region of Smolensk, on treason charges in accordance with the new, expanded definition of the offense.

She was charged over contacting the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow in 2014 to warn officials there that she thought Russia was sending troops into eastern Ukraine, where the separatist insurgency against Kyiv was unfolding.

The case drew national attention and public outrage. Russia at the time denied its troops were involved in eastern Ukraine, and many pointed out that the case against Davydova contradicted that narrative. The charges against her were eventually dropped.

That outcome was a rare exception to the multiplying treason and espionage cases in subsequent years that consistently ended in convictions and prison terms.

Paul Whelan, a United States corporate security executive who traveled to Moscow to attend a wedding, was arrested in 2018 and convicted of espionage two years later, and sentenced to 16 years in prison. He denied the charges.

Ivan Safronov, an adviser to the Roscosmos space agency and a former military affairs journalist, was convicted of treason in 2022 and sentenced to 22 years in prison. His prosecution was widely seen as retaliation for his reporting exposing military incidents and shady arms deals.

"It's a very good cautionary tale case for them that journalists shouldn't write anything about the defense sector," his fiancée and fellow reporter Ksenia Mironova told AP.

The FSB also went after scientists who study aerodynamics, hypersonics and other fields that could be used in weapons development.

Such arrests swelled after 2018, when Putin in his annual state-of-the-nation address touted new and unique hypersonic weapons that Russia was developing, according to Smirnov, the lawyer.

In his view, it was the security services' way of showing the Kremlin that Russian scientific advances, especially those used to develop weapons, are so valuable that "all foreign intelligence services in the world are after it."

He stressed that all the arrested scientists were civilians, and that "they practically never go after military scientists."

Many of the scientists denied the charges. Their families and colleagues insisted they were implicated over something as benign as giving lectures abroad or working with foreign scientists on joint projects.

Kolker, the son of the detained Novosibirsk physicist, said that when the FSB searched his father's apartment, they looked for several presentations he had used in lectures given in China.

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The elder Kolker, who had studied light waves, gave presentations that were cleared for use abroad and also were given inside Russia, and “any student could understand that he wasn’t revealing anything (secret) in them,” Maksim Kolker said.

Nevertheless, FSB officers yanked the 54-year-old physicist from his hospital bed in 2022 and flew him to Moscow, to the Lefortovo Prison, his son said.

The ailing scientist called his family from the plane to say goodbye, knowing he was unlikely to survive prison, the son said. Within days, the family received a telegram informing them he had died in a hospital.

Other cases were similar. Valery Golubkin, a 71-year-old Moscow physicist specializing in aerodynamics, was convicted of treason in 2023. His state-run research institute was working on an international project of a hypersonic civilian aircraft, and he was asked by his employer to help with reports on the project.

Smirnov of the First Department group, which was involved in his defense, says the reports were vetted before they were sent abroad and didn’t contain state secrets.

Golubkin’s daughter, Lyudmila, said the 2021 arrest came as a shock.

“He is not guilty of anything,” she said. His 12-year sentence was upheld despite appeals, and his family now hopes he will be released on parole.

Other scientists working on hypersonics, a field with important applications for missile development, also were arrested on treason charges in recent years. One of them, Anatoly Maslov, 77, was convicted and sentenced to 14 years in prison in May.

The Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in Novosibirsk wrote a letter supporting Maslov and two other physicists implicated over “making presentations at international seminars and conferences, publishing articles in highly rated journals (and) participation in international scientific projects.” Such activities, the letter said, are “an obligatory component of conscientious and high-quality scientific activity,” both in Russia and elsewhere.

Two other recent high-profile cases involved a prominent opposition politician and a journalist.

Vladimir Kara-Murza, a journalist who became an activist, was charged with treason in 2022 after giving speeches in the West that were critical of Russia. After surviving what he believed were attempts to poison him in 2015 and 2017, Kara-Murza was convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison, where his family fears for his deteriorating health.

In his closing statement at trial, Kara-Murza alluded to the USSR’s dark legacy of prosecutions, saying the country has gone “all the way back to the 1930s.”

The Wall Street Journal’s Evan Gershkovich was arrested in 2023 on espionage charges, the first American reporter detained on such charges since the Cold War. Gershkovich, who went on trial in June, denies the charges, and the U.S. government has declared him to be wrongfully detained.

Russians reportedly have been charged with treason — or the less-severe charges of “preparing for treason” — for acts including donating money to Ukrainian charities or groups fighting alongside Kyiv’s forces, setting military enlistment offices in Russia on fire, and even private phone conversations with friends in Ukraine about moving there.

Ksenia Khavana, 33, was arrested in Yekaterinburg in February on treason charges, accused of collecting money for Ukraine’s military. The dual Russian-U.S. citizen had returned from Los Angeles to visit family, and the First Department said the charges stem from a \$51 donation to a U.S.-based charity that helps Ukraine.

Several factors are motivating authorities to pursue more treason cases, experts say.

One is that it sends a clear message that the unwritten rules have changed, and that conferences abroad or work with foreign peers is no longer something scientists should do, says Andrei Soldatov, an investigative journalist and expert on the security services.

It’s also easier to get higher authorities to allocate resources to a treason case, like surveillance or wire-taps, he says.

According to Smirnov, the spike in prosecutions came after the FSB allowed its regional branches in 2022 to pursue certain kinds of treason, and officials in those branches sought to curry favor with their superiors to advance their careers.

Above all, Soldatov said, is the FSB's genuine and widespread belief of "the fragility of the regime" at a time of a political turmoil — either from mass protests, as in 2011-12, or now during the war with Ukraine.

"They sincerely believe that it can break," he said, even if it's really not the case.

Mironova, the fiancée of the imprisoned journalist Safronov, echoed that sentiment.

FSB investigators think they're catching "traitors" and "enemies of the motherland," even when they know they don't have evidence against them, she said.

## Carlos Alcaraz wins Wimbledon by beating Novak Djokovic and now owns 4 Slam titles at age 21

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz was ready from the get-go this time. A year ago in the Wimbledon final against Novak Djokovic, Alcaraz got off to a slow start, dropped the opening set and needed five to claim his first championship at the All England Club.

Sunday's rematch began with a game that felt monumental: 20 points across nearly 15 minutes, por-tending an engrossing, back-and forth contest — and a long one. There were moments of brilliance from both men. Alcaraz, though, was better. Just as he would be for nearly all of the next two hours.

Alcaraz learned from 2023 and applied those lessons to 2024, adding up to a 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) victory over Djokovic for a second consecutive Wimbledon championship and fourth Grand Slam title in all. And to think: He is still just 21.

"At the end of my career, I want to sit at the same table as the big guys," said Alcaraz, who won the French Open last month and, after receiving Wimbledon's gold trophy from Kate, the Princess of Wales, is now just the sixth man to triumph on the red clay at Roland Garros and the grass at the All England Club in the same season. "That's my main goal. That's my dream right now."

Alcaraz improved to 4-0 in major finals, including at the 2022 U.S. Open; only Roger Federer got off to a better start to a career among men, going 7-0.

"He just was better than me in every aspect of the game," said the 37-year-old Djokovic, who had knee surgery less than 1 1/2 months ago yet was hoping to tie Federer's men's record of eight Wimbledon titles and become the first player in tennis history to win 25 Grand Slam tournaments. "In movement, in the way he was just striking the ball beautifully, serving great. Everything."

For Alcaraz, there was one brief blip, a five-point stretch that took him from the verge of victory to close to a collapse. It happened when he was a point from the championship while serving at 5-4, 40-love. But he double-faulted. Then missed a backhand. Then a volley. Then a forehand. And another forehand. Suddenly, it was 5-all. Suddenly, Alcaraz appeared rattled. Suddenly, Djokovic could hope.

Suddenly, there was intrigue.

But only briefly. Alcaraz regrouped, got to the tiebreaker, then closed things out.

Last year, Djokovic recalled, "We went toe to toe."

"This year," he continued, "it was nothing like that. It was all about him. He was the dominant force on the court and deserved to win."

Wearing a gray sleeve on his knee, Djokovic was hardly at his best on a cloudy afternoon at Centre Court — and there's no doubt Alcaraz was a big part of the problem.

The very first game, it turned out, was the most competitive portion of the proceedings until the third set.

Not to say there weren't hints of excitement the rest of the way. It's more that the outcome never really seemed in dispute.

"The first game was incredible. One of the longest first games I've ever played," Djokovic said. "That set the tone. He was coming out from the blocks ready to battle and ready to play his best level right away, which wasn't the case last year."

Djokovic double-faulted to hand over a 5-1 lead in the first set. He put a volley into the net to fall behind by a break to begin the second, then double-faulted to end that one. Finally, in the third, Djokovic perked up a bit, registering his only break of serve all day, as spectators chanted his two-syllable nickname —



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"No-le! No-le!" — while others replied with choruses of "Let's go, Carlos! Let's go!"

Still, this was not the body-contorting, get-to-everything Djokovic everyone is accustomed to seeing, which makes sense considering there were serious questions about whether it would be possible to even participate at Wimbledon.

Against Alcaraz, Djokovic occasionally hopped awkwardly when he landed after serving or stepped gingerly — as if barefoot on a beach's hot sand — between points. Missing volleys he usually makes, Djokovic won just 27 of 53 points when he went to the net. After netting a volley to close one early 11-stroke exchange, Djokovic sighed and walked to his sideline seat to grab a purple-and-green towel for dabbing at sweat. His facial expression was saying: "Come on, Carlitos, pick on someone your own age."

Alcaraz was outstanding in pretty much every way, from the basic to the sorts of shots no one else would even try. Once, he leaped and wrapped his racket all the way around his back to get the ball over the net, although Djokovic did put an overhead away to get that point. Alcaraz ran wide of the doubles alley for forehand winners. Claimed points via drop shots. Smacked serves at up to 136 mph (219 kph). Accumulated 14 break points, converting five, and faced just three.

What can't Alcaraz do?

Two days before the final, Djokovic paid Alcaraz quite a compliment, saying: "I see a lot of similarities between me and him."

So true. And remember: Alcaraz is just getting started.

"I want," Alcaraz said, "to keep going."

## **Amazon Prime Day deals are almost here. Should you take advantage of them?**

BY HALELUYA HADERO AND CORA LEWIS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It's summertime, and the bargains seem easy at a time when many consumer prices are high.

July sales events have become a seasonal revenue driver for the retail industry since Amazon launched its first Prime Day back in 2015. While consumers may be enticed by the advertised can't-miss savings on some products, personal finance experts say shoppers should be careful not to fall for potentially misleading marketing or give in to impulse buys.

Amazon has drummed up expectations in recent weeks for its 10th Prime Day event, which will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday and is open only to customers who pay \$14.99 per month, or \$139 per year, to receive free shipping and other perks as Prime members.

Rival retailers tried in the past to capture some of the Prime Day excitement by offering their own discounts during the two-day event. This year, Walmart, Target, Kohl's, and newcomers TikTok Shop and Temu launched summer promotions ahead of Amazon, hoping to siphon off some of the e-commerce giant's savings-hungry shoppers. Meanwhile, Macy's will be rolling out what it calls its "best summer deals" during an eight-day discount event that begins on Tuesday.

Why are retailers offering so many summer discounts?

July sales help retailers attract customers who are looking to get a head start on back-to-school shopping, which is the industry's second-most important shopping season behind the winter holiday period. The markdowns also pull in some discretionary spending from shoppers who've had their eyes on gadgets, household products and seasonal items, such as a bikini or a new summer dress.

Discounts can help retailers combat "a summer lull in retail spending" as consumers shift their spending to summer vacations and services, like going out to eat at restaurants, according to John Mercer, the head of global research at Coresight Research.

"It drives a bit of excitement in that mid-year period," when retailers may otherwise struggle to generate more revenue, Mercer said. Companies also have relied on discounts to drive consumer spending during the recent period of inflation and high interest rates, he said.

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Amazon doesn't disclose how much revenue it pulls in from Prime Day, but it has given some indications of its success. The company said last year's event resulted in the "single largest sales day" in the company's history, with customers purchasing more than 375 million items.

An estimate from market research firm Emarketer indicated Amazon's global sales on Prime Day went up to \$12.5 billion in 2023. The firm forecasts sales to jump roughly 7% this year.

Are the prices on offer really deals or something else?

It depends on who you ask.

Retailers hype up their promotions to pull people in. But the New York Times-owned product review website Wirecutter published an article this month saying most of Amazon's early deals this year so far "stink."

Santa Clara University business professor Kirthi Kalyanam, who is writing a book about Amazon, said Prime Day offers have been good, historically. That's because the company was able to source discounts from well-known brands such as Apple and to incentivize third-party sellers to lower their prices by promising to feature them prominently on the Amazon website, according to Kalyanam.

But Prime Day discounts may matter less these days because customers are getting accustomed to the ultra-cheap products sold by Amazon competitors Shein and Temu, which were both founded in China.

"Many of (the) deals may not be as competitive compared to Temu and Shein," Kalyanam said.

At the same time, he noted rival retailers will most likely be looking at Amazon's prices and trying to match them overnight. Last week, he said he saw Best Buy discount two products after Amazon revealed some of its early deals.

Consumer data company Numerator reported that a majority of the roughly 5,000 Prime Day shoppers it surveyed after last year's event saw product discounts of up to 40%. Survey respondents said they saw a quarter of items selling at a discount of 60% or more.

Some shopping experts have said that some past Prime discounts were not as big as they appeared.

What are some bargain-hunting and budgeting tips?

If you're watching your budget, personal finance experts say you should exercise caution before you buy.

"Avoid the false sense of urgency of manufactured holidays," advises Mark Elliot, chief customer officer at financial services company LendingClub. "The idea that 'The more you spend, the more you save' — that's just definitionally not true."

Dan Egan, a vice president at financial advising and investment company Betterment, says shoppers should make a list of what they need before the sales begin to be intentional about purchases. He also encourages consumers to avoid shopping late at night or out of boredom.

"Once you have a list, it's less likely you'll get distracted by things you don't need," Egan said. "If that list contains almost nothing, I would say to delete the (retailers') apps off your phone for the next week or two. Or you're going to get lots of notifications."

Any shopper already carrying a credit card balance should keep in mind that the interest paid on that balance could end up cancelling out any perceived savings from a summer sale purchase, he added.

"A deal is not a deal if you have to pay interest on it," Egan said.

While it may make sense for shoppers to try out free or temporary memberships to qualify for the best deals during the summer sales, those programs typically charge a fee to the customer's credit card on file after a short period of time, noted Erin Witte, the Consumer Federation of America's director of consumer protection.

"Set a calendar reminder to cancel if you don't want to go through with that subscription," Witte said. "Think about it right at the beginning. And remember that these companies design this product to make it easy to sign up, but more difficult to cancel."

Consumer Reports also offers a few tips: Download Amazon's app, sign-up for invite-only deals available for a select group of shoppers, and join the waitlist on limited-time offers that are already sold out.

Don't forget to shop around

Filling up an online Amazon cart is tempting for Prime members since they are paying for access to Prime Day deals. But it's always a smart idea to compare prices across multiple websites before completing a

purchase.

Unlike Prime Day offers, Walmart's discount event this month was open to everyone. However, the company sweetened the deal for its Walmart+ members by offering them early access.

Target only offered discounts to shoppers enrolled in its Target Circle loyalty program and used the weeklong event to promote a new membership program that aims to rejuvenate sales and traffic.

TikTok Shop, the e-commerce arm of the popular video-sharing app, opened its summer sales event to everyone. The event started on July 9 and runs until Wednesday.

## **Reagan survived an assassination attempt and his response changed the trajectory of his presidency**

By DEL QUENTIN WILBER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The would-be assassin got off six shots in 1.7 seconds, nearly taking the life of a president and changing the trajectory of a presidency.

It happened on a dreary March afternoon in 1981. President Ronald Reagan was leaving the Washington Hilton hotel after giving a speech to a union group when John W. Hinckley Jr. opened fire from his .22-caliber revolver.

At the sound of the gunshots, Secret Service agents swarmed, and one of them shoved the president into the waiting limousine -- but not before one of the bullets struck home, hitting Reagan in his side.

What transpired over the next few hours became the stuff of presidential and political legend. The life of the 70-year-old president was saved by the quick actions of his lead Secret Service agent, as well as the skill of medical personnel at George Washington University Hospital. Reagan's courage over those tense hours further cemented his relationship -- and political standing -- with the American public and changed the way he approached the job over the next eight years.

On the surface the parallels between 1981 and what happened Saturday in Butler, Pennsylvania, when a gunman fired shots at former President Donald Trump, are striking. A gunman got off several shots as Trump was addressing a rally crowd, and Trump was struck in the right ear. Trump ducked behind a lectern as agents piled on top of him as human shields. In what is sure to be an iconic moment, a bloodied Trump raised a defiant fist to the crowd as agents whisked the presumptive Republican presidential candidate off the stage.

"I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin," he said in a statement.

Trump's campaign said he was doing "fine" after being checked out at an area medical facility. Authorities are working to figure out what happened in Butler.

As the public learned in the hours after the Reagan assassination attempt, early reports can be wrong. Only much later did the public realize how close Reagan came to dying that day -- his life had hung in the balance of a split-second decision and an inch.

It was just 70 days into Reagan's first term when he left the Washington Hilton on March 30 after a speech to a trade union and approached his waiting limousine at 2:27 p.m. Hinckley couldn't believe his luck. A troubled 25-year-old, Hinckley had been hoping to kill the president to impress actress Jodie Foster. He had now somehow found himself standing behind a rope line in a crowd of spectators and journalists — all unscreened by the Secret Service — just 15 feet from the president.

He pulled out his revolver and opened fire.

His first bullet struck White House Press Secretary James Brady in the head, and his second hit D.C. Police Officer Thomas Delahanty in the back.

At the sound of the shots, Secret Service Agent Jerry Parr grabbed Reagan and shoved him toward the open door of the armored limousine. Hinckley's third bullet flew high. The fourth hit Secret Service Agent Tim McCarthy in the chest as he stood between the president and the gunman.

The fifth shot hit the armored window of the limousine. Hinckley's final bullet ricocheted off the side of the limousine, flattening into the shape of a dime and striking Reagan five inches below his left armpit.

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Parr dove in behind the president, and the door slammed shut. Parr ordered the limousine to head to the White House.

Parr didn't know Reagan had been shot. But when the president complained of pain in his chest and Parr noticed frothy blood on his lips, the agent ordered the limousine to head to George Washington University hospital. There, Reagan insisted on walking into the hospital under his own power but collapsed like a dead weight in the hallway.

Doctors and nurses located his wounds. They could not stem Reagan's bleeding, however, forcing surgeons to operate to staunch it. Reagan lost more than half his blood volume that day before the bleeding was brought under control. Surgeons removed the bullet lodged just an inch from the president's heart.

As laid out in my book, *Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan*, the shooting generated massive sympathy from the American public for Reagan, who spent 13 days in the hospital before returning to the White House. But it did something else -- it built a bond between the president and the public. They had seen a president who acted with grace and courage. They would hear that he had cracked jokes with his doctors and nurses as they fought to save his life and sought to ease the anxiety of loved ones.

Lying on a gurney in the trauma bay, a chest tube draining blood from his side, Reagan sought to calm down his wife, Nancy, with a quip.

"Honey, I forgot to duck," he told her, borrowing a line that boxer Jack Dempsey delivered to his own wife after losing the 1926 heavyweight championship.

He joked with advisers as he was being wheeled into the operating room. And just before he was put under for surgery, he cracked to his surgeons: "I hope you are all Republicans."

Dr. Joseph Giordano, a liberal Democrat, replied: "Today, Mr. President, we are all Republicans."

The White House wasted little time in ensuring those lines were delivered to the press. As David Broder, a Washington Post political journalist, would write two days later: "What happened to Reagan on Monday is the stuff of which legends are made."

Three decades later, Broder stood by that assessment. "He was politically untouchable from that point on," Broder said in an interview. "He became a mythic figure."

## **UK Foreign Secretary visits Israel and West Bank and calls for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza**

By MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The new British foreign secretary called for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza during a visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories on Sunday, his second international trip since Labour's resounding victory in elections earlier this month.

David Lammy said the ongoing war in Gaza is "intolerable" and stressed in meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leadership that Britain wants to assist with diplomatic efforts "securing a cease-fire deal and creating the space for a credible and irreversible pathway towards a two-state solution."

Lammy met Sunday in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and in the West Bank city of Ramallah with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. He will meet with Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Monday. During his visit, Lammy will also meet with families of hostages currently being held in Gaza who have ties to the U.K. He called for the release of all hostages and a dramatic increase in the amount of humanitarian aid entering Gaza.

Lammy demanded Israel halt settlement expansion in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem, and said that the Palestinian Authority needs to be "reformed and empowered."

Both Lammy's Labour Party and the previous Conservative government initially avoided calling for an immediate cease-fire in the war, using phrases like "humanitarian pause." But the language has got stronger. Prime Minister Keir Starmer told Netanyahu last week there was a "clear and urgent need for a cease-fire."

Labour's stance on the Gaza war cost it votes in this month's U.K. election. Although the party won in a landslide, pro-Palestinian independents defeated Labour candidates in several seats with large Muslim



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populations.

Lammy's comments came the day after Israel said it had targeted Hamas' shadowy military commander in a massive strike Saturday in the crowded southern Gaza Strip that killed at least 90 people, including children, according to local health officials.

Top Hamas officials said on Sunday that the negotiations for a possible cease-fire deal had not been halted because of the attack. Hamas also denied that Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif, the target of the strike, was killed and said Israel's "false claims are merely a cover-up for the scale of the horrific massacre."

Deif and Hamas' top official in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, are believed by Israel to be the chief architects of the Oct. 7 attack that killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel and kidnapped 250, triggering the Israel-Hamas war.

Since then, Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 38,400 people in Gaza and wounded more than 88,000, according to the territory's Health Ministry. The ministry does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

## Today in History: July 15, discovery of the Rosetta Stone

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 15, the 197th day of 2024. There are 169 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 15, 1799, the Rosetta Stone, a key to deciphering ancient Egyptian scripts, was found at Fort Julien in the Nile Delta during the Napoleonic campaign in Egypt.

Also on this date:

In 1834, the Spanish Inquisition was abolished more than 350 years after its creation.

In 1870, Georgia became the last Confederate state to be readmitted to the Union.

In 1913, Democrat Augustus Bacon of Georgia became the first person elected to the U.S. Senate under the terms of the recently ratified 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for popular election of senators.

In 1916, The Boeing Company, originally known as Pacific Aero Products Co., was founded in Seattle.

In 1975, three American astronauts blasted off aboard an Apollo spaceship hours after two Soviet cosmonauts were launched aboard a Soyuz spacecraft for a mission that included a linkup of the two ships in orbit.

In 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 schoolchildren and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, California, by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. (The captives escaped unharmed; the kidnappers were caught.)

In 1996, MSNBC, a 24-hour all-news network, made its debut on cable and the internet.

In 1997, fashion designer Gianni Versace, 50, was shot dead outside his Miami Beach home; suspected gunman Andrew Phillip Cunanan (koo-NAN'-an), 27, was found dead eight days later, a suicide. (Investigators believed Cunanan killed four other people before Versace in a cross-country rampage that began the previous March.)

In 2002, John Walker Lindh, an American who'd fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, to two felonies in a deal sparing him life in prison.

In 2006, Twitter (now known as X) was launched to the public.

In 2019, avowed white supremacist James Alex Fields Jr. was sentenced to life in prison plus 419 years for killing one and injuring dozens of others when he deliberately drove his car into a crowd of anti-racism protesters during a rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In 2020, George Floyd's family filed a lawsuit against the city of Minneapolis and the four police officers charged in his death, alleging the officers violated Floyd's rights when they restrained him and that the city allowed a culture of excessive force, racism and impunity to flourish in its police force. (The city would

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agree to pay \$27 million to settle the lawsuit in March 2021.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Patrick Wayne is 85. R&B singer Millie Jackson is 80. Singer Linda Ronstadt is 78. Author Richard Russo is 75. Musician Trevon Horn is 75. Arianna Huffington, co-founder of The Huffington Post, is 74. Former professional wrestler and Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura is 73. Actor Terry O'Quinn (TV: "Lost") is 72. Rock drummer Marky Ramone is 72. Rock musician Joe Satriani is 68. Model Kim Alexis is 64. Actor Willie Aames is 64. Actor-director Forest Whitaker is 63. Actor Brigitte Nielsen is 61. Rock drummer Jason Bonham is 58. TV personality Adam Savage (TV: "MythBusters") is 57. Actor-comedian Eddie Griffin is 56. Actor-screenwriter Jim Rash (TV: "Community") is 52. Actor Scott Foley is 52. Actor Brian Austin Green is 51. Singer Biju Banton is 51. Actor Diane Kruger is 48. Actor Lana Parrilla (LAH'-nuh pa-REE'-uh) is 47. Actor Travis Fimmel is 45. Actor-singer Tristan "Mack" Wilds is 35. NBA point guard Damian Lillard is 34. Actor Iain Armitage (TV: "Young Sheldon") is 16.