

Butler Eagle

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TRUMP SHOT

Suspect dead; bystander killed



Secret Service agents immediately surround former President Donald Trump after he was shot during his campaign stop at the Butler Farm Show grounds on Saturday. A spectator and the suspected shooter were both killed and two were wounded. RALPH LOVUOLO/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Shooting creates chaotic scene at Butler Farm Show grounds

By Irina Bucur and Steve Ferris
Eagle Staff Writers

CONNOQUENESSING TWP — Less than six minutes into his speech Saturday at the Butler Farm Show grounds, former President Donald Trump and three spectators were shot before the shooter was shot by the Secret Service.

Trump survived, but one spectator and the shooter were killed, District Attorney Rich Goldinger said

soon after the chaos unfolded.

State police later confirmed two other spectators were wounded.

The bleachers behind Trump and the seats in front him were filled with some of the thousands of people who came to see and listen to the former president a week before he is expected to be nominated at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. Slippery Rock Mayor Jon-

david Longo said he and his wife met with Trump before the speech and were sitting in the front row to the right of Trump when the shooting began. Longo had led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance earlier in the afternoon. The shooting took place about 6:10 p.m.

“An individual who was about 15 to 20 feet behind us lost his life because of this maniac and the violence he wanted to do here against

See Scene, Page 3

Ex-fire chief died protecting his family

By William Pitts, Eagle Staff Writer

The former chief of the Buffalo Township Volunteer Fire Company died Saturday while trying to protect his family after a would-be assassin opened fire at a campaign rally for former President Donald Trump at the Butler Farm Show grounds in Connoquenessing Township.

Corey Comperatore, 50, was publicly identified Sunday in a news release from state police. He also was identified by family mem-

bers on social media and by Gov. Josh Shapiro during a Sunday news conference in front of the Butler Township municipal building.

Shapiro said Comperatore died a “heroic death” by diving on top of his family to protect them as shots were fired. The governor was relaying the information during a briefing from the FBI, which has taken the lead in investigating the attempted assassination of Trump.

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DEATHS

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 - Nancy A. Chambers, formerly of Mars
 - Charles Everett Cranmer Jr., Butler
 - Rosemarie E. Gall-Zarnick, Butler
 - Margaret M. Hansotte, Jefferson Township
 - James “Jim” Willard Kreutz, West Liberty
 - Brian J. Sullivan, Butler
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Attendees 'at a loss' after shooting

People at rally recall reacting to gunshots

By Irina Bucur, Steve Ferris and Paula Grubbs
Eagle Staff Writers

CONNOQUENESSING TWP — The first few gunshots rang out like fireworks. But when they continued, people in the crowd at the Butler Farm Show venue dropped to the ground; a mother and father told their children to crouch down. A young man hunched over in the grass. Behind him, a woman started to pray.

Moments before, around 6 p.m., former President Donald Trump was welcomed on stage for the rally Saturday addressing voters as he spoke about illegal immigration.

He called for deportations and echoed the rhetoric of the speakers before him, including GOP nominee for state Sen. David McCormick, U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly, R-16th and Sean Parnell, who spoke with urgency about "saving our country."

"We're going to take back the White House and we're going to take back our country," Trump said.

"Our country has been stolen from us," he said.

As he continued talking about immigration under President Joe Biden's administration, several shots rang out. People took cover. Some later described seeing and hearing return fire from Secret Service agents.

Butler County Commissioner Leslie Osche was pleased to be in the bleachers directly behind Trump to lend her support and enjoy the sight of hundreds of citizens backing the presumptive Republican presidential candidate.

When shots rang out just 10 or 15 minutes into Trump's speech, Osche acted immediately, although she, like everyone else, was in disbelief in a surreal situation.

"My son being a state trooper, as soon as I heard one shot, I yelled 'Everyone down!'" she said. "We pushed everyone down around us in the stands."

Osche saw at least two people who were hurt — one who appeared to have fatal injuries at the end of the bleachers and the other a woman in the crowd with a hip injury.

She was clearly shaken at the horrifying circumstances that played out at the farm show grounds, where the family-oriented annual farm show is slated in just a few weeks.

"It's unbelievable," Osche said, her voice cracking. "I'm at a loss."

Osche said she was surprised to hear Trump, who suffered an apparent ear injury, was taken to Butler Memorial Hospital for treatment, as she saw medical helicopters landing at the scene.

She said she was glad Trump was walking under his own power and coherent when Secret Service agents, who descended on him, allowed the former president to stand.

"I am extremely grateful to our law enforcement who were there from all across the county and our emergency management personnel who worked all day to see that people were treated for the heat," she said. "I think everyone responded as we'd expect, and I'm thankful they were there to protect the citizens of this county."

As people slowly stood up, some made their way out of the rally before the Secret Service began evacuations, stepping on the many strewn water bottles littering the farm show grounds. Others tried to move closer to the bleachers, filming the scene with their cellphones.



Former President Donald Trump raises a fist as he is surrounded by U.S. Secret Service agents moments after shots were fired in his direction during a campaign rally Saturday in Butler.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I thought it was fireworks maybe," said Austin Wiehagen of Pittsburgh. "And then it kept popping. I was like, that doesn't sound like fireworks."

"Then everyone started going down," he said.

"Everyone was kind of ducking down and Trump was getting covered ... by the Secret Service," Wiehagen said.

Mare Fort, of Grove City, said he didn't see the shooter, at first believing the shots to be from a cap gun or somebody's attempt at disturbing the rally.

"I saw people running," he said.

"I thought, this is not real," he said.

"With (an incident) of this magnitude, you can't get an emotional reaction," Fort said.

Lisa LeGrand, of Clearfield Township, decided on a lark to attend the rally with a few friends on Saturday.

She and her group had seats right in front of Trump's podium, about eight or nine rows back from the stage.

"All of a sudden you hear 'pop, pop, pop' and everyone hit the ground," LeGrand said. "Everyone was laying under their seats."

She said it was especially terrifying to see the Secret Service snipers drop down and assume a defensive position on the roofs of barns on either side of the stage as soon as the shots rang out.

She saw the Secret Service snipers immediately return fire, which made the evacuation calmer because everyone assumed the shooter had been neutralized.

"It was pretty wild," LeGrand said. "We got out of there. We didn't mess around."

She said the lack of cell service at the farm show grounds only allowed texting, so she called her mother as soon as she reached the nearby Sheetz to report that she was OK.

"I can't believe this is happening in Butler," LeGrand said.

Terrie Ferrie, of Parkersburg, W.Va., sat in a few rows away from the bleachers and said she saw Trump's ear bleed after the gunshots started, which, like others, she initially mistook for fireworks.

She said she saw Trump get pulled down. When Ferrie looked again, he was "bleeding badly" before giving a thumbs-up.

"You don't even want to know,"



The Butler Farm Show grounds are cordoned off and treated as a crime scene following the shooting Saturday.

RALPH LOVUOLO/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE



Secret service moves former President Donald Trump from the podium after shots rang out Saturday.

MORGAN PHILLIPS/BUTLER EAGLE

Ferrie answered when asked how she felt in the wake of the shooting.

Searching for her car at the farm show grounds, Ferrie said she and her husband had driven three hours to attend Trump's rally.

Erin Autenreith, chairwoman of the Shaler Township Republican Committee, arrived at the rally at 7 a.m. as a volunteer, but had a front-row seat for the speech.

"I was in the middle of the front row directly in front of Trump," Autenreith said. "He

started speaking and then we could hear 'pop pop.'"

She said she thought the sound was fireworks before Secret Service agents jumped on Trump and pushed him to the floor.

As agents lifted Trump up from the floor, she said she heard him say "Let me get my shoes on." Autenreith said Trump's shoes might have fallen off when agents tackled him.

She said she saw a drop of blood on his cheek before he turned and blood on the right side of his head was visible as agents helped Trump leave, but she was glad to see Trump hold

his hand up to signify that he was OK.

Mary Geibel, of Summit Township, attended the rally with her husband. The couple stood two rows behind the chairs set up in front of the stage.

"When I first heard (the shots), it didn't dawn on me until my husband said 'Get down!' Then I was scared," she said.

She said those in the crowd stayed down for a short time.

"Everyone was pretty calm for what the situation was," Geibel said. "Nobody tried to run out."

She watched Secret Service men surround Trump, who had grabbed his right ear and hunched down behind the podium.

After he was led off the stage by Secret Service agents, no instructions were forthcoming from the stage, so people began leaving on their own, Geibel said.

The police then encouraged everyone to continue evacuating in a calm and orderly manner.

Her husband saw the snipers shooting toward Route 68, which was behind Trump.

Osche, who serves as chairwoman for the county commissioners, remained incredulous after the rally was evacuated that an assassination attempt occurred in Butler County.

"I just ask everyone to pray," she said. "This should have never happened."

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Local churches, religious leaders react to shooting

By William Pitts, Eagle Staff Writer

One day after the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump during which two people died, including the gunman, and two others were critically injured, Christians across Butler County flocked to church.

Religious institutions across Butler County, regardless of denomination, have publicly expressed shock and outrage at Saturday's incident.

"Tonight in Butler from the depths of our hearts we cry 'Lord, have mercy,'" wrote a representative for First English Lutheran Church on its Facebook page. "May the God of peace console the grieving, bring healing to Mr. Trump and others who may be suffering, give strength to law enforcement and first responders, and preserve us from further violence."

In an official statement, Kevin Fazio, pastor of All Saints Parish in Butler, denounced the assassination attempt.

"We are shocked and saddened by the tragic shooting and act of violence that occurred," Fazio wrote. "There are feelings of fear, hurt, anger, and sorrow in our community right now. As Christians, we need to remember that during times of darkness, we are called to reflect the light of Christ. May we continue to pray for peace in our world, in our country, and right here at home."

The above statement was read aloud at Sunday Mass at both St. Paul and St. Andrew churches in Butler.

Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh — which includes Butler — also expressed disgust at the shooting, but also praised the Secret Service for its quick action to prevent the situation from deteriorating further.

"We are grateful for the swift actions of the Secret Service and our local first responders. Let us join together in prayer for the health and safety of all, for healing and peace, and for an end to this climate of violence in our world," Zubik wrote.

At least one local Methodist church also joined in the condemnations, in what has already been a turbulent period for Methodists as a whole.

"Please know that as you gather tomorrow I am praying for you," wrote Pastor B.T. Gil-



An attendee of the rally Saturday reacts to the shooting.

MORGAN PHILLIPS/BUTLER EAGLE

lian of Nixon United Methodist Church, who was traveling when the shooting occurred. "Please pray for our nation. Pray for the first responders. Pray for the deceased. Pray for the injured. And regardless of your political ideology, pray for candidate Trump."

"In the midst of political discourse and debate we must remain calm and peaceful. Violence is never the answer. Please know that as Christians we denounce all gun violence, and we believe that we are called to handle political differences with our ballots and not our bullets."

Underscoring the tension of the weekend in Western Pennsylvania, at least two of the All Saints Parish Catholic churches — St. Peter and St. Andrew — were watched over by a security detail in front of the church buildings.

One former Butler County reverend also chimed in. The Rev. Ronald Schermerhorn, formerly of the Mount Chestnut Presbyterian Church, now presides over First Presbyterian Church in Rockingham, N.C. After Saturday's events in Butler, he said his heart hurt for his old home, which he left one year minus one day before Saturday's events.

"In a nutshell, I think it is horrible that we have come to this place where we cannot really agree to disagree on things," said Schermerhorn, who said he is dealing with political disagreements at his current church. "I think both this president that we have and the one that's running are very divisive people. And the problem is, we get behind a person, and it just goes out of hand and it turns into a violent incident like this, and that's just not necessary."



Moments after former President Donald Trump was shot, a group of patrons gathered in prayer at the Butler Farm Show grounds.

RALPH LOVUOLO/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Chicora pastor: shooting at Trump rally was 'surreal'

By Eric Freehling

Eagle Correspondent

Sitting in the grandstand behind the speaker's podium, Pastor John Pistorius of Christ's Family Church in Chicora had a bird's-eye view of the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump and its aftermath.



John Pistorius

Pistorius said he arrived before noon Saturday, July 13, for the Trump rally at the Butler Farm Show grounds.

"At 11 a.m. we arrived at the rally and went through the line to get in," he said. "Then I was led to the bleachers. I was behind the podium in the bleachers on the upper

right side."

After listening to a series of introductory speakers throughout the afternoon, Pistorius said, "I saw where the motorcade came in. It was very interesting."

"Trump began his speech and he said, 'I'm going off the teleprompter.' He brought up immigration and pointed to the screen."

"Then it happened. 'It sounded like firecrackers. There were three and then there were five or six more after that,'" he said of the noises that interrupted Trump's speech.

"Then he grabbed his ear. There was blood, and the Secret Service dove on him. Nobody knew what actually happened. The Secret Service got him off the stage and down the steps," he said.

"There was blood on his ear and blood on his hand. I real-

ized this was a shooting," he said.

"It was just starting to sink in," he said. "It was a hot day. Everyone was quite exhausted by the heat."

Pistorius said Trump was rushed into a vehicle by his security team "right below me. I watched it happen."

"I was at the end of the stand looking down at a black SUV. Trump seemed somewhat OK. I couldn't tell how seriously he was injured. He was fully surrounded by that time," he said.

Pistorius also saw a man taken to the grass off to the right of the grandstand.

"Police were working on him, and military men were on guard, watching and looking," he said.

"We were right there. We watched. It was surreal. I had no fear. I was concerned, and I was worried," he said.

Scene

From Page 1

us and President Trump," Longo said.

He said he heard the first shot, but wasn't immediately sure if it was gunfire. When more shots were fired, he said he pushed his wife to the ground and covered her to protect her out of fear that shooter might be near them.

As Secret Service agents jumped on Trump, Longo said he yelled for the audience members around him to keep their heads down.

"Unfortunately the person who was killed was right behind us. He was seated 15 to 20 feet behind us in the bleachers," Longo said.

He said he feels terrible for the man and his family.

Goldinger didn't attend the rally, but was informed of the shooting.

"It's terrible. This is part of a microcosm right now that someone would want to kill a presidential candidate. It's sad, resorting to eliminate a candidate. This country needs to come together," Goldinger said.

As authorities urged visitors to leave the rally and evacuate, James Sweetland, 70, a retired physician from DuBois, could be seen walking away in a white shirt



James Sweetland, a retired physician from DuBois, said he gave CPR to a person with a severe head wound at the campaign rally for former President Donald Trump at Saturday.

IRINA BUCUR/BUTLER EAGLE

stained with blood. He had helped a man who was shot in the bleachers. The gunshot wound to his head was "grave," Sweetland said, and he recalled seeing the man in a pool of blood.

"I heard some shots and I heard somebody say, 'A guy's down — he's been shot,'" he said. "People were huddled." "He was down in a pool of

blood," he said. "His body was twisted and wet in that row where the blood is at."

"He was down and not breathing," Sweetland said. "He did not have a pulse. I started CPR. I breathed for him and did compressions."

Sweetland said he saw state police carry him "like a rag doll."

"I can't even believe it," said Sweetland's wife, Lois. "Isn't this unbelievable?" she said. "In the United States of America?"

"I'm fine — I'm angry," Lois Sweetland said. "Because something happened and this guy got a gun in this area. And I'm just sorry that it happened with all these people."

Shooter killed

Late Saturday, authorities identified Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, as the shooter who fired from a rooftop outside the rally venue before he was killed by the Secret Service.

The attack was the most serious attempt to assassinate 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 presiden-

tial election. And it could alter the tenor and security posture at the Republican National Convention, which will begin Monday in Milwaukee.

Trump's campaign said the convention would proceed as planned.

Law enforcement recovered an AR-style rifle at the scene, according to a third person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

The officials said the shooter was engaged by members of the U.S. Secret Service counterassault team. The heavily armed tactical team travels everywhere with the president and major party nominees and is meant to confront any active threats while other agents focus on safeguarding and evacuating the person at the center of protection.

An AP analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos from the 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 the body of a person wearing gray camouflage motionless on the roof of a building at AGR International

Inc., a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds.

The roof where the person laid was less than 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 scaled human-sized silhouette to qualify with the M-16 rifle. The AR-15, like the shooter at the Trump rally had, is the semi-automatic civilian version of the military M-16.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, whose department oversees the Secret Service, said officials were engaged with the Biden and Trump campaigns and "taking every possible measure to ensure their safety and security."

In the coming days, much of the focus will shift to the shooter and security lapses. The shooter was not an attendee at the rally and was killed by U.S. Secret Service agents, according to two officials who spoke to the Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Shooting rocks community

Residents react to tragedy

Eagle Staff Report

Brenda Slagle and Dan Taciuch were sitting in front of a television at a Jefferson Street home in Butler, watching former President Donald Trump speak Saturday nearby at the Butler Farm Show grounds when they learned gunshots were fired at the event.

Only a short time later, they saw dozens of vehicles with flashing lights and sirens zoom past their home, situated near Butler Memorial Hospital.

"It was police car after police car," Slagle said. "Boom, boom, boom."

Former president and current presidential candidate Trump was quickly ushered off the stage following the gunshots, with blood visible on his face.

A statement from his campaign indicated Saturday that Trump was "fine." Trump himself later took to social media saying he was "shot with a bullet" in upper part of his right ear, in a post late Saturday.

"It's alright to disagree," Taciuch said, "but it's not alright to hate somebody, to do this."

Taciuch, a Trump supporter, noted he has friends of varying political backgrounds. He had considered attending the event, but stayed home to avoid the crowd.

Slagle said she took phone calls from her friends who were at the event before seeing the emergency vehicles converge on Hospital Way.

"People were there to support who they want to support," she said. "And now, this is just sad."

Authorities identified Thomas Matthew Crooks, of Bethel Park, as the shooter who fired from a rooftop outside the rally venue before he was killed by the Secret Service.

The shooting is being investigated as an attempted assassination of the former president and presumptive Republican nominee, law enforcement officials told the Associated Press.

Into the evening, a vehicle with flashing lights blocked the Jefferson Street entrance, where Ash Nix, of Butler, stood with a sign reading, "Wishing Trump a long terrible recovery. Tots and Pears."

"I was going to counterprotest the rally, but my husband feared violence," Nix said. "When I heard the news, I thought I'd come out here, let him know how I feel."

"The only shame is if he died, he would have been seen as a martyr," she continued.

Haley Dunbar, of Butler, was hiking and having fun geocaching with her significant other and two young children on the Butler-Freeport Community Trail when she began hearing multiple sirens in the direction of Butler Memorial Hospital.

She also noticed helicopters overhead and decided it was time to leave.

"We got out of the woods immediately," Dunbar said.

She pulled up a scanner app on her phone and quickly realized there was a shooting and injuries at the Trump rally.

Then, a friend at the rally sent her a picture of someone who appeared to have been shot.

"It's such a sad day for Butler County," Dunbar said through tears.

She remained calm as she got her children into the car to drive home to safety.

"The kids were obviously alarmed by the sounds of the sirens, and I tried to diffuse as much as possible," Dunbar said. "I said 'We have to go home and let the dog out.'"

She said a helicopter continued to circle the hospital at 8:45 p.m. Saturday.

"If someone feels Trump is not appropriate for president, they could have just stayed away," she said. "It's a tragic day for Butler County. It's too close for comfort."

Melissa Forester, spokeswoman for Independence Health System, said all comments were being directed to the Trump campaign. She did not comment on how the situation was affecting the public. Butler Memorial Hospital is part of Independence



Secret Service agents scramble after shots were fired Saturday at the Butler Farm Show grounds during a rally for former President Donald Trump. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Health System.

All ambulances responding to emergencies in Butler County were advised to take patients elsewhere shortly before 7 p.m., according to scanner traffic.

A motorcade left the facility shortly after 9 p.m.

On Sunday, Butler County commissioners Leslie Osche and Kimberley Geyer in a joint news release said "we are ... grateful to Independence Health System for their assistance throughout the entire day to care for the residents and visitors to our County, for caring for former President Trump, and especially for the other victims of this tragedy."

Donna Lamison, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Butler County, said Sunday people may worry a traumatic event such as a shooting could occur again, making a person feel more anxious. While the effects may not be physical, they can take a mental toll on a person.

"It just gives people a feeling of anxiety, a feeling of not



Secret Service officers escort Donald Trump from the stage after gunfire during the rally on Saturday. TAMMY SCHUEY/BUTLER EAGLE

being safe. It just impacts people in so many ways," Lamison said. "Being in a crisis situation and all the emotions that go along with that are sure to come up, and people are going

to deal with that differently." The mental health crisis phone number is 1-800-292-3866, and people also can call 988 to connect immediately with a person.

Attempt

From Page 1

In addition to being a volunteer firefighter, Comperatore was married and a father of two.

"Corey was a 'girl dad.' Corey was a firefighter," Shapiro said. "Corey went to church every Sunday. Corey loved his community. Most especially, Corey loved his family."

Shapiro, who said Comperatore was an avid Trump supporter, ordered flags across the state be flown at half-staff in his honor.

Shooter, wounded ID'd

The FBI identified the shooter who nicked Trump's right ear during the rally.

State police Sunday also publicly identified two people wounded in the shooting who initially were reported to be in "critical condition."

The FBI said the shooter was 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, who lived roughly an hour south of Butler in Bethel Park, Allegheny County. As of Sunday afternoon, the FBI, which has assumed the lead in investigating the shooting, said it believes Crooks acted alone. A motive has not been identified.

The victims were David Dutch, 57, of New Kensington, and James Copenhaver, 74, of Moon Township. According to state police, the two have been upgraded to "stable" condition.

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee had



Gov. Josh Shapiro speaks to the media regarding the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump and the death of former Buffalo Township volunteer fire chief Corey Comperatore. WILLIAM PITTS/BUTLER EAGLE

been speaking for only six minutes when bullets rained down from the roof of the nearby AGR International building on Whitestown Road.

One pierced Trump's right ear before he was whisked off the stage by Secret Service members, pumping his fist defiantly. By the time the dust settled, one spectator was killed and two were wounded. The shooter also was killed.

"The event that unfolded yesterday was devastating for everyone and our focus right now is on supporting our emergency management in its efforts to provide needed resources to those impacted and to the

ongoing investigation," said Butler County Commissioners Kimberly Geyer and Leslie Osche in a joint statement. "Above all, we are praying for and offering our support to the family who lost a loved one and those who were injured."

Bomb-making materials were found inside Crooks' vehicle near the rally and at his home, according to two officials who were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Possible domestic terrorism

In addition to an attempted assassination, the FBI also is investigating the incident

as a possible act of domestic terrorism. Bureau representatives said all available resources have been deployed to the Pittsburgh region, that they have received "over 2,600 tips" to their hotline, and that they will aggressively pursue upcoming threats to both the upcoming Republican and Democratic conventions.

Crooks graduated from Bethel Park High School in 2022, the school district said in a statement to KDKA-TV. The school district said it will cooperate fully with investigators. In 2022, Crooks was among several students given an award for math and sci-



Corey Comperatore

ence, according to a Tribune-Review story at the time.

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 President Joe Biden was sworn in to office, according to AP.

Sources tell the Associated Press a local law enforcement officer encountered Crooks moments before he fired at Trump. The officials spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation. They say not long before shots rang out, rallygoers noticed a man climbing to the top of a roof of a nearby offsite building and warned local police. When an officer climbed to the roof, Crooks pointed his rifle at the officer. The officer retreated down the ladder.

Also stymied by the shooting was a planned mention of Marc Fogel, the Butler native who is being held in a Russian prison camp.

Fogel's mother, Malphine Fogel, 95, met with Trump before the rally Saturday, and, according to a Facebook page dedicated to Marc Fogel's plight, was to join Trump on stage to make a statement to the national audience pleading for her son's freedom.

According to the post, Malphine Fogel was sitting at ground level for the rally and was waiting to be called on stage.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Rep. Kelly describes shock of attempt

By William Pitts
Eagle Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly, R-16th, still is coming to terms with the shock of Saturday's fatal events at the Butler Farm Show grounds, which left two dead — including the gunman — and two critically wounded.

What was supposed to be a rousing afternoon of speeches at a rally in support of former President Donald Trump became a whirl of chaos as shots rang out and Trump was wounded by a gunman.

And Kelly was there. "This is Butler, Pennsylvania, and we're at the Farm Show," Kelly said. "This is home. This is where the 4-H kids show their animals. This is where we have the bake sales. This is where we have everything that makes rural America so great. And then something like this happens."

Kelly, one of Butler County's most prominent residents and business owners, was a guest of honor at the rally.

For Kelly, the moments of the shooting passed by like a blur.

"I just hear, 'pop, pop, pop.' And I'm watching the president, and I'm thinking, 'Oh my God, they just shot the president,'" Kelly said. "Ten rows, 12 rows up in the bleachers, people were crying, and they have blood on their shirts. And then you see the aftermath of it, the confusion, and law enforcement saying, 'get down, get down, stay down.'"

Multiple members of Kelly's family also were present at the rally, seated separately from the congressman, includ-



U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly speaks at rally supporting former President Donald Trump at the Butler Farm Show grounds. TAMMY SCHUEY/BUTLER EAGLE

ing his brother, Ike, and the congressman's wife, Victoria. When the shooting began, Kelly said his first thoughts were of them.

"I wondered where Vickie is with the kids. Are they safe?" Kelly said. "Things keep running through your mind and you're fast-forwarding through your checklist mentally."

Kelly said it took "probably

over an hour" after the incident began to reunite with his family. Afterward, they retreated to the home of his brother, who lives nearby.

After the dust settled, Kelly was left to reflect on how a nation — not just a former president and personal friend — were left wounded.

"The whole country is wounded now," Kelly said.

"We've certainly turned a corner now. It seems like we're a Third World country. If we have a political difference, our answer to that is to eliminate whatever it is we don't like."

Kelly emphasized he did not blame any particular individual or political party for the circumstances that led to Saturday's incident, but the

American people as a whole. "The answer is us. We're the problem," Kelly said. "This is not about Republicans or Democrats or Libertarians right now. It's just about Americans. Americans need to wake up and understand what the real danger is. We cannot afford to lose this country. The world cannot afford to lose this country."

Biden appeals for 'unity' in address Sunday

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Sunday appealed for the country to "unite as one nation" after the attempted assassination of his predecessor, Donald Trump, and said he was ordering an independent security review of how such an attack could have happened.

Biden delivered short afternoon remarks from the White House after receiving a briefing on the investigation in the Situation Room. He called for a "thorough and swift" review and asked the public not to "make assumptions" about the shooter's motives or affiliations.

The president said he has also directed the U.S. Secret Service to review all security measures for the Republican National Convention, which begins Monday in Milwaukee.

"An assassination attempt is contrary to everything we stand for as a nation. Everything. It's not who we are as a nation. It's not American. And we cannot allow this to happen," Biden said. "Unity is the most elusive goal of all, but nothing is more important than that right now."

Biden planned to deliver extended remarks to the nation Sunday evening in an address from the Oval Office.

The president said he and first lady Jill Biden were praying for the family of Corey Comperatore, a former fire chief in the Butler area who

was shot and killed during the Trump rally Saturday night in Butler.

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

The president also said he'd had a "short but good conversation" with Trump on Saturday evening and that he was sincerely grateful that Trump is "doing well and recovering."

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

Actually achieving unity will be far more challenging, especially in the midst of a bitter presidential campaign. Biden's campaign team is grappling with how to calibrate the path forward after the weekend attack on the very person he is trying to defeat in November's election.

Biden, who has set out to brand Trump as a threat to democracy and the nation's founding principles, has put a pause on such political messaging at least in the short term. In the moments after the shooting, Biden's reelection campaign said it was putting a hold on "all outbound communications and working to pull down our television ads as quickly as possible."

The president also postponed a planned trip to Texas on Monday, where he was to speak on the 60th anniversary



President Joe Biden speaks Saturday in Rehoboth Beach, Del., addressing news that gunshots rang out at Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump's campaign rally in Butler County. ASSOCIATED PRESS

of the Civil Rights Act at the Lyndon B. Johnson presidential library. An NBC News interview between Biden and anchor Lester Holt on Monday will now occur at the White House, instead of in Texas, as initially planned.

Vice President Kamala Harris is also postponing a planned campaign trip to Florida on Tuesday, where she had been set to meet with Republican women voters.

Trump, meanwhile, announced that he was moving up plans to arrive at the Re-

publican convention, heading for Milwaukee later Sunday, 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. 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 briefly — that counteroffensive on the cusp of the Republican convention.

The campaign hopes the evening address on Sunday would provide Biden a chance to further drive home his point about the need for unity, but also to demonstrate 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."

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

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 from many even within his own party. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to more freely discuss private conversations.

Slippery Rock mayor spoke with Trump before speech



Slippery Rock Mayor Jondavid Longo spoke with former President Donald Trump before the rally. BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

By Eddie Trizzino
Eagle Staff Writer

Slippery Rock Mayor Jondavid Longo spoke with former President Donald Trump just 15 minutes before the Republican presidential candidate took the stage Saturday at the Butler Farm Show grounds, and just about a half-hour before shots rang out.

"He said he was watching the pre rally from his helicopter," Longo said. "He said, 'You did good. I like what you said there.'" The remarks were a compliment on Longo's

speech that kicked off the rally.

Longo said Trump pointed at him during the rally right before he heard what sounded like snaps behind him — a noise he initially thought was some kind of firecracker before realizing it was bullets smacking into the ground.

The rest of the evening is a blur that Longo said he is still piecing together, with the help of photos and videos from the event. He said he immediately brought himself and his wife to the ground, and shouted to

people around him to do the same. Hearing that the shots were coming from directly behind him, Longo said he assessed the situation from his position on the ground.

"We heard the rounds hitting around us, and then I knew for sure what it was," Longo said Sunday. "My first immediate thought was, 'Was somebody inside with a firearm?' Once I realized there was nobody inside, I told everybody to get down."

Longo, a military veteran, said his "training takes over"

in situations such as the one Saturday, and he got back up to move around once he saw the Secret Service cover Trump and escort him from the venue. Once he arose, Longo saw the aftermath of the shooting — the victims who were hit by bullets in the crowd at the rally. He said he stuck around while the scene was being cleared to assist in any way he could.

Longo is shown in news footage helping carry a woman from the grounds, of which he said he has little memory.

Scialabba shaken by rally

By Paula Grubbs
Eagle Community Editor



Stephanie Scialabba

State Rep. Stephanie Scialabba, R-12th, like everyone who attended Saturday's rally for former President Donald Trump at the Butler Farm Show grounds, spent Sunday morning in sadness and disbelief.

"I'm trying to find quiet in my head to figure out where I am," a subdued Scialabba said of her emotional state at the noon hour Sunday.

She was sitting with U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly, R-16th, and other elected officials between Trump and the man who was shot and killed in the bleachers.

"I heard 'pop, pop, pop' and thought 'Oh my God, it's happening,'" she said.

People in the bleachers behind her said it was firecrackers or an electrical issue. "Then someone yelled 'mayday, mayday, mayday' when the engineer (Corey Comperatore) was shot," Scialabba said.

She recalls dropping to the ground after hearing the shots, and looking at her seatmate, U.S. Senate GOP candidate David McCormick, in sheer terror. She heard McCormick, a combat veteran, say "I got you."

"I think McCormick's combat training kicked in," she said. "He was counting the shots and trying to protect us. I felt much better having him right there. He handled it like he was trained to handle it."

The elected officials also were trying to protect Malphine Fogel, the nonagenarian mother of Mark Fogel, who is being held in a Russia prison camp. Fogel was at the rally to discuss her son's plight with Trump and ask him to work for her son's freedom should he be reelected.

Scialabba said the experience was surreal.

"Ten minutes before (elected officials) were talking with the president and each other, and the next thing you know, we were looking at each other under these folding metal chairs."

She remembers looking at the sunny, blue sky and thinking a shooter would have a crystal-clear shot at anyone in at the rally.

"It was supposed to be a happy day," she said quietly. "I don't even know how I feel right now."

She said it was divine intervention that Trump tilted his head in the split second after the shooter, identified as 20-year-old Bethel Park resident Thomas Matthew Crooks, fired the round that struck the former president's right ear.

"That engineer behind us, that was what they wanted to happen to the president," Scialabba said.

The engineer in question was Comperatore, 50, a former fire chief with the Buffalo Township Volunteer Fire Company.

She said she has some questions regarding security Saturday, including the choice of Secret Service agents.

"Why were women my size or smaller protecting a 6'3" president?" Scialabba asked. "They couldn't even cover his head."

She also questioned the ability of Crooks to access the roof at AGR, especially since the Secret Service had placed snipers inside the longtime manufacturing business.

"What I don't understand is why would that (roof) have been outside the security perimeter?" Scialabba said. "That's a ridiculous thing."

"I can't believe it happened, and I can't believe I'm alive. All I feel is great sadness for the people who are not here and who lost someone they loved or who are in critical condition. "I can't believe this is America."



Secret Service officers clear the Butler Farm Show grounds and turn the area into an active crime scene after the shooting Saturday. MORGAN PHILLIPS/BUTLER EAGLE

Secret Service looks into shooting circumstances

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON — 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 Butler, 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, Allegheny County.

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

The roof was fewer than 164 yards from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized target. For reference, 164 yards 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's directed an independent review of the security at the rally. Biden said he has also directed the U.S. Secret Service to review all security measures for the Republican National Convention, which begins Monday in Milwaukee.

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."



Police snipers return fire after shots were fired while Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump was speaking at a campaign event in Butler on Saturday. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leaders outraged

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.

World leaders condemn Trump assassination attempt

By Associated Press

Global leaders expressed concern Sunday over an apparent assassination attempt targeting former U.S. President Donald Trump at a rally in Pennsylvania that left one attendee dead and critically injured two others.

Trump's campaign said the presumptive Republican nominee was doing "fine" after being whisked off the stage though the shooting pierced the upper part of his right ear.

The Secret Service said it killed the

suspected shooter who attacked from an elevated position outside the rally venue.

U.S. authorities are still investigating the shooting.

Argentina

Argentina's President Javier Milei said Trump was the "victim of a cowardly assassination attempt that put his life and that of hundreds of people at risk."

In a post on X, Milei also said the apparent assassination attempt highlighted the "desperation of the inter-

national left" and its "willingness to destabilize democracies and promote violence to screw itself into power."

Australia

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned the "inexcusable attack" on the United States and Australia's shared democratic values.

"In Australia, as in the United States, the essence and the purpose of our democracies is that we can express our views, debate our disagreements and resolve our differences peacefully," Albanese told reporters

in the Australian Parliament House.

Brazil

Brazil's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, called the incident unacceptable on X and said the attack must be "strongly repudiated" by all democracy defenders.

His predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro, who is a close Trump ally, relayed his solidarity with "the world's greatest leader of the moment." Bolsonaro was stabbed in the abdomen at a campaign

Trump to attend RNC event with security intensified



By Tribune News Service

Former President Donald Trump confirmed that he will be attending the Republican National Convention, hours after he was shot at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

"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," according to a statement from Trump campaign and RNC officials on Saturday.

The four-day event, opening Monday, is now expected to come with heightened security after the incident, which authorities are investigating as an assassination attempt. CBS News reported that law enforcement at all levels — federal, state and local — are ramping up protocols ahead of the convention. Plans include expanding the perimeter at the RNC venue and creating buffer zones around events.

"This is going to a facility where we're going to be able to have 50,000 delegates and alternates and guests and members of the media who are going to be here and who are going to be safe," Michael Whately, chairperson of the Republican National Committee, told Fox News Sunday. "That's very critical for us."

Milwaukee was already bracing for thousands of protesters, including a march on Monday comprising a broad coalition of left-wing activists demonstrating over reproductive rights, the war in Gaza, immigration and racism. The city has drafted in law enforcement support from across Wisconsin and Chicago and created perimeter zones.

The convention's primary venue is Fiserv Forum, the Milwaukee Bucks' arena in the city's downtown. Other events will be hosted at the nearby Baird Center and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panther Arena. All three locations are within the same security perimeter between Interstate 43 and the Milwaukee River. The Secret Service has designated another security perimeter at Henry Maier Festival Park along Lake Michigan for a welcome party hosted by the RNC on Sunday.

Previously announced measures by the Secret Service indicated the convention would have two perimeters.



People walk past the Fiserv Forum ahead of the 2024 Republican National Convention on Thursday in Milwaukee. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Haley to speak at convention

By Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley will speak Tuesday at the Republican National Convention in what will be a highly anticipated speech by former President Donald Trump's last major challenger in this year's GOP primary.

The announcement Sunday came one day after a gunman opened fire at Trump's rally in Butler in what law enforcement are investigating as an attempted assassination. Trump said the upper part of his right ear was pierced in the shooting.

Haley, who was also elected twice as South Carolina governor, was added to the schedule after she was initially not among the list of speakers, according to Haley spokesperson Chaney Denton. The schedule change was confirmed by a Republican official who is familiar with the convention plans but was not authorized to speak publicly.

Denton had said last week that the former South Carolina governor was not invited to the convention, but Haley had instructed her delegates to vote for Trump and issued a public call for party unity.



Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley speaks in Washington on May 22. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

An outer zone would allow some pedestrian access with vehicle-screening checkpoints. A more restrictive inner perimeter would be limited to credentialed personnel or ticket holders.

Adding to complications, some firearms may be allowed within the outer perimeter, according to officials, as Wisconsin is an open-carry state.

The RNC Milwaukee Host Committee, which offered condolences for the victims at the Trump rally, said late Saturday that the convention was set to kick off. It will

mark Trump's official nomination as the GOP presidential candidate, where he's also expected to announce his running mate during the proceedings.

"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," the committee said.

Trump's top campaign advisers Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles sent a memo to RNC staffers outlining that those remaining in Washington and West Palm Beach should stay

away from the office as they assess the locations. They wrote that safety measures would be increased, including enhancing the armed security presence.

The incident on Saturday evening, which resulted in the deaths of one attendee and the suspected shooter, may also influence preparations for the Democratic National Convention in Chicago next month.

In a post on X, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said he was closely monitoring the situation, as he thanked the Secret Service for their quick response.

McCormick narrowly escapes with his life

By William Pitts, Eagle Staff Writer

Former President Donald Trump survived an attempt on his life during a campaign event Saturday in Butler County, but one spectator and the shooter were killed, and two others were injured.

Had the timing of the gunfire been slightly different, U.S. Senate candidate Dave McCormick may have been added to the casualty list.

"I think two minutes the other way and I would be on the stage with him," the Republican said.

Prior to a planned speech at his campaign event, Trump indicated he would bring McCormick back onto the stage at the Butler Farm Show grounds to promote McCormick's campaign for Senate. He will face incumbent Democrat Bob Casey.

"He introduced me and talked about the race, and he said 'Dave, why don't you come up on the stage?'" McCormick said. "He said this in front of 15,000 people."

It was here that fate turned, and Trump — for whatever reason — changed his mind, according to McCormick.

"I started to go up onto the stage, and he goes, 'No, no, I'll have you come up later,'" McCormick said. "So I went back down to my seat, and a couple minutes later is when the shooting started. I probably missed that shooting by a minute or two."

McCormick says he didn't realize what a dangerous situation he was in until he had a conversation with his six daughters later Saturday.

"I wasn't particularly worried about my own safety at that time," said McCormick, who served in the Gulf War. "But I got back late last night. And I've got six daughters, and I talked to them on the phone, and they were frightened. It really hadn't occurred to me that my safety was at risk. But unfortunately, political life these days is a real risk, and it was kind of a rude awakening."

McCormick expressed relief that not only he was spared, but so was the former president.

"(I feel) just a huge sense of relief that the president wasn't killed," McCormick said. "It was one inch away from him being killed. That would have been catastrophic for the country."

On the other hand, he regrets how the country fell into a state where such an event happened in the first place.

"(I feel) a sense of fear of our political system and the rhetoric being so nasty that it creates an environment where violence is encouraged," McCormick said Sunday.

Leaders

From Page 6

event ahead of the 2018 presidential election, which he went on to win.

Trump, he told reporters, was saved by a matter of a few centimeters. "This — to understand — is something that comes from above," he added.

Canada

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he was sickened by the shooting and his thoughts were with Trump, those who were at the event and all Americans.

"It cannot be overstated — political violence is never acceptable," he wrote on X.

China

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said China is concerned about the attack and President Xi Jinping extended his sympathies to Trump.

France

French President Emmanuel Macron sent his wishes to

Trump for a prompt recovery. "France shares the indignation of the American people," he posted on X.

Germany

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz wrote on X the attack was "despicable" and said violent acts threaten democracy. "My compassionate thoughts are also with the other people hurt in the attack," he said.

Hungary

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on X his thoughts and prayers were with Trump "in these dark hours."

India

India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, said he was deeply concerned by "the attack on my friend. Violence has no place in politics," he said.

Iraq

Masrour Barzani, prime minister of the Kurdistan region of Iraq, condemned the attack

"in the strongest terms," saying on X his thoughts are with the victims of "this senseless act of terrorism."

Israel

At the start of the weekly Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he watched "in horror," adding that the attack was also an "assassination attempt on American democracy."

He said everyone in Israel was sending Trump wishes for "a quick recovery and return to full strength."

Italy

Italian President Sergio Mattarella said in a statement the attack was a cause for serious alarm and "a disconcerting symptom of the deterioration of the civil fabric and of the dangerous refusal of confrontation, dialogue and respect for democratic life."

Meanwhile, Premier Giorgia Meloni wished Trump a

quick recovery.

Japan

"We must stand firm against any form of violence that challenges democracy," Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on X.

Mexico

Mexico's president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, denounced the attack on X and said "violence is irrational and inhumane."

Pakistan

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the shooting a "shocking development." He said he condemned all violence in politics and wished the former president a swift recovery and good health.

And imprisoned Pakistani opposition leader and former prime minister Imran Khan, who was shot and injured at a rally in November 2022, wished Trump a full recovery.

"Political violence is a tool of cowards and has no place in a democracy," he said on X.

Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin has no plans at present to call Trump, according to Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

"We do not at all think or believe that the attempt to eliminate presidential candidate Trump was organized by the current government, but the atmosphere that this administration created during the political struggle, the atmosphere around candidate Trump provoked what America is faced with today," he added.

Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for the Russian foreign ministry, said earlier Sunday that American lawmakers should employ the money they use to supply weapons to Ukraine "to finance the American police and other services which should ensure law and order."

BEFORE THE SHOOTING



Crowds filter in to hear former President Donald Trump's speech at his rally at the Butler Farm Show grounds on Saturday.

MORGAN PHILLIPS/BUTLER EAGLE



Rally attendees holding Trump flags head toward the rows of vendors set up on the farm show grounds ahead of the start of the former president's speech Saturday.

MORGAN PHILLIPS/BUTLER EAGLE



Supporters of former President Donald Trump signed petitions and registered to vote outside the Butler Farm Show grounds in Connoquenessing Township.

RALPH LOVUOLO/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE



Former President Donald Trump speaks to a crowd gathered on Saturday evening before an assassination attempt ended the rally.

MORGAN PHILLIPS/BUTLER EAGLE



Michelle Bourdeais, who said she lost her job to foreign workers, holds up a sign showing support for former President Donald Trump on Saturday at the Butler Farm Show grounds.

RALPH LOVUOLO/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The two photos at right show supporters of former President Donald Trump cheering at the rally Saturday. PHOTOGRAPHY BY MORGAN PHILLIPS/BUTLER EAGLE

