

THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Recent school shootings in the United States

In the last six years, at least eight shootings have occurred by students around the nation. Today, shootings occurred in Springfield; Onalaska, Wash.; and Houston.

■ **MAY 1, 1992:** Olivehurst, Calif. — Eric Houston, 20, killed four people and wounded 10 in an armed siege at his former high school. Prosecutors said the attack was retribution for a failing grade.

■ **JAN. 18, 1993:** Grayson, Ky. — Scott Pennington, 17, walked into Deanna McDavid's seventh period English class at East Carter High School, and shot her in the head. He then shot janitor Marvin Hicks in the abdomen.

■ **FEB. 2, 1996:** Moses Lake, Wash. — A 14-year-old student turned an assault rifle on his algebra class, killing two classmates and a teacher.

■ **FEB. 19, 1997:** Bethel, Alaska. — A 16-year-old student opened fire with a shotgun in a common area of Bethel High School. Killed were school principal Ron Edwards and classmate Josh Palacios. Two other students were injured.

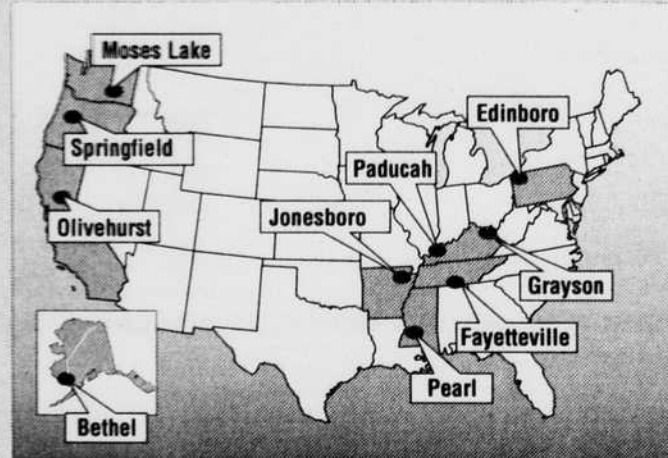
■ **OCT. 1, 1997:** Pearl, Miss. — A 16-year-old outcast, was accused of killing his mother, then going to school and shooting nine students. Two of them died, including the boy's ex-girlfriend.

■ **DEC. 1, 1997:** Paducah, Ky. — A youth opened fire on a student prayer circle in a hallway at Heath High school. Three students were killed and five others were wounded.

■ **MARCH 24, 1998:** Jonesboro, Ark. — Two boys opened fire with rifles on classmates and teachers when they came out during a false fire alarm at Westside Middle School. Four girls and a teacher were killed and 11 people were wounded.

■ **MAY 20, 1998:** Fayetteville, Tenn. — A high school senior shot and killed another student in the school parking lot at the Lincoln County high school three days before they were scheduled to graduate.

SOURCE: CNN Web site



MATT GARTON/Emerald

Shooting: One shot while disarming assailant

■ Continued from Page 1A

Quimby said. "People started screaming, 'Gun, blood, get down,' and that's when I realized it was real."

After Kinkel's arrest, initial questioning of the suspect led investigators to 88082 Chita Loop in Springfield, where they discovered what are believed to be the bodies of Kinkel's parents, according to Lane County Sheriff Jan Clements.

The two gunshot victims were found at 9:26 a.m., but the time of death has yet to be determined. Kinkel's older sister, a former University student and cheerleader in 1994, was out of the state at the time of the shooting.

In all, 22 students and one administrator were admitted to McKenzie-Willamette Hospital in Springfield and Sacred Heart Medical Center in Eugene after the shooting at Thurston.

"We haven't had anything this devastating in the history of Sacred Heart," said Beverly Mayhew, director of public affairs for the medical center.

"We did two things," she said. "First, we put out an alarm for trauma alert. In addition, we called a disaster alert, which notifies the entire hospital that something's going on. We're lucky to have two excellent hospitals in the area."

The school shootings came one day after Kinkel and one other student were suspended pending expulsion for possession of a firearm on school grounds.

Police were notified of the concealed weapons incident and arrested Kinkel, who was released Wednesday to his parents after being charged with possession of a stolen firearm.

Springfield Police Chief Bill DeForrest said Kinkel's only other involvement with authorities came when he was referred to a Eugene juvenile facility after throwing rocks at cars from an overpass in Deschutes County.

Kinkel returned to campus early Thursday morning, parked his car a few blocks away and walked onto the closed campus allegedly armed with a .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle, a .22-caliber handgun and second handgun identified as a "Glock" by Capt. Jerry Smith of the Springfield Police Department.

The school's cafeteria was unusually full that particular morning because of a school-sponsored senior event, along with the normal breakfast crowd.

According to broadcast reports, students said the suspect, wearing a cream-colored trench coat, put the rifle at his hip and ran through the cafeteria shooting at random.

"I closed my eyes, then opened them and saw Jake and Josh Ryker run towards him to tackle him," said Quimby, a Thurston junior, referring to two of her classmates.

Jake Ryker, who was shot in the chest, is one of several students who helped detain and disarm the assailant and are being called "heroes" by local authorities. He is listed in critical but stable condition as of 2:35 p.m. on Thursday. His brother, Josh Ryker, was unharmed.

"We have several student heroes who wrestled with the suspect and in all likelihood probably prevented wounding and killing more students," DeForrest said.

Students said Thurston was a "safe school" and this incident came as a shock.

"When I was a freshman, my friend got stabbed," Thurston senior Isaac Sharp said. "I've been here four years, and I'd never in my whole life picture something like this happening."

Other community members arrived on the scene to assist.

"I'm just here to help," said Bill White, a minister at the Mt. Vernon Church of Christ in Springfield who said several students and parents were members of his congregation.

"It's a tragedy," he said. "It makes it really hard when it strikes this close to home."

Authorities said Kinkel is the lone suspect in the shootings. However, investigations continue at both the school and Kinkel's residence.

"An incident of this type requires very careful investigation," DeForrest said.

Thursday's investigations led authorities to deploy a bomb squad to both Kinkel's car and home to check for evidence of explosives.

Kinkel's arraignment will be held today at 1:30 p.m. at the Lane County Jail. District Attorney Doug Harclerod said the suspect will be tried as an adult under Oregon law, but will not be subject to the death penalty if found guilty.

School throughout District 19 will be closed today. However, Thurston Middle School will be open for grieving students, faculty and staff.



LAURA GOSS/Emerald

St. Alice Catholic Church was the site of counseling services and community-provided lunch in the aftermath of the shooting.



LAURA GOSS/Emerald

Mourners left flowers in the fence at Thurston High School in support of the victims of Thursday's shooting.

Injured: Mayor plans counseling

■ Continued from Page 1A

a.m. They arrived on the scene to find shooting suspect Kipland P. Kinkel, a 15-year-old Thurston freshman, physically detained by students and faculty.

Units from the Springfield Fire and Safety Department as well from Eugene Fire/Emergency Medical Services also responded to the initial call and established a triage and treatment area in the cafeteria. All patients were transported from the scene within one hour. Of the 23 wounded taken to local hospitals, 12 were taken to Eugene's Sacred Heart Medical Center and 11 were transported to Springfield's McKenzie-Willamette Hospital.

According to Lottie Duey of McKenzie Willamette Hospital, all victims arrived at the hospital sustaining gunshot wounds. All victims taken to Sacred Heart Medical Center also sustained gunshot wounds, a City of Springfield press release stated.

The 12 victims at McKenzie-Willamette Hospital included: Jennifer Alldredge, 17, critical condition; Elizabeth McKenzie, 15, fair; Ben Walker, 17, in a deep and irretrievable coma; Jesse Walley, fair but stable; Joshua Pearson, 17, fair and discharged; Ryan Atteberry, 17, serious; Kyle Howes, 16, fair but stable; Tara McMullen, 17, fair but stable; Melissa Taylor, 27, serious; Melissa Femrite, fair and discharged; Sara Branom, fair and discharged; and Christine Osbourn, 17, fair but stable.

The 11 victims taken to Sacred Heart Medical Center included: Tony Case, critical but stable; Nathan Cole, fair; Tabitha Fain, 14, good; Trina Harty, 17, fair; Betina Lynn, 18, fair but stable; Carolyn McClain, 15, fair; Teresa Miltonberger, critical; Richard Peek, 17, fair but stable; Amber Ramsey, 15, serious; Jacob Russel Ryker, serious; and Gabriel Thomas, 17, treated and released.

The deceased, Mikael Nickolauson, was pronounced dead at the scene of the incident by paramedics.

The incident has prompted Springfield's mayor and others to plan counseling sessions to help affected community members.

"Unfortunately it takes something like this to get peoples' attention," Springfield Mayor Bill Morrisette said. "We will heal together."