

WORLD IN BRIEF

Officials: Student killed confronting shooter at high school

ROCKFORD, Wash. — A student who opened fire in a hallway at a Washington state high school killed a classmate who confronted him Wednesday and wounded three others before being stopped by a custodian, authorities said.

The suspect, who a classmate described as being obsessed with previous school shootings, was taken into custody. The wounded victims were seriously injured but expected to survive, officials said.

The shooter brought two weapons to Freeman High School in Rockford, south of Spokane, but the first one he tried to fire jammed, Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich told reporters.

“He went to his next weapon,” Knezovich said. “A student walked up to him, engaged him, and that student was shot. That student did not survive.”

The sheriff said the shooter fired more rounds down the hallway, striking the other students, before a school custodian approached the shooter and ordered him to surrender, Knezovich said.

Panasonic plant closing in Salem, 92 employees to lose jobs

SALEM — Japanese electronics company Panasonic Corp. has announced it will be closing its Salem solar plant in late October after operating for less than a decade.

The company is closing the plant because it’s tied to a factory in central Japan, which is shifting its focus from solar cell modules to solar cells, the Statesman Journal reported.

Panasonic spokesman Jim Reilly says the shift in production means there’s no longer a need for the products made in Oregon.

The closure means 92 employees will lose their jobs. Workers will get job-placement help and a severance.

The plant received more than \$42 million in taxpayer incentives to locate in Salem. It opened in 2009.

Florida nursing home deaths spur efforts to protect elderly

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Emergency crews around hurricane-scarred Florida worked Thursday to make sure elderly residents were safe after eight people died in a sweltering nursing home that lost air conditioning in the storm and multiple other facilities were evacuated.

In one of the latest actions to protect older people, residents of a 100-bed suburban Fort Lauderdale assisted-living facility without power were moved to two nearby homes. Elsewhere, facilities lacking electricity tried to keep residents cool with dampened cloths and urged utilities to work quickly.

Stepped-up safety checks came after the deaths at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, which shocked Florida’s top leaders as they surveyed destruction from a storm that spread its punishing effects across the entire state.

“Unfathomable,” Gov. Rick Scott said of the nursing home deaths. “Inexcusable,” U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson added.

Around the state, 81 nursing homes lacked electricity as of Wednesday night, according to the Florida Health Care Association.

Russia fires cruise missiles at IS stronghold in east Syria

ABOARD THE ADMIRAL ESSEN — Russia’s military fired seven cruise missiles Thursday at Islamic State targets in the eastern Syrian province of Deir el-Zour as pro-government forces closed in on the militants holed up in the eponymous capital.

Journalists on a trip organized by the Russian Defense Ministry watched from the deck of Russia’s Admiral Essen frigate as two submarines launched seven missiles from the Mediterranean Sea.

The Syrian government forces, backed by Russian air cover, last week broke a three-year siege around the city on the Euphrates river.

Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov told reporters later that intelligence showed the missiles hit the targets south-east of Deir el-Zour, destroying a command center, a communications hub, an ammunition depot and an unspecified number of IS fighters.

Russia has provided military backing for Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces since 2015. It has repeatedly fired salvoes of Kalibr missiles into Syria, from both surface warships and submarines. It has also launched cruise missiles from strategic bombers.

Trump says immigration deal must include wall

President Donald Trump says that, “ultimately,” funding for a border wall with Mexico must be part of any immigration deal — but funding can come at a later date.

He told reporters in Florida on Thursday that: “We have to have an understanding that, whether it’s in the budget or some other vehicle, in a fairly short period of time, the wall will be funded.”

He says, “Otherwise we’re not doing anything.”

Trump and Democratic leaders talked Wednesday night over dinner about what to do with the hundreds of thousands of young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children.

Democrats Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer announced they’d reached an agreement with Trump that does not include wall funding. But the White House says that’s premature.

Hurricane Max forecast to hit southern Mexico, near Acapulco

MEXICO CITY — Tropical Storm Max strengthened into a Category 1 hurricane off Mexico’s southern Pacific coast and was forecast to make landfall later Thursday along the coast of Guerrero state, a region that includes the resort city of Acapulco.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane warning for Max for the coastline between Zihuatanejo and Punta Maldonado.

It warned that Max could still strengthen a bit before reaching land and threatened to bring “life-threatening flooding (and) rainfall” to Guerrero and Oaxaca states.

Max had maximum sustained winds of 75 mph Thursday morning. The storm was located about 55 miles southwest of Acapulco and was heading toward the east at 6 mph.

Also Thursday, Tropical Storm Norma formed farther out to the west in the Pacific and was expected to strengthen and head toward the resort-studded Baja California Peninsula.

Fire at Islamic school in Malaysia kills 24, mostly teens

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — A fire killed 24 people, mostly teenagers, trapped behind barred windows and a blocked exit in an Islamic school dormitory on the outskirts of Malaysia’s capital early Thursday, officials said.

Firefighters rushed to the scene after receiving a distress call at 5.41 a.m. and took an hour to put out the blaze, which started on the top floor of the three-story building, Kuala Lumpur police chief Amar Singh said. He said there were at least 24 charred bodies, 22 of them boys between 13 and 17, and two teachers.

Singh said 14 other students and four teachers were rescued, with six of them hospitalized in critical condition. “We believe (they died of) suffocation ... the bodies were totally burnt,” he said.

The fire broke out near the door of the boys’ dormitory, trapping the victims as it was the only entrance and the windows are grilled, fire department senior official Abu Obaidat Mohamad Saithalimat said. He said the cause was believed to be a short-circuit.

A fire department official who declined to be named because he wasn’t authorized to give a statement said the bodies were piled on top of each other, indicating a possible stampede as people tried to flee the fire. The official had earlier said 25 bodies were found, but the more recent tally of dead and injured matches the number of people thought to have resided there.

Ryan opens door to tax cuts adding to deficit

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Paul Ryan backed off months of promises that the Republicans’ tax plan won’t add to the nation’s ballooning deficit, declaring Wednesday that the most important goal of an overhaul is economic growth.

Asked twice whether he would insist the emerging tax plan won’t pile more billions onto the \$20 trillion national debt, Ryan passed up the chance to affirm that commitment. GOP leaders made that “revenue neutral” promise in a campaign manifesto last year and many times since.

“We want pro-growth tax reform that will get the economy going, that will get people back to work, that will give middle-income taxpayers a tax cut and that will put American businesses in a better competitive playing field so that we keep American businesses in America,” the Wisconsin Republican said. “That is more important than anything else.”

Ryan’s comments signaling possible retreat on a core GOP commitment came amid quickening action on taxes, which Republicans view as their last, best chance to notch a significant accomplishment to take to voters in the 2018 midterm elections following the collapse of their “Obamacare” repeal drive.

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651 Help Wanted

Request for Proposal for Community Property Management for Local Condominium HOA

A local homeowner association manager opportunity is currently available at this Astoria condominium. It is comprised of 63 single residential and 17 commercial units.

General summary of position: Perform and oversee the day-to-day management needs including administration activities, property management, resident relations, oversees contractors and service providers, budgeting, and attends monthly board meetings.

Experience required: Minimum two years’ condominium management experience. Has proficient knowledge of ORS Chapter 100, Oregon Condominium Act.

If you or someone you know is interested, contact Jean Danforth at jean.danforth@gmail.com for more information.

Deadline: Friday, Oct. 13th



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You may contact the City’s Human Resources Department at (503) 325-5824.

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Oregon state law requires anyone who contracts for construction work to be licensed with the Construction Contractors Board. An active license means the contractor is bonded and insured. **Verify the contractor’s CCB license through the CCB Consumer Website www.hirelicensedcontractors.com**

652 Work Wanted

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667 Loans & Financing

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807 Fuel, Heating & Firewood

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456 Svensen

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9-14 CRYPTOQUIP

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Q I S B Z X Q A A X Q E X S T Z O
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Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THAT WHALE RECEIVED NOTHING BUT AVERAGE GRADES IN SCHOOL, I GUESS IT WAS A C-CREATURE.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: H equals T

LISTINGS

EVERYDAY in The Daily Astorian