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**Guns**

cont'd from pg 9

to young people who may be unstable and intent on inflicting mass casualties. The lawsuit against Remington Arms was dismissed because of broad immunity granted to the gun industry, but the Connecticut Supreme Court is weighing whether to reinstate it.

"They used images of soldiers in combat. They used slogans invoking battle and high-pressure missions," Joshua Koskoff, a lawyer for the families, told justices at

## “Remington may never have known Adam Lanza, but they had been courting him for years

a hearing. "Remington may never have known Adam Lanza, but they had been courting him for years."

Most mass shootings — defined by federal authorities as involving four or more deaths outside the home — are carried out with handguns. But this year, gunmen have used AR-style firearms in mass shootings in Las Vegas, Texas and Northern California. They were also used in the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting and in 2015 in San Bernardino, California.

The rifles are involved in only a small percentage of gun deaths each year. Of the approximately 13,000 gun deaths excluding suicides that happen annually in the United States, about 300 involve the use of rifles — AR-style and more traditional long guns.

To Erich Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America, gun-control advocates focus on vilifying the weapon and not the people behind the crimes. And, he notes, the gunman in Texas who killed more than two dozen churchgoers was pursued by a man nearby who shot at him with his own AR rifle.

"Here's another attempt to demonize a weapon that a lot of Americans look to for self-defensive purposes," Pratt said. Yet it was another man with an AR-15 who is "the one who's hailed for having stopped the guy."

An estimated 8 million AR-style guns have been sold since they were introduced to the public in the 1960s. The name refers to ArmaLite Rifle,

a nod to the now-defunct company that designed the first one. The industry calls them "modern sporting rifles" or "tactical rifles."

About half are owned by current or former members of the military or law enforcement, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, which represents gunmakers.

Their marketing, coupled with the lifting of a decade-long ban and the return of many veterans who used them on deployments, have helped drive their popularity. Gun sales leveled off this past year after nearly a

decade of record-breaking numbers, but the industry is banking on the allure of the AR — and its many accessories — to keep it going.

The weapons are known as easy to use, easy to clean and easy to modify with a variety of scopes, stocks and rails. Accordingly, a Sig Sauer ad plays up the ability to customize its AR-style weapons, showing an image of soldiers holed up in a building in the midst of battle.

"The reason these guns have become so popular is because they're like an iPhone 10," Winkler said. "They're smooth, sleek, cool-looking."

Once the domain of smaller gun dealers, the weapons are now widely sold by huge retailers such as Wal-Mart, Cabela's and Bass Pro Shops. Those companies are also selling more weapons to first-time gun buyers, said Rommel Dionisio, who has watched the industry closely as

a financial analyst and managing director of Aegis Capital Corp.

Sales of military-style rifles plummeted in 2017 compared with a year earlier, when people were stocking up amid fears that a Hillary Clinton presidency would lead to stricter gun laws. Donald Trump's surprise election victory erased those fears but left the gun industry with an oversupply and weak demand.

American Outdoor Brands, which includes Smith & Wesson firearms, reported in September that quarterly revenue in its long guns category dropped by 64 percent from the prior year due to lower demand for its modern sporting rifles. The company reported shipping 51,000 long guns in that period compared with 111,000 the prior year.

Against that backdrop, many gun companies have cut prices, offered rebates and slowed their manufacturing. Some makers of AR-15 rifles dropped prices earlier this year to as low as \$399 — a level that would have been unheard of a year before.

"It really is a buyer's market out there right now," Sturm, Ruger & Company Inc. CEO Christopher Killoy told analysts on a recent conference call.

Those deals come with a steady dose of ads that highlight the patriotic notions of carrying an AR.

"That's what they're emphasizing, that these are sort of a lifestyle weapon," Winkler said. "This is a weapon you buy if you're a patriotic guy who loves the idea of those military shooters, someone who would use your guns to defend your nation."

**World News Briefs**

### Trump Administration Announces Sanctions Against North Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is due to announce new sanctions on North Korea on Tuesday after declaring it a state sponsor of terrorism in the latest push to isolate the pariah nation.

North Korea on Monday joined Iran, Sudan and Syria on the terror blacklist, a largely symbolic step as the administration already has the authority to impose virtually any sanctions it wants on Kim Jong Un's government over its nuclear weapons development.

As part of its "maximum pressure" campaign, President Donald Trump said the Treasury Department would impose more sanctions on North Korea and "related persons" starting Tuesday, without hinting who or what would be targeted. It is part of rolling effort to deprive Pyongyang of funds for its nuclear and missile programs and leave it internationally isolated.

"It will be the highest level of sanctions by the time it's finished over a two-week period," Trump said.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Monday the pressure campaign was starting to bite in Pyongyang, which is already facing unprecedented U.N.-mandated sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile tests. Tillerson said anecdotal evidence and intelligence suggests

the North is now suffering fuel shortages, with queues at gas stations, and its revenues are down.

### Almost 60,000 Haitians Allowed to Stay in US Only Until 2019

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration said it is ending a temporary residency permit program that has allowed almost 60,000 citizens from Haiti to live and work in the United States since a powerful earthquake shook the Caribbean nation in 2010.

The Homeland Security Department said conditions in Haiti have improved significantly, so the benefit will be extended one last time — until July 2019 — to give Haitians time to prepare to return home.

"Since the 2010 earthquake, the number of displaced people in Haiti has decreased by 97 percent," the department said in a statement issued Monday evening. "Haiti is able to safely receive traditional levels of returned citizens."

Advocates and members of Congress from both parties had asked the Trump administration for an 18-month extension of the program, known as Temporary Protected Status. Haitian President Jovenel Moise's government also requested the extension.

Rony Ponthieux, a 49-year-old Haitian nurse with temporary residency who has lived in Miami since 1999, told The Associated Press, "This isn't over, this is time we get to fight for renewal, not to pack our bags." She has a daughter and a son born in the United States and another son in Port-au-Prince.



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Friday, Nov. 24 through  
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**WONDERSTRUCK (PG)**  
Fri-Thur: 11:20, 4:40, 7:10

**THE FOREIGNER (R)**  
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**KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE (R)**  
Fri-Thur: 11:45, 6:55

**THE LEGO NINJAGO MOVIE (PG)**  
Fri-Thur: 11:55, 2:10, 4:25

**IT (R)**  
Fri-Thur: 4:10, 6:40, 9:25

**CLUE (PG)**  
Fri-Thur: 2:35, 9:45

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