

School shooting victims tried to stop gunman

SANTA FE, TEXAS (AP) — At least two of the student victims of a mass shooting at a Texas high school tried to block the advance of a gunman and were killed when he shot through the doors.

A classmate of one of the 10 people killed at a Texas high school says Chris Stone and other students tried to barricade the door to their art classroom. Christian Riley Garcia's pastor says the 15-year-old student used his body to keep a closet door closed within the room.

Eight of the 10 people fatally shot Friday were students. The other two, Glenda Perkins and Cynthia Tisdale, were substitute teachers.

At least 13 others were injured in the attack at the high school in Santa Fe, about 30 miles southeast of Houston. A 17-year-old student, Dimitrios Pagourtzis, is being held on capital murder charges.

Here are some of the stories of the victims:

CHRISTIAN RILEY GARCIA

Garcia described himself as a history junkie who wanted to join the Army.

Student Jai Gillard, a 14-year-old freshman, tells The Associated Press that Garcia always sat next to her in art class, and had asked her on a date recently.

Gillard says that after they heard gunshots and smelled gunpowder on Friday, she and Garcia and other students piled into a closet. She says that Garcia used his body as a "barricade" against the closet door to keep the shooter from entering.

Pastor Keenan Smith said law enforcement told Garcia's parents that Garcia was shot through the door he was guarding. He said that because of Garcia's "sacrifice, others were saved."

KIMBERLY VAUGHAN

Vaughan was a Girl Scout with a penchant for red hair dye.

After the shooting Friday, Vaughan's mother, Rhonda Hart, urged people to contact their elected representatives.

A former U.S. Army watercraft operator, Hart called for gun control, saying "we need to protect our kids."

GLEND PERKINS

Perkins for years had been a substitute teacher at Santa Fe High School, where her grandchildren are students.

Student Jay Mann, a junior, tells the *Houston Chronicle* that Perkins always had a smile on her face, took the time to learn students' names and became part of the fabric of the school.

ANGELIQUE RAMIREZ

The senior pastor at Day-spring Church says Ramirez was a member of the Santa Fe church's youth ministry.

Pastor Brad Drake says she had occasionally accompanied a younger brother to the ministry at the church where her parents are among

the some 150 people to attend Sunday services.

JARED BLACK

Black turned 17 on Wednesday and was looking forward to a party this weekend at his family's just-purchased, above-ground swimming pool.

An older brother, Anthony, from Odessa, Texas, was planning to visit with his wife and kids. Jared also had a younger brother, Houston, 13.

SHANA FISHER

The mother of 16-year-old Shana Fisher believes that her daughter was intentionally targeted by Pagourtzis.

Sadie Rodriguez said Pagourtzis repeatedly made advances toward Fisher in the four months leading up to the shooting.

CHRIS STONE

Stone was among a group of students who blocked the door to try to prevent the gunman from entering their art

classroom, freshman Abel San Miguel said. The shooter fired his shotgun through the door, though, striking Stone in the chest.

SABIKA SHEIKH

Abdul Aziz Sheikh was expecting his daughter Sabika to return home to Pakistan in a few weeks for Eid al-Fitr, the three-day holiday marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Instead, he learned that his oldest child was among those killed in the mass shooting at Santa Fe High School, where Sabika arrived as an exchange student last August.

Surrounded by mourning friends and family at his home in Karachi on Saturday, Abdul Aziz Sheikh fought back tears as he relived his frantic efforts to check whether his daughter was safe half a world away. He eventually learned from the exchange program that she was among the dead.

"We are still in a state of denial. We can't believe it.

It's like a nightmare," said Sheikh.

CYNTHIA TISDALE

Leia Olinde said Tisdale, her aunt and a teacher at the school, was like a mother to her and helped her shop for wedding dresses last year.

"She was wonderful. She was just so loving," said Olinde, 25. "I've never met a woman who loved her family so much."

She said Tisdale was married to her husband for close to 40 years and that they had eight grandchildren.

AARON KYLE MCLEOD

McLeod, a freshman who went by Kyle "just always had a bright side of things," said close friend Kali Reeves.

Reeves, also 15, said she knew McLeod for years and became close friends with him in the eighth grade.

"He was never one to be a sad or down person, he always had to joke or laugh about things," she said.

TAX BREAK: 'We reject this special session and everything it stands for'

Continued from 1A

Many House Republicans criticized the governor's decision to sign Senate Bill 1528 into law and to call a special session on an issue that isn't an emergency.

"I think we can all agree that this is an emergency manufactured by the governor," said State Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend, who is challenging Brown in the governor's race this year.

State Rep. Phil Barnhart, D-Eugene, said the bill makes an important fix.

"This bill only deals with an omission from the 2013 law that will make it fairer for the businesses that choose to organize as sole (proprietors)," Barnhart said. About 100 demonstra-

tors affiliated with the Democrat Socialists of America and the Poor People's Campaign converged on the Oregon Capitol steps just after noon Monday to protest the expansion of the business tax break.

"We reject this special session and everything it stands for — a choice to increase the wealth and the comfort of the few at the top at the expense of those struggling at the bottom," said Olivia Kati-Smith, co-chairwoman of the Portland chapter of Democratic Socialists of America. "It's not time to give tax breaks to the rich; it's time to tax the rich and invest in our communities and fully fund our state."

A special session should address adequate funding for

education, jobs, a living wage, housing, help for immigrant and refugee communities and ending systemic racism, Kati-Smith said.

In 2013, lawmakers approved a lower tax rate for some "pass-through" businesses, including S-corporations, limited liability corporations and partnerships with certain amount of employment hours and income of up to \$5 million per year. At that time, sole proprietors were excluded. The governor's bill changed that.

State Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, a member of the Joint Committee on Sole Proprietorships, expressed reservations about the move to expand the current policy. He voted "no" on the bill because, he said, the effects

of the existing policy are not yet known and still need to be analyzed, after more time has passed and there is more data to gauge its effectiveness.

"I think that's been our problem in the last couple of years, and we've attempted to fiddle with this, is nobody can say for sure whether it's freeing up capital or creating jobs or anything else," Hass said, "And so until we have a definitive study or analysis on this it's hard for me to support expanding it."

Sen. Sara Gelsler, D-Corvallis, also voted against the bill.

State Rep. David Gomberg, D-Central Coast, and other lawmakers had proposed several changes to make the tax break revenue neutral and to focus on help-

ing small businesses, but none of those amendments were voted on before the legislation was moved to the floor for a vote.

Gomberg had proposed amending to the bill to reduce the income cap to be eligible for the tax break from \$5 million to \$750,000. Reducing the eligibility cap by that amount would make the expansion of the tax break largely revenue neutral, meaning it wouldn't have cost anything, said Chris Allanach, acting legislative revenue officer.

Gomberg's amendment also would have reduced the requirement that businesses have at least one employee working 1,200 hours a year to 1,000 hours per year.

It would have eliminated the mandatory 30-hour min-

imum work week to qualify for the break. The 30-hour requirement excludes seasonal businesses, Gomberg said.

By opening the tax break to seasonal businesses and reducing the income cap, the expansion of the tax break would have targeted "mom and pop" businesses with lower profit margins, without cutting into state revenues, he said.

In discussions with the Governor's Office about his proposal, "there was no real resistance to it, but we're in a time bind," Gomberg said.

The session corresponded with the beginning of the Legislature's quarterly committee meetings in Salem, which are scheduled through Wednesday, May 23.

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