

Woman who survived Las Vegas shooting becomes officer

By **CHELSEA DEFFENBACHER**
The Register-Guard

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — Ten months ago, Lauren Card was running from danger.

Now she's ready to run toward it, after taking an oath to serve and protect the residents of Springfield as the newest member of its police force.

Card, 23, was attending the Route 91 Harvest Country Music Festival in Las Vegas last October when a gunman killed 58 people and wounded more than 500 in the worst mass murder in modern U.S. history.

Monday, Card was sworn in as a Springfield police officer, a career decision that she said was inspired by the shooting.

Card remembers running with the panicked crowd during the "madness and craziness" caused by the shooting. But she also recalls how she felt relief when police officers arrived and ran toward the chaos.

"And in that moment, I kind of had a sense that, 'OK, the police are here. They are going to fix it. They are going to make it better. Everything is going to be OK,'" she said earlier this week. "I want to be that

person for someone else in that situation. When they're going through something crappy or going through a hard time, I want them to see me and be like, 'OK, she's going to fix it. She's going to make it better.'"

Card was attending the concert with her mother, Robin Baird of Eugene, and Baird's longtime boyfriend, Kevin Lee, and his adult daughter, Kaila Lee.

Baird spoke to The Register-Guard four days after the incident and described how her family had escaped when Stephen Paddock opened fire from an upper-story window of the Mandalay Bay hotel into the concert crowd as country singer Jason Aldean was performing.

"We thought it sounded like fireworks; like one went off," Baird said in the interview. "And I was looking for smoke or something, but then all of a sudden, I heard more shots, like a gun going off."

Baird and her family started running, she said, taking cover under their riser-style VIP suite. Other people soon joined them, pushing and crawling their way under as best as they could.

The gunshots stopped for a moment, and then started



Andy Nelson/The Register-Guard via AP

Springfield Police Officer Lauren Card poses for a picture, in Springfield. Card was sworn in as a Springfield Police officer 10 months after surviving the mass shooting in Las Vegas in October 2017.

again. The bullets were ricocheting off the metal structures around the stage.

"It felt like it was in the venue, and it felt like it was getting closer, so we knew we needed to leave," she said. "We got out from under the suite and just started running. And we kept going."

Baird described how her family climbed fences, a 10-foot brick wall and other obstacles to make their way as far down the Las Vegas strip as they could. They were separated briefly — Card with Baird and the Lees together — but reunited when they all took cover in the MGM Grand hotel. Since the Vegas air-

port was on lockdown, they rented a car and drove to Arizona to catch the next flight home with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

"Our legs were covered in mud; we were in dirty, filthy clothes," Baird said of arriving at the airport. "I was wearing a white shirt, and the back was just all nasty, from falling and climbing. We were wearing cowboy boots. I am sure people were just thinking, 'What the hell have these people been doing?' But I didn't care. We just needed to go home."

This week, Card's mother praised her daughter's choice to take such a

bad experience and turn it into something good.

"I am very proud of her for becoming an officer and wanting to serve the community, especially after Route 91," Baird said Wednesday. "She works really hard. With her achievements and strengths, I know she'll be very successful."

Card said she returned to college two days after the shooting and tried to return to her normal life.

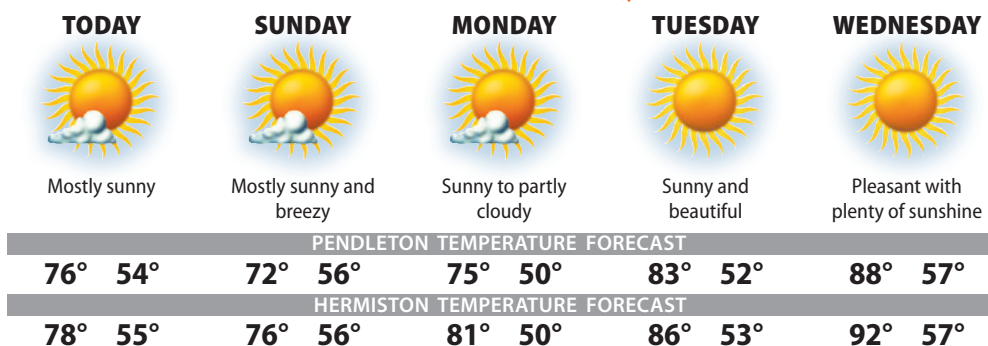
"We all went through our own thing in our own way," Card said. "At first I was having trouble focusing. I went through the initial shock stuff, like, 'Holy crap, what just happened?'"

And it was hard for a while just to mentally process it. She added that she came to the realization, "Yeah, it sucks that it happened. My heart is with the families that weren't as fortunate as ours. But we made it out, and I don't want this to affect me in such a negative way and let it ruin my life. I want to do something with this, show that you can move on, you're strong."

Springfield police Lt. Scott McKee, who was on the department's hiring committee, said the group wondered how the shooting would affect Card's ability to react in dangerous police

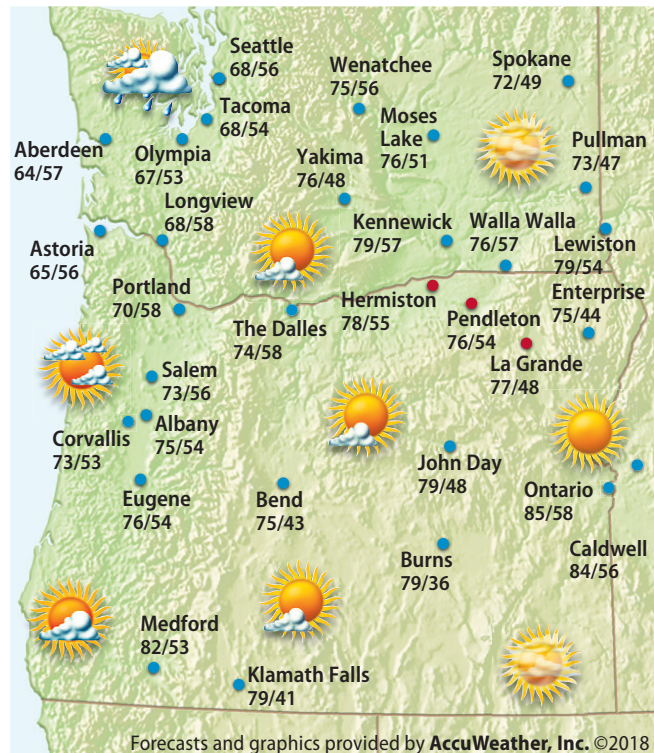
situations. "She was asked how she felt like that had impacted her and how she might respond if she found herself in a similar circumstance, because ... depending on the person, that could be traumatic for a long time and that could trigger post-traumatic stress," McKee said. Card replied that the experience will help her now that she's a trained police officer, he said. Card said she already "knows what it's like to be shot at," and how she will respond if she finds herself under fire again, McKee said. "I thought that was really compelling."

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	74°	54°
Normals	85°	56°
Records	105° (1898)	32° (1904)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.32"
Year to date	6.49"
Last year to date	11.37"
Normal year to date	8.27"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	75°	58°
Normals	86°	56°
Records	101° (1970)	40° (2010)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.03"
Normal month to date	0.15"
Year to date	5.13"
Last year to date	6.65"
Normal year to date	6.07"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Sun.
Boardman	WSW 6-12	WSW 8-16
Pendleton	W 6-12	WSW 10-20

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:08 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:46 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:43 p.m.
Moonset today	5:09 a.m.

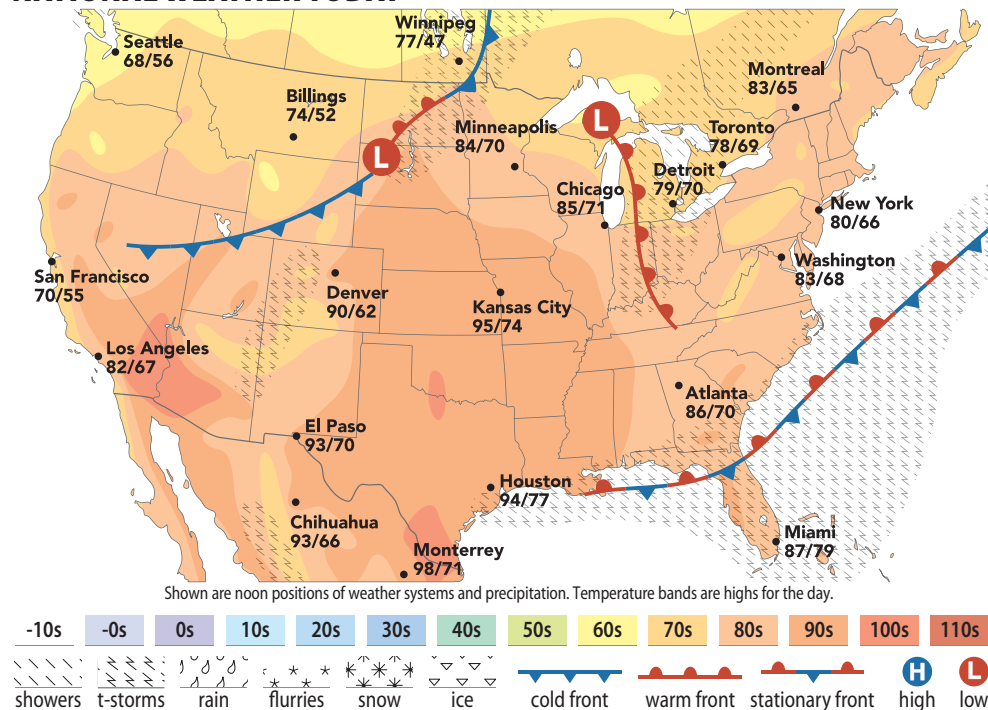


NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 107° in Needles, Calif. Low 25° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



Judge dismisses marijuana racketeering case in Oregon

SALEM (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed a racketeering lawsuit filed by Oregon landowners who claim their neighbors are growing marijuana, causing them discomfort and reducing their property values.

The Capital Press reported Wednesday that several property owners in Lebanon filed a lawsuit last year accusing their neighbors of growing marijuana in violation of the Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organization Act.

Defendants say they stopped growing marijuana last October.

U.S. District Judge Michael McShane ruled that the injuries alleged by the 10 plaintiffs including unpleasant noises, foul odors and reduced property values aren't the type that can be compensated under the act.

He says they are allowed to refile their complaint since the lawsuit has a constitutional standing.

FBI arrests music ministry leader on porn charges

EUGENE (AP) — The FBI and Eugene police have arrested the music ministry leader at Christ Fellowship Church on federal child pornography charges.

Authorities said Friday that long-time church member 38-year-old Edward Samuel Thompson was arrested at his Eugene home without incident and booked in a Springfield jail.

His attorney, federal public defender Mark Weintraub, did not immediately return a call seeking comment Friday.

Court documents show that an FBI agent tracked downloads of multiple pornographic videos featuring children as young as 2 to Thompson's IP address.

During the execution of a search warrant, agents did not find the videos on Thompson's computer but found evidence that he had downloaded them.

Court documents say he admitted to downloading and watching the videos and then deleting them after several days.

More states take interest in coal terminal legal fight

LONGVIEW, Wash. (AP) — Six states have lined up in support of Washington state in a legal battle over its decision to block a proposed coal-export terminal on the Columbia River.

The Daily News reports attorneys general from California, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Oregon filed a "friend-of-the-court" brief this week arguing in support of Gov. Jay Inslee's administration in its defense against the federal law-

BRIEFLY

suit brought by Utah-based Lighthouse Resources.

Lighthouse Resources claimed Washington state officials violated federal laws in denying approvals for the Millennium Bulk Terminals project — a proposed \$680 million facility in Longview, Washington, that would be the largest coal shipping terminal in North America.

Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Utah, Kansas, Nebraska and Washington's Cowlitz County have previously filed amicus briefs in support of project backers.

Wyoming man drowns in Oregon canoe accident

BEND (AP) — An 84-year-old Wyoming man drowned and his daughter, a former Paralympic athlete, was injured when their canoe capsized in Oregon and they were swept over Class 5 rapids.

Deschutes County sheriff's Lt. Bryan Husband told KTVZ-TV on Friday that Ronald Stevens, of Jackson, Wyoming, was pulled unconscious from the water by kayakers.

Nancy Stevens, who is blind, was also pulled from the Deschutes River by kayakers and is hospitalized in good condition.

The 54-year-old Nancy Stevens competed 20 years ago as a cross-country skier in the Nagano, Japan Paralympic Games.

The Bulletin reports that she was also the first blind woman to scale the 13,770-foot Grand Teton and has been a regular Pole Pedal Paddle competitor since 2013.

The two were fly-fishing and were both wearing life jackets.

Officials: Tossed cigarette caused fire near Madras

MADRAS (AP) — Authorities say a cigarette tossed out of a car traveling on U.S. Highway 26 started a small blaze south of Madras earlier this month.

Investigators don't know who tossed the cigarette that started the Aug. 17 fire but are reminding Oregonians to be careful this fire season.

The wildfire started by the cigarette was among more than 50 other blazes started in Central Oregon by lightning after a thunderstorm.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
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Regional Publisher and Revenue Director:

Christopher Rush

541-278-2669 • crush@eomediagroup.com

Advertising Services: Grace Bubar

541-276-2214 • gbubar@eastoregonian.com

Multimedia Consultants:

• Kimberly Macias

541-278-2683 • kmacias@eastoregonian.com

• Jeanne Jewett

541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com

• Dayle Stinson

541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

• Angela Treadwell

541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com

• Audra Workman

541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

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• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips:

541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

Business Office Manager: Janna Heimgartner

541-966-0822 • jheimgartner@eastoregonian.com

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Manager: Mike Jensen

541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com