Lawmakers buy industry fix to stop school shootings

By REESE DUNKLIN and JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press

Richard Alan Hannon/The Advocate via AP

In this May 29, 2008 photo, Baton Rouge Police Department SWAT team members walk down a McKinley Middle Magnet School hallway during a simulated hostage situation in Baton Rouge, La.

Security companies spent years pushing schools to buy more products — from "ballistic attack-resistant" doors to smoke cannons that spew haze from ceilings to confuse a shooter. But sales were slow, and industry's campaign to free up taxpayer money for upgrades had stalled.

That changed last February, when a former student shot and killed 17 people at a Florida high school. Publicly, the rampage reignited the U.S. gun-control debate. Privately, it propelled industry efforts to sell school fortification as the answer to the mass killing of American kids.

Since that attack, security firms and nonprofit groups linked to the industry have persuaded lawmakers to elevate the often-costly "hardening" of schools over other measures that researchers and educators say are proven to reduce violence, an Associated Press investigation shows.

The industry helped Congress draft a law that committed $350 million to equipment and other school security over the next decade. Nearly 20 states have come up with another $450 million, and local school districts are reworking budgets to find more money.

Most everyone agrees that schools can be more secure with layers of protection, such as perimeter fencing, limited entrances and hiding spaces inside classrooms.

But there's no independent research supporting claims that much of the high-tech hardware and gadgets schools are buying will save lives, according to two 2016 reports prepared for the U.S. Justice Department. As with high-profile shootings in the past, that has not stopped industry representatives from rushing in, some misusing statistics on school violence to stoke fears that "soft target" schools could be victims of terrorist attacks or negligence lawsuits.

"School safety is the Wild, Wild West," said Mason Wooldridge, a security consultant who helps school districts assess their vulnerabilities. "Any company can claim anything they want."

Wooldridge knows from experience. Several years ago, he helped outfit an Indiana high school with a $500,000 security system that includes smoke cannons. Now out of sales, he says a school that wanted a system with the same level of security could get it for about $100,000, using less expensive but equally effective equipment.

Many proponents of hardening a school like an airport or police station have backgrounds in law enforcement or the military. Some have little experience or qualification. The Ohio man dubbed "Joe the Plumber" during the 2008 presidential campaign has been appearing on school safety conference panels to hawk a cheaper lockdown alternative.

Educators worry that hardening will siphon focus and money from programs that prevent bullying and counsel at-risk kids. Students have reported in government surveys that visible security measures like metal detectors and armed officers make them feel less safe.

Industry representatives say they support other solutions to preventing school gun deaths, but insist hardening hasn't gotten the chance it deserves.

"There really needs to be a change in thinking that recognizes security is a primary need in schools," said Jake Parker, director of government relations for the Security Industry Association, which has been central to the hardening effort. Also, he acknowledged, "The more schools protect themselves, the better it is for industry."

Revenue for school security companies would grow even more than analysts project if the industry succeeds in plans to craft state legislation that would set minimum standards for campus equipment purchases.

There are no widely accepted, independent standards for school building security, as there are for the plumbing, fire protection systems and even athletic bleachers on campus. To fill that void, security companies have promoted their own takes on what "best practices" for school security should be. At least one state has turned such standards into law.

Industry-written guidelines set a steep price for cash-strapped districts. According to a nonprofit group formed by a major lock manufacturer, for example, upgrading an elementary school with basic security equipment costs at least $94,000 and a high school at least $170,000. If all the nation's public schools were to follow those guidelines, the cost would total at least $11 billion, according to industry calculations.

Hardening advocates acknowledge that mass upgrades would not eliminate shootings. Many shooters are students whose familiarity with a school's layout and security could help them outsmart even elaborate safeguards.

Low-tech solutions may also work just as well. Leaders at one school district in New Jersey heard a vendor's pitch for classroom doors that lock automatically and simply mandated that teachers lock their doors during class, saving several hundred thousand dollars.

"If we're just expecting technology to solve all these problems, I think we're going to fall short," said Ronald Stephens, executive director of the California-based National School Safety Center, created originally as a federal program under the Reagan administration.

"And we may not like the climate we create."

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING — OCTOBER 3, 2018

			12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
FOX	(11) KFFX	11	Ocean Myst.	Divorce Court	Steve!		Judge Mathis (N)		The People's Court		Paid Program	Mom	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Modern Family	Modern "Pilot"	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Empire (N)		Star "Who's the Daddy" (N)		First at Ten (N)	:35 Dateline "Written in Blood"		:35 Mike & Molly
	KPTV	3	12 O' News (N)		W. Williams (N)		Truth (N)	Truth (N)	People's Court (N)		Judy	Judy (N)	News (N)		News (N)		Feud	Feud	Empire (N)		Star (N)		News (N)		News	Page Six
CBS	(19) KEPR	2	Funny-Ask	Bold & B.	The Talk (N)		Let's Make a Deal		Dr. Phil		Judge Judy (N)	Judge Judy	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Inside Edition	The Big Bang	TheSimpsons	Survivor: David vs. Goliath (N)		SEAL Team "Fracture" (SP) (N)		Criminal Minds "300" (SP) (N)		News (N)	:35 Colbert
	KOIN	19	Local 6	B & B	The Talk (N)		The 700 Club		Dr. Phil		News (N)		News	News	News	News	Extra	ET (N)	Survivor (N)		SEAL Team (N)		C.Minds "300" (N)		News	Colbert
NBC	(25) KNDU	6	TMZ	Wilderness Vet	Days of Our Lives		The Wendy Williams Show (N)		Daily Mail TV	Daily Mail TV	Ellen DeGeneres (N)		News	News (N)	News (N)	Family Feud	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Chicago Fire "Going to War" (N)		Chic.Med "When to Let Go" (N)		Chicago P.D. "Endings" 3/3 (N)		News (N)	:35 Tonight
	KGW	8	News	Paid	Days of Our Lives		The Dr. Oz Show		E.DeGeneres (N)		KGW News (N)		News	News	KGW News (N)		Cassidy	InsEd.	Chicago Fire (N)		Chicago Med (N)		Chicago P.D. (N)		News	Tonight
ABC	(42) KVEW	4	GMA Day (N)		General Hospital		The Doctors		The Rachael Ray Show		The Dr. Oz Show		News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	ET (N)	Extra	Goldberg (N)	Am.Wife (N)	Modern Fam (N)	SingleParent (N)	Little Things "Band of Dads" (N)		News (N)	:05 Jimmy Kimmel
	KATU	5	GMA Day (N)		General Hospital		Afternoon Live		Million?	Million?	KATU News (N)		News	News	News (N)		Jeop. (N)	Wheel	Goldberg	Am.Wife	Modern	Single	Little Things (N)		News	Kimmel
PBS	(31) KTNW		Amanpour & Company		Sara's Meals	Fons & Porter	StretchEssentric	Pinka-Peter	Nature Cat	Ready Jet Go!	Wild Kratts	Odd Squad	Arthur	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		World News	Wealthtrack	Nature "Animal Misfits"		Nova "Operation Bridge Rescue" (N)		Secrets of the Dead (N)		Amanpour & Company (N)	
	(59) OPB	13	Joy of Painting	Kevin Belton	Test Kitchen	Travelscope	Nature Cat	Cat in the Hat	Ready Jet Go!	Arthur	Odd Squad	Odd Squad	Wild Kratts	Wild Kratts	Journeys Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Secret Life-Dogs "We Are Family"		Nova "Operation Bridge Rescue" (N)		Secrets of the Dead (N)		Nature "Animal Misfits"	

			12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
CABLE	A&E	52	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	Storage Wars: Auction Mayhem (N)							
	AMC	60	:05 Walking Dead		:10 Dead "Seed"		:10 Dead "Sick"		:10 Walking Dead		:10 Walking Dead		:10 Walking Dead		:15 Walking Dead		:15 Walking Dead		:15 Walking Dead		:15 Walking Dead		:15 Dead "Home"		:20 Walking Dead	
	ANPL	24	The Vet Life		R. Mountain Vet		Pit Bull Parolees		Pit Bull Parolees		Treehouse		Treehouse		Tanked!		Tanked!		Tanked "Pro Bowl Fish Bowls" (N)				Tanked!		Tanked!	
	CMT	43	Home I.	Home I.	Home I.	Home I.	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	★★★★ The Shawshank Redemption ('94, Dra) Tim Robbins.							★★★★ The Shawshank Redemption ('94, Dra) Tim Robbins.							The King
	CNBC	72	Closing Bell				Fast Money		Mad Money		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Paid	Paid
	CNN	68	CNN Newsroom		The Lead		The Situation		The Situation		OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Cuomo		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		Cuomo		CNN Tonight	
	DISC	51	Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Exp. Unkown		Exp. Unkown		Exp. Unkown		Exp. Unkown		Exp. Unkown		Hunt for Yeti (N)				Exp. Unkown	
	DISN	26	Puppy	Puppy	DuckTal.	BigCity	Gravity	Jessie	Jessie	Bizaard.	StuckM.	StuckM.	Raven's.	Raven's.	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's.	Raven's.	StuckM.	StuckM.	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's.	Raven's.
	ESPN	33	NBA: The Jump (L)		H.Noon	Highly?	Horn (N)	Interrupt	SportsCenter (N)		Poker World Series		Poker World Series		Poker World Series		Poker World Series		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
	ESPN2	34	NFL Live (N)		Talk (L)		Football	Highly?	Horn (N)	Interrupt	NFL Live			NFL's Greatest Games			Kickboxing Glory 59				Tonight	Interrupt	First Take			
	FNC	66	Shepard Smith		Your World		The Five		Special Report		The Story		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		Ingraham Angle		Fox News		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		Ingraham Angle	
	FOOD	61	Cooking	Cooking	Pioneer	Pioneer	Guy's Game		Guy's Game		Guy's Game		Game "Cart Wars"		Guy's Game		Guy's Game		Guy's Game		Guy's Game (N)		FoodTrck	FoodTrck	Guy's Game	
	FREE	32	The Boat	The Boat	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory					★★★★ Monsters University Billy Crystal.					★★★ Monster House Mitchel Musso.				The 700 Club	
	FX	65	Mother	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	★★★ 300: Rise of an Empire				★★★★ The Avengers ('12, Act) Robert Downey Jr..					Deadpool ('16, Act) Ryan Reynolds.						Apocalypse (N)		Apocalypse	
	GOLF	88	Driver/ Driver "The Pitch"			Card	PGA Tour	Golfing	Golf C.	Learn	PGA Tour	Golf C.	LPGA Golf International Crown Round 1 Site: Jack Nicklaus Golf Club -- Songdo City, Korea (L)													
	GSN	76	The Chase		Caroline	Feud	Am.Says	Am.Says	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	CashCb	CashCb	Feud	Feud	Am.Says	Reaction	Idiotest	Idiotest
	HALL	87	June in January Brooke D'Orsay.				Elevator Girl Lacey Chabert.				A Summer to Remember				Love at First Glance Amy Smart.				Harvest Love ('17, Rom) Jen Lilley.				G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
	HGTV	62	Fixer Upper		Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Property Brothers		HGTV (N)		Property Brothers		Property Bros. (N)		Reno.	House	Property Brothers	
	HIST	50	Forged In Fire		Forged In Fire		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire (N)		:05 Forged In (N)		:05 Forged in Fire	
	LIFE	29	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		★★★★ The Holiday ('06, Rom) Cameron Diaz.						:05 13 Sons	
	NICK	27	PAW	Machines	PAW	PAW	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Loud H.	LoudH.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Dare	Dare	To Be Announced				Friends	Friends
	ROOT	37	Paid	Paid	The Dan Patrick Show (N)						Press	Mariners	Champions Tennis Champions Cup				NCAA Volleyball Clem./Ga.T.				Press (N)	NCAA Football Eastern Washington at Montana				
	SPIKE	42	Bar Rescue		2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	★★★★ Friday ('95, Com) Ice Cube.				★★★ Next Friday ('00, Com) Ice Cube.			
	SYFY	67	Finder's Kee...		:15 Silent House Elizabeth Olsen.				:10 ★★★★ Iron Man 3 ('13, Act) Robert Downey Jr..						★★★★ Avengers: Age of Ultron Robert Downey Jr..						The Purge (N)		★★★★ Avengers: Age of Ultron			
	TBS	59	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	MLB on Deck		MLB Baseball American League Wild Card (L)							MLB	Fam.Guy	Fam.Guy	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Conan (N)	
	TCM	56	Sing Your Wa...		★★★ Babes in Arms			:45 ★★★★ Babes on Broadway Judy Garland.							The Unknown	The Phantom of the O...		:45 ★★★★ The Monster Lon Chaney.				★★★★ The Penalty			:15 The Unho...	
	TLC	49	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Gypsy Wedd		Gypsy Wedd		Four Weddings		Four Weddings		Four Weddings		My 600-lb Life		My 600-lb Life "Lisa's Story"				My 600-lb Life "Sarah's Story"			
	TNT	57	UEFA Soccer (L)				UEFA	Charmed		Supernatural		Supernatural			Terminator 3: Rise of the Machin...			:45 Hercules Dwayne Johnson.						:45 ★★★ Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines	
	UNI	21	UEFA Fútbol Liga de Campeones (L)				Notic.	Vecinos	Rosa Guadalupe		El gordo y la flaca		Primer impacto		P. Luche	Notic.	Rosa Guadalupe		El Rico y Lazaro		Mi Marido Tiene		La piloto		Impacto	Noticie.
	USA	58	Chicago "Snitch"		Chicago "Home"		Chicago "Fallen"		SVU "Snatched"		SVU "Transitions"		SVU "Lead"		SVU "Hell"		SVU "Baggage"		Law&Order: SVU		SVU "Mood"		Law&Order: SVU		Modern	Modern
	WE	118	CSI "Sunblock"		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		★★★★ A League of Their Own Geena Davis.						★★★★ A League of Their Own Geena Davis.						★★★★ A League of Their Own			
	WGN		In Heat of Night		In Heat of Night		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Carter		Married	Married	Mother	Mother
PREMIUM	HBO	518	★★★ Taxi Queen Latifah.			Real Sports		AVP: Alien vs. Predator			:15 Student Athlete			:45 ★★★★ The Greatest Showman				News	★★★★ Man on Fire Denzel Washington.				Real Sports		Deuce
	HBO2	520	:15 Three Billboards Outside Eb...				:15 ★★★ All About Steve				:55 ★★★★ The Shape of Water				Justice League ('17, Act) Gal Gadot.				Student Athlete (N)			Insecure	Insecure	T.Ullman	:05 Sleight	
	HBO3	521	SeeYou	The Hitman's Bodyguard				★★★ The Terminal Tom Hanks.				:45 Darkest Hour ('17, Bio) Gary Oldman.					:55 Girls Trip Jada Pinkett Smith.				★★★ 17 Again Zac Efron.				:45 ★★★ The Terminal	
	MAX	549	Movie	:40 ★★★ Addicted to Love			:20 ★★★ Ghosts of Girlfriends Past				:05 ★★★ Disclosure Demi Moore.				:15 ★★★★★ Get Out Daniel Kaluuya.				★★★★★ John Wick: Chapter 2				:05 ★★★★ X2: X-Men United			
	SHOW	578	★★ Serving Sara		:15 ★★★★★ Freeway				Baby Driver ('17, Act) Kevin Spacey.				Lynyrd Skynyrd If I			:45 ★★★★ The Hunt for Red October					★★★★ Clear and Present Danger					Movie
	STARZ	621	★★★★ The Proposal				:50 All the Money in the World				:05 Roman J Israel, Esq.				:10 Black Rock			Amityville: The Awake...			★★★★ The Mothman Prophecies				All the Mone...	
	STZENC	644	Movie	:45 ★★★ Big Momma's House				★★★★ Easy A Emma Stone.			:05 From Dusk Till Dawn			:55 American Haunting...			:20 ★★★ Big Momma's House				★★★ Into the Blue			:55 ★★★ Stigmata	

WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT & THURSDAY MORNING

			12 AM	12:30	1 AM	1:30	2 AM	2:30	3 AM	3:30	4 AM	4:30	5 AM	5:30	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
FOX	(11) KFFX	11	:05 Mike & Molly	:35 Two 1/2 Men	:05 CR TV Featuring a selection of products and services.								CR TV		AgDay	The Game	Good Day (N)				Providence	Providence	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Chicago P.D. "A Material Witness"	
	KPTV	3	TMZ Live!		Celebrity Page	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	King of Queens	Paid Program	Paid Program	This Minute	News (N)	Good Day Oregon at 5 a.m. (N)		Good Day Oregon at 6 a.m. (N)		Good Day Oregon (N)				MORE Good Day Oregon (N)		Page Six TV	Celebrity Page	The Rachael Ray Show	
CBS	(19) KEPR	2	The Late Show	:35 J.Corden Jeff Bridges, Jenny Slate		:35 D. Fusco	:05 CBS Overnight News					Morning News	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	CBS This Morning (N)				Pickler & Ben		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
	KOIN	19	The Late Show	:35 J.Corden Jeff Bridges, Jenny Slate		:35 News	:05 CBS Overnight News				News (N)	News (N)	KOIN 6 News at 5 a.m. (N)		KOIN 6 News at 6 a.m. (N)		CBS This Morning (N)				Let's Make a Deal		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
NBC	(25) KNDU	6	Tonight Show	:35 Seth Meyers Molly Shannon		:35 Last Call	:05 Today Show		Early Today	Early Today	Early Today	Wake Up Northwest (N)					Today Show (N)				Megyn Kelly Today (N)		Today (N)		Millionaire?	Hot Bench
	KGW	8	Tonight Show	:35 Seth Meyers Molly Shannon		:35 Last Call	:05 Steve!		Early Today	Early Today	Early Today	News (N)	KGW News at Sunrise (N)		KGW News at Sunrise (N)		Today Show (N)				Megyn Kelly Today (N)		Today (N)		Daily Blast (N)	Daily Blast
ABC	(42) KVEW	4	:10 Nightl.	:40 This Minute	:05 Pat. Court	:35 ABC World News Now Featuring the morning's top stories and breaking news from around the world.						America Morning	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Good Morning America (N)				Live Michelle Williams, Common		The View		Paid Program	This Minute
	KATU	5	Jimmy Kimmel	:35 Nightl.	:05 Paid Program	:35 Paid Program	:05 ABC World News Now				America Morning	News (N)	KATU News This Morning (N)				Good Morning America (N)				AM Northwest		The View		Live Michelle Williams, Common	
PBS	(31) KTNW		News	JourneyJapan (N)	Nova "Operation Bridge Rescue"		Secrets of the Dead		Art in the 21st Cen.		The Hispanic Heritage Awards		Read "Villains & Monsters"		Esmonde Tech.	W.L.-Yoga	Ready Jet Go!	Cat in the Hat	Sesame Street	Super WHY!	Dinosaur Train	Peg + Cat	Daniel Tiger	Splash & Bubbles	Curious George	Sit and Be Fit
	(59) OPB	13	PBS NewsHour		Read "Villains & Monsters"		Frontline "Trump's Showdown"				The Hispanic Heritage Awards		Nightly Business	World News	Sit and Be Fit	Wild Kratts	Nature Cat	Curious George	Pinka-Peter	Daniel Tiger	Daniel Tiger	Splash & Bubbles	Sesame Street	Super WHY!	Dinosaur Train	Bob the Builder