

July 4 shooting suspect made threats before buying guns

BY MICHAEL TARM, KATHLEEN FOODY AND STEPHEN GROVES

Associated Press

HIGHLAND PARK, Ill. — The man charged with killing seven people when he unleashed a hail of bullets on an Independence Day parade from a rooftop in suburban Chicago legally bought the high-powered rifle used in the shooting and four other weapons, despite threatening violence, police said.

Robert E. Crimo III was charged with seven counts of murder Tuesday, July 5 in the shooting that sent hundreds of marchers, parents and children fleeing in fear and set off an hours-long manhunt in and around Highland Park, an affluent community on the shores of Lake Michigan. Investigators have yet to identify a motive.

Prosecutors have promised to seek dozens more charges, and Crimo is expected to make his first court appearance on Wednesday. His attorney said he intends to enter a not guilty plea to all charges.

A rifle “similar to an AR-15” was used to spray more than 70 rounds from atop a commercial building into the parade crowd, a spokesman for the Lake County Major Crime Task Force said.

A seventh victim died of their injuries Tuesday. More than three dozen other people were wounded in the attack, which Task force spokesman Christopher Covelli said the suspect had planned for several weeks.

The assault happened less than three years after police went to Crimo’s home following a call from a family member who said he was threatening “to kill everyone” there. Covelli said police confiscated 16 knives, a dagger and a sword, but said there was no sign he had any guns at the time, in September 2019.

Police in April 2019 also re-



Brian Cassella/Chicago Tribune-TNS

Highland Park resident Kernel Parikh leaves flowers near the Central Avenue crime scene Tuesday, July 5, 2022, the day after a mass shooting at the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park.

sponded to a reported suicide attempt by the suspect, Covelli said.

Crimo legally purchased the rifle used in the attack in Illinois within the past year, Covelli said. In all, police said, he purchased five firearms, which were recovered by officers at his father’s home.

The revelation about his gun purchases is just the latest example of young men who were able to obtain guns and carry out massacres in recent months despite glaring warning signs about their mental health and inclination to violence.

Illinois state police, who issue gun owners’ licenses, said Crimo applied

for a license in December 2019, when he was 19. His father sponsored his application.

At the time “there was insufficient basis to establish a clear and present danger” and deny the application, state police said in a statement.

Investigators who have interrogated the suspect and reviewed his social media posts have not determined a motive or found any indication that he targeted victims by race, religion or other protected status, Covelli said.

At the July 4 parade, the shots were initially mistaken for fireworks before hundreds of revelers fled in ter-

ror. A day later, baby strollers, lawn chairs and other items left behind by panicked parade goers remained inside a wide police perimeter. Outside the police tape, some residents drove up to collect blankets and chairs they abandoned.

David Shapiro, 47, said the gunfire quickly turned the parade into “chaos.”

“People didn’t know right away where the gunfire was coming from, whether the gunman was in front or behind you chasing you,” he said Tuesday as he retrieved a stroller and lawn chairs.

The shooting occurred at a spot

on the parade route where many residents had staked out prime viewing points early in the day.

Among them was Nicolas Toledo, who was visiting his family in Illinois from Mexico, and Jacki Sundheim, a lifelong congregant and staff member at nearby North Shore Congregation Israel. The Lake County coroner released the names of four other victims.

Nine people, ranging from 14 to 70, remained hospitalized Tuesday, hospital officials said.

The shooting was just the latest to shatter the rituals of American life. Schools, churches, grocery stores and now community parades have all become killing grounds in recent months. This time, the bloodshed came as the nation tried to celebrate its founding and the bonds that still hold it together.

The gunman initially evaded capture by dressing as a woman and blending into the fleeing crowd, Covelli said.

A police officer pulled over 21-year-old Crimo north of the shooting scene several hours after police released his photo and warned that he was likely armed and dangerous, Highland Park Police Chief Lou Jogmen said.

Asked about his client’s emotional state, prominent Chicago-based lawyer Thomas A. Durkin said he has spoken to Crimo only once — for 10 minutes by phone. He declined to comment further.

In 2013, Highland Park officials approved a ban on semi-automatic weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. A local doctor and the Illinois State Rifle Association quickly challenged the liberal suburb’s stance. The legal fight ended at the U.S. Supreme Court’s doorstep in 2015 when justices declined to hear the case and let the suburb’s restrictions remain in place.

CDC: Mask-wearing recommended in growing number of counties

PORTLAND (AP) — People in 24 of Oregon’s 36 counties — including the county around Portland, as well as Baker County — and 15 counties in Washington state should resume mask-wearing indoors in public and on public transportation, according to recommendations from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Data from the CDC shows the counties are considered high risk for COVID-19 infection, KPTV reported. The Oregon counties include: Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, Lane, Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath, Lake, Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Wasco, Sherman, Hood River, Clackamas, Washington, Multnomah, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker, and Malheur counties.

In Washington, the counties at high risk include: Clallam, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Lewis, Thurston, Pierce, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Walla Walla, Columbia, Asotin, Lincoln, Ferry and Spokane. That’s an increase from six Washing-

Baker County cases more than doubled in June

Baker County, which is one of the 24 Oregon counties at high risk of COVID-19 transmission according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reported 121 cases during June.

That’s more than twice the 49 cases tallied during May.

The county had 13 cases in April and 14 in March.

According to the Baker County Health Department, the county had 55 cases from June 26 through July 2. That’s the highest weekly total since early February, when the omicron wave was waning. The county had 102 cases in the first week of February.

Baker County had a record high of 646 cases in January, followed by 230 cases in February. The case rate plummeted starting in the middle of February.

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 in Region 9 remain well below their peaks in October 2021 and February 2022. The region includes Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties. Patients hospitalized with COVID-19 peaked at 45 in Region 9 on Feb. 4, 2022. On June 25, 12 were hospitalized in the region, up from 0 on April 30.

ton counties at high risk as of June 23.

The most recent community levels were calculated June 30.

High risk means the counties have had 200 or more new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people in the last seven days, or they’ve had more than 20 new COVID-19 hospital ad-

missions per 100,000 people within a seven-day period.

Baker County’s most recent weekly rate was 304 cases per 100,000 people, and the hospital admission rate was 49.8 per 100,000. Patients with COVID-19 occupied 8.2% of hospital beds, according to CDC.

Dr. Jeff Duchin, health of-

ficer at Public Health – Seattle & King County, said on Twitter Sunday, July 3 that since April, the health agency has recommended that people wear high-quality masks in indoor public spaces, that people get all recommended COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses, and that indoor air quality should be improved and outdoor venues be prioritized.

Duchin said vaccines are working well to halt hospitalizations and death but infections and reinfections are more common with the new variants. The virus has evolved to be more contagious.

Emerging research suggests reinfections could put people at higher risk for health problems.

Unvaccinated people have a six times higher risk of dying from COVID-19 compared with people with at least a primary series of shots, the CDC estimated based on available data from April.

— Jayson Jacoby of the Baker City Herald contributed to this story.

Planned Parenthood set to open abortion clinic in Ontario

Plans prompted by Idaho law making abortions a felony except in cases of rape, incest or when the mother’s life is at risk

BY LESLIE THOMPSON

Ontario Argus Observer

ONTARIO — What does the U.S. Supreme Court’s 6-3 decision overturning of the Roe V. Wade case on June 24 mean for the border community of the Western Treasure Valley? The court’s decision sends abortion rights back to states. In 26 states there are trigger laws that will take effect in the next month. This includes a trigger law in Idaho adopted in 2020 which will make abortion a felony in most cases, except rape, incest or when the mother’s life is at risk.

As such, women seeking those services in Idaho will need to make a longer trip to a state that still allows it, such as Oregon.

Another law adopted in Idaho this year is on hold currently while the state’s high court considers a lawsuit. That law would further reducing access by banning abortions after six weeks of gestation — the average length of time it takes for a woman to realize she is pregnant. It would also allow family members to sue abortion providers. The Idaho Supreme Court is scheduled to

hear arguments on that case in August.

Previously, in the Western Treasure Valley, the closest place to obtain an abortion in the region was at the Planned Parenthood in Meridian or Boise. The next-closest facility is 250 miles away in Bend. Planned Parenthood permanently closed its Boise location about a week ago, according to Anne Udall, CEO for Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette. She was not certain whether the Meridian clinic had closed yet, but did say that clinics in Oregon and Washington already had been seeing an uptick in out-of-state patients. Udall provided this information during a news conference on Friday afternoon with other Planned Parenthood officials.

Officials with that entity have been exploring opening a clinic in Ontario. During the news conference, Udall confirmed that remains a goal.

“The city of Ontario is one place we are working to establish a clinic,” she said, though noted she did not have more details on the timing.

All permitting and regulatory processes will be followed for setting it up, she stated, noting that those processes take time. She said they will share information directly with the Ontario community “when it is time.”

“Our current and future patients need to know we put their safety first and continue to strive to reduce barriers to care,” Udall said.

Noncitizens in Multnomah County could be granted right to vote

BY MAX EGENER

Oregon Capital Bureau

Voters in Multnomah County will see a ballot measure this November that would expand voting rights to residents who aren’t U.S. citizens.

Last month, a group tasked with reviewing Multnomah County’s charter — effectively a local constitution — unanimously recommended adding language that would extend voting rights to more groups, including people who are not citizens.

If voters pass the measure, Multnomah County would be the first jurisdiction in Oregon to grant the right to vote in local elections to “noncitizens.”

The county would be one of only a handful of jurisdictions in the United States that allow noncitizens to vote in local elections. Eleven cities in Maryland, two in Vermont and San Francisco currently allow voting by noncitizens.

The Multnomah County Charter Review Committee, expecting controversy, chose broad language for the charter amendment to maximize who could gain

voting rights as well as to avoid potential legal troubles.

“If we were to pursue one narrow declaration of who we would like to expand the vote to, if a court were to say, ‘No, you can’t do it that way,’ then there’s not as much recourse to really move this idea forward,” said Samantha Gladu, who helped draft the charter change and co-chairs the subcommittee that started discussions about it.

The language under consideration says the county shall extend the right to vote for county officers and measures “to the fullest extent allowed by law.”

At least one jurisdiction that tried to extend voting rights to noncitizens — New York City — saw the effort quashed by a court ruling. On June 27, a New York State Supreme Court justice struck down the measure approved by the city council last December, saying it violated the state’s constitution.

Noncitizens used to be able to vote

Juliet Stumpf, a professor at Lewis & Clark Law School who studies immi-

gration and criminal law, was skeptical about the concept of noncitizen voting at first.

“I thought that (citizenship) was such a bedrock principle of our voting,” Stumpf said.

She had an open mind about it because, she said, everyone who has a stake in the community should have a voice in the political system.

It wasn’t until she and her students started researching the history of voting laws in Oregon and other states that she began to favor noncitizen voting.

Two of her students published an article in the Lewis & Clark Law Review last year that delves into the history of voting rights throughout the United States and makes a case for changing Oregon law statewide to allow voting by noncitizens.

Many states, including Oregon, allowed noncitizens to vote when they were founded. Racism and sexism were very explicit in the laws, Stumpf said.

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