

TODAY

Today is Monday, May 10, the 130th day of 2021. There are 235 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **May 10**, 1869, a golden spike was driven in Promontory, Utah, marking the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States.

In **1774**, Louis XVI acceded to the throne of France.

In **1775**, Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, along with Col. Benedict Arnold, captured the British-held fortress at Ticonderoga, New York.

In **1865**, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union forces in Irwinville, Georgia.

In **1924**, J. Edgar Hoover was named acting director of the Bureau of Investigation (later known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or FBI).

In **1933**, the Nazis staged massive public book burnings in Germany.

In **1940**, during World War II, German forces began invading the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and France. The same day, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned, and Winston Churchill formed a new government.

In **1941**, Adolf Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, parachuted into Scotland on what he claimed was a peace mission. (Hess ended up serving a life sentence at Spandau Prison until 1987, when he apparently committed suicide at age 93.)

In **1977**, Academy Award-winning film star Joan Crawford died in New York.

In **1994**, Nelson Mandela took the oath of office in Pretoria to become South Africa's first Black president. The state of Illinois executed serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 52, for the murders of 33 young men and boys.

In **1995**, former President George H.W. Bush's office released his letter of resignation from the National Rifle Association in which Bush expressed outrage over an NRA fund-raising letter's reference to federal agents as "jack-booted thugs." (NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre apologized a week later.)

In **2002**, A tense 39-day-old standoff between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem ended with 13 suspected militants flown into European exile and 26 released into the Gaza Strip.

In **2010**, President Barack Obama introduced Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan, billing her as a unifying force for a fractured court.

Ten years ago: The bulging Mississippi River rolled into the Mississippi Delta after cresting before daybreak at Memphis, Tennessee, causing widespread damage. In a one-two punch against Moammar Gadhafi's forces, NATO warplanes struck a command center in Tripoli and pounded targets around the besieged port of Misrata.

Five years ago: With his White House dreams fading, Bernie Sanders added another state to his tally against Hillary Clinton with a win in West Virginia; Republican Donald Trump also won there and in Nebraska, a week after he cleared the field of his remaining rivals. Stephen Curry became the first unanimous NBA MVP, earning the award for the second straight season after leading the defending champion Warriors to a record-setting season.

One year ago: Vice President Mike Pence was said to be self-isolating at home, two days after his press secretary, Katie Miller, tested positive for the coronavirus. American families celebrated Mother's Day amid the social distancing restrictions caused by the coronavirus.

Today's Birthdays: Author Barbara Taylor Bradford is 88. R&B singer Henry Fambrough (The Spinners) is 83. Actor David Clennon is 78. Writer-producer-director Jim Abrahams is 77. Singer Donovan is 75. Singer-songwriter Graham Gouldman (10cc) is 75. Actor Mike Hagerty is 67. Sports anchor Chris Berman is 66. Former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., is 63. Actor Victoria Rowell is 62. Rock singer Bono (U2) is 61. Rock musician Danny Carey (Tool) is 60. Actor Darryl M. Bell is 58. Model Linda Evangelista is 56. Rapper Young MC is 54. Actor Erik Paladino is 53. Rock singer Richard Patrick (Filter) is 53. Actor Lenny Venito is 52. Actor Dallas Roberts is 51. Actor Leslie Stefanson is 50. Race car driver Helio Castroneves is 46. Actor Kenan Thompson is 43. Olympic gold medal swimmer Missy Franklin is 26.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION**IDAHO****Few school shootings committed by girls**

BY REBECCA BOONE AND LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Authorities say they are trying to determine what prompted a young girl to open fire at a rural Idaho middle school, one of the few school shootings in which the suspect is female.

The shooting happened around 9 a.m. Thursday, when police say the girl pulled a handgun out of her backpack and shot two other students and an adult custodian before she was disarmed by a teacher and held until police arrived. None had life-threatening injuries.

Jefferson County Sheriff Steve Anderson said Friday the investigation is likely to take a "considerable amount of time." He said neither the name of the suspect — a sixth grade girl — nor the name of the teacher who disarmed her would be immediately released.

The shooting took place over the course of about five minutes, Anderson said.

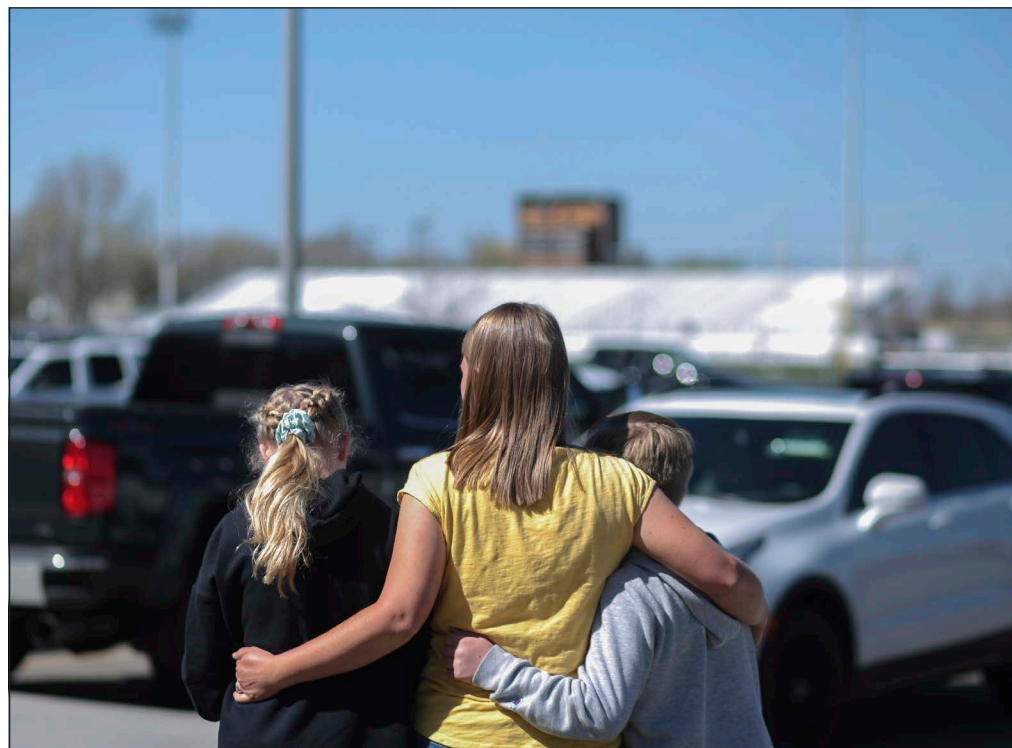
School shootings are rare in Idaho, and shootings where the suspect is identified as a young girl are uncommon but not unheard of in the U.S.

Just 2% of shootings

Girls and women commit just 2% of both mass shootings and school shootings in the U.S., according to data compiled by the group The Violence Project.

The group maintains a database of shootings at schools where more than one person was shot or a person came to school heavily armed with the intention of firing indiscriminately. It includes 146 cases going back to 1980. Girls were the shooters in just three of those cases. Experts differ on exactly why, though it's known that men commit over 90% homicides in general.

Researchers have also found that shooters who target bigger groups or schools tend to study past perpetrators, who are more likely to be male.



John Roark/The Idaho Post-Register

People embrace outside after a shooting at Rigby Middle School in Rigby, Idaho, on Thursday. Authorities say a shooting at the eastern Idaho middle school injured two students and a custodian, and a female student was taken into custody.

"They see themselves in some of these other shooters," said Violence Project President Jillian Peterson, a forensic psychologist and professor at Hamline University in Minnesota.

Boys in general tend to externalize anger and sadness against other people, whereas girls are more likely to internalize those emotions and have higher rates of depression and anxiety, Peterson said.

The Idaho girl is also younger than most school shooters, who are more often in high school.

The Violence Project's database shows about 18% of school shootings were at middle schools, though most of those were among older teenagers. Only a handful involved sixth grade students, Peterson said.

Common factors

Two recent studies by the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center of

fer insight into common characteristics between many kids who plan or carry out school shootings. The students were often badly bullied, suffered from depression with stress at home and exhibited behavior that worried others. They were often absent from school before the attack.

Most attackers who carried out deadly school shootings were male; seven were female, according to the studies. Researchers said 63% of the attackers were white, 15% were Black, 5% Hispanic, 2% were American Indian or Alaska Native, 10% were of two or more races, and 5% were undetermined.

School shootings have become increasingly common in the U.S. over the past two decades, but they remain relatively rare in Idaho. In 1999, a student at a high school in the community of Notus, west of Boise, fired a shotgun several times. No one was struck by the gunfire, but one student was injured by ricocheting debris from the first shell.

In 1989, a student at Rigby Junior High pulled a gun, threatened a teacher and students, and took a 14-year-old girl hostage. Police safely rescued the hostage from a nearby church about an hour later and took the teen into custody. No one was shot in

that incident.

In 2016, Idaho lawmakers passed a bill that allowed most people to carry concealed weapons without a permit. But that right doesn't extend to schools, courthouses or correctional facilities.

Earlier this year, Rep. Chad Christensen, a Republican from Ammon — just 15 miles south of Rigby — pushed for legislation that would allow school district employees with enhanced concealed weapons permits to carry guns on school property. The bill passed the House but didn't move forward in a Senate committee. Similar legislation was rejected in 2019 and 2020.

In a Facebook post made roughly two hours after the Rigby Middle School shooting, Christensen said the state needed to do more to stop shootings, and he criticized those who pushed against his concealed weapons bill.

"For all of those that have stood in the way of my school carry bill, shame on you. You know who you are!" Christensen wrote.

The Idaho chapters of Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action — both part of Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun control advocacy group — said forcing more guns into schools isn't the solution.

"The idea that we should be bringing more guns into our schools after what happened today is ridiculous," Idaho Moms Demand Action volunteer Theresa Kaufmann said in a prepared statement on Thursday. "We need our lawmakers to stop putting children, teachers and the entire state in danger by weakening our already weak gun laws."

ShakeAlert system now active for mobile phones in 3 states

Skagit Valley Herald (Mount Vernon, Wash.)

When a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake strikes beneath the Pacific Ocean, it will shake up much of the West Coast.

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network on Tuesday finished releasing a new early warning system that can notify mobile phone users in the state that the shaking is about to start.

That system, called ShakeAlert, has been in development for 15 years, according to a news release. A prototype was released in 2016, and the system went live for California in 2019 and for Oregon this March. With availability now in Washington state, the ShakeAlert system is online for more than 50 million residents within the country's most earthquake-prone region.

Mobile phone data will automatically notify users in an earthquake's path as long as the device settings are set to allow Emergency Alerts, Public Safety Alerts and Public Safety Messages.

How does it work?

The ShakeAlert program relies on real-time data from Pacific Northwest Seismic Station sensors throughout the region.

As seismic waves that create the shaking during an earthquake spread, they are picked up by those seismic stations located in public spaces such as

schools and city-owned buildings. That data is fed into the USGS Advanced National Seismic System.

ShakeAlert technology can also be used to automate systems such as slowing train speeds to reduce the potential for derailments, opening firehouse doors to ensure emergency response can occur and closing valves to reduce leaks if gas or water pipelines are damaged, according to the release.

The ShakeAlert system will continue to improve as more sensors, called seismometers, are added to the network. One such sensor is being installed at Conway School in Mount Vernon, Washington, an hour north of Seattle.

Superintendent Jeff Cravy said the Conway School Board approved placement of the sensor at its April 26 meeting. It will be the 13th seismometer monitored by the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network in Skagit County, according to the network's website.

The sensors may not look like much — "It's basically a 20-by-20 box that sits in our communications room," Cravy said — but they can provide valuable information before a natural disaster strikes.

For Conway students, the newest seismometer could also provide some local data from which to learn.

"Our hope is to use the website with Conway-specific information as well as some surrounding spots to do science activities," Cravy said.

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