

World News Roundup

Shooting

'Spared to tell'

Oregon town seeks solace

ROSEBURG, Oregon, Oct. 5, (RTRS): Grieving residents of an Oregon town reeling from a burst of gun violence that left 10 people dead sought solace in church services on Sunday, still bewildered by the massacre and disturbing details coming to light.

At Garden Valley Church, about 250 congregants stood at their seats as vocalists sang the Christian ballad "We Shall Not Be Shaken," then watched a slide show about the victims after the minister asked children in the sanctuary to be excused.

"For Roseburg, this was 9/11," Pastor **Craig Schlesinger** said from the pulpit, referring to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Worshippers stood with hands raised, some wiping tears from their faces and embracing each other.

Across town at the tiny Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church, congregants cried openly, hugged and held hands as they sang the civil rights anthem "We Shall Overcome."

Sadness

"Who are you now that this has happened?" the Rev. Annie Holmes asked the 60 congregants. "Of course there's anger and fear and sadness and grief beyond description."

The outpouring of emotion came amid new disclosures about Thursday's carnage at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, the deadliest US mass shooting in two years and the bloodiest in Oregon's modern history.

Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin said on Saturday that medical examiners had determined the gunman had taken his own life after opening fire on fellow students in his writing class and exchanging shots with police. Authorities originally had suggested he had been shot dead by two officers who first confronted him.

The gunman, who has been identified as Christopher Harper-Mercer, 26, stormed into the classroom, shot his professor at point-blank range, then began picking off cowering classmates one at a time as he questioned each about their religion and whether they were Christians, according to survivors' accounts.

Besides the nine people who died, nine others were wounded, three of them critically.

The mother of a teenage girl who was among the wounded revealed that the gunman had handed an envelope to one of the male students in the class, whose life the suspect deliberately spared.

"He (Harper-Mercer) told everybody else to go to the middle of the room and lay down," Bonnie Schaan told reporters outside a local hospital where her daughter was being treated. "He called the one guy, gave him the envelope and told him to go to the corner of the classroom because obviously he was going to be the one that was going to be telling the story."

CNN reported on Sunday that the envelope contained a computer flash drive that the surviving student, identified by the TV network as 18-year-old Matthew Smith, turned over to authorities immediately afterward.

Shooter

His mother, Summer Smith, told CNN her son was forced to stand by and watch the gunman shoot each of his classmates, afraid that "if he did anything to make the shooter notice him, that he would be shot."

Citing the account of another student who was shot in the hand but survived by playing dead, CNN reported the killer told his victims he would be quick, that he would try to make it painless and that he would be "joining" them in a minute or two.

That student, who declined to give her name, said the gunman shot one woman as she was trying to climb back into her wheelchair from the floor as he demanded.

As for the gunman's questioning of his victims' religious faith, she added: "I honestly don't think he was targeting anybody. He just wanted to do it for fun, because he still shot every single one that he asked."

A pastor who was among a group of local clergy offering counseling to victims and their families related to Reuters the victims' sense that the assault was deliberate and methodical.

"This gunman had really controlled the environment very well. He had people hit the ground. He was speaking very calmly as he was committing the act," the pastor said, speaking on condition of anonymity.



Neighbors watch employees with the city of Isle of Palms cut down a live oak tree that fell down on 23rd Ave after heavy rains fell on the Isle of Palms, SC, on Oct. 4. (Inset): This NASA/NOAA Goes East satellite 1445 UTC image shows Hurricane Joaquin (right), near Bermuda on Oct 4. (AP/AFP)

South Carolina hit by torrential rainfall, eight dead

Torrential rainfall that South Carolina's governor called a once-in-a-millennium downpour triggered flooding in the southeastern US state on Sunday, causing at least eight deaths in the Carolinas.

The storm had dumped more than 20 inches (50 cm) of rain in parts of

central South Carolina since Friday, the National Weather Service said. The state climatologist forecast another 2 to 6 inches (5 to 15 cm) through Monday as the rain began to slacken.

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley said parts of the state were hit with rainfall that would be expected

to occur once in 1,000 years, with the Congaree River at its highest level since 1936.

"If you are in your house, stay in your house," Haley, holding a news conference, told state residents. "This is not something to be out taking pictures of."

Six weather-related deaths were reported in South Carolina, four of them from traffic accidents. Officials reported another two deaths in North Carolina.

Rains flooded highways along the South Carolina coast between Charleston and Georgetown, the weather service said. Georgetown, a

city of 9,000 people, was mostly under water, and the four major highways leading into it were closed.

"We have every ambulance in the county out responding to calls. People are being moved from their homes in boats," Georgetown County spokeswoman Jackie Broach said. (RTRS)

Books

Ted disputes accuracy of the book

Kennedy memoir takes hard look at family

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island, Oct. 5, (AP): A new book by former US Rep. Patrick Kennedy, youngest son of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, openly discusses what he says are the mental illnesses and addictions of himself and his family members, and takes on what he portrays as a veil of secrecy used to hide the problems of America's most famous political family.

The memoir, "A Common Struggle," due out Monday, focuses heavily on his relationship with his father and how the younger Kennedy often felt he let his father down while coping with bipolar and anxiety disorders and repeated trips to rehab, even as a US congressman from Rhode Island.

By his telling, it was a singular experience growing up a Kennedy: Family members have the habit of giving each other autographed photos of themselves; he got one from his father when he was just a baby. A family photo printed in the book depicts him in his bedroom as a young child showing off his aquarium to Henry Kissinger, who served as secretary of state in the administrations of Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

But even stranger was browsing through a bookstore one day and discovering a shelf of Kennedy books, and realizing all the family secrets he wasn't supposed to talk about were written there, he writes.

"The books were often riddled with inaccuracies, but also riddled with facts that probably would have been much easier to hear first from close family members and perhaps with some context," Kennedy writes.

He says his father spoke with him only once about his 1969 car accident on Chappaquiddick Island that killed his father's passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne. It happened one year as the anniversary approached.

"I just want you to know how bad I feel about everything, and I'm really sorry you have to hear about it," he says his father told him. "That was it. Then we just walked in silence."

Many of the details in the book are no surprise. Kennedy, 48, has been open in recent years about his belief that his father had Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after seeing both his brothers assassinated — then being forced to relive the killings whenever they were replayed on television.

Assassinated

But the book contains interesting windows into how his father coped. Sen. Kennedy, for example, wrote a letter to his son when he decided to run for president — to be delivered if he was assassinated.

He also recounts what happened after a 1979 CBS interview when his father famously choked when asked

why he wanted to be president. The two went sailing, and the elder Kennedy tried to pretend everything was fine, but kept shaking his head and muttering.

"I had never seen him so upset with himself," he writes.

Worrying

Kennedy describes worrying that his father was drinking too much, particularly around the time of the 1991 sexual assault trial of his cousin, William Kennedy Smith. He writes that he, his brother and sister staged an "anemic" intervention, which their father rejected, telling them he was trying to get help from a priest.

His relationship with his father was chilly for years after that, he writes. So chilly that he decided to run for Congress in 1994 without speaking with his dad first. But their relationship righted itself after he took office in Washington the following year, he says.

Ted Kennedy Jr. disputed the accuracy of the book on Sunday, saying in a written statement that he was "heartbroken" that his younger brother had chosen to write "an inaccurate and unfair portrayal of our family" that was "misleading and hurtful."

"My brother's recollections of family events and particularly our parents are quite different from my own," he wrote,

although he did not give specifics.

Patrick Kennedy's book describes the first time he got drunk — at age 10 at a state dinner on a diplomatic trip to China — and substance abuse that grew to include cocaine, Adderall and OxyContin. He details trip after trip to rehab starting in high school and his paranoia that someone would recognize him and go public (which did happen).

The book opens with Kennedy's 2006 car crash outside the U.S. Capitol that he blamed on a mixture of Ambien and Phenergan. He recounts other incidents he attributed to drinking: berating a security guard at the Los Angeles airport and having his girlfriend call the Coast Guard to retrieve her off his boat.

Kennedy remained in politics until 2010, when he decided not to run for Congress again, fearing the job would kill him. He writes that he has been sober for more than four years, and now lives with his wife, Amy, in New Jersey with their children. The couple met not long after his father died in 2009.

In one of the more painful stories in the book, Kennedy recounts the "seething anger and outrage" he felt after being told only Ted Jr. would be allowed to eulogize his father. At the time, Patrick Kennedy was abusing various substances.

engaging in organized criminal activity.

McLennan prosecutors did not return messages from the newspaper seeking comment. But defense attorneys suggested the district attorney's office eventually plans to dismiss charges against at least some defendants.

"We are starting the letting go process, although they are not admitting they did something wrong," said one attorney, **Adam Reposa** of Austin.

The shootout in the parking lot of the restaurant erupted during an apparent confrontation between rival biker gangs. (AP)

'11 journos slain since March'

The Inter American Press Association says that 11 journalists from around the Americas have been killed since March — three each in Brazil and Mexico, two in Guatemala, and one each in Colombia, Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

That brings to 16 the number of journalists killed in the region since the beginning of the year, the press group said in a report delivered during its current meeting in Charleston.

It also said that there have been convictions in only 19 of the 145 journalist killings it has tracked since 1977.

The association singled out Venezuela, under the government of President Nicolas Maduro, for criticism, saying "the attacks against freedom of expression are part of the deterioration ... occurring in the country." (AP)



In this March 30, 2015 file photo, former Rhode Island Rep Patrick Kennedy speaks at the dedication of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, in Boston. (AP)



Ben



Adam

America

'Prosecute more execs': Former Federal Reserve Chairman **Ben Bernanke** said in a newspaper interview published on Sunday that more corporate executives should have been prosecuted for their actions leading up to the 2008 financial crisis.

Bernanke told USA Today that the US Justice Department and other law enforcement agencies focused on investigating and indicting financial firms.

"But it would have been my preference to have more investigation of individual action, since obviously everything that went wrong or was illegal was done by some individual, not by an abstract firm," Bernanke was quoted as saying.

Bernanke, who presided over the US central bank during the financial crisis considered the worst since the Great Depression, said it was not up to him to decide whether to prosecute individuals, noting: "The Fed is not a law-enforcement agency."

"The Department of Justice and others are responsible for that, and a lot of their efforts have been to indict or threaten to indict financial firms," Bernanke added. "Now a financial firm is of course a legal fiction; it's not a person. You can't put a financial firm in jail."

Bernanke, who retired from the Fed last year after eight years as chairman, said of the financial crisis: "I think there was a reasonably good chance that, barring stabilization of the financial system, that we could have gone into a 1930s-style depression." (RTRS)

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'Most taken off monitors': Only a few of the people arrested in the May biker shooting outside a Waco restaurant that left nine dead remain under ankle

monitoring, and none are still in jail.

Of the 135 people originally ordered to wear GPS ankle monitors, all but 22 have been allowed to remove them, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported on Sunday. Their

lawyers have reached agreements with prosecutors to modify the conditions of their pre-trial release.

After initially locking up more than 170 people in connection with the May 17

incident outside Twin Peaks restaurant, McLennan prosecutors have not charged anyone with the shooting deaths of nine people. At least 20 others were hurt.

Those arrested were charged with

Utah congressman to run for House Speaker

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5, (AP): A conservative Republican congressman announced Sunday that he is running for House speaker in a long-shot challenge to Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California, adding a new dose of turmoil for reeling House Republicans.

Rep Jason Chaffetz of Utah, chairman of the high-profile House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said voters and the public want Republicans to fight, and the current House leaders don't deserve an automatic promotion.

"I can bridge that divide between our more centrist members and some of the more far right wing members. That's why I've entered this race," Chaffetz told "Fox News Sunday."



In this Oct 1, photo, Fresno Police officers cover the body of a person after two were fatally shot at North San Pablo Avenue and East Barstow Avenue in Fresno, Calif. Fresno police identified deceased as brothers as Willie Ford, 19, and Denzel Ford, 18. A third brother, 17-year-old Benzo Ford, died July 12 when a bullet fired from a nearby alley came through a window into a bedroom. Police say they believe he was targeted. (AP)