

## Shooting

## Motive probed

## Student kills 3, injures 8 at 'Oxford High School'

OXFORD TOWNSHIP, Dec 1, (AP) : A 15-year-old sophomore opened fire at his Michigan high school, killing three students, including a 16-year-old boy who died in a deputy's patrol car on the way to a hospital, authorities said.

Eight other people were wounded, some critically, including a 14-year-old girl who was placed on a ventilator after surgery. Investigators were still trying to determine a motive for the shooting Tuesday at Oxford High School, located in a community of about 22,000 people roughly 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Detroit, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said.



Bouchard

"The person that's got the most insight and the motive is not talking," he said at a news conference late Tuesday.

Deputies rushed to the school around lunch time as more than 100 calls flooded 911 dispatchers with reports of a shooter. They arrested the student in a hallway within minutes of their arrival. He put his hands in the air as deputies approached, Bouchard said.

The boy's father on Friday bought the 9 mm Sig Sauer used in the shooting, Bouchard said. He didn't know why the man bought the semi-automatic handgun, which his son had been posting pictures of and practicing shooting, Bouchard said.

Authorities didn't immediately release the boy's name.

The three students who were killed were 16-year-old Tate Myre, 14-year-old Hana St. Juliana, and 17-year-old Madisyn Baldwin. Bouchard said Myre died in a patrol car as a deputy tried to get him to an emergency room.

A teacher who received a graze wound to the shoulder has left the hospital, but seven students ranging in age from 14 to 17 remained hospitalized through the night with gunshot wounds, he said.

## Gun

The gun the boy was carrying had seven more rounds of ammo in it when he surrendered, Bouchard said.

Undersheriff Mike McCabe said the student's parents advised their son not to talk to investigators. Police must seek permission from a juvenile's parents or guardian to speak with them, he added.

Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald said in a statement her office expects to issue charges quickly and that an update would be given Wednesday.

Authorities were made aware of posts on social media that said there had been threats of a shooting at the roughly 1,700-student school, but Bouchard said they didn't know about the rumors until after the attack.

He stressed how crucial it is for tips of the kind to be sent to authorities, while also cautioning against spreading social media rumors before a full investigation.

McCabe also downplayed the significance of a situation in early November when a deer head was thrown off the school roof, which he said was "absolutely unrelated" to the shooting. The vandalism prompted school administrators to post two letters to parents on the school's website, saying they were responding to rumors of a threat against the school but had found none.

Bouchard said the student in custody had no previous run-ins with his department and he wasn't aware of any disciplinary history at school.

"That's part of our investigation to determine what happened prior to this event and if some signs were missed how were they missed and why," he said.

## 1,900 yet to comply with mandate

## Jailers face suspension over vaccine

NEW YORK, Dec 1, (AP) : New York City's troubled jail system is facing more turmoil: the suspension of potentially hundreds of corrections officers for failing to meet a Tuesday night deadline to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

The city's Department of Correction reported 77% of its staff had gotten at least one vaccine dose as of 5 p.m. Monday, the lowest of any city agency, meaning about 1,900 employees had yet to comply with the mandate. It was delayed a month for jail workers because of existing staffing shortages.

Jail workers who've applied for religious or medical exemptions can continue to work while their cases are reviewed, officials said. Jail officials said they would release data Wednesday detailing how many workers sought for an exemption.

Workers who haven't applied for an exemption and who failed to show proof of vaccination by 5 p.m. Tuesday were to be placed on unpaid leave and surrender any city-issued firearms and protective gear, officials said.

In anticipation of the looming mandate, Mayor Bill de Blasio on Monday issued an emergency executive order designed to beef up jail staffing by authorizing a switch to 12-hour shifts from the normal 8-hour tours.

The president of the union for jail guards balked at that move saying it was "reckless and misguided." The union said it would sue to block the mandate - the same tactic a police union tried in late October as the vaccine requirement for officers neared. The police union lost and the mandate went into effect as scheduled.

Benny Boscio Jr., the president of the Correction Officers' Benevolent Association, said staffing in the city's jails is as bad or worse than it was in October, when de Blasio announced jail workers would have extra time to meet the vaccine mandate.

Fewer than 100 of a promised 600 guards have been hired, Boscio said, and none of them have started working in the jails. Resignations and retirements have piled up, and guards are continuing to work round-the-clock shifts, with no time for meals or rest, Boscio said.

Suspending jail workers over the vaccine mandate could be deadly, the union chief warned.

"To move forward with placing what little staff we do have on leave tomorrow would be like pouring gasoline on a fire, which will have a catastrophic impact on the safety of our officers and the thousands of inmates in our custody," Boscio said Tuesday.

The looming suspensions threaten to add to the problems at the city's jails, which includes the notorious Rikers Island complex. The jails, rotted by years of neglect, have spiraled out of control during the pandemic with staggering violence, self-harm and the deaths this year of at least 14 inmates - the most since 2013.

The troubles have led to growing calls to overhaul or immediately close Rikers Island, which the city has said will be shuttered by 2027. The city on Tuesday announced it had awarded contracts for work on new jails in Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Last week, members of the House Oversight Committee, including New York Reps. Carolyn Maloney and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, sent letters to New York City district attorneys expressing "grave concerns" that excessive bail amounts were putting too many people in jail.

At the same time, the city has struggled to keep its jails adequately staffed, with staffing levels dropping sharply during the pandemic. Uniformed personnel fell from a staff of 10,862 in 2017 to 8,388 in 2021. At one point in the summer, one-third of guards were out sick or medically unfit to work with inmates and an untold number of

guards went AWOL, the city said.

The vaccine mandate for jail workers is taking effect as scientists are racing to learn more about the omicron variant, which was identified last week by researchers in South Africa. No cases have been detected in the United States, though de Blasio said he believes it's "very likely" there will eventually be cases reported in New York City.

De Blasio announced an additional vaccine mandate Monday for child care workers, reiterating his commitment to mandates he's unveiled in recent months.

New York City required almost its entire municipal workforce, including teachers, police officers, firefighters and trash collectors, to get at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by November, but gave jail workers an extra month because of staffing worries.

The Department of Correction said it held town halls, called employees and gave them literature to encourage them to get vaccinated. It also offered a \$500 bonus, parked a truck displaying a pro-vaccine message on a digital billboard at Rikers Island and recruited Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, author Piper Kerman and former New York Mets player Mookie Wilson to tape messages for the department encouraging workers to get the shot.

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## Organon launches in Kuwait with focus on innovative women's healthcare programs



Organon, the global healthcare company with a vision of a better and healthier every day for every woman, marked its launch in Kuwait with a groundbreaking scientific symposium attended by leading figures from the region's health and pharmaceutical sectors. The company's foray into the Kuwait market underscores a desire to expand its mission of delivering impactful medicines and solutions to as many people as possible in as many locations as possible.

The symposium titled HERE for HER HEALTH was organized in partnership with Ministry of Health, Kuwait Diabetes Society, and Arab Federation of Specialized Women Kuwait Branch and was addressed by Dr. Ghada Ibrahim, Director of Public Relations & Media Ministry of Health - Kuwait and Consultant Family Medicine - Ministry of Health Kuwait; Dr. Waleed Al Dhahi, Head of Kuwait Diabetes Society; Dr. Kalthoum Hussein, President of the Arab Federation of Specialized Women Kuwait Branch and Ahmed Lasheen,



Ahmed Lasheen



Dr. Kalthoum Hussein



Dr. Waleed Al Dhahi



Dr. Ghada Ibrahim

Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain Organon Country Lead; Organon representatives and other leading industry players.

Commenting on the symposium and launch into Kuwait, Ahmed Lasheen said: "As a healthcare organization dedicated to improving the health of women, it was an honor to gather and host the key figures in the health sector to highlight various medical conditions that women may face. The symposium was unquestionably beneficial,

providing expert medical insight and recommendations. We'll keep listening to women's needs to better understand the gaps and provide the appropriate solution so they can live better and healthier lives every day.

"We are entering Kuwait at a time of rapid, strong national growth, necessitating a focus on women's health issues and treatments that affect women daily. We aspire to influence change in the region by using our experience, treatments, and solutions in women's health to enable women to take control of their health and live better lives."

Dr. Ghada Ibrahim, Director of Public Relations & Media Ministry of Health - Kuwait, spoke about the necessity of

putting women's health first: "It is critical to prioritize women's health. Many women are successful in their careers and may not set aside enough time to care for their health and well-being. They are the cornerstone of a family's overall health and ensuring that they have access to high-quality care can improve the health of children and their families."

Dr. Kalthoum Hussein, President of the Arab Federation of Specialized Women Kuwait Branch, stressed on making collaborations to support women. He said: "Long-term partnerships based on mutual benefit are critical to empowering women and advancing gender equality

in the workplace, economy, and community. Bringing together government, business, civil society, and grassroots leaders through a range of partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagements can aid in closing the gender gap."

Dr. Waleed Al Dhahi, Head of Kuwait Diabetes Society, said: "It was a privilege to participate in the HERE for HER HEALTH symposium. It's critical to bring together all stakeholders from various sectors of society to address women's health, which is

frequently overlooked by society, and educating them is critical. Adequate policies and strategies aimed at supporting women's health and well-being throughout their lives, are critical to helping women and girls reach their full potential.

Organon globally covers 140 markets with 60 drugs and solutions, with the goal of shifting the focus towards wider healthcare needs specifically in women health.

Organon's mission is to advance and innovate in the field of women's healthcare, in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of gender equality and female empowerment. The company's debut in Kuwait will generate a better and healthier every day for every woman, as well as new employment possibilities and growing diversity in the healthcare profession, as the only global firm of its scale dedicated on women's health.

Organon hosts thought-provoking symposium titled "HERE for HER HEALTH", in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Kuwait Diabetes Society, and the Kuwait Branch of the Arab Federation of Specialized Women

The event, which included prominent figures from the region's health and pharmaceutical industries, focused on the challenges women face and the significance of raising awareness about their health