



AMIRAN WHITE/ZUMA PRESS/TNS

Douglas County Sheriff John Handlin gives a press conference Thursday afternoon, Oct. 1 in Roseburg, Ore. Hanlin said the man who opened fire at Oregon's Umpqua Community College on Thursday is dead. As many as 10 people were killed and 20 were injured.

# Gunman Kills 10 At Oregon College

BY JEFF BARNARD  
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Associated Press

ROSEBURG, Ore. — A gunman opened fire at a rural Oregon community college Thursday, killing at least 10 people before dying in a shootout with police, authorities said.

The killer, identified only as a 20-year-old man, invaded a classroom and demanded that people stand up and state their religion before spraying more bullets, one student reported.

Authorities shed no light on the gunman's motive and said they were investigating.

Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin said 10 people were dead and seven wounded after the attack at Umpqua Community College in the small timber town of Roseburg, about 180 miles south of Portland. He did not clarify whether the number of dead included the gunman.

Earlier, Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said 13 people were killed. It was unclear what led to the discrepancy.

"It's been a terrible day," a grim-faced Hanlin said. "Certainly this is a huge shock to our community."

Hours after the attack, a visibly angry President Barack

Obama spoke to reporters at the White House, saying the U.S. is becoming numb to mass shootings and that the shooters have "sickness" in their minds.

Repeating his support for tighter gun-control measures, the president said thoughts and prayers are no longer enough in such situations because they do nothing to stop similar attacks from happening a few weeks or months later. He challenged voters wanting to confront the problem to vote for elected officials who will act.

Police began receiving calls about a campus shooting at 10:38 a.m. The school has a single unarmed security guard.

Kortney Moore, 18, said she was in a freshman writing class when a shot came through the window and hit the teacher in the head.

The gunman then entered the Snyder Hall classroom and told people to get on the floor, she told the *Roseburg News-Review* newspaper. He told people to stand up and state their religion before opening fire.

Next door, students heard a loud thud and then a volley of gunfire, Brady Winder, 23, told the newspaper.

Students scrambled "like ants, people screaming, 'Get out!'" Winder said. He said one

woman swam across a creek to get away.

The sheriff said officers had a shootout with the gunman, but it was not clear if he was killed by authorities or whether he took his own life.

The gunfire sparked panic as students ran for safety and police and ambulances rushed to the scene.

Lorie Andrews, who lives across the street from the campus, heard what sounded like fireworks and then saw police cruisers streaming in. She spoke with students as they left.

"One girl came out wrapped in a blanket with blood on her," she said.

Some students were in tears as they left. Police lined up students in a parking lot with their hands over their heads and searched them before they were bused with faculty to the nearby county fairgrounds, where counselors were available and some parents waited for their children.

Jessica Chandler of Myrtle Creek, south of Roseburg, was at the fairgrounds desperately seeking information about her 18-year-old daughter, Rebecca Carnes.

"I don't know where she is. I don't know if she's wounded. I have no idea where she's at," Chandler said.

Carnes' best friend told Chandler that her daughter

had been flown by helicopter to a hospital, but she had not been able to find her at area medical centers.

Interim college President Rita Cavin said it was awful to watch families waiting for the last bus of survivors and their loved ones were not on it.

"This is a tragedy and an anomaly," she said. "We have a wonderful, warm, loving and friendly campus."

The sheriff described the town of 22,000 as a peaceful community that has crime like any other. In fact, it's no stranger to school gun violence. A freshman at the local high school shot and wounded a fellow student in 2006.

The community along Interstate 5 west of the Cascade Mountains is in an area where the timber industry has struggled. In recent years, officials have tried to promote the region as a tourist destination for vineyards and outdoor activities.

Many of the students in local school district go on to attend the college of 3,000 students.

"We are a small, tight community, and there is no doubt that we will have staff and students that have family and friends impacted by this event," Roseburg Public Schools Superintendent Gerry Washburn said.

## Russia Defends Its Military Action

MOSCOW (AP) — As Russian warplanes carried out a second wave of airstrikes Thursday in Syria, Moscow defended its military involvement against Western criticism of its intentions, saying it sees "eye-to-eye" with the U.S.-led coalition campaign on its targets in the country.

The claim of agreement with Washington came amid conflicting reports about Russia's intentions in Syria and whether it is targeting only Islamic State and al-Qaida-linked militants.

The U.S. and its allies fear that Russia, which has backed the family of President Bashar Assad since the current leader's father was in power, is using the air campaign as a pretext to go after anti-Assad rebels that include CIA-backed groups.

Russian jets appeared to be primarily bombing central and northwestern Syria, strategic regions that are the gateway to Assad's strongholds in the capital of Damascus and the coast.

Warplanes hit locations of a U.S.-backed rebel group, Tajamu Alezzah, in the central province of Hama, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. It added that Tajamu Alezzah was also targeted a day earlier.

## Mideast Crises In Spotlight At UN

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — In an impassioned speech interspersed with bouts of dramatic silence, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday condemned the Iran nuclear deal as empowering Tehran to spread unrest in the Mideast while leaving the country capable of making an atomic bomb.

Netanyahu described Israeli-U.S. bickering over the deal as "a disagreement within the family," and the United States also downplayed any lasting effects of the fallout over an agreement that Washington praises and Israel condemns.

The Israeli leader's speech to world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly was notable for his rhetorical flourishes, including 47 seconds of silence about 15 minutes into his address.

Netanyahu insisted the nuclear agreement lets Iran support terrorism in the Mideast and bolsters its plan to liquidate the Jewish state. He said the U.N. and most governments have responded to Iran's intent to destroy Israel with "deafening silence," and then stopped speaking to emphasize his point, glowering at hushed delegates before finally resuming his speech.

Netanyahu kept attacking the accord, which has already gone into effect despite intense lobbying by Israel's allies in Washington.

## Hurricane Joaquin In Dangerous Dance

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hurricane Joaquin is locked in a dance with an extraordinarily heavy rainstorm that is already drenching the Carolinas. As the two draw closer together over the next few days, the effects could be disastrous for the East Coast.

The rainstorm is the dance partner that is leading this tango, and what it does will determine where Joaquin goes and how much of the coast floods. Storm No. 1 could push Joaquin out to sea or pull it into the heavily crowded Northeast.

At the same time, Joaquin is feeding the storm with moisture, contributing to its torrential rain.

Meteorologists are deeply uncertain about where Joaquin will go. But they warn that the record-breaking downpours from storm No. 1 are a sure and scary thing, at least for an area stretching from South Carolina to Washington.

Joaquin strengthened over the Bahamas into a powerful Category 4 storm with 130 mph winds Thursday, and computer models over the past two days have switched back and forth, sometimes showing it blowing ashore along the East Coast, sometimes showing it peeling out to sea.

## Obama Says America Numb To Shootings

WASHINGTON (AP) — A visibly frustrated President Barack Obama said Thursday that thoughts and prayers are no longer enough as Americans respond to another deadly school shooting, and he challenged voters wanting to deal with the problem to vote for elected officials who will do something.

Obama addressed the nation from the White House after 13 people were killed by a 20-year-old gunman at Umpqua Community College in southwestern Oregon. As he noted, he's done this before. Mass shootings have become embedded in the arc of Obama's presidency. He's traveled to Aurora, Colorado; Tucson, Arizona; Charleston, South Carolina, and numerous other cities to mourn victims of gun violence.

Obama, with some anger in his voice, said the nation has become numb to such shootings and the response has become routine. He called for changes in the nation's gun laws, though it's unclear at this stage whether the changes often proposed would have prevented Thursday's massacre.

The White House's failed push for gun control legislation after the 2012 Newtown, Connecticut, shooting — in which 20 children and six adults were killed at an elementary school — deeply frustrated Obama. With little change in Washington's political dynamic, he hasn't made a concerted effort to renew the gun control effort. In responding to Thursday's shooting, Obama asked how anyone with a straight face can make the argument that more guns will make people safer.

"I'd ask the American people to think about how they can get our government to change these laws and to save lives and to let young people grow up, and that will require a change of politics on this issue," Obama said.

## Limits Tightened On Smog-Causing Ozone

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration on Thursday established stricter limits on the smog-causing pollution linked to asthma and respiratory illness, drawing swift condemnation from business leaders and Republicans who warned of damage to the economy.

The Environmental Protection Agency said the new standard of 70 parts per billion will reduce exposure to dangerous ozone pollution and prevent thousands of asthma attacks and emergency room visits and hundreds of premature deaths each year.

Environmental and health groups argued that the rules fall short. The new standard is below the current standard of 75 parts per billion but at the high end of a range announced by the EPA last fall.

## Afghan Troops Push Into City Of Kunduz, Taliban In Retreat

BY LYNNE O'DONNELL

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Government troops seized control of the strategic northern city of Kunduz on Thursday, the Afghan president announced, following a six-hour battle that saw the Taliban insurgents who had held it for three days largely melt away.

Despite the claim of victory, residents hunkered down inside their homes said they could still hear explosions and shootings in the provincial capital, whose fall to the Taliban was a humbling defeat for President Ashraf Ghani and raised questions over whether the U.S.-trained military was capable of defending the country now that most coalition forces have withdrawn.

"Intense fighting is continuing in the streets of the city," said Zabihullah, speaking by phone from his home near the main city square. "The situation is really critical and getting worse, and I've just heard a huge explosion from a bomb near my house."

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said the operation to retake Kunduz was launched late Wednesday, with ground forces moving from the airport — where they had massed since the city fell — over roads that had been mined by the insurgents.

By 3:30 a.m. Thursday the battle was over, he said, and Kunduz was under government control. He conceded, however that troops were still going street to street to clear out final pockets of Taliban resistance, and it could be some time before all insurgents had been

cleared from the city and its surrounding districts.

He said 200 fighters had been killed in the assault.

Ghani, appearing at a televised news conference with his defense and interior ministers, said the city was retaken with no fatalities among the government security forces. He praised the government troops, saying they "were able to foil one of the most significant operations in Afghanistan in 14 years."

But the "good news" from Kunduz, "should not make us complacent," Ghani warned. "The war is ongoing."

Earlier Thursday, the Taliban denied they had lost the city and the group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed that it was still in their hands. In remarks posted later on his Twitter account, he claimed that "life in Kunduz is normal" — an apparent attempt to refute government assertions that the insurgents had been driven out to the city's more far-flung neighborhoods.

Acting Defense Minister Masoom Stanekzai said late in the day that sporadic clashes were still taking place. "Small guerrilla forces remain in various neighborhoods. We have to clear all the surrounding areas and open transport links so people can come and go," he said.

In the Bandr-i-Iman Sahib district in the west, resident Munib Khan said the Taliban were armed with rocket-propelled grenades and were putting up a heavy fight.

Kunduz, with a population of 300,000, fell under the control of Taliban-led militants on Monday, after a surprise pre-dawn attack took the government, military

and intelligence agencies by surprise.

Its fall was a major setback for Ghani, whose pledge to bring peace when he took office a year ago is now largely discredited as a wave of panic at the prospect of more insurgent victories sweeps the country.

"Ghani's whole reputation is tarnished," said political analyst Haroun Mir. "We now have the very bad, but distinct impression that victory is with the Taliban. It wouldn't have mattered how long they held the city — even one hour would have been enough for them."

The goal of the insurgency was not to hold Kunduz — they have neither the manpower nor firepower to consolidate control of a large urban center. "Their goal was to inflict a big blow on the government. They achieved it and it will take a long time for the government to recover," Mir said. "There is huge panic across the country."

The insurgents have had their eye on the city for months, having launched a major attack in April, which was repelled, and a number of smaller subsequent attacks. Thousands of Afghan troops were deployed to the region, but the city appears to have fallen to a just a few hundred insurgent fighters, raising questions about Ghani's leadership and the competence of his appointees, not only in Kunduz but across the country.

At Thursday's news conference, Ghani announced the creation of a "security commission" to insure the city is made safe and an "investigative commission" to look into what went wrong. The seizure of Kunduz

marked the first time the Taliban has taken an urban center since their regime was crushed in the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

Michael Semple, professor at the Institute for the Study of Conflict, Transformation and Justice at Queen's University in Belfast, described the seizure of Kunduz as a "raid" in which the insurgents looted weapons, ammunition and vehicles.

He said the Taliban had shown that under their new leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, they have become a disciplined and motivated fighting force that Ghani needs to take seriously.

"The fighters have taken the position that they don't care how he has been appointed," he said, referring to the controversy over Mansoor's selection to replace Mullah Mohammad Omar after the revelation in August that Omar had been dead for more than two years.

"The Taliban are a well-equipped, high-morale group, reasonably good at fighting as it tries to impose its will on the country."

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