

Migrants allowed through blockade

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

ARRIAGA, Mexico (AP) — More than a hundred Mexican federal officers carrying plastic shields abandoned a blockade they had formed on a bridge Saturday, allowing a caravan of thousands of Central American migrants to advance toward the United States of America.

The officers ended the standoff after representatives from Mexico's National Human Rights Commission told police that a rural stretch of highway without shade, toilets or water was no place for migrants to entertain offers of asylum in Mexico. Police boarded buses and headed further down the highway, while migrants cheered and vowed to trek all the way to the U.S. border.

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Turkey hosts summit on Syria

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — The leaders of Turkey, Russia, France, and Germany said at a summit on Saturday that Syrians must lead efforts to make peace in their war-torn country, a challenge that was highlighted by the absence of any Syrian groups from the Istanbul talks.

Meeting in an Ottoman-era mansion, the leaders set aside divisions over Syrian President Bashar Assad to agree on broad goals, including the eventual, voluntary return of millions of refugees who fled a conflict that has lasted more than seven years and killed over 400,000 people.

"There will be no real, sustainable, credible return of the refugees if the political process is not initiated," said French President Emmanuel Macron.

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Gov. cands. release

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The major candidates to be Connecticut's next governor have now all released their tax returns.

Republican Bob Stefanowski released a portion of his tax returns on Saturday. Stefanowski's two chief rivals, Democrat Ned Lamont and petitioning independent candidate Oz Griebel, have repeatedly called on him to provide his tax information. Both previously released their returns.

Stefanowski and his wife Amy earned \$16.5 million in gross income over the past two years, according to the documents. The Stefanowskis earned \$9.7 million in 2017 and \$6.8 million in 2016 in gross income. They paid an effective tax rate of 38 percent on their 2017 federal taxes and 37 percent in 2016. They paid 6.99 percent on their state income taxes.

Bob Stefanowski worked for a payday loan company from 2014 to 2017. Earlier this month, Lamont, a wealthy Greenwich businessman, released partial information about federal and state taxes paid over the past five years.

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11 dead in Pittsburgh synagogue shooting

Alleged anti-Semite interrupts baby-naming ceremony, expected to be charged by feds with hate crimes

By MARC LEVY and MARK GILLISPIE
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A gunman who's believed to have spewed anti-Semitic slurs and rhetoric on social media barged into a baby-naming ceremony at a Pittsburgh synagogue on Saturday and opened fire, killing 11 people in one of the deadliest attacks on Jews in U.S. history.

The 20-minute attack at Tree of Life Congregation in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood left at least six others wounded, including four police officers who dashed to the scene, authorities said.

The suspect, Robert Bowers, traded gunfire with police and was shot several times. Bowers, who was in fair condition at a hospital, was expected to face federal hate-crime charges.

"Please know that justice in this case will be swift and it will be severe," Scott Brady, the chief federal prosecutor in western Pennsylvania, said at a late-afternoon news conference, characterizing the slaughter as a "terrible and unspeakable act of hate."

The shooting came amid a rash of high-profile attacks in an increasingly divided country, including the series of pipe bombs mailed over the past week to prominent Democrats and former officials.

The shooting also immediately reignited the longstanding national debate about guns: President Donald Trump said the outcome might be different if the synagogue "had some kind of protection" from an armed guard, while Pennsylvania's Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf noted that once again "dangerous weapons are putting our citizens in harm's way."

Bob Jones, head of the FBI's Pittsburgh office, said that worshippers "were brutally murdered by a gunman targeting them simply because of their faith," though he cautioned the shooter's full motive was not yet known.

The social media site Gab.com said the alleged shooter had a profile on its website, which is popular with

far-right extremists. The company said the account was verified after the shooting and matched the name of the gunman.

A man with the same name posted on Gab before the shooting that "HIAS likes to bring invaders in that kill our people. I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I'm going in."

HIAS is a nonprofit group that helps refugees around the world find safety and freedom. The organization says it is guided by Jewish values and history.

Bowers also recently posted a photo of a collection of three semi-automatic handguns he titled "my Glock family," a reference to the firearms manufacturer. He also posted photos of bullet holes in person-sized targets at a firing range, touting the "amazing trigger" on a handgun he was offering for sale.

The attack took place during a baby-naming ceremony, according to Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro. During a Jewish baby naming ceremony, the baby is given his or her Hebrew name. The name could be a name that sounds like the baby's secular name or has significance in his or her family's history.

Officials later said that no children were hurt.

"It is a very horrific crime scene. It's one of the worst that I've seen and I've been on some plane crashes," said a visibly moved Wendell Hissrich, the Pittsburgh public safety director.

The synagogue is located in the tree-lined residential neighborhood of Squirrel Hill, about 10 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh and the hub of Pittsburgh's Jewish community. Jonathan Greenblatt, chief executive officer of the Anti-Defamation League, said the group believes it is the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in U.S. history.

"Our hearts break for the families of those killed and injured at the Tree of Life Synagogue, and for the entire



First responders surround the Tree of Life Synagogue, rear center, in Pittsburgh, where a shooter opened fire Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018, wounding three police officers and causing "multiple casualties" according to Police. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

Jewish community of Pittsburgh," Greenblatt said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was "heartbroken and appalled" by the attack.

"The entire people of Israel grieve with the families of the dead," Netanyahu said. "We stand together with the Jewish community of Pittsburgh. We stand together with the American people in the face of this horrendous anti-Semitic brutality. And we all pray for the speedy recovery of the wounded."

World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder called the shooting "an attack not just on the Jewish community, but on America as a whole." Trump called the shooting a "wicked act of mass murder" that "is pure evil, hard to believe and frankly something that is unimaginable."

Trump has at times been accused by

critics of failing to adequately condemn hate, such as when he blamed "both sides" for the violence at a Charlottesville white supremacist rally.

On Saturday, he said that anti-Semitism "must be confronted anywhere and everywhere it appears."

The synagogue is a fortress-like concrete building, its facade punctuated by rows of swirling, modernistic stained-glass windows illustrating the story of creation, the acceptance of God's law, the "life cycle" and "how human-beings should care for the earth and one another," according to its website. Among its treasures is a "Holocaust Torah," rescued from Czechoslovakia.

Its sanctuary can hold up to 1,250 people.

Fl. man arrested after allegedly sending bombs to Dems.

Avid Trump supporter taken into custody by FBI on charges of building and mailing explosives to politicians



This frame grab from video provided by WPLG-TV shows FBI agents escorting Cesar Sayoc, in sleeveless shirt, in Miramar, Fla., on Friday, Oct. 26, 2018. (WPLG-TV via AP)

By ERIC TUCKER, MICHAEL BALSAMO and COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — In the hours before his arrest, as federal authorities zeroed in and secretly accumulated evidence, Cesar Sayoc was in his element: spinning classic and Top 40 hits in a nightclub where he'd found work as a DJ in the last 2 months.

As he entertained patrons from a dimly lit booth overlooking a stage of dancers at the Ultra Gentlemen's Club, where Halloween decorations hung in anticipation of a costume party, he could not have known that investigators that very evening were capitalizing on his own mistakes to build a case against him.

that spread fear of election-season violence.

The bubble-wrapped vanilla envelopes, addressed to Democrats such as Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton and intercepted from Delaware to California, held vital forensic evidence that investigators say they leveraged to arrest Sayoc four days after the investigation started.

"Criminals make mistakes so the more opportunities that law enforcement has to detect them, the greater chance they're going to be able to act on that, and that appears to be what happened here," said former Justice Department Alike Chakravarty, who prosecuted the Boston Marathon bombing case.

It wasn't always clear that such a break would come, at least not on Monday when the first package arrived: a pipe bomb delivered via mail to an estate in Bedford, New York, belonging to billionaire liberal activist George Soros.

That same day, Sayoc, still under the radar of law enforcement, retweeted a post saying, "The world is waking up to the horrors of George Soros."

Additional packages followed, delivered the next day for Clinton and Obama and after that to the cable network CNN, former Attorney General Eric Holder, former Vice President Joe Biden — and other Democratic targets of conservative ire. Each additional delivery created more unease. But together they also provided more leads for the FBI, which mined each pipe bomb for clues at a specialized laboratory in Quantico, Virginia.

As the packages rolled in, technicians hit a breakthrough: a fingerprint and DNA left on a package sent to Rep. Maxine Waters, a California Democrat and one of the intended pipe

bomb recipients, and DNA on a piece of pipe bomb intended for Obama.

In addition, his social media posts that traffic in online conspiracy theories, parody accounts and name-calling include some of the same misspellings as were noticed on the 13 packages he was charged with sending.

The clues, authorities say, led them to a 56-year-old man with a long criminal history who'd previously filed for bankruptcy and appeared to be living in his van, showering on the beach or at a local fitness center.

As the FBI worked around the clock, and as Americans debated the hard-edged political climate and whether Trump fanned the flames with his rhetoric, Sayoc periodically used Twitter to vilify Soros. That was not uncommon for Sayoc, an amateur body builder and former stripper whose social media accounts are peppered with memes supporting Trump and posts denigrating Democrats.

On Thursday from noon to 9 p.m. as law enforcement grew ever closer, descending on a postal sorting facility in Opa-locka, Florida, Sayoc was working at a disc jockey at a West Palm Beach nightclub where he'd earlier been a floor bouncer. Sayoc spun his music from inside a small dimly lit booth overlooking a stage with performers dancing below. Autographed photos of scantily clad and nude adult entertainers were plastered across the walls like wallpaper "I didn't know this guy was mad crazy like this," said Stacy Sacca, the club's manager. "Never once did he speak politics. This is a bar. We don't talk politics or religion in a bar, you know?"

News in BRIEF

Father arrested in Vernon after kidnapping son 31 years ago

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A Canadian man accused of abducting his toddler son 31 years ago during a court-ordered visitation was arrested Friday in Connecticut, where authorities said he and his son had lived under aliases in a quiet suburb.

U.S. federal agents said they found Allan Mann Jr. in Vernon after having received a tip from a relative that he may be living in Connecticut under another name.

It was not immediately clear where Mann's now-adult son, Jermaine, was when Mann was arrested. Officials said they notified Jermaine Mann's mother that her son had been identified and located.

"After taking his son away from his son's mother, this defendant is alleged to have lived a lie for the last 31 years in violation of numerous U.S. laws," said Connecticut U.S. Attorney John Durham. "We thank the many law enforcement agencies, in the U.S. and Canada, that have investigated this matter, worked hard to apprehend this fugitive and finally provided some answers to a mother who has suffered with her son's absence for far too long."

A message left at a phone listing for Jermaine Mann's mother, Lyneth Mann-Lewis, of Brampton, Ontario, was not immediately returned Friday.

Amtrak asked to expand Hartford Line capacity

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut officials are asking Amtrak to add cars to some trains traveling between New Haven and Springfield, Massachusetts, to alleviate overcrowding.

Expanded passenger rail service on the 62-mile (100-kilometer) Hartford Line between New Haven and Springfield began in June

The Hartford Courant reports that Amtrak says it's now working with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to resolve crowding issues occurring on some Hartford Line trains. Amtrak trains on the Hartford Line have two cars.

Connecticut Public Radio reported Friday that passengers with college student transit passes were kicked off Amtrak when trains reached capacity.

Connecticut's transportation commissioner, James Redeker, says that's not supposed to happen. An Amtrak spokesperson told the radio station they had no record of removing passengers.

Amtrak often works on a reservation system, selling only as many seats as are available. The Hartford Line removed caps on ticket sales.

Rail service was expanded to ease congestion along the Interstate 91 corridor.

The \$765 million project, which began with a feasibility study 14 years ago, included the construction of 21 new bridges and the laying of 21 miles of new track, allowing for a second working track between New Haven and Hartford.

Some of the round trips are operated by the state of Connecticut; the others are Amtrak trains. The state's trains have four cars.

Amtrak could potentially use some of Connecticut's rail cars that aren't currently in use, Redeker told Connecticut Public Radio.

He said the good news is that ridership is growing.

Mexican authorities let caravan pass uninhibited

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Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto launched a program on Friday dubbed "You are home," which promises shelter, medical attention, schooling and jobs to Central Americans who agree to stay in the southern Mexico states of Chiapas or Oaxaca.

Police commissioner Benjamin Grajeda said that authorities only blocked the highway Saturday to tell people about the government's offer. "Here in this truck right now you can get help," he said. Thousands of migrants in the city of Arriaga rejected the plan Friday night, but said they could be willing to discuss it again once they reach Mexico City. Some fear they will be deported if they take advantage of the program.

The caravan is now trying to strike out for Tap-

anatepec, about twenty-nine miles (46 kilometers) up the road.

Orbelina Orellana, a migrant from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, said she and her husband left three children behind and had decided to continue north one way or another.

"Our destiny is to get to the border," she said.

She was suspicious of the government's proposal and said that some Hondurans who had applied for legal status had already been sent back. Her claims could not be verified, but migrants' representatives in the talks asked the Mexican government to provide a list of those who had been forced to return. "Our destiny is to get to the border," she said.

Mexico's Interior Ministry said that temporary identity numbers have been issued to 111 migrants

under the "You are home" program. The IDs, called CURPs, authorize the migrants to stay and work in Mexico, and the ministry said pregnant women, children and the elderly were among the migrants who had joined the program and are now being attended to at shelters.

The government appears to want to shrink the caravan by keeping smaller groups of migrants from joining, while simultaneously hoping that the grueling journey will make its offer of refuge more attractive.

Police have been ejecting migrant passengers off buses in recent days and cracking down on smaller groups trying to catch up with the main caravan. An official with the national immigration authority said Friday that 300 Hondurans and Guatemalans who crossed the Mexico border illegally had been detained.

Migrants, who enter Mexico illegally every day, usually ride in smugglers' trucks or buses, or walk at night to avoid detection. The fact that the group of about 300 stragglers was walking in broad daylight suggests they were adopting the tactics of the main caravan, which is large enough to be out in the open without fear of mass detention.

The caravan still must travel 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) to reach the nearest U.S. border crossing at McAllen, Texas. But the trip could be twice as long if the group of some 4,000 migrants heads for the Tijuana-San Diego frontier, as another caravan did earlier this year. Only about 200 in that group made it to the border.

While such migrant caravans have taken place regularly over the years, passing largely unnoticed, they received widespread attention this time after fierce opposition from U.S. President Donald Trump.

On Friday, the Pentagon approved a request for additional troops at the southern border, likely to total several hundred, to help the U.S. Border Patrol as the president seeks to transform concerns about immigration and the caravan into electoral gains in the Nov. 6 midterms.



Migrants rest on the railroad rails, as a thousands-strong caravan of Central American migrants slowly makes its way toward the U.S. border, between Pijijiapan and Arriaga, Mexico, Friday, Oct. 26, 2018. On Friday, the caravan made its most ambitious single-day trek since the migrants crossed into the southern Mexican state of Chiapas a week ago, a 60-mile (100-kilometer) hike up the coast from Pijijiapan to the town of Arriaga. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

Palestinian rocket attacks stop for tentative cease-fire

By FARES AKRAM and JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinian militants ceased rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel and relative calm prevailed Saturday afternoon after a night-long exchange of fire that prompted Israeli threats against Iranian forces in Syria.

The Islamic Jihad group, a militant faction operating in the Hamas-ruled Gaza but that has close ties to Iran and Syria, said they agreed to Egyptian mediation efforts and halted the rocket fire, the heaviest to emanate from Gaza in months.

"The Egyptian efforts led to understandings to restore calm to Gaza Strip. We appreciate the Egyptian endeavor and hope for all kinds of (Israeli) aggression to stop," said Khaled al-Batsh, an Islamic Jihad official.

Tax returns released

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Lamont's tax returns don't indicate the multimillionaire's net worth, but show his adjusted gross income for the past five years was a combined \$18 million, according to The Hartford Courant. The totals don't include his wife's earnings.

Lamont's overall federal tax rate was 30 percent and he made \$2.46 million dollars in charitable gifts over five years.

Griebel was the first to release his tax records in September. The former president and CEO of the regional business group MetroHartford Alliance paid nearly \$300,000 in federal taxes over the last three years, according to The Connecticut Post. His income was about \$400,000 annually. Stefanowski launched a

Hamas, the larger militant group that controls Gaza, accused Israel of resorting to military escalation "to evade obligations" of a comprehensive cease-fire that Hamas has long sought. Hamas wants the deal to end a crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade on Gaza.

There have been no immediate comment from Israel on truce. It has said its fighter jets stuck dozens of targets across Gaza and accused Iranian forces in Damascus of orchestrating the barrages. The threats toward Iranian forces in Syria added a new dimension to what was already the heaviest fighting between Israel and Gaza militants in several weeks. Opening a new front in Syria could put Israel in open confrontation with heavily armed Iranian and Hezbollah forces, along with recently deployed Russian anti-aircraft systems.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, an Israeli military spokesman, said that 34 rockets had been fired at Israel throughout the night. Israel's Iron Dome rocket-defense system intercepted 13 rockets, two landed in Gaza and the remainder fell in open spaces in southern Israel, he said. In response, Israel hit over 80 targets in Gaza.

Conricus said Islamic Jihad had fired the rockets under instructions from Iran's Al Quds Force based in Syria and said that Israel was considering taking action against the Iranians in response. "We have seen and established a clear link between Gaza and Damascus," he said. "We know that the orders, incentives were given from Damascus with the clear involvement of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Quds Force." "From our perspective, part

of the address by which we will deal with this fire is also in Damascus and the Quds Force," he added. "Our response is not limited geographically."

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