

Weather

Fear prompts gun sales after Colorado shooting

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laws, though political leaders in Washington have shown no sign of bringing up such measures any time soon.

Authorities have said that the suspected Colorado shooter, James Holmes, methodically stockpiled weapons and explosives at work and home in recent months. He purchased thousands of rounds of ammunition and a shotgun, a semi-automatic rifle and two Glock pistols, authorities said.

On Friday, clad in head-to-toe combat gear, he burst into a midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises," tossed gas canisters into the crowd and opened fire. The shooting killed 12 people and wounded dozens of others.

Police in the Denver suburb of Aurora say Holmes also booby-trapped his apartment. Holmes is now in solitary confinement at a local jail.

The rise in gun sales reflects but one of the anxieties created by the shootings. Since the massacre, there have been reports of chaos at movie theaters, apparently sparked by misunderstandings or careless words.

A confrontation with an intoxicated man in an Arizona theater caused about 50 people to flee, authorities said. A southern California man was arrested after authorities say he made allusions to the Aurora massacre after the movie didn't start

on time. In New Jersey, a showing of "Batman" was canceled after someone stood up during the movie, opened an emergency exit and then returned to their seat.

About 90 minutes into a Monday night showing of "Batman" in Santa Monica, Calif., a commotion caused some girls to shriek and two dozen people to sprint for the exit, jumping over seats and pushing each other out of the way. It turned out that a large man with a backpack was actually not a threat and was having a medical problem.

Nationally, the shootings have triggered a fierce debate over gun control and whether government has a role in reining in the ownership of firearms. Gun sales often fluctuate based on news events, especially whenever people think the passage of more restrictive gun laws is imminent. Sales spiked following the election of President Barack Obama, when weapons enthusiasts expressed fear that the Democrat might curtail gun rights. FBI figures also show background checks for handgun sales jumped in Arizona following the shooting of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in 2011.

Some Democratic lawmakers in Congress cited the shooting as evidence of the need for tougher gun control laws — particularly a ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines. Congress, however, hasn't passed strict legislation in more than a decade.

Presidential candidates swap sharp foreign policy criticism

By Julie Pace

Associated Press

SEATTLE — In a rare face-off on foreign policy, President Barack Obama and Republican rival Mitt Romney are swapping sharp criticism but exposing few clear policy differences on key national security matters.

For Romney, who seeks to boost his foreign policy credentials as he begins a high-stakes trip abroad, a lack of specific proposals has exposed him to a flurry of criticism from Obama and his surrogates.

Just over three months from Election Day, the president's team has dug in on its efforts to cast the Republican as a national security lightweight while trying to capitalize on Obama's strength on such issues.

Following Romney's speech Tuesday to the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention, Vice President Joe Biden said Rom-

ney "reflexively criticizes the president's policies without offering any alternatives."

Romney's campaign has swatted away that criticism, but it's also shown few signs that the presumptive GOP nominee will offer more specific areas of contrast with Obama when he meets with world leaders overseas.

Instead, Romney has continued with broad jabs casting Obama as a timid leader.

"If you do not want America to be the strongest nation on earth, I am not your president," Romney told the veterans group.

Romney said he would reset Obama's reset with the Kremlin, but he did not elaborate on how. On Afghanistan, he accused Obama of making politically motivated decisions on drawing down U.S. force levels.

He said that, if elected, he will call for a review of the transition in Afghanistan — but with the same goal as Obama of ending

U.S. combat operations in 2014.

Romney also said he will restore the U.S.-Israel relationship and make the Jewish state his first foreign destination as president. He said he would increase military assistance to Israel, though the Obama team says the administration has already provided Israel with record levels of security assistance.

The foreign policy fight was expected to continue after Romney arrived in Europe on Wednesday to begin a six-day, three-country tour and Obama pushes on with fundraising events at home.

The president was jetting from Seattle, where he raised money Tuesday night, to New Orleans for more fundraisers and a speech to the National Urban League.

In an election year dominated by the economy, it could be the last phase of the campaign focused on foreign policy.

City weighs proposed 2013 budget

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helped to cut about \$20,000 budget, she said, and expressed a willingness to cut his budget further.

"I would be more than happy to work with Deb to nickel and dime enough items to get us there," Weber said at the council meeting.

Changes to next year's budget include an in-

crease of about \$90,000 in the police and fire fund to pay for two new patrol cars and a pump truck, and \$1.5 million in the economic development fund for land acquisitions at the airport, Zerr said. The financed projects fund, which was used to finance the aquatic park and fire station, will drop by about \$2 million this year, she said.

Briefly

Carnival crew needs help to run games at fair

Help! The Thomas County Amusement Association needs volunteers to help run the games during the fair next week. If you can help, call the Chamber of Commerce office at 460-3401 and sign up for a shift.

Volunteers will set up rides, get ready for the carnival and take care of last-minute details at 9 a.m. Sunday. Many hands will help the work go fast. For questions or to volunteer, call Wanda Brown at 462-5857.

Colby High diplomas ready at district office

Diplomas for the Colby High School Class of 2012 are available for pick-up at the school district administration office, 600 W. Third St. For information, call the office at 460-5000.

Church offers a free lunch for everyone

Everyone is invited to the Fourth Saturday free meal from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church, Webster and Grant. in Colby. For information, call Norma Higerd at 462-7806.

Triplains enrollment will be held Aug. 8

Enrollment for the Triplains School will be from 8:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, at the school in Winona. The district operates on a four-day week, with Mondays off. Call (785) 846-7869 for information, says Lamar Bergsten, principal and superintendent.

Colby Schools set enrollment for Aug. 8, 9

Returning students in the Colby Public School will enroll from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, at their respective buildings. New students enroll from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 9. District activity calendars will be available. The district website www.colbyeagles.org is disabled until mid-August. Additional enrollment information will be listed in the Wednesday, Aug. 1, edition of the Colby Free Press.

Group needs 'bigs' to work with kids

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County is looking for people able to volunteer one to two hours a week as mentors for kids who need a "big." You could make a difference in a child's life, working with the largest mentoring organization in Kansas. For questions, call Orvella Romine at (785) 460-9125.

Library plans big book sale for next week

The Pioneer Memorial Library will have its annual Book Sale Blowout from Monday to Sunday, Aug. 5. With lots of children's books, fiction and nonfiction items to choose from, prices go down as the week progresses. Sunday, all remaining books are free. Hours are 9 a.m. to a half hour before closing each day and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday. For information, call Debbie Tittel at 460-4470.

Registration open for kids' football camp

Colby Little League Football is accepting registrations for an upcoming camp and for the fall season. If you have a child in third through sixth grades, stop by the Sports Shoppe to register. Camp will be from Wednesday to Friday, Aug. 8 to 10. A physical form must be completed prior to participation. Camp registration is \$50 and includes a T-shirt. Camp and registration for the season is \$100. For information, see Travis at the Sports Shoppe or call Amy Wildeman at 460-7815.

First day for Colby Schools is Aug. 23

The first day of classes for Colby Public Schools will be Thursday, Aug. 23. The earliest day for athletic practice is Monday, Aug. 13, but each coach determines actual practice times. The district website www.colbyeagles.org is down until mid-August. More information will be listed in the Wednesday, Aug. 1, edition of the Colby Free Press.

Youth foundation plans barbecue, concert

The Todd Becker Foundation will have a free barbecue, concert and presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Sunday on Franklin Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets. For information, contact Chris McClemens, events coordinator, at (800) 983-2644 or through www.toddbecker.org.

Museum displays student art work

The Prairie Museum of Art and History has a free exhibit of art by students from kindergarten to high school from area schools through Sunday. The museum, 1905 S. Franklin Ave., is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. on weekends. Call Ann Miner at 460-4590 for information.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, etc.)

Friday Evening July 27, 2012. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, American Profile, etc.)