

News From The States

EVENING WRAP

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By [Kate Queram](#)

Onto the news!



The Big Takeaway

Maine police on Friday found the body of the 40-year-old man suspected of murdering 18 people in a pair of mass shootings in Lewiston, ending a two-day search that kept thousands of residents sequestered indoors for safety, [the Maine Morning Star reported](#).



*Police in Maine.
(Photo by Joe Raedle/Getty Images)*

“I stand here tonight to simply report that Maine State Police have located the body of Robert Card,” Gov. Janet Mills said Friday at a 10 p.m. press conference in Lewiston City Hall.

The news concluded the tragedy’s prominent place in national headlines, leaving local officials and residents to grapple with the aftermath. Mills said police would continue to investigate the shootings, while local officials hoped the body’s discovery would offer a measure of closure to their communities — and make it possible for people to begin mourning and, eventually, healing.

“Thank god this chapter of this tragedy is over,” said Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque. “We can now move forward and focus on the support the family of the victims and our community needs.”

In Lewiston, residents gathered Sunday evening for a vigil to celebrate [the lives of the 18 people](#) killed, offer prayers for the 13 wounded and begin to somehow grapple with life in the after. More than a thousand people crammed into pews and filled the streets surrounding the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul to honor the victims and share in messages of hope and resilience, [per the Morning Star](#).



At a vigil on Sunday, Rev. Sarah Gillespie read the names of those killed in the shooting. After each name, a bell rang.

(Photo by Emma Davis/Maine Morning Star)

“We gather together this evening because there is love, still, in this place,” said Rev. Sarah Gillespie, a local hospice chaplain. “A love that cannot be gunned down, a love that cannot be threatened or terrorized, a love that is stronger than anything that divides us. A love beyond words for Lewiston, our home.”

Other faith leaders urged community members to feel the agony rather than bury it, to support each other, and to remain united. That unity was on display throughout the event, which featured food, drinks and supplies donated by local businesses and coordinated by volunteers. Many had connections to the victims, including several with loved ones still in critical care.

“Everyone knows someone who was hurt,” said Bonny C., an Auburn resident who attended the vigil with her five children. “It doesn’t end here.”

As Maine mourned, guns continued to make other headlines. In New Mexico, two former law enforcement officials are accused of signing false documents to help gun dealers illegally obtain machine guns, according to a recently unsealed federal indictment. The documents refer to the men — former Bernalillo County Sheriff Manny Gonzales and former Pueblo of Laguna Police Chief Rudy Mora — using only their initials, but accompanying details and dates made it easy to discern their identities, [Source New Mexico reported](#). As of Monday, neither had been charged with a crime.



*Meanwhile, in New Mexico.
(Photo by Shelby Kleinhans for Source New Mexico)*

The charges revolve around documents known as law letters, which can be submitted by government officials to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to request special permission for a firearms dealer to purchase restricted weapons, including machine guns and short-barreled rifles. According to the indictment, Gonzales and Mora submitted a combined 144 law letters requesting permission for an Albuquerque firearms store to purchase more than 1,000 restricted guns.

Those documents indicated that the guns would be used for law enforcement demonstrations, even though Gonzales and Mora had “no expectations understanding that such weapons would ever be demonstrated” to their respective agencies. In one instance, Mora signed letters requesting authorization for the gun store to purchase multiple Glock 18 machine guns to demonstrate for Laguna police, even though the agency began phasing out those types of weapons years earlier, according to the indictment.

The indictment names several other people, including James Tafoya, the gun store’s owner; police chiefs in North Carolina and North Dakota; a Florida gun dealer and a YouTuber named Larry Allen Vickers, who has since pleaded guilty to conspiracy and violating sanctions against a Russian arms manufacturer. He faces up to 25 years in prison and a fine of up to \$1.25 million.

Gonzales and Mora did not respond to requests for comment. Tafoya's attorneys and the Pueblo of Laguna police department declined to comment, while a spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland said the office cannot confirm or deny whether there are any active investigations related to the case. In a statement, the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office said it was cooperating with both federal and state authorities on the investigation.

Law and order: [Police located body of Lewiston shooting suspect after tip from recycling plant owner](#) ... [Q&A with Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison on stopping police violence](#) ... [Monday numbers: What we know — and what we don't — about hate crimes in America](#) ... ["It's hell": Surge of Texas kids dying from gun violence carves canyons of grief through families](#) ... [Hong Kong authorities dismiss gun charges against Washington state senator](#) ... [Lawsuit filed over worsening issues at Wisconsin prison](#) ... [What is the Milwaukee Sheriff's 'MATRIX group'?](#)



State of Our Democracy

In a Denver courtroom on Monday, lawyers were expected to begin opening arguments in a lawsuit challenging Donald Trump's constitutional eligibility to appear on the state's presidential ballot next year, [Colorado Newsline reported](#). Similar challenges have been filed (and, in some cases, dismissed) in other states, including [Florida](#) and [Michigan](#) — but Colorado's is the first to go to trial and the one most likely to wind up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The lawsuit, [filed last month](#) on behalf of six Colorado voters, argues that Trump's role in [inciting the Jan. 6 insurrection](#) renders him ineligible for re-election under [Section 3 of the 14th Amendment](#), which bans from office anyone who has taken an oath to support the Constitution and then "engaged in insurrection or rebellion."



"Who, me?"

(Photo by Jared Strong/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

"Donald Trump tried to overthrow the results of the 2020 presidential election," the lawsuit says. "His efforts culminated on January 6, 2021, when he incited, exacerbated, and otherwise engaged in a violent insurrection at the United States Capitol by a mob who believed they were following his orders, and refused to protect the Capitol or call off the mob for nearly three hours as the attack unfolded."

Trump's attorneys dismissed those allegations in court filings, arguing that [the frequent criminal defendant](#) was "hardly the first politician" to object to an election loss via "various statements" and "legal actions questioning the fairness or accuracy of the announced results."

"But he is hardly the first politician to do that," lawyers wrote in a Sept. 29 motion to dismiss the case. "And Petitioners identify no facts that could convert this political controversy into an insurrection against the government."

At this point, the facts speak for themselves. [Trump was indicted](#) in August for what federal prosecutors described as a bevy of "pervasive and destabilizing lies" that "targeted a bedrock function of the United States federal government." The indictment came eight months after a congressional committee [referred Trump for criminal charges](#) over his role in fomenting the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

There are a few interesting twists to the case, including Trump attorney Scott

Gessler, a Republican and former Colorado secretary of state who defended his authority to [bar constitutionally ineligible candidates](#) from the state's ballot in 2012. That case wound up before a federal appeals court in Denver, where future Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch [affirmed](#) that "a state's legitimate interest in protecting the integrity and practical functioning of the political process permits it to exclude from the ballot candidates who are constitutionally prohibited from assuming office." That ruling played into the decision to file the case in Colorado; it was also cited in documents filed by attorneys for the plaintiffs.

The case will be heard by District Court Judge Sarah Wallace, who denied multiple motions from Trump's attorneys to dismiss the case on procedural grounds. Her latest order, issued Oct. 25, rejected Gessler's argument that the lawsuit was preempted by federal law but did not respond to claims disputing whether Trump "engaged in an insurrection."

That issue, she wrote, "will be addressed at the hearing set to begin Oct. 30."

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One Last Thing

A deer [crashed through a window](#) at a Wisconsin Noodles & Company Tuesday, then poked around the dining room and kitchen before leaving through a back door opened by an employee. No one was hurt, according to a spokeswoman. After a deep clean, the restaurant reopened the next day, featuring a “2 buck mac & cheese” special to commemorate the, uh, incident.



*“Nice noodles you’ve got there. Be a shame if something ... happened to them.”
(via [Giphy](#))*

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