

Missouri tour boat captain indicted after sinking kills 17

By Margaret Stafford
The Associated Press
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Charges have been filed against the captain of a tourist boat that sank and killed 17 people, including nine people from an Indiana family, in a southwest Missouri lake over the summer, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

A federal indictment shows 51-year-old Kenneth Scott McKee is facing 17 counts of misconduct, negligence or inattention to duty by a ship's officer resulting in death. The July accident occurred when an amphibious vessel known as a duck boat sank when a sudden and severe storm rolled into the area.

McKee is accused of not properly assessing the weather before or after the boat went into Table Rock

Lake near the tourist town of Branson, U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison said during a news conference in Springfield. Ripley Entertainment, the company that operated the boats, suspended operations following the accident.

The boats were originally designed for military use in World War II but had been refurbished as a tourist attraction.

The U.S. Coast Guard had found probable cause that the accident resulted from McKee's "misconduct, negligence, or inattention to the duties," according to an August court filing. The U.S. attorney's office added that the captain of a second duck boat that safely made it to shore during the storm acted in a "grossly negligent manner," though the court filing didn't elaborate

on those findings.

The sinking killed nine members of Tia Coleman's family, including her three young children and husband, who were vacationing from Indiana. The other people killed included two couples from Missouri, an Illinois woman who died while saving her granddaughter's life, an Arkansas father and son, and a retired pastor who was the boat's operator on land. Several lawsuits have been filed on behalf of victims and their survivors.

A spokeswoman for Ripley Entertainment has repeatedly declined to comment on the investigation but has said the company has cooperated with authorities.

The vessels first take tourists on a trip through Branson, a Midwestern

destination for country music shows and entertainment venues about 170 miles (274 kilometers) northwest of Little Rock, Arkansas. The amphibious vehicles then travel to Table Rock Lake for a short excursion on water.

Weather was calm when the vessel known as a Stretch Duck 7 began its trip on July 19, but investigators have contended that operators had ample warning that a strong storm was approaching.

The vessel's certificate of inspection issued by the Coast Guard in 2017 established rules and limitations on when it could be on the water. It states the boat "shall not be operated waterborne" when winds exceed 35 mph and/or wave heights exceed 2

feet.

Video and audio from the boat, recovered by divers, showed that the lake was calm when the boat entered the water. But the weather suddenly turned violent and, within minutes, the boat sank.

The wind speed at the time of the accident was more than 70 mph, just short of hurricane force, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. Weather forecasts had warned of an impending storm with winds possibly exceeding 60 mph.

The wave height wasn't known, but cellphone video shot by passengers on a nearby excursion boat showed waves that appeared to be far greater than 2 feet (0.61 meters) high.

In addition to the weath-

er, the Coast Guard has said it was looking into regulatory compliance of the boat and crew member duties and qualifications.

Branson is among several places around the country where the amphibious vehicles offer excursions. Since 1999, 42 deaths have been associated with duck boat accidents.

On May 1, 1999, 13 people died when the Miss Majestic duck boat sank on Lake Hamilton near Hot Springs, Arkansas. In 2015, five college students died and more than 70 people were hurt when a duck boat veered into a charter bus on a bridge in Seattle. Two Hungarian tourists died in 2010 when a stalled duck boat was struck by a tugboat-guided barge on the Delaware River in Philadelphia.

GOP gov. candidate Kemp resigns as Georgia secretary of state

By Bill Barrow and Kate Brumback
The Associated Press
ATLANTA (AP) — Republican Brian Kemp resigned Thursday as Georgia's secretary of state, a day after his campaign said he's captured enough votes to become governor despite his rival's refusal to concede.

As the state's top election official, Kemp oversaw the race, a marquee contest in the nation's midterms. His resignation Thursday morning came as a hearing began for a lawsuit in which five voters asked that he be barred from exercising his duties in any future management of his own election tally. Democratic rival Stacey Abrams' campaign had repeatedly accused Kemp of improperly using his post as secretary of state.

Kemp's resignation takes effect just before noon Thursday. Kemp said an interim secretary of state has been

appointed to oversee the rest of the vote count.

Abrams has pointed to ballots that have yet to be counted and says there's still the possibility of a December runoff. Her campaign has said she must pick up about 15,000 votes to do so.

Kemp said Abrams is using "old math." Without providing specifics, he said in a WSB Radio interview that the number "is actually more like 30,000 votes."

The Associated Press has not called the election.

At a news conference with Republican Gov. Nathan Deal late Thursday morning, Kemp declared that there are only about 20,000 provisional ballots that have not yet been counted in the race. He did not offer any details, but in response to a question said he would ask about releasing county-by-county results.

Of Abrams, he said, "Even if she got 100 percent of those



This combination of May 20, 2018, photos shows Georgia gubernatorial candidates Stacey Abrams, left, and Brian Kemp in Atlanta. Democrats and Republicans nationwide will have to wait a bit longer to see if Georgia elects the first black woman governor in American history or doubles down on the Deep South's GOP tendencies with an acolyte of President Donald Trump

votes, we still win."

In fact, Kemp's office did release to the AP a county-level breakdown about the same time he started speaking in Deal's office Thursday. The office had not immediately shared that requested information the day before, however,

mittee applauding Abrams for pressing on and blasting Kemp as untrustworthy.

"It is grossly unfair to any fox in America to compare Brian Kemp with a fox guarding the hen house. It is much worse in Georgia," DNC Chairman Tom Perez said in Washington. "I don't think that race is over. Every vote must be counted, and the integrity of that election is at stake."

Late Wednesday afternoon — after a day of the campaigns, news outlets and partisan observers scrambling for information about outstanding votes across Georgia's 159 counties — Kemp aide Ryan Mahoney told reporters on a conference call, "We are declaring victory." Campaign official Austin Chambers added: "The message here is pretty simple: This election is over, and the results are clear."

Abrams' campaign manag-

er Lauren Groh-Wargo retorted a few hours later that the Kemp campaign offered "no proof" other than nonspecific provisional ballot counts released by Kemp's official state office.

"He's offered ... no indication of why we should take him at his word," Groh-Wargo said. "The sitting secretary of state has declared himself" the winner.

The standoff leaves open the possibility of litigation as Abrams' campaign has pushed for the continued counting of absentee, mail-in and provisional ballots, and renewed its concerns that Kemp was the chief elections officer supervising his own election, a race already marked by disputes over the voting process.

If a runoff is necessary, it will take place Dec. 4, extending Abrams' bid to become the first black woman elected governor in American history.

Ginsburg, 85, hospitalized after fall

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON (AP) — Eighty-five-year-old Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg fractured three ribs in a fall in her office at the court and is in the hospital, the court said Thursday.

The court's oldest justice fell Wednesday evening, the court said. She called Supreme Court police to take her to George Washington University Hospital in Washington early Thursday after experiencing discomfort overnight, court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said.

She was admitted to the hospital for treatment and observation after tests showed she fractured three ribs.

In her absence, the court went ahead Thursday with a courtroom ceremony welcoming new Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who joined the court last month. President Donald Trump and new acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker were on hand.

Ginsburg has had a series of health problems. She broke two ribs in a fall in 2012. She has had two prior bouts with cancer and had a stent implanted to open a blocked artery in 2014. She also was hospitalized after a bad reaction to medicine in 2009.

But she has never missed Supreme Court arguments. The court won't hear arguments again until Nov. 26.

Rib fractures are common among older adults, particularly after falls. The severity depends in part on whether the ribs are cracked or broken all the way through, and how many are broken. The extent of Ginsburg's injury was not

clear.

A complete break requires making sure the two ends are in alignment, so that a sharp piece of bone doesn't puncture nearby blood vessels or organs. Broken ribs typically heal on their own in six weeks to a month, and patients are advised to limit strenuous activity. But they can be very painful and controlling pain is key. A chief complication is pneumonia, when patients

don't breathe deeply enough or cough enough because of the rib pain.

Appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1993, Ginsburg rebuffed suggestions from some liberals that she should step down in the first two years of President Barack Obama's second term, when Democrats also controlled the Senate and would have been likely to confirm her successor.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case No. 18-501-EL-FOR, et al., to review the 2018 long-term forecast report filed by Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio. The company's long-term forecast report includes information regarding annual energy demand and projected loads, as well as the company's plan to demonstrate the need for at least 900 megawatts of renewable energy generation resources in Ohio. The public hearing will begin at 10:00 a.m., on December 4, 2018, at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-A, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

Persons wishing to review copies of the company's long-term forecast report may do so by contacting the company at:

Email: LTFR@aep.com

Regular Mail:
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Attn: Regulatory
700 Morrison Rd.
Gahanna, OH 43230

The Commission will give any interested member of the public the opportunity to be heard at the public hearing. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, viewing the Commission's web page at <http://www.puc.state.oh.us>, or contacting the Commission's hotline at 1-800-686-7826 or, for hearing or speech impaired customers, 7-1-1.

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Ohio AAU XC Championship coming to RV

CALEDONIA - The Ohio AAU Cross Country Championship will be held Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. at River Valley High School, 4280 Marion-Mount Gilead Road. Registration starts at 1 p.m.

It is a youth national qualifier as well as an Ohio open and masters championship. The fee is \$10 per individual, \$20 with a T-shirt and \$30 if competing for

individual and team awards with a T-shirt.

Ages 5-6 will race 1K, 7-8 will go 2K, 9-10 and 11-12 will go 3K, 13-14 will go 4K and ages 15-18, open class and masters will go 5K. Team categories are based on the oldest runner.

Call Gary Williams at 740-383-4494 or email MarionTrackClub@gmail.com

for more information.

Fisher gets second place

BELLEFONTAINE - Zach Fisher of the Marion track Club competing in the Marmon Valley 30K Trail Run, finishing the 18-miler in 2:58.45 to finish second in the open division.

McCurdy

Continued from Page 1B

Buckeyes will be taking that to the extreme for stretches all season.

■ **Keyshawn Woods is a keeper.** Bringing in graduate transfers is a roll of the dice. Sure, you're getting a seasoned vet, but will he have sufficient buy-in considering he's essentially a short-term rental. A 6-3 guard, Woods played like he'd been a Buckeye his whole career and was a steady influence off the bench in the first half when OSU was treading water in the game. Ohio State had a woeful seven assists as a team, but five of them came from Woods.

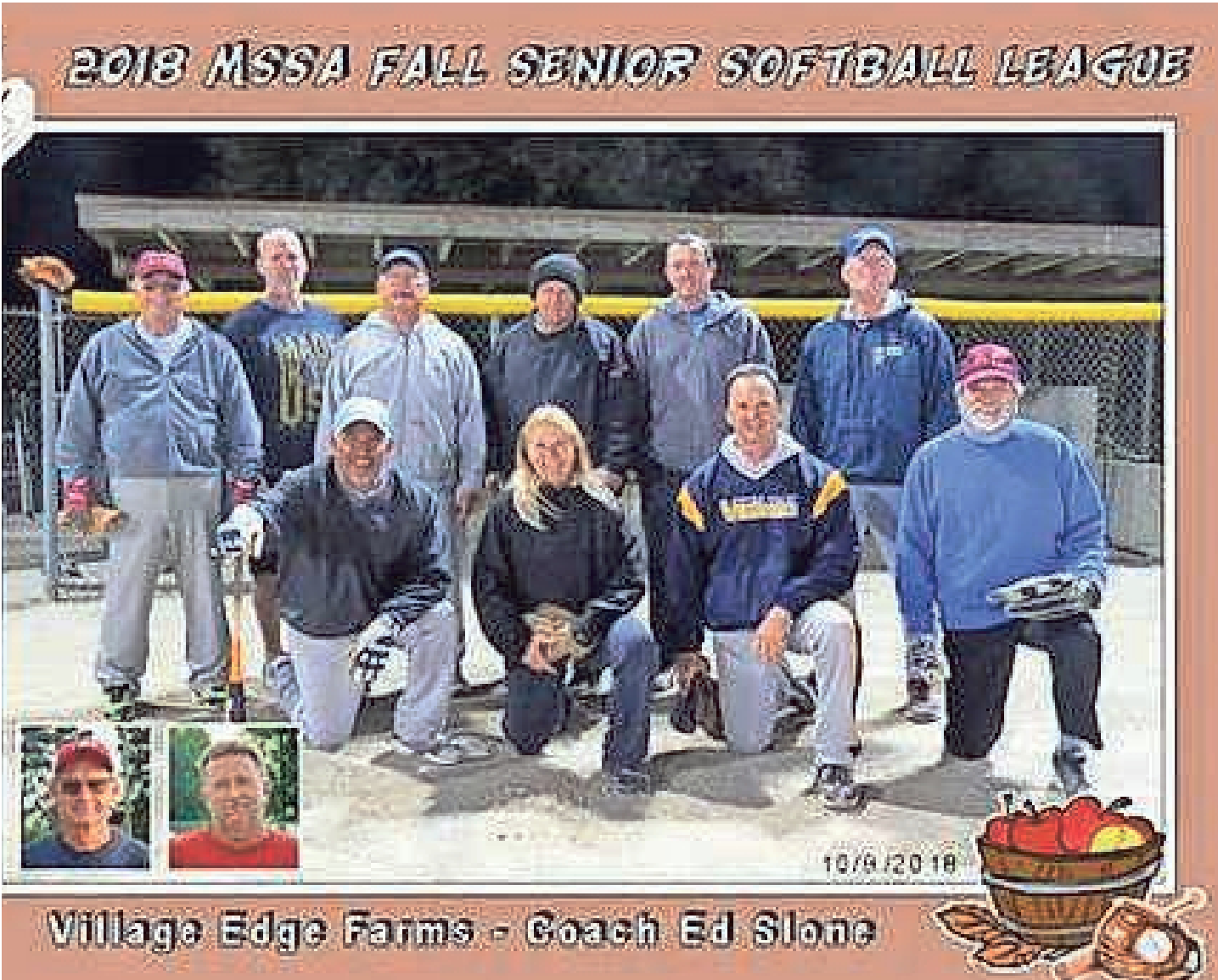
■ **C.J. Jackson is the go-to guy.** The senior point guard seemingly came out of nowhere last year when he averaged nearly 13 points per game and showed a propensity for taking important shots. His driving hook with 29 seconds left put the Buckeyes up by six as the Bearcats were staging a late rally. Five of his 13 points came in the final two minutes.

■ **The freshmen are freshmen, so don't expect a savior in the midst:** There are no one-and-done's in the mix. Luther Muhammad is the best of the bunch, and he isn't bashful about it. He and Jackson led the team with 10 field goal attempts as he knocked down 2 of 3 from the arc and finished with 11 points. He was a reason why UC struggled so mightily shooting (14 percent in the first half and 27 percent for the game), providing solid perimeter defense on the Bearcats' quick and athletic guards and wings.

Duane Washington Jr. logged 20 minutes, hit a 3-pointer and grabbed four rebounds without committing a turnover. Justin Ahrens and Jaedon LeDee didn't check in. With Potter gone, it will be interesting to see if Holtmann tries to work the 6-9 LeDee into the rotation when the competition lightens up with Fort Wayne on Sunday, South Carolina State on Nov. 15 and Samford on Nov. 20.

Rob McCurdy covers Ohio State men's basketball for USA Today Network-Ohio and can be reached at rmccurdy@gannett.com, work 740-375-5158, cell 419-610-0998, Twitter @McMotorsport and Instagram at [rob_mccurdy_star](https://www.instagram.com/rob_mccurdy_star).

Village Edge Farms wins fall senior softball league



Village Edge Farms won the Marion Senior Softball Association Fall League with an 11-1 record. Members of the team were Mike Winders, Tony Ray, Mike Ward, Ed Slone, Wayne Levings, Gary Crawford, Doug Virden, Lou Bailey, Jeff Marsh, Bruce Diehl, Don Bentley, Troy Ransome and John Oakey. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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• People

Continued from Page A1

"I have talked with staff, students and parents, and everyone is completely overjoyed with the new security staff we hired," Davia said.

Jason Greenwood, who is retired from a law enforcement career with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, heads up the new security staff that serves all three of the district's classroom buildings. Superintendent Ben Porter previously explained that these employees are not actually school resource officers, since they are not active members of law enforcement; instead, they are civilians who are authorized to be armed while on duty in the schools.

Metal detectors installed this fall at entrances used by staff, students and visitors now supply additional campus security. Davia commended the administrators in the elementary, middle and high school buildings for developing procedures that allow people to pass through the metal detectors as the enter the schools without causing delay or confusion.

"It's going well," he added. "They're doing a great job."

Board member Dan Lucas spoke on behalf of the Athletic Committee, saying members decided not to change baseball and softball ticket prices in the coming season. He also said there are some concerns about the condition of athletic facilities, including the track and gymnasiums. Other than maintenance practices, though, he did not cite specific issues.

The board also approved several of Porter's recommendations on Thursday. Among those actions were:

■ Hiring Justin Jefferies as junior varsity wrestling coach and Sarah McGary as a substitute nurse;

■ Permitting use of the elementary school cafeteria for a Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 14. The JetAdventure club will host the event, and Porter said members' families would attend;

■ Purchasing "prevention services"

for an elementary after-school program at a total cost of \$2,981;

■ Contracting with John Bertram to provide orientation and mobility services for visually impaired students at a cost of \$90 per hour for instructional, consultative or evaluation services or \$45 per hour for indirect services, such as attending meetings and writing reports;

■ Continuing the AESOP Service from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, at a cost of \$1,771.04. AESOP is a service that helps manage staff absences by allowing them to report in to an automated system that will automatically locate a substitute to fill their position that day.

In addition, the board approved 42 policy changes on Porter's recommendation. Highlights include a change to the policy regarding gifted and accelerated students and to the district's bullying policy.

Porter said gifted or advanced students will now be able to participate in accelerated studies by subject, rather than by an entire grade level. He added that the new bullying policy adds steps to help ensure all allegations of bullying are investigated thoroughly. He said new verification requirements will also help staff members track each other's actions as they handle allegations of bullying.

Board members Davia, Lucas, Terry Puperi, and Ed Stenger, as well as student member Luke Snyder, were all present for the meeting, as were Porter, Treasurer Janet Hissrich and the district's attorney, Gary Smith. Board member Billy Porter was absent.

The meeting concluded with an executive session to discuss employment, to confer with an attorney, to review contract negotiations with employees, and to discuss details of security arrangements and emergency response protocols. No action was to be taken following the closed-door portion of the meeting.

• Church

Continued from Page A1

Prior to the church's purchase of the Dream Center, those attending the food distribution events at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter times often lined up as far as three blocks outside the Bethlehem Temple in all types of weather. People entered and exited through the same door.

Cummings said more people can be inside the Dream Center at one time, speeding up the process.

As many as 1,200 have turned out for past food distribution events at the Bethlehem Temple, though he said attendance has varied over the years and been as low as 400.

The Thanksgiving food distribution is open to anyone who is in need, and no

identification or proof of need is required. Those coming for the items must bring their own bags or box to transport them.

Attendees will receive free turkeys and supplies for their Thanksgiving meal, including stuffing, corn and green beans. Pastry items also will be available.

In addition to the food, school-age children will be given school supplies, and shoes and winter clothing will be distributed.

"We're not looking forward to the snow, but we're getting prepared for it," he said.

As for the roof, Cummings has faith the issue will be resolved.

"God will help us — he has helped us this far," he said. "If worst comes to worst, we'll go back in the church basement again."

• Marine

Continued from Page A1

The dead included a man who had survived last year's massacre in Las Vegas, a veteran sheriff's deputy who rushed in to confront the gunman, a 22-year-old man who planned to join the Army, a freshman at nearby Pepperdine University and a recent Cal Lutheran graduate.

"It's a horrific scene in there," Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean said in the parking lot. "There's blood everywhere."

Survivors of the rampage — mostly young people who had gone out for college night at the Borderline, a hangout popular with students from nearby California Lutheran University and other schools — seemed to know what to do, having come of age in an era of active-shooter drills and deadly rampages happening with terrifying frequency.

For some it was not a new experience. Survivors and their relatives said several people who were at the bar Thursday had been at the outdoor country music festival in Las Vegas last year where a gunman in a high-rise hotel killed 58 people.

"I don't want prayers. I don't want thoughts," said Susan Schmidt-Orfanos, whose son Telemachus Orfanos survived the Vegas shooting only to die less than 10 minutes from his home. "I want those bastards in Congress — they need to pass gun control so no one else has a child that doesn't come home."

Many of the estimated 150 patrons at the Borderline dived under tables, ran for exits, broke through windows or hid in the attic and bathrooms, authorities and witnesses said.

"Unfortunately our young people, people at nightclubs, have learned that this may happen, and they think about that," the sheriff said. "Fortunately it helped save a lot of lives that they fled the scene so

rapidly."

Matt Wennerstrom said he instinctively pulled people behind a pool table, and he and friends shielded women with their bodies after hearing the shots. When the gunman paused to reload, Wennerstrom said, he and others shattered windows with bar stools and helped about 30 people escape. He heard another volley of shots once he was safely outside.

"All I wanted to do was get as many people out of there as possible," he told KABC-TV. "I know where I'm going if I die, so I was not worried."

A video posted on Instagram after the shooting by one of the patrons shows an empty dance floor with the sound of windows shattering in the background. As a silhouetted figure comes through a doorway, the camera turns erratically and 10 gunshots ring out.

"I looked him in his eyes while he killed my friends," Dallas Knapp wrote on his post. "I hope he rots in hell for eternity."

The tragedy left a community that is annually listed as one of the safest cities in America reeling. Shootings of any kind are extremely rare in Thousand Oaks, a city of about 130,000 people about 40 miles (64 kilometers) from Los Angeles, just across the county line.

Mourners gathered for a vigil on Wednesday evening as smoke from a fast-moving, nearby wildfire billowed over them.

Earlier, people stood in line for hours to give blood. All morning, people looking for missing friends and relatives arrived at a community center where authorities and counselors were informing the next-of-kin of those who died. Many people walked past TV cameras with blank stares or tears in their eyes. In the parking lot, some comforted each other with hugs or a pat on the back.

Jason Coffman received

the news that his son Cody, 22, who was about to join the Army, was dead. Coffman broke down as he told reporters how his last words to his son as he went out that night were not to drink and drive and that he loved him.

"Oh, Cody, I love you, son," Coffman sobbed.

It was the nation's deadliest such attack since 17 students and teachers were killed at a Parkland, Florida, high school nine months ago. It also came less than two weeks after a gunman massacred 11 people at a synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Democratic Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom, in his first public appearance since winning office on Tuesday, lamented the violence that has returned to California.

"It's a gun culture," he said. "You can't go to a bar or nightclub? You can't go to church or synagogue? It's insane is the only way to describe it. The normalization, that's the only way I can describe it. It's become normalized."

President Donald Trump praised police for their "great bravery" in the attack and ordered flags flown at half-staff in honor of the victims.

Authorities searched Long's home in Newbury Park, about 5 miles from the Borderline bar, for clues to what set him off.

"There's no indication that he targeted the employees. We haven't found any correlation," the sheriff said. "Maybe there was a motive for this particular night, but we have no information leading to that at all."

Long was in the Marines from 2008 to 2013, rose to the rank of corporal and served in Afghanistan in 2010-11 before he was honorably discharged, the military said. Court records show he married in 2009 and was divorced in 2013.

Authorities said he had no criminal record, but in April officers were called to his home, where deputies found him angry and acting irrationally. The sheriff said officers were told he might have PTSD because of his military service. A mental health specialist met with him and didn't feel he needed to be hospitalized.

Tom Hanson, 70, who lives next door to Long and his mother, said he called the police about six months ago when he heard "heavy-duty banging" and shouting coming from the Longs' home.

"Somebody has missed something here," his wife, Julie Hanson, said. "This woman has to know that this child needed help."

Long was armed with a Glock 21, a .45-caliber pistol designed to hold 10 rounds plus one in the chamber, according to the sheriff. But it had an extended magazine — one capable of holding more ammunition — that is illegal in California, Dean said.

Sheriff's Sgt. Ron Helus and a passing highway patrolman arrived at the club around 11:20 p.m. in response to several 911 calls, heard gunfire and went inside, the sheriff said. Helus was shot immediately, Dean said.

The highway patrolman pulled Helus out, then waited as a SWAT team and other officers arrived. Helus died at a hospital.

By the time officers entered the bar again — about 15 to 20 minutes later, according to the sheriff's office — the gunfire had stopped. They found 12 people dead inside, including the gunman, who was discovered in an office, the sheriff said.

| MARKET REPORT | |
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| LOCAL STOCKS | |
| DOW | |
| Last: 26191.22 | |
| Change: +10.92 | |
| S&P 500 | |
| Last: 2806.83 | |
| Change: -7.06 | |
| NASDAQ | |
| Last: 7530.88 | |
| Change: -39.87 | |

| Economic barometer | |
|---|--------|
| The Commerce Department serves up its monthly tally of stockpiles held by U.S. wholesale companies today. | |
| When businesses order more goods, it generally leads to more factory production and that boosts economic growth. Wholesale companies grew their stockpiles in August by 0.9 percent, the biggest increase since December 2016. Economists project that wholesale business stockpiles rose 0.3 percent in September. | |
| Wholesale inventories | |
| seasonally adjusted percent change | |
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| | 0.8% |
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Case No(s). 18-0501-EL-FOR, 18-1392-EL-RDR, 18-1393-EL-ATA

Summary: Proof of Pub -Ohio Power Company submits it published notices for the referenced cases (Part 5 of 6) electronically filed by Mr. Steven T Nourse on behalf of Ohio Power Company