

GUNMAN PLOTTED AHEAD FOR UNLV ATTACK

Out-of-work academic carried extra ammo, mailed powder-laced letters and listed his targets, police say.

By REBECCA ELLIS, DEBBIE TRUONG, RICHARD WINTON AND TERRY CASTLEMAN

LAS VEGAS — The gunman who killed three people at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, on Wednesday was identified as an academic who was seeking work at the university, the Las Vegas Metropolitan sheriff said Thursday.

Anthony Polito, 67, is believed to have targeted at least some of his victims, according to law enforcement sources familiar with the investigation who were not authorized to speak publicly about it.

Two of those killed were identified as Lee Business School faculty members Patricia Navarro-Velez and Cha Jan “Jerry” Chang, UNLV officials said on Thursday. The third victim, also a UNLV faculty member, has not been publicly identified pending notification of next of kin.

A fourth gunshot victim, who was critically injured, had stabilized by Wednesday night, authorities said. He was described as a 38-year-old visiting professor.

Within minutes of the [See Vegas shooting, A6]

We could use a little Archie Bunker these days

Norman Lear’s ‘All in the Family’ bigot sparked dialogue, not rancor. That’s needed now more than ever.

LORRAINE ALI
NEWS AND
CULTURE CRITIC

“Archie Bunker couldn’t exist today.”

It’s a refrain that’s landed in my inbox more than once since the death of “All in the Family” creator Norman Lear on Tuesday. The indelible character at the center of his half-hour comedy was most certainly the product of another time, but the reasons *why* folks believe the cantankerous, middle-aged font of grievances played by Carroll O’Connor would never make it on 21st century screens vary depending on their politics.

“The woke left would never allow a show like ‘All in the Family’ on the air now,” one of our readers wrote to me in an email. On the left, though, the common refrain is, “Why bother?” The right, they believe, would side with Archie while proclaiming that the show’s lampooning [See Ali, A7]



A DIESEL school bus travels on Highway 395 after picking students up on its way to Lassen High School.

Photographs by IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

LEARNING IN PERIL

Rural schools highlight issues with electric buses

In California’s conservative north, residents say urban Democrats are failing to admit electric vehicles’ limits

By Hailey Branson-Potts | REPORTING FROM SUSANVILLE, CALIF.



ELECTRIC school buses sit idle as chargers do not yet work. Lack of infrastructure is a major issue in implementing zero-emission technology in rural areas.

As the yellow bus carrying the Lassen High School girls’ volleyball team turned right on Highway 44, a sign flashed in its headlights: NEXT SERVICES 51 MILES.

It was just after 10 p.m. on a Thursday, and Bus 7221 was deep in fire-scarred Lassen National Forest on a dark and winding two-lane highway, with no cellphone service.

The girls, wrapped in blankets and trying to sleep, were riding home to Susanville — a remote town of 13,700 in California’s northeast corner — after losing several matches to West Valley High School in Cottonwood, 119 miles away.

The drive took 2.5 hours each direction. There were long stretches with no gas stations, let alone electric vehicle chargers.

That’s why Lassen High sent a Blue Bird diesel bus, not one of its electric buses.

In California’s vast north- [See Electric buses, A9]

State rethinks higher medical wages

Newsom seeks ‘major reforms’ in a new law benefiting healthcare workers because of budget deficit.

By TARYN LUNA AND MACKENZIE MAYS

With California facing an expected \$68-billion budget deficit, Gov. Gavin Newsom is seeking “major reforms” to pull funding from a costly plan next year to begin raising the statewide minimum wage for healthcare workers to \$25 an hour.

Newsom told The Times last week that his staff has “been working behind the scenes” with Democratic leaders in the Legislature on how to move forward with the minimum wage law in light of state budget concerns. The changes, which would have to be approved by lawmakers next year, were “all part of an understanding” with labor leaders before he signed the bill, Newsom said.

“We knew exactly where we are on the finances. We were very upfront with these guys. I said, ‘No way in hell,’ and we worked on something, and that will reveal itself in a matter of weeks,” Newsom said, recalling conversations leading up to passage of the bill.

It’s unclear whether Newsom is suggesting he would like to narrow the higher minimum wage to fewer workers, or whether he’s seeking to delay or pause implementation of the increase.

Newsom discussed the healthcare wage a week before a report was released Thursday by the Legislative Analyst’s Office, a nonpartisan government body that assesses policy for the Legislature. The report estimates that California could experience a \$68-billion budget deficit through fiscal year 2024-25. The state budget is enacted on an annual fiscal calendar that begins July 1 and ends June 30.

The gloomy financial picture was revealed later than [See Budget, A6]

Cities taking divisive stands on Mideast

Feelings run high and rifts are deep in debate over Israel-Hamas war

By ANDREW J. CAMPA

Weeks after the Hamas invasion of Israel and amid that nation’s attacks on Gaza, a few hundred Bay Area residents packed a Richmond City Council meeting to passionately debate the merits of a resolution calling for a cease-fire.

Hamas’ attack on Oct. 7 killed roughly 1,200 people and led to the kidnapping of more than 200. Since that day, Israel is believed to be responsible for at least 15,800 Palestinian deaths.

By the end of the Richmond council meeting — after six hours of raging debate — members passed a proclamation saying the city’s 114,000 inhabitants stood in solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza.” It also accused the state of [See Resolutions, A7]



LOS ANGELES resident Emily Dibini joins Jewish activists calling on officials to support a cease-fire in Gaza during a City Council meeting in November.

LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times



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