

'DELIBERATE ACT OF VIOLENCE'

23-year-old identified as suspect in shooting at Minnesota church that killed 2 children, wounded 17



Community members embrace Wednesday after a shooting at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis left two children dead. (Alex Kormann / The Minnesota Star Tribune/TNS)

THE MINNESOTA STAR TRIBUNE

MINNEAPOLIS — Two children were killed in a shooting Wednesday at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis, police said, and 17 people were injured, 14 of them children. Two are in critical condition.

The suspected shooter, identified as 23-year-old Robin Westman, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound at the scene, according to police.

The shooter attacked while the students were in the first Mass of the school year. Mayor Jacob Frey decried the “horrific violence in south Minneapolis,” which prompted a huge law enforcement response surrounding the area.

Two sources familiar with the investigation into the shooting at Annunciation Church said Westman, 23, of Richfield, is the suspected shooter.

According to court records, Westman’s mother applied to change her child’s name in 2019 from Robert Paul Westman to Robin M. Westman because he identified as a female. Because Westman was a minor at the time, his mother had to sign off on the change. According to the application, Westman “identifies as a female and wants her name to reflect that identification.”

Public records show Westman’s fa-



A parent hugs her son during an active shooter situation Wednesday at the Annunciation Church in Minneapolis. (Richard Tsong-Taatarii/The Minnesota Star Tribune/TNS)

ther, James Westman, owns a home less than one mile from the church. Police were stationed outside the home Wednesday, which was cordoned off with crime scene tape.

Westman’s mother answered a cell-phone call crying but told a Minneapolis

Star Tribune reporter she did not know if her child was the shooter.

One source told the Star Tribune that Westman’s mother once worked at the church. The church said in 2021 that Westman’s mother provided “wonderful hospitality” in a Facebook post an-

nouncing her departure.

Noting the closeknit ties of families in Minneapolis, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat from Minnesota, said so many residents of the city have ties to Annunciation Catholic. Klobuchar heard from a former staffer whose children attend the school and who knows children wounded in the morning’s gun violence.

“One of the things that people nationally don’t understand is that this school is enmeshed in our community,” Klobuchar said. “There’s shops, people. There’s a neighborhood. And that whole community suffers.”

Klobuchar said mass shootings have left a “trail of tears” across America, invoking gunman attacks on schools in Uvalde, where 19 students and two teachers were killed, and Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, where 20 children and six adult staff were killed.

Renee Lego, an Annunciation parishioner who has a fifth-grader and an eighth-grader at Annunciation Catholic School, said her older son thought it was fireworks or a gas explosion until he started to see people falling.

“Both my kids have blood on them,”

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East Texas native set to take over as new Longview Regional chief executive

FROM STAFF REPORTS

An East Texas native has been named Longview Regional Medical Center’s new chief executive officer. Patrick Swindle will officially begin his new job Sept. 30.

An announcement from Longview Regional said Swindle “has a wealth of leadership experience and a commitment to operational excellence.”

He currently is CEO of Seton Medical Center Harker Heights, an acute care hospital in Harker Heights near Killeen. Under his leadership, the hospital has consistently delivered high



East Texas native Patrick Swindle is the new CEO of Longview Regional Medical Center. (Contributed Photo)

quality, patient centered Leapfrog since 2020, according to a statement from Re-

gional.

He leads hospital operations and strategic growth across multiple accredited care centers including a large physician group with 19 clinics and five urgent care centers.

“Patrick brings strategic leadership and operational know-how and community focus,” said Michael Morris, board chair of Longview Regional. “We are confident he will build on our strong foundation and help guide Longview Regional into a future defined by high-quality care and deeper community

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Texas House OKs STAAR overhaul

BY SNEHA DEY
AND JADEN EDISON
The Texas Tribune

The Texas House has advanced a proposal to scrap STAAR, the end-of-the-year state standardized test, but not without Democrats lamenting the changes the lower chamber made to reach an agreement with the Senate.

Lawmakers in the House and Senate have been considering similar bills to replace the test as they gather for a second special legislative session, signaling newfound agreement be-

tween chamber leaders after negotiations broke down during the regular session. Senate Bill 9 and House Bill 8 would swap STAAR for three shorter tests to be administered at the beginning, middle and end of the school year.

Rep. Brad Buckley, HB 8’s author, tried to reconcile the chambers’ earlier differences with his proposal, but it may have cost the Salado House Republican some of the support he had. The House version of the proposal got a 82-56 vote in the lower chamber, a

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