

Student kills principal, self in junior high school

By Marc Levy
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RED LION, Pa. — A 14-year-old boy shot and killed his school principal inside a crowded junior high cafeteria Thursday morning, then killed himself with a second handgun, authorities said.

The shootings happened about 15 minutes before classes started at Red Lion Area Junior High School.

"Everyone ran out of the cafeteria yelling, 'He has a gun!'" said eighth-grader Danny Dulin.

Principal Eugene Segro, 51, who was shot once in the chest, was pronounced dead at a hospital. James Sheets, 14, died at the scene of a shot to the head, Coroner Barry Bloss said.

Sheets apparently carried the weapons in his backpack, according to Bloss, who said he saw the backpack in the cafeteria. The principal was killed with a .44-caliber weapon, while the student was believed to have been killed with a .22-caliber weapon.

Police do not believe anyone else was involved and were investigating where the boy got the guns.

Sheets was not known for being a disciplinary problem, and police and Red Lion Area Superintendent Larry Macaluso did not know him to have any specific disputes with Segro.

Sheet's parents were helpful and said they had no reason to expect anything was wrong, according to police.

Segro had been at the school more than a decade, a school

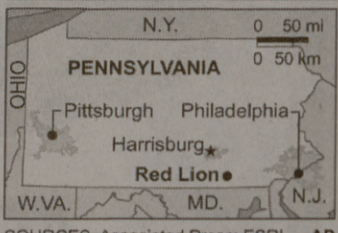
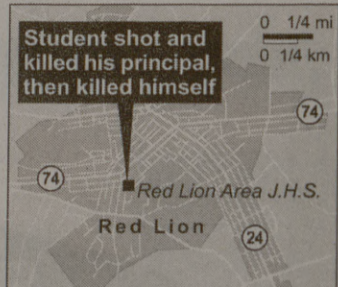
official said. "He tried to find the most lenient way to punish the kids. It wasn't just a job for him. He truly loved the kids," said Nicole Wisor, 16, a 10th grader who had attended the school.

Autopsies were being conducted on both victims Thursday. Bloss said a third shot was fired, but apparently hit the floor.

The room fell silent after the shootings, then students began running outside or toward their homerooms, said Angel Williams, 14, a seventh-grader.

Officials dismissed the school's nearly 900 students for the day, and also sent home students from the high school and elementary school. Students who witnessed the shooting met with counselors, police said.

The junior high was to



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI AP

Judge: state need not prove who fired shot for death penalty

By Matthew Barakat
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANASSAS, Va. — A judge ruled Thursday that prosecutors will not necessarily have to prove that sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad fired the shot that killed a man to get the death penalty.

Circuit Judge LeRoy Millette Jr. also ruled that prosecutors do not have to tell defense attorneys their theory about whether Muhammad or fellow sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo fired the shot.

Muhammad is charged with capital murder under two different statutes. One is a new state anti-terrorism law that requires no proof of who pulled the trigger. But the law had never been used before the sniper shooting case and is subject to a constitutional challenge.

The other statute allows for the death penalty in cases of multiple murders. Typically, only the triggerman has been eligible for the death penalty under this law.

But Millette agreed with prosecutors who argued that it is irrelevant who fired the weapon. Citing the wording in the multiple-murder law, he agreed that prosecutors will have to demonstrate only that Muhammad was "a principal in the first degree" to the crime to be eligible for the death penalty.

"I agree with (prosecutor James) Willett. I think the term triggerman is used inadvisably," Millette said. Defense attorneys disputed that interpretation and immediately filed a motion challenging Muhammad's indictment under the statute.

Unless someone is the trig-

german, he should be indicted for murder in the first degree and not capital murder, defense lawyer Jonathan Shapiro argued before the judge.

Shapiro also said "all indications are" that Malvo pulled the trigger. He declined to elaborate after the hearing. Willett also refused to comment.

Prosecutors in Prince William County, where Muhammad is being tried, had not said if they have evidence implicating Muhammad as a triggerman in the Oct. 9 death of Dean Harold Meyers at a Manassas-area gas station. Prosecutors have said Malvo's fingerprints were found on the Bushmaster rifle that was used during the three-day sniper spree last October.

In all, Muhammad, 42, and Malvo, 18, have been accused in 20 shootings, including deaths, in Virginia, Maryland, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Washington. Prosecutors have said the shootings were part of a scheme to extort \$10 million from the government.

Also Thursday, defense lawyers were rebuffed in their efforts to launch an investigation into the source of leaks about the case to The Washington Post.

Millette sided with the prosecution in quashing subpoenas to press and four reporters who have broken stories in the investigation.

A recent story in the Post cited anonymous sources who provided details of Malvo's demeanor when he confessed some of the shootings. Defense lawyers have said the leaks are an effort to taint the jury pool and that Malvo's confession should be tossed out of court.

Israel will invite Palestinian premier designate for talks

By Lisa J. Adams
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel will invite Palestinian Prime Minister-designate Mahmoud Abbas to Jerusalem to discuss restarting the peace process once a new Palestinian Cabinet is in place, an Israeli official said Thursday.

Palestinian officials said that Abbas would agree to meet with Israel's leaders and affirmed that the Palestinian Authority would accept a U.S.-backed peace plan.

Israel, however, wants changes in the plan, including a stop to all violence as a precondition for other steps.

Underscoring that challenge, a Palestinian suicide bomber killed a guard and injured 10 bystanders in a rush-hour attack at an Israeli train station on Thursday.

A breakaway faction of a militia linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement claimed responsibility for the attack in the town of Kfar Saba, near the West Bank. Abbas told Israel's Channel 10 that he condemned the bombing and said "we oppose all such attacks."

On Wednesday, Arafat and Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, reached an accord on a Palestinian Cabinet. A Palestinian parliament vote on the new government is expected within a week.

The United States and Israel hope the formal establishment of Abbas' government will amount to a means of sidelining Arafat, whom they accuse of links to terrorism and failing to crack down on militias.

The White House affirmed that once the Palestinian parliament has approved Abbas' Cabinet, the peace plan — a

Train station attack

A Palestinian suicide bomber killed a guard in a rush-hour attack at a train station Thursday in the Israeli town of Kfar Saba.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI AP

joint effort by the so-called Quartet of the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia — will be formally presented.

The plan calls for an end to all violence and a full Jewish settlement freeze in the West Bank and Gaza. It would also demand that all settlements built after 2001 be dismantled.

Those actions could be followed, as early as this year, by the creation of a Palestinian state with provisional borders. Final borders, the status of Jerusalem and the fate of Palestinian refugees are to be decided in later stages.

Raanan Gissin, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Thursday that the Palestinian legislature approves the new Cabinet, "the prime minister intends to invite the Palestinian prime minister to a discussion on ways to reach a cease-fire and restart the peace process."

But Israeli government officials warned the road to peace could be long, especially because of terror attacks like Thursday's bombing.

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Carty as Airline

By D...
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT WORTH — The embattled chief executive of American Airlines resigned Thursday, paving the way for a new leader to take the helm.

The resignation of Robert Carty came as the airline's stock price tumbled to its lowest point in years, and as the company's losses mounted.

The board of directors approved the resignation, but would have to approve Carty's replacement.

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"I was confident employment great"

The spoke said the union the latest deal seems about it of incentives board could Friday morning

A \$1.8 package that last week employees let undisclosed including bonuses and hurt

Carty's resignation would be a setback for the airline's recovery efforts

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