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Candidates criticize Roy Blunt over gun deal

BY DANIELLE DIBBLECKERS
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WASHINGTON Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt joined a bipartisan group of 20 senators who signed onto a deal to address gun violence, bucking the stance of many Missouri Republicans by participating in the most significant legislative attempt to address gun violence since the 1990s.

For the past three weeks, as lawmakers chipped away at a compromise in the aftermath of two high-profile mass shootings, Blunt, a Republican who will retire in January after 25 years in Washington, has expressed that he was open to passing legislation.

A member of Senate GOP leadership, Blunt said he has warmed up to the idea of red flag laws over the past few years. He also expressed interest if the legislation including provisions that provided resources to mental health care.

On Tuesday, Blunt's name was among the 10 Republicans who signed onto a bipartisan deal to curb gun violence, potentially the most significant effort at reform since the 1990s. Four of the Republicans in the group, including Blunt, are retiring at the end of the year.

But just as Blunt and the senators involved in the deal celebrated his success in securing resources for mental health, he immediately received blowback from the Republicans in Missouri racing to replace him.

Former Gov. Eric Greitens called the deal "disappointing" on Twitter, while Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt wrote that red flag laws were "gun confiscation." U.S. Rep. Vicki Hartzler wrote a press release last week urging Republicans in leadership not to reach an agreement.

SEE BLUNT, A8

Jan. 6 witness: Trump 'detached from reality' over election

BY LISA MARCHAND
AND NANCY CLARK JAHNICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Donald Trump's closest campaign adviser, top government

officials and even his family were demanding his take claims of 2020 voting fraud on election night, but the defeated president was becoming "detached from reality," clinging to outlandish theories to stay in

power, several said. Trump's former campaign manager Bill Stepien testified Monday before the House Jan. 6 committee that Trump was "growing increasingly unhappy" at the election results as the

night wore on.

Son-in-law Jared Kushner tried to nudge Trump away from attorney Rudy Giuliani and his far-flung theories of voter fraud that advisers believed were not true.

Former Justice Department official Richard Donoghue recalls breaking down one claim after another - from a truckload of ballots in Pennsylvania to a missing suitcase of ballots in Georgia - and telling Trump "much of the info you're going is false."

"He was becoming detached from reality," said former Attorney General William Barr,

SEE ELECTION, A8



ILLUSTRATION: PHILIPPE BOISSEAU

THE HEAT IS ON

A Kansas City streetcar construction crew took a break from the heat on Monday. Bruce Eversole, from left, handed out water to crew members as Tim Reed took a drink during a water break. The crew was working on the streetcar extension project near Main Street near Pershing Road.

Straight-line winds caused damage in Manhattan, officials say

BY SOPHIA REEDER
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Nearly \$10 million in estimated damage from storms near Manhattan, Kansas, over the weekend was caused by straight-line winds, not a tornado.

do, Riley County officials said Monday.

Severe thunderstorms on Saturday tracked across eastern Kansas and damaged at least 43 homes and businesses in Riley County. The National Weather Service issued several tornado warnings for the area through-

out Saturday night.

Authorities declared five buildings condemned and unsafe to occupy Saturday evening in the McCain neighborhood, just east of the K-State campus. The buildings included the Chi Omega house at 1516 McCain Lane and the Kappa Alpha Theta

house at 1517 McCain Lane. Both were demolished, officials said.

Three single-family homes in the neighborhood also were severely damaged. The residents were displaced but did not need immediate assistance.

The National Weather Service determined Monday that the damage was not caused by a tornado, but by straight-line winds of up to 100 mph.

"We are very fortunate the rotation signatures stopped before it reached Manhattan,"

Riley County Emergency Management director Tim Staley said in a news release Monday. "The damage was significant, but could have been worse with a direct tornado hit."

Straight-line winds of that speed are equivalent to an EF-1 tornado without rotation, Staley said.

"Most of the storm damage we get in Kansas is actually caused by straight-line winds, so they should always be taken very

SEE DAMAGE, A8