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Hey everybody. This is the legal disclaimer, where we tell you that the views, thoughts, and opinions shared on this podcast belong solely to us, the people talking and not necessarily Brady or Brady's affiliates. And since this is a Friday news wrap up by us, I mean -- Me because I am solo. Now, please note, despite this peppy opening, this podcast does contain discussions of violence that some people may find disturbing. That's okay. We find them disturbing too.

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Welcome back to Red, Blue and Brady. It's JJ here talking alone, in a room, at you. I'm glad to see more folks than just my mom listening, but -- hi mom! -- Which would just be sad. So a big thanks to those listening and sharing with their friends. Keep doing that. And this weekly wrap up, we're talking about the anniversary of the Tree of Life shooting. The unfortunate always continuing stories about the shooting of children, an art exhibit that commemorates those we lose to violence every year, and finally a lot of plans from politicians on how to solve the nation's gun violence problem. This weekend marks the one year anniversary of the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Squirrel Hill, Pennsylvania, where an antisemitic man attacked and shot members of the congregation, killing 11 and injuring six more. Listeners of the podcast know that I am from the Pittsburgh area. I hail from good old Washington, PA, which essentially makes me a "yins"-er and like many, I wrongly thought that our neighborhoods, I mean Squirrel Hill is Mr. Rogers' literal neighborhood, would never see the terror of a mass shooting that happens in other bigger cities, not in Pittsburgh. Sadly, Pittsburgh became the site of the deadliest act of antisemitism in U.S. history. This tells us that we are all vulnerable to this epidemic. Only months after the Tree of Life shooting, another synagogue was attacked in California. What makes it not surprising, but incredibly alarming, that a recent study shows that 88% of American Jews believe antisemitism is a problem, and 84% believe it has increased over the past five years. And remember that this epidemic is not just mass violence or hate based violence like the Tree of Life shooting, but also constant daily acts of gun violence. This week, there were two separate shooting incidents in Philadelphia that left a two year old dead and an 11 month old in critical condition.

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The two year old girl was named Nicolette Rivera and she died as a result of a gunshot wound to the back of the head after an unidentified gunman opened fire with what police have

determined - it was either an AK 47 or an SKS - and shot into the front window and door of the family's Kensington, Philadelphia home. We are sharing Nicolette's name in the spirit of "say her name," but also to draw attention to the fact that Nicolette was a person. She was a little girl. She was more than just a statistic. She leaves behind a family that loved her, who said that she was a star. These senseless acts highlight the violence experienced by children and teens across the U.S. Now I'm going to hit you with some awful numbers. Every day, 21 children and teens and we identify children and teens as any one age zero to 17 or shot in the U.S. among those 21 four will die from gun violence.

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Two of those 21 are murder victims. We will see two children and teens either die from suicide or survive a suicide attempt. And finally, what we've talked about a lot on this program, eight children and teens will be shot in instances of family fire, which is a shooting involving an improperly stored or misused gun found in the house resulting in injury or death. This is every day, every single day, 21 young lives either ended or changed dramatically because of gun violence. Now the art world is addressing this almost normalized - which is super gross to say, but it's the truth - normalized world of violence with Hank Willis Thomas' exhibition, All Things Being Equal at the Portland Art Museum, where a circle of 28 foot long blue banners stitched with rows of white stars descend to the ground. Now, this art project is called "14,719" and this number is significant because that's the number of individuals shot and killed in the United States in 2018. This is a personal project for the artist who in 2000 lost his cousin Songha, who he defines, as you know, not just his first cousin, but as his roommate, as his best friend 0 to a senseless act of robbery and murder. On his art and why he made the installation, Mr. Thomas said, quote, "the most likely way for young African American men to die in this country is by gun violence, but all you have to be is alive in America, and you can fall victim to gun violence." Sobering words. Now moving into action. Let's, let's do something about this. One, let's go see this amazing art installation, but then, two, let's get out and vote. In the aftermath of democratic presidential candidates sharing well-crafted plans to end gun violence, this week saw two Republicans discussing plans as well. Plans were announced by Senator Cornyn and U.S. Attorney General William Barr. In the first case Senator Cornyn rolled out a plan called "Restoring, Enhancing, Strengthening, and Promoting Our Nation's Safety Efforts Act" a.k.a "The Response Act," in which he had identified key issues that present very real dangers to the safety of Americans. However, the main proponents of the act focus more on enforcing existing laws, mental health care, and

monitoring online activity rather than addressing the proliferation and easy access of guns themselves.

JJ: [06:24](#) Cornyn's bill does not, as critics were quick to point out, say anything about limiting access to specific weapons or on requiring universal background checks on gun sales. Attorney general William Barr, meanwhile, put forth a memo suggesting that law enforcement officials should utilize similar tactics used to stop terrorists in order to prevent mass shootings. The memo focused heavily on directing authorities to find better ways to identify potential attackers and intervene, while also announcing that the justice department will hold a training for law enforcement officials to better learn how to deal with mass shootings and lone wolf style shooters. Now, neither of the proposals outlined what law enforcement would do once a potential shooter was identified, as the FBI technically isn't supposed to break down doors without evidence of a planned violent act or a crime. This is why Brady supports, and many states have adopted, extreme risk laws.

JJ: [07:16](#) For more on that check out Bradyunited.org and a few upcoming podcasts or our Joan Peterson podcast where she talks a lot about what we call an ERPO, an extreme risk protection order. Okay. Now on a final note, and this podcast does more than provide me the means by which to live and prove to my parents that I'm an adult, it allows Brady to amplify the voices of survivors to tell the stories of victims that are oftentimes forgotten by the media and to educate people about the horror that is gun violence in the United States. This podcast is important because the movement is important, because our lives are important. And that's what's at stake - our lives. We want more people to know about this epidemic of gun violence. We want more people to know about the movement. We want more people to know about Brady, and that means we want more people to know about this podcast, so please, please, my beloved listeners, help us out here. You can do that by liking and subscribing to the podcast. By doing so, you increase the chances that other people find us and it's so critical that they do. We need everyone to educate themselves on this issue, and to help make all of our community safe.

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JJ: [08:31](#) Thanks for listening. As always, Brady's lifesaving work and Congress, the courts and communities across the country is made possible, thanks to you. Seriously. It's all because of you all. For more information on Brady or how to get involved in the fight against gun violence, please like and subscribe to the

podcast. New full length episodes drop every Monday. These weekly wrap-ups drop on Fridays and minisodes, or as in the case, our most recent Kate Ranta episode mini-sodes that aren't so mini, come whenever we can fit them in for you. You can also get in touch with us at [Bradyunited.org/podcast](http://Bradyunited.org/podcast) or on social @BradyBuzz. Be brave and remember

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