

Ferguson On Edge A Year After Death

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Ferguson was a community on edge again Monday, a day after a protest marking the anniversary of Michael Brown's death was punctuated with gunshots and police critically wounded a black 18-year-old accused of opening fire on officers.

Police, protesters and people who live and work in the St. Louis suburb were bracing for what nightfall might bring following more violence along West Florissant Avenue, the same thoroughfare that was the site of massive protests and rioting after Brown was fatally shot last year in a confrontation with a white Ferguson officer.

"Of course I'm worried," said Sandy Sansevere, a retired health care worker who volunteers at the retail store operated by the nonprofit group I Love Ferguson, which was formed after Brown's death to promote the community. "What scares me are the guns."

The father of the suspect who was shot called the police version of events "a bunch of lies." He said two girls who were with his son told him he was unarmed and had been drawn into a dispute involving two groups of young people.

St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger declared a state of emergency, which authorizes county Police Chief Jon Belmar to take control of police emergency management in and around Ferguson.

Clinton Weighs In On Trump, Fox Fued

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's turbulent relationship with Fox News showed signs of improvement Monday even as Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton seized on the billionaire businessman's clash with the network to cast his Republican rivals as being bad for women.

Trump and Fox News, one of the most powerful voices in Republican and conservative circles, have been in a bitter feud since last week's presidential debate. While he leads recent polls, the former reality television star has drawn heated criticism from many in his own party for saying Fox moderator Megyn Kelly had "blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever."

The network's chairman, Roger Ailes, reached out to Trump directly Monday, assuring him he'll be "treated fairly" by the station, Trump tweeted Monday.

"Roger Ailes just called. He is a great guy & assures me that 'Trump' will be treated fairly on (at)FoxNews. His word is always good!" wrote Trump, whose unorthodox campaign is dominating the race and summertime polls.

In a statement Monday evening, Ailes described the conversation as "blunt but cordial" and said the air had been cleared.

Pakistan In Horror Of Blackmail Ring

HUSSAIN KHAN WALA, Pakistan (AP) — In this dusty town near Pakistan's border with India, families kept quiet for years about the blackmail gang that locals believe filmed some 270 children being sexually abused, fearful the videos could appear online or sold in markets for as little as 50 cents.

Those living in Hussain Khan Wala say the gang forced children at gunpoint to be abused or drugged them into submission. It was only after one family spoke up that others rose against the gang, with police later arresting 11 suspects.

But as Pakistan recoils in horror at the scope of the abuse, the case shows the dangers here facing poor children, many of whom work as domestic servants and face abuse at the hands of their employers. It also raises questions about how such a gang could operate for years, with some questioning Pakistan's police and political elite.

"They destroyed me," one victim said. "They destroyed my family. They just killed me"

The Associated Press does not identify victims of sexual abuse.

Woman Texted Mother Before Shot

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston woman being held captive by a man she had once been in a relationship with sent a text to her mother saying she was being held at gunpoint and pleading for help before the man fatally shot her, six children and her husband.

"My heart goes out to the mother who received the text from her daughter that she was in trouble, and the mother was many states away but of course did what any mother would do and called 911," Harris District Attorney Devon Anderson said Monday.

Valerie Jackson's mother placed that call to the Harris County Sheriff's Office in Houston. Deputies eventually forced their way into the home where a man with a violent criminal history, David Conley, had held the family captive on Saturday but retreated when Conley fired on them. Hours later, Conley gave himself up, allowing deputies to enter the home and make the gruesome discovery of the bodies. All had been shot in the head and most had been handcuffed.

"Anytime you hear about something that's this heinous, anytime you hear about the death of this many children in a single event, it is hard. It's hard," said Alycia Harvey, the lead prosecutor in the case.

Conley, 48, who has been charged with capital murder, stood handcuffed, shackled and wearing a yellow jumpsuit during his first court appearance on Monday. His court appointed attorney, Joseph Scardino, did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

Social Worker Killing Suspect Laughed After Shooting

BY WILSON RING
Associated Press

BARRE, Vt. — The woman charged with killing a social worker because she was upset about losing custody of her 9-year-old daughter was "calm and laughing" as police arrived on the scene minutes after the shooting, according to court records released Monday.

Jody Herring, 40, pleaded not guilty in Vermont Superior Court on Monday and was ordered held without bail. She was arrested Friday following the death of Lara Sobel, who police say was shot twice in the upper extremities — including once when she was already on the ground — as she exited the Barre building that houses the regional office of the state Department for Children and Families.

Police also believe that before shooting the 48-year-old Sobel, Herring shot and killed her own two cousins and an aunt in the neighboring town of Berlin. Charges have not been filed in connection with the deaths of Regina Herring, 43, and Rhonda Herring, 48, the suspect's cousins; and Julie Falzarano, 73, an aunt.

In an affidavit, police said Washington County State's Attorney Scott Williams, who was inside the building that houses DCF, heard the shots and when he got to the scene, he saw Herring standing near Sobel's body holding a .270-caliber hunting rifle. Williams was able to get the gun from her and he and

bystanders subdued her.

When police arrived, Herring was "very calm and laughing," the affidavit said. Later on, she was still talking about the shooting "like it was no big deal," officers said.

However, during an interview Friday night, Herring became agitated, saying that police had never helped her when her boyfriend beat her and complaining about the injustices she suffered at the hands of DCF.

The court records also show that Herring left two phone messages for her brother, Dwayne Herring, about two hours before Sobel was killed. In the first, she urges him to call her immediately. Four minutes later, she left a message saying: "Watch the news and you'll wish you got ahold of me earlier."

Tiffany Herring, 23, who identified herself as the daughter of one of the victims, told the *Burlington Free Press* her mother received a threatening phone call from Jody Herring on Friday morning.

She said: "You guys need to stop calling DCF unless you guys are going to have it coming to you," Tiffany Herring told the newspaper.

Herring was charged Monday with killing only Sobel, although investigators believe she killed her relatives as well.

Gov. Peter Shumlin's office issued a statement saying he had spoken with the family of those relatives and at their request was asking for privacy.

Google To Be Part Of New Holding Company, 'Alphabet'

BY BRANDON BAILEY
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — One of tech's biggest names, Google, is reorganizing under a new moniker — "Alphabet" — in a move underscoring its founders' ambitions to pursue ventures far beyond the company's Internet search core, from self-driving cars to cutting-edge medical research.

It will still use the Google name for its popular Internet search engine, mapping service and related products. But CEO and co-founder Larry Page said Monday the creation of the new holding company called Alphabet will provide more independence for divisions like Nest, which makes Internet-connected home appliances, and Calico, which is researching ways to prolong human life.

Analysts said the move may also be a nod to Wall Street demands for more fiscal accountability: As part of the reorganization, Page said the company will begin reporting financial results by segments. That should give a clearer picture of how Google's core Internet business is performing, separate from other ventures, said analyst Colin Gillis of the investment firm BGC Partners.

"They promised to give us more information," Gillis said. "Now we'll get a chance to see."

Google reported more than \$14 billion in profit on \$66 billion in sales last year, most of it from lucrative Internet advertising, while other ventures have required large investments without showing immediate returns. The company's stock has surged in recent weeks after a new chief financial officer announced other moves to rein in corporate spending.

The reorganization also cements the rise of longtime

Google executive Sundar Pichai, who will become CEO for the core Google business. Page will be CEO of the new holding company, with his co-founder Sergey Brin serving as president. Google's executive chairman, Eric Schmidt, will have the same title at Alphabet.

"Sundar has been saying the things I would have said (and sometimes better) for quite some time now," Page wrote in a blog post announcing the changes.

Pichai, who was named overall chief of Google products last fall, is viewed by many as a potential successor to Page. While the Google co-founder has not indicated any plans to retire, he has at times struggled with a condition affecting his vocal cords that interfered with his ability to speak.

The 42-year-old Pichai, who joined Google in 2004, is generally known as a soft-spoken but highly effective manager. After leading ef-

orts to build the company's Chrome browser and related products, Pichai was given responsibility in 2013 for Google's Android mobile operating system — a crucial role as the company was seeing much of its Internet business shift to mobile devices.

With the reorganization, Page signaled that he wants to give more authority to CEOs of the companies that will be part of the new entity known as Alphabet.

"Our company is operating well today, but we think we can make it cleaner and more accountable," he wrote. "We believe this allows us more management scale, so we can run things independently that aren't very related."

Businesses that will operate separately under the Alphabet umbrella include Calico, which Google established to conduct health research in 2013; Nest, which Google acquired in 2014;

Fiber, which is building high-speed broadband networks in several cities; and the Google X, the research lab responsible for Google's self-driving car venture and previously developed its controversial Internet headset, known as Glass.

Alphabet will also oversee Google Ventures and Google Capital, two corporate investment entities that focus on early- and growth-stage startups.

Google's YouTube video division, however, will remain part of the core business, although Page made a point of praising its chief, longtime ad executive Susan Wojcicki. Google historically has not reported earnings separately for the YouTube business.

"It may not be quite ready yet," said Gillis. "Maybe they're going to do a little polishing and work on profitability first."

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