Woman, 3 Grandchildren Killed On N.D. Reservation

NEW TOWN, N.D. (AP) — A wellkept northwestern North Dakota home teemed with FBI investigators Monday as they tried to piece together evidence in the grisly weekend shooting deaths of a woman and three of her grandchildren.

In a nearby community, a man described only as a "person of interest" in the killings apparently killed himself just hours after their

Martha Johnson, 64, and three of her grandchildren — Benjamin Schuster, 13, Julia Schuster, 10 and Luke Schuster, 6 — were gunned down in the home Sunday afternoon, Mountrail County Šheriff Ken Halvorson said. Johnson's husband was out hunting. A fourth grandchild, a 12-year-old boy, was in the home but wasn't hurt and called 911. the sheriff said.

New Town is on an American Indian reservation called Fort Berthold. The suicide that followed occurred in Parshall, a reservation community about 20 miles from New Town. The man, in his 20s. killed himself with a knife in front of a deputy and a highway patrolman, Halvorson said.

Authorities declined to identify the "person of interest," but did say he was an enrolled tribal member. Neither Johnson nor her grandchildren were members, Halvorson

The FBI is leading the investigation into the deaths because the federal government has jurisdiction over crimes on reservations. FBI spokesman Kyle Loven declined to release details, citing the ongoing investigation.

He said late Monday that the name of the man who killed himself and what role — if any — he played in the deaths would not be released until authorities pieced together what happened.

Both Halvorson and the FBI said they didn't think there was any danger to the public, but New Town, a community of fewer than 2,000 residents, remained on edge Monday. Slayings are relatively rare in North Dakota, which is home to fewer than 700,000 people. FBI statistics show that in 2011, only 24 murders and non-negligent manslaughters

Megan Hale, 22, lives across the street from the Johnsons' home. She said that the youngsters seemed to have moved in with Martha and Harley Johnson recently. She never saw the children's mother, whom authorities declined to identify.

Hale knew Martha Johnson as a friendly neighbor.

"She was a nice lady. She was always out in the yard working," she said. "It's very sad. It's unreal."

School

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pliance with SB 183, which defines sexting" as a Class One misdemeanor. In addition, the policy protects students' privacy in regards to some students posting images of teachers and classmates on Facebook pages without consent.

'There are some nasty things going on with the use of cell phones," said YSD superintendent Dr. Joe Gertsema. "This will be an evolving policy and gives some additional guidance to administrators in the district."

Gertsema added that phones and other devices can be used in a positive way. For instance, some teachers use them to have instant surveys or informal exams in the classroom.

The school board also made changes to the textbook loaning policy. The change puts the district in line with SB 186 which now includes both digital and print textbooks but does not yet include any digital hardware as part of the law.

The board heard a report from Lt. Mike Burgeson of the Yankton Police Department about joint programs between the district and police, including the D.A.R.E. program, and a potential school resource officer program in the future.

"We want to create an effective learning environment with the safety and security of students and teachers in mind," he said. "There is mutual respect and cooperation between the police department and the school district.

Additional agenda items in-

- Authorizing the business manager, Jason Bietz, to define the scope of work and advertise proposals from energy performance con-
- Accepting a proposal from Discovery Benefits for COBRA administrative services for the YSD employee medical and prescription drug benefit plan
- Members heard a report from Mount Marty College professor Nick Shudak on the new Master of Education program

At the end of the meeting, officials met in executive session to discuss negotiations and a personnel

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Karaoke with Papa Ray 9pm-1am

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> Saturday No Band

Regular Menu 5:30-8:00 Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm Sunday at 6:30pm

Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30 Chislic Served Last

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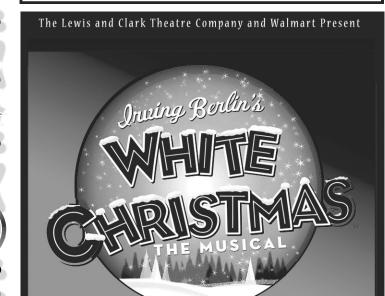
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Thursday & Friday \$16 Pays \$50, \$7 X-tra Packet Saturday

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