

Accused Killer Was In Mental Hospital

HOUSTON (AP) — The man accused of shooting and killing a suburban Houston officer has a history of mental illness and once lived in a homeless shelter, authorities said Monday.

Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Darren Goforth was ambushed and shot 15 times, Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson said in a court hearing for Shannon J. Miles, who is charged with capital murder.

Miles, a 30-year-old Houston resident who said little in court, is being held without bond. His criminal history dates back to 2005 and includes an arrest in Austin in 2012 that led to Miles being sent to a state mental hospital for several months.

Anderson would not comment on a motive, saying investigators were still trying to figure that out. When asked if it might be connected to heightened tensions around the country between law enforcement and civilians, Anderson said, "I have no idea whether it does or not." This weekend, Sheriff Ron Hickman said the attack was "clearly unprovoked," that authorities believe the 47-year-old deputy was targeted because he was in uniform and there is no evidence Goforth knew Miles.

Anthony Osso, one of Miles' two court-appointed attorneys, told The Associated Press that his client intends to plead not guilty. "He had indicated to the investigating officers that he was not involved in the case," Osso said in a telephone interview.

Court Files Charges Against Journalists

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — A Turkish court charged two Vice News journalists and their assistant on Monday with "aiding a terrorist organization" and ordered them arrested pending trial. Their employer has called the charges "baseless and alarmingly false."

Two British journalists, correspondent Jake Hanrahan and cameraman Philip Pendlebury, and their Turkey-based assistant were detained on Thursday while reporting from Diyarbakir, the main city in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast, where renewed fighting between security forces and Kurdish rebels has killed scores of people.

A court official said the court in Diyarbakir ordered the three arrested on Monday. It wasn't immediately clear which organization the journalists are accused of aiding.

It is not uncommon for journalists to be taken into custody while reporting from Turkey's mostly Kurdish regions and several Kurdish journalists have been jailed for alleged links to the Kurdish rebels. While foreigners, including some journalists, were arrested and prosecuted in the 1990s on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, such trials had become rare in recent years.

Vice News, a New York-based news organization that produces documentaries, breaking news reports and investigative pieces, issued a statement criticizing the decision to arrest the journalists.

Grenade Explodes Outside Parliament

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — As lawmakers took up a measure to give greater powers to separatists in eastern Ukraine, nationalist protesters clashed with police outside parliament on Monday, and the Interior Ministry said one officer was killed in a grenade blast and more than 100 were wounded.

It was the worst violence in the capital since the government took power in February 2014.

The decentralization of power was a condition demanded by Russia for a truce signed in Minsk in February aimed at ending the fighting between Ukrainian government troops and Russia-backed separatists that has left more than 6,800 dead since April 2014.

But Ukrainian nationalists strongly oppose changing the constitution, saying that would threaten the country's sovereignty and independence.

In a televised address, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko called decentralization "a difficult but a logical step toward peace," and insisted that it would not grant autonomy to the rebels in Donetsk and Luhansk.

Migrant Influx Challenges Security

BRUSSELS (AP) — French and German leaders reminded other European countries Monday of their shared responsibility toward refugees, as one official blamed harsh government policy for the deaths of dozens of migrants crammed into a truck.

An emergency meeting was called for Sept. 14 on the migrant crisis in which more than 300,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean this year — often those fleeing Syria, Eritrea, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hundreds have drowned in capsized boats, and 71 people were found locked in the back of a truck on the Budapest-Vienna highway.

"Europe as a whole must move and its states must share the responsibility for refugees seeking asylum," said Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, whose country is expected to see 800,000 asylum applications this year.

"Universal civil rights so far have been closely linked with Europe and its history — it was one of the founding motives of the European Union," she said. "If Europe fails on the question of refugees, this close connection with universal civil rights ... will be destroyed and it won't be the Europe we want."

Taliban Publish Leader's Biography

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Defying warnings from Washington and the fury of Afghanistan's government, Pakistani authorities are turning a blind eye to a meeting of hundreds of Taliban supporters in a city near the Afghan border aimed at resolving a dispute over the group's leadership following the death of figurehead Mullah Mohammad Omar.

The gathering in the Pakistani city of Quetta, where the Taliban's leadership has been largely based since they were pushed from power by a U.S.-led invasion in 2001, has drawn some 1,000 Taliban adherents who have openly descended on the city for a "unity shura," a meeting intended to resolve the leadership crisis and reunite the group, whose divisions have been publicly aired since Mullah Omar's death was revealed in late July.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has accused Pakistan of harboring groups that are waging war on his country. His deputy spokesman, Zafar Hashemi told The Associated Press that Pakistan was failing to take action against "those groups holding gatherings in public and declaring war against the Afghan people," a reference to the Taliban meetings in Quetta.

The Taliban's struggle to overthrow the Kabul government is nearing its 14th year. Thousands of U.S. and NATO soldiers, along with many more thousands of Afghan civilians, troops and police have been killed in the fighting, which has intensified following the drawdown last year of most foreign combat troops. The Taliban are clearly testing the Afghan forces as they take on the insurgency alone, though their fighters have made little significant progress on the battlefield.

Alaska

Obama Depicts Stark Future Without Climate Action

BY JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Submerged countries, abandoned cities and floods of refugees await the world barring urgent action on climate change, President Barack Obama warned Monday, painting a doomsday scenario as he opened a historic visit to Alaska.

In a bid to further his environmental legacy, Obama brought the power of the presidential pulpit to Anchorage and called on other nations to take swift action as negotiations for a global climate treaty near a close. In a speech to an Arctic climate summit, Obama sought to set the tone for a three-day tour of Alaska that will put the state's liquefying glaciers and sinking villages on graphic display.

"On this issue — of all issues — there is such a thing as being too late," Obama said. "And that moment is almost upon us."

During his tour of Alaska, Obama planned to hike a glacier, converse with fishermen and tape a reality TV show with survivalist Bear Grylls — all part of a highly orchestrated White House campaign to illustrate how climate change has damaged Alaska's stunning landscape. The goal at each stop is to create powerful visuals that show real-world effects of climate change and drive home Obama's message that the crisis is already occurring.

Evoking ominous consequences, Obama said that climate change left unchecked would soon trigger global conflict and "condemn our children to a planet beyond their capacity to repair." In the Arctic, which is warming faster than any other corner of the globe, Obama said melting permafrost and disintegrating sea ice risk floods, fires and unimaginable economic damage.

"It's already changing the way Alaskans live," Obama said.

Obama has two audiences in mind as he traverses Alaska this week: Alaskans, who are hungry for more energy



Obama

development to boost the state's sagging oil revenues, and the broader public, whose focus Obama hopes to concentrate on the need for drastic action to combat global warming, including a climate treaty that he hopes will help solidify his environmental legacy.

Whether Obama can successfully navigate those competing interests — energy and the environment — remained the prevailing question of his trip.

The president has struggled to explain how his dire warnings and call to action to cut greenhouse gases square with other steps he's taken or allowed to expand energy production, including oil and gas. Environmental groups took particular offense at the administration's move to allow expanded drilling off Alaska's northwest coast — just a few weeks before Obama arrived in Alaska to preach on climate change.

Even Alaska Natives, who have echoed Obama's warnings, have urged him to allow more oil and gas to be sucked out of Alaska's soil and waters. Alaska faces a roughly \$3.5 billion deficit this year as a result of falling oil prices, forcing state budget cuts that have wreaked havoc on rural services.

"History has shown us that the responsible energy development which is the lifeblood of our economy can exist in tandem with, and significantly enhance, our traditional way of life," leaders of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, which represents Inupiat Eskimo shareholders, wrote Monday in a letter to Obama.

Walking a fine line, Obama sought to portray the U.S. as doing its part even as it develops energy resources it will need during the longer-term transition to cleaner, renewable fuels. He ticked through a list of steps he's taken to cut greenhouse gas emissions and said

America is doing its part.

"We're proving that there doesn't have to be a conflict between a sound environment and strong economic goals," he said.

Obama's first stop after arriving in Anchorage was a listening session with Alaska Natives, who relayed concerns about crippling energy costs and uncertainty about hunting and fishing rights. Highlighting what he described as progress for Alaska Natives on his watch, Obama said he hoped to be setting a new pattern of cooperation that would extend beyond his presidency.

His tour continues Tuesday with a boat tour Kenai Fjords National Park and a hike to Exit Glacier, a sprawling expanse of ice that is retreating amid warming temperatures. In southwest Alaska on Wednesday, Obama will meet with fishermen locked in conflict with miners over plans to build a massive gold and copper mine in Bristol Bay, home to the world's largest salmon fishery.

Obama will close his trip by becoming the first sitting president to travel north of the Arctic Circle. In Kotzebue — population 3,153 — Obama planned to address the plight of Alaska Natives, who face dire economic conditions amid some of the worst effects of global warming.

"They don't get a lot of presidents in Kotzebue," quipped Alaska Gov. Bill Walker, who joined Obama for the flight to Anchorage.

The White House unveiled a new National Park Service map bearing the name Denali on the former Mount McKinley. Before departing Washington, Obama announced that North America's tallest mountain was being renamed using its traditional Athabaskan name. The move drew applause from Alaska's leaders and harsh condemnations from Ohio politicians angry that the name of its native son, former President William McKinley, will be erased from the famed peak.

Idea

From Page 1

employee recruitment study in order to gauge what's most important when looking to move to another state for a job or for taking a job in another community," Billie said. "The top three most mentioned factors in the survey were good community, size of city and quality of schools. ... What do the top three responses all have in common? They all revolve around safety and opportunities for their family and their children."

Billie said the education system in the state is in need of a serious overhaul.

"We submit to you that our education in South Dakota is failing us and our children," he said. "It is not failing us in the sense of the services that we provide our children, but more so what we do not provide."

The three main items of the Suttons' presentation included providing early childhood education in Yankton regardless of financial situation, addition of a JAG (Jobs For America's Graduates) program and tuition reimbursement for students who choose to stay in the state.

While the presentation highlighted the main objectives of the idea, there are other components including a children's museum, expansion of the Lewis & Clark Lake visitor's center, park upgrades and family-friendly signage.

Billie said the Onward Yankton concept may even be expanding to the Suttons' hometown.

"We love the innovative approach that your com-

munity has taken to improve itself," he said. "We love the idea so much that we're exploring doing the same thing for Burke."

A CLIMATE FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Jacob Fokken made a pitch centered around creating a community more suited on attracting and keeping entrepreneurs in the city itself.

Fokken said a key to his proposal is utilizing downtown Yankton.

"All roads lead downtown — whether you're coming from Vermillion, or coming from the lake or coming down (Highway) 81 — everything intersects downtown in this beautiful location on the river where you have the bridge and existing infrastructure that's historical," Fokken said. "You go to any community that's a growing environment and you're going to find people in a downtown area where they can meet with each other and they can find their wants and needs. Downtown is an obvious choice for Yankton."

Fokken's proposals included reaching out to businesses already in downtown and encouraging them to help other startups. He also pitched the idea of helping connect Mount Marty College (MMC) with the city by creating a business program through the school that would open and maintain a business in the downtown area along with working alongside high school students in the area.

ONWARD AND UPWARD

Dave Hosmer helped present a submission from local businessman Gregg Kopetsky that would include building a signature tower in downtown Yankton.

Hosmer said the inspira-

tional power of such a tower is one of the main reasons to pursue the idea.

"Towers are structures that are as old as our memories," Hosmer said. "Think of Three Pagodas, Pisa, Eiffel, Big Ben. Many around the world stand today as a reminder of our desires, our hopes, our dreams. We think of freedom. We think of promise."

The plan would call for a six-story structure in the downtown area surrounded by a "village" of stores and other entities such as a possible city library.

The tower itself would potentially support offices, condominiums and hotel space.

MORE STUDENTS

MMC President Marcus Long and Chief Advancement Officer Barb Rezac made a pitch to bring more students to the campus of MMC.

Long said they have some big goals for bringing in new students.

"We at Mount Marty ... had several conversations about what our role should be with this process, and I think we came up with a good one — partnering with the entire community of Yankton to attract 50 percent more college students for our community and providing meaningful career opportunities to get them to stay," Long said.

The proposal included a number of program expansions and additions as well as facility upgrades and an addition of a fieldhouse on campus.

REBUILDING THE VILLAGE

Ben Howland, a native of Yankton who's now an architect in Philadelphia, proposed rebuilding a village identity for the City of Yankton.

"What I think village identity is, is community — it's people, it's assembly," Howland said. "From that comes pride, relationships, more knowledge and news about what's going on in the community."

In an extensive plan, Howland pitched creating an agriculture barrier around the city to encourage inward growth, developing to the west of Yankton, building a stadium and pleasure boat harbor downtown, a trail connecting the city to the lake area and emphasizing historic landmarks in town.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL

Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce Director Carmen Schramm presented an idea to establish a four-season entertainment venue in the Chalkstone Hill area.

Schramm proposed a music venue akin to the Divots Event Center in Norfolk, Nebraska, along with boat access, trails, a hotel with an indoor water park and other amusements that would be developed as infrastructure.

WHAT'S NEXT

Ness said the presentations are a positive reflection on the community.

"It really makes you feel good, not only about the future, not only of (Yankton) but our state when you have young people like this who are making Yankton and our part of the world a better place," he said.

Ness said the committee will meet today (Tuesday) to discuss the ideas and come to a conclusion on a winner within the next few weeks.

Follow @RobNielsenPandD on Twitter.

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