

Federal agency lost track of 1,488 migrant children

By GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press

Twice in less than a year, the federal government has lost track of nearly 1,500 migrant children after placing them in the homes of sponsors across the country, federal officials have acknowledged.

The Health and Human Services Department recently told Senate staffers that case managers could not find 1,488 children after they made follow-up calls to check on their safety from April through June. That number represents about 13 percent of all unaccompanied children the administration moved out of shelters and foster homes during that time.

The agency first disclosed that it had lost track of 1,475 children late last year, as it came under fire at a Senate hearing in April. Lawmakers had asked HHS officials how they had strengthened child protection policies since it came to light that the agency previously had rolled back safeguards meant to keep Central American children from ending up in the hands of human traffickers.

"The fact that HHS, which placed these unaccompanied minors with sponsors, doesn't know the whereabouts of nearly 1,500 of them is very troubling," Republican Sen. Rob



AP Photo/Brynn Anderson
Immigrant children walk in a line June 20 outside a temporary shelter in Homestead, Fla.

Portman of Ohio, the panel's chair, said Wednesday. "Many of these kids are vulnerable to trafficking and abuse, and to not take responsibility for their safety is unacceptable."

HHS spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley disputed the notion that the children were "lost."

"Their sponsors, who are usually parents or family members and in all

cases have been vetted for criminality and ability to provide for them, simply did not respond or could not be reached when this voluntary call was made," she said in a statement.

Since October 2014, the federal government has placed more than 150,000 unaccompanied minors with parents or other adult sponsors who are expected to care for the children

and help them attend school while they seek legal status in immigration court.

On Tuesday, members of a Senate subcommittee introduced bipartisan legislation aimed at requiring the agency to take responsibility for the care of migrant children, even when they are no longer in its custody.

An Associated Press investigation found in 2016 that more than two dozen unaccompanied children had been sent to homes where they were sexually assaulted, starved or forced to work for little or no pay. At the time, many adult sponsors didn't undergo thorough background checks, government officials rarely visited homes and in some cases had no idea that sponsors had taken in several unrelated children, a possible sign of human trafficking.

Since then, HHS has boosted outreach to at-risk children deemed to need extra protection, and last year offered post-placement services to about one-third of unaccompanied minors, according to the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

But advocates say it is hard to know how many minors may be in dangerous conditions, in part because some disappear before social workers can follow up with them and

never show up in court.

From April to June, HHS called 11,254 children the agency had placed with sponsors, and found 25 of the children had run away, and 1,488 could not be located, according to the data provided to the subcommittee.

Portman began investigating after a case in his home state of Ohio in which eight Guatemalan teens were placed with human traffickers and forced to work on egg farms under threats of death. Six people have been convicted and sentenced to federal prison for their participation in the trafficking scheme that began in 2013.

The legislation comes as the Trump administration faces litigation over its family separation policy at the U.S.-Mexican border, which while it was in effect sent hundreds more children into the HHS system of shelters and foster care. Some of those children since have been reunited with their families, while others have been placed with sponsors.

Oakley did not respond to questions regarding whether any of the children who the agency lost track of had been separated from their families before they were sent to live with sponsors.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Officials: 3 killed in shooting at Maryland Rite Aid center

ABERDEEN, Md. — Three people were killed this morning in a shooting at a Rite Aid distribution center in northeast Maryland, officials said.

A suspect was taken into custody and was in critical condition, Harford County Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler told a news conference.

It appears there was only one weapon, a handgun, that was used and there were no shots fired by responding law enforcement officers, Gahler said.

Gahler said the call about shots fired came in from the Rite Aid distribution center at 9:06 a.m. and deputies and other officers were on the scene in just over five minutes.

The attack came nearly three months after a man armed with a shotgun attacked a newspaper office in Annapolis, Maryland, killing five staff members. Authorities accused Jarrod W. Ramos of attacking The Capital Gazette because of a longstanding grudge against the paper.

The FBI described the Aberdeen incident as an "active shooter situation" and said its Baltimore field office was assisting.

In a tweet, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said his office is monitoring the situation in Aberdeen and that the state stands ready to offer any support.

Susan Henderson, spokesman for the drugstore chain Rite Aid, said the shooting happened on the campus of a company distribution center in Aberdeen. She described it as a support facility adjacent to a larger building.

Police kill gunman who shot 4 in Pennsylvania court lobby

A gunman opened fire outside a crowded Pennsylvania courtroom Wednesday after

noon, shooting at police and others before an officer fired multiple shots at him, killing him.

Fayette County District Attorney Richard Bower said Wednesday evening that a German Township police officer shot and killed the gunman after he entered the lobby in Mason-town with a handgun drawn and opened fire, injuring four people. Bower declined to name the gunman, saying only that he was due in court on charges related to a recent domestic violence incident.

Bower said Masontown police Sgt. R. Scott Miller first encountered the gunman and was injured when he exchanged gunfire with the shooter. When Miller took cover, Bower said the gunman proceeded to fire shots injuring two men and one woman.

"In this case, as is so often the case, the German Township police officer ran toward the danger, not away. He protected over 30 to 40 people from injury or death," Bower said.

"These police officers and these emergency management people risk their lives every day ... and today they all were a shining light to our community," he added.

Bower declined to say whether any of the civilian victims were related to the domestic violence allegations. He said the gunman was facing charges of strangulation, aggravated assault, terroristic threats and simple assault. He said there was a protection of abuse order against the gunman in the strangulation case.

Gunman upset by divorce is found dead after manhunt

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP, Pa. — A Pennsylvania man who was apparently upset that his ex-wife had been awarded their home in their divorce was found dead early today, several hours after he shot at her and later killed his own parents.

Bruce Rogal, 59, died after a manhunt and a police chase that ended when he crashed his car at the Glenmoore home he had shared with his wife, Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan said.

State police said at least one trooper shot at Rogal following the crash, but it's not clear if he returned fire. A gun was found in his car, authorities said, but a cause of death hasn't been determined.

No troopers were injured, authorities said. Rogal had received an order finalizing the divorce on Wednesday and "that appears to be what set him off," Hogan said.

Rogal first went to the house where his ex-wife was staying, shot at her and missed. He then drove to a retirement center in East Goshen where he shot and killed his parents, William and Nancy Rogal, who were both in their late 80s.

Rogal then drove off, and police soon sent out an alert about the car he was driving. State police spotted the vehicle driving past the agency's Embreeville Barracks shortly before 1 a.m. Thursday, and a chase ensued that also involved SWAT team members.

Man opens fire at his Wisconsin office, 3 seriously hurt

MIDDLETON, Wis. — A heavily armed man opened fire on his co-workers at a Wisconsin software company Wednesday, seriously wounding three people before being fatally shot by police as employees ran from the building or hid inside, according to investigators.

Middleton Police Chief Chuck Foulke said officers shot the man within eight minutes of receiving calls about an active shooter at WTS Paradigm. Foulke said the man was armed with a semi-automatic pistol and extra ammunition, and fired at officers before he was shot.

"I think a lot less people were injured or killed because police officers went in and neutralized the shooter," Foulke said.

The police chief said the motivation behind the attack was unclear and investigators didn't yet know whether the gunman targeted his victims. He didn't release the suspect's name but said he was an employee of WTS Paradigm and lived in nearby Madison.

Foulke said the investigation was ongoing but noted: "We have reason to believe the suspect was heavily armed with a lot of extra ammunition, a lot of extra magazines."

Floodwaters inundate lake at NC power plant, raising alarm

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Duke Energy activated a high-level emergency alert at a retired coal-fired power plant in North Carolina as floodwaters from the nearby Cape Fear River overtopped an earthen dike at the facility and inundated a large lake.

Duke spokeswoman Paige Sheehan said today that the dam containing Sutton Lake appears stable and they are monitoring the situation with helicopters and drones to react to what she called "an evolving situation." Company employees notified state regulators overnight that the plant was at the highest level of alert under its emergency action plan.

The 1,100-acre reservoir is a former cooling pond at the L.V. Sutton Power Station in Wilmington and is adjacent to three large coal-ash dumps. The coal-fired plant was retired in 2013 and replaced with a new generating station that runs off natural gas.

A landfill that was under construction at the site ruptured over the weekend, spilling enough material to fill 180 dump trucks. Coal ash contains such toxic heavy metals as arsenic and mercury.

Sheehan said the company did not believe any coal ash is at risk of spilling from the site amid the current flooding, as work continues to clean up the earlier spill. The site has received more than 30 inches of rainfall as a result of former Hurricane Florence, with the Cape Fear River expected to crest on Saturday.

Aerial photographs show widespread devastation to farms and industrial sites across wide swaths of eastern North Carolina, with tell-tale trails of rainbow-colored sheen indicating potential contamination visible on top of the black floodwaters.

TV SCHEDULE

Evening listings THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING												SEPTEMBER 20	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	Grey's Anatomy "All of Me"		Station 19 "Not Your Hero"		With Murder "Nobody Else Is Dying"		KATU News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Grey's Anatomy "All of Me"		Station 19 "Not Your Hero"		With Murder "Nobody Else Is Dying"		KOMO 4 News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel
4	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	The Good Place	The Good Place	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Remember Me"		Law&Order: SVU "Remember Me Too"		KING 5 News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show
5	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight (N)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Big Brother (N)		S.W.A.T. "Hoax"		News (N)	(3:5) Colbert
6	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Big Brother (N)		S.W.A.T. "Hoax"		KIRO News (N)	(3:5) Colbert
7	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	The Good Place	The Good Place	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Remember Me"		Law&Order: SVU "Remember Me Too"		News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show
8	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Supernatural "Beat the Devil"		The Originals "Til the Day I Die"		News (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
9	KOPB	(10) Outside	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Oregon Art Beat	Outdoor Idaho	Midsomer M.	(50) Midsomer Murders		(40) The Doctor Blake	Mysteries "Family Portrait"	
10	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	The Gifted "eXtraction"		The Gifted "X-roads"		10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV
11	KPDV	(12) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Prime News (N)		Prime News (N)		Big Bang Theory	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game
12	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Gifted "eXtraction"		The Gifted "X-roads"		Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons
13	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Last O.G.	The Joker's Wild	Conan	
14	KZJO	(22) Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
15	ESPN	(29) (4:30) NCAA Football	Tulsa at Temple (L)		SportsCenter	The day's news in the world of sports. (N)		SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	SportsCenter (N)	
16	ESPN2	(30) NBA: The Jump (N)		Drone Racing League (N)		Drone Racing League (N)		Nación ESPN (N)		Marty & McGee (N)		First Take	
17	NICK	(31) LoudH./ Loud H.	TMNT/(45) TMNT	Henry Danger "The Danger Begins" 2/2		I Am Frankie (N)	SpongeBob	** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (14, Act/Com)	Alan Ritchson, Johnny Knoxville,	William Fichtner.	(35) Friends 1/2		
18	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Stuck in Middle	Stuck in Middle
19	FAM	(34) (5:00) Bruce Almighty (03) Jim Carrey.		** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (94)		Courteney Cox, Sean Young, Jim Carrey.		** Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (95)	Jan McNeice, Jim Carrey.			The 700 Club	
20	FMC	(35) (5:00) Let's Be Cops (14) Jake Johnson.		(55) **** Let's Be Cops (14) Jake Johnson.		(50) FXM Presents		** The Watch (2012, Comedy)	Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller.	(55) FXM Presents		The Watch (2012, Comedy)	Ben Stiller.
21	LIFE	(36) Grey's "We Gotta Get Out of This Place"		Grey's Anatomy "Do You Know?"		** The Help (2011, Drama)	Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer, Emma Stone.					(05) YOU	
22	ROOT	(38) (4:00) H.S. Football		H.S. Football Rainier Beach vs. Eastside Catholic (L)						[Press Pass (N)]	[Press Pass	MLS Soccer Columbus vs Portland	
23	F51	(39) (5:00) NHRA Drag Racing Dodge Nationals				MLB Whiparound (L)		CFB: Inside Slant	[Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.]			Speak for Yourself	
24	SPIKE	(43) Mom	Mom	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	** Four Brothers (2005, Action)	Tyrese Gibson, André Benjamin, Mark Wahlberg.			Training Day (01)	
25	COI	(44) (1:15) South Park	(50) South Park "Chef Goes Nanners"	(25) South Park		South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	The Daily Show (N)	The Office
26	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Mountain Men "Edge of the Earth"		Mountain Men "Altitude"		Mountain Men (N)		(05) A. Pickers "Cowzilla in Colorado"	(05) Amer. Pickers "A Colonel of Truth"		
27	A&E	(46) Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol (N)	Live PD: Patrol (N)	Live PD: Patrol (N)	Live PD: Patrol (N)	Live PD: Patrol (N)	Live PD: Patrol (N)	Nightwatch Nat.	The Sober Truth
28	TLC	(47) (5:00) 90 Day Fiancé "Trust or Lie"		Unexpected "It's All About Laura Now"		Unexpected "Step Up and Be a Dad"		Unexpected "When the Water Breaks"		Unexpected "Baby Shower Fallout"		Unexpected "It's All About Laura Now"	
29	DISC	(48) Naked and Afraid "The Lost World"		Naked and Afraid "Eye of the Storm"		Naked and Afraid "Jungle Cruise" (N)						Naked "Thieves in the Night"	
30	NGEO	(49) Wild Spaces	Asheville (P) (N)	Ameri. Parks "Great Smoky Mountains"		Life Below Zero "Cold Comfort"		Life Below Zero "Fall's Freeze" (N)		Life Below Zero "Give Me Shelter"		Life Below Zero "Cold Comfort"	
31	TNT	(50) NCIS: New Orleans "Darkest Hour"		NCIS: New Orleans "Billy and the Kid"		** Tammy (2014, Comedy)	Susan Sarandon, Sarah Baker, Melissa McCarthy.			** St. Vincent (2014, Comedy)	Melissa McCarthy, Naomi Watts, Bill Murray.		
32	AMC	(51) (5:30) ** Under Siege (1992, Action)	Tommy Lee Jones, Gary Busey, Steven Seagal.			NCIS "Dark Secrets"		NCIS "Family Ties"		NCIS "Keep Your Friends Close"		Modern Family	Modern Family
33	USA	(52) NCIS "Philly"		NCIS "Shell Game"		Chopped "Under the Cuban Sun"		Bite Club (N)		Beat Flay (N)	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay
34	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Chopped: Impossible, Part 3"		Chopped				House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters
35	HGTV	(54) Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters
36	FX	(56) (4:00) X-Men: Apocalypse		**** Straight Outta Compton (2015, True Story)	Forey Hawkins, Jason Mitchell.	O'Shea Jackson Jr.		Snowfall "Education" (N)		Snowfall "Education" (N)		StuFest "Education"	
37	CNN	(57) Cuomo Prime Time		Cuomo Prime Time (L)		Anderson Cooper 360		Cuomo Prime Time		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Newsroom	
38	FNC	(58) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
39	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Leno Garage "Going the Distance" (N)		Jay Leno's Garage "Hand Made"		Jay Leno's Garage "Second Chances"		Jay Leno's Garage "Going the Distance"		Paid Program	Paid Program
40	BRVA	(63) Shaws of Sunset "OMGG"		Shaws of Sunset "Bridal Bath Wrath"		Shaws "Emeralds Aren't Forever"		Shaws of Sunset (N)		Shaws of Sunset		Watch What (N)	Shaws of Sunset
41	TCM	(64) (5:00) Claudine (74) Diahann Carroll.		** Sparkle (1976, Drama)	Philip M. Thomas, Lonette McKee, Irene Cara.	Losing Ground (1982, Comedy)	Bill Gunn, Gary Bolling.	(45) ** Cleopatra Jones (73) Tamara Dobson.					
42	SYFY	(65) Movie	* Lake Placid 2 (2007, Horror)	Sam McMurray, Sarah Laffleur, Cloris Leachman.		** Lake Placid (1999, Action)	Bridget Fonda, Bill Pullman.	(25) *** Resident Evil: Apocalypse (04) Sienna Guillory, Milla Jovovich.					
43	RFD	(62) SF Machinery	Small Town	Rural America "Live" "AARP"		Steve Lantvit		Rural Eve. News	Grown	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library