

One escaped killer fatally shot in woods, other still on the run

MALONE, N.Y. (AP) — One of two convicted murderers who staged a brazen escape from an upstate maximum-security prison three weeks ago was shot and killed by a border patrol agent in a wooded area 30 miles from the prison on Friday, and the other was on the run, authorities said.

Authorities tracked down and killed Richard Matt after a person towing a camper reported that there was a bullet hole through the back of it, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and state police said. David Sweat hasn't been spotted, Cuomo said.

The shooting of the camper led officers to a cabin in Malone, where they discovered the smell of gunpowder, said Joseph D'Amico, superintendent of the New York State Police. There were indications someone had recently been there and fled out the back door, he said.

While searching the property, officers heard coughs and detected movement, and tactical teams came upon Matt in the woods.

"They verbally challenged him, told him to put up his hands. And at that time, he was shot when he didn't comply," D'Amico said.

A 20-gauge shotgun was found on Matt, who didn't fire the weapon, D'Amico said. Matt was shot by a border patrol agent from Vermont, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer said.

It was unclear if Matt and Sweat were together at the time of the shooting, authorities said. The pair escaped from the Clinton Correctional Facility together early June 6. Cuomo called them "dangerous, dangerous men."

Police blocked off roads

in the area as officers hunted for the sweat on Friday. The search area for him was centered on Titusville Mountain State Forest in Malone and spanned 22 square miles, down from 75 square miles earlier this week, authorities said.

Authorities have followed up on more than 2,400 leads, Cuomo said.

Mitch Johnson said one of his best friends checked on his hunting cabin in Malone on Friday afternoon and noticed a liquor bottle that hadn't been there the day before. Johnson said his friend, correction officer Bob Willett, told him he immediately alerted police, about an hour before Matt was fatally shot.

Authorities sent a team to the camp area, and Willett and police later heard a gunshot in the woods, Johnson said.

Officers then flooded the woods, and then Willett heard more shots, Johnson said.

"He heard: 'Pop pop pop pop pop pop,'" Johnson said.

State police Maj. Charles Guess said earlier Friday that the search area had shifted slightly northwest to Malone after investigators found evidence left behind by the escapees. Items were found Thursday at a cabin and Friday morning in a field, both in Malone, he said.

D'Amico cited numerous instances of break-ins and evidence left behind by the inmates in the area in the last week. On Wednesday, a screen was discovered cut out of a cabin and a window was broken into. On Friday morning, search teams found a camp, where candy wrappers and other items were seized, and saw evidence that someone had laid down there.

MARRIAGE: Louisiana only state to not issue licenses as of Friday

Continued from 1A

long fought against same-sex marriage, said states can fight the ruling, as they have decisions allowing slavery or abortion, and predicted that it would spark a national backlash from Christian conservatives.

"They've just disregarded everything that precedent holds, and they've destroyed the foundation of our country which is family," Moore said.

In rural Alabama, Pike County Probate Judge Wes Allen said he would stop issuing all marriage licenses to avoid having to give them to gay couples. Allen said Alabama law gives judges the option of granting licenses, and "I have chosen not to perform that function."

Governors in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas also railed against the ruling. And clerks in some of the affected states refused to issue licenses, citing a three-week grace period allowed by the Supreme Court or forms now out of date that specify "bride" and "groom."

But by Friday afternoon, couples had received licenses in all but one of the 14 states, according to the Human Rights Campaign. In Louisiana, where Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal is running for the White House as a conservative Christian, same-sex couples were turned away.

"It was kind of bitter-sweet," said Earl Benjamin, who waited with his partner for hours for a license and was finally told that the state's ban on same-sex marriage remained intact — for now.

In Texas, many counties held off on issuing same-sex marriage licenses until receiving guidance from Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton, who scolded the Supreme Court but left counties in limbo for hours.

Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood said Friday that same-sex marriages cannot take place immediately. But amid the confusion over when weddings should legally begin, three couples

received their marriage licenses in Hattiesburg, and took their vows on the courthouse steps.

Other clerks scrambled to issue licenses as gay couples rushed to their offices.

In Arkansas, Pulaski County Clerk Larry Crane held a hand to his heart after the Supreme Court's ruling.

"It is a special day," he said, choking up. "I'm honored to be a part of it."

Jessica Dent and Carolee Taylor got married a few blocks from the courthouse in Montgomery, Alabama.

"Never thought it would happen in our lifetime," said Taylor.

After their ceremony, they returned to the courthouse to file their license, making them officially married in the conservative state that had fought back against efforts to legalize gay marriage. After a federal judge ruled earlier this year that the state's gay marriage ban was unconstitutional, about 500 same-sex couples were married before the Alabama Supreme Court directly ordered probate judges to stop issuing the licenses.

"We waited so long. When it came through, I can't think of a better way to celebrate, the decision and our love," said Dent, walking out of the courthouse holding a sign that said "All love is equal."

Some Southern politicians said they were concerned about the "religious freedom" of ministers, cake bakers and others who might be asked to participate in ceremonies.

In Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott issued a memo saying the government should not pressure people to violate their "sincerely held religious beliefs." He later clarified that he does not condone discrimination or authorize state agencies to deny benefits to same-sex couples.

Jindal also issued a statement vowing to never stop fighting for "religious liberty."

"Marriage between a man and a woman was established by God, and no earthly court can alter that," he wrote.

Obama sings and eulogizes victims of church massacre

By JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

CHARLESTON, S.C. — After a string of triumphs, President Barack Obama's eulogy for those killed in a South Carolina church massacre was supposed to bring an extraordinary week to a somber close.

But something changed. Between legislative and legal victories, Obama had spent hours privately grappling with the tragedy in this southern city, where nine people attending Bible study were killed in a racially motivated attack. Their deaths sparked vexing questions about racial divisions, gun violence and the way America grapples with its own difficult history.

At first, the president had planned to largely focus his remarks on remembering Rev. Clementa Pinckney, the slain pastor of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the eight other victims.

But that's not what happened. Maybe Obama was buoyed by a week that brought about the validation of his sweeping health care law, a win on trade and the Supreme Court's affirmation of gay marriage across the country. Maybe he was driven by the fearlessness he says he now feels as he heads down the final stretch of his presidency.

As Obama took the stage to address the crowd of more than 5,500 packed into a basketball arena, he did speak movingly about Pinckney, a state lawmaker and popular pastor. Then the president issued a challenge, calling on the nation to not shy away from the "uncomfortable truths" about the racial prejudice that plagues the country.

He revived his push for gun control legislation, despite staunch opposition



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

President Barack Obama pauses as he speaks during services honoring the life of Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Friday at the College of Charleston TD Arena in Charleston, S.C.

in Washington. He called for the Confederate battle flag to be removed from the grounds of South Carolina's statehouse, a move that would represent "one step in an honest accounting of America's history."

He taunted the alleged killer of the Charleston churchgoers. While the gunman wanted to incite fear and deepen divisions, Obama noted the unity Charleston has shown in the past week and said: "God works in mysterious ways. God had different ideas."

Then Obama sang.

As Obama neared the close of his 40-minute remarks, he unexpectedly sang out the opening words of the hymn "Amazing Grace." The crowd

of 5,500 leapt to its feet to join the president in song.

It was a stirring emotional moment for a president who can often seem detached and distant.

The president has been in this position before, called upon to ease the pain of a community grieving after gun violence. Before Charleston, there were Newtown, Conn., Tucson, Ariz., Fort Hood, Texas, Aurora, Colo., Washington.

After each incident, the nation's eyes are sporadically open, Obama said. He challenged the nation to keep itself from slipping back "into a comfortable silence," saying that doing so would be "a betrayal of everything Rev. Pinckney stood for."

Oil spill gushed like hose 'without a nozzle'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Firefighters investigating a reported petroleum stench at a California beach last month didn't take long to find a spill — oil was spreading across the sand and into the surf. Tracing the source, they found crude gushing from a bluff like a fire hose "without a nozzle," records show.

But critical time would elapse before the operator of a nearby pipeline confirmed that it had ruptured and spewed the oil. An employee at the scene for Plains All American Pipeline initially suggested to firefighters that the spill "was too big to be from their pipeline," according to the documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The description of what firefighters found May 19 at Refugio State Beach was detailed in records Santa Barbara County firefighters filed with state officials. It indicates that firefighters who arrived just before noon quickly recognized that "some sort of leak or spill had occurred."

A Plains company spokeswoman would not comment Thursday on why it took until later in the



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File

In this May 21, 2015 photo, a bird covered in oil flaps its wings at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif.

afternoon for its workers to confirm the line was cracked and spilling thousands of gallons of oil onto the sand and water west of Santa Barbara.

Plains is facing scrutiny from federal regulators and lawmakers over the spill, which washed up goo on beaches as far as 100 miles away. The failed pipeline released up to 101,000 gallons, and an estimated 21,000 gallons reached the water.

The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee opened an investigation Thursday and asked the company for detailed information on maintenance

of the line, including how it addressed corrosion. The panel also wants the company to explain what it did in the hours leading up to the break and how it reported the problem.

A key issue has been how long it took the Texas-based company to relay information on the break to the federal government. Internal planning documents stress the importance of notifying the government of a leak as quickly as possible.

Federal regulations require the company to notify the National Response Center, a clearinghouse for reports of hazardous-mate-

rial releases, "at the earliest practicable moment." State law requires immediate notification of a release or a threatened release.

Company employees at the scene did not confirm a leak until about 1:30 p.m., and it would be nearly 3 p.m. before the company would contact the response center. By then, the federal response led by the Coast Guard was underway.

The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is investigating the cause of the accident. The agency released preliminary findings earlier this month that the break occurred along a badly corroded section that had worn away to a fraction of an inch in thickness.

In a separate letter Thursday, the House committee asked the pipeline administration for an update of what it called long overdue pipeline safety rules. The panel said the California spill raised questions about the agency's oversight of pipeline safety and added that the agency had failed to complete 17 of 42 requirements Congress outlined in 2011 to help prevent spills.

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