

11-year-old's slaying spreads grief far beyond Navajo Nation

Associated Press

FARMINGTON, N.M. — She was a budding musician and talented artist, a girl whose death at the hands of a man who authorities say lured her into his van spread grief far beyond her home on the Navajo Nation.

More than 3,000 people turned out Friday for Ashlynn Mike's funeral in Farmington, New Mexico, weeping as images of the 11-year-old girl were displayed overhead and the sounds of her xylophone rang out in the auditorium. A headstone created for her grave read "our little angel in heaven."

The crowd far outnumbered the community of Lower Fruitland, where Ashlynn was raised with her father and siblings. Entire families, hugging each other and their children, sat before her small white coffin. Many wore yellow T-shirts. Navajo Nation Council Speaker LoRenzo Bates said yellow represents hope, strength and resilience, and it was one of her favorite colors.

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez called on the mourners to carry on the kindness Ashlynn showed the world.

"I cannot imagine the pain Ashlynn's loved ones feel right now," the governor said. "But even as we mourn her, we should celebrate her life and remember what a beautiful little girl she was, inside and out."

More than 200 miles away in Albuquerque, suspect Tom Begaye Jr. waived his right to a preliminary and detention hearing, and a judge ordered him to remain in custody on charges of murder and kidnapping. Public defender James Loonam was assigned to represent him and did not immediately respond to



Steve Lewis/The Daily Times via AP

A young member of the funeral procession expresses her feelings on the way to the burial site Friday in Lower Fruitland, N.M.

requests for comment.

Begaye, a 27-year-old Navajo who lived down the highway from Ashlynn's home, persuaded her and her 9-year-old brother, who had been playing near their bus stop after school, to climb into his van, an FBI agent's affidavit says. The boy told police that the man took them deep into the desert and then walked off with his sister, before returning alone.

Begaye told investigators he sexually assaulted the girl and struck her twice in the head with a crowbar, and that she was still moving when he left her, according to the affidavit.

Begaye has been cited multiple times by Navajo police since 2006 on suspicion of public intoxication, speeding, theft, disorderly conduct and not having a valid driver's license, tribal records say. Off the reservation, he had been cited for drug possession about three weeks ago.

The slaying has raised tough questions for residents and law enforcement on the country's largest American Indian reservation, which stretches for 27,000 square miles into New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. Eight hours passed between the family's initial missing-persons report and an Amber Alert that went out at 2:27 a.m. Tuesday, urging people around the region to be on the lookout.

Her body was found later that morning, south of Shiprock Pinnacle, just inside the border of the Navajo Nation in the north-west corner of New Mexico.

One of Ashlynn's brothers, Ryan Begay, told the audience at her funeral that he drove around the monolith for hours in the darkness, looking for his sister. He said he asked for an alert at 10:30 p.m. and grew more upset with each passing hour.

"I really wish that this alert went out a lot sooner,"

he said, prompting strenuous applause.

Ashlynn's younger brother told police that he tried to find his sister after the man left him in the desert. Then he ran for help and was spotted by a couple, Ella and Benny Yazzie, who were driving and took him to police. The boy was so distraught that he couldn't describe what happened with enough detail to focus the search, authorities said.

Navajo families extend far beyond bloodlines, through traditional clan systems that foster kinship among tribal members, and the law enforcement delays didn't prevent about a hundred community members from searching for Ashlynn, driving across the open desert long into the night.

On Friday, his father embraced the boy as the governor praised his bravery and said Ashlynn would have been proud.

More Republicans abandon Trump; he just shrugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Big-name GOP leaders piled on Friday against Donald Trump in an extraordinary show of Republican-vs.-Republican discontent over his winning the party's presidential nomination. Trump just shrugged it off, declaring they didn't really matter when compared to all the voters who turned out to vote for him in this year's primary elections.

Trump grudgingly agreed to meet next week with Paul Ryan, the Republican House speaker whose statement a day earlier — he said he was not ready to embrace Trump's nomination — set off the intraparty fireworks. Trump said he had "no idea" if they would patch things up and it wasn't all that important anyway.

"The thing that matters most are the millions of people that have come out to vote for me and give me a landslide victory in almost every state," Trump said moments after Ryan, the nation's highest-ranking Republican officeholder, announced their planned meeting.

Later in the day, two of Trump's vanquished GOP rivals, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, said they would not vote for him in November. That was a startling rejection by party leaders.

Trump said of Ryan's stance: "I figured, routinely, he would be behind me. The other day, he pulled a big surprise."

He said he was not surprised about Bush's stance and was tersely dismissive of Graham.

Of Bush, he said, "I will not say he's low-energy," reprising a jibe he used frequently during the primary campaign. He mocked Graham's poor primary showing, saying, "Like the voters who

rejected him, so will I!"

Ryan said his meeting with Trump would occur next Thursday and that Trump also would meet with other House GOP leaders. Discussions will center on "the kind of Republican principles and ideas that can win the support of the American people this November," Ryan said.

The unlikely back-and-forth came a day after Ryan injected new uncertainty into the turbulent presidential contest by refusing, for now, to endorse Trump. Aides said that, far from seeking to help an anti-Trump movement, Ryan hopes to exert a positive influence for the general election campaign after a nominating contest that has alienated women, minorities and other voter groups.

Yet Trump's reaction Friday made it unclear what impact Ryan could have.

"With millions of people coming into the party, obviously I'm saying the right thing," Trump said on Fox News Channel. "I mean, he talks about unity, but what is this?"

Democrats are generally steering clear of the Republican infighting, letting the party's leaders tear at each other.

However, President Barack Obama did say when questioned about it at the White House: "This is not entertainment. This is not a reality show," and candidates need to show they have the qualities to lead the world's strongest nation.

As the reality of the GOP divisions sank in Friday, some Republicans were not shy about expressing their displeasure with Ryan.

"I don't necessarily know that that's his role, to be a sticking point for the Republican nominee," said Rep. Duncan Hunter of California, one of a growing number of Trump supporters.

BRIEFLY

Federal officer in custody after 3 fatal shootings

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) — A federal security officer suspected in three fatal shootings outside a high school, a mall and a supermarket in the Washington, D.C., area was arrested Friday, police said. Three people were also wounded in the shootings.

Eulalio Tordil, an employee of the Federal Protective Service, which provides security at federal properties, was taken into custody without incident near the supermarket, the scene of the last shooting, authorities said. The brief manhunt and seemingly indiscriminate shootings rekindled fears of the D.C. sniper in 2002, which paralyzed the nation's capital and its suburbs.

Plainclothes officers trailed Tordil for an hour, watching him walk from store to store at a shopping center as they waited for the right time to arrest him. He had earlier threatened to "commit suicide by cop" and authorities wanted to make sure the public was safe when he was arrested.

"Knowing his behavior today, knowing of statements he made in the past, we did not want to endanger anyone and have a shootout when we took him into custody and that's why he was taken into custody the way he was," Montgomery County Police Chief Thomas

Manger said.

Tordil was put on administrative duties in March after a protective order was issued against him when his wife said he had threatened to harm her if she left him, *The Washington Post* reported. Tordil subjected their children to "intense-military-like discipline," like pushups and detention in a dark closet, according to the order.

Authorities said Tordil followed his 44-year-old wife Gladys to their children's high school Thursday.

As she waited in an SUV in the parking lot of High Point High, Tordil confronted her and shot her. He also shot and wounded a man who tried to intervene.

Wildfire evacuees glimpse burned out city on way south

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Displaced residents at oil field camps north of Fort McMurray, Alberta got a sobering drive-by view of their burned out city Friday in a convoy that moved evacuees south amid a massive wildfire that officials fear could double in size by the end of Saturday.

As police and military oversaw the procession of hundreds of vehicles, a mass airlift of evacuees also resumed. A day after 8,000 people were flown out, authorities said 5,500 more were expected to be evacuated by the end of

Friday and another 4,000 on Saturday.

More than 80,000 people have left Fort McMurray in the heart of Canada's oil sands, where the fire has torched 1,600 homes and other buildings. The mass evacuation forced as much as a quarter of Canada's oil output offline according to estimates and is expected to impact a country already hurt by a dramatic fall in the price of oil.

About 1,200 vehicles had passed through Fort McMurray by late Friday afternoon despite a one-hour interruption due to heavy smoke, authorities said.

Jim Dunstan was in the convoy with his wife, Tracy, and two young sons. "It was shocking to see the damaged cars all burned on the side of the road. It made you feel lucky to get out of there," he said.

In Edmonton, between 4,500 and 5,000 evacuees arrived at the airport on at least 45 flights Friday, airport spokesman Chris Chodan said. In total, more than 300 flights have arrived with evacuees since

Tuesday, he said.

A group that arrived late Friday afternoon was greeted by volunteers who handed out bottled water and helped direct people where to go next.

Hiring slowdown may signal caution about U.S. economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — American employers signaled their caution about a sluggish economy by slowing their pace of hiring in April after months of robust job growth.

At the same time, companies raised pay, and their employees worked more hours — a combination that lifted income and, if sustained, could quicken the U.S. expansion.

As a whole, the government's report Friday pointed to an American job market that continues to generate steady hiring, though at a rate that may be starting to slow. Employers added 160,000 jobs in April, well below

the average gain of 243,000 in the prior six months. But the unemployment rate remained a low 5 percent, roughly where it's been since last fall.

"Employment was never going to continue rising at more than 200,000 a month indefinitely," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, a consulting firm. "Those monthly gains are simply unsustainable" at a time of tepid economic growth.

Over the past six months, the economy has expanded at an annual pace of just 1 percent. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some employers have become concerned that sluggish growth could weaken customer demand and limit the need for more employees.

Still, most economists said they were not worried

about the weaker hiring in April. In large part, it reflected declines in retail and construction hiring, an expected pullback after hiring in those areas surged in the first quarter of 2016.

And job gains have slipped before — most recently in January — without signaling any persistent slump.

"The figures are a yellow light, not a red flag," said Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist at Glassdoor, an employment website.


April's hiring slowdown may also reflect a long-expected shift to a more sustainable pace of job creation. The job market has added 200,000-plus jobs a month for more than three years. That's harder to achieve once unemployment falls to 5 percent, consistent with a nearly recovered economy.

AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE TOUR/ BRICKS, BARN AND FARMS

- Tour through northern Umatilla County
 - Visit historic barns, Century Farms, oldest nursery in the Pacific Northwest, and produce farm est. 1922
 - Lunch at Frazier Farmstead Museum
 - Zerba Cellars – tour and wine tasting
- Saturday, May 21st**
9:00 - 4:00
- Tickets: \$55 Members; \$60 General Admission.**



Call Heritage Station Museum at 541-276-0012 for information



Bid request for decked logs removed from OR Highway 245 in Baker County

The Oregon Department of Transportation is accepting bids for fire-killed, processed, and decked ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir timber in Baker County. Log decks are located on USFS property, on the west side of OR245, off USFS Road 11 approximately 0.3 mile from its junction with OR 245 at approximately milepost 29. **Both ODOT and USFS-owned logs are present on the site. ODOT-owned logs are located on the east end and are marked with a spot of yellow paint.**

Bids are being accepted for ODOT-owned logs.

Tree removal operations are currently active and log decking will be completed May 15. This timber sale will be made on a lump sum basis. A \$5,000.00 bid deposit will be required to be submitted with the bid.

Bid packages will be available AFTER MAY 15.

Bids are due MAY 25. Logs may not be exported.

For more information, or to request a bid packet (available after May 15), call ODOT Forester at 503-508-1346

Enjoy the Jazz sounds of Brass Fire

May 7th, 2016
7 pm - 10 pm
In the Red Lion Lounge



304 SE Nye
Pendleton
541-276-6111



Eastern Oregon's Only Same Day Service for Prescription Lenses

Most Prescription Lenses Ready in 1-3 Hours

KIDS PACKAGE

2 Pairs for ~~\$89.00~~ OR
1 Pair for ~~\$49.50~~

Frames & Lenses, Single Vision Polycarbonate Lenses Kids add Transitions or Anti Reflective for just \$40.00 1 Year Warranty on Lenses and Frames

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

1 Complete Frames & Lenses ~~\$99.00~~

Single Vision, Bifocal Trifocal, No Line 2nd Pair \$49.50

\$10.00 Off with this ad

- Eye Exams
- Saturday appointments available
- We accept most insurances: MODA, Regence, Ameritas & Many More!

AFFORDABLE FAMILY EYEWEAR

Todd G. Anderson, OD
Marcia Lambert, LDO

541-567-3790

1045 N. 1st St, Hermiston
Se Habla Español • Same Day Service
www.affordablefamilyeyewear.com
Open Monday to Saturday

