

ORLANDO: 'These are nonsensical killings of our children'

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just really very spirited and always happy, you know?"

Fernandez, 25, recently had been dating an older man, a dancer known by the stage name Eman Valentino. That dancer was Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado, 35, who also died and left behind a young son who had graduated from pre-kindergarten earlier this month.

"I have no words to express how proud and happy I am of my little boy," Rosado, 35, wrote on Facebook recently about his son.

Mercedes Marisol Flores went to Pulse nightclub almost every weekend, Flores' sister-in-law said Monday, often with her best friend Amanda Alvear. Both women died in the shooting.

"She was very outgoing," Nancy Flores said of Mercedes Flores. "She had lots of friends. They used to always meet up at Pulse."

Born in Queens, New York, the 26-year-old Flores moved to Florida when she was a child, her sister-in-law said. She worked at Target and studied at Valencia College, a local community college. She wanted to become a party planner so she could coordinate events with her two older brothers, who are both DJs.

Alvear, 25, had bonded with friend Sandy Marte over breakups and health problems. Marte said he was trying to comfort her after the breakup. She had lost a lot of weight following gastric bypass surgery and Marte encouraged her to socialize and enjoy life.

"She was loving, she was caring, she always had an open ear, she always wanted to help people," Marte said of his friend Alvear. "She had an amazing heart. She was a really good person."

Both women posted on Snapchat from the nightclub before the shooting.

Flores' family spent hours waiting at Orlando Regional Medical Center, then a staging area at a nearby hotel.

Someone came to read the names of victims still hospitalized or being released. Mercedes Flores' name wasn't on the list.

It wasn't until the early hours of Monday that her father got a call from the sheriff's office that his daughter had died, Nancy Flores said.

Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo wanted to be a star. The 20-year-old dancer was working at Starbucks inside a Kissimmee Target store while studying theater, and would have auditioned on Tuesday for a play, said his sister, Belinette Ocasio-Capo.

"He was one of the most amazing dancers," she said. "He would always call me and say, 'I'm going to be the next Hollywood star.' He really did want to make it and be known."

"Now his name ended up being all around the world, like he wanted — just not this way."

Omar, as he was known to family and friends, seemed brash to 70-year-old Claudia Mason, who worked with him at Starbucks. But after getting to know her much younger co-worker, "I realized he had a very outgoing personality," said Mason. "His sense of humor was definitely his defining personality trait."

Ocasio-Capo was hired as a

Gunman labeled a 'homegrown extremist'

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The gunman whose attack on a gay nightclub left 49 victims dead appears to have been a "homegrown extremist" who espoused support for a jumble of often-conflicting Islamic radical groups, the White House and the FBI said Monday.

As Orlando mourned its dead with flowers, candles and vigils, counterterrorism investigators dug into the background of 29-year-old Omar Mateen, the American-born Muslim who carried out the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

"So far, we see no indication that this was a plot directed from outside the United States, and we see no indication that he was part of any kind of network," said FBI Director James Comey. But he said Mateen was clearly "radicalized," at least in part via the internet.

Comy said the bureau is also trying to determine whether Mateen had recently scouted Disney World as a potential target, as reported by People.com, which cited an unidentified federal law enforcement source.

"We're still working through that," Comy said.

The FBI chief defended the bureau's handling of Mateen during two previous investiga-

cashier before moving over to the Starbucks, and became a great barista, Mason said.

"Omar got along with everyone. Young, old, male, female, gay, or straight, it didn't matter to Omar," she said.

Eddie Jamoldroy Justice tapped out a series of chilling text messages to his mother from a bathroom at the Orlando nightclub. The 45-minute exchange began with a message of love.

"Mommy I love you," the first message to Mina Justice said at 2:06 a.m. The messages became more frantic as he confirmed to her that the shooter was in the bathroom where he was hiding.

"He's a terror," her son said.

Eddie Justice, 30, was normally a homebody who liked to eat and work out, his mother said. He liked to make everyone laugh. He worked as an accountant and lived in a condo in downtown Orlando.

Jose Honorato wrote a simple, heartfelt message on his brother's Facebook page Sunday: "Come home bro, I'm waiting for you."

Miguel Honorato did not survive the shooting.

A father of three, among them a one and two-year-old, 30-year-old Miguel Honorato managed four restaurants in central Florida along with a catering business on the side and was always the one to drop everything to help out his family, which included seven siblings.

"He was my mentor and my supporter. He helped very much in my parent's house and work," Jose

tions into his apparent terrorist sympathies. As for whether there was anything the FBI should have done differently, "so far, the honest answer is, I don't think so," Comy said.

Despite Mateen's pledge of fealty to the Islamic State, a murky combination of other possible motives and explanations emerged, with his ex-wife saying he suffered from mental illness and his Afghan-immigrant father suggesting he

may have acted out of anti-gay hatred. He said his son got angry recently about seeing two men kiss.

The Orlando Sentinel and other news organizations quoted regular customers at the gay bar as saying they had seen Mateen there a number of times.

"Sometimes he would go over in the corner and sit and drink by himself, and other times he would get so drunk he was loud and belligerent," said Ty Smith. Smith said he saw the killer inside at least a dozen times.

Wielding an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle and a handgun, Mateen opened fire at Pulse Orlando early Sunday in a three-hour shooting rampage and hostage siege that ended with a SWAT team killing him. During the attack, he called 911 to profess allegiance to the Islamic State group.

Honorato said. Even though Miguel was younger he was the one who gave sage advice about the family business, his brother said.

Singing was Shane Tomlinson's passion. He had just performed as the lead vocalist with "The Frequency Band" on Saturday night at Blue Martini club before going to Pulse, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

"He was destined for a grand stage and he was doing exactly what he wanted to do," said Dr. Lathan Turner, associate director of student transitions at Eastern Carolina University, where Tomlinson graduated in 2003 with a degree in communication.

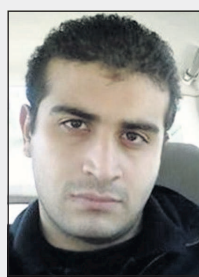
Tomlinson, 33, was a vibrant and charismatic lead vocalist for the band, performing at night clubs and weddings in the Orlando area.

"I've never met anyone like him," said Carey Sobel, an Orlando resident who hired Tomlinson's band to play for his upcoming wedding. "He was really special."

Jonathan Camuy, 25, moved to Central Florida from his native Puerto Rico to work for the Spanish-language television network Telemundo.

He was on the production team for "La Voz Kids," a talent show for young singers in its fourth season. He had previously worked for the network in Puerto Rico.

Camuy was also active in the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, which called him "one of our own" in a statement about his death.



Mateen

Sentinel that his brother was ambitious and hard-working. "Whatever goal he had in mind, he worked hard. Whether alone or on a team, he worked on that goal."

Tevin Crosby, 25, was director of operations for a Michigan marketing firm. He recently visited his family in Statesville, North Carolina, to watch several nieces and nephews graduate. Then he traveled to Orlando after passing along some brotherly advice about business and setting goals. He loved to travel for work and fun, Chavis Crosby said.

"He was definitely a good person and a good brother to me," he said.

Stanley Almodovar III's mother had prepared a tomato-and-cheese dip for him to eat when he came home from his night out.

Instead, Rosalie Ramos was awakened by a call at 2 a.m. Sunday telling her something had happened.

Ramos told the Orlando Sentinel her son, a 23-year-old pharmacy technician, posted a Snapchat video of himself singing and laughing on his way to Pulse nightclub.

"I wish I had that (video) to remember him forever," she told the newspaper.

A friend, Hazel Ramirez, told the Washington Post she also saw a video from Almodovar on Snapchat and learned Sunday afternoon what had happened.

Anthony Luis Laureano Disla, 25, started dancing at the age of 10 and was comfortable with any number of styles, from salsa to ballroom, his cousin Ana Figueroa said.

Figueroa told the Orlando Sentinel that he had texted her Saturday inviting her out for a night of dancing at Pulse nightclub. She responded that she was too tired.

He was out with two roommates, both of whom were injured in the shooting, she said. The newspaper did not identify the roommates.

Born in Puerto Rico, Laureano Disla moved to Orlando about three years ago to become a dancer and choreographer, Figueroa told the newspaper.

Kimberly "KJ" Morris, 37, moved to Orlando just months ago and had taken a job at Pulse nightclub as a bouncer, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

"She was so excited," ex-girlfriend Starr Shelton told the newspaper. "She'd just started working there and told me how she was thrilled to get more involved in the LGBT community there," Shelton said.

Friends described Morris as a kind, sweet person.

Narvell Benning met Morris when they were in college at Post University in Waterbury, Connecticut, where Benning said they both played basketball.

"I can't think of a time when I did not see a smile on her face," Benning told the Sentinel. "I'm so thankful of the good memories I have of her. This is just unreal."

Liz Lamoureux, 34, of Walpole, Massachusetts, told The Associated Press in a prepared statement Monday that Morris was one of her sister's very best friends and a true friend to her entire family.

Morris lived in Hawaii for about a year and then left a couple of months ago to help her mother and grandmother in Florida, Lamoureux said.

SEAPORT: City argued the airport shouldn't be subject to the cap at all

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cap, meaning too few passengers use the service to warrant the subsidy. The federal government would have had to subtract almost \$107,000 from the total subsidy for Pendleton to meet compliance standards.

The department is giving all the communities who are at risk of losing Essential Air Service the option to file an objection, and the city exercised that option Thursday.

The basis of the city's argument isn't that the airport didn't exceed the cap, but that it shouldn't be subject to the cap at all.

The airport would be allowed to exceed the cap if it was more than 210 miles away from Portland, but the department pegs the distance between the two cities at 203 miles.

Filing an objection on Pendleton's behalf, Robert Cohn and Patrick Rizzi of Washington, D.C., law firm Hogan Lovells questioned the department's method of measurement, which was calculated by looking at the driving miles between the center of Pendleton and the entrance of the Portland

International Airport as measured by the Federal Highway Administration.

Cohn and Rizzi wrote that the department's methods weren't "sacro-sanct" because no law or regulation mandated it.

"Applying that measurement to Pendleton would have an unfair, indeed, catastrophic, impact on the City of Pendleton if it causes the City to lose EAS eligibility," the attorneys wrote.

To properly gauge the distance between communities, Cohn and Rizzi wrote the department should measure from Pendleton to the Portland airport terminal.

Measuring the driving miles between Pendleton's Federal Aid Urban Boundary to the Portland airport terminal, the Oregon Department of Transportation determined that the distance between them was 211.08 miles, just barely above the threshold.

Pendleton Airport Manager Steve Chrisman was confident in their argument.

"Count no chickens before they hatch, but ODOT's measurement is

pretty hard to argue with," he said.

Additionally, Chrisman said U.S. senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley wrote a joint letter to the department in support of keeping Pendleton's Essential Air Service and was expecting the Oregon Department of Aviation to write one soon.

If the department rejects Pendleton's objection, the city can apply for a waiver to maintain the subsidy.

Chrisman said the city would argue that the country's recent pilot shortage and SeaPort's subsequent bankruptcy caused flight cancellations and put Pendleton at a disadvantage.

Pendleton's worst case scenario would involve the department rejecting both the objection and the waiver, which would end subsidized air travel to and from Portland.

Chrisman said a lack of subsidy would make it expensive and burdensome for airlines to operate out of Pendleton.

"It would be a bad thing," he said.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

DEATH: Freel said she has legal custody of her grandson and raised him most of his life

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autopsy from Saturday, but he would not reveal those findings to protect the investigation.

Milton-Freewater Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer said in an email all official information on the case will come from the district attorney's office. That protocol is per the major crimes team agreement, which specifies cases will have one source of public information. Most of the time, that has been the district attorney.

Reports from "an online 'news' source," Boedigheimer stated in an email, "... did not come from the DA's, nor my office. In fact, no one with any direct knowledge of the case even knows where that information came from."

The infant is the great-grandchild of Barbara Freel of Milton-Freewater, and her teenage grandson was the father. Freel said the teen is a suspect in the death.

Freel said she helped the teen, his girlfriend and their baby move into an apartment in Milton-Freewater on May 8. She visited last Wednesday, she said, and the grandson and baby were there but not the girlfriend. Freel said she left them alone to see a

friend, and minutes later her grandson called and said the baby was not breathing.

Freel said she told him to call 9-1-1, and while hustling back she also called the emergency number. A police officer arrived a moment after she did, she said, and an ambulance came right after the cop. The ambulance rushed the infant to a hospital, while police took her grandson to the station, 722 S. Main St.

Freel waited at the police department, she said, and Thursday around 2 a.m. police took her grandson into custody on a probation violation for not participating in an anti-drug and alcohol class. Since then, she said, the boy has been in the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities, in The Dalles.

Freel said she has legal custody of her grandson and raised him most of his life. She did not know what happened after she left that apartment, she said, and they have not spoken since police took him.

She felt frantic, she said, until Monday morning, when Hermiston police detective Randy Studebaker spoke with her for 45 minutes. Studebaker showed compassion, she said, and explained what could happen to her grandson, including the possibility of criminal prosecution.

Primus said he plans to confer with investigators and from there will determine if the evidence supports bringing charges.

Contact Phil Wright at 541-966-0833 or pwright@eastoregonian.com.

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