

Police: Mall shooting suspect confessed, shot 5 in 1 minute

By **MARTHA BELLISLE**
and **GILLIAN FLACCUS**
Associated Press

MOUNT VERNON — The suspect accused of killing five people at a Macy’s department store confessed to police, court documents said, but his motive remained a mystery Monday as a portrait emerged of him as a mentally troubled young man whose parents said they were trying to help him.

Arcan Cetin, 20, appeared in court and was officially charged with five counts of first-degree premeditated murder following his arrest over the weekend for the rampage at the Cascade Mall in Burlington, north of Seattle.

Cetin appeared to express no emotion and said only “Yes, your honor” when asked by a judge if he understood his rights. Bail was set at \$2 million and his lawyer said nothing about his client in court and did not speak with reporters.

The hearing followed a terrifying weekend that began Friday night when police say Cetin stormed into the mall and killed five people, leaving Burlington residents panicked for nearly 24 hours until authorities arrested him.

Cetin, described by acquaintances as socially awkward, has a criminal record going back at least two years and one of his neighbors said he unnerved her so much that she kept a



Arcan Cetin is escorted into Skagit County District Court by Skagit County’s Sheriff’s Deputies Monday.

stun gun near her front door.

Cetin after his arrest admitted when interviewed by detectives he was the man captured on security video carrying a Ruger rifle inside the mall, “and he did bring the rifle into Macy’s and shot all five victims,” court documents released ahead of Monday’s hearing said.

He shot all five victims in one minute and left the rifle with a 25-round magazine on a cosmetics counter before fleeing, police said in court documents. Four died at the scene and one died in the hospital.

The victims ranged in age from a teenage girl to a woman in her 90s.

Authorities have declined to reveal details about their investigation into the motive for the shooting, but Cetin’s stepfather David Marshall told reporters after

the hearing that his stepson “has mental health issues” without elaborating.

“The only thing that we want to say at this time is that we both are totally devastated by what happened,” said Marshall, who attended the hearing with Cetin’s mother.

The court documents appeared to paint a picture of Cetin’s stepfather and mother trying to keep their son on track despite his suffering from an unspecified illness and criminal charges he faced for allegedly assaulting Marshall. Cetin came to the U.S. from Turkey and is a permanent legal resident, authorities have said.

Cetin faced charges last year for allegedly assaulting his stepfather after he caught Cetin smoking marijuana inside the house, according to court records.



Chris Nelson of Burlington, Wash., takes a picture of a memorial on Sunday in Burlington, to five victims killed in a shooting on Friday at a Cascade Mall.

He was told by a judge last December not to possess a gun but Cetin’s stepfather urged the judge not to impose a no-contact order, saying his stepson was “going through a hard time,” the records said.

Cetin had been diagnosed with anxiety and depression and has taken unspecified medications in the past, the records show.

He eventually moved out of his parents’ home and the stepfather told detectives after the shooting that he and his wife had helped Cetin with his rent.

Cetin said his father bought him a laptop, according to the court documents released Monday. His mother visited him regularly at his new apartment and last saw him Wednesday, the documents said.

Despite their falling out, Cetin ate with his stepfather on the day of the shooting before leaving around 4:30 p.m. to go to work, according to the documents.

Less than three hours later, police said in court documents, surveillance video showed Cetin enter the mall through a fast food restaurant, walk through the shopping center and leave through the Macy’s women’s department exit.

He then moved his car closer to the Macy’s entrance and took a rifle out of the car’s trunk, the documents said.

Within moments, surveillance cameras in Macy’s captured the shooter entering through the same women’s department — this time with a rifle.

Cetin first shot and killed

a teenage girl near some clothing racks and then walked to the cosmetics counter where he shot a man and three women, the documents said.

Cetin was arrested late Saturday in Oak Harbor, about 30 miles from the mall, by a sheriff’s deputy who recognized him. Cetin’s stepfather told detectives that his Ruger rifle and .22-caliber ammunition were missing, documents said.

Police interviewed the suspect’s former girlfriend and said Sunday night she “has an employment history at Macy’s, but not at the Burlington Mall location.” They did not identify her.

Amber Cathey, 21, lived in an apartment next to Cetin for three months and said she was so frightened of him that she kept a stun gun handy and complained to apartment management. She said she blocked him on Snapchat after he sent her a photo of his crotch.

More details emerged Monday about the victims who police have said they will not identify until Tuesday.

The man who was killed, Chuck Eagan, was set to retire next year after working 41 years for Boeing, his aunt Carol Thrush said in an interview.

Thrush described Eagan, 61, as kind and generous.

“He traveled with Boeing all over the world, doing repairs on airplanes,” said Thrush, 77.

Prosecution details evidence FBI found at Malheur Refuge

Oregon Public Broadcasting

The prosecution began wrapping up its case Monday morning by focusing on evidence recovered after the 41-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge ended. Testimony from FBI agents, as well as evidence entered into court, were used to make the prosecution’s case that guns were used to prevent employees from doing their jobs during the takeover.

This goes back to the charge the seven defendants face: Conspiracy to impede federal employees from doing their jobs through the use of intimidation, threats or force.

The prosecution introduced a bag containing more than 1,000 spent ammunition casings into evidence during testimony Monday morning. They also showed the jury video footage taken from occupier Jason Blomgren’s Facebook page that showed several of the occupiers firing weapons near the boat ramp at the refuge. FBI agents testified that the casings were

recovered from that area.

Prosecutors also introduced a rifle that was found in the back of a horse trailer that belonged to Duane Ehmer, a fellow occupier currently awaiting trial. FBI agents testified that they found a maroon pouch underneath the seat in his truck that contained several items which belonged to the refuge, including gas cards, MasterCards and an employee’s ID.

FBI agent David Fallon testified for the prosecution that he found five gun cases when he searched an office building at the refuge. One of those gun cases, a black cloth case, had the name “Ammon” printed on it in block letters. But none of the gun cases recovered by the FBI had any guns inside. Although, investigators recovered numerous weapons in other locations around the refuge, which the prosecution is expected to show Tuesday.

Medenbach, Schindler’s client, was not present in court Monday. He waived his right to appear in court this week due to health reasons.

Schindler said a routine scan turned up some results, and Medenbach is having follow-up testing done this week.

Finally, defendant Shawna Cox announced in court that she has filed a civil suit in Harney County. Brown told her that will likely be irrelevant in the present criminal case. Cox also asked Brown

to strike certain court filings from the record. Brown refused to do so.

Outside the courtroom, Cox told OPB that the civil case she filed in Harney County concerns the ownership of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. That’s an issue that Brown has repeatedly ruled is not up for discussion in this

criminal case.

The prosecution plans to wrap its case by end of day Tuesday. Prosecutors said the final evidence they plan to introduce before the jury is 22 long guns and 12 handguns that were discovered at the refuge.

The defense could begin making its case as soon as Wednesday. On Thursday,

evangelical reverend Franklin Graham is expected to testify. Graham helped the FBI negotiate an end to the standoff when just four people remained there. The attorney for Jeff Banta — one of those four — has called Graham a witness to testify to Banta’s state of mind at the time of the occupation.

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