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Suspect in Mesa shooting faces murder, assault charges

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[David Jolkovski/Tribune]

Detective Esteban Flores

Det. Esteban Flores of the Mesa Police Department gives an update on the capture of a suspected shooter in Mesa on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. [David Jolkovski/Tribune]

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Posted: Friday, March 20, 2015 4:00 pm | Updated: 4:30 pm, Fri Mar 20, 2015.

By Eric Mungenast and Eric Smith, Tribune

A man suspected of killing one person and wounding five others during a shooting spree in downtown Mesa on March 18 is facing murder, assault, burglary and kidnapping charges.

Police allege the suspect, 41-year-old Ryan Giroux, is responsible for the death of one man, 29-year-old David Williams, and for shooting five other people on Wednesday morning. Police spokesperson Det. Esteban Flores said the incident started at the Tri-City Inn, where police allege he killed Williams and wounded two other people: 19-year-old Jessica Burgess and Williams' mother, 51-year-old Lydia Nielson.

Flores said Giroux then went to Bistro 13 — a restaurant run by the East Valley Institute of Technology and located across the street from the hotel — and shot 20-year-old student Isaac Martinez. According to a statement from EVIT, the suspect stole a gray Honda Accord that belonged to one of the school's instructors.

Giroux traveled to an apartment complex located along the 900 block of South Dobson Road and is accused of shooting 24-year-old Donavon Worker as part of an attempted burglary. The final victim, 25-year-old Marcus Butler, was shot along the 1800 block of West Emelita Avenue, Flores said.

Flores said the department arrested Giroux at approximately 1:09 p.m. Wednesday at a condo on the 1700 block of Emelita Avenue. He said Giroux was spotted standing on a balcony of a vacant unit on the second floor and was taken into custody by the department's SWAT team. Giroux was tased during the arrest and taken to an area hospital and was released into police custody two hours later.

Flores said in a release four of the victims are recovering while the fifth, Butler, is expected to

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The police said they believe Giroux is responsible for all six shootings.

"These kinds of incidents (are) what rings fear through a community, and it's quick, decisive action by our police department and our partner police departments, to come to a quick conclusion so our residents can feel safe and go back to their lives," said Interim Police Chief John Meza.

Mesa Community College's Southern Avenue and Dobson Road campus, the Pima Medical Institute's Mesa campus, and the EVIT Mesa campus were placed on lockdown because of the incident.

Giroux was booked into the Maricopa County Jail on Thursday and faces 23 charges that include premeditated murder in the first degree, intentional murder in the second degree, armed robbery with a deadly weapon, aggravated assault with a dangerous instrument, kidnapping and armed robbery. Bond was set at \$2 million and a hearing is scheduled for March 26.

Maricopa County Superior Court records indicate Giroux pleaded guilty to charges of attempted aggravated assault and a second charge of misconduct involving weapons in 2007.

Information obtained through the Arizona Department of Corrections states Giroux was released from prison in October 2013; court records indicate he violated his parole in April 2014. He also served time in the 1990s for second-degree burglary and theft.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, an organization that tracks hate groups, Giroux's tattoos indicate an association with white supremacist groups.

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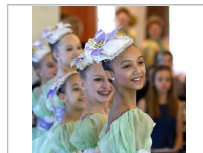
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