

# Intimate Violence Deaths in the News

<http://www.intimateviolencedeathnews.blogspot.com/>

Sunday, September 27, 2009

## **Atlanta, GA: Former DeKalb deputy accused of wife's murder back in Atlanta**

By Mashaun D. Simon

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

8:22 p.m. Saturday, September 26, 2009

A former DeKalb County deputy charged with killing his wife and a day laborer is back on American soil.

Around 6 p.m. Saturday, the plane carrying Derrick Yancey from Belize landed at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Yancey is accused of the 2008 shootings of Linda Yancey, 44, and Marcial Cax Puluc, a 20-year-old Guatemalan immigrant he hired to work at his Stone Mountain home. Initially, Yancey told investigators that Puluc had killed his wife before he killed Puluc in self-defense.

Dressed in all black, with his hands and legs shackled, Yancey was escorted through customs and then transported to the lower level of North Terminal entrance.

He said nothing as officers moved him from the backseat of a truck, patted him down and placed him into the backseat of a DeKalb County Sheriff's vehicle.

Yancey disappeared in April while awaiting trial for the killings. He cut off the monitoring bracelet on his ankle, boarded a Greyhound bus headed west and disappeared.

A tipster told officials Yancey was in Punta Gorda, Belize. That tipster, whom authorities refused to identify, stands to collect a \$20,000 reward, officials said.

DeKalb deputies, working with the U.S. Marshals Service, located Yancey a week ago in a bar in Punta Gorda, a town of about 6,000 in southern Belize. He admitted he was the fugitive and was taken into custody.

Yancey will be held at the DeKalb jail, said Jeffrey Mann, chief deputy for the DeKalb Sheriff's Office.

When he will face a judge and what additional charges he may face are unknown, said Mann. "I will leave that up to the district attorney."

Posted by Cathy Church at 4:30 PM 0 comments 

## **Coteau, LA: Murder suspect killed**

BY JIM MUSTIAN

THE DAILY IBERIAN

The hunt for an alleged killer ended violently late Friday after lawmen gunned down 34-year-old Jonathan Scott Latham in Breaux Bridge. Latham, wanted for rape and murder in Iberia Parish and attempted murder in Vermilion Parish, reportedly sought to hide from the law in a crackhouse on Alva Drive near downtown.

Officials from several law enforcement agencies blocked off the road about 11:30 p.m. after investigators confirmed Latham's whereabouts through confidential informants. After entering the house, officials "heard what appeared to be a gun shot and returned gun fire," said Trooper David Anderson, a spokesman for the Louisiana State Police, which is investigating the shooting.

Anderson said it was not clear which agency was responsible for the shooting or how many shots were fired. St. Martin Parish Sheriff Ronnie Theriot declined to comment on the shooting.

The hunt for Latham, a convicted felon with an extensive criminal record, began late Thursday after he reportedly cut the throat of his girlfriend's 17-year-old son at their mobile home in Erath. The victim of that attack was treated for his injuries and released Friday from a local hospital.

Several hours later in Coteau, Latham reportedly killed his girlfriend's grandfather, **78-year-old Oscar E. Figueroa Sr.**, and raped and beat the man's 11-year-old great-granddaughter in their house on Fremin Road.

The girl survived the attack and telephoned authorities, running out into the driveway when deputies arrived before 7 a.m., said Iberia Parish Sheriff Louis Ackal. She was taken to a Lafayette hospital with serious injuries. Ackal said Saturday the girl was on a ventilator.

Latham, meanwhile, fled the scene in Figueroa's car, trading it for the vehicle he reportedly stole in Vermilion Parish the night before.

The motive for Latham's alleged rampage remained unclear, but authorities, as well as the man's neighbors in Erath, said he had been under the influence of drugs since Thursday. Latham also was laid off from his offshore job recently and behind on rent, said his landlord, Keith Hebert.

The bloodshed in Coteau shocked many residents who looked on nervously Friday morning as officials investigated the crime scene at the pink house on Fremin Road.

Neighbor David Guidry said the area has experienced a rash of criminal activity of late, including at least one break-in earlier in the week.

“I don’t even want to go outside at night anymore,” Guidry said. “This is too close to home for me.”

Family members stood outside crying in disbelief.

“I just lost my mother a year ago,” said Figueroa’s oldest daughter Josie. “He was one of the best people I’ve ever known. You won’t find anyone who won’t say that about him.”

Posted by Cathy Church at 4:03 PM 0 comments 

## **Eules, TX: Kansas man gets life sentence for killing estranged wife in Eules**

Posted Friday, Sep. 25, 2009

BY MARTHA DELLER

mdeller@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — A Kansas man was sentenced Thursday to life in prison after a Tarrant County jury convicted him of the rape-slaying of his estranged wife nearly two years ago.

Jerome Overstreet, 52, was tried on charges of capital murder in the death of Vicki Overstreet, 51. She was killed about a month after she fled to Eules to escape her abusive husband.

Jurors deliberated nearly six hours before returning a guilty verdict about 9 p.m. in the 213th District Court, prosecutor Robert Foran said. State District Judge Louis Sturns sentenced Overstreet to life in prison without the possibility of parole, the only sentence possible because prosecutors waived the death penalty.

After the verdict, Vicki Overstreet’s weeping son, Lamont Webb, recounted the loss to her family, including her elderly parents, who came from Kansas for the trial, Foran said.

Vicki Overstreet was found dead in her Eules apartment Nov. 12, 2007, three days after she was last seen alive, leaving her job at Hawker Beechcraft in Grapevine. Concerned that he hadn’t heard from his mother in days, her son asked officers to check on her.

The medical examiner ruled that Vicki Overstreet was smothered, said Foran, co-counsel with lead prosecutor Alan Levy. Because of decomposition, it could not be determined whether she was strangled, he said.

Jerome Overstreet was not arrested until June 2008 because authorities were awaiting test results, including from DNA.

During the trial, witnesses testified that Vicki Overstreet left Wichita, Kan., to get away from her husband, whom she met while doing ministry in the prison where he was an inmate, Foran said.

Although witnesses testified that Jerome Overstreet physically abused his wife during their 11-year marriage, he had visited her several times in Eules and had made another trip there to reconcile with her the weekend she died. Authorities believe that Jerome Overstreet killed her because she changed her mind about reconciling.

Questioned about his wife's murder, Jerome Overstreet denied even being in Eules the weekend she died, Foran said.

But investigators obtained cellphone records, a Kroger surveillance tape and store receipts placing the defendant within a mile of his wife's apartment shortly after she was last seen, Foran said.

Forensic experts also matched carpet fibers, glitter and beads found in a vacuum canister in Jerome Overstreet's Wichita home to carpet from his wife's apartment and glitter and beads from her clothing, he said.

And DNA experts matched Jerome Overstreet's semen to that found on the carpet in his wife's apartment, Foran said.

Defense attorney Steven King did not return phone calls seeking comment about the trial.

Foran said King did not challenge the validity of the scientific tests. King has said the fact that the couple were trying to reconcile could explain the evidence found in Vicki Overstreet's apartment.

King has said that Jerome Overstreet did not murder his wife and that someone else might have come in after he left the apartment.

Posted by Cathy Church at 4:00 PM 0 comments 

## **Mount Airy, MD: Mount Airy Man Kills Wife, 2 Children, Himself in Home**

MOUNT AIRY, Md. -A home-improvement worker and school janitor who apparently was struggling to survive the recession killed his sleeping wife and two children before turning the 12-gauge shotgun on himself, Maryland State Police said Saturday. Charles L. Dalton, 38, left no suicide note and police haven't clearly identified a motive for the murders, spokesman Greg Shipley said.

"It is possible that financial difficulties were part of the motive," he said.

Police announced the findings one day after the bodies of Dalton, his wife Jennifer, 37, and their children Charles Jr., 14, and Emmaline, 7, were found in their home in Mount Airy, a Fredrick County town of 8,800 about 30 miles west of Baltimore.

Shipley said the bodies of Jennifer Dalton and the children were found in their beds. Charles Dalton's body was lying in the master bedroom next to the bed, he said. Dalton also fatally shot the family's beagle in a crate inside the home's front door, he said.

Investigators believe the deaths occurred Thursday night or Friday morning. Shipley said Jennifer Dalton failed to report to her part-time job at a veterinary hospital in Damascus, prompting co-workers to try to contact her starting at 8:30 a.m. Friday. No one answered their calls or came to the door.

A family friend called 911 at about 5:30 p.m. Friday after spotting a body through a rear window of the split-level house, Shipley said.

Charles Dalton was a self-employed cabinet installer who ran his business, Imagine Millwork, out of his home. He also worked the night shift as a maintenance worker for Montgomery County schools, Shipley said.

The house, on a corner lot in a modest, middle-class neighborhood, had a "for sale" sign out front. It had been on the market for at least a year, neighbors said.

Kenneth Matthews, a security worker who also runs a carpet-cleaning business out of his home a few doors down, said Dalton had been scraping by in the weak economy.

"He was struggling, just like me," Matthews said. "We're probably running about 40 percent of where we were last year."

Matthews said the Daltons were quiet, churchgoing people who kept largely to themselves. A whitewashed rock in front of the house bore two Bible verses: "We will serve the Lord" and "God is our rock."

Neighbors and others placed stuffed animals and flowers on the front porch, near the children's bicycles and a scooter, to remember the family.

"We're just showing our respect," said Erica Mason, who had walked over with her husband and two young daughters to place a white teddy bear on the property. She said the deaths hit "pretty close to home – we're a family of four."

Tanya Miller came from her house a half-mile away. "I just wanted to walk around and say a prayer for them," she said.

There have been at least four other family murder-suicides in Maryland in the last 2 1/2 years – three involving Frederick County residents.

In April, a Middletown man killed his wife and their three children before shooting himself.

On Thanksgiving 2007, a Frederick man fatally shot his ex-wife and their three children during a custody hand-off in a Montgomery County park.

In April 2007, a Montgomery County father hanged his two young children before committing suicide in rural Boyds.

In March 2007, a Frederick man killed his wife and four children before hanging himself in the family's town house.

Posted by Cathy Church at 3:57 PM 0 comments 

Friday, September 25, 2009

## Lancaster, PA: Pa. man gets life for wife's murder in swim pool

The Associated Press

LANCASTER, Pa. - A central Pennsylvania funeral director has been sentenced to life in prison for murdering his wife.

Michael Roseboro was sentenced Friday in Lancaster County Court for killing his wife in the swimming pool behind their Reinholds home in July 2008.

The 42-year-old Roseboro had been director of his family's funeral business. He was convicted of first-degree murder two months ago.

Authorities say he wanted to be with his mistress without a messy divorce.

Before Judge James Cullen imposed the mandatory life sentence, Roseboro said he disagreed with the jury's verdict.

District Attorney Craig Stedman described the murder of Jan Roseboro, a 45-year-old mother of four children, as "selfish and senseless."

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Posted by Cathy Church at 3:57 PM 0 comments 

## Tallahassee, FL: Man Charged With Killing Ex-Girlfriend Gets Life in Prison Terrell Robinson was sentenced to life without parole.

Posted: 11:33 AM Dec 7, 2009

Reporter: Heather Biance

Email Address: heather.biance@wctv.tv

Robinson Sentenced to Life without Parole

Updated 10:30 pm. 12.7.09

It's a tragic love story filled with lies, manipulation and eventually murder.

And Monday, the man who admitted to **killing 25-year-old Elisabeth Killam just weeks after they broke up, will be behind bars for the rest of his life.**

It's been just **seventy-five days since Elisabeth Killam was found strangled to death** by a man she knew and trusted, her ex-boyfriend Terrell Robinson.

The 36-year-old broke down just days after he admitted to strangling a pregnant

Killam for at least five solid minutes and asking for the swiftest and harshest punishment possible.

On Monday, Robinson forfeited his right to a trial, saying he didn't want to prolong the inevitable.

I don't want to drag anybody through any more further torment through this situation. I'm hurting because of it, her family's hurting because of it, my family, everybody involved in this is hurting. There's just no need to be drug on."

With tears in their eyes, Killam's mother: "Our loss and our grief are still so fresh," her father: "I feel a physical pain like a huge part of my heart has been ripped out of my chest" and sister spoke to the courtroom expressing the grief they've experienced since they learned of her gruesome death.

"I will always imagine the terror, panic, betrayal, desperation and pain as she struggled to take one last breath," says Elisabeth's sister, Allison Killam.

Robinson held his head in his hands at several points throughout the afternoon, offering his verbal apologies to the Killam family, but knowing it will never be enough.

The state did not pursue charges in the death of Killam's unborn baby.

Killam's parents say they will accept their daughter's diploma at this weekend's FSU graduation ceremony.

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Updated 3:10p.m 12-7

36-year-old Terrell Robinson was sentenced to life without parole Monday afternoon.

Robinson will now be behind bars for life for the murder of 25-year-old Elisabeth Killam which happened on September 23rd.

It was an emotional hearing as Elizabeth's mom, father and sister spoke to the courtroom about their lost loved one.

Since being arrested, Robinson has tried to make this as quick of a process as possible, accepting the sentencing without going to trial.

Robinson expressed his apologies to Elizabeth's family and says that he doesn't want to drag this on for them or for himself and will accept punishment for what he did.

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A man who pleaded guilty to first degree murder in the strangulation of his girlfriend

is expected to be sentenced Monday afternoon.

Terrell Robinson says he murdered her in her Chartre Oaks apartment on September 25th.

The 36-year-old told the judge at his plea hearing, he was "completely and absolutely guilty" of the murder of his girlfriend, 25-year-old Elisabeth Killam.

Arrest papers say Robinson strangled Killam after confronting her about her involvement with an ex-boyfriend.

We'll have the outcome of his sentencing tonight on Eyewitness News and WCTV.TV.

By David Sáez  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

10:20 A.M.

Terrell Lee Robinson, 36, has been arrested on charges of murder and robbery in connection with the death of Florida State University junior Elisabeth Killam, 25, said Tallahassee Police Department spokesman David McCranie.

TPD officers found Killam dead Wednesday afternoon at Chartre Oaks apartments, 2001 Belle Vue Way.

A TPD report said Robinson admitted to choking Killam because he was jealous of a relationship she had with another man. Robinson and Killam lived together and were romantically involved, according to the report.

When officers arrived at the apartment Wednesday in response to reports of a possible murder, they knocked on the apartment door but did not receive an answer. They forced the front door open and found Killam dead in her bedroom, McCranie said.

Robinson was also in the apartment semiconscious. He was taken to a local hospital, and officers believe he may have attempted suicide by ingesting medication.

Investigators from TPD's violent-crimes unit gathered physical evidence and interviewed neighbors. They found that Robinson had been living with Killam in her apartment and the two were romantically involved.

Investigator Angie Boothe interviewed Robinson, and he said he was jealous of Killam's relationship with another man and choked her to death during a confrontation, according to a TPD report.

Robinson is being held in the Leon County Jail without bond on charges of murder, robbery and two outstanding violation of probation warrants issued by the Bay County Sheriff's Office.

6:44 a.m.

Terrell Lee Robinson, 36, has been arrested on charges of murder and robbery and was booked into the Leon County Jail Thursday night, according jail records.

Robinson was being held by the Tallahassee Police Department in connection with the murder of Florida State University junior Elisabeth Killam.

TPD found Killam dead Wednesday afternoon at the Chartre Oaks apartments.

Robinson was also on the scene and had been taken to a local hospital for injuries.

Robinson was arrested by TPD and booked into jail at 8:17 p.m. on Thursday. He has been charged with murder and robbery without a firearm or weapon.

Return to [Tallahassee.com](http://Tallahassee.com) for more on this story.

Man held in death of FSU student

Local authorities are pursuing murder charges and have taken a man into custody as part of an investigation into the death of Florida State University student Elisabeth Killam.

Killam, 25, of Venice, was identified Thursday as the woman who Tallahassee police found dead Wednesday afternoon at the Chartre Oaks apartments, 2001 Belle Vue Way.

An autopsy established that Killam's injuries pointed to homicide as the cause of death, TPD spokesman Officer David McCranie said. He declined to provide further information about how the student was killed because the case remains under investigation.

Police have taken Terrell Lee Robinson, 36, into custody, McCranie said. Robinson was the man who police found injured in the apartment with Killam. Robinson was treated at a local hospital and released, McCranie said. He and Killam lived in the apartment and had a relationship, McCranie said.

Robinson is listed as a wanted person on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Web site.

McCranie said that investigators believe only Killam and Robinson were involved in the

incident. Charges are pending, McCranie said. Investigators are consulting with the State Attorney's Office on the investigation.

Robinson was listed as an absconder and fugitive in the Department of Corrections' offender database. He was sentenced in Bay County to five years of community supervision in January for charges of forged checks and grand theft. The database also indicates that Robinson received a six-year sentence for aggravated battery intended to harm in an offense that occurred in 1994. He was also sentenced to two years for burglary and grand theft.

The database shows he had been incarcerated from March 9, 1995 until August 1, 1996, and then again from Nov. 13, 1997, to Oct. 6, 2000.

Joe Blackwood was visiting a friend at the apartments and met Robinson and Killam at the pool on Tuesday.

"It was the first time I met them," he said. "I would've not even known they were together. There was no arguing; everything was cool."

Killam was a junior at FSU enrolled in the College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance.

According to her My-Space page, the last person to post a message on her site was someone identified as Terrell Robinson. It was posted on Tuesday morning.

The site lists Killam's interests, among them pottery, drawing, music from artists such as Ben Harper and Ani DiFranco, movies "The Notebook" and "The Wedding Singer," television shows "South Park" and "Family Guy," and books by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child.

In an area titled "Heroes," Killam lists her mother: "(She) is the strongest woman I have ever known, always looking out for her own happiness. She takes crap from no one. I try to have this strength in myself."

Killam's parents were reached in Venice by telephone, but they declined to say anything except that they were still waiting to hear more information about what authorities think led to their daughter's death.

Posted by Cathy Church at 3:48 PM 0 comments 

## **High Falls, GA: Bodies identified in Monroe County apparent murder-suicide**

By Phillip Ramati - pramati@macon.com

Two bodies from an apparent murder-suicide found Wednesday in north Monroe County were identified by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation late Thursday

afternoon, officials from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office said. According to GBI fingerprint analysis, the bodies were identified as Tim George Maza, 55, and Christina Mae Reeves, 42.

They were found in their mobile home in High Falls by a neighbor. Allison Willis, spokeswoman for the sheriff's office, said they were a common-law couple who had previous domestic issues.

Preliminary results of the investigation suggest that Reeves died from a gunshot wound to the head while Maza died from a self-inflicted gunshot to the head. There was no suicide note found at the crime scene, Willis said.

Based on the decomposition of the bodies, the shootings could have taken place last weekend, she said.

Willis said there was an open domestic violence case involving the couple that was being investigated.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:28 AM 0 comments 

## **Cameron County, TX: Jury deliberates sentence of Harlingen man found guilty of killing ex-wife**

Comments | Recommend

September 24, 2009 8:48 PM

By LAURA B. MARTINEZ, The Brownsville Herald

Hours after a Cameron County jury found a Harlingen man guilty of murdering his ex-wife, they continued to deliberate his sentence.

The jury deliberated for about six hours Wednesday and Thursday before finding Pascual de la Rosa, 41, guilty in the August 2008 stabbing death of Norma de la Rosa, 38. Jurors were scheduled to resume deliberations today.

The Cameron County District Attorney's Office is asking that Pascual de la Rosa be sentenced to no less than 75 years in prison. The defense requested the jury look at the range of punishment and assess what jurors think is best.

Pascual de la Rosa showed no emotion as state District Judge David Sanchez read the jury's decision finding him guilty of murder. However, as the attorneys began the punishment phase of de la Rosa's murder trial, he was visibly shaken, wiping away tears.

Authorities said Pascual de la Rosa stabbed his ex-wife multiple times outside a friend's house at 3505 W. Bowie Ave. in rural Cameron County.

The two had been arguing prior to the deadly attack.

Neighbors, before the trial, described Pascual de la Rosa as a "harmless drunk" and

said his actions were out of character.

Cameron County Sheriff Omar Lucio previously said a witness described how he saw Pascual de la Rosa stab Norma de la Rosa multiple times outside the home.

Norma de la Rosa, who authorities said was partially blind, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Pascual de la Rosa was apprehended in a wooded area, soon after the killing.

On Thursday defense attorney Peter Gilman said Pascual de la Rosa killed his ex-wife in "sudden passion," after learning that a family member had been sexually assaulted by a man living with Norma de la Rosa and that she did nothing about it.

"Norma was playing with his heart and mind. She didn't handle this situation very well," Gilman said.

"Something exploded in him (Pascual de la Rosa) to do this act, that is sudden passion," Gilman said. "This was someone he cared for very fondly."

A pathologist on Wednesday testified that Norma de la Rosa had been stabbed 19 times and that many of the stab wounds were in her upper-chest area.

According to court testimony, she was stabbed in the face, her chest and in the back of her head. She also had three defense wounds to her arms and hands.

State prosecutor Ismael Hinojosa described Pascual de la Rosa as a "coward and a cold-blooded killer," who wasn't concerned about his relative's rape.

Hinojosa said Pascual de la Rosa was told about the rape three to four months prior to killing his ex-wife, which indicates that murdering her was not a crime of passion.

"What did she do to deserve this?" Hinojosa asked. "There is no good way to die. Can you think of any way worse than to watch yourself bleed to death?"

"There is no excuse for murder. This was cold and calculated, not sudden passion," Hinojosa said.

Testifying Thursday was Norma de la Rosa's daughter, who said the last words her mother told her were to take care of the other children and tell her parents that she loved them.

"She was a really good mom. She was my hero," Linda Lee de la Rosa said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:26 AM 0 comments 

## **Tucson, AZ: Sheriff's: Man kills wife then turns gun on himself on northwest side**

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A man and his wife were found dead in their northwest-side home Thursday night after an apparent murder-suicide, authorities said.

Margaret Ann McCormick, 49, and Gary Joseph McCormick, 57, were found dead from gunshot wounds at a home in the 5500 block of North Cumberland Drive, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County sheriff's spokeswoman.

Deputies went to the home, near North La Cañada Drive and West River Road, just before 9 p.m. on a report of a shooting, Barkman said.

She said it appears Gary McCormick shot his wife during an argument before killing himself. The couple's adult daughter was present at the time of the shooting and ran from the home and called 911.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:23 AM 0 comments 

Thursday, September 24, 2009

## **Las Vegas, NV: Police: Man, 86, Kills Wife Then Shoots Himself**

Woods In Critical Condition At Sunrise Hospital

POSTED: 3:43 pm PDT September 24, 2009

UPDATED: 4:29 pm PDT September 24, 2009

LAS VEGAS -- There has been yet another murder-attempted suicide in the Las Vegas Valley.

This time, the victim was an elderly woman, and police said the shooter was her own husband. Police have identified him as Joseph Woods, 86.

Neighbors on South 10th Street said they were shocked because they said they were a sweet couple.

"A family member had entered and discovered their elderly parents in bed," said Metro homicide Sgt. Russ Shoemaker.

Police said Woods shot his 80-year-old wife and then tried to kill himself.

"The mother appeared to have suffered a gunshot wound to her torso and was deceased when paramedics arrived, and the father had sustained a gunshot wound as well," Shoemaker said.

Police said the shootings occurred sometime between Wednesday evening and just before 7 a.m. Thursday in the 1800 block of South 10th Street. Police said they arrived to find the couple in the bed bleeding -- with a gun nearby.

An arrest report said the couple was found by family members who had come to the residence to care for them. The woman had a gunshot wound to her back, and Woods had what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his torso.

Woods was still breathing when paramedics arrived. Police said he is being treated at Sunrise Hospital and was in critical condition on Thursday afternoon.

"His prognosis is unknown. We don't know if he's going to survive or not," Shoemaker said.

Woods was arrested and booked in absentia at the Clark County Detention Center on a

charge of murder with a deadly weapon, the report said.

Neighbors said the couple was Joe and Kay Woods. They said she was quiet, yet friendly, and he was jovial guy and did not seem violent.

"That's not him. From what I know, that's not him, so something happened. I have no idea," said neighbor Jeffery Felton.

Felton said the incident is now making him wonder about everyone -- especially his own neighbors.

"You don't really know. Things happen. You don't really know your friends," Felton said.

This was the fifth murder-suicide or attempted murder-suicide just this month, and they have all involved couples. Police said the couple's son lived with them, but it's not clear whether he was home during the shooting.

Police said they are withholding the identity of the victim pending positive identification and notification of next of kin.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 702-385-5555 or Metro's Homicide Section at 702-828-3521.

Posted by Cathy Church at 8:04 PM 0 comments 

## **Burnsville, NC: Two dead, one wounded in Yancey murder-suicide**

Dale Neal

A Yancey County man fatally shot himself in the head in front of deputies after killing his neighbor and seriously wounding his estranged wife at a home off Bearwallow Road late Wednesday.

Yancey sheriff deputies responded to 286 Bearwallow Road around 9:35 p.m. Wednesday after a 911 call from a woman who said she had been shot.

Deputies found Thomas Marion Griffith 52, lying in the driveway leading to a garage near his house. Griffith was dead from gunshot wounds to his head and upper torso, according to Lt. Thomas Farmer of the Yancey County Sheriff's Department.

In the woods, officers found Richard Lee Buchanan, 61, armed with several handguns. "They begged him to drop the weapons," Farmer said. But Buchanan refused and instead raised a gun to his head and shot himself in front of the deputies.

Buchanan was flown to Memorial Mission Hospital where died at 4:10 a.m. today.

Other officers made their way to Griffin's home where they found Monalisa Phillips 37, suffering from at least two gunshot wounds to her chest area. Also inside the house was her 7 year old son who was not harmed during the incident.

Phillips and her son had barricaded themselves in the bathroom when several shots were fired into the house, Farmer said.

Phillips had been married to Buchanan for 18 months, but had recently separated, moving out of the house at 145 Bearwallow Road. She taken out a restraining order on Buchanan on Aug. 31, Farmer said.

“Richard and Tom had known each other and had been friends. They all knew each other,” Farmer said.

Phillips was transported by air ambulance to Johnson City Medical Center in Johnson City, Tennessee where she underwent surgery for multiple gunshot wounds. Preliminary reports indicate that Phillips is expected to recover.

Farmer said the investigation is continuing with the assistance of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and the North Carolina Highway Patrol in the investigation.

Posted by Cathy Church at 5:48 PM 0 comments 

## **Belle Glade, FL: Couple's Children Inside Apartment At Time Of Shooting**

POSTED: 9:09 pm EDT September 23, 2009

UPDATED: 4:54 pm EDT September 24, 2009

BELLE GLADE, Fla. -- Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies said a man shot his girlfriend before killing himself while their two young children were inside their Belle Glade apartment.

Deputies were called to a shooting in the 2300 block of Palm Glade Drive shortly after 7 p.m. Wednesday.

When deputies arrived, they found the man dead and the woman wounded. She was airlifted to Delray Medical Center in critical condition.

The couple's two boys, ages 1 and 3, were inside the apartment at the time of the shooting but were not injured.

Detectives said the shooting was the result of a domestic dispute.

"The female had returned from grocery shopping," sheriff's office spokeswoman Teri Barbera said. "When she got home, there was an altercation (and) shots were fired."

Deputies had been called to the residence on a number of occasions because of past domestic disputes. The latest call came Tuesday night.

"They've been arguing back and forth for like a week and a half," a neighbor told WPBF 25 News.

I.B. Robertson says his son was "under a great deal of pressure" and "wasn't able to deal with it."

Deputies said the children are staying with relatives.

The names of the victims have not been released, but WPBF 25 News reporter Jim Abath spoke to a man who claimed to be the father of the gunman.

I.B. Robertson said his son, Isaac, had been in "a rocky relationship" with his girlfriend. Robertson said his son was "under a great deal of pressure" and "wasn't able

to deal with it."

"He was doing everything he could to try to make it work and sometimes, you know, you can do everything you can and then that's still not enough," Robertson said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 5:46 PM 0 comments 

## **University Park, TX: University Park police investigate apparent murder-suicide**

01:06 PM CDT on Thursday, September 24, 2009

By JORDAN HOFEDITZ / The Dallas Morning News

University Park police are investigating an apparent murder-suicide this morning.

4000 block of Purdue Street in University Park

The bodies of Roscoe Halcomb, 66, and Mary Halcomb, 59, were discovered Wednesday evening after a relative had not heard from the couple in a few days and went to check on them, police said.

Their bodies were discovered in a home in the 4000 block of Purdue Street about 10 p.m. Both suffered gunshot wounds, police said.

Neighbor Mikee Smythe said the couple had brought her a pie when she and her family first moved into the neighborhood two years ago.

Smythe said Roscoe Halcomb went by the name "Spud" and that he dealt in antiques and traveled frequently. She said Mary Halcomb worked in the jewelry business.

Smythe said she heard Roscoe Halcomb last night and that her young daughter later saw flashing lights outside their home as police and medical crews arrived.

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Posted by Cathy Church at 5:35 PM 0 comments 

## **Olympia, WA: Man kills ex-girlfriend, shoots self at Olympia**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OLYMPIA, Wash. -- The Thurston County sheriff's office says a man walked into a farm market near Olympia and killed his ex-girlfriend who worked there before turning the shotgun on himself.

Deputy Dave Pearsall says the woman died at the scene Thursday morning at Lattin's Country Cider Mill and Farm.

The man was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle in critical condition.

The Country Cider Mill Web site says it's a family owned farm that sells apple cider, eggs, pies and seasonal fruit and produce.

Posted by Cathy Church at [5:32 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

## **Chula Vista, CA: Estranged husband held after stabbing attack**

By Karen Kucher

UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

9:25 a.m. September 24, 2009

CHULA VISTA - The estranged husband of a woman staying with relatives is accused of entering the family home and stabbing two people in an early morning attack Thursday, leaving one victim in critical condition, police said.

Police responding to a report of an intruder at a home on Pineridge Court near Cumbre View around 1:45 a.m. found a man and a woman suffering from stab wounds and a man being detained by family members, said police Lt. Gary Ficacci.

The intruder turned out to be the estranged husband of a woman who was temporarily staying at the home.

Police said the man entered through an unlocked back door and either was confronted by or attacked his brother-in-law inside the home. The victim suffered critical knife wounds and is being treated at a trauma center, Ficacci said. The intruder's sister-in-law also fought with the man and was wounded, although not as seriously, Ficacci said.

The rest of the family fought with the man, finally subduing him before officers arrived. The man was injured and is being treated at a hospital.

"I think they hit him with everything they could find," Ficacci said.

He will be arrested on several charges, including suspicion of burglary and assault with a deadly weapon, the lieutenant said.

The man's estranged wife was in the home with her 2-year-old child. They were not injured.

Chula Vista police requested a Vietnamese translator from the San Diego Police Department to assist with interviews in the case

Posted by Cathy Church at [5:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

## Richmond, VA: Man says girlfriend's slaying fueled by jealousy

By BILL MCKELWAY

By BILL MCKELWAY

Published: September 24, 2009

Rice Jamerson

A runaway killer arrested by state police last year told a Henrico County judge this week that he killed his live-in girlfriend in a jealous rage.

But the wounds suffered by 22-year-old Melissa Jamerson spoke to more brutal violence. Forensics evidence showed that she suffered from 25 stab wounds to the neck.

Jamerson's body was discovered Nov. 2 in an upstairs bedroom of the couple's apartment at 9001 Patterson Ave. after state police arrested Justin L. Rice, now 23, near Interstate 64 in Goochland County.

Drivers whose cars had been rammed by Rice, who was bleeding and barely conscious, followed him and called authorities.

Rice towered over Jamerson and outweighed her by more than 140 pounds. He told Circuit Judge Catherine C. Hammond on Tuesday that Jamerson threatened to leave him and planned to live with a former boyfriend, the father of her two young children.

"We don't have any reason to believe that was true," said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney David Stock.

Hammond convicted Rice of second-degree murder and set sentencing for Dec. 8. He faces up to 40 years in prison.

Prosecutors argued that Rice exploded after learning that Jamerson was meeting with the former boyfriend and simply assumed the worst. Testimony showed that the meeting was to arrange child-support payments, Stock said.

Rice attacked Jamerson sometime the evening of Nov. 1, repeatedly stabbing her in the apartment they'd shared since August. He was arrested the next day.

Authorities believe Jamerson was probably on her back during the attack. Rice fled and cut himself repeatedly on the arms, telling officers and a Henrico detective that he wanted to bleed to death.

But he had also bandaged his wounds and became incoherent when being questioned in a hospital.

Posted by Cathy Church at 5:56 AM 0 comments 

## **Pittsburgh, PA: Pa. man kills self after police standoff**

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH - Police in the Pittsburgh suburb of Mount Lebanon say a man who barricaded himself inside his home has killed himself.

Police say officers were trying to serve a protection from abuse order on the 51-year-old man Wednesday afternoon but he had a gun and officers backed off and requested backup. Police attempted to negotiate with the man but he broke off contact at around 6:15 p.m.

When police entered his home, they found him dead.

Several nearby schools went into lockdown during the standoff.

Posted by Cathy Church at 5:50 AM 0 comments 

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

## **New Rochelle, NY: Cops: New Rochelle man, 78, kills ailing wife**

Leslie Korngold, Aman Ali and Will David  
wdavid@lohud.com

NEW ROCHELLE - A 78-year-old New Rochelle man killed his ill wife this morning after promising to not put her in a nursing home, New Rochelle police Commissioner Patrick Carroll said today.

Paul Weinstein, a 12th-floor resident of a senior citizen building at 35 Maple Ave., calmly with no anger shot his wife, Helena, in the head in their bedroom around 11:15 a.m., Carroll said.

The woman, also in her 70s, had a list of illnesses that were long term, Carroll explained but did not detail.

They had agreed she would not go into a nursing home, he said.

Police talked the man out of killing himself through the couple's barricaded apartment door. Police spoke with him for about 15 minutes.

Weinstein was taken into custody shortly after 11:30 a.m.

He will be charged with at least manslaughter, Carroll said.

"They are always together. They never seemed to have any problems," said Mike Rush, a 10-year resident of the building who said he knew the couple well.

"As a matter of fact," he said, "they were so quiet you sometimes never knew they lived there."

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:53 PM 0 comments 

## **San Antonio, TX: Husband kills wife, but not self; police dispute suicide pact rumors**

Police said an elderly man's claims he failed to follow through in a murder-suicide pact with his wife are false. The man talked to KENS 5's Marvin Hurst.

John Philip Benzing told police that he and his 79-year-old wife had a murder-suicide pact but after he killed her, he wasn't able to go through with killing himself. Investigators said they do not believe any sort of pact was in place. They think Benzing just snapped under the pressures of caring for a wife who had schizophrenia.

"They could say I was temporarily insanity (insane) or flipped out or whatever," said Benzing. "I don't exactly remember what happened."

Police tell KENS 5 that the woman was stabbed multiple times and that a hammer was also used to kill the woman; Benzing did not appear to have any injuries. According to a warrant filed in this case, both weapons were found in the room where the elderly woman lay beaten and stabbed in the couple's bed.

"Yes, I'm sorry about what happened to my wife," the murder suspect said.

According to police, the woman had been sick for a lengthy period of time. In fact, they said she was schizophrenic. Her husband claimed she'd been a victim of abuse from a former husband and from other family members.

Benzing has been arrested and charged with murder. His bond is set at \$250,000. He claimed he was a victim of his wife's abuse. But the 59-year-old said his wife's murder was not an act of revenge.

"Even though all the abuse I got all those years I love her," he said. "I still love her."

Officers said they have been called to this particular home on a number of occasions. During one search, two dozen cats were also found inside the home.

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:25 PM 0 comments 

## **Gretna, LA: Man kills wife, self in Gretna murder-suicide**

Last Update: 10:52 am

Print Story | Share this Story

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (FOX 8 News)

Gretna - A woman is dead after her husband shot her in the head before turning the gun on himself, Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Normand said.

Police were called to the 500 block of Wall Boulevard around 8 a.m. on Tuesday to investigate a possible double shooting.

Deputies discovered a 38-year-old woman lying near the breezeway suffering from a gunshot wound to the head. A short distance away, deputies found a 42-year-old man also with a gunshot wound to the head. The man and the woman were pronounced dead on the scene.

Detectives determined that the man shot the woman and then turned the gun on himself. A 9mm handgun was found near the man's body, Normand said.

Deputies say the suspect and victim were married, but recently separated. The suspect had recently been served with a protective custody order, Normand said.

The identities of the man and woman are being withheld until next of kin has been notified.

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:22 PM 0 comments 

## **Kermit, WV: Estranged Husband Charged in Mingo Co. Woman's Death**

A Mingo County woman is dead and how her estranged husband is charged with her murder.

The body of Michelle Stroud was found by a family member Tuesday afternoon in a wooded area on Newsome Ridge between Dingess and Kermit. The body was concealed in an old refrigerator. The location is about five miles from Stroud's home.

The 29-year old mother of one was reported missing by her family back on Monday when she failed to return from dropping off her son at school.

Tuesday night, Mingo County authorities arrested her husband, Roger Stroud in connection with her murder. Relatives say the two were in the process of getting a divorce.

Posted by Cathy Church at 11:16 AM 0 comments 

## **Epping, NH: 14 years later, man's attack may be murder State: '05 death is result of injuries**

By Margot Sanger-Katz

Monitor staff

September 23, 2009

TRENT SPINER / Pool photo

Walter Hutchinson

Zoom

A Rockingham County jury is considering whether a brutal attack can constitute a murder if it takes more than a decade for the inflicted injuries to result in death.

Prosecutors argue that Walter Hutchinson murdered Kimberly Ernest during a prolonged assault in 1991, even though Ernest lived in a near-vegetative state for 14 years before she died from complications.

Hutchinson's lawyers say that Ernest, while disabled by her injuries, was killed by an intervening illness, and Hutchinson isn't responsible.

"Is there a connection between Walter and his brutal acts and her death?" public defender Caroline Smith asked in an opening statement yesterday. "Absolutely. But that does not answer the question. The question is did he cause, directly and substantially, her death."

Hutchinson has already been convicted of attempted murder, after acknowledging that he beat and choked his ex-girlfriend at his Epping home.

Ernest died in 2005, and prosecutors brought new charges, alleging that Hutchinson is guilty of first- or second-degree murder for his violent attack. In the state's opening statement, Assistant Attorney General Lucy Carrillo told jurors that Ernest's injuries were essentially terminal and that the victim died from predictable complications. "There was no other cause of death," Carrillo said. "She didn't die of cancer. She didn't die of any other disease. There was no other cause. She died as a direct result of the defendant's attack."

Hutchinson's lawyers had already raised legal objections to the prosecution. They argued before the state Supreme Court that the new charges violate Hutchinson's constitutional rights because they amount to a retrying of the same crime. At the time of his indictment on the murder charge, Hutchinson had been scheduled for release after serving 15 years of a 15- to 30-year sentence for attempted murder. The high court ruled against Hutchinson, saying that Ernest's death made a second prosecution permissible.

The murder trial will focus largely on medical testimony about the nature of Ernest's disability and the cascade of events that ultimately caused her death. The details of the attack are virtually undisputed by the defense. In lengthy testimony during his previous trial, Hutchinson described how, enraged, he beat, tied, chased and choked Ernest.

The central question laid out by the lawyers yesterday is whether Ernest's death was

the predictable consequence of the attack, or whether she was medically stable before succumbing to a new health crisis.

Hutchinson's lawyers are also disputing the state's contention that Hutchinson planned to kill Ernest. According to Carrillo's opening statement, Hutchinson told several friends that he hoped to rape and murder Ernest in retaliation for alleged infidelity during their relationship.

One of those friends testified yesterday. Michael Miller told jurors how Hutchinson vented anger in the days before the assault.

"He said that he basically was so angry with her that he would like to tie her up to the bed, and rape her, and kill her, and bury her in the swamp," said Miller, a friend of Hutchinson's who lived down the street. Miller testified about how he visited the house the day of the attack and saw Ernest lying in Hutchinson's yard, bruised and gasping for air.

Miller said he was shocked.

"I just thought it was someone who was angry with someone," he said. "I didn't think he was the kind of person who would pull it off."

Smith told jurors that Hutchinson never planned to harm Ernest, but he became overwhelmed by emotion during an encounter the day of the attack. Smith said that friends had been telling Hutchinson that Ernest had betrayed him and was spreading vicious rumors about him.

"What he did was acting in pure emotion, grief, anger, anguish and rage, and that emotion fueled a frenzy that he just could not stop," Smith said.

In her opening statement, Carrillo pointed to objects found in Hutchinson's room as evidence that the murder was premeditated. She said that investigators found lengths of rope, telephone wire and a roll of duct tape. During the attack, she said, Hutchinson tied Ernest to the bed. But she escaped and climbed out of the bedroom window.

Hutchinson followed her outside, where he strangled her until she stopped struggling, Carrillo said.

"Only because Kimberly escaped out the window, did he have to change his plan," Carrillo said.

Several friends testified that they'd stopped by the house that afternoon, apparently during the attack. They said Hutchinson appeared angry and ordered them to leave. They did.

Family members knew that Ernest was going to Hutchinson's home that afternoon and became concerned when she didn't meet them afterwards. During tearful testimony, Ernest's sister, Bonnie Grenier, described what she saw when she and her husband eventually approached the house.

"There was an ambulance," Grenier said. "There was cops everywhere, and I just lost it. I started screaming. I got out of the car - I didn't even wait to park. I just got out, and I fell to the ground. And then I saw my mother, and they were bringing my sister out on a stretcher. It looked like she was dead."

The first days after the attack were devastating, Grenier said. But she said that she'd been able to maintain a relationship with her sister, despite her profound disabilities. According to Grenier, Ernest never spoke or walked again. Over the years, she learned to indicate yes and no answers by blinking her eyes, she regained some control over one arm, and she would laugh at jokes. Grenier said.

"We had fun," she said. "It was hard, but it was good."

During frequent visits, Grenier would tell her sister stories and celebrate holidays. Family members brought Ernest specially altered clothes so she wasn't dressed in hospital gowns. Nurses braided Ernest's hair and did her makeup every morning, Grenier said.

Then, after every visit, Grenier would cry in her car because she couldn't bring her sister home, she said.

Testimony will resume today.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:37 AM 0 comments 

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

## **Article: Louisiana women get murdered at highest rate in the U.S.**

By Ramon Antonio Vargas, The Times-Picayune

September 22, 2009, 12:00PM

More women get murdered by men in Louisiana than anywhere else in the United States, according to a new report by the Violence Policy Center.

While the national rate of women being murdered by men stands at 1.30 per 100,000, Louisiana's rate in 2007 was 2.53 per 100,000, highest in the nation, the report says. In second was Alaska with a rate of 2.44 per 100,000, and in third place was Wyoming at 2.33 per 100,000.

The report drew its information from the FBI's unpublished Supplementary Homicide report. The most recent data available is from 2007.

That year, men killed 57 women in Louisiana. Seven victims were less than 18 years old. Four victims were 65 years of age or older. The victims' average age was 36, according to the report.

Thirty-four of the victims died from gunshot wounds. Six were stabbed or cut to death; two were clubbed to death; and six were beaten to death.

"These findings alarmingly demonstrate how domestic violence can escalate to homicide," the center's Legislative Director Kristen Rand said in a news release. "More resources need to be made available to protect women and prevent such tragedies."

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:25 PM 0 comments 

## **Canton, MI: Police ID victim, shooter in Canton murder-suicide**

By Brad Kadrich and Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writers

A 33-year-old Canton woman was shot and killed, apparently by her husband, who turned the gun on himself in an apparent murder-suicide at the Canton Public Library Tuesday morning.

Canton Police say they responded to numerous calls about shots being fired in the parking lot around 9:16 a.m. and arrived to find the woman and her 36-year-old husband suffering from gunshot wounds.

The woman, identified as Patricia Catherine Williams, was transported to Annapolis Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival. The man, identified as Edward Gordon Williams II, was taken to St. Joseph Hospital in Ypsilanti, where police said he was placed on life support pending organ harvesting.

Canton Police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said the Patricia Williams was "shot at least twice" with a revolver.

"She was shot at least once in the head," Gajeski said. "'He apparently then turned the gun on himself and shot himself once in the head."

Gajeski said it didn't appear as though anyone else had been injured. The Canton Library, located directly across the street from the Canton Police Department, closed its doors following the incident.

The couple, who lived on Wall Street, were no strangers to the police. Gajeski said police had been called to their home before on domestic calls, once as recently as last weekend.

Witnesses told the police Patricia Williams "was trying to get away from him," Gajeski said. She had reportedly been traveling to the Canton Police Department at the time of the shooting. Police did not know how she'd ended up in the library parking lot.

Patricia Williams' BMW and Edward Williams' Dodge Charger were both still in the parking lot at the library. Police were searching the Charger.

According to Gajeski, both Williamses were members of the Detroit Police

Department. She had been with the department for 15 years, he said; he didn't say how long the husband had been with the department.

Patricia Williams is survived by a 10-year-old son from a previous marriage.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:20 PM 0 comments 

## **Crandon, WI: Memorial for shooting victims nearly done**

Associated Press

9:48 AM CDT, September 22, 2009

CRANDON, Wis.

Nearly 50 contractors and other volunteers are nearly done with a memorial to the six young people who lost their lives when an off-duty sheriff's deputy opened fire at a house in Crandon.

The project's coordinator, Gary Mueller, says the stone gazebo and walkway should be done by Oct. 7, the second anniversary of the day the victims were killed.

Mueller says families of the victims have visited the volunteers, brought soda and otherwise given their support to the effort.

Tyler Peterson killed his former girlfriend, Jordanne Murray, and five others during a party at her home in Crandon on Oct. 7, 2007. Charles Neitzel was shot and wounded before Peterson killed himself.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:18 PM 0 comments 

## **Isleworth, FL: Isleworth shooting: Isleworth Country Club resident accused of shooting his wife**

James Robert Ward is charged with second-degree murder in the shooting death of his wife at their multimillion-dollar Isleworth estate.

Walter Pacheco

Sentinel Staff Writer

1:19 PM EDT, September 22, 2009

Investigators today charged Isleworth Country Club resident James Robert Ward with second-degree murder in the shooting death of his wife, Diane Elizabeth Ward, at their multimillion-dollar estate.

"I just shot my wife . . . she's dead . . . she's on the floor of the master bedroom," Ward told 911 dispatch operators at 8 p.m. Monday, according to the arrest affidavit from the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities said it was a case of domestic violence, though they didn't provide many details. He is being held without bail at the Orange County Jail.

When deputies arrived at Ward's house at 5277 Isleworth Country Club Drive, the 61-year-old developer told them her body was in the second-floor bedroom.

Sheriff's deputies found Diane Ward, 55, on the floor and in a pool of blood.

She had a gunshot wound to her head, reports show.

Deputies confiscated a Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum from the nightstand next to the couple's bed. Investigators did not confirm if it was the weapon used in the slaying.

It is unclear if the couple had an argument before the shooting. Investigators said they found broken glass and a spilled liquid on the floor of a back patio.

The Orlando Sentinel is searching for people who knew Diane Ward. [Click here](#) if you have information about the family you would like us to know.

A video on WFTV.com shows a red stain on the back of Ward's white polo when deputies escorted him into a patrol car.

A deputy asked Ward if wine or blood caused the stain, but Ward replied that he wanted to talk to his attorney before saying anything else.

Despite his previous comments to dispatch operators, Ward later tried telling deputies a different story.

Investigators at Ward's house overheard him telling someone over the phone that his wife had killed herself. He also told a deputy that he had tried taking the weapon away from her.

Court records show Ward is a former chairman and founder of Land Resource, an Orlando-based community development company that filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy in October 2008.

The company closed six sales offices in five states and laid off 70 people.

Its \$15.6 million in assets were auctioned off in January.

Court records show the house in the tony Isleworth Country Club neighborhood of multimillion dollar mansions and celebrity residents is in foreclosure.

Orange County Property Appraiser records show Ward purchased the home in February 2007 for \$4.3 million.

The 8,858-square-foot mansion is valued at \$3.5 million. A real estate agency's Web site shows the home is listed for \$5.2 million.

As of July, Ward owed \$3.6 million on his home. Wachovia Mortgage Corp. was in the process of foreclosing, according to court records.

He had not paid the monthly mortgage payment of \$16,841 -- an amount that includes principal and interest -- since September 2008, records show.

The case is still pending in court.

A profile of Ward on Land Resource's old Web site says he has been a "leader in residential real estate development and mortgage banking" for 30 years.

"Prior to founding Land Resource, Bob was President of the Eastern Division of the Bluegreen Corporation, a major developer and operator of timeshare resorts," the Web site said. "Bob has also held the position of President and General Manager of Fairfield Communities, Inc.'s Pointe Alexis development in Florida."

Isleworth Country Club is one of Orange County's most expensive and prestigious gated neighborhoods.

Records also show golf legend Arnold Palmer owned Ward's home in the early 1990s.

Golf super star Tiger Woods, as well as sports stars Shaquille O'Neal and Grant Hill live in the lavish 300-home subdivision.

Former Hughes Supply Inc. CEO Tom Morgan and the estate of car dealer Bob Dance also have homes in Isleworth.

Posted by Cathy Church at 4:52 PM 0 comments 

Monday, September 21, 2009

## **Rockhold, KY: Man allegedly beats girlfriend, kills himself**

By Adam S. Sulfridge / Staff Writer

Glenna Woods opened her front door around 8:30 a.m. Sunday to a sight she won't soon forget after 31-year-old Kenneth "Beak" Ingram Jr. allegedly beat 20-year-old Samantha Miller nearly to death.

"When you open your door and all you see is a bloody face looking at you and you aren't sure what it is or what just happened outside, it's a traumatic experience," Woods explained.

Miller allegedly fled from her trailer near the Rockholds community, crossed Hwy. 779, and started “banging” on Woods’ front door. Woods, who was getting ready for church at the time, said she was stunned when she opened the door.

“She was just so bloody that I hardly recognized her.”

Ultimately, she realized the victim was Miller.

“I recognized her from her one eye,” Woods said.

Woods, still shaken from the early morning events, attempted to describe the horrific image, saying, “It looked like she had a hole above her left eye...it would make you think of a gunshot wound.” She continued, “Her whole left eye was all bulged...both her arms were broken.”

Police believe she also had a broken ankle and broken jaw.

With a sigh, she said, “You couldn’t hardly recognize this little girl.”

After the initial shock began wearing off, Woods said, “I sat her down and said, ‘Sam what happened to you?’”

According to Woods, Miller replied, “Beak did it with a stick.”

Woods also said Miller kept saying “get the babies” and “don’t let him hit me anymore.”

Neighbors said Miller is the mother of two children, one being 3 years old and the other only 15 months old.

“He left here on a bike,” Woods explained, referring to Kenneth Ingram.

Ingram reportedly rode from the scene to his parent’s house on Maple Creek Road. After entering their home, police said he killed himself.

The victim was treated by EMS and airlifted from Baptist Regional Medical Center. Media relations at UK’s Chandler Hospital said Miller is in critical condition but would not comment on the extent of her injuries.

“I just hate it for both sides of the family,” said Woods, who’s familiar with both Ingram and Miller. “All we can do is pray for them,” she added.

Posted by Cathy Church at 10:22 PM 0 comments 

## **Thibodaux, LA: Thibodaux man receives life sentence for girlfriend's murder**

Published: Monday, September 21, 2009 at 6:46 p.m.

Last Modified: Monday, September 21, 2009 at 6:46 p.m.

THIBODAUX -- A 36-year-old Thibodaux man will spend the rest of his life in prison after pleading guilty today to the 2008 murder of his girlfriend.

The second-degree murder trial of Christopher Johnson was set to begin Tuesday in Judge Jerome Barbera's court.

However, Johnson decided to change his plea from not guilty to guilty today, Lafourche District Attorney Cam Morvant II said.

Johnson beat his girlfriend, 23-year-old Tameka Carter, to death in the area of Thompson Road and Ridgefield Road on Feb. 8, 2008, prosecutors said.

The couple dated two years before Carter's death, police said. Johnson was charged with domestic abuse battery against Carter on Oct. 4, 2007, just four months before her death.

There was no plea agreement brought up prior to Johnson's decision, Morvant said. Under state law, second-degree murder carries a mandatory penalty of life in prison.

Posted by Cathy Church at 10:18 PM 0 comments 

## **New Milford, CT: New Milford man charged with strangling woman**

Updated: 09/21/2009 05:13:23 PM EDT

NEW MILFORD -- Police arrested a 21-year-old man on charges he attacked and strangled his girlfriend during an argument at his home on Cherniske Road early Sunday morning.

Kyle McArdle was charged with second-degree strangulation, third-degree assault, disorderly conduct/simple assault, and violation of a protect order.

At 1:22 a.m., police were called to the home for a disturbance and found the female victim had been assaulted and strangled, police said.

McArdle was scheduled to appear Monday in Bantam Superior Court.

Posted by Cathy Church at 10:15 PM 0 comments 

## **Hoover, AL: Hoover deaths ruled murder-suicide**

By CORINNE ALCAZAR

Published: September 21, 2009

HOOVER-On September 9, 2009, the Hoover Police Department responded to the 2000 building of Wisteria Place apartments, to conduct a “welfare check”.

The purpose of a “welfare check” was to check on the occupants of a residence.

When officers arrived on the scene they discovered two bodies.

The bodies were identified as Deanna Camille Kelly, 39, and Tulio Nava Tenario, 24.

Investigation revealed that Deanna Kelly had been shot twice, once in the torso, and once in the head, and Tenario had been shot once in the head.

A pistol was recovered at the scene.

Kelly and Tenario had been involved in a domestic relationship.

The investigation revealed the incident was a murder-suicide.

Detectives of the Hoover Police Department and by the Jefferson County Coroner’s Office were involved in the investigation.

Posted by Cathy Church at [10:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

## **Oak Creek, AZ: Oak Creek Murder-Suicide**

September 21st, 2009 by Danielle Wynniger

FLAGSTAFF - 31 year-old Lisa Grondin and her husband, 32 year-old Jared Grondin, were found deceased at a home in the 100 block of Arrowhead Drive in the village of Oak Creek on September 20, 2009, at approximately 11:30 a.m. Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office deputies were responding to a reported welfare check request at the home. During a check of the home deputies found both deceased persons.

An initial investigation by YCSO detectives from the Criminal Investigations section has determined that Lisa’s death was caused by her husband Jared, who later killed himself. Jared’s apparent suicide occurred by use of a firearm. The exact cause of Lisa’s death is currently under investigation and pending results of an autopsy that is scheduled later this week. Detectives have determined that no other people were inside the home when the events took place.

Check back for further information as it becomes available.

Posted by Cathy Church at [10:11 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

## **Union, SC: Man gets life for killing teen girlfriend in SC**

Associated Press - September 21, 2009 6:45 PM ET

UNION, S.C. (AP) - A man has been sentenced to life in prison after admitting he killed his 16-year-old girlfriend to prove to his wife he still loved her.

WYFF-TV reported that 21-year-old Pernell Thompson pleaded guilty Monday to murder to avoid a possible death sentence.

Prosecutors say Thompson stabbed Union High cheerleader Marisha Jeter to death in January 2008 while his wife held the teen down in a parking lot. Yolanda Thompson pleaded guilty to murder in March. She had agreed to testify against her husband and has not been sentenced.

Pernell Thompson was a football player at Wingate University when he was arrested.

He apologized to Jeter's family, but said he knows she is in heaven and has forgiven him.

Jeter's father told Thompson he will go straight to hell.

Posted by Cathy Church at 10:09 PM 0 comments 

## **Maine Township, IL: Couple's death in Maine Township fire ruled murder-suicide**

Comments

September 21, 2009

By JENNIFER JOHNSON jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

A house fire that took the lives of a Maine Township couple Sept. 14 has been ruled a murder-suicide, investigators reported today (Sept. 21).

Lisa Gordon, spokeswoman for the Cook County Sheriff's Department, said investigators, citing physical evidence and interviews with family members, believe Aleykutty Yohannan, 65, intentionally started the fire that killed her and her husband, 69-year-old Philipose Yohannan, inside their duplex at 9396 Home Ave.

Gordon said gasoline had been poured in the first-floor dining room, which had been converted into the couple's bedroom. A gas can, which family members said was normally stored inside the garage, was found inside the kitchen, Gordon said.

The couple's daughter-in-law had been asleep upstairs at the time of the fire and woke up when she smelled smoke, Gordon said. She was able to exit the house and was not injured. A motive for the alleged murder-suicide remained unclear. The investigation report indicated that Philipose Yohannan was bedridden due to a stroke he suffered some time ago, and his wife had been dealing with a health issue, as well. Gordon said no suicide note was found in the house.

The adjoining duplex was not damaged by the fire, Gordon said. The fire investigation was conducted jointly by the Cook County Sheriff's Police, the North Maine Fire Department and the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

Philipose Yohannan was a retired Pentecostal minister, and he and his wife were most

recently members of International Pentecostal Church of God in Des Plaines. Both had emigrated to the United States from Kerala, India, and had lived at 9396 Home Ave. with their son and daughter-in-law.

Their son was at work when the fire broke out, Gordon said. A funeral service for the couple was conducted Saturday at Ridegewood Memorial Park, 9900 N. Milwaukee Ave., Des Plaines.

Posted by Cathy Church at 10:08 PM 0 comments 

## **Horn Lake, MS: Man charged in girlfriend's death**

By CYNTHIA BULLION

Times-Tribune News Staff

Published: Monday, September 21, 2009 12:48 PM CDT

HORN LAKE - A 41-year-old man has been charged with killing his live-in girlfriend in Horn Lake.

Troney Delwon Johnson was arrested on Sunday in connection with the death of Wilma Johnson, who would have turned 55 years old on Wednesday.

The woman was found dead with multiple gunshot wounds on Saturday night after members of Troney Johnson's family reported being unable to reach the couple by telephone all week.

Horn Lake Police Lt. Scott Evans said police conducted a welfare check at the couple's home, in the 6000 block of Conrail Circle, around 3 p.m. Saturday but found nothing suspicious.

"The lights were off and the door was locked," he said, noting that Wilma Johnson's car was not there. "It looked like no one was home."

When family members returned later that day, shortly before 6 p.m., and forced their way inside the home, they found Wilma Johnson's lifeless body in her bedroom.

An autopsy on Wilma Johnson's body was scheduled for Monday morning to determine cause and time of death in the case, though Evans said initial evidence shows the woman was probably killed several days before being found.

Evans added that her death likely was the result of a domestic violence situation.

Troney Johnson currently is in Shelby County Jail with a \$25,000 bond amount for domestic assault-bodily harm and two counts of aggravated burglary. He awaits extradition to DeSoto County, where he already has been charged with murder.

Wilma Johnson's murder is the first in Horn Lake yet fifth countywide this year.

Brendan Talley, 18, was shot and killed at his home in the Oak Hollow Apartments

complex in Southaven last month. Benjamin Talbert of Hernando was charged with and, earlier this month, indicted for Talley's murder.

In Olive Branch in June, Cornelius Swopshire was charged with murdering Cordarrel Brown. Swopshire, who was indicted earlier this month, allegedly shot the 19-year-old following an argument.

In May, Southaven police charged John Henry Brown with depraved heart murder in connection with a crash along I-55 that killed a 6-year-old girl. Investigators said Brown was driving his tractor-trailer recklessly when he caused the accident. Brown is set to stand trial in December.

The county's first murder of the year was recorded in January. Kimberly Field, 34, was shot and killed during an argument between her mother and her mother's boyfriend, Andrew Stokes, who was later charged in the case.

Cynthia Bullion: 429-6397, [cbullion@desototimestribune.com](mailto:cbullion@desototimestribune.com)

Posted by Cathy Church at 10:06 PM 0 comments 

## [Columbia, SC: SC man confesses to slayings of 4 family members](#)

By JEFFREY COLLINS (AP) - 4 hours ago

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A South Carolina man confessed Monday to methodically stalking and murdering four family members in their home, reloading his shotgun five times before firing the final shot into his father as the man said "I love you."

Nathan Dickson, 20, pleaded guilty to four counts of murder as part of a deal that will allow him to avoid the death penalty. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Dickson didn't say why he killed his father, stepmother, stepsister and younger brother at their Easley home in April 2008, and Prosecutor Chrissy Adams said the motive may never be known. Defense attorney Kurt Tavernier said not being able to figure out why he killed his family gnaws at Dickson every day.

Adams read Dickson's confession in court in Anderson County. He had been arrested hours after the killings — spending the time before police found him riding four-wheelers with a friend.

Dickson said he woke up that Saturday morning and saw a shotgun while looking for some of his clothes in his 14-year-old brother's closet. The killing began when he shot his stepmother, 41-year-old Maritza Dickson, while she was in bed talking to her daughter.

Dickson's stepsister, 19-year-old Jiliam Salazar, was killed after running into the kitchen screaming. He punched his brother, Taylor, in the head when he yelled at Dickson to stop, and shot him twice, going to his father's bedroom to get more ammunition each time. The final shot went into his brother's head as he was sprawled across a chair crying for help, according to the confession.

Dickson's father was out of the house when the killings began. Dickson said he shot

him first in their back yard, then after going to the bedroom to get another shell, shot him again at the edge of the front yard. After firing the last shot at his brother and getting one final shell, Dickson said he went to the front yard and confronted his father, who had called 911.

"He rolled over and told me, 'I love you' right before I took my last shot at him," Dickson wrote in his confession, adding he then slammed the stock of the shotgun into his father's head like a club because he was still breathing.

Adams said she decided not to pursue the death penalty because the victims' relatives were strongly opposed, and because Dickson had no criminal record and was 18 at the time of the murders.

While Dickson vividly recounted the killings for nearly two weeks afterward, he can't remember them now, his attorneys said. But Adams said the confession matched physical evidence, right down to how many times the victims were shot.

Dickson had several problems just before the killings. The Marines rejected him, but he told people he had already served in the military. Money went missing from his house, and he had just broken up with his girlfriend, Adams said.

But Dickson called his father his hero on his MySpace page, and friends told investigators he appeared to get along well with his stepmother and stepsister. He was a decent student in high school and well-liked by teachers and friends. There also were no drugs or alcohol in his system, Adams said.

The confession gives no clues.

"I don't know why I killed all my family today. Once I loaded that shotgun and shot Maritza I couldn't stop and I did not stop until I had shot them all," Dickson wrote, adding he was concerned it would affect his chances of enlisting in the Marines.

The confession also includes what Dickson did after the killings. He threw the gun into the woods, put on sandals and drove to a nearby convenience store for water and smokeless tobacco. He then bought a chicken biscuit with his stepsister's debit card, but was so sick he only ate two bites. Then he rode four-wheelers with a friend.

Dickson apologized after pleading guilty.

"The question that will go unanswered – what was it that caused him to snap?" defense attorney Tavernier said. "We'll probably never know."

Posted by Cathy Church at 10:01 PM 0 comments 

## **Pasadena, CA: Hearing continued for man charged with strangling ex-wife**

Posted: 09/21/2009 11:51:53 AM PDT

PASADENA -- A 78-year-old man accused of strangling his ex-wife at a home in Pasadena appeared in court today for a preliminary hearing and was ordered to return Oct. 14.

William Manson has pleaded not guilty.

Police said Manson injected himself with an "unknown liquid" after allegedly choking his 74-year-old ex-wife in March. He recovered and was charged with murder.

Investigators believe Manson used his bare hands to kill his ex-wife at her home in the 100 block of South Virginia Avenue.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:59 PM 0 comments 

## **Princeton, WV: Mercer Man Gets Life for Murder of Ex-Wife**

Posted Monday, September 21, 2009 ; 04:14 PM | [View Comments](#) | [Post Comment](#)

Arthur Cox entered a guilty plea Monday.

PRINCETON -- Arthur Cox pleaded guilty to first degree murder today before Mercer County Circuit Court Judge William Sadler.

He was immediately sentenced to life in prison with mercy.

Police say Cox killed Blenda Marshall in October 2008.

She was shot to death in the Shear Perfection Hair Salon while a customer watched.

Marshall was killed a week after her divorce from Cox was final.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:57 PM 0 comments 

## **North Versailles, PA: Police kill woman, 71, who planned to ambush ex-boyfriend**

Monday, September 21, 2009

By Jim McKinnon, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Police last night fatally wounded an elderly, armed North Versailles woman who, investigators said, had been preparing to ambush her ex-boyfriend and his new girlfriend.

"She parked her car away from the house, walked up to it, and was laying in wait for homeowner and his girlfriend to return from an engagement they had," North Versailles Police Chief James Comunale said this morning.

Elsa Seman

The woman, Elsa Seman, 71, was shot minutes after a resident on Shady Lane reported a prowler, dressed in black, crouching behind a home owned by her former boyfriend, Richard Ireland, 58, in the 3700 block of Shady Lane.

Police were summoned by a neighbor at 8:13 p.m. Within two minutes two veteran officers arrived and circled toward the rear of the residence.

One officer, an eight-year police veteran whose name has not been released, spotted Ms. Seman crouched behind the house.

She was dressed in black, wearing a latex glove on one hand in which she wielded a

pistol, Chief Comunale said.

The officer ordered the woman to show her hands. As she did so, she pointed her pistol at the officer who immediately fired at her, the chief said.

Ms. Seman was taken to UPMC McKeesport where she was pronounced dead, Chief Comunale said.

Allegheny County homicide detectives are investigating the incident.

The officer who fired the fatal shot has been placed on paid administrative leave, pending further investigation.

Chief Comunale said his officers had been dispatched to Mr. Ireland's residence a few times in the past to quell nonviolent domestic disputes.

Earlier yesterday, police broke up an argument between Mr. Ireland and Ms. Seman.

No charges were filed in any of the previous incidents.

However, yesterday morning police advised Mr. Ireland about requirements to obtain a court restraining order against Ms. Seman.

More details in tomorrow's Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.  
First published on September 21, 2009 at 9:31 am

Read more: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09264/999675-100.stm#ixzz0RnREDuGU>

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:53 PM 0 comments 

## **Clinton, MA: Family: Man who killed Clinton woman was 'a monster'**

By Kathy Uek/Daily News staff

The MetroWest Daily News

Posted Sep 25, 2009 @ 01:00 AM

Trapped in a cycle of domestic violence, Giselle Rodriguez tried many times to escape the abusive relationship with the "monster" who eventually killed her, family members said.

Rodriguez, a former Marlborough resident, finally did leave her abuser, Alexander Skowran, three months ago. But Rodriguez's sister-in-law believes he became jealous of a MySpace posting about Rodriguez's new boyfriend, then waited in her apartment, where police say he killed her Monday.

Authorities tracked Skowran to a Virginia motel, where he shot and killed himself.

"(Skowran) beat her before strangling her with a wire from a cable he had taken from a bike downstairs from her apartment," said her brother, Luis Rodriguez of Marlborough.

About two years ago, after Rodriguez had lost a baby, gone through a divorce and lost her home, the 23-year-old began dating Skowran.

"When people are vulnerable, they are less likely to have their radar up," said Mary Gianakis, director of Voices Against Violence in Framingham and a board member and incoming president of Jane Doe Inc.

Voices Against Violence is one of the 60-member organizations of Jane Doe Inc., a statewide coalition against sexual abuse and domestic violence.

"She was blinded by him," said her sister-in-law Crystal Henning of Marlborough. "He was really good to her one minute and the next, he was horrible."

"In domestic abuse, there is a constant process of chipping away at their sense of self-worth," said Gianakis.

Skowran manipulated and controlled her, said her brother. "There were certain clothes he didn't want her to wear. He was a monster. He was sick."

After Rodriguez first attempted to leave seven months ago, Skowran poured bleach on her clothes, threw detergent on her walls and electronics and stole a prized memory box. Determined, Rodriguez took out a restraining order.

Again he charmed her. She dropped the restraining order and returned to him. During the vicious cycle, Skowran even complained about Rodriguez's pregnancy with her former husband. "That was way before she even met him."

Rodriguez, a 2004 Keefe Technical High School honors graduate, went to MassBay Community College. She dreamed of becoming a lawyer.

Graduating three months ago, she worked as a paralegal at Hologic, a health care company in Marlborough.

Henning believes it was the last entry Rodriguez made on MySpace.com that precipitated the murder. The message: She was watching the Patriots game with Kenny, her new boyfriend.

After entering her apartment the day of the murder with a key he promised to return, Skowran logged on to her computer.

"I think he saw that and waited for her at night," said Henning.

Now the family grieves. Josefina Rivera thinks of the daughter she called princess. "She was smart and wanted to be somebody," said Rivera.

"By the time she was 14, she already had a job," said her brother. "She was pretty much the best future in our family."

They think of the good changes in Rodriguez after she left Skowran.

"She was getting her happiness back," he said. "She was coming back to life and smiling a lot more. Before, she was always like in prison with him."

Luis Rodriguez learned a lesson from the tragedy. "Be aware of who family members are involved with."

Toni Troop, a spokeswoman for Jane Doe Inc., agreed. "We encourage family and friends to learn more about the issues and reach out in a non-judgmental, supportive way," said Troop.

For information on domestic violence, visit [janedoe.org](http://janedoe.org). For those in an abusive relationship, call Voices Against Violence's 24-hour hot line at 800-593-1125 or call the statewide 24-hour hotline at 877-785-2020.

### Missing Ex-Boyfriend Suspect In Woman's Murder

A 23-year-old woman is dead and now police in Clinton are looking for the suspect - her ex-boyfriend.

Giselle Rodriguez, a former Fitchburg State College student, was found dead at 1 Coolidge Place shortly before 11 a.m. on Monday.

She was discovered by police after a family member asked them to perform a wellness check.

Now police are looking for her ex-boyfriend, Alexander Skowran, 22 - a senior at Fitchburg State.

It is not clear how Rodriguez died, but police say she did have an active restraining order out against Skowran.

Officials are now looking for Skowran. He is said to be driving a black 2003 Honda Accord with Maryland plate number 8DXX66.

Skowran is originally from Pasadena, Md.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:38 PM 0 comments 

## **Brooksville, FL: 25 years for murderous trip**

By John Frank, Times Staff Writer

Published Monday, September 21, 2009

BROOKSVILLE — A Pasco County man who abducted and shot his estranged wife received 25 years in prison Monday, sparing him from a trial with blood-curdling 911 tapes and a possible life sentence.

Rudolph Mark Moats, 40, pleaded guilty to attempted first-degree murder, armed kidnapping and two counts of aggravated assault for the July 2008 abduction of Donna Sue Moats.

Attorneys came to court poised to begin jury selection ahead of a four-day trial but an unexpected month-long delay prompted the victim to accept the last-minute plea deal offered by Moats' attorney, Assistant Public Defender Andy Gonzalez.

Assistant State Attorney Don Barbee said the victim wanted to resolve the case rather than wait another month. "It was her decision to go ahead and accept that," he said.

Under an agreement, Moats will serve his entire sentence, the minimum mandatory term allowed under state codes.

The Lacochee resident and Disney employee faced a life sentence if convicted at trial.

Authorities arrested him July 1, 2008, after a five-hour pursuit that started in Brooksville and ended in Flagler County, on the state's east coast, according to court documents detailing interviews with the Moats and his wife.

It began about 11 a.m. after the two had lunch together at Hardee's. He picked her up at Wal-Mart, where she works, and said he wanted to talk about the impending divorce. They married when he was 19 and she was 15 and pregnant.

Instead of driving her back after lunch, Moats began roaming the roads in a remote area northeast of Brooksville, the documents say. In previous conversations, he threatened to kill her, their daughter and himself if she didn't get together with him.

Near Cyrano Avenue, he reached for a small black BB gun. She grabbed it and threw it out the window, thinking it was a real handgun.

Donna Moats then opened the door and jumped while the SUV was still moving. He stopped and got out of the SUV with a shotgun he took from his father's house the day before.

Moats waved the gun at a passing car, telling the driver to keep on driving.

He then grabbed Donna Moats and pushed her into the car at gunpoint. On a 911 call, a woman who lived nearby said she heard a gunshot.

Donna Moats said she was sitting in the passenger seat when he pointed the 20-gauge shotgun at her as he drove. She said he pulled the trigger, hitting her in the chest with bird shot.

Rudolph Moats told authorities a different story, saying the shooting occurred outside the car. He said he told his wife he was going to kill himself and she grabbed the gun. In the struggle, it accidentally fired, he said.

He said he was scared and didn't know what to do, so he kept driving. He said he "lost it."

The prosecutor planned to focus specifically on 911 calls to describe what happened in the car during the hours-long ordeal while authorities tried unsuccessfully to find Donna Moats.

Bleeding and clutching her wound, she managed to reach her cell phone and make two 911 calls holding the phone by her side to hide it. On the tape, she screams: "Help me, I've been shot. I've been shot into the heart by a shotgun. I'm dying, sir. I'm dying. I'm dying, help me. I don't know where I'm at."

She pleads with Moats to take her to a hospital. He then took her phone, prosecutors said, and continued driving east toward Orlando.

About 45 minutes later, he gave Donna Moats the phone again to call their 19-year-old daughter to say goodbye. The daughter called 911 but her mother gave her no indication of her location. In a tearful phone call, the daughter said Moats had abused her mother previously and threatened to kill them if they told authorities.

A couple of hours later, Donna Moats' condition deteriorated and she began to vomit. Rudolph Moats took her to a hospital in St. Augustine and fled.

Hospital workers found her in critical condition and rushed her into emergency surgery. Authorities from St. John's County chased Moats down Interstate 95 at speeds topping 100 mph. In neighboring Flagler County at 3:15 p.m. he crashed into a tree.

Authorities arrested him and found an empty shotgun shell in his pocket.

Rudolph Moats' attorney labeled the case a "family tragedy."

"He's still able to be a father and a grandfather when he gets out," he said.

John Frank can be reached at [jfrank@sptimes.com](mailto:jfrank@sptimes.com) or (352) 754-6114.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:36 PM 0 comments 

## **LaMarque, TX: Family of murdered LaMarque woman asks for help**

07:23 PM CDT on Sunday, September 20, 2009

By Alex Sanz / 11 News

LA MARQUE - The family of a woman allegedly killed by a former boyfriend said they needed the public's help to find him.

Faith Worthey Guillory, 45, was found shot to death on Monday in front of an apartment complex in the 1200 block of Spruce.

Guillory had graduated from the University of Phoenix two days earlier.

"It's the worst pain I've ever felt in my life," said Dana Landry, Guillory's sister.

Police named 51-year-old Moises Perez Alvarez as the prime suspect. He and Guillory had been involved - on and off - for about a decade. Alvarez, who is also known as Adrian Delierro, had recently been released from jail, Landry said.

"She had fallen in love with someone else," she said. "And when he came back he couldn't accept it. We knew it was going to happen because he kept threatening [her]."

Police records showed Alvarez had a violent past.

He was convicted in 1993 for the aggravated sexual assault of an 11-year-old girl.

A murder warrant with a \$250,000 bond has been issued for his arrest.

Police think Alvarez may be in Galveston County, or traveling by train trying to flee to Mexico.

They also think he may still be in possession of the murder weapon, a .380 caliber pistol.

"He's taken my only sister," Landry said, "I want him to turn himself in. I want somebody to find him. Because it's not fair."

Guillory was a single mother of three grown children.

She is survived by her immediate family.

Memorial services are planned for Tuesday at Rosewood Funeral Home in Pasadena.  
Posted by Cathy Church at 7:43 AM 0 comments 

## **Jacksonville, NC: Man Shot, Killed Following Hours Long Stand-Off**

By Tiffany Griffith @ September 20, 2009 10:46 PM Permalink | Comments (0)

A man is killed after an hours' long standoff with the Jacksonville SWAT Team. JSO Chief Rick Graham says the suspect, 31-year-old Christopher Reynoso was a veteran with an arsenal of high-powered rifles. He also had a history of violent behavior towards his wife.

Early Sunday morning, Jacksonville Police were called to his home at the Spinnaker Reach Apartments after a night of drinking and socializing reportedly lead to him injuring his wife. The wife and some other friends and family members were able to escape the apartment with two other young children before calling police for help. Jacksonville Police say they attempted to end things peacefully when they arrived, but Reynoso kept telling them things would not end well. SWAT Team members then went door-to-door and evacuated a portion of the complex.

Sometime, around 11am, several rounds of tear gas were fired into the upstairs apartment and a gunshot was heard being fired from inside of the apartment. Officers then say Reynoso was then seen aiming a high-powered rifle during the stand-off. Graham says Detective J.R. Moore took defensive action and fired the single shot that killed Reynoso.

Reynoso's wife has minor injuries, and no other major injuries were reported. The SWAT standoff ended over six hours later and people were allowed back into their homes.

Moore is now on administrative leave as JSO investigates the shooting and stand-off.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:39 AM 0 comments 

## **Farmville, VA: Slain girl on Bay Area rapper's MySpace**

Carolyn Said, Chronicle Staff Writer

Monday, September 21, 2009

(09-20) 20:28 PDT -- Richard McCroskey of Castro Valley called himself "Syko Sam" and rapped about the thrill of killing people.

But the 20-year-old's message board on MySpace.com was dominated by a different theme - a teen girl from Virginia, Emma Niederbrock, lavishing him with affection.

"You are my one and only everything," wrote Niederbrock, who counted down the days until McCroskey planned to visit her.

Police said Sunday that the visit turned into a nightmare. They believe McCroskey flew to Virginia on Sept. 6 to see the girl, attended a "horrorcore" concert with her,

and then killed her and three others in her home.

He was arrested Saturday at Richmond International Airport, police said, one day after the bodies were found decomposing in a home in Farmville, Va., and one day before his scheduled flight back to the Bay Area.

Richard Alden Samuel McCroskey III is set to be arraigned today on charges including murder.

"It's a horrific crime. It's hard to imagine what these people must have gone through," said police Sgt. Andy Ellington in a telephone interview from Farmville, a town of 7,200 with little violent crime. "It's a close-knit community and everybody knows everybody. It's just devastating."

Ellington said none of the victims had been positively identified, pending autopsies being performed in Richmond. But he said investigators believe the victims include McCroskey's girlfriend as well as Mark Niederbrock, a pastor at a Presbyterian church in the area who is identified in published reports as the girl's father.

Asked about a possible motive in the slaying, Ellington said, "I wish I knew." He noted that the suspect, asked how he committed the crime by a reporter, responded, "Jesus told me to do it."

Efforts to reach McCroskey's family in Castro Valley were unsuccessful on Sunday. Neighbors of a modest, ranch-style home where McCroskey lived said they never noticed anything troubling about the young man, his parents or his older sister.

loner

McCroskey appeared to be a loner, they said, and always wore a hooded black sweatshirt.

On his MySpace page, the red-haired McCroskey posed with a skull-bedecked bandanna covering the lower part of his face. He described himself as a fan of the horrorcore genre, which glorifies violence with lyrics set to hip-hop beats.

McCroskey, saying he only recently began rapping, posted songs with lyrics such as "I've killed many people and I kill them real slow. It's the best feeling, watching their last breath."

A friend, Andres Shrim, a musician and the owner of Serial Killin Records in New Mexico, said he was shocked that McCroskey was accused of murder, calling him a "good kid."

egitimate art form

He said horrorcore is a legitimate art form that reflects reality in the world and had nothing to do with the slayings.

"There's no difference from what we do than going out on a Friday night to the newest horror movie that came out, or turning on the news and hearing about brutal bloodshed and violence," Shrim said. If McCroskey is guilty, he said, "It was some other sort of circumstance. The kid did not have it easy in his life."

Shrim, who first met McCroskey in January while performing at a concert in Apple Valley (San Bernardino County), said McCroskey "was brilliant at Web design, graphics and all that. I commissioned him to do our Web site and to do some graphics work for us."

Shrim said McCroskey had stayed in Farmville with Emma Niederbrock and her mother, Debra Kelley, an associate professor of sociology and criminal justice studies at Longwood University. Kelley's home was the site of the killings, but it was not clear whether she was among the dead.

Shrim said McCroskey, Niederbrock and her best friend took a road trip to a Sept. 12 horrorcore festival in Michigan called Strictly for the Wicked, with the girlfriend's parents acting as drivers.

Shrim said his girlfriend received an urgent call a few days later from the mother of Niederbrock's female friend, saying she hadn't heard from her daughter. Neither the two girls nor McCroskey responded to phone calls, text messages or e-mails, Shrim said.

"I got very concerned because it was definitely not in these girls' nature to not answer," he said.

victims found

Shrim said he contacted police Friday, asking them to check at Kelley's house.

Ellington said the four victims were found Friday afternoon when a person asked officers to conduct a welfare check at the home.

"When officers arrived at the house, they noticed a distinct odor that they recognized as possibly being decaying bodies," Ellington said. "They made entry and observed three bodies on the floor."

The officers found the fourth body, Ellington said, after obtaining a search warrant.

McCroskey was arrested at about 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the airport. Ellington said he was sleeping in a chair in the baggage claim area.

On Sunday, someone apparently accessed McCroskey's MySpace page and deleted many messages, including those from Niederbrock.

"I know my mind works weird," she wrote, "cause I always expect the worst, but I'm trying sooo hard not to with you cause I know you'd never hurt me."

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:35 AM 0 comments 

Sunday, September 20, 2009

## **Camden, NJ: 2 Camden shooting deaths ruled murder-suicide**

The Associated Press

CAMDEN, N.J. - The shooting deaths of two Philadelphia residents found inside a Camden home have been ruled a murder-suicide.

Camden County Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk said 39-year-old Samuel Bey shot 25-year-old Takesha Pointer several times in an upstairs bedroom in his cousin's Liberty Street home Saturday afternoon, then shot himself. The murder-suicide determination was made Sunday, shortly after the county medical examiner completed autopsies on the pair.

Bey had been staying at the home and Pointer went there to visit him, Faulk said, adding that a motive for the shootings remains under investigation.

Faulk said Bey's cousin found the bodies around 1:30 p.m., a short time after the shootings apparently occurred.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:01 PM 1 comments 

## **Los Angeles, CA: UCI graduate charged in shooting death of ex-wife**

September 15, 2009 | 3:23 pm

A graduate student at UC Irvine appeared in court this afternoon for a scheduled arraignment on charges of shooting and killing his ex-wife outside his campus apartment because of a custody dispute over their 4-year-old son.

Brian Hughes Benedict, 35, did not enter a plea during the hearing at the Newport Beach courthouse because his attorney is out of the country, said Michael Jacobs, who appeared on behalf of Benedict's lawyer, Ron Cordova. The arraignment was continued to Oct. 2.

Benedict is facing charges of one felony count of murder with a sentencing enhancement for personally discharging a firearm and causing death.

About 7 p.m. Sunday, Rebecca Benedict, 30, went to pick up her son from her ex-husband at his Verano Place apartment on the university campus. She had recently received primary custody of the boy, and Brian Benedict was ordered to pay more

money in child support.

When she arrived at Benedict's apartment, he allegedly grew angry and attacked Rebecca Benedict by swinging a hammer at her as their son watched, authorities said. She ran from the apartment, and prosecutors say Brian Benedict chased her down a nearby path with a firearm. He is accused of shooting at her several times, and striking her at least once.

Rebecca Benedict was pronounced dead at a hospital. It was the first homicide on the UC Irvine campus.

According to prosecutors, Brian Benedict went back to his apartment, got his son and put him in the car. Witnesses and neighbors physically restrained him until police arrived.

Brian Benedict, who lived alone except when his son came to visit, was working toward a doctorate in physics. He'd earned a master's from the school in 2004, the year he and Rebecca married, according to court records. Rebecca graduated from UC Irvine in 2004.

The couple, who separated in 2006, had been in and out of family court this year. The judge in the case ruled last week to more than double Brian Benedict's monthly child support payments to \$920. He had argued that his payments should be based on his current salary as a research assistant -- about \$26,000 a year -- not on the \$85,000 a year he reportedly earned while employed for Northrop Grumman Corp.

Judge Nancy A. Pollard disagreed, ruling that "the care and maintenance of the child is more important than the care and maintenance of the father's schooling."

The records also appear to indicate that Brian Benedict had attempted suicide sometime during the prolonged court battle, stating that the court "further orders that if another incident of suicide or attempted suicide occurs," Rebecca Benedict could come to court alone.

If convicted, Benedict faces a maximum sentence of 50 years to life in state prison. The defendant is being held on \$1 million bail.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:46 AM 0 comments 

## **Tampa, FL: Woman: Ex-boyfriend pinned her to wall with car**

By JOSH POLTILOVE | The Tampa Tribune

Tosha Montgomery said she looked up and saw her ex-boyfriend in the red Dodge pickup. Derrick McNeal's eyes never left hers as he sped toward her, plowing through a July 4 party and pinning her against a wall.

"He had an expression on his face that would make you die right now," Montgomery

told jurors this morning at McNeal's murder trial. "It's almost like he was possessed or something."

She said McNeal revved the engine three or four times, trying to run her over, but the truck was prevented from moving forward "perhaps by the frame of the house on East 24th Avenue. After McNeal backed up and sped off, Montgomery realized the carnage that had been left behind.

Demontaye Simmons, 2, was killed and two other children, ages 9 and 4, were injured.

McNeal, 40, is standing trial this week on numerous charges in the July 4, 2005, incident, including murder, aggravated assault and aggravated stalking. If he is convicted of murder, prosecutors will seek the death penalty.

Montgomery testified that McNeal stalked her for months, saying he threw a brick at her mother's car, threatened to set her mother's home on fire and threatened to throw battery acid on her and her son, then 12.

McNeal's attorneys say Demontaye's death was an accident. They say McNeal ducked when someone shot at him and that the Dodge had faulty brakes.

McNeal was stalked by Montgomery and her friends, who lured him to the scene of the tragedy, the defense contends.

The trial continues.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:40 AM 0 comments 

## **Everett, WA: Ex-boyfriend connection in fatal Everett shooting**

Police are looking for a barista's ex-boyfriend accused of shooting and killing the man who dropped her off for work at an Everett espresso stand.

The Associated Press

EVERETT, Wash. —

Police are looking for a barista's ex-boyfriend accused of shooting and killing the man who dropped her off for work at an Everett espresso stand.

Sgt. Robert Goetz says after dropping the woman off, the victim stopped in a parking lot with his dog about 5 a.m. Monday near the Everett Mall. The woman heard gunfire and saw that he had been shot. She called 911.

The suspect who was seen walking away is believed to be 21-year-old Bud Michael Fraser of Marysville. He is described as wearing his hair in a Mohawk style. He had dated the barista.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:39 AM 0 comments 

## San Diego, CA: Man Who Shot Ex-Girlfriend's Husband Gets Life in Prison

Last Update: 9/18 6:02 pm

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SAN DIEGO - A man who shot his ex-girlfriend's husband -- leaving him a quadriplegic - during a fight over the defendant's 13-year-old son was sentenced on Friday to 32 years to life in prison plus another life term.

Michael Keeper, 35, was found guilty last month to attempted murder, assault with a firearm, making criminal threats and evading police while driving recklessly.

According to trial testimony, Keeper was upset he was unable to take his son fishing, and accosted his ex-wife, Jennifer Loveless, and her new husband, Matthew Loveless, last Dec. 5, when they returned from a party to their Tierrasanta home.

A man who was with Keeper that night testified the defendant argued with Matthew Loveless before shooting him five times.

Keeper fled in a van, but was captured in La Mesa after a 9-mile chase.

The victim, who was placed in a medically induced coma for three weeks after the shooting, has trouble speaking and needs a wheelchair to get around.

Since he was on active duty in the Navy, his medical expenses have been paid for by the military, but the couple is concerned about paying for his medical bills after he is discharged, according to a report by the San Diego County Probation Department.

According to the sentence handed down by Judge John Einhorn, Keeper will serve a 25 years to life term for an allegation of discharging a firearm and causing great bodily injury, plus three years for assault with a firearm and an additional four years for a gun use allegation. Then he'll serve a term of life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:36 AM 0 comments 

## Dearborn Heights, MI: Man gets life sentence for killing ex-girlfriend

By LeAnne Rogers

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Dearborn Heights man will spend the rest of life in prison for murdering a Westland woman who had ended their relationship.

Robert James-the-First Howard, 26, was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison without chance for parole for killing Laci Green, 22. He was sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Michael Hathaway, who had convicted Howard of first-degree murder last month following a two-day bench trial.

Green was found strangled to death in a grassy field near her parents' home in southwest Westland on May 7, 2008.

During the bench trial, there was testimony from Green's parents, friends and police officers about the events surrounding her death.

Based on their investigation, police testified that they believed Howard had taken a taxi-cab to meet and talk to Green outside her home late at night. Police testified that the investigation indicated Howard was angry with Green for ending their relationship and dating another man.

Green's parents testified that they had encountered Howard outside their home on Dunn Court a few hours before their daughter was found dead.

After rejecting two plea bargains, Howard waived his right to a jury trial and instead opted for a bench trial in which the judge renders the verdict. Following two days of testimony, Hathaway found Howard guilty of first-degree murder, a charge that requires the crime be premeditated, and has a mandatory sentence of life in prison with no chance for parole.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:34 AM 0 comments 

## **Naples, FL: Mother, five children found slain in Florida Sought man's father says his North Naples son has fled to Haiti**

(AFP) - 2 hours ago

MIAMI — A mother and her five children have been found murdered at their home in Florida, police said on Sunday, as authorities searched for the woman's husband who has a history of violence.

"A female and five children were found murdered in their North Naples home," communications supervisor Julie Becker of the Collier County sheriff's office, told AFP.

The bodies of the wife of Mesac Damas, 33 and five young children were found by deputies in their home in a gated community late Saturday, after a relative contacted police because she had not heard from the woman, police said.

"We are very interested in contacting Mr. Mesac Damas. He is the husband of the lady and father of the children," said Jim Williams, the chief investigator for Collier County sheriff's Office.

"His whereabouts are unaccounted for," Williams said, adding "I believe the couple has a history of violence that has been in the court system."

In an interview Sunday, Damas's father told the Naples Daily News that his son had

fled to Haiti.

Jean Damas Sr said he knew his son had arrived in the Caribbean nation because "he (Mesac Damas) called his brother from there," the newspaper reported on its website. He didn't specify when that call was made.

The father also confirmed to the paper that those killed in the North Naples home were his daughter-in-law and five grandchildren, and acknowledged that his son and his wife had had domestic problems.

Williams said picking through the crime scene was "very, very difficult and tedious." Police would not say how the six people were killed.

Local news reports cited neighbors saying there were four boys and a girl who lived in the Damas house, including one baby, but they were not sure of their ages.

North Naples lies on Florida's west coast, about 120 miles (190 kilometers) west of Miami.

By RYAN MILLS

Sunday, September 20, 2009

NAPLES — The father of a man sought by Collier authorities in the slaying of his wife and five children in North Naples told the Naples Daily News this morning that his son is now in Haiti.

When reached at his East Naples home Sunday morning, Jean Damas Sr., the father of Mesac Damas, confirmed that the children killed were his grandchildren and his daughter-in-law.

In an emotional, brief interview that ended at the request of other relatives, Jean Damas Sr. said his son is in Haiti now.

When asked why he believes that, he said: "He (Mesac Damas) called his brother from there."

Before the brief interview ended, Jean Damas Sr. didn't specify when that call was made.

Earlier in the interview, Jean Damas Sr. said his family is in pain.

When asked if he thought his son may have killed his family members, he paused and said, "yes, yes, I do."

He said his son and his wife have had domestic problems.

"Since then, the wife no have any respect ... no respect," he said in broken English.

"No listen ... He think his wife has somebody else ... Jealousy," he said in broken

English.

Jean Damas Sr. said he hasn't talked to Mesac Damas since Tuesday morning when Mesac Damas dropped the children off at the grandparents' house in East Naples, in the Naples Manor area.

Collier deputies have asked for the public's help in finding Mesac Damas, 33, after the five children and a woman were found slain inside a North Naples apartment complex Saturday night .

Detectives found Mesac Damas' wife and five young children dead inside their residence at 864 Hampton Circle around 6:30 p.m. Saturday, according to Collier County sheriff's officials.

The Sheriff's Office said details will be released as they become available and a press conference is planned later this morning to update the public on the case.

Records on the Collier County Clerk of Courts Web site show Damas has prior charges for domestic violence in June 2005 involving his wife, Guerline Dieu, and children -- Mesack Obo Damas, Maven and Marven.

Damas also brought charges against Dieu for domestic violence, the Web site records show, but the November 2006 case never moved forward because he failed to appear in court.

Some of the children were students at Osceola Elementary School, neighbors said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:24 AM 2 comments 

## [Mays Landing, NJ: NJ man gets 15 years for strangling companion](#)

The Associated Press

MAYS LANDING, N.J. - A southern New Jersey man who strangled his companion after she told him she was moving away with their five children is headed to state prison.

Louis Ceresa of Northfield, who attacked Amanda Carmen inside her parked minivan during a scheduled custody exchange in January, was ordered Friday to serve 15 years. He had pleaded guilty in July to aggravated manslaughter.

Prosecutors say the couple's 11-year-old son witnessed the attack, and they and the boy's relatives agreed to a plea bargain to spare him from having to testify. State Superior Court Judge Bernard DeLury called the sentence "lenient," but accepted the deal.

The 33-year-old Northfield man must serve 85 percent of his term, or about 12 years,

before becoming eligible for parole. He told the judge he had "no excuse" for his actions.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:19 AM 0 comments 

## Laurel, MT: Man kills himself during standoff with deputies

By SUSAN OLP Of The Gazette Staff | Posted: Saturday, September 19, 2009 6:30 pm

LAUREL - A man killed himself early Saturday evening during a standoff with Yellowstone County sheriff's deputies.

Sheriff Jay Bell said the 38-year-old Laurel man, whose name has not been released, died of a single gunshot wound to the head.

Bell said the Sheriff's Office received a 911 call at about 2 p.m. from a woman who said she had been in a physical altercation with her boyfriend at 1339 Frank Drive in Laurel. She said the man had a handgun and was chasing her.

She was apparently out of the house when she made the 911 call.

The house is in a small cluster of homes in a rural area south of Interstate 90 and west of the CHS Refinery. The house, which is not visible from the road, is surrounded by fields. Bell said the man lived in the residence.

Deputies arrived at the house and began communicating with the man by phone, Bell said.

At that time, an elderly female was still inside the residence. Bell said it was not clear if she was allowed to leave or got out on her own, but the woman came out of the house about an hour to an hour and a half later.

The woman, whose relationship with the man and his girlfriend was not immediately known, was examined by medical personnel on scene and appeared to be OK, Bell said.

He said the Sheriff's Office negotiating team talked with the man by phone for about 4½ hours, trying to convince him to come out of the house.

Bell said he and other deputies were told by numerous people at the scene that the man wouldn't come out because he said he didn't want to go back to jail. He was on parole or probation, Bell said.

As the drama continued to unfold, family and friends clustered together outside, out of view of the house.

At about 6:30 p.m., Bell talked with the negotiating team and learned that the team wasn't getting anywhere with the man.

The tactical response team then exited the department's Ballistic Engineered Armored Response vehicle and launched eight or nine shots of tear gas inside the house to try to force the man out.

A magnified voice identified the officers as members of the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office and called for the man to come out.

"You need to come out with your hands in the air," was repeated at intervals each time the tear gas was launched into the house.

At 6:40 p.m., a single gunshot resonated from inside the residence, while deputies waited outside. When deputies entered the house, they found the man in living room dead, with a gunshot wound to the head, Bell said.

He said Sheriff's Office detectives will continue the investigation, and an autopsy will be performed today or Monday.

Bell also thanked the Laurel Police Department, the Laurel Volunteer Ambulance Service and Laurel Fire Department for help with the standoff, and the Montana Highway Patrol and Billings Police Department for covering calls while the Sheriff's Office was handling the situation.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:13 AM 0 comments 

## **Leechburg, PA: Western Pa. man kills estranged girlfriend, self**

The Associated Press

LEECHBURG, Pa. - Authorities in western Pennsylvania say a man shot and killed his estranged girlfriend and then took his own life.

Armstrong County Coroner Robert Bower says 30-year-old Jason Daugherty killed 25-year-old Vanessa Nickzad early Saturday at their home in Leechburg, about 25 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. Bower says Daugherty then turned the gun on himself.

Leechburg police said a third person was wounded in the 12:05 a.m. Saturday shooting, but the injuries were not considered life-threatening.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:10 AM 0 comments 

Saturday, September 19, 2009

## **Haralson County, GA: One killed, one critical following shooting over child support**

By Alexis Stevens

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

11:07 p.m. Friday, September 18, 2009

One man was killed and another critically injured Friday following a shooting in Haralson County on Friday, about an hour west of Atlanta.

The incident apparently began when a woman and her husband stopped by the Buchanan home of her ex-husband to pick up a child support payment, said Deputy Jim Beck.

Shane Brown, 33, was the only person in the Old Corinth Road home when his ex-wife Denise Watkins arrived with her husband. Police aren't sure what prompted Brown to get a gun.

"It appears he fired and struck Tony Watkins," Beck said. Watkins, 33, of Bremen died at the scene.

A Haralson County deputy arriving at the scene on the rural road heard additional shots fired, Beck said. Police believe Brown then turned the gun on himself in the jaw. He was flown to Grady Hospital, where he was in surgery late Friday night.

Denise Watkins suffered minor injuries, and was treated and released from a local hospital.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation crime lab is assisting with the investigation, Beck said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:02 AM 0 comments 

## **Roanoke, VA: Judge denies bond for murder suspect**

A prosecutor detailed Heath Overstreet's actions prior to the death of his estranged wife.

By Mike Gangloff  
981-3336

A prosecutor on Friday offered a more detailed account of the July slaying of Susan Overstreet, arguing that her husband, who is charged with first-degree murder, should stay behind bars pending trial.

Roanoke Circuit Court Judge Jonathan Apgar agreed and declined to set a bond for Heath Overstreet, 43, of Bedford County.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Joshua Dietz said Susan Overstreet's death in a South Roanoke apartment came amid the disintegration of the Overstreets' 10-year marriage. Both had relationships with others, he said.

On June 25, Susan Overstreet took out a warrant against her husband for assault and battery. A protective order was issued.

Heath Overstreet was jailed but bonded out the next day. He quickly violated the protective order by running his truck through the front yard of the couple's home in

Bedford County and threatening to kill himself, Dietz said.

He was arrested again, taken to Western State Hospital and diagnosed as having a narcissistic personality disorder, Dietz said.

On July 8, Susan Overstreet filed for divorce. The next day, Heath Overstreet confronted her as she left Valley Bank's branch on Church Avenue in Roanoke, where she was a teller. Other bank employees intervened and Heath Overstreet left, Dietz said.

On July 15, Heath Overstreet again violated a protective order by appearing at the Overstreets' Bedford County home as Susan Overstreet, who had moved to an apartment on 24th Street in Roanoke, and a friend tried to remove some of her property. Susan Overstreet and her friend left without the property, Dietz said.

On July 22, one of Susan Overstreet's new neighbors saw Heath Overstreet sitting in his truck outside her apartment for an hour. Phone records showed he sent her multiple text messages and called her about 11:15 p.m., soon after Susan Overstreet left a dinner at a friend's house, Dietz said.

On July 23, Valley Bank employees called police because Susan Overstreet had not come to work. Officers found her dead in her apartment, having suffered three deep cuts to her neck and what seemed to be defensive wounds to her hands. The cause of death was a cut to her jugular vein, Dietz said.

When police picked up Heath Overstreet, he had scratches like those caused by fingernails, Dietz said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:57 AM 0 comments 

Friday, September 18, 2009

## **Wharton State Forest, NJ: Parents say sentence too light for man who killed daughter, dumped her in Wharton State Forest**

By DONNA WEAVER Staff Writer, 609-226-9198 | Posted: Friday, September 18, 2009 |

Dina Tush said when she finally got her daughter's bruised and battered body back, five days after she was murdered in April 2008, there was a 3-inch hole in her neck. Jessica Tush's parents said what they found out from their daughter's autopsy report confirmed their suspicions that she was brutally killed in a way that should have been resulted in a murder charge.

Thomas Paolino, 20, of Staten Island, N.Y., was sentenced Friday morning to 23½ years in prison after pleading guilty in July to aggravated manslaughter in the death of ex-girlfriend Tush, also of Staten Island.

Now the Tushes say they want the public to know what was in the report and exactly what Paolino did to their daughter.

"The prosecutor told us and the autopsy report said she was stabbed in the neck up to 12 times," Dina Tush said. "He was stabbing her while he was choking her, they told

me."

The 19-year-old's body was found by hikers in a shallow grave in April 2008 in Wharton State Forest.

The Tushes said they cannot forget a neighbor telling them that the morning of their daughter's slaying, Paolino was seen on their street with a shovel and trash bags in the back of his truck.

"That's premeditation. That was the same shovel he used to bury my daughter," Dina Tush said.

And now that they know the details of their daughter's slaying - details that have not been released to the public until now - the couple said her killer's sentence is just not enough.

In October, Paolino pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, desecrating human remains, two counts of theft and hindering apprehension. But in July, those charges were dropped as part of a plea agreement, according to the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office. Paolino pleaded guilty to first-degree aggravated manslaughter and third-degree hindering apprehension.

Under terms of the plea agreement, Paolino must serve 85 percent of the sentence before he is eligible for parole. The hindering apprehension charge will carry a five-year sentence that will be served concurrently.

Members of the Tush family told The Press of Atlantic City this week that the terms of the plea agreement were not discussed with them until the day Paolino entered his guilty plea in July.

"It's a shame they'll let a person of this caliber out in less than 20 years. He's an animal and shouldn't have a chance at freedom. I don't want to see him victimizing another family," Dina Tush said.

Victor Tush, Jessica Tush's father said he can't understand why the state would make a bargain with a killer.

"When they called us in to court, it seemed like it was a done deal. We wanted to go to trial, we wanted the 12 jurors to see what kind of person he is and decide," Victor Tush said.

The Tushes said they begged the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office to allow them to examine their autopsy report. Officials, however, declined until just recently.

"They kept telling us we didn't want to see her that way, and that we should remember her the way she was. But we needed to know everything. For so long, all I did was imagine," Dina Tush said.

After repeated inquiries from The Press, authorities from the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office declined to comment on the details of the autopsy report.

"Jessica had three fractured ribs, scrapes on her back, they said most likely from being dragged, a slice across her neck, a broken hyoid from him choking her and broken blood vessels around her eyes," Dina Tush said.

Victor Tush said his daughter's jewelry was missing. New Jersey State Police detectives showed the couple two photos to identify - one of their daughter's sneakers and another of her necklace, a silver heart that she was wearing the morning she left her home.

"I know she was wearing that necklace when she left, and they (police) had a picture of that same necklace hanging from around (Paolino)'s rearview mirror," Dina Tush

said.

Victor Tush said the autopsy report also revealed that Paolino's semen was found inside Tush. Authorities told the family that they could not prove she was raped and that there was no vaginal tearing, he said.

"They said because she was clothed, they don't think she was raped, and also because they were a couple," he said.

Dina Tush said her daughter would not have had sex with Paolino willingly. Just days before her slaying, Tush was assaulted by Paolino and suffered two black eyes.

Tush's aunt, Alda Villafana, also of Staten Island, said after Paolino buried her niece he made a makeshift cross out of sticks and left it at the crime scene.

"I'm confident he would have been convicted of first-degree murder knowing the details of the crime. He committed it in a devious and perverse way," Villafana said.

Paolino could wind up with more time behind bars for allegedly punching a prison guard in the face, according to a report in the Staten Island Advance.

Authorities say Paolino fought with a corrections officer at the Burlington County Jail earlier this month and now faces a felony charge of aggravated assault against a corrections officer, which carries a maximum of five years on a conviction.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:52 PM 0 comments 

## **St. Louis, MO: Man kills ex-girlfriend in front of woman's 4 kids**

By Denise Hollinshed

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Friday, Sep. 18 2009

Updated 11:13 a.m.

ST. LOUIS -- A woman's ex-boyfriend gunned her down on a south St. Louis street this morning in front of the woman's four children. The man then killed himself.

The shooting happened a few minutes after 8 a.m. today at an apartment building in the 2800 block of Park Avenue in St. Louis. The woman already had an order of protection prohibiting her ex-boyfriend from coming near her, police said. But, she could not get off work Thursday to make the order permanent, her father said.

The woman's father, Ty Amerson, of Kirkwood, said that his daughter, Melissa Amerson, 26, was shot to death as she was loading her four children into a green minivan outside her apartment this morning. Her ex-boyfriend, Rodney Morris, then killed himself.

Murder victim Melissa Amerson

Ty Amerson said that he was at home when his 10-year-old granddaughter called to tell him that her mother had been shot to death by Morris, who then shot himself. All four children were near their mother when she was killed. None of them were harmed.

Ty Amerson said that his daughter had dated Morris for about five years. Melissa had just celebrated her birthday two days ago, her father said.

"They have been having problems, she took out a restraining order," said Ty Amerson.

Ty Amerson said that his daughter worked at the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in St. Louis. She was going to work when the shooting took place. She had just placed the children in the van.

St. Louis homicide detectives got to the home about 8:20 a.m. and found the body of Melissa Amerson crumpled outside her green minivan. About 30 feet away, in Amerson's back yard, was Morris' body.

Neighbors said they had heard multiple gunshots and called police.

The apartment is at the intersection of Ewing and Park avenues. It is also near the Hodgen School playground and the Interstate 44 and South Jefferson Avenue intersection.

Police Lt. Ed Kuehner confirmed that the man shot the woman, then shot himself.

Neighbors said that in the past few days, they had seen Morris driving his black truck around the neighborhood.

Aaron Foster, 37, lives in the same apartment building as Melissa Amerson. He has known her for the two years that she lived there with her children.

Foster said that Morris had battered Melissa in the past. He said that last month, Morris beat Melissa in front of the neighbors. This morning, Foster said, he saw Morris arguing with Melissa in front of her four children as she put the kids in her van. Foster said that he then heard gunshots and saw Melissa's body slumped in the van.

"The kids were screaming and yelling," Foster said.

Foster said he hurried the children into his own apartment. Morris "took the gun and pointed it toward me, then he took it back and shot himself in the head," Foster said.

Foster, a former emergency medical technician, said that Melissa was shot in the head, chest and arm. He said that the position of Melissa's body showed that she had been shot in the back.

"She was in a jovial mood this week because we were going to go out to celebrate her birthday," Foster said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:31 PM 0 comments 

## **Gulfport, MS: Man gets 20 years in death of former girlfriend**

Circuit Judge Roger Clark has sentenced 43-year-old Clyde Collins to 20 years for manslaughter in the fatal shooting of his ex-girlfriend.

Collins was charged with murder in the slaying of 35-year-old Amelia Young on Aug. 28, 2007. The only eyewitness in the case was shot to death in a nightclub five months ago.

Collins pleaded guilty to the lesser charge on Thursday. The judge gave him the maximum penalty.

Anthony McCord was the state's key witness against Collins. McCord was fatally shot on Easter Sunday in the Boiler Room lounge, which has since closed.

Posted by Cathy Church at 3:45 PM 0 comments 

## **Des Moines, IA: Police: Woman's Body Found In Back Of Picku**

### Phipps Faces Judge In Girlfriend's Death

#### Des Moines Man Calls Melissa Dean's Death An Accident

POSTED: 3:48 pm CDT September 19, 2009

UPDATED: 4:01 pm CDT September 19, 2009

DES MOINES, Iowa -- A man charged with first-degree murder in the death of his girlfriend faced a judge on Saturday.

Christopher Phipps is accused of killing Melissa Dean, 38, at her mobile home on Army Post Road.

Dean's body was found in a pickup truck on Southwest Ninth Street. That's where Phipps called 911 to report that he had killed her.

Phipps said that Dean's death was an accident.

POSTED: 6:07 am CDT September 18, 2009

UPDATED: 10:47 am CDT September 18, 2009

DES MOINES, Iowa -- Des Moines police found a woman dead in the back of a pickup truck after answering a 911 call Friday morning.

Sgt. Christopher Scott said the call came in at 5:15 a.m. of an assault on a female. When officers arrived at Southwest 9th Street and McKinley Avenue they found a woman dead in the back of the truck in a parking lot.

Police said a man was taken into custody for questioning and was later charged with first-degree murder. His name is expected to be released later this morning.

The truck was parked next to a pay phone.

Police are also at a house at the Fort Des Moines trailer park at Army Post Road and Southwest 7th Street that is connected to the case. Officers said the death likely did not happen at the Southwest 9th Street crime scene.

Posted by Cathy Church at 11:59 AM 0 comments 

## **Newton Grove, NC: Two dead in murder-suicide in Newton Grove**

Posted: Today at 8:29 a.m.

A man and woman from Clinton died in an apparent murder-suicide Thursday night, Newton Grove Police Chief Frankie Harrell said.

Daniel Bradley Drayton, 22, and Tammy Pickett, 20, were found dead inside a car parked in a lot outside a business at 206 Fayetteville St.

Harrell said it appeared that they pulled off the side of the road at a random point, then Drayton shot Pickett and himself.

Authorities have not commented on the relationship between the two.

Posted by Cathy Church at 11:55 AM 0 comments 

## **Sioux Falls, SD: Judge: Man spoke willfully after SD deputy killed**

Posted: Friday, September 18, 2009

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) -- If a Marion man charged with killing a Turner County deputy sheriff testifies, jurors may hear statements he made to investigators after surrendering, a judge ruled this week.

Ethan Johns, 20, is charged with murder in the March 15 shooting death of Chad Mechels, 32, of Madison.

The officer was sent to Johns' rented farmhouse to check on him after he reportedly threatened to kill himself during a fight with his girlfriend. Johns and Mechels shot at each other and Mechels was struck in the right arm and throat with a high-powered rifle.

Johns said it was self-defense.

His lawyers filed a motion to keep out of the trial statements Johns made to detectives after turning himself in three hours after the shooting. The statements were made 40 miles away at the law enforcement center in Sioux Falls, where Johns was handcuffed and taken to an interview room.

Johns refused to waive his rights and asked for a lawyer, but the interview continued

and Division of Criminal Investigation agents were "very aggressive," his attorneys argued in the motion to suppress.

To disprove that, prosecutors called witnesses at a July hearing to try to show that Johns' statements were voluntary.

In a ruling filed this week, Circuit Judge Steven Jensen concluded that the statements were willful. He said prosecutors may use the statements, which are sealed, to impeach, or challenge, Johns' credibility if he takes the stand. Otherwise they will not be used.

"Johns does not claim, nor does the record show that any of Johns' specific statements were coerced by the agents. Rather, it is apparent that Johns was quite willing to tell his story to the agents and freely spoke with the agents throughout the interrogation," Jensen wrote.

Johns' trial has not been scheduled.

He is charged with alternate counts of first-degree and second-degree murder. That means if the jury doesn't convict him of premeditated murder, which carries a punishment of life in prison or the death penalty, he could be found guilty of the lesser charge, which carries mandatory life in prison.

The prosecutor declined to comment. Johns' attorney did not immediately return a request seeking comment.

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Posted by Cathy Church at 11:50 AM 0 comments 

## **Rochester, NY: Chicago man pleads not guilty in Rochester stabbing death**

Victoria E. Freile - Staff writer

Local News - September 17, 2009 - 5:21am

Mario L. Blancas, 20, was charged with second-degree murder and second-degree kidnapping.

A Chicago man accused of fatally stabbing his ex-girlfriend's aunt in the eye last night pleaded not guilty in City Court today.

Mario L. Blancas, 20, was charged with second-degree murder and second-degree kidnapping, both felonies, in connection with the incident, said Rochester Police Capt. Todd Baxter.

The victim — Ada Rivera, 39, of Rochester — died at Strong Memorial Hospital about

3:15 a.m. today.

Blancas is accused of stabbing Rivera during a dispute in an apartment at 105 Ambrose St., Apt. 4, at 8:48 p.m., according to City Court documents.

According to City Court documents, Blancas is also accused of forcing his former girlfriend, Bianca Jasmine Melendez, 24, into her car at knifepoint and forcing her drive away from the scene. The pair headed west in Interstate 490, toward Buffalo.

Blancas was apprehended at a gas station in Churchville by Monroe County sheriff's deputies about 30 minutes later.

According to court documents, Melendez told Blancas that she needed to stop for gas. Upon arriving at a gas station, she claimed she needed to use a bank card to get money for gas, entered the station's convenience store and asked the clerk for help, according to her statement to police. The clerk locked the door and called for help.

Rochester Police Officer LaRon Singletary said Melendez was not physically injured during the incident.

According to City Court documents, Blancas and Melendez started dating in July. Melendez told police that she recently ended the relationship.

According to court documents, Melendez lived at the Ambrose Street apartment and had returned to her apartment with Rivera last night to retrieve an item. Since the breakup, Melendez said she stayed at Rivera's home.

When Melendez and Rivera entered the apartment, Blancas and Melendez's cousin were at the apartment. According to his statement to police, Blancas had asked the cousin to take him there to retrieve an item.

Rivera and Blancas argued moments before he allegedly attacked her.

Melendez, her 17-year-old cousin and her 6-year-old son were all inside the residence at the time, according to Melendez's statement to police. No other injuries were reported.

Rivera's family said they are still trying to cope with what happened.

Nelson Sepulveda, 38, of Irondequoit, said the fatal stabbing was shocking from both

sides.

“She was a very nice lady,” he said of his sister-in-law. “We never expected this to happen from this person – he was a nice guy.”

Sepulveda said neither the family nor police know what Blancas’ motive was in the stabbing.

Blancas today was remanded to the Monroe County Jail without bail. He is slated to return to court for a preliminary hearing at 11 a.m. Tuesday.

City Court Judge Stephen T. Miller also issued orders of protection for Melendez and a male witness.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:45 AM 1 comments 

## **Summer Place, NC: Man killed in domestic dispute at High Rock Lake community; woman also shot**

By Mark Wineka

mwineka@salisburypost.com

A domestic dispute in the Summer Place community of High Rock Lake left a man dead and a woman seriously wounded Thursday night.

The shootings occurred about 8:15 p.m. at 165 Leisure Lane, which is near Sportsman and Sapona drives off the Second Creek arm of High Rock Lake.

An argument between a husband and wife at the home left the husband dead at the scene from a shotgun wound.

A woman who apparently had brought the man to the address earlier in the evening also was shot. Wounded, she drove herself in a Ford Expedition to Tamarac Marina off Bringle Ferry Road, where someone called for help.

Emergency personnel said the 21-year-old woman had serious vascular, bone and nerve damage to her lower left arm and hand from a shotgun blast.

She was receiving blood on her way to Rowan Regional Medical Center but was stable and alert, reports said.

A medical helicopter transported her to another facility later in the evening.

"We're making every effort to find out what happened," Rowan County Sheriff George Wilhelm said Thursday from the scene.

Wilhelm would not release names of the victims, pending notification of next of kin.

Detectives and a crime scene unit from the Sheriff's Office were conducting interviews, collecting evidence and trying to sort things out.

Wilhelm said it was his understanding that the wife had a 50-B protective order out against her husband.

"He was shot, and another person with him was shot," Wilhelm said.

Investigators were trying to determine Thursday night whether the incident was justifiable self-defense, "or something else," Wilhelm said.

He stopped short of saying his office had the wife in custody and reiterated that his officers were talking with several people.

Wilhelm said he would be consulting with the district attorney's office to determine what would happen next.

A neighbor sitting on her porch heard arguments and screaming coming from the home followed by two shots. The neighbor then called 911.

"I was so scared I couldn't remember my own address," she said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:40 AM 0 comments 

## **Las Vegas, NV: Murder-suicide probe in west valley reveals grim scene**

By LAWRENCE MOWER

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Las Vegas police discovered the valley's fourth murder-suicide or attempted suicide in 12 days Thursday afternoon when they walked into the home of a recently deceased husband and a wife who had been dead for possibly two years.

The man had written a letter to the department's records section, where an employee received it Thursday. The letter claimed he had killed his wife two years ago and that he was going to kill himself, Lt. Lew Roberts said.

Shortly before 2 p.m., officers went to the home at 1516 Willowbark Court, near Charleston Boulevard and Fort Apache Road, and found the home locked.

A locksmith opened the door, and police found the man dead from a gunshot wound

to the head in the back bedroom.

The man's wife was found in another room of the house.

Roberts said he didn't know if she had been deceased for two years.

"She had been dead a while," he said.

The names of the two people have not been released.

Of four such cases in the valley in the last 12 days, three have been in the Metropolitan Police Department's jurisdiction.

On Sept. 5, a Texas man shot and killed a North Las Vegas woman with whom he had shared a relationship before turning the gun on himself. He died a few days later.

Two days later, a 51-year-old man shot and killed his girlfriend with a rifle from a second-floor landing in their northwest valley home. He called police after shooting himself in the neck and is expected to survive.

On Sept. 14, a housekeeper discovered the body of a 29-year-old woman shot to death by her boyfriend in her home near Maryland Parkway and Silverado Ranch Boulevard. Her boyfriend's body was found upstairs with a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:38 AM 0 comments 

Thursday, September 17, 2009

## **Simpsonville, SC: Hwy 14 Back Open After Apparent Murder Suicide In Simpsonville**

STAFF REPORTS

Published: September 17, 2009

**\*\*Update 3:45p.m.\*\***

Greenville County coroner Mike Ellis has released the names of both victims.

58 year-old Beverly Ann Thompson of 201 Highway 14 in Simpsonville. She was found dead in her driveway next to a vehicle around 7:50 am.

Autopsy: Multiple Gunshot wounds to the head and chest. Ruled as a homicide

Ralph Thompson of 108 Tracy Lane in Simpsonville. Found in a field near Highway 14 and Stokes Road around 8:10 am.

Autopsy: Single gun shot wound to the head. Ruled a suicide.

**\*\*Update 2:36 p.m.\*\***

The Greenville Sheriff's Office reports Highway 14 is back open at Stokes Road in Simpsonville. Investigators are continuing to work the case.

**\*\*Update 9:15 a.m.\*\***

Highway 14 is shutdown while deputies investigate a crime scene at Highway 14 at Stokes Road in Simpsonville.

Shea Smith with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office says that the woman was shot and her body is in the backyard of the residence. Investigators believe the suspect got into his car and went about 200 yards, pulled his car into a field and apparently shot himself. The Greenville County Coroner's Office is on the scene.

Greenville County Sheriff's Office reports 2 people have been shot in separate locations on Highway 14 in Simpsonville. Matt Armstrong with the Sheriff's office says dispatch received a call about a disturbance at 201 Highway 14. Deputies responded and found a female shot to death in the driveway of the residence. The sheriff's office says the suspect went across the street and he was found dead with a gunshot wound. Investigators are on the scene.

Posted by Cathy Church at 4:52 PM 0 comments 

## **Dallas, TX: Couple found dead in far northeast Dallas after apparent murder-suicide**

A man, 23, and woman, 20, were found dead this morning after an apparent murder-suicide at a home in the 11600 block of Audelia Road, Dallas police say.

Witnesses heard two gun shots last night just after midnight but did not call authorities, police say. During the night and earlier this morning, several neighbors complained of a strong smell of gasoline and fire-rescue workers came to the scene but could not find the source of the odor.

Eventually, a maintenance man realized the smell was coming from an apartment, and the couple was found there. Police say it appears the man shot his wife, then doused the apartment with gasoline and shot himself.

Posted by Cathy Church at 4:48 PM 0 comments 

## **Thousand Oaks, CA: SoCal deaths of man, 2 kids may be murder-suicide**

The Associated Press

Posted: 09/17/2009 07:02:51 AM PDT

Updated: 09/17/2009 12:03:02 PM PDT

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.—The deaths of a father and his two children at an apartment may have been a murder-suicide, authorities said Thursday.

Their mother found Jennifer Mulvaney, 7, and Jason Mulvaney, 12, stabbed to death

when she went to pick them up from her ex-husband's apartment Wednesday evening, Ventura County sheriff's Capt. Ross Bonfiglio said.

She also found the body of James Mulvaney, 52.

The children had been stabbed several times, Bonfiglio said.

The father's body showed no obvious signs of trauma to indicate the cause of his death. Drugs or asphyxiation have not been ruled out, Bonfiglio said.

Autopsies were planned Thursday.

Detectives were still investigating the killings but no suspects were being sought and the "highest probability" was that Mulvaney killed the children and committed suicide, Bonfiglio said.

He said the Mulvaney's were divorced and had been involved in a child custody case that was "possibly heated," but he did not immediately have any details.

Mulvaney's wife, Julie Mulvaney, filed for divorce in February 2008, according to court records cited by the Ventura County Star.

Records also showed that the father took a "positive parenting" class last December.

Jason Mulvaney attended Los Cerritos Middle School in Thousand Oaks, where Principal Elly Love told students Thursday morning that the boy was killed by his father.

Counselors and school psychologists were on campus through the day.

Neighbors at The Knolls apartment complex said Mulvaney had lived there for six to eight months and described Mulvaney as a devoted father who always watched his children when they played outside.

"I don't really understand how would you kill your own, you know, somebody that shares your own blood. It's awful," Angelica Kope, holding her baby in her arms, told KABC-TV.

Posted by Cathy Church at 4:44 PM 0 comments 

## **Phoenix, AZ: Judge to decide extradition of Indian man accused of strangling wife**

By Doug Murphy Ahwatukee Foothills News

2009-09-16 11:58:05

A judge will announce in two weeks if Avtar Singh Grewal will be extradited from India back to Phoenix to stand trial for the murder of his estranged wife, Navneet Kaur, in her Ahwatukee Foothills home.

Grewal has been fighting extradition since being arrested in New Delhi in 2007 after Phoenix police say he killed Kaur, then botch his own suicide and then fled to India.

The Times of India reported on Sunday that Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ajay Kumar Pandey will announce his ruling Sept. 30.

Police reports say that 30-year-old Kaur was planning to discuss divorce with Grewal, who lived in Vancouver, Canada, when she picked him up at Sky Harbor International Airport on March 29, 2007.

Her father, Ratan Singh, a retired police superintendent who lives near New Delhi, said that his daughter wanted to stay in Phoenix and apply for U.S. citizenship while Grewal wanted her to quit her job and move with him to Canada.

According to the Phoenix police, evidence found at her home in the 4200 block of East Redwood show the couple quarreled and Grewal strangled Kaur, leaving her face-down in a downstairs bathtub before attempting to commit suicide. Failing that, he left a note behind admitting to killing Kaur before boarding a flight that eventually took him home to India.

Phoenix homicide detectives quickly identified Grewal as someone they wanted to interview, but just missed him in Newark, N.J., where he bought a one-way ticket and boarded a flight to New Delhi.

Indian police arrested Grewal as he exited his flight at India Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi after being alerted by the FBI and Interpol.

But instead of being immediately returned to Phoenix where County Attorney Andrew Thomas had charged him with first degree murder, Grewal has been held in an Indian jail while extradition proceedings continued.

India and the United States have an extradition treaty but experts say that it is time consuming.

In 2008 the Ministry of External Affairs told a New Delhi court there was enough evidence that 33-year-old Grewal killed his wife.

Grewal's Indian defense attorneys, V.K. Ohri and Akshay Malik, have argued that the governor of Arizona never requested the extradition of their client and that the autopsy report didn't list a specific reason for Kaur's death.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:33 AM 0 comments 

## **Greece, NY: Man admits killing ex-girlfriend in upstate NY**

September 16, 2009 by The Associated Press /

GREECE, N.Y. (AP) — A 45-year-old father of two admits he fatally stabbed his estranged girlfriend and mother of his children.

Andrew Pajek pleaded guilty to second-degree murder Wednesday in the death of Kimberly Feketi of North Tonawanda in Niagara County. She was killed on Nov. 9, 2008 outside Pajek's home in the Rochester suburb of Greece. She had gone there to pick up their children after a visit with Pajek.

Pajek also stabbed and wounded a neighbor who went to Feketi's aid, then stabbed himself in a suicide attempt.

Pajek's guilty plea came as jury selection was about to conclude in his trial in Monroe County Court. He'll receive a prison term of 20 years to life when Judge Alex Renzi sentences him Oct. 14.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:29 AM 0 comments 

## **Lake Stevens, WA: Murder-suicide in front of Lake Stevens day care**

06:00 PM PDT on Wednesday, September 16, 2009

By ROB PIERCY / KING 5 News

Video: Deadly shooting in front of day care center  
Larger screenE-mail this clip

LAKE STEVENS, Wash. - Police say a murder-suicide was carried out right in front of a Snohomish County in-home day care Wednesday afternoon.

The shooting happened in a cul-de-sac in the 300 block of 119th Drive Southeast. At about 1:30 p.m., deputies say someone in the neighborhood called 911 to report an argument between a man and a woman.

Just as a responding deputy rounded the corner, the shots went off.

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"She heard several gunshots and then she saw one person fall to the ground," said Snohomish County sheriff's spokesperson Rebecca Hover.

When the deputy pulled up in front of the home, she found a man and a woman dead.

Detectives believe the man was the shooter and that the woman lived in a nearby home.

KING

Police and sheriff's deputies respond to a murder-suicide in a cul-de-sac in Lake Stevens, Wash. on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009.

None of the kids at the day care were hurt. An aid car drove them from the day care to their waiting parents.

"I'm just glad they're OK. They're safe. Nothing happened to them and I'm glad they're both in my hands now," said parent Junior Villalobos.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:28 AM 0 comments 

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

## **Palm Coast, FL: Police Probe Apparent Murder-Suicide In Palm Coast Flagler Co.: Man Chased Down Estranged Wife, Shot Her**

POSTED: 11:53 am EDT September 16, 2009

UPDATED: 12:47 pm EDT September 16, 2009

PALM COAST, Fla. -- Flagler County deputies said they are investigating an apparent murder-suicide in Palm Coast.

According to the Flagler County Sheriff's office, the killings happened in the "R" section of town.

The sheriff's office said a woman's husband, who she did not live with, came to her home and shot her outside the home. The sheriff's office said she ran wounded to a neighbor's home and started to go in, but that her husband shot her in the head, killing her.

Then sheriff's office said the neighbor then shot at the husband, but missed.

The husband then ran into the woods where he died of a gunshot wound, the sheriff's office said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:07 PM 0 comments 

## **Los Angeles, CA: LA attorney found guilty of killing girlfriend**

The Associated Press

Posted: 09/15/2009 10:10:15 PM PDT

Updated: 09/15/2009 10:10:16 PM PDT

LOS ANGELES—A Los Angeles jury has found a 45-year-old attorney guilty of shooting his girlfriend to death and assaulting his roommate.

The Superior Court panel deliberated for about a day before finding 45-year-old David Mahler guilty Tuesday of second-degree murder and assault.

Mahler was convicted of shooting Kristin Baldwin during an argument at his Hollywood Hills home in May 2007.

Her body was found in the desert near Barstow about three weeks later.

He was also convicted of assault with a firearm on Donald Van Develde, his roommate at the time.

He faces 40 years to life in prison when he is sentenced on Oct. 9.

Mahler refused to leave his cell and was not in court for the verdict.

Posted by Cathy Church at 8:08 AM 0 comments 

## **Salt Lake City, UT: Husband accused of attempting to kill wife**

By Jacob Hancock

Deseret News

Published: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009 1:15 a.m. MDT

The estranged husband of a woman who was brutally attacked on her way into work is in jail without bail and charged with six felony counts and one misdemeanor offense. Charles Edwin Gordon, 35, was separated from his wife at the time of the assault on Sept. 8. But prosecutors say that and a protective order against him didn't stop Gordon from attempting to kill his wife during a life-threatening, three-round struggle at her work on that Tuesday morning.

Police say Gordon followed his wife into the parking lot of her employer, Discover Card at 2500 South Lake Park Boulevard. After she noticed he was tailing her, she rolled down her window and screamed for someone to "call 911."

"He's going to kill me," she said, according to the charging document filed in 3rd District Court. She then sped up and drove down the building's fire lane as "fast as possible" in an apparent effort to get away. That's when police say Gordon rammed her car.

"(The woman) exited her vehicle and attempted to reach the building on foot, but the defendant tackled her before reaching the building and began strangling her to the point of almost reaching unconsciousness," the document stated.

Witnesses came to the woman's rescue and "attempted to restrain the defendant" while she got up and ran inside the building, according to court documents.

But police said Gordon followed her into the building, where he tackled her a second time. Again, bystanders came to her rescue by intervening.

Because Gordon reportedly "latched onto the buttocks of the victim with his teeth as he was being pulled off of her," he was charged with forcible sex abuse, a second-degree felony.

Gordon was also charged with attempted murder with injury and aggravated burglary, both first-degree felonies; stalking with serious prior history, a second-degree felony; retaliation against a witness, victim or informant, and violation of a protective order, third degree felonies; and driving under the influence, a class B misdemeanor.

Gordon admitted to drinking alcohol before driving to his wife's work. He also failed a breathalyzer test.

According to prosecutors, the violent incident was a last desperate attempt to keep the woman from testifying against him at an imminent trial in which he is accused of aggravated assault. Gordon was previously convicted of a domestic violence offence in 2008.

The woman suffered a fractured arm, a broken nose, as well as abrasion and scratches, the document stated.

Posted by Cathy Church at 8:03 AM 0 comments 

## **Midland City, AL: Midland City Man Kills Cousin in Domestic Dispute**

An Ozark man is dead after a late night domestic dispute in Midland city ended with one man fatally shooting his cousin.

Posted: 8:22 PM Sep 15, 2009

Reporter: Patrick Claybon

Email Address: Patrick@wtvy.com

27-Year-Old Josh Cook was charged with Murder in the Killing of his cousin during a domestic dispute.

Midland City AL- The circumstances that led to the death of James Stephens started long ago during the separation of a married couple, and police say one mans distrust in his wife and his cousin is what led to Monday and Early Tuesdays bloody events..

Late Monday night, as Josh Cook and his estranged wife began arguing over custody of their child, the wife called Cooks cousin, James Stephens for help

" The wife was coming to pick up the baby, and so they got into an argument and so at that time his wife called Mr. Stephens, " Said Investigator John Green of the Midland City Police Department

After Stephens arrived the argument escalated to the point that Stephens was shot in the abdomen, he tried to leave the scene in his truck but lost control just a few yards away.

That's when police arrived with cook outside confessing to the shooting.

" He Stated that he had shot a person and that he had put the gun on the top of a vehicle parked in his yard" Said Green " and that the person he had shot was down the street in a pickup truck."

Dale county Rescue rushed Stephens to Flowers hospital where he later died in surgery. Investigators say the two men had multiple arguments in the past where cook accused Stephens of having a relationship with his wife

" There was a prior altercation between Mr. Stephens and Mr. cook concerning his wife and this altercation lead to the death of Mr. James Stephens " Said Green

Josh Cook has been charged with murder, he is currently being held in the Dale County Jail without bond.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:42 AM 2 comments 

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

## **Magna, UT: Man ordered to stand trial in knife slaying of ex-girlfriend**

By Stephen Hunt

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Updated:09/15/2009 04:50:10 PM MDT

Fifteen-year-old Carly Robbins refused to look at the man accused of fatally stabbing her mother last year at their Magna home.

The teen took the witness stand Tuesday in 3rd District Court and immediately turned her back on Charles "Chuck" Richard Gunkel, who is charged with first-degree felony aggravated murder -- a potential death-penalty offense -- for stabbing 51-year-old Morena Molly Robbins five times in the abdomen on Aug. 8, 2008.

Carly Robbins then recounted how Gunkel stood on the front porch and begged her mother not to marry another man; how Gunkel broke through the locked screen door, pinned her mother to the bedroom floor, choked her and brandished a knife; how she escaped to call police and paramedics -- who arrived too late to save her mother's life.

Following the testimony from the girl and others at the preliminary hearing, Judge Deno Himonas ordered Gunkel to stand trial for murder, as well as felony counts of aggravated burglary and aggravated assault.

Gunkel, 54 and Molly Robbins had been in an on-again, off-again relationship for about five years, according to testimony. Then, about three weeks prior to the slaying, Gunkel learned Robbins was seeing someone else.

"Don't do this. Don't get married," Gunkel said to Molly Robbins before breaking open the door, according to Carly Robbins.

Moments later, the girl saw Gunkel on top of her mother, choking her with one hand and a pocket knife in the other. She said her mother was saying, "Chuck, please don't do this."

The girl testified that Gunkel ordered her into the bedroom and onto the bed. He then pointed the knife at her and said, "Shut up or I'll cut you, too."

Moments later, the girl fled the room, ran next door and called 911.

By the time paramedics arrived, Robbins -- an elementary school teacher and the mother of five children -- was dead.

An autopsy showed she bled to death from wounds that penetrated her heart, aorta, liver and two major blood veins.

After the stabbing, Gunkel returned to his own home, located about a half-mile away, where he called his ex-wife and told her about the slaying, according to testimony.

Later, in exchange for a cigarette, Gunkel told Salt Lake County Sheriff's Det. Chad Reyes he went to talk to Robbins after learning she had "moved on and found another boyfriend."

But after noting that Robbins had not wanted to talk to him, Gunkel stopped talking and asked for a lawyer, Reyes testified. The knife was found in the bushes in front of Robbins' home.

Gunkel is to appear in court again Sept. 28 for a scheduling hearing before Judge William Barrett. Prosecutors will then have 60 days to decide whether to seek the death penalty.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:39 PM 0 comments 

## **Chesterfield, VA: Chesterfield man killed by police had purchased gun on same day**

Published: September 15, 2009

A man fatally shot by Chesterfield County police after he opened fire on SWAT team members two weeks ago had purchased a revolver earlier that same day, state firearms transaction records show.

Brett Michael Rivers, 36, received instant approval to purchase the weapon Aug. 31 at Green Top Sporting Goods in Hanover County after an electronic background check, according to the record of the transaction. On the form, Rivers answered "no" to the three questions that would have barred him from buying the gun.

He said he had never been convicted of felony, was not the subject of a court order restraining him from harassing, stalking or threatening a child or intimate partner, and had never been legally declared mentally incapacitated or involuntarily committed to a psychiatric facility.

Police confirmed today that Rivers later brandished that same gun at his former girlfriend at The Park at Salisbury apartments in Midlothian, where she worked and where Rivers lived. That confrontation shortly after 6 p.m. led to an hours-long standoff that ended with police fatally wounding Rivers after he emerged from his apartment and fired several shots at SWAT team members.

Police tried negotiating with Rivers, a Microsoft Corp. employee, for about 2 ½ hours.

Chesterfield police Capt. Terry Patterson said the initial confrontation between Rivers and his former girlfriend was related to their recent breakup. Patterson also confirmed that Rivers had expressed suicidal sentiments and that he may have been impaired by alcohol.

Rivers made similar suggestions during negotiations with police, Patterson said.

Police are awaiting the results of toxicology tests to determine whether Rivers was intoxicated. But Patterson said there was evidence "that would lead us to believe that alcohol was involved."

Chesterfield police are wrapping up their investigation of the incident and have conferred with the Chesterfield Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. It wasn't immediately clear whether the shooting would be taken before a multijurisdictional grand jury for review, as was done in the April 25 fatal shooting of a mentally ill man who attacked officers after beating his father. The grand jury ruled that shooting justifiable.

Rivers' former girlfriend couldn't be located for comment.

-- Mark Bowes

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:35 PM 0 comments 

## **Williamson, NY: NY man convicted of killing wife last Thanksgiving**

© 2009 The Associated Press  
Sept. 15, 2009, 7:44AM

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — An upstate New York man has been found guilty of killing his wife on Thanksgiving Day last year and burying her on a Lake Ontario beach.

A Wayne County jury deliberated for 35 minutes Monday before finding 37-year-old Bryon Drennan guilty of second-degree murder in the slaying of 28-year-old Stefanie Casey.

Prosecutors say Drennan bludgeoned and stabbed his Carrollton, Texas-born wife and buried her body on a beach near their home in Williamson, 20 miles east of Rochester. Her body was found two days later.

The couple met in the Dallas area in August 2008, moved to Williamson and were married Nov. 3.

Prosecutors say Casey had been assaulted several times by Drennan and was planning to leave him.

Drennan faces up to 25 years to life in prison when he's sentenced Oct. 29.

Posted by Cathy Church at [12:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

## **Riverside, CA: Husband convicted of killing wife for insurance**

The Associated Press

Posted: 09/15/2009 08:52:24 AM PDT

Updated: 09/15/2009 08:52:25 AM PDT

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—Jurors have convicted a debt-ridden Riverside County man for killing his wife in an effort to collect \$1.3 million from life insurance policies.

Kelle Lee Jarka was found guilty of first-degree murder for financial gain by a jury that began deliberations in a French Valley courtroom late Friday and reached verdicts before noon Monday.

Testimony showed the 41-year-old Murrieta man was "drowning in debt" and he took out several life insurance policies on his 40-year-old wife Isabelle weeks before the killing. She was bludgeoned in the couple's bedroom in April 28.

Posted by Cathy Church at [12:33 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

## **Rapid City, SD: Rapid City man gets life for killing girlfriend**

Associated Press - September 15, 2009 8:15 AM ET

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - A 24-year-old Rapid City man will serve life in prison without parole for the stabbing and beating death of his girlfriend.

Jurors in August convicted Tad Blackburn of second-degree murder for the November 2007 killing of 44-year-old Tamara Magic, who was found dead in her Rapid City home with multiple stab wounds and an injury to her head.

During the trial, prosecutors proved that Blackburn stabbed Magic until the knife broke and then beat her in the head with a rock, then robbed her in order to buy drugs.

Blackburn's attorney said he'll petition for a new trial.

Prosecutors said it's likely another man, 22-year-old Aaron Jones, will face new charges for his role in Magic's death.

Posted by Cathy Church at 12:30 PM 0 comments 

## **Turlock, CA: Son recalls victim in Turlock stabbing death**

By Patty Guerra

pguerra@modbee.com

TURLOCK -- Police on Monday identified the man killed in a stabbing early Saturday as Donald Dean Futch, 34, of Hughson. He died in an alley off Colorado Avenue near Dutcher Middle School in what investigators described as a dispute over a woman. Officers arrested Darren Merenda, 30, of Turlock and booked him at the Stanislaus County Jail on suspicion of murder. He remained in custody Monday, held without bail.

Detective Mike Parmley said the two men met in the alley behind the apartment complex where Merenda and the woman, Futch's girlfriend, both lived.

Futch had sent Merenda a text message using the woman's phone. Parmley would not divulge the contents of the message but said the two men agreed to meet. They were in the alley about 3:40 a.m.

"I think they were there to talk," Parmley said. "I think that was the victim's impression, anyway."

Futch's 16-year-old son, Elias, said Monday that his father had been sending Merenda a message to leave the woman alone.

"My dad went to smoke outside, and this man jumped on his back and stabbed my dad," Elias said.

Parmley said police found cigarettes at the scene.

Futch was stabbed "several times, mainly in the upper torso area," Parmley said. A witness led police to Merenda at his apartment.

Police took Merenda to Emanuel Medical Center for treatment of a cut on his arm. Parmley would not say how Merenda got hurt but said the wound did not appear self-inflicted.

Investigators found a bloody knife nearby; Parmley would not say where but said it appeared the suspect tried to get rid of it. Police do not believe there are other suspects, Parmley said.

Elias said his father owned a circuit breaker business.

"He had me at a young age," Elias said. "He spent his entire life working and trying to support his family."

Although Futch and his wife recently divorced, he remained dedicated to his four children, who range in age from 11 to 16, Elias said. Finances were tight, but "he was always there to supply for us," Elias said.

"He loved going to my brother's and my football games. He never missed a game."

Futch spent Friday evening at Elias' first varsity game, cheering for his son, who plays running back and outside linebacker for Hughson High School.

"He always told me it was his dream to see me play varsity football," Elias said. "I totally took him for granted back then."

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:43 AM 0 comments 

## **Hoffman Estates, IL: State to seek death penalty in NW suburban triple murder**

The state will seek the death penalty against a northwest suburban man accused of the gruesome stabbings of his girlfriend's father, sister and grandmother last April.

D'Andre Howard, 20, of Hoffman Estates was indicted on 15 counts of first-degree murder, eight counts of aggravated kidnapping, four counts of unlawful restraint, two counts of aggravated battery and one count of attempted first-degree murder, according to Cook County State's Attorney's office spokesman Andy Conklin.

The state on Monday announced it will seek the death penalty in the case, according to state's attorney's office spokeswoman Tandra Simonton. Howard is scheduled for a status hearing Oct. 16.

He is accused of fatally stabbing Alan Engelhardt, 57; Laura Engelhardt, 18; and Marlene Gacek, 73, on April 17 at his girlfriend's family's home in the 1000 block of North Bluebonnet Lane in Hoffman Estates.

Prosecutors said Howard had been feuding with his 23-year-old girlfriend for several days when he kicked her and their eight-month-old baby out of their apartment. The woman -- identified by a neighbor as Amanda Engelhardt -- went to stay with her parents and other relatives.

But at 1:30 a.m. on April 17, Howard allegedly went to the home and a quarrel ensued. He allegedly grabbed a knife from the kitchen and ended up stabbing Engelhardt's father and maternal grandmother. Both died at the scene, authorities said.

He also tied up his girlfriend's sister Laura, but later untied her, prosecutors said. The Conant High School senior managed to stab him in the arm before being stabbed. Howard allegedly critically wounded his girlfriend's 52-year-old mother, who was hospitalized, and restrained her 85-year-old paternal grandmother.

Howard did not injure his girlfriend or the baby, but did not allow her to call authorities for 45 minutes, and even ripped some phone jacks out of the wall to stop her, prosecutors said. She eventually called and was still on the phone when police arrived, prosecutors said.

Laura Engelhardt was conscious and able to tell them what happened, but she died at a hospital later that day.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:39 AM 0 comments 

## **Hamilton County, OH: Husband indicted in wife's death**

By Sharon Coolidge

scoolidge@enquirer.com

A 30-year-old Delhi Township man who reported his wife missing nearly a month ago is now charged in her death, accused of killing her, dismembering her body and then dumping her remains.

Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters said authorities don't know how Kristan Strutz, 28, was killed, but said Strutz is the killer.

A Hamilton County grand jury indicted Strutz Monday on two charges of murder, tampering with evidence and gross abuse of a corpse.

That indictment is in addition to a previous charge of tampering with evidence. Strutz faces a life prison term if convicted.

"After he killed the mother of his children, he then dismembered her in an attempt to avoid detection," Deters said. "It is unfortunate that this disgusting act does not permit us to seek the death penalty."

Ohio law outlines 10 circumstances in which the death penalty can be sought, including specification most often used: that an offender was committing, attempting to commit or fleeing immediately after a kidnapping, rape, aggravated arson, aggravated robbery or aggravated burglary.

None apply to Kristan Strutz's death. The murder charge was filed two ways, one alleging the homicide was premeditated, the other that the homicide happened during a felonious assault.

The tampering charges allege that Strutz tampered with human remains and the saw used to dismember Kristan Strutz.

Strutz was arrested Aug. 16 for tampering with evidence and has remained in the

Hamilton County jail on \$1 million bond.

Strutz's lawyer, Simon Groner, said that Strutz denies killing his wife.

“(Strutz) says he didn't do it, that's his right,” Deters said. “We'll see him in court.” Deters outlined what happened when Kristan Strutz's family learned she was missing.

Deters said sometime late the night Friday, Aug. 14, Strutz killed his wife, then spent the night - while their three children slept nearby - dismembering her body with a saw. Once that was done, he dumped her remains - all but her midsection - in the Dumpster behind the former Target in Western Hills.

Kristan Strutz's family was immediately suspicious that something was wrong.

She was supposed to go shopping Aug. 15 with her aunts for a bridal shower happening the next day. When she failed to show and failed to answer repeated phone calls, Kristan Strutz's family went to her Greenwell Avenue home.

There, they had to press Strutz to file a missing person's report.

“They almost had to shame him into calling police,” Deters said.

He called 911, where he gave a rambling account of his day, in which he contradicted himself, raising the suspicious of Delhi officers.

They asked to search his home, which he allowed. And the couple's two vehicles were impounded, Deters said.

In the search, Kristan Strutz's midsection was recovered. Tissue and bone fragments were found in the yard.

“He had no ability then to get rid of the last body part,” Deters said. “He ran out of time.”

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:36 AM 0 comments 

## **Long Beach, WA: Brush murder case: Shooting victim feared for her life Ex-owner of boat-building company arrested on murder charges**

MARISSA HARSHMAN  
THE NEWS-REVIEW,

The woman Brian K. Brush allegedly murdered in broad daylight Friday had filed a restraining order in late July, saying she feared Brush would kill her, according to court documents.

Lisa G. Bonney, 45, filed for a protection order July 29 following a violent outburst by Brush days before. According to documents filed with South Pacific District Court in Long Beach, Wash., where the victim lived, Brush broke a wine bottle on the counter near Bonney and smashed a wooden chair into the back of the sofa on which she was sitting.

“I was thinking, ‘Oh my God, he’s going to kill me,’” Bonney wrote in the petition for a protection order.

The petition also lists four other incidents in which Brush “exhibited rage” and destroyed Bonney’s property. In one incident in September 2008, Brush allegedly beat Bonney’s car with a hammer and threatened to harm her with the tool, according to court documents

According to court documents, Melendez told Blancas that she needed to stop for gas. Upon arriving at a gas station, she claimed she needed to use a bank card to get money for gas, entered the station’s convenience store and asked the clerk for help, according to her statement to police. The clerk locked the door and called for help.

Rochester Police Officer LaRon Singletary said Melendez was not physically injured during the incident.

According to City Court documents, Blancas and Melendez started dating in July. Melendez told police that she recently ended the relationship.

The petition also lists four other incidents in which Brush “exhibited rage” and destroyed Bonney’s property. In one incident in September 2008, Brush allegedly beat Bonney’s car with a hammer and threatened to harm her with the tool, according to court documents.

In an e-mail written by Brush and submitted to the court in support of the protection order, Brush tells members of his family, Bonney and her children that he feels like he is out of control.

“I am scared, lonely, and I need help,” he wrote in the July 26 e-mail. “I can’t control myself and my feelings of anger. I am out of control, and I have no idea why. ... I have crash landed.”

Brush goes on to ask for forgiveness from those in his family whom he has hurt.

“Why do I lie. Why do I hate myself. I know what I am doing is wrong but I can’t stop,” he wrote. “... I want to change myself but I can’t and this scares me.”

A letter written by Brush’s ex-wife, Tammie Brush of Roseburg, was also submitted to the court in support of the protection order. In the letter dated July 29, Tammie Brush wrote that she filed for divorce from Brush when he threatened to kill her.

Their divorce was finalized May 15, 2008.

“I truly believe that Brian Brush is capable of killing someone and that his rage is uncontrollable,” Tammie Brush wrote.

The court order prohibited Brush from coming within 300 feet of Bonney. Additional court documents show that Bonney had the restraining order dismissed Aug. 11.

Brush, 47, allegedly shot and killed Bonney in broad daylight Friday afternoon, in front of several witnesses and three Long Beach police officers, Long Beach Police Chief Flint Wright said.

Brush and Bonney were allegedly arguing on the Bolstad Beach Approach when she walked away. Brush then retrieved a shotgun from his truck, returned to the scene and shot Bonney three times, according to police.

Brush was charged with first-degree murder and is being held in Pacific County Jail in South Bend, Wash., on \$5 million bail.

Bonney, 45, was raised in Long Beach and leaves behind two daughters, 18-year-old Elizabeth Bonney and 16-year-old Olivia Bonney.

Bonney worked as a real estate agent at Long Beach Realty for nearly two decades. One of her co-workers for the past 18 years, who asked that his name not be used, said Bonney had ended her relationship with Brush about a month ago.

“I wouldn’t say they were off and on, I would say she left him about a month ago and he was unwilling to accept that,” the co-worker said.

Bonney’s co-worker said she was outgoing, bright and a talented agent. Her death, he said, has shocked the small community.

“We’re not a big city,” he said. “We’re not used to this type of thing happening. We’re not used to homicides period.”

Brush worked as a police officer for the Medford Police Department from June 1988 to July 1994, department spokesmen confirmed this morning. Brush left the department due to medical disability.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation accused North River Boats and Brush of committing wire fraud earlier this year, and various other lawsuits against him and his company are pending in several Oregon counties.

Brush is still the owner of the Roseburg-area business, North River Boats Inc., but Brush has no authority in the company; the state court receiver is in control of all operations, an employee said this morning. The Green production plant is still filling

past orders and taking new orders, she said.

- You can reach reporter Marissa Harshman at 957-4202 or by e-mail at mharshman@nrtoday.com.

<http://www.nrtoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090914/NEWS/909149995/1063/NEWS&ParentProfile=1055&>

by Lisa Grace Lednicer, The Oregonian  
Saturday September 12, 2009, 8:46 PM

Brian Brush, former owner of one of the region's leading builders of sport fishing boats, was arrested Friday in Long Beach, Wash., on murder charges.

Brush, 47, former owner of North River Boats of Roseburg, was being held at the Pacific County Jail Saturday night in lieu of \$2 million bail.

Three Long Beach police officers saw a man shoot a gun into the grass near Bolstad Beach at 4:41 p.m. Friday. The officers approached the man, later identified as Brush. Police allege he threw the gun down and was taken into custody without incident.

Police identified the victim of the shooting as 45-year-old Lisa G. Bonney of Long Beach.

The factory was shut down for two weeks in March as the FBI investigated Brush, of Roseburg, on suspicion of committing wire fraud to exploit a credit line from a bank. The company is now under the supervision of a state court receiver. It is now under the supervision of a state court receiver.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:29 AM 0 comments 

## **LAs Vegas, NV: Apparent murder-suicide investigated in Las Vegas**

The Associated Press

Posted: 09/14/2009 05:15:24 PM PDT

LAS VEGAS—Las Vegas police say they are investigating an apparent murder-suicide in the south Las Vegas area.

The Las Vegas Sun reported on its Web site that police say a housekeeper found two people in their mid-20s dead at a home Monday afternoon.

Sgt. William Scott says a woman was found shot to death on a couch downstairs and a man was found dead upstairs.

Police say the deaths likely happened late Friday or early Saturday.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:27 AM 0 comments 

## **Philadelphia, PA: Northeast Phila. couple died in murder-suicide**

By Allison Steele

Inquirer Staff Writer

Robert and Sophia DiAndrea, the couple found stabbed in their Northeast Philadelphia home Saturday evening, died in a murder-suicide, sources close to the investigation said yesterday.

Sophia DiAndrea, 39, had been stabbed multiple times in the chest. Her 40-year-old husband died from self-inflicted knife wounds to the arms and forearms.

Robert DiAndrea was a city Water Department employee, while his wife worked for the School District of Philadelphia. They lived in a four-bedroom house on the 100 block of Greycourt Road, in the Bustleton section.

Their two young sons are in eighth and fifth grades, according to neighbors, and were not at home during the killings. The couple also had a third, adult son.

Investigators had said they were not sure if the couple's death was the result of a double slaying or a murder-suicide.

Police got a call about 5:15 p.m. Saturday from someone who was concerned that something had happened at the house, according to Philadelphia Sgt. Frank Hayes.

When police arrived, they found a grisly scene. The DiAndreas' bodies were found in separate bedrooms, and blood was spattered throughout the house.

The couple apparently had gotten into a knife fight, police said. Investigators removed three knives from the house with what appeared to be blood on them, police said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:26 AM 2 comments 

## **Danbury Township, OH: Girlfriend runs over, kills Danbury Twp. man**

By SHAWN FOUCHER | Tuesday, September 15, 2009 1:18 AM EDT

DANBURY TWP.

A Danbury Township man died Sunday morning after he was struck by a car driven by an on-again, off-again girlfriend, Danbury police and the man's family said.

Police say Edward Johnson Jr., 40, was run over at about 1:34 a.m. by a red Chevrolet Cavalier driven by his 21-year-old ex-girlfriend in the parking lot of Island View Manor Apartments, where he lived and the woman occasionally stayed.

Johnson was pronounced dead shortly after the incident by a LifeFlight doctor at Mazurik Access Wildlife Area, Danbury police Det. Mark Meisler said.

The woman and a 28-year-old man who was in the car when it struck Johnson fled the scene after the incident, Meisler said. Danbury police Chief Michael Meisler said both are cooperating fully with the investigation. They are not being named because they had not been arrested or charged as of Monday evening.

The man -- from Kansas but living in Sandusky -- called police from a pay phone in Florence Township at about 5:30 a.m., several hours after the incident.

In a recorded call to 911, he told Erie County sheriff's dispatchers the woman dropped him off at Ohio 61 and 113 in Berlin Heights after the incident, and he walked for miles to find the pay phone.

"The one who perpetrated the accident took off and made me get out of the car," the man told dispatchers.

He was picked up by an Erie County Sheriff's deputy and handed over to Danbury police, Erie County Sheriff's Capt. Paul Sigsworth said.

The woman, meanwhile, turned herself over to Oberlin police at 4:15 p.m. Sunday, more than 12 hours after the incident. She was also handed over to Danbury police, Meisler said.

Troopers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol were at the apartment complex Monday working on an accident reconstruction while a state patrol plane flew overhead, snapping aerial photos of the parking lot.

Chief Meisler said police are trying to determine if the woman was acting in self defense or if the collision was intentional.

Ottawa County prosecutor Mark Mulligan said it's likely the case will be presented to a grand jury, though he also said it's critical for detectives to find out if the woman was reacting to a hostile situation.

In the call to 911, the woman's passenger told dispatchers that Johnson had been "getting violent" with the woman.

"The man actually jumped in front of the car," the passenger said in the call to police. "He was beating on her and she tried to speed away. He jumped in front of the car."

But residents at the apartment complex offered a different story.

"(Police) said they aren't even sure if they have an accident scene or not," said Robert Dickey, 18, who lives at Island View Manor with his girlfriend, 21-year-old Ashley Gribble. "We know it wasn't an accident."

Dickey said he and Gribble were sitting on their back porch Sunday morning -- about 20 feet from the scene, behind a small fence -- when they heard Johnson, the woman and the man arguing for at least 30 minutes.

Dickey said he thought nothing of it until the arguing stopped abruptly, followed by the sound of squealing tires, a revving motor and a loud thud.

Dickey said he looked up as the car was going in reverse, running over Johnson a second time.

"They were coming up like they were attempting to hit him, not like they were trying to miss him," Dickey said. "I stood up and they seen me, and they sped out of there real quick."

Dickey said he and Gribble rushed to Johnson, who was suffering from massive injuries to his head.

"He had a lot of blood coming out of his head, his ears, his eyes, his mouth," Dickey said. "It wasn't no 5 miles per hour when they hit him."

Johnson's family members said he met the woman, an Indiana resident, four months ago on the Internet. She'd been staying with him sporadically.

"They had a history of trouble," said Kevin Johnson, his younger brother. "I saw it with my own eyes, their interactions. It was a turbulent relationship -- bickering, arguing, financial problems."

Johnson had an artistic spirit and was involved in the area's underground music scene, Kevin said.

Johnson's daughter, Ashley George, 19, said her father described his girlfriend as "him in the female form."

"They were very much alike," George said. "What their likes were, like music, and their lifestyle."

"He loved people," said Anna Goad, Johnson's mother, from Perrysburg. "But he said it was a very difficult relationship, that it would be sky-high one minute and low the next."

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:23 AM 0 comments 

## **Ventura, CA: Man kills himself outside Ventura County courthouse**

September 14, 2009 | 1:19 pm

A 39-year-old man fatally shot himself after confronting his ex-wife in a parking lot outside the Ventura County courthouse, authorities said today.

The man, whose name was not released, was apparently upset over the property settlement in the couple's divorce, said Capt. Ross Bonfiglio, a spokesman for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department.

The incident occurred about 8:20 a.m. as court employees, attorneys, law enforcement personnel and jurors were starting their day at the busy government complex.

-- Steve Chawkins in Ventura

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:18 AM 0 comments 

Monday, September 14, 2009

## **Charlotte, NC: Pregnant NC teen fatally shot at school bus stop**

Infant girl of murdered teen dies

Pregnant mother shot and killed at bus stop

Updated: Sunday, 20 Sep 2009, 4:45 PM EDT

Published : Sunday, 20 Sep 2009, 4:40 PM EDT

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (WBTV) - The infant girl, born to a murdered 15 year old girl, has died, nearly a week after her mother.

Tiffany Ranae Wright was shot and killed Monday morning, as she waited for her school bus along Mallard Park Drive. She was rushed to the hospital, and her infant girl was delivered by doctors at Carolinas Medical Center.

That infant died Sunday morning, according to a spokesperson for Carolinas Health Care System.

Funeral arrangements were announced earlier this week.

Visitation will be at Calvary Christian Church on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. The funeral will follow at 11:30 a.m. and interment will be at Oaklawn Cemetery.

On Thursday, the school where Wright attended held a joint memorial service for her and Ja'ron McGill. McGill died a few months ago in a separate and unrelated gun violence incident.

Following the services, students and staff went outside to release purple balloons in memory of the two students.

Tiffany Wright's adopted brother, Royce Mitchell, 36, turned himself into police Monday afternoon on charges of allegedly raping her earlier this year. He is being called a person of interest in connection with Wright's murder.

Meanwhile, the teen's grandmother, Shirley Boston, is blaming the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for not protecting her granddaughter from Mitchell.

The CMPD, however, said they had been investigating the rape allegation for nearly two months, but didn't bring charges until after Wright's death because of a backlog of sexual assault cases. Boston says that was no excuse.

Authorities said they were looking into whether Mitchell was the father of Wright's baby. Mitchell was charged with statutory rape and taking indecent liberties with a child.

Mitchell has not been charged with Wright's murder, but he is being held in the Mecklenburg County jail without bond.

Also on Wednesday, the City of Charlotte released a statement concerning Mitchell's employment status. He was hired as a member of the Charlotte Department of Transportation's street maintenance crew in 2007. A spokeswoman for the city said Mitchell has been terminated for "falsifying his employment application."

Spokeswoman Kim McMillan said the city checked his records for criminal offenses at the local and state level. Some of his federal records were reviewed but not all of them, she said.

"To ensure a more comprehensive review of all applicants, the City will expand background checks to include a search of federal offenses throughout the country," McMillan said.

On Tuesday, Mitchell appeared in court but said nothing as judge Kimberly Best read the charges filed against him. The suspect appeared over closed-circuit TV and did not appear to show any emotion according to WBTV Reporter Dedrick Russell who was present in the courtroom.

Police say they are still following some strong leads in the case but there's no word, yet, if detectives plan to interview Mitchell again concerning Wright's death.

Neighbors who escorted their children to the bus stop Monday morning where Wright was shot were visibly shaken upon hearing the tragic news of Wright's death.

The incident happened as the teen's foster mother said she went inside the house to get Wright a glass of water. The foster mother told police she later heard at least three gunshots. When she went outside, she discovered that Wright had been shot.

When police officers arrived, they found Wright lying on the street suffering from a single gunshot wound to the head.

The CMPD said the shooting was no random act of violence and that it was the result of a domestic dispute. By 4:30 p.m., the CMPD said Mitchell walked into CMPD headquarters with his attorney and turned himself in.

This is not Mitchell's first encounter with the law. According to the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office, Royce Mitchell's wife, Andria, filed a domestic violence order of protection against him on May 6, 2008. She alleges that he threw her out of their bed, punched her in the face leaving her with a black eye, bruised jaw bone and a headache.

In 2006, he was acquitted in a 1998 drug-related murder in Buffalo, New York.

Wright was an 11th grade student at Hawthorne High School which offers a variety of programs including one designed for students who are pregnant. Additional counselors were at the school on Monday providing assistance to students and staff. A large banner was placed in the cafeteria in memory of Wright.

Mon Sep 14, 5:14 PM EDT

A pregnant 15-year-old was shot in the head and killed Monday as she waited at a North Carolina school bus stop, and her baby was in critical condition.

The shooting followed a domestic dispute and authorities had identified a suspect, said police spokesman Rob Tufano, who declined to elaborate.

Tiffany Wright, who was eight months pregnant, was shot before dawn at a stop in north Charlotte. She attended Hawthorne High School, a school with a special program for pregnant teens.

Wright was found by her foster mother, who had just walked Wright to the bus stop and returned home, Tufano said. She heard at least three gunshots and went outside to find Wright in the street.

Wright was rushed to Carolinas Medical Center, where she later died. Hospital spokeswoman Katie Ratchford said the baby was in critical condition.

Wright was described as a smart, focused student.

"It was clear that Tiffany was academically strong and off to a good start," Hawthorne Principal Travey Pickard told The Charlotte Observer.

Pickard didn't return a telephone message from The Associated Press, but Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools spokeswoman Cynthia Robbins said grief counselors were available for students.

Students said Wright always had a smile on her face.

"She loved to joke. I'm like, devastated, like a lot of people," Cameron Blakeney, a sophomore, told the newspaper. "We're all pretty torn up on the inside."

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Posted by Cathy Church at 8:50 PM 0 comments 

## **Survivors recall horror of Wesson mass killing**

Julian Guthrie, Chronicle Staff Writer

Monday, September 14, 2009

(09-13) 20:41 PDT -- In June 2005, Marcus Wesson was found guilty of killing nine of his children in his Fresno home the year before. He had fathered them with his wife, daughters and nieces. The victims were each shot once in the eye and stacked like kindling in a back bedroom.

Today, surviving family members - who escaped or were not in the house at the time - are speaking publicly for the first time about the physical, mental and sexual abuse they suffered at the hands of Wesson. They shared their story to coincide with the release of a new book, "Where Hope Begins," written by Fresno reporter Alysia Sofios, who covered the case and ultimately welcomed Wesson family members into her home.

Together, in interviews and through the book, a picture was painted of a terrifying past, and of a future that began for those who survived on March 12, 2004, the day Wesson was taken into custody for one of the worst family mass murders in California history.

Wesson controlled every part of family members' lives, from what they ate and wore to with whom they talked. The boys in the family were not allowed to talk to their sisters. Girls were not allowed to talk to their mother. All were taught they were safe only when at home with him, but they were beaten mercilessly. The beatings - with tree branches or cable cords yanked out of the wall - would last longer if the child moved or made any noise.

wareness over time

In the months after the killings, Wesson's wife and children continued to express their support for the killer. Slowly, though, time and distance have brought awareness and grief.

Wesson's sons now talk in a detached way about being beaten as children for doing things such things as eating an extra spoonful of peanut butter, asking a question, or simply "having the wrong vibe."

"He was all I knew," said 34-year-old Adrian Wesson, who lives and works in San Francisco. "He was my dad. He was God. I was mortally afraid of him. There were times as a child when I could not speak, when I would defecate in my pants, when I could not walk for a week because the beatings were so bad."

earing for his life

Another son, Serafino Wesson, 24, who lives in Fresno and works as a security guard, said, "Without knowing it, we had an invisible gun to our heads. I was brainwashed. If I had ever talked up to him or tried to stop anything he did, I would not be alive today."

Marcus Wesson's wife, Elizabeth, was 8 years old when the hulking man, then living with her mother, began molesting her. Elizabeth was 15 when she married Wesson and had the first of their 11 children (two died at birth). Elizabeth said Wesson told her from the day they met that he owned her. He threatened to kill her if she ever left him.

"He practically raised me," said Elizabeth, who lives in Sofios' home in Fresno. "As a child, Marcus was in my home. My mom said he could marry me. He always told me how children should be raised. I think no matter what I had done, this still would have ended in tragedy."

rying to leave

When her husband started having children with their daughters, Elizabeth protested. She tried to leave. Wesson, who weighed close to 300 pounds, choked her until she blacked out.

Elizabeth was the last person to see any of the children alive that fateful day. (In all, Marcus Wesson fathered at least 17 children.)

Problems had begun earlier in the day when two of her nieces went to the family home to demand that Wesson give them their children back. He had recently announced he was moving the entire clan to Washington state.

With police called by the women to the small home, Wesson calmly ordered some of his older children to round up the younger ones into a back room. Elizabeth arrived at

the home - where police were treating the situation as an everyday custody dispute - and made her way inside.

It was eerily quiet, and her hands shook as she opened the door to the back bedroom, she recalled. The room was dimly lit, but she saw Marcus kneeling, with his arm wrapped around their 17-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, or "Lise."

o this day, i regret it'

"I saw Lise just looking at me, and then Marcus called my name," Elizabeth said. "He said, 'Bee (her nickname), come here,' as if I were in trouble."

She paused with the memory. "I ran. I just ran. To this day, I don't know why I ran or how I ran. To this day, I regret it."

She is haunted, too, by her daughter's expression: "Lise didn't say a word, but she looked at me like, 'Mom, it's too late.' She looked at me like she had given up."

She said she couldn't make out any other figures in the room.

Crying, Elizabeth added, "Because of that, because I didn't protect my children, I will never have peace." The children who died ranged in age from 13 months to 24 years.

What keeps her going are her children who survived.

"I want my children to have hope," said Elizabeth, who is 50 and has finally gotten the papers to file for divorce. "I don't want them to be known as 'Oh, that's Marcus' son, that's the baby killer's son.' I want my children to know they can succeed and not be judged by what Marcus did."

o longer in control

Serafino Wesson, accustomed to his father doing things like digging a grave and telling him it was for him if he made the wrong move, said, "The thing that still affects me most is something from the day of the murders. I remember police shouting for my dad to come out. When he came out, he looked directly in my eyes. He was calm, but he had this look of helplessness. I was used to seeing a look of total control. It was a real eye-opener. For the first time, I thought, 'You are not all powerful. You are just all evil.' "

He added, "Our father trained us to be soldiers. Now I'm married and have two children of my own. When my son was born, I got down on my knees and made a vow that I would give him the best life anyone could have and be nothing like my father."

e are free'

Adrian Wesson said he didn't begin to understand what he and his family had endured until long after his father was sent to prison. Marcus Wesson, 63, is on Death Row at San Quentin.

Adrian, a personal trainer and employee at Levi Strauss & Co., didn't know that being beaten for two hours because he asked his mom to roll down a car window was anything but normal.

When he thinks of his father, he sees only a shadowy figure. "For the first time in our lives," he said, "we are free."

author says empathy led her to open home

"Where Hope Begins" author Alysia Sofios, a television reporter for a Fox News affiliate in Fresno who covered the Marcus Wesson murders, knew she was crossing a journalistic ethical line when she invited members of the Wesson family to live with her.

Q: Why did you invite the surviving female members of the Wesson clan into your home?

A: I felt a lot of compassion toward the family. Their house had become a crime scene. They had nowhere to go.

Q: Why didn't you recuse yourself from the story, and did your boss know these women were living with you?

A: When I learned I would be covering the trial, I went in to talk with my boss. He asked me if I could be objective handling the family's reaction to what was happening in court. I said yes. I knew I could tell the story best.

Q: You are no longer doing hard news but are still reporting features. Did you make the right decision in inviting this family to live with you?

A: The odd thing with journalism is your instinct is to have compassion, but you've been taught you can't have compassion because you have to be objective. For me, it's like, wait a minute. I should be happy to have compassion. I really did think I would lose my job. I knew my life would go in a different direction. But I made the right decision.

Q: What would you say if you were to meet with Marcus Wesson on Death Row?

A: I'd want to say all of the things his family has done in spite of him.

- Julian Guthrie

E-mail Julian Guthrie at [jguthrie@sfchronicle.com](mailto:jguthrie@sfchronicle.com).

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:46 AM 0 comments 

## **Montbello, CO: Montbello couple found dead in apparent murder-suicide**

The Denver Post

POSTED: 09/14/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

Denver police are investigating what is being described as a murder-suicide Sunday night in Montbello.

The couple, who have not been named, were found inside an apartment at 4762 Peoria St. about 8 p.m., said police spokesman Sonny Jackson.

"Relatives reported it as a murder-suicide, and at this point that's what it appears to be," Jackson said. "We're just beginning the investigation."

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:21 AM 0 comments 

## **Monrovia, CA: Ex-Predicator Charged in Murder of Former Porn Star Girlfriend Monrovia man suspected in girlfriend's death**

KTLA News

3:47 AM PDT, September 18, 2009

MONROVIA -- A 31-year-old woman who was found dead in her apartment has been identified as former actress and model, Felicia Lee, who worked under the name Felicia Tang.

Police found Lee dead inside her apartment in the 500 block of West Duarte Road on Friday.

She had been beaten and suffocated, detectives said.

Her boyfriend, Brian Lee Randone, 45, has been charged with murder and torture.

He is being held in lieu of \$2 million bail.

Lee, 31, appeared in a number of adult movies and photo shoots.

She also appeared in several mainstream movies, including "Rush Hour 2" and "The Fast And The Furious," as well as adult films such as "Asian Fever" and "Hotel

Decadance."

Randone holds a bachelor's degree from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and a master's of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, according to a brief 1996 biography on the Baylor University Web site.

He also appeared in the 2000 Fox reality show "The Sexiest Bachelor in America."

Detectives say the couple shared the apartment where the crime occurred.

Witnesses say there was some sort of domestic dispute between the two although there was no history of domestic violence.

Lee was born in Singapore.

She moved to Australia to study, before relocating with her family to Southern California.

Copyright © 2009, KTLA-TV, Los Angeles

By Brian Day, Staff Writer

Posted: 09/13/2009 03:08:08 PM PDT

MONROVIA - A Monrovia man is behind bars on suspicion of killing his girlfriend in the apartment they shared, authorities said Sunday.

Brian Lee Randone, 45, was booked on suspicion of murder late Friday, Sgt. Brian Schoonmaker of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide Bureau said.

The name of the the dead woman was not released Sunday pending notification of family members, coroner's officials said.

Sheriff's officials described her as an Asian woman in her 30s.

Few details were available about the alleged slaying, which was reported about 12:10 p.m. Friday in an apartment in the 500 block of West Duarte Road, Los Angeles County sheriff's Deputy Aura Sierra said.

While officials believe the death to be a homicide, they had not determined Sunday how the woman died.

"There's trauma to the body that indicates homicide," Schoonmaker said. He declined to give further details.

The Los Angeles County Department of Coroner will conduct an autopsy to figure out exactly what the cause of death was, he said.

Deputies responded to the apartment after Randone called 9-1-1 to report his girlfriend was unconscious, Schoonmaker said.

He was still at the scene when officials arrived and cooperated with investigators, he added.

The investigation led authorities to believe Randone killed his girlfriend.

"There was some kind of domestic (dispute)," Schoonmaker said. "We don't know what sparked it."

The sergeant added he was not aware of any history of domestic violence between the couple.

Neighbors did not report anything strange Friday, Schoonmaker said.

"Nobody heard anything," he said.

Remnants of yellow police tape were the only apparent evidence of the alleged slaying at the apartment Sunday.

According to sheriff's booking records, Randone is being held in lieu of \$1 million bail and is due in Pasadena Superior Court Tuesday for arraignment.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:19 AM 0 comments 

Sunday, September 13, 2009

## **Woburn, MA: Framingham man to be sentenced for twice trying to kill**

WOBURN — A Massachusetts man is set to be sentenced for twice trying to kill his ex-girlfriend and repeatedly abusing family pets.

Montiero Green, of Framingham, was convicted last month of 19 domestic violence charges, including two counts of attempted murder, multiple assault charges, stalking, witness intimidation and animal cruelty.

Prosecutors said the 36-year-old Green regularly beat his ex-girlfriend and sometimes choked her until she lost consciousness. They said he also killed the family cat and beat two family dogs.

The jury cleared Green of three other charges of abusing his current girlfriend, including one count of attempted murder and two counts of assault and battery.

Green is scheduled to be sentenced Monday in Middlesex Superior Court.

Posted by Cathy Church at 5:30 PM 0 comments 

## **Newburgh, NY: Two dead in Newburgh shooting; likely murder-suicide**

NEWBURGH - An elderly couple were found dead in their townhouse, this morning, the apparent victims of a murder-suicide.

Police responded to a call of gunshots, about 8:20 this morning, at 29 Westbrook Road, in a townhouse off Route 17K. Officers found the bodies of Richard Benson, 74, and his wife, Florence, 75. Both were dead of gunshot wounds.

Police say it appears Richard Benson shot his wife, in a stairway, they shot himself in the living room.

Detectives and an investigator from the Orange County Medical Examiner's Office were still investigating, in the afternoon.

Detectives say they have information that medical issues may have been a recent concern for both victims.

The 911 call came from a relative.

Posted by Cathy Church at 5:28 PM 0 comments 

## **Brooklyn, NY: Cop-stabbing thug shot dead: Kidnapper attacked police after standoff**

BY Mike Jaccarino, Alison Gendar and Joe Kemp

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Sunday, September 13th 2009, 4:00 AM

Three police officers fatally shot a Brooklyn thug in his home Saturday when he stabbed a detective with a 12-inch knife while being arrested for abducting and raping his ex-girlfriend, cops said.

One officer used a Taser on Samuel White, 20, and another officer fired his gun when White lunged at Emergency Service Unit officers with the kitchen blade as they entered his Brighton Beach apartment around 5p.m. after a five-hour standoff, police said.

It was unclear if that bullet hit White.

But when White recovered from being Tasered, he grabbed the knife from the floor and went after the officers again - stabbing a detective in his side, sources said.

"He quickly recovered and was able to stab one of the officers," said Deputy Commissioner Paul Browne.

That's when two officers fired five times, fatally wounding White.

The officer, protected by a bullet-resistant vest, was uninjured, police said.

"The cops thought it was a hostage situation at first," said John Demino, 20, a friend of White.

Police responded to a call about 11:30 a.m. yesterday that White was holding his 19-year-old girlfriend hostage with a gun, cops and witnesses said.

When police arrived, they found the young woman on the roof.

She had escaped White through a window, police said.

"I was on the cell phone with him," Demino said. "He was saying, 'She wasn't in the house, and I have no weapons.'"

A relative of the woman, whom witnesses identified as Anastasia, had called police around 10:30a.m. to report that she had been abducted from her home a mile away, sources said.

The woman called the relative an hour later and told her White was holding her hostage at his home, police and witnesses said.

"She climbed out the window and called the cops right away and said she was being held hostage," Demino said.

During the standoff, police made several attempts to place cameras in windows around the house to see if White was armed. He batted the cameras away and covered the windows, Browne said.

White had been arrested Aug. 21 for abducting the woman and taking her to a Best Western to rape her, cops said.

He was arrested for assault, kidnapping and criminal possession of a knife, police said.

He was released on bail on Aug. 25.

It was unclear how long White had been involved with the woman, but arrest records indicate a relationship for one or two years, cops said.

The woman had a protective order against him, cops said.

Friends said White couldn't have been armed.

"This kid had no weapons," said George Rivera, 24. "He was a good kid."

Read more: [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2009/09/13/2009-09-13\\_copstabbing\\_thug\\_shot\\_dead\\_kidnapper\\_attacked\\_police\\_after\\_standoff.html?print=1&page=all#ixzz0R08tNFOe](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2009/09/13/2009-09-13_copstabbing_thug_shot_dead_kidnapper_attacked_police_after_standoff.html?print=1&page=all#ixzz0R08tNFOe)

Posted by Cathy Church at 11:35 AM 0 comments 

## **Broomfield, CO: Woman, ex-husband shot dead in Broomfield home Three children under age 5 inside at time of incident**

By Erica Meltzer and Ryan Huff, Camera Staff Writers  
Boulder Daily Camera

A 36-year-old woman and her 46-year-old ex-husband were shot and killed inside a Broomfield home Saturday morning, according to Broomfield police.

Three boys under the age of 5 and an acquaintance of the woman were inside the home — located at 2791 Calkins Place — at the time of the incident, police said.

Police are investigating the shootings as an act of domestic violence, Broomfield police Sgt. Mark Goodell said.

Goodell said police could not say whether it was a murder-suicide until they processed the crime scene but as of Saturday night, they were not looking for any other suspects. Officers believe the crime was contained inside the house, and the acquaintance is not considered a suspect.

“The neighbors do not need to be worried about someone being at large,” he said.

The police department received a 911 call — placed by the female victim's acquaintance — around 11:20 a.m. Saturday for a domestic disturbance.

Police said the victims' names would be released by the Adams County Coroner's Office later this week. Jodi Samuels is listed as the owner of the house, according to Broomfield property records. Police said the female victim lived at the home, but her ex-husband did not.

Goodell said the couple's son was home at the time; the two other kids who were present are children of the acquaintance. Police would not say whether the acquaintance lived at the home or how he knew the victim. The children were unhurt. The victims' son is being cared for by Broomfield County Health and Human Services.

Goodell said the couple divorced sometime within the past year. He said he could not say if police previously had responded to domestic disturbances at the home.

Court records show that the home's owner, Jodi Samuels, and Darryl Stricklin filed for divorce in August 2008.

Samuels took out restraining orders against three other men for domestic abuse in 1996, 1998 and 2004, but an initial search did not turn up any restraining orders against her ex-husband.

Stricklin was charged with assault and property damage as part of a domestic violence incident in December 2008. Court records show prosecutors dismissed the charges, but the court imposed a protection order. The court records do not name the alleged victim.

Stricklin was charged again in January with violating the protection order and harassment. He pleaded guilty to the harassment charge. Prosecutors dismissed the other charge.

Ron Bisbee, who lives across the street, said he frequently heard yelling coming from the house. He said he saw police at the home at least once, though he never thought the fighting was so bad he needed to call police.

"I would hear them yelling, sometimes late at night, sometimes during the day," he said. "I wouldn't describe it as arguing. It just seemed like she was, I don't know, upset a lot, almost hysterical. She would just be yelling at him, and he was the really quiet one."

Greg Sobanski, whose backyard fence backs up to Samuels' house, said he occasionally heard yelling as well.

"They had their discussions like any family does, but nothing I would worry about or I thought twice about," he said.

Sobanski said the woman's ex-husband was around the house on a semi-regular basis.

Bisbee said the man was at the house two days before and took his son on a walk to the park. He said he had never seen the acquaintance or the other two children before.

Police brought the three children to Bisbee's house after the shooting.

"They weren't crying or anything," he said. "I think maybe they were in shock. They were acting really good."

Samuels' house is located in Broomfield's suburban Willow Run neighborhood, about a mile southeast of the Paul Derda Recreation Center.

In May, just a few hundred feet away from the recreation center, 58-year-old Howard

Blair Kepler shot and killed his wife, Leigh Landskroner, inside their home at the historic Westlake Schoolhouse building. The victim's mother called police as the husband and wife got into an argument.

Kepler shot his wife as police arrived. He then turned his pistol toward officers, who shot and killed the suspect, according to police.

Landskroner's mother and the couple's two daughters, ages 10 and 8, were home at the time.

Two other domestic violence incidents in the Boulder area have turned deadly in recent months. Former firefighter Philip Frank DiLeo, 61, fatally shot his wife, Elizabeth Schwarzenbach-DiLeo, 63, and their son, Philip Christopher "Chris" DiLeo, 23, in their Boulder home on Memorial Day, before killing himself.

And in April, Robert Oakley, 39, killed himself after fatally shooting his ex-wife, Katelin Oakley, 30, in the Boulder home they had shared when they were married. ¶

Posted by Cathy Church at 11:33 AM 0 comments 

## **WATERLOO, Iowa: Waterloo officer kills man after struggle**

A Waterloo police officer has killed a man after responding to a report of a domestic dispute.

Police say the officer shot the man after police were called to a Waterloo home after 2 a.m. Saturday on a report of a dispute between a man and a woman.

Soon after they arrived, the man struggled with two officers. When he began to overpower one of the officers, the officer drew his gun and shot the man in the chest.

He died at the scene.

One officer was taken to a hospital. The second officer wasn't hurt.

Police didn't release the names of the officers or the man killed. The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation will investigate the shooting.

Posted by Cathy Church at 11:28 AM 0 comments 

Saturday, September 12, 2009

## **Waukesha, WI: Funeral For Woman Allegedly Killed By Ex-Boyfriend**

By Tom Murray

WAUKESHA - Samantha Peterson's family asked guests at her funeral Friday evening to wear pink and turquoise ribbons, her favorite colors. The 21-year-old woman was

killed by a man who had been released from prison just four days before her death, police said.

"Sam was a beautiful young woman with an infectious laugh and smile," the family said in a statement. "She had many goals and aspirations that will never be realized."

Her family wants Samantha to be remembered as loving, selfless and happy. She graduated from UW-Waukesha in May and had been working at a bank.

Samantha used to date the man suspected in her murder.

"What happened to my sister is devastating," Kelsey Peterson said in a message to TODAY'S TMJ4 reporter Tom Murray. "Nobody deserves to die like the way my sister did and perhaps what made this even worse is that he claimed to love her."

Samantha was found dead in a car in a Waukesha neighborhood. Police say she was killed by a 29-year-old man she used to date. He has a violent criminal history and Samantha's family members always feared he was trouble.

The suspect is now in custody at the Waukesha County Jail. He spent several days in the hospital after his arrest. Police said he did something to himself that required medical attention before they took him into custody.

Investigators are speaking to witnesses and plan to file homicide charges next week. Posted by Cathy Church at 7:01 AM 0 comments 

## **Sarasota County, FL: Heftier murder charge could lead to death penalty**

Police say evidence shows killing of ex-girlfriend was planned

By Todd Ruger

Published: Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 1:00 a.m.

Last Modified: Friday, September 11, 2009 at 8:35 p.m.

SARASOTA COUNTY - A grand jury indicted a Venice man on first-degree murder charges Friday, opening the door for prosecutors to seek the death penalty for a shooting that left two dead.

Click to enlarge

Myers

Police say David Myers, 66, shot his ex-girlfriend in the face at her home in June, then shot her three more times and shot her boyfriend several times.

The murders have several elements that often lead prosecutors to seek the death penalty, including evidence that police say shows Myers took extra steps in planning the shooting.

Myers had cash in his pocket and, according to reports, had been reading a book called "Hide Your Assets and Disappear," leading detectives to wonder whether he planned to hide or dispose of the bodies and take off if given more time.

Instead, neighbors of Maureen Modlin called the Sheriff's Office to report Myers was at her home when he was not supposed to be there because of an ongoing feud over property.

Deputies found Myers there along with the bodies of Modlin and her boyfriend, Michael Lee Bistranin. Prosecutors could also argue Myers killed Bistranin to conceal the murder of his ex-girlfriend.

First-degree murder is the only charge that carries the possibility of a death sentence if convicted. Myers was previously charged with second-degree murder, which carries up to a life sentence in prison if convicted.

Prosecutors now have 15 days to file a notice if they intend to seek the death penalty. The notice is filed as part of a procedure for cases that have elements that might make the death penalty appropriate, Assistant State Attorney Lon Arend said.

But no decision has been made about whether the state will seek the death penalty against Myers, Arend said.

Modlin took out a restraining order against Myers and they battled for years in court over the property.

Myers lost ownership of the property in 2005 when a court declared that a quitclaim deed Myers signed in 2002 as part of a loan agreement made Modlin and her mother the legal owners.

Modlin foreshadowed her own death in a petition to a judge for a restraining order, writing that Myers would "kill me just to get me out of the house."

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:58 AM 0 comments 

## **East Moline, IL: East Moline man gets 16 years for girlfriend's death**

After hearing Henry Sims' statement Friday, Judge Walter Braud found that the East Moline man was not remorseful for the June 15, 2008, death of his girlfriend, Erin Waeyaert, and sentenced him to 16 years in prison.

Braud made it a point to note that Sims was not one of the "worst of the worst" and therefore did not give him the maximum sentence of 25 years.

A Rock Island County jury convicted Sims in June on felony counts of involuntary manslaughter and leaving the scene of an accident. He will serve two consecutive eight-year sentences on the two counts.

According to Braud, Waeyaert thought Sims was seeing another girl and took her van back without Sims' detection. He then went to her and her mother's house, also in East Moline, to take the van back, but she saw him before he could get away and grabbed on.

Waeyaert, 24, was standing on the passenger-side running board of the van as Sims drove down some streets near her mother's home. Braud said he was going at a high rate of speed when she fell in the 300 block of 13th Street and died from her injuries. Before he was sentenced Sims apologized to both Waeyaerts' family and friends and his own. The courtroom was full with around 40 people.

"June 15 was a bad mistake for both sides," Sims said. "I apologize to the family." Sims accused the prosecution of being corrupt by pursuing a murder conviction against him at trial. The Rock Island County State's Attorney's office argued that he tried to knock Waeyaert off the vehicle.

Assistant Rock Island County State's Attorney Norma Kauzlarich asked Braud for the maximum sentence and cited Sims' lengthy criminal history, which includes other offenses against women, as part of her argument.

She also noted that Sims has a poor employment record. Sims' attorney Jack Schwartz argued for a lower sentence saying that Sims should not be separated from his family for too long.

Braud also heard from Waeyaert's brother, Andrew Waeyaert, who noted that Sims never stopped to check on his sister when she fell from the van.

"God did not take Erin away from us, Henry Sims did," he said. "Along with her he took away a part of us."

When announcing his sentence, Braud noted that Sims knew his actions were likely to cause serious harm to Waeyaert and agreed with the prosecution that Sims had developed a pattern of behavior in which he was cruel to women, drove recklessly and used drugs.

In the end, the judge focused on Sims' statement and said he was looking for remorse to see if Sims was less likely to commit a similar crime in the future.

"You still are telling me how this victim jumped on her car and it's somehow her fault," the judge said, adding Sims had plenty of time to stop.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:56 AM 0 comments 

## **Morrison, IL: Rock Falls man pleads guilty to wife's murder**

Whiteside County authorities say a Rock Falls man has pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the strangling of his on Labor Day of last year.

Whiteside County State's Attorney Gary Spencer says 53-year-old Emilio Celestino Jr. entered the plea Thursday and faces from 20 to 60 years in prison at his Jan. 13 sentencing before Judge John Hauptman.

Police say Celestino strangled his wife of nearly four year, Linda, after nearly 24 hours of quarreling about his marijuana use.

Court records indicate Celestino has a history of domestic violence arrests and marijuana use would have been a violation of his parole.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:52 AM 0 comments 

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:52 AM 0 comments 

## **Lawrenceville, GA: Man given life in prison in girlfriend strangling**

By Josh Green  
Staff Writer

Saturday, September 12, 2009

LAWRENCEVILLE - Jurors deliberated for a mere hour Friday morning before agreeing that Andres Luis Rodriguez-Nova strangled his hog-tied girlfriend with a phone cord last year.

Rodriguez-Nova was convicted on all counts, which include murder, felony murder, aggravated assault, aggravated battery and false imprisonment.

Superior Court Judge Tom Davis sentenced Rodriguez-Nova, 40, to life in prison plus 10 years, said Assistant District Attorney David Keeton.

An enraged Rodriguez-Nova strangled his lover, Elba Mejia-Mesa, 44, in June last year because he suspected she'd been unfaithful. Later that day, he called 911 to report he'd killed the victim in her Lake Colony Apartments home near Norcross.

He later told police his girlfriend's last words were to remind him of the consequences his actions would have on his and her children, according to testimony this week.

Rodriguez-Nova's defense attorney, David Whitman, had argued for consideration of a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter, theorizing that his discovery of the victim's alleged infidelity provoked him to kill her in a sudden act of passion, Keeton said.

Prosecutors pointed out that some time had elapsed between Rodriguez-Nova's first confronting the victim and her death. In the interim, he admitted to threatening her with a knife, tying her hands and feet with duct tape, dousing her in pepper spray and eventually strangling her with the cord of a cell-phone charger.

Friends of Mejia-Mesa said she left behind two children whom she supported by working at a taqueria near Norcross.

Rodriguez-Nova has five children of his own in the Dominican Republic, his attorney said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:49 AM 0 comments 

## **Phoenix, AZ: Binghamton man charged with killing ex-girlfriend in Arizona**

By Debbie Swartz

dswartz@gannett.com

A Binghamton man is facing murder charges in Arizona, accused of stabbing his ex-girlfriend to death with a screwdriver.

Dzevad Selimovic of Binghamton is facing murder charges after police say he killed 27-year-old Emina Redza in her Phoenix apartment. Selimovic, 39, came to visit last week, but the couple reportedly had several arguments.

A few months ago, Selimovic left his wife and two children for Redza, said family friend Nermina Begic.

"This is a shock," she said. "They (the family) didn't know anything."

Begic was at the family's home in Binghamton Friday evening when they learned about the arrest.

Selimovic and Redza dated for about three months and lived together in Apalachin. According to Press & Sun-Bulletin archives, Selimovic emigrated from Bosnia-Herzegovina and became a naturalized citizen in 2006.

"We found out in early June that my father had lived a double life," said Selimovic's 17-year-old daughter, Huriya Selimovic.

The teenager said she met Redza and tried to warn her of her father's temper and other issues.

"I told her from the start my father is a liar," she said, "I tried to convince her to leave him."

Redza moved to Phoenix in August with the help of her father, Huriya Selimovic said. Trouble started when Redza's parents became aware Redza was dating a married man with children, she said.

According to police, on Thursday evening Selimovic wanted to take a shower at Redza's apartment before taking a flight back to New York.

At some point, Redza turned her back to him and police say Selimovic stabbed her in

the face, throat, upper back and hands with a 6-inch, serrated tire-repair screwdriver he had bought at a gas station. He then fled in the victim's car.

Hours later, police say Selimovic pulled up to a police patrol car, told an officer about the stabbing and was taken into custody.

Police say Redza was found with the screwdriver protruding from her right temple. She was taken to a Phoenix hospital, where she died Friday morning.

Hurija Selimovic said she knew something was wrong when she was unable to reach her father on the telephone.

"I called him yesterday after school and he didn't pick up. I knew something was wrong," she said. "He was losing his mind already."

Selimovic said she feared her father might be suicidal, but didn't think he would kill someone. Her harsh words with Redza now haunt her, she said.

"I'm so disgusted with my father. That's someone's child, like I'm his child," Selimovic said. "Right now I feel so bad for every bad word I said to her."

Her family is trying to contact Redza's parents to offer their condolences, she said.

"I feel so sorry for her family," Hurija Selimovic said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:46 AM 0 comments 

## **Fremont, CA: Youth kills girlfriend, then shoots himself**

Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer

Saturday, September 12, 2009

(09-11) 22:58 PDT FREMONT, CALIF. --

A 17-year-old boy shot and killed his 17-year-old girlfriend Friday night before turning the gun on himself, leaving him gravely wounded, police said.

The names of the victims were not immediately released.

The shooting happened on the 4300 block of Millard Avenue at about 7 p.m., said Detective Bill Veteran, Fremont police spokesman.

Officers responding to reports of shots fired found the two juveniles lying on the street in front of a home, Veteran said.

Police determined that the boy had shot the girl in the head with a small-caliber handgun before shooting himself, Veteran said. The boy was in grave condition at a

local hospital.

The two had been romantically involved "until recently" and were in the process of exchanging a cell phone when the killing occurred, Veteran said.

The murder-attempted suicide came less than two days after Nino Francisco, 27, of Vallejo shot and gravely wounded a woman before shooting himself to death at the Motel 6 on Edes Avenue in East Oakland. The woman's name has not been released.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:43 AM 0 comments 

## **Louisville, TN: Man held in wife's slaying**

Brother: Sister felt relief with order of protection

By Matt Lakin

Saturday, September 12, 2009

Just this week, Janas Long finally felt safe.

"She told me she had a relief," said her brother Rick Yates. "She said she had something to protect her. She told me, 'Now I'm rid of him for good.' "

The piece of paper didn't save her. Blount County authorities found Janas Marie Long, 57, stabbed inside her Louisville apartment late Thursday, less than a week after she told her brother about the temporary order of protection she'd obtained against her estranged husband.

Long died at Blount Memorial Hospital. Her husband, Jeffrey Scott "Scotto" Long, 47, remained under guard at the hospital Friday night awaiting homicide charges after police said he stabbed himself during a standoff.

Yates, of Bristol, said the killing came after more than a decade of threats and abuse.

"She was afraid for her life," the brother said. "She was up here just Sunday visiting with us. She said, 'I've done everything I can to get away from him. Scott said the last thing he'd do was to kill me.' "

"I told her, 'Don't put your faith in a (protective) order. He'd have you dead before the police ever got there.' "

Alcoa police officers investigating a call about a "suspicious" van found Janas Long on the floor of her apartment at the Lakemont Village complex just after 10 p.m. Police tracked the van to the Shamrock Motel on East Lamar Alexander Parkway in Maryville, where members of the Blount County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics team spent about an hour and a half trying to get Scott Long out of his room before he surrendered Friday around 3:45 a.m. He had an "apparently self-inflicted wound,"

BCSO spokeswoman Marian O'Briant said.

Court records show Janas Long filed a petition for an order of protection Aug. 10. General Sessions Judge Robert Headrick granted a temporary order but postponed the hearing on her case until Oct. 1.

The wife wrote in the petition that her husband broke her neck in 1998. She never pressed criminal charges, her brother said.

"He slammed her up against a wall," Yates said. "He threatened her that if she didn't drop the charges, he'd kill her."

The threats didn't stop after that, according to the petition. The wife wrote that he'd hit her, held a knife to her chest and wouldn't stay away.

He "told her he would kill her and put her somewhere no one would find her," Janas Long wrote. "Respondent (Scott Long) told her not to take an order of protection out on him or she'd be sorry. There are so many things over the years that the petitioner is scared and tired.

"Help me!!," she wrote.

Yates said he plans to be there when Scott Long appears in court.

"I want justice to be served," the brother said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:43 AM 0 comments 

Friday, September 11, 2009

## **Lawrence County, WV: Lawrence County Shootings Declared Murder-Suicide**

Sheriff deputies say Christopher Harless shot Mary Crockett and then shot and killed himself.

LAWRENCE CO. -- Lawrence County Sheriff's office reports that last week's shooting deaths were likely the result of a domestic dispute that ended in a murder-suicide. The shootings happened Sept. 3.

Investigators claim that Christopher Harless shot Mary Crocket inside the truck they were riding in, then turned the gun on himself. Harless was found lying dead outside the truck with a gunshot wound to the head. Crockett was flown to a local hospital where she later died.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:29 PM 0 comments 

## **Louisa, VA: Police: Man killed wife over Christmas lights**

September 11, 2009 12:00 am

LOUISA — A Louisa County jury has convicted a 54-year-old man of murdering his wife after an argument over Christmas lights.

Authorities say Forrest Smythers shot Dawn Smythers once in the head with a .22 caliber rifle in their home on Jan. 16. Forrest Smythers told investigators that he had wanted to take down their Christmas lights, but that his wife had opposed the idea.

Jurors convicted him Wednesday of first-degree murder and using a firearm in a felony. They recommended a sentence of life plus three years in prison. Sentencing was set for Dec. 14.

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:23 PM 0 comments 

## **Natchez, MS: Argument leads to Thursday night murder, suicide**

By Adam Koob (Contact) | The Natchez Democrat

Published Friday, September 11, 2009

NATCHEZ — A late night argument ended in a murder suicide at the Holiday Apartments on Old Washington Road Thursday.

Natchez Police Sgt. Craig Godbold said an argument between Marquis Terrell and his longtime girlfriend Renata Washington ended when Terrell shot and killed Washington, then killed himself.

“He basically sat down beside her and shot himself,” Godbold said.

Godbold said the couple had a history of domestic violence.

Terrell is recently believed to have been staying in the Clayton area and had two outstanding warrants for his arrest stemming from previous domestic violence incidents with Washington.

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:21 PM 0 comments 

## **Lexington, KY: Former Ky. lawmaker Steve Nunn arrested; ex-fiancée found murdered**

By Stephenie Steitzer and Tom Loftus

The Courier-Journal

Hours after his ex-fiancée was found murdered in Lexington, former Republican gubernatorial candidate and lawmaker Steve Nunn was arrested Friday morning for allegedly violating a protective order against the murder victim.

Gov. Steve Beshear spokesman Jay Blanton said Nunn was found in Barren County with

a gunshot wound.

Kentucky State Police spokesman David Jude said that within the last hour Nunn, “has been located in Barren County. He is in State Police custody for violation of a protective order.”

No other charges have been filed against Nunn.

Nunn's ex-fiancée, Amanda Ross, 29, was pronounced dead Friday morning at Lexington's University of Kentucky Medical Center after she was shot in a parking lot at 541 W. Short St., just before 6:30 a.m. Friday morning, according to Lexington police and the Fayette County coroner.

Jude referred questions about the shooting to Lexington police.

Lexington Police spokesman Lt. Doug Pape said “we are not prepared to release any information yet on Mr. Nunn's situation, wherever he may be. I can't confirm any information on him at this point.”

A judge in March ordered Nunn to have no contact with Ross for a year because of an alleged domestic-violence incident in February.

Ross was a division director for the Kentucky Department of Insurance.

Nunn, the son of former Gov. Louie B. Nunn, ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2003. He recently served as Beshear's deputy secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. He resigned from that position in the wake of the domestic violence incident.

In a statement, Gov. Steve Beshear said: “What happened this morning was an indescribable tragedy. A young life lost so soon is always heartbreaking. My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Amanda Ross and all others affected by this tragedy.”

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:17 PM 0 comments 

Thursday, September 10, 2009

## **San Diego, CA: Guilty Verdicts in Murders of Ex-Girlfriend and Baby**

SAN DIEGO - A Bonita man has been convicted of two counts of first-degree murder for strangling to death the mother of his child and killing his 10-month-old son after the woman threatened to take him to court over the child's paternity.

Dennis Potts, 25, faces life in prison without the possibility of parole when he is sentenced Nov. 6.

Jurors convicted Potts of murdering 22-year-old Tori Vienneau and their child, Dean

Springstube.

Deputy District Attorney Per Hellstrom told jurors in his closing argument Tuesday that Vienneau was killed on July 26, 2006, on a night she and Potts had dinner plans.

Potts lied to police when he told them he called off dinner with Vienneau, Hellstrom said, because it was the victim who canceled the meeting.

That was the night that the 22-year-old victim planned to tell Potts she was taking him to court over the paternity of their baby, according to Hellstrom.

"This was clearly the catalyst that caused Mr. Potts to kill her," the prosecutor said, telling the jury the suggestion that a stranger broke into Vienneau's apartment and killed her and her baby was an "absurd conclusion."

A "ping" from a cell phone tower at 6:44 p.m. put the defendant near the victim's apartment in south San Diego around the time she was killed, the prosecutor said.

The man who the defense claimed is the real killer, Daniel Moen, couldn't have committed the crimes because he was at work, the prosecutor said.

Besides, Moen cared for Vienneau and loved her baby, Hellstrom said.

By contrast, Potts had no relationship with his son and lied "up and down" about his role in the murders, Hellstrom said.

Potts erased all of his text messages from that night, then ordered his cell phone records and altered them, the prosecutor said.

The defendant said he was at friend Max Corn's home working on a project when Vienneau was killed.

Hellstrom labeled as "chilling" the Internet searches done by Potts a month before the murders, in which he researched such topics as "how to cheat a swab paternity test," "the best way to kill someone," "getting away with murder" and "getting out of child support."

Defense attorney Kerry Armstrong told the jury that Potts did the searches in connection with a school paper on euthanasia. He also had some fascination with death, was interested in mixed martial arts and was worried about his father's failing health, his lawyer said.

Potts' palm print on the door jam of the room where the baby was hanged in his crib could have been put there weeks before because the defendant had been to

Vienneau's apartment three or four times, Armstrong argued.

Potts made changes to his cell phone records because he was "scared," but never showed the altered records to anyone, his attorney said.

Just because Potts lied to police doesn't mean he's guilty of murder, Armstrong said.

According to a defense expert, it is possible that Potts was at Corn's house when he took a call from his mother and the call "pinged" off the cell tower near the victim's apartment, Armstrong said.

There is no direct evidence linking Potts to the murders, the defense attorney said.

"This is a 100 percent circumstantial case," Armstrong told the jury.

Hellstrom told the jury that Potts surprised Vienneau in her apartment, knocking her unconscious and then strangling her with the cord from a hair- straightening iron. Potts ripped the victim's blouse to try to make it look like she was sexually assaulted, the prosecutor said.

The defendant then proceeded to the baby's room and hanged the child in his crib with a cord from a cell phone charger, Hellstrom said.

Hellstrom said Potts lied to police when he said a paternity test he took was legitimate, when in fact he had used his friend Corn's DNA to submit for the test.

Potts was charged with two counts of murder and a special circumstance allegation of multiple murders, along with a charge of conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Corn, who faces a conspiracy charge, will be tried following Potts' trial.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:24 PM 0 comments 

## **Milwaukee, WI: Records describe brutal past for suspect**

Ellis did time for beating woman with hammer

By John Diedrich, Gina Barton and Ryan Haggerty of the Journal Sentinel

Posted: Sept. 9, 2009

The man charged with killing Milwaukee prostitutes used a hammer, a screwdriver and his bare hands to hurt different women over nearly a quarter-century, according to his dozen criminal cases analyzed Wednesday by the Journal Sentinel.

Walter E. Ellis was back in a courtroom Wednesday, this time on homicide charges.

The 49-year-old Milwaukee man made his first appearance on charges that he killed Joyce Mims, 41, and Outhreaun Stokes, 28, a decade apart.

A \$1 million bail was set. Ellis' preliminary hearing is Sept. 23. District Attorney John Chisholm said he expects to charge Ellis with more homicides on Thursday. Ellis' DNA has been linked to at least nine homicides over 21 years.

Ellis' lawyer, Alejandro Lockwood, asked for \$50,000 bail, calling the million-dollar bail "unconstitutional and excessive."

Chisholm countered, "Based on the nature of this case, I certainly think that this is an appropriate bail to set."

Hundreds of pages of court records over 31 years portray Ellis as a jealous, violent man who served five terms in prison, but also slipped out from under charges of violence repeatedly.

Ellis' family came from Mississippi, and he grew up on Milwaukee's north side. Neighbors describe Ellis as a teen menace, terrorizing the neighborhood of his boyhood home near N. 6th and W. Chambers streets.

Records indicate he has a juvenile record. Those cases were not available Wednesday.

#### Life of crime

Months after his 18th birthday in 1978, Ellis already was a felon, convicted of burglary. He received probation but no prison, according to documents.

In 1980, Ellis and three other men were charged with robbing and beating a man, according to documents. The charges were dropped against Ellis.

The first connection between Ellis and prostitutes surfaced the same year as the robbery. He was arrested but not charged with solicitation, records show.

In 1981, Ellis was convicted - twice - of selling marijuana. Records show he was arrested several other times for drugs, but wasn't charged. At age 21, he went to prison. He got out about three years later, in February 1985.

Just three months later, Ellis was back in court. This time he was charged with attacking his girlfriend after accusing her of cheating on him. He punched her repeatedly in the face, pulling out a gun and forcing her to prostitute herself on W. North Ave., the criminal complaint says.

Ellis watched from his car as she had sex with seven different men over several hours in a parking lot, according to charging documents.

Those charges, too, were dropped. Records don't say why.

The following year, investigators say Ellis killed for the first time, strangling two prostitutes a day apart in October 1986.

Ellis' life of crime continued with charges of theft, shoplifting, fleeing, bail jumping and drug dealing, according to records.

He went back to prison in late 1988 and didn't get out until May 1992. He was locked up again six months later at a Milwaukee halfway house for violating probation.

While he was in the halfway house, authorities contend, he killed a third prostitute, Irene Smith. Her body was dumped a block from where Ellis had lived with his mother - the first of at least six bodies detectives suspect he left close to his house.

Ellis was interviewed by police following several of the homicides, but was never arrested, according to documents.

Charges dropped

Nearly two years later, in October 1994, Carron Kilpatrick was killed, another homicide that detectives think Ellis committed based on DNA evidence. Her body was dumped a block from where Ellis lived with his mother.

Just a month after Kilpatrick was murdered, Ellis was charged with attacking a different girlfriend with a screwdriver. The charges were dropped without explanation.

Throughout 1995, two women and a teen-age girl were murdered. All of them have been connected to Ellis' DNA by detectives.

After those three deaths, Ellis was charged with choking his girlfriend until she passed out, records show. It was the same girlfriend Ellis had attacked with a screwdriver the previous year. Again, the case was dropped without explanation.

Another prostitute, Mims, was murdered in 1997, again dumped just blocks from where Ellis lived.

The following year, the system caught up with him again, this time for beating a different girlfriend with a hammer in front of her daughter, according to records. Ellis accused the woman of cheating on him. Doctors needed 52 stitches and staples to close her head.

Ellis pleaded guilty and received five years in prison. He served less than three years behind bars.

Last year, Ellis' then-girlfriend said he burned her car and threatened her every day, according to documents. She filed for a court order to keep him away.

Ellis was supposed to come to court in May to fight the injunction. He never showed.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:21 PM 0 comments 

## **Providence, RI: Man Who Killed Girlfriend, Set House on Fire, Sentenced to Life**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) - A Providence man charged with killing the mother of his child then setting fire to her home to cover his tracks has been sentenced to life in prison.

Herbert Byrd was convicted on Wednesday of first-degree murder and arson in connection with the stabbing and beating death of Linda Encarnacao in May.

Authorities say Byrd was watching Encarnacao's two children, ages 2 and 4, at his own apartment, but left them alone to go to her home, where he stabbed her repeatedly, strangled her and beat her, before setting the fire.

Police said the couple had a child together, but Encarnacao was not interested in continuing the relationship.

Byrd said in court that he has asked God for forgiveness. He will be eligible for parole in 2029.

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Posted by Cathy Church at 7:18 PM 0 comments 

## **Columbia County, FL: Man Who Killed Girlfriend By Fire Indicted**

Investigators Say Ford Set Home On Fire While Girlfriend Was Inside

POSTED: Thursday, September 10, 2009

UPDATED: 4:48 pm EDT September 10, 2009

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Fla. -- A Columbia County grand jury has indicted a man accused of setting a fire that killed his girlfriend.

Deputies arrested Kenneth Ford in June.

On Wednesday, he was indicted on charges of first-degree murder and arson.

Investigators said Ford set his own home on fire while his girlfriend was inside.

Ford is due back in court on Sept. 25.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:16 PM 0 comments 

## **Hamilton, OH: Killer has taken responsibility for wife and girlfriend's deaths, says brother**

Family of Von Clark Davis asks three-judge panel to not impose death penalty for a third time.

By Dave Greber, Staff Writer

Updated 2:02 AM Thursday, September 10, 2009

HAMILTON – Community activist Victor Davis described his older brother as a man who has taken responsibility for the two women he killed, and a man who found religion during subsequent prison sentences.

Von Clark Davis' family members pleaded Wednesday, Sept. 9, with the three-judge panel in Butler County Common Pleas Court to spare their brother, father and son as they decide whether to return Davis, 62, to Ohio's Death Row.

"(He) has always attempted to right himself in the face of those who would accept it, and to God," said Victor Davis, a former director of the Booker T. Washington Community Center. "(He) has always expressed to me how hurt he was that he brought hurt upon two families ... Three families including his own.

"Rather than waste time by simply being incarcerated, (he) has tried to make the most of it, to try and maintain family contacts, social contacts and contacts with those who have played a major part in his life," Victor Davis said.

Among those contacts is a growing relationship with his daughter Sherry, his daughter with his wife, Ernestine, whom he stabbed to death in 1970.

Sherry Davis, now 41, of Cincinnati said Wednesday the relationship between she and her father has strengthened during the past 15 years, as the two have exchanged letters and telephone calls.

She described her mother's slaying as "a burden that I carried for a long time" but that she has forgiven her father.

"I had my mother taken away from me," she said. "I would not like to see my father taken away from me."

Davis – on parole after spending 10 years in prison for his wife's death – shot and killed his former girlfriend Suzette Butler, a 24-year-old single mother of Hamilton, two weeks before Christmas 1983.

The judges Wednesday also heard testimony from the defendant's mother, stepfather and sister.

"I don't see where it would serve any purpose with a death sentence. Some people say it's closure, but it's not closure," said Davis' sister, Carol Smith. "I would rather see him where he is still living out his life the best he can behind those bars," she added, tears streaming down her face. "I just hope the Butlers can understand that we are suffering right along with them."

Davis has been sentenced to death twice – in 1984 and 1989 – and twice the sentence has been overturned – in 1988 and again in 2007.

Testimony is expected to continue today with Cynthia Mausser, Ohio Parole Board chairwoman.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:49 AM 0 comments 

## **Eagle River, AK: Neighbors say 2 dead in murder-suicide kept to themselves**

APD Lt. Dave Parker (Mike Nederbrock/KTUU-DT)

When the two women who lived at the end of Caribou Drive in Eagle River didn't show up to work it aroused suspicion. (Mike Nederbrock/KTUU-DT)

Neighbors Jody and Molly Metcalf (Mike Nederbrock/KTUU-DT)

Neighbor Leslie Newsham (Mike Nederbrock/KTUU-DT)  
by Ashton Goodell  
Wednesday, September 9, 2009

EAGLE RIVER, Alaska -- Anchorage police are investigating a murder-suicide Wednesday night in Eagle River.

A police officer found two women dead Tuesday evening days after the incidence took place.

Neighbors are saying it's the strangest thing that's ever happened on their street. But in hindsight, they say there were signs -- the women got a little rowdy when drinking, but no one expected it to get out of control.

When the two women who lived at the end of Caribou Drive in Eagle River didn't show up to work it aroused suspicion.

A police officer stopped by to check in Tuesday evening.

"Their employers were concerned, as were family members. They called APD and we did a welfare check," APD Lt. Dave Parker said.

No one came to the door, so the officer entered the residence and found the two roommates dead.

"They found two middle-aged females in this residence and they are considering it a murder-suicide," Parker said.

News spread quickly down the lane. Neighbors Jody and Molly Metcalf wanted to know more, so they took a walk by the scene to see if they could get a few answers.

"Well, you know, this is a town that my kids grew up in, you know, I do like to know," Metcalf said. "This isn't the kind of place that stuff like this happens, it really isn't -- but when it does, I'm there."

They know they won't understand why the woman shot her roommate and then turned the gun on herself.

Most people keep to themselves in the neighborhood, but people do talk. Neighbors

said the two women were in a relationship.

"We know of them but we aren't really involved with their lives and stuff, but it's a small enough town -- everyone has connections," Metcalf said.

"We don't know what brings people to the point where they feel like they need to end their own life and someone else's life. We just don't understand the dynamics of that," Parker said.

One neighbor shared a few conversations over the fence with the women, but said they mostly kept to themselves, which is why police didn't find their bodies for days.

"If I was going to pick a murder-suicide, that wouldn't be it," neighbor Leslie Newsham said.

"It's just a devastating thing -- this really doesn't happen, especially in this neighborhood. This is a good little family neighborhood," Metcalf said.

The Metcalfs are still curious to know what happened in the house that night, but figure they'll never really know their neighbors.

A friend talked to the two women on Monday, which was the last time they were seen.

Police are waiting to tell the family before releasing names.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:37 AM 0 comments 

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

## **Grand Forks, ND: Police say man killed himself, shot wife**

Grand Forks, N.D. (AP) Police say a man found dead in his Grand Forks home apparently killed himself after shooting his wife in the head.

Officers found the body of 50-year-old Lyle Cordts and his injured wife, 47-year-old Julie Rae Cordts, in their bedroom Tuesday morning. Authorities said Julie Cordts was hospitalized with a severe head wound.

Officers said they found a .22-caliber handgun in the bedroom.

Police records showed domestic violence calls to the home last month.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:36 PM 0 comments 

## **Taylor, SC: Taylor man pleads guilty in Fountain Inn woman's death**

By Eric Connor  
Staff Writer

A Taylors man this morning pleaded guilty to killing his estranged girlfriend in front of the woman's 4-year-old son. Leon Choice, 35, was accused of breaking into the home of his girlfriend, 27-year-old Angela Workman, in April 2006 and shooting her.

Choice pleaded to murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.

He was sentenced to 30 years on the murder charge and five years on the gun charge, with the sentences running concurrently,

Before the jury heard the case Tuesday, lawyers argued over whether a confession that Choice gave to Fountain Inn police following his arrest should be admitted.

In a taped conversation, Choice is recorded telling police that he “blacked out” the morning Workman was killed after coming home from her third-shift job.

“I don't know what happened,” Choice said in the recording. “Something just came over me.”

Choice's defense attorney, Tom Hoskinson, argued that Choice's comments to law enforcement officers shouldn't be heard by the jury because Choice had asked for a lawyer after his arrest.

After Choice was read his rights to stay silent and after he requested a lawyer's representation, police provided Choice with a cigarette and recorded remarks he made outside the Fountain Inn jailhouse, according to testimony.

Police Chief Keith Morton testified that Choice voluntarily began talking, even after an officer had reminded him that he had asked for a lawyer.

Choice took the stand and testified that he had felt threatened by police.

Circuit Judge Edward Welmaker ruled that the jury will be allowed to hear portions of the statement Choice made outside the jailhouse.

Assistant Solicitor Cheryl Aaron told the jury that prosecutors would be able to put together pieces of a puzzle to prove that Choice broke into Workman's home and shot her.

Police found Workman dead inside her Queen Street home, where a rock had been thrown through a front porch window and the door of the bedroom where she lay dead on the floor was kicked in, former Fountain Inn police officer Phillip Brown testified.

Greenville County Sheriff's deputies arrested Choice later in the day at his mother's home in Taylors, according to testimony.

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:35 PM 0 comments 

## **Miami, FL: Jacksonville Man Shot, Killed In Miami Family Members Say Ex-Marine Was Trying To Protect Ex-Girlfriend**

POSTED: Wednesday, September 9, 2009

UPDATED: 1:05 pm EDT September 9, 2009

MIAMI -- A former Marine from Jacksonville was shot and killed Monday in an exchange of gunfire outside a South Miami home.

Miami-Dade police said 50-year-old John Henry Purvis Jr. was pronounced dead at the scene and Amadeo Valls, 44, suffered at least one bullet wound.

Purvis' family told Channel 4 that the victim went to a home on the 6200 block of Southwest 79th Street to protect his ex-girlfriend from her new boyfriend.

Police said Valls was arrested at a home several blocks away and transported to a hospital, where he was in stable condition on Tuesday.

Valls was charged with first-degree murder.

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:27 PM 0 comments 

## **Bellingham, WA: Man given 45-year murder sentence in Bellingham**

A man who was convicted of murdering his wife, although her body has never been found, was given the maximum 45-year prison sentence in Bellingham.

The Associated Press

BELLINGHAM, Wash. —

A man who was convicted of murdering his wife, although her body has never been found, was given the maximum 45-year prison sentence in Bellingham.

The Whatcom County prosecutor had offered to recommend the 34-year minimum term for 67-year-old Bruce Hummel if he would tell where to find the remains of his wife Alice.

The Bellingham Herald reports Hummel would not plea bargain Tuesday because he maintains he is innocent and plans to appeal.

Hummel was convicted in August. The prosecutor says Hummel killed his wife after she accused him of molesting one of their daughters.

He was brought back to Bellingham from a prison in Minnesota, where he was serving a federal sentence for cashing Alice Hummel's disability checks.

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:23 PM 0 comments 

## Oakland, CA: Man dies in attempted murder-suicide

Attempted murder, suicide at Oakland Motel 6

By Harry Harris  
Oakland Tribune

Posted: 09/09/2009 07:34:35 AM PDT

Updated: 09/09/2009 07:36:06 AM PDT

OAKLAND — A 19-year-old woman is fighting for her life this morning after being shot in the head at an East Oakland motel by a 27-year-old man who then killed himself, police said.

The shooting happened about 12:06 a.m. at the Motel 6, 8480 Edes Ave., not far from the Oakland Coliseum, less than five hours after the two checked into a room, police said.

Police did not identify them pending notification of relatives.

Sgt. Alex Perez said the woman had documents indicating she was from Las Vegas; the man appears to be from Vallejo.

Perez said police are not sure what their relationship was or how long they knew each other.

He said the couple checked into the motel about 7:27 p.m. Tuesday, just a few minutes after buying some food at a nearby fast food restaurant. He said the food was never eaten.

Other occupants did not report hearing any arguing from the pair's room.

A security guard and a guest did hear gunfire just before the two were found.

Perez said it appears the man shot the woman in the head with a pistol then shot himself. He was pronounced dead at the scene at 12:27 a.m. today.

The woman was in grave condition at a hospital.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call police at 510-238-3821.

Wednesday, September 09, 2009 | 9:29 AM

Bay City News

OAKLAND -- Police are investigating what appears to be an attempted murder-suicide at a Motel 6 near Oakland International Airport early this morning.

Officers headed to a Motel 6 at 8480 Edes Ave. at 12:10 a.m. to investigate reports of gunshots and screams coming from Room 2511, police spokesman Officer Jeff Thomason said.

The first officers to arrive noticed what looked like a bullet hole in the room's

window, Thomason said. When they knocked on the door, there was no answer.

They tried to use a key card to enter the room but the door had been locked from the inside and officers had to force their way in, Thomason said.

Inside, they found a man and a woman lying on the floor. Both had been shot and the man was pronounced dead at the scene, Thomason said.

The woman was taken to Highland Hospital where she was listed in grave condition, Thomason said.

Investigators believe the man shot the woman then turned the gun on himself, he said. Police are still trying to confirm the identities of the woman and the gunman.

Laura Rojo-Eddy, a Motel 6 spokeswoman, confirmed that the case appeared to be an attempted murder-suicide.

"Obviously we are quite distraught over what has happened," she said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 1:21 PM 0 comments 

## **Tampa, FL: Tampa woman shot, killed while holding toddler**

Deputies are searching for a Tampa man accused of killing his girlfriend as she held their 18-month-old daughter in her arms.

Cedrick Bontray Salter, 28, is wanted for armed burglary and first-degree murder. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office says that all day Tuesday, Salter tried to reach the mother of his 18-month-old twins. When he was unsuccessful, he broke into the laundry room of her home at 5709 30th Ave. E. at 9:15 p.m., confronted her in the bedroom then shot her in the upper body, sheriff's spokeswoman Debbie Carter said.

SaQuanda Simon died at the house. She was 29.

The toddler was not injured, Carter said. Simon's two other daughters, ages 10 and 7, as well as other family members were at the home at the time of the shooting. No one else was injured.

Salter fled the scene.

**Deputies say Salter was charged in March with battery and false imprisonment involving Simon. That case is pending, and a disposition had been slated for Thursday. Salter had pleaded not guilty to those charges.**

**In 2004, Salter was convicted of obstruction or opposing an officer without violence, and adjudication was withheld on a charge of possession of cocaine with intent to sell or deliver, court records show. In 2006, he was convicted of having a controlled substance without a prescription.**

**Anyone with information on his whereabouts is asked to call the sheriff's office at (813) 247-8200 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-873-8477.**

**UPDATE**

**Woman shot dead while holding her baby had filed injunction six months prior September 9, 8:29 PM Tampa Crime Examiner Charisse Van Horn**

SaQuanda Tamika Simon, 31, was shot dead while holding her 18 month old baby, late Tuesday night. According to reports, SaQuanda was killed by her boyfriend, the father of her baby, whom she had recently sought a restraining order against. Cedrick Bontray Salter is wanted on charges of first degree murder and armed burglary. Simon had filed a restraining order against Salter in March, however, after she failed to show up in court, the order was dismissed. On March 11, 2009, Salter was arrested on a number of charges related to domestic violence. These include false imprisonment, aggravated stalking, battery (domestic violence), grand theft third degree and criminal mischief. Salter was out on bail regarding those charges when the murder took place last night.

The incident last night transpired in SaQuanda's mother home while family members were present and witnessed the attack. According to SaQuanda's great uncle, Morris Coleman, 69, SaQuanda was in the home when Cedrick Bontray Salter burst in and fired two shots at SaQuanda, killing her. SaQuanda and Cedrick had dated for at least 7 years and he was the father of her twin children.

According to reports, SaQuanda had ended her relationship with Cedrick Salter on Marcy 1, 2009 due to his relationships with other women. On March 2, 2009, Salter had showed up at SaQuanda Simon's place of employment and had threatened kill her in statements made to her coworkers. The report states that he told her coworkers that if she didn't drop charges against him he would kill her. The incident escalated later that evening.

At approximately 7:45 p.m. on March 2, 2009, SaQuanda heard gunshots outside her residence. The report states that Salter then yelled, "I know you heard me shooting and knocking on your window." The report states that Salter became outraged when SaQuanda Simon refused to answer his phone calls and text messages. Salter continued to harass her. When Simon had her phone number changed, the violence

escalated.

The report also documents comments that Salter had made to Simon during the March 2, 2009 incident. Salter took SaQuanda's cell phone and headed towards his car. She followed him trying to retrieve the phone. They struggled and during the struggle, SaQuanda fell into the car. She tried to open the passenger door, but it wouldn't open. She yelled for her cousin to call the police. At that point, according to an injunction report the dialogue between Salter and Simon was as follows,

"I'ma show you what happened to the red chick when she called the police on me and now she don't talk to me no more.

"I said, 'What do you mean?'

"He said, 'I'ma take you to Lakeland and kill you. I'ma stab you in the neck with this screw driver.'"

SaQuanda stated that Salter had a screwdriver while they continued to struggle for the phone. During this time, Salter was driving and SaQuanda was pulling at the wheel. Salter told her that if she didn't stop pulling at the wheel he would drive the car off the road and kill them both. She continued to pull at the wheel and he exited on I-4 onto McIntosh Road. He stopped at a light and she kicked at the door and jumped out of the car.

SaQuanda had twin children, a boy and girl born on 1/24/08. In her report she stated that Salter was to have visitation with the children at her mother's house but not to leave with the children under any circumstance. Additionally, she had stated that the babies had not witnessed any acts of violence. The injunction was filed on March 2, 2009, since SaQuanda Simon failed to make it to the hearing, her bid for the injunction was denied on March 16, 2009, within 6 months, SaQuanda was dead.

Statistics show that abusers who threaten their partners with guns are more likely to kill them. If you are in a domestic abuse situation contact the Spring of Tampa Bay. When violence escalates to the point of the threat of murder, it is imperative to find a safe place. Sometimes, the most important step that someone can take in getting away from their abuser is to leave and go to an undisclosed location.

The Spring of Tampa Bay offers a 24 hour crisis hotline: 813-247-SAFE (7233)

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:57 AM 0 comments 

## **Horicon, WI: 2 found dead at Horicon residence**

HORICON – Horicon police are investigating an apparent murder-suicide that occurred late Tuesday afternoon at a residence in the 400 block of Maple Street in the city of Horicon.

Dispatch workers at the Dodge County Sheriff's Department received a 911 call around

4 p.m. from a person who reported that a person had been shot at the home. When police arrived on the scene, they found two deceased victims, a man and a woman, inside the home, said Horicon Lt. Adrian Bump.

"The person that discovered the victims was a family member who had driven over to check on them," Bump said.

The identities of the victims are not being released pending the outcome of an autopsy, Bump said.

Bump declined to speculate whether or not the deaths were being investigated as a murder suicide, saying only that it was a death investigation at this time. The Horicon Police Department is expected to issue a press release later on Wednesday.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:47 AM 1 comments 

## **Nyssa, OR: Sheriff: Eastern Oregon teacher murdered by husband**

NYSSA, Ore., - Authorities in Eastern Oregon say an elementary school teacher has been found murdered inside her home.

Brian Wolfe, undersheriff with the Malheur County Sheriff's office, says a man called 911 at about 3 a.m. Tuesday to report that his wife had been injured. When police arrived, they found Janet Holmes, 48, deceased.

Sheriff's deputies believe foul play was involved and arrested her husband, William Holmes, at the home located at 824 Owyhee Avenue in Nyssa.

Don Grotting, superintendent with the Nyssa School District, said Janet was a teacher at Nyssa Elementary and has taught in the school district since 1991.

"She was an excellent teacher, and was highly requested (by the students)," Grotting said. "It's a great tragedy to the school and the community."

Grotting said Holmes taught kindergarten as well as the first and second grade. She was headed into her 19th year of teaching with the Nyssa School District. Currently the principal of the elementary school is working to figure out arrangements for a long term substitute teacher to finish out the year.

Holmes, 54, is currently in the Malheur County Jail.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:46 AM 0 comments 

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

## **Rancho Santa Fe, CA: Rancho Santa Fe family shooting leaves son dead**

September 8, 11:03 AM San Diego News Examiner Dave Thomas

male who was allegedly shot Monday evening by his father in a dispute at a Rancho Santa Fe home has died.

According to authorities, the shooting took place in a residence in the 17000 block of Via Recanto.

Sheriff's deputies and medics came to the residence around 6:30 p.m. Monday after the mother of the man who was shot called 911. The man was transported to Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla, where he later died.

According to detectives on the scene, the son had broken into his parents' home and argued with them. He then allegedly choked his mother, and his father allegedly shot him in defending his wife.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:53 PM 0 comments 

## **South Dade, FL: 3 found dead in South Dade home; murder-suicide suspected**

BY ROBERT SAMUELS

rsamuels@MiamiHerald.com

The husband and wife returned to each other's arms a few days ago, bonding over their baby girl, a portrait of happiness to their family.

Police saw a different picture Tuesday afternoon outside Homestead, when the couple and their 1-year-old infant were found dead in her home in the 16200 block of Southwest 304th Terrace.

Their sudden deaths appeared to be a murder-suicide, police said, who were still investigating Tuesday night just how the three died. Neighbors said they heard no gunshots.

As police tried to piece together what happened, so did the couple's family. Relatives identified the couple as 27-year-old Shanna Edwards and Jermaine Williams, and the baby as Jenaya.

``There was no history of violence with this couple because her husband didn't even live here," said Cordel Skyers, Shanna Edwards' brother. ``He lives in Jamaica" and was visiting, Skyers said.

Edwards' co-workers at the East Ridge Retirement Village in South Miami-Dade were the first to notice something amiss, police and relatives said. She was a hard worker who never skipped a day, so they grew concerned when she didn't show up or call in sick.

They called Skyers, who drove to the house to check on her. He saw that her car was still in the driveway, but when he knocked on the door no one answered.

Around noon, the retirement home's staff called police, who entered the three-bedroom house.

When they emerged, they delivered the news.

“They told us not to go in because everyone's dead and we think it might be a murder-suicide,” Skyers said.

Skyers called his wife, Leonnie, who helped to gather a shocked and confused family.

“This is the last thing I would have dreamed of,” she said. “They seemed happy. I wouldn't say that if I didn't think it was true.”

Edwards had no criminal record in Florida. Information about her husband was not available late Tuesday.

Edwards moved from Jamaica almost 10 years ago, and had worked at the retirement home for the past four years. Outside work, she was an outgoing person who liked to go to the movies and hear a good joke, Leonnie Skyers said.

Two years ago, she married Jermaine. Her parents liked him. He was a soft-spoken man with a calm demeanor who was serving as a soldier in the Jamaican Army.

He flew from the island on Friday to spend a two-week vacation with his wife. On Friday, the couple invited family members to the house for dinner. They ordered Chinese food and talked. Leonnie Skyers played with baby Jenaya, who liked to chase her around.

“We are in so much grief,” said Mavis Williamson, another relative. “Now we have to plan a funeral.”

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:38 PM 0 comments 

## **Huntington, WV: Names released in double shooting**

Area law enforcement and medical personnel convene on the corner of State Route 243 and County Road 55 in Fayette Township following a double shooting Thursday afternoon.

FAYETTE TOWNSHIP — A man and a woman are dead following a double shooting Thursday afternoon near the intersection of State Route 243 and County Road 55 in Fayette Township.

Lawrence County Sheriff Jeff Lawless said Christopher Paul Harless, 25 of Huntington, W.Va. was pronounced dead at the scene by Lawrence County Coroner, Dr. Kurt Hofmann; he had one gunshot wound to the head.

Mary Dawn Crockett, 24 also of Huntington, was taken by Healthnet helicopter to Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, W.Va., where she died a few hours later.

“At 12:17 p.m. we received a call of a possible shooting,” Lawless said. “Upon arrival we found a black truck in the creek with a white male and a white female. The male was somewhat out of the vehicle.”

Lawless said the shooting appears to be domestic in nature and said the two people were in a relationship.

The investigation revealed the two had been in a recent domestic disturbance in Huntington that lead to Crockett obtaining a protection order in Cabell County, however she had dropped the protection order Wednesday.

The investigation revealed Crockett left work Thursday for lunch and met Harless at a Huntington gas station. The two drove away together.

It was discovered during the investigation, Lawless said, that Harless owned a .45 caliber handgun that was missing from his parents residence.

Lawless said it is unclear at this time which of the two was responsible for shooting the other and then committing suicide.

Gene Baisden, who owns the field where the helicopter landed, said he was home at the time of the incident but was unaware of what had happened.

“I did hear two gunshots but I thought it was up the holler,” he said.

Carl Stevens lives in the area as well.

“All I heard was the sirens and came out (to see what had happened),” Stevens said.

Lawless said the matter remains under investigation. No information is yet available about a motive or who fired the shots.

The Ohio Highway Patrol, South East Ohio Emergency Medical Services and Fayette Township Volunteer Fire Department aided the sheriff’s office at the scene.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:16 PM 0 comments 

## **Loves Park, IL: Man arrested in Loves Park woman’s death**

LOVES PARK — Ryan A. Schiller, 26, was arrested today in connection with the weekend death of his girlfriend, Amanda Reed.

Schiller was charged with one count of aggravated domestic battery and is being held in lieu of bond in the Winnebago County Jail.

Reed, 27, was found dead early Saturday in her residence in the 5000 block of Beechwood Drive.

Results from an autopsy performed Sunday were inconclusive, and Reed's cause of death has yet to be determined.

Loves Park police Chief Jim Puckett described Schiller and Reed as boyfriend and girlfriend.

It's unknown how long the two had been dating and if there was a history of violence.

"We're still doing the background part of this," Puckett said. "We're still talking to a lot of people."

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:10 PM 1 comments 

## **Kansas City, KS: KCK Woman Killed By Gunfire**

Police Say Shooting May Relate To Domestic Disturbance

KANSAS CITY, Kan. -- Police were called to Forest Avenue and Admiral Boulevard around 8:30 p.m. Monday to a woman shot in the chest.

Police said they found the woman lying on the sidewalk with at least one gun shot wound to the chest. The woman died during surgery at a local hospital, police said. Neighbors said they heard more than a six shots fired.

Police arrested a man at the scene. Police said the shooting resulted from a case of domestic violence. Police said the accused shooter and victim were involved in some type of relationship.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:06 PM 0 comments 

## **Valentine, NE: Valentine, Neb., man shot, killed by police**

Associated Press - September 8, 2009 10:45 AM ET

VALENTINE, Neb. (AP) - An armed 56-year-old Valentine man has been shot and killed by police.

Cherry County Attorney Eric Scott confirmed reports that Gary Connot (CONN-ut) was killed early Tuesday morning in Valentine after officers responded to a call from the home of Connot's ex-wife.

It was unclear whether Connot pointed a gun at officers or fired at them.

Connot was not allowed to be at his ex-wife's home following a January incident where he held her at gunpoint.

Connot, a rancher from the Valentine area, was out on bond.

He was scheduled to be sentenced in October for charges stemming from the January incident.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:05 PM 0 comments 

## **Las Vegas, NV: 2 women killed in domestic violence shootings identified**

By Mary Manning (contact)

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009 | 11:07 a.m.

The Clark County Coroner's Office on Tuesday identified a woman in northwest Las Vegas and another in North Las Vegas shot to death over the Labor Day weekend.

Metro Police are investigating a Monday afternoon shooting of a woman, Denise Ebarb, who died from her injuries. The coroner's office said an official cause and manner of death were pending.

But police said the woman was shot inside a home on Brookfield Cove Avenue, near the intersection of Grand Teton Drive and Cimarron Road, east of U.S. 95. A man at the home was taken to University Medical Center with critical injuries, police said. Investigators said the shooting was a case of domestic violence.

In a separate case, a woman was found dead in an apparent murder-attempted suicide in North Las Vegas on Saturday after police responded to reports of a domestic disturbance in the 4900 block of Rancho Domingo Court.

North Las Vegas Police found 38-year-old Maria Herrera of North Lake Vegas, who had died of multiple gunshot wounds inside the home, authorities said.

A 46-year-old man from Cibolo, Texas, was taken to a hospital in critical condition with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

The cause and manner of death has not been released by the coroner's office.

### **UPDATE**

**Police: Man said 'I shot her' after girlfriend found dead**

By Cara McCoy (contact)

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009 | 1:55 p.m.

Sun archives

2 women killed in domestic violence shootings identified (9-8-09)

Woman dies as two shot in northwest Las Vegas (9-7-09)

A man who allegedly shot his girlfriend to death in an apparent murder-attempted suicide Monday has been charged with murder, the Clark County District Attorney's Office said today.

Kelly Dicaro, 51, is being held without bail in the Clark County Detention Center in connection with the shooting death of his girlfriend, Denise Ebarb, at their home in the 7800 block of Brookfield Cove Avenue in Las Vegas. Dicaro is charged with murder with use of a deadly weapon.

According to an arrest report, Dicaro called 911 at 1:25 p.m. Monday and told dispatchers he had shot his girlfriend. When the operator asked if she was alive, Dicaro said "no" and also stated that he had shot her twice, then shot himself in the throat and was bleeding to death.

When Metro Police officers responded, they found Dicaro holding his neck and placed him in handcuffs. They also found Ebarb dead in the kitchen. When they asked Dicaro who shot her, he said "I did," the arrest report indicated.

He told police he shot her in the head with a rifle from the home's balcony, according to the report.

As he was en route to University Medical Center to be treated for his injuries, officers asked Dicaro why he shot her. He responded that she did something worse than cheating on him but wouldn't elaborate, according to arrest records.

At the hospital, when police placed Dicaro under arrest and told him they were investigating the death, he immediately responded, "I shot her," the report said.

A search of the home yielded a Ruger 7mm rifle as well as a .22-caliber Ruger. Police said evidence indicates that Dicaro shot Ebarb twice with the .22-caliber from the home's second floor landing while she stood in the downstairs kitchen. The rifle then jammed and Dicaro shot himself in the neck with the 7mm.

Dicaro is scheduled to appear before a judge at 7:30 a.m. Thursday.

Posted by Cathy Church at 9:04 PM 0 comments 

## **Clarksville, TN: Soldier Faces Charges; Wife Found Shot To Death**

Clarksville Wife Killed; Soldier Arrested

Suspect Arrested In Robertson County After Running From Police

Reported by Carley Gordon

POSTED: 8:11 am CDT September 8, 2009

UPDATED: 5:54 pm CDT September 8, 2009

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. -- A soldier faces a criminal homicide charge after his wife was found shot to death early Tuesday.

Related: 5 p.m. Report | Noon Report

Clarksville police said Sena Marie Downing, 25, was killed at a home near the corner of Autumnwood Boulevard and Hazelwood Road.

Police said a welfare check was done at the home at 3:17 a.m., and that's when the body was discovered. It was unclear why this occurred so early in the morning.

Police issued an alert for a gray Ford Explorer with a Kentucky tag and Fort Campbell decals. The vehicle was later found in Robertson County.

The vehicle turned up in Robertson County where the police also found Jonathan Clyde Downing, 31, hiding in the woods. Police used officers on foot, K-9s and a helicopter in the search.

Police talked with him for a couple of hours before arresting him without incident at around noon.

Clarksville Police spokesman Jim Knoll said officers then transported Downing to the Montgomery County Jail to be booked. Knoll did not know whether Downing had obtained a lawyer.

Jonathan Clyde Downing is a Calvary Scout in the U.S. Army who has been deployed twice to Iraq, including once with the 101st Airborne Division.

It was unclear how long the couple was married, but a neighbor said they called police last week because the Downings were fighting.

Downing has been charged with criminal homicide.

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Posted by Cathy Church at 9:02 PM 0 comments 

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Posted by Cathy Church at 9:02 PM 0 comments 

## **Gilroy, CA: Updated: Captured fugitive served 11 years for stabbing common-law wife in the heart**

Sep 7, 2009

By Christopher Quirk

Joel Barnes, 39, who served 11 years for killing the mother of his child with a single stab wound to the heart.

Photo by: Dispatch file photo

Also check out a story on Barnes' capture and arrest for trying to kill a peace officer. A fugitive recently captured after a two day manhunt is no stranger to the prison system, having served 11 years for killing the mother of his child during a fight with a single stab wound to the heart, according to Dispatch archives.

Joel Barnes, 39, of Gilroy, has been in and out of the justice system for nearly two decades and has a long history of violence and anger, according the Dispatch archives. While he was arrested for a number of crimes, his largest crime occurred May 14, 1995, when 25-year-old Barnes killed Tracy Lynn Little - his 27-year-old common-law wife - during an argument. At the time, Little had a 17-month-old son with Barnes and 6-year-old daughter with another man.

The relationship between Barnes and Tracy Little was in many ways typical of a relationship plagued by domestic violence, said Perla Flores, program director for domestic violence and sexual assault services at Community Solutions. Community Solutions, a nonprofit based in Morgan Hill, helps shelter and counsel survivors of rape, domestic battery, and other crimes.

The night of Tracy Little's death began with Barnes playing pool with a close friend and that friend's girlfriend, according to archives. Barnes had been fighting with Tracy Little, and when he got ready to go home about 11 p.m., he expressed worry that she would chide him for being out so late. Barnes' friend told him that if Barnes got upset, he should leave and come over to the friend's house to defuse the situation.

Yet Barnes did not seem to heed that advice, according to archives. He was next seen by a police officer speeding down Monterey Street about 1:30 a.m. The officer followed him to South Valley Hospital, where the officer caught up with Barnes in the emergency room trying to help nurses secure Tracy Little to a stretcher. Nurses spent the next 90 minutes trying to save her, but she was pronounced dead at 2:46 a.m.

Barnes told police that he had been fighting with Tracy Little and that "she fell on the knife and stopped breathing," Gilroy police Sgt. Al Morales said in 1995. However, Barnes told his father - a retired California Department of Forestry firefighter of 26 years - about that same time that he accidentally stabbed her while trying to leave their residence at 1129 Montebello Drive.

"Dad, I had this knife and I was just trying to scare her," Barnes' father said Barnes told him soon after the incident.

Barnes was booked for murder that same night, and he would eventually plead no contest to voluntary manslaughter about a year later, according to archives.

In many cases where a man kills his partner, he does so when she is about to end the relationship, Flores said.

"That is the most dangerous time for her," she said. "That's when he knows that he's losing control."

Because domestic violence is about staying in control, the abuser sometimes exercises the ultimate act of control - taking the victim's life - when she tries to leave, Flores said. However, there was no specific indication that Tracy Little was breaking up with Barnes, according to archives.

As with most couples whose relationship ends up with a killing, Barnes and Tracy Little were no strangers to domestic violence, according to Tracy Little's relatives at the time.

"He used to beat her up pretty bad," said Martha Little, Tracy Little's grandmother, soon after the killing.

Barnes and Tracy Little's relationship started quite humbly in the spring of 1993, according to archives. According to their child's age, Tracy Little must have gotten pregnant about this time. Barnes, described as shy, had not had a girlfriend for some time, and was overjoyed to link up with Tracy Little, Barnes' family said. At the time, Barnes' parents were active members of the Gilroy Elks Lodge - Barnes' father was president for a time and Barnes' mother was house manager.

Yet, about a year later in July 1994, there were already signs of trouble, as evidenced by one fight that got out of control, according to archives. Barnes and Tracy Little were at Barnes' parents' house and were scheduled to go to their fourth counseling session together, but Barnes refused to go. He left the house and got into his car, where Tracy Little caught up with him, kicked his tire and hit his windshield with her fist.

Barnes got out of the car, walked over to her, punched her in the stomach - causing her to double over - and then kicked her in the face, according to archives. She ran inside, where he caught up with her and put her in a headlock, pulling at her hair with his free hand. Tracy Little tried to fight back, grabbing Barnes in the groin, but the fight was stopped only when Barnes' mother intervened.

Barnes' parents called police, but he fled before they arrived, according to archives. They later arrested him for battery, to which he eventually pleaded guilty, and he was sentenced to 32 weeks of anger management counseling. However, that type of counseling is inappropriate for that crime, Flores said.

"Abuse is not about anger," she said. "It's about this value system - because I'm a male, I have the right to have control over this person."

When police talked to Tracy Little, she told them that she "had been punched two or three other times" before, according to archives. After one attack, her eye was swollen for four days and she had to miss her daughter's school play.

Flores emphasized that domestic violence victims are not typically meek individuals, but people who have tried to leave the relationship multiple times. Often, they feel tethered to the people abusing them because the abuser has threatened them or their children.

"If the children are in jeopardy, there's a tremendous amount of power that's built in that puts women at a disadvantage," she said.

Stopping abusive relationships means supporting the people being abused and giving them viable options to escape their situation, Flores said. Ending the propagation of abusive relationships means changing a community's value system and promoting

equality between men and women.

"In order to change those behaviors, that comes from prevention, that comes from education, and that comes from the community being aware and holding batterers accountable," she said.

#### HOW TO GET HELP

People who have suffered domestic abuse or sexual assault can call Community Solutions' 24-hour crisis intervention hotline at (877) 363-7238. The call is confidential, and operators are bilingual.

Posted by Cathy Church at 5:59 PM 0 comments 

## **Cowanshannock, PA: Cowanshannock man, wife dead in apparent murder-suicide**

By The Leader Times

Monday, September 7, 2009

Armstrong County officials said a husband killed his wife and then took his own life in an apparent murder suicide at their home in Cowanshannock early Saturday.

Coroner Robert Bower identified the victims as Holly Goldstrohm, 44, and Harold "Butch" Goldstrohm Jr., 47, both of Rural Valley.

Bower said Holly Goldstrohm called Armstrong 911 around 2 a.m. to report a domestic dispute.

When state police responded to their mobile home along Route 85 shortly after the call, they found both victims dead on the back porch, according to Bower.

State police said both died from gunshot wounds. They resided there as husband and wife, police said.

Bower said the couple had grown children and lived alone in the residence.

An autopsy of both showed that Harold Goldstrohm shot Holly Goldstrohm and then shot himself, Bower said. Both died of single gunshots to the head, he said.

Posted by Cathy Church at 5:54 PM 0 comments 

## **Grottoes, VA: Virginia Ware was shot dead Monday night outside this home, at 9712 Cloverdale Lane, in Grottoes.**

Published: September 8, 2009

A man has been charged with the murder of a Grottoes woman Monday night.

John Franklin Myers, 44, is in custody on charges that he killed girlfriend Virginia Lynn Ware, 30, according to Rockingham County authorities.

Myers is charged with first-degree murder, use of a firearm in commission of a felony and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Rockingham County deputies and detectives responded to 9712 Cloverdale Lane in the Blackrock Trailer Court at about 8:10 p.m., finding Ware dead in the gravel parking lot outside the mobile home, said Sgt. Felicia Glick of the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office.

Myers had recently moved out of the home, where he and Ware often argued, leading the woman to fear for her life, neighbors told The News Virginian.

"She was really scared," said neighbor Jaynid Irizarry, 30, one of at least two witnesses who claimed to have watched Myers shoot Ware.

A search Myers began last night. At about 6:45 a.m., Myers turned himself into Augusta County authorities, Glick said. He is being held without bond at Rockingham Regional Jail in Harrisonburg.

Posted by Cathy Church at 5:52 PM 0 comments 

## **Ogden, UT: Man sentenced for killing girlfriend**

Published: Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009 3:02 p.m. MDT

A man who repeatedly stabbed his girlfriend to death after she decided to break up with him was sentenced to 16-years-to-life in prison on Tuesday.

Second District Judge Scott Hadley sentenced Johnny Maurice Bell Jr. to 15-years-to-life for murder, a first-degree felony, and added another year to the term because a dangerous weapon was used while committing the crime.

The judge also imposed a \$10,000 fine and gave Bell no credit for the time served in jail awaiting the outcome of the case.

Bell, 21, killed his girlfriend, Brittany Nichols, 23, in her North Ogden home on Jan. 4 while her 3-year-old daughter was present. Nichols was stabbed several times in her upper and lower torso.

After the slaying, Bell fled the scene and hopped on a Greyhound bus, apparently headed for San Bernadino, Calif. He was stopped by police at Cove Fort and was arrested.

Bell previously pleaded guilty to the murder charge as part of a plea bargain and in return, prosecutors asked the judge to dismiss a charge of domestic violence, a third-degree felony.

Nichols' father grew suspicious when he didn't hear from her for a few days and went to her home. He found Nichols' body in her bedroom and the toddler present and physically unhurt. Prosecutors say Nichols' parents now have custody of the child. Bell and Nichols had been dating on and off for about four months, but police believe

Nichols wanted to break up with Bell.

— Linda Thomson

Posted by Cathy Church at 5:50 PM 0 comments 

## **St. Paul MN: Minn. Police Officer Killed on Duty** **57-Year-Old Veteran Cop in North St. Paul** **Fatally Shot on Domestic Call**

by Madeleine Baran, Minnesota Public Radio  
September 8, 2009

North St. Paul, Minn. — Devon Dockery had a long history of domestic abuse, and had previously threatened to kill himself and his wife, according to law enforcement records.

Dockery has been identified in news reports as the suspect in the shooting death of North St. Paul police officer Richard Crittenden on Monday.

Crittenden and a Maplewood police officer struggled with the suspect during a domestic disturbance call, and both Dockery and Crittenden were shot dead. The Maplewood officer received a gunshot wound to her arm.

Court and police records document Dockery's extensive contact with law enforcement.

Stacey Terry, his wife, had filed at least three orders for protection against him over the past nine years. In the first order for protection, dated November 2000, Terry said she had met Dockery in 1995, and had been in a relationship with him since 1999.

In February 2000, Dockery was arrested for allegedly assaulting Terry. He was later found guilty of disorderly conduct and given a 90-day sentence and 1 year of probation.

Terry filed the first order for protection after an incident on Nov. 11, 2000 in her Woodbury apartment. In an affidavit, Terry alleged that Dockery accused her of taking too long to drop off her children at a relative's house.

Officer Richard Crittenden

Terry alleged that Dockery then assaulted her, dragged her into her children's bedroom, and punched her when she attempted to leave. After several hours, Terry said she realized that Dockery had left, and had taken her money and car keys. Terry asked a neighbor to drive her to the hospital, where she was treated for injuries.

In November 2002, Dockery was convicted of terroristic threats.

In April 2003, Terry filed another emergency order for protection against Dockery. In the handwritten affidavit, Terry reported that her husband held a gun to her head and threatened to shoot her and then shoot himself.

"Devon is a ticking time bomb ready to explode," Terry wrote.

Terry told police officers who arrived at the scene that Dockery told her, "I'll kill you right now and save two bullets for myself," according to the police report.

North St. Paul Police Chief Tom Lauth

The police interviewed Dockery, who said he briefly borrowed a pellet gun from another man, and had taken the gun into the apartment to look at it. Dockery denied threatening his wife.

In April 2004, a jury found Dockery not guilty on a charge of second-degree assault in connection with the incident, but the jury found him guilty of possession of a firearm by an ineligible person. As a convicted felon, Dockery was barred from possessing firearms.

Dockery was sentenced to five years in state prison. He was incarcerated at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in St. Cloud from June 2004 to October 2008.

Terry filed another order for protection against Dockery in May 2009. In the affidavit, she alleged that Dockery asked her for money to repair a tire on her car.

Memorial

"He stated if I didn't, he would break me and everything else in my apartment," Terry wrote.

The next day, Terry alleged that Dockery locked her in her bedroom, "stated he will kill me," and told her, "The next time I point a gun at you, I'm gonna use it."

Dockery was arrested on May 18 and on August 26 on charges of violating the order for protection.

North St. Paul Police Chief Tom Lauth said in the last two weeks, police officers responded twice to the same address regarding violations of a protection order. The last call came Sunday, and the previous one was 12 days ago. The suspect wasn't at the residence when officers responded to those incidents.

According to criminal records, Dockery was born in Memphis, Tenn. Police records state that Dockery was unemployed at the time of the August arrest. He had previously worked as a temp in 2003 and at a cleaning company in 2002.

Investigators have yet to confirm the identity of the suspect, or provide details about the shooting.

"All I can say, actually, is that it was chaotic. It happened quickly," said Dave Bjerga, spokesperson for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. "This was not the first call to this particular apartment in regard to domestic situations. These domestic situations are sometimes the most dangerous for officers to go into, and in this case, that is exactly what happened."

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, a non-profit that tracks police fatalities, Crittenden is the first Minnesota officer killed by gunfire in the line of duty since Sgt. Gerald Vick was killed in 2005.

Funeral services for Crittenden will be held Friday, Sept. 11 at 11 a.m. at Aldridge Arena in Maplewood. The city of North St. Paul has established a Richard Crittenden Memorial Fund at Anchor Bank Heritage, N.A. in North St. Paul.

Richard Crittenden, 57, a nine-year veteran of the North St. Paul Police Department was shot and killed Sept. 7, 2009 responding to a domestic call. Another officer was shot in the wrist in the struggle. The shooting suspect was killed. (WCCO)

(CBS/AP) A suburban Twin Cities police officer was shot and killed Monday during a struggle with a man who was also fatally shot, authorities said.

Richard Crittenden, a nine-year veteran of the North St. Paul Police Department, and a Maplewood police officer were responding to a domestic call when they ended up in a struggle with a 35-year-old male suspect, said North St. Paul Police Chief Tom Lauth.

Crittenden, 57, and the suspect were fatally shot, authorities said. The Maplewood officer, whose name wasn't immediately released, was shot in the arm. She was treated at Regions Hospital in St. Paul and released.

Crittenden had started his shift at 7 a.m. According to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, a woman called police to report a violation of an order of protection. When police arrived at around 8:30 a.m., they confronted a male suspect and the struggle ensued, reports CBS station WCCO in Minneapolis.

Lauth said he could not yet say exactly what happened. He said the Maplewood officer discharged her gun, but he did not say whether the suspect had a weapon. Investigators were interviewing witnesses and others who were in the area at the time, he said.

"The scene was quite chaotic and it's going to take some time to sort it out," Lauth said.

WCCO reports that the suspect who was killed is Devon Dockery. Dockery has a criminal history of domestic abuse and unlawful possession of a firearm.

Police have not officially released the suspect's name. Lauth described him as having a criminal record and said officers had responded to the address at least twice in the past, including on Sunday.

"We won't be able to answer why such an upstanding law enforcement officer lost his life today," Lauth said at a news conference Monday afternoon.

Crittenden led North St. Paul's motorcycle officer program, was a former Wabasha County deputy and spent numerous years with the Hennepin County Parks and Water Department. As an older officer, Lauth said Crittenden was a fatherly figure to younger officers and had a great sense of humor, putting people at ease.

"This man was a husband, he's a father, he's a son, he's a brother to many. Not just to his family but to law enforcement. He's also a grandfather. The loss here goes way beyond words," said Lauth.

"Officer Crittenden will be severely missed. It goes beyond our family here of law enforcement, department and other agencies. Amongst his only family it's just a tragic loss," he said.

Crittenden was also a veteran of the U.S. Army.

The shooting has reminded law enforcement officers how dangerous responding to something as routine as a domestic call can be.

"This happened so quickly," Lauth said. "It could have been any one of us."

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:40 AM 0 comments 

## **Galveston TX: Ex-Convict Jailed in Woman's Murder**

GALVESTON, Texas -- Galveston police have arrested an ex-convict with a violent background for the murder of a 47-year old Galveston woman.

Officers were sent to 3414 Avenue N-1/2 Friday after Sherry Denice Williams was found stabbed to death inside her apartment by a concerned friend who went to check on her.

Based on witness information, and previous police reports, homicide detective Fred Paige was able to develop information which lead to the arrest of Anthony Earls, 49 years old. It appeared the dead woman was a victim of family violence, and Family Violence Detective Christlyn Palmer found that the victim had filed an emergency

protective order against the Earls, said Homicide Lt. D.J. Alvarez.

Investigators continued locating, and interviewing witnesses, and based on the evidence gathered, Justice of the Peace Jim Schweitzer issued a warrant charging the ex-convict with Murder.

The Galveston Police Department Investigative and Operations Bureau, Galveston County Precinct 2 Constable, Galveston County District Attorney's Office, and the Galveston County Medical Examiners Office worked jointly to bring about the arrest of Earls. He is being held in the Galveston County Jail without bond.

Earls has been known to local police since the early 1990's. Known as "Sweet-Meat" on the streets of Galveston, Earls has been convicted more than once on assault charges, including assault with a deadly weapon, family violence assaults, and assaults causing bodily injury. He has convictions for drug possession in a drug free zone, terroristic threats and has served time in the Texas prison system for violent offenses

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:36 AM 0 comments 

Monday, September 7, 2009

## [Jersey City, NJ: Police: Woman found dead in NJ fire was strangled](#)

Posted on Wed, Sep. 2, 2009

[The Associated Press](#)

JERSEY CITY, N.J. - Authorities say a woman found dead in a fire at a Jersey City home was strangled, and her mother's ex-boyfriend has been charged in the slaying.

Romulo A. Gregoria Jr. was charged Wednesday with murder and arson in the death of 20-year-old Christine Mariano.

Her body was found Tuesday afternoon in a bedroom at her mother's home.

Gregoria was being held Wednesday night in the Hudson County Jail on \$750,000 cash bail, and it was not known if he had retained a lawyer.

Hudson County Prosecutor Edward DeFazio says it appears Gregoria killed Mariano following an argument about the older couple's relationship.

Mariano recently moved back in with her mother after attending school in Miami where she studied to be a chef.

Posted by Cathy Church at 8:26 AM 0 comments 

## [Supply, NC: Man shot, killed in altercation with authorities](#)



*Photo by David Reynolds*

[Buy photo](#)

The shooting occurred at about 7:30 p.m. Sunday night at 2730 Captains Wheel Ave. SW in Supply.

**By David Reynolds**

[Dave.Reynolds@StarNewsOnline.com](mailto:Dave.Reynolds@StarNewsOnline.com)

*Published: Monday, September 7, 2009 at 3:30 a.m.*

*Last Modified: Monday, September 7, 2009 at 1:56 a.m.*

Supply | A 49-year-old man was shot and killed during an altercation with a Brunswick County sheriff's deputy Sunday night, officials said.

#### **External Links:**

- [What are police investigating in your area? Map and search up-to-date crime reports online.](#)
- [How do I ... Get information about criminals?](#)
- [How do I ... Find out if my neighborhood is safe?](#)

The shooting occurred when Deputy Bradley Hardee responded to a call about a domestic dispute at 2730 Captains Wheel Ave. SW in Supply, according to a statement from Sheriff John Ingram.

The man who was killed, Alton Lawrence Walters, lived at the residence where the shooting occurred. At the scene, Ingram declined to release specifics about the case, saying it is an ongoing investigation. Authorities say the case is being handled by the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation.

Online court records show Walters' criminal record includes a 2000 felony conviction for indecent liberties with a child.

At 9:45 p.m., about two hours after the shooting, deputies had blocked off Captains Wheel Avenue to all but residents of that street.

When the road reopened, yellow tape surrounded a single-story gray home with black shutters. Two large lights illuminated the front yard. Authorities set up a canopy in the street and also had a mobile command unit at the scene.

A mile or so away, Walters' father, 77-year-old Alton George Walters, sat in the living room of his home listening to a police scanner, trying to learn exactly what happened.

In the back room, his wife, Doris, telephoned their daughter.

The couple had been to Captains Wheel Avenue earlier, but were not allowed near the shooting scene..

They'd gone to the area after their son's neighbors had told them about the shooting.

While there, Walters said, an investigator with District Attorney Rex Gore's office told them their son had been shot and killed, but would not provide them any other details about the shooting.

The investigator said the body was going to Jacksonville for an autopsy and suggested they begin preparing for a funeral, Walters said.

After that, Walters said he returned home frustrated and upset.

He sat in his living room staring at the couch where he said his son had been sitting hours earlier.

Alton George Walters said his son, who worked as a landscaper, was in a good health and lived with his girlfriend at the house where the shooting occurred.

Walters said he planned to call the sheriff's office on Monday and again try to learn what happened.

“They didn't have to shoot that boy to put him in a police car,” Walters said. “They got Tasers, they got black-jacks, they got sticks, so why did you have to kill him?”

Posted by Cathy Church at 8:23 AM 0 comments 

## **Brooklyn, NY: Brooklyn man killed in ex-girlfriend's apartment**

September 6, 2009 by DANIEL EDWARD ROSEN. Special to Newsday /

A Brooklyn man was stabbed to death by his ex-girlfriend's new beau as he was visiting her apartment late Saturday night, according to [New York](#) City police.

Police were responding to an emergency call of a stabbing inside an apartment in Bedford-Stuyvesant when they discovered the 40-year-old victim with a stab wound to his torso, according to a police report.

Police said the victim apparently had been paying a visit to his ex-girlfriend's apartment when an argument broke out between him and the girl's new boyfriend, Pedro Marquez, 46 of 22 Stone Ave. in Brooklyn.

The victim, identified by police as Michael Lebron of 44 Aberdeen St. in Brooklyn, was stabbed multiple times, according to a police spokesman, and was taken to Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

Marquez was arrested at the scene. He has been charged with murder and criminal possession of a weapon. He has previous arrests for narcotics-related offenses, according to a police spokesman

Posted by Cathy Church at 8:20 AM 0 comments 

Sunday, September 6, 2009

## Houston, TX: Heights Couple Dead in Murder-Suicide

Updated: Saturday, 05 Sep 2009, 2:54 PM CDT

Published : Friday, 04 Sep 2009, 9:12 PM CDT

• DOUG DELONY

HOUSTON - Houston Police are investigating an apparent murder-suicide in the Heights.

The discovery was made in the 2400 block of Yale near West 25th Street after family members kept calling the home.

Police were called to the scene to do a welfare check and found the bodies of a man and woman inside.

Police say the woman was a mother of 12 children but not from her relationship with that man.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:47 AM 0 comments 

## Las Vegas, NV: Police: Man kills woman, turns gun on himself

Posted: Sep 6, 2009 02:52 AM



Police officers raced to the 4900 block of Rancho Domingo in North Las Vegas Saturday night - hoping to resolve a violent confrontation.

Instead, they found a woman shot and killed inside her home and a man in critical condition.

North Las Vegas Police say he shot her to death, before turning the gun on himself. He was taken to UMC after the incident.



Police believe he's a once boyfriend of the victim. They say he and the victim have a child together.

Officers initially responded to the scene after reports of at least one shot fired from inside a home, near Casa Del Norte and Commerce.

They arrived, only to hear more gunshots from outside the home. Officers made entry, but by that point, they say the woman was already dead.



The startling sounds alarmed the North Las Vegas neighborhood.

"Out of nowhere, boom. I looked at my cousin and said, did you hear that? A couple of seconds, we heard another one boom," said neighbor John Proby.

North Las Vegas police say they'll have to work with police in Texas to put all of the pieces of the puzzle together. That's where the suspect was visiting from.

"I think this is going to be a situation of what his motive was when he arrived here. We don't know at this point, but we don't believe he was here long," said Sgt. Tim Bedwell, with North Las Vegas Police.

Police say they also found a 16-year-old girl unharmed in the home, physically okay but emotionally feeling a great loss with the rest of the victim's family.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:43 AM 0 comments 

## **Holden, LA: 'Domestic Violence' Led to Murder-Suicide** **Pregnant Victim Survives, Gives Birth Prematurely 2-year-old, 3** **others dead in La. murder-suicide**

Deadly gunman violated protective order 3 times

Posted: Sep 08, 2009 6:05 PM EDT

Updated: Sep 09, 2009 6:25 AM EDT

Dennis Carter Sr. (Source: Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office)

Dennis Carter Jr.

Mason Carter

Amber Carter

By Caroline Moses - bio | email

HOLDEN, LA (WAFB) - In the ongoing investigation of how and why a weekend triple murder and suicide happened, detectives now say the gunman was arrested three times for violating a protective order.

Livingston Parish deputies say Dennis Wayne Carter Sr. killed his wife, his son and his two-year-old grandson late Saturday night. Soon after, they caught up to him on I-12, but Carter took his own life before he could be apprehended. In addition to the lives taken, Carter also shot his pregnant daughter-in-law nine times. Her baby was delivered early and both remain hospitalized.

According to Livingston Parish court documents, Donna O'Berry Carter took out two restraining orders against her estranged husband and he took one out on her in March 2008. They also show both of them filed for divorce independently. Local family court judges say drawn out battles like this one are not that uncommon in abusive relationships. "There needs to be a dialogue going with not just the courts and legal system, but with police and the deputies," said Chief Family Court Judge Annette LaSalle.

LaSalle said Livingston Parish has no designated family court, which makes it even trickier to keep complicated cases like this one straight. On top of that, at least four different judges handled the Carters' case. "We have a better feel for the family if we're the only judge they've ever seen," said LaSalle. Authorities admitted multiple handlers could explain why Dennis Carter Sr. was able to easily bond out of jail, even after his third arrest for violating an order of protection.

It's an issue state Representative Pat Smith, D-Baton Rouge, said courts need to clear up and if it takes new legislation, she's ready to help. "If it is the fact that we need to increase the penalty, then I think that's something we need to do," she said. Right now, if someone violates an order of protection, the penalties are the same, whether it's their first violation or their third. Both Representative Smith and Judge LaSalle think that should change. "I really like your suggestion of enhanced penalty. That's something that should be considered a deterrent," said LaSalle.

Smith said with Judge LaSalle's help, she'll look into creating a new bill to possibly link penalties to the number of offenses. Livingston Parish sheriff deputies also like the idea. Judge LaSalle wants domestic violence victims out there to know that taking the first step of filing an order of protection is still a good idea. In this case, Donna Carter did not push further than that with any criminal charges, though.

By **DOUG SIMPSON**

,  
**AP**

HOLDEN, La. (Sept. 7) – A Louisiana killing spree that left four family members dead, including a 2-year-old boy, marked the bloody culmination of an ongoing domestic dispute between the suspected gunman and his estranged wife, said the father of a woman who survived the shootings.

Dennis Carter Sr. shot and killed his wife, son and 2-year-old grandson, then shot himself to death as police tried to pull over his car about 20 minutes later, Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office Chief of Operations Perry Rushing said Sunday.

Also shot was Carter Sr.'s daughter-in-law, Amber Carter, who was six months pregnant and was in intensive care in a New Orleans hospital after giving birth to a healthy boy named Aubrey, said her father, Paul Williamson.

Williamson said Carter Sr., 50, had a history of assaulting his wife, Donna Carter, and recently tried to attack her with a machete. Donna Carter had a restraining order against him that her husband had repeatedly violated.

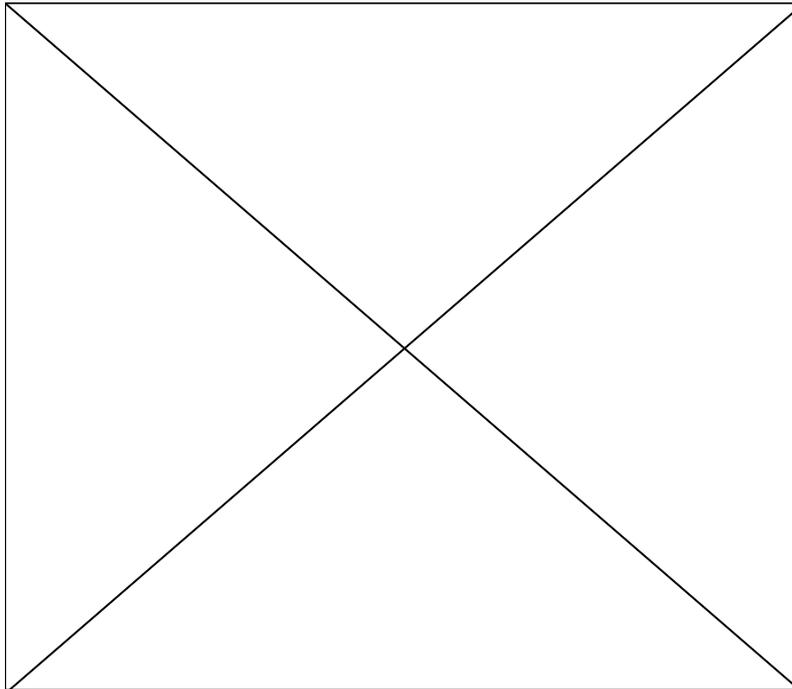
"This had been going on for quite some time," Williamson said. "It was one of those domestic violence things that just gets worse and worse."

A 16-month-old boy was in the house during the shootings but was not hurt. The child was related to the Carters but Rushing was not sure how.

Authorities were called to the home in Holden, about 30 miles east of Baton Rouge, around 10:30 p.m. Saturday. Donna Carter, 49, and Dennis Carter Jr., 26, were dead inside. Found outside were Amber Carter, badly hurt, and their son, 2-year-old Masson Carter, who was dead.

Rushing said it appeared Amber and Masson Carter escaped from a second-floor window but it was not clear if the gunman shot them inside or followed them outside and shot them there. Williamson said his daughter had bullet wounds in her kidney and liver, plus spinal damage sustained when she leapt from the window, probably trying to escape her father-in-law.

[Skip over this content](#)



Rushing said deputies spotted Dennis Carter Sr. about 20 minutes after the shootings driving on a highway. When they tried to pull him over, he shot and killed himself.

"It's very unusual to have this many victims," Rushing said. "This is an anomaly by any stretch of the imagination."

In a statement released late Sunday, Stephen Alexander, a lawyer representing other family members of Carter Sr., said they were "obviously devastated by their tremendous loss and they ask that the media respect the family's privacy during the grieving process."

All the Carters lived at the house in Holden except Dennis Carter Sr., who used to live there but had recently moved to nearby Hammond. Williamson said Carter Jr. and wife Amber had been planning to move to another house.

Williamson described the senior Carter as a semi-employed mechanic. He said Carter Jr. was a scaffold builder; Amber Carter was a secretary at North Oaks Rehabilitation Center in Hammond, where Donna Carter worked as a data entry clerk.

Rushing said that state police ballistics experts were conducting tests on a gun found in the senior Carter's car.

HOLDEN, La. — A man shot his estranged wife, son and 2-year-old grandson to death and critically wounded his pregnant daughter-in-law at their rural Louisiana home, then killed himself as police tried to pull over his car 20 minutes later, authorities said.

The shootings appeared to stem from an ongoing dispute between 50-year-old Dennis Carter Sr. and his wife, Donna Carter, who had a restraining order against him, said Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office Chief of Operations Perry Rushing.

Another 16-month-old boy was in the house during the shootings but was not hurt. The child was related to the Carters but Rushing was not sure how.

Authorities were called to the home in Holden, about 30 miles east of Baton Rouge, around 10:30 p.m. Saturday. Donna Carter, 49, and Dennis Carter Jr., 26, were dead inside.

Dennis Carter Jr.'s wife, Amber Carter, was badly hurt and their son, Mason Carter, 2, was found dead outside.

Rushing said it appeared Amber and Mason Carter managed to escape out a second-floor window but it was not clear if Dennis Carter Sr. shot them inside or followed them outside and shot them there.

All of the Carters lived at the house in Holden except Dennis Carter Sr., who used to live there but had more recently been living in nearby Hammond.

Amber Carter, who was about six months pregnant, was taken to Baton Rouge General Medical Center with life-threatening injuries, though a supervisor there could not provide an update on her condition early Sunday.

Rushing said deputies spotted Dennis Carter Sr. about 20 minutes later driving on a highway. When they tried to pull him over, he shot and killed himself.

"It's very unusual to have this many victims," Rushing said. "This is an anomaly by any stretch of the imagination."

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Saturday, September 5, 2009

## **Aliquippa, PA: Murder-suicide ruled in Aliquippa shootings**

Saturday, September 05, 2009

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

Beaver County Coroner Teri Tatalovich-Rossi has ruled a murder-suicide in the death of a couple early this morning in the Valley Terrace Apartment housing development in Aliquippa.

According to Ms. Tatalovich-Rossi, James Anthony Moon, 24, of Helen Street, Aliquippa, killed Diedre Walker, 33, with multiple gunshot wounds to her head and chest. He then killed himself with a single gunshot wound to the head.

The murder-suicide, which occurred inside Ms. Walker's apartment, No. 301, was reported about 3:30 a.m.

Read more:<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09248/995946-100.stm#ixzz0QGYpqEOI>  
Posted by Cathy Church at 4:29 PM 0 comments

## Syracuse, NE: Otoe County Man Convicted In Girlfriend's Death

An Otoe County man has been found guilty of second degree murder in the death of his girlfriend. Ronald G. Smith, 44, of Syracuse was also convicted of second-degree forgery and theft in Otoe County District Court.

Posted: 3:46 PM Sep 4, 2009

Reporter: WOWT

Email Address: [sixonline@wowt.com](mailto:sixonline@wowt.com)



An Otoe County man has been found guilty of second degree murder in the death of his girlfriend. Ronald G. Smith, 44, of Syracuse was also convicted of second-degree forgery and theft in Otoe County District Court.

Terri Harris, 51, was found dead on December 25, 2008 in her Syracuse home. Prosecutors say the evidence showed that Smith confessed to pushing her to the ground in her bedroom and placing a pillow over her head.

Law enforcement later found Smith in Illinois after he had forged checks in Harris' name at a Syracuse bank. He had Harris' stolen car and cell phone. When police arrived, he barricaded himself inside a motel room.

Otoe County Attorney David Partsch said, "We appreciate law enforcement's efforts in the investigation and prosecution of Mr. Smith and we thank the jury for their careful consideration of these matters."

Smith's sentencing will be October 19, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Otoe County District Court. Second-degree murder is a class IB felony which is punishable by 20 years to life in prison. Second-degree forgery and theft are each class III felonies which carry a penalty of one to 20 years in prison and/or a \$25,000 fine.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:03 AM 0 comments

## Article of Interest: Lodi wife forced into secret life of fear, abuse, police say



[kminugh@sacbee.com](mailto:kminugh@sacbee.com)

**PUBLISHED SATURDAY, SEP. 05, 2009**

Neighbors say they observed the woman freely come and go from her Lodi home – sometimes alone, other times hand-in-hand with her 60-year-old husband, but never appearing in distress.

But Lodi police allege her freedom was a facade: that Michael Patrick O'Riley ruled his wife – a 44-year-old woman he met on the Internet and married in China – through fear, force and threat of death.

She had no access to cash, and no car – O'Riley hid it from her, said Lodi Police Cpl. Dale Eubanks. O'Riley gave food to his wife only when she behaved herself – and only enough, it seems, to sustain her, Eubanks said.

Authorities say that after enduring a year and 10 months of intimidation and sexual abuse, the woman reached her breaking point Thursday. She called 911, and police arrived to find O'Riley piling his nine guns into his car, according to police.

As officers pulled up to the home – a converted storefront in a strip mall on busy West Lodi Avenue – the woman ran to one of the patrol cars and dove through an open window, crying for help, Eubanks said.

Police have not identified her.

They arrested O'Riley, a social worker at the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Facility in southern Sacramento County, and booked him into the Lodi jail on suspicion of kidnapping, false imprisonment, sex crimes, terrorist threats, spousal battery and failure to provide for a spouse, Eubanks said.

Police seized his nine guns – a mix of handguns and rifles. They also confiscated \$23,000 in cash.

On Friday, O'Riley was arraigned in San Joaquin Superior Court on charges of making terrorist threats and several counts of sexual abuse. His bail was set at

\$950,000. He was transferred Friday to the San Joaquin County jail. Efforts by The Bee to reach O'Riley or his relatives were unsuccessful.

Deputy District Attorney Maria Ghobadi, who is prosecuting the case, declined to discuss the allegations in detail, saying the case is in its early stages and the charges against O'Riley could change.

"We're taking it very slow with the investigation," she said. "As more information comes out, we will add more charges if necessary."

Police maintained their allegations Friday that the woman had been held captive by an abusive husband, hesitant to seek help for fear she would be deported to China or killed by her husband.

O'Riley went so far as to describe how he would kill her, Eubanks said. He declined to elaborate.

The woman has no family in the United States, Eubanks said, and doesn't appear to have close friends.

"She's all alone in the country and relying on him. Between his alleged abuse and what he's been doing to her ... she felt kind of isolated and felt kind of hopeless," Eubanks said.

O'Riley met the woman over the Internet and traveled to China four years ago to marry her, Eubanks said. They lived there for a time before moving to West Lodi Avenue, where they had been living for almost two years, he said.

During their years together here, the woman suffered abuse that seemed to revolve around O'Riley's "sexual appetite," Eubanks said.

The woman told police she was forced to perform oral copulation and there were "forms of penetration" done under threat, Eubanks said.

She is in the U.S. legally, but Eubanks said O'Riley had told her she would be deported or thrown behind bars if she called police. And because of cultural differences, she might have feared police, Eubanks said.

Allegations involving American men abusing immigrant wives they've met on the Internet are all too common, said Nilda Valmores, executive director of My Sister's House, a Sacramento nonprofit that helps Asian victims of domestic abuse.

My Sister's House has a six-bed shelter and all six beds are full, Valmores said. She said "about 50 percent of our cases are Asian women with American men."

Valmores said Internet marriages gone bad are a kind of "modern mail-order slavery, very close to individualized human trafficking."

In the past six months, My Sister's House has sheltered women from countries including India, Vietnam and the Philippines, Valmores said.

"When you take a victim far from their families, it's easy to keep them a victim because they have no resources available and often struggle with language," she said.

Shop owners and employees whose businesses adjoin O'Riley's Lodi residence said the woman spoke broken English and had been going to night school to improve her language skills.

They expressed disbelief at the allegations.

"We've been here 10 years and Mike was wonderful to us," said 68-year-old Judy Ito, a cosmetologist at Image Hair and Facial Studio.

Mike Torrente, 52, owner of Mike's Automotive, was skeptical of the charges. He said he regularly saw O'Riley's wife come and go and that the police account of captivity didn't match what he observed.

"That ain't the girl I'm seeing walking around. She doesn't dress shabby or anything," Torrente said.

As police continued their investigation Friday, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department placed O'Riley on paid administrative leave from his job at the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center.

O'Riley has been employed as a social worker at the jail since April 1991, said Sgt. Tim Curran.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:50 AM 0 comments 

Friday, September 4, 2009

## **Danville, IN: Prosecutor defends plea deal for man who killed wife**

Joseph Warnock faces 55 years, but sentence could be cut in half

*By Bruce C. Smith  
bruce.smith@indystar.com*

DANVILLE, Ind. -- Intoxicated by drugs and alcohol on a Sunday night in June, Joseph Warnock used a 12-inch knife to stab and slash his wife more than 50 times in front of their two daughters, killing her.

Under a plea agreement announced Thursday in Hendricks Superior Court, he faces a prison sentence of 55 years. He could be released in less than half that time.

Prosecutors defended the agreement, which Hendricks Superior Court Judge Robert Freese accepted before scheduling formal sentencing for Oct. 9.

County Prosecutor Patricia Baldwin said that by avoiding a trial, Warnock's daughters, who are 12 and 8, will be spared having to testify about the killing of their mother, Angela Warnock.

Saying the plea agreement had been discussed at length with the victim's family, Baldwin added that it falls in the middle of the range -- 45 to 65 years -- that state law sets as the prison sentence for a murder conviction.

The sentence, she added, "sends a message about the damage that drugs and alcohol and domestic violence can do to destroy a family."

Defense attorney Robert Hammerle agreed, saying the actions of the 41-year-old Warnock - a former tanning-bed salesman who had no criminal record -- stemmed from his abuse of "alcohol and drugs during the days leading up to these events."

"This is one of those instances when he (Warnock) became a person he really isn't, because of (drug abuse) and lack of sleep.

"It was a momentary collision of emotions, which later are horrifying. But that is not a defense," Hammerle said. "The hope is that by admitting what happened, everyone in this family can move to some healing, some sense of balance, in the future."

He acknowledged that under Indiana's good-behavior provisions, Warnock could be released from prison in 20 years.

Warnock did not speak during the hearing except to offer short answers to the judge's questions.

Members of both his and Angela Warnock's families were in the courtroom, sometimes sobbing as details of the killing were discussed. They declined to talk to reporters after the hearing.

Angela Warnock, 38, a former beauty-pageant winner in Hawaii, was well known in the Brownsburg community as a stylist at a local beauty salon.

Investigators think that in the days before the killing, Warnock was afraid his wife was about to leave Indiana and move back with family members in Hawaii, taking their daughters.

Four days before her death, Angela Warnock received a protective court order to try to keep her husband away from their daughters and the family home. In a court hearing, she described him as addicted to drugs and alcohol.

He swore in the same court hearing that he would never hurt her.

By then, police now say, he already had bought the murder weapon, using a credit card June 17 in a Southport department store to buy a 12-inch cooking knife.

The night of June 21, he was at an Eagle Creek Reservoir restaurant until 11:30 p.m., police said. He drove the few miles to a church parking lot about a quarter-mile from the family home, where he parked and crossed a farm field in the dark and broke in the patio door.

Police said he found Angela and the girls asleep. Reports from the coroner and evidence experts said Angela was stabbed 28 times and cut 23 times.

The girls ran, as their mother had taught them. They hid in a closet and called 911.

Stephen J. Johnson, executive director of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, said 55 years is probably close to the standard prison term in similar cases, given Warnock's expressions of remorse and lack of criminal history. Indiana law identifies specific circumstances that would allow for a longer sentence after a murder conviction, but none of them was established in this case.

Bills have been introduced in the Indiana General Assembly to add domestic violence as an aggravating factor in a murder sentence, but none has been passed.

"Judges can have some discretion . . . depending on the circumstances," Johnson said. "But committing a murder in front of children is not one of approximately 16 aggravating circumstances that we have now."

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:38 AM 1 comments 

## Getaway, OH: Two killed in apparent domestic dispute in Ohio

September 03, 2009 @ 06:51 PM  
**DAVID E. MALLOY**  
Herald-Dispatch.com

GETAWAY, Ohio — A man and a woman in their mid-20s have been killed in what police believe was a domestic incident along a rural road in southern Lawrence County Thursday.

The two were found in a truck near the intersection of Ohio 243 and County Road 55, about 5 miles north of Chesapeake, Lawrence County Sheriff Jeff Lawless said Thursday. It was too early to say how the shooting occurred, Lawless said.

The sheriff's department received a call about a shooting at 12:17 p.m. Thursday near the Buckeye Auto Parts building. When deputies arrived they saw a black truck in a creek. The woman was in the truck suffering from at least one gunshot wound. She was taken by helicopter to Cabell Huntington Hospital, where she subsequently died, Lawless said.

The man was found outside the truck with a gunshot wound to the head. He was pronounced dead at the scene by Lawrence County Coroner Kurt Hofmann, Lawless said.

"They weren't married," Lawless said. "It appears to be a domestic situation. They were former boyfriend and girlfriend."

The names of the two victims had not been released Thursday afternoon pending notification of next of kin.

The man's body was taken to Hall Funeral Home in Proctorville.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:35 AM 0 comments 

Thursday, September 3, 2009

## Pasadena, TX: Pasadena police charge man in girlfriend's stabbing death

By DALE LEZON HOUSTON CHRONICLE  
Sept. 3, 2009, 12:24PM



Alvaro Hidalgo Lopez

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Pasadena police are searching for a man wanted in the death of his girlfriend a day after her birthday party.

Alvaro Hidalgo Lopez, 25, is charged with murder in the stabbing death of Camelia Garza, 33, at her home in the 2300 block of Thomas, police said.

Police said Garza was stabbed several times. Her body was found Monday.

Pasadena police at first only wanted to talk with Lopez about the case, but homicide investigators say they have uncovered evidence linking him to the slaying.

Lopez had attended Garza's birthday celebration the day before the woman's body was discovered.

Anyone with information about the case or Lopez's whereabouts is urged to call the Pasadena Police Department 713-477-1221 or Crime Stoppers 713-222-TIPS.

[dale.lezon@chron.com](mailto:dale.lezon@chron.com)

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:11 PM 0 comments 

## **Announcement: VA Domestic Violence-Related Murder-Suicide, Family Holds Benefit for the 3 Children**

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND - 9/2/2009**

**By Laura Lyon**

On April 27, a husband and wife were found dead in their home in Warrenton, VA. Investigators believe it was a domestic violence related murder-suicide. The husband tragically took the life of his wife, Tara Curtain-Lyon, 30, and then his own, leaving three small children behind.

Curtain-Lyon grew up in Southern Maryland, graduating from Chopticon High School in 1997. Most of the family members continue to reside in the Southern Maryland communities and with the support of her family the children now reside in Southern Maryland with them.

The family is holding a benefit for the children on Sept. 26 at the White Plains Moose Lodge located at 4765 Crain Hwy. During the benefit, the family will have a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, live entertainment and a buffet style dinner.

All proceeds will go to a Trust Fund that has been set up for the children. Everyone is welcome to come and show their support.

Those who would like to attend the Benefit/Dance should contact Scott at (301) 645-2525 or visit the family Web site, [www.rememberingtara.com](http://www.rememberingtara.com). Tickets are \$25 each.

Posted by Cathy Church at 6:08 PM 0 comments 

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

## **Windsor, NC: NC man charged with killing wife, kids in 1972**

(AP) – 5 hours ago

WINDSOR, N.C. — Authorities in a rural northeastern North Carolina community are charging a man with killing his wife and two children in 1972.

Authorities say Roy Lawrence Rascoe, 68, has been charged with first-degree murder and arson in a fire that burned the family's Bertie County home.

Authorities say 23-year-old Annie Smallwood Rascoe, and the couple's children Rita, 1, and Tony, 3, were killed.

Rascoe was assigned an attorney at a hearing Wednesday, but the lawyer didn't immediately return a telephone message. Rascoe was being held in jail without bond.

Bertie County Sheriff Greg Atkins says the arrest was based on new evidence uncovered, but he would not give any specifics.

Rascoe was recently released from federal prison for a theft conviction.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:33 PM 0 comments

## Lothian, MD: Suspect In DC Police Shooting Killed Wife And Her Sister First, Police Say

### Police: Man kills estranged wife, her sister

## Suspect killed by police after chase

By [LISA BEISEL](#), Staff Writer

Published 09/03/09

Two weeks ago, 50-year-old Sheena Blandford filed for a protection order against her husband, claiming he had tried to run her over with his truck and then threatened her with a hammer.



Joshua McKerrow - The Capital

Lt. James Fredericks, a county Police Department spokesman, briefs reporters about a double homicide in Boone's Mobile Estates in Lothian. Police say Theodore Nathaniel Blandford shot and killed his estranged wife and her sister early Wednesday morning in the home. He was later shot and killed by police after a chase that led into Washington, D.C.

[Advertisement](#)

County police said her husband, Theodore Nathaniel Blandford, 51, shot and killed Sheena and her sister yesterday morning at their Lothian mobile home. He then led officers on a chase into Washington, D.C., where he got into a gun battle with them.

He was ultimately shot and killed by nine Prince George's County Police officers. Officials would not say how many shots were fired.

Witnesses called police at about 6:30 a.m. after seeing someone apparently attempt to break into a residence in Boone's Mobile Estates. Before police arrived, witnesses said the man drove off in an SUV.

When they arrived, officers found the bodies of Blandford's estranged wife, Sheena, 50, and her sister, Cheryl Timmons, 55, of Annapolis, inside the residence at 279 Ella Welch Way.

Prince George's County Police were assisting Anne Arundel County detectives search-ing for the suspect in Largo when they spotted the suspected SUV and tried to stop the vehicle. But it sped off and a chase ensued.

The chase ended in southeast Washington, D.C., at the intersection of Minnesota Avenue and East Capitol Street, where police said Blandford got out of the SUV and attempted to run away.

Police said that after Blandford fired at officers during the foot chase, they fired back and struck him. Police said he died a short time later at Prince George's Hospital Center.

Online court records show that Blandford has a long criminal record, with charges ranging from multiple burglary cases to first-degree assault to possession of drugs.

Neighbors in Boone's Estates said the Blandfords had lived in the community for only about six months.

Police said they didn't know if an argument or any other circumstances led to the shooting.

Lt. James Fredericks, a county Police Department spokesman, said Sheena Blandford and her husband were estranged.

County police had been called to the Blandford home seven times in August, according to police records. Twice, they were there to assist Prince George's County Police Department in serving a burglary warrant. Theodore Blandford also called them there three times, asking for them to stand by while he retrieved items from the home, police said.

According to court records, Sheena Blandford was given a temporary peace order against her husband on Aug. 19 and a final one on Friday, less than a week before the shootings.

"It's an unfortunate ending to the case," Fredericks said.

In her petition for a protection order, Sheena Blandford wrote that her husband was high on crack on Aug. 17 and the two were having an argument about him going into treatment. Then he became angry and aggressive, she wrote. She left the home to go to her car and he followed her, got into his car and drove up onto the lawn toward her.

After she jumped out of the way, he grabbed a hammer and threatened to hit her in the head with it as she ran toward a neighbor's house, she wrote in her petition.

"I am afraid to go home," Sheena Blandford wrote.

Police responded to the Aug. 17 incident, but since the fight appeared to be only verbal, officers separated the two and advised Sheena about filing protective orders. They served the protective order two days later, but she called officers again on Aug. 26, telling them her husband was driving around the area yelling at her.

Sheena Blandford worked at Hope House in Crownsville. According to an article in *The Washington Post*, her son was killed in Iraq in February 2008.

Theodore Blandford has a lengthy criminal history dating back to 1985. He was arrested in the county in June for a May robbery in Crofton, and he had an outstanding burglary warrant from Prince George's County for a May burglary.

James Gossett, who lives near the Blandfords' home, said he rarely sees police activity in the mobile home community.

"Everyone goes crazy when they do, because it's a quiet neighborhood," he said.

Schoolchildren catch the bus right in front of the Blandford home, said Mindy Watts, who also lives nearby.

James McManus, another neighbor, said he used to see Sheena Blandford walking her dog in the mornings and evenings. He said the Blandfords had been married for only a year, but that police had been to that residence a couple of times over the past several months.

He already was awake when police arrived, and he said "about 16" police cars blanketed the area.

"You never think something like this could happen in your neighborhood," he said.

The shootings mark the 12th and 13th homicides in the county this year, including three police-involved shootings in which police shot and killed a suspect.

#### YOUR COMMENTS

Susan Phillips ■ Date last updated: 9/2/2009 6:48:46 PM



An Anne Arundel County woman, who just received a protective order against her husband last week, was

shot to death along with her sister at her home.

WASHINGTON (WUSA) -- An Anne Arundel County woman, who just received a protective order against her husband last week, was shot to death along with her sister, Chery Timmons, at her home in Lothian, Maryland Wednesday morning.

Witnesses say they saw the suspect breaking into the home and then heard gunshots.

Police have identified the suspect as Sheena Blandford's estranged husband, Theodore. After he shot the two women, Blandford fled. Anne Arundel County Police asked Prince George's County Police to check an address on Upper Marlboro Pike where he was known to reside.

Once Prince George's County detectives got there, Blandford fled in a white SUV. Officers chased him into the District.

Investigators say Blandford got out of the vehicle in the 3600 block of Minnesota Avenue in Southeast and got into a gun battle with officers from Prince George's County who returned fire.

Blandford was shot and taken to the hospital where he later died.

DC Police are investigating the shooting which may have involved up to nine Prince George's County officers.

Written by Audrey Barnes  
*9NEWS NOW & wusa9.com*

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:32 PM 0 comments 

## Laurel, MS: Alleged murder/suicide in Laurel

*Posted: Sep 02, 2009 5:20 PM EDT Updated: Sep 02, 2009 6:32 PM EDT*

By Ontario Richardson - [bio](#) | [email](#) | [Twitter](#)

LAUREL, MS (WDAM). A domestic altercation in Laurel has left a couple dead and investigators searching for answers in what appears to be a murder/suicide.

Authorities found the bodies of 52 year old Gregory Jackson and his long time girlfriend 48 year old Aneice Grady at her home on Flora Avenue about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Police said the couple's 14 year old daughter was awakened by gunshots and called 911. When they arrived both bodies were unresponsive.

Police said they are still in the early stages of the investigation. Both bodies have been sent to Jackson for an autopsy.

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Posted by Cathy Church at 7:28 PM 0 comments 

## **Troy, NY: Upstate woman admits she stabbed ex-boyfriend to death**

*Associated Press - September 2, 2009 3:05 AM ET*

TROY, N.Y. (AP) - An Albany-area woman has admitted she stabbed her former boyfriend to death on a sidewalk last year.

Kimberly Mayo originally told police she acted in self-defense when she stabbed 27-year-old Keith Levin in May 2008.

In Rensselaer County Court Tuesday, 38-year-old Mayo admitted she stabbed Levin in the chest. The two had dated, but their relationship soured. Mayo had damaged Levin's new girlfriend's car just before the two met on the sidewalk and began arguing that night.

Mayo was found at the scene covered in blood and told police she was helping a man someone else had stabbed before later changing her story.

Mayo will be sentenced to 10 years in prison later this month.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:52 AM 0 comments 

## **Sal Lake City, UT: Man pleads guilty in girlfriend's 2007 death**

*Associated Press - September 1, 2009 5:45 PM ET*

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - A man has pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the shooting death of his girlfriend in 2007.

Prosecutors dismissed a charge of aggravated sexual assault against 21-year-old Parley Jeffs Dutson on Tuesday as part of a plea bargain.

The Salt Lake Tribune reported on its Web site Tuesday that Dutson will be sentenced Dec. 9 in 3rd District Court.

Dutson had been convicted in July 2008 of fatally shooting his girlfriend, 15-year-old Kara Hopkins, in the back of the head during a party at a West Jordan apartment in April 2007. He also was convicted of aggravated sexual assault.

But in May a judge ordered a new trial for Dutson because a juror didn't tell the court she was raped as a teenager.

Information from: The Salt Lake Tribune, <http://www.sltrib.com>

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:50 AM 0 comments 

## West Palm Beach, FL: Police: Son kills mom's boyfriend

**Click on the video player to the right to watch the story.**



(Courtesy: Facebook)

WEST PALM BEACH, FL--A photograph shows 48-year-old Brenda Romano and 30-year-old Zechariah Grams during happier times.

The couple's relationship came to a violent end early Tuesday morning.

"At about 1:53 this morning our agency received a call about a disturbance at 1111 Oak Street. And when our units responded they found one victim shot in the face at the scene," said Det. Tony Kalil.

Romano's boyfriend was shot and killed by her 21-year-old son Matthew, according to police.

"There was an argument that ensued earlier in the night and at some point between the victim and his girlfriend and then the son came out and ended up shooting him," he said.

Grams was transported by ambulance to St. Mary's Medical Center where he later died.

As crime scene investigators gathered evidence from the home, the family embraced outside. Brenda Romano was visibly shaken by what happened.

Matthew Romano was taken into custody for questioning and released. No charges have been filed at this time.

Investigators are looking for witnesses to the shooting. Anyone with information is asked to call the West Palm Beach Police Department.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:43 AM 0 comments 

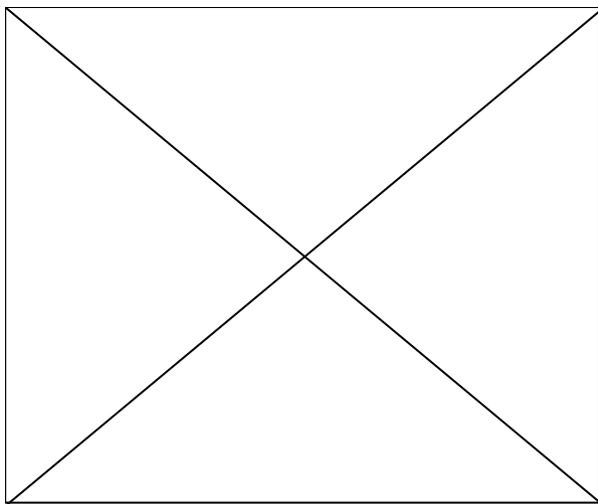
## **Behlehem, PA: Man kills himself after standoff that caused schools lockdown**

**Bethlehem police negotiated with William Armpriester, 31, for four hours before gunshot.**

By Pamela Lehman

Of The Morning Call

September 2, 2009



An armed man in a Bethlehem home held police at bay for nearly four hours Tuesday, causing the evacuation of nearby homes and putting some schools on lockdown, before he killed himself about 3:30 p.m.

The Lehigh County coroner's office identified the man as William C. Armpriester, 31, of 619 Third Ave. Police said in a news release he died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Armpriester was involved in a domestic dispute with a woman Monday night, police said. The Tuesday standoff began around noon when a woman fled from the home, but Armpriester refused to leave and threatened to kill himself with a handgun, police said.

Dozens of people gathered on street corners to watch the event unfold. Several streets surrounding the house were closed as police negotiated with Armpriester.

A man and woman stood outside the house and yelled for "Bill" to give himself up and come outside.

Around 3:30 p.m., a shot rang out, and police said they lost contact with Armpriester. Police

fired numerous rounds of tear gas and bean bags into the windows of the house before finding Armpriester dead in the living room.

At 2 p.m., Calypso Elementary School and Nitschmann Middle School were placed on lockdown. The lockdown also affected Liberty High School students, who were not allowed to leave school if they had to walk home toward Third Avenue. The schools were reopened when police cleared the scene around 4:30 p.m.

In April, Armpriester pleaded guilty to a simple assault charge filed in February by Bethlehem police. He was sentenced to drug and alcohol counseling and up to one year in prison.

Armpriester also was awaiting trial in Lehigh County on charges of drunken driving and driving with a suspended license. Those charges also were filed by Bethlehem police in February.

The coroner's office said it will conduct an autopsy today or Thursday.

-- Reporters Steve Esack and Manuel Gamiz Jr. contributed to this story.

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Posted by Cathy Church at 7:39 AM 0 comments 

Tuesday, September 1, 2009

## [Quincy, MA: Quincy man accused of strangling girlfriend in domestic violence murder](#)

 [Email](#) | [Link](#) | [Comments \(25\)](#) August 31, 2009 01:41 PM

**By John R. Ellement, Globe Staff**

QUINCY -- With relatives and friends offering support, a 52-year-old Quincy man today pleaded not guilty to charges that he choked his girlfriend into unconsciousness, had sex with her, then killed her.

Joseph W. Beatty, who relatives said has a history of mental illness, was ordered held without bail by Judge Mark Coven for allegedly killing Mary Beaton, 33, inside her Beach Street apartment in Quincy on Friday.

In court, Norfolk Assistant District Attorney Thomas L. Finigan said that Beatty strangled Beaton with his bare hands after the couple argued over a trip to Las

Vegas and Beaton's demand for a \$500 payment for her rent. A [report](#) filed by Quincy police contained other details.

"Beatty said he strangled Beaton and put her on the bed," police said in the report. "Beatty said he then removed Beaton's clothing and had sex with her. Beatty said he then smothered her with a pillow."

In court, Finigan said Beaton had an 11-year-old daughter, who spent the weekend with her father and was not home when her mother was killed.

Several of Beaton's relatives were also in court, but declined to speak. A longtime family friend, Kevin Donovan, said after the arraignment that Beatty had shattered the Beaton family's peace.

"He's a monster." Donovan said of Beatty. "The guy has disrupted a lot of lives."

According to Finigan and the police report, after allegedly murdering his girlfriend, Beatty became suicidal. State Police recovered his van on P Street in South Boston and inside they found a blood-stained knife that Beatty may have used to try to kill himself.

Police said in Beatty's booking report that there were "hesitation cuts on both wrists and neck."

On Saturday, one of Beatty's sister rushed her brother to Boston Medical Center where he explained why he was suicidal, Finigan said. Boston police were called and they, in turn, contacted Quincy police who went to Beaton's apartment on Saturday and discovered her body.

Beatty, according to his attorney, Robert Jubinville, has undergone a kidney transplant within the past several years and has been undergoing mental health counseling for the last year. Jubinville said he was not sure what Beatty's diagnosis is.

Beatty's relatives, including a niece who would not give her name, said after the arraignment they were shocked he has been charged with committing such a violent act.

"I am totally shocked that this happened," said the niece, who was crying as she spoke. "I am standing by him 100 percent. He has mental issues."

Finigan said that after Beatty killed Beaton, he took two crucifixes and placed one on either side of her head as she lay in the bed.

Beatty is due back in court Oct. 7.

Posted by Cathy Church at 4:26 PM 0 comments 

## Galveston, TX: Three dead in apparent murder-suicide

Tuesday, September 01, 2009 | 11:56 AM



By Katie McCall

**GALVESTON, TX (KTRK) -- Three people are dead, and police are calling it a double murder suicide.**

Police are not saying much, but they are calling this a domestic violence incident. It ended after an eight hour SWAT standoff overnight. It all happened at a home in the 3800 block of Avenue M in Galveston.

Police responded to a neighbor's call about shots being fired at the house just before 10pm. When they arrived, police found a woman fatally shot in the front yard. They called in the SWAT team, and over the course of about eight hours, they tried to get a response from inside the home, where they had heard someone speaking.

At 6:20am, police decided to enter the home, where they found another woman dead, along with the suspected gunman, who had fatally shot himself in the head.

"The decision was made to fire tear gas into the residence, so the officers could attempt to make entry into the residence," explained Lt. DJ Alvarez of the Galveston Police Department.

Attempts to make communication with the suspect had repeatedly failed by the time officers decided to move in, according to Lt. Alvarez.

"Also, daylight was approaching, so people would be going to school and work," he added. "For the citizens' safety, they decided to make entry into the residence."

The Galveston County District Attorney's office has joined in the investigation. Police say the three victims were related, but they have not released the names, relationships or ages of the dead. They say all three died early in the incident.

Police do say the man has a record with Galveston County authorities, but they say it is not related to domestic violence. They also say no note has been found.

Posted by Cathy Church at 4:21 PM 0 comments 

## [Davie, FL: Police: Woman Ordered \\$200 Hit On Boyfriend](#)

POSTED: 4:20 pm EDT August 30, 2009

UPDATED: 4:57 pm EDT August 30, 2009



**DAVIE, Fla.** -- Authorities have arrested a 21-year-old South Florida woman accused of having her boyfriend killed for \$200.

Jose Manuel Matute-Hernandez, 29, was fatally shot on his living room couch about six months ago. This week authorities arrested his girlfriend, Sibia Martinez, Jose Suarez and Cesar Banegas for orchestrating the death. All three

have been charged with premeditated murder and are being held in Broward County jails without bond.

An immigration hold has also been placed on Martinez, who is a native of Honduras.

It isn't clear why Martinez wanted her boyfriend dead.

Posted by Cathy Church at 7:56 AM 0 comments 

## **Lake Worth, FL: Lake Worth triple murder suspect arrested**

Reported by: [WPTV staff](#)

Email: [webteam@wptv.com](mailto:webteam@wptv.com)

Last Update: 6:38 am



DELRAY BEACH, FL -- 25-year-old Bruce Strachan was arrested without incident by authorities in Delray Beach around 10:15pm, according to PBSO's Teri Barbera.

Strachan had a warrant out for his arrest for the slaying of his estranged wife, Yamika Murphy and two others, Debbie Anthony and Ronald Anthony Wright, during a weekend shooting spree.

Strachan is charged with three counts of first degree murder as well as additional counts to be announced.

**Cops ID, look for suspect on run in fatal shooting of three in South Florida**

The Associated Press

10:49 AM EDT, August 30, 2009

## LAKE WORTH

Palm Beach County deputies have identified the gunman who fatally shot three people in South Florida, saying he is the estranged husband of one of the victims and is considered extremely dangerous.

Authorities say Bruce Strachan knocked on the door of his estranged wife's home around 4:30 am. Saturday morning. A fight ensued, and Strachan fatally shot Debbie Sears, Yamika Murphy and Ronald Anthony Wright.

Murphy and Wright were found dead outside a neighbor's house, running for their lives before they were gunned down.

Deputies say Strachan has an extensive criminal history, including resisting an officer with violence. He is described as being 5-foot-10, weighing 173 pounds and having tattoos on both arms.

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Posted by Cathy Church at [7:46 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

## **Dayton, OH: Student walked into I-75 traffic after brutally beating girlfriend, police say**

By Anthony Gottschlich and Tom Beyerlein  
Staff Writers

HARRISON TWP., Montgomery County — Investigators believe 17-year-old Brandon Moore, a Northridge High School student and football player, brutally beat his former girlfriend early Saturday, then purposely walked into the path of traffic on Interstate 75, where he was struck and killed.

The Montgomery County Coroner's Office ruled Monday, Aug. 31, that Moore's death was a suicide. The coroner ruled that Moore, a junior, died from multiple, massive blunt force trauma, a spokesman said.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol said Moore was walking south on I-75 at 12:37 a.m. Saturday when he was hit by a Chevrolet Cobalt driven by Arnita Pitts of Houston, Texas. Moore was pronounced dead at the scene.

Minutes before he died, sheriff's investigators believe he entered his former girlfriend's home, dragged her outside and beat her with a concrete tabletop. Another teen staying at the victim's home found her in the yard with the tabletop on her back shortly after midnight. The victim had severe bruising and swelling to her face and could barely open her eyes, according to the report.

The 16-year-old girl, whom the Dayton Daily News is not identifying, told a sheriff's deputy she believed her assailant was drunk, according to the deputy's incident report. She said he came into her house uninvited and dragged her outside.

The victim told police she was punched several times, but did not recall much after that. She said she did not recall being struck with the tabletop.

She remained in serious condition Monday at Miami Valley Hospital with two fractured vertebrae in her neck, her mother said.

"We're hoping there's no paralysis," the mother said. "But ... she's a young girl, she's a healer. If this happened to a 30-year-old woman, a 40-year-old woman, this would be different."

The mother said the victim and Moore had been a couple until a few days prior to the incidents. She also said Moore had beaten her daughter before.

Moore had appeared in Montgomery County Juvenile Court on Thursday, Aug. 27, on burglary and criminal damaging charges, a court official said Monday.

Moore admitted to one count of criminal damaging, court administrator Jim Cole said. The burglary charge was dismissed. Cole said he did not know where the damaging occurred.

Cole said Moore was not on probation and that there were no other files on him; however, a sheriff's report shows Moore allegedly had beaten his father in their Keats Drive home last September. Moore, then 16, allegedly threw his father to the floor and punched him with a closed fist after his father told his 12-year-old son to "man it up" and quit complaining about a shoulder injury.

The mother of the 16-year-old girl said Moore had been suspended from school last week, but Northridge officials declined to confirm that, saying a student's disciplinary records are private. But they said Moore, a member of the football team, did not attend Friday night's loss to Bethel just hours before his death.

High School Principal David Jackson said the school called in extra counselors Monday for grieving students.

"We're making it," Jackson said. "We're a family and we're pulling together, comforting one another and taking care of one another. There's a lot of sorrow and hurting, but we're doing fine."

A memorial service for Moore is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Crossroads Church of God, 6213 Miller Lane, preceded by a gathering for friends that starts at 4 p.m.

Contact this reporter at (937) 225-7408 or [agottschlich@DaytonDailyNews.com](mailto:agottschlich@DaytonDailyNews.com).

Posted by Cathy Church at [7:12 AM](#) [1 comments](#) 