

UNITED AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILLS HIGHLIGHTS

SB 292

- No divorce waiting period for victims of domestic or sexual abuse
- Minimum 180 day interim spousal support following “immediate” divorce judgment
- Domestic abuse a factor to be considered in awarding final support
- Criminal conviction or mental health evaluation necessary to determine domestic abuse
- Optional lump sum final support payment to minimize post-divorce contact
- Final spousal support to victim may exceed 1/3 abuser’s net income

SB 291

- Exemplary damages may be awarded in domestic abuse lawsuits

HB 747

- Domestic Abuse Battery & Domestic Abuse Aggravated Assault become crimes of violence
- No release on recognizance for Domestic Abuse Battery or Violation of Protective Order
- Second Domestic Abuse Battery conviction is a felony
- Domestic abuse intervention program to be conducted by domestic abuse specialists

HB 750

- Expedites transmission of protective orders to state registry on day issued
- Judges to directly transmit protective orders to state registry and local law enforcement
- Immediate arrest of person in violation of protective order
- Presumption that person subject to protective order is predominant aggressor

HB 753

- No firearms during protective order issued at a hearing defendant participated in
- No firearms for 10 years following domestic abuse criminal conviction
- Confiscation of firearms at domestic abuse scene if threat of imminent danger exists



SUMMARY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILLS INTRODUCED BY REP. HELENA MORENO & SEN. J.P. MORRELL

SB 291 - EXEMPLARY DAMAGES

Tuesday, March 25th Hearing
Senate Judiciary A Committee

Louisiana's interspousal immunity prohibits certain lawsuits between spouses and suspends any right of action during the marriage. Following divorce, a spouse may bring an action in tort against a former spouse for any injurious act or acts occurring during the marriage. This bill authorizes the award of exemplary damages in lawsuits claiming injury caused by a family or household member through acts of domestic abuse regardless of whether the defendant was prosecuted for such acts. There are no acts more reprehensible than those which wantonly and recklessly disregard the safety of a family or household member. Acts of domestic abuse merit special consideration as torts because the elements of trust, physical proximity and emotional intimacy necessary to domestic relationships in a healthy society make participants in those relationships particularly vulnerable to abuse and produce mental and physical incapacities rendering victims unable to escape their abuser. It is the purpose of this bill to enhance the civil remedies available to victims of domestic abuse in order to underscore society's condemnation of these reprehensible acts, to ensure complete recovery to victims, and to impose significant financial consequences upon perpetrators.

SB 292 – “IMMEDIATE” DIVORCE

Tuesday, March 25th Hearing
Senate Judiciary A Committee

Louisiana currently requires a 180 day waiting period before a divorce can be granted to a spouse physically or sexually abused by the other spouse or to a spouse who has successfully sought a protective order from abuse against the other spouse. Although our legislature has previously found that existing laws which regulate the dissolution of marriage do not adequately address problems of protecting and assisting the victims of domestic abuse, that the problems of family violence do not necessarily cease when the victimized family is legally separated and that, in fact, the violence often escalates following separation, the waiting period has remained in place. This bill permits an “immediate” divorce upon a finding by the court, pursuant to a rule to show cause, that the other spouse has physically or sexually abused the spouse seeking a divorce or a child of one of the spouses, and in situations where, following a contradictory hearing or a consent decree, a protective order has been issued against the other spouse to protect the spouse seeking the divorce or a child of one of the spouses from abuse. This bill further provides for interim spousal support to be awarded to the abused spouse for a minimum of 180 days following the divorce judgment and permits the award of lump sum final periodic support in excess of 1/3 of the abuser's net income to the abused spouse to avoid “monthly” support communications between the former spouses upon a finding of domestic abuse proved by a criminal conviction or a court-ordered independent mental health evaluation. Note: There is no waiting period to terminate a covenant marriage upon proof the other spouse has physically or sexually abused the spouse seeking the divorce or a child of one of the spouses.

HB 747 – DOMESTIC ABUSE BATTERY

Wednesday, March 26th Hearing
House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee

The Louisiana legislature has previously found that thousands of persons in Louisiana are regularly beaten, tortured, and, in many cases, killed by spouses or persons with whom they are living in a primary relationship. The studies relied upon for these findings further indicate that victims of family violence come from all socioeconomic classes and ethnic groups, though it is the poor who suffer most from family violence, since it is less likely that they have immediate access to private counseling and shelter for themselves and their children. Children, though often not physically assaulted, suffer deep and lasting



UNITED AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

emotional effects, and it is most often the children of those parents who commit family violence that perpetuate the cycle by abusing their spouses. This bill adds “domestic abuse battery” and “domestic abuse aggravated assault” to crimes of violence in the Louisiana Criminal Code, prohibits release on one’s own recognizance for domestic abuse battery and violation of a protective order, and makes a second conviction of domestic abuse battery a felony punishable at hard labor for up to one year. Finally, this bill defines “court-approved domestic abuse intervention program” as one which is specifically designed for domestic abuse perpetrators and conducted by persons with demonstrable training and experience working with domestic violence victims and perpetrators.

HB 750 – PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Wednesday, March 26th Hearing
House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee

Current law requires clerks of court to transmit protective orders to the Louisiana Protective Order Registry no later than close of business the day following issuance by a judge. Transmittal by regular mail has put victims and law enforcement officers at great peril. This bill expedites transmittal to the state registry and to law enforcement agencies directly and electronically by judges on the same day the order was issued. This bill further requires that law enforcement officers immediately arrest a person in violation of a protective order and imposes penalties for any violation which involves a “crime of violence”. This bill finally creates a rebuttable presumption that a person in violation of a protective order is the predominant aggressor to avoid arrest of the person protected.

HB 753 – FIREARM POSSESSION

Wednesday, March 26th Hearing
House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee

When enacting the Protection from Family Violence Act in 1979, the Louisiana Legislature found a definite correlation between family violence and marital homicide and declared a present and growing need to develop innovative strategies and services which would reduce and treat the trauma of family violence. Despite these efforts, Louisiana consistently leads the nation in domestic violence homicides with 74% committed with firearms. Federal law (Lautenberg Amendment/18 U.S.C. 922(g)) prohibits possession of a firearm by any person against whom a protective order is issued for the duration of that order and by any person convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. The federal law prohibiting subjects of protective orders from purchasing or possessing firearms and ammunition applies only if the protective order was issued after notice to the abuser and a hearing. Louisiana recognized the Lautenberg Amendment in its concealed gun permit statute (La. R.S. 40:1379.3) which specifically prohibits qualification for a permit to anyone “ineligible to possess a firearm under 18 U.S.C. 922(g)”. Inexplicably, the Legislature did not recognize this same federal law in La. R.S. 14:95.1 (unlawful possession of a firearm or carrying concealed weapon statute). This bill corrects this oversight by prohibiting firearm possession for the duration of a protective order (not a TRO) and prohibiting firearm possession for 10 years following conviction of domestic abuse battery as defined in La. R.S. 14:35.3 on or after August 1, 2014. This bill only applies to protective orders issued after a hearing before a judge where the defendant has had an opportunity to participate. This bill is more lenient than federal law which prohibits firearm possession for life or until expungement of a domestic violence conviction. Finally, this bill permits officers to remove firearms at a domestic violence scene if the abuser is subject to a protective order or if there is a threat of imminent danger.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & FIREARMS



Firearm purchases through licensed dealers require a background check.



Firearm purchases through unlicensed dealers online or at gun shows require **NO** background check.

Domestic violence offenders are more likely to buy a gun online than through a licensed dealer.

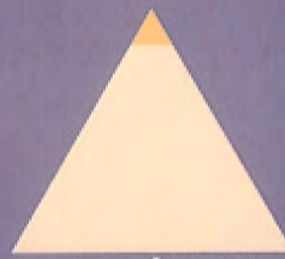
4x



74% of Louisiana's domestic violence homicides are committed with firearms.



In states with expanded background checks, domestic homicides are reduced by **38%**



85% of Louisiana voters support expanded background checks.



Expanded background checks could have saved the lives of **21** Louisiana women in 2012.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS

WHY IT MATTERS

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another. It is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last a lifetime.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ **One in every four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.¹
- ◇ An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.²
 - ◇ 85% of domestic violence victims are women.³
- ◇ Historically, females have been most often victimized by someone they knew.⁴
- ◇ Females who are **20-24 years of age** are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.⁵
 - ◇ Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.⁶

CHILDREN WHO WITNESS

- Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.⁷
- Boys who witness domestic violence are *twice as likely* to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.⁸
- 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.⁹

HOMICIDE AND INJURY

- ⇒ Almost **one-third of female homicide victims** that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner.¹⁴
- ⇒ In 70-80% of intimate partner homicides, no matter which partner was killed, the man physically abused the woman before the murder.¹²
- ⇒ Less than one-fifth of victims reporting an injury from intimate partner violence sought medical treatment following the injury.¹⁵
- ⇒ Intimate partner violence results in more than **18.5 million mental health care visits** each year.¹⁶

ECONOMIC IMPACT

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING

- ≈ **One in 6 women and 1 in 33 men** have experienced an attempted or completed rape.¹⁰
- ≈ Nearly 7.8 million women have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.¹¹
- ≈ Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40-45% of battering relationships.¹²
- ≈ 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men have been stalked in their lifetime.¹³
- ≈ 81% of women stalked by a current or former intimate partner are also physically assaulted by that partner; 31% are also sexually assaulted by that partner.¹³

- √ The cost of intimate partner violence **exceeds \$5.8 billion each year**, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.¹⁷
- √ Victims of intimate partner violence *lost almost 8 million days of paid work* because of the violence perpetrated against them by current or former husbands, boyfriends and dates. This loss is the equivalent of more than **32,000 full-time jobs** and almost **5.6 million days of household productivity** as a result of violence.¹⁷
- √ There are 16,800 homicides and \$2.2 million (medically treated) injuries due to intimate partner violence annually, which costs \$37 billion.¹⁸



REPORTING RATES

* Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes.²⁰

* Only approximately one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalkings perpetuated against females by intimate partners are reported to the police.¹

PROTECTION ORDERS

* Approximately 20% of the 1.5 million people who experience intimate partner violence annually obtain civil protection orders.¹

* Approximately one-half of the orders obtained by women against intimate partners who physically assaulted them were violated.¹ More than two-thirds of the restraining orders against intimate partners who raped or stalked the victim were violated.

STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS

- States differ on the type of relationship that qualifies under domestic violence laws.
- Most states require the perpetrator and victim to be current or former spouses, living together, or have a child in common.
- A significant number of states include current or former dating relationships in domestic violence laws.
- Delaware, Montana and South Carolina specifically exclude same-sex relationships in their domestic violence laws.

To find more information on the domestic violence laws in your state, visit www.womenslaw.org.

IF YOU NEED HELP

For more information or to get help, please call:

THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE at 1-800-799-7233

THE NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE at 1-800-656-4673

THE NATIONAL TEEN DATING ABUSE HOTLINE at 1-866-331-9474

SOURCES

7/07

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- ¹⁸ *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. 2003. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.
- ¹⁹ The Cost of Violence in the United States. 2007. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.
- ²⁰ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Family Violence Statistics," June 2005.
- ²¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization," 2003.

For more information, please visit our website at www.ncadv.org.

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office
<http://www.assumptionsheriff.com/PressRoom/PressRoomDisplay.asp?p1=2126>
Napoleonville, LA
Assumption Parish
May 23, 2010

Murder/Suicide Attakapas Landing Bar

Sheriff Mike Waguespack reports that on Sunday, [May 23, 2010](#), at approximately 12:08AM, the Sheriff's Office received a 911 call concerning a shooting at the Lakeview Inn Bar at Attakapas Landing in Napoleonville, LA.

Upon arrival at the scene Deputies discovered an apparent murder/suicide. Witnesses reported that minutes earlier Mr. Gary Leblanc, 50 years of age, entered the bar and shot his estranged wife, Mrs. Jennifer Leblanc, age 44, multiple times. Mr. Leblanc then used the handgun to commit suicide. Both subjects were residents of Napoleonville.

APSO records document the following incidents:

- On [October 3, 2009](#), Mr. Leblanc was arrested for Simple Battery after deputies determined that he struck his wife in the face during an argument.
- On [January 24, 2010](#), Mrs. Leblanc filed a report alleging that her ex husband shot her dog in July of 2009. Arrest warrants were subsequently issued for Mr. Leblanc for the offenses of Illegal use of a weapon and Aggravated Cruelty to an Animal. He was arrested on [February 9, 2010](#).
- On [January 27, 2010](#), Mrs. Leblanc obtained a Protective Order against her ex-husband. The order was to remain in effect until [January 20, 2011](#).

This matter remains under investigation.

Anyone with information concerning this matter can contact the Criminal Investigation Division at 985-526-1627 or the Communications Division at 985-369-2912.

America News

<http://www.americanownnews.com/story/24490999/six-domestic-homicides-already-reported-in-2014>

January 18, 2014

East Baton Rouge Parish

South La. sees spike in alleged domestic homicides

Posted: Jan 18, 2014 7:41 PM CDT Updated: Jan 18, 2014 8:03 PM CDT

Graham Ulkins - [bio](#) | [email](#)



BATON ROUGE, LA (WAFB) -

Louisiana consistently ranks among the worst states in the nation for the rate of domestic homicide, [according to the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#). And 2014 is not off to a good start. Since January 1st police have linked at least six homicides in south Louisiana to family members:

January 1 – Walker Police find 34-year-old Tamila Wooley shot to death in her town home. Her 17-year-old son Eddie Robert Islan was arrested the next day and charged with her murder.

January 1 – Baton Rouge Police respond to an alleged family brawl inside a home on Convention Street. Detectives say 53-year-old Michael Taylor, Sr. later died after being hit in the head by his 30-year-old son Michael Taylor, II.

January 6 – The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office finds the bodies of 35-year-old Jacob Middleton, Sr. and his 2-year-old daughter. Investigators say the victim's son – 17-year-old Jacob Middleton, Jr. – confessed to shooting his father and half-sister after enduring years of abuse and family violence.

January 13 – Baton Rouge Police work a shooting on St. Joseph Street. Detectives say 19-year-old Devon Bowie shot and killed his 16-year-old cousin Patrick Williams. Bowie later turned himself in to authorities.

January 15 – Another apparent cousin-on-cousin killing. BRPD investigators say 29-year-old Maura Baquedano died after being hit in the head by 37-year-old Antonio Baquedano. He remains at large.

January 15 – The Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office investigates a double shooting just outside the Denham Springs city limits. Investigators determine 38-year-old Marlon Reed, Sr. shot and killed his estranged wife – 35-year-old Aleria Reed – before killing himself. Aleria was granted a restraining order against Marlon in December, but the pair shared custody of their two small children. Court documents revealed that Aleria feared for her life and was attempting to get full custody of the children.

"These are rare events nonetheless," said LSU criminologist Ed Shihadeh. "They're unfortunate and they tend to cluster, so it doesn't mean we're going to get another six or seven or 10 in another month. Nonetheless, it's very, very concerning."

Shihadeh works alongside Baton Rouge Police and other agencies as part of the BRAVE initiative to bring down group violence in Baton Rouge. While street crime and gang activity has decreased, he says domestic violence is a whole different animal.

"Those [incidents] are extremely hard to predict, extremely hard to prevent. They're not out in the open. They tend to take place behind closed doors. There is a general recognition even among people in BRAVE that it's time to start looking at domestic violence," he said.

Shihadeh says while there are some outreach programs in the area, more must be done to bring down Louisiana's alarming rates of domestic violence.

"One thing that would help tremendously is to have more outreach," he said. "Not cut funding to shelters, to have places where women can go, where children can go, and to set up a system of reporting like we've done with BRAVE. A system for people to say 'Look there's violence in my family,' and where there can be some kind of intervention."

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SHREVEPORTTIMES.COM

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/viewart/20140228/NEWS03/302280034/Man-accused-trying-kill-his-unborn-child>

Baton Rouge, LA

Feb. 28, 2014

Man accused of trying to kill his unborn child



Written by

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — Authorities have arrested an 18-year-old Baton Rouge man after investigators said he tried to kill his girlfriend's unborn child.

Deputies said Thursday that 18-year-old Darrell Johnson was booked with attempted second-degree feticide and domestic abuse battery charges.

[WBRZ-TV reports](#) Johnson and his girlfriend, who was seven months pregnant, got into an argument Feb. 20. Deputies say he slapped her, knocked her to the ground and started choking her. They say he also kicked her in the stomach at least once while she was on the ground, and as he left told her "I never wanted that baby anyway."

The sheriff's office said doctors ran tests, but weren't aware of any damage to the unborn child.

Baton Rouge Man Arrested for False Imprisonment, Domestic Abuse



Baton Rouge Police have arrested 57-year-old Ervin Coleman, E. Dayton Ct., Baton Rouge and charged him with False Imprisonment.

According to a report, Coleman got into an altercation with his live-in girlfriend sometime Saturday, January 4th. The altercation escalated into Coleman grabbing the victim by the arms and throat and refusing to let her leave his residence. The report states that the assault took place in front of the victim's 2 young children.

Investigators noted in the report that they observed several red marks on the victim's neck and arm, which were consistent with her description of the incident.

Coleman was taken into custody and charged with False Imprisonment and Domestic Abuse Battery with Children Present.

While in custody he reportedly told investigators that he had the right to tell the victim when she could leave the residence.

Coleman was transported to EBR Parish Prison where he is currently being held awaiting bond.

Man Charged With Attempted Murder After Shooting at Car Containing 3 Children

The Baton Rouge Police Department has arrested 30-year-old Demetrice Johnson, 2748 Lupine, Baton Rouge, and charged him with 4 counts of attempted 1st degree murder among other charges.

According to a report, officers were contacted around 7:00 AM on Thursday, November 14th in reference to a shooting incident that took place on Varsity Street. The complainant told officers that Johnson shot at her vehicle which was occupied by her and her 3 juvenile children at the time.



Investigating officers found a bullet hole in the rear of the vehicle. The slug from the gunshot was found lodged inside of the car "approximately 6 inches away from both (rear seat passenger's) heads," according to the report.

While officers were speaking with the victim, Johnson repeatedly called her asking for his belongings to be returned. The victim agreed to meet him at an apartment on Blount Rd. and arranged to have investigators follow her.

When investigators arrived at the apartment they were met by a female, later identified as Cynthia Moore, who told officers that Johnson was at the residence earlier, but left. Moore gave investigators consent to search the apartment and they located Johnson hiding in a hall closet.

Johnson was taken into custody and a search of his person produced 6 and a half doses of Hydrocodone, which were located in his pocket. He showed investigators where the gun used in the shooting was located, which was a closet inside a child's bedroom.

Investigators learned that Johnson had a lengthy history of violence towards the victim and in this incident he told her that he was going to kill her.

The report notes that Johnson also has been arrested on numerous violent charges including Armed Robbery, Burglary and numerous narcotics charges.

Johnson told officers that when he bonded out of jail, he was going to "take care of" the victim.

Investigators charged Johnson with Attempted 1st Degree Murder (4 counts), Illegal Use of a Weapon, Possession of Schedule III Narcotics, Possession of a Firearm with a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

He was transported to EBR Parish Prison where he is being held in lieu of a \$290,000 bond.

Baton Rouge Female Arrested for Attempted Murder

The Baton Rouge Police Department has arrested a 26-year-old female after she allegedly ran a vehicle off the road then attempted to strike one of the vehicle's occupants as they exited.

Officers say Kaelynn Williams, Jewel Dr., Baton Rouge was charged with attempted murder in the investigation.

According to a report, officers were notified around 11:15 AM Wednesday that a vehicle had struck another vehicle and the driver was attempting to flee the scene.

When officers arrived they interviewed Williams' ex-boyfriend, who was driving the vehicle that was struck, and another witness to the incident. They learned that Williams intentionally rammed her ex-boyfriend's vehicle several times, forcing it off the roadway. In the vehicle with her ex-boyfriend was a female acquaintance of his.

When the female acquaintance exited the victim's vehicle, Williams allegedly tried to run her over but missed and struck a nearby house. Williams then exited her vehicle attempted to flee the scene on foot. She was captured by arriving officers a short time later.

The owner of the home that was struck told police that Williams vehicle hit her home near a bedroom where seven babies were located inside.

Williams was arrested and charged with Attempted 2nd Degree Murder (2 counts), Criminal Damage to Property, Reckless Driving and Driving with a Suspended License.

She was transported to EBR Parish Prison where she is currently being held in lieu of a \$46,500 bond.

Jason Hamilton

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WBRZ.com
<http://www.wbrz.com/news/mom-daughter-and-dog-dead-in-murder-suicide/>
East Baton Rouge Parish
Oct 21, 2013

Doc in murder-suicide had issues with drugs

by Trey Schmaltz



BATON ROUGE- Deputies discovered a two women shot dead along with a dog in a murder-suicide Monday afternoon.

Eula Diamond, 84, was found dead with her daughter, Dr. Karen Diamond, 47, inside a house in an upscale, south Baton Rouge neighborhood about 2:00 p.m. Deputies found the bodies when they were asked to do a welfare check by a friend of one of the two women.

Investigators said Dr. Diamond shot and killed her mother and the dog before turning the gun on herself. The shooting happened sometime between Saturday evening and Monday afternoon.

Yellow police tape surrounded much of the street at 7812 Willow Grove Boulevard as investigators collected evidence.

Dr. Diamond had been practicing at Baton Rouge General until she left in July. "Our hearts go out to the Diamond family and their friends," a hospital spokesperson told WBRZ News 2.

Before joining the staff at BRG, Diamond worked in New York. WBRZ News 2 uncovered documents indicating Diamond had an addiction to drugs and was suspended for a time because of it. She received treatment, according to records from a New York state medical board.

The mother and daughter lived at the house with a third person. Neighbors believe it was either a family member or caregiver and said the family kept to themselves.

"We're out every evening with two small children and we've never seen the owner," a neighbor said. Investigators will attempt to focus on why Diamond killed her mother.

Follow the publisher of this post on Twitter: [@treyschmaltz](https://twitter.com/treyschmaltz)

Man Arrested After Choking Female During Altercation



A Baton Rouge man was arrested Sunday morning after allegedly choking a female acquaintance and attempting to strangle her son.

Police say Sherman Bessie, 33, 5822 Sunset Hill, Baton Rouge was kicked out of a home belonging to a female acquaintance sometime early Sunday, September 22nd. The female states that Bessie had been staying with her for approximately two months but for reasons she didn't disclose, she asked him to leave.

The report states that Bessie returned a short time later and forced his way inside the home by kicking in the door. Once inside he confronted and began choking the female victim. Her son and a friend of his attempted to intervene, however, Bessie pushed the friend out of the way, grabbed the female's son and began strangling him.

Police arrived on the scene and were able to take Bessie into custody even though he was extremely confrontational and resisted arrest.

After speaking with witnesses, investigators booked Bessie with Aggravated Burglary, Criminal Damaged to Property, Simple Battery, Domestic Abuse Battery and Resisting Arrest. Bessie was also charged with 3 outstanding warrants including Forgery, Drinking in Public and Felony Theft.

He was transported to EBR Parish Prison and given a \$32,500 bond.

Baton Rouge Man Arrested After Turning Pit Bull Loose on Victims in House



The Baton Rouge Police Dept. has arrested a 53-year-old man after he allegedly attacked 3 people, including a 3-year-old child, with a screwdriver, then turned a pit bull loose into their home.

Police say Terrell Brown, 8157 Harry Dr., Baton Rouge, accrued several charges stemming from the incident.

According to an affidavit, officers were called to the scene of a home where an altercation was taking place outside in the roadway. When officers arrived they observed Brown outside of the residence, walking around and yelling. Police took him into custody for questioning and placed him in the back of a police vehicle.

During an interview officers learned that Brown got into an altercation with his live-in girlfriend and began kicking her. Two other people attempted to intervene when Brown grabbed a screwdriver and threatened each of the victims.

At some point the victims were able to run inside and lock themselves in a bedroom at the rear of the house. Brown gained access to the bedroom through a sliding glass door and threw a pit bull into the room. One of the victims told investigators that the dog was known for biting people. All three victims exited the house through a rear door before the dog could attack any of them.

A 3-year-old child was in the arms of one of the victims at the time the dog was placed in the house but neither the child nor any of the victims were harmed physically.

During questioning, Brown became hostile and began kicking the inside window of the police unit he was being detained in. At one point Brown began spitting at officers, who were eventually able to subdue him.

Brown was booked with Domestic Abuse Battery, Aggravated Assault, Cruelty to Juveniles, Disturbing the Peace by Intoxication, Resisting an Officer and Battery on a Police Officer.

He was transported to EBR Parish Prison where he is currently being held i lieu of a \$27,000 bond.

Jury convicts Williams in BR triple murder trial

Ex-boyfriend faces life in 2011 deaths

Joe Gyan Jr.

Overjoyed relatives of the victims cheered late Thursday as a prison van carrying Courtney Williams left a downtown courthouse after a jury unanimously found the Baton Rouge man guilty in the domestic violence-related shooting deaths of his ex-girlfriend and two other women inside a Progress Street home in September 2011.

The van took Williams, 24, back to East Baton Rouge Parish Prison, but after state District Judge Richard Anderson sentences him to life in prison March 28, he will be headed straight to the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola.

Williams stood emotionless inside Anderson's courtroom Thursday night as an East Baton Rouge Parish jury of six women and six men convicted him on three counts of first-degree murder in the killing of Clarissa Cobbing, 19; Britney Lee, 18; and Josephine Lathers, 76, at the north Baton Rouge home shared by Lathers and Lee.

"That's the type of person he is. He's just a cold-hearted person," Cobbing's relieved mother, Rose Cobbing, said outside the 19th Judicial District Courthouse.

"I'm just happy that justice is served," said Lakeisha Sutton, who is Lathers' granddaughter, Lee's cousin and Clarissa Cobbing's friend.

"I feel good. I am very happy about that. We're all happy with this outcome," Rose Cobbing added.

Williams was Cobbing's former boyfriend. Lathers was Lee's great-grandmother.

Prosecutor Dana Cummings, who spoke with jurors before leaving the courthouse, said she was very relieved and happy for the victims' families.

"They (the jury) thought that the evidence was strong," she said. "They thought the threat phone call was the coup de grace."

In that recorded Feb. 8 prison phone call, which the jury heard earlier Thursday, Williams allegedly made threats against witnesses in the triple-murder case and mentioned his then-upcoming trial.

Jurors also listened to a series of [911 calls](#) that Clarissa Cobbing made less than three weeks before the fatal shootings, reporting to police that Williams had threatened her, beat her and twice kidnapped her toddler. Baton Rouge police have said they consider the shootings acts of [domestic violence](#).

Cummings told jurors the 911 calls detailed a “pattern of abuse” directed at Cobbing by Williams.

“He terrorized her for so long. He didn’t have any consequences. Did he feel emboldened? Perhaps,” Cummings told the jury in her closing argument Thursday morning.

Authorities have said Williams was not arrested, prior to the fatal shootings, in any of the alleged incidents leading up to the killings because police could not find him.

“Courtney and Clarissa had a rocky relationship, but that doesn’t mean Courtney killed Clarissa,” Williams’ lead court-appointed attorney, Kyla Romanach, countered in her closing argument Thursday afternoon.

Romanach said afterward that the “mountain of other-crimes evidence” introduced by the prosecution during the trial will be a focus of Williams’ appeal. Anderson ruled last February that Clarissa Cobbings’ 911 calls could be played for the jury.

“I respect the verdict. I don’t agree with it,” she said. “They just didn’t see it our way.”

The jury deliberated for about 90 minutes.

Romanach presented an alibi defense earlier Thursday, arguing that Williams was in Port Allen on Sept. 10, 2011 — the day of the killings — and could not have been in two places at once. Williams did not testify.

Romanach called two of Williams’ cousins to the stand who said they were with him in Port Allen that Saturday, but neither cousin could account for Williams’ precise whereabouts at the time of the mid-afternoon killings.

Prosecutors dropped their pursuit of the [death penalty](#) against Williams last year after doctors determined he is mildly mentally retarded. The U.S. Supreme Court has barred the execution of mentally retarded persons.

Williams was convicted in Juvenile Court in the mid-2000s of aggravated battery and forcible rape and given juvenile life sentences for each crime, East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney Hillar Moore III has said.

Juvenile life means youths ages 14 to 17 can be held in juvenile custody until their 21st birthdays.

Williams turned 21 on Jan. 17, 2011.

Baton Rouge Woman Arrested After Striking Boyfriend With a Lamp



The East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office was dispatched to an address on Tiger Bend Rd. Monday night around 6:30pm relative to a domestic disturbance.

When investigators arrived, they made contact with Crystal Campanile, 31, Baton Rouge who stated that her boyfriend began striking her while she was asleep in their bed. She further stated that she ran out of the bedroom, grabbed a lamp and struck her boyfriend on the head in self-defense. After striking him she ran to her neighbor's residence and her boyfriend chased after her. Deputies noted that Campanile did not have any visible marks or bruises on her.

Campanile's boyfriend told deputies that he never struck Campanile, rather, she was the aggressor and he was only defending himself. He stated that Campanile's uncle got between the two attempting to intervene when Campanile tried to grab a box cutter. The uncle was able to grab it before she did, however. Things calmed down and the couple went into their bedroom. That's when the boyfriend stated that Campanile jumped up and ran out of the bedroom while yelling at him. She then grabbed a lamp and struck him in the head with it. After striking him she left the apartment but not before pushing over an entertainment center which held a TV valued at \$2,000.00 which belonged to the boyfriend. The report indicated that the boyfriend had a gash on his forehead and markings on his arms and chest. He refused medical treatment.

Investigators contacted Campanile's Uncle who corroborated the explanation given by Campanile's boyfriend. He told deputies that the man was only defending himself from Campanile.

Campanile was arrested and booked into the EBR Parish Prison for Domestic Abuse Battery, Aggravated Battery and Simple Criminal Damage to Property.

She is currently being held in lieu of a \$7500 bond.

Tagged [campanile](#), [domestic violence](#)

Man dead after alleged attacks on ex-girlfriend, her son

Woman shot ex-boyfriend

By Danny Monteverde

In a domestic argument turned deadly, a woman shot her former boyfriend in Harahan on Saturday night after he allegedly attacked her and her teenage son, authorities said.

The shooting happened a little before 6 p.m. in the 8200 block of Ferrera Drive.

Deputies have questioned Deborah Zito, 53, but have not arrested her in the death of Milton Schoen, 50. The death has been ruled a homicide, however, and police are consulting with the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office.

Officers were alerted to the shooting after a man called to report that his daughter had come to his house to tell him she shot her ex-boyfriend after the man abused her and her son, according to interim Harahan Police Chief Joe Lorenzo.

Cops rushed to the Ferrera Drive home and found Schoen's body inside the master bedroom. He was dead from a single gunshot wound to his abdomen, Lorenzo said.

Jefferson Parish deputies, who assisted in the investigation, then interviewed Zito, her 16-year-old son and a 15-year-old friend.

Zito, who appeared to be intoxicated, complained of pain to her head, neck and arm, Lorenzo said. She told authorities that Schoen was responsible for the injuries.

Zito was treated at Ochsner Medical Center while the teens were being questioned.

During an interview with homicide detectives, Zito's son said that Zito and Schoen had dated off and on for the past three years and that he saw Schoen physically abuse his mother several times. Some of those attacks were reported to police but most were not, the youth said.

Zito's son told detectives he arrived home Saturday with a friend about 15 minutes before the shooting happened. He walked into the darkened home, flipped on the lights and saw Schoen standing in front of his mother's bedroom door, which was closed.

The youth said he greeted Schoen, who seemed angry but did not say much. Zito's son then called to his mother that he was home. She acknowledged him but did not leave the room, he told detectives.

At that point, the teen said, Schoen went into Zito's room. About 10 minutes later, a gun went off.

"Son, get in here," Zito shouted, according to Lorenzo.

The teen ran into the bedroom, where he found Zito, seated on the bed, pointing a handgun at Schoen, who stood at the foot of the bed. Zito looked frightened, the teen told detectives, while Schoen looked angry.

Zito's son told Schoen to leave his mother's room, at which point the man shoved the boy with both hands, sending him tumbling into a wall, Lorenzo said.

Zito fired the gun a second time, hitting Schoen, who fell to the floor.

Zito ordered her son out of the room and then drove to her father's home in River Ridge to report the shooting, Lorenzo said.

At the hospital, doctors found Zito had several contusions to her neck and arm, in addition to a strained neck muscle.

According to authorities, Zito had filed reports against Schoen in January, May and August 2012. Each report was for domestic battery, Lorenzo said.

Zito has no criminal history. Schoen had previous arrests for aggravated battery and simple battery, among other charges, Lorenzo said.

KTBS 3

<http://www.ktbs.com/story/22366409/jefferson-parish-deputy-killed-answering-domestic-disturbance-call>

Gretna, LA

Jefferson Parish

Jefferson Parish Deputy Killed Answering Domestic Disturbance Call

GRETNAL (AP) -- A Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputy was fatally shot Thursday night while responding to a domestic disturbance call in Gretna. The man suspected of killing the deputy shot and critically wounded himself, authorities said. A Sheriff's Department spokesman said Deputy Joshua Norris, 22, had been on the force for about 11 months. Norris was killed by a 21-year-old man who ambushed him after lifting up a garage door as Norris walked up to the house. Norris was dispatched to the scene after authorities received emergency calls reporting the suspect had beaten his ex-girlfriend in the home. The woman later escaped and the suspect barricaded himself in the home after the shooting. During the night, deputies entered the house and found Antonio Luke suffering from a self-inflicted gun shot wound to the head. Luke was reported in critical condition today. Norris is the first Jefferson deputy killed in the line of duty in more than a decade.



Lafourche Parish District Attorney's Office IN THE NEWS

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October 28, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

THIBODAUX – A Thibodaux man convicted in September of attempted manslaughter was sentenced to serve fifteen years in prison Monday.

Donovan Queen, 20, was convicted for the February 9, 2013 shooting of his ex-girlfriend on Paula Drive in Thibodaux. The victim, who was nineteen years old at the time, was shot in the right foot and survived. However, the victim testified at trial that Queen pointed the gun at her head and pulled the trigger, only to have the gun misfire.

"This was a situation that obviously could have had a much more tragic outcome," said District Attorney Camille A. Morvant, II. "And although the victim survived, that doesn't diminish the threat that this man poses to the public. We're satisfied that he will be spending a significant amount of time in prison."

"This case serves as a reminder of the dangers of domestic violence," said Assistant District Attorney Diana Sanders. "I would like to send a message to the community that domestic violence will not be tolerated in Lafourche Parish."

Attempted manslaughter carries a maximum penalty of twenty years in prison at hard labor.

Fight for Freedom: Victim recalls years of husband's abuse



Lafourche residents show their support during the parish's Paint the Town Purple candlelight vigil for victims of domestic violence. The event, held last Wednesday night, honored those killed at the hands of abusers. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month..

By CLAUDETTE OLIVIER

EDITOR'S NOTE: To protect the identity of the victim who courageously agreed to be interviewed for this article, the Tri-Parish Times has changed her name to Jane Doe.

They started as strangers in a store aisle, fell in love and married; almost as quickly, Mr. Right turned into Mr. Wrong.

"We met at the store where I worked," said Jane Doe, a survivor of domestic abuse. "He needed help finding something, and I helped. After that, we started talking."

From the outset, Doe's boyfriend changed. A few weeks after learning Doe was expecting, the relationship became explosive.

"I could see the traits in him," she said. "He had an aggressive attitude. I thought about leaving him early in the relationship, but I didn't. We'd have our bad moments, then he would apologize."

With one child from a previous relationship and another on the way, leaving wasn't an option.

Had Doe been knowledgeable in domestic violence, she'd have seen the cycle: tension and anger buildup, outbursts of abuse, subsequent apologies and periods of calm.

"He was very sporadic," she said. "The littlest things would set him off. ... I would do anything to stop it."

To this day, Doe is reluctant to talk about the abuse. She deflects questions about the specifics, saying only that it was harsh.

After each incident, Doe's husband was repentant – it's what experts refer to as the "honeymoon phase."

"He would apologize and say he didn't mean it, buy me flowers and gifts and promise that it wouldn't happen again."

Doe lived the nightmare for six years. Beatings and verbal assaults progressively escalated.

There'd be stretches when everything was fine. Then, in a moment of rage, he'd throw Doe and her two children out on the streets without any means of support, later begging her to return and promising to change.

She stayed out of fear.

"I was worried about my kids," Doe said. "That's what kept me there. I knew he would retaliate if I left. I knew he would go ballistic."

In 2010, during a calm period, Doe learned she was pregnant again.

"He was happy again because now I would have to stay with him, that I wouldn't be able to get out on my own," she said. "'You have to marry me now, you have to stay.' That's how he thought."

They married, and the violence worsened.

"Was I more scared to stay, or was I more scared to leave?" Doe asked. "In the end, I was more scared to stay."

Doe said her husband, who is currently serving 18 years for drug-related crimes, was himself addicted to illegal narcotics.

"I knew it was no longer safe for me and my kids," she said.

Six months after the birth of the couple's second child, Doe filed for divorce.

Initially, the relationship was amicable. Doe even allowed the children to spend time with their father over the next several weeks. All the while, a storm was brewing that would make any prior incidents of abuse pale in comparison.

One day, he showed up at Doe's home unexpectedly and, as she pulled into her driveway, he flung the back seat door open and tried to remove one of their children from the moving vehicle. After Doe jumped out and tried to protect the infant, her husband began to beat her in the street.

A neighbor saw the entire incident and called police. It was Mr. Right's first domestic violence arrest.

The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office's Domestic Violence Unit provided support. Doe detailed the violence dating back to the beginning of the relationship.

The next several months were a blur. Doe spent nights in shelters and days in court fighting her abuser for custody of their two children.

Doe's husband met his fate in court nearly a year after she filed for divorce. He was found guilty of a litany of offenses, domestic abuse and child endangerment among them.

"I take things day by day, really," Doe said. "We are happier now. We are family now. Going forward, I am thankful for my family and friends.

"More than anything, I am a huge advocate of police social services. If not for them, I don't know where I'd be today. The LPSO's social services unit has been amazing to me and my kids. They provided us with shelter and made us feel safe and protected."

And, for the first time in years, Doe has come to understand the strength it takes to survive domestic violence.

"One of the domestic violence unit officers told me, 'It takes strength to go through that kind of situation,'" she said. "It takes strength to leave. An abuser makes you think you are nothing, but it takes a strong person to deal with that. No one deserves that type of treatment."

Doe has since returned to work and purchased a home and a car. She and her children are enjoying their freedom, but she worries about the children growing up without their father.

"It didn't have to be this way," she said. "I feel sorry for my children, that their dad became this person and that I have to explain these things to them. There is also the financial side of it. It's hard. We have our daily struggles, but the kids have the things they need. I rely on my family a lot, but things are really good."

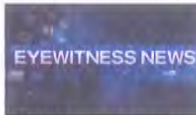
Doe's husband still corresponds with the children via mail, but the mother of three insists the conversations remain upbeat.

"I spoke to him for the first time when he asked if he could write to the kids," she said. "It was extremely hard to talk to him. I told him he could only write to them if he asked them about school or their friends -- positive things. I don't want him writing to them about what happened."

Doe reads each of the letters before reading them to the children, and she has already faced questions from their oldest child.

"She asks 'Why did daddy do the things he did?'" Doe said. "I always tell her that I can't answer that, daddy has to. She has asked him in letters, but he never answers her directly. I tell him that he needs to tell her something that will help soothe her mind.

"I have endured some negativity by talking to my children about what happened, but I want to be honest about it."



EYEWITNESS NEWS

WWLTV.com

Denham Springs, LA

Livingston Parish

January 16, 2014

Man kills wife, then himself in Denham Springs, says sheriff

DENHAM SPRINGS, La. – Authorities are investigating a possible murder-suicide of an estranged couple in which a man apparently shot his wife and then killed himself.

Around 7 p.m. Wednesday, Livingston Parish deputies were called to a home on Grand Turk Drive in the Denham Springs.

“My deputies discovered the bodies of a male and a female, both deceased from apparent gunshot wounds,” Sheriff Jason Ard said.

Detectives identified the man as 38-year old Marlon Reed Sr. and the woman was identified as 35-year old Aleria Cyrus Reed. The couple was married but currently separated. They have two small children.

“We’ve learned Marlon J. Reed, Sr. was staying at the Denham Springs residence with the couple’s children. Aleria Cyrus Reed was residing with relatives in Baton Rouge. Through our investigation, we’ve learned that she was at the Denham Springs residence to visit the children. That’s when the shooting occurred. We believe – through the facts gathered – that Marlon J. Reed Sr. shot his wife and then turned the handgun on himself,” Ard said.

Ard said deputies had been called to home before for alarm activation-type calls, not “for any type of domestic-related issues or for incidents of violence.”

Aleria Cyrus Reed had filed a petition for a protective order in Livingston Parish, alleging domestic abuse involving her husband, and the order was active, Ard said.

The deaths remain under investigation and post exams are being conducted on the deceased under the direction of the Livingston Parish Coroner.



Mom recounts saving unborn child from shooting spree

Her father-in-law killed her husband and 2-year-old son: 'System does not protect wives'

Six months pregnant and clutching her 2-year-old son in her right arm, Amber Carter had a harrowing decision to make as her estranged father-in-law burst into the room with a gun after having already fatally shot her husband and mother-in-law.

She could either face a man who had violated a protection order from her mother-in-law multiple times and was now carrying through on the threats of violence that he had hinted at for two years — or leap out a second-story window.

"I'm thinking, 'This is it,'" Carter told NBC News. "He's going to kill us."

Carter took eight gunshots to her left leg while straddling the window sill, and her son, Mason, was also hit four times before Carter leaped out the window to try to save her son and her unborn child. She and her son landed on the sidewalk on the side of the house. Her father-in-law, 50-year-old Dennis Carter Sr., then came downstairs and shot her in the back at close range before fleeing the scene.

During that time, 2-year-old Mason died in her arms from his wounds. An hour later, Carter Sr. shot himself during the police chase that followed the shooting spree in which he took the lives of his own son, Dennis Carter Jr., 26, his estranged wife, Donna, 49, and his grandson Mason.

"On a scale of one to 10, 10 being the worst, this was absolutely the worst I have ever seen," Perry Rushing of the Livingston (La.) Parish Sheriff's Office told NBC News.

[Video: Mom jumps out window to save unborn baby](#) (on this page)

But while Carter lost her husband, her mother-in-law, and her young son that horrific day at her mother-in-law's home in Holden, La., one member of her family was saved. Amber underwent an emergency caesarean section that day and gave birth three months prematurely to her daughter, Aubrey Marie Carter.

That was September 2009. Only now, nearly two years later, is Carter able to speak comfortably about the rampage that put her in the hospital for 78 days, where she underwent 10 operations that were followed by

months of rehabilitation. Partially paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair, she lives with her mother and daughter in Springfield, La., and is unable to work, subsisting on Social Security checks in the face of daunting medical bills.

No protection

Carter said she was appearing on TODAY to point up the failings of a judicial system that did not stop her father-in-law, who had previously been arrested three times for domestic abuse and violating a protection order. In March of 2009, he had threatened his estranged wife with a machete and tried to kill her, according to Livingston Parish police records. A day before his actions made national headlines, Carter Sr. had called his son with another death threat.

“The judicial system does not protect wives in domestic violence situations,” Carter told TODAY’s Meredith Vieira. “The restraining orders aren’t worth the paper they’re written on.”

While holding Aubrey, a healthy 20-month-old, in her lap, Carter admitted that even though her father-in-law had made threats, his eventual rampage still seemed unthinkable at the time. She stressed that the local police “did a wonderful job” — but the failings of the court system allowed her father-in-law to pursue his murderous intent.

“We didn’t think he was capable of that at all,” Carter told Vieira. “No way [was he] capable of doing something that extreme and hurting us that badly. We did everything we were supposed to do. We called the police every time. We did the right thing.”

While Carter put on a brave face on the aftermath of the incident, it still looms heavily in her family’s life. She lives on a 20-acre spread owned by her grandparents where she had planned to move with her husband and children. Her mother is unable to work because she is taking care of Amber and Aubrey.

Sometimes, Carter said, the only thing keeping her going after having watched one child die in her arms and seeing her mother-in-law murdered in front of her is knowing that she still has a daughter to care for.

‘Get help’

“People ask us all the time, ‘Oh, how are you doing?’” Carter said. “We used to say, ‘Just fine,’ and honestly, we’re not at all. It’s extremely difficult emotionally, and it’s sometimes unbearable financially. It’s brought us so much grief, but we have Aubrey and she’s doing well. That makes us happy.”

Carter said she hopes to find medical assistance that can help her walk again so she can be more independent and care for Aubrey on her own. In the meantime, she wants her story to serve as a reminder of the threat of domestic violence and the problematic nature of the court system when it comes to that issue.

“It is very important to get help,” she said. “Don’t ever think that someone isn’t crazy enough to do something like that, because that’s exactly what we thought.”

But despite the physical, emotional and financial challenges she still struggles with every day, Carter said she has one great compensation.

“I get to see my little girl grow up,” she said.

Behind The Blue Wall

<http://behindthebluewall.blogspot.com/2012/01/la-nopd-officer-lacour-convicted-of.html>

New Orleans, LA

Orleans Parish

January 28, 2013.

Police Officer Involved Domestic Violence. Lighting a candle of remembrance for those who've lost their lives to domestic violence behind the blue wall, for strength and wisdom to those still there, and a non-ending prayer for those who thought they had escaped but can't stop being afraid.

[LA] NOPD Officer Lacour convicted of shooting gun outside ex's house



New Orleans Police Superintendent Ronal Serpas has made it clear that the department has no tolerance for officers convicted of felonies - and that's a good policy. It should go without saying, then, that Officer Jermaine Lacour needs to be removed from the force... District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro's office lauded the conviction and said it will continue to go after people who use weapons illegally. That's even more important when the offender is a law enforcement officer who's supposed to uphold the law... NOPD spokeswoman Remi Braden said Lacour was suspended without pay following the jury verdict convicting him of illegally discharging a firearm... He is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 15 and could face from zero to two years in prison...

PREVIOUS POSTS:

- **[LA] Officer Lacour booked on domestic. Top cop says NOPD has zero tolerance for misconduct.** - *In a prepared statement, Superintendent Ronal Serpas said the NOPD has "zero tolerance for misconduct. Criminal allegations are serious and each individual will have their day in court. When an officer betrays the public's trust, swift and decisive actions will be taken. We will continue to build the public's trust with accountability, transparency and integrity."*
- **[LA] NOPD Officer Lacour's retrial for shooting gun at ex's house scheduled for September** - *...[New Orleans police officer Jermaine] Lacour, who remains free on \$5,000 bond, also was arrested June 7 for violating a restraining order prohibiting him from contacting [ex-girlfriend]... A ballistics expert tied three bullet casings on the ground to the 9mm police handgun that Lacour kept... "He's a man who doesn't like to be ignored. He's a man who's not used to being ignored," the prosecutor said...*

ORLEANS PARISH JURY CONVICTS NOPD COP FOR FIRING GUN

The Times-Picayune

By John Simerman,

January 25, 2012

[Excerpts] An Orleans Parish jury convicted a New Orleans police officer of a felony weapons charge on Wednesday for firing a handgun outside his former girlfriend's home in late 2010. Jermaine Lacour, 38, who was suspended by NOPD following the incident, is expected to be fired after his conviction on a charge of illegal use of a weapon. He could be sentenced to as much as two years in prison, or as little as probation... Prosecutors said the four-year NOPD officer drove to the house of [K.A.], his ex-girlfriend and the mother of his young child ... on Dec. 29, 2010. While he was there, the ex-girlfriend and a friend, Tulane University

policeman [J.V.], got out of a car and headed to the door. Lacour demanded to see the toddler. Adams told him to wait. As she entered the house, [K.A.] testified, she heard three shots... A ballistics expert tied three bullet casings on the ground to the 9mm police handgun that Lacour kept... "The district attorneys office takes gun crimes very seriously and this conviction should be a sign that we will do everything in our power to take people off the streets who are illegally using weapons," said Christopher Bowman, spokesman for Orleans Parish District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro's office... "I just think that verdict, it was wrong," Lacour said. "I admit I shot my gun, but I was fired upon. I've never been arrested, never been in trouble in my life." [Full article [here](#)]

NOPD SUSPENDS POLICE OFFICER CONVICTED OF FIRING GUN

The Times-Picayune

By John Simerman,

January 26, 2012

[Excerpts] The New Orleans Police Department has suspended Officer Jermaine Lacour after his conviction Wednesday in a shooting incident outside his ex-girlfriend's home in late 2010. NOPD spokeswoman Remi Braden said Lacour, 38, was suspended without pay following the jury verdict convicting him of illegally discharging a firearm. Detectives with the NOPD's Public Integrity Bureau found that Lacour fired the weapon to threaten the woman and her boyfriend. The PIB is continuing its review of the incident for a final decision by NOPD Superintendent Ronal Serpas on terminating Lacour... He is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 15 and could face from zero to two years in prison... Following the shooting, a judge instructed Lacour to stay away from the couple and to stop all communications with them, but Lacour called the woman several times and also sent her an e-mail... After she reported it, police notified the District Attorney's Office. Lacour turned himself in last June 7. A charge against Lacour of violating a protective order is still pending... In an October interview, Serpas laid out his policy for cops who get in trouble. "If you make a bad choice or decision unintentionally, your chances of surviving are pretty good," Serpas said. "But if you make a decision that's purposefully bad, immoral or unethical, your chances of being employed are very slim. If you're going to be convicted of a felony, there's no room in the department for you"... [Full article [here](#)]

GUILTY OFFICER WARRANTS FIRING FROM NOPD: AN EDITORIAL

The Times-Picayune

By Editorial page staff

Saturday, January 28, 2012

[Excerpts] New Orleans Police Superintendent Ronal Serpas has made it clear that the department has no tolerance for officers convicted of felonies - and that's a good policy. It should go without saying, then, that Officer Jermaine Lacour needs to be removed from the force... District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro's office lauded the conviction and said it will continue to go after people who use weapons illegally. That's even more important when the offender is a law enforcement officer who's supposed to uphold the law. After the verdict, Officer Lacour said his conviction "was wrong." He said, "I've never been arrested, never been in trouble in my life." That's not how jurors saw it. And Officer Lacour appears to be brushing aside his separate arrest in June, for violating a restraining order prohibiting him from contacting Ms. Adams. Officer Lacour clearly believes that the law doesn't apply to him -- and he shouldn't be empowered with enforcing it. Indeed, his conviction makes him incompatible with the policy Superintendent Serpas has set regarding officers who get in trouble... [Full article [here](#)]

NEW ORLEANS FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

New Orleans, LA
Orleans Parish
September 25, 2013

For Gentilly triple homicide suspect, records paint dark picture of violence

By [Helen Freund, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

It's a fair question: Why would Christine George get back together with a man whose violent history, detailed in court records, she knew all too well?

A few weeks ago, the hulking parolee and father of her teenage son moved back in to her Gentilly home. Days later she was dead.

Now George, who was a New Orleans Police dispatcher, is set to be buried alongside two of her grown children who were killed in what police call a domestic violence murder by a man with a long record of violence, including complaints by at least two women, records show.

The paper trail for 41-year-old Shawn Peterson details painful moments for women in his life. But the violence he now stands accused of -- a triple murder that took the life of George, 39, her daughter, Trisa George, 20, and Peterson's son, Leonard George, 18 -- is something no one could have predicted.



Shawn Peterson, 41, faces charges of first-degree murder. Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office

Peterson's history includes stints in prison, and some hard-to-understand twists -- such as the 265-pound, 6-foot-4-inch man taking out a restraining order against George, and one woman, who once sought protection from his violence, now speaking up in his defense.

Police arrested Peterson on Sept. 18, seven days after the Georges were found dead in the garage of their home.

"Why do women stay? Because they're terrified. Because often batterers threaten to kill them and their children," said Tania Tetlow, a law professor at Tulane University and director of the university's Domestic Violence Clinic. "And as awful and as counter intuitive as it is, this is sad proof that those kinds of things do happen."

Why do women stay? Because they're terrified. Because often batterers threaten to kill them and their children," said Tania Tetlow, a law professor at Tulane University and director of the university's Domestic Violence Clinic.

Peterson was arrested in two separate domestic incidents in 2008, municipal court records show.

The first to throw a legal stone, however, was Peterson, and not George.

In March 2007, Peterson filed a petition asking for a restraining order from George, who he said was harassing him, his mother, and this then fiancée. His strategy was not uncommon, experts say.

Tetlow, who also is a former federal prosecutor, said men who show a pattern of committing acts of domestic violence often single out the victim first and file claims against them in an effort to sabotage any further actions they might try to take.

"Unfortunately, it's very common for batterers to take the offense and to accuse their victims of crimes before they get the chance to do so themselves," Tetlow said, adding that in New Orleans the number of women arrested on domestic violence charges is high.

"Roughly one-third of all domestic violence arrests are women. That's not to say that women never commit acts of domestic violence themselves. But his petition against her is very common. They act by gutting their victim's credibility before they themselves get the chance to do it first," she said.



Christine George, 39, and her daughter Trisa George, 20.

In the case of Peterson, he reported that George had been harassing him, stalking him and had left him threatening voicemails and phone calls.

Peterson said that she broke his car windows and slashed his tires.

On March 24, he said, George called Peterson's mother and threatened to punch her in the face because "she was the reason that her and Shawn are not together."

Just a couple of days later, George reciprocated and filed a petition of her own asking for a protective order to keep Peterson away from her and his son, Leonard.

George wrote in the petition that neighbors and family members saw Peterson driving by her house at all hours of the day. She complained that he had beaten and kicked her on several occasions.

One time, she said, he dragged her body just three days after she had had a medical procedure.

A year later, in June 2008, another woman who said she was married to Peterson at the time, filed a restraining order against him, claiming she also had been violently abused, both physically and verbally.

Peterson and the woman had two children -- twins -- together, records indicate, and she too petitioned for a protective order to have Peterson stay away from all three of them.

The woman wrote in her petition that she was in her bedroom sitting on the bed with one of their children in her lap when Peterson attacked her. He punched her repeatedly, she said, so badly that she pretended to be knocked out so that he would stop pummeling her.

Peterson, who was freed from prison for good behavior after a conviction for attempted second-degree murder, boasted that he had a gun and threatened to kill her and whoever else he found her with, the woman reported. He said he was going to call her sister and shoot her in the head, she wrote.

That woman filed for sole custody of their children and also for a divorce from Peterson, but it was not immediately clear what the outcome there was.

"Peterson has a long history of domestic violence against women and numerous arrests for domestic violence," lead NOPD Detective Darrell Doucette said when the department announced Peterson's arrest.

When exactly Peterson and Christine George resumed their relationship isn't clear. But friends and family members recall the pair as being in an on-and-off volatile romance, constantly fighting and breaking up before patching things up again and getting back together.

Relatives said that up until just weeks prior to the Sept. 11 slaying, Peterson had been living with George, but was kicked out by her after the two had an argument.

Then, on the night before George and two of her children were found shot dead inside the garage of their Gentilly home, Peterson called George repeatedly on her cellphone, police said in arrest papers. She didn't pick up.

Moments later she and her two children were dead, all shot multiple times at point-blank range inside the SUV they had just returned home in seconds earlier.

Nowhere to go

The recourse for domestic violence victims, Tetlow said, is just not as simple as it seems.

"It's not like you see in the movies, where someone dyes their hair another color and simply skips town," Tetlow said. "You run away and you have a child in common, that's called kidnapping. It can be very difficult to get custody away from a batterer."

The biggest issue for Christine George, Tetlow said, her options were simply not enough to ensure her safety.

"She couldn't just call the police and be safe. It's not so simple, you don't get to call police have them post a guard at your door."

The way the Orleans Parish handles domestic violence reports is also problematic, women's advocates say.

In New Orleans, a domestic violence arrest is typically charged as a misdemeanor, and is therefore handled in municipal court where the maximum sentence for that offense is six months.

In order for the offense to be considered a felony and moved to Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, the crime must involve a weapon, or have caused the victim to suffer "severe bodily injury."

Strangulation, not an uncommon reason for a report, is also considered a felony, but it's often misclassified during arrests, Tetlow said.

"A lot can happen to a person before they're considered severely injured," she said.

Peterson's ex, the woman who filed a restraining order against him in 2008, was represented by Project SAVE, an organization that offers civil legal services to domestic violence survivors and operates under the umbrella of the New Orleans Family Justice Center, along with 13 other agencies. It's a saving grace for many.

Mary Claire Landry, director of the New Orleans Family Justice Center, said that the services offered are free to all survivors of domestic violence and called the organization a "coordinated, comprehensive system" that includes both public and government agencies.

Landry said that while she was familiar with Shawn Peterson's history, she could not discuss the case because of privacy concerns.

She said that just like so many other domestic violence incidents, it was "very complicated."

"It's sad and it's complicated," Landry said, speaking generally of the situations that women who seek help find themselves in. "It doesn't magically happen that one time you seek services and you can simply extricate yourself from the problem. However, we're here to offer full support to the true victims in these cases, and to see beyond the tactics that these batterers might use."

The mother of Peterson's twins agreed to speak with NOLA.com |The Times-Picayune on the condition that she remain anonymous. The woman, who is in her 40s and is a beautician, wouldn't discuss details of her relationship with Peterson except to say she has forgiven him. She called him a good dad.

"What he did in the past? God has removed that from my heart," the woman said.

"I won't talk about his past, I'll only talk about his future," she said. "He's a good dad -- he helps his kids with their homework, he reads to them all the time."

Since the night of the murders, the woman said, Peterson has professed his innocence many times.

"He's been saying that the whole time, and I stand behind that 100 percent. I believe him, all the way. I know he didn't do it."

Police immediately questioned Peterson after the shooting. He told detectives he was with a woman in eastern New Orleans.

That alibi, detectives wrote in arrest papers, fell apart quickly. Cell phone records show him near the murder scene, police said. Peterson was also identified on surveillance camera near

Christine George's Gentilly home, which police say show him fleeing the scene.

Peterson is being held at the Orleans Parish Prison on three counts of first-degree murder.

He could face the death penalty if the Orleans Parish district attorney's office pursues capital punishment. He otherwise faces mandatory life imprisonment without the benefit of parole or probation, if convicted.

Peterson was initially appointed a public defender, but as he could be facing the death penalty, it is likely that he will be assigned to a law office that specializes in capital defense.

His next court appearance is scheduled for January 2014.

Christine George, who leaves behind two other children, will be buried Friday with Trisa and Leonard George.

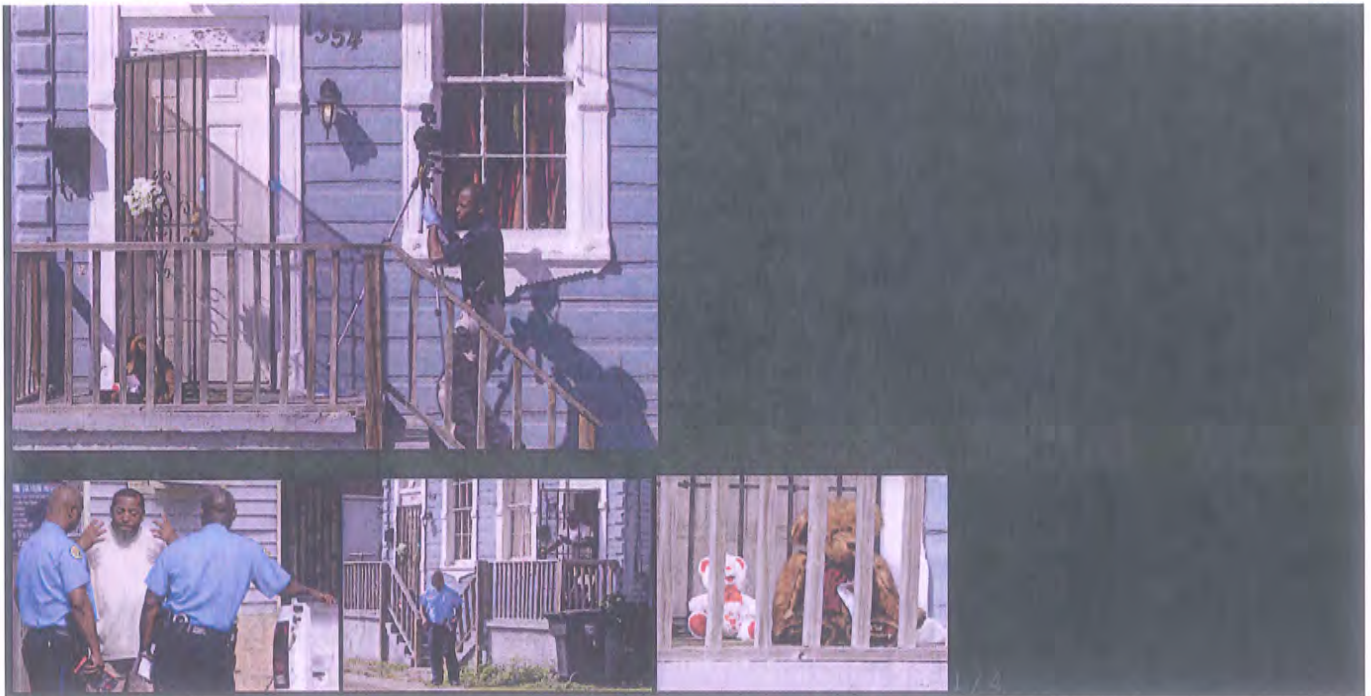
New Orleans, LA
Orleans Parish
December 2011

New Orleans Judges say They Lack the Resources To Protect Domestic-Violence Victims

By [Katy Reckdahl, The Times-Picayune](#)

on December 19, 2011 at 8:00 AM, updated December 19, 2011 at 11:11 AM

Judge Paul Sens, chief of [Municipal Court](#), is getting rattled. Every day, he sees between 10 and 12 new domestic-violence cases in his courtroom, as part of a shift of cases from Criminal District Court. Sens says he has no staff to monitor the batterers who come before him. And history shows that if high-risk batterers go unsupervised, some will injure or even kill their victims.



TED JACKSON / THE TIMES-PICAYUNE A NOPD photographer positions his camera as officers investigate the double murder at 1354 Annette St. where a woman and her son were killed Monday, October 10, 2011.

"It's a crisis," Sens said. "If we don't get some services, the loss won't be counted in dollars. It will be in lives."

District Attorney [Leon Cannizzaro](#), who ordered the transfer of all misdemeanor domestic-violence cases to Municipal Court a few months ago, believes Sens should simply sentence batterers to Criminal District Court's existing domestic-violence monitoring court, according to spokesman Chris Bowman.

Sens calls that solution unworkable, as does Magistrate Judge Gerard Hansen, who runs the monitoring court. The two judges say their courts' distinct jurisdictions and separate financial structures make such an arrangement impossible.

Besides, Sens said, punting the supervision of a defendant on probation to another judge would be an abdication of his responsibilities.

"I'm not going to slough that off to someone else," Sens said.

It may fall to a higher court to decide whether Municipal Court and Criminal District Court are legally connected in a way that allows them to share services. Until that's resolved, domestic-violence victims hang in the balance.

Mary Claire Landry, director of Catholic Charities' domestic-violence program and head of the Family Justice Center, said that Cannizzaro's stated reason for the shift -- making cases move more quickly -- is solid. But she finds the resulting transition confusing.

"I think we're all trying to understand what the new system is, and it's just not clear," she said.

Court lacks resources

Until a few months ago, the cases in question would have been tried in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, where Cannizzaro had prosecuted all domestic-violence cases since early 2009.

Prior to that, most had been handled in Municipal Court and were charged under municipal code; Cannizzaro moved them in 2009 in part to signal a tougher attitude toward domestic violence.

Hansen, among others, opposes the latest transfer. "I'm not saying Municipal Court can't do a good job," Hansen said. "But I'm disappointed that the victims won't be protected as much, because there's no one to watch many of the defendants, who can now walk into Municipal Court, pay a fine and leave."

But the district attorney's office has said that by trying all state misdemeanor cases, roughly 4,000 of them annually, in Sens' court, Cannizzaro will be able to both expedite misdemeanor cases and focus work at Criminal District Court on felony-level violence and murders.

Sens said the judges can handle the caseload, but they need support staff and technology. "I'm not complaining about the additional work," he said. "But why aren't the resources following the cases? I've begged someone to explain it to me."

Sens said he has some money in his budget that could pay for in-house domestic-violence probation staff for about a year. But Municipal Court can't hire any additional staff unless the city agrees to lift a hiring freeze.

And probation staff isn't all the court needs to successfully monitor batterers, Sens said, noting that "only on rare occasions" can his court sentence defendants to wear ankle bracelets that track their whereabouts. He's been told the devices are reserved for Criminal District Court, he said.

Sens' small domestic-violence staff was laid off in early 2009, after Cannizzaro moved domestic-violence cases to state court. To handle the new demand there, grant-writers scrambled to build up domestic-violence staff by writing and receiving additional grants, Hansen said.

But that money can't be transferred because it was awarded to Criminal District Court based upon the standards it set in its felony-level domestic-violence monitoring court, Hansen said.

Missing the red flags

Nationally and locally, the vast majority of domestic-violence perpetrators are prosecuted for misdemeanors. Advocates in the city are not concerned about the ability of Municipal Court's staff to handle low-level "fussing" cases, where a couple with no history of violence argued and someone called the police.

But screeners with a seasoned eye can look at otherwise-innocuous cases and see red flags: choking, forced sex, gun ownership, increasing violence, threats of death, extreme jealousy, or an obsessive control of daily activities -- for instance, checking the victim's odometer, bank accounts and cellphone records.

Landry and other advocates believe the system failed [Kywanda Butcher](#), who went to police in New Orleans and neighboring parishes several times to report attacks by ex-boyfriend Keith Tate before he allegedly murdered her and her teenage son in October.

There's persuasive research showing that domestic-violence deaths are preventable if high-risk abusers are identified at early stages and put under intense court supervision.

In recent years, Hansen's domestic-violence court has established a reputation for reacting quickly to victims' reports of protective-order violations and for closely supervising batterers who -- under the threat of jail time -- are subject to regular checks of employment, drug-use and program attendance.

"From our perspective, the most comprehensive accountability is found at the d.v. monitoring court," Landry said.

In part, that may owe to the difference in the way cases are screened in the two courts. In state court, the district attorney's staff typically meets with the victim after arraignment, then screens the case and prepares it for prosecution.

In Municipal Court, some victims have told Landry's staff that more batterers are pleading guilty at first appearance. She fears some high-risk defendants will escape scrutiny by simply paying their fines and closing their cases.

Other advocates fret that records from Municipal Court are not available online, making it more difficult for advocates and victims to monitor a case and perhaps allowing chronic batterers to re-offend, unnoticed.

Landry says all these issues are symptoms of a larger problem.

"We don't have enough information to determine how the cases are being processed," Landry said. "And until we have that information, we can't determine whether there's an established system and whether it's good or bad."

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The Times-Picayune/nola.com
http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2011/01/post_233.html

St. Charles Parish

January 14, 2011

Destrehan couple's death ruled murder-suicide

By [Lori Lyons](#).

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office spent Friday investigating the deaths of two Destrehan residents, one a seventh grade teacher, in what investigators have classified a [murder-suicide](#).



Fenisha Charles, left, and Carroll Charles Jr.

The bodies of Carroll Charles Jr., 40, and Fenisha Charles, 38, 17 Trepagnier Drive in Ormond Estates, were discovered by the couple's 15-year-old daughter Thursday about 7:35 p.m. Both had suffered gunshot wounds.

According to a Sheriff's Office report, the daughter said she was awakened by the sound of gunshots and a short time later, discovered the bodies of her parents on the floor in their bedroom. She ran to the house of a neighbor, who called authorities.

An investigation later determined that Carroll Charles Jr. used a handgun to shoot his wife twice and then himself. The couple's other daughter, a 19-year-old college student, was not at home at the time of the shooting.

According to St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Capt. Pat Yoes, investigators learned that the couple had been experiencing marital problems.

Fenisha Charles, a 1990 graduate of Destrehan High was an educator in St. Charles Parish for more than eight years. She began her career in 2000 at Norco 4-6 and was a science teacher at R.K. Smith Middle School in Luling.

"Fenisha was always positive and upbeat for the kids and the staff," said R.K. Smith principal Harold Blood. "She was respected by all and loved by all. This is a tremendous loss for our R.K. Smith family."

Counselors were sent to the school Friday to help students and faculty.

"Support teams were on hand as teachers and students entered the building (Friday) morning," said School Superintendent Dr. Rodney Lafon. "Our plan for crisis management and emergency response works well with everyone knowing their role to play."

Carroll Charles owned his own construction company, Renaissance Construction Group and Express Flooring.

St. Charles Parish councilwoman and local real estate agent Wendy Edler Benedetto said she has known Carroll Charles for several years, hiring him to do work on her own home as well as referring him to others as a contractor. She said she last saw him a few weeks ago at the local grocery store.

"I don't know them as a family. I don't know what kinds of problems they were having. I just know him as a businessman," Benedetto said. "I can honestly say that I never, ever would have imagined that he could do something like this. I never heard a bad word about him."



BRETT DUKE / THE TIMES-PICAYUNE

Fenisha Charles, 38, and her husband, Carroll Charles, Jr., 40, were found shot to death in their home on Trepagnier Drive around 7:30 p.m. in Destrehan Thursday, January 13, 2011. St. Charles Parish sheriff's investigators say Carroll Charles killed his wife, Fenisha Charles, and then killed himself after a domestic dispute.

The crime has rocked the quiet neighborhood in the tony Ormond Estates located in a parish that historically has recorded low murder rates. In 2009 there was one murder and three last year , including a murder-attempted suicide.

On September 22, 2010 , Luling resident Gary Farrell shot and killed his friend, Ginger Mongrue Allen, and left her body in a parked car at St. Charles Parish Hospital. After a stand-off, Farrell shot himself in the head. He remains hospitalized.

In April 2010, authorities say Marshall Payton, 59, of New Sarpy, shot and killed his neighbor, fired several shots at his daughter and pistol-whipped his wife. Authorities say Payton told them that he thought his wife was having an affair. In November, four Norco teenagers were booked in the brutal beating death of 77-year-old Mary Nancy Mule Arico



St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office
http://www.stjohnsheriff.org/pressrelease_details.php?id=700
LaPlace, LA
St. John the Baptist Parish
October 14, 2013

Investigation Edward C. Campbell Jr Arrested in Domestic Disturbance

On Saturday, October 12, 2013, at 4:54 am, St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to an apartment on Ryder Court in LaPlace for the report of a domestic disturbance. While the 29-year-old female victim talked on the phone with a friend, her exboyfriend, **Edward C. Campbell Jr.**, 32, kicked in the backdoor of her residence. He grabbed the victim and threw her to



the floor. The friend that she was talking to on the telephone called the sheriff's office to report the disturbance. Because Campbell had threatened her, and she feared for her safety and the safety of her children, when deputies arrived, the victim told deputies Campbell left her residence and everything was OK. Not knowing that the perpetrator was still in the residence, the deputies left. Campbell refused to leave her residence, so the victim called Campbell's parents to come get him.

After Campbell was gone from the residence, the 29-year-old female victim called the sheriff's office at 6:16 am to report the incident. She told deputies that her ex-boyfriend repeatedly texted and called her starting around 2:30 that morning. He wanted to talk to her because he was upset that he was arrested in June for domestic violence. She told him not to come to her residence.

Investigators obtained a judicial court ordered arrest warrant for Edward C. Campbell Jr. He turned himself in to authorities at the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office Sherman Walker Correctional Center Saturday evening. Campbell was booked with simple criminal damage to property, simple assault, domestic abuse battery, and home invasion. He remains in custody in lieu of a \$32,500 bond.

Woman's body found with stab wounds

Boyfriend expected to be charged

By Heather Nolan
Staff writer

After a six-day search, authorities on Thursday found the body of Melinda Denny, a mother of four from Alabama who had been missing since her boyfriend was involved in a standoff with sheriff's deputies.

She had been stabbed to death.

A search team with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office found her body in a field off of Brewster Road north of Madisonville.

Denny, 26, of Mobile, Ala., last was seen with Johnathan Nall, who got into a SWAT standoff outside of a gas station in western St. Tammany on Saturday. Nall was threatening suicide. He is the only suspect in Denny's death, law enforcement officials said.

Sheriff Jack Strain said he expects charges will be brought

against Nall and that investigators have "no evidence" that points to a third party possibly being involved.

Nall already is being held in the St. Tammany Parish jail on charges related to the standoff.

Denny's body was found shortly after 10 a.m. Thursday along Brewster Road between Louisiana 21 and Louisiana 1077, authorities said. Interim St. Tammany Parish Coroner Dr. Pramod Menon confirmed she had been stabbed.

Strain told reporters at the scene that about 100 deputies were searching the area for Denny on Thursday morning when one of them discovered the body.

Stephanie Hoover, Denny's cousin, said Nall and Denny were seeing each other, but that they weren't in a serious relationship. Denny had driven to New Orleans last Thursday to pick up Nall, who said he was stranded with no money and no ride, she said.

The sheriff's office said the couple was traveling to Texas, but Hoover said Denny had checked in with her mom and told her they were coming back to Mobile. Concerned when they

Johnathan Nall
Denny's boyfriend taken into custody Saturday after a standoff outside a store north of Madisonville. He was booked with terrorizing and resisting an officer.



had not arrived by Friday, Denny's mom called her daughter, Hoover said.

Nall answered the phone, Hoover said, and would not let her speak to Denny. He did not answer any more of her calls, Hoover said.

Sheriff's office deputies checked on the couple at around 1:30 a.m. Saturday in the Winn-Dixie parking lot on Louisiana 21 south of Covington at the request of Nall's mom, who called from Alabama.

Nall was acting paranoid and said somebody was coming after them, Hoover said.

When deputies located the couple, Strain said they found both were OK. They discovered a weapon in Nall's Jeep, but no ammunition, he said. They did not find any criminal history on



Melinda Denny

amount of blood" in their Jeep, Hoover said.

Nall is scheduled to appear in court April 4 for a competency hearing. Nall's attorney, public defender John Lindner, filed a motion asking state district Judge A.J. Hand to set a hearing to determine Nall's mental condition now and at time of the alleged crime.

Hand signed the motion Wednesday, court records show.

The court filing claims Nall "may not be of sound mind and understanding and may have been insane at the time of the alleged offense and/or may be insane now" and that Nall "may be mentally defective or deficient and may be unable to understand the proceedings."

Nall was in protective custody at Greenbrier Behavioral Health Hospital on Saturday, and on Tuesday was booked in the St. Tammany Parish jail. Strain said Thursday that Nall has been cooperating with investigators.

Hoover said her family is "devastated, shocked and angry." She said Denny has four young children.

"We just want the facts," she said. "We want justice."

NEWS RELEASE

Covington, LA

St. Tammany Parish

September 27, 2013

MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DOMESTIC ABUSE BATTERY

COVINGTON—District Attorney Walter Reed reports that David Lee Killen, 42 of Covington, was found guilty as charged of domestic abuse battery involving strangulation on Thursday, September 26th, 2013. 22nd Judicial District Judge A. J. Hand presided over the 3 day judge trial before finding the defendant guilty. Assistant District Attorneys Jack Hoffstadt and Julie Knight were in charge of preparation and presentation of the State's case.

Killen was arrested in March 2012 by the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office after an adult female victim was battered. Killen and the victim were at home when Killen attacked the victim leaving strangulation marks on her neck. The victim was later able to find her phone and post photos of her strangulation marks on social media. Killen saw the photos and called police portraying himself as innocent. Several other prior victims testified at the judge trial of their mistreatment by the defendant.

District Attorney Walter Reed commented, "Domestic violence is a cancer on our society. This felony conviction should send a clear message that violence is never the answer to disagreements." Reed concluded.

Judge Hand will sentence Killen on October 4th, 2013. Domestic violence involving strangulation is punishable by imprisonment for up to 3 years. Killen could face up to 6 years in prison if found to be a multiple offender. Killen has a prior conviction for unauthorized entry of an inhabited dwelling in 2006.



<http://www.stpsso.com/blog/?p=727>

Covington, LA

St. Tammany Parish

March 13, 2013

Ex-Boyfriend Shoots Girlfriend and Her Father



An estranged boyfriend from New York shoots his ex-girlfriend and her father at a Covington area home.

Arrestee: Stephen Krell – 121 Kingspark Dr., Apt. K, Liverpool, New York (W/M – D.O.B. 05/09/64).

Last night at around 10:15 PM, the Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from an address on Fitzsimmons Rd. in the Covington area. The caller reported that her daughter and husband had been shot by the daughter's estranged boyfriend, Stephen Krell.

Deputies arrived at the address and found the female victim lying inside the home's kitchen area with a gunshot wound to the chest. Her father's head had been grazed by a bullet that Krell fired at him after shooting his ex-girlfriend. The female was airlifted by Acadian Ambulance Service to a south shore hospital. The father refused treatment at the scene.

Krell fled the scene following the shooting and drove to the nearest law enforcement office that he knew, State Police Troop L, where he surrendered himself. Troopers held Krell in their office until deputies arrived.

The initial investigation surrounding the shooting has revealed that Krell drove to the home of the victim and her parents where he parked his vehicle away from the residence. Krell waited on the porch of the home for his ex-girlfriend to return from church.

When the ex-girlfriend returned, Krell approached her as she exited her vehicle. Krell shot the ex-girlfriend and then, according to Krell, turned the gun on himself in an attempt to commit suicide. Krell stated that the gun malfunctioned and, as he was inserting a new magazine into the gun, the victim's father exited the residence. Upon seeing the father, Krell turned the gun and fired at him.

There is a history of domestic violence involving Krell and the victim. Krell was arrested by deputies on Christmas day of 2012 for domestic abuse battery following an altercation with the victim while the couple was in town visiting family.

The victim later returned to St. Tammany Parish after leaving Krell and has reported several incidents of harassing phone calls and one incident where Krell showed up at her parents' residence unannounced.

Deputies obtained a warrant for stalking and helped the victim seek a protective order. The victim obtained the protective order and Krell was located by the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office in New York where he was served on Feb. 26th, 2013.

Krell continued to contact the victim via phone calls, Facebook, and even game apps for smart phones. Another warrant was obtained for violation of a protective order for his refusal to cease communication with the victim.

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office lead domestic violence investigator has been handling this case since the 18th of February and has been in communication with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office in an effort to stop the harassment.

The victim is currently in guarded condition at a south shore hospital. Krell, who has been cooperating with investigators, has been booked into the parish jail on the following charges:

LRS 14:27/30 – Attempted first degree murder (2 counts)

LRS 14:79 – Violation of protective order (Warrant arrest from previous incident)

LRS 14:40.2 – Stalking (Warrant arrest from previous incident)

“This could easily have been a horrific tragedy with the loss of two family members. We are very grateful that, at this point, it appears the victim will survive this attack,” Sheriff Strain said. “While some domestic violence incidents are simply unpreventable, we will continue to do everything in our power to protect victims and ensure they get the help and support they need,” Strain said.

Krell's bond has been set at \$400,000

This entry was posted on Wednesday, March 13th, 2013 at 1:28 pm and is filed under [Uncategorized](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. Both comments and pings are currently closed.

Facebook.com
St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office
<https://www.facebook.com/stpsso/posts/429871997096781>
Abita Springs, LA
St. Tammany Parish
March 9, 2013

Abita Springs Area Man Shot During Armed Confrontation with Deputies

A St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's deputy shot an Abita Springs area man last night while responding to a domestic violence call at his residence.

The man has been identified as Jason Glover 28260 Hwy 435, Abita Springs DOB: 1/12/1981.

At approximately 11:00 p.m. last night, the Sheriff's office received a 911 call from Glover's girlfriend who reported that he had threatened to kill her and was armed with a handgun.

When deputies arrived, they found Glover sitting in his vehicle outside the residence. As Glover exited the vehicle, the deputies could see that he was armed with a handgun. The deputies' repeated calls for him to drop the weapon were ignored. Glover instead raised the gun and pointed it directly at one of the deputies. When he did so, the deputy fired at Glover, striking him twice.

Glover was transported to LSU Interim Public Hospital in New Orleans where early this morning he was reported to be on life support.

As with all deputy-involved shootings, both criminal and internal investigations will be conducted. The deputy will be given the opportunity to receive counseling and receive time off, if needed.

Glover served in the early part of the war in Afghanistan, and was one of the first servicemen from St. Tammany to return with significant injuries sustained during the war.

"This is truly a tragic situation," said Sheriff Strain. "Since his return from Afghanistan, this young man has struggled greatly to adjust and to recover from his experience. Sadly, he and his family were ultimately unable to find the help he truly needed. Today, the thoughts and prayers of the Sheriff's office go out to this family during their very difficult time," Strain said.

WBRZ – TV

Baton Rouge, LA

<http://www.wbrz.com/news/double-murderer-gets-life-in-prison/>

Amite, LA

Tangipahoa Parish

March 2014

Double Murderer Gets Life in Prison

Posted: Mar 14, 2014 10:24 PM by Trey Schmaltz

Updated: Mar 14, 2014 10:24 PM

Source: WBRZ



AMITE- Giles McGhee, 53, will serve life in prison for killing two people in Hammond two years ago.

A jury found McGhee guilty in February and he was sentenced this week.

Karum Smith, 40, was found shot along with Tamica Muse, 36, at a house that belonged to Muse. Muse previously dated McGhee and was dating Smith when the shooting happened.

Muse's daughter, who was home at the time, heard the gunshots and hid in a closet and called 911. She identified the voice of the killer as Giles McGhee and testified at the trial.

The shooting happened near Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. McGhee was caught after a chase near Central, in East Baton Rouge Parish after the murder.

McGhee must serve his sentence without the benefit of parole, probation or suspension of sentence.



Varnado murder trial delayed

The first-degree murder trial of Michael Varnado, accused of killing a mother and her two children, has been delayed for a second time.

Both the prosecution and defense need more time to prepare for the trial.

Varnado is accused of smothering his girlfriend, 20-year-old Quantell Roberts of Hammond; setting her FEMA trailer on fire; and leaving her infant and toddler behind in the burning trailer on February 16, 2007.

Investigators say the children, not related to Varnado, died of smoke inhalation.

After shooting spree, gun law concerns in La. town



AP Photo: Gerald Herbert

Kainan and Jessica McAllister pose with family photos of Kainan's sister Denise Freeman and her children Kacie and Joshua, during an interview with The Associated Press in Chalmette, La., Friday, Jan. 10, 2014. Denise was the first victim in the killing spree at the hands of her husband, Benjamin Freeman.

AP 2/13/14 By Stacey Plaisance of Associated Press

Shootings raised questions about Louisiana's safeguards for keeping guns out of the hands of troubled people.

[HOUMA, La.](#) — Denise Freeman was just starting to learn about the two sides to her new husband, Benjamin, before she was slain. There was the smiling Ben, dancing on a chair on his 38th birthday in October. Then there was the troubling Ben, handed a citation weeks later alleging domestic battery against his wife.

Pain, Questions Follow Louisiana Killing Spree



The day after Christmas, authorities say, Benjamin Freeman drowned his wife Denise in a bathtub before embarking on a shooting spree that left his ex-wife's mother and the CEO of a hospital where he used to work dead. Three others were wounded. In a last violent act, he turned a shotgun on himself, taking his life.

The rampage stunned Louisiana's bayou community of Houma, southwest of New Orleans, where the couple lived. In a nation recoiling from numerous shootings, the spree raised questions whether Louisiana law provides adequate safeguards for keeping guns out of the hands of troubled people — a concern that echoes across communities elsewhere in the U.S.



AP Photo: Gerald Herbert

This undated family photo provided by Kainan and Jessica McAllister shows Denise Freeman.

"I want to know how he got a gun," said Denise's brother, Kainan Mcallister. He said his sister had confided to him and his wife, Jessica, that her husband was seeking help for a mental disorder after he received the domestic battery citation in November.

"She told me that he was taking medication for bipolar disorder and that it was making him more aggressive and that they were switching the medication," Jessica Mcallister said. "She wanted to help him. She was trying to get him help."

Health professionals and investigators haven't disclosed any mental health details about Ben Freeman or whether a bipolar disorder was involved.

In photographs posted online, the couple appeared to be openly affectionate and loving.

The Mcallisters described Ben and Denise's relationship as a whirlwind romance. Both nurses, they met before but hadn't become romantically involved until recently. They dated and married in about a year's time and were often seen hugging and holding hands. But the Mcallisters say it was no secret Ben Freeman was having problems. The 38-year-old father of four from a previous marriage was embroiled in a custody dispute with his ex-wife.

Dr. Michael Blue, an assistant professor of clinical psychiatry at Tulane University School of Medicine, doesn't know the particulars of Freeman's mental health. But he said those with bipolar disorder, when not managed well, can experience inflated feelings of aggression, irritability, euphoria or depression. In extreme cases, patients can lose touch with reality or become delusional, he added.

No matter what was troubling Ben Freeman, critics note it wasn't hard for him to get a gun — or keep it.

Nationwide, patient confidentiality rights and privileges make it nearly impossible for mental health care providers to share patient information, even if they suspect someone is potentially dangerous, Blue said.

"There isn't really a law that protects me or any mental health professional," he said. "It's really only when they threaten a particular individual, then ... confidentiality can be broken, and then I have the duty to protect and warn the potential victim as well as the authorities."

Blue said involuntary inpatient hospitalization is an option for those who are gravely disabled or an imminent threat to themselves or others. But imminent threat isn't always so clear.

"Any person who is psychotic or manic could potentially be dangerous if they had access to a weapon," he noted.

In the Freeman case, there has so far been no proof of premeditation, said Brennan Matherne, spokesman for the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, the lead investigating agency since the shootings occurred there.

Asked if investigators were probing reports of a possible bipolar disorder in Ben Freeman, Matherne told The Associated Press in an email he had no information pending a toxicology report on Freeman still incomplete.

There was another nagging question raised by the killings: Agents who visited the Freeman home on Nov. 27 to answer a call about suspected domestic violence against the wife didn't know there was a protective order — previously requested by Freeman's ex-wife in another jurisdiction — still in force. That order specified that Freeman could not possess a gun and covered the dates May 1 through Nov. 30, 2013.

Even had they known of the order and the gun restriction, existing law notes officers need consent or probable cause to search for a weapon. Still, the knowledge could have influenced the line of questioning or approach at the scene, Matherne said.

Pete Adams, executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, said the state is working to close the information loophole. Currently, court records about violent offenders and firearm restrictions are not automatically sent to the federal database known as NICS, where local law enforcement officers could get a heads-up when responding to an incident, Adams said.

"The ability to do it is being implemented and built, but it's very complicated," Adams said.

NICS — the National Instant Check System — provides background records to determine whether a person has been disqualified for various reasons from buying a gun.

He said Louisiana has a disconnect in communication among courthouses, local law enforcement agencies and NICS — each with different electronic record systems.

Jon Griffin, a policy specialist with the Denver-based National Conference of State Legislatures, said that's an issue in several states.

"In the wake of recent mass shootings across the country, legislators have examined ways to alter their firearms laws in ways that best serve their communities. One way they have done so is by requiring state agencies to report to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System when an individual is found mentally ill," Griffin said via email.

Last month, the Obama administration announced a pair of executive actions intended to strengthen federal background checks for gun purchasers, particularly to limit firearms access for those with mental health issues. Several perpetrators of the nation's worst mass shootings have had such issues, including in the Newtown, Conn., school killings.

One proposed rule change aims to clarify terminology used by federal law to prohibit people from buying a firearm for mental health reasons — after complaints ambiguous wording made it hard to determine who should be blocked from purchases.

In January 2013, Ben Freeman bought a 12-gauge shotgun at a chain store. But no red flags arose during background checks. It was months before his ex-wife filed the protection order against him in Lafourche Parish.

Parishes, like counties elsewhere, are separate jurisdictions. When officers were called to Denise Freeman's Houma home in November, it fell to Terrebonne Parish agents to respond. And the crimes on Dec. 26 spanned two parishes as Freeman first killed his wife in Terrebonne Parish where Houma is located before entering Lafourche Parish nearby, authorities say.

After killing Denise, investigators say, Freeman went to the home of his ex-wife's parents, where he shot and killed his former mother-in-law and wounded his onetime father-in-law and former sister-in-law. Freeman then headed to the home of a longtime CEO for a hospital where Ben Freeman had worked as a nurse for years until 2011. Investigators say he shot and killed the executive and wounded the wife.

Hospital officials say Freeman had resigned, citing undisclosed personal reasons.



AP Photo: Gerald Herbert

Kainan McAllister, brother of Denise Freeman, shows the box of the shotgun, purchased and owned by Denise's husband, Benjamin Freeman.

Lafource Parish Sheriff Craig Webre said police previously had been called to the hospital after Freeman damaged a room and that Freeman told officers he would seek mental help.

Today, relatives and survivors struggle to heal as police seek a motive.

The Mcallisters said Freeman's relationship with Denise appeared to be improving in December. Denise Freeman was moving to drop the battery charges, the Mcallisters said, and she and her two children joined Ben at a family holiday party at the McAllister home.

But right after Christmas, Ben Freeman snapped, they said. Said Jessica Mcallister: "He ended up doing something that you can't take back."

Kainan Mcallister said his sister, a nurse for more than 20 years and a nurturer at heart, leaves a big void. "She was just good at taking care of other people," he said, choking with emotion. "She just wanted to be a mom for everybody."

TRI-Parish Times
http://www.tri-parishtimes.com/news/article_23ecebcb-79fd-57ab-bf4b-481ee8f06376.html?mode=story
Houma, LA
Terrebonne Parish
May 18, 2007

Houma man wanted for domestic assault, shooting



Houma man wanted for domestic assault, shooting

STAFF REPORT

Houma Police are searching for a local man accused of beating his 22-year-old girlfriend Wednesday afternoon and firing at her as she left, authorities said.

Kayan Tyson Brown, 20, of 121 Banks St., Houma, allegedly became enraged during an argument with his girlfriend and began punching and kicking her several times, police said. Officers reported the woman's left eye was extremely bruised and almost swollen shut.

When the 19-year-old friend of the victim rushed in to stop Brown, he threw a chair at her, striking the friend on the side of the face. Authorities said the teen had a whelp on the side of her face.

As the two women left the Banks Street residence, police said Brown shot at them. No one was injured in the shooting.

Brown, who has an outstanding warrant for domestic abuse battery, is known to drive a red Mustang. Houma Police are asking anyone with information as to his whereabouts to call (985) 873-6371.



<http://www.actionnews17.com/crime/artmid/496/articleid/10728/domestic-fight-results-in-washington-parish-shooting>

Washington Parish

January 9, 2014



Domestic fight results in Washington Parish shooting

From the Washington Parish Sheriff's Office

Author: [AN17](#)/Thursday, January 9, 2014/Categories: [Front Page](#), [News](#), [Crime](#)

Rate this article:

3.6

While investigating a shooting that took place at a residence on Borel Road in the Rio Community of southern Washington Parish, Sheriff's Office investigators determined that Loretta Hebert, 50, had shot her boyfriend, Gregory Dean, 50, in the groin with a .22 caliber pistol. Dean was not seriously injured and was treated and released from a local hospital.

Hebert and Dean, who met online, were drinking and became involved in a physical altercation. Hebert left the residence and returned with a pistol, laid it on the counter and told Dean to leave. According to Hebert, Dean refused to leave, threatened physical violence and began to advance on her. At that point she picked up the pistol and fired once, striking Dean in the groin.

After being shot, Dean removed several handguns from the residence and hid them in nearby woods. The couple then called the Sheriff's Office, claiming that the shooting was accidental.

The case was assigned to Detectives Damon Mitchell and Raymond Myers who interviewed both Hebert and Dean. Their investigation determined that the shooting was not accidental and that other weapons had been hidden in the woods. Detectives recovered the other weapons.

It was determined also that Dean had a criminal record, having been convicted in Florida in 2009 for Possession of a Controlled Substance, Cultivation of Marijuana, and Convicted Felon in Possession of a Firearm. He was arrested and transported to the Washington Parish Jail charged with Domestic Battery Abuse and Convicted Felon in Possession of a Firearm. He remains in the jail with bond set at \$ 100,000.

Hebert, the aggressor, was also arrested, charged with Aggravated Battery. She was released on \$50,000 bond on January 9.

Sheriff Randy Seal commended Detectives Mitchell and Myers on their work. "Our detectives sorted out the details, realized this was not an accidental shooting, and made good arrests. Domestic violence incidents are always complicated matters involving lots of emotion. In this case, the combination of alcohol, raw emotion and firearms led to a tragic incident. I appreciate the good work Detectives Mitchell and Myers did on this ca

Crowley, LA
Acadia Parish
April 6, 2013

STATE POLICE INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING IN ACADIA PARISH

State Police investigating officer involved shooting in Acadia Parish

CROWLEY -- Early Saturday morning, Acadia Parish Sheriff Wayne Melancon requested detectives with Louisiana State Police investigate a shooting on Leger Road south of the city limits of Crowley involving two of his deputies, according to a news release from Tfc. Stephen Hammons, Louisiana State Police Troop I Public Affairs.

The initial investigation indicates that at about 3 a.m. two deputies with the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office responded to a domestic disturbance complaint at a residence in the 6100 block of Leger Road, the news release stated.

When deputies arrived at the scene they entered the house and James A. Trahan, 41, of Crowley, armed himself with a shotgun, the news release stated. Trahan fired at the deputies striking one of them in the leg and the deputies returned fire fatally wounding Trahan, the news release stated.

The deputy who was shot has been transported to a local hospital where he underwent surgery. He is currently recovering in the hospital.

This case remains under investigation.

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Wife held in shooting of husband



An apparent domestic dispute led to the shooting of a man on a normally quiet street in north Crowley. The victim, Reginald Phillips, who was shot multiple times in the back,

is currently listed in serious condition at a Lafayette hospital after being transported from American Legion Hospital in Crowley. Family members have stated that one of the shots struck his spine leaving him unable to walk.

Crowley Police have charged his wife Kim Phillips, an employee of the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office, with attempted second degree murder.

The shooting occurred just before 6 p.m. on the 800 block of N. Ave. L. Apparently the victim was removing some of his items from the home when an argument ensued leading to Kim Phillips retrieving a firearm and shooting her husband.

"There has been a history of domestic issues at this home," said Crowley Chief of Police K.P. Gibson. "This is not the first time we've been over there."

Crowley Police working with the District Attorney's office will be charging Phillips with attempted 2nd degree murder. Bond was set at \$75,000.

"We still have a lot of leg work to do regarding this investigation," said Chief Gibson.

KSLA NEWS 12

<http://www.ksla.com/story/13235213/shooting-in-oberlin-leaves-two-dead-one-h>

Oberlin, LA

Allen Parish

September 29, 2013

Two dead, one injured during possible domestic violence

OBERLIN, LA (KPLC) - One man is still recovering in a local hospital and two others are dead after an overnight shooting in the 200 block of North 3rd Street in Oberlin.

According to the Allen Parish Sheriff's Office, 55-year-old George Wayne Dunn went to the home of his ex-wife, 54-year-old Candiss Dunn.

An argument reportedly began then ended when George allegedly fatally shot Candiss.

Authorities say that George then went outside where he spotted a neighbor, 60-year-old Dewith Carrier. Shots were fired at Dewith before George reportedly turned the gun on himself.

Dewith Carrier is the owner of Teachers-Pet, an educational resource supply center for area educational programs. Oberlin Mayor, Phillips Beard says Candiss Dunn was employed at Teachers-Pet in Oakdale and was renting a home that belong to Dewith Carrier.

The case is now reportedly being investigated as a domestic homicide suicide. Authorities say they are looking for any possible witnesses to the incident.

Carrier remains in serious condition at a Lake Charles Memorial Hospital.

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KPLCTV.COM

<http://www.kplctv.com/story/21952822/allen-authorities-investigating-childs->

Oberlin, LA

Allen Parish

April 12, 2013

SOURCE: FACEBOOK



Tatiana Holyfield



Bobby Davis Jr. (SOURCE: Allen Parish Sheriff's Office)

OBERLIN, LA (KPLC) -

Bond has been set for a suspect arrested in a case involving a child's death in Allen Parish.

Bobby Davis Jr. remains in jail on \$100,000 bond. He has been charged with aggravated battery. More charges are possible, said Allen Parish Sheriff Doug Hebert, pending the autopsy report. Authorities said they still await the report.

Allen Parish authorities said the Sheriff's Office received a call Thursday afternoon from Allen Parish Hospital officials who reported a deceased 2-year-old girl with severe third-degree burns on her back.

Now, investigators with the APSO are pointing fingers at 28-year-old Davis Jr., reportedly the mother's live-in boyfriend, who they believe is responsible for the young girl's death.

"After 20 years in law enforcement, it's probably the saddest thing I've seen or would ever see again," Hebert said.

The 2-year-old victim, Tatiana Holyfield, suffered third-degree burns by means of a space heater, something Hebert said was a red flag for child abuse.

"She didn't fall on the heater. The heater didn't fall on her. Physical contact with that heater was made to happen over a prolonged period. Long enough for the metal grating to burn through the skin and the flesh to the bone," Hebert said.

While the mother of Tatiana was at work, Davis was watching the young girl at her home. And after much investigation, law enforcement pinned Davis as the one responsible for the abuse. Hebert said it is one of the worst cases of child abuse he's ever seen.

Numerous bruises and cuts were also discovered on the toddler's body throughout the investigation.

"There's no punishment that will ever replace or be true justice for that child," Hebert said. "It's another one of those memories I wish I didn't have."

Hebert said Davis does not have a criminal record and this is his first arrest.

"We're taking every precaution to make sure that this investigation is done right and properly and so that the person responsible hopefully gets to spend the rest of his life in jail," he said.

Currently, no bond is set for Davis. And as of right now, Hebert said there is no evidence linking the mother to her daughter's death.

Hebert said he expects the case to be ruled a homicide but authorities are awaiting a coroner's report for a cause of death to make that determination.

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<http://www.kplctv.com/story/18966377/beauregard-parish-man-shot-1-arrested>

Deridder, LA
Beauregard Parish
July 6, 2013



Darrell Regan

By Charlie Haldeman -

DERIDDER, LA (KPLC) -

A Beauregard Parish man was found dead Friday morning and one person was arrested, authorities said. Darrell G. Regan, 56, was found dead on the back porch of a neighbor's house, according to Beauregard Parish Sheriff Ricky Moses.

In an email to media, Moses said deputies were called to a home on Pumpkin Loop Rd. in the Bundick Lake area around 6:45 a.m. Friday. Moses said Regan was shot at his home and ran to his neighbor's house for help. Regan was shot in the chest.

The woman being held in connection with the homicide is behind bars, booked for murder.

A dirt road leads to the place off Pumpkin Loop, where a Regan was shot to death. Beauregard Sheriff's deputies say he was allegedly shot at his home and ran to a neighbors for help, but collapsed on the back porch. He was dead when he was discovered.

Regan's daughter, Theresa Tevy, of Baytown, Texas, came to the scene after getting a call from her grandmother. "From everything I've been told his body was found next door. Next, next door. He was apparently shot here and crawled for help next door and that's where they found him," said Tevy.

Dana Plunkett was arrested and booked on a charge of second degree murder. Tevy says her dad became involved with Plunkett a couple of years ago. Said Tevy, at the scene, "Every time her medication would go haywire, she would go haywire. So, we've had problems from the time they got together but I never thought it would come down to this."

Tevy said her dad was a fun loving person who will be greatly missed. "My dad was a wonderful dad. He was an absolutely wonderful person. He didn't have an enemy in the world because it didn't matter if he knew you or not. He would take the shirt off his back to give it to you. He was the jokester. It didn't matter how bad a situation was, he was making a joke about it. He loved life," said Tevy.

She says she hopes for justice and an outcome that protects the community. "I hope that wherever she gets put, she doesn't hurt anyone like this ever again. No one deserves that type of hurt," said Tevy.

Plunkett is being held in the Beauregard Parish Jail. At last word no bond had been set.

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WBRZ.COM

<http://www.wbrz.com/news/woman-admits-to-killing-husband-with-crowbar/>

Lake Charles, LA

Calcasieu Parish

April 2, 2013

Woman admits to killing husband with crowbar

Source: Associated Press

LAKE CHARLES - A Lake Charles woman has admitted to killing her husband with a crowbar.

The American Press reports 53-year-old Darlene Sias pleaded guilty Monday to an amended charge of manslaughter in the death of 62-year-old Joseph Sias.

Darlene Sias, who was scheduled to go to trial Monday, was charged with second-degree murder.

The prosecution and the defense said they will offer a joint recommendation for Darlene Sias' sentence, which Judge Clayton Davis will hand down April 17.

She faces up to 40 years in prison.

Prosecutor Rick Bryant said Darlene Sias went into the bedroom of the couple's home on Dec. 20, 2011, and attacked Joseph Sias with a crowbar, killing him instantly.

THE
ADVOCATE

<http://theadvocate.com/home/6923381-125/evangeline-parish-woman-arrested-in>

Evangeline Parish

September 7, 2013

Evangeline Parish woman arrested in daughter's slaying



Police: Mother gave 15-month-old alcohol, beat her

Billy Gunn

LAFAYETTE — Authorities in Evangeline Parish have arrested a Turkey Creek woman accused of beating her 15-month-old daughter from head to toe on April 14, giving the girl alcohol and waiting four hours to seek medical help.

Ayla M. Lynch, 22, was booked this week on one count of first-degree murder in the death of Brooklyne Mann, who was dead on arrival at a hospital, Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office Capt. Mike Perry said Friday.

"Mom and boyfriend get into an argument, mom was not happy and the little girl was the nearest thing to her to take out her frustrations on," said Perry, chief investigator for the Sheriff's Office.

Lynch was suspected in the slaying when Brooklyne died, Perry said, but it's taken months to gather evidence that the District Attorney's Office will take to a grand jury on Sept. 25.

Perry said hospital officials alerted law enforcement authorities after seeing Brooklyne's body.

"The body had bruises from her head to her toes," Perry said. Investigators believe Lynch used her fists to strike the child, he said.

Lynch has other children and has had run-ins with police and state child welfare officials before, Perry said.

Perry did not state whether Lynch has custody of the other children, or if they were with her on April 14.

Perry said detectives believe Lynch started beating Brooklyne at 2 p.m., and didn't seek medical attention for her until 6 p.m. And even then, Perry said, Lynch stopped at a store to buy cigarettes en route to the hospital.

"Lynch has been at the forefront of the investigation from the start of the investigation, but with additional information and several days of speaking with Lynch she was arrested Aug. 29 ...," reads a statement from the Sheriff's Office.

Lynch remained in the Evangeline Parish jail on Friday. A bond hearing is scheduled for Wednesday in 13th Judicial District Court in Ville Platte, Perry said.

"She's already made the statement that if she gets out she's gone," Perry said.

Lynch's arrest comes two months after an investigation in East Baton Rouge Parish in which a Baton Rouge mother was booked with second-degree cruelty to a juvenile in the death of 11-month-old Aaliyah Heard. In that case in late June, an autopsy revealed that the baby died of blunt force trauma to the head and had several marks, bruises and abrasions, in addition to cigarette burns.

The Heard investigation came two weeks after a Baton Rouge mother and her partner were booked with first-degree murder in the death of 23-month-old Justyce Cheatham. In that case, an autopsy revealed the boy received several suspicious injuries and that he died from blunt force head injuries.

In another child beating death in April in Baton Rouge, 18-month-old Azaria Johnson died of blunt force trauma to the head after she was struck by her mother's boyfriend, authorities have said.

THE DAILY IBERIAN

January 6, 2013

Iberia Parish

'Epidemic' of Violence

BY JESSICA GOFF

Ada Nelson Berard's death puts the number of women killed in Iberia Parish due to domestic violence at 14 since 2003.

Her death on Dec. 22, which authorities allege was at the hand of her husband, is a reflection a violent culture that continues to damage families and disrupt lives, say members of the community who spoke at a rally Saturday afternoon in response to Berard's death and a widespread abuse "epidemic."

More than 50 people gathered at the Steamboat Warehouse Pavilion for the first Survivor Rally to End the Culture of Violence

"Domestic violence doesn't have a face. It does not have a skin color or a religion and economic status does not matter," said event coordinator Joseph Battle, who is also Berard's cousin. "The purpose of this event today is to uplift, encourage and inspire despite the tragedies that we may have endured at one point in our lives."

Violence that goes on inside homes is often a "generational curse," Battle said, as it can carry from abusive fathers and mothers.

In 2011 local shelter Safety Net for Abused Persons received 1,937 crisis calls from Iberia Parish abuse victims, SNAP's executive director Carol Mumm, said.

Losing victims to domestic violence, such as Berard, is a tremendous blow for the shelter, Mumm said.

"Fourteen women murdered ... They were murdered, slaughtered by that person that said 'I love you.' That is not right," she said Saturday.

Gov. Bobby Jindal's recent cuts to programs funding shelters and domestic abuse programs is expected to impact the local shelter, Mumm said.

To deal with the decrease in state funding that organization plans to rearrange its budget, rather than reducing its staff, she added.

During Saturday's rally several women and men shared personal accounts of enduring abuse either from a partner or a parent.

Keija Bryant of New Iberia said she entered into a relationship with a man in 2004 that eventually escalated into physical and emotional abuse.

Early on in the courtship, she said she saw no signs of a man capable of violence.

But as time went on “true colors” of a jealous man began to show and his aggressive behavior grew more extreme.

After several failed attempts, she said, she finally mustered up the strength to walk away from the relationship. Because of that she is stronger, she said.

“Since I survived that, I know I can survive anything,” she told the crowd Saturday.

Bryant said people enmeshed in abusive relationships often think “outsiders” don’t understand what they are going through.

“But you aren’t as alone as you think,” Bryant said.

When it comes to teaching how to have respectful relationships, fathers play a particularly important role for their sons and daughters, said Tony Miguez, SNAP’s Board of Directors president.

Also director of the city’s Parks and Recreation Department, he said he also spoke on behalf of Mayor Hilda Curry’s office Saturday.

“Domestic abuse is an epidemic today in Iberia Parish and the city of New Iberia,” Miguez said. “We need to start teaching our youngsters about domestic violence and healthy relationships.”

Last year Miguez said he took his 12-year-old daughter on a “date” to show her how gentlemen should behave.

“I picked her up, I opened the car door for her. When I took her to dinner I pulled out the chair,” he said. “After we got back, I said to her ‘You will not accept anything less than I just showed you. You have to respect yourself or they are not going to respect you.’ ”

Several speakers, including Battle, directed their messages to the young men at Saturday’s rally. It is they who will change the course of the way people treat one another, Nathaniel Mitchell, diversion program specialist with the 16th Judicial District said.

“You represent a whole class of young people who are saying ‘You know what? Enough is enough.’ That’s so important,” Mitchell told them.

As a mother grieving the loss of her daughter to violence, Patricia Ann Nelson said her greatest hope is that Berard’s death will alert others who feel trapped by abuse.

“My daughter is smiling right now,” she tearfully told the crowd. “But let this be an example to everybody. Please get out. Love your children and love God. But please, get out.”

96.5 fm **KPEL**

<http://kpel965.com/iberia-parish-man-arrested-for-false-imprisonment-aggravated-domestic-battery/>

April 4, 2013

Iberia Parish

Iberia Parish Man Arrested For False Imprisonment & Aggravated Domestic Battery

By [Bernadette Lee](#)



Keith Romero, Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office Photo

The Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office says that they arrested 46-year-old Keith Romero after they responded to a home in the 3700 block of King Street after receiving a call about a domestic violence incident.

Detectives say the suspect fled the scene before they got there. They learned that the victim sustained injuries during the domestic violence incident, and she was prevented from leaving the home.

After a brief search, investigators found Romero near the are of the home. He was taken into custody.

Romero was booked into the Iberia Parish Jail on charges of false imprisonment and aggravated domestic battery.

The case remains under investigation.

Read More: [Iberia Parish Man Arrested For False Imprisonment & Aggravated Domestic Battery](http://kpel965.com/iberia-parish-man-arrested-for-false-imprisonment-aggravated-domestic-battery/?trackback=tsmclip) | <http://kpel965.com/iberia-parish-man-arrested-for-false-imprisonment-aggravated-domestic-battery/?trackback=tsmclip>

Saturday, September 10, 2011
New Iberia, LA
Iberia Parish

New Iberia, LA: Three sue stepmother over murder

Three children of a popular New Iberia dentist have filed a lawsuit claiming their father's latest wife not only paid to have their father murdered, but also helped cover up the crime in order to collect life insurance money and part of his estate.

The civil suit, filed this week in Louisiana's 16th Judicial District Court in New Iberia, claims Dr. Robert Chastant's third wife, Laurie Futral Chastant, played a role in the doctor's death.

Ismael Viera, the Mexican citizen who pleaded guilty to murdering Chastant, was sentenced in July to life imprisonment for second-degree murder.

Viera, an undocumented worker who was arrested just before Christmas last year, initially entered a plea of not guilty to a second-degree murder charge in early April after being indicted by an Iberia Parish grandjury in March. He ultimately pleaded guilty in mid June.

"Upon information and belief... Laurie Futral Chastant enticed Ismael Viera to commit the said act of murder by offering Ismael Viera a sum of money to kill her husband and... participated with Ismael Viera in attempting to cover up the crime," the lawsuit alleges.

Stephen "Buzz" Durio, who is Laurie Futral Chastant's attorney, provided The Daily Advertiser with a draft of the lawsuit filed against his client. He said the allegations are not consistent.

"This lawsuit is totally unfounded and preposterous," Durio said.

The lawsuit claims Laurie Futral Chastant is "liable for the acts" of Viera, and also says she is "unfit" to receive any of the bequests made to her in her husband's will and any money from life insurance in his name.

Three of Chastant's children — Robert Chastant Jr., Michele Chastant Stark and Megan Duval-Chastant Qualls — are the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. It does not identify the monetary amount the plaintiffs are seeking in damages. Capt. Ryan Turner, a spokesman for the Advertisement

Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office, said Friday evening that police have not closed the investigation in Chastant's death.

"It is still an ongoing case," Turner said. "There is not much I can comment on at this time."

Turner said civil suits do not often impact criminal proceedings.

He could neither confirm nor deny that Laurie Futral Chastant is a suspect or a person of interest in the case.

Turner said his office is awaiting results of some evidence being tested, but he wouldn't comment on what that evidence is or for what it is being tested.

"I can tell you we are working closely with the District Attorney's Office to come to a resolution and close this case," Turner said.

Turner could not provide a timeline as to when the case may be closed.

Durio said his client cooked Chastant breakfast on the morning of his murder, and she called police to report he was missing. Durio said she then spent most of that day with police officers.

Durio said no charges have been filed against Laurie Futral Chastant. In his elocution as part of his plea, Viera claimed he killed Chastant after an argument rather than after conspiring to do so.

"If Laurie had done any of those things alleged in this lawsuit, Ismaiel Viera would have been guilty of first-degree murder and not second-degree murder," Durio said. "This thing comes nine month after the fact, after everything Laurie did was looked at too, and there are no charges against her." According to family members, Chastant had left his house early on Monday, Dec. 13, to visit his stables on Sugar Oaks Road and was reported missing at 9 a.m. when he failed to show up for work. A vehicle belonging to Chastant, who had practiced in the New Iberia area for more than 20 years, was found abandoned, though police now believe Viera drove the vehicle to the location in an attempt to throw off the investigation. Chastant's body was found later that day in a barn at the horse ranch where Viera both lived and worked for the dentist for more than a year as a general handyman. Advertisement Viera, who police say was a suspect from the beginning, was arrested the next morning. The local coroner's report listed the cause of Chastant's death was multiple blunt force trauma to the head and neck. Police would later report the pair had been involved in a physical and verbal altercation on the morning of his death. Turner said Viera's illegal immigration status did not affect the case. Chastant, who would have turned 61 just days after his murder, was also an accomplished author, lecturer and inventor who was known for his kindness, often providing his services for free to those in need.

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<http://www.theadvertiser.com/article/20140209/NEWS01/302090009/Suit-against-police-hold-shooting-trial-begins>

Youngsville, LA

Lafayette Parish

February 9, 2014

Suit against police on hold as shooting trial begins



Tammy Romero

Anastasia Semien

The manslaughter trial of a Youngsville woman accused of shooting and killing her live-in boyfriend is scheduled to start Monday. Meanwhile, the lawsuit she filed against the Youngsville police department appears to be on hold pending the outcome of her trial.

Tammy L. Romero, 42, was initially charged with second-degree murder in the death of Victor Wirtz, who was 45 when police found him July 23, 2012, in the couple's home with a gunshot wound in his chest. Wirtz was transported to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

A grand jury indicted Romero on a lesser charge of manslaughter Oct. 31, 2012. Her trial is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m.

According to the arrest affidavit, Youngsville Police officers were dispatched to Wirtz and Romero's home in response to a call about a man being shot. They found Wirtz lying on the floor in a bathroom with a gunshot wound to his upper chest.

Police also found a silver semi-automatic pistol with black grips on a night stand in the master bedroom.

The affidavit says Romero told police the couple was involved in a verbal and physical fight when Wirtz struck her once behind the head. She said she attempted to call police, and shot Wirtz during a struggle as he attempted to take her cellphone.

"The arrestee advised the victim grabbed her right wrist during which time she pulled the pistol's trigger and it discharged, striking the victim. The arrestee advised she did not mean to shoot the victim but admitted to willfully pulling the pistol's trigger," the affidavit says.

Civil suit

Romero later filed a civil suit against the Youngsville Police Department and its chief, Earl Menard, saying they didn't do enough to protect her from Wirtz.

According to the suit, Romero was a victim of domestic abuse and sought the protection of the Youngsville Police Department several times before the shooting. Romero sought a protective order June 28, 2011, the suit

says, “after failing to receive protection or help from the City of Youngsville Police Department, and out of a sense of desperation.”

In the suit, Romero says the police department violated the Louisiana Protection from Family Violence Act when it failed to protect her from Wirtz, didn’t help her get medical treatment and when officers failed to label Wirtz a “predominant aggressor” or arrest him.

The suit also claims Romero’s treatment after her arrest was abusive and “an effort to divert attention from their failure to prevent the violence that occurred, their failure to protect (Romero) from domestic abuse and their responsibility for the death of Mr. Wirtz.”

She is seeking damages for alleged physical and emotional pain and suffering, and for legal and other expenses related to the ordeal.

Romero’s attorney, Edwin G. Preis Jr., declined to comment on the case, saying in a written statement “The civil case has been put on hold until the criminal case is resolved.”

Legal perspective

According to Ken Levy, associate professor of law at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU, Romero appears to be blaming Youngsville police for the shooting of Wirtz and not claiming self-defense.

“Even if Ms. Romero provides strong evidence for this claim, I don’t think that it would absolve her of manslaughter,” he said Friday via email. “Though it might win her some damages in the civil lawsuit that she filed against the Youngsville police.”

Levy said it will be difficult for Romero to prove that police didn’t do enough to protect her.

“A restraining order ... does not require police to stand guard at the petitioner’s house, ready to step in at the first sign of an argument or fight,” Levy wrote. “A restraining order is a guarantee only that the police will use reasonable means to enforce it, and a condition of this enforcement is that Ms. Romero alert the police to any suspected danger.”

If Romero tried to call police but was prevented by Wirtz, police can’t be blamed for failing to show up, Levy said.

However, Romero’s claim might be stronger if there’s evidence that police failed to take previous incidents between her and Wirtz seriously, he said, especially if they failed to arrest Wirtz when they had probable cause.

According to Capt. Kip Judice, spokesman for the Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office, Wirtz was never booked into the Lafayette Parish Correctional Center on a domestic violence charge. Judice said Friday, that Wirtz could have been arrested but was never officially charged with domestic abuse.

The Youngsville Police Department would not release any details concerning Wirtz’s criminal history, saying his record is part of an open investigation.

Chief Menard with the Youngsville Police Department did not respond to requests for comment on the case.

Shot in the USA: Gun Violence After Newtown

<http://usgunviolence.wordpress.com/2013/02/27/killed-judith-babineaux-lafayette-parish-la/>

Lafayette, LA

Lafayette Parish

March 1, 2013

Killed – Judith Babineaux (Lafayette Parish, LA)

LAFAYETTE – Sheriff's Office detectives investigating the deaths of a north Lafayette Parish couple said Thursday they have concluded that Joseph Babineaux shot his wife Judith Babineaux then turned the handgun on himself

The bodies of the Babineauxs, both 52, were found by a family member on Wednesday in a front room of their home at 126 Lebesque Road, Lafayette, Sheriff's Office spokesman Kip Judice said in a news release.

The daughter who discovered her parents' bodies called the Sheriff's Office at 4:09 p.m. Wednesday, the release states.

On Wednesday, Judice said a witness had seen the couple alive at noon, and that investigators worked into the night processing the scene.

<http://theadvocate.com/news/5311888-123/lafayette-detectives-say-deaths-of>

<http://kpel965.com/lebesque-road-shooting-victims-identified-died-of-apparent-murder-suicide/>

<http://www.nbc33tv.com/news/local-news/lafayette-couple-found-de>

http://murder-suicide.blogspot.com/2013_02_01_archive.html

Opelousas husband tells police: 'I can't wait to kill again'

Billy Gunn

OPELOUSAS — Constance Moran lay on her bedroom floor, bloodied by multiple stab wounds her husband told police he had inflicted.

"The last thing she told me was that she loved me, I looked at her straight in the eyes and said I love you too baby," Hank Moran told police.

Then, he said, he stabbed her one last time in her esophagus.

Much of what Hank Moran said Tuesday morning to arresting Opelousas police Pvt. Morris Leday is contained in an arrest affidavit written by Opelousas police Sgt. Crystal LeBlanc.

Included in the document are Moran's warning that he liked killing and would do so again.

It was gratifying, he said.

Moran remains on suicide watch at the St. Landry Parish Jail, Sheriff Bobby Guidroz said Thursday.

Moran, 44, was booked on one count of first-degree murder and one count of simple battery in the slaying Tuesday of Constance Moran, 57.

On Wednesday, state Magistrate Judge Ellis Daigle ordered jail officials to keep Moran behind bars without bail.

The case remains under investigation by the Opelousas Police Department.

According to the affidavit, Constance Moran made a 911 call at 5:28 a.m. Tuesday, saying her husband choked her after she told him she wanted out of their marriage.

The responding officer, Leday, couldn't find Hank Moran at the couple's house on South Railroad Drive, so he searched the area near the home.

Moran later told police he hid under the home, a wooden structure that sits atop cement blocks, when Leday responded. Minutes later, Leday returned to check on Constance Moran, looked inside the home and realized he was too late.

"Once in the living room, Officer Leday stated that he then looked to the right in a side bedroom and observed Mr. Moran crouching near Ms. Moran (with) a very large amount of blood on the floor and on the body of Mr. Moran," Sgt. LeBlanc wrote.

In Moran's right hand was a bloodied black knife, and on a nearby night stand was a bottle of pills. Moran picked up the bottle and downed an unknown number of them. The report never identifies what type of pills were in the bottle.

With an ambulance en route, Moran turned to his wife's body and said, "I bet now she'll listen," the affidavit reads. And when paramedics checked Moran's vitals, he blurted out, "I did what I had to do. ... I did the job right, huh officer? Did I do the job right?"

Before Tuesday, the Morans were not problems for Opelousas police.

Neither Hank Moran nor Constance Moran had faced a criminal charge since 1995, there is no court record of Constance Moran seeking a protective order against her husband, and Police Chief Perry Gallow said police never received calls about domestic disturbances in the Moran home.

Neighbors said the couple led a poor but quiet life at 1232 S. Railroad Drive, with neither having a current job nor a vehicle.

Civil court records show the couple filed a lawsuit in 2005 after Constance Moran was hurt at a neighbor's home. In the lawsuit paperwork, the couple claimed poverty: she earned minimum wage at a local Dollar General, and he was an iron worker who made \$1,600 a month.

The insurance company in 2007 settled with the Morans. The terms of the settlement were not revealed.

Sitting outside an interview room Tuesday while waiting on detectives, Hank Moran made statements without being asked, the report states, and without having an attorney in the room even though he was advised of his right to remain silent.

"I waited under the house until y'all left then I kicked the door and commence to juggin (stabbing) her," Moran said. "She yap yap yap her mouth all night and I was tired of it, I was trying to sleep and I just couldn't take it anymore ... and I can't wait to kill again.

"It's kinda gratifying believe it or not," Moran said, according to the report.

As officers were about to lock Moran into a jail cell, they told him to remove his wedding ring.

"Mr. Moran made the comment, 'I'm not taking this ring off it's my marriage ring. I killed her, but I loved the bitch.'"

Deputy kills husband in Breaux Bridge

Ken Grissom



Domestic abuse situation suspected
BREAUX BRIDGE

Louisiana State Police are investigating a shooting at an apartment complex Sunday night that left one man dead.

Neither the deceased nor the shooter have been officially identified but knowledgeable sources tell the Teche News that the dead man is Kendell Alexander, husband of Crystal Cluse, a commissioned officer with the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office, and she is reportedly the shooter.

Sources said Cluse may be considered a victim of domestic abuse.

Alexander had reportedly been arrested on complaints of domestic abuse in the past.

The incident occurred at the Potpourri South Apartments in the 400 block of E. Mills Avenue.

Domestic death

BY MATTHEW BEATON

ST. MARTINVILLE — It was supposed to be a murder suicide.

After Joshua McKeel shot his pregnant fiancée in the face, he tried to kill himself, but the gun jammed, said Charlene Tucker, the victim's mother who witnessed the incident. The single shotgun blast from less than 10 feet away killed Hannah Parker, 19, immediately and left her unborn child dead too. It was McKeel's child.

The two had been living with Tucker at her trailer in St. Martinville.

Previously Parker had fled the abusive relationship, moving in with her father's family in Winnsboro near Monroe, Tucker said.

"They had split up. He had beat her. He hit her and she left," Tucker alleged. "She went to stay with her dad to get away from Josh."

The two had been dating off and on for about two years. Then Parker decided to come back, and the relationship resumed. Her first night back she stayed with McKeel at his home in Catahoula.

Tucker said she was angered when the two got back together.

"I really didn't want him to come to my house," Tucker said. "I said, 'Hannah, he's no good for you. He is no good for you.'"

Tucker said she compromised by allowing McKeel to stay at her house instead of her daughter living with him.

"I said, 'You claim you love him. He can come stay at the house, but you're not going over there (to Catahoula) ... because if something breaks out then I'll be there and hopefully I can stop it,'" Tucker said.

So the young couple joined Tucker in her ramshackle trailer at 1531 Lady of the Lake Road. And it went pretty well.

"We were doing family things, watching movies. I mean the family was coming together like it should. They were getting along good. ... There wasn't no fussin'. There wasn't no fightin'," Tucker said.

Even Wednesday, the couple seemed fine. They were cleaning out a camper on the property, said Charles Tucker, 72, Parker's maternal grandfather. He owns the property where the homicide occurred and has a trailer next to Tucker's.

"I said, 'I'm going to go lay down and elevate my feet, and I'll talk to y'all after a while.' I never talked to them again after that," Charles Tucker said. "If there'd been anything wrong I would've known it, but they were getting along good."

Charles Tucker was sleeping when the sirens woke him about an hour later. He didn't hear the gunshot that went off around 4 p.m.

Charlene Tucker unfortunately watched the final grisly moments right in front of her. She drove up to the trailer in a black Chevy pickup, which she had taken out on a job hunt. She saw Parker outside screaming for a man named J.R. who lived in the camper, about 75 yards away.

"(Josh) had lost it. He was playing with the gun trying to kill himself, and the next thing I knew

Josh came right in the doorway and pointed the gun straight at her and shot her," Tucker said.

Tucker hadn't even unbuckled her seat belt.

She recalled, her daughter had "turned and looked at me, and when she turned back Josh was in the door with the gun ... She was looking straight at him when he did it."

Tucker said she didn't know who owned the shot gun and never knew it was in the trailer.

The shot hit Parker in the face, killing her immediately. Then McKeel came over apologizing.

"I was getting out of the truck, he came grab me saying, 'I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry.' I said, 'Sorry my ass.' I said, 'Man, what have you done,'" Tucker said, descending into tears. "She was dead. She was dead. By the time I came out of the truck, her brains all over the ground. She's dead."

Then McKeel tried to reload the gun to kill himself.

"It jammed on him," Tucker said, and she called out, "Please don't do it! No, Josh don't do it!

Don't do it! There's another way out. Don't do it!"

Then McKeel put the gun down and sat on the steps and said how sorry he was, acquiescing to his fate.

"I don't know what was on his mind. I don't know what happened that day," Tucker said. "All I know is that this man shot my daughter in cold blood."

On Friday afternoon, Charles went back to the trailer. It was his first time back. A spot of red-tinged dirt still stood in front of the truck.

"I respect someone's blood, granddaughter or no granddaughter," Tucker said.

Meanwhile, Charlene Tucker was staying at her mother's house in Coteau. She said the couple was unemployed during the time they stayed with her.

Parker had recently looked for a job, but she was seven months pregnant and was scheduled to have labor induced on Feb. 28. Between that and the fact that she dropped out of high school in the 10th grade, her prospects weren't great. Nevertheless, Tucker said she wanted to help out financially.

Tucker said she knew little of McKeel's background and said she had only met his mother a few times. Once he asked to take Parker away with him to pursue a job, but Tucker refused.

"I said, 'Hannah's not going with you. If you're going to be with Hannah, you're going to be with Hannah right here,' " Tucker said.

There was domestic violence in the relationship. Though Tucker said she never witnessed it, Parker told her that McKeel beat her. It got bad enough to where Tucker wanted to go to the police, but Parker begged her not to, Tucker said.

From what she saw, she thought McKeel was excited about being a father. A man who spoke for the McKeel family declined to comment for the story and said the parents did not wish to speak either. McKeel is in the St. Martin Parish jail on \$750,000 bond. If that bond were paid, he would be turned over to the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office for a second-degree battery charge, according to the St. Martin Parish jail.

Charles Tucker said he hoped justice would be served. And Charlene Tucker gave her thoughts on what should be done.

"If any way possible, I feel they should seek the death penalty. But that's not good enough," Tucker said. "Because what he's taken from my family, death ain't nothing."

McKeel has been charged with second-degree murder and first-degree feticide. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison for the feticide charge and automatic life in prison without parole for second-degree murder, according to state law.

Parker leaves behind another child, a 2-year-old girl, which she did not have custody of. McKeel was not the father.



http://www.hannapub.com/concordiasentinel/about_us/concordia_about.html

Larto, LA

Catahoula Parish

December 18, 2013

DA describes crime scene in Larto triple homicide



Lee John Ponthieux Jr.

by [Stanley Nelson](#)

While a 43-year-old Larto man is on trial for three homicides, both the prosecution and defense said during opening arguments Tuesday that the defendant's girlfriend was involved in the murders in which the two female victims suffered 36 knife wounds.

The girlfriend, 59-year-old Debbie Adams, was the daughter of one female victim and the sister of the other. She also had once been married to her sister's husband, the third victim in the case.

The first degree murder trial of Lee John Ponthieux Jr. began with jury selection on Monday in the Catahoula Parish courthouse in Harrisonburg. A 10-woman, two-man panel was chosen with two alternates, one male, one female.

Ponthieux is accused of stabbing to death 76-year-old Annie Bell Adams, who was in frail health, and her daughter, 51-year-old Edris Ilene Adams Ellard, most commonly called Ilene. He is also accused of killing 45-year-old John D. "Bozo" Ellard Jr. with a shotgun blast to the back of the head.

Ellard was married to victim Ilene Ellard and had previously been married to Debbie Adams.

The murders occurred during the early morning hours of August 20, 2012.

In court on Tuesday, Ponthieux, 43, wore a green tee-shirt with the word "Redemption," written on the back. His hair was cut short and he wore a trimmed beard.

Judge Glen Strong, before the opening arguments began, asked relatives of the victims to move away from the jury side of the courtroom to avoid seeing photographs of the victims to be presented in the trial by the prosecution.

District Attorney Brad Burget began his opening remarks at 11:03 a.m., describing the home of Annie Bell Adams, whose body was found inside her bedroom on the morning of Aug. 20. Burget said the three-bedroom residence at 975 Moody Road is located on the banks of Black River.

One of her daughters, Ilene Ellard, 51, and her husband, Bozo Ellard, lived in a storage shed on Mrs. Adams' property. An electrical cord strung from Mrs. Adams' home provided a light and powered a television inside the storage shed. There was no electricity or plumbing inside the shed.

Another daughter, Debbie Adams, lived in a bedroom inside Mrs. Adams' home with her boyfriend, Ponthieux.

Burget said that at 2:49 a.m. on the morning of August 20, 2012, the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office received a call that "shots were fired" at Mrs. Adams home. The lone deputy on duty, at the time patrolling in Sicily Island, raced to Larto while an off-duty deputy from Larto also headed to the scene. Other officers and investigators were alerted and arrived later.

At some point before 4 a.m. a heavy rain began to fall.

Mrs. Adams was found inside her bedroom with gaping wounds to her head, neck and throat. Deputies initially thought she and the other victims had all been shot. Later, they learned that Mrs. Adams had suffered 12 knife wounds, including three in the throat and one in the cheek. Most of her wounds were defensive, Burget said, pointing out that she had been cut numerous times in her hands and arms.

On the lawn, just outside the storage shed where Ilene and Bozo Ellard lived, deputies found their bodies. Authorities later determined that Bozo Ellard had been shot once in the back of the head with a 12-gauge Remington shotgun.

Ilene Ellard, on the other hand, suffered extensive knife wounds. The autopsy report revealed she had been stabbed and cut 23 times. Several wounds were found in the throat and face with numerous injuries to her hands.

Deputies found Debbie Adams, who had fled the scene, at a nearby residence. But they couldn't find Ponthieux. A manhunt for him began at daylight, but he wasn't found until shortly after midnight on Aug. 21. He had fled the scene on Ellard's motorcycle before wrecking it and fleeing into the woods.

Deputies found Ponthieux laying on top of the Remington shotgun. In his possession were shotgun shells and a folding pocket knife covered with blood stains and mud.

Ponthieux confessed to the crime after his arrest, but when Chief Deputy Toney Edwards and Detective Bubba Roy found inconsistencies in his story that didn't match the evidence at the crime scene, they pressed him for more information.

Later, Ponthieux said Debbie Adams had told him she wanted her mother, sister and brother-in-law (who was also her former husband) dead.

Burget said Ponthieux claimed that before he stabbed Mrs. Adams in the throat with a butcher knife retrieved from the kitchen that she pleaded, "Why, Lee? Why?"

He said Ponthieux said after shooting Bozo Ellard in the head, he struggled with Ilene Ellard before killing her with his pocketknife.

Burget said Ponthieux's DNA was found on the shotgun and the pocket knife. However, he said the butcher knife was never found, noting that Ponthieux claimed to have discarded it in the woods but also said he threw it in Black River.



<http://listenupyall.com/index.php/news/local-news/december-2013/trial-starts-monday-in-catahoula-in-triple-homicide/>

Larto, LA

Catahoula Parish

December 13, 2013



Trial starts Monday in Catahoula in triple homicide

from The Concordia Sentinel

The trial of the man charged with the 2012 murders of three Larto residents is scheduled to begin Monday at the Catahoula Parish Courthouse in Harrisonburg.

Lee John Ponthieux Jr., age 43, 975 Moody Road, Larto, was indicted October 15, 2012, on three counts of first degree murder by a Catahoula Parish grand jury. The victims included 76-year-old Annie Bell Adams; her daughter, 51-year-old Edris Ilene Adams Ellard; and her son-in-law, 45-year-old John D. "Bozo" Ellard Jr.

Ponthieux faces a sentence of death or life in prison if convicted of first degree murder.

The Larto homicides occurred at the home of victim Annie Bell Adams in Larto.

Catahoula Parish Sheriff James Glen Kelly said following the murders that the female victims were stabbed in the neck, while the male victim was shot in the head. Both a shotgun and a blood-stained "large folding pocket knife" were recovered at the crime scene, he said.

Chief Deputy Toney Edwards testified in court last year that Ponthieux has a lengthy arrest record dating back to 1988 and had been booked in Pineville, Rapides Parish and Thibodeaux on a variety of charges, including battery on a juvenile, burglary of an inhabited dwelling, simple burglary, theft of a truck, simple criminal damage to property, indecent behavior with a juvenile, illegal use of a weapon and resisting an officer.

Ponthieux reportedly confessed to the murders.

The grand jury did not indict Debbie Adams, 58, who also was originally charged in the case. Adams had been incarcerated for five months prior to her release. She was the daughter of one victim and sister of another,

Although the grand jury did not indict Adams, District Attorney Brad Burget said the murder charges filed against her "do not go away."

"This remains an open investigation," Burget said previously. "The grand jury could have taken one of three actions -- returned a true bill and charge her with a crime, return a no true bill or pretermitted the matter."

He said the grand jury pretermitted the matter.

- See more at: <http://listenupyall.com/index.php/news/local-news/december-2013/trial-starts-monday-in-catahoula-in-triple-homicide/#sthash.Dag1HjaB.dpuf>

KNOE 8 News
May 24, 2011
Concordia Parish

Arrest made in shooting in Concordia Parish

CONCORDIA PARISH, La. - The shooting occurred in the area of Concordia Park, according to the Concordia Sheriff's Office.

CPSO Chief Investigator Bobby Sheppard said Monday that Paul A. Longmire, 46, 262 Concordia Park, was reportedly grazed in the neck area by a bullet fired from a handgun early Sunday morning. He was treated and released from an area hospital.

According to witnesses, Longmire and his stepson, Nicholas Warner, 31, same address, had been involved in an argument prior to the shooting incident.

The Sheriff's Office says that Warner turned himself in to CPSO officials and has been charged with attempted first-degree murder, domestic violence, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and illegal use of a weapon.

Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office Press Release

http://www.npsheriff.org/News_Article.aspx?ArticleID=199

Natchitoches, LA

Natchitoches Parish

April 3, 2013

Title: Natchitoches Man Arrested after Firing Shots into Ex-Girlfriend's Residence near Natchitoches;
Children Present

Date: 04/03/2013

Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Deputies have arrested a Natchitoches man on Attempted Murder charges in connection with a domestic disturbance that resulted in shots being fired into a Payne Sub-Division residence near Natchitoches on Tuesday night according to Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Victor Jones Jr.

The incident began on Tuesday evening at approximately 11:04pm, when the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office received a complaint call from a female in the 100 block of John Drive, in Payne Sub-Division near Natchitoches reporting that her ex-boyfriend (Andre D. Sowell) had allegedly been harassing her by driving past her residence blowing the vehicle horn, and making harassing telephone calls.

Deputies responded to the scene and while interviewing the complainant, the ex-boyfriend called the complainant's cellular telephone. Deputies at that time, instructed the ex-boyfriend not to contact the complainant again or criminal charges would be obtained through the Tenth Judicial District Court.

Deputies cleared the scene, checking the area for the suspect.

Approximately 20 minutes later, the complainant contacted deputies reporting that several shots had been fired into her residence through the bedroom window while she was allegedly lying on the bed.

Two children ages: 5 & 7 along with another adult were also present in the residence.

Deputies responded to the scene again, and learned during the investigation that Sowell was a suspect in the case. After determining that there were no injuries, deputies issued a BOLO for the suspect and 1995 GMC Suburban, Red in color, believed to be in the Natchitoches area.

Deputies discovered several bullet holes in the residence.

At approximately 2:20am, Natchitoches deputies assisted by Natchitoches Police Department, Patrol Shift C, took the suspect into custody without incident while at a apartment in the 700 block of Bossier Street, in Natchitoches



Andre D. Sowell, 32 of the 700 block of Bossier Street, Natchitoches, La., was booked into the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center charged with 2-Counts of Attempted Second Degree Murder, and Domestic Abuse-Child Endangerment.

<http://ncmbts.blogspot.com/2010/05/tioga-man-killed-his-wife-and-then.html>

Tioga, LA
Rapides Parish
May 21, 2013

Tioga man killed his wife and then tried to run over two deputies while he had his 2-year-old son in his truck.

<http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20100521/NEWS01/5210332/1002/news01/Tioga-man-charged-with-killing-wife>

TIOGA -- A Tioga man killed his wife and then tried to run over two deputies while he had his 2-year-old son in his truck, prompting the deputies to fire shots and wound the man, authorities reported.

The slaying suspect, Joseph Anton Chehardy, 51, of 1530 Hickory Hill Road, Tioga, was arrested a short while later while seeking medical treatment for a gunshot wound.

The deputies didn't know Chehardy had a child in his truck when they fired shots at the truck as Chehardy tried to run them over Wednesday night, officials said.

Rapides Parish Sheriff Chuck Wagner said the deputies acted properly under the circumstances and "did a great job."

Chehardy has been charged with second-degree murder, two counts of attempted first-degree murder of a police officer, one count of child desertion and one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Chehardy shot and killed his wife, Janeva Lasyone Chehardy, 43, in their home Wednesday night, Wagner said.

The slaying is the latest in a rash of domestic violence-related homicides in Rapides Parish.

Around 8:45 p.m. Wednesday, the Sheriff's Office received a call of a disturbance with shots being fired at the Hickory Hill Road residence. Two sheriff's deputies arrived within three minutes of getting the call. The deputies parked their patrol cars a short distance from the home and were easing their way up when they saw a man -- later identified as Chehardy -- running out of the home, Wagner said.

Deputies told the man to stop, but he refused to listen and got into a pickup truck. Chehardy then "raced the engine" and drove into the path of the two deputies, Wagner said. The deputies fired shots at the pickup truck as they were jumping out of the path. Several bullets hit the truck, with at least one going through the door and hitting Chehardy in the leg before he sped away.

Wagner said the deputies went into the home where they found Janeva Chehardy dead from at least two gunshot wounds -- one to the head and one to the groin. Officers found a child's electronic toy still activated near where the woman was found but couldn't find a child there.

About 20 minutes after Chehardy fled the scene, deputies who were scouring the parish looking for him or the truck he fled in found Chehardy seeking medical treatment for the gunshot wound at Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Pineville.

He was taken into custody and then taken to Huey P. Long Medical Center, Pineville, for treatment of the minor injury from the "flesh wound" he suffered from the gunshot.

Wagner said deputies discovered the couple's 2-year-old son at the VA Medical Center. The child was in the truck that was fired upon by officers as Chehardy was trying to run over them, authorities said. The boy was not injured, although Wagner said he seemed to be in shock because of the incident.

Deputies found the truck, which Chehardy had attempted to hide behind the hospital.

"We are still in the investigative process, but this appears to be a domestic argument that escalated into a shooting," Wagner said.

Chehardy was described as having an "extensive record" of crimes, including charges of cruelty to children, injury to a child, possession of a controlled dangerous substance, carrying a prohibited weapon including switchblade and brass knuckles, deadly conduct, criminal mischief, theft of more than \$1,500 and resisting an officer, Wagner said. The charges date back to 1977 and are out of Texas.

The couple recently moved to the Tioga home from Texas. Sheriff's officials said Janeva Chehardy's family lives in the area, and she was from here.

Wagner said the two deputies involved in shooting at the pickup truck were put on administrative leave with pay after the shooting, as is the department's procedure. There is no investigation into their shooting as "we are very adamant they acted within their bounds," Wagner said. "They did a great job, and we are thankful that no one else gets hurt."

The men were allowed to return to work Thursday. There will be no further investigation into their shooting, Wagner said.

Domestic-Violence Deaths

The Tioga slaying was the fourth domestic violence-related homicide in the past six months worked by the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office alone. In the past three months, Alexandria Police officers have handled two such homicides, and Avoyelles Parish law enforcement another.

In November, a then-83-year-old man was arrested after he reportedly shot and killed his 81-year-old ex-wife in the Boyce area and then called police and family to tell them about the shooting.

Richard Hargis of Colfax was charged in November with first-degree murder in connection with the case and then was charged in January with sexual battery. He reportedly assaulted a nurse in January while receiving treatment at Huey P. Long Medical Center. He remains in the custody of the Rapides Parish Jail where he's been since his November arrest.

On March 17, family members found the bodies of Bobby Ray Smith, 70, and his ex-wife Alvy Jean Smith, 65, in their Deville home. Both had been shot. Investigators have said that sometime after March 14, Bobby Smith shot Alvy Smith and then himself. There were reports of previous domestic violence between the two.

On March 22, sheriff's detectives were called to a Rapides Station home to investigate another murder-suicide. Investigators found the body of Thomas E. Evans, 28, of Rapides Station in a suitcase at his home. The body of Johnny C. Clark, also 28, was found in the driveway of the home near bushes.

Officials said Evans and Clark were childhood friends and that the fight leading to the shooting may have started because Evans' girlfriend didn't want Clark to continue staying at their home. They suspect that Clark shot Evans and then stuffed Evans' body into a suitcase. Clark shot himself as deputies arrived at the home to investigate a report of shots fired.

Alexandria Police arrested an Alexandria man in February for an apparently domestic violence-related homicide in which his girlfriend was killed.

The body of Chiquina Robinson, 31, was found Jan. 31 in a Dumpster on Lower Third Street. She apparently was beaten to death. Her boyfriend, 25-year-old Marcus McCray, was charged with second-degree murder and obstruction of justice in her death.

Alexandria Police officers suspect Robinson was killed on Jan. 28 in her Walden Point Apartment on Twin Bridges Road in Alexandria. Authorities say McCray has confessed to killing her.

Robinson's death happened on the heels of a suspected domestic-violence murder in Avoyelles Parish. On Jan. 24, Avoyelles Parish law enforcement officials found the body of Amy Harris, 32, of Cottonport in a pasture in Marksville.

Her longtime boyfriend, 39-year-old Terry Jerard Day, of 451 Delphine Alley, Cottonport, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. Detectives in that case said Day and Harris reportedly had a "tumultuous relationship" and that officers were called to their home several times in the past for reports of violence or arguments.

Before the Tioga slaying, the most recent domestic-violence death resulted from an argument between two brothers at their home on Highpoint Drive, Alexandria Police said.

Nathan White, 27, was charged with manslaughter, accused of stabbing his brother, Josh White, 30, to death with a sword. Witnesses said both men had been drinking when they began arguing.

Increase In

Domestic Violence

"We are seeing an increase in domestic violence right now," Wagner said. "I'm not sure what is going on, if it is the downturn in the economy or what. But it is something law enforcement deals with day to day."

In April, the Sheriff's Office served 49 temporary restraining orders, and so far this month there have been 30. Wagner said the department is doing what they can to deal with the issue, but said it is hard to be protective when it comes to domestic violence beyond education on the part of the officers and the community.

"We are doing our best to make sure we handle the situation before it escalates," he said. "And there are several laws in place to address the issues."

Wagner pointed out that there are laws that require anyone arrested with domestic violence see a judge before they bond out to be sure they have had ample opportunity to cool down and to give the partner a chance to get away if needed. Also, law enforcement officers are required by law to make an arrest if there is a sign of violence.

WordPress Tags:

[Tioga](#), [wife](#), [truck](#), [Rapides](#), [Parish](#), [Sheriff](#), [Office](#), [Hickory](#), [Hill](#), [Road](#), [Chuck](#), [Wagner](#), [Joseph](#), [Chehardy](#), [Janeva](#), [residence](#), [HELP](#), [AVAILABLE](#), [violence](#), [Point](#), [Women](#), [Program](#), [crisis](#), [article](#), [authorities](#), [Anton](#), [treatment](#), [gunshot](#), [degree](#), [officer](#), [desertion](#), [possession](#), [firearm](#), [felon](#), [Aro](#), [und](#), [disturbance](#), [Deputies](#), [engine](#), [path](#), [Several](#), [bullets](#), [door](#), [woman](#), [About](#), [Veterans](#), [Affairs](#), [Medical](#), [Center](#), [Pineville](#), [custody](#), [Huey](#), [Long](#), [injury](#), [flesh](#), [incident](#), [hospital](#), [argument](#), [children](#), [substance](#), [weapon](#), [switchblade](#), [brass](#), [mischief](#), [theft](#), [Texas](#), [area](#), [department](#), [procedure](#), [in](#), [vestigation](#), [Domestic](#), [homicide](#), [Alexandria](#), [Police](#), [Avoyelles](#), [November](#), [Boyce](#), [Richard](#), [Hargis](#), [Colfax](#), [connection](#), [January](#), [battery](#), [Jail](#), [Ma](#), [rch](#), [Bobby](#), [Smith](#), [Alvy](#), [Jean](#), [Deville](#), [Both](#), [Investigators](#), [reports](#), [Station](#), [Thomas](#), [Evans](#), [suitcase](#), [Johnny](#), [Clark](#), [bushes](#), [friends](#), [February](#), [Ch](#), [iquina](#), [Robinson](#), [Dumpster](#), [Lower](#), [Third](#), [Street](#), [death](#), [Marcus](#), [McCray](#), [obstruction](#), [justice](#), [Walden](#), [Apartment](#), [Twin](#), [Harris](#), [Cottonport](#), [past](#), [ure](#), [Marksville](#), [Terry](#), [Jerard](#), [Delphine](#), [Alley](#), [relationship](#), [times](#), [arguments](#), [Highpoint](#), [Drive](#), [Nathan](#), [White](#), [manslaughter](#), [Josh](#), [sword](#), [Increa](#), [se](#), [downturn](#), [April](#), [orders](#), [education](#), [situation](#), [Also](#), [Officers](#), [homicides](#), [crimes](#), [Deaths](#), [members](#), [Bridges](#), [didn](#), [three](#), [months](#), [himself](#), [girlfrie](#), [nd](#), [boyfriend](#)



<http://klax-tv.com/shooting-arrest-in-vernon-parish/>

Anacoco, La

Vernon Parish

May 20, 2013

Shooting Arrest in Vernon Parish



James Moses

May 20, 2013 – An Anacoco man is arrested by the Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office. He is 31-year-old James Moses.

The sheriff's office received a complaint on Sunday in which six people alleged that James Moses had fired a weapon at them.

Deputies responded to a mobile home park in the Anacoco area and were advised that earlier in the day Moses and his spouse had been involved in a domestic altercation. Deputies learned that the domestic incident took place in Sabine Parish.

According to the press release, the female victim left Sabine Parish and returned to the Moses' residence in Vernon Parish with her children. The victims stated that they were working on a vehicle at the residence in an attempt to get the vehicle to start. They stated that James Moses arrived at the location and immediately began to fire a weapon in their direction striking the parked car three times. They told deputies they sought shelter in another vehicle and while they were attempting to leave the location Moses chased after them firing the weapon at the vehicle in which they were traveling.

The victims involved in this matter were three adults and three minor children; no injuries were reported.

Deputies canvassed the area but were not immediately able to locate Moses.

Upon further investigation detectives and deputies with the Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office and Agents with the Vernon Narcotics Task Force obtained information which indicated that Moses was in fact still in the Anacoco area. Deputies continued to patrol the area and at approximately 5:00 p.m. observed a vehicle matching the description of a family member of Moses with whom it was believed he may traveling.

Deputies conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle just north of Anacoco where James Moses was taken into custody without incident.

Moses was booked into the Vernon Parish Jail on six counts of Aggravated Assault with a Firearm, one count of Illegal Discharge of a Firearm, and one count of Aggravated Criminal Damage to Property.

Bond was set at \$ 36,000. Moses remains in the Vernon Parish Jail at this time.

WBRZ.com

<http://www.wbrz.com/news/man-accused-of-killing-ex-wife-in-winnfield/>

Winnfield, LA

Winn Parish

January 6, 2012

Man accused of killing ex-wife in Winnfield

WINNFIELD, La. (AP) - Winnfield police have arrested a man in the death of his ex-wife.

The Town Talk reports Gregory Washington has been booked with second-degree murder. He is accused of killing Jacquelyn Washington after a domestic argument got out of control.

Police say the victim was found shot and stabbed multiple times in her home Wednesday.

Police Lt. Charles Curry says there had been several domestic-violence charges filed in the past against Gregory Washington, and he served nine years in prison after attempting to run over his ex-wife with a vehicle.

KTBS.com

<http://www.ktbs.com/story/22368461/police-officer-gets-expedited-settlement-of-domestic-violence-case>

Arcadia, LA

Bienville Parish

Police Officer Gets Expedited Settlement Of Domestic Violence Case

The Bienville Parish district attorney's office is looking into the circumstances surrounding why an assistant police chief in Arcadia was allowed to pay a court fine the first working day after his arrest for hitting his estranged wife. Arcadia Assistant Police Chief Andre Rogers was arrested over the weekend on a simple battery charge. Police said he kicked his estranged wife. Arcadia Police Chief Victor Rogers said Andre Rogers paid a fine Monday morning in city court -- a speeded-up time frame that has caught the attention of the D.A.'s office, which was considering handling the case in state district court. Chief Jones said his assistant did not get preferential treatment by running the case through so fast. There are provisions in the way city court operates that would allow people charged with certain offenses to go ahead and pay their fines, he said. Andre Rogers has been placed on paid leave pending a disciplinary hearing before the City Council next week, the police chief said.

KTBS.com

<http://www.ktbs.com/story/22364543/bienville-police-juror-accused-of-domestic-violence>

Shady Grove

Bienville Parish

Bienville Police Juror Accused Of Domestic Violence

A Bienville Parish police juror was arrested early today on domestic violence charges involving his wife. Raymond Earl Malone, 53, of Shady Grove was held in the parish jail in Arcadia this morning pending a bond setting. He was booked on a charge of second-degree battery/domestic violence. Malone is accused of dragging his wife, Lekicia Loyd, from a vehicle and choking her. Bienville Sheriff John Ballance said sheriff's deputies on Sunday were called to the hospital in Jonesboro, where Malone's wife had gone for treatment. Deputies interviewed her and obtained an arrest warrant, Ballance said. Malone was arrested early today as he headed home from work, Ballance said. The alleged incident happened in front of a 2-year-old child, Ballance said.

Bossier City man faces domestic abuse charges



Garnette M. Darby II

Shreveport police detectives have arrested a local man accused of domestic abuse battery following an ongoing investigation.

Garnette M. Darby II was arrested after allegedly physically forcing his girlfriend to the ground and striking her with a closed fist.

According to the victim, as the attack continued, Darby grabbed her by her throat and kicked her as well. The victim suffered minor injuries ...

<http://www.ktbs.com/story/22357908/the-strange-case-against-garrett-wilson>

Bossier City, LA

Bossier Parish

The Strange Case Against Garrett Wilson

By itself, it was like hundreds of other domestic violence complaints: She said; he said. But last spring's arrest of Bossier City businessman Garrett Wilson -- one of five defendants in a federal corruption case involving fraud in maintenance work on Bossier schools -- did not play out in a vacuum. Wilson didn't need to be facing criminal charges because he was on parole for a violent-crime felony. Jailed for parole violation would keep him away from his and his partner's business, which was making millions from air conditioning work on Bossier Parish schools. Wilson was also saying he had friends in the right places in Bossier Parish. And then a key piece of evidence against him didn't look right. There were suspicions it was altered. The domestic violence charges would eventually be dismissed by the district attorney. The FBI and Bossier sheriff's detectives have been asking questions. Wilson, 37, was separated from his wife and living in an upstairs apartment at his north Bossier City business, Air Repair, last May 16. His girlfriend, Brittany Henderson, 20, came over after a night out with friends. They got into an argument over another man and Henderson said Wilson threw a shoe, bloodying her nose. She said he wouldn't let her leave until the next morning. After she left, Henderson went to Bossier City police and filed a complaint. Wilson, who denied intentionally hurting her, was arrested on charges of domestic abuse battery and false imprisonment. Both charges were misdemeanors, which carry low bonds. But Wilson was on parole for a 1995 conviction: He had gotten a 15-year prison sentence for his role in the murder of a man who was followed from a Bossier City casino after winning big at blackjack. Wilson said he stayed in the truck while his friends robbed and shot the victim. With Wilson jailed for parole violation, his lawyers scrambled. They got an evidentiary hearing two weeks later in Bossier District Court. Henderson's testimony about what happened that night had inconsistencies, a transcript shows. The defense noted that she had been left alone inside the business and had a chance to call 911 if she was being held against her will. Henderson maintained she was victimized. A security tape from Air Repair that was later obtained by police might have settled questions about what happened. It showed a woman chatting and flirting -- not one held against her will, District Attorney Schuyler Marvin said. But the video also jumped around at some key moments. Some of the argument between the couple wasn't on the video. Air Repair's manager testified during the hearing that it was a motion-activated camera and that's expected. But the Bossier City police detective suspected somebody altered the tape at some point after Wilson's arrest. Detective Nicole McArthur sent it to the State Police lab for analysis.

Bossier City police today refused to say what that analysis has determined. After reviewing details of the hearing and meeting with the prosecutor, the defense attorney and Henderson, Marvin decided to dismiss the charges, saying the case was weak and a conviction unlikely. The judge presiding over the evidentiary hearing had "serious questions" whether it was a false imprisonment. Marvin's letter to Wilson's lawyer told of his decision to dismiss charges -- but also had strong words for Wilson: Quit saying you have "friends" in the D.A.'s office. "I can assure you that no one in my office has asked for assistance for your client and these charges are certainly not being dismissed for that reason," the letter said. "In the future, it might benefit your client to refrain from 'running his mouth.'" Marvin said he has met Wilson and that Wilson is friends with Buddy Mondello, the head of his hot checks section. Wilson did not get preferential treatment, Marvin said. "You might establish probable cause but you aren't even smelling proof beyond a reasonable doubt," Marvin said of the case. Wilson spent three months in jail before his case went before the state parole board and authorities decided not to revoke his parole, jail records show. He returned to work at Air Repair. Wilson is back in jail again for parole violation. That happened after his federal indictment last month on charges he was involved in a scheme to defraud the Bossier Parish schools system through a series of rigged bids, kickbacks and overcharges for air conditioning work. He could have to finish the remainder of his sentence in the murder case before he begins his federal term, attorneys said.

WBRZ.com
<http://www.wbrz.com/news/police-woman-stabbed-husband/>
Caddo Parish
Dec 19, 201

Police: woman stabbed husband



SHREVEPORT - A Shreveport woman has been booked with second-degree murder after an investigation into the fatal stabbing of her husband earlier this month.

Police had been called to the home of 60-year-old Louie Cobb and 47-year-old Linda Cobb on Dec. 4. Louie Cobb was hospitalized with a stab wound to the chest and later died.

Linda Cobb was questioned and released after the stabbing. However, Shreveport police said Wednesday that an investigation determined there was not enough evidence to support her initial claims of self-defense. She was booked Wednesday into the Shreveport jail.

Domestic Violence Rally

Posted By Lyndsey Price, Reporter - [email](#)



MONROE, La. (KNOE 8 News) - **The state of Louisiana has the highest domestic violence rates in the nation**, and today the district attorney's office held a rally to inform people.

Domestic violence survivor, Jeslyn Lewis says "it's important that we get the news out, so that people don't feel like they are alone so they don't have to feel embarrassed, because it is such an embarrassing thing to go through, even with family and friends your embarrassed you don't want anyone to know that the person you love is hurting you."

Lewis says it's important to share stories with others so they know they aren't alone, like she once was.

The rally today is to remind people just how serious the problem is here in Ouachita Parish and Northeast Louisiana.

District Attorney Jerry Jones says they see more domestic violence cases come through his office than any other type of case.

Police officers, from a half dozen departments, spent a lot of time discussing how the problem needs to be handled from here on out in Ouachita Parish.

Jones says, "our police are reporting domestic violence as domestic violence, not as disturbing the peace, when our police officers don't enter the house and act as referees, if you commit an act of domestic violence in this parish you go to jail."

Jones says they plan to write more legislation for domestic violence.

If you know someone who needs help or are a victim of domestic violence you can contact the Family Justice Center in Ouachita Parish at 318-998-6030.

Domestic violence affects everyone *Don't forget DART radiothon Thursday!*

MICHELLE BATES, Editor

Domestic violence is one of the top killers of women in the United States. And that's why it is so important to talk about an issue that goes on everywhere, even next door.

According to Mary Ellen Gamble, who spoke at the Homer Lions Club along with Claiborne Parish Sheriff Ken Bailey, it is estimated that every nine seconds, a woman is battered. Eighty-five percent of all domestic violence victims are women. Domestic violence is the single major cause of injury to women, more than muggings and car accidents combined. About 30 percent of women's disabilities are caused by domestic violence, and 50 percent of all women killed in the United States are by their husband, boyfriend or partner.

Getting her start with DART opened her eyes to the importance of bringing awareness to domestic violence and being there to offer services victims and survivors need to move beyond the abusive relationship. With a background in social work, Gamble came from a loving home with both parents. So, she really knew nothing about domestic violence.

"At the time, I knew absolutely nothing about domestic violence," she said. "So, I applied for the job and got it. And I found out real fast that there is domestic violence in Claiborne Parish."

However, she didn't think domestic violence in Claiborne Parish is as prevalent as it is, she said. She got the job, and still didn't know anything about domestic violence.

"Almost from the very first day I started receiving phone calls," she said. "It amazed me, and I was ill equipped and I had to learn. So, I started attending every training that I could that dealt with domestic violence. I read every book that I could find on domestic abuse. And I talked to people that had worked in the field for a long time. The best source of my information and my knowledge came from talking to survivors of domestic violence."

"Almost without fail, every woman, their stories are all similar," she continued. "There are many social, economic statuses, but their stories are all very similar."

Louisiana is in the top 5 in the United States with the highest homicide related to domestic violence. Almost 90 percent of women who report domestic abuse, report that children have been witness to it. Between 25 and 30 percent of all adolescent relationships are violent relationship. This number is low, because it is believed that many are not reported by teens.

"I know a young lady that was abused by her boyfriend in high school and it was two years before it was ever reported," she said.

Domestic abuse is a crime. It is against the law to physically abuse your spouse.

"Too many times, battery is passed on from generation to generation," Gamble said. "You learn to do what you're taught. I can assure you that the children know what's going on in the home."

Abuse almost always leads from verbal to physical, she said, which almost always leads to serious battery or death.

"Why doesn't she just leave?" she asked. "It is very difficult to leave an abusive relationship. This is something that those of us who did not grow up in abuse find hard to understand sometimes. Statistically, if a batterer knows a woman is about to leave him or even if she has actually severed the relationship, this is the most dangerous time for her. Why? Because he is losing his power and control and the only way he feels he can gain it back is by hurting or killing her."

Even if the victim severs the relationship, she, or in some cases, he, feel they have no resources, nowhere to go. Often, Gamble said, the victim has no money and is afraid for herself and her children. And while DART does not tell the victim what to do, it does offer services that can help her get back on her feet and can offer resources that can help them get away from her abuser.

"We believe in empowering a woman so that she can make decisions that are best for her and often her children," Gamble said.

Some ways DART offers help is through assisting them in filling out the paperwork for a restraining order, and if the restraining order does not work, then they offer a safe place to go if they do not already have one available. The DART advocate (Gamble in Claiborne Parish) will often times go to court with the victim.

The organization also empowers the victim, giving them tools to work with as they transition from the abusive relationship to a life without abuse. One such example is through safety tips, what to do when at work and at home, how to protect the children.

Counseling services are also offered at no charge, and the organization does offer some assistance through Christmas gifts and limited children's services. DART will guide a survivor through the processes of getting services they need, such as housing assistance, community services, the court system and law enforcement.

"We are here to help and while we have no authority over law enforcement or the courts, we can help a victim/survivor to better understand how the system works and try to help her through the process," she said. "All of our services are free and confidential."

And law enforcement is there to help as well. Bailey said his deputies are trained to deal with disturbance calls as well as domestic violence calls. They know what to do and how to handle the situation before it really gets out of hand after their arrival.

"My deputies are trained to go on these calls and separate them, find out what's going on," he said. "It might not have come to a physical altercation. He may have just been verbally abusive. I'm embarrassed to say that we did this, but 15 or 20 years ago, when we went on a disturbance call, this is what we said, 'If we have to come back out here, somebody's going to jail.' That's what we did and that's so wrong. The next time we go out there, somebody's going to be dead."

Now, when deputies arrive on the scene of a disturbance call, if there is any sign of physical altercation, "we cuff 'em and stuff 'em." Somebody's going to jail, he said.

"It's not always men we take to jail," he said. "We take women too."

He gave some statistics in Claiborne Parish, which proved to be an eye-opener as to how prevalent domestic violence is in Claiborne Parish.

In the last six months, the sheriff's office has responded to 82 disturbance calls. These figures do not include the Homer or Haynesville Police Departments' statistics.

"That's quite a lot for rural Claiborne," he said. "We've also gone on 31 domestic violence calls. It's here, and domestic violence is a growing problem."

As mentioned, his deputies are trained on what to look for and how to separate the parties. He made a comment several years ago, and it's stuck since then.

"It should never hurt to go home," Bailey said. "Unfortunately it does, and that's one of the most dangerous calls that we go on -- a disturbance call. You never know what you're going to get into when you get there."

It doesn't matter what race, what economic status, domestic violence is everywhere and it affects everyone.

"It's one of those things that really concern us, and that's why we send two or three deputies to a disturbance call," he said. "If you're about to arrest someone and another family member comes into the room saying, 'What are you arresting my father for?', then you have another problem. That's what we deal with every day."

The sheriff's office also has a form for domestic violence victims to fill out, and when the aggressor goes to jail and bonds out, then the victim is notified.

He also talked about the silhouettes on the courthouse lawn on the Square in Homer every October, which commemorates every victim who lost their lives to domestic violence. As of right now, there are about 97 silhouettes, which represents deaths in Claiborne and surrounding parishes.

The last death, Bailey said, is the case in which a girlfriend stabbed her boyfriend to death. The case he speaks of is the arrest of Patishi S. Kirk, who is accused of stabbing her boyfriend, Vincent Dunn, to death. Trial for her case has been set for Monday, May 21.

"Domestic violence is a heartbreaker, and a lot of them are the same families that we get calls on," he said.

He also discussed a case without getting into the details, saying that they have one offender behind bars that has already threatened to kill his significant other when he gets out.

"He's already tried about twice," he said. "Right here in Claiborne Parish."

KNOE.COM 8 NEWS

<http://www.knoe.com/story/24145131/domestic-dispute-ends-in-shooting-and-arrest>

Monroe, LA

Ouachita Parish

December 5, 2013

Domestic dispute ends in shooting and arrest



Source: MGN Online

MONROE, La. (KNOE 8 News) - A domestic dispute ended with shots fired and an arrest.

Police responded to a report of a shooting Wednesday night on the 300 block of Pargoud Street involving a husband and wife.

When police arrived at the scene, they discovered Simeon Jackson had allegedly shot his wife in the stomach after being involved in a verbal altercation.

Jackson was arrested and booked with violation of a protective order and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Jackson's wife was taken to the hospital to be treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Ouachita Parish

October 2013

Community Celebrates Freeman's Survival of Domestic Violence

10:59 PM, Oct. 3, 2013



Jerry Jones, 4th District Attorney, comforts Ester Freeman as her story of domestic violence is told to the assembly by her sister, Alicia Freeman. **The Family Justice Center of Ouachita Parish** and The Wellspring sponsored a domestic violence awareness ceremony at the Downtown RiverMarket on Thursday.

Ester Freeman's sister, Alicia, told her story for her. Given the horror Ester Freeman lived through, one could understand why she still struggles.

Two years ago, Ester Freeman survived what 4th District Attorney Jerry Jones called "the most horrible case of domestic violence" he'd ever seen. Ester Freeman's boyfriend, Allen Robinson, tortured her for hours and burned most of her body with a clothes iron.

"It's been two years, and she is still tormented from the things that happened that night," Alicia Freeman said. "You lay there and pray and hope help finds you." ...

CONTINUE READING IN OUR PAID ARCHIVE

WBRZ.com

<http://www.wbrz.com/news/letter-allegedly-describes-teen-killing-parents/>

Monroe, la

Ouachita Parish

July 27, 2013

Letter allegedly describes teen killing parents

MONROE - Authorities hope a graphic jailhouse letter will convince a judge to keep a teenager incarcerated in the shooting deaths of his parents.

The letter attributed to Dalton L. Fletcher says he regretted not causing greater suffering in the September 2010 shooting deaths of his parents at their home in Ouachita Parish.

The News-Star reports (<http://tnsne.ws/14Vp3cj>) that it obtained the letter, allegedly written by Fletcher to his girlfriend, through a public records request.

Fletcher, who was 15 at the time of the slayings, was tried as an adult and given two life sentences.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that sentences involving juveniles tried as adults must be reviewed.

The review could result in Fletcher being eligible for parole after serving 35 years.

KNOE NEWS

<http://www.knoe.com/story/9013930/two-rayville-sonic-employees-die-in-a-murd>

Rayville, LA

Richland Parish

September 15, 2008

Two Rayville Sonic Employees Die in a Murder Suicide

RAYVILLE (KNOE 8 News) - Two workers at the Sonic Drive-In in Rayville died in what police call a murder-suicide. Shortly after the KNOE 8 News crew got to the scene, the manager closed the restaurant while investigators worked to make sense of the tragedy. KNOE 8's Jennifer Townley reports.

At 9:45 Monday morning Rayville Police get a call about shots fired at the Sonic Drive-In.

Chief Willie Robinson says 22-year-old Tyrice Richardson pulled his car into one of the very last spots, toward the back of the restaurant and ordered some food, so his girlfriend 19-year-old Shaanna Watkins would come outside.

Police say the couple live together in Monroe, but they're originally from Rayville.

Both work at the restaurant. Richardson was off-duty at the time of the shooting.

Police say Watkins got in the back seat with the food.

Chief Robinson says the couple argued, and Richardson pulled a handgun and shot her in the stomach.

Robinson says, "she was laying on her back in the backseat of her car."

Robinson says Richardson walked around to the passenger side of the car and shot himself in the head. Police found his body on the ground, next to the car.

The crime scene has been cleaned up. All that's left are large pools of soapy water used to clean up the scene.

Officers and Deputies put police tape around the property, to show potential customers the restaurant is closed.

The manager says no one at Sonic is allowed to talk with the media. But I wanted more information about the two people that were killed. The manager says corporate will issue a statement, but it will be two days before we get to see it.

Customers were at the restaurant, but police say they were parked far away. No one else was hurt in this shooting that happened in broad daylight, on a main thoroughfare in Rayville, during breakfast hour.

Robinson says, "it was shocking to the community. The community's been going pretty good and everything has been going real good until this and it was, it's stunning to know that this happened."

The Richland Parish Sheriff's Office is helping with the investigation.

Robinson says Shaanna Watkins died in the car. Tyrice Richardson died while on his way to the hospital.

The restaurant will reopen Wednesday.

A counselor will be available for employees that need to talk about the shooting.

KTBS.com

<http://www.ktbs.com/story/22350513/springhill-woman-charged-with-boyfriends->

Springhill, LA

Webster Parish

May 21, 2013

Springhill Woman Charged With Boyfriend's Murder

A Springhill man is dead, and his girlfriend is in jail for murder, after police say a domestic dispute turned deadly. Springhill Police were called around noon Sunday to Moore Street. Candace Malone, 20, of Homer, is accused of shooting and killing her boyfriend, Terrence Henderson, 23. Police say Malone admitted to shooting Henderson, but said it was an accident. Investigators say witnesses tell them something may have happened before the shooting, and now they're trying to figure out whether there was a struggle. Henderson's body has been taken to Little Rock for autopsy.

