Tragedy in Wicksburg

Three families destroyed. Hundreds of lives affected.

A mother, daughter, fiancée’ and sister—Tiffany Grissette
A brother, son, friend, and hero—Thomas “Rocky” Robins
A son, brother, and friend—Cameron Eubanks

These three lives murdered because one man made a choice to “get even” because he didn’t like to be told no.

Now hundreds of friends, family members, and witnesses have to deal, on a daily basis, with the horrific aftermath of his choices. What a staggering ordeal for all of those associated with this tragedy to deal with because one man made a cold, calculated decision to become evil personified. These families are going to have to deal with this offender’s decision for the rest of their life. Not to mention all those that witnessed the murders.

These families are in much need of daily prayer from all the citizens in our community. These children will also need the prayers of us all to try and make sense out of the senseless.

I would like to take a moment and commend the Houston County Sheriff’s Office for the manner in which they have

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tragedy this case from the beginning. Sheriff Hughes and Chief Deputy Valenza made sure every available officer was out searching for this suspect. They immediately began assisting those in need physically as well as emotionally. Lt. Rafferty has gone beyond the call in many ways to assist these families. He has spent countless hours listening to them, speaking with them, and always providing them a shoulder to cry on. Thank you each and every one that worked on this case. As you know, bringing the bad guy down does not produce closure, but it sure assists a long way in providing justice to families.

I would also like to commend the Houston County DA’s office and VSO, Kimberly Humphries, who spent the weekend with various family members, trying to assist in any way possible, as well as attending each funeral to lend her support. DA Valeska, has met with the families, assuring them that he would personally work on this case to make certain that justice would be served by his office, as well as attending each funeral personally. It is a wonderful asset to have law enforcement and prosecutors who show they care about the victim and their family while they give hope to them.

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**Director’s Note**

It’s hard to believe that summer is almost over! It seems like only yesterday the kids were just getting out of school to begin their vacation. As I get older, the faster the time goes by. I wanted to take this opportunity to write about the upcoming legislative session, which begins Tuesday, February 5, 2013. As citizens, we all should be more involved in the legislative process. Especially, if you or a family member has been a victim of a violent crime, you should be interested in any bill that might affect your rights. It is very easy and convenient to become involved. You can go to www.legislature.state.al.us and listen to the Senate and House when they are in session. If you see or hear of a bill that might concern you, you need to contact your State Senator or Representative. Their address, email, and phone numbers are listed on the web page. Victims and their families need to take an interest and stand up for or against those bills that might affect their rights, whether it is a bill to place a moratorium on the death penalty or a bill to reduce the prison population due to overcrowded conditions. It takes all of us being constantly vigilant to protect those rights that are important to all of us.

Shelly Linderman
Director
Angel House
Words of Wisdom

Homicide is not Grief

When someone you love is murdered, from the time of notification you are in shock. It’s as if you are in a daze and nothing registers. Then there is usually denial. “No, they have made a mistake, it can’t be true.” Afterwards a flood of emotions come and go; several different emotions constantly. We can’t ever seem to find the right emotion to bring us peace. Someone comes along and suggests that you should seek “grief counseling”. But you need to seek “trauma therapy” first. It is usually a long, long time before we get to grief. The traumatic event that has shattered your life forever must be dealt with first before we get to the “grief stages”.

Sometimes you feel like you are not making any progress, but you are. If you get up and put one foot in the front of the other, you are making good progress.

DONATIONS

Thank you to the following for donating to our organization. Without you our job would not be possible...

Houston County DA’s Office
Houston County Pre-Trial Program
Henry County Pre-Trial Program
IBM Employees
Mark Coskrey

United Way Kick Off

It’s that time of year again! The Wiregrass United Way has begun this year’s kickoff.

Wiregrass Angel House is one of the many organizations benefitted by this agency. The goal for this year is $2.5 million. If the goal is reached Wiregrass Foundation will provide an additional $400,000. Thank you to all of those who donate to the United Way and thank you to those who specifically designate Wiregrass Angel House when giving. It is true, without your generosity, many citizens in the Wiregrass would not receive help.

Support Group Meeting

The Southeast Alabama VOCAL Chapter meets for a monthly support group at Wiregrass Angel House the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
National Night Out for the Wiregrass

August 4th was National Night Out in Dothan for all the Wiregrass area to enjoy. There were many booths and give always, as well, as S.W.A.T. and K-9 demonstrations. There was something for everyone to see and participate in. The afternoon shower cooled things off to make it a more enjoyable event as participants ventured outside to see the fire trucks and such. Captain Jay, once again, did an outstanding job bringing it all together.
Wiregrass Angel House had an indoor booth and held a drawing for a $50 Shell gas card. The lucky winner was Kim Brown of Dothan. She is pictured at left with her son Ahmir picking up the card from Angel House, Monday, August 16th.

Corporal Tripp Phares shown above during the K9 demonstration.

**Special Thanks**

To Tony Luker and Woodham Construction Company for volunteering their time, resources, and skills in repairing the Main Street entrance porch at Wiregrass Angel House.

Thank you for a job well done!

We extend our sympathies to:

Judge Tommy Nail in the loss of his wife Teresa.

&

Marcia Ethridge in the passing of her husband, Glenn. Marcia is a VSO in the Houston/Henry County DA’s office.
Parole Hearings for Houston and Henry County

James Watts, a convicted murderer of Patricia Baxter Bryant, was up for parole consideration August 7th. This murderer decided he wanted to kill his girlfriend and took a 12 gauge shot gun and shot her at point blank range. Judge Lawson Little gave him 99 years. This was his second time up for parole consideration, since he killed Patricia. The Houston County DA’s office protested the parole as well as provided transportation and lunch for Patricia’s son, sister, and mother. It is so refreshing when the DA takes time out of his schedule to ride with a family and to be able to recount the events of this horrible crime to the parole board. All DA’s and prosecutors should realize what a difference it makes to the parole board to attend the hearings and explain the why certain offenders should not be paroled. The parole board showed wisdom in this case and denied his parole and set it off for the maximum time allowed of five years. The family would like to thank the DA’s office for helping make this happen. They would also like to thank the parole board.

A.D. Sistrunk, a major drug trafficker, who also was convicted of assaulting his girlfriend by cutting her with a box cutter, received a sentence of 120 years. Even the parole board wondered how he had managed to come up for parole consideration. He also was denied parole and set off for five years after the District Attorney testified vehemently against his release.
Willie Dickerson, the suspect who murdered, Willie David Pugh, had a bond reduction hearing on August 22nd. His bond is currently set at no bond by Judge Matt Horne. The judge has set his preliminary hearing for September 26th at 8:30. The judge will also reconsider a bond motion at this time. Please keep Betty Pugh, mother of Willie, in your thoughts as she begins the journey through the criminal justice system.

We would like to congratulate DA Ben Reeves of Barbour and Bullock counties, for being selected as the District attorney of the Year from the DA’s association. In his nomination, it was mentioned that DA Reeves has a great ability to try cases and receive convictions. He has not received a not guilty verdict return by a jury in the past 8 years. DA Reeves serves on the Wiregrass Angel House board of directors. DA Reeves has stated that he has dedicated his life to being a prosecutor as there is no greater reward than seeing justice served for victims of crime. Congratulations Ben!

District Attorney Kirke Adams, FBI Agent Susan Hanson, and ABI Agent Barry Tucker held a Press Conference on the case of a missing Geneva girl. Shanna Peoples has been missing since September 8, 2011. Law Enforcement with FBI, ABI, Geneva Police Department, Geneva County Sheriff's Office, Houston County Sheriff's Office, Dale County Sheriff's Office, and South West Panhandle Search and Rescue Team spent hours searching for Shanna Peoples. After the Press Conference, Shanna's mother, Wendy McKee, spoke briefly. District Attorney Kirke Adams stated that this was an active investigation and finding Shanna was a priority for local, county, and state law enforcement. He encouraged those in the community that knew anything to come forward and let the detectives decide if the information they have is relevant or not. He also stated the search that was conducted was based on additional information that had received.

This is such a hard time for this family. We are so glad DA Adams and local law enforcement realize bringing a conclusion to this case is so vital to Shanna’s family. A special thank you to Pan Handle Search and Rescue as they donated their time on this endeavor.
Governor Robert Bentley  
State Capitol  
Montgomery, AL  35130  
Taylor Vice. Director  
Constituent Services  
(334).242.7100  
1.800.591.4217

Victim Contacts

Attorney General’s Office  
of Victim Assistance  
501 Washington Avenue  
Montgomery, AL  36130  
Patricia S. DeBortoli  
Victim Services Director  
(334).242.7300  
1.800.626.7676  
www.ago.state.al.us

Department of Corrections  
Kim T. Thomas, Commissioner  
P.O. Box 301501  
301 South Ripley St.  
Montgomery, AL  36310  
(334).353.3871  
www.doc.state.al.us  
State inmate parole info.  
1.888.726.9799, Option 4

Alabama Crime Victims Compensation  
Commission  
Dr. Cassie Jones, Director  
P.O. Box 231267  
Montgomery, AL  36123  
1.800.541.9388  
www.acvcc.state.al.us

State of Alabama Board  
of Pardons and Paroles  
Cynthia Dillard, Director  
P.O. Box 302405  
Montgomery, AL  36130  
VSO Debra Bonds  
(334).242.8050  
Fax (334).353.7701  
www.paroles.state.al.us