

6 • THE PASCO TRIBUNE • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2003 • A SECTION OF THE TAMPA TRIBUNE • PSC.COM Keyword: Pasco

John Decker and his parents, John and Jan, say they still have trouble dealing with the death, two years later. "We know he's gone to heaven and that's what keeps us together," his mother says.

## FAMILY'S EFFORTS

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### SUSPECTS

The suspect accused of shooting Jim Decker Jr. is thought to live in the Brooksville area. They are described as a white male, 30 years old. One suspect is said to be a white male, 30 years old, with short dark hair and glasses. Another suspect is described as about 4 feet tall and thin. He is described as having a mustache and a goatee and wearing a dark shirt.

Anyone with information can call Pasco Sheriff's Office at 813-848-4215. Anonymous tips can be called at 1-800-454-3862, Ext. 386.

### INFORMATION

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### Coping With Loss

Every day for a year after his death, Decker Jr.'s family called Seva to talk about progress in the case. The calls have fallen off, but their resolve and love remain strong for the man they described as a free spirit who had a nickname for everyone. The family has adopted his practice of always saying, "I love you" before leaving and hanging up the telephone with each other.

A silver urn holding his ashes rests in a glass case in his parents' living room, alongside newspaper clippings and other mementos. A white eagle sits atop the urn in remembrance of his love for Harley Davidson. Decker Jr. starts back at soldiers from photographs that grace the shelves wearing a goofy smile or the gear he used in his trade as a shrimper. Decker Jr. and his family moved to Shady Hills from Lakewood when he was a teenager. His sister, Julie, said she has trouble talking about their big brother without crying. His parents have found solace in their faith.

"We know he was a Christian and we know he's gone to heaven and that's what keeps us together," Jan Decker said of her son.

Some days, though, Jerry Decker has trouble believing his brother is gone.

"I'm still waiting for him to show up and go shopping," he said through tears.

Reporter Gordon J. Hammelhoff can be reached at (813) 848-4215.

## Closure Sought In 41 Cases

In 28 years, Pasco County has accumulated 41 unsolved cases, including victims of homicides and missing persons believed to be victims of foul play. Here are the cases:

- Sept. 27, 1977: Gail Fontaine, 16, of Tampa was found in a southeast Pasco County grove. Investigators later link her slaying with Emily Greer's (see below) and the Duke Marley sniper-murders.
- Oct. 21, 1977: Hunters found Emily Greer's body off State Road 577 in southeast Pasco.
- Dec. 22, 1977: Terry Lee Crew's body was found off State Road 577 in Zephyrhills.
- Jan. 5, 1980: Joseph Loren Hudson, 50, was killed at Port Richey's Silver Spur bar.
- Oct. 17, 1981: Tina Marie Ralby's body was found by her brother in her Dade City bedroom. The 18-year-old was strangled and stabbed.
- Dec. 4, 1981: Elana Goldstein, 14, was shot as she walked to her Oud Houlihe home.
- Nov. 13, 1982: Herbert Dimes was found in the trunk of his Cadillac outside a Holiday store.
- Jan. 30, 1984: William Currey was found inside the gas station where he worked off State Road 52.
- March 11, 1984: A Chiropractor killed 19-year-old Christopher Gibson on his third day of work at a Land O' Lakes convenience store.
- Nov. 1, 1984: Shrimper Ralph Decker was shot dead in a tavern argument in Port Richey.
- June 29, 1984: Helen "Wendy" Larroche, 21, was shot at the head while working at a Port Richey convenience store.
- March 1, 1987: Retired groveowner Harry Seaming's 71 was killed in his Dade City home.
- July 15, 1988: Earl Wood pointed on the door of a Wesley Chapel home killing his wife — his throat had been slit.
- Jan. 24, 1989: Investigators recovered a man's skeleton in woods south of San Antonio.
- July 16, 1990: Authorities found a man's skeleton of South Road in Wesley Chapel.
- Jan. 7, 1991: Accrument Franklin Hicks, 36, was found dead in his Land O' Lakes office.
- Aug. 17, 1992: The body of Peter Rappas, 31, was discovered in Port Richey home. He had been shot in the head.
- Dec. 23, 1992: A young boy discovered Dana Ramirez' nude body in a Wesley Chapel ditch.
- Feb. 25, 1993: Jennifer Collins, 12, of St. Joseph was found slain in a Hernando County orange grove. She disappeared Feb. 19 after school.
- Sept. 28, 1994: Mario Valdes was found slain in the head. His body was in his car at a Dade City apartment complex.
- Feb. 13, 1995: Kathy Souchoff's body was found in woods off Little Road in New Port Richey. She was last seen at the Texas Lounge the night before.
- April 23, 1995: Lucille Schubert's body was found in the woods near Lake Lydia in St. Leo. The 45-year-old was last seen April 16.
- June 3, 1995: Larry Nelson, 28, was last seen at the Florida Naturalist Park in Hudson, where he was involved in an argument where shots were fired. His blood was found at the scene, but his body has never been discovered.
- Sept. 4, 1995: Gail Ann Russell, 30, was last seen at her Raymond Point home about 1 a.m. Her family said she was a loving mother who would not have left her children.
- Feb. 6, 1996: Marvin "Lucky" Earnest, 48, was found dead inside his Lacombe trailer.
- Nov. 15, 1996: Children discover the body of Marjann R. Poole, 28, of Tampa in woods off Court Street in Zephyrhills. Acquaintances last seen Poole Nov. 11.
- Nov. 19, 1996: Hubert Lee McMullen, 46, worked in Tarpon Springs as a fisherman. His body was dumped along State Road 14 across from the Oaks subdivision in central Pasco. Friends saw him the night before and said he had planned a fishing trip the morning.
- Nov. 19, 1996: Roger Ward, 55, was found beaten in the parking lot of Dixie Boy Truck Stop in San Antonio. He died the next day at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa.
- Jan. 27, 2001: John Decker, 35, was shot to death inside a Home's Shady Hills home after three men entered the house.
- October 2002: Kathleen Winkalowski, 33, was last seen in Hudson in October, walking away from a Port Richey home. She never cashed a \$500 check mailed to her shortly after her disappearance.
- Nov. 4, 2002: Truck driver Roger Ward, 55, was found beaten in the parking lot of Dixie Boy Truck Stop in San Antonio. He died the next day at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa.
- Jan. 27, 2003: John "John Boy" Conley Jr., 23, of Zephyrhills and Ricardo Novas Mendon, 28, of Dade City were found dead inside Conley's trailer near his home about 100 feet off Alafia Road just west of U.S. 98.
- April 17, 2003: Michael James Newhouse, 42, was last seen by his mother when he left his Hudson home on his way to a job at Davis Hardware. He was described as a dependable employee.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

The District School Board of Pasco County will soon be considering the School District Facilities Work Program as required by Florida Statute 1011.35(1) and is soliciting public comments.

All concerned citizens are invited to share public comments concerning the School District Facilities Work Program on Tuesday, November 18, 2003, at 6:00 a.m. at the School Board Meeting Room in the District Office located at:

7205 Land O' Lakes Boulevard  
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

Copies of the Program are on file for review in the Department of Planning.

A decision on the proposed School District Facilities Work Program will be made at this meeting.

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