

STATE/LOCAL

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# Reported break in case spawns hope

AUSTIN (AP) — Nearly eight years after the murder of four teen-age girls at a yogurt shop, a report that arrests are imminent is bringing hope to a community still horrified by the crime.

"The whole thing was a nightmare for the community. They were just fine girls, all of them, just super nice girls, the kind of girls you'd want your son to date," said Evelyn McEhr, church secretary at St. Louis Catholic Church, where the funeral service was held for the slain teen-agers.

She said she thought it was "astounding" when she heard a news report that arrests could be made.

"The police department has devoted so much time to this over the years. I finally do think the community would rejoice with the families if this was brought to closure," she said. One of the girls was her son's classmate.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Friday that police are preparing to arrest four suspects in the murders of the girls — Ella Hope Thomas, 17; Amy Ayres, 15; Jennifer Harrison, 17; and Sarah Harrison, 15, Jennifer's sister.

It reported that according to people close to the investigation, two suspects have given confessions detailing what happened the night of the murders.

The four teen-age girls were shot in the head on Dec. 6, 1991 at the yogurt shop report shop, a report that arrests are imminent is bringing hope to a community still horrified by the crime.

A high-ranking law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the suspects don't live in Austin, but two live in Texas, the newspaper reported.

One of the suspects was questioned by investigators soon after the crime, but more promising leads when the suspect stopped talking, the American-Statesman reported.

In a joint statement, Austin Police Chief Samuel L. Kiser and Travis County District Attorney Ronald Earle said the investigations are ongoing. Federal officers into the murders is ongoing.

"Although there is progress in the investigation, no arrests will be made until it is an open investigation," they said.

The newspaper reported that, according to the law enforcement official, police believe four males — two adults and two who were juvenile at the time — drove up to the yogurt shop the night of the killings. Three went inside.

Police believe robbery was the motive, but some of the girls were sexually assaulted, the newspaper reported. The girls don't know the suspects, it reported.

This isn't the first time police thought they were close to solving the case. One man in Mexico reportedly confessed to the killings and was sentenced to prison for an unrelated murder. But relatives of the victims said they believe his statement may have been coerced.

Austin officials also speculated that paroled killer Kenneth Alvin McCall may have been to blame since he was convicted of abducting and murdering a woman at a car wash. McCall was executed in November 1986 without shedding any light on the yogurt shop case.

To honor the memory of their daughters, the victims' families formed 'We Will Not Forget SAIE'. The group's initials stand for the girls' first names.

In 1994, the families settled a lawsuit with the owners of the yogurt shop and the shopping center for \$12 million. They used part of the money to publish a 60-page safety manual, "How to Survive and Thrive at Work," designed for teenagers, parents and employers.

Crime victim advocate Bob Stearns of nearby Bonham, Texas, whose own son was murdered in 1974, recalls the girls' deaths. "That was a very painful experience, and I think the community in general is still hurting from that. Finding some sort of closure is going to help the community a great deal," Stearns said. "It certainly will make me feel a lot better to know first of all that the people who committed such a crime are not going to get away with it."



AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT officers at the scene of the Yogurt Shop murders, where four young teenagers were found murdered and the business set on fire to cover up the crime, in Austin Texas Dec. 7, 1991. Police are set to arrest four suspects in the 1991 murders of four teen-age girls whose bodies were found in the charred ruins of an Austin yogurt shop.

There was a strong motivation on the part of everyone involved to solve the case," Kiser said. "Whether it's solved or not right now, I think it will ultimately be solved."

### Marriages

- Treatment Mesa Torres, 30 and Idalia J Ruiz Rodriguez, 30
- Clifton Williams, 41 and Emma Lovely Vaughn, 49
- Jackie Gerald Cattle, 58 and Dannie Hamilton DeWinger, 31
- Martin Whitaker, Jr., 49 and Joseph Mosley English, 48
- Janet Castro Andrade, 36 and Karen A Miller Andrews, 32
- James Earl McCoy, 47 and Pamela Mae Simes, 46
- Columbus Lattier, Jr., 50 and Veronica Clara Bush Bell, 46
- John McKenna Martin, 38 and Bonnie Laura Tammes, 32
- David Matthew Gary, 43 and Kris Lynn Skinner Talley, 41
- David Burl Spradell, 29 and

### Obituaries

**Mack Bonds**  
Mack Bonds, 75, Kilgore, will be held at 4 p.m. today, Oct. 2, 1999, at the Cordle-Powers Funeral Home Chapel, Overton, with the Rev. Larry Wilkins and the Rev. Roger Hoffpowner officiating. Burial will be in Hickory Grove Cemetery, near Kilgore. Mr. Bonds died Sept. 30, 1999, in a Longview hospital.

**Donnie Rose**  
Huggins/Hester Funeral Home — Services for Donnie Rose, 75, of Jefferson, will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Jefferson Academy Seventh-Day Adventist Church with the Rev. Bud Ota and the Rev. Gaston Wallace officiating. Interment will be in Berea Cemetery. He died Sept. 28, 1999, in Jefferson.

### ON THE RECORD

- Christina House Clark Colvin, 22
  - Grant Edwin McClain, Jr., 45 and James Blivins Colman, 31
  - John Richard Ross, 20 and Tammy Lynn McQueen, 20
- Lawsuits filed in the County clerk's office:**
- Provident National Bank vs. Keith E. Lloyd, for debt.
  - Chris Sampson, Katrina Sampson and Canyon Sampson vs. Diane Newell, administrator of the estate of Ronald Tyrone Moore, deceased.
  - Donna Freeman vs. David Alan Downs for damage to personal property.
  - Right Sound Inc. Inc. vs. Bob Mason, dba & O Country Sales, aka J & O Country Store, for debt.

- Erin, Hillary Frazier, Jr., Robby D. Hubbard, Belle McCoy, Bechen Moore, Elaine P. Miles, Arniea Rothermel, Joyce Marie Rose, Audrey James, Charles E. Johnson, Lela Love, Otis Smith, John Thompson, III, Carolyn M. Turner, Lawrence A. Wink, Emmaline Whitmore, Maetta A. Wilson, and Wanda L. Wright, for workman's compensation.
- Divorces: Thomas Eugene Hartley, Jr. vs. Debra Elaine Hartley; Tamara Lynn Johnson vs. Charles Ronald Johnson; Meredith John Gill Russ vs. Walter Joseph Russ; Iris Heron Adams Lauer vs. Michael Wayne Lauer; Shawnee M. Greider vs. Colton Wayne Stewart; Joyce Smith Jackson vs. Ricky Eugene Jackson; Denver Wilson vs. Della Wilson; Sheri Jean Mikes vs. Arthur Lee Mikes; Patrick Anthony Johnson vs. Sylvia Jacqueline Johnson; Ann Marie Carlisle vs. Christopher Jeff Dotson vs. Melissa Kay Dotson; Theresa Drann Bibb vs. Charles Scott Bibb, III; Kenneth Edward Dossier vs. Nancy N. Dossier; Corey L. McGuire vs. Virginia McGuire; Sherry Louise Myers vs. Brad Jay Curtis Myers; Charles McCoy vs. Alva Louise Bond McCoy; Bracelina Morales vs. Magdalena Morales.

### Lawsuits filed in the district clerk's office:

- David Alonso, Norma Haycox Alonso Sales vs. Thrifty Rent Car System, Inc. et al.
- Mickey Winkler vs. Anna Russell for auto damages, personal injury.
- Carroll W. Walker Simmons vs. Stephanie Francis Simmons vs. Vic Francis, dba Colony Communications, for breach of contract.
- Anthony Medical and as trustee vs. William T. Collins for uniform enforcement of Trustee Judgment Act.
- Agnes Family Church, Inc. vs. Sannie Shaw, Dewey Butler and Margerite Friderics, for partition suit.
- The Travelers Insurance Company vs. Bida E. Rutherford, Calvin Adams, Bertha M. Bailey, Vernon P. Harrington, Maxine Bush, Steven R. Chambers, Verna Covington, Doris Davidson, Marvel H. Davis, Herbert E. Dunn, Bernice

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## Officers investigate 3 vehicle burglaries

Three burglarized vehicles were reported at Superior Ford Friday afternoon. Stolen equipment was taken from each, and Marshall Police officers said considerable damage was done to the dashboards of each.

A house burglary investigated by the Harrison County Sheriff's Department reported that all the homeowner's guns had been stolen. A major three-car accident at 136 Friday afternoon, at the intersection of Pinecrest and Garrett streets, left two people injured. It was necessary to tow all three vehicles. No other details were available at press time.

### POLICE BEAT

- Patrick DeWayne Robertson, 22, 806 IAs, on warrants for burglary of a habitation.
- Laura Patch, 18, of 1207 N. Franklin on warrants for theft by check and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Scott Leo Stearns, 18, 112 Bienna Vista, unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- Alvin Alan Hernandez, 30, 1200 E. Crockett, no drivers license, no insurance and no child restraint Douglas Dewayn Sparks, 35, Kilgore for parole violation.
- Sherry Ethel Dossier, 46, public intoxication.

### Arrests

Nicodemus L. Benjamin, 20, 1707 Bona, was arrested on the Marshall High School campus for trespassing and warned to stay off all MSD property.

### Job population

There were 143 persons in the Harrison County Jail at press time.

**Marshall Recycled!**

Recyclable recycling is offered each Wednesday free for each single-family residence. Items should be placed in color, plastic bags provided at City Hall for each up to 7 a.m. Bags containing non-recyclable items or regular garbage will not be collected. It's easy.

**In the bin**  
• Crushed and rinsed aluminum cans (magazines won't attract aluminum) and tin metal cans.  
• Clear soap, milk and water plastic bottles only.

**Outside the bin**  
• Crushed newspapers and magazines (color glossies and magazines OK), broken down cardboard and boxes (no waxed or plastic coated boxes).

The Marshall News Messenger would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the Newspaper In Education Program for the 1999-2000 school year:

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