

Cold Case Advocacy

Serving families of unsolved homicide victims



Introduction



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Experience

The Florida Times-Union

Saturday
October 10, 2009



Bob Self/The Times-Union
Investigators respond to the scene of a fatal shooting on Bonneval Road on Saturday afternoon. According to police, about 12:30 p.m. Saturday a male in his mid-40s called 911 from his cell phone to report that he had been shot while working in a newly-built office building.

LAW & DISORDER: Construction worker fatally shot

A construction worker died Saturday afternoon, shortly after calling 911 to report he'd been shot at a Southside office complex.

About 12:30 p.m., the man was alone, cleaning up construction debris at a newly built office building at 6960 Bonneval Road, just off Interstate 95 and Butler Boulevard, police said.

He was standing in the doorway when he was shot, said Sgt. Larry Schmitt of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

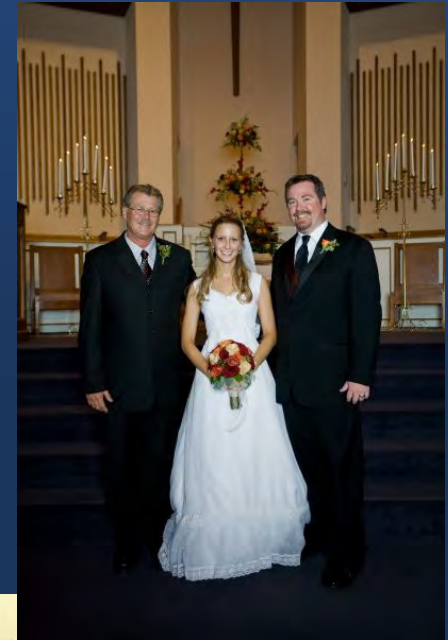
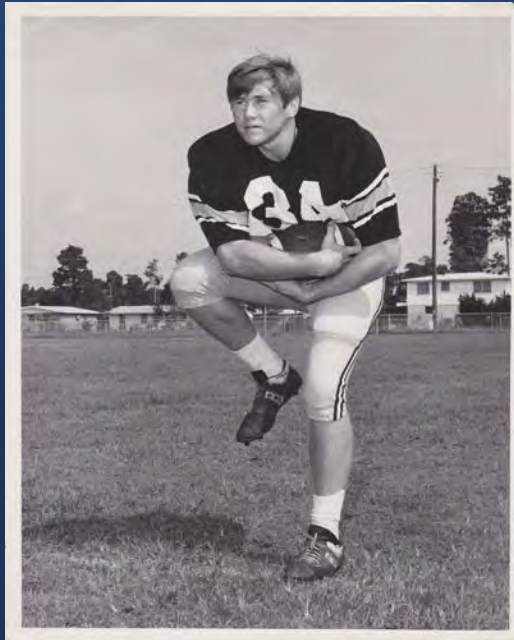
The unidentified victim, described only as a man in his 40s, used his cell phone to report the shooting but lost consciousness while on the phone. He was rushed to a local hospital, where he died a short time later.

Police were searching the scene and checking for any surveillance footage to help identify a suspect or a motive.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office at (904) 630-0500 or e-mail police at JSOCrimeTips @jaxsheriff.org. Witnesses can also anonymously contact First Coast Crime Stoppers at (866) 845-TIPS or rewards@fccrimestoppers.com.

Adam Aasen

That “construction worker” was my 56-year-old dad, Clifford Thomas Backmann



Timeline



Oct. 2009

- Murder



2010-2014

- Victim Advocate



2015 - Present

- Project: Cold Case



Common Questions

What is a cold case?



Common Questions

When is a case cold?



Common Questions

Why assign resources to cold cases?



Difficult Questions

COVER UP

MEDIA

ADEQUATE INVESTIGATION

RETURNED CALLS

MOTIVE

OUT OF THE LOOP

Private Investigators

INNOCENT VICTIM(?)

UNKNOWN LIFESTYLE

TROLLS

UNPLEASANT DETAILS

Complications with this survivor population



Complications with this survivor population





Agency Solvability Protocols

1. Statutory and Constitutional Issues: Can the case be reinvestigated due to statutory limitations or constitutional issues?
2. Evidentiary Priorities: Is there physical evidence available to be processed with new technology, new evidence, or unprocessed evidence?
3. Confessions: Has a known or unknown suspect confessed? Is the confession made to a cooperative witness and is it first hand?
4. Witnesses: Are there known or unknown witnesses that have come forward or willing to cooperate in the investigation?
5. Hearsay: Is the information admissible? Who is the information coming from and is that person willing to cooperate?
6. Inmate Information: Is the information coming from an inmate under sentence or awaiting trial? What are the circumstances, leniency, monetary, etc.? Is the State Attorney willing to cooperate with inmate leniency?
7. General Information: Is the information anonymous, from an uncooperative source, or a general family request? Although this type of information would not justify a full case assignment, a general review may be initiated. This review should be accompanied by a follow-up call and explanation if no solvability factors exist.

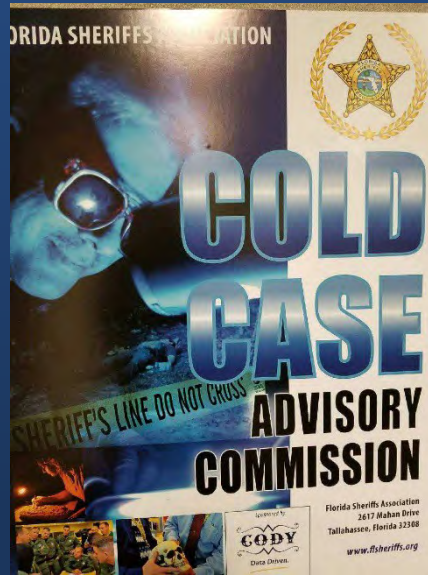
Prioritization and Triage Scale

HIGH –Known suspect, preserved physical evidence, witnesses available

MODERATE –No known suspect but physical evidence preserved, witnesses available, insufficient evidence

LOW –No known suspects, physical evidence, or material witnesses

Resources



Advancing Technology



Why all the effort?



Why all the effort?



Why all the effort?



Why all the effort?

▶ COLD CASE ARREST

15 YEARS LATER



David Watson

- ▶ Ex-wife reported missing in 2000
- ▶ Cox & Farnsworth killed in 2003
- ▶ Remains found in 2003, identified in 2011

Why all the effort?



Why all the effort?



NEW AT 9

ARREST IN COLD CASE HOMICIDE

ANTIOCH

KRON 4

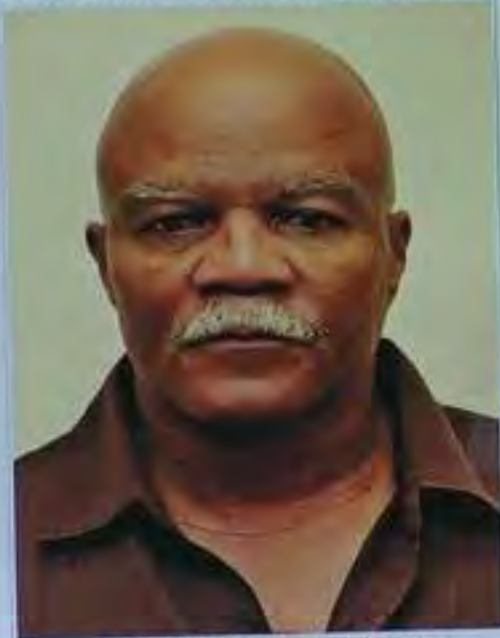
9:01 PM ING AT TARGET PARKING LOT • VACAVILLE: 4 ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF STEALING FROM WA

Why all the effort?



Why all the effort?

" COLD CASE HOMICIDE SUSPECT"



NATHAN EUGENE MATHIS

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**STORIES
THAT
MATTER**

**ARREST MADE IN 32-YEAR-OLD MURDER
ESCONDIDO**



5:00 68°

Why all the effort?



Why all the effort?



Why all the effort?

COLD CASE ARREST

NEW ON 8



**MICHAEL
SYPERDA**



Why all the effort?



Why all the effort?



ARREST MADE IN 1993 COLD CASE
NORTH TONAWANDA

Why all the effort?



ONLY ON ACTION NEWS JAX

NEIGHBORS REMEMBER CLERK KILLED 43 YEARS AGO
POLICE MAKE ARREST IN COLD CASE MURDER

CBS 47
ACTION NEWS JAX
78°

Why all the effort?

Sacramento County Sheriff's Department



Suspected 'Golden State Killer' Arrested



Why it is important



Questions?

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