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VICTIMS' JUSTICE COALITION'S ADVOCATE

Stalking victim wears GPS pager

Fearing for her life, Amy Stover is first to wear device

■ Shirley Shaw

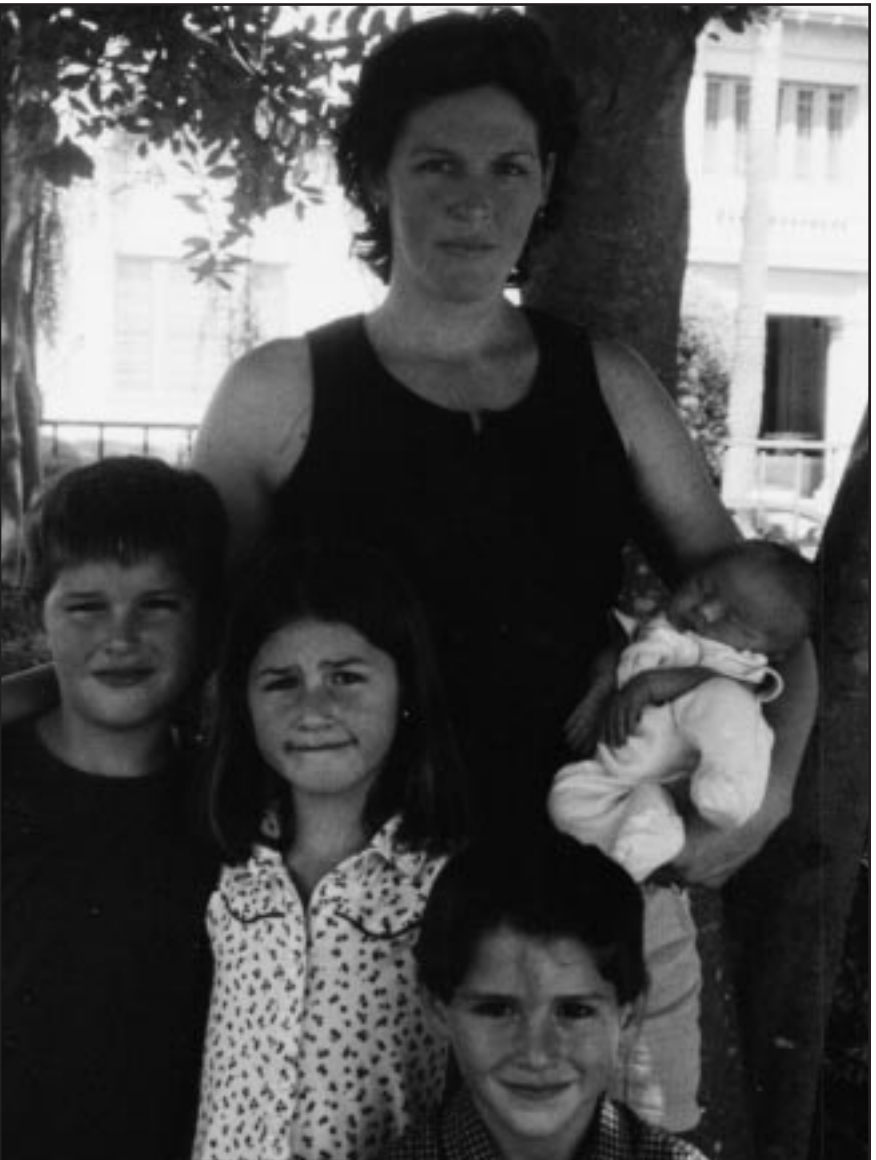
They were 26 years old, had three children, operated a growing construction company, and owned cars and property near Bryceville, but in July 2001 their peaceful existence came to a screeching halt.

Amy Stover discovered her husband, David, was having an affair with another woman and told him to pack his clothes and leave. He moved to a motel in July 2001, but came back to their home on weekends to visit the children while Amy stayed with her mother or a girlfriend.

When she returned home Sept. 16, 2001, before David could leave, her cell phone rang. When he learned the caller was a man, he "went ballistic," Amy recalled. "He hit me, knocked me down, took my cell phone and ran from the house. He came back up the stairs and I pushed him to keep him from knocking me down the stairs. He took my purse, keys, truck and money and left."

David later returned and threatened to kill all of them, including her mother, who was there at the time. He reminded her he knew the woods surrounding their house "like the back of my hand," and a few hours later he suddenly appeared inside the house, sneaking in as he said he would do. When he started pushing Amy around, her mother called 911, but by the time a police officer came, David was gone.

At the responding officer's



Amy (Stover) Henderson with her children Tyler, Kaylee, Spencer and Chance.

suggestion that she go to a safe place, she packed her and her children's belongings, loaded them into her mother's and her vehicles, and left. She later discovered the state dropped all charges against him except domestic battery, since

there was "mutual combat" when she fought back.

Thus began Amy's two-year struggle to protect herself and her children from a man who she says disregarded the court injunctions to

Stalker, Continued on page 9

Many reasons to be thankful

The Thanksgiving holiday evokes thoughts of family reunions, anticipation of tables piled high with delicious food and reflections about the blessings we enjoy and often take for granted. We asked members of our community to share their reasons for gratitude this season.



It has been an incredible year and I have so much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

First and foremost, I am so very grateful for my loving and supportive family.

Serving the citizens as mayor of Jacksonville is a tremendous honor and privilege. We are at an exciting point in our city's history. Jacksonville has a sound economy, a quality of life like no other and caring citizens that make it a truly remarkable place to live.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to help make Jacksonville even better by growing the economy—not the government. I also want learning and literacy to take top priority.

I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

- Mayor John Peyton

I have been blessed with a wonderful family and many good friends. Grateful for the many blessings I continue to receive in my life, I look forward to every day that I am alive.

- Regina Durfee, Assistant State Attorney



I am grateful for Clay County government and law enforcement that take domestic violence seriously and understand the plight of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and I'm equally grateful for a community that is so very supportive of our efforts to make every woman and child safe in their own homes.

- Sharon Youngerman, Executive Director, Quigley House, Inc.

Reasons, Continued on page 4

Sheriff serves up 10-point agenda for excellence



From the Sheriff's Desk
Sheriff John Rutherford

The U.S. Department of Justice awarded the JSO a grant in September to hire 30 full-time community-policing officers. These officers, to be

hired in February, will be assigned to the Patrol Division when they have completed their training.

We are intensifying our recruitment efforts. We will conduct a nationwide search for qualified candidates and plan to launch a comprehensive media strategy that will include advertising on television,

radio and billboards. Our recruiters will attend job fairs, visit colleges and distribute brochures and videos. Our vision is to recruit and hire the best officers in the nation, and I feel confident we can accomplish that goal.

Public Safety involves partnership between law enforcement and citizens of the community. When

citizens and JSO employees know and trust each other, they become unified in their approach to crime. I am proud of this agency and the men and women who serve in this department and have developed a 10-point agenda for excellence:

1. A New Generation – the character and caliber of the JSO workforce will

be reshaped for performance. Work units will be reorganized based on competence and accountability.

2. Integrity and Professional Excellence – tough recruiting, training and selection are starting points to enforce high standards of conduct.

Rutherford, Continued on page 6