

FUGITIVES CAPTURED **1674**
 MISSING PERSONS FOUND **148**

Protect and Serve3
 Sheriff: School update5
 Shame, Shame, Shame7
 Jay Howell: 2008 Laws8
 Mayor: Mentoring9
 JSO Wanted10

Unsolved/Missing11
 We Will Not Forget12
 FSS Missing children12
 Lighter Side13
 Busted15
 Nassau Wanted15

Thank You
 Thank you to everyone in NE Florida who worked so hard to get us through TS Fay: government officials, media, law enforcement/first responders, utilities personnel – and so many others. God bless you all.

JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

SEPTEMBER, 2008

WWW.JUSTICECOALITION.ORG

Volume 13 • Number 17 • FREE

“Make a chain...

...the city is full of violence”



From the Director
 by Ann Dugger

A few weeks ago the Justice Coalition held a press conference to announce a cash reward for information leading to the arrest of Chris

Oney's murderer. After facilitating such events for the past 13 or so years, I felt that God impressed me to open this one as I never had before – with a scripture and prayer that God would intervene in the violence of our city.

Like most everyone else in our community, I've been deeply concerned about the increasing crime and deterioration of families we witness every day. I've prayed earnestly that God would show me what I can do to make a change, and my thoughts always come back to two specific verses of Bible scripture: II Chronicles 7:14 and Ezekiel 7:23.

The former verse is familiar to most Christians: *If my people which are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sins and heal their land.* The solution starts with God's people; it is our responsibility to set an example and lead the way.

Less familiar is the other verse, but I think it exactly states our present dilemma in this city and gives us instructions for what we should do: *Make a chain, for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence. WE as Christians must form a chain, and I must be a link in that chain.*

Multiple solutions – programs, education, etc. – are being considered and implemented in an attempt to resolve our terrible crime problem, and I applaud every effort and all those committed to the cause. But we are in a spiritual battle between good and the forces of evil – and God is the only one who can truly make a difference. Only He can change a person's heart, and until the heart is changed, the head will keep thinking the same way and propelling the individual in the wrong direction.

Fasting and prayer are powerful tools to move the hand of God. The Bible says “The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16) I recently witnessed the effect of intercessory prayer in a courtroom when prayer warriors walked the halls interceding over a critical situation involving several victims. The amazing result of those prayers was almost immediate and reinforced my determination to bring together interested Christians who share my vision.

CHAIN... CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Sexual Predators in Nursing Homes

Are background checks run on residents?

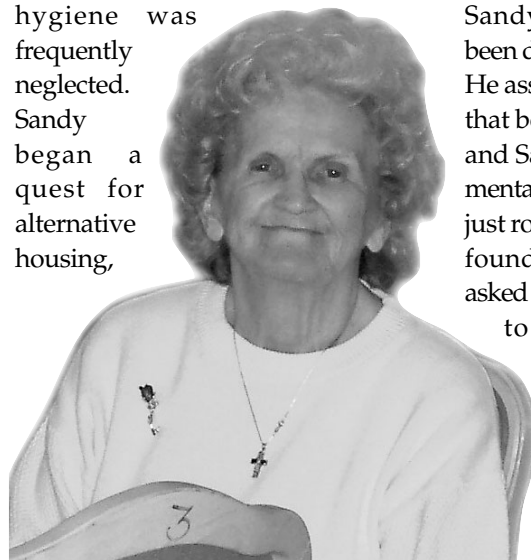


...to Sandy Banning, who is talking to anyone who will listen – including a congressional committee in Washington DC – about her mother's rape in a nursing home and what should be done to prevent the same thing from happening to other elders in these facilities.

Sandy's mother, 77-year-old Virginia Thurston, “my best friend – the most precious thing in the world to me,” had experienced increasing dementia resulting from Alzheimer's Disease, and the family had no choice but to place her in a nursing home. When the first facility they chose was unable to accommodate her mother's needs, they moved her in February 2002 to Southwood Nursing Center

on Acme Street (off Atlantic Blvd.).

Family members checked on her frequently, and soon Sandy became concerned about her mother's care. On two occasions she found her meds on the floor, and Mrs. Thurston's personal hygiene was frequently neglected. Sandy began a quest for alternative housing,



Sandy's mother, Virginia Thurston

placing her mother's name on several waiting lists, but before a room elsewhere became available, Sandy received a phone call that has completely changed her life.

At 10:00 p.m. on July 23, 2002, the charge nurse at Southwood called Sandy to let her know a man had been discovered in her mother's bed. He assured her nothing was wrong, that both were lying there sleeping, and Sandy assumed someone with mental problems like her mother had just roamed around and mistakenly found his way to her room. When asked if she wanted her mother taken to the rape center for testing, based on what the nurse had said Sandy told him not to awaken her mother because it would scare her.

Early the next morning Sandy received a call at work

HATS OFF... CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Jacksonville's Street Culture:

Misplaced loyalty, drugs and guns

By Shirley Shaw

A car was recently stolen – one of several thousand reported each year in Jacksonville – and JSO detectives began their search for the vehicle. A trail of reliable leads brought them to the car in the backyard of a suspect's house, and it was returned to its grateful owner. But the thief was never prosecuted. Why? Because the one witness who could testify about the theft refused to do so.

A shooting occurred in Northwest Jacksonville, leaving a man critically injured on the sidewalk. Detectives questioned several possible witnesses, all of whom knew what had happened and who the shooter was, but no one was willing to testify and the thug remains free to keep shooting.

This kind of frustrating scenario plays out every day in our city. JSO detectives work tirelessly to solve murder cases and other crimes but

are often thwarted by the unwillingness of crooks' relatives or cohorts to place the blame where it belongs. And often, without that corroborating bit of evidence, the thug continues to terrorize citizens, including those whose misplaced loyalty keeps him on the street.



Local and national media have written much about the “Stop Snitchin' Movement” in recent months and years. Some cite the dire consequences (in several cases) of witnessing against criminals, while others express the anguish of families whose loved ones' murders remain unsolved because of the no-snitching mindset.

Vernette Chapman recalls the

morning in January 2006 when police officers came to her door with news of her son's murder. Donté Chapman, only 20 years old, was murdered and his body set on fire. Vernetta says, “Some people know what happened, they know what he was doing, how he got there, and nobody has come forward.” She continues to pray for a tip from someone, a fresh lead, anything that will lead to an arrest; however, she fears the powerful Stop Snitchin' movement on the street will silence the people who can provide that lead.¹

Members of MAD DADS frequently join other community and church groups to march in an area where someone has been murdered. They distribute flyers and wear tee shirts with messages urging citizens to **Break the code of silence!** and **Do the right thing!**

Elder Donald Foy says the way to change the snitching mindset is

CULTURE... CONTINUED ON PAGE 2