The Victim’s Testimony

By Jay Howell

History is loaded with evidence of legal requirements that reject the testimony of just one witness on certain issues. The Code of the Emperor Justinian, a Byzantine official who ruled in 525, declared that on any important issue the testimony of a single female is not supported by other evidence, her testimony should be rigidly examined, especially as it relates to the question of whether or not consent was ever given. That jury instruction was omitted in 1976 and, of course, does not appear in the current jury instructions. In a previous case, the Florida Supreme Court had agreed to give the instruction. The defendant was convicted and appealed, arguing that the instruction should never have been given. The Florida Supreme Court noted that in earlier prosecutions, before the 1974 Statute, the standard instruction given to the jury stated that, “If the testimony of the female is not supported by other evidence, her testimony should be rigidly examined, especially as it relates to the question of whether or not consent was ever given.” That jury instruction was omitted in 1976 and, of course, does not appear in the current jury instructions. In a previous case, the Florida Supreme Court had decided that no corroborative evidence was required in a rape case when the victim can testify to the crime and identify her assailant. The Supreme Court previously found that “the ‘rigid scrutiny’ instruction was improper. In the current case, the Supreme Court stated that the ‘no corroborative instruction’ correctly stated the law but should not have been given because it constituted a comment on the testimony presented by the alleged victim and presented an impermissible risk that the jury would conclude it need not subject the victim’s testimony to the same test for credibility and weight applicable to other witnesses.

Testimony (Continued on page 5)
Faith Corner

The Faith Community holds the key to true restorative justice for all mankind. Many churches and businesses support this concept. The Justice Coalition wishes to thank the following for their support:

JOHNNY WILLIAMS, OWNER
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EVANGEL TEMPLE
ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Department of Children and Families’ Statewide Human Trafficking Prevention Director Kim Grabert, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Governor Rick Scott, Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Christie Dady, Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater and Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam.

Miami Dade College illuminated its Freedom Tower blue in recognition of those enslaved by traffickers. Raising awareness about the prevalence of human trafficking is a crucial component to combating this illegal multi-billion dollar industry and I want to thank Miami-Dade College for helping spread awareness. Floridians can help by educating themselves about how to identify a trafficking victim and where to report suspected cases. To take an active role in the fight to end human trafficking, visit YouCanStopHT.com.

Kevin Floyd
CERTIFIED MATH INSTRUCTOR
Algebra • Geometry • Trigonometry • PreCalculus • AP Calculus
Calculus I, II, III • Differential Equations • Statistics • ACT • SAT • GRE
Professor FCCJ 6 years
AP Calculus Teacher Douglas Anderson 10 years
Over 20 years experience • North Green Cove Springs
904 655 2301

Inspirational Thought

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

— 2 Timothy 1:7

J.B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc.
6791 Blackbird Road • Jacksonville, Florida 32219
904-786-1120
heard about Rethreaded, a nonprofit located here in Jacksonville with the mission of breaking the cycle of the sex trade through employment. My life, my heart, my purpose had changed so much in the year I had been out of jail, and it was about to change so much more. They welcomed me with open arms. While my past helped to fill the requirements for working there, it would never be something that could be used against me. I earn a living wage, and am on a career path for marketing. It has been the more I was looking for. Since I began working there my teeth have been fixed. I’ve moved into my own apartment, and my son has come to live with me.

Each day serves a great purpose, and if I finally see my potential. I am finally free. Guilt and shame no longer reign supreme in my life. My story is now a fair glow of hope for women who don’t think there is a way out. When I am not working or spending time with my family, I spend my free time doing street and jail ministry. What an amazing reason to wake up every morning.

I was arrested twice for prostitution in 2013, and both times I was featured in ‘Shame, Shame, Shame.’ At the time of my final trip to jail I read a letter to the Justice Coalition in March 2015. After reconnecting with Ms. Roseland and Rethreaded this year, we are happy to announce that all Shame, Shame, Shame features have been removed from the archives on our website: We are working to erase all remnants from the internet. We hope that removing this obstacle can positively affect the lives of many women and we thank Ms. Roseland and Rethreaded for the work they do with these women.

Ms. Roseland wrote the preceding let- ter and sent it to the Justice Coalition in October of 2015. In immediate re- sponse to this letter, her name and photo were removed from our website and online archives. Justice Coalition acknowledges that prostitu- tion now often involves women who have been purposely addicted to drugs in order to capture them in the sex traf- ficking market. Because of this, we stopped publishing Shame, Shame, Shame in March 2013. After reconnec- ting with Ms. Roseland and Rethreaded this year, we are happy to announce that all Shame, Shame, Shame features have been removed from the archives on our website: We are working to erase all remnants from the internet. We hope that removing this obstacle can positively affect the lives of many women and we thank Ms. Roseland and Rethreaded for the work they do with these women.
The Justice Coalition was founded in 1995, when one man’s priorities were changed. Ted Hires was formed a (501(c)(3)), non-profit organization, Justice Coalition, which continues Ted’s mission of assisting innocent victims of violent crimes in the Fourth Judicial court system. Since 1995, the Justice Coalition has been fighting crime every step of the way.进展 captured are through a partnership with local law enforcement agencies, the media, and citizens involvement.

The Justice Coalition’s
Victims’ Advocate

A newspaper supporting victims’ rights and published monthly by the Justice Coalition, Inc. The opinions of contributing writers are not necessarily those of the Victims’ Advocate or the Justice Coalition. The Victims’ Advocate welcomes both editorial and photographic submissions but they cannot be returned. Please allow six weeks for a response to submitted works. Calendar information is welcome but must be submitted one month in advance of the event.

All correspondence to the Justice Coalition’s Victims’ Advocate should be sent to:
1935 Lane Ave. South, Suite 1 • Jacksonville, Florida 32210
Phone: (904) 783-6312 • Fax: (904) 783-6417
RayT@justicecoalition.org

THE JUSTICE COALITION’S OBJECTIVES
• To be available for innocent victims of violent crime
• To educate the general public on criminal justice issues
• To be pro-active in the fight against crime

THE SECRET WORD GAME

Hidden in the text of the Victims’ Advocate is the SECRET WORD for the month of February. The rules are simple:
1. Find the word.
2. Telephone the Justice Coalition office 783-6312.
3. The first person who telephones the correct Secret Word wins a Gift Certificate to Sonny’s Real Pit Barbeque Restaurant.
4. You can only win once in a twelve-month period.

SO START SEARCHING!

Congratulations to February’s secret word winner Delores Thomas!

Exclusions: no persons employed by the Justice Coalition, Sonny’s nor their families are eligible.

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The Justice Coalition was founded in 1995, when one man’s priorities were changed. Ted Hires was shown a gunpoint. As a victim of a crime, Ted found the criminal justice system worked harder for the criminal than the victim. As a result of his experience, Ted formed a (501(c)(3)), non-profit organization, Justice Coalition, which continues Ted’s mission of assisting innocent victims of violent crimes in the Fourth Judicial court system. Since 1995, the Justice Coalition has been fighting crime every step of the way.进展 captured are through a partnership with local law enforcement agencies, the media, and citizens involvement.

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The Book Shelf
Books for Victims and Survivors
By Ray Ruevec, Sr.

Lincoln in the Bardo
By George Saunders

The world cannot get enough books about Abraham Lincoln; more than 15,000 books have been written about him, more than any other person with the exception of Jesus. Consequently, in their drive to write a guaranteed best-selling book, many authors have invented ever newer approaches to both non-fiction and fictionalized accounts of the great man. Doris Kearns Goodwin emphasized his management style in Team of Rivals. Bill O'Reilly's Killing Lincoln took a sensationalized approach to his last days. Elizabeth Brown Pryor's new history, Six Encounters with Lincoln: A President Confronts Democracy and Its Demons, takes the currently trendy academic approach of trashig great American historical figures. And fiction about Lincoln has often been even more far-fetched, for example, Seth Grahame-Smith's wildly successful Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter.

George Saunders's debut novel, Lincoln in the Bardo, would seem at first to be the weirdest book yet written about the sixteenth president. It combines elements of history, horror, religion, humor, and psychology in a surreal novel that is, in the end, a brilliant portrayal of a man deep in the throes of grief.

Like most historical novels, Saunders starts with historically sound elements and then mixes in fiction to create an engrossing story. Here the historical element involves the death of Lincoln's eleven-year-old son, Willie, in 1862. Newspapers at the time reported that on at least two occasions Lincoln visited Willie's crypt late at night and actually held his son's dead body while talking to him. Whether such reports were true or not it is impossible to tell, but it is well-known that both Lincoln and his wife were deeply in grief over the death of their son.

The entire novel takes place during one night in the cemetery. It is narrated by the many ghosts of persons who have died, including Willie himself. They are now trapped within the confines of the cemetery, except ironically the ghosts of slaves who come and go from the cemetery. The ghosts are also trapped within their existence in a sort of limbo called "bardo," a concept of Tibetan Buddhism resembling Christian limbo. They are waiting, some of them for centuries, for their rebirth. (It is unnecessary to understand or accept Buddhism to enjoy the story; the reader can just as well, and did, consider bardo to be limbo in a Christian sense.)

Saunders interweaves historical accounts of the Civil War with satirical accounts of the dead characters' lives. It seems a lot weirder writing about it here than it comes off in the novel itself. It manages to be hilarious and macabre at the same time. It combines postmodern approaches to history and culture with an utterly sincere feeling of sorrow, not only the sorrow of Lincoln but the sorrow also of an entire nation. The overall effect, strangely, is one of honesty. It is a unique novel that pierces through a surface horror show of phantasmasgorical characters to describe the very real sense of sorrow experienced as part of grief. To those who have experienced the grief of losing a close loved one, spending long hours at the cemetery talking to the one deceased, wondering if they are cold, and wanting to hold them again, does not seem unusual. They know that it can sometimes feel horrifying, spiritual and enlightening at the same time.

George Saunders is considered one of the greatest writers writing today. This is his first novel, and it has been eagerly anticipated. I listened to the audio version, which has a cast of 166 actors, and it is quite an experience, almost like a movie.
Please Join Us

15th Annual

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March 16, 2017
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Doors open at 6:45 a.m.

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Please RSVP ASAP!
MISSING PERSONS

Your help is needed in the following cases. If you have any information, no matter how insignificant, please notify the authorities.

Bryan Lamar Allen
Last seen May 31, 2012, at 21st and Moncrief. If you have information about him, please call Det. Richardson at JSO Missing Persons Unit — (904) 630-2627

Yvonne Belcher
Age 25 (at the time) 5’1”, 100 lbs, Blue eyes, Blonde hair Missing since December 22, 2000 Notify Green Cove Springs PD at (904) 529-2220

Haleigh Cummings
Age 5 3’, 30 lbs, Brown eyes, Blonde hair Missing since December 22, 2000 Reward $35,000 Notify CrimeStoppers at 1-888-277-TIPS

Michael Austin Davis
Age 25 5’8”, 160-180 lbs, Blue eyes, Brown hair Missing since June 26, 2007

Rosemary Day
Age 27 (at the time) 5’4”, 150 lbs, Brown eyes, Brown hair Missing since May 25, 2011

Mark Anthony Degner
Age 12 (at the time) 5’5”, 135 lbs, Hazel eyes, Dark blonde hair Missing since Feb. 10, 2009 Reward $30,000 Notify

Windy Gail Fox
Age 49 (at the time) 5’8”, 137 lbs, Blue eyes, Brown hair Missing since August 6, 2006

Sandra Gann
Age 27 (at the time) 5’7”, 130 lbs, Brown eyes, Brown hair Missing since January 5, 2004 Notify Bradford County SO (904) 966-2276

Mark Thomas Gibson
Age 31 5’7”, 130 lbs, Brown eyes, Brown hair Missing since March 12, 2008

Bryan Andrew Hayes
Age 12 (at the time) 5’6”, 125 lbs, Green eyes, Red hair Missing since February 10, 2005 Reward $10,000

Sheena Dayle Johnson
Age 20 5’4”, 95 lbs, Black eyes, Brown hair Missing since November 1, 2006

Geanna M. Jones
Age 26 (at the time) 5’8”, 165 lbs, Black eyes, Brown hair Missing since November 2006

Jackie Markham
Age 35 (at the time) 5’6”, 150 lbs, Brown eyes, Blondish Brown hair Missing since December 14, 2000 Reward $20,000 Notify Nassau County SO (904) 225-0331

Rodney McIntyre
Age 22 (at the time) 5’6”, 170 lbs, Brown eyes, Black hair Missing since July 2, 2004

Shirlene “Donetta” Roberts
Age 23 Brown eyes, Black hair Missing since November 9, 2000

Joshua Bryan Smith
Age 43 5’10”, 145 lbs, Brown eyes, Black hair Missing since August 11, 2004 Notify St. Johns County SO (904) 824-8304

Tammy Willis
Age 47 5’7”, 115 lbs, Brown eyes Missing since August 12, 2012 Last seen on Normandy Blvd.

Ricky Lamar Caldwell
Age 27 (at the time) DOB: 1/24/86 5’7”, 190 lbs, Brown eyes Black dreads Missing since August 30, 2013 Last seen at 3526 Broadway Ave. Notify JSO Missing Persons Unit 904-630-2627

Name: Michael Frazier
Info: Last seen Friday, July 3, 2015, near Philips Highway and Emerson Street. He was wearing a light blue shirt, Khaki blue shorts and light blue Jordans. If you have any information regarding his whereabouts, please call Lisa at 904-554-9518 or JSO Detective Johnson at 904-630-2627.

Name: Gina Michele Antolik Evans
Info: Reported missing July 21, 2015. Victim was last seen on July 10, 2015, when she left her sister’s residence. The victim was last seen wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans. The victim has a substance abuse problem and is homeless. Gina frequents the area of Stockton Street, Edison and Lake Avenues. If you have any information regarding her whereabouts, please call 904-830-4500 or 630-2627 Missing Persons Hotline.

Name: John Patrick Rowan
Info: Rowan, 34, left his Ft. Caroline home before sunrise Feb. 23, 2001, and has not been seen since. His SUV was found a month later near the Orlando airport. His case has been ruled an unsolved homicide. Notify: JSO Cold Case at 630-1157.

Name: Mary Elizabeth Furlal
Info: This 54-year-old mother of two was strangled during the night and found by her little children on Mar. 20, 2012. Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-1157.

Name: Paul W. Isackson
Info: This 44-year-old beloved husband and father was murdered on E. 17th and Hubbard St. On Feb. 21, 1984, by multiple stab wounds. Notify: BO at 630-0100

This section made possible by donations from friends and family.

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“The Justice Coalition’s Victims’ Advocate”

UNSOLVED MURDERS

Support the Justice Coalition Advertise in the Victims’ Advocate

$200,000 REWARD

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$1,000 REWARD

Support the Justice Coalition’s Victims’ Advocate

The Lord, the Justice Coalition is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization — your contributions are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

Support the Justice Coalition Advertise in the Victims’ Advocate

$1,000 REWARD

The Risks of Bullying and New Events to find it

Contact Cam Brown 783-6312

$1,000 REWARD

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MARCH 2017

THE JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE • 7
Sheriff Recognizes JSO’s 2017 Employees Of The Year and Posthumously Recognizes Glen Mitchell as “Citizen Of The Year”

Sheriff Mike Williams hosted the 2017 “Employee of the Year” awards ceremony on February 16, 2017 in the Police Memorial Building’s Assembly Hall. This annual ceremony honored employees from each of the six categories who were recognized throughout the previous year.

The Merit Board, which is made up of the agency’s Chiefs, selected the honorees based on their previous recognition as well as their continued contributions since they were first recognized.

At the annual ceremony Sheriff Williams said, “This ceremony stands for everything our employees believe in and strive for each day. What you will hear today, in these stories of excellence, is how each of these recipients earned recognition and distinguished themselves for today’s honor.”

Also at the ceremony, the sheriff announced his selection of the 2017 “Citizen Of The Year.” This year’s honoree, recognized posthumously, is Mr. Glen Mitchell, founder of Compassionate Families, Inc.

Those JSO employees recognized at the ceremony were:
- Police Officer of the Year - Police Sergeant Jason B. Bailey
- Corrections Officer of the Year - Corrections Officer David L. Lucas
- Police Supervisor of the Year - Police Lieutenant Travis J. Cox
- Corrections Supervisor of the Year - Corrections Lieutenant Jason A. Rogers
- Civilian Employee of the Year - Executive Assistant Brandi M. Goff
- Reserve Sergeant Louis M. Livatino
- Police Supervisor of the Year - Police Lieutenant Travis J. Cox
- Corrections Supervisor of the Year - Corrections Lieutenant Jason A. Rogers
- Citizen of the Year (Posthumously Awarded) - Glen Mitchell

For more information and photos please visit: www.jaxsheriff.org

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UNSOLVED MURDERS

We regret that because of insufficient space we cannot include all unsolved murder cases on this page. We will rotate all pictures, featuring each victim every three months. We remain sorry for your loss and will continue to work to seek justice for all.

Name: Amber Baker
Info: This 22-year-old woman was shot outside her home on July 19, 2015. Detectives are looking for a light-colored car. CrimeStoppers offers $3,000 for information and $1,000 to return gun used in crime. Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2171.

Name: Tyler Hendrix
Info: This 25-year-old man was shot and killed on July 12, 2016 at 1001 W. Browne Street near the entrance of Paradise Village Trailer Park. Notify: JSO, 630-2172 or Crime Stoppers at 866-845-TIPS.

Name: Demantrae Franklin
Info: This 15-year-old was shot multiple times on Oct. 27, 2014 at 1244 Labelle St. in Jacksonville, while visiting friends at Stature Gardens.

Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2172 or Crime Stoppers 866-845-TIPS.

Name: Michael E. Siegrist
Info: This 31-year-old was shot at the bus stop at Jammes and Harlow Rd. on July 13, 2013. His car, a black 87-page (about 9:21 in his 20s with short hair) stole the friend’s purse. Siegrist returned and was shot and killed. Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2171.

Name: Billy Hendrix
Info: This 35-year-old man was found shot on the side of Picketville Road on the Westside on August 15, 2013. His gun and another gun were nearby. Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2171.

Name: microwave
Info: Tyrone Grayson
Info: This 54-year-old was found shot in a nearby wooded area.

Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2171.

Name: Brandon Cory Gentry
Info: This 28-year-old was found on the northside July 3, 2013. His gun was nearby. Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2171.

Name: Leon Jackson
Info: This 25-year-old was found shot on Picketville Road on the Westside on August 15, 2013. His gun and another gun were nearby. Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2171.

Name: Larry Williams
Info: This 25-year-old was found shot near a local hospital where he later died from his injuries.

Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2171.

Name: John Decker Frazier
Info: This 54-year-old family man and skilled physician was found floating in the St. Johns River on September 20, 1990, with a gun to his back.

Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2171.

Name: Demetrae Franklin
Info: Demetrae, 19, was shot multiple times on Oct. 27, 2014 at 1244 Labelle St. in Jacksonville, while visiting friends at Stature Gardens.

Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2172 or Crime Stoppers 866-845-TIPS.

Name: George DeCosta
Info: DeCosta, age 46, aka “Rah Rah,” was found murdered on Dec. 1, 2016, approx. 1:15pm.
Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2172 or Crime Stoppers at 866-845-TIPS.

Name: Louis M. Livatino
Info: Livatino, 25, was shot and killed May 21, 2016 at the 708 block of Groves Street.

Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2172.

Name: Jazmine Shelton
Info: This 17-year-old football player was shot and killed April 25, 2015, during a double shooting at an after-prom celebration at Louise Sheffield Park in Arlington. He is remembered for his athletic ability, personality and charm.

Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2172 – or Crime Stoppers.

Name: John Decker Frazier
Info: This 54-year-old family man and skilled physician was found floating in the St. Johns River on September 20, 1990, with a gun to his back.

Notify: JSO Homicide at 630-2171.

Name: Errin Alexander Brooks
Info: On April 15, 2015, the body of Brooks, 17, was found in the backyard of a house by students on their way to a school bus stop near Fourth Street and Clyde Drive.

Neighbors heard several gunshots about 9:50 p.m. the day before. Notify: JSO Homicide Detective Baker at 630-2172 – or Crime Stoppers.

Name: Carmen “Tyke” Hendrix
Info: This 28-year-old man was shot and killed July 12, 2016 at 1001 W. Brown Street near the entrance of Paradise Village Trailer Park. Notify: JSO, 630-2172 or Crime Stoppers at 866-845-TIPS.
An active warrant existed on every person shown on this page at the time the Justice Coalition received the information from the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office in February 2017, about two weeks before the Victim’s Advocate went to press.

**WANTED POSTERS TERMINOLOGY KEY**

- **AFCD** – Aid for Dependent Children
- **Bt** – Battery
- **CV** – Controlled Weapon
- **Cont. Subs. – Controlled Substance
- **Df** – Dead Weapon
- **FA** – Firearm
- **FAC** – Firearm Charge
- **FTA** – Felony To Appear
- **GA** – Grand Theft
- **GT** – Grand Theft
- **HO** – Habitual Offender
- **LEO** – Law Enforcement Officer
- **MVA** – Motor Vehicle Accident
- **PCS** – Possession of Controlled Substance
- **PCF** – Possession of Firearms by Convicted Felon
- **PT** – Point Thru
- **UTC** – Unclassified/Unknown/Other
- **VOP** – Violation of Probation/Parole
- **VT** – Violent Thru
- **W** – Warrant

**Think hard. Think again. Do the right thing. Call police if you have information about a crime.**
Park. The assault occurred between 8 and 9 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17. If you have any information involving this assault, please call the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Department at 904-824-8304 or Crime Stoppers at 1-866-845-TIPS (8477).

Each of us has a responsibility to help make our community safe, and aiding in the apprehension of those among us who choose to scoff at the law goes a long way. If you have any information about a person who is no longer wanted by their respective counties, please call the Sheriff’s Office.

What We Do

Provide immediate crisis intervention by assisting the victims’ needs and implement an appropriate plan of action.

Educate victims regarding criminal justice proceedings and their rights as victims of crime.

Network our resources to provide the victim counselors and/or support groups, if needed.

Accompany victims to court proceedings. This includes pretrial hearings, trials, depositions, meetings with prosecutors and/or support groups, if needed.

Assist victims in creating an effective impact statement to the court.

Assist victims in applying for compensations.

Assist victims in publicizing rewards for unsolved murders and missing persons.

Publish a monthly newspaper that prints crime victims’ stories, pictures of unsolved murder victims, missing persons, wanted criminals and much more.

Volunteer Opportunities:

• Delivering our Victims’ Advocate newspapers
• Clerical assistance
• Research and newspaper writing
• Fundraisers
• Posting flyers for missing persons and unsolved murders
• Special events

www.justicecoalition.org

Mayor Announces New Technology Designed to Reduce Gun Violence

By Ray Twenge, Jr.

Mayor Curry is beyond angry about gun violence, especially when it has resulted in the deaths of young people. He has good reason to be: Fifteen-year-old Johnnie Carter was shot and killed in Lake Shore last July. Eighteen-year-old Maurice Hobbs was shot and killed in Southside Estates in January. According to the Florida Times-Union, at least seventeen people have been killed as of this publication date in gunshot crimes in Jacksonville. Many of these murders have not resulted in arrests. The murderers of Carter and Hobbs have not been found. Now, the mayor is ready to use the newest technology for finding the shooters involved in these and future gun killings in Jacksonville.

At a press conference on February 15, 2017, Mayor Curry announced a plan by his office, the sheriff and the state attorney to join forces to fight gun crimes using the newest high technology. The mayor is asking for emergency funding of $250,000 to pay for computerized technology called the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS). It will be connected to the National Integrated Information Network (NIBIN) for linking guns that have been shot during a crime to other crimes in which the same guns have been previously used. It works by linking gun casings left at the crime scene to other shell casings left at other crime scenes. All gun casings leave an imprint upon firing, and each fired casing has a unique “fingerprint,” much like fingers leave fingerprints. By matching these bullet casings to the casings left at other crime scenes, law enforcement can better trace the guns used in the crimes and tie them to the shooters.

This new bullet casing matching process has long been used by law enforcement, but the process has usually taken 12 to 18 months. By linking much more quickly to the NIBIN, the new IBIS system will shorten the whole matching process to 24 to 48 hours. State Attorney Melissa Nelson believes the new system will significantly reduce the time it takes to connect the guns used in crimes to the criminals that shot the guns. Sheriff Mike Williams welcomes the addition of the new technology. Mayor Curry will travel with the State Attorney and the Sheriff to Denver for a demonstration of the new technology.

Gun violence, especially when it results in the murder of young people, has been of great concern and frustration to the mayor. He intends implementation of the new IBIS system to be just one example of how he plans to fight gun violence in Jacksonville. The secret word is breakfast.

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ST. JOHNS COUNTY MOST WANTED

SHERRIFF DOUGLAS SHOAR and the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office endorses the efforts of the Justice Coalition to capture wanted criminals. We rely greatly on the public’s participation in locating wanted persons and deeply appreciate their efforts.

AUSTIN CARL CROSBY
Race: White Sex: Male
DOB: 12/5/1996 Ht: Weight: Violation: VOP Theft of Sales Tax

CHERYL ANN CLARK
Race: White Sex: Female
DOB: 10/8/1971 Ht: Weight: Violation: VOP Theft of Sales Tax

SCOTT LAWRENCE SAMPSON
Race: Black Sex: Male
DOB: 1/24/1983 Ht: Weight: Violation: Agg. Assault, resisting w/o violence, PCF

If you have any information call the SJSO at 904-824-8304
If you are a victim of domestic abuse, there IS help for you. Call this 24-hour hotline to receive help day or night

1-800-500-1119

MARCH 2017

THE JUSTICE COALITION’S VICTIMS’ ADVOCATE • 11
The families of Bryan Andrew Hayes and Mark Anthony Degner still hold out hope that their boys will one day return home to them. Twelve years after their disappearance, family and friends gathered in Riverside to release balloons in their honor. The event, called “Balloons of Hope,” was held on a beautiful Friday morning last month in Memorial Park with the hope of sparking a renewed interest in their case.

In February of 2005, Bryan and Mark, who were then 13 and 12-year-old respectively, disappeared after an argument with their teacher. The boys ran out of Paxon Middle School and have not been seen since. Several tips and sightings have been reported through the years, but the case remains unsolved.

With “Balloons of Hope,” the families seek to restore faith and re-focus the community’s attention on the case. Angie Campbell, Mark’s aunt, stressed that the event was not a memorial, but a way to let the community know that there is still hope that the boys may one day return home. “You question. You know, you wonder. Your mind goes in every direction,” said Campbell. “Sometimes it leads you down a bad path, a dark path, and luckily our family has great faith.”

Before the balloons were released at noon, family members and others spoke on the importance of holding out faith. Age-progressed images of Mark and Bryan sat propped against the life statue behind them. Darlene Briggs, the grandmother of Mark Degner echoed Ms. Campbell. “Sometimes it leads you down a bad path, a dark path, and luckily our family has great faith.”

Below, at noon, 12 balloons were released to honor Mark and Bryan.

Below: At noon, 12 balloons were released to honor Mark and Bryan.

“The support from the Justice Coalition has made a huge difference for us. Aida Quinones has been 100% supportive. Since we do not speak English, our bi-lingual advocate has been very helpful in walking us through the court proceedings. She explained all the legal terms and concepts and informed us on what to expect. She is always available to tell us what is happening and is always in the courtroom with us translating and explaining everything. Aida set two meetings with the State Attorney and came with us too. She also invited us to two activities where my sister’s kids received gifts and smiled for the first time in months. I don’t think we could have managed through this process without the Justice Coalition’s support.”

–Elizabeth Perez

“Victim Voices”

Sister of Maribel Perez who was murdered by her fiancé in July of 2016. Both Maribel and Elizabeth are from Puerto Rico, but have been living in Florida for the past two years.