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Fortify FL Tip Leads to Arrest of Two Juveniles

Excerpt from SJSO Instagram



The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office has arrested two St. Johns County teenagers on felony charges.

On April 27, 2026, SJSO and the St. Johns County School District received information through Fortify FL reporting two juveniles using the Telegram app to communicate about homemade weapons and devices and conspiring to commit an armed robbery.

Fortify FL is a platform designed to report suspicious activity and identify potential threats involving juveniles. The platform was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Safety Act.

Based on the information received, SJSO and the school district's safety team initiated an investigation and identified the suspects as Switzerland Point Middle School students: Julian Davis (14) and Charles Williams (13). The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office searched both Davis and Williams' homes.

Between April 27 and 30, 2026, the SJSO Major Crimes, Bomb Squad, EOD K9 units, and Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms [ATF] conducted multiple searches of Davis's residence on Tivoli Drive in St. Johns. During the searches, items discovered included: three homemade firearms, ammunition, suspected explosive components, makeshift handcuffs, handwritten notes depicting the construction of firearms and chemical reactions, handwritten diagrams, manifesto-style books, a tactical vest with white supremacy drawings, and other items of concern.

The ATF Forensic Science Laboratory tested the suspected explosive components recovered from the residence and determined the samples to contain homemade black powder, a mixture of erythritol tetranitrate [ETN], aluminum, sulfur, and charcoal, and urea nitrate. ETN and urea nitrate are homemade secondary high explosives with the ability to cause serious damage. All elements were produced using readily available household products and items purchased through the Internet.

(story continues on page 4)

When will it be over?

Jacksonville Mother of Slain Daughter, Colleen Slemmer, Is Waiting for Justice



Colleen Slemmer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Nearly 31 years after Colleen Slemmer was killed in one of Tennessee's most notorious murder cases, her mother, May Martinez, is still waiting for the final chapter. The Tennessee Supreme Court has set Sept. 30, 2026, as the execution date for Christa Pike, the only woman on Tennessee's death row, in connection with the 1995 torture slaying of Slemmer, a fellow Knoxville Job Corps student.

Pike was 18 at the time, and prosecutors said she and Tadaryl Shipp attacked Slemmer on the University of Tennessee's Agricultural campus. Shipp was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

According to prosecutors, the killing was unusually brutal. Slemmer was stabbed and beaten, a pentagram was carved into her chest, and investigators said Pike took a piece of the victim's skull as a souvenir. Pike was later convicted in 2004 of trying to strangle another inmate during a prison fight, adding 25 years to her sentence. The 2025 execution order came as Tennessee resumed executions after a three-year pause tied to problems with testing lethal injection drugs.

For May Martinez, Slemmer's mother, the case has never ended. In 2008, Martinez made a surprise appearance in court and asked to see her daughter's skull, which had been kept as evidence. "It really hurts," she said afterward. "The only thing I really wanted was to get my daughter's body back." In later years, she continued pressing for the return of her daughter's remains so she could give her a proper burial.

Martinez has described the pain of living with the case for decades. In October 2025, she said the image of her daughter's skull being kept as evidence was something no parent should have to endure. "Something you don't want to face, your daughter's skull in front of you every day and have it passed around like it was a piece of meat," Martinez said. She added that holidays, birthdays and ordinary days all remain difficult, and that she wants Pike executed so no other parent has to suffer the same kind of loss.

Pike, meanwhile, has continued to fight her sentence. Her lawyers have argued that she was very young at the time of the crime and suffered abuse, neglect and untreated mental illness. In January 2026, Pike filed a lawsuit challenging Tennessee's revised lethal injection protocol, arguing that the method violates her constitutional rights and religious beliefs. In June, her attorneys filed a new motion in the Tennessee Supreme Court asking for a special master to examine whether the state's execution procedures would be constitutional in her case.

On July 28, 2026, the Tennessee Supreme Court agreed to appoint a special master to examine concerns about the state's lethal injection process, including claims that Pike's transfer to Riverbend Maximum Security Institution and the all-male staff involved in the process could be traumatic because of her history of sexual abuse. The court also said it would review medical issues that Pike's lawyers say could complicate a lethal injection. A hearing on the matter was set for Aug. 11.

For Martinez, the legal maneuvers have only prolonged the agony. "Justice has to be served. It cannot go on like this," she said in October 2025. "I'm just hoping Tennessee does what they're supposed to do."

If carried out, Pike's execution would be the first of a woman in Tennessee in more than 200 years.

Source Data:

- Tennessee court sets execution date for the state's only woman on death row and 3 male inmates — Associated Press, Oct. 1, 2025. [apnews.com](#)
- It's hard to deal with | 'Job Corps Murder' victim's mother continues to fight for justice in brutal Knoxville case — WVLT, Oct. 8–9, 2025. [wvlt.tv](#)
- Psychologist testifies at murderer's appeal hearing — Knoxville News Sentinel archive, Apr. 10, 2008. [archive.knoxnews.com](#)
- Tennessee's only woman on death row files lawsuit alleging execution method violates rights, religious beliefs — WVLT/Action News 5, Jan. 13, 2026. [actionnews5.com](#)
- Christa Pike's attorneys file motion challenging constitutionality of lethal injection — WSMV/WVLT, Jun. 12, 2026. [wsmv.com](#)
- Tennessee Supreme Court appoints special master to investigate gender concerns in lethal injection process — WPLN News, Jul. 28, 2026. [wpln.org](#)

We would like to note that donations are being accepted on behalf of the mother, May Martinez, and family to help pay for transportation and lodging so the family can be at the execution. You can reach out to our office at 904 783 6312 for information or donate on our website at <https://justicecoalition.org/> and send an email to editor@justicecoalition.org with the amount donated for May and family.



The Justice Coalition is a grassroots, non-profit (501(c)3), non-partisan organization that operates on contributions, proceeds from fundraisers and citizen involvement. Please help us continue our advocacy for innocent victims of violent crime in NE Florida. Visit our website at www.justicecoalition.org or call (904)783-6312 to see how you can be a part of this vital service.

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Faith Corner

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Bracewell at 904-783-6312 or
email: editor@justicecoalition.org

Inspirational Thought

"Give thanks to the
Lord, for he is good;
his love endures
forever."

- Psalm 107:1



NASSAU COUNTY MOST WANTED

Sheriff Bill Leeper and the Nassau County Sheriff's Office endorse 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.

MALCOM SWAIN SHUMAN DOB: 07/13/1965 Ht./Wt.: 5'8" / 150-160 Eyes/Hair: Hazel / Bald Warrant Issued: 2/18/2025 Offense: Possession of Controlled Substance	MARIO DANIEL ANTONIO SWIFT DOB: 9/3/1989 Ht./Wt.: 5'9" / 175 Eyes/Hair: Brown / Brown Warrant Issued: 5/13/25 Offense: VOP Criminal Mischief Over \$1,000 & Battery Domestic Violence (Misdemeanor)	JAMES MICHAEL WHITE DOB: 10/08/1990 Ht./Wt.: 5'7" Eyes/Hair: Hazel / Brown Warrant Issued: 01/30/2025 Offense: Felony Retail Theft with 2 or more Prior Convictions	KALIE MARIE CALLAHAN DOB: 02/02/1989 Ht./Wt.: 5'3" / 100-120 Eyes/Hair: Green / Brown Warrant Issued: 08/26/2025 Offense: Possession of Fentanyl, Possession of Cocaine
TRAVIS MARSHALL BLACKWELDER DOB: 10/25/1980 Ht./Wt.: 5'7" / 190-200 Eyes/Hair: Green / Brown Warrant Issued: 3/11/2025 Offense: FTA 3 Counts of Failure to Comply w/Sexual Offender Requirements	SHANNON SAAMON ELAINE ROBERTS DOB: 08/15/1994 Ht./Wt.: 5'4" / 155 Eyes/Hair: Brown / Black Warrant Issued: 10/18/2023 Offense: Fraudulent Use of Credit Card	TEVELTON DELEON HOLDER DOB: 10/19/1986 Ht./Wt.: 6'1-6'2" / 195-210 Eyes/Hair: Brown / Black Warrant Issued: 09/16/2025 Offense: FTA Scheme to Defraud \$50,000 or more; Grand Theft \$20,000 or more (x2); Grand Theft, more than \$300, less than \$20,000 (x2)	DAVID MICHAEL DOMINGUE DOB: 07/12/1979 Ht./Wt.: 6'2" / 170 Eyes/Hair: Brown / Brown Warrant(s) Issued: 08/27/2025 & 09/22/2025 Offense(s): Theft \$10,000-\$50,000 from Person 65+ YOA & VOP 1st Degree Misdemeanor Battery

If you have any information call the NCSO at 1-904-225-5174

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The Justice Coalition was founded in 1995, when one man's priorities were changed. Ted Hires was the average businessman working 60 to 80 hours a week and looking out for himself until the day when he and his staff were robbed at 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. Fugitives captured are through a partnership with local law enforcement agencies, the media, and citizen involvement.

The Justice Coalition's

Victims' Advocate

A free 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.

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All correspondence to the Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocates should be sent to: 1935 Lane Ave. South, Suite 1 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33321

Phone: (904) 783-6312
Editor@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

Advertising

To advertise in the latest edition of the Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate, please contact Robert Bracewell at:
904-783-6312 or
email: editor@justicecoalition.org

THE SECRET WORD GAME

Hidden in this edition of the Victims' Advocate is the SECRET WORD for the month of August.
The rules are simple:
1. Find the word.
2. Telephone the Justice Coalition office at 783-6312.3.

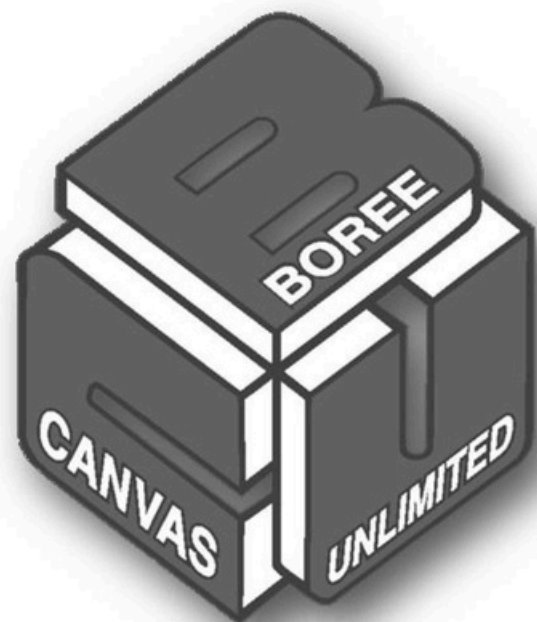
The first person who telephones the correct Secret Word wins a Gift Certificate to Sonny's Real Pit Barbeque Restaurant.4.
You can only win once in a twelve-month period.

SO START SEARCHING!

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

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Mandarin

268-0296

Southside/Arlington

724-5205



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AREA RESOURCE GUIDE

(Services listed are provided free of charge, or have income-based scheduling)

Homicide Support

JSO Victim Advocate 904-630-1764
Justice Coalition 904-783-6312

Quigley House - Clay County

24 Hour Hotline: 904-284-0061
9:30 - 4:30: 904-284-0340

Compensation (victim)

Justice Coalition: 904-783-6312

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MAAD) victim services

904-388-2455

Detoxification

Gateway Community Services
904-387-4661

Mental Health Resource Center

Emergency, North 904-695-9145
South 904-642-9100

Parental Help

www.hopehaven.org/partners
904-346-5100

Rape

Women's Center Of Jacksonville:
904-722-3000
WCJ-Nassau County
904-716-5390
24hr Hotline
904-721-7273

Family Support Services of North Florida

1300 Riverplace Blvd., Suite 700
Jacksonville, FL 32207
904-421-5800 www.fss.jax.org

Guardian Ad Litem Program

Edward Ball Bldg. 214 N. Hogan St.,
Suite 6004 Jacksonville, FL 32202
904/255-8440

State Attorney's Office

904-630-2400

Youth Crisis Youth Crisis Center

The SafePlace 3015 Parental
Home Road Jacksonville, FL
32216 904-725-6662

FENTANYL TAKEDOWN



Attorney General James Uthmeier announced that the Office of Statewide Prosecution, in conjunction with the State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, has charged dozens of defendants stemming from a multi-agency investigation into fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine drug trafficking organizations operating in Volusia, Flagler, Saint Johns, Marion, and Orange Counties.

"This joint investigation dismantled a criminal organization that pumped deadly fentanyl and other dangerous drugs into Florida communities," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "Through the tireless work of Florida's law enforcement, state attorneys, and our statewide prosecutors, we have arrested 49 traffickers and disrupted these networks. Florida families deserve safe streets free of dangerous drugs, and we will continue holding every member of this organization fully accountable."

The investigations were conducted by the Daytona Beach Police Department Special Investigations Unit, the Volusia Bureau of Investigation (a HIDTA Task Force led by the Volusia County Sheriff's Office), the Office of Statewide Prosecution, and the State Attorney's Office for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, and other agencies. They spanned from fall of 2025 through late June 2026 and utilized court-authorized pen registers, trap-and-trace orders, and full wire intercepts on multiple target telephones, along with physical surveillance and controlled purchases.

investigation established mid- to upper-level distribution networks of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, and other controlled substances. The cases will be prosecuted by the Office of Statewide Prosecution in conjunction with the State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit. The investigations remain ongoing and additional arrests and charges are expected.

Fortify FL Tip Leads to Arrest of Two Juveniles (continued from page 1)



Julian Davis (14) and Charles Williams (13)

Detectives also located an extensive search history on Davis's electronic devices indicating he was researching how to manufacture homemade firearms and explosives and learning about high-profile criminal incidents. Based on the conversations between Davis and Williams, and the evidence located, detectives believe both juveniles conspired to commit an armed robbery. In addition, based on their actions, detectives also believe the information reported and law enforcement's intervention intercepted a larger violent criminal incident from occurring in St. Johns County.

"The magnitude of information at the fingertips of our youth is a concern. Knowing what your children are consuming online and the activities they engage in should be a priority for parents. This incident is a perfect example of: if you see something, say something. Through our in-depth investigation in partnership with ATF and the St. Attorney's Office, we are thankful to have prevented a tragedy in St. Johns County," Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick said.

Both juveniles attended school in St. Johns County, but all actions occurred off campus and no threats were made towards any St. Johns County schools. Neither juvenile is permitted to return to any school.

"Although there was no direct threat made towards our schools, we are grateful for the actions taken by the Sheriff's Office, ATF, and the State Attorney's Office," said St. Johns County School District Deputy Superintendent Paul Abatinozzi. "Collaboratively they each have played a role in keeping our schools and communities safe. This situation highlights the value of the FortifyFL app as a tool for students, families, and our community to report potential threats." Davis was arrested and charged with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery with a Firearm, Make or Possess a Destructive Device Firearm (x2), Make or Possess a Destructive Device Explosive (x3), Throw, Project, or Discharge a Destructive Device Explosive, and Furnish or Attempt to Furnish a Firearm to a Minor. Davis is in custody in the St. Johns County Jail. Williams was arrested and charged with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery with a Firearm. This remains an active investigation.



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MISSING PERSONS

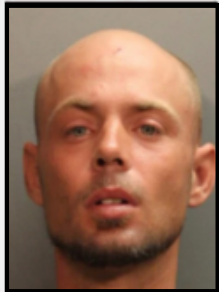
Your help is needed in the following cases. If you have any information, no matter how insignificant, please notify the authorities.



KERI WILLIAMS
Missing:November 22, 2015
Age at Incident:33
Race:White
Caucasian
Height: 67"
Weight: 150lbs
Hair Color: Brown
Jax Sheriff's Office
904-630-0500



GEANNA MARIA JONES
Missing Age 36
5' 9", 165 lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes
Missing since Nov. 3, 2000
Notify Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
904-630-0500



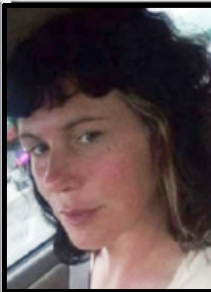
STEPHEN JACK MCGOVERN
Missing: 10/15/2222
Race - White
Age 35
Hair- bald
Height - 5'7"
Jax Sheriff's Office
904-630-0500



BREION J'MAALE DAVIS
Current Age 36
5' 7",150 lbs.
Black hair, Brown eyes
Missing since Aug. 6, 2019
Notify Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
904-630-0500



ROSEMARY RIVAS DAY
Current Age 41 5' 4", 120-150 lbs,
Brown Hair, Brown Eyes
Missing Since May 25, 2011
\$5,000 Reward
Notify JSO
904-630-2791



KELLY BRANNON
Gender: Female
Race: Caucasian
DOB: 05/02/1984
Age: 40
Height: 5ft4in
Weight: 130
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
386-208-(TIPS)



LAURENCE WHITTEMORE
Current Age 59
5' 8", 180 lbs
Salt & Pepper hair
Blue eyes, Goatee
Missing since May 7, 2022
Notify Nassau County Sheriff's Office
904-548-4003



BRITTANY PALMER
Age: 23, 5'1"
Black Hair
Brown Eyes
Weight 120
Missing since 8/25/2020
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office at 904-630-0500



JACQUELYN LORRAINE MARKHAM
Current Age 75
5' 6", 150 lbs, Light brown hair, Brown eyes
Missing Since Dec. 14, 2000
Notify Nassau County Sheriff's Office
904-225-8984



TRAVIS DANIEL CHURCH
Current Age 32
5' 11", 152 lbs.
Brown hair, Green eyes, Missing since Jan. 9, 2018
Nassau County Sheriff's Office
904-548-4085



JEROME DEMPSEY JOHNSON
Current Age 67
6' 2", 215 lbs. Gray hair, brown eyes,
Missing since Mar. 30, 2016
Notify Jacksonville County Sheriff's Office
904-630-0500



MICHAEL ROBERT BAUERNFEIND
Current Age 58
5' 8 - 5' 10", 140 - 160 lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes. Missing since Feb. 12, 2019
Notify Flagler County Sheriff's Office
386-313-4911



KATHERINE BODDEN GELARO, AKA MELISSA BODDEN
Was last seen on Morris Drive in Callahan, Florida on December 19, 2019. She has never been heard from again. Her two sons reported her missing on Christmas Day. Call 904225-5174



ZUNILDA RONDON
Current Age 42
5' 7", 160 lbs, Black hair, Brown eyes
Missing since June 3, 2022
Notify Flagler County Sheriff's Office
386-313-4911



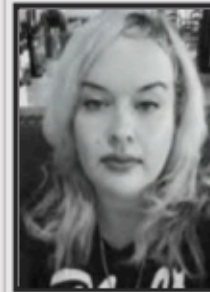
LAURA LYNN BRYANT
Current Age 44
5' 4", 120 lbs, Brown hair, Green eyes
Missing since Sept. 19, 2022
Notify St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
904-824-8304



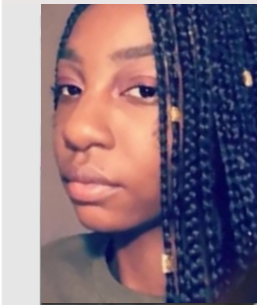
DONALD RAY TOLLIVER
Current Age 42
5' 11", 200 lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes, Faded tear drop tattoo under eye, Missing since July 27, 2022
Notify St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
904-824-8304



CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE POLLEN
Pollen was last seen in the Meadowfield Bluff area in Yulee, Florida at 2:00 a.m. on September 18, 2016.He left his vehicle, cellular phone and wallet at his residence and has never been heard from again. Call: 904-824-8304



ELIZABETH ABIGAIL ATKINS
Current Age 38
5' 2", 175 lbs, Pink and blonde hair, Blue eyes
Missing since Nov. 27, 2024
Notify St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
904-548-4085



Iyana Sawyer
Police said Iyana Sawyer, 16, left Terry Parker High School around lunchtime that day carrying two bags. Sawyer is described as 5 feet, 8 inches tall and 120 pounds. She was wearing a white hoodie with "PINK" written across the front. She also had on light blue jeans, as well as black and white Adidas shoes. Please contact the nearest police agency if you have any information on the whereabouts of Iyana Sawyer or you can call First Coast Crime Stoppers if you wish to remain anonymous at 1-866-845-8477.



Brittany Palmer
On Tuesday, August 25, 2020, the victim was reported missing. It was reported that the victim was last seen on Saturday, August 22, 2020, in the area of Baldwin Street and Barber Street. The complainant advised that the victim suffers from a brain injury and walks with the assistance of a walker or cane. Efforts to locate the victim have been unsuccessful and we are attempting to locate her to ascertain her safety. Last Known Location: August 22, 2020, in the area of Baldwin Street and Barber Street
Anyone having seen or with any information regarding Brittany Palmer's whereabouts is asked to call the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office at 904-630-0500 or to remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward call us at 1-866-845-8477.



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Eric "Paul" Akridge
May 3, 2021
Last seen in Keystone Heights, FL. drove to Palatka for car parts, not seen since.
866-845-TIPS



MARK GREGG
DATE OF DEATH
APRIL 18, 2009

April 18, 2009, 54-year-old Mark Gregg was found shot to death in his North Road home in Green Cove Springs, Florida.If you have any information on this case, please contact Detective Holmes at (904) 264-6512 or email sholmes@claysheriff.com.

Crime Tips

JSOCrimeTips@jaxsheriff.org
904.630.0500

To remain anonymous and receive a possible reward up to \$3,000 contact First Coast Crime Stoppers at 1.866.845.TIPS (8477).

WE NEED YOUR HELP

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

UNSOLVED MURDERS

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



Name: Amber Bass **Info:** This 22-year-old woman was shot outside her home on July 19, 2013. Detectives are looking for a light-colored car. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2171. Crime Stoppers offers \$3,000 for information and \$1,000 to recover gun used in crime.



April 13, 2011, Bryan Wrigley was riding his bicycle eastbound on CR-214 near Poa Boy Farms Rd. A westbound 2001 to 2003 Blue Ford Ranger crossed the center line of the road and struck Bryan Wrigley head-on killing him instantly. **Call:** 904-824-8304



Name: Jason Tyler Pelishek **Info:** He was found in a parking lot of a law office on Liberty Street on July 23, 2012. **Notify:** Call 904-630-2626 or First Coast Crime Stoppers at 866-845-TIPS



Name: Byron Walker. On Thursday, May 23rd, at 9:45 pm, JSO Officers were dispatched to 10500 Maidstone Cove Rd. In reference to a man that was shot several times. Crime Stoppers offers \$3,000 reward - call 1-866-845-TIPS



Name: Michael E. Siegrist **Info:** Siegrist, 34, was waiting with a friend at the bus stop at Jammes and Harlow Rd. on July 13, 2013, when a tall, thin black man (about 6'2" in his 20s with short hair) stole the friend's purse. Siegrist intervened and was shot and killed. **Notify:** JSO Homicide 904-630-2171



904- 630-2172.

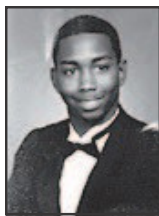
Name: Sulaiman Allah Muhammad **Info:** This 28-year-old male was found shot while sitting inside his vehicle on January 9, 2011. He was parked at 6650 103rd Street. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



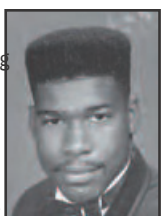
Gabriel Devoe, 23 was shot to death at the Caroline Village apartments in Arlington on Nov. 2, 2022. \$5k reward for info. **Call** 630-0500



Name: Tammie Lee Tschappatt **Info:** On May 23, 2008, Tammie was shot as she walked on the street in the vicinity of Shenandoah and Lacoma Dr. She was rushed to Shands where she died several days later. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Antonio Creech **Info:** This young man, 22, was murdered Dec. 23, 2007, in a shooting at Eureka Gardens Apartments. Franklin Delano Prince Jr. died at the scene with Creech. Another friend survived but unable to make any identifications. **Notify:** JSO Homicide 904-630-2171



Name: Shawn Patrick Newman **Info:** On Nov. 9, 2007, unknown assailants shot this 35-year-old male through the door of his apartment at 4743 Radcliff Ct. Before losing consciousness, he stated, "They ~~tried~~ shot me." He died later at Shands Hospital. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Moussa Set **Info:** He was found dead on May 6, 2003, inside the Amoco on Beach Blvd. and Art Museum Dr., lying on the floor and the bulletproof booth was open. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 630-2172.



Name: Michele Tyler-Hart **Info:** This 21-year-old was murdered on August 9, 1995, near Borden Cemetery off Plant Lane and Old Middleburg Rd. (near I-295) on the Westside. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Clifford Backmann **Info:** Backmann, 56, was working alone on an office construction at 6960 Bonneval Rd. near intersection of Philips Hwy. & J. Turner Butler Blvd. on 10/10/2009 when an unknown assailant robbed and shot him. Prior to death, he called 911 stated gunman as a black male. **Notify:** JSO Homicide 904-630-0500



Name: Steffon Larry **Info:** This young man was 26 years old when he was discovered murdered inside of a burning car in a double unsolved murder in West St. Augustine. **Notify:** St. Augustine Police Department at (904) 825-1070



Name: Bilaal Kwame Shaw **Info:** Bilaal "Blair" Shaw, 19, murdered while waiting to catch a city bus on Jan. 8, 2009 at 5:00 a.m. CrimeStoppers reports only one tip has been received since the young man's death. **Notify:** JSO at 630-0500 or CrimeStoppers at 866-845-TIPS.



Name: Damien A. Wallace **Info:** He was found deceased in the front seat of a car at 1261 N. Broad Street on April 27, 2010. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 630-2172.



Name: Joe Harrell **Info:** This young man was discovered January 22, 2006, lying in the driveway of a vacant home a 3021 Silver Street, believed to have been killed around midnight while walking home from work. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172



Name: Dustin Padley **Info:** On Jan. 9, 2006, this 23-year-old male was crossing two lanes of Hwy 1 Southbound in St. Augustine Beach, he was struck by a white '88 or '89 LTD, thrown approx. 120 feet and killed. **Notify:** FHP at 904-695-4115 ext. 535.



Name: Jeffrey Edwin Sheppard **Info:** This man was murdered and his body found in the River-side area on August 18, 2008. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172..



Name: James Alfred Waters **Info:** On Jan. 19, 2009, this 32-year-old man was killed while sitting in his car at the Cleveland Arms Apts. Numerous witnesses deny knowing anything about the murder. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 630-2172.



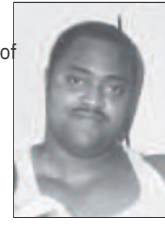
Name: John Gates, II **Info:** He was murdered on June 2, 2005, while working as a clerk at the BP gas station, 643 Stockton St. According to a second victim, two black males entered the store at 7:50 p.m. One suspect held this victim at gunpoint while the other shot Gates. **Notify:** JSO at 904-630-2172 **Name:**



Name: Julius Parrish **Info:** He was watching his dog in the yard on June 30, 2012. A car slowly approached and someone began shooting. Another victim was also shot, but survived. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Merkel Hosea Smalls **Info:** This man was found deceased on June 23, 2005, in the 11000 block of Thein Street. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Otis West **Info:** On Sept. 14, 2002, this 29-year-old man was shot in the back as he walked away from an argument with friends to return to his home. The shooting occurred at 1248 W. Duval Street. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Thomas Leo Buckley **Info:** On July 28, 1992, Thomas Buckley's body was recovered on Interstate 95 South (Nassau County), near the Florida/Georgia line with an apparent gunshot wound wearing a shirt that displayed, "Carpetland Florida's Largest" **Notify:** Nassau at 904-548-4085



Name: Michael Lamar Perry **Info:** On Aug. 7, 2008, he was gunned down at 13th and Moncrief by an unidentified black male riding a green beach cruiser bicycle. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Terrance Dwayne Snead **Info:** On Dec. 14, 2003, at 7:30 pm, the victim was found shot at 1944 Berkley St. in Jacksonville where he lived with his grandmother. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Stephen Wiggins **Info:** On Oct. 7, 2008, 56 year old Stephen was found bleeding and unresponsive on the road-side in the area of 5100 Colonial Ave. He was pronounced dead at the scene **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Crandall "Jack" Reed **Info:** Police found 51-year-old Crandall Jack Reed fatally wounded in his cab on South Edgewood Avenue. He died later at the hospital. Reed was believed to have been shot in a parking **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172



Name: John Ragin, Jr. **Info:** He and Eric Stubbs were found murdered on June 29, 2011, at 5443 Bristol Bay Lane N on Jacksonville's Westside. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172 or CrimeStoppers at 866-845-TIPS.



Name: Darrell Lamar Stringfield **Info:** Shot by unknown assailant on October 22, 2008, in the parking lot of Grand Oaks Apts. on Justina Road. He died on March 6, 2009. The suspect is a black male, 20s, 6'2", 225lbs. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Cedric Deon Williams **Info:** This 15-year-old was killed at 344 Phelps Street on Sept. 23, 2005. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Lance Van Dominguez Moreno **Info:** This 23-year-old was killed November 9, 2012, in the 3200 block of Rayford Street. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Crandall "Jack" Reed **Info:** On 11/16/2007, Reed, 51, was driving his cab when a white car pulled alongside him, robbed, and shot him twice. JSO found him on Edgewood seeking help. He died an hour later. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172



Name: Eric Stubbs **Info:** He and John Ragin, Jr., were found murdered on June 29, 2011, at 5443 Bristol Bay Lane N on Jacksonville's Westside. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Kawan Lamar Williams **Info:** In July 13, 2003, Kawan was shot, apparently during a robbery, at 8711 Newton Road in the Southwind Villa Apts. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Hakeem Muhammad **Info:** This 17-year-old male was found deceased from a gunshot wound on July 26, 2006, inside room 119 at the Budget Inn, 6545 Ramona Blvd. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172



Name: Nancy Canode **Info:** 39-year-old mother was found stabbed to death on the morning of 3/3/1981, in her family Ponte Vedra condo, 695 A1A S. Last seen by husband Ken Canode. **Notify:** St. Johns County Sheriff's Office at 904-824-8304.



Name: Eugene Brown III **Info:** Brown III, 27, was found shot and killed inside his residence at 2125 Danese St., 11/24/2010. Two young black males were seen leaving the scene after shots were fired. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.



Name: Ryan Bernard Williams **Info:** This 23-year-old was shot and killed April 1, 2010, by unknown assailants after being pinned in his car by other vehicles at Kings Road and Division Street. **Notify:** JSO Homicide at 904-630-2172.

UNSOLVED CRIMES

Anyone with information concerning these individuals, please call JSO at 904-630-0500 or First Coast Crime Stoppers at 1.866.845.TIPS (8477)



Case ID:
2025-00601143
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Grand Theft
14900 Max Leggett Pkwy



Case ID:
2025-00604329
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Grand Theft
4900 Gate Pkwy



Case ID:
2025-00606345
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Grand Theft 13000
City Station Dr



Case ID:
2025-00604773
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Fraudulent Use of Credit
Cards
6500 Mariam St



Case ID:
2025-00613790
UNKNOWN SUSPECT(S)
Auto Theft
5800 Edenfield Rd



Case ID: 2025-00608351
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Discharging a Firearm in
Public 700 San Marco
Blvd



Case ID:
2025-00539034
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Armed Robbery
5100 Timuquana Rd



Case ID:
2025-00581052
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Grand Theft
5100 Lenox Ave



Case ID:
2025-00581461
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Burglary to a Conveyance
10100 Gate Pkwy



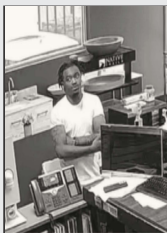
Case ID:
2025-00581248
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Fraudulent Use of Credit
Cards
900 Canal St



Case ID:
2025-00383746
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Grand Theft
400 Block of Monument Rd



Case ID:
2025-00385403
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Grand Theft
10900 Block of San Jose



Case ID:
2025-00511172
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Unauthorized Use of Credit
Card
6200 Philips Hwy



Case ID:
2025-00389942
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Grand Theft
4700 Block of River City Dr



Case ID:
2025-00578724
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Burglary
4700 Hodges Blvd



Case ID:
2025-00527182
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Counterfeit Payment
13800 of Old St Augustine Rd



Case ID:
2025-00562399
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Grand Theft 11900
Atlantic Blvd



Case ID:
2025-00566220
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Burglary
8500 103rd St



Case ID:
2025-00552458
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Burglary
7000 Shindler Dr



Case ID:
2025-00538501
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Grand Theft
11000 San Jose Blvd



Case ID:
2025-00476919
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Burglary
11000 San Jose Blvd



Case ID:
2025-00519366
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Grand Theft
6200 St Augustine Rd



Case ID:
2025-00538056
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Petit Theft
10 University Blvd N



Case ID:
2025-00519231
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Fraudulent Use of a Credit
Card
1100 Dunn Ave



Case ID:
2025-00473433
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Grand Theft
13000 City Station Dr



Case ID:
2025-00418508
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Burglary
5800 University Blvd W



Case ID:
2025-00394083
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Grand Theft
6000 Block of Ft Caroline Rd



Case ID:
2025-00305643
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Armed Robbery
1300 Block of Barnett St



Case ID:
2025-00340076
UNKNOWN SUSPECT
Grand Theft
8100 Block of 103rd St



Case ID:
2025-00349429
UNKNOWN SUSPECTS
Grand Theft
10000 Block of San Jose Blvd

UNSOLVED CRIMES FROM THE JACKSONVILLE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

An active case existed for every unsolved crime shown on this page at the time the Justice Coalition received the information from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Unsolved Crimes database for this edition, about one week before the Victim's Advocate went to press. To learn more and obtain an updated status, visit unsolvedcrimes.jaxsheriff.org

Think hard. Think again.
Do the right thing. Call police if you have information about a crime.



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From Chains to Champion: Marleatia Bess’s
Victorious Journey of Faith and Freedom



In the heart of Jacksonville, Marleatia Bess embodies resilience, divine intervention, and the critical call to protect our young ladies from hidden exploitation.

She has never considered herself a victim but always the victor. Her life, marked by hardship and unwavering faith in God, serves as a powerful beacon for vulnerable young women seeking a better future.

Marleatia’s early years were filled with trials. Growing up in local shelters and losing a parent and sibling during high school tested her deeply. At 17, she appeared as a cast member on the first Christian reality show that aired on WB17 in 2003. Her faith was vibrant as she pursued a missionary calling she believed God had placed on her heart. Yet that promising path was tragically diverted. Fresh out of high school, facing food and shelter insecurities in dangerous neighborhoods, she sought an extra job for college textbooks and transportation. What she hoped would be a stepping stone became 13 years of forced labor in Jacksonville—a modern form of slavery that nearly broke her.

As front-end cashier and training manager at a restaurant, Marleatia spent years staring out the drive-through window, longing for basic freedom. Her employer moved into her home to monitor her every move. Through coercion, fraud, and threats she was forced into a marriage with her employer’s brother in Tunisia for immigration purposes as part of a romance green card scam. The grooming process targets at-risk individuals with backgrounds of trauma. She was the perfect candidate. Trapped by debt bondage, immigration complications, and Sharia law restrictions, she felt powerless. She had given him her inheritance with promises of a new start.

She was converted to a new religion and remained isolated and afraid. Diagnosed with narcolepsy and sleep apnea, she worked brutal 84-hour weeks with only Christmas and Easter off. Exhaustion worsened her condition, causing dangerous sleep attacks. Despite the toll on her body and the destruction of her college scholarships, she persisted—one class at a time. Isolation was complete: no local family, forbidden friends outside her employer’s religious circle, daily phone checks, and constant surveillance.

“I prayed to God every day that I would have a better life,” Marleatia shares. After more than a decade, the Lord answered. A connection to Hubbard House Outreach Center opened her eyes to the reality that no employer should ever force himself or herself upon an employee. She escaped through faith, knowing rescue would not come from anywhere else. Other services helped her journey to freedom including Arize Together, Virtue 4 Living and Survivor Alliance.

Today, Marleatia mentors young women with disabilities, teaching them workplace rights, boundary recognition, and how to spot exploitation. She powerfully reminds them “your zip code doesn’t define your destiny.” Her advocacy focuses on policy changes requiring small businesses—especially those without a proper HR department—to implement safeguards like confidential interviews with outside agencies to detect labor trafficking in restaurants and similar settings.

Marleatia leads the Survivors over Politics movement, a boots-on-the-ground approach to healing after trafficking for women of all walks of life. To youth aged 17-26, she offers faith-grounded advice including avoiding employers without proper Human Resources, employment rights and reporting deadlines. In addition, your employer should never:

- Have physical access to your body or make advances.
- Threaten retaliation for requesting time off.
- Send you abroad for forced marriages to bypass immigration laws.

Now, more than 20 years later, Marleatia channels her experience into purpose. Through the Survivors over Politics movement, she builds community and fights for change while survivors still live.

She stands as proof that with God, victory is possible. Her life calls our community—churches, businesses, leaders, and individuals—to act with vigilance and compassion. Protect our young ladies. Listen to survivors. Demand better systems. In a world that often looks away, her faith-filled voice declares hope: No matter how dark the night, God’s light and justice can prevail.

You can follow the story at MarleatiaBess.com