

Quarterly Public Report for WNRN Public File

A-- During the 2nd quarter (April 1-June 30, 2011), WNRN News reported on and followed the following stories which other local print, broadcast media and governmental agencies found of interest to the City of Charlottesville and surrounding counties:

Virginia Lacrosse Murder

On April 6th: George Huguely's preliminary hearing was set for the next Monday afternoon at one, but yesterday new details emerged in the case. The prosecution and the defense subpoenaed twenty-five people to testify. This is an unusually high number of witnesses for a preliminary hearing, which requires the prosecution to establish only probable cause for the commission of the crime; in this case, the first-degree murder of Yeardeley Love. Huguely's lawyers requested testimony from many, including Huguely's teammates on the lacrosse team, Love's neighbor, Jimmy John's employees, and the manager of Boylan Heights.

On April 11th: The preliminary hearing for George Huguely, the alleged killer of UVA lacrosse player Yeardeley Love, began. Prior to the hearing, Love's family released a statement. Huguely waived his right to be present at the hearing. He faced a first degree murder charge in connection with the death of the UVA student last May. According to his attorney Francis Lawrence, Huguely had no intention to kill his ex-girlfriend Love, nor did he know that she was dead when first interrogated by police. Lawrence averred that the couple was together at the time; additionally, he said there was no evidence of a beating in the apartment. Love's childhood friend and roommate Whiteley, who discovered Love's body, also gave her testimony.

On April 11th: The city of Charlottesville was gearing up for a national media circus as the Charlottesville commonwealth's attorney prepared to lay out evidence in the murder case against a former UVA men's lacrosse player accused of killing his ex-girlfriend, Yeardeley Love. The hearing was set for that Monday afternoon at one o'clock for 23-year-old George Huguely. Huguely faced a first degree murder charge in connection with the death of UVA women's lacrosse player Yeardeley Love last May. The city expected news crews from across the commonwealth as well as Washington, DC and prohibited parking from some areas around Court Square in accordance with the media influx.

On April 11th: As victims and advocates looked on, Gov. Bob McDonnell symbolically signed 12 bills design to help victims of crime. One, arising from the slaying of University of Virginia student Yeardeley Love, allows someone in a dating relationship to get a protective order. A second, stemming from Catholici Church sexual-abuse scandals, extends the period in which a childhood victim of sexual abuse could file a lawsuit from two to 20 years. McDonnell had already signed the legislation, but held the bill signing ceremony outdoors in front of the Executive Mansion in conjunction with Crime Victims' Rights Week.

On April 12th: Ex-UVA student George Huguely had his preliminary hearing the day before in Charlottesville General District Court. 21 witnesses testified until 10:00PM the previous evening, including Huguely's roommates who all said he was visibly drunk the night Yeardeley Love died. The case was to be submitted to a grand jury the next Monday when Huguely was expected to be indicted for the murder of Love.

On April 18th: A city grand jury convened to review the case of 23 year old George Huguely, former UVA student accused of murdering his fellow classmate and ex-girlfriend, Yeardeley Love. General District Court Judge Robert Downer Junior endorsed charges against Huguely which include felony murder, first-degree murder, burglary, robbery, grand larceny, and statutory burglary. UVA Lacross player Yeardeley's body was discovered May 3rd in her 14th Street NW apartment. That morning, Commonwealth's Attorney Dave Chapman and Huguely's lawyer Francis Lawrence attempted to fix a date in the fall for the hearing of the case, but due to scheduling conflicts, the two-week trial will take place in February of 2012.

On April 26th: A new panel, tasked with reviewing Virginia's domestic violence laws, met for the first time. Governor Bob McDonnell appointed the group, consisting of police, prosecutors and victim advocates. The goal was to analyze how the state responds to domestic, dating and family violence and to develop and increase recommendations for the governor by this fall. Close attention was given to sexual assaults and physical violence on college campuses across Virginia, partly in response to the murder of UVA lacrosse player Yeardeley Love.

Morgan Harrington

On April 13th: The Morgan Harrington case was to be featured on a show called Disappearance, which airs on the Investigation Discovery channel. The program was to include interviews with Harrington's parents, a Charlottesville newspaper delivery person, who claims to have seen Harrington the night she disappeared, as well as other officials and newspaper staff. The episode aired April 18th at 9:00 PM.

Health Care Reform

On April 4th: Virginia legislatures once again debated a controversial bill that mandates insurance coverage for some children with autism. Gov. Bob McDonnell said the bill is an unfunded mandate, and he handed down amendments that dramatically scale-back the scope of the bill. McDonnell's changes restrict the number of eligible children, delay the effective date on the legislation and require some care providers to obtain new licenses. Many prominent business groups wanted McDonnell to veto the entire bill. Supporters of the measure say they are devastated by the proposed amendments - and say the changes keep the bill from helping as many children as possible.

On April 4th: Gov. Bob McDonnell tried to bar health insurance companies that participate in Virginia's benefits exchange from covering abortions. He quietly amended a bill that outlines next steps for the state in creating its health-insurance exchange, which is among the key requirements of the federal health-care overhaul. The original legislation breezed through the General Assembly with nearly unanimous support. When it got to McDonnell's desk, he added the pro-life language to limit abortion coverage except in cases when the life of the mother is at risk or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

On April 14th: House Republicans voted to eliminate a section in the health care law that would provide 15 billion dollars over the next decade on preventive health care issues, including fighting obesity and promoting better nutrition. The vote was almost entirely along party lines, and as with other attempted cuts, it stood to not move much farther with Democrats controlling the Senate. Under the law, the Health and Human Services Secretary would have authority to allot 7 billion dollars through 2015 and 2 billion each year after that on prevention, wellness, and public health programs.

On May 10th: The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in Richmond in two cases challenging President Obama's healthcare law. Among other issues, the court focused on whether Virginia had standing to challenge the law for individuals purely because it passed a law prohibiting the forced purchase of insurance.

On May 11th: The Federal court in Richmond provided the stage for a national health care debate. A three-judge panel sat in the Fourth US Circuit Court of Appeals to hear challenges to the Obama administration's health care reform. Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli continued his fight against the reform, saying that it effectively fines people for quote "doing nothing." Many expected the case to reach the U.S. Supreme Court and considered the hearing in Richmond to be a practice round for the real game in D.C.

Greene County Triple Homicide

On May 3rd: At 3:00AM, the Greene County Sheriff's Department responded to a call involving bodies in a roadway. The local and state police confirmed that the three bodies were discovered on Octonia Rd at a location near Standardville. The Greene County

Sheriff's Department held a press conference informing the media that crews were still investigating the crime scene and that they believed the deaths to be related to a home invasion on Ford Ave. The identities of the bodies were not released to give police time to inform the next of kin. The Albemarle County Police found a vacant vehicle with several bullet holes and blood stains on Old Brook Rd. The police know who owns the car but had not yet released the owner's name.

On May 4th: Authorities investigated a triple gun slaying in Greene County. The bodies of twenty-six year old Brian Lee Daniels and twenty-five year old Dustin Tyler Knighton, both of Charlottesville, as well as that of one woman, were discovered in the early hours of the previous Tuesday morning, in the middle of Octonia Road, just north of Stanardsville. More information was to be released pending next-of-kin notification for the third victim, but police believed that the victims knew their assailants, and that the slayings were related to a concurrent and nearby home invasion on Ford Avenue.

On May 5th: A suspect was named in the home invasion in Stanardsville, an incident which was linked to the triple homicide that took place Tuesday in Greene County. The sheriff's office announced that they were actively looking for Taybronnie Altereik White of Charlottesville, who is wanted for burglary while armed and malicious wounding after a home invasion on Tuesday, while investigators stressed that White was not necessarily linked to the triple homicide. Authorities believed that the suspect was armed and dangerous and warned the general public not to approach him.

On May 5th: Police looked for a robbery suspect who investigators believed was also linked to a triple homicide in Greene County. Two felony warrants had already been issued for Taybronnie White for armed burglary and malicious wounding from a home invasion and attempted robbery on the previous Tuesday night in Standardsville. White had previously been charged in Albemarle County on other offenses and was considered armed and dangerous.

On May 9th: Taybronnie White, suspected of connections with a home invasion and triple homicide, turned himself in to Charlottesville Police before being transferred over to Green County Sheriff's Office. That morning he was charged with four more crimes including brandishing a weapon during burglary, robbery, and possession of a fire arm by a convicted felon in addition to his previous charges of burglary while armed and malicious wounding. Green County Major Randy Snead stated that White was not being linked directly to the murders and that investigators were pursuing other leads. White was detained without bond at the Central Virginia Regional Jail until his hearing

On May 10th: The suspect associated with the Greene County triple homicide was put behind bars. Taybronnie White turned himself into Charlottesville police who, in turn, handed the man over to Greene County authorities. White was no stranger to troubles with the law; court records show a laundry list of 30 plus convictions. He was then charged with six more felonies stemming from the home invasion.

On May 11th: Greene County home invasion suspect, Taybronne White, was denied bond after appearing in court three days following turning himself in. The man was charged with malicious wounding, burglary while armed, using a gun in the commission of a felony, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. White's next hearing will occur June 8th, and he will remain in Orange County Jail until that date.

On May 18th: Taybronne White, who was charged in connection with a home invasion in Greene County, was denied bond today. White faces six felony charges, including attempted robbery and possession of a firearm. The invasion is also linked with a triple homicide case according to investigators, which happened earlier this month. A preliminary hearing has been set for June 8th.

Measles in Thomas Jefferson Health District

On May 26th: The Thomas Jefferson Health District confirmed three cases of measles within the community. Dr. Lillian Peake said a Charlottesville adult female resident was diagnosed on May 19th after she had traveled to India. While she had very little contact with the community, she did infect two people with whom she had interacted. Dr. Peake said residents should not panic but look for symptoms such as high fevers, cough, runny nose, red eyes and an itchy rash that starts a day after the fever begins.

On May 27th: The Charlottesville Health Department reported that three residents of the Thomas Jefferson Health District contracted measles. The Waldorf School in the city released a statement saying that one of the cases was from a student at their school and they informed all parents of non-vaccinated students that they need to stay off the school grounds through the end of the year. The school cancelled classes for the day and held a vaccination clinic.

On June 1st: The Virginia Health Department is monitoring a possible fourth case of measles in the Thomas Jefferson Health District. There have already been three confirmed cases in the area. Doctors have been monitoring the conditions of 40 non-vaccinated residents who came into contact with the virus, one of whom showed symptoms but remains unconfirmed. Doctors advise unvaccinated individuals to monitor themselves for signs and symptoms.

Ralph Leon Jackson

On June 9th: Ralph Leon Jackson, the man who admitted to killing the late WNRN DJ Timothy Davis, faced sentencing charges. Jackson already pleaded guilty to the murder charge, which carries a mandatory life sentence. He could also face additional penalties for the use of a fire arm and the attempted murder of 18-year old Christina Floyd.

On June 9th: Ralph Leon Jackson of Stuarts Draft was sentenced for the murder of Timothy Davis on the Blue Ridge Parkway last April. Jackson reportedly shot Davis as well as Christina Floyd as they sat on the Rock Point Overlook. Davis died from his injuries while Floyd was able to flee to safety. Jackson will serve a life plus 35 year sentence with no eligibility for parole.

On June 10th: The man convicted of shooting and killing WNRN's Tim Davis and wounding his companion Christina Floyd, has been sentenced to life plus thirty five years in prison. Ralph Leon Jackson, now 57, plead guilty earlier this year to first-degree murder for the incident. At his sentencing hearing Jackson offered no explanation for his crimes.

C -- PSA report for Q2 of 2011

AS of 04/1/11

Salvation Army Food	TFN
Thomas Jefferson coalition for the homeless	04/01/11
Alzheimer's Association Bill Howard Golf Tournament	05/1/11
Jefferson-Madison Regional Library Book Sale	04/10/11
Albemarle County Citizen Fire Academy	05/1/11

As of 4/5/11

VIA	04/16/11
CVILLE WALDORF	04/30/11

As of 4/15/11

Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE)	05/22/11
ASK Fun Walk & 5K	04/30/11
Rivanna Conservation Society	05/22/11
Virginia Native Plant Society	05/01/11
2011 Kidney Walk	05/15/11

As of 4/27/11

Hospice of the Piedmont	05/05/11
The Bridge	05/07/11
Ad Astra Music Festival	06/09/11

As of 5/2/11

League of Women voters	05/10/11
Kluge-Ruhe collection	07/30/11
Writerhouse	05/19/11
Camp Holiday Trails-golf	06/08/11

As of 5/5/11

Charlottesville Voter Registrar	05/15/11
Virginia Department of Emergency Management	05/31/11
Camp Kum-Ba-Yah	06/04/11

As of 5/12/11

UVA Hospital Auxiliary Volunteers	06/17/11
Charlottesville Swing Dance Society	05/21/11

As of 5/16/11

Hospice of the Piedmont – Keswick 5k	06/04/11
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As of 5/26/11	
American Cancer Society	06/24/11
St. Mary's Hospital	06/24/11
As of 05/30/11	
Rivanna Conservation Society	06/04/11
Virginia Discovery Museum	06/03/11
Virginia Discovery Museum kidvention	08/06/11
Monticello – rose culture	06/04/11
As of 6/7/11	
Popular Forest	07/04/11
Science Museum of Richmond	11/15/11
Scottsville Riverfront	06/22/11
As of 6/20/11	
CART Benefit	06/23/11
As of 6/23/11	
AIDS/Services Group	06/27/11
As of 6/29/11	
Piedmont Housing Alliance	07/22/11
Charlottesville Future fund	08/19/11
Virginia Institute of Autism	07/22/11
Cville Center for Peace and Justice	07/10/11