



ISP FORENSIC SERVICES IMPACT REPORT 2021



This publication is intended to convey the essential value and impact the Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFS) Laboratories bring to the criminal justice system in Idaho. All the cases highlighted in this newsletter are cases where ISPFS played a critical role by performing forensic analysis used in the criminal proceedings. Some analysis performed helped to convict individuals. Other forensic findings helped lead to exonerations. While the cases highlighted here were all published in major news media outlets, the majority of the cases worked on a daily basis are not published or publicized.

In 2021 ISPFS labs:

- Worked **16,125** cases, analyzed **28,034** items of evidence in support of local and state criminal justice agencies.
- Completed controlled substance analysis on **15,094** samples.
- Completed **685** DNA cases with **573** of those having a sexual assault kit.

Timely forensic science analysis is vital to the success of the Idaho judicial system. Support from Idaho policymakers has been essential in the successes of the state laboratory system. The lab system employees will continue to work for Idaho citizens and other criminal justice stakeholders. Many new and ongoing forensic science initiatives will keep our Idaho lab system leading the country with innovative ideas. We expect 2022 to be a very dynamic year!



Ada County

Idaho State Police Forensic Services performed Toxicology analysis on this case.

Child killer in Boise mass stabbing sentenced to life in prison

BOISE, Idaho — The man who killed a 3-year-old girl during a bloody rampage in Boise in 2018 will die behind bars. Timmy Kinner, 33, was sentenced Thursday to two fixed life sentences without parole, followed by 120 years behind bars, effectively guaranteeing he will never leave prison again. The nearly six-hour hearing turned chaotic at one point as the mother of the slain girl was dragged screaming from the courtroom Thursday morning after lobbing a metal water bottle at her daughter's killer.

Kinner pleaded guilty earlier this year to first-degree murder and 11 other charges in connection to the mass stabbing at a child's birthday party at the Wylie Street Station Apartments. Three adults and six children were wounded, including the little birthday girl Ruya Kadir, who died from her injuries. Bifituu Kadir, her mother, said the attack happened when she stepped back into her apartment to get Ruya's cake.

Officials say Kinner, who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, knew no one at the party and had no reason to target the victims. Although those hurt were refugees from Iraq, Syria and Ethiopia, police say they do not believe their immigration status played any role in the attack.

Defense attorneys painted Kinner as a deeply mentally ill man from a troubled background. Abandoned in a storage shed at age two, Kinner was showing signs of possible schizophrenia by age seven and ended up a caretaker for two smaller siblings with special needs while still a young boy himself. Both of his parents were addicted to crack cocaine, capital mitigation specialist Julia Yackel said, and as many as seven members of his family have been diagnosed with schizo-type or psychotic disorders. Kinner bounced from homeless shelters to jails to prison to Los Angeles' infamous Skid Row before alighting in Boise just before the attack.

In a victim impact statement, Ruya's mother said that her life had been difficult as well, but she never used it as an excuse for violence. Kadir said she left her own family at 12 and cleaned toilets to eke out a living. Sometimes she wanted to die, she said, but her infant daughter gave her the will to live back. Ultimately, the two of them came to the U.S. as refugees when Ruya was just four months old. "I said, 'Ruya is not going to live the life I lived. She is going to go to school. Ruya is going to dance,'" Kadir recalled.



In court, Kadir confronted her daughter's killer, demanding to know why he had targeted the tiny girl. "Are you sleeping? Are you eating? Do you remember? What did my daughter tell you?" she asked. "Because your life was bad, it doesn't give you the right to kill people." He didn't look at her.

The mother erupted a short time later, as prosecutor Dan Dinger laid out a roadmap of the carnage: an 8-year-old boy knifed in the stomach, a woman stabbed more than a dozen times, a 7-year-old slashed across the face, a 2-year-old stabbed in the chest as she was carried in her mother's arms.



Kinner pursued victims as they ran away, hid behind a curtain and leapt out onto them, and seemingly chose the youngest and smallest to go after, Dinger said. At some point, he came upon Ruya, sitting outside in the June evening, waiting for her slice of cake. "He picks her up, he stabs her in the heart, and he throws her to the ground," Dinger said.

At that moment, Ruya's mother lobbed a large metal water bottle in an arc across the room, smashing into the wood paneling near Kinner. Screaming, she rose and rushed toward him as others in the gallery and courtroom marshals struggled to hold her back. Kadir threw a tissue box across the room towards her daughter's killer as he was hustled from the room. Other marshals and security darted in, forming a melee as they struggled to pull the weeping woman to the ground. As she was pulled from the courtroom into the hallway, Kadir called out her daughter's name over and over.

The prosecutor asked the judge to hand down the harshest sentence possible. A plea agreement in March had taken the death penalty off the table, but Dinger argued that Kinner should never again set foot outside of prison. "He is violent. He is a violent person, and he is not afraid to lash out at others," he said.



Those who were attacked have been left with severe lasting wounds and psychological trauma, he said, including a woman stabbed in the neck and partially paralyzed. Another victim said he felt constantly on edge, and that his children were too afraid to go outside to play with their friends or join a soccer game. "The fact that a little boy has to go into the bathroom and open all the drawers to make sure no one is hiding in there is tragic," Dinger said.

A recorded call captures the terror of 8-year-old Zane Mutlak, who was stabbed in the stomach by Kinner before hustling his baby sister into an apartment and calling 911.

Ruya's father, Recep Seran, said he spoke often with his wife and daughter over the Internet from Turkey, and that she was just beginning to recognize him. The girl had "such a good heart," he recalled. "He is not a man," Seran said of Kinner. "A man would not kill a tiny little girl."

Dinger pointed to Kinner's previous criminal history, including incidents in which he slashed a cousin with a knife, forcibly grabbed and fondled a woman - then threatened her when she prepared to testify against him - shot someone during a robbery and tried to slash another inmate with a razor. Even since his arrest in the mass stabbing, the lawyer said, Kinner has repeatedly exposed himself to and masturbated in front of female staff members at the Ada County Jail.

In court, Kinner apologized for what he had done, saying that he "wasn't in control" and that he hoped he could be forgiven. "I never planned to kill this little baby. I never planned to hurt these people at all," he says. "I was just sitting there on the bench at the entrance to the park, trying to clear my mind of these crazy thoughts."

Speaking rapidly, he argued the prosecution was making up some details about the rampage but added that he would not make excuses for his crime. "I do feel like it was an accident because I didn't do it intentionally," Kinner says. "I lost my mind, and I lost my life, all because of a few minutes and one bad day."

As she pronounced the sentence, Judge Nancy Baskin said the people in the apartment complex "represented the best of humanity" as they tried to help and protect one another during the frenzy. "Your actions on that day helped save other lives," she says.



She told Kinner that she did not believe he could ever be safely let back out into society. The immensity of the pain he had wrought called for a significant sentence, Baskin said.

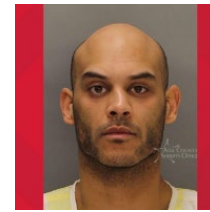
The back-to-back nature of the life sentences, coupled with the consecutive 120 years, assures that Kinner will remain incarcerated until the day he dies, she said. However long that takes, Ruya's mother said, she is determined to outlive him. "I will go to where you are buried and I will spit on it," she said. "But that will not bring my daughter back."

Terhune, K. (2021, June 10). Child killer in Boise mass stabbing sentenced to life in prison. *KTVB7*.
<https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/boise-stabbing-suspect-guilty-plea-murder/277-987dc475-804a-4cd2-9041-1b19ba553537>

Lab analysts from Idaho State Police Forensic Services testified at the trial. In addition, Biology screening and DNA analysis were conducted at the ISPFS lab.

Man found guilty of murdering his uncle in their Garden City home

GARDEN CITY, Idaho — A 31-year-old man was found guilty of the first-degree murder of his uncle on Thursday.



Emerson Buck IV
Credit: Ada County Jail

According to the Ada County Prosecuting Attorney Jan Bennetts, Emerson Buck IV was found guilty by a jury on Thursday of slashing and stabbing his uncle in their home in Garden City back in January of 2020. After the fatal attack, Buck ran away from the police before eventually getting apprehended.

Buck was initially charged with second-degree murder but prosecutors later changed the charge to first-degree murder, with an additional charge of resisting arrest, the prosecutor said in a statement.

The trial began on May 11 and the jury found Buck guilty of first-degree murder with an enhancement for using a deadly weapon in the commission of a crime and resisting and obstructing an officer.

"I want to say thank you to the jurors for their time and attention in this case," Bennetts said in a statement "Thank you also to the Garden City Police Department for their hard work and thorough investigation, and the Boise Police Department for their aid in the defendant's apprehension."

Buck is due back in court for his sentencing hearing on July 23, 2021, before Ada County District Judge Jason Scott. The 31-year-old faces life in prison.

KTVB Staff. (2021, May 20). Man found guilty of murdering his uncle in their Garden City home. *KTVB7*.
<https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/man-found-guilty-murder-relative-garden-city-home-first-degree-charge/277-bc272d0e-0bbe-4960-be9f-a66696569e7e>



Idaho State Police Forensic Services performed DNA analysis, blood alcohol testing, and toxicology screening. ISPFS lab personnel testified at the trial for this case, as well.

Boise man pleads guilty to murder for killing ex-girlfriend in 2019



Credit: Ada County Jail
David Randall

BOISE, Idaho — A Boise man accused of murdering his ex-girlfriend in December of 2019 pleaded guilty Tuesday to first-degree murder and faces up to life in prison when he is sentenced.

David L. Randall, 58, was arrested Dec. 16, 2019, and charged with the murder of Darla Fletcher, a Meridian woman who was 56 years old at the time of her death.

According to Ada County prosecutors, Fletcher had gone to Randall's Northwest Boise home on Dec. 15, 2019, to pick up some belongings, but didn't show up for work the next day. Fletcher's son went to look for her and found her body at Randall's home. Randall and Fletcher had broken up about a month before Fletcher was killed.

About three months after Randall's arrest, an Ada County judge ruled that he was not mentally fit to stand trial and ordered him committed to the Idaho Security Medical Program at the maximum security prison. Randall was discharged from the program in June of 2020. Trial was scheduled for February of 2021 but was postponed because of COVID-19. Randall's trial was again postponed in September, and later set for January of 2022. However, because of Randall's guilty plea, a trial will not take place.

Randall's sentencing is scheduled for March 4, 2022, before Judge Steven Hippler. He faces a sentence of up to life in prison.

KTVB Staff. (2021, December 14). Boise man pleads guilty to murder for killing ex-girlfriend in 2019. *KTVB*7. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/boise-man-pleads-guilty-to-murder-for-killing-ex-girlfriend-in-2019-david-randall-darla-fletcher/277-ed8cfbe1-ee0e-46d9-a125-9dd7258c9221>



Bannock County

Idaho State police lab in Meridian provided DNA analysis and latents testing. The Idaho State lab in Pocatello provided field services on site at the scene.

Disciplinary documents reveal morbid details of Pocatello funeral home investigation

POCATELLO — A cremation chamber badly damaged in an explosion, and a decomposing body visible through a window are among the troubles that led to the Sept. 2 raid on Downard Funeral Home.



Disciplinary documents, published Tuesday by Idaho's Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses, outline how the investigation into Peck began, and detail where bodies were found decomposing inside the funeral home.

With the publishing of the documents, Lance Peck and his two businesses Downard Funeral Home and Portneuf Valley Crematory, have officially had their license revoked by the Idaho Board of Morticians.

The documents detail that investigators stopped at Downard Funeral Home on March 24 for routine inspections. Peck reported his cremation chamber exploded and did not work. At the time, there were six cadavers that Peck said he received from Idaho State University for cremation. Inspectors found no discernable smell and records were in order. The refrigeration unit was also reportedly functioning.

Peck told officials his crematory had been placed on a waiting list for repairs and he had contacted other local crematories to help until his facility was repaired. Downard Funeral home remained in contact with the division of licenses and said that on Aug. 23, repairs would begin.

Troubles with Board of Licensing and Idaho State University

Peck has a long history of trouble with Idaho's Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses, and earlier this year, another investigation began. Disciplinary documents show a family contacted the division of licenses saying that when her mother, identified by the initials LL, died on Jan. 18, 2016, Peck agreed to take the remains to Idaho State University as the deceased woman wished. Peck explained the university's cadaver program would have the remains for five years.

When the woman contacted Peck in January about the return of her mother's remains, Peck reportedly failed to return her calls. When the woman contacted ISU, the university reported the remains were returned to Peck in April 2017.



For years, Peck and Downard Funeral Home had had a long-standing relationship with ISU. When people wanted the bodies of loved ones donated to ISU for study, Peck was in charge of facilitating the transfer of a cadaver or anatomical parts. He would also cremate the bodies for the university when they were done with them.

But in May 2020, the university ended its relationship with Peck. “During multi-year periods between 2011 and 2017, Downard failed to provide anatomical donations to the University. Due to a lack of donations, Idaho State ended its relationship with Downard,” an ISU news release shows. Additionally, ISU discovered evidence that some families believed their loved ones were at ISU, however, the university had no record of the donation. University officials relayed this information to investigators.

“Two families informed ISU that Respondent Peck informed the families that the remains of their loved ones were being donated to ISU, but ISU has no record of receiving the remains,” the disciplinary documents read. “ISU has completed intent to donate forms for four individuals whose obituaries stated that their remains were donated to ISU and Respondents handled the arrangements, but ISU has no record of receiving the individuals’ remains.”

Investigators found six additional obituaries saying their remains were donated to ISU and Downard Funeral Home handled the arrangements. The university told investigators they did not have any paperwork on those individuals or had not received the remains.

Foul Smell

While investigating the complaints of lost remains, investigators got a call about an overwhelmingly foul odor coming from Downard Funeral Home. It did not just smell, but visible through a window open to passersby was a decomposing body on the preparation table, according to investigators.



The body was laid on the table for several days in view of students at the nearby Pocatello High School, according to disciplinary documents. Investigators also learned about a decomposing body in a body bag in one of the funeral home’s vehicles. The Bannock County Coroner was contacted about the concerns.

A division of licensing investigators stopped by Downard Funeral home on Aug. 31 and found the building locked. A rear garage door was open and the strong odor permeated the air. Investigators noted windows were covered and a decomposing body could not be seen.

The investigator called Peck and said he was out of town and he would be able to meet at the funeral home the next day. Peck met with the investigators and on Sept. 1, they found a badly decomposed body in the garage. Peck told investigators the body had been there for a month.

Idaho law requires bodies to either be embalmed, cremated, buried or placed within refrigeration within 24 hours of the funeral home receiving the body. The investigator told Peck the body needed to be placed into refrigeration and he did so.

Peck voluntarily gave up his license the next day.

On Sept. 2 day investigators flooded the building and they continued to review documents on the remains at the funeral home. There were 10 bodies in the refrigeration unit and multiple cremains found at Downard Funeral Home.



A further search of the garage unveiled multiple body boxes covered in decomposing human remains. Another badly decomposed body was found in a plastic bag. In total, Pocatello police reported they found 12 decomposing and unrefrigerated bodies.

The Pocatello Police Department and other officials began removing the bodies on Sept. 3 and tried to identify the remains. As of Monday night, all but one of the sets of remains had been identified.



Police have also said investigators found a collection of 61 fetuses. ISU said in a statement the fetuses were part of a collection donated to the university for study between 1981 and 1998. After changes in Idaho laws, Downard Funeral Home picked up the collection and was supposed to cremate them.

With the revocation of his license, Peck is ordered to pay \$4,946.94 in investigative fees. Multiple attempts to reach Peck have failed.

The latest division of licenses struggles for Peck is not the first. Documents obtained by EastIdahoNews.com show between 2015 and 2018, Peck and his funeral home faced civil disciplinary actions. From not filing the proper paperwork to operating without a valid license. He was placed on terms of probation and ordered to pay fines.

As of Tuesday afternoon, no one has been arrested or charged criminally for what investigators uncovered.

Grossarth, E. (2021, September 14). Disciplinary documents reveal morbid details of Pocatello funeral home investigation. *EastIdahonews.com*. <https://www.eastidahonews.com/2021/09/disciplinary-documents-reveal-morbid-details-of-pocatello-funeral-home-investigation>



Blaine County

Idaho State Police Forensic Services performed latent analysis and firearm analysis.

Prosecutors: Idaho officer murder-suicide was premeditated

Blaine County Prosecutor Matt Fredback said that former Hailey police officer Jared Murphy shot and killed Ashley Midby after the two had a domestic dispute.



Ashley Midby
EastIdahoNews.com

BELLEVUE, Idaho — Prosecutors have said a former police officer fatally shot a woman he had been dating before shooting himself last year in what they confirmed was a murder-suicide.

The Idaho Mountain Express reported that Blaine County Prosecutor Matt Fredback said Monday that former Hailey police officer Jared Murphy shot and killed 34-year-old Ashley Midby near the Bellevue coffee shop where she worked after he was fired from his job because of a domestic dispute three days earlier.

Fredback said the attorney's office found Murphy's actions in October amounted to premeditated and intentional murder.

Prosecutors said Murphy joined the Hailey Police Department in 2018, the same year he and Midby began dating.

Associated Press. (2021, April 1). Prosecutors: Idaho officer murder-suicide was premeditated. *KTVB7*.

<https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/prosecutors-idaho-officer-murder-suicide-was-premeditated/277-356953e8-e593-4c97-af3a-dcc8350d5bac>



Bonner County

Idaho State Police Forensic Services performed biology screening and DNA in this case.

Judge orders life sentence in Bristow murder

SANDPOINT — First District Judge Barbara Buchanan imposed a life sentence Tuesday against a Ponderay man accused of strangling Tammy Rae Bristow in 1987.

William "Billy" Rey Acosta showed no outward reaction when the sentence was handed down in 1st District Court. The sentencing hearing was live-streamed for the public on YouTube, while a small clutch of Bristow's family and friends sat in the courtroom's gallery. Acosta, 51, was ordered to serve 20 years of the sentence before becoming eligible for parole.



Acosta

The body of Bristow, 19, was found by her boyfriend at her south Sandpoint apartment. Bristow had been choked to death with a length of cord tensioned by a piece of wood, according to archival news accounts.

Acosta emerged as a suspect only after his DNA was matched to DNA evidence collected from beneath Bristow's fingernails. Authorities obtained Acosta's genetic fingerprint after he was convicted of an unrelated crime long after Bristow was slain.

A Bonner County grand jury indicted on a charge of first-degree murder in 2019 and he entered into mediation to resolve the case as it neared trial. The negotiations produced an amended charge of second-degree murder and Acosta's entry of an Alford plea. Under such plea, a defendant admits no wrongdoing but concedes a guilty verdict could result following a trial. The plea is treated no differently than a standard plea of guilty at sentencing.

Cindy Reed, a friend of Bristow's, told the court she has been haunted by Bristow's death and wracked with guilt because she was the last person to see her alive. Reed said she second-guesses whether she should have stayed overnight with Bristow instead of dropping her off and into a "cold-blooded killer's web." "I cannot even begin to imagine the horror that she experienced that day and I try not to because the guilt comes flooding back every time it crosses my mind," Reed said, adding that she believed Bristow knew and trusted her killer because she let him into the apartment, the door of which she typically kept locked. Bristow's mother, Gayla Babcock, said she vividly recalls hearing her daughter's "sweet voice" the last time they spoke and her fondness for babies. Babcock said she struggles against waves of grief that wash over her when reminded of Tammy or the things she will never get to experience with her.

Babcock called on Acosta to serve not a day less than 32 years, the span of time separating her daughter's killing and Acosta's arrest. "I do not want the defendant to have the opportunity to do to another family what he has done to mine. I do not believe he can distinguish the difference between right and wrong or simply doesn't care," she said.



Bonner County Prosecutor Louis Marshall said former Sandpoint Police Chief Bill Kice and Det. Andy Anderson did a remarkable job at collecting evidence despite having relatively limited forensic techniques available at the time. However, the case's vintage could still have interfered the guarantee of a guilty verdict, he said.

"When we deal with cold cases, people don't understand that — from a prosecutorial standpoint — you have to go back and re-create things. Well, that's a bit difficult when your lead detective is deceased and the chief of police, Bill Kice, is now deceased," Marshall said.

Marshall said one of the case's foundational witnesses would have been former Coroner Dale Coffelt, who he said still possesses a fine-grain, photographic-level recollection of the investigation's ingredients. "His recall of detail was just outstanding," said Marshall.

Marshall said Acosta appeared to be motivated by the theft of \$96, money Acosta and his girlfriend paid to Bristow for babysitting. He recommended Acosta be served with a lifelong prison sentence due to the atrociousness of the killing and its resulting impact on Bristow's family. "The pain that Mr. Acosta inflicted upon this family is unparalleled. It was a heinous, heinous crime. It was not the crime of a 17-year-old," Marshall said, referring to Acosta's age at the time of the killing.

The defendant's sister, Lydia Acosta, said her older brother served as the family's caregiver and protector. She said her brother's biological father abandoned them and he subsequently suffered repeated physical and sexual abuse as a child, in addition to racist bullying because of his mixed Anglo/Latino heritage while growing up on a Native American reservation in Laveen, Ariz. Lydia Acosta also believes her brother sustained a cumulative traumatic brain injury, part of which was caused by her brother's affinity for football and the substandard protective equipment players wore at the time. "He took a lot of hits to his head," said Lydia Acosta, who participated in the hearing via videoconferencing.

Public Defender Janet Whitney argued for a 10- to 20-year prison term. She said her client was not the same person he was at the time of the killing and went on to live a law-abiding life after being imprisoned for other crimes in Arizona and Idaho. Whitney said Acosta is remorseful and unable to explain his involvement in Bristow's murder or recall much of the crime itself. "He's very blurred. He doesn't know why this happened. He is truly sorry for what happened and finds it hard to believe he's capable of something like this," said Whitney.

Acosta admitted committing bad acts in his youth, but said he had turned his life around and was "not a monster." "I'm not clear on what happened, but the evidence says I did it, and I'm sorry for the loss for the Bristow family," Acosta said.

Buchanan cast doubt upon the degree of Acosta's remorse due to his ability to recall events which would have a mitigating effect on his sentence an inability to recall those which wouldn't. "Perhaps you're just blocking this from your memory, (or) you don't want to talk about it. You can remember so many things about your childhood. I have a hard time understanding how you can say you have absolutely no memory of Ms. Bristow and this crime," said Buchanan, who also noted that Acosta never came forward to confess his involvement.

Buchanan adopted the state's sentence recommendations, ruling that a lesser sentence would depreciate the seriousness of the senseless killing of an entirely innocent young woman that left her family awash in grief. "The harm is really incalculable," Buchanan said.

Kinnaird, K. (2021, April 21). Judge orders life sentence in Bristow murder. *Bonner County Daily Bee*. <https://bonnercountydailybee.com/news/2021/apr/21/judge-orders-life-sentence-bristow-murder-snp/>



Bonneville County

Idaho State Police Forensic Services performed biology screening, DNA and latents in this case. Over one hundred items were tested in this case.

'I can't forgive you, ever:' Culprit in cold-case murder of Angie Dodge sentenced

Because of 55-year-old Brian Dripps' failing health, his lawyers say, he is almost certain to die before ever setting foot outside prison again.

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — It's over now, technically.

Brian Dripps, the man who raped and murdered an 18-year-old woman in her Idaho Falls apartment, was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison, with 20 years before he will become eligible for parole. Because of the 55-year-old Caldwell man's failing health, his lawyers say, he is almost certain to die before ever setting foot outside of prison again.

The family of Angie Dodge has been waiting nearly a quarter-century for this day. But it's never really over.



Angie Dodge

Todd Dodge, the older brother of the victim, said in court Tuesday that the murder had thrown his life and that of his family into "chaos." "I have ached in anticipation for too many years for justice to come," he said. "Because of Mr. Dripps' premeditated actions, he sentenced me to a lifetime of hell. And so far, I have served 9,126 days."

Dripps told police that he was drunk and high on cocaine when he broke into Angie Dodge's home on June 13, 1996 while she was asleep. He claimed later that he had only intended to rape her, but ended up cutting her throat so savagely with a knife that she was nearly decapitated.

Dripps lived just across the street from the victim at the time, but investigators zeroed in on another man, 20-year-old Christopher Tapp. Although DNA from semen found at the crime scene excluded Tapp, and he said that he had been coerced by Idaho Falls police into giving a false confession, he was convicted of the murder at trial and sentenced to prison.

Tapp spent more than two decades behind bars before the Idaho Innocence Project and Angie Dodge's own mother took up his case, urging the courts to take another look. He was ultimately released from incarceration in 2017 after a judge agreed that there were problems with how investigators had obtained his confession. Although freed, Tapp was not officially declared innocent of the murder until 2019, after advancements in DNA genealogy mapping allowed investigators to close in on the real murderer. DNA from a cigarette butt Dripps tossed to the ground while being surveilled by detectives was a match to the evidence found at the crime scene, and Dripps was arrested.

Todd Dodge told the judge he considers Tapp and other people touched by the murder as victims of Dripps as well.



"Chris should be given the opportunity to voice his nightmare to this court," he said. "[Brian Dripps] dropped an atomic bomb in the center of our family and our community. He destroyed the central core of our lives, and many others, when he slaughtered Angie."

Carole Dodge, Angie's mother, wept as she confronted her daughter's killer. "My last words to her was 'I love you.' I held her in my arms. Never again, was I ever able to hold her again because of your actions - your evil actions, your selfish actions," she told him. "And I can't forgive you, ever. You have shattered our family."

Dripps attorney, Elisa Massoth, asked the judge for leniency noting that after that violent night in 1996, Dripps went on to commit almost no other crimes for the rest of his adult life. She said that her client had been drinking heavily and using drugs in the aftermath of his wife leaving him when the murder of Angie Dodge happened, and that he was "so incredibly remorseful." "Brian did commit one of the most serious offenses possible in 1996. But he didn't repeat it, he didn't hurt anybody else," Massoth said. "He was a devoted son, a solid father figure, a solid friend."

Deputy Attorney General Jessica Kuehn wasn't impressed. Brian Dripps had the opportunity to enjoy vacations with his children, time with his friends and family, she said. Angie Dodge's life ended at 18.

The case is not just about June 13, 1996, Kuehn told the judge. It's about every day that followed after. "He lived every day of those 23 years with the opportunity to show that he is 'so incredibly remorseful'. And yet, what did he do? He lived every day of those 23 years like he had never taken a life," she said. "He lived every day of those 23 years like another man was not sitting in prison for his crime."

Just before the sentence was handed down, Dripps stood up at the defense table to apologize in a quiet voice. "I'd just like to say I'm sorry. I didn't intend for this to happen," he said. "I wish I could do over that night."

Judge Joel Tingey said he was sticking to the 20-years-to-life sentence hammered out in a plea agreement earlier this year. Dripps will receive credit for two years time served and will be required to register as a sex offender. The judge told the defendant that although he had lived a "relatively crime-free" life after the murder, that did not absolve him.

Perhaps the sentencing will bring some closure. But even if it does, the judge said, an innocent man still spent a significant part of his life behind bars. A family is still moving through the world without their daughter, their sister. "It's impossible to quantify how much damage has been caused," Tingey said. "It's chaos, it's chaos for a lifetime."

Terhune, K. (2021, June 8). 'I can't forgive you, ever:' Culprit in cold-case murder of Angie Dodge sentenced. *KTVB7*.
<https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/angie-ddge-murder-brian-dripps-chris-tapp-idaho-falls-sentencing/277-e486ce71-b35a-42e7-91a3-ce79f2a84773>



Canyon County

Idaho State Police Forensic Services performed Firearms and Latents testing on this case.

'A domestic violence homicide that did not just have one victim': Man arrested in Mexico for Wilder murder after 6-year manhunt

CALDWELL, Idaho — After a six-year-long manhunt, police have arrested a man who police say killed a 39-year-old Wilder woman in her home in 2015. Mexican Federales, with the help of US Marshals, took the 51-year-old Erasmo Diaz into custody in Mexico on Saturday.



Erasmo Diaz
Canyon County Jail

Diaz has been wanted for murder by the Canyon County Sheriff's Office since 2015 when an active murder warrant for his arrest was issued. Police say Diaz allegedly shot and killed his wife, Amparo Godinez Sanchez, just after 11 p.m. on June 11, 2015, in front of their two children at their Wilder home.

Sanchez's family offered a \$10,000 reward for the capture of Diaz soon after the murder. "We want him to know that we're not going to stop until my sister gets justice," Lucia Godinez, Sanchez's sister, told KTVB at the time. "He robbed us of so much and we are never going to stop until he gets caught."

Diaz is a Mexican national, but Canyon County officials did not state where in Mexico he was taken into custody by Mexican Federales. Canyon County Sheriff Kieran Donahue and Canyon County Prosecutor Bryan Taylor held a press conference at the Canyon County Administration Building in Caldwell on Monday to discuss Diaz's arrest. Brent Bunn, the US Marshal for the District of Idaho, was also at the press conference.

Donahue said he was contacted early Saturday morning and told that Diaz had been located in Mexico but did not give a specific location. He continued to say all involved parties are relieved that Diaz was finally located after six years, calling the search process a "tremendously long team effort." "This is, yet again, a domestic violence homicide that did not just have one victim," Donahue said during the press conference. "We're very proud to say we now have this person in custody. [Diaz] will face accountability and he will face the justice system."

Taylor said the prosecution filed second-degree murder charges against Diaz soon after he allegedly killed his wife. He added that Diaz's arrest warrant does not have a bond. Because Diaz has rights that extend to another country, Taylor said this case is "more complicated" than typical extradition. The timeline is uncertain at this time, and prosecutors are unsure what the progression of the case will look like. Taylor said while Diaz is innocent until proven guilty, he "will be prosecuted to the fullest extent."

Bunn echoed Taylor's sentiments. "We do not forget," he said. "If we have a warrant for you, we're never gonna quit looking for you." Donahue could not answer specific questions about the case, as it remains open at this time.

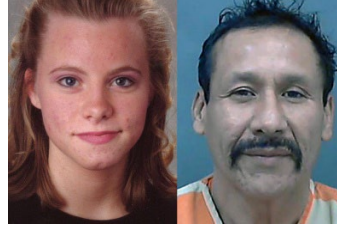
KTVB Staff. (2021, June 28). 'A domestic violence homicide that did not just have one victim': Man arrested in Mexico for Wilder murder after 6-year manhunt. *KTVB7*. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/man-arrested-mexico-wilder-murder-6-year-manhunt/277-104cb76b-d66f-46f7-948b-bb9c3d043cbb>



Cassia County

Idaho State Police Forensic Services performed biology screening and DNA in this case.

Burley girl's killer found guilty of murder decades later



Regina Krieger and Gilberto Rodriguez

BOISE (Idaho Statesman) – A 14-year-old girl's body washed up on the banks of the Snake River in 1995, and 26 years later, an Idaho man has been found guilty in her death, police said.

A Cassia County jury found Gilberto Rodriguez, 58, of Burley, guilty of first-degree murder Tuesday, a Facebook post shared by the Cassia County Sheriff's Office said. EastIdahoNews.com has verified the conviction in court records.

Regina Krieger, also of Burley, went missing from her home in February 1995, just two days before her 15th birthday, The Idaho Statesman reported in 2019. Nearly two months later, her body was found. She had been stabbed in the heart and her throat was slit, according to the Statesman.

It wasn't until 2019 that police arrested and charged Rodriguez in connection with her killing.

Rodriguez was 32 at the time of Krieger's death, according to a state witness, Magic Valley reported. The witness, who is a prison inmate, testified that Rodriguez enlisted him to help dump Krieger's body in the river when the witness was 16, according to the news site.

His sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 26.

Wolford, B. (2021, May 27). Burley girl's killer found guilty of murder decades later. *EastIdahoNews.com*. <https://www.eastidahonews.com/2021/05/burley-girls-killer-found-guilty-of-murder-decades-later/>



Idaho State Police Forensic Services performed biology screening, DNA analysis, field services, and firearms and latents testing in this case.

Southern Idaho man facing murder charge years after wife's death

32-year-old Jimmy Lee Murphy took out a \$650,000 life insurance policy on his wife just weeks before she was killed, police say.



Credit: Cassia County Jail

BURLEY, Idaho — A south-central Idaho man has been charged with first-degree murder following the shooting death of his wife in 2014.

Authorities say 32-year-old Jimmy Lee Murphy was taken into custody Wednesday. Murphy took out a \$650,000 life insurance policy on his wife just weeks before she was killed in what police say was a staged robbery.

The insurance company refused to pay the \$650,000 claim. Whitney Murphy, who was 26, died at the couple's home in Cassia County.

Police say Jimmy Lee Murphy at the time of his arrest was outfitting a van to live in and was preparing to leave the area.

Associated Press. (2021, March 7). Southern Idaho man facing murder charge years after wife's death. *KTVB7*. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/idaho-man-murder-charge-wife-death/277-634c3cd0-7ef0-437a-a9d8-0c29a63178bc>



Gem County

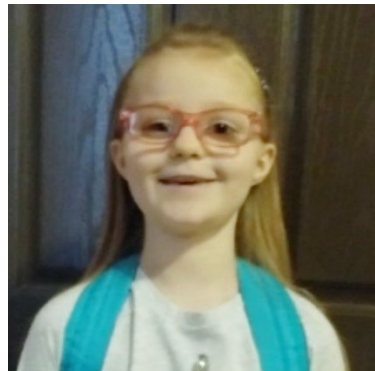
Over one hundred items were tested in this case by the Idaho State Police Forensic Services. Biology screening, DNA and latents were all tested in this case.

Grandmother of Emmett girl found dead in a trash bag set to face charges in district court

Connie Ann Smith, 54, is charged with a felony failure to notify of death and destruction of evidence.

EMMETT, Idaho — After rescheduling a preliminary hearing several times, the grandmother of the Emmett girl whose body was found in a trash bag in a car appeared in the Gem County Courthouse on Tuesday.

Connie Ann Smith, 54, is charged with a felony failure to notify of death and destruction of evidence. Idaho State Police said the body found in the black plastic trash bag in Smith's car is missing eight-year-old Taryn Summers.



Taryn Summers

A teacher at HeadStart Preschool in Emmett was the first witness to testify on Tuesday. She told the court she had one of the Summers' children in her class and had interactions with Smith, as well as Taryn Summers. The teacher said Smith would often pick up and drop off the children in a black car or a red pickup truck.

The teacher said she interacted with Smith on April 12, the same day Taryn was reported missing from her home on Airport Road in Emmett. Smith picked up one of the children from HeadStart but told them to be quiet getting into the car because Taryn was sleeping in the back of a black car, according to the teacher.

Jason McIntosh, the lead investigator with the Gem County Sheriff's Office, was also brought to testify to the court. He was part of the investigation for when Taryn was reported missing from her home on Airport Road on April 12. McIntosh testified that he had contact with Smith while investigating that week.

McIntosh said when he first spoke with Smith she told him that she went into Taryn's room to give her snacks around 4 p.m., but she declined the food. Smith then went to go check on the other children and go make dinner. Smith checked on Taryn an hour later, but she was not in her room.

Smith did not call law enforcement until 7 p.m., according to McIntosh.

The prosecutor asked about the piece of carpet from Taryn's room that had been cut out, which McIntosh was told by Smith was because Taryn defecated on it and rubbed it in. Smith said her carpet vacuum was broken so she had to cut it out and took it to a burn pile she had in the backyard to burn it.

According to McIntosh, law enforcement had removed the other children from Smith's home. When it came to the issue of getting car seats for the kids, Smith told McIntosh and other investigators they had to get the car seats from the pickup truck because she could not find the keys to the black Lexus.



McIntosh said Smith did not notify him or other law enforcement agencies of Taryn's death.

Patrol Sgt. Jerimiah West with Idaho State Police was next to testify in front of the court on Tuesday. In April, he was working with ISP District 3 as a detective where he also assisted in search efforts at the Airport Road home. Sgt. West found multiple keys on top of the upper cabinets in the kitchen. He said he could not see the top of the cabinets, but from prior experience, he knew sometimes there are items that are out of reach and hidden. Once he found the keys, Sgt. West and another ISP trooper went outside to see which keys fit in the vehicle. He was able to access the driver's side door and the trunk of the black Lexus that was in front of the home. He also tried the keys on other vehicles at the property.

The defense attorney also brought in Sgt. Jason Horst, a detective with Idaho State Police at the Meridian office who assisted with the search at the Airport Road home, to testify among the court. Horst said he searched the black Lexus on the property. "At a point in the search of the car, something did catch my attention," Horst said. He added after searching the trunk, he opened the rest of the car doors and noticed a black garbage bag in the backseats.

Horst opened the bag and found a young child in it. "It had bright hair and the complexion of the skin was very pale and the lips, what seemed to me, were blueish in color, I immediately thought it was the body of Taryn Summers," Horst said.

DNA results sent to the Idaho State Police forensics laboratory confirmed the body in the bag was Taryn Summers. Gem County Coroner John L. Buck was also called over the phone to testify in court. He said he was brought in back in April to investigate an unattended death.

"I think in this case you can make reasonable inferences to intent based on the actions of the defendant," said Gem County Prosecuting Attorney Erick Thomson as he addressed the court.

Gem County Judge Tyler Smith found the burden of proof in both charges against Connie Smith. She is set to appear for an arraignment on Sept. 13 at 9 a.m. in district court. She will stay at the Gem County Jail, where her bond is set for \$800,000.

Lewis, T. (2021, August 31). Grandmother of Emmett girl found dead in a trash bag set to face charges in district court. *KTVB7*. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/grandmother-emmett-girl-found-dead-in-trash-bag-set-face-charges-district-court/277-333ef2e2-3a0b-4d6d-b6d6-2662b37bbdf9>



Idaho County

The Idaho Forensic Services lab in Coeur d' Alene performed blood alcohol and toxicology analysis in this case.

Idaho man convicted in shootout with police gets 18 years in prison

Sean Anderson of Riggins, a former participant in an armed occupation at the Malheur Wildlife Refuge in 2016, was shot in the face as he attempted to reload his gun.



Credit: KTVB file photo
Sean L. Anderson

KAMIAH, Idaho — A former participant in an armed occupation at an Oregon wildlife refuge in 2016 has been sentenced to 18 years in prison in connection with his role in a police shootout in Idaho last year.

Sean L. Anderson of Riggins was convicted in April of felony aggravated assault on a police officer and the use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a crime. Second District Judge Gregory FitzMaurice sentenced Anderson on Monday, saying the defendant's justification for why he shot at police after they tried to pull him over was “shallow,” The Lewiston Tribune reported.

“Your actions in this case are the ones that escalated everything,” the judge told Anderson. “I cannot understand the degree to which you responded.”

Anderson was arrested several days after a police pursuit and shootout July 18, 2020, following an attempted traffic stop for an apparent equipment violation.

Police said he led authorities on a pursuit lasting about 30 miles from Kamiah to Ferdinand. The pursuit ended on a dead-end road when officers said Anderson pulled out a 12-gauge shotgun and fired. The officers returned fire and Anderson was hit in the face as he reportedly attempted to reload his shotgun.

No officers were injured. Anderson was shot in the eye and has permanent vision loss, hearing damage and a brain injury, FitzMaurice said.

Anderson had previously been convicted of misdemeanor trespassing for his role in the 2016 armed standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Oregon led by anti-government activist Ammon Bundy. Anderson joined occupiers who were protesting what they said was the federal government taking over private land in the area and was one of the last four holdouts during the 41-day occupation.

Anderson said that two days before the Idaho shootout, he'd attended a rally in Emmett, Idaho, organized by Bundy, and “drawn a line in the sand,” vowing that he would never be taken back to jail.



That's why he refused to cooperate when Lewis County Deputy Walter Wilkinson pulled him over and asked to see his driver's license, Anderson told the court.

Wilkinson described Anderson as having “radical anti-government views.”

But Anderson told the court that he disagreed with the prosecution's depiction of events and said he had hoped that the officers would kill him. He said he was depressed, had been drinking and was upset because of what he believed was governmental overreach in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Associated Press. (2021, July 13). Idaho man convicted in shootout with police gets 18 years in prison. *KTVB7*.

<https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/idaho-man-convicted-in-shootout-sean-anderson-police-prison/277-d7f168de-b77e-4d83-9e09-cb317ffc684>



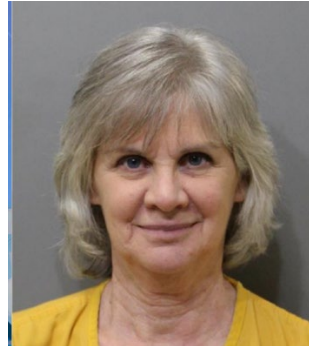
Kootenai County

Idaho State Police Forensic Services performed drug analysis, biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

North Idaho woman pleads guilty to killing husband

Isenberg originally told investigators her husband fell into Lake Coeur d'Alene, but an autopsy showed no signs of stroke or drowning.

KOOTENAI COUNTY, Idaho — Lori Isenberg, the North Idaho woman who killed her husband, Larry Isenberg, in March 2018 and dumped his body in Lake Coeur d'Alene was sentenced to life in prison Monday. Isenberg entered an Alford plea to second-degree murder in February. She will not be eligible for parole for 30 years with credit for time served. Isenberg will be in her late 90s.



Lori Isenberg
Twin Falls KMTV

Four family members spoke at the sentencing Monday morning. They remembered Larry as a hard-working family man who was deeply loved by his children and grandchildren. "The manner in which I lost my father, Larry Isenberg, has left a hole in my soul that I will never be able to fill," Larry's daughter Jessica McPherson said.

Lori told the court she knows she is responsible for his death, but it wasn't her intention to kill him. Lori claimed she was planning to commit suicide that day. She told the court she brought a Benadryl drink with her on the boat that morning with the intention of drinking it and dying by drowning. She claims Larry drank it after she fell asleep on the boat before she had a chance to drink it.

"I am so sorry for everything I did. Starting with the embezzlement that resulted in lies, deceit, betrayal, love and trust of the people I love, especially Larry," Lori said.

While handing down the sentence, the judge said Lori may believe her version of events, but her "truth doesn't hold up" given the facts of the case.

In all, Monday's hearing took a little less than three hours before Isenberg was sentenced. Isenberg herself spoke for 45 minutes. She talked about the embezzlement and the emotions of what her family has gone through.

Isenberg's case made headlines for the last two years across the Inland Northwest. Investigators said Isenberg originally told them her husband Larry fell into the lake, but an autopsy showed no signs of stroke or drowning. It did show lethal amounts of Benadryl.

According to court minutes from Feb. 11, Isenberg's attorney said the plea is an Alford Plea and they agreed to use the grand jury transcript as the basis for the plea. An Alford Plea means Isenberg admits there is enough evidence to convict her of the charge beyond a reasonable doubt.



Isenberg had initially pleaded not guilty to murder charges. Court documents filed in July 2020 showed that prosecutors also believed Isenberg allegedly tried to kill her husband while in Florida. She had researched stuff such as water depths, boating accidents, and rentals, according to the documents. Prosecutors believed she tried to kill him with Benadryl while in Florida as well.

Isenberg was arrested for 40 counts of forgery and a count of grand theft on Feb. 26, 2018. On March 1, 2018, Larry's body was found.

In November 2018, Isenberg pleaded guilty to charges of wire fraud and federal program theft. Court documents said she stole more than \$500,000 from the North Idaho Coalition, which works with low-income families, while she was the executive director.

According to the Coeur d'Alene Press, Isenberg was sentenced to five years in prison on those charges.

Lori Isenberg's trial, which has been repeatedly postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was scheduled to begin June 2, 2020, according to the Coeur d'Alene Press.

Smay, I. (2021, May 25). North Idaho woman pleads guilty to killing husband. *KTVB7*. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/lori-isenberg-pleads-guilty-murder-husband-death/293-8ba47338-e124-4a37-85a0-9c00b1771c7e>

Idaho State Police Forensic Services Coeur d' Alene lab analyst performed firearms analysis on this case.

Montana man who shot into crowd at Idaho bar sent to prison



Credit: Coeur d'Alene Press
Austin Sherper

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — A Montana man who pleaded guilty to firing into a crowd at a northern Idaho bar last year has been sentenced to up to 15 years in prison.

The Coeur d'Alene Press reports Austin L. Sherper, of Whitefish, Montana, pleaded guilty in April to seven felonies including aggravated battery with a weapon.

Prosecutors said he shot 10 times at a crowd outside a Coeur d'Alene bar after staffers said he wasn't allowed back inside. Two people were grazed by the bullets.

District Judge Scott Wayman sentenced Sherper Monday to 15 years in prison. He'll be eligible for parole after serving at least five years.

Associated Press. (2021, June 29). Montana man who shot into crowd at Idaho bar sent to prison. *KTVB7*. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/montana-man-who-shot-into-crowd-at-idaho-bar-sent-to-prison/277-c9acae24-eb16-4144-97b2-ee2cd06272ec>



Idaho State Police Forensic Services provided testimony on the firearms analysis during the trial for this case.

Gun takes center stage in Rambo trial

COEUR d'ALENE — The state rested its case Thursday against the teen who lost both legs after being shot by police.



Tyler Rambo, 19, is accused of second-degree attempted murder and aggravated assault.

The charges stem from the July 4, 2019, celebration at City Park in Coeur d'Alene, when police said Rambo, who was 18 at the time, shot at another man during an altercation. Rambo then ran from police, who said he fired at them after being hit with a stun gun.

The state called upon two witnesses Thursday to discuss the gun that went off in both shootings.

Idaho State Police Det. Gary Tolleson said he recovered Rambo's revolver from inside a marked police vehicle near the basketball courts, where another officer had placed it after the shooting.

Coeur d'Alene Police Officer Nathan Herbig testified Wednesday that he emptied Rambo's gun and dumped the bullets on the ground, where he left them for some time while he helped secure the scene.

Herbig said he did not count, photograph or document the bullets, but later returned and put them in an evidence bag, which Tolleson also took from the scene.

The bag contained four live rounds of ammunition and one spent casing, Tolleson said. He said he also processed clothing that had been collected as evidence, including Rambo's jeans. Police found 13 rounds of ammunition in the right rear pocket, he said, and found a taser probe near the right front of the pants.

Tolleson described in court how a gun's trigger operates when pulled and demonstrated with Rambo's revolver. A single-action revolver requires the hammer to be pulled back manually before the trigger is pulled. The trigger pull is short — less than a 16th of an inch in the case of Rambo's gun, Tolleson estimated — and requires less force.

A double-action revolver has a trigger that both cocks the hammer and releases it in one pull. The pull is longer and requires more force than a single-action trigger.

Tolleson said the revolver identified as Rambo's can fire in single or double action.

Britany Wylie, a forensic scientist with Idaho State Police Forensic Services, said she performed tests to determine the amount of force required to pull the trigger back enough to squeeze off a round.

In single action, Wylie said, it takes 4 pounds of pressure to pull the trigger on Rambo's revolver. In double action, where the hammer is not cocked, it takes 10.5 pounds of pressure to fire the gun.

"If you had a gallon of milk on your finger, how much force would you have to use to lift it?" Wylie said. "Double-action would require more force than that."



A gallon of milk in a plastic jug weighs a little more than 8 pounds, she said.

Additionally, Wylie said tests showed that two spent casings collected from the scene — one found on the ground, one found inside the cylinder — were fired from Rambo’s revolver.

It was not possible to determine whether the bullets were fired using single or double action, she said.

Tolleson said it’s possible for guns to discharge when dropped, including revolvers with the hammer pulled back. Defense attorney Rick Baughman directed Tolleson to point the gun at the ceiling, put his finger on the trigger and hold the hammer back with his thumb.

“Let go of your thumb,” Baughman said.

The gun clicked.

Baughman asked Tolleson if the gun would fire in that case.

“I believe if I held that trigger, it would,” Tolleson said.

Thornbrugh, K. (2021, March 5). Gun takes center stage in Rambo trial. *Coeur d’Alene / Post Falls Press*.
<https://cdapress.com/news/2021/mar/05/gun-takes-center-stage-rambo-trial/>

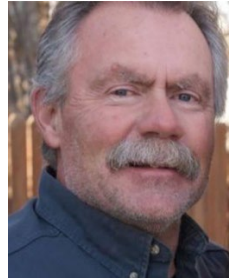


Madison County

Idaho State Police Forensic Services Impression and Controlled Substance analysts assisted with processing this crime scene. Latents and Biology testing were also performed.

Man fighting for his life after being shot in home invasion, family says

REXBURG — A family says a man is fighting for his life after being shot during a home invasion near Rexburg on Monday morning.



Ralph and Karen Brian were rushed to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center after the incident that unfolded around 5 a.m. in a mobile home park off North 12th West (North 2000 West), according to family. To help with expenses in their recovery, their loved ones established a GoFundMe page. Friends have also set up an account you can donate to at the Bank of Commerce.

“They are just the most caring, sweetest people you could ever meet,” the couple’s niece Brandy Puetz told EastIdahoNews.com. “How this happened, I had no idea because it’s just rotten.”

Following the incident, Karen was able to call 911 for help. Multiple neighbors told EastIdahoNews.com they could hear her screaming during the incident as she banged on doors of surrounding households for help.

Karen, who was also wounded during the incident, is reportedly out of surgery and will require physical therapy to regain the function of her arm. Ralph’s condition is more severe, and he remains in the ICU with a life-threatening gunshot wound.

Madison County Sheriff’s Office is still in the area investigating the shooting and has not released any additional details about the incident.

Initially, the sheriff’s office was searching for information about a white truck they believe was tied to the case. However, Sheriff’s Sgt. Isaac Payne said deputies spoke to the driver of the truck and are no longer looking for him.

Payne said deputies do not yet have a suspect in connection to the incident.

Grossarth, E. (2021, September 20). Man fighting for his life after being shot in home invasion, family says. *EastIdahoNews.com*. <https://www.eastidahonews.com/2021/09/man-fighting-for-his-life-after-being-shot-in-home-invasion-family-says/>

