Collinsville man found fatally shot in car in Madison

December 24, 2013 9:15 am  •  By Margaret Gillerman

MADISON • The Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis has been called in to investigate the death of Jarrett D. Mosby, 21, of Collinsville, whose body was found in the front seat of a car Monday afternoon with multiple bullet wounds.

Madison police found Mosby after responding to a call for a traffic accident at West Second Street and Bissell Street at 12:44 pm. They found Mosby's body inside in a silver Pontiac. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Lt. Matt Eiskant, deputy commander of the Major Case Squad, said Mosby appeared to have been shot several times. An autopsy will be conducted Tuesday morning, Eiskant said.

Mosby was a student at the University of Missouri in Columbia, where he was majoring in business. Mosby has a young child, Eiskant said.

Eiskant said police were talking with family and witnesses.

Anyone having information on Mosby's murder is asked to contact the Major Case Squad at (618) 876-7328.

This is the second body discovered within three days in the city of Madison. Authorities said the two are not connected to each other.

The first body — identified as Sybil Ann Brandon, 50, of St. Louis — was found shortly after 9 a.m. Friday when Madison police responded to Third and Jackson streets to investigate an abandoned car. Police searched the car and found her body in the trunk. According to preliminary autopsy results, Brandon died as a result of a gunshot wound to the head.

A missing persons flier said that she may suffer from bipolar disorder and was off her medication.

On Tuesday, St. Louis Police took over the investigation after the Major Case Squad determined her death occurred in the city. Homicide detectives are investigating.
MU student, Jarrett Mosby, remembered for kindness

COLUMBIA — Jarrett Mosby, a 21-year-old senior studying business at MU, was remembered Tuesday for his smile and giving personality.

Mosby was found shot to death in a car on Monday afternoon near St. Louis, according to Lt. Matt Eiskant, deputy commander of the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis.

Police found his body while responding to a reported traffic accident, Lt. Eiskant said. Mosby's body was in the driver's seat slumped over into the passenger seat of a silver car.

Mosby had been shot several times, Eiskant said. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mosby was back home in Collinsville, Ill., during winter break to visit family and his young son, according a report by The Associated Press.

Bryhana Monegain, a journalism major, said Mosby, then a sophomore, was the first person she met in her freshman year at an MU welcome barbecue with her roommate and friends. The group clicked, she said, and they have been friends ever since.
"I couldn't think of my first college experience without him," Monegain said. "His smile will forever be the best memory of him. ... You couldn't catch him without it."

Monegain said she and Mosby studied every day together in library. Usually, they couldn't sit at the same table or they would distract each another, she recalled, but they would interact through Facebook and Twitter while they were studying and then catch up face to face during breaks.

He was looking forward to graduating in five months, she said.

Sydney Ross, a business major, met Mosby at a party when they were freshmen and exchanged phone numbers.

"I didn't have a car freshman year, so he took me to Walmart," Ross said. "He was so nice and giving. He gave without expecting anything back."

Ross said Mosby often offered rides to others and was helpful. She remembers always seeing him in the library. He was focused on graduating so he could make a better life for his son, she said. His goal was to own a business.

Pending further investigation, police could not comment on whether the gunshots that killed Mosby came from inside or outside the vehicle, Eiskant said.

The Madison County Coroner was scheduled to conduct an autopsy at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. As of Tuesday afternoon, Eiskant said no additional information is available.

Christian Basi, an MU spokesman, said that no memorial services are being planned by the university at this time but that MU would offer support to Mosby's family. The university wants to make everything as easy as possible for the family, he said.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jarrett's family during this difficult time," Basi said.
Rural Missouri residents more likely to be uninsured

8 hours ago • By JIM SALTER Associated Press

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ST. LOUIS • Missourians who live in rural areas are far less likely to have health insurance than those living near big cities, according to U.S. Census data.

The Associated Press examined county-by-county data for 2011, the most recent year available. The data are for residents under 65 because older residents are eligible for Medicare.

Missouri overall ranks right in the middle of the nation in the percentage of uninsured residents — tied with Washington state at 25th with 16 percent uninsured. But in 34 of Missouri’s 115 counties (the city of St. Louis is considered a county for statistical purposes), one-fifth to one-quarter of non-senior residents lack health insurance. Twenty-seven of those 34 counties have fewer than 25,000 residents.

Health care leaders in Missouri are anxious to see if President Barack Obama’s health care reform will drive down the number of uninsured, something it is designed to do with new health care marketplaces that allow people to shop for private coverage and apply for government aid to pay premiums.

McDonald County, in the far southwest corner of Missouri, has an uninsured rate of 25.1 percent among its nearly 20,000 non-senior residents, the highest rate in the state.

It isn’t that jobs are scarce — the county’s jobless rate of 5.4 is better than the state or national average. It’s just that most jobs in the county don’t provide health care, said Keith Lindquist, presiding commissioner for McDonald County.

“What we have in this county are a couple of poultry plants,” Lindquist said. “We love them because if it wasn’t for them we wouldn’t have a place to work, but they really don’t have a very good (health insurance) program for anybody.”
The problem isn’t confined to southwest Missouri. The other counties in the top five for the highest percentage of uninsured residents include Hickory County in west-central Missouri (24.5 percent uninsured), Knox County in the far northeast corner (24.2 percent), Ozark County in south-central Missouri (23.7) and Sullivan County in north-central Missouri (22.4).

**Karen Edison, director of the Center for Health Policy at the University of Missouri in Columbia, said cities and suburban areas attract larger employers, and the bigger companies are more likely to provide health care coverage.** The state’s nine counties with the best rates of insurance coverage are all in suburban St. Louis, suburban Kansas City or in mid-Missouri, where many people work for the state in Jefferson City or at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Edison said the problem in rural areas is worsened by the fact that the blue-collar work is often more physically demanding, which can take a toll on workers’ health. For those without insurance, taxpayers are left to foot the bill when medical needs arise.

“They break their bodies down,” Edison said. “They have no preventative care, no primary care. It’s a lose-lose for taxpayers and patients.”

Brandy Smith, 34, has a college degree and works three jobs in McDonald County to make ends meet — she’s a secretary for a real estate firm and a construction company, and a health educator for the county. None of the jobs provide health insurance for part-time workers, leaving Smith and her two young children uninsured.

She was hospitalized with pneumonia for three days last year. A charity program picked up the $12,000 cost, but she knows she might not be so lucky next time around.

“It really gave me the awakening that I needed health insurance,” Smith said. “It’s very scary.”

Nationwide, Texas has the highest uninsured rate at 25.7 percent, followed by Florida (24.8), Nevada (23.8), New Mexico (23.0) and Oklahoma (21.8). Massachusetts had the lowest uninsured rate at 4.9 percent.

Missouri, like 35 other states, opted not to set up its own online insurance marketplace as part of the Affordable Care Act, instead deferring to the federal system. The marketplace is intended to help people without employer-sponsored health insurance find coverage at affordable rates. The exchanges can also be used by small businesses.

Edison said time will tell whether the Affordable Care Act is successful, but she said it is clear that changes need to be made to get health insurance to more people.

“We really need to transform our health system,” Edison said. “We need to improve access for people who don’t have it, we need to improve the quality we deliver, and we need to constrain our costs.”
Ending hunger in the U.S.: The first step
8 hours ago  •  J. Sanford (Sandy) Rikoon

On World Food Day in October 1985, the U.S. Postal Service released a “Help End Hunger” stamp “in recognition of the worldwide effort to end hunger.” At that time, no agency was documenting domestic food insecurity. By 1998, an annual measure conducted by the federal government revealed that 11.8 percent (12.2 million) of households in the U.S. worried about not having sufficient food, and 3.7 percent (3.8 million) experienced hunger at some point over the previous 12 months.

Nearly 15 years later, the “Help End Hunger” campaign has to be considered a failure in our country. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which measures these things, in 2012 an estimated 14.5 percent of households (17.6 million) were food insecure and 5.7 percent (7.0 million) involuntarily skipped meals, decreased portions, or otherwise reduced their food intake.

Food insecurity and hunger levels in the U.S. are a national shame, particularly for a country which continuously boasts of being the world’s leading agricultural producer. Over a period in which our country’s total population grew by 14 percent, finding increases of 44 percent in food insecurity and a whopping 84 percent in those who experienced hunger suggests we need a new plan if we truly want to end hunger and not just apply temporary help.

What would be an appropriate first step?

With the federal Farm Bill still mired party politics, we can recognize the seriousness and complexity of domestic food insecurity by creating an independent federal agency to replace the piecemeal, uncoordinated and limited approach that characterizes our present system. In brief, it is appropriate, and timely, to move the federal governmental response to hunger out of its major home in the Department of Agriculture. Food security and hunger programs have been incrementally added to the USDA over the last 50 years, but solving food insecurity and hunger are not, and have never been, among its chief goals.

The department’s emphases on agricultural productivity, marketing and technological innovation helps in the fight against hunger, but food security is much more complex than production of commodity crops and food. It is about physical and financial access to foods that are culturally appropriate and nutritionally sound; it is about the dietary and budgetary choices that families make within limited budgets; and it is about myriad individual and societal factors that surround, facilitate and limit the consumption and utilization of scarce household resources.
I am not criticizing the valuable work done by USDA staff and programs, particularly the Food and Nutrition program. The folks I know at the USDA are hard-working, smart, and concerned; they have established valuable programs in community food security and human nutrition, community gardens, measuring food insecurity, and food assistance and nutrition education.

Existing efforts, however, remain typically isolated from one another, marginal to the agency’s mission, and focused on symptoms rather than underlying problems.

It’s time for a national agency with a comprehensive mandate, one that seriously examines the causes of food insecurity, determines the best mix of public and private sector programs to meet immediate needs, and identifies and implements long-term solutions.

This change does not have to mean an increase in government revenues or expenditures. It could be built through carefully planned realignment of existing human, fiscal and social resources presently scattered in various agencies. Existing federal departments and agencies must be critical partners, especially the USDA, but also the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Commerce, National institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and others.

An independent agency will ensure that we make a comprehensive effort toward ameliorating the physical and mental suffering of millions of Americans who confront food shortages. Food insecurity may well never be eradicated — there are myriad chronic and acute causes, as well as behavioral and structural conditions, that suggest it is more than a temporary affliction that will pass with economic recovery — but let’s not bury it in the USDA. Instead, let’s give it the attention, commitment and resources that the problem deserves.

**J. Sanford (Sandy) Rikoon is curators professor of rural sociology at the University of Missouri. He also serves as director of the university’s Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security.**