

Police hopes reward brings witnesses

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By Aisha I. Jefferson

Tammy Bargeron hopes that reward money the Office of the Governor authorized in February will lead to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the stabbing death of her son, Joshua Bargeron.

"When you put money up, it usually does something for people," said Tammy Bargeron, who has seen about five psychiatrists since her son's death.

The body of Augusta resident Joshua Bargeron was found in a wooded area off Ga. Highway 81 East in McDonough on Feb. 7, 2004. Tammy Bargeron said her son stayed with Timmy Lee, 35, at Lee's home on Ga. Highway 81 in the weeks between Bargeron's last contact with his mother Dec. 18, 2003, and when his body was found

Charmaine King also is hoping for some results in relation to the May 2003 disappearance and death of her 16-year-old daughter, Brittany LeAnn King.

Brittany King was last seen May 17, 2003, when she left her DeKalb County home on foot. Charmaine King said Brittany told her younger brother, Brandon, she was running up the street just for a minute, right before she was supposed to leave for the movie theater. One week later, Brittany's body was discovered in an abandoned house at 1916 Ga. Highway 155 South in McDonough. Henry County Police are still investigating the cause of Brittany's death, said Henry County Police Lt. Jason Bolton.

"Someone was supposed to pick her up at the house to go to the movies," Charmaine King said. "Just for her to leave and go with someone else and not tell me -she wouldn't do that."

While Charmaine King said she does not know who would have taken her daughter, she believes it was someone the teen knew.

"Someone knew to call her and get her out of the house," Charmaine King said.

Police are hoping that the reward money will offer an incentive for potential witnesses to come forth to help them solve both homicides. "We want to do everything we can to make sure all investigation avenues are followed," Bolton said.

Bolton said that some potential witnesses may be more apt speak after some amount of time has passed.

Tammy Bargeron said she feels that Lee may know more about her son's disappearance than he let on. However, Lee said his former roommate's mother is wrong.

"I was not involved in any way," said Lee, who has a home on the 55 acres his parents own. "I hope the police are convinced that I had nothing to do with his murder."

His mother, Mary Lee, served as mayor of Riverdale for about 12 years.

Bolton said no one has been charged with a crime in connection to either incident and, although there are suspects, no one has been publicly named.

Both mothers encourage those with any information to contact authorities immediately.

"What may seem small and unimportant to them may be a big lead for the detectives," Charmaine King said.

Anyone with information on either case is asked to call Henry County Police (770) 954-2484 or (770) 957-9121.