

## Beason murder suspects finally caught along with two others

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*News Editor*

On the Monday afternoon of Sept. 21, a husband and wife and their three children were found brutally murdered in their home in Beason, Ill. Beason is roughly 30 miles away from Bloomington, hitting close to home.

A week after the slayings, the police still had no suspects or theory of the crime. They took more than 100 items including photographs, blood samples, fingerprints, and DNA. They had an idea of a gray pickup truck and told people to be on the lookout for it. Finally, on Oct. 1 a suspect was found.

Christopher Harris is facing five counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of Richard and Ruth Gee and their three children, Justine Constant, Dillen Constant, and Austin Gee. He is also facing one count of attempted murder. Autopsy reports state that they died of blunt force trauma.

Three-year-old daughter, Tabitha Gee survived and is in stable condition at Peoria Hospital with intense security. Family and friends visit her frequently, but there are officers stationed at the hospital. Nicole Gee, the ex-wife of Harris, is no longer allowed to visit Tabitha until investigators allow it.

Harris had his first day in court on Oct. 6. He had to face his own family and the Gee family and received some supporting gestures from both. He was

married and is now divorced from Nicole, but is apparently still backed up by some Gee family members.

According to the Pantagraph, Stephanie Tisdale, a friend of Harris said that he is a good kid, with a good background. She also said that he is not a violent person.

Tim Timoney is a Springfield, IL criminal defense attorney assigned by the court to represent Harris. He says that Harris still claims his innocence.

This case is extremely high profile granting the prosecution a request for additional resources from the Illinois Attorney General.

According to NBC Chicago, Timoney said that he anticipates asking for at least 2 and possibly 3 other attorneys as well as investigators so that they match the resources of the state on this.

Jason Harris, Christopher Harris' brother is also being charged with five counts of first-degree murder and attempted murder. His girlfriend, Jennifer Earnest and her mother, Sara Duncan, are being arrested for obstructing justice in the case as well.

The next step in the case is for a grand jury or a judge to decide whether there's enough evidence for Harris and his brother to stand trial. As of now, the Harris brothers will remain in custody in another Illinois county for security reasons. A preliminary hearing is set for Oct. 28 in Logan County.

## Obama campaigns for 2016 Olympics in Chicago

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Every four years a city is given the privilege to host the Olympic Games. On Oct. 2, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark for the final round of voting in order to decide the host city of the 2016 Summer Games. The four cities in contention were Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Madrid and Chicago.

Chicago and Rio de Janeiro were both perceived as early favorites to win the bidding. However, a surprising turn of events led to the elimination of Chicago after the first round of voting, landing the city in fourth place overall after only receiving 18 of the possible 98 votes. Rio de Janeiro eventually claimed the games by accumulating 66 votes in the final round.

The final result of the bid was especially devastating to the city of Chicago because President Barack Obama made a special trip to Denmark for the sole reason to campaign for Chicago's rights to host the games. Obama delivered a speech to the IOC highlighting the distinct cultural and social experiences Chicago would bring to the games and the world's athletes.

"I urge you to choose Chicago," Obama told members of the IOC, "And if you do - if we walk this path together - then I promise you this: The city of Chicago and the United States of America will make the world proud.

This strategy was also used by former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Tony Blair. Blair traveled to the final round of voting for the 2012 Summer

Olympiad and gave a similar speech to the IOC to help campaign for London to be awarded the 2012 summer games. Many say that Blair's involvement in the selection process was one of the major reasons London was awarded with the 2012 games.

The citizens of Chicago believed that President Obama would have a similar result on the selection process, greatly raising the hopes of the city. Although Obama was not the first world leader to campaign for his respected nation he was the first US president to be directly involved with the selection.

If the games had indeed come to the city, it would have brought an estimated 22.5 billion dollar boost to the Illinois economy, as well as 315,000 jobs for Illinois citizens. Chicago would not have been the only city directly affected by the games; smaller communities surrounding Chicago including Champaign, Peoria, and Bloomington-Normal would have possibly been able to host Olympic training facilities and athletes during the games as well, because of the lack of room in Chicago.

