

## FAMILY, COPS SEEK MOTIVE IN SLAYING

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, January 17, 2006  
Author: FRANK WITSIL, FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Three weeks after his teenage son was gunned down on a Royal Oak street, Tom Belevender is facing the reality that there were a few things he did not know about his boy.

But the two things he most wants to know are: Who killed Kyle and why?

"Somebody has to know," Belevender, 43, said, sitting in the living room of his Eastpointe home as he and his 39-year-old wife, Kelly Belevender, clutched hands.

Royal Oak police are investigating 17-year-old Kyle Belevender's death, but so far, detectives say they have more questions than answers.

Here's what they know: Kyle Belevender was shot multiple times about 3:30 p.m. Dec. 26 in the 2100 block of Harwood. He collapsed on a resident's lawn and was taken to Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, where he was pronounced dead.

The teen had no criminal history but was a high school dropout who appeared to be living a carefree life, staying at the homes of friends, police said.

One person who may know more about the killing, police said, is **Leon Treadwell**, 19, of Detroit, an acquaintance of Kyle Belevender.

Royal Oak Police Lt. Dana Welch would not say whether **Treadwell** is a suspect, only that "we need to talk to him."

Police are offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in the case.

On Friday, Tom and Kelly Belevender remembered their son as a friendly, Bible-quoting, athletic teen who grew up in the suburbs and loved to ride his skateboard. They said he quit school after the 10th grade and tried to cultivate an urban, street-smart image.

His father and mother, Heatherly Scalzi of Clawson, divorced when he was young. His father then married Kelly. Scalzi could not be reached for comment.

"Every day I wake up thinking this was a nightmare," Tom Belevender said, "but it's not."

Police ask anyone with information to call them at 248-246-3518 anytime. Contact FRANK WITSIL at 248-351-3690 or fwitsil@freepress.com.

ILLUSTRATION: Photo PATRICIA BECK Detroit Free Press

CAPTION: Kelly, 39, and Tom Belevender, 43, hold a picture of his late son Kyle.

DISCLAIMER: THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THE PRINTED ARTICLE

Edition: OAKLAND

Section: NWS; NEWS

Page: 3B

Index Terms: investigation;Royal Oak; homicide; shooting; Kyle Belevender

Record Number: dfp0000222148

Copyright (c) Detroit Free Press. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.