

IN LIVONIA , 3 ARRESTS EASE SHOCK - DUGGAN EXPECTS CHARGES TODAY IN 5 KILLINGS

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The word that three men were arrested **in** the deaths of five members of a **Livonia** family spread through the community Wednesday as a kind of a salve.

Livonia police announced the **arrests** the night before, just 60 hours after the bodies of three children, their father and their grandmother were discovered after an apparent robbery.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, who spent Christmas afternoon pushing a snowblower, said: "We are collectively **in** a state of **shock** . I don't know anyone who hasn't been touched by this."

Even so, residents and family members found solace **in** the quick work of the police.

"We are very happy," said Samuel Jameel of Plymouth, the children's grandfather. "We would like to praise the police."

Police have said robbery may have been a motive **in** the shooting deaths of Marco Pesce, 38, and his children -- Carlo, 12; Sabrina, 9, and Melissa, 6. Pesce's mother, Maria Vergati, 68, was also killed. The family's St. Martins Street home was ransacked and items were missing.

Police did not release many details about the **arrests** .

Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan said Tuesday night that he expects to announce charges today at a news conference.

Jameel's daughter, Diane Jameel, the mother of the children and Pesce's ex-wife, was **in** an Ann Arbor drug rehabilitation facility when the killings happened, he said. He drove to Ann Arbor on Christmas Eve to tell her of the **arrests** .

"They didn't want her to watch television, so she didn't know," Jameel said.

Jameel said he would see his daughter again when he takes her to pick out clothes for the children's funeral.

When **Livonia** Police Chief Peter Kunst announced Christmas Eve that two Detroit men **in** their 30s had been arrested earlier **in** the day, and a man from Flint, also **in** his 30s, was arrested shortly before 10 p.m., he praised the detectives who logged 20-hour days during the holiday week to solve the crime.

"I'm confident that we have a strong case," Kunst said.

Police said Wednesday they are still searching for evidence.

Livonia police would not comment on whether Diane Jameel has any connection with the three men **in** custody. Earlier, **Livonia** Police Lt. Ben McDermott said she had been questioned and was not a suspect.

Samuel Jameel said his daughter told him the family left Ann Arbor about 5:45 p.m. Saturday for the half-hour drive to their home **in** a subdivision north of 7 Mile. Marco Pesce then went to work nearby at his Italia jewelry store on 7 Mile.

Carlo Pesce soon called his father at the store and said there was a problem with one of his sisters, something "serious," Jameel said his daughter told him.

On Monday, police said Carlo Pesce called the store about 5:45 p.m. Someone at the store called the Pesce home about 7:15 p.m. and got no answer, police said. On Sunday, police found the family's bodies **in** the ransacked house.

Visitation for the Pesce family will be 4-9 p.m. Saturday and noon-9 p.m. Sunday at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, **Livonia**. Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at NorthRidge Church, 49555 North Territorial Road, Plymouth. Burial will be **in** Holy Sepulchre Cemetery **in** Southfield.

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