

MAN HELD IN KILLINGS WAS OUT ON PAROLE - SUSPECT IN BEATING DEATHS OF 5 WOMEN HAS LENGTHY RECORD

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Author: CHRIS CHRISTOFF, FREE PRESS LANSING BUREAU CHIEF

LANSING - A 27-year-old man accused of murdering five Lansing women in five weeks had a long criminal record as a juvenile - including two sexual assaults - and was on parole for exactly one month before the first woman was slain on July 26.

As part of his parole, **Matthew Macon** was ordered to register with the state as a sex offender and to stay away from children, state corrections records show.

He was arrested Wednesday for not registering as a sex offender and on a home invasion charge. While in custody, he was named the suspect in the five beating deaths and a sixth assault in which the woman survived, the Ingham County prosecutor's office said.

Macon 's arraignment on the killings was postponed until next week, as Lansing police and Prosecutor Stuart Dunnings III compile their case for a string of homicides that unnerved the city for more than a month.

Lansing Police Chief Mark Alley withheld details about the attacks and **Macon** , saying only that **Macon** would be charged in Monday's slaying of Sandra Eichorn, 64, a GM retiree who lived alone, and the assault of the 56-year-old woman whose dog chased away her attacker.

A sketch of the attacker based on the woman's description was credited with breaking the case and linking the killings to the same attacker.

Macon 's father told the Lansing State Journal on Friday that the sketch "doesn't look anything like him so I don't know what to think. But you're innocent until proven guilty."

"I guess his freedom's in God's hands," Jim Henry **Macon** Jr. said, referring to the son he called "Chilly." "I'm just hoping and praying that it's not him."

Alley said **Macon** also is a suspect in the December 2004 slaying of another Lansing woman, Barbara Jean Tuttle, who was found bludgeoned in the same home where Debra Renfors, the woman killed Aug. 9, died. Alley said **Macon** also remains a suspect in a string of unsolved assaults - not homicides - of women in 2003.

Sketchy details and accusations of **Macon** 's past and alleged rampage emerged Friday.

Macon was arraigned and in custody Friday morning in connection with an Aug. 9 home invasion, which was the same day Renfors died. **Macon** had been arrested Wednesday, the same day the last victim was found beaten in a vacant home. She died at a hospital.

As a juvenile, **Macon** was convicted of two sexual assaults, two breaking and enterings and two car thefts, said Russ Marlan, a Department of Corrections spokesman.

In 2001, **Macon** was sentenced to two to 10 years in prison for robbing a woman of her purse after grabbing her by the throat, Marlan said.

Macon was paroled twice but returned to prison both times for parole violations.

His third release on parole was June 26. On July 26, community activist Ruth Hallman, 76, was beaten to death in her home.

(SIDEBAR)

A look at the suspect's record

Police accuse **Matthew Macon** of murdering five Lansing women since being released from prison in late June. They also are investigating him in connection with an unsolved 2004 homicide in Lansing that occurred while he was on parole. Authorities did not release details about his two parole violations.

As a juvenile: Dates not released, but **Macon** had extensive juvenile criminal history, including two sex offenses, breaking and entering, larceny and unlawfully driving away an automobile.

March 2000: Pleaded guilty to a larceny from a person for an incident that happened in 1999. He was sentenced to one year in jail with credit for 318 days served, according to court records. He also received three years of probation.

January 2001: Violated probation.

September 2001: Sent to prison for 2-10 years with credit for 472 days served.

April 16, 2003: Paroled after serving two years.

Dec. 2, 2003: Returned to prison for parole violation.

Sept. 25, 2004: Paroled second time.

December 2004: Barbara Jean Tuttle killed in Lansing; case remains unsolved.

June 2005: Pleaded guilty to third-degree home invasion and assaulting/resisting/obstructing a police officer in connection with a February 2005 incident. Sentenced to 12 months in jail.

May 17, 2006: Returned to prison for parole violation.

June 26, 2007: Paroled from prison a third time.

July 26: First killing in Lansing, Ruth Hallman, 76.

Aug. 7: Second killing, Deborah Kaye Cooke, 36.

Aug. 9: Third killing, Debra Renfors, 46.

Monday: Fourth killing, Sandra Eichorn, 64.

Tuesday: Beating of 56 year-old woman in her home.

Wednesday: Fifth killing, Karen Delgado-Yates, 41. **Macon** is arrested for home invasion and failure to register as a sex offender.

Sources: Michigan Department of Corrections, Ingham County Prosectuor's Office, court records, Lansing State Journal

Contact CHRIS CHRISTOFF at 517-372-8660 or christoff@freepress.com.

ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION:

GREG DeRUITER / Lansing State Journal

At a news conference Friday, Lansing Police Chief Mark Alley holds up a photo of **Matthew Macon**, the man police suspect was behind the beating deaths of five women in five weeks in Lansing.

CAPTIONWRITER: **Matthew Macon**, 27, is accused of killing five women and attacking a sixth. He also may face charges in a 2004 slaying.

MEMO: SIDEBAR ATTACHED

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