

TRIPLE KILLING ROCKS DETROIT FAMILY POLICE SAY HOUSE WAS RANSACKED, BUT SEE NO FORCED ENTRY

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Three generations of one **Detroit family**, the youngest 5 years old, were shot in the head and left to die in their west side home Thursday.

Essie Jackson, 44, was found dead in the bathroom with her daughter Shaneka Webb, 19, nearby. In another room lay Jackson's grandson Damon Webb.

There was no sign of forced entry into the Sparta Street home, but the house had been ransacked, police said. The **family**'s dogs, one of them a rottweiler, were locked up in other rooms inside the home.

Cortez Jackson, 42, a self-employed construction worker, told police he came home on his lunch break around 1 p.m. to find something peculiar: The front door, bedecked with a Christmas wreath, was open.

Behind that door, he found a massacre.

He ran to his next-door neighbor's house and pounded on the door. "He said, 'My **family**'s dead,' " said Amy Smith, 67.

"He had a fit and fell out in the middle of the street," said neighbor Renee Wilson, 29.

The Jacksons' daughter Tiffany, 16, a student at Chadsey High School, was called out of class and told to go home because there was an emergency.

Charles Landrum, her junior ROTC instructor, drove her. "When we pulled up and saw the police tape, we knew something bad had happened," Landrum said.

Elizabeth Brown, 14, who goes to school with Tiffany, watched the girl hug **family** and friends.

"I just saw her in the hallway this morning," Brown said. "Now she doesn't have her mama or her sister."

Essie Jackson also has two sons, one of them Damon's father.

Safronia Ramsey, Essie Jackson's sister, said she last spoke to her a couple of days ago. "She wished me a Merry Christmas, asked if I'd had any luck trying to find a place, and the next thing I know she's dead," Ramsey said. "My sister was beautiful."

Many who knew the **family** agreed it was tight-knit, quiet and hardworking. Shaneka had been a member of the swim team at Chadsey, where she graduated last year before beginning classes at Wayne State and working part time. She loved to be "goofy and silly," one friend said.

Essie Jackson worked two jobs. Her day shift was at J.C. Penney in Fairlane mall, neighbors said. She also found time to baby-sit her grandson Damon, friends said.

"She worked day and night" said William Smith, 72, a next-door neighbor.

Police investigators stepped carefully around the house's muddy backyard, combing for evidence. The back door was open, police said. Keys dangled from the lock on the back fence.

The rottweiler, Bonnie, almost always tied up in the backyard, was locked in a bedroom, police said. The **family** miniature poodle, Coco, was locked in the basement.

Police Cmdr. Gerald Stewart said: "It appears to be a robbery. The house was ransacked."

Why kill people in a burglary?

"The usual reason, to get rid of witnesses," Stewart said.

Chief Isaiah McKinnon said there seems to have been a recent rash of multiple shootings and murders, especially involving children.

In March, Allen Griffin Jr. walked into a Comerica Bank in northeast **Detroit**, killed three people and wounded two others before he was killed by police. In August, Reco Jones confessed to **killing** former girlfriend Yolanda Bellamy and four toddlers in her west **Detroit** home.

"We're seeing more and more multiple homicides and we're trying to figure out the reason, but there can be no good reason for this," McKinnon said.

On Dec. 5, Herbert and Dorothy Matthews and her sister Dolores Thompson were found dead in the Matthews' west side home. Thompson's son was charged in the **killings**.

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Caption: Photo RICHARD LEE/ Detroit Free Press

Safronia Ramsey cries Thursday across the street from the house where her sister Essie Jackson and two other relatives were found shot to death. Police suspect robbery was a motive.

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