

## **CRACK REPORTEDLY USED BY SUSPECT IN SLAYINGS PRIDE CHARGED WITH 3 COUNTS OF MURDER**

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**Travis Pride** killed his girlfriend and their two young children a short time after smoking crack cocaine early Sunday, according to a witness' remarks in court records released Wednesday at **Pride** 's arraignment.

**Pride** , 23, showed little emotion as he was charged with three counts of first-degree murder before 36th District Magistrate Irma Chenevert in the stabbing and beating deaths early Sunday of Viola Rivers, 21, and the beating of their children, Tywannia, 2, and Darius, 11 months. The three were found Sunday evening in their home in the 3000 block of Hurlbut Avenue.

Chenevert ordered **Pride** to be held without bail.

Asked about a motive, homicide Inspector Gerald Stewart said Wednesday that there apparently was an argument between **Pride** and Rivers. Stewart said he did not know why the children were killed.

According to the investigator's report, a witness admitted smoking crack with **Pride** about 12:15 a.m. Sunday, and then seeing **Pride** around 2-3 a.m. on the porch of the Hurlbut Avenue house. Investigators believe the family was slain between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. in the lower flat where **Pride** had lived with Rivers.

Recovered from the scene was a blue tank top, which several witnesses said they saw **Pride** wearing hours before the slaying, the court records indicated.

The slayings shocked **Travis Pride Sr.**, 43. "I can't conceive of him doing something like this," **Pride** said of his son outside the courthouse. "I'm hurt, I know the parents of the deceased are hurt."

**Travis Pride Sr.** said he believes his son, whom he called a "happy go-lucky guy," must have been on drugs if he committed the killings. He said **Travis** ' mother raised his son, and that he had not had a father to son chat with him in at least two years.

**Pride** 's mother, accompanied by a clergy member at the arraignment, declined comment.

**Pride** , being held in Wayne County Jail, faces a preliminary exam May 11.

Caption: Photo

: **TravisPride** \*\*\*

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