

“Cold Cases” in Cherokee County

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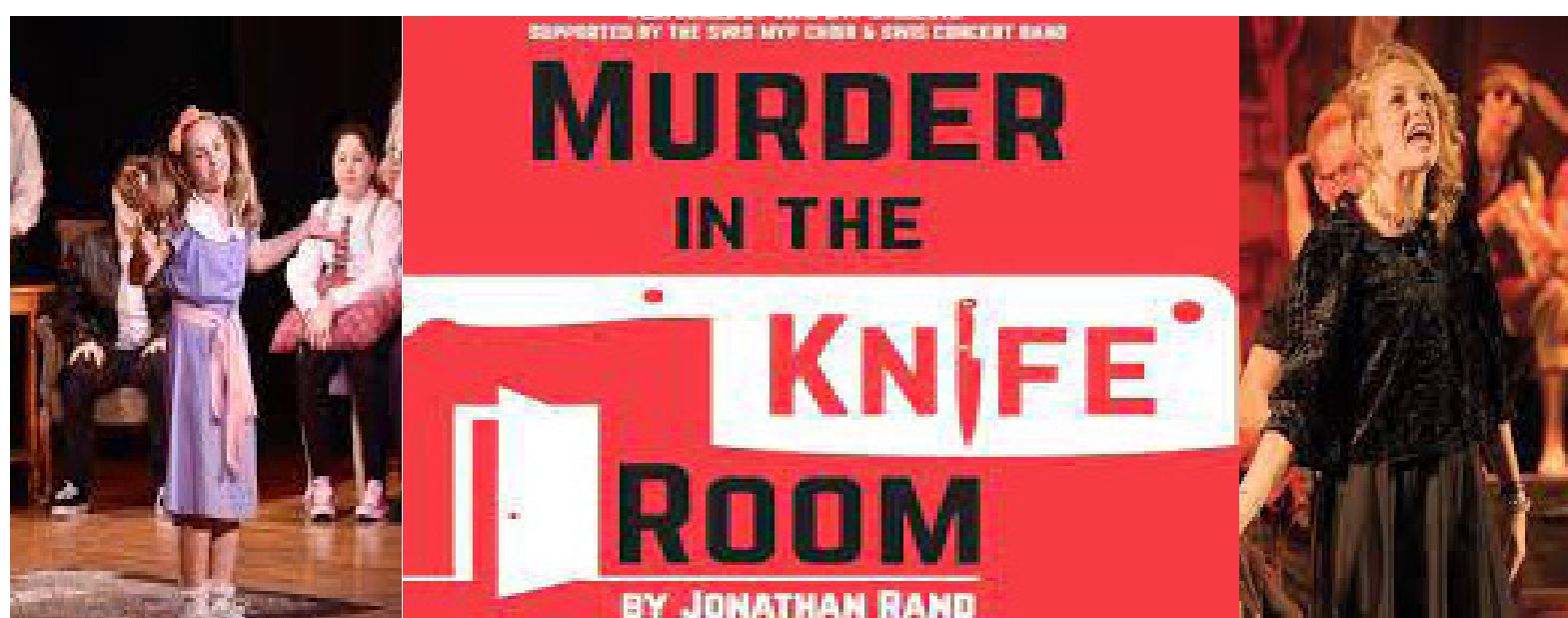
When you think of violent crimes, it is not hard to imagine the names of John Wayne Gacy, Jeffrey Dahmer, and Ted Bundy. These are killers that not only pushed the boundary of what is considered a murder but rather how far someone can go until they are caught. What people fail to realize is the rather increasing number of violent crimes that are committed in which the culprit is not caught. From big cities to small rural towns, Cold Cases, crimes that are not solved, are far from few. Gaffney is what we call home, a simple town that is known for its infamous Peachoid. We as the population would be shocked to find out that Gaffney is one such town that for years has had a number of Cold Cases that have yet to be solved. Years of heartbreak, stress and lack of closure went by and the families that still mourn the loss of their loved ones are experiencing their child, sibling, and even parent lose relevance in society. It is my intention to give those, who have not received justice for their crimes, recognition and relive what exactly went into their murder and what we can do as a society to help find who took their lives. Located on “cherokeecountysheriff.net”, anyone can find the number of Cold Cases that have plagued the County. Currently as of October 26, 2022 there are five murder victims and two missing spanning over the course of thirty-five years. These are lives, people that were once functioning members of society. Whether it be working a job locally, raising kids, or even just socializing with their neighbors. The lives they left behind could have possibly been very beneficial to the betterment of Cherokee County as a whole. Beginning with the case of Joseph Hansen, known as Joey to his acquaintances

he spent his life as a workingman. Beloved to those around him, he lost his life on May 30, 1987. His body was found on Old Gun Club Road in Gaffney, South Carolina; gruesome in nature the crime has gone cold since its occurrence. Thirty-Five years has since passed and its time that he receives justice, his murderer may still be out there whether we as a society would like to think about it or not. If this isn't enough, Sheila Patterson Manley, found dead on December 11, 1996 at an exit ramp on the side of the road by a local truck driver. Her cause of death was labeled as severe cerebral bruising caused by a blunt object. She was partially clothed and left by her attacker in the cold until 2:45 AM where she was discovered. After her crime it wasn't long before the case was closed, unfortunately there was not enough evidence to incriminate anyone for the crime. Not even a year after this case occurred, Wylie Edward Harris was found murdered at his home in Gaffney on March 22, 1997. His murder was believed to be a subject of a hate crime but due to further investigation it cannot be determined whether his killing was premeditated. Harris' murder eventually went cold due to a lack of forensic evidence. Veteran William “Buck” R. Spencer was the next victim who has not received justice for his murder. On November 8, 2001 he was found in his home at 707 4th Street, in Gaffney South Carolina. The nature of his murder would be terrifying to those who are blind to the public eye. But nothing would be like the murder of Perry Wayne Posey, a local pastor that was a savior to all that attended the Shady Grove Baptist Church. He was found slain in his car by a fatal gunshot wound, some argue on the reasoning behind such a

brutal killing whether it be road-rage, a drug deal gone wrong or even worse. His death occurred on February 6, 2002 at the intersection of S. Green River Road. His death is more than just a life lost but rather a life that guided generations to come. These cases all share similarity with one another, the shocking fact that they are unsolved, no justice given to those who have the misfortune of being the victims of these crimes. At least those who know these individuals can fight for them and stand for the victims to find who took their lives. Some cold cases do not have such a privilege; important subdivisions of Cold Cases are those who are missing and have yet to be found. The first missing victim of Cherokee County is Tina Marie Crouch, who has been missing since April 3rd of 1991. Her thirty-year anniversary of this event occurred just last year. Law Enforcement has spent resources of all kinds to find her whether it be her alive or dead. Closure is all that those who are related to her hope to find. She was last seen on Jackson Street in Gaffney where she was shopping and was never seen again. Similar to Tina is the mysterious case of Donnie Edward Pennington, last seen on March 4th, 2006 walking away from his home. These two have been mourned, loved, and more over the several years of their disappearance. Although the Sheriff's Department has tried to open each and every one of these cases several times since they closed, no success has been reported in finding a resolution towards any of these cases.

“Murder in the Knife Room”

Michael Lawless
Staff Writer



Gaffney High School's Theater Department has been cooking up an amazing show for all to come and see! On October 27th at 6:00 pm, Gaffney High's Theatre four class will be performing the “Murder in the Knife Room”, a play written by famous playwright, Johnathan Rand, who's most known for his critically acclaimed play “Check, Please”. The same theatre group acting in the upcoming play also performed previously in the Spring for their “Seasons of Love” showcase in February. Murder in the Knife Room is a comedy/mystery in which a wide variety of characters are stuck overnight in mysterious mansion with a mysterious host in their infamous knife room trying to solve the mysterious happenings behind the hosts' death by slowly going over the history between every guest and the showboating host. With such a diverse cast such as Princess Davis as the ‘Probably Faking it deaf/mute’, Katt Lee as the ‘Spooky Pirate’ and Jacob Simpson as ‘Struggling Standup Comic’ this show is set to be comedy and make the audience not only enjoy themselves but share a few laughs.

We interviewed the Gaffney High theatre teacher Mrs. Dill, so we could gain more insight into the plays' production and the motivation behind them. According to Mrs. Dill, the class size of theater four proposed quite the challenge; in previous years she only had seven or so students, this year she had over 20, she had to ensure she could find a performance where everyone could play a part. That leads to her second reason why she chose “Murder in the Knife Room,” aside from student counts she was also waiting on the right group who can handle the performance. She also admits that it's quite nerve-wracking both for her and her students to perform, but by time to perform she believes that everyone will be ready for a stunning performance. She is also quite proud of how far her students have come with their acting as the show has little to no special effects to align with state competition rules, leaving the show to entirely depend on how the actors portray their roles. Speaking of the roles, Mrs. Dill spoke about the difficulty of casting the roles, describing it as

having to know your students and knowing what their comedy styles and preferences align. A direct quote from Mrs. Dill states “If they like their part, then they are going to work harder at their part.” Showing how much thought she put forth into deciding her casting. As we brought the interview to a close Mrs. Dill reaffirmed how excited she was and that she was sure the audience would enjoy the performance with all the comedic twist and turns.