

# Anxiety runs high

## Murders unsolved, locals afraid

By Chris Butler  
chris@rustonleader.com

No one knows if the two Ruston men knew each other before they died.

One man was an ex-convict who had just returned home to Ruston after a 10-year prison sentence and, according to his family, was trying to go straight.

The other man was a husband and father who led a stable life and only wanted to do what was best for his family, according to his widow.

The differences end there, because both men shared a similar fate.

Even though the crimes happened five months apart, an unknown assailant, or assailants, wanted both men dead and carried out those wishes in a brutal and senseless manner.

Both men were left to die within walking distance of Martin Luther King Drive.

No one knows for sure if the same people were involved in the killings.

Someone discovered Christopher Tillman's body on Dec. 11, 2008, in a heavily wooded area near the old fairgrounds.

Someone killed Kevin Foster in his front yard on Alpine Road on May 10.

Both men lived only a few miles apart.

Both men were shot.

Both men were 36 years old at the time of their deaths.

Friends and family members said they know who killed each man.

They said police can't solve either case, even though other people know who killed both men. That's because people in their community don't trust law enforcement officers. People in that area are also frightened. The killers aren't afraid to retaliate against people who talk to police, said members of both men's families.

Investigators with the Ruston Police Department, however, said they are actively investigating both murders and can protect residents who come forward with information.

### A failure to communicate

Kevin Foster's widow, Barba-



Leader photo by CHRIS BUTLER

**Delories Pruitt (left) looks at a framed picture of her slain son, Christopher Tillman, held by her daughter, Patrice Goldsmith. Tillman's body was discovered in December in a wooded area near his house. The case remains unsolved.**

### Contact police

If you have information about the Dec. 11, 2008, murder of Christopher Tillman or the May 9 murder of Kevin Foster, Call Crime Stoppers at 255-1111. Callers can remain anonymous, and there is a \$2,000 reward if information leads to an arrest and conviction.

ra Foster, said she prays every day that the police arrest her husband's killer or killers.

"I've got faith in God that this will be solved, but my faith is in him. On the other hand, my faith with the investigators is not high," Foster said.

Kevin and Barbara Foster married 10 years ago and had three children.

Barbara Foster was sleeping at home around 2 a.m. May 10 when she heard gunshots outside.

Someone shot her husband as he was returning home from playing dice at another house.

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## UNSOLVED

IN RUSTON, LOUISIANA



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