

# St. Tammany man kills wife, himself

## Bank manager chased across yard

By Bob Ussery  
Staff writer

A St. Tammany Parish man chased down his wife and shot her twice in the head before turning the gun on himself, taking both their lives in a neighbor's yard Saturday, au-

thorities said.

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office is working to piece together the last moments in the lives of Tommy Toney, 71, and his wife, Kendra, 48, said George Bonnett, a spokesman for the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office.

So far, investigators have determined the couple had been fighting at their home on Louisiana 41 near Lock Number One Road and Pearl River

when the altercation spilled out into their front yard shortly after 12 p.m. Saturday.

Tommy Toney pulled a gun as his wife ran across Louisiana 41, screaming for help. Toney caught up with his wife and shot her twice in the head, said Mark Lombard, chief investigator for the St. Tammany Parish coroner's office. After killing his wife, Lombard said, Toney took his own life with a single gunshot wound to the head.

Kendra Toney died at the scene. Her husband was pronounced dead a short time later at Louisiana Heart Hospital.

News of their violent, public deaths traveled fast through their small, close-knit community Saturday.

Kurt Bozant, of Slidell, said Kendra Toney was manager of the Hibernia branch at 333 Gause Blvd.

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## Wife fled, screaming for help

SHOOTING, from B-1

He said Kendra Toney, a longtime resident of St. Tammany Parish, was a past president of the Rotary Club of Slidell and was active in the Greater Slidell Chamber of Commerce.

"This comes as a tremendous shock to me," Bozant said. "I didn't know of any problems like that."

Bozant said he spoke to her on the phone Friday on business. Kendra Toney sounded normal, he said.

Kendra Toney was "a mild-mannered, soft-spoken, personable lady," Bozant said. "She seemed to get along with everybody."

Indeed, nothing seemed out of the ordinary when the couple ate in a Hickory restaurant near their home Friday night, witnesses said.

Kendra Toney told an owner he would be seeing a lot of them in coming months.

Joseph Beal, part owner of Dot's Sandwich Shop, said the Toney's were new to Hickory, having moved there within the last several months. He said they found the shop nice and appreciated the fact that the eatery was near their home.

"She was just another customer, no signal of any worry or stress," Beal said. He said Kendra Toney did most of the talking. "He (Tommy Toney) didn't speak much. She was a people person. She assured me how much they were enjoying it out here and we'd be seeing a lot of them over the next few months."

But on Saturday about 12:15 p.m., Beal said, "I was quite shocked when someone stuck his head in the service window and said, 'Call 911, a woman has just been shot. Oh, my God, he's shot himself.' I ran outside and called police."

Beal said the bodies lay face down in the neighbor's yard. Kendra Toney was clad in what appeared to be the same blue jeans and blue shirt she wore to the restaurant Friday.

The moments before Kendra Toney died were horrific, said Beal, recounting stories from witnesses.

Beal said people told him Kendra Toney was screaming to people outside Dot's to call 911 as she ran across Louisiana 41.

Peggy McGee, who works next to Dot's at the Lock Number One Pantry, said people told her that Tommy Toney was a retired engineer.

Before going to work Saturday, McGee said, she was in her yard near the store about 12:15 p.m. and heard what sounded like three or four shots in rapid succession followed by a single shot. When she got to work, she saw Kendra Toney's body.