

SLAYING | Ex-legislator is in custody

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No charges had been filed in the slaying as of late Friday.

There were no witnesses to the early-morning shooting, though neighbors in Ross's gated townhome complex said they heard five shots fired and heard Ross scream.

Lexington police received a call about the shooting at Opera House Square Townhomes at 6:34 a.m. Officers arrived at 541 West Short Street minutes later and found Ross lying in the back corner of the parking lot.

After finding Ross, police had issued an alert to other police agencies for Nunn, who is the son of the late Gov. Louie B. Nunn and was a candidate for governor in 2003.

State troopers L.D. Hodges and J.S. McChesney, who are based out of Bowling Green, searched for Nunn near Glasgow, his hometown.

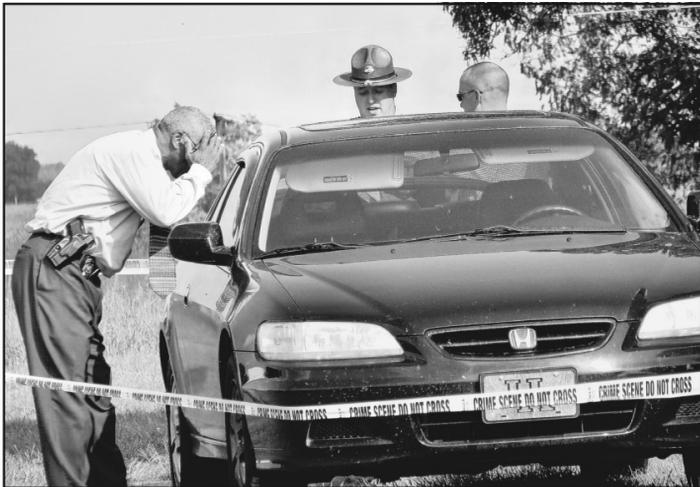
According to Hodges, the two troopers first went to the Nunn house, which they call The Mansion.

"He looked up to his dad, and it seemed like a good place to start," Hodges said.

Troopers decided to try the cemetery by Cosby United Methodist Church near the Barren County-Hart County line, where Nunn's parents are buried.

About 10 a.m. Central time, near the late first lady's grave, Hodges said the two troopers saw a holster. They spread out, soon spying Nunn 30 or 40 yards away, down a slight incline, at the edge of the cemetery. Nunn had a handgun, which they asked him to put down. At some point, Hodges said, Nunn fired the weapon, though not at them. He immediately threw down his weapon, Hodges said.

Hodges and McChesney say that Nunn offered no resistance. He was taken by ambulance to The Medical Center in Bowling Green. He was lucid and talking all the way to the hospital, said Barren



Det. William Persley of the Lexington police department, left, peered into the window of the car Steve Nunn drove to a cemetery in southern Hart County.

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County Sheriff Chris Eaton, who rode in the ambulance with Nunn.

"He's fine," said Eaton, who has been friends with Nunn for about 20 years. "He's talking and stuff like that."

Eaton said Nunn initially told the sheriff that he had shot himself, but "he does not have a gunshot wound whatsoever," said Eaton. Officers discovered Nunn's daughter's Honda Civic at the church, Eaton said.

Nunn was in fair condition as of Friday night, according to hospital spokeswoman Doris Thomas. His wounds are "not life-threatening," said KSP's Jonathan Biven. Nunn remained under police supervision and will be held in the Hart County Jail after he is released from the hospital.

Domestic troubles

Many, especially associates of the 56-year-old Nunn, had been shocked by the couple's domestic troubles. On Friday, they were similarly shocked to hear of Ross's death and Nunn being found later in Hart County.

Family and friends say Ross feared for her safety after an incident of domestic violence.

Late Friday night, her family released a statement: "Words cannot express the sorrow and emptiness that

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we all feel. We hope that this travesty will demonstrate that domestic violence can happen to anyone at anytime. And, as a family, we plan to fight for those victims, like Amanda, that cannot fight for themselves."

Political consultant Dale Emmons, a close family friend, said Ross's resolve to stay safe from Nunn was evidenced in her willingness to seek court protection.

According to court documents and testimony, Nunn and Ross began dating in September 2007, and he moved into her home in March 2008. He moved out in October, shortly after they were engaged, because the "relationship had deteriorated," Nunn said during a hearing in March.

According to testimony, they remained in contact for several months, and he was at her home after dinner the night of Feb. 17. Ross alleged that Nunn struck her four times in the face that night and threw her against a hallway lamp, breaking it. She said he then threw a cup of bourbon in her face.

But Nunn said during the

hearing that Ross blocked his path to prevent him from leaving her apartment.

Nunn testified that he "struggled" for 20 minutes to reach the stairs. He described Ross as "strong like a bull" because she worked out with a personal trainer twice a week.

"I admit I did slap her face, and she stopped attacking me," he said during testimony.

Nunn said Ross offered to let him leave if he let her strike him in the face. She did so, cutting his face with her ring, he said.

Nunn disputed Ross's assertion that he threw her into the lamp. Rather, he said, Ross threw him into the lamp and then made him vacuum up the mess.

The judge said he wasn't sure it mattered who did what, but said that there was evidence that Nunn had struck Ross and that it was enough to enter the domestic violence order.

Ross noted in her Feb. 18 domestic violence complaint: "I called police because this has happened many times before."

The assault and criminal mischief charges originally filed in February had deeply embarrassed Nunn, effectively ending his political career and forced him to resign his job as

Statement from Amanda Ross's family:

While words are not easy to come by right now, we want to thank our community of Lexington and all our dear friends for all of the thoughts, prayers, and notes of sympathy we have received in this difficult and trying time. With Amanda's tragic and untimely death, we have lost a beloved daughter, sister, and friend to many. The memories of our time with her is what we will hold on to, as well as knowing that she is now with her late, adored father.

Amanda was always loved by all around her; while growing up at Sayre, as a scholar at Boston University, and as the beautiful young professional in Lexington. Words cannot express the sorrow and emptiness that we all feel. We hope that this travesty will demonstrate that domestic violence can happen to anyone at anytime. And, as a family, we plan to fight for those victims, like Amanda, that cannot fight for themselves.

Again, we appreciate all the calls, notes, and e-mails we have received. We take solace knowing that Amanda hears them as well.

Gov. Steve Beshear's deputy secretary for Health and Family Services. That job included oversight duties for domestic violence programs.

In July, Ross reiterated her fear of Nunn, asking a judge to hold Nunn in contempt of the domestic violence order of protection. According to court documents, Ross alleged that Nunn had violated the restraining order by publishing "tampered photographs" of her.

Attorneys for Nunn and Ross came to an agreement Aug. 3 that required Nunn to return all of his pictures of Ross and to "take affirmative steps to secure the destruction of any photographs outside of his possession but provided by him to a third party," according to court



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Nunn and Ross attended the governor's Kentucky Derby party in 2008.

documents.

Many who know Nunn say that his personal problems began to spiral out of control after he resigned his state post in March. Nunn entered an Alford plea — he admitted no guilt, but acknowledged there is enough evidence to produce a guilty verdict — on Aug. 3 in Fayette County to a misdemeanor domestic violence assault charge.

"We were all concerned with the incident that cost him his job at the cabinet," said Sheila Schuster, an advocate for the mentally disabled and mentally ill — issues Nunn worked on as a legislator in Frankfort. "We all hoped at that time that he was getting the help that he needed."

Nunn was scheduled to return to court on this matter in November.

Emmons, a confidante to Ross, said the young professional woman didn't scare easily, but she was afraid of Nunn. "She was not a timid person," he said. "She was not a person you could walk all over."

"She did everything she could to protect herself."

Herald-Leader reporters Ryan Alessi, Jack Brammer, Beverly Fortune, Jennifer Hewlett, Linda Johnson, Beth Musgrave, Valarie Honeycutt Spears and Cheryl Truman contributed to this report.

NUNN | Helped pass tuition bill for foster children

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as a champion of the little guy — the poor, those with mental illness, the disabled, and kids in foster care. He ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2003.

"Steve Nunn was a very caring and compassionate legislator," said Rep. Jimmie Lee, D-Elizabethtown, who had worked with Nunn on several key pieces of legislation.

Lee said he had not spoken to Nunn since Nunn resigned as deputy secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in March after he was ordered by a judge to

stay away from Ross following a domestic violence incident.

"I know that he had some personal problems," Lee said.

Many of the state's more progressive social programs have Nunn's fingerprints on them, said Sheila Schuster, an advocate for the mentally disabled and mentally ill.

"I can't think of a time that we ever went to him for help and he turned us down," Schuster said. "I can't think of a single issue involving people with mental illness or mental disabilities that Steve wasn't involved with."

In 2001, Nunn successfully pushed a bill that allowed foster-care children and former foster-care children to go to state universities for free. Cabinet for Health and Family Services data show that more than 2,500 kids have taken advantage of the college program.

Nunn was born into politics. He noted in a 2003 interview that on his birthday — Nov. 4, 1952 — Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president and Republican John Sherman Cooper from Somerset was elected to the U.S. Senate.

At age 15, Nunn moved with his parents, Louie and Beula Nunn, and sister, Jennie Lou Penn, from Glasgow to the Governor's Mansion. His father was the state's chief executive from 1967 to 1971.

After graduating from Frankfort High School in 1970, Nunn received a bachelor's of arts degree in political science and history from Transylvania University in 1975. He attended the University of Louisville law school for one year.

In 1987, Nunn bought half of an insurance business in Glasgow. Three years later, he

decided to run for the state House seat vacated by Democrat Bobby Richardson.

Nunn, who later got a job as a physician recruiter and consultant to the T.J. Samson Community Hospital in Glasgow, served in the state House until 2006, when he lost a re-election bid to Democrat Johnny Bell.

In 2004, while accepting an award for his late father from the University of Kentucky Center for Research on Violence Against Women, Nunn was praised for his commitment to combat abuse and vio-

lence during his tenure in the General Assembly. Nunn, twice divorced, has three grown children from his first marriage.

Glasgow attorney Walter Baker was a state senator during part of Nunn's tenure in the state House.

"I considered him very able, a committed legislator," Baker said. "He had a lot of compassion for people in distress economically and medically and devoted most of his political career to that area."

Baker called Friday's news "a profound tragedy for everyone involved."

ROSS | Was elected to local Humane Society board

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her a copy of Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms*.

Clayton Chambliss, the Sayre School headmaster, said the school was receiving calls from all over the nation about Ross because she had been so well-liked among her classmates.

"She was cheerful and peppy and lots of fun, a very integral part of that class," Chambliss said.

Ross's Sayre yearbook entry her senior year included this message to her parents, Terrell and Diana Ross: "Thank you for your support

and love," she wrote. "You are the best and I will never take you for granted. I am on my way now and I hope I get there."

After Ross graduated from Boston University in 2002 with a degree in business administration and finance, she went to work for her father's company.

Ross was married for less than a year to Brady Clevenger of Lexington. The two divorced in early 2008.

Clevenger said Ross's family is "a great group of people that I had a brief but great experience with. I'm very sad to

hear the news, especially for them."

Ross had dated Steve Nunn before her marriage. After her divorce, she began seeing Nunn again, said political consultant Dale Emmons, a close family friend who said he counseled Ross.

"She seemed to be real happy," Emmons said. "She was elated when she got engaged."

But her relationship with Nunn would prove to be rocky, leading to allegations of domestic violence.

Ross worked for the Kentucky Department of In-

surance as director of financial standards and examination. She was appointed to that job in February 2008.

Ronda Sloan, public information officer for the insurance department, said she and her colleagues are "all very devastated by this tragic news. ... Amanda was a treasured part of the Department of Insurance family, an extremely bright and talented woman."

Ross was excited that she recently was elected to the board of the Lexington Humane Society, her friends say.

She would have started her term in December, said Madison Carey, director of development for the organization.

"She was definitely an animal lover. She was very excited about the mission and about trying to make a difference in the community," Carey said.

On Thursday afternoon, Ross stopped by Voce hair salon in Lexington to pick up a gift certificate for a Humane Society event.

"She was all happy, bubbly, full of fun," said Jeff Minor, the salon's receptionist.

Voce owner Mickey Binion

described Ross as "beautiful, smart, fun, very intelligent. If I had to name the shakers and movers in this town, she would be right up there. She made things happen."

Jim Deckard, the attorney who represented Ross in the domestic violence case in Fayette County, called Ross "a sweet and beautiful person, full of life and amazing promise."

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear issued a statement Friday calling Ross's death "an indescribable tragedy."

"A young life lost so soon is always heartbreaking," Beshear said.

POP

Photographer given more time to repay loan

Annie Leibovitz has won an extension on a \$24 million loan in a financial dispute that threatened her rights to her famous images, the two sides said in a joint statement Friday. Leibovitz and the company, Art Capital Group, said the 59-year-old photographer had been given more time to repay the loan. Leibovitz's artsy, provocative portraits of celebrities have made her



Leibovitz

nearly as famous as the people in her images. Over the years, her lens has captured Queen Elizabeth II, Demi Moore and Bruce Springsteen. One of her best-known images depicts a nude John Lennon cuddling with a clothed Yoko Ono just hours before he was fatally shot.

Actress drops out of series

Maura Tierney says she is dropping out of the new NBC series *Parenthood* to continue her treatment for breast cancer. In a statement Thursday, she said she and her doctors remain confident about the outcome of her treatment. Tierney had filmed the pilot episode for the series, which was scheduled to premiere this month. But she left in July after a tumor was found in her breast, requiring surgery. Production never resumed.

Redford picks town for Lincoln assassination drama

Robert Redford has picked the city of Savannah as the location for his post-Civil War film about a woman who was hanged for aiding the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. The American Film Company production will tell the story of boarding house owner Mary Surratt, who was hanged in 1865 after being convicted of aiding John Wilkes Booth.

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS: Actor Dickie Moore (*Our Gang* films) is 84. Country singer George Jones is 78. Actress Linda Gray is 69. Guitarist Larry LaLonde of Primus is 41. Actor Paul Walker is 36. Singer Ruben Studdard is 31. Actress Jennifer Hudson is 28.

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