

PREPARED REMARKS

The remarks/talking points that are included in this submission were prepared for Roanoke County Police Chief Ray Lavinder to deliver during each press conference. No changes have been made to them. They are printed exactly as they were in December.

12:00 p.m. Press Briefing – 12/7/2010

Good afternoon...I am Chief Ray Lavinder of the Roanoke County Police.

Joining me is

- **Roanoke FBI Supervisor Kevin Foust**
- **Captain George Austin of the Virginia State Police Salem Office**
- **Lieutenant Chuck Mason with Roanoke County Police**
- **Roanoke County Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Leach**

I would first like say thank you to the many people in Roanoke County and the region who have contacted us with tips and

information concerning this ongoing investigation.

Your information is very valuable and we ask that the public keep calling Roanoke County Police at 540-777-8641 or email us at findbrittany@roanokecountyva.gov.

We are still actively searching for 12-year-old Brittany Mae Smith and 32-year-old Jeffrey Scott Easley.

The search for this 12-year-old middle school student began

Monday morning after our officers were called to the residence at 3341 Fort Lewis Circle in Roanoke County around 9:30 a.m. for a well-being check.

When our officers entered the home they found the body of 41-year-old Tina Smith.

Co-workers contacted us after Ms. Smith failed to show up for work on Sunday and again Monday.

While at the scene, we determined that a female child who lived at the home was missing.

The missing child is Tina Smith's 12-year-old daughter, Brittany, a seventh grade student at Glenvar Middle School here in the county.

Police say Tina and Brittany Smith were last seen in the area Friday morning – December 3.

Tina's car – a 2005 Silver Dodge Neon with Virginia tags – was also missing from the house.

We are confident that Brittany is with 32-year-old Jeffrey Scott Easley.

Easley was a friend of the family.

Tina and Jeff apparently met online this summer and developed a friendship.

**Jeff moved in with Tina and
Brittany in October.**

**We are extremely concerned for
Brittany's safety and have asked
State Police to extend the AMBER
Alert for another 24 hours.**

**Easley is described as a white male
with brown hair and hazel eyes and
he may have a goatee.**

**He's five feet 11 inches tall and
weighs 265 pounds.**

**Easley was last seen in the area
Friday evening and works for a
local landscaping company.**

**He does have family in eastern
North Carolina and Alabama.**

**Our investigation into Tina's death
is also ongoing.**

The Office of the Medical Examiner is conducting an autopsy and examination this morning, which we hope will help us better determine a cause and time of death.

We are still hopeful for Brittany's safe return... and are asking the public to please focus on the silver Dodge Neon and the photos and descriptions of Brittany and Jeff.

Roanoke County Police...

Salem City Police...

U.S. Marshals Service...

U.S. Secret Service...

FBI...and

State Police...are all dedicated to

locating both Brittany Mae Smith

and Jeffrey Scott Easley.

**Again, if anyone – especially
Brittany’s friends – have any
information or have been in contact
with her...we ask you to PLEASE
call us at 540-777-8641 or send us
an email at
findbrittany@roanokecountyva.gov.**

At this time I will take a few questions...

Do Jeff and Brittany have a relationship?

Do you suspect murder? Did Jeff kill Tina?

Did Brittany have any role in it?

Have you been monitoring their Facebook and MySpace pages?

Where is Jeff's family?