

"Clay County Times" - newspaper

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Should a Clay County Man on Death Row Get a New Trial?

Every family has their "bad person". Some families rarely talk about these people. My family has one, his name is Ronnie Bowling. But unlike other bad people we talk about Ronnie Bowling publicly. We know him better than anybody in this world. We love him and he is family. We do feel that with Ronnie an innocent man is being locked up and sentenced to die for a crime he didn't commit. We were at the trial and heard the evidence that convicted him. The conviction was based in part on the testimony of an FBI examiner who said some of the bullets recovered from the bodies matched cartridges found in Bowling's mobile home and those he used in another crime.

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Manchester, Kentucky 40962

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The FBI stopped conducting bullet-lead analysis two years ago after the National Academy of Sciences concluded in 2004 that it was unreliable and potentially misleading. Do we blame the FBI? No, they just made a mistake in the way the test was done. It was a brand new test and no one had fully tested the pros or cons of the test.

During the trial you could really see the jury believed the FBI examiner. I even believed him too when it came to that test. The examiner told what he thought was the truth. Was the FBI trying to frame Ronnie?

The answer is no. Did the state police try and frame him? The answer is no. They did have pressure to solve these murders, pressure that you and I would have no clue about.

During the trial, the prosecution argued Ronnie did it because he needed the money. This was never argued by the defense. Ronnie Bowling had a car wreck a year before and received a settlement for \$50,000.00 and still had over \$45,000.00 of it when he was caught. But the jury didn't know that fact.

One may wonder if any high profile case in Kentucky was ever overturned for the same reasons Ronnie's lawyer is trying. One of those convictions, of Shane Ragland, was reversed on other grounds by the Kentucky Supreme Court.

After that ruling, Ragland admitted in August that he killed University of Kentucky football player Trent DiGiuro but was set free in a deal in which he pleaded guilty to manslaughter in exchange for time served.

Ronnie Bowling, if he is let out today, has already lost the best part of his life. You live life and get a feeling for it and grow mentally and spiritually between your twenty's and thirty's. Ronnie has been locked up for over twenty years. Several times his execution was signed. We have been lucky that his lawyer has always made a stay for execution.

I remember one time we went to an emergency court hearing and Ronnie's head was shaved and his mother at the time was sick and asked Ronnie why is your hair shaved. He said, "Momma, I just like it short". This was to keep her from worrying. She died shortly after this and every time she lay down or prayed, she always had her baby Ronnie in her thoughts.

Do we want them to let Ronnie go and allow an alleged killer on the loose? That's what people would always think about him. The answer is no. We would love to see a new trial and we are confident that he will be found innocent and freed. We hope this can happen where he can salvage what life he has left.