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## al pleases victim's family

battered-spouse syndrome. Circuit Assistant Attorney Robert Wells Jr. on Tuesday used prior statements the defendant gave police to challenge claims that Jerome Howard is a battered spouse. Earlier, he showed jurors a tape designed to undermine defendant's claims that her

husband was alternately indifferent and abusive toward their children. The footage showed a laughing Jerome Howard horsing around with his four oldest children. One of the victim's seven sisters said Mary Howard unfairly tarnished Jerome Howard. "My brother was a good man. He was a

good father. He was a good husband. He was a good brother," said Michelle Carter of Georgia. Family members said Mary Howard's sentencing does not end their grief from the Dec. 23 shooting. "We'll never have a happy Christmas again," Tonya Howard said.

# Prostitution

## Police arrest four suspects at truck stop in Marlboro

By Glenn Pult  
Morning News staff writer

**BENNETTSVILLE** — An undercover operation at a well-known truck stop here netted four prostitution-related arrests Wednesday night.

The sting came after the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division received numerous complaints about sex for sale at the Trucker's Motel, previously known as Buddy's, said Lt. Criminal Investigator Jerry Starnes of the Marlboro County Sheriff's Office. Reports of a fifth arrest in the case could not be confirmed through official sources Friday.

Charged with one count of prostitution are Earlene Bedenbaugh, 34, of 109 Lockman Road, Elgin; Latonya Rene Reynolds, 28, of 2436 Wild Rose Drive, Myrtle Beach and Lisa Gail Terry, 35, of Potato House Road, Darlington. Earl Snead, 52, of Route 2, Box 46, Bennettsville, who reportedly is an employee at the truck stop, faces one count of aiding and abetting prostitution. Bedenbaugh also is charged with simple possession of marijuana.

At close to midnight, undercover SLED agents posing as male customers went into the Trucker's Motel, located at 1941 U.S.

15/401, Marlboro County, Starnes said. The site is about four miles outside of Bennettsville.

"After they were propositioned, were offered sexual acts and payments were made, they (suspects) all were arrested," Starnes said.

Lt. Mike Brown of SLED said the agency had received complaints off and on for months and approached the sheriff's office about the information.

"We told them we were going to act on the complaint," Brown said. "As a matter of fact the Marlboro County Sheriff's Office are the ones that signed the warrants."

Starnes confirmed rumors had been rampant about alleged illegal activities taking place at Trucker's, but that without the complaints to SLED, there was little that could be done.

"You hear rumors but whether it was going on previously I couldn't say," Starnes said. "You don't know until you start checking into it, and after we got the complaints, that is exactly what we did."

The raid is the second prostitution bust in the Pee Dee in as many months. In Florence County last month at least five were charged after a prostitution investigation by the Florence County Sheriff's Office.

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