

Memorez Rackley Tragedy



With 5th grade son Myles who survived

SANDY, Utah - The Sandy community came together for an inter-faith meeting in the wake of a shooting [that left a mother and her youngest son dead](#) and sent two other children to the hospital. **About 150 members of a shattered community gathered Thursday night to mourn for neighbors and friends who died [at the hand of a gunman two days earlier in a Sandy street.](#)**

On Tuesday afternoon, Jeremy Patterson, 32, drove his truck into the back of an SUV carrying Memorez Clark Rackley and two of her sons, another woman and her two children, before firing several rounds at them and then turning the handgun on himself, inflicting a fatal wound, police said.

Memorez Rackley, 39, and her 6-year-old son, Jase Rackley, were dead at the scene, and her 11-year-old son Myles Rackley and an 8-year-old girl, also riding in the car, were injured. The two Rackley boys involved in the shooting on Alta Canyon Drive (about 8630 South), near its intersection with Littlecloud Road (2175 East), attended nearby Brookwood Elementary, which had let out minutes before the attack.

The shooter's name was not mentioned at Thursday night's event in a church adjacent to the school.

Community leaders — including Sandy Mayor Tom Dolan, Police Chief Kevin Thacker and Canyon School District Superintendent James Briscoe — shared thoughts about the tragic events alongside faith leaders.

Bishop Alan Matheson — who oversees The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints congregation that includes the Rackley family — read an email sent to him by Memorez Rackley's husband, Dustin Rackley, expressing his love and support for other members of the community.

"There's so much strength and healing when people unite together and share their hugs, tears, stories," the email said.

The couple had separated before the shooting, said family friend Sarah Weaver in an interview with The Salt Lake Tribune.

Counseling is available through the school for students and parents, Briscoe said, offering to field calls on his cellphone if need be. Additional information on how to deal with trauma is available on websites for the district and police department.

The loss made members of the community "hug [their] children tighter," speakers said, but it also made them feel united through their loss and grateful for those who stepped up to help.

"We'll get through it," the police chief said before choking up and regaining his composure, "but we'll never be quite the same."

Speakers at the meeting included religious leaders from different faiths, Sandy City Mayor Tom Dolan, Sandy City Police Chief Kevin Thacker, and grief counselors.

"This is part of the healing process that we wanted to get started immediately, to help people," Dolan said. He said they talked about love, healing, and how to support the Rackleys as they cope with the loss.

It's now been two days since Memorez Rackley and her 6-year-old son Jase were shot to death in Sandy [near Brookwood Elementary School](#), not long after school got out for the day.

Rackley's 11-year old son Myles and a good Samaritan's daughter were also shot and sent to the hospital. Myles remains in the hospital, and a family spokesperson said he is in the intensive care unit. The shooting left the community reeling, and lost in sadness.

Those who attended Thursday's meeting said they found it healing, unifying and peaceful to be with their fellow neighbors, to learn how to process their grief, and to remember Memorez and Jase. "We'll never forget what happened," said neighbor Dave Hansen. "But, take that aside, and just remember who they were and remember the family that's still here."

I just hope it's a spot where they can feel better," said Elle Rafajko. Elle goes to school with Myles Rackley, whose mom, Memorez, and brother, Jase, died in a tragic shooting Tuesday on Alta Canyon Drive. Anyone wishing to *donate may contact Rackley*

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