

Canada

Simple white casket for young woman shot by ex-boyfriend on Alberta highway

Bill GRAVELAND
The Canadian Press

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. — A young woman gunned down by her jealous ex-boyfriend on the side of a dark southern Alberta highway was remembered Wednesday as a vibrant and fearless role model.

Tabitha Stepple, 21, was one of four young people shot last week by Derek Jensen, just north of the town of Claresholm, before he killed himself. One woman survived.

More than 850 mourners at Stepple's funeral in Lethbridge watched as Stepple's simple white casket, covered in flowers, was wheeled into the church. Her pet terrier, Mya, was an honorary pallbearer.

"Tabitha was incredibly full of life. She carried herself well," said her sister Teresa Kleinfeld, her brothers Nelson and Trevor Steppe, standing one on each side of her. "She stood up for herself and for what she knew to be right and what she believed in.

“She was many things to many different people.”

Her mother Renae Stepple wept as she read from an inspirational poem.

“I’m everything you feel, see or hear. My spirit is free, but I’ll never depart as long as you keep me alive in your heart,” read the poem.

"I loved my Tabitha so much. I just want to thank you all for coming here to be with Tabitha," she said.

Pastor Ian Lawson, one of two ministers officiating, acknowledged that many people would want to know how such violence could cut short such a promising life.

"Any attempts to answer will seem hollow and trivial at a time like this. The questions are real and they are appropriate," he said.

Myra sat quietly in the arms of a family member throughout the service. Stepple's cousins performed three lullabies that her mother used to sing to her.

“We live in a dark world and the



makes a full recovery. She and Stepple were driving the two players to the airport when the car was rammed from behind by Jensen.

He was not mentioned during the service.

THE SERVICE

ABOVE: The casket for murder victim Tabitha Stepple leaves church Wednesday after her funeral services in Lethbridge, Alberta.

RIGHT: Flowers and a picture of Tabitha Stepple were set up in the sanctuary at the Evangelical Free Church in Lethbridge.



Oilsands lobbyists stick with 'boycott' claim despite Chiquita denial

Bob WEBER *The Canadian Press*

EDMONTON — Oilsands advocates will keep calling a decision by Chiquita Brands to avoid oilsands-derived fuel a boycott even though the food multinational says that's wrong.

"You can word it any way that you want, but if your goal is to not use Canadian oilsands oil, that's a boycott," said Kathryn Marshall of EthicalOil.org, which has sponsored radio ads and public demonstrations against Chiquita's decision.

On Wednesday, a pair of sombrero- and poncho-clad supporters handed out brochures in front of an Edmonton grocery store, urging customers to boycott Chiquita in retaliation.

"Chiquita Brands International has declared war on the livelihood of Alberta families," said the brochure, which suggested people mail it to the store's head office.

That overstates the case, said Chiquita spokesman Ed Loyd.

"Contrary to some press reports, Chiquita is not banning or boycotting Canadian fuel," he said. "Chiquita currently utilizes, and will continue to utilize, Canadian fuel sources."

"We have encouraged our suppliers to test alternative energy sources, more fuel-efficient vehicles, and to source, where possible, various fuel sources that have a lower carbon footprint and commit to a strategy of continuous improvement.

"We are disappointed for our consumers and customers that there has been so much misinformation."

Federal and Alberta Conservative politicians have criticized Chiquita's decision since it was released last Friday.

More than 1,600 people have joined EthicalOil's Facebook site about the issue, said Marshall. Most are from the oilsands city of Fort McMurray and other Alberta communities, but many have joined from British Columbia and even the East Coast, she said.

"We've actually been flooded with donations," said Marshall. "We've also been flooded with new members too. It's been great."

Marshall said Alberta has a good environmental record. She added that the carbon footprint of oilsands crude is comparable to that of other heavy producers such as Venezuela.

"We are an environmentally responsible producer," she said.

ACTIVATE ANY 2
OF THE HOTTEST
SMARTPHONES AND
**GET A
FREE
TABLET.**



Samsung Galaxy S II LTE™ MOTOROLA RAZR™



SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB 10.1™

**4G
ENABLED**

BONUS - 1 YEAR OF UNLIMITED INCOMING CALLS*
WITH ALL SMARTPHONE PLAN ACTIVATIONS

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

With select 3-yr. plans

Sign up any 2 of the hottest new smartphones to a Rogers Family Plan and get a Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1™ on us.

VISIT Your local Rogers store

ONLY AT  **ROGERS™**

*APPLICABLE TO NEW ACTIVATIONS ON CONSUMER PLANS (EXCLUDES FPP). INCLUDES LOCAL AIRTIME ONLY. SUBJECT TO ROGERS TERMS OF SERVICE AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY. AVAILABLE AT ROGERS.COM/TERMS

Offer only available from Rogers or Rogers Authorized Dealer locations until the earlier of December 31, 2011 or while quantities last to customers who activate two new lines (hardware upgrades excluded) on a Rogers Couples and Family Voice & Data Plan with a 3-yr. term and complete the online submission form at rogerspromotions.com/tabletoffer/ within 30 days of activation. Allow 3-4 weeks from online submission for delivery. Early cancellation fees apply. Offer subject to change without notice, not redeemable for cash and may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one tablet per account. Customers who select expedited tablet delivery and cancel their service within 15 days of activation in accordance with their Rogers Wireless Service Agreement, rendering them ineligible for the \$50 tablet, must return it in original condition or will be charged \$679.99 (plus applicable taxes). See rogers.com/tabletgift for full terms and conditions.

¹⁹Trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., used in Canada under license. ²⁰Rogers, Mobius & CityTV are trademarks of Rogers Communications Inc. or of an affiliate used under license. ©2011