

**INSIDE: TOUR OF LIGHTS**  
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# 10 years later, still searching

## Mike Williams case continues to vex law enforcement officials

*By Jennifer Portman*  
(Tallahassee Bureau Writer)

The winter cold front hadn't yet blown in when Mike Williams was thought to have looked up his tentpole Fort Benne and headed west before sunrise to Lake Seminole.

The proud father and successful 31-year-old Tallahassee real-estate appraiser was said to be alone, getting in an early duck hunting trip before going to the Gibson Inn in Apalachicola to celebrate his sixth wedding anniversary with his North Florida Christian High School sweetheart.

When, hours later, he failed to show up at their out-of-state house off Macoskee Road, the search began.

That was Dec. 16, 2000. 10 years ago today, the search continues.

While Williams was first believed to have fallen from his boat and been eaten by alligators in a swampy cove of the Jackson County lake, investigators today consider him a suspicious missing person.

A decade later, his case, now assigned to the Florida Department of Law

**TO HELP**  
Anyone with any information regarding the Mike Williams case is encouraged to call FDLE at 850-410-7000.

Enforcement's homicide and violent crimes unit, continues to examine his family and law enforcement officials.

FDLE officials say they continue to actively work Williams' case, following new leads and taking a fresh look at old information.

"We aren't giving away," said Special Agent in Charge Don Linder in an interview last week. "Our goal is to find out what happened, and, if we can, to find Mike."

See WILLIAMS, PAGE 2 / NEWS

### Wild skies: Whooping cranes arrive



An ultralight pilot guides the arrival of the whooping cranes over St. Marks on Wednesday. The five whooping cranes made their appearance over St. Marks around 7 a.m. Wednesday during their annual migration from Wisconsin. This is the third year St. Marks has been chosen by Operation Migration as a stopover location. The flock splits into two groups in Jefferson County, with one group flying to the other wetland ground in Chassawhatchee National Wildlife Refuge, south of St. Petersburg. Below, bird watcher Fred Wilks scans the skies over St. Marks for the arrival of the whooping cranes. At right, Kirsten Phelps waits and watches for the arrival of the birds.

Photos by  
**MIKE EWEN**  
*Democrat*

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### Shooter's wife says husband 'misunderstood'

**Online**  
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■ Reach the security elite of the school board meeting

as the superintendent begged, "Please don't." The shooting was not "a spur-of-the-moment thing," Panama City Police Chief John Van Ertum told The Associated Press. Police also found anti-government paraphernalia at Duke's home but the chief didn't provide details.

"He was obviously not happy with our government," Van Ertum said.

On a Facebook page under his name, the only dated entries are from Dec. 7 and 8. The page shows a cryptic message in the "About Me" section.

"My testament: Some people the government sponsored media will say I was evil, a monster (V) ... no ... I was just born poor in a country where the wealthy manipulate, use, abuse, and economically enslave 85 percent of the population. Rich Republicans, Rich Democrats ... same name ... rich ... they take turns fleecing us ... our few dollars ... pyramiding the wealth for themselves."

He quotes billionaire Warren Buffett, who told the New York Times in 2006: "There's class warfare, all right, but it's my class, all right, but it's my class, the rich class that's making war and we're winning."

Duke

### COMING THIS WEEKEND

**fri.**  
Magic in the air

Tallahassee Symphony makes its annual "Holiday Magic" concert.

**Linedlight**

**sat./sun.**  
Championship chase

Coverage, including a live interactive pine bling during Saturday's game, of Lincoln's AA state championship game against Seffner Armwood.

**Sports**

**sun.**  
Bullying

Teens bullying teens has been in the national news a lot in recent months. It's also a very real phenomenon locally. Leon County Schools this year is tracking bullying for the first time ... and 22 cases have been reported since August.

**Snow Exclusive**

**WEATHER**

**Today:** Mid-60s  
**Tomorrow:** Mid-40s  
**Rain:** 20%  
**Weather:** Page 6, Sports

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