Malveaux described as a nice guy by neighbors

Only one neighborhood resident knew of ‘problems’

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LAFAYETTE — The trailer park at 204 Snipe Road lies along an unnamed gravel road, which is itself a branch of another gravel road in a remote corner of southwestern Lafayette Parish.

A large group of children playing in front of the first trailer identified the fifth trailer home as the residence of John Peter Malveaux, his wife and six children.

Malveaux, 33, is a suspect in the killings of four women, whose naked bodies were found dumped in rural areas of Evangeline and St. Landry parishes. He is charged with the aggravated rape and near-strangulation of another woman who barely survived the attack.

So far he has been charged with first-degree and second-degree murder in the deaths of two of the women.

Malveaux’s trailer sits among heaps of trash — which litter the ground around and underneath the dilapidated structure. The front porch is occupied by an old refrigerator.

No one answered a knock on the door. The covered-up window was plastered with notes taped on the outside.

The only signs of life at the trailer were the roaches that walked indifferently across the porch stairs, unfazed by any foot traffic in their area.

The other of approximately 14 trailers along the gravel strip appear much better kept.

A neighbor immediately next door, when asked about Malveaux, said she did not want to talk about him.

One trailer down, the residents were willing to speak freely about their neighbor — the man police and sheriffs say is a serial killer.

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neighbor

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“He is a good neighbor,” said Chastity Charles, who said she is a regular babysitter for Malveaux’s six young boys.

“He is a friendly person,” said Chastity’s mother, Jessie Charles. “In the afternoon, he plays with his children, and he went to church.”

An attempted interview with another neighbor was interrupted when a woman driving a large van pulled up and identified herself as a representative of the nearby Apostolic Church.

She said the church owns all of the trailer park property; the road is private; and any visitors would have to obtain permission from “Rev. Broussard.”

The reporter then proceeded off of the trailer park and on the adjoining gravel road, which is dotted with modest to stately homes.

As a resident at one of the homes was explaining that he did not know anyone at the trailer park, the interview was interrupted again by the woman in the van.

She said it was OK to go on the trailer park property and speak to the neighbors — or those who were willing to talk.

Among the young people in front of the first trailer, 16-year-old Isaiah Hiltz offered a similar description of Malveaux as the one of Charles and her daughter: “He is friendly. He talked to everyone,” Hiltz said.

A resident, who asked not to be identified, said he too knew Malveaux as “a pretty friendly fellow from this side. His kids played here regularly.

“I never would have dreamed he would do something like that — assuming he did it,” he said.

However, he added that there were trouble below the surface. “I know he had some personal problems... He had a drinking problem, and he was in and out of church... But I didn’t know he had any serious problems.”

Residents in the trailer park said everyone who lives there is associated with the Apostolic Church.

An attempted interview with another neighbor was interrupted once again by two men who drove up in a large truck. They identified themselves as being there in the stead of Rev. Broussard.

“Mr. Malveaux is no longer in the church,” one of the men said. “He opted out on his own accord. We don’t want to get involved... We don’t want to get involved.”

By his gesture, glancing down the trailer park road, “we” apparently referred to everyone in the neighborhood. No more visitors or inquiries were welcome.