



Subscribe | Contact Us | About Us

Marketplace

Place An Ad

Today's Ads | Jobs | Cars | Homes | Rentals | Coupons

Home News Sports Obituaries Entertainment Archives Community Video Photo Galleries Classifieds Yellow Pages Hub Forms

Local Opinion Ag Health & Fitness Top Read Stories Regional News State National World Today in History Strange News

RSS Search: Enter Keyword [GO]

February 24, 2009



Click to view our open houses and listings» KEARNEYREALTY L.L.C. 109 E. 52ND STREET SUITE #1 • KEARNEY, NE 68847 "Outstanding in our field"



Contact Me For All Your Real Estate Needs! Nicole Straka (308) 440-1386

Weather Magnet

Road Conditions

No Closings Found (n)

Top Jobs

Medication Aide We are accepting

Branch Manager B2 Environmental, Inc.,

Sales Rep Wardcraft Homes one

Agri Co-op has an exciting

Electrician Electrical contractor is

More Top Jobs

Kearney-Area News

Slutis' reaction to movie: 'Hard to watch'

By KIM SCHMIDT, Hub Staff Writer 02/16/2009 Updated 02/17/2009 01:06:02 PM CST

Email to a friend Printer-friendly

KEARNEY — For Don and Elaine Sluti of Kearney, watching the made-for-TV drama about their daughter's kidnapping was tough.

"It was hard for me to watch at times," Don admitted.

But both he and Elaine previewed Sunday's drama on their daughter Anne Sluti's 2001 kidnapping earlier last week. Both thought the Lifetime Movie Network and producer Charlene Blaine-Schulenburg captured Anne's overall story and her resourcefulness, terror and bravery.



Photo courtesy Omaha World-Herald News Service

Don said he was emotional as he watched his life portrayed on national TV, while Elaine said she was more reserved.

Advertisement

Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy Comprehensive Rehabilitation for All Ages Alpha REHABILITATION Where life begins again! Kearney, NE - 308-233-5060

"There weren't any real surprises here. We knew the whole story pretty much from Day 1," she said.

Elaine was prepared to leave the room if the movie got too emotional. But she didn't have to.

As for Anne, she went to the grocery store while her six-day ordeal played out to millions of people.

"That's something that happened to her a long time ago, and she's put it behind her," Don said.

"She's definitely not focused or dwelling on this. She's living her life," Elaine said.

The movie gave Sherry Morrow, a close friend of the Slutis, the chills.

"It almost made you sick to your stomach, even though you know the outcome was good in the end. I really felt for Don, Elaine, Tom (Sluti, Anne's brother) and Anne as they went through the movie.

"Rehashing it just kind of brings it back to the surface."

Steve Jensen, a former Buffalo County Sheriff's investigator, agreed. He said the emotional parts of the movie came at the beginning and the end.

"I think they portrayed the abduction at the mall pretty well, as I know it happened, and I think at the end where he was crying and she was running to the cop," he said.

Jensen was the first officer to suggest Anthony Steven Wright, also known as Tony Zappa, as a suspect two days after Anne disappeared. The Mall of America in Minneapolis had been shut down days earlier after a man matching Zappa's description made threats and terrorized people.

Morrow, Jensen and Kearney Police Department Sgt. Tony Cordova, who was the on-call investigator when

Featured Special Sections



Click here to view February Trends



Click here to view Tie the Knot 09



Click here to view Jan. Prime 2009



Click here to view Corn Edition 2008



[Click here](#) to view Discover Kearney Nov. '08

[Click here](#) for additional Sections.

Sluti was kidnapped, said the show was fairly accurate.

There were only a few portrayals in the movie Jensen thought were inaccurate: scenes that showed police set up in the Slutis garage, and Anne's brother Tom punching a police officer in the stomach.

Jensen summed up the movie and Anne's case in an e-mail to the Hub:

"I have always thought there were two stories in this case. This story about the family and the emotions of losing a daughter to an unknown assailant, and the heroine that is Anne Sluti, who quickly reasoned control of her abductor and in the process, saved herself in the face of horrible circumstances.

"The second story, is the 'behind-the-scenes' 24/7/365 work the entire combined investigative unit did. The emotions that we all felt were so much parallel to the Slutis'."

In hindsight, Jensen said, the movie should send a message to all victims of crime to not give up and to comply with their attackers in order to stay alive.

"I am proud that I was part of the team that worked on the Anne Sluti case. We did all we could do to the best of our ability, training and resources," Jensen wrote. "But Anne Sluti's resolve to save herself brought her home safely."

e-mail to:
kim.schmidt@kearneyhub.com

2002 ZAPPA TRIAL

[Click here for archived stories from the Hub's coverage of Tony Zappa's 2002 trial for Anne Sluti's kidnapping](#)

What Did You Think?

[Share your reaction to Sunday's movie about Anne Sluti by clicking here](#)

READER COMMENTS

Anne is a hero

I watched this horrific movie when it aired on the Lifetime Movie Network Sunday. Anne Sluti is a courageous, smart, and brave girl who truly is a hero. Her quick actions and wit helped her survive through this terrible ordeal.

This movie just goes to show that you need to watch your every move and be cautious everywhere you go. Anne was abducted at a mall at 5:30 in the afternoon.

I hope Anne goes on to live a long and successful life. She truly deserves the best.

Kasey Hiltz
Nottingham, Md.

Only in Kearney

I am overall not happy with the portrayal of the kidnapping. The main thing that the movie did not reflect was the community's emotion during this difficult time. I was a single mom sitting at home when it was first announced that there was a kidnapping.

I remember thinking to myself, "Not in Kearney." The rally behind the family was something that no one outside of Kearney could understand. Because of our community and the refusal to give up hope, there weren't any negative outcomes discussed by any of the journalists in the area.

Thank God for Anne's resolve, she made the choice hers, not the monster who did this. I think that says something for the way that she was brought up. Only in Kearney could the community understand that.

April King
Kearney

©Kearney Hub 2009

Related Stories:

- ▶ [Sluti portrayal airs Sunday](#)
- ▶ [Anne Sluti 2001 kidnapping stories](#)



YOUR VISIONS.
YOUR STYLE.
YOUR DAY.

We make it happen.

copycat
printing
kearneycopycat.com

1225 Avenue A • Kearney NE 68901 • 402.271.4877 • fax 402.271.4828

[Email to a friend](#) [Printer-friendly](#) [↑ Top](#)



More Kearney-Area News headlines

- [Self-taught photographer Hollinger didn't figure her picture would be contest finalist](#)
- [Enticement case closes for lack of evidence](#)
- [Numbers, naked, showers, trains painful words for Manya Friedman](#)
- [Youthful enthusiasm](#)
- [NCC JUNIOR SHOW](#)
- [United Way-Storm jersey auction tops \\$16,000](#)
- [REGIONAL BRIEFS](#)
- [TODAY'S HUB PICK](#)
- [FOCUS 2009](#)
- [THIS WEEKEND'S ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)
- [Kelcey Fike case aided by FBI](#)
- [Spokes in Time](#)
- [Economy big question for Obama address to Congress tonight](#)
- [Advocate says state did right thing, wrong way](#)
- [Colleges' money spat has Metro on the outs](#)

[More Kearney-Area News](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Archives](#) | [Community](#) | [Photo Galleries](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Yellow Pages](#) | [Hub Forms](#)

[About us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Subscribe](#) |  [Make us your home page](#)

© 2009 Kearney Hub Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Copyright | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) 13 E. 22 Street, P.O.Box 1988 Kearney, NE 68848 Phone: (308) 237-2152 Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact us at news@kearneyhub.com

Copyright © 1995 - 2009 Townnews.com All Rights Reserved.