

Search

om Page 1A

responsible for much of the signage in the Wiregrass area.

When Bill Durden heard Burgoon's request, he went a step further: he decided to put it up free of charge.

"One of the sisters actually called us and asked if we would help them put up a billboard for the 16th anniversary of her sister's death, and we said we'd be much obliged to help in any way we could," Durden said. "We offered that we would put up a billboard in Ozark trying to see if we can really educate everyone again on that awful tragedy

that happened and, if there was anybody out there, to help push them to come forward."

When Burgoon heard the billboard would be free, she couldn't believe it.

"I was still shocked (Thursday) when he told me. I couldn't even process what he was saying," she said. "Obviously it means the world to me. It's such a generous gift. There's nothing more that they could do for me."

The billboard, which Durden estimates will be erected within the next two weeks, will likely feature a tip line number people can call if they have information about the case.

"It does (cost a lot), but being a community-based business, every-

thing can't be based on the dollar," Durden said. "Being neighbors, this was just such a horrible, unanswered tragedy. If we could help, in any way, those two families, or help somebody come forward, that's the least that we can do."

Burgoon said she feels more people have reached out this year than in previous years, and the billboard could be an important step toward achieving the peace both families have been seeking for 16 years.

"My hope is that it will bring the justice that we've been looking for, the answers that we need," she said. "Hopefully someone will see it and reach out to us. A lot of people have forgotten about the case, so I think it would be a huge reminder."