

Sheriff Steven White

**Chief Deputy
Darrel Mecham**



**Jail Commander
Shan Hackwell**

January 19, 2022

Press release

South Mesa Double Homicide

On August 18, 2021, the bodies of Kylene Schulte and Crystal Turner were discovered in an irrigation ditch west of their campsite in the South Mesa area of the LaSal Mountains.

Law enforcement were made aware of the discovery by an acquaintance of the victims who had been searching for them in the area where they were found.

The Grand County Sheriff's Office immediately secured the site and spent the next several days processing the scene. GCSO searched the irrigation ditch both before and after draining the ditch by shutting off the water via control valve. Evidence collected from the scene include the victim's tent and personal belongings inside and outside the tent and their vehicle, blood, shell casings, bullet fragments, and video evidence from nearby properties. GCSO has narrowed the victims date of death to August 14, 2021.

The State Medical Examiner immediately conducted a medical exam of both victims and determined the following: 1) both victims had been shot multiple times; 2) the shell casings and bullet fragments found at the scene were consistent with evidence obtained from the bodies of both victims, and 3) there was no sign of forcible sexual assault of either victim.

In the course of this investigation, there has been considerable conjecture that Gabby Petito and Brian Laundrie were somehow involved in the double homicide. Upon investigation, the FBI and Florida Investigators have determined, based on electronic transmission evidence, that neither Petito nor Laundrie were involved in this case.

The FBI has and continues to assist GCSO with this investigation, which assistance includes video, forensic, and behavior analysis and general investigative support. The State Bureau of Investigation provided some initial assistance, but has not had an active ongoing role in this investigation.

GCSO's investigation is active and ongoing. GCSO has persons of interest but has not yet identified a suspect. GCSO continues to examine and analyze evidence by utilizing third-party and FBI crime labs.

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GCSO request the Moab community be careful about sharing information on social media. Such information tends to be misinformed, inaccurate, and unhelpful to the criminal investigation, if not dangerous. If you have information please contact the Grand County Sheriff's Office at: 435-259-8115 or 435-259-1397.

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OFFICE OF THE GRAND COUNTY SHERIFF

Updated Press Release

Subject: Two deceased females.

Date: August 19, 2021

On August 18, 2021, the Grand County Sheriff's Office was notified of two deceased females located in the South Mesa area of the La Sal Loop Road in Grand County, Utah. The two deceased individuals were transported to the Medical Examiner's Office to determine the cause of death. The preliminary investigation conducted by the Medical Examiner's Office determined the cause of death to be from gunshot wounds.

Investigators with the Grand County Sheriff's Office were able to determine the identities of the two deceased females as follows: Crystal Michelle Turner (age 38) and Kylen Carrol Schulte (age 24). The immediate families of the victims have been notified of their passing. The Grand County Sheriff's Office would like to express our deepest sympathies and remorse to the victims' families and friends.

At this time the Grand County Sheriff's Office is conducting an on-going homicide investigation. We are currently following up with any and all leads that come to our attention during this investigation and will continue to be available to people who come forward with information. The Grand County Sheriff's Office believes there is no current danger to the public in the Grand County area.

The Grand County Sheriff's Office would like to thank all those who have assisted so far in the investigation. We encourage anyone who may have information pertinent to the investigation to please contact the Grand County Sheriff's Office at (435) 259-8115.

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The Grand County Sheriff's Office will provide the public with further information as it becomes available.