



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.