

Dillsburg Banner

Volume XXVII Number 23

YOUR HOMETOWN WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

JUNE 6, 2013 50¢



Marie Chomicki/Dillsburg Banner

York County Deputy Coroner Jeffri Goodfellow walks back to the crime scene after briefing family members around 8 p.m. Sunday night as Coroner Barry Bloss, Carroll Township patrol officer Ron Stiles and Chief Sean Kapfhammer confer in the front yard at 204 Chestnut Grove Road.

Homicide suspect captured

Body found by family members

Marie Chomicki
Staff Reporter/Dillsburg Banner

A fugitive charged with the homicide of a Carroll Township woman was captured Monday night in Missouri around 8:45 p.m.

Bryan Wayne Brackbill, Jr., 32, was wanted in connection with the death of Sandra "Sandy" Smith Mulder, 52, of 204 Chestnut Grove Road, Dillsburg.

Mulder's body was found laying facedown, legs and hands bound, on a bedroom floor of her home by family members on Sunday, June 2 at 12:20 p.m., police said.

An autopsy performed Monday morning revealed "no conclusive evidence, so we're pending the cause of the death," York County Coroner Barry Bloss said Monday afternoon.

Missouri State Highway Patrol was on a routine assignment using an automatic license plate reader on Interstate 70 in Boone County when a vehicle registered to Mulder, the victim, passed them. Troopers took pursuit of the Pontiac Grand Prix. Brackbill was able to elude the police for a short time when police lost sight of him. Police spotted the car again and initiated a traffic stop. Brackbill was taken into custody without incident.

Brackbill is awaiting extradition back to Pennsylvania, Sgt. David Smith, Carroll Township Police said.

The arrest warrant for Brackbill, aka Big Country Brackbill, was issued Monday afternoon by Carroll Township Police Chief Sean Kapfhammer.

Brackbill is charged

with criminal homicide, theft of a motor vehicle and unlawful restraint. At the time police believed he had fled out of the state, possibly to Indianapolis. "He is armed and particularly dangerous," Kapfhammer said Monday.

Police said they were "very optimistic" they would find Brackbill, reasoning that he may be running low on funds, may not have a lot of contacts in that area and he is operating a stolen car; adding that multiple marshal services and squads were working the Indianapolis area.

The optimism proved prophetic when Brackbill was arrested less than seven hours later several states away. There was a lot of detective work involved, too.

According to the affidavit, Det. Sgt. John R. Schreiner received a call from a William Snyder revealing that Brackbill's girlfriend, Crystal Hughes was with his wife Shawn Snyder and the two were traveling to Minnesota. Schreiner subsequently learned that Brackbill was enroute to pick up his girlfriend and arrived in Indiana at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 1, driving Mulder's gray Pontiac sedan. Brackbill told his girlfriend he did not want to go back to Pennsylvania.

Schreiner learned that while the two women were at a hotel in Howe, Indiana, Brackbill was calling Shawn's cell phone and Hughes did speak with the defendant. Shawn then told police that Hughes was upset and crying after speaking with Brackbill. Shawn said she checked out of the hotel at 6:30 a.m. and told Hughes she needed to find her own transportation back to Pennsylvania.



Curt Werner/Dillsburg Banner

Carroll Township Police Chief Sean Kapfhammer holds up pictures of homicide suspect Bryan Wayne Brackbill, Jr. during a press conference at the township building Monday afternoon with York County Coroner Barry Bloss.

Learning that Hughes was arriving by Greyhound Bus in Baltimore, Md. Monday morning at 7 a.m., Schreiner met with her at the terminal.

Hughes told him that Mulder's daughter, Lisa Power, had called Brackbill at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday asking if he had spoken with her mother lately. He told her that she could go to the house and check the welfare of Mulder if she wanted to.

Hughes told police Brackbill freaked out after the phone call and said, "I did something bad to Sandy. I killed Sandy." Brackbill then told Hughes he had to leave the area and left, leaving her in Indiana.

"We did not find trauma on the body and that is why we cannot determine that exact cause of death at this time," Bloss said Monday, adding Mulder died sometime between 1:00 a.m. Saturday morning and noon on Saturday noting that she was last seen alive at 1:00 a.m.

According to the affidavit, Lisa Power and her

husband Andrew Power went to her mother's home to check on her welfare. They found the residence completely secured. Andrew forced open a window located in the front of the house which led to a downstairs bedroom. After entering the bedroom Andrew found the victim unresponsive, laying face down on the floor, hands and legs bound.

Police said when they arrived Mulder's body was already decomposing. Pink duck tape was used to bind her hands behind her back and her legs together.

Police said no motive for the crime has been established but Brackbill does have a criminal record and was currently on house arrest for retail theft; he cut off the ankle monitor before fleeing. Police noted there have been calls to the residence in the past, but did not have details at this time.

According to public records he has pleaded guilty to over 20 crimes in York and Cumberland counties dating since 1999, including several in the

Dillsburg area. In 2006 he was arrested for robbing the Choice Cigarette store and in 2010 he tried to elude police, crashed his vehicle on Campground Road and fled on foot. At that time he had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.198.

Brackbill, who attended Northern High School, was a border living in the basement of the Mulder residence for the past year.

See Homicide 5A



Sandra Mulder, 52, died on Saturday, June 1 at her home, as the result of a homicide.



Bryan Wayne Brackbill, Jr., 32, is charged in the death of Sandra Mulder of Carroll Township.



Become a fan



visit us at: dillsburgbanner.net

