



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Suspect charged with aggravated murder

Port Orchard, Wash. -- Following a preliminary hearing on Monday, the male juvenile arrested in connection with the death of a Colchester woman was arraigned this afternoon.

Appearing in Kitsap County Superior Court, Daniel James Mustard, age 17, also of Colchester, was formally charged with one count of aggravated 1st degree murder in the death of 87 year-old Ruby P. Andrews. An attorney representing Mustard entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf.

An autopsy of the victim has been completed. The Kitsap County Coroner has concluded that the cause of death was due to multiple sharp force injuries to the victim's neck and torso. The manner of death is listed as homicide.

Mustard was taken into custody Sunday evening by sheriff's detectives in the vicinity of the Andrews' residence in the 1000 block of Puget Drive East, in the Colchester neighborhood of South Kitsap.

Sheriff's patrol deputies, together with engine and medic units from South Kitsap Fire & Rescue, had responded to the victim's residence concerning a report that a man had returned home and found his wife deceased and the house a scene of violence. The husband, Earl Andrews, age 90, had been gone from the house from one to two hours.

On arrival deputies contained the area and secured the crime scene while detectives were notified to respond. Deputies learned that a vehicle registered to the husband was missing from the property, as was a .38 caliber revolver handgun. A description of the missing vehicle, a white-colored 1993 Cadillac DeVille, was broadcast to surrounding area law enforcement agencies, Puget Sound area broadcast and print media, and the state department of transportation.

During the initial stages of the investigation patrol deputies began to develop information about Daniel Mustard as a possible person of interest in connection with the investigation.

A patrol deputy located the missing Cadillac DeVille abandoned in the parking lot of the Mariner's Glen apartments, behind a Domino's Pizza Store, about five miles from the Andrews' residence. A handgun was found inside of the vehicle. The Cadillac was impounded for a detailed evidence search.

In the meantime deputies had made contact with Mustard when he returned to the area in the company of an adult relative. As the investigation progressed, sheriff's detectives developed probable cause whereby Mustard was no longer a person of interest but a suspect.

Mustard was arrested and booked into juvenile detention on suspicion of murder, 1st degree. In accordance with RCW 13.04.030(1)(e)(v), Mustard's case was automatically remanded to Kitsap County Superior Court for trial as an adult.

Following the arrest, sheriff's detectives conducted a search of the suspect's residence, under authority of a search warrant, and retrieved evidentiary items linking Mustard as being principally involved in the death of Ruby Andrews.

Mustard's original booking charge was amended to aggravated 1st degree murder by the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office. Based upon further information developed by sheriff's detectives and filed in documents with the court:

- Mustard appeared to have planned the crime ahead of the actual incident. He had gained the trust of Ruby Andrews when he knocked on her door and was invited inside of her house. Detectives believe that the victim and suspect knew each other.
- The suspect allegedly attacked Andrews from behind as she went about getting him something to drink.
- Mustard allegedly photographed the victim, utilizing his cell phone camera feature, as she lay deceased on the bathroom floor.
- After the attack the suspect is alleged to have taken money and jewelry from the victim's residence, as well as a handgun and the 1993 Cadillac registered to Earl Andrews. Mustard then contacted three of his friends, picked them up in the stolen Cadillac and showed them his cell phone photograph, allegedly admitting to them that he had robbed and killed the deceased woman depicted in the photograph.

Daniel Mustard's next court appearance is scheduled for May 6, with a trial date set to begin on June 1.

The investigation continues.

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