

COUNTY SHERIFF'S PRESS RELEASES



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Press Release

On July 20, 2009 the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office became aware that 62 year-old Joseph Henry Burgess had been killed in a shooting in Sandoval County, New Mexico. Burgess exchanged gunfire with a Sandoval County Sheriff's Deputy shortly after Burgess was taken into custody after breaking into the cabin where two deputies had been conducting a surveillance. The Deputy, Sergeant Joe Harris, also died in the shooting.

Burgess had previously been identified as a person of interest in the 2004 slayings of Jason Allen and Lindsay Cutshall on a beach in Jenner, California. Last weekend detectives from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Violent Crimes Investigations Unit traveled to New Mexico and met with law enforcement authorities there. They have since returned to Sonoma County and submitted evidence they seized, including a DNA sample from Burgess and an expended .45 caliber bullet, for analysis.

Both items were examined by the California Department of Justice Crime Lab. The DNA sample from Burgess did not match any of the DNA evidence seized from the Jenner crime scene in 2004. Additionally the .45 caliber round did not match existing evidence we have regarding the weapon used in the Jenner homicides. While analysis of this evidence does not implicate Burgess in the Jenner homicides, it does not exclude him either and he will continue to be a person of interest as we continue to investigate this case.

Prepared by Captain Matt McCaffrey.

Any further questions should be directed to Captain Matt McCaffrey (707) 565-3920. Reference crime report #040818-034.

Posted on Jul Thu 2009