

Hoquiam Couple's Death Ruled Murder-Suicide

Local News

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HOQUIAM, Wash. - Further details were released this morning in the tragic death of two Hoquiam residents, Police Chief Jeff Myers tells us On November 12, 2012 at 1851 hours, Hoquiam officers were dispatched to a residence in the 3100 block of Sumner Avenue for a suspicious circumstance. The 24-year old son, Eric Hinzman, who resides at the home, reported he had just arrived home to find his father lying on top of his mother on the kitchen floor. There were knives scattered around the bodies and both appeared to have suffered knife wounds, Hoquiam officers escorted Hoquiam Fire paramedics into the scene who verified both the male and female were deceased. The male was identified as 53-year old Mark Hinzman and the female as his wife, 48- year old Mary Hinzman. Eric had spoken to his mother by cellular phone about 40-minutes before returning home to find his parents dead. Mary Hinzman was expected to drive to another family member's home but never arrived, prompting Eric to return home to check on her when no one would answer the phone. The police department will be holding a meeting with family members to answer any questions regarding the investigation or circumstances of the homicide before the case is closed. It would be pure speculation as to Mark Hinzman's motive in the murder of his wife. Unfortunately, often these sort of tragic incidents have no answers. I am sure Eric will never reconcile the emotions of having to find his parents dead. We express our deepest condolences to the Hinzman family during this terrible tragedy. - Chief Jeff Myers

Hoquiam detectives responded to the location and processed the scene with the assistance of patrol officers and the Grays Harbor Coroner's Office. Investigators remained at the residence until approximately 0300 hours the next morning collecting evidence. During the course of the investigation, multiple knives were recovered at the scene. However, only two appeared to have been used in the incident. All of the knives appeared to have originated from the kitchen where there was indication of a struggle. There was no sign of forced entry and nothing appeared to be missing from the home. Hoquiam officers had recently responded to the residence on October 30, 2012 regarding a disorderly conduct call over a family argument; there were no arrests made in the response. This incident was apparently related to an earlier reported incident to the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office. Earlier the same day, the sheriff's office received a report that Mark Hinzman was accused of a sex offense which had allegedly occurred 12-15 years earlier in Central Park. According to Chief Criminal Deputy Steve Shumate of the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Department, Mark Hinzman was being investigated and had been interviewed by detectives since the initial report on the 30th; the investigation was ongoing at the time of the homicide. On November 14, 2012, the coroner's office directed autopsies of both Mark and Mary Hinzman. The forensic pathologist concluded Mary Hinzman had suffered a defensive wound and several stab wounds which proved fatal; her manner of death was ruled to be a homicide. The pathologist determined Mark Hinzman died as a result of multiple self-inflicted stab wounds. His death was ruled as a suicide. There was no note found at the scene. Both the sex offense investigation and the murder investigation were finalized by the death of Mark Hinzman.