

Jenna



Interstate Task Force Forms to Connect Tractor Trailer Bodies to Kentucky Homicides

By Adam Escobar
Of The Herald Courier

The Bristol Virginia Sherriff's Office has released the identities of two bodies found last Saturday in an abandoned tractor trailer in Bristol's Kingtown neighborhood, and announced an interstate investigation seeking to connect the bodies to a pair of homicides in Eastern Kentucky.

The bodies were found at the corner of Edmond and Washington Streets early morning on Saturday, October 18th, by a Bristol Police Department patrolman. They are Jenna Kerzces, 12, of Shamokin, PA, and Walton Kitter, 47, of Keavy, KY. Both bodies were found in the cabin of the eighteen wheeler's tractor, a 2007 Peterbilt 379, registered to Kitter.

Autopsy reports reveal that Kerzces died of carbon monoxide poisoning, while Kitter was killed by an execution-style gunshot wound to the back of his head. Bruising on Kerzces' body indicates she may have spent time either during or after her death in the freight trailer of the eighteen wheeler, which Kitter was apparently operating.

Kitter has been a commercially licensed short haul truck driver since 1993. Colleagues have confirmed

that his typical route involved shipping a haul of a ball-bearings from a manufacturing facility in London, KY, to a distribution center outside Ad-wolfe.

Authorities believe that for at least the last eight months, Kerzces had been working as a prostitute at a Pilot truck stop in London, KY, where just last week the body of a man later identified as Kerzces' father, Cecil Kerzces, 59, also of Shamokin, was found behind a Super 8 Motel. He died of a gunshot wound to the chest and abdomen.

Then on Sunday, October 19th, a fourth body connected to 12 year old Jenna—that of Delwyn McMayo, 34, of London, KY—turned up in a private residence in Flat Lick, KY. McMayo, who once served 8 years on a pimping and pandering conviction, is believed to have been Jenna Kerzces's procurer; in May, he provided funds to a third party to pose as Kerzces's mother in order to bail her out of Laurel County Juvenile Detention Center, where she was being held on loitering charges.

Authorities are not confirming whether or not there are suspects in any of the four deaths, but an interstate task force has been formed to extract some sort of narrative from the twisting trail of blood that runs through three counties and two states. The task

force includes the Bristol Virginia Sherriff's Office; the Knox County Sherriff's Office, of Kentucky; the Laurel County Sherriff's Office, of Kentucky; and state authorities from both sides of Breaks Canyon.

As to how Jenna Kerzces made her way from the small, coal-mining community of Shamokin, PA, to a truck stop in London, KY, where she became the eye of such a storm, Sherriff Tompkins could only speculate: "Maybe she got mixed up with the wrong people, or was just out and out kidnapped. But how the hell a 12 year old goes missing from a town as small as the one she's from, and there's no search for her... that's beyond me."

According to a former neighbor in Shamokin, Jenna Kerzces disappeared from her home in the fall of 2013, shortly after her mother died of an opioid overdose. Her father, Cecil, never filed a missing person's report, believing Jenna had gone to live with her mother's family in Pittsburgh. "Then a couple weeks ago, some kid brings him a letter saying she's down in Kentucky somewhere."

Shamokin Mayor George Rozinski expressed sadness and resolve when reached for comment: "I personally knew Cecil and my daughter is in Jenna's
SEE BODIES, PAGE A-5

BODIES, CONTINUED FROM A-1

class at school. Our community is devastated to have lost two of our own, and so far from home. Our local police force is lending all the assistance it can to Sherriff Tompkins' investigation, and we are hopeful whoever's behind all this will soon be brought to justice."

Of the ongoing investigation, Sherriff Tompkins told this reporter, "It's plain enough that we're missing the person or persons who ties these deaths to one another. Now, what linked these four people in life is clear enough; it was that little girl. But what links their deaths, that's what we're sorting

out. There's a phantom working behind all this. And whether this phantom has done all the killing, or some of it, or just the last bit, we're going to find out."

On Tuesday, an FBI profiler looked over the Sherriff's report and concluded that authorities might expect their phantom to be someone accustomed to violence. In reaction to the Feds' assessment, Sherriff Tompkins remarked sarcastically, "What in the hell gave them that idea?"

COUNCIL, CONTINUED FROM A-1
began."

The councilwoman would not elaborate after-

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