



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

APRIL 1, 2008 / 6:00 A.M.

Kootenai County Sheriff's Investigators with assistance from the Idaho State Police continue their investigation into the apparent murder / attempted suicide that occurred last evening north of Rathdrum, Idaho.

Investigators worked late into the night and will return this morning to the scenes in the area of Gunning Road and Altamont Road, about three miles north of Rathdrum, west of State Highway 41. Detectives will begin piecing the three crime scenes together to determine exactly what happened that ended up with **Dana J. Brinnon, 43** dead and her husband **William V. Brinnon, 46** at Kootenai Medical Center with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Initial investigation shows that the Brinnons' son, Dustin came to the home at 20555 N. Cross Creek Road shortly before 5:00 p.m. yesterday and was met by his father, William outside the family' mobile home. William allegedly told Dustin that he had killed his mother. Dustin entered the home and found his mother on the living room floor, apparently deceased. Dustin left the residence, called a family member who called 9-1-1. When deputies arrived, they first checked the residence, but could not find Dana or William Brinnon. After a systematic search of the area, William was located in an office building a couple hundred yards to the south. When deputies entered the office building and announced their presence, William shot himself in the head with a handgun. A short time later, deputies found Dana Brinnon, deceased, a few hundred yards away west of the office building.

The Brinnons have a history of domestic violence. William Brinnon was arrested in 1997 for domestic battery. His most recent arrest was on March 12, 2008 for being a fugitive from justice from Spokane County, Washington. He was also the defendant in a protection order in January of 1997.

Dana Brinnon was arrested in 1995 and in 2004 for domestic battery. She has been the defendant in protection orders filed by William in 1995, 1998, 2006, and as recent as March 12, 2008.

Sheriff's Department investigators will continue for the next several days to investigate all aspects of this case. More information will be released as it becomes available.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By: Capt. Ben Wolfinger