



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

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08/15/2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charges Filed in Murders of Jan and Gary Tyrrell

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Mark E. Porter, 53, of Ozark, Missouri, has been charged today with two counts of murder in the first degree for killing Jan and Gary Tyrrell.

On May 1, 2014, Springfield Police officers were dispatched to the Tyrrell's home at 3232 S. Greenbrier to check on their well being after their daughter had been unable to contact them. The officers were able to enter the home and found Jan and Gary deceased inside. Jan died of apparent blunt force trauma to the head and Gary died of gunshot wounds.

Since that day the Springfield Police Department has been vigorously investigating the crime. During the course of the investigation, detectives were able to obtain a coffee cup abandoned by Mark Porter. The Missouri Highway Patrol Laboratory expedited its analysis and was able to obtain a DNA profile from that cup and compare it to a latex glove found in the Tyrrell home in close proximity to Jan Tyrrell's body. The lab reported that the DNA profile from Mark Porter's coffee cup was consistent with the DNA profile developed from the latex glove found in the Tyrrell home.

Mr. Patterson expressed thanks to the Springfield Police Department Violent Crimes Unit and Narcotics Unit as well as the Missouri State Highway Patrol Laboratory for their diligent work that led to the arrest and charges announced today.

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Porter,

Copies of the felony complaint and probable statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

This case is being prosecuted by Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson. It is being investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Chris Barb is the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date August 15, 2014

I Corporal Chris Barb, a law enforcement officer, knowing that false statements made in this form are punishable by law, state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that Mark E. Porter DOB: (11/13/1960) committed one or more criminal offenses.

2. The offense(s) happened on April 30, 2014 at 3232 S. Greenbrier, in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.

3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows: (Insert concise facts supporting each element of charge)

On 05/01/2014 at 1202 hours, Sgt. Mike Lucas was dispatched to 3232 S. Greenbrier to check the well-being of the residents. The 911 caller reported she was out of state and had been unable to reach her parents, Gary Tyrrell and Jan Tyrrell, by telephone. Sgt. Lucas was unable to contact anyone at the residence but noted the doors and windows were closed and secured.

On 05/01/2014 at 1904 hours, Springfield Police Officers were dispatched back to 3232 S. Greenbrier after the original 911 caller arrived at the residence and discovered both of her parents' cars were present and no one would answer the door. The caller requested the police respond because she was afraid something had happened to her parents and she did not want to enter the residence.

On 05/01/2014, I conducted an interview with the 911 caller and daughter of Gary and Jan, Jessica Tyrrell. Jessica reported she last spoke with her mother by telephone around 1500 to 1530 hours on 04/30/2014. Jessica reported her father would routinely send her a text message in the evenings to tell her goodnight. She said she did not receive this text from her father on 04/30/2014. Jessica stated she attempted to call and text her mother and father the following day, 05/01/2014, and had been unable to reach them by cell phone or home telephone. Later Cpl. Neal McAmis spoke with Gary's brother Larry during this investigation. Larry provided information that he had spoken to Gary by telephone on 04/30/2014 around 1900 hours after Gary had finished teaching his class. I later spoke with a student from Gary's class who confirmed the class ended shortly before 1900 hours. These are the last times I have been able to confirm someone saw or spoke with Gary. I had previously examined the recent calls logged in Gary's cell phone and observed the last received call was the call from Larry at 1900 hours on 04/30/2014. I checked the missed calls in Gary's cell phone and discovered the first missed calls on the phone appeared to have been missed starting shortly after 2100 hours on 04/30/2014

On 05/01/2014, officers arrived at the residence at 1906 hours and discovered the daughter had opened the overhead garage door. Officers entered the residence through an unlocked door leading from the garage into the residence. Officers located a male and female, later determined to be the residents Gary and Jan Tyrrell, deceased inside the home. Officers reported there was blood on Gary's shirt and blood pooling on the floor near his head. Officers also reported Jan was discovered lying face down in a separate area of the home. Officers discovered Jan had what appeared to be a hole in the back of her head and blood pooled around her. These officers checked the residence and did not find any other subjects inside. They then left the residence and secured it with crime scene tape.

The Springfield Police Department Homicide Response Team processed the home for evidence. The detectives did not find any signs of forced entry. The Tyrrell home was furnished with very high dollar items. These items did not appear to be touched or moved. There was a walk-in safe in the garage that had scratch marks on the door. These marks appeared as if someone tried to break into the safe. Detectives also found paperwork within the home which appeared to provide a partial inventory of some gold and silver items along with their possible values at different selling prices. The paperwork was located within binders that were removed from a tote bag owned by Gary. I discovered on several of the handwritten pages that someone had noted the possible value of silver coins with a face value of \$1336.60. One of these documents had an entry for \$1,336.60 in silver coins that would be worth approximately \$22,000.

Crime scene detectives discovered a latex glove on the floor of the finished basement at 3232 S. Greenbrier during the crime scene processing. The latex glove appeared to have been turned inside out as if done during removal from the wearer's hand. The glove was located in close proximity to Jan's body. The glove was collected as evidence and subsequently examined by the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory. A DNA profile was developed as a result of the examination of the glove. The major component of the profile exhibited male gender characteristics and was not consistent with the DNA profiles of the victims, Gary or Jan.

Jan Tyrrell appeared to have died as a result of blunt force trauma. Detectives located several little pieces of a substance believed to have been broken off of the object used to strike her near her body. Gary Tyrrell appeared to die as a result of two gunshot wounds. Gary's body also had some small pieces or flecks of the same unknown substance near his body.

In interviews with the Tyrrell's family members, I learned that Mark E. Porter was a friend of Gary's. I also learned that Porter recently asked Gary for \$250,000.00. Gary did not loan Porter this money. The family told investigators that Mark and Gary were very close friends. Mark was one of the few people that was allowed into the Tyrrell home.

All of the evidence on scene suggests that whoever killed Gary and Jan Tyrrell knew them. There are no signs of forced entry and the Tyrrells were very careful about who they let into the home. I also learned during this investigation that Mark Porter sold \$1321.10 of face value silver

coins on May 2, 2014. This amount is \$15.50 less than the amount of \$1336.60 in face value silver coins documented on paperwork found in the Tyrrell home. Mark Porter received \$18,531.40 when he sold the silver coins.

During the investigation, I interviewed Mark Porter. Porter stated he had known Gary and Jan for several years. Porter also told me Gary taught a class at the Executive Center on West Battlefield on Wednesdays for William Woods University. He said the class was scheduled to start at 1730 hours and was supposed to last for four hours. Porter said he was supposed to have met Gary on Wednesday; 04/30/2014 at 2000 hours, but Gary never arrived. He reported he was supposed to meet Gary at McDonald's near Battlefield Rd. and 65 Hwy. He told me he waited at that location from about 1945 hours to 2030 hours. Porter stated he did not try to call Gary but drove to Gary and Jan's house after Gary did not meet him. He said he was unable to contact anyone at the house. He reported he returned to work at the IBM offices located at 3315 E. Ridgeview St., Springfield, Greene County, and worked until 2130 to 2200 hours.

During this investigation, a Springfield Police Department undercover detective was able to obtain a coffee cup used and then abandoned by Mark Porter. The MSHP Crime Laboratory developed a DNA profile from this coffee cup. The lab reported that the DNA profile from the coffee cup was consistent with the DNA profile developed from the latex glove found in the Tyrrell's home.

The above statements are true to the best of my information and belief.


Signature

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

Associate Division _____

STATE OF MISSOURI,)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
)	
vs.)	Case No.
)	
MARK E. PORTER ,)	OCN#
)	
Defendant.)	PA File No. 077331115
State of Missouri)	
)	ss.
County of Greene)	

FELONY COMPLAINT

COUNT I

(Missouri Charge Code: 10021004.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.020, RSMo, committed the class A felony of murder in the first degree punishable upon conviction under Section 565.020, RSMo, in that on or about April 30, 2014, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant after deliberation, knowingly caused the death of Jan Tyrrell by striking her in the head with a blunt object.

COUNT II

(Missouri Charge Code: 10021003.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.020, RSMo, committed the class A felony of murder in the first degree punishable upon conviction under Section 565.020, RSMo, in that on or about April 30, 2014, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant after deliberation, knowingly caused the death of Gary Tyrrell by shooting him.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached probable cause statement concerning this matter, which statement is made a part hereof and is submitted herewith as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

WHEREFORE, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

DAN PATTERSON
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Greene, State of Missouri



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Dan Patterson, Prosecuting Attorney, of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, says that the facts stated in the above information are true, according to his or her best information, knowledge and belief.



Dan Patterson