

Victim's widow: Suspect's shoot-out death with MSP - Coldwater Daily Reporter (MI) - January 26, 2018

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COLDWATER — "Duane did not get justice," Crystal Finney said of her husband, Duane Finney, who was murdered on May 12, 2009. "Justice is what is important, not closure."

Her statement comes a day after **David Byron Kidney**, 62, shot two Michigan State Police troopers as they served a search warrant on him at his home at 595 Francisco Road, just east of Arbogast Road in Union City. Kidney was found dead in a fence row on the property he rented. An autopsy was conducted on Kidney Thursday morning in Grand Rapids.

MSP released a statement saying, "The preliminary results show Kidney's cause of death to be a single gunshot wound that was sustained while exchanging gunfire with troopers."

On Thursday, MSP reported that officers were attempting to take cover when MSP Det./ Sgt. Aaron Steensma was shot in the chest and MSP Tpr. Daniel Thayer was shot in the chest and hand.

The round that struck Thayer in the chest was stopped by his ballistic vest. The round that hit Steensma struck him just above his solid vest at the collar bone.

Steensma remains in serious but stable condition at Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo following surgery.

All MSP personnel were wearing body armor at the time of the incident.

"No further details are available for release at this time, as the investigation is still ongoing," MSP officials stated.

Steensma, along with MSP Det./Sgt Heather Lass, were lead investigators in the cold case murder of Finney. A search warrant was issued this week for DNA and a gun owned by Kidney.

When she was made aware of reports of the shooting on Wednesday, Crystal Finney said, "I knew it was David. I knew he had moved out there."

Kidney had lived with his wife, Pamela, 860 E. Garfield Ave., Lot 16, next door to the Finneys.

Finney said that until the murder, the families had not communicated much, although she added that Kidney blamed the Finneys after the landlord cut down a tree limb between trailers.

Finney also said Kidney was upset because they had called police on Kidney's grandchildren.

Finney said she had no idea why anyone would have wanted to kill Duane.

The body of 62-yearold Duane Finney was found in the driver's seat of his 2006 white Pontiac Grand Prix in a field south of the Skate Ranch on South Angola Road in Coldwater. There was a bullet hole visible in the window, but it appeared the shot had come from inside the car, from the back seat.

Duane had left for work as usual around 4:30 a.m. that Tuesday in 2009. Around 7:30 a.m., his body was discovered after a resident near the Skate Ranch called 911 to report the suspicious white car in the field half a mile west of the Finney family trailer off Garfield Road. The southbound car appeared to have swerved from the northbound lane, jump a small curb, then make a "S" shaped path 500 feet across the field.

The Grand Prix crossed a ditch and came to rest next to a marshy area.

During the investigation, it was noted that the location would not have been on his usual route to work in Litchfield.

None of the fingerprints found in the car were conclusive. Some DNA evidence was collected from the scene, but did not match any in data bases.

Kidney had only one prior criminal conviction. In 1994, a Branch County Circuit Court jury found him guilty of receiving stolen property. Charges of breaking and entering were dismissed, and charges against his wife were dropped.

The conviction came before Michigan began collecting DNA of convicted felons, so Finney had none on record.

Crystal Finney said she does not know what led the investigators to obtain the search warrant.

"There are many things they just don't, just can't tell me," she said, adding that she has kept in close contact with the officers since the cold case investigation began in March 2017.

She said that she and Branch County Sheriff's Office Det./Sgt. Dan Nichols talk on a monthly basis. Nichols was the original investigator in the case.

Kidney had lived at the trailer park on Garfield Road until he divorced his wife in 2014 and moved to Union Township. Pamela Kidney died on Dec. 4, 2017.

The couple's daughter, Pamela Kidney Hoard Hankins, died one month earlier.