

Two Charged in Caldwell Murder

Written by Steve Frank

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The body of a missing Caldwell County man was found yesterday near the Linville Gorge off Old NC 105, not far from the Avery line. It was last Wednesday that the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office received a missing person report from the family of Damond Lamont Kincaid, also known as "Peanut", as Kincaid's family reported that he was last seen the 31-year old in the Granite Falls area of Caldwell County. Detectives with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office began working the missing person report and leads coming in led them to a Vehicle Body Shop in Burke County. Thursday, Detectives with Burke County Sheriff's office began working with Caldwell County Detectives, and information Caldwell County had received indicated that witnesses had last observed Mr. Kincaid in the presence of the David Matthew Higgins in a "grey" colored Hummer H2. Detectives determined that Higgins lives off Highway 126 in Burke County with his uncle, owner of the Hummer H2 that Higgins had been driving on the night of August 11th. When Detectives received consent to search the Hummer, they located what appeared to be blood in the front passenger seat and at least 2 small caliber firearm casings in the back passenger area. Then they found that Higgins was voluntarily admitted to Grace Hospital. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation joined the investigation, and investigators developed a lead that led to a second suspect as Jacob Dean Coley, who lives beside Higgins off Highway 126. Coley admitted that Higgins had come to his residence on the early morning hours of August 11th and told him he had shot Kincaid and dumped his body. Coley further stated that he did not know the whereabouts of Kincaid's body. Yesterday, the SBI interviewed Higgins again after he was released from Grace Hospital. Higgins then admitted to shooting and killing Kincaid and dumping his body off Highway 105 in far northwestern Burke County near the Avery line. Detectives and the SBI drove Higgins to Highway 105 and located Kincaid's body about 20 yards off the main road. David Matthew Higgins, 32, has been arrested and charged with felony first degree murder. Jacob Dean Coley, 17, has been arrested and charged with felony accessory after the fact in first degree murder. Higgins was not given a bond and has a first appearance court date scheduled for August 20th. Coley was given a \$100,000 secured bond and has a first appearance court date scheduled for August 20th.

Photos: WSOC-TV Dave Faherty