

Murder suspects held without bond

By BRIAN HAWKINS/Starkville Daily News

An Oktibbeha County Justice Court judge on Tuesday denied bond to a 26-year-old woman and a 13-year-old boy charged in the weekend shooting death of the woman's ex-husband.

Judge Tony Boykin ordered Kristi Leigh Fulgham, 26, of 2163 Buckner St., and Tyler W. Edmonds, 13, of 485 Oakcrest Circle, West Point, held in the Oktibbeha County Jail without bond on individual charges of capital murder in the death of Joseph T. "Joey" Fulgham, 28, also of 2163 Buckner St.

The two made their initial appearance in Justice Court Tuesday morning.

Though a juvenile, Edmonds is being charged as an adult since the offense is being considered a capital crime under state law. Both Edmonds and Fulgham were arrested Monday afternoon.

Joey Fulgham's body was found by family members at the Buckner Street home -- located in the Longview community just southwest of Starkville -- lying face down in his bedroom with a gunshot wound to the head. Though divorced, Kristi Fulgham had recently moved back into the home with her ex-husband, officials said Monday.

According to Sheriff's Department reports, Joey Fulgham was last seen by family members Friday night and may have been seen in the pre-dawn hours Saturday morning.

Over the weekend, concerned family members made repeated phone calls to his home, and, after receiving no answer, went to his home late Sunday afternoon, reports state.

They noticed his car there and knocked on the door, reports state. When they could not get him to answer, family members walked to his bedroom window and saw him on the bed, but could not wake him despite repeated knocking on the window, reports state.

They then broke into his house and discovered him dead, the reports state.

Family members called the Sheriff's Department at 6:51 p.m., reports state.

Kristi Fulgham was initially questioned Sunday night and was arrested following additional questioning Monday. Edmonds was also questioned Monday prior to his arrest, officials said.

The investigation is continuing, said Oktibbeha County Chief Deputy George Carrithers Tuesday. Investigators are seeking information about Kristi Fulgham and Edmond's whereabouts over the weekend and about any circumstances surrounding Mr. Fulgham's death, Carrithers said.

"We encourage anyone who has any information to come forward and talk with us," Carrithers said.

Under state law, slaying suspects may be charged with capital murder if the killing occurred during the commission of another crime. Investigators are alleging that a theft of money -- more than \$500 -- was the crime committed in connection with Joey Fulgham's death, Carrithers said previously.

Should Kristi Fulgham be bound over to the Oktibbeha County Grand Jury, indicted, tried and convicted on the capital murder charge, she could face a life sentence in prison without parole or the death penalty.

Edmonds, though charged as an adult offender, would face a life sentence in prison if he is bound over to the grand jury, indicted, tried and convicted in the case since state law prohibits him from being sentenced to death.

Anyone with information about Fulgham's murder is encouraged to call the Sheriff's Department at 323-2421 or Golden Triangle Crime Stoppers at 1-800-530-7151.