

Kell, Ina murders probably not related, says detective

MARION (UPI) — Authorities are working on some fresh leads in separate homicide cases involving five slayings, one almost five months old and the other involving a family of four two weeks ago, a state investigator said.

Lt. Connell Smith of the state Division of Criminal Investigation said Monday there have been no arrests in either case. "There is no indication the two cases are related," he said.

"I've learned in 20 years in this work that you don't make predictions. You just gather all the facts you can and try to put them together," said Smith of the progress of the investigations.

Smith said authorities have

received more than 3,000 leads in their probe of the slaying of 10-year-old Amy Schulz of Kell. She disappeared the night of July 1 while walking to her home south of Kell in Marion County. Her body was found the following day along a Jefferson County road about 8 miles south of Kell.

Authorities said the girl had been sexually assaulted and murdered. Rewards totaling more than \$15,000 have been offered for the arrest and conviction of her killer or killers.

More than 300 leads have been received by authorities during the investigation of the slayings of four members of the Russell

Fresh leads reported...

Keith Dardeen family south of Ina, Smith said.

The bodies of Ruby Dardeen and her two children — 3-year-old Peter and a premature seven-month-old daughter were found Nov. 18 in their mobile home less than one mile south of Ina in Jefferson County.

Authorities said the three had been beaten to death. The following day, the body of Russell Keith Dardeen was found by hunters south of Rend Lake College, about 1½ miles south of the family's home.

Smith said the last known contacts with the Dardeens was

around 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17. The bodies of Mrs. Dardeen and her two children were found in their mobile home around 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18.

"We are particularly interested in learning of any information relating to the Dardeens after 5 p.m., Nov. 17," Smith said.

Authorities have appealed to anyone with information about the Dardeen deaths to call the DCI at Marion (618) 997-9431, the Jefferson County sheriff at Mount Vernon (618) 244-2141 or the Franklin County sheriff at Benton (618) 438-4841.

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