

RANKIN COUNTY, MS (Mississippi News Now) -
Dramatic, new developments have unfolded in a case out of Rankin County.

A key piece of evidence was found in the search for Skyler Burnley, who has been missing since June 3.

But the question remains: Is this a missing persons case or potential murder investigation?

Police say a third person is now under arrest. Matthew McCoy has been charged with vehicle theft.

Cadaver dogs are now being brought in to search the same wooded area where Burnley was last seen.

Rankin County Undersheriff Raymond Duke says that there was evidence of drug use in Travis Brewer's Pearl home, where Burnley stayed Thursday night.

"We are not going to rule anything out at this time," Duke said Friday, "We do know that the individuals involved were possibly involved in the drug trade."

According to investigators, Amanda Morris, Travis Brewer and Skyler Burnley woke up Friday morning and found that Brewer's pickup truck and cell phone were missing.

Brewer claims that he and Burnley tracked the phone to woods outside of Brandon.

He told investigators that they got out of the car and left his girlfriend, Morris, and their child inside.

Then Brewer and Burnley reportedly went separate ways in the woods.

Burnley was last seen in a gas station surveillance photo, near the area, at 9:48 a.m. Friday morning.

Investigators say that Brewer called 911, 15 hours later, at 1:00 a.m. Saturday morning to report his truck stolen.

Brewer tells the operator that his truck was found, then he mentions his missing friend, Burnley.

According to the Undersheriff, that vehicle was found broken down by Brewer without his cell phone inside.

"I have reason to believe now the cell phone may have never been in it," said Duke. "So the story about them searching for the phone may have been a problem."

Brewer's cell phone has now been recovered. It had been thrown out in a grassy area near his home.

Police say that they do not know what they are looking for in the cell phone exactly.

"Well until we get in it we don't know," Duke said. "What I am hoping is to find its locations and possible correspondence with someone that may have been planning Sky's demise."

There is a \$10,000 reward for information that leads to Burnley.

Brewer and his girlfriend Morris remain jailed on \$100,000 bonds each.

They are facing charges of possession of drug paraphernalia in their home

Rankin County Sheriff's Department/ Missing Person

On Saturday June 4, 2016 around 1:00 a.m. the Rankin County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call in reference to a stolen vehicle. The caller stated an acquaintance of his had taken his 1988 Chevy pickup and abandoned it on I-20 in Pearl. The vehicle was recovered by the owner, but has sustained extensive damage. At that time, the caller also stated that his friend, Joseph Skylar "Sky" Burnley, was missing after trying to help locate the stolen vehicle. The complainant, Travis Brewer and wife Amanda Morris advised deputies, when his truck was stolen his cell phone was left inside. He was able to use an app to locate the phone, which was reporting off of Bridges Road east of Brandon and north of I-20. Travis Brewer and Amanda Morris, their four-year-old daughter and BURNLEY responded to Bridges Road to search for the vehicle. Around 10:00 a.m. Friday morning BURNLEY and the complainant left the vehicle and reportedly went on foot in different directions to search. After a short time, Travis left the area to take his wife Amanda and daughter home due to the heat and no air conditioning in the vehicle. Then Travis and Amanda advised deputies, he immediately returned to the area in an attempt to locate BURNLEY. Around 2:00 p.m. Travis discontinued his search and returned home. Once the Sheriff's Office was notified, a search team and plan was put in place. Members of the Mid-Mississippi Strike Team began to search the area on foot. We are utilizing resources including search dogs, horses, man power, and Metro One. We will continue the search effort until the entire area has satisfactorily been searched. The BURNLEY family has allocated a \$10,000 reward for anyone with information that could help lead to location with an arrest in this case would be eligible for a reward. Please call Crime Stoppers at 601-355-TIPS(8477) or submit a tip online by clicking on the web tip link on the homepage of the Central MS Crime Stoppers website. You can also submit your tip information from a mobile device or any other computer by going to www.P3tips.com. http://www.centralmscrimestoppers.com/box_2/

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