

Remains found in Kinloch confirmed to be those of missing Berkeley woman

- By Kim Bell St. Louis Post-Dispatch
- Mar 30, 2017

Leonard Sykes, 48, and his wife, Regina Sykes, 50, of Hazelwood, can only wait now on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017, for answers about their missing daughter, Monica Sykes. Remains of a female were found in Kinloch on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017, after an extensive search of the area. Monica has been missing since October 27, 2016. The Sykes were told that it could take up to a year for the remains to be identified. The search was suspended after the remains were found.

KINLOCH • Police have confirmed that human remains found last month in Kinloch are those of a missing Berkeley woman.

Monica Elaine Sykes, 25, went missing on Oct. 28 in Berkeley. Police say they are awaiting the medical examiner's report to know how Sykes died.

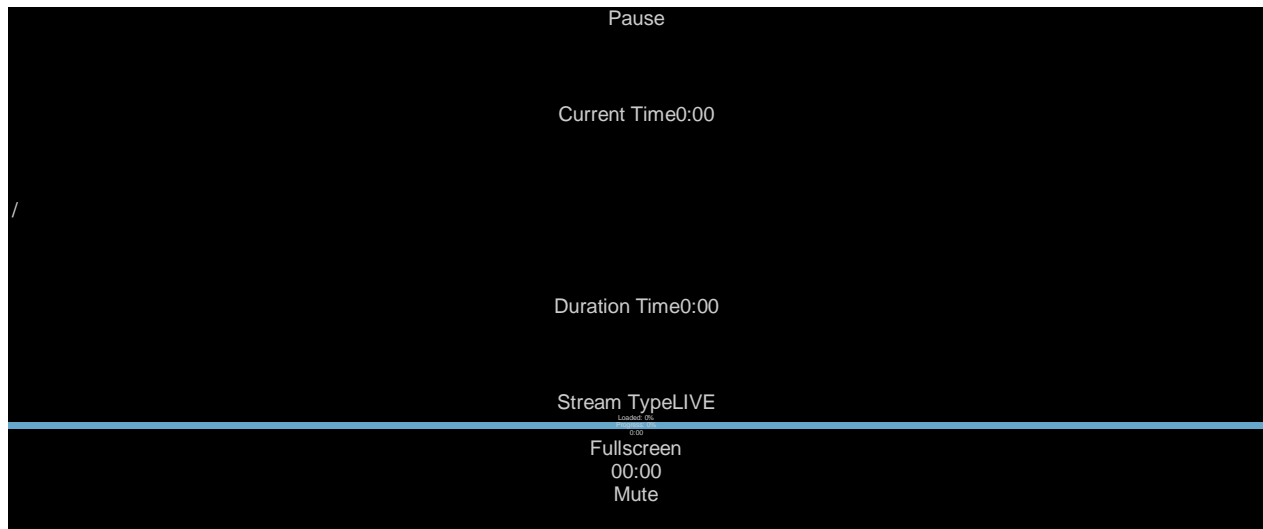
"We are devastated, just devastated," her mother, Regina Sykes, told the Post-Dispatch on Thursday. "We will miss her dearly."

She said the lead detective, a supervisor and Berkeley's acting police chief, Art Jackson, told her the news on Tuesday night. Jackson said DNA confirmed the identity.

Jackson told the Post-Dispatch this month that if the remains proved to be those of Sykes, [police would likely seek charges](#) against a man already in custody.

But on Thursday, Jackson declined to talk about a suspect. “I’m going to leave that up to prosecutors,” he said.

A spokesperson for the prosecutor’s office could not immediately provide an update on potential charges Thursday morning.



On Feb. 4, volunteers searching a desolate area of Kinloch [found the remains](#). It took weeks to confirm the identity.

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A man Monica Sykes was dating has been in custody for several weeks on a probation violation. Police have called him a person of interest. His white car was found on fire after Sykes was reported missing.

Sykes lived with her sister and three nephews in the 6300 block of Fay Drive in Berkeley. She left to buy candy and never returned, her mother said. One of the nephews said he saw her get into a white car.

Sykes had recently returned from a date with a Berkeley police officer. Jackson said this month that the officer was not a suspect.

Regina Sykes, 50, said she doesn't know how close police might be to solving the case because the detectives didn't divulge much. The [family has been critical](#) of Berkeley's efforts, wanting a more seasoned detective or agency with more resources to take over the investigation. Monica Sykes had worked at least a year at Ol' Henry Restaurant in Berkeley.