



Coroner: Mercersburg man died of a blow to the head

MERCERSBURG, Tuesday, July 29 -- The man who allegedly shot his neighbor Monday over a land dispute died from injuries he suffered in a fight, according to Franklin County Coroner Jeffrey R. Conner.

In a press statement released Tuesday afternoon, Conner wrote that Donald Herbert Berkebile, 81, of Mercersburg, was not shot. Cause of death was "blunt force trauma to the head and neck," he wrote.

"The injuries occurred from physical force induced by another person," he wrote. "Any information involving the altercation must be obtained from the Pennsylvania State Police, Chambersburg."

Connor said Berkebile was involved in an altercation at the front of his property, 9399 Blue Spring Road, in Montgomery Township at 7:30 a. m. Monday.

Connor reported the death as a homicide or "death at the hands of another person."

Police reported Monday that the argument involved Bryan E. Kendall, 40, of Mercersburg.

Kendall told Public Opinion that he was shot in the chest by Berkebile. Kendall said he pretended to be dead, and when Berkebile placed his pistol back into his holster, Kendall jumped Berkebile and wrestled with him until Berkebile was knocked out.

No charges have been filed in the case, according to the Franklin County District Attorney's office. Kendall's attorney, Steve Kulla of Mercersburg, said Kendall acted in self-defense.

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