

# Homicide investigation near SM



Property belonging to Robert Marek became a crime scene after evidence of a homicide was found Monday night. - Mary Orr

**By Summer Crosby & Chris Carlson**

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A homicide investigation resulted Tuesday afternoon with the arrest of Melissa Bates, 27, according to Benewah County Sheriff Robert Kirts.

Sheriff Kirts said Robert Dean Marek, 43, was shot and killed at his residence on Highway 3, seven miles south of St. Maries, Sunday night between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sheriff Kirts reported after shooting Mr. Marek, Ms. Bates tried to burn the body.

Human remains were found at the residence by Benewah County deputies Monday night after a missing person's report was filed on Mr. Marek by Sherral Bates. A joint investigation with the Idaho State Police quickly was undertaken.

Melissa Bates became a person of interest during the investigation and was picked up near Lakeview in Kootenai County. She is currently incarcerated at the Benewah County jail. Sheriff Kirts said Melissa Bates "confessed to the crime." A motive has not been reported.