



PRESS RELEASE - FOR RELEASE 11-17-25



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FBI To Assist in Search of Jordan River as Part of Ongoing Homicide Investigation

The Family of the Victims Issues Statement About FBI Assistance with the Case

For Release on November 17, 2025– Saratoga Springs, UT – November 16, 2025 - Tomorrow, starting at 8:00 AM, the Saratoga Springs Police Department, in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, will conduct a search of the Jordan River and the surrounding area. This search of the Jordan River, which is near the address of the occurrence of an incident that took place on March 28, 2025, is one of multiple locations where law enforcement is conducting efforts to locate additional evidence to further the investigation of the incident.

On March 26, 2025, at approximately 10:00 AM, Saratoga Springs Police Department patrol officers were dispatched to 1244 N. Willowbrook Lane on a report of a possible death investigation. Upon arrival, officers located two victims: an adult female suffering from a gunshot wound and a deceased child, also from apparent gunshot wounds. Saratoga Springs Fire Department personnel transported the female victim to a local hospital. She was later flown by medical helicopter to Utah Valley Medical Center, where she succumbed to her injuries. The decedents were identified as Eli Painter, 8 years old, and Jessica Lyman, 44 years old. The Saratoga Springs Police Department is committed not only to identifying and arresting the responsible individual(s) but also to ensuring a successful prosecution.

This investigation remains active and ongoing, and anyone with information related to this case is asked to contact the Saratoga Springs Investigations Unit at 801-766-6503. Additional details will not be released at this time to protect the integrity of the investigation.

Orton Family Statement - 11/17/2025 - It has been nearly eight months since an act of senseless violence took the lives of our daughter and sister, Jessica Lyman, and our grandson and nephew, Eli Painter. We never imagined our family would face this kind of tragedy, and it has been very emotionally difficult.

Since March 28, we have worked closely and consistently with the Saratoga Springs Police Department and other local and national law enforcement agencies in pursuit of justice.



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We are encouraged by this search of the Jordan River by the dive team for additional evidence, and we remain hopeful it will help bring accountability to those responsible. We miss Jessica and Eli every single day and continue to seek the answers and justice their memories deserve.

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About Saratoga Springs: Saratoga Springs is a picturesque and thriving community on the west side of Utah Lake in Utah County, Utah, and is known for its rich heritage as a recreational destination. Originally home to the Saratoga Springs Hot Springs Resort (1884–1995), named after its counterpart in New York, the city continues to offer abundant outdoor opportunities. Nestled between Utah Lake and the Lake Mountain Range, residents and visitors enjoy hiking, biking, water sports, and more. The Jordan River, flowing through the northern part of the city, provides excellent fishing, canoeing, and other non-motorized water activities. Visit us online at www.saratogaspringscity-ut.gov or follow us on Facebook and Instagram @cityofsaratogasprings and Twitter @saratogasprngut.