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## Grand jury to examine death of Pa. bar owner

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Monticello – A year after Callicoon Saloon owner Lyn Phillips' body was found off a road near her Manchester Township, Pa., home, a special grand jury will examine the case.

Phillips' husband, John "Randy" Phillips, initially told Pennsylvania State Police that his wife might have fallen out of his truck as they headed home from their bar early on the morning of Aug. 25, 2002. No charges have been filed in Lyn's death.

Police and prosecutors treated Lyn Phillips' death as a homicide. Now, an investigative grand jury will look into the case as well as two other unrelated cases. Those cases are the 1997 arson homicide of Patricia Woll, who died when her Milanville, Pa., apartment burned in 1997; and the spring 1995 disappearance of Kathryn Van Dine, a Beach Lake septuagenarian.

Investigative grand juries are common in Pennsylvania's bigger counties, said Mark Zimmer, Wayne County's district attorney, but they're unusual in smaller counties like Wayne.

Randy Phillips recently sold the business he and his wife ran together, the Callicoon Saloon and Beanery in Callicoon.

He now works in construction, said his lawyer, Kim Giombetti.

"His wife's death was a terrible tragedy," Giombetti said. "He's just trying to keep himself busy and working."

Early on Aug. 25, 2002, Randy and Lyn Phillips drove an employee home to Hankins before crossing over the Delaware River into Wayne County. Randy told police he found Lyn's body half in a stream off Cooley Creek Road, her clogs still on her feet, a couple of miles from their home.

In a 911 call, police said, Phillips suggested his wife either fell out of the truck or got out. He said he didn't remember what happened and didn't notice she was gone until he got home.

Lyn died from massive trauma to her face and head.

In March 2003, police charged Randy Phillips with possession of cocaine with intent to deliver, a felony; and misdemeanor marijuana charges. The open case stems from a search of the couple's home after Lyn's death.

In Pennsylvania, a grand jury is made up of 23 jurors and seven alternates. They meet three to four days per month, for as long as 18 months, as they hear cases. A majority vote returns a decision called a presentment, which recommends charges.

It's different than New York, where the grand jury returns an indictment formally charging a suspect with crimes.

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