

Michelle Ann Monson Mosure

Born: September 29, 1978

Death: November 19, 2001

Michelle and her children, Kristy (7) and Kyle (6) were killed by Gordon Mosure, their husband/father, who then killed himself.

Before taking his own life, Mosure wrote a note expressing love for his wife. He then set their home on fire before killing himself.

-- As reported in the *Billings Gazette*
November 20, 2001

Emily Rudig-Van Cleave

Born: October 4, 1978

Death: April 17, 2001

Emily Rudig-Van Cleave and her 3-year-old son, Phillip, were killed inside a home on Grand Avenue. Investigators determined Daniel Van Cleave, 23, shot his wife and son as they were sleeping, then lay down beside them on a bed and killed himself.

The shooting occurred on the same day Daniel Van Cleave was scheduled to appear in court on a misdemeanor drug charge. Daniel Van Cleave also had two DUI charges pending in other counties, and family members said he had a history of abusing his wife and child.

-- As reported in the *Billings Gazette*
November 20, 2001

Mychel Costanza-Shearer

Death: February 12, 2007

Mychel Costanza-Shearer was killed by her husband, John Anthony Costanza on February 12, 2007. She was 50 years old.

Costanza shot his wife, and was then wounded by a deputy following a 45-minute standoff with law enforcement. Costanza's blood alcohol level after the shooting was 0.281 percent.

He was sentenced to 50 years in prison, with 10 years suspended in 2008, after pleading guilty to a reduced charge of mitigated deliberate homicide.

-- As reported in the *Billings Gazette*
July 22, 2008

Seth Nolen Drinkwalter

Born: June 6, 1977
Death: February 8, 2008

Seth Drinkwalter was killed by his girlfriend, Emily Marie James on February 8, 2008. She stabbed him with a steak knife in the chest, and asked a neighbor to hide the bloody knife. She then called 911 and blamed a stranger for the death.

Prosecutors reduced the deliberate homicide charge to mitigated homicide. James pled guilty, and was sentenced to 35 years in prison, with five years suspended.

-- As reported in the *Billings Gazette*
April 2, 2009

Bonnie Williams

Born:

Death: February 19, 2001

Bonnie Williams was killed by her boyfriend, Dwayne Chegwidden in her Lockwood home on February 19, 2001. The couple argued when Chegwidden returned home following an arrest for drunken driving.

Chegwidden plead guilty to deliberate homicide in March, 2002. He was sentenced to 75 years in prison.

-- As reported in the *Billings*

Gazette

March 21, 2002

A sad coda to Bonnie's story: Two years later, her son 15-year-old Gregory Williams, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for the negligent homicide of his friend. The boys were playing with a gun when it discharged, killing his friend.

-- As reported in the *Billings Gazette*

April 8, 2004

Deborah Zumsteg

Death: March 1, 2004

Deborah Zumsteg was killed by her husband, Christopher Sheridan, who stabbed her in a vacant house where they were living. Deborah was 41 at the time of her death.

Following the murder, Sheridan walked to a nearby convenience store and bought beer.

The pair moved to Billings seven months earlier, and rented an apartment. When they were unable to find work, they lost their apartment and moved into one of the vacant houses nearby.

Sheridan killed himself two months later while in police custody.

-- As reported in the *Billings Gazette*
April 21, 2004

Joe Vasquez

Death: April 3, 2006

Joe Vasquez was killed by his girlfriend, Tiffanie Fitzpatrick after an argument on April 3, 2006. The pair had been drinking, and she stabbed him with a steak knife.

She was sentenced to 17 years in prison for negligent homicide.

-- As reported in the *Billings Gazette*
December 14, 2007

Darcy Buhmann

March 9, 2016

Darcy Buhmann was killed in Bozeman by her ex-husband, Anthony Fagiano. He broke into her house and shot her with an automatic rifle he stole with the intention of killing her. He shot her in the stomach and then the head while she was hiding from him in her closet.

He was the subject of two protection orders obtained by Buhmann.

He told officers he broke into the house at 4:30 a.m. that morning. After shooting her, he left the residence in her vehicle, went into the woods, and notified several family members and Buhmann's ex-husband that he had shot and killed her.

Fagiano was sentenced in June to life in prison, without the possibility of parole.

-- As reported by Associated Press

March 9, 2016; June 23, 2016

Danielle Heninger

July 29, 2017

Danielle Heninger was killed by her husband, Zach, before he took his own life in the family home in Bozeman. The couple's three children were unharmed.

Zach was an officer with the Bozeman Police Department, and a Marine Corps Veteran.

There had been no prior reports of domestic violence.

As reported in the *Bozeman Chronicle*

July 31, 2017

Karen Hill-LeCou

April 5, 2016

Karen was killed by her husband, Robert James LeCou in Belfry, MT. He also killed Karen's sister and brother-in-law. All the victims were shot with a 9mm handgun that belonged to the brother-in-law, and for which Karen purchased bullet's at Le Cou's request.

Following a six-day jury trial, Le Cou was convicted of the murders. He was later sentenced to 300 years in prison.

As reported in the *Billings Gazette*

June 12, 2017; October 20, 2017

Kathryn Laird

July 31, 1999

In March, 2016, a Big Horn County jury convicted Brian Laird of the 1999 murder of his 28-year-old wife, Kathryn. The case was “cold” until 2012 when the FBI interviewed neighbors of the Laids who were not contacted during the initial investigation.

The Laids had been married only five months when Kathryn was murdered following an argument. Her body was found in the afterbay of Yellowtail Dam. Her death, originally determined to be by drowning, was by strangulation.

Laird was sentenced to 100 years in prison.

In August, 2019, Laird’s sentence was overturned by the Montana Supreme Court.

As reported in the *Billings Gazette*

March 7, 2016; June 10, 2016

Celia Scheihing

Dec. 31, 2019

Celia Scheihing, 72, was found dead in a car accident on Molt Road. A subsequent autopsy confirmed that her death was the result of blunt force trauma, not the accident.

Her husband Daniel admitted to striking Celia with a hammer multiple times, intending to kill her. He was arrested, but before he could be arraigned, he committed suicide in jail.

As reported in the *Billings Gazette*

January 3, 2020

KTVQ News

January 10, 2020

Lauren Walder DeWise

Jan. 6, 2018

Lauren DeWise was shot to death by her estranged husband, Joseph “Paul” DeWise. DeWise also shot Lauren’s roommate, Ashley Van Hemert and left her to die.

His teenage son testified in the murder trial that he was with his father when he shot the women. He also said his father ordered him to get rid of the murder weapon. His teenage daughter testified her father called her from jail and asked her to convince her younger brother to confess.

A jury convicted DeWise of deliberate homicide and attempted deliberate homicide in December, 2019. He was sentenced to 220 years in prison on February 4, 2020.

As reported in the *Bozeman Chronicle*

December 10, 2019, February 4, 2020

Carissa Perkins

Mar. 20, 2019

Carissa Perkins, 29, was shot by her boyfriend in a Bozeman residence. The boyfriend, Sean Raidley, then used the .357 revolver to commit suicide.

The pair had recently moved to Bozeman. There was no prior history of violence.

As reported by *MTN News*

March 21, 2019

Jennifer McCollum

May 19, 2020

"Hello, my mom has been killed. Steven killed my mom."

34-year-old Jennifer McCollum was killed by Steven Phillip, her ex-boyfriend, in front of her children. Deputies found her body lying dead in a pool of blood, her three kids with dried blood on their faces, hands and feet watching out the window. According to Phillip's mother, the couple had an "on and off relationship," and had broken up in the last few weeks.

The autopsy found multiple lacerations and stab wounds over much of her body and multiple blunt force trauma injuries. Both her wrists were broken, and her hair was embedded with blood and glass.

In October, 2021, Phillip was sentenced to 100 years in prison for deliberate homicide.

As reported by KULR8 News

May 19, 2020 and
October 21, 2021

Kira Kristie Ostman

May 31, 2020

Kira Kristie Ostman and Andrew E. Clonce, both 34 of Billings, were found dead inside a West End home on Sunday.

Billings police previously said the deaths were being investigated as a murder-suicide, and it appeared Clonce died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

As reported by Q2 News
June 3, 2020

Lenita Goes Ahead

October 24, 2020

Lenita was driving to Billings with her boyfriend and daughter from the Pryor area when she was gunned down by former boyfriend Taylor Leigh Plainbull.

Plainbull forced Lenita's vehicle into the ditch. He then approached the vehicle and confronted the couple with a gun. He fired two shots, one of which broke through the glass of the passenger side window and lodged in the dashboard.

The other bullet hit Lenita's right upper chest, diverted and destroyed her heart.

Plainbull was found dead in his cell in Big Horn County, WY in April, 2021, where he was being held after pleading guilty to the murder. Foul play was not suspected.

As reported by KULR8 News
March 3, 2021
Billings Gazette
April 4, 2021

Shawna Hart Grove

April 23, 2026

Shawna Grove was discovered dead on April 23, 2026 in a rural Big Horn County Field. She had a restraining order against her husband, Tanner Grove, since October, 2025.

According to court documents, Grove allegedly went to Hart's residence on April 22, she appeared to get into his vehicle, and she left her children and phone inside. Police learned of her disappearance the next day from a friend, and her son reported her missing.

Investigators later found Hart's body in Grove's vehicle in a farmyard near Hardin, Montana, with a penetrating wound to the left side of her head.

Prosecutors charged Grove with deliberate homicide, burglary, and tampering with evidence, and a judge set \$3 million bail. Grove pleaded guilty on August 6, 2026, to deliberate homicide, and also admitted to four additional charges, including two felony counts of assault with a weapon and two misdemeanor counts of violating a no-contact order.

As reported by multiple
news outlets

Nila and Justine Dawson

Dec. 8, 2025

Nila Dawson and her mother, Justine, were murdered on December 8, 2025 at the family home in Stillwater County.

Ty Allen Turney shot them and two others, Greg Dawson, Justine's husband, and Matthew Osgood, Nila's boyfriend. Turney had returned to Montana from Texas in hopes of reconciling with his former girlfriend, Nila. Both Greg and Matthew survived.

Turney pleaded guilty to the homicides and attempted homicides on Sept. 6, 2026. He awaits sentencing.

As reported by multiple
news outlets

Smith and Ghekiere Family Members

Aug. 25, 2026

Eight family members gathered for Sunday dinner were murdered by Alan Smith, the son of Dana and Barbara Smith. Smith killed his parents, his sister, Megan Ireland-Ghekiere, 39; her four children: Owen Ireland, 13; Chloe Ireland, 7; Landon Ghekiere, 15; and Charlotte Ghekiere, 12. Evelyn Smith, 92, the grandmother of Megan and Alan, did not live at the home but was visiting for a Sunday dinner, and was also killed.

Police responded to a 911 call made by Charlotte Ghekiere about a family disturbance. Upon arrival, Alan Smith was in the front yard, the entire house was on fire and gunshots were heard after Alan ran back inside. Officers saw Alan run to the backyard and shoot himself. Smith subsequently died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Smith was reportedly unable to find a job or hold one. He'd lived in his parents' home for several years before being asked to move out a couple of weeks prior to the shootings.

As reported by multiple
news outlets