



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CORONER

Angie F. Rita - Coroner

Press Release

3/31/2025

Saluda County, S.C.-The Saluda County Coroner's Office responded to Darling Ingredients Inc. (formerly Valley Proteins Inc.) in Ward at approximately 6:00 PM Monday afternoon regarding a fatal shooting incident. Upon arrival the bodies of a male and a female were located and later identified as Kimberly Waters Leon, age 52 of Graniteville, SC and Willie James Hopkins Jr., age 44 of Batesburg, SC.

The deaths are being investigated by the Coroner's Office along with Saluda County Sheriff's Office and the SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED). Autopsies are scheduled for later this week.

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