

## Kelsie Schelling family offers reward of up to \$10,000 for information

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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A press conference was held Monday morning, April 29 in Denver by the family of Kelsie Schelling, 22, who has been missing for close to three months.

Kelsie's brother Colby gave the opening remarks to the press, noting the family was there to share new information about Kelsie, hoping the investigation of her disappearance will yield positive results that will return her home to her family.

Kelsie and Colby's mother, Laura Saxton of Yuma, revealed why they find Kelsie to be at risk and the nature of why they need help with the investigation.

Their father, Doug Schelling of Holyoke, concluded the press conference. He stated the facts as they know them and offered details concerning a reward of up to \$10,000 to the person or persons who provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect or suspects responsible for Kelsie's disappearance.

Saxton's press statement follows:

"Kelsie disappeared in Pueblo Monday, Feb. 4, when she traveled there after leaving work that day to meet her boyfriend, Donthe Lucas, at his request.

"On the morning of Feb. 4, Kelsie had a doctor's appointment in Denver where doctors' records confirm that she was eight weeks pregnant with Donthe's child.

"Cell phone records show that Kelsie sent picture messages of her ultrasound picture taken that day to family members and also to Donthe and his mother. Cell phone records also show that

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Donthe asked Kelsie to come to Pueblo when she got off of work that night because he needed to speak with her in person.

“We know that Kelsie made it to Pueblo and did meet up with Donthe. No one has seen or heard from her since.

“We are not satisfied with Donthe’s original account of the events leading up to Kelsie’s disappearance. We are informed that he has since refused to speak with the Pueblo Police Department.

“It has been nearly three months since Kelsie went missing. She has not had contact with any of her family or friends. She did not run off—she had nothing to run from, nor does she have any resources with which to live.

“She left her apartment on the morning of Feb. 4 with every intention of returning there that evening, and we know that because all of her possessions were left in her apartment.

“Her bank account has been accessed once since she went missing, and law enforcement has informed us that Donthe Lucas accessed her bank account on that occasion. We hope and pray that Kelsie is still alive and unharmed.

“We all love and miss Kelsie so much and are more deeply saddened to know that whatever happened to her that night also involved her unborn child, my first grandchild, as well. We are doing everything in our power to find our missing loved one and would expect anyone involved to do the same.

“Through our efforts to find Kelsie, we have met some amazing people in Pueblo. Perfect strangers, out of the goodness of their hearts, have searched for her and hung flyers and posters all over the city. We thank these kind people from the bottom of our hearts. But we do not feel that a thorough enough search has been conducted. Search efforts must continue until we find Kelsie.

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“We now plead with all citizens of Pueblo, please reach deep into your hearts and if you have any information at all that could lead us to Kelsie, please contact the Pueblo Police Department, Pueblo Crime Stoppers or call 1-855-4-KELSIE (1-855-453-5743).”

Doug Schelling told the media in his press statement, “Our family is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 to the person or persons who provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect or suspects responsible for her disappearance.

“We know that on the evening of Feb. 4, something happened to Kelsie.

“Kelsie did not talk to anyone on her phone after that Monday night, but text messages were sent until Wednesday evening from Kelsie’s phone to pacify family and friends. We do not believe that it was Kelsie texting.

“We know that a person, not Kelsie, had used her credit card on Tuesday, Feb. 5 and used it in Pueblo.

“We have been informed and believe this person was driving Kelsie’s 2011 black Chevy Cruz on Monday night, Tuesday and Wednesday, before it was left at St. Mary Corwin Hospital employee parking lot in Pueblo on Thursday morning at around 5 a.m. However, surveillance tapes do not show Kelsie in her vehicle after Monday night.

“We have set up a toll-free number for anyone to call that has information on her disappearance. The number is 1-855-4-KELSIE. Or to submit a tip online, you can go to [HelpFindKelsie.com](http://HelpFindKelsie.com)

“Thank you for both your time and concern. It’s clear that many people care about Kelsie.”

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