

The 21st MONTHLY

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY SCOTT M. PERRILLOUX

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12 INDICTED FOR TPSO JAIL DEATH

On May 8, 2017 a Tangipahoa Parish Grand Jury returned a True Bill of Indictment for one count of manslaughter for the following 12 defendants:

Herman Bagent, age 20

Randall Holmes, age 27

Lionel Brister, age 23

Tyquan Davis, age 22

Ronald Faulkner, age 39

Eric Newman, age 18

William Patterson, age 22

Travis Robertson, age 28

Antwon Seymore, age 19

James Milton, 24

Brent Collins, 30

One Juvenile

The indictment stems from the death of Tommy Joe Smith, age 40, of Independence, LA. On January 30, 2017 Smith was attacked and beaten to death by multiple inmates while in custody at the Tangipahoa Parish Jail.

NOTABLE MAY PLEAS

Thomas Joseph, age 43, of Ponchatoula, LA, pleaded no contest to distribution of schedule I controlled dangerous substances. He was sentenced to 20 years with the department of corrections. He received credit for time served.

Todd Parker, age 47, of Loranger, LA, pleaded no contest to production and manufacturing or possession with intent to manufacture or produce schedule II controlled dangerous substances. He was sentenced to 10 years with the department of corrections.

FRANKLIN SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS FOR HOME INVASION IN DENHAM SPRINGS

Riddick Franklin of Baton Rouge, LA, pleaded no contest to home invasion and four counts of armed robbery with use of a firearm.

Early hours of Christmas morning in 2015, Denham Springs Police Officers responded to a home invasion involving firearms at an address on Hickory Street in Denham Springs. The caller and she advised that her family was fighting three males who broke into their house in the back bedroom. She was hiding in her bedroom and was able to call for help.

Officers then proceeded to make forced entry into the residence. Once inside of the house, officers observed a male with a shotgun fighting with the homeowner in the hallway. The male, later identified as Antonio Williams, had the homeowner in a choke hold from behind with the gun around his neck. The officers ordered the male to drop his gun and he refused the orders of the officers at first. A few moments after, the suspect and the homeowner fell forward while fighting and the suspect then let go of the gun and surrendered to the officers. Another male suspect was holding up a revolver, officers ordered the male suspect, later identified as Terrance Varise to drop his gun and he did as ordered.

A third male suspect, who officers did not know who was in the residence jumped through a glass storm door in the kitchen area leading to the backyard of the time. Two DSPD Officers took pursuit of the suspect, while one other officer took control of the two male suspects caught invading the residence. Both males were advised of their rights and placed in handcuffs. Medical personnel were called to the scene to render aid to the victims hurt during the fight.

While the suspects were in custody and speaking to detectives they learned that Riddick Franklin was the third male suspect that fled from officers and planned out the home invasion.

In January 2016, after DSPD Detectives had difficulties locating Franklin they solicited assistance from the Attorney General's Fugitive Apprehension Task Force. On February 18, 2016, Franklin was found in New Orleans and transported to DSPD.

A search warrant was obtained for Franklin's DNA so it could be compared to a flip flop that was found at the crime scene, which was a match.

Jury Trial for Riddick Franklin was set to begin on May 22, 2017 when he entered his no contest plea. He was sentenced to 12 years with the department of corrections without the benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.