

THE 21ST MONTHLY

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY SCOTT M. PERRILLOUX

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National Crime Victims Right Week

April 8-14, communities throughout the nation will rally to honor and support all victims of crime. This year's theme, "Expand the Circle: Reach All Victims," emphasizes the importance of inclusion in victim services. It also addresses how the crime victims' field can better ensure that every crime victim has access to services and support and how professionals, organizations, and communities can work in tandem to reach all victims. With this in mind, our office promotes awareness to victims and their families to know that they are not alone to face the physical, mental, and financial devastation of crime without the services and support they need," stated Tameka T. White.



Pictured: Twenty-First Judicial District Attorney's Office Victims' Advocates

The Tri-Parish Victims' Assistance program provides services to victims of crime with active cases in the 21st Judicial District: advocacy, education, emotional support, case notification for felony and domestic cases, court escorts, and a domestic violence prosecution unit. Anyone in need of these services should contact their local district attorney's office weekdays from 8a.m. to 4p.m. "If you are a victim of crime, we believe you have rights. Our Tri-Parish Victims Assistance Program is available to provide information and emotional support as your case proceeds through the criminal court system. It is important that the criminal justice system provide the same consideration to victims that is afforded to criminal defendants," stated District Attorney, Scott M. Perrilloux.

Happy Birthday to Scott Perrilloux!



District Attorney Scott Perrilloux celebrated his birthday on April 5!

"As District Attorney, I pledge the best efforts of my office to ensure the citizens of this great district the high quality prosecution agency it deserves."

-Scott M. Perrilloux

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Vehicular Homicide Cases plea in Court

Ashley Covington, of Denham Springs, LA, pleaded no contest to vehicular homicide while under the influence of controlled dangerous substances.

On October 22, 2016, Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a two vehicle crash on LA-16 north of LA 1019. Upon deputies' arrival, Ashley Covington was standing outside of her vehicle while the driver of the other vehicle received emergency medical treatment. The driver, identified as Brian Broom, was taken to Ochsner Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased.

At the scene of the crash, officers described Covington as being unstable on her feet, incoherent at times, having slurred speech, and constantly falling asleep while performing standardized field sobriety tests. Covington admitted to officers that she did take Percocet and Wellbutrin prior to the crash. A later analysis of a blood sample taken from Covington revealed oxycodone, promethazine, and diphenhydramine in her system. Based on the evidence at the scene of the crash Covington was driving her vehicle north on LA-16 and Broom was traveling south. Covington crossed completely into the south travel lane and struck Broom's vehicle head on.

Broom leaves behind a wife and young son, along with many other friends and family.

Covington entered her "no contest" plea before a jury trial was scheduled to begin. Sentencing for Ashley Covington is scheduled for June 18, 2018.

Jerry Ervin III, 27, of Denham Springs, LA pleaded no contest to two counts of vehicular homicide and three counts of first degree negligent injuring.

According to reports, on April 10, 2016, Jerry Ervin III was traveling northbound on LA-447 (Walker South Rd.) when he attempted to pass a vehicle. While attempting the pass, Ervin crashed into the rear of the vehicle without stopping, fleeing the scene. After Ervin struck the first vehicle and fled the scene, he traveled approximately one mile north on LA-447 approaching the scene of an existing minor crash. At the scene of this crash, a disabled vehicle was partially in the roadway. Near the rear of the disabled vehicle were two juvenile pedestrians and in the front were three other pedestrians. Neighbors in the area were assisting the occupants of the disabled vehicle, as well as assisting in traffic control. There were safety triangles lining the edge of the roadway and someone flagging vehicles with a flashlight to slow oncoming traffic.

Ervin continued to drive past the flagman, crashed through the safety triangles, and partially ran off the roadway side swiping the first vehicle and ran into a ditch. He attempted to reenter the roadway, striking the 4 year old and 6 year old juvenile pedestrians killing them instantly. He struck the rear of the second vehicle, after impact the vehicle was forced forward striking three pedestrians causing serious injuries. The three pedestrians injured included the mother and 15 year old sister of the two juveniles killed, as well as the 15 year old son of one of the neighbors who came out to assist.

Ervin along with the three seriously injured pedestrians were taken to the hospital for treatment. At the hospital, Ervin showed signs of severe impairment. At this time he was advised of his Miranda Rights and a blood sample was collected and sent to Louisiana State Police Crime Lab for toxicology and blood alcohol analysis. At the time of the crash, Ervin had a blood alcohol content of 0.210g%.

Michael Farris, of Denham Springs, LA, was found guilty by a judge of vehicular homicide.

On October 3, 2015, Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office deputies and Louisiana State Police were dispatched to LA Highway 16 in reference to a four vehicle crash involving a fatality.

According to several independent witness statements, Michael Farris was operating a 1997 red Chevrolet pickup truck traveling Northbound on LA Highway 16 when he veered into southbound lane traffic striking multiple vehicles head on. First responders at the crash scene advised that the driver of a BMW 323, identified as 19-year-old, Miranda Roberts had sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Vehicular Homicides Continued...

Minutes prior to the crash, several 911 calls were made in reference to a red Chevrolet pickup truck driving recklessly in the area and vehicles were swerving to avoid head on impact with the pickup truck.

Due to the crash resulting in a death, a blood and urine samples were taken from Farris which determined his impairment during the time of the crash. Farris was advised of his Miranda Rights, placed under arrest, and transported to the Livingston Parish Detention Center.

Michael Farris was sentenced to 20 years with the department of corrections for vehicular homicide while under the influence of controlled dangerous substances. Three years are to be served without the benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.

Raychel Martinez pleaded no contest to vehicular homicide while under the influence of controlled dangerous substances.

According to police reports, on January 18, 2017 Raychel Martinez was heading east on LA-64 when she crossed the clearly marked double yellow lines into the opposing lane striking a motorcycle head on. The driver of the motorcycle, identified as Jason Zachary was ejected from the motorcycle and pronounced deceased at the scene.

Upon contact with Martinez, officers observed her speech to be slurred and that she could hardly keep her eyes open. She advised officers that she taken Xanax and one other medication. While receiving care from Acadian Ambulance a couple of small plastic bags with powder and crystal substances were found in Martinez's possession. Louisiana State Police obtained both a blood and urine sample from Martinez. Later analyses of these samples by the LSP Crime Lab revealed alprazolam, diazepam, and methamphetamine in her blood and urine, as well as morphine, oxycodone, and other drugs in her urine.

Raychel Martinez was sentenced to 20 years with the department of corrections, which comes with the cooperation and consent of Mr. Zachary's family.

Menard Sentenced to 20 years

Bryan Menard, 27, of Kentwood, LA, pleaded no contest to aggravated burglary of an inhabited dwelling, aggravated assault with a firearm, possession of a firearm or carrying a concealed weapon by a convicted felon, possession of a schedule II controlled dangerous substance, three counts of attempted first degree murder, injuring or killing of a police animal, and second degree kidnapping.

On May 29, 2017, Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office received a 911 call in reference to Bryan Menard committing a burglary to a residence and arming himself once inside of the residence by stealing a rifle and bullets. Menard then proceeded with the rifle to another residence on the same property, crawled under this residence, and held another male at gunpoint demanding two shot guns and shells from inside of the residence. The male gave Menard the shotguns and shells and Menard left the residence.

Shortly after, TPSO received a 911 text in regarding a possible kidnapping in progress. The victim advised that she was being held against her will by Bryan Menard at gunpoint and they were traveling in a red Ford Mustang on Hayden Road.

Upon deputies arrival in the area to further investigate the kidnapping and burglaries they observed the red Ford Mustang in the roadway with the suspect Bryan Menard standing on the passenger side of the vehicle. Menard then went into the passenger compartment where he retrieved a shotgun aiming it at deputies. Menard received multiple verbal commands from deputies to lower his weapon; Menard failed to comply and opened fire at the deputies striking officer's police units, one officer in the face area, another officer in the upper shoulder area, and a police K-9 in the face.

During the exchange of gunfire, Menard fled into the woods heading east. He was later apprehended and placed under arrest.

Bryan Menard was sentenced to 20 years with the department of corrections.