

# **THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MONTHLY**

**FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY SCOTT M. PERRILLOUX**

**JUNE 2018 | VOLUME 8, ISSUE 6**

## ***Covington Sentenced for Vehicular Homicide***

Ashley Covington, age 38, of Denham Springs, LA, was sentenced to 30 years with the department of corrections for vehicular homicide while under the influence of controlled dangerous substances. Eight years of the sentence was suspended, leaving her to serve 22 years without the benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence. She will be placed on probation for three years after her release.

Covington entered her “no contest” plea before a jury trial was scheduled to begin on April 30, 2018. The Court ordered a pre-sentence investigation to be conducted by the Division of Probation and Parole prior to sentencing.

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.

## ***Lucas Pleas to Manslaughter***

Michael Lucas, age 52, of Tickfaw, LA, pleaded no contest to manslaughter in the shooting death of his wife, Renan Lucas.

On the night of April 20, 2015, TPSO deputies were dispatched to an address on Belinda Drive in Tickfaw, LA in reference to a shooting. Upon arrival, deputies and EMS personnel discovered Renan Lucas lying face down in a drainage ditch adjacent to her residence. The victim had two apparent gunshot wounds to her upper chest. She was transported to North Oaks Medical Center where she succumbed to her injuries.

Further investigation revealed that a neighbor heard several gunshots ring out in close proximity. The neighbor proceeded outside and observed Michael Lucas leaning into the driver’s side of his vehicle which was parked at the end of his driveway. When asked by the neighbor if Lucas heard the loud gunshots, Lucas informed the neighbor that he did not hear any gunshots and proceeded towards the backyard of his residence. Moments later, Lucas got into his vehicle and sped away. The neighbor observed the victim crawling on the ground near the edge of the driveway where Lucas’s vehicle was parked before leaving the residence.

Lucas was apprehended a short time later at his employer’s business in Hammond, LA. Lucas informed deputies where he discarded the murder weapon, which was subsequently found and collected by detectives.

Michael Lucas was sentenced to 40 years with the department of corrections. He received credit for time served.

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## ***Landry Sentenced for Manslaughter***

Terry Landry, age 26, of Destrehan, LA, was sentenced to 15 years with the department of corrections for manslaughter in the shooting death of Raphael Garrison.

On January 25, 2013, officers from the Hammond Police Department responded to a call in reference to shots fired at 1806 North Oak Street Apartment D. Upon detectives' arrival, Raphael Garrison was found deceased from multiple gunshot wounds.

During investigation, it was learned that there was an eye witness who was inside of the residence when the shooting occurred and observed two males with Garrison moments before the shooting.

The witness stated that the victim called "Rich" to arrange the sale and purchase of a quarter pound of marijuana at North Oaks Park. After meeting in the park, the victim and two males went to the victim's residence to weigh the marijuana. The witness stated that she heard arguing and seconds later heard gunshots.

Upon checking phone records Hammond Police Department Detectives concluded that the last call to Garrison's phone was in fact from Richard Hudson. With this information, a photo lineup was generated with Richard Hudson in the lineup. Upon presenting the lineup to the witness, Hudson was positively identified as one of the individuals involved in the shooting death of Garrison. Another witness who was in the area at the time of the murder positively identified Terry Landry in a photo lineup as the other suspect seen entering Garrison's residence with Hudson. Through further investigation, multiple witnesses came forward identifying Hudson and Landry.

Based upon the lineup identification, a warrant was obtained for the arrest of Richard Hudson and Terry Landry. Hudson was arrested at his parents' residence in New Orleans, LA on January 26, 2013.

One year after the murder, on January 30, 2014 information was received via Crimestoppers in reference to the whereabouts of Terry Landry. Landry was found at an apartment complex in Metairie, LA and was taken into custody.

Richard Hudson was found guilty by a jury of first degree murder back in June 2016.

## ***Notable June Pleas***

***Dejuan Anderson***, age 34, of Hammond, LA, pleaded no contest to second degree robbery. He was sentenced to eight years with the department of corrections. He received credit for time served.

***Corey Cleveland***, age 51, of Albany, LA, pleaded no contest to theft of a firearm, two counts of theft, and simple burglary. He was sentenced to eight years with the department of corrections. He received credit for time served.

***Scott Hendon***, age 22, of Independence, LA, pleaded no contest to second degree rape. He was sentenced to 13 years with the department of corrections. He received credit for time served.

***Zachary McCarthy***, age 26, of French Settlement, LA, pleaded no contest to attempted possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of schedule II controlled dangerous substances, and resisting an officer. He was sentenced to five years with the department of corrections. He received credit for time served.

***Bryan Remble***, age 20, of Ponchatoula, LA, pleaded no contest to two counts of illegal use/possession/control of weapons- crime of violence/controlled dangerous substances. He was sentenced to five years with the department of corrections for each count. Time is to be served concurrently.

***Gawain Salassi***, age 24, of Livingston, LA, pleaded no contest to illegal use/possession/control of weapons- crime of violence/controlled dangerous substances. He was sentenced to five years with the department of corrections. Time is to be served without the benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.

***Anthony Scardina III***, age 41, of Franklinton, LA, pleaded no contest to possession of a schedule II controlled dangerous substance. He was sentenced to five years with the department of corrections.

***Clifton Starks***, age 52, of Walker, LA, pleaded no contest to three counts of simple burglary. He was sentenced to five years with the department of corrections for each count. Time is to be served concurrently.