

Eddie Cathey

Sheriff of Union County

3344 Presson Road
Monroe, North Carolina 28112



Telephone: (704) 283-3789
FAX: (704) 292-2700

Email: eddiecathey@co.union.nc.us

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release-

June 6, 2013

EIGHT ARRESTS MADE IN INDIAN TRAIL HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

Sheriff Eddie Cathey announced the arrest of eight individuals in connection with the homicide investigation of Christopher Reid Brown, 27, of 5002 West Street in Indian Trail. Brown was shot several times late Saturday night at a residence he shared with his mother. Detectives have been working steadily on the case since the incident, and developed two men as suspects in the crime. In addition, they have identified three others who provided assistance to the suspects in concealing the crime or evading authorities, and cleared a previously unreported robbery of another Indian Trail man, along with a separate motor vehicle breaking and entering in which the murder weapon was allegedly stolen.

Over the course of the past 24-hours, detectives have charged five men in connection with the murder itself. Chase Montgomery Johnson, 18, of 3203 Chippendale Rd. in Monroe, was arrested late Wednesday night after returning from West Virginia. Johnson allegedly fled to a residence outside the small town of Beaver, WV, following the shooting on Saturday night. A team of Union County investigators, assisted by the SBI and members of the West Virginia State Police located Johnson yesterday near Beaver and interviewed him about the crime. Johnson voluntarily returned to North Carolina, where he was arrested Wednesday night and charged with First Degree Murder, Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, and Possession of a Stolen Firearm. This afternoon, William Aaron Johnson, 18, of 1010 Triple Crown Drive in Indian Trail was also charged with First Degree Murder, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, and Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon. In addition, William Aaron Johnson is also charged with Breaking & Entering a Motor Vehicle, Larceny of a Firearm and Possession of a Stolen Firearm in connection with an April 15th break-in to a car in the Annandale subdivision, where the murder weapon was allegedly stolen.

Chase Johnson is accused of firing the shots that struck Brown, and Aaron Johnson (no relation) allegedly drove the dark colored vehicle seen leaving the crime scene. Deputies would not release any additional details regarding a motive at this time, citing the on-going investigation.

Three other men have been charged for various crimes in connection with aiding and abetting the suspects following the murder. Conner Lewis Wilson, 17, also of 3203 Chippendale Rd in Monroe, was charged with Felony Obstruction of Justice and Accessory After The Fact to Murder. Conner Wilson is accused of transporting Chase Johnson to West Virginia following the murder, and for providing false information to investigators in order to aid Johnson's escape out of state. Conner Wilson's father, Michael Philip Wilson, 61, same address, was also charged with

Felony Obstruction of Justice for providing what investigators allege was misleading information to divert attention from the murder suspects. Additionally, Wilson Richard Taylor, 21, of 3708 Brookstone Trail in Indian Trail, has been charged with Felony Obstruction of Justice, Possession With Intent to Sell and Deliver Marijuana, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Taylor was an acquaintance of the victim, and sometimes stayed at the victim's residence. Taylor was also one of the persons attending a gathering at the victim's home at the time of the murder, and was originally interviewed as an eyewitness. Taylor is accused of withholding pertinent information about the murder suspects from investigators that night, and with possession of drugs and drug implements found at the scene the night of the murder.

One additional man has been charged as a co-defendant to William Aaron Johnson in the original theft of the purported murder weapon from a vehicle in the Annandale subdivision. Wesley Tyler Hollingsworth, 19, of 2019 Triple Crown Drive, Indian Trail, has been charged with Possession of a Stolen Firearm. Hollingsworth is alleged to have participated in the Annandale vehicle break-in with Johnson, but Hollingsworth was not involved in the homicide on Saturday night.

In an even stranger twist, investigators have charged two additional men in connection with a previously unreported robbery that surfaced as investigators interviewed subjects in connection with Christopher Brown's murder. Javonte Dtavious Truesdale, 20, of 1809 Travis Court, Indian Trail, and Jacob Lee Lopez, 20, of 5301 Creft Circle in Lake Park were both charged with Robbery With a Dangerous Weapon in connection with the armed robbery of yet another Indian Trail man residing in the 3700 block of Brookstone Trail. Truesdale and Lopez are accused of robbing the man in early May of money and drugs at gunpoint.

"As you can see, this was a very complicated case that a team of investigators worked tirelessly to bring to a resolution. I appreciate the dedication of our detectives, and the valuable assistance provided to us by District Attorney Trey Robison, the SBI, the West Virginia State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms." said Sheriff Cathey. As a result of this case and the work done by investigators, significant new inroads have been made into the illicit drug trade in the region. "We have a much better understanding of who is dealing to whom, and we plan to act on that information," he continued.

Arrest information for all named suspects is as follows:

Chase Montgomery Johnson, W/M 18
3203 Chippendale Rd.
Monroe, NC 28079

Charges:	First Degree Murder Robbery w/Dangerous Weapon Conspiracy to Commit Robbery w/Dangerous Weapon Possession of Stolen Firearm
Bond:	No Bond/ UCJ Pending Court Appearance
Court:	District Criminal Court 7/23/13 @ 9:30 am

William Aaron Johnson, W/M 18
1010 Triple Crown Dr.
Indian Trail, NC 28079

Charges: First Degree Murder
Robbery w/Dangerous Weapon
Conspiracy to Commit Robbery w/Dangerous Weapon
Breaking & Entering a Motor Vehicle
Larceny of a Firearm
Possession of Stolen Firearm
Bond: No Bond/UCJ Pending Court Appearance
Court: District Criminal Court 7/23/13 @ 9:30 am

Conner Lewis Wilson, W/M 17
3203 Chippendale Rd.
Indian Trail, NC 28079

Charges: Obstruction of Justice
Accessory After the Fact to Murder
Bond: \$100,000 Secured/UCJ
Court: District Criminal Court 7/23/13 @ 9:30 am

Michael Philip Wilson, W/M 61
3203 Chippendale Rd.
Indian Trail, NC 28079

Charges: Obstruction of Justice
Bond: \$10,000 Secured/UCJ
Court: District Criminal Court 7/23/13 @ 9:30 am

Wilson Richard Taylor, W/M 21
3708 Brookstone Trail
Indian Trail, NC 28079

Charges: Obstruction of Justice
Possession w/Intent to Sell & Deliver Marijuana
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Bond: \$60,000 Secured/UCJ
Court: District Criminal Court 7/23/13 @ 9:30 am

Wesley Tyler Hollingsworth, W/M 19
2013 Triple Crown Dr.
Indian Trail, NC 28079

Charge: Possession of a Stolen Firearm
Bond: \$25,000 Secured/UCJ
Court: District Criminal Court 7/23/13 @ 9:30 am

Javonte Dtavious Truesdale, B/M 20
1809 Travis Court
Indian Trail, NC 28079

Charge: Robbery w/Dangerous Weapon
Bond: Information not available at time of news release
Court: District Criminal Court 7/23/13 @ 9:30 am

Jacob Lee Lopez, B/M 20
5301 Creft Circle
Lake Park, NC 28079

Charge: Robbery w/Dangerous Weapon
Bond: Information not available at time of news release
Court: District Criminal Court 7/23/13 @ 9:30 am

Sheriff's investigators are not available for interview this evening. Personnel will be available to field questions tomorrow during normal business hours.

###

Contact: Union County Sheriff's Office @ 704-283-3723