



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

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04/25/2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUVENILE CHARGED WITH 1st DEGREE MURDER

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Trystan L. Westrip, 17 of Republic, Missouri, has been charged today with murder in the first degree, armed criminal action, tampering in the first degree, and attempted arson in the second degree. These charges are from events which occurred on October 21, 2016, when Westrip went to the home of Ms. Mary Shisler in Strafford, Greene County, Missouri, and repeatedly stabbed her.

Westrip has been in the custody of Greene County Juvenile authorities since his apprehension on October 21, 2016. Under Missouri law, the juvenile court initially received this case because Westrip was sixteen at the time of the offense. Today, the Honorable Andy Hosmer, the Juvenile Court Judge, entered an order allowing prosecution of Westrip as an adult. Westrip has been moved from the juvenile detention facility to the Greene County Jail where he is being held without bond.

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Copies of the felony complaint and probable statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney T. Myers. It is being investigated by the Greene County Sheriff's Office and Detective Joseph Fletcher is the lead investigator assigned to the case.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

Associate Division _____

STATE OF MISSOURI,

Plaintiff,

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Case No. 1731-CR02558-WJ

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OCN#

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PA File No. 077380234

TRYSTAN L. WESTRIP,

Defendant.

FELONY COMPLAINT

COUNT I

(Missouri Charge Code: 565.020-001Y19840999.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.020, RSMo, committed the class A felony of murder in the first degree punishable upon conviction under Section 565.033, RSMo, in that on or about October 21, 2016 in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant after deliberation, knowingly caused the death of M.S. by stabbing her.

COUNT II

(Missouri Charge Code: 571.015-001Y19755299.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the felony of armed criminal action, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about October 21, 2016, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of murder in the first degree as charged in Count I, all allegations of which are incorporated herein by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of murder in the first degree by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a dangerous instrument, a knife.

COUNT III

(Missouri Charge Code: 569.080-002Y20052999.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 569.080.1(2), RSMo, committed the class C felony of tampering in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about October 21, 2016, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly and without the consent of the owner unlawfully operated an automobile, a 2004 Dodge Dakota.

COUNT IV
(Missouri Charge Code: 569.050-001Y197720199.1)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 564.011, RSMo, committed the class D felony of attempted arson in the second degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 564.011, 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about October 21, 2016, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant tried to start a fire in M.S.'s residence at 8347 N. Farm Road 223, an inhabitable structure, and such conduct was a substantial step toward the commission of the crime of arson in the second degree and was done for the purpose of committing such arson.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached probable cause statement concerning this matter, which statement is made a part hereof and is submitted herewith as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

WHEREFORE, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

DAN PATTERSON
Prosecuting Attorney of the County of
Greene, State of Missouri, by



Electronically Signed;

T. Todd Myers
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
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FAX (417) 868-4160



GREENE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT



Date: 10/22/2016 Case #: GCS161021006833

I, JOSEPH FLETCHER, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that TRYSTAN L WESTRIP, White/Male, DOB [REDACTED] 2000, committed one or more criminal offenses.
2. The following crime(s) happened on 2016/10/21 14:00 - 2016/10/21 17:47 at 8347 N FARM ROAD 223 RD in Greene County, Missouri.
3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On October 21st, 2016, Greene County Deputies were dispatched to 8347 N. Farm Road 223, Strafford, Greene County, Missouri, in reference to a possible missing adult and burglary. Upon arrival, the Deputies made contact with a neighbor of 80 year old female, M.S. (DOB: [REDACTED]/35). The neighbor reported to the Deputies he observed a green passenger vehicle pull into his driveway at approximately 14:00 hours, back out quickly and then pull into M.S.'s driveway. The neighbor stated he did not recognize the green vehicle as being from the area. The neighbor stated he left the residence shortly after observing the green passenger vehicle and when he returned home, he noticed M.S.'s vehicle was pulled to the back door of the residence and the doors of her vehicle were open.

The neighbor went to check on M.S. at approximately 17:30 hours and observed M.S.'s vehicle was missing from the driveway. The neighbor noticed the green passenger vehicle was still parked in the driveway, with the trunk left open. The neighbor went to the back door of M.S.'s residence, which he found to be standing open. The neighbor reported smelling a strong odor of propane or gasoline emitting from inside the residence and entered the residence to check on M.S. The neighbor called into the house for M.S. but got no answer. The neighbor noticed a gas heater and a burner to the stove were both turned on, so he turned them off and contacted 911. The neighbor described the interior of the residence as appearing to be "ransacked."

When Deputies arrived at the location, they discovered the back door was standing open and they could smell the strong odor of some type of fuel or accelerant. The Deputies performed a protective sweep, in an effort to locate M.S., but were not able to locate her. During the protective sweep, the Deputies observed in plain view a bottle of lighter fluid on the kitchen table, which appeared to have been cut open and some toilet paper with a match sticking up from it also on the table. On the way out of the residence, Deputies located two spots of possible blood on the inside of the door, near the door handle.

The green passenger vehicle was still present at M.S.'s residence and a VIN check showed the vehicle was linked to a runaway juvenile, T.W. (DOB: [REDACTED] 00), listed as missing out of Republic, Missouri. Vehicle information was provided for M.S., which showed she owned a 2004 Maroon and silver Dodge Dakota, bearing Missouri license plate 640-PP3. Information was broadcast to

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surrounding law enforcement agencies and a short time later, the vehicle was located and stopped by a Missouri State Highway Patrolman in Marshfield, Missouri. The driver and sole occupant of the vehicle was detained and identified as T.W., the missing juvenile. During the contact with T.W., he made some spontaneous statements, saying he killed the "old lady" who the truck belonged to and drug her body into a field, close to the residence.

T.W. was transported to the crime scene, where he pointed out to Deputies where M.S.'s body was located. M.S. was located, deceased as T.W. described, with multiple stab wounds to her head. T.W. was transported to the Greene County Sheriff's Office. He was read juvenile certification rights, which he agreed to and was interviewed in the presence of a Juvenile Officer and his step-father. During the post Miranda interview, T.W. stated he decided to leave his home, in Republic, on the morning of October 21st, 2016, after an altercation with his parents. T.W. stated after making a couple of stops, he decided his vehicle, the green 1995 Subaru Impreza found in M.S.'s driveway, would not make it Canada, his planned destination.

T.W. said he travelled north and began driving around on back roads, until he spotted a house that appeared to be abandoned, with a Dodge Dakota in the driveway. T.W. said he had never been to the residence and didn't know M.S. T.W. said he pulled into the driveway of the residence and a short time later, an elderly female came out of the house and talked to him. T.W. said when he saw the female exit the residence, he placed a knife into his pants pocket, in case he needed it. T.W. said the female, M.S., offered to take him to the gas station and buy him some gasoline. T.W. said he didn't want to go to the gas station with M.S., so he positioned his vehicle behind her, so she couldn't pull her vehicle out of the driveway. T.W. said he and M.S. then went inside of M.S.'s residence.

Once inside the residence, T.W. said M.S. gave him her home phone and her cell phone and told him to call someone who could help him. T.W. said he dialed some numbers on the phones and pretended to try and call someone. T.W. said M.S. then told him she wanted him to walk to the neighbor's house with her, to see if the neighbor could help him. T.W. said M.S. was walking in front on him, along the roadway of Farm Road 223, when he retrieved the knife from his pocket and stabbed M.S. in the left temple. T.W. said he assisted M.S. to the ground and saw she was still breathing, so he stabbed her in the head again.

T.W. said he lifted M.S.'s body over a fence and drug her body into a field, in an attempt to conceal her body. T.W. said he thought M.S.'s body twitched, so he decided to "get it over with" and stabbed her approximately 7 more times in the head. T.W. said M.S.'s pants came down in the process of getting her body over the fence, so he removed his shirt, which was covered with M.S.'s blood and placed it over her exposed body.

T.W. said he then walked to M.S.'s residence, entered a shed on the property, where he stole some items and kicked in the door to the residence. Once inside, T.W. said he went through M.S.'s entire residence, looking for items he could steal that he could use later. T.W. said he took some nails, some syringes, medications, M.S.'s purse and a bone handled knife from inside the house. T.W. said he loaded the items he stole from inside of the residence into her vehicle and then unloaded all of the items from his vehicle and placed them inside of M.S.'s vehicle. T.W. said he retrieved a bottle of lighter fluid he brought with him in his vehicle and entered M.S.'s residence.

T.W. said he poured the lighter fluid all over the floors of M.S.'s residence and turned on a gas heater and a stove burned. T.W. said he soaked some toilet paper in gasoline and placed it on the

kitchen table, lighting a match and sticking it in the gas-soaked toilet paper. T.W. said he left the residence, thinking he was setting it on fire, to destroy the evidence. T.W. said he drove away from the residence in M.S.'s vehicle, stopping on the roadway. T.W. said he couldn't see any smoke or flames, so he realized his plan to burn down the residence had not worked. T.W. said he continued driving M.S.'s vehicle until he reached Marshfield, Missouri. He said he stopped a few places, including a camp, where he stole a firearm, prior to being stopped by law enforcement and detained.

The facts contained above are true.

Joseph Fletcher 515/378
Signature

G378
DSN

Sergeant
Title

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

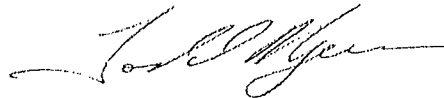
STATE OF MISSOURI,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) Case No.
)
) PA File No. 077380234
TRYSTAN WESTRIP)
Defendant.)

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S BAIL/BOND RECOMMENDATION

The bail/bond recommendation of the Greene County Prosecutor, in this case, is as follows:

1. Hold without bond.
2. The State requests the Court hold the defendant without bond based upon the following factors:
 - a. Nature of the offense. Westrip brutally killed an elderly victim who tried to help him. After killing the victim he attempted to burn her house down in order to avoid detection and apprehension.
 - b. Dangerousness of offender. The victim in this case was a random individual to the defendant. Westrip's behavior establishes that the general public is in danger when he is allowed to freely interact with people.
 - c. There is no suitable home plan if a bond were set. Westrip began the day of October 21st living with his mother and step-father. He got into an argument with them and fled his home. After leaving his home, his grandparents also attempted to have contact with him on October 21st. Westrip refused to stop and fled their assistance. Westrip's family does not have the ability to control or influence his actions.
3. If the Court is inclined to set a bond, the State requests a hearing to present evidence pursuant to Section 544.676, RSMo, and to discuss bond conditions.

Respectfully submitted,



Electronically Signed;

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