

Death Investigation Ruled Homicide 07/09/12

The Joplin Police Department responded to a call of a deceased person at 1912 S. Pearl at 0842 hours on July 6, 2012. Jacob A Wages, age 23, was found deceased at the residence.

The autopsy, which was originally scheduled for today, was moved up to Saturday, with preliminary results showing the cause of death as a homicide. The manner of death is currently being withheld due to investigative reasons. The Tri-State Major Case Squad was activated Saturday afternoon, and investigators followed up on over 100 leads over the weekend.

Investigators have identified a suspect, Daniel D. Hartman, age 17, of Tulsa. A warrant for first degree murder, armed criminal action, and first degree burglary has been issued through the Jasper County Prosecutors office, with bond set at \$400,000 surety, plus additional \$50,000 cash. Hartman is not in police custody, and police encourage anyone with information on his whereabouts to call their respective law enforcement agency, or Heartland Crime Stoppers at (417) 782-TIPZ (8479).

Police also arrested two individuals for first degree burglary of the victim's home. Johnathan J. Taylor, age 19, of Joplin, and Cody E. Stephens, age 20, of Parsons, KS have both been charged with first degree burglary through Jasper County, bond set at \$50,000 surety, plus \$5,000 cash each.

Photos of all three are attached to this release. The investigation is ongoing and more information will be released as it becomes available.



Murder Suspect Daniel Hartman



Burglary Suspect Jonathan Taylor



Burglary Suspect Cody Stephens