

Teen who had been in hiding comes forward

By RYAN SMITH
News Tribune

After almost two weeks of hiding from police, Jeffrey Abbott — the Jefferson City teen charged with the fatal shooting of Winfred Kidd — finally turned himself in Wednesday afternoon.

"This was not unexpected," said Cole County Prosecutor Bill Tackett. "His mother indicated he'd turn himself in after the holidays."

Abbott, 17, is now being held in Cole County jail on \$1 million bond. No court dates have yet been scheduled.

Abbott was charged on Dec. 16 with voluntary manslaughter and armed criminal action. But police could not locate him after they obtained a warrant for his arrest.

Police believe Abbott may have been alerted that he was to be arrested after a meeting at the Community Center initiated by Tackett on Dec. 12.

During the meeting, prosecutors and police met with members of Kidd's family and other citizens in an attempt to locate a key witness named "Mikey" who had not yet been interviewed.

Mikey was found during the



Jeffrey Abbott

meeting and spoke with police and prosecutors. Information from Mikey and another witness who allegedly spoke with Abbott on the phone after the incident led Tackett to file charges.

Abbott, who was 16 years old at the time of the shooting, had been free since Oct. 7, a day after he was certified as an adult in court. Prior to that, he had been

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held in the Prenger Center after turning himself in to police on Aug. 29.

Abbott turned himself in to the Jefferson City Police Department about 4:45 p.m. Wednesday without incident.