

One charged, one arrested in double murder

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Thursday

Third suspect sought

By RYAN SMITH
News Tribune

A Jefferson City man has been charged and a second man arrested for Friday's double homicide in the 1100 block of Jefferson Street.

Dennis D. Washington, 33, was arrested Tuesday night and is currently being held in Cole County jail on a \$1 million bond. Prosecutors charged him with two counts of second-degree murder and one count of second-degree assault.

Prosecutor Bill Tackett said he expects charges soon on the second suspect, who also is jailed for the murder.

Meanwhile, police say they still are searching for a third suspect in the case and hope to have him in custody sometime today.

Police believe the three men were responsible for the murders of Ernest F. Wilson, 30, and Quentin A. Chandler, 31, both of Jefferson City.

Money and drugs were the motive for the shootings, Capt.

Michael Smith said Thursday.

"Our initial investigation indicates this was a result of a confrontation over a theft of money and drugs," said Smith.

In an interview with police, Washington claimed he, Chandler and two other men went to a residence, located at 1113 Jefferson St., to confront Wilson about money they believe he stole from their neighboring apartment.

Washington told police they had planned to confront Wilson and attempt to get their money back. As they approached Wilson, two of the men displayed handguns.

Chandler and Wilson began arguing, at which time Wilson tried to walk out of the basement. Chandler grabbed him and one of the gunmen fired a shot that struck Chandler in the head.

A second gunman ran after Wilson and fired two shots at Wilson. He was struck once.

Police say preliminary autopsy results confirm Chandler was killed from a single shot to his



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head and Wilson from a shot that went through his arm and into his chest. Bullets from 9mm pistols were found, though police could not confirm if the four casings found were from the same weapon.

Chief Roger Schroeder said he was proud of his department for working extremely hard on the case.

"Initially, we didn't have a lot of leads, but as a result of a lot of hard work on this case, we were able to solve it," said Schroeder. "We also appreciate the assistance we received from the prosecutors"

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office and Sheriff's Department."

"At the same time, we are saddened for the Chandler and Wilson families. No one can understand their heartache right now," Schroeder added.

No other details surrounding the case could be released yet, said Smith.

Police have scheduled a press conference at 3 p.m. today to "update the community" on the shooting.

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