



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2020

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UPDATE: Arrest made in Independence homicides

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and the Independence Police Department made an arrest Sunday evening connected to the murders of two Independence men.

KBI agents and Independence police officers served an arrest warrant at the Labette County Jail around 5:15 p.m. on Oct. 18, to 18-year-old James T. S. Gofourth of Independence. The arrest warrant alleged that Gofourth committed two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of 27-year-old Tyler Cook and 24-year-old Rodricus Dawson, and one count of attempted first-degree murder for injuring a 27-year-old Independence woman. Gofourth was already in custody at the jail for suspected offenses unrelated to the Friday morning homicides.

The 27-year-old Independence woman hurt during this incident remains hospitalized.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the KBI at 1-800-KS-CRIME, or the Independence Police Department at 620-332-1700. Tips can also be submitted online at <https://www.kbi.ks.gov/sar>.

The investigation is ongoing.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 16, 2020

Contact: Melissa Underwood
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UPDATE: Homicide Investigation in Independence

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and the Independence Police Department continue to investigate the deaths of two Independence men.

The homicide victims have been identified as 27-year-old Tyler D. Cook and 24-year-old Rodricus A. Dawson. Both men are from Independence.

A 27-year-old woman from Independence was also injured during this incident. She is expected to survive.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the KBI at 1-800-KS-CRIME, or the Independence Police Department at 620-332-1700. Tips can also be submitted online at <https://www.kbi.ks.gov/sar>.

The investigation is ongoing.

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EARLIER RELEASE
October 16, 2020

Contact: Melissa Underwood
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Homicide Investigation in Independence

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and the Independence Police Department are investigating two deaths that occurred overnight in Independence, Kan.

The Independence Police Department requested KBI assistance at approximately 4:15 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 16. Special agents and the Crime Scene Response Team responded.

At approximately 3:45 a.m., the Independence Police Department received a 911 call from a citizen who reported hearing gunfire and seeing a vehicle that had crashed into an apartment.

When officers arrived at the 500 block of N. Penn Ave. in Independence, they discovered the crashed vehicle, and two deceased male subjects. They also located an injured female subject. EMS responded, and they flew the woman to a Joplin hospital. Both male subjects were pronounced deceased at the scene. They will be identified once all appropriate next of kin are notified.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the KBI at 1-800-KS-CRIME, or the Independence Police Department at 620-332-1700.

The investigation is ongoing. Nothing further will be released at this time.

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