



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney

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RE: Press Release – Corrected Copy to Reflect Local Agencies Who Participated

BRANDON BANKS, CAPE GIRARDEAU, FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER

A Jackson County jury returned a guilty verdict against a Cape Girardeau man for the first degree murder of Marsha Brown, 40, also of Cape Girardeau.

Brandon L. Banks, 30, was found guilty by a Jackson County Jury on September 22, 2016, of First Degree Murder, three counts of Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm, and Possession of Weapon by a Felon. The Jury deliberated for less than two hours before returning its verdict.

On January 14, 2014, Jackson County deputies were dispatched to Potters Road in Makanda, Illinois, in response to the discovery of a body found in a grassy embankment on the side of that road. Brown's body was identified through a driver's license and other identification found in her pocket.

Brown's family and acquaintances reported that Marsha was last seen on January 13, 2014, between the hours of 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., when she left her home in Cape Girardeau enroute to Carbondale, Illinois, with Brandon Banks and two others. Subsequent interviews with witnesses revealed that the group traveled to Carbondale to attend a party at a local Motel. During the party, an argument ensued between Banks and Brown and at one point the altercation became physical. Brown placed a 9-1-1 call to the Carbondale Police Station and reported that she was being held against her will, but did not know the name or location of the hotel. She terminated the call before her location could be determined by the police department. Banks became suspicious that Brown had called police and he instructed the group to get in the car to leave Carbondale immediately.

Banks and Brown continued to argue in the car and Banks became irate with Brown. He ordered the driver to stop the car on Potters Road and demanded that everyone exit the vehicle. Once outside the vehicle, Banks shot Brown in the face and then fired at least two more shots which struck her body. Banks then ordered everyone back in the car and left the scene leaving Brown's body in the embankment to be discovered the next morning by a passerby.

Banks faces a sentence of natural life in prison. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled in approximately 60 days. Bank's has been in custody since his arrest in St. Louis two days after the shooting.

This case was investigated by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office , Carbondale Police Department, and Murphysboro Police Department with assistance from the Cape Girardeau Police Department, the St. Louis Police Department, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the U.S. Marshal's Office, and the U.S. Secret Service.

State's Attorney Michael C. Carr and Assistant State's Attorney Abigail Dinn handled the prosecution.