

<b>WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEWS MEDIA RELEASE</b>		<b>NEWS RELEASE NUMBER 2019-015</b>
<b>INFORMATION: MURDER INVESTIGATION (UPDATE)</b>		
<b>DATE: MARCH 21, 2019</b>	<b>TIME 4:00 P.M.</b>	<b>PAGE 1 OF 1</b>

On Monday, December 10, 2018 at approximately 1:20 p.m., the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department was dispatched to the 9200 block of Knapp Rd. in rural Winnebago County for a deceased male. Deputies found a deceased male off the roadway in a tree line. It appeared as if the male was intentionally disposed of at this location and did not live in the area.

An autopsy was performed by the Winnebago County Coroner's Office and the victim was identified as Jamie R. Stephens (age 31) of Rockford and the cause of death was due to several gunshot wounds.

On January 23, 2019, Winnebago County Sheriff's Detectives arrested Nickles T. Parks 4/22/92 and charged him with 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder, Armed Robbery and Concealing a Homicidal Death. He is currently in the Winnebago County Jail.

On March 20, 2019, Winnebago County State's Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross authorized charges against a second suspect and Detectives obtained an arrest warrant for the following person:

**~Joshua J. Whittie 1/2/00 of Rockford**

- First Degree Murder**
- Armed Robbery**
- Concealing a Homicidal Death**

**\*\*Whittie is currently in Custody at another corrections facility\*\***

The charges against Parks and Whittie are merely accusations and they are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. SHERIFF</li> <li>: CHIEF DEPUTY</li> <li>: DEPUTY CHIEF OF DETECTIVE BUREAU</li> <li>: DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL BUREAU</li> <li>: DEPUTY CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU</li> <li>: DEPUTY CHIEF OF SUPPORT SERVICES</li> <li>: SUPERINTENDENT OF CORRECTIONS</li> <li>: ACCREDITATION MANAGER</li> <li>: MACHESNEY PARK SECTION SUPERVISOR</li> <li>: FOREST PRESERVE SECTION SUPERVISOR</li> <li>: ESDA SECTION DIRECTOR</li> <li>: PATROL ROLL CALL BOOK</li> <li>: PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER</li> <li>: 1ST FLOOR BULLETIN BOARD</li> <li>: WEB SITE COORDINATOR</li> </ul> <p>S/A-32C REVISED 07/01/12</p>	<p><b>SHERIFF GARY CARUANA</b></p> <hr/> <p>SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZING RELEASE</p>
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