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N e w s R e l e a s e

Captain Pat Yoes
Public Information Officer
January 11, 2017

On Monday, January 9, 2017 around 9:45 a.m., the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office was notified of a body located on a side road near Highway 3160 in Hahnville, LA. Deputies arrived and located the body of Ryan Joseph Dubuc, a 28 year old male from Metairie, Louisiana. Dubuc had multiple gunshot wounds and was pronounced deceased on scene.

It is believed that Dubuc left his residence in Metairie, LA around 5:30 a.m. on January 9, 2017 heading to his place of employment at Cornerstone in Jefferson Parish. Dubuc was a contractor working at Cornerstone. Dubuc stopped at Birdie's Food and Fuel in Luling where the suspect entered the vehicle with the victim and left. This in turn led to the robbery, carjacking, and murder of Dubuc.

This morning officers arrested Jerel Anthony Smith without incident in relation to the robbery and murder of Ryan Dubuc. Jerel Smith is being charged with First Degree Murder, Armed Robbery with Use of a Firearm, and Carjacking.

On December 29, 2016 another Armed Robbery was reported at the same Birdies Fuel and Fuel in Luling. In this incident the suspect approached the victim in the parking lot demanding money. After a brief struggle, the victim surrendered a small amount of money and the suspect fled. Through Dubuc's murder investigation, detectives developed a witness to the December 29th robbery which led to Smith being charged with Armed Robbery in that incident as well. Smith is a 31 year old male of 1034 Luling Estates Drive in Luling, Louisiana. Jerel Smith is currently housed in the Nelson Coleman Correctional Center.



Jerel Anthony Smith