

FILED
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

10 JAN 14 AM 10:52

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

SS: _____

PULASKI COUNTY
PULASKI COUNTY ARKANSAS

COUNTY OF PULASKI)

AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANT

The undersigned, Sgt. Mike Blain, of the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, being duly sworn, deposes and says that there is reasonable cause to believe that in the residence described as: 724 Shamburger Road, Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas; the premises is further described as a white double wide mobile home with black window shutters, a wood porch, a white front door with the front door facing south and a metal storage building on the north side of the mobile home, with the numbers 724 on the mailbox, located at the roadside on the west side of the driveway, there is being concealed certain property, to-wit: firearm(s), firearm ammunition that is similar to known evidence, wood pallet(s), bloody clothes and/or articles, Michael Palmer's personal property, petroleum fuel containers, evidence of a shotgun blast, vehicle tires; tending to demonstrate that criminal offenses have been committed, to-wit: Capital Murder, (5-10-101) and Arson, (5-38-301) and as there exists reasonable cause to believe that the above facts and conditions to exist, a search and seizure warrant should be issued.

FACTS CONSTITUTING REASONABLE CAUSE

The affiant states that he is an investigator with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division. The affiant further states the following facts as establishing reasonable cause to justify issuance of a search and seizure warrant:

1. The affiant states that on the afternoon of December 12, 2009, PCSO Investigators responded to the dead-end of Wilbern Road in Sweethome, Pulaski County, Arkansas regarding a death investigation. Employees from nearby Granite Mountain Quarry reported seeing smoke and then flames from a vehicle fire, shortly after noon on 12-12-2009 at the dead-end of Wilbern Road. First responding deputies observed the remains of two (2) victims inside the vehicle, a 1988 GMC pick-up truck. Both sets of remains were burned beyond recognition but appeared to be those of an adult and a small child. Registration information from the truck's license plate disclosed that the truck was registered to Michael Palmer, of Hensley, AR. However, none of the victim's property that could be used for identification or the remnants of such property was recovered from the burned vehicle.
2. On December 12, 2009, while processing the truck for evidence, Investigators collected several nails of a type used to construct wood pallets from the bed of the truck, which gave rise to the suspicion that a wood pallet may have been placed on top of the victim in the bed of the truck to act as a fire accelerant. Due to the evidence located in the bed of the vehicle and the position, condition and location of the vehicle where it was recovered leads investigators to believe that the victim's body was placed in the bed of the vehicle prior to the vehicle being placed at its recovered location indicating that the victim was possibly killed at another location and transported to the recovery location.

FILED

3. On December 12, 2009 Investigators went to 1915 Scotch Pine Road in Hensley, AR, the address listed on the vehicle's registration. Upon arrival, Investigators made contact with Sharon and George Pittman, who are Michael Palmer's mother and step-father. Mr. and Mrs. Pittman said that Michael Palmer and his daughter, Hannah Dowdie-Palmer, who is not quite two years old, left the residence at 1915 Scotch Pine Road at about 10:30 a.m. on December 12, 2009 in Palmer's 1988 GMC pick-up truck to visit a friend of Palmer's, who the Pittman's knew only as "Todd." The Pittmans said "Todd" lives somewhere off Dixon Road in Pulaski County.
4. Mr. Pittman provided Investigators with a cellular telephone number of (501) 781-1111 for "Todd." Mr. Pittman said that Michael Palmer had used Mr. Pittman's cellular telephone to call "Todd" just before leaving the Pittman residence to tell "Todd" that he was coming to visit.
5. On December 12, 2009 Investigators learned that cellular telephone number (501) 781-1111 is a Verizon cellular phone listed to Robert Todd Gatrell, age 20, of 724 Shamburger Road in Pulaski County. With Investigators present, George Pittman tried twice to call "Todd's" cell phone to try and learn the whereabouts of Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. Mr. Pittman received no answer and left voicemail messages.
6. Late in the evening of December 12, 2009 Investigators went to 724 Shamburger Road in Pulaski County and met with Robert Todd Gatrell. Investigators observed that Gatrell's residence is within one half mile of the dead-end of Wilbern Drive. Mr. Gatrell agreed to come to the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office to make a statement about this case. After having waived Miranda, Mr. Gatrell initially stated that he had not seen or spoken to Michael Palmer since Thursday December 10, 2009. Investigators then advised Mr. Gatrell that George and Sharon Pittman were present with Michael Palmer when Palmer used Mr. Pittman's cellular phone to call and speak to Mr. Gatrell at about 10:30 a.m. on December 12, 2009. Mr. Gatrell then stated that he had received two telephone calls from Michael Palmer on the morning of December 12, 2009. Mr. Gatrell said that during the second call, Mr. Palmer told Mr. Gatrell that he was coming to Gatrell's residence to visit. Mr. Gatrell stated that Mr. Palmer never arrived at his house. Mr. Gatrell denied any involvement in the death of Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer.
7. After making his statement, Investigators asked Mr. Gatrell for consent to search his residence. Mr. Gatrell refused to consent to any search.
8. On the morning of December 13, 2009, Investigators were contacted by Mr. Gatrell who advised that he had changed his mind and would now consent to a search of his residence, several hours after having refused to give consent. During the consent search, Investigators observed two (2) shotguns in the residence, one a 12 gauge, a 20 gauge and also found was a 50 caliber black powder rifle. Investigators also observed a wood pallet on the property constructed of nails of a type very similar to those found in the bed of Michael Palmer's pick-up truck. Investigators observed that Gatrell's residence at 724 Shamburger Road sits

on a shared lot with the residence at 710 Shamburger Road. The residence at 710 Shamburger Road is occupied by Charles Gatrell, who is Robert Todd Gatrell's grandfather.

- 10 JAN 14 AM 10:52
JULIUS G. GORDON
CLARK COUNTY ARKANSAS
9. On December 14, 2009 Investigators learned at the autopsy of Michael Palmer that his death had been caused by wounds from a shotgun.
 10. On December 22, 2009, Investigators were contacted by the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory regarding the firearm evidence recovered from Mr. Michael Palmer. The evidence was examined and determined that gunshot wounds to Mr. Palmer were caused by a 12 gauge shotgun using a 12 gauge brand shotgun shell size #4 with wading similar to that manufactured by Remington.
 11. On January 2, 2010, Investigators were contacted by Mr. Steve Morgan, who is the step-father of Robert Todd Gatrell and a deputy with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, regarding information pertaining to Todd. Mr. Morgan advised that on December 16, 2009, Todd Gatrell contacted him via telephone and advised him that he was suicidal and had placed a shotgun in his mouth on this date. Mr. Morgan responded to Todd's residence where he was transported to the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Mr. Morgan removed three shotguns from the residence for safekeeping. The weapons removed were a 12 gauge shotgun, a 20 gauge shotgun and a 50 caliber black powder rifle. Upon arrival at the hospital, it was learned that Todd had second degree burns on his back and indications of a burn on his right arm. Mr. Morgan advised that Todd stated that he had received the burns while burning trash on his property.
 12. On January 2, 2010, during my contact with Mr. Steve Morgan, he advised that on December 24, 2009 during a family Christmas gathering, Robert Todd Gatrell was present and had asked his grandfather, Charles Gatrell, for additional shotgun ammunition even though all of his weapons had been removed from the residence. It is Mr. Morgan's belief that Robert Todd Gatrell has obtained an additional weapon.
 13. On January 2, 2010, during my contact with Mr. Steve Morgan, he advised that he attended a birthday party for Tammy Markham's three year old son at the Chucky Cheese restaurant in North Little Rock. During this time, a conversation between Mr. Steve Morgan and Robert Todd Gatrell about two suspicious vehicles and occupants parked in the area close to the Gatrell residence was made. During the course of the conversation about the vehicle and its occupants and the contact made the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, Robert Todd Gatrell stated "I would have just shot them". Mr. Morgan stated that he was shocked by this statement from Mr. Gatrell. Mr. Morgan was asked if there were tires for the victim, Michael Palmer to steal as explained by Robert Todd Gatrell during his statement with investigators. Mr. Morgan stated that the only tires on the property would be on the property of Charles Gatrell at 710 Shamburger and they would be located in the shop building located between the two properties of 710 Shamburger and 724 Shamburger.
 14. On January 2, 2010, Mr. Morgan submitted to this investigator the three (3) weapons retrieved by him from Robert Todd Gatrell's residence along with the ammunition that was

contained in the weapons. Among the ammunition recovered were four Remington 12 gauge shotgun shells size #4.

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CLERK OF COURT
15. On January 4, 2010, a search warrant was issued for the medical records for Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell were obtained from Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Once obtained, a review of the records was conducted and found that Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell had been admitted to the Baptist Medical Center on December 17, 2009 for suicidal thoughts and had also received treatment for second degree burns on his lower back. The burned area is 49.5 cm x 16 cm and was treated with Silver Sulfadizine 400GM and dressing. Mr. Gatrell was also treated for Suicidal and Homicidal ideation. He was released on December 21, 2009.
16. On January 5, 2010, anonymous information was received by investigators that on the property of either 710 Shamburger Road or 724 Shamburger Road in Little Rock, the property of the victim, Mr. Michael Palmer, has been deposited in a well located on the property.
17. The affiant states that he will participate in the execution of the search and seizure warrant. Wherefore the affiant states that a search and seizure warrant be issued, allowing a search of the residence, vehicles, outbuildings and curtilage, to be conducted between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. within the next thirty days.

J. M. B. [Signature]
AFFIANT

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME ON THIS

6th DAY OF JANUARY, 2010
[Signature]

Search Warrant Return

I, Sgt. Mike Blain , executed the attached Search and Seizure Warrant on the 6 day of January , 2010, at 1145 ☒ a.m. / ☐ p.m. . The ☐ person, ☒ premises, ☐ vehicle were searched as follows: 724 Shamburger Road in Little Rock

A copy of the Search and Seizure Warrant and a receipt for the items seized, were left at 710 Shamburger Road and / or with Louise Gatrell .

The following is an inventory of the items seized:

- 1.3-12 gage shotgun shell casings found in back yard
- 2.Documentation containing the name of Michael Palmer
3. Indicia for Robert Todd Gatrell and Tammy Markham
- 4.1-curtain located inside 724 Shamburger Road
5. 2-shotgun wadings found in back yard
6. 1-pair of black pants with metal chains attached
7. 1-black leather jacket with damage to sleeve
8. 1-box of 12gauge shotgun shells #4 Shot

The inventory was completed in the presence of Lt. Hibbs

I swear that the facts and circumstances stated above are true and correct to best of my knowledge and belief and that the above is a complete and accurate inventory of all items seized.


Executing Officer

Subscribed, sworn, and returned before me this 14th day of January , 2010 at 10:48 ☒ a.m. / ☐ p.m..


Judicial Officer

Special Judge

1st page of 5 page document

Prosecuting Attorney's Form Affidavit

PCSO # 09-25895Form supplied by JOHN JOHNSON, DPA *John Johnson*Date: 01-20-2010IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

AFFIDAVIT FOR WARRANT OF ARREST FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSON:

ROBERT TODD GATRELL	11-10-1989	W	M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class	Y	Felony
POTENTIAL DEFENDANT'S NAME	DOB	RAC/SEX	SSN/DL			STATE AR
				<input type="checkbox"/> Class		Misdemeanor
724 SHAMBURGER LANE, LR						
ADDRESS		PHONE NUMBER		<input type="checkbox"/> Class		Violation

Pursuant to Rule 7.1 of the Arkansas Rules of Criminal Procedure, the undersigned affiant(s) being duly sworn, deposes and says that he has reason to believe that the above-named person has committed the offense of violating Ark. Code Ann. 5-10-101 Capital Murder (Count 1) on or

about the 12 day of DECEMBER 2009, committed by unlawfully

With the premeditated and deliberated purpose of causing the death of another person, the person causes the death of any person;

in Pulaski County, Arkansas, against the peace and dignity of the State of Arkansas.

FACTS CONSTITUTING REASONABLE CAUSE

I, INVESTIGATOR BLAIN, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I AM A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR WITH THE PULASKI COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE AND FACTUAL TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. The affiant states that on the afternoon of December 12, 2009, PCSO Investigators responded to the dead-end of Wilbern Road in Sweethome, Pulaski County, Arkansas regarding a death investigation. Employees from nearby Granite Mountain Quarry reported seeing smoke and then flames from a vehicle fire, shortly after noon on 12-12-2009 at the dead-end of Wilbern Road. First responding deputies observed the remains of two (2) victims inside the vehicle, a 1988 GMC pick-up truck. Both sets of remains were burned beyond recognition but appeared to be those of an adult and a small child. Registration information from the truck's license plate disclosed that the truck was registered to Michael Palmer of Hensley, AR. On December 12, 2009, while processing the truck for evidence, Investigators collected several nails of a type used to construct wood pallets from the bed of the truck, which gave rise to the suspicion that a wood pallet had been placed on top of the victim in the bed of the truck to act as a fire accelerant. On December 12, 2009, Investigators went to 1915 Scotch Pine Road in Hensley, AR, the address listed on the vehicle's registration. Upon arrival, Investigators made contact with Sharon and George Pittman, who are Michael Palmer's mother and step-father.

(continued on page 2 of 5 page document)

Page 2 of a 5 page document

Mr. and Mrs. Pittman said that Michael Palmer and his daughter, Hannah Dowdie-Palmer, who is not quite two years old, left the residence at 1915 Scotch Pine Road at about 10:30 a.m. on December 12, 2009 in Palmer's 1988 GMC pick-up truck to visit a friend of Palmer's, who the Pittman's knew only as "Todd." The Pittman's said "Todd" lives somewhere off Dixon Road in Pulaski County. Mr. Pittman provided Investigators with a cellular telephone number of () or "Todd." Mr. Pittman said that Michael Palmer had used Mr. Pittman's cellular telephone to call "Todd" just before leaving the Pittman residence to tell "Todd" that he was coming to visit.

On December 12, 2009 Investigators learned that cellular telephone number () is a Verizon cellular phone listed to Robert Todd Gatrell, age 20, of 724 Shamburger Road, off Dixon Road in Pulaski County. With Investigators present, George Pittman tried twice to call "Todd's" cell phone to try and learn the whereabouts of Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. Mr. Pittman received no answer and left voicemail messages.

Late in the evening of December 12, 2009, Investigators went to 724 Shamburger Road in Pulaski County and met with Robert Todd Gatrell. Investigators observed that Gatrell's residence is within one half mile of the dead-end of Wilbern Drive. Mr. Gatrell agreed to come to the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office to make a statement about this case. After having waived Miranda, Mr. Gatrell initially stated that he had not seen or spoken to Michael Palmer since Thursday December 10, 2009. Investigators then advised Mr. Gatrell that George and Sharon Pittman were present with Michael Palmer when Palmer used Mr. Pittman's cellular phone to call and speak to Mr. Gatrell at about 10:30 a.m. on December 12, 2009. Mr. Gatrell then stated that he had received two telephone calls from Michael Palmer on the morning of December 12, 2009. Mr. Gatrell said that during the second call, Mr. Palmer told Mr. Gatrell that he was coming to Gatrell's residence to visit and to steal some tires from Mr. Gatrell's grandfather's residence, which is next door to his, for his vehicle. Mr. Gatrell stated that he was opposed to Mr. Palmer stealing the tires from his grandfather, who is Charles Gatrell, and told him that he was not going to steal the tires for him. Mr. Gatrell stated that Mr. Palmer never arrived at his house. Mr. Gatrell denied any involvement in the death of Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. After making his statement, Investigators asked Mr. Gatrell for consent to search his residence. Mr. Gatrell refused to consent to any search.

On the morning of December 13, 2009 Investigators were contacted by Mr. Gatrell who advised that he had changed his mind and would now consent to a search of his residence, several hours after having refused to give consent. During the consent search, Investigators observed two (2) shotguns in the residence, one a 12 gauge, a 20 gauge and a 50 caliber black powder rifle. Investigators also observed a wood pallet on the property constructed of nails of a type very similar to those found in the bed of Michael Palmer's pick-up truck.

On December 14, 2009 Investigators learned at the autopsy of Michael Palmer that his death had been caused by a gunshot wound to the chest and head. The gunshot wounds were prior to the fire and the weapon was a shotgun. The death of Hannah Dowdie-Palmer was caused my smoke inhalation and thermal burns.

On December 17, 2009, the victim's were positively identified through DNA by the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory as Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer.

On December 18, 2009, an interview was conducted with Ms. Lynette Beeson, who is the ex-girlfriend of Michael Palmer. Ms. Beeson stated that she also knows Robert Todd Gatrell and stated that Palmer and Gatrell are friends. During the interview with Ms. Beeson, she stated that several months prior to his death, Michael Palmer had borrowed an All Terrain Vehicle from Mr. Gatrell and had sold the vehicle and not paid Mr. Gatrell for the vehicle. Ms. Beeson also stated that a few weeks prior to his death, Mr. Palmer had gotten some tires from Mr. Gatrell and Palmer had not paid him for those items either.

On December 22, 2009, Investigators were contacted by the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory regarding the firearm evidence recovered from Mr. Michael Palmer. The evidence regarding the gunshot wounds to Mr. Palmer were caused by a 12 gauge shotgun using a 12 gauge Remington brand shotgun shell size #4.

On January 2, 2010, Investigators were contacted by Mr. Steve Morgan, who is the step-father of Robert Todd Gatrell and who is a deputy with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, regarding information pertaining to Todd. Mr. Morgan advised that on December 16, 2009, Todd Gatrell contacted him via telephone and advised him that he was suicidal and had placed a shotgun in his mouth on this date. Mr. Morgan responded to Todd's residence where Mr. Gatrell was transported to the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Mr. Morgan had removed two shotguns, a 12 gauge shotgun and a 20 gauge shotgun, and a 50 caliber black powder rifle from the

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residence for safekeeping. Upon arrival at the hospital, it was learned that Todd had second degree burns on his back and indications of a burn on his right arm. Mr. Morgan advised that Todd's stated that he had received the burns while burning trash on his property.

On January 2, 2010, Mr. Morgan submitted the three (3) weapons retrieved by him from Robert Todd Gatrell's residence along with the ammunition that was contained in the weapons. Among the ammunition recovered were four Remington 12 gauge shotgun shells size #4.

On January 4, 2010, a search warrant was issued for the medical records for Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell were obtained from Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Once obtained, a review of the records was conducted and found that Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell had been admitted to the Baptist Medical Center on December 17, 2009 for suicidal thoughts and had also received treatment for second degree burns on his lower back. The burned area is 49.5 cm x 16 cm and was treated with Silver Sulfadiazine 400GM and dressing. Mr. Gatrell was also treated for Suicidal and Homicidal ideation. He was released on December 21, 2009.

On January 6, 2010, a search warrant was obtained for the property of 710 Shamburger Road and the residence of 724 Shamburger Road in Little Rock. The residence is the home of Robert Todd Gatrell and the property of Charles Gatrell Sr. During the search of the property, several items of evidence were located including spent shot gun shells matching the caliber and type of shot that was used in the crime, shot gun wading, 12 gauge #4 unused shotgun shells, possible blood evidence, clothing, petroleum containers, mail addressed to the victim Michael Palmer from the Department of Finance and Administration regarding his 1988 GMC truck, a compact disk vehicle visor holder with painted writing on the back that states "Lynette B (heart) Michael P Always" and mail addressed to 16100 Windham Drive, which is the victim's home address.

On January 14, 2010, an interview was conducted with Mr. Charles Russell Hardwick, who is the boyfriend of Mrs. Jamie Morgan and the mother of Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell. Mr. Hardwick stated that during the week of December 21, 2009, he had several contacts with Mrs. Morgan regarding this incident. Mr. Hardwick stated that Mrs. Morgan advised him that her son, Robert Todd Gatrell, had confessed to her that he had killed Mr. Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer after they arrived at his residence on December 12, 2009. Mr. Hardwick stated that she advised him that the victim, Mr. Michael Palmer was lead to the back yard behind a storage shed where her nephew was there with a shotgun or rifle and Mr. Palmer was shot once in the chest and then once in the head. Mrs. Morgan advised him that Mr. Gatrell and his cousin rolled Mr. Palmer up in a rug and put him in the back of Mr. Palmer's vehicle. She stated that Mr. Gatrell went into his residence where Hannah Dowdie-Palmer was playing with his girlfriend's son and lead her out of the residence to Mr. Palmer's vehicle and put her in the front of the vehicle. Mr. Gatrell then got into the driver's seat of the vehicle and drove it to Wilbern Lane in Little Rock and her nephew followed him in his vehicle. Once at the location, Mr. Gatrell and the nephew poured gasoline on the vehicle and set it on fire. She stated that Mr. Gatrell and her nephew then returned to 724 Shamburger Road and removed their clothing for disposal. She advised Mr. Hardwick that her brother, Charlie Gatrell, who is the father of her nephew, came to the residence and disposed of the clothing. Mrs. Morgan advised Mr. Hardwick that since the incident, Mr. Gatrell has contacted her depressed and stated that he has had nightmares where he hears Hannah crying as she is burning in the vehicle. Mr. Hardwick stated that he informed Mrs. Morgan that she needed to advise what she knew of the crime to authorities and advised her that if she did not, he would. He stated that she then advised him that she would come and talk with authorities about this incident and for him not to worry about it. Mr. Hardwick stated that since that date, she had sent him a text message regarding her going to authorities and issuing a statement and stated that it has been done. Mr. Hardwick stated that since he believed that she had come forward with the information, he did not contact authorities himself. Mr. Hardwick stated that he has several text messages from Mrs. Morgan during this time and that he had saved each one. He stated that on January 6, 2010, she had contacted him and advised him that the Sheriff's Office had conducted a search warrant at Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell's residence and that we had found out from Mr. Gatrell's new disposable cellular telephone Mr. Hardwick's name and number and that he would possibly be contacted regarding this investigation. He stated that she informed him to delete all of her text messages to him and advised him that his phone may be monitored. Since that date, Mr. Hardwick had learned from Mrs. Morgan that she had told Robert Todd Gatrell that she had told Mr. Hardwick about the crime. Mr. Hardwick stated that this concerned him and he feared for his safety. Mr. Hardwick stated that he has since spoken to Mrs. Morgan and no further conversations about this incident were conducted; however, their relationship has dwindled since her statement to him about this incident.

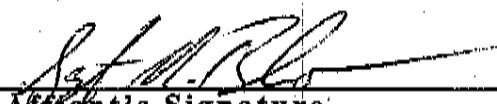
On January 20, 2010, a formal interview was conducted with Ms. Tammy Markham, who is the girlfriend of Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell, regarding this incident. Ms. Markham stated that during the week after Todd had returned home from the hospital, she questioned him regarding his desire to kill himself. Todd advised her that on December 12, 2009 he and Daniel Gatrell had killed Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. Ms. Markham stated that Todd advised her that on that date, Mr. Palmer arrived at their residence with his daughter, Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. He advised her that Mr. Palmer brought Hannah inside the residence to play with her son, Jessie. Mr. Palmer was then lead outside the residence by Todd where they met up with Daniel Gatrell, who was in possession of a shotgun.

Ms. Markham stated that Todd advised Mr. Palmer that he should have paid him his money and then Daniel Gatrell shot Mr. Palmer three times in quick session. She stated that one shot was to the abdomen, the next to the head and was unsure where the third round was shot. Ms. Markham stated that Todd then told her that Daniel refused to touch the body and made him (Todd) move Mr. Palmer's body to the bed of Mr. Palmer's pick-up truck. She stated that Todd then put a couple of pallets on top of Mr. Palmer's body and retrieved some gasoline from Mr. Charles Gatrell's workshop. Ms. Markham stated that she did not know who, but that Hannah was retrieved from the residence and put in the front seat of Mr. Palmer's vehicle. Ms. Markham stated that Todd drove Mr. Palmer's vehicle and Daniel Gatrell had followed driving Todd's truck. She stated that he advised her that they drove to the end of Wilbern Lane and he (Todd) had doused the truck with gasoline, including the interior of the vehicle and the infant child. Ms. Markham stated that as Todd was dousing the vehicle with gasoline, Daniel Gatrell threw a match igniting the fuel which caused Todd's shirt to catch on fire and burn his back. Ms. Markham stated that Todd advised her that they both then returned to the residence where she had made contact with them at that time. Ms. Markham stated that when she returned home, she saw the burns on Todd's back and Daniel had sunburn type markings around his eyes and forehead. Ms. Markham asked what had happened, which they replied that they had been burning trash behind the residence and it got out of control. After confessing the incident to her, she stated that Todd advised her that he had set up the incident intending to scare Mr. Palmer in paying him his money but that Daniel had shot Mr. Palmer and everything that he had done was under the direction of Daniel.

(Page 5 of 5 page document)

I swear that the allegations contained herein are the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

1.


Affiant's Signature

SERGEANT MIKE BLAIN #1206

Print Name

2900 S. WOODROW

LITTLE ROCK, AR 72204

Address

Phone

3.

Affiant's Signature / Witness

Print Name

Address

Phone

2.

Affiant's Signature

Print Name

Address

Phone

4.

Affiant's Signature / Witness

Print Name

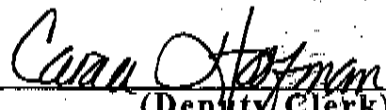
Address

Phone

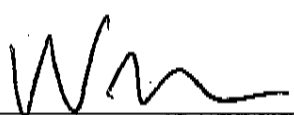
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20 day of Jan. 2010

District Court Clerk

By

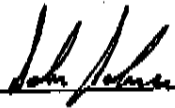

(Deputy Clerk)

I hereby find that this sworn affidavit demonstrates reasonable and probable cause for the issuance of a Warrant of arrest for the above-named individual for the above-stated offense.


District Judge
District Court, Pulaski County, AR

1st page of 6 page document

Prosecuting Attorney's Form Affidavit

PCSO # 09-25895Form supplied by JOHN JOHNSON, DPA Date: 01-25-2010IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

AFFIDAVIT FOR WARRANT OF ARREST FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSON:

DANIEL CHASE GATRELL	05-13-1993	W	M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Felony
POTENTIAL DEFENDANT'S NAME	DOB	RAC/SEX	SSN/DL	STATE	AR
10 CORAL LANE, JACKSONVILLE				<input type="checkbox"/> Class	<input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor
ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER			<input type="checkbox"/> Class	<input type="checkbox"/> Violation

Pursuant to Rule 7.1 of the Arkansas Rules of Criminal Procedure, the undersigned affiant(s) being duly sworn, deposes and says that he has reason to believe that the above-named person has committed the offense of violating Ark. Code Ann. 5-38-301 Arson on or

about the 12 day of DECEMBER 2009, committed by unlawfully

(A) A person commits arson if he or she:

(1) Starts a fire or causes an explosion with the purpose of destroying or otherwise damaging:

(A) An occupiable structure or motor vehicle that is the property of another person;

in Pulaski County, Arkansas, against the peace and dignity of the State of Arkansas.

FACTS CONSTITUTING REASONABLE CAUSE

I, INVESTIGATOR BLAIN, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I AM A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR WITH THE PULASKI COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE AND FACTUAL TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. The affiant states that on the afternoon of December 12, 2009, PCSO Investigators responded to the dead-end of Wilbern Road in Sweethome, Pulaski County, Arkansas regarding a death investigation. Employees from nearby Granite Mountain Quarry reported seeing smoke and then flames from a vehicle fire, shortly after noon on 12-12-2009 at the dead-end of Wilbern Road. First responding deputies observed the remains of two (2) victims inside the vehicle, a 1988 GMC pick-up truck. Both sets of remains were burned beyond recognition but appeared to be those of an adult and a small child. Registration information from the truck's license plate disclosed that the truck was registered to Michael Palmer of Hensley, AR. On December 12, 2009, while processing the truck for evidence, Investigators collected several nails of a type used to construct wood pallets from the bed of the truck, which gave rise to the suspicion that a wood pallet had been placed on top of the victim in the bed of the truck to act as a fire accelerant. On December 12, 2009, Investigators went to 1915 Scotch Pine Road in Hensley, AR, the address listed on the vehicle's registration. Upon arrival, Investigators made contact with Sharon and George Pittman, who are Michael Palmer's mother and step-father.

(continued on page 2 of 6 page document)

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Mr. and Mrs. Pittman said that Michael Palmer and his daughter, Hannah Dowdie-Palmer, who is not quite two years old, left the residence at 1915 Scotch Pine Road at about 10:30 a.m. on December 12, 2009 in Palmer's 1988 GMC pick-up truck to visit a friend of Palmer's, who the Pittman's knew only as "Todd." The Pittman's said "Todd" lives somewhere off Dixon Road in Pulaski County. Mr. Pittman provided Investigators with a cellular telephone number of (501) 319-5292 for "Todd." Mr. Pittman said that Michael Palmer had used Mr. Pittman's cellular telephone to call "Todd" just before leaving the Pittman residence to tell "Todd" that he was coming to visit.

On December 12, 2009 Investigators learned that cellular telephone number (501) 319-5292 is a Verizon cellular phone listed to Robert Todd Gatrell, age 20, of 724 Shamburger Road, off Dixon Road in Pulaski County. With Investigators present, George Pittman tried twice to call "Todd's" cell phone to try and learn the whereabouts of Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. Mr. Pittman received no answer and left voicemail messages.

Late in the evening of December 12, 2009, Investigators went to 724 Shamburger Road in Pulaski County and met with Robert Todd Gatrell. Investigators observed that Gatrell's residence is within one half mile of the dead-end of Wilbern Drive. Mr. Gatrell agreed to come to the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office to make a statement about this case. After having waived Miranda, Mr. Gatrell initially stated that he had not seen or spoken to Michael Palmer since Thursday December 10, 2009. Investigators then advised Mr. Gatrell that George and Sharon Pittman were present with Michael Palmer when Palmer used Mr. Pittman's cellular phone to call and speak to Mr. Gatrell at about 10:30 a.m. on December 12, 2009. Mr. Gatrell then stated that he had received two telephone calls from Michael Palmer on the morning of December 12, 2009. Mr. Gatrell said that during the second call, Mr. Palmer told Mr. Gatrell that he was coming to Gatrell's residence to visit and to steal some tires from Mr. Gatrell's grandfather's residence, which is next door to his, for his vehicle. Mr. Gatrell stated that he was opposed to Mr. Palmer stealing the tires from his grandfather, who is Charles Gatrell, and told him that he was not going to steal the tires for him. Mr. Gatrell stated that Mr. Palmer never arrived at his house. Mr. Gatrell denied any involvement in the death of Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. After making his statement, Investigators asked Mr. Gatrell for consent to search his residence. Mr. Gatrell refused to consent to any search.

On the morning of December 13, 2009 Investigators were contacted by Mr. Gatrell who advised that he had changed his mind and would now consent to a search of his residence, several hours after having refused to give consent. During the consent search, Investigators observed two (2) shotguns in the residence, one a 12 gauge, a 20 gauge and a 50 caliber black powder rifle. Investigators also observed a wood pallet on the property constructed of nails of a type very similar to those found in the bed of Michael Palmer's pick-up truck.

On December 14, 2009 Investigators learned at the autopsy of Michael Palmer that his death had been caused by a gunshot wound to the chest and head. The gunshot wounds were prior to the fire and the weapon was a shotgun. The death of Hannah Dowdie-Palmer was caused by smoke inhalation and thermal burns.

On December 17, 2009, the victim's were positively identified through DNA by the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory as Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer.

On December 18, 2009, an interview was conducted with Ms. Lynette Beeson, who is the ex-girlfriend of Michael Palmer. Ms. Beeson stated that she also knows Robert Todd Gatrell and stated that Palmer and Gatrell are friends. During the interview with Ms. Beeson, she stated that several months prior to his death, Michael Palmer had borrowed an All Terrain Vehicle from Mr. Gatrell and had sold the vehicle and not paid Mr. Gatrell for the vehicle. Ms. Beeson also stated that a few weeks prior to his death, Mr. Palmer had gotten some tires from Mr. Gatrell and Palmer had not paid him for those items either.

On December 22, 2009, Investigators were contacted by the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory regarding the firearm evidence recovered from Mr. Michael Palmer. The evidence regarding the gunshot wounds to Mr. Palmer were caused by a 12 gauge shotgun using a 12 gauge Remington brand shotgun shell size #4.

On January 2, 2010, Investigators were contacted by Mr. Steve Morgan, who is the step-father of Robert Todd Gatrell and who is a deputy with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, regarding information pertaining to Todd. Mr. Morgan advised that on December 16, 2009, Todd Gatrell contacted him via telephone and advised him that he was suicidal and had placed a shotgun in his mouth on this date. Mr. Morgan responded to Todd's residence where Mr. Gatrell was transported to the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Mr. Morgan had removed two shotguns, a 12 gauge shotgun and a 20 gauge shotgun, and a 50 caliber black powder rifle from the

residence for safekeeping. Upon arrival at the hospital, it was learned that Todd had second degree burns on his back and indications of a burn on his right arm. Mr. Morgan advised that Todd's stated that he had received the burns while burning trash on his property.

On January 2, 2010, Mr. Morgan submitted the three (3) weapons retrieved by him from Robert Todd Gatrell's residence along with the ammunition that was contained in the weapons. Among the ammunition recovered were four Remington 12 gauge shotgun shells size #4.

On January 4, 2010, a search warrant was issued for the medical records for Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell were obtained from Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Once obtained, a review of the records was conducted and found that Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell had been admitted to the Baptist Medical Center on December 17, 2009 for suicidal thoughts and had also received treatment for second degree burns on his lower back. The burned area is 49.5 cm x 16 cm and was treated with Silver Sulfadiazine 400GM and dressing. Mr. Gatrell was also treated for Suicidal and Homicidal ideation. He was released on December 21, 2009.

On January 6, 2010, a search warrant was obtained for the property of 710 Shamburger Road and the residence of 724 Shamburger Road in Little Rock. The residence is the home of Robert Todd Gatrell and the property of Charles Gatrell Sr. During the search of the property, several items of evidence were located including spent shot gun shells matching the caliber and type of shot that was used in the crime, shot gun wading, 12 gauge #4 unused shotgun shells, possible blood evidence, clothing, petroleum containers, mail addressed to the victim Michael Palmer from the Department of Finance and Administration regarding his 1988 GMC truck, a compact disk vehicle visor holder with painted writing on the back that states "Lynette B (heart) Michael P Always" and mail addressed to 16100 Windham Drive, which is the victim's home address.

On January 14, 2010, an interview was conducted with Mr. Charles Russell Hardwick, who is the boyfriend of Mrs. Jamie Morgan and the mother of Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell. Mr. Hardwick stated that during the week of December 21, 2009, he had several contacts with Mrs. Morgan regarding this incident. Mr. Hardwick stated that Mrs. Morgan advised him that her son, Robert Todd Gatrell, had confessed to her that he had killed Mr. Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer after they arrived at his residence on December 12, 2009. Mr. Hardwick stated that she advised him that the victim, Mr. Michael Palmer was lead to the back yard behind a storage shed where her nephew was there with a shotgun or rifle and Mr. Palmer was shot once in the chest and then once in the head. Mrs. Morgan advised him that Mr. Gatrell and his cousin rolled Mr. Palmer up in a rug and put him in the back of Mr. Palmer's vehicle. She stated that Mr. Gatrell went into his residence where Hannah Dowdie-Palmer was playing with his girlfriend's son and lead her out of the residence to Mr. Palmer's vehicle and put her in the front of the vehicle. Mr. Gatrell then got into the driver's seat of the vehicle and drove it to Wilbern Lane in Little Rock and her nephew followed him in his vehicle. Once at the location, Mr. Gatrell and the nephew poured gasoline on the vehicle and set it on fire. She stated that Mr. Gatrell and her nephew then returned to 724 Shamburger Road and removed their clothing for disposal. She advised Mr. Hardwick that her brother, Charlie Gatrell, who is the father of her nephew, came to the residence and disposed of the clothing. Mrs. Morgan advised Mr. Hardwick that since the incident, Mr. Gatrell has contacted her depressed and stated that he has had nightmares where he hears Hannah crying as she is burning in the vehicle. Mr. Hardwick stated that he informed Mrs. Morgan that she needed to advise what she knew of the crime to authorities and advised her that if she did not, he would. He stated that she then advised him that she would come and talk with authorities about this incident and for him not to worry about it. Mr. Hardwick stated that since that date, she had sent him a text message regarding her going to authorities and issuing a statement and stated that it has been done. Mr. Hardwick stated that since he believed that she had come forward with the information, he did not contact authorities himself. Mr. Hardwick stated that he has several text messages from Mrs. Morgan during this time and that he had saved each one. He stated that on January 6, 2010, she had contacted him and advised him that the Sheriff's Office had conducted a search warrant at Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell's residence and that we had found out from Mr. Gatrell's new disposable cellular telephone Mr. Hardwick's name and number and that he would possibly be contacted regarding this investigation. He stated that she informed him to delete all of her text messages to him and advised him that his phone may be monitored. Since that date, Mr. Hardwick had learned from Mrs. Morgan that she had told Robert Todd Gatrell that she had told Mr. Hardwick about the crime. Mr. Hardwick stated that this concerned him and he feared for his safety. Mr. Hardwick stated that he has since spoken to Mrs. Morgan and no further conversations about this incident were conducted; however, their relationship has dwindled since her statement to him about this incident.

On January 20, 2010, a formal interview was conducted with Ms. Tammy Markham, who is the girlfriend of Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell, regarding this incident. Ms. Markham stated that during the week after Todd had returned home from the hospital, she questioned him regarding his desire to kill himself. Todd advised her that on December 12, 2009 he and Daniel Gatrell had killed Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. Ms. Markham stated that Todd advised her that on that date, Mr. Palmer arrived at their residence with his daughter, Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. He advised her that Mr. Palmer brought Hannah inside the residence to play with her son, Jessie. Mr. Palmer was then lead outside the residence by Todd where they met up with Daniel Gatrell, who was in possession of a shotgun.

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Ms. Markham stated that Todd advised Mr. Palmer that he should have paid him his money and then Daniel Gatrell shot Mr. Palmer three times in quick session. She stated that one shot was to the abdomen, the next to the head and was unsure where the third round was shot. Ms. Markham stated that Todd then told her that Daniel refused to touch the body and made him (Todd) move Mr. Palmer's body to the bed of Mr. Palmer's pick-up truck. She stated that Todd then put a couple of pallets on top of Mr. Palmer's body and retrieved some gasoline from Mr. Charles Gatrell's workshop. Ms. Markham stated that she did not know who, but that Hannah was retrieved from the residence and put in the front seat of Mr. Palmer's vehicle. Ms. Markham stated that Todd drove Mr. Palmer's vehicle and Daniel Gatrell had followed driving Todd's truck. She stated that he advised her that they drove to the end of Wilbern Lane and he (Todd) had doused the truck with gasoline, including the interior of the vehicle and the infant child. Ms. Markham stated that as Todd was dousing the vehicle with gasoline, Daniel Gatrell threw a match igniting the fuel which caused Todd's shirt to catch on fire and burn his back. Ms. Markham stated that Todd advised her that they both then returned to the residence where she had made contact with them at that time. Ms. Markham stated that when she returned home, she saw the burns on Todd's back and Daniel had sunburn type markings around his eyes and forehead. Ms. Markham asked what had happened, which they replied that they had been burning trash behind the residence and it got out of control. After confessing the incident to her, she stated that Todd advised her that he had set up the incident intending to scare Mr. Palmer in paying him his money but that Daniel had shot Mr. Palmer and everything that he had done was under the direction of Daniel.

On January 23, 2010, an interview was conducted with Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell, who lives at 724 Shamburger Road in Little Rock. Mr. Gatrell admitted post Miranda his involvement in the murder of Mr. Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. Mr. Gatrell stated that on December 12, 2009, he and his cousin, Daniel Gatrell, had lured Mr. Palmer to the backyard of his residence where Mr. Daniel Gatrell appeared from behind a small shed, which is located directly behind 724 Shamburger, with a shotgun pointed at Mr. Palmer. Mr. Daniel Gatrell then fired three shots into Mr. Palmer killing him. Mr. Palmer was then placed face down in the rear of Mr. Palmer's vehicle and covered with a large piece of cardboard and three wooden pallets. Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell then assisted Mr. Daniel Gatrell in cleaning up the blood on and around the outbuilding with the use of water and a brush broom type object. Once the blood was cleaned off and around the building, the brush was cleaned and placed into a large outbuilding on the property. Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell stated that he had removed the wallet and pocket knife of Mr. Palmer and threw the two items into a large well directly behind his residence. The well was described as a large well with a large amount of trash and debris inside and also contained a diesel truck compartment sitting partially on top and covering the well. Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell stated that Mr. Palmer's daughter, Hannah Dowdie-Palmer, was then placed into the vehicle and both Mr. Palmer and Hannah were driven to the end of Wilburn Lane by Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell. Mr. Daniel Gatrell had followed Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell in Todd's GMC pick-up truck. It was there that Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell and Mr. Daniel Gatrell poured gasoline onto the vehicle and the victim, Mr. Palmer, and ignited the vehicle. Both Mr. Robert Todd Gatrell and Mr. Daniel Gatrell were burned during this action. After igniting the vehicle, both drove back to the residence on Shamburger in Mr. Robert Todd's vehicle, which is a 1994 GMC extended cab pick-up truck, tan in color and bears Arkansas license plate 135MKB and VIN 2GTEC19KOR1587101.

On January 25, 2010, an interview was conducted with Mr. Thomas Floyd, who is the uncle of Daniel Gatrell. Mr. Floyd stated that on Saturday, January 23, 2010, he had received information from Ms. Kim Gatrell, who is his sister and the mother of Daniel Gatrell, that Daniel was involved in the death of Michael Palmer and Hannah Dowdie-Palmer. Mr. Floyd stated that Kim advised that Daniel had admitted his involvement in the incident. Mr. Floyd stated that Kim also advised that the weapon used during this crime had been disposed of, but did not elaborate on the nature or location. Mr. Floyd stated that after obtaining information from Ms. Kim Gatrell, he made contact with Daniel Gatrell at his residence located at 10 Coral Lane in Jacksonville. Mr. Floyd stated that during his contact with Daniel Gatrell, he stated that on December 12, 2009 he was at his grandparents residence located at 710 Shamburger in Little Rock. Daniel stated that he was then contacted by Todd Gatrell via telephone and advised that Mr. Michael Palmer, who wanted to steal property from 710 Shamburger, was enroute to the residence. Daniel stated that Todd Gatrell advised him that a shotgun was on the back porch of his residence and directed Daniel to get the shotgun to protect the property. Daniel advised that Mr. Palmer arrived at Todd's residence at 724 Shamburger and that he (Daniel) then got the shotgun to await any further action. Daniel advised that when Todd and Mr. Palmer came outside the residence, he (Daniel) pointed the weapon at Mr. Palmer. He advised that Mr. Palmer grabbed the weapon and it fired shooting Mr. Palmer in the abdomen. Daniel advised that at that time, he was "frozen" in shock and Todd Gatrell stated that Mr. Palmer was not dead and for him to shoot him again. Daniel advised that he could not shoot the weapon again and at that point, Todd took the weapon from him and shot Mr. Palmer again in the abdomen. Daniel advised that Todd then kicked the victim and said that he was still alive. At that time, Daniel advised that Todd shot the victim in the head. Daniel advised that they then loaded the victim into the bed of Mr. Palmer's vehicle and then attempted to clean the scene with bleach. Daniel advised that they had obtained an old rug from the outbuilding on the property of 710 Shamburger and soaked it in bleach and put the rug at the end of the victim's truck bed where the victim laid to keep from the blood pouring out the rear of the vehicle. Daniel advised that he and Todd went into Todd's residence where he (Daniel) saw Mr. Palmer's daughter, Hannah Dowdie-Palmer, playing with Todd's girlfriend's child, Jessie. Daniel stated that Todd looked at him and he (Daniel) stated "No". Daniel advised that Todd stated to him that she (Hannah) was evidence and they needed to get rid of her. Daniel advised that

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Todd placed Hannah Dowdie-Palmer into the child seat located in the front seat of the victim's vehicle and strapped Hannah into the seat. Daniel advised that Todd drove the victim's vehicle to the end of Wilburn Lane and he (Daniel) followed in Todd's vehicle. Daniel advised that once at the location, Todd drove the truck off the road and then poured gasoline all over the vehicle including the interior and on Hannah. Daniel advised that Todd then ignited the vehicle which caused a large ball of fire that caused Todd's clothing to catch on fire. Daniel stated that he had to help extinguish the fire on Todd's clothing.

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I swear that the allegations contained herein are the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

1. 
Affiant's Signature

SERGEANT MIKE BLAIN #1206

Print Name

2900 S. WOODROW

LITTLE ROCK, AR 72204

Address

Phone

2. _____
Affiant's Signature

Print Name

Address

Phone

3. _____
Affiant's Signature / Witness

Print Name

Address

Phone

4. _____
Affiant's Signature / Witness

Print Name

Address

Phone

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

day of 1-25-10

District Court Clerk

By


(Deputy Clerk)

I hereby find that this sworn affidavit demonstrates reasonable and probable cause for the issuance of a Warrant of arrest for the above-named individual for the above-stated offense.


District Judge


District Court, Pulaski County, AR