



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Man Sentenced to 30 Years for Killing One, Injuring Five
While Driving Stolen Box Truck**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Shannon Jack Shaffer, Jr., 30, of Springfield, Missouri was sentenced on September 17, 2021 in connection with a July 2019 incident where he stole a Budget Rental Truck and caused a series of collisions. Matt Brown, of Springfield, Missouri, was killed as a result of one of the crashes, and several other victims were seriously injured.

Shaffer was sentenced by The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy to a total of 30 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for charges contained in the felony information. He pleaded guilty to Felony Murder, Tampering with a Motor Vehicle, Driving While Revoked, three counts of Leaving the Scene of an Accident and five counts of Assault in the Second Degree. Shaffer's attorney stated at sentencing that Shaffer was under the influence of drugs at the time of the crashes.

On July 18, 2019, Shaffer stole a Budget Rental Truck from a location on South Campbell Avenue. He was involved in a crash with two passenger cars at the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Republic Road. Matt Brown was the driver of one of those passenger cars, and ultimately passed away as a result of the injuries sustained in the crash. The driver of the other passenger car was seriously injured. Shaffer fled the scene of that wreck.

Next, Shaffer struck a street light post at National Avenue near Battlefield Road. He then proceeded to the intersection of National Avenue and Sunshine Street, where he collided with another passenger vehicle and injured its three occupants. Shaffer fled the scene of that wreck.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Shaffer, 1931-CR04175-01

Law enforcement later found the Budget Truck abandoned near Broadway and Olive. Surveillance video obtained from various businesses and City Utilities assisted investigators in identifying Shannon Shaffer, Jr. as the person who stole the truck, drove erratically, and caused these collisions, injuries, and the death of Matt Brown.

Shaffer entered a plea to all 11 felony counts charged in connection with this incident, and was sentenced to 30 years for Felony Murder, eight years for Tampering with a Motor Vehicle, eight years each for five counts of Assault in the Second Degree, five years for Driving While Licensed Revoked, and five years each for three counts of Leaving the Scene of An Accident. Each of these sentences will run concurrently, pursuant to an agreement with the State, and Shaffer must serve at least 85% of the 30 year Felony Murder sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Emily Shook. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Scott Hill was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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