

Two Plead Guilty In Ambush Killing

By David Howell, Editor, North Ms Herald

COFFEEVILLE — Two more defendants have pleaded guilty in the ambush killing of Arkansas teenager Fredarrious Wilson who was lured to a remote section of the Holly Springs National Forest in Yalobusha County and shot to death in March 2023.

Bralin Jackson, the husband of co-defendant Layvonnia Jackson, and Brandon Jackson entered guilty pleas Thursday, March 5, during Circuit Court proceedings held in Tate County before Circuit Judge Jimmy McClure III. The pleas were part of negotiated plea agreements reached between prosecutors and defense attorneys and presented to the court for approval.

Assistant District Attorney Marvell Gordon and District Attorney Jay Hale prosecuted the case. The defendants were represented by Coffeeville attorney Bradley Peeples.

As part of the plea agreement, McClure sentenced both defendants to 20 years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections on the murder charge. On the conspiracy to commit murder charge, each defendant was ordered to serve 20 years of post-release supervision following release from prison, including five years of reporting supervision and 15 years of non-reporting supervision. The court also ordered the defendants to have no contact with the victim's family.

Their pleas bring the number of defendants who have admitted guilt in the killing of Wilson to three. Layvonnia Alicia Jackson previously entered a guilty

plea Feb. 17 during a hearing before Judge McClure in Coffeeville. She is scheduled for sentencing on March 19 at 9 a.m. in the Yalobusha County Courthouse in Water Valley.

During the plea hearing, prosecutors outlined the sequence of events they said the state was prepared to prove at trial. According to the factual basis presented in court, the defendants conspired to kill Wilson after Bralin Jackson discovered that his wife had been involved in a sexual relationship with Wilson after searching her cellphone.

Wilson's mother, Shirley Howell, previously told reporters that her son knew Layvonnia Jackson through their work at a FedEx facility in the Memphis area.

Prosecutors stated during the hearing that Bralin Jackson devised a plan to lure Wilson from Arkansas to Mississippi. Layvonnia Jackson traveled to West Memphis and picked Wilson up, and surveillance video captured the pair together at a McDonald's restaurant before leaving the area. She then drove Wilson across the Mississippi River into north Mississippi after receiving a GPS pin from Bralin Jackson directing her where to go.

According to the state's account, Bralin Jackson, Brandon Jackson and Devin Smith were already waiting in a remote area of the Holly Springs National Forest in Yalobusha County.

When the vehicle arrived, Wilson was pulled from the vehicle and shot multiple times.



Wilson's body was later discovered about 30 yards off County Road 243 between Coffeeville and Oakland.

Wilson, a senior at the Academies of West Memphis, was only months away from graduation when he was killed. His mother had reported him missing March 5, 2023, after he failed to return home after going to the movies with a classmate.

Two days later, West Memphis police contacted the Yalobusha County Sheriff's Department after Wilson's cellphone was pinged in a remote area of Yalobusha County. Deputies began searching the forest that evening and continued until after midnight without success. The following morning, March 8, a U.S. Forest Service employee discovered Wilson's body approximately 30 yards off County Road 243.

Investigators said Wil-

son had been shot multiple times and shell casings were recovered at the scene.

Within a week of the discovery of Wilson's body, four Coffeeville residents were arrested and charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder: Layvonnia Alicia Jackson, Bralin Jackson, Brandon Jackson and Devin Smith.

The case against the fourth defendant, Devin Smith, remains pending. Court records show Smith's case has involved several mental-health evaluations, including a McNaghten analysis to determine his mental condition at the time of the alleged offense and whether he understood the nature of his actions and the difference between right and wrong. A competency-to-stand-trial evaluation has also been submitted to the court under seal.

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOREST PRODUCTS FOR SALE Coffeeville School Board

Sealed bids will be received by the Coffeeville School Board by mail at 96 Mississippi Street, Coffeeville, MS or hand delivered to 96 Mississippi Street, Coffeeville, Mississippi up to and not later than 5:00 p.m., April 16 th , 2026 for the purchase on a per ton basis of all timber designated for cutting on Section 16, Township 24N, Range 6 East, Yalobusha County, Mississippi on approximately 123 acres and also for the per ton basis for all timber designated for cutting on Section 16, Township 25N, Range 5 East, Yalobusha County, Mississippi on approximately 173 acres. Both sale areas listed above are pay-as-cut 1st pine thinnings. For information on a site visit, contact Brian James, MFC, at 662-322-2833 or Shaun Rogers 601-540-2611, MFC.

Before bids are submitted, full information concerning the material for sale, conditions of sale and submission of bids should be obtained from the Area Forester, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Oxford, Mississippi, at 662-322-2833. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved.

Publish: March 26th, April 2nd, and 9th, 2026

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF YALOBUSHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JASON LEVIN PURDY DECEASED CAUSE NO. 25-cv-06 ML EMILY M. PURDY PETITIONER

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: The Unknown Heirs At Law of Jason Levin Purdy, Deceased

You have been made Defendants in the suit filed in this Court by Emily M. Purdy, Petitioner, seeking a determination of the heirs of Jason Levin Purdy, deceased. Defendants other than you in this action are unknown to the Petitioner.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9 o'clock A.M. on the 29th day of April, 2026, in the courtroom of the Grenada County Courthouse in Grenada, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an Answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 20th day of March, 2026.

DONALD GREY, CHANCERY CLERK BY: {S} Annie Harris, D.C.

Chancery Clerk of Yalobusha County, Mississippi P.O. BOX 260 Coffeeville, MS 38922

Publish: March 26, April 2 and April 9, 2026



ANSWER:

8	5	4	1	2	3	9	6	7
3	1	9	6	4	7	2	8	5
6	2	7	5	9	8	1	4	3
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9	6	3	4	7	1	8	5	2
2	8	5	9	3	6	7	1	4
1	3	2	8	6	4	5	7	9
4	7	8	3	5	9	6	2	1
5	9	6	7	1	2	4	3	8

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