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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 4/23/2015

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – Putnam County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team and K9's Assist Overton County Sheriff's Office in Capture of Wanted Felon from Indiana

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team and K9 deputies working closely with the Overton County Sheriff's Office, Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP), Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), Livingston Police Department, District Attorney General Bryant Dunaway and ADA Mark Gore assisted in the capture of a subject by the name of Shane David Townsley in Overton County this afternoon. Townsley was wanted in connection with felony warrants in Indiana.

The incident began at 10:00 a.m. this morning when Sheriff John Garrett of the Overton County Sheriff's Office received a lead that Townsley was in the area. While requesting a search warrant and securing the perimeter of the home where the subject was suspected to be residing, the subject fled from the residence in a stolen vehicle. Overton County Sheriff's deputies pursued the subject, at which time he began firing at the deputies. Overton County deputies returned fire but were unable to stop the subject's vehicle.

Overton County deputies requested assistance from the Putnam County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team as they tracked the subject to a second home located on Okolona Road in Overton County. SWAT Team and K9 deputies surrounded the home along with members of other agencies. As they approached the home, the subject fled in another stolen vehicle. The vehicle later crashed and when SWAT Team members approached the vehicle to apprehend the subject, the subject was deceased in the vehicle.

"Our SWAT Team and Putnam County K9 deputies should be commended on their professionalism during today's incident," said Sheriff Eddie Farris. "They did an excellent job. I am proud of them and the excellent working relationships that all of our agencies have developed. As a result, we were able to work together seamlessly to track and capture a high profile murder subject this afternoon and keep our communities safe."

During the course of the afternoon, several actions were taken to notify and protect the community. A reverse 911 call was issued at 5:33 p.m. advising residents to stay inside and out of the affected area. Rickman Elementary School was advised of the incident and the decision was made to lock down the school since it was close to the end of the school day.

"I am very proud of our deputies," said Overton County Sheriff John Garrett. "I just want to thank all of the agencies who showed up today to help us apprehend a very dangerous felon and bring this incident to a conclusion with no danger to the community."

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