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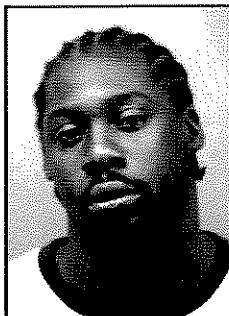
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Ferndale man wanted for murder of ex-girlfriend

By Jeremy Selweski
C & G Staff Writer

ROYAL OAK TOWNSHIP — A man accused of fatally shooting his former girlfriend on Thanksgiving night is still on the loose, and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office is asking residents to keep on the lookout.



Darius McCrary

Darius McCrary, 34, of Ferndale is wanted by the department on eight counts: first-degree murder, felony murder, assault with intent to murder, first-degree home invasion and four counts of possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony. He is charged with killing 38-year-old Fredericka Dixon after breaking into her Royal Oak Township home.

McCrary is also an employee of Ferndale Public Schools, where he works as a security guard at the Grant Early Childhood Center. According to Stephanie Hall, spokesperson for the district, McCrary is a former Ferndale High School student who is well liked by his co-workers at Grant.

"We feel a tremendous loss for this tragedy," she said, "and we extend our sympathies to (Dixon's) three children and the rest of her family. We also feel a sense of loss for our co-worker who has been charged with this crime. No one who worked with him ever expected this — I've heard nothing but good things about him."

According to Oakland County Undersheriff Mike McCabe, at about 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 25, deputies from the department's Royal Oak Township substation were dispatched to Dixon's house in the 21000 block of Westview Avenue on a reported shooting.

At the home, they found Dixon lying on the floor with several bullet wounds from a handgun. The deputies performed CPR prior to the arrival of paramedics, but Dixon was ultimately pronounced dead at the scene. Dixon's 18-year-old son was present for the shooting, and he identified McCrary as the killer to deputies.

"(McCrary) kicked the door in and immediately started firing shots at (Dixon)," McCabe said. "Then he chased the son downstairs and fired some shots at him, but fortunately he was not hit."

McCrary then allegedly fled the scene in a red 2000 Pontiac Grand Prix with the license plate CBY-0827. His whereabouts are currently unknown, but McCabe said that deputies have been pursuing him since the shooting.

Dixon was a mother of three children, but Oakland County Sgt. Mark Gardner indicated that McCrary is not the father of any of them. The other two children were not in the house at the time of the shooting, he added.

According to Gardner, McCrary and Dixon previously lived together in Royal Oak Township until about three years ago. Recently, though, McCrary had been attempting to re-enter Dixon's life against her wishes.

"They had a relationship for quite a while, but then they broke up," Gardner said. "When she started going out with someone else, he became very upset about it. He had been verbally threatening her with phone calls over the past couple months."

McCrary's criminal record includes two previous convictions for property crimes, as well as an uttering and publishing charge. He also has a juvenile conviction for unarmed robbery for stealing a woman's purse when he was 13, Gardner pointed out.

Hall said that Ferndale schools officials learned of McCrary's purse snatching arrest after he was hired but were unaware of the other charges against him. However, because the crime had been committed so long ago and McCrary had a strong work

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record at Grant, officials determined that there were no grounds to terminate his employment.

“Some of our administrators have known him for many years, and they felt that he deserved a second chance,” Hall said. She added, though, that with the charges he is currently facing, McCrary’s employment with the district is now “in a holding pattern.”

McCabe said that anyone with information on the shooting or McCrary’s whereabouts should call the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office at (248) 858-4911 or Crime Stoppers of Michigan at (800) SPEAK-UP. Callers with valuable information will receive a minimum reward of \$1,000.

“(McCrary) is still at large, which is why we’re appealing to the public for help,” McCabe said. “He is still considered armed and dangerous.”

Gardner stressed that the pursuit of McCrary will not end until he is caught and arrested. “We’ve been actively searching for him since (Nov. 25),” he said, “and we do have several leads that we’re following up on.”

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