



TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: JANUARY 7, 2011

Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell announced today that THOMAS DARNELL, dob: 5/20/1982 of Merriam Woods was sentenced by Taney County Circuit Judge Mark Orr to six (6) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections on two counts of the class C felony of possession of a controlled substance , and one hundred and sixty (160) days for the class A misdemeanor of resisting arrest by fleeing. Probation was denied and the sentences are to run concurrently.

On July 21, 2010, members of the Taney County Sheriff's Department and COMET drug task force executed another "no-knock" search warrant at the residence of THOMAS DARNELL on Mountain Drive in Merriam Woods. During the search warrant officers located syringes, spoons, baggies, methamphetamine, two sets of digital scales that field tested positive for meth, ecstasy (MDMA), and a radio programmable scanner. The methamphetamine and ecstasy (MDMA) were later sent to the Missouri State Highway Patrol crime lab and confirmed to be controlled substances. While the search of the residence was taking place a vehicle pulled into the driveway. THOMAS DARNELL had fled from the vehicle moments prior to its arrival at the residence.

Later, on July 23, 2010, a Branson Police Officer initiated a traffic stop of a vehicle being driven by THOMAS DARNELL for traveling at a high rate of speed through a work zone on Gretna Road near the Majestic Steakhouse. During the traffic stop, THOMAS DARNELL fled into the woods where he was later apprehended at gunpoint by Branson police.

In response the sentence, Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell stated that he was "satisfied in the lengthy sentence given by Judge Orr. Taney County is safer now with Thomas Darnell behind bars, as he is a dangerous individual who has been involved in the drug scene and in the trafficking of stolen guns in our community."

For more information please visit www.taneycountyprosecutor.com.

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