For Immediate Release  
Oct 11, 2012

Update re. Detectives Investigate Shooting Resulting From Game of Russian Roulette

Donnie McLendon, the gunshot victim wounded last Saturday morning, died yesterday evening at Tampa General Hospital.

A subsequent autopsy called in to question the accounts of the two other individuals present at the time of the shooting, David Mckee and Thomas Rady, that McLendon had wounded himself while taking a turn during a game of Russian Roulette.

Further investigation determined that the three had NOT been playing Russian Roulette, but that McLendon was accidentally wounded by Thomas Rady who was holding the gun at the time it discharged. All three had been drinking and smoking marijuana prior to the accident taking place.

As a result, Thomas Wane Rady, DOB 10/14/83 has been charged with Manslaughter. He turned himself in at the Pinellas County Jail at approximately 7:00 p.m. this evening.

Information released by Mike Puetz, michael.puetz@stpete.org

Previous release of Mon Oct 08, 2012 11:01 **********

Detectives Investigate Shooting Resulting From Game of Russian Roulette

On Saturday morning at about 2:15 a.m. officers responded to a call of a person shot at 1110 32 Avenue North. Upon arrival, officers found the house vacant with a trail of blood leading from inside the house to the outside. Marijuana and drug paraphernalia were evident inside as well.

A few moments after their arrival a report was received that a man had been brought to St. Anthony’s Hospital with a bullet wound to the head.

Officers arrived at the hospital where the victim, Donnie McLendon, 26, was being treated by emergency room staff. He was later transported to Tampa General Hospital and was last listed in critical condition.

Two other individuals at the hospital were interviewed and identified as Daniel Mckee, 22 and Thomas Rady, 29. Both subjects claimed that they had been at 1110 32 Avenue North with McLendon early that morning and that they had been drinking and smoking marijuana together. Mckee advised that he was house-sitting at the residence for a friend who was out of town.
Both Mckee and Rady claimed that while sitting in the living room of the home, a male suspect entered the house armed with a gun in an apparent home invasion robbery. They claimed the gun discharged once and struck McLendon in the head. Rady said the he jumped up and bumped the suspect who dropped the gun and fled the house.

Mckee, Rady and Mckee’s girlfriend, who was sleeping in another room at the time of the incident, picked up McLendon and carried him out to Mckee’s car and drove him to the hospital.

After detectives arrived to conduct follow-up interviews with two witnesses, they admitted that their initial account had been fabricated and that McLendon had suffered a single gunshot wound to his head as a result of a game of Russian Roulette using a 44 caliber handgun loaded with one live round.

According to the two, Mckee had provided the gun and single bullet while also taking part in the Roulette first. Then Rady took a turn only to then provide the gun to McLendon, who suffered the self inflicted gunshot wound.

The firearm was recovered along with a single spent casing from under the front seat of Mckee’s car at the hospital.

No charges have been filed in this case as yet and the investigation is still ongoing.

Information provided by Mike Puetz, michael.puetz@stpete.org, 727-893-7550

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