

Ex-con suspected in killings - Sex offender, drug dealer to be charged today with dismembering 2 bodies

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DETROIT -- A 33-year-old registered sex offender and convicted drug dealer was to be charged today with **killing** a man and a woman and dismembering their bodies on the city's east side.

Police found parts of the two bodies Tuesday night **in** a vacant field on Van Dyke and Grinnell and got a tip Wednesday that led them to a home where they found the rest of the body parts **in** the basement, police said.

"The basement of the home appears to have been the crime scene where the bodies were dismembered. An attempt had been made to clean up the area," said Cmdr. Craig Schwartz, head of the Major Crimes Section.

Schwartz said the tip on the suspect, who was arrested at the home **in** the 5900 block of Seneca, came from a friend of the suspect who lives **in** Wixom.

"The tipster had enough information and knowledge of the crime for officers to obtain a search warrant for the Seneca home," Schwartz said.

The suspect has previous convictions for rape **in** 1989 and selling cocaine **in** 1990. He was released from prison **in** 2000.

When the suspect was arrested, officers discovered he recently had been shot **in** the shoulder and it appeared he had treated himself instead of going to a hospital, police said.

No motive has been established for the slayings. The victims were tentatively identified as Jackson Thomas, 23, and Danielle Jones, 23, both of Detroit. The suspect knew Thomas however, it is not known how he was acquainted with Jones.

Investigators said they believe the couple were killed sometime Monday and the suspect dumped some of the body parts **in** the vacant field behind a Sunoco gasoline station, where they were found. The gasoline station is about a half-mile from his home.

"Both of these crime scenes were very disturbing and shocking," Schwartz said.

The case was to be submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office today for warrants and the suspect's arraignment, police said.

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