

## PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY DOUG JOHNSON

For immediate release – August 31, 2004

### MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER IN THE THIRD DEGREE

First Assistant Washington County Attorney Susan Harris announced that the office has charged Kyle James Murphy (DOB 9/23/84) with one count of Murder in the Third Degree. The felony charge arises as a result of the death of Timothy Milton LaValle (DOB. 6/19/87) on August 28, 2004, in Hugo in Washington County.

The complaint charges that around 10:00 p.m., Murphy had been involved in a car chase in the Hugo area. The chase was between Murphy and a car driven by Jeremy Vessey, along with several passengers, including the victim. Some of the passengers in the Vessey vehicle knew Murphy. At one point Mr. Vessey parked along Egg Lake Road in Hugo. Murphy drove by the parked car. At that point Timothy LaValle and Jeremy Vessey got out of their car and stood in the middle of the road and put their arms out, trying to stop Murphy as he came towards them. Witnesses said that Murphy increased his speed, hitting LaValle, as LaValle tried to get out of the way. LaValle hit the windshield and was thrown across the road. Murphy stopped and checked on LaValle and then drove off. Washington County Deputies arrived at the scene to find the victim lying alongside the road. He was later pronounced dead at Regions Hospital.

First Assistant Susan Harris said that Murphy intentionally drove his vehicle recklessly, at a high rate of speed, while two individuals were standing in the middle of the road. Murder in the Third Degree is not an intentional murder as in Murder in the First or Second Degree. It is reckless murder that was eminently dangerous and resulted in Timothy LaValle's death.

For further information, please contact Susan Harris at the Washington County Attorney's Office, 651-430-6115.