



Arrest made in 7-year-old Lake Hamilton murder

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BARTOW — DNA evidence taken from a pair of shoes has led to the arrest of a Lake Hamilton man in the 2008 murder of 19-year-old Michael Leonard Tramel Jr.

Jimmie L. Crews, 42, of Lake Hamilton, was indicted by a grand jury last month and the indictment was unsealed Sept. 1.

According to reports, Tramel was found dead of multiple gunshot wounds in an orange grove west of Phillips Way and north of Tangerine Drive near Lake Hamilton on Sept. 19, 2008. He was last seen by his twin brother leaving the family's Tangerine Street residence on the evening of the night before.

Through the investigation, detectives learned Tramel had said he was going to meet Jimmie Crews. At the time, Crews was out on bail pending a federal indictment on drug charges.

Detectives said Crews attempted to link two other men by telling detectives that the shoes worn by the killer could be found in a cooler behind one of their homes. When detectives located a pair of size 13 Nike tennis shoes, the tread pattern matched tread patterns located at the site of the homicide.

New technology in DNA testing recently determined neither of the other two men had worn the shoes, but the DNA it matched Crews and his twin brother, Jamie Crews. Jamie Crews was in jail at the time of the murder, according to reports.

Since the murder, Crews was convicted of drugs charges and has been serving time in the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex. He is now being charged with first-degree murder.

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