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## PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville— State's Attorney Tom Gibbons filed murder charges today against a Centreville man in connection with a body found in Horseshoe Lake State Park over the past weekend.

Dakota C. Jones, 20, was found early Sunday morning in the lake by three fisherman who called Pontoon Beach police at approximately 5:45 a.m. on August 11, 2013. Investigators with the Illinois State Police were called into assist with the investigation and presented their case to prosecutors who filed two counts of First Degree Murder charges against Scottie Thompson (d.o.b. 8/22/71) this afternoon.

The investigation revealed that Thompson and Jones met earlier that night in East St. Louis, however, there is no indication that the two men knew one another prior to that time. Police allege that Thompson agreed to give Jones, a Cahokia resident, a ride to meet a friend and the two men left together around 10:30 p.m. that evening. Police believe that Thompson beat Jones about the head with a blunt force object several hours later before placing his body into Horseshoe Lake.

State's Attorney Gibbons described the murder as senseless. "Our victim evidently trusted this person and had no reason to fear for his life. It appears to be a tragic, random act of violence." Gibbons praised the work of the investigators, pathologist, coroner's office and his staff whose hard work and diligence brought the case to a quick resolution. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of the victim," added Gibbons.

Thompson, who was on parole since February 2013 for a 1989 murder out of St. Clair County, was picked up Sunday at his residence in Centreville. He remains in custody in Belleville, but will eventually be brought to the Madison County Jail in Edwardsville where he will be held without bond. If convicted of murder, Thompson faces 20-60 years in prison and will be required to serve 100% of his sentence.

This charge, as well as the statements made herein, is based upon probable cause. The defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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