



JOHN H. CRANFORD, JR.

District Attorney
Coweta Judicial Circuit

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On February 13, 2020, after a three-day trial, a Troup County jury found Demetris Deshan Kennedy, a/k/a “Junt,” 32, of LaGrange, guilty of three counts of Dogfighting, three counts of Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon, one count of Theft by Receiving Stolen Firearm, and one count of Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute. After the verdict, Kennedy was taken into custody. Sentencing is scheduled for March 30, 2020.

Assistant District Attorney Jack Winne prosecuted the case. Task Force Agent Adam Blane, of the G.B.I. West Metro Regional Drug Enforcement Office and LaGrange Police Department, and Investigator Clint Stephens, of the LaGrange Police Department, conducted the investigation. The efforts of these investigators and ADA Winne to stop this animal abuser and drug dealer make LaGrange a safer community for everyone, including animals. Dogs should be treated with love as pets, not as gladiators that fight to the death. As other prosecutions in our community have shown, dealing drugs while possessing firearms ultimately ends with violence. We are thankful the jury held this defendant accountable for his dangerous drug dealing and his abuse of dogs.

At trial, the evidence showed that the charges arose out of a months-long drug-distribution investigation into Kennedy, culminating in the execution of a search warrant at 123 Bonaventure Drive in LaGrange. Kennedy was not at the house at the time of the search. In the house, investigators seized three firearms (a 9mm Glock pistol, a .223-cal. Anderson Arms AM-15, and a stolen .40-cal. Kel-Tec SUB-2000), body armor, ammunition, and approximately 11 ounces of marijuana. In the backyard, investigators found five pit bull-style dogs, each chained to the ground with logging chains. In a shed in the backyard, investigators recovered dogfighting training paraphernalia, including a homemade treadmill and spring pole. Three of the dogs had relatively fresh wounds consistent with dogfighting. The logging chains that tethered those three dogs to the ground each weighed greater than 10 lbs.

Kennedy had two prior felony convictions in Troup County Superior Court involving drug distribution, which were admitted as evidence in this trial: a 2009 conviction for Sale of Cocaine and Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, and a 2007 conviction for Sale of Marijuana.

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