



BLADEN COUNTY — More than a month after the shooting death of 20-year-old Samir Tileek Register of Clinton, authorities have announced the arrest of a suspect in connection to the case.

According to the Bladen County Sheriff's Office (BCSO), warrants were issued for Dixon, 19, of Clinton. Dixon was taken into custody on Aug. 27 during a traffic stop by the Raleigh Police Department.

Register was found shot along Spring Branch Road near the Triple B Ranch in Tar Heel in the early hours of July 20, during a large trail riding event that drew over 1,000 people. Despite emergency aid, he died at the scene.

BCSO investigators identified Dixon as a suspect after weeks of gathering leads and witness statements. Following his arrest, Dixon was returned to Bladen County to face judicial proceedings.

Detective Aaron Brisson, who has been working closely on the case, said the arrest is a step forward but does not bring the investigation to a close.

“We’re limited on what we can give other than what we’ve put out so far, because it is still an investigation and there’s still a lot of work for us to do regarding the other suspects that are involved,” Brisson explained. “He was arrested without incident by Raleigh. We’re now bringing him back to Bladen County to be brought before one of our judicial officials.”

Brisson emphasized that Dixon’s arrest is not the end of the investigation, as detectives believe others may have played a role in Register’s death.

“We don’t want to close it out after just one arrest,” Brisson said. “We know there’s more people involved, so we’re just trying to do our due diligence to get everybody responsible.”

Brisson confirmed he remains in close contact with Register’s mother, Lisa Pauling, updating her as the case progresses.

“I spoke to her yesterday and told her that we’re still not done,” he said. “We want to try to get everybody responsible. We’re not trying to finish it with just Dixon’s arrest. We do want to get everybody linked to his murder.”

The sheriff’s office reiterated that the case remains active and urged community members to come forward with any information that may help.

Anyone with knowledge of the shooting is encouraged to contact the Bladen County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigations Division at 910-862-6960 or submit tips through the Bladen Sheriff App.

Register, a Clinton High School graduate, was remembered by friends and family as a bright young man with a promising future. His funeral was held July 27 at Sampson Middle School, with burial at Springvale Cemetery in Clinton.

As the investigation continues, law enforcement officials say justice for Register and his family remains a top priority.