

# THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MONTHLY

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY SCOTT M. PERRILLOUX  
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**Amite-** District Attorney Scott M. Perrilloux reports that on April 23, 2012, Michael Petitto, 48, of West State Street, Amite, LA, was found guilty of two counts of Malfeasance in Office in a bench trial before Judge Bruce Bennett.

The State alleged that in 2007, Petitto offered, and voted for, a resolution to the parish council in support of tax benefits for a low to moderate income housing project being developed by Standard Enterprise. Unbeknownst to the council, at this time, Petitto's brother Salvatore Petitto had an option to purchase the 18 acre tract of land where the subdivision would be. He intended to buy the land if the resolution passed, and in turn sell it to Standard Enterprise.

Salvatore Petitto bought the land for substantially less than he sold it to Standard, making a \$197,000.00 profit. Soon after, Salvatore Petitto paid off Michael Petitto's mortgage in the amount of \$49,207.12.

Perrilloux explained that as a councilman, Petitto is not allowed to vote on resolutions that would benefit himself or a family member.

Petitto's attorney's claimed that he did not know that his brother was involved in the deal, however, after the 4 ½ hour trial, Judge Bennett found the defendant guilty as charged.

**Amite-** April 18, 2012, Jimmie Lewis, 51, of North 12th Street, Ponchatoula, LA was convicted in a trial by jury of Attempted Aggravated Rape, and Simple Burglary. Assistant District Attorney Angel Monistere represented the State with Judge Ray Chutz presiding.

On April 17, 2012, the victim testified that on the night of July 11, 2011, she found Lewis standing near her living room sofa, holding her purse. When the defendant saw her, he threw the purse down and began coming toward her, armed with a box cutter. At this point, the victim tried to run but was detained by Lewis. She stated that she told him he could have whatever he wanted and begged him to leave, but he refused and demanded sex.

She said that Lewis threw her on to her bed, pinning her down. However, the victim fought the defendant until she was able to get from underneath him. She ran to the back door of her home and Lewis fled the scene. The victim was left cut and badly bruised.

She immediately called police and told them she believed she knew her attacker. The victim recognized him from a sex offender flyer she had received in the mail. When Ponchatoula Police searched her residence, they found the box cutter, and muddy boot prints on the bedroom carpet. The victim also reported that Lewis was wearing an open faced mask, jean shorts, boots, and gloves. The same night, officers searched Lewis' home. There they found the gloves, clothing, and the muddy boots, which matched prints found at the scene.

Later, as Lewis was questioned by police, he claimed that he entered the home intending to commit a burglary and left when she confronted him, never entering the victim's bedroom. The muddy prints and mud on the victim's sheets implied otherwise. The victim also identified Lewis in a photo lineup.

The jury deliberated for 17 minutes before returning with a unanimous guilty verdict.

**Livingston-** On April 9, 2012, Donald E. Miller, III, 35, of Florida Blvd., Holden, LA, and Lisa Stogner Faber, 34, of Holden, LA, pleaded guilty as charged, to 13 counts of Cruelty to Juveniles.

Miller was sentenced to 10 years with the department of corrections for each of counts 1-12, to be served concurrently, and 5 years with the department of corrections for count 13, to be served consecutively, for a total of 15 years.

Faber, Miller's live-in girlfriend, was sentenced to 7 years with the department of corrections for each count, to be served concurrently.

School officials reported that the child often came to school extremely dirty, and without the necessary supplies. She was also clearly malnourished.

**Miller/Faber Cont....** In September 2010, the victim arrived at school with bruises and finally disclosed to teachers what was going on. She told them that Miller kept her handcuffed to a desk in the living room beginning in June of 2010.

During an investigation, police found handcuff marks on her ankle and a desk in the living room with handcuffs attached, just as she had said.

Judge Zoey Waguespack handed down the sentence, and Assistant District Attorney Charlotte Herbert prosecuted the case.

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT TRAINING**

**Hammond-** On April 27, 2012, Assistant District Attorneys Angel Monistere, Britain Sledge, and Vanessa Williams hosted a sexual assault training for law enforcement, Child and Family Services, future Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and the Tri-Parish Rape Crisis Program. The event was held at the Southeastern University Center. Prosecutors discussed assault investigations, important case building information, and trial preparation.

### **APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

Since its first national observation in 2001, April has been dedicated to raising awareness about sexual violence, with the goal of educating citizens about both the existence, and how to prevent sexual assault.

District Attorney Scott M. Perrilloux's Tri-Parish Rape Crisis program is working toward the elimination of sexual violence through prevention education. Age-appropriate programs such as Care\*ageous Kids, Safe Dates, and No Zebras, help to define key topics, including aggressive communication, dating abuse, and assault. The TPRCP has performed over 106 of these community education presentations at local schools since its accreditation in July 2011.

The TPRCP offers resources for sexual assault victims including advocacy, a 24-hour crisis hotline, therapy, crisis-intervention, and referrals. Advocates can be reached at any time at 1-877-748-6882.

### **NOTABLE CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES**

Allen Martin, 25, of Albany, LA, was sentenced to life in prison, for Aggravated Rape, 25 years with the department of corrections, for Second Degree Kidnapping, 10 years for Armed Robbery, and 12 years for Aggravated Burglary.

Sedrick Smith, 34, pleaded guilty as charged to Aggravated Escape on April 9, 2012.

Michael Martone, Jr., 27, of Denham Springs, LA, was sentenced to five (5) years with the department of corrections for each count of Possession of Schedule II Drugs, and Possession of Schedule III Drugs, Martone was also sentenced to six (6) months in the parish jail for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Floyd Williams, 48, of Hammond, LA, was sentenced to 10 years with the department of corrections for each count of Possession with Intent to Distribute Schedule V Drugs, and Auto Burglary. Williams must also serve two (2) years for Illegal Possession of Stolen Property.

Travis M. Dantzler, 26, of Hammond, LA, pleaded no contest to Armed Robbery with a Firearm (2 counts), and Convicted Felon in Possession of a Firearm. He was sentenced to 15 years with the department of corrections for each count of Armed Robbery, and 10 years for the second offense, to be served concurrently.

Darrell Courtney, 21, of Amite, LA, pleaded no contest to Armed Robbery. He was sentenced to 10 years with the department of corrections.