

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Monthly

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY SCOTT M. PERRILLOUX

## VAIL CONVICTED OF MURDER

**Amite-** Following two days of testimony, on July 24, 2014, 61-year-old Ronald Vail was found guilty in a trial by jury of second degree murder.

Vail, of 42308 Jerome Drive in Hammond, was convicted of the April 2012 killing of Joseph Daigle, Jr., age 43.

Assistant District Attorney Le'Anne Malnar prosecuted the case before Judge Robert Morrison.

Although the defense maintained the murder was in self-defense, over the two day trial the prosecution was able to prove it was a specifically intended act.

According to testimony by the victim's longtime girlfriend, on the day of the incident, April 22, 2012, the couple was visiting Daigle's uncle, Bruce Daigle. While there, the defendant, who was living with Bruce Daigle at the time, made multiple rude and vulgar comments toward her. She stated that following the various offensive remarks which took place over several hours, the unarmed victim eventually asked Vail if he wanted to "step outside." At this point Vail drew a loaded gun and fired once into the victim's chest, killing him almost immediately.

Malnar explained that had the defendant truly felt endangered, he had multiple opportunities to retreat from the situation, retreat being an integral component of the self-defense defense.

Officers from the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office, the medical examiner, other witnesses and the defendant all testified during the trial.

The jury deliberated for less than three hours before announcing the guilty verdict.

A second degree murder conviction carries a life sentence. Sentencing is scheduled for August 6, 2014.

## JURY FINDS THAMES GUILTY

**Amite-** On July 17, 2014, 50-year-old Henry Thames of Kentwood, LA, was found guilty in a trial by jury of attempted possession with intent to distribute, schedule I controlled dangerous substances.

Assistant District Attorney Angel Monistere prosecuted the case before Judge Ray Chutz.

According to the prosecutor, on October 16, 2013, DEA Chad Scott was notified by a confidential informant that a large amount of marijuana was being delivered to 57266 Hano Road in Independence, Louisiana.

The following day, Scott and Agent Jacob Schwebel went to the Independence Post Office to intercept the package, which contained approximately four pounds of marijuana. "Subsequent to the search of the packages, the agents proceeded to Hano Road but stopped when they noticed Richard Selders and Henry Thames engaged in a drug transaction," said Monistere. Selders, age 40, of Pine Grove, LA, and Thames fled, but were quickly apprehended.

Following the arrest, Thames admitted that he had been on his way to the Independence Post Office to pick up the two packages of marijuana which he intended to then transfer to Selders.

The jury deliberated for only 25 minutes before unanimously finding the defendant guilty as charged.

## PIERRE SENTENCED TO SERVE 12 YEARS

**Amite-** William P. Pierre, of Obee Stevens Road, Robert, LA, was sentenced to serve a total of 12 years with the department of corrections for two counts of production and manufacture of schedule II controlled dangerous substances, one count of distribution of schedule II

## PIERRE SENTENCE CONTINUED...

controlled dangerous substances, and one count of attempted distribution of schedule I controlled dangerous substances, on July 2, 2014.

33-year-old Pierre pleaded no contest to the charges and was sentenced to serve 10 years with the department of corrections for each count of production and manufacture of schedule II controlled dangerous substances, and two years with the department of corrections for each additional offense. The 10 year sentences are to be served concurrently with each other but consecutive to the concurrent two year sentences for a total of 12 years.

On June 6, 2011, sheriff's officers discovered multiple materials used to manufacture methamphetamine in Pierre's home. The defendant was subsequently arrested, charged and released on bond. With this charge ongoing, the defendant was once again arrested on April 23, 2012.

On April 23, a deputy from the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office performed a traffic stop on a vehicle Pierre was driving. Visible within the car were packs of medication and lithium batteries. A search of the vehicle also produced a bag containing 40 pseudoephedrine pills. Recognizing precursors used in the manufacture of methamphetamine within the vehicle, officers later performed a search of the defendant's home. There they found additional materials used in the production of methamphetamine, including syringes with needles. The defendant was charged accordingly and transported to the Tangipahoa Parish Jail.

Assistant District Attorney Le'Anne Malnar prosecuted the case before Judge Elizabeth Wolfe.

## BURGLARIES YIELD 15 YEAR SENTENCES

**Amite-** District Attorney Scott M. Perrilloux reports that on July 9, 2014, 33-year-old Pyson Moton, was sentenced to serve 15 years with the department of corrections for each of three counts of aggravated burglary, and four counts of attempted aggravated kidnaping. All time is to be served concurrently.

On December 28, 2007 officers arrived at a home on Wardline Road in Hammond where Moton and

accomplices had forcibly entered, then robbed the residents at gunpoint. The victims reported their vehicle and multiple pieces of jewelry and clothes were stolen, along with a camera, a credit card, cash and other possessions.

On January 10, 2008, Moton and three armed accomplices entered another Hammond man's home searching for money. According to the offense report, the men bound the homeowner's hands and feet and, unsatisfied with the amount of money found in the residence, demanded he call his roommate to come home. When the victim's roommate arrived with two other men, they were also bound and robbed. Two gunmen then forced the four victims into a vehicle and they were ordered to help steal four-wheelers from another location, and attempted to steal various other items. The four victims were eventually released. When speaking with police, one of the victims was able to identify Moton as one of the gunmen.

The last aggravated burglary charge stems from a burglary at another Hammond residence on January 15, 2008.

Assistant District Attorney Jeff Johnson prosecuted the case, and Judge Bruce Bennett handed down the sentence.

## NOTABLE CONVICTIONS

**Livingston-** Terrance Madden, Jr., age 46, of Baton Rouge, LA, pleaded no contest to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was sentenced to serve seven years with the department of corrections.

**Livingston-** Johnny M. Skipper, age 23, of Holden, LA, pleaded guilty to attempted possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, theft of a firearm, and second degree battery. He was sentenced to serve five years with the department of corrections for each offense, to be served concurrently.

**Livingston-** Samuel Doherty, age 29, of Baton Rouge, LA, was sentenced to serve five years with the department of corrections for each of two counts of vehicular homicide, to be served concurrently.