

THE 21ST MONTHLY

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY SCOTT M. PERRILLOUX

FEBRUARY 2017/ Volume 7, Issue 2

LORANGER HIGH SCHOOL'S DEBATE TEAM MAKES IT TO SECOND ROUND!

At this year's Baton Rouge Bar Association's Mock Trial Competition, Tangipahoa Parish was represented by the Loranger High School trial and debate team.

Assistant District Attorneys Le'Anne Malnar and Patricia Parker from District Attorney Scott Perrilloux's office have been going to the high school to help students prepare for the competition and worked to educate the students on the court system and trial practices.

During the mock trial, the team laid the foundation of the trial, performed opening and closing statements, called on witnesses, and displayed valuable trial techniques such as courtroom decorum and objections in front of a judge.

One of the two teams made it to the final round of Friday's debates but lost by only one point to the opposing team. Malnar and Parker both stated that the teams did an exceptional job at presentation exemplifying their understanding of the court system.

The Loranger High School trial and debate team is the only mock trial team in the Tangipahoa Parish School System, said Malnar. They competed in the Mock Trial Competition February 17, 2017, at the 19th Judicial Courthouse located in Baton Rouge.



ALLEN FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER

A unanimous jury found 25-year-old Brian Allen of Denham Springs, LA, guilty of the second degree murder of Derick Stewart and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

On March 28, 2016, Denham Springs Police were dispatched to the area of Maryland Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in reference to gun shots and were advised that multiple subjects had been shot.

When officers arrived on scene they came across a tan Toyota Camry at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Plymouth Street. The vehicle was facing west bound on the east bound side of the roadway and appeared to have been involved in a crash.

Multiple bystanders around stated that the two subjects that were shot got out of the vehicle and began running then collapsed further down the road.

DSPD officers traveled eastbound on MLK Drive and located Derick Stewart and another male lying on the ground in the roadway near the fog line. A female was holding Stewart and stated that Stewart had been shot in the neck. Lying next to Stewart was another male that was shot in the leg. Medical personnel were called to the scene, Stewart was not coherent but the other male victim who was shot in the leg was alert and able to provide information to authorities. Both victims were taken to the hospital for treatment. Stewart died later that night at Oschner Hospital as a result of his injuries.

During the three day trial Assistant District Attorney Greg Murphy explained to members of the jury the events that led up to the shooting and called numerous witnesses to the stand to testify on what happened that day. The state presented to the jury over 60 pieces of evidence proving that Allen committed the homicide. Among the evidence presented was a home surveillance video that caught the murder on video.

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ALLEN TRIAL CONTINUED...

The video showed Stewart attempting to leave the area in his vehicle when the vehicle Allen was operating blocked the roadway. Stewart backed his vehicle down the street in an attempt to get away but Allen's vehicle proceeded to follow Stewart. Allen was seen on the surveillance video shooting at Stewart's vehicle once Allen exited his car.

Allen was later arrested and transported to the Livingston Parish Detention Center where he was properly booked.

While Allen was in custody, he made multiple phone calls from LPDC in reference to his alibi, wiping his finger prints off of the gun used to commit the murder, and hiding the gun. All phone calls were recorded on the phone system at the jail, placed into evidence, and heard by the jury.

Formal sentencing for Brian Allen is scheduled for March 27, 2017. Judge Jeffery Johnson presided over the trial. Second degree murder is an automatic life sentence without the benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence in the state of Louisiana.

MARTIN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY

Jake Martin, age 29, of Denham Springs, LA, pleaded no contest to armed robbery.

On October 7, 2016, a 911 call was made from the M&D Quick Stop on Cockerham Road in Denham Springs in reference to an armed robbery.

The cashier reported a white male entered into the store and demanded the money out of the register while producing and threatening bodily harm with a fixed blade knife. The cashier gave the subject currency from the cash register and the suspect fled the scene on foot headed north bound.

While an LPSO deputy was in route to the scene, he observed a white male wearing a black shirt walking along side Lockhart Road westbound. The deputy made contact with the subject, who immediately stated "I am who you are looking for". The deputy detained the subject, who was identified as Jake Martin and recovered \$832.00 of U.S. currency from his pants pocket from the robbery. Martin Was advised of his rights and transported back to the scene.

Upon arriving back to the store, the cashier observed Martin and positively identified Martin as the suspect who committed the robbery. During the investigation, the knife and black shirt Martin had on was located on Arlington Drive, on the route that he fled on foot.

Jake Martin was arrested and transported to the Livingston Parish Detention Center for booking. Martin did provide an audio recorded statement confessing to the armed robbery.

Martin was sentenced to 15 years with the department of corrections. He received credit for time served.

BURGULAR SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS

Alvin Henderson, age 52, of pleaded no contest three counts of burglary.

On February 18, 2016 Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office detectives began investigating several theft cases in and around the Amite area. Detectives received information that Alvin Henderson was seen at a construction site attempting to sell tools. Detectives were already familiar with Henderson and began looking for him in an attempt to interview in reference to the reported thefts.

On February 26, 2016, detectives located Henderson's vehicle at an address on Dogwood Lane in Amite and observed a pressure washer sitting alongside of a travel trailer. The pressure washer matched the description of one of the items stolen from a residence that reported a theft.

Upon further investigation of the vehicle in plain view, tools and an IPA model 9007 universal trailer tester were sitting on the backseat. Detectives knew that the items were the subjects of burglaries reported a week before finding it inside of Henderson's vehicle.

All items were seized and transported back to the Amite CID Office where one of the theft complainants arrived and positively identified the stolen items. A warrant for possession of stolen things was issued for Henderson. Henderson was subsequently located and arrested on February 27, 2016 and transported to the parish jail in Amite.

In an interview with detectives Henderson admitted to the burglary of a vehicle at the Holiday Inn Express, a burglary at D&B Motors in Amite, and the burglary of a residence in Amite. He also admitted to committing a burglary at Diamond B Construction. He did not disclose where the items were sold or traded.

Alvin Henderson was sentenced to 15 years with the department of corrections. He received five years for each burglary. Time is to be served consecutively.

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