

THE 21ST MONTHLY

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY SCOTT M. PERRILLOUX

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JOHNSON CONVICTED OF MURDER

Amite- On October 30, 2014, a 12-member jury found 34-year-old Christopher Johnson guilty of second degree murder.



The jury deliberated less than two hours before finding Johnson, of Laroussa Lane in Independence, LA, guilty. Assistant District Attorney Don Wall prosecuted the case before Judge Robert Morrison.

On March 16, 2001, Johnson and his accomplice, Kelvin Thomas, were hiding in the attic of the Independence Piggly Wiggly, waiting for the store to close. After closing, the pair came down from the attic, masked and armed, and demanded money from the store owner and multiple employees.

During the robbery, employee Vincent Bacile attempted to fight Thomas and Johnson and tried to call for help. At that point Kelvin Thomas shot and killed Bacile.

Thomas was tried for second degree murder in October 2009, but was found guilty in a jury trial of the lesser charge of manslaughter. He was sentenced to serve 45 years with the department of corrections as a habitual offender.

According to the prosecutor, Johnson was a principal to second degree murder, which is an intentional or unintentional shooting that takes place during the commission of an armed robbery. If this occurs, both parties are held culpable.

A second degree murder conviction requires a mandatory life sentence. Sentencing is set for November 7, 2014.

RICHARD PLEADS TO PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Livingston- On October 27, 2014, 46-year-old Lawrence J. Richard, Jr., was sentenced to serve 10 years with the department of corrections after pleading no contest to 83 counts of pornography involving juveniles.

The prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney Matthew Belser, explained that in 2009, the Louisiana Attorney General's Office was investigating a peer to peer network that was involved in the exchange and download of child pornography. Investigators discovered that the defendant was a member of the network and, by obtaining his IP address, located Richard's residence on Arnold Road in Denham Springs, LA. A search warrant was then executed and officers discovered 83 videos of child pornography on the defendant's computer.

Judge Doug Hughes handed down the sentence.



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MATHERNE SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS

Livingston- Sarina Matherne, age 36, of Denham Springs, LA, was sentenced to serve 40 years with the department of corrections after pleading no contest to sexual battery on October 27, 2014.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Belser represented the State. Judge Doug Hughes handed down the sentence.

The offense report states that Matherne had been visiting the victim's mother in February of 2013, when the incident occurred. The child had been left alone for a time with the defendant and, following the attack, reported pain and bleeding to her mother. The victim was being treated at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital when she identified Matherne as the abuser.

The defendant must serve at least 25 years of the sentence without the benefit of parole, probation or suspension of sentence.

ANDERSON FOUND GUILTY IN TRIAL BY JURY



Amite- 45-year-old Maurice Anderson was found guilty of Theft over \$1,500.00 and simple battery in a trial by jury on October 22, 2014.

The six member jury deliberated for less than an hour before delivering the unanimous guilty verdict.

In April 2012, Anderson entered a Loranger home without the consent of the resident and stole multiple items including televisions, jewelry and firearms.

A description of the defendant's vehicle was provided to police. Officers located the vehicle and attempted a traffic stop; however, the defendant would not pull over. With the police in pursuit, the defendant drove his car into the lane with oncoming traffic, hitting a police car coming from the opposite direction. Anderson then jumped from his vehicle and fled on foot, but was soon apprehended by police. Inside the defendant's vehicle, officers found some of the items matching the description of those reported stolen. They also found collar brass with logos from the Hammond Police Department, where the victim was previously an officer, in the defendant's pocket.

Anderson, of Milley Lane, Hammond, LA, was arrested and charged with theft of \$1,500.00 or more and aggravated battery.

The victims, detectives and the defendant's accomplice were among the witness called by the State to testify.

Assistant District Attorney Le'Anne Malnar prosecuted the case with Judge Bruce Bennett presiding. Sentencing is scheduled for November 25, 2014.