

The 21st Monthly

From the Office of District Attorney Scott M. Perrilloux
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JACKSON SENTENCED IN VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

Amite- District Attorney Scott M. Perrilloux reports that on September 12, 2012, Gwen M. Jackson, age 59, was sentenced to seven years with the department of corrections for Vehicular Homicide and Driving the Wrong Way on a One Way Street.

Assistant District Attorney Brad Berner represented the State with Judge Doug Hughes presiding.

On June 23, 2010, Jackson was traveling north on I-55 Southbound when her vehicle collided head on with 19-year-old Caleb Perricone. Following the crash, the defendant told police she had recently taken Lortab and Ambien.

“We must realize that drugs, legal or otherwise, can result in impairment, which puts others in danger on our roadways,” Perrilloux explained. “This was a tragic case of a drug impaired driver causing the death of a young person; who, according to all who knew him, had a tremendous future.”

Jackson, of Whitmar Drive, Hammond, LA, pleaded no contest to the charge on July 30, 2012, he said.

BOUDREAUX CONVICTED ON MULTIPLE RAPE CHARGES

Livingston- On September 20, 2012, Michael J. Boudreaux, of Clarence Street, Walker, LA, was found guilty in a trial by jury of two counts of Aggravated Rape and three counts of Aggravated Incest.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Belser represented the State with Judge Ernest Drake presiding.

According to Belser, the acts of sexual abuse began in 1998, when the victim was only 3 years old, and continued until 2009, when she was approximately 14 years old. During this timeframe the family moved from Walker to several other parishes where the abuse continued. While the different counts pertain to only one victim, they address only those periods of abuse that occurred within the confines of Livingston Parish. The abuse came to an end after the victim moved out of the home to live with other members of her family in Lafayette and eventually in Texas.

In 2009, the victim disclosed the abuse to a guidance counselor in Texas and she was subsequently interviewed at the Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center. After disclosing numerous acts of sexual

and physical abuse to the forensic interviewer, the matter was referred to the Walker Police Department for further investigation into the acts that occurred within their jurisdiction. Arrest warrants were subsequently issued and Boudreaux, age 41, was arrested on December 23, 2010. He was later indicted by a Livingston Parish Grand Jury on all charges in March 2011.

The trial began on September 19, 2012. During this trial, the victim’s sister testified that, as a child, the defendant had sexually abused her as well. A jury of twelve deliberated for a little over an hour before unanimously finding the defendant guilty on all charges, said Belser.

“We had a great jury. They had to listen to very difficult testimony and I am grateful for their service,” said Belser. “When so many of these victims do not come forward out of feelings of fear or shame or embarrassment, this victim was brave and told her story and the jury believed her. It was her bravery that convinced her sister to also come forward,” said Belser. “This is a bigger problem than most people realize. According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an estimated 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys are sexually victimized before they reach age 18 and only 1 in 3 will tell anyone. According to recent studies, well over 90% of confirmed cases of child sexual abuse occurred at the hands of a family member or someone the child knew or trusted,” said Belser.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 22, 2012.

NOTABLE CONVICTIONS

Samuel T. Tullos, 36, was sentenced to 10 years with the department of corrections for Production and Manufacture of Schedule II Controlled Dangerous Substances (3 counts).

Ricky Howard, 46, was sentenced to 12 years with the department of corrections for Simple Burglary of an Inhabited Dwelling.

Patrick Reed Stewart, age 30, was sentenced to 12 years with the department of corrections after pleading guilty to Simple Burglary.

Joshua Thomas, 21, pleaded guilty to First Degree Robbery and Simple Burglary. He was sentenced by to 15 years with the department of corrections for the first offense and five years for the second. All time is to be served concurrently.

DUCHAMP TO SERVE 27 YEARS

Livingston- On September 17, 2012, Nicholas Duchamp, age 23, pleaded no contest to three counts of Simple Burglary of an Inhabited Dwelling. He was sentenced to serve five years with the department of corrections for each count, to be served consecutively, for a total of 15 years. Judge Ernest Drake handed down the sentence and Assistant District Attorney Matthew Belser represented the State.

According to Belser, Duchamp was arrested April 3, 2012 by the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office. The defendant and several accomplices had committed a string of residential burglaries throughout Livingston Parish, primarily stealing firearms and other valuables.

At the time of his arrest, Duchamp was on probation from a prior burglary conviction, said Belser. In March 2011, he was sentenced to 12 years with the department of corrections. The sentence was suspended and the defendant was placed on probation. Due to his most recent arrest, Duchamp's probation was revoked on August 2, 2012. He must now serve his entire 12 year sentence, consecutive to his most recent sentence, for a total of 27 years, the prosecutor explained.

STA PARENT AWARENESS NIGHT

Parents and Students gathered on September 26, at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Hammond for Parent Awareness Night. The event was hosted by the STA Counseling Department, District Attorney Scott Perrilloux, Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff Daniel Edwards, the Louisiana State Police, Judge Blair Edwards and TRACC.

The presentation addressed the consequences of social hosting, STA's roles and responsibilities, interpretations of the court, consequences, and tips on how to keep children safe. "We want to mentor, guide and council you in ways to help your children," said Disciplinarian Nick Stoulig. Stoulig explained to parents that STA will begin drug testing all students in order to identify those who need help. He also reminded everyone that parents and students are at all times representatives of St. Thomas.

Nick Manale of the Louisiana State Police and Bridget Bailey of TRACC discussed student drinking statistics, the consequences of underage drinking and the harmful effects on children. Other than drinking and driving accidents, students may experience falls, sexual assaults, and embarrassment. Manale also addressed laws, parental liability, improper supervision and implied consent.

The pair reviewed the dangers of social hosting and reminded parents that it is their responsibility to protect children. Bailey explained that parents who believe there may be a party where underage drinking is taking place can call the anonymous tip line: 1-877-Not-B-4-21.

Judge Edwards then spoke with parents emphasizing parent accountability. She noted that children learn from their parents. The goal is to deter underage

drinking by setting an example. During a question and answer session that followed the presentation Sheriff Edwards stated, "We are trying to change a culture in Louisiana."

Parents were able to write in questions that were then read to the panel by Assistant District Attorney Le'Anne Malnar. Members of the panel took turns and often joined together in answering parent questions and concerns. District Attorney Scott Perrilloux and Sheriff Edwards fielded many questions regarding the legal repercussions of underage drinking for both parents and students.

DA AT KSLU

During an interview on KSLU's "Point of View" with Rosa Dunn on September 5, 2012, District Attorney Perrilloux addressed various functions and responsibilities of the district attorney's office.

Perrilloux explained that the 21st Judicial District is a large geographic area including St. Helena, Livingston, and Tangipahoa parishes, and is home to 260,000 residents.

The DA then discussed how a case progresses through the criminal justice system before it reaches the district attorney's office. "No person controls the entire system," he explained, "We all have our role in the process." When cases reach the district attorney's office, they are then reviewed by an assistant district attorney. At this point, the ADA will decide whether to dismiss or pursue a case.

"I've got some very talented people," said Perrilloux, "They are very good at what they do." Perrilloux also discussed additional services offered by the DA's office.

CELEBRATE MY DRIVE

Saturday September 15, 2012, staff from the district attorney's office attended the State Farm sponsored event Celebrate My Drive. According to State Farm, the event is designed to encourage the community to "rally around and support teens everywhere as they learn to drive and get ready for the road ahead."

There were various booths run by local businesses and organizations emphasizing driver safety. The DA's office provided a driving while intoxicated simulation.

Participants were given goggles that imitated various degrees of impairment. They were then allowed to drive a pedal car through a pre-set course, this way students could safely experience the dangers of impaired driving.

Informational sheets were available at the DA booth detailing the effects of alcohol and the consequences of drinking and driving.