



NEWS RELEASE  
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01/25/2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN GUILTY OF BEATING HOMELESS VICTIM WITH A METAL PIPE

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Courtney Duane Blade, 39, of Springfield, Missouri, was convicted on January 24th by a Greene County Jury of assault in the first degree, armed criminal action, and misdemeanor stealing.

The evidence presented at trial showed that on May 18, 2017, the victim, a homeless adult man, was found naked, beaten, and alone in downtown Springfield. Officers investigated what happened and learned that the victim had been beaten by the defendant, an acquaintance to him. The defendant beat the victim with a metal pipe after being told the victim tried to start a relationship with the defendant's girlfriend. The defendant beat the victim so badly the victim had multiple abrasions to his back and a fractured bone in his arm resulting in serious physical injury. After severely beating the victim, the defendant forced him to undress and stole his clothing and backpack of belongings.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable David Jones. After hearing two days of evidence and argument the jury deliberated approximately 70 minutes before returning its guilty verdicts. The defendant faces a mandatory minimum prison sentence of three years to a maximum sentence of life imprisonment in the Missouri Department of Corrections for these charges. Judge Jones set a sentencing hearing for April 10, 2019, at 1:30 PM following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys John Herries and Joshua Harrel. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Oliver Hoedel was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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