



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Sentenced in Murder Plot

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Dan Patterson, Greene County Prosecuting Attorney announced that Jeff Bloom, 50, of Springfield, Missouri, was sentenced to 25 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections today by The Honorable Michael Cordonnier in the murder of Bloom's mistress's husband, Stephen Rash.

Jeff Bloom had previously pleaded guilty to a one count felony information charging him with murder in the second degree for his role in the planning and execution of the murder of Stephen Rash that took place the evening December 5, 2008, at Mr. Rash's home, 711 W. Chicago Street, Springfield, Missouri.

There was no plea agreement to the length of sentence. Following the arguments of Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson and Defense Attorney Tom Carver, Judge Cordonnier sentenced Jeff Bloom to 25 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections and denied probation. Murder in the second degree is a dangerous felony and Bloom must serve 85% of his sentence before being eligible for parole.

On August 30, 2011, the victim's wife, co-defendant Theresa Rash, was sentenced under a plea agreement by The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy to 25 years in the Department of Corrections and probation was denied.

On August 17, 2011, co-defendant Rusty Amoss was convicted following a bench trial of murder in the first degree of Stephen Rash for his role in this homicide. The evidence presented in that case was that Mr. Amoss committed the murder by cutting Mr. Rash's neck and that he committed the murder at the request of Jeff Bloom

and Theresa Rash. Amoss was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Amoss' trial and sentencing was presided over by the Honorable Thomas E. Mountjoy.

On March 10, 2011, co-defendant William Reed was convicted following a bench trial of murder in the first degree of Stephen Rash for his role in this homicide. The evidence presented in that case was that Mr. Reed aided Mr. Amoss in committing the murder by attempting to break Mr. Rash's neck prior to Mr. Amoss cutting Mr. Rash's neck. The evidence was that Mr. Reed participated in the murder at the request of Jeff Bloom, Theresa Rash and Rusty Amoss. Reed was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Reed's trial and sentencing was presided over by the Honorable Calvin R. Holden.

On October 28, 2011, co-defendant Troy Christiansen was sentenced by the Honorable Calvin Holden to a term of twelve years in the Department of Corrections. The Court granted Christiansen probation over the objection of the State. Christiansen had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder for his role in the planning of the homicide of Stephen Rash and under the plea agreement faced a range of 10-15 years in the Department of Corrections. As part of his plea agreement Christiansen agreed to testify truthfully in the trials of all other co-defendants and his sentencing was delayed until the conclusion of the other co-defendant cases. Christiansen was Alexandria McNeeley's paramour at the time of the murder.

On March 18, 2010, co-defendant Alexandria McNeeley pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder for her role in the planning of the homicide of Stephen Rash. As part of her plea agreement McNeeley agreed to testify truthfully in the trials of all other co-defendants and her sentencing was delayed until the conclusion of the other co-defendant cases. McNeeley is set for reappearance before the Honorable Thomas Mountjoy on December 6, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. at which time, if not before, it is anticipated that the Court will order a presentence investigation and set a sentencing date. McNeeley is Theresa Rash's daughter.

These cases are being prosecuted by Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson. They were investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Christopher Barb was the lead investigator assigned to the case. The resolution of this homicide and convictions of all charged co-defendants is a testament to the hard and outstanding work of Detective Barb and the Springfield Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit.

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