



NEWS RELEASE

GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DAN PATTERSON

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1010 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

06/30/2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SONDREE CHARGED IN ASSAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Robert Daniel Sondree, 35, of Springfield, Missouri, has been charged today with the felony of assault in the second degree. These charges are from events which occurred on the evening of June 29, 2012, in which Mr. Bobby Newman is alleged to have been assaulted. The police continue to investigate this event to determine if additional charges will be presented to the prosecutor's office for consideration.

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Copies of the felony complaint and probable statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney T. Myers. It is being investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Christopher Barb is the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

Associate Division _____

STATE OF MISSOURI,)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	Case No. 1231-CR04080
)	
ROBERT DANIEL SONDRÉE ,)	OCN#
)	
Defendant.)	PA File No. 077244983

State of Missouri)
) ss.
County of Greene)

FELONY COMPLAINT

COUNT I

(Missouri Charge Code: 13031006.0)

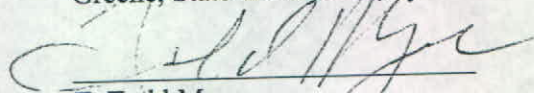
The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.060, RSMo, committed the class C felony of assault in the second degree, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about the 29th day of June 2012, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant recklessly caused serious physical injury to Bobby Newman by shoving him onto concrete.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached probable cause statement concerning this matter, which statement is made a part hereof and is submitted herewith as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

WHEREFORE, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

State v. ROBERT DANIEL SONDRÉE

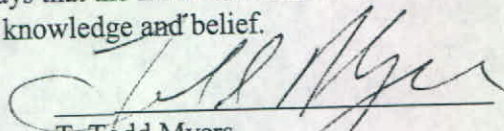
DAN PATTERSON
Prosecuting Attorney of the County of
Greene, State of Missouri, by



T. Todd Myers
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Missouri Bar No. 50252

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Springfield, MO 65802
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T. Todd Myers, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, being duly sworn, upon oath says that the facts stated in the above information are true, according to his or her best information, knowledge and belief.



T. Todd Myers
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

State of Missouri vs. Robert Daniel Sondree
PA File No. 077244983

COURT INFORMATION FOR WARRANT OR SUMMONS

From Prosecuting Attorney

DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS: 1006 N Davies Ave
Springfield, MO 65802

CHARGE(S): Count I: Assault 2nd degree, Class C Felony

BOND RECOMMENDED: \$50,000.00

REASONS: Victim is deceased, additional charges possible once autopsy is complete. Prior misdemeanor convictions.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Obey all laws, not to possess or consume alcohol or controlled substances, not to be on premises of 915 N. Kansas Expressway or have any contact with Bobby Newman's family.

OFFICER & AGENCY: Christopher Barb, Springfield Police Dept.

DEFENDANT DESCRIPTION:

DOB: [REDACTED]/1976

SEX: Male

RACE: White

SSN: [REDACTED]

DLN:

DLN STATE:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Issue Warrant
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Summons

Any pending cases? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Case number of pending case in Division of Assignment per Administrative Order of 2/26/07:
APA Name/Bar No. assigned: T. Myers 50252

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date 6/30/2012

I Christopher Barb, a law enforcement officer, knowing that false statements made in this form are punishable by law, state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that Robert Daniel Sondree, DOB: [REDACTED] 1976, SSN: [REDACTED] committed one or more criminal offenses.

2. The offense(s) happened on June 29, 2012 at 2003 hours at 915 N. Kansas Expressway in Greene County, Missouri.

3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows: (Insert concise facts supporting each element of charge)

On 06/29/2012 at 2003 hours Springfield Police Officers were dispatched to 915 N. Kansas Expressway for a report of an unconscious male subject at the location. Dispatch received a call from a caller that reported her brother, Daniel Sondree, pushed a male subject and the male subject struck his head. The caller reported she was currently at 1522 W. Nichols with Sondree.

Officers arrived at 915 N. Kansas Exp. and located two females who pointed them in the direction where the male subject was located. The females were identified as Amanda Knight and Jennifer Rainey. Officers then observed a third female, Rebecca Distefano, at the rear of the residence near the head of the male. Officers discovered the male subject lying on his back partially with his upper torso inside the doorway/entryway of a small porch type area at the rear of the house. Officers indicated the subject's lower body was extended out the doorway/entryway.

Officer Eric Morgan was present and identified the male subject as Bobby Newman. Officer Morgan had past contacts with Newman and was familiar with him and his appearance. Officer Morgan later confirmed Newman's identity when paramedics removed Newman's identification card from his wallet. Officer Morgan reported he observed an abrasion on Newman's forehead and saw blood on the back of Newman's head in his hair. Officer Morgan stated Distefano was holding Newman's head on a pillow. Officer Morgan advised he observed blood on the ground near a concrete patio and blood inside the covered, porch type area at the rear of 915 N. Kansas Exp. Officer Morgan reported one of the paramedics reported Newman had a "hole" in the back of his head before Newman was transported.

Newman was transported from the scene by emergency medical personnel to Mercy Hospital where he was declared deceased.

On 06/29/2012 Officers also responded to 1522 W. Nichols and contacted Robert Daniel Sondree. Officers detained Sondree and transported him to Police Headquarters to be interviewed by detectives.

A female named Melissa Doyle was contacted at 1522 W. Nichols and was identified as the female subject who contacted dispatch to notify the police of this incident and Sondree's location. Doyle also agreed to respond to Police Headquarters for an interview. Witnesses, Rebecca Distefano and Amanda Knight, agreed to respond to Police Headquarters from 915 N. Kansas Exp. to be interviewed by detectives also.

On 06/29/2012, Cpl. Brian Crum conducted an interview with Amanda L. Knight in reference to this investigation. Knight advised that she and Bobby Newman had been friends for several years and she frequently visited him at his residence. Knight stated that on today's date, she arrived at Newman's residence sometime around 1800 hours. Knight said when she arrived at the residence she made contact with Newman and Newman's roommate outside the residence. Knight stated that she then went into Newman's residence and called her mother.

Knight stated that after calling her mother, she went back outside. Knight stated that after going back outside, she observed that another female subject she did not know had arrived at the residence. This female subject was later determined to be Rebecca Distefano. Knight stated that Distefano remained at Newman's residence for approximately one (1) hour before leaving. Knight stated that while there, Distefano was drinking. Knight stated that Distefano returned to the residence a short time later and continued drinking.

Knight stated that later that evening, Distefano asked Newman to walk her to her residence because she was very intoxicated and felt she could not walk to her residence by herself. Knight stated that Newman did not want to walk Distefano back to her residence and asked Knight to walk with her. Knight stated she agreed to walk with Distefano to her residence.

Knight stated that when she and Distefano arrived at Distefano's residence, they went inside. Knight stated that once inside the residence she was introduced to a male subject named Daniel and Distefano's children. Knight stated that she had previously braided Distefano's hair and Distefano's girls asked her to braid their hair. Knight stated that she agreed and walked into the living room with the girls.

Knight stated that while in the living room, she overheard Distefano and Daniel start to argue. Knight stated that she could not tell what they were arguing about but did hear Distefano tell Daniel that she did not want to argue in front of the children. Knight stated that she later heard Distefano tell Daniel, "No Daniel, don't". Knight stated that shortly after that, things became quiet in the kitchen where Distefano and Daniel had been arguing. Knight stated she thought they had either gone to another part of the house or outside to argue and that was why she stopped hearing them argue.

Knight stated that approximately fifteen (15) to twenty (20) minutes after she had last heard Distefano and Daniel arguing, Daniel came running into the residence. Knight stated that Daniel was frantic and made the statement, "Oh my God, Oh my God, I killed Bobby". Knight stated she said, "What" and then asked Daniel if this was a joke. Knight stated that Daniel then stated, "He's bleeding really, really bad. I think I hurt him very badly". Knight stated that she then asked Daniel where Bobby was bleeding. Knight stated that Daniel stated, "His head".

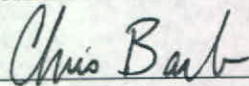
On 06/29/12 Cpl. Heather Anderson conducted an interview with Melissa Doyle. Doyle reported she received a telephone call from her brother, Sondree. Doyle stated Sondree was frantic and told her he was running down Nichols St. with his children. Doyle reported Sondree told her he had "messed up" and was going to prison. Doyle said Sondree told her where he was located with the children. Doyle reported her mother, Lynn Nelson, located Sondree and the children before she did and drove them back to Sondree's residence at 1522 W. Nichols. Doyle stated she contacted Sondree at that location and spoke with him. Doyle reported Sondree told her he pushed a male subject and believed the male subject was deceased.

Doyle stated Sondree told him he had been home cooking dinner when Distefano, his girlfriend, left their house and went to a neighbor's house. Doyle reported Sondree said Distefano returned home and told him a male subject at the residence she was at had fondled her or tried to rape her. Doyle advised Sondree said he went to the male subject's house (determined to be Bobby Newman). Doyle reported Sondree told her he confronted Newman and pushed him down.

Doyle reported Sondree was wearing a black tank top when she first saw him. Doyle stated she also saw blood on the right side of Sondree's neck and on his shoulder. Doyle said she told Sondree about the blood. Doyle reported Sondree was inside the residence at 1522 W. Nichols and walked out of her view for a brief time. Doyle said when she saw Sondree again it appeared as if he had cleaned the blood from his neck and he was no longer wearing the black tank top. Doyle reported she later saw the tank top Sondree had been wearing inside the residence at 1522 W. Nichols.

On June 30, 2012, I contacted hospital staff at Mercy Hospital to investigate any determination as to the cause of death of Mr. Newman. I was told that doctors had not pronounced any determination as to cause of death. Arrangements have been made for an autopsy of Mr. Newman for July 1, 2012. Once an autopsy is complete there will be evidence to establish a cause of death.

The above statements are true to the best of my information and belief.



Signature