

Weimar Robber Gets Fifty Year Sentence

A Houston man has been sentenced to a lengthy sentence for the aggravated robbery of an employee of a Weimar plumbing store.

Reginald Williams, 41, a two-time ex-convict, pled guilty to an aggravated robbery that occurred at Winkler Plumbing in Weimar

on January 15, 2008 and received 50 years in prison from District Judge W.C. Kirkendall.

The victim, Irma Reich, was allowed to address Williams after the sentence and told him that he had delayed this case by pretending to be incompetent and was an evil person.

She said she was recovering and would walk out of the courtroom a free person but he would be spending the rest of his life behind bars for what he did.

"This was one of the toughest victims I have ever encountered," said Colorado County Attorney Ken Sparks.

"She was able to fight off the robber, prevent a sexual assault, and cut him with his own knife, which produced blood evidence leading to his arrest and conviction based on a DNA comparison," he said.

"She is the hero of this case," he added.

The case was delayed since Williams claimed to be incompetent to stand trial and was sent to Vernon State Hospital.

Following treatment and medication, he was returned to Colorado County.

He again denied that he was competent and requested a jury trial on that issue.

A jury found him competent to stand trial in December and he pled guilty to aggravated robbery shortly thereafter.

Williams will have to serve a minimum of 25 years in prison before he is reviewed for parole.

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Sheriff's Dept. Makes Drug Arrests

On March 15, the Colorado County Sheriff's Office conducted a narcotics investigation, which led to the issuance of a Search Warrant for a residence located at 1036 Old McDonald lane in Columbus.

The search warrant was executed on 03-16-09, at which time 17.91 grams of "Crack" Cocaine was seized from the residence, along with a 1 gallon bag containing approximately 6 ounces of Marihuana, and another bag containing approximately .480

ounces of Marihuana.

In addition to the illegal narcotics, the Colorado County Sheriff's Office also seized over \$600 in US Currency, a pistol grip 12 gauge shotgun, a stun gun, a Police scanner, 27 cell phones, and a security system monitor with cameras.

After the narcotics investigation was concluded, Alexce Marshall, 40 of Columbus, and Tamika Landry, 27 of Columbus, were both arrested and transported to the Colorado County Detention Facility.

Marshall was charged with Manufacture or Delivery of Substance in Penalty Group 1 (Cocaine), a First Degree Felony and Possession of Marihuana, a State Jail Felony.

Landry was charged with Possession of Marihuana, a Class B Misdemeanor. Marshall was released on March 17 after posting a total of \$40,000 bond set by Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Billy Hefner. Landry was also released on March 17, after posting \$5,000 bond.

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Ten Things To Know About Farm Income

If you are in the business of farming, here are some things you may want to know before filing your federal tax return.

-Crop insurance proceeds: You must include in income any crop insurance proceeds you

receive as the result of crop damage.

You generally include them in the year you receive them.

-Sales caused by weather-related condition: If you sell more livestock, including poultry, than

you normally would in a year because of weather-related conditions, you may be able to choose to postpone reporting the gain from selling the additional animals until the next year.

-Farm income averaging: You may be able to average all or some of your current year's farm income and refiguring your tax over the three prior years.

This may give you a lower tax if your current year income from farming is high, and your taxable income from one or more of the three prior years was low.

-Deductible farm expenses: The ordinary and necessary costs of operating a farm for profit are deductible business expenses.

An ordinary expense is an expense that is common and accepted in the business.

A necessary expense is one that is appropriate for the business.

-Employees: You can deduct reasonable wages paid for labor hired to perform your farming operations.

-Items purchased for resale: You may be able to deduct the cost of livestock and other items purchased for resale in the year of sale.

This cost includes freight charges for transporting the livestock to the farm.

-Net operating losses: If your deductible loss from operating your farm is more than your other income for the year, you may have a net operating loss.

If you have a net operating loss this year, you can carry it to other years and deduct it.

You may be able to get a refund of all or part of the income

tax you paid for past years, or you may be able to reduce your tax in future years.

-Repayment of loans: You can not deduct the repayment of a loan. However, if you use the proceeds of a loan for farm business expenses, you can deduct the interest you pay on the loan.

-Fuel and road use: You may be eligible to claim a credit or refund of excise taxes on fuel used on a farm for farming purposes.

-Farmers Tax Guide: More information about farm income and deductions can be found in IRS Publication 225, Farmer's Tax Guide which can be obtained online at IRS.gov or by calling the IRS at 1-800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

Texas Trash Off Slated For April 4

This year, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) hopes to gather more litter during the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off on Saturday, April 4.

During Trash-Off, volunteers across the state will clean roadsides, parks, waterways and neighborhoods.

Volunteers in Eagle Lake are meeting near city hall at 8 a.m. on April 4.

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is the largest one-day statewide cleanup event in the U.S. and is a partnership between TxDOT and Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB).

The event brings together KTB volunteers and Adopt-a-Highway groups from across the state to clean up roadways and their communities on one designated day.

The public is invited to participate by signing up online at www.ktb.org or calling 1-800-CLEAN-TX.

TxDOT needs more volunteers because it is facing a challenging year for trash pick-up.

There are more roads to keep clean, and Hurricane Ike spread extra debris over parts of the state.

"Without volunteers, it could cost even more to keep Texas roads clean," said Doris Howdeshell, Travel Information Division Director for TxDOT.

"That's why we have to continue changing people's behavior through the Don't Mess with Texas litter prevention campaign, and we are so grateful to our dedicated volunteers who help keep Texas clean and safe."

During last year's Trash-Off, 61,000 volunteers collected more than 5 million pounds of litter.

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off began in 1986 to encourage the public to refrain from littering for one designated day.

TxDOT's litter prevention program includes Adopt-a-Highway and a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful.

Don't Mess with Texas activities also includes community outreach, a student litter prevention contest and a corporate partner program.

TxDOT also wants to remind Texans that they can get a free litterbag via the Don't Mess with Texas Web site, www.dontmesswithtexas.org.

Litterbags offer an immediate solution for drivers, so they can easily store their trash until they reach a trashcan.

TxDOT's goals are to reduce congestion, enhance safety, expand economic opportunity, improve air quality and increase the value of transportation assets.

For more information, visit www.txdot.gov.

One Suit Filed In District Court

On March 20, Johnnye Paul Hernandez filed suit against Class Concrete Corp. in Colorado County District Court in a dispute over injuries received in a motor vehicle.

The suit by Hernandez claims he was injured on Dec. 12, 2008, while driving a truck for Class Concrete when the brakes on the vehicle failed, resulting in a wreck.

He is seeking compensation for injuries he said he received.

Divorces Granted

Virginia J. Kirschner and Bobby R. Raley, March 23.

Tammy Brockmeyer and Clay Brockmeyer, March 23.

County

Continued from front page

does not use a county vehicle "to go to Wal-Mart for a shopping trip."

He said that he had been told that it was permissible to stop on the way to and from work in a county vehicle for brief personal business.

Kana said a county committee had discussed the issue and said that such use could occur, but should be kept to "an absolute minimum."

In other action, commissioners:

-Adopted a resolution proclaiming April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month."

-Approved the sale of used tile from the courthouse roof to a Carrolton Company, which was the only bidder, for \$3,110.

-Authorized the county judge to enter an agreement with the Department of Public Safety to deny renewal of a driver's license for individuals who fail to pay fines in county and district courts.

-Abolished all airport advisory committees associated with the Robert R. Wells Airport and authorized a new advisory board, with members to be appointed later.

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Date	Temp (H/L)	Rainfall(in.)
Mon. 03-16-09	77/45	0.01
Tue. 03-17-09	74/48	0.00
Wed. 03-18-09	79/56	0.00
Thu. 03-19-09	76/49	0.00
Fri. 03-20-09	80/50	0.00
Sat. 03-21-09	80/57	0.00
Sun. 03-22-09	82/64	0.00

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