

Plea closes door on deadly robbery attempt

Written by Administrator

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The book was closed on a year-old robbery case Nov. 22 when Skylar Naugle pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery, a Class B Felony.

Naugle admitted to conspiring with Ronald Chastain to rob his grandfather's home on State Road 56 near Salem.

Chastain was shot and killed by Naugle's grandfather during the robbery attempt. The shooting was ruled justifiable homicide.

Naugle agreed to a sentence of 14 years with none suspended. It was reported in the Dec. 1 issue of The Washington County Edition that he had nine suspended, but that was incorrect.

Washington County Prosecutor Dustin Houchin said Chastain's death did not factor into the sentence.

"The death was a co-defendant so it doesn't add to the crime," he said. "If the death would have been a home owner, or some other innocent person, it would have. Since it was a co-defendant, it doesn't enhance it any."

Houchin said while he would have liked to have charged Naugle with robbery, the state's strongest case against Naugle was conspiracy to commit the robbery.

"We were a little light on evidence that Naugle was actually in the house," he said. "We could have potentially gotten him more time if we had better evidence, but given what we had, it was a pretty good outcome."

Naugle's grandfather told investigators that Chastain knocked on the door asking to use the phone. As he entered, the report said, another man, alleged to be Naugle entered wearing a mask, the homeowner retrieved a gun and shot Chastain.

Naugle fled the scene, but was later arrested and charged in the case.