



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061
1010 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Sentenced to Two Life Sentences for Two Murders
Committed in Five Days

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Willie Haughton, 27, was sentenced on Thursday, June 4, 2020, for the March 2018 murders of Lance Loveless and Robert Hewitt.

Haughton was found guilty following a December 2019 jury trial. The defendant was on bond in an unrelated felony domestic assault case involving allegations of choking (strangulation) at the time of the murders, was wearing a GPS monitor as a condition of his release, and possessed a firearm in violation of his conditions of release. GPS plotting evidence was presented showing the defendant in the immediate area of the first murder. In addition, the defendant's DNA was located on the grip of the firearm used in the first murder. According to testimony during the trial, the defendant, who had a revolver, wanted Mr. Loveless' firearm because it was a semi-automatic handgun with a larger ammunition capacity. The evidence showed that the defendant used the gun he forcibly stole from Mr. Loveless to later kill Mr. Hewitt.

Haughton was sentenced by The Honorable David Jones to two consecutive life sentences for the murders of Lance Loveless and Robert Hewitt. The life sentences are to be served without the possibility of parole. The defendant was also found guilty by the jury and sentenced for several other associated charges including the robbery in the first degree of Lance Loveless during which the defendant stole Mr. Loveless' handgun.

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