



OFFICE OF THE
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Jury Convicts Redding Man of Murder

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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William Roy Thietje, 29, was convicted by jury today of second degree murder and various domestic violence charges stemming from the fall of 2012.

The defendant was in a relationship with a woman in 2011 and 2012. He physically abused her on a regular basis. She was able to leave him a number of times, however, the defendant found her and brought her home. In the fall of 2012, the violence escalated and the woman learned that she was pregnant. This escalating violence led to three specific incidents of domestic being charged in this case. The first was on August 28, 2012 in which the defendant hit the woman in the face breaking her nose. The next incident happened sometime the following month in a hotel. There the defendant head butted the woman and strangled her to the point of unconsciousness. The third charged incident occurred on September 29, 2012. During this incident the defendant dragged the woman out of a car by her hair and punched her in the face while the woman's sister was yelling that the woman was pregnant. The defendant threw the woman down and repeatedly kicked her head against a tire.

The woman was able to leave the defendant in mid-October and hid with various family members. On the night of October 27, 2012 the defendant learned that the woman's car had been spotted in Shasta Lake City. He and three friends drove to find the woman. When the defendant spotted her Cadillac, he put the van in reverse and hit the Cadillac hard enough knock down a chain link fence and

move the Cadillac approximately thirteen feet. The defendant and his friends fled the location.

The woman, the resident of the home she was in, and neighbors came out when they heard the crash. The woman learned that it was a van that hit her Cadillac and she became afraid. The defendant and his friends returned. A neighbor told the defendant that the woman did not want to talk to him and that he needed to leave. The defendant threatened the neighbor numerous times. The defendant rocked the van back and forth in a threatening manner. The resident of the home recognized that the defendant was a serious threat and went inside the home and retrieved a shotgun. He walked out of the residence planning to scare the defendant away. As he walked out, he saw that the defendant was ramming the van into the Cadillac, causing the Cadillac to move toward him and his home. The resident also saw that the neighbor was running to get out of the way of the Cadillac and was almost run over. The neighbor felt the bumper of the Cadillac on his thigh as he was running away.

The resident fired two slugs into the van in an attempt to stop the defendant. The defendant ducked and one of the slugs hit Beau Halbert in the face. Mr. Halbert was one of the defendant's friends and was seated directly behind the defendant in the van. Mr. Halbert died as a result of a single gunshot wound to the head. Accordingly, the defendant was prosecuted for the murder under the Provocative Act Doctrine, meaning the defendant committed a provocative act that led to Mr. Halbert's death.

The trial lasted three weeks and the jury deliberated for a day and a half. The jury convicted the defendant of second degree murder, assault with a deadly weapon, corporal injury on a cohabitant, assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury and false imprisonment by violence. The jury found true an allegation that the defendant personally inflicted great bodily injury on the domestic violence victim. The defendant is facing fifteen years to life in prison for the second degree murder and an additional fourteen years in prison for the domestic violence charges. The defendant's sentencing is scheduled for December 8, 2014 with the Honorable Judge William Gallagher.

This case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Rachel Donahou and investigated by Detective Gene Randall with the Shasta County Sheriff's Office. The victims were assisted by Angela Mellis of the Crime Victim's Assistance Center.
