

Man gets life for attack on pizza man

By RYAN SMITH
News Tribune

Ronald E. Bell, 25, one of the two men charged with the beating of Domino's Pizza driver Alan McCullough, was sentenced to life in prison Tuesday morning.

Presiding Judge Thomas J. Brown III granted Prosecutor Bill Tackett's recommendation of concurrent sentences of life imprisonment for the robbery charge, 25 years for assault and 10 years for armed criminal action.

"Often times (a life sentence) is reserved for murder, but the heinousness and arbitrary brutality of this crime caused us to recommend life," said Tackett.

On July 27, Bell entered blind guilty pleas to the charges. A blind plea means that there is no plea agreement involved and it allows the prosecutor to seek the maximum punishment.

Bell admitted to authorities that on June 9, he attacked McCullough, who was attempting to deliver two pizzas and chicken wings to a residence in the 1200 block of St. Mary's Boulevard.

Bell reportedly walked around a nearby sidewalk and carried a metal pipe while a second man, Patrick Middaugh, sat on the front step while waiting for a delivery person to arrive.

When McCullough approached the residence to make the delivery, Bell reportedly struck him on the head with the pipe. Bell and Middaugh reportedly took the pizza and chicken wings and the small amount of cash McCullough carried and fled the scene.

Middaugh's trial has been set for Wednesday.

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