

Jury selection begins in trial of teen charged with pizza delivery assault

By Bob Watson

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Jury selection began Thursday morning in the felony assault trial of Patrick Middaugh, 18.

The trial was scheduled to run through Friday.

Middaugh is charged with an assault last June 9 that seriously injured Allen McCullough, as he was attempting to deliver two pizzas and chicken wings to a residence in the 1200 block of St. Mary's Boulevard.

The other man charged in the case, Ronald E. Bell, was sentenced last Sept. 5 to life in prison.

"The heinousness and arbitrary brutality of this crime caused us to recommend life," Prosecutor Bill Tackett said after Bell's sentence was imposed.

Bell admitted to authorities that he attacked McCullough.

Bell reportedly walked around a nearby sidewalk and carried a metal pipe while Middaugh sat on the front step of an empty home, waiting for the delivery person to arrive after the pair called in the order to Domino's Pizza from a nearby pay phone.

As McCullough approached the residence to make the delivery, Bell reportedly struck him on the head with the pipe.

Then, police reported, Bell and Middaugh took the delivery bag holding the pizza and barbecued chicken wings and the \$26 McCullough was carrying, and fled.