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Prosecutors continue case against Tindall in trial

By Nancy Flake
City editor



TINDALL

After a recess Friday, the federal trial of former Conroe Police Sgt. Michael Tindall will continue Monday with the government's case against him, a defense attorney for Tindall said.

Tindall faces a federal charge of bank robbery for allegedly stealing more than \$28,000 from First Bank of Conroe, located at 2201 Westview Blvd., Aug. 11, 2008. His trial began

Feb. 18 in the Bob Casey Federal Courthouse in Houston.

If convicted, Tindall, who worked for the Conroe Police Department for 23 years and retired soon after his March 24, 2009, arrest, faces a maximum prison term of 20 years and a fine up to \$250,000.

The government will continue its

case Monday, led by prosecutor Kebharu Smith, and likely will present testimony for another four days before attorneys Robert Scardino and Ali Fazel present their defense to jurors, Fazel said Friday evening. Fazel said he hopes they can present their case Friday.

Tindall, a security guard at First Bank of Conroe for 19 years in his off-duty hours, is accused of walking into the bank around 9:25 a.m., jumping over a counter into the teller area and demanding money

from the bottom drawer be placed into a bag.

Wearing a black jacket, dark jeans, sneakers, white gloves and a white motorcycle helmet with the visor pulled down over the face, Tindall then allegedly jumped back over the counter, walked out of the bank, got into a silver Chevrolet Malibu and drove off.

In its investigation before Tindall's arrest, the FBI connected a silver Chevrolet Malibu similar to the one used by the robber to the rental

of one by Tindall two days before the robbery.

Tindall returned the car at 9:45 a.m. the day of the robbery, according to the FBI's arrest warrant affidavit.

The FBI also discovered, according to the affidavit, that Tindall made a cash deposit into his Woodforest Bank account of \$5,000 a little more than an hour after the robbery.

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WALK ACROSS TEXAS



Staff photo by Eric S. Swist

Patients of Dr. Richard Wilkenfeld of Texas Gastric Banding take part in the Walk Across Texas on Saturday morning at Kasmiersky Park in Conroe. The walk was a partnership between Texas Gastric Banding and AgriLIFE Extension. Walk Across Texas! is a free, 8 week program designed to help Texans establish the habit of regular physical activity according to the program's website at <http://walkacrosstexas.tamu.edu>.

County to revisit daycare issue

By Howard Roden
Courier staff

Montgomery County commissioners are scheduled to revisit fire codes that several daycare operators claim could put an unfair financial burden on their businesses.

At issue during their meeting Monday is a requirement that would force existing daycare facilities to install a fire alarm system with a manual activation system.

Becky Williams, owner of Kiddie Cabin Day Care in New Caney, was one of three daycare operators who went before commissioners on Feb. 22 asking their existing facilities be grandfathered under a fire code approved in November 2007. Otherwise, she said the cost of retrofitting her two buildings to current requirements could range from \$5,800 to \$9,500.

Becky Williams said she has smoke detectors in every room of her daycare, and conducts fire alarm drills every month, and weather drills every six months.

"If this law is not amended all businesses will be affected, and not just daycare centers," Becky Williams said.

County Fire Marshal Jimmy Williams said the State Fire Marshal's Office requires his office to conduct annual inspections of daycare centers on behalf of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

Jimmy Williams said he is supposed to use the 2009 version of the Life Safety Code, which was adopted Oct. 1 by the Texas Department of Insurance. He said the county fire code does not apply to existing daycare centers.

Howard Roden can be reached at hroden@hcnonline.com.

SHERIFF'S BLOTTER

District 1 North County

• Officers arrested a 40-year-old Willis man Feb. 26 for assault family violence, and also cited his 18-year-old son for assaulting the father. When the officers arrived at the home in the 11400 block of Post Oak Road, the father said he and his son had begun fighting because the son had head-butted him. The father slammed his son's head into a glass door, breaking the glass. The fight continued out the door and down the stairs. Deputies saw cuts on the son's head and numerous bleeding scratches on his neck, and his eyes were bloodshot where he was hit. The father had no marks on him.

District 2 South County

• A deputy took a 15-year-old girl into custody Feb. 22 on a charge of Class A misdemeanor assault and transported her to the Montgomery County Juvenile Detention facility. The deputy had responded to an assault in progress call around 9 a.m. on Plum Creek Drive, where the complainant said several girls at the home refused to go to school. The 15-year-old girl had attempted to force her way past the complainant, and in the process had grabbed the complainant's hand, twisting her pinky finger and causing it to become dislocated and possibly

broken.

District 3 East County

• A deputy arrested a 20-year-old man on a charge of criminal mischief Feb. 26 when the deputy went to a home on Aestival Drive. The complainant said the man had gotten mad at her and burned all her clothes. The man admitted to burning the clothes.

District 4 West County

• An officer saw a vehicle parked facing the wrong way on a public road around 11:30 p.m. Feb. 22. The driver and passenger both appeared to be highly intoxicated and both had open beers in their laps and an odor of alcohol coming from their breath as they spoke. The driver provided a breath test sample of 0.289, while the passenger provided a partial breath sample of 0.215. Both men were arrested and transported to the Montgomery County Jail.

District 5 Northwest County

• A deputy responding to a criminal mischief call Feb. 25 in the 15700 block of Forest Drive was told by the complainant someone had, over the past week, vandalized his vacant residential property, caus-

ing damage estimated at more than \$15,000. The case is under investigation by the Criminal Investigation Division.

District 6 The Woodlands

• A deputy patrolling in the area of The Woodlands Waterway near the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion Feb. 20 saw a vehicle attempting to turn around down on the waterway in an area reserved for pedestrians, bicycles and The Woodlands trolley service. The area is clearly marked with signs prohibiting no unauthorized vehicles. The deputy asked the 30-year-old driver for his license and asked the man how he had managed to get around the gates and down on the waterway. The driver had a strong odor of alcohol coming from him as he explained he had taken the turn his friend told him to take. As the deputy investigated, he found an open bottle of vodka on the floorboard behind the driver's seat. The driver attempted to perform the standardized field sobriety tests, but was so intoxicated he couldn't complete them. He was taken into custody for driving while intoxicated and transported to the Montgomery County Jail. His passenger, a 32-year-old man, was taken into custody for public intoxication and also transported to the Montgomery County Jail.

COMMISSIONERS COURT

Montgomery County commissioners will meet at 9:30 a.m. Monday on the fourth floor of the Alan B. Sadler Commissioners Court Building, located at 501 N. Thompson in downtown Conroe.

MILITARY BRIEFS

Commendation: Army Staff Sgt. Philip DuBose, 29, the grandson of Wilton and Elizabeth Robinson, of Conroe, received the Medal of Valor for actions he took during a 2007 ambush of his platoon during his first deployment to Iraq, Wilton Robinson said.

"DuBose distinguished himself as the gunner on his AGTM Stryker when he exposed himself to enemy heavy machine gun and small arms fire in order to the place accurate, effective machine gun fire on the enemy, causing them to retreat," the commendation for DuBose's Medal of Valor states.



DUBOSE

"His courage under fire and valorous actions helped save the lives of the men in his platoon and win the

fight."

A letter from an Iraqi citizen attached to the commendation notes that "You will stay in my mind forever as a hero."

"The main point is ... the fact that our country's efforts and the sacrifices made by our military are appreciated by the Iraqi people," Wilton Robinson said.

HAVE A STORY IDEA?



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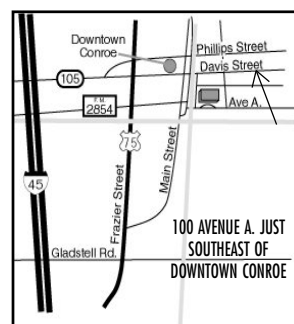
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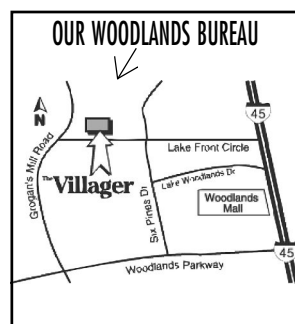
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