

Jury gives woman two life sentences for murdering toddler

By LeaAnne Klentzman

A jury of Fort Bend citizens convicted and sentenced a Houston woman to two life sentences; one for capital murder and the other for injury to a child by omission.

For a week, 12 Fort Bend citizens sat in the 240th District Court and listened to testimony in the quest for justice for 23 month old Joivonni Viverette. The toddler died of blunt force trauma to the head in August of 2005. As that jury listened, they heard horror after horror that had been imposed on the toddler. One juror detailed their experience to the *Star* under the condition of anonymity.

When the trial of Jamie Lynne Mosby Williams, 27, began, the jury was open minded and ready to fulfill their civic duty. "It was amazing what excuses people used to get out of serving on the jury.

If they could have heard themselves, they would be embarrassed. It was also disturbing how apathetic your own community can be," said the juror.

As the testimony went from one witness to the next, the jury silently watched as witness after witness told of the injuries this toddler suffered for at least the last three days of his life. Then came the crime scene photographs and video, followed later by testimony and autopsy photographs by Dr. Pustilnik.

Suzu Morton and Sherry Robinson prosecuted the case for the state. Cary M. Faden represented the defendant Jamie Lynne Mosby Williams. According to testimony, Houston EMS personnel arrived at the Williams' residence within five minutes of the 911 call. During testimony the paramedic said when he arrived the child's body was cool to the touch and rigor mortis had already set in. He also said the child's body was covered from head to toe with extensive bruising as well as various cuts and gouge marks.

Morton said the Galveston County Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Stephen Pustilnik, gave powerful testimony that the bruises and lacerations on the child's

body were inflicted, non-accidental injuries. He described bruising consistent with "grip marks" around the child's arms and ankles, and lacerations consistent with fingernail marks on various parts of his body. The child sustained extensive, deep tissue bruising from his lower back to his upper thighs, including his buttocks.

"Dr. Pustilnik testified the child died from blunt force trauma to the head, and that the medical findings indicated vigorous shaking coupled with the child's head impacting a surface or object was likely the way the injuries occurred," said Morton.

During testimony, the jury watched a video of Williams as she was interviewed by Houston Homicide Detectives Benavidez and Detective Sergeant Mosqueda. Morton said Williams gave inconsistent and implausible stories about how the child slipped in the bathtub and hit his head causing the injuries.

Former neighbors of the Williams' said the couple brought

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