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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville—Madison County State's Attorney Tom Gibbons announced results in several cases out of his office this week:

- An Edwardsville couple pleaded guilty today in connection with the drowning death of their toddler son last May. Emilie R. Pinski (d.o.b. 2/17/87) pleaded guilty to one count of Child Abandonment, a Class 4 felony, and one count of Endangering the Life or Health of a Child, a Class A misdemeanor for allowing her son to be left unattended on multiple occasions without supervision and without regard to his physical health, safety or welfare. Thomas C. Pinski (d.o.b. 5/13/86) pleaded guilty to Endangering the Life or Health of a Child, a Class A misdemeanor. Thomas Pinski was not present at the time of the incident, however, he allowed his children to live in unsafe and shameful conditions that included piles of human and animal feces, broken glass, debris and trash. They were both placed on probation for two years.

Two-year-old Lukas C. Pinski was found fully submerged in a small lake on Cherokee Trail in Edwardsville on May 2, 2012, by neighbors. Officers with the Madison County Sheriff's Department were called to the scene following a 911 call that was made by his grandmother around 3:00 p.m. Lukas and his twin brother had wandered away from their home that afternoon; Lukas was found floating in the lake while his brother was found wandering nearby with only a few minor cuts on his body. Lukas was taken to St. Louis Children's Hospital where he died on May 6, 2012.

Immediately following the incident, the other children (two boys, ages 3 and 6 and two girls, ages 4 and 1) were removed from the home and have remained in the custody of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). They will continue to do so until such time that it is deemed to be in the children's best interest that they be returned to the care of their parents.

Assistant State's Attorney Amy Gabriel prosecuted the case for the State's Attorney's Office. Circuit Judge James Hackett accepted the plea this afternoon.

- An East St. Louis man was also convicted late this afternoon by a Madison County jury today on one count of unlawful possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance (heroin), a Class 1 felony. Ronald Lewis (d.o.b. 7/20/73) was charged on June 24, 2011 along with co-defendant Nancy Zawec (d.o.b. 6/29/76) who faced the same charge.

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Following jury selection yesterday morning, Assistant State's Attorneys Chad Loughrey and Tracy Baum presented their case to the jury who began deliberations at approximately noon today. After approximately 4 hours, the jurors returned a guilty verdict.

On February 18, 2011, Maryville police officers discovered Zawec attempting to sell heroin outside a bar (Humdinger's) in Maryville. After contacting officers with the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southern Illinois (M.E.G.S.I.) to assist with the investigation, more heroin was located at the Maryville apartment shared by Zawec and Lewis.

Lewis has been in custody since his arrest on November 4, 2011. Prosecutors have filed a notice of intention to seek a mandatory Class X Sentence (6-30 years in prison) or an extended term for Lewis, if convicted. In addition to the present charge, this would be the third felony conviction for him. Normally, defendants convicted of a Class 1 Felony can face 4-15 years in prison. He will remain in custody at the Madison County Jail until his sentencing.

Zawec, who testified for the prosecution, pleaded guilty to the 2011 charge in December 2011 and is currently awaiting sentencing.

- A Wood River man was found guilty on Tuesday afternoon by a Madison County jury in a 2011 DUI case. Craig Scellin (d.o.b. 10/8/76) was pulled over by an officer with the Madison County Sheriff's Department for improper lane usage in the early morning hours of August 21, 2011 near the intersection of Airline Drive and Wesley Drive.

During the stop, the officer observed that Scellin had red, glassy eyes while he admitted that he had consumed several alcoholic beverages. Scellin failed several standardized field sobriety tests at the scene and refused to take a Breathalyzer once arriving at the Sheriff's Department. As a result of this refusal, and a 2007 DUI in Pike County, IL where he received supervision, his driver's license was suspended for 36 months

Jury selection began on Tuesday morning with the jury receiving the case at approximately 3:30 p.m. After deliberating for about 35 minutes, they returned a guilty verdict.

Assistant State's Attorneys Katie Wykoff and First Assistant State's Attorney Jennifer Vucich prosecuted the case for the State's Attorney's Office; Bryce Joiner and Barb Joiner represented the defendant; Associate Judge Elizabeth Levy presided over the case. He will be sentenced in about 60-90 days; Scellin, who faces penalties ranging from a \$2500 fine, probation and/or up to one year in jail, remains free on bond.