

Two plead guilty to Ozark crimes

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OZARK — An Ozark man who authorities said tried to kill his girlfriend with a gun — which never fired



Jones



Russell

— pleaded guilty Monday to attempted murder.

Kennell Jones, 19, of Dothan, is expected to serve 20 years in a state prison after pleading guilty Monday to attempted murder and theft

of property, according to Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams.

The charges stemmed from an incident on Feb. 8, 2011, when Adams said Jones became upset with a phone call his girlfriend received and attempted to shoot her with her own gun. The gun did not fire because, unknown to Jones, it had a double safety because children lived in the home, according to Adams.

Dale County Assistant District Attorney Cathey Berardi said in a statement the woman's knowledge of the gun saved her life.

"This could have easily been a murder case," Berardi said.

In an unrelated case, Gary Russell, 31, of Enterprise, pleaded blind

Monday to two counts of second-degree sodomy before his case was set to go to trial. He faces between two and 20 years in a state prison for each of the Class B felonies.

According to Adams, Russell sexually abused a child between the ages of 12 and 16 for more than a two-year-period.

A sentencing date is expected later.