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# DOOTHAN EAGLE

## Trooper shooting suspect found guilty in Florida murder

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A man still awaiting trial for allegedly shooting an Alabama state trooper was found guilty of shooting and killing a retired state wildlife enforcement officer during a burglary at his home in Florida.

David Angier, a spokesperson for the state attorney's office in Florida, said a Washington County jury recently found 24-year-old Zachary Wood guilty of felony first-degree murder, burglary and robbery while armed with a gun.

Angier said the jury found Wood guilty in the beating and shoot-

ing death of 66-year-old James W. Shores, who was killed about three hours before the state trooper was shot in Alabama. He said the jury also recom-



Wood

mended the death sentence during the penalty phase of the trial.

Angier said Wood's next court date has been set for April 17, which is when lawyers will present their arguments for and against the death penalty, which includes possible witness testimony. He said the court will rule on whether to affirm the

jury's recommendation at a later date.

Angier said the trial was held in Holmes County, Florida, with a Washington County jury because the Washington County courthouse was being renovated. He said a co-defendant, Dillon Rafsky, a 22-year-old Enterprise man, has similar felony charges pending in connection to the Shores murder.

Authorities in Alabama arrested the two men after gunfire erupted during a traffic stop in Geneva County on April 19, 2014. The shooting left an Alabama state trooper wounded. Law enforcement captured the two

men, charging them with attempted murder of a state trooper. Shores was killed three hours before the traffic stop.

Washington County Sheriff Bobby Haddock previously told the *Eagle* that two young men from Alabama had been "mudding" in a 1995 Jeep Cherokee in the Washington County area when they came upon a farmhouse property owned by Shores.

The Jeep became stuck in Shores' driveway, which is about 40 yards off the main roadway.

Shores approached the vehicle and asked why the two men were on his property.

Haddock said a fight started between Shores and the two suspects.

"They subdued him and beat him down and bound his hands and feet. Then they took a garden hose and proceeded to beat him some more about his head and shoulders," Haddock previously told the *Dothan Eagle*. "When they went to leave, Mr. Shores was still breathing, and one of the suspects went to the car and found a shotgun that belonged to Mr. Shores and shot Mr. Shores in the head."

Haddock said investigators believed the suspects then drove away in the victim's Toyota Camry.