

Former Napier Field employee charged with stealing evidence

Jill Nolin

jnolin@dothaneagle.com

OZARK — A former town employee's raid into the police department's evidence locker nearly jeopardized a drug case in Dale County.

A water department employee, whose name cannot be released since he is a juvenile, gained access to the Napier Field Police Department and stole confiscated marijuana and cocaine.

The drugs were to be tested and used as exhibits in the case against 41-year-old Alford Brandon Allen, who has prior felony convictions, according to Dale County Chief Assistant District Attorney Bill Filmore.

The employee also stole the drug samples off a poster used in educational programs at schools.

See **EVIDENCE, 8A**

Evidence

continued from 1A

The employee swiped the drugs from the bags and in his haste, left behind remnants that did not add up to even a gram individually.

It was enough, however, for a forensic scientist to positively identify the samples as illegal drugs.

"The point is that these are the drugs found at the scene of the crime," Filmore said after the trial. "The amount is not the issue."

The defense argued that the evidence had been tampered

with and was therefore not good.

But Filmore said he counter argued that it is highly unlikely that the thief planted the drugs that were found in the evidence locker.

Not finding Allen guilty would be allowing him to profit from someone else's crime, Filmore said after the trial.

It took a jury two hours to convict Allen for unlawful possession of cocaine, a felony and second-degree possession of marijuana.

Allen was also convicted of reckless endangerment for driving about 30 feet with a woman hanging half in and half out of the driver's side window.

Thursday, May 25, 2006

DOTHANEAGLE