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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JACOB A. HERRINGTON FOUND GUILTY OF JAIL ASSAULT

FORSYTH, MO – On Monday, July 27, 2009, JACOB A. HERRINGTON, dob 3/26/1985 of Tucson, Arizona, was found guilty of the class C felony of assault in the second degree by a Taney County jury. After a short, one-day jury trial and nearly two-and-one-half hours of deliberation, the 10-woman, 2-man jury rendered a guilty verdict.

The Taney County prosecutor alleged that on June 4, 2008, JACOB A. HERRINGTON had attempted to cause serious physical injury to another inmate when JACOB A. HERRINGTON held the inmate in a head-lock and punched the other inmate repeatedly with his fists, in the Taney County jail. Taney County jailers witnessed JACOB A. HERRINGTON beating the inmate victim and ordered him to stop. However, testimony from witnesses confirmed that JACOB A. HERRINGTON refused to stop beating the inmate victim, and had to be physically pulled away. Several other inmates were present in the Taney County jail when the assault occurred, but refused to give statements when questioned by officers.

“Maintaining order in any jail is important, but sometimes difficult,” said Taney County Prosecuting Attorney Jeff Merrell. “This guilty verdict is a victory for the Taney County jail, in that it shows that the citizens of this community will not tolerate behavior like that exhibited by Jacob Herrington. If we, as a community, let these crimes go unpunished, there is a risk that the inmates will end up running the jails.”

Evidence presented during the jury trial Monday showed that the assault was a result of a dispute between inmates over food. The prosecution presented evidence that JACOB A. HERRINGTON was attempting to use intimidation to take food from another inmate, and the inmate victim intervened and told the other inmate that he didn't have to give his food to JACOB A. HERRINGTON. It was then that JACOB A. HERRINGTON began to assault the inmate victim.

Sentencing was scheduled by Circuit Court Judge Mark Orr for October 1, 2009. Herrington faces a range of punishment of up to seven (7) years in prison for the assault.

For more information please visit www.taneycountyprosecutor.com

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