



TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRIAN FERRIS SENTENCED TO TWELVE (12) YEARS FOR D.W.I.

Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell, announced today that BRIAN FERRIS, DOB: 3/22/1977, of Branson, Missouri, was sentenced Thursday by Taney County Circuit Judge Mark Orr, to twelve (12) years in prison for the class B felony of driving while intoxicated. BRIAN FERRIS had entered a guilty plea after a jury was selected, and just prior to when opening statements in his jury trial were set to begin, on Monday morning September 20, 2010. Ferris had four prior alcohol related traffic convictions, which classified him as a chronic D.W.I. offender and made this offense a class B felony.

On September 28, 2009, Trooper Stacey Crewse initiated a traffic stop of a vehicle for swerving on U.S. Highway 160, near the Forsyth city limits. During the traffic stop, Trooper Crewse made contact with the driver, BRIAN K. FERRIS. During his contact, Trooper Stacey Crewse observed indicators of intoxication including bloodshot, glassy eyes, and a moderate odor of intoxicants. Trooper Crewse observed two globs of toothpaste on the defendant's right hand and arm. Trooper Crewse determined this was mint toothpaste the defendant was trying to use to mask the smell of alcohol. After multiple clues of impairment were observed during Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, Trooper Crewse arrested BRIAN K. FERRIS and transported him to the Taney County Jail. At the jail BRIAN K. FERRIS refused chemical tests of both his breath and blood.

The defendant was charged by the Taney County Prosecutor's Office as a prior and persistent offender, because he had been convicted of committing at least two (2) or more felonies from different incidents, exposing Ferris to the same maximum penalty carried by a class A felony, which is thirty (30) years. Ferris had been convicted in 1997 of involuntary manslaughter in Stone County, Missouri, for his role in an alcohol-related crash that killed a woman.

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