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Sentencing for Pike County couple involved in drug, sex acts with 15-year-old to resume Friday

By **RODNEY HART**

Herald-Whig Staff Writer

PITTSFIELD, III. -- A sentencing hearing for a Perry couple arrested last August in connection with giving alcohol and cocaine to a 15-year-old female and then photographing sex acts lasted four hours on Monday, but more time was needed after lengthy discussions about Facebook and defense attorney exhibits.

Jerry Duane Roof, 27, and Jennifer Orr, 22, were arrested Aug. 11 by the Pike County Sheriff's Department after deputies conducted a search warrant at their Perry residence in early August. Roof pleaded guilty in January to criminal sexual abuse, child pornography and delivery of a controlled substance, while Orr pleaded guilty to aggravated criminal sexual abuse and delivery of a controlled substance. Several charges were dropped in exchange for the guilty pleas.

Roof could get up to 10 years in prison, while Orr could get up to six years. Both are free on bond. Judge Michael Roseberry scheduled the hearing to continue Friday after the victim's mother and grandfather testified, and several defense witnesses took the stand. Roof also was on the stand near the end of the hearing.

Roof's attorney, Monroe McWard, attempted to enter as evidence copies of Facebook entries supposedly made by the victim. Pike County State's Attorney Frank McCartney objected on grounds of relevance.

Roseberry, who said he didn't know how the social networking website works, allowed several pages to be admitted and denied several others, and McWard withdrew others. McWard said the victim attempting to "friend" Roof after the incident showed a pattern of behavior, and there were also photos posted on the site purportedly showing the victim at parties and with an 18-year-old boyfriend.

The victim and her family were in court and heard testimony from her mother about how the incident has affected the victim and family. The mother said she had to move from Perry, where they lived two blocks from Roof, and her daughter has struggled with depression and other issues until she started to do better recently in school.

The mother said she "hopes it doesn't happen again" and asked the judge to give both Orr and Roof prison sentences.

The girl's grandfather called the victim "a sweet girl with a good heart," and he told the judge to remember why they were at the hearing.

"We are getting away from what is important here," he said. "Mr. Roof is 27 and Ms. Orr is 22. They wined and dined her (the victim), gave her alcohol and cocaine, and she was taken advantage of." Roof admitted during a withering cross examination from McCartney that the girl was at a party, in a hot

tub with Orr "kissing all over her" and given the alcohol and cocaine before the sex acts began. Roof said he didn't remember taking photos or much of what took place, though McCartney got him to admit he told authorities about what happened that night.

During a preliminary hearing last September, Pike County Sheriff Paul Petty described finding graphic photos allegedly taken by Roof of Orr and the female engaged in graphic sexual acts. The photos were contained on a camera seized during a search warrant, Petty testified.

Petty said a confidential source tipped authorities off about the incident. Petty testified both Orr and Roof admitted to the sex acts during an interview, and both were shown the photos and identified themselves and the female. Most of the photos on the camera were of the two females, Petty said, though there was one of Roof with the 15-year-old.

Several of Roof's friends and his fiance testified that Roof has been sober since the incident.

Orr's attorney is Mark Wycoff. When the hearing resumes Friday morning, defense attorneys and McCartney are expected to give final arguments to Roseberry, and both defendants will be allowed to address the judge before sentencing.

rhart@whig.com/221-3370