

# osceola today

## Kissimmee woman found guilty of gun charges in shooting case

A 51-year-old Kissimmee woman who said she shot a man last May because she was afraid he was going to assault her was found guilty Thursday in Osceola County Circuit Court of discharging a firearm in public and carrying a concealed firearm.

Bessie Lee Harden, 502 Ginwright Court, had pleaded not guilty to charges of aggravated assault, aggravated battery and carrying a concealed weapon stemming from the May 30 shooting of Dan Duncan, 54.

A jury found Harden guilty of the lesser charge of discharging a firearm in public on the first two counts, but guilty as charged on the third count.

A bullet lodged in Duncan's neck has left him paralyzed on the left side of his body, said assistant State Attorney Jeffords Miller.

Miller said the two had been arguing over a debt shortly before the shooting occurred.

Harden testified at the trial that she had fired two shots from a .32-caliber revolver she was carrying in her purse, but said she had intended to scare Duncan, not hit him.

During the trial Judge Rom W. Powell reduced the aggravated assault charge to attempted aggravated assault after Duncan testified he had not seen the gun when it was fired.

Powell released Harden on her previous bond, and withheld adjudication of guilt pending a pre-sentence investigation.

The assorted chairs, tables and desks were promised this week and Waters said he hopes they will be in today.

Kindergarten teachers who have carpeted rooms are faring well through the delay and teachers with non-carpeted rooms are "collecting all the pieces of carpet they can find," he said. In the meantime, kindergarten students are using low, plastic "floor chairs" for reading.

"It hasn't really posed any problem," he added, "but I'll be glad when they get in here."

## Man dies after being hit by car

A 27-year-old Orlando man died in Kissimmee early Thursday after being hit by a car on Airport Road, Kissimmee police said.

They identified the dead man as Michael R. Litteral, 1207 43rd St., Orlando.

Police said Adam D. Snyder, 18, 218 Nannette Drive, Orlando, was driving a 1978 Chevrolet north on Airport Road around 3 a.m. when he hit Litteral, who was lying in the road.

Police speculated that Litteral had been drinking before the accident and had lain down in the middle of the road.

No charges have been filed against Snyder, but an investigation is continuing, police said.

Teachers submit new pay plan

Man wounded during dispute