LAW & DISORDER: Jacksonville man convicted in 2008 slaying

The victim was his neighbor, 65, who had tried to be riend him.

Posted: March 5, 2010 - 1:00am

A Jacksonville jury convicted a man Thursday in the <u>August 2008 killing</u> of a 65-year-old neighbor who befriended him.

In a second murder case Thursday, a Jacksonville man was sentenced to life in prison in the May 2008 murder of a 19-year-old man.

The jury deliberating in the 2008 slaying of Delores Futrell was out about 90 minutes before returning a first-degree murder verdict against Randall Deviney, 20. Deviney slit Futrell's throat and beat her in her Westside home on Bennington Drive.

DNA found under her fingernails was a key in solving the case.

Futrell used to fix meals for Deviney, paid him to do odd jobs around her home and spoke to him about troubles in his youth. Deviney had a criminal history that included arrests for aggravated assault, robbery and sexual battery.

Deviney claimed it was during one of the conversations he was having with Futrell that he snapped and killed her. Assistant State Attorney Bernie de la Rionda argued that the slaying was premeditated murder and felony murder because it involved a burglary.

The victim was a retired dialysis technician who was married with four children and 30 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her sister, Debra Wright, described her as a gregarious and spiritual person who loved to garden and read.

The state is seeking the death penalty.

In the other case Thursday, Circuit Judge Mark Mahon sentenced Derwin Lembrick, 26, to life in prison without parole for the May 2008 slaying of O.B. Green.

Green was found fatally shot in the 1500 block of West Seventh Street. The shooting involved some type of previous dispute between the men. Witnesses said Lembrick walked up to Green and began shooting him without explanation. Those witnesses helped police solve the case.

Jim Schoettler