

# Newton man found guilty of sexual abuse

## Special to the Sun-Courier

After a four day trial a Dale County jury deliberated for two hours before finding Rodrick Lamont Linder guilty of one count of sexual abuse and not guilty on another count of sexual abuse.

Linder, 35, of Newton, was found guilty of sexual abuse of

a child less than 12 years old.

"These cases are very difficult for juries to listen to and decide and I just appreciate the jury for their consideration of this case. Juries are probably shocked to know how prevalent sexual abuse is today. The general public doesn't realize that one in three girls and one in seven boys are sexually

assaulted before they turn 18. What made the difference in this case was the great work of the sexual assault team which included Mona Watson from Pike County Child Advocacy Center, SART/SANE Nurse Susan Marsh from Flowers Hospital, and Dale County Chief Investigator Harvey Mathis," Chief Assistant

District Attorney Bill Filmore, who tried the case for the state, said.

Sexual abuse of a child less than 12 is a Class B Felony that carries a 10-to-20 year sentence. Sentencing will be set by the court within a month. Linder was remanded to custody in the Dale County Jail.