

Area men sentenced, one given probation

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Of the News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — Two metro-east area men were sentenced to prison terms and another to four years probation by St. Clair County Chief Criminal Judge John Hoban Thursday.

Michael D. Corrao, 24, of Collinsville was sentenced to two concurrent six-year sentences for attempted murder and home invasion.

Steven J. Chinn, 25, of Belleville was sentenced to nine years in prison for a Belleville armed robbery.

And George Funes, 39, of Dupu was sentenced to four years probation for taking indecent liberties with a child.

Corrao was found guilty on Dec. 15 of attempted murder, aggravated battery, home invasion and armed robbery for breaking into the Fairview Heights home of his former boss, Ted Renollet, on Sept. 9.

Renollet was shot in the arm during a struggle with Corrao, one of three masked men who broke into his house.

The other two were not apprehended.

During the trial Renollet and other family members identified Corrao, whom, they said, was unmasked during the struggle.

Renollet's daughter, Teresa Mathes, testified she and her father were counting the receipts from the five service stations he owns when the three broke into the house about 10:15 p.m. She said the three took the money she and her father were counting, about \$3,700.

Renollet's son-in-law, Rodney Mathes, said he exchanged gunfire with one of the

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assailants but dropped his gun when the assailant, later identified as Corrao, grabbed Teresa Mathes and held a gun to her head.

Teresa Mathes testified Corrao previously had worked for her father for a week.

Hoban did not levy additional sentences for the armed violence and aggravated battery charges because he ruled they were part of the attempted murder charge.

Chinn had pleaded guilty to taking \$403 from an employee at the Handy Shop, 1625 North Belt East, Belleville.

St. Clair County Sheriff's deputies said he threatened the clerk with a hunting knife. Deputies said Chinn later was identified by people who had seen him at the store after the robbery.

Funes was convicted in December of sexually molesting an 11-year-old boy at his home.

The boy testified during the hearing that he had gone to Funes' house to play with Funes' daughter but she was not home. He said Funes invited him in and then took him to the basement of the house where Funes sexually molested him.

Funes also was sentenced to six months in jail, but Hoban ordered that Funes receive credit for the six months he had served in connection with the case. Hoban also allowed Funes to reside out of state during his probation.

All three remained in custody in the county jail this morning.