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Man admits to slaying wife, blames it on affair

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Paul E. Jackson Sr. admitted Monday to killing his wife, but he contended the crime arose from sudden passions unleashed by the discovery that she and his best friend were having an affair.

Jackson, 34, said he killed his wife of 14 years in a fit of rage Feb. 16, 1999.

He faces a maximum sentence of 99 years in prison unless the jury accepts his sudden-passion defense, which would limit the sentence to 20 years.

"He's ashamed for what he did," defense attorney Pat Hancock told the jury. "He just snapped."

"We're not here to condone adultery," Assistant District Attorney Lucy Cavazos said in her opening argument. "We're not here to condone murder either."

Brenda Lee Jackson, 32, was shot nine times at the Bandera home of Monty Gobert, with whom she had a romantic relationship, Cavazos and Hancock told the jury.

They said Paul Jackson's suspicions of adultery were confirmed by a tape of phone conversations between Gobert and his wife that he secretly made the day of the slaying.

Upon listening to the tapes on his car stereo, Paul Jackson stopped at Gobert's home and confronted him.

A friend of Gobert's, D. Houston Evans, testified Monday that Gobert denied the allegations to Jackson.

Evans testified that as Jackson drove away, he said: "'Monty, you'd better call Brenda' and said he was going to kill both of them.

Arriving at his Cedar Street home, Paul Jackson, 34, played the incriminating tape for his wife and their three children, Hancock said.

She grabbed their 2-year-old child and fled, but the defendant followed her to Gobert's house about seven blocks away.

There, Hancock said, the couple argued and Paul Jackson assaulted her after she told him he was not the father of one of the children.

Brenda Jackson called 911 to report the assault, but while she was on the phone Paul Jackson entered the home with a semiautomatic rifle and shot her.

The victim's chilling pleas and screams, and the gunfire that killed her were clearly discernable on a tape of the 911 call that had jurors riveted to their chairs.

Officers responding to the scene wounded Jackson, who Hancock said intended to take his own life after

killing his wife.

Jackson is expected to testify when the trial resumes today in Kendall County, where the trial was moved because of extensive coverage of the crime in Bandera County.

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