



**OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

LARRY J. BURDICK

*Prosecuting Attorney
County of Isabella*

200 North Main Street
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858
Telephone: (989) 772-0911, Ext. 311
Facsimile: (989) 775-8413
www.isabellacounty.org/pa

Risa N. Scully
Chief Assistant Prosecutor

Robert A. Holmes, Jr.
Mark G. Kowalczyk
Principal Trial Attorneys

Stuart M. Black
Senior Assistant Prosecutor

Sarah E. Huyser
Aaron Van Langevelde
Assistant Prosecutors

Donna Fox
Debbie Robb
Victim Rights Services

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*** * * MEDIA RELEASE * * ***

Rodney Lee Croton, age 53, was convicted today by an Isabella County jury of three charges involving 1,000 grams or more of cocaine. Croton, previously an Isabella County resident, was convicted of possession of 1,000 grams or more of cocaine, possession with intent to deliver 1,000 grams or more of cocaine, and conspiracy to possess or deliver 1,000 grams or more of cocaine.

The charges arose out of an investigation by the Isabella County Sheriff's Department in 2011. The investigation indicated that Croton traveled to Austin, Texas in September, 2010, obtained a significant amount of cocaine from his source and traveled back to Isabella County. Charges were filed in August of last year. The trial began on Tuesday and was presided over by Judge Mark H. Duthie. The jury deliberated seven hours before returning the guilty verdicts. Each conviction carries with it a penalty of up to life in prison. Additionally, Croton is charged as a habitual offender, based on numerous prior felony convictions, spanning back to the late 1970s. He remains incarcerated in the Isabella County jail, and is scheduled for sentencing on February 28, 2012.

LJB