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Appeals court upholds drug-related murder conviction

The Associated Press

JACKSON COUNTY

The Court of Appeals has upheld the murder conviction of a Jackson County drug dealer in a plot that led to the killing of his narcotics supplier.

Christopher Roy was sentenced to life in prison in 2001 for the murder of Dong Phuong "Tommy" Nguyen. The 18-year-

old Nguyen was involved in a drug ring with Roy and Jonathan May, according to court documents. Records show Nguyen supplied the drugs and Roy and May sold them.

Prosecutors said Roy and May plotted Nguyen's death to cancel

their drug debts.

Nguyen was killed in September 1999. His body was found in January 2000 in a shallow grave near Vancleave after May told police he and Roy had planned the murder, prosecutors said.

May testified for the prosecution during Roy's trial.

Roy had been charged with

capital murder but was found guilty of the lesser charge of murder.

Roy had claimed at his trial that Nguyen had threatened him and he defended himself. He testified that the two had struggled and Nguyen died after being held in a choke hold for several minutes. He said Nguyen's death was

unintended.

Appeals Judge Leslie Southwick, writing Tuesday for the court, said the evidence against Roy included the defendant's confession to Nguyen's murder.

"Even uncorroborated, an accomplice's testimony may be sufficient evidence to sustain conviction," Southwick wrote.

12 THE CLARION-LEDGER THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2003

CLARION-LEDGER.COM

MISSISSIPPI BRIEFS OXFORD

FOOD SYMPOSIUM: Millions of American children who receive meals through USDA's Summer Food Service Program can benefit from a live, interactive luncheon and reception today from the University of Mississippi...

The purpose of this luncheon is to bring greater awareness to the Summer Food Service Program and to provide information needed to establish a new SFSP or enhance an existing one...

The luncheon is scheduled to run from 3-4 p.m. Cost: \$100 for the luncheon and \$200 for the reception...

METRO AREA

BLOOD DRIVES: Mississippi Blood Services is conducting several blood drives this month and is especially in need of participants...

Today, Crossroads Apartments in Grandis, 242 W. American, will have a blood drive...

Aug. 25, a special blood drive will be held at the club on Laurel Drive...

Aug. 26, a special blood drive from 7-9 p.m. to benefit liver transplant recipient Lisa Wheeler at the Madison Fire Station...

Aug. 28, Rankin Medical Center will have a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 800 Riverside Dr.

For information, call 368-2666.

AUGUST FEST: The 16th Annual August Festival will be held Saturday from 3 to 7 p.m. at Grove Park, 4126 Parkway Avenue in Jackson...

Over 2000 people are expected to attend. Bring your lawn chairs and coolers...

STARKVILLE

INVOLVEMENT FAIR: To introduce one and returning Mississippi State students to resources available in the community, the university's Division of Student Involvement Fair is sponsoring a Student Involvement Fair...

Am Bailey, director of Housing and Residence Life, said applications from commercial and service organizations will be accepted...

For more information about the event, call Celeste Williams at (662) 325-9171.

WARREN COUNTY

TAXING TALK: Warren County residents could see a small increase in taxes on their vehicles and property beginning later this year if current trends continue...

The Warren County Board of Supervisors has scheduled a budget hearing on Sept. 9...

In fact, supervisors indicate they will raise county tax rates level, as have other county officials...

Supervisors expect the new money to be sufficient to pay the added costs of local government.

To share tips and ideas, contact Anita O'Leary, assistant metro editor-state, at (601) 961-7217. Fax to 961-7211 or e-mail anita@clarionledger.com.

Bush coming to laud Barbour

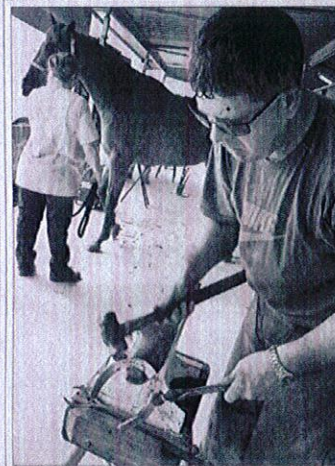
Presidential luncheon aims to raise \$1.5 million for gubernatorial race



Mike Barbour, a Democrat, will square off with Governor George W. Bush in the Nov. 4 general election...

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Gearing up for a race

Fairfax Park Children of Lucedale shows a red hot show for Coats to Death Race, a 4-year-old quarter horse...

Equine Center. Racing begins today and Friday at 4 a.m. The track will open at 4 a.m. Saturday...

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Wife of man who killed himself in jail sues county

Violent inmate's family

lawsuit filed in \$110 million lawsuit

The family of a violent inmate who killed himself in jail last week has filed a \$110 million lawsuit against the Pascagoula Police Department and other county agencies...

The lawsuit lists as defendant the county, the police department, and other agencies...

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Panel: Miss. court should rule on liability

State federal judges have jurisdiction in patent company's complaint

A federal appeals panel has ruled that Mississippi courts have authority to decide a manufacturer's liability to inventors...

Shoreline Williams Co. sued to federal court in Mississippi in 2001 after it and other patent manufacturers and a trade association were sued in Jefferson County...

The Jefferson County lawsuit argued that patent companies were still responsible for health hazards from lead paint...

Shoreline Williams appealed to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A three-judge panel ruled Aug. 13 that the judge presiding over the case had jurisdiction...

The panel, headed by Chief Judge Carolyn King, said there is no evidence that Shoreline Williams sued in federal court to avoid more favorable forum...

The judges said a ruling on Shoreline Williams' complaint would "set a minimum development critical to the state's economy."

Group invites ideas on saving battlefields

Conservation trust seeks site ideas that will save 823 acres

The Civil War Preservation Trust is seeking ideas for saving 823 acres of land along the Jackson Road...

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Tidying up the trampoline

Steve Mize (left) and Brad Gooden (right) clean their trampoline on the Sandridge Ridge subdivision, Newnan and Trachy...

Steve Mize (left) and Brad Gooden (right) clean their trampoline on the Sandridge Ridge subdivision, Newnan and Trachy...

Appeals court upholds drug-related murder conviction

Jackson County

The Court of Appeals has upheld the murder conviction of a Jackson County drug dealer in a case that led to the killing of the nation's premier...

Charles Ray was sentenced to life in prison in 2001 for the murder of Dang Phung "Jimmy" Nguyen. The 18-year-old...

Ray had been charged with capital murder but was found guilty of the lesser charge of murder...

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