

THE MISSISSIPPI PRESS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2001

Murder conviction nets life term for Roy

■ Won't be eligible for parole for 45 years

By **BONNIE FORTIER**
Ocean Springs Bureau

OCEAN SPRINGS — Christopher Roy was sentenced to life in prison Thursday after he was found guilty of murder in the 1999 slaying of an Ocean Springs teen-ager.

Court officials said the sentence means that Roy, 20, won't be eligible for parole for 45 years.

Roy and Jonathan "J.P." May, 21, were charged in the September 1999 murder of Dong Phuong "Tommy" Nguyen, 18.

Nguyen's body was found Jan. 6, 2000, in a shallow grave near Vancleave after May told police he and Roy had planned

the murder.

May earlier agreed to plead guilty to manslaughter and was the state's key witness against Roy. He faces a maximum of 20 years in prison.

Roy had been charged with capital murder, which could carry a death sentence, but was found guilty of the lesser charge of murder.

On Tuesday, May testified that Roy had planned a scheme to steal drugs from Nguyen and kill him.

But Roy gave a different version on Wednesday. He said he had paid Nguyen all the money he had owed him and that



Roy

he was no longer in the drug-selling business. He was enrolled in school and was trying to straighten out his life.

Roy said he was afraid of Nguyen because Nguyen had threatened to kill him.

"He had been telling people he had a bullet with my name on it," he testified. Roy said that on Sept. 6, 1999, he and May were working on a vehicle at May's house when Nguyen arrived.

Roy said Nguyen approached him. He said Nguyen came at him and he defended himself. They struggled and he held Nguyen in a choke hold for several minutes until Nguyen died.

Roy said he and May thought Nguyen belonged to a Vietnamese gang and feared gang members would come after them if

See **CONVICTION**, Page 3-A

Auditor to record missing

■ Former sheriff's bookkeeper charged with embezzlement

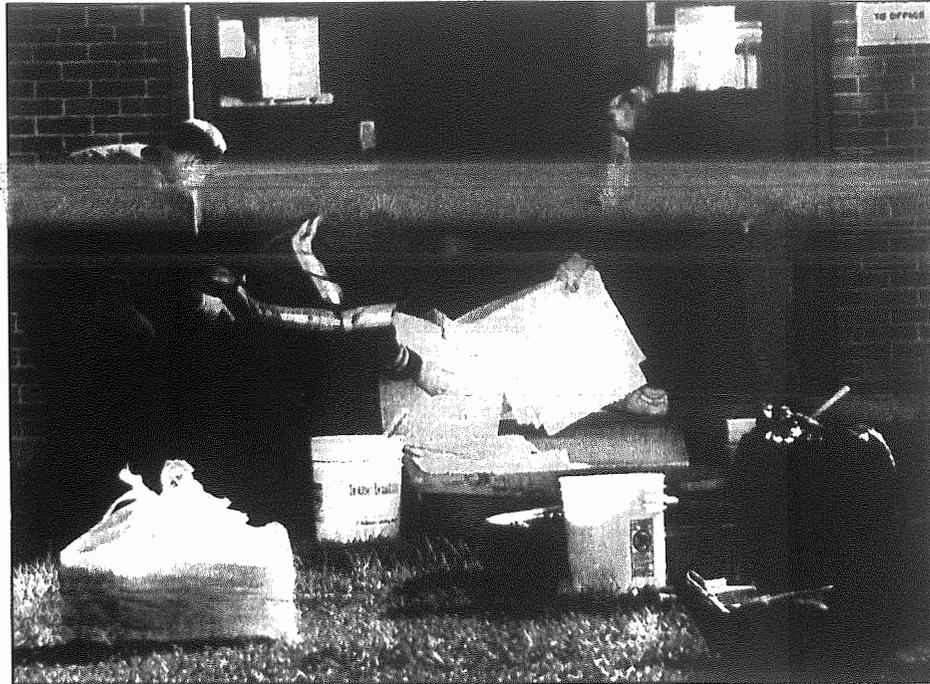
By **JOHN SURREATT**
Mississippi Press Staff

PASCAGOULA — State Auditor Phil Bryant said his office "will aggressively pursue and recover" the money he said was taken by former Jackson County Sheriff's Office bookkeeper Thrash Carnley.

Carnley, 67, of Vancleave, was indicted by a Jackson County grand jury on a charge of embezzlement in the last of more than \$100,000 from October 1996 to December 1999.

She surrendered to authorities Wednesday morning accompanied by her attorney and

FEAR OF ANTHRAX



Staff Photo/William Colgin

CLEANUP — Safety personnel pack up after checking out an anthrax scare at Escatawpa Elementary on Wednesday. School officials this morning said no determination had been made about a suspicious powder found near the teacher's mailbox. On Monday, there was a similar scare at East Central High School. Officials said the substance was not poisonous.

Ocean Springs is closed

■ Aldermen fear buses traveling on bridge

By **BONNIE FORTIER**
Ocean Springs Bureau

OCEAN SPRINGS — Aldermen decided Wednesday to close the harbor bridge to General Pershing Avenue to traffic.

Aldermen said signs will be posted today on the bridge to lead to Shearwater Drive.

For years aldermen have spoken with county officials concerning the condition of

Students paint school red, white

■ OS Middle

Space and the Future," which follows along with the students'

In between bulletin board