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Alabama

3B
Wednesday
Oct. 5, 2005

State holds lawyer payments

Stateline

TROY
Man accused of attempted murder

A 39-year-old Troy man is behind bars on a charge of attempted murder stemming from a shooting last month, police said.
Police said Tuesday that David Brown, 39, was arrested after a shooting in the city court area in Troy. Brown is accused of shooting a man in the face. Police said the shooting happened along Brantley Boulevard and that Brown is believed to be the motive for the shooting. Police did not release the victim's name but said that he stayed in the area.

BIRMINGHAM
Jury picked for trial in officer slayings

Attorneys selected a jury Tuesday for the trial of the second man accused in the slaying of three police officers killed down in their patrol area in a crack house last year.
The jury of five women and three men will be sworn in on Wednesday. The trial was scheduled to start Tuesday but was postponed because of a scheduling conflict.
Nicholas Woods, 26, is the second man to be tried for capital murder in the slaying of three police officers in Birmingham last year. He also is charged with the slaying of Officer Michael Collins.
The Birmingham police officers were fatally shot as they entered a residence in the 1000 block of 10th Avenue S.W. in Birmingham. Officer Kenneth Spencer, who said he held a drug deal with Woods, was the only one with a search rifle in the house.

ANNISTON
Police investigate three in shooting

Anniston police Tuesday were investigating three suspects in a shooting that left one man injured and two others injured.
The shooting happened about 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in the 1300 block of 13th Avenue S.W. in Anniston. A 13-year-old boy whose name was not released was hit by the gunfire but did not sustain life-threatening injuries, police said.
Injury was not open in the upper back and ran about a half block before he fell dead, said Coroner Bill Purdum.

DAKOTAH
The Alabama Unified Petroleum Gas Board will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday at the board office, 818 S. Perry St., Montgomery.

DAKOTAH
The Lawrence County Board of Health will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at the board office, 40 Commerce St., Haywood.

DAKOTAH
The Alabama State Call Diseases Oversight and Regulatory Commission will meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the State House, Room 208, 17 S. Union St., Montgomery.

DAKOTAH
Staff wire reports

By Mike Lin
Montgomery Advertiser
montgomery.com
The state comptroller is temporarily withholding all reimbursements of overheard expenses to in-state defense attorneys who invoice office costs, which a judge ordered the state pay to nearly 1,200 lawyers last week.
State Comptroller Robert Adams said Tuesday afternoon that legal fees would also be withheld until the state decides whether to appeal Montgomery Circuit Judge Thomas Hobbs Jr.'s decision.

even without a decision on appeal.
If they don't want to appeal, he said, the payments would be included as well as the local fees.
"We thought this decision would have been made by now, but it's taking a little longer than expected," he said.
He said a "great majority" of attorneys submit bills to working attorneys about a month before court for about a third of the state's payments to in-state defense attorneys, or \$4 million annually.

The initial decision to halt all payments didn't make sense because the state had been paying attorneys for that fee all year.

He said the state's chief justice is investigating a possible appeal but has made no decision.
He said King respects Hobbs' decision, but declined to comment further.
Overheard office costs — insurance, office supplies and bar association dues, among others — have been the center of a legal battle between criminal defense attorneys and state judges.

King released an advisory opinion last week stating that lawyers providing the overheard information had been charged in a 1999 amendment to the state's judicial ethics law. The new language did not provide reimbursement for overheard costs.

But Hobbs said King's advisory opinion is a 2001 opinion by then Attorney General Ed Pittman, who issued that opinion only to reimburse for overheard expenses even if they weren't from bills.

The law previously said the state should pay any expenses incurred "in the defense of his or her client."
The amendment said payments should be made for any expenses incurred "in the defense of his or her client."
King said specific overheard expenses were not recovered from representing individual clients and don't have to be reimbursed.
The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Former chief justice hits the campaign trail

Former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore announces he will run for Alabama governor in 2006 on Monday in Gadsden.



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Moore calls for end to waste

By Bob Johnson
The Associated Press
Roy Moore campaigned as a Republican candidate for governor for the first time Tuesday, vowing to cut the state budget and end the duplication of medical tests.
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'Vision' led to attack on church altar

A couple accused with two others of overturning the altar at a Roman Catholic church in Decatur Tuesday morning acted on a vision that led to the altar's destruction.
The couple, a man and a woman, were arrested after a service on Tuesday at the church. The altar was overturned and a statue of the Virgin Mary was damaged.
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The inside of the Annunciation of the Lord Catholic Church in Decatur is seen Sunday following an attack by vandals during the service.

VA names Robinson new chief of staff

By William J. West
Montgomery Advertiser
Dr. Cliff Robinson's interest in the medical profession can be traced back to the days when he visited the doctor as a boy.
Robinson said he was impressed by the sight of the nurse, the immaculate white coat and the stethoscope.
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Robinson is hardly a surprise in the role of chief of staff at the VA Medical Center in Decatur.
He was born in Montgomery and has lived in the area since he was a child.
Robinson said he was impressed by the sight of the nurse, the immaculate white coat and the stethoscope.