



TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

JEFFREY M. MERRELL, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

P.O. Box 849

FORSYTH, MO 65653

www.taneycountyprosecutor.com

MAIN OFFICE
(417) 546-7260

FAX:
(417) 546-2376

BAD CHECKS
(417) 546-7261

CHILD SUPPORT
(417) 546-7264

VICTIM/WITNESS
(417) 546-7263

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: JEFF MERRELL
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
(417) 546-7260**

DATE: MARCH 16, 2007

**JAMES BESCHER SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR FIRST
DEGREE MURDER**

OZARK, MO - On March 16, 2007 Circuit Judge Mark Orr sentenced James Bescher to life imprisonment without the eligibility for probation or parole for the murder of Josh White in March of 2002.

Twenty-one (21) year old Josh White was shot in the neck and head area by James Bescher in broad daylight in the parking lot of the Hollister Country Mart on March 4, 2002. Josh White was left in a quadriplegic state, and later died from complications from the bullet wound on August 8th, 2002. The trial was moved on a change of venue motion from Taney County to Christian County where on February 24, 2007, a jury took less than three hours to find James Bescher guilty of Murder in the First (1st) Degree.

Jeffrey M. Merrell, the newly elected Prosecuting Attorney for Taney County was satisfied with the outcome, stating "this is the end to a very long wait for the family of Josh White, and after five years of waiting, they finally get closure."