

## Newton man begins serving sentence for shooting death

### Staff reports

A Newton man will serve 35 years in prison for the shooting death of his former girlfriend.

The Court ordered Christopher Brian Hawthorne, 36, to reimburse the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission \$4,136.31, according to Chief Assistant District Attorney Bill Filmore.

Hawthorne was convicted of murder in March and has been in the Dale County Jail since his trial.

The victim, 39-year-old Patricia Lynn Tomlin, or Patty, had been shot once with a .22-caliber long rifle while the two sat in her pickup truck by the river in Newton.

Hawthorne claimed the two had been drinking that day and that there was a scuffle over the gun which Tomlin first pointed it at him. He accidentally shot her after he grabbed it from her, he claimed.

Both were married to other people at the time of her death, but Hawthorne, who was separated from his wife, claimed the two had been seeing each other for about four months.

Tomlin, whose most recent job was at Larry's Bar-B-Q in Daleville, had been married to the same man for 17 years. They had been separated but were beginning to work things out at the time of her death.