

# Trial dates set

## Three men face second-degree murder charges

Trials have been set for three men in connection with Jefferson City's last two killings of 2005.

Charles Samuels, 34, is charged with second-degree murder in the Dec. 30, 2005, killings of two men. His trial is set to go July 19.

Officers and paramedics reported they had found Ernest Wilson, 30, lying face down in the gutter on the west side of the 1100 block of Jefferson Street, and Quentin Chandler, 31, was found in the basement doorway behind 1111 Jefferson St.

Don Edwards, 32, is set to go to trial on June 29 and Dennis Washington, 33, is set to go May 30. Both are also charged with second-degree murder in the case.

In earlier testimony, police said Samuels told them he was standing outside the basement door as Washington and Edwards, both carrying guns, confronted Ernest Wilson.

The testimony went on to say Samuels told police that he heard a shot from the basement and thought he heard another shot when Wilson broke free or at least ran by him and ran towards the front of the home.

He also claimed Edwards had a gun and was firing several shots toward Wilson as he ran toward Jefferson Street.

Officers said the evening confrontation occurred after some of the men had discovered there was money missing from a safe — and also some narcotics — at 1113 Jefferson St., which Samuels had called a "safe house."

The police probable cause statement said Chandler was accidentally shot during the confrontation.