

Coroner says foul play involved in death of man on Interstate 59

PICAYUNE — Pearl River County Coroner Jerry Thigpen said Saturday foul play definitely entered into the death of an unidentified man whose badly decomposed body was found May 18 off Interstate 59 near Millard.

A coroner's jury impaneled in Picayune Saturday ruled the man died

from a single gunshot wound of the head and was a victim of foul play. The bullet, which was recovered from the body's right cranium, has been sent for analysis to the state crime laboratory in Jackson.

An interstate motorist found the body of the man, believed to have been dead eight to 12 weeks, about 60 feet off the interstate at the 22-mile marker.

Thigpen, who, along with a local pathologist, has performed exhaustive tests to provide clues as to the man's age and identity, has come up with negative results on both.

A Pearl River County Sheriff's Department investigation still is continuing.

"It's really sad," Thigpen said from his home Saturday night. He said the remains will be buried today or Monday in a pauper's plot near Poplarville.

Hearing scheduled here on plan to serve the elderly

The public will have an opportunity to see and study the Mississippi Council on Aging's plan for providing services to the elderly in fiscal year 1979 during five public hearings across the state