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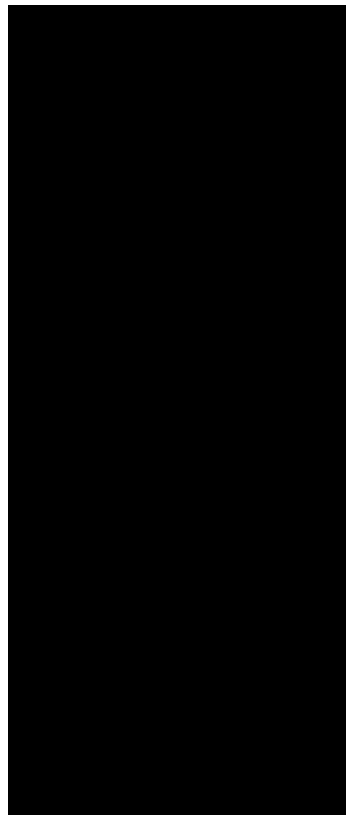


NEWS

Bond granted to murder defendant

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Augusta Chronicle

An Augusta man accused of murder in the death of his mother's boyfriend was granted a \$40,00 bond Friday.

Andrez T. Kirkland, 33, was arrested earlier this month in the Jan. 19 death of 61-year-old Gary Stringer. Senior Judge Albert M. Pickett granted Kirkland bond during his hearing.

Kirkland, his mother, his girlfriend and his two children were living with Stringer at his Collier Road home. In the early morning hours of Jan. 19, Stringer returned home and woke Kirkland's mother, demanding she leave, said Assistant District Attorney Megan Adams. An argument broke out that woke Kirkland. He punched Stringer in the face, knocking him down. Kirkland and his family left, returning the next morning where they found Stringer lying dead on the kitchen floor, Adams said.

The Augusta Chronicle

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Defense attorney Keith Johnson told the judge that Kirkland was acting in defense of his mother and sister that night after Stringer was physically aggressive and brandished a knife. Kirkland thought Stringer was just knocked out so he and his family left, Johnson said. They tried to call Stringer the next day to see if they could collect their belongings but Stringer didn't answer. They went back to the house and found Stringer.

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Kirkland had a steady job and no criminal history, his attorney said.

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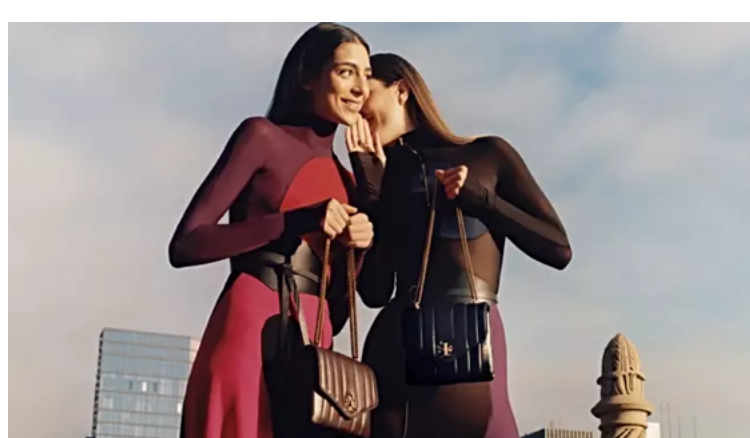
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