

Hamilton set for May status hearing

By Chris Daniels

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TAYLORVILLE - Donnella Hamilton once again appeared before Judge Ronald Spears this morning in regards to her involvement in the July 2009 murder of cab driver Steven L. Brummett.

Hamilton, who has been charged with three counts of first degree murder, appeared in Christian County court with her council Mark Wykoff shortly after 10 a.m.

"As I stated last time, I have reviewed all discovery tendered to date. I would like to create a written product cross-referencing numerous aspects of the discovery. Such an undertaking will require extra time," explained Wykoff.

Wykoff asked Judge Spears to reduce the case back down to the status hearing level from its current pre-trial level in order to provide him with the necessary time needed to produce a written statement explaining his theory and beliefs concerning the charges brought against Hamilton.

"We need some finality to this matter," stated Judge Spears. "The State should be able to comprehend your decision without you having to spell it out for them."

Wykoff agreed with Judge's assessment and explained that he, as an attorney, believes he can be more persuasive in writing.

Judge Spears granted the request to reduce the case back to status hearing level after Hamilton gave her approval of the decision. Hamilton, 26, will appear in court for status hearing at 10 a.m. on May 18.

"I promise the written product will be furnished to the State's Attorney no later than the 18th of May," said Wykoff.

Currently, Hamilton is scheduled for pre-trial on the morning of June 25. Her jury trial date is tentatively set for July 26, the one year anniversary of when she was arrested for her involvement in Brummett's murder. She faces 20-60 years imprisonment for each count with the possibility of natural life.

In February, Ashley Davis, 21, a second co-defendant in the Brummett murder case, entered an open plea of guilty to a charge of concealment of a homicidal death. Davis is scheduled to be sentenced on the afternoon of May 11. She faces a maximum sentence of 5 years.

In January, Brandon L. Allsup, 27, pled guilty to murdering Brummett and was sentenced to a term of natural life in the Illinois Department of Corrections without the possibility of parole.

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