



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROTHE PLEADS GUILTY TO MURDER ON MORNING OF TRIAL

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Jay E. Rothe Sr, 66, of Springfield, Missouri, entered a guilty plea to murder in the second degree for causing the death of Ms. Linda Riley. Today, April 22, 2013, Judge Mountjoy summoned a jury panel of Greene County citizens in anticipation of trial for murder in the second degree. Prior to trial, the defendant entered a guilty plea for events which occurred on February 27, 2012. On February 27, 2012, friends of Ms. Linda Riley called the police to report her missing under suspicious circumstances. The defendant became a person of interest because he was the last known person to be seen with Ms. Riley. On March 3, 2012, after several hours of interviews the defendant finally admitted his involvement in the disappearance and murder of Ms. Riley. The defendant then took the police to a firepit at Stockton lake in which he admittedly burned the body of Ms. Riley. The remains of Ms. Riley were collected and tested for DNA to confirm that the remains were in fact Ms. Riley.

The defendant entered an open plea of guilt to murder in the second degree and is subject to a sentence of ten years to thirty years or life in the Department of Corrections. The defendant will not be eligible for parole until he serves forty percent of his sentence and has reached the age of seventy years old. The State dismissed the kidnapping charge. Judge Mountjoy set a sentencing hearing for July 12, 2013, at 2:45pm following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney T. Myers. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Neal McAmis was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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