

Man gets 85-year sentence for murder

Sentenced on victim's 50th birthday

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Irene Bradley can breathe a little easier after a Slocomb man convicted of killing her sister received an 85-year prison sentence.

Bradley said her sister, Debbie Ayres, would've celebrated her 50th birthday on Tuesday, the same day Circuit Court Judge P.B. McLauchlin Jr. sentenced Shawn Adkison to prison.

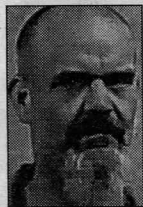
"The sentencing was a good birthday gift," Bradley said. "I can breathe a little better, but it's going to be a long time until I get to where it's not going to bother me. I'm still having a hard time dealing with everything that happened. It's really taken a toll."

District Attorney Kirke Adams said McLauchlin sentenced 41-year-old Adkison to the 85-year prison term at the Geneva County Courthouse.

Adams said the judge used the sentencing guidelines and issued a sentence at the maximum end of the recommended

range of 13 to 85 years for felony murder.

"It's obvious to me the judge saw how brutal this murder was, and the defendant's attitude considering value of human life,"



Adkison

Adams said.

Adams said a forensic pathologist testified during the trial how Ayres died from blunt force trauma to the head.

"I'm very satisfied to know he's not going to be out there on the street able to hurt anybody else," Bradley said.

A similar felony murder charge remains pending against Christopher Edward Finley, 45, of Dothan. Adams said Finley's trial has been scheduled for

December.

Authorities originally arrested both Finley and Adkison in October 2014.

State police investigators initially only charged Adkison with felony hindering prosecution. He was later indicted by a Geneva County grand jury for felony murder.

Geneva County Sheriff Tony Helms told the *Dothan Eagle* earlier that the charges stemmed from a Geneva County missing person investigation. The victim's body was found in October 2014 on property off U.S. 84 West in the Wicksburg community.

Helms said Ayres was found buried in 3 to 4 feet of dirt in the woods just past County Road 9 in Wicksburg. Helms said Ayres lived in the Black community of Geneva County.