

## CRIME From Page 1A

She will still forever be a beautiful person. She always put the needs of others before her own," Bradley read for another statement. Our family is forever broken."

Defense Attorney Laura Wells was denied a continuance to allow Adkison's pastor to testify.

She urged that Adkison be allowed to help care for his elderly father and his three young sons. "They have also lost family," she said. She also said that the defendant had cooperated with police and was not the only one responsible for Ayres' murder.

Emery responded by saying that Adkison was no caregiver. "His children lived in a meth lab," he said. Emery said that Adkison smoked Ayres' marijuana "while they buried her in an unknown spot in the woods. There is not a single mitigating factor.

"He can't be put away long enough."

Adkison and Christopher Finley are accused in the murder of Ayres in a trailer in East Geneva County. Ayres' body was found in a shallow grave near Wicksburg in October, and after investigation the two men are charged with the crime.

According to forensic evidence introduced at

the trial Ayres was beaten to death, allegedly at Adkison's trailer by Finley.

According to testimony at the trial Adkison witnessed the murder and helped dispose of the body and physical evidence.

Finley will go on trial during the October 5 court session.

Authorities originally

arrested both Finley and Adkison in October 2014 charging them in connection to the murder of 48-year-old Debbie Ayres.

Geneva County Sheriff Tony Helms said the charges stemmed from a Geneva County missing person investigation.

The victim's body was found on property off U.S. 84 West in the Wicksburg community,

Helms said.

Helms said the victim, 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.

Adkison is eligible for a parole hearing after serving one-third of his sentence or 10 years, whichever is sooner.