

Judge to send case to grand jury

Investigator: Victim died from drowning but injuries consistent with strangulation

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OZARK — An Ozark police investigator testified Thursday that the victim in a 26-year-old cold case murder died from drowning but also had suffered injuries

consistent with strangulation.

Ozark police investigator Lt. Jimmy "J.C." Culbreath, the supervisor of the department's cold case unit, testified in the preliminary hearing for 51-year-old Carl E. Harris Jr. on Thursday afternoon at the Dale County Courthouse in Ozark. Harris faces a murder charge in the death of his wife, Tracy Harris, in 1990.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Dale County District Court Judge Stanley Garner Jr. found sufficient evidence to



Harris

"Everyone we've spoken to said the violence was consistent."

Lt. Jimmy "J.C." Culbreath,
Ozark police investigator, on the relationship between Carl Harris and his ex-wife, Tracy Harris

forward the case to a grand jury to consider for an indictment. Garner said he would consider a bail reduction request made by defense attorney David Harrison, who represented Harris, and issue a ruling later.

Harris remains held at the Dale County Jail on \$75,000 bail.

Culbreath testified that Tracy Harris went missing Wednesday March 7, 1990. Her body was later discovered in the Choc-tawhatchee River off County Road 20 on March 14, 1990. Culbreath said the victim was taken to Montgomery to the state Department of Forensic Sciences for an autopsy. He said Tracy Harris died by drowning, and there was water and sand found