



**TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**JEFFREY M. MERRELL, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

P.O. Box 849

FORSYTH, MO 65653

[www.taneycountyprosecutor.com](http://www.taneycountyprosecutor.com)

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**CONTACT: JEFF MERRELL  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
(417) 546-7260**

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**DAWN COLE ENTERS PLEA TO MURDER**

FORSYTH, MO – Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell announced today that DAWN COLE, dob: 05/11/1973 of Branson, Missouri plead guilty to the class A felony of murder in the second degree in front of Taney County Circuit Judge Mark Orr. Under the terms of the plea agreement, DAWN COLE faces ten (10) to fifteen (15) years in the Department of Corrections with probation denied. Formal sentencing is set December 1, 2008.

On October 10, 2006 at the 76 Express Inn in Branson, Dawn Cole got into fight with her boyfriend. During the fight as the boyfriend was attempting to leave, she stabbed him with a large kitchen knife in the chest. The boyfriend was hospitalized and later died on October 21, 2006 from the injuries. During the incident, DAWN COLE was high on methamphetamine, and had been using it continuously during the days leading up to the stabbing.

In response to the plea of guilty, Taney County Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey M. Merrell stated, "I am grateful that Ms. Cole has accepted responsibility for her actions, and hopefully this will bring some closure for the victim's family for their loss. This stabbing shows the terrible effect that chronic methamphetamine use can have on a person's stability and state of mind, and is also an example of the danger posed by ongoing, unaddressed domestic violence between partners. This stabbing was the last of many domestic disturbance reports involving Dawn Cole."

For more information please visit [www.taneycountyprosecutor.com](http://www.taneycountyprosecutor.com).

**MAIN OFFICE: (417) 546-7260 | FAX: (417) 546-2376**

**BAD CHECKS: (417) 546-7261 | FAX: (417) 546-3184**

**VICTIM/WITNESS: (417) 546-7263 | CHILD SUPPORT: (417) 546-7264**