

Williams admits to helping burn the bodies

Enters guilty plea to two counts of Criminal Assistance

Statesman Examiner, By Jodi Miller

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A month after entering an innocent plea at his Nov. 28 arraignment in the Stevens County Courthouse, Dane Matthew Williams pled guilty last Friday to two charges of Rendering Criminal Assistance First Degree.

Williams is one of the two men accused of assisting John Douglas Grange in burning the bodies of two men Grange allegedly shot in a remote cabin on June 11.

Nicholas Kaiser and Joshua Schaefer, both 21, had not been seen since the June 10 Northport Barter Fair. A hunter discovered Kaiser's burned-out vehicle on a mountain top in the Flat Creek area on Sept. 24. The burned remains of the two men had been scattered, and the cabin where the murders occurred was discovered not far from the vehicle.

Jeffrey Cunningham also faces one charge of Rendering Criminal Assistance First Degree. Cunningham is scheduled to go to trial Jan. 8.

Grange is facing two counts of second degree murder and is scheduled to go to trial Feb 5. The charges may be upgraded to first degree murder, according to Stevens County Prosecuting Attorney Jerry Wetle.

William's sentencing will not occur until both Cunningham and Grange have been sentenced.

Wetle is recommending a sentence of 12 months in jail and year of community supervision. The standard sentencing range is six to 12 months in jail. Williams had no prior record.