



Tuesday, November 25, 2008

## Teen held in Rib Rack slaying

### Southfield High student, 15, charged in shooting of pregnant manager, 21, in botched holdup attempt.

Mike Martindale / The Detroit News

**LATHRUP VILLAGE** -- The shooting death of a pregnant restaurant manager on Oct. 15 was part of a botched holdup attempt by a 15-year-old boy, police said Monday.

Jerome Adam Hamilton is charged with first-degree murder and felony firearm in the death of Catherine Solinski-Blain, 21. Solinski-Blain was found about 10:45 p.m., slumped over the steering wheel of her black 1999 Mercury Sable in the rear parking lot of the Rib Rack restaurant on Southfield Road. She died in a nearby hospital from a single gunshot wound in the head.

Lathrup Village Police Chief Robert Jones said Monday that multiple suspects are still sought in the shooting. Hamilton, a Southfield High School student, was arrested Friday night without incident and arraigned Saturday. He is held in the Oakland County Jail without bond and is expected to be transferred to Oakland County Children's Village.

"The reason we are discussing this now is we felt it was important to let citizens know that the person believed responsible is in custody," Jones said. "We are confident additional arrests will be forthcoming."

Jones credited the Oakland County Sheriff's Office and Detroit police with assisting his department. He declined to disclose many details of the ongoing case, but said Hamilton was not employed at the restaurant and did not know the victim.

While investigators said initially the slaying did not appear to be motivated by robbery -- Solinski-Blain still had cash and jewelry on her when found -- the case appears to have been driven by a holdup attempt that went awry.

From surveillance camera footage, it appeared another vehicle pulled alongside Solinski-Blain, who was sitting in her car with the headlights on, and someone approached her driver side window. Investigators believe she attempted to drive away and the gunman fired once through the window, striking her in the head.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said his detectives were assisting Lathrup Village, a bedroom community of about 4,650 residents, in the ongoing probe.

"This is a small city and fortunately they don't see this kind of crime often," said Bouchard.

Thanksgiving, he said, "is going to be a rough holiday for her family and friends. Hopefully, this arrest will give them at least a little comfort in knowing the person responsible is in custody and to face charges."

The killing was the first homicide in a decade. Since the shooting, another resident has been killed.

Jones and Bouchard encouraged anyone with information about the shooting or the suspects to call police at (248) 557-3600, ext. 230 or Crimestoppers of Michigan at (313) 922-5000.

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