

Jury Trial Set in Local Drug Case

(KNZA)--A June 15th jury trial has been set for a Hiawatha woman facing drug charges.

44-year-old Beth Mikita pleaded not guilty Monday in Brown County District Court to charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, traffic in contraband in a correctional institution and misdemeanor theft.

Mikita and 25-year-old Kalan Pyle, of Hiawatha, were arrested January 6th in the Hiawatha Wal-Mart parking lot after the Brown County Sheriff's Department's K-9, Ari, alerted on their vehicle after a resident contacted authorities to report suspicious activity.

Pyle pleaded no contest earlier this month to a felony count of possession of methamphetamine and is to be sentenced May 22nd.

The misdemeanor theft charge against Mikita stems from the alleged theft of clothes from the Hiawatha Wal-Mart.

She is also accused of violating the terms of her probation in an embezzlement case. The probation violation case against Mikita was continued to May 26th.

Mikita was convicted of embezzling funds from the Hiawatha Chamber of Commerce between August 2014 and April 2015 while serving as Chamber treasurer.

Last June, she was placed on one year supervised probation on charges in that case and ordered to pay more than \$8,000 restitution.

Mikita remains in the Brown County Jail on a \$75,000 bond.

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