

By Karen Krien

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Emergency medical technicians and law officers responded to a call at 3 a.m. Sunday on First Street in Bird City found Wade Lee, 31, dead from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound.

His uncle, Gerald Lee, was taken to the Cheyenne County Hospital by ambulance for injuries after falling off of the SUV driven by Wade, then released on Tuesday.

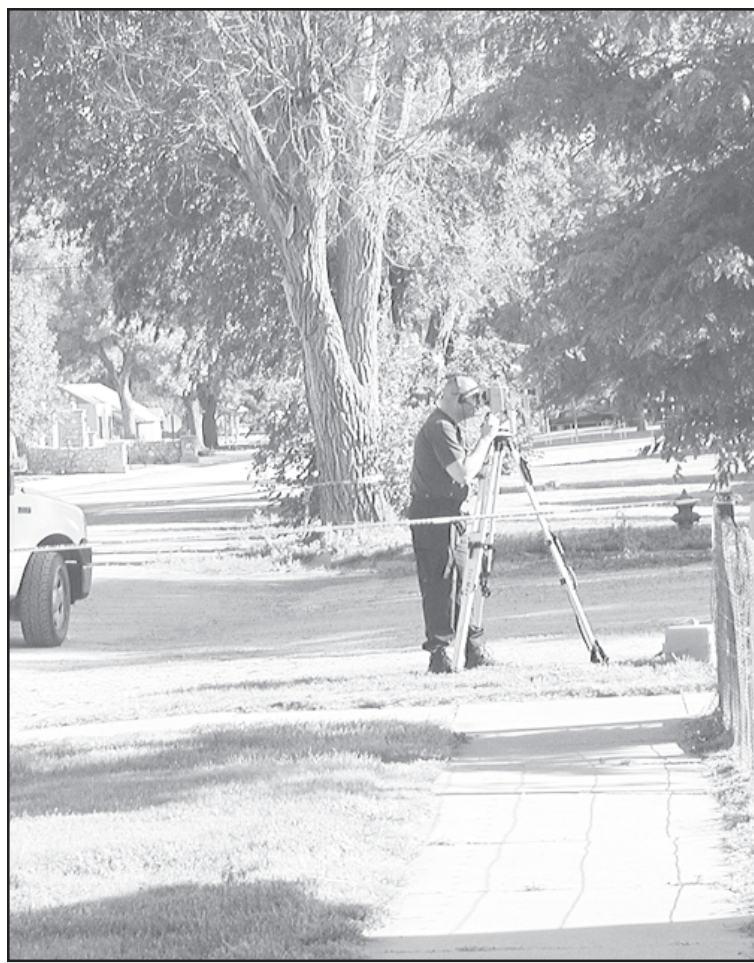
The Kansas Bureau of Investigation dispatched a three member team headed by Agent John Nachtman to the town. Early Tuesday, a spokesman for the bureau would only say that the death had been confirmed and agents were continuing to investigate.

Cheyenne County Attorney Justin Barrett said at this point, no foul play is suspected. He said the men had been to a wedding dance before the incident.

Gerald Lee told Casey McCormick he had attempted to stop his nephew from committing suicide. A gun was found on scene.

Wade Lee was living in Bird City at the time. He is the son of Gale Lee, Osborne, and Sandy Kuhn, Hays.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City.



KBI OFFICER investigates the death of Wade Lee in Bird City Sunday morning.
Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick



KELLY RAY SIMMONDS poses with his guns in Iraq.

Couple announce wedding plans

Jacelyn Skramstad and Donald Schlittenhardt, both of Wichita, are planning a Sept. 29 wedding at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Wichita. A reception and dance to follow at the Best Western in Wichita.

Parents of the couple are Roger and Gayle Skramstad of Alexandria, Minn., and Ron and Amelita Schlittenhardt of St. Francis. Grandparents are Gladys Skramstad of Alexandria and the late Gordon Skramstad and Edwin and Lavonne Schlittenhardt of St. Francis.

The bride-elect is a graduate of

Jefferson Senior High School in Alexandria, and has a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering from North Dakota State University, Fargo. She is employed by Case New Holland manufacturing facility in Wichita as a design engineer.

The groom-elect is a graduate of St. Francis Community High School and has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Kansas State University, Manhattan. He is employed by Case New Holland manufacturing facility in Wichita as a design engineer.



Schlittenhardt — Skramstad

— Letter Policy —

Letters to the Editor

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to P.O. Box 1050; St. Francis, KS 67756.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

Letters printed are not necessarily the opinion of *The Herald* staff. Replies to letters are welcome and, again, must be signed.

By Karen Krien

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McDonald man, Kelly Ray Simmonds, is serving in Iraq as part of a convoy escort team. However, he was recently injured while on a mission.

"I can't tell much about it now," he said. However, he will be out of commission for four months.

Simmonds joined the National Guard in Goodland while still in high school. Following his graduation from Cheylin High School in 2004, he went to basic training in Fort Jackson, N.C. He was one of three out of his class of five boys who went into the service.

In basics, he found he really enjoyed being in the service. He had gone into the service for the benefits and to become a cook. He wanted to go to Iraq but there were no positions open for cooks so he settled on being a gunner. He rides on top of a Humvee guarding the convoy.

Serving in the Army National Guard, Simmonds said he spends a lot of time "on the road," being back at his "house" maybe two days a week. The team's convoy security missions make sure that supplies get from one point to another, then back to safety.

"The time on missions depends on what happens on the road," he said.

As a .50 caliber gunner, he said he has been engaged in fire several times. In the month of July, the company was in small arms fire where the enemy fires on the convoy with AK47s and rocket propelled grenades.

"I enjoy what I am doing over here," he said. "Not the fact that our

incentive is kill or be killed, but that we are attempting to help out a nation that cannot defend or protect themselves."

"I volunteered for this deployment for two reasons," he said. "The first reason was to honor all my friends who have been killed in action while serving their country; and second, I swore that if I were deployed, I would do anything and everything within my power to make sure everyone I came over here with, goes home safely, even if it means giving up my life so they could go back to their families."

A few missions ago, Simmonds said he had the opportunity to help out the explosive ordinance division.

"I was given the chance to take control of the EOP robot which is used to place the C-4 on an improvised explosive device and, I got to blow it up!" he said.

He actually has some video of the explosion.

Simmonds said his team has just been named the "senior convoy

team" in the whole country of Iraq.

He will be coming home for his brother John's wedding on Aug. 25. He said he is not sure whether he will stay in Iraq for another year.

He is the son of Kelly and Diane Simmonds, McDonald. Mr. Simmonds said that the 170th Maintenance Unit in Goodland is supposed to be deployed to Iraq within the next year and Kelly Ray is considering going with them.

Mr. Simmonds also said that, while growing up, Kelly Ray didn't like to shoot a shot gun because it "kicked too much." He has come a long way as, today, he now carries three guns, one of them is a grenade launcher.

The Simmonds said they are very proud of their son and what he is doing but they will be glad to see him in August.

Editor's note: Kelly Ray Simmonds was to be featured in the Freedom Section that is inserted in this weeks paper; however the information was not collected in time for the deadline to print.

Semi tractor accident reported on highway

A semi tractor accident happened on K-161 about 16 miles north of Bird City at 7 p.m. on Saturday. The report from the Kansas Highway Patrol showed driver, Husniddin Sharipov, 26, of Kissimmee, Fla., was going south when he went into the west ditch, over corrected, then

drove into the east ditch. The 1999 Kenworth semi truck overturned on to its top and was facing the northwest when it landed.

Sharipov was taken to the Dundy Hospital by ambulance. It was noted that he was wearing a seat belt.

Odd Facts

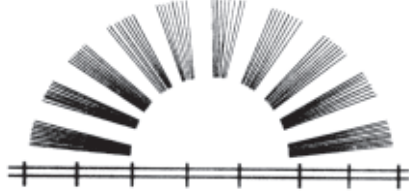
- The name Jeep came from the abbreviation used in the army for the "General Purpose" vehicle, G.P.
- The highest point in Pennsylvania is lower than the lowest point in Colorado.

- The only two days of the year in which there are no professional sports games (MLB, NBA, NHL, or NFL), are the day before and the day after the Major League All-Star Game.

— NOTICE —

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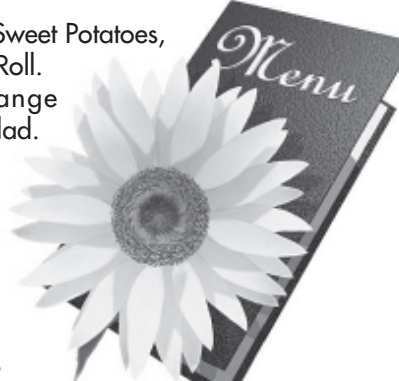
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The Saint Francis Herald

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Bird City Times

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Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursday, July 12, 2007

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State of Kansas

Recreation Commission 2008

The Governing Body of St. Francis Recreation Commission will meet on the 23rd day of July, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Francis High School cafeteria for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of funds.

Detailed budget information is available at the USD 297 superintendent's office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

The Proposed Budget Expenditures (below) are the maximum expenditure limits for the budget year.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2005-2006	Current Year Estimated 2006-2007	Proposed Budget Year 2007-2008
General	35,348	27,735	44,000
Totals	35,348	27,735	44,000
Lease Purchase:			
Principal Balance @ Beg of FY			

Anita Marin
Recreation Commission Secretary

American Profile

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