

Murder trial jury questions sent out

By Amanda Miller
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The District Court of Cheyenne County once again heard motions on March 13 for the State of Kansas v. Leanna Windell. Prior to the trial date, all motions are being addressed once monthly. The jury questionnaire was the topic of discussion this month, as the first round of questionnaires have been sent out to select Cheyenne County residents.

Windell pled not guilty to the charge of premeditated murder in the first degree in the death of Brad Figgins. Figgins, 45, was found in the basement of his home the evening of April 3, 2013, with injuries to his head. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The penalty for that charge is 25 years to life in jail. Windell has two other related charges to the case that carry up to one year of jail time each.

District Court Judge Scott Showalter presided over the hearing. Windell was present with her defense attorney Charles Peckham. Present for the prosecution was Assistant Attorney General Nicole Romine.

Judge Showalter stated that, at this time, about 400 questionnaires have been sent out for jury selection. The initial questionnaire had carefully selected questions to help the attorneys begin the elimination process.

Attorneys from both sides have agreed to most of the second proposed jury questionnaires. Judge Showalter said that he would not be allowing the same questions to be asked twice, as he does not want to waste the potential juror's time.

Windell's defense attorney had an issue with one question. However, after review, Judge Showalter ruled that the question would remain for now.

Following the court hearing, attorneys for both sides went into the judge's chambers with Judge Showalter to discuss the jury questionnaires and to narrow the jury pool.

Sheriff Cody Beeson told Judge Showalter that the security arrangements are coming along for the trial, as well as arrangements for the defendant. The space for additional jurors has already been completed in the courtroom.

Judge Showalter ruled that at this time, the trial date will remain the same. The trial is set for July 14.

-St. Francis News-

Out of town guests who attended Marie Holzwarth's book signing (My Scribbles) were Lou and Mylee Bell, Amarillo, Tex.; Shamryn Holzwarth and Joshua Holzwarth of Wichita; Idell Zuege, Wray, Colo.; Vernett Gorman, Wray, Colo.; Les and Verla Gockley of Fort Morgan; Rod and Cara Weeden, Elkhart; Carol Ann Goalden, Goodland; Kent and Joan Banister, McDonald; Chris Lampe of Canon City, Colo.; Charollet Smith and her sister Cary of Wray.



EMERGENCY RESPONDERS were called to a two-vehicle accident on U.S. 36 at Wheeler when a pickup ran into a semi truck that was turning left into the Captain Hook's parking lot. There were no serious injuries.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Multiple accidents require emergency help

By Karen Krien
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Law officers and the emergency medical technicians were busy Wednesday, March 12, when they were called to two accidents. Each accident caused injuries and two people were taken to the hospital.

A two-vehicle accident happened about 8:15 a.m. on U.S. 36 at the east turn in at Captain Hook's Restaurant in Wheeler. The accident sent one man to the hospital.

A semi truck belonging to Eckland Farm, Goodland, and driven by Darius Bussen of Sharon Springs, was headed east. The pickup, driven by Jonathan Weems, St. Francis, was in the process of passing when the truck made a left turn, cutting off the pickup. The passenger in the pickup was Jack McGinnis, St. Francis, and he was taken to the Cheyenne County Hospital and later released that day. The pickup belonged to Tri-State Irrigation, St. Francis.

Cheyenne County Sheriff, Cody Beeson, said the pickup



A SECOND MULTI-VEHICLE accident occurred shortly after the accident at Wheeler on March 12. One driver was injured and required medical care.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

truck was passing in a no-passing lane. The occupants of the vehicles said they were wearing their seat belts.

The crash caused a leak in the fuel tank of the truck, and firemen were busy trying to dam-

per the diesel from spreading further. The Kansas Department of Transportation later cleaned up the diesel.

The second accident, which happened about noon, also involved two vehicles. Lavon

Schlittenhardt, St. Francis, was driving her 1998 Ford Explorer across U.S. 36 on her way to College Street when Leslie Zeitler, Bird City, driving a 1989 Chevy pickup, hit her. Sheriff Beeson said the cause of the ac-

cident was Mrs. Schlittenhardt's failure to yield.

The pickup belonged to Kelly Lampe. Zeitler, who was not wearing a seat belt, was taken to the hospital and later flown out for additional medical care.

Community member asks questions of digital sign use

By Amanda Miller
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The Saint Francis City Council held their regular meeting on Monday, March 10. The agenda included discussing the Theater Board and receiving visitors.

Kary Zweygardt visited with the council regarding the digital sign by the highway. When Senator Ralph Ostmeyer came, there was not sufficient notice to put it in the paper. Therefore, Mr. Zweygardt requested that it be put up on the sign that the senator would be visiting the county to have a town-hall question and answer meeting. He was informed that the committee responsible for deciding what was allowed on the sign voted not to allow the announcement because it was "political" in nature.

Mr. Zweygardt said this baffled him. This was an informational meeting, he said, and Senator Ostmeyer is a representative of the community as a whole, not just certain political affiliations. Any person was welcome to come speak with the representative. He then asked if the council or committee had a written policy of what was or was not allowed on the sign.

Carla Lampe, council member, said that the rules state there are

no political, religious, or for-profit items allowed on the sign. She said the council tries to keep it simple, and if it is debatable, it goes to the committee for a vote.

Roger Jensen, council member, stated that he errs on the side of caution, and because Ostmeyer is a politician, it was political. "I hate to be questioned," Mr. Jensen said, "And I'm a little offended because we thought we were handling it the best we could for the council."

Mike Day, city attorney, stated that there really should be a written policy. It would help if it was in black and white. "The key question is was there a written policy, and that is a legitimate question," Mr. Day said.

Mrs. Lampe said that the purpose of the sign is to help St. Francis. She would like to keep it honest, open, and she thinks there is a group that does that. The sign stays current, moving, and within state regulations. She stated she would hate to see the sign stop having useful in-

formation because of disputes over what the committee allowed.

Paula Keller, council member, said that there is no reason the sign should not continue. There should be a written policy and clearer guidelines as to what is "political" and "religious" in nature. "We are conflict resolvers. This is the nature of our business," Mrs. Keller said.

Mayor Scott Schultz said that Mr. Zweygardt made a good point in that there needs to be a written policy. He said they will review the minutes from the last discussion on the sign, and have the committee work on it.

Theater board

Mrs. Keller said, after reviewing minutes from the last council meeting with city clerk Glori Milne and Mr. Day, she had some questions regarding the theater board. It appeared, she said, as though raises and bonuses were given. They also discussed an auditor alerting the council that the theater board was over budget. She said she would

like to know what was discussed, as she was unable to attend.

Mrs. Keller said she did not see where a wage increase was approved by the council. She said the pool board and library board must OK wages and bonuses, and remain in contact with the council, as should the theater board.

Mr. Day stated that there was concern the council needed to be more hands on, and suggested that the board give a quarterly report.

Mrs. Milne said since that council meeting, she has been attending the theater board meetings.

Mayor Schultz suggested that the council have someone from the theater board come to the next meeting.

Administrative reports

JR Landenberger, city superin-

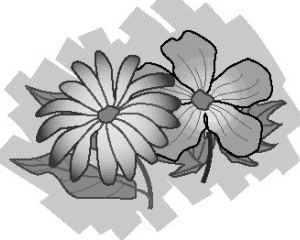
tendent, began his report by stating that he and two other city employees will be going to the Kansas Rural Water Association meeting, so he will not be at the next meeting.

Next, he said, that the siren has been going off at odd times because the fixed wire from the siren to the power plant is having a connection issue. They are working on it, but they may have to eliminate the capability if they cannot get it fixed.

Please see the related electrical upgrade funding article in this issue of The Herald

Next meeting

The next St. Francis City Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the city hall. The public is encouraged to attend.



Cheyenne County Wildlife Inc. Annual Banquet

Saturday, March 29

6 p.m. (doors open)

American Legion Hall

Bird City

Tickets can be purchased at Bumper to Bumper, Republican Valley Auto Parts, Owens True Value, Frontier Arms or any board member

Haisler American Legion
SMOKER
Haisler, Neb.
•Supper •Fun •Entertainment
Saturday, March 22
6:30 p.m. MT

Trees for Sale

The Cheyenne County Conservation District will be taking orders for trees and shrubs. Order early to guarantee availability. Anyone may order in any amount. Trees will be available for pick up on Saturday, April 12, 2014, from 8 a.m. to noon. We also sell heavy duty fabric weed barrier and drip supplies for your windbreaks, gardens or landscaping projects. Stop by the office on West Highway 36, St. Francis or call 785-332-2341 ext. 101 to order your trees

Hands-on Homemade Brats & Sausage Class

Sunday, April 6, at 1:30 p.m.
Instructors: Larry Brunow and Elton Keller
High School Home Ec room
Cost: \$10
Class size is limited. Call Penny @ 332-3949 to sign up.
Sponsored by St. Francis Recreation Commission

MULTI-TRACT AUCTION

1,021± Acres Yuma Co. Colo. Real Estate
WED., APRIL 23 ♦ 9:30 AM MT
Riverbottom, Home, Grass & CRP
Wray, Colo. - Goodman Family, Sellers

Tracts #1-4: 320± Acres; CRP:
Located in 1N-45, Sec. 3; 7 mi. West of Wray, CO

Tracts #5-9: 400± Acres; Grass & Home Sites:
Located in 2N-44, Sec. 33 & 34;
2 mi. West & 2 mi. North of Wray, CO

**Tracts #10 & 11: 400± Acres; Home & Imp.,
Republican Riverbottom, Scenic Bluffs**
Located in 1N-44, Sec. 10, 11 & 15;
1 mi. West of Wray, CO

Watch our website for details or call for sale bill!

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