



Woman pleads guilty to second degree murder

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A woman accused of killing her former husband just over a year ago has pleaded guilty to second degree murder.

Leanna Windell, 44, appeared before the Honorable Judge Scott Showalter on Friday, April 11 in the District Court of Cheyenne County. At the hearing, Windell

pleaded guilty to one count of second degree intentional murder in connection with the April 3, 2013 death of Brad Figgins.

Windell stated that she had hit Mr. Figgins in the back of the head with a pipe on the evening of April 3.

Windell had been facing charges of premeditated murder in the first-degree in the death of Brad

Figgins. The penalty for that charge would have been 25 years to life in jail.

The St. Francis Police Department, Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office, and Kansas Bureau of Investigation had investigated the case. Assistant Attorneys General Nicole Romine and Jessica Dome prosecuted the case. Windell was represented by court appoint-

ed attorney Charles Peckham.

Mr. Figgins, 45, was found in the basement of his home in St. Francis the evening of April 3, with injuries to his head. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital, and later pronounced dead. Windell was held for questioning following the incident.

Leanna and Brad were married in 1992. They had two children,

Garrett and Kaitlin. However they had been divorced for many years.

The court ordered that a Pre-Sentence Investigation Report be done. The report can help aide the judge in determining an appropriate sentence. Mrs. Kathy Russell, a probation officer in Goodland, will talk to people that were involved in the case and write up the report. Judge Showalter told Win-

dell that she would be allowed to tell Mrs. Russell her side of the story. Mrs. Russell will also talk to Brad Figgins' family, and others involved.

The Pre-Sentence Investigation Report will be given 60 days to conduct.

No sentencing date has been scheduled at this time.

Change of voting districts agreed on by school board

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The St. Francis' Board of Education voted Thursday to pass a resolution changing the structure of the voting districts for the school board. St. Francis community members will vote on a resolution to be able to choose school board members that are general representatives, rather than district-specific, as is now the case.

At the school board meeting on Thursday, Superintendent Rob Schiltz said that the board asked him to investigate the procedure for changing the current election plan to one in which all board members are elected at-large following last year's election.

Currently, the Board of Education members are elected using "Voting Plan B," which states, "All electors, who are otherwise qualified according to law, and who reside in the member district may vote in the primary election for the member positions of such member districts and for the at-large member position. All electors, who are otherwise qualified according to law, and who reside in the school district may vote in the general election for all member positions, including the at large member position, to be filled."

are currently elected using a three member district method which states, "The school district is divided into three member districts, two board members are elected from each member district and one board member is elected at-large."

All this can be a bit confusing, and many residents of St. Francis do not know where the district lines are drawn in any case. Opening up the election allows for more people to run, and does not limit well-qualified volunteers based on where they are living, said Superintendent Schiltz.

The board proposes that the plan be changed to "Voting Plan A," which states, "All electors, who are otherwise qualified according to law, and who reside in the school district, may vote in both primary and general election for all member positions."

This would change the above three member district method to the at-large method, which states, "The school district is not divided into any member districts and all board members are elected at-large."

Before the proposed plan takes place, the plan of change must first be approved by a majority of the electors in the school district voting on the proposed plan change. Voters will see this proposal when they go to the voting booths this summer in Aug. 5.

Furthermore, the board members



ALEXIS ZIMBELMAN looks at the long braid of hair that Joni Pevler just cut off! Alexis is going to donate her long, curly hair to the Locks of Love charity in hopes of putting a smile on another little girl's face.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Final musical set for Sunday

The final performance for the Western Plains Arts Association's 44th season will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, 3:00 p.m. DST, in the St. Francis Community High School auditorium.

Eddie and Robert Hiebert, wife and husband musical duo from Abilene, Kansas, will perform a variety of musical selections on varying combinations of dulcimer, guitar, and auto harp, sprinkled with warm vocal harmonies. The group's name, Hieberts Dulcimers, Etc., originates from the fact that most of their tunes feature the hammered dulcimer, an ancient instrument with many strings that are struck with two small hammers, one in each hand.

The Hieberts have appeared in concert over 1,500 times, playing for events in Kansas as well as in other states, Canada and Japan. Eddie and Robert enjoy many kinds of music; hence their repertoire is a blend of carols, folk tunes, work songs, hymns, gospel music, waltzes, cowboy songs, old time fiddle tunes, movie themes, and popular songs. They have recorded six different collections of music. Admission to this event is with WPAA season ticket, or prices at the door are Adults, \$10; Students, \$5. Come enjoy this final event of the season with your family and friends!



LOOKING AT THE ART on display at Quincy Gallery is Pete Jensen. Kate Marin's art is on display until mid May.

Local artist's work displayed at Gallery

Quincy Gallery's current art exhibit features art by St. Francis native Kate Marin. This show includes pieces done with graphite, watercolor, acrylic, and pastels. It will be up until mid May.

Kate is the daughter of Ed and Anita Marin. When she was a senior in high school, Kate realized she had a desire to learn about art. Mary Biekman, Kary Zwegardt, and Bonnie Cram became her mentors at that time. Kate attended Benedictine College, majored in art and the-

ology, and graduated in the fall of 2012. She then attended a summer program at a Sacred Art school in Florence, Italy.

Kate is currently taking steps to pursue art as a career.

"The art you will see at my show was made during my undergrad years, and also a couple of pieces I made during the summer course in Florence," she said. "It showcases my starting point in art. "I am honored to be sharing it with my hometown."



ST. FRANCIS FIFTH AND SIXTH graders spent some of the warm weather last week raking the hospital and clinic lawns. The students enjoyed getting out of school and helping while the hospital maintenance man appreciated the help.

Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper