

*Jury selection only lasted for one day

(Continued from Page 1A) of the questioning, with Mr. Barrett using a more conversational tone to inquire into the juror's thoughts and beliefs. Many of Ms. Romine's questions centered on how well people knew the Coryell or Cook families and if they could listen to the evidence without prejudice or bias.

Many of those questioned said that they did know either or both of the families, but almost all of them said that they could still hear the evidence presented in court without also allowing outside information—anything they may have heard, read or watched about the trial beforehand—to influence their decisions. Many also knew county law enforcement officials or were second or third cousins to parties involved in the case, but again, most said that would not affect their ability to serve.

Near the end of her questioning, Ms. Romine asked if anyone had already formed an opinion about the case, to which no one raised their hand. She then asked if those assembled could disregard news

reports, rumors and gossip during the trial. One hand raised. "I think living in a small town, we all should raise our hand," Karen Mann said. When asked if she could still remain fair and impartial as a juror, however, she said yes.

A quick survey of the first 25 also showed that 16 of them were gun owners or users, 14 of those for hunting and the two for target practice. One person had a conceal-and-carry license. Two women raised their hands to say "they just didn't like guns."

When Mr. Barrett's turn came up, he spoke mostly about what it meant to come to a unanimous decision, how town gossip might affect people's thoughts and what "beyond a reasonable doubt" meant.

"What verdict would you give the court if you had to go back there and make a decision right now?" he asked.

A few of the jurors responded that they couldn't make a decision, that there would be no evidence to make a decision on.

"Wrong," said Mr. Barrett. "You'd have to proclaim him not

guilty, because the prosecution wouldn't have proved anything beyond a reasonable doubt."

The illustration seemed to weigh on the prospective jurors, but Mr. Barrett assured them that only once had he ever seen that question answered correctly.

When asked, two of the possible jurors said they had attended the Cook funeral, but none of them said they belonged to any Facebook group regarding the Cook family.

Mr. Barrett's questions then turned to the more philosophical: Can people believe and say something that isn't true? What does an innocent person look like? How do people act under the influence of alcohol, and how does that affect memory? How is memory affected over time in general? Does anyone remember what they were doing a year and a half ago?

But the most important question he had to ask, he said, was this: If you were sitting in the defendant's chair, would you want yourself as a juror?

Commission explains loans, grants

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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The Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission made its annual report to Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday, though the commissioners decided that for now, they couldn't think of any grants or loans they'll ask for this year.

"We didn't talk about anything to apply for," said Commissioner Brad Marcuson. "Right now, I don't think there's anything we can use, but if there is... now we know what (the agency) does."

Commissioners Sid Metcalf and Stan McEvoy agreed, but encouraged residents thinking about starting up a new business to talk with the commission—which handles applications for Small Business Administration-backed loans and other loans—and the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.

Steve Zodrow, administrative assistant for the City of Oberlin, was also at the meeting. He noted that the city has had a lot of dealings with the agency.

"Right now, these are the people who are administering our street grant," he said, "and we're about to go into the closing hearing for that this next (City Council) meeting. Currently, the water project is the only (loan) that the city has with them. The loans won't fund all of it, but every dollar counts. Chances are that we'll use (the Community Development Block Grant) for water main updates; that's what we're aiming for anyway."

But this doesn't mean that the money is always easy to get.

"Of course, funds are harder and harder to get anymore," said Executive Director Randall Hrabec, who made the presentation along with Pam Herl, the economic development coordinator. "They're really

cutting back. If communities don't put in a 50 percent match anymore, it's pretty tough to get funded."

Mr. Hrabec did note, however, that for business loans, people are often only asked to come up with a 20 percent match, and the agency can help with that, too—that's exactly what the Regional Revolving Loan Fund is for.

"What I always tell the people applying is, 'You tell me how many dollars you need, and we'll try to make a match to funding sources to help you.'"

Mr. Hrabec said that if you are interested in grants, loans and other help to start up a business, you can call him at (785) 421-2151.

Most of the money comes from the Community Development Block Grant program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, he said.



JOKING THAT THEY were digging for fishing worms, city worker David Sporn (right) looked into a hole as he and Jacob Fortin (middle) helped water department director Willard Perrin dig out an old pipe at Penn Avenue and Commercial Street on Monday. The pipe isn't in use anymore, Mr. Sporn said, and the men were just trying to eliminate a future problem.
— Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

*Man flees on foot in chase, caught after two hours

(Continued from Page 1A) the car had committed no crimes, Mr. Haas said, so she was allowed to go.

"The driver would only be in trouble if it can be proved they knowingly harbored a fugitive," he said. "There wasn't enough to charge her, and she wasn't issued a ticket."

Chief Haas said that his department has had dealings with Mr. Grenier in the past, as has the county.

This is not the first time he's run from the police, he added, and the man usually resists arrest when caught. He said that while he is not really a danger to the public, he can be a threat to officers.

Mr. Haas said that in the past, Mr. Grenier has been convicted of fleeing the police, attempting to elude officers and driving with a suspended license. In Decatur

County, he pled guilty to domestic battery.

"Basically, it turned out good," the chief said. "Sticking with that search, we were able to wear him down and locate him."

"In general, (people should) report suspicious activity to the police and we'll check it out. We respond to all calls. We rely on the public to help us, because we can't be everywhere at the same time."

Last chance to name hero

The deadline to nominate someone for *The Oberlin Herald's* annual "Hometown Heroes" section has been extended to March 29.

Our staff will write short stories on each of the nominees. Those making nominations may include pictures. Nominations are needed as soon as possible to give time for the staff to interview everyone.

To make a nomination, send it to Assistant Publisher Kimberly Davis at 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749 or k.davis@nwkansas.com.

Nominations, said Mrs. Davis, need to include the person's name, the nominator's name and phone number, and the reason for the nomination.

The staff will try to write about each of the nominated "Heroes," Mrs. Davis said. A hero can be anyone, maybe someone who has worked hard to raise money for a community project, someone who shovels their neighbor's sidewalk off each winter or maybe just that person who always has a smile on their face and cheers people up.

Mrs. Davis asks that people not nominate the same "heroes" as in previous years.

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