

* Defendant asks for lower penalty

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- Mr. Coryell called 911 after shooting Mr. Cook, indicating remorse for what he had done.
- Although the state presented evidence of Mr. Coryell having a criminal history, none of the prior incidents involved a felony charge.
- Mr. Coryell had a blood-alcohol level of .8 five hours after the incident, indicating he was not in a frame of mind to make intelligent decisions.
- Witnesses testified Monday that Mr. Coryell performed charity and volunteer work while in jail, and that showed the kind of person he is.

Judge Pratt denied the request for a downward departure, knocking down many of the arguments.

He said he couldn't agree that Mr. Coryell did not instigate the situation, due to the fact that Mr. Coryell shot Mr. Cook when he was in a vulnerable state. That made him the aggressor, the judge said.

The judge said the fact that he was drunk could not be used as an excuse for Mr. Coryell's actions because this use of alcohol was voluntary. He said he could not acknowledge the charity work as a mitigating factor because the focus should be on punishment and rehabilitation.

Mr. Coryell made a statement apologizing to the Cook family

before Judge Pratt issued his sentence.

During his address, Mr. Coryell said, "I'm not the person who would intentionally hurt anybody."

Patty Coryell, Mr. Coryell's mother, made a statement, saying her son had made a "one-time mistake" due to alcohol.

"Dylan shouldn't be going to prison alone," she said, referring to friends who were with Mr. Coryell the night of the murder.

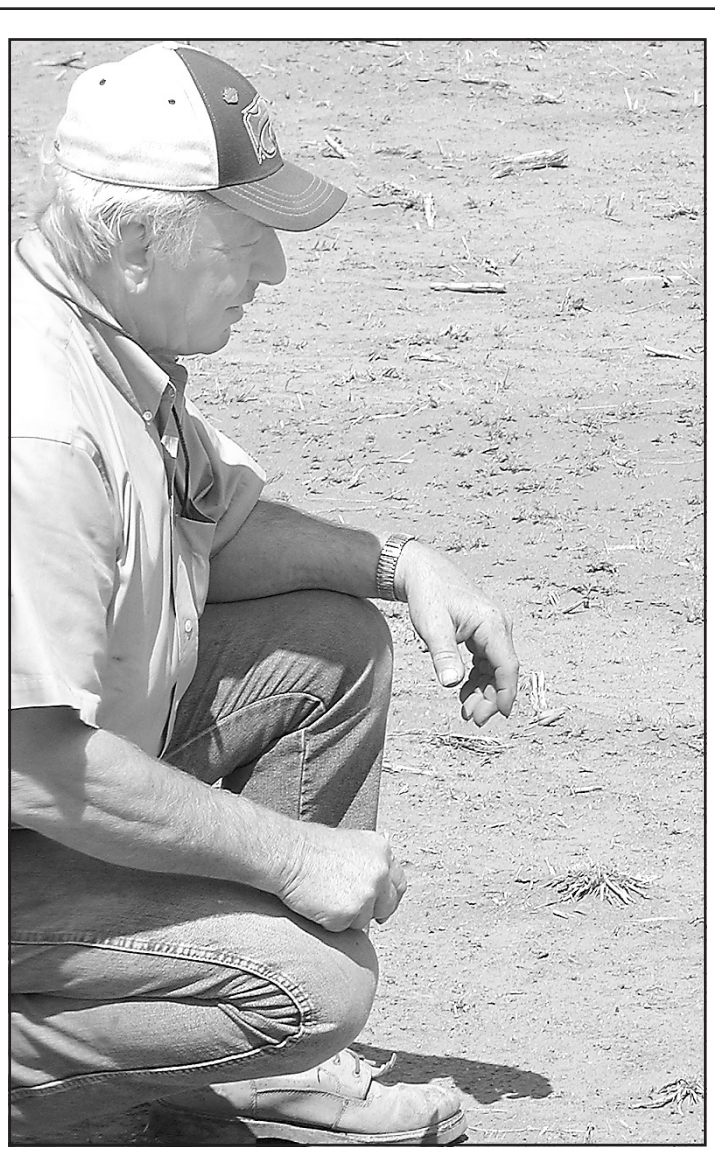
In imposing sentence, Judge Pratt said he could not approve the request of the prosecution for Mr. Coryell to serve 20 years in prison.

He said that the sentence time for felony murder is a minimum of 20 years, but the jury had found Mr. Coryell guilty of a lesser crime, second-degree, non premeditated murder.

Judge Pratt sentenced him to 15 years for the second-degree murder and 13 months for aggravated assault, to be served concurrently, or at the same time.

Mr. Coryell was ordered to pay \$836 dollars in court fees and fines. No fines or costs were assessed for aggravated battery.

Court officials said Mr. Coryell will be evaluated in the next 10 days by the Department of Corrections before being sent off to a state prison.



LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, farmer Ralph Unger visited a corn field left dry and bare due to the lack of rain after a wildfire fire last summer destroyed the crop residue protecting the ground. — Herald staff photo by Ramell Taylor

Market vendors deal with lack of produce

Despite cool weather this spring and a lack of produce, the Oberlin Farmers Market started up for the season last Wednesday, and although many gardens haven't done much, items like diabetic breads and purses made from men's neckties were available.

The market begins around 8 a.m. every Wednesday in front of the Chamber of Commerce office at the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Building.

Jeanette Miller, who has been

participating in the market for four years, said her produce wasn't ready, so she brought breads, jams and dessert.

Ms. Miller said the produce was behind schedule for the first day last year as well. She said she expects it will be about a month or so before her vegetables are ready.

When gardens start blooming, growers are welcome to bring their produce to the market. It's expected to continue until October.

* K-State helping

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the fields.)"

Mr. Unger, a long-time former county commissioner, said he thought unless it rains long enough to keep the dirt moist, no crop method would be useful.

"After the rain, the ground was (moist for) 12 hours," he said. "Those don't count, because it doesn't even settle the dust."

After examining the fields, the research team said having a vegetation cover such as mulch might help, especially over areas that aren't growing.

Mr. Unger said he thought that would be too expensive.

"At \$200 an acre, that's not cheap," he added.

The research team also suggested tilling the fields perpendicular to the wind might help with the dirt problem, making clods and creating roughness to catch blowing dust.

The research team said the weather for the next 90 days is expected to be hot and dry, so they recommended that the neighbors not plant any new crops.

The team will write a plan to prevent blowing dirt from killing nearby crops.

* Groups planning big holiday show

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gether by the Decatur County Fire Department. To sign up, call Andrea Burmaster at (785) 470-1119.

The Decatur Professional Women will be selling root-beer floats and cherry limeades downtown in front of the old Addleman Drug Store. Donations will go to the group's scholarship fund.

The Oberlin Swim Club plans an open swim meet from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the city pool. Adults and kids of all ages can participate, with ribbons and prizes awarded to the top swimmers.

Registration is \$20, with all proceeds going for the pool project and city expenses. The deadline for registration is Friday, June 28. For information, contact Stephanie Blau at (785) 470-0222, Robyn Rouse at (785) 475-8987 or Kasey May at (785) 475-3912.

The festival will continue at City Park with a pie-eating contest at 6 p.m. Entry fee is \$5, with the winner taking home a trophy and half of the total entry fees. Anyone interested in signing up can call Mrs. Diederich at (785) 470-7097.

The fire department will have hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, chips and watermelon for supper, all for

a donation. The seventh-grade class from Decatur Community Junior High will be selling pie and ice cream for dessert.

There will be kids games and face painting afterward, with the high school cheerleaders selling cake pops and Decatur Tomorrow offering cotton candy, popcorn and drinks.

The Community Band, directed by Neil Russell, will be playing at the band shell at 7 p.m. A guest artist will perform at 8 p.m., followed by "Dancing with the DJ" at 8:30 p.m. featuring DJ Full Throttle.

At 9 p.m., the Legion Riders color guard will present a flag ceremony in front of the grandstand at the high school football field. At 9:15 p.m., the Oberlin American Legion will make a presentation.

The Decatur Community High School cheerleaders will pump up the crowd by leading a celebration song, "Hokey Pokey" and chicken dance right before a laser light show at 10 p.m., presented by Day Star Laser International.

For information on all the activities, go to oberlinks.com/decatour-county-4th-of-july-festival/. The festival is sponsored by the Decatur County Firemen's Wives.

* County to allow guns

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coordinator for Western Kansas Child Advocacy Centers, ask for a donation. She said the center helps heal the trauma of children involved in abuse cases. Although the commissioners had not given anything in the past, they approved \$500 for this year.

- Went into a closed session to discuss nonelected personnel for 10 minutes with Randy Dick, agent for Kaw Valley Insurance.
- Heard Mr. Dick present a contract for consulting on a policy to meet the needs of the Affordable Health Care Act for county employees. The contract, which would cost \$7,500, will be up for review in the next meeting.
- Met with Keith Harmony and Augustine Obour from the Kansas State University Research and Ex-

tension Center in Hays to discuss solutions for restoring the fields that were burned in wildfires last summer.

- Approved a motion to lock in half of the natural gas the county expects to buy this winter at a contract price of \$475 per million cubic feet.
- Agreed to postpone a motion to pay a third of the taxes for the bowling alley and movie theater downtown until they determine what was paid earlier this year.
- Heard there will be a meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Golden Age Center on the effort to adopt a neighborhood revitalization plan, which would provide tax rebates for new development.
- Reviewed results from an income survey sent out the first week of June. Few responses were in.

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