



Local woman is charged with murder

By Amanda Miller
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A St. Francis woman, who was arrested in April in connection with the death of 45-year old Brad Figgins, appeared in the Cheyenne County courtroom for preliminary hearings on Thursday, Oct. 10.

Leanna Windell, 43, is alleged to have been involved with the death of Brad Figgins. He died on April 3, 2013.

Brad was found in the basement of his home the evening of April 3, with injuries to his head. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital, and later pronounced dead. Ms. 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.

Judge Richard Ress presided over the hearing. Prosecution attorney was Nicole Romine, assistant Attorney General the State of Kansas. Ms. Windell appeared in person, and was represented by court appointed attorney Charles Peckham.

During the hearing, the

prosecution called two expert witnesses to the stand.

Three other witnesses were called to the stand by the state to establish the whereabouts of Ms. Windell the day and evening of April 3.

After a full day of testimony from the prosecution, the defense opted to not call any witnesses.

Summations were given by both sides.

The state began, giving a detailed timeline of April 3. The attorney used the expert testimony to describe the death of Mr. Figgins in detail and requested that the court hold Ms. Windell for premeditated murder.

The defense backfired, arguing that the state wanted the court to make a lot of assumptions. Mr. Peckham said that the state did not meet its burden to prove premeditation or motive.

After the court considered the exhibits and testimony, it found that the state did meet its burden.

Ms. Windell was bound over on the charge of premeditated murder. Judge Scott Showalter will preside over the next court date, which was unknown at the time this article was written.

Haigler festival starts on Saturday

Rain or shine – it's Tumbleweed Festival time again in Haigler!

The sixth Haigler Fall Tumbleweed Festival will be held Saturday on the Haigler Museum grounds south of Highway 34 and Porter Avenue.

Tents, tables, hay bales, pumpkins, scarecrows, music, food, and lots of activities await your arrival. Festival goers are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and come enjoy this wonderful day of celebration.

There are no admission fees – just free will donations that will help fund the Haigler Museum projects. The festival committee is hoping for a warm, sunny day – but the event will be held regardless of weather (just moved inside the buildings if necessary).

Schedule of events

Schedule of events include neighborhood garage sales from 9 a.m.-noon mountain time. Tri-State Auction will also be conducting an auction of Haigler Elementary School contents and other consignor items. The school is for sale, and will be open for attendees to tour the facility.

Maps will be available at 'the station' on U.S. 34. Tables filled with pumpkins of all sizes, jams, jellies, canned goodies, and fresh baked cookies, breads, and treats will be available to purchase and some available at afternoon auction.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a decorated tumbleweed to be displayed. Cash prizes will be given.

Lunch begins at 1 p.m. with pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, pickles, chips, and drinks. Slices of delicious homemade pies topped with scoops of ice cream will also be served at the Golden Inn Senior Center. An addition to the festival this year will be sales of cotton candy and snow cones. Throughout the afternoon, live music will be performed by former Haiglerite LaVoine Smith and The Garage Bunch Band from Burlington, Colo.

Other activities include treasure hunts, maypole merry-go-round rides, horseshoe pitching, pumpkin decorating, ticket drawings

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Homecoming queen and king - Aly Schlepp and Derek Queen

Homecoming activities end; king, queen announced

By Amanda Miller
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Aly Schlepp and Derek Queen were crowned as the homecoming queen and king at the pep rally held Oct. 11 in the high school gymnasium.

Aly Schlepp is the daughter of Lisa and Spencer Schlepp, and Derek Queen is the son of Kim and Marlin Queen. They accepted the crown, and Derek gave Aly a celebratory kiss before walking down the court.

This year's homecoming court included queen candidates Randee Grover and Bailey Merklin. The king candidates were Gaten Cooper and Mason Schiltz.

Maci Workman, daughter of Kodi and Darren Workman, and Carter Wilson, son of Matt and Sarah Wilson were the crown bearers. Last year's Homecoming queen Laura Brunk escorted the Maci and Carter to the center of the gymnasium to present this year's king and queen with the crowns.

The pep band gave a performance and head football coach, Kyle Buffington, gave an enthusiastic speech to get the gymnasium excited for the game. All the students, kindergarten through 12th grade, participated in cheers and chants before returning to class.



Homecoming crown bearers - Carter Wilson and Maci Workman



TRUCKS UNLOADED CORN at the St. Francis Equity earlier this week.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Fall crop harvest underway in area

By Tim Burr
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Trucks and combines have been rolling over the county for the past few weeks, working on getting out the fall harvest of soybeans, milo and corn.

"Most of the dryland acres didn't yield well," said Ray Magnani, Frontier Ag, Bird City. "That was expected, with the long, hot, and dry summer."

Frontier has been receiving soybeans, milo and corn. They believe that the soybean harvest for them is done, along with most of the dryland corn.

"We're just getting in to the better irrigated corn, and quality and yields have so far been acceptable," Magnani said.

Wheeler Equity has also been accepting grains for a few weeks.

"It started out slow, but now is picking up. We've had a good start," said Dale Weeks, manager.

Weeks also reported that the irrigated corn quality was acceptable, along with the soybeans, but that some of the milo

was poor. They are looking forward to getting more of the irrigated acres harvested, so they can get an indication of yields on the better fields.

Bartlett Grain has received a few loads, but indicated that it is a slow start to their harvest. They stated that it is only the middle of October, so that makes the timeline for harvest about right.

"Like every year, we get some harvest done, then wait on more of the fields to dry down so they can be harvested," said Doug Ross, St. Francis Equity.

The Equity has been receiving loads for a couple of weeks, but it has been start-stop-start, said Shirley Zwegardt. "We'd like to get this done, just like everyone."

All of the elevators indicated that they had adequate space to handle the harvest. Grain prices are considerably lower than this time last year, due in part to expected greater yields in the Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri grain belt.