



Today: Mostly sunny with few early clouds. Winds North at 10 to 15 mph.
High: 64°
Low: 38°
Details: Page 5B

50 cents
Friday,
October 7, 2022

Friday SALEM TIMES-COMMONER



SPORTS:
Lady Wildcats fall to Centralia
SEE Page 1B

Salem woman indicted on murder charge

Christina Bartley, 29, charged in connection with 2021 shooting death

BY DENNIS ROSENBERGER
Times-Commoner Editor

A 29-year-old Salem woman has been indicted on a charge of murder in connection with a shooting death that occurred at a rural Salem home in April 2021.

According to court records, Christina L. Bartley has been charged with one count of murder, after a bill of indictment

was handed down by a Marion County grand jury on September 26. The indictment remained sealed until Bartley's appearance in court on the charge on Tuesday.

The indictment alleges that Bartley committed the offense of first-degree murder on April 15, 2021, when she allegedly shot Wesley Bivens in the body and forearm with a fire-

arm, knowing that her actions would cause great bodily harm or death.

According to reports following the shooting in April 2021, the incident occurred at a home on Miles Lane, southwest of Salem, that was shared by Bartley and the alleged victim. A 9-1-1 call from Bartley to report the shooting was received by authorities at approximately 6:30 p.m. on April 15.

Marion County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the scene and found Bivens, 31, deceased inside the home, as a result of gunshot wounds.

No arrests were made in the case at that time, but the

investigation continued until the case was submitted to the grand jury, which returned the murder indictment against Bartley last week.

In a first court appearance on the murder charge on Tuesday, Bartley was represented by attorney Matt Wilzbach, and formal arraignment was waived. Bartley pleaded not guilty to the charge and a jury trial was demanded, with a trial date of January 10 set by the court.

A motion to reduce bond

was also filed by Wilzbach on Tuesday, seeking to lower the \$1 million bond amount set in the arrest warrant that was issued following the grand jury indictment. As part of the motion to reduce bond, Bartley claims her alleged actions on April 15, 2021, were taken in self defense as she was being attacked.

The motion also argued that Bartley, a lifelong Marion County resident, has no prior criminal history and is not a flight risk, adding that she has made no

attempt to leave the area over the past 18 months as the investigation into the shooting has been ongoing.

During a hearing on the bond reduction request on Wednesday morning, Judge Mark Stedelin agreed to reduce Bartley's bond from \$1 million to \$250,000 with the condition that, if she is released, she have no contact with Bivens' family, their residence or places of employment.

Jury settings in the case were also confirmed during the hearing on Wednesday, and the case is set for a pretrial hearing on November 16, according to court documents.



Christina L. Bartley

Tour at SCHS highlights Career and Technical Education effort

Programs designed to help students prepare for careers following high school

BY DENNIS ROSENBERGER
Times-Commoner Editor

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at Salem Community High School (SCHS) were on display Wednesday as part of a tour of area programs by representatives from the state and national CTE associations.

Jori Houck, Media Specialist with the national Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), and Cindy Stover, executive director for the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education (IACTE), were joined on the tour by local officials from the City of Salem, Kaskaskia College and SCHS as they had a chance to visit several classrooms at the high school and hear from the educators and students participating in the programs at SCHS.

SCHS was actually the second stop for the tour on Wednesday, as they earlier visited the high school in Mount Vernon to tour their CTE programs. The local stops were part of a four-day tour of CTE programs offered at secondary

and post-secondary education institutions across the southern Illinois region from Monday through Thursday.

Principal John Boles led the tour at SCHS on Wednesday and welcomes all of those who came out, noting that the high school, in partnership with the city and Kaskaskia College, has placed an extra focus in recent years on the importance of educating students and families about the good careers that are available locally through the Career and Technical Education path.

"We know that not every kid goes to college, so we want to help equip those kids to be successful in life," said Boles. "That's the bottom line, to give them a leg up on finding a career."

He noted that with help from the city and the college, a number of tours have been organized over the past several years that have allowed students from both the high school and the local junior high schools to visit the local indus-

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(Times-Commoner Photos by Dennis Rosenberger)

Automotive Technology instructor Chad Bryan (left) speaks to a tour group about the program at SCHS while students in his Transportation 2 class work on one of the vehicles in the school's auto shop on Wednesday afternoon.



Industrial Technology instructor Drew Johnson (right) talks about the various types of skills that his students can learn through the program at SCHS.



CNA students at SCHS were working on their shaving skills during the tour of the school's Career and Technical Education programs on Wednesday afternoon.

SCHS:

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tries and learn about the types of careers that are available.

"The biggest thing for us is awareness," said Boles. "Trying to make sure our kids and families are aware of the career opportunities that are available here in Salem and the surrounding area."

And that effort is paying off, resulting in increased interest in the various CTE programs that are offered at SCHS, according to Boles. And he thanked the city and college for helping to open doors and lines of communication with local industries to help organize the tours over the past several years.

"Communication is the key, with our local industries," said Boles.

The tour on Wednesday saw the group visit a number of different CTE classrooms at SCHS, including Marketing and Advertising, Intro to Industry, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Agri-Business, and Transportation 2.

Teacher Drew Johnson with the Industrial Technology Program noted during the tour's stop in his Intro to Industry classroom that the program covers a wide array of different subjects, including plastics technology, drafting, robotics, photoshop and photo editing, digital video, mechanical technology, engineering and more.

"It's kind of a hodgepodge of things, but we do some fun stuff," said Johnson, noting that the variety helps the students find the subject that they are truly interested in.

In the CNA classroom on Wednesday, instructor Michelle Blomberg had the students working on one of the skills that they will need to have as a CNA, how to properly shave a patient. During the class, some of the male students volunteered to allow their classmates to shave their faces so that they could work on their skills.

Blomberg noted that after completing the CNA program at the high school, students can actually go out and find jobs as CNAs in the community.

She added that one student last year actually received a \$10,000 signing bonus from a facility in the area, in addition to making up to \$35 per hour while working as a CNA at a local nursing home on weekends and holidays while still in high school.

The CNA program partners with some of the local care facilities where the students actually get on-site experience while job shadowing staff members at those facilities, according to Blomberg, including Salem Township Hospital and some of the local assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Boles noted that the CNA program is where the biggest growth in student interest has been seen recently among the CTE programs, and he credited Blomberg for fostering that interest among the students.

Blomberg explained that alumni of the SCHS program can be found working at a number of facilities throughout the area, and many also go on to pursue nursing degrees from Kaskaskia and other area colleges.

She added that the current school nurse at SCHS was actually one of her students in the CNA program during her first year teaching at the school.

During their visit to the auto shop at SCHS, which is part of the Automobile Technology Program at the school, the tour group found students of the Transportation 2 class working on a number of different vehicles.

Instructor Chad Bryan is actually an alumni of the SCHS program who wanted to return and teach as a way to give back to the school and its students. Bryan has been teaching at SCHS since 2014.

Bryan noted that the program has produced a number of individuals who are currently working as mechanics and technicians in and around the Salem community.

"Through Salem Community High School, alone, from alumni through my courses, there is one at Ferguson's Auto Repair, two at Precision Truck Products, one at Max Dye, two at Lander's Automotive, one at Schmidt Ford, and one at Boulder ... and that's just what I can think of right now," Bryan told the tour group.

He noted that the Transportation 2 class, which is one of the advanced classes in the program, is actually a dual credit course that offers both high school and college credit for students. The class lasts for a full year and meets for two hours per day.

Following their visit to SCHS on Wednesday, both Houck and Stover noted that their tour across Southern Illinois has allowed them to learn about the CTE opportunities that are currently available for students, as well as the needs that remain in area schools and communities.

Houck noted that her role with the national ACTE is based out of Washington, DC, and the opportunity to get out of the big city and see what is actually available to students in rural areas will be a major help in the organization's role as an advocate for CTE programs across the country.

"For me, this media tour has been a tremendous opportunity to go into the schools and see what they have to offer," said Houck. "I'm based out of Wash-

ington, DC, and we're in these Zoom silos all day and have not really had the opportunity to go out and talk to the CTE program students and faculty and see what they have, what they're doing and how we can support them."

"Really, my goal with these tours is to take back to Washington, DC, the perspectives on local program needs and local workforce needs ... and use my platform as someone at the national level to support IACTE and the local schools," Houck added. "I don't think we can serve as effectively as an organization if we didn't have these opportunities to go out and talk and see the passion of the educators and the students for what they are doing."

Houck added that she was especially impressed, both at SCHS and the other programs across Southern Illinois, with the dedication that the educators have to serving the needs of their students.

"Everyone from the administration down to the faculty and the students clearly have a passion for what they're doing and that's how we support the future, having everyone committed, from the top down, to making these programs the best that they can be," she said. "When you have people who are dedicated like this, you know that the kids are in good hands."

Stover agreed that the dedication of the educators is key to the growth that is being seen in CTE programs.

"Both Salem and Mount Vernon have very nice Career and Technical Education programs ... but what I am most impressed with is the quality of their educators and how much they seem to care about the students," said Stover. "The dedication from the teachers to help their students in any way that they can is what I've been most impressed with."

Stover noted that the goal of the tours this week is to educate the state and national organizations about the needs of communities, while also getting the word out to families and students in the region about all of the CTE opportunities that are available.

"The real purpose of the tour is to get the information out to the communities so that they can see what is offered in their local districts for their students, and the career opportunities that their students have a chance to prepare for," Stover said.

Boles agreed with both Houck and Stover's praise of the CTE faculty, noting that the educators at SCHS are the key ingredient in the growth that has been seen in the school's programs.

"All credit goes to our teach-



(Times-Commoner Photo by Dennis Rosenberger)

A tour group got an inside look at several of the Career and Technical Education programs available at SCHS on Wednesday. From left are: Dr. Dwain Baldrige with the Marion, Clinton and Washington Counties Career and Technical Education System; Jori Houck with the national Association for Career and Technical Education; Cindy Stover with the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education; Diane Keortge with the Marion, Clinton and Washington Counties Career and Technical Education System; Karen Lockhart, Principal Consultant for Career and Technical Education at Illinois State Board of Education; SCHS Principal John Boles; Traci Masau, Dean of Career and Technical Education at Kaskaskia College; SCHS Board member Sarah Meador; SCHS Board member Diane Eller; Mayor Nic Farley; City Councilman Jim Koehler; and Salem City Manager Rex Barbee.

ers," said Boles. "Whether they are looking into new methods and techniques to teach the subjects, or new equipment .. all credit goes to them."

"They take a program and they are able to show the kids the benefits of that career path," Boles added. "We are blessed with tremendous people here at Salem Community High School that truly care about the kids."

While school officials are

proud of what the CTE programs currently have to offer, Superintendent Brad Detering noted that they are looking at ways to enhance the opportunities available to students, with hopes of working with the city and local industries to develop an internship program that would allow some students to gain on-site experience in their chosen fields.

And beyond just giving them practical experience, Boles noted

that the ultimate hope would be that an internship program could line students up with actual jobs as soon as they finish school.

"Even more than a foot in the door, it could get them a job when they are finished here," Boles said. "They will get training from people in the industry while they are in high school and, that way, when they graduate they will have a quality job waiting for them."

GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at the following regularly established polling places:

PRECINCT	POLLING PLACE	ADDRESS
Alma	Alma Village Hall	106 Seventh
Carrigan	Carrigan Town Hall	657 Fairman Rd.
Centralia 1	Executive Apartments	705 N Elm
Centralia 3, Centralia 4	Eternity Baptist Church (Old Building)	305 North Beech
Centralia 5	City Hope Church - Café (Main Entrance)	1000 E. Third Street
Centralia 6, Centralia 7	City Hope Church - Café (Main Entrance)	1000 E. Third Street
Centralia 9	Wamac City Hall	100 S. Washburn Ave
Centralia 11, Centralia 15	Central City Lions Club	300 Morrison Central City
Centralia 12	Walnut Hill Village Hall	207 Main Walnut Hill
Centralia 13	Lively Stone Apostolic Church	601 E. Calumet
Centralia 14	Lutheran School	203 S. Pleasant
Centralia 17	Free Methodist Church	1608 E. McCord
Foster	Foster Township Hall	8475 Jones Rd.
Haines	Kell Village Hall	101 S. Johnson
Iuka	Iuka Grade School	405 S. Main
Kimnundy	Kimnundy Community Center	104 W. Third
Meacham	Meacham Town Hall	8686 Kinlou Rd.
Odin	Odin Village Hall	108 E. Kirkwood
Omega	Omega Town Hall	6212 Omega Rd.
Patoka	Patoka Village Hall	301 S. Oak St.
Raccoon	Raccoon School	3601 St. Rt. 161
Romine	Donoho Prairie Christian Church	7405 Exchange Road
Salem 1	Marion County Courthouse	100 E. Main
Salem 2, Salem 8	Marion County Fair Grounds	Exhibit Building 1800 Fairground
Salem 4, Salem 7	First Christian Church	1200 West Boone Street
Salem 5	Selmaville School (South)	3185 Selmaville Rd.
Salem 6, Salem 9	Salem High School	1200 N. Broadway
Sandoval 1	Sandoval City Hall	102 N. Cherry
Sandoval 3	Junction City Village Hall	1108 Adams Ave. Junction City
Stevenson	Stevenson Town Hall	4002 Bannister Rd.
Tonti	Tonti Town Hall	5328 Hopkins-Hunter Rd.