

Paul Manders Sentenced

By Assistant Publisher/Editor
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Paul Manders, formerly of Osage, now has a new home at the Wyoming State Penitentiary. He was transported there from the custody of the Weston County Sheriff's Office by the Wyoming Department of Corrections (DOC) on Friday, March 21st, following Manders' sentencing hearing.

After initially pleading not guilty to the July 27th, 2021 shooting death of Vernon Clyde in Osage, Manders was set for a jury trial in a few months ago, but at the last minute the defense and prosecution agreed to amend the charge from Second Degree Murder to Manslaughter, both of which are felonies. Manders pled no contest to the lesser Manslaughter charge on November 26th, though still asserting his innocence in Clyde's killing and not admitting to committing a criminal act.

Manders called dispatch that July evening nearly four years ago after admittedly shooting Clyde three times with a .45 handgun, claiming that Clyde was driving his skid-steer at him. According to witnesses in Osage, Manders and the victim had been

having ongoing property disputes leading up to fatal shooting.

Manders' sentencing hearing was held in Weston County District Court on Thursday, February 27th with the Honorable Judge Michael Causey presiding. The defendant was present in person, with his attorneys Christopher Goetz and Jonathan Foreman. The State of Wyoming was represented by Michael Stulken, Weston County Prosecuting Attorney, and Jeani Stone, Deputy Weston County Prosecuting Attorney. Andrea Gregory with the Wyoming Department of Probation and Parole was also present.

Manders offered no reason why sentence ought not be imposed. The Court then considered the evidence produced, the Presentence Investigation Report prepared by the DOC Division of Field Services, the statement of the victim, remarks of counsel, and the advisability of probation.

As for probation, the Court found Manders was not a good candidate for probation and that a term of incarceration was appropriate given the facts and

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