

Westfall takes deal

Murder suspect to testify against former lover

BY PAT ARNOLD
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YREKA — Teresa Westfall, 39, of Orleans, pleaded guilty Thursday to being an accessory in the murder of a Somes Bar man in February of this year which qualified her for a release on her own recognizance the same day.

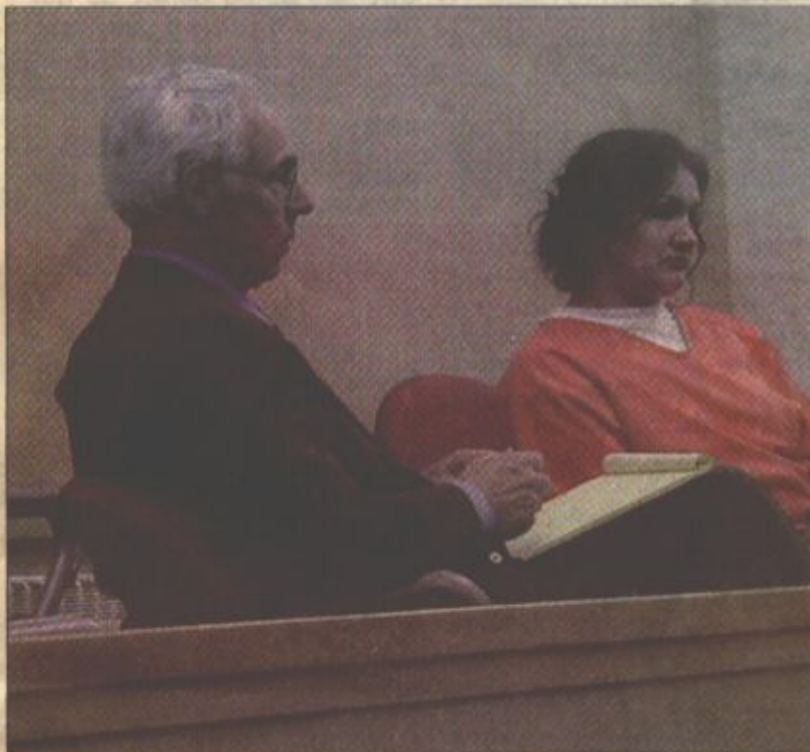
Westfall and 32-year-old William Black, turned themselves into authorities five days after the badly beaten body of Allie Allen Davis was discovered in his Somes Bar home.

Vidiotaped interviews taken by sheriff's deputies at the time of their arrest were shown to Judge Robert Kaster at a preliminary hearing in June detailing the circumstances surrounding Davis's death.

In those interviews, Westfall said that Davis had been drinking heavily throughout the evening of his death and was constantly making sexual advances at her.

She said she was awakened in the middle of the night with Davis standing over her with an axe raised over his head, ready to strike. When the axe fell, it struck Westfall in the face and knocked out two of her teeth.

The stories of Westfall and



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Teresa Westfall, who pleaded guilty to being an accessory to murder Thursday, sits with her attorney William Duncan prior to her release from jail.

Black differed significantly from that point on, but both agreed that they were the last two people to see Davis alive.

Autopsy results revealed that Davis was 64 at the time of his death and died from blunt force trauma to his chest and abdomen.

The beating that resulted in his death caused 17 broken ribs and injuries to his liver, heart and lungs.

Westfall and Black left the Davis home on the night of his death and hitchhiked from Somes Bar to Eureka to seek medical attention for the injury to Westfall's face.

From there they traveled to the home of Black's father who convinced them to turn themselves in to law enforcement.

Westfall's guilty plea carries with it a number of conditions, the most significant of which is that she will be required to "testify truthfully" at Black's

trial, now set for Oct. 16.

If she complies with all of the terms of the plea agreement, she will receive a maximum sentence of one year in the county jail and five years felony probation.

At the conclusion of Black's trial, the court will make a determination whether she has fulfilled her obligation to testify truthfully. If she is in compliance, the agreed upon sentence will be imposed.

If she fails to show up for trial or fails to testify truthfully, she will be subject to a three-year prison term.

Westfall's attorney, William Duncan, said Thursday that it has taken over four weeks to complete negotiations with deputy district attorney Christine Chenevert to reach this agreement.

Details of the terms of the settlement are contained in a two-page attachment to West-

fall's change of plea form.

Judge William Davis, who took Westfall's plea Thursday, was told by Chenevert that the plea agreement had been reached in the interests of justice and was based upon evidence presented at the preliminary hearing, admissions made by Westfall and Black in taped interviews at the time of their arrest, the coroner's report and physical evidence gathered from the scene of the crime.

Chenevert said all of those things pointed to a very minor role that Westfall played in the death of Allen Allie Davis.

Westfall will not be sentenced until the Black trial has been concluded. She was ordered to keep the district attorney and her attorney apprised of her whereabouts between now and the time of Black's trial.

Davis agreed to release Westfall on her own recognizance Thursday pending Black's trial. "If there is any difficulty with keeping track of you, your O.R. status could be revoked and you could be held in jail pending the time for your testimony," Davis said.

Westfall said she understood all of the requirements of the plea agreement and will be staying in Orleans until Black's trial.

She was ordered to return to court on Nov. 7 to set a sentencing date, since both attorneys felt the Black trial would be concluded by that time.