

Leavenworth woman sentenced on murder charge

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — A 38-year-old Leavenworth woman has been sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years in the shooting death of a man whose body was set on fire in rural Lawrence.

Christina Towell was sentenced Thursday. She pleaded no contest last month to first-degree felony murder for her role in the November 2017 death of 34-year-old Joel Wales of Eudora.

Towell's cousin, 39-year-old Tria Evans, of Lawrence, was convicted earlier of first-degree murder and other charges in Wales' death and sentenced to life without parole for 50 years.

The Lawrence Journal-World reports Wales was alone housesitting for his mother when the women broke in, shot him six times and set his body and the house on fire.

Evans and Wales had a child together.

Associated Press