

Family Members Testify in CommSta Murder Trial

Tuesday, 15 April 2014

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

The sister and brother-in-law of a Kodiak man charged with killing two Coast Guard communication station co-workers say he became irate when the topic of their deaths came up two months later.

Theresa and Donald Kiele says James Wells became animated and said the dead men were incompetent and not qualified to work in the shop where antennas were built and repaired.

The Kieles testified Tuesday in the trial of Wells, who's charged with two counts of murder in the deaths of Richard Belisle and James Hopkins on April 12, 2012.

Prosecutors say they were shot shortly after beginning work.

Wells claims he was delayed by a flat tire. Prosecutors contend he drove to the shop in his wife's sport utility vehicle, shot the men and returned home.