



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

PHOTO ABOVE: Santa, aka Devon Dobson, visits with Penelope 'Penny' and Kymberlynn 'Kym' Case after the Wednesday, Dec. 13, Long Creek School Christmas program.



Contributed photos

Performing in the Long Creek School Christmas program are, in back, River Cave as Santa and John Jones as the head elf, along with worker elves, from left, Natalli Jones, Tucker Garinger and Jennifer Jones.

Idaho woman dies in wreck

Four weekend crashes reported

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

A 27-year-old woman from Post Falls, Idaho, died Saturday when her pickup slid off Highway 395 near Ritter Junction in the early evening.

Annalesha C. Draper was traveling south to meet with her fiancé in Oregon and bring him back to Post Falls for the holidays. His vehicle had broken down, Draper's aunt Jennifer Draper told the Eagle.

According to Oregon State Police, Draper's rental vehicle, a 2017 Dodge Ram



Contributed photo/Oregon State Police

Annalesha Draper, 27, Spokane, was killed when the Dodge Ram pickup she was driving exited the roadway and struck a tree Saturday on Highway 395 near Ritter Junction.

pickup, crossed the north-bound lane in freezing-rain conditions and sideswiped

a tree. The Grant County Sheriff's Office, John Day ambulance and Long Creek

ambulance and fire also responded to the scene. The investigation is continuing on contributing factors, according to OSP.

Draper's dog was transported to the John Day River Veterinary Clinic and was picked up by family members.

Draper's family lives in Post Falls. She was self-employed and is survived by her parents and three older brothers. Her aunt called Draper a "real go-getter" who will be sorely missed.

Impacts from freezing rain were seen in Grant County one day earlier, beginning with the cancellation of the Grant Union

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Rapp remains in jail on attempted murder charge

Judge issues sentences in eluding and child support cases



Kevin Rapp

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

The John Day man accused of shooting a Eugene man at the Dixie Creek Campground on Oct. 16 remains in jail as the discovery process in his case continues.

Kevin J. Rapp, 32, is charged with attempted murder, first-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon. His bail was set at \$250,000.

According to an Oct. 20 press release by Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter, Kyler Weisenback was awoken in the early morning hours while camping and was shot. Weisenback was flown to Bend and then Portland for treatment.

Rapp was also charged with misdemeanor possession of methamphetamine on Oct. 16.

Status hearings in the case were held Nov. 30 and Dec. 13. Grant County Circuit Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr. expressed concern at the first hearing about the number of computer disks attached to the case. Defense

attorney Rob Raschio said some of the disks contained video from law enforcement body cameras and would take time to review.

Rapp appeared in court for the second hearing wearing jail attire. Raschio said he had received the Oregon State Police report for the case but hadn't seen the ballistics report. The case was circumstantial without the ballistics report, he said.

Carpenter said he disagreed with that characterization, and Cramer noted that attorneys typically describe circumstances differently. Raschio said he expected to request a bail reduction, and Cramer scheduled a third status hearing for 1 p.m. Jan. 16.

The five-minute Dec. 13 status hearing was followed by a 10-minute contempt of court trial. Rapp was charged with disobeying a court order to pay child support when he had the ability to pay.

Rapp pleaded guilty to the contempt charge in a plea petition that recommended 20 days in jail. A victim intervention specialist said Rapp's ex-wife had seen the petition and had "general frustration with

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Burch faces 80-month sentence after felony sex crime plea deal

Another case to be dismissed

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Neal Allen Burch likely faces 80 months in prison after pleading guilty to two Grant County felony sex

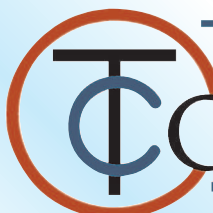
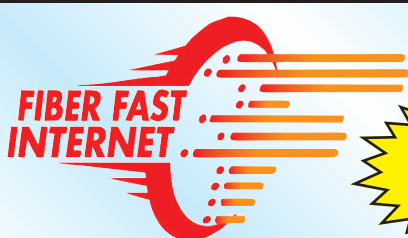
crime charges, according to two Dec. 14 plea petitions.

Burch, 39, formerly of Grant County, entered an Alford plea for two charges of second-degree sexual abuse to different victims in a court-approved plea agreement after a settlement conference Dec. 11 before Deschutes County Circuit

Court Judge Michael C. Sullivan. In an Alford plea, the defendant does not admit to the crime but admits the prosecution would likely prevail in court.

Sullivan will attend the final sentencing hearing by video at 1 p.m. Jan. 2 in

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OREGON TELEPHONE CORPORATION
CONNECTIONS

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