

Ferguson faces new sex crime charges

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

A former Grant County resident who pleaded guilty to sex crimes last year faces new charges in a different county against the same victim.

Chancee Ferguson, 29, of Bend was indicted by a Wheeler County grand jury July 12, 2017, for two counts of first-degree sodomy and one count of first-degree sexual abuse against a single victim younger than 12 in 2006.

Wheeler County Judge Janet L. Stauffer denied Ferguson's motion to have the new charges dismissed April 17 — concluding that a 2017 plea agreement in Grant County did not settle the Wheeler County matters.

Ferguson had been indicted in Grant County Circuit Court Jan. 20, 2017, on 11 counts of sex crimes against a single underage victim for incidents in 2004, 2007, 2008 and 2011.

Ferguson reached an agreement with the prosecutors and pleaded guilty May 18, 2017, to one felony, attempting to commit first-degree sexual abuse, and two misdemeanor charges of sexual misconduct. The charges to which he pleaded guilty were committed in 2004 when Ferguson was also younger than 18, and the other eight counts were dismissed as part of the agreement. He was sentenced to 364 days in jail and five years of supervised probation and was ordered to complete a sexual offender treatment program and register as a sex offender.

After the Wheeler County indictment was filed in

July 2017, Ferguson's new attorney, Jerrett Glass, filed a motion to dismiss the charges on the grounds of contract law, breach of contract and due process — claiming the Wheeler County charges were settled in the Grant County plea agreement.

Judge Stauffer found that there was no written evidence the stipulated Grant County plea included any other counties; that the Wheeler County district attorney did not stipulate to the settlement; and that the Grant County district attorney testified the statutory procedures for global settlements were not followed. She also found that attorney Rob Raschio, who represented Ferguson in the Grant County matters, did not consult with the Wheeler County district attorney and that Raschio testified he erred in not following the global settlement statutes.

Stauffer concluded, while the parties in the Grant County settlement may have believed they were settling matters regarding allegations in other counties, the Grant County prosecutors "had no apparent or actual authority" to do so. She said Raschio should have known the Wheeler County matter would not be settled without compliance with the global settlement statutes or further agreement by the Wheeler County district attorney.

The judge also stated in the order, "Similar charges may be filed in other counties involving alleged crimes by this defendant against (the victim) within the boundaries of those counties."

Quarter-pound of meth found in man's car

John Day man arrested following traffic stop

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

A John Day man has been charged with two felony drug charges following a traffic stop on Highway 395 north of Mt. Vernon and a search of his vehicle that turned up a large quantity of methamphetamine.

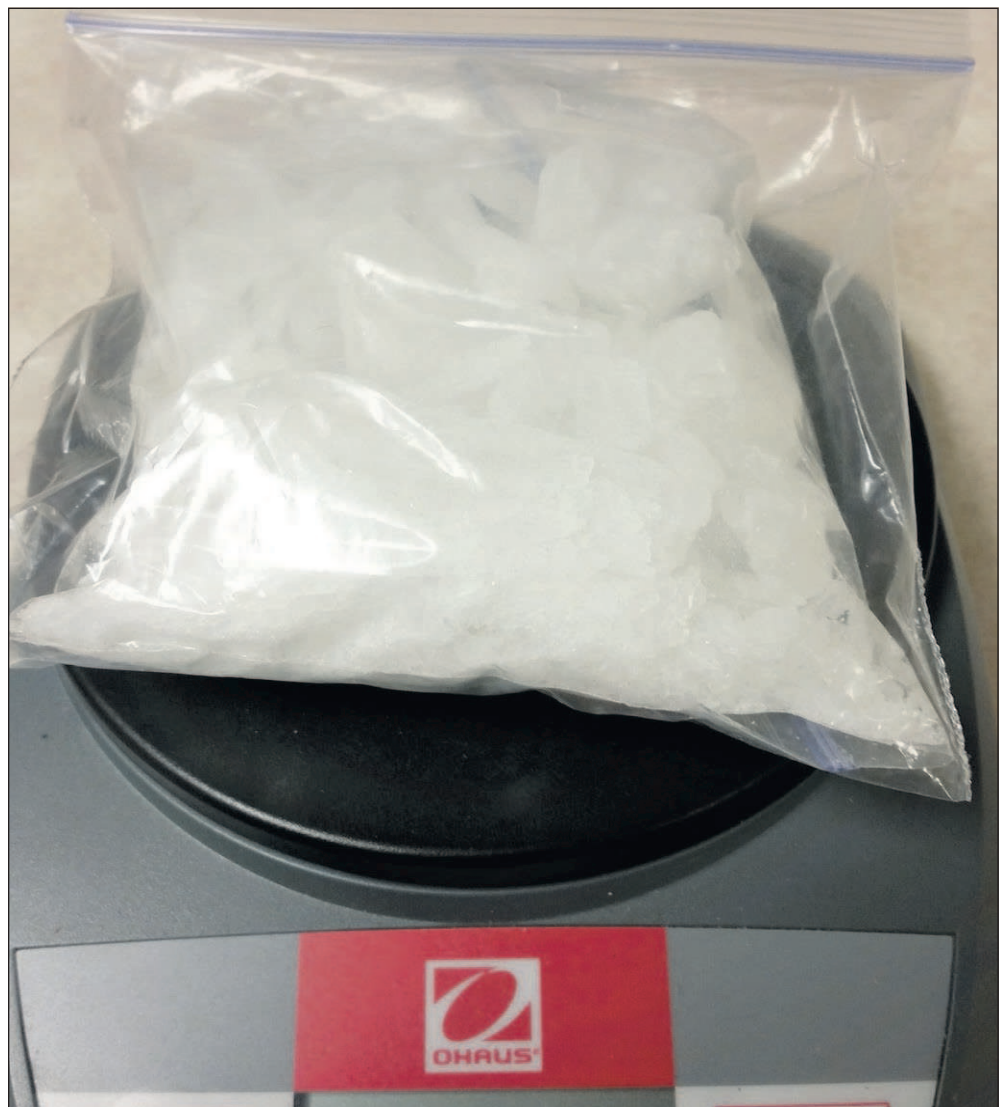


Mathew Walker

According to the Oregon State Police, Mathew Walker, 34, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and delivery of methamphetamine. He is being held in the Grant County Jail.

OSP stopped a silver Dodge Stratus for a traffic violation at about 2:40 p.m. April 16 and Walker, who was driving, initially consented to a search of his vehicle, according to OSP. During the search, marijuana, marijuana paraphernalia and a partially consumed bottle of tequila were found, after which Walker revoked consent and was arrested for a probation violation, OSP said.

The vehicle was seized and a drug canine from OSP was deployed. The dog alerted to the presence of a controlled substance, and the Grant County Interagency Narcotics Team served a search warrant



Contributed photo

About 4.3 ounces of methamphetamine, along with drug paraphernalia, was discovered during a warrant search of a silver Dodge Stratus stopped on Highway 395 north of Mt. Vernon April 16, according to Oregon State Police.

on the vehicle, according to a press release by Grant County Undersheriff Zach Mobley.

"During the search of the vehicle, methamphetamine paraphernalia and about a quarter pound of metham-

phetamine was seized from the vehicle," Mobley said.

The narcotics team estimated the street value of the seized methamphetamine at about \$12,900.

Theft charges against city cashier dismissed through agreement

Blue Mountain Eagle

Charges against the former city of John Day cashier accused of theft were dismissed as part of a civil compromise April 12.

Janine A. Weaver, 35, Mt. Vernon, was indicted Dec. 29, 2017, on one charge of first-degree theft and one charge of first-degree official misconduct for theft from the city of John Day. According to a Jan. 2 press release

from the district attorney's office, Weaver allegedly took about \$1,700 in cash receipts.

John Day City Manager Nick Green signed an April 4 affidavit stating he "received full and complete satisfaction regarding the city's claim against (Weaver)." He stated he received authority from the John Day City Council to settle the matter for the amount agreed upon, but the terms were sealed.

Judge William D. Cramer Jr. granted Weaver's motion to dismiss as a civil compromise April 12.

Before the civil compromise was reached, a restitution document filed in court by Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter Feb. 12 showed \$713.83 payable to CIS for an insurance claim after the deductible and \$7,113 to the city of John Day, including a \$1,000 insurance deductible and an accounting investigation fee of \$6,113.

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