

Friends, family saw warning signs

By GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin



Marluke

Harpole

BEND — The warning signs were there, and many of those in her circle of family and friends could see that Amara Marluke was in an abusive relationship, her mother says.

The Portland State University freshman gave Keenan Reece Harpole, her on-again, off-again boyfriend and former star athlete from Bend, repeated second chances, even after he struck her earlier this year. She didn't go to police or school officials.

"Mara tried to end it multiple times, but she kept going back, unfortunately," said Marluke's mother, Amy, using a nickname for her daughter. "We'd all seen the warning signs — her friends, her family — we were all trying to make sure she never went back to him."

Ever since her daughter was found shot in an apparent homicide early April 4 just off the PSU campus, Amy Mar-

luke has heard an outpouring from friends and relatives who say they saw the same things.

Harpole, 20, a Mountain View High School graduate, has been charged in her killing and is being held without bail in the Multnomah County Detention Center.

At a short arraignment hearing Thursday, April 14, he entered pleas of not guilty to murder and a weapons charge.

The shooting was reported around 1 a.m. April 4 outside a convenience store near the PSU campus. The shooting location is directly between Marluke's apartment and her workplace, her mother said.

Seven hours later, Harpole was arrested on property his

family owns outside Bend, a drive of more than three hours from Portland.

Police have not released a suspected motive or other information in the killing, but in Harpole's indictment, prosecutors call it domestic violence.

Harpole was Marluke's first boyfriend, her mother said. In high school, Amara said she wasn't interested in dating. It could have been the gulf in maturity level of the average high school student and Amara, who was wise beyond her years in many ways.

"Because he was her first boyfriend, I think that helped contribute to making her feel like he was the only one who would accept her fully," Amy Marluke said.

Amara Marluke spent years recovering from childhood trauma.

She lived with her biological mother and younger siblings until age 6, when the state placed the children in foster care. At 9, she and her

younger sister joined the family of Amy and Brad Marluke, a Beaverton tech consultant and carpenter with a 2-year-old son.

"It was the hardest time in my life, I'm not going to lie," Amy Marluke said. "I think I was prepared for it to be challenging, but what I didn't expect was how much we would have to change, as well."

Years were spent developing academic skills, learning healthy boundaries and working with therapists to heal some of the old wounds Amara Marluke had suffered.

It wasn't easy but she went from being two years behind in school to graduating with honors at age 18. She earned a scholarship at PSU and at the time of her death, was leaning toward pursuing a career in music or art therapy.

She met Harpole while doing laundry. They lived on the same floor of the University Pointe student apartments just off campus. At the time, he was a running back

on the PSU football team.

There were other warning signs in their relationship, clearer now in retrospect, Amy Marluke said. Harpole never wanted to meet his girlfriend's parents. A date and time would be set to meet, but at the last minute, he'd "freak out" and cancel. But after he hit Amara, Harpole was intent on meeting her parents. But by this point, the family wasn't interested, Amy Marluke said.

"We had no interest in meeting him because we were trying to make sure that she stayed far away from him," Amy Marluke said. "He definitely was a big fan of manipulation."

Bend-based relatives of Harpole's did not return calls seeking comment Thursday. On Monday, one of Harpole's relatives was among 10 witnesses who testified to a Multnomah County grand jury. Witnesses also included a medical examiner, a fellow PSU student and several Portland police officers.

Harpole has retained defense attorney Benjamin Kim, who declined to comment.

Brad Marluke's employer, Green Hammer Design-Build, has set up a GoFundMe page to raise money for funeral expenses. It's been so successful, the family is discussing a possible scholarship at PSU.

When she was young, Amara sought to help other kids who grew up in the foster system. In high school, she became passionate about racial justice after joining the Black Student Union at Sunset High School, where she thrived among students with similar life experiences.

So it's likely she would have gone on to fight for victims of domestic violence, her mother said.

"While this was not one of the causes of her heart, I think it would have been, had she gotten out of that relationship," her mother said. "So we are going to be fighting that on her behalf."

COPS AND COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week ending April 13:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 7
- Average inmates: 14
- Bookings: 4
- Releases: 2
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 3
- Fingerprints: 5
- Civil papers: 11
- Warrants processed: 2
- Asst./welfare check: 1

April 11

Susan Mitchell, 57, of Redmond was cited for driving while uninsured.

A juvenile was cited for driving while uninsured and operating a vehicle without a license.

April 13

Philomena Dutcher, 38, of Dayville was cited for improper use of 911.

Justice Court

The Grant County Justice Court reported the following activity for the week ending April 13:

- Persons on probation: 44
- Traffic citations filed: 14
- Small claims/civil filed: 2
- Eviction judgements in favor of plaintiff: 1
- Hearings held: 7
- Dog as a public nuisance: Robert H Bryant, 46, April 4, fined \$265.

Exceeding the speed limit: Ronald James Salazar, 34, Prairie City, Feb. 24, 89/65 zone, fined \$440; Adam Kenneth Sullivan, 47, Idaho Falls, March 9, 59/30 zone, fined \$265.

Failure to comply with special bobcat regulations: Nicholas William Barker, 46, fined \$115.

Placing offensive substances in waterway: Kyle Lee Hand, 31, fined \$440.

Dispatch

Grant County dispatch worked 154 calls during the week ending April 13, including:

• Oregon State Police

April 6

4 p.m.: Advised of a driving complaint on Highway 26, milepost 165.

April 11

11:37 p.m.: Received a report of a semi-truck slide-off on Highway 395 North, milepost 79/80.

April 12

9:01 a.m.: Received a report of a non-injury accident on Highway 395 North, milepost 93B.

• Grant County Sheriff's Office

April 6

3:36 p.m.: Responded to motor vehicle accident on Highway 395 South. Units stood down, accident in Harney County.

8:06 p.m.: Responded to multiple calls of a large hog on the highway on Highway 26, milepost 142/143.

April 7

6:36 a.m.: Received a call of a car stolen on West Bench Road in John Day.

12:36 p.m.: Traffic stop on Highway 395 South, milepost 2C. Driver warned.

1:43 p.m.: Responded to a theft on South Bridge Street in John Day.

8:51 p.m.: Conducted welfare check on North Ingle Street in Mount Vernon.

9:27 p.m.: Responded to reports of a fire at Canyon Mountain Trail Road 218.

April 8

12:08 a.m.: Responded to an alarm on West Main Street in John Day.

8:10 a.m.: Warrant service attempt in Dayville.

8:59 a.m.: Advised of a trespassing complaint on Indian Creek Road in John Day.

9:02 a.m.: Responded to a non-speaking 911 call from an out-of-service cellphone in the 2150 Road area.

1:49 p.m.: Responded to a 911 call regarding a mental subject on Highway 26, milepost 182.

2 p.m.: Cited Susan Rae Mitchell, 57, Redmond for speeding on Highway 26, milepost 158.

8:42 p.m.: Responded to a juvenile problem on Patterson Drive in Canyon City.

9:58 p.m.: Responded to a noise complaint on Southwest Hillcrest in John Day.

April 9

8:16 a.m.: Responded to a domestic dispute on South Canyon Boulevard in John Day.

11:48 a.m.: Advised of an ongoing domestic issue on West Franklin Street in Dayville.

1:18 p.m.: Responded to a civil issue on North McHaley Street in Prairie City.

3:03 p.m.: Responded to report of menacing on Lower Yard Road in John Day.

4:56 p.m.: Responded to a report of a dispute on Lower Yard Road in John Day.

April 10

5:45 a.m.: Responded to a report of domestic abuse at Blue Mountain Lodge in Mt. Vernon. Julien Christopher Hunter, 39, of Redmond was arrested.

6:58 a.m.: Responded to a report of domestic abuse at Meadowbrook Apartments, John Day.

10:27 a.m.: Received a report of a possible restraining order violation on North McHaley Avenue in Prairie City.

10:56 a.m.: Advised of a report of criminal mischief at Smokey Creek Ranch in Dayville.

6:15 p.m.: Responded to a domestic dispute in Kimberly.

8:39 p.m.: Report of a suspicious subject on South Canyon Boulevard in John Day.

11:59 p.m.: Responded to a call of shots fired on River Lane in John Day.

April 11

7:49 a.m.: Report of an attempted theft at Grant County Fairgrounds.

7:53 a.m.: Arrested Christopher Hoppe, 38, of Mt. Vernon on a Grant County felony warrant on Ingle Street in Mt. Vernon.

8:25 a.m.: Responded to a report of a juvenile problem on Patterson Drive in Canyon City.

8:50 a.m.: Conducted a welfare check on North Johnson Street in Prairie City.

12:02 p.m.: Report of a road hazard on Highway 395 South, milepost 11C.

12:42 p.m.: Responded to a report of an unwanted subject at Chester's in John Day.

1:43 p.m.: Report of unauthorized entry of a motor vehicle at Grant Union High School.

1:45 p.m.: Report of an abandoned vehicle on Northwest Third Avenue in John Day.

2:36 p.m.: Report of an open door. Welfare check conducted on Northeast Dayton Street in John Day.

5:16 p.m.: Report of fraud on North Humbolt Street in Canyon City.

6:40 p.m.: Welfare check conducted at the Depot RV Park in Prairie City.

6:56 p.m.: Advised of a theft on South Humbolt Street in Canyon City.

April 12

11:53 a.m.: Received a report of horses laying in a field somewhat lethargic on Highway 26 milepost 137.

12:44 p.m.: Received a report of possible disorderly conduct at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

2:13 p.m.: Received 911 call regarding a civil issue on North McHaley Street in Prairie City.

3:19 p.m.: Report of a suicidal subject in Prairie City.

3:19 p.m.: Philomena Dutcher, 38, of Dayville was cited for misuse of 911 in Prairie City.

6:15 p.m.: Assisted a motorist at Highway 26 and Apple Road.

6:56 p.m.: Responded to a report of trespassing at Riverside Mobile Home Park, John Day.

April 13

8:06 a.m.: Received a report of animal abuse on Running Buck Road in Long Creek.

9:18 a.m.: Report of multiple vehicles off the road on Dixie Summit.

1:13 p.m.: Performed a welfare check on animals in Mount Vernon.

• John Day Ambulance

April 7

5:12 p.m.: Responded to a 911 cellphone call on Silvers Lane in Mt. Vernon.

April 8

6:42 a.m.: Responded for an 81-year-old female with confusion and a lack of coordination at Blue Mountain Care Center in Prairie City.

April 9

7:29 a.m.: Responded for a 91-year-old male with a possible heart attack on Northwest Bridge Street.

5:13 p.m.: 911 phone call for an 82-year-old male with a catheter issue at Valley View Assisted Living.

April 10

12:02 p.m.: Patient transfer to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend.

April 11

12:08 p.m.: John Day Ambulance and Grant County Sheriff's Office dispatched for a mental subject on Pine Creek Road in John Day.

3:10 p.m.: John Day and Prairie City Ambulance dispatched for a male subject with shortness of breath on Highway 26.

7:06 p.m.: John Day and Long Creek Ambulance responded to report of an 89-year-old female with an injured hip on Highway 395.

8:24 p.m.: John Day Ambulance and Grant County Sheriff responded to a report of an 81-year-old woman who fell and

was bleeding from the head at Bare Bones in John Day.

9:58 p.m.: John Day and Prairie City Ambulance responded to a report of an 80-year-old female in need of a lift assist on Overholt Avenue in Prairie City.

April 12

8:53 a.m.: John Day and Prairie City Ambulance dispatched for a non-emergency transport at Blue Mountain Care Center in Prairie City.

2:00 p.m.: John Day Ambulance transport to Grant County Airport in John Day.

6:36 p.m.: Responded to a 911 call regarding a 91-year-old female with chest pains on North Humbolt Street in Canyon City.

• Long Creek Ambulance

April 11

7:06 p.m.: Long Creek and John Day Ambulance respond to a report of an 89-year-old female with an injured hip on Highway 395.

• John Day Fire

April 8

4:20 a.m.: Responded to a 911 call of a field on fire on Highway 395 South, milepost 7/8C.

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NATIONAL Sexual Assault AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

START BY BELIEVING
What to Say:
"I believe you."
"I'm sorry this happened."
"I am here for you."
BE SUPPORTIVE
What to Say:
"You can tell me as much, or as little as you want."
"It's not your fault."
"I'm glad you told me. I'm so proud of you."
ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP
What to Say:
"What can I do to support you?"
"I can stay with you tonight. Would that help?"
"Do you want me to go with you to the hospital or police station?"
AVOID "WHY QUESTIONS"
What to Say:
Even with the best of intentions "why" questions can sound accusatory and make survivors blame themselves.

Help is available for victims of sexual assault in Grant County. If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault, please call:
Heart of Grant County 541-620-1342
Grant County Victim Assistance Program 541-575-4026

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Thank You

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