

McKrola lawyer wants separate juries

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — A hearing on a motion to have separate juries for a Mt. Vernon man accused of 20 sex-related charges and 10 other offenses spanning a period from 2015 to 2020 began on Thursday, June 16, at the Grant County Courthouse.

Robert Moon, the defense attorney for Brogan C. McKrola, 23, argued Thursday that the conviction rate for jurors in similar cases is 19% higher than normal. He argued that jurors, who are given special instructions to judge each case on its merits, are more apt vote to convict when there is a large number of counts involved in one case.

Special Deputy District



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Brogan McKrola is escorted to the courtroom Thursday, June 16, 2022, at the Grant County Courthouse.

Attorney Tobias Tingleaf is pushing the court to deny the request, and he argued the move could adversely impact

victims. In one case, McKrola stands accused of six counts of first-degree rape, one

count of first-degree kidnapping, one count of first-degree sodomy, one count of first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, one count of attempted first-degree sodomy, four counts of first-degree sexual abuse, one count of second-degree sexual abuse, three counts of third-degree sexual abuse, one count of luring a minor and one count of harassment, along with two counts of first-degree aggravated animal abuse.

The alleged crimes were committed between June 1, 2015, and Dec. 4, 2020, according to a secret indictment filed May 25 in Grant County Circuit Court by Tingleaf, a senior assistant attorney general with the Oregon Department of Justice who is prosecuting the case on

behalf of the Grant County District Attorney's Office.

The indictment listed at least nine different alleged victims, for six of whom the related charges were said to involve "forcible compulsion." Two of the alleged victims were said to have been "incapable of consent by reason of mental incapacitation," and two were minors at the time of the alleged offenses.

Thirteen of the charges are Measure 11 offenses, which carry mandatory minimum sentences of at least six years with no possibility for any sentence reduction.

The animal abuse charges allegedly occurred between July 1 and Sept. 30, 2020, and involved the unlawful torture and killing of a porcupine.

In the other case, McK-

rola is accused of first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy, first-degree sexual abuse, second-degree kidnapping, three counts of strangulation and furnishing alcohol to a person under 21.

Those crimes allegedly took place on Dec. 20, 2020, and involved a single victim, according to an amended indictment filed March 1 by Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter.

McKrola's defense attorney filed a demurrer, seeking to dismiss the charge of luring and some of the other lesser charges. Circuit Court Judge Daina Vitolins said she is inclined to grant the demurrer. Tingleaf asked Vitolins for the opportunity to argue such a decision. The next hearing is scheduled for July 6 at 2 p.m.

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.

Circuit Court June 7

Jessica Lynn Officer of John Day was found guilty of contempt of court and sentenced to 10 days in jail.

June 8

Storm Losee Mensch, 23, of Mt. Vernon was convicted of first-degree theft and felon in possession of a firearm in connection with an incident that happened on April 11. Two additional counts of first-degree theft were dismissed. He was sentenced to three years of supervised probation, 90 days in jail with credit for time served and 80 hours of community service or work crew time. He was also ordered to obtain a substance abuse evaluation, complete all recommended treatment and refrain from using intoxicants for the duration of his probation.

June 9

Elina Kaulins, 50, of College Station, Texas, pleaded guilty to a charge of failure to perform the duties of a driver in an accident with property damage in connection with an incident that happened on Aug. 24. An additional charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants was dismissed, along with a second count of failure to perform the duties of a driver. Caulins was sentenced to 18 months of bench probation and 40 hours of community service or work crew time and was ordered to pay \$1,907.30 in restitution. Her driver's license was suspended for 90 days.

Shannon Kay Kinsman, 60, of Kingman, Arizona, was convicted of driving under the influence of intoxicants in connection with an incident that happened Dec. 28. Her driver's license was suspended for one year and she was sentenced to 18 months of bench probation and 48 hours in jail with credit for time served. She was also ordered to obtain a substance abuse assessment, complete all recommended treatment, install an ignition interlock device in her vehicle and not use intoxicants for the duration of her probation.

Oregon State Police June 13

11:06 a.m.: Trooper stopped

a Jeep Cherokee for traffic violations on Highway 26 near milepost 162. After a field sobriety test, the driver was taken to the Grant County Jail, where his blood alcohol level reportedly measured 0.13%. Jeremiah Obadiah Gwaltney, 44, of John Day was cited on charges of driving under the influence, driving while suspended, failure to install an ignition interlock device and speeding (44/25 zone).

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week ending June 15:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 8
- Average inmates: 14
- Bookings: 4
- Releases: 6
- Arrests: 0
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 8
- Civil papers: 14
- Warrants processed: 0
- Assist/welfare check: 1
- Search and rescue: 0

Justice Court

The Grant County Justice Court reported the following activity for the week ending June 15:

- Traffic citations filed: 10
- Cases on probation: 40
- Hearings held: 8
- Driver's license suspensions: 18
- Violation of the basic rule: Stanley C. Lochrie, 71, West Linn, May 20, 80/55 zone, fined \$265; Cassidy L. Williams, 21, John Day, May 20, 84/55 zone, fined \$265.

Driving while suspended or

revoked: Justin Alan Scheidegger, 27, John Day, Feb. 23, fined \$440; Jim E. Roba, 47, Dayville, May 26, fined \$440; Joseph Scott Baker, 24, Prairie City, May 12, fined \$440; Cynthia Pacifico, 53, San Diego, May 10, fined \$440; Paul Davis, 44, Redmond, May 9, fined \$440.

Driving uninsured: Justin Alan Scheidegger, 27, John Day, Feb. 23, fined \$265; Jim E. Roba, 47, Dayville, May 26, fined \$265; Joseph Scott Baker, 24, Prairie City, May 12, fined \$265; Matthew Aaron McKay, 32, John Day, May 20, fined \$265; Paul Davis, 44, Redmond, May 9, fined \$265.

No operator's license: Matthew Aaron McKay, 32, John Day, May 20, fined \$265.

Open container of alcohol: Cynthia Pacifico, 53, San Diego, May 10, fined \$440; Paul Davis, 44, Redmond, May 9, fined \$265; Matthew Aaron McKay, 32, John Day, May 20, fined \$265.

Failure to register vehicle: Cassidy Lee Williams, 21, John Day, May 1, fined \$115.

Failure to report an accident (driver): Joseph Scott Baker, 24, Prairie City, May 12, fined \$440.

Failure to yield: Terri Denise Pine, 57, Baker City, April 26, fined \$265.

Failure to properly use safety belt: Jim E. Roba, 47, Dayville, May 26, fined \$115.

Refusing to take a test for intoxicants: Justin Alan Scheidegger, 27, John Day, Feb. 24, fined \$650.

Dispatch

Grant County dispatch worked 126 calls during the week ending June 15, including:

• Oregon State Police June 9

11:14 a.m.: Responded to Grant County Sheriff's Office to Highway 26 near milepost 180 for a driving complaint.

1:24 p.m.: Advised of a road hazard on Highway 26 near milepost 183.

June 10

10:20 a.m.: Advised of a driving complaint on Highway 395 South near Seneca.

• Grant County Sheriff June 9

8:07 a.m.: Responded to the Grant County Courthouse, Canyon City, for a dispute.

11:39 p.m.: Responded to Juniper Ridge Acute Care Facility, John Day, for a missing person report.

June 10

1:08 a.m.: Responded to the Elkhorn Motel, John Day, for a suspicious person.

10:07 a.m.: Responded to South Fork Road, Dayville, for a harassment complaint.

12:32 p.m.: Responded to Patterson Bridge Road, John Day, for a suspicious person.

1:33 p.m.: Responded to Dollar General, John Day, for a disorderly person. Subject was trespassing.

3:29 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 166 for a livestock complaint.

June 11

8:44 a.m.: Advised of a motor vehicle vs. deer collision on Highway 395 South near milepost 8C. No injuries reported.

9:13 a.m.: Advised of a possible missing camper at Bull Prairie Campground.

10:58 a.m.: Responded to Canyon City to assist with '62 Days Parade.

3:40 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 146 to remove fallen rocks from the highway.

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