

Judge ponders motion to sever McKrola cases

By TONY CHIOTTI
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — The defense attorney for Brogan McKrola argued the case for severing the charges against him into separate jury trials, while the prosecution argued a competing motion to combine the cases into a single trial. The online hearing took place on Thursday, Sept. 29, in Grant County Circuit Court, with Judge Daina Vitols of Crook County presiding.

McKrola, 24, faces a total of 30 charges, 20 of those sexual offenses and 16 of them Measure 11 offenses that carry mandatory minimum sentences.

There are a total of 11 named victims



McKrola

and two charges of aggravated animal abuse. The defense argued to split the cases into separate trials for each of the victims, plus a separate trial for the animal abuse charges.

The Grant County District Attorney's Office has filed a separate motion to instead consolidate all charges against McKrola into a single trial. Currently the charges are split into two cases, one involving eight charges stemming from

an incident on Dec. 20, 2020, which names a single victim. The other case comprises 22 charges and multiple victims, plus the animal abuse counts. The crimes in that case are alleged to have occurred between June 1, 2015, and Dec. 4, 2020.

During the online hearing, the attorneys jointly asked for a protective order to limit press coverage to reporting the fact that the hearing took place and the outcome of the hearing.

The judge's ruling on competing motions from the hearing will determine the total number of jury trials to be convened. No trial dates are currently scheduled pending the ruling.

McKrola is currently being held in the Baker County Jail.

Grant County deputies arrest Texas fugitive

Man staying in John Day for past week wanted on multiple child pornography warrants

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JOHN DAY — Jacob Boots Luce, 29, of Crockett, Texas, was taken into custody on Thursday, Sept. 29, by Grant County deputies on multiple warrants, all for promotion of child pornography.

The U.S. Marshal Task Force advised the Grant County Emergency Communication Center on the morning of Thursday, Sept. 29,

that the fugitive Luce was staying at the Budget Eight Motel in John Day. Luce had been on the run from authorities for over two months and had been staying at the motel for the past week. He was arrested without incident.

"He was tired of running," said Sheriff Todd McKinley.

Luce will be extradited to Texas to face charges in that state, McKinley said. There are no local charges.

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 Sept. 23

Destiny Dawn Burril pleaded guilty to contempt of court. Burril was sentenced to 18 months of bench probation and 45 hours of community service. Burril was also ordered to pay a \$250 fine and \$240 in restitution to the state of Oregon.

Justice Court

The Grant County Justice Court reported the following activity for the week ending Sept. 28:

Traffic citations filed: 55
Misdemeanors filed: 3
Hearings held: 4
Driver's license suspensions: 0

Cases on probation: 23
Small claims filed: 4
Warrants issued: 0

Violation of the basic rule: Thomas Herrmann Daimond, 64, Portland, July 17, 72/55, fined \$165; William Hal Pierson, 72, Beaverton, July 17, 55/75, fined \$165; Earl Dean Larkin, 70, Forest Grove, Sept. 23, 75/55, fined \$165; Scott E. Whitley, 61, Eugene, 74/55, fined \$165.

Exceeding speed limit: Kiersten Nichole Kirkhart, 20, Mt. Vernon, Aug. 27, 42/30, fined \$165; Matthew Raymond Henry, 67, Pendleton, Sept. 17, 44/25, fined \$165; Samantha Anne Conley, 19, Lakeview, Sept. 13, 80/65, fined \$265; Todd William Munroe, 47, Talent, Sept. 19, 83/55, fined \$265; Anthony Donald Sarganis, 41, Rohnert Park, CA, Aug. 28, 47/35, fined \$165; Michael George Dunn, 28, Prairie City, Sept. 10, 81/65, fined \$265; David Wynde, 67, Portland, Sept. 17, 52/30, fined \$265; Jesse Ricardo Bennett, 36, Kent, WA, Sept. 19, 83/55, fined \$265; Philip Ferreira, 57, Hillsboro, Sept. 15, 75/65, fined \$165.

Failure to obey a traffic control device: John Rex Barstad, La Pine, Aug. 12, fined \$265.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week ending Sept. 28:

Concealed handgun licenses: 13
Average inmates: 8
Bookings: 5
Releases: 5
Arrests: 2
Citations: 1
Fingerprints: 10
Civil papers: 30
Warrants processed: 1
Assist/welfare check: 0
Search and rescue: 0

Dispatch

Grant County dispatch worked 136 calls during the week ending Sept. 28, including:

Grant County Sheriff's Office

Sept. 21
6:45 p.m.: Responded to a verbal dispute at Main Street Park in Long Creek.

7:20 p.m.: Received a request for a wellness check at Valley View Assisted Living, John Day.

Sept. 22

6:43 a.m.: Received a report of phone fraud on Dixie Creek Road.

7:55 a.m.: Received a

report of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle on West Main Street in John Day.

11:17 a.m.: Advised of harassment by phone at Blue Mountain Care Center, Prairie City.

12:25: Received parking complaint on South Main Street in John Day.

5:51 p.m.: Traffic stop on Highway 395/GUHS, John Day. Driver warned.

6:50 p.m.: Missing person reported at Grant County Sheriff's Office.

7:35 p.m.: Advised of a suspicious person at Leathers Gas Station, John Day.

8:08 p.m.: Advised of vandalism at Canton and Sixth Street, John Day.

9:45 p.m.: Assisted a motorist on Highway 7, milepost 7.

10:08 p.m.: Subject wanting officers to look out for him on Ford Road.

Sept. 23

7:45 a.m.: Advised of animal complaint at the old mill.

10:54 a.m.: Traffic stop on Highway 26, milepost 165. Driver warned.

12:07 p.m.: Traffic stop on Highway 26, milepost 163. Driver warned.

12:43 p.m.: Advised of a suicidal subject with Monument Ambulance and Child Protective Services at North Humbolt Street, Canyon City.

2:51 p.m.: Advised of property damage at Canyon City Hall.

8:21 p.m.: Advised of dogs locked in an abandoned building at the Oregon Pine property, John Day.

9:09 p.m.: Investigated a suspicious vehicle on East Main Street in John Day.

Sept. 24

6:06 a.m.: Investigated a single-car rollover at County Road 62/Summit. No injuries.

10:22 a.m.: Responded to a burglar alarm with OSP on South Canyon Boulevard, John Day.

1:16 p.m.: Burglary on Front Street in John Day.

2:03 p.m.: Report of lost property at Road's End.

2:17 p.m.: Driving complaint/patrol request at Dog Creek/Marysville.

3:17 p.m.: Report of a camper being pulled throwing sparks on Highway 26, milepost 156.

3:45 p.m.: Traffic stop on Highway 26, milepost 163. Driver warned.

10:05 p.m.: 911 call of a couch and car on fire on Highway 26/Indian Creek. No injuries.

Sept. 25

6:29 a.m.: Report of an abandoned vehicle on Highway 395, milepost 118.

8:39 a.m.: Traffic stop in John Day. Driver warned.

11:43 a.m.: Report of an abandoned vehicle at Happy valley.

2:11 p.m.: Overdue

motorcyclist at Otis Road.

2:33 p.m.: Report of a dispute between landlord and renter on Hillcrest Drive, John Day.

3:23 p.m.: Traffic stop on Highway 26, milepost 157. Driver warned.

5:41 p.m.: Report of an ongoing civil issue on Hillcrest Drive, John Day.

7:34 p.m.: Responded with OSP for a commercial burglar alarm on Highway 26. False alarm.

Sept. 26

8:40 a.m.: Responded to a theft on Northwest Second Avenue, John Day.

9:05 a.m.: Conducted a welfare check at West 12th Street.

10:31 a.m.: Responded to a report of menacing at the Elkhorn Motel, John Day.

1:59 p.m.: Traffic stop on SW Brent Drive. Driver warned.

3:02 p.m.: Traffic stop on Highway 395, milepost 1. Driver warned.

3:36 p.m.: Advised of lost property on on Lamford Road in John Day.

4:50 p.m.: Advised of lost property at the Dayville Park.

5:20 p.m.: Advised of a civil problem on Hillcrest Drive in John Day.

7:52 p.m.: Traffic stop on Highway 26, milepost 154. Driver warned.

7:55 p.m.: Advised with OSP of a driver standing in highway near a roadstuck deer on Highway 26/Childress Loop.

8:05 p.m.: Assisted OSP with a traffic stop at Dollar General, John Day.

10:46 p.m.: Advised of a cow in the road on Highway 395B in Fox.

Sept. 27

4:55 a.m.: Advised of a possible felon in possession of a weapon at Riverside Mobile Home Park, John Day.

2:50 p.m.: Advised of a door propped open at Grant Union High School, John Day.

5:02 p.m.: Responded to an equipment problem on South Canyon Boulevard, John Day.

5:19 p.m.: Traffic stop on Highway 26, milepost 153. Driver warned.

7:02 p.m.: Responded to a report of an unwanted subject at 60500 Highway 26.

Oregon State Police Sept. 22

3:01 p.m.: Advised of a driving complaint with GCSO at Andy's Plumbing.

3:26 p.m.: Advised of a driving complaint with GCSO on Highway 26, milepost 175.

Sept. 23

9:22 a.m.: Advised of a truck with a blown tire in Highway 26, milepost 125.5.

Sept. 26

1:22 p.m.: Traffic stop on Highway 395, milepost 31.

3:24 p.m.: Advised of a motorist needing assistance on Highway 26, milepost 189.

Sept. 27

6:10 a.m.: Advised of a vehicle vs. horse accident near Seneca.

6:52 a.m.: Advised of livestock creating a hazard on Highway 25/Muse Road.

11:34 a.m.: Received info of a calf on the highway on Highway 395, milepost 17.5.

1:34 p.m.: Advised of a threatening situation on Northwest Bridge Street in John Day.

9:27 p.m.: Advised of a vehicle vs. elk accident on Highway 26/North River Road. No injuries.

John Day Ambulance Sept. 21

6:14 p.m.: Responded to a 100-year-old male needing a lift assist on Dog Patch Lane.

9:45 p.m.: Responded to a 70-year-old female who had lost consciousness on Northwest Valley View Drive.

Sept. 22

8:14 a.m.: Responded to an 86-year-old female with a hurt back at Valley View Assisted Living.

8:24 a.m.: Responded to a 79-year-old female needing a lift assist on North Humbolt Street, Canyon City.

11:28 a.m.: Ambulance transport to airport.

Sept. 23

4:51 p.m.: Responded to a sick 85-year-old female on Thomason Lane in Canyon City.

Sept. 25

5:44 p.m.: Responded with Prairie City Ambulance to a male subject passing out on North River Road.

Sept. 26

10:37 a.m.: Responded to a 70-year-old female who is not eating or drinking at Northwest Second Avenue.

Sept. 27

6:57 p.m.: Transfer to airport from Blue Mountain Hospital.

Long Creek Ambulance Sept. 25

8:02 p.m.: Responded to an 83-year-old female with stroke symptoms on South Eagle Street.

Seneca Ambulance Sept. 26

1:37 p.m.: Responded with John Day Ambulance to a 66-year-old female with withdrawal symptoms on A Avenue.

Prairie City Ambulance Sept. 26

4:38 p.m.: Responded with John Day Ambulance to a 67-year-old female with breathing issues on Bridge Street.

Man arrested after 3 years on the run

JOHN DAY — On the morning of Monday, Oct. 3, Grant County sheriff's deputies arrested Gene Robert Norland, 39, on multiple warrants.

Norland, who had been a fugitive since 2019 from Malheur County and Payette County, Idaho, was wanted

for probation violation, theft, malicious injury and drug charges. He was arrested at the Meadowbrook Apartments in John Day.

Norland was being held at the Grant County Jail, awaiting transport to Malheur County.

Cougars sighted in Prairie, Canyon City

Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office has received several reports of cougar sightings in the area. These include a close encounter near the cemetery in Canyon City, and a sighting in the yard of a Prairie City resident near Prairie Wood Products.

"It's that time of year," said Sheriff Todd McKinley. "We see it in the fall when the cats and the bears start coming to town. They're looking for food and getting ready for winter,

so there's just a higher chance you're going to encounter them."

The Sheriff's Office asks anyone who encounters a cougar or other predator in a populated area to call the Grant County Emergency Communication Center at 541-515-0195. While appropriate to defend yourself or others if the animal poses an immediate threat, the sheriff said, it is best to allow the appropriate personnel to handle most situations.

Wanted

Long Creek School Board has Position #1 (at large) now vacant.

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