

Idaho man gets 30 days in jail for BB gun shootings, damages

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MOSOW (AP) — An 18-year-old who pleaded guilty in connection to dozens of BB gun shootings that damaged 36 vehicles and 15 businesses in Moscow will serve jail time. Jonathan Walters was sentenced on Thursday to serve 30 days in jail, with credit for 19 days served, the Moscow-Pullman Daily News reported. He was also sentenced to five years of probation and paying restitution for damage caused by the BB pellets, which could total about \$35,000. “I really can’t fathom this offense,” Latah County 2nd District Judge John Stegner said Thursday. Arrangement for restitution is scheduled for Nov. 2. “It’s important victims be paid back quickly,” said Ashley Rokyta, who was representing the Latah County Prosecutor’s Office. Walters pleaded guilty to malicious injury to property in connection to an Aug. 6 BB shooting spree that damaged 36 vehicles and 15 businesses. “He’s fairly young, each day (in jail) has an impact,” said Deborah McCormick, Walters’ defense attorney. “The 19 days were really tough for him.” McCormick says that Walters had a tough childhood that included the death of his grandmother. She added that Walters wants to relocate to Portland and enroll in culinary school. “It’s time to make a change,” Walters said to Stegner, “to take my life on to a better path than it was going.” Stegner responded to Walters: “Not even God can change yesterday. But you can change the future.” A 17-year-old Genesee boy is also suspected in the vandalism. His family could end up paying half of the restitution amount. Additional charges against Walters are still pending.

Man to serve rider for injury to child

By RUTH BROWN

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CALDWELL – A 23-year-old man was sentenced Wednesday to a combined six years in prison for felony injury to a child, but the judge retained jurisdiction and the defendant will serve a rider treatment program.

Charles Curry, of Caldwell, was arrested in June after being accused of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl and being found in possession of stolen property. Curry was initially charged with lewd conduct with a minor younger than age 16, but he pleaded guilty to the amended charge of felony injury to a child and a burglary charge. In a rider program, Curry will receive intensive treatment and education while incarcerated in a minimum-security prison. If he is successful in his program, he could serve the rest of his sentence out on probation.

Police: Murder victim beaten with pipe

The 52-year-old woman was found dead on Sunday at Nampa treatment facility

By IDAHO PRESS-TRIBUNE STAFF Idaho Press Tribune October 27, 2015

NAMPA — A woman found dead Sunday at a Nampa treatment center may have been beaten to death with a metal pipe, according to a probable cause affidavit from the Nampa Police Department. The 52-year-old woman was found dead at Port of Hope, an alcohol and substance abuse treatment center on East Florida Avenue in Nampa. Kayla Teton, 24, has been charged with first-degree murder in the case. She is being held without bond in the Canyon County jail, according to court records. According to the probable cause affidavit, Teton has been a resident of Port of Hope since Sept. 18 and shared a room with the unidentified victim. Another resident heard a noise coming from the room and reported seeing Teton hitting the victim with the pipe, which came from a bathroom, according to the documents. Teton then left the room and walked out of the facility. She was later apprehended by police in the 1000 block of Holly Street. Teton also goes by the name Desiree Shepard. Another resident reported hearing thumping sounds coming from Teton’s room and the sound of a metal pipe hitting the floor, according to the affidavit. An officer who

arrived on scene found the victim lying on her stomach. The officer observed extensive head trauma, and the victim did not have a pulse. There was a large amount of blood on the walls and on the bed, and the left side of the victim's face was unrecognizable, according to the affidavit. When officers found Teton, she had a substance on her shirt that tested presumptive positive for blood, according to police. According to the facility's website, Port of Hope is a non-medical facility that is licensed by the state of Idaho. It provides different forms of counseling for people with substance abuse problems. It says the program is demanding, and it only grants admission to people who want lasting treatment. Teton has a history of alcohol-related offenses, according to court records, including several convictions for possessing alcohol as a minor and a driving under the influence conviction. Teton's next court appearance in Canyon County is scheduled for Nov. 4 before Judge Brian Lee.

N. Idaho clinic offers free legal aid to veterans

By ELIZABETH RUDD

The Lewiston Tribune Idaho Press Tribune October 27, 2015

LEWISTON — U.S. Marine Corps veteran Bill West was able to get an answer to a legal question he hadn't been able to afford to ask since 2009. And he said it's all thanks to a few University of Idaho law students who have organized a free monthly legal aid clinic in Lewiston to assist veterans with various civil issues. West, 67, of Kamiah, served during the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1971 and is one of about 10 veterans who have sought help at the clinics, which started in September. He said his legal issue dated back to 2009, and while he had a feeling in his gut it might be too late to do anything, he was happy to have it confirmed. "It was nice to find out that my time had expired and I didn't have to think about it anymore," he said. The clinic is the product of nearly two years of work by UI law students Heather Norton and Dennis Cygan, who are co-presidents of the law school's Veteran Law Association. Their goal is to provide on-the-spot, free legal assistance to veterans unable to afford an attorney regarding a number of civil issues, including divorces, wills, child custody, bankruptcy or landlord-tenant matters. Veterans are asked to fill out an intake form when they arrive to determine what their legal need is and collect some personal information, as well as a memorandum of understanding explaining that there may be some limitations to the services that can be provided at the clinic. They then meet with a licensed attorney who provides them with directions on how to resolve their issue. Each clinic is 6 to 8 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month in the Brammer Building, 1225 Idaho St., in Lewiston. The next clinic is Nov. 4. Cygan, 33, a second year law student, said the idea for the clinic first came about in fall 2013 and was initially planned for Boise. He and Norton later learned that Boise already had a network of legal services for veterans, including one of four veteran treatment courts in Idaho that addressed both criminal and civil matters. They decided to switch gears at that point, focusing instead on bringing the same type of network to northern Idaho. Lewiston was chosen as the clinic's location because it also has a veterans treatment court and it made sense to have the two coincide, Cygan said. "It was a starting place," Cygan said. "We didn't know where to start." Their efforts gained a little more momentum after they attended an Idaho Military Legal Alliance conference in January in Boise, where they learned more about how the Boise clinic was started and operates. Cygan said that was when they figured out what they needed to do, including find a licensed attorney to provide the legal advice since students are unable to do so. He and Norton, 39, met with lawyers in Coeur d'Alene, Moscow and Lewiston to find a supervising attorney for the clinic, but were repeatedly shot down until Moscow attorney Bob Wakefield contacted them in June. Wakefield, a retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel (affectionately called Col. Bob), had previously turned them down, but ultimately agreed to be their supervisor. "He's passionate about it," Cygan said. "He wants to help people in need." Norton and Cygan began meeting with Wakefield and Sunil Ramalingam, a former Lewiston attorney, who is the director of externships for the College of Law, to organize the clinic. They spent July and August searching for a location and were able to secure the Nez Perce County Prosecutor's Office for the first clinic in September. The Brammer Building became available later and is reserved through July. "We needed to get something going," Cygan said. The first clinic only had two people, but Norton said they figured that was a success because at least someone showed up. The second had nine veterans come through for help, including West, and Norton and Cygan are hopeful the number will hold steady at about six each time. Norton, a third-year law student graduating in December, said the reason she and Cygan are copresidents is so the clinic can continue now that it's been started. They both have strong veteran connections — Cygan served in the U.S. Air Force from 2000 to 2006 and Norton's husband is a disabled veteran who did two tours in Iraq and another in Afghanistan. They also understand the importance of providing legal aid to veterans. "The whole point of it is to give veterans options," Cygan said. Norton said she lives with the challenges veterans face every day and tries to use her experience to relate to the people who come in for their help. There is a big gap in what veterans have access to for legal services, she said, and the clinic is a way to support them after their service. West echoed Norton's

sentiments, saying he knows a lot of other veterans in similar situations as him. They have money coming in, he said, but it's typically not enough to cover the cost of even one hour with an attorney. "To me, it shows that extra little bit of gratitude for service time," West said. "And trust me, that means a lot."

Pearson fails to appear in court

By LESLIE MIELKE

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BLACKFOOT — A former Independence High School secretary did not appear for her arraignment before Seventh Judicial District Judge Darren Simpson on Monday. "Where is your client?" asked Simpson. Representing his partner, attorney Justin Oleson, said, "She had not had a chance to review her plea agreement [with her defense attorney, Stephen Blaser]. "Our office takes 100 percent responsibility for the miscommunication and misunderstanding," he said. "She would like to wait for Mr. Blaser." Oleson is a partner with Blaser. Blaser had surgery last week and he is supposed to be off his feet for six weeks. Pearson is to appear before Simpson at 1 p.m. next Monday, Nov. 2. If Pearson was convicted of the five felony charges against her, she faces a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine.

Stabbing suspect goes to court

By LESLIE MIELKE

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BLACKFOOT — Accused of stabbing an individual on the Eastern Idaho State Fairgrounds in September, Donavon Gage Osborne appeared before Seventh Judicial District Judge Darren Simpson on Monday for his arraignment. Osborne, 22, is charged in count one with principle to aggravated battery. The maximum sentence is 15 years in Idaho Department of Correction and/or a \$50,000 fine and an additional \$5,000 civil penalty that would work against the defendant and in favor of the victim. Count two is aggravated battery that carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and/or a \$50,000 fine and, in addition, a \$5,000 civil penalty that would benefit the alleged victim in the alleged crime. Charged with use of a firearm or deadly weapon during the commission of the crime, Osborne faces an enhanced sentence that could extend prison time by another 15 years on counts one and two. He is also charged with intent to promote criminal gang activity that carries a sentence of not less than two years and no more than five years. If convicted, this sentence would be served consecutively with another sentence. Osborne pleaded not guilty to all charges against him. His jury trial has been set for 9 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016. His pre-trial hearing is scheduled at 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 8. Defense attorney John Souza asked for a reduction in Osborne's bond so he could work in the jail rather than sit in his cell. Judge Simpson reduced the bond to \$100,000 from the previous bond of \$500,000. Jail policies will determine if he can work in the jail, the judge said. Osborne was remanded back to the Bingham County Jail.

Open forum set on historic murals in old Ada courthouse

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A section of a mural purporting to depict early Idaho life is shown inside the former Ada County Courthouse in Boise. (Associated Press)Idaho Department of Administration Director Bob Geddes has called a public meeting of stakeholders Nov. 4 to discuss the historic murals in the new Idaho Law & Justice Learning Center, the former Capitol Annex that long served as the Ada County Courthouse. The Depression-era murals include depictions of white settlers preparing to hang a Native American man; those two scenes have been covered with banners since the opening of the new center, which now houses law school classes for the University of Idaho and the state law library, along with some functions of the Idaho Supreme Court. Preservation Idaho, the state's leading historic preservation group, sent a letter to University of Idaho officials in June objecting to the idea of covering the murals, saying they are a piece of Idaho's history that helps Idahoans "reflect and learn from past mistakes." Jan Gallimore, director of the Idaho State Historical Society, said the series of murals that fills the central, open stairwell/lobby areas of the building is "one of

the most intact and significant bodies of its kind in the west.”In 2008 and 2009, the Idaho Legislature held its sessions in the building while the state Capitol was being renovated; it’s right across 6th Street from the Capitol. After a year of negotiations, the state agreed to keep the two controversial murals on display, with interpretive plaques prepared by the state Historical Society and approved by the state’s Indian tribes. Geddes, now director of the state Department of Administration, which owns the building and leases it to the university and the Idaho Supreme Court as tenants, was involved in those talks as the then-president pro-tem of the Idaho Senate. He set the Nov. 4 meeting for 1:30 p.m. in Room WW55 of the state Capitol, lower level. The meeting will be an “open forum for invited stakeholders and other interested parties to address concerns and preferences for the future handling of the historic murals,” the department said in a meeting announcement. It won’t be a formal hearing. University officials said in July that while the murals would be covered with banners for the opening of the center this fall, they welcomed a larger dialogue with stakeholders about their future.