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Criminal Case Update #3 - 2017

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Thank you all for your support and efforts in making Plumas County a safe and just place to live, work and play. This summer has proven to be challenging for Plumas County. Lost among an arson arrest and murder trial is the fact we are seeing a general increase in crime in Plumas County. In looking at the number of cases referred to the DA's Office by all of our local law enforcement agencies for review and possible charging during the summer months (June through August) we received 278 cases in 2015, 273 cases in 2016 and 333 in 2017 – 22% increase from the prior year. From my experience in, as well as day to day monitoring of, our criminal justice system, I believe at least part of the reason for this increase is the loss of our drug court and day reporting center programs. Programs such as these have demonstrated themselves to be successful and have won the support of our criminal justice partners. It is my hope we will again realize the support we need from our county government to be able to resurrect these programs and support public safety. By lowering recidivism among low-level offenders who commit largely victimless crimes, programs like drug court and the day reporting center directly benefit public safety and help provide a level of security our citizens and visitors have rightly come to expect. There are undoubtedly other reasons for this recent increase in crime, including funding cuts to our public safety partners and an influx of laws (AB 109, Prop 47, Prop 57) wholly changing the landscape of criminal justice in Plumas County. While many of these forces may be beyond our control, we can insist public safety be returned to a priority in Plumas County.

Below is a sampling of some recent cases in Plumas County to demonstrate efforts by our criminal justice and law enforcement partners to assure your safety and justice in our court system are priorities in Plumas County.

People v. Richard Fleisher (F17-00258)

On July 14, 2017, Richard Gerald Fleisher, age 58 of Portola, was sentenced to 17 years in state prison. Previously, on June 16, 2017, Fleisher had been convicted of felony child molestation and admitted he had suffered a prior “strike” conviction. Fleisher was arrested following an incident involving a 10 year old victim. Through the combined efforts of our Sheriff’s Office, District Attorney’s Office and a concerned citizen, Fleisher was located in Arizona where his surrender was arranged and he was transported back to Plumas County. This was a horrible and offensive crime impacting all who worked on the case. I want to extend my appreciation to the investigators from the Sheriff’s Office, DA’s Office, state of Arizona as well as the concerned citizen and, especially, to the victim and her family for their help and patience.

People v. Beau Cabral (F17-00191)

On July 21, 2017, Beau John Cabral, age 22 of Portola, was convicted of first degree burglary and admitted he had suffered a prior “strike” conviction. On September 1, 2017, Cabral was sentenced to four years in state prison. Cabral had been arrested on April 12, 2017 after burglarizing a number of seasonal homes in the Bucks Lake area. Cabral’s prior conviction, also a prison sentence after a first degree burglary conviction, was also for burglarizing homes in the Bucks Lake area. District Attorney David Hollister noted his appreciation for the Patrol Commander Todd Johns, Sgts Carson Wingfield and Ian James and Deputies Rob Gott and Tyler Hermann for their efforts in apprehending the defendant in very treacherous conditions before the defendant could do any further damage.

People v. Diane Fryer (F17-00359)

On August 11, 2017, Diane Elizabeth Fryer, age 60 of Chester, was convicted of felony recklessly causing a fire of a structure. On June 15, 2017, Fryer lit debris from a cottonwood tree on fire this ignited a nearby bush and went on to burn and damage a carport at 460 Melissa in Chester. Fryer is scheduled to be sentenced on September 22, 2017. District Attorney David Hollister expressed his appreciation for the quick work of Sgt. Ian James who was able to control the fire until the fire department arrived.

People v. Nicholas Prinsen (F17-00051)

On August 11, 2017, Nicholas John Prinsen, age 18 of Reno, Nevada was sentenced to two years and eight months in state prison following his conviction for first degree felony burglary as well as a count of felony second degree burglary. Prinsen was arrested following an investigation concerning a series of break-ins at dormitory rooms at Feather River College over winter break. I want to thank the Plumas County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Moffett as well as the Detectives Division and the staff at Feather River College for their quick and thorough investigation in this case. We are fortunate to have an extremely safe environment at our local college for students to learn and grow. While unfortunate incidents such as this do happen, they are the exception and are

dealt with in a swift and just manner consistent with the safety of our citizens being a priority in Plumas County.

People v. Lela Borghi (F17-00202)

On September 8, 2017, Lela Borghi, age 37 of Quincy, was convicted of a felony violation of Theft by False Pretenses in violation of Section 532(a) of the Penal Code. Borghi is convicted of obtaining money and property amounting to \$3,026.08 from thirteen local victims by falsely claiming she had cancer and falsely claiming she was undergoing treatment she could not afford. Borghi is scheduled to be sentenced on November 3, 2017.

This investigation stemmed from numerous citizen complaints and was conducted by the Plumas County District Attorney's Investigations Division.

Plumas County District Attorney David Hollister noted, "we live in a wonderful, caring community. Unfortunately, we have had an uptick in fraud-related complaints ranging from minor scams to others alleged to be taking advantage of our county's government. It is important our community finds an appropriate balance in showing the kindness that makes this such a great place while maintaining a vigilance so we do not allow ourselves to be victimized."

Hollister added, "there may be additional victims in our community who have not yet contacted our office. If you provided cash, services or goods to Ms. Borghi to assist her in any way, including paying for cancer treatments, please call the Plumas County District Attorney's Office at 530-283-6303 and ask for the investigations division. "

People v. Todd Wesley Dupree (F17-00094)

On August 10, 2017, a Plumas County jury found Todd Wesley Dupree, age 29 most recently of Lake Almanor, guilty of a felony violation of possessing methamphetamine while armed and misdemeanor crimes of giving false identification to a peace officer and resisting arrest. The jury trial lasted two days with District Attorney David Hollister representing the People, local attorney Douglas Prouty representing the defendant and the Honorable Ira Kaufman presiding over the trial.

Dupree was arrested on February 21, 2017 when deputies responded to a call of an armed man with a neck tattoo harassing people in the area of the apartment complex at 460 Melissa in Chester. When deputies arrived and saw Dupree, who matched the suspect's description – including having a tattoo of a pirate ship on his neck, Dupree ran. During the foot pursuit Dupree discarded a loaded .22 caliber Berretta Tomcat semiautomatic handgun. Dupree was later found hiding under a vehicle in the front of

the apartment complex. On arrest, Dupree had 1.77 grams of methamphetamine in his pocket and gave the deputies a false name.

On September 8, 2017 the Honorable Ira Kaufman sentenced Dupree to four years in state prison. Dupree is also pending trial on one felony and two misdemeanor cases in Yamhill County, Oregon.

District Attorney David Hollister expressed his appreciation for the hard work and just verdict from the jury as well as the investigative efforts of Deputies Phil Shannon and Chris Driscoll. Hollister added, "this case highlighted the dangerous fight against methamphetamine our officers face each day. Plumas County is fortunate to have a law enforcement community that continues to demonstrate a high level of professionalism and courage in protecting our citizens. While we will continue to support and foster rehabilitation in low-level drug cases, we will also insist on an appropriately firm and swift response to those who endanger our community with these same insidious drugs and illegal weapons."

Cases of Interest

There are a number of upcoming cases of interest. Some include:

People v. Nazira Maria Cross (Homicide case) extradition pending from Peru.

People v. Jeffery Schmid (Arson of Forest Land) Sept 22, 2017 to set future dates

Thank you, again for your support and efforts. Should you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me at the DA's Office.

Respectfully yours,

David Hollister

District Attorney

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