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Criminal Case Update #1 - 2017

February 2017

Thank you all for your support and efforts in making Plumas County a safe and just place to live, work and play.

I appreciate the efforts of all of our law enforcement partners – our Sheriff’s Office, CHP Quincy and Susanville, Fish and Wildlife, etc. These departments are comprised of law enforcement professionals who do an outstanding job providing a difficult and dangerous service to our community. At the DA’s office we continue to give our best efforts, and then some, to assure Plumas County remains a beautiful, safe and just place. At this writing, the departure of DDA Joel McComb has reduced our prosecuting attorneys to just two – making an already challenging job even more so. It has been heartening to know our Board of Supervisors has recognized, and is attempting to assist, with the difficult task of hiring and retaining prosecutors who provide a crucial link in our public safety efforts. I look forward to a successful conclusion so we may offer the level of service in the pursuit of justice and public safety that our citizens and visitors have every right to expect.

Below is a sampling of some recent cases and investigations in Plumas County. Again, thank you for your continued support in making Plumas County safe and just.

People v. Scott Cabral (F16-00388)

On January 6, 2017, Scott Edward Cabral, age 43 of Portola, was convicted of manufacturing concentrated cannabis. Cabral is scheduled to be sentenced on April 7, 2017 when it is expected he will receive three years in county jail. Cabral was arrested on May 18, 2016 after a search found a “butane hash lab” in his Portola residence. I wish to thank the many members of the Plumas County Sheriff’s Office who assisted in this investigation. In addition to being illegal, the manufacturing process using butane is highly dangerous and puts residents and neighbors, alike, at risk.

People v. Eric Greathouse (F16-00273)

On October 21, 2016, Eric Greathouse, age 59 of Greenville, was convicted of felony domestic violence and felony resisting an executive officer by force or violence.

Greathouse, on January 6, 2017, was sentenced to two years in state prison. Greathouse was arrested on April 20, 2016 following an incident where he assaulted his wife. The assault was stopped when neighbors intervened. When officers arrived Greathouse was found to have armed himself with a handgun and refused commands. Greathouse was eventually and safely taken into custody without further incident. I want to thank the citizens who stepped forward to assist in the initial assault as well as Deputy Spencer Brubaker for the thoughtful and professional manner in which he handled an exceptionally volatile and dangerous situation.

People v. Don Carlson (F16-00776)

On January 13, 2017, Donne Eugene Carlson, age 66 of Reno, Nevada, was convicted of felony evading and, on February 17, 2017, sentenced to three years of formal probation and ordered to serve 270 days in county jail as a term, among others, of his probation. Carlson was arrested on November 11, 2016 after leading CHP officers on a 17 mile chase on Highway 70 from the area of the "Graeagle T" to the Massack Rest Stop just east of Quincy. During the pursuit Carlson travelled at speeds close to 100 mph and crossed over the double yellow lines numerous times putting other motorists at risk. Carlson was eventually apprehended after CHP officers deployed a "spike strip." I want to thank the many CHP officers who went above and beyond the call of duty to assure this incredibly dangerous situation ended with a safe resolution. In particular, Officers B. Logan, E. Logan, Connelly, Preston, Wilmer and Sgt. Rolin acted quickly and undertook necessary steps to preserve the public's safety.

People v. Daniel Harrington, Jacob Harvie, Nicholas Degrego and Autumn Matherly (F16-00641, 643, 640)

On January 13, 2017, Jacob Eugene Harvie, age 18 of Castro Valley, CA, Autumn Rose Escalante Matherly, age 21 of Los Angeles, CA, and Daniel John Harrington, age 19 of Oakland, CA, were convicted of residential burglary, a serious felony and a "strike." Shortly thereafter, on February 10, 2017, Nicholas Christian Degrego, age 20 of Castro Valley, was convicted of the same offense. All are expected to be sentenced on March 17, 2017. The convictions stemmed from a series of burglaries of seasonal homes in the Bucks Lake Highlands area in late July 2016. The group had been staying at a relatives cabin when they engaged in a series of burglaries. In addition to taking numerous items, the group vandalized the cabins to varying degrees. I want to thank the Plumas County Sheriff's Office, in particular the Detectives division for their outstanding work on this case as well as the Alameda County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in locating suspects and stolen property. "Cold" burglary cases such as these are not only incredibly difficult to investigate but require a great deal of time and resources to reach a successful conclusion.

People v. Joshua Paul Cooper (F16-00324)

On February 23, 2017, Joshua Paul Cooper, age 33 of Quincy, was convicted of a felony violation of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter while Intoxicated. Cooper will next be in court on April 20, 2017 when it is expected he will be sentenced to 4 years in state prison. Cooper was arrested on April 22, 2016 when, during a snow storm with near whiteout conditions, he lost control of his vehicle and crossed into oncoming traffic – hitting another vehicle whose driver was killed. Cooper was found to have a blood alcohol content of .10%. I am very appreciative of the investigative work in this case by CHP Officer Bruno as well as the patience and understanding from the victim's daughter.

People v. Chad Greenwood and Phillip Mays (F16-00753 and F16-00754)

On December 9, 2016, Phillip Virgel Mays, age 38 of Lincoln, California, and Chad James Greenwood, age 32 of Sheridan, California, were convicted of first degree residential burglary. Both were sentenced on January 20, 2017 where each received a sentence of two years in state prison. Greenwood and Mays were arrested after a contact by a CHP Officer in the Feather River Canyon on Highway 70. Greenwood and Mays were in a vehicle towing a trailer – both holding a great deal of property. A subsequent investigation revealed the property had been stolen from a currently unoccupied residence in the Greenville area. I want to thank CHP Officer McAllister for his prompt and diligent investigation as well as CHP Officer Cahill and Sheriff's Detective Hendrickson and Deputy Gott for their assistance in the investigation. This investigation was complicated and involved a large amount of stolen property. It is heartening to see the high level of dedication by our law enforcement professionals in assuring those who victimize our property owners are brought to justice.

People v. Kenneth Davidson (F16-00659)

On February 10, 2017, Kenneth Michael Davidson, age 47 of Quincy, was convicted of a felony violation of possessing methamphetamine for sale and admitted he had suffered a "strike" prior conviction as well as three "prison prior" convictions. Davidson is scheduled to be sentenced on March 17, 2017 when it is expected he will receive seven years in state prison. Davidson was arrested on September 20, 2016, when he was contacted by a deputy after being dropped off. During the contact Davidson ran and, while fleeing, discarded 20 grams of methamphetamine. I want to thank Deputy Rob Gott, Detective Kris Frazier and Sgts. Carson Wingfield and Steve Peay for their efforts in this arrest and investigation. Methamphetamine continues to be a tremendous problem in our community – impacting friends, family, the jail, our court system, schools, hospitals and businesses. As we continue to offer rehabilitative services to the addicts we must also take meaningful steps in curbing the distribution of meth by appropriately addressing those who profit from the sale of this insidious drug.

People v. Deseree Johnston (F16-00579)

On February 17, 2017, Deseree Qunella Johnson, age 27 of Oroville, was convicted of felony first degree burglary. Johnson is scheduled to be sentenced on March 24, 2017. Johnson's conviction stems from an investigation concerning a series of burglaries in the Silvertip Springs area of LaPorte in late April / early May 2016. I appreciate the continued efforts of our Sheriff's Office, particularly the Detectives division, in solving this crime. Burglaries of seasonal residences in Plumas County are an attack on our sense of safety and security in addition to being difficult to solve and incredibly frustrating for property owners and law enforcement alike. Convictions such as this demonstrate law enforcement's resolve in keeping our community safe.

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. Sheldon Steward (Homicide case) May 15, 2017 for jury trial.

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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