

Public Safety Briefs

Seaver receives prison for abuse

An 84-year-old Roosevelt man received a lengthy prison sentence last Monday for sexually abusing four girls, one for as long as five years.

Archer W. Seaver was sentenced to three terms of six years to life in prison for three counts of aggravated sex abuse of a child, and a term of one to 15 years in prison for one count of forcible sex abuse. The sentences will run concurrently.

Seaver pleaded guilty to the four-felony counts in late March in exchange for a promise by prosecutors to dismiss 10 remaining felony counts against him.

When he entered his plea, Seaver told 8th District Court Judge John R. Anderson that he disputed the facts in two of the cases, but felt it was in his best interest to take the prosecution's offer.

At last Monday's hearing, Anderson agreed to leave the issue of restitution open to allow Seaver's victims to be compensated for ongoing therapy.

The abuse came to light last June, when a 9-year-old relative of Seaver's told her mother that the man had fondled her from the time she was 4 until she was 6. The girl said Seaver would sit her on his lap in a computer room

at his home and touch her over her clothes. Seaver would then have the girl touch him over his clothes.

That initial report prompted three more girls — all relatives of Seaver's — to contact law enforcement about sexual abuse by Seaver.

Anderson ordered Seaver to begin serving his sentence immediately.

Bussey facing federal charge

Gregg Stephen Bussey — the Duchesne County man arrested outside a Cedar City hotel earlier this month for allegedly attempting to rendezvous with a 13-year-old girl for sex — has been indicted by a federal grand jury.

Bussey, 55, is now charged in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City with one count of coercion and enticement for illegal sexual activity. The offense carries a minimum mandatory federal prison term of 10 years.

Iron County prosecutors charged Bussey on June 12 with one count each of attempted child kidnapping, attempted rape of a child, attempted sodomy on a child, and attempted sexual abuse of a child, three counts of enticing a minor over the Inter-

net, and 11 counts of lewdness involving a child.

The state charges will likely be dismissed in favor of proceeding with the federal prosecution.

According to court records, Bussey began chatting online with a 13-year-old girl in late March. Investigators said that several times during their chats over the intervening months, Bussey made reference to the girl's age, showing that he knew she was a minor.

Bussey also allegedly stated his intent to travel to Cedar City to meet the girl, contacting her to let her know he'd reserved a room at the Crystal Inn for them, deputies said.

Court records state that Bussey had told the girl during their chats "that he was going to take her away" to California and Texas, and that "she could stay with him without her guardians knowing."

Bussey also allegedly detailed his desire to have sex with the girl during their online conversations and sent sexually-explicit videos of himself to her.

Bussey will remain in federal custody pending the resolution of the case against him. A five-day jury trial is scheduled to begin on Aug. 18.

DCSO: Brawl ends in murder attempt

A Roosevelt man is facing an attempted murder charge after

investigators with the Duchesne County Sheriff's Office say he fired multiple blasts from a shotgun at another man Wednesday night.

Sheriff's Lt. Travis Tucker said 34-year-old Bobby Joe Jackson and 24-year-old Jerad Dale Gourdin had been drinking when they got into an argument. Tucker said Gourdin attacked Jackson with a screwdriver, stabbing him in the chest.

The lieutenant said Gourdin then ran to a waiting car and tried to get away, while Jackson went inside his home, retrieved a shotgun and came outside firing on the fleeing car. Tucker said Jackson has claimed self-defense, a claim prosecutors don't buy because he was not in imminent danger when he allegedly shot at Gourdin.

Gourdin, a parolee, was scheduled to make his initial court appearance on Monday, after press time, on charges of aggravated assault, possession of a dangerous weapon by a restricted person, simple assault, and unlawful purchase by an interdicted person.

Jackson is due to make his first court appearance on Thursday in Roosevelt.

Trial date slated for Poundstone

The man accused of holding a teenage girl at knifepoint inside a Roosevelt LDS church in March

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Trial date slated for Poundstone

The man accused of holding a teenage girl at knifepoint inside a Roosevelt LDS church in March

is headed to trial.

Brian William Poundstone, 21, is charged with aggravated kidnapping and aggravated assault. The charges stem from a March 2 incident at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meeting house at 150 S. Skyline Drive in Roosevelt.

Police say Poundstone talked briefly with a 14-year-old girl inside the church before grabbing her around the neck and pulling her into a classroom. The girl told investigators that Poundstone held a knife to her throat and told her not to move.

Poundstone let the girl go and fled the church on foot after another person opened the classroom door and startled him, police say.

Defense attorney Stephanie Miya told 8th District Court Judge John R. Anderson on Thursday that her client is not interested in a plea deal offered by prosecutors. Anderson scheduled a one-day jury trial for Aug. 6.

In April, Poundstone waived his right to a preliminary hearing, a decision that is not an admission of guilt. Preliminary hearings are often waived because of the relatively low threshold of evidence prosecutors must present.

Poundstone remains in the Duchesne County Jail.

Trailer crushes Duchesne man

A former Duchesne County resident was killed last Tuesday after a mobile home he was working on slid off a set of jacks, police said.

Gordon S. Peterson of Sandy, and two co-workers were moving the prefabricated home into place at 520 S. 1300 West in Woods Cross.

Peterson, 43, died at the scene, said Woods Cross Police Sgt. Ekolu Delos Santos.

Alcohol, speed blamed in crash

A Lapoint man suffered minor injuries after rolling his SUV on Pariette Road in Pleasant Valley, the Utah Highway Patrol said.

Jessie L. Howells failed to negotiate a curve last Monday around 5:40 p.m., according to troopers, and ran off the right side of the road. His 1997 Isuzu Rodeo then overturned.

Howells was taken to Uintah Basin Medical Center. Troopers believe speed and alcohol use were contributing factors in the crash, which is still under investigation.



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Ex-worker pleads guilty to stealing drugs

A former Uintah Basin Medical Center employee pleaded guilty Thursday to four felonies and two misdemeanors related to her use of forged prescriptions to illegally obtain Lortab from a hospital clinic.

Kathy R. Giles, 51, of Tabiona, entered guilty pleas to three counts of forgery and three counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Duchesne County Attorney Stephen Foote said the pleas were entered in exchange for a promise by prosecutors not to file more charges against Giles.

According to Duchesne County Sheriff's Detective Dan Bruso, Giles used her position as a medical assistant at UBMC to forge up to 22 prescriptions for Lortab. Each prescription netted her an average of 90 pills, Bruso said.

The detective said Giles wasn't reselling the medication, but was keeping it for her own personal use. Bruso said his investigation revealed that Giles had been forging prescriptions for about three months at the time she was caught in late August.

Giles has a prior conviction in 1990 in 3rd District Court for prescription forgery and attempted prescription forgery. She received a probation sentence in that case.

Giles is scheduled to be sentenced in 8th District Court on Jan. 22. She faces up to five years in prison on each of the felony counts.

AG's office adds to Steeds' counts

The Utah Attorney General's Office filed two additional felony charges each against Duchesne County developers Frank "Joe" and Joan A. Steed on Wednesday in 3rd District Court in Salt Lake

City.

Deputy Attorney General Mark W. Baer added charges of tax evasion and failing to file a timely or proper tax return for the 2007 tax year. Prior to Wednesday, the state had only formally charged the Steeds with failing to pay their taxes for the 2003 through 2006 tax years.

The couple is now charged with one count each of engaging in a pattern of unlawful activity, five counts each of tax evasion, and five counts each of failing to file a timely or proper tax return.

The attorney general's office alleges that the couple has failed to pay more than \$3.1 million in state taxes over a four year period.

The state also claims that the Steeds - owners of Highland Development and Duchesne Land, and developers of the Utah and Duchesne mini ranches subdivisions - used 21 different bank accounts to transfer monies to businesses that are apparently nonexistent in an attempt to prevent the state from accurately assessing the couple's income and subsequent tax liability.

The Steeds, through their attorney, have declined to comment on the charges against them. They are slated to return to court on Jan. 6.

Vernal police make pot bust

A neighbor's complaint about the smell of burning marijuana led to the arrest of a 20-year-old Vernal man earlier this month.

On Nov. 12, Vernal Police Officer Chad Watt received a complaint from an apartment complex at 650 N. 100 East about an odor of burning marijuana. According to a police department press release, Watt went to the complex and smelled the odor himself emanating from apartment No. 9.

Watt said he knocked on the door and was met by Derek Lance Christensen, who allegedly

admitted to selling marijuana out of his apartment.

Watt and members of the Uintah Basin Narcotics Strike Force obtained and executed a search warrant on Christensen's apartment. They said they found a safe containing about 4 ounces of suspected marijuana, as well as \$400 in cash, and numerous items of drug paraphernalia, including measuring scales and pipes.

Several bags of marijuana were weighed, labeled, and packaged for sale, police said.

Christensen was arrested on an outstanding warrant. He was also booked into the Uintah County Jail on suspicion of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of a forged writing device.

Each of the drug charges was enhanced due to the fact that the offenses took place within 1,000 feet of a daycare facility.

Teen seriously injured in crash

A 17-year-old driver was seriously injured earlier this month when his pickup truck slammed into a parked vehicle.

The Uintah County Sheriff's Department said the Nov. 11 crash occurred as the teen was driving north on 500 West at approximately 3000 South

and lost control of his truck. The truck briefly went off the right side of the road before the teen over-corrected causing the vehicle to come back across the road, sliding sideways.

As the truck went off the left side of the road, it struck a parked truck. The collision caused the driver to be ejected through the passenger side window.

The teen was transported to Ashley Regional Medical Center and was later taken to Salt Lake City for treatment.

The driver was the only occupant in the truck. He was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the collision. The parked truck was unoccupied.

Traffic stop leads to stolen vehicle

Uintah County Sheriff's Deputies John Fairey and Clay Mieu recovered a stolen vehicle Nov. 17 after the driver was stopped for speeding on west Highway 40.

The Deputies stopped a passenger car, driven by 31-year-old Larry Stevens of Salt Lake City. A records check showed it had been reported stolen two weeks earlier out of Salt Lake City. Stevens was taken into custody without incident and transported to jail for possession of a stolen vehicle.

Sheriff Merrell reminds community members to remove their keys and lock vehicles when left unattended.

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Three arrested at Uintah High

On Nov. 12, acting on information obtained during the first week of November, Uintah County Sheriff's Deputy Nathan Webb and Uintah High School administrators were able to confiscate illegal drugs being sold at the high school.

Webb, the school resource officer, said he learned that prescription drugs were being sold in and around the school. During his investigation, Webb, working closely with school administrators, obtained

additional information that Ecstasy was also being sold in the school.

The investigation resulted in the confiscation of prescription narcotics, ecstasy, and marijuana. Three students were arrested on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance with the intent to distribute.

Uintah County Sheriff Jeff Merrell acknowledged high school administrators and Webb for their continued commitment to provide a safe environment on campus.

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Jasmine and Frankie Pacheco are being called heroes by their mom, Valerie Pacheco, and several community members. Valerie, who has hypoglycemia, passed out while driving with all six of her children in the vehicle, prompting Jasmine and Frankie to step in to keep their family safe.

Sister, brother save family from crash

By NANCY SPURLOCK
 Uintah Basin Standard

Valerie Pacheco planned to stop by her mother's house on May 17 and then take her six children to Bottle Hollow Reservoir to fish. But as she drove down the road in the family SUV she suddenly slumped over into the space between the driver's door and steering wheel.

Within seconds Valerie's children realized she'd fainted. Jasmine Pacheco, Valerie's eldest daughter, took immediate action to stop the full-size Suburban, now traveling 35 mph.

"We were driving back on the dirt road and all the sudden we started feeling the car swerving,"

12-year-old Jasmine said. "It was unusual, so I jumped in the front seat and she was passed out. I pulled (the SUV) off the side of the road and parked it."

The children know their mother has hypoglycemia – a condition that occurs when blood glucose drops below normal levels – and had seen her faint before, but never while driving, and never for this long.

"They usually get water or something and put it on me and I'll come back up, but this time I don't know if the heat contributed to it, but I didn't get up as quick," Valerie said. "I just got really hot and then I couldn't talk. It seemed like my body was tensed up. I couldn't

say anything, and that's all I remember."

Jasmine found her mom's cell phone and used it to call her father. Then, 7-year-old Frankie Pacheco decided he was in charge of getting help.

"He actually got out and told Jasmine, 'We have to flag somebody down,'" Valerie said, beaming with pride over the heroism her children showed.

"She says 'No, we don't want to flag anybody down. What if they try to take us,'" Valerie continued. "Frankie said, 'No Jasmine, mom's been passed out too long. We've got to stop somebody.'"

SEE Family Saved on A3

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Vernal Express

Family Saved

Continued from A1

Putting fear aside, Frankie and Jasmine hit the street and started waving their arms, yelling for help, leaving their four siblings with their unconscious mom.

Ten-year-old Jessica Pacheco kept a watchful eye on her mother, rubbing her forehead and reassuring her, "It's OK mommy, somebody's coming." Five-year-old Philip Pacheco tended to his 2-year-old and 3-month-old brothers, keeping the air conditioner on them so they wouldn't "roast their brains" while they were stranded in the truck.

"There was a cop right down the road who had pulled somebody over," Valerie said. "They were walking down that way, but they are so afraid of strangers. So Jasmine told Frankie, 'Don't flag down somebody that looks mean. Flag down somebody that looks nice.' And Frankie said, 'I don't care who I flag down. We need to get somebody flagged down because mom's not waking up.'"

The two children were dressed in swimsuits, waving frantically at the side of the road as the first two cars passed them without stopping.

"I'm sure it could have scared (Frankie) even more thinking, you know that nobody's going to help us," Valerie said.

Frankie was getting exhausted as the heat rose from the blacktop. Still, he didn't give up and the third car that approached pulled over.

"(My children) knew what to tell her," Valerie said. "They knew I was hypoglycemic."

For Valerie, reality began to set in as she came to.

"I started fighting ... kind of freaking out on the guy that was trying to help," she said. "I kept asking, 'Where's my kids? Are my kids OK?'"

The ambulance driver informed her they were fine and that if she had driven any further she would have hit a railroad tie.

"He told me I'd have rolled the truck, the whole truck," Valerie said. "Now, my main thing is that these guys are always safe. I was probably going to start teaching these guys what to do if mom ever passes out, but they've got it down."

The good Samaritan who stopped for Jasmine and Frankie had stayed with the family long enough for emergency personnel to arrive, but the Pachecos still don't her name.

"I'd love to know who it was to thank her," Valerie said. "(Jasmine) would like to thank her, too."

Jasmine wants others to know that if something happens, "don't panic, think first." Her younger brother Frankie adds: "Do the same thing that Jasmine did and then call 911."

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Trainee crushed, killed in mishap

A Salt Lake City man died Tuesday when he was crushed between a tractor-trailer truck and a water storage tank at an oil field location in Uintah County.

James W. "Jim" Latimer, 61, was in his second week of work with RNI Trucking and was working with a driver-trainer when he was killed, according to RNI human resources manager Russ Cowan.

Latimer was standing on the ground at the rear of the truck driven by his trainer, Cowan said, guiding the driver as he backed up.

It is unclear how Latimer ended up in the path of the truck or how the driver lost sight of him, but Cowan said Latimer was pinned between the truck's trailer and a storage tank. He died at the scene.

"He was really a great guy," Cowan said of Latimer, who has family in the Roosevelt area. "He was excited about his new career and excited about moving out here."

Cowan said the driver-trainer involved in the accident is on paid leave.

"It's been real hard on him," he said. "It was a very traumatic

experience and we want him to be home and to relax. He's dealing with it emotionally."

The Uintah County Sheriff's Office and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are investigating.

Alleged abuse leads to charges

A 19-year-old man has been accused of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in 2006 in Duchesne County.

Justin Casey Miller was charged last Monday in 8th District Court with two counts of sex abuse of a child, both second-degree felonies.

Duchesne County Sheriff's Detective Wade Butterfield said the alleged abuse came to light while the girl was undergoing counseling. Butterfield said the girl told her counselor she was 11 and Miller was 17 when he touched her under her clothes, below the waist.

The detective interviewed Miller last Tuesday and said he corroborated some of the girl's statements to police.

Miller is scheduled to make his initial court appearance on June 9. He faces up to 15 years in prison on each charge, if

convicted.

Butterfield said he is investigating reports that two other Duchesne County men may have also had sexual contact with the alleged victim in Miller's case.

Two women hurt in crash

Wet weather played a role in a single-vehicle crash Thursday near Bridgeland that injured two women, the Utah Highway Patrol said.

According to a UHP press release, 39-year-old Sheila Harper of Duchesne was driving west on U.S. Highway 40 near the Bridgeland turnoff at about 2 p.m. when her pickup truck started to hydroplane on the wet roads.

Troopers said Harper lost control of her truck, crossed the center line and ran off of the south side of the road. Immediately after she left the road, Harper's truck over turned onto its side.

Harper and her passenger, 39-year-old Julie Wilkerson of Duchesne, were freed from the truck through the back window by UHP Sgt. Clay Morgan. Both women were wearing seat belts.

Harper and Wilkerson were taken by ambulance to Uintah Basin Medical Center where they were both treated for head injuries.

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Restaurant worker alleges sex abuse

Uintah County prosecutors have filed charges against a 19-year-old man after a co-worker told police he trapped her in a restaurant bathroom and tried to have sex with her.

David Fernando Sanchez is charged with aggravated kidnapping and forcible sex abuse.

According to court records, a 16-year-old girl was changing clothes in the bathroom of the Vernal restaurant where she worked on Oct. 9 when Sanchez, a co-worker, knocked on the door. The girl opened the door, police said, believing that it was female co-worker.

"Sanchez stepped from behind the edge of the doorway where he had been hiding and pushed (the alleged victim) back into the restroom," Vernal Police Sgt. Rick Reynolds wrote in a probable cause statement.

The girl told Reynolds that she tried to fight Sanchez off, but he sexually abused her before she was able to get past him. The girl left the restaurant with a friend who reported the incident to police.

When Sanchez was interviewed by police, Reynolds said he told them the sexual contact was consensual. Reynolds noted that Sanchez has prior charges and convictions of a similar nature in New York.

Sanchez is free on \$30,000 bail. He was scheduled to make his first court appearance on Monday, Oct. 27, after press time.

RV park resident faces drug counts

A man who made his home in the Roosevelt City-owned RV park in Ballard is facing a felony drug distribution charge.

Ben Heath Myers, 30, was arrested after a search warrant was executed on his trailer by Roosevelt City police officers, Sgt. Jeremy Chapman said.

Chapman said officers have been watching Myers' trailer for some time due to reports of possible drug activity. They developed enough information on Oct. 17 to obtain a search warrant, the sergeant said, and

recovered a bag of suspected marijuana and several suspected meth pipes.

Chapman said there is also evidence that Myers' was selling methamphetamine out of his trailer.

Myers was booked in the Uintah County Jail and later posted bail. He is charged with a first-degree felony count of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; class A misdemeanor possession of marijuana; and class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

Myers' first court appearance is slated for Nov. 3 in 8th District Court in Vernal.

Steeds make first court appearance

Duchesne County developers Frank "Joe" and Joan A. Steed made their initial court appearances last Monday in 3rd District Court in Salt Lake City.

The Steeds are charged with one count each of engaging in a pattern of unlawful activity, four counts each of tax evasion, and four counts each of failing to file a timely or proper tax return.

The Utah Attorney General's Office alleges that the couple has failed to pay more than \$3.1 million in state taxes over a three year period. The state also claims that the Steeds - owners of Highland Development and Duchesne Land, and developers of the Utah and Duchesne mini ranches subdivisions - used 21 different bank accounts to transfer monies to businesses that are apparently nonexistent in an attempt to prevent the state from accurately assessing the couple's actual income and subsequent tax liability.

Court records show that during last Monday's hearing, 3rd District Court Judge Denise P. Lindberg agreed to lower the Steeds' bail from \$250,000 apiece to \$150,000 apiece. The couple had posted bail shortly after their arrest on Oct. 15.

Lindberg set a roll call hearing for the Steeds for Nov. 18. That hearing will be used to schedule future court dates.

The Steeds, through their attorney, have declined to comment on the charges against them.

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Vernal arsonist must pay victims

The 19-year-old man who burglarized a Vernal hair salon in April and then set it on fire in an attempt to cover up the break-in was sentenced last Tuesday.

Chad A. Eldredge, who has been in jail since his arrest despite a substantial reduction in his bail, was given credit for the 90 days he'd already served. He was ordered to serve another 10 days behind bars before being released.

Eldredge was also ordered to pay \$37,716.28 in restitution to his victims, write an apology to his victims, pay \$3,050 in fines, and serve six years on probation supervised by Adult Probation and Parole.

Eldredge entered guilty pleas in May to charges of second-degree felony arson, third-degree felony burglary and class A misdemeanor attempted burglary. Prosecutors agreed to dismiss misdemeanor charges of theft, unlawful possession or consumption of alcohol by a minor and possession of tobacco by a minor in exchange for Eldredge's plea.

On April 24, a Vernal police officer spotted heavy smoke coming from the area of 500 W. Main about 1:20 a.m. and went to investigate. The officer found smoke pouring out of the shattered windows of the New Look Salon and saw Eldredge walking along the sidewalk nearby.

The officer said Eldredge smelled of alcohol and had blood on his clothing. The teen said he'd gone to investigate the smoke coming from the salon and cut his finger on the broken glass, according to the officer, who noted that Eldredge was also bleeding heavily from a cut on his right ankle.

The officer said he found \$163.64 in loose bills and change covered in hair clippings when he

ordered Eldredge to empty his pockets. He also found a green lighter, a small whiskey flask, a can of chewing tobacco and two cell phones.

Another officer checked a pawnshop that neighbors the salon and found that it had been burglarized as well. Authorities said there was blood on the broken glass in the pawnshop's store front.

Investigators said Eldredge told them he broke into the salon because he needed money and started the fire in an attempt to destroy evidence of the burglary.

Felter sentenced in Myton shooting

A Duchesne County man who fired several shots at a neighbor in January was ordered last Monday to serve 30 days in jail.

Eighth District Court Judge A. Lynn Payne handed down the jail term to Daniel W. Felter after suspending a zero to five year prison term and two one-year jail sentences on charges of aggravated assault, criminal mischief, and attempted tampering with evidence.

Felter had originally been charged with attempted murder and criminal mischief, both second-degree felonies, and discharging a firearm from a highway and tampering with evidence, both third-degree felonies, however the charges were reduced when Felter pleaded guilty in May.

The discharging a firearm from a highway charge was dismissed as part of the deal with prosecutors.

Felter, 39, admitted to firing a shotgun multiple times at a 26-year-old neighbor as the man drove past Felter's home on Jan.

5. None of the rounds struck the man, but the shotgun pellets did damage his truck. Felter admitted that he tried to hide the shotgun from investigators after the shooting.

A Duchesne County Sheriff's detective said Felter and the victim had an ongoing personal dispute, but declined to talk about specifics. In past court hearings, Felter's attorney said his client shot at the victim because he was distraught after learning that his wife was having an affair with the man.

In addition to the jail term, Payne ordered Felter to serve 36 months on supervised probation, pay \$2,850 in fines, and provide the court with proof that he'd completed an anger management course. The judge left the issue of restitution open.

Charges dropped in teen sex case

Duchesne County prosecutors dismissed two felony counts against a 19-year-old man who was accused of the 2006 sexual abuse of a 13-year-old girl.

The charges against Justin Casey Miller were dropped in 8th District Court after it was shown that the alleged offenses had occurred when Miller was 17. Miller was charged in district court in May with two counts of sex abuse of a child, both second-degree felonies.

Despite dismissing the case, prosecutors are now expected to refer the charges to juvenile court.

Duchesne County Sheriff's Detective Wade Butterfield said the alleged abuse came to light while the girl was undergoing counseling. Butterfield said the girl told her counselor she was 11 and Miller was 17 when he touched her under her clothes, below the waist.

The detective interviewed Miller after speaking with the girl and said he corroborated some of her statements to police.

Second Ver of having se

By GERT LERN

Utah Basin News Service

For the second time this month, Uintah County prosecutors have charged a woman with having sexual contact with a teenage boy.

Jamey Bolerjack was charged Wednesday with 14 counts of unlawful sexual conduct with a 16 or 17-year-old.

According to court records, the alleged misconduct was reported to the Uintah County Sheriff's Department by a friend of Bolerjack's who told investigators that the 33-year-old had asked her for "assistance in covering up these sexual encounters by providing alibis" to Bolerjack's husband.

Uintah County sheriff's detective Brandon Cottam, in a probable cause statement filed with the court, said that he interviewed a 16-year-old boy who told him that Bolerjack sent him sexually explicit text messages and that he sneaked out of his house at night so the two could have sex. Cottam said the teen told him the alleged sexual activity began in February and ended

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Second Vernal woman accused of having sex with teenage boy

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For the second time this month, Uintah County prosecutors have charged a woman with having sexual contact with a teenage boy.

Jamey Bolerjack was charged Wednesday with 14 counts of unlawful sexual conduct with a 16 or 17-year-old.

According to court records, the alleged misconduct was reported to the Uintah County Sheriff's Department by a friend of Bolerjack's who told investigators that the 33-year-old had asked her for "assistance in covering up these sexual encounters by providing alibis" to Bolerjack's husband.

Uintah County sheriff's detective Brandon Cottam, in a probable cause statement filed with the court, said that he interviewed a 16-year-old boy who told him that Bolerjack sent him sexually explicit text messages and that he sneaked out of his house at night so the two could have sex. Cottam said the teen told him the alleged sexual activity began in February and ended

in mid-June.

Cottam also located a second teen who told the detective that Bolerjack had sent him explicit text messages as well. Cottam said the boy told him that he and Bolerjack were supposed to meet in late June to have sex, but the teen was unable to make the rendezvous because of work.

Bolerjack was arrested Wednesday and booked into the Uintah County Jail. She later posted bond and was released. Her initial court appearance is scheduled for Aug. 11. Bolerjack could be sentenced to zero to five years in prison on each of the counts against her, if convicted.

The charges against Bolerjack come three weeks after a 22-year-old Vernal woman was charged with two felonies for allegedly having sex with a 15-year-old boy. Wendy White is charged with forcible sodomy, a first degree felony, and unlawful sexual activity with a minor, a third-degree felony.

Police became aware of the alleged contact between White and the teenager while investigating a theft complaint filed by

the boy's mother, according to a probable cause statement filed by Naples Police Sgt. Manny Escoto.

Escoto interviewed the alleged victim, who said he'd taken medication on May 21 that made him drowsy and then went to bed. The boy said he awoke to find White having sex with him, the sergeant said, adding that the teen's sister may have witnessed White entering the boy's room.

During an initial interview with police, White said she'd been drinking the night of the alleged incident and had entered the teen's room to talk to him, according to Escoto. The woman told investigators that the boy had asked her to have sex with him and she consented briefly.

White was slated to return to court on Monday, after presstime for an attorney status hearing to determine whether she had retained her own lawyer. She faces five years to life in prison if convicted of the forcible sodomy charge and zero to five years in prison if convicted on the charge of unlawful sexual activity with a minor.

Recognition for siblings' heroism

By Nancy Spurlock
Uintah Basin Standard

The Duchesne County Sheriff's Office presented certificates of heroism on Wednesday to a brother and sister who stopped their family's SUV from crashing after their mother lost consciousness.

Sheriff Travis Mitchell recognized **Jasmine Pacheco**, 12, and her brother, **Frankie**, 7, for their quick thinking on May 17. The children were riding with their mother, **Valerie Pacheco**, when she suddenly slumped over in the driver's seat.

"All the sudden we started feeling the car swerving," Jasmine told the Uintah Basin Standard shortly after the incident. "It was unusual, so I jumped in the front seat and she was passed out. I pulled (the SUV) off the side of the road and parked it."

The children know their mother has hypoglycemia — a condition that occurs when

blood sugar drops below normal levels — and had seen her faint before, but never while driving.

Jasmine found her mom's cell phone and used it to call her father. Then, Frankie decided he was in charge of getting help. He convinced his older sister to leave their four other siblings in the family's Suburban and so they could flag down a passing motorist.

Someone eventually stopped and summoned first responders to the scene.

An EMT told Valerie that her children were OK as she emerged from unconsciousness, and that if she had driven any further she would have hit a railroad tie.

"He told me I'd have rolled the truck, the whole truck," Valerie told the Standard. "Now, my main thing is that these guys are always safe. I was probably going to start

SEE HEROISM on page 4



Duchesne County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Dave Boren and Sheriff Travis Mitchell presented Jasmine and Frankie Pacheco with certificates of heroism on Wednesday for their actions on May 17. The children prevented their family's SUV from crashing after their mother passed out while driving and flagged down another motorist for help.

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Uintah Basin Standard
July 7, 2009

HEROISM

Continued from page 1

teaching these guys what to do if mom ever passes out, but they've got it down."

"It's always important that

kids know what to do in an emergency," Mitchell said. "Obviously these parents have done a little bit of training and we're happy to see that."

Mitchell encouraged all parents to take the time to teach their children what to do in the

event of an emergency.

"We're proud of these kids, proud of these parents, and we hope everybody would take a look at what these kids did and do likewise," he said.

The Duchesne County Area Chamber of Commerce also presented the Pacheco children with certificates of heroism. Chamber president Nick Lundstrom said the organization considers people to be the Uintah Basin's greatest asset. He said the Jasmine and Frankie's ability to help their mother exemplified the good things that can happen when people work together.

"You guys are just a great resource for the county," he said.

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PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

UHP enforcement blitz sees results

The Utah Highway Patrol has released statistics from a DUI/Enforcement Blitz that took place March 13 in Duchesne and Uintah counties.

UHP Sgt. Clay Morgan organized the effort, which included troopers, sheriff's deputies from Duchesne and Uintah counties, and officers from the Vernal Police Department. Authorities were specifically looking for intoxicated, reckless or aggressive drivers and equipment violations.

Morgan said during the nine-hour blitz, 230 vehicles were stopped. Officers issued 329 violations; served 10 warrants; made arrests for seven felonies, seven arrests for DUI, and seven arrests on other charges; investigated three crashes; and were involved in two vehicle pursuits.

Based on those numbers, the blitz was deemed a success.

- Geoff Liesik

Roosevelt man accused of rape

A Roosevelt man accused of raping a teenage girl made his first court appearance Thursday.

Jesse Daniel Shields, 19, is charged with first-degree

felony rape, five counts of unlawful sexual activity with a minor, a class B misdemeanor, and one class B misdemeanor count of simple assault.

According to court records, Shields knew his alleged victim, who is under 18. The girl told police last week that Shields approached her after school and tried to force her into his vehicle. She also told police that Shields had raped her sometime in February.

Shields was arrested on Wednesday and booked into the Duchesne County Jail. His bail was reduced to \$20,000 following Thursday's hearing; however, a no-bail warrant was also issued for Shields' arrest based on allegations of probation violations.

Shields pleaded guilty in September to a third-degree felony theft charge along with misdemeanor charges of obstruction of justice and possession of tobacco by a minor.

A preliminary hearing in the rape case is scheduled for April 30.

- Geoff Liesik

Camp trailer blaze being investigated

Law enforcement and fire investigators are looking into a blaze that destroyed a camp trailer earlier this month at a well location.

According to the Uintah County Sheriff's Department, the fire occurred March 15 at about 11:30 p.m. near Pelican Lake. The Avalon Fire Department responded to a location owned by Elk Resources.

Sheriff's Cpl. Brian Fletcher said crews found a fifth wheel camp trailer in flames when they arrived. No one was living in the trailer, Fletcher said, and due to the extensive fire damage the owner of the trailer had not been identified.

Fletcher said sheriff's detectives and fire investigators are working to determine the cause of the blaze.

- Geoff Liesik

Bus driver charged with showing porn

A former Uintah School District bus driver is facing charges after she allegedly used her cell phone to show pornographic images to students on her bus.

Catherine J. Drake, 26, was charged Wednesday with six counts of dealing in materials harmful to a minor. The charges are all third-degree felonies.

Vernal police were alerted to Drake's alleged conduct after a teenage boy told his mother he'd seen images of a naked woman on the bus driver's cell phone, according to a probable cause statement.

Investigators said they spoke with at least two other teens who claimed to have viewed pornographic images of men and women on Drake's cell phone.

The probable cause statement said Drake told officers she allowed the teens to use her phone while she was driving her route to make calls or use the calculator function. She said the teens may have seen the images, but she did not intentionally display the

photos.

Drake was booked into jail, but was released after posting bond. She was due in court March 23.

A spokesperson for the Uintah School District said Drake is no longer a district employee.

- Geoff Liesik

Man charged with rape of a child, 10

A Syracuse man is facing four first-degree felony charges after Uintah County sheriff's investigators allege he sexually assaulted a 10-year-old girl in Fort Duchesne.

Darrell Knowles, 60, is charged with three counts of aggravated sex abuse of a child and one count of rape of a child. He was due to make his initial court appearance March 23.

According to a sheriff's department press release, the alleged victim told a state Division of Child and Family Services caseworker that Knowles sexually abused her several times shortly after her 10th birthday. The caseworker contacted law enforcement.

Investigators believe that the alleged abuse took place during the summer of 2008 in the Fort Duchesne area.

Knowles has denied the allegations during interviews with sheriff's deputies.

- Geoff Liesik

Charges filed over child porn DVDs

A 36-year-old man is facing felony charges after investigators said they linked him to DVDs with thousands of images of child pornography on them.

Paul Bryan Atwood, a former Vernal resident, is charged with 10 counts of sexual exploitation of a minor in 8th District Court.

Uintah County Sheriff's Cpl. Brian Fletcher said a deputy was called to a construction site north of Vernal in August. Crews had contacted authorities after a backhoe uncovered a package wrapped in duct tape that contained 30 DVDs.

Fletcher said testing on the DVDs revealed that they contained over 7,000 images of child pornography. Investiga-

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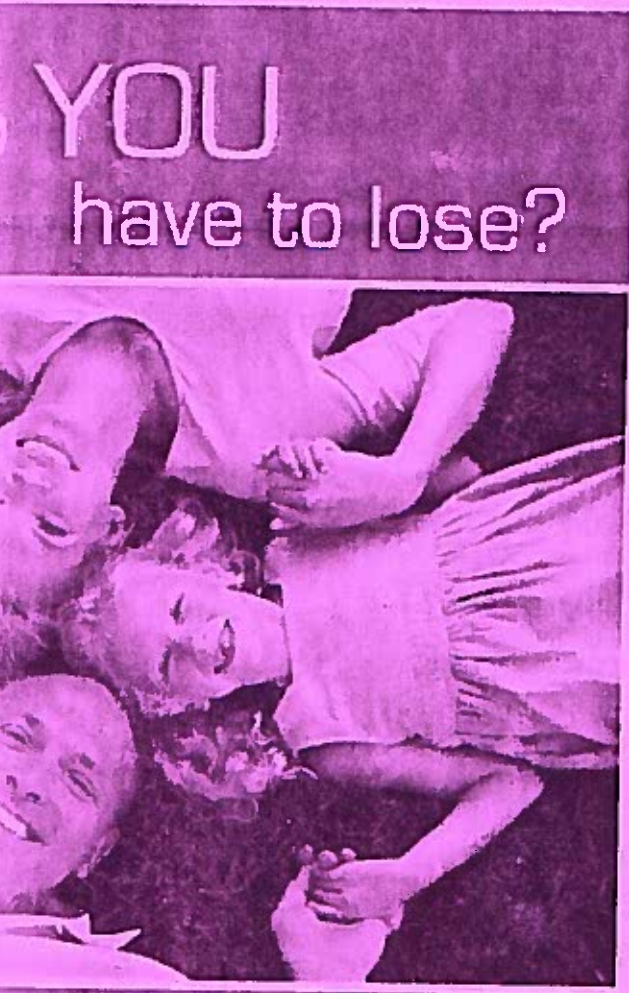
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cause statement.

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Fletcher said testing on the DVDs revealed that they contained over 7,000 images of child pornography. Investigators believe Atwood buried the discs in 2001.

Atwood was scheduled to make his initial court appearance Monday.

- Geoff Liesik

Investigators are asking people with cabins in west Duchesne County to check on their property following a rash of burglaries.

Duchesne County Sheriff's Lt. Travis Tucker said at least 40 cabins or camp trailers in the Pinion Ridge area west of Starvation Reservoir have been burglarized. Many of the cabins are recreational properties owned by people who live on the Wasatch Front, he said.

Tucker said the break-ins were discovered by deputies sent out on a concentrated patrol after a property owner in the area reported a burglary.

"We actually need the victims to contact us," the lieutenant said. "We don't have victims for a lot for these burglaries yet because they don't know about it and it's hard to find out who owns these places."

Tucker said some stolen property has been recovered and is being held at the sheriff's office.

In addition to cabins, depu-

ties said about a dozen of a pickup truck and four-wheelers were returned to their owners. The stolen pickup truck had been recovered.

"We've had taken, but we of them back," Tucker said. "Investigating burglaries are work of at 11. Tucker said developed in two "persons" have yet to be identified.

"We had a gies about a mo Tucker said. "the two suspe but these ar incidents."

Individuals the Pinion Ridge to inspect the sh contact the sh 435-738-2015 patch at 435-7 are missing an

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PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

Guilty plea entered in thefts from Grill

A 32-year-old woman has pleaded guilty to stealing money from The Frontier Grill, where she worked.

Clarinda Diane Richens entered guilty pleas on Thursday to one third-degree felony count of theft and two class B misdemeanor counts of theft. In exchange for her pleas, prosecutors agreed to dismiss four additional felony theft charges against Richens.

In July, Roosevelt police said Richens was caught on tape on at least seven different occasions swiping money from the restaurant's till or its petty cash box. Roosevelt Police Officer Allan Tucker said the thefts took place over the past month-and-a-half.

Tucker said Richens is believed to have stolen a total of \$1,400. He said Richens told him she took the money to pay her satellite TV bill.

Eighth District Court Judge John R. Anderson ordered Richens to pay a total of \$2,000 in fines on the misdemeanor charges, serve 21 days in jail, and spend one year on court probation.

The felony charge is being held in abeyance for three years, under the terms of the plea agreement with prosecutors. Anderson ordered Richens to pay a \$500 fee in that case, and make full restitution to her former employer. She must also reimburse Duchesne County \$500 for the services of her public defender.

Deputy says woman tried to take his gun

A Uintah County woman is facing a first-degree felony charge after she allegedly tried to disarm a sheriff's deputy.

According to court records, Uintah County Sheriff's Deputy Randy Nakai was asked to check on the welfare of 36-year-old Amy

J. Durfee on Sept. 14. Nakai said a family member informed him that Durfee had taken some pills and was "acting different."

The deputy made contact with Durfee. He said she told him she "had Satan in her and wanted her children to be safe." She also admitted to taking an undetermined number of anti-seizure pills, the deputy said.

Nakai transported Durfee to Ashley Regional Medical Center, where he had arranged for her to meet with a counselor from Northeastern Counseling Center. He said while he was waiting at ARMC, and talking on the telephone with the counselor, Durfee grabbed the grip of his handgun.

"I had to drop my phone to deal with the situation," Nakai said, adding that "force was used" to prevent Durfee from taking the weapon.

Durfee was subsequently arrested and booked into the Uintah County Jail. She is charged with first-degree felony disarming a peace officer and interfering with a legal arrest, a class B misdemeanor. Her first court appearance is scheduled for Oct. 27.

Child abuse count dropped in Vernal

An 8th District Court judge has dismissed a child abuse charge against a Vernal man at the request of the Uintah County Attorney's Office.

Eric Davis, 23, was facing one count of abuse or neglect of a disabled child, a third-degree felony.

According to Vernal police, Davis and 27-year-old Tiffany Manning left Manning's four children alone at home on May 15 while they went shopping. The children were 9, 7, 5, and 2, police said.

During Manning and Davis' absence, police said the 5-year-old, who is deaf, fell from a second-story window. The girl

sustained leg injuries, including a possible fracture of the growth plate.

Deputy Uintah County Attorney Greg Lamb said the decision to dismiss the case against Davis came after he discussed it with Manning. He said Manning maintained that Davis "simply picked her up to go shopping" and that he did not go into the home.

"Also [she said] that he was unaware that the children were alone," Lamb said in an e-mail response to questions from the Uintah Basin Standard about the dismissal. "Ms. Manning indicated to me that this would be her testimony in the event the case went to trial."

Manning pleaded no contest to a single count of abuse or neglect of a disabled child in July. The charge was reduced to a class A misdemeanor, under the terms of a deal with prosecutors, and will be held in abeyance for two years.

To successfully complete her plea in abeyance agreement, Manning must pay a \$250 fee, complete a parenting class, and commit no new criminal offenses during the next two years. If she does this, the case against her will be dismissed.

Vehicle bursts into flames in Ballard

A truck owned by Washington-based company burst into flames earlier this month on U.S. Highway 40 in Ballard.

The Utah Highway Patrol said the Ford F-650 was travel-

ing west on the highway at about 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 19 when flammable material in the truck's bed ignited.

The driver of the truck, 59-year-old Jon Rucker of Sunnyside, Utah, escaped without injury. The items in the bed of the truck were completely consumed by the fire; however, the cab of the vehicle received only moderate damage.

The truck is owned by Snelson Companies, an industrial and utility contractor, based in Sedro Woolley, Wash.

Fence damaged in Roosevelt crash

A two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 40 took out a section of pipe fence in front of a Roosevelt business, the Utah Highway Patrol said.

Troopers said the crash occurred Sept. 19 at about 5 p.m. at the intersection of 600 East and U.S. 40 when 20-year-old Kendra Remington of Roosevelt attempted to turn right onto the highway. Remington failed to yield to a pickup truck driven by a teenage girl from Roosevelt, the troopers said, and was struck in the intersection.

The two vehicles then traveled into the pipe fence in front of Wind River Wireless, sending pieces of the fence into another pickup truck waiting to turn left from 600 East onto U.S. 40.

A witness told troopers that traffic on U.S. 40 had a green light when Remington made her turn. Remington was issued a citation.

Public Safety Briefs

Alleged sex abuser may face jury trial

A Vernal man accused of sexually abusing and raping a 12-year-old girl will get one final opportunity this month to accept a plea agreement or have his case decided by a jury.

During a status hearing for Carlos Moreno Graham Jr. last Tuesday, defense attorney John Beaslin told 8th District Court Judge A. Lynn Payne that his client wasn't willing to accept a plea offer from prosecutors.

Payne set a tentative trial date of March 23-24, but also scheduled another status hearing on Dec. 9 to give Graham one last chance to consider his options.

Graham was arrested Sept. 15 at his Vernal home and booked into the Uintah County Jail, where he remains. He is charged with six counts of sex abuse of a child and one count of rape of a child. All of the charges are first-degree felonies.

According to investigators, Graham began sexually abusing the alleged victim, now 12, several years ago. The girl told a detective with the Vernal Police Department that the abuse began with Graham rubbing her thigh and progressed over time to include at least one instance of rape.

The alleged victim, who is

related to Graham, said she tried to fight him off, but he physically restrained her.

When interviewed by police, court records state that Graham allegedly told investigators that "he had not wanted these things to happen, but that the young girl had seduced him."

Convicted robber sent to prison for evaluation

Casey S. Davis was supposed to be sentenced last Tuesday for violently attacking Wal-Mart employees and customers who tried to stop him from stealing merchandise. Instead the 18-year-old Jensen man was sent to prison in an effort to determine what to do with him.

Davis, who told 8th District Court Judge A. Lynn Payne in October that he committed his crimes because he needed a place to stay, was ordered to undergo 90 days of diagnostic testing at the prison. The hope is that the tests will help Payne mete out an appropriate sentence for Davis.

According to Davis, he'd been kicked out of his house on May 30. He said he had gone to Wal-Mart in Vernal to see about staying temporarily with a friend who worked there. But when the friend couldn't help Davis out, he said he decided to steal things from the store.

"I figured if I got arrested I'll have a place to sleep," Davis told Payne on Oct. 15, after he pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree felony robbery and a class B misdemeanor assault charge.

Prosecutors agreed to dismiss misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct, retail theft, and criminal mischief against Davis in exchange for his guilty plea.

Davis also pleaded guilty

at the Oct. 15 hearing to two counts of assault by a prisoner. In one case, Davis admitted to assaulting a deputy after he was book into the Uintah County Jail following his arrest at Wal-mart. He also admitted in a separate case to attacking another inmate during his incarceration.

Davis could return to court on Feb. 2 for sentencing, if the prison staff has completed its testing and returned its report to Payne.

Vernal man pleads to sex abuse count

A 22-year-old Vernal man entered a guilty plea last Tuesday to a reduce count of forcible sex abuse for his conduct with a teenage girl in September.

Travis Adam Johnson was originally charged with first-degree felony rape.

According to a probable cause statement, Johnson contacted Vernal Police Officer Michael Kester in late September "wanting to talk to him about allegations he said would be reported soon," concerning his contact with a teenage girl. Kester spoke with Johnson and then contacted Vernal Police Detective Vance Norton for assistance with the case.

Norton, in the probable cause statement, said Johnson allegedly told Kester that on Sept. 26 he had consensual sex with a 15-year-old girl at the apartment where he was staying. The girl was there to babysit the tenant's children while the woman went out, Norton said.

Based on the information Johnson provided, police contacted the babysitter's mother and set up an interview with the girl.

Norton said the girl was "very emotional, crying and very reluctant to speak" to him during the initial interview, but told him that Johnson had sex with her without her consent. The detective said the girl also corroborated Johnson's account to the incident, with the exception of his statement that they had consensual sex, during a second interview at the Children's Justice Center.

Johnson, who has past convictions for assault, drug possession, and violation of a protective order and is currently on probation, remains in the Uintah County Jail. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 20 and faces up to 15 years in prison.

Traffic stop ends with recovery of stolen car

A traffic stop last month for speeding led to the arrest of a Salt Lake City man for possession of a stolen vehicle.

According to the Uintah County Sheriff's Department, deputies John Fairey and Clay Mieux stopped Larry J. Stevens on Nov. 17 for speeding on U.S. Highway 40. A records check showed the vehicle Stevens was driving had been reported stolen two weeks earlier in Salt Lake.

Stevens, 31, was arrested without incident and booked into the Uintah County Jail. He is charged with receiving or transferring a stolen vehicle, a second-degree felony, and driving on a denied license, a class C misdemeanor.

Stevens made his initial court appearance last Monday. His bail was reduced to \$2,500. A preliminary hearing date has not been set.

Dec 3, 2008

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Public Safety Briefs

McBride pleads to sex with teen

Patrick Henry McBride pleaded guilty Thursday to reduced charges in two separate cases against him.

McBride, 51, entered a guilty plea to one count of unlawful sexual conduct with a 16- or 17-year-old, a third-degree felony. He was initially charged in May 2007 with rape, forcible sodomy, and forcible sex abuse; however, prosecutors agreed to reduce the rape charge to an unlawful sexual conduct count and dismiss the remaining charges in exchange for McBride's plea.

McBride was accused of raping a 17-year-old girl in his Roosevelt home. While he never disputed having sex with the teen, he did maintain that it was consensual.

In court on Thursday, McBride also pleaded guilty to unlawfully possessing a firearm. A second charge of criminal mischief was

dismissed by prosecutors.

According to Roosevelt police, McBride removed the fuses from his teenage daughter's car during a dispute with the girl in April. When police went to interview McBride, they said he picked up a gun in their presence and moved it.

McBride was prohibited from possessing firearms at the time because he was awaiting trial on the rape, forcible sodomy, and forcible sex abuse charges.

Defense attorney Ken Brown said at Thursday's hearing that the weapon his client picked up was an antique gun that belonged to his father.

McBride will return to court on Dec. 4 for sentencing.

Horrocks guilty of robbing store

A Roosevelt man pleaded guilty Thursday to robbing a convenience store at gunpoint in May.

Roger Duane Horrocks pleaded guilty to robbery, a second-degree felony. The 57-year-old had originally been charged with first-degree felony aggravated robbery, third-degree felony unlawful possession of a firearm, and class A misdemeanor theft.

Duchesne County prosecutors agreed to reduce the robbery charge and dismiss the remaining charges in exchange for Horrocks' plea.

Horrocks admitted on Thursday to walking up to the drive-through window of the Western Petroleum convenience store at 120 S. 200 East on May 20, pointing a .22-caliber rifle at the clerk, and demanding money.

Horrocks was spotted about 20 minutes after the robbery by two police officers, who detained him and returned him to the convenience store. Investigators say the clerk and her husband both identified Horrocks as the man who'd held up the store.

Officers later recovered the barrel and action of a .22-caliber rifle from Horrocks' truck. They also said they found the stolen money during a search of Horrocks' home.

During Thursday's hearing,

Horrocks also entered guilty pleas to charges in two other unrelated cases. He pleaded guilty to felony theft for illegally using a company's gas card to charge over \$2,000 in fuel, and to misdemeanor theft for stealing money out of a wallet in January.

A sentencing hearing for all three cases has been scheduled for Oct. 23.

Cars hit trucks in two crashes

Utah Highway Patrol troopers handled two crashes last week involving cars striking tractor-trailer trucks.

The first crash happened on Wednesday at about 7:30 a.m. on state Road 45 seven miles south of Naples. Trooper Brett Gehring said 28-year-old Joseph Syddall of Eureka, Utah, was attempting to pass a semi-truck in his Plymouth Neon when another truck in front of him started to make a left turn.

Gehring said Syddall struck the left side of the second semi-truck, driven by 52-year-old Shirley Bruyner of Fruitland, and then continued into the path of

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Horrocks admitted on Thursday, walking up to the drive-in window of the Western Petroleum convenience store at S. 200 East on May 20, holding a .22-caliber rifle at the driver and demanding money.

Horrocks was spotted about 15 minutes after the robbery by police officers, who detained him and returned him to the convenience store. Investigators identified Horrocks as the man who'd held up the store.

Officers later recovered the rifle and action of a .22-caliber from Horrocks' truck. He also said they found the money during a search of Horrocks' home.

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Gehring said Syddall struck the left side of the second semi-truck, driven by 52-year-old Shirley Bruyner of Fruitland, and then continued into the path of

Bruyner's truck. Bruyner could not stop, the trooper said, and hit the car's passenger side.

Syddall's passenger, 25-year-old Brian Fuell, also of Eureka, was transported to Ashley Regional Medical Center with unknown injuries.

The second car vs. semi-truck crash occurred Friday afternoon between Bluebell and Altamont.

UHP Trooper Seth Spencer said 30-year-old Michael Moss of Alabama was turning onto 8100 West in a truck owned by BJ Field Services. The trooper said Moss failed to yield to 38-year-old Christy Mathisen, causing her Chevrolet Impala to strike the back of his trailer.

Mathisen suffered a possible broken foot in the crash and was transported to Uintah Basin Medical Center.

Citations are pending in both crashes.

Tribe to receive grant for \$400K

The Ute Indian Tribe will receive a share of the \$14.9 million in grants announced Thursday

by the U.S. Justice Department to help tribal police departments around the nation.

The tribe will receive \$399,724 to support its law enforcement efforts. The remainder of the money will go to 79 tribal police departments and governments in 21 other states. The money - awarded under the Tribal Resources Grant Program of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services - funds equipment purchases and helps with training.

The program has provided almost \$238 million to Native American law enforcement agencies since 1985.

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Public Safety Briefs

hearing was not available at press time Monday morning.

Mother pleads to child abuse

A Vernal woman has pleaded no contest to a single count of abuse or neglect of a disabled child.

Tiffany Manning, 27, entered the plea on Wednesday under an agreement with Uintah County prosecutors that saw the charge against her reduced from a third-degree felony to a class A misdemeanor. Manning's guilty plea will also be held in abeyance for two years, meaning the charge could be dismissed if she abides by the conditions of the agreement.

According to Vernal police, Manning and 23-year-old Eric Davis left four children alone at home on May 15 while they went shopping. The children were 9, 7, 5, and 2, police said.

During Manning and Davis' absence, police said the 5-year-old, who is deaf, fell from a second-story window. The girl sustained leg injuries, including a possible fracture of the growth plate.

Davis is also charged with third-degree felony abuse or neglect of a disabled child. He is due back in court on Aug. 11 for a hearing to discuss his attempts to hire an attorney.

To successfully complete her plea in abeyance agreement, Manning must pay a \$250 fee, complete a parenting class, and commit no new criminal offenses during the next two years.

Yvellez receives prison sentence

Christopher Vincent Yvellez – the 33-year-old man who pleaded guilty in April to sexually abusing a woman in her motel room – was sentenced to prison Thursday.

Eighth District Court Judge John R. Anderson ordered Yvellez to serve one to 15 years behind bars for his guilty plea to one second-degree felony count of forcible sex abuse.

According to Roosevelt Police Officer Karla Strebel, Yvellez was visiting a woman at the Western Hills Motel on Jan. 12. The woman told investigators that Yvellez put his hand down her pants and touched her without her consent.

Yvellez had sought to withdraw his guilty plea ahead of Thursday's hearing. In a motion filed Wednesday, Yvellez argued that his public defender had failed to adequately represent him and that he pleaded guilty to "avoid possible retribution from the prosecutor in being found guilty at trial."

"I did not intend to plead guilty, but only to concede that I had engaged in sexual activity with the victim and that she had said it was against her will," Yvellez said in the request to withdraw his guilty plea. "I have always maintained my innocence [sic] in this crime."

Anderson denied Yvellez's request to set aside his plea and ordered him to begin serving his prison sentence immediately.

Horrocks OK to stand trial

The man accused of robbing a Roosevelt convenience store at gunpoint in May is competent to stand trial, according to two psychologists who examined him.

Roger Duane Horrocks, 57, is charged with aggravated robbery, unlawfully possessing a firearm, and theft. Roosevelt police say Horrocks walked up to the drive-through window of the Western Petroleum convenience store at 120 S. 200 East on May 20, pointed a .22-caliber rifle at the clerk, and demanded money.

The clerk handed over the money in her till to Horrocks, police said. Horrocks was spotted about 20 minutes later by two officers, who detained him and returned him to the convenience store.

Investigators say the clerk and her husband both identified Horrocks as the man who'd held up the store.

Officers say they later recovered the barrel and action of a .22-caliber rifle from Horrocks' truck. They also say they found the stolen money during a search of Horrocks' home.

Horrocks' attorney, Stephanie Miya, had asked in June that her client be examined to determine whether he could assist in his own defense and whether he understood the difference between right and wrong at the time of the alleged offense.

Horrocks remains in the Duchesne County Jail.

Fine, probation for elk poacher

One of three men who pleaded guilty to poaching deer and elk on the Ute Indian Reservation in 2007 was sentenced in U.S. District Court last Monday.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul M. Warner ordered Brian Lloyd Craig to pay a \$1,500 fine and \$4,000 in restitution for his guilty pleas to two misdemeanor counts of transporting, receiving, and acquiring elk taken on the Ute Indian Reservation without a tribal hunting permit.

Craig, who lives on Lake Canyon Road in Duchesne County, was also ordered to serve 24 months on probation, undergo mental health treatment, and refrain from participating in hunting of any kind during his probation.

Warner also banned Craig from Ute tribal lands, except to access his own property.

According to court records, Craig and brothers Lonzo Louis Nielsen and Levi Warren Nielsen, were caught after a tip to the state Division of Wildlife Resources' Help Stop Poaching Hotline sent investigators to Craig's home. DWR Investigator Sean Davis received permission to enter the property where the home was located on Feb. 17, 2007, and said he saw three elk heads and two deer heads in plain view through a window.

Davis said a records search did not turn up a hunting permit for Lonzo Nielsen or Craig, who had been identified as the men who shot the animals.

Authorities returned with a search warrant on Feb. 18, 2007, and seized three elk heads and three deer heads. Two days later, officers served another search warrant on Craig's home and said they found animal blood, meat and hair in the root cellar.

Because the animals were killed on tribal land, Davis notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which joined the investigation. All three men were interviewed by state and federal wildlife officers, who said they were provided with additional information about the poaching incidents the men were suspected of committing.

Lonzo Nielsen, who pleaded guilty in March to two of the five misdemeanor counts against him, and Levi Nielsen, who also pleaded guilty to the sole misdemeanor count against him, were slated to be sentenced by Warner on Thursday. Information on that

Elderly woman causes rollover

Vernal police say an elderly woman caused a three vehicle crash on July 27 at the intersection of U.S. Highway 40 and 1500 West.

The 73-year-old woman, who was attempting to turn onto the highway from 1500 West, pulled into the path on an oncoming truck, said Vernal Police Lt. Dylan Rooks. The collision caused the truck to flip onto its roof in the middle of the highway.

Rooks said three people were sent to the hospital as a result of the crash, while the elderly driver was treated and released at the scene.

Rooks said the woman was issued a citation for failure to yield the right of way.

In last week's edition, the Uintah Basin Standard reported that the Utah Highway Patrol had not released information on the crash. UHP did not respond to the crash – although it was on U.S. 40 – because it occurred within the Vernal city limits.

Vernal Express

Mt. Home man pleads to federal gun charge

A Mountain Home man who fired an assault rifle from a moving vehicle while on his way to the Duchesne County Jail in February has pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Jason Daniel Cammans, 28, entered his guilty plea in front of U.S. District Court Judge Dee Benson last Monday in Salt Lake City.

Cammans was being driven to the jail by a friend on Feb. 13 to begin serving a six-month sentence for possession of a dangerous weapon by a restricted person. During the drive, Cammans pointed an AK-47 assault rifle out the window of his friend's SUV and began firing.

The incident, which occurred on U.S. Highway 40 about four miles west of Duchesne, was reported to Central Dispatch. Two sheriff's deputies in the area tried to pull the SUV over. The driver of the vehicle ultimately stopped in the parking lot of Al's Foodtown, where deputies took Cammans into custody.

Cammans had faced several felony and misdemeanor charges in 8th District Court as a result of the incident; however, the Duchesne County Attorney's Office dismissed those charges in March when Cammans was indicted by a federal grand jury.

Cammans is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 17. He faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Gonzalez may be deported for handgun possession

Pedro Banda Gonzalez - the man who authorities say fired a gun at another man during a dispute at the old Petroleum Downs racetrack last spring - will not serve anymore time in jail, under an order issued Wednesday by a U.S. District Court judge.

Instead Gonzalez, who has been behind bars since his arrest in March 2007, will be turned over to officials with the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation proceedings, Judge Ted Stewart said.

Stewart's order was issued during a sentencing hearing for Gonzalez. The 39-year-old

the school on lockdown.

Gonzalez was found hiding in the trees by a Utah Highway Patrol trooper and taken into custody without incident. He was initially charged in state court with attempted murder and possession of a firearm by a restricted person. Those charges were dismissed after a federal grand jury indicted Gonzalez in January.

At Wednesday's hearing, Stewart ordered Gonzalez to spend 36 months on federal probation if he is not deported. If Gonzalez is expelled from the U.S., Stewart said he is prohibited from re-entering the country illegally.

2 Roosevelt men waive hearing in robbery case

Two men accused of breaking into another man's home last month and robbing him at knifepoint waived their preliminary hearings on Thursday in Roosevelt's 8th District Court.

Herder Randolph Reyes, 25, and Marlon Recinos, 19, are each charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary, and three counts each of unlawful possession of a dangerous weapon. Reyes is also charged with intoxication, while Recinos faces one count of unlawful consumption of alcohol by a minor.

Waiving a preliminary hearing is common and is not an indication of guilt by a defendant. The hearing is held to determine whether there is probable cause to believe a crime occurred and whether probable cause exists to believe that prosecutors have charged the right person with the crime.

According to Roosevelt police, Recinos was detained after he was found running through a neighborhood near 500 E. 200 South at about 2:30 a.m. on June 8. Officers said Recinos could not provide an explanation for why he was running and appeared to be intoxicated.

While looking for another man seen running with Recinos, officers received a call that an armed robbery had occurred nearby. An officer responding to the robbery call encountered Reyes and stopped to talk to him.

Police said Reyes' clothing did not match the description of the robbery suspect. But investigators said the alleged victim

victim at knifepoint and stealing nearly \$420, police said.

Reyes and Recinos are scheduled to return to court on July 17 for status hearings. They remain in the Duchesne County Jail.

Visitor injured on monument day trip

A day-trip participant was injured Sunday, July 6, when he dove into the Green River while rafting through Dinosaur National Monument.

Dane Mariott, 30 of Vernal, had been rafting with friends when he stopped to swim at Adrift Beach in the Split Mountain Gorge.

The group noticed Mariott floating face-down and pulled him from the water. Serena Dennis, a monument employee, and Jim Linville, monument volunteer, working a short distance away responded to the groups calls for help.

Dennis, a wilderness first responder, and Linville, a Routt County emergency medical technician, revived and stabilized Mariott and transported him to an ambulance at the Split Mountain boat ramp.

Mariott was taken to Ashley Regional Medical Center and later airlifted to Salt Lake City for treatment of a broken neck.

Members of park river concessioners Outward Bound and Holiday along with Uintah County Sheriff's office and Gold Cross Ambulance Service also assisted National Park Service employees with the incident.

Ethics panel will begin investigation of Walker

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The House Ethics Committee has held its first meeting in an investigation of a complaint against Rep. Mark Walker.

The Sandy Republican is accused of making an improper - and possibly illegal - offer of a job and a raise to the state's chief deputy treasurer Richard Ellis as both sought the GOP nomination in a primary contest. Ellis thumped Walker 60 percent to 40 percent in the statewide election last week.

Committee co-chairman Rep. Todd Kiser, R-Sandy, said the committee would meet Monday, July 7, after press time. The

Vernal woman accused of having sex with teen

By Geoff Lusk

Uintah Basin News Service

A 22-year-old Vernal woman has been charged with two felonies for allegedly having sex with a 15-year-old boy in May.

Wendy White is charged with forcible sodomy, a first degree felony, and unlawful sexual activity with a minor, a third-degree felony.

Police became aware of the alleged contact between White and the teenager while investigating a theft complaint filed by the boy's mother, according to a probable cause statement filed Naples Police Sgt. Manny Escoto.

Escoto interviewed the alleged victim, who said he'd taken medication on May 21 that made him drowsy and he'd gone to bed. The boy said he awoke to find White having sex with him, the sergeant said.

"(He) woke up and told Wendy to get out of (his) room," Escoto said, adding that the teen's sister may have witnessed White entering the boy's room.

During an initial interview with police, White said she'd been drinking the night of the alleged incident and had entered the teen's room to talk to him, according to Escoto. The woman told investigators that the boy had asked her to have sex with him and she consented briefly.

"Wendy was crying and sobbing a lot when she was talking to me," Escoto wrote in his statement, noting that when he first contacted White she asked if she was going to be arrested. "Wendy's demeanor was [that] of a person who did something wrong and was trying to hide it."

Escoto talked with the alleged victim after speaking with White, and then brought White back in for a second interview. The sergeant said she admitted to having sex with the teen, but claimed that he was "a willing participant."

White was arrested and booked into the Uintah County Jail. She later posted \$10,000 bail and was released.

White is due to make her initial court appearance on July 14 before 8th District Court Judge John R. Anderson. She faces five years to life in prison if

and ammunition.
Jason Daniel Cammans, 28, entered his guilty plea in front of U.S. District Court Judge Dee Benson last Monday in Salt Lake City.

Cammans was being driven to the jail by a friend on Feb. 18 to begin serving a six-month sentence for possession of a dangerous weapon by a restricted person. During the drive, Cammans pointed an AK-47 assault rifle out the window of his friend's SUV and began firing.

The incident, which occurred on U.S. Highway 40 about four miles west of Duchesne, was reported to Central Dispatch. Two sheriff's deputies in the area tried to pull the SUV over. The driver of the vehicle ultimately stopped in the parking lot of Al's Roadtown, where deputies took Cammans into custody.

Cammans had faced several felony and misdemeanor charges in 8th District Court as a result of the incident; however, the Duchesne County Attorney's Office dismissed those charges in March when Cammans was indicted by a federal grand jury.

Cammans is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 17. He faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

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While looking for another man seen running with Recinos, officers received a call that an armed robbery had occurred nearby. An officer responding to the robbery call encountered Reyes and stopped to talk to him.

Police said Reyes' clothing did not match the description of the robbery suspect. But investigators said the alleged victim identified Reyes and Recinos as the men who robbed him. Officers later determined that Reyes had gone home and changed his clothes after holding the alleged

On March 14, 2007, Gonzalez and a \$250,000 fine. Possibility of 10 years in federal prison and a firearm. He faced the possibility of being an illegal alien in possession of the firearm. He pleaded guilty four months ago during a sentencing hearing for Stewart's order was issued. Ted Stewart said.

At Wednesday's hearing, Stewart ordered Gonzalez to spend 86 months on federal probation if he is not deported. If Gonzalez is expelled from the U.S., Stewart said he is prohibited from re-entering the country illegally.

2 Roosevelt men waive hearing in robbery case

Two men accused of breaking into another man's home last month and robbing him at knife point waived their preliminary hearings on Thursday in Roosevelt's 8th District Court.

Herder Randolph Reyes, 25, and Martin Recinos, 19, are each charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary, and three counts each of unlawful possession of a dangerous weapon. Reyes is also charged with intoxication, while Recinos faces one count of unlawful consumption of alcohol by a minor.

Waiting a preliminary hearing is common and is not an indication of guilt by a defendant. The County Sheriff's Office and Gold Cross Ambulance Service also assisted National Park Service employees with the incident.

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Committee co-chairman Rep. Todd Kiser, R-Sandy, said the committee would meet Monday, July 7, after press time. The meeting was open to the public. A bipartisan group of House lawmakers called for the ethics investigation.

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White was arrested and booked into the Utah County Jail. She later posted \$10,000 bail and was released.

White is due to make her initial court appearance on July 14 before 8th District Court Judge John R. Anderson. She faces five years to life in prison if convicted of the forcible sodomy charge and zero to five years in prison if convicted on the charge of unlawful sexual activity with a minor.

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Nude walker gets arrested

A Colorado man was arrested early Monday morning after sheriff's deputies said they found him walking naked along U.S. Highway 40 west of Vernal.

A passing motorist noticed the man at around 4:15 a.m. and called Central Dispatch. Uintah County Sheriff's deputies located the man moments later and confirmed that he had no clothes on.

Sheriff's Lt. John Laursen confirmed that 24-year-old Joseph Benjamin Sheffield of Austin, Colo., was arrested and booked into the Uintah County Jail on suspicion of indecent exposure and criminal trespass.

Laursen said the arresting deputy had not yet filed a report on the incident and was no longer on duty. The lieutenant did note that the call log indicated that Sheffield did not appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Tests ordered for Horrocks

A man accused of robbing a Roosevelt convenience store at gunpoint in May will undergo a competency evaluation to determine whether he can aid his attorney in presenting a defense.

Judge John R. Anderson ordered the evaluation for Roger Duane Horrocks on Thursday at the request of defense attorney Stephanie Miya.

Horrocks, 57, is charged with aggravated robbery, unlawfully possessing a firearm, and theft. Roosevelt police say Horrocks walked up to the drive-through window of the Western Petroleum convenience store at 120 S. 200 East on May 20, pointed a .22-caliber rifle at the clerk, and demanded money.

The clerk handed over the money in her till to Horrocks, police said. Horrocks was spotted about 20 minutes later by two officers, who detained him and returned him to the convenience store.

Investigators say the clerk and her husband both identified Horrocks as the man who'd held up the store.

Officers say they later recovered the barrel and action of a .22-caliber rifle from Horrocks' truck. They also say they found the stolen money during a search of Horrocks' home.

Horrocks remains in the Duchesne County Jail, where the competency evaluation will be conducted by a psychologist.

Teenager hit in crosswalk

A teenage boy was hit by a pickup truck late last month as he tried to cross U.S. Highway 40 at Lagoon Street, the Utah Highway Patrol said.

The accident occurred at about 8:15 p.m. on May 30, troopers said, as the boy was using the crosswalk to cross the

highway. Trooper Dustin Reiners said 23-year-old Rick Bastian of Roosevelt failed to yield to the teen, striking him with his 2003 Chevrolet pickup truck.

Bastian was issued a citation for failure to yield to a pedestrian.

The boy was transported to Uintah Basin Medical Center. Troopers did not release the boy's name because of his age. There was no information available on whether the teen suffered any injuries.

The crash was the second time in a month that a pedestrian has been struck at the intersection of U.S. 40 and Lagoon Street.

On May 11, Marie Wolfe was hit as she attempted to cross U.S. 40. Wolfe, 52, was dragged nearly 80 feet after being struck. The driver told troopers he was unaware Wolfe was pinned under his truck and he was simply trying to get out of the flow of traffic.

Wolfe suffered a crushed pelvis and multiple abrasions in the accident.

Dog call ends in DUI arrest

A Uintah County sheriff's deputy called to investigate a report of a vicious dog on the loose ended up arresting the dog's owner on suspicion of DUI.

Deputy Mike Kester was dispatched May 23 on the vicious dog complaint, but when he arrived at the location, he said he saw a car being driven cross-country in a new housing development. The car was splashing through mud puddles, turning sharply, jumping mounds of dirt and being chased by three dogs, the deputy said.

Kester was able to eventually stop the vehicle and said the driver, 34-year-old Sandra Hansen of Vernal, was operating the car while intoxicated.

The deputy said Hansen told him she was trying to catch her dogs that were running at large. She was arrested on suspicion of DUI and resisting arrest.

Drugs, knives found in sedan

A Utah County man is facing drug and weapons charges following a traffic stop in Roosevelt.

Roosevelt Police Officer Flint Williams stopped Seth Robert Brenner on June 1 at about 11 p.m. after he said the 21-year-old had trouble staying in his lane. Williams said when he approached Brenner's car he spotted several knives on the passenger seat.

The presence of the knives led Williams to have Brenner step out of the car. During a search for additional weapons, Williams said he found 12 balloons of suspected cocaine and 12 balloons of suspected heroin in Brenner's pockets.

Brenner, who was returning to work in Vernal at the time of his arrest, has been charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; illegal possession of a controlled substance; two counts of unlawful possession of a dangerous weapon; possession of drug paraphernalia; and driving with a measurable amount of a controlled substance in the body.

Brenner's bail was set at \$8,000 during a hearing last Monday. He is due back in court June 26 for a preliminary hear-

Sept 10, 2008 Vernal

Report: Utah's rape rate underestimates crime

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Sexual assaults in Utah, including rape, are being underreported, a new report says.

The Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice says that in a 2007 phone survey of more than 1,800 women, nearly 13 percent said they had been forcibly raped in their lifetimes. The commission says an additional 16 percent were sexually assaulted in other ways, such as child molestation, drug-facilitated rape and attempted rape.

But the survey says fewer than 12 percent of all sexual assaults were reported to police.

In a separate survey of victims of crimes committed in 2006, 25 percent of rape victims said they made a report to police.

"Campaigns exist all over to get people aware of (rape) and try to increase reporting," said Christine Mitchell, director of research for the commission.

Sex crimes were less likely to be reported than any other crimes in 2006, according to the crime-victimization study. Victims were more than twice as likely to report vandalism as they were to report rape.

Victims of rapes in 2006 gave several reasons for not reporting the crime to police, including dealing with the incident in another way, describing the incident as minor and believing police wouldn't be able to help. Others said they didn't report a rape because they know the perpetrator well.

The sensitive nature of sex crimes could skew even anonymous surveys, said Katie McMinn, violence-prevention specialist for the state health department. She said many victims are in denial or don't realize their experience qualifies as rape.

"When you say '25 percent,' that's still underreported," McMinn said.

Ex-hospital worker facing prescription drug charges

A former medical assistant at Uintah Basin Medical Center could face up to 80 felony charges, a Duchesne County sheriff's detective said Thursday, based on evidence that she forged multiple prescriptions for the painkiller Lortab.

Kathy R. Giles, 50, is suspected of forging up to 22 prescriptions, detective Dan Bruso said. Each prescription netted Giles an average of 90 pills, he said, and she used prescription pads belonging to two doctors to obtain the medication.

"She used three different people's names and used insurance on a few of those," the detective said, noting that Giles wasn't reselling the medication but was keeping it for her own personal use.

"She had a relationship with the pharmacy calling in other things," Bruso said.

Giles came to the attention of authorities after employees

three counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. She made an initial appearance on those charges last Tuesday and has been ordered to submit to drug testing while she's on pre-trial release from the Duchesne County Jail.

Bruso said he expected to review the possible additional charges with the Duchesne County Attorney's Office on Monday morning, after press time.

Federal charges filed in gun case

A Vernal man was indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury on two weapons charges.

David Joseph Merkley, 45, faces one count of possession of firearms by a convicted felon and possession of an unregistered sawed-off shotgun in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City.

The indictment stems from a March 31 visit to Merkley's home by his parole officer and a Vernal City police officer. According to the police officer's probable cause statement, Merkley was found in possession of three rifles, four swords, and a shotgun with the barrel and buttstock sawed-off.

The officer said Merkley told him he'd cut the shotgun down when he was a kid and "that it had been in his possession for years."

Merkley is facing state charges for weapons possession, but those are expected to be dismissed now that a federal indictment has been handed up. He faces up to 10 years in federal prison on each charge, if convicted.

A court date has not yet been scheduled in the case.

Vandals strike church house

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meeting house in Whiterocks sustained about \$8,000 in damage early Thursday morning after vandals smashed in windows and doors.

Whiterocks Branch President Alan Haslem said the glass in 13 windows and three doors was shattered.

"They started on the southwest door — of course it's a glass door — started there and went clear around the west side to the north side and broke all the windows out including the doors on the back," Haslem said.

He noted it was the second time the church had been vandalized.

Several years ago a man looking for "money or something" broke into the building. Haslem said when he couldn't find what he was looking for, the man put in the drain stoppers in the sinks and turned on the water. He also turned on the burners on the stove, melting the kitchen cabinets before leaving.

"It kind of made a mess," Haslem said, adding, "I hope this is an isolated thing."

The Uintah County Sheriff's Department is investigating the incident. Anyone with information is asked to call 789-2511.

Dale Merkley of Taylorsville.

Roberts was taken to Uintah Basin Medical Center for treatment. Troopers did not know the extent of his injuries. He was cited for failure to stop at a stop sign.

Merkley was not injured in the crash.

Justice courts added to state's Web system

The Administrative Office of the Courts has announced the addition of 40 justice courts to the Utah State Court's XChange service.

XChange is a database of court case information that is available publicly for a monthly fee.

The service provides case information — referred to as the court docket — and includes information such as when and what documents have been filed in the case, when and what hearings have been held or are scheduled in the case, when and what judgments have been entered in the case, and the outcome of completed cases.

Justice courts hear primarily class B and C misdemeanors, infractions, and small claims cases.

"With the addition of justice courts to the XChange service, court users have access to case information in one central location," said Utah State Court Administrator Dan Becker.

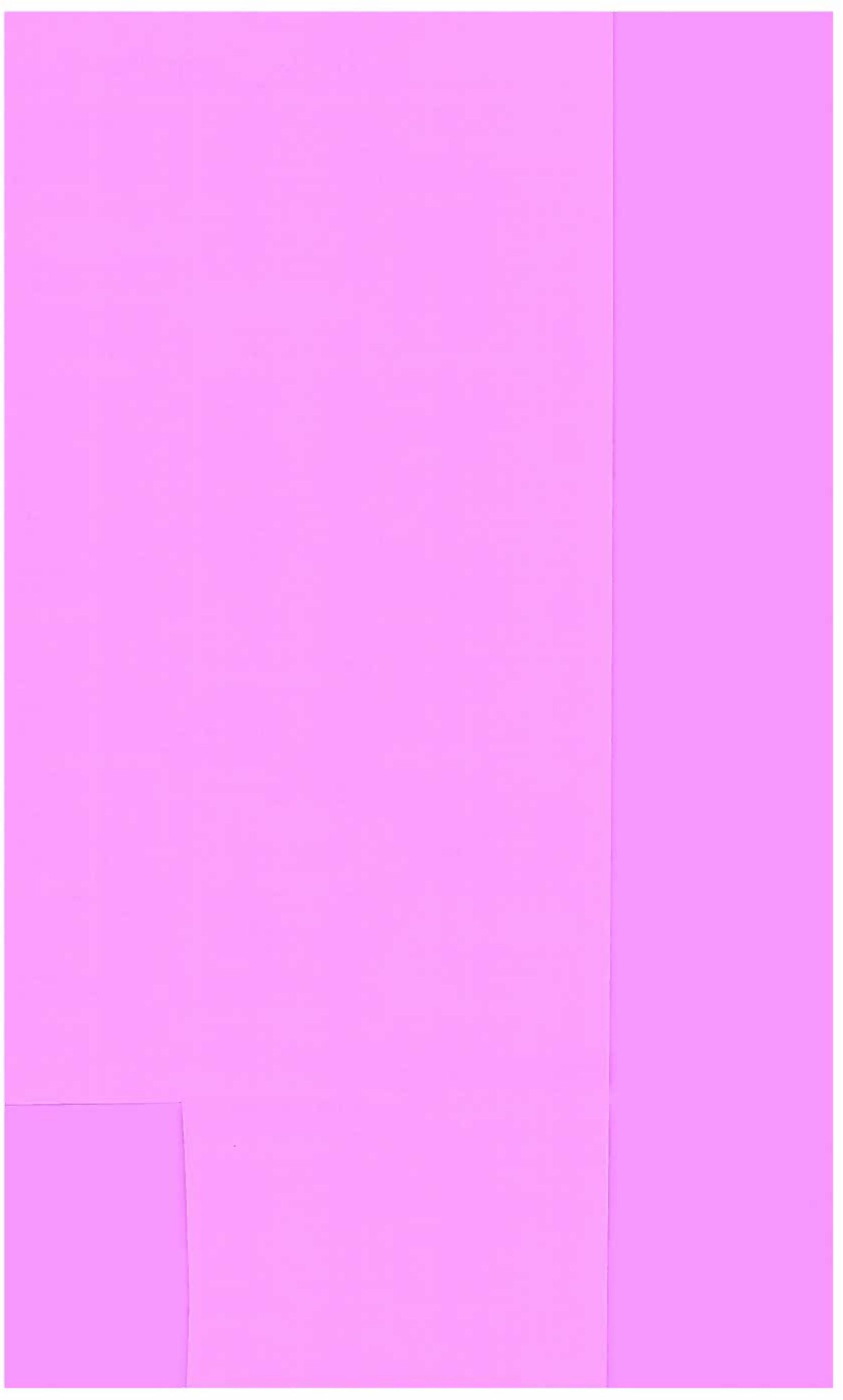
Prior to the database expansion, accessing justice court case information required individuals to contact each individual court.

The XChange database is used daily by government agencies, law enforcement, title companies, law firms, media outlets, and others to track the status of court cases. District court case information has been available through the service for more than 10 years.

During the 2008 legislative session, a law was enacted that requires all justice courts to use a common case management system by the year 2011. As each justice court converts to the common case management system, the XChange service will automatically add that court's case information.

Neither Duchesne nor Uintah counties justice courts are currently on the system.

For more information, visit www.utcourts.gov.



Sept 10, 2008 Vernal Ex

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Sex crimes were less likely to be reported than any other crimes in 2006, according to the crime-victimization study. Victims were more than twice as likely to report vandalism as they were to report rape.

Victims of rapes in 2006 gave several reasons for not reporting the crime to police, including dealing with the incident in another way, describing the incident as minor and believing police wouldn't be able to help. Others said they didn't report a rape because they know the perpetrator well.

The sensitive nature of sex crimes could skew even anonymous surveys, said Katie McMinn, violence-prevention specialist for the state health department. She said many victims are in denial or don't realize their experience qualifies as rape.

"When you say '25 percent,' that's still underreported," McMinn said.

Ex-hospital worker facing prescription drug charges

A former medical assistant at Uintah Basin Medical Center could face up to 80 felony charges, a Duchesne County sheriff's detective said Thursday, based on evidence that she forged multiple prescriptions for the painkiller Lortab.

Kathy R. Giles, 50, is suspected of forging up to 22 prescriptions, detective Dan Bruso said. Each prescription netted Giles an average of 90 pills, he said, and she used prescription pads belonging to two doctors to obtain the medication.

"She used three different people's names and used insurance on a few of those," the detective said, noting that Giles wasn't reselling the medication but was keeping it for her own personal use.

"She had a relationship with the pharmacy calling in other things," Bruso said.

Giles came to the attention of authorities after employees at the hospital's Duchesne Clinic contacted sheriff's deputy Monty Nuy to report their suspicions. Bruso said the investigation revealed that Giles had been forging prescriptions for about three months at the time she was caught.

Giles, who lives in Salt Lake City but is building a home in Hanna, has a prior conviction in 1990 in 3rd District Court for prescription forgery and attempted prescription forgery. She received a probation sentence in that case.

"She stated that she did have a problem 15 years ago," Bruso said. "Supposedly this was a relapse from 15 years ago."

Giles is currently charged with three counts of forgery and

three counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. She made an initial appearance on those charges last Tuesday and has been ordered to submit to drug testing while she's on pre-trial release from the Duchesne County Jail.

Bruso said he expected to review the possible additional charges with the Duchesne County Attorney's Office on Monday morning, after press time.

Federal charges filed in gun case

A Vernal man was indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury on two weapons charges.

David Joseph Merkley, 45, faces one count of possession of firearms by a convicted felon and possession of an unregistered sawed-off shotgun in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City.

The indictment stems from a March 31 visit to Merkley's home by his parole officer and a Vernal City police officer. According to the police officer's probable cause statement, Merkley was found in possession of three rifles, four swords, and a shotgun with the barrel and buttstock sawed-off.

The officer said Merkley told him he'd cut the shotgun down when he was a kid and "that it had been in his possession for years."

Merkley is facing state charges for weapons possession, but those are expected to be dismissed now that a federal indictment has been handed up. He faces up to 10 years in federal prison on each charge, if convicted.

A court date has not yet been scheduled in the case.

Vandals strike church house

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meeting house in Whiterocks sustained about \$8,000 in damage early Thursday morning after vandals smashed in windows and doors.

Whiterocks Branch President Alan Haslem said the glass in 13 windows and three doors was shattered.

"They started on the southwest door — of course it's a glass door — started there and went clear around the west side to the north side and broke all the windows cut including the doors on the back," Haslem said.

He noted it was the second time the church had been vandalized.

Several years ago a man looking for "money or something" broke into the building. Haslem said when he couldn't find what he was looking for, the man put in the drain stoppers in the sinks and turned on the water. He also turned on the burners on the stove, melting the kitchen cabinets before leaving.

"It kind of made a mess," Haslem said, adding, "I hope this is an isolated thing."

The Uintah County Sheriff's Department is investigating the incident. Anyone with information is asked to call 789-2511.

Driver injured in semi crash

A Roosevelt man was hospitalized Friday night after the Utah Highway Patrol said he failed to stop at a stop sign and pulled into the path of a tractor-trailer truck.

Tyler Louis Roberts, 24, was driving south on the Bridgeland Road at about 10:45 p.m., according to UHP Trooper Seth Spencer, when he didn't obey the stop sign at the junction with U.S. Highway 40. Spencer said Roberts' 2008 Chevrolet pickup truck was T-boned by a semi-truck being driven by 46-year-old

Dale Merkley of Taylorsville.

Roberts was taken to Uintah Basin Medical Center for treatment. Troopers did not know the extent of his injuries. He was cited for failure to stop at a stop sign.

Merkley was not injured in the crash.

Justice courts added to state's Web system

The Administrative Office of the Courts has announced the addition of 40 justice courts to the Utah State Court's XChange service.

XChange is a database of court case information that is available publicly for a monthly fee.

The service provides case information — referred to as the court docket — and includes information such as when and what documents have been filed in the case, when and what hearings have been held or are scheduled in the case, when and what judgments have been entered in the case, and the outcome of completed cases.

Justice courts hear primarily class B and C misdemeanors, infractions, and small claims cases.

"With the addition of justice courts to the XChange service, court users have access to case information in one central location," said Utah State Court Administrator Dan Becker.

Prior to the database expansion, accessing justice court case information required individuals to contact each individual court.

The XChange database is used daily by government agencies, law enforcement, title companies, law firms, media outlets, and others to track the status of court cases. District court case information has been available through the service for more than 10 years.

During the 2008 legislative session, a law was enacted that requires all justice courts to use a common case management system by the year 2011. As each justice court converts to the common case management system, the XChange service will automatically add that court's case information.

Neither Duchesne nor Uintah counties justice courts are currently on the system.

For more information, visit www.utcourts.gov.

UBS AUG 12, 2008

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Man pleads guilty to January assault

A Roosevelt man pleaded guilty to a third-degree felony aggravated assault charge on Thursday.

Rubyn Marzell Johnson, 40, was originally charged by Duchesne County prosecutors with second-degree felony aggravated assault for choking a woman during domestic dispute in February. He also faced three counts of domestic violence in the presence of a child and one count of witness tampering.

In exchanged for his guilty plea to the reduced charge, prosecutors agreed to dismiss the remaining charges against Johnson. They also agreed not to oppose any future effort by Johnson to have the felony assault charge reduced to a misdemeanor, should he successfully complete probation.

Duchesne County Attorney Stephen Foote said the deal was made because the victim did not want to proceed with the prosecution.

According to court records, Johnson and the victim got into an argument on Feb. 9. During the argument Johnson grabbed the woman by the throat and "continued to squeeze her neck" until she stopped moving, court papers state.

Roosevelt Police Officer Karla Strebel said when she interviewed the woman in the emergency room at Uintah Basin Medical Center, the victim told her she was "deeply afraid" of what Johnson would do if she reported the abuse. The woman said she only went to the hospital because she'd begun having difficulty breathing.

Johnson is scheduled to return to court on Oct. 2 for sentencing.

Child pornography case headed to trial

A Vernal man was bound over for trial on Thursday following a preliminary hearing on charges that he had images of child pornography on his computer.

Jon E. Morrin, 31, is charged with five counts of sexual exploitation of a minor, all second-degree felonies.

According to a probable cause statement filed at the time of his arrest, Morrin took his computer to a repair shop and the technician found what he believed were depictions of child pornography. The technician contacted Vernal police, who seized the computer.

After obtaining a search warrant, Vernal Police Detective Ammon Manning said he went through the computer files on Morrin's computer and located more than a dozen photographs that appeared to be child pornography.

Manning said during a subsequent interview, Morrin said he downloaded the images from a file-sharing Web site.

"Morrin stated that he had not intentionally downloaded

these photographs, but that he knew he had," Manning wrote in the probable cause statement. "Morrin advised that he normally just deletes the ones that are child pornography, although he had not deleted the ones that I observed."

A status hearing is scheduled for Sept. 2. Morrin remains free on bond.

DCSO seeks man following crash

The Duchesne County Sheriff's Office is looking for Anthony Alvarado, aka Jason Sloan, for questioning in a traffic accident Friday on Old River Road in the Utah area.

Witnesses reported seeing a man dressed in black, running north from the vehicle. The man was spotted 2 miles north of Duchesne, but when officers approached, he fled.

Investigators have classified Alvarado as a person of interest in their investigation into the crash.

Alvarado, is described as 5 foot 9 inches tall, 190 pounds, with hazel eyes and short brown



Anthony Alvarado

hair.

Anyone with information about Alvarado is asked to call the sheriff's office at 738-2015 or Central Dispatch at 738-2424.

Charges filed in golf course theft

A 19-year-old Roosevelt man is facing felony charges and two boys have been referred to juvenile court after police say they burglarized a building at the Roosevelt City golf course, stealing a golf cart and clubs.

Johnathon Youtau Brown was charged Thursday with burglary and theft, both third-degree felonies.

Roosevelt Police Officer Pete Butcher said Brown and two juveniles broke into a golf course outbuilding on July 29 and stole the golf cart and \$2,500 in clubs. The cart was later recovered in a field near Roosevelt Junior High School, Butcher said.

Using surveillance video from the golf course, Butcher said officers were able to identify three suspects. Butcher said after investigators interviewed Brown and the other two boys they recovered the stolen clubs.

"They were very cooperative throughout the whole investigation," the officer said.

Brown is due to make his first court appearance on Aug. 21.

Woman gets jail for sex with boy

Geoff Lacey

Uintah Basin Standard

A 23-year-old Vernal woman is headed to jail for having sex with a 15-year-old boy last year.

Wendy White pleaded guilty in December to unlawful sexual activity with a minor, a third-degree felony. She was sentenced last Tuesday to serve 30 days in the Uintah County Jail after 8th District Court Judge John R. Anderson suspended a 0-to-5 year prison term.

Anderson also ordered White to pay a \$1,250 fine, serve three years on probation under the supervision of Adult Probation and Parole, and complete any recommended counseling. She must pay for any counseling required by her victim as well.

In May 2008, Naples police became aware of the contact between White and the teenager while investigating a theft complaint filed by the boy's mother. The boy told investigators he'd taken medication that made him drowsy and he'd gone to bed.

He said he awoke to find White having sex with him, according to court records.

During an initial interview with police, White said she'd been drinking the night of the incident and had entered the teen's room to talk to him, authorities said. She also told investigators that the boy asked her to have sex with him and she consented briefly, court records state.

White was ordered to report to the Uintah County Jail to begin serving her sentence by Monday, May 11.

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court appearance

A 33-year-old woman charged with second-degree felony manslaughter in the death of a toddler made her initial appearance Thursday in 8th District Court.

Nicole Annette Rodrigues is also charged with misdemeanor counts of failure to remain at the scene of an accident that resulted in a death and allowing an unlicensed person to drive.

According to police and prosecutors, Rodrigues allowed her 14-year-old daughter to drive the family's new SUV on May 15. The teenager hit and killed 22-month-old Franchesca Isabel Montes, according to court records, as she pulled forward out of the driveway of the little girl's home.

Police said Rodrigues left her daughter with the dying toddler and fled the scene.

Montes was taken to Uintah Basin Medical Center by family members. She died at the hospital.

Rodrigues, who is also facing an unrelated felony drug charge following an April 29 arrest, is due back in court on July 10 to determine whether she has retained an attorney or will need one appointed to represent her.

Prosecutors have charged Rodrigues' daughter, whom they are not identifying because of her age, with manslaughter and operating a vehicle as an underage person. The girl is due to be arraigned Wednesday in juvenile court.

Police recover 'Officer Larry'

Officer Larry - the dummy used by the Roosevelt Police Department in an attempt to slow down traffic - is back on duty after spending nearly two months in the hands of juveniles.

Roosevelt Police Chief Rick Harrison said officer Henry McKenna was able to get two juveniles to come forward late last month with information about the missing mannequin's whereabouts. Larry was stolen after the window of his police cruiser was broken out in March as it sat along U.S. Highway 40.

The chief said the juveniles agreed to return the dummy if police promised not to seek charges against them.

"They said they didn't do it, but they'd pay for the window and get him back to us if we didn't charge them," he said. "We don't have any evidence (against the juveniles), just the fact that they knew where he was and they're

Harrison said during his captivity, Larry was shot numerous times with a shotgun by a third juvenile.

"He's a little bit holier now than he was," the chief said. "He's still usable, he's just not very pretty."

Harrison said the juveniles have agreed to pay for a new Larry; however, he noted that replacing the latex lawman with an identical model would be expensive - he's an old CPR dummy - so the department will likely purchase a cheaper dummy that's manufactured for target practice.

Pair charged in armed robbery

Two men have been charged with breaking into another man's home and robbing him at knifepoint.

Herder Randolph Reyes, 25, and Marlon Recinos, 19, are each charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary, and three counts each of unlawful possession a dangerous weapon. Reyes is also charged with intoxication, while Recinos faces one count of unlawful consumption of alcohol by a minor.

Roosevelt Police Chief Rick Harrison said officer Flint Williams was driving along 500 East near 200 South at about 2:30 a.m. on June 8 when he saw two individuals running through the neighborhood. Harrison said Williams attempted to stop the men and was able to detain Recinos.

"He didn't have a very good reason for running, but he was drinking and he was under age, so he was arrested," Harrison said.

Williams was still patrolling the neighborhood looking for the other man, later identified as Reyes, when officers received a call of an armed robbery that had occurred nearby, Harrison said. The chief said another officer responding to the call encountered Reyes and stopped to talk to him.

"His clothing didn't match the description of the robbery

suspect's clothing]," Harrison said. "So he let him go."

Officers interviewed the alleged victim, who identified Reyes as one of the men who had robbed him. Harrison said the two men had worked together in the past.

Investigators went back out looking for Reyes and located him a short time later. Harrison said officers determined that Reyes had gone home and changed his clothes after holding the alleged victim at knifepoint and stealing nearly \$420. Reyes still had the

money on him at the time of his arrest, the chief said.

Reyes and Recinos each made their initial court appearances last Monday in 8th District Court in Duchesne. Their preliminary hearings are slated for July 3.

Harrison said the alleged victim told officers that Reyes and Recinos told him they had a gun. He said investigators believe Reyes may have hidden briefly in a nearby gulch following the robbery and could have stashed a weapon there.

Reyes' roommates told police

June 17, 2008

Sept 17, 2008

Vernal E

Man enters pleas to reduced counts

A Salt Lake City man stopped outside Duchesne in January after a sheriff's deputy said he was driving erratically pleaded guilty last Monday to five of the 26 charges against him.

Brian Wayne Shipman, 34, pleaded guilty to one count each of possession of a controlled substance inside a correctional facility; possession of a forged writing or device; forging or falsifying a license, special plate or permit; unlawful acquisition, possession or transfer of a financial card; and possession of another's ID. The charges are all felonies.

In exchange for his plea, prosecutors agreed to dismiss the remaining charges against Shipman.

On Jan. 24, Duchesne County Sheriff's Deputy Carl Reilley stopped Shipman after he said he saw him swerve out of his lane while driving on U.S. Highway 40. A routine records check revealed that Shipman had an outstanding Board of Pardons warrant and was listed as armed and dangerous.

Shipman was taken into custody without incident. During a search of his car, deputies said they located several forged documents and identification belonging to another person. Corrections officers also found methamphetamines concealed on Shipman's body during a search at the Duchesne County Jail, Reilley said.

Shipman's case was delayed for several months while Duchesne County prosecutors waited to see if the U.S. Attorney's Office would seek a federal grand jury indictment. Duchesne County Attorney Stephen Foote later decided not to recommend federal prosecution.

A sentencing date has been set for Oct. 20. Shipman remains in jail and is awaiting sentencing on charges in 3rd District Court in Salt Lake City on an unrelated case.

Underage driver hits power pole

A 14-year-old Ballard boy hit a power pole next to his home on Thursday with his parents' car, Roosevelt police said.

Sgt. Jeremy Chapman said the teen got behind the wheel with two toddlers in the car in an effort to occupy the children, who were his nephews. The boy was going to pull around the side of his family's home, the sergeant said, but mistakenly hit the gas pedal instead of the brake pedal, striking a power pole.

The 2:25 p.m. collision caused the power line to fall across the road at 911 North 1500 East. Moon Lake Electric crews were called out to repair the line.

Chapman said the teen would not be cited and would not be referred to juvenile court because the incident occurred on private property. No one was injured in the crash.

Vernal mom dies in Salina rollover

A Vernal mother was killed in a rollover near Salina on Wednesday. But her two young sons, who were secured in their child seats, survived with only minor injuries.

Just before 11:30 p.m., Edith Morrison was in a car traveling on Interstate 70 about 20 miles outside of Salina when she drifted off the side of the road, said Utah Highway Patrol trooper Cameron Roden.

The car rolled when she overcorrected. Morrison, who was not wearing a seat belt, was ejected and killed. Her two sons, ages 1 and 3, were taken to a local hospital as a precaution and released a short time later to family members in good condition.

The cause of the crash is being investigated.

Davis faces new charges over alleged jail incidents

Casey S. Davis - the 18-year-old Vernal man already facing an aggravated robbery charge stemming from a May 30 incident at Wal-Mart - has been hit with new charges after he allegedly assaulted an inmate and two corrections deputies at the Uintah County Jail.

According to one of two probable cause statements filed in 8th District Court last week, Davis walked up behind another inmate in his cellblock on Sept. 7 and grabbed the man around the waist with one hand while grasping the man's genitals in the other hand. The inmate was able to fight off Davis and summon deputies to remove Davis from the housing unit.

Prosecutors have charged Davis with sexual battery, a class A misdemeanor, in connection with the alleged assault. Davis is also charged with two third-degree felony counts of assault by a prisoner for his alleged attack on two corrections deputies prior to the cellblock incident.

In the second probable cause statement filed last week, deputies said that on Sept. 6 they removed Davis from his housing unit after several inmates

complained that he had been "harassing them by constantly touching them and yelling at them."

Deputies said they attempted to address the complaints with Davis but noticed that "his personality and demeanor had changed dramatically from what it normally is."

"We questioned Davis about his mental state and he told us he that he was trying to decide whether or not to go to prison or leave in a pine box," the probable cause statement said.

Deputies said they decided that Davis should be moved to an isolation cell where they could better monitor him, for his own safety. They also contacted a counselor with Northeastern Counseling Center and asked her to meet with Davis.

While waiting for the counselor to arrive, deputies said Davis began hitting his head on the wall of the isolation cell. Deputies entered the cell to prevent Davis from injuring himself and said he was "thrashing around" on the floor, kicking one deputy several times and attempting to bite another deputy before they could restrain him.

Davis is being held in jail on charges of aggravated robbery, assault, disorderly conduct, retail theft, criminal mischief, assault by a prisoner, interfering with an arresting officer, and disorderly conduct.

Court records state that Davis walked into Wal-Mart on May 30 and started grabbing merchandise and screaming at customers. He then walked out of the store with the merchandise, without paying for it, and began opening it with a pocket knife.

Davis was confronted by Wal-Mart security and told them he was going back into the store to take more merchandise, witnesses told police. One employee told police he tackled Davis, who allegedly continued to punch and kick the employees and customers trying to restrain him.

After being booked into the Uintah County Jail, Davis allegedly kicked a sheriff's deputy and attempted to strike other officers. The deputy used his Taser to subdue Davis and place him in the jail's restraint chair.

The cases against Davis related to the May incident have been put on hold while mental health professionals determine whether he is competent to stand trial. A competency hearing in those cases is scheduled for Sept. 30.

Davis was scheduled to make his initial appearance on the new charges against him on Monday, after press time. He remains in the Uintah County Jail.

Public Safety Briefs

Attempted murder charged in Vernal baseball bat attack

Prosecutors have filed an attempted murder charge against one of three individuals involved in the Jan. 8 baseball bat beating of an 18-year-old man.

Juan Enrique Morales, 23, also faces charges of tampering with evidence and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

According to court records, Morales told police he was at a Vernal convenience store with two teenage brothers when a group of at least six men began yelling obscenities at them and making obscene hand gestures. Investigators said Morales told one of the teens to retrieve an aluminum bat that he kept "for protection" in the bed of his pickup truck.

When the other vehicle left the convenience store, police said Morales and the two teens followed it to a nearby business and allegedly confronted Richard Oldson. One of the teens - a 16-year-old - used the bat to strike Oldson twice in the head, according to authorities.

The other youth, who is 14, told investigators that when his brother hit Oldson the second time it was "like someone shot him in the face, he just dropped and started twitching on the ground."

Oldson was taken to Ashley Regional Medical Center where he was diagnosed with a potential brain injury, court records state. He was later flown to a Salt Lake City hospital after doctors found bleeding inside his skull.

An update on Oldson's condition was not immediately available last week.

Police said Morales took the teens to his Jensen home after the alleged assault, where they say he hid the bat behind a washer and dryer.

Both teens are in being held in the Split Mountain Youth Detention Center in Vernal. The 16-year-old could face charges as an adult; however, Uintah County prosecutors are waiting on final reports from law enforcement before they determine what charges will be filed.

Morales made his initial court appearance last Tuesday morning. He remains in the Uintah County Jail and will be back in court Wednesday for a bail hearing.

Suspected burglar nabbed through tip

Roosevelt police say they've solved a series of business burglaries based on information from two witnesses.

Police Chief Rick Harrison said two men saw someone breaking into Dan's Tire Service on U.S. Highway 40 last Tuesday night. The men were able to get a license plate on the suspect's vehicle and called Central Dispatch.

Officers, having already been alerted to burglaries at several other area businesses last Tuesday night, saturated the area looking for the vehicle. Harrison said they eventually made contact with the driver of the SUV, Michael Hardinger of Roosevelt.

Hardinger, 19, was detained for questioning.

After detectives interviewed Hardinger, Harrison said they believe he burglarized:

- the Altell Wireless store in Roosevelt on two occasions in December;
- Dan's Tire and Big O Tire on Jan. 7;
- Palmer's American Car Care Center on Jan. 9;
- Shade's Frontier Diesel on Jan. 12; and
- Big O Tire, Dan's Tire, Curves of Roosevelt, Palmer's, and Ultimate Accessories on Jan. 13.

Police have recovered most of the merchandise and cash taken from the businesses.

Hardinger was booked into the Duchesne County Jail.

Vernal woman waives hearing on sex charges

A Vernal woman accused of having sex with a teenage boy waived her right to a preliminary hearing Wednesday.

Jamey Bolerjack entered not guilty pleas to 14 felony counts of unlawful sexual conduct with a 16 or 17-year-old.

According to court records, the alleged misconduct was reported to the Uintah County Sheriff's Department by a friend of Bolerjack's who told investigators that the 33-year-old had asked her for "assistance in covering up these sexual encounters by providing alibis" to Bolerjack's husband.

A sheriff's detective said he interviewed a 16-year-old boy who told him that Bolerjack sent him sexually explicit text messages and that he sneaked out of his house at night so the two could have sex. The detective said the teen told him the alleged sexual activity began in February 2008 and ended in mid-June 2008.

Authorities also located a second teen who told them Bolerjack had sent him explicit text messages as well. The boy told investigators he and Bolerjack were supposed to meet in late June to have sex, but the teen was unable to make the rendezvous because of work.

Defendants frequently waive their preliminary hearing, given the low threshold of proof required for a judge to determine that probable cause exists to believe a crime was committed and probable cause that prosecutors have charged the right person.

The decision to waive a preliminary hearing is not considered an admission of guilt.

Bolerjack is due back in court on March 10.

Police: Workman had sold to an undercover informant

A former Vernal man arrested earlier this month after a Duchesne County sheriff's deputy allegedly discovered several pounds of marijuana concealed in his SUV had sold drugs in the past to an undercover informant, according to court records.

Christopher N. Workman, 25, was stopped on U.S. Highway 40 west of Duchesne by deputy Jared Harrison on Jan. 6. Harrison said Workman's SUV did not have license plates.

After arresting Workman on two outstanding warrants, Harrison and Utah Highway Patrol Trooper Matt Pratt searched his vehicle and allegedly found suspected marijuana and suspected hallucinogenic mushrooms.

A probable cause statement filed to obtain one of the warrants Workman was arrested on indicates that in 2006 he sold marijuana to an informant working with the Uintah Basin Narcotics Strike Force.

Vernal police detective Vance Norton, in the probable cause statement, said strike force agents provided an informant with money to buy marijuana from Workman in November 2006. That individual then made contact with Workman, buying drugs from him as officers watched, Norton said.

Workman has been bailed out of jail on the new charges against him and the warrants. He is due back in court in Duchesne on Feb. 12 to discuss his efforts to hire an attorney. He is also slated to make an initial appearance in Vernal on Jan. 26 on the charge contained in the warrant.



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Public Safety Briefs

Felter guilty in shooting

Daniel W. Felter, the Duchesne County man who fired several shots at a neighbor on Jan. 5, pleaded guilty last Monday in 8th District Court to reduced charges.

In a plea agreement with prosecutors, Felter pleaded guilty to third-degree felony aggravated assault, class A misdemeanor criminal mischief, and class A misdemeanor attempted tampering with evidence. He had originally been charged with attempted murder and criminal mischief, both second-degree felonies, and discharging a firearm from a highway and tampering with evidence, both third-degree felonies.

The discharging a firearm from a highway charge was dismissed as part of the deal with prosecutors.

Felter, 39, admitted to firing a shotgun multiple times at a 26-year-old neighbor as the man drove past Felter's home. None of the rounds struck the man, but the shotgun pellets did damage his truck. Felter also told 8th District Court Judge A. Lynn Payne that he tried to hide the shotgun from investigators after the shooting.

A Duchesne County Sheriff's detective said Felter and the victim had an ongoing personal dispute, but declined to talk about specifics. In past court hearings, Felter's attorney said his client shot at the victim because he was distraught after learning that his wife was having an affair with the man.

Payne ordered Felter to submit to an Adult Probation and Parole presentence investigation. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for July 21.

Crash injures brother, sister

Two Colorado teens were injured last Tuesday night after their car went off the road in Uintah County and went airborne.

The Utah Highway Patrol said the 17-year-old driver and her 14-year-old brother, both from Rangely, Colo., were in a 2003 Pontiac sedan driving east on U.S. Highway 40 at about 8:15 p.m. when the crash occurred.

Trooper Dave Swenson said the driver went off the right side of the road and struck a gully, sending the car hurtling through the air. When the car hit the ground it somersaulted end over end before coming to rest. Swenson said neither teen was wearing a seat belt.

Firefighters were called out to extricate the pair from the car. The two teens were taken by ambulance to Ashley Regional Medical Center, and the girl was later flown to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colo.

The boy was released from ARMC a short time later and returned to Colorado. The girl was listed in stable condition at St. Mary's on Friday, according to the UHP. Doctors had initially feared she was paralyzed, but a UHP spokesman said the girl was "doing well."

The reason why the driver went off the road remains under investigation.

Bomb threat closes DLD

The state driver license division office in Roosevelt was closed for about an hour Friday after someone phoned in a bomb threat.

Roosevelt Reserve Police Officer Travis Tucker said a phone call was made to the office at 1:20 p.m. The caller, whom police believe to be an adult male, based on the voice, said there was a bomb in the office and then hung up.

Tucker said the building was evacuated while officers conducted a thorough search. Employees were allowed to return to work after the search yielded no evidence of an explosive device.

The case remains under investigation.

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