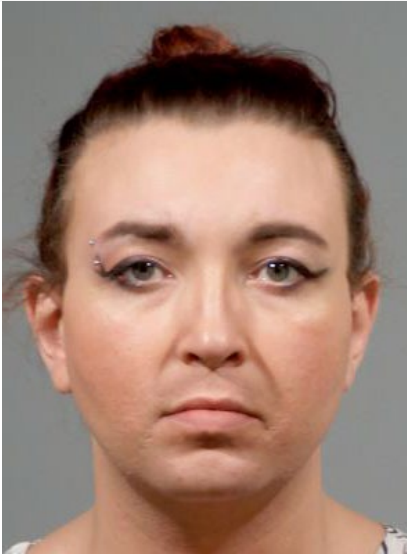


Rape defendant gets 25-to-life term

A Girard man was given a 25-year to life prison sentence on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, after he was found guilty by a Trumbull County jury last month on three of the four charges involving the sexual assault of a then 9-year-old girl at a Warren home.



Shane Newton, 32, of Louise Lane in Girard, who is transitioning to a female, was also labeled a Tier 3 sexual offender by Judge Andrew D. Logan. Newton will first have a chance at parole after serving 25 years in prison. If he is released from prison, Newton will then have to register with the sheriff's office four times per year for the rest of his life.

After deliberating eight hours to complete the three-day trial in mid-June, the jurors returned guilty verdicts on both gross sexual imposition charges, and on one count of rape. The panel returned one not guilty verdict on a second rape count.

Assistant Prosecutor Diane Barber called five witnesses to the stand, including the victim who is now 11 and lives in Texas with her paternal grandmother. The victim told of the abuse which took place at a Belle Street home sometime between March and June in 2021.

Also testifying for the state were representatives of the Trumbull County Children Services and the Children Advocacy Center in Boardman, who told jurors about their interviews and examinations with the victim. A nurse practitioner with the CAC told that an physical exam showed positive evidence of abuse. The defendant took the stand in his own defense, denying the accusations.

In other cases handled by Judge Logan on July 11:

- Kristopher Wayne Reyes Bullard, 31, formerly of Woodstock, Va., pleaded guilty to counts of assault of a peace officer and attempted intimidation, both fourth-degree felonies, and Judge Logan sentenced him to 12 months in state prison. The case stemmed from an April 4, 2023 incident when a Liberty police officer was called to the area of Liberty Plaza in reference to a man who had threatened an Alliance man. The suspect, identified as Bullard, had a warrant out of Warren for a felonious assault charge and out of Boardman for domestic violence. The two men had been in an argument and Bullard had attacked the other man by hitting and clawing at him, the police report states. Bullard was last seen running down Belmont Avenue. About a half hour later, the report states, Bullard was found hiding behind the Wal-Mart in the plaza. When Bullard resisted, other officers – including the police dog – were called to the scene. When Bullard threatened the dog named Leo, the officer was released and latched onto Bullard’s left hip. The man then grabbed the dog’s collar and pivoted, the report states, trying to choke the dog. The man repeatedly refused to obey officers’ comments and kept going for the dog’s throat area before Bullard was physically taken under control. As Bullard was being taken to a hospital, the man continued to resist stating he would kill the officers’ family.
- A 27-year-old Warren man received a 24-month prison term after appearing for a probation violation hearing. Joshua Davis of Roberts Avenue NW, was sentenced in August 2021 to probation for a third-degree robbery conviction. Probation officers told Judge Logan this was Davis’ third violation of his community control. He also owed more than \$100 in restitution for the Jan. 7, 2021, incident that occurred in Warren Township.

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