



PHOTOS BY SUSAN DELAIRE/The East County Journal

Charles G. Holmes, 54, of Winlock, appeared in custody before Superior Court Judge Joely O'Rourke on March 5. Holmes and Michelle Rothschiller are two of four co-defendants in an alleged burglary in Ethel in February.



Michelle L. Rothschiller, 37, of Marysville appeared in custody in Superior Court on March 5.

Judge persuades defendant not to represent himself

BY SUSAN DELAIRE
The East County Journal

Charles G. Holmes, 54, Winlock, appeared in custody before Superior Court Judge Joely O'Rourke on March 5. Holmes is one of four co-defendants in the alleged Ethel home-invasion burglary which occurred on Feb. 16.

After his attorney David Acuri said that his client wanted to address the court, Holmes said he would like to represent himself.

"I feel, um, that I'm not being represented the way I should be," Holmes said, adding he'd been in custody "too long" and didn't know what was going on with his case.

O'Rourke asked Holmes if he didn't know what was going on, how did he intend to represent himself? Holmes stated he'd like to be released to investigate his case, adding he was being held on "excessive bail."

"I feel my rights are being violated," he said.

O'Rourke explained his bail was based on the charges against him and asked how his rights were being violated, to which Holmes replied he wasn't sure. He said

he'd only had one conversation with Acuri and doesn't know what the state wants.

"The media blasted it out there," he continued, making me "to be some monster that I'm not."

"You're looking at some very serious charges," O'Rourke said. "I highly recommend you be represented by counsel."

The judge went on to explain Holmes' bail, set a \$1 million, was high due to the four charges against him, and reviewed the charges of Burglary in the First Degree, two counts of Robbery in the first Degree and Theft in the Second Degree with him, all allegedly committed with a deadly weapon, according to court documents.

According to information from the Lewis County Prosecutor's Office, the Lewis County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call for the 100 block of Oyler Road in the morning of Feb. 16. Information states the 911 call was made on an open line and a male voice could be heard making threats that included, "Are the drugs worth your life?" and "This is your last chance."

The information states

Holmes and another man, Sambath Loeng, 41, Kent, both entered the building of another with intent to commit a crime, "armed with a deadly weapon."

Holmes pleaded not guilty to the charges on Feb. 27.

It's a complicated case, a big case, O'Rourke continued, and noted it was not going to be done overnight.

"You wouldn't want it to be," she added. "I'm certainly not going to release you."

The judge asked Holmes if he wanted to change his mind about representing himself, to which Holmes said ok.

Trial was set for April 13.

Co-defendant Michelle L. Rothschiller, 37, Marysville also appeared in O'Rourke's courtroom on March 5, represented by Chris Baum.

Rothschiller is charged with Burglary in the First Degree, two counts of Robbery in the first Degree and Theft in the Second Degree in the alleged crime. She too pleaded not guilty to the charges in Superior Court on Feb. 27.

There is an active arrest warrant for Loeng's arrest.

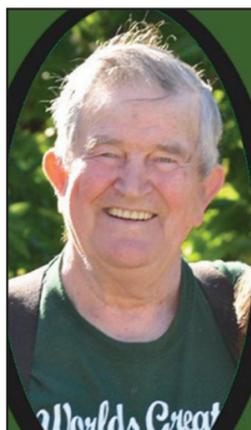
OBITUARIES

Morris Dean Coleman

Morris Dean Coleman was born April 23, 1931, in Glenoma, Wash., to Shade and Lilly (Vernon) Coleman. He passed away Feb. 25, 2020, in Centralia, Wash., after battling dementia for several years.

Morris was an avid fisherman and hunter. He enjoyed being in the outdoors with family and friends, and he was always ready for a lively game of cribbage. In 1951, he married Sharon Hefty. Their marriage was blessed with seven children. Sharon passed away in 1995.

Morris worked for many years as a logger in the woods around Morton. In September of 1978, Morris was named Fire Chief of the Morton Fire Department. He was especially proud of his service as Fire Chief when Mount St. Helens



erupted May 18, 1980, and he was able to help his community through that tragedy. In 1996, Morris met and married Verna Bamford. He then acquired three stepchildren and their families.

Morris is survived by sons, Kevin (Rhonda), Gordon (Sheryl), Keith (Lynn) and Sean (Becky); daughters, MaryEllen (Travis) Holman and Amy (Rob) Hazen; and

many, many grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by Sharon; his parents; two brothers; three sisters; son, Bruce (Cheryl Shondel); and daughter-in-law Becky, (Kevin).

Morris always had a special spot in his heart for children and youth, and they returned the sentiments to him. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Morton Fire Department Scholarship Fund as a way to help our community's youth.

Please mail your contribution to Lewis County District 4 Association Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 926, Morton, WA 98356. A memorial gathering will be held Saturday, March 28, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Morton Senior Center.

Ronald Q. Chapman

Ronald Q Chapman was born June 10th 1952, to Irene and Fred Chapman (both deceased). He is survived by his sons Ron and Chris, granddaughter Mecacla Chapman and sister Sue Mead.

Ron was preceded in death by his loving wife Cheryl to whom he had



been married to since January 1971. Cheryl passed away in August 2009.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at the Morton Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care of Cattemole Funeral Home, Winlock.

Donald (Donnie) Eugene Lester

Donald (Donnie) Eugene Lester, 70, was born March 20, 1949. On the 22nd day of February 2020 Donnie passed away and went home to be with our Lord Jesus Christ. He will be missed dearly by his family and many friends. He leaves behind his sister, Vernie Cheney and Deanna Lester along with his son, Rick Lester and family



ter Brandy Jo and several step sons: John, Jack, Mike, Shane and Scott along with several cousins, nephews and nieces. He was a log truck driver all his life before he retired.

There will be a memorial service at Family Worship Center in Randle, WA on March 21st, 2020 at noon with a potluck to follow.

in Florida. Donnie also leaves behind a daughter

POLICE

Morton March 6

An officer responded at 3:59 a.m. to a report of a male acting erratic and bothering customers at the Chevron Gas Plus. The individual was identified and trespassed from the store.

Officers assisted Lewis County Sheriff officers at 10:57 a.m. in the area of the 200 block of Main Avenue with an arrest of an individual for felony harassment.

An officer took a report at 4:42 p.m. of a stolen item missing from Arbor Health Morton Hospital.

An officer was dispatched at 10:54 p.m. to the 100 block of Main Avenue for civil matter.

Mossyrock March 4

An officer responded at 8:35 a.m. to a suspicious person report at

the 700 block of Mossyrock Avenue.

Officers assisted the Lewis County Sheriff officers at 12:17 p.m. with the arrest of a juvenile who had a nationwide extraditable felony warrant out of Arizona.

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The East County JOURNAL
278 Main Ave.
Morton, WA

Ladies! Join us for our annual

Spring Fling!

Wednesday, April 1 (No joking!) 11 to 2
Morton First Church of God
1251 Main Ave. (Hwy. 508)

Reservations required by March 25th!

Call: Nancy 360-520-6195,
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or Donna 360-520-2571

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