



Brewster, Raiders, ACH, Okanogan teams head to state

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Woman sentenced for drug deliver; homicide charge dropped

THE OKANOGAN COUNTY CHRONICLE

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Suspect sought in Chesaw homicide

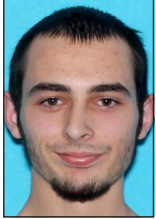
By DEE CAMP
The Chronicle

CHESAW — A suspect has been identified in connection with the deaths of an Okanogan couple two weeks ago at their property off Nealey Road near Chesaw.

An arrest warrant with nationwide extradition has been issued for Dylan Jay Harrington, 25, Chesaw, said Okanogan County Sheriff Tony Hawley.

Harrington is described as 5 feet, 9 inches tall, weighing 145 pounds with brown hair and hazel eyes.

Harrington is suspected of two counts of first-degree murder in the



Harrington

deaths of Dave Covey, 80, and his wife, GERALYN, 66. Their bodies were found Wednesday, Feb. 16, at their property.

They had been last seen Feb. 13 in Okanogan before they left to check on their property. They were reported missing Feb. 15.

Harrington also is suspected of two counts of unauthorized removal or concealment of a body.

Hawley said sheriff's office detectives and deputies continue to investigate.

"We have worked with Okanogan County Coroner Dave Rodriguez to complete the autopsies of the Coveys on Thursday, Feb. 24," said Hawley.

The Coveys both had been shot, the sheriff said.

Earlier this week, Rodriguez said dental records would be used to

confirm the couple's identities while the autopsies, conducted in Snohomish County, were expected to determine cause of death. He said dental records were needed because an attempt was made to hide evidence or hide their identities with fire.

Hawley said sheriff's office detectives, North Central Washington Special Response Team, Okanogan Police Department, Brewster Police Department, state Department of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Border Patrol conducted an extensive search of the area but had located Harrington as of mid-day Monday, Feb. 28.

The Washington State Patrol's crime scene response team assisted the sheriff's office in collecting evidence.

After the Coveys were reported missing, volunteers and sheriff's

office personnel combed the Chesaw area looking for them. The search centered on their property.

Hawley said their pickup truck was located, along with one of their three dogs. The other two dogs were located later.

Dave Covey's daughter, Debbie Spring, posted on social media that her dad and step-mother's truck was first parked along Nealey Road at their property, but later moved Monday, Feb. 14, to Hungry Hollow Road.

Hawley said personnel from his office along with Okanogan County Search and Rescue volunteers used drones and side-by-side ATVs in the search. The area remains covered by heavy snow.

Twice while searching the area where the bodies eventually were found, deputies saw a man who both

times ran from them, said Hawley. At the time, deputies did not have probable cause of a crime, so under current state law they were unable to detain him using reasonable suspicion to question or identify him, the sheriff said.

Personal property belonging to the Coveys, along with two of their dogs, was found in the nearby cabin from which the man ran, Hawley said.

The sheriff's office is continuing to follow leads to locate Harrington, the sheriff said.

Anyone who sees Harrington or has any information on his whereabouts is asked to contact Okanogan County Sheriff's Office at 509-422-7232 Option 4.

"Do not make any attempts to detain him as he may still be armed," Hawley said.

Shop destroyed



AL CAMP | Special to The Chronicle

A firefighter pours water on a shop fire on Len Louis Road, south of Okanogan, on Feb. 23. Okanogan Fire Chief Jeremy Patrick said Okanogan, Malott and Omak fire departments responded to the blaze. The building was destroyed; cause of the fire is undetermined, he said. There were no injuries. No information was provided about who owned the shed or whether it was insured.

Lin named prosecuting attorney

By JOSEPH CLAYPOOLE
The Chronicle

OKANOGAN — Okanogan County commissioners appointed Albert Lin as the new prosecuting attorney Feb. 23 after two hours of interviews and an executive session.

He will succeed Melanie Bailey, who resigned in January after a year on the job.

"This was an extremely difficult decision with two highly qualified candidates," Chris Branch, district one commissioner, said after the motion to appoint Lin was seconded.

The two candidates, Lin and Jason Moscovitz, both have experience in other central Washington counties as attorneys. Lin most recently worked for Lincoln County. Moscovitz recently worked for Spokane County as a deputy prosecutor.

Lin has spent time as both a civil and criminal prosecutor, including a stint within Okanogan County in 2015, and some time as a criminal defender.

Moscovitz apparently does not have experience in trial with cases involving

class A felonies — crimes such as first-degree murder, most forms of rape and assault with a deadly weapon.

Moscovitz's experience spans about 15 years of legal work, compared to Lin's 20 or so years, according to the candidates' public interview responses.

Moscovitz also had a career in the Air Force before his switch to law.

Questions presented to the candidates ranged from probes into their leadership styles and beliefs to measures they've taken to keep up to date with technical competence, in-office plans and goals, and trial court experience.

In the commissioners' brief explainer following their executive session, a lot of emphasis seemed to have been placed on experience.

Moscovitz hasn't had any experience with class-A felonies.

Recent criminal cases in the county have included a second-degree kidnapping with sexual motivation case and a double homicide — both within the past two weeks and both class A felonies.

The two candidates had similar

plans for in-office management while also highlighting the recent "revolving door" of prosecuting attorneys within the county in recent months.

Lin and Moscovitz outlined policies that would institute the freedom to openly express unpopular or dissenting opinions amongst office staff, an "open door" policy for communications and a lead-by-example mentality.

Acknowledgement of a 2012 lawsuit between Lin and Grant County was made by both candidates. Lin, while working under then Prosecutor Angus Lee, claimed that Lee had made multiple ethics violations over three cases.

The case was settled out of court, though neither party admitted fault.

Lin framed the suit as a strength, showcasing his ability to handle tough caseloads while running for the prosecuting attorney appointment against his boss at the time, all while allegedly being undermined.

Moscovitz made note of the sense

See LIN, page A5

School board votes to sanction Moser, calls for resignation

Moser: 'I have no plans of resigning from my elected position'

By BROCK HIRES
The Chronicle

OROVILLE — The Oroville School Board voted to sanction board member Kolo Moser and is calling for his resignation following an investigation into allegations Moser made against the district concerning athletics. (See related story)

The unanimous vote came Tuesday night, Feb. 22, following a four-plus-hour board meeting. Moser recused himself from the vote.

"The Oroville School Board

hereby sanctions

Mr. Moser for his

breach of fiduciary

responsibilities and

engaging in activities

in conflict with his

office," said an

excerpt from the

four-page resolution.

"The Oroville

School Board hereby

sanctions Mr.

Moser for his lies,

vicious attacks and

attempts to intimidate

and harass the

administration team

of the school district."

The resolution also

states "Mr. Moser

(is) not permitted to

volunteer in any

capacity within the

school district," and

the "board hereby

calls for Mr. Moser

to resign from the

school board and

calls for a review of

a potential recall

action if he refuses

to resign."

"Let it be clear that

I have no plans of

resigning from my

elected position

as a school board

director, even if the

Oroville superintendent,

administration and

board of director

push for a recall

vote," Moser told

The Chronicle

Monday afternoon.

(See related story

on Page A4.) "Until

you, the parents

and community,

replace me, I will

always be your



Moser

District launches investigation into allegations

By JOSEPH CLAYPOOLE
The Chronicle

OROVILLE — A report from the Dan Beebe Group, put together by Beebe, was requested by the Oroville School District and superintendent Jeff Hardesty to look into allegations against the school's football program.

Before that investigation could be completed, Beebe was drawn into an investigation of allegations and complaints from Kolo Moser, a school board member and volunteer football coach, against school administration and policy, including Superintendent Jeff Hardesty.

Hardesty would have overseen the investigation of the football program, however, due to allegations made against Hardesty, it was decided that Beebe would look into those complaints from Moser to ensure that Hardesty could oversee the program's investigation.

A separate report on Beebe's look into the football team is expected to be published once the board decides who will oversee the football program investigation.

An edited, for brevity and clarity, timeline of events listed within the Feb. 14 report has been collated below.

Aug. 30, 2021

Kolo Moser and wife, Stacy, high school principal Leoni Johnson, athletic director Nathan White and a (name redacted), school counselor, meet to discuss the Moser's

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come out," board chairman Mike Egerton said. "This is the report from his investigation."

Initially, the board's resolution called for the report to be turned

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BOARD

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over to the Okanogan County Prosecutor's Office. It was later amended to exclude that section.

Parents and residents were quick to share dissatisfaction for the board's decision to ask for Moser's resignation. Some questioned the authenticity of the independent investigations.

One resident urged the board to cast a "no" vote, while another stated, "Kolo has been an outstanding member of our community."

"This is only one side of a story," resident Ronnie DeVon said, noting another investigation could yield different results.

"We elected Kolo" to represent the community, DeVon said. "He brought allegation and (the district) ... turned it back into a criminal investigation on to him."

"Kolo leveled an enormous allegation," Egerton said. "Are you guys cool with the school district being sued?"

Oroville Athletic Director Ed Booker chimed in.

"This stemmed from athletics," he said. "I'm just as guilty with my own kids. When something happens with our kids, it's

"... I have no plans of resigning from my elected position as a school board director, even if the Oroville superintendent, administration and board of director push for a recall vote."

Kolo Moser

time for mama bear and papa bear."

Turning toward Moser, he said, "You crossed the line."

Parents continued to press. Egerton reminded the audience to remain calm.

"When this meeting's over, we all still have to live with each other," he said.

"He (Moser) didn't come to the board with your own problems," Egerton said. "He slandered the crap out of the administrators."

Egerton said on Fridays, prior to a board meetings, each board members meets individually with Superintendent Jeff Hardesty to discuss the district. Egerton alleged Moser has not sat down with Hardesty in 123 days.

"If he's trying to represent the community, he's not doing a great job," he said.

Hardesty spoke up. "Administration has had their heads down working their asses off during a pandemic," he said. "Ed is right. This started over a football eligibility allegation.

Kolo visited me and said, 'make this go away or I'll bring this place down to the ground.'"

Hardesty alleged Moser did not go through the proper channels with his complaints, and instead went to the media and public.

"He sat on the committee and approved the very rules that he thinks don't apply to him," Hardesty said.

Board member Katherine Castro called the situation "heartbreaking."

"It is not an easy decision," she said. "I couldn't even sleep last night. I met with Kolo one-on-one last week. Kids need to see us act like adults, own up to our mistakes and move forward."

(Editor's note: The district's full resolution can be read online at omakchronicle.com. A separate report relating solely to football allegations will be released at a later date. Moser has not resigned from the board. His complete statement can be read on Page A4.)

LIN

from page A1

of liability with hiring an individual who had sued his own county of employment at one point, though he made sure to frame his comments toward his lack of possible liability.

Both candidates were respectful of each other and the commissioners in their comments.

Though it was a tough decision, according to the commissioners, the vote for Lin was unanimous. They said they needed someone who could immediately pick up on the job, citing some hesitancy in the amount of work and time Moscovitz might need to catch up on everything currently going on in the county's departments and crime scene.

However, they did encourage Moscovitz to apply to any and all other positions within the prosecutor's office if they open up.

Finalizations for the appointment were expected to be completed earlier this week during the commissioners' regularly scheduled board meetings, though nothing was on the agenda by press time.

Strike up the band



AL CAMP | Special to The Chronicle
The Brewster band entertains during the Brewster vs/ Morton-White Pass boys' basketball game Saturday.

ALLEGATIONS

from page A1

son's ineligibility due to an F he had in a class with Wenatchee Valley College.

Johnson also had a meeting with the parent, "Mr. One" (name redacted), of another two athletes, and informed them that they could not play due to a ruling on eligibility concerning grades within Washington Interscholastic Activities Association policy.

Sept. 1

Moser meets with Mr. One, Johnson and White to discuss eligibility of Mr. One's two children. Mr. One was upset due to feeling he was lied to as the ruling mentioned by Johnson on Aug. 30 was actually a school district rule, not a WIAA rule. Johnson apologized but explained that an OSD rule would still trump any WIAA rule.

Hardesty receives a phone call from Johnson and White regarding the meeting earlier that day. Johnson relays the fact that Moser and Mr. One wished for her to change the application of the Oroville rule that made the two men's children ineligible. Moser, after Johnson explains she doesn't have that authority, says he will call an emergency board meeting himself to fix the issue.

Hardesty, believing his relationship with Moser is still friendly, calls Moser to discuss his participation in the Sept. 1 meeting that morning and Moser demands an in-person meeting as soon as possible.

Sept. 2

Moser meets with Hardesty, Johnson and White where the three ask Moser if he may have "crossed a line" as a school board member during the meeting. Moser responds, after believing that Hardesty was "pounding" on the issue, with the belief that they should all "eat a bag of cement and harden up."

Sept. 3

Johnson meets with two football players to discuss rumors that the team was not receiving water breaks during practice and that they were being taught to spear. Both players denied the allegations. Johnson and White then go to what's believed to be one of the coach's classrooms, the name was redacted, to inform them that they investigated the rumors and determined them to be unfounded.

Sept. 8

The school district receives an email from WVC stating the "F" on Moser's son's paperwork was a mistake on the college's part. The Oroville district then certified his son as eligible, foregoing standard procedure for certifying an athlete as eligible for play.

Sometime before Sept. 17, but after Sept. 8

White discovers that one of Mr. One's children is eligible under a hard-to-find decision in an old question-and-answer posting on the WIAA website. Mr. One's other child would still be ineligible under the ruling that White found.

Sept. 17

White, according to the report, was going to inform Mr. One but before he could, Mr. One sent an email to Hardesty, as a formal complaint, regarding White and Johnson that also called for their termination. Hardesty informed White not to involve himself with Mr. One any further until the complaint could be evaluated. Mr. One was not informed of the eligibility change for one of his students.

Sept. 18

The football team is exposed to COVID during a trip to a regular season game in Priest River, Idaho.

Sept. 20

The afternoon of Sept. 20, according to a written account of events from the school nurse, is when the school became aware of the exposure. The school, according to Moser, did not take adequate action.

Sept. 24

The football head coach, an assistant coach and two volunteer coaches, including Moser, were placed on administrative leave by Hardesty pending an investigation of the allegations made against the team.

Reasons for Moser's leave were included in an email and a letter via certified mail to Moser the same day. They include; allowing clandestine football practices while the team was meant to be quarantining due to COVID exposure, lack of enforcing the mask mandate, and allowing ineligible players to travel with the team.

Sept. 27

Dan Beebe is contacted by Hardesty to investigate the allegations made against the football program. Football culture is highlighted as a topic of discussion in the school board's

meeting for that evening.

Sept. 30

Moser comes to Hardesty's office to complain about the seeming unequal treatment of the football team and implored Hardesty to "hurry this up and stop this and get the football season back up." Moser also said that, though he once supported Hardesty, he now "will tell everyone he knows to stop supporting (Hardesty) and the district."

Oct. 3

The Mosers publish documents containing a list of complaints against Hardesty, Johnson and White. The documents were also forwarded to Beebe and Educational Service District 171 Superintendent Michelle Price.

A decision was made to investigate the Moser's allegations against school administration and policy. As Hardesty was to oversee the football investigation, it was determined to hold off on the football report until the board determined if Hardesty could oversee the investigation.

Beebe continued with an investigation of Moser's allegations while simultaneously collecting information for a report on the football team.

Oct. 25

Price meets with the Mosers to discuss their concerns. She indicated her only role was to find if there was a violation of the professional code of conduct.

After Oct. 25, before Oct. 28 letter

Price meets with Johnson, White and Hardesty. After this meeting, but still before Oct. 28, Price consulted the state assistant attorney general.

Oct. 28

Following the meetings and consultation, Price sends a letter to the Mosers, concluding that the "substance of their complaints did not constitute grounds for action."

The Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune publishes an article the same day with direct statements from the

Mosers' Oct. 3 letter as well as new, direct quotes from Moser himself.

Nov. 15

Moser sends a text to Hardesty requesting that he resign while reiterating past complaints along with new allegations. Moser sent the text to other adults and students as well.

Dec. 14

During an interview with the Mosers' son regarding inappropriate Snapchat messages, the son said "I said (expletive) the AD," admitting to a message being attributing to him. Moser had previously refuted his son's involvement with the messages. Moser's son also admitted to using the N-word in describing White saying, "Yeah, I did that," in the same interview.

Beebe interviewed another player, one who had lived with the Mosers for two years, on the same subject. That player continuously denied involvement.

Jan. 06, 2022

The Mosers meet with Johnson, White and wrestling coaches to address concerns about a mild concussion suffered by (redacted student name), possibly their son. The Mosers were upset that they were not directly contacted at the time of the incident.

The wrestling coaches apologized and acknowledged their mistake of not informing the parents directly, though they had believed they had fulfilled the need to inform the family as the student's sister, an adult in her 20s, had taken the student home.

Kolo Moser allegedly was disrespectful during the meeting and used it to rehash his complaints against the school and its administration.

Jan. 10

Hardesty sends, via certified mail and email, a letter to Moser regarding his conduct at the Jan. 6 meeting.

Jan. 11

Beebe interviews Moser. Moser says he wrote the Oct. 3 documents due to frustration over how long the football program issues were taking to

be resolved, with first notice of the problems cropping up on or around Sept. 22, 2021.

Moser describes events in which he believes the team was inappropriately reprimanded or targeted for actions when certain teachers were held to a seemingly lower standard. These were outlined in Moser's Oct. 3 documents and again in his Nov. 15 text.

Jan. 14

Beebe interviews White.

Jan. 28

Beebe interviews the coach who, on Jan. 11, Moser claimed created a play called #FNW. The coach described a situation where the players attempted to rename a quarterback sneak, named QBS, to #FNW, and after learning its meaning told them that it was going to remain named as QBS.

Feb. 14

Dan Beebe publishes his report on Moser's allegations against the school and administration.

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