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May 23, 2019

Andrew Magill Pleads Guilty in Near Decapitation Murder of Mary Ann Moorehouse and to Shooting Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Green

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney John P. Sugg announced today that Andrew Magill, age 27, pleaded guilty to Second Degree Murder, two counts of Assault with Intent to Commit a Violent Felony Upon a Peace Officer, and one count of Possession of a Firearm by a Felon in a hearing before the Honorable Daniel A. Bryant.

On March 30, 2017, Magill was staying in the Drury Hotel in Albuquerque with his wife and toddler daughter when he began having hallucinations that he was being attacked by the devil and that he was Jesus Christ. Magill got into an altercation with a front desk employee at the hotel after losing his room key, and he threatened the employee before causing thousands of dollars of damage to the hotel. Magill retreated to his room where he quickly packed his family's belongings and hurried his wife and daughter down the stairwell before police arrived.

Magill started driving toward his home in Roswell when he became convinced his luggage was cursed so he stopped on the side of the road and threw his family's belongings out. When he arrived home, his twin brother was waiting for him. Magill and his twin brother oftentimes used methamphetamine together. During the course of the next day, the hallucinations continued and Magill became convinced the world was ending.

Magill subsequently began threatening his wife and daughter. Once his wife had an opportunity to leave, she left the residence with the couple's daughter and went to a relative's house. When other members of Magill's family learned about the altercation with his wife, they began looking for Magill, but he had already left Roswell headed for Ruidoso.

While traveling westbound on Highway 70, Magill pulled his truck to the side of the road in Glencoe. He abandoned his truck and entered the historic Coe Ranch on foot. Mary Ann Moorehouse, a caretaker on the property, saw an unknown person on the ranch so she went to investigate. According to statements made by Magill, Mary Ann attempted to find Magill a ride home and asked Magill for a relative's phone number so she could call someone to come help him.

When Mary Ann began calling one of the phone numbers Magill provided, he knocked her to the ground and retrieved an axe from a nearby work truck. Magill then struck Mary Ann at least four times with the axe, nearly decapitating her and destroying her cell phone in the process. Magill then "baptized" himself in a nearby creek and hitchhiked to the Ruidoso Downs Police Department (RDPD).

When he arrived at RDPD, he stated he had just killed a man and chopped a woman's head off with an axe so that he could save the world. RDPD officers, not knowing Mary Ann had been murdered, had Magill transported to the Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC) for a mental health evaluation.

At the same time Magill was at RDPD, the Lincoln Sheriff's Office received a call from the ranch's foreman who stated he was concerned for Mary Ann's well-being because he could not reach her. The foreman had been on the phone with Mary Ann when she saw an unknown person on the ranch. She hung up when she said she was going to investigate, and she would not answer his repeated phone calls back to her.

Lincoln County Sheriff's deputies responded to the ranch and found Mary Ann's remains. A homicide investigation ensued, and eventually, the RDPD responded to the scene to assist deputies in clearing the property. RDPD officers then relayed information about their contact with Magill with the District Attorney's Office, and deputies and an investigator with the District Attorney's Office responded to the hospital to secure the Defendant.

One of the deputies who responded to LCMC was Jason Green. When Green was talking with other law enforcement officers near Magill's room, Magill got out of his bed and attacked officers. Green put Magill in a headlock and the two fell to the ground. Magill was able to grab Deputy Green's firearm and yank it free from the holster. Magill then shot Deputy Green in the bicep and continued pulling the trigger. The gun did not fire again as it jammed after the first shot. Officers were eventually able to gain control of weapon and Magill.

Magill pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity after Dr. Noah Kaufman, Ph.D. found that he was insane at the time these incidents occurred. Drug testing revealed that Magill only had marijuana in his system. No other drugs were detected.

The prosecution hired Dr. Michael Welner, M.D., a world renowned psychiatrist to evaluate Magill. Welner evaluated Magill and found that he was sane at the time, but that he was under a drug-induced psychosis at the time he committed the crimes. Dr. Welner believes the psychosis began when Magill was in Albuquerque and was seen associating with an unknown woman.

Magill faces up to 51 years in prison at a sentencing hearing scheduled for September 5-6, 2019. This case was prosecuted by District Attorney John P. Sugg, and was investigated by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, the New Mexico State Police, and the Ruidoso Downs Police Department.

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