

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Andrew Magill Sentenced to Serve 45 Years in Prison for the Near Decapitation Murder of MaryAnn Moorhouse And the Shooting of Former Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Green.

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney John P. Sugg announced today that the Honorable Daniel A. Bryant sentenced Andrew Magill, age 28, to 51 years following a two-day sentencing hearing. Judge Bryant suspended 6 years of the 51-year sentence leaving 45 years that Magill will serve before being released on 5 years of supervised probation upon his release.

Magill pled guilty to Second Degree Murder after nearly decapitating MaryAnn Moorhouse with an axe on April 1, 2017. MaryAnn, who worked as a caretaker on a ranch near Glencoe, New Mexico, had seen an unknown person on the ranch so she went to investigate. According to statements made by Magill, MaryAnn 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 MaryAnn began calling one of the phone numbers, Magill knocked her to the ground and retrieved an axe from a nearby work truck. Magill then struck MaryAnn at least four times with the axe, nearly decapitating her and destroying her cell phone in the process.

Magill hitchhiked to the Ruidoso Downs Police Department (RDPD) where he told officers 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 MaryAnn had been murdered, had Magill transported to the Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC) for a mental health evaluation. MaryAnn's remains were discovered a short time later and law enforcement officer went to LCMC to secure Magill. A struggle later ensued and Magill was able to grab Deputy Jason Green's firearm and yank it free from the holster. Magill 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 the weapon and Magill.

Magill originally 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. Both Dr. Welner and Dr. Kaufman testified during the two-day sentencing hearing.

The prosecution, represented by District Attorney John P. Sugg, advocated for the maximum 51-year sentence in prison with no time suspended. Judge Bryant elected to suspended 6 years of the sentence citing testimony regarding Magill's mental health as a mitigating factor. Judge Bryant also expressed a desire to have a longer period of supervision over Magill when he is released from prison as a reason for not imposing the maximum sentence.

Magill will be required to serve at least 85% of his 45 year sentence before he becomes eligible for parole. If he violates probation when he is released, he can be ordered to serve an additional six years.

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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