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TRACK CHAIR GIVE-AWAY APPLICATION

DEAR NWSC,

First, I would like to say Thank You so much for allowing me the opportunity to apply for the chance to win a life altering Track Chair. I am so grateful for this chance made possible by so many supporters and sponsorships. I can only imagine how hard of a job it is going to be for you to pick a winner.

Sincerely,
Tara Miller

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MYSELF:

I was born April 8, 1980 at Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene, ID. I have always lived in North Idaho and could not imagine living anywhere else. I went to school in Priest River, for a couple years and then moved to Coeur d'Alene, for 2 years before moving to Rathdrum. So, from 4th grade on I went to Lakeland School District and that is where I met my husband. We met in 1990 when he moved from a small town, Spirit Lake, to Rathdrum. We dated off and on for many years, but really became official our Senior Year. We went to prom together and were side by side when we walked in graduation. We got engaged June 17, 2000 and just 3 short weeks later, our lives were drastically changed.



WHAT BROUGHT ME TO NEED/WANT THE TRACK CHAIR:

In the early morning hours on July 8, 2000 (3:40a.m.) My husband Kyle, (fiance at the time) and I were woken up to a very unbelievable situation. Something did not feel quite right to me and our dog had started barking. Kyle got out of bed and turned on our bedroom light. There was drywall dust and blood all over our bed. Upon further observation, Kyle noticed the blood was coming from my arm. Quite a surreal moment as we were unaware of what had happened until Kyle called 911. There was a hole in our bedroom wall that of which was a shared wall with our neighbor as we lived in a townhouse style triplex. I had been shot. At first, we were unaware of the severity of the injury since the entrance wound was in my arm. With Kyle's knowledge of firearms, as his dad was a Fish & Game warden for all of Kyle's life, noticed that there was no exit wound. Fast forward a few long hours later, my family was told of the harm that the bullet had done to my body. When it entered my arm, the bullet which came from a .357 Smith & Wesson Revolver, ricocheted off my shoulder, broke 3 ribs, collapsed my lung and ended up lodged in the dura mater of my spinal cord, causing permanent paralysis from level T-6 down. I spent 1 month in Kootenai Medical Center undergoing multiple surgeries, chest tubes for collapsed lungs, and an emergency thoracotomy due to a spinal fluid leak, seizures due to allergic reactions to pain medications and multiple other issues. After my month at KMC, I was transported to St. Luke's Rehabilitation and started to learn how my body would function from there on. I was there for 1 month before I was discharged to begin my new life outside of the hospital.

Woman shot in sleep may not walk again

■ Post Falls

Doctors say a 20-year-old woman probably won't walk again after a neighbor accidentally shot her in the chest through an apartment wall.

The victim, whose name was not available, was sleeping in her apartment at Third and Greensferry when she was shot at about 3:30 a.m. Saturday, police said.

She was in stable condition at Kootenai Medical Center on Saturday.

Shatana S. Pole, 22, was charged in the incident.

Pole told police that he came home after a night of heavy drinking and was handling his revolver when it accidentally fired. The bullet passed through the wall of the adjoining apartment and hit the victim, police said.

Pole was booked into Kootenai County Jail on obstructing charges. He was released from the jail Saturday on \$300 bail.

Post Falls police and the Kootenai County prosecutor's office will meet this week to discuss the possibility of further charges.

"It's still too early" to tell if manslaughter charges will be filed, said Post Falls Police Chief Cliff Hayes.

No further information was available late Saturday.

A Post Falls woman sleeping in her apartment was paralyzed by a neighbor's stray bullet in the wee hours July 8.

Tara Lacelle, 20, was shot in the chest by a revolver fired in an adjacent apartment at Third Street and Greensferry Road.

Shatana Pole, 22, was arrested shortly after the shooting.

He had returned to the apartment after a night of heavy drinking and had been handling a gun. A bullet went through the wall of Lacelle's apartment.

Pole was bound over during a September hearing for aggravated assault and battery and unlawful discharge of a firearm in a dwelling following. He could be sentenced up to 25 years in prison.

Lacelle attended the hearing in her wheelchair. Doctors initially told police she may not walk again.

Several community fund-raising events have helped with her medical bills. She is recovering at home after a lengthy stay at St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute in Spokane.

Pole's pre-trial hearing is Feb. 26.



Suspect in shooting turns himself in



Pole

Victim of accidental shooting may never walk again; suspect out on bail

By Angie Gaddy
Staff writer

POST FALLS — A Post Falls man accused of accidentally shooting his neighbor turned himself in Tuesday.

Shatana Pole, 22, appeared before 1st District Magistrate John Luster on Tuesday afternoon on charges of aggravated assault, unlawful discharge of a firearm

at a home, aggravated battery and exhibiting a deadly weapon. Luster set Pole's bond at \$5,000. Pole posted bail at Kootenai County Jail on Tuesday.

Police issued a warrant for Pole's arrest after Kootenai County prosecutors filed felony charges against him on Monday. If convicted, Pole faces up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines for aggravated assault.

Pole is accused of accidentally shooting his neighbor, Tara LaCelle, with a .357 Smith & Wesson revolver in the early morning hours of July 8.

Post Falls police detectives say Pole and his roommate Larry Sherrod had returned to their apartment at 1513 E. Third after a night of heavy drinking.

Pole picked up the gun and began playing with it — clicking the revolver, unloading and loading bullets and spinning the chamber, Post Falls Police Sgt.

Pete Marion said.

Pole loaded a single bullet into the gun and spun the chamber like in a game of Russian roulette, then pointed it at Sherrod's head from a few feet away, Marion said.

About five seconds later the gun went off. The bullet entered a wall separating Pole's apartment from LaCelle's.

The bullet entered LaCelle's chest and lodged in her spine as the 20-year-old woman slept. She awoke and told her

boyfriend she couldn't feel her legs. He discovered her back covered in blood and called police around 3:40 a.m.

"It could have been easy for (the gun) to go off when it was pointed at Mr. Sherrod's head," Marion said.

Detectives are wrapping up their investigation.

LaCelle is listed in serious condition at Kootenai Medical Center after complications from surgery.

Police said doctors told them she may never walk again.

The gun was fired by my neighbor, Shatana Pole, who had been highly intoxicated and should have never been handling a loaded weapon. We spent a couple years in and out of court and the charges kept getting dismissed due to "Lack of Intent."

Lack of intent called vital in dismissal

Prosecutors in shooting case say they will refile charges

By Angie Gaddy
Staff writer

COEUR D'ALENE — Shatana Pole admits the bullet that came from the gun he fired paralyzed Tara LaCelle.

But he didn't intend to do it.

Defense attorney Jim Siebe said that's exactly why a judge's recent decision dismissing charges against the 22-year-old man was correct.

On Monday, 1st District Judge Craig Kosonen ruled there wasn't enough evidence to prove that Pole meant to harm his neighbor on July 8, 2000.

Kootenai County prosecutors had charged Pole with aggravated assault, aggravated battery and firing a gun at a home. They also backed on weapons enhancement charges

which say he used a gun in the crimes. If convicted, Pole faced up to 70 years in prison, Siebe said.

Prosecutors said Pole had been out drinking with friends that night. When he returned home, he began playing with a .357 Smith & Wesson revolver. At one point, the gun was aimed at Pole's roommate, Larry Sherrod. In the end, Pole fired the gun. A bullet went through the wall and lodged in LaCelle's spine while she was sleeping.

She is paralyzed from the waist down.

Just before Pole's trial was to begin this week, Kosonen ruled prosecutors didn't prove a main element of charging Pole with aggravated assault and aggravated battery: intent.

Prosecutors say they will refile charges.

"Unfortunately, there isn't reckless endangerment (laws). You don't have that in Idaho," Siebe said. "In the absence of that, you still have to follow the rule of the law."

In other states, including Washington,

reckless endangerment charges stem from crimes in which intent is not proved.

First District Magistrate Benjamin Simpson ruled last September that Pole could stand trial.

At the time, Simpson found that a 1939 case showed that prosecutors wouldn't have to prove intent if they showed criminal negligence.

However, two months after Simpson's ruling, the Idaho Court of Appeals decided in a different case that finding a defendant criminally negligent does not mean the state proved the person had intent to harm someone.

Kosonen said he stuck by that later ruling. "I think the prosecution is doing a disservice to Tara LaCelle," Kosonen said about the prosecutor's decision to refile charges. He said they're giving LaCelle's family false hope that the charges will stick.

Prosecutor Bill Douglas said he disagrees with Siebe's and Kosonen's take on the law,



File/The Spokesman-Review

"Basically we disagree with the court and the defense attorney's interpretation of that case and it's applicability to this case," Douglas said.

Kelly Stewart, LaCelle's mother, said she is

SUMMARY

Defining aggravated assault

■ Last September, a magistrate agreed Kootenai County could prosecute Shatana Pole, left, on aggravated assault charges, citing a 1939 case that only criminal negligence needed to be proved.

■ Two months later, the Idaho appeals court ruled that criminal negligence does not prove intent to harm.

■ Monday, Judge Craig Kosonen cited that ruling when he dropped charges, saying there is no evidence of intent to harm.

outraged by Kosonen's decision. "Maybe he didn't mean to shoot Tara, but he did. There's got to be some kind

Continued Page 1

FORGIVENESS

I was finally at my breaking point & asked the prosecuting attorney's to drop the charges. I could tell in court, that there was something Shatana's eyes were trying to tell me. I knew that he was so sorry and that it was an accident. They respected my wishes even though they advised against it. Shatana and I met and talked and over the years have developed a friendship. We were even flown to New York in 2004 to be on Good Morning America for forgiveness. I figured that holding onto bitterness was not helping either one of us. That is when I have to say that my life started to be full again. It was time to start focusing on the good that came out of a very tragic accident.

FORGIVENESS DOES NOT
CHANGE THE PAST...

New friendship
to go nationwide
Tara LaCelle-Miller and Shatana Pole
will tell story on 'Good Morning America'

BUT IT DOES
ENLARGE THE FUTURE.



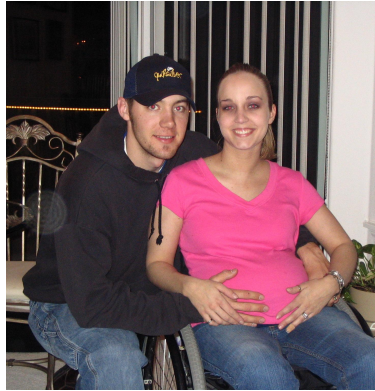
OUR WEDDING DAY

Kyle & I got married on August 10, 2002. I “walked” down the aisle in leg braces after months of practice back at St. Luke’s Outpatient Rehab. It was a huge chore, but it had always been my dream ever since I was a little girl. I made it almost all the way down, and Kyle noticed I was starting to struggle. That is when he took it upon himself to come and pick me up and he carried me the rest of the way to the altar. Truly my hero in so many ways!



AND 2 BECOMES 3

A few years after we got married, we wanted to start a family. We got pregnant right away, but a few months into the pregnancy I ended up in the hospital with a blood clot and found out that same time that we had lost the baby. A year or so later we had a full term pregnancy and were blessed with the most amazing baby girl, Karsyn Kyle Miller on July 9, 2005. (1 day after the 5 year anniversary of my accident.)



Sometimes
the **Littlest** things
take up the most
room in your heart.
Winnie the Pooh

Karsyn has always been a daddy's girl and wanted to be with him as much as possible. She grew up around game animals as her grandpa and daddy have always been huge hunters!

JUST LIKE DADDY



She always has her picture taken with all of the animals that her daddy would bring home when he was successful in harvesting. She has even been successful herself.



HUNTER ED

Kyle signed Karsyn and I up for a crash course of Hunters Safety in the summer of 2014. Kars and I were able to complete the course just prior to hunting season.



A LONG TREK FOR NO HARVEST

Kyle and I went out on a hunt one night just the 2 of us. We were given permission by land owner to hunt on his property. We found a perfect spot, the only problem was that Kyle had to push me and all our hunting gear about 1000 yards over a fresh cut hay field, to a ground blind. We had a great time, but did not have any luck.



IN THIS FAMILY
WE AIM FOR THE GAME
WE WEAR CAMO
WE RESPECT OUR RIFLES
WE PREY BEFORE MEALS
WE LOCK AND LOAD
AND WE NEVER MISS



FAMILY EVENING HUNT



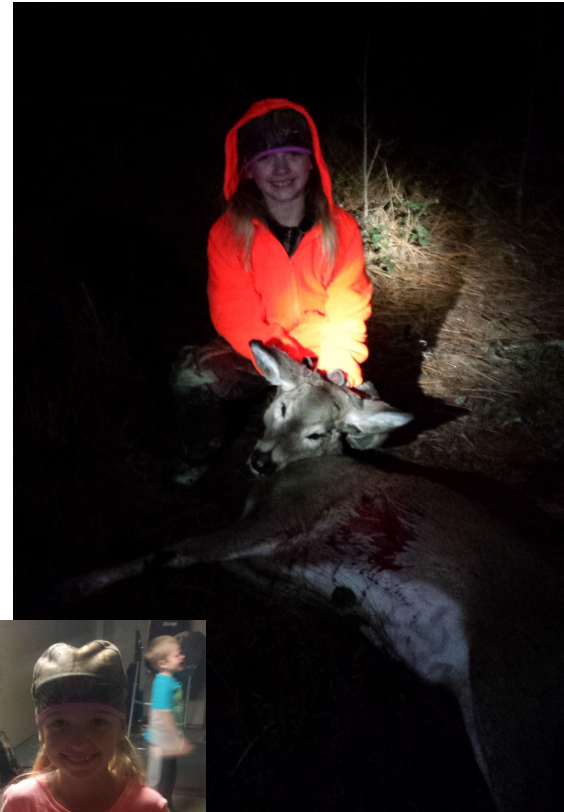
One evening we decided that it would be fun to go on a hunt to one of Kyle's favorite spots. Although we couldn't get all the way up to the spot he wanted, he was able to carry me to this spot overlooking a nice open draw. We waited until dark and were unsuccessful again, but was a great time to spend together.



FOLLOWING IN DADDY'S FOOTSTEPS



One night, while I took a much needed evening to myself, Kyle took Karsyn hunting on a piece of property that is owned by a retired Fish and Game Warden. She was very patient and just as shooting hours were coming close to an end, she was able to harvest her very first deer. It was a button buck and she was so proud of herself. She couldn't wait to call and tell me even if that meant dad had to field dress the deer himself.



MOMMY'S TURN TO TRY



A week later, we were allowed to go back to the property that Karsyn had harvested her 1st deer and it was going to be my turn. We were able to sit in a hay barn behind a blind made of hay bales. We had a clear view of a very open field. We were entertained by a few elk who were wandering towards the hay barn, but were never given an opportunity on a deer.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME



We purchased some property as a “Family Retreat” in the summer of 2013. It is a wonderful place for us to all go and spend time together as a family without the daily distractions of technology or work. I am able to access bits of the property, but rely on others to get me around to the parts that I am unable to get to on my own in my wheelchair.

Adventure
awaits



SEASON 2

In November of 2016, we had another opportunity to hunt from the hay barn where Karsyn had been successful the year prior. Karsyn got 1st opportunity and was successful very early that evening which allowed time for me to give it a go. I did not have to wait very long until I got my shot. It was such a great experience that we were able to share together.



LIFE CHANGES WITH A "TRACK CHAIR"

If I was picked as the winner of the Track Chair Give-Away, it would mean so much to myself and my family. My life would be changed in many different ways. Not only would it relieve many of the stresses for those that help me, it would allow me the opportunity to enjoy more of the great outdoors and be more independent. It would allow me to fully enjoy our property with our family. We have trails that I could ride with the 4 wheelers as well as a creek to enjoy and explore. It would also help tremendously with the accessibility to many different hunting and fishing opportunities that I can share with my husband and daughter. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for providing people the opportunity to receive this life changing gift!

Sincerely,
Tara Miller