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TRAFFIC COURT

Judge Bill Locke ruled on the following cases in Traffic Court.

Marty Lynn Rhea was ordered to serve 48 hours of an 11-month, 29-day sentence, pay a \$350 fine and perform 24 hours public service work for DUI.

James E. Bolden Jr. was ordered to serve 28 days of an 11-29 sentence for driving on a suspended license second offense.

Britton Lane Cantrell was ordered to serve 30 days for violation of probation. He was given an additional 48 hours for driving on a suspended license second offense.

David Hill was ordered to serve 30 days of an 11-29 sentence and pay a \$1,000 fine for possession of a schedule VI drug and simple possession.

David Lynn Moore was ordered to serve 48 hours of an 11-month, 29-day sentence, pay a \$350 fine and perform 24 hours public service work for DUI.

Jermaine Officer was ordered to serve seven days for driving on a revoked license second offense. He was also given 24 hours public service work.

Tosha Marie Phomphanh was ordered to serve 48 hours of a six-month sentence for driving on a revoked license.

Melissa Faye Yates was ordered to serve 48 hours of an 11-month, 29-day sentence, pay a \$350 fine and perform 24 hours public service work for DUI.

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Bills could add taxes to opioids

ST. PAUL, MINN. (AP) — Facing a rising death toll from drug overdoses, state lawmakers across the country are testing a strategy to boost treatment for opioid addicts: Force drug manufacturers and their distributors to pay for it.

Bills introduced in at least 15 states would impose taxes or fees on prescription painkillers. Several of the measures have bipartisan support and would funnel millions of dollars toward treatment and prevention programs.

In Montana, state Sen. Roger Webb, a Republican, sees the approach as a way to hold drugmakers accountable for an overdose epidemic that in 2016 claimed 42,000 lives in the U.S., a record.

"You're creating the problem," he said. "You're going to fix it."

Opioids include prescription painkillers such as Vicodin and OxyContin as well as illegal drugs such as heroin and illicit versions of fentanyl. The death toll has continued to rise even as prescribing has started to drop.

A Pennsylvania opioid tax bill was introduced in 2015 and a federal version was introduced a year later, but most of the proposals arose during the past year. The majority of them have yet to get very far, with lawmakers facing intense pressure from the pharmaceutical industry to scuttle or soften the legislation.

Drugmakers and distributors argue it would be wrong to tax prescription drugs, that the cost increases would eventually be absorbed by patients or taxpayers, and there are other ways to pay for addiction treatment and prevention.

A spokesman for the Healthcare Distribution Alliance, which represents drug distributors, said a tax would mean that cancer patients and those in end-of-life care might not be able to get the prescriptions they need.



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CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

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GENERAL SESSIONS

Judge Bill Locke ruled on the following cases in General Sessions Court.

Jeffery Wayne Martin was ordered to serve 30 days of an 11-month, 29-day sentence for possession of meth. He must also pay a \$750 fine.

David Mathew Scott had probation revoked for violation of probation.

Lee Anderson, Jonathan Vance Creek and Jessica Lee King were ordered to serve 30 days for violation of probation.

William Thomas Kirkpatrick was ordered to serve 48 hours for violation of probation.

Ashley N. McNeal was ordered to serve 48 hours of an 11-29 sentence for possession of drug paraphernalia. She was granted a judicial diversion.

Jackie Bogle was ordered to serve 30 days of an 11-29 sentence for domestic assault.

Jesus Contreas was allowed to enter the second chance program for domestic assault.

Addison D. Farr was ordered to serve 10 days for violation of probation and domestic assault.

Pokie Edward George Jr. was given 60 days and a \$750 fine for possession of meth and violation of probation.

Tony Dewayne Pack was ordered to serve 30 days of an 11-29 sentence and pay a \$750 fine for possession of meth.

Candi L. Phillips was given 45 days of house arrest for possession/sale/ deliver of schedule IV drugs.

Brian D. Sherman was given 11-29 probation for domestic assault.

Travis Lee Trapp was ordered to serve 30 days for indecent exposure, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Jeffrey Allen Ward was ordered to serve 72 hours for violation of probation.

Sam Womack had probation revoked for violation of probation but was furloughed to drug court.

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