

Charges filed in fatal hit-and-run

Driver facing up to 160 years if found guilty

The Associated Press

LAKE HALLIE, Wis. — Vehicular homicide charges were filed Tuesday against a 21-year-old man accused of inhaling chemical vapors before he crashed his truck into a group of Girl Scouts picking up trash along a highway, killing three children and one adult, Wisconsin prosecutors said Tuesday.

The 11 charges filed against Colten Treu include four counts of vehicular homicide and four counts of a hit-and-run resulting in death. The punishment for those charges alone

is up to 160 years in prison.

The criminal complaint prosecutors released describes a struggle for the steering wheel between Treu and the passenger in his truck shortly before the vehicle veered off the road and struck the Girl Scout troop working in ditches along the highway in Lake Hallie, a town about 95 miles east of Minneapolis. Treu and his passenger later told investigators they had been huffing from a computer keyboard cleaner they'd purchased that day.

The Saturday crash killed 9-year-old Jayna Kelley and 10-year-old Autum Helgeson, both of Lake Hallie, and 10-year-old Haylee Hickle and her mother, 32-year-old Sara Jo Schneider, from the Town of Lafayette.

A sheriff's deputy investigat-

ing the accident traced a fluid trail that led to the house where Treu lived with the truck's passenger, according to the complaint. The passenger, who has not been arrested or charged, told police he grabbed the steering wheel when he saw that Treu "looked out of it" and that the truck was crossing over the road's center line. The passenger said Treu yelled at him for touching the steering wheel before crossing the center line again, this time going into the ditch, according to the complaint.

Treu is being held on \$250,000 bond.

Treu told investigators he never passed out and that his passenger "was huffing a lot more than him," according to the complaint. He said he "lost control of the vehicle and fish-

tailed" after his passenger grabbed the steering wheel.

The other charges Treu faces are for felony bail jumping, intentionally abusing a hazardous substance, and causing "great bodily harm" during a hit-and-run because another Girl Scout in the group was injured.

Treu was previously convicted of drunken driving in Wisconsin and he was currently out on bail for another accident in September, when he was charged with driving his employer's car into a ditch while intoxicated.

Judy Schneider, the mother of Sara Jo Schneider and Haylee's grandmother, told The Associated Press in an interview Monday that after the crash she wondered, "What was the driver thinking?"

"And my first thought was,



Colten Treu

'Let's just prosecute the hell out of him.' And then what? Do they come back? And now that I hear his history, I understand addiction. But I just don't know how the hatred and anger is going to help at this point.'

2 DEATH ROW INMATES DIE IN SUSPECTED SUICIDES

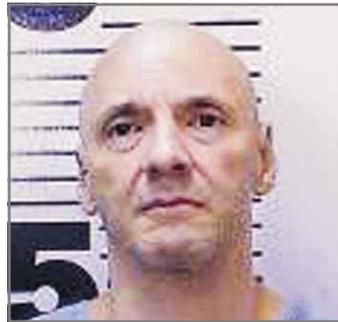
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Two condemned multiple murderers, including a serial killer, apparently committed suicide within hours of each other on the nation's largest death row, California officials said Monday.

Corrections officials said they found Andrew Urdiales, 54, unresponsive during a security check at San Quentin State Prison late Friday.

He was sentenced to death on Oct. 5 by an Orange County judge for killing five women in California, and previously faced the death penalty for three murders in Illinois.

The California victims were Robbin Brandley, 23, in January 1986 in Mission Viejo; Maryann Wells, 31, in September 1988 in San Diego; Julie McGhee, 29, in July 1988 in Cathedral City; Tammie Erwin, 20, in April 1989 in Palm Springs; and Denise Maney, 32, in March 1995 in Palm Springs. The murders occurred while he was stationed at various U.S. Marine Corps facilities in Southern California.



Andrew Urdiales

He previously was convicted of killing Cassie Corum, 21, and Lori Uylaki, 25, both from Hammond, Illinois; and Lynn Huber, 22, of Chicago, in the mid-1990s. Former Illinois Gov. George Ryan commuted his sentence to life in prison in 2002 for two murders, and his third sentence was also commuted when Illinois banned the death penalty.

Separately, authorities say they found Virendra Govin, 51, unresponsive alone in his cell in a different death row housing unit late Sunday.

Govin was sentenced in December 2004 for committing four Los Angeles County murders.

The victims were Gita Kumar, 42; Plara Kumar, 18; Tulsi Kumar, 16; and Sitaben Patel, 63. Govin, his brother Pravin Govin, and Carlos Amador, then set the Kumars' home on fire in 2002. Govin arrived on death row in January 2005. His brother, Pravin, has been on death row since September 2005.



Virendra Govin

Officials said that while both men's deaths are being investigated as suicides, there is no indication that their deaths are related.

California has not executed anyone since 2006 and inmates are far more likely to die from suicide or old age.

Since California reinstated capital punishment in 1978, 79 condemned inmates have died from natural causes, 25 have committed suicide, 13 have been executed in California, one was executed in Missouri, and one was executed in Virginia.

There currently are 740 offenders on California's death row.

Attorneys representing inmates said the state's suicide rate is, for the second year in a row, on track to exceed 24 suicides per 100,000 inmates. That was before six suicides since Sept. 1, including the two on death row.

That far exceeds the national state prison rate of 16 suicides per 100,000 inmates.

Girl Scouts sue over Boys' name change

Bloomberg News

America's gender divide is leaving no generation on the sidelines.

A year after the Boy Scouts of America announced it would admit girls, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America punched back Tuesday with a federal trademark lawsuit seeking to block the boys group from rebranding itself simply as "Scouts."

The Girl Scouts, called GSUSA in the filing, claim the move by the Boy Scouts will "marginalize" the female organization and "erode its core brand identity." The Boy Scouts announced in May that it was changing its name to "Scouts BSA," with members known as "Scouts."

"Since BSA's announcement that it would admit girls to its core programs, GSUSA's fears about the damage that would be caused to its trademarks and the mission those trademarks symbolize have been realized," according to the complaint filed Tuesday in Manhattan federal court. "Throughout the country, families, schools and communities have been told that GSUSA and BSA have merged, or even that GSUSA no longer exists. Parents inter-

ested in signing up for Girl Scouts programs have instead mistakenly signed up for the new girls' programs offered by BSA."

A representative for the Boy Scouts didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The case was filed as Americans went to the polls to vote in midterm elections in which the gender divide is stark and expected to influence the outcome. A record number of women are seeking office in the election, and the #MeToo realizations of workplace sexual harassment in the last year have crystallized voter opinion on candidates and social issues.

In the lawsuit, the Girl Scouts claim their right to use "Scout" and "Scouting" marks in marketing to girls has long been recognized both by the law and by the Boy Scouts. But the Boy Scouts' decision to open all of its programs to girls has crossed that line, according to a complaint.

The Girl Scouts seek a court order blocking the Boy Scouts from using the term "Scout," "Scouts," "Scouting," or "Scouts BSA" without an "inherently distinctive or distinguishing term appearing immediately before it."