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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prosecutor Recognizes 2021 Champion of Children Award Recipient

DAYTON, OH (07/20/2021) – Today, Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced the recipient of the 2021 Champion of Children Award to recognize the outstanding efforts of a citizen who has helped protect a child or has shown outstanding work towards protecting children in our community.

This year, the award recipient is Mr. John Treon, of Centerville. On September 24, 2020, a 17-year-old Centerville High School cheerleader was brutally attacked by 34-year-old Johnny Hansen, who was armed with a mallet, while on the Iron Horse Park trail. Mr. Treon heard the screams for help from the victim and he confronted and yelled at the defendant, who fled.

Mr. Treon helped the victim to his home and called 911. The victim was transported to the hospital where she received nearly 100 stitches to close the wounds to her head. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Treon, the defendant was quickly located and arrested by Centerville Police.

On October 5, 2020, defendant Johnny Hansen was indicted for six felonies, including counts of Felonious Assault, Kidnapping, and Tampering with Evidence. On April 8, 2021, the defendant was found guilty as charged on all counts. On April 29, 2021, the defendant was sentenced to serve at least 15 years in prison.

Prosecutor Heck continued, “An interesting fact in this case, is that the defendant, Hansen, an exceptionally large man at 6’3” tall and 353 pounds, was attacking a 5’ tall high school cheerleader with a mallet. John didn’t stop and consider the danger he might be placing himself in by confronting a younger and much larger man who had a weapon, he only knew that a young girl was being brutally attacked and needed help. Anyone willing to run towards and confront such a large weapon-wielding individual is very brave. This is what a true Champion of Children does.”

Prosecutor Heck also commended Centerville Police Det. Katherine Gerspacher and Det. Sgt. Jeffrey Kaecher, who investigated the case, and Assistant Prosecutors Jennifer Weber and Ashley Adkinson, who were the prosecutors on the case.

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