

BILLIE

Continued from 1

Art Institute of Virginia Beach.

Her body was found 11 days after her disappearance, behind a church near Brown's childhood home in Charlotte, North Carolina. Evidence at the scene indicated she'd also been sexually assaulted, prosecutors said.

Brown was charged in U.S. District Court in Norfolk with kidnapping resulting in death, assault, theft, intent to commit aggravated sexual abuse and stalking. He was charged with murder in state court in North Carolina.

Concerns about his competency were first raised a few weeks after his arrest.

Prosecutors asked that Brown undergo psychological evaluation in response to bizarre behavior he displayed in custody. When prison officials later tried to conduct a hearing at his cell on the issue, he stood motionless and naked in front of the door, holding a sheet in front of his face and body.

Jackson, the judge overseeing the case, ruled in January 2019 he wasn't competent and ordered that he be sent to a prison medical facility for treatment.

Six months later, the judge granted prosecutor's request to have him forcibly medicated after learning that he was acting out in prison, had swung chain restraints at a guard, and was not taking care of himself.

The Bureau of Prisons thought he'd been restored in early 2019, but later determined he wasn't after receiving additional information from defense experts.

Nearly a year later — in December 2019 — government doctors told the court they believed they could have him restored within four months by forcibly injecting him with multiple antipsychotic drugs, according to a document filed recently by the defense. But more than nine months later he remained incompetent, the

“The indictment against Brown remains in effect. If he becomes competent in the future, we intend to proceed with his prosecution.”

— Statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Norfolk

document said.

“Last week, government doctors finally admitted in internal medical records that this multi-drug regimen is not likely to restore Mr. Brown, and that — in fact — nothing is,” the document said.

Brown served in the Navy for 21 years as an information systems technician. He retired in 2011.

He experienced his first psychotic episode 20 years ago while he was still in the Navy, court records show. He was hospitalized and diagnosed with schizophrenia at the time.

He suffered a second one in 2011 or 2012, when his sister reported he was exhibiting paranoid behavior and sought to have him involuntarily committed, the document said.

When the Blimpie shop at the Navy base opened in August 2017, Brown became a regular customer, visiting most every day, according to some of Billie's co-workers.

Billie worked as an assistant manager and was scheduled to open the shop the day she disappeared. Brown stopped coming in after she went missing, the co-workers said.

Billie's death later led to the passage of the Ashanti Alert Act, a national public safety alert that's issued for missing adults between the ages of 18 and 65.

Jane Harper, 757-222-5097,
jane.harper@pilotonline.com