

Transgender woman on trial today on multiple charges

Joel Mills/Lewiston Tribune

The transgender woman banned from the Lewiston Rosauers for using the women's bathroom will stand trial today for allegedly battering a woman after a confrontation in a downtown bar.

The case is unrelated to the Rosauers incident, but it still involves Alberto (Ally) Robledo's gender identity, said her defense attorney, Joanna McFarland. The woman Robledo is accused of punching in the face is alleged to have started the fight and earlier used gay slurs against Robledo, McFarland said.

In addition to the charge of battery, Robledo is charged with reckless driving and resisting or obstructing officers in connection with the March 23 incident. All the charges are misdemeanors, and Robledo faces up to two years in jail and \$3,000 in fines if convicted.

The reckless driving charge stems from allegations that Robledo sped through a parking lot, nearly striking a parked car. The resisting charge arose after she allegedly ran or attempted to flee in a vehicle after a Nez Perce County sheriff's deputy ordered her to stop, according to court records.

Jury selection begins at 8:30 a.m. and the trial is scheduled for one day before Magistrate Kent J. Merica.

Robledo, about 25, is getting support from the local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community through a Facebook page called "Support Ally Robledo to a Fair Trial." The page had 53 likes as of Wednesday afternoon, and several people had posted comments of support.

Robledo made national news in April after Lewiston police served her with a one-year "no trespassing" order at the behest of Rosauers corporate management. Robledo had been using the women's bathroom at the grocery chain's Lewiston Orchards store, and customer complaints triggered the reaction.

Mills may be contacted at jmills@lmtribune.com or (208) 848-2266.