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Man pleads not guilty to tossing object off an I-5 overpass

He's same man acquitted for starting Oak Knoll fire

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The homeless man acquitted in the Oak Knoll fire case has pleaded not guilty to charges that he tossed a traffic pin off the Ashland Street bridge onto Interstate 5.

John David Thiry, 40, was indicted on Jan. 24 on one count each of first-degree throwing an object off an overpass, a Class C felony; second-degree disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor; and recklessly endangering another person, a Class A misdemeanor.

Thiry, represented by his public defender, Justin Rosas, on Wednesday pleaded not guilty to all charges during an arraignment hearing before Jackson County Circuit Judge Benjamin Bloom.

Thiry remains in jail on \$10,000 bail.

Ashland police arrested Thiry on Jan. 22 after a driver called 9-1-1 to report seeing Thiry throw a 3-foot, orange plastic traffic pin off the bridge and onto the freeway, according to police reports. The traffic delineator didn't hit any cars, said Ashland police Deputy Chief Corey Falls.

Police say Thiry then headed to the nearby Rite Aid parking lot where he began aggressively panhandling and harassing shoppers. He was cited for disorderly conduct in the Rite Aid incident. On Jan. 28 Thiry pleaded not guilty to that charge before Judge Timothy Gerking.

The bridge incident occurred not far from where investigators say Thiry ignited a grass fire on Aug. 24 that spread across Interstate 5 and destroyed 11 homes.