

## Hanson

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las resident for 35 years and attended local schools.

Hanson's attorney, Mark Mack, said that the plea was part of an agreement reached with the District Attorney's office and the Fish Commission, and he felt the agreement was fair.

"I was looking at the severity of the penalties involved," said Mack. "I felt that under those circumstances it was a prudent decision."

According to Kerry Messerle, Region Manager of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, the charge of homicide by watercraft while under the influence would have carried with it a mandatory prison sentence of three years, with a maximum sentence of seven years. Homicide by watercraft, a first degree misdemeanor, is punishable by a fine of \$2,500 to \$10,000 and up to 5 years in prison, said Messerle, while the penalty for negligent operation of a watercraft and operation under the influence of alcohol is a \$250 to \$5,000 fine and up to 90 days in prison for each offense.

The charge of homicide by watercraft was created after four people were killed while riding in a boat at Harveys Lake in 1983. In that crash, Denis Abromavage of Pittston was driving a boat that ran over a smaller boat, killing four passengers in the smaller craft.

Hanson's blood alcohol level measured after the accident was .16 percent, higher than the .10 percent considered legally drunk in Pennsylvania.

Unlike motorists, drivers of boats may drink alcohol while operating their craft as long as they are not legally intoxicated.

This is the first time the laws homicide by watercraft and homicide by watercraft while under the influence have been applied in the Northeast Region of the state.

At a preliminary hearing before District Justice Earl Gregory of Shavertown on September 3, attorney Mack put up a spirited fight to have the homicide charges entirely dropped.

Mack argued that Richard Walter was responsible for the accident, that he chose to ski close to the dock to spray people, and that he could have dropped the tow rope at any time.

Hanson is presently free on \$50,000 bail. Sentencing will be February 5 at 9:15 a.m. at the Luzerne County Courthouse.

## Geese

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Jems, Dunn says. If they are identified and caught, they will probably be relocated to Alabama or Mississippi, with the 2,400 birds sent to these states each year.

However, not all geese sporting bright yellow collars are nuisances. Geese tagged with rigid yellow cylindrical collars are the remnants of a migratory goose study of the Atlantic Flyway conducted in the mid-1980's by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the states and Canadian provinces located along this migration route.

"A wild goose can survive up to 15 or 16 years," Dunn explained. "We share information on their habits through a database cooperative program. Since wild geese have a 70-80% survival rate, you still might expect to see some of those tagged during the 1980's."

Dunn is not sure whether or not the geese would stay the winter at Harveys Lake. A lot depends on the weather; if the lake freezes over, the geese will probably head for open water, possibly on the Susquehanna River. The Game Commission discourages residents from feeding them, as this only encourages them to stay.

If you see geese with black collars, they are part of a study of a

resident goose population which lives above 48 degrees latitude, Dunn said. Biologists don't know much about them. Tagged birds' movements are monitored and information logged by computer.

Dunn added that 5,000 ducks along the East Coast are tagged yearly as part of another federal Atlantic Flyway study. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service studies the migratory habits of mallards, black ducks and wood ducks. Most banded ducks are harvested in their first year, Dunn said; approximately 30% of the banded ducks are reported harvested each year.

To obtain information on reporting tagged waterfowl, contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Be sure to note the type of bird, where you found it and the band number and color.

Information obtained from these studies is used by the U.S. fish and Wildlife Service to set goose hunting season and bag limits along the East Coast. They are announced in late September or early October. A federal duck stamp is needed to hunt waterfowl, according to Pennsylvania hunting regulations.



## Giant Christmas stocking winner

Daniel Benedict, 6, shown with his three-year-old sister, Nora, was the winner of Dallas Centre Hardware's giant Christmas stocking. The drawing for the stocking, which is full of toys, was held Sunday, December 22. Daniel and Nora and the children of Aileen and Jim Benedict of Carverton. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)

## Sell It! with a Post Classified

## Police report

### Presents stolen on Christmas Eve

Approximately 45 Christmas presents valued at about \$800 were stolen from a parked pickup truck at Harveys Lake on Christmas Eve, police said.

Walter S. Grycko, of Hyde Park, N.Y., parked his pickup truck at Our Lady of Victory Church, and sometime between 11:50 p.m. and 1:18 a.m., someone pried open the door to the cap on the back of the truck and stole the presents.

Grycko had been visiting relatives in the area. Investigating officer is Ptl. Mark Karlonis.

### DALLAS TOWNSHIP

#### CHARGED WITH PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS

Kathy Hobbs, 26, of Second Street, Harveys Lake, was charged with public drunkenness December 15 after she fell down Robert Martin's cellar steps in Kunkle, police said.

Police said that Hobbs had been drinking beer and had entered Martin's residence uninvited at about 4:22 p.m. to look for a bathroom.

Investigating officer was Ptl. John Appel.

#### CAR HITS UTILITY POLE

A UGI utility pole was knocked over after being struck by a car at Upper Demunds Road on December 16, police said.

Paul Edward Bartley, 22, of RR 5 Tunkhannock, was driving a 1991 Oldsmobile Cutlas when he struck the pole on the snowy day, police said. Bartley and his passenger, Dan Werts, 21, of Franklin Township, complained of pain but refused medical attention.

Investigating officer was Ptl. Wayman Miers.

#### CHARGED WITH DUI

William D. Michael Jr., 26, of Hunlock Creek, was charged with driving under the influence December 25 at 8:10 p.m. after he had an accident with his van on Route 309, police said.

Michael was not injured by the van had to be towed. Michael was also driving under an expired California license which had expired, police said.

Investigating officer was Ptl. Wayman Miers.

### DALLAS BOROUGH

#### CHARGED WITH DUI

James David Thomas Jr., 28, of Clarks Summit was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol December 24 at 12:30 a.m. after he was stopped for driving erratically on Route 415, police said.

A blood alcohol test administered at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital showed his blood alcohol level to be .14%. In Pennsylvania, .10% is considered legally intoxicated.

Investigating officer was Ptl. James Martin.

#### ROY ABRAHAM BURKHOLDER JR., 59, OF RD 3, HUNLOCK CREEK, WAS CHARGED WITH DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL DECEMBER 22 AT 12:45 A.M., POLICE SAID. BURKHOLDER WAS STOPPED AFTER HE WAS OBSERVED DRIVING ERRATICALLY ON ROUTE 415. HIS BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL WAS TESTED AT .23% AT WILKES-BARRE GENERAL HOSPITAL, POLICE SAID.

Investigating officer was Ptl. James Martin.

#### DISORDERLY CONDUCT, RESISTING ARREST

James H. Wertman, 28, of Valley View Drive, Dallas, was charged with public drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest December 20 at 2:05 a.m., police said.

Police said that Wertman became involved in an altercation at Pickett's Charge Bar with his girlfriend, then yelled at the bartender, and had to be forcibly taken into custody by police.

Investigating officer was Ptl. James J. Drury.

### CHARGED WITH HAVING ILLEGAL PLATES

Jeannette Lynn Hoyt-Walker, 26, of North Main Street, Ashley, was charged with having altered, forged, or counterfeit documents or plates on December 14, police said. Walker had been driving north on Route 415 when she was stopped for a traffic violation. While Ptl. James Martin was checking the vehicle, he discovered that the license plate was altered so it showed a current validation sticker, when in fact, it had expired. The plate also belonged on a different vehicle.

Walker also received five traffic citations, police said.

### FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO MINORS CHARGED

Robin Bedford, 20, of Parrish Street, Dallas, was charged with corruption of minors and selling or furnishing alcohol to minors after he gave beer to a 15-year-old girl from Dallas on December 7, police said. The charges were filed December 10.

Investigating officer was Ptl. James Drury.

### DUI CHARGED AT CHECKPOINT

Patrick A. McGraw, 29, of RR1 Harveys Lake, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol December 14 at 2 a.m., police said.

McGraw was stopped at a sobriety checkpoint on Route 309, and failed a field sobriety test, police said. A breath test administered at the Wilkes-Barre Central Processing center showed a .14% blood alcohol level.

Arresting officer was Ptl. James J. Drury.

Michael F. Stolarick, 29, of RR 2, Mountain View Drive, Dallas, was charged with drunk driving after being stopped at a sobriety checkpoint on Route 309 on December 14 at 2:20 a.m., police said.

Stolarick's blood alcohol level was tested at .14% at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, police said.

Arresting officer was Ptl. William Norris.

### DRUNK DRIVING CHARGED

Leonard Massare III, 25, of RR4 Harveys Lake, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol December 20 at 1:46 a.m. after he was stopped traveling north on Route 415, police said.

Police said Massare was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where his blood alcohol level was tested at .21%.

### DRUG POSSESSION CHARGED

Robert J. Renfro, 30, of Pine Grove Apartments, Harveys Lake, was charged with possession of a controlled substance on December 14, police said. Renfro was stopped on Route 415 for suspicion of driving under the influence and while being given a field sobriety test, Ptl. Brian Feeney observed a plastic bag containing a yellowish powder between the front seats of the car.

The substance was field tested as methamphetamine, also known as crank or speed.

The arresting officer was Ptl. James J. Drury.

### KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

#### REAR END ACCIDENT

Two cars collided on Route 309 near South Main Street December 19 after a car in front of them slowed to make a turn, police said.

Debra Castellino, of Birchwood Estates, Exeter, was driving north on Route 309 when at about 11:10 a.m. a vehicle in front of her stopped to let an unknown vehicle turn into Newell Fuel Service.

Castellino stopped her 1983 Dodge Reliant, but was struck from behind by a 1991 Mitsubishi driven by Frank J. Langan, of Slocum Street, Swoyersville, police said.

No one was injured in the crash. Skid marks from Langan's vehicle were approximately 62 feet long before the impact area.

Investigating officer was Ptl. Walter Davis.

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## Cheerleaders

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Besides the physical benefits of being a cheerleader - building strength, balance, flexibility - Farrell remembers how it taught her teamwork and having a positive attitude.

"One thing I like about cheerleading is they have to work together to make it come as one,"

says Farrell. "It's the type of sport, when they're down, they have to look up to keep the team up. I think it gave me a way of dealing with people."

"It gives them a bonding," adds Farrell. "I know when I was a cheerleader, I formed friendships that I haven't broken to this day."

## Religious services

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH** - 196 N. Main St., Shavertown, PA 675-3859. Pastor Harold R. Baer, Jr. Worship, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month. Church School 9:45 a.m. for all ages. Tuesday Bible Study 9 a.m.

**DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - 4 Parsonage St., Dallas, PA 675-0122. Rev. Michael A. Bealla, Pastor. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sun. School 9:00 a.m.

**SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - 163 N. Pioneer Ave., Shavertown. 675-3616. Pastors, Rev. James A. Wert, Rev. Harriet L. Santos. Music Director, Rosento E. Santos. SATURDAY: 5:30 p.m. Chapel Service. SUNDAY: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship Services.

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