

Testimony

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because I did not see him drink," Kocher said. "He wasn't stumbling or slobbering all over himself or anything like that. His eyes are always bloodshot - they're bloodshot now."

The conversation was coherent, he added.

After Kocher's pager toned out the fire call, he left the garage to get his turnout gear and returned to find Williams had left.

While driving to the firehouse, he saw Williams driving the tanker on Route 415, turned around and followed him, Kocher testified.

Williams hadn't driven the tanker for about a year, Kocher said. The tanker is different to drive than a car because its braking and turning respond differently and the 1,000 gallons of water in the tank tend to shift around, he added.

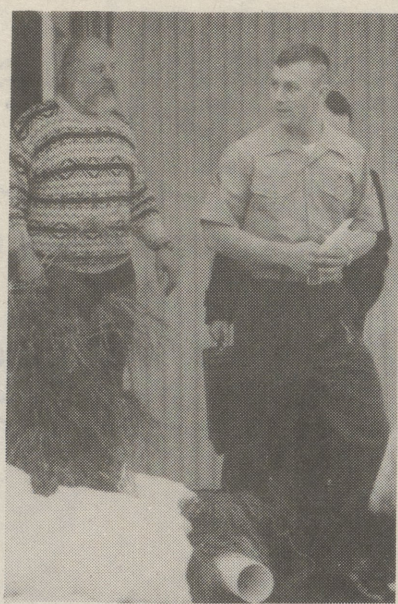
Kocher said he saw the tanker go straight instead of turning a curve in the roadway, then slide across the road as Williams apparently overcorrected his steering. The tanker hit the guardrails, then flipped onto its side, he added.

Kocher's statements soon after the accident to trooper Michael A. Davis, the investigating officer, differed from his testimony at the hearing.

"Kocher...stated that the defendant was at his residence in a visibly intoxicated state when a fire call came in," Davis wrote in the arrest warrant affidavit. "The defendant stated he was going to get a truck from the fire company and was advised not to by Kocher."

Kocher acknowledged that he works for Williams's father, Richard Williams, Jr.

Richard Williams III will be tried



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Pvt. Richard Williams, III, USMC, the Harveys Lake firefighter involved in an accident September 2, is escorted from his preliminary hearing for D.U.I. by his father, Richard Williams, and attorney Stephen Urbanski.

in Luzerne County Criminal Court on a charge of driving while intoxicated. He was also cited for driving on the wrong side of the road after the preliminary hearing.

"You guys just don't give up, do you?" he snarled at a photographer who aimed a camera at him on his way into court.

Davis's investigation indicated the tanker traveled 82 feet along the berm of an S-curve in the road, returned to the roadway and skidded sideways 80 feet before flipping onto its side on the guard rail.

State police trooper John C. Weiss, who interviewed Williams in the trauma room at Community Medical Center, said he smelled "a strong odor of alcohol" on Williams's breath. Williams's speech was also slurred, he added.

Williams refused to take a blood alcohol test, which results in the automatic loss of his driver's license for a year under the Pennsylvania Implied Consent Law, Weiss said.

"Williams said he was at his father's house and didn't know if he had been in an accident," Weiss said. "In my opinion he was intoxicated."

Routine blood tests performed at the hospital showed alcohol in Williams's blood, but Tupper refused to admit the results as evidence because they express the blood alcohol level differently from the state-approved test.

The state-approved test reads the blood alcohol level as a percentage with a decimal point, while the hospital's test reads it in milligrams per deciliter. Williams's reading was 233 mg/dcl.

"If you add the decimal point it corresponds exactly," Davis said. "It's .233 percent, or more than twice the legal limit of .10."

"I can assume what it means, but I still have a problem with it," Tupper said. "I can't allow an assumption in court."

He agreed to allow the report as evidence because it indicated there was some alcohol in Williams's blood at the time of the test.

Other charges against Williams dealing with violations of other sections of the D.U.I. law and a citation for not using the tanker's seat belt were dismissed.

School board

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daughter is a 1993 Lake-Lehman graduate and attends West Chester University.

Board member Pat Gold nominated Larry Bellas of Oak Hill, a Lake-Lehman Taxpayer Association member, to replace Jones. However, Miller won the election by a vote of 6-2, with Gold and Allan Moss voting against.

During a committee-of-the-whole meeting prior to the regular school board meeting, Gold noted that she had been approached by several citizens interested in the position to be vacated by Jones and urged the board to consider more than just one candidate.

Outgoing board member Liz Sichter then questioned Gold's residence and eligibility as a board member, since Gold now works in Allentown and commutes to her Lake Silkworth home which is up for sale.

Gold responded to Sichter's comments during the regular board meeting that evening when

she announced that her husband had received a promotion, relocating him to Allentown. However, she said she notified the board of this fact two months ago, and she will resign when her Lake Silkworth house is sold and she moves.

Rose Howard, board member-elect, also spoke at the regular meeting, demanding a public apology from board member Karen Whipple, who Howard says, questioned why Howard would be interested in running for school board when she has no children. Howard, who is unable to have children, does not feel that is relevant criteria for being on the school board.

Whipple was nominated to replace Jones as Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board representative. The motion was carried, with Kern and Whipple voting no.

School board members voted two salary increases on an al-

ready seemingly tight budget. Business manager Ray Bowersox received a 4% increase from \$59,600 to \$61,984 retroactive to July 1, 1995. Board president Jeff Fritzen noted that Bowersox has "gone beyond the call of what was expected" in his position and in the past has done double-duty in the roles of transportation coordinator and business manager. The raise was approved on a 6-2 vote, with Kern and Moss voting no.

The board also approved a 3.75% increase from \$72,000 to \$74,700 for superintendent Dr. William Price. The motion was again carried on a 6-2 vote with Kern and Moss voting no.

Moss explained his "no" vote by saying that the board had initially agreed upon a specific salary during the search for a new superintendent, but that Price had been given an additional \$3,000 upon hiring.

Mail packages early, follow these guidelines

According to Neela Patel, owner of Mail Boxes Etc., in the Dallas Shopping Center, consumers who follow a few simple rules may avoid costly delivery, mishandling or damage problems this holiday season.

"For the most part, packing and shipping problems can be avoided if you follow a few basic guidelines," explains Patel. "One of the surest ways to prevent a mishap is to include a card with both the recipient and sender's address, inside the gift box. If the outside label is damaged and unreadable, the shipper can still send the package on its way."

Patel notes that next to damaged labeling, improper packaging is the second biggest problem mailers and shippers encounter.

To ensure the safe arrival of gifts, she suggests the following:

- Always apply a mailing label. Include return address and the ZIP code as well as the complete mailing address. Place clear sealing tape over the labels to prevent the ink from smearing or use indelible ink.

- Use a rigid corrugated box with flaps intact. Select one large enough to allow for cushioning material on all sides of the gift. Avoid previously mailed boxes; they lose their resiliency in travel.

- Protect package contents by wrapping each item separately. Place cushioning material such as plastic loose-fill packaging peanuts, two inches around, over and between items. Plastic peanuts can be recycled through participating MBE centers.

- Take extra care when packing glass and china. Pack each item in a smaller box with bubble wrap around it. Place the smaller box in a larger one. Pack materials between the two boxes, allowing for two-to-four inches of packing material on all sides. If properly packaged, the box should not rattle.

- Seal the outside with a strong carton sealing tape, two-inches or wider. DO NOT use masking or cellophane tapes since they may peel, crack and are generally not strong enough for mailing purposes. DO NOT use string or paper to wrap the outside of your package; these items may be caught in conveyor belts.

- Packages should be able to withstand bumps, stacking and a 4-foot drop. If properly packaged with a protected label, gifts should arrive intact.

Patel suggests for cross-country package delivery by regular mail or UPS, items should be shipped by December 10, December 16 at the latest.

"Of course you can wait until December 21, and send your package next day air or 2-day air, but extra charges may apply. Packages mailed on December 24 via the Postal Service's Express Mail will see delivery on December 25."

It's never too early to mail your

Christmas cards and packages to and from military addresses overseas and to international addresses. The following are suggested cutoff dates as listed by the USPS:

APO/FPO AE, ZIPs 090-097, APO/FPO AE ZIPs 098, APO/FPO AE ZIPs 962-966, air letters/cards, Dec. 4, priority, Dec. 4; APO/FPO AA Zips 340, air letters/cards, Dec. 5, priority, Dec.

5; U.S. Domestic Zip Codes, air letters/cards, Dec. 13, priority Dec. 6.

Africa, Caribbean, Greenland, Central & South America, air letters/cards, Dec. 4, air parcel post, Dec. 4; Australia, Europe, Far East, Middle East, Southeast Asia, air letters/cards, Dec. 11, air parcel post, Dec. 11; Canada, air letters/cards, Dec. 15, air parcel post, Dec. 15.

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HEALTH AWARENESS

Healthy Holiday Eating
You are cordially invited to join our STAR dietitians as they transform a holiday dinner into a low-fat, healthy traditional meal. Bring your favorite recipe and see it redesigned into a low-fat version.

Thursday, December 7 • 7:00PM FREE
Presenters: STAR Dietitians

PERSONAL ENHANCEMENT

Are You Ready for the Holidays?
You will be, after this fun-filled evening of learning how to creatively wrap gifts, make fancy bows and set a festive table, all with time to spare.

Wednesday, November 29 • 7:00PM FEE \$5.00
Presenter: Diane DeNisco
Project Coordinator, Interior Design

DIABETES EDUCATION

Healthful Holiday Meal Plans for Those with Diabetes
The most difficult time of the year to follow a meal plan is the period from Thanksgiving to the New Year! Learn an easy and accurate way to follow a healthful meal plan from one of our STAR registered dietitians.

Thursday, November 30 • 7:00PM FREE
Presenter: Arlene Feleccia, R.D., C.D.E.

Clutter...Be Gone!
During the holiday season we tend to hide and hoard. Spring cleaning does not have to wait! Learn the basics to eliminate clutter forever.

Tuesday, December 12 • 7:00PM FEE \$5.00
Presenters: Staff Enhancement Staff

STAR FITNESS

Take Time to Body Sculpt
During this busy holiday season, take time to pamper yourself and experience a non-impact strength workout called "Body Sculpt." Then learn how to enhance overall relaxation with a full-body stretch.

Tuesday, December 5 • 7:00PM FEE: \$3.00
Presenter: Joan Cebrick, M.S., Manager, Fitness & Nutrition Services

Reduce Holiday Stress
Gift ideas to help lessen stress and tips on holiday planning are just some of the topics that will be discussed.

Thursday, December 14 • 7:00PM FEE \$5.00
Presenters: Staff Enhancement Staff

CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Who is a Stranger?"
Helps children ages 5 to 8 learn important information to help prevent child abduction.

Thursday, December 7 • 4:30PM FREE
Presenters: Health Awareness Staff

To register or for more information, please call 283-7222 or 1-800-838-WELL. All classes will be held on the 2nd floor.

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