

College students nabbed for Christmas decoration theft

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP - An observant off-duty patrolman helped his fellow police officers nab three College Misericordia coeds allegedly attempting to steal Christmas decorations.

Melissa Marzen, 19, of Jim Thorpe, Rebecca Schoonover, 18, of Dickson City and Sara McKee, 19, of York were arraigned November 20 on charges of theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property and conspiracy to commit theft before District Justice Carmen Maffei.

The women told police they live on campus at College Misericordia.

According to sergeant Michael Moravec, Dallas Township patrolman Jeff Dennis noticed a small red car with its brake lights on backed into Rave's Garden Center at 1:24 a.m. while driving on

Route 309 in Shavertown.

After turning around and returning to Rave's, he saw two women carrying a Christmas wreath get into the car and drive away. A third woman ran after the car, then headed into the woods after it left the parking lot.

Dennis called the incident into the Back Mountain Communications Center on his car phone, then pursued the red car south on Route 309. Kingston Township officers Charles Rauschkolb and Wade Curtis pulled them over at Hillside Road.

Police recovered five partially decorated wreaths, a poinsettia plant and a grave marker decoration, with a total estimated value of \$190.

Bail information was not available from police.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Keep on trucking!

Kingston Township manager Jeff Box, road foreman Butch Chamberlain and supervisor Herb Hill show off the new forest green 1995 Chevrolet 3500 Cheyenne mini-dump truck, which the township purchased three weeks ago. The three-ton truck, which came with all-wheel drive, a snowplow and salt spreader, cost \$34,000. It replaced the township's old 1988 GMC pickup truck.

DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

Traffic stop nabs man driving hot car

Charges of receiving stolen property and making false statements to police against Edward Lester VanDyke, 28, of Allentown were bound over to Luzerne County Criminal Court after a preliminary hearing November 19 before District Justice James Tupper.

VanDyke was also cited for driving without a license and passing another car in a no-passing zone, according to court records.

The charges stemmed from an incident September 9, in which police pulled VanDyke over on Route 415 after seeing him pass another car in a posted no-passing zone.

When asked for a driver's license and owner's card, VanDyke told police he didn't have it with him and produced an owner's card showing the car to be registered to Catherine Rubino of Pottstown.

VanDyke told police he was her husband, Joseph, and identified a white female passenger as Catherine Rubino.

A records check showed VanDyke wasn't Rubino.

Two hours later the real Joseph Rubino called police and told them his car was at a Pottstown garage being inspected.

The arresting officer was Dallas Borough patrolman James Drury.

D.U.I. CHARGES SENT TO COUNTY COURT

Charges of driving while under the influence against four men were sent to Luzerne County Criminal Court after preliminary hearings November 21 before District Justice James Tupper.

Guy Llewellyn, III, 28, of Shavertown was arrested Sept. 28 by Kingston Township officer James Ibbotson after police saw him driving erratically on Route 309 and making a sudden U-turn into oncoming traffic.

After failing field sobriety tests, he took a blood test which showed his blood alcohol level to be .165. The legal limit is .10.

He was also cited for making an unsafe U-turn.

James Warrelmann, 38, of Harveys Lake was arrested by Kingston Township officer Wade Curtis Sept. 28 after police saw him driving erratically on Route

309, nearly hitting the cruiser head-on and swerving between lanes several times.

After failing field sobriety tests, Warrelmann refused to take a blood alcohol test, which automatically results in his losing his license for a year under the state's Implied Consent Law.

He was also cited for careless driving.

Gerald Spencer, 60, of Harveys Lake was arrested by Dallas Township patrolman Doug Higgins Oct. 6 after police saw him driving erratically on Route 309.

After failing field sobriety tests, Spencer took a blood test which showed his blood alcohol level to be .135.

Robert Layton Wilkinson, 69, of Valley View Trailer Park, was arrested by Dallas Township patrolman Wayman Miers July 14 after police saw his driving erratically on Upper Demunds Road. He failed field sobriety tests.

Unmarked cruiser on the road

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Dallas Borough Council announced at its regular November 21 meeting that a new 1995 Ford Crown Victoria cruiser was put on the road Monday. The unmarked cruiser cost \$17,425 and replaces the 1990 Caprice cruiser, which was sold for \$1,700, according to Dallas Borough police chief Jack Fowler.

Fowler will meet with other police chiefs from around the state and with the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on December 7 to discuss the everyday problems and concerns of police chiefs. He was invited to attend because he serves on the executive board

of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and is a past president of the Luzerne County Chiefs of Police.

According to the road report, resurfacing is complete on Norton Ave. after PG&W tore it up to install new lines. The council accepted \$3,500 from PG&W toward the resurfacing project.

The borough also announced the road crew is still collecting bagged leaves. Because of the early snow, the leaf vacuum is not usable at the present.

In other matters, council also passed a resolution accepting Wendy's Restaurant's site plans and stormwater management program.

Driver

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Drury, patrolman Ronald Chupas, 54, was hit by the mini-van operated by Vinnacombe, 41, of Dallas. Chupas and Dallas Township patrolman Alan Pugh were trying to dispatch an injured deer lying alongside the road with his service revolver.

The accident scene is located on Huntsville Road between Reservoir Road and Joseph Street, police said.

The van was traveling west on Huntsville Road and struck Chupas with its right side mirror.

Chupas was spun around and thrown seven feet from the point of impact, landing on his left side, Drury said.

"The driver didn't even slow down," he said. "The witnesses didn't see any brake lights at all."

Chupas was taken by the Dallas Ambulance to the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, where he was admitted for observation overnight and to check for internal bleeding.

"He has injuries to his lower back and also hit his head on the van and on the ground," Drury said. "He's still hurting too much to walk, but doesn't have any broken bones."

Before Vinnacombe turned himself in, Back Mountain police were busy tracing more than 150 such mini-vans registered in the area to find a match, Drury said.

"We're doing everything we can," he said.

Drury and Pugh are being assisted in the investigation by Kingston Township officer Wade Curtis.

SPCA to host pet photos with Santa

The S.P.C.A. of Luzerne County will hold its eighth annual pet Photos with Santa Dec. 9 and Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the shelter on Fox Hill Road, Plains.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, dog pictures will be taken. On Sunday, Dec. 10, cat pictures will be taken. Donation is \$5 per picture.

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Budget

(continued from page 1)

figures yet, but know we'll have that difference whittled down to zero by the time we pass the final budget," said chairman Ed Kelly. For example, awarding the trash collection bid to a cheaper hauler in the budget's final figures, he added.

The council unanimously awarded a trash hauling bid to J. P. Mascaro and Sons for \$84,800 in 1996, \$85,838 in 1997 and \$86,285 in 1998. The council had budgeted \$120,000 for service.

The council approved adding

another crossing guard at the Lake-Noxen school, to work three hours per day for a total of \$55 per week, contingent on the borough and the district approving a limited liability agreement. The Lake-Lehman school district picks up half the tab for crossing guards.

Codes enforcement officer Paul Grimes noted 1995 contractors' permits expire December 31 and must be renewed for next year. They are available for \$100 at the borough office.

Joseph Miscavage and Mayor Rick Boice were absent.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property deeds were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of November 10-16.

Wayndtree Oaks Inc. to James B. Boltz, et ux, Forest Circle Applewood, Dallas Twp., \$275,000.

Norma Knecht to Chad Stuart, et al, 93 Gerald St., Dallas Twp., \$52,000.

Gloria Corsano to William R.

Hallman, ux al, 4 Ambrosia Acres, Harveys Lake Bor., \$39,000.

Stephen A. Martin, et ux, to Luz. Co. Housing Auth., 65 North View Ave., Harveys Lake Bor., \$77,000.

Howard Whitesell, ux al, to Thomas A. Rogers, et ux, 86.95 ac., Lake Twp., \$57,500.

Land Farm Inc. to Donmark Enterprises, 65 ac., Ross Twp., \$80,000.

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