

DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

Driver charged after leaving mile-long path of destruction

Forty Fort resident Michael William Boback, 58, was arrested March 9 by Dallas Township patrolman Brian Feeney after police were notified that the defendant hit a utility pole and left the scene on Lower Demunds Rd. in Dallas. Boback then allegedly ran an oncoming vehicle off the road without stopping. The driver of that vehicle followed the defendant and told police he observed him driving erratically.

Another driver who was driving two cars behind the defendant on Wyoming Rd. served as a witness. After turning off of Lower Demunds onto Wyoming, Boback hit a mailbox and did not stop. He drove off the road and eventually over the yellow divider line into oncoming traffic. Boback's Isuzu Trooper then skidded 80 feet into an oncoming Honda. After impact the Honda was pushed into a telephone pole, causing the pole

to break in half. The Trooper proceeded to skid another 400 feet before stopping. The distance Boback traveled from where the defendant hit the first utility pole on Lower Demunds Rd. to the mailbox he hit on Wyoming Rd. was 5,039 feet.

The driver and two young passengers in the Honda had to be extricated and taken to the hospital by ambulance.

After failing field sobriety tests, Boback took a blood test which showed his blood alcohol level to be .264.

He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with blood alcohol level .10 or greater, recklessly endangering another person, disregarding traffic lanes, careless driving and reckless driving.

A related charge of accident involving death or personal injury was dismissed.

According to a witness, Weidler ran to his van to get a Browning .380 auto loading pistol after a dispute and returned to the residence with it. Weidler told police where to find the gun and stated that he was not licensed to carry a firearm. A UNISCOPE check was made about a license to carry a firearm with the Pennsylvania State Police and results were negative. He was charged with carrying firearm without a license.

HIT AND RUN

Lake Township resident Thomas Patrick Noon, 46, was arrested on August 25 by Harveys Lake patrolman Damian Hoover after police were called to an automobile accident at Warden Place in Harveys Lake. When police arrived, they saw a late model Ford Escort with no driver in sight. Two witnesses said the driver of the car ran down Rt. 415 to an unknown location.

Harveys Lake patrolman James Karlowicz drove down the road looking for the driver of the Escort. During his search a call came in about a hit and run at Grotto Pizza at Harveys Lake. Karlowicz was unable to locate the defendant, so he responded to Grotto Pizza. The car described at the scene matched that of the Escort at Warden Place.

At this time Karlowicz returned to join Hoover at Warden Place. The two conducted an investigation of the scene. A relative of Noon's brought the defendant to the scene where he refused medical attention. It took police and ambulance personnel 45 minutes to restrain the defendant and take him to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Noon refused both a field sobriety test and a blood test. As a result, he will lose his driving privileges for one year.

He was fined \$300 and charges of disorderly conduct, harassment and careless driving were reduced to summary offenses. Related charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and accidental damage to an unattended vehicle were dismissed.

Barre General Hospital for a blood test. He was charged with not driving at a safe speed, failing to keep right, careless driving, simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, disorderly conduct and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Related charges of driving without lights to avoid arrest, fleeing or attempting to elude an officer, aggravated assault and resisting arrest were dismissed.

FIREARM CHARGE

Wilkes-Barre resident John Richard Weidler II, 26, who was arrested on Feb. 5 by Dallas Borough patrolman James Drury after police were called to the scene of a domestic dispute involving a man with a gun on Main St. in Dallas. Police called the residence via cell phone and told the defendant to come out of the house.

The following defendants waived their right to a preliminary hearing before District James Tupper on March 13:

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Harveys Lake resident Michael John Scavone, 31, was arrested on Dec. 10 by Harveys Lake patrolman James Karlowicz after police observed him driving erratically on Rt. 415. After being stopped for crossing the yellow divider line, Scavone gave Karlowicz his driver's license and information. Scavone told the patrolman that he only had a couple of drinks.

Jackson Township patrolmen Barry Stubeda and Scott Davis came to assist. Karlowicz asked Scavone to turn off his car and step out of the vehicle. Instead, the defendant allegedly put his car into drive and fled on Lakeside Dr. to Oak by Wood St., at which time the defendant turned off his headlights and began to run from the scene on foot. After a 10 minute pursuit found Scavone lying face down on the ground. Scavone was taken to Wilkes-

Genealogical Society to meet March 25

The Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will meet on March 25 at 7 p.m. in the second floor meeting room of the Wilkes-Barre Veterans Administration Hospital.

Dr. Sheldon Spear, guest speaker, will focus on "Wyoming Valley Murders of 1930"

Dr. Spear is a history professor at Luzerne County Community College.

The program is open to the public and you may call 779-4643 for further information.



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER

Ruth Peters is enjoying her job as a police officer with the Dallas Twp. department.

Woman cop fits well in Dallas Twp.

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Ruth Peters' decision to follow her childhood dream of becoming a police officer has proved a great benefit for her and the community she serves. After one year on the job Peters, the only female police officer in Dallas Township and surrounding municipalities, has found her niche.

The self-described tomboy, who grew up in Plymouth and graduated from Wyoming Valley West in 1982, said she planned her life the reverse of many women. "I got married and had children first and then started my career," she explained. She and her husband Tom, who is president of Unigraphic Color Corporation in Plymouth, have two children, Jessica, 10 and Jeremy, 2.

Peters said she always dreamed of becoming an officer. "I remember wanting to be one at a young age. My mother says I was always giving orders," she recalled with a big smile.

Peters said she tried various occupations, but in 1994 she finally entered the Lackawanna Junior College Act 120 Police Academy in Scranton. Four months into her training she found she was pregnant with her second child, Jeremy. "I always say he was a little cadet," said Peters with a laugh. She did all of her bookwork courses before taking time off. After Jeremy was born she completed the more hands-on part of training and graduated in October 1995.

"I really enjoyed going to the academy. I'm very interested in law, I couldn't get enough of it. I felt really good about myself and thought 'this is it,'" she said of the police academy.

Things happen the way they do for a reason. I am proud to be an officer.

Ruth Peters
Dallas Twp. police officer

In February of 1996, Peters was hired part time by the Dallas Twp. Police Department. She said the department has been accepting and helpful. "They made me feel welcome from day one. In the past year there has never been a time (the other officers) haven't been here for me to answer my questions," she said of her co-workers. "We have a great team of officers here," she said proudly.

Despite her status as rookie and female, she was treated like any other officer. "When I'm in uniform there is no gender anymore. We've blended in great," she said.

Carl Miers, police chief agrees and sees a female on the force as very beneficial. "In certain cases, such as handling female prisoners and sexual assault victims, it's good to have a female officer because they can relate better," explained Miers. "We're very happy with our choice. She performs well and gets along with all the guys. If there was a full-time slot open, she would be considered." Miers points out that Peters is required to perform the same duties as every other officer

on the force.

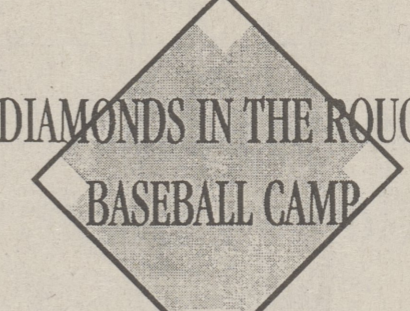
Peters also said female officers can be important in dealing with rape victims and children. "In many cases if a woman has just been sexually assaulted by a man she doesn't want to express what happened to another man. The victim maybe would say something to a female officer that they wouldn't feel comfortable telling a male officer," she explained.

With her great love of children, Peters hopes to eventually specialize in child abuse cases to help children out of hurtful situations. A few times she has teamed up with Kingston Township patrolmen Frank Ziegler and Mike Moravec of the D.A.R.E. program in their talks to area school children. The program is designed to prevent drug and alcohol abuse among children. "It's great. It gives the girls a chance to see a female officer," said Peters.

Peters' own daughter asked her if women could be officers. Peters told her daughter, an aspiring doctor, that women can be whatever they want.

After a year on the job, Peters knows she made the right choice by following her heart. "I am thrilled that I made it through. Things happen the way they do for a reason. I am proud to be an officer," she stated confidently.

She acknowledges her family for being her backbone. "I couldn't have done it without my family. My husband had to become Mr. Mom," she said. "In this job you have to have family support."



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The Dallas Post (USPS 147-720)

Published weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc. \$18 per year in Luzerne and Wyoming counties (PA); \$20 elsewhere in PA, NY or NJ; \$22 all other states. Periodicals postage paid at Dallas PA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612.

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