

DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

After allegedly stealing quad, man leads cops on wild high-speed chase

A Wilkes-Barre man is charged with receiving stolen property and a number of traffic violations after he led police on a chase from Shavertown to Kingston while riding a Polaris quad recreational vehicle.

Police say Tim McGraw, 20, of 62 W. Linden St., Wilkes-Barre, took the quad from a shed on the property of Leo Orlandini, 3094 Lower Demunds Rd., Dallas. Shortly after 1 a.m. April 26, Kingston Twp. police officer Robert Parrish saw a green quad traveling down the center of Rt. 309 in Shavertown near Back Mountain ServiStar. Parrish said in an affidavit of probable cause that McGraw looked directly at his cruiser and accelerated southbound.

When Parrish pursued the quad with his lights and siren on, McGraw allegedly crossed into the northbound lane, then back into the southbound lanes. As Parrish tried to pull up to the quad, he said McGraw swerved back and

forth to block the cruiser's path. Parrish had called in the incident on his radio, and when the quad approached the Luzerne exit, a PA State Police car was waiting for him with lights flashing.

McGraw did not stop, the report said, and when he got to Rutter Ave. went under the overpass, back up the ramp and onto the dike. He then traveled toward Pierce St. along the top of the dike until he drove to the side of the river and turned off the quad, apparently hoping to hid from police.

Officers Wayman Myers Doug Higgins of the Dallas Township police went over the dike on foot and found McGraw and the quad.

After a preliminary hearing before District Justice James Tupper, McGraw faces charges of receiving stolen property, fleeing police, recklessly endangering another person, disregarding a traffic lane and driving while his license was under suspension.

MULTIPLE CHARGES AFTER HIGH-SPEED CHASE AT LAKE

John Terry Weber, 28, of RR1 Box 1672, Sweet Valley, faces a court trial for aggravated assault, resisting arrest, endangering another person, reckless driving, driving under the influence and other charges as the result of an incident that took place March 28.

In an affidavit of probable cause, Harveys Lake police officer James Karlowicz said he saw a car driven by Weber drive through a stop sign at Outlet Rd. and Lakeside Drive at 1:06 a.m. When Karlowicz attempted to stop the car, Weber allegedly sped away at up to 90 mph, crossing the center line and nearly causing several accidents. When Weber tried to turn left on to Queen of Peace Rd. the car did not make the turn and drove into a field alongside Queen of Peace Rd. where it eventually became disabled.

The police report said Weber then jumped out of the driver's seat and ran through the woods. Karlowicz caught up to Weber after about 100 yards, but said Weber resisted arrest and had to be sprayed with mace before being handcuffed. When Karlowicz and officer Fuches of the Lake Twp. Police Dept., who had participated in the arrest, began to bring Weber back to the patrol car, Karlowicz said Weber became combative and kicked Fuches in the temple. After an ambulance arrived and the injuries were treated, Weber was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital for a blood alcohol test, which he refused. Refusal results in the

automatic suspension of a driver's license for one year.

Weber was represented by Atty. Sidney D. May at his preliminary hearing before District Justice Fred A. Pierantoni III.

CHECK FORGERY CHARGED

Theresa Pennetti, 42, of Sunset Terrace, Harveys Lake, faces charges of forgery, theft by deception, receiving stolen property and bad checks after she was arrested after allegedly trying to cash a check for \$200 belonging to Walter Frank Killian of Wilkes-Barre. Police say Pennetti first tried to cash the check Jan. 11 at the drive-up window of Mellon Bank in Kingston, but drove away when she was questioned by the teller. Later that day she passed a similar check at the Mellon Bank office in Dallas, police said. At the time of the incident, Pennetti was employed as a home health nurse by Bayada Nursing Home Care Specialists, to care for Killian's wife. Police arrested Pennetti after reviewing surveillance tapes from the two bank branches.

DUI CHARGES

Diane Nagle, 38, of Stroud Rd., Sweet Valley, was arrested shortly after 2 a.m. Jan. 29 after Dallas Twp. police officer Jeffrey Dennis saw her drinking from a bottle while driving on Rt. 415. When Dennis followed the Dennis car, he testified he saw it travel swerve and jerk from side to side and accelerate to 60 mph. After he saw the car nearly strike the sign at the Elmcrest development, Dennis turned on his lights and siren, but Nagle did not stop until

turning onto Rt. 118 and into the parking lot at Little Lumber. Dennis said Nagle shouted obscenities at him when he asked to see her driver's license, which she said had been revoked. As she got out of the car, Nagle stumbled and nearly fell, Dennis said, and she failed field sobriety tests. She was then taken for a blood alcohol test, which registered .228 percent, more than twice the legal limit.

In addition to driving under the influence, she is charged with disregarding a traffic lane and driving while her license was under suspension.

Kevin L. McGeehan, of Harris Hill Rd., Shavertown, was arrested March 19 by Kingston Twp. police officer Wade Curtis. Curtis said he was driving west on E. Center St. near the intersection of Rt. 309 when he saw a car driven by McGeehan turn onto Center St., crossing into the opposite lane. After failing field sobriety tests, McGeehan refused to submit to a blood alcohol test, which results in immediate suspension of his driver's license for one year.

The following defendants waived their right to preliminary hearings before District Justice James Tupper.

Timothy Peter Potoeski, 34, of Benton, was arrested Feb. 16 by John Young of the Lehman Twp. Police Dept. Potoeski had been stopped on Old Rt. 115 near the entrance to the Penn State campus by Chief John Masloski of the Lake Twp. Police Dept. Since Young was off duty at the time, Masloski took Potoeski to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where he refused to take a blood alcohol test.

Christine Wanner, 29, of P.O. Box 233, Noxen, was arrested March 6 by Dallas Twp. officer Jeffrey Dennis. Dennis said in an affidavit of probable cause that shortly after midnight he saw a car being driven by Wanner south on Church St. in Dallas, slowly and in the wrong lane. He said the car then swerved back and forth in the roadway, before turning sought on Rt. 415, then jerked back and forth across the roadway, nearly striking an oncoming car on one side and the guard rail on the other. While taking field sobriety tests, Wanner told Dennis she had been drinking in a bar all evening and was on her way to a bar in Trucksville. A blood alcohol test given at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital measured .221 percent, more than twice the legal limit.

Thomas Bogdon, 45, of 126 S. Lehigh St., Trucksville, was ar-

rested March 7 by officer Dennis after a car Bogdon was driving was seen driving erratically on Main Rd. After the car was stopped, Dennis said Bogdon had difficulty getting the driver's side door open. After he failed field sobriety tests, Bogdon was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where his blood alcohol was measured at .181 percent.

Matthew Raczkowski, 21, or RD 2, Box 281, Hunlock Creek, was arrested April 1 by Kingston Twp. police officer Franklin Buckler after he received a report of two vehicles speeding down Pioneer Ave., apparently racing or chasing one another. A car driven by Raczkowski went through a stop sign at W. Center St. before Buckler stopped it. After failing field sobriety tests, Raczkowski's blood alcohol level was measured at .128 percent.

Bryan Krohn, 24, of 4002 N. Lake Rd., Sweet Valley, was arrested March 26 by Kingston Twp. police officer Martin Maransky. Maransky responded at one minute to midnight to an accident on Hillside Rd. in which a car was up against the guard rail. When he was asked to perform field sobriety tests, Krohn fell back against the fence and guard rail as he stood up, Maransky said. Krohn said he had been eating french fries and looked down for a moment when he ran off the road. His blood alcohol level measured .136 percent in a test given at the Luzerne County Central Processing Center.

Allen Erwine, 641 Meadows, Newberry Estate, Dallas, was arrested April 3 by officer David Fitch of the Dallas Twp. Police Dept. Fitch responded at about 7 p.m. to an accident in the parking lot of the BiLo supermarket in Dallas. After he failed field sobriety tests, Erwine was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital for a blood alcohol test, which measured .176 percent.

Charles J. Walsh, 22, of 475 Chestnut St., Kingston, was arrested March 18 by Dallas Twp. police officer Douglas Higgins. Higgins said he was traveling south on Rt. 309 near the Ranch Wagon when an oncoming vehicle moving at a high rate of speed forced him out of the travel lane. Higgins said he turned around and followed the Jeep at 80 mph in a 35 mph zone. The Jeep continued north on Rt. 415, then turned onto Lake St., where it ran up onto the sidewalk. Higgins was finally able to pull the car over at the entrance to College Misericordia. Higgins said Walsh failed field sobriety tests and a blood alcohol test measured .143 percent.

Budget

(continued from page 1)

tificate of deposit, payments of an old authority lease, and money saved from the expiration of a bond issue. "This fund variance can be attributed to some good decisions made by the board," said Melone. "We've talked a lot about restoring the district's fund balance and I think we are trending in the right direction."

May's progress report on construction in the district indicates the Wycallis and Dallas Elementary projects are on schedule although the library and gymnasium in the Wycallis building are lagging slightly behind. "The gym floor will be installed in one week," said Dan Lipsett, of Quandel Construction Management.

It was previously thought the floor would be installed after the windows were in place, since the manufacturer of the pine floor would not warranty the planks if there was a possibility of exposure to the elements. A compromise was reached allowing the floor to be installed if a temporary closure covered the openings. "The company ended up changing its mind, which is good for our schedule since the floor takes time to dry," said Lipsett.

Completion of the Wycallis library is taking longer than anticipated because of problems with a log wall. The special feature will be constructed of logs measuring approximately six inches in diameter and will be the centerpiece of the library wing.

Paving is scheduled to begin Monday and crews have begun to

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Paul Melone
Acting business manager

install sidewalks around the new school. "The guys finished up the sidewalks on the parent drop-off portion of the building this morning and they were moving to the administration side this afternoon," said Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, Dallas School District Superintendent.

Griffiths said Westmoreland Elementary teachers have been invited to visit the new school. "Wednesday, the Westmoreland faculty will tour the building," he said. "They will be given a copy of the floor plan and their room assignments so that they can begin to get oriented."

Renovations at Dallas Elementary are ahead of schedule, due in part to demolition being conducted after school hours. "We have allowed them to start working between the hours of 4 and 11 p.m. conditional upon the assumption that it would not be disruptive to the students," said Griffiths. Crews are removing sections of the old gym and auditorium in preparation for remodeling, which will take place this summer.

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