

Missing teen found in Wisconsin

By ANDREW TUTINO
Special to The Dallas Post

The Dallas teenager who left from her home last week was found Monday in northern Wisconsin and authorities there are holding a man in connection with her disappearance.

Lynn Nafus, 16, called her parents Monday to tell them she was OK, and police were able to trace the call back to a Wisconsin supermarket, said Dallas police Chief John Fowler.

Authorities in Washburn, Wis., were alerted to the call and took the man Nafus was staying with, Josh Egelund, into custody Monday night.

Egelund was charged with child enticement, interference with parental custody and obstructing a police officer. He is being held without bail, said Craig Haukaas, the Bayfield County District Attorney.

Dallas police believe Nafus met Egelund on the Internet and he might have picked her up Thursday at her Dallas home.

Police were searching for a small, light blue or gray car with a Washington state license plate, which was seen at Nafus's home Thursday. The man driving the car was described as being 19 to 24 years old, police said.

Haukaas was unsure of Egelund's age and said he knew little about him as of Tuesday night. He was awaiting paperwork from the Luzerne County District Attorney's office, he said.

Luzerne County First Assistant District Attorney Joe Carmody said the investigation into what charges can be filed against Egelund is continuing.

Carmody said charges could be filed today.

Nafus's parents were heading to Wisconsin to pick up their daughter, Fowler said, and were unavailable for comment.

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.

Teachers

(continued from page 1)

when audience members asked for details in the teacher's contract negotiations. Board members said at the time they were prohibited from releasing details of the negotiations as the LLEA had not agreed to any disclosure and historically, had never agreed.

The Sunshine Act, legislation requiring some meetings to be public, allows for negotiations relative to collective bargaining to be held in executive session and not in a public meeting. According to Roberts, the board released the four-page report on the recommendation of their attorney and representative for the collective bargaining, Bruce Campbell.

The board did vote to request a fact-finding panel from the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (PLRB) at last week's meeting, with James Mahon being the lone dissenting vote. Holland said the LLEA had requested the fact-finding on Feb. 12 and "the board, behind the scenes, shot it down."

"We find it somewhat ironic that a month ago when we requested fact finding, the board was opposed to fact finding," Holland said. "And now, today, they say we need fact-finding. We should have been in fact finding a month ago."

Roberts explained that when the teachers had asked for the fact finding in February, the

"We should have been in fact finding a month ago."

John Holland
Attorney for
Lake-Lehman teachers

board's attorney had advised them to give the mediation more time and the board asked for another meeting, March 18. "That meeting produced no significant movement so the board, again on the recommendation of the attorney, decided that maybe it was time for fact-finding," Roberts explained. "At that time the teachers said, 'No, let's meet again and talk again.' So you can see how complex this is."

A fact-finder, appointed by the PLRB, will take testimony from both sides and make a recommendation to the parties in an effort to help resolve the current impasse. "The board hopes that the fact-finder will look favorably upon our proposal as opposed to the associations proposal," Roberts said.

Holland feels the fact-finding panel will be a good thing for both the LLEA and the school district. "Often times, even when it doesn't produce an agreement, it does have a tendency to bring the parties closer together in the positions."

Both parties reported the ma-

nor points not yet resolved were wages and health care, but Holland feels the board is unwilling to negotiate. "The board is taking a very hard-line position — take it or leave it," Holland said. "They just basically want to ram (their proposal) down the teachers' throats and that is not acceptable."

"We are somewhat perplexed that we've asked for dates (to meet for negotiations) and the district has refused to give us dates as well," he added. "As a matter of fact, at our last session, I asked the district to set a follow-up date and they refused to."

Roberts clarified the issue, saying the board refused, on the advice of their attorney, because they were in fact finding and once fact finding is granted, no face-to-face meetings should occur.

According to Roberts, in the last contract negotiations, five years ago, the teachers also worked a significant period without a contract. Their most recent contract expired August 2001.

Holland said the public should know the teachers gave numerous concessions in their last contract, including a wage freeze in the first year, health care concessions, their early retirement incentive plan and credit reimbursement.

2 men charged after 8-hour car chase

By ANDREW TUTINO
Special to The Dallas Post

LEHMAN TWP. — Two Lackawanna County men led law enforcement agencies on an eight-hour chase through four Back Mountain municipalities Tuesday morning after the men were spotted trying to steal a jack hammer.

Nicholas Dombek, 32, and Thomas Trotta Jr., 27, are charged with attempting to steal the jack hammer from Lehman Power Equipment on state Route 118, police said.

Each was arraigned before District Justice James Tupper on criminal and traffic charges in connection with the alleged theft and ensuing chase. They are lodged in the Luzerne County Correctional Facility for lack of \$25,000 bail each.

Though they only face misde-

meanor charges, Tupper set a high bail for Dombek and Trotta based on a request from Lehman Township police.

"They fled from us through four different townships and boroughs for eight hours this morning," Lehman Township officer Damian Hoover told Tupper. "I believe they would flee again if they had the chance."

Hoover said he saw a dark Chevrolet Blazer leave the equipment company's parking lot while he was patrolling at about 2:30 a.m., according to an affidavit.

Dombek and Trotta first fled in the Blazer, but crashed minutes after the chase began, according to court papers. After exiting the vehicle, Dombek and Trotta led police on a foot chase through Lehman, Jackson and Dallas townships and Dallas borough.

Trotta, of Moscow, was taken

into custody after he collapsed in the St. Nicholas Cemetery in Kingston Township at 7 a.m., according to court papers. He was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and later released. He appeared at his hearing still wearing a hospital smock.

At 10 a.m., Dombek, of Gouldsboro, was taken into custody in a residential area in Kingston Township, according to court papers.

In addition to Lehman Township officers, officers from Jackson Township, Dallas borough, Dallas Township, Kingston Township, Harveys Lake, Veteran Affairs police K-9 unit and state police at Wyoming assisted in the search and investigation, Hoover said.

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.

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