

Judge puts Bealla away for 6-12 years

By DAVID WEISS
Special to The Dallas Post

WILKES-BARRE — Luzerne County Assistant District Attorney Ingrid Cronin began telling a judge about Jason Bealla's "lengthy" criminal history at his sentencing Monday.

But she was quickly stopped by the judge, who interrupted to clarify how he viewed Bealla.

"You're an absolute terror to the Back Mountain community," said Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas Judge Peter Paul Olszewski Jr. "I think you're a career criminal, more specifically I think you're a career thief. I find nothing redeeming about you."

Olszewski said he wanted to make sure Bealla, 30, of Dallas, caused no more trouble to his community and sentenced Bealla to six to 12 years in state prison — the longest sentence allowed by law on the charges.

"I'd give you more if I could," said Olszewski, who listed nearly a dozen reasons why he imposed the stiff sentence.

Olszewski said Bealla has had five arrests as a juvenile and 19 arrests as an adult.

Bealla pleaded guilty to burglary and tampering with evidence in October. Police said they found child pornography in Bealla's car when he was apprehended after fleeing a police officer in October 2001. His vehicle was impounded, and Bealla later broke into a borough garage and removed it, police said.

Prosecutors dropped a charge of possession of child pornography in exchange for his guilty plea to a more serious charge of

2 women die from accident injuries

Both women involved in an accident on Route 309 at the area of Rave's Garden Center and the Texaco gas station last week have died.

Deborah Evans, 54, of Harveys Lake died on December 2. The immediate cause of death was ruled Septicemia (blood poisoning) due to multiple traumatic injuries, by the Dauphin County Coroner's office. She died at Penn State Hershey Medical Center.

Joyce Sickler, 77, of Dallas died November 26 of multiple injuries sustained from the accident.

Police Chief James Balavage of the Kingston Township Police Department said his department is looking into the reasons why accidents occur with some frequency at the location.

Testify

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school that day.

Young waited in the car for 10 minutes until she saw Zalen-ski's younger brother scamper from the home and run toward a neighbor's home, police said.

She ran into the home, calling for Tooley. Then she saw Zalen-ski lying in a pool of blood at the top of a flight of stairs, police said.

The story, police said, was part of a "confession" Young made after she was arrested.

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.

"I find you're a danger to the community."

Peter Paul Olszewski Jr.
Judge, Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas

burglary, Cronin has said.

At the sentencing, Olszewski challenged Bealla to name any good quality he possessed and cited Bealla's lack of remorse.

Bealla responded by saying that he had done some volunteer work in the past.

As Olszewski read aloud Bealla's rap sheet, he said the probation, rehabilitation programs and shorter jail terms judges had imposed on Bealla's previous arrests did not work.

Bealla's attorney, Gerald Was-sil, urged Olszewski to consider burglary a nonviolent offense.

Olszewski disagreed. He said he considered burglary a serious crime that could lead to death if something went wrong.

"I find you're a danger to the community," Olszewski said.

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Kiwanis helps Meadows Auxiliary

Each year the Auxiliary of the Meadows Nursing Center in Dallas conducts their membership drive and invites community members to join in this effort that benefits residents at the center. Auxiliary volunteers donate thousands of hours of service at the center, host special event activities for residents and provide funds for projects and equipment at the Center. As a community service project each year, the Dallas Kiwanis help prepare the mailing.

The volunteer department welcomes volunteer placements with teens, adults, and community service projects. Hours are flexible and training is provided. Call the volunteer coordinator at 675-8600, ext. 138.

From left: Roy Stair, Dave Werts, Joe Grimes.

Standing: Auxilians, Irene Transue, Marty Montigney, George McCutcheon and Lloyd Ryman, Kiwanis.

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Shakespeare comedy at Lake-Lehman Saturday

The Lake-Lehman Theater Department will present "A Midsummer Night's Dream", a student produced Shakespearean classic. The comedy of Shakespeare will provide audiences of all ages with laughter and delight. Produced by Austin Williams, the play is a mandate for his senior project under the direction of Jonathan Pineno, and Gail Meeker. Mentorship is provided by Jean Lipski. Performances will be held in the Lake-Lehman high school Auditorium, Saturday December 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday December 8 at 3 p.m. Please note there will be no Friday night performance. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Trinity Church to raise funds for Back Mountain food bank

The Mission Outreach Committee of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas will hold three fundraisers to help raise money for the Back Mountain Food Pantry. Volunteers will be staffing a book gift wrapping table at Barnes and Noble in Wilkes-Barre on Friday, December 6 from 5-9 p.m. and again on Saturday, December 14 from 6-9 p.m.

On December 12 from 4-9 p.m., additional volunteers will be on hand at Pizza Hut in Dallas to greet dine-in customers and encourage them to mention Trinity and the food pantry as they pay at the register. A portion of their meal cost will then be donated to the pantry. The public is invited to attend these events to help raise funds for this important local mission in our community.

Church of Christ to present musical

Sweet Valley Church of Christ will present the musical "Hark! The Angels Sing", the story of Jesus' birth as told through the eyes of anticipating angels on December 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. The church is located at 5439 Main Rd. in Sweet Valley. The program is free and a nursery and refreshments will be provided. For information call 477-2320.

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