

POLICE REPORTS

Two Charged Following Vehicle Stop

Two men have been charged in connection with a vehicle stop that occurred along Miller Road in Taylor Township after Pennsylvania Game Commission officials observed a spotlight sweeping across a field.

Theodore Duvall McMurtrie, 32, of Dudley currently faces charges of unlawful use of lights while hunting and restrictions on recreational spotlighting, as well as one count each of unlawful possession of a small amount of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. In addition, passenger 23-year-old David Lee Rickabaugh of Robertsdale has been cited with a summary offense of spotlighting while in possession of a crossbow.

Charges against McMurtrie and Rickabaugh were filed through the office of Magisterial District Judge Devin Horne as a result of the traffic stop at 11:10 p.m. on September 6. During the stop, Game Commission officials found a cocked crossbow on the back seat of McMurtrie's vehicle.

Windows Broken

The driver's side window and sunroof on an automobile owned by Jai Lance Hall of Broad Top were broken while the vehicle was parked along Route 913 just west of Waterfall between 5 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday, November 14. Hall reported the mischief to Pennsylvania State Police in Huntingdon, who are accepting information regarding the crime at 814-627-3161.

Car Rolls Onto Roof

A Harrisonville man was not injured when his southbound 2003 Ford Focus drove over an embankment and rolled onto its roof in a cow pasture located in Cass Township, Huntingdon County. Forty-five-year-old Franklin Reel Jr. will be charged with a traffic violation in connection with the 6 a.m. crash along Route 655 on Monday, November 17. Damage to Reel's vehicle was recorded as major.

Domestic Dispute Investigated

State police are withholding the names of individuals involved in a domestic dispute at 258 Grist Mill Road until the incident can be further investigated. One person was reportedly transported from the scene in Burnt Cabins in order to receive treatment for injuries sustained on Wednesday, November 19, at 9:32 p.m.

Deer Causes Collision

A white-tailed deer crossing Route 522 in Belfast Township caused a single-vehicle accident on Sunday, November 16. State police did not release the name of the driver involved in the 5:32 p.m. crash, but troopers did indicate the individual was wearing a seat belt. The driver's 2009 Pontiac G5 only suffered a small crack to the bumper.

Breezewood Woman Charged

A Breezewood area woman was charged with harassing Edward Louis Wilson, 47, of Crystal Spring on Tuesday, November 18, at 6 p.m. Tonia Wilson, 40, of Breezewood allegedly struck Edward Wilson during the incident in Crystal Spring. Charges against Tonia Wilson will be filed through the office of Magisterial District Judge Carol Jean Johnson.

Woman Cited For Cruelty To Animals

Forty-four-year-old Dublin Township resident Christine Mellott has been cited for cruelty to animals after she allegedly allowed her dog to roam her Waterfall Road yard without providing sufficient shelter on Wednesday, November 19, at 12:15 a.m. State police added, according to WeatherReports.com, the temperature in Hustontown at the time of incident was 21 degrees.

Burglars Break Into Farmhouse

Burglars broke into a farmhouse just north of Sheepskin Hollow Road along Route 522 during the last week, removing multiple items, including a cigar box of old baseball cards and three wood planners. Victims David W. Rubeck, 59, of Upper Strasburg, and Chambersburg resident Larry E. Rubeck, 57, informed state police other items taken were two Lionel model train sets and a set of dishes between noon on November 12 and noon on November 19. Anyone having additional information pertinent to this break-in should contact Fulton County Crime Solvers at 717-485-5771 or Trooper Barnett at 717-485-3131.

Mailbox Damaged

A mailbox belonging to Kenneth Farley, 40, of Donahoe Lane in Thompson Township sustained \$20 in damage on Monday, November 17, at 8:40 p.m. Anyone having further information related to this case is asked to call Fulton County Crime Solvers at 717-485-5771 or Trooper Ely at 717-485-3131.

Purse Stolen From Church

A purse owed by Carolyn Kneas, 50, was stolen from the Presbyterian Church located on South Maple Street in McConnellsburg Borough on Sunday, November 16, at 3 p.m. Anyone having additional information linked to this case can call Fulton County Crime Solvers at 717-485-5771 or Trooper Ely at 717-485-3131.

Two Arrested For Underage Drinking

Two men were arrested for underage drinking following a traffic stop for speeding along Fulton Drive in Ayr Township on Saturday, November 22. State police determined driver Quentin DeShong, 19, of Breezewood was driving under the influence and underage drinking at 9:23 p.m. Passenger Michael Trail, 20, Warfordsburg, was arrested for underage consumption.

Burglary Reported

Twenty-five-year-old Wendy Jean Kline of McConnellsburg told state police burglars stole \$48 in cash, 10 DVD movies valued at \$150 and six Playstation games valued at \$90 from her Woodside Drive apartment on Friday, November 21, between 8:45 a.m. and 3:10 p.m. Anyone with additional information regarding this case can call Fulton County Crime Solvers at 717-485-5771 or Trooper Barnett at 717-485-3131.

Money Stolen

An undisclosed amount of money and a duffel bag were stolen from the 879 North Madden Road, Three Springs, home of Christopher J. Lipko, 52. The Taylor Township burglary occurred between 6:20 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. on Friday, November 21. Anyone having further information concerning this incident can call Fulton County Crime Solvers at 717-485-5771 or Trooper Barnett at 717-485-3131.

Crime Of The Week

Theft Is Crime Of The Week

Fulton County Crime Solvers is offering a reward for information leading to the arrest of thieves responsible for an incident at 100 Mellott Drive in Warfordsburg.

According to state police, thieves removed radiators from four CAT and Cummins power units located in a storage lot area belonging to Mellott Co. The units, which were stolen between October 29 and November 7, are reportedly unique and rare. The value of the stolen items has been set at \$22,000.

Anyone having additional information related to this case is asked to call Fulton County Crime Solvers at 717-485-5771. Anyone providing information leading to the arrest of a suspect is eligible to receive a reward of up to \$1,000 but will not have to give their name or appear in court. Crime Solvers will also pay for information leading to arrests in connection with any other crimes committed in Fulton County.

Ex-Church Official Sentenced For Embezzlement

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A 62-year-old man was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison Friday for embezzling about \$1.1 million from the church organization where he once worked.

Bary R. Herr, who pleaded guilty in June to mail fraud, also was ordered to pay \$800,000 in restitution to the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Prosecutors said Herr, of Lancaster, took the money over 22 years while working for the church group as treasurer. The theft was exposed after Herr was terminated for unrelated reasons and the church group discovered suspicious checks.

He has already repaid the church \$309,000, and his lawyer said Friday Herr intends to pay back the rest.

Herr cooperated fully, said defense attorney Gerald Lord.

"He went into court today expecting justice, and justice was done, in his opinion," Lord said.

Oil And Gas Biz Booming In Pennsylvania

By Rick Stouffer

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The number of new oil and natural gas wells drilled in Pennsylvania tripled between 2000 and 2007, with the state's 79,000 active wells making it third-highest among all states, according to a study released earlier this month.

Oil and gas generates more than \$7.1 billion in annual economic impact, with more than 26,500 jobs directly and indirectly supported by the industry, the Pennsylvania Economy League study found.

The industry's direct economic impact last year totaled more than \$4.5 billion, including taking oil and natural gas from the ground, the actual drilling of oil and natural gas wells, and support activities for oil and natural gas operations. Royalty payments made to landowners in 2007 alone totaled more than \$200 million, according to the study.

The growing interest in the state's Marcellus Shale natural gas formation, which underlays some two-thirds of the state, is one reason for the growing boom.

"We looked at this study as a baseline for oil and natural gas activity in the state, pre-Marcellus Shale," said Kathryn Klaber, executive director of the Pennsylvania Economy League and a member of the study team. "You can't forget the industry has been contributing to the Pennsylvania economy for a very long time."

Marcellus Shale is a layer of shale stone typically 5,000 to 6,000 feet below the surface, running from the southern portion of New York, through most of Pennsylvania, into Eastern Ohio and through much of West Virginia.

Some surveys place recoverable natural gas from the entire Marcellus region at some 400 trillion cubic feet, enough gas to handle all of America's natural gas needs for more than 14 years.

"The Energy Information Administration found that in 2006, natural gas production statewide averaged about 438 million cubic feet per day," said Terry Engelder, a Penn State University geosciences professor, and an acknowledged Marcellus Shale expert.

"Compare that to the initial natural gas output from the 12 wells that Range Resources Corp. has drilled, each producing 4 million cubic feet per day, or a total of 48 million cubic feet. That means these 12 wells are capturing 10 percent of all producing wells statewide."

Engelder said even though the Marcellus wells' production rapidly declines after large initial natural gas outflows, Marcellus wells being drilled and planned rapidly will exceed the state's entire production just two years ago.

Some 2,000 companies operate at least one well in Pennsylvania, and more than 200 companies are operating 100 or more wells each, the study found. The data indicates that while Pennsylvania is not ranked among the nation's top states in terms of oil and natural gas reserves, it is among the top 20 oil producers and top 16 producers of natural gas, based on state Department of Environmental Protection statistics.

"We were surprised to see the geographic reach of the industry in the state," Klaber said. "Nearly every county had a company located there or activity there."

Southwest Pennsylvania is right in the thick of the state's oil and natural gas industry. Last year, 2,926 permits to drill for natural gas were issued in the nine Southwestern counties, led by Westmoreland County's 612 permits issued.

Westmoreland, Armstrong, Indiana and Fayette counties were among the state's top 10 counties for number of new oil and natural gas wells drilled between 2000 and 2007, the Economy League study found.

The oil and gas industry pays substantially more than the average in-state private sector wage, the study revealed. The average wage paid by all oil and natural gas-related businesses in 2007 was \$60,779, compared to the average for all private sector industries of \$42,944.

The study was commissioned by the Marcellus Shale Committee, a group of oil and natural gas companies engaged in developing the natural gas resources within the state's Marcellus Shale formation. Members include Range Resources of Fort Worth, Texas, and Moon-based Atlas Energy Resources.

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Judge Herman Presides Over Court Session

STAFF REPORT

Judge Douglas W. Herman of the 39th Judicial District of the Court of Common Pleas presided over a court session held on Tuesday, November 18, at the Fulton County Courthouse.

Melissa J. Buterbaugh appeared without legal counsel on one count each of false or fraudulent insurance claims and theft and two counts of forgery. Following the request of the state attorney general's office, Buterbaugh was admitted into the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) program. She will complete 24 months probation.

Tamara Sachene McCloskey appeared with an attorney and waived arraignment proceedings on charges of driving under the influence. McCloskey was admitted into the ARD program and will complete 12 months probation.

John Adam McMullen appeared with legal counsel on charges of driving under the influence. McMullen was entered into the ARD program and will accordingly complete 12 months probation.

Gary Lee DeHart appeared without counsel and entered a not-guilty plea to the manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance. His trial will be held during the January 26 term of court.

Troy Ryan Geis appeared with his attorney and waived arraignment on charges of driving under the influence. Geis pled not guilty, and his trial will be held during the January 26 term of court.

Clarence Jefferson appeared with his attorney for arraignment proceedings held on one count of simple assault. Jefferson entered a not-guilty plea. His trial will be held during the January 26 court term.

Steven Davis appeared with legal counsel for arraignment and entry of a guilty plea to driving under the influence. A presentence investigation will be conducted prior to his sentencing on December 30.

William Raymond Huber appeared with his attorney for a false or fraudulent insurance claim and criminal attempt-false or fraudulent insurance claim. The criminal attempt

charges were reduced to a misdemeanor one, and Huber was sentenced to 12 months probation.

David Leonard Hines appeared with his attorney for sentencing on one count of simple assault. Hines will spend between six and 12 months in a state correctional institution, which will run concurrently with an additional sentence of 12 to 36 months for an unrelated count of simple assault.

Alvin Timothy Peck appeared with his attorney on various charges of manufacture, delivery or possession of a controlled substance. Peck, who entered a not-guilty plea, will be tried during the January 26 term of court.

Melissa Beth Butterfield appeared without legal counsel for a hearing held on a petition to terminate participation in the ARD program. Butterfield's probation was extended by 24 months.

Christy Morgan also appeared for a hearing to terminate ARD privileges. Morgan was found in violation, and her probation was reinstated.

Report: Poor Pa. Families Pay Dearly For College

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A college education in Pennsylvania takes a major bite out of the income of the state's poorest families, according to a state Education Department report released Wednesday.

Families making \$20,000 or less must pay an average of 73 percent of their annual income for a dependent child to attend a state-owned university without loans and 37 percent with loans, the report to the State Board of Education said. Both figures reflect the net cost once state and federal grant aid is applied.

For those same families, the cost for attending a community college at the lowest tuition rate amount to 37 percent without loans and 24 percent with loans.

"That raises questions about what our financial-aid policies are in the state and in the country, and

whether or not there's anything we can do to equalize the burden across different income levels," said Kathleen Shaw, deputy secretary of the department's office of postsecondary and higher education.

The report also found that Pennsylvania students graduate from public universities with relatively high debt burdens.

The board requested the report as part of its inquiry into the challenges of paying for rising college costs in Pennsylvania. It is also conducting a telephone survey with assistance from Penn State University on how families pay for college and hopes to make the results available in January, chairman Joseph Torsella said.

PA Record Copies Limited To \$.25 A Page

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Starting next year, Pennsylvania citizens looking for copies of most public records won't be charged more than a quarter a page.

That's according to a ruling the state's new open-records chief plans to issue Monday.

Terry Mutchler heads the fledgling Office of Open Records. She was required to establish the new fee schedule under the expanded

state Right to Know Law that takes effect Jan. 1.

The new schedule covers the executive branch of state government, as well as county and municipal governments and school districts.

It does not cover the judicial branch, where the three statewide appellate courts charge \$1 a page for copies, or the legislative branch, where the House of Representatives charges 50 cents a page.



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