

Carol O'Brien
DELAWARE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

N E W S

FACEBOOK
DECEMBER 4, 2018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
JULIE DATKO (740) 833-2755

SUNBURY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SEXUAL BATTERY INVOLVING A MINOR



E. Jaynes

Eric S. Jaynes, 32, admitted to inappropriate sexual conduct with a DACC student. At the time of the criminal activity, Jaynes was a full-time corrections officer in Delaware County who was volunteering at the school as a physical training instructor.

"Jaynes was charged after a May 18, 2018 call to law enforcement," said Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien. "The report came in as a possible sex offense involving a student at the Delaware Area Career Center, South Campus."

Jaynes pleaded guilty to three counts of sexual battery – all third-degree felonies connected to one student, and one count of disseminating matter harmful to juveniles – a fifth-degree felony involving a second student. The indictment specifies a timeframe of January 1, 2018 through May 18, 2018.

As part of his plea negotiation, Jaynes waives the right to appeal his sentence, and he will be classified as a Tier III sex offender. Sentencing has been set for January 16, 2018 at 8:30 am.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 7, 2018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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**TEEN CHARGED WITH OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE
AFTER THREAT CLOSES DELAWARE HAYES HIGH SCHOOL**



The Delaware County Prosecutor's Office has filed a bill of information against 18-year-old Troy Fisher Ferguson of Delaware.

A bill of information is an official filing of charges without a grand jury presentation. A bill of information was filed in this case because parties agreed to the charge before having to go before a grand jury.

T. Ferguson

The charge outlined in the bill of information is obstructing justice – a third-degree felony.

Ferguson was taken into custody on November 7, 2018 after two Delaware Hayes students came forward to report he had made a threat to carry out a school shooting the following day.

Classes at Hayes were cancelled on November 8, 2018 as law enforcement investigated. School resumed session on November 9, 2018 after it was determined that no other persons or school facility was involved in the threat.

"We live in a time where we simply cannot ignore threatening statements," said Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien. "We've seen over and over the tragedy that can happen, and I commend the students who came forward to report to the school resource officer what they heard."

Ferguson was taken into custody and transported to the Delaware County Jail where he is being held on a \$150,000 municipal court bond.

An arraignment date in common pleas court is not yet set.



FACEBOOK
DECEMBER 12, 2018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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FEBRUARY SENTENCING FOR TEEN WHO THREATENED SCHOOL SHOOTING



T. Ferguson

Troy Ferguson pleaded guilty today to obstructing justice – a third-degree felony. The plea comes after the teen's November 7 arrest for threatening a school shooting at Delaware Hayes High School.

"In this day and age, when you have someone threaten to carry out a school shooting, it cannot be taken lightly, even if it's later said to be a joke," said Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien. "We filed a bill of information outlining the obstructing charge against Mr. Ferguson on December 7, 2018, and that is what he pleaded guilty to today."

A bill of information is an official filing of charges without a grand jury presentation. A bill of information was filed in this case because parties agreed to the charge before having to go before a grand jury.

A recognizance bond was set for Ferguson today, as was a \$10,000 cash bond.

The 18-year-old has been in custody since November 7, 2018 after two Delaware Hayes students came forward to report he had made a threat to shoot up the school the following day.

Classes at Hayes were cancelled on November 8, 2018 as law enforcement investigated. School resumed session on November 9, 2018 after it was determined that no other persons or school facility was involved in the threat.

The sentencing hearing for Ferguson will be February 11, 2019 at 9 am.

FACEBOOK
DECEMBER 13, 2017

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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SECOND PARTY SENTENCED AFTER HIGHWAY PURSUIT AND VEHICLE BREAK-IN

Danielle Frost of Orient, Ohio, and Anthony Stepp of Columbus, Ohio pleaded guilty to theft and tampering with evidence.

The duo was charged after an August 9, 2017 incident in the Polaris area.

A patron inside a Polaris shop noticed a suspicious vehicle pull beside her own vehicle in the parking lot. The patron exited the shop and observed that her window had been broken and her laptop was missing.

"The victim saw her laptop and one male and one female inside the suspect vehicle," said Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien. "She yelled for the suspect vehicle to stop, but it exited the parking lot, heading east toward the highway."

Columbus Police were notified, and a good Samaritan followed the suspect vehicle, reporting to CPD its whereabouts as it traveled along interstate 71 to 270.

"A CPD helicopter became involved and the suspects were ultimately apprehended in the Hilliard-Rome Road area," O'Brien said. "The victim's laptop was recovered from where it had been thrown out of the suspect vehicle, and other miscellaneous items were found inside the vehicle that did not belong to either suspect."

Frost, 34, was sentenced to two years of community control and 40 hours community service in September. Stepp, 29, was sentenced this week to 18 months in prison.



FACEBOOK
DECEMBER 14, 2018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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DELAWARE MAN SENTENCED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING



Joshua Todd Martin was found guilty of trafficking in drugs, and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Martin, 36, was indicted in September 2018 after an investigation by the Delaware County Drug Task Force. A jury found Martin guilty after a three-day trial in November.

J. Martin

Several of the trafficking charges against Martin specify that the trafficking occurred in the vicinity of a juvenile, in this case, several juveniles at a local park. The drugs associated with those charges are heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl.

In addition to his 12-year sentence, Martin will also face five years post release control.

In total, Martin was found guilty of trafficking in drug – a first-degree felony, two counts of trafficking in drugs – both third-degree felonies, trafficking in drugs – a fourth-degree felony, and five additional counts of trafficking in drugs – each, a fifth-degree felony.

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FACEBOOK
DECEMBER 14, 2018

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DELAWARE MAN SENTENCED FOR RAPE OF A JUVENILE



G. Price

George Errick Price, 45, pleaded guilty to rape – a first-degree felony, in October. At the change of plea hearing, he was sentenced to 10 years mandatory prison, with an additional 5 years post release control.

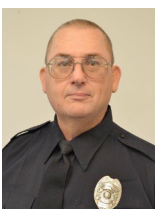
Price was indicted in February 2018 after a report to the Delaware County Sheriff's Office that a possible sex offense involving a child under the age of 13 had occurred.

In addition to ten years in prison and 5 years post release control, Price will be classified as a Tier III sex offender.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 17, 2018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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**RETIRED GENOA TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL ACTIVITY WHILE ON DUTY**



M. Wells

□ Mark Wells, 60, was sentenced to three years community control and 200 hours community service.

He pleaded no contest in November 2018 to one charge of unauthorized use of property – a fifth-degree felony.

“The indictment against Mr. Wells covers shifts from May 3, 2016 through April 25, 2017,” said Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O’Brien. “An investigation revealed that during this time Mr. Wells used the laptop in his cruiser to access pornographic videos while on duty.”

Wells had been placed on administrative leave after allegations arose that he improperly used workplace technology while on shift. During the course of the investigation Wells retired. He had been with the department for nearly 30 years.

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FACEBOOK
DECEMBER 17, 2018

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REPEAT OVI OFFENDER SENTENCED



K. Lauer

Kevin M. Lauer was sentenced to four years community control, 40 hours community service, and his license was suspended for seven years.

The 33-year old was indicted on OVI charges in March 2018 after he was pulled over for speeding while travelling eastbound on State Route 750 near Lyra Drive in Orange Township.

“During the traffic stop, Mr. Lauer showed signs of impairment and was arrested,” said Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O’Brien. “He was observed to have slurred speech, an odor of alcohol on his person, and glassy, bloodshot eyes.”

Lauer has four previous OVI convictions on his record, dating back to 2006 and continuing to 2009, 2013, and 2016. In addition to the community control, community service, and license suspension, Lauer was ordered to pay a \$3,000 fine.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 21, 2018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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MOVER INDICTED AFTER JEWELRY IS REPORTED MISSING

A Delaware County Grand Jury has returned an eight-count indictment against 32-year-old William Ryan Yerian of Oak Hill, Ohio.

Yerian was part of a moving crew for several customers who later reported jewelry missing to Columbus police.

"In one instance, the defendant asked to use the restroom in the master suite," said Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien. "The homeowners later discovered a custom-made engagement ring was missing from that area of the home."

Other items reported missing from various victims include a cluster ring and diamond pendant, a wedding ring, and a blue sapphire ring with diamond accents.

"All the jewelry was located at a Columbus pawn shop," O'Brien said. "It has all been returned to the rightful owners."

An arraignment hearing for Yerian has been set for February 8, 2019.