

Crime & Courts

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Police: Man driving under influence of beer, pot

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A 20-year-old DuBoistown man faces charges after allegedly driving drunk with two juveniles in his car on Feb. 21, according to South Williamsport police.

Marc Andrew Gretzula of 2899 Euclid Ave. admitted to being under the influence of four beers when Patrolman James Taylor stopped his vehicle in the 100 block of Linden St.

The incident began when police received a call to investigate a report of three young men "passing around a firearm" inside a car at Maynard Street and Riverside Drive, according to an affidavit filed by Taylor.

The caller wrote down the car's license plate and followed the vehicle to the 2000 block of Whitford Avenue, where the driver parked it, Taylor said.

When the officer arrived on the scene, no one was in the vehicle. Taylor looked inside the car and spotted a substance he suspected was marijuana. There also was an open beer can, Taylor, said.

The car was registered to Gretzula, who was 19 at the time, Taylor said. From prior contacts with the owner, the officer knew Gretzula was not old enough to drink alcoholic beverages.

Taylor conducted a surveillance of the vehicle about a half a block away. A short time later, he saw three young males get into the car, including Gretzula, who got behind the wheel. The officer followed it to Linden Street, where he pulled it over.

Gretzula and two 17-year-old boys riding in the car were ordered out of the vehicle. Gretzula told the officer there was a replica of a handgun underneath the driver's seat and a pellet gun in the trunk.

The officer removed the replica from the car, which was later towed from the scene and impounded.

One of the teenagers riding with Gretzula "showed signs of alcohol intoxication" and was found to be carrying drug paraphernalia and a pain pill without a prescription.

Gretzula had a blood-alcohol content level of .04, police said, adding that anyone under the age of 21 with a blood-alcohol content level of .02 higher can be charged with drunk driving.

Gretzula also admitted "to smoking marijuana" prior to driving the car, Taylor said.

Officers obtained a search warrant to search the vehicle the next day. They found a small amount of marijuana, which Gretzula admitted belonged to him, drug paraphernalia, an open can of beer and an empty beer bottle, Taylor said.

Gretzula was arraigned Monday before District Judge Kenneth T. Schriener Jr. on charges of corrupting the morals of minors, driving under the influence of intoxicants, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and underage drinking. Released on \$2,500 bail, he also waived his preliminary hearing.

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