

Johnston-Burnett gets probation, jail time for multiple convictions

A 20-year-old Eagle River man who broke into the Eagle River Recreation Association (ERRA) Sports Arena and who was convicted of four other felonies, had a prison sentence stayed and was placed on probation for seven years, six months, in Vilas County Circuit Court last week.

Lucas A. Johnston-Burnett also will serve one year in the Vilas County jail. Judge Neal A. Nielsen III stayed his 10-year sentence to the Wisconsin Prison System, which included four years' confinement and six years' extended supervision.

Johnston-Burnett broke into the Sports Arena March 3-4, taking cash, candy, Zamboni keys, alcoholic beverages and gift cards. He must pay restitution to the ERRA.

In a burglary involving The Country Store in Eagle River Sept. 6, 2011, Nielsen withheld sentencing and placed Johnston-Burnett on probation for one year, to run concurrent with the previous probation. He also must pay restitution of \$740.

Johnston-Burnett also was convicted of stealing a snowmobile from the parking lot at Schilleman's Bus Service in Eagle River Feb. 7, 2011. His sentence was withheld and he was placed on probation for three years, also to run concurrent with the previous probation. A one-year county jail sentence also will run concurrent. He must pay restitution totaling \$1,500, including \$1,150 to the insurance company and \$250 to the insurance owner for the insurance deductible.

Nielsen also withheld a sentence and placed Johnston-Burnett on probation for three years on convictions of escape May 7 in the town of Washington and forgery Feb. 16 in the city of Eagle River. The probation will run concurrent.

Conditions of Johnston-Burnett's probation include: alcohol and other drug abuse assessment

and any treatment recommended; not to possess or consume intoxicants; DNA sample and surcharge; take medications as prescribed and in prescribed amounts; not to go on the premises of the ERRR or The Country Store; restorative justice if the victims agree; restitution; written apology to the victims; up to 45 days in jail can be served in an inpatient facility with day-for-day credit upon successful completion; and work-release privileges were granted. He received credit for 188 days served.

In the plea agreement, charges of misdemeanor theft, possession with intent to deliver marijuana, two counts of felony bail jumping, criminal damage to property and three counts of uttering a forgery were dismissed.

In other felony cases, Daniel L. Ritz, 40, of Chilton, charged with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, identify theft for financial gain and misdemeanor theft, had an initial appearance adjourned to Nov. 26 at 10 a.m. A warrant was issued Nov. 2, but the warrant was quashed Nov. 12, when Ritz signed a \$1,000 signature bond.

According to the complaint, Ritz allegedly obtained medical treatment under a false name June 13, 2010, at Eagle River Memorial Hospital and left the hospital without stopping at the admissions desk. He then picked up a prescription for Percocet at an Eagle River pharmacy. According to the complaint, Ritz claimed he had a rib injury as a means to get prescription medications. Ritz also had no medical insurance, the complaint says.

Raymond L. LaBarge Sr., 43, of Lac du Flambeau, charged with 12 counts of uttering a forgery and 12 counts of misdemeanor theft, had a jury trial set for March 6. A pretrial conference was set for Feb. 11 at 2 p.m.

According to the complaint, LaBarge is accused of altering scale slips after weighing scrap metal he was selling to Scharf Automotive in the town of Lincoln between May 17, 2011, and July 18, 2011.

Barbara A. Stapleton, 51, of Alvin, charged with battery of a peace officer and obstructing an officer, had a preliminary hearing set for Jan. 10 at 2 p.m.

According to the complaint, Stapleton fell on the floor at Trig's Video Store in Eagle River Nov. 5, 2010, and became agitated when she was being assisted by an Eagle River Police Department officer, allegedly striking the officer.

Billie J. Frank, 35, of Lac du Flambeau, charged with substantial battery, party to a crime, had a preliminary hearing set for Dec. 17 at 2:30 p.m. He allegedly was involved in the beating of a 23-year-old Lac du Flambeau woman Oct. 12.

Dennis E. Meshigaud, 24, of Minocqua, charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, entered a not guilty plea and a pretrial conference was set for Dec. 18 at 9:45 a.m.

According to the complaint, Meshigaud was in possession of a Marlin .30-30 lever action rifle and an Intratec 9 model AB-10 handgun Oct. 10 in Lac du Flambeau. Court records show he was convicted of possession with intent to deliver narcotics Aug. 2, 2011, in Columbia County. He was placed on probation for three years for that conviction.

Joseph D. Lussier, 21, of Lac du Flambeau, charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, had an initial appearance adjourned to Nov. 19. The defendant is in the Douglas County Jail and Nielsen was told the public defender's office is having difficulty finding an attorney who doesn't have a conflict of interest.

Lussier was convicted of substantial battery with intent to cause bodily harm in 2008 in Vilas County. His prison sentence was stayed and he was placed on probation for three years Feb. 12, 2009.

Michael R. Blank, 46, of Crandon, charged with possession of narcotic drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia, had a preliminary hearing set for Dec. 7 at 2:30 p.m.

Blank, who currently is in the Forest County Jail, was stopped by law enforcement Oct. 20, 2011, in Lac du Flambeau and the drug detection dog K-9 Goro alerted on the vehicle. According to the complaint, officers found oxycodone in the vehicle and a syringe and spoon used to inject a controlled substance.

Sierra R. Knuth, 26, of Rhinelander, who was in the vehicle with Blank, also was charged with possession of narcotic drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia. Her preliminary hearing also will be Dec. 7 at 2:30 p.m.

Michael W. Lehmann, 37, of Rhinelander, charged with fifth-offense operating while intoxicated, had a preliminary hearing set for Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. His cash bail was set at \$25,000 with the following conditions: not to possess or consume intoxicants; no taverns; and may be released to inpatient treatment under his cash bond.

Lehmann was arrested Nov. 2 in Eagle River in the McDonald's restaurant parking lot, refusing a preliminary breath test.

Kami L. Beighley, 22, of Lac du Flambeau, charged with physical abuse of a child with intent to cause bodily harm, pleaded not guilty and a pretrial conference was set for Dec. 4 at 2:45 p.m. A motion to modify Beighley's \$1,000 cash bond to a \$2,500 signature bond was granted with the following conditions: no taverns; not to possess or consume intoxicants; and no unsupervised contact with any child under age 18.

According to the complaint, Beighley allegedly slapped a minor child in the face Dec. 1, 2011, in Lac du Flambeau.

Phil W. Poitra, 30, of Lac du Flambeau, entered a no contest plea and was found guilty to an amended charge of fifth-offense operating while intoxicated, deleting an enhancer for having a minor child in the car.

Nielsen withheld Poitra's sentence and placed him on probation for three years. Conditions of his probation include: fined \$1,374; driver's license revoked for 30 months; attend assessment; ignition interlock device for 30 months; not to possess or consume intoxicants; no taverns except for place of employment; any counseling deemed necessary by the agent; and serve six months in the county jail with work-release privileges with good time. He received credit for one day served and must start his jail time by 10 a.m. Jan. 14, 2013.

Poitra was arrested Dec. 1, 2011, in Lac du Flambeau at 2:24 a.m. with a 3-year-old child in the vehicle. He told the officer he had six to eight beers between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Paige R. Poupart, 23, of Lac du Flambeau, charged with two counts of misdemeanor battery, criminal trespass, criminal damage to property and felony bail jumping, pleaded not guilty and a pretrial conference was set for Dec. 4 at 2:30 p.m. Her \$2,000 cash bond was continued.

According to the complaint, Poupart was one of six suspects who entered an apartment at 119 Clinic Lane in Lac du Flambeau Sept. 3 and allegedly battered another person.__PUBLIC__