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MARK BRANDON TWIGG / TRAFFIC DEATH / LIQUOR VIOLATION /

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DRIVER SENTENCED TO PRISON \ MAN WILL SPEND TWO YEARS BEHIND BARS FOR
STEALING PICKUP AND KILLING FRIEND IN LAKE TOWNSHIP CRASH

Author: John Higgins, Beacon Journal staff writer

Dateline: CANTON

Article Text:

A 19-year-old Akron man was sentenced to two years in prison for crashing a stolen pickup truck in a July 26 accident that killed a passenger.

Mark Brandon Twigg pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicular homicide and other charges when he appeared in Stark County Common Pleas Court yesterday. He waived his right last month to have the case heard by a grand jury to consider indictment.

Judge John G. Haas gave him the minimum two years for the second-degree felony.

Twigg received lesser sentences, which will be served at the same time, for vehicular assault, receiving stolen property and driving under suspension.

Haas suspended Twigg's driver's license for three years.

Police say Twigg admitted to drinking about 12 beers and smoking marijuana the night of the Lake Township accident, which killed 18-year-old Larry A. Stewart of Green.

Twigg's brother, Brian Campbell, 14, of Green, also was a passenger in the truck.

Uniontown police said Twigg admitted being at a party where he was told of a pickup truck in Green that had the keys inside.

Twigg and the others were joy-riding from Summit County into Stark County shortly after 3 a.m. when a Uniontown police officer saw the truck had no taillights and tried to stop the vehicle. The officer lost sight of the truck as it went over a hill at a high rate of speed.

Police say there was never a chase.

Twigg crashed the truck into a tree on Mogadore Avenue Northwest between Route 619 and Lake Center Street.

He was out of jail on bond before yesterday's sentencing.

Family members cried yesterday as sheriff's deputies led Twigg out of the courtroom.

Caption:

Mark Brandon Twigg, 19, will spend two years in prison.

PHOTO: Black and white photo -- MIKE CARDEW / Akron

Beacon Journal

Memo:

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