

Capital Times, The (Madison, WI)

August 11, 2000

Edition: ALL

Section: Local/State

Page: 2A

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ACCIDENT DEATH MOTORCYCLE POLICE

ALCOHOL

DEFOREST MAN CHARGED IN MOTORCYCLE DEATH

Author: JASON SHEPARD THE CAPITAL TIMES

Article Text:

A 35-year-old DeForest man faces charges of second-degree reckless homicide after a woman riding on his motorcycle was killed while the man was fleeing police.

David A. Sherrard faces more than 28 years in prison if convicted in connection with a July 14 crash that killed Angela Gutho, 22, of Madison.

Sherrard is expected to make his initial appearance on Monday in Dane County Circuit Court. According to a criminal complaint filed Thursday, Sherrard and a friend, Chaunsler Mitchell, 26, had been drinking at Christy's bar on Lake Waubesa late July 13 and into the early morning of July 14 when they left the bar to go to another bar.

The two men drove their motorcycles. Gutho rode with Sherrard and another woman, Angela Vechinski, 24, rode with Mitchell, the complaint said.

Dane County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Horstmann spotted the two motorcycles ahead of him on Highway 14 as Horstmann was dispatched to an unrelated car accident. But the two motorcycles did not stop to allow Horstmann's squad car to pass them.

Instead, Horstmann reported, the two cycles accelerated to speeds of more than 100 mph.

During the 3+ mile chase, Sherrard's motorcycle was clocked by an Oregon police sergeant at 88 mph in a 25 mph zone, the complaint said.

The pursuit ended when Sherrard hit a curb and crashed. Sherrard then attempted to run away from officers, Horstmann reported.

Gutho was thrown from the cycle and was pronounced dead eight hours later at University Hospital.

Neither person was wearing a helmet, authorities reported.

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Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, WI)

June 26, 2001

Edition: ALL

Section: LOCAL/WISCONSIN

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Column

DANE COUNTY COURT MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT DEATH POLICE TRAFFIC

Column: COURT REPORT

CYCLIST GUILTY IN FATAL CRASH

HIS PASSENGER, CHAUNSLER MITCHELL, WAS KILLED WHEN HE CRASHED AFTER
LEADING POLICE ON A CHASE

Author: Ed Treleven Courts reporter

Article Text:

A motorcyclist accused of leading Dane County sheriff's deputies on a high-speed chase last July that ended in his passenger's death pleaded guilty Monday to second-degree reckless homicide.

In exchange for the plea, three charges against David A. Sherrard, 36, of DeForest, were dismissed, including homicide by negligent use of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle to elude police causing death and obstructing police.

On July 14, Sherrard and his friend Chaunslar Mitchell, 27, of Madison left Christy's Bar on Lake Waubesa on their motorcycles and headed toward another bar in Oregon. Angela Gutho, 22, of Madison, rode with Sherrard, and Angela Vechinski, 25, of Sun Prairie, rode with Mitchell.

According to a criminal complaint, a sheriff's deputy, running his lights and siren on his way to a single-car accident, came upon the two motorcyclists, who refused to pull over and let him by. Mitchell sped away and the deputy pursued Sherrard's motorcycle at speeds topping 110 miles an hour, the complaint states. Once into Oregon, Sherrard lost control of his motorcycle and crashed at Jefferson Street. Sherrard was injured and Gutho died at University Hospital.

Sherrard now faces up to 15 years in prison, although as part of a plea agreement, Assistant District Attorney Michael Finley will ask for no more than four years of confinement for Sherrard. Mitchell pleaded no contest in April to fleeing and eluding police and was placed on three years probation. Vechinski entered into deferred prosecution after pleading no contest to obstructing police.

Brothers must apologize

Two brothers who fought with a UW-Madison police officer during a traffic stop were ordered Monday to write letters of apology to the officer.

Patrick Matthews, 22, of Madison, was also sentenced to three years of probation after he pleaded no contest to battering a law officer and resisting or obstructing police. He must spend six days in jail as part of his probation.

His brother, Shawn Matthews, 25, who pleaded no contest to identical charges, was sentenced to 2 1/2 years of probation. Circuit Judge Daniel Moeser also ordered both to perform community service and to write letters of apology to police officer Michael Newton.

In November, according to a criminal complaint, the Matthews brothers approached Newton on foot and attacked him after he stopped a car for a registration violation. Patrick Matthews had recognized Newton as the officer who had arrested him months earlier for drunken driving.

During a struggle on the ground, Patrick Matthews also tried to grab Newton's gun, but Newton managed to beat him back with his flashlight, the complaint states.

