

**IN BRIEF**

**Bedford phone outage continues a second day**

BEDFORD - For the second consecutive day Tuesday, the Bedford County Courthouse and related office buildings were without telephone service. A computer software part needed to bring the system back online was delivered to Bedford by 2 p.m., said commissioner Chairman Norma Ickes.

While technicians began immediately working on repairs, the phone systems remained out of service when the offices closed at 4:30 p.m.

The problem surfaced over the weekend after a battery charger on the system malfunctioned, damaging computer software.

**Penn Run man accused of assault on girlfriend**

PENN RUN - An Indiana County man was accused of hitting his girlfriend with a hammer while she slept, state police said.

Gregory Paul Geisler, 29, of Penn Run was charged Tuesday with attempted homicide, aggravated and simple assault, reckless endangerment and terroristic threats, police said. Geisler was committed to the Indiana County Jail in lieu of \$250,000.

Police said Linda Mae Prenni, 42, walked into the state police barracks in Indiana at about 7 a.m., accusing Geisler of hitting her in the face and hip with a claw hammer.

Prenni displayed injuries that seemed to verify her story, and was treated at Indiana Hospital for cuts on her face, police said.

**Hearings set March 18 for St. Francis students**

CRESSON - Preliminary hearings for seven St. Francis College students cited for their part in a Feb. 20 disturbance on campus have been scheduled for March 18 at 10 a.m. at District Justice Charity Nileski's office in Cresson.

The charges stem from a fight that began at around 1 a.m. that day at the JFK student center and resumed an hour later at a St. Francis dorm. One participant received a dislocated knee in the melee, broken up by several police departments.

Charged are: Darnell Carter, 21, charged with simple assault, making terroristic threats and disorderly conduct; and the following, all facing counts of disorderly conduct, Milton W. Irving, 23; Chad A. Miller, 21; Christopher Manges, 22; Derek A. Payne, 19; Randall J. Ott, 22; and Lalanda Price, 19.

**NAACP Awards program held at Pitt-Johnstown**

The NAACP National Image Awards program was held Thursday at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Those who received Image Awards include Greg Banks, a local radio announcer; Claudia B. Jones, a retired biology professor from UPJ and an active member of civic organizations; Hope B. Johnson, a retired state worker and former president of the Johnstown branch, NAACP.

Also, James Porcher, self-employed insurance salesman and former president of the Johnstown NAACP; William A. Rozier Sr., a retired postmaster and researcher of the Buffalo Soldiers, and the Rev. Andrew W. Tilly, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, for working to provide services to the Johnstown community.

Pauline H.L. Gordon, a local mortician, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Gordon supports many local organizations and young people.

**Polka fundraiser events scheduled for Sunday**

The Polka Music Festival Committee is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day spaghetti dinner and dance Sunday to raise money for downtown Johnstown's polka festival in June.

The dinner-dance will be held at Ace's Lounge, 316 Chestnut St. The dinner will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., the dance at 2:30 p.m. The dinner-dance costs \$8 a person, including a performance by the Johnstown Button Box. Cost is \$6 to attend the dance only.

The last benefit dinner-dance is scheduled for Mother's Day, May 9.

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**THE REGION**

**Megan's law case sent to court**

**Police say sex offender failed to report change of address**

By BILL BLAIR  
THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

A convicted sex offender will be tried on charges he failed to report his change of address - a violation of the state Megan's law.

Monte D. West, also known as Monte Evans, 24, is accused of failing to promptly report an address change to state police, a technical requirement under the law.

West waived his right to a preliminary hearing on the charges Tuesday before District Justice Michael Musulin of Johnstown. The case was sent to Cambria County Court.

West was placed on a state register for sex offenders in February 1998, city police said.

He was listed as a sexual offender after pleading guilty in 1995 to sexu-

ally assaulting a woman while her 20-month-old daughter slept in the same bed. West then was living in the 200 block of Everhart Street.

Police accused West of breaking down the door to the woman's apartment and holding a knife to her throat while he assaulted her.

Police said West violated Megan's Law a year ago after he failed to report a move from East Conemaugh Borough. During his arraignment on the violation last month, West told Musulin that he was living in the 500 block of Wood Street.

Musulin said he learned later from another magistrate that West had listed his address as a home in the 600 block of Park Avenue.

Because West apparently had lied about where he lived, Musulin said

he immediately revoked West's bond on Feb. 19 and issued a warrant for his arrest to Johnstown police.

West remained at large until he showed up as scheduled on Tuesday for his hearing on the Megan's Law violation.

During the hearing, West's attorney requested that his client be released on his own recognizance because several of his friends said they would allow West to live at their home in Minersville.

Police Detective Sgt. Richard A. Rok initially did not object to the request, but changed his mind after learning that West gave doctors a different name when he went to Somerset Hospital on Sunday with an ankle injury.

Musulin denied the lawyer's

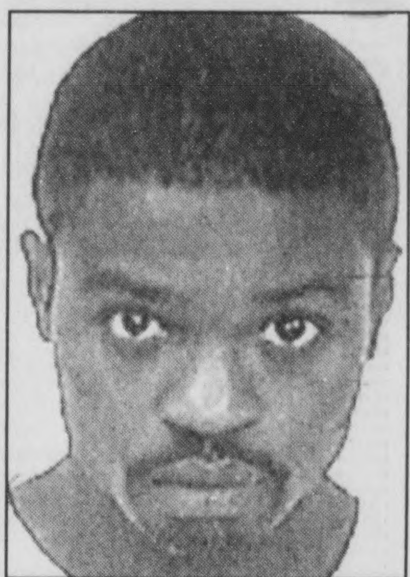
request and sent West to the county prison in lieu of \$25,000 bond.

Rok also filed charges last week against another convicted sex offender from the city for also violating Megan's Law by not updating his address with state police.

City police spokesman Sgt. William Dick said Rok accused Colie Barnette, 56, of failing to meet a requirement that he report his current address to state police once each year. Barnette last reported his address on Jan. 30, 1998, police said.

Dick said Barnette came under the Megan's Law requirements as a result of a conviction for rape.

Barnette, who is being held at the county jail on other matters, faces a hearing on the violation next week before Musulin.



**Monte D. West**  
Waives right to hearing

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