

The following individuals appeared Wednesday before Judge Charles Steele in Van Wert County Common Pleas Court:

A 24-year-old Van Wert man will spend up to eight years in prison on a charge of rape, a felony of the first degree.

Jeremy R. Neeley of Van Wert had been charged with the rape after an incident took place in March involving a 7-year-old girl.

Neeley was originally charge with rape with a specification that would have had a prison sentence of 15 years to life. Just a day prior to the trial being held, he entered a plea to a charge of rape without the specification which resulted in the eight year prison sentence.

Neeley was classified a Tier 3 sex offender and must register with the sheriff for the rest of his life upon release from prison and must register every 90 days.

Judge Steele gave Neeley credit for 173 days for time served in jail awaiting final disposition of his case.

Isaac J. Gase, 29, Decatur, Ind., was given four 2-year prison sentences for the burglary of four homes in the southern part of Van Wert County in May 2010.

Gase, along with a Crystal Stauffer also of Indiana, had broken into a number of homes in southern Van Wert County and northern Mercer County at which time they took items they sold for drug money.

Stauffer was sentenced last year to two years in prison for her part in the burglaries.

Judge Steele ordered that the four 2-year prison sentences be served concurrent to one another. Gase also has similar charges in Mercer County for burglaries that took place in Mercer County and had similar charges in Wells County, Indiana.

Brandon S. Hershey, 23, Van Wert, was placed on three years of community control on a charge of possession of drugs, a felony of the fifth degree.

Hershey was ordered to spend six months in the Van Wert County Jail and was given credit towards his sentence for 61 days he had already served awaiting final disposition of his case.

Judge Steele ordered that Hershey spend an additional 30 days in jail at a time to be determined by his supervision officer. Hershey is to be responsible for all costs associated with his case. Judge Steele also gave Hershey a basic prison term of nine months but deferred the imposition of the prison sentence pending the successful completion of the community control program.

Alisha L. Elder, 32 Van Wert, was sentenced to spend 12 months in prison on a charge of theft from an elderly, person a felony of the fifth degree.

According to a Van Wert Police Department investigation, Elder reportedly stole \$1791.62 from her grandmother. The grandmother had reported that her personal checks had been taken and were used. Prior to sentencing Elder, Judge Steele noted that Elder had an extensive criminal record dating back to 1994.

Elder was ordered to make restitution to her grandmother after release from prison.

Eddy P. Blossom, 25, Willshire, was placed on three years of community control on a charge of driving while under the influence of alcohol, a felony of the fourth degree.

Blossom was arrested by the Van Wert City Police Department in April of this year at which time it was determined that Blossom had previous convictions for driving while under the influence.

Judge Steele ordered Blossom's drivers license suspended for a period of five years and gave him a mandatory fine of \$1,350. Blossom also was ordered to make partial restitution of \$250

for his court appointed attorney, pay a \$25 affidavit of indigency fee, and court costs. Blossom was ordered to spend up to six months at the WORTH Center. Judge Steele also gave Blossom a nine-month basic prison term but deferred the imposition of the prison sentence pending the successful completion of the community control program.

Steven G. Ramsey, 25, Butler, Penn., was placed on three years of community control on four counts of forgery, a felony of the fifth degree.

Ramsey allegedly was passing fake \$20 bills at the Old Fashion Farmers event held at the fairgrounds in July of this year, according to a Van Wert City Police Department investigation. Judge Steele ordered Ramsey to spend six months in the Van Wert County Jail and gave him credit for 83 days he has served in jail awaiting final disposition of his case. Ramsey was also given a 12-month prison sentence on each count to be served concurrently with the imposition of the prison sentence deferred pending the successful completion of the community control program.

#### Change of plea hearings

Amanda Buzard, 26, Scott, plea of guilty to possession of heroin, granted intervention in lieu of conviction.

Buzard will be involved in a treatment/rehabilitation program for up to one year.

Robert J. Olszewski, 43, Van Wert, entered a plea of guilty to endangering children, a felony of the third degree; and cultivating marijuana, a felony of the fourth degree.

Judge Steele ordered a pre-sentence investigation and scheduled sentencing for 9 a.m. Nov. 2.

Dustin Garrett, 27, Van Wert, entered a plea of guilty to possession of heroin, a felony of the fifth degree, granted intervention in lieu of conviction. Garrett will be involved in a treatment/rehabilitation program for up to one year.

Garrett Dienstberger, 26, Delphos, entered a guilty plea to a charge of burglary, a felony of the third degree.

Judge Steele ordered a pre-sentence investigation and scheduled sentencing for 9 a.m. Nov. 2.

#### Probation violation hearings

Stacy Young, 34, Van Wert, admitted to violation of the terms of her community control program by using bath salts.

Young admitted that she has an addiction problem.

Judge Steele ordered Young to spend up to six months at the WORTH Center in Lima.

#### Arraignment hearing

Kelly G. Matthieu, 45, Kenton, entered a not guilty plea to a charge of driving while under the influence of alcohol, a felony of the third degree.

Matthieu was released on a \$5,000 unsecured personal surety bond with a pretrial yet to be scheduled.