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Vehicular Crimes Bureau: Five Defendants Plead Guilty to Driving While Intoxicated



Hopmeier



Lagerroos



Rivers



Morse

ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that **TOTH HOPMEIER**, 35, of Schenectady, **MICHAEL RIVERS**, 32, of Albany, **ARNOLD LAGERROOS**, 67, of Loudonville, and **BENJAMIN BALDWIN**, of Gallupville and **LORRAINE MORSE**, 52, of Coeymans Hollow, all pleaded guilty to charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol this week in Albany County and Supreme Court.

ARNOLD LAGERROOS pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

On November 26, 2012, the defendant was operating a motor vehicle on Wolf Road in the Town of Colonie. Officers observed the defendant exhibiting several physical signs of intoxication and smelled the odor of alcoholic beverages coming from LAGERROOS' breath. LAGERROOS registered a BAC of .18% while in custody.

LAGERROOS faces 30 days in the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program, 5 years of Felony Probation, successful completion of the Albany County Drug Court Program, the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 5 years, a \$1,000 fine, and restitution in the amount of \$1,500 and 1 year of license revocation when sentenced on April 28, 2013.

On March 14, 2013, LORRAINE MORSE pleaded guilty to (1) Counts of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated and (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, Per se, both Class E Felonies, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court.

On September 21, 2012 in the Town of Bethlehem, the Bethlehem Police Department received a call from an off duty police officer regarding a car swerving between lanes and traveling 25mph under the posted speed limit. Upon stopping the vehicle, MORSE showed several physical signs of intoxication, failed several field sobriety tests and registered a BAC of .19% while in custody.

On January 11, 2013, MORSE was observed by an Albany Police officer failing to stay in a single lane on Central Avenue in the City of Albany. Upon initiating a traffic stop, MORSE showed several physical signs of intoxication, failed several field sobriety tests and registered a BAC of .12% while in custody.

The defendant's license was suspended at the time of the arrest stemming from her arrest on September 21, 2012.

MORSE faces a concurrent sentence of 6 months in the Albany County Correctional Facility, 5 years of Felony Probation, a \$2,000 fine, license revocation and the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 5 years when sentenced on May 10, 2013.

On March 12, 2013, TOTH HOPMEIER pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

On November 11, 2012, HOPMEIER was observed by a New York State Trooper operating a motor vehicle on Interstate 90 in the Town of Guilderland above the posted speed limit and tailgating a vehicle in front of him. Upon initiating a traffic stop, the Trooper observed the defendant exhibiting several physical signs of intoxication and had a strong odor of alcoholic beverages emanating from the defendant's breath. HOPMEIER failed several field sobriety tests and refused to submit to a breath test. After refusing, the defendant vomited in the bathroom of the police station.

HOPMEIER faces 30 days in the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP), 5 years of Felony Probation, a \$1,000 fine, the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 5 years and 1 year of license revocation when sentenced on April 23, 2013.

On March 12, 2013, MICHAEL RIVERS pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, Per se, a Class E Felony before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

On January 4, 2013, RIVERS was observed by members of the Albany Police Department operating a motor vehicle the wrong way down a one way road near Ontario Street in the City of Albany. Upon the initiation of a traffic stop, officers observed several physical signs of intoxication, which included glassy eyes, slurred speech and a strong odor of alcoholic beverages coming from the defendant's breath. RIVERS failed several field sobriety tests and registered a BAC of .14% while at the police station.

RIVERS faces 5 years of Felony Probation, the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 5 years, a \$1,000 fine and 1 year of license revocation when sentenced on April 23, 2013.

On March 12, 2013, BENJAMIN BALDWIN pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Roger McDonough in the Supreme Court of the County of Albany.

On August 25, 2012, the defendant was observed operating a motor vehicle on Interstate 87 North in the Town of Colonie near Exit 6 when he cut off a vehicle in the center lane and then proceeded to move back into the left lane. BALDWIN then clipped the front bumper of the car in the left lane causing minor damage. BALDWIN continued to travel without stopping until exiting at Exit 8 and entering a McDonald's parking lot.

New York State Troopers approached BALDWIN and detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverages coming from the defendant's breath as well as other physical signs of intoxication. BALDWIN failed several field sobriety tests and registered a BAC of .22% while in custody.

BALDWIN faces 6 months in the Albany County Correctional Facility, 5 years of Felony Probation, the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 5 years, a \$1,000 fine and 1 year of license revocation when sentenced on April 23, 2013.

Vehicular Crimes Bureau Chief Mary Tanner-Richter is prosecuting the case against Lorraine Morse. Assistant District Attorney Matthew Peluso is prosecuting the cases against Toth Hopmeier, Michael Rivers, Arnold Lagerroos and Benjamin Baldwin.

For more information please contact Cecilia Logue (518) 275-4710.

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