

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Four individuals have been charged with felonies in the theft of copper wire from center pivots in Perkins County.

Three of the defendants, Bo E. Kuskie, 20; Joshua A. Patten, 23; and Gabriel L. Kuskie, 18, are charged with theft of copper wire having a value of \$6,138 belonging to Larry Walters of Venango, plus damage to Walters' center pivot in the amount of \$2,691.

The three defendants face two counts of alleged theft by unlawful taking, both class III felonies, and two counts of alleged criminal mischief, class IV felonies.

B. Kuskie and J. Patten were bound over to District Court by Perkins County Judge Edward D. Steenburg on Sept. 7 after waiving their right to a preliminary hearing. Steenburg set a preliminary hearing for G. Kuskie on Oct. 5.

Adam Sigler, 21, is charged with alleged theft of copper wire in the amount of \$5,413 belonging to Jessen Unlimited and alleged damage to a center pivot belonging to Jessen Unlimited amounting to \$1,915. The defendant was arrested in Colorado and awaits extradition papers. He faces one count of alleged theft by unlawful taking, a class III felony and one count of alleged criminal mischief, a class IV felony.

Sexual Assault

Joshua D. Waterman, 20, waived his right to a preliminary hearing in front of Perkins County Judge Edward D. Steenburg on Sept. 7, and was bound over to District Court on a charge of first degree sexual assault of a minor, a class II felony.

High Speed Chase

Richard E. Aldrich, Jr., 28, was arraigned on 14 counts Sept. 7 in Perkins County Court.

The complaint filed by Deputy County Attorney Joel Phillips alleges the following occurred in Perkins County on Aug. 31:

Count I: operation of motor vehicle to avoid arrest, Count II: willful reckless driving, Count III: driving under revocation, Count IV: speeding at 108 mph in 60 mph zone, Count V: driving without lights, Count VI: failure to signal, Count VII: passing in a no passing zone, Count VIII: driving left of center, Count IX: driving on highway shoulder, Count X: stop sign violation, Count XI: driving too fast for conditions, Count XII: unauthorized use of vehicle, Count XIII: possession of marijuana, a controlled substance, less than one ounce, Count XIV: disturbing the peace.

The defendant entered a not guilty plea. A pre-trial hearing is set for Oct. 5. The defendant's court-appointed representation is Attorney Lori Zeilinger.