

New Salem man pleads ‘guilty’ to incident involving a head-on crash with deputy

Case closes with six felony, four misdemeanor charges

BY KELLI AMELING
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

A New Salem man has pleaded “guilty” to 10 total charges after engaging in a police pursuit that ended with a head-on collision with a Mercer County Sheriff’s Department deputy.

Dante Schwarting, born 1985, who was represented by court-appointed Attorney Omid Kardoust, pleaded “guilty” in March to six felony charges and four misdemeanor charges from a February incident.

Below are a list of the charges and the sentences handed down with each one to be served concurrently:

Count 1: Possession with intent to manufacture/deliver – methamphetamine (class B felony): sentenced to 10 years in the department of corrections and rehabilitation with credit for 47 days served; with four years and 10 days suspended and three years supervised probation.

Count 2: Criminal mischief – willful damage – intentional more than \$10,000 (class B felony): sentenced to 10 years in the department of corrections and rehabilitation with credit for 47 days served; with four years and 10 days suspended and three years supervised probation.

Count 3: Fleeing a peace officer – vehicle – fleeing from felony (class C felony): felon or violent misdemeanor (class C felony): sentenced to five years in the department of corrections and rehabilitation with credit for 47 days served plus three years supervised probation.

Count 4: Unlawful possession of a firearm – felon or violent misdemeanor

(class C felony): sentenced to five years in the department of corrections and rehabilitation with credit for 47 days served plus three years supervised probation.

Count 5: Theft-possession- firearm, ammunition, explosive/destructive device (class C felony): sentenced to five years in the department of corrections and rehabilitation with credit for 47 days served plus three years supervised probation.

Count 6: Unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia-use-SI, SII, SIII – second offense (class C felony): sentenced to five years in the department of corrections and rehabilitation with credit for 47 days served plus three years supervised probation.

Count 7: False information to law enforcement (class A misdemeanor): sentenced to 360 days in the department of corrections and rehabilitation with credit for 47 days served, plus three years supervised probation.

Count 8: Reckless endangerment (class A misdemeanor): sentenced to 360 days in the department of corrections and rehabilitation with credit for 47 days served, plus three years supervised probation.

Count 9: Reckless driving-rights/safety (class B misdemeanor): sentenced to 30 days in the department of corrections and rehabilitation with credit for 30 days served, plus three years supervised probation.

Count 10: Driving under suspension (class B misdemeanor): sentenced to 30 days in the department of corrections and rehabilitation with credit for 30 days served, plus three years supervised probation.

In addition to the sen-

tencing, Schwarting will also have to pay \$29,760.95 in fines and fees, with \$236.25 applied in credits.

THE INCIDENT

According to an affidavit received by District Court 29 for the case, which was prepared by Mercer County Sheriff’s Deputy Brandon Doll, 9-1-1 dispatch informed Doll on Feb. 8 Schwarting stopped in at the jail to post bond for another individual. It was confirmed he had a no-bond warrant with full extradition out of the state of Minnesota. However, Schwarting left the jail “moments prior” to Doll arriving with two additional people in the vehicle.

Doll was able to locate the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop on Harmon Avenue near Main Street in Stanton. Upon approaching the vehicle, the driver gave a false name, stating he had no ID on him.

As Doll reapproached the vehicle on driver’s side, the driver “sped away and a vehicle pursuit started.”

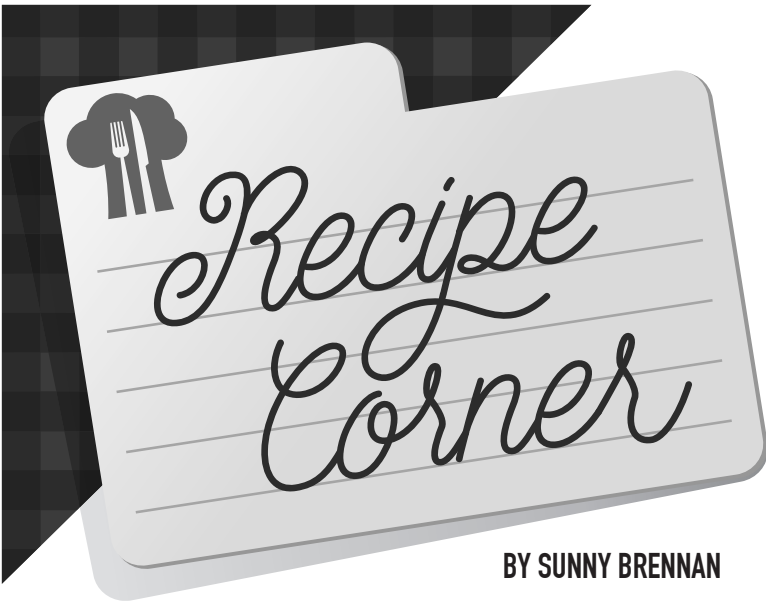
The affidavit stated the vehicle went down Harmon Avenue across from N.D. Highway 31 and continued westbound down a section line.

“As the section lined ended, the vehicle crashed through a barbed wire fence and went into a pasture,” the court documents stated. “The vehicle continued through the pasture then went through an open gate into a harvested soybean field.”

The pursuit continued, resulting in the car crashing through another fence on the northside of the section line. The driver then went back westbound down

GUILTY

cont. on pg 12



BY SUNNY BRENNAN

SLOPPY JOE CASSEROLE

- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 lb. ground beef
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, seeds and ribs removed, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, seeds and ribs removed, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2/3 cup ketchup
- 1 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. dried mustard
- 1 (8-oz.) can tomato sauce
- 1 cup low-sodium beef or chicken broth
- 2 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp. dark brown sugar
- Hot sauce (optional)
- 8 sweet Hawaiian slider rolls, halved crosswise
- 1 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup shredded cheddar
- Chopped fresh parsley, for serving (optional)

Step 1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add beef; season with 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper. Cook, breaking up beef with a wooden spoon, until crumbled and no longer pink, 6 to 8 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer beef to a plate. Pour off all but 1 tablespoon fat.

Step 2. In same skillet over medium heat, cook onions, bell peppers, and garlic, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are softened, 10 to 12 minutes; season with salt and pepper. Add ketchup and cook, stirring occasionally, until ketchup is reduced to a thick paste, 5 to 6 minutes. Add chili powder and mustard and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add tomato sauce, broth, vinegar, Worcestershire, and brown sugar and cook, stirring, until combined. Add beef and a few dashes of hot sauce (if using).

Step 3. Transfer to a 2-quart baking dish. Top with rolls cut sides down (both the tops and the bottoms, for a total of 16 halves). Brush with butter and sprinkle with cheese. Step 4. Bake casserole until rolls are toasted and cheese is melted, 10 to 15 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley (if using).

SCOOP

Cont from Page 4

right? Just because I have a car, it doesn’t mean I can be a professional racer. And just because I can post stories, opinions and live broadcasts doesn’t mean I’m a professional reporter.

I have a column’s-length opinion on social media “influencers” alone, but the acts from this particular person, at this particular scene, it has a gross, creepy, totally unprofessional feel to it. If he were just reporting that the road is closed due to a tragic accident, I can get behind that. People can be informed quickly that the road is closed. But he kept going on about what he was seeing, what was happening and kept saying “I’m not going to show you the scene because it’s bad ...”

It wasn’t reporting to me. It was about

him and showing his followers the shock and awe of a tragic scene where someone lost their life. It’s easy to record a live scene and say what you think and call it “reporting,” however, much of this man’s material is reckless, careless, disrespectful and self-indulging.

I understand that social media “influencers” are now a thing, which I follow many myself, to be honest. But when it comes to community reporting, especially in tragic situations, I think there is a solid line that these attention-seekers must not cross.

If this man was doing this purely for the good of the community, that would be one thing. But sadly, he is doing it for the “clicks,” and, to me, that’s just bad business.

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WEBSITE

Cont from Page 2

Set meetings are as follows:

City council: Every first and third Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m., held at City Hall. If the meeting date falls on a holiday, the meeting will then be held the next day.

Planning and Zoning Committee: Every second and fourth Monday, at 5 p.m., held at City Hall. Ferebee stated Planning and Zoning may not remain as set meetings, but they are listed under “Government – Public Notices” on the website.

Job Development Authority: Every third Wednesday of each month, but subject to change based on board availability.

Ferebee said other city committees will notify the main office when a meeting is scheduled, which is then posted on the city’s website under “Meeting Notices” and posted at the door of City Hall.