

GENERAL NEWS

Wilson case to be heard by grand jury

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A local man who recently entered Alford pleas to drug charges in Nicholas Circuit Court had a new felony charge of fleeing and evading police, first degree, board over to the future Nicholas County Grand Jury at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing Nov. 4 in Nicholas District Court.

Jesse Edmund Wilson, 26, who lives on May Street in Mullerberg, according to court documents, was charged with nine criminal offenses two months ago.

Wilson's charges included three felony charges including wanton endangerment, trafficking in a controlled substance, second degree and fleeing or evading police, first degree.

Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Dennis Buckler arrested Wilson Sept. 5 on East Unwee Road and charged him with criminal trespassing, first degree, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol/drugs, operating as a suspended/revoked operator's license, wanton endangerment, first degree, fleeing or evading police, resisting arrest, prescription controlled substance not in a proper container, carrying a concealed weapon and trafficking in a controlled substance, second degree, second offense.

District Judge, Honorable Jay Delaney listened intently during the preliminary hearing to testimony from Buckler, and testimony from Wilson, who also took the stand.

Judge Delaney also listened intently to the questioning and statements made by Nicholas County Attorney Dawn Letcher and Wilson's attorney Daniel Thompson.

Judge Delaney found "no probable cause" to have the charges of wanton endangerment and trafficking in a controlled substance board over to the grand jury.

Wilson gave intense and articulate testimony regarding these charges stating in part that he was simply trying to get away from Mark Hughes, the father of his girlfriend, in relation to the wanton endangerment charge.

Wilson admitted having drugs in his possession but was quick to point out that the drugs were prescribed by a doctor whose care he had been under for some time as he had suffered several injuries in the past from motorcycle and vehicular accidents.

Buckler testified that the pill count on the prescription had been "short" and Wilson had over \$300 in his possession at the time of his arrest.

Wilson testified that he intentionally put a large portion of his medication (143 pills) in another prescription bottle that was not on him as he thought it was prudent not to carry a large quantity of pain medicine at one time.

"I've been seeing my doctor for four years," Wilson said, "I would never carry that much medication." Wilson added under questioning from Letcher that all the pills he had were "in a proper container and were prescribed by a doctor."

Wilson's testimony differed from Buckler's in regard to the fleeing and evading charge and other details of other charges and actions, which led to the charges.

When Thompson's questioning of his client became redundant Judge Delaney quickly stopped it.

"That's enough," Mr. Thompson," he said.

Wilson entered his Alford pleas to amended charges of

trafficking in a controlled substance, second degree.

Wilson testified that he was "hit, kicked and spit upon" during his arrest.

Wilson was indicted earlier this year on the unrelated charges of trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree; trafficking in a controlled substance, third degree; possession of marijuana, fleeing or evading police, second degree; and tampering with physical evidence. He was free on bond when the recent offenses occurred.

Wilson appeared in Nicholas Circuit Court Monday, Oct. 5, with his attorney Bing Bush Jr., and entered Alford pleas to amended drug charges.

An Alford plea is not technically a guilty plea, but is a plea, which acknowledges that if the case were to go to trial enough evidence might be found to result in a guilty verdict being rendered.

Wilson entered his Alford pleas to amended charges of

possession of a controlled substance, trafficking in a controlled substance, third degree and criminal attempt to tamper with physical evidence.

Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Michael Laws signed



Jesse Wilson, left and his attorney Daniel Thompson, right, calmly wait for Wilson to take the stand in his own defense during a preliminary hearing in Nicholas District Court last week.

Documents, which recommended Wilson be sentenced to five years imprisonment to run concurrent with other recommended sentences in the case. Wilson is seeking shock probation on those charges and during his preliminary hearing last week Thompson asked that Wilson's bond be lowered from \$15,000 cash to \$5,000. Judge Delaney granted the request.

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