

Man with 11 DUI convictions faces another charge

BY MICHAEL BENCSIK, of The Oakland Press
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TROY - A man with 11 drunken driving-related convictions has been charged with his 12th after police saw the car he was driving weaving in traffic and tailgating other vehicles.

Alan Jerome Kruk, 41, of Sterling Heights, was arraigned Friday on drunken driving charges before 52-4 District Court Judge Dennis Drury who ordered him held on a \$200,000 cash bond. Police said Kruk was arrested about 10:40 p.m. Thursday when officers saw him driving erratically westbound on 14 Mile Road near John R.

His arraignment Friday was at the same time police were awarding the Ashley Easterbrook Scholarship to Meaghan Michelle Villerot, the daughter of a Troy police officer. The Easterbrook scholarship is funded by the family of Ashley Easterbrook. She was killed three years ago along with two friends when their vehicle was struck by a drunk driver.

Easterbrook's father, David, said at a Troy Police station press conference that judges must step forward and do more to stop people who drink and drive from getting back on the road. "Until our judicial system gets tough, gets the guts and the courage to do something, then this will continue," he said. According to Troy Police Lt. Steve Zavislak, officers said Kruk nearly hit a curb and when they pulled him over, he failed several sobriety tests. Kruk eventually tested over the .10 blood alcohol limit, which is considered legally drunk in Michigan.

The prior convictions for Kruk include two for operating a vehicle while impaired, eight for operating under the influence of liquor and one for have an unlawful blood alcohol level. Two of those convictions were in 1984 in Detroit and Taylor, another in 1986 in Marine City, two more in 1987 in Dearborn and another one that year in Detroit. In 1990 Hazel Park police arrested and convicted him; the same thing happened in 1992 in Kalamazoo. In 1992 he received a conviction in Detroit where he picked up another one in 1995.

It was also in Detroit in December 1997 that Kruk was again convicted of drunk driving and sentenced to 2 1/2 to 10 years in prison. He was paroled in November 1999. Zavislak said drunken driving remains a societal problem. "If you are drinking, it doesn't mean you have to drive," he said.

A preliminary examination for Kruk has been scheduled for June 22.

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