



pennsylvania
STATE POLICE

RECEIVED
OCT 05 2023

RUSCOMBMANOR TWP.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 5, 2023

PA 2023-65763

MEDIA CONTACT: Trooper David Beohm, 484-401-4324, dbeohm@pa.gov

Fatal Crash Arrest

Reading, PA – The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Reading Station announced murder charges related to a fatal crash investigation on Monday January 16, 2023, at or around 6:43 AM. The crash occurred in the 3600 block of Pricetown Road (SR 12) Ruscombmanor Township Berks County.

The crash involved four vehicles. Through investigation the operator of unit #1 (vehicle most at fault) was determined to be Matthew Pekuri 45 years of age Reading Pa. On October 5, 2023 charges were filed and a warrant was issued for Pekuri at the office of MDJ 23-3-03 Oley Pa. Pekuri was charged with murder of the third degree, reckless driving, careless driving, disregard traffic lane, passing where prohibited, homicide by vehicle and recklessly endangering another person.

The crash was investigated utilizing many investigative units from the state police to include the Reading Patrol Unit, (CARS) Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Specialist Unit, (FSU) Forensic Services Unit, (CIU) Reading Criminal Investigation Unit. Also assisting in the investigation was the Berks County District Attorney's Office.

Pekuri was taken into custody on Thursday October 5, 2023 without incident by PSP Reading. Pekuri was taken to Central Processing to await arraignment.

For more information on the Pennsylvania State Police, visit psp.pa.gov.

In the interest of transparency, it is the policy of PSP to disseminate information regarding incidents which are likely to generate significant interest among the public and media in a timely manner. While we make every effort to ensure the information is accurate to the best of our knowledge and belief, incidents are often fluid and rapidly evolving. Information provided should be considered preliminary and subject to change as additional investigative details emerge.

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**Pennsylvania Law Enforcement
Crash - Public Information Release Report**

Crash Involves:

- DUI
 Fatality
 Hit and Run
 Commercial Vehicle
 State Police Vehicle
 Local Police Vehicle
 Other
 Work Zone
 ATV
 Snowmobile
 Commonwealth Vehicle
 Local Gov Vehicle

Agency Information:

AGENCY PA STATE POLICE - READING	INVESTIGATOR CARPENTER, RICHARD
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Summary Information:

CAD/CASE NUMBER PA 2023-65783	CRASH DATE 01/16/2023	CRASH TIME 06:43 hrs.
COUNTY BERKS	MUNICIPALITY RUSCOMBMANOR TWP	
ROUTE # 0012	SEGMENT #	STREET PRICETOWN
		STREET ENDING ROAD
LOCATION 3600 BLK PRICETOWN RD		

People Involved:

UNIT # 001	PERSON DRIVER	FIRST NAME MATTHEW	MI R	LAST NAME PEKURI	SUFFIX	AGE 44	Gender M
CITY SHOEMAKERSVLE				STATE PA	SAFETY EQUIPMENT UNKNOWN		
EMS TRANSPORT TRANSPORTED		INJURY SEVERITY SUSPECTED SERIOUS INJURY					
EMS AGENCY WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE ASSOC				MEDICAL FACILITY READING HOSPITAL			

UNIT # 002	PERSON DRIVER	FIRST NAME WANDA	MI L	LAST NAME MATUSZAK	SUFFIX	AGE 61	Gender F
CITY FLEETWOOD				STATE PA	SAFETY EQUIPMENT LAP AND SHOULDER BELT USED		
EMS TRANSPORT NOT TRANSPORTED		INJURY SEVERITY FATAL INJURY					
EMS AGENCY				MEDICAL FACILITY NONE			

UNIT # 003	PERSON DRIVER	FIRST NAME VICTOR	MI H	LAST NAME GARCIA	SUFFIX	AGE 41	Gender M
CITY READING				STATE PA	SAFETY EQUIPMENT LAP AND SHOULDER BELT USED		
EMS TRANSPORT NOT TRANSPORTED		INJURY SEVERITY NOT INJURED					
EMS AGENCY				MEDICAL FACILITY NONE			

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Crash Involves:

- DUI Fatality Hit and Run Commercial Vehicle State Police Vehicle Local Police Vehicle
 Other Work Zone ATV Snowmobile Commonwealth Vehicle Local Gov Vehicle

UNIT # 004	PERSON DRIVER	FIRST NAME REBECCA	MI M	LAST NAME SHADE	SUFFIX	AGE 60	Gender F
CITY FLEETWOOD				STATE PA	SAFETY EQUIPMENT LAP AND SHOULDER BELT USED		
EMS TRANSPORT REFUSED TRANSPORT		INJURY SEVERITY INJURY, UNKNOWN SEVERITY					
EMS AGENCY			MEDICAL FACILITY READING HOSPITAL				

Vehicles Involved:

UNIT # 001	YEAR 2021	VEHICLE MAKE DODGE	MODEL SPRINTER
DRIVER CHARGED?		PRIMARY VIOLATION	
UNIT # 002	YEAR 2020	VEHICLE MAKE GENERAL MTRS CORP	MODEL TERRAIN
DRIVER CHARGED?		PRIMARY VIOLATION	
UNIT # 003	YEAR 2001	VEHICLE MAKE GENERAL MTRS CORP	MODEL YUKON
DRIVER CHARGED?		PRIMARY VIOLATION	
UNIT # 004	YEAR 2015	VEHICLE MAKE LINCOLN	MODEL MKZ
DRIVER CHARGED?		PRIMARY VIOLATION	

Crash Synopsis:

This reportable, fatal crash occurred in the 3600 Block of Pricetown Rd (PA-12) in the westbound lane, Ruscombmanor Township, Berks County, PA. This crash occurred as Unit 1 was traveling eastbound on Pricetown Rd (PA-12). Unit 2 was traveling westbound on Pricetown Road (PA-12). Unit 3 was also traveling eastbound in the eastbound lane of Pricetown Road (PA-12) in front of Unit 1. Unit 4 was traveling eastbound in the eastbound lane of Pricetown Rd (PA-12) behind Unit 2. Unit 1 crossed the solid double yellow line and traveled into the opposite (westbound) lane of travel and made a 11 o'clock point of impact with Unit 2. Which pushed Unit 2 backwards and simultaneously spinning Unit 2 counter-clockwise to an approximately 90 degree angle, where the rear end of Unit 2 struck an electrified metal fence, where it came to final rest facing south. After initial point of impact with Unit 2, Unit 1 swerved to the right back into the eastbound lane, striking Unit 3 on the rear driver's side quarter panel, causing it to spin slightly counterclockwise. Operator 3 attempted to correct, causing Unit 3 to enter an uncontrolled spin clockwise, making one complete rotation as Unit 3 swerved into an adjacent yard on the south side of the roadway, striking a wooden fence with it's rear end, destroying a portion of the fence. As Unit 3 was spinning, Unit 1 continued eastbound, also spinning uncontrolled counterclockwise. As Unit 1 traveled off the right side of the eastbound lane, Unit 1 struck a utility pole, shearing it at the base with the rear sliding door on the passenger's side. Unit 1 continued to slide eastbound while facing north and began to overturn onto it's passenger's side, rolling approximately 1 and 1/4 times, striking tree branches, shearing the mailbox post and mailbox for 3609

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**Pennsylvania Law Enforcement
Crash - Public Information Release Report**

Crash Involves:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> DUI | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Fatality | <input type="radio"/> Hit and Run | <input type="radio"/> Commercial Vehicle | <input type="radio"/> State Police Vehicle | <input type="radio"/> Local Police Vehicle |
| <input type="radio"/> Other | <input type="radio"/> Work Zone | <input type="radio"/> ATV | <input type="radio"/> Snowmobile | <input type="radio"/> Commonwealth Vehicle | <input type="radio"/> Local Gov Vehicle |

Pricetown Rd, and depositing it's contents onto the roadside on the south side of the roadway. Unit 1 came to final rest resting on it's driver's side in a ditch running south from the roadway, facing north. At the same time, Unit 4 had struck the debris field from the initial impact of Unit 1 into Unit 2 with it's front end. After Unit 4's impact, Unit 4 pulled over to the right of the roadway of the westbound lane, where it came to final rest.

All four Units were at final rest upon this officer's arrival. Due to injuries sustained from the crash, Operator 2 (Wanda MATUSZAK) suffered fatal injuries. Operator 1 (Matthew PEKURI) sustained injuries and was transported via EMS to Reading Hospital, where he was admitted. Operator 3 (Justin PORTER) was not injured. Operator 4 (Rebecca SHADE) sustained injuries of an unknown severity to her legs and was transported via private party to Reading Hospital.