

USA MEDAL COUNT
2012 SUMMER GAMES - LONDON



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Jimmy Pedro and family helping formerly abused woman reach her Olympic goal. Page 11

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Report clears W. Newbury police in Noyes crash

Ex-trooper was involved in accident

By DAVE ROGERS
Staff Writer

WEST NEWBURY — Sgt. Daniel Cena and officer Royster Johnson IV did not violate any department rules, regulations or policies in their handling of the March 30 car crash involving retired high-ranking state trooper Charles Noyes, according to the findings of an independent consultant hired by West Newbury to investigate the incident.

The report, released to the press yesterday and conducted by retired Methuen police Chief Bruce A. MacDougall, contradicts an internal investigation conducted by the Haverhill Police Department, which concluded that West Newbury's Cena and Johnson along with Haverhill police officers gave Noyes special treatment due to his previous position with the state police.

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Lawmakers flood Patrick's desk with major bills

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

BOSTON - Massachusetts lawmakers fin-



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Jonas Rogers is arraigned in Haverhill District Court in connection with the home invasion last week on River Street in which two people were killed.

Crime started early for man accused in shooting deaths

By MIKE LABELLA
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HAVERHILL — When he was a 15-year-old middle school student, Jonas Rogers was sent to a summer youth academy run by the Essex Sheriff's Department.

The five-week program involved kids aged 12 to 16 who

all had some minor run-ins with the law and who were referred by courts or probation officers. Rogers participated in team-building activities, went on field trips and, along with other kids in the program, visited the Middleton jail, where inmates talked about their life experiences and what being in jail was like. The program focused on teaching

kids how to stay out of trouble. Near the conclusion of the program, The Eagle-Tribune spoke to some of the participants, including Rogers. "I learned you don't always have to get your way," Rogers said. "I learned you are not supposed to hang out with people who get you in trouble, and I learned not to be bad to my

grandmother." He said he also learned from the "Scared Straight" portion of the program where inmates talk about life in jail. "It's not fun up there," Rogers said at that time. Yesterday, Rogers, now 25, was sent to the Middleton jail

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ARRAIGNMENT: Suspect has long criminal career

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where he is being held without bail after his arraignment on murder charges. During the hearing, Rogers' eyes were filled with tears as he hid behind his lawyer.

He is the second person to be charged this week with taking part in a home invasion the night of July 23 at 629 River St. in which two men were shot to death and two others were wounded.

Several witnesses have proven key so far in a police investigation that led to the arrest of two men and another who is charged with helping one of the suspects try to evade police.

Juan Carlos Sanchez, 20, of Haverhill was the first to be caught after witnesses told police that he talked about his involvement in the shootings. Sanchez was arrested Sunday and arraigned Monday in Haverhill District Court where he pleaded not guilty to several charges, including two counts of murder. Judge Patricia Dowling ordered Sanchez held without bail on a previous, drug-related probation violation and continued the shooting case to Aug. 30 for a probable cause hearing.

During the investigation, police learned from witnesses that Sanchez got help in trying to evade police on Sunday from Matthew Rogers, 26, of Lawrence, according to court documents. Rogers, who grew up in Haverhill, was arraigned Monday in Haverhill District Court where he plead not guilty to charges of being an accessory after the fact to murder and misleading a police investigation. He is being held on \$25,000 cash bail.

On Tuesday night, police arrested Jonas Rogers, 25, of 4 Prospect St. on the same charges they brought against



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Jonas Rogers cries while being arraigned in Haverhill District Court in connection with the home invasion last week on River Street in which two people were killed.

Sanchez after a witness told police that Jonas Rogers told him he was at the shootings and that he went to the house with friends to rob the occupants of the dug oxycontin, according to a police report on file in Haverhill District Court. The witness said Rogers told him that he (Rogers) and his friends had guns and that he stayed inside the apartment while his accomplices brought people outside and shot them. The witness said Rogers told him that he then left the house with pills and money.

Other witnesses told police that after the shootings they saw Jonas Rogers with a gun and that he asked them to tell police he was home all night on the night of the murders, according to police reports.

Jonas Rogers faces the same charges as Sanchez, who police said shot and killed William Melchionda, 19, during what appeared to be a home invasion aimed at getting illegal drugs and cash from Melchionda's apartment at 629 River St. Also killed was Anddy Guzman, 20, of Lawrence, who police said was part of

the home invading group and was hit by a stray bullet.

At Jonas Rogers' arraignment yesterday in Haverhill District Court, Judge Patricia Dowling ordered that he be held without bail until a probable cause hearing Aug. 30. Police said Jonas and Matthew Rogers are not related.

According to documents on file in Haverhill District Court, in October 2004 Haverhill police charged Jonas Rogers with possession of marijuana after they raided an apartment on Central Street where a woman was selling the drug Ecstasy. The raid netted 11 arrests, including Rogers, who was 17 at the time. Rogers' case was continued without a finding for six months and he was ordered to attend a drug counseling program and submit to random drug and alcohol screenings, according to court officials.

On Jan. 21, 2005 he was ordered held without bail for having violated his probation. A subsequent probation violation led to his being found guilty of the charge. He did not serve any additional time, according to

court officials. In November of 2005, Jonas Rogers was sentenced to three to four years in prison, followed by three years of probation after pleading guilty in Superior Court to taking part in stabbing a man who was walking home from work on Winter Street.

State and local police picked up Jonas Rogers at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, according to Stephen O'Connell, spokesman for the Essex District Attorney's Office.

The arrest came after police obtained a search warrant for an apartment building at 2-4 Prospect St., O'Connell said. He said Rogers was arrested at the home of his father at 4 Prospect St.

Following yesterday's arraignment, Rogers' father, Elton Rogers, spoke briefly with The Eagle-Tribune.

"They (police) raided my house looking for guns," he said. "My son doesn't even live with me and I really don't know what all of this is about."

Police said they also arrested Elton Rogers on Tuesday on warrants for a suspended license and a vehicle equipment violation.

Sanchez and Jonas Rogers are each charged with two counts of murder, eight counts of home invasion, seven counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, four counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, two counts of armed assault with intent to murder, and one count of carrying a firearm without a license, according to the Essex District Attorney's Office.

Attorney Arthur Kelly of Newton, who was appointed to represent Jonas Rogers at yesterday's hearing, was allowed a motion to use funds to hire a detective to assist defense counsel in preparing his case.