

# Teen girl and adult pusuant reported missing

**ALLENTOWN, PA. (AP)** — Police say a 45-year-old man managed to sign a 16-year-old girl out of her Pennsylvania school 10 times in the last few months and now the two are missing.

Allentown police issued a missing person alert Wednesday for Kevin Esterly and Amy Yu. They say the pair was last seen Monday.

The Morning Call reports police filed a warrant for Esterly's arrest for interference with the custody of a child.

According to the war-

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rant, Esterly signed Amy out of school 10 times between Nov. 13 and Feb. 9 without her parents' permission.

Police said Amy's mother called Feb. 9 to report Esterly had signed her child out of Lehigh Valley Academy earlier that day.

Records show police told Esterly on Feb. 15 to stay away from the teen's home.

**JONESVILLE, VA. (AP)** — A Virginia sheriff says

an 8-day-old baby has died after being mauled by a dog.

Lee County Sheriff Gary Parsons tells the Kingsport Times-News that deputies were told a "large shepherd-type" attacked and mauled the girl while she lay in a bassinet. The sheriff says the infant's upper body and head were primarily injured.

He says his department was responding to a call about the mauling

Wednesday morning, but the baby was already on the way to a hospital when deputies arrived. She died that afternoon.

The sheriff says social services are checking on the two other children in the home.

The dog is at a pound. The sheriff says he's checking with the commonwealth's attorney to see if any charges can be filed. Identities were not immediately released.

**HARTFORD, CONN. (AP)** — Residents in the Northeast dug out from

as much as 2 feet of wet, heavy snow Thursday, while utilities dealt with downed trees and electric lines that snarled traffic and left hundreds of thousands without power after two strong nor'easters in less than a week — all with possibility of another storm in the wings.

Snow was still falling Thursday in southern Maine, where the storm was expected to move on by midday.

More than 800,000 customers were without power in the Northeast, including some who have been without electricity since last Friday's destructive nor'easter. Thousands of flights across the region were

canceled, and traveling on the ground was treacherous.

A train carrying more than 100 passengers derailed in Wilmington, Massachusetts, after a fallen tree branch got wedged in a rail switch. Nobody was hurt. Tory Mazzola, a spokesman for Keolis Commuter Services, which runs the system for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, said the low-speed derailment remains under investigation.

In New Hampshire, Interstate 95 in Portsmouth was closed in both directions because of downed power lines, leaving traffic at a standstill.

## TRAFFIC COURT

The following cases were heard in General Sessions Traffic Court by Judge Bill Locke.

Jairo Enrique Godinez was given an 11-month, 29-day probationary sentence and 24 hours public service work for contributing to the delinquency of a child and driving without a license. He was granted a judicial diversion, meaning the charges can be erased from his record.

Barry L. Killian Jr. was ordered to serve 120 days of an 11-29 sentence for driving on a revoked license, second offense.

Emilio Sanchez was given an 11-29 probationary sentence and given a \$250 fine for simple possession. He was granted a judicial diversion.

Kevin Mac Cope was

ordered to serve 45 days of an 11-29 sentence and pay a \$600 fine for second offense DUI.

Jordan Cole Godwin was given an 11-29 probationary sentence and a \$250 fine for simple possession. A judicial diversion was granted.

Ashley Rains was ordered to serve 45 days of 11-29 sentences for possession of meth and drug paraphernalia.

Jonathan Casey Smith was ordered to serve 45 days of an 11-29 sentence for second offense DUI. He was also ordered to pay a \$600 fine.

Joshua Daniel Thompson was ordered to serve 48 hours of an 11-29 sentence for DUI. He was given 24 hours public service work and a \$350 fine.

## Fire on Sunburst Drive



This home at 663 Sunburst Drive in Westwood is a complete loss after fire engulfed the home around 1:30 a.m. Thursday morning. "By the time our guys got on the scene, the fire was from one end of the house to the other and through the roof," said McMinnville Fire Chief Kendall Mayfield. "It's so burnt up, it's really hard to tell how it started." Mayfield says the house belongs to Yorozu and one man was living there at the time. He was able to escape without injury.

# Pastor indicted on 47 charges of sex abuse

**COVINGTON (AP)** — A Tennessee pastor has been indicted on 47 charges related to sexual abuse of minors.

Tipton County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Billy Daugherty told WREG-TV in Memphis that 39-year-old Ronnie Gorton has been accused by three people, including one under the age of 13.

Gorton was indicted Monday and jailed Tuesday. He declined to

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answer questions from reporters as he entered jail.

He is the former pastor of Awakening Church in Atoka.

Gorton faces one count of rape, 16 counts of statutory rape by an authority figure, 17 counts of sexual battery by an authority figure, five counts of aggravated sexual bat-

tery and several other charges.

**CHATTANOOGA (AP)** —

An ordinance barring people from begging for money could be expanded in a Tennessee city. The Chattanooga Times Free Press reports Chattanooga City Council members say panhandlers are a problem.

Chattanooga police Chief David Roddy briefed council members Tuesday on progress toward a revised panhandling ordinance they

may be asked to approve soon.

Chattanooga's existing ordinance was passed in 2002.

It forbids begging in the downtown tourism and restaurant district, but many business owners say it has not stopped panhandlers.

Roddy says a citywide ordinance could have officers give panhandlers a \$50 ticket. Officers could also check whether they are wanted or to offer those homeless and helpless services.

Those arrested under a state law banning touching, following or intimi-

dating people in attempts to get money could be jailed instead.

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — A Republican-led Tennessee House panel has killed a bill to ban child marriage because a socially conservative lobbyist argued it interferes with his state legal challenge of same-sex marriage.

The House Civil Justice Subcommittee voted Wednesday to halt consideration this session of legislation to limit marriage to only people 18 years or older.

Republican House Majority Leader Glen

Casada requested the delay at the urging of Family Action Council of Tennessee president David Fowler, a lawyer and ex-state senator.

Fowler contends that because the bill deals with marriage licenses, it interferes with his lawsuit.

Democratic bill sponsor Rep. Darren Jernigan of Old Hickory called it disgraceful and said he's embarrassed for Tennessee.

Democratic Senate sponsor Jeff Yarbrow said some girls as young as 10 have married adult men in Tennessee.



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