
BUCKS BRIEFS

Accused cop killer waives hearing

MIDDLETOWN

The man accused of killing Middletown police Detective Chris Jones earlier this year while driving under the influence of drugs waived his preliminary hearing Thursday morning.

The case now goes to Bucks County court, where Frank Wallace Budka, 45, of Middletown faces charges of homicide by vehicle while DUI, homicide by vehicle, involuntary manslaughter, several drug charges and related offenses.

Authorities say Budka was driving recklessly and was under the influence of methadone, which was prescribed, and marijuana during the Jan. 29 accident.

On that morning, Jones, 37, a father of three and an 11-year veteran of Middletown's police force, had stopped a car on the shoulder of the Route 1 Superhighway near the I-95 southbound exit ramp. After issuing a ticket to a driver, Jones walked back to his patrol car when Budka's Toyota Corolla clipped another car and swerved into Jones' car, which pinned the officer down, authorities say.

Jones was pronounced dead hours later at St. Mary Medical Center in Middletown.

Authorities arrested Budka 84 days later.