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Driver guilty in fatal DWI crash

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As the summer of 2007 was beginning, Brendan Barry had enrolled in a culinary school. His best friend, Jordan B. Maupin, had enlisted in the Navy and was due to report to boot camp.

But their plans — and the dreams of their families — changed when Maupin crashed his car while driving drunk in Chili on June 3, 2007, killing Barry and injuring himself and another friend.

After Maupin, 21, of Chili pleaded guilty Thursday to a felony of first-degree vehicular manslaughter in exchange for a prison sentence of one to three years, he turned to apologize to Barry's family.

"I never wanted to hurt someone ... in my wildest dreams I never thought that would happen," he said.

Earlier, Barry's parents, Timothy Barry and Peggy Kurtz, told Maupin that he was selfish and had robbed them of their only son.

"A friend would never put a friend in harm's way," Kurtz said. "Jordan Maupin, what were you thinking on June 3rd?"

Maupin was 20 when he lost control of his car while driving 90 mph in a 40 mph zone on Chili Avenue, near Chestnut Drive. Sheriff's deputies said the car flipped multiple times and landed in the yard of a house.

Barry, 20, died later at Strong Memorial Hospital. Maupin suffered a serious head injury and another passenger, Michael Kress-Skvarek, was treated and released.

As he pleaded guilty to manslaughter, driving while intoxicated, aggravated driving while intoxicated and speeding, Maupin said he had been drinking beer before he drove with his friends. His blood-alcohol content after the crash was 0.18 percent, more than twice the level need to bring a DWI charge.

Although Maupin faced up to five to 15 years in prison, Monroe County Court Judge John J. Connell allowed him to plead guilty to the entire indictment, removing sentence options from the hands of the prosecution and defense.

In addition to the prison time, Connell also fined Maupin \$1,000 and ordered him to pay \$5,000 for Barry's burial costs.

Maupin's lawyer, Lawrence J. Andolina, asked that Maupin be jailed for six months and ordered to serve five years' probation. Assistant District Attorney Julie Finocchio asked Connell to impose a prison term of four to 12 years.

Noting that Maupin told probation officers that he got drunk before although he was underage, but had arranged for a ride so he didn't have to drive, Connell said Maupin needs to address his drinking and its consequences.

"This was not just a case — and I use the term 'just' advisedly — involving drinking and driving," he said. "It was a case involving a driver who was driving at speeds that were unreasonable, mixed together with alcohol and two tons of mechanics."

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