

Angry neighbor allegedly fires gun in confrontation with speeding driver

Written by Marty Randall

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A resident reportedly angry with a nearby neighbor for driving too quickly on Hunterstown Road has been charged with criminal recklessness for allegedly shooting a gun during a recent confrontation.

Deputies Shawn Mayer and Jac Sanders were dispatched to Hunterstown Rd. off State Road 3 on Sunday, March 30, in reference to a gun being fired.

Arriving, Deputy Mayer talked with a man who said a neighbor, Brandon Allen Darlington, gestured at him to stop his vehicle.

The man said when he did so and got out of the car, Darlington pointed a pistol at him and told him to slow down. The man said he got back in his vehicle and went to his home where he called police.

A neighbor of both the man and Darlington later told officers that feelings "...have been a little high due to (the man) driving extremely fast on numerous occasions through the neighborhood," the probable cause affidavit stated.

Darlington told Deputy Mayer that the man had reportedly acted as if he was going to come on Darlington's property. Darlington said he pulled the handgun from a holster on his hip and told the man several times that if he did come on his property, he would shoot him.

Darlington said he fired the gun, perhaps three times, into the ground as the man drove off. A preliminary investigation by Deputy Mayer indicated that the shots entered the ground "...toward the roadway in the direction of the vehicle and another residence." The handgun was seized and Darlington was placed under arrest.

At his initial court hearing on April 1, Darlington had a preliminary plea of not guilty entered for him on the Class D felony. Judge Marsha Owens Howser set his trial date for July 1 with bail at \$20,000 corporate surety bond or full cash. A public defender was appointed to the case.

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Judge Howser issued a no contact order to protect the alleged victim should Darlington be released on bail.