

Jury lets man go free after '12 accident leaves 1 dead, 2 injured

By **LINDA GITTLEMAN**

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In Gratiot County's District Court late Friday, a jury of four women and two men delivered a not-guilty verdict to the Mt. Pleasant man who ran a stop sign, killing one man and injuring two others in Gratiot County in 2012.

Dylan MacGregor was 19 at the time of the accident that occurred at Harrison and Lumberjack Roads on November 1, 2012.

The driver of a van carrying seven passengers, MacGregor was charged with two counts: committing a moving violation that caused the death of Gary Lee Wilson, 31, of Crystal, and another count of committing a moving violation causing serious injury to one of MacGregor's passengers, Emily Moore, who was in her 20s.

Another passenger, a friend of MacGregor's, was injured but she chose not to supply her medical records, said Gratiot County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Jennifer Shepherd.

MacGregor worked for Gratiot Community Mental Health at the time and was taking the passengers to a pumpkin patch. He was traveling south on Lumberjack Road at West Harrison when he collided with Wilson's vehicle.

"He failed to recognize a stop sign," Gratiot County Prosecutor Keith Kushion had said earlier.

He had also said that other than missing the stop sign, there was no indication that MacGregor had driven in a negligent or reckless manner.

Both vehicles ran off the road and overturned. Wilson's vehicle caught fire and he was unable to get out, then Gratiot County Sheriff Rick Beracy had said in a written statement.

NOT GUILTY » PAGE 3

Not guilty

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Wilson was alone in the vehicle.

Before 2010, drivers in similar situations might have been charged with negligent homicide, called a high court misdemeanor, and that carried a maximum penalty of two years in prison, Kushion said.

That law however, was changed to committing a moving violation causing death and it now carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail, which is why the case was held in District Court.

Dan O'Neil from Mt. Pleasant represented MacGregor, said District Court Judge Stewart McDonald.

Following the two-day trial, the jurors took about four hours to reach a verdict, McDonald said.

Sunday, February 23, 2014

\$2.00

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