

Interior decorator accused in jewelry thefts

She took items worth \$32K over 15 years to sell, police allege

BY PAUL PEIRCE

A well-known Westmoreland County interior decorator was arraigned Friday on criminal charges for allegedly stealing jewelry worth more than \$32,000 from clients' homes for at least 15 years and selling it on the internet or in pawn shops, state police said.

Jane Clark, 61, owner of Wallpapering by Jane, based in her Ligonier Township home, was charged by state police in Greensburg with counts of theft, theft by deception and receiving stolen property.

"The current approximate total value of the jewelry stolen by Jane Clark while conducting business as 'Wallpapering by Jane' is \$32,333," Trooper Brandon Yeager said.

During her arraignment at Hempfield District Judge Mark Mansour's office, Clark told visiting senior District Judge Herb Mitchell that she has been in the wallpapering-interior painting business for three decades.

Mitchell ordered that Clark be held in the county jail after she failed to post \$35,000 bond.

She declined to speak to reporters as she was led from

VIDEO at TribLIVE.com



» Watch Jane Clark arrive for her arraignment.

Mansour's office.

Clark's arrest was the result of a six-month investigation by Yeager that started Sept. 6 when Claudia Narcisi of Hempfield reported that she had hired Clark to paint a bedroom at her Donatello Drive home and discovered jewelry was missing.

"Narcisi then recalled that she had hired Wallpapering by Jane approximately one year

earlier, around October 2016 ... and had jewelry stolen," Yeager said.

Later in September, Narcisi provided state police with photographs from a precious metals website on which two rings and two necklaces that were stolen from her home were sold, according to court documents.

Police subsequently received similar reports from Gloria A. DeFabo of Unity Township, who reported her mother had jewelry stolen in 2017 after hiring Clark.



Jane Clark is led into the office of Hempfield District Judge Mark Mansour for arraignment.

THEFTS • A5

ROBOTICS COMPETITION



PHOTOS: DAN SPEICHER | TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Devin Ihnat (left), Harry Beck and Chris Hinson of Norwin High School repair their robot Friday after an electrical issue knocked them out of their first round of combat during the SWPA BotsIQ preliminaries at Westmoreland County Community College in Hempfield.

Penn-Trafford driver Evan McAllister (left) lands some hits while teammate Aaron Deutsch films the match during the preliminary round against Woodland Hills. Penn-Trafford's Renesis robot (left) kicks the Woodland Hills robot into the air before taking a win.

ROBOTS READY TO RUMBLE



Hribal to seek lighter penalty

Sentence too severe in FR knife attack, attorney argues

BY RICH CHOLODOFSKI

The former Frank Regional High School student serving up to 23 years in prison for injuring 20 students and a security guard during a knife rampage four years ago will appear in court next month seeking a lesser sentence.

Westmoreland County Common Pleas Judge Christopher Feliciano Friday signed a transcript order to have 20-year-old Alex Hribal returned to Greensburg for a hearing on April 3.

In January, Feliciano sentenced Hribal to serve 23 1/2 to 60 years in prison.

Hribal of Murrysville was transferred last month from Westmoreland County Prison to state corrections system where he is to serve the balance of his sentence.

Defense attorney Thomassey is asking the judge reduce Hribal's sentence, claiming it is too severe and suggesting a term of 15 to 30 years in prison.