

# The Daily Item

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## Inmate charged with making false rape claims

Francis Scarcella      Oct 21, 2016

**SHAMOKIN — A county inmate made false reports about being raped while incarcerated at the state Correctional Institution at Coal Township because he wanted to "get even" with three other inmates, according to Northumberland County Detective Degg Stark.**

Joseph Delaney, 21, told Stark on Sept. 8 that he entered a bathroom on Aug. 25 in the county wing of the prison and was attacked by other inmates, according to court documents.

Delaney told Stark an inmate grabbed his arm while another inmate grabbed his other arm then pushed him to the floor, Stark said. Delaney then had his boxers pulled down and one of the inmates began to have sex with him for two hours, according to court documents.

Delaney told investigators another incident occurred when three inmates grabbed him and began to kiss him, grope his genitals, and hit him before having sex with him, according to court documents. Two correctional officers took the complaint and said they observed bruising on Delaney's right leg, Stark said.

Two inmates were removed from the block and an investigation began, according to court documents. Warden Bruce Kovach was made aware of the situation and he began to review video surveillance, Stark said.

The footage showed Delaney enter a bathroom area and remained inside for around eight minutes and another inmate enter the same area but left two minutes later, according to court documents.

No other individual entered the bathroom area during that time, Stark said.

Delaney was transferred to Columbia County Prison and after Stark began to interview the inmate, the investigator began to see changes in the original claims, Stark said. Delaney continued to provide details to Stark but became more inconsistent and ultimately unbelievable, Stark said.

Delaney ended up confessing the claims he was making were false and he was attempting to get even with other inmates for picking on him, Stark said. Delaney was charged with three misdemeanor charges of making false reports and obstruction.

Delaney was arraigned before Shamokin District Judge John Gembic and bail was set in the amount of \$2,500 cash. he remains in Columbia County Prison.

*Email comments to [fscarcella@dailyitem.com](mailto:fscarcella@dailyitem.com). Follow Francis on Twitter @scarcella11*

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