

Former scholar now goes to prison



WARREN — A former straight-A, scholarship student who pursued a nursing degree at Youngstown State University and then fell into the wrong crowd was sent to prison for nine months Thursday by a Trumbull County judge.

Alexandria A. Kozak, 21, of Buckeye Street apartments in Warren, was given the sentence by Judge Ronald J. Rice after she had pleaded guilty in June to a third-degree felony escape charge.

The charge was linked to her leaving the courthouse while being in custody at the Northeast Ohio Community Alternative Program (NEOCAP) without authorization in September 2022.

Her attorney, Aaron Meikle, said Kozak fell into the wrong crowd but is trying to turn her life around wanting to get back into school.

However, Judge Rice noted that Kozak had failed her background report and probation officers said she would be a high-risk to reoffend.

“You apparently are thinking like a criminal, that is, that rules don’t apply to you,” Rice said.

Kozak admitted that she needs to turn her life around and “*get better influences.*” She was accused of walking out of a court hearing while in custody and fled the courthouse. She was arrested shortly afterward.

According to court records, Kozak was accepted into the county’s drug court program after she pleaded guilty in December 2022 to a third-degree aggravated possession of drugs charge. As part of the program, she was to go to NEOCAP, which is a rehab facility that teaches life skills to inmates who might be destined to prison.

For more information, contact Guy Vogrin of the Trumbull County Prosecutor’s Office at 330-675-2485.