

**DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS**

**Shavertown man faces assault charge after alleged attack on wife**

Shavertown resident Wesley Hendricks, 35, was arrested June 1 by Kingston Twp. patrolman Charles Rauschkolb after police were informed that his wife had been assaulted and was at Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre. He will face trial in county court on a charge of simple assault.

Eddie Hendricks told police she was assaulted by her husband when she returned home at 4 a.m. June 1. She said she was locked out and attempted to crawl into a window at their home at 350 S. Memorial Highway. Her husband allegedly opened the door, grabbed her by the throat and hair and dragged her into the house. Once inside the house he repeatedly slapped her face and head while yelling and cursing at her, she said in a statement to police.

Eddie Hendricks noticed her mouth was bleeding and went into the bathroom to wash it off. She got some ice and sat in a front room when Wesley came in

and again started yelling and punching her.

Her statement said after she went to the bathroom to wash the blood from her nose and mouth, Wesley pushed her into the corner and hit her.

According to police reports, their children woke up and yelled at their father to stop. Wesley allegedly told his wife the kids saved her this time.

She said she fell asleep around 6 a.m. Around 10 a.m. the person who gave her a ride home that morning came to their home and was punched and kicked by Wesley. At that point, Eddie Hendricks used a pay phone to call police and his mother. She said Wesley had hidden the house phone.

Rauschkolb's report noted that Eddie Hendricks had three fresh missing teeth, a black and blue left eye and redness around her throat, face and mouth.

A related charge of aggravated assault was dismissed.

**HARASSMENT**

Noxen resident Brian C. Sorber, 27, pled guilty to harassment June 10 and paid \$278.50 in fines. Sorber was arrested April 6 by Lake Twp. patrolman John Masloski after Sorber's wife, Kimberly, told police Sorber had assaulted her.

Sorber's wife took their two children to her husband's house around 4:30 p.m. Around 5:15 p.m. she began getting ready to leave. At this point Sorber began calling her names. He pushed her to the ground and hit her and bang her head against the floor.

She got into her car and began to drive away. As she did, Sorber threw rocks at her vehicle, breaking her front windshield.

According to police reports, she had an injury to her left forearm and had a lump on her head. She was taken to General Hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

Three related charges of simple harassment, criminal mischief and disorderly conduct were dismissed.

**ATTEMPT TO FLEE POLICE**

Shavertown resident Larry Biggs, 36, was arrested on March 9 by Kingston Twp. patrolman Charles Rauschkolb after police responded to a complaint in the Echo Valley Trailer Park.

Police were advised that the complainant was Bruce Biggs. Police were familiar with Larry Biggs due to similar complaints in the past. As police drove into the trailer park, they saw Biggs pulling up to a stop sign. They motioned to him to pull over. Biggs instead looked at the police and continued to drive in a careless manner.

Police turned on their lights and siren in an attempt to stop

him. Biggs did not stop and led authorities on a pursuit from Harris Hill Rd. to Orchard St. to Lehigh and finally to St. Paul's church parking lot in Shavertown.

Police blocked Biggs in and forced him out of his vehicle. He will face a court trial on charges of attempting to flee police and careless driving. Charges of driving at an unsafe speed and in the wrong lane were dismissed.

**D.U.I. CHARGES**

The following people waived their right to a preliminary hearing in front of District Justice James Tupper on June 10:

- Kingston resident Joshua B. Schaefer, 23, who was arrested on March 28 by Kingston Twp. patrolman Robert Parrish after police were called to a one-vehicle accident on Harris Hill Rd. Police noticed a strong scent of alcohol on Schaefer's breath and asked him to submit to a blood alcohol test. The test showed his blood alcohol level to be .206, twice the legal limit.

- Harveys Lake resident Jay Lee Oplinger, 50, who was arrested on April 10 by Dallas Borough patrolman James Martin after police observed him driving erratically on Rt. 309. Oplinger was weaving from one lane to the next and almost struck the guardrail.

The previous day Regina Kumitis came to the Dallas Borough Police Station and asked if there had been any car accidents that day involving Oplinger's truck. Kumitis was worried because her father had not returned home from his job in Dupont. A call to his employer showed he clocked out at 3 p.m. April 9.

After Martin stopped Oplinger, he realized that he fit Kumitis's

description. After failing field sobriety tests, a blood test showed his blood alcohol level to be .231, more than twice the legal limit.

He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol level of .10 or more and careless driving.

- Harveys Lake resident Daniel Rice, 38, who was arrested April 21 by Harveys Lake Borough patrolman James Karlowicz after police observed him driving erratically on Noxen Rd., Oak St., Ash St. and Lakeside St.

Rice crossed the yellow line twice into the oncoming traffic lane. Police pulled him over on Rt. 415. After failing field sobriety tests, a blood test showed his blood alcohol level to be .137.

Rice was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol level of .10 or higher, reckless driving and failing to keep right. A related charge of careless driving was dismissed.

- Noxen resident Carl W. Butler Jr., 26, who was arrested March 31 by Dallas Twp. patrolman Wayman Miers after police were called to a one-car accident on Lower Demunds Rd. When police arrived on the scene they found Butler inside his Jeep. The vehicle had front end damage and had just hit a tree. Butler said he had some glass in his eye. His passenger was already out of the vehicle and said he had no injuries.

Police noticed a strong smell of alcohol coming from Butler's vehicle and his breath. Also, his speech was slurred and his eyes were glossy and red. Butler submitted to a blood test which showed his blood alcohol level to be .193.

- Forty Fort resident Susan Smith, 32, who was arrested April 7 by Dallas Borough patrolman James Martin after police observed her driving erratically on Rt. 309. Police stopped her in the Burger King parking lot. She fumbled to find her driver's license and Martin had to point to where it was in her wallet.

After failing field sobriety tests, a blood test showed her blood alcohol level to be .179. She also faces charges of careless driving and speeding.

**PROPERTY TRANSFERS**

The following property transfers were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of June 6 - 12.

Ruckno Construction Co., to John E. Halbing III, 6 parcels Shrine Acres, Dallas Twp., \$46,675.

Joseph Matosky, et ux, to Dana Moran, 2 parcels, Dallas Twp., \$50,000.

Renee L. Carl, admin. al to Harry A. Martin, ux al Jackson Twp., \$9,000.

Tony D. Alley, et ux, to Kimberly A. Kretchmer, Lot 54, Jackson Twp., \$132,250.

Brian J. Gallagher, et ux, to Nicholas C. O'Malia, Lot 20 Fieldcrest, Jackson Twp., \$119,900.

Theodore G. Spencer, ux al, to Edgar W. Spencer, et ux, 87 ac., Lehman Twp., \$40,500.

**Blood drive to be held at Harveys Lake**

The Diocese of Scranton and the Wyoming Valley Chapter will sponsor a blood drive at Our Lady of Victory Church, Harveys Lake on Sun., July 6.

The drive will be held between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The purpose of a Sunday drive is to have a fresh blood supply for the neonatal surgeries on Tuesday. Also with this being the long holiday weekend, the blood collected will help cover any shortage that may incur in the beginning of the following week.

Please if you are only going to give blood once this year, please make an appointment for a summer blood drive.

To donate blood, you must be 17 years of age or more, weigh at least 105 pounds and be in generally good health. There is no upper age limit for donating blood.

For more information or to make an appointment, please call Our Lady of Victory Church, 639-1535 or the Wyoming Valley Chapter at 823-7161, Ext. 33.

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**OBITUARIES**

**FREDERICK ECK**

Frederick J. Eck, 89, of Shavertown, Kingston Township died June 18, 1997, at Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, he was the son of the late John and Lydia Eitel Eck.

He graduated from Westmoreland High School, Wharton Extension School of the University of Pennsylvania, and the Graduate School of Banking of the University of Wisconsin.

He was employed as a banker for 41 years. Early in his career, he worked for First National Bank, Dallas. Later he was employed by Miners National Bank, Wilkes-Barre and Wilkes-Barre Deposit and Savings Bank. He served as a vice president of Northeastern National Bank of Pennsylvania from 1958 until his retirement in 1972.

He was the last surviving charter member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shavertown. He also was a member of its finance committee. He was a former chairman for the Dallas School District Authority; director of Wyoming Valley United Fund; a past president, director and member of the finance committee of Back Mountain Memorial Library; Wyoming Valley American Institute of Banking; a past director of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce; and a past trustee of Wilkes-Barre YMCA. He also was a member of George M. Dallas Lodge 531 F&AM, where he was the oldest living past master and served as treasurer and secretary; Caldwell Consistory A.A.S.R., Bloomsburg; Irem Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.; and Irem Temple Country Club.

Surviving are his wife, the former Evelyn Templin; children Dr. Frederick J., Vail, CO; Marilyn E. Eck, Seattle; Dorothy J. Strauch, Discovery Bay, CA; Beverly A. Williams, Castle Rock, CO; and two grandchildren.

Interment, Mount Greenwood Cemetery, Truckville, Kingston Township.

Memorial contributions may be made to New Church Fund of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 196 N. Main St., Shavertown, 18708 or Meadows Nursing Center, 55 W. Center Hill Road, Dallas, 18612.

**SR. MARIANNA GILDEA, RSM**

Sister Marianna Gildea, RSM, a member of the Dallas Religious Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, died June 20, 1997, at the Mercy Center where she resided since 1986.

She was born Helen Rita Gildea in Luzerne. She was the daughter of the late David and Anna Gilbovy Gildea.

She graduated from the former Luzerne High School. She graduated summa cum laude with the first four year class in 1928. From 1928 to 1930 she taught at Luzerne High School. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in September 1930 and professed her vows on March 12, 1933. She earned a master's degree in French and a Ph.D. in French and Italian at Catholic University of America, where she taught French. She held certificates from Regina Mundi College, Rome and Institut Catholique, Paris.

She taught at Sacred Heart High School, Plains Township. She served as president of College Misericordia Alumnae Association and Academic Dean of the college from 1957 to 1967. She directed a weekly Catholic action radioprogram from 1952 to 1953. She was also a member of Pennsylvania State Education Committee from 1963 to 1970. She chaired Mercy Foreign Study Committee, Angers, France from 1964 to 1965. She also served as assistant provincial administrator, Scranton Sisters of Mercy from 1970 to 1973. She was a member of task force on Mercy College sponsorship, 1975.

She was preceded in death by brothers, David Gildea and the Rev. Thomas Gildea; sisters, Mary Gildea, and Sr. M. Davidica Gildea, RSM.

Interment, St. Mary's Cemetery, Hanover Township.

Memorial contributions may be made to Sisters of Mercy Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 369, Dallas, 18612.

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