

DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

Man bloodies himself, flees in car

Wyoming resident Andrew John Verdekal, 37, who was arrested September 9 by Wyoming patrolman Martin S. Connors after he responded to disturbance call and stopped Verdekal's vehicle that was identified in the call.

After police stopped him, Verdekal exited his car. He was covered in blood and a small kitchen knife fell to the ground as he stood up.

He told police he needed medical attention and then fell to the ground. Verdekal was placed under arrest and taken to Geisinger Medical Facility.

Police then went to the residence from which the disturbance call was made. Verdekal's nephew told police that Verdekal had drunk eight beers very fast and began a verbal fight with his niece. He poured beer on both her and her compact disks.

When he was told to leave, he got into his brother-in-law's truck

and hit his nephew's car, the nephew said. He then came back inside yelling obscenities and was again told to leave. Verdekal pulled out a peering knife and cut his nephew's finger.

He told his sister and nephew he would kill them and lunged at them with the knife, according to police. During a scuffle, Verdekal fell and hit his head on the countertop, causing a gash. He then ran outside. When his ex-girlfriend went to check on him, he was gone with her car.

Verdekal refused to take a blood alcohol test. Refusal to take the test results in a one year suspension of the driver's license.

He was charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, terroristic threats, unauthorized use of motor vehicles, harassment, driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a suspended license.

D.U.I. CHARGES

The following people waived their right to a preliminary hearing before District Justice James Tupper.

- Dallas resident John C. Burke, 36, who was arrested May 29 after Dallas Township patrolman Jeffrey Dennis saw his vehicle weave between lanes on Rt. 309. After failing field sobriety tests, Burke was taken to the Dallas Township Police Station where his blood alcohol level was determined to be .229, more than twice the legal limit of .10.
- He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and disregard for a traffic lane.
- Harveys Lake resident Alan Williams, 53, who was arrested July 9 after Harveys Lake patrolman Damian Hoover saw his vehicle weave between lanes on Rt. 415. After failing field sobriety tests, Williams was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital

where his blood alcohol level was determined to be .221, more than twice the legal limit of .10.

- He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and failing to keep right.
- Dickson City resident Alba M. Spager, 24, who was arrested July 6 after Dallas Borough patrolman James Drury saw her vehicle weave between lanes of Rt. 415. After failing field sobriety tests, Spager was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where her blood alcohol level was determined to be .141.
- She was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving a vehicle with suspended registration, driving an unregistered vehicle and passing when prohibited. A related charge of operating a vehicle without required financial responsibility was dismissed.
- Dallas resident Brian R. Harrison, 22, who was arrested

July 12 after Harveys Lake patrolman Scott Baker saw his vehicle weave between lanes on Rt. 415. While doing a routine search police found a bag containing a green leafy substance that smelled like marijuana and a small silver pipe.

After failing field sobriety tests, Harrison was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where his blood alcohol level was determined to be .142.

He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, failing to keep right and possession of drug paraphernalia. A related charge of marijuana possession was dismissed.

- Hunlock Creek resident Shannon Lefkoski, 26, who was arrested June 28 after Lehman Township patrolman Jack Haley responded to an accident on Idetown Rd. Lefkoski told police a deer ran in the road and she swerved to miss it. A witness to the accident told police there was no deer involved. Police said her vehicle was travelling south on Idetown Rd., then left the road and hit a mailbox. It bounced back into the road and hit a van and a truck parked in a resident's driveway across the street.
- Lefkoski failed field sobriety tests and refused to take a breath test, which results in the loss of a driver's license for one year.
- She was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

STEALING, CRASHING EMPLOYER'S TRUCK

Dallas resident Brian Lee Pierson, 32, was arrested Aug. 8 by state trooper Joseph A. Prula after Pierson admitted he stole a 1989 GMC truck from Rave's Landscaping in Dallas. Pierson, who is an employee of Rave's Nursery, was involved in a DUI accident and arrested after the accident.

He was charged with trespassing and criminal mischief. A related charge of theft by unlawful taking was dismissed.

Wheelchair racer addresses Lions

Miguel Such, Bill O'Boyle and Mary Beth Gillespie were recent guests of the Lake Silkworth Area Lion at a recent dinner meeting held at the Red Rooster Restaurant, Pikes Creek. Bill O'Boyle, Community Relations at Allied Services, spoke about the Riverside Rumble 10K World Championship Wheelchair Race to be held Sept. 21 at noon in Wilkes-Barre and Kingston.

Miguel Such, sponsored athlete, talked about his role in the wheelchair race as a participant. He also asked for volunteers to help on race day.

Many of the Lions will be on hand to help with this year's World Championship Wheelchair Race. Seated: Miguel Such; standing from left: Deborah Kalinoski, Lake Silkworth Area Lions Program Chairman; Bill O'Boyle, Mary Beth Gillespie, Rita Stefanowicz, Lake Silkworth Area Lions Club President.



Martial arts

(continued from page 1)

hands many times. A video of the national competition shows an intense Costigan breaking through about seven layers of two inch concrete slabs approximately an inch apart. Men can be seen taking away mats bloodied by Costigan's hands.

As a certified somatic and message therapist, Costigan has learned techniques to help in the healing process of aches and pains for his clients. He said this training has helped him heal his own broken bones.

The Harveys Lake native holds a fifth degree blackbelt in Tae Kwan Do under grandmaster Jung Soo Park. But, Costigan teaches under the guidelines of the Shorin Kempo Karate Federation, headed by Dr. Carl E. Long in Kingston.

Costigan started judo in 1958 and received his blackbelt in karate in 1970. He stayed with karate and owned three studios in West Palm Beach, Florida before returning to Harveys Lake four years ago. With his wife,

Vera Jane, as co-owner and business manager, they started Rising Sun a few months ago. He now teaches 71 people. "Without my wife the business would fall apart," he said.

Part of the reason he came back to Pennsylvania was for the competitions. "PA has some good competitions here," said Costigan, who as a sponsored athlete of ETCOM Corporation, has competed in many national and international competitions.

Costigan served three tours in the Vietnam War as a combat medic. Coming home with strong emotions regarding the war, he found karate was an effective way to manage his frustration as a returning soldier.

"Karate has changed my whole life. It made me calm down, mellow out and get a grip on life," he said. "I couldn't cope when I first came back. I was even afraid to go

out of the house," he said of his initial experience after the war.

Costigan has worked through that part of his life and looks forward to training and helping others do their best in all aspects of life.

"I dedicate myself to teaching children and people who are physically and mentally handicapped," he said. "Karate teaches kids how to be more responsible and disciplined. It's strict, but it's a lot of fun," said Costigan, who likes to see his younger students' report cards to make sure they are staying on top of everything. "I want to see them better themselves." Costigan also trains 42 officers from the Chase prison.

Karate is an important part of Costigan's life he respects and is thankful for. "It keeps me fit. If I didn't have martial arts, I could be some fat old man sitting and watching television."

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of Sept. 5 - 11:

Amy Goodman Shouldice, to Peter J. Pittara, Susquehanna Ave., Dallas Borough, \$79,000. Luzerne County Commissioners to Daniel Kuligowski, et ux, Lot 8.5 Rose Manor, \$200.

Peter W. Speece, et al, to Walter T. Barns, Hill St., Kingston Twp., \$125,750.

George Allen Lawerts, to Joseph L. Sheruda, et ux, 10, 11, Lake Silkworth, Lehman Twp., \$27,000.

Lynn Baluh graduates

Lynn Michelle Baluh of Dallas recently graduated from Clarion University.

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