

Beekman man arrested for felony drug possession

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reported the arrest of Douglas Lee, 33, of Beekman, for felony level drug possession at approximately 12:30 a.m. on March 21.

At that time, deputies conducted a traffic stop for an equipment violation on Route 55 in the Town of Union Vale, and Lee was a passenger in the vehicle. After further investigation, it was discovered that Lee was allegedly in possession of cocaine and marihuana, at which time he was taken into custody. The driver was released on a traffic ticket at the scene, and Lee was transported for processing.

Lee has been charged with fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance (a Class D felony) and unlawful possession of marihuana (a violation). After being processed he was arraigned at the Town of Union Vale Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 cash bail or \$20,000 bond.

As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

State Police investigate armed robbery in Pleasant Valley

The New York State Police at Poughkeepsie are currently investigating an armed robbery that occurred on March 24 at the Pleasant Valley Motel, 1672 Main St., Pleasant Valley.

At approximately 11:53 p.m., two masked males, one who displayed a handgun, entered a room and demanded money from the occupants.

Suspect one is described as a light skinned black male with a beard, wearing glasses and a hooded sweatshirt. The second suspect is described as a medium toned black male, possibly Hispanic, wearing a hooded sweatshirt. The suspects fled on foot and were last seen westbound on State Route 44.

Anyone with information regarding the robbery, may contact the New York State Police – SP Poughkeepsie Barracks at (845) 677-7300, and can remain anonymous.

Convenience store clerks charged with selling beer to a teenager

On March 24, New York State Police and State Liquor Authority personnel conducted an underage drinking enforcement operation in eastern Dutchess County. Eleven stores were checked by utilizing an 18-year old volunteer to purchase beer or wine under the observation of plainclothes investigators supported by uni-

formed troopers. Most of the stores were found to be in compliance with the state's Alcohol Beverage Control Law which prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages to anyone under twenty-one years of age. Four stores were not in compliance and the clerks who completed the unlawful sale were arrested. The following persons were charged during the operation:

Don Peter D. Ratnayake, 54, of Wingdale, employed at Wingdale Beer and Soda, 1554 State Route 22, Wingdale.

Krishna Patalay, 43, of Wingdale, employed at Wingdale Food and Gas, 1551 State Route 22, Wingdale.

Shaun M. Griffin, 26, of Wingdale, employed at Pawling Beer and Soda, 175 State Route 22, Pawling.

Martin C. Jimenez, 44, of Brewster, employed at La Guadalupana, 29 Memorial Avenue, Pawling.

The four were charged with the misdemeanor of Prohibited Sale of Alcohol. They were issued appearance tickets to appear in local courts at a later date and released. In addition, their employers face possible civil penalties imposed by the State Liquor Authority.

The New York State Police, with investigative support provided by the New York State Liquor Authority, routinely conducts underage drinking enforcement operations throughout the state in an effort to curb alcohol abuse and DWI incidents among teenagers.

Sheriff's Office reports felony DWI arrest in Pleasant Valley

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports the arrest of Dennis N. Begor, 39, of Staatsburg, for felony DWI on West Road in the Town of Pleasant Valley.

At approximately 9:56 p.m. on March 21 a deputy sheriff observed Begor operating a 2003 Chevrolet on West Road without any headlights on and failing to keep right. Begor was subsequently charged with DWI an E-felony, Operating a Motor Vehicle without an Ignition Interlock Device a misdemeanor as well as the traffic infractions of refusing to take a breath test (pre-screen), operating without headlights and failing to keep right.

The DWI charge was a felony since Begor had a prior DWI conviction within the past 10 years. He was arraigned in Pleasant Valley Town Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail on bail.

All subjects arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in a local court at a later date.

Beekman man's death ruled suicide

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reported that a Beekman man who was found dead in a March 24 house fire apparently committed suicide by shooting himself in the head.

Thomas J. DeMarco, 45, was the sole owner and resident of the home, at 132 Gold Road in the Town of Beekman. DeMarco was alone at the time of the fire. Investigation revealed that DeMarco was not killed by the fire, but was killed by a single self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head before the fire was able to reach him.

Fire investigators have not been able to rule out that DeMarco set the fire himself,

and there is no evidence of an intruder or anyone else having been present at the time. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office is in possession of a suicide note that DeMarco mailed to another individual before he took his own life. The contents of the note and reasons why DeMarco ended his life are private matters and will not be disclosed.

The investigation into this case has been closed and labeled as a suicide. The Sheriff's Office was assisted in the investigation by members of the Dutchess County Fire Investigation Division and the Beekman, Union Vale and Pawling fire departments.

PSC conference

continued from cover

ate system reliability using FERC regulations, adherence to which is a legal requirement.

At the conclusion of the conference, Administrative Law Judge David L. Prestemon summarized the approval process going forward. Prestemon said once developers have submitted letters of intent, the PSC will obtain feedback from affected communities, as requested.

Developers jointly submitted a letter to the ALJ stating that they would submit letters of intent within 60 days of the PSC's March 18 request.

Then, developers will submit their applications and a comment period will follow. All comments will be considered in determining a scoping ruling, which will define the basis for developers' part B applications.

Gipson, localities urge more state infrastructure funding

State Sen. Terry Gipson (D-Dutchess, Putnam), local highway superintendents and representatives recently urged New York State to include more infrastructure funding for municipalities in the 2014/15 State Budget and a greater commitment from New York State to address infrastructure needs.

"I recently rejected the Majority Coalition's budget proposal in the State Senate in-part because despite one of the harshest winters in recent history, on top of an already crumbling infrastructure, additional funding for our highway departments to help improve our upstate roads, sidewalks and bridges is nowhere to be found," said Gipson. "We need a greater commitment to addressing our infrastructure needs in New York State for the purpose of safety and our economy. We cannot move our economy forward in the Hudson Valley on a dilapidated 19th Century infrastructure."

Municipalities receive state funding for infrastructure through the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), which was established by the State Legislature in 1981. Last year, in the 2013/2014 Budget, Gipson was successful in working with Gov. Cuomo and his colleagues to secure an increase in CHIPS funding; however, despite a hard winter, funding remains flat in this year's current budget proposals.

Gipson also called for a greater commitment from New York State to ensure the NYSDOT is adequately funded and

efficient in ensuring the safety, maintenance and improvements of state-owned infrastructure.

"Our town lacks funding for our increasing infrastructure needs," said Joanne Graham, Town of Dover Highway Superintendent. "We have two small bridges, sidewalks and many miles of failing roads. A CHIPS funding increase is necessary for infrastructure repairs for all towns statewide."

Town of Rhinebeck Highway Superintendent Kathy Kinsella said, "Local municipalities maintain most of the roads in New York State but we are struggling to care for aging infrastructure in the face of tax caps, unfunded mandates and rising costs. A winter like the one we just had makes it that much harder. Funding has not kept up with need."

"Our town is short on the funding necessary to make many of the much needed repairs to our infrastructure after this year's harsh winter," said Heather M. Wilson, Highway Superintendent, Town of Pine Plains. "I stand with Sen. Gipson in calling on the state to help ensure our community's roads are safe and maintained."

"The Village of Rhinebeck is lacking the resources to fix the infrastructure such as crumbling roads and a water distribution system that is more than 100 years old," said Heinz Sauer, Trustee of the Village of Rhinebeck. "Along with Sen. Gipson, I call on the State to ensure that our community's infrastructures are safe and maintained."

See our COMMUNITY CALENDAR on page 7 for events in your community



Spring means sell!

Hudson Valley homes are coming on the market!

So, if you're thinking of selling, start now. Get to that Spring cleaning and get your home ready for buyers to say "Yes!" today. We have buyers waiting.

Consult real estate specialist *Dennis Anderson* to help establish the right price, ensure everything is in order and get your home in the right hands.

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