

Case of naked fire captain continued

Daily News Staff

MIDDLETOWN — The case of a Massachusetts fire captain who walked into the 7-Eleven on Aquidneck Avenue nude on April 3 has been continued for a status hearing on May 24.

District Court Judge Joseph T. "Terry" Houlihan Jr. said both sides are presenting legal issues in connection with the disorderly conduct charge levied against John H. Walsh, 60, of Lynnfield, who has pleaded innocent to the charge. At issue are whether his conduct fits the definitions of "disorderly conduct" as laid out in Rhode Island General Law, as well as First Amendment claims, the judge said.

The case is likely to go to trial, Houlihan said Friday. The woman behind the counter on that day told police that Walsh was completely naked on April 13 when he walked up and paid for a Coke.

She was visibly shaken and told police she was upset and in fear the man might come back to the store, according to the police report. She told police "she was horrified at the sight of the naked man," the report says.

There was a New Jersey man in front of Walsh at the counter, who was helped by a young male clerk while Walsh paid at the woman's register, according to a court document.

Jim Dooling of Fair Haven, New Jersey, wrote a letter about the incident that is in the court record and is now public record.

"The man behind me was certainly naked," Dooling wrote. "Without saying a word to me, he stepped up the counter, paid for a soda and left. At no time did he act inappropriately (except for his nakedness); he acted quietly, politely and was not in any way a threat to anyone. He left promptly." Dooley wrote in the letter that he believes the woman behind the counter overreacted.

Police were told Walsh drove away from the store in a black Mercedes-Benz with a Massachusetts license plate. An officer pulled over the vehicle near the intersection of Miantonomi Avenue and Broadway.

Walsh's girlfriend, 29-year-old Tammy McDougal, was a passenger in the car. She told the officer that she had dared Walsh to walk into the 7-Eleven and buy a soda with no clothes on because he had said it was legal to be naked in Rhode Island, according to the police report.

Walsh was arraigned in District Court and released on personal recognizance.

Lynnfield Fire Chief Glenn Davis told the Daily Item of Lynn, Massachusetts, soon after the incident that Walsh was placed on paid administrative leave pending an investigation.

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Touro event explores how food brings ethnic groups together

By Laura Damon
Daily News staff writer

NEWPORT — All the food was kosher, from the lasagna to the Irish soda bread.

And kosher foods don't need to be blessed by a rabbi — a common misconception — but they must be overlooked during preparation to ensure proper standards are met. That's one of the many things members of the local community learned about food at a gathering at Touro Synagogue's Levi Gale House Thursday night.

To keep kosher, foods must be prepared in a specific way. Animals mustn't suffer when they're slaughtered, Jacqueline Mendel, the wife of Rabbi Marc Mendel of Touro Synagogue, explained.

The gathering wasn't only about kosher food, Rabbi Marc Mendel said. It was more about "bringing all the ethnic groups together" and highlighting "how food was part of that story."

Folks from the Museum of Newport Irish History and the Sons and Daughters of Italy Forum Lodge #391 assisted the Touro Synagogue Foundation in honoring food culturally significant to the ethnic groups.

Hasia Diner, a Paul and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History and professor of Hebrew at New York University, kicked off the evening with



Rabbi Marc Mandel and Marcia Cohen sample some of the foods offered. [DEB KESTLER PHOTO]

a lecture titled "Hungering for America: Italian, Irish, and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration."

Diner expounded on the migrations of Italian, Eastern European Jewish and Irish people in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the groups' relationships with food before and after they arrived in America.

Diner noted that pre-migration there was "no such thing as Italian food" but "rather highly specific local patterns." For Jewish people, "food wasn't important to Judaism, it was central." For the Irish, food embodied a deep struggle; the potato wasn't indigenous to Ireland but rather a food brought there from the New World by British administrators to further control Irish land, Diner said.

Post-migration, the Irish didn't fold food into their cultural identity; they more heavily concentrated on things like music

and politics, Diner said. Food was important to the Jewish people before and after migration, Yiddish cookbooks circa the 1880s had recipes for French and Italian foods, Diner said.

"America was the place to have the stuff you never had before," she said. For Italian people, "that freedom to eat allowed them to behave in new ways."

A reception followed the lecture. There were tables of black-and-white cookies, gefilte fish, smoked salmon on dark bread and other cultural delicacies.

Asked what she took away from the lecture, Jackie Janicki of Portsmouth said that groups of people can differ from one another "but also honor similarities." And whether it be immigrants from decades ago or immigrants today, they are similar in that "they're hungry too."

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DISTRICT COURT

NEWPORT — Judge Joseph T. Houlihan Jr. considered the following cases in District Court on Friday:

•Ramon J. Medina-Ferrer, 20, of Fall River, Massachusetts, was ordered held at the Adult Correctional Institutions in Cranston after he entered no plea to a charge of first-degree robbery with a dangerous weapon, a revolver.

•Erika M. Morris, 39, of no known address, was ordered held at the ACI as a probable probation violator after she pleaded innocent to a charge of domestic trespassing.

She pleaded no contest to trespassing on April 12, when she was placed on probation for a year.

•Alexia P. Drohan, 41, of Providence pleaded no contest to reckless driving after the initial charge of drunken driving was amended.

The judge revoked her license for 90 days and filed the charge, meaning it will be removed from court records in one year provided she faces no other charges in that time. She was ordered to complete 10 hours of community service, contribute \$250 to the state Violent Crimes Indemnity Fund, and pay \$347 in court fines and costs.

•Charges of domestic assault and interfering with an emergency call against Perry F. Peno, 31, South Kingstown, were dismissed.

•A drunken driving charge against Jennifer Heald, 39, of 70 Carroll Ave., Apt. 401, was dismissed after she had pleaded no contest to refusing to submit to a chemical test before the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal.

•A domestic disorderly conduct charge against Victor M. Santiago, 41, of 21 Truman Road, was dismissed.

POLICE & FIRE

NEWPORT Disorderly conduct charge

Gregory S. Moniz, 24, of 487 Thames St., was arrested Thursday about 1:10 p.m. on a charge of domestic disorderly conduct. He made threatening comments to a Newport man who feared for his safety, police said.

District Court Judge Joseph T. Houlihan ordered him held at the Adult Correctional Institutions after he did not make bail of \$2,000 with surety, meaning a \$200 cash payment was required for his release.

The judge issued him a no-contact order and scheduled a hearing for May 22.

MIDDLETOWN No-contact order violation

John J. Perry, 63, of 16 Bayview Park, Middletown, was arrested Thursday about 9:55 p.m. on a charge of violating a domestic no-contact order.

A 39-year-old Newport woman placed an order at Coddington Brewery for Perry and herself and did not pick it up and did not pay for it, police said. A police officer went to Perry's home and located the woman, who had a protective order against Perry, police said.

Judge Houlihan ordered him held at the ACI as a probable probation violator in District Court on Friday.

Perry pleaded no contest to violating a domestic no-contact order and violating a no-contact order on Jan. 8, according to the court

record. The judge imposed at that time a suspended one-year sentence at the ACI and placed him on probation for a year.

A violation hearing was scheduled for May 14.

Drunken driving charge

Carlos L. Noguera Jr., 28, of Providence, was arrested Thursday about 11:45 p.m. on a drunken driving charge.

A police officer approached his vehicle after he sat through two green

lights at the intersection of West Main Road and Rogers Lane, police said. He failed a field sobriety test and was cited for refusing to submit to a chemical test, failure to obey traffic lights, and stopping a vehicle where it is prohibited, police said.

Judge Houlihan ordered him held at the ACI on Friday after he entered no plea to the charges and could not make bail of \$5,000 with surety, meaning a \$500 cash payment was required for his release.

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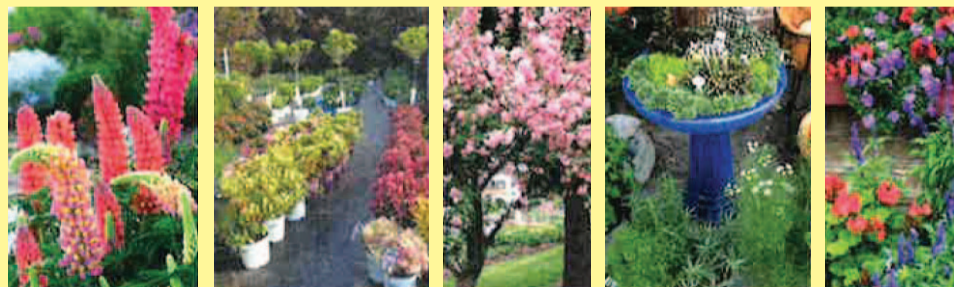
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