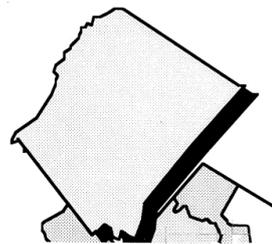


Local



Thursday, August 18, 2005

A-7

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Civil-rights lawsuit settled for \$190,000

By **BRENDAN BERLS**
Herald Staff Writer

Hopatcong police admit no wrongdoing

A 2002 civil-rights lawsuit filed by a man who accused the Hopatcong police of using excessive force when they arrested him for drunken driving has been settled out of court for \$190,000.

The settlement was reached June 15 after a conference in a federal courthouse in Newark, and Judge William Walls dismissed the case and ordered Hopatcong's insurance company to pay the settlement within 60 days.

The two checks, totaling \$190,000, arrived earlier this month, said Newton attorney Martin Morrison, who repre-

sented the plaintiff.

The case never went to trial, and the settlement includes no admission of wrongdoing by Hopatcong or its police force.

Morristown attorney Craig V. O'Connor, who represented the Morris County Joint Municipal Insurance Fund on behalf of Hopatcong, did not return calls seeking comment.

Keith Armstrong, 30, of Byram, was charged with drunken driving on Dec. 2, 2001 after being pulled over on Lakeside

Boulevard, near the Liquor Factory.

Armstrong claimed two officers arrested him even after he passed two field sobriety tests. Police said he blew a 0.11 and a 0.12 on a breath test — both above the 0.10 threshold for drunken driving at the time.

The lawsuit said Armstrong's handcuffs were too tight, and that the officers tightened them twice when he asked that they be loosened, even though his hands were numb and his left wrist was bleeding.

After being released, Armstrong said he went to Saint Clare's Hospital in Dover for his wrist injury, and ended up having to wear a splint on his wrist for several weeks.

Although he appealed his case to Superior Court, Armstrong was ultimately convicted on the DWI charge and lost his driver's license for six months, said Morrison, who also defended him in that case.

But the substance of the lawsuit was that the police used excessive force in

arresting him, although Armstrong also claimed he had had only two beers that night and wasn't drunk, Morrison said.

The lawsuit alleged that Armstrong was denied multiple civil rights under the U.S. Constitution, including freedom from the use of excessive and unreasonable force and freedom from deprivation of liberty without due process of law.

Lt. Michael Siciliano of the Hopatcong police referred a request for comment to Borough Administrator Steven Ward, who declined to comment.

"When we have claims like this, it's forwarded to the insurance carrier," Ward said. "We had no involvement in the settlement decision."

Vigil raises questions about war



Protest in Newton supports Calif. woman's wait for Bush

By **BILL MCGOVERN IV**
Herald Staff Writer

NEWTON — A candlelight vigil held Wednesday in support of a California woman camping out at the president's Texas ranch attracted more than 20 people from around the county to the square in Newton.

The vigil was part of a nationwide effort organized by liberal advocacy groups MoveOn.org Political Action, TrueMajority and Democracy for America to muster support for Cindy Sheehan, whose 24-year-old son died last year in Iraq. She has camped out in Crawford, Texas, trying to speak with President Bush about her son's death.

Byram resident Tom Boyle, a Democratic candidate for the state Assembly, said he attended to show his support for Sheehan's cause.

"Any citizen that wants the attention of the leadership in this country should have that opportunity, and it should be at any level," Boyle said.

"This lady's son gave up his life for a cause the president believes in. He's on vacation for five weeks — the least he could do is give an hour of his time," he said.

The Rev. David Muyskens of Dover Presbyterian Church agreed.

"Cindy Sheehan is dramatizing the questions that the majority of Americans now have about the war in Iraq," he said at the vigil, organized by the same group that has been demonstrating at the square against the war in Iraq for more than three years: The Northwest New Jersey Peace Fellowship.

"We would like President Bush to clarify what the U.S. is trying to accomplish in Iraq," Muyskens said.

"Cindy Sheehan wants him to answer the question: Why is her son dead?"

Linda Bryk expressed sympathy for a fellow mom: "I'm supporting a woman who lost her child needlessly."

Bryk attended the vigil with her husband, fellowship president Tom Bias; her 16-year-old daughter, Tori Bryk, and her daughter's friend Katie Hoyer.

Tori Bryk said that while she has attended rallies in Washington, D.C., and New York City, this was her first time doing so in Newton.

"I guess I'm here because it's national," she said. "I'd rather go in solidarity with the rest of the country rather than just New Jersey or this area."

Hoyer said she came because she was tired of hearing about troops and civilians dying, as well as hearing false declarations of the war's end.

Bias said the vigil's purpose was not only to offer support but to inform those driving by.

"Doing this lets people know that there are others around that disagree with current policy," said Bias, a peace activist since 1968. "It'll also show the administration that we haven't been fooled by Bush's lies."

And people have become more receptive, demonstrator Hope Rudder said.

"We're getting a very positive response," she said. "At the beginning of the war, these candlelight vigils were met with boos and hisses, for the most part."

Now, Rudder said, drivers honk and wave or throw the demonstrators a thumbs-up.

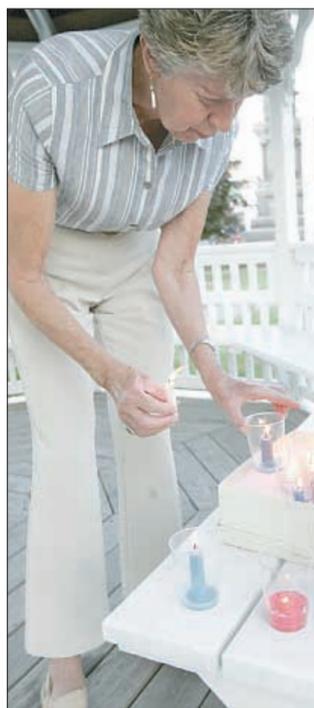
The Northwest New Jersey Peace Fellowship is chartering a bus to

Sussex County peace activists line up in the Newton square Wednesday night in support of war protester Cindy Sheehan of California, who wants to ask President Bush why her son had to die in the Iraq war. Below left, Linda Bryk of Sparta holds a sign with a dove on top at the local rally. Below right, Ann Muyskens of Sparta lights candles for the candlelight vigil.

Photos by Anna Murphey/NJH



Washington to attend a march against the war on Sept. 24, where Cindy Sheehan is scheduled to speak at the



Washington Monument. Information can be found online at www.nwnj-peace.org.

Two women charged with prostitution in Port Jervis

By **JESSICA SEDA**
Herald Staff Writer

Two Port Jervis, N.Y., residents face prostitution charges after an undercover investigation of a massage parlor led to their arrest Tuesday.

Port Jervis police raided the house at 295 E. Main St. around 3:30 p.m., taking Shui Ming Yu (Simon), 42, and Ying Hong Cui (Mindy), 35, into custody. Both are China natives and have been in the Port Jervis area for about four months.

The raid came after an undercover investigation, which lasted for several months, Sgt. William Worden said.

The premise for the investigation stemmed from an advertisement published in the Times-Herald Record for Asian massage and reflex-

ology by appointment only, Worden said. Massage parlors in New York must be licensed with the state, or face felony charges, Worden said.

"What they were doing was eyeballing the customers first. They decided if they looked like a cop first before giving their location."

Port Jervis Police Sgt. William Worden

No address was given in the ad and when an undercover officer called the number, he was given directions to a Dunkin Donuts across the street and told to call from its pay phone. The house sits directly across from the Dunkin Donuts and displays no sign indicating it was being used as a business.

"What they were doing was eyeballing the customers first," Worden said. "They decided if they looked like a cop first before giving their location."

During the investigation, police interviewed "johns" who had visited the house and reported paying for oral sex and sexual contact.

No one besides the two women has been charged but police are looking into names found in an appointment book seized from the house, Worden said.

"We're researching names of possible patrons or other girls who may have been involved," Worden said.

Yu and Cui have valid passports but both of their visas have expired, Worden said. Yu has been in the United States for five years and Cui a little over a year.

The two had been renting the house on East Main Street during their time in Port Jervis.

Both Yu and Cui were charged with several counts of unauthorized massage. Cui was charged with prostitution and Yu was charged with promoting prostitution. Both are being held in Orange County Jail in lieu of \$5,000 bail.

The Orange County District Attorney's office is also involved in the investigation.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Airport offers three new flights to Florida

By **COLIN McEVOY**
For The Herald

SCRANTON, Pa. — The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport — which already offers flights to 450 destinations including Atlanta, Cincinnati, Boston, Detroit and Chicago — has added three new Florida cities.

Introductory sale fares starting at \$79 are currently available for non-stop, one-way flights to and from Orlando, Fort Lauderdale and Tampa/St. Petersburg through the Hooters Air airline.

"We're very excited," said Eric McKitish, airport director of marketing and communications. "Orlando is our number one destination and the other two Florida

markets are among the top, and we're very excited that Hooters Air wants to provide that service for our area of passengers."

The new flight service will be offered starting Oct. 27 on the following days — Thursdays and Sundays for Orlando and Fort Lauderdale, Mondays and Fridays for Tampa/St. Petersburg.

Sale fares must be purchased by Sept. 5 for travel through March 1, 2006, excluding holiday black-out dates from Nov. 22 to Nov. 28 and from Dec. 22 to Jan. 2.

"This is great news for northeastern Pennsylvania travelers," said airport director Barry Centini. "We have been in discussions with Hooters Air for some time now, and we are extremely

happy they are coming to Northeastern Pennsylvania with non-stop service to three Florida destinations, including our number one destination, Orlando."

Passengers of the Hooters Air flights will travel on Boeing 737 or Boeing 757 aircraft featuring all leather seats, extra leg room and, of course, a staff of Hooters Girls on each flight.

"We keep winning people over with our spacious cabins and real food on every flight," said Hooters Air president Mark Peterson.

To make reservations, visit www.hootersair.com or call 1-888-FLY-HOOT. For a flight schedule and other information about the flights, visit www.hootersair.com or www.flyavp.com.