

Buffalo man pleads guilty to vehicular assault

Maxamillion Hernandez, 21, of Buffalo, has pleaded guilty before Erie County Court Judge Sheila A. DiTullio to vehicular assault in the second degree and driving while ability impaired by a drug, according to Erie County District Attorney John J. Flynn Jr.

On May 10, 2016, while impaired by marijuana, Hernandez was speeding on River Road in the Town of Tonawanda when he ran a red light and crashed into a cab, according to a press release. This caused traumatic brain injury to a Town of Tonawanda man, a passenger in the cab, the release said.

Hernandez was again arrested on Route 400 in the Town of West Seneca for driving while his ability was impaired by marijuana on Aug. 14, 2016. He was stopped by a West Seneca police officer who observed him speeding and weaving in and out of traffic, according to the release.

He faces 1½ to four years in state prison when he is sentenced by DiTullio on Oct. 26.

According to the release, Flynn commended the Town of Tonawanda and Town of West Seneca police departments for their investigative work.

Assistant District Attorney Christopher M. McCarthy of the DA's Vehicular Crimes Bureau is prosecuting the case.

Kenmore resident ticketed for trying to sell wild animal

A Kenmore resident faces up to a \$250 fine for offering to sell an arctic fox pup.

Earlier this month, Environmental Conservation Officer Mark Mazurkiewicz received a call regarding an ad on Buffalo's Craigslist for an 8-week-old female arctic fox, which was being sold for \$600 in Kenmore, according to a press release from the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mazurkiewicz contacted a permitted wildlife rehabilitator who operates a sanctuary for foxes, and they met with the woman offering the fox pup for sale.

It is illegal to possess, barter or offer for sale a wild animal as a pet in New York,

according to the release. The fox pup was seized and taken to the permitted facility where it will be cared for pending a court disposition.

The woman posting the pup for sale had bought it in Michigan and brought it into New York. According to the release, she was ticketed for offering a wild animal for sale as a pet, returnable to Tonawanda Court, and faces up to a \$250 fine.

Mazurkiewicz also contacted a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agent to follow up on the sale of the pup in Michigan and possible violations of the Lacey Act, which regulates the interstate sale and transportation of wildlife.

Dance, exercise class helps people with Parkinson's disease

A dance and exercise class — offered every Thursday in Kenmore — is designed for people with Parkinson's disease, a neurodegenerative movement disorder disease.

According to a press release, the classes are a result of a professional dancer's passion to make the joy of dance accessible to those who find movement difficult.

Cynthia Pegado trained as a Dance for PD teaching artist to assist people with Parkinson's disease learn to navigate through disease-related challenges of tremor, rigidity, imbalance, difficulty initiating movement and excessive slowness of movement.

Forging a partnership with the National Parkinson Foundation of Western New York and Kenmore-based ModDance studio, Pegado offers these classes free of charge.

To support this mission, ModDance owner, Domini Jay, also generously donates her studio space for the classes.

According to the release, research and scientific studies have shown significant benefits from the cognitive demands of dance, synchronizing physical movements to music rhythms, coupled with imaginative, emotional expression inherent in dance.

Each Thursday in Kenmore, anyone with Parkinson's disease, their family members and care partners have an opportunity to attend PDdance classes.

"We sway and laugh as we perform movements with directional changes and weight-shifts and even learn tap dance steps. We explore



Participants use exercise balls during a summer session of a Parkinson's dance and exercise class, led by Cynthia Pegado, pictured center, in the Village of Kenmore gazebo. Pegado leads the class year-round on Thursdays. Anyone with Parkinson's disease, their family members and care partners have an opportunity to attend the PDdance classes.

movement possibilities within the range of each individual's ability," Pegado said.

Pegado also leads a special exercise class for people with Parkinson's disease on Thursdays, where class participants safely strengthen, stretch and improve agility. In the winter season, some of these Parkinson's exercisers opt to participate in the adaptive ski program at Holiday Valley, as the class is designed to build skills needed for downhill skiing.

Buffalo and environs is one of just 100 cities worldwide, across 11 countries, to have access to a program officially modeled on Dance for PD, which Pegado leads locally as "PDdance," according to the release.

Training requirements to

lead this program are rigorous, and teaching artists must have professional dance expertise. Dance for PD is an innovative dance program developed by the Mark Morris Dance Group in Brooklyn.

Pegado's Parkinson Powderbusters Ski Conditioning class is the only year-round PD-specific ski conditioning class in the nation, according to the release.

For information and to register, contact the WNY Parkinson Foundation at 449-3795 or 262-8122.

Pegado also teaches a gentle movement class designed for people with chronic arthritis, at Ken-Ton Presbyterian Village. This weekly class is open to the public. To register, call 874-6070.

News Briefs

The Tonawanda Erie Canal Gateway Lions Club will be holding a hot dog sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday Sept. 2, at the Valu Home Center, 4264 Delaware Ave., Tonawanda. The sale will feature Sahlen's hot dogs for \$2 each and soft drinks for \$1.

The Town of Tonawanda Youth, Parks and Recreation Department and Classic Lanes will be offering their noncompetitive

bowling in the fall for children in grades K-8. The program will take place from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 27 through Nov. 29, at Classic Lanes, 1840 Military Road, Kenmore. The \$50 registration fee includes two games of bowling and shoe rentals each week, in addition to a special gift and pizza party on the last day. For more information, visit www.ttypr.com.

In the Military

Paul Morath of Tonawanda, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2-101 Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition) in the Army National Guard, has received a promotion to the rank of private first class.

Sonja Toye of Tonawanda, assigned to Company C (Medical), 427th Brigade Support Battalion in the Army National Guard, has received a promotion to the rank of specialist.

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