

Hitchhiker Gets 57 Years For Murder of Clark Atty.

COUNTY — The Canadian hitchhiker who killed a local attorney in his Clark home a little more than six years ago has been sentenced to 57 years in state prison for the crime, Acting Union County Prosecutor Jennifer Davenport announced last Thursday.

Caleb "Kai" McGillvary, 30, must serve at least 85 percent of that term before the possibility of parole under the terms set down by presiding state Superior Court Judge Robert Kirsch. In April, a Union County jury convicted McGillvary of first-degree murder in connection with the beating death of 73-year-old Joseph Galfy, Jr., following several hours of jury deliberation spread over two days and a four-week trial.

On May 13, 2013, Clark Police Department units responded to Mr. Galfy's home on Starlight Drive in Clark to find the victim's partially-clothed body prone beside his bed, according to Union County Assistant Prosecutors Scott Peterson and Jillian Reyes, who prosecuted the case.

The Union County Homicide Task Force, Sheriff's Office and Clark Police Department leveraged volu-

minous quantities of surveillance footage, digital cell phone data, and other forms of evidence to identify McGillvary as a suspect in the case. McGillvary was arrested in Philadelphia several days after the killing when a barista working at a coffee shop there recognized him and contacted police.

The investigation revealed that the victim and defendant first met in New York City's Times Square, about a day and a half before Mr. Galfy's death. The victim sustained numerous serious blunt-force injuries to his face, head, neck, chest and arms, including multiple fractures to the neck, skull and ribs, plus severe contusions, abrasions and bleeding — injuries that contradicted McGillvary's self-defense claim.

"He (Galfy) was helpless, prone on the ground, and in agony," Mr. Kirsch said, calling the crime "a byproduct of unrestrained rage."

Mr. Galfy was a former partner with the Rahway-based law firm of Kochanski, Baron and Galfy, PC, and a military veteran who reached the rank of major while serving in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1970.



NEW FOSTER ADVOCATES...Six Union County municipalities were represented last week among the seven newest Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers. Joining Judges Marc Brown, left, and Richard Wischusen, right, are the newest advocates for Union County foster youth, from left to right, Rich Leahey of Cranford, Andrea Dudley and David Bernot of Union, Ona Ndupu of Hillside, Susan Ruzsala of Scotch Plains, Vicki Racelis of Rahway and Janet Smith of New Providence.

Six New Foster Advocates Sworn at Family Courthouse

COUNTY — Six Union County municipalities were represented last week among the seven newest Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers tasked with serving as extra eyes and ears for family law judges on cases of Union County youth removed from home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment and now living in foster homes or residential facilities.

After completion of approximately 30 hours of training, the class assembled at the Union County Family Courthouse to take their oath as advocates and judicial volunteers from state Superior Court Judges Marc Brown and Richard Wischusen.

The new advocates range from the age of 28 to 61, are parents and non-parents, and their lines of work include education, legal, real estate, pharmaceuticals and freelance. Most had no prior knowledge of the foster system. The new advocates are David Bernot and Andrea Dudley, both of Union; Rich Leahey of Cranford; Ona Ndupu of Hillside; Vicki Racelis of Rahway; Susan Ruzsala of Scotch Plains, and Janet Smith of New Providence.

There are approximately 500 Union County youth from birth to age 21 in foster care, and more than 200 still need their very own CASA volunteer, someone in their corner. After three hours' court observation to see seasoned CASA volunteers in action, each of the advocates will meet their assigned foster youth. With court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teach-

ers, CASA volunteers incorporate their findings into court reports and work to ensure each youth's needs are met and best interests protected. They are a constant during chaos and work to ensure the youth's trauma is not exacerbated in care.

UCC Offering Intro. Course to Cannabis

CRANFORD — The Office of Continuing Education at Union County College is offering a three-hour program on "Introduction to Cannabis" on Thursday, June 13. The program will cover the current state of cannabis in New Jersey, including New Jersey's expanding medical marijuana program, its plans for broader legalization, and how New Jersey law compares to other states with cannabis markets. The session will be from 6 to 9 p.m. at the college's Cranford campus.

All members of the public, including professionals, entrepreneurs, students, and local government officials, are invited to enroll and gain clarity into this rapidly changing industry. Jennifer Cabrera, an attorney and frequent speaker on cannabis-related topics, will give the presentation. The fee for this program is \$59.

To enroll online, go to www.ucc.edu/continuing-education/instant-enrollment, call (908) 709-7600 or by visit the Cranford campus.



BUILDING SKILLS...Union County Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski, left, Freeholder Andrea Staten, second from left, and Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouled, right, join Assemblywoman Linda Carter (D-22nd, Plainfield), second from right, in welcoming keynote speaker Linda Wellbrock, founder of Leading Women Entrepreneurs and secretary of the Climate Reality Action Fund, to the annual Union County Women Mean Business skill-building seminar and networking event at the Clubhouse at Union County's Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth.

Senior Services Staff to Visit Area Libraries

COUNTY — Union County residents seeking reliable information about services for adults age 60 and older can come to convenient locations throughout the county and speak in person with experienced staff from the Union County Aging and Disability Resource Connection, a division of the Department of Human Services.

The community visits are scheduled every month through Union County's ASK (Aging Services Kiosk) program. In June, the ASK program will come to public libraries in Westfield, Clark and Garwood.

Guidance offered through the ASK program includes home-delivered meals, respite care, home care, adult day care, and support services for caregivers.

Assistance with completing applications and forms is also provided.

All Union County residents are welcome to attend any ASK event. Please note that due to a staff vacancy, bilingual assistance at the ASK events is temporarily unavailable. The

dates and locations for June are:

Monday, June 3, Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad Street, Westfield, 10 a.m. to noon; Monday, June 17, Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue, Clark, 10 a.m. to noon, and Thursday, June 20, Garwood Public Library, 411 Third Avenue, Garwood, 10 a.m. to noon.

The Union County Division on Aging and Disability Resource Connection is modeled on a national initiative aimed at promoting wellness, independence, dignity and choice. In addition to ASK and other outreach events, printed information is available in English and Spanish.

For more information about the Union County Division on Aging and Disability Resource Connection, visit the Department of Human Services online at ucnj.org/departments/human-services or call 888-280-8226 (toll free), (908) 527-4870, or (908) 527-4858. Spanish speakers may call (908) 527-4863.

County Announces June Recycling Events

COUNTY — Union County will host a mobile paper shredding events on Wednesday, June 12 at the Clark Public Works, located at 315 Westfield Avenue. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until the truck(s) get filled. Residents can bring up to four bags of confidential documents for shredding. Residents should not bring material that is already shredded.

On Saturday, June 8, there will be a Household Hazardous Waste Program at Union County College on Springfield Avenue in Cranford. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Items for drop off include old pesticides and herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, oil-based paints and deck stain. Latex

paint (wall paint) is not accepted. Paint should be dried out and discarded in with the regular garbage.

Union County's scrap metal recycling program also continues in June. The events are the first Thursday and Third Saturday of each month. This month the collections will be on Thursday, June 6 and Saturday, June 15. There are two locations in Union County for residents to drop off their metal for recycling, one in Cranford and Rahway. All locations will be open from 9 a.m. to noon. Residents can drop off old appliances, microwaves, air conditioners, and metal lawn furniture.

Please visit www.ucnj.org/recycling for more information or directions.

New Plan Put Forward To Mitigate Flooding

REGION — A new plan to mitigate Rahway River flooding was put forward at a Mayors Council Rahway River Watershed Flood Control meeting last week as a starting point for a solution to mitigate flooding. The meeting, hosted by Millburn Mayor Dianne Thall Eglow, included several of the region's mayors to come up with a new plan, according to a press release from the Mayors Council.

The new plan includes a locally supported storage project at the Orange Reservoir and a more acceptable renovation of the Campbell's Mill Pond dam. Also included is changing the spillway at Lenape Park and channelization of 1.5 miles in Cranford and home lifting and acquisition in Rahway. A federal plan would be 65 percent funded by the federal government, 25 percent by state and 10 percent locally. The conceptual plan will be submitted to Essex and Union Counties and then to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for consideration.

"Worst case flooding only happens every five or more years and in the mean time many forget the danger and damages that storms like (Hurricane) Irene caused, which amounted to over \$100 million of damages," according to the press release. "The heavy rains in the past week were a reminder of what is to come and why a plan has to get into place soon."

Since 2012, Mayors and governing

boards of the eight directly affected communities and Essex and Union Counties have been working with federal and state elected officials and with the Army Corps of Engineers and DEP to arrive at a workable plan. Eleven alternatives have been studied in depth and for various reasons could not be finalized due to either local concerns or lack of meeting the federal cost-benefit test.

"Our federal elected representatives have been in our corner from the beginning to get a project funded and implemented," said Cranford Mayor Patrick Giblein.

Senators Robert Menendez and Cory Booker both D-NJ, Congressman Tom Malinowski (R-7th, Somerset) and Congressman Donald Payne Jr. (D-10th, Newark) have been supportive.

"We need a plan that is balanced, that protects the natural resources of the South Mountain Reservation and the environment while bringing flood relief to Millburn and downstream. It is imperative that all the stakeholders are included and have full acceptance for a plan to be implemented," Mayor Eglow said.

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