

Dowling trial delayed until September. 50

LOCAL

D WITH OBITUARIES AND CLASSIFIED ADS

Florida convict a suspect in assault

■ The convicted killer and child molester is accused of raping a teen relative and chasing her when she tried to escape.

By CARYL CLARKE
Daily Record staff

Two young teens from Florida came north to visit one girl's relative in York. Their venture became a sexual night mare.

Their host, 50-year-old Douglas Wayne Nickels of the 600 block of Chestnut Street, allegedly provided his 13 and 14-year-old guests with various alcoholic drinks in sip-a-cups on June 14, according to an affidavit in District Justice William J. Farrell III's office.

Nickels allegedly told them to undress and lie on the floor under a blanket, so they could "air out" in case they became nauseous. The intoxicated girls did as directed.

The 14-year-old slept while Nickels allegedly sexually assaulted his relative beside her, according to the affidavit.

Four days later, the victim told her 20-year-old sister of the assault. The older sister tried to drive the children to safety. Nickels wouldn't let them be. He hopped in his car and chased them out of the city.

"The terrified children fled the city as the defendant chased the car they were driven away in," said York Police Detective Laura Walker.

The girls reached a safe place, Walker said. Children and Youth Services learned the story on June 18. Walker interviewed the two girls at the district at

torney's Child Abuse Unit.

Later on the 19th, Pennsylvania parole officers helped Walker search for Nickels at his home. He wasn't there. That evening, Nickels turned himself in at the York City Police station.

He was arraigned Tuesday on charges of rape, aggravated indecent assault, statutory sexual assault, sexual assault, indecent assault, two counts of corruption of minors and two of furnishing minors with alcohol.

Nickels remained in the York County Prison in lieu of \$150,000 bail and on a

state parole violation with no bail, a spokeswoman said Wednesday.

This was far from his first brush with the law.

Nickels' criminal history in Pasco County, Fla., included a first degree murder. The Florida Department of Corrections also housed Nickels for convictions of trafficking in stolen property and grand theft of firearms, a spokeswoman said Wednesday.

Convictions of coerced sexual battery of a child and solicitation of a child for sexual battery in 1991 netted him more jail time and eight years of probation until the year 2000.

Vicki Wilken of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole said that when Nickels moved to Pennsylvania, state law required him to register with the state police as a child sexual offender under Megan's Law.



Nickels

WASHINGTON TWP.

Cyclist dies in crash

A motorcycle rider died and his passenger was seriously injured Wednesday night in a collision involving a pickup in Washington Township.

The man was declared dead at the scene, according to Capt. Doug Grimes of the Dover Township Fire Department. The other man aboard was flown by helicopter to a hospital, Grimes said.

The driver of the pickup received minor injuries.

Rescue crews were sent to Da Vidshurg Road just west of Hoff man Lane at 6:43 p.m.

State Police troopers are investigating the possibility the pickup pulled out in front of the motorcycle.

Other details were not available as investigators remained on scene at press time.

SCREWBALL

Man fails in robbery

A screwdriver-wielding bandit held up the Rutters Farm Store in the 1300 block of North George Street in North York at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, but failed to pry any money from the cashier.

The man demanded cash from the clerk, but the clerk ignored him. The man ran out empty handed.

Northern York County Regional Police are looking for a thin white man in his mid 20s, six feet one inch. His dark hair was spiked in the center. He wore a purple T-shirt and blue jeans.

Anyone with information can call Northern Regional police at 292.3947 or through 911.

FOR CRIMES IN RED LION

Car thief sentenced

A York man will spend the next 1½ to six years in state prison as punishment for stealing a car and car parts in Red Lion on Aug. 10.

O'Shea B. Rankin, 21, of the 1000 block of East Hay Street, York, received the sentence Monday in York County Common Pleas Court.

A jury convicted him in May on charges of theft, receiving stolen property, criminal mischief, two counts of conspiring to commit theft and two counts of conspiracy to receive stolen property.

Rankin and several other men went to Red Lion looking for a 1987 Honda Prelude that they could steal and strip for parts to repair his girlfriend's car.

SPRINGETTSBURY

Coroner has new office

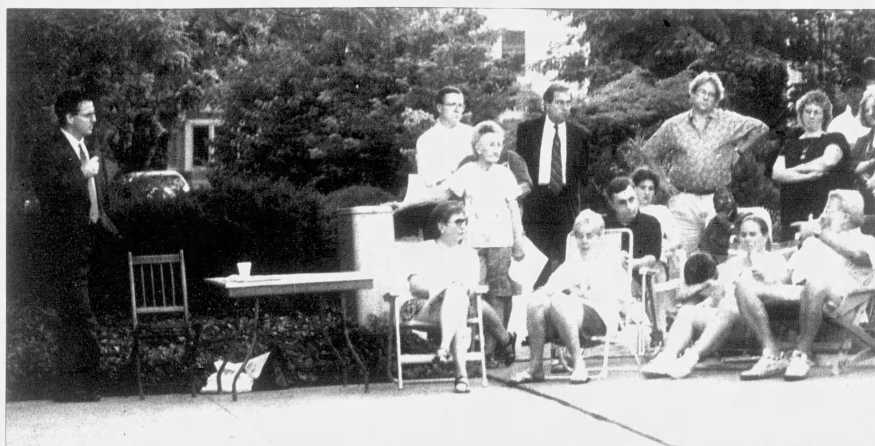
Coroner Barry L. Bloss began operations Wednesday in newly assigned and larger quarters inside the county annex at Pleasant Acres complex in Springettsbury Township.

The new address for the county coroner is 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, 17402. His office telephone number is 840-7017 and the fax number is 840-7610.

In the new office, Bloss has about 1,100-square feet of space, four times more than the tiny two-room "closet" the coroner occupied at the front of the courthouse for nearly 20 years.

And ...

■ **Clearing the air:** Got the sniffles? Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. has printed a brochure to help allergy and asthma sufferers learn how to improve indoor air quality and reduce the allergens in their home. The brochure is free. To order call 1-800-342-5775.



York City Councilman Tom Kelley answers questions from concerned neighbors at the Newton Square meeting to address what residents say is a prostitution problem. Kelley said he would provide anyone interested with a copy of the current law against prostitution and work with the city council to strengthen it.

Frustrated neighbors want prostitutes out

■ Police discussed holding a reverse sting or seizing johns' cars.

By COURTNEY CAIRNS
Daily Record staff

Jeff Miller first realized his York neighborhood had a prostitution problem while waiting last April at the traffic light at West King and South Newberry streets.

A girl he thought was a pedestrian caught his eye and he glanced over. The next thing he knew, she had approached his truck. He rolled down the window.

"Can I help you?"

"She looked surprised. 'Oh,' she said, 'I thought you wanted me to get in.'"

Since then, he has talked to residents on Pershing Avenue and South Beaver, Newberry and West Market streets about their prostitution concerns. His

fiancee and his 19-year-old daughter have both had problems with men following or propositioning them.

Trying to find a way to combat the "world's oldest profession," Miller and other residents organized a meeting with local officials to find out what they could do Wednesday night about 80 people gathered at Newton Square armed with questions and filled with frustration.

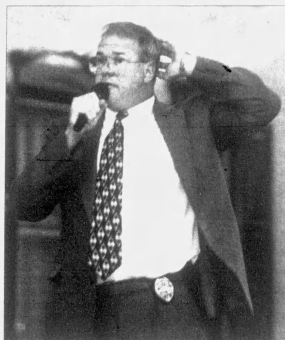
Samantha Dorm, who moved to the neighborhood in March, said she worries about crimes that come along with women working the streets.

"These people bring more to the area than just prostitution," she said before the meeting.

She pointed to the fatal shooting last week in Spring Garden Township, which District Attorney H. Stanley Rebert said began with an argument over money a prostitute owed.

Newton Square — with its tree-lined brick side walks, flower boxes and decorative flags in front of

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Lt. William Van Green speaks at the Newton Square neighborhood meeting Wednesday. In the 23 years he has worked in the York Police's community services division, police have arrested hundreds of prostitutes, one woman 15 times.

Repeat drug offender pleads for treatment

■ The judge overseeing his case decided Wendell Murray would have to seek help on his own.

By DEAN WISE
Daily Record staff

Wendell Murray, a drug addict caught in a 23-year cycle of prison, relapses and crime, made an impassioned plea to a judge Wednesday for a chance at rehabilitation.

"I'm tired of being sick and tired of rejection when I apply for the Freedom program at the jail," the 43-year-old man said.

He told Common Pleas Judge John S. Kennedy that his record at the jail is full of denials of requests to get into the 12-week drug counseling program.

"They tell me I'm bumped out of the program because others have court orders for treatment," Murray said. He has attended Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous meetings and other classes regularly but cannot get into the Freedom program.

The prisoner claimed he has never been given a chance at rehabilitation, noting that from 1985-89 he was kept in

isolation in state prison because he had tested HIV positive.

Murray tried to assure Kennedy he was ready to try to kick his drug habit, stating "At this point in my life, I'm ready to make myself a responsible, productive member of society."

Murray was actually before the judge to ask him to reconsider the 18-month to three-year state prison sentence imposed June 8 for possessing cocaine and drug paraphernalia. Kennedy opened the presentence investigation report and went through Murray's record, crime by crime, starting in August 1975.

The list revealed repeated shoplifting to support his drug habit, many of them committed while on parole. Other offenses included armed robbery and cocaine possession.

"You have established a pattern of anti-social behavior and the court has a duty to protect society," Kennedy told Murray in refusing to change his sentence.

Murray wanted the court to release him from jail and order him into a six-month drug treatment program.

Kennedy said most treatment programs are six weeks or 90 days long and likely will be available when Murray

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Driven crazy from the heat

■ Holiday traffic can annoy the average driver, but being smart and in control is safer.

By KAREN M. PIHL
Daily Record staff

The local forecast shows 90 and 90 degree temperatures for the coming holiday weekend, but the air won't be the only thing burning hot.

There will be cars with overheated engines and travelers with flaming tempers.

Extra police officers will be on hand to cool everything down.

A study sponsored by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that "road rage" has been on the rise in the 1990s, rising about 7 percent each year. People become aggressive drivers in heavy traffic areas. They tailgate, cut off other motorists, drive erratically and sometimes cause accidents.

During this holiday weekend, travelers can expect three times as much traffic on roads in Pennsylvania and the surrounding states, especially those heading to the beach. It may be wise to drive only during off-peak hours, say transportation officials.

Police notice more crashes and fatalities during holiday weekends.

"We cannot urge too strongly that the person behind the wheel must be in control, must be responsible and must obey the rules of the road," said David C. Eshbach, chief of Springettsbury Township Police, "especially over the long holiday weekends when traffic congestion is often at its worst."

In 1996, there were about 1,800 reported aggressive driving incidents nationwide, according to AAA.

In traveling to their destinations, people will leave at all different times today through Saturday. But the majority of people will all return on Sunday afternoon.

"Sunday is real difficult because if you're going to the beach and it's a nice day, everybody wants to stay," said Michele Ackle, spokeswoman for Delaware Department of Transportation.

Ackle said most people leave a sunny weekend day at the beach between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

"On Sundays, we ask that people exercise patience and caution," she said. "It's an unfortunate fact that when everybody has to go home at the same time, there's just no way to handle all that traffic."

About 344,000 vehicles — three times as many as normal — are expected to travel on roads during the holiday weekend.

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