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Espanola Fire Chief Says There Is No Proof Of Criminality With Local Fires



PHOTO: Espanola Queensway Motel

by Rosalind Russell -- Espanola has seen five fires this summer; four residential and one at a local business. That has led to a lot of concern from the public about fire safety and rumours about alleged arson, but Espanola Fire Chief Mike Pichor says those fears are groundless. "I take this opportunity to provide comment on the numerous fires which have recently occurred in our community and dispel any concerns that they were the result of an arsonist in the community," states Pichor. "Although unusual for our department to respond to this many fires in such a short period of time, I assure the community that the fires have been investigated and that our department is confident there is no one common cause. "The unfortunate fires are the result of a range of causes to include, the application of a highly flammable substance, electrical issues and vandalism."

Continued on page four...

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LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE FOR FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS!

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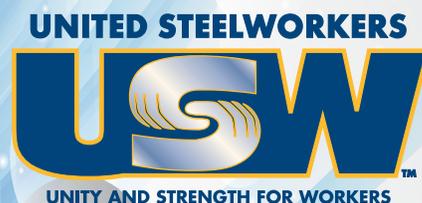
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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

Food and contract killings equal life without parole

Toronto Star reporter Peter Edwards covers Canadian organized crime with an easy, elegant and suspenseful style of writing. Both his newspaper features and his books are of the “must read” and “can't put it down” genre. He also has a slightly twisted sense of humour.

Many years ago Peter wrote about the bloodbath slayings of crime boss Johnny (Pops) Papalia in Hamilton and his second-in-command Carmen Barillaro in Niagara Falls. In this piece he fingered the Musitano brothers, Pasquale and Angelo as the masterminds behind the contract hits.

Quote: “Pat Musitano, who runs a popular James St. N. restaurant known for its tasty thin-crust pizza, was charged with first-degree murder in Papalia's death.” What? A tasty thin crust pizza pie lands topping-side up in the middle of a mob murder story!?!
 I used that quote when I taught a writing course at the Chautauqua Institute in New York, showing students how to slip a restaurant review into a grizzly, organized crime massacre. Years later I had dinner with Peter and called him on that incongruous quote: His answer: “I like to work as many senses into stories as I can. And that pizza was good. It's

a crime everyone can't make pizza like that.”

Blink, and I would have missed that line. You gotta' read the fine print. Right about now Uloma Walker-Curry is sitting in a jail cell in Cleveland wishing she'd taken a magnifying glass to her husband's life insurance policy. Uloma invested \$1,000 in the killing skills of her daughter's boyfriend to murder her husband William Walker and collect \$100,000 from his life insurance. Chad (not a great mob name to start with) failed in the first attempt to kill the husband/police officer, but succeeded in the second try which involved fast food take-out that Uloma had ordered. All to no avail because the insurance policy had not been updated, so the \$100,000 payout was to William Walker's first wife. Uloma is now looking at a bunch of empty take-out food cartons and life imprisonment without parole.

As food and contact killings emerge as the unlikely central theme of this column, I'm reminded of the contract killing that took place in Niagara Falls, Ontario about a dozen years ago. A man wanting his wife murdered approached local mob lieutenant Vito Arti to do the job. Arti, a no-nonsense businessman and bone breaker demanded the guy's

Continued on page three...

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Caroline Ehrhardt Wins At African Competition



Photo: by David Gallant, photo of Caroline starting her jump - FB

Caroline Ehrhardt wins gold at the Jeux de la Francophonie Mondiale in Abidjan, Ivory Coast with a massive new pb of 13.83m on her final jump. Former Espanola coach, David Gallant, says her father would be so proud. "Words cannot describe how proud I am of her! Her strength, perseverance and pride leave me speechless!" Gallant;

would be so thrilled and so proud!" Ironically, Caroline won on the day which would have been her father's birthday. Klaus passed away in early July and Caroline made the decision to go to the competition and do her best. She exceeded expectations and will be continuing to train hard and compete to look forward to representing Canada at the next Olympics.

Animal Abuse Case Expected Back In Sudbury Court This Week:

The alleged abuse of pets in the Greater Sudbury Police have Greater City of Sudbury, which said the animals were found in the care of two separate individuals who kept them safe until officers arrived. The Sudbury Court roster in late July. The young couple of animal care professionals, charged with mistreating their dog in June had their second appearance a week ago Wednesday. While Chelcea Martin, 18, did not attend court, Cody Mortin-Bond, 20, did. Both had their cases were remanded to this week allowing Legal Aid Ontario lawyer John Saftic to obtain disclosure from the Crown and Mortin-Bond. The same will occur with Martin and her lawyer. Mortin-Bond and Martin were both charged in mid-June with a Facebook page called "Who one count of kill/injure animal under the Canadian Criminal Code. Chico, the dog that was allegedly beaten by the couple, along with another dog and some kittens, were all taken into the case of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Sudbury branch.

Greater Sudbury Police have said the animals were found in the care of two separate individuals who kept them safe until officers arrived. The animals went into the care of animal care professionals, appeared to be well and were to be checked by a veterinarian as a precaution. In one video posted on Facebook, a young woman can be heard admonishing Chico for eating cat food, then she beats the dog about the snout. The animal can be heard yelping. In the second video, also posted on Facebook, a man and a woman can be heard yelling at the dog. Later, the woman appears to be smearing feces on the animal. Merissa Tremblay, who manages a Facebook page called "Who one count of kill/injure animal under the Canadian Criminal Code. Chico, the dog that was allegedly beaten by the couple, along with another dog and some kittens, were all taken into the case of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Sudbury branch.

Continued from page two...

wallet. Ignoring the wad of cash, the mobster pulled out a Loonie and shoved it in the husband's face.

"Now we have a deal," said Arti according to court records. "This dollar is the down payment of death." At this point the man became fearful of the paid killer and wished he'd never got himself into this venture. But he knew of Arti's reputation and there was no backing out. Vito Arti actually bit into a knuckle on his right hand which drew blood and then crossed himself before they parted ways in a downtown park. The soon-to-be widower was terrified. Weeks went by during which time the mobster stalked the wife, studying her habits. Gradually a plan materialized in the criminal mind of the man who was once voted "Scariest Guy On Cell Block Nine" at Kingston Penitentiary. And a brazen plan it was: broad daylight, 10 am., opening hour at Sobeys's supermarket. Not one for weekend crowds, but keen on marked down produce, the wife never missed shopping first thing Monday morning.

Arti's modus operandi was also his trademark – a garrote watch left to him by a cousin who was a founding member of the notorious Sicilian Ndrangheta family. Ironically the cousin, Anthony Pulguese was himself strangled by an ambitious gang member who used a garrote watch but ... with better timing.

As usual, the store was almost empty when Lillian, the wife walked with her hand basket from the produce section to Aisle #4. Vito Arti

was suddenly behind her pulling the wire by its gold loop from inside the garrote watch. He strangled the woman in less than twenty seconds.

Hearing what he thought was an odd sound "like a subdued gurgle" he told the court, the produce manager came running down the aisle to the aid of what he believed to be a woman who had fainted.

"Help me get her up," he yelled to a customer wearing a Fedora pulled down over sunglasses. Arti was only too happy to oblige.

"You get her feet," said Arti and as the produce manager bent down, out came the wire from the watch for the second time in as many minutes. A hefty guy wearing an apron, the man took about ten seconds longer to dispatch.

Shades of Uloma in the orange jumpsuit, all was to no avail. The contract killer had forgot all about the surveillance cameras in each aisle of the store in order to catch shoplifters. Vito Arti was arrested at his home one hour later after he committed the double murder and subsequently pleaded guilty to the charges, also receiving a life sentence without parole.

Police said the cold-blooded killer remained calm throughout the one-day trial, but went ballistic when they handed him the next day's Toronto Star with Peter Edwards headline: "Artichokes two for a dollar at Sobeys's." Okay, this last one I made up but that other stuff is absolutely true.

For comments, ideas and copies of The Legend of Zippy Chippy, go to www.williamthomas.ca

ESPANOLA POLICE REPORT

BREAK-INS AND VANDALISM SOLVED AT ESPANOLA BUSINESS-SEVERAL TEEN BOYS CHARGED: Back on July 13, 2017, the Espanola Police Service reported that they were seeking the public's assistance in identifying the individual(s) responsible for a series of break and enters, thefts, and mischiefs that occurred at the Rainbow Concrete Plant on Mead Boulevard in Espanola.

The incidents, occurring in the first three weeks of July, resulted in thousands of dollars in damage to the building, and heavy equipment on the property, and the theft of the outdoor camera system that was placed on the property as a deterrent against these crimes.

As a result of CCTV footage recorded prior to the theft of the cameras, and the ensuing police investigation, the Espanola Police identified and charged 5 male youths ranging in age between 13 years-old and 16-years old, and are seeking to charge a sixth youth in the coming weeks. The five youths are currently charged with theft under \$5,000 and mischief over \$5,000. They are to appear in Espanola Youth Court on September 18, 2017, to answer to their charges.

Police also recovered several of the outdoor cameras that were taken.

FRAUD FROM GORE BAY CARE FACILITY-ESPANOLA WOMAN CHARGED: On July 21, 2017, the Espanola Police Service received a complaint that while in a short term care facility in Gore Bay, a male's wallet was stolen from his home, and his credit card, which featured the 'tap' option was used in 186 transactions totaling over \$5,000. During their investigation, police identified a 24-year old female from Espanola from CCTV footage at one of the stores, and when confronted, the female admitted to her crimes, and returned the male's wallet and credit card. She was subsequently charged with one count of fraud, and one count of possession of property obtained by crime. She is to appear in Espanola Court on August 21, 2017, to answer to her charges.

UTTERING THREATS LEADS TO CHARGES: On July 1, 2017 at 5:32 p.m., the Espanola Police Service received a call to attend on Buzzygan Street, Espanola, after it was reported that there was a male there threatening to kill another male, and that he was in possession of a handgun.

Upon arrival, the 28-year old male suspect had fled on foot, and when officers spoke to the victim of the threats, he advised officers that the suspect was not in possession of a handgun, but was believed to be in possession of a rifle, as he had what was believed to be a rifle barrel protruding from his backpack.

At 6:29 p.m., officers located the suspect walking along Thornloe Street, at which time he was no longer in possession of a backpack. He was arrested without incident for uttering threats, and when interviewed at the police station, he readily admitted to uttering threats to the other male, but denied being in possession of a firearm. As a result of the incident, the Espanola resident was charged with one count of utter a threat to cause death or bodily harm, contrary to Section 264.1 (1)(a) of the Criminal Code of Canada.

He is to appear in Espanola Court on August 21, 2017, to answer to his charges.

TEEN CHARGED FOLLOWING CONFRONTATION WITH OLDER MAN: On July 2, 2017 at 3:00 a.m., the Espanola Police Service received a call to attend in the area of Centre Street and Wilson Street, Espanola, regarding a group of teenagers fighting.

Upon arrival, police learned that a 46-year old male traveling through the area in his vehicle had stopped to confront the group about an earlier incident with his wife, when he was struck on the head from behind while exiting his vehicle.

The male victim was knocked to the ground, and sustained injuries to his head and face from several blows delivered by a 17-year old he identified as the aggressor.

Based on the victim's statement, and that of an independent witness who saw the incident from across the street, police arrested the 17-year old, who was found to be intoxicated. While in custody at the police station, the male resisted the officer's attempts to lodge him in the cells, and in addition to being charged with one count of assault, he was also charged with resisting a peace officer.

He is to appear in Youth Court in Espanola on August 21, 2017, to answer to his charges

The victim sustained minor bruising as a result of the assault.

Continued from front page...

Pichor adds the majority of the incidents have been closed and only two are subject to further investigation.

"We sincerely hope this rash of fires is over with and assure you the Espanola Fire Department remains prepared to serve our community."

There have been four residential fires in Espanola and one at a local business over the last couple of months, but fortunately no persons were hurt. The first three occurred earlier in late June, early July. The most recent residential fire was at 475 Queensway Avenue on Wednesday night, July 26th. It was determined the fire to the residence on the Queensway Avenue was caused by an electrical malfunction. Fortunately a family member had woken up and everyone was able to get out of the home. The family was insured.

The next fire was at the Queensway Motel at the intersection of Highway Six and the Queensway Avenue. The Espanola Volunteer Firefighters were on the scene in minutes and the blaze was put out. It is believed to have started in the owner's living quarters, but the heavy

smoke and water damage has led to the closure of the entire motel, and is expected to remain closed for some time. The cause of that fire is still under investigation. The property remains closed and police tape was still in place as of press time. That fire occurred on the evening of Sunday, July 30th.

Chief Pichor says one other fire still remains under investigation.

He is also asking for the public to be conscious of what they can do to prevent a fire in their home or business.

"Protect yourself by having working smoke alarms on each floor of your home," says Pichor. "Have and practice an escape plan for your family and pets. Check your home and property for fire hazards ie. extension cords being used as permanent wiring. Also, check your home and property for fire hazards ie. flammable liquids.

"Make sure you get a fire permit for outdoor fires and check all your alarms. And, don't hesitate to call our fire department to do a safety check for you."

Pichor adds report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood to the police.

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The 34th Annual Jessie Burnside Memorial Art Show Is Just Around The Corner...



Photo: Janice Innocente and art work

The popular annual show is from Aug. 12 to Aug. 27 this year. Every year, the Massey Area Museum hosts the Show and Sale in the McNenly Gallery. The art show gives artists of all skill levels and ages an opportunity to share their talents in a public forum. Each show features a Northern Ontario artist with local connections. Janice Innocente is featured this year ... Janice was raised in the small town of Dowling, Ontario and has lived in Hanmer, Ontario for the last 25 years. She's a self-

taught, award-winning artist who began painting as a hobby. Oil paint is her preferred medium, but she also works with soft pastels to create her detailed works of animals, landscapes and portraits. Much of her inspiration comes from her love of horses and and rural life where she enjoys the beauty of nature. The show opens next Saturday, August 12th. Visitors are invited to vote on their favourite art work with winners announced at the end of the month.

Town Of Espanola Mends Two Positions Into One

Espanola will have a well known local individual overseeing Leisure Services in Espanola. Leisure Services Manager, Dianne Polden has quietly retired from her position in July, according to Town CAO Cynthia Townsend. Townsend told A&A some restructuring in house has taken place to fill the vacancy. "We have restructured this position through empowering

our current supervisors in this department who will now report to Joel Yusko," says Townsend. "Joel's new title is Manager of Public Works and Leisure Services. This reflects the existing overlap of parks and playgrounds and similarities between the two CUPE locals." Townsend added this is currently on a trial basis but she is confident this will serve the residents very well.

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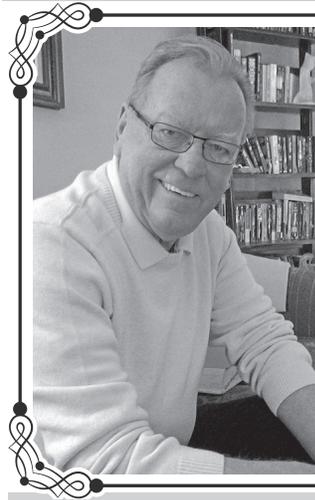
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OBITUARY



FULLER-Murray Allan of Espanola, Ontario passed away at the Espanola General Hospital on Tuesday, August 1st 2017 at the age of 71 years. Beloved husband of Linda Fuller. Son of the late Jenny and Harry Fuller of Whitney. loving father of Kevin Fuller of Ridgeville, Anna Mae Fuller of Cambridge, Bradley Fuller of Moncton, New Brunswick. Grandfather of Elizabeth Fuller and Sarah Fuller of Ridgeville. Brother of Lois Kukhta, Carmel Leveque, Danny Fuller all of Whitney, Myrna Etmanski of North Bay, Angus Fuller of Espanola, and the late James Cameron Fuller. A celebration of life will be held on September 9th, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus in Espanola, for all those who knew Murray. Memorial tributes may be made to the Canadian Cancer Research Society.

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Any registration after 7:30pm on Aug 24 will be subject to a \$50 late fee.

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Recipe



My friend recently made this recipe and recommended it to me as a "light on the tummy", nutritious, summer salad. This salad is great served as a side dish or perfect for a vegetarian meal.



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- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh dill
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste



Cook orzo pasta according to package directions. Drain the orzo and rinse with cold water to stop the cooking and to wash away some of the starches. Allow the pasta to cool. In a large bowl, combine orzo, chickpeas, cucumbers, feta, dill, and red onion. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, dill, salt, and pepper. Drizzle over salad and stir until ingredients are well coated. Serve immediately or chilled.



COMMUNITY NOTES

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Massey Area Museum presents the 34th Annual Jessie Burnside Memorial Art Show and Sale - August 12-27. Open hours: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. weekdays, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. weekends. No admission, donations gratefully accepted.

The Good Food Box program - Now serving Webbwood, Espanola, Nairn & Massey! Now accepting orders for pick up in Webbwood! Get a box of fresh produce at wholesale prices with this non-profit program. Visit goodfoodboxsudbury.ca for info or call 705-869-3171.

Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank - located at 87 Centre Street, open every Wednesday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The Lighthouse Community Luncheon - is cancelled until further notice because of renovations to the building.

Toastmasters - Develop communication and leadership skills. Learn to think quickly and clearly on your feet Mondays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Espanola Hospital board room. For details visit our website <http://602922.toastmastersclubs.org>.

Al-Anon Meetings For Families And Friends of Alcoholics - Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., St. George's Anglican Church, Espanola. Call 705-869-6595 or 705-869-2505 for more info.

Drug Problem? - We've been there. We can help. Narcotics Anonymous, meetings are Tuesdays and Saturdays 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. United Church Espanola 137 Sheppard St.

AA Meetings At St. George's Anglican Church - Tudhope St., Espanola, Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. and also Thursday at the United Church at 8:00 p.m.

Do you have a NOTE for the Community?

We invite not-for-profit organizations to submit information on their upcoming events in writing no later than **Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. 25 Word Limit.** E-mail: around@aroundandabout.ca

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