

CNY NEWS

House Raid Nets Cocaine Charge

FRANKFORT — A raid on a house in this Herkimer County village led to the arrest of its owner on a felony cocaine possession charge, state police at Herkimer said Friday.

Matthew T. Ganci, 29, 220 N. Frankfort St., was arrested Thursday evening and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, which is a Class B felony, police said.

Ganci was arraigned in Frankfort Village Court and sent to the Herkimer County Jail in lieu of \$30,000 bail, state police said.

Four other men were charged during the raid with unlawful possession of marijuana. State police said they were: Gregory D. Woodward, 37, 210 Frankfort St., Frankfort; Donald M. Perry, 28, 36 E. River St., Ilion; Carl M. Miller, 34, 119 N. Frankfort St., Apt. 3, Frankfort; and John L. Wallace, 29, 102 Skiff Ave., Frankfort.

Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest

SULLIVAN — A Chittenango man was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana Thursday morning after a routine traffic stop, state police in North Chittenango said.

Brian C. McGinley, 24, of Lakeport Road, Chittenango, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle, a trooper said.

The tickets were issued at 8:10 a.m. after McGinley was stopped on Fyler Road in the town of Sullivan, the trooper said.

Group to Stage Carroll Classic

CHITTENANGO — "Alice in Wonderland" comes to town at 2 p.m. today in the Chittenango High School Auditorium on Route 5. The Auburn Merry-Go-Round Playhouse production is a modern adaptation of Lewis Carroll's enduring children's classic.

"Alice in Wonderland" will be the last presentation in this performing arts series presented by Chittenango Station PTA.

Tests Offered At Health Fair

CAZENOVIA — Vision, hearing, blood pressure and pulmonary function tests will be among the services offered at the second annual Health Fair sponsored by Cazenovia College from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the college gym, Liberty Street.



DAVID WILKINS/The Post-Standard

A Navy honor guard carries the casket of Gary J. Fisk after a funeral Friday at Oneida High School. Fisk was one of 47 sailors killed aboard the USS Iowa when a gun turret exploded.

Friends, Family Honor Sailor Killed on Iowa

By MICHAEL KILIAN

ONEIDA — More than 300 people paid their final respects at the Friday morning funeral of Gary J. Fisk, who was one of 47 sailors killed last week when a gun turret exploded on the USS Iowa.

Fisk, 23, formerly of Stockbridge, Madison County, was a boatswain's mate on the battleship. Many of his friends and family members wept freely at the service at Oneida High School as his flag-draped casket passed by. It was carried by a Navy honor guard.

"Gary was not the kind of people who skimmed across the surface of life," the Rev. Neil Coe said during the service that started at 10:45 a.m. "He needed to know what's it all about, what's it for."

Fisk found such answers after he joined the Navy, said Coe, pastor of the Stockbridge United Methodist Church. The minister quoted several biblical passages to console the survivors.

"Gary is not here," Coe continued. "He, too, is risen."

Fisk's spirit lives on in heaven and in those who remember him, Coe added.

Fisk was buried in the Stockbridge Cemetery after the full military service.

Among the mourners were

Fisk's father and stepmother, Louis and Barbara Fisk of Stockbridge; his mother, Sandra Fisk of Unadilla; and his three brothers, Rodney of Wampsville; Roger of Kingsland, Ga., and Larry of Canastota. A stepbrother, Aaron Olmsted of Stockbridge, also attended.

"Make sure people understand how happy, how proud he was in serving his country and being in the Navy," Barbara Fisk said.

"If he had to do it all over again... he would."

Several Navy officials attended the funeral, and the Rev. John R. Lanese, a Navy chaplain, also eulogized Fisk.

The funeral took place shortly before Fisk was due to marry Sandra Robbins of Herkimer. Robbins was in Norfolk, Va., when the turret exploded and killed 47 men.

Fisk became a crew member on the Iowa four weeks before his death. Previously, he served four years on a submarine tender, the USS Canopus.

He joined the Navy in February 1985 after spending his first six months out of Oneida High School stapling casket liners at the Marcellus Casket Co in Onondaga County.

"He just wanted to get some experience, get out in the world and do something, not be stuck in



Family members leave services at Oneida High School. They are, from left: Barbara Fisk, stepmother; Sandra Robbins, fiancée; and Louis Fisk, father.

a factory his whole life," said lifelong friend Chris Mason.

When Fisk joined the Navy, he underwent nine weeks of basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Institute, then began a four-year stint on the Canopus, a Constellation-class vessel.

He operated cranes, and then became an instructor. While on the Canopus, he also took correspondence courses. Eventually, he decided he wanted to make the Navy his career.

When new men joined the USS Canopus, Fisk trained them to operate the heavy cranes. When dignitaries visited the vessel, Fisk earned the honor of sounding the whistle that allows men

and women to board or disembark.

After his planned May 27 marriage, Fisk was scheduled to head out on the battleship USS Iowa for a six-month Mediterranean cruise with 24 ports of call.

Before beginning a training run on the Iowa late last month, he visited his father and stepmother at their Haslauer Road home, which he had helped build.

"One of the things he said was, 'It's one of the most prestigious ships in the Navy and I'm going to be serving on it,'" Barbara Fisk said last week. "He was so proud."