

LOCAL & STATE

Questions remain after dogs die in car

By Laura Damon
Daily News staff writer

JAMESTOWN — The 65-year-old woman charged with three felony counts of unnecessary cruelty to animals and three counts of confinement of animals in a motor vehicle after police found her three dogs unresponsive in a vehicle about 4 p.m. on Sunday will return to court later this week.

According to a press release from the Jamestown Police Department, Anne Garnett of Jamestown was charged after police responded to McQuade's Marketplace for a report of three unresponsive dogs inside a 2011 Subaru. Garnett made the 911 call to police, Jamestown Police Chief

Edward Mello said in an email to The Daily News on Monday.

Officers and bystanders attempted to revive the dogs before they were transported to Newport Animal Hospital, where they were pronounced dead. After an investigation, police determined they were left inside the vehicle unattended for an "extended period of time."

According to the press release, the "air conditioning in the vehicle was not working and the windows in the vehicle were rolled up."

The dogs — a 4-year-old black lab, a 7-month-old black lab and a 4-year-old keeshond mix — were left without water, police said.

When asked to verify a

Facebook post which stated that the the air conditioning in Garnett's car was on but stopped working, Mello cited an open investigation and said officers are continuing "to determine the remaining details."

In a collective statement to The Daily News, Vice President of Save a Lab Rescue and New England Director Rebecca Clark and President and Founder of Save a Lab Rescue Christy Williard said the organization "is shocked and heartbroken over the recent accident involving Anne Garnett and her dogs."

Save a Lab Rescue is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing of displaced Labrador Retrievers and lab mixes,

according to the organization's website. People can foster labs and adopt them through the organization.

"Anne has been a trusted and dedicated foster in the past for Save a Lab for almost a decade," according to the Save a Lab Rescue statement. "She truly lives for her pets and offers them a wonderful life complete with beach swims and play dates. Anne also provides excellent veterinary care, evidenced by her pets' stellar medical history."

Clark posted on her Facebook page Sunday night that one of the three dogs that died was Peggy Sue, a four-year-old black lab.

"Anne officially adopted Peggy Sue approximately two years ago, a four-year-old beautiful

black lab from Arkansas, through our organization," the Save the Lab Rescue representatives said in an email.

Williard and Clark urged "any and all" precautions to safeguard pets in hot weather. "Accidents can happen to anyone and we encourage you to stay always vigilant and contact your veterinarian should you have concerns for your own pets."

For the felony charges, Garnett faces up to five years in prison and a \$1000 fine for each count, according to the press release. She was arraigned at the Jamestown police station on Sunday and released. Garnett will appear in Newport District Court on Friday.

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Cringing in the Cushing



Yes, Howard Gardiner Cushing reimagined his wife, Ethel — with her porcelain skin, almond-shaped eyes and long, golden red hair — as Eurasian royalty, fanned by two Asian women as she sits on an ottoman, wearing harem pants, in this oil on canvas mural panel painted in 1911-1912. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

Newport Art Museum gallery's namesake crossed the cultural appropriation line with his smooth brush

By Alexander Castro
Special to The Daily News

NEWPORT — "I'm under Japanese influence and my honor's at stake!" screeches a deranged David Bowie on 1977's "Blackout." How truly weird that this nugget of expatriate song-writing would prove clairvoyant for Ariana Grande in 2019. Earlier this year, the 26-year-old musician had think-piecers busy when she revealed a misspelled tattoo of Japanese kanji. It was meant to say "7 Rings," the title of her new single, but it actually translated to "shichirin," a small charcoal grill.

'HOWARD GARDINER CUSHING: THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN LIFE'

Viewable by appointment through Oct. 6 by calling the front desk to schedule at (401) 848-8200
Newport Art Museum
Cushing Gallery
76 Bellevue Ave., Newport
newportartmuseum.org

Headlines suggest Grande is a serial appropriator. Putting aside how severe or goofy this particular instance may be, Grande's behavior is nothing new for a wealthy artist. An ongoing exhibit at the Newport Art Museum might remind us that American artists have been tiptoeing the appreciation-appropriation line for well over a century now.

The Newport Art Museum's "Howard Gardiner Cushing: The Beautiful Things of Life" runs through Oct. 6, by appointment only. The exhibit was open during regular hours until July 21, but with the Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney exhibit coming down in the adjacent gallery, you'll have to excuse the mess. The museum notes, though, that they're happy to accommodate viewers and "are hoping visitors take us up on it."

Speaking of Whitney: Her sculpture exhibit may be coming down, but she'll live on in this show, wearing a gleaming white ballet tunic, a fleur du mal in hand. This portrait was a gift within a gift, included as part of a 73-foot-long mural Cushing painted for his friend Whitney's Westbury, New York,

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Howard Gardiner Cushing's 1912 oil portrait of dancer Ida Rubinstein (1883-1960), 36 in. x 70 in., had never been shown publicly until this summer at the Newport Art Museum. Private Collection. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]



"I recognize this as an opportunity that's a once-in-a-lifetime thing," says Peter Smerlas, of Newport, who will compete on Food Network's "Worst Cooks in America," Season 17. [PHOTO COURTESY OF FOOD NETWORK]

Newport man to compete on 'Worst Cooks'

By Rachael Thatcher
Daily News staff writer

NEWPORT — Most people know somebody who isn't exactly talented in the culinary department, but are they one of the worst cooks in America? One Newport resident is.

Peter Smerlas of Newport is on the upcoming season of "Worst Cooks in America," premiering Sunday, Aug. 4, at 9 p.m. on Food Network.

Smerlas will face off against 13 other competitors, including another Rhode Island resident — Father Adam Young from Cranston.

In the first episode of the 17th season, the competitors enter "boot camp" where they're split into teams headed by either Chef Anne Burrell or Chef Bobby Flay. Their first task is creating their own signature date night dish. Then one person from each team is eliminated based on the challenge.

"I had a lot to learn going into it. I tried to keep an open mind and absorb as much as I could. I recognize this as an opportunity that's a once in a lifetime thing," Smerlas said.

Working with celebrity chefs like Burrell and Flay "just felt pretty surreal," Smerlas said. "But it was an honor at the same time to be in the kitchen, to be learning and watching them. It was pretty cool."

Smerlas is a father, fiance, union laborer and Fifth-warder whose family let him know his

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