

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR
413 Second Street
Belvidere New Jersey 07823
Phone: (908) 475-6275
Fax: (908) 475-6286



RICHARD T. BURKE
County Prosecutor
MICHAEL J. MCDONALD
First Assistant Prosecutor
WILLIAM R. EPELL
Chief of Detectives

County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

Arrested: **Donald W. Jessamine**
 235 Prospect Street
 Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865
 DOB: 3/2/1951

Deceased Victim: **Lane L. Alden**
 White Female; 57 y.o.

On Saturday, June 23, 2012 at approximately 8:25 p.m., troopers of the New Jersey State Police responded to the report of a boating accident on the Delaware River in Harmony Township. Upon arrival, troopers learned that a boat operated by Donald W. Jessamine had collided with rocks in the Delaware River near the Pennsylvania Power & Light ("PPL") Bridge. The troopers were advised that Lane L. Alden was a passenger who had been ejected from the boat and that she had not been seen since the collision. An extensive search of the river that evening and in the days to come failed to locate Ms. Alden.

On Thursday, June 28, 2012, a deceased person's remains were discovered approximately 12.6 miles south of the collision location on the western bank of the Delaware River in Williams Township, Pennsylvania. On June 29, 2012, an autopsy occurred and the body was positively identified as that of Ms. Alden and revealed that her death resulted from blunt force trauma.

As a result of the continuing investigation, Donald W. Jessamine was charged with Vehicular Homicide, a 2nd degree criminal offense and with various boating offenses including Operation of a Vessel while intoxicated and Reckless Operation of a Vessel.

Vehicular Homicide is a second degree crime punishable by a maximum sentence of ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison that is subject to periods of mandatory parole ineligibility.

The Honorable Ann R. Bartlett, J.S.C., set bail at \$75,000.00 with a ten percent (10%) option. He has been released on bail with the condition that he does not have any contact with the victim's family. The defendant's first appearance is scheduled for Monday, July 16 at 1:30 p.m.

The investigation was conducted by the New Jersey State Police, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office and the Northampton County, Pennsylvania Coroner's Office.

Please be advised that the charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent of all charges unless and until proven guilty.

Approved by:

Date: July 13, 2012

Richard T. Burke ^{re}

RICHARD T. BURKE
Prosecutor