

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR COUNTY OF WARREN

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PRESS RELEASE

On Sunday, January 28, 2024 the Lopatcong Township Police Department was dispatched to the Phillipsburg High School regarding an altercation which involved approximately 20 people attending a youth wrestling tournament.

The investigation of this incident revealed a verbal dispute had erupted between Dayne M. Takach and Ralph E. Dileo, which led to an ensuing physical altercation between Nicholas R. Cassidy and Dayne M. Takach.

Upon the completion of a wrestling match Mr. Takach approached the youth wrestler from Phillipsburg who had just won the match and touched or patted him on the head and made a statement to him to the effect; "Now you can go (off) to High School." Upon observing the incident and over hearing the statement, Mr. Dileo exchanged words with Mr. Takach. Mr. Takach then began to walk away from the area of the initial confrontation. As Mr. Takach was walking away from the area an additional comment or comments were addressed to Mr. Takach which resulted in him walking back towards the area of the original confrontation. As Mr. Takach was in the process of returning to this area he was confronted by Mr. Cassidy. Mr. Cassidy had no involvement in the original confrontation. Mr. Cassidy then engaged Mr. Takach in a confrontation by pushing him. At that point, the confrontation between Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Takach escalated resulting in numerous other bystanders becoming involved in an attempt to separate the parties at which time Mr. Takach and others ended up on the floor. Ms. Takach approached the individuals on the floor and kicked an individual in what appears to be his head and/or neck area. Based on witness statements at that time and the on the scene investigation, Ms. Takach was arrested on site. She was charged with kicking an individual in the head who at the time was defenseless on the ground.

As part of a continuing investigation, numerous videos of the incident were reviewed along with additional witnesses and participants being interviewed. Upon the completion of the investigation by the Lopatcong Township Police Department in consultation with the Warren County Prosecutor's Office the below listed individuals were charged.

JENNIFER D. TAKACH
MONTAGUE, NEW JERSEY
DOB: OCTOBER 5, 1976

- 1) Aggravated Assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1b (1), a second degree offense. This offense carries a maximum sentence of ten (10) years in the New Jersey State Prison, with a minimum of five (5) years.

This matter will be heard in the New Jersey Superior Court, Warren County in Belvidere, NJ.

RALPH E. DILEO
STEWARTSVILLE, NEW JERSEY
DOB: AUGUST 25, 1975

- 1) Disorderly Conduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-2 (a) Improper Conduct (1) Engages in fighting or threatening, or in violent or tumultuous behavior. This is a petty disorderly person's offense. This offense carries a maximum sentence of (30) days in the Warren County Correctional Center.
- 2) Disorderly Conduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-2 (a) Improper Conduct (2), Creates a hazardous or physically dangerous condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose of the actor. This is a petty disorderly person's offense. This offense carries a maximum sentence of (30) days in the Warren County Correctional Center.

This matter will be heard in the Lopatcong Township Municipal Court.

DAYNE M. TAKACH
MONTAGUE, NEW JERSEY
DOB: DECEMBER 7, 1974

- 1) Disorderly Conduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-2 (a) Improper Conduct (1) Engages in fighting or threatening, or in violent or tumultuous behavior. This is a petty disorderly person's offense. This offense carries a maximum sentence of (30) days in the Warren County Correctional Center.
- 2) Disorderly Conduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-2 (a) Improper Conduct (2) Creates a hazardous or physically dangerous condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose of the actor. This is a petty disorderly person's offense. This offense carries a maximum sentence of (30) days in the Warren County Correctional Center.
- 3) Harassment, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4 (b) Subjects another to striking, kicking, shoving, or other offensive touching, or threatens to do so. This is a petty disorderly person's offense. This offense carries a maximum sentence of (30) days in the Warren County Correctional Center.

This matter will be heard in the Lopatcong Township Municipal Court.

NICHOLAS R. CASSIDY
BLOOMSBURY, NEW JERSEY
DOB: JULY 25, 1999

- 1) Disorderly Conduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-2 (a) Improper Conduct (1) Engages in fighting or threatening, or in violent or tumultuous behavior. This is a petty disorderly person's offense. This offense carries a maximum sentence of (30) days in the Warren County Correctional Center.

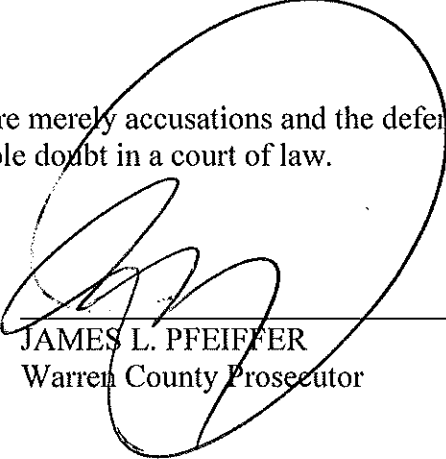
- 2) Disorderly Conduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-2 (a) Improper Conduct (2) Creates a hazardous or physically dangerous condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose of the actor. This is a petty disorderly person's offense. This offense carries a maximum sentence of (30) days in the Warren County Correctional Center.
- 3) Harassment, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4 (b) Subjects another to striking, kicking, shoving, or other offensive touching, or threatens to do so. This is a petty disorderly person's offense. This offense carries a maximum sentence of (30) days in the Warren County Correctional Center.

This matter will be heard in the Lopatcong Township Municipal Court.

Please be advised that the charges are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Approved by:

Date: February 28, 2024



JAMES L. PFEIFFER
Warren County Prosecutor