

Homicide defendant's lawyer seeks suppression of statements to police

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

The attorney for a man scheduled to go on trial for homicide next month filed a motion to suppress statements made by his client in an interview with police last year, claiming that the statements were made in violation of the client's constitutional rights.

Charles Bierly, 24, is scheduled for a jury trial

along with co-defendant James Robert Alberto as the two have been charged with the killing of Judith Comisky inside her Wilkes-Barre home on Sept. 16, 2021. The trial is set to begin on Jan. 30.



Bierly

Bierly's lawyer, John Pike, filed a motion in court

on Friday to suppress statements obtained from Bierly by investigators after Bierly was arrested on Sept. 17, 2021, initially on drug charges after a controlled substance transaction in Bear Creek.

According to Pike's motion, officers interrogating Bierly about the murder of Comisky continued to question Bierly even after he said that he wished to stop answering

questions, a violation of Bierly's constitutional rights.

The motion also alleges that, after initially answering on a written Miranda rights form that he did not wish to speak to law enforcement, Bierly was told that police would not discuss his legal matters with him until he changed his answer and agreed to answer questions.

According to the

motion, filed on Friday:

Bierly was initially arrested on Sept. 17 at approximately 2:08 a.m. at the OYO Hotel in Bear Creek Township after allegedly purchasing fentanyl outside the hotel.

The day before, Wilkes-Barre City officers responded to an alleged stabbing on Willow Street, which was ruled a criminal homicide after

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Top Gun, thanks for the memories and lessons learned

By Bill O'Boyle
boboyle@timesleader.com

KINGSTON — We were gathered around

the card table in the basement of Top Gun's house.

It was our weekly pitch game — high, low, jack game — and it was always an evening filled with laughter and surprises.

This one particular Tuesday was classic and Top Gun again schooled us on much more than the finer points of the card game.

Top Gun — Charles "Chuck" Peterman, Sr. — was our leader, our guru, our single reason for playing pitch every Tuesday evening in his basement. Top Gun loved the game and he was the best player at the table.

On this one particular evening, one of our group decided to boast a little about a fish he had caught, beaming as he described in detail how he had battled the lunger, complete with astonishing statistics of the big fish's length and weight.

Top Gun just sat there, like the rest of us, wondering when the fish tale would end — waiting for the right moment.

And that moment came — Top Gun fired back.

Top Gun was cordial, at first, as he began by praising the younger fisherman on his quite spectacular catch. And then Top Gun offered this:

"Oh yeah, well I was fishing one time and I hooked something really big. After about a 30 minute fight, I finally got it up and it was an old lantern and guess what — that lantern was still lit."

We all were amazed by this tale, especially the young man who had just showered us with his exaggerated story about a fish he had allegedly caught.

The young man called Top Gun out, claiming Top Gun's story was untrue.

Then Top Gun lowered the boom:

"Yeah, well I'll tell you what — you knock a couple of inches and pounds off your fish, and I'll blow out my lantern."

A drop the mic moment for sure.

That was Top Gun at his finest. He wasn't rude or mean, he just simply made his point.

And there were many other lessons taught to us by Top Gun and many of those dealt with the card game of pitch.

If we had five players at the table, we played "draw pitch." In this game, each player is dealt six cards and we go around the table to see who will bid. Once a bid

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Inspired during lockdown, art newcomer has first exhibit

Frances Kavulich, 82, started painting watercolors just two years ago



Tony Callaio | For Times Leader

Watercolor artist Frances Kavulich, right, at 82 years of age, began her art career two years ago. She is explaining one of her pieces on display at Art e Fekts Gallery, Pittston, to Marc and Michelle Albolino.

By Tony Callaio
For Times Leader

PITTSSTON — There are plenty of artists that started their career late in life. World-renowned artist Claude Monet is one such artist, who began painting in his 30s.

Dalton resident Frances Kavulich has Monet beat by decades when she picked up watercolor painting at the age of 80, just two years ago.

On Saturday night, Art e Fekts Gallery, the City of Pittston premiere showcase for local talented artists, sculptures, and photographers, was the site for Kavulich's first-ever public showing of her watercolor art.

Mary Kroatavich, Art e Fekts Gallery director couldn't have been happier for Kavulich.

"We are proud and thrilled to see Frances choosing our gallery to showcase her watercolor art," Kroatavich said. "Knowing she kick-started her first showing here just reinforces Art e Fekts' mark in the art community. We love bringing new artists out to the forefront like Frances."

It is a remarkable feat that Kavulich began her painting career just two years ago out of boredom when the world shut down due to COVID-19.

"Every morning, I took a class on YouTube," Kavulich said, during the pandemic. "Then every afternoon, I would paint. I painted every day. In the beginning I didn't really know how to draw. I was a photographer before this, so I knew about composition, but nothing else."

Daughter Debbie Ferraro said her mom would doodle on her three daughters' lunch bags when they were children, but that was the extent of her artistic skills.

Over the pandemic, along with watching YouTube videos, Kavulich eventually took online art classes.

"I took workshops on TV," Kavulich admitted. "I got to the point where I started to put my art on Facebook every day and my Facebook friends would tell me if they were good or bad. They have been encouraging me, otherwise, if it wasn't for them, I don't know if I



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Artist Frances Kavulich signs one of her painting prints to Suzanne Fletcher, of Hanover Twp., during an art showing of Kavulich's watercolor paintings.



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Two of the 20 watercolor pieces of artist Frances Kavulich were on display during Kavulich's first-ever art showing. Kavulich took up watercolor painting just two years ago at the age of 80.

would have gotten this far."

Kavulich said she is not sure of the style of her watercolor art saying, "Everyone asks me that question, but I think it looks a bit cartoonish."

There are no boundaries when it came time to study a craft. As a stylist, her career took her to New York City, where she studied, then to London, Canada, and Italy. As a photographer, after studying locally at Luzerne County Community College, she eventually studied in Italy.

Kavulich sees her art as meditative and an outlet when not talking care of her husband of 59 years, Donald, who is battling Parkinson's disease.

Painting every day is Kavulich's typical routine, starting as early as 6 p.m. "I draw every night while I'm watching TV

and in the morning, I get up and start and by 12 p.m., I'm posting it (painting) on Facebook," Kavulich explained. "Sometimes if I'm on a roll, I'll do two (paintings)."

Kavulich said to date, she's been selling her pieces via Facebook and recently her daughter Donna is responsible for creating a website, frankavulich.com, saying she may begin to sell her artwork there.

One of her grandchildren, Chloe Ferraro, traveled from Philadelphia, along with several other family members to be at the showing.

"She's always had an artistic eye," Ferraro said. "So it doesn't surprise me that she was able to pick up painting so easily and being able to produce so many pieces so quickly." Ferraro, 22, said her

grandmother is very humble with her art and doesn't like the spotlight on her and having her grandmother showing her artwork is a big surprise to her.

"My grandmother had several stages of her life being a hairdresser, then a photographer, then back to being a hairdresser before she retired," Ferraro said. "I'd like to see the next stage of her life evolve more and inspire others and prove to other people you can do this. She does not like sitting down."

Ferraro said she'd like to see her grandmother have a yearly art showing if she is willing to do so.

If you would like to see or purchase Kavulich's art, it will be on display at the Dr. Joseph Lombardo Gallery in the back room of Art e Fekts through the end of 2022.



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Art e Fekts Gallery, Pittston, held a showing of watercolor pieces by artist Frances Kavulich. Kavulich is shown with her family members that traveled from Philadelphia to attend the art show. Left to right: granddaughter Chloe Ferraro, daughter Debbie Ferraro, Kavulich, daughter Donna Beardell, daughter Lauri Kavulich, grandson Louie Beardell.