

RUN OVER: Roadside fight escalates after apparent road rage altercation

FROM PAGE 1

Schantzen had a large abrasion covering approximately half of his back. It was bleeding and covered in dirt.

Schantzen told the deputy that he had a road rage altercation with the vehicle that hit him. He said he encountered a van driving slowly on Pokegama Road. Schantzen pulled his vehicle close to the van and then passed him. The van then passed Schantzen's vehicle and slowed to a near stop. Schantzen went to pass the van on the right, and the van hit his vehicle, causing it to go in the ditch. Schantzen became angry, got out of his vehicle, and threw a water bottle at the van.

The driver of the van, later identified as William Richard Dugan, 63, of East Grove, Minnesota, said he got out of the vehicle and they "exchanged words." Schantzen punched Dugan in the face, causing Dugan to fall to the ground. Dugan then got in his vehicle to leave. Schantzen reported he went to the van and told the driver that he was not leaving. Dugan attempted to drive away, and Schantzen was dragged and then run over by the van. A two-year-old child was in Schantzen's vehicle during this incident.

Another deputy located and stopped the van. The driver, Dugan, reported that he was driving on Pokegama Road at a slower speed and two vehicles wanted to pass him. After the first vehicle passed him, the second vehicle (driven by Schantzen) began tailgating him. Schantzen passed him, then slammed on the brakes

in front of him. Dugan then passed Schantzen again. Dugan said that Schantzen punched him and he did not fight back. Dugan said he tried to leave in his van as Schantzen held onto the van. Schantzen finally let go as he drove off at 8-10 miles per hour. He felt a thump as he was driving off, as though he ran something over. He did not call law enforcement or report the crash.

A passerby reported that he saw the whole incident. He initially saw the Honda Pilot (driven by Schantzen) stopped behind the van. The Pilot went around the van, then the van went around the Pilot, forcing the Pilot onto the shoulder of the roadway. Schantzen got out of the Pilot and threw a water bottle at the van. The van's driver (Dugan) then got out. The two drivers began fighting each other. Dugan then got into his van as Schantzen continued to yell at him. Dugan tried to drive away, but it appeared that Schantzen's jacket got caught in the door and Schantzen was dragged by the van. The rear driver's tire drove over Schantzen's legs. Dugan got out and told Schantzen, "Now I'm going to get in trouble." Dugan then left the scene.

Dugan was charged with Traffic Collision - Driver Fail to Stop - Injury or Death. The maximum penalty for this gross misdemeanor is one year in jail and/or a \$3,000 fine.

RESCUERS: Palmer grateful for rescue

FROM PAGE 1

I didn't even see the car at first - I just saw the lights flashing in the ditch. Nobody had stopped, so I figured I should stop. And it was probably the best decision I've made."

Palmer said it took just a few minutes before the young man was at her car.

"I don't know how long I would have been there [otherwise]," she said. "Austin came over and pounded on my door and said, 'Are you OK?' And I just moved my hand. He said, 'Did you call 911 yet?' And I said no. So he ... called 911. Then I said, 'Will you call my husband?'"

She was alert enough to remember her husband Mike's phone number, and heard Austin talking to Mike. Austin stayed with her until Minnesota State Trooper Kendra Rock arrived on the scene. Rock crawled through the crumpled door. She applied direct pressure to where Palmer was bleeding from a head injury.

"I was all full of blood, and Kendra had this pad," she said. "I don't know how she held my hand and held this pad on me for however long

that was."

'YOU'RE GOING TO BE OK'

Rush City Fire Chief Bob Carlson said it was a bad night for accidents, and Palmer's crash was one of five that night. His crew was wrapping up another accident scene when they got the call about Palmer at 11:27 p.m. They were on the scene of Palmer's crash at 11:38 p.m.

"Kendra was telling me, 'They're here, and they're going to help you out of the car. They're probably going to have to cut it,'" Palmer remembered. "I heard all you guys talking to each other back and forth, what you were going to do. Trying to make a decision on what equipment to use."

"Where to cut," one firefighter said. The firefighters used one tool to cut through the frame of the car and then a prying tool to separate the metal.

"One of you guys came over and said to me, 'You're going to be OK. We're going to get you out of here. It's going to be really loud, but don't worry about it. We got this.' And it just helped me so much, to have one of you guys talk to me and say something like that, because I was super scared at that time, you know? And then, I heard some glass crunching, and then you [firefighters] must have thrown a blanket over me. You said 'When you pull it up there might be some glass.' Then it was super noisy. And I was really scared."

'IT JUST HELPS TO HAVE SOMEONE TALK'

Rock kept telling Palmer that things would be all right, that the noise was just noise and she would be out of her car soon.

"And then someone yelled out, 'OK - two big pops.' Then there was this BAM-BAM."

Palmer hit her fist twice on the table for emphasis.

"Then all of a sudden the roof was gone. Then somebody said, 'Welcome to your new convertible.'"

The firefighters at the hall laughed.

"That was so helpful, though," Palmer said. "Those little jokes helped so much. I was so stressed."

There were other little things that helped too.

"I had my feet over by the door and someone just petted my leg. Like 'You're going to be OK.' It just helps to have somebody talk to me and say, 'We're going to get you out of here,' 'You're going to be OK.' That kind of thing. And then you had to slide the board under me and you guys were so careful with my head."

'SO GRATEFUL'

Palmer was taken by ambulance to Regions Hospital. Doctors found she had a fracture in her spine, and she was given six stitches to the wound in her head. She was in the hospital for four days. One of her visitors at the hospital was Austin Gardner, her rescuer, who spent about four hours with the family. He admitted he was a bit shook-up after coming on the accident scene.

"Seeing the condition of the vehicle, and seeing how much blood was inside the vehicle - I've never been in that situation before," Gardner said. "I don't regret it."

Carlson thanked Palmer, Gardner and Rock for coming to the fire hall to share their stories. He said this is the first time that an accident victim has ever reached out and offered to come back to share their story with the firefighters.

"We've never done this before," Carlson said. "This is a big learning tool for us."

Palmer had nothing but gratitude for those who came to her rescue that night, for their quick thinking and for their courage and care.

"Thank you guys, so, so much," she said. "I don't even know words to tell you how much to thank you for saving me out of that thing. My husband and I are just so grateful. Because I could have died. And you guys were awesome."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE - DEC. 12

CLUES ACROSS

1. Rope used as a lasso
7. Lomb's partner
13. North African nation
14. Rounds up cattle
16. Densest naturally occurring element
17. Home of the Brewers
19. Atomic #44
20. Vetches
22. Moved earth with a tool
23. Cavalry sword
25. Supplements with difficulty
26. Encouraged
28. Speech defect
29. Periodical (abbr.)
30. Very cold
31. ___ Paulo, city
33. Former OSS
34. Approves food
36. Cars need them
38. Sweden's dominant phone company

40. Long lock of a woman's hair
41. North American natives
43. Fly high
44. One type is fire
45. Nocturnal bird
47. More than one male
48. LOTR actor McKellen
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Tony-winning actress Daisy
55. Tennis star Kourmikova
56. Pulitzer-winning composer
58. The opposite to pro
59. Safecrackers
60. Denotes past
61. Parrots
64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
65. Reduce the importance of
67. Stiffly
69. In a sensible way
70. Signs

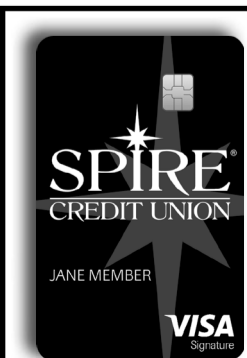
CLUES DOWN

1. Capital of Zambia
2. Article
3. Country star LeAnn
4. Egyptian goddess
5. Afflict in mind or body
6. Showy but cheap
7. Belgian urban center
8. Short-winged diving seabird
9. Deploys
10. Ballplayers can legally do it
11. Centiliter
12. Contrary beliefs
13. Type of pole
15. Distinguish oneself
18. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
21. One who monitors
24. Petty quarreling
26. Fiddler crabs
27. Touch lightly
30. American state

32. Pro wrestler Randy
35. Indicates spelling mistake
37. Macaws
38. Gradually narrowed
39. Installments
42. Female sheep
43. Politician
46. Servant
47. Said to facilitate concentration
49. California ballplayers
50. Once Toledo's tallest building
52. A type of pie
54. State of southwestern India
55. Principal member of Norse religion
57. Counterspy
59. Wellness practice
62. ___-de-sac: dead end street
63. Used to cook
66. Type of hospital
68. Direct message

SOLUTION

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E	K	E	S	U	R	G	E	D	L	I	S	P	
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Congratulations to all of this year's Christmas Coloring Contest entries!

We received many outstanding coloring pages and it was very hard to pick the winners. Thank you to everyone who submitted coloring pages! Winners are listed below. Special thank you to the participating businesses that make these contests possible.

Kamryn Pribula-7	Elise Went-10
Neva-6	Kaeson Musker-8
Daphne Foster-8	Peyton Borgstrom- 6
Isaiah Bavier-7	Madisyn Steiner-5
Reed Mansavage- 9	Alivia Nowling-4

Businesses that made this contest possible include: Anytime Fitness, Chris' Food Center, Dale's Heating & Appliance, Empower Recovery Services, Karen's Hair Kare, Ledin Hofstad & Troth, New Horizon Thrift Store, Northwoods Bank, Sauser's Hardware, The Pine City Scrapbooking Co. and Walmart.