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Man charged with embezzlement

By CHRIS BROWN / Journal Staff Writer

CHARLES TOWN — A 55-year-old Inwood man who is accused of embezzling more than \$200,000 from an area restaurant was one of several people indicted this week by a Jefferson County grand jury, which met for a second day on Wednesday.

Iwayan Rudaska Rata was indicted on one count of embezzlement Tuesday. He is accused of embezzling more than \$200,000 between May 2000 and May 2002 from the now-defunct Spice Garden restaurant, which was formerly located along U.S. 340 in Charles Town.

According to police, former restaurant co-owner Greg Gough told police that Rata was allegedly placing daily register checks, payroll deposits, state and federal tax payments and part of an \$80,000 business loan in his personal account.

According to court records, an audit of the restaurant's receipts conducted by a Winchester accounting firm found about \$215,000 missing.

If Rata is convicted, he could face a prison sentence of up to 10 years, or jail time of one year and a fine of \$2,500.

Other indictments handed down on Tuesday and Wednesday included:

- Matthew Tyma, age and address unavailable, was indicted on one count of attempted murder, three counts of wanton endangerment involving a firearm, two counts of malicious assault, and one count of domestic battery in relation to a June case.
- Daniel James Skinner, 31, of Mountain View Drive in Harpers Ferry, was indicted on a charge of wanton endangerment involving a firearm in relation to a September incident.
- Thomas David Dove, 42, of Martinsburg, was indicted on one count of sexual assault in the first degree, and one count of sexual abuse in the first degree in relation to a June 2000 case.
- John Patrick Hornak, 34, of Omeara Terrace in Ashburn, Va., was indicted on two counts of possession of material visually portraying a minor engaged in sexually explicit activity, in relation to a January 2005 case.
- Sidney Bob Woodard, of Third Street, Waynesboro, Va., was indicted on one count of possession with intent to deliver a schedule I controlled substance, one count of possession with intent to deliver a schedule II substance, one count of transportation of a schedule I substance into West Virginia from another state, one count of transportation of a schedule II substance into West Virginia from another state and one count of obstructing a police officer in the lawful exercise of his duty in relation to a May incident.
- Lorraine K. Holmes, 21, of West Third Avenue in Ranson, was indicted on two counts of delivery of a schedule II controlled substance in pursuance of a January case.
- Betty Jo Koplits, 31, of Johnny Cake Lane in Harpers Ferry, was indicted on one count of delivery of a schedule II controlled substance, and one count of possession with intent to deliver a schedule I controlled substance in relation to a February case.
- Jack Roosevelt Pennington, 27, of Kearneysville, was indicted on one count of obtaining money, property or services by fraudulent pretenses where a common scheme exists, and one count of conspiracy to commit an offense against the state in relation to a September case.
- David Lewis Pennington, 33, of Kearneysville, was indicted on one count of obtaining money, property or services by fraudulent pretenses where a common scheme exists, and one count of conspiracy to commit an offense against the state in relation to a November case.
- Curtis Lee May, 24, of Shepherdstown, was indicted on one count of burglary and one count of petit larceny in

pursuance of a September case.

- Robert William Watson, 42, of Carson Circle in Ranson, was indicted on three counts of taking the identity of another person and three counts of forgery of a credit card in pursuance of an August case.

- Kathleen C. Brooks, 54, of Middle Cross Trail in Harpers Ferry, was indicted on one count of driving under the influence, third offense, in relation to a April incident.

An indictment is not a statement of guilt. It is a formal charge against an individual, who is assumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Further indictments are scheduled to be handed down today.

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