

Mom: Boy Accused Of Killing Father 'Loved His Dad'

NEW YORK (AP) — The 8-year-old Arizona boy accused of fatally shooting his father and another man is a "good little boy" who loved his dad, his mother said Monday.

"He had a very good relationship with his father," the boy's mother, Eryn Thomas, told ABC's "Good Morning America." "He did a lot with him. They did everything together. He loved his dad."

The unidentified child was charged with first-degree murder in the Nov. 5 shooting deaths at his home in St. John's, Ariz.

Prosecutors on Friday sought to dismiss the charge stemming from the death of the boy's father, 29-year-old Vincent Romero, but did not explain why. Their motion, if granted, allows the refiling of charges. Attorneys would not comment because of a gag order.

The boy is also charged in the slaying of 39-year-old Tim Romans, his father's co-worker and housemate.

Thomas said she's visited her son in the juvenile detention center, where on some visits they are separated by glass.

"He's in there by himself, definitely scared," she said, describing the boy as a "very small child" who is being housed separately from the older children.

Thomas lives in Mississippi. The boy had been living with his father and stepmother, who were married in September. Romero had primary custody of the 8-year-old.

Judge Michael Roca ruled that the boy could be released for 48 hours to spend Thanksgiving with his mother. Thomas said her son wanted to see the movie "Kung Fu Panda" and play games during his parole.

She described the boy as an average 8-year-old. "He's very outgoing, he loves animals, he loves to ride his dirt bike, skateboarding, that sort of thing," she said.

Astronauts Take 4th, Final Spacewalk

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HOUSTON (AP) — Three spacewalks down. One to go. Astronauts Stephen Bowen and Robert "Shane" Kimbrough venture outside the international space station Monday for the fourth and final spacewalk of space shuttle Endeavour's nearly two-week visit to the orbiting outpost.

The spacewalkers hope to finish unjamming a huge joint that keeps a power-generating solar wing on the space station's right side facing the sun. The joint hasn't been used much since September 2007 because parts were grinding, shaving off metal shards that jammed it and kept it from rotating toward sunlight. That limited the amount of energy the wing could produce.

Space station commander Michael Fincke said power generated by the wing will help the outpost's crew expand from three to six residents next year and allow more research 220 miles above Earth.

"We're going to need every watt of that power," Fincke said Sunday.

During the first spacewalk last week, a \$100,000 tool kit floated away from lead spacewalker Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper as she tried to clean grease from a lubrication gun. That forced flight controllers to choreograph the other spacewalks with only one pair of grease guns. Endeavour commander Christopher Ferguson said Sunday that the shuttle's spacewalkers had overcome that loss with aplomb.

"We're jacking up the international space station, taking the wheels off, and we're bound to get a little dirty, a little dusty and meet a few surprises along the way," Ferguson said. "I think we've weathered this one just fine and come back with a lot of confidence."

Inside the space station, astronauts spent a fourth day Sunday trying to get a urine processor working. The processor is part of the newly delivered \$154 million system that converts urine, sweat and condensation into drinking water.

Fincke and shuttle astronaut Donald Pettit tried to fix the problem by changing how a centrifuge in the urine processor is mounted, but the machine stopped running after 3 1/2 hours during a test run. During previous tests, the urine processor has worked for just two hours at a time before shutting down. A normal run is about four hours.

"It looks like we made things better, but we're maybe not there yet," Fincke told Mission Control.

Parts of the system that recycle sweat and condensation are working without problems.

Endeavour undocks from the space station on Thanksgiving Day and returns to Earth on Saturday.

20 Years Ago

From The Files Of December 1, 1988

'88 Buck hunters in Fulton County took an estimated 450 deer on the first day of buck season on Monday.

According to his baseball card, Jeff Garber is a member of the Eugene 88 Emeralds, an infielder who bats and throws right-handed and his place of residence is McConnellsburg. Garber was drafted by the Royals in the 10th round of the June 1988 amateur draft and he signed with the team on June 1, 1988. He was assigned to Short A ball in Eugene, Ore., and arrived there in June. Garber has been signed for next year and he has moved up. He will be playing Long A ball instead of Short A ball. He is the son of Loy and Linda Garber of McConnellsburg.

"Wrathchild," the well-known rock band led by Brad Divens, played to a full house at Club 75 in Mercersburg on Friday night and a good number of his fans from this side of the mountain were there for his performance. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Divens of Breezy Point Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Vearl Fletcher of Warfordsburg announce the engagement of their daughter, Rita Fletcher, to Darrin Butt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Butt of Smithsburg, Md.

Specials at the IGA: ground beef, \$1.49 lb.; Baker's chocolate chips, \$1.09 pkg.; meat franks, 69 cents; navel oranges, \$1.79, 5-lb. bag.

A son to Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Mills Jr. of Hancock on November 14; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Foreman of Greencastle on November 16; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Margson of McConnellsburg on November 17; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Finafrock of Burnt Cabins on November 18; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Emery of Orbisonia on November 20; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Price of Big Cove Tannery on November 20; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snyder II of McConnellsburg on November 21.

Deaths: Clarence Pfoutz, Chambersburg; George Fisher, Chambersburg; Walter Curfman, Todd; Zennie Mellott Barick, Mount Joy; John McIlroy Jr., McConnellsburg; Grace Garland, Myersville, Md.; Edna Clingerman, Berkeley Springs; Ted Branche, McConnellsburg; Junior Snyder, Hancock; N. Geneva Stevens, Pensacola, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sharpe of McConnellsburg announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara Sharpe to James Peterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Peterson of Greencastle.

Howard Henry of Clear Ridge celebrated his 80th birthday recently.

Marriage licenses: Jeffrey Fowler, Franklin, Pa., and Jamie Sickles, McConnellsburg.

30 Years Ago

From The Files Of November 22, 1978

'78 Jim Fahey, president of the Creasey Co., wholesale grocery suppliers of Hagerstown, said this week that his company hopes to open up a new supermarket in the store formerly occupied by Mecca Market in Penn's Village Shopping Center. Mecca Market, operated by Hassan Wazni, went out of business in August.

JLG Industries Inc., McConnellsburg, reported that net income for the fiscal 1978 first quarter ended October 31 was \$785,004 or 55 cents a common share, compared to \$664,069, or 51 cents a common share earned in the fiscal 1978 first quarter.

The birth rate for Fulton County during 1977 was 16.6 per thousand population, up from 16.2 from 1976, according to the state Department of Health. There were 192 live births recorded in 1977, compared to 195 in 1976, and infant deaths fell from five in 1976 to two in 1977.

Donna Deshong, daughter of former Fulton County residents Boyd W. DeShong and Mary Garman DeShong, has cut a record on the Chariot Label distributed by Caprice Record Co. She and her family reside at Bowie, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Rhodes were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Tom and Janet Souders.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Fraker of Fort Littleton are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Karen, to Steve Grissinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Grissinger of Maddensville.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherman L. Bernhard, Needmore, were pleasantly pleased at a 65th wedding anniversary party held in their honor at the Cedar Grove United Church of Christ on August 12.

Births at the Medical Center: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Seiders of McConnellsburg on November 5; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Calhoun of Breezewood on November 6; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ritz of Warfordsburg on November 7; a son to Mr. and Mrs. John Martz of Harrisonville on November 8; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Horace Jennings of Harrisonville on November 14; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Dale Petrunio of St. Thomas on November 15; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Erie McMullen of Three Springs on November 16.

Specials at the IGA: turkeys, 69 cent lb.; cranberry sauce, 2 for 79 cents; boneless ham, \$1.79 lb.; cauliflower, 99 cents a head.

Deaths: Victor J. Bair, Chambersburg; Bernard McLucas, Lemasters; Louise McCarty, Hancock; Nina Douglas, Hancock; Lou Fleming, Hustontown; Melvin Grove, Warfordsburg; Nebraska Deshong, Warfordsburg; Howard Dishong, Everett.

40 Years Ago

From The Files Of December 5, 1968

'68 A fund has been started by friends and sympathetic neighbors of the Raymond Melius family of Fort Littleton to help meet the overwhelming expense of hospital bills with which the family has been faced over the past year. Mr. Melius' wife, the former Jean Hess of Saxton, has been a cancer patient for over a year. Following the removal of a kidney last November, Mrs. Melius has required hospitalization many times and just this past Sunday night, was admitted to the Medical Center for further treatment. In addition, during recent months, Mr. Melius and one of the couple's children underwent surgery, which required hospitalization. Mr. and Mrs. Melius are the parents of five children, aged 14, 13, 9 and 4 years and one 16-month-old.

Pictured in this week's issue is the Larkin Bolinger home at Wells Tannery, which was moved intact last week to make way for a new road being built in that area. Faced with the ultimatum of abandoning the home, which Mr. Bolinger built, the family engaged a firm from Mechanicsburg to move the house from its former location to a new foundation, which was erected some 25 yards from the road's right-of-way. While the actual moving was taking place, Mrs. Bolinger, her sisters, Mrs. Edith Beegle of Altoona and Mrs. Maud Earley of Wells Tannery, and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Linda Bolinger of Waterfall, remained inside the house. The move was made without incident.

Work on the installation of the state-mandated overhead

FROM DAYS GONE BY

MEMORY JOGGER



This week's Memory Jogger is the property of the Fulton County Historical Society and pictures the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of George and Bessie Richards. They were married February 5, 1914, by Rev. J.L. Yeavick. Pictured from left to right (behind George and Bessie) are their sons: Harvey, Kenneth, Harold and Robert. The photo was taken by C.B. Chubb in 1964.

traffic signals in the borough has been under way during the past week and should be completed within the next few days.

Birth at the Medical Center: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Junior Wagner of Harrisonville on November 21; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. John Heinbaugh, Mercersburg, on November 21; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Houck, Waterfall, on November 19.

Men in service: Airman Richard L. Hershey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace A. Hershey of McConnellsburg, has received his first U.S. Air Force duty assignment after completing basic training at the Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Airman Larry E. Akers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edison Akers of Needmore, has been graduated from a U.S. Air Force Technical School at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. He was trained as an aircraft mechanic and has been assigned to Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina.

Deaths: Clyde A. Bishop, Spring Run; Delphine Mary Northcraft Clingerman, Hagerstown; Walter R. Gordon, Mercersburg; Emma Hendershot Spade, Buck Valley; M. Filmore Fore, McConnellsburg; Harry Wilson Comerer, Pittsburgh; Russell E. Shiffer, Three Springs; Mrs. Mary V. Reese, Hagerstown; Jo Ann Dean, Mercersburg; Alice Hays Spangler, McConnellsburg.

50 Years Ago

From The Files Of December 4, 1958

'58 Arch Keyser is a patient in Fulton County Medical Center, suffering from a heart attack, which occurred on Friday evening.

Russell Akers left McConnellsburg on Monday to spend the winter in Florida.

Dr. Jean Johnston of London, England, arrived here last week to spend a vacation with her brother and family and her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnston and Miss Beulah Johnston.

Because of the strike, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Crouse of Long Island are spending some time with relatives here. Mr. Crouse, a pilot for Eastern Airlines, is doing some deer hunting while the planes are grounded because of the strike.

Lawrence Snyder and Russell Deshong are back home and greatly improved in health after having been surgical patients in Hagerstown Hospital.

Ex-Police Chief Mont W. McCormick is a patient in the Medical Center, suffering from a compound fracture of the back. He was admitted on Monday, but no details are given as to what caused his injury.

Frank Shaffer of Everett, who is employed on the turnpike at the Bedford Esso Station, narrowly missed having his legs crushed on Saturday when pinned between two cars. Station manager Mark Clevenger of town had finished servicing a car when he stepped across an "island" to a line of cars on the other side. As he stepped up to the back of the car next in line, the car behind suddenly shot forward. Clevenger leaped into the air and threw himself on the fender of the out-of-control car, at the same time shouting to Shaffer to jump. Unable to get aside, Shaffer jumped straight up but could not clear the bumpers of the two cars and was pinned above the ankles. Bumperettes on the bumpers of the two cars kept them from crushing his legs. The accident happened when a woman driver's foot slipped off the brake and struck the accelerator. Shaffer is a brother of Capt. Robert Shaffer, who was killed in a jet crash last week.

At the annual leadership conference of the 13 FFA chapters in Blair, Bedford and Fulton counties last week, all officers for next year were elected from Fulton County. They are: president, Donald Bard of Warfordsburg; vice president, Clyde Brant of Forbes Road; secretary, Kenneth Strait of Green Hill; treasurer, Leon Ritz of Warfordsburg; reporter, Ralph Helman of Forbes Road; sentinel, Bob Weaver of McConnellsburg; chaplain, Harry Landers of Warfordsburg; delegates, Rex Wright of Forbes Road and James Snyder of McConnellsburg and alternate delegates, Ernest Mellott and Raymond Mellott, both of Green Hill.

A tractor-trailer skidded on a snow-covered rural road near Markes in Franklin County on Friday afternoon and crashed into an oncoming car, injuring the driver of the car and a passenger in the truck. Taken to Chambersburg Hospital by ambulance were Russell Ray Reeder, 30, of McConnellsburg, the driver of the car, and Joseph M. Ryder, 67, of Chambersburg, the passenger in the truck. Reeder suffered a fractured left knee, while Ryder suffered fractures of five ribs and the right collarbone.

Calvin Beatty has been elected president of the township offices of Fulton County, with Harvey Gregory as vice president and J. Pierce Gordon as secretary-treasurer.

Homer Black of McConnellsburg was the only Fulton County hunter, as far as can be learned, who bagged a bear this year. Black bagged the 150-pound black bear in Clinton County on November 24. Other members of his hunting party

were Willis Mellott, George Sprowl, Donald Richards and Dan Wilt.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert W. Spade of Rochester, Pa., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 14.

Two local 14-year-old boys were successful deer hunters the first day. Danny Grissinger shot a 4-point buck and Dick Pyles downed a spike buck.

Fulton County recorded its first death of the deer hunting season on Monday when William George Shafer, 70-year-old blacksmith of New Grenada, died of a heart attack, 45 minutes after the opening of the season.

A tree farm sign and certificate of membership in the American Tree Farm System, in recognition of good forest management, were recently awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Henry and Mrs. George E. Tritle of Harrisonville. They won the award for managing their 37 acres of woodland near Gracey for the continuous production of wood harvests while protecting the trees from fire, insects and destructive grazing in accordance with tree farm standards.

Marine Cpl. Jim Chesnut, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Chesnut and husband of the former Gayle I. Helman, also of McConnellsburg, graduated on November 7 from the Non-Commissioned Officers' Leadership School at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Lee Funk of Needmore dropped in at the News office last week before going to Hancock for the winter. He has a good garage at home and will lock up his car for the winter. He mentioned his car, he began reminiscing about his automobile driving life. He knows he is the oldest car owner and driver in the county and believes that the statement might cover the whole state. Lee is 82 years of age and bought his first car in 1903 — three years before auto tags were required. He has owned and driven a car ever since except for a two-year period following an accident — the other fellow ran into him. His first car was a 1903 roadster, a Northern Runabout, built by the Detroit Motor Co. There was no gasoline sold in the county at the time and he ordered it by the barrel from Detroit at a cost of one cent a gallon. Not long after that J.K. Johnston began stocking gasoline by the barrel in front of his store in McConnellsburg, dispensing it with a hand pump and a gallon measure. Despite his age, Mr. Funk continues to teach music and tune pianos. He drives about 10,000 miles a year and his present car has logged 117,000 miles. What became of the old Northern Runabout? It burned up a few years after Lee sold it and bought a 4-cylinder Ford. The buyer of the Runabout was going away for a while and he placed it in a shed. Small as it was, it wouldn't fit, so the owner dismantled it and stored it in pieces. During his absence, the shed burned. There were at least two pictures in existence showing Lee in the tiller-steered Runabout. R.A. Hamil of McConnellsburg has one and Mr. Funk the other.

Deaths: Jacob Calvin Hewitt of Cumberland, Md.; Mrs. T.R. Hixson of Huntingdon; William H. Knepper of Three Springs.

60 Years Ago

From The Files Of December 9, 1948

'48 Births: a son to Mr. and Mrs. John Stenger of McConnellsburg on December 3; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Glen Kesseling of Hustontown on December 5; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Henson of Greencastle on December 2.

A large black bear was killed in Allen's Valley on Tuesday of this week by D.A. Washabaugh of town. Washabaugh, on his way to his sawmill, had parked his car, taken his shotgun and started to walk, hoping to see a deer. Shortly thereafter the bear jumped down a bank and started down a path toward the man. Washabaugh, noticing blood on the snow, realized that the bear had been wounded and feared that it was about to attack him. When it was within about 15 feet, he shot it with his gun, using a lead ball. Since the season is over for bruins, however, the bear was confiscated by a game warden.

70 Years Ago

From The Files Of December 1, 1938

'38 Deaths: Harry Clouser of Burnt Cabins; Donald Caire Shimer of Greencastle; John Henry Williams; Ephriam Franklin Wilkins of Everett.

Howard B. Knepper of Johnstown, a Fulton County native, was severely injured in a car accident last Friday near Johnstown in which one woman was killed. Knepper, a son of Mr. and Mrs. William Knepper of Taylor Township, suffered a compound fracture of the right leg above the knee, a severe puncture wound of the right hip, injuries to the back, head and chest and lacerations of the body.