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Tuesday
July 24, 1990
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Daily Press

Final Edition

95th Year — No. 205 • Hampton Roads' Morning Newspaper • Newport News-Hampton, Va. TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Body of baby is found near dumpster in Lightfoot

By ASHLEA BALL EBELING
Staff Writer

JAMES CITY — The body of a baby girl was found in a black plastic garbage bag lying near a dumpster behind a Lightfoot business Monday afternoon.

An employee of the business, David Crockett, decided to open the unfamiliar bag before toning it in the dumpster with his load of trash. Inside, he found the dead body of an infant.

Dr. Joseph Brown, the local medical examiner, estimated the baby girl was close to full term, up to eight months past the time of conception, said Captain Ken Middlebrook of the James City County Police Department.

The body was taken to the state Medical Examiner's office in Richmond for a complete autopsy to try to determine the baby's race and age, the time of death and whether it was aborted, miscarried or premature.

Crockett, an employee of the Piano Organ Outlet at 6313 Richmond Road, found the infant still attached to her umbilical cord and wrapped in a white sheet in the bag just before 5 p.m. Monday, Middlebrook said.

The bag was placed about 20 feet from the blue BFI dumpster in front of a row of 11 empty piano crates in the parking lot behind the store.

"It was definitely set aside," Middlebrook said. "We're speculating that someone wanted us to find the baby — that the mother had the conscience not to throw the baby in the dumpster in hopes that it would get a decent burial."

The baby appeared to be a light-skinned black child, Middlebrook said. It had some head hair already and was not bruised or scarred in any apparent way, but could have been left there as early as Friday, he said.

Middlebrook said he could not remember a similar case of an infant's body being dumped in the county.

One employee of the piano outlet, who would not give his name, said Crockett's account "shocked everybody. It turned our stomachs. He said he saw the curly top of hair on its head and thought it was a doll at first."

According to Crockett's son, Phil, who manages the store, the elder Crockett opened the bag, saw the sheet, pulled it apart

■ Please see Baby, A5

Serial killer sought

Key witness' input expected

By RONNIE CROCKER
Staff Writer

NORFOLK — Six unsolved murders and two disappearances on or near the Peninsula are almost certainly related, and someone with "intimate knowledge" about them may be ready to lead authorities to the killer or killers, a State Police official said Monday.

Larry McCann, a behavioral science specialist, said psychological profiles of the crime scenes indicate this second person may be in danger from the killer or killers, but he would not say whether the person is an accomplice or confidant of the killer.

"What we're looking at here is a puzzle," said McCann. "Think of a puzzle with a lot of little pieces. This guy has got the big piece."

McCann was one of several speakers at a press conference to kick off a publicity campaign to make people aware of the cases — which date back to 1988 — and to plea for help in solving them.

None of the speakers would discuss the profiles in detail and McCann would not say how the information in the profiles led to his conclusion about the second person.

"I'm talking to a specific person, and he knows why he needs to come forward now," said McCann, adding that the comment was not an offer of amnesty for the person.

McCann said he was there only to "enable" the mysterious second person to tell his story.

"That second person is looking for a way to get out from this bind," he said. "Now he knows that way. He can come forward to the FBI, to the State Police, to the local authorities."

Irvin B. Wells III, special agent in charge of the FBI's Norfolk office, said a man or men most likely are responsible for the murders of three couples and the abduction and possible murders of the fourth pair.

Police long have speculated about whether the murders are the work of a serial killer or killers, and in recent weeks have been more willing to voice that concern publicly.

McCann said Monday it would be almost impossible for four crimes with as many similarities as these share to occur in the same geographic region in a three-year period.

"Some numbers were crunched a while back, and it's highly unlikely this is four different guys," he said. "Just the geography of it."

Wells and others have said circumstances that seem to link the crimes include the fact that all involved couples in secluded areas near water and all the victims apparently were led to their deaths as if under someone's control.

That has led to speculation that the crimes may have been committed by a police officer or someone impersonating one.

■ Please see Deaths, A5

ADRIN SNIDER/Staff photographer
Larry McCann, behavioral science specialist with the State Police, stands beside a map showing the four related incidents, most of which happened on the Peninsula. Chart, photos, A5.

Bush picks judge as court nominee

N.Y. Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Acting swiftly in the face of a divisive debate on the abortion issue, President Bush announced on Monday that he would nominate David H. Souter, a 50-year-old federal appeals court judge, to the Supreme Court.

Only three days after Bush received a letter from William J. Brennan Jr., revealing his plan to step down, the president declared that his choice to take the seat was Souter, a man he described as having a "keen intellect as well as a wise balance between the theoretical and practical aspects of the law."

The president said he was familiar with Souter's "general views," because he was seriously considered as a nominee when Justice Anthony Kennedy was selected in 1987. His name was also on the list when Antonin Scalia was chosen in 1986. But Bush said that he did not use "the litmus test 'approach'" with Souter on abortion or other issues.

"You might just think that the whole nomination had something to do with abortion," the president said as he announced Souter's nomination to reporters on Monday in the White House. "It's something much broader than that. I have too much respect for the Supreme Court for that."

He said that he did not quiz the judge on his views on abortion or affirmative action or other matters that will shape the future of the court, saying: "It would have been inappropriate to ask him his views on specific issues."

Initial reaction indicated that Bush might be moving toward his goal of avoiding an immediate bloodletting over abortion.

Abortion rights groups said that the public had a right to know Souter's views on abortion

■ Please see Court, A4

AP
President Bush introduces his Supreme Court nominee, David H. Souter, at a press conference Monday at the White House.

Souter's colleagues remark on his dedication to the law

By AARON EPSTEIN
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President Bush's choice for the pivotal Supreme Court seat vacated by liberal William J. Brennan Jr. is a scholarly bachelor who — in the words of several friends — is "married to the law."

David Hackett Souter, who will be 51 in September, is an astonishingly bright judge from New Hampshire who is known to delve into his work well into the night and on weekends.

State Supreme Court Justice William E. Johnson recalled showing some relatives around

■ Bush moves quickly but with caution, Editorial, A6

the courthouse in Concord one day "and in walks David. I didn't know he worked on Sundays, too."

"He's very monastic in his approach to the law," says Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H., who claims to know Souter better than anyone except Souter's mother. "If he has any faults, it's that he works much too hard."

"He almost reminds you of a cleric," remarked Paul McEachern, a past president of the New Hampshire Bar Association who in 1986 unsuccessfully ran for governor against John Sununu, now White House chief of staff.

When Souter, a short, slender man, does get away from jurisprudence, he hikes, climbs mountains and reads voraciously, mostly 19th century works, biographies and history.

"He probably reads on the mountain," Justice Johnson said. "I have the Harvard Classics on my shelf, too, and I admit I haven't nearly read them all.

■ Please see Souter, A4

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Today's weather: Warm and humid, 40% chance of rain. High upper 80s. Low 70. Details, A2.

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Stocks tumble: Many investors were downcast Monday morning as the Dow Jones industrial average fell over 100 points. It later recovered part of the loss to finish down 56.44 points. Stories, B5.

The rich got richer and the poor got poorer

Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — The income gap between the rich and the rest of America grew so fast during the past decade that the wealthiest fifth of households will receive as much after-tax revenue as everyone else combined this year, budget analysts reported Monday.

The report by the private Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows that while the poor grew poorer and the rich got richer during 1980s, the middle class struggled to stay about even.

"The most affluent Americans reaped exceptionally large income gains during that decade, while middle-income Americans gained little and low-income Americans fell further behind," the report said.

■ Please see Gap, A5

Lotto winners cash in

1 jackpot recipient remains a mystery

From staff and wire reports

RICHMOND — A Virginia Beach couple and a waitress at a Richmond seafood restaurant came to Virginia Lottery Department headquarters Monday to claim their share of a record $20.7 million jackpot in the state Lotto game.

The person holding the third winning ticket — bought in Norfolk — still had not come forward late Monday.

William and Mary Forbes, both 51, arrived at the state lottery office Monday afternoon to claim their $6.9 million share of the prize for correctly picking 7-11-12-13-18-34.

Mrs. Forbes said the couple purchased the ticket Saturday at the Farm Fresh at 230 E. Little Creek Rd. in Norfolk just hours before the late evening drawing.

Carol A. Johnson, the other winner who came forward Monday, purchased the winning ticket Saturday night at a Richmond convenience store.

Johnson

Mrs. Forbes said she has been playing the same numbers for six months, but that they have no particular significance.

"They just came into my head. I just picked them," she said.

Mrs. Forbes also said that she and her husband plan to invest the money and that they don't intend "to go out and keep

■ Please see Lotto, A5

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