

Fort Myers

Partly cloudy; high in 90s; low in the 70s/18A

NEWS-PRESS

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Customs inspection office for regional airport on hold/1B

Rockets down Celtics, close series to 3-2/1C

Report: Scott knew details of death

By CHUCK TOBIN
Charlotte News-Press Staff Writer

PLENA CORONA — Bradley Philip Scott knew details about 12-year-old Linda Pikartiz's death before they were made public, and a head found in the car of a family member had the girl's matches, a necktie and a cigarette, a detective said in a courtroom filing Thursday.

Charlotte County sheriff's Sgt. Ken Burton included the additional evidence in a four-page sworn statement filed in a hearing Thursday on prosecutor's request to have Scott's 1974 Buick Wildcat impounded or released. The judge postponed a decision on the bid.

Assistant State Attorney Paul Altemus said he was Scott, 35, kept in jail until his trial.

"We believe an amount of bond is sufficient to guarantee his appearance at future court proceedings," the prosecutor said.

County Judge William McVey ordered the hearing continued until 9:30 a.m. Monday after Assistant Public Defender Wayne Woodard advised that he did not want to review Burton's statement. The judge ordered that Scott remain in jail until that hearing.

A county grand jury also will meet Monday, Altemus said, to decide if enough evidence exists to indict Scott for first-degree murder.

Early in the morning, details released in the statement Thursday after the Oct. 12, 1974, murder, Scott asked his employer, who lived near the spot where Pikartiz' body was found, "What I heard about the little girl who was murdered in the woods" near the employer's house.

Scott at the time said he had heard about the details of the murder at a police roadblock where he had been stopped that morning.

The murder had not been disclosed to the public and no roadblocks had been set up, Burton said in his statement.

"The roadblock was set up, our way, and information given to the public," Burton said in his statement.

A thorough search of all local media sources ... revealed the earliest story concerning the events of the crime was not available to the public until after the Oct. 13, 1974.

A smallish evidence was found in the path along which lawmen said Pikartiz' body was dragged. A waistband was missing from that evidence.

A waistband that "exactly fits the shape" of the missing head on the necktie was recovered from under the back seat of Scott's girlfriend's car, the statement said. A federal crime lab matched the head to the necktie.

Three witnesses have given sworn statements saying they saw Scott sitting in the car talking with Pikartiz the night she was murdered, according to information filed last week. Each witness saw a conversation occur at a different location and time.

Scott had helped install a speaker system at a home two doors away from Pikartiz' house approximately three weeks before the murder. Pikartiz had been to the construction site several times while workers were there.

Scott also was seen giving the girl a can of Budweiser beer at a construction site.

See PELTONZ, back page this section.



Joe Tomlin/News-Press

With hands shackled, Bradley Philip Scott protects his face from courtroom spectators Thursday as he is escorted by Charlotte County Jail medical director Mark Stoverberger to a holding cell.

Legislature hostage of education funding plan

By SUSAN TRAYLOR
Charlotte News-Press Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — A crucial committee meeting on a proposed 1-cent increase in the state's cigarette tax was delayed Thursday as more and more legislators began to speculate that this year's session may not end on time tonight.

The House Finance and Taxation Committee had scheduled a meeting to discuss the cigarette tax hike and a proposed increase to the local option gasoline tax. Committee Chairman Carl Dugas, D-Charlotte, first delayed the meeting for one hour, then announced on the House floor that the meeting had been canceled. Dugas then quickly left the capital.

House Majority Leader Jim Mills, D-Crestview, and House Speaker James Harold Thompson, D-Crestview, noted that the cigarette tax is a trouble in the committee, which must pass it before it can be brought to the floor for a vote.

They said the meeting was delayed to give the House staff time to finish a computer program showing how the \$42 million in new tax money would affect state education institutions that get federal money.

The staff already had prepared more than 38 computer spreadsheets to show the effects of the funding formula. But each time, the Senate has complained that the formula didn't spread education dollars equitably among all counties.

Representatives of both chambers were scheduled to meet on the night Thursday to review the computer breakdown and try to resolve the education funding formula — the only major unresolved part of the budget.

"Whether or not we can agree on this is going to decide whether or not we're going to get out of here on time," said Rep. Carl Cooper, D-Plant City.

Talk of extending the session into the weekend surfaced repeatedly Thursday but no one was willing to give up on finishing on time yet.

"We'll make it by tonight, but we may have to pull the plug on the clock for awhile," said Sen. President Harry Johnston, D-River Plains Beach.

"We're not talking Saturday yet, but we're talking close," said House Budget Chairman Sam Bell, D-Grand Beach. But Bell said failure of the cigarette tax would assure that session would end on schedule.

"It's going to have to be by. We'd have to go back to the drawing boards," Bell said. The cigarette tax is needed to balance the proposed \$1.1 billion budget for 1986-87.

The Senate easily passed a 6-cent cigarette tax increase earlier in the session. But House members have opposed the tax and only agreed to try to pass the 1-cent increase after days of hearings and discussions between leaders of both chambers and Gov. Bob Graham.

Mills said his latest vote count shows members will support the tax if they are convinced that they are getting a good overall budget in return.

Pleads innocent

By EDWARD WALSH
Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled Senate today rejected President Reagan's proposed arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Thursday's vote required a minimum of 54 senators to approve the politically controversial transaction.

With Vice President George Bush presiding as a symbol of the administration's determination to proceed with the sale, Sen. William L. Roth, R-Calif., moved the 34th vote that defeated the sale's fate in the necessary 50-vote majority and sustained Reagan's veto of a congressional resolution deepening the sale.

Armstrong, joined seven other senators who switched after opposing the sale last month. They did so after a barrage of administration lobbying that portrayed the sale as a test of the president's leadership and credibility.

Sen. Paula Hawkins, R-Pa., and Sen. Lawrence Clinton, D-Va., voted to override the veto and oppose the sale.

Along with the backing of four senators absent May 8 when the Senate voted that defeated the sale's fate in the necessary 50-vote majority and sustained Reagan's veto of a congressional resolution deepening the sale.

See ARMS, back page this section.

Senate OKs arms sales to Saudis

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See ARMS, back page this section.

Pelton guilty in spy case

By SUSAN SCHMIDT
Washington Post News Service

BALTIMORE — Ronald V. Pelton was convicted Thursday of spying for the KGB by selling U.S. defense secrets to the Soviet Union.

The jury in federal court here deliberated for 13 hours before returning a verdict convicting Pelton, a 47-year-old former National Security Agency employee, on one count of conspiracy, two counts of espionage and one count of disclosing classified communications. Pelton is an unauthorized person. He was indicted on one count of espionage.

Pelton received \$2,000 from the Soviets for his espionage activities, which began after he left NSA in 1979.

See PELTON, back page this section.

Lee sheriff's officer Adams faces trial on tax charges

By LEROY W. MELSEK JR.
News-Press Staff Writer

TAMPA — Lee County sheriff's Lt. Steve Adams pleaded innocent Thursday to a federal indictment charging him with three counts of defrauding the government by filing false tax returns.

After the plea, Adams' lawyer claimed that Adams of Lee County sheriff's department have failed to report income on special-duty pay.

Adams, 34, was indicted last week by a federal grand jury in Tampa. He appeared before a federal judge Thursday but kept quiet while his lawyer pleaded innocent for him.

Federal Judge Paul Gester Jr. placed Adams on \$5,000 bond and set trial in Tampa for July 15 or as soon as possible after that date.

Gester also scheduled a hearing on Adams' indictment for June 12 in Tampa.

The maximum penalty upon conviction on all three counts totals \$120,000 in fines and two years in prison.

The indictment alleges that Adams filed false statements on his tax returns for 1980, 1981 and 1982.

Records show that Adams reported more income on those returns than he earned in salary at the sheriff's department each of those years.

The indictment claims that Adams filed returns showing he earned about \$29,000 each of the three years.

Sheriff's department records show that in 1980 Adams salary was \$19,919. In 1981 his salary was \$22,222. In 1982 his salary was \$24,100.

Adams, who has been with the department for 15 years, now earns \$31,772, according to sheriff's department payroll records.

The indictment doesn't explain the differences between what Adams claimed on his returns and his salary for those years.

Adams' lawyer, Steve Frank of Fort Myers, said he believes the grand jury is accusing Adams of failure to specify on his returns that some of the money he was reporting was special-duty pay.

See ADAMS, back page this section.



Thomas A. Price/News-Press

Lee County sheriff's Lt. Steve Adams (left) leaves Tampa federal courthouse Thursday with attorney Steve Frank of Fort Myers after Adams' arraignment.

9 beached whales die, 18 ail in Keys

By KEN WELT
New York Times Staff Writer

Fortier Thursday observations from an airplane flying over Eagle Point had led experts to report nine whales died, four were critical and 15 remained in guarded condition, Thursday night after beaching themselves on the low, sand-strewn islands at the tip of the Florida Keys, officials said.

"They've undergone a lot of stress, many and the animals are weakened from exposure," said Ken Welt, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "It's possible that some more of the animals made it this evening."

A herd of 17 whales was found trying to beach on Male Key near here about 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Welt said. Three of those died, because whales beached 14 miles but discovered another three further down the beach. A second group of 14 whales was discovered beached on Eagle Point, some four miles away, around midday, she said. Six of those whales were dead and four in critical condition.

See WHALES, back page this section.

Challenger astronauts' families may be suing NASA, contractors

Attorneys claiming to represent families of some Challenger astronauts have made inquiries about suing NASA or contractors involved in the January space shuttle disaster, say two law firms. **/2A**

Senate panel rejects Reagan's pick for judgehip

The Senate Judiciary Committee in its first rejection of a Reagan nominee to the U.S. District Court bench, refused to OK Jefferson B. Sessions III for a south Alabama judgeship. **/2A**

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