

2-B — The Tampa Tribune

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**Tampa Bay Metro Briefs**

A Tribune Staff Report

**Young patient doing well**

ST. PETERSBURG — A 5-year-old girl who received her mother's bone marrow to cure a rare disease is doing "beautifully," said doctors at All Children's Hospital.

"At this point of the game, things are going as well as can be expected," said Dr. Martin R. Kempner, University of South professor of pediatrics at All Children's.

The little girl from Lakeland suffers from leukemia Type B, a rare disease in which the body's cells lack an enzyme that breaks down complex sugar. If the disease is not controlled, it will show signs of mental retardation by age 3 and die before her 10th birthday.

The disease is so rare that it occurs once in every 10,000 births.

Doctors transplanted bone marrow from Rhonda Matthews, the girl's mother, two weeks ago. It was the first time the procedure had been used in the United States to control the disease.

Kempner said that early tests indicate the new bone marrow is functioning properly.

However, Kempner added that it may be up to a year before doctors know whether the transplanted bone marrow will be effective in controlling the disease.



Photo photograph by FRED FOR

**Manatee deputy fired**

BRADENTON — A Manatee County sheriff's deputy was fired Thursday for stealing a videotape from a local hardware store, Sheriff Charles B. Wells announced.

David Jenkins, 36, joined the Sheriff's Office in August 1987 after working with the Palm Beach and Bradenton police departments.

Wells said Jenkins admitted he took the tape from Scotty's at 1930 Carter Road West after the Sheriff's Office was alerted to the Jan. 14 theft by store security.

**Panel ruled unconstitutional**

CLEARWATER — In a decision that could have enormous impact on the future of Pinellas County, a circuit court judge ruled Thursday that the agency that regulates growth in Pinellas is unconstitutional.

The decision is a paralyzing setback for the Pinellas Planning Council and could open the way, council supporters say, for unchecked growth in Pinellas, already the most densely populated county in Florida.

Officials in Safety Harbor, which brought the suit against the council, wanted the ruling as a critical victory in their struggle to determine their own destiny. Supporters of the council predicted a counter-suit if the council is not reinstated, but even as they rallied to its defense, they acknowledged they were not sure how to proceed.

**Nursery owner sues state**

BARTOW — A Vester Haven citrus nursery owner filed a lawsuit against the state Thursday, the second such action taken since a Pinck circuit judge ruled in favor of Progressive nursery owner Richard Kuhn, who claimed in a separate lawsuit that the state recently destroyed his trees to fight cancer.

Reed Bros. Inc. filed its lawsuit Thursday against state Agriculture Commissioner Doyle Conner, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the state, asking for damages in excess of \$1,000.

Reed Bros. contends in the lawsuit that when the state imposed a spraying quarantine in December 1985 on all citrus nurseries trees coming from "swagler" nurseries, the nursery had no choice but to burn its 363,000 trees. The nursery maintains the trees were burned because they could not be maintained for a full year in greenhouses and had been "responder" values.

**Sizzling fashion**

A swiving cape tops a mixed paid ensemble by Bill Bliss Thursday evening in the 30th annual Ebony Fashion Fair show in Tampa Theatre. Fashion creators by top international designers were featured in the slick, fast-paced event produced by Ebony magazine. The charity benefit this year was called "Fashion Sizzle" and featured clothes by designers Christian Lacroix, Louis Ferrand, Yves St. Laurent and Pierre Cardin.

William Kenneth Barrow, a former New Port Richey real estate dealer, could have gone to prison because he flunked out of his counseling program for refusing to admit his guilt.

But Circuit Judge Lawrence Knapp decided Thursday to give Barrow a second chance after hearing arguments from Barrow's lawyer that he could enter a less restrictive counseling program. Knapp allowed Barrow to enroll in a program that does not require an admission of guilt.

NEW PORT RICHEY — A convicted child molester who refuses to admit his guilt will get a second chance to complete the psychological counseling required as part of his probationary sentence, a circuit judge ruled Thursday.

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**Trio charged with extortion**

SEMIWOLE — Two men and a woman were charged Thursday with offering to give a man "incriminating" photographs of himself in bed with a woman in exchange for \$25,000.

Randy Scott Carr, 33, Lori Ann Koen, 22, and Scott Alan Kent, 19, all of 8300 Quail Road in Seminole, were charged with extortion. They were being held at Pinellas County Jail Thursday night in lieu of \$10,000 bond each.

According to jail records, the trio offered to exchange the photographs of the man for \$25,000. The man wrote a check for the amount and gave it to Lori Koen, who cashed it. The trio then asked for and received an additional \$1,000 check before giving the photographs to the man, the jail records stated.

Versions of some of these stories appear in regional sections of The Tampa Tribune.

**Suspect convicted of burning 12-year-old to death in 1978**

By Rick Barry  
Tribune Staff Writer

**BRADENTON —** After deliberating for nearly 12 hours over two days, jurors in Punta Gorda pronounced Bradley Philip Scott guilty of murder Thursday in the burning death of 12-year-old Linda Pikuritz nearly 10 years ago.

Jurors will hear additional testimony today on whether Scott, 27, should receive the death penalty in a case that troubled the nearby retirement area for years after Pikuritz's charred, still-smoldering body was discovered by firefighters in a wooded area of Port Charlotte on Columbus Day 1978.

The county medical examiner, Peter Tab, testified the girl had been doused with gasoline and burned alive.

The jury's recommendation will be weighed by Circuit Judge William McIver, who presided over the two-day trial that he permitted to videotape in its entirety, including testimony that showed Scott knew details of the crime before any news reports were broadcast or published. The jury asked for that portion of the testimony, and several others, to be replayed.

Kenneth Barton, a former detective with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, spent a full year on the previously abandoned case after he was assigned to it full time by an acting sheriff, working outside of his home, he turned in a 2,000-page report in May 1986, a grand jury indicted Scott 11 days later.

A short time later, when acting Sheriff Glenn Skipp returned to office after being charged with charges stemming from the purchase of a department airplane, Barton left the department under pressure. Skipp reportedly has criticized Barton's one-man investigation.

Barton since has worked for the county building department.



Kenneth Barton, who solved the case, had been criticized for his work.

"I'm really pleased, and relieved," Barton said Thursday, moments after the guilty verdict was read. "I believe justice has at last been served." The lengthy deliberations unswayed him, he contended.

Key evidence included the jury's early knowledge of the details of the crime and a tiny smudge and a strand of hair found in Scott's car. The smudge had a tiny hole that matched exactly a space found in a broken shell necklace found beside Pikuritz's body; the hair matched Pikuritz's hair type.

Barton testified eight times for a total of six hours.

Scott's mother, Theresa, testified she worked with smudges as a hobby and frequently rode in her son's car.

Defense attorney Leonard Johnson contended prosecutor Donald Palibicki's case was purely circumstantial and weak and that the facts of the case could easily fit any of several men.

Johnson also told the jury his client was merely a "convenient suspect," named upon by a step-missed detective working for an arrested.

The six-man, six-woman jury, sequestered in a nearby motel during deliberations, didn't buy it. Their verdict was met with an emotional outcry from Pikuritz's parents and Scott's wife, April, and other family members who were present in the courtroom each day.

Palibicki said the jury's decision was a vindication of Barton's investigation, "which was really nothing more than good, solid police work."

He interviewed people and checked out leads the department already had on the list but didn't bother to check out. Two of the witnesses had critical identification information.

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