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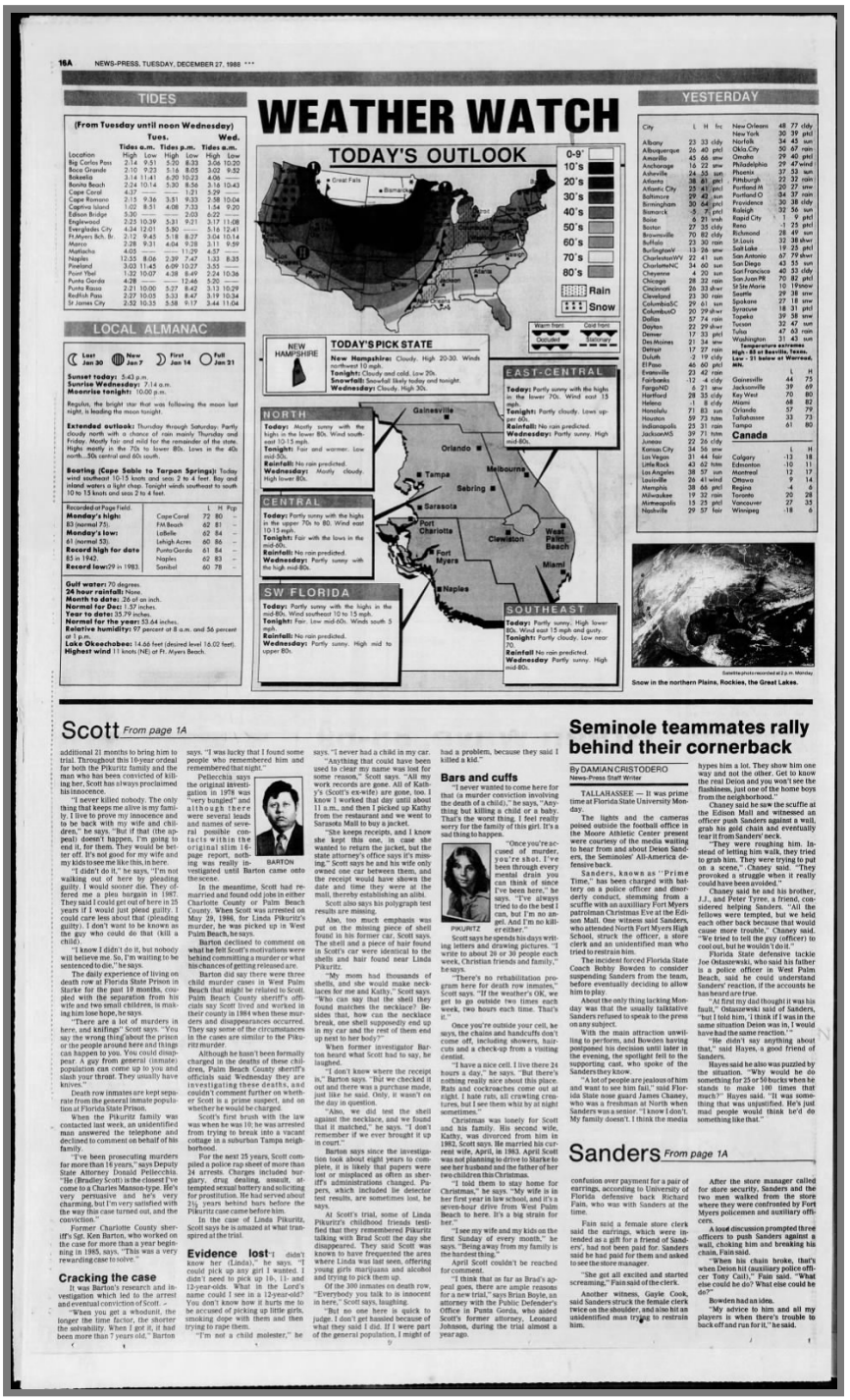

16A NEWS-PRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1988 ***

WEATHER WATCH

TIDES

(From Tuesday until noon Wednesday)

Location	Tues. Tides a.m. High	Low	Tides p.m. High	Low	Wed. Tides a.m. High	Low
Big Carlos Pass	2:14	9:51	5:20	8:33	3:06	10:20
Boca Grande	2:10	9:23	5:16	8:05	3:02	9:52
Bokeelia	3:14	11:41	6:20	10:23	4:06	----
Bonita Beach	2:24	10:14	5:30	8:56	3:16	10:43
Cape Coral	4:37	----	----	1:21	5:29	----
Cape Romano	2:15	9:36	5:31	9:33	2:58	10:04
Captiva Island	1:02	8:51	4:08	7:33	1:54	9:20
Edison Bridge	5:30	----	----	2:03	6:22	----
Englewood	2:23	10:39	5:31	9:21	3:17	11:08
Everglades City	4:34	12:01	5:30	----	5:16	12:41
Ft.Myers Bch. Br.	2:12	9:45	5:18	8:27	3:04	10:14
Marco	2:28	9:31	4:04	9:38	3:11	9:59
Matlacha	4:05	----	----	11:29	4:57	----
Naples	12:55	8:06	2:39	7:47	1:33	8:35
Pineland	3:03	11:45	6:09	10:27	3:55	----
Pivot Pnt	1:32	10:07	4:38	8:49	2:24	10:36
Punta Gorda	4:28	----	----	12:46	5:20	----
Punta Rassa	2:21	10:00	5:27	8:42	3:13	10:29
Redfish Pass	2:27	10:05	5:33	8:47	3:19	10:34
St James City	2:52	10:35	5:58	9:17	3:44	11:04

LOCAL ALMANAC

Last Jan 30 · New Jan 7 · First Jan 14 · Full Jan 21

Sunset today: 5:43 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday: 7:14 a.m.
Moonrise tonight: 10:00 p.m.

Regular, the bright star that was following the moon last night, is leading the moon tonight.

Extended outlook: Thursday through Saturday: Partly cloudy north with a chance of rain mainly Thursday and Friday. Mostly fair and mild for the remainder of the state. Highs mostly in the 70s to lower 80s. Lows in the 40s north...30s central and 60s south.

Boating (Cape Sable to Tarpon Springs): Today wind southeast 10-15 knots and seas 2 to 4 feet. Bay and inland waters a light chop. Tonight winds southeast to south 10 to 15 knots and seas 2 to 4 feet.

Recorded at Page Field.

		L	H	Pcp
Monday's high: 83 (normal 75); **Monday's low:** 61 (normal 53); **Record high for date** 85 in 1942; **Record low:** 29 in 1983.	Cape Coral	72	80	--
	FM Beach	62	81	--
	Labelle	62	84	--
	Lehigh Acres	60	86	--
	Punta Gorda	61	84	--
	Naples	62	83	--
	Sanibel	60	78	--

Gulf water: 70 degrees.
24 hour rainfall: None.
Month to date: .26 of an inch.
Normal for Dec: 1.57 inches.
Year to date: 35.79 inches.
Normal for the year: 53.66 inches.
Relative humidity: 97 percent at 8 a.m. and 56 percent at 1 p.m.
Lake Okeechobee: 14.66 feet (desired level 16.02 feet).
Highest wind 11 knots (NE) at Ft. Myers Beach.

TODAY'S OUTLOOK

TODAY'S PICK STATE

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire: Cloudy. High 20-30. Winds northeast 10 mph.
Tonight: Cloudy and cold. Low 20s.
Snowfall: Snowfall likely today and tonight.
Wednesday: Cloudy. High 30s.

NORTH

Today: Mostly sunny with the highs in the upper 70s to near 80. Wind east 10-15 mph.
Tonight: Fair and warmer. Low mid-50s.
Rainfall: No rain predicted.
Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. High lower 80s.

CENTRAL

Today: Partly sunny with the highs in the upper 70s to 80. Wind east 10-15 mph.
Tonight: Fair with the lows in the mid-60s.
Rainfall: No rain predicted.
Wednesday: Partly sunny with the high mid-80s.

SW FLORIDA

Today: Partly sunny with the highs in the mid-80s. Wind southeast 10 to 15 mph.
Tonight: Fair. Low mid-60s. Winds south 5 mph.
Rainfall: No rain predicted.
Wednesday: Partly sunny. High mid to upper 80s.

EAST-CENTRAL

Today: Partly sunny with the highs in the lower 70s. Wind east 15 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows upper 60s.
Rainfall: No rain predicted.
Wednesday: Partly sunny. High mid-80s.

SOUTHEAST

Today: Partly sunny. High lower 80s. Wind east 15 mph and gusty.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low near 70.
Rainfall No rain predicted.
Wednesday Partly sunny. High mid-80s.

YESTERDAY

City	L	H	Prc
Albany	23	33	cldy
Albuquerque	26	40	ptcl
Amarillo	40	66	snw
Anchorage	16	22	snw
Asheville	24	55	sun
Atlanta	38	61	ptcl
Atlantic City	25	41	ptcl
Baltimore	29	42	sun
Birmingham	30	64	ptcl
Bismarck	-5	9	ptcl
Boise	9	21	snfl
Boston	27	35	cldy
Brownsville	70	82	cldy
Buffalo	23	30	rain
Burlington Vt	13	26	snw
Charleston WV	22	41	sun
Charlotte NC	34	60	sun
Cheyenne	-4	20	sun
Chicago	28	32	rain
Cincinnati	26	33	dsnw
Cleveland	23	30	rain
Columbia SC	29	61	sun
Columbus O	20	29	dsnw
Dallas	57	74	rain
Dayton	22	29	dsnw
Denver	17	33	ptcl
Des Moines	21	34	snw
Detroit	17	27	rain
Duluth	-2	19	cldy
El Paso	46	60	ptcl
Evansville	23	42	rain
Fairbanks	-12	-4	cldy
Fargo ND	6	21	snw
Hartford	28	33	cldy
Helena	-1	8	cldy
Honolulu	71	83	sun
Houston	59	73	rain
Indianapolis	25	31	rain
Jacksonville	39	71	hthn
Juneau	22	26	cldy
Kansas City	34	56	snw
Las Vegas	31	44	fair
Little Rock	43	62	hthn
Los Angeles	38	57	sun
Louisville	26	41	wind
Memphis	38	66	ptcl
Milwaukee	19	32	rain
Minneapolis	15	25	ptcl
Nashville	29	57	fair
New Orleans	48	77	cldy
New York	30	39	ptcl
Norfolk	34	45	sun
Okla City	50	67	rain
Omaha	29	40	ptcl
Philadelphia	29	47	wind
Phoenix	37	53	sun
Pittsburgh	22	32	rain
Portland Me	20	27	snw
Portland O	34	37	rain
Providence	30	38	cldy
Raleigh	32	56	sun
Rapid City	1	9	ptcl
Reno	-1	25	ptcl
Richmond	28	49	sun
St Louis	32	38	dsnw
Salt Lake	19	23	ptcl
San Antonio	67	79	dsnw
San Diego	43	55	sun
San Francisco	40	53	cldy
San Juan PR	70	82	ptcl
St Ste Marie	10	19	snow
Seattle	29	38	snw
Spokane	27	18	snw
Syracuse	18	31	ptcl
Topeka	39	58	snw
Tucson	32	47	sun
Tulsa	47	63	rain
Washington	31	43	sun

Temperature extremes.
High - 83 at Bastrilla, Texas.
Low - 21 below at Warroad, Mn.

Canada	L	H
Calgary	-12	18
Edmonton	-10	11
Montreal	12	17
Ottawa	9	14
Regina	-4	-5
Toronto	20	28
Vancouver	27	35
Winnipeg	-18	6

Satellite photo recorded at 2 p.m. Monday

Snow in the northern Plains, Rockies, the Great Lakes.

Scott From page 1A

additional 21 months to bring him to trial. Throughout this 10-year ordeal for both the Pikuritz family and the man who has been convicted of killing her, Scott has always proclaimed his innocence.

"I never killed nobody. The only thing that keeps me alive is my family. I live to prove my innocence and to be back with my wife and children," he says. "But if that (the appeal) doesn't happen, I'm going to end it, for them. They would be better off. It's not good for my wife and my kids to see me like this, in here.

"I didn't do it," he says, "I'm not walking out of here by pleading guilty. I would sooner die. They offered me a plea bargain in 1987. They said I could get out of here in 25 years if I would just plead guilty. I could care less about that (pleading guilty). I don't want to be known as the guy who could do that (kill a child).

"I know I didn't do it, but nobody will believe me. So, I'm waiting to be sentenced to die," he says.

The daily experience of living on death row at Florida State Prison in Starke for the past 10 months, coupled with the separation from his wife and two small children, is making him lose hope, he says.

"There are a lot of murders in here, and knifings" Scott says. "You say the wrong thing about the prison or the people around here and things can happen to you. You could disappear. A guy from general (inmate) population can come up to you and slash your throat. They usually have knives."

Death row inmates are kept separate from the general inmate population at Florida State Prison.

When the Pikuritz family was contacted last week, an unidentified man answered the telephone and declined to comment on behalf of his family.

"I've been prosecuting murders for more than 16 years," says Deputy State Attorney Donald Pellecchia. "He (Bradley Scott) is the closest I've come to a Charles Manson-type. He's very persuasive and he's very charming, but I'm very satisfied with the way this case turned out, and the conviction."

Former Charlotte County sheriff's Sgt. Ken Barton, who worked on the case for more than a year beginning in 1985, says, "This was a very rewarding case to solve."

Cracking the case

It was Barton's research and investigation which led to the arrest and eventual conviction of Scott. -

"When you get a whodunit, the longer the time factor, the shorter the solvability. When I got it, it had been more than 7 years old," Barton says. "I was lucky that I found some people who remembered him and remembered that night."

BARTON

Pellecchia says the original investigation in 1978 was "very bungled" and although there were several leads and names of several possible contacts within the original slim 16-page report, nothing was really investigated until Barton came onto the scene.

In the meantime, Scott had remarried and found odd jobs in either Charlotte County or Palm Beach County. When Scott was arrested on May 28, 1986, for Linda Pikuritz's murder, he was picked up in West Palm Beach, he says.

Barton declined to comment on what he felt Scott's motivations were behind committing a murder or what his chances of getting released are.

Barton did say there were three child murder cases in West Palm Beach that might be related to Scott. Palm Beach County sheriff's officials say Scott lived and worked in their county in 1984 when these murders and disappearances occurred. They say some of the circumstances in the cases are similar to the Pikuritz murder.

Although he hasn't been formally charged in the deaths of these children, Palm Beach County sheriff's officials said Wednesday they are investigating these deaths, and couldn't comment further on whether Scott is a prime suspect, and on whether he would be charged.

Scott's first brush with the law was when he was 10, he was arrested from trying to break into a vacant cottage in a suburban Tampa neighborhood.

For the next 25 years, Scott compiled a police rap sheet of more than 24 arrests. Charges included burglary, drug dealing, assault, attempted sexual battery and soliciting for prostitution. He had served about 2½ years behind bars before the Pikuritz case came before him.

In the case of Linda Pikuritz, Scott says he is amazed at what transpired at the trial.

Evidence lost

"I didn't know her (Linda)," he says. "I could pick up any girl I wanted. I didn't need to pick up 10-, 11- and 12-year-olds. What in the Lord's name could I see in a 12-year-old? You don't know how it hurts me to be accused of picking up little girls, smoking dope with them and then trying to rape them.

"I'm not a child molester," he says. "I never had a child in my car.

"Anything that could have been used to clear my name was lost for some reason," Scott says. "All my work records are gone. All of Kathy's (Scott's ex-wife) are gone, too. I know I worked that day until about 11 a.m., and then I picked up Kathy from the restaurant and we went to Sarasota Mall to buy a jacket.

"She keeps receipts, and I know she kept this one, in case she wanted to return the jacket, but the state attorney's office says it's missing." Scott says he and his wife only owned one car between them, and the receipt would have shown the date and time they were at the mall, thereby establishing an alibi.

Scott also says his polygraph test results are missing.

Also, too much emphasis was put on the missing piece of shell found in his former car, Scott says. The shell and a piece of hair found in Scott's car were identical to the shells and hair found near Linda Pikuritz.

"My mom had thousands of shells, and she would make necklaces for me and Kathy," Scott says. "Who can say that the shell they found matches the necklace? Besides that, how can the necklace break, one shell supposedly end up in my car and the rest of them end up next to her body?"

When former investigator Barton heard what Scott had to say, he laughed.

"I don't know where the receipt is," Barton says. "But we checked it out and there was a purchase made, but I couldn't comment further on whether Scott is a prime suspect, and on whether he would be charged.

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"Also, we did test the shell against the necklace, and we found that it matched," he says. "I don't remember if we ever brought it up in court."

Barton says since the investigation took about eight years to complete, it is likely that papers were lost or misplaced as often as sheriff's administrations changed. Papers, which included lie detector test results, are sometimes lost, he says.

At Scott's trial, some of Linda Pikuritz's childhood friends testified that they remembered Pikuritz talking with Brad Scott the day she disappeared. They said Scott was known to have frequented the area where Linda was last seen, offering young girls marijuana and alcohol and trying to pick them up.

Of the 300 inmates on death row, "Everybody you talk to is innocent in here," Scott says, laughing.

"But no one here is quick to judge. I don't get hassled because of what they said I did. If I were part of the general population, I might of had a problem, because they said I killed a kid."

Bars and cuffs

"I never wanted to come here for that (a murder conviction involving the death of a child)," he says, "Anything but killing a child or a baby. That's the worst thing. I feel really sorry for the family of this girl. It's a sad thing to happen.

PIKURTZ

"Once you're accused of murder, you're shut. I've been through every mental drain you can think of since I've been here," he says. "I've always tried to do the best I can, but I'm no angel. And I'm no killer either."

Scott says he spends his days writing letters and drawing pictures. "I write to about 20 or 30 people each week, Christian friends and family," he says.

"There's no rehabilitation program here for death row inmates," Scott says. "If the weather's OK, we get to go outside two times each week, two hours each time. That's it.

Once you're outside your cell, he says, the chains and handcuffs don't come off, including showers, haircuts and a check-up from a visiting dentist.

"I have a nice cell. I live there 24 hours a day," he says. "But there's nothing really nice about this place. Rats and cockroaches come out at night. I hate rats, all crawling creatures, but I see them whiz by at night sometimes."

Christmas was lonely for Scott and his family. His second wife, Kathy, was divorced from him in 1982, Scott says. He married his current wife, April, in 1983. April Scott was not planning to drive to Starke to see her husband and the father of her two children this Christmas.

"I told them to stay home for Christmas," he says. "My wife is in her first year in law school, and it's a seven-hour drive from West Palm Beach to here. It's a big strain for her."

"I see my wife and my kids on the first Sunday of every month," he says. "Being away from my family is the hardest thing."

April Scott couldn't be reached for comment.

"I think that as far as Brad's appeal goes, there are ample reasons for a new trial," says Brian Boyle, an attorney with the Public Defender's Office in Punta Gorda, who aided Scott's former attorney, Leonard Johnson, during the trial almost a year ago.

Seminole teammates rally behind their cornerback

By DAMIAN CRISTODERO
News-Press Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — It was prime time at Florida State University Monday.

The lights and the cameras poised outside the football office in the Moore Athletic Center present were courtesy of the media waiting to hear from and about Deion Sanders, the Seminoles' All-America defensive back.

Sanders, known as "Prime Time," has been charged with battery on a police officer and disorderly conduct, stemming from a scuffle with an auxiliary Fort Myers patrolman Christmas Eve at the Edison Mall. One witness said Sanders, who attended North Fort Myers High School, struck the officer, a store clerk and an unidentified man who tried to restrain him.

The incident forced Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden to consider suspending Sanders from the team, before eventually deciding to allow him to play.

About the only thing lacking Monday was that the usually talkative Sanders refused to speak to the press on any subject.

With the main attraction unwilling to perform, and Bowden having postponed his decision until later in the evening, the spotlight fell to the supporting cast, who spoke of the Sanders they know.

"A lot of people are jealous of him and want to see him fail," said Florida State nose guard James Chaney, who was a freshman at North when Sanders was a senior. "I know I don't. My family doesn't. I think the media hypes him a lot. They show him one way and not the other. Get to know the real Deion and you won't see the flashiness, just one of the home boys from the neighborhood."

Chaney said he saw the scuffle at the Edison Mall and witnessed an officer push Sanders against a wall, grab his gold chain and eventually tear it from Sanders' neck.

"They were roughing him. Instead of letting him walk, they tried to grab him. They were trying to put on a scene," Chaney said. "They provoked a struggle when it really could have been avoided."

Chaney said he and his brother, J.J., and Peter Tyree, a friend, considered helping Sanders. "All the fellows were tempted, but we held each other back because that would cause more trouble," Chaney said. "We tried to tell the guy (officer) to cool out, but he wouldn't do it."

Florida State defensive tackle Joe Ostaszewski, who said his father is a police officer in West Palm Beach, said he could understand Sanders' reaction, if the accounts he has heard are true.

"At first my dad thought it was his fault," Ostaszewski said of Sanders, "but I told him, 'I think if I was in the same situation Deion was in, I would have had the same reaction.'

"He didn't say anything about that," said Hayes, a good friend of Sanders.

Hayes said he also was puzzled by the situation. "Why would he do something for 25 or 50 bucks when he stands to make 100 times that much?" Hayes said. "It was something that was unjustified. He's just mad people would think he'd do something like that."

Sanders From page 1A

confusion over payment for a pair of earrings, according to University of Florida defensive back Richard Fain, who was with Sanders at the time.

Fain said a female store clerk said the earrings, which were intended as a gift for a friend of Sanders', had not been paid for. Sanders said he had paid for them and asked to see the store manager.

"She got all excited and started screaming," Fain said of the clerk.

Another witness, Gayle Cook, said Sanders struck the female clerk twice on the shoulder, and also hit an unidentified man trying to restrain him.

After the store manager called for store security, Sanders and the two men walked from the store where they were confronted by Fort Myers policemen and auxiliary officers.

A loud discussion prompted three officers to push Sanders against a wall, choking him and breaking his chain, Fain said.

"When his chain broke, that's when Deion hit (auxiliary police officer Tony Cail)," Fain said. "What else could he do? What else could he do?"

Bowden had an idea.

"My advice to him and all my players is when there's trouble to back off and run for it," he said.

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