

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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BRIEFS

STATE

COLUMBUS

Police: Boy's report leads to mom's drug arrest

A 10-year-old boy called police to say he believed his mother was using drugs, prompting officers to come to the home and arrest the woman when they saw drug paraphernalia.

Tina Gilley's son called police Tuesday evening and said that his mother and a friend had locked themselves in a bedroom and he believed they were using drugs, said Lt. Steve Norman of Columbus Police Department.

When officers arrived at the house, the boy let them in and led them to his mother's bedroom.

Gilley opened the door when officers knocked and then tried to slam it shut, but an officer put his foot in the door to keep it open, police said. Officers saw drug paraphernalia in the room and arrested Gilley, 29, and David Bulla, 41, both of Columbus.

Gilley was preliminarily charged with child neglect, maintaining a common nuisance and possession of cocaine, all felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a misdemeanor.

Bulla was charged with possession of cocaine and two misdemeanors.

MUNCIE

Ball State serves as filming location for porn

Ball State University officials were stunned to learn that an X-rated film involving students was shot more than two years ago in a distinguished mansion normally reserved for seminars. "Vampire Diaries" director Christopher Gregory filmed his movie at the university-owned Kitzelman Center, a short walk from Ball State's campus, after pitching the project as a horror movie. It was released Friday.

Gregory, a Muncie resident, said he didn't tell Ball State officials about the film's adult content because turning it into a pornographic movie was a last-minute decision.

"From a director's point of view, I don't believe a filmmaker should be reined in creatively," he said.

Center director Joe Trimmer, however, has a starkly different view of Gregory's film.

"We would have never signed a location release had we known this would be the content," said Trimmer, who was unaware of the adult film's release until notified by The Star Press on Wednesday. "That was not the film that was depicted to us."

CONNERSVILLE

Company: Connersville's Visteon plant will close

Visteon Corp. plans to close its factory in the city, idling 890 employees, the auto-parts supplier company announced Thursday.

Closing the plant in September is part of the company's three-year plan to fix, close or sell about 30 facilities to become more globally competitive, said Visteon spokesman Jim Fisher.

"We've done a very thorough review of this facility," Fisher said. "We do not believe there is a viable business case for continuing to operate it."

BRIEF

NATION

WASHINGTON

Personal savings drop to lowest level in 73 years

People once again spent everything they made and then some last year, pushing the personal savings rate to the lowest level since the Great Depression more than seven decades ago.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that the savings rate for all of 2006 was a negative 1 percent, meaning that not only did people spend all the money they earned but they also dipped into savings or increased borrowing to finance purchases. The 2006 figure was lower than a negative 0.4 percent in 2005 and was the poorest showing since a negative 1.5 percent savings rate in 1933 during the Depression.

The savings rate has been negative for an entire year only four times in history: in 2005 and 2006 and in 1933 and 1932. However, the reasons for the decline in the savings rate were vastly different during the two periods.

During the Great Depression, when one-fourth of the labor force was without a job, people dipped into savings in an effort to meet the basic necessities of shelter and clothing.

Men released after ploy leads to terrorism fears

Devices to market cartoon lead to charges in Boston

By JAY LINDSAY

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON

Two men who authorities say placed electronic advertising devices around Boston were released from jail Thursday, apparently amused with the publicity stunt that stirred fears of terrorism and shut down parts of the city.

Peter Berdovsky, 27, and Sean Stevens, 28, were released on \$2,500 cash bond after each pleaded not guilty to placing a hoax device and disorderly conduct for a device found Wednesday at a subway station. They waved and smiled as they greeted people in court.

Outside, they met reporters and television cameras and launched into a nonsensical discussion of hair styles of the 1970s. "What we really want to talk about today — it's kind of important to some people — it's haircuts of the 1970s," Berdovsky said.

But as he walked off, Berdovsky gave a more serious comment.

"We need some time to really sort things out and, you know, figure out our response to this situation in other ways than talking about hair," Berdovsky said. "So if you could just give us some privacy for a little bit. ... I will be trying to make sense of all it real soon."

Officials found 38 blinking electronic signs promoting the Cartoon Network TV show "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" on bridges and other high-profile spots across the city Wednesday, prompting the closing of a highway and the deployment of bomb squads. The surreal series is about a talking milkshake, a box of fries and a meatball. The network is a division of Turner Broadcasting Systems Inc.

"It's clear the intent was to get attention by causing fear and unrest that there was a bomb in that location," Assistant Attorney General John Grossman said at their arraignment.

The 1-foot tall signs, which were lit up at night, resembled a circuit board, with protruding wires and batteries. Most



Sean Stevens, 28, left, and Peter Berdovsky, 27, speak to the media outside Charlestown District Court in Boston on Thursday after pleading not guilty to placing a hoax device and disorderly conduct. Authorities say the two men placed electronic advertising devices around the city.

depicted a boxy, cartoon character giving passersby the finger, a more obvious sight when darkness fell.

The men did not speak or enter their own pleas, but they appeared amused and smiled as the prosecutor talked about the device found at Sullivan Station underneath Interstate 93, looking like it had C-4 explosive.

"The appearance of this device and its location are crucial," Grossman said. "This device looks like a bomb."

Some in the gallery snickered. Outside the courthouse, Michael Rich, a lawyer for both of the men, said the description of a bomb-like device could be used for any electronic device.

"If somebody had left a VCR on the ground it would have been a device with wires, electronic components and a power source," he said.

Boston officials were livid when the

devices were discovered.

"It is outrageous, in a post-9/11 world, that a company would use this type of marketing scheme," Mayor Thomas Menino said Wednesday. "I am prepared to take any and all legal action against Turner Broadcasting and its affiliates for any and all expenses incurred during the response to today's incidents."

Berdovsky, an artist, told The Boston Globe he was hired by a marketing company and said he was "kind of freaked out" by the furor.

"I find it kind of ridiculous that they're making these statements on TV that we must not be safe from terrorism, because they were up there for three weeks and no one noticed. It's pretty commonsensical to look at them and say this is a piece of art and installation," he said.

Fans of the show mocked authorities for what they called an overreaction.

Tale of two economies

President, Democrats paint starkly different views that are both right — and both wrong

By TOM RAUM

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

The booming economy that President Bush paints is a far cry from the worrisome one increasingly portrayed by Democratic presidential candidates and party leaders.

To them, there are worker insecurities, stagnant wage growth and soaring costs for health care and college.

The vision of rival economies already is a main issue for the 2008 presidential and congressional races. Economists say both sides are right — and wrong. It just depends on what numbers you summon.

Bush is trying to nudge the national focus away from Iraq and is offering a rosy picture of the economy ahead of his presentation Monday of a financial blueprint he says will lead to a balanced budget by 2012.

Congressional Democrats have embraced the same timetable. The course the rival camps chart to get there is bound to be the domestic-policy battle royal of the current congressional session.

"Workers are making more money. Their paychecks are going further. Consumers are confident. Investors are optimistic," Bush said in a speech Wednesday at Federal Hall on Wall Street. It was his second on the economy in as many days.

Bolstering Bush's outlook was a new Commerce Department report showing that the economy gained speed in the final three months of 2006. The economy grew at an annual rate of 3.5 percent, much faster than the 2 percent increase of the previous three months.

Stocks soared after that report and after the Federal Reserve's decision to leave interest rates steady.

But hold on.

Here comes this from Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, reprising the "two Americas" rich-poor divide he depicted in 2004 as a presidential and vice presidential candidate: "We can-



President Bush shakes hands with traders during a visit to the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

not stand by and watch 37 million people wake up and not know how to feed and clothe their children."

Other Democratic presidential hopefuls are echoing the theme.

Also, freshman Sen. James Webb, D-Va., built on it when he gave his party's response to Bush's State of the Union address last month. "It's almost as if we are living in two different countries," Webb said.

To William Galston, a domestic policy adviser in the Clinton administration who now is with the Brookings Institution, "We have the president's story of the economic aggregates and we have Jim Webb's story of economic anxiety and inequality."

"That tale of two economies will be argued out, not only between the parties but within the parties," he said.

The cutback in building has led to thousands of layoffs in the construction industry, Democrats note.

Such observations conflict with the glowing picture Bush and his aides present of a vibrant economy humming along at near-full employment.

"They've both got a point, and they're both trying to make their case" said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com.

"The president is right. The economy in aggregate is performing very well. So he's right to claim that the economy, looking from above, looks very good," Zandi said. "Democrats are also right. The fruits of this strong economy have largely accrued to higher income wealthier households."

Elsewhere

Sgt. Ethan C. Hertler, 22
Linda K. Shook, 42

VISTA, Calif.

Sgt. Ethan C. Hertler

Sgt. Ethan C. Hertler, 22, died Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007, in San Diego, Calif. He was a resident of Vista, Calif., and a former resident of Franklin.

Services are pending at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home in Franklin.

COLUMBUS

Linda K. Shook

Linda K. Shook, 42, died Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007, at Hospice of South Central Indiana, Inpatient Facility. She was a resident of Columbus.

She was born Nov. 14, 1964, in Greensburg to the late Carl and Clairra Pauline (Trout) Shook.

Survivors include five brothers, John (Pat) Shook of California, Lee (Pat) Shook of Ohio, Leonard (Sandy) Shook of Greensburg, Larry (Crystal) Shook of Waldron and George (Jerri) Shook of Greenwood; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Lester Shook.

She attended Waldron High School. She had worked at Cracker Barrel in Taylorsville for several years. She loved to go fishing.

The Rev. Lewis Burton will conduct a funeral service at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Who So Ever Will Community Church, 623 S. Eisenhower Drive, Edinburg. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the church. Burial will be at Forest Hill Cemetery in Shelbyville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of South Central Indiana, 2626 E. 17th St., Columbus, IN 47201.

Arrangements are being handled by Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home in Edinburg.

Obituary policy

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The custom obituaries on this page have been paid for.

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