

State

Liberty residents watch, hold bake sale

Daniel child custody trial continues

United Press International
LIBERTY — The Vickie Daniel child custody trial played to a packed house Tuesday, including a constant rotation of students from Lionel McLean's Liberty High School health classes.

"The trial involves every phase of health — physical, mental and emotional," Mrs. McLean said as she ushered the sophomores out.

On the courthouse lawn, the Gleaners Extension Club had its

best bake sale ever, unloading every morsel on hungry gawkers and trial principals.

"We didn't have enough food," Gleaners president Rubye Jones said jubilantly as she thumbed through \$200 in proceeds. "But if we can get some more (food) donated, we'll come back tomorrow."

The bake sale and school field trips demonstrate the allure of trial watching in this usually sleepy south Texas town. This par-

ticular trial, now in its second week, has been laced with sensational testimony about the private lives of one of Texas' most prominent families.

In testimony Tuesday, an emergency medical technician told the packed courtroom that Vickie Daniel did not realize she had killed her husband, former Texas House Speaker Price Daniel Jr., and hysterically beg-

ged medics to help him the night of Jan. 19.

Oscar Cantu said during the ambulance ride to the hospital Mrs. Daniel told him she had accidentally shot her husband during a quarrel.

Although currently battling Daniels' sister Jean Daniel Murph, for custody of her two children, Mrs. Daniel later will be tried on charges of killing her husband, the son of former Texas Gov. Price Daniel Sr.

Already she has testified Daniel beat her, fondled their 3-year-old son, exposed his buttocks to local children and enjoyed smoking marijuana. There also has been a suggestion of homosexual relations with other youths.

Many spectators roaming in and out of the packed courthouse stopped at the long, party-decorated table set up by the Gleaners and snapped up every powdered sugar-covered brownie by noon.

Periodically principals in the trial stopped to sample the cakes and cookies, and the club photographer quickly took snapshots for the club scrap book.

Andrew Lannie, one of the Mrs. Daniel's attorneys, purchased a tuna sandwich for lunch and had his picture taken.

"I was surprised they had this sale," he said. "It was a kind gesture on their part. I've gained five pounds since this trial started."



Staff photo by Chad...

No sun

Lifeguard Melanie Fattig tries to keep warm as the overcast skies prevent the sun from shining through. Since spring break the outdoor pool has been open from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m. daily.

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