



A glance from a rearview perch

Staff photo by Becky Swanson

This is a common, but maybe one of the more unfamiliar sights at the Memorial Student Center. Those entering or leaving the MSC

basement snackbar area from the east doors will probably see a similar sight if they look up.

Investigators find rifle used to assassinate Wood

United Press International HOUSTON — Sources close to the investigation of the 1979 assassination of U.S. District Judge John Wood said they had the rifle used in the assassination, an Austin newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Austin American-Statesman reported agents investigating the assassination said they had traced the rifle back to a Dallas sporting goods store. The newspaper said agents refused to supply other details about the rifle.

Jo Ann Starr Harrelson, 41, wife of convicted hitman Charles W. Harrelson, was being held on \$500,000 bond two floors from her husband in the Harris County jail

Wednesday on charges she used a false name to buy a rifle similar to the one that was used to kill Wood 12 days before Wood was gunned down outside his San Antonio townhome in 1979.

Harrelson, who has described himself as a prime suspect in the assassination, was being held without bail on unrelated weapons, drug and gambling charges.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Powers said Mrs. Harrelson will have to choose a lawyer before she can ask for bond reduction or waive hearing to determine whether she is the person named in the Dallas grand jury indictment.

Experts said the Mark V .240 caliber rifle Mrs. Harrelson is charged with purchasing under the name Fay King from Hunger-Bradlee Sporting Goods in Dallas could have fired the .243 caliber slug that struck Wood in the back and killed him.

Harrelson, his wife and his family have been questioned repeatedly by the federal grand jury investigating the assassination. Harrelson has denied any involvement.

He said Mrs. Harrelson met with lawyer Don Ervin of Houston late Wednesday and was expected to tell the government Thursday whether she wanted a removal hearing before transfer to Dallas.

Authorities have forbidden reporters from talking with her.

The jury continued its inquiry, subpoenaing a Leavenworth, Kansas, prison inmate, Calvin Wright, who is said to have ties with Harrelson and convicted drug peddler Jimmy Chagra.

Wright's lawyer said his client had no information about the Wood slaying.

Also scheduled to appear before the grand jury Wednesday was Las Vegas gambler Ray Moore, who has said he met Harrelson at the "World Series of Poker" in 1979 before the Wood slaying. Moore has said Chagra was also at the poker tournament.

El Paso's pipeline is denied water

United Press International LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Four states have given New Mexico their official support in the legal battle to prevent El Paso from importing New Mexico water, a lawyer for the Elephant Butte Irrigation District says.

EBID attorney Steve Hernandez said Wednesday those states are Colorado, Nebraska, South

Dakota and Wyoming. He made the comment at an EBID meeting during which officials agreed that the city of El Paso fully expected to acquire the water and was preparing for an all-out court battle toward that goal.

EBID President John Salopek said El Paso has spent \$451,000 in legal fees and \$6.5 million to build

a water pipeline that stretches from that city to the New Mexico border.

"It's obvious that pipeline is not for the few wells in that area," said Salopek. "It seems evident they plan to go into New Mexico."

In its suit, El Paso, maintains it needs the New Mexico water to ensure its future growth.

It also has filed several other suits in an attempt to block new use of water by the city of Las Cruces or any other source from the Mesilla Bolson, the New Mexico water source it hopes to tap.

Salopek estimated New Mexico's legal expenditures at between \$30,000 and \$40,000 so far.

Tear gas fire causes death of two people

United Press International PORTER — A four-hour standoff between a gunman and Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies ended with the death of two people trapped in a house deputies accidentally set on fire with tear gas they hoped would flush the gunman out.

After the fire was extinguished, deputies found the bodies of Billy Bryant Sanford, 41, and his wife, Sandra Sanford, 38. Both are suspected of the shooting that brought deputies to the house Wednesday morning, a sheriff's spokeswoman said.

Sheriff's Capt. Paul McQueen said the two might have been dead before the fire swept through the

house. The bodies were taken to the Harris County Medical Examiner for autopsies.

McQueen said the shooting began early and dragged on for four hours. No other injuries were reported.

Sheriff Joe Corley said it was necessary to use the gas because officials suspected an injured person was inside the house.

"We received a call of a shooting about 8:50 a.m. A patrol unit responded and when the deputy got to the location, he was fired upon," McQueen said.

"I called the Emergency Service Team, and when they got there, they took charge of the situation."

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