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Jury changes charges from injury to murder against adult babysitter

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 28-year-old baby sitter has been indicted on a murder charge after the child she was accused of injuring died.

Deborah Gruber, 28, initially was charged with injury to a child, but on Tuesday a Bexar County grand jury issued an indictment charging that Gruber caused the death of 23-month-old Bradley Miller.

The child died earlier this year after almost two years on life-support systems. Bradley was 4 months old in August 1987 when he was either struck on the head with a blunt ob-

ject or hurled against a blunt object, according to an autopsy report.

"He had head trauma," prosecutor Wendie Rush said. "The child was blind, paraplegic and unable to breathe on his own. He was put on a respirator and stayed that way — pretty much a vegetable — until the life support was terminated."

Gruber was the Miller family baby sitter in 1987 and cared for both Bradley and his twin, Wesley, according to prosecutors.

Don and Terri Miller, the baby's parents, decided April 2 to permit doctors to disconnect Bradley's life support after neurological studies indicated the baby was brain dead.

Old West remembered in horse-drawn wagons

WILSON (AP) — Dust flies. Chunks of rock and grass spit out from behind the wheels. They're off.

But this is no race. In fact, members of the Lubbock area horse and buggy riding club, also known as the Llano Estacado Driving Society, want nothing more than to relax. The sound of the slow ticking of wheels against gravel and the faint breezes kissing foreheads and cheeks, sealed up in friendly chatter, are the elements of their driving pleasure.

Five buggies and a spread of children, friends and grandmothers have come to this Lynn County area for a weekend outing. Tart greens, hazy blues, hot whites and yellowed beiges color the alternately lush and craggy tapestry of jagged rocks and grassy hills.

The riders and their horses, used to trotting down farm-to-market roads, are finding new challenges in the untamed routes, which often end in trackless patches of grass. Ray Thomas, president of the driving society, said the group was getting their first chance to take a ride-pioneer style.

Subtle movements — sometimes a hand's shifting of no more than two to three inches — direct the horses, who often plod hesitantly through the sloping pathways. A whip, snapping lightly against a horse's mane, is heard to strike once.

Thomas, a horse trainer by profession, has trained at least 20 horses to pull carriages in the last 18 months. "That gives you an idea how quickly it's catching on," he said.

"It (the driving society) started with about eight members (last September); now there are about 15," Thomas said. "Part of it is the nostalgia of it; the other thing is, it's an art."

And thirdly, said procession leader John Edwards, it's fun. The New Home resident, a buggy aficionado who owns five vehicles and 14 horses, chortled when asked the name of his 5-year-old Belgian draft horse leading the pack. "It's John — see, they need short names for commands," he explained. But watching Edwards fuss over his horse's hooves, gently picking out chunks of runaway rock, you'd think this was John Jr.

Edwards' buggy choice today is a two-seat spring wagon, a replica of an antique model.

If you see a buggy tooling along the countryside that looks like an antique — look again, Thomas said. "The antiques are pretty well gone; they aren't serviceable." Replicas of a Meadowbrook cart, for instance, he said, can cost \$1,400. It isn't unusual for a buggy to cost as much as \$3,000 to \$5,000. Accessories, such as hydraulic brakes, are available, and, Thomas said, most cities require them.

"Most people think brakes on a buggy are to stop the horse. The brakes are simply to stop the buggy from rolling up, to relieve the horse from pulling the buggy," Thomas said.

Although quarter horses are the common choice for driving, Thomas said, just about any type of horse can be trained to do the job. Leann Landmesser proved that right. Her driving horse is a Tennessee Walker, a 26-year-old who she said "didn't drive till he was legal, 21."

"I've had him for 18 years. The closest he's ever come to being abused is now," she said, laughing.

Texas Jaycees will sponsor holiday stops

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Jaycees announced Wednesday they will sponsor rest stops over the Labor Day weekend again this year to try to reduce the number of traffic deaths in the state.

Booths will be set up at approximately 75 areas from El Paso to Beaumont and from Lubbock to Harlingen. The rest areas will provide refreshments and at some recreation for children, the Jaycees said.

"We feel alert drivers have a much better chance of finishing their journey safely," said Jaycee president Richard Hernandez.

This is the 25th year for the Jaycee program.

A&M student will go to Italy as U.S. Shooting Team member

UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

Texas A&M University junior Kevin E. Schiller of Bryan will participate in the World Cup Shooting Championship in Italy next week as a member of the U.S. Shooting Team.

A member of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets, Schiller specializes in trap and skeet shooting. He earned his spot on the U.S. team in competition in Mexico City last year, and as a

member of that team has automatically qualified to compete for a spot on the 1992 U.S. Olympic Team.

He leaves for Italy Thursday.

A civil engineering major, Schiller has a 3.65 grade point ratio and is a Texas A&M University Distinguished Student. He currently serves as scholastic sergeant for the corp's Squadron 16 and is a member of the Corps Honor Society.

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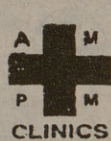


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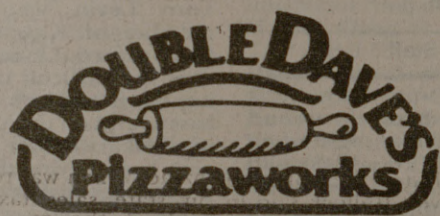
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