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Delicate restoration



Peter Fix, a nautical archaeology graduate student, attaches a beam to the side of La Belle at the Conservation Research Lab on the Texas A&M Riverside campus. La Belle, which Sieur de La Salle sailed, sank in 1686 and was found in Matagorda Bay in 1995. It was disassembled and brought to the Riverside campus where it is being reassembled. The wreckage must be kept submerged to prevent the timbers from decomposing further.

Parents admit to torturing their 8-year-old daughter

LONGVIEW, Texas (AP) — An East Texas couple who admitted torturing their eldest daughter have pleaded guilty to endangering her safety.

Jerrold Loyde Rathbun, 33, and 29-year-old Eva Grace Rathbun entered the pleas Monday to first-degree felony child endangerment. The move came as prosecutors were picking a jury for Jerrold Rathbun's trial.

Investigators say the Longview couple handcuffed the then-8-year-old girl to a door with thumbtacks attached to it, poked the girl's feet with needles and made the child eat cat feces on Sept. 10.

Court records show that Child Protective Services, alerted by school officials about possible abuse, removed the girl from the home Sept. 12, then took her younger sister

three days later after hearing the older child's allegations.

The couple, indicted on Oct. 5, surrendered to authorities the next day when they posted \$20,000 bond each. Their pleas have avoided trial on the charges and they will be sentenced on July 6 by State District Judge David Brabham.

Prosecutors have urged a 15-year sentence for Jerrold Rathbun and a 13-year sentence for his wife, according to court records.

Also, prosecutors want the couple to give up parental rights to both of their children, including the 9-year-old victim and her 4-year-old half-sister.

Both children have been placed in foster homes and have been visiting families who want to adopt them.

The abused girl, according to court records, told a CPS caseworker on Sept. 10 that her parents had been handcuffing her for about a week as punishment for problems at school.

The child said her parents would handcuff her to a door, with thumbtacks on the adjacent wall to scratch her when she tried to get away.

Police investigators said the child had bruising, red marks and blisters on her wrists. Later, the girl told a doctor that her parents jabbed the tops of her feet with needles while she was handcuffed.

The parents denied mistreating their daughter but said they had to discipline her. CPS case workers said that she was dishonest, a habitual liar and a problem child, according to court records.

Jury finds man guilty of espionage

Retired colonel could receive life in prison for selling secrets to Russia

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A retired Army colonel was found guilty Tuesday of selling Cold War military secrets to Moscow over two decades, becoming the highest-ranking U.S. officer to be convicted of espionage.

George Trofimoff, 74, could get up to life in prison.

The retired colonel in the Army Reserves oversaw an intelligence center in Germany from the 1960s to 1990s. He was working as a grocery store bagger last year when he was arrested in an FBI sting trying to collect money he thought was coming from the Russians.

Trofimoff stood erect and showed no emotion when the verdict was announced. He shrugged slightly at his wife, who wept.

Sentencing was set for Sept. 27.

"What this case should do is send a message to those we entrust our nation's secrets to that if you sell those secrets, if you spy against the United States, we'll pull out all the stops to

catch you, to bring you to justice and to convict you," federal prosecutor Laura Ingersoll said.

Defense attorney Daniel Hernandez said he will appeal.

"If you spy against the United States, we'll pull out all the stops to catch you, to bring you to justice and to convict you."

— Laura Ingersoll
federal prosecutor

Prosecutors said Trofimoff collected \$300,000 for photographing U.S. intelligence documents and giving them to the KGB through a go-between, childhood friend Igor Vladimirovich Susemihl, a Russian Orthodox priest.

Among the information prosecutors said Trofimoff smuggled to the Soviets were CIA documents and details of what the United States knew about Soviet military preparedness.

A former KGB general, Oleg Kalugin, testified that Trofimoff was one of the Soviet Union's top spies during the 1970s, so valuable that his code name was at the top of a list of KGB sources given to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. He said Trofimoff was even brought to a resort for Soviet military officials as a reward.

Trofimoff, born in Germany to Russian emigres, wept on the stand as he described growing up hating communists because some of his family members were unable to escape the

Bolshevik Revolution and were killed.

He insisted that he never was a spy, but pretended to be one because he needed money. He said he laughed at Trofimoff when he testified it was a coincidence that he was able to name Soviet spies when shown the names of an undercover FBI agent and a Russian diplomat.

Jury foreman Mark Jurors agreed Trofimoff was guilty after viewing a video of him describing his espionage activities. Deliberations lasted just two hours.

"Just to think someone would do that stuff," King said during the verdict. "He claims to be an American, that he's the country for the past 40 years. To think someone like Trofimoff would betray the country is unbelievable."

Trofimoff became a U.S. citizen in 1951, joined the Army in 1953 and was honorably discharged three years later. He was hired as a civilian intelligence in 1959.

News in Brief

Niki Taylor released from hospital

ATLANTA (AP) — Model Niki Taylor left a hospital for a private rehabilitation center Tuesday, eight weeks after an Atlanta car crash left her with severe liver damage.

Taylor, 26, was riding in a car that crashed into a telephone pole on April 30 after the driver lost control.

The name of the Atlanta rehabilitation center was not released. Taylor was upgraded from critical to good condition Thursday at Grady Memorial Hospital.

She was in the passenger seat of a friend's 1993 Nissan Maxima when the driver ran off the road and struck a utility pole.

DRAFT

Continued from Page 3

has its share of names that invoke a reader to ask either "Who is he?" or "Why is he leaving early?"

Rashid Hardwick, Draper Housley, Jamario Moon and Clifton Terry would fit into the first tier. NBA teams might actually draft them without ever having heard of them or seeing them play.

The same cannot be said for the players of the second tier who have exhibited their talents for Division I programs. Maurice Evans of

Texas expects the NBA to overlook his deficiencies in ball handling and long range shooting while Gerald Wallace of Alabama and Alton Ford of Houston by the scouts ignored their freshman year in college entirely.

If you're lost in the flurry of names, take solace. The only constant of the NBA Draft is that an unpredictable science, teams never be sure if they have a steal. The best they can do is taking advice from the Clippers.

Michael Balhoff is a journalist.