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Bail denied for slaying suspect

Baltimore City

A 35-year-old Reservoir Hill woman charged with beating a man to death with a tire iron was being held without bail today in the women's section of the Baltimore City Detention Center.

Sonya Edwards, of the 2400 block of Linden Ave., was charged with first-degree murder and possession of a deadly weapon, police said. A District Court judge yesterday ordered her held without bail, police said.

Police said that Dandridge Wilson, 48, of the 900 block of Whitelock St., was fatally beaten with the tire iron during an altercation in Edwards' apartment around 5 p.m. Sunday.

When Central District officers arrived at the scene to investigate a report of a fight at the Linden Avenue residence, they found the woman and Wilson fighting each other.

Moments later, Wilson fell to the floor from blows to the head with a tire iron, police said. He was pronounced dead at the scene and Edwards was arrested without further incident.

Edwards later told police that she was getting out of the shower when she was accosted by Wilson, who approached her in the nude. Edwards told police that Wilson placed an electrical cord around her neck and was choking her when she picked up a tire iron and struck him over the head.

Moments later, police entered the apartment and separated the two.

Police said Wilson was the husband of a friend of Edwards and that there were no signs that he entered the woman's apartment by force.

Drug dealer indicted:

A Baltimore drug dealer has been indicted on state tax evasion charges.

Charles Rodgers, 49, was charged with two counts of failure to file Maryland personal income tax returns in 1988 and 1989, state Attorney General J. Joseph Curran Jr. said yesterday.

Rodgers was convicted last year in Baltimore Circuit Court of various drug violations and sentenced to two years in prison. Police recovered drugs, paraphernalia, a stolen weapon and almost \$5,000.

Assistant State Attorney General Carolyn Henneman said conviction on the tax evasion case could mean 10 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines.

New trial for ex-PG parks chief

Maryland State

Prosecutors have decided to go forward with a new trial for former Prince George's County parks chief Hugh B. "Reds" Robey, whose first trial on fraud charges ended in a hung jury three months ago.

Robey, 59, and two co-defendants are scheduled to face a new jury Oct. 15 in Circuit Court in Upper Marlboro. The three are accused of stealing \$30,000 in a contract fraud.

"Whenever you end up with a hung jury, you have to sit back and look at what you've got and decide whether a second trial is warranted," said Thomas Michael McDonough, assistant prosecutor in the state prosecutor's office. "In this case it is."

Robey, now retired, headed the park department of the Prince George's arm of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. His co-defendants are Albert J. Simons, 42, director of the park department's maintenance division, and Junia E. Dailey, 60, a building contractor.

The state alleges the men stole the \$30,000 in a complex contract fraud in 1988 and attempted an elaborate cover-up when they learned that a criminal investigation had begun.

Attorney Joshua Treem, representing Robey, and fellow defense attorneys have argued that their clients are innocent of criminal wrongdoing and guilty only of sidestepping the agency's purchasing rules in an effort to buy welding equipment from Robey's son, Michael.

Hugh Robey, Simons and Dailey also face a separate trial later in the year, along with Michael Robey and another defendant, on bribery charges stemming from the alleged cover-up attempt.

Man indicted in yacht theft

Anne Arundel County

A federal grand jury in Baltimore has indicted a man on charges of writing a bad check and stealing a \$398,000 yacht from an Annapolis boat dealer in June.

The grand jury charged Peter Baron von Liebieg-Knips with one count of interstate and foreign transportation of stolen goods and one count of theft, Assistant U.S. Attorney Beth Gesner said.

Federal officials say they are unsure whether Knips is the man's real name. The indictment also lists two aliases the man has used in the past, Wilhem Peter Knips and Josef Wilhem Peter Knips.

Knips, his wife and 8-year-old child left Anne Arundel County on the 51-foot sailboat June 29. They were rescued by a British merchant ship July 3 during a violent storm about 400 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., said the FBI.

The merchant ship, which was heading to Italy, took the family to an Italian port, where Knips was arrested and jailed. He is awaiting extradition to Baltimore to stand trial, Gesner said.

If convicted, Knips could receive up to 15 years in prison and fines up to \$500,000, she said.

Woman dies in hit-and-run

Baltimore County

Baltimore County police said a woman, who may have been hitchhiking along Pulaski Highway, was struck and killed early today by a vehicle that fled the scene.

The victim, Susan Gill Rimmel, 38, of Frederick, who was carrying a suitcase, was walking in the eastbound lane of the 7900 block of Pulaski Highway in Rosedale about 3 a.m. when she was struck by a vehicle, police said.

Police said she was pronounced dead at the scene. Evidence left behind by the vehicle was being examined in an effort to identify its make and model. Police asked that anyone with information about the accident to call 887-2198.

Is anyone looking for a job?

Towson Town Center will sponsor "Towson Works," its first employment fair to recruit employees for the expanded shopping center at the Sheraton Towson on Dulaney Valley Road tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Both current and future center merchants will interview applicants for full- and part-time positions. The center's expansion will mean about 1,600 jobs when it opens Oct. 16. More than 600,000 square feet of new retail space is being added to accommodate 200 stores.

Housing laws to be explored

Carroll County

The Maryland Commission on Human Relations and the fair housing coalitions of Carroll, Allegany and Washington counties are sponsoring a statewide conference Sept. 16 about changes to fair housing laws.

To be discussed at the conference are new requirements and penalties that resulted from changes to the Maryland law that took effect July 1 and changes to the federal housing law in 1988.

Gordon Mansfield, the assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development who is responsible for the national Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Program, is to be the keynote speaker. The conference will be held at the Quality Inn, 451 Western Maryland College Drive, Westminster.

For more information, call 301-333-1746 or 301-333-1737 (TTY for Deaf).

Deputy's son killed in car crash

Harford County

State Police at Bel Air said the son of a Harford County sheriff's deputy was killed last night when the car he was driving on Md. 136 near Norrisville left the roadway and crashed into a utility pole and a guardrail.

Justin Neil Taylor, 16, of the 4800 block of Clermont Mill Road in Pylesville, was driving a 1986 Dodge Shadow south on Md. 136 west of McFadden Road about 8:50 p.m. yesterday when he lost control of the car, crossed into the northbound lane and crashed into a utility pole and a guardrail, police said.

Police said Taylor, who got his driver's license about two weeks ago and was wearing a seat belt, was pronounced dead at the scene. Speed and driver error caused the accident, police said.

Free lunches for students:

The county school system is offering free and reduced-price meals for children unable to afford full prices. Applications forms are being sent to all county homes.

Eligibility is based on family income and size. School officials said information provided on the applications is confidential and may be verified at any time during the school year. In some cases, foster children may be eligible for the benefits. The benefits are provided as part of a federal assistance program.

For more information about eligibility or other matters, call the headquarters of the county Board of Education at 838-7300.

Shooting suspect charged, held

Howard County

Howard County police said a man accused of shooting another man during a dispute over a woman was being held today at the Detention Center at Ellicott City in lieu of \$250,000 bond.

William A. Conway Jr., 22, of the 7500 block of Murray Hill Road in Columbia, is charged with the attempted murder Sunday of Milton A. Nias, 23, of the 5400 block of Endicott Lane, also in Columbia, police said.

Nias was shot in the chest and neck in the parking lot outside a condominium in the 11200 block of Avalanche Way in Columbia, police said.

Police said Conway parked his car on the lot around 7:30 p.m., got out and argued with Nias, reportedly over a woman who is known by both men.

During the argument, Conway pulled out a 25-caliber semi-automatic handgun and accidentally shot himself in the leg before he shot Nias, police said. Conway walked to nearby Howard County General Hospital, where he was treated and released to police custody.

Less costly housing is goal:

Howard County's new housing administrator is promising to try to develop more affordable housing, which studies say is sorely needed in the county.

Leonard Vaughn, who had been acting administrator since the departure of Rochelle Brown, will be responsible for carrying out the housing component of the 1990 general plan for development.

"I hope to create a more positive environment for helping the private sector to increase affordable housing in the county," said Vaughn, who was appointed to his new position earlier this month by County Executive Charles I. Ecker.

After being appointed deputy housing administrator in late 1989, Vaughn worked with the Housing and Community Development Board and helped set up the Howard County Housing Commission, which acts as the public housing authority.