



BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

www.bellevilnewsdemocrat.com

50 cents

Serving Southwestern Illinois

Mother: Daughter unaware of plot



Katie Wolfmeyer

Friday at the trial

Under cross-examination, Katie Wolfmeyer maintained she didn't know anything about the murder-for-hire plot between former St. Louis Blues hockey player Mike Danton and "hit man"-turned-FBI informant Justin Levi Jones. Nancy Wolfmeyer testified about how she found out her daughter was in FBI custody. Testimony wrapped up and closing arguments are set to begin Monday.

Wolfmeyer's arrest disclosed by agent's call

BY BETH HUNSDORFER
bhunsdorfer@bnd.com

EAST ST. LOUIS — Choking back sobs, Katie Wolfmeyer's mother took the stand Friday and told the jury how she learned her daughter was being held by federal agents.

Wolfmeyer had called her mother about 8 a.m. April 16 and told her she was spending the night with a friend and they were going to watch a volleyball game. An hour later, Nancy Wolfmeyer said she received a call from a federal agent.

"He said, 'We have your daughter,'" she said. "I didn't believe him because I had just talked to her, so I thought it was some kind of hoax. I told him, 'I need to talk to my girl.'"

After talking together briefly, mother and daughter didn't talk again until the next day when Nancy Wolfmeyer received a collect call from the Madison County Jail.

"I didn't call a lawyer because he told me that they were going to ask her some questions and they would be sending her home," she said.

Wolfmeyer was arrested April 15 after federal agents said she tried to arrange the murder of Danton's agent, David Frost, by putting Danton in touch with part-time police dispatcher Justin Levi Jones. Danton has admitted trying to hire Jones as a hit man for \$10,000. Jones was acting as an informant for the FBI, and Frost

Please see WOLFMEYER, A2

JUST LIKE OLD TIMES

Couple gets chance to attend the prom they never had

BY BRYAN FUELL
bfuell@bnd.com

BELLEVILLE — After 58 years of marriage, three children and five grandchildren, June and Roy Frakes finally went to their senior prom Friday.

Roy, 78, stood tall with a red rose boutonniere pinned to the lapel of his custom-fitted blue tuxedo. June, 76, stood next to him, beautifully adorned in a long black evening gown with a white gardenia corsage on her wrist.

Their home at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Apartment Community was alive with memories as they prepared for the Senior Olympics Prom held Friday night in the dining hall.

The high school sweethearts vividly recalled the first time they laid eyes on one another back in 1940 in Whittier, Calif.

"The first time we met was at a high school Valentine's Day dance, where I was voted the "sweetheart" of the school," June said. "After the dance, he asked me out on a date ... and we have been in love ever since."

But any chance the couple had of being voted Kern River Valley School prom king and queen was lost when Roy, who had enlisted in the Navy, was sent to fight in World War II.

"The prom wasn't a big deal as it is for kids today," June said. "We were already making

Please see PROM, A2



ZIA NIZAMI/News-Democrat

June and Roy Frakes attended the Senior Olympics prom Friday night. Above and to the right are Roy and June Frakes as they looked in pictures from the 1940s.

Tipsters lead to 2 arrests

Suspects sought on several charges

BY CAROLYN P. SMITH
csmith@bnd.com

Tips the St. Clair County sheriff's department received through an anonymous mail-in program resulted in the arrests Thursday of two fugitives.

Carlos L. Wilson, 20, had been on St. Clair County's Most Wanted list for a while, sought on charges of armed robbery, home invasion, drug trafficking and aggravated discharge of a firearm.

Gilbert C. Evans, 46, whose criminal record includes aggravated battery, theft and firearms violations, was wanted on a parole violation warrant from the Illinois Department of Corrections.

The two men were captured Thursday after the sheriff's department received information about them through its anonymous tips coupons, which were clipped from the newspapers and mailed in.

Wilson was captured about 5:30 a.m. Thursday at 1013 N. 72nd St. in Belleville by narcotics agents with the sheriff's department's Drug Tactical Unit and the Illinois State Police Tactical Response Team.

Agents found and arrested Evans in a garage at the house

Please see ARRESTS, A2



Wilson



Evans

Suspect still at large in assault; police response questioned

Twenty-three minutes between 911 call and arrival

BY CAROLYN P. SMITH
csmith@bnd.com

EAST ST. LOUIS — Police are looking for the former boyfriend of a woman who told police he beat and raped her in her apartment in the Gompers Homes.

Police did not release the names

of the victim or suspect.

Police received a call at 4:47 p.m. Thursday that was not dispatched until 5:09 p.m. However, East St. Louis Police Lt. Col. Lenzie Stewart said officers also arrived at Building 10 in the Gompers Homes at 5:09 p.m.

Stewart was not sure why it took

the dispatcher 23 minutes to dispatch the call. He said an internal investigation is under way to determine a reason for the delay. The investigation will take about a week, he said.

Stewart gave this account of what happened Thursday night at the Gompers Homes:

A 43-year-old woman called 911 call for help, saying she was being

beaten. She told the dispatcher there was man in her home.

When officers arrived, the suspect was not at the apartment. The woman told police her ex-boyfriend, a 47-year-old Alorton resident, had assaulted and raped her. Stewart said the couple had argued about a

Please see ASSAULT, A2

Coming Sunday



IN LIFESTYLE: Doug and Sheila Lueking have learned to build their busy lives around the cows' milking schedule at their Clinton County farm.

Blue skies, light breeze greet Italian Fest

Aroma of ethnic cuisine is big drawing card

BY ELIZABETH DONALD
edonald@bnd.com

COLLINSVILLE — National colors were in full display on Main Street on Friday — red, white and green.

The 21st Italian Fest kicked off in downtown Collinsville with blue skies and sunshine, as community organizations set up their booths and the smells of Italian cuisine floated on the breeze.

"I ordered it," chairman Sandy Stammer said of the clear

weather.

The event this year adds a third entertainment stage and two new attractions — Boxer Bots and the Xtreme Web high-jump.

But the top attraction for Italian Fest is the food. Three blocks of homemade offerings include salsiccia, Italian beef, toasted ravioli, bagna cauda, cannoli and many other dishes, including the perennial American fare of chicken, funnel cakes and corn dogs.

After several years away, the ladies of Ss. Peter and Paul

Church have returned to Italian Fest with their famous homemade polenta — a cornmeal dish topped with Italian tomato sauce and sausage that they have specially made in advance of the festival.

"It's a lot of work to get it ready," said Judy Thompson. "I've been trying to get her back."

"Her" would be Esther Gherna, who came to the United States from Italy at the age of 15, and she knows polenta. Gherna

Please see FEST, A2



STEVE NAGY/News-Democrat

Esther Gherna of Collinsville ladles red sauce over some of her polenta at the Italian Fest on Friday.

INDEX

A SECTION

A4 Opinion
A5 Nation/World

B LOCAL NEWS

B2,4 Obituaries
B3 Regional
B4 Local
Flashes
B5 Business

C LIFESTYLE

C2 Dear Abby
C3 TV, Movies
C4 Comics
C6 News to Use
C10 Weather

D SPORTS

D2 Local sports
D3 Baseball
D4 Scoreboard
D6 NFL

E CLASSIFIED

LOTTERY FOR ILLINOIS

Pick 3-Midday: **8-4-3** Pick 4-Evening: **5-7-2-1**
Pick 3-Evening: **4-4-9** Little Lotto: **06-08-12-17-30**
Pick 4-Midday: **7-9-5-7** Jackpot: **\$18 million**

MEGA MILLIONS Game **3-16-25-38-49**

Mega Ball: **4**

FOR MISSOURI

Pick 3-Midday: **6-3-2**; Evening: **3-9-6**
Pick 4-Midday: **8-7-5-3**; Evening: **9-4-0-3**
Show Me 5-Midday: **13-30-33-36-41**
Show Me 5-Evening: **13-17-28-35-38**

Jackpot: **\$55 million**

