

METRODIARY

Defense seeks time in baby-slaying case

Murder suspect waives speedy-trial right

Associated Press

DAYTON — A woman whom authorities suspect of killing her infant daughter by putting her in a microwave oven waived her right to a speedy trial Tuesday after her attorney said he would need more time to prepare a thorough defense.

Under constitutional guidelines, China Arnold, 26, could have gone to trial by the end of February.

"It's in her best interests to waive her speedy-trial rights to make sure her defense can be thorough and complete," defense attorney Jon Paul Rion told Montgomery County Common Pleas Judge Jack Davis.

Rion said the case is complex, and he is still gathering details about it. He added that experts needed to be contacted and their testimony scheduled.

Davis did not set a trial date. Arnold showed no emotion and did not speak during her



Arnold

brief appearance in court.

Arnold has pleaded not guilty to a charge of aggravated murder and is being held in jail on \$1 million

bond. Prosecutors have said they will seek the death penalty.

Arnold's baby, Paris Talley, died Aug. 30, 2005.

The coroner concluded that the injuries could have been caused only by the baby being cooked in a microwave oven, according to Montgomery County Prosecutor Mathias Heck Jr. Investigators have said evidence that includes high-heat internal injuries and the absence of external burn marks on the baby were consistent with a microwave.

Rion denied Arnold was involved in her baby's death.

PHILANTHROPY

Student art puts sparkle in Christmas cards

The Sisters of Charity Foundation, marking its 10th anniversary, wanted to send special Christmas cards this year in honor of the event.



Barb Galbincea

So the foundation turned to fourth- and fifth-grade artists from two Cleveland schools — Metro Catholic on West 54th Street and St. Adalbert on East 83rd.

Karen Malone Wright, communications director for the foundation, worked with Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio, a nonprofit focused on the arts in education, to get the program under way. And professional artist Augusto Bordelois helped youngsters develop their concepts and technique.

About 35 youngsters from St. Adalbert and 140 from Metro Catholic took part in the project, according to Wright.

The results were so good that while judges expected to choose art for just four card designs, they wound up picking eight pictures — one for the front and back of the four card designs.

The winning artists from Metro Catholic included fourth-graders Ashley Rivera and Skylar Pastva, along with fifth-graders Alexis Glista and Andrews Nuske. At St. Adalbert, the fourth-grade winners were Khadijah Williams and Daniel McPherson, with fifth-graders Cee'Asia Emphrey and Danielle Etheridge.

Each winner got a paint set and professional sketch book, and the foundation threw a party — chocolate cupcakes and juice boxes — at each school.

When the winners were announced, "It was like the Academy Awards," said Wright, recalling the girl who fluttered her hands in front of her face to ward off tears as she walked up to be recognized.

The foundation liked the results of the card project so much, Wright said, that it may become an annual event. And the cards

are such a hit that Oliver Printing in Twinsburg overprinted and donated a batch of 1,000 for the schools to share.

In appreciation of the student artists, each school also got \$1,000 from the Sisters of Charity Foundation to use for tutoring programs.

Browns receiver also gives: Browns wide receiver Braylon Edwards is working with Cleveland Scholarship Programs to encourage youngsters to excel in school. Their reward? A college scholarship.

Sandra Ware, a spokeswoman for the Braylon Edwards Foundation, said he has pledged \$1 million for the project, dubbed ADVANCE 100. More details are expected to be announced during a kickoff event in the spring.

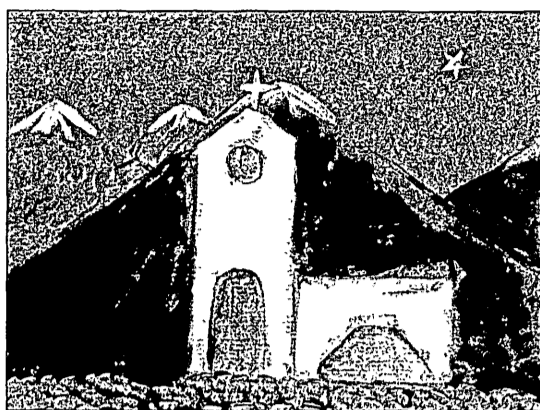
One hundred eighth-graders from the Cleveland Municipal School District — chosen because of their academic performance, conduct and community service — will be eligible for a scholarship when they graduate from high school.

To participate, students have to be recommended by a teacher or principal, maintain a 2.5 grade-point average, perform 15 hours of community service a week and not have any unexcused absences from school.

Edwards said in a statement, "The fundamentals of success can only be achieved through a quality education. I am fortunate to be in a position where I can give back to create access and opportunities for young people."

Red Kettle supporters feeling Blue: The Salvation Army's signature Red Kettle Campaign, which began last month, is lagging more than \$30,000 behind last year's total to date.

Phil Mason, director of development for the Salvation Army of Greater Cleveland, said the holiday drive had raised a little more



SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION

This scene, painted by Danielle Etheridge, a fifth-grader at St. Adalbert School, is featured on Christmas cards marking the 10th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity Foundation.



SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION

Ashley Rivera, a fourth-grader at Metro Catholic School, created a picture of a Red Kettle collector for the Sisters of Charity Foundation in Cleveland.

than \$441,000 at this time last year but was at only \$410,850 as of Tuesday. This year's goal is \$650,000.

Mason is particularly concerned because the campaign, which traditionally ends Christmas Eve, actually will end a day early since bell ringers don't work Sundays. Mason said the campaign also has been hampered by having about 15 fewer locations this year willing to host the kettles.

Without enough money from the red kettles, the Salvation Army likely will be unable to serve as many people through its neighborhood programs, he said.

For those who want to contribute but can't find a red kettle, information about online donations is available at www.salvationarmycleveland.org.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter: bgalbincea@plained.com, 216-999-4185

Hideout burns; arson suspected

Associated Press

CHILlicothe — A fire at a shack where a man who killed a

police officer hid after escaping from jail probably was set intentionally, authorities said.

John Parsons, who pleaded guilty to murder after being captured, spent time in the fishing shack south of Chillicothe during his three months on the run. It burned down Saturday night.

Authorities are investigating, but they believe the fire was arson because there was no electricity in the shack, Roß County Sheriff Ron Nichols said.

However, investigators have nothing to indicate the fire was connected to the Parsons case, he said.

HONORED

Eye surgeon gets achievement award



Dr. Lawrence Singerman, a retinal surgeon and founder of Retina Associates of Cleveland Inc., was one of six doctors across the country who recently received the Lifetime Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

The awards recognized the recipients' contributions to the academy and the profession.

Mail information to Honored, c/o Metro Desk, Plain Dealer Plaza, 1801 Superior Ave., Cleveland 44114. Or fax to 216-999-6354. Please include your name, address, telephone number and a photograph.

HAPPENINGS

Metroparks hosts bird count Dec. 30

The Cleveland Metroparks will sponsor an Audubon Christmas Bird Count during a hike in the Rocky River Reservation, at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 30. The four-mile hike will conclude with a chili supper at 1 p.m. at the Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway in North Olmsted. The public is invited.

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