

Captured GI to be honored in tribute

San Marcos concert also to benefit groups that help troops.

BY ROGER CROTEAU
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

San Marcos residents will pay tribute Friday to a U.S. soldier who has not been heard from since he was captured in Iraq on May 12.

Pvt. Byron Fouty never lived in San Marcos, but his mother, Hilary Meunier, moved there from Michigan shortly after he joined the Army.

"This was really Mayor Susan Narvaiz's idea," city of San Marcos spokeswoman Melissa Millecam said. "His mother is not a very public person, and she doesn't want to do a lot of public things. But the mayor reached out to her to see what we could do to support the family."

Meunier has become active in the Blue Star Mothers, and the concept formed of declaring a Byron Fouty Day, with an event to raise money for Fisher House and the Warrior Family Support Center; groups that assist families of soldiers recovering from war injuries.

Fisher Houses, 38 in all, provide free housing to families of soldiers so they can stay near military bases or Veterans Affairs hospitals where the soldiers are recovering.

"We want to send the message that soldiers who are missing in action are not forgotten," Narvaiz said. "We invite San Marcos residents to join us in this tribute."

The 90-minute program will be Friday at 6 p.m. at San Marcos Plaza Park, behind the Chamber of Commerce building on the San Marcos River. Choirs from various churches will perform together as the Citywide Worship Band.

The concert is free, but a collection for the charities will be taken.

Fouty, 19, is a member of the 10th Mountain Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team. He was part of a convoy ambushed near Mahmoudiya, a Sunni stronghold 20 miles south of Baghdad.

He and two other soldiers — Pfc. Joseph Anzack Jr., 20, of California and Spc. Alex Jimenez, 25, of Massachusetts — were abducted.

Anzack's body was found floating in the Euphrates River on May 23. On June 17, the ID cards of Jimenez and Fouty were found by U.S. soldiers in a raid on an al-Qaida safe house, but there was no sign of the men.

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Castrated man given 5-year term

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MCKINNEY — A man who underwent surgical castration after he was shot in the groin during a police raid has been sentenced to five years in prison for firing at the officers.

Guillermo Urquiza, 27, said he was asleep at home in April 2006 when a police SWAT team burst in to arrest him and look for evidence that he'd solicited an informant to kill a police officer.

Urquiza shot at the officers but didn't hit anyone. The officers, who said they fired after hearing gunshots, wounded him in the groin and abdomen. He has since undergone seven surgeries, including castration.

Urquiza never was indicted on a charge of solicitation of capital murder, the original reason police raided the home. He was charged with two counts of assault, and a jury convicted him on one count Tuesday, giving him the minimum sentence of five years.

His attorney, Scott Palmer, said Urquiza never had a chance to identify the intruders as police officers.

"It was 12:15 a.m. He'd been asleep for about an hour. Not a sound was made until they took the doors off the hinges," Palmer said.

Lesson anything but dry



PHOTOS BY ANGELA GRANT/STAFF

Members of San Antonio's Boy Scout Troop 100 had a wet and wild time recently when they learned how to operate a canoe. Under the guidance of the new high-adventure group called Venture Crew 100, the Scouts, including Michael Funari (top center), learned to paddle, properly wear life jackets and recover their boats after capsizing on the clear waters of the Nueces River.

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Keyword:
Multimedia
See the Venture Crew maneuvering the Nueces River.

Dr. Charles A.R. Campbell stands beside his bat roost on Mitchell Lake in the early 1920s. The project aims to store images such as these and memories of the area before they're lost.



SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS COLLECTION

South Side set to collect and preserve its rich past

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Habitation by American Indians and the region's role as a route for local settlers who walked village to village, 10 to 15 miles a day, are part of the region's early history, Kachtik said. Preserving stories of the land may help identify areas of archeological value and enrich the South Side's community identity, she said.

There's likely a treasure trove of stories that, like parcels of land in the region, have stayed in the same families for generations, said Marcie Ince, Conservation Society president.

"It's just imperative that this work be done now, while those stories are fresh in people's mind," Ince said. "To know what we have there will help guide future growth."

What could emerge from the project, Rushing said, is a tapestry of images and stories that reflect the heartaches, successes and passions of people as land use changed.

The workshop is from 9 a.m.

South Side history project

A community workshop will be held Saturday to collect photos and oral histories of San Antonio's South Side, with emphasis on an area bounded by Loop 410 to the north, Interstate 35 to the west, Interstate 37 to the east and the Medina River to the south.



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to 4 p.m. Saturday at Highland Forest Elementary School at 3736 S.E. Military Drive. To make an appointment, call Kachtik at (210) 342-0135.

The institute will continue

collecting stories and photos in the months ahead, Rushing said.

"This is only the beginning."

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Immigrant still is behind bars

CONTINUED FROM 1B

ICE's local chief legal counsel, Greg Ball, Anderson seemed unprepared to answer most of the judge's questions, and he flatly said the government believes it can keep Kambo jailed.

The judge ordered the government lawyers to give him their legal arguments in writing, but the attorneys were unprepared. He adjourned the hearing to give them more time.

"Frankly, I'm confused about what the government is doing here," he said. "We've got one side saying one thing, and (immigration) saying another. It seems like the government's confused."

The judge also noted that

Kambo is neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community and had been a productive member of society until immigration agents arrested him in October 2006 at his green card interview.

Why is the government insistent on keeping Kambo locked up? the judge asked. Because the government thinks it has the legal authority, Anderson said. "It is permitted by law."

Kambo's lawyer, Simon Azar-Farr disagreed and said Rodriguez can step in and free Kambo. Neither Anderson nor Ball commented to reporters after the hearing.

At his immigration trial in May, Kambo admitted he was in a military junta that overthrew Sierra Leone's government in a

bloodless coup in April 1992 and seized power. Kambo denied being involved in the killings, which occurred in December 1992, and said he left the ruling group in 1994.

He first came to Texas under a U.N. diplomatic scholarship program in 1994. He earned degrees with honors at the University of Texas at Austin and has been a model employee and resident, raising four U.S.-born children with his wife, Hanaan, court records show.

In June, Immigration Judge Gary Burkholder ruled for Kambo and ordered the government to grant him permanent residency.

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Kimmel set to die for killings in 1999

CONTINUED FROM 1B

several people left before knocking on the door about 4 a.m. on April 9, 1999.

White answered the door, and Murphy asked her for a glass of water. As White turned around to get it, Murphy pulled out a revolver, walked inside and told everyone to get on the couch.

The invading duo made sure everyone's hands were bound with rope. Murphy then dragged White into a bathroom and demanded to know where she kept her money. White asked them why they were doing this.

"I told her everything was going to be all right," Kimmel said in the confession, "that we were just going to give everybody a sedative and take what we want and then we would leave."

The "sedative" was the cleaning fluid. White struggled but couldn't stop Kimmel from injecting the fluid into her arm. Murphy then smothered her with a pillow and stabbed her in the throat.

In a bedroom, Kimmel injected Roe with the fluid. Roe ran for the front door, but his attackers lunged at him. Kimmel plunged the knife into his chest. When Roe continued to struggle, Murphy took the knife and stabbed him repeatedly in the throat.

Kimmel told police he didn't see the slaying of Halverstadt.

She also would die from multiple stab wounds.

In the bathroom, White still was alive. As Murphy and Kimmel carried her into a bedroom, she asked Kimmel once again, in a hoarse whisper — why?

"I don't know why," Kimmel told her. "I don't know what to tell you, because I don't know why."

Murphy then sat on White's abdomen and stabbed her in the chest and throat.

Among other belongings, Murphy and Kimmel took from the apartment a stereo and a VCR, which they sold for \$200. They used one of White's credit cards to buy beer and had a party in a motel room the next night, according to court records.

Murphy and Kimmel had been using methamphetamine, commonly known as speed, for days without sleeping when the murders occurred, Vasquez-Gardner said. Police arrested them more than a month later after tracing receipts from White's credit card.

Melissa White, Rachel White's sister, said she plans to attend Kimmel's execution but predicted his death will change little.

"I'll never go to (my sister's) wedding," she said, "or get to hold her hand during labor."

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Steinbach House welcomes a tenant

CONTINUED FROM 1B

After years of negotiations, the Chamber of Commerce is moving forward with its plans to construct new chamber offices next door. But until the new building is complete, the chamber will move into the first floor of the Steinbach House, which will keep the Alsatian house open daily.

Currently, visitors need to make an appointment to tour the building, located where U.S. 90 meets the Medina River.

"It's such an eye-catcher when you get into town," said Phyllis Ducos, the Chamber's tourism coordinator. "We are hoping to have a lot more tours."

The timbers of the 400-year old house were moved to Castroville in 1997 with the help of the Lycée Agricole in Rouffach. Since then, dozens of artisans, students and volunteers have traveled to Castroville to help restore the building for the small community that for the past 150 years has been keeping the Alsatian traditions of its founders alive.

The 2½-story, timber and brick "fachwerk" house, which comprises 1,232 square feet, also was furnished with period furniture, utensils and paintings donated by people in Alsace.

"It was a wonderful gift from them," Ducos said. "And it's a shame we have not taken more advantage of that."

While the house was intended to become a local tourism center, plans to staff it five days a week never got off the ground. When the Chamber started eyeing it as a potential site for its new offices, it took more than five years to negotiate an agreement with the city, with council members raising concerns about budget constraints and construction on the historic site.

"But everybody wants to make it work and the time was right to make (it) happen," said Joe Painter, the city administrator.

Last month, the City Council voted for the agreement.

Chamber President Tot Albro said the design of the new office building will complement the old Alsatian style of the house



LISA KRANTZ/STAFF

Soon, visitors to Castroville won't have to make an appointment to tour the Steinbach House.

House history

1648: The Steinbach family builds the house in Wahlbach, France.

1890: The Steinbach family immigrates to the United States.

1988: The family disassembles the house and only the fachwerk beams were stored and preserved.

1997: The Lycée Agricole from Rouffach, headed by Professor Paul Dulan, helps move the beams to Castroville.

1998-2002: Dozens of local and French volunteers help erect the home's original beams, install a roof and furnish it with period furniture.

2002: The house is open to tourists by appointments only.

Source: City of Castroville

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and will include a community meeting area and information center. The chamber has about \$50,000 to invest in the construction, which is expected to begin next year. The final price tag has not been determined, Albro said.

"It's our history and it needs to be maintained," she said. "If no one lives in the house, it will decay."

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