

The background of the entire image is a collage of various newspaper clippings, including headlines like "CATERING", "LAWYERS", "BO", "Edmonton", "AT DART", and "The".The logo consists of the word "GOFF" in a bold, dark red, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly slanted to the right. The text is centered within a yellow rounded rectangle that has a thin black border.

GOFF

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

Results from Grande Prairie County Fair

REGISTERED ARAB STALLION — Byron Tofteland, Valhalla; V. Simmons, St. Albert; William Hodges, Grande Prairie. Appaloosa stallion — Lawrence Irwin, Sunset Prairie; Don Johnson, LaGlance; Lawrence Irwin, Sunset Prairie. Get-of-Sire — Morris Peters, Grande Prairie; Gerald Goff, Bezanson; Gary Cooper, Dawson Creek. Showmanship — Heather Nilson, Dawson Creek; Byron Tofteland, Valhalla; Ray Irwin, Sunset Prairie. Showmanship — Bobby Gardiner, Dawson Creek; Gary Saastad, Daryl Tofteland, Valhalla. Single horse fine harness — Ken Norton, Wembley; Lorna Nysted, Grande Prairie; Jack Johnston, Grande Prairie. Welsh stallion — Dick Bernard, Morris Peters, Grande Prairie.

APPALOOSA, brood mare and foal — L. Irwin, E. Lightfoot. Quarter horse mare or gelding — G. Goff, Gary Cooper, Ray McMillan, Grande Prairie. Quarter horse yearling — R. McMillan, G. Cooper, Lois Kocherdorfer, Beaverlodge. Quarter horse brood mare and foal — J. Stojan, Vern Goff, Grande Prairie; Ray Pollock, Grande Prairie. American saddle, standardbred, thoroughbred mare or gelding — B. Gardener, Karol Sinclair, Boyd Cooke, Grande Prairie. American saddlebred, standardbred, thoroughbred yearling — Mrs. Joyce Balisky, Grande Prairie; G. Bean, Grande Prairie; K. Norton. American saddlebred, standardbred, thoroughbred mare and foal — K. Norton, Triple Dande Stables. Arab mare or gelding — B. Henning, Grande Prairie; Andy Saastad, Eugene Johnson, Terrace, B.C.

County Fair results - horses

Junior Showmanship, 12 & Under — 1. Bonnie Tofteland, Vallhalla, 2. Kelly Head, G.P., 3. Mandy Lee, Wallhalla, 4. Vern Goff, Bezanson, 5. Monica Sastaad, Vallhalla; Senior Showmanship — 18 & Over — 1. Gail Fuller, G.P., 2. Lorn Edgerton, Beverlodge, 3. Claire Hook, Edmonton; Open Driving — 1. Donna Wright, G.P., 2. Barbara Tissington, G.P., 3. Dennis Tissington, G.P.; Get of Sire — 1. Roy Jones, Ft. St. John, 2. Ralph Hanson, Vallhalla, 3. Brenda Olson, North Pine; Produce of Dam — 1. Danny Balisky, G.P., 2. Steve Tofteland, Vallhalla, 3. Ray Jones, Ft. St. John; Trail Horse, 11 & Under — 1. Benny Tofteland, Vallhalla, 2. Darryl Viener, Dawson Creek, 3. Irene Finch, G.P., 4. Kelly Head, G.P., 5. Terry Fontaine, Sexsmith.

Reg American Saddle Bred Stallion — 1. Aspen Lane Stables, Grande Prairie, 2. K. Laurie, G.P., 3. Dan Balisky, G.P.; Reg Quarter Horse Stallion — 1. Gerald Goff, Bezanson, 2. Pat Juilik, Beaverlodge, 3. Ray McMillin, G.P.; Reg Arabian Stallion — 1. Aubrey Saastad, Vallhalla, 2. Vivian Maggs, G.P., 3. Earl Lang, Wanham; Champion and Reserve Champion — 1. Aspen Lane Stables, G.P., 2. Gerald Goff, Bezanson; Reg Welsh Stallion 50" under — 1. Brenda Olson, North Pine, 2. Marris Peters, G.P., 3. Brenda Olson, North Pine.

Alberta escapes heavy damage from forest fires

EDMONTON (CP) — Alberta has had more forest fires this year, but the blazes' severity and the damage they caused has been quite low in comparison with the last five years, a provincial forestry service official said yesterday.

Lorne Goff, head of fire control operations, said: "There have been no large disastrous fires this year, even though the danger has been higher than it has been in the last four or five years."

This year, 595 fires have burned 19,007 acres, Goff said. Only seven fires have burned more than 500 acres, the

largest of which was 2,900 acres, which is small for that category.

To this date last year, there had been 470 fires. The annual total was 556 blazes which burned 24,787 acres.

The worst year for fire damage was 1949, 1,461,000 acres burned, Goff said. The greatest number of fires was 900 in 1971.

Goff said he credits the reduction in damage caused by the fires to quick initial attack on the fire with aircraft and manpower.

KEPT ON CALL

A large helicopter has been

added to the fire-fighting fleet, he said. Fire-fighting personnel were kept on call when periods of electrical storm activity were expected, making it possible to get firemen to the scene sooner and control the blazes at smaller sizes.

Goff said 39 per cent of the fires this summer were caused by lightning strikes. The remainder were started by man's activities.

North of Highway 16, which runs across the province from east to west through Edmonton, little rain fell until recently, Goff said. The worst area was north of Lesser Slave Lake where the danger was high until recent rains reduced it to a low level. Dry weather could increase the fire hazard again.

South of Highway 16 on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains weather was quite moist, he said.



Vern Goff shakes off tacklers as he scores one of his four touchdowns.

Goff tears up Redskins

By JEFFREY SKOWRONSKI
of our staff

Yurt **Yurt** was a one-man wrecking crew yesterday as he scored four touchdowns to lead the unbeaten Seaside Satros to a 44-7 romp over Composite High Redskins in Mighty Prince Football League Action.

The victory is the third straight for the perennial Sabres, who lead the league at the half-way point.

The Redskins held Sesanti to just 24 yards in the first half, but pro QB Evan Thresek and reserve quarterback Terry Langin called plays for three more yards in the second frame. Curtis Sandow picked up the other Seafarers' yardage while in defense.

Sabres had a shut-out with less than three minutes left to play when Geoff Lemmott grabbed a pass and palmed for the Rockhens' only major as a 66-yard pass-and-run play.

Nessmith grabbed a 10-yard lead on a defensive play in the first quarter. Cheneek attempted a field goal which went wide. Jensenoff tried to run it out, then attempted a lateral which Cheneek picked out of the air for the safety. The convert was good and Nessmith had the lead.

Chirsek pitched out to **late** in the first quarter on an end-around play which resulted in another Sabres' injury. Chirsek was good on the cover and Seewright led 14-0.

Penalties played an important role in the second quarter as many long Seventh runs were called back for various infractions. The Sabres lost 70 yards in the first half and coughed up the ball twice on penalties.

"It wasn't easy in the first half," said Natives' head coach Jim Goldsack. "The Redskins are improving. Our team has been getting too confident."

Line picked up 36 yards and Chenev 79 yards in the first half. Seventh had 30 yards total while Redskins had less than 100 yards in the first half.

It was all Seasmith in the second frame. The Sabres were able to give Langman an opportunity to gain experience in the quarterback slot. The Grade 10 student took over the reins from Chmerek in the third quarter when the Sabres had a 26-0 cushion.

Larigan directed a hand-off to Gatt for a misplay and committed few mistakes in directing the subro's offense.

"To put Larrigan in in the second half is allow him to gain more confidence," Goldsack said. "With the team playing as well as it is, it is good to get the rookies in."

SANDHILL SWANS.

Salers got a strong game from Sandhee, who picked up all-star honors for runbacks last season. Sandhee scored a touchdown and was instrumental in giving the Salers good field position on punt returns.

Sandline scored his major when Skins quarterback Brad Elsch pitched out and no receiver was where the play was directed. Sandline scooped up the ball and rammed it in on short yardage for the major.

Dennis Chenevix, brother to quarterback Ryan, was on the receiving end of a two-point conversion after Ryan scored his third touchdown.

Scotts effectively stopped Redskins' up running back Jim Scott. The skill-running Scott could not seem to find the openings for large gains he has picked up in previous games.

Chetrek ran for 45 yards in the second half while **Yard** had 4 yards. Total for the second half was 215 yards for the Sabres. Sexsmith had a total of 187 yards for the match.

"I felt **Gold** would be our main back. He is going to be our number one back," said Goldback. "I thought Terry (Larigan) played well. He did all right."

Golbach praised the Redskins, complimenting them on their improved play.

"They came out in the second half as strong as ever."

Goldback said his team would have to really hustle when they meet Pease River Nomads on Sunday in Pease River. Next game in the MPRL is tomorrow as the Nomads visit the Composite High Bears at the Reeples field. Game time is 5 p.m.

Quarter horse body picks leader

The Peace River Area Quarter Horse Association held its annual meeting and awards banquet recently in Beaverlodge.

Melvin Heikel of Hualien was elected president after Gerald Goff of Bezanson decided to step down after two years as chairman.

Other officers elected were vice-president Bert Trottier of Sturgeon Heights; secretary-treasurer Betty Gaudin of Beaverlodge; directors Ray Pollock of Grande Prairie, Garny Hommy of Hythe, Garth Koll of Beaverlodge, Rocky Morrill of Bonanza, Mel Wold of Grande Prairie and Jim Babbirk of High Prairie.

Rosalie Koll agreed to be show convenor, Ruth Finch is in charge of halter and performance futurities, Norman Hollingsworth remained racing futurity chairman and Mona MacLean became the editor of the monthly bulletin.

Two new committees were formed consisting of the social committee of Myfanwy Griffiths, Sidonia Nahlob and Kay Griffiths; and a publicity promotion duo of Gerald Goff and Kay Griffiths.

The next meeting of the PRAQHA is slated for Courtesy Corner at Rycroft Jan. 6 at 1:30 p.m. Further plans will be made regarding the 1980 quarter horse shows and the registered quarter horse sale at this time.

The association was formed in the spring of 1974 to encourage the breeding and showing of quarter horses in the area; to sponsor matches and competitions of quarter horses; to encourage the registration of stallions and mares in the registry and to bring together equestrians for mutual enjoyment of and further the knowledge of horsemanship.

AWARDS MADE

Points were compiled from the four shows that the association sponsored in 1979 and as a finale to the year's work the high point awards were presented at the banquet.

The list of awards is as follows: Colts 1979, Pending owned by Dianne Marcy of Grande Prairie; Colts 1978, CeeBar Leo Clegg owned by Jerry Stojan of Sexsmith; Colts 1977, Zippo Jack owned by Steve Stanich of Rycroft;

Stallions 1976, Two Fox Salute owned by Garnet Hommy of Hythe; Stallions 1975 and older, Famous Effort owned by Garth Stanich of Rycroft. The high point stallion all ages is Zippo Jack.

Fillies 1979, Pending owned by Ray McMillan of Grande Prairie; Fillies 1978, Barbs Krafty Tivie owned by Ray Pollock of Grande Prairie; Fillies 1977, Good Cutie Bar owned by Bert Trottier of Valleyview. Fillies 1976 Bar Bee Rose owned by Daryl Bekkerus of LaGlance; Mares 1975 and older, Shawnee Two Sox owned by Daryl McMillan of Grande Prairie; Broodmares, Miss Rosette 32 owned by Dianne Marcy of Grande Prairie. High point mare all ages is Barbs Krafty Tivie.

Geldings 1977, Pochatas Gint owned by Rocky Morrill of Bonanza; Geldings 1976, Goffs Nippy Flash owned by Gerald Goff of Bezanson; Geldings 1975 and older, Tru Defender owned by Gerald Goff and Dianne Goff of Bezanson. This horse was high point gelding all ages.

Produce of Dam, Razz M Tazz owned by Jerry Stojan of Sexsmith; Get of Sire, Mr. Horton owned by Jerry Stojan of Sexsmith; Youth Halter Mare all ages, Shawnee Two Sox owned by Daryl McMillan of Grande Prairie; Youth Showmanship 14-18, Shawnee Two Sox owned by Daryl McMillan of Grande Prairie; Youth Halter Gelding All Ages, Tru Defender owned by Gerald Goff of Bezanson; Youth Showmanship 13 and under, Jump Jet owned by Susan Koll of Beaverlodge.

Amateur Hunt Seat Equitation, Miss Red Willow owned by M. Griffiths of Grande Prairie; Amateur Hunt Seat Bridle Path Hack,

Miss Red Willow owned by M. Griffiths; Hunt Seat BPH Junior Horse, Jump Jet owned by Susan Koll of Beaverlodge; Hunt Seat BPH Youth, Jump Jet owned by Susan Koll; Hunt Seat BPH Senior Horse, Mia Coca Rhia owned by Gail Fuller of Wembley.

Amateur Western Pleasure, Cee Bars Possum owned by Kathleen Griffiths of Grande Prairie; Western Pleasure Senior Horse, Mia Coca Rhia owned by Gail Fuller; Western Pleasure Youth 14-18, Shawnee Two Sox owned by Daryl McMillan; Western Pleasure Junior Horse, Jump Jet owned by Susan Koll; Western Pleasure Youth 13 and under, Jump Jet owned by Susan Koll; Western Reining Open, Rhea Mare 38 owned by Sidonia and Al Nahlob of Grande Prairie.

Western Horsemanship youth 14-18, Jays Snipper Reed owned by Vern Goff of Bezanson; Western Horsemanship Youth 13 and under, Jump Jet owned by Susan Koll; Amateur Western Riding, Rhea Mare 38 owned by Sidonia and Al Nahlob; Amateur Riding Open, Miss Kidnap Bar, no owner; Western Riding Youth, Opie Kojack owned by Tracy, Al and Sidonia Nahlob.

Trail Junior Horse, Pattys Kipperette, no owner; Trail Youth, Jump Jet owned by Susan Koll; Trail Senior Horse, Mia Coca Rhia owned by Gail Fuller.

PRAQHA 1979 high point performance horse is Jump Jet owned by Susan Koll. This horse also won high point youth 13 and under; PRAQHA 1979 high point amateur is Miss Red Willow owned by M. Griffiths; PRAQHA 1979 high point youth 14-18 years is Shawnee Two Sox owned by Daryl McMillan.

Obituary

VERN GORDON GOFF

Vern Gordon Goff passed away at the age of 20, on Sat., Jan. 28, 1984, 50 miles north of Tuktoyaktuk on the Beaufort Sea.

He was born at Bezanson, Alta., and had been a lifetime resident of that area. He attended high school in Sexsmith, was active in the Peace River area Quarter Horse Association, played football in Edmonton with the Strathecona Lords, and attended pre-training at the Edmonton Eskimo training camp. He was employed by Don Pearson Const. on a contract for Imperial Oil.

He is survived by his mother and father, Gerald and Dianne; brothers: Dennis and Jay at home; paternal grandmother, Mrs. Dina Newall of Swan Haven Nursing Home; maternal grandfather, Mr. Gordon Spears of Nelson, B.C.; numerous aunts and uncles. He was predeceased by his grandmother, Mrs. Cathie Spears; and his grandfather, Vern Goff, Sr., in 1960.

Time and place of funeral service for the late Vern Gordon Goff will be announced at a later date.

Funeral arrangements by Oliver Funeral Chapel.

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Man killed

A 20-year-old Bezanson man has been killed in an accident near Tuktoyaktuk on the Beaufort Sea.

Vern Goff, son of Gerald and Dianne Goff, died Saturday when the bulldozer he was operating went through the ice.

He was employed by Don Pearson Construction of Hythe at the time of the accident.

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Man charged with murdering his father

RCMP accuse man of shooting

A Bezanson man has been charged with the shooting death of his father after RCMP found the body of a man in his burned-out trailer on Friday.

RCMP charged Rocky Jay Goff, 20, with second degree murder and arson in the death of his father Gerald Dennis Goff, 53.

Goff was arraigned in provincial court this morning.

RCMP said an autopsy showed Gerald Goff died from a single gunshot to the chest. The trailer fire started after Goff had died from the gunshot wound, said police.

Goff's body was found in his burned-out

trailer on his farm about four kilometres northwest of Bezanson. Police responded to the fire about 5 a.m.

Gerald Goff was born in Grande Prairie and has lived in the area all his life. He's well known in the Peace Country for breeding quarter horses.

His funeral is to be held in Grande Prairie on Tuesday.

RCMP charged Rocky Goff early today after an "intense" investigation by the general investigation section over the weekend, said RCMP.

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Autopsy shows fire started after man shot

Herald-Tribune staff

A Bezanson man charged in the shooting death of his father Friday appeared briefly in provincial court Monday to be arraigned.

Rocky Jay Goff, 20, was charged with second degree and arson in the death of his father Gerald Dennis Goff, 53. He's to appear in court again Friday.

Rocky Goff is in police custody. Judge Donald Patterson said provincial court didn't have the jurisdiction to consider release on the murder charge.

RCMP said Monday an autopsy showed Gerald Goff died from a single gunshot to the chest. The trailer fire started after he had died from the gunshot wound, the autopsy showed.

Police said a nephew to Gerald Goff arrived home from work about 5 a.m. Friday when he found his

uncle's trailer on fire. The nephew lived with his uncle.

The nephew called police. RCMP and firefighters arrived at the trailer to find "very hot and heavy smoke," said RCMP Sgt. Tom Payne.

Evidence at the scene indicated a firearm was involved, said Payne. An autopsy was ordered by the medical examiner's office in Edmonton and was completed Saturday morning.

Rocky Goff was arrested at the RCMP detachment. He was there for routine questioning as a witness associated with the death when he became a suspect, said Payne.

Rocky Goff, who is known as Jay, didn't live with his father. He lived with his mother Dianne in Bezanson. His parents didn't live together.

Family members sat in on the court proceedings. One spoke quietly with Rocky Goff before the proceedings began.

Not guilty plea in shooting case

A Bezanson man charged in the recent shooting death of his father pleaded not guilty Friday to charges of murder and arson.

Rocky Jay Goff, 20, who appeared in provincial court, elected to be tried by a judge and jury in Grande Prairie.

No trial date has been set.

A preliminary inquiry is scheduled for March 25. A judge will determine if Goff will go to trial after evidence is heard at the inquiry.

Goff remains in police custody until a bail hearing is held Feb. 20.

Goff was charged with murder and arson after the body of his father, Gerald Dennis Goff, 53, was found Feb. 1 in his burned-out trailer on a farm near Bezanson.

An autopsy later showed Gerald Goff died of a single gunshot to the chest.

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Bail likely in murder case

A Bezanson man charged in the shooting death of his father earlier this month was released from police custody by a provincial court judge Wednesday.

However, Rocky Jay Goff, 20, remains in custody until he is granted bail in Court of Queen's Bench. That's expected to happen today. The Crown has agreed to bail conditions.

Goff is charged with second degree murder and arson after the body of his father, Gerald Goff, 53, was found Feb. 1 in his burned-out trailer on a farm near Bezanson.

An autopsy later showed Gerald Goff died of a single gunshot to the chest.

Provincial court judge James Campbell released Goff on the arson charge subject to several conditions agreed upon by Crown and defence lawyers.

It's up to Court of Queen's Bench to release Goff on the murder charge.

The conditions agreed to by Crown and defence include Goff living in Lethbridge with his brother and reporting to RCMP there on a weekly basis. He's not to possess any weapons.

He may only come to Grande Prairie for court appearances or to see his lawyer. He must give RCMP here 48 hours notice of any trip to Grande Prairie.

Bezanson man out on bail

A Bezanson man charged in the shooting death of his father has been released from police custody.

Rocky Jay Goff, 20, was released on a charge of second degree murder by a Court of Queen's Bench justice Thursday in Grande Prairie.

A provincial court judge had already released Goff on a charge of arson.

There are several conditions attached to his release, including that he must live in Lethbridge.

Goff was charged after the body of his father, Gerald Goff, 53, was found Feb. 1 in his burned-out trailer on a farm near Bezanson.

Goff is to attend a preliminary inquiry March 25 to determine whether there is enough evidence to send him to a jury trial.

Murder trail goes in spring

A Bezanson man charged with murder in the death of his father last winter will be tried in front of a jury next spring.

Rocky Jay Goff, 20, appeared in Court of Queen's Bench on Monday and had his trial scheduled for March 16. The trial is to run for two weeks.

Goff is charged with second-degree murder and arson in the death of his father, Gerald Dennis Goff, 53. His body was found in a burned-out trailer on a Bezanson-area farm Feb. 1.

One condition in Goff's bail was changed in Queen's Bench at the request of defence lawyer Jim Watson.

Goff will now be allowed to live in Edson. He was being permitted to live in Lethbridge.

Man shot father, set him on fire: Crown

Herald-Tribune staff

A Bezanson man shot his father then attempted to make it look like suicide by placing a rifle in the dead man's hands and setting him on fire, a Crown attorney said in a murder trial Monday.

Rocky Jay Goff, 21, is charged with first-degree murder and arson in the death of his father Gerald Goff Feb. 1, 1991. His trial, scheduled to run 10 days in Court of Queen's Bench in Grande Prairie, began Monday.

Crown prosecutor Tom Hawkesworth said he would prove that Goff shot his father, placed a rifle in his

hands and set fire to his mobile home on a farm near Bezanson.

Hawkesworth said the man confessed to the crimes. However, any statements Goff made to RCMP officers may not be admitted in the trial.

A voir dire - a trial within a trial - is being held to determine whether the police evidence can be admitted.

Justice A.T. Murray banned all testimony heard in the voir dire from publication. He said publishing the testimony before he rules whether it's admissible or not would be unfair to Goff.

All testimony heard in the trial so far - that of two police officers who questioned Goff over 10 hours on

Feb. 3, 1992 - has been made during the voir dire.

Hawkesworth, in his opening statement, said Gerald Goff's body was found in his burned out trailer by a neighbor. He said the father was in a fetal position with a rifle cradled in his arms and his thumb on the trigger.

An autopsy showed the man died of a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Hawkesworth said the fire didn't destroy the trailer but burned itself out due to lack of oxygen.

Goff didn't live with his father at the time of the death. His parents had separated and he was living with his mother in Bezanson.

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Murder trial continues

Herald-Tribune staff

Crown and defence lawyers will argue today whether confessions of a man charged with murdering his father near Bezanson last winter will be admitted in his trial.

Rocky Jay Goff, 21, is charged with second-degree murder and arson in the death of his father Gerald Goff Feb. 1, 1991. His trial in Court of Queen's Bench in Grande Prairie began Monday.

Crown prosecutor Tom Hawkesworth, in an opening statement Monday, said Goff shot his father, placed a rifle in his hands and set fire to his mobile home to make the death look like suicide.

Hawkesworth said the man confessed.

However, any statements Goff made to police may not be admitted in the trial.

A voir dire - a trial within a trial to determine if evidence will be admitted - has been running since Monday.

Several witnesses have testified including two investigating police officers.

Lawyers will argue today whether such statements can be admitted.

Justice A.T. Murray has banned all testimony heard in the voir dire from publication.

Gerald Goff's body was found in his burned out trailer on a farm near Bezanson by a neighbor. An autopsy showed the man died of a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Judge deciding if man's rights violated

Defence lawyers in Bezanson murder trial question RCMP's handling of accused

By JOHN EAMON
Herald-Tribune staff

A Court of Queen's Bench justice is deciding whether RCMP violated a Bezanson man's rights when he made statements to police before being charged with the murder of his father.

The decision could mean that statements the man made which the Crown says are key to its case could be thrown out of court.

Rocky Jay Goff, 21, is

charged with second-degree murder and arson in the death of Gerald Goff Feb. 1, 1991.

Crown prosecutor Tom Hawkesworth is alleging Goff shot his father, then placed a rifle in his father's hands and set fire to his mobile home to make the death look like suicide.

Hawkesworth said the man confessed.

A voir dire - a trial within a trial held to determine if the statements will be admitted - concluded Thursday.

All testimony heard in the

voir dire has been banned from publication.

Defence lawyer Jim Watson argued RCMP officers violated his clients rights to a lawyer when they questioned Goff during 10 hours on Feb. 3, 1991.

Some statements made were involuntary, Watson said.

RCMP detectives Joseph Arsenault and Mike Bleau at times deceived Goff to obtain information, Watson said.

But Hawkesworth said the officers were just doing their jobs and that statements made were voluntary.

Justice A.T. Murray said he would make a decision on the voir dire while the trial progresses.

Meanwhile, one witness testified in the trial proper.

Nico van der Giessen Jr., who lives near the Bezanson-area farm that was owned by Gerald Goff, said Jay's mother Dianne Goff arrived at his family's farm about 5 a.m. Feb. 1, 1991.

"She said there had been a fire at the trailer and they didn't know where Gerald was," said van der Giessen.

van der Giessen said several people were at Gerald Goff's farm when he arrived, including Jay Goff.

van der Giessen said his father discovered Gerald Goff's body in the burned-out trailer.

Hawkesworth said the fire was discovered by a nephew of Gerald Goff, who had been staying at the farm and arrived home from work to find the trailer burning. He then contacted Jay and Dianne.

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Victim likely shot from a distance

Wounds weren't consistent with close-range shooting, murder trial hears

By JOHN EAMON
Herald-Tribune staff

A Bezanson man found dead last winter with a high-powered rifle cradled in his arms was probably shot from some distance away, a Court of Queen's Bench murder trial heard Thursday.

Gerald Goff was found in his burned-out farm trailer northwest of Bezanson Feb. 1, 1991 with a .358-calibre rifle cradled in his arms.

But Dr. Graeme Dowling, a provincial medical examiner, said the gunshot wound to the man's chest that killed him wasn't consistent with a shot fired from close range.

Rocky Jay Goff, 21, of Bezanson, is being tried on charges of second-degree murder and arson in the death of his

father. The Crown is expected to close its case today.

Crown prosecutor Tom Hawkesworth is alleging Goff shot his father, then put the rifle in his father's arms and set the trailer on fire to make it look like suicide.

Dowling said there were no signs the shot was fired from less than a metre away.

He said a shot at close range should have left gunpowder or soot around the bullet hole or left marks from gunpowder hitting the skin. But none of those signs were found.

However, the man's shirt had been burned away where the wound was and so it couldn't be determined if there was any gunpowder or soot on the clothing, said Dowling.

"The general features are more consistent with a distant range wound, but I can't be absolute about that."

Dowling said the shot from the hunting rifle tore apart the man's liver and parts of his heart, kidney and a lung before exiting out of his back.

Dowling said the man had a bruise and laceration on his face but couldn't say how long before death he might have suffered that injury.

Nellie Pigeau, who was having a relationship with Gerald Goff, said she left his home the night he died about 10:30 p.m. She said he had no bruises.

She tried to phone him about 2 a.m. but there was no answer.

Dave Goff, Gerald Goff's nephew who was living at the trailer, said he returned from work about 4:45 a.m. to

find there had been a fire in the trailer.

He drove to the Bezanson home of Gerald Goff's estranged wife, Dianne Goff, and woke up Diane and Rocky Goff.

Dave said he, Rocky Goff and Dianne Goff raced to the trailer but couldn't find Gerald Goff.

A neighbor came over and found the man's body in the trailer.

Dave Goff said there were several guns kept in the trailer, including the rifle that killed Gerald Goff.

Meanwhile, a decision has yet to be made on whether police violated Rocky Goff's rights when they took statements from him. Justice A.T. Murray said that decision, which could mean key Crown evidence being thrown out of court, will be made by Monday.

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Dead man's girlfriend "disliked"

Herald-Tribune staff

The Crown has closed its case against a Bezanson man charged with murder in the shooting death of his father last winter.

Rocky Jay Goff, 21, is charged with second-degree murder and arson in the death of Gerald Goff on Feb. 1, 1991.

Crown prosecutor Tom Hawkesworth closed his case in Court of Queen's Bench in Grande Prairie on Friday with testimony from police officers and family members.

Hawkesworth is alleging Rocky Goff shot his dad, then placed a rifle in his hands and set his trailer on fire to make it look like suicide.

Defence lawyer Jim Watson is to open his case today after Justice A.T. Murray rules whether statements Rocky Goff made to police are admissible.

Gerald Goff was found in a semi-fetal position with a high-powered rifle cradled in his arms and his thumb on the trigger. A fire had partially burned his trailer.

On Friday, Gerald Goff's wife Dianne, and his niece testified.

Tammy Saunders, the niece, said the relationship between Rocky and Gerald began to deteriorate in the late '80s after a Clairmont woman, Nellie Pigeau, was hired onto the family farm. Pigeau was Gerald's girlfriend at the time he was shot.

"After Nellie Pigeau was hired to work on the farm,

things seemed to get tense over the years and there was a real dislike for Nellie," Saunders said.

Gerald and Dianne had split up in the late '80s. She and Rocky Goff were living in Bezanson at the time Gerald was shot.

Diane said her son's mood and behavior the night before Gerald Goff was found dead in his trailer on a Bezanson-area farm wasn't unusual.

She said her husband had a quick temper and could be violent. She said he had pointed a rifle at her and threatened to kill her before the two separated in 1989.

RCMP Const. David Cook, who helped conduct the fire investigation, said it appeared the hottest part of the fire in the trailer was in a hallway where the body was found.

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Father shot "accidentally"

"I directly feared for my life at that point"

Herald-Tribune staff

A Bezanson man charged with murder said he accidentally shot his father last winter after the man flew into a violent rage and threatened to kill him.

Rocky Jay Goff, 21, is being tried in Court of Queen's Bench in Grande Prairie on charges of second degree murder and arson in the death of his father Gerald Goff, 53.

Justice A.T. Murray said he would make his decision today after hearing on Monday from Goff, the only defence witness.

Defence lawyer Jim Watson asked Goff be acquitted of murder by reason of self-defence.

Goff said he went to Gerald Goff's farm home in the early morning hours of Feb. 1, 1991 to talk to his dad about his parents' separation.

The father, described by Goff and his mother as a violent man, flew into a rage, grabbed a lever-

action hunting rifle and jammed a loaded magazine into it, the younger Goff said.

"It was loaded and ready to fire; it was pointed directly at me and very close," said Goff.

"He uttered a curse, something to the effect 'I'm going to kill you, you useless bastard.'"

"Upon that remark I was very afraid and panicked, I directly feared for my life at that point."

Goff said he fled down a hallway and felt his pursuing father ram the muzzle of the rifle into his back. Goff, taller and heavier than his father, turned and wrestled the rifle away, he said.

He was then backing away from his enraged father, he said.

He "flinched" and shut his eyes and the rifle fired, he said.

"I did not intend to fire the weapon. At that moment I was still out of his reach."

Goff then placed the rifle in his father's hands and set the trailer on fire, he said.

Watson said Goff's actions were justified even though the shot was fired accidentally because he was doing to that point what was necessary to protect himself.

Watson said if self-defence isn't accepted, the murder charge should be reduced to manslaughter because Goff was provoked. A person convicted of murder is automatically sentenced to life in prison.

Watson made no argument on the arson charge, saying Goff admitted to deliberately setting the fire. Arson carries a maximum of five years in prison.

Also on Monday, Justice Murray threw part of a confession made by Goff out of court because RCMP officers violated his rights.

In a statement to two RCMP officers during 10 hours of questioning, Goff admitted to shooting the rifle but hadn't spoken to a lawyer.

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Man acquitted in shooting death

Justice rules son who killed father was involved in "misadventure"

Herald-Tribune staff

Rocky Goff was defending himself when he shot and killed his father, a Court of Queen's Bench justice has ruled.

Justice A.T. Murray on Tuesday acquitted Goff of second-degree murder, ruling the Bezanson-area man accidentally shot his father.

But Goff, 21, will go to jail on another charge.

He was convicted of arson and sentenced to 90 days in prison.

Justice Murray said he was satisfied that Goff was acting in self-defence when he aimed a loaded rifle at his father Gerald Goff, 53, and warned him to stay away.

Murray said the shot that killed the man was accidental and a "misadventure."

Goff, in an interview, said he was relieved to be acquitted of murder. Goff, who has been living in Edson, Alta., said he had been subject to "harassment" while waiting a year for his trial.

"I feel good about the acquittal," said Goff. "It's (the court evidence) as it happened there."

During his seven-day trial, Goff testified that he went to his father's Bezanson-area farm trailer in the early morning hours of Feb. 1, 1991 to talk to his dad about the separation of his parents.

Goff said the father became enraged, pointed a loaded rifle at him and threatened to kill him. Goff wrestled the rifle away and pointed it at his father, he said. He "flinched" and the gun went off, killing the older man.

Goff then placed the rifle in his father's arms and set the trailer on fire.

Murray said setting fire to the trailer was an attempt to fool people into thinking Gerald Goff had committed suicide.

But the justice said Goff decided to set the trailer on fire while he was panicked and involved in a "nightmare."

He said a jail term for setting the fire was necessary "even in these unique circumstances."

He also placed Goff on probation for a year and levied a \$50 victims' surcharge.

Defence lawyer Jim Watson said Goff has suffered and will "have to help the rest of the family members come to terms with this tragedy."

Crown prosecutor Tom Hawkesworth, in an interview, said he couldn't comment on whether the acquittal or the sentence will be appealed. He said his department will discuss the question of appeals.

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Leta Jean Goff (nee Moon) 63, of Rocky Mountain House



We are saddened to announce the passing of Leta Jean Goff, loving and beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. She passed away on April 1, 2001 after a sudden illness.

The eldest child of Charles and Pearl Moon, Leta was born October 1, 1937 in Grande Prairie and raised in the Bezanson area. Leta married Lorne Goff, her high school sweetheart on November 7, 1958.

They had three loving children. Lorne's career with the Alberta Forest Service provided them with the opportunity to live in many Alberta communities where she made many friends and touched many lives.

In 1986 they moved to Rocky Mountain House, and after Lorne's retirement in 1996 they settled on a small ranch in the area.

Leta was a devoted mother and grandmother who was most happy when she was surrounded by family and friends. She was the kind of

person who never forgot a birthday or special occasion. Leta was called Mama by her children and grandchildren. Children were especially drawn to her warm and caring nature and were always rewarded with a smile and kind words.

She is mourned by her devoted husband Lorne; her son Garry, his wife Valand their children, Ashley, Ryan and Lindsay; her son Dave, his wife Jackie and their son Quinton; her daughter Lisa, her husband Don Schneider and their daughter Elizabeth; brother Grant and his wife Margaret; brother

Ross and his wife Theresa; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be held at Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel (10005-107 Avenue) at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 7, 2001. Interment to follow at Glen Leslie Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association or the Kidney Foundation.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL
& CREMATORIUM**

Geraldine Stark, 83, of Grande Prairie



Geraldine Selma Stark (nee Jensen) passed away peacefully at the family home on Tuesday, March 12, 2002 in the

presence of her family.

Geraldine was predeceased by her parents Didrik and Hjertin Jensen, brothers Gustav and Sigvald, sister Dina (Vern) Goff, brother Marvin (Mae) Jensen, sister Mildred (Bob) McPhee, brother-in-law Bob Fenton, and nephews Lyle Jensen, Gerald Goff and Peter McPhee.

Geraldine is survived by her lifetime partner of 64 years John D. Stark, son Duane, son Roy (Marie), son Warren (Debby) and daughter Denise (Rick) Hryciuk, sister Myrtle Fenton, grandchildren Michelle Stark (Andriy), Troy Stark (Carrie), Rebecca Stark, Nicole Stark, Kelly Hryciuk and Stacey Hryciuk.

She is also survived by nieces and nephews Allan (Betty) Fenton, Bruce (Helen) Fenton, Ray (Marg) Fenton, Jim (Betty-Ann) Fenton, Muriel (Bud) Powell, Lorne Goff, Bonnie (Andy) Scott, Arlene McPhee, Terry McPhee and Marlene Bernie-Brown and many paternal nieces and nephews.

Geraldine was born on July 16, 1918 in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, and moved from

the family farm at Fox Valley to the Glen Leslie / Bezanson area in 1929.

In 1938 Geraldine married Johnny and settled on their homestead on the banks of the Smoky River where the family grew up.

In 1968 the family farm was sold and Geraldine and Johnny moved to Grande Prairie where they have since resided.

Despite her 30-plus-year battle with breast cancer she continued to do the things she loved such as painting, sewing, cooking and gardening.

However, most of all she continued to give her love and support to her family, always putting their well being ahead of her own.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes in Geraldine's memory may be made to the Compassion House Foundation, #354, 10113-104 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1P1 (support facility for out-of-town breast cancer patients).

Public viewing will be held on Friday, March 15, 2002 from 7-8 p.m. from Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel, 10005-107 Ave., Grande Prairie.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2002 at 1 p.m. from Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel.

Interment will follow in the Glen Leslie Cemetery.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
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SPIERS, Dianne May 6, 1941 – July 14, 2011

Honey Dianne Lenore Spiers (Dianne) , born May 6, 1941 in Nelson, BC, passed away Thursday, July 14, 2011 in Grande Prairie, Alberta, after a determined struggle against cancer. Dianne came to the Peace Country and married Gerald Goff of Bezan-son, in 1961. They farmed and raised quarter horses for many years while raising their family of three boys, Vern, Dennis and Jay. Dianne drove a school bus for over 30 years and leaves behind many friends in the bus driving community. A special thanks to Maurice and Barb Powell for their support over the years. Dianne is survived by her sons Dennis Goff (Jennifer) of Lethbridge; Jay Goff of Clairmont; siblings Stan Spiers of Amisk, Alberta; Stuart Spiers and Dorothy Hockett of Quesnel, British Columbia; and many nieces and nephews. As well as her "adopted" daughter Darla Provencal of Sexsmith, Alberta. Dianne will be dearly missed and always remembered. At Dianne's request there will be no service. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE FUNERAL CHAPEL
& CREMATORIUM**

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Grande Prairie to vye for Miss Universe Canada title

KIRSTEN GORUK
Herald-Tribune staff

Lindsay Goff has a lot going on in her life at the moment.

The 24-year-old is a University of Alberta student who's currently wrapping up her third year of secondary education studies and if studying for finals isn't stressful enough, she's got the Miss Universe Canada finals coming up in May.

Originally born in Drayton Valley, Goff's family eventually relocated to Grande Prairie when she was nine. She grew up in the Peace Country until she moved to Edmonton for university.

This weekend the national finalist for Miss Universe Canada is making a trip back.

"I'm just excited to come home. Even though I've lived in Edmonton for a few years now for school, Grande Prairie is always home," Goff says.

She's hosting a fundraising event Friday night at Better Than Fred's (9903-101 Street). Cover is \$10, there will be live entertainment, drinks and a silent auction, with many of the items made by Goff herself.

"I wanted to have a party in my hometown, so that's why I'm coming to Better Than Fred's. It should just be a fun night and an excuse to come see family and friends that I don't get to see all the time with school."

"I'm just really excited to see everyone and it's just a bonus that they'll be helping me fundraise for Operation Smile and SOS Children's Villages (Canada)."

Her work with both charities are part of her delegate duties. Goff's interest in entering the pageant stems from her desire to be a role model and a title such as Miss Universe Canada would go a long way in helping her help others.

As a child, Goff dealt with being bullied as well as some health issues, both of which she believes have helped shape her into the person she is today.

"I wanted to do pageants because I thought they were a lot of fun, not to mention they're big on role models. I've done ones before; this



SUPPLIED

Grande Prairie's Lindsay Goff will be competing in the Miss Universe Canada finals in May.

will be my third. I just really like what it represents and I want to get rid of stereotypes: That we aren't just silly pageant girls; that we're influential and inspirational."

60 finalists

Goff has already made it through an application process, interview and extensive training. There are now 60 finalists from all over the country who will vie for the title during finals week in Toronto from May 18-16.

From the pageant presentation show May 23, which includes swimwear and evening gown categories before a live audience and judging panel, the judges will select 15 semi-finalists, with the other five being fast-tracked for different categories, including one for people's choice.

You can vote for Goff four times a day until May 23 by going to www.beautiesofcanada.com.

The live finale happens May 25 with the same program as before as well as an interview segment.

Goff says the interview portion is a crucial part of the pageant.

"That's when the judges get

to know you and get to understand your public speaking, how you handle yourself as well as your personality. Some pageants are all about the beauty aspects, but this one is very much also focused on personality and your heart, basically. That's why I'm really excited about this one," she says.

For the last two months Goff has spent every school-free moment training for the pageant, whether that involved workouts or research about her charities. That said, she knows the hardest part is yet to come in her bid to win the coveted title and go on to represent Canada in the Miss Universe pageant at the end of the year.

"It hasn't happened yet. It'll be when I get there and handling the nerves. It's something I want so badly. I've wanted to win other pageants, but this one is so different," Goff says.

"It's just so much more pressure. I know that once I get there it'll hit me that I'm competing for it. I'm excited, but so nervous."

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Lindsay Goff back on the national stage

TOM BATEMAN
Herald-Tribune staff

A Grande Prairie woman is getting another crack at making an world-wide impression.

Lindsay Goff has been selected for a Miss Universe Canada 2014, a competition in which she finished 20th overall last year. The winner will the winner will represent Canada at Miss Universe 2014.

This year, the University of Alberta student says she has high expectations.

"Last year was for the experience - this year I want to win," she said.

Her first time was a good building block for the 24-year-old.

"I was thrilled that I made top 20, I learned so much and gained a lot of experience - after that I ended up modelling in New York for an (Edmonton) designer (Trisha Pasnak) who made my dress for the

pageant."

Much of Goff's time following Miss Universe Canada has been centred around preparations for this year's event; maintaining fitness, eating healthy and preparing a dress and practising presentations.

The pageant helped define her career aspirations as well, Goff is in her second year of an education degree. She wants to become a teacher and principal.

"Walking with confidence, public speaking - I love it now and I actually run a mentorship program with girls. Just the whole humanitarian work - fundraising is 25% of your grade and I found it inspired me to do more so I've actu-



GOFF
Contestant

ally been doing a lot more in schools now."

Goff has spent time at Ellerslie Campus Elementary Junior High School in Edmonton. After completing required student-teaching practicum at the school, she stuck around and started a mentorship program aimed at giving girls a chance to talk through some of the hardships related to life in junior high.

She's also fundraising for SOS Children's Village, an international organization that provides homes for orphaned and abandoned children. Goff has been hosting parties in Edmonton and Grande Prairie, with the proceeded going to SOS.

Goff was born in Drayton Valley and currently resides in Edmonton, but says her connections to the Swan City run deep. She moved here at age nine, and some of the people she met here made her who

she is today.

"I've been in Edmonton for school now for five years but I come home every couple of months, I need to come back all the time. Grande Prairie will be my forever home," she said.

"The reason I want to be a teacher is when I was going through those rough times when I first moved to Grande Prairie in Grade 4, I was kind of a loner-kid I didn't have friends."

Goff credits a teacher at Alexander Forbes School, Mona Shaw, and the principal at the time, Sharron Graham, for her interest in education as an adult.

"Her and I got back in touch because I wanted to be a principal," said Goff of Graham. "I mentioned her because she was one of the most phenomenal people in my life and I thanked her in my online portfolio."

Goff needs help in her cam-

paign to represent the nation. A portion of Goff's score will come from an online vote.

"When you go on missuniversecanada.ca, on the right hand side it says vote for your favourites. Click it and vote for Lindsay Goff," she said.

Goff leaves for Toronto on May 17 and she's ready for the blitz of fittings, photo shoots, and rehearsals to get ready for the competition.

"It's pretty busy, but it's awesome. You don't have time to be tired," she said.

"I've met a lot of girls (competing) and if they're worthwhile I wouldn't be offended if they won," she concluded.

"I want the best person to represent Canada but I'm hoping that person's me."

To follow Goff's progress, visit her Facebook page entitled: Miss Universe Canada 2014 - Lindsay Goff.

Miss Universe Canada is set for May 22-24 in Toronto.

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