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FORECAST

TODAY

MONDAY

Partly sunny and cold

A chance of snow

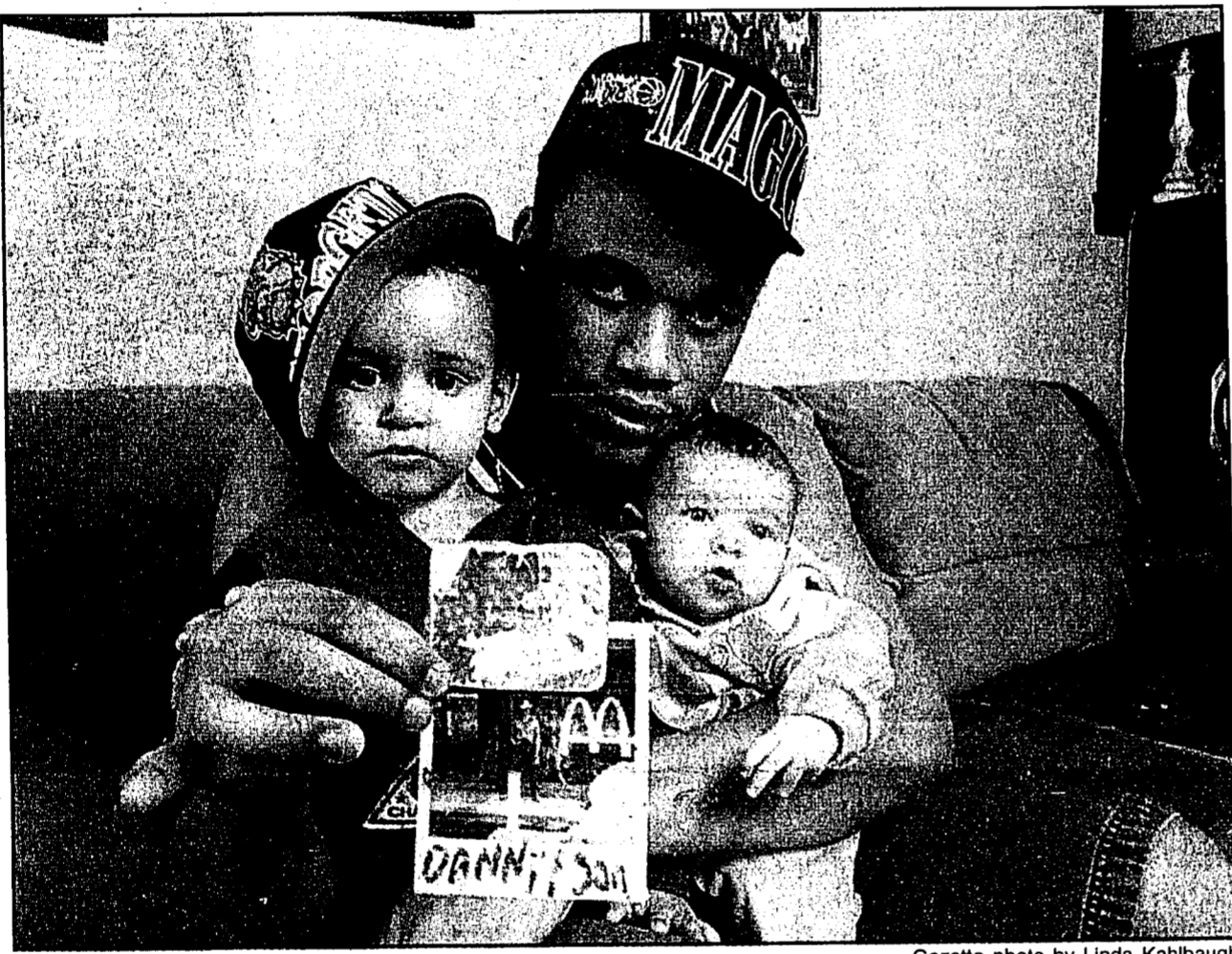
High 13 Low -3

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# Kids in court

Donyeal Galbreath, 20, has two children, Myron, 2, and Destiny, 3 months. One of Galbreath's regrets is that his children will never meet his father, who was murdered in Cedar Rapids in 1983. Galbreath, an Iowa City resident, holds a photo of his father.



Gazette photo by Linda Kahlbaugh

## For child witnesses, pain continues after trial ends

**By Rick Smith**  
Gazette staff writer

**B**efore Robbie Morgan and Lindsey Wilson, there was Donyeal Galbreath.

Galbreath was 9 once, too. And by circumstance, he took his place, just as Robbie and Lindsey recently did, on the nightly news and the morning front page as a child witness testifying to an awful crime.

Celebrity, if that's what it was, fades, says Galbreath, who now is 20 and living in Iowa City.

In 1983, the murder of his dad, Danny Baker, thrust Galbreath into the judicial spotlight. Willie Barney stood accused of the Cedar Rapids crime.

It was Galbreath's small voice, with Barney sitting face to face with him across a Linn County

courtroom, that was being counted on to put this grown man behind bars for life.

The moment is still a vivid one.

"It makes you grow up just like that," explains Galbreath, "because the rest of your life you've got to think about all that stuff you said on the stand."

A month ago, Galbreath watched on television as 9-year-old Robbie Morgan, in a ski mask, was led past a flock of newsmen and into the Lee County Courthouse.

Robbie, of Washington County, was an eyewitness in the murder of 9-year-old Anna Marie Emry near Houghton in Lee County. Robbie's dad, Lary Morgan, was convicted of the crime.

"I saw my dad throw her in the

ditch," Robbie told the jury. He estimated Anna Marie yelled for help about 20 times.

More recently, it was Lindsey Wilson's turn to testify.

She told a Linn County jury she was eating a doughnut and preparing for school in her northeast Cedar Rapids home as an argument heated up between her mother, Tammi, and her mother's live-in boyfriend, Brian Sillick.

Sillick retreated, then returned with a sawed-off shotgun.

"Don't do this in front of my kids," Lindsey testified that her mother begged. Sillick pumped three shots into Lindsey's mother with the little girl looking on.

This past week, Sillick was

*"It makes you grow up just like that. The rest of your life you've got to think about all that stuff you said on the stand."*

**Donyeal Galbreath**

## Baseball owners go to bat in D.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The pitch to U.S. Rep. Jim Moran from the owner of the only minor-league baseball team in northern Virginia came in on him like a fastball thrown at a batter's chin.

If Congress revokes the game's antitrust exemption, the owner warned, Moran could lose not only the minor-league Prince William Cannons, but also the long-sought chance for a major-league franchise in or near his congressional district.

"He persuaded me," Moran, a Democrat, said of the visit Feb. 1 from Cannons owner Art Silber, a Baltimore banker and real estate investor.

A year ago, Moran was prepared to introduce legislation that would roll back major-league baseball's long-standing exemption from antitrust laws. Aides had even drafted a bill to take away the monopoly status team owners have enjoyed since a 1922 Supreme Court ruling that essentially declared baseball was not a business.

"Then we looked into it and found it would hurt northern Virginia's chances (at a big-league team) and hurt the Cannons. That's why I pulled the bill back," Moran said.

With President Clinton beckoning Congress to end the six-month baseball strike and lawmakers still studying the antitrust exemption, the politically connected baseball owners have rolled out a powerful lobbying machine.

On the same day Silber visited Moran, 102 other minor-league owners and managers fanned

**With President Clinton beckoning Congress to end the six-month baseball strike and lawmakers still studying the antitrust exemption, the politically connected baseball owners have rolled out a powerful lobbying machine.**

out across Congress for personal lobbying. A week earlier, eight major-league owners had visited 66 members of the House and Senate.

With their stature as local business leaders, philanthropists and large political givers — and with a few of D.C.'s best lobbyists in their bullpen — the owners have powerful sway on Capitol Hill.

And their most potent weapon, as Moran discovered, is the threat of moving franchises, especially those in the minor leagues, which are an important part of 176 local economies from Durham, N.C., to Spokane, Wash.

"You have to remember who the owners are," said Bud Shorstein, a senior aide to Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., who is sympathetic to some of the players' concerns.

"They generally are very affluent citizens who are leaders of their communities, very char-

■ Turn to 6A: **Baseball**

## Mourners get surprise: Oklahoma man still alive

**T**ULSA, Okla. (AP) — The funeral home had been notified. A list of pallbearers was half done. The family had been mourning for hours when the call came: Jim Snodgrass was alive.

"We all looked like ghosts. We just stood there," daughter Terri Crawford said.

Early Wednesday, the family had gotten a call from the Oklahoma City hospital where her 59-year-old father was an ulcer patient. The word was that he'd died of a heart attack.

"We were in the middle of making a list of pallbearers when the hospital called back

and apologized, telling us they had made a terrible mistake," Crawford said.

Another patient with the same last name and middle initial had died.

"We did an awful lot of grieving for that man," she said.

Snodgrass was released Thursday, and his "revival" has given Crawford the chance to tell him how much he means to her: "I don't hold back nothing at all now."

Debra Colombe, the hospital's acting associate director, said Friday that privacy laws prevented her from discussing patients without permission.

## It is a good day to remain inside

**By Dave Rasdal**  
Gazette staff writer

How cold was it Saturday?

It was so cold the wild and crazy guys in Marion called off the Wacky Winter Olympics.

But no worry. The Wacky Winter Olympics will return — hopefully at 10 a.m. next Saturday — if the weather will only get a bit more summer-like. Then contestants will compete in a variety of fun events, including frozen pasture pool, mitten ball and iceberg Pinguin roll, at Marion's City Square Park.

In the meantime, Eastern Iowans will suffer through the cold today much as they did Saturday. Temperatures across the state were predicted

to remain in the single digits, but winds will create chill factors of well below zero.

Temperatures Saturday morning fell early but rebounded by midafternoon. In Cedar Rapids, the 6 a.m. temperature of 3 above became minus 1 just two hours later. With winds ranging from 20 mph to 25 mph, the wind chill factor was minus 44 degrees.

By early afternoon, even though the temperature was 2 above, winds gusting to 36 mph kept the wind chill factor at minus 43 degrees.

In anticipation of more stranded motorists needing help, the State Patrol increased the number of troopers on the road. By late Saturday after-

noon, the patrol reported receiving no more calls than usual.

"I guess maybe people stayed home," said an officer at the patrol's Cedar Rapids office.

That speculation was echoed by sheriffs' dispatchers throughout Eastern Iowa, who reported an unusually quiet weekend.

For people without anyplace to call home, emergency shelters stepped in with a warm place to stay.

"Whether it's 100 degrees out or 50 below, we'll be here," said Gordy Merritt, a volunteer at the Willis Dady Emergency Shelter, 1247 Fourth Ave. SE. "Anybody can come in. We'll make space for them."

IOWA WIND CHILLS

As of noon Saturday

Cedar Rapids	-43°
Des Moines	-37°
Dubuque	-46°
Lamoni	-25°
Sioux City	-30°
Waterloo	-47°

Source: National Weather Service  
Gazette graphic

Laure Lewis of Cedar Rapids wraps up her 7-month-old Yorkshire terrier, Chloe, to protect her from the cold while taking the dog to Lewis' car Saturday.



Photo by John Pandeygraft, Gazette intern

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TODAY'S CHUCKLE

A lot of people are concerned about their rights, but nobody cares much about their lefts.

## Baseball

■ From page 1A

itable people, who also have been politically active for years. The players don't have the same background."

Figures compiled by the National Library on Money and Politics, a non-partisan group that studies campaign finance, found that baseball team owners, their families and top employees have given \$1.1 million to congressional candidates and to political parties over the last 15 years.

The owners are also likely to have personal connections on Capitol Hill.

Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, owner of the Milwaukee Brewers, was the college roommate of Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis. When Selig was lobbying at the Capitol on Thursday, Kohl invited him to his office for a private session with other Wisconsin lawmakers.

Selig brings to the table another asset: some of the best Washington lobbyists money can buy.

He was accompanied to last Thursday's meetings by Tom Korologos and William Cable, two lobbyists from the influential firm Timmons and Co., and Stanley Brand, former counsel to the House of Representatives.

In the House, the owners have employed as their lobbyist a former congressman, Illinois Democrat Marty Russo.

When the owners testify this week on baseball's antitrust exemption before the Senate Judiciary Committee, their spokesman will be James Rill, who headed the Justice Department's antitrust division under President Bush.

The players have lobbyists, as well, but they are fewer and less well-known. While the owners have always schmoozed with Congress, the players became politically active only about a year ago.

What players rely on is celebrity, a significant weapon in a media-sensitive institution like Congress.

That was on display last week when the Major League Players Association threw a reception starring such players as Cal Ripken, Eddie Murray and Dave Winfield. The players were swarmed by autograph-seeking members of Congress and their aides.

"Nobody wants an owner's autograph," said Shorstein, Graham's aide.

For updates on this story call 363-7000 or 337-7000, category 2528.

## Witnesses: For children who testify, pain continues after trial ends

■ From page 1A

convicted of murder.

For Galbreath, the court experience brought a more confusing ending. A jury found Willie Barney not guilty.

But, he figures, the result is much the same: That the court case is done does not mean the personal trial for the child witness is over.

"That's not the way it goes," explains Galbreath. "For me, it's not like I started throwing up or anything. But you have to live with seeing something like that. It shakes you up for a while, I'll tell you that much."

"They're going to feel guilty. Because maybe they think they could have done something to prevent it. Or said something to stop it. They're going to be going through those things for a while."

### Weighing the worth

Putting a youngster on the witness stand is not a decision made lightly, says Linn County Attorney Denver Dillard.

Dillard needed no clearer reminder than when he walked Lindsey Wilson into the courtroom, past the jury and up to the witness stand.

"I was holding her hand and I could feel her hand trembling," Dillard says.

Certainly, he says, the experience is traumatic for the child. But as a prosecutor, Dillard says he weighs the worth of a child's testimony against the harm testifying may cause the child.

In the end, though, Dillard is under no illusion. "I don't believe putting a 9-year-old on the stand is good for the 9-year-old," he says.

He did not, he notes, call Lindsey's sister, Chelsea, who was 5 and at home the morning her mother was murdered.

"That was just too much to ask of her," Dillard says.

### Stress from ordeal

Testifying is particularly difficult for youngsters when they have to face a perpetrator in court. But the courtroom ordeal is not as traumatic as witnessing a terrible crime, says Dr. Kathleen Opdebeek, medical director of the Child Protection Center at St. Luke's Hospital.

In fact, suggests Opdebeek, testifying can be therapeutic. It lets children tell their stories and gives them a feeling that they are helping get to the truth.

That's not to say that attorneys aren't capable of roughing



Gazette photo by Linda Kahlbaugh  
Donyeal Galbreath of Iowa City keeps his father's driver's license, a tattered photo and one that doesn't show his father up close. They are among the few items Galbreath has that belonged to his father, who was slain in 1983.

up a child witness. Attorney insensitivity, she says, can make testifying more traumatic than it needs to be.

"Most people don't go after the kids that way, though," she says, "because it doesn't look good for their case either."

Opdebeek suspects that children who witness violence are susceptible to a lingering post-traumatic stress disorder, not unlike what some Vietnam veterans have experienced. Recent studies are finding that violence — for instance, violence in the home — affects children more than most suspected, she says.

"Before, they used to think, 'So what if Dad beats Mom, or Mom beats Dad,'" she says. "But now they are finding that it has much more long-term effect."

### End of childhood

Galbreath is living proof that children who experience bad things grow up, one way or another.

Today, he is articulate beyond his track record of school dropout, juvenile delinquent, recent gang member and adult probationer. He is the father of two young children.

Boyhood for Galbreath had been difficult even before his dad's murder. He says his parents had a stormy, sometimes violent relationship, and that his dad had been to prison.

around. Baker died later at the hospital, a .32-caliber bullet in his back.

Galbreath says the next months leading up to trial were a whirlwind of visits from detectives, attorneys and counselors.

The boy testified at Barney's trial that he had seen Barney come back inside after the fight with his father and rush out a rear door.

But Barney's attorney disputed that. He said adults coached Galbreath in his testimony, and that Galbreath's uncle and a housekeeper were likely responsible for the murder.

Barney was acquitted, leaving Galbreath older and angrier.

"I told them who killed my dad," he recalls. "They (the defense attorney) just kept asking me, trying to get me to change my story, but my story wasn't changing. . . . As a 9-year-old, I didn't remember things good. Unless they were important. Especially when it had to do with my dad. The person in the world I loved the most."

Galbreath's moment of unsought court celebrity ended, but his behavioral problems were just beginning.

At first, he lived with his mother's father in Iowa City, but soon he became more than his grandfather could handle. The Iowa Department of Human Services placed him in a series of foster homes, none of which worked well. Galbreath misbehaved at each stop.

"This is how I look at it, how my brain kind of took over," he tells himself now. "A grown man kills another grown man, so why can't I go out and act a fool on the streets, do what I want to do, and get away with it? What's the difference?"

And he has pretty much done

**Testifying can be therapeutic. It lets children tell their stories and gives them a feeling that they are helping get to the truth.**

just that. He admits to having been an Iowa City thug and a gang member in his teen years. And he doesn't object to his adult probation officer's placing him in a halfway house in recent months until he gave up gang associations.

He doesn't seem sure where he's headed.

But he firmly hangs on to this: He would be different today if his father had not been murdered. His dad would have kept him in line.

In one way, Galbreath's odyssey from child witness to young adult is unique: He still occasionally sees the man he testified against. On the street. In the grocery store. They lived in the same apartment complex for a time.

Willie Barney, says Galbreath, always comes up to him, to say he's sorry for Galbreath's loss and to repeat that he had nothing to do with the murder.

Galbreath mostly thinks Barney is massaging his own guilt, but Barney's words have had an effect. Galbreath is finding it is easier to be certain of something as a 9-year-old than as a young adult.

"I don't know," says Galbreath. "I ask myself. I do. Sometimes I don't know what I'm supposed to think."



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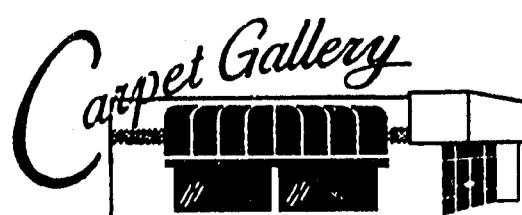
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