

# FBI investigated Kerrigan

DETROIT (AP) — The day that figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg, FBI agents investigated whether Kerrigan might have staged the attack to avoid the U.S. Figure Skating competition.

That theory — one of many considered in the hours after the Jan. 6 attack in Detroit — was quickly discounted after authorities talked to Kerrigan and her parents and reviewed the videotape of Kerrigan crying, "Why me?" FBI special agent James Triano said in an interview Wednesday.

"They decided (Kerrigan's innocence) was on the up and up," said Triano, an FBI spokesman.

Since then, Kerrigan-rival Tonya Harding and Harding's ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, have become key figures in the investigation. The *Oregonian* newspaper reported Wednesday that Harding is "virtually certain" to face criminal charges.

Sources told the newspaper that Gillooly was willing to admit his role in the attack and testify that Harding helped plan the assault as well as cover it up after learning the FBI was investigating.

In the early hours of the investigation, however, Triano said authorities questioned whether Kerrigan could have had a part in her own injury, the same way a student might call in a school bomb threat to avoid taking a test.

"Has this ever happened before? Has she ever backed away from a performance? Does she wilt under pressure? Has she called in sick when you

can't afford to be sick?" Triano said Kerrigan's parents were asked.

"I'm sure they apologized profusely for asking," he said.

Kerrigan's parents did not immediately return a message left Wednesday on their answering machine in Boston.

Detroit agents also reviewed the videotape taken moments after Kerrigan was struck. Kerrigan, sitting on the floor next to the skating rink, held her knee and cried, "Why me?"

"You have to ask yourself, is this real? Is it contrived? Does she appear too distraught, not distraught enough? Frankly, does it look staged in any way?" Triano said.

"That first night, most of those questions had been resolved," he said.

FBI agents brainstormed about other possibilities, including whether an obsessed fan or even Harding could have been involved.

Investigators have also been considering whether Gillooly might also have been trying to sabotage Harding, given their stormy relationship that included a restraining order against Gillooly and accusations of physical abuse, Triano said.

"They could be in an out-of-love phase and he could be striking back and (Harding) could have nothing to do with it," Triano said, adding that the investigation was not leading in that direction now.

# House wants Clinton to aid Holocaust victim

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House asked President Clinton on Wednesday to seek German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's help for an American Jew seeking reparations for the abuse he suffered in Nazi concentration camps.

By a voice vote, the House passed a resolution urging Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher to bring up Hugo Princz's case when they meet with Kohl and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on Monday in Washington.

The resolution asked Clinton to try to help Princz win payment from the German government as a death camp survivor. The Senate passed a similar resolution last November.

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia is considering

whether Princz may pursue his \$17 million lawsuit against the German government.

The son of a naturalized American father, Princz was living with his family in Slovakia in 1942 when the Germans deported them to concentration camps. His father, mother, sister and two younger brothers all perished.

The Germans denied Princz's 1955 request for reparations because he was a U.S. citizen.

"Mr. Princz should not be denied compensation on the basis of a technicality," Pallone said.

Rep. Lee H. Hamilton, D-Ind., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said, "It is time for the German government to resolve this situation, to come to an agreement with Mr. Princz on adequate compensation."

# DJs want county renamed

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Despite a publicity stunt by two disc jockeys, the Harding County Commission doesn't plan to change the county's name to Kerrigan County, a commissioner says.

"I just doubt it. I think it'll be kind of laughed off," Ab Penn said Wednesday. "I think it's just a joke."

The stunt was the brainchild of Kevin Phillips and Rapid Rich Peterson, known collectively as the Morning Animals. Their request reads: "We the undersigned residents of South Dakota would like the name of Harding County changed to Kerrigan County at least through the Olympics."

They cooked up the stunt because the county's name is the same as that of figure skater Tonya Harding, who has been the subject of intense scrutiny in the Jan. 6 knee-clubbing of rival Nancy Kerrigan.

Harding has maintained her innocence and has not been charged in connection with the incident, which knocked Kerrigan out of the national figure skating championships. Harding's ex-husband and three other men have been implicated in the beating.

The disc jockeys said they have filed their petition with the county auditor in Buffalo. They said they plan on Monday to drive the approximately 110 miles to Buffalo, in the northwestern corner of the state, to lobby citizens for the name change.

Penn, who also is the football coach for Harding County High School, said the tongue-in-cheek radio stunt generated some publicity for the county. "We've enjoyed it," he said.

The disc jockeys, who work for Rapid City's KKLS, said the petition will be brought before the county commission Tuesday.

Penn doubts it. "We'll go about our business" at the meeting, he said.

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