

## Killer found dead in cell

### Prison says death-row double-murderer Anderson hanged himself

BY JENNIFER SANDERSON  
Argus Leader

Bill Dumansky wants only to bring his wife home.

He's prayed unfailingly for that small amount of comfort during the nearly nine years since she disappeared from a Sioux Falls parking lot.

Now Dumansky's calling family members, making plans, working toward the day that seems closer than ever. And it's by the hand of

the man who took away Larisa Dumansky that her remains might be returned.

Robert Leroy Anderson, 33, was found hanging in a disciplinary cell at the South Dakota State Penitentiary just after 2 a.m. Sunday. Anderson was housed in the administrative segregation unit within the Jameson Annex.

Prison staff began CPR, but Anderson was pronounced dead at a Sioux Falls hospital a short time

later. The state Department of Criminal Investigation will make a required examination of Anderson's death, which has been ruled a suicide.

Anderson was one of five death-row inmates in South Dakota, sentenced to die by lethal injection. He was convicted of kidnapping and murdering 29-year-old Larisa Dumansky on Aug. 27, 1994, and of raping, kidnapping and murdering Piper Streyle of rural Can-

istota on July 29, 1996.

"We need to make plans for what's left of Larisa, what's been kept all this time in storage rooms," Bill Dumansky said Sunday afternoon. His wife was abducted after a night shift at John Morrell & Co., where Anderson also worked. Some of her remains later were found near Lake Vermillion.

"We'd been told they needed to hang onto that as evidence for as

long as Robert Leroy Anderson was in jail," Dumansky said. "I suppose that his suicide means we can bring her back now."

An autopsy on Anderson will be conducted today, according to a spokesman from the Department of Corrections. His mother, Ruth Anderson of Sioux Falls, had no comment Sunday. But a family friend has raised questions about



CHRISTOPHER GANNON / ARGUS LEADER  
Robert Leroy Anderson, shown in 2000, was found dead in his cell Sunday morning at the South Dakota State Penitentiary.

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#### HUNTING FOR CHEMICALS



ITSUO INOUE / AP

U.S. Marines secure an Iraqi military base Sunday near the southern city of Nasiriyah. The base contained chemical decontamination equipment, weapons and ammunition.

#### WEAKENING SADDAM'S GRIP



ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS / AP

British soldiers detain an Iraqi man who they think is a soldier in civilian dress Sunday on the outskirts of Basra.

#### FLEEING THE FIGHTING



DAN CHUNG / AP

Hundreds of residents fled Basra, Iraq, on Sunday as British troops moved into villages on the outskirts of the city.

## Gaining trust and cornering the enemy

### INSIDE TODAY

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### ONLINE

For the latest news on the war with Iraq, turn your browser to [www.argusleader.com](http://www.argusleader.com)



JOHN MOORE / AP

A U.S. Army military intelligence officer gets "five" from a child Sunday after questioning Iraqi Bedouins in the desert of central Iraq. The Bedouins welcomed the American soldiers with white flags. The officer asked not to be identified.

BY CALVIN WOODWARD  
Associated Press

Allied soldiers inched toward Baghdad on Sunday, capturing or killing about 150 paramilitary fighters in a southern stronghold and seizing about two dozen Republican Guard soldiers in a battle closer to the Iraqi capital.

U.S. military leaders defended the pace of the war effort in the face of criticism that they had underestimated the vigor of Iraqi resistance and needed to readjust their war plan.

"We have the power to be patient in this, and we're not going to do anything before we're ready," said Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The reason for the caution was clear: persistent danger from plainclothes killers and warnings from Iraqi officials that there will be more suicide attacks like the one that took the lives of four Americans in Najaf. Iraqis said some 4,000 Arabs have come to Iraq to help attack the invaders.

An attack today on the Euphrates River town of Hindayah, about 50 miles south of Baghdad, was the closest reported U.S. advance on the Iraqi capital. At least 15 Iraqi troops were killed, and the Americans captured several dozen Iraqis who identified

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Hi, my name is Kaitlyn. I am 8. We are praying for you. We would like to meet you. I like to jump rope. I go to Celebrate Church. I go to Mark Twain. I am a girl. Bye.

— Message to an American serviceman or woman, from Kaitlyn Southwick, age 8, Sioux Falls

## Care packages connect South Dakota to soldiers

BY JON WALKER  
Argus Leader

South Dakotans are rising above the complications of modern combat to send greetings to U.S. troops at war with Iraq.

Showing kindness still takes the patience and care that 26 children showed Sunday morning at Celebrate Wesleyan Church in Sioux Falls, where they wrapped beef jerky, toothpaste and candy bars inside shoe boxes to send to men and women near the front lines.

Or it might take the ingenuity of someone with a deft hand on the

Internet, such as Lindsay Zortman, a 26-year-old Yankton woman who's matching well-wishers with service members as a way around new restrictions on mailing.

Such deeds take more planning today than they did during past wars, as spontaneity gives way to security in an age of terrorism. But the need for outreach from the home front remains unchanged, according to those who provide it.

"It's important that we support the people who are out there defending the freedoms of this country," says Jeff Danielsen, principal of the pub-



CHRISTOPHER GANNON / ARGUS LEADER

Kaitlyn Southwick, 8, (left) pours candies into a care package with other children Sunday at Celebrate Wesleyan Church. Thirty-five children prepared the packages, filled with food, hygiene products, drawings and a personal letter to be sent to U.S. troops serving in the Middle East.

lic elementary school in Freeman, where 80 students sent valentines to troops last month. "They deserve to know there are people back here wishing them well."

In wartime, encouragement takes on new value for both the giver and receiver.

See **HOME FRONT**, page 5A

## CIA failed in effort to solicit surrender

BY JACK KELLEY  
USA Today

KUWAIT CITY — A three-month U.S. effort to persuade Iraq's generals and Baath Party leaders to surrender and oust Saddam Hussein is being scaled back after it failed to produce any significant defections, U.S. intelligence and military officials say.

"We misjudged their tenacity," a senior U.S. intelligence official says of Iraq's leaders. "These guys are driven by a hatred (toward the United States) that we may have underestimated."

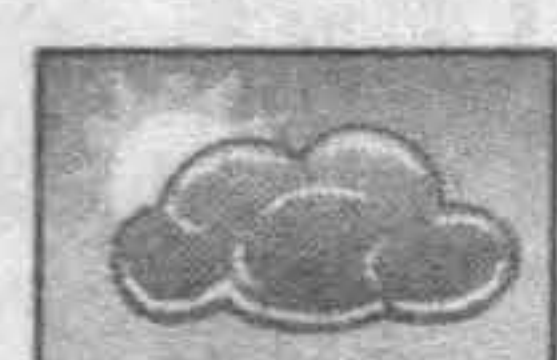
The failed effort appears to reflect a miscalculation by the Pentagon and CIA of the willingness or ability of Iraq's political and military leaders

to overthrow Saddam. Officials said they thought that if they could get Iraq's leaders to surrender, support for the regime would crumble. They also originally said a conflict inside the capital, Baghdad, could be avoided. Now, they fear the war could drag on longer than expected.

U.S. intelligence officials speculate that some Iraqi generals won't surrender because they have been rewarded for their loyalty with power, houses and cars and they think they can outlast the attacks. Or, fearing retribution against themselves or their families, they won't capitulate until Saddam has been captured or

See **DEFECTION**, page 5A

Weather  
Full report, 2A



Partly cloudy  
**67° 35°**

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**Timeline of events**

**1994**

**Aug. 27** Larisa Dumansky disappears after working the night shift at John Morrell & Co. in Sioux Falls.

**Nov. 10** Amy Anderson, not related to Robert Anderson, tells law enforcement authorities that two men in a maroon car tried to abduct her after passing her car several times on a road near Tea.



Larisa Dumansky

**1996**

**July 26** Robert Anderson stops at the Streyle residence to express an interest in their day camp and writes his name and address on a piece of paper.

**July 29** Piper Streyle is abducted from her rural Canistota home.



Piper Streyle

**July 30** Authorities interview Anderson and search his home and Ford Bronco. Later, DNA analysis of hairs found in Anderson's truck match Streyle's DNA.

**Aug. 2** Anderson arrested on kidnapping charges.

**Sept. 29** A search along the Big Sioux River between Sioux Falls and Baltic yields a wad of duct tape stuck to human hairs that authorities say match those taken from Streyle's hairbrush. Half of a black-and-white T-shirt, believed to be Streyle's, is found.

**1997**

**March 11** Amy Anderson identifies Robert Leroy Anderson in a photographic lineup as one of the two men who attempted to abduct her.

**May 8** Anderson convicted of kidnapping Streyle.

**May 20** Glenn Walker, Anderson's lifelong friend, leads law enforcement officers to a shallow grave at Lake Vermillion that holds shell casings and bone fragments. DNA testing shows the bones are a genetic match to Larisa Dumansky.



Glenn Walker

**May 30** Authorities search Anderson's home and the home of his mother, Ruth Anderson, for weapons and the victims' jewelry. They find nothing.

**July 18** Anderson sentenced to life in prison.

**August** Anderson's cellmate, Jeremy Brunner, calls the South Dakota Attorney General's office, saying Anderson told him about kidnapping, raping and murdering the two women. He tells authorities about a bullet hole they will find in the Streyle mobile home and gives them a map to evidence in Ruth Anderson's house.

**Aug. 26** A search of Ruth Anderson's home yields Dumansky's necklace, Streyle's wedding ring, a 9mm pistol, two sets of handcuffs and a partially loaded gun clip.

**Sept. 4** Robert Anderson is charged with raping and murdering Streyle and kidnapping and murdering Dumansky.

**Nov. 13** Brunner is released from prison.

**Dec. 2** Brunner is arrested on drug charges and returned to prison.

**1998**

**Aug. 22** Walker is arrested on charges that he aided Anderson in the abduction of Dumansky and another attempted abduction. He is charged with attempted kidnapping, attempted first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit kidnapping and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder.

**Sept. 14** Robert Leroy Anderson's trial is moved to Sioux Falls at the request of his lawyers.

**1999**

**Jan. 19** Jury selection begins in the murder trial of Robert Leroy Anderson.

**Feb. 3** Opening arguments in the murder trial begin. Prosecution starts presenting case.

**April 3** Anderson's defense begins presentation.

**April 5** Case goes to the jury.

**April 6** Jury returns guilty verdicts against Anderson.

**April 8** Jury begins debate on death penalty.

**April 9** Jury sentences Anderson to death.

**2002**

**March 26** Anderson's death row appeal argued before South Dakota Supreme Court at University of South Dakota School of Law in Vermillion.

**2003**

**March 30** Anderson hangs himself in his cell at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

# Anderson: Inmate wasn't on suicide watch

Continued from 1A

Robert Leroy Anderson's access to materials with which he could harm himself.

"I thought that on death row, there wasn't supposed to be anything in the cell that you could hang yourself with. Frankly, I don't think he killed himself," said Lawrence Schroeder of Sioux Falls, who added that he'd talked with Anderson about a week ago. "He's been way too upbeat lately to have done this."

Corrections Secretary Tim Reisch would not give specifics on Anderson's death, pending autopsy and investigation results. Neither would he confirm the mechanism Anderson used in his own hanging.

"I think it's a little premature to cover the details. We want to make sure that the immediate family has the basics first," Reisch said. "Every inmate has blankets and sheets and other things in their cells. Unless (Anderson) was on a suicide watch, which he was not, those things wouldn't be taken away. He'd given no indication he was contemplating this."

Vance Streyle, Piper Streyle's husband, said the news of Anderson's death would change nothing for him. But the quest for Anderson's execution, at least, is finished.

"It's over," said Streyle, who has since remarried. "That's all I have to say about it."

His deceased wife was taken from their home, in front of their two small children. They were unharmed but witnessed the kidnapping. Piper Streyle's body never was found.

Anderson was sentenced to life in prison in 1997 for kidnapping Streyle, 28. After a second trial, he was given the death penalty in 1999 for both murders.

South Dakota Attorney General Larry Long spent three years as lead prosecutor on Anderson's murder trial.

"There's no question in my mind he was going to keep doing this until he was caught," said Long, who confirmed that Anderson left a suicide note.

As of late Sunday evening, Long had not seen the note, but prison staff had described Anderson's complaints. The note included no new leads in either of the women's cases, Long said.

"He was making some disparaging comments about discipline at the penitentiary, and the second part were personal messages to his mother and sister," Long said. "Ordinarily, he was single-celled, but he'd been moved because he was found with some contraband."

Anderson was spending his third day in the disciplinary cell,



CHRISTOPHER GANNON / ARGUS LEADER

Robert Leroy Anderson was convicted for the murders of the wives of Vance Streyle (left) and Bill Dumansky, shown here in 1999.

**Death row in S.D.**

Robert Leroy Anderson's suicide early Sunday morning brings the total number of inmates on death row in the South Dakota State Penitentiary to four. They are:

■ Briley Piper of Anchorage, Ala., and Elijah Page of Athens, Texas, who pleaded guilty to murdering Chester Allan Poage, 19, of Spearfish in March 2000.

■ Charles Rhines of Rapid City, convicted for the 1992 stabbing death of Donnivan Schaeffer, 22, during a burglary at a Rapid City doughnut shop.

■ Donald Moeller of Sioux Falls, convicted of the 1990 rape and murder of 9-year-old Becky O'Connell of Sioux Falls.

according to Long, who also said he thought Anderson had been caught with razor blades. He did not know how Anderson might have obtained those items. That, too, will be part of the DCI's investigation.

"He would've had little or nothing in that disciplinary cell," Long said. "It's my understanding that the first 48 hours are a cooling-off period. I think what had been returned to him was some bedding and writing materials. I'm not familiar with how he did it, but in my experience, folks who decide they're going to kill themselves can get pretty creative."

Anderson's defense attorneys, John Schlingen and Mike Butler of Sioux Falls, could not be reached for comment Sunday. In March 2002, they argued that their client's sentence should be life imprisonment, not the death penalty. The court-appointed lawyers made their case during an automatic appeal before the state

Supreme Court. Two years earlier, that same court had unanimously upheld the 1997 kidnapping conviction.

A third member of Anderson's defense team, David Palmer of Sioux Falls, said he hadn't been as active of late on the case.

"I haven't seen or talked to him for several years," Palmer said. "But what options did he have?"

The evidence against Anderson was overwhelming, prosecutors maintain.

An Aug. 26, 1997, search of Ruth Anderson's home in north-central Sioux Falls uncovered Dumansky's necklace, Streyle's wedding ring, a 9mm pistol, two sets of handcuffs and a partially loaded gun clip. A little more than a week later, Robert Leroy Anderson was charged with raping and murdering Streyle and kidnapping and murdering Dumansky.

Anderson's death brings unwelcome memories for Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead but also a renewed gratitude to those who helped in the investigations. He said the search for the women's remains was at its most intense when he took office in May 1997.

"There were scores of committed volunteers scouring the hillsides, the Lake Vermillion area, out around Baltic," he said. "I saw the willingness of these people to help the victims' families."

Milstead, who lost a county jail

inmate to suicide in November 2001, understands the responsibilities now facing South Dakota Corrections.

"An in-custody death is always a difficult situation," he said. "The DCI will investigate. It's something that needs to be done. Robert Leroy Anderson's family deserves that. But there are still unanswered questions, and we don't know if there will be any light shed on those. You wonder if he ever told anyone the things we didn't find, or said anything to anybody."

Schroeder agrees there are gaps in the story line. But he believes those blanks are the state's duty to fill in.

"The press and everybody else in town did everything they could to tear him apart and tear his whole family apart," Schroeder said of the high-profile cases. "There's not much I can say now except why is this all so secret? Is this going to be one of those so-called suicides in the prisons that they say will be investigated but you never hear anything more about it? I talked to him on the phone within the last week or so, and there was no indication whatsoever (that he was depressed)."

Married twice, Anderson had four children. His first wife divorced him in 1990. His second wife divorced him in 1997.

Anderson's father, Leland Anderson, died by suicide in December at his home east of Yankton. Authorities say the 57-year-old man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Dumansky, who was in church when authorities called to inform him of Anderson's death, is not cheered by another family's loss.

"Somewhere I'm saddened for his family and for him," Dumansky said. "Instead of doing good and helping people, he stole daughters, wives and worst of all, mothers."

One of Dumansky's daughters, now 15, took the phone call Sunday morning. She waited until her father had finished with his part of the service before telling him that her mother's killer was dead.

"I was not expecting him to do this, not at all," Dumansky said.

"But in committing his own execution, he's saved taxpayer money and time. It's difficult to say this is something positive. It's not like I gain something by that. The good part is that it's over. It's done. Behind me. But if I'm happy? I would say I'm sorry for the chance in life that he had but wasted. It's just all such a waste."

Reach reporter Jennifer Sanderson at jsanders@argusleader.com or 575-3629

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