

Former Texas professor goes on trial in shootout

The Associated Press

POTEAU, Okla. — A former professor was ready to kill a Pottawatomie County deputy to keep going back to Texas to face charges there alleging he held a man captive, a prosecutor said Monday.

Cathey's trial began Monday on charges connected with the former English instructor's violent capture in a remote part of Pottawatomie County April 21. Cathey and two other men were charged with firing at each other after they told him they wanted to tow his car from the grounds of a state prison, prosecutors said.

Cathey, 52, faces a life sentence if convicted on a charge of shooting Deputy Ross Parkhurst

with the intention of killing him.

"There is no doubt that Cathey was going to be Ross Parkhurst's assassin," Assistant District Attorney Gary Buckles said.

"With his words and deeds, it is obvious that he intended to kill everyone there."

Cathey was wearing a bulletproof vest and carrying a .25 caliber handgun and a 9mm pistol at the time of his arrest, Buckles said.

Cathey also is charged with feloniously pointing a gun and using a bulletproof vest during a felony.

He could get another 95 years if later convicted on federal charges of possessing stolen cars and illegal silencers that police

found at his backwoods hideout.

"I'm not going to stand up here and tell you that Dr. Cathey is a model citizen," attorney Russell Barber said.

"Sure, he made some dumb mistakes — some dumb mistakes. But he did not form the intent to kill Deputy Parkhurst."

— Russell Barber, attorney

Barber said. "Sure, he made some mistakes — some dumb mistakes. But he did not form the intent to kill Deputy Parkhurst."

Cathey says the gun discharged after he was shot.

LeFlore County prosecutors say they expect the trial to last

through Wednesday.

Texas prosecutors are waiting to try Cathey on a variety of charges that include the kidnapping of the woman who says she was made to be a sex slave at his home in suburban Sunnyvale.

The former professor at the University of North Texas says the woman, now in prison on drug charges, was a willing participant.

Cathey was about to go to trial in that case when he disappeared. He established a new identity in Poteau where he was known as Preston Primm, a recently widowed psychologist.

For nine months he lived in Poteau, building a wooden cabin and becoming a familiar figure.

His disguise included a beard and shaved bald spot, authorities said.

His identity was discovered in April when two guards from a nearby prison spotted a stolen car near his camp and summoned sheriff's deputies.

When the deputies arrived, Cathey was waiting with his vest on and carrying a Glock semiautomatic pistol, authorities said.

He told a reporter shortly after the shootout that he had one of the deputies in perfect firing range when they first arrived, but that he was incapable of pulling the trigger and killing the officer.

Barber has said those statements are the crux of his defense. The judge has ruled that the reporter cannot testify about the statements, which he said were self-serving hearsay.

Greasy burgers more healthful than chinese food, study shows

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Somebody seems to be out to trash food you enjoy the most. Now calorie counters, sodium and cholesterol cops are out after Chinese.

The Center for Science in the Interest decided to test the notion that Chinese food is better for you than, say, McDonald's burgers and fries, and came out with a report for McDonald's.

For instance: An order of Kung chicken has almost as much

fat as four Quarter Pounders.

An order of Moo Shu Pork has more than twice the cholesterol of an Egg McMuffin.

And House Lo Mein had twice the salt of a Pizza Hut pizza.

"Popular Chinese dishes like Kung Pao Chicken and Moo Shu Pork are as bad for you as a greasy cheeseburger and fries," said nutritionist Jayne Hurley in CSPI's September Nutrition Action Healthletter.

But wait, General Tso's fans. You can make it all better if you eat a cup of steamed rice along with a cup of entree. Says the

newsletter: "Chinese food suddenly becomes good for you." Most devotees of Chinese cuisine do that anyway.

CSPI, a consumer advocacy group, bought dinner-size take-out portions of 15 popular dishes from 20 Chinese restaurants in Washington, Chicago and San Francisco, and sent them to an independent lab for analysis.

Sweet and Sour pork was OK for sodium, but stir-fried vegetables hit the day's quota with 2,100 mg. House Lo Mein had 3,460 mg., which CSPI called "incredible."

Test to help Alzheimer's patients

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A laboratory skin test developed at the National Institutes of Health may identify people with Alzheimer's disease, a mind-destroying disorder that now cannot be positively diagnosed until after death, researchers said Tuesday.

The test could save a great deal of money, shield patients from having to undergo extensive testing, help doctors quickly distinguish those with a false disease from those with treatable forms of dementia, said Dr. Daniel L. Alkon, a researcher at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

If this test fulfills its promise, it should have an immediate positive impact on our health care delivery system because we can save hundreds of millions of dollars in diagnostic evaluations," Alkon

said. "We are guardedly optimistic about this," she said. "There have been a number of tests for biological markers which have been proven to not be true."

"It would be very beneficial to doctors to determine exactly what the disease entity is because there are many forms of dementia that are treatable," said McConnell. "If you could rule out Alzheimer's then you could explore seriously the other possibilities."

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive disorder that gradually destroys memory, the ability to function, and, eventually, life itself. There now is no treatment and the disease always is fatal. An estimated 2.5 million to 4 million Americans have the disease and McConnell said it is expected that number will triple within 20 years.

cases, he said, the test showed that the potassium channels were collapsed in tissue from Alzheimer's patients.

Alkon's team then treated cells with chemicals that cause microscopic sparks in healthy cells. Where the potassium channels were closed, in the Alzheimer's cells, there were no sparks.

JoAnn McConnell, senior vice president for medical and scientific affairs of the Alzheimer's Association, said that if the validity of the diagnostic test can be proven it would be important in dealing with the disease, but she warned that other promising tests for Alzheimer's have been disappointing.

BIG BEND BEARS

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Hiking alone on Emory Peak Trail in the Chisos Mountains, Carl Teinert was startled by a noise in the brush.

"Lo and behold, there was a bear moving through. He looked up, saw me, snorted a bit and just kept wandering through," said Teinert, 43, an environmental consultant from Austin who vacationed in Big Bend National Park this month.

He joined a growing list of visitors who have encountered black bears in this 801,000-acre wilderness of austere desert and jagged peaks along the Rio Grande.

The park had no bears when it was established in 1944. They had been wiped out by hunting and trapping. Park officials believe bears waded or swam across the river from Mexico in 1988.

Park officials estimate that a dozen bears now inhabit Big Bend — more than are found anywhere else in the state. So far this year, visitors have reported 170 bear sightings — more than double the number for any full year.

Most of the sightings have been in the mountains, but bears also have been reported at lower elevations. They've been seen outside the park as well, on private land and at the nearby Black Gap state wildlife management area.

"Their return here is one of the greatest things that have happened in Big Bend's history," said Raymond Skiles, the park's wildlife biologist. "It's mind-boggling and fascinating."

It also has brought new challenges to the National Park Service, said Kevin Cheri, assistant superintendent at Big Bend.

Officials want to avoid the "bear jams" that plague Yellowstone, Great Smoky Mountains and other national parks, where motorists stop to photograph and tease animals that have lost their natural fear of humans.

The service is taking a two-pronged approach at Big Bend: educating visitors and bear-proofing receptacles for food and garbage.

Crews recently installed 50 metal food lockers at mountain campsites used by backpackers. Special lids costing more than \$500 each have been acquired for trash bins at the popular Chisos Mountains Basin campground.

Yellow road signs show a bear walking. Other signs admonish visitors, "Do not feed the animals."

Karen Boucher, a park ranger, gave another piece of advice during a recent evening slide show at the Chisos campground, which occasionally is visited by bears: "Please make sure you put all your food in your vehicle."

No one has been hurt by a bear, but a few encounters have left visitors shaken. Two years ago, a female bear escorting two cubs dashed toward a hiker and skidded to a stop 20 feet away — a type of behavior that wildlife biologists call a "bluff charge."

"In a case like that, the best thing to do is back out slowly," Skiles said. "The chance of injury is so minuscule even though it might seem threatening."

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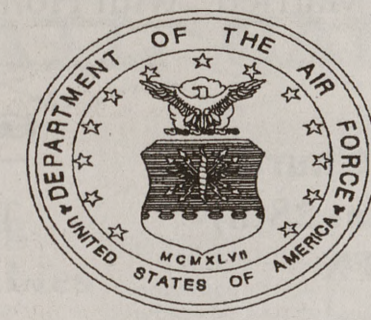
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