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State

Flooded Austin cars may be for sale soon

United Press International
DALLAS — Water-damaged vehicles from the late-May flooding in Austin may surface as far away as Kansas in less than two weeks, and Dallas business spokesmen say some unscrupulous dealers may try to pawn them off on unsuspecting buyers.

Officials report scores of vehicles were damaged by water when torrential rains turned the quiet central Texas city of Austin into a flooded chaos last weekend.

Ron Berry, president of the Dallas Better Business Bureau, says industry spokesmen tell him that unscrupulous salesmen will have the flood-damaged cars fixed up, deodorized and on the market with alarming speed. The problem is so serious his office has issued an alert.

"I checked with some sources in the automotive industry and the consensus is that it is very likely that flooded vehicles will be in the Dallas market for resale within the next 10 days," he said.

"Apparently the cars that are to be salvaged are to be cleaned up and sold to wholesalers who will then sell them to car dealers and

used car dealers in Dallas and parts north. They'll try to sell them as far away as possible. El Paso was named as a key spot, as well as several states, including Oklahoma and Kansas.

"It's very unlikely that you'll have a satisfactory long-term experience with a flooded car. It may take as little as two weeks or as long as six months for the problems to show up, but they will.

"Those problems will include corroded wiring, rust, and mildewed carpets and seats. There is also a possibility of sand in the working parts of the automobiles such as the wheel bearings. In that situation, the sand would score the bearings," he said.

As a result, the bureau has issued nine suggestions for people to check for signs of water damage:

1. Check the trunk around the tail lights for signs of mud.
2. Look inside the door panels for straw or mud.
3. Look for a silt line or water line on the radiator.
4. Run your fingers under the lip of the dashboard to check for any sand or sludge residue.
5. Check under the carpet,

especially in the trunk for silt and debris.

6. Look for a milky, washed out finish on the interior vinyl.

7. A key test. Smell the car. If you notice any musty odor, beware.

8. Beware of a price that's much lower than the going market price.

9. Be concerned if the title is a duplicate original.

"A duplicate original may indicate the car was salvaged or from a dealer in a flooded area and that the seller got the duplicate to obscure that fact," he said.

Rick Kinnibrugh, assistant supervisor of the Texas Highway Department's Dallas office, said any time an insurance company pays a total loss claim on a vehicle, whether from theft, wreck or flood, the company will pay off the bank and get the negotiable title to the vehicle.

"Then they will turn the negotiable title into our office and we issue a salvage title," he said.

But Teresa Wells, an Allstate Insurance spokesman, said many people are unaware that an "s" on the title means a vehicle has been salvaged.

"I'm sure most people do know that unless they've worked in insurance or wrecking yards."

And Kinnibrugh says once a salvaged auto has been repaired, the owner can acquire a new title, which does not mention the damage, by having the vehicle inspected and approved by a law enforcement officer.

"Once that is done, the purchaser of the vehicle can take that title to a county tax office and get a new negotiable title on the car which has no indication that the vehicle was damaged," he said.

In that situation, the only way a buyer could find out if the car was salvaged would be to call the regional highway department office and request a title history on the vehicle. Kinnibrugh says it takes about two days to get the information from Austin.

Berry says his office is very concerned about a consumer who buys a car with the impression it is a new one or low-mileage used vehicle without the knowledge that it was involved in a flood.

"Our Better Business Bureau automobile advertising and selling standards require that any auto-

mobile which has been flooded shall be clearly identified as a used car, rather than one," he said.

"If you are given what looks like too good a deal on a low-mileage used car, it might be a good idea to ask where it came from. Ask if it was in Austin flood of May 1981. The seller tells you it wasn't, get writing."

"That would protect the chaser in the event flood damage was later discovered," he said.

He says consumers should watch out if a car is priced \$600 less than the going price that model, especially if the car has a hard luck story to offer.

"If it's sold through a wholesaler posing as a private individual, looking out a classified ad, he probably use a distress pitch, saying he is just going through a divorce, or a financial emergency or the loss of a spouse—where might make an individual buy a car quickly at a price lower than the market price," he said.

Voting Rights Act ruling to aid lower courts

Reapportionment must get federal ok

United Press International
WASHINGTON — In a major ruling on the Voting Rights Act, the Supreme Court ruled Monday that a reapportionment plan for a group of Texas county commissioners must win federal approval even though it was court-ordered.

The 7-2 decision upheld a federal appeals court ruling that a reapportionment plan, drawn up to remedy the dilution of Mexican-American voting strength in Kleberg County, must be approved by the Justice Department before it can go into effect.

In an opinion by Justice John Paul Stevens, the majority held that Congress required "whenever a covered jurisdiction submits a

proposal reflecting the policy choices of the elected representatives of the people — no matter what constraints have limited the choices available to them — the preclearance requirement of the Voting Rights Act is applicable."

A great deal of reapportionment will result from the 1980 census, and today's ruling provides guidance for lower courts for when a plan drawn up by a legislative body, rather than the courts, should be subject to federal preclearance under the Voting Rights Act.

A jurisdiction covered by the act, must convince the U.S. Attorney General or a federal court in Washington that its reapportion-

ment plan does not have a racial purpose of effect.

Justices Potter Stewart and William Rehnquist dissented on grounds that Congress "expressly stated that a reapportionment scheme which is submitted and adopted pursuant to a court order does not have to be approved through the preclearance procedures" of the 1965 act.

Kleberg County, with a population of 33,000 in 1970, has a commissioner court form of government, consisting of a county judge and four commissioners. The county judge is elected county-wide and one county commissioner is elected from each of four precincts.

A group of Mexican-Americans filed a class action suit in January 1978 asking for the redrawing of precinct lines on grounds the populations of the four precincts were so unequal that they violated the one-man, one-vote principle.

Also, they contended, the boundary lines of the precincts were drawn in such a way as to unconstitutionally dilute the voting strength of Mexican-Americans.

U.S. District Judge Owen Cox held reapportionment was necessary to correct the population disparities and ordered a new plan drawn up by November 1979.

A university professor, Dr. Robert Nash, drew up a new reapportionment plan to equalize the precinct populations. It was submitted to Cox who ordered it used for 1980 elections.

Those bringing the suit objected to the new plan because it had not been approved under the provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

But the court found the plan remedied the previous disparities and since it was court-ordered, it was not subject to approval by federal officials as a plan drawn up by

the legislature would be.

In April 1980, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected holding the plan was legal and required preclearance.

"A proposed reapportionment plan submitted by a local legislative body does not lose its status as a legislative rather than a court-ordered plan merely because the product of litigation, conducted in a federal forum, court held."

In their Supreme Court opinion, Kleberg County officials said they did not reapportion the county their own authority and, they were barred by Texas law from reapportioning the county at the time the plan was submitted.

On behalf of the Mexican-Americans, Texas Rural Legal Action argued the Voting Rights Act not intended to allow a plan approved without court action on whether the plan would dilute minority voting strength.

Legislators plug airport loophole

United Press International
AUSTIN — A loophole that allowed several people charged with committing crimes at Dallas-Fort Worth regional port to escape prosecution plugged Sunday by legislators.

Since the airport lies in Dallas and Tarrant counties, district attorneys say it is somewhat difficult to decide which county has jurisdiction to prosecute.

Current Texas law requires defendants to be tried in the county where the crime occurred. District attorneys in some counties where jurisdiction was an issue chose not to prosecute.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

WHERE: 224 MSC
WHEN: Wednesday, June 10
TIME: 12noon-5p.m.

Who: Anyone may take a Free U class that can make the class meetings. Needed For Registration: Pen and Full Payment-Check or Cash.

Class Locations and Meeting Times: All classes will be held on the University campus and in the evenings, unless otherwise stated in the brochure. Please take note of this and make arrangements accordingly.

Interested in Teaching: The Free U Committee is presently taking applications for those interested in teaching for Free U fall courses.

**No phone registration
**No pre-registration

For more information call 845-1515 or stop by the Free University cubicle in room 216 MSC.

CLASSES OFFERED

<p>DANCERCISE</p> <p>The purpose of this class is to shape up while learning dance movements. The class will be a mixture of ballet, jazz, and floor exercises. (For Women Only) Monday's class will meet 6:30 - 7:30, June 15, 22, 29, July 6, & 13. Wednesday's class will meet 6:30 - 7:30, June 17, 24, July 1, 8, & 15. Instructor: Julia Mashburn Cost: \$7</p>	<p>BEGINNING C & W DANCE</p> <p>Beat the rush to the Hall of Fame and impress your friends with your improved dancing. Learn to Two-Step, Cotton-Eyed Joe, Schottische, and Jitterbug. Come for the class and stay for the rest of the evening at the Texas Hall of Fame. No partners needed! Class will meet Tuesday, June 16, 23, 30, July 7, & 14 from 6:15-7:30 p.m. Instructors: Ford & Sandra Taylor Cost: \$12</p>	<p>STRETCH</p> <p>Aerobic conditioning and stretch for those in dance or any type of sport. A fast paced, fun exercise class done to familiar music that increases your physical capacity for all activities. Tuesday's class will meet 7:30-8:30, June 16, 23, 30, July 7 & 14. Thursday's class will meet 7:30-8:30, June 18, 25, July 1 (Wed.), 9 & 16. Instructor: Marcella Wells Cost: \$7</p>
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<p>JITTERBUG</p> <p>Be the hit of the dance floor — learn to Jitterbug! Class will begin with the very basics and will advance as the ability of the class progresses. A variety of spins, turns, pretzel, aerials (if the class desires), and much, much more! No partners needed! Class will meet on Saturday nights from 6-7 for 5 weeks. Instructors: Mike McCarley and Sherri Cobb Cost: \$7</p>	<p>ADVANCED C & W DANCE</p> <p>Learn many advanced moves in Jitterbug. Learn to turn to the left and right while dancing the Two-Step, Polka, and Waltz. Learn to do Jitterbug moves while Two-Stepping, Waltzing, and doing the Polka. All this and more, taught at the Texas Hall of Fame. No partners needed! Class will meet Thursdays, June 11, 18, 25, July 2 & 9, from 6:15 - 7:30. Instructors: Ford & Sandra Taylor Cost: \$12</p>
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