

Dallas

FRIDAY

4 FOR 1

HAPPY HOUR
3 FOR 1 HAPPY HOUR
2 FOR 1 HAPPY HOUR

4:00-5:00
5:00-8:00
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state

Bomb threat closes plant

United Press International
HOUSTON — Gulf Oil Chemicals Co. Thursday completed shutdown of its sprawling Cedar Bayou oil plant in response to a bomb threat coupled with a demand for a reported \$15 million ransom.

"As of 6 this morning, the plant was essentially shut down," Gulf spokesman Jerry Bradley said. "The plant will remain essentially shut down until we feel safe to resume normal operations."

Gulf said a skeleton force of 650 Gulf employees and 450 contract workers would remain to monitor systems and provide security.

Officials confirmed that a search of the plant by FBI, Houston police and an Army team from Ft. Hood had disclosed several suspicious devices which the company said were being evaluated.

But Gulf and law enforcement officials refused to confirm reports that six devices were found, including two said to be bombs, and that the threatening letter to the president said there were 10 devices in all.

Unconfirmed reports described the devices as metal boxes about the size of a small tape recorder. None had been

removed pending X-ray examination.

Gulf spokesmen, hinting the plot included threats the devices would be exploded in the event of publicity, refused to confirm that the letter demanded \$15 million or to say from whom the threat had come.

Spokesman Kirk Vogeley said Gulf facilities in other parts of the country also were searched Wednesday.

He refused, however, to say why the other searches were conducted or exactly where. The searches were a precautionary measure and were ordered in consultation with Gulf's Pittsburgh headquarters, Vogeley said.

The Cedar Bayou plant is located about 30 miles east of Houston on Interstate 10 in a rural area, 8 miles north of Baytown and 2 miles west of Mont Belvieu.

Officials said there were no occupied neighborhoods close enough to the plant to be threatened, although there is a small apartment complex one mile to the east.

"It is our best judgment that there is no danger to the community. We're checking and double checking to be sure. If that changes, we would notify the proper authorities," Vogeley said.

DIETING?

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QUALITY FIRST

Amusement rides may be insured

United Press International
AUSTIN — A San Antonio lawmaker says the Texas Legislature would abdicate its duty if it depends on insurance companies to make safety inspections on amusement park and carnival rides.

"We're turning our responsibility over to the insurance industry and I think that's wrong," Democratic Rep. Paul Elizondo said Wednesday.

Despite Elizondo's objections, a House committee voted 6-4 to recommend to the Legislature that amusement ride operators in Texas be required to purchase \$1 million in liability insurance.

The State Affairs Committee rejected Elizondo's alternate plan, which called for the creation of a new regulatory

agency to license and inspect amusement rides.

The committee also refused Elizondo's request to extend its hearings in the wake of an accident Sunday at the Comal County Fair at New Braunfels in which six people were injured.

The accident happened when one of the arms of a revolving "octopus" ride collapsed.

Rep. Bill Ceverha, D-Richardson, said he thought the insurance requirement would be a "great first step" to insure safety on amusement rides, which are currently not regulated in Texas.

The liability insurance, Ceverha said, would force the insurance companies to inspect rides two or three times

a year, collect data on accidents and injuries and pass on to the state.

A new regulatory agency envisioned by Elizondo would be "tremendously costly and hard thing to do," he said.

Ceverha claimed amusement park accidents are rare and rank only on a list compiled by the National Consumer Protection Safety Commission. He said more children are hurt on playgrounds, roller skating in such sports as volleyball and soccer.

Elizondo said rides should be licensed and inspected under an arm of the Health Department, arguing the insurance requirement does not go far enough to protect amusement park patrons.

Kidnap suspect caught after high-speed chase

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — A self-described terrorist wanted for kidnaping and two other abductions committed during his escape attempt was captured Wednesday during a high speed, fender-rattling chase along rural Rio Grande Valley roads.

Raymond Floyd White, 38, who lived in a house trailer in the woods near the community of Rye northeast of Houston, was held in the Cameron County jail awaiting arraignment.

White was charged in a warrant with aggravated kidnaping in the abduction of Michael Baucum, 21, of Santa Fe, Texas.

Baucum, son of White's former boss, was buried three days in a wooden coffin and given only bread and water while White and at least two other men negotiated a \$75,000 ransom. White was accused of abducting two men while fleeing south, but both tied in the trunk of a car.

Sgt. T. Rios of the Brownsville police said White likely was arraigned in Cameron County on the kidnaping charges, including officers and spectators. The capture involved a dramatic, high speed chase by Texas Rangers, local police constables along palm-back roads.

The chase began shortly after 8 p.m. Wednesday near the community of San Benito to the Mexico border.



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