



Lunch, anyone?

staff photo by Irene Mees

Wildlife and fisheries graduate students
Bob Dean, from Carrizo Springs, left,
and Hugh McCrystal, from New York,
take some animal specimens back to the
search collection in the basement of

the Sterling C. Evans Library as Rosa
Portal, a freshman food science and
technology major from Venezuela, in-
spects the merchandise.

Zoning meeting tonight

The College Station Planning and Zoning Commission will meet at 7 tonight in College Station City Hall.

Among the items to be discussed are:

— A public hearing on the rezoning of a tract of land in the Woodcreek subdivision from open agricultural to townhouses and rowhouses.

— Plans for the revision of the parking lot of the Ramada Inn on Texas Avenue.

— Plans for the parking lot of the Texana National Bank of College Station.

— Approval of a site plan permit for the Spring Loop fourplexes in the University Park II subdivision.

— Approval of the final plot of land for the vacating and replatting of part of lot B of the Courtyard apartments.

— Approval of a plot of land for a portion of the Richard's Edition subdivision.

— Consideration of allotting a partial plot of land in the Valley Business Park.

Evidence ruling changed

United Press International
JUSTIN — Evidence in a case should be considered in its entirety, the state Court of Criminal Appeals ruled by a 5-4 vote. This eliminated a requirement that trial judges explain to jurors how they should treat circumstantial evidence.

There is but one standard of proof for criminal convictions where the jury is properly instructed on that standard, a judge's charge on circumstantial evidence is valueless and invites confusion, the court said in a unanimous ruling.

The decision came in a review of a Bell County burglary conviction against Harden Hankins that had earlier been overturned on the grounds the jury had not been properly instructed on circumstantial evidence.

The majority opinion, written by Judge Wendell Odom, said, "Rather than aiding jurors in applying the reasonable

doubt standard, an additional charge on circumstantial evidence focusing on the "reason-

able hypothesis' theory serves only to distract jurors from examining the proper standard of proof as the primary focus of their deliberations."

In a dissenting opinion, Judge Marvin Teague said, "I would prefer that 20 juries each be 'confused' by an instruction on the law of circumstantial evidence than see one innocent person imprisoned or executed because of the lack of an instruction on the law of circumstantial evidence."

Judge Chuck Miller, also dissenting, said the court did not go

far enough because it should have lifted a prohibition against instructing the jury on a definition of reasonable doubt.

"We seem today to apply a Band-Aid approach to the ultimate issue before us; that is, the issue of what do we tell a jury when they ask, 'How convinced must we be?'" he added.

In a separate dissent, Presiding Judge John Onion said the instruction on circumstantial evidence is needed because of "general public distrust of convictions by circumstances of possibly innocent individuals."



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