

Work started to up A&M well production

by Angel Stokes
Battalion Staff
 Three of the four oil wells filled on the Texas A&M dairy farm are at the maximum allowable production, but the fourth well is having trouble flowing, says Ed Wells, chief operations engineer for North Central Oil Corp. in Houston.

Wells said that equipment will be brought in on Friday to begin work refracting the well. The work should take 12 to 15 to begin.

Fracing—the process of hydraulically inducing cracks and fractures in the walls of the well and holding them open with sand—is supposed to increase the productivity of wells. The first attempt didn't

work," Wells said, but he can't be sure the second attempt will be successful.

Clyde Freeman, executive vice chancellor for administration, said the first well began producing oil in April, two others began in May and the fourth well began in June.

The three wells that are producing at maximum capacity are roughly averaging 418 barrels per day, he said, but the fourth well is only averaging about 80 to 90 barrels per day.

The oil leases were approved by the Texas A&M Board of Regents in February. North Central Oil paid the University \$1.28 million for the drilling rights to more than 1,000 acres of University property located at

'Mercy killing' claimed

Ruling may set precedent

United Press International
HOUSTON — A prosecutor says he will not necessarily seek a prison term for a man accused of killing his comatose father, but the defendant's attorney believes the state will play on emotions and try to set a precedent.

"I will not recommend either probation or pen time," said

Prosecutor R.K. Hansen of the trial that began Tuesday for Billy Ray Clore, 25.

"It is something that should be decided on an individual case basis," Hansen said.

Clore's family contends the defendant loved his father, 63, Robert, and shot him March 21 to put him out of misery.

The elder Clore suffered from a kidney ailment and had been hospitalized for four months. He lived for two weeks after being shot.

Defense attorney Jack Zimmerman said he believes Hansen will seek prison time.

"It is a very emotional case with emotional issues," he said.

The family is supporting the younger Clore by helping pay his legal fees because they say the death was a mercy killing. Clore began working with his father in the family tire business when he was 13, and relatives said the two men were very close.

Slaying suspect surrenders

United Press International
HOUSTON — The third man wanted in the slayings of four video arcade employees walked into police headquarters Tuesday with his lawyer and surrendered to homicide detectives, police said.

Malibu Gran Prix, and his cousin, 16, have given police confessions, said Detective J.C. Mosier. Wilkerson, charged with capital murder, knew three of the four people killed Friday.

Ransom walked into the homicide division about 10 a.m.

The motive for the killings was robbery, officials said. The killers planned how they would separate the employees to make the killings more efficient and minimize the victims' chances of resisting, according to the statements of two suspects, which matched each other in details, detectives said.

Authorities said the two suspects in custody have expressed no remorse over the slayings. Ransom was charged Saturday with capital murder in the death of Roddy Dane Harris, 22. Police said the suspects killed their victims with small knives. Three of the victims had their throats slashed and all suffered numerous cuts to the head, chest, arms and face.

Texas holiday traffic fatalities lead nation

United Press International
 Texas led the nation in traffic fatalities for the Fourth of July weekend, with alcohol, high speed and pedestrian accidents prime contributors to the carnage.

The Department of Public Safety predicted that 49 people would die on Texas roads and highways between 6 p.m. Friday and midnight Sunday.

But the DPS count at 8 p.m. Sunday already showed 49 fatalities, and spokesman Larry McCall said he fully expected the number to be higher.

Fifteen of the people who were pedestrians, most of whom were struck as they tried to cross streets in the dark. One man, a

professor at North Texas State University, was struck by a train as he lay on a railroad track in Denton County.

Another pedestrian, Brian Donald Bouchelle, 20, of San Antonio, died Monday night after he was struck by a car while walking on a frontage road of I-10 in Bexar county.

Todd said alcohol was a significant factor in many of the accidents, and officers were concerned about drivers who had been drinking trying to hurry home as the long weekend came to an end.

"Monday night is the last night of the three-day holiday, and that can be a bad time as motorists go home, especially

those who insist on attempting to drive while drunk," Todd said.

A woman died of injuries she suffered in a two-car head-on collision Sunday night in Marion County that killed two children.

Two fatal motorcycle accidents were reported in the waning hours of the holiday.

Ricardo Ramirez, 27, of Brownsville, was killed when his motorcycle hit a curb and a utility junction box in Brownsville early Monday.

Michael Roy Wolke, 23, of Spring, died when he lost control of his motorcycle on a curve and hit another vehicle Sunday night on Sawdust Road in Montgomery County.

Suit charges Texas milk company, sickness related

United Press International
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Seven suits filed last week in court charging milk produced by Midwest Farms caused them to be seriously ill last year.

The suits filed last week in court in Memphis said people in Memphis, Little Rock, and Greenwood, became ill after drinking Midwest Farms milk.

Midwest Farms is a division of Dallas-based Southland Corp. Two of the suits name the cor-

poration, which is also the parent company of 7-Eleven stores where some of the milk was purchased. One of the suits also names Stop-N-Go Inc.

A suit filed by William and Cheryl Kaplan seeks \$600,000 in damages. Another suit seeking \$250,000 also accused Dr. Bobby Flowers of misdiagnosing a patient suffering from the milk-related ailment and performing an unnecessary appendectomy.

and July, ended in unnecessary surgery.

"The symptoms of the infection closely resemble those of appendicitis, and at least 27 persons suffering from the infection had their appendixes removed," said Dr. Tom Konigsberg, director of the Memphis Health Department.

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Plane hits fence before take-off

United Press International
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The wing of an American Airlines jet scraped a fence as it moved out of a loading gate Tuesday for a flight to Dallas, breaking plexiglass covers over navigational lights, officials said.

The accident prompted the airline to cancel the flight so that repairs could be made.

Don Miller, manager of American's Nashville office, said there was no danger to passengers, and the flight was cancel-

led as a "precautionary measure."

"It was taxiing out and the wing tip hit a fence," Miller said. "There was very minor damage. It broke the plexiglass cover over navigational lights."

"We didn't have any covers here, so the flight was canceled as a precautionary thing," he said.

Miller said most of the passengers were placed on other flights and the mishap was under investigation.

Kenneth Ray Ransom, 20, was being sought by lawmen in at least two counties in connection with the stabbing deaths and robbery last Friday at Malibu Gran Prix before he surrendered. He has been charged with one count of capital murder.

Two other males in the case were arrested late Friday.

Both Richard James Wilkerson, 19, a former employee of

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