

Birthday party goes awry

Two die in balloon crash

United Press International
AZLE — Investigators said it may take weeks to determine what caused a hot-air balloon rented for a birthday celebration to hit a power line and crash,

killing the pilot and a woman whose son watched from the ground.

Authorities said the accident

occurred Monday shortly after a boy who received the balloon flight as a gift for his 12th birthday disembarked from the craft so his mother and grandmother could take a ride.

The rented balloon was punctured by the 7,000-volt power line that stretched over an empty piece of property near

Azle in north central Texas and fell about 50 feet to the ground near where Brian Bersano stood watching.

"The balloon didn't look too damaged to me," said Azle police Lt. Ronnie Mackey. "I didn't see any burn marks. Apparently it just hit the power line and electrocuted them."

Pilot Richard Conn, 36, of Fort Worth, and Connie Bersano, 35, of Fort Worth, were killed in the accident. Mackey said officers tried to revive Conn with heart massage.

Mrs. Bersano's mother, Norma Green, 54, of Arlington, Texas, suffered only minor injuries in the crash, authorities said.

Houston elections investigated

United Press International
HOUSTON — Campaign records from every city and county political race in last November's election are in the hands of a Harris County grand jury investigating contributions to a number of politicians, a Houston radio station reported Tuesday.

The grand jury probe began

with a review of campaign records from Harris County Constable Tracy Maxon, station KTRH-AM reported in a copyright story. But three weeks ago the panel probing illegal corporate and labor union contributions sent a team of special crime investigators from the Harris County District Attorney's office

to retrieve campaign records from all political races on the ballot.

Law enforcement sources said the probe has uncovered a number of questionable contributions in at least three Harris County constable races, at least one county commissioners race

and a number of judicial contests.

Contributions from labor unions and corporations must come from registered political action committees. It is a third degree felony for a candidate to knowingly accept contributions directly from corporate or union funds.

Angry patient fires after losing tooth

United Press International
DALLAS — A man became angry because he felt a dentist pulled the wrong tooth, so he pulled a gun in the dentist's office and fired bullets until he was subdued.

Nobody was injured. "I don't have the slightest idea what got into him," said dentist William Jenrette. "He thinks I may have pulled the wrong tooth. But I don't just think it was the right tooth, I know it was."

The assailant, Robert Lopez, 24, came to Jenrette complaining of a cavity, and Jenrette pulled the tooth he felt was causing the problem.

"He was as nice as any human being on earth could be," said Jenrette. "He hadn't said one bad word to me, not one bad word."

But something about the extraction struck a nerve.

"He got up, went to the door, looked around and told his mother, 'I am going to kill him.' Then he fell out (fainted), just in front of the door," Jenrette said.

Paramedics were called to Jenrette's office, but not before the man picked himself off the floor, pulled a gun and began firing.

He missed everybody, but put bullet holes in a dental chair and the wall. Paramedics eventually restrained him and police took Lopez into custody for investigation of aggravated assault.

"It scared me worse than I've ever been scared in my life," Jenrette said. "Let somebody start shooting at you and see if you aren't scared."

Jenrette said he received no money for the extraction.



Day students get their news from the Batt.



staff photo by Barry

Polly want a cracker?

These Hyacinth Macaw Parrots are a part of a breeding colony being established here in College Station. The breeders hope to reduce the

harvesting of wild birds supplying the pet market with domestic ones. They also Military and Scarlet varieties.

Grandmother convicted of peddling marijuana

United Press International
BALCH SPRINGS — A grandmother, 80, was sentenced to two years in prison for selling marijuana to undercover agents for the third time in a year.

Authorities said Monday that Tanzear Hughey was a savvy, fearless supplier of marijuana to high school students in the Dallas suburb.

Hughey said she was "used" by teenagers who persuaded her to deliver packages whose contents were a mystery to her.

"I don't know what marijuana smells like," she said.

Hughey, a retired seamstress, was identified in police reports

as "Big Mama" or "Grandma," an active drug dealer.

She sobbed after state district judge Pat McDowell denied her request for probation.

Hughey's lawyer, Jim Moore, said he would appeal and predicted the white-haired woman would never go to prison because she would die before the appeals process was over.

She contended that teenage marijuana peddlers had duped her into acting as a conduit for her marijuana sales.

Hughey already was on probation for two convictions on charges of selling marijuana when she was arrested last December for delivering mari-

juana to two undercover officers posing as students at Grady Spruce High School in Dallas.

Moore had urged probation, saying in final arguments, "My client is not going to be served by putting this 80-year-old woman in the penitentiary where there are any criminals, the 18 and 19-year-olds who intentionally used her in their dirty work."

Prosecutor Rider Scott Hughey was not a naive participant and urged the court deal with this dope seller who would deal with any dope. The defendant is hiding her age.

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