

Four boys drown in Gulf

United Press International
GALVESTON — Four youngsters from a Houston church group drowned when they were swept away by strong Gulf currents, officials said Tuesday.
 The bodies of three boys, all 10 years old, washed up on Galveston Beach Sunday near where they were last seen. A girl, 11, died at John Sealy Hospital Sunday after being pulled from the water about 7:30 p.m. as a surfer.
 The youngsters were part of People's Hope Missionary Baptist Church outing, said the church's pastor said the tide, hit the youngsters as they were playing in the waters

near a rock pier at 51st Street and Seawall Boulevard. He said it was "like a wave that just swept them out."
 "The youngsters weren't too far out since we had told them to be careful of the tides and the deep holes the storm had created," Richardson said. "But it seemed like we just looked up and all of a sudden they were way out in the water."
 A man on a surfboard helped save two girls, including Richardson's 9-year-old daughter, as the youths struggled to get back to shore. The parents of all of the drowned children were in the water when the incident occurred.
 "They struggled to get back to the beach but it seemed like the

tide kept pushing them out," Richardson said.
 The young girl was identified as Delamona Estell, 11. The bodies of the three boys were discovered in the general area they went down, about 60 yards offshore. They were identified as John Seals, Robert Batiste and Donnie Johnson.
 Galveston County Sgt. Mike Reardon said the Gulf waters were calm most of the day until the winds picked up in the late afternoon. He said currents around the piers that line the coast were especially strong and dangerous troughs had been dug along the piers by Hurricane Alicia.

Richardson said church members had gone to the beach Sunday for baptismal services they hold there three times a year. Seals and Johnson were baptized Sunday.
 The group had dinner following the services and then several members decided to go swimming.
 Coast guard officials also continued searching for a 28-year-old woman who was swept out to sea by strong tide on Sunday. And the Coast Guard was searching for Ray Trevino, 25, and Antonio Sanchez, 14, of Houston, who apparently drowned while swimming at Crystal Beach Monday.

GOP watches governor campaign for black vote

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Gov. Dave Treen's efforts to woo black voters are being scrutinized by the national Republican Party, which hopes use the results to forecast GOP fortunes elsewhere, state Republican leaders said.
 "This election in some respects is a test of whether blacks will respond to a Republican candidate with a record or will continue to support Democrats," said George Despot, chairman of the Louisiana Republican Party.
 "There might not be a better illustration in the nation. It is entirely possible that the White House will watch this race and say, 'There is a man who has truly done a good job for minorities. If they totally reject him, what good is it to listen to them at all?'"
 Despot, a Shreveport businessman, pointed out Louisiana's gubernatorial election was one of only three in the nation before the presidential race — and the only one in which a Republican governor was running.
 He said it was extremely difficult for any statewide candidate for a majors office to be elected without a portion of the black vote. In Louisiana, blacks represent about 25 percent of the 2 million registered voters.

Treen has said he feels a special obligation to work for black participation in government because in the early 1960s he was a member of the pro-segregation States Rights Party.
 The governor's drive for black support is considered unusual for a Republican, and also for a governor who got only 3 percent of the black vote when he won in 1979.
 This year, Treen's support might prove nearly as low as in that first outing, according to

some political analysts — in spite of the campaign pitch and his record of appointing blacks to high-level positions.
 "We can't give away 25 percent of the vote," Despot said. "We have to have 15 percent of the black vote."
 The incumbent has recently received endorsements from several major black organizations. A "truth squad" of black leaders has been touring the state telling blacks of Treen's record in their behalf.

Peace with Israel suspended

United Press International
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Christian and Druze Moslem militias battled Monday in the Shouf mountains after a pullout of Israeli troops prompted the government to suspend its peace accord with Israel. Frightened Lebanese fled the country.
 Hundreds of people began leaving Lebanon by boat to escape the new strife, which followed last week's bloody uprising by Moslem militias on the outskirts of the capital.
 Among those fleeing were former President Elias Sarkis, who took a ferry to Cyprus, and essential personnel of Western organizations, including relief agencies.
 The shattered city was an eerie ghost town after its 8 p.m. curfew.
 Lebanese army plans to fill the void left by Israel appeared to collapse in the face of the abrupt pullback and the bitter fighting between the Christian Lebanese militiamen and their Druze enemies, backed by Syrian troops.
 Early reports said five people were killed and 38 others wounded after Israeli occupation troops began vacating the mountains overlooking Beirut Sunday. The factional clashes continued past midnight.
 Thundering explosions echoed from artillery and mortars as the Israeli Merkava tanks

and other war equipment poured out of the Shouf, where Christians and Druze live side-by-side in about 100 villages.
 The battles between the Christian Phalange Lebanese Forces militia and the Druze also spilled into Beirut, with shells striking Christian sectors every 30 seconds at the height of the fighting, official Beirut radio reported.
 Druze gunners fired at Lebanese army positions near Beirut airport, which has been closed for a week, hitting the area controlled by U.S. Marine peace-keeping forces. One Marine and an Italian peacekeeper were slightly wounded by shrapnel.
 A spokesman for the Lebanese Forces said no strategic gains had been made by either side in the Sunday clashes for control of the mountains.
 The Israeli redeployment, dubbed Operation Grindstone, was completed ahead of schedule by Sunday evening.
 Syria, which immediately began to advance in one vacated area, said the Israeli withdrawal to the long-term positions south of the dangerous Shouf meant "Lebanon becomes partitioned."
 But two Israeli warjets covering the pullback made three runs on Syrian tanks pushing westward on the Beirut-Damascus highway

"We do not want Syrian forces entering the area," warned Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens.
 In retaliation for what Lebanon said was an Israeli failure to honor a promise to give the Lebanese army time to deploy in the Israeli positions, the government suspended the agreement signed with Israel in May.
 The agreement, bitterly opposed by Syria, gave Israel economic and political concessions in return for a total troop withdrawal.
 The Israeli military command

insisted "advance notice of the pullback was given to representatives of the Lebanese army, the Druze and Christians in all sectors, with a demand to maintain quiet in the area."
 The battle for the Shouf overshadowed a car-bomb attack in the south of Beirut, the stronghold of the Shiite Moslems who rebelled against the government of President Amin Gemayel last week.
 State-run Beirut radio reported nine charred and torn bodies, including that of a child, and another 14 wounded.

to sell between 5,000 and 7,000 Zippers — 370-pound vehicles powered by a five horsepower, 50-cc motorcycle engine.
 "This is not meant to take the place of a car — it's to be used for example if you need to get around the corner to the store," Zoe Motors spokesman Joe Molina said.

United Press International
DETROIT — Call it an egg-shaped golf cart or call it the Zoe Zipper: a California marketing firm hopes the three-wheeled Japanese-built vehicle will be the wave of the future for cheap personal transportation.
 ZEE Motors Inc. of Los Angeles hopes in the next year

to sell between 5,000 and 7,000 Zippers — 370-pound vehicles powered by a five horsepower, 50-cc motorcycle engine.
 "This is not meant to take the place of a car — it's to be used for example if you need to get around the corner to the store," Zoe Motors spokesman Joe Molina said.

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