

Doctor testifies in Jones trial

United Press International
GEORGETOWN — An emergency room physician testified Thursday 15-month-old Chelsea McClellan showed signs of having been given a dose of a powerful muscle relaxer when she was admitted to a hospital where she was treated on the day she died.

Dr. Richard Mason, an emergency room doctor at the Kerrville hospital, also said pediatric nurse Gene Jones

commented on the excitement surrounding Chelsea's treatment in the emergency room on Sept. 17, 1982.

"Dr. (Kathleen) Holland was busy working on Chelsea and I was standing next to her. Gene Jones looked up at me and to the people around me and said to me, 'They said there wouldn't be any excitement when we came to Kerrville,'" he said.

Jones, 33, is charged with murder in Chelsea's death. Prosecutors are attempting to prove the vocational nurse and mother of two killed the baby by injecting her with the muscle relaxer Succinylcholine, also known as Anectine. She faces a maximum sentence of life or 99 years in prison if convicted.

Mason said emergency room personnel were told Chelsea was being brought to the hospital from Holland's clinic, where Jones worked, because of serious breathing problems, but he said Chelsea showed no signs of respiratory arrest when she arrived.

"She was a very pretty girl. I thought she was a healthy looking child, well-nourished," he said.

He said the baby's movements and breathing patterns indicated she could have been given a dose of Anectine several minutes earlier.

Earlier Thursday, an emergency room chief nurse testified she saw two needle marks on Chelsea's legs when

the child was brought to the hospital.

Registered nurse Sharon Keith, the first witness to testify in the trial, said Chelsea showed few signs of distress, though the hospital had been alerted by the clinic to expect her to be suffering from respiratory arrest.

"I noticed that she had two injection marks on her legs," Mrs. Keith said. "I questioned Gene about them. I asked her what kind of shots she'd had at the office and she said she'd had some baby shots."

Mrs. Keith said Ms. Jones later told her not to withdraw blood from the baby because Chelsea had had a seizure after receiving routine inoculations — a reaction Mrs. Keith had never encountered.

The emergency room nurse said Chelsea "looked in good condition" when she left the hospital with Ms. Jones about an hour and a half later to be taken to another hospital in San Antonio for further examination.

Ambulance driver Steve Brown later testified about 15 miles from the Kerrville hospital Ms. Jones yelled, "Pull this son of a bitch over," and told attendants the baby's heart had stop-

ped. Dr. Holland's and Jones' efforts to revive Chelsea failed and she died shortly thereafter.

The jury got its first glimpse of Chelsea Thursday of a picture. They stared tightly at the color photograph of the child in a blue dress and baby bonnet.

Kerr County District Attorney Ron Sutton told jurors in a five-minute opening statement Ms. Jones' motive for Chelsea would become clear as the "tragic story" unfolded.

Tears streamed down the cheeks of Chelsea's mother, aunt and great-grandmother as the jury listened to the testimony. Ms. Jones sat impassively throughout.

"I want you to see this tragic story, of the death of Chelsea McClellan unfold before your own eyes and in your own ears," Sutton said. "You are going to wonder why this happened. Why, why, why, why?"

"As the chapters and scenes of events unfold before you, it will become increasingly clear as to the reason why I am out here having to tell you this story."

The trial was moved to Georgetown on a change of venue because of publicity.


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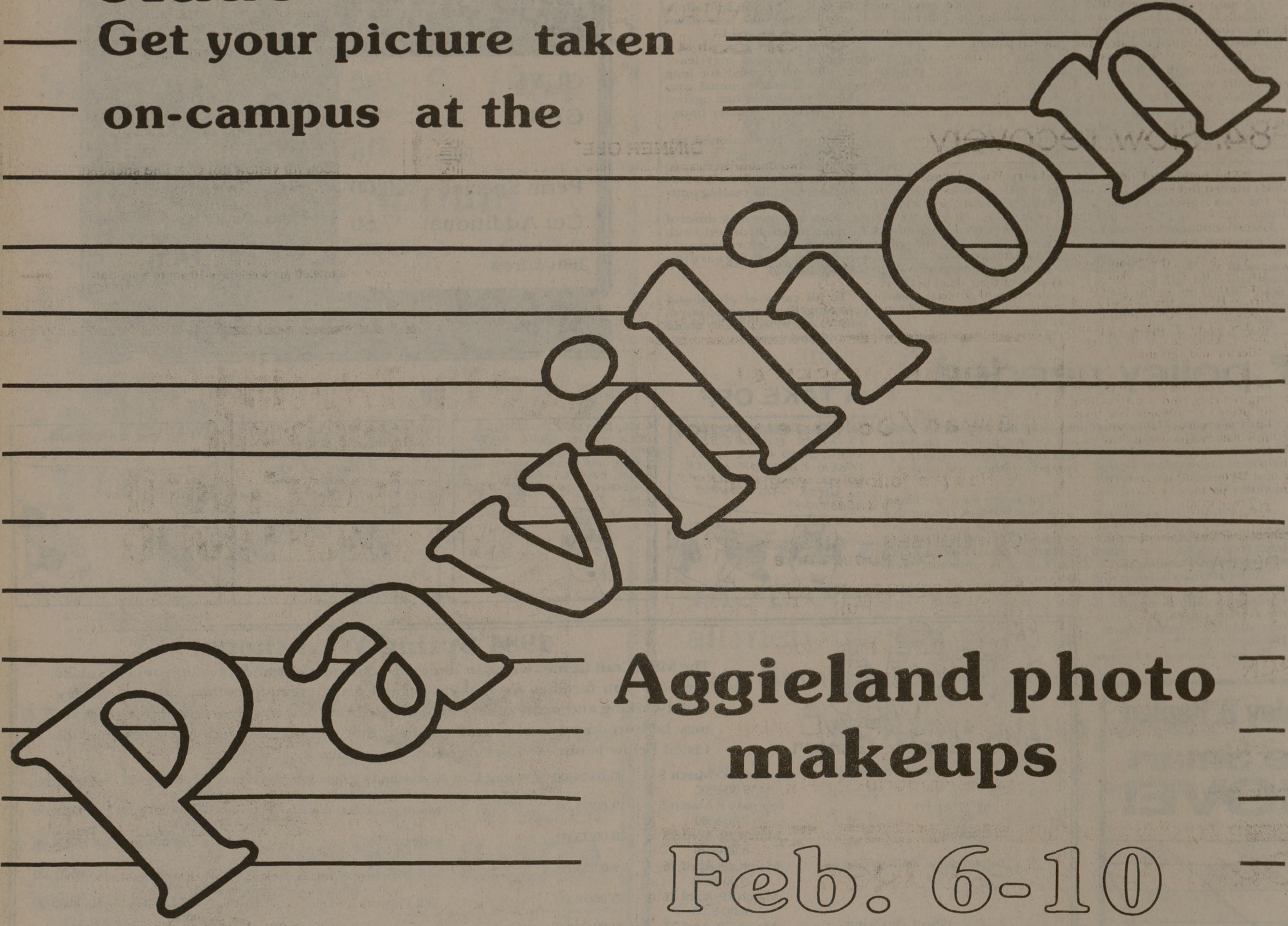
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Texas Briefs

United Press International
 Center stays open

AUSTIN — A Grand Jury's decision Thursday that a day care center from which a 15-month-old girl was abducted last fall will apparently be allowed to continue operating under supervision and new restrictions, officials said Thursday.

Clifton Martin, state director of licensing for the Texas Department of Human Resources, said the DHR's regional office in Dallas has recommended the license of Jack and Dee's Day Care Center not be revoked.

The negotiated agreement apparently calls for the day care center to phase out its current operation and make changes in its daily operation, said DHR spokesman James Woods. Martin, who must approve the agreement, said he expects to go along with the proposal since the day care center had previously had a good record of child care.

DHR notified the day care center it was revoking its license after an infant, Jessica Jones, was abducted last September. The baby was found a few days later unharmed and abandoned in the laundry room of an apartment complex in nearby Bryan.

Man found guilty

LUBBOCK — R.J. Van Liew was sentenced to 40 years in prison for attempted murder in the shooting of his wife — an incident he told authorities he does not remember, state court records showed.

Van Liew was found guilty of shooting Donalce Curtis Liew at a state highway department office last June. Defense attorney George Thompson told the jury Van Liew, 31, was tormented because his wife was dragging out divorce proceedings.

Prosecutor Gene Walters told the jury any action by Mrs. Liew did not justify "an attempted murder." Judge Theodor Clinton denied Thompson's request for a mistrial because of Walters' statement.

"She picked at the man, dangled him over the prospect of insanity," Thompson told the jury in his argument that Van Liew was not in his right mind at the time of the shooting.

Embezzler indicted

LUBBOCK — A U.S. District Court grand jury has indicted a bank vice president for embezzling bank funds and failing to record security purchases, court records show.

Melvin Lee Boothe of the Bank and Trust was named in a 20-count indictment announced Wednesday. The indictment accused him of embezzling \$389,426 in bank funds and failing to record \$15.2 million in security purchases.

Court records said offenses happened between January 1982 and February 1983. Most of the purchases were securities involving U.S. Treasury notes.

In an unrelated incident, the grand jury charged National Bank Teller C. Giddens with misappropriating dollars last month.