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Video taped testimony introduced in abuse trial

United Press International
 SAN ANTONIO — A prosecutor Tuesday introduced video taped testimony of 4-year-old girl in the trial of a man charged with sexually abusing the child.

Assistant District Attorney Mario Bordini said it was the first time that taped testimony of a young sex abuse victim had been used in Bexar County.

The Texas Legislature passed a law last September allowing taped depositions under a set of strict guidelines. The 4-year-old girl was interviewed by a case worker for the state Department of Human Resources.

Bordini said the taped interview prevented the victim from the trauma of testifying about her experience before a group of strangers.

The tape was heard by a jury in the trial of David Barrera, 30, who is charged with indecency with a child.

Prosecutors alleged that Barrera abused the child last year at the home of her girlfriend, who was babysitting the victim.

Thieves stealing bricks

United Press International
 ST. LOUIS — Thieves emboldened by the price of used bricks are scavenging poor areas of the city and carting off entire buildings — at the rate of five to 10 a week — on nights and weekends, officials said Tuesday.

"They can do it in a couple of weekends," said Michele Duffe, deputy director of the city's Land Reutilization Authority. "Sometimes, it can happen over a weekend."

The authority owns about a fourth of the city's 4,000 vacant buildings. Thieves operate so quickly that police and agency officials often learn of the loss only after the building already is gone.

"There are so many buildings in this condition we usually get there after the fact," Ms. Duffe said.

Brick thefts have been a persistent problem, but the situation became worse this spring when the price of brick doubled to 20 cents each, said agency director Richmond Coburn. He estimated five to 10 buildings are stolen each week.

Brick thieves usually equipped with no more than crowbars and sledgehammers operate in neighborhoods where people don't ask questions and are slow to call police.

"There was one instance last year where people who reported the theft of a brick sidewalk were harassed and their garage was set on fire," Ms. Duffe said.

"People in some areas are used to seeing buildings come down and they don't think it's unusual. For a variety of reasons, people don't want to report buildings being taken."

Brick dealers are paying 20 cents for each brick, which are shipped to other cities for resale. Ms. Duffe said much of the St. Louis brick winds up in Dallas, Houston, Denver and Atlanta.

"I'm sure many of the buyers realize the bricks weren't obtained with a building permit," she said.

City officials would like stiffer penalties for brick rustling by the levying of a fine equal to the cost of restoring a building to its prior condition. She said clearing the rubble of a stolen building costs the agency \$1,000.

"In some cases, we have them (buildings) under option to developers and they are part of a redevelopment package," she said. "When some of the buildings are stolen, it makes them change their plans."

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Tuesday.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

- A Canon AE-1 camera, camera lens and black carrying case were stolen from an unlocked storage department in a desk on the fourth floor of the New Architecture Building.
- A woman's wallet was stolen from 271 Halbouty. The wallet contained her driver's license, student I.D., \$6 in cash and several credit cards.
- The rear license plate was stolen from a 1973 Ford Maverick in Parking Annex 5.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT-/CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

- Someone fired a .22 caliber bullet through a window of USDA Building #43.

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Olympics

Police use blimps to help with security

United Press International
 LOS ANGELES — Thousands of police began to spread out across Southern California Tuesday for the 1984 Summer Games. They will use horses, helicopters and even the Goodyear blimp to keep an eye on potential terrorists, as well as common pickpockets.

The largest security force in U.S. history has been assembled to watch for terrorists. This force includes the FBI, SWAT teams and thousands of khaki-clad security workers wearing blue berets, unarmed guards who serve as the "eyes and ears" of police.

The other "eyes" will be provided by two blimps that wink anti-crime advice to spectators on the ground as they sail over Southern California, giving the

Police Department an airborne observation platform.

The Goodyear blimp will be joined by a less-famous airship piloted by Fuji film, in the first such mission ever, police spokesman Rod Bernsen said.

"The advantage is that the blimps are relatively slow flying, so officers trained to work from the air will have a great advantage in surveying the areas around the Olympic venues and villages."

"It's a tremendous aerial platform at 1,000 feet," said Officer Mitchell Robins "We will be able to monitor the marathon, the opening and closing ceremonies and any major demonstrations."

"The citizens of Los Angeles would rather see a blimp hovering over than a helicopter. It's less offensive and less noisy."

Police officials advise, however, that tourists should take steps to protect themselves.

"Common sense is the key," Police Lt. Dan Cooke said. "I haven't got it, borrow it."

"Crime prevention kits emphasize how to protect ourselves in a half dozen different languages have been distributed in hotels, travel agencies and airlines, Cooke said.

Police Cmdr. William B. said the Police Department actually expects decreased crime during the Games.

The cost of providing security to prevent terrorism is expected to exceed \$100 million — the largest single item in an Olympic budget of \$500 million.

Eagle dies while training for Olympics

United Press International
 LOS ANGELES — A bald eagle that was to fly over the opening ceremonies of the Olympics Saturday — described as an old, overweight bird named Bomber that "could not fly well" — has died while training for the event.

The eagle, shipped to the city from a federal wildlife laboratory in Patuxent, Md., and one of about 5,000 left in the continental United States, died in its cage after practicing for the extravaganza.

Robert Goldstein, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, confirmed the eagle died July 15, but said he didn't know the cause or circumstances of his death.

Other officials said the bird, which was to fly over the Memorial Coliseum during the ceremony, was a relatively old, overweight bird named Bomber. One wildlife agency official also said the eagle "could not fly well."

Goldstein said Bomber's carcass has been returned to Patuxent for a post-mortem examination.

The eagle, whose caricature, "Sam the Olympic Eagle," is the official mascot of the Summer Games, had been brought to Los Angeles after organizers used their pull in Washington to reverse the refusal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow the bird to be used.

Dr. James Carpenter, chief of

propagation at the U.S. Fish Wildlife Service in Patuxent, he had opposed lending Bomber to the Olympic committee, cause he feared the bird was predictable and might die during ceremonies.

David L. Wolper, who is producing the opening ceremony, said a second eagle, possibly a year-old golden eagle, had been chosen for Saturday's event.

State and federal officials been working hard to save the bald eagle, the national symbol that after World War II fell victim to pesticides which wiped out its ability to reproduce.

Austin rations water despite rain

United Press International
 AUSTIN — Thundershowers cooled drought-scorched Austin Wednesday, but officials said it was unlikely the rainfall would affect the city's 9-day-old water rationing plan.

"We're real excited and grateful about it," said Jerry Lawson, director of Austin's resource management department. "It'll just give us all some breathing room. We've been through a tough couple of weeks. Everybody deserves it."

But Lawson said it would probably take about 5-8 inches of rain over a period of a week before the city could consider canceling its strict water conservation plan.

Lawson noted the problem is not a lack of water, but inadequate treatment and distribution facilities for the growing city of 400,000.

"There's no automatic answer," he said. "We'll have to wait and see how much rain we get and how it soaks in."

Scattered rainfall was also reported in some other drought-

stricken areas of Texas, including Abilene where a water rationing plan was implemented Tuesday.

The rainfall in Austin was the most substantial in the Texas capital city since late May.

The National Weather Service said just over a half-inch of rain had fallen at the city airport by mid-day, but heavier rain was forecast for later Tuesday. Rain was also in the forecast for Wednesday and Thursday.

The downpour caused some minor street flooding and traffic congestion, but police reported no major problems.

Austin's rainfall total for the year is about 8.5 inches below normal.

With little rain and temperatures hovering around 100 degrees each day, the city implemented on July 16 a stringent water rationing plan that only permits the watering of lawns and washing of cars on a five-day rotating basis.

Mike Personett, Austin water conservation manager, predicted the

city's problems will reoccur when return by the end of the week and dry weather.

"In 7 to 10 days we could ourselves back at high demands," he said. "We still have a summer."

Personett said it is doubtful water rationing can be eased. Austin faces at least another week of "very hot and dry conditions under normal conditions."

The water conservation program is working well, he said, adding lawns are still green and the trees are still blooming.

The NWS reported no rain Wednesday in or near Lockhart, Lumbus, Wichita Falls, Stephens, Brady, Colorado City, Guthrie, Rville, Victoria, Haskell, Comanche and Snyder.

Despite light rain and the prospect of more, officials in Abilene they planned to proceed with water conservation plan that took effect at midnight.

Lutheran minister's trial continues

Lawyer questions testimony

United Press International
 EMPORIA, Kan. — A defense lawyer Tuesday said the state's case against the Lutheran minister accused of plotting to kill his former secretary's husband hinges on the questionable testimony of a key witness.

Following opening arguments by both sides, the prosecution's first witness, Lorna Anderson, invoked the Fifth Amendment, refusing to answer questions about her relationship with the defendant, the Rev. Thomas Bird. Authorities allege the minister and Anderson were having an affair.

Bird, 33, former pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Emporia, is charged with criminal solicitation. He is accused of trying to find someone to kill Anderson's husband, Martin Anderson, 34.

Martin Anderson was shot to death on a Geary County highway in November 1983. Authorities say Bird's alleged solicitation took place in May 1983, but the plot was never carried out.

Bird's lawyer, Irwin Shaw, told jurors that the state's case hinged on the testimony of Darrel Carter of Emporia, who prosecutors say was approached by Bird with two plots to kill Martin Anderson.

"If his testimony is not to be believed then the state's case is flawed," Shaw said.

He said the defense would show that Carter got involved with the case only because his brother, Daniel Carter, was arrested and later charged in the killing of Martin Anderson.

Shaw said Carter's story got "bet-

ter and better and better" than he told it.

He told the jury that defense evidence will show the discussion between Bird, Anderson and Carter only was about fire insurance to be sold by a youth group at church Bird used to lead.

District Judge Gary Rulien called for a short recess after Anderson's testimony to consider a motion by prosecution and defense lawyers to limit the area of questioning, so Anderson would be able to testify.

Anderson, 31, who now lives in Hutchinson, pleaded innocent Monday in Geary County District Court in Junction City to two counts of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and one count of aiding and abetting first-degree murder, claiming from her husband's death.