

Zebra shot to death in San Antonio

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A San Antonio family has lost a pet zebra to a gun-wielding assailant, the fourth such attack on their pet zebras in a year.

The 5-year-old male zebra, named Zeke, was found dead early Sunday on a ranch owned by Robert and Judy Bilderback. The animal, worth about \$10,000, had been dead about two days.

Police said another of the male zebras is ill and a bale of hay is being analyzed.

Bilderback said she believes the attacks are being made by someone who wants to force them into selling their 15-acre ranch.

"At this point, the zebras are for sale," she said. "The property is for sale."

The Bilderbacks have raised zebras on the property for eight years. "We don't want any more to be killed," Bilderback said.



Fender Bender

A two-car collision at the corner of Ross and Bizzell streets Sunday night resulted in the severe

damage of one automobile, leaving it crippled on the adjacent sidewalk. Neither driver was injured.

Photo by GREG BAILEY

Judge: seeing man executed was 'shocking'

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — State District Judge Roy Barrera Jr. says he still favors the death penalty, although, he found the execution of Jesse de la Rosa a shocking sight. He also says that other judges should watch their sentences carried out.

Barrera sentenced de la Rosa, 24, to die by lethal injection for a convenience store slaying. The San Antonio man was executed May 15 in Huntsville.

"This experience was a shocking experience," he said. "I was taught to and do believe in God and in the sanctity of life."

"We have a law, however, that I swore to defend and uphold as a criminal district judge. That law allows the state to take life in certain situations. I think the penalty of death is a just penalty in some cases."

Barrera was the first in Texas to witness an execution since the state resumed the practice in 1980. He had refused to talk about the experience immediately after the execution and was put under sheriff's de-

partment protection after authorities received a death threat against him.

Barrera broke his silence in an interview with The San Antonio Express-News.

The judge said he believes other criminal court judges and prosecutors should witness executions.

"Those judges who preside over death penalty cases would benefit from the experience I had on May 15, and certainly I believe the prosecutors and district attorneys across the state should be required to witness that punishment, which is absolute, which is irreversible, that they themselves decide upon when they seek capital punishment indictments," he said.

"They (prosecutors) are the men and women who really decide who will live and who will die. The power they have in deciding when the death penalty should be sought is an awesome responsibility, which frankly, is used with little concern for the victim or the defendant."

Tarleton State student makes first find

Scientists unearth dinosaur fossils

Associated Press

STEPHENVILLE — Students and geologists from Tarleton State University were among a team of experts who have discovered the remains of dinosaur-like creatures dating back 100 million years and previously unknown to scientists.

The remains have been uncovered at a flood plain in central Texas. Experts said the remains include rare fossils from an age from which few remains have been found.

Rusty Branch, a Tarleton State University sophomore, discovered the first of the remains during an early June excavation project in an ancient flood plain on the western part of Lake Proctor in Comanche County, about 75 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

Dr. Philip Murry of the Tarleton State Physical Sciences Department said, "The thing that is important about this discovery is that these fossils

are from dinosaurs and other critters of an age that we know little about."

Murry and Dr. Louis Jacobs of the Shuler Museum of Paleontology at Southern Methodist University headed the excavation.

Jacobs describes the project as monumental because of its contributions toward creating a more complete view of how the earth and animals have changed.

The team, made up mostly of Tarleton State and SMU students, uncovered six dinosaur skeletons. They speculate that substantial remains are still buried.

Murry said the site is unique in the quantity of fossils uncovered and the quality of the findings, several of which have been reclaimed intact.

Calling the findings "new dinosaurs" because they are unlike any other creatures previously described by science, Jacobs and Murry said the ske-

letons display characteristics of a couple of known specimens.

The skeletons recovered thus far are of a small ornithischian, or bird-hipped species.

At least one probably represents a previously unknown type related to the camptosaurus, a group of plant-eating dinosaurs that usually walked on their hind legs, Murry said.

The camptosaurus excavated at the site are relatively small. The largest skeleton does not exceed 10 feet and the smallest is less than three feet long.

He said that the type of dinosaurs prevalent at the Lake Proctor site walked on two legs but went down on four legs to browse.

Also uncovered was a skeleton of a creature with strongly recurved claws, probably a dromaeosaur, a small meat-eating dinosaur.

Texas group planning 'pirate' radio station

Associated Press

DALLAS — A Texas group plans to bring country and western music to the government-controlled European airways through a so-called "pirate" radio station on a ship in the North Sea.

The group's proposed Wonderful Radio London (WRL) is not the first attempt at establishing a pirate station, which are considered illegal by Great Britain and other European governments.

"We've seen lots of stations announced, but only a few actually

started," said Chris Edwards, editor of Off-Shore Echoes, which covers the only two floating North Sea stations now operating.

The Dallas Times Herald reported Monday that the principal organizer of WRL is an Arlington man who goes by the name John England, but some acquaintances say he is actually Merv Hager, a British citizen.

England portrays his venture as a blow for freedom against the restrictive government-run broadcasting monopolies in Europe.

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