officials with slavery tale

AUSTIN (AP) — A 15-year-old girl who ran away from her Tennessee home says she fooled authorities for six months with tales of an international white slavery ring before she finally gave up the masquerade. Of all the agencies that investi-

gated and examined her, none could find flaws in her story, the Austin American-Statesman reported Wednesday.

In countless repetitions, she never made a mistake. Officers now say the story of "Countess Constance Anna Maria Tanya Mitchell" was available, but a computer glitch kept investiga-tors in the dark.

The girl appeared Sept. 18 on a Collin County road north of Dallas. She was wearing a fur coat and an evening dress and was carrying about \$700 cash. She said that she lived with "masters" for six months at a time

Venue change approved in assault case

ALPINE (AP) - The trial of a Mexican national charged with sexually assaulting a Terlingua woman will be moved to San Angelo now that a change of venue has been approved, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

District Attorney Phil Pollan said State District Judge Alex Gonzalez, who had earlier said he would shift the case to San Angelo, Odessa or Midland, recently approved the change of location for the trial of Refugio Gonzalez, 22.

Refugio Gonzalez is charged in the Oct. 26, 1985, rape. Court docu-ments indicate the 38-year-old woman was held prisoner overnight at her residence and assaulted re-

The man was jailed in October in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, but was found Jan. 22 bound in a ditch 70 miles inside the U.S. border.

Brewster County Sheriff George Jones said the man was found after authorities received an anonymous tip that a naked man bound with wire was at a roadside park south of Alpine, testimony from a prelimi-nary hearing April 12 in Alpine

Gonzalez has said men toting machine guns rousted him out of a jail in Ojinaga, Mexico, transported him by truck to the United States and dumped him — bound and blind-folded — in a ditch in sub-freezing temperatures.

The defendant's court-appointed attorney, Ken DeHart, told the Odessa American Wednesday that Judge Gonzalez would preside over the summer trial, which may begin as late as mid-July.

Girl outsmarts Quake hits Mexico City; minor damage reported

earthquake on Wednesday sent Mexico City residents fleeing into the streets and rocked four coastal states, creating panic reminiscent of that caused by last September's catastrophic tremor.

But initial reports indicated Wednesday's quake and two af-tershocks caused no major damage or injuries.

Mexican seismological experts said the quake measured 6.5 on the Richter scale and lasted 65 seconds.

It was the strongest tremor to strike the capital since the Sept. 19 quake that killed an estimated 9,500 people, damaged or destroyed 3,000 buildings and left tens of thousands

Wednesday's tremor set buildings swaying and sent many terrified residents rushing from their homes in pajamas and bathrobes. Some grabbed a few family possesions as they dashed outside.

The quake also rocked the Pacific coast states of Guerrero, Colima, Jalisco and Michoacan, according to Red Cross officials in each state. The area includes the cities of Acapulco and Puerto Vallarta.

A tour of downtown and surrounding neighborhoods in Mexico City by Associated Press reporters showed no apparent structural damage, but power outages were evident several neighborhoods. There

"Things are fairly normal. The people were out in the street . . . because they were panicked.

— Red Cross Capt. Enrique Mejia.

were reports of natural gas leaks caused by ruptured lines that were

quickly repaired.

Red Cross Capt. Enrique Mejia said, "Things are fairly normal. The people were out in the street but it was because they were panicked. It was principally people panicked and

Wednesday afternoon newspapers carried the same message. El Sol de Mexico in big headlines announced "Only Panic" and a headline in the afternoon street edition of Excelsior advised "Nothing To

The National Autonomous University of Mexico's seismological center said the first quake occurred at 1:08 a.m. (3:08 a.m. EST) and measured 6.5 on the Richter scale. It said the quake's center was about 380 miles southwest of Mexico City in the Pacific Ocean.

The center said the first aftershock occurred at 2:10 a.m. and

lowed four minutes later and measured 4.8. It said the aftershocks were felt only in some parts of the

But the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., said the quake registered 7.0 and was centered along the Pacific Coast about 250 miles southwest of Mexico City.

There were also discrepancies in Richter readings immediately after the Sept. 19 quake, which measured 8.1, and following an aftershock the next day that measured 7.3.

In the Roma neighborhood, among the hardest hit in September, people stood along curbs or huddled on grassy median strips, reluctant to return inside.

With electricity out in the area, many residents walked around with flashlights in hand looking for family and friends.

One resident, Vicente Alvarez, who held his sleeping 4-year-old daughter on his shoulder, said, "We were asleep, all of us. When the movement began, we left in a hurry."

In Puerta Vallarta, the quake was felt only slightly, but many tourists ran from their hotels and stayed in the streets several minutes before returning, Red Cross commander Othon Garcia said by telephone.

Deliberations begin in El Campo fire case

GALVESTON (AP) — The case against two women whose seven small children died in an El Campo house fire while they were at a bar went to the jury Wednes-

Jurors began deliberations shortly before noon after

they heard closing arguments Wednesday morning.
Jacqueline Williams, 24, and Marsha Taylor Owens,
30, are on trial before State District Judge Daniel Sklar
on injury-to-a-child charges — one count for each of the dead children, who were aged 2 months to 8 years.

During closing arguments, a defense attorney said prosecutors were trying to analyze the case from hindsight and convict the women for doing something they thought was acceptable.

Both women testified that Williams' oldest daughter was left in charge of six children while their mothers

traveled to nearby Bay City with friends to distribute placards advertising a Valentine's Day event.

The women ended up at a Bay City bar and left be-

fore 2 a.m., they testified.
When they arrived home, they found their children

had died and the house gutted by fire. Williams said she trusted her daughter, 8-year-old Monica, as a babysitter and that she did not intend to leave her children alone for so long.

Defense witness Rev. G.L. Griffin explained that leaving children unattended is "not nothing new."
"Let me break it down for you," he told District Attorney Daniel Shindler, "You're white. My race of people have been leaving children with the oldest in charge for a long time. You all have babysitters because you can afford it. The only babysitters we have is ourselves."

Hance solicits help on ad controversy

publican gubernatorial hopeful Kent Hance Wednesday solicited the aid of a GOP Hispanic official, who said Hance has been unfairly criticized over a television ad attacking

Pulse Martinez, a San Antonio businessman and member of the state Republican Executive Committee, traveled with Hance to McAllen, Harlingen and Corpus Christi on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Martinez said a Hance television advertisment that attacks illegal immigration and its problems is accu-

rate, and that criticism from Hispan-

He has been criticized by Hispanics for use of a television advertisement which shows Hispanic school children in a crowded classroom as it talks about the problems illegal aliens are causing.

But in Corpus Christi on Wednes-

day, Martinez said that isn't so.

"I think you need to bring it out to the attention of the people," he said. "To me, every commercial that is made is not realistic," he said when asked if the commercial was fair.

Hance, competing for the GOP nomination against U.S. Rep. Tom from Hispanics.

Loeffler, R-Hunt, and former Gov. Bill Clements, says he can attract Democratic Party conservatives to

He said he hopes to receive between 30 to 40 percent of the vote to force a runoff with Clements.

Hispanic leaders have said Hance's television ad causes undue prejudice to the school children because they could be Mexican-Americans and not illegal aliens.

Hance, however, denied that Martinez' joining his South Texas tour was intended to quell the criticism

Texas to break up if students had their way

DALLAS (AP) — Fifteen Kilgore fifth graders are abolishing Texas, dividing it into five new states, wooing elected officials and setting up their own governments.

Program coordinator Patsy Thipps said the youths are students in Learning Expanding Academic Potential, a program for advanced firstthrough fifth-graders.

They have been instructed to divide Texas into five separate states, elect a governor and two senators and choose a capital for each state, she

"The Articles of Annexation say the voters can divide the state in five separate states if they decide they want to," Thipps said, adding the idea grew out of an magazine article that pointed out the provision.

includes

After reading the article, LEAP teacher Carolyn Martin turned the provision into an multifaceted educational tool.

Martin said, "It teaches them research skills, higher thinking and how to be creative."

After Kilgore attorney Rob Schlei discussed the annexation provision with the class, the students were split into five groups of three

Martin and Nelda Densman, who also teaches the class, divided the state into East Texas, a coastal section, a southern section running from Texas' southern tip to El Paso, a central section and a section including West Texas and the Pan-

In addition to choosing leaders, students must

students have made a salt map detailing their sections' terrain, typography and resources

We provide them with a Texas map, Texas almanacs, Texas history books up to the eighth-grade level and articles from the Dallas and Longview newspapers," Martin said. "But from there, it's up to the students.'

Each group must write the chambers of commerce in their section for information and write a person from their area that they have elected governor, the teachers said.

Letters have been drafted to Dallas Mayor Starke Taylor, Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire, El Paso Mayor Jonathan Rogers, Amarillo Mayor

choose a state name, bird, flower, motto and flag, Rick Klein and Gov. Mark White, Densman said.

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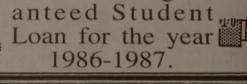
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