Photo by Dean Saito

Reland Garret, right, plays Medea and Timothy McEvoy plays her husband Jason in the Aggie Players' production of the classic Greek tragedy "Medea." The play begins tonight at 8:00 in Rudder Forum and runs through Feb. 21. Tickets are $4 for students and $5 for the general public.

Suspect still sought in slaying

EDINBURG (AP) — A second suspect was being sought in connection with the slaying of a government drug informant, investigators said Tuesday.

"We still have a suspect at large," said Rene Torres, a spokesman for the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department. "The investigation is in full swing."

Authorities arrested a Mexican national at his South Texas residence last week and said he was suspected of being the gunman in the Feb. 8 death of Antonio Espinosa, 39, of Edinburg.

Espinosa was hit in the head by a gunshot fired while he was driving down a country road with his wife and infant daughter.

Espinosa's wife, Rosa, and the couple's 6-month-old daughter were not hurt.

Authorities said the fatal shot was fired from the passenger side of a truck that pulled beside Espinosa's car.

Capt. Albert Garcia, a sheriff's investigator, said the victim was an informant for the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. The DEA has refused to confirm or deny whether Espinosa worked for the agency.

Pedro Luna-Trigo, 26, who was arrested in connection with the case Thursday in San Juan, remained in jail Tuesday in lieu of $100,000 bond on a murder charge.

Trash dumping ban on Gulf urged by conservationists

AUSTIN (AP) — A conservation organization recommended Tuesday that dumping trash in the Gulf of Mexico be banned by international agreement.

The Washington-based Center for Environmental Education said the Texas land office should prepare a proposal for designating the Gulf as a special area.

This would make it exempt from dumping as are other enclosed bodies of water, such as the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf.

This past September the center sponsored a Texas beach cleanup described as the biggest in the nation.

In that project, 2,772 volunteers cleaned 124 tons of trash from 120 miles of Texas coastline in three hours.

"CEE's report of its September cleanup is 124 tons of proof why we've got to stop messing with Texas beaches," State Land Commissioner Garry Mauro said. "The report shows more than ever that Texas doesn't have a litter problem, we've got a garbage problem on our beaches."

CEE marine biologist Kathy O'Hara, principal author of the report, said, "There is no reason why it can't be classified as a special area. It has currents that direct all trash right onto the shoreline. It also has such heavy traffic of maritime vessels."

O'Hara said the Coast Guard could take the proposal to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships, MARPOL, short for marine pollution.

"Then all the other countries would have to decide if they were going to abide by this," O'Hara said.

The CEE report recommended that the Legislature revive the Texas Coastal and Marine Council or designate an existing agency to take the lead on the coastal debris problem.

Among the report's state recommendations were proposals to conduct a feasibility study of providing disposal facilities at Texas ports and expanding a program to remove 30- and 55-gallon drums of hazardous materials from the coastline.

The report also said the Legislature should consider a bill regulating the disposal of beverage containers.

Tom Henderson, a spokesman for Mauro's office, said bills also have been introduced to ban glass containers and to increase the penalties for littering.

Businessman 'recycling' old buildings

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Some people save aluminum cans. Others save old newspapers. Edgar Dodson salvages buildings.

"This is a way to help the economy," Dodson said as cranes lifted the second floor of the old Americana Inn and his crew bulldozed the first floor underneath.

"In today's throwaway society, it's good to salvage anything you can," he said.

Dodson, third-generation owner of Dodson House Moving in San Antonio, was supervising a project in which he is saving the top floor of a motel.

A shopping center and car dealership are scheduled to be built in its place, he said.

Dodson buys buildings from demolition contractors and resells them.

He said it costs buyers half as much to purchase and renovate a used building than it does to construct a new one.

His crew was preparing two buildings, both cut in half, for transport to Dodson's storage yard, which he calls his "used-house lot."

The structures are each 32 feet wide and 66 feet long. The 20-mile trip through the city takes about four hours, he said.

"Most people see house movers as a nuisance," he said. "And we are an inconvenience when we get out there on the roads, but we're only a short inconvenience that the advantages far outweigh."

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