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Couple arrested for locking child in backyard shed

CEDAR HILL (AP) — A couple was charged with injury to a child after police discovered their 7-year-old son locked inside a storage shed the parents called "the naughty barn," authorities said.

Police on Tuesday found the boy's sister attempting to break one of the shed's padlocks with a broom in an attempt to free him. Officers climbed through a window to reach the boy, said Oak Hill police Capt. P.C. Hambrick.

"They call the shed the 'naughty barn' and that's where they send the kids when they are bad," Hambrick said. "They said that they had been having disciplinary problems with the boy and thought it was the best way to deal with it."

The parents were transferred Wednesday to the Dallas County jail. Bond was set at \$3,000 for Connie Thesman and \$5,500 on her husband, Franklin James Thesman, by Cedar Hill Municipal Judge Alta Graves.

Connie Thesman, 38, and her 40-year-old husband were charged with injury to a child possibly causing mental impairment, a first-degree felony, Hambrick said. Connie Thesman was also charged with physical injury to a child.

The children were placed in a foster home, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Human Services said.

Hambrick said the boy had been left water and was in good condition when he was found. He did not require hospitalization.

Neighbors heard the boy scream for help Monday afternoon and again Tuesday morning. Police believe the boy was locked in the shed from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, and again Tuesday morning when the mother left for work.

One neighbor, Cindy Johnson, said she heard screams Tuesday morning but did not pay attention at first because she thought children were playing.

When the screaming had not stopped by about 9 a.m., Johnson went to another neighbor and asked her to listen.

"Then it hit me," Johnson said. "He was screaming for help. I thought to myself, 'Hey, what's going on?'"

Johnson said she and June Boone walked into the Thesman's driveway and called to the boy.

"When nobody came after we hollered, that's when we were afraid," said Johnson, who decided to call police.

What's up

Thursday

AGGNOG: will discuss the new MS-DOS public library at 5:30 p.m. in 204 Evans Library.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will hold a Bible study at 6:30 p.m. outdoors, between Rudder Tower and the Memorial Student Center.

Friday

ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS: will view a video on the Galileo Jupiter Orbiter, discuss techniques for solar observation and use the 14-inch telescope at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

MDA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT: will be held Sept. 12-13 instead of July 18-19 as previously scheduled. For more information call Betty Conner at 693-1375.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days before desired publication date.

Crews begin to untangle debris after twister hits mobile home park

PAMPA (AP) — Crews began cleaning up debris Wednesday at a mobile home park ravaged by a twister that injured 10 residents and caused as much as \$750,000 in damage.

Two people remained hospitalized following Tuesday night's twister, which struck with little warning in a largely vacant seven-block area on the western edge of Pampa. The storm also brought high winds and hail to other Panhandle communities.

Estimates of damages in Pampa reached \$750,000, Steve Vaughn, the city's emergency management director, said. He said four homes and eight mobile homes were completely destroyed, 10 mobile homes sustained severe damage and 11 more were slightly damaged.

The mobile home park was hardest hit, and it was still cordoned off Wednesday while residents gathered their belongings, he said.

Juanita Fisher, 45, and Vera Darling, 73, were admitted to Coronado Hospital's intensive care unit with chest injuries. Both were in stable condition Wednesday, a nursing supervisor said.

Vicki Mirabla, 34, was admitted to the hospital's outpatient clinic for observation after she suffered lacerations and bruises. Six others were treated for minor injuries and released.

Residents said they had no more than 30 seconds to take cover after emergency warnings were sounded about 7 p.m.

Pampa police officer Gary Boydston said he saw his mobile home with his wife and two children as powerful winds struck, tearing keys from his hand.

"We were on the way out the door and the car started flying," Boydston said. "I was trying to get out of my kids, but the wind wouldn't let me."

Vaughn said the warning was sounded late because spotters could not see well in the heavy rain that dumped 2 inches in 25 minutes.

The roof of a discount store's garden center was blown onto autos in a parking lot and several residences sustained damages from 60- to 70-mph winds that accompanied the storm, Vaughn said.

Other wind damage in the city was being investigated by Charles Buzzard, Gray County Appraisal District director. The Red Cross, Salvation Army and other agencies accompanied cleanup crews to the trailer park to provide assistance.

Electricity and telephone service was being restored to portions of Pampa, a town of 21,300 about 45 miles northeast of Amarillo.

About 28 miles to the northeast, high winds and some witnesses said as large as baseballs caused extensive damage in Borger. High winds damaged a hotel and airport facilities in Spearman and Grimes County in the Panhandle, officials said.

High winds also struck the Pantex nuclear weapons assembly plant 17 miles northeast of Amarillo, but officials said damage was minor.

Sociology prof sees new labor force with migration of Amish into Texas

By T. Dawn Gorman Reporter

New communities of Amish families are coming to Texas, creating competition for jobs that have been primarily held by illegal aliens.

The Amish began coming to Texas around 1980 to work on farms with the goal of saving enough money to buy land back home in Missouri, Ohio and other areas, says Dr. William Kuvlesky, a Texas A&M sociology professor.

Their intentions were to stay only two or three years, but many of the settlers already have stayed longer and like it here, Kuvlesky says.

The Amish are a distinct religious group with unique values.

They consider maintaining separation from the "English," as they refer to mainstream Americans, important.

This separation is accomplished by prohibiting the use of electricity, telephones, popular literature and limiting social interaction outside the Amish community.

"The Amish are pioneering a brand new labor structure for Texas and agriculture producers seem happy about it. Not only are they skilled in agriculture, but they also speak English, are accustomed to managing an enterprise and they live to work and serve God. That is advantageous to the entire community."

— Dr. William Kuvlesky, A&M sociology professor

Kuvlesky has studied Texas' Amish communities and says their population averages 250 people throughout the state. Amish families have settled in the Smiley area and outside Stephenville, as well as near Sulphur Springs.

Agricultural producers are not only hiring Amish families, but are actively recruiting them. Kuvlesky says both the Amish and the producers gain from the arrangement.

"The Amish are pioneering a brand new labor structure for Texas and agriculture producers seem happy about it," he says. "Not only

are they skilled in agriculture, but they also speak English, are accustomed to managing an enterprise and they live to work and serve God. That is advantageous to the entire community."

Kuvlesky says the Amish are not willing to work as cheaply as the illegals, but producers are willing to pay extra for better quality labor.

Although many farmers are having financial difficulty, he says, the producers who hire the Amish are the large-scale livestock producers, such as dairy, poultry and beef, that

are prospering and can afford to pay more for labor.

The livestock producers also offer the Amish year-round employment, as opposed to many crop producers, who need only seasonal labor, he says.

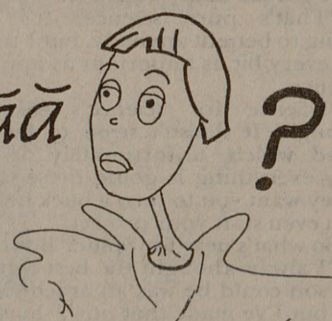
Some producers have attempted to recruit Amish families advertising in the *Budget*, the Amish newspaper. These efforts have met with limited success, Kuvlesky says.

"To recruit Amish workers, a producer must either have other Amish families nearby for retention or recruit several families," he says. "They (the Amish) must, because of their beliefs and lifestyle, at least weakly associated with other families."

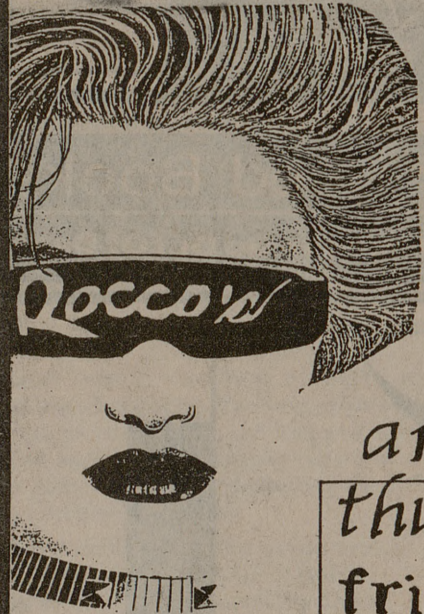
"This means other families cannot be too far away to travel by horse and buggy."

One approach agricultural producers could take to secure the Amish labor is to organize a group of farmers in the same area to attract several families, he says.

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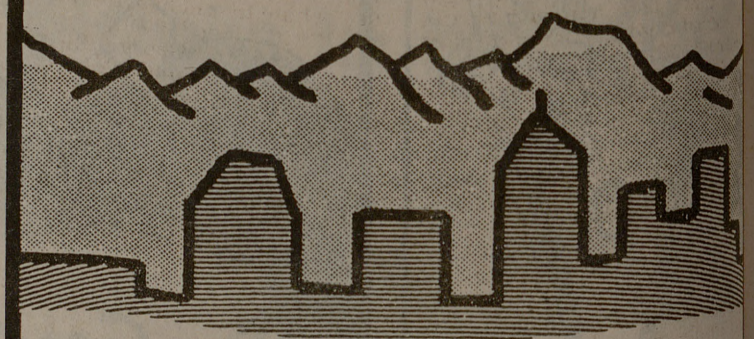
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