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Blaze destroys trailer, kills nine women, children

SILVERTON (AP) — Two women and six children died early Tuesday when a faulty propane heater ignited a fire that engulfed their mobile home and trapped them inside, officials said.

The women's husbands escaped and were able to pull a boy and a girl to safety by breaking out a window, James R. Edwards, chief of the Briscoe County Volunteer Fire Department, said. The four were hospitalized in stable condition.

Edwards said firefighters found the trailer in flames when they arrived shortly after midnight at the remote wheat and cattle ranch about 60 miles southeast of Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle

"By the time we arrived, there was nothing we could do but extinguish the fire and recover the bodies," Ed-

Edwards said the two men, who are brothers-in-law, do not speak English and did not have a telephone in the trailer. He said they broke into another trailer to call someone who then contacted firefighters.

"They indicated the thing just blew and that was it," Briscoe County Sheriff Dick Roehr said. "They didn't know what was going on. It just happened and it was all in flames before they realized what was

Roehr said, "We're convinced it was purely an accident. I suppose we'll make more inquiries to be absolutely certain.'

The victims included a 25-yearold mother and her five children, her sister-in-law, also 25, and her daughter. The children ranged in age from 5 months to 7 years, and Roehr said some of the bodies were burned beyond recognition.

He said the women and children

never had a chance to escape. Edwards said firefighters thought all of the victims' bodies had been removed by 2 a.m., when seven were recovered. But after speaking with the survivors, they realized the 5month-old baby's body was still inside the charred trailer, and removed it at 5:40 a.m.

Roehr said Francisco Palacio, 28, and Samuel Davila, 28, escaped with two of Davila's children.

Palacio is a hired hand who lives at the farm, owned by Teddy Dale Hancock, Edwards said. Davila and his family had been visiting Palacio for the past two weeks while Davila looked for a job.

The four adults were legal aliens from Mexico and the children had all been born in the United States, Edwards said.

Hancock's daughter, Rhonda Hancock, described the Palacio fam-ily as people who were "just trying to make it in Texas" and said they were close-knit and religious, driving a 100-mile roundtrip to attend church in Fairview almost every Sunday.

Palacio had worked for Hancock for eight years and had lived on the 3,000-acre ranch since December

"He had access to everything I had," Hancock said. "When I wasn't home, he could use my home, pickups and farm equipment. He hadn't worked for me for eight years for nothing.

The two men and the rescued children, Samuel Davila Jr., 6, and Edna Davila, 4, were hospitalized for smoke inhalation at Swisher Memorial Hospital in Tulia. They were scheduled to be released Wednesday, Edith Gillham, a hospital nurse,

Black leaders try to take down flag from Capitol dome

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Law officers arrested Alabama NAACP President Thomas Reed and 10 other black leaders on Tuesday when they tried to climb a fence around the Capitol to take down the Confederate battle flag flying over

Reed, a state representative from Tuskegee, led a group of several dozen blacks to a driveway gate where Reed talked to state troopers for almost 20 minutes before attempting to climb the 8-foot high

"I consider myself not violating the law of this state," Reed said.

After officers grabbed Reed

the collar and pulled him down from the fence, other members of his group, among them National NAACP board member Emmett Burns, attempted to climb over but also were restrained.

"We are under arrest," state Rep. John Rogers of Birmingham said as he entered the bus. The charges were not immediately known.

Earlier, as crowds had gathered for the march sponsored by the

NAACP, local and state law enforcement officers set up barricades and

confiscated an ax handle. Reed contends the flag represents racism and oppression and said that if it was not taken down voluntarily he planned to "enter the Capitol grounds and climb to the top of the state Capitol dome and remove the

Confederate battle flag."

He said the banner is resented by blacks and "better-thinking white,

The NAACP also is campaigning to bring down Confederate battle flags at statehouses in Alabama and South Carolina, as well as remove Confederate flags from the designs of the Georgia and Mississippi state

State officers said they confiscated an ax handle from three youths in a pickup truck during a search, but

made no arrests. Capitol security police were under orders from Gov. Guy Hunt not to allow anyone to reach the Capitol, which is undergoing renovation and is surrounded by a locked, chain-link

What's up

Wednesday

INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS: Marvin Kuers Jr. of Michaels

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS: Representative PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA: will meet at

STUDENT "Y" YOUTH FUN DAY: will have a mandatory organizational me HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT FOUNDATION: will meet at 11:45 a.m. in the li

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES: will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Let

OFF-CAMPUS AGGIES: General and executive members will have their CO-OP STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION: will have an organizational meetings

TAMU AMATEUR RADIO CLUB: will have an informal meeting and haven ice classes at 7 p.m. in 350 MSC. New members are always welcome. STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID: will hold elections and discuss plans

the semester at 8:30 p.m. in 507 A-B Rudder.
UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will have an Aggie supper at 6 p.m. at A GREAT COMMISSION STUDENTS: will have a monthly rally at 7:30 pm

102 Zachry for Christian fun, fellowship and food.

TAMU RUSSIAN CLUB: will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 123 Academic and then ECONOMICS SOCIETY: will meet at 7 p.m. in 230 MSC. New members are

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION: will have its general meeting of the semester at 7 p.m. in 105 Blocker. BAPTIST STUDENT UNION: will have a revival at 10 p.m. in Rudder Theater. MSC LITERARY ARTS: is accepting submissions of poetry, prose and gazart through Feb. 20 for the 1988 Litmus.

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: will meet at 3 p.m. in 501 Rudder to discuss rese HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL: will take pictures for The Aggieland at AGGIES FOR BÁRTON: will have an organizational meeting at 8:30 p.m.in2

EUROPE CLUB: will meet at 10 p.m. upstairs at the Flying Tomato.
BAPTIST STUDENT UNION: will have a revival at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theale,
OUTDOOR RECREATION CLUB: will meet to plan upcoming trips at 7 p.m.

Thursday

PARENTS WEEKEND COMMITTEE: Remember to nominate your parents of the Year. Applications are available in the MSC Student Publical Office and in Sterling C. Evans Library through Friday.

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS: will have its first meeting of the sense.

WILEY LECTURE SERIES: will have an information session at 7:30 p.m.init Rudder, Membership applications are available in 216 MSC.

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: Coca-Cola Foots
present information on careers in data processing at 7 p.m. in the Ramaki CLASS OF '89 AND CLASS OF '90: will meet to discuss class ball prepara

LEBANESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet to discuss International Weet

SPEECH COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION: will have a happy hours INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 6 p.m. at the Pig

INTRAMURALS: will have a team bowling captain's meeting at 5 pm. in PARAMENIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 402 lb

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDon

the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. Whatshi a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run ha have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

Bond set for youth charged in murder of grandparents

BONHAM (AP) — Bond has been set at \$1 million for a 17-year-old high school student charged with killing his grandparents.

Thomas James Slusher was araigned Monday in Bonham by Justice of the Peace Don Jones and charged with two counts of murder. He was being held in the Fannin County Jail. The Rev. Charles Slusher and his

wife Sudie were found by a church member Wednesday in the Bonham First Church of the Nazarene

Preliminary autopsy results indi- for the crimes, but Sheriff & cate that Mrs. Slusher was shot in the head, chest and shoulder with a vated by authority figures."

had taken his grandmother's at man S The teen-ager has lived will about three years ago. He was

graduate from Bonham High St

.357-caliber Magnum pistol.

at the Mexican border in Del

husband appears to have been school-

at least twice with the same gm.
The teen-ager was and purcha
Thursday by U.S. Customs of officer

Police patrol pairs may become permanent

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police will patrol in pairs for at least three more weeks and the arrangement may be made permanent for many officers if the response time stays low, officials

Police Chief Billy Prince ordered police to pair up a week ago after the shooting of officer John Chase, who was alone on patrol Jan. 23 when a homeless man wrestled his service revolver away and shot him in the face three times.

Statistics indicate the average response time to emergency and high-priority calls for assistance was just less than 11 minutes during the first two weeks of January, before Prince ordered the twoofficer squads.

Under the experimental program, the response average was exceeded only on Saturday, when it took patrol officers an average of 13 minutes to answer to high-priority calls, such as open

buildings, suspicious persons and burglar alarms. Assistant Chief John Driscoll said response times have not increased significantly under the experimental program because, in the past, two officers were sent to most serious calls.

"If the figures stay like this, then the review will be favorable," Driscoll said. "But it's too early to get a decent reading on response times.

Driscoll, head of the Patrol Division, said the department eventually may assign 80 percent of its patrol officers to two-person squads, a move that would cut by 20 percent the number of cars Prince said the two-officer patrols have

officers feel safer. Prince met with Mayor Annette Straus City Manager Richard Knight on Monday solve disagreements about the police of tel whe

After the Chase shooting, Prince said who we Council criticism of police contributed to the Monday cer's death. A bus stop crowd watched the less man struggle with Chase and some stop "Shoot him, shoot him," according to wind

The homeless man was shot and killed by lice after he fired at them.



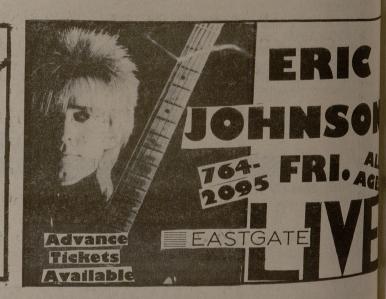
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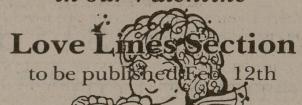
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