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# Austin officials say 600-year-old tree poisoned purposely

AUSTIN (AP) — The 600-year-old Treaty Oak was intentionally poisoned by someone using a chemical formulated to kill trees, officials said.

"It's not an accident," said John Giedraitis, a city forester who has directed efforts to save the oak, an Austin landmark since the city was founded in the 1800s.

The Texas Department of Agriculture, which has been investigating the incident, said the chemical used wasn't known, but test results indicated it was a tree-killing herbicide.

"This chemical is used to kill trees," Giedraitis said. "It's not used to kill weeds. They knew what they were doing."

The oak was a popular spot for picnics before the city engulfed it in the 1880s, according to the Handbook of Texas, published by the state historical association.

The tree takes its name from a

story that Stephen F. Austin signed a treaty with the Indians under its branches.

The treatment last week consisted of replacing contaminated soil and injecting activated charcoal and bacteria into the ground to neutralize the effects of the chemical.

Giedraitis said no new treatment is planned unless the live oak starts losing its second set of leaves. The tree is putting out a new leaf set in response to the loss of most of its spring leaves to the deadly herbicide.

Max Woodfin, an agriculture department spokesman, said that if the person responsible could be found, the agency could impose civil fines of up to \$1,000 and could file a Class C misdemeanor criminal charge.

The chemical is thought to have been applied at least three months ago.

# Violence in China alters woman's 1500-mile jog

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston woman's plan to jog 1,500 miles of the Great Wall of China has been put on hold because of the tumultuous and tragic events in China.

Sally Miller Perdue had planned her trip for August.

"I had sponsors," Perdue said Monday. "The whole thing was ready. And now the bottom has dropped out. It's kind of a sad day and I've never been a pessimist."

One sponsor, she said, already has pulled out.

Perdue, 50, said it became apparent on Saturday, from reports of violence between government troops and students in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, that her dream was in jeopardy.

Only the day before, she said, Houston's Chinese consul, Din Wei, had assured her the student demonstrations would not affect her plans to run the wall and the problem likely would be over by the time her run commenced.

And if not, she would not be affected because she would be running in remote areas, Perdue said Wei told her.

Wei did not return Perdue's calls on Monday, she said.

"I've spoken with his wife," she said. "I don't think he's talking to anyone."

"I don't think he knows what to say. He guaranteed this would not be a problem, but he doesn't have any influence over when the tanks move in."

Perdue, who was Miss Arkansas in 1958, said she tried for 10 years to get permission from the Chinese government to run the wall and finally obtained it in January through Wei.

Perdue said she planned to leave for China in August and spend two-and-a-half months jogging an average of 25 miles daily on the wall.

# Beijing

(Continued from page 1)

China's most famous dissident, astrophysicist Fang Lizhi, took refuge in the U.S. Embassy. He had told the Associated Press last week he was concerned conservatives might arrest him.

Yuan said on television 300 people were killed, including 23 students; and 7,000 were injured and 400 soldiers were missing. The evening TV news said 32 people were arrested, most of them for trying to set fire to public buses.

Government-issued casualty totals appear to be low. Diplomats have estimated the death toll at about 3,000.

A report that senior leader Deng Xiaoping had died added to the chaos. The report, from Taiwan, was denied by the government.

Ming Pao, a Hong Kong newspaper, said a young guard shot conservative Premier Li Peng in the thigh

on Sunday but the wounds were not serious. It said the guard was shot to death immediately.

Chinese sources said they heard the man shot Li because a relative was killed by soldiers in Tiananmen Square, focus of the student protest for democracy.

Zhao supported having a dialogue with the students and was driven from the leadership late last month in a confrontation with Li, President Yang Shangkun and Deng, the conservatives who ordered the army action.

Most of the soldiers involved were from the 27th Army, which is based in Hebei province and apparently is led by members of Yang's family. The 27th, which fought China's brief 1979 war with Vietnam, invaded the city Saturday night and rolled into Tiananmen Square, killing hundreds on its way.

On Tuesday afternoon, witnesses said the 27th Army fought with soldiers from Shanxi province's 28th Army, believed loyal to Zhao. There were no reports of casualties.

# Train

(Continued from page 4)

staff, told Tass the blast had a force of a 10-kiloton bomb and hurled two locomotives and 38 passenger cars from the rails.

Pravda said the explosion was heard 16 miles away.

Early today, more than 250 passengers still were unaccounted for, the news agency reported. Rescuers searched the burned-out hulks of the cars for more victims, and military helicopters evacuated victims, defense officials said.

"More than 20 civilian and 50 military aircraft are currently mobilized in the rescue," Civil Aviation Minister Alexander Volkov told Tass.

Many victims were taken to a burn treatment center in the nearby city of Chelyabinsk. Others were taken to Ufa hospitals, where officials said special beds for burn victims were urgently needed.

Special receiving centers were set up in Ufa and Chelyabinsk for the relatives of those killed or missing, Tass said. Doctors from Moscow, the Ukraine, Georgia and other cities were flown to the area to assist overworked medical personnel, the agency said, and further aid was expected from foreign firms.

# Duke

(Continued from page 4)

legislation passed.

Duke, 38, was elected in February to represent a nearly all-white district in suburban New Orleans after a "no-tax" campaign that focused on "civil rights" for everyone — including whites.

Duke is a former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, which he left in 1980 in a dispute with a rival faction. He then formed the National Association for the Advancement of White People, which he still heads.

He ran for president in 1988, first

as a Democrat and then on the Populist Party ticket. He registered as a Republican days before entering the House race, which he won by 227 votes in a runoff with a long-time Republican.

When the regular session began in April, Duke offered nine bills which would have eliminated affirmative action and minority set asides and required drug testing for housing project residents and welfare recipients.

"I think I've pushed the whole House of Representatives more to the issues of my agenda, which is equal rights for all and reform of the welfare system," Duke said.

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