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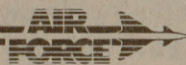
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A Community Service Provided By:



4201 Texas Avenue South, College Station

Wasteland for sale Houston residents concerned about removal of toxic waste

HOUSTON (AP) — Real estate signs are sprinkled throughout the Southbend subdivision, but one in particular is a car stopper.

It reads: "For Sale, 2-2-2 with 45-plus known toxic chemicals at no extra charge. Inquire within." A black flag with a skull and crossbones is planted next to the sign in the front yard.

Dani Pimental said the sign is a symbol of her anger at the federal Environmental Protection Agency, charged with cleaning up pits of toxic chemicals at the Brio Superfund site. The site is less than a block from the front door of her two bedroom, two bath, two-car garage home — with extras.

An increasing number of residents in this 600-home subdivision in southeast Houston are voicing mistrust and disgust with the EPA.

Many want the cleanup process halted until they can be assured, through independent assessments, just what exists at the site and that a total cleanup will be done.

"For years, we've been swallowing what they're saying hook, line and sinker," Southbend resident Cheryl Finley said. "We've got so many suspicions now against these people, we don't know who to trust anymore."

The 58-acre Brio site was a manufacturing facility under various company names from 1957 to 1982.

In 1982, Brio Refining, which conducted styrene processing and petroleum refining at the site, went bankrupt, abandoning a hazardous chemical recycling operation and pits of toxic wastes.

The site was put on the EPA's Superfund cleanup list in 1984 and a group of companies, called potentially responsible parties, or PRPs, which had provided chemicals for processing at the site, formed the Brio Task Force in 1985.

The task force, under EPA scrutiny, is charged with determining the

extent of contamination, researching and recommending cleanup methods and conducting and paying for the cleanup.

The EPA and the task force are awaiting approval by the U.S. Justice Department so that a consent decree can be signed and a cleanup can begin — a move many residents hope to delay.

Residents are concerned about possible health risks of being near the Brio site, even though the Texas Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta have said they have no evidence that

"We've got so many suspicions now against these people, we don't know who to trust anymore."

— Cheryl Finley,
Southbend resident

living in Southbend poses a health risk.

Allyn Davis, director of the hazardous management division at EPA's Region 6 in Dallas, disputed other allegations that the EPA does not know what chemicals are there.

"We definitely have a good handle on what's out there," Davis said. "We know enough about the site to clean it up."

A group of about 40 people joined to form Parents Against Brio, which is researching a possible link between past activities at the site and birth defects.

Some Southbend residents want a government buyout of the subdivision, while others just want a cleanup they can believe in.

Woman claims husband made her aid in murders

DECATUR (AP) — Jury selection begins Monday in the murder trial of a 29-year-old woman who contends she was a battered wife acting under duress when she aided her husband in the sex slayings of two women.

Sharon Dollar Lardi Green is charged with murder in the stabbing and bludgeoning death of Betty Jo Monroe, 28, of Amarillo. She faces separate charges in the death of Sandra Lorriane Bailey, 27, of Fort Worth.

Green has told authorities she saw her husband, Ricky Green, kill the women in the couple's mobile home in Boyd, about 10 miles northwest of Fort Worth. She said her husband forced her to stab at least one of the women and help him dispose of both bodies.

Green, 29, has admitted killing the women and also a man and boy in Fort Worth, and says his wife participated in the women's deaths. He maintains she also was involved in sexual assaults on the women and attacked them on her own.

Green said she only cooperated with her husband because he had beaten her many times and threatened to kill her and her relatives. She said she had known about the slain man and boy but remained silent out of fear.

Mrs. Green's family portrays the husband as a physically abusive alco-

holic who threatened harm to his wife and her young daughter.

His family paints Mrs. Green as a drug addict who excelled at manipulating people.

Monroe's nude body was found in a culvert in the Flatwood community of Wise County in October 1985. She had been stabbed 17 times and beaten with a hammer.

Bailey was killed about a month later. She had been stabbed 30 times and beaten with a hammer. Both women had been sexually mutilated.

Defense attorney Charles Baldwin said Mrs. Green is a victim of the battered wife syndrome.

Wise County District Attorney Pat Morris doesn't agree and intends to press for a murder conviction in the Monroe case.

"Certainly, the state is not saying that at some point in their married life, Ricky did not beat Sharon," Morris said. "But we do not believe she is a battered wife as in the battered-wife syndrome. Beating was part of a lifestyle they chose to lead."

On April 25, 1989, Mrs. Green called the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office and said her husband was responsible for the four killings.

Investigators filed two capital murder charges against her after she gave additional statements and failed a lie-detector test. The charges were later reduced to murder.

AGGIE CINEMA

Aggie Cinema Movie Information
Hotline: 847-8478

El Cid	Feb. 6	7:30	\$2.50
Parenthood	Feb. 9/10	7:30/9:45	\$2.00
Weekend at Bernie's	Feb. 9/10	Midnight	\$2.00
Bambi	Feb. 10	3:00 PM	\$2.00

Children under 13 - \$1.00

Tickets may be purchased at the MSC Box Office. For membership information contact MSC Aggie Cinema at 845-1515.

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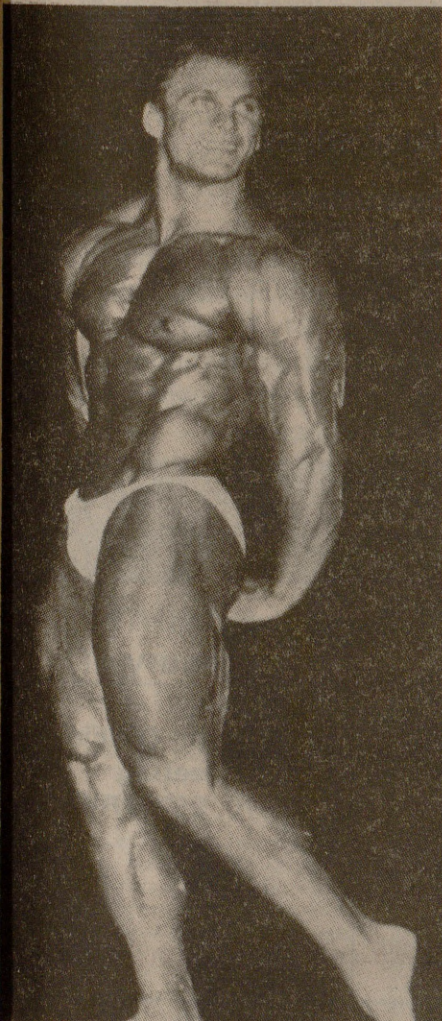
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