

Workers discover abandoned newborn on doorstep of clinic after telephone tip

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A juvenile court judge says it won't be difficult to find a loving home for a newborn boy found abandoned outside a minor emergency clinic.

"We will make a diligent search for the mother or father," state District Judge Tom Rickhoff said. "If we are unable to find them, we have about 500 couples waiting for a baby."

About 50 couples would be ready immediately to adopt the infant, said Rickhoff, whose court handles juvenile cases in Bexar County.

The newborn boy was found outside a minor emergency clinic Sunday afternoon in 90-degree weather wrapped in a white towel bearing the

ones looking at that and wanting to adopt him."

"Parenting an abandoned baby and said the baby was there. The apparently healthy infant was taken to Medical Center Hospital

"We will make a diligent search for the mother or father. If we are unable to find them, we have about 500 couples waiting for a baby."

—Tom Rickhoff, state district judge

pulls on the strongest of human emotions," Rickhoff said. "If we didn't have six kids, I'd be one of the initial 'S.' Clinic workers discovered the infant after a woman telephoned

and said the baby was there. The apparently healthy infant was taken to Medical Center Hospital

2-hours-old when he was found. X-ray technician Shawn Elliott said he answered the telephone at the Texas Medical Clinic about 1 p.m. Sunday when the unidentified woman called.

"There was a young woman on the line, and all she said was, 'There is a baby outside your door,'" Elliott told the San Antonio Express-News. "I thought she was kidding, that was a joke, but when I checked the back door, there he was."

Elliott said the building's awning shaded the baby from the sun, that the baby's temperature was about 96 degrees but should have been about 99 degrees.

More than 200 gather peacefully in Dallas

Animal rights supporters, opponents meet at rally

DALLAS (AP) — Demonstrators on both sides of the animal research debate stood only a few feet from each other at a weekend rally, but their views on the use of animals in studies were worlds apart.

More than 200 people gathered for the peaceful demonstrations in downtown Dallas on Sunday, which coincided with the nationwide "March for Animals."

In Dallas, a demonstration sponsored by the Society for Texas Animal Rights, attracted about 150 people. A similar demonstration in Washington, D.C., attracted an estimated 24,000 people.

The Dallas crowd carried signs reading, "No veal this meal" and "End laboratory slavery." After the march, several speakers called for an end to the inhumane use of animals in research.

"The reason for this (demonstration) is to demand animal rights," said Nelly Rocha-Shirer, one of the coordinators. "Animals have not been treated as anything but as products, and we want that to change."

But the half-dozen speakers were almost drowned out several times by chants of "Animal research saves lives" from about 60 counter-demonstrators across the street.

Howard Crawford, 25, a co-founder of Citizens for Legal and Ethical Animal Research, said his group was formed within the past three weeks to blunt the effectiveness of Sunday's animal rights demonstration.

"We feel that in the past decade, there has been a lot of myth and misconception about animal research," said Crawford.

Police search for thieves in Fermier Hall burglary

Brazos County Crime Stoppers is seeking information about a January 3 computer equipment burglary in Fermier Hall at Texas A&M.

A&M investigators report thieves probably gained entry through an exterior window of the Engineering Technology Department in Fermier Hall to steal the following equipment, valued at \$8,500:

- AT&T Mini-Computer, Model 3B2/310, serial #00014220C
- Hard Disk Drive 72 Mega Byte, serial #0409682
- Cartridge Tape Package TM60, serial #8951554.

Investigators believe the thieves knew the layout and operation of the office and wanted either to access information stored in the computer or to hinder departmental operations.

This week the Texas A&M University Police Department and Crime Stoppers need your help in identifying the person(s) responsible for this burglary.

If you have information that could be helpful, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS. When you call

Crime Stoppers will assign you a coded number to protect your identity.

If your call leads to an arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000 cash. Crime Stoppers also pays cash for information on any felony crime or the location of a wanted fugitive.

Brazos County Crime Stoppers 775-TIPS

Republican candidate leads in polls

Richards awaits early media blitz; Williams' campaign remains quiet

AUSTIN (AP) — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ann Richards says she is bracing for an early blast of television commercials from Republican opponent Clayton Williams, who was close-mouthed Monday about possible TV plans.

Richards said she expects Williams to hit the airwaves this week, although the Republican's campaign wouldn't confirm or deny it.

"There's two sides to Clayton going up (on TV) early," Richards said during the state Democratic convention over the weekend. "The good side is that they must feel like they need to. The bad side is I know how much TV can drive (poll) numbers."

One recent opinion poll showed Williams several percentage points ahead. Richards said she suspects Williams hopes TV commercials will influence any other polling that may be taking place.

"I don't know whether they're playing to a specific poll that's in the field or going to get into the field ... That's kind of my guess — that they're trying to drive those numbers up," she said.

Williams wasn't available for comment, his

campaign office said. A spokesman, press secretary Gordon Hensley, had little to say about television plans.

"We're neither going to confirm nor deny what we're going to do in regard to television," he said. "But we hope Ann Richards spends her Friday night in front of the TV set watching." Hensley declined to answer further questions.

Richards said she has neither the money nor the inclination to launch her own wave of TV advertising.

"I'm not going to go up this early," she said. "One reason is it costs too much money, and the public's memory is short. They'll (Williams) have the money to do anything they want."

The Democrat also suggested that Williams hopes to divert public attention from recent gaffes — including a joke that likened bad weather to rape and his admission of using prostitutes as a youth — which came during news me-

dia interviews.

"The only way Clayton Williams can win this election is if they can keep him away from (news)

"There's two sides to Clayton going up (on TV) early. The good side is that they must feel like they need to. The bad side is I know how much TV can drive (poll) numbers."

—Ann Richards, gubernatorial candidate

reporters), keep him from being in the public eye," Richards said.

"If they can take him only to places that are very staged, where he is not given access to the press."

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Truck driver sues Coca-Cola over accident

EDINBURG, Texas (AP) — The truck driver in the state's worst school bus accident is suing his employer, saying he was "hung out to dry" after the accident that killed 21 children last fall.

Ruben Perez, 25, drove the Valley Coca-Cola Bottling Co. truck that collided with a school bus at an intersection last Sept. 21. The impact forced the bus into a water-filled pit near Alton in South Texas. Sixty junior and senior high school students were hurt.

Perez had said that the brakes on his truck failed.

His lawsuit, filed Friday in 93rd District Court in Edinburg, accuses Valley Coca-Cola and other Coca-Cola companies of willfully operating trucks with bad brakes and fail-

ing to maintain them properly.

The lawsuit also accuses the companies, their lawyers and an insurance company of withholding information that could have prevented Perez's indictment on 21 involuntary manslaughter charges.

"Valley Coca-Cola and Coca-Cola Enterprises followed a conscious and intentional policy of damage control that forced Ruben Perez to be the scapegoat of this tragedy," the suit states.

"These defendants believed that if they could convince the public and the authorities that the sole cause of the collision was a negligent driver, the damage to the image and the pocketbook of The Coca-Cola Co. and its subsidiaries ... would be far less than if the real truth were

known: (the companies) consciously and willfully operated trucks with bad brakes in order to maximize corporate profits at the expense of public safety ..."

With his litigation, Perez joins families of the dead and injured, as well as a group of rescue workers and bystanders, in suing Valley Coca-Cola over the accident.

The company so far has settled with families of 17 of the dead for a total of \$73.5 million. Impending settlements with some of the injured also have been reported, but not confirmed.

Perez is suing Valley Coca-Cola, its owner, Austin Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Great Western Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and Coca-Cola Enterprises

Inc. Also named in the suit are national Union Fire Insurance Co. Houston lawyers Dana Kirk and Steve Carrigan and their law firm Kirk & Carrigan.

The suit alleges that Valley Coca-Cola failed to provide adequate safety training and rushed its drive out of the gates every morning without allowing them a chance to make safety checks.

The company, which was allowed to perform its own annual state vehicle inspections as an official state inspection station, omitted entire sections of the required brake inspection procedures, the lawsuit alleges.

Fever puzzles investigators

AUSTIN (AP) — Medical investigators for the Texas Department of Health are checking reports of two possible Travis County cases of the mysterious disease called Palestine fever.

So far, Palestine fever has medical investigators confused. Some symptoms echo several other conditions, such as rheumatic fever. Officials don't know if the cause is a bacterium or a virus, whether it is infectious or spread by animals or insect bites.

One is a 5-year-old girl and the other, a 46-year-old man, officials said.

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