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Officials find recorders in crash

Investigators retrieve 'black box' from tail section of aircraft

EAGLE LAKE (AP) — Federal investigators on Thursday removed the "black box" recorders from the wreckage of a twin-engine Continental Express plane that crashed in a corn field, killing all 14 aboard.

Continental Express released the names of 11 passengers and three crew members aboard Flight 2574, but the Harris County Medical Examiners officials continued work to identify positively the remains Thursday.

The dead included seven Mexican nationals, a crew of three from the Houston area, and people from Laredo, Texas; Sterling Heights, Mich.; Quito, Ecuador; and Phoenix, Ariz.

The Mexicans included three young couples from Monterrey heading to Canada together for a vacation, said a spokeswoman in the Mexican Consulate in Houston. The other Mexican was a prominent social activist from Ciudad Juarez.

The Brazilian-built Embraer 120 commuter plane was en route from Laredo to Houston's Intercontinental Airport, crashed about 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, about 75 miles west of Houston, spewing wreckage over a four-mile stretch of southeast Texas farmland.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board and six other agencies found the voice recorder and the flight data

recorder in the tail section of the shattered aircraft just before noon Thursday.

Though somewhat dented from the crash, the shoe-box-sized orange boxes "appear to be in fairly good condition," said NTSB Chairman James L. Kolstad. "We really can't tell the conditions of the recording until we get inside."

The voice recorder provides a taped record of cockpit conversations, while the flight data recorder records the aircraft's speed, altitude and other parameters. The two boxes were shipped to the NTSB laboratory in Washington for read-outs and analysis, said NTSB spokesman Brent Bahler.

"We may have some preliminary information from black box Friday night," Bahler said.

A new federal regulation goes into effect Oct. 11 requiring that both boxes be in the tail of aircraft, Bahler said.

"This aircraft was ahead of schedule," Kolstad said.

NTSB crews led investigators at the site from the FBI, Federal Aviation Administration, Continental Airlines and its wholly owned subsidiary, Continental Express; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica SA, the plane manufacturer; Pratt & Whitney Canada, the engine manufacturer; and the National Air Traffic Controller Association, Bahler said.

Chief exec, employees plead guilty to bank fraud

DALLAS (AP) — A former executive and three other employees of a failed Colorado City thrift have pleaded guilty charges of bank fraud and conspiracy, federal officials said.

Neva C. Turner, the former chief executive officer of First Western Savings & Loan Association, was charged Wednesday in Dallas with participating in a conspiracy to steal more than \$500,000 for investment in the stock market.

The indictment also names three former employees of the West Texas thrift.

Katy Byrd, Roy Byrd and Marilyn Roberts were all charged with conspiracy.

The defendants have reached plea bargain agreements with federal prosecutors and all have pleaded guilty, according to FBI Agent Oliver B. Revell.

'Killer' bees attack Texas man

McALLEN (AP) — Africanized honeybees attacked and stung a South Texas man more than 300 times in the first major attack by the so-called "killer" bees in the United States, authorities said Thursday.

Adan Garza, 65, was released Thursday afternoon from Mission Hospital, where he was treated for the stings, officials said.

Garza was attacked Wednesday about 10 miles west of McAllen while clearing brush near an abandoned shack where the bees had built a hive, agriculture officials said.

Preliminary tests conducted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service confirmed the hive was contaminated by Africanized bees.

"This is the first severe incident," said Elba Quintero, manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Africanized honeybee project. "We have had three or four (small) incidents. But this is major."

A Brownsville man survived after being stung 18 times by the

bees last May. The only fatal sting recorded in the Rio Grande Valley was a dog killed by the bees in July.

The bees, often called killers because they attack in swarms and pursue prey for long distances, were first sighted in South Texas last October following a decades-long journey from Brazil.

They have been spreading through the Americas since 1957,

"When you have a higher density of bees, you have a higher probability of people running into them."

Frank Eischen, scientist, Texas A&M Research and Extension Center

when African queen bees escaped from an experiment in Brazil and began breeding with more docile European bees. The Africanized bees are their descendants.

APHIS trappers on Thursday combed the area where Garza was attacked, but it was apparently clear of Africanized bees, Quintero

said.

However, the bees are expected to continue their spread throughout the region, said Frank Eischen, a scientist at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center.

"What we expect is that the density of the honeybee colonies will go up, and that's primarily due to the influx of Africanized honeybees," Eischen said.

"When you have a higher density of bees, you have a higher probability of people running into them."

The bees began swarming again in the area this month and will continue through October,

said.

But he added that hives are more dangerous than the swarms because they have staked out territory and are reproducing.

"They have every reason to defend that," Eischen said. "They're like a homeowner they're going to defend the home."

Two more die as cholera spreads in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Two people have died of cholera in Mexico City and more than 800 people nationwide have contracted the disease, the Health Department said Wednesday.

The two who died — an adult and a 5-year-old child — were members of the same household in the Iztapalapa neighborhood on the eastern fringe of the city, department spokesman Eduardo Arvizu said.

They died last week at home, Arvizu said.

He said 22 cases have been confirmed in four different city neighborhoods — Iztapalapa, Xochimilco, Tlahuac and Iztacalco.

Another 20 suspected cases are under observation in those neighborhoods which lie on the south and east edges of the city.

Arvizu said health officials have not discovered any common thread linking the Mexico City victims, most of whom were people of modest means.

"The cases are very dispersed," he said. "If anything, the common denominator was poor

hygiene."

He said health officials were interviewing victims and their families and neighbors, searching for the source of infection.

"We're not standing in the doors of the hospitals waiting for sick people to show up," he said. Cholera has spread to nine different states and Mexico City as sickened 808 people since it was discovered in Mexico three months ago, Arvizu said.

The worst hit states are Hidalgo, with 392 cases, and Puebla, with 185, he said.

Arvizu said health officials are confident cholera can be controlled in Mexico City because of the availability of health care facilities.

"People are close to hospitals and attention can be very fast. don't see it as very dangerous here," he said. "There is a chance of responding rapidly in the city."

The Western hemisphere's first cholera epidemic of the century began in January in Peru.

More than 2,500 people have died in Latin America from the disease this year.

Texas girls die from exhaust system fumes

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — Tiorivio and Angela Mancillos bought an old truck recently so the farmworkers could take their four daughters back to Pharr, Texas, to begin school.

Now they have to find the money to send three of them home for burial.

A defective exhaust system apparently caused the carbon monoxide poisoning deaths of three of the girls this week. A fourth remains at Children's Hospital in Seattle.

"I'm hoping the truck and the camper were sold unknowingly with this problem," said Maggie Cuellar-Lopez, a friend who has given the family shelter in a suburban Seattle home.

"They are just taking it step by step," Cuellar-Lopez said. "She tends to cry a lot and let a little bit out. He is holding everything in."

The family lived each summer in Lynden, about 90 miles north of Seattle, and had finished harvesting berries and cucumbers in that area.

They were heading back to their home in Pharr so the girls

could begin the school year, Cuellar-Lopez said.

They stopped near Cle Elum along Interstate 90, and the four girls were found unconscious in the truck camper.

They apparently asphyxiated when carbon monoxide fumes from the 15-year-old truck leaked into the camper, Cuellar-Lopez said. The Kittitas County coroner is still investigating and has not determined the cause of death.

One girl was dead at the scene. One died at a hospital in Yakima. A third, 11-year-old Sylvia, died Wednesday at Children's Hospital in Seattle.

Yadira Mancillos, 14, remained in satisfactory condition in the hospital, spokeswoman Susan Macek said. She is suffering memory loss, and does not know about her sisters' deaths, Cuellar-Lopez said.

The other victims were identified as Arangelica, 13, and Mariadel Rosario, 10.

The parents and an 18-year-old son were riding in the front and were not hurt.

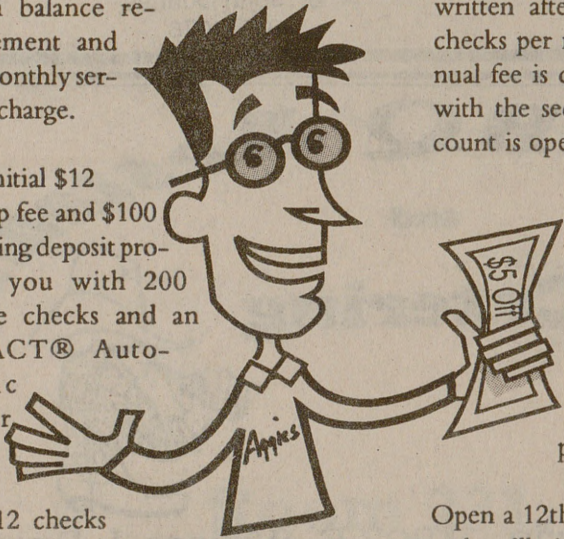
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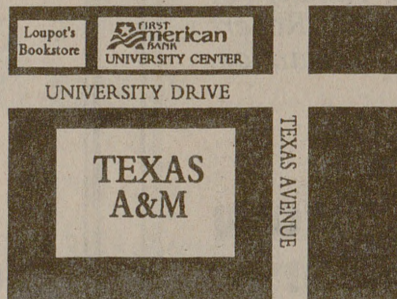
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