South Texans want 'death trap' road widened

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) - Law enforcers call the strip of highway a death trap. Thousands of South Texans want it changed.

Shocked by the death last

School athlete, the community of Pettus is joining an effort to widen a treacherous portion of U.S. 181, about eight miles north of nearby

The stretch — a shoulderless, month of a popular Pettus High two-lane road that runs under an

abandoned railroad overpass leaves little room for passing vehicles to err.

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About 4,000 South Texans have signed a petition urging county and state officials and area congressmen to widen the stretch.

aggravates Texas tena

FORT WORTH (AP) — ning all the time," Struggling with a leaky pipe in Fort Worth Star her bedroom and a sink that backs up in the kitchen, renter Donita Banks has another problem

She hadn't read the fine

print in her lease. Ms. Banks, frustrated by her landlord's apparent inaction, found the answer when she went to the Texas Tenants Union in Dallas. It asked to see her lease.

The document required that repairs be requested in writing.

'If your lease requires you to give written notice, then you need to have given it in writing before he is obligated to fix," said Sandy Rollins, the tenants union's executive director.

It's just one example, lawyers say, of a big problem in mediating landlord-tenant disputes. Renters often don't read their leases - and don't know their rights.

In Ms. Banks' case, Ms. Rollins advised her to mail a certified letter requesting the specific repairs, followed by a letter seven days later if the landlord had failed to respond to the first request within a reasonable time.

Precinct No. 3 Judge Sandy Prindle of Fort Worth said that aside from maintenance and repairs, nearly all other landlordtenant cases involve rent, evictions or security deposits.

"An eviction case in Texas is the fastest legal proceeding in the state," said Prindle, who is also legislative chairman for the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of

"It is designed that way because the rental clock is run"That's why wer

through 25 at a time. On a recent morni cases before Prindle tions, with each pr lasting just minutes a with an order for the

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vacate and an awar landlord for back rent. The tenants union Apartment Associati rant County, a land say outstanding bil are turned over to agencies, with the name often forwarded

bureaus. A landlord must b eviction process, if re paid or upon violation er provision, by giving notice ordering the leave within 24 hours days, depending on the If the landlord m

court-ordered eviction law provides for a he sooner than six and than 10 days after the served with notice.

After an eviction tenant has five days to or vacate.

If a tenant believes tion was wrongful, theu

ommends requesting a "Jurors are more li tenants," said Yasmii who leads a weekly lar

ant law seminar at th union. "Tenants get bet when they get a jury tri Prindle said that al

centage of the dispute relate to unreturned deposits. A landlord on only for damages a carelessness, accidents — not normal wear and

Frustrating fine prin

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Bees swarm San Anton

Alamo City resident stung more than 100th

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — An elderly man was stung hundreds of times by a violent swarm of bees, becoming the latest victim in a string of attacks in South

Clarence Collins, 71, was taken Thursday night to Wilford Hall Medical Center for treatment. He had been released by Friday morning, hos-

pital officials said. Collins' wife Ethel, a neighbor and a San Antonio firefighter also were stung when they came

to his aid, witnesses said.

Michael Blount, 36, was sitting in front of his house and saw the bees attack as Collins mowed his lawn at about 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

He made a pa ss around the tree and, 'Wham!' They hit him all at once," Blount said. mother was standing out there and she told me to run and help him. He was trying to spray them off with a garden hose.

Blount, who was stung once, told the San Antonio Express-News the swarm was so violent he could not get close to Collins.

"I had to pull my shirt off; they were in my shirt," he said. "They swarmed across the street and back. My neighbor had them in her hair.'

Blount said the single sting he received "felt like a lit cigarette,"

adding: "I don't want about what it would fee be stung a hundred time Officials with the A&M University Ho

Identification Labin Station said Friday the information yet on the The lab determines w honey bees are the Euro Africanized variety. Thursday's stinging

latest in a recent series

tacks in the region. Earlier this month, Johnson, 86, was mon neighbor's back yard in town when he was stu about 500 times. His Johnson Jr., 59, also wa about 500 times. It later Africanized variety often

'killer bees. In Robstown, 20-ye Christopher Graves was an estimated 1,000 times August by a swarm as about to mow a lawn. The

were found to be Europe The hybrid Africania are more aggressive th European bees. They we confirmed to have mig into the United States South America in 1990. Texas, the "killer bees also been found in Arizo New Mexico.

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