



Carrie Thompson/The BATTALION

Just a little off the top

Sophomore Corps member, Chris Cabana, gets a haircut Wednesday in the MSC barber shop by Jennifer Baker.

Two children killed in freak car accident

MESQUITE (AP) — A grandmother's routine trip to pick up her grandchild from piano lessons turned tragic in a confusing curbside accident that killed her grandson and her fiancée's daughter.

According to police and witnesses, 48-year-old Sandra Spell had gone to get to the children about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

She pulled her Toyota Camry in front of the home, and the children, 6-year-old Nathan Hankins and 10-year-old Kim Harlow, got in the car.

Nathan got in the right rear seat and Kim got in front, police said.

As Spell began to pull away from the curb, the 6-year-old inexplicably got out or fell out of the back seat, said Mesquite police officer Bill Hedgpeth. Spell stopped suddenly when she heard his screams.

Kim opened her door and got out, screaming for Spell to reverse the car, police and a witness said. She did so in a panic, sending a car door slamming into the girl.

When told the children had died, Spell — still grieving from the death of her son in a car wreck two years ago — went into shock and was rushed to the hospital, police said.

She was treated at Medical Center of Mesquite and released.

The boy, who apparently was Spell's daughter's child, died from head injuries, according to the Medical Examiner's office, about an hour after he was hit.

An autopsy was being performed on the girl Wednesday.

Neighbor Shana Jones said

she heard the girl scream

"Back up, back up!" "I turned around to see what happened," she said. "I

someone stand up and hit the ground. I was freaking out."

Another neighbor, Donna Henry, said she tried to comfort the mortally wounded children by putting towels under their heads. Spell joined her, holding the children in her arms and trying to soothe them.

"She was saying 'Thank you, God, just breathe. Oh God, just breathe,'" Henry said.

Conclusion of Branch Davidian investigation angers ATF agents

DALLAS (AP) — The two federal agents fired for not calling off last year's blown raid on the Branch Davidians said Wednesday their side of the story was ignored by investigators looking to blame someone for the tragedy.

Phillip Chojnacki and Charles Sarabyn said they were wrongly slammed in the Treasury Department report that led to the loss of their jobs as heads of the Houston office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

"Someone had drawn a conclusion and the investigation was being manipulated to come up with that conclusion," Chojnacki said. "They took everybody else's opinion but ours."

Chris Peacock, spokesman for the Treasury Department, said that Chojnacki and Sarabyn were given a chance to give their side of the story when they met with investigators in Texas and Assistant Treasury Secretary

Ronald Noble in Washington.

"All agents were giving an opportunity to be heard fully and completely in the review," Peacock said.

Chojnacki and Sarabyn, speaking publicly for the first time since the Feb. 28, 1993, attack against David Koresh and his followers, told The Associated Press that all along they felt like they were being shafted.

"I felt they had decided what I did before I ever talked to them," Sarabyn said. "I tried explaining things and they said, 'No, that's not what happened.'"

After talking to investigators, Sarabyn wrote a letter to Noble explaining that he felt like "they weren't listening to me."

Chojnacki, who was with the ATF 24 years, and Sarabyn, an 18 1/2-year ATF veteran, were blamed in the Treasury report for not stopping the raid after hearing Koresh tell followers

"the ATF is coming."

They say that several agents heard the statement, but none of them thought anything of it because Koresh, a doomsday prophet, said things like that often.

But this time Koresh was right and the Davidians were armed and ready when ATF agents attacked.

Four officers and six sect members died in the confrontation that led to a 51-day standoff.

The stalemate ended April 19, 1993, when Koresh and more than 70 followers died in or just before a fire that destroyed their wooden home.

When the report was released Sept. 30, 1993, the pair were put on administrative leave. They had little doubt they'd eventually be back at work, although they expected to be demoted and/or transferred.

Midnight Yell

Midnight yell practice for the University of Louisville game will be Friday, Nov. 11, in Louisville, Kentucky. Yell practice will be held at 129 East River Road, Bingham Wharf adjacent to the Louisville wharf area.



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