

Drivers: License suspension law effective in other states

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behind the wheel." The new law is expected to save money because it deters drunk driving without costing the taxpayers money, overcrowding prisons, overloading court dockets or adding to the state budget, he said. The self-sufficient program funds itself by the license reinstatement fees of the convicted drivers. A driver can appeal the ALR law after failure or refusal of a BAC by either requesting a hearing or obtaining an occupational license by attending an alcohol counseling and rehabilitation program and showing an essential need for the license. In appealed cases, an administrative law judge deter-

mines whether the driver was in fact operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. If the driver refuses the breathalyzer, the judge determines whether there was probable cause to believe that the person was operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. In both scenarios, the DPS must prove the driver was intoxicated. Rod Anderson, assistant

Brazos County attorney, said hearings will not begin immediately. "Hearings on ALR cases probably won't be heard until the first of February," Anderson said. "However, those who don't request hearings may see their licenses being suspended very soon." A statewide public information campaign is underway to boost driver's awareness of the new law. The campaign will reach the public through billboards, posters, TV and radio public service announcements, and brochures. Funding for the campaign is

provided by The Century Council, an anti-alcohol abuse organization, and members of "Texans for ALR," a group consisting of about 40 alcohol awareness organizations. John Lawn, the chairman of The Century Council, said the Council supports the law. "ALR is the strongest law a state can enact to save lives by deterring drunk driving," Lawn said. "The Council is honored to be a member of Texans for ALR, which helped get this law passed, and to help fund the statewide public information campaign now underway to boost motorists' awareness that is essential for the law to work to its fullest extent."

"ALR will help make Texas' roadways safer. License suspension as a consequence of drinking and driving should make potential offenders think twice before getting behind the wheel."

— Col. James R. Wilson
director of the Texas Department of Public Safety

Chechen officials say talks progress; fighting rages

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian and Chechen negotiators took a step Tuesday toward a cease-fire in breakaway Chechnya, where the bloody 5-week-old war raged on.

But many on both sides were skeptical any agreement would hold. In the streets of Grozny, Chechen fighters scornfully dismissed Russian overtures toward peace, saying they were merely a ruse to fool world opinion while Moscow prepares new offensives.

A cease-fire last week broke down after only several hours.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met Tuesday with two envoys from Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev in Moscow, a day after making a televised appeal for peace.

The Chechens said both sides agreed to stop using heavy artillery by Wednesday evening as a first step toward a full cease-fire.

"We think there's an agreement in principle from both sides," said Usman Imaev, Dudayev's prosecutor general.

But the Russian government continued its tough rhetoric against Dudayev, saying the meeting was brief, at the Chechen side's request, and was a "last chance" for cooperation, according to a statement carried by Russian news agencies.

"Only a step has been made toward cease-fire," Russian government spokesman Valentin Rummyantsev said.

Russian fighter jets kept up attacks Tuesday on targets throughout Grozny, and Russian forces destroyed a bridge between Chechnya and its eastern neighbor, Dagestan, cutting off a main rail and road link.

Rebel forces appeared to have recaptured the railway station in a machine-gun battle.

Russian news reports Tuesday said the army's losses in the battle for Grozny were much higher than had been admitted, with up to 1,200 dead.

Imaev, the Chechen envoy, said he would head immediately to Grozny to brief Dudayev.

He said dates and exact terms of a cease-fire still had to be agreed on.

It was not clear whether Dudayev, who has been in hiding, could agree on terms with the Kremlin.

Many rebel fighters in Grozny, the Chechen capital, reacted to Chernomyrdin's peace overtures with obscene oaths, spitting on the ground.

"Chernomyrdin is saying this just to impress the international community, but at the same time the Russian army has been ordered to seize the city," said Vakha Aigumov, a Chechen officer.

"We would agree to peace," said another fighter, Al Ahim.

"But our condition is full independence for Chechnya."

President Boris Yeltsin's chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, also cast doubt on negotiations, telling the ITAR-Tass news agency he doesn't believe Dudayev's envoys can control the situation in Chechnya.

Thousands of people are believed to have been killed since Moscow sent troops into the mainly Muslim republic in the Caucasus Mountains on Dec. 11.

Russian military officials have said fewer than 400 Russian soldiers have died, but the Interfax news agency said Tuesday that corpses of some 1,160 Russian soldiers had passed through Mozdok.



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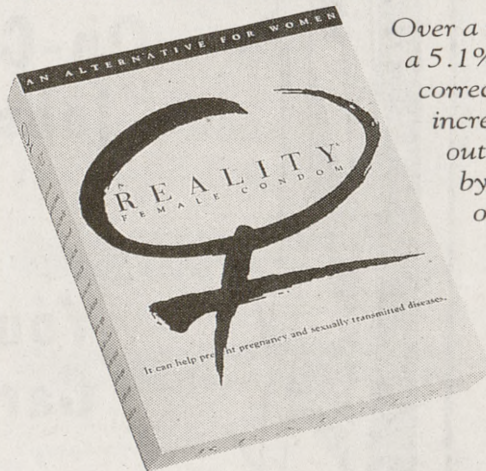
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SPONGE	12	17
UNPROTECTED SEX	61	85