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STATE

Selena shooting suspect visited hospital before killing, police say

□ Prosecutors seek an increase in bail for woman accused of gunning down Tejano female singing star.

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) - The woman accused of murdering Tejano music star Selena was examined in a hospital emergency room the day before the Grammy-winning artist was killed, police authorities said Wednesday

Yolanda Saldivar, 34, was examined in the emergency room at Doctors Regional Medical Center on Thursday, just a day before she met Selena Quintanilla-Perez in a budget motel room.

Commander U.B. Alverado said Corpus Christi police subpoenaed those records earlier this week.

Saldivar, who founded Selena's fan club and ran a San Antonio boutique and salon owned by the singer, was arrested and jailed Friday night following a 9 1/2-hour standoff with police that started when Selena was gunned down. Saldivar remains in an isolated cell under suicide watch at the Nueces County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Alverado declined to say why Saldivar

was taken to the emergency room, saying only that the examination was done in connection with "an allegation of an offense." In checking out the complaint, police discovered the emergency room visit and then seized those records.

No official complaint of the alleged offense has been filed, Alverado said. He would not verify if the incident was an actual criminal act.

"My secretaries said 'You oughta call a press conference and announce that you have refused to represent her. You would be very popular.'"

Selena, the striking 23-year-old whose Spanish pop lyrics combined with Tejano, made her a millionaire by the age of 19, moved to Corpus Christi as a child.

Her death triggered pilgrimages by some 30,000 fans to Corpus Christi, where many, mostly teen-agers flocked to her home to

leave trinkets, flowers and cards in rebrance to the entertainer.

District Attorney Carlos Valdez, had bally requested Saldivar's bond be rais \$500,000, but state District Judge Westergren had not acted on that reque

of Wednesday. However, the judge did appoint and ney for Saldivar, who claims she is indu Douglas Tinker, last in the public a the defense coun

Branch Davidian ber Brad Bra agreed Tuesday to

Thursday • April 6,

her case. In a celebrated such as this, I said personal saf both his client and

- Douglas Tinker self, was a cond had before decid Defense lawyer defend Saldivar. "I'm concerned

that (safety)," said Tinker, who adde he expects crank calls from Selena fans "My secretaries this morning said

you oughta do, Douglas, you oughta press conference and announce that have refused to represent her. You would very popular.

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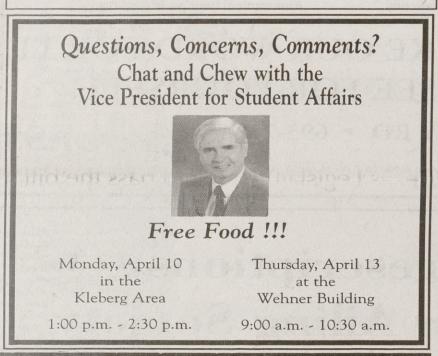
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Texas House considers welfare reform

Critics complain that a proposed benefits cap will devastate low-income families.

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House on Wednesday began debating an overhaul of the state's welfare system that aims to put people back to work and cut the soaring costs of providing services to the poor.

The House recessed without taking any action on the bill and planned on continuing the debate later today.

The measure would cap cash benefits paid under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, impose time limits on those benefits and require

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welfare recipients to work.

"This bill restores public confidence in public assistance programs," said Republican Rep. Harvey Hilderbran of Kerrville, the bill's author. Hilderbran called the plan "one

of the most comprehensive bills in the country that addresses change that we need in welfare and public assistance policy."

The plan is the result of two years' work by state Comptroller John Sharp and legislators, Hilderbran said. It also is one of Gov. George W. Bush's top four legislative priorities.

Currently, a typical Texas welfare family consisting of a mother and two children receives a total of \$188 a month in **AFDC** payments The bill would limit cash ben-

efits by prohibiting mothers who have more children while on welfare from receiving any more additional benefits.

A mother who gives birth 10 months after she begins receiv-ing aid would receive no additional benefits for the child. An excluded child, however, still could get Medicaid and other selected social service

The original bill included a fallback provision calling for a maximum family grant of \$184 a month that would take effect should the family cap be invalidated by a court.

The bill, however, was amended to delete that provision, which many lawmakers had said they objected to. There's a real concern that

the family grant amount would

general revenue over the nex ennium and \$96.7 million in eral Medicaid funds," said Rob Junell, D-San Angelo sponsored the amendment.

cost the state \$10.5 m

Bill proponents said cap cash benefits would actu benefit large families bear they would be eligible for p food stamps. But social services advoor

said inclusion of any kind on welfare benefits would detrimental to helping fami

"All it does is make poor dren poorer. You haven't anything to prevent the nancy, and that's where the cus ought to be," said Pat Bresette, associate direct the Center for Public Policy orities, an advocacy group.



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