

Fatal heat

Summer prompts extreme temperatures, health concerns

(AP) — With two deaths and several blazes already blamed on rising temperatures, the stage is set for a long, hot Texas summer.

A warning is posted through Monday for residents of North Texas, where moisture in the air is expected to push heat-humidity values to between 105 and 115 degrees.

The only good news in the midst of the heat wave is that the haze plaguing Texas for the past several weeks has dissipated — at least for now.

A 2-year-old Hillsboro girl who was left inside a car for more than an hour was the latest to die of heat-related causes.

Sheena K. Dunbar died Friday morning at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth of hyperthermia.

Sheena's mother had taken the girl with her to run an errand Wednesday afternoon, but left the child inside the car when she returned to the family's residence, Hillsboro Police Chief Richard White said.

"When the mother went back out, she had succumbed to the heat," White told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

"We certainly would encourage people to be especially aware of leaving anything — family or pets — in an enclosed area like that," White said.

He said the distraught mother is cooperating with law officers and that no decision has been made

whether to file charges.

An autopsy report is pending from the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. It provisionally ruled the child's death "accidental."

A 2-year-old Hillsboro girl who was left inside a car for more than an hour was the latest to die of heat-related causes.

Wednesday's temperature reached 99 degrees. Many Texas cities Saturday were in the triple digits, with readings from 100 to 113.

It was 107 at Cotulla and 113 at Childress. Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport had 102 degrees in the second straight day over the century mark.

Highs on Sunday, the first day of summer, were expected to reach near 105 along the Rio Grande and near 110 elsewhere in West Texas.

The other heat-related fatality occurred June 1 when 23-year-old Jason Bradley Stogsdill of Arlington died while bicycling near Joe Pool Reservoir. The high temperature that day was 101.

His death was caused by overheating combined with a pre-exist-

ing heart disease.

Conditions also are favorable for brush fires because vegetation is high from heavy winter rains and dead from the dry spring, firefighters said.

Despite the wet winter, farmers in South Texas and elsewhere face the prospect of a second drought in three years. Agricultural losses of \$517 million this year and an overall economic loss of \$1.7 billion are projected.

In Fort Worth, a string of small blazes began Saturday along a southeast side railroad track.

"We have been gearing up," Fort Worth Deputy Chief Hugo Esparza said.

No longer around to provide some protection from the sun is the haze caused by smoke from fires in southern Mexico.

The smoke had been blowing north into Texas, prompting health alerts and pollution warnings. But a change in wind direction has pushed it elsewhere.

"We've developed a more easterly flow in the Gulf of Mexico down where the worst of the fires are," Alan Moller, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, said Sunday.

"There's still smoke down there, but much of it's being pushed westward by the easterly winds."

Still, don't count on the clear skies to last. Another wind shift could cause the haze to return as quickly as it disappeared, Moller said.

Father's Day turns solemn for family of Jasper man

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Far from his family on Father's Day, James Byrd Sr. said he hoped the killing of his son — who was dragged to death behind a pickup truck in Texas — would not be in vain.

"I'm hoping that through my son's suffering ... the world will gain something," Byrd told parishioners during a Sunday service at All Saints Episcopal Church.

He also gave thanks for his remaining children. "I had six girls and two boys," he told reporters outside the church. "I still have six girls and one boy and I thank God for having those children."

"I always thank God for what I have." Parishioners offered the soft-spoken Byrd, who is in his 70s, countless handshakes and hugs after the service.

Byrd was invited to attend Sunday services at the church and at Praises of Zion Baptist Church in South Central Los Angeles. The congregations raised a total of \$15,000 for an educational fund for Byrd's children and grandchildren.

A similar fundraiser was held Saturday at a church in New York.

Byrd's children had planned to celebrate Father's Day together in Jasper, Texas. But that all changed two weeks ago when James Byrd Jr., 49, a father of three, was savagely beaten, then shackled by his ankles to the back of a pickup truck and dragged along 2 1/2 miles of a narrow, twisting rural road in east Texas.

Pieces of his body were scattered along the bloody trail.

Police contend that Byrd was targeted simply because he was African-American.

Alleged white supremacists Lawrence Russell Brewer, 31, Shawn Allen Berry and John William King, both 23 have been charged with the June 7 murder.

They remain jailed without bond. Authorities may seek the death penalty.

Byrd said the horrific death has brought the

town of 7,500 closer together.

"So far in our little town, things have been better," he said.

Byrd recalled a small but poignant moment by a local merchant. When Byrd went to chase a watch battery, the merchant gave him for free.

"All these things, people in Jasper are helping us any way they can," he said.

Members of the Ku Klux Klan have held a Saturday rally in Jasper to disavow a connection to the three suspects in the case.

Byrd said he disliked the idea of fighting in his hometown, but he supported First Amendment rights.

"They can march all they want," Byrd would like for all races to get along, free speech, freedom of religion, black, white, ever, we're all one blood."

The family has received hundreds of condolence cards and letters from around the country. "Europe and places I've never heard of," said, adding that he was unable to read every letter but was thankful for the support.

Greg Adams, 42, who used to live in Jasper, Texas, about 30 miles south of Jasper, attended the Pasadena church service. Byrd's death was a rude awakening to Adams, who has been fighting for civil rights.

"That kind of barbaric mutilation, that kind of thing that the whole country should pause and ask how something like that can happen," Adams said, who now lives in Cucamonga. "We have to be attuned to that there's a lot of work to be done."

Los Angeles resident Joey Johnson, 42, came to Pasadena to see Byrd, shake his hand and share his condolences and support.

"I'm really angry about what happened," Johnson said. "This whole society is being regressed. ... I think we have to rededicate ourselves to fighting racism."

Aikido instructor lends skills to law enforcement officials

DALLAS — Martial arts instructor Bill Sosa teaches his students to move like water.

"Fluid and free," he instructed students last week at his north Oak Cliff school. This co-ed group included businessmen and lawyers, but Sosa is best known for teaching his skills to local police officers. Aikido, he said, helps unify the mind and body.

"Aikido becomes a very powerful and effective method of self-defense that can neutralize any attack without causing serious injury to an aggressor," Sosa wrote in his latest book, *The Secrets of Police Aikido*.

"It helps to sharpen mental concentration, as the mind and body are trained to work together in a more efficient and harmonious way."

Officers from departments throughout North Texas — including Dallas, Arlington, Burleson and Euless — have taken Sosa's classes since he began teaching the discipline more than 26 years ago.

Sosa, a sixth-degree black belt, is the founder of the International Aikido Association and has schools in north Oak Cliff, Grand Prairie and Fort Worth.

Burleson police Officer David Feucht has studied under Sosa for about nine years. Aikido techniques, he said, have helped in his police work by teaching him how to subdue people in a nonaggressive way.

"It helps you deal with people. We don't hurt people; we control situations," Feucht, 36, said of the art. "It avoids a lot of liability."

Feucht, who wrote the foreword in Sosa's book, said he once used a "pin" to control a person who had overdosed on Valium and alcohol. He said he subdued the person by restraining his wrist and pulling him to the floor and then handcuffing him.

The officer is now an assistant instructor at Sosa's Fort Worth and Grand Prairie schools.

Government aid fails to reach needy neighborhoods

DALLAS (AP) — More than \$50 million in federal aid for poor neighborhoods hasn't reached its intended targets, instead sidetracked for other programs, *The Dallas Morning News* reported Sunday.

Records show city hall bureaucrats and the city's often-criticized code enforcement division have been the primary beneficiaries of the unspent money, the newspaper reported in its copyright story.

"The failure to spend the money on poor neighborhoods has left many of the community people disgruntled and disgusted," Se-Gwen Tyler, vice chair of the citizens' panel that monitors the money, said.

"City officials are simply not interested in these neighborhoods being revitalized."

Dallas' pool of unspent money has risen since 1991 to total \$51 million at the end of 1997. The federal government approved the money under Community Development Block Grant and Neighborhood Renaissance programs. The money is earning no interest while it sits unused.

Meanwhile, the amount of community development dollars used to pay city staffers almost doubled — from \$5.7 million to \$10 million — between 1995 and 1997.

One of every three dollars spent was used to pay the city's code enforcement inspectors, who were recently blasted by the city auditor for doing a shoddy job of enforcing laws prohibiting dilapidated housing and neighborhood blight.

Funding the Neighborhood Renaissance program is \$25 million in federal loans that must be paid back with interest. The funds were approved three years ago for six neighborhoods. However, only one percent has been spent.

Some of the money has been spent on the Southern Dallas Initiative for a Global Strategy, a program designed to attract international investment to south Dallas.

City manager John Ware said he supports the program, which has received \$151,000 in community development money. Ware is leaving his office in August to run a company, financed by Dallas Stars owner Tom Hicks, that will invest in south Dallas businesses.

A four-term Dallas City Council member said there is no legitimate reason for the city's inaction.

"It's an outrage," councilman Larry Duncan said. "The best-case reason it's not

been spent is a lack of will. The worst is obstruction."

A member of the Community Development Commission said the city's inaction has had devastating consequences.

"It means we will continue to have elderly and handicapped individuals whose lives have been ruined, who have to cope with sewage, who don't have decent plumbing or electricity," Jan Bridges, who has been on the commission since 1995, said. "The best-case reason it's not spent is a lack of will. The worst is obstruction."

Robert C. Wallace Sr., 79, has lived in South Dallas home for 41 years and raised three children there. But he now needs home improvement loan and has applied for funding with community development money.

"I never heard back from the city," said, adding that his area already had been awarded \$2 million in Neighborhood Renaissance money. It hasn't been spent yet.

Wallace, who is disabled, is concerned that the code enforcement division will tear his house down. The division has down 1,500 single-family homes in the past six years, and has replaced only a few.

FREE PAGERS
\$3.95
Free Activation
Accessories
Calling Cards
Aerial phones sold here
764-5900

The Quantum Cow
Tutoring & Toys: 260-2697

BEANIE BABIES!
-new, lower prices!
All beanie babies currently in stock.
Erie \$65.00 Peace \$35.00
Princess \$55.00

MSC Barber Shop
Serving All Aggies!
Cuts and Styles
All Corp Cuts \$7.
Regular cuts start at \$8.
846-0629
Open: Mon. - Fri. 8 - 5
Located in the basement of the Memorial Student Center

SCHULMAN THEATRES COLLEGE PARK 6
www.schulman-theatres.com
2080 E. 29th St., Bryan 775-2463
BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 12:30
Now Showing - Today's Times Only

X-FILES	(PG-13)	1:10 4:05 7:05 9:45
MULAN	(G)	1:00 3:10 5:20 7:25 9:30
TRUMAN SHOW	(PG)	1:35 4:15 7:20 9:40
6 DAYS 7 NIGHTS	(PG-13)	1:40 4:20 7:10 9:35
DEEP IMPACT	(PG-13)	1:20 4:10 7:15 9:35
A PERFECT MURDER	(R)	4:25 9:30
GODZILLA	(PG-13)	1:00 7:00

\$3.00 - all shows before 6 p.m.
\$3.00 - children/seniors \$5.00 - Adults

If You Have Something To Sell, Remember:
The Battalion
Classifieds Can Do It
Call 845-0569

Memorial Student Center 1998 Summer Calendar of Events
Dive into Summer!

June	July
9 Film Society <i>Ghostbusters</i> 9:30 p.m. Rudder Fountain	9 Great Issues <i>Drawing the Line—Technology and the Ethics of Cloning</i> 4 p.m. Koldus 110
10 L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness <i>Community, Household & Status of Hacienda Tabi, Yucatan, Mexico and Environmental Policies in Bolivia</i> 7 p.m. Rudder 510	9 NOVA <i>Gaming Night at Hullabaloo</i> 6-9 p.m. MSC Bowling and Games Area
11 Town Hall <i>Poolside with Polygram</i> 2-4 p.m. Rec. Center Outdoor Pool (A valid Texas A&M ID is required.)	9 Town Hall <i>Poolside with Polygram</i> 2-4 p.m. Rec. Center Outdoor Pool (A valid Texas A&M ID is required.)
13 Visual Arts <i>Tour of San Antonio's Art Museums</i> (Cost: \$10 Texas A&M students; \$20 all others)	10 Visual Arts <i>Tour of Houston's Corporate Art Collections</i> (Cost: \$10 Texas A&M students only)
13 Cepheid Variable <i>Anime Series 2</i> p.m. Biochemistry 107-108	14 Film Society <i>Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory</i> 9:30 p.m. Rudder Fountain
16 Great Issues and Political Forum <i>Open Microphone</i> 11:30-12:30 p.m. Rudder Fountain	16 Town Hall <i>Lunch Box Concert</i> 2-4 p.m. Rec. Center Outdoor Pool (A valid Texas A&M ID is required.)
16 Town Hall <i>Hypnotist Rich Ames</i> 8:30 p.m. Rudder Theater	18 Cepheid Variable <i>Anime Series 2</i> p.m. Biochemistry 107-108
18 Town Hall <i>Lunch Box Concert</i> 2-4 p.m. Rec. Center Outdoor Pool (A valid Texas A&M ID is required.)	23 Town Hall <i>Poolside with Polygram</i> 2-4 p.m. Rec. Center Outdoor Pool (A valid Texas A&M ID is required.)
18 NOVA <i>Gaming Night at Hullabaloo</i> 6-9 p.m. MSC Bowling and Games Area	23 Cepheid Variable <i>Pleiades Reading Circle 7</i> p.m. MSC 145
19 Black Awareness <i>Juneteenth Celebration</i> 12:30 p.m. MSC Flag Room	24-26 NOVA <i>Battle Con</i> 3 p.m. Fri.-2 p.m. Sun. MSC 224-225
20 NOVA <i>SturduKahn</i> 18 a.m.-11 p.m. MSC 138-146	25 Visual Arts <i>Tour of Galveston's Historic Homes</i> (Cost: \$10 Texas A&M students; \$20 all others)
25 Town Hall <i>Poolside with Polygram</i> 2-4 p.m. Rec. Center Outdoor Pool (A valid Texas A&M ID is required.)	28-29 OPAS <i>Broadway Cabaret</i> 7:30 p.m. College Station Conference Center at 1300 George Bush Drive (Cost: \$2 Texas A&M students; \$5 all others)
25 Cepheid Variable <i>Pleiades Reading Circle 7</i> p.m. MSC 145	30 Town Hall <i>Poolside with Polygram</i> 2-4 p.m. Rec. Center Outdoor Pool (A valid Texas A&M ID is required.)
27 Cepheid Variable <i>Anime Series 2</i> p.m. Biochemistry 107-108	
30 Film Society <i>Sixteen Candles</i> 9:30 p.m. Rudder Fountain	

All events are FREE, except as noted.
Dates and times may change. Check out the MSC web site: www.msc.tamu.edu and the MSC Hotline at 847-5463.
Please call 845-1515 for special needs.