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THE BATTALION STATE

6

Monday • July 13, 1998

More Texans fall victim to heat conditions

DALLAS (AP) — The recent deaths of at least 10 people, including a man who died Sunday after being found in his Dallas County mobile home, are being attributed to the grueling heat bearing down on Texas.

"I think the key thing is since the 3rd of July we've had five deaths" in Dallas County, Charles Gaylor, a field agent for the Dallas County medical examiner's office, said.

Sunday was the seventh day in a row of triple-digit temperatures in North Texas and the 20th so far this year. The infamous heat wave of 1980 brought 42 consecutive 100-degree days starting June 23, with 69 triple-digit days for the season overall.

The area's first heat-related death occurred June 1, when a 23-year-old biker died of overheating combined with pre-existing heart disease.

Since then, six middle-aged or elderly people, also all with heart problems, have died from heat-related causes, Gaylor said.

On Sunday, a 58-year-old man, found in his mobile home late Saturday, died early the next day at Baylor University Medical Center.

Gaylor said the man's death was determined Sunday to be heat-related.

Elsewhere in Texas, the stifling weather has also taken a toll this year.

A 2-year-old Hillsboro girl who was left inside a car for more than an hour has died of heat-related causes, and a Fort Worth woman has died of hyperthermia.

A Waco man reported to have died of a heart attack while trying to pry his leg free from a cattle guard is listed as a heat-related death.

Border authorities have reported that the harsh weather has contributed to at least 30 deaths of people trying to illegally cross the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Texas high to date this year was 115, recorded June 15 in Kingsville.

A slight cooldown is on the way, said Brian Curran of the National Weather Service in Fort Worth. Temperatures at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport should peak in the mid- to upper 90s Tuesday through Thursday.

He noted: "A high of 96 degrees is 10 degrees cooler than 106."

Slip and slide



MIKE FUENTES/The Dallas Morning News

Tyler Penson, a 4-year-old who just moved to College Station from Colorado Springs, Co., slides down the waterslide at Adamson Lagoon in Bee Creek Park. Penson's father works at Texas A&M.

African-American leaders in Dallas on the decline

DALLAS (AP) — One of only two African-Americans left among Dallas' top appointed leaders is resigning to take a job in Washington.

Assistant City Manager Gene Shipman, who oversees the city's troubled Housing Department and Code Enforcement Division, will leave his job July 24.

Shipman's departure means interim City Secretary Shirley Acy is the lone African-American on the city's appointed staff. Dallas' two top-ranking African-American staff members — City Manager John Ware and City Attorney Sam Lindsay — have announced their resignations, and Assistant City Manager Levi Davis already has quit.

Council member Al Lipscomb urged Ware's replacement, Ted Benavides, to appoint a diverse

executive staff when he takes over the city's top job in September.

"It must reflect the diversity of this city," Lipscomb said.

Benavides, a former assistant city manager in Dallas who has been Denton city manager since 1996, said Saturday he will look for assistants and department directors who can bring new ideas to city government.

"We do need balance ethnically, and I will pursue that," he told *The Dallas Morning News*. "I'm also looking for balance in the way people approach things."

Shipman, 57, joined the city in May 1996. But in recent months, several city functions under his

oversight have been criticized as being poor.

A series of audits this year concluded the city does a poor job enforcing its codes on weakly built buildings and junked cars. Another audit criticized a housing repair program for poor records and forgiving too many loans.

Lipscomb, who serves on the Housing Neighborhood Development Committee, said problems in housing and code enforcement were Shipman's fault.

"He inherited a quagmire," Lipscomb said. "Unfortunately, he didn't have a chance to straighten it out."

The Morning News couldn't reach Shipman or Ware for comment this weekend.

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E	1-1/4"	Cherry with Raised Edges	\$60	\$30	C	top Black core maroon suede \$25 n/a
F	1-1/2"	Cherry Rounded	\$55	\$30		bottom Black core etched gold
H	1"	Cherry	n/a	\$25	D	top Black core black marble \$25 n/a
I	1"	Cherry w/ Gold Edge	n/a	\$25		middle Cream
J	3/4"	Gold Foil	n/a	\$25		bottom Black core maroon
					E	top Black core black marble \$25 n/a
						middle Old gold
						bottom Black Core maroon
					F	top Gray Marble \$20 n/a
						bottom Maroon
					G	top Maroon \$20 n/a
						bottom Slate gray
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