

Up to par



Bryan resident **Steve Conroy**, Class of '99, shoots for par Sunday during a game of disc golf at the Frisbee golf course at Research Park.

# Party host convicted in alcohol-death case

MIDLAND (AP) — Prosecutors say they have secured an unusual conviction in the case of a woman who provided minors with alcohol, thereby contributing to the deaths of two 18-year-olds leaving a party at her house.

Tena Henkel, 44, was charged with two counts each of intoxication manslaughter and intoxication assault stemming from the 1997 accident.

Henkel pleaded no contest Friday to all four charges in exchange for a three-year prison term, Assistant District Attorney Teresa Clingman told the *Midland Reporter-Telegram*. She had faced up to 20 years in prison on each of the intoxication manslaughter counts.

However, Henkel will not go to prison until her appeals are exhausted.

State District Judge John Hyde said he will place Henkel on shock probation, requiring her to spend at

least 180 days in prison. Then she will face a second hearing before Hyde, who will decide if Henkel will be put on probation or serve the remainder of her sentence.

Henkel and her husband, Billy Joe Henkel, 44, were charged with serving alcohol to a group of minors attending a party celebrating their daughter's graduation from Greenwood High School.

One of the partygoers, Jose DeLaO, drank at the party and then wrecked his pickup truck on his way home. The crash killed Craig Noland and Esteban Lara and seriously injured two others.

Prosecutors with the Midland County District Attorney's Office said they could not find a case in the Texas Court of Appeals in which a party other than a motorist was tried and convicted for intoxication manslaughter.

Though Henkel pleaded no contest, she signed an affidavit agreeing

she committed the basic elements of the indictment. That document, her pleas provided grounds for a conviction.

Nonetheless, the case is on appeal.

Court officials said Henkel contends that the affidavit she does not state she was the driver of the vehicle, and therefore not guilty of the intoxication offenses.

Billy Joe Henkel was sentenced in February to a three-year suspended prison term and probation for eight years.

In October, DeLaO, 19, made a plea with prosecutors to 120 days in the county jail and years probation.

Last year, the Henkels' lawsuit filed by the victim's family, \$354,000 to be split roughly equally among the four crash victims and their families.

# New laws reduce prison suits

HOUSTON (AP) — Laws aimed at curbing frivolous lawsuits filed by prison inmates appear to be having some impact.

According to a survey of federal courts in Texas, the number of lawsuits filed by county and state inmates in federal court dropped nearly 25 percent between 1995 to 1998, from 3,903 to 2,949, the *Houston Chronicle* reported yesterday.

Though few expect the state to start collecting significant amounts of money from prisoners who waste tax dollars in court, the sudden drop indicates that state and federal laws aimed at curbing frivolous lawsuits may be working.

"The point is to provide some thought process in these suits," said Carl Reynolds, general counsel for the Texas Department of

Criminal Justice. "It's to deter the getting-your-free-day-in-court sort of attitude."

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— Carl Reynolds  
General counsel  
Department of Criminal Justice

Prisoner complaints most often deal with questions of constitutional rights, so as many as three-quarters of inmates' lawsuits end

in federal rather than in state court.

To end lawsuits over complaints such as no desert or solitary confinement (a suit filed by an inmate sentenced to state prison in a 1992 manslaughter case), a 1996 act of Congress requires prisoners to pay a \$150 fee to file a federal lawsuit, or to pay a portion of that cost dependent upon the amount of money in their inmate accounts.

Those who have three cases dismissed as frivolous must pay \$150 for every new lawsuit.

Texas lawmakers, meanwhile, crafted a similar measure a year later that wipes out good-time toward early release if a court finds a prisoner has filed more than 10 frivolous suits in a year.

# Fountain repairs spark opposition

DENTON, Texas (AP) — A fledgling effort to repair two side-by-side drinking fountains on a Civil War monument in Denton's courthouse square has drawn some protest from local black community leaders.

The proposal to reactivate the once-segregated 80-year-old stone fountains recalls memories of racism and an enslaved South, some black leaders in this North Texas city say.

"Why don't we have a replica of someone being hung and showing the facial expressions of a black man being hung and put next to him why he's being hung because he looked at a white woman," Willie Hudspeth, a black community activist in Denton, said.

The restoration efforts, which are in their earliest stages, certainly will spark protests and generate feelings of ill will among blacks, Hudspeth told the *Denton Record-Chronicle*.

The fountains were built and were last in working order when "coloreds" and "whites" were supposed to use different public facilities, he said.

They are mounted at the base of a monument that depicts a Confederate soldier and honors the Confederate army, he says.

The soldier stands atop an archway that leads to the county's historic courthouse on the square.

## CARDS

Continued from Page 1

"We are all more sensitive to this issue with the rise of electronic commerce," he said. "It's a timely thing to look at, and the technology is available to make the change."

Floyd said the first step is to find out how the Social Security Number is used in various areas across campus and determine which of those places it is not necessary.

For this purpose, the committee has been split into two task forces. One task force will focus on what occasions the Social Security Number is used to identify faculty, staff and employees of the University. The other will focus on how the Social Security Number is used to identify students.

He said the committee will determine if these areas can be changed quickly and with few problems.

"We will identify how it's being used and embedded in administrative systems," Floyd said. "It's really a question of systems and software."

He said there are still many technical questions that must be addressed and, therefore, a predetermined date as to when the numbers will be changed has not been set, but the committee hopes to move quickly.

"The principle reason for this change is to insure that individuals' information will remain secure," Floyd said.

# Alumni group looks for past graduates

Graduates of Texas A&M's Forest Science Department have formed an alumni association and are searching for all 675 graduates of the department, which was started in 1969.

The association is also looking for those who graduated from the two-year forest science program that existed prior to the department.

Tat Smith, head of the forest science department, said the department is working on its relationship with the former students.

"We want them to help us with feedback about the department," Smith said.

## News in Brief

**Alumni group looks for past graduates**  
At a recent meeting, the Texas A&M Forestry Alumni Association chose Nes Blair Tesno as president and Colin Townsend as vice president of the alumni association.

**Four reserved lots closed for repairs**  
Starting today, four of the reserved parking lots on campus will be closed until Wednesday.

Parking Areas 10, 15, 16 and 28 will be closed for seal coating and repainting, if weather permits.

Faculty and staff members who normally park in PA 10 may park in the Northside Parking Garage or the Central Campus Garage at no charge. Also, those individuals who currently park in PA 28 may

park in the Central Campus University Center parking garage at no charge.

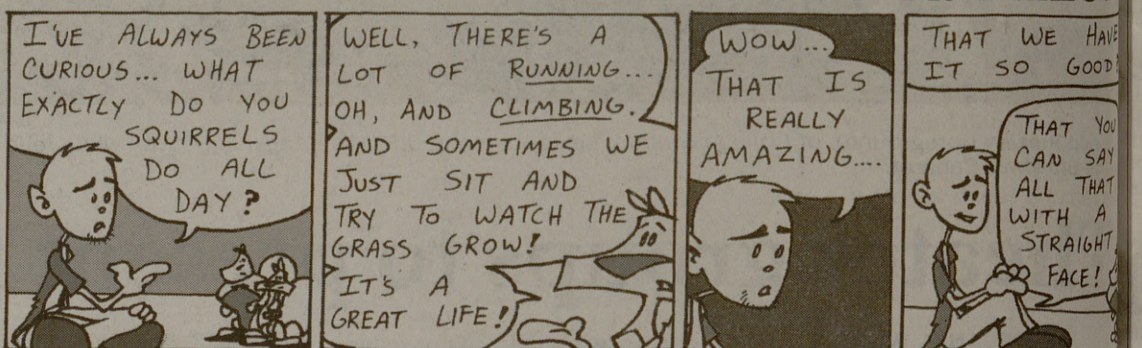
Faculty and staff who will enter through the visitor lanes will pull a ticket.

When exiting the garage, the ticket must be presented to the parking garage cashier with a faculty or staff parking hangtag to have the ticket dated before attempting to exit the garage.

If the garage's "full" light is lit, faculty and staff are encouraged to enter the contract and speak to an attendant at the intercom for entry to the garage.

People who park in PA 15, PA 16 may park in PA 54 and PA 55.

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