

STATE NEWS
IN BRIEF

Plano mall cleared because of fumes

PLANO (AP) — Dozens of people complained of feeling sick yesterday at Collin Creek Mall after fumes leaked to chemicals filled part of the complex, investigators said.

Fire Department spokesperson Jonique Cardwell said chlorine and pool cleaner used in the decorative water fountains at the mall somehow were mixed.

The fumes made at least 100 people sick, according to Cardwell. Nobody was seriously hurt in the mid-day accident.

Man faces charges in kidnap attempt

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A Fort Worth man who was accused of trying to abduct two 12-year-old girls was returned here yesterday to face aggravated kidnapping charges.

Desi Villarreal, 25, was held on \$50,000 bond.

Villarreal was arrested in Mansfield over Labor Day weekend, police said.

The warrant was for aggravated kidnapping rather than attempted kidnapping, because police claim Villarreal carried the intended victim a short distance before dropping her.

Shrine to be named as basilica by pope

SAN JUAN, Texas (AP) — The National Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle will soon be designated a minor basilica.

The shrine applied for basilica status about a year ago and recently received notice from the Vatican that the pope had approved the new designation, according to the Rev. Raymundo J. Pena, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brownsville.

Waxman: Tear-gas use in Waco was disclosed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chief Republican congressional investigator in the Waco affair overlooked evidence his own committee had received from the Justice Department four years ago showing federal agents used potentially incendiary tear gas during the fiery end of the 1993 Branch Davidian siege, a key House Democrat said yesterday.

Releasing a trio of documents that "explicitly" describe the FBI's use of military tear gas rounds on the standoff's final day, Rep. Henry Waxman questioned why the House Government Reform Committee's chair is accusing the Justice Department of a cover-up when his own investigators overlooked the same evidence that suddenly has revived the Waco debate.

"Contrary to the allegations of [a] cover-up, substantial evidence of the use of military tear gas rounds was, in fact, provided to Congress in 1995," Waxman said.

The records, discovered among the more than 40 boxes of material compiled during the House's 1995 hearings, include an FBI pilot's 1993 statement recalling a radio transmission in which agents had a conversation "relative to the utilization of some sort of military round ... on a concrete bunker." Post-raid interview summaries include an unnamed FBI agent's explanation that smoke captured on film "came from attempt to penetrate bunker with one military and two (non-incendiary) rounds."

In a letter to the special counsel investigating the

Lawyers ask for delay in Davidians' lawsuit

WACO (AP) — Government attorneys asked yesterday for a two-week extension in turning over information about expert witnesses scheduled to testify at a lawsuit brought by Branch Davidians.

In a motion filed yesterday, government attorneys said they could not produce the witness list due last Friday and comply with a House Government Reform Committee request to review case files for two previous lawsuits, along with the *United States v. Branch* trial transcript and "voluminous other materials."

controversy, Waxman wrote: "There is no indication that Chairman [Dan] Burton or his staff thought to review these documents before accusing the attorney general of a cover-up."

Burton spokesperson Mark Corallo acknowledged the records had been in the committee's possession since 1995. However, he said, they were part of more than 100,000 documents which the Justice Department gave the panel three days before hearings were set to begin, "in an obvious attempt to keep congressional staff from having enough time to review those documents."

1 killed in wreck of Texas-bound train

WICKES, Ark. (AP) — The conductor of a loaded coal train was killed yesterday when a Texas-bound train ran into another in southwestern Arkansas, causing a derailment, police said.

The body of Ronnie Taylor, 26, was found beneath piles of coal five hours after the 4:30 a.m. accident. A spokesperson for the railway said the man jumped out of the southbound locomotive before it crashed but the derailed cars landed on top of him.

The train's engineer suffered a broken arm and was treated and released from a local hospital.

The other crew members identities were not immediately released. The Kansas City Railway released few details about the crash.

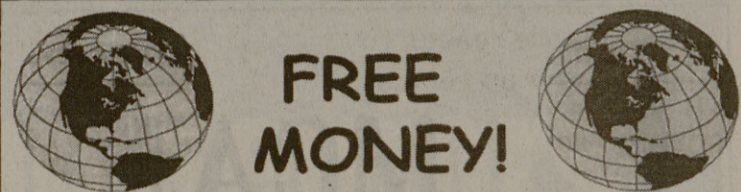
According to Polk County Sheriff Mike Oglesby, a loaded coal train slammed into the rear of a stopped coal train about a mile north of Wickes. The parked train was heading for Texas, while the other was heading to a plant near Lake Charles, La.

The exact destination of the Texas-bound train was not immediately known.

Oglesby said the crew of the moving train jumped before impact. The engineer cleared the train before the collision.

"He got tangled up in all that mess up there," Oglesby said.

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Railway Administration also were investigating, railway spokesperson William Galligan said.



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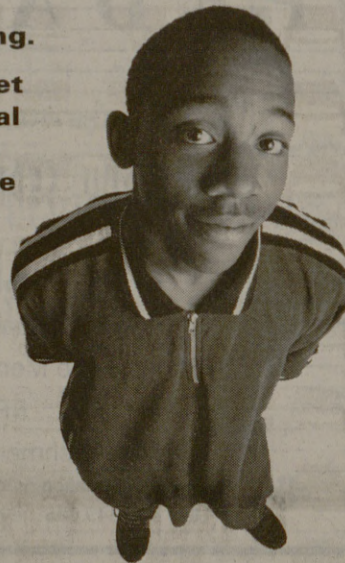
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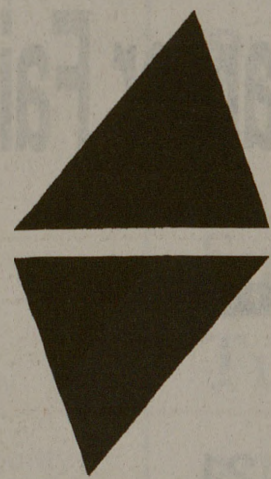


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