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## STATE<sup>8</sup>NATION

## Teens charged with murder Two Houston firefighters die in McDonald's arson, burgla

HOUSTON (AP) — One night they were busy burglarizing a McDonald's, police said, using a blowtorch to cut into the safe for a much larger payday than any of them made in their own jobs at other franchises in the fast-food chain.

Less than 24 hours later, the three young men were rounded up and accused of two counts of felony murder each because an inferno at the restaurant killed veteran firefighters Lewis Mayo III, 44, and Kimberly Smith, 30.

Allen Gerome Davis, 17, and brothers Pedro Isreal Loredo, 19, and Juan Manuel Torres, 17, made initial court appearances this morning in magistrate's court. State District Judge Mary Lou Keel canceled their appearances in her court, and scheduled their arraignments for March 14.

A bond hearing is set Friday for Loredo and Torres, whose bonds were raised from \$50,000 to \$100,000 after prosecutors expressed concern the suspects' family was planning to move to Mexico. Defense attorneys denied their clients, who are brothers, intended to flee the country.

Davis, whose bond remained at \$50,000, was described as "sad, upset, remorseful, unhappy," by his lawyer, Alan Percely.

"There are a lot of people surprised by this. It's a tragedy," Percely said.

An alleged 15-year-old accomplice, who worked at the restaurant that burned Monday and was demolished Tuesday, remained in custody pending juvenile charges. He eventually could be charged as an adult under Texas law.

"We questioned the employee, and ultimately that led to other s case," Houston police Capt. Richard Holland said. "Warrants were obtain the individuals involved and they were subsequently arrested, questioned confessed their involvement."

A blowtorch allegedly used in the burglary is thought to have touched offer officials said. Fire Chief Lester Tyra said it was unclear whether the firew dentally or intentionally started.

Authorities initially summoned the juvenile from class at Elsik High Se cause he closed the restaurant Sunday night, Holland said. As questioning Monday and investigators began to suspect a crime, Holland said the teeno and implicated the others.

Torres and Loredo were arrested at their apartment around 9:55 p.m. M The Bryan Davis was picked up around 2 a.m. Tuesday. There are no other suspects. ) to 979 F said.

Between J "In the last 24 hours, I've been through all sorts of emotions," Tyra said w 979 cod tainly, whether it was an accident or whether it was arson, it doesn't bring bad ice mess berly or Lewis.'

ll give the Funeral services for Smith, the department's first woman killed in the line were pending her parents' arrival from Fountain Valley, Calif. Services for May Starting A left behind a wife and three children, are set for Friday after a 10 a.m. mem be compl mony for both at Rice Stadium, the city's largest sporting venue. UC) Webs The chang

## **Classroom Internet use** shows increase since '94

Internet boom

Percent of

schools

100%

80

60

40

20

0

'98

'98

'99

1994

and large schools.

Enrollment of less than 300

Enrollment of 1,000 or more

in the classroom

The number of public schools with

dramatically along with the number of

classrooms with Internet connections.

1996

In addition, there is a better ratio of

students per computer in both small

6

Percent of

classrooms

1999

Internet access has increased

WASHINGTON (AP) - Nearly every public school in America has an Internet connection, with access jumping from a little over one-third of schools to 95 percent in just five years, the Education Department said Wednesday.

The rapid expansion from 1994 to 1999, say school technology supporters, is due to everything from increased donations by technology companies eager to train future work-

ers to Clinton administration efforts such as the E-rate program — funded by a special fee on phone bills - that helps provide discounted Internet connections for schools and libraries.

Technology can improve student performance and provide the competitive skills necessary for future success,' said Education Secretary Richard Riley.

"It is critical that we provide a link for those in the smallest towns to the

largest cities.' Edith McArthur, a department de-

mographer who conducted the study, said, "It looks like schools are actually responding to the recognized need for access. There's a lot of pressure to connect."

The connecting appears to have brought the Internet to more schoolchildren, she said.

In 1999, on average there were nine students for every one instructional computer with Internet access nationwide. The previous year, on average, the ratio was 12 students for each such computer, the report said.

The E-rate program has committed more than \$3.6 billion over the past two ars to assist schools and libraries in

Access still differs among types of schools. Students were more likely to have to share access in larger schools, where the ratio was 10:1; in the smallest schools, that ratio was six students for every computer with Internet access.

Poor students and those in large cities also were more likely to share Internet access.

We need to continue our efforts to ensure that all schools and students have equal access to the vast network

of information on the Internet," Riley said.

Clinton, who has set a goal of connecting all Americans to the Internet, not just classrooms and libraries, has proposed for the fiscal 2001 budget a \$2 billion tax incentive package over 10 years, as well as \$380 million in expanded federal grants, to encourage the private sector to donate computers, sponsor community technology centers and train

workers. Researchers say schools provide Internet access to their

pupils in varying ways. For example, some schools have large computer labs that give students individual time on the Internet during their school day.

"Typically what happens is that teachers tend to let kids rotate through for whatever they are doing," McArthur said.

Classroom computer hookups have increased 20-fold since 1994,

Public schools also upgraded

from 3 percent to 63 percent.

FORT WORTH (AP) - For Arlington Mayor Richard Gree who was instrumental in buildin Ballpark in Arlington, on Tuesday named president and chief exect of the Dallas 2012 Olympic Bid(a mittee. Greene, 56, has served on them mittee since its inception in 1998.5 will be the only full-time salard member of the group, which has about

Olympic

committe

named

70 members and includes areabu

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id Betsy Ty

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the region and hopefully states example of what needs to be done Greene said in an interview with Associated Press. "I think that all experience is good training for much larger undertaking.'

While serving as mayor of Aring ton for five terms, from 1987-Greene led the fight in 1991 tok the city's General Motors plant of He also was a driving force behin creation of the River Legacy Pa

and Arlington's Nature Center. We are excited. This is an ex ple of how successful we have bee such a short time," said Michael

sue number Tyson said tions options

are contending for the right to be U.S. candidate to host the 2 pagers. She sa their network connections and the games. Also in the running are Cin signing telep speed at which they are able to nati, Los Angeles, New York, the speed at v Francisco and the Tampa-Orlando A single a By 1999, schools were six Washington-Baltimore areas. bers. Tyson s The U.S. Olympic Committee times as likely to use faster dedibers in blocks announce in 2002 the 2012 city, w cated-line networks (63 percent) These nu will compete against other cities or other high-speed technologies whether or no around the world to be the Int (23 percent), than simply dial-up PUC has

ness leaders, current athletes and p Olympians. His salary was not di closed Tuesday. "I will become the No. 1 atizen of

9-1-1 calls grammed PUC Website

The PUC : rell, a spokesman for the comm Eight cities, including Ho

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paying for discounted Internet connections

Officials say the program has helped connect more than 1 million classrooms to the Internet, mostly by helping them pay for internal wiring.

The money comes from fees imposed on telecommunications compa-

nies, which pass them on to customers in phone bills. States also have pumped funds into computers, telecom-

munications and Internet access.

But critics worry that the momentum could wane as policy makers realize' the high cost of such technology. Louisiana, for example, gave school districts \$38 million for technology in 1997-98.

The next year it gave \$25 million, and for 1999-2000, the districts received \$14 million.

13 10 connect.

1998

Note: Survey was based on 1,000 public elementary and secondary schools. The margin of error is plus or minus 1 to 3 percentage points.

Source: U.S. Department of Education AP

connections (14 percent).

The survey was based on a nationally representative sample of about 1,000 public elementary and secondary schools in the fall of 1999. The margin of error is plus or minus 1 to

The also found that 39 percent of classrooms in highpoverty schools have Internet access, while 74 percent of classrooms in low-poverty schools are connected to the Internet.

tional Olympic Committee's f Fair Park and the Cotton Bowis such as the light rail are comi age, Greene said.



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bers, Tyson s

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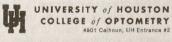
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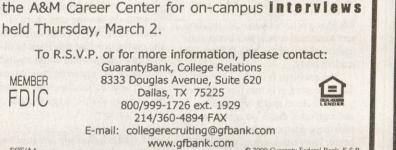


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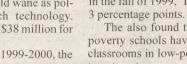
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