

News in Brief Lipscomb to be sentenced for bribes

DALLAS (AP) — Despite his serious illness, former Dallas City Councilperson Al Lipscomb is expected to appear in federal court Wednesday afternoon to learn his punishment for taking bribes.

Lipscomb initially was to be sentenced Monday, but his lawyers told U.S. District Judge Joe Kendall that he was too sick to appear in court. The 74-year-old was hospitalized April 4 with pneumonia.

His attorneys plan to ask Kendall to consider a "downward departure" from federal sentencing guidelines in handing down punishment because of their client's age and failing health. Lipscomb has said he'd hoped for probation or home confinement.

Richards pleaded guilty in December to one count of felony conspiracy and testified against Lipscomb. He also was to be sentenced Wednesday.

First female sheriff named in 66 years

CANTON, Texas (AP) — Leaders of a Northeast Texas county have appointed a woman as sheriff for the first time in 66 years.

Van Zandt County commissioners voted 3-1 to appoint Kathy Jackson as sheriff.

Jackson, who has worked in the sheriff's office for 15 years, is the first woman to take the law enforcement position since 1934. That's when Ethel Burnett was appointed to replace her husband Ira, who was killed in a car accident.

Former Sheriff Bill Dean died of cancer last week and Jackson was his administrative assistant. "I felt like she was the right person for it," Commissioner O.D. Hazel told the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* after Friday's vote.

Fists of Legend



Cindy Grant, second degree green belt, practices the Chon-Ji Kata with orange belt youngsters Holly Chenault (right) and Kovid Amin (left) during their Tae-Kwon-Do class at ABBA Martial Arts Wednesday.

Voters decide legislative offices

AUSTIN (AP) — State Rep. Leo Alvarado Jr., a four-term Democratic lawmaker from San Antonio, on Tuesday became the fourth incumbent state legislator to be shown the door by voters this year.

Alvarado, 60, lost to Trey Martinez Fischer, a 29-year-old San Antonio lawyer. No Republican sought election in the 116th House District.

San Antonio voters have been particularly tough on incumbents in this year's elections. Last month, they ousted two House members: Republican Bill Siebert and Democrat Juan Solis. Rep. Charles Jones, R-College Station, also lost in the March 14 primary.

The Alvarado-Fischer runoff was one of several taking place Tuesday to finish Republican and Democratic nominations for state offices.

In three races for the Court of Criminal Appeals, Republicans favored Sharon Keller for presiding judge, Charles Holcomb for Place 1 and Barbara Parker Hervey for Place 2 on the state's highest criminal bench.

Keller, who currently sits on the court, defeated fellow Judge Tom Price. Holcomb, of Jacksonville, outpolled Guy Williams of Corpus Christi.

In Austin, attorney Jill Warren defeated attorney Scott Loras for the Republican nomination to face Democrat Ann Kitchen in state House District 48. The winner in November replaces retiring Democratic Rep. Sherri Greenberg.

In Houston's District 130, incumbent Republican Rep. John Culberson left to run for Congress. In the GOP runoff, Bill Callagari was leading Aubrey Thoede. The winner will face Democrat Fred Lundgren in the general election.

The San Antonio state House race was hotly contested. Fischer promised voters he would be more accessible in the district than Alvarado, who underwent surgery for cancer of the esophagus last September.

"Before you can talk about education, crime or anything, there was a very resounding message the people did not have access," Fischer said. "We're going to bring this office back to the people of this district."

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