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## Second Texas inmate executed this month

### Father of Soria victim attends injection

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A convicted killer who last month nearly severed the hand of a prison chaplain in a razor attack on death row was executed Wednesday for the abduction and slaying of a Fort Worth teenager 15 years ago.

"I guess we'll see everyone after this surgery is performed," Juan Soria said at the conclusion of his final statement. "It is finished."

The lethal drugs were administered, Soria gasped slightly, and then was pronounced dead seven minutes later.

Soria, 33, condemned for the death of Allen Bolden, was covered with a sheet up to his chest in the death chamber. A towel covered his arms. Prison officials said he had numerous self-inflicted cuts.

He spoke slowly and barely audibly for several minutes, mentioning "Allah" and "love" repeatedly.

"I call to all of my brothers and sisters and to members of the human race that still have some knowledge for what love, divine love, is," he said. "Love is brought by this prophet Allah. ... We extend our love to everybody."

He never made eye contact with Edward Bolden, the father of his victim, who watched through a window nearby.

"I'll never have to get up and look at a letter from yet another court from yet another attorney filing yet another appeal, most of which were just absolutely asinine," Bolden said. "That, if anything, makes me glad."

"I'm still short a son. This execution doesn't fix that."

Soria's execution was the second this month in Texas and the 26th this year. At

least six executions are scheduled for August.

Soria's punishment drew none of the attention that was focused on last month's lethal injection of Gary Graham, whose claims of innocence and an unfair trial spotlighted Texas as the nation's most active execution state and the support of the death penalty by Gov. George W. Bush, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

Soria's attorneys did not seek a reprieve from Bush, who could have issued a one-time 30-day halt to an execution. The U.S. Supreme Court refused Tuesday to reconsider his case and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles earlier voted 18-0 against clemency for Soria.

Allen Bolden, 17, was leaving the Fort Worth Boys Club, where he worked as a lifeguard and swimming instructor, when Soria and Mike Lagunas, then 18, asked for a ride in his father's Oldsmobile Toronado.

When they all were in the car, Lagunas pulled a gun and threatened to kill Bolden if he did not cooperate.

According to court documents, Bolden was ordered to drive to a secluded area under a bridge in north Fort Worth where he was taken from the car. After Lagunas hit Bolden in the head with a rock, knocking him to the ground, Soria told police that at Lagunas' urging, he "bent down and stabbed the guy twice in the soft spot at the back of the head."

The knife severed Bolden's spinal cord and killed the nationally ranked swimmer who had earned a scholarship to Texas Christian University and planned to be a sports doctor.

**"I'm still short a son. This execution doesn't fix that."**

— Edward Bolden  
 Father of Soria's victim

## Above the rim



Seven-year-old Tori Tackett slam dunks in a game of pool ball at the Recreation Center's backyard pool.

## Illegal gift clubs surface

DALLAS (AP) — In the latest spin on the age-old pyramid scheme, women are draining their bank accounts and taking out loans they can not always afford for a shot at the big bucks.

A bit pricey, perhaps, but it sounds innocuous enough: a women's club that costs \$5,000 to join, where members mingle and exchange cash gifts in restaurants and homes.

The best part? The promise of a return on their initial investment to the tune of \$40,000.

But, as always, hype rarely lives up to reality, and most participants either wind up penniless or in trouble with the law.

Two women in Princeton, in rural Collin County, were arrested Tuesday for partaking in one such gifting scheme, which is illegal under Texas law.

Princeton police said Shannon Ford, 29, and 52-year-old Judy Gipson were arrested after Ford refused to return a \$5,000 investment she made to Gipson.

Both were charged with a felony count of promoting an illegal pyramid scheme.

Police said new club members paid \$5,000 to join. They then became eligible to receive money from the next eight participants, reaping a potential windfall of \$40,000 during planned dinner meetings.

Princeton Police Chief Tim Rios refused to comment further on the matter Wednesday.

Similar clubs have cropped elsewhere in the United States.

In March, Washington Attorney General Christine Gregoire sued 13 promoters of a gifting club, accusing them of operating an illegal pyramid scheme called the Renewal Celebration.

And last week, several male and female police officers in Auburn, Maine, were suspended or forced to resign after spending \$2,000 to join the "Changing Lives" pyramid scheme.

Back in Texas, the problem became an epidemic of sorts in March in Arlington, southwest of Dallas, with dozens of calls streaming in to the police.

"We had so many complaints about it. It became really so widespread it became the talk of the town. There were so many people getting involved," police spokesperson Deedee said Wednesday.

Authorities eventually teamed with the Better Business Bureau to hold a news conference with women of the clubs.

No arrests were made, and members were stuck to dwell on financial losses.

Arlington resident Deedee Lindquist borrowed \$5,000 from her bank in March to join one such club but never saw a penny of it again.

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## ARTS

Continued from Page 1

(PMK), concluded a study presented by the arts council. Romei said audience members, performers, sponsors and government officials were interviewed to determine whether a new performing arts center was needed.

"In a phone poll taken two years ago, it showed about 84 percent of people in the Brazos Valley wanted a new performing arts center," Romei said. "The phone poll led to the study and the study led to the conceptualization stage that we are now in."

Romei said that, at the end of the study, three options were clas-

sified by price.

"The first option is to build a center that would cost \$5 to \$7 million," Romei said. "The second option is about \$10 to \$12 million, and the third option is \$18 to \$20 million. The options differ. For instance, one option has only one theater and in another option there are two theaters. People are leaning toward the second option."

Talitha Marburger, a junior nutrition major, thinks the performing arts center will benefit the whole community.

"I think the new arts center will be very beneficial because it will bring more variety of arts to this area," said Marburger. "The community will be able to get more involved by hav-

ing programs provided by OPAS and in the new arts center."

Romei said the new performing arts center is still in planning stages and a site has not been chosen.

"A site has not been decided on because we are in the stage of conceptualizing," Romei said. "There is a committee set up to decide the future fate of location. We are in works with the school of architecture and a firm in New York. I think it will be completed in two years."

Romei said there are several ways to fund the center.

"The funding will be a partnership between the government, private and business contributions," he said.

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# Worship Directory

### Baptist

**Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church**  
**College & Career Class**  
 You are invited to a Bible study especially for students. Sunday mornings at 9:45  
 1228 W. Villa Maria  
 779-2297  
 For more information contact  
 Marcus Brewer: 696-6558  
 m-brewer@tamu.edu  
 http://PersonalWebs.myriad.net/fwb

### Church of Christ

**Bryan / College Station Church of Christ**  
**Sunday** Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday** Bible Class 7:00 p.m.  
 College Station Conference Center  
 (Last across George Bush from TAMU Golf Course)  
 (409) 731-1230  
 Email: mark.d@tamu.edu

### United Methodist

**A&M United Methodist**  
 417 University Dr. (on Northgate) • 846-8731  
 Sunday Services: 8:50 & 11:00 a.m.  
 College Sunday School 9:45  
 Sr. Pastor Jerry Neff  
 www.am-umc.org

### Catholic

**St. Mary's Catholic Center**  
 603 Church Avenue in Northgate  
 (979) 846-5717  
 www.aggiecatholic.org  
**Pastoral Team**  
 Rev. Michael J. Sis, Pastor  
 Rev. David A. Konderla, Associate Pastor  
 Campus Ministers - Deacon Bill Scott, Martha Tonn, Lillian Smith, Maureen Murray, Heidi Nicolini  
**Daily Masses**  
 Mon.-Fri.: 5:30 p.m.  
 Sat.: 10:30 a.m. (Korean)  
**Weekend Masses**  
 Sat.: 5:30 p.m. (English), 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)  
 Sun.: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

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