

## Dallas toddler found dead on bridge

DALLAS (AP) — The parents of a 3-year-old Dallas girl found dead on a bridge say they are not sure how the child got out of the family car, and they did not discover she was missing until they returned home.

Police are not sure how Amanda Estrada ended up on the pavement, but she apparently was struck by at least one vehicle late Saturday night. The girl's family told investigators the mother, Norma Suarez, arrived home Sunday shortly after midnight and asked her husband, James Estrada, to retrieve their two sleeping daughters from the back seat. He found only one — 2-year-old Nina, police said.

The parents immediately retraced their route

and found police at an accident scene where their daughter's body had been found.

"Officers talked with two motorists who saw the body on the bridge. One of them had struck the child," said Senior Cpl. Cheryl Convery, a police spokeswoman.

Convery said the family's car doors have child-safety locks, and the windows on the rear doors do not roll all the way down.

There have been no charges or arrests, she said.

The Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office ruled the death an accident by blunt-force trauma, but there was no word on whether the child died upon impact with the pavement or on being subsequently struck.

Family members said Suarez had dropped off her son, Patrick Suarez, 6, at his grandmother's East Dallas home. They told police that it must have been on the return trip that Amanda ended up on the street.

"The doors were locked and there's no air conditioner, but the windows were down," Michelle Dominguez, the girl's godmother, told The Dallas Morning News on Sunday. "We're thinking that maybe she got up and out of her seat belt and fell, (but) we don't know."

Child Protective Services has begun an investigation of the Estrada-Suarez home, said spokeswoman Marleigh Meisner.

## Hands-on contest ends after 126 hours, 44 min

LONGVIEW (AP) — The rules in the "Hands on a Hardbody 2000" were simple: One hand flat on the yellow Nissan pickup truck at all times without leaning on it. The contestant who holds out longest drives the truck home.

Sunday, Warren Hearne, 37, of Houston, won the truck and a boat by going for more than five days — 126 hours and 46 minutes — until

*"I shocked the world."*

— Warren Hearne  
"Hands on a Hardbody 2000" winner

had given way.

"I shocked the world," said Hearne, a state police officer, waving his arms jubilantly overhead as he rode atop the pickup about noon Sunday as reporters from as far away as New York and London pressed near.

Cynthia Mesker let go shortly before midnight Saturday in a fit of disorientation and dementia.

Twelve hours later, Longview elementary school teacher Linda Mangrum walked away, too, leaving only the man who called himself "The Shark" to bask in the glow of TV cameras and cheering supporters.

At 11:40 a.m. Sunday, Mangrum lifted her gloved hands and walked to a cot where she collapsed into a coma-like sleep.

the last of 23 original contestants

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