

Man out on bail years prior to trial

AUSTIN (AP) — A Central Texas dentist accused of sexually assaulting a prisoner he was treating had been out on bail for three years awaiting trial by the time he was arrested on a charge of public lewdness with another patient, law officers say.

Travis County Sheriff Margo Frasier, at a news conference Monday in which she urged other possible victims to come forward, questioned why Bradley D. Hagen remained free for three years

without a trial.

"I personally think it's an extraordinary amount of time," Frasier told the Austin American-Statesman in Tuesday's editions.

Hagen's most recent arrest earlier this month followed an accusation that he exposed himself on Oct. 6 to a 34-year-old woman in his office at the Manchaca Dental Clinic on Farm-to-Market Road 1626.

Frasier said she believes reports of more incidents will surface and asked for any patients with informa-

tion to contact the sheriff's office.

"I would be shocked if this is the only one," she said. "It would be rare for him to re-offend and only re-offend one person. That's not the pattern of sex offenders."

Sheriff's deputies, using surveillance cameras, reported in September 1997 they caught Hagen on tape fondling a female inmate when he was working as a dentist in Travis County's Del Valle Correctional Complex.

Hagen of Buda was later charged with sexual assault and four counts of improper sexual activity with a person in custody.

A second-degree felony, sexual assault is punishable by two to 20 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000.

Until his most recent arrest, Hagen had been out on bond practicing dentistry while awaiting trial.

The delay in Hagen's trial was partly from court backlogs and also because judges tend to give a lower priority to cases when the

defendant is not in jail, said Gary Cobb, a prosecutor for the Travis County district attorney's office.

"It's not unusual for out-of-jail cases to be pending for two years," he said. "Three's a little long."

Civil suits also added to the delay. Since Hagen's 1997 arrest, five inmates have sued for alleged sexual assault.

"Since he's been out on bond, nobody's felt like there's a big hurry in getting him to trial," said Hagen's lawyer, Scott Young.

Department of Transportation calls memorials traffic hazard

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The small, homemade crosses stand defiantly peppering the Texas countryside.

They are all that remain of wreck scenes — twisted metal and mangled bodies that meant death or injury for victims of the traffic accidents.

For the families of those victims, the small makeshift memorials are tributes to their lost loved ones — reminders of what they have lost.

But, Texas Department of Transportation officials say the memorials can be a traffic hazard and should come down.

"We want to control the placement of memorials more than has been done in the past," Richard Kirby, TxDOT director of maintenance operations, told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times in Tuesday's editions. "Frankly, it's just not safe."

When the state asked that families remove the roadside memorials, they fought back.

And they may soon have a state-sanctioned alternative.

Under a TxDOT proposal to be

considered next month, families would submit an application for a memorial sign and pay a \$100 fee.

The plan for review by the Texas Transportation Commission on Nov. 16 probably will not please everyone, said Randall Dillard, a transportation department spokesman.

"We have received comments on both sides," he said. "There are people who want some type of state marker to be available. And there are those who don't want anything to be along the road — not the current memorials

and not the proposed ones."

The memorials, which would include both drunken driving and other fatalities, would be rectangular signs with white letters on a blue background. The signs would read "In memory of" and include the person's name and date of death.

Crosses are being avoided to keep separation of church and state.

Near Corpus Christi, a tall, wreathed white cross stands where Johnathan Letzkus skidded off the road and plunged into the water to his death in 1997. His mother, Dorothy, says the memorial serves as a reminder to other drivers.

"John's cross was to represent to young people ... that certain roads need to be respected," she said.

Kirby echoed the need for memorials to serve as reminders of highway dangers.

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BRYAN

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"It's important to look at all the issues in front of you with water planning and water resources," said Wigginton. "The idea of the Safe Water Drinking Act lets you rely on water being safe anywhere in the U.S."

Lawrence Carter, water service director for Bryan, explained the functioning of the water distribution system. He said Bryan's water facilities comprise more than 300 miles of pipeline and more than 25,000 valves.

"Bryan's current water capability with the system is 24 million gallons a day," Carter said. "The current goal we are striving for is 30 million gallons to provide for the city."

Carter said that Bryan is on the right track, especially since the system made it through seasonal droughts and severe water conditions.

"The bottom line is to get the job done so our system can meet and stay ahead of the demands, whatever they may be," Carter told the council.

A proclamation at the meeting endorsed a National Young Reader's Day on Nov. 8 in Bryan-College Station. Bryan's Mayor Lonnie Stabler urged appropriate recognition for Bryan and College Station's young readers.

"We want to control the placement of memorials more than has been done in the past."

— Richard Kirby
TxDOT director of maintenance operations

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Informational Sessions
Oct 26 NSEP Representative at MSC 342 3:30-4:30
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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News in Brief

Tallest skyscraper in the world proposed for Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — What would be the world's tallest building may scrape the sky a bit too much.

A proposed 1,659-foot skyscraper in a Dallas suburb may reach high enough to pose a problem for the flight paths of jetliners at nearby Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

That is why Maharishi Global Development Fund of New York is pitching its idea to the Federal Aviation Administration, which must approve construction of buildings taller than 200 feet because of thick air traffic in the North Texas area.

The multibillion-dollar project, proposed for The Colony northwest of Dallas, would surpass

the twin, 1,483-foot Petronas Towers in Malaysia as the tallest of the world's high-rises. Chicago's Sears Tower and New York City's World Trade Center would also be surpassed by a few hundred feet.

Helicopter goes down in Gulf, 5 passengers OK

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A helicopter went down in the Gulf of Mexico southwest of New Orleans Tuesday morning but all five people aboard survived.

The Coast Guard said the five made it into a life raft. Kim Wallace, spokeswoman for El Paso Energy Corp. said they were taken to an offshore platform and were to be carried back to shore by another helicopter.

The helicopter went down about 10:45 a.m.

Retired oil worker fatally shoots deputy sheriff

TOMBALL, Texas (AP) — A retired oil worker who fatally shot a Harris County deputy sheriff at a nearby house had believed his neighbors were involved with organized crime, according to investigators.

J.C. Risley, a 10-year department veteran, was answering a disturbance call Monday at the home when he was shot by Jimmy Ross Whitehead, said witnesses. Whitehead was then killed by a deputy who responded to a request for backup.

"He thought the people next door were involved in the Mafia or drugs," William Whitehead, the suspect's 36-year-old son, told the *Houston Chronicle* in Tuesday's editions.

SWE

Society of Women Engineers
General Meeting

When: Wed., Oct. 25th
Time: 6:45 p.m. - Free Chick-Fil-A
Where: ENPH 202
Speaker: Delores Hinkle
Topic: Top Ten Tips for Balancing Career & Family

ISLAM 101 - An Intro to Islam

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Wednesday Oct. 25th Rudder 404 @ 7:00 PM

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STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP
National Security Education Program
**Info Session: Thursday, October 25th
3:30 p.m. in Room 342 Rudder**

An NSEP representative will give a presentation on NSEP's undergraduate scholarships for study abroad. The representative will also be available from 11:00-1:30 in the MSC Main Hallway.

NSEP undergraduate scholarships are open to US citizens enrolled in US universities who wish to study abroad in critical world areas in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, Latin and South America and the Middle East. Applications are available for study in Summer 2001, Fall 2001 and/or Spring 2002.

See NSEP website for details: www.iaee.org/nsep/