

## Two bodies found near Fort Worth

FORT WORTH (AP) — North Texas law officers have found the bodies of two men, including one missing from a Tarrant County work-release program near a camp that is under investigation for problems with inmates. Autopsies were pending Wednesday morning from the Tarrant County Community Corrections Center, near the site of the Mansfield camp.

**"We're looking at it as possibly a homicide."**

— Doug Whitehead  
Wise County chief deputy

A motorist told Wise County authorities a body was located in a field on County Road 4659. No positive identification has yet been made. But medical examiners are checking to see if the victim, who sustained a fatal gunshot wound, is Gossett, 28.

"We're looking at it as possibly a homicide," said Wise County Chief Deputy Doug Whitehead.

Cashel, 18, of Arlington was fatally shot in the head at a motorist's home in Fort Worth about an hour before the body was discovered in the field. Officers found a .45-caliber revolver in the room. The wound appeared to be self-inflicted, Detective John McCaskill said, but investigators are awaiting autopsy results.

Records show that a warrant for Cashel's arrest was issued Friday, and a warrant for Gossett went out Monday.

Wise County sheriff's officers and Fort Worth police were investigating whether the deaths are connected.

"We're going to have to do ballistics on the gun," said Lt. Duane Tul, a Fort Worth Police Department spokesman.

Sheriff's deputies and the probationers' probation officers were notified when the victims did not return, said Randy Tate, administrator for Correctional Services Corp., a Florida-based contractor that runs the institution center.

## Pretty colors



Wendy Bleyl, a junior landscape architecture major, uses water colors to create a painting during her landscape communications class in Langford Wednesday.

STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

## Medicaid contractor being investigated for overbilling

AUSTIN (AP) — A one-of-a-kind contract for the private company that is under investigation on accusations that it overbilled for Texas Medicaid allows it to keep part of the money it saves the state in Medicaid claims, health officials say.

The state's Medicaid contractor, National Heritage Insurance Co., kept nearly \$4 million in savings two years ago, state records show.

Texas Health Department officials said the contract also requires National Heritage to pay a portion of any unexpected costs that arise, but the company has taken in extra money in 16 of the past 18 years.

"To have some limited risk shared by your contractor is to the state's benefit," Associate Health Commissioner Rodger Love told the *Austin American-Statesman* in Wednesday's editions. "It could also be to our disadvantage if they get heavy-handed on denying services because they benefit from it. But that's what

we're here for — to make sure they don't get too heavy-handed."

Grand jurors have been investigating accusations that National Heritage Insurance, a subsidiary of Electronic Data Systems Corp., has been cheating Texas by overcharging for administrative costs for Medicaid.

Investigators of the Travis County District Attorney's Public Integrity Unit earlier this month seized Medicaid records from the company's offices. No criminal charges have been filed. National Heritage Insurance officials have called the allegations "baseless."

State Health Department contend that the agreement with the contractor is an anti-fraud mechanism that encourages National Heritage to keep costs low and reject any claims it considers medically unnecessary.

But regulators in other states have avoided allowing private companies to share in Medicaid profits and losses, saying the system is difficult to

create and monitor.

In Texas, the \$20 billion Medicaid program is \$602 million in the red. The Texas Health Department has told state budget writers that the state overruns are due to cuts in federal funding, increased utilization, rising prescription drug and other health care costs as well as higher-than-expected fees paid to NHIC.

Plano-based EDS, which has Medicaid contracts in 16 other states, has administered Texas' Medicaid program for 23 years.

Before 1998, Texas paid the company a flat fee for every person in Medicaid up to a capped amount. In the new contract, NHIC began charging fees for every transaction — every doctor visit, for example.

The company is accused of overcharging the state for those transactions by at least \$10 million. In fiscal year 2000, the state paid NHIC \$99 million and processed 36.3 million Medicaid claims.

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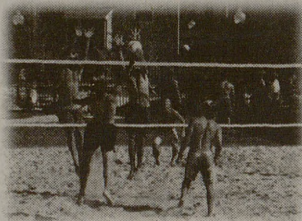
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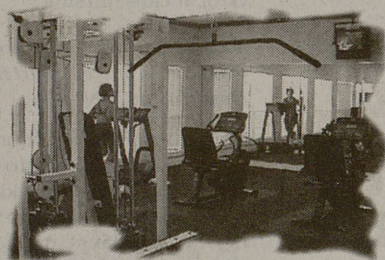
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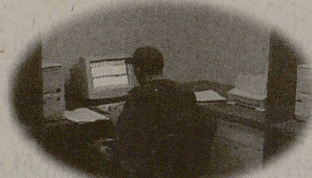
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