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News in Brief State

Truck driver charged with manslaughter

BRYAN (AP) — A truck driver is facing two manslaughter charges stemming from a fiery accident that killed a mother and her 13-year-old son two months ago.

Robertson County District Attorney John Paschall said Rebecca Guedea, 45, and her son, Stephen, died after their pickup collided with a tractor-trailer rig driven by 39-year-old John Craig Ragan of Teague on Texas Highway 6, south of Jalvert. The Guedeas are from Jalvert, northwest of Bryan College Station.

Ragan, arrested last week, is free on \$10,000 bail.

Paschall said the indictment against Ragan, returned by a grand jury, is based on his reckless driving at the time of the accident. He could have been charged with murder.

Conviction on the charge could get Ragan up to 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Boy, DISD named in sexual assault suit

DALLAS (AP) — The family of a 5-year-old Dallas girl has filed a lawsuit in federal court against a Dallas elementary school.

The lawsuit alleges the girl was sexually assaulted by a 5-year-old boy at school.

Named as defendants in the lawsuit are the Dallas Independent School District, individual school officials and the boy's mother. It alleges the girl was assaulted last March at George Gruett Elementary School in far east Dallas.

Nurse practitioner Vivian Moore told KTVT-TV in Dallas-Fort Worth that the girl's mother was told by school officials that the boy was merely showing typical 5-year-old behavior.

The girl's mother said she filed a police report after the alleged incident, but learned that state law prohibits the prosecution of children younger than age 10, according to the lawsuit.

Former investigator indicted for theft

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A former West Texas chief investigator indicted for stealing framed artwork from a Central Texas hotel says he took the prints as a prank.

Terry Tyree of Odessa was indicted by a Kerrville grand jury last week on a misdemeanor charge of theft for taking two cowboy-motif prints by Kerrville artist Robert Pumphill from Inn of the Hills.

Tyree, 55, is accused of stealing the artwork on Feb. 9, while staying at the hotel to attend a seminar of the Texas Association of District and County Attorneys.

Professor killed in accident

Roof collapse sends Perry falling 33 feet to his death

Elizabeth Raines
The Battalion

Texas A&M architecture professor Dale C. Perry fell to his death through a roof he was inspecting Monday in Dalton, Ga.

At approximately 11:50 a.m. Monday, Perry was inspecting the roof for Oriental Weavers, a carpet manufacturing company in Dalton, when he fell 33 feet through the roof and struck his head on a marble table. He died instantly.



PERRY

Capt. Ricky Swiney of the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office said Oriental Weavers was involved in a lawsuit with the roof's builder and wanted Perry's expert opinion.

Perry has been a professor at A&M since 1990 and held the Texas A&M R. L. Dockery Professorship in Housing and the Homeless.

"He was an enthusiastic fellow who was always doing something," said Dr. Norris Stubbs, a civil engineering professor. "He was an extremely well-liked guy and dedicated to his field of study. We will miss him daily."

Although Perry held many interests in the fields of architecture and engineering, including structural design, structural safety and reliability and affordable housing, he will be best remembered for his expertise in the field of wind engineering.

"He was a giant in his field," said David G. Woodcock, a professor of architecture at A&M. "He had an international reputation as an expert on the effects of wind loads on buildings and was constantly in demand as an expert witness and consultant."

Stubbs said that, in addition to teaching, Perry had an extraordinary profession as a

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Hard work



BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

Claudia Nell, a sophomore general studies major, works on a project for her environmental design class Tuesday.

Outbreak simulation scheduled

Justin Smith
The Battalion

Foot-and-mouth disease ravaged England's agricultural industry earlier this year, leaving many in the United States concerned about the risk of a similar outbreak.

To combat a potential agricultural nightmare, the state of Texas, Texas A&M and more than 30 state agencies will conduct a simulated outbreak from June 26 to 29 at the Texas A&M Riverside campus.

The stated purpose of the mock outbreak is to inform farmers and ranchers of what to do if symptoms of the disease appear in their livestock. It will also test the programs the state has formed to prevent the spread of the disease in the event of a real outbreak.

"The exercise will give us an opportunity to review the organizational struc-

A&M helps to inform farmers about foot-and-mouth disease

ture and develop greater cooperation between agencies," said Dr. Linda Logan, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission. "We'll also have an opportunity to discuss issues like biosecurity, decontaminating, humane depopulation issues and other animal-related topics that may be foreign to other members of the state emergency structure."

No foot-and-mouth cases have been reported in the United States since 1929, though it has been plaguing much of the world since. The only continents that do not have it today are North America, Australia and Antarctica.

Foot and mouth disease, also known

as hoof and mouth disease, is a highly contagious virus that affects cloven-hooved (two-toed) animals such as cattle, swine, sheep and goats. Although the disease is not always fatal, it makes animals frail and they cannot be used for production.

Dr. Buddy Faries, an associate professor and a specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, said the disease usually begins its rampage when a hog eats garbage containing meat that is tainted with the virus. Soon the hog will have lesions in its mouth and on its hooves, hence the disease's name. The disease spreads to other pigs and farm animals who walk where the infected pig has been.

Faries said U.S. state and federal agencies have gone to great lengths to prevent the spread of the disease to North America. A&M is taking a role in informing farmers across the state of possible symptoms.

"If it does show up, early detection is the key," Faries said. "Then get the animals quarantined and then destroyed to prevent it from spreading."

Faries said that one way it is spread between countries is when ships toss their garbage on shore and farmers then feed it to their hogs.

"The U.S. doesn't allow garbage to be left on its shores so this is very unlikely," he said. "Travelers also sometimes mail food to family here who then might feed it to their animals, but the virus only lives a few days without a host so this isn't likely either."

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Texans celebrate Juneteenth

DALLAS (AP) — For many blacks in Texas, Tuesday was the real Independence Day.

From parades at the state capital to a senior citizen rap performance in Dallas, Texans commemorated June 19, 1865 — the day slaves in Galveston learned of their freedom nearly three years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

While the day has long been celebrated with informal family celebrations, many cities

and community groups now sponsor formal Juneteenth events.

"It's a celebration of freedom that we finally got," said 48-year-old Austin resident Fennis Scott. "You have to let the kids know where they came from. If you don't know where you came from you don't know how far you have to go."

A large crowd gathered for a Juneteenth parade in Austin. Gov. Rick Perry rode in the

front car and threw candy to people on the sidewalk as Austin

"It's a celebration of freedom that we finally got."

— Fennis Scott
Austin resident

Mayor Kirk Watson rode in a separate car behind him.

In Dallas, a song of hope and salvation sung by 43-year-old secretary Vera Smith kicked off the city's Juneteenth celebration. About 200 people swayed to the solo performance of "His Eyes on the Sparrow."

The song was followed by senior citizen rap performance led by Frankie Haggard who sang a gospel-rap version of "Butter Beans."

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Garza dies in Indiana

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — Strapped to the same padded gurney on which Timothy McVeigh died, drug kingpin Juan Raul Garza received a chemical injection Tuesday and became the second inmate in eight days to be executed by the U.S. government.

While the Oklahoma City bomber died stoic and remorseless, Garza was fidgety as he awaited execution, and apologized for the murders for which he was condemned to die.

"I just want to say that I'm sorry and I apologize for all the pain and grief that I have caused," the 44-year-old Garza said. "I ask your forgiveness, and God bless."

Garza's pleas for clemency

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Gov. Perry vetoes record number

AUSTIN (AP) — By the time he was through, Gov. Rick Perry had signed off on more than 79 vetoes Sunday — more than any in recent history.

The governor vetoed so many bills in one day that some lawmakers started calling it the "Father's Day massacre."

Before Sunday, the last day the governor could consider bills passed by lawmakers, Perry had only axed three bills.

He now holds the record for the highest number of vetoes — 82 — of any governor since 1989.

The only governor to come close to Perry's high was Gov. Bill Clements with 59 vetoes in 1989. Gov. George W. Bush only had 37 vetoes in 1997.

Perry said his vetoes were just part of the legislative process.

"I respect the process. I think that's the most important thing that I would ask legislators and the public to keep in mind."

"The last 20 days a governor singularly

and solely makes a decision on whether that's in the best interest of the state of Texas," he said.

The vetoed bills included legislation that would have required the State Board of Education to get advice from an outside committee with investment expertise when investing the state's \$20 billion school trust fund, banned the execution of the mentally retarded and restructured the state Medicaid program.

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