#### Continued from page 9

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ales associate, retail experience preferd. Call (979)268-9626.

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# THE BATTALION

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Rollover victims discuss effects McALLEN, Texas (AP) — Marisa Rodriguez does not remember the Ford Explorer rolling over, nor does she remember her young son telling his father that day, "Mommy is

But she remembers walking, painting landscapes and helping her husband, Joel, teach his karate classes: the things that she used to enjoy before the accident

that left her partially paralyzed. The lives of the Rodriguez family changed forever on March 9, 2000, when their Ford Explorer rolled over on a Mexican toll road, crushing the roof.

In the accident, Marisa Rodriguez suffered a brain stem injury, which means the messages her brain sends to other parts of Family regroups, remembers life before Explorer tragedy

her body do not always register. injured and killed. "It's like she's in a cage," said

Dr. Joel Rodriguez, a Reynosa internal medicine specialist. "She gets so frustrated."

In a shaky, uneven voice, she talks about wanting to crochet and paint again as she looks around her home at the things

Marisa and Joel Rodriguez were the first family in the nation to put a face on the more than 300 cases pending against Ford Motor Co. and Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. in connection with rollover accidents that

Their case was settled last month for a reported \$7.5 million as jurors entered their fourth day of deliberations.

The Rodriguez family had sued Ford Motor Co. and settled for \$6 million in July.

The lawsuit filed by Joel Rodriguez claimed that a tread separation caused the sport utility vehicle to lose control.

"What she misses most is walking," Joel Rodriguez said in Sunday's editions of The (McAllen) Monitor. "She cries sometimes when we go somewhere and she sees people walking, families holding hands with their children."

The couple has three children: Olga, 11, Marisa, 6, and Joel Jr., 5.

They said they decided to settle their lawsuit because of the pressure it had placed on the family and their children.

"We have proved our point," Joel Rodriguez said, who recently spoke on Radio Colombia, a South American radio station.

Rodriguez said one of the main reasons he filed the suit and went through the trial process was to make a public statement, and to warn drivers, especially in Mexico and South

# Arlington man cannot remember thoughts

Hankins says he does not remember what he was thinking when he killed his wife and her two children.

"I remember hearing the noise and smelling the gunpowder," he told The Dallas Morning News for its Sunday editions. "What I was thinking at the time, I do not know. I was emotionally hurt and drinking. The mother was first. I remember hearing it, smelling it. I don't remember what I was thinking on the others.'

Hankins, 26, told police Thursday night that he had killed his father, Earnie L. Hankins, and his sister, Pearl "Sissy" Sevenstar, last year. He is in jail on capital murder charges in the deaths of his wife, Tammy Hankins, 34; her 13-year-old son, Kevin Galley; and 11-year-old daughter Ashley Mason. Their bodies were found Wednesday.

"It was my family too. I can't replace what I've taken. I can't justify what I've done. I know this is not right or normal. The shortest word for it is ... I'm trying to think of something ... evil. I still think that's putting it lightly," he said in the Saturday interview with the newspaper at the Tarrant County

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office is working to positively identify the bodies of the children, of Hankins' father and of his sister.

Police found a man's mummified body in Earnie Hankins' mobile home Friday morning. They found a woman's b dy in a pia storage box in a sports car at the towing and automotive business of Hankins' father.

standoff with police Thursday morning. After being arrested, he confessed to po-

lice that he argued with his father Oct. 8 and rest, he told them to look for Earnie.

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - Terry Lee shot him in the face. He left the body of Earnie Hankins, then 55, in a recliner in the living room of the elder Hankins' mobile

> According to an affidavit, Hankins told police he became angry with his sister on Oct. 1 and hit her several times in the back of the head with a car jack and then placed her body in a plastic storage container.

Arlington police have not charged Hankins in the deaths of his father and sister.

Friends and family members said Sevenstar told them her brother was the father of her baby. Hankins said he is not sure if he is the baby's father.

He said neighbors who claim that he repeatedly went inside his wife's Mansfield trailer and his father's Arlington trailer after the deaths are false.

"I'm not Norman Bates," he said, referring to the character from the Alfred Hitchcock movie "Psycho." "I didn't want to talk to corpses, or want to preserve them. Noth-Neighborhood business owners noticed

Sevenstar had stopped coming by her father's towing and automotive business. And then her father was gone as well, just about the time he was supposed to retire. They say Hankins explained it all away,

telling them his sister was with relatives and that his father had gone to Missouri to take care of a sick sister. He told employees he was taking over the business.

Auto Service, said the car in which the woman's body was found had been parked in Hankins was arrested in Arlington after a the same spot for four years.

> Chester said that when he saw the television reports about Terry Lee Hankins' ar-

#### NEWS IN BRIEF Woman attacked, "KKK" carved on chest

TEXARKANA (AP) — A 32-yearold woman said she was beaten unconscious, sexually assaulted and had the letters "KKK" carved on her chest in an alleged racial attack.

The woman was treated Thursday at Atlanta Memorial Hospital for a bump on her head, cuts, bruises and other injuries.

The incident occurred in Bivins. The Cass County Sheriff's Office is investigating the case, along with

"We are looking into an incident that happened earlier this week where a woman was abducted and assaulted," Cass County Chief Deputy Ronnie Fincher said Friday. The woman, who is black, told

the Texarkana Gazette she was approached by two white men in a pickup about 6 p.m. Wednesday as she walked home. The men, who had sheets or pillow cases over their heads, allegedly called her a racist name and chided her

"I took off running but they drove toward me and knocked me down by opening the truck door," she said. She said she was forced into the cab of the truck and hit in the back of her head.

'I don't remember too much after that. I was blinking in and out (unconscious).

After being held all night at an unknown location, the woman said she was thrown out of the truck. She still has visible signs of an as-

sault, including missing teeth and numerous bruises and scratches on her legs, arms, and stomach. Her mental scars may last longer, said her mother, who still cringes when she thinks about how her daughter looked after the attack.

Bivins is about 152 miles east of

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