

NEWS IN BRIEF

East Texas woman pleads guilty, gets life prison term

TYLER, Texas (AP) — An East Texas woman who pleaded guilty in the stabbing death of an appeals court judge's disabled father during a botched robbery has been sentenced to life imprisonment for capital murder.

Prosecutors had originally planned to seek the death penalty for Monica Wilson, who is described as having a history of drug abuse. Wilson, 30, entered the plea Tuesday.

The sentencing decision, which resulted from the plea bargain, was supported by the victim's son, 12th Court of Appeals Court Judge Sam Griffith, said Smith County

District Attorney Jack Skeen Jr.

Prosecutors accused Wilson of stabbing a wheelchair-bound Jack Lee Griffith last July after he refused to give her money, then robbing a Tyler convenience store clerk several months later in an apparent attempt to extort money to escape prosecution for capital murder.

No threat, but Emergency Center on alert

AUSTIN (AP) — Jack Colley will tell you it's smart to have a Texas Emergency Operations Center activated, even if Texas is confronted no credible terrorist threat and the workers are spending much of their time preparing for the unknown.

"This is a unique activation in that we don't have an incident at the same time, we'd need to be able to respond very quickly to an incident," said Colley, assistant state coordinator of the Division of Emergency Management. "With the heightened awareness of 9/11 and the sheer devastation seen in New York and Washington, D.C., no one wants to be unprepared to respond."

The Division of Emergency Management assists local government in planning for, responding to, recovering from and mitigating disasters. Its operations center was activated Sunday after the United States launched an aerial strike against military and terrorist threats inside Afghanistan.

"It is at its highest level of security and its highest level of operations and it will be that way for some time in the future," Colley said this week.

Texas measures 268,000 square miles, with 254 counties and more than 1,400 jurisdictions. Plus, it has the world's largest petrochemical industry and shares a 1,200-mile border with Mexico. In other words, Texas faces "the full spectrum of risk," Colley said.

The 22,000 square-foot center, housed three stories below the Department of Public Safety headquarters, is self-sufficient, with its own water and sewage system and generators providing backup power.

Employees representing various state agencies — including the DPS, Department of Criminal Justice and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission — along with the American Red Cross and Salvation Army sit in a main control room, working on laptops and analyzing preparedness manuals.

The representatives can view two large televisions, which this week were set to news stations providing updates on the terrorist attacks and the U.S. response.

The workers acknowledge they spend a lot of time waiting watching the news. They also use the time to update their preparedness plans and keep in touch with local officials.

Mitch Cooper, a program director for community emergency plans with the Texas Department of Health, monitors e-mails, especially pertaining to recent anthrax cases in Florida, and reads a handbook on chemical and biological attacks. His binder of emergency contacts sits near the telephone. "I do spend a lot of time watching the news," Cooper said. "I learn a lot of things I can't learn in a book."

A few weeks ago, Billy Parker was among the 72 members of Texas Task Force I who went to New York to assist in the search and rescue. "It was taxing just because words and pictures don't describe the devastation that was there," he said.

Today, he's at the operations center, ensuring that everyone involved in the Texas Task Force I is prepared for an attack.

The task force was created in 1997 to respond to disasters in urban areas, with an emphasis on locating and extricating trapped victims.

"With the potential for retaliation, the better prepared we are the fastest we can respond," Parker said.

Let's Go Out To Eat

Thursdays in The Battalion

TOAST YOUR VICTORY OR CRY IN YOUR BEER.

HALF-PRICE DRINKS AND APPETIZERS
Win or lose, Black-eyed Pea is the place to go after the game. Enjoy our Great American beers, wines and Margaritas with our Chicken Chops & Fried Green Tomatoes, Build-Your-Own Sampler and more. At half price!



201 E. University Dr. • 260-1092

Quizno's SUBS

Quizno's. Boy, can those Italians make a sandwich.

\$1.00 Off

Purchase of Regular Large Sub and Drink

Quizno's SUBS

Offer good at College Station location only. (Next to Kentucky Fried Chicken and Luch's)
Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per visit.

AGGIE BUCKS ACCEPTED
FREE DELIVERY (with purchase of \$15.00 or more)
680-9911

HONEY-B
Freshly made Sandwiches, Soups & Desserts

FREE CHIP & DRINK!
w/purchase of any sandwich

Present coupon before ordering Expires 11/01/01
2416 Texas Ave. S • College Station
696-DELI Fax: 693-6606
Hours: 10 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Delivery available. \$20 minimum

\$1 OFF BBQ Buffet
OR
BUY 3 Get 1 Buffet FREE!

We Feed People. (979) 779-6417
506 Sulphur Springs • Bryan
(One block behind Long John Silver's)
Dine-In Only — Offer Expires 11/2/02



Texadelphia SANDWICH SHOPS
"Home of the Original Texas Cheesesteak"
FREE Chips and Queso
w/ purchase of 2 sandwiches
• Dirt Cheap Beer
• Daily Specials Sun. - Fri.

Accepting Aggie Bucks
201 College Main (Northgate) • 260-1999



FREE Single Cone
with the purchase of any menu item
701 University Dr. East - Chimney Hill Shopping Plaza
(Next to Albertson's)
expires 12/1/01

Haiku Sushi & Benihana Hibachi Grill

15% OFF 1 dish
Benihana Hibachi Grill

Birthday Person **FREE** with 5 or more guests
Limit \$20

Happy Hour 3-6 pm **EVERYDAY**
Sushi \$1.25 a piece
California Roll @ 2.25 (no discount during happy hour)

846-7900 607 E University Dr.
Next to Albertsons

Caffe' Capri

the place to eat for more info, ask a friend

FREE Mozzarella Garlic Bread
with this coupon

222 n. main in historic downtown bryan 979-822-2675

BIG MEAL DEAL \$4.99
IT'S ALMOST MORE THAN YOU CAN EAT!



SWENSEN'S
6 oz. HAMBURGER WITH FRIES
+ LARGE SOFT DRINK
+ SUPER SUNDAE
GOOD FOR UP TO 4 PER COUPON
Culpepper Plaza College Station, Texas 693-6948 Exp. 11-11-01 50¢ extra for any other hamburger

BLUE BAKER
It Takes Great Bread To Make A Great Sandwich!

FREE REGULAR SANDWICH WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY COMBO.
Present this coupon when placing order. One coupon per transaction. Expires November 10, 2001.
Bread Baked Fresh Every Day, Sandwiches & Salads Made To Order, Selection of Pastries, Coffee, Coffee Drinks, Espresso.
Mon-Sat: 7am-11pm, Sunday: Closed
201 Dominik Drive, (979) 696-5055

DISC GO ROUND

WE PAY CASH FOR CD'S & DVD'S

CD's, DVD's, DJ GEAR, POSTERS, IMPORTS
STICKERS, VIDEOS, CONCERT TICKETS
MAGAZINES, PSX GAMES, VINYL
T-SHIRTS, ZIPPO's, RAVE GEAR
All Used CD's \$3.99 - \$8.99

WE ACCEPT AGGIE BUCKS

113 College Main (NORTHGATE)
846-6620 <http://discgoround.myriad.net>

25% Off
Costumes, Wigs, & Masks

Bring in this coupon and receive an additional 10% off any purchase of \$20 or more.

*Hurry in! This additional offer expires 10/26/01

Halloween Boutique

Post Oak Mall 695-8585
Located in old Luby's Location near JC Penney's