

# Defense takes stage in windshield death case

By Angela K. Brown  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT WORTH, Texas — Defense attorneys started their case Wednesday in the murder trial of a nurse's aide charged with hitting a homeless man on a highway, driving home and parking in her garage, where the man died still lodged in the car windshield.

Before the state rested its case against Chante Mallard after noon Wednesday, the victim's son told jurors that his father was a self-employed brick layer who took medication for bipolar disorder and mild schizophrenia.

Brandon Biggs said that after his parents divorced when he was young, he lived with his mother in Albany and saw his father regularly.

Gregory Biggs, 37, lost his truck and house after loaning money to a girlfriend nearly two years before his death Oct. 26, 2001. But he got other jobs and kept in touch with his son, who met him a few times at a downtown Fort Worth homeless shelter and took him to movies and the mall, Brandon Biggs testified.

However, Brandon lost touch with his father in the summer of 2001.

"I would say he was very hardworking. He was very friendly, although he didn't have many friends," said Brandon Biggs, 20, a church ministries major at Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie. "He was very, very loving, I would say."

One juror cried and another dabbed at her eyes as Brandon Biggs spoke. Mallard, 27, also appeared to cry during the testimony.

Mallard, who faces a life sentence if convicted of murder, pleaded guilty earlier this week to tampering with evidence and faces a sentence of up to 10 years on that charge.

Earlier Wednesday, the Tarrant County medical examiner



RON T. ENNIS • KRT CAMPUS

Chante Jawan Mallard enters the district Court in Fort Worth on Wednesday. Mallard is charged with murder in the death of Gregory Glenn Biggs.

testified that Biggs probably died about two hours after he was hit — and that Mallard's driving home aggravated his injuries.

Biggs' right arm, right thigh bone and right shin bones were broken, Dr. Nizam Peerwani testified. The lower part of his left leg was nearly amputated, and he had gouges or cuts in his torso. It's unclear exactly how Biggs was in the car, Peerwani said, but his head had been thrust down in the passenger seat or floorboard and his torso was up against the dashboard.

"He was obviously in severe, excruciating pain," Peerwani said.

Despite that, the medical examiner said, Biggs could have survived if he had received medical attention. Biggs did not suffer from any serious medical

condition before he was hit, and the crash did not cause injuries to his brain, spine, heart, lungs, liver or kidneys, Peerwani said.

Biggs' injuries would not have prevented him from moving his hands and talking, the medical examiner said. Mallard told police that after parking in her garage, she apologized to Biggs, who was moaning.

Biggs' body was found Oct. 27, 2001, in a park. Mallard's former lover, Cleve D. Jackson, and his cousin Herbert Tyrone Cleveland have pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence in connection with dumping Biggs' body. Jackson was sentenced to 10 years; Cleveland, nine years.

As part of the plea bargain, both agreed to testify at Mallard's trial, but prosecutors never called Cleveland.

# Harris County considers entry into rail business

HOUSTON (AP) — Harris County should form a commuter rail authority that would service the busy U.S. Highway 290 corridor linking central Houston to northwestern suburbs, a commissioner said Wednesday.

Commissioner Steve Radack, in a luncheon speech to the West Houston Association, pitched the concept of improving a lightly used Union Pacific line to handle passenger traffic. The line, an old Southern Pacific freight route, runs from near Memorial Park along U.S. 290 and eventually into neighboring Waller County and on to College Station.

"Compared to light rail, this is something that is much cheaper and certainly something that

could be done posthaste," Radack told the Houston Chronicle for Wednesday's editions.

"It's something that we don't necessarily need to depend on Metro."

Metro's long-term transit plan includes 55 miles of light rail and an eight-mile commuter spur headed southwest to Missouri City along another Union Pacific line.

Joe Adams, a Union Pacific representative, said the line is tailor-made for expanded use.

"There is also vacant land along it where you could put commuter stations and park and ride facilities," Adams said. "This is the one line that presents the best opportunity for commuter rail."

# Morales awaiting federal fraud trial

By Natalie Gott  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Former Texas Attorney General Dan Morales, who awaits trial on federal fraud charges, was jailed Wednesday after a judge revoked his bond, saying there was inconsistent testimony in the case.

Morales, 46, pleaded innocent in April to charges that he and Marc Murr, a friend and an attorney, tried to obtain hundreds of millions of dollars in legal fees for Murr resulting from the state's \$17.3 billion settlement with the tobacco industry in 1998.

At that court hearing, Morales sought a public defender to represent him, claiming he didn't have the \$1 million it would take to hire private lawyers to defend him.

A financial statement later filed with the court showed he had almost \$1 million in assets and about \$925,000 in debts.

Prosecutors said Wednesday

that while Morales was out on a personal recognizance bond, he filed loan applications to buy two cars, a Lexus and Mercedes. On one application, he wrote that he made \$20,000 a month; on the other application, he wrote that he made \$20,800 a month, prosecutors said.

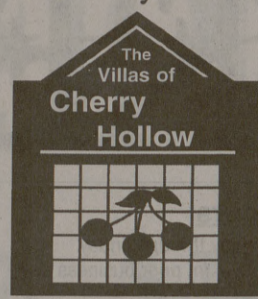
Prosecutors asked U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks to revoke Morales' bond since he claimed in court that he had no income, but claimed income on the loan applications.

Sparks ordered Morales' bond revoked and remanded him into custody. A court hearing was set for 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

It did not list his income or other financial information detailing why he would need a public defender, which he was required to submit in a sealed record to the judge in April.

Morales faces prison terms of five to 30 years on each count of the 12-count indictment, if convicted.

Why bother with parking when you can walk to TAMU?

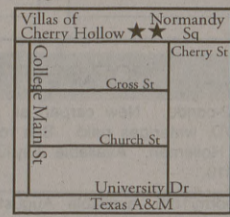


- Luxury Apartment Living
- Sparkling pool with waterfall, BBQ grills and picnic tables
- Large Floorplans
- Ceiling fans and mini blinds
- Laundry Facilities
- Paid water, sewage, garbage

Now pre-leasing for Fall

503 Cherry Street • www.rent.net/direct/villasofcherryhollow  
(979) 846-2173

Apartments have been furnished with kitchen appliances and central heating/air conditioning. Convenient off-street parking. Large bedrooms, ceiling fans coupled with a courtyard view make a refreshing, economical alternative to campus living.



read the fine print.

THE BATTALION  
CLASSIFIEDS

CALL 845-0569  
TO PLACE YOUR AD

Best Seats! Best Prices!

Subscribe Now!

Subscribe to the 2003-2004 season of MSC OPAS today and save money off the regular ticket price and reserve the very best seats in Rudder Theatre and Rudder Auditorium. And, as a subscriber, you will receive invitations to special events and much more. Don't delay, subscribe today!

To request a subscription brochure, please call the MSC OPAS office at 845-1661 or logon to www.MSCOPAS.org.

MSC OPAS | 2003-2004 SEASON

Main Stage

THREE MO' TENORS  
September 20

RIGOLETTO  
October 2

THE SOUND OF MUSIC  
October 8-9

BOWFIRE  
November 14

ATUNA CHRISTMAS  
November 19-21

SEASON EXTRA!  
MANCINI AT THE MOVIES  
January 21

CATS  
January 27-28

CINDERELLA  
February 7-8

MOSCOW STATE RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS  
February 25

FAME  
March 9-10

OPAS JR.  
FOR THE YOUNG AT ART



Bring the whole family! OPAS JR includes FRED GARBO performance!  
4 Shows Only \$24!

Intimate Gatherings



Intimate Gatherings includes ROCKAPPELLA & MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY!  
4 Shows Only \$40!

Imagine

MSC OPAS

Three Decades of Performing Arts

enlighten | entertain | inspire

Broadway Series Sponsored by: Central Texas SENT

Subscribe Now at www.MSCOPAS.org!

University Commons Apartments are the Best Deal Under the Sun

What's included?  
Totally furnished  
Free Cable, HBO, & Ethernet  
Free Video Library  
Lighted Volleyball Courts, Basketball, & Tennis Courts  
Microwave, Dishwasher, Disposal, Ice maker, Washer & Dryer

We have No Trains or Traffic around the apt.!

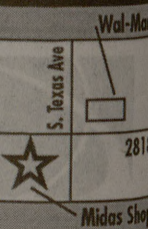
Prices  
2Bdr 2 Bath-\$415  
2Bdr 1.5 Bath-\$410  
4Bdr 2 Bath-\$350  
Rates are per person.  
Add \$55 per month for 9 month Leases

UNIVERSITY COMMONS APARTMENTS

Ask about our \$99 move in special!

Convenience:  
On A&M Bus Route  
10 Min. to Blinn  
Great Roommate Matching  
Walking distance to the Mall & concerts at Wolf Pen Creek  
Features:  
Panic button in every room  
24 Hr Computer Lab & Workout Facility  
24 Hr Emergency Maintenance & Mgmt.  
2 Swimming Pools & Jacuzzi  
BBQ Grills  
Game Room

#1 any!



6:00pm (979) 764-1844

BE, OIL FILTER 5.95  
Most Cars & Light Trucks  
Included • Synthetic Oil Extra  
at time of purchase. Not good  
at other shops. Offer valid 6/27/03  
Tire Purchase!