

# NEWS DIGEST

## Woman who ran over boyfriend gets life in prison

**VERNON** — A North Texas woman has been sentenced to life in prison for running over and killing her boyfriend after they fought.

Norma Linda Cardenas and a friend ran down her ex-boyfriend last spring as he walked home in Vernon, about 200 miles northwest of Dallas.

A prosecutor said Cardenas wasn't driving and called it an accident, but authorities found the victim's handprint on the car, indicating he initially avoided being hit. The charge was upgraded from intoxication manslaughter, and a Wilbarger County jury convicted Cardenas of murder.

Before she was sentenced Thursday, Cardenas denied it was intentional but admitted past violence. The driver, David Hamilton, earlier was sentenced to 48 years for intoxication manslaughter.

**Alligator wrangled from Dallas pond now relocated**

**DALLAS** — Texas game warden and a private trapper used a chicken leg to cap-

ture a nearly 7-foot alligator that had been lounging in a private Dallas pond.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said Friday the 6-foot-9-inch male was moved to an alligator farm in Van Zandt County.

Game warden David Bosecker says it took about two hours to wrangle the large reptile Thursday night. The alligator was first noticed a couple of weeks ago.

A state spokesman says trespassers were trying to get close to the alligator and were throwing rocks to get its attention.

Officials say the alligator was either looking for love or was driven from its habitat by larger males. The alligator is believed to have traveled from nearby marshes near the Trinity River.

## Friends: Harvard student detained by immigration

**BOSTON** — Friends of a Harvard University student say he is facing deportation to Mexico after being detained by immigration authorities.

Activists and friends say that Eric Balderas, an undocumented student who just

completed his first year at Harvard, was detained by immigration authorities after he tried to use university identification to board a plane from San Antonio to Boston.

His friend Mario Rodas said Balderas was detained Monday and released pending a July 6 immigration hearing. A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman said he had no immediate knowledge of the case but any hearing for Balderas likely would be in Boston.

## Interim chief named for Texas emergency management dept.

**AUSTIN** — A veteran of the San Antonio Fire Department who also leads the city's Homeland Security efforts has been named interim chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

The Department of Public Safety on Friday announced the appointment of San Antonio District Fire Chief W. Nim Kidd, effective July 1.

Kidd replaces Jack Colley, who suffered a heart attack and died May 16.

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# Texas

Continued from 1A

"We're still working through the issues," Loftin said. "We're also waiting to see what happens with other schools. We were very happy to stay in the Big 12, the way it was. It's changing now, and we need to figure out what that means."

"The Big 12 is not what it was, and we have to think about its future, and ours."

Longhorns athletic director DeLoss Dodds has said he wants to keep the Big 12 together. It was not immediately clear if scheduling the regents meeting meant those efforts have failed.

"Our goals and hopes all along have been to keep the Big 12 Conference intact," Dodds said in a statement. "It is both premature and inappropriate to speculate on what our UT System Regents will discuss at next Tuesday's meeting. But, as the dynamics of the Big 12 continue to change around us, we will utilize additional time to continue our work and evaluate our options."

A spokesman for the Texas regents said the nine members would not comment before the meeting. Texas president William Powers Jr., was out of

town Friday and unavailable for comment, but would be at Tuesday's meeting, spokesman Don Hale said.

Texas would need the regents' approval to change leagues. The meeting is required to be publicly posted 72 hours in advance, which would give Dodds the weekend to keep working if he thinks the Big 12 is still salvageable.

Texas A&M, which is reported to be considering a move to the Southeastern Conference, has not scheduled a regents meeting. Loftin would not comment on speculation that A&M is considering moves to the SEC or the Pac-10, or say if the school was leaning toward one league over another.

"We have not made any decisions at this point in time," he said. "I can say that the first consideration in any decision involving conference realignment is the athletes' well-being. Geography has to be a part of the equation, and then, maintaining a strong academic program and keeping that in place will be paramount."

"We're also a school that has a very strong consciousness

for traditions, and that's a part of this, too," he said. "You have many factors in play here, none of which I would say is dominant."

Loftin said he would like A&M and Texas to continue their annual football rivalry, even if the teams end up in different leagues.

Baylor athletic director Ian McCaw reiterated his school's desire for the four Texas teams from the Big 12 to "remain aligned" in the same conference — preferably the Big 12. Baylor, the league's only private school, would likely be left behind if Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech leave for other leagues.

"We're focused on keeping the Big 12 together and maintaining the rivalries that we've enjoyed with our four Big 12 Texas brothers," he said. "Those traditions go over the last 100 years and we certainly want to do everything we can to maintain those rivalries within the conference structure."

AP Sports Writers Chris Duncan in Houston, Betsy Blaney in Lubbock and Stephen Hawkins in Dallas contributed to this report.

# Heat

Continued from 1A

day to set aside for physical training.

"We have them go out on the track, play basketball, football, you name it," Harmon said.

Harmon said they carry gallon water jugs around at the firehouse to keep hydrated. When they go out on an alarm they are ahead of the game.

Harmon said the air bottle is one gauge of knowing when to stop and rest, rehab and rehydrate. It has 45 minutes of air, but when the adrenaline is running the firefighters suck it up much faster, he said. It can be 25 to 30 minutes.

When it runs out, they go to rehab and a fresh firefighter takes his place.

"We rotate folks through rehab this way and have them take off their coats and helmets to get some breeze," Harmon said.

He said it's not uncommon to lose 10 pounds of fluid inside the protective gear during a fire.

Billy Richards, fire chief for the Morgan's Point Resort Volunteer Fire Department, said his big concern is heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

"We send our rescue truck to every structure and grass fire we go to," Richards said. "That way the guys have some place to go for rehabilitation. We put them in the back of the rescue truck where it's air-conditioned, give them something to drink and cool them down."

Richards said the emergency medical technicians check vital signs and clear them before they can go back to the fire.

Richards recommends cool water, not cold water, getting the firefighter into air-conditioning and putting ice packs around the back of the neck or under the arms.

Fire Chief Charles Young with the Salado Fire and Rescue team said stamina and keeping hydrated mean survival.

"You have to be in top phys-

# VA

Continued from 1A

Locally, the program has enabled a 93-year-old veteran, a retired Army nurse, to remain in her niece's home.

"The niece has a job and was concerned she would have to leave her aunt by herself and was afraid something would happen while the aunt was alone," he said. "They now have a wonderful worker who has kept the aunt active."

If the veteran needs assistance devices, such as railings in the bathroom or possibly a walker or wheelchair, the VA is contacted.

A budget is set up and a financial management service processes timesheets, payroll, receipts and invoices.

For information on Wednesday's program and to register, call 254-770-2330.

jjgibbs@tdtnews.com

ical shape and half crazy to go into a burning building," Young said, laughing.

"You don't want them to over-drink though," he said. "That can make you sick."

Gatorade and drinks that replenish electrolytes are

good, he said, but he recommends alternating Gatorade with water.

Young said the turnouts and protective gear have three layers of fire-resistant material and are a sweatbox inside on a hot summer day.

"It's like being inside a Thermos," he said. "The only way to cool off is to take a rehab break and open the coat and pants to get a breeze inside."

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