



Dallas News

[email this](#)[print this](#)

Posted on Tue, Sep. 16, 2003

DALLAS & STATE DIGEST

Staff and Wire Reports

DALLAS

Relic's stop in Dallas draws 2,000 people

A piece of cloth estimated to be five centuries old drew about 2,000 people Sunday to the Cathedral of the Virgin of Guadalupe Shrine in Dallas.

The relic, called the Tilma of Tepeyac, is believed to be part of a cloak worn by Mexican peasant Juan Diego when the Virgin Mary appeared to him in 1531, according to the Roman Catholic Church.

Juan Diego was canonized as a saint by Pope John Paul II last year in Mexico City.

Dallas' cathedral is the country's largest shrine to the Virgin of Guadalupe. A Sunday afternoon procession including a horse-drawn carriage, Aztec Indian folk dancers and a special Mass stretched several blocks.

In San Antonio, pilgrims began lining up at 3:30 a.m. Saturday in front of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower. A church official estimated that as many as 20,000 people had visited the relic by late Saturday.

The relic, which is kept in Los Angeles, is on a 20-city U.S. tour. Dallas and San Antonio are the only Texas dioceses on the tour.

The original cloak remains in Mexico City; a small piece was sent to Archbishop John Cantwell of Los Angeles in 1941 by Archbishop Luis Maria Martinez y Rodriguez after Cantwell led a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Gunmen kill man in car, chase witness, police say

A man was shot and killed Monday afternoon in the parking lot of a Dallas restaurant by men who then tried to chase down a witness and shoot him, police said.

The victim and a passenger were in a BMW at Snuffer's Restaurant and Bar in the 3600 block of Greenville Avenue about 3:20 p.m. when two men, reportedly in a purple Dodge Neon, pulled up beside them and started shooting, Sgt. Paul Morris said.

The driver died at the scene, but the passenger escaped without injury, Morris said. The shooters then chased a witness to shoot him, but he also escaped, Morris said.

Police did not identify the victim. Officers did not know which direction the shooters fled and had not found them by late Monday.

STATE

HOUSTON

Man accused in 3 slayings denied bail

A judge denied bail Monday for a man accused of shooting a single mother and her four daughters last week, killing three of them.

Anthony Quinn Francois, 35, stood with his arms behind his back and mumbled answers to state District Judge Caprice Cospier after prosecutors read allegations related to the capital murder charge filed against him.

Prosecutor Vanessa Velasquez said she would ask Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal to approve seeking the death penalty against Francois, who has been in and out of the state prison system five times since 1988.

"This was a massacre," Velasquez said outside the courtroom. "It was more than just the murder of three little girls. It was an attempt to annihilate an entire family."

Francois has been described as the spurned boyfriend of Shameka Patterson, who survived the Thursday morning attack along with her 34-year-old mother. Both Patterson, 16, and her mother were hospitalized with gunshot wounds to the head.

Patterson's three younger sisters -- Nikesha, 15, Ashely, 11, and Brittany, 10 -- were killed, said Beverly Begay, chief forensic investigator for the Harris County Medical Examiner's office.

Police arrested Francois Thursday night after they received a tip that he was hiding at a residence in Spring, just north of Houston.

ROCKPORT

2 bodies may be men missing from boat

Two bodies recovered from Aransas Bay on Monday are believed to be Mississippi men who fell off a small surveying boat over the weekend.

Commercial fishermen spotted the bodies about two miles apart, both in shallow water about a mile offshore and within three miles of where the accident occurred on Saturday.

The Coast Guard had abandoned its search after two days.

The missing men were employees of Peacock & Peacock Surveying and were on contract to check wellheads for another company. Aransas County investigators said the men were not wearing life preservers as they were swept into rough seas on Saturday.

Rockport fishermen rescued a third man, 27-year-old Dan Peacock, after he jumped into the water after the other men. Peacock told investigators he throttled the boat after it was rocked by a large wave, knocking one of the men overboard. He said the second man jumped in after the first.

The identities of the two men, both in their 20s, were being withheld until their families could be notified.

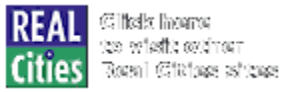
Compiled from staff and wire reports



email this



print this



[News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Travel](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#)
[About the Real Cities Network](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [About Knight Ridder](#) | [Copyright](#)