

AROUND
THE AREAMan shot after
apparent fight

An argument between two men turned violent late Thursday night in southeast Houston, leaving one of them dead and the other on the run.

Rosbel Chavez, 42, of Houston, was shot in the torso about 11:45 p.m. in the 6800 block of Northdale. He was taken to Ben Taub General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Chavez and the suspect had argued early Thursday. Later that evening, Chavez and his nephew were driving in Chavez's truck when they saw the suspect and another man, who were driving in another vehicle.

Chavez and the suspect argued again and, at some point, the suspect pulled out a gun and shot Chavez. No other injuries were reported.

The suspect then sped away. Chavez was taken to a relative's home nearby and then was taken to Ben Taub.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the Houston police at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

FBI searching
for bank robbers

Federal law enforcement officials are searching for two men who robbed a southeast Houston bank.

The FBI said a man waited in line with other customers around noon Thursday at the BBVA Compass bank at 7040 Lawndale.

When he approached a teller, he handed her a note demanding money and told her he had a gun.

The teller handed him an undisclosed amount of cash and the man fled in an older model, two-door, black extended cab pickup driven by his accomplice.

The robbery suspect is described as being between 28 years old and 30 years old. He is about 5-foot-10 and weighs between 190 pounds and 200 pounds. He has an average build and a light brown complexion with black hair, goatee and mustache.

The getaway driver is described as between 30 years old and 35 years old. He was clean-shaven and had a heavier build than his accomplice.

Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to charges. Anyone with information can call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS or the FBI's Houston office at 713-693-5000.

Stand-off ends
peacefully

A southeast Houston man suspected of holding two children inside his home surrendered to police Friday evening, ending a brief standoff with law enforcement officers.

An area resident called 911 about 4:30 p.m., saying the man was holding two children hostage inside his home in the 9500 block of Rosehaven, Houston police said.

Other neighbors said he also pointed a rifle at people outside the home. HPD officials would not confirm if a weapon was recovered from the scene.

The man — known by neighbors only as "Ali" — gave up soon after officers arrived at the scene. The two children were unharmed, police said.

A Houston police spokeswoman could not confirm if the man was related to the children. But, other neighbors said he was their father.

Police later bound the man's hands and feet after he struggled with officers as they placed him inside an HPD patrol car.

The man was taken into custody.

— FROM STAFF REPORTS

Blowing in the wind



NICK de la TORRE: CHRONICLE

AUSTIN Orfield, 7, of Houston gets ready to launch a paper airplane, which his father taught him how to fold, in front of the Central Public Library on Friday. Austin says it's the perfect spot to throw the airplanes because the wind tunnel created by the library and the Julia Ideson building gives the planes more lift.



NICK de la TORRE PHOTOS: CHRONICLE

REMNANTS: Visitors at Emancipation Park in Houston take a look Friday at a car that was bombed by al-Qaida.

Iraq lessons on tour

WITH a car, and Iraqi immigrant and a soldier in tow, the project "It Is What It Is: Conversations about Iraq" hopes to reveal the culture of Iraq and the role of the war.



TALKS: Rodney Blake, left, of Houston, a retired U.S. Army veteran, discusses Iraq with Esam Pashas, a Connecticut artist.

Grieving mother vows
to raise dead son's child

She harvests his sperm, plans to find surrogate

By JAMIE STENGLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Her son dead after being punched while trying to break up a fight on an Austin street, Missy Evans wanted to make sure he would still one day have a child of his own.

After getting a judge's consent to harvest sperm from 21-year-old Nikolas Colton Evans' body this week, she hopes to eventually find a surrogate and one day raise her son's child.

"My son wanted to graduate from college. He wanted to have children. And someone took that away from him," said Missy Evans, 42, of Bedford, located between Dallas and Fort Worth.

It's a decision that ethicists say raises troubling questions, but Evans isn't concerned about what others might think. She says she is only doing what her son would have wanted.

She described her son as an "old soul" interested in filmmaking, politics, music and old movies. She said he once told her he wanted three sons and had already picked



EVANS

out names. "He would love me so much for doing this," Evans said.

Austin police said Nikolas Evans was punched in the early morning hours of March 27 and then fell to the ground, striking his head. He died on April 5. Police are still trying to identify the person who hit him.

Evans said she came up with the idea late last week, after a doctor told her nothing more could be done for him. She discussed the idea with her ex-husband, her older son and other family members, and said all supported her wish to help a part of Nikolas live on through his future offspring.

After donating his organs, Evans had to go to court to get permission to harvest his sperm. On Tuesday, a Travis County probate judge granted her wish — ordering the county Medical Examiner's Office to keep her son's body chilled at a temperature not to exceed 39.2 degrees and allow access so an expert could take the specimen.

Evans' attorney Mark Mueller said no one opposed the plan.

An Austin urologist volunteered her services and collected testicular tissue Wednesday night. Missy Evans said she's been told much of the sperm is viable and is making plans for storage.

Little time

Decisions such as Evans' must be made quickly, and allow little time for a grieving person to reflect on the choice, one ethicist said.

"That child's biological father will be dead. The mother may be an egg donor, anonymous or gestational surrogate," said Tom Mayo, director of Southern Methodist University's Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility.

"This is a tough way for a kid to come into the world.

As the details emerge and the child learns more about their origins, I just wonder what the impact will be on a replacement child," Mayo said.

He said that the desire to replace a deceased child is a classic scenario that, in this case, took a nontraditional turn.

"The underlying desire would be very strong, even if she wouldn't describe it that way," he said.

It would be rare for a child to be born from sperm retrieved from a dead person, said Melissa Brisman, an attorney on the American Fertility Association's legal advisory council.

"This is an unexpected death in which there are tons of emotions and you don't even know if you want to do it," she said.

Art Caplan, chair of the department of medical ethics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, said that in the past decade, there have probably been about 1,000 such requests by spouses, mothers, girlfriends and others in the U.S., and most "don't wind up using it."

Caplan said hospitals may have a protocol for dealing with such requests, but there are few laws or regulations regarding the practice. It's usually up to a urologist to decide whether to perform the procedure, he said.

Mark Vopat, a professor of philosophy and religious studies at Youngstown State University in Ohio, questions whether the court should have granted the mother's request. He said while Nikolas Evans may have told his mother he wanted children someday, it's wrong to assume he also would have wanted to father a child posthumously if he died prematurely.

Missy Evans said she is unsure when she'll be ready to seek a surrogate. But she added she has no second thoughts about the plan.

"This is probably going to bankrupt me and I will do whatever I can to make it happen," she said.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Come help clean up a beach

Rain or shine, the annual Texas Adopt-a-Beach Spring Cleanup will take place April 25 all along the Texas Gulf Coast. Teaming up with other volunteer beach buddies, you can help remove debris that spoils the appearance of our shoreline and poses hazards to marine wildlife. Some of the debris will be recycled to fund other environmental improvement projects. Call now to reserve a place on the beach of your choice.

Be an airport guide

Arrivals and departures go a little more smoothly for travelers at Bush and Hobby airports thanks to the efforts of airport information booth volunteers. These volunteers greet passengers, direct them to various areas of the airport, and answer questions about getting to destinations in the Houston area. Weekly four-hour shifts

HOW TO CONNECT

Here's how to get involved with opportunities through Volunteer Houston:

- Office hours at 3033 Chimney Rock, Suite 460, are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.
- Call 713-965-0031, or visit www.volunteerhouston.org.

are available on weekdays and weekends, during the daytime or evening. Training will be held April 18 and 19.

Restore a cemetery

Turn back the clock on decades of deterioration and neglect by participating in an ongoing project aimed at restoring dignity and beauty to an historic black cemetery located just northwest of downtown Houston. On the morning of April 25, volunteers will be needed

to help with cleanup and general maintenance of the grounds, including dealing with damage and debris left by Hurricane Ike.

Additional opportunities

- Help visually impaired home-bound people with chores around the house.
- Create a small pond habitat with other volunteers at a school in the Northline area on April 18.
- Serve at the information desk of a large Pasadena hospital.
- Lead informal group sing-alongs at a nursing home in The Woodlands.
- Care for cats at a special pet sanctuary near FM 1960 and the North Freeway.
- Teach watercolor painting to adults at a Hockley community center.
- Assist unemployed people with job-search activities at a west Houston social service office.

JOB FOR DIRECTORS AND TEACHERS FOR MUSIC AND ARTS

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