

REGIONAL DIGEST

Identities of dead Killeen couple released

KILLEEN — The identities of a couple found shot to death Friday night were released Monday morning.

The bodies of Gilberto Mota, 34, and his estranged wife, Diana Mota, 31, were found in the man's home in the 3100 block of South Hill Drive.

According to Killeen Police spokeswoman Carroll Smith, investigators believe the deaths were the result of a murder-suicide.

"It appears that the male shot the female and then turned the gun on himself," Smith said.

Police were called to the home at about 11 p.m. Friday by family members who discovered the bodies in Mota's bedroom.

Smith said the couple was separated, but still legally married.

Family members told investigators that Diana Mota went to the home to speak with her estranged husband earlier in the day, and hadn't been heard from since.

Gilberto and Diana Mota were pronounced dead by Justice of the Peace Garland Potvin and their bodies were

taken to the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas for autopsy.

Student plays planned at Meridith-Dunbar

First-grade students at Meridith-Dunbar Elementary will perform "Peter Rabbit" at 1:30 and 2 p.m. Wednesday.

At 1:30 p.m., students in Groholsky, Lohr and Fritz will perform, and at 2, students in Nave, Posvar and Fritz will give their performance.

On Thursday, kindergarten classes will perform "Mother Goose" at 1:30 and 2 p.m. The first performance will be students in Kelly and Johnson's classes, followed by the 2 p.m. performance of students in Miller, Skala and Fritz.

Tickets are on sale for Meridith-Dunbar Elementary School's annual spring musical, featuring third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students. This year's musical, "Annie Jr.," will be presented at 7 p.m. on May 9-10 at the Cultural Activities Center, 3011 N. 3rd St. in Temple. For information, questions or tickets, call the school office at 215-5900.

Fort Hood elementary teacher receives honor

WASHINGTON — A Bell County teacher is being honored by the cable industry for

creating and implementing innovative ways to educate students, and for making substantial contributions to learning in the community.

Time Warner Cable and Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation, announced that Donna Bownds, an instructional technologist at Clear Creek Elementary School on Fort Hood, was chosen as a finalist for the 2008 Cable's Leaders in Learning Awards.

Ms. Bownds is being recognized in the Cable Partnerships for Learning category for partnering with Time Warner Cable to implement "Take a Vet to School Day." Local veterans visited the school and shared stories about their service, while linking their work in the military and in their current jobs with the learning that is occurring in the classroom. This was a part of a national initiative by The History Channel.

Flag retirement ceremony Saturday

The Betty Martin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Boy Scout Troop No. 153 will conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Sunset Pavilion at Cedar Ridge Park in Temple.

The public is invited to attend the free event.

STAFF REPORTS

