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-VOLUME 16, NO. 17, TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2000-

A Chambers County jury yesterday sentenced Raymond Ramirez, 21, to life-imprisonment for the December 1997 capital murder of a 17-year old Houston woman. District Attorney Mike Little said Ramirez was convicted last Thursday of beating Marisol Martha Castillo to death, and then dumping her body in a drainage ditch off FM 565 North. The Anahuac man will spend at least 40 years in prison before being eligible for parole.

According to an indictment filed in the U.S. District Court in Beaumont, three top officials of Southern Sandblasting Company, headquartered just west of Dayton, have been charged with a total of 41 counts of corruption in attempting to obtain millions in federal contracts. Charges against Ernest Watson, Sr., Charles Lee Watson, Sr. and Terry Boothe include bribery, money laundering, giving out kickbacks and major fraud.

27-year-old Tina Smart has been released from Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, just one week after suffering neck and spinal injuries in a one-vehicle rollover accident on Hwy 90, west of Dayton. The Liberty woman was transported to the hospital in critical condition by Lifeflight air ambulance on Jan. 14th and, according to a hospital spokesperson, she has now been moved to a rehabilitation facility.

The deadline to register for substitute teacher training for the Dayton ISD, taught by Lee College in Baytown, is Thursday. Classes are Jan. 31st to Feb. 3rd at Dayton High School and cost \$45. For information, call 800-621-8722. Subs get \$40-55 a day.

FUNERALS: Martin Kossak, 57, of Hull, Services at 10 a.m. Wed. at Allison Funeral Service in Liberty. ** Alton P. Bernard, 45, of Humble, Services at 1 p.m. Wed. at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Ames. ** Elizabeth Ann "Liz" Ivy, 60, of Liberty, Services at 3 p.m. Wed. at Allison Funeral Service. ** Rev. C. J. Shields, 85, of Liberty, Services at 10 a.m. Wed. at Sterling Funeral Home in Dayton. ** Irma Jane Gray, 75, of Cleveland, Services at 10 a.m. Wed. at Pace-Stancil Chapel in Cleveland. ** Lenora M. Erwin, 78, of Dayton, Services at 11 a.m. Thurs. at Sterling Funeral Home in Dayton.*

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