# Plaintiff wins pregnancy bias suit

A jury awarded $275,000 Friday to a woman who claimed she was fired the day she told her supervisor she was pregnant — and four days before she was scheduled for workers' compensation-related surgery.

Terry Barraza, 38, was a single mother and expecting a second child when on Jan. 15, 1998, she informed her supervisor and the human resources administrator at Carmun International Inc. of her pregnancy, according to her attorneys, Alex Katzman and Shirley Katzman.

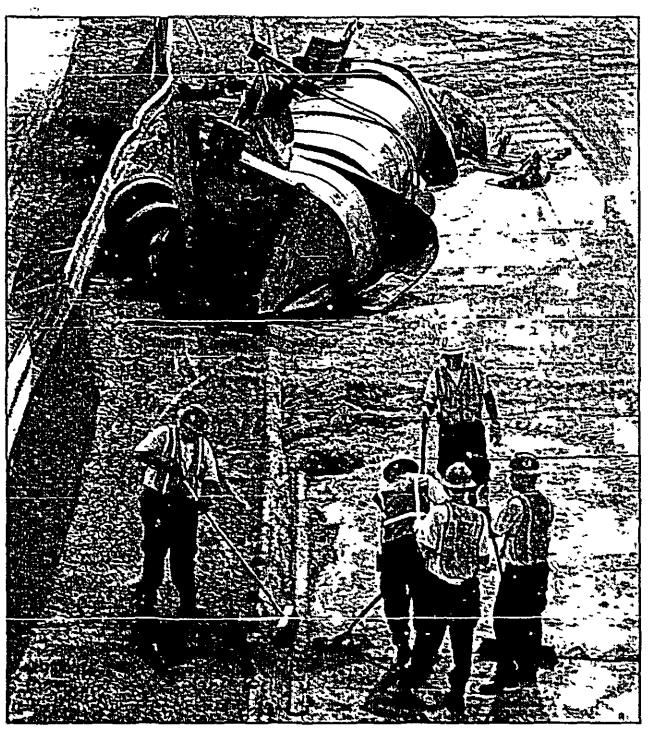
Barraza was an assembly line worker at Carmun International, a manufacturer of soda fountain regulators.

She was scheduled for a second shoulder surgery on Jan. 19 for a previous injury, Alex Katzman said. Instead, Barraza found herself unemployed and was not able to work again for six months, he said.

Jason Cliffe, the attorney for Carmun International, said, "Carmun believes it did not discriminate against Miss Barraza and intends to appeal the jury's findings as they are not supported by the evidence and the law."

Cliffe noted that while Katzman asked the jurors in the 408th District Court of Judge Phyllis Speedlin to award Barraza $330,000 actual damages and $2.4 million in punitive damages, the actual award was a tenth of that — $33,000 actual damages and $242,000 punitive damages.

## FORT WORTH FATALITY



CAROLYN MARY BAUMAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A work crew cleans up the roadway Friday after an 18-wheeler hauling milk on Interstate 30 in Fort Worth slammed into a bridge support pillar, killing the driver. The truck burst into flames as it turned on its side and slid along the freeway.

# Bail bond firms see windfall in crackdown

■ Continued from 1B

New Braunfels residents are preparing a petition drive that calls for a citywide referendum about whether to implement an alcohol ban on the Comal River and the portion of the Guadalupe that runs inside the city limits.

The City Council this week sidestepped a proposal to ban alcohol from the rivers and directed a committee to study ways to inhibit the rowdy behavior of some river visitors.

New Braunfels residents Betty Duncan and Kathleen Krueger, wife of former U.S. Sen. Bob Krueger, are co-chairing the effort to get the referendum on the Nov. 7 ballot. They're kicking off the campaign this morningat the New Braunfels Plaza and must collect 2,000 signatures by Tuesday.

While earlier school starts have taken the edge off Labor Day business for river outfitters, the holiday still is considered the last major tourism weekend of the summer.

Outfitters along both the Comal and Guadalupe expect large crowds. And, while the water level on the Guadalupe River is lower than normal, large stretches of the river remain floatable, outfitters said.

The Comal River has a reputation for being a family-oriented spot, but regular visitors there may be in for a rude shock. Many expect the Guadalupe's low flows will push the more boisterous crowds to the normally placid Comal, which has a higher flow and deeper waters.

Already, riverfront homeowners and some tubers with small children have complained about nudity, profanity, underage drinking, trespassing and other problems.

Bail bond agent Jeannie Martinez, with A Bail Bonds, remembers the first zero-tolerance weekend on the Guadalupe River on Labor Day 1998. That operation, run by the Comal County Sheriff's Department, resulted in 109 arrests and big profits for the three bail bond businesses clustered around the county jail.

"We were busy that weekend, and all of them were from out of town," Martinez said. "They were almost all from Houston. I didn't take anybody out of jail from this town."

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# S.A. starting quest for city manager

## Proposal calls for selection by Feb. 8

By William Pack
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

The city will take its first steps toward the selection of a new city manager in the next nine days and will conclude its search Feb. 15 with the appointment of a new city manager, under an executive search timeline proposed to the City Council.

The timeline, which Human Resources Director Elisa Bernal released Thursday, calls on the council to hire a company Oct. 19 to conduct the search and to receive applications for the city manager's position between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31.

Consultants would make the first cut in the applicant pool by Jan. 12 and the council would help decide on a short list of 6 to 10 finalists by Jan 18, the timeline says.

The council would interview the finalists in early February and would select its nominee and begin negotiations on a contract by Feb. 8.

The timeline has the council appointing a new city manager Feb. 15. The appointee is to start work April 1 at the latest.

Mayor Howard Peak, one of three council members on a personnel committee that will oversee the search process, said it is an ambitious schedule, but one that can be accomplished.

"There is a lot of work to do in the coming months," he told the council Thursday.

The appointment became necessary last month when City Manager Alex Briseño announced he would retire March 31 to pursue other opportunities. Briseño has been San Antonio's city manager for the last 10 years.

All four of the city's assistant city managers, along with an assistant to the city manager and the executive director of administrative and financial services, have indicated an interest in seeking the post.

Candidates outside of San Antonio and the state are expected to be part of the nationwide search for Briseño's successor.

The city manager said $35,000 to $45,000 has been set aside in the 2001 budget for the search.

Maggie Gonzales, Bernal's executive assistant in human resources, said Friday that the city had not begun accepting applications for the job because the vacancy had not been officially announced.

Under the proposed selection criteria for search firms, applicants must have conducted at least five nationwide executive searches for large, complex organizations within the past three years and must have experience in hiring city managers.

The search firm will be asked to develop a city manager profile for San Antonio based on interviews with council members and specific individuals.

It also will pursue candidates with superior qualifications, evaluate all résumés, see that extensive background checks are done on leading candidates and compile a report on the top 15-20 candidates.

The firm will prepare a more detailed report on the finalists and will coordinate the finalist interviews by the council, under the plan.

The council is reviewing the criteria included in a proposed bid document for search firms. Staff hopes that document can be completed and released to potential bidders Sept. 11.

Interested search firm applicants will be given until Sept. 25 to respond, under the initial timeline.

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