

ORANGE COUNTY

Another family files jail death lawsuit

■ Toxicology showed Atchley didn't have blood pressure medicine in his system at death.

By Manuella Libardi

The family of a 55-year-old man has sued Orange County after he died in custody in 2013, one of five deaths at the jail in the past six years, including one that resulted in a million-dollar jury



Joda Lewis Atchley's daughter and son filed a lawsuit against Orange County after he died in custody in 2013.

verdict now under appeal.

Joda Lewis Atchley died on Sept. 18, 2013, from a brain aneurysm after jail staff did not administer his blood pressure medication, according to the lawsuit filed this week in the

260th District Court.

The civil suit was brought by Atchley's daughter, Jessica Bush, and son, Jason Atchley.

The plaintiffs state in their filing that they told jail staff of their father's condition when they delivered his medication, which was never administered. According to the lawsuit, the medical examiner's toxicology showed Atchley did not have the medication in his system when he died.

Orange County commissioners voted unanimously this week to fight the lawsuit, said County

Judge Stephen Brint Carlton.

"These types of lawsuits, they're not uncommon. People can sue for anything," Carlton said.

Atchley's death is one of five to occur at the Orange County Jail since 2009, according to the Texas Attorney General's website.

A federal jury in February found the county was responsible for the 2011 death of Robert Montano, a 41-year-old mentally ill man who died in an Orange County jail observation cell.

Montano's family was award-

ed \$2.4 million in damages, but the federal judge in the case lowered the amount to \$1.5 million when the county challenged the verdict. The county is now appealing the judge's ruling to uphold the jury's verdict.

In May, the county filed a motion in the federal system requesting a new trial, arguing the damages awarded are excessive and the verdict contradictory.

The case is awaiting a ruling by the court.

CASES, page 4A

RELIGION

Beaumonters to share 'spiritual experience'

1M expected to attend Pope's Mass in Philadelphia

By Dan Wallace

Catholic Mass is celebrated the same around the world — in the local language — whether attended by one parishioner or 100 or, as expected Sunday in Philadelphia, by more than a million.

Pope Francis will be the celebrant. He's been working on his English, but the faithful know the ritual of the Mass

TRIP, page 5A

SCHEDULE *The official schedule for Pope Francis' visit to U.S., 5A*

VISIT *President Obama welcomes Pope Francis, 6A*



Susan Walsh/The Associated Press

Pope Francis waves from his car after arriving at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., on Tuesday. The Pope is spending three days in Washington before heading to New York and Philadelphia. This is the Pope's first visit to the United States.



'I don't think (the Keystone XL pipeline) is in the best interest of what we need to do on climate change,' Democratic front-runner **Hillary Rodham Clinton** said.

POLITICS

Clinton opposes Keystone XL pipeline

■ Front-runner says she will stand with activists seeking to block pipeline from Canada to Gulf Coast.

By Evan Halper
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON After sidestepping for months one of the most contentious environmental issues of the presidential campaign, Hillary Rodham Clinton waded into the debate over the Keystone XL pipeline, declaring Tuesday that she would stand with activists seeking to block it.

"I oppose it," Clinton said in response to a question from a voter at a forum in Des Moines, Iowa. "I don't think it is in the best interest of what we need to do on climate change."

The proposed pipeline that would ship oil from the Canadian tar sands to refineries on the Gulf Coast has been a rallying point for climate change activists, who warn it would accelerate global warming by boosting fossil fuel production and undermining demand for renewable fuel projects.

Prominent Democratic activists

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Section designed and copy edited by Billie Dorman and Audrey Fletcher
BDorman@BeaumontEnterprise.com

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RITA: 10 YEARS LATER

Panelists discuss lessons learned from hurricane

■ Participants stress the need for residents to heed officials' directions to evacuate. Great progress has been made.

By Brandon K. Scott

Southeast Texans inclined from experience not to evacuate for future hurricanes don't understand that a direct hit from a storm stronger than Rita could swamp the region from the coast to Interstate 10, leaving a high body count in its wake, a former official said Tuesday.

Carl Griffith, who was Jefferson County

RITA, page 4A



Guiseppa Barranco/The Enterprise

Carl Griffith talks about responding to Hurricane Rita while serving as Jefferson county judge during a panel discussion at Lamar University on Tuesday.

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