

Charter school investigated

The Dallas Morning News

Advantage Academy is "God's school." The Dallas-area school puts the Bible in every subject, according to the former pastor who founded it. That's a problem, critics say, because Advantage Academy is a public charter school and can't push a particular religion. A Wisconsin-based

watchdog group filed a complaint last week with the Texas Education Agency, saying it has "serious constitutional concerns" about Advantage Academy, which has more than 1,800 students at four campuses — one in Dallas, two in Grand Prairie and one in Waxahachie. "We ask that the TEA investigate Advantage Academy and take action to prevent its schools from

endorsing Christianity to its students," said the complaint from the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a nonprofit group that works to keep church and state separate. The school said Friday it follows the law. "Advantage Academy is neutral and does not endorse any church or religious practice," a statement said. The Texas Education Agency is reviewing the

complaint, agency spokeswoman DeEtta Culbertson said Friday. Advantage Academy is one of Texas' oldest charter schools, founded in 1998 by educator and former pastor Allen Beck. It's far from the only charter school in the Dallas area with religious ties. Turkish Muslims helped found Harmony Public Schools. Critics have accused Harmony of having ties to a Turkish imam named Fethullah Gulen — but school leaders say there's no connection.

MISSING CRIMINAL

Reward for sex offender up to \$8,000

■ The last known address for the 61-year-old man, convicted in 2012, was in Grapevine.

BY DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.
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GRAPEVINE

A reward for one of the Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offenders has been increased to \$8,000 if a tip leads to his arrest this month, according to officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

DPS officials identified the offender as Jose Luis Rodriguez, 61, whose last known address was in Grapevine.

In July 2010, Rodriguez, 61, was arrested in Fort Worth on charges of indecency with a child by sexual contact and sexual abuse of a child (contin-



Rodriguez

How to help

Anyone with information should

- Call Crime Stoppers hotline, 1-800-252-8477. All tips are anonymous.
- Text the letters "DPS," followed by your tip, to 274637 (CRIMES) from your cellphone or submit a web tip through the DPS website by selecting the fugitive you have information about, and then clicking on the link under the picture.
- Provide tips on Facebook at www.facebook.com/texas10mostwanted by clicking the "Submit A Tip" link (under the "About" section).

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1993 SHOOTING

a parking lot outside the old Arlington Stadium.) Her last name in 1993 was LeBlanc, and for two weeks she lay in a coma at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. When she later learned that her doctor and her mother had discussed having her organs donated, she surmised that her unconscious mind had caught wind of it and turned it into the bizarre dream about witches and being sold. The house in the dream reminded her of her great-aunt's historical home in Galveston, a place that holds happy childhood memories of summer fun.

Dean, who was arrested on foot less than a mile from the apartment with the gun and their jewelry still on him, is serving a life sentence at the Alfred Hughes state prison in Gatesville, according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. In 2014, he received an additional eight-year sentence for aggravated assault of a public servant with a deadly weapon, a charge he racked up while in prison in 2012. Nelson doesn't wish Dean had gotten the death penalty, but she doesn't want him ever to be released on parole. Though he's years away from even

being eligible, she vows to fight it if that day comes. More than two decades later, at a time when gun control is as hot an issue as ever, Nelson, now a wife and mother, sometimes speaks at Austin-area events on behalf of gun control advocacy groups. She hadn't known that Rutherford owned a gun and believes that Dean had secretly found it while going through Rutherford's belongings. Though her road to recovery was long and her life was forever changed, readers will likely appreciate her humor and openness. And maybe, along the way, somebody else will draw inspiration from her strength. *I think by sharing my story now, helps me to validate who I am to myself.*

How "I" see me. For so long I didn't want it to be a focus and just wanted to be back to be just me. And although I still don't want the horrific act to be the center, I do hope people will gain something from my journey. Perhaps a way to laugh, a way to gain strength or keeping faith, finding their path or perhaps even change some of the issues of government and healthcare. Maybe taking a look at the face of what guns and violence and mental health offer. Or maybe it will just be the music and the light.

This report includes material from the Star-Telegram archives.

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window & patio door sale

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uous) in connection with incidents involving two 11-year-old female neighbors, according to the DPS.

In August 2012, he was convicted of indecency with a child by sexual contact and received two five-year probation sentences to run concurrently. He was also required to register as a sex offender every three months.

DPS officials noted that on March 5, 2013, the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department issued a warrant for Rodriguez's arrest for probation violation. On May 3, 2013, the Grapevine Police Department issued a warrant for his arrest for failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements.

Rodriguez is 5-foot-7 and weighs about 170 pounds. He has previously worked as a licensed helicopter mechanic.

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Boy, 11, dies after shooting himself in accident in Houston

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — An 11-year-old boy has died after accidentally shooting himself with a gun at a Houston home, the third such incident in the area in recent days.

Houston police say that after the shooting Sunday night, the boy was pronounced dead at a hospital. Police are investigating.

Police told the *Houston Chronicle* that the boy got his uncle's gun and was wounded in the neck.

The Brazoria County Sheriff's Department says a 7-year-old boy shot himself in the head Thursday after getting the key to a locked gun cabinet and getting a revolver in Alvin, south of Houston. He's expected to recover.

A boy believed to be 5 died after shooting himself July 26 at a Houston-area home. Harris County Sheriff's Department deputies said it appeared to be accidental.