

# LOCAL BRIEFING

Austin American-Statesman statesman.com ■ austin360.com THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007 ■ B2

## SCUTTLEBUTT

### Hazardous waste hauled away, finally

There was a time when the odds were that a legal knot involving the disposal of hazardous waste stored at a southern Travis County landfill would never be untied.

But last month, a decade-long dispute over the disposal of the waste between Penske Truck Leasing and Texas Disposal Systems came to a settlement. After Thanksgiving, Penske began shipping away the waste, sitting in 99 containers on the landfill property, and on Wednesday, the final three containers were hauled away on 18-wheelers to a hazardous waste facility in Robstown, outside Corpus Christi.

The case stretched back to October 1997, when a Penske truck packed with a cargo of Zenith TV picture tubes overturned near Buda on its way to a Mexican assembly factory. The picture tubes — just about all 1,248 of them, each containing 3½ pounds of lead — broke and became hazardous waste.

The damaged tubes were dropped off at the nearby Texas Disposal Systems landfill in Creedmoor, and the landfill and Penske began a protracted fight over the fate of the waste and over which side was responsible for disposing of it.