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Texas joins suit against tobacco industry

Attorney General Dan Morales said he will file federal racketeering charges against cigarette makers to force the tobacco industry to reimburse taxpayers for the millions of dollars spent on Medicaid to treat smoking-related illnesses.

Morales has discussed the issue with attorneys general of other states and reportedly is picking a team of private-sector lawyers to represent Texas. Florida has hired a team of lawyers from 13 private firms to handle its suit.

Last Nov., tobacco industry lawyers sought to block Texas and Massa-



State Capitol Highlights
 By Lyndell Williams and Ed Sterling
 Texas Press Association

chusetts from taking the industry to court, asserting that Morales lacks the authority to bring the suit.

In March, The Tobacco Institute warned that tobacco restrictions by the federal Food and Drug Administration could cost Texas businesses up to \$435 million in lost sales and eliminate up to 5,088 jobs statewide," according to a study by the American Economics Group.

Ron Dusek, a spokesman for Morales, said about \$6 billion in federal and state funds will be spent on smok-

ing-related illnesses in Texas this year.

In other news last week, Morales said he will seek postponement of a ruling by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that struck down racial preferences for admissions at the University of Texas School of Law.

Morales said he will prepare an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

VitaPro Head Wasn't Himself
 The Austin American-Statesman disclosed the identity of the executive who struck a \$33 million deal with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to supply prison kitchens with Vita-Pro, a soybean-based meat substitute.

In a copyright story, the American-Statesman reported VitaPro head Yank Barry is really Gerald Falovich, an ex-convict who a decade ago served 18 months in a Canadian prison for extortion and conspiracy.

But Barry said he didn't hide his criminal history from Texas prison officials. "I was very open about it... I told lots of people in the department," he said.

In Dec., however, the Texas prison personnel office issued Barry an official employee identification card, and a prison official (who in Feb. was suspended with pay) asked the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Office to expedite a visa waiver for Barry, citing upcoming meetings with prison officials.

Allan Polunsky, chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, which oversees the prison system's administrative agency, called the news of Barry's true identity "another bizarre chapter in an already seedy story."

Panel Opposes Rail Merger
 Opponents of a proposed merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railroads scored their first victory last week when the Texas Railroad Commission voted 3-0 to oppose the merger, except under conditions the railroads offered.

Chairman Carole Rylander and Commissioners Charles Matthews and Barry Williamson said the proposed \$5.4 billion merger would leave Texas with two major railroads rather than three, would reduce competition and lead to higher rates.

The commission's recommendations, representing the official position of the state will go to the federal Surface Transportation Board, which is expected to rule on the proposed merger in August.

The government of 13 other states have endorsed the merger. But Gov. George W. Bush asked the Railroad Commission to study the issue and make a recommendation.

Panel Investigates Buyouts
 Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, said he wants to put an end to "golden parachute" deals for fired state univer-

sity officials.

Ogden is heading a panel charged with investigating \$2 million in payments to officials who were employed by 17 state universities.

"In a lot of cases, administrators are using their inside knowledge to extract pretty good settlements in return for keeping their mouths shut. That bothers me a lot," Ogden said.

Cash total of buyout packages for administrators were reported as follows:

- University of Houston System, \$812,000;
- University of Texas System, \$551,000; and
- Texas Southern University, \$513,000.

The Texas Faculty Association complained that the buyouts are a waste of tax dollars, but University officials say buyouts are better than being sued.

Next month, Ogden's panel will review buyout deals at other state agencies.

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Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 8, 1971
 Harold Thomas was welcomed by Frank Elliot, USDA administrative assistant secretary, to the meeting of the USDA Civil Rights Committee in Washington, D.C. ...

Travis Wegenhoff, new president of the Eagle Lake Noon Lions Club, received congratulations from Frank Higgins, retiring president of the club. ...

Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Miller recently purchased the property formerly occupied by the Parker 5 & 10 1/2 and Flower's Barbecue Stand from Mr. & Mrs. Joe L. McCreary. ...

Jan. 30, 1948
 The Eagle Lake Lions Club had the privilege and distinction of sponsoring a new Lions Club in Garwood when 37 charter members attended the initial gathering on Monday night, held in the school building. ...

A.W. Wiese, state highway patrolman, was in Eagle Lake on Wednesday when he stated that he had resigned his position effective Feb. 1. ...

Mrs. Jake Wood announced the engagement and approaching marriage of her daughter, Betty Ruth, to Roland Campbell, son of Mr. & Mrs. H.J. Campbell. ...

First Sgt. Albert Janik, who recently arrived in the United States after several years of service in Korea and other Pacific nations, reached Eagle Lake on Saturday to visit the family of his sister, Dr. & Mrs. L. Kopecky and children, and spent the weekend in East Bernard with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. R. Janik.

Book Festival Planned
 First Lady Laura Bush has announced plans to stage the first Texas Book Festival in Austin Nov. 16.

Noted Texas author will be in Austin to speak at a kickoff fundraising dinner on Nov. 15.

The first lady said the festival will raise money for Texas libraries and provide an opportunity for readers and authors to interact.

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Texas lists unclaimed properties
 Last month, the Texas State Treasury inserted the annual Unclaimed Property list of newly reported names in 33 major newspapers across the state. Copies were also distributed to county officials, public libraries and members of the Legislature.

The Unclaimed Property staff is standing by to respond to your inquiries. Do not be concerned if the phone lines are busy, the money remains with the Treasury until the rightful (See Money, Page 4)

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

DEEDS
 Deed: Alfred C. Chovanetz to Willie S. Noble, 2.9988 acres a part of the William Hudgens Survey, A-331; filed 12-13-95.
 Deed: Geraldine Hoegemeyer to Wayne E. Thumann et ux, 5.50 acres out of the Reddin Andrews Survey, A-52; 12-14-95.
 Deed: Big Sur Development Co. to Walter Horace Moore and Shirley Jean Moore, surface estate only Lots 16 and 17, Block 1, Meentwood Section 1; 12-14-95.
 Deed: Julian L. Shapiro and Ruth M. Shapiro to Julian L. Shapiro and Ruth M. Shapiro as Co-Trustees of the Shapiro Family Living Trust, 39.94 acres a part of the Marmaduke Baton Survey, A-105; 12-15-95.
 Deed: Margaret Pargac Adams to Madalyn Diane Krause, 60.71 acres, a part of the S.B. Raymond Survey, A-490; 12-15-95.
 Deed: Nalda Hunt White to Julio Arbaldo et ux, Lots 26 and 27 of the Krapke Subdivision out of the W.B. Dewees League, A-18; 12-19-95.
 Deed: Ralph L. Stapper, Carol A. Stupper Gietl and Robert C. Stupper to Veterans Land Board of the State of Texas, 10.00 acres being Tract No. 7 out of the S. Williams Survey, A-608; 12-19-95.
 Deed: Louise M. Shiller to Benjamin David Shiller Jr. et al, 252.82 acres a part

of the S.B. Raymond Survey, A-490; 12-20-95.
 Deed: Dwight Dittmar to Troy Neiser, 1.075 acres out of the John Gillespie Survey, A-223; 12-19-95.
 Deed: Ethel Scott Worley to Margie Jean Worley and Maxine Worley Smith, und. int. in acreage out of the A.H. Merchant Survey, A-776, et al, 12-19-95.
 Deed: Ron Rhodes et ux to James T. Mark et ux, two tracts, a part of the Casper Simon Survey, A-502, et al; 12-18-95.
 Deed: Robert W. Wolters et ux to Sam B. Barr et ux, all of original Lot 3, Block 34, City of Columbus; 12-18-95.
 Deed: Douglas H. Christalo Alex Woolridge, southeast 1/4 of Lot 6, Block 1, Mrs. B. McCarty Addition, City of Eagle Lake; 12-19-95.
 Deed: Elza Glenn Jr. et ux to Alex Woolridge, Lot 13, Clay Addition, Block No. 61, City of Eagle Lake in the G.W. White Survey, A-610; 12-19-95.
 Deed: Nalda Hunt White to Julio Arbaldo et ux, Lots 26 and 27 of the Krapke Subdivision out of the W.B. Dewees League, A-18; 12-19-95.
 Deed: Ralph L. Stapper, Carol A. Stupper Gietl and Robert C. Stupper to Veterans Land Board of the State of Texas, 10.00 acres being Tract No. 7 out of the S. Williams Survey, A-608; 12-19-95.
 Deed: Louise M. Shiller to Benjamin David Shiller Jr. et al, 252.82 acres a part

of the S.B. Raymond Survey, A-490; 12-20-95.
 Deed: KCT Railway Corporation to Michael Morales, portion of the so-called KCT Railway Corp. land being 100' in width, beginning at a point being the Northern boundary of the Southern Pacific railroad right of way, thence running in a northerly direction approximately 110' to the southern boundary of Church St. in the City of Eagle Lake, (11,000); 12-20-95.
 Deed: Marvin Onheiser et ux to Timothy L. Larson, 8.00 acres out of the Oliver Blood Survey, A-486; 12-20-95.
 Deed: Vlasta Ann Polk to Leroy James Polk Jr. et al 2 tracts of land out of the L. Pickens Survey, A-451; et al; 12-20-95.
 Deed: Zigmond J. Cernoch et ux to Edward J. Devils et ux, 0.7195 acres situated in Block 76, part of Lot No. 9, City of Weimar; 12-20-95.
 Deed: Deloris Zimmermann and Darlene Jennie Zimmermann Kubala to John W. Pezdang, Lot 13, 1.2619 acres, a part of the W.B. Dewees Survey, A-51; filed 12-15-95.
 Deed: Clarence Leroy Nelson to Shell Western E&P Inc., 10 acres being the northwest quarter of Lot 3, Walker Wilson Survey, A-602; 12-15-95.
 Deed: Paul P. Mendoza to Shell Western E&P Inc., 20 acres being the southwest

quarter of Lot 3 and the northwest quarter of Lot 4, Walker Wilson Survey, A-51; 12-15-95.
 Deed: Robert J. Lowe et ux to Robert J. Lowe and Yvonne S. Lowe, as Trustees of the Kirk E. Lowe 1995 Investment Trust, und. int. in the Surface Estate only of tract of and out of the John Tooker Survey, A-577, et al; 12-21-95.
 Deed: Robert J. Lowe et ux to Robert J. Lowe and Yvonne S. Lowe, as Trustees of the Jennifer S. Lowe 1995 Investment Trust, und. int. in the Surface Estate only of tract of and out of the John Tooker Survey, A-577, et al; 12-21-95.
 Deed: Keith L. Bavinghassen to Robbie L. Brod, 30.00 acres out of the John Henneke Survey, A-257; 12-21-95.
 Deed: Keith Lynn Bavinghassen to Michael W. Powers et ux, 49.00 acres located in the John Henneke Survey, A-257; 12-21-95.

COUNTY COURT DISPOSITIONS
 March 26, 1996
 Carlos O'Neil Tillman, Eagle Lake, evading arrest, defendant plead guilty. Court found the defendant guilty, fined \$500, cost of court, and three days credit for days served.
 Shannon Wayne Sanders, Eagle Lake, density control, defendant plead guilty. Court found the defendant guilty, fined \$500, cost of court, 20 hours community service, 90 days confinement and six months probation.

CASES FILED
 March 22, 1996
 James L. Brinkley, Jr., Houston, DWLS.
 Ivory Wilbur Collins, Columbus; DWL—open continue.
 Charles Thomas Crain, Crosby; DWL-2nd.
 Manual Vitales Gozales, Houston; DWLS.
 Kenneth Louis Harwich Jr., Dickinson; DWL-2nd.
 James Reed Hubbard, San Antonio; DWL.
 Melvin Martin, East Bernard; possession of marijuana.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
 Larry Robert York Jr., 22, and Jeanine Kay Strois, 22, both of Sugarland.
 Hugolino Medina, 32, and Victoria Salazar Medina, 32, both of Columbus.

Sheridan News

The Sheridan Memorial Library is open 21 hours a week, thanks to Jenavee Peterson, senior Texan employed for the past three years.

Peterson arrives early and stays late. Her time is not measured by the watch on her wrist. She logs 20 hours a week, performing different duties called for at the library.

This dedicated lady works the circulation desk, checking books in and out, types cards and pockets for books, gives accession number to books, helps with the pre-school story hour

and bakes goodies for the youngsters when they are having a seasonal party, helps the young readers in finding the appropriate material and weeds the library collection by removing old and brittle copies that are no longer checked out. The library is always inviting and attractive when Peterson is in charge.

Peterson calls Sheridan her home. She saw her six children grow up and attend school in this community.

Her daughters Jeanne Beaubouff resides in Pearland, Laney Vawter lives in Friendswood and Wanda Gail Moss stays in Rosenberg.

Edna is home to her son like Peterson; Clark Peterson lives in Sheridan and she lost her son Mike in 1969.

Peterson has 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Reading, crocheting, riding her bicycle and spending time with grandchildren occupies her leisure time.

Peterson has become a valuable asset to the library and the community recognizes the contributions that older (See Sheridan, Page 7)

Alleyton

Seth freshened up a little that evening and then joined other hotel guests in the dining hall. Again Jason Reddick hailed him over to sit at his table.

"Good evening, sir," said Jason cheerfully, "I hope you are enjoying our fair community and, of course, being successful in your work here."

"Good evening to you," replied Seth. "As a matter of fact, I do find Alleyton a pleasant place. As for progress in my business venture, dealing with the military is slow."

"You can be sure of that and also loaded with paper work," chuckled Jason. "Acting as a go-between with cotton planters on one hand the folks at Camp Webb on the other requires patience and certainly diplomacy."

Jason stopped short and looked over at Seth quizzically saying, "You know, I don't think I ever caught your name, although we have visited several times lately."

"My name is Hyde, Henry Hyde," answered Seth soberly, turning to the newcomer, "and I am glad to make your acquaintance."

Jason extended his hand as Adley spoke his name, and the two men shook briefly.

Adley thought Seth, had a lean and malicious look. His long, slender fingers were soft to the touch. No plow-follower he, concluded Seth. Maybe a good dealer in a card game?

"You may not recall, Mr. Hyde," said Adley slowly, "but we have been fellow coach passengers a time or two lately."

"Oh, I remember you well," answered Seth, finishing his coffee. "That skirmish near Herndon disrupted any chance for us to become acquainted. Anyhow, maybe here in Alleyton where life seems a little more peaceful, we'll have time to visit."

"I would like that very much," was Adley's pleasant retort.

"Meantime," said Seth, rising, "if you two gentlemen will excuse me, I'll head for bed. It's been a long day."

Reddick and Adley, both looking

friendly, waved him on his way.

Seth looked at the mail slots on the wall behind the hotel's front desk. He saw nothing in the one bearing his room number. It was a lonely feeling to be so far from Virginia with news from home. Besides not receiving mail, he could not even write his mother for fear of blowing his cover.

More over, in civilian clothes, he had to resist the lure of all of the many noisy taverns in his midst. These kinds of havens were favorites of his back home in Virginia.

No doubt Clem Ashby has his informants installed in these rowdy places where loose-tongued customers were often the rule.

Maybe it would all be over soon, and he could freely court the green-eyed Karma. Maybe he might persuade her to go back to Virginia with him.

It was a happy thought even if highly speculative. In fact, he might already be spoken for. Oh well, he concluded, I might as well be as optimistic as I can.

Before nodding off, however, Seth took out his cherished volume of Edgar Allen Poe and mused over the doings of Legrand and Dupin and wondered how these true sleuths might approach and even analyze his present dilemma.

Seth was up early and refreshed by an untroubled sleep. He had a full day to continue to prow around Alleyton, mostly of course to get better acquainted with this almost-new town edged between coastal prairie and riverine woodland.

In early afternoon, he looked briefly in the window of Jason Reddick's office, but not seeing him, strode on. Seth continued down the board walk when he saw Karma Bea-

con approaching.

Seth doffed his hat as he came alongside her, saying, "It would be a nice time of day for some kind of refreshment were you to have time to join me?"

Karma smiled and replied, "Frankly, your offer is the best one I have had today. May I suggest the Crescent Tea Room up in the next block?"

"Lead the way, Miss Beacon," (See Alleyton, Page 4)

By Rolin Baker - Chapter 15 - Seth Meets Karma Again



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Something to smile about!

Annually for the past three years Shell Oil Company Foundation has demonstrated its confidence and support for the Sheridan Community Park Project by donating a check for \$5,000 to the Sheridan Park and Recreation Center Inc. toward the construction project. Pictured above, Jack Vawter, secretary of the board of directors of S.P.A.R.C., gladly accepted this year's donation from Shell Western E&P Houston Central Plant employee Grace Kloppenberg. The plant, located approximately three miles east of Sheridan, is supervised by Bob Bonilla.

Photo Courtesy of Carolyn Brisco

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