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Texas news in brief

United Press International

Plano teacher is not liable for damages

AUSTIN — The Texas Supreme Court Wednesday let stand a lower court ruling that the Plano Independent School District and one of its teachers were not liable for damages for a classroom injury suffered by a student.

The high court upheld without comment an opinion by the 5th Court of Appeals in favor of the school district and teacher Becky Bales. The parents of Armstrong Middle School student Paul Diggs sued the school district and Bales for \$300,000 damages after the youth suffered permanent eye damage during an apparent spitball fight among students on May 7, 1981.

The complaint alleged Bales had been negligent in her supervision of the class. But the appeals court said a damage suit against a school board could be sustained only if a student is injured through excessive force or corporal punishment by a teacher.

Immigration officials arrest 92 illegal aliens

ROSENBERG — Federal immigration officials Wednesday arrested 92 illegal aliens and took them in a bus and two vans to a detention center in Houston.

Officials said 12 Immigration and Naturalization Service officers and six Rosenberg police officers went to a Rosenberg tree surgeon's business and arrested 47 aliens.

Another 25 were arrested at a bus stop, and 20 more were arrested at a construction site.

Comptroller says second session is needed

EL PASO — State Comptroller Bob Bullock predicts Gov. Mark White will have to call a second special session of the Legislature to raise taxes to finance educational reforms.

Speaking to a group of lawyers in El Paso Tuesday, Bullock said lawyer and doctor bills may be taxed to increase funds for education. Bullock said the new tax is needed because of a shortfall in the state treasury that he blamed on a combination of events that began with the 1982 decision by OPEC to lower the price of oil.

He said the drop in price resulted in the loss of "hundreds of millions of dollars" in state severance tax income, as well as a drop in the sales tax, which is tied to oil and gas interests. Bullock said Mexico's devaluation of the peso also hurt Texas, followed by the drought in West Texas, the freeze in the Rio Grande Valley and the hurricane that hit Galveston.

Prisoners' civil trial suit settled out of court

EL PASO — A multimillion-dollar civil trial against El Paso County officials, filed by former prisoners of the El Paso County Jail, has been settled out of court.

Seven former inmates sued the county and county officials for \$7 million for severe beatings they received at the hands of jailers. Just hours before the civil suit was to have begun Tuesday, the prisoners settled for an undisclosed amount.

The complaint said the inmates were subjected to savage beatings for three to five hours by more than 20 sheriff's deputies and jail guards. The beatings took place in March 1981 after an unsuccessful jail escape attempt. Two former jail officers were convicted last month of beating one of the inmates and allowing officers under their command to beat the inmates. A third former jail officer will go on trial next week for his alleged participation in the beatings.

Dallas utility rate cut recommended

AUSTIN — The Public Utility Commission staff has recommended a \$65.2 million rate cut for Texas Utilities Electric Co., rather than the \$304 million rate increase the Dallas-Fort Worth area power company had requested.

"This is a jolt," said TUEC Vice President Tom Baker. "If it's adopted, I think in the long run it could prevent our company from building the additional facilities that we need to meet our growing demands for energy."

PUC Assistant General Counsel Ed Pope said the staff's decision, announced Tuesday, was guided by the provisions of a new law that allows utilities to be granted money for uncompleted construction projects only under exceptional circumstances.

Neighbor indicted in deaths of 3 children

AUSTIN — The neighbor of three children found beaten to death with a steel pipe has been indicted on three capital murder charges.

James Carl Lee Davis, 21, was indicted Tuesday by a Travis County grand jury. He is accused in the March 3 rape and beating death of Yvette Johnson, 15, and the slayings of her two brothers — Tyrone, 6, and Tony, 3 — who were killed in their beds.

Davis, who was being held without bond in the Travis County jail, was a neighbor of the children and allegedly broke into their home while their mother was away visiting friends.

Nightclub has 'separate but equal' happy hours

DALLAS — A nightclub accused of discriminating against men because it provided free drinks to women during happy hour, has agreed to a "separate but equal" happy hour for men.

Attorney James Carroll, angered because women were given free drinks at Monopoly's Park Place while he had to pay for his, pushed the city to enforce its anti-discrimination ordinance.

Mike Luter, an investigator with the Dallas consumer affairs department, said Tuesday the city will only enforce its anti-discrimination ordinance if a bar patron files a complaint.

Business not so easy, director says

United Press International

DENVER — So you want to start your own business? Make lots of money, buy a fancy car and live in an expensive home?

Your first step, says Gilbert M. Cisneros, 40, project director at the Business Development Center in Denver, is many long hours in the library. Find out everything there is to know about the business.

Then get some professional advice.

And finally, plan to spend morning, noon and night on the job.

Even then, he said, you are not guaranteed of success.

Cisneros' job is to counsel minority businesses — to let them know how to open certain doors, where to go for loans, who to see for business and to tell them what they have to do to stay in business. He doesn't sugarcoat the advice.

"My advice is for somebody to

bury themselves in the library for about a month," said Cisneros, who holds degrees from Adams State College in Alamosa and the University of Colorado.

"They should study everything they can about that particular business. The library is just an invaluable tool that not a lot of people utilize. Learn as much as you can."

After the research work is done, Cisneros advises potential businessmen and women — or those already in operation and experiencing problems — to use a resource center like the one in which he is involved. It is a private company operated by Jonathan-Jacob and Associates but has a three-year contract with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"All people see is that green colored pasture out there," said Cisneros, who admits he had many of the same dreams when he first entered the business world.

What's up

Thursday

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: holds weekly bible study at 7 p.m. in room 145 MSC.

CHI ALPHA: is sponsoring a lesson on humanism at 7 p.m. in room 402 Rudder.

MSC AMATEUR RADIO COMMITTEE: will hold its first general meeting at 7 p.m. in room 140 MSC. New members are welcome.

TAMU SAILING CLUB: meeting at 7 p.m. in room 410 Rudder to discuss weekend outing to Lake Somerville. A presentation will be given on windsurfing.

Sunday

CHI ALPHA: Sunday school lesson on "The Study of Discipline." Come as you are to the All Faith's Chapel meditation room at 9:45 a.m.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION: a picnic at Hensel Park from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Ice cream, drinks and chips will be provided.

Confessed killer crazy, lawyer says

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The claims of a talent agency clerk who told police he murdered Vicki Morgan, one-time mistress to presidential confidant Alfred Bloomingdale, were the words of a "crazy man who made a crazy confession," his attorney declared Wednesday.

The real killer, defense attorney Arthur Barends said outside Los Angeles Superior Court, is still free because of an investigative coverup and conspiracy.

Barends said it was no coincidence that Morgan was killed just as she was about to send to her publisher a book in which "she was going to name government officials she was involved with."

Witnesses have testified that the book was going to be about high-level Reagan administration officials she met through Bloomingdale, a member of the president's "kitchen cabinet."

Prosecutors, who have confirmed having a draft of the book, said it contained "nothing earth shattering."

But Barends said investigators destroyed evidence by mishandling the prosecution's main physical evidence — the baseball bat they claimed Marvin Pancoast used to beat the former model to death on July 7, 1983.

A police fingerprint expert testified that the chemicals used to test for prints had destroyed the possibility of determining if the blood on the bat was Morgan's.

Additionally, according to testimony, it was at least three weeks after the crime before experts were given the bat to perform the tests.

"There is no reasonable explanation possible why they waited an excessive period of time," Barends said outside court.

"Suppose someone else's prints were on that bat. It would be a slam-dunk of this case and Marvin Pancoast goes free," said co-defense counsel Ted Mathews.

Pancoast, who has a history of psychiatric problems, has pleaded innocent and innocent by reason of insanity to first-degree murder.

Shultz wants laws against terrorist aid

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State George Shultz told Congress Wednesday the government needs new laws to "get a handle on people" who aid terrorist groups, but sought to reassure lawmakers that citizens' rights will not be abused.

Shultz described the legislation as "a balanced approach" between doing nothing in response to the increased danger of terrorism, and overreacting to it.

As an example of overreaction, Shultz cited the case of Argentina, where the previous military government is accused of killing thousands of citizens in its effort to crack down on terrorism.

Administration proposals would make it illegal for U.S. citizens to assist countries that support terrorism and authorize the secretary of state to pay rewards for information on terrorist groups.

Shultz' testimony in the House Foreign Affairs Committee followed appearances by other administration officials last week in both House and Senate panels, where they ran into widespread concern about the program.

Critics say the proposed legislation is too broad and could unfairly restrict civil liberties.

As first proposed, the legislation would have directed the secretary of state to designate organizations as well as other governments as terrorist, and automatically make it illegal for Americans to aid them.

Shultz said that has been changed "to take account of congressional comments" and now would cover only governments.

Members of Congress had warned of the problems of applying the terrorist label to groups that are trying to overthrow repressive governments.

Shultz said the legislation would not change the behavior of our pro-terrorist governments, but would give the United States a way to prosecute citizens who aid them.

"The purpose of this legislation is to give us a handle on people in the United States who are ... providing services and support of these terrorist activities. ... Those are the people we are trying to get at in this legislation."

The legislation grew out of the case of former CIA agent Edwin Wilson, who aided Libya's training and arming of terrorists. In prosecuting Wilson, the U.S. government found it had no laws specifically barring such pro-terrorist activities. He was convicted of violating a weapons export law, illegally shipping explosives and conspiring to murder.

Shultz told the committee terrorists are assaulting basic Western values and interests.

"We are now faced with a problem which is of major and growing significance," he said.

"The main target of terrorism is not just individuals but the basic interests and values of the democracies," Shultz said.

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