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**Inmate freed
 by forgery may
 face charges**

DALLAS (AP) — Authorities haven't decided if they'll prosecute Ricky LaDon Woods, a convict who walked away from prison last year on the strength of forged documents commuting his sentence.

Woods knew something was wrong when a jailer loaded him on a bus, took him on the 10-mile trip to Huntsville and handed him his release papers, freeing him from a life sentence.

"You're just as free as I am," the jailer said as Woods walked away.

Woods and his father Willie Woods, 48, are under investigation by prison officials and the Walker County district attorney's office concerning the forged court papers.

"My father told me how I got out," Woods said. "It isn't anything I had a part in."

But David Weeks, special prison prosecutor, isn't so sure. He has not ruled out the possibility of criminal charges against Woods and plans to refer the case to a grand jury next month.

Woods could be indicted on charges of tampering with government records, Weeks said.

However, a prison internal affairs investigation is complete and indicates "no evidence that anyone other than Willie Woods was involved in this," said David Nunnelee, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Corrections.

The younger Woods now waits in a Dallas County jail. He said he realized his freedom was only temporary, but tried to use the time to erase a past of juvenile detention centers and numerous charges for armed robbery and aggravated assault.

"I just tried to make the best of the time I had," he said. "For the first time in my life I had something going for me. If I got some new shoes or some new furniture or bought something for my kids I could say I earned it. I didn't scheme it."

As for his father, who has been returned to prison, Woods said he probably felt it was an opportunity to do something for the son he never really knew.

Restaurant Report

By Curtis L. Culberson
 Staff Writer

The College Station restaurants listed below were inspected Jan. 9 through Jan. 18 by the Brazos County Health Department. The information is based on food service establishment reports. SCORED BETWEEN 95 AND 100:

Long John Silver Seafood Shoppe at 1808 Texas Ave. was inspected by David Pickens. Score — 96. Four points were subtracted in the report because a rear door was not self-closing.

Brazos Landing at 103 Boyett was inspected by David Pickens. Score — 96. Two two-point violations were cited in the report because two restroom doors were not self-closing and shrimp was not stored at the proper temperature. SCORED BETWEEN 85 AND 90:

Skaggs Alpha-Beta Bakery at 310 S. College was inspected by David Pickens. Score — 88. A five-point violation was cited in the report because toxic cleaners were stored above cooking utensils. Four points also were deducted on the report because an additional hand sink was needed. An additional three points were subtracted on the report for minor violations.

Skaggs Alpha-Beta Deli at 310 S. College was inspected by David Pickens. Score — 85. Two five-point violations were cited in the

report because toxic items were stored above clean utensils because barbecue sauce and ketchup were not at the proper temperature prior to displaying. Additional four points were deducted in the report because hand sink was inaccessible. One point violation was cited in the report because a ceiling tile needed replacing.

Karin's Restaurant at 2003 4th Texas Ave. was inspected by David Pickens. Score — 85. Two two-point violations were cited in the report because utensils were not properly cleaned behind a bar needed to be in use. There also were two two-point violations cited in the report because a hand pump needed soap and paper were not in the storeroom floor. Three additional points were subtracted in the report for minor violations. SCORED BETWEEN 80 AND 85:

Jack In The Box at 1504 Teague Ave. was inspected by David Pickens. Score — 84. There were five-point violations cited in the report because a drain cover needed replacing and food stored with toxic items had no point because a hand sink was not accessible. There also was a two-point violation cited in the report because a hand sink needed towels.

David Jefferson, a registered sanitarian at the department, says restaurants with scores of 95 or above generally have excellent operations and facilities. Jefferson says restaurants with scores in the 70s or lower usually have serious violations in the health report.

Scores can be misleading, Jefferson says, because restaurants get the same score by having several minor violations or a few major violations. He says the major violations can be corrected during the inspection. Point deductions, or violations, in the report range from one point (minor violation) to five points (major violation).

Jefferson says the department might close a restaurant if the score is below 60, personnel has infectious diseases, the restaurant lacks adequate refrigeration, the building has a sewage backup, or the restaurant has a complete lack of food sanitization equipment.

The department inspects each restaurant every six months. Jefferson says a follow-up inspection is sometimes required if a restaurant has a four- or five-point violation that cannot be corrected during the inspection, or if there are numerous small violations.

Inspectors at the department are registered sanitarians.

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**Mattox says state can avoid
 daily fines on prison system**

AUSTIN (AP) — The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has agreed to hurry and hear the state's prison case, and Attorney General Jim Mattox voiced optimism Wednesday that Texas can head off a threat of \$800,000 in daily fines.

"We're very hopeful we will be able to avoid the penalties in this case," Mattox said, adding that a three-judge panel of the New Orleans court will hear the state's appeal on March 17.

That early hearing should enable Texas to obtain either a ruling from the appeals court or a stay of the fines that U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice ordered to begin April 1, Mattox said.

"Hopefully this will give us some breathing room on the possible \$24 million a month that Judge Justice's

order says will kick in on April 1," Mattox said.

The Tyler judge found Texas in contempt Dec. 31 for failing to live up to terms of an agreement that settled the decade-long inmate lawsuit against the prison system.

Justice said that if the state fails to make numerous improvements — such as building more cells and hiring more guards and medical personnel — the daily fines would begin April 1.

Mattox said he is convinced Justice went too far, adding that he expects the appeals court to side with the state on some issues.

"We think he stepped beyond the bounds of reason in some portions of his order," Mattox said. "Just because the judge says it doesn't make it necessarily reasonable. He is fallible, just like everyone else is."

Mattox said the state can make many of the court-ordered improvements.

But he said Justice has set unreasonable time limits on the state, since the budget is in two-year cycles and the economic recession has drained its treasury.

In another prison-related development, Texas Department of Corrections officials at Huntsville said the prison system's population remains below a 95 percent of limit that would halt admitting new convicts.

Monday's inmate population at 94.69 percent of capacity, 38,249 inmates, 123 short of the court-ordered limit, said Don Nelee, TDC spokesman.

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