

State and Local

Mother-in-law files suit for daughter's strangling

DALLAS (AP) — Walker Railey's mother-in-law has filed a civil lawsuit in state court accusing the former Methodist minister of maliciously and brutally trying to strangle his wife, who has been in a coma since the attack.

Billy Jo Nicolai of Tyler filed the suit Tuesday, claiming Railey "intentionally, knowingly and brutally attempted to strangle his wife, Peggy Railey, to death," attorney Bill Arnold of Dallas said.

Arnold, who represents Nicolai, said the next step was to serve Railey a citation that requires him to answer to the court.

Arnold told the Associated Press on Wednesday that process was under way, but he wasn't certain officials knew the exact whereabouts of Railey, who moved to California in November.

Mrs. Railey, 39, was choked nearly to death at her home the night of April 21. Although she remains in a coma at a Tyler nursing home, doctors say she has little chance of recovery.

"We're seeking damages for Peggy's medical bills, past and future, and her mental pain and anguish, past and future, and her physical impairment and the loss of her enjoy-

ment of the love of her children, family and friends," Arnold said.

The 40-year-old former senior pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Dallas has not been charged with any crime and has denied any involvement in the attack. He surrendered his credentials as a Methodist minister last fall, waived guardianship of his wife to her parents and placed his children in the temporary custody of friends.

Railey has said he studied late at two Southern Methodist University libraries and arrived home at 12:40 a.m. on April 22 to find his wife unconscious on the garage floor.

The lawsuit alleged that before going to the library, Railey visited a woman named Lucy Papillon.

Papillon, a Dallas psychologist, told a grand jury in July that she and Railey had dated for more than a

year and had taken several trips together.

The lawsuit alleged Railey appeared at SMU's Bridwell Library briefly and then, between 9 and 11 p.m., returned home, the lawsuit said. The suit charged that Railey then drove to the Fondren Library at SMU.

At 12:03 a.m. on April 22 — about 30 minutes before he reported finding his wife — Railey left a message on his home answering machine giving a wrong time and suggesting that Mrs. Railey lock the garage door, court documents said.

Railey took the Fifth Amendment repeatedly before the July grand jury.

Police said Railey attempted suicide 10 days after the attack and later received psychiatric treatment.

Blacks apply for job vacated by deputies who beat up inmate

HEMPHILL, Texas (AP) — Sheriff Blain Greer says he's interviewing black applicants for a position vacated by the suspensions of two deputies charged with violating the civil rights of a black man, who died after being beaten in jail.

"This is something I've wanted to do for years," said Greer, who claims he wasn't prompted by allegations of racism against the department following the Dec. 27 death of Loyal Garner Jr.

Greer suspended Deputies Bill Horton, 58, and James Hyden, 34, on Jan. 6 after their indictment by a Sabine County grand jury on charges of violating Garner's civil rights.

Greer said Tuesday that he has interviewed several black applicants in

recent weeks to fill one of the jobs, but none had the necessary qualifications.

Greer said he might hire one of the applicants as a jailer under a temporary certification, promoting him to deputy after he becomes fully certified.

Garner, a 34-year-old Louisiana truck driver, died in a Tyler hospital. He and two companions had been jailed in Sabine County on a traffic violation on Christmas Day.

A group called Concerned Citizens of Sabine County wants to see blacks on the town or county police force.

Greer said he wasn't prompted to examine black applicants for the job because of community pressure, but had been planning such a move for a long time.

Correction

In a front-page story that appeared in Monday's issue of *The Battalion*, it was incorrectly reported that hydrogen could be used to make solar cells that are up to 60 percent energy efficient. The correct figure is 20 percent, said John Appleby, director of the Center for Electrochemical Systems and Hydrogen Research at Texas A&M.

In the interview, Appleby did say that an energy efficiency of 60 percent might be attained in the future, but said the use of superconducting technology would be needed.

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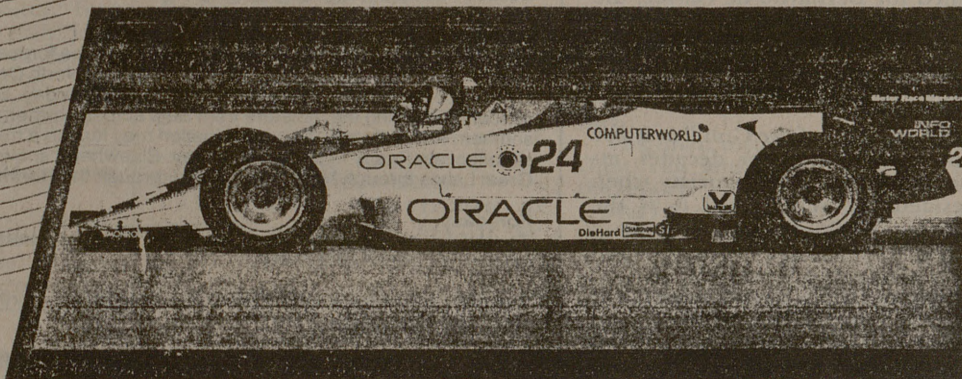
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