

Sheriff says papers linked him to drugs, files suit against five

EDINBURG (AP) — Hidalgo County Sheriff Brigido Marmolejo Jr. filed a deceptive trade practices lawsuit Wednesday against five newspapers that the sheriff said unfairly linked him to drug trafficking.

The papers defamed him by printing "false, misleading and deceptive headlines that were not substantiated by the corresponding story," according to the lawsuit filed in the 93rd District Court.

Most of the headlines accompanied articles published last March, saying the FBI had the record of a phone call to Marmolejo's home from the residence of Antonio Franco, who's now in federal prison in Texarkana on drug trafficking and racketeering convictions.

Marmolejo also accuses the five newspapers of conspiring with the federal government and the Republican Party "to politically assassinate (Marmolejo), a member in good standing of the Democratic party."

It is not a libel suit, his attorneys said.

He is seeking more than \$2 million in damages from the *Monitor*, in McAllen; the *Brownsville Herald*; *Valley Morning Star*, in Harlingen; *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* and *San Antonio Light*.

Marmolejo also is seeking an injunction to prevent the newspapers from engaging in deceptive trade practices by printing misleading headlines.

A hearing on the injunction was set for Nov. 3.

Douglas Hardie, executive editor of the McAllen, Brownsville and Harlingen newspapers, all part of the Freedom Newspapers chain, said he could not comment on the suit because he had not seen it.

"It sounds to me like Marmolejo wants to be an editor in addition to

being a sheriff," Hardie, who also is publisher of the *Brownsville Herald* said.

Ed Rademaekers, executive editor of the *San Antonio Light*, and Larry Rose, executive editor of the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, declined comment because they had not seen the suit.

FBI agents used a pen register device in 1987 to record 1,765 phone calls from Franco's McAllen residence, "including numerous calls to narcotics traffickers in Illinois and South Texas," according to an FBI affidavit cited in all of the news stories except the *San Antonio Light*'s.

The register recorded a call from Franco's home to Marmolejo's residence in Edinburg, according to the affidavit cited in the stories.

Marmolejo's lawsuit said that at the time of the alleged phone call, the sheriff was not home and he has no knowledge of such a call. Marmolejo has said he knows Franco and once sold him a tractor, but was not involved in drug trafficking.

"It is my job to know people," Marmolejo said Wednesday.

His attorney, Dan Rutherford of San Antonio, said the stories were not libelous, but that the headlines written "to sell newspapers" were deceptive.

"The newspaper tricked him (the sheriff) into buying that newspaper with a false, misleading headline," Rutherford said.

The McAllen, Harlingen and Brownsville headlines accompanied an article written by a *Brownsville Herald* reporter.

The *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* on March 22 published an Associated Press article based on the *Brownsville Herald* report.



Photo by Phelan M. Eberhart

Academic pursuits

Industrial engineering professor Guy Curry attempts to steal the ball from mathematics professor Billy Rundell (left) during a soccer game at Simpson Drill Field Monday. Several Texas A&M professors gather to play soccer during their lunch breaks.

Dallas papers continue bitter legal battle

DALLAS (AP) — The *Dallas Times Herald* turned to federal regulators Tuesday in its war with rival *Dallas Morning News*, asking them to revoke the license of a television station owned by the parent company of the *Morning News*.

The *Times Herald* asked the Federal Communications Commission to revoke WFAA-TV's license because of A.H. Belo Corp.'s "naked and unjustifiable" actions in stripping the *Times Herald* of 26 popular features it had been purchasing from Universal Press Syndicate.

Belo officials did not immediately return calls Wednesday and could not be reached for comment on the action, which an FCC official called "unusual."

As part of a joint venture between Belo and Universal Press, the larger *Morning News* won exclusive right in the Dallas market to the syndicate's features, which include *Doonesbury*, *Erma Bombeck* and *Dear Abby*.

The *Times Herald* has lost previous attempts in federal and state court to block the action, and most of the features have begun appearing in the *Morning News*. A trial on the *Times Herald*'s anti-trust suit against Belo and Universal is pending in state District Court.

"Belo has used its newspaper-television combination to engage in conduct that severely undermines competition between the *Dallas Morning News* and the *Dallas Times Herald*," says the pe-

petition to the FCC, which outlawed joint newspaper-television ownership since 1975, but allowed such ownership to continue in Dallas and other cities where it already was in place.

WFAA is the leading television station in the Dallas-Fort Worth market.

Under the joint venture announced in August, Belo and Universal agreed to explore television programming possibilities for some of the syndicate's features.

The *Times Herald*'s FCC petition said the joint venture "is nothing more than a sham to cover Belo's real agenda, the elimination of its only competitor."

DERMACARE ELECTROLYSIS CLINIC

- Permanent Hair Removal
- European Facials
- Pedicures
- Waxing

Complimentary Consultation
Nationally Board Certified Electrologists
764-9205
Cynthia K. Fontenot, C.C.E.
W. Jill Brueggling, C.C.E.
(Behind Kroger Shopping Center)
1701 SW Pkwy - Suite 204
College Station

YES! WE HAVE STUDENT AIRFARES!

LONDON \$229
PARIS \$269
MADRID \$269
ROME \$269
TOKYO \$508
RIO \$380

One way from Houston
ALSO TEACHER FARES!
BOOK NOW FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Council Travel
Your student travel center!
3300 W. Mockingbird Dallas, Tx. 75235
1-214-350-6166
1-800-777-2874

Number One in Aggieland

The Battalion

LEARN TO FLY!

CHECK OUT OUR PRICES:
CESSNA 150 - \$30/hr
INSTRUCTION - \$15/hr

FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE LOCALLY OWNED
TAILDRAGGER INSTRUCTION AVAILABLE
BRYAN AERO AT COULTER FIELD 778-6120

98c Margaritas

3C

98c Margaritas

Chicken & Dumplings Are Back!!

All Day Thursday
All You Can Eat

Served with Black Eyed Peas,
Cole Slaw, and Cornbread

Culpepper Plaza 693-4054

Call Battalion
Classified 845-2611

Palmettos skirts, three great styles at one low price **ONLY \$24**

Spend a little, not a lot, for your favorite style. Choose the flip top skirt with a pleated front and two pockets. Or the suspender look for added dash. Both in pure cotton twill. Not shown, the drop yoke style with paisley print on fluid rayon. Junior sizes s-m-l and 3-13. **Only 24.00**

Dillard's

20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

CIRCUS VARGAS

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

BRAZOS COUNTY ARENA PAVILLION
Tabor Rd. @ East Bypass
October 13-15

Fri, Oct 13 \$10
Sat, Oct 14 12:30 3:30 7:30
Sun, Oct 15 1:00 4:00 7:00
Ticket on sale at the MSC Box Office

FOR INFO CALL:
(409)
963-1912

2-FOR-1
STUDENT/FACULTY DISCOUNT
Show your ID when you purchase tickets at the MSC Box Office and you'll receive 2 adult tickets for the price of 1 on Opening Night!

FREE CIRCUS VARGAS

CHILD'S GENERAL ADMISSION COUPON

\$4.00 VALUE

May 88
Exchanged for Preferred Seats
For An Additional Charge
If Child Appears Only For 11
League Events Prior to Receipt
SUBJECT TO SEAT AVAILABILITY

GOOD FOR ONE CHILD 11 YEARS AND UNDER

FOR INFO CALL (409) 693-1912