

State senator apologizes for unwanted advances

ANGLETON (AP) — State Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown apologized yesterday to a 20-year-old former employee who complained he had made unwanted sexual advances toward her, Brazoria County District Attorney Jeri Yenne said.

Brown, the top-ranking Republican in the Senate, delivered the apology to Tiffany Black in a face-to-face meeting, Yenne said.

"Basically he delivered a letter of apology indicating he was sorry and requesting that his apology be accepted," Yenne said. "Based on the admission, acknowledgement and apology, and in deference to (Black's) wishes, we will do nothing further with this matter."

"An apology was significant, and she's satisfied that this is an appropriate resolution."

Brown also indicated he would be willing to take "any necessary corrective measures, including counseling," the DA said.

Neither Black nor the district attorney's office requested that he do so, Yenne said.

Lake Jackson police, who looked into the matter as a case of possible official oppression — a Class A misdemeanor — concluded their investigation without filing charges, the district attorney said.

The alleged incident occurred Sept. 2 in Brown's Lake Jackson office where Black, a student at Brazosport College, had worked

for about a year. She filed a complaint with police the same day and later quit her job.

The *Facts* newspaper of Brazoria County and the *Houston Chronicle* cited sources as saying Black alleged the senator touched her breasts and buttocks and tried to kiss her during an impromptu golf lesson.

Brown, who is married, said last week he was "working diligently to clear up this matter." Brown, 57, did not return phone messages left yesterday afternoon at his Lake Jackson and Austin offices.

Black, who previously said she the incident was too personal to discuss, also could not be reached for comment.

Judge delays Davidian trial

Government requires more time to produce evidence

WACO (AP) — A federal judge yesterday delayed next month's trial in which surviving Branch Davidians have sued the government for wrongful death, saying it will take longer for federal officials to produce the evidence he has demanded.

U.S. District Judge Walter Smith, who has battled the Justice Department in recent weeks over the scope of his demand, acknowledged that the department intends to comply with his order to transfer to his court all documents and evidence related to the 1993 siege.

"However, the physical transfer of control of all of this evidence will take longer than originally anticipated by the court," the order states. "Therefore, the current trial setting of Oct. 18, 1999, will be impossible to maintain."

Smith will set a new court date after the logistics of the transfer of the evidence has been resolved. But, he said the government's earlier request for a fall 2000 date was "unrealistic" and he will not postpone the trial for a year.

"We believe the judge appropriately recognized that gathering all these materials would take longer

than Oct. 1," Justice Department spokesperson Myron Marlin said.

A lawyer for the plaintiffs, Jim Brannon of Houston, called Smith's decision "wonderful news."

"That [decision] allows us more time to dig for the evidence we need," Brannon said. And, with congressional and independent inquiries under way in Washington, "we can possibly take advantage of some of that now."

Smith's order comes a day after the Justice Department announced it had removed the federal prosecutor who first raised concerns about a cover-up at Waco from further involvement in the case, saying he and his colleagues are potential witnesses in the independent inquiry into the government siege.

On Feb. 28, 1993, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents raided the rural home of Branch Davidian leader David Koresh and his followers. Four agents and six cult members died in a gun battle after the Davidians were tipped to the impending raid. Following a 51-day siege, Koresh and nearly 80 others died after a fire consumed the compound.

"That [decision] allows us more time to dig for the evidence we need."

— Jim Brannon
Branch Davidians' lawyer

Sheriff speaks on 'shockathons'

DENTON (AP) — Sheriff Welton Lucas said Tuesday that 35 officers from law enforcement agencies statewide regularly took part in illegal fishing trips to Lake Texoma prior to his coming into office.

Lucas' comments followed commissioners agreement to pay a civil judgment to Johnny Glass, a former patrol sergeant who claimed he was fired for reporting the fish-

ing trips and other possibly illegal activities to federal officials.

Lucas did not comment earlier on the fishing trips, known as "shockathons," because of Glass' lawsuit. But on Tuesday Lucas told the *Denton Record-Chronicle* that law enforcement officers "from all over the state" took part in the trips.

But Lucas claims he played no role in the trips. Glass and county investigator Paul Scott were the

only employees from Lucas' department who went on the trips, Lucas said.

"There was no way it ever happened after 1991," he added.

Sheriff's department employees have testified in federal depositions that officers used a lead wire to transmit a radio signal into the water. The lead wire made the catfish's float fill up, and the catfish rose to the surface.

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