

# Wimberley man, 80, sues current, former Hays deputies

By Patrick George

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

SAN MARCOS — Claiming he was beaten and wrongfully arrested last summer by two Hays County sheriff's deputies, an 80-year-old Wimberley man has filed a federal lawsuit against the men, one of whom was fired last year.

The lawsuit filed Friday said Robert Threadgill is suing former Deputy David Clay Bain and Deputy Jonathan Ayres for unspecified damages, attorneys' fees and medical ex-



**Robert Threadgill** claims he was beaten, wrongfully arrested June 22.

penses.

The two men, not Hays County or the sheriff's office, are the only defendants named in the lawsuit. Neither could be reached for comment Monday afternoon; it was unclear Monday whether either man had hired an attorney.

The officers were called June 22 after Threadgill got into an argument with an employee of the nearby Lodge at Cypress Falls over litter in the creek near his home.

Bain "slammed Mr. Threadgill into the ground, placed his knee on Mr. Threadgill's back, and forcibly jerked his arms for no justifiable reason," the filing said. "Deputy Ayres also participated in this violent assault on Mr. Threadgill, during which Mr. Threadgill sustained a black eye, multiple contusions, wrist and ankle sprains,

and other injuries."

The filing says Threadgill was then dragged to a squad car. Deputies cited him for disorderly conduct by profane and abusive language, and he was later charged with resisting arrest. The charges have been dismissed, the filing said.

Robert Threadgill's lawsuit claims that he did nothing illegal and that the deputies had no probable cause to arrest him for any criminal offense. Threadgill's son, 57-year-old Stephen Threadgill, claims he was also assaulted by police.

An arrest affidavit for Robert Threadgill said the two men were threatening and verbally abusive toward the deputies, and it said that Robert Threadgill moved to strike one of them. The lawsuit claims the affidavit was "deliberately fabricated."

Hays County Sheriff Gary Cutler said that Bain was fired last fall because of a separate incident involving use of force. He did not have other details Monday; he said the termination was handled by his predecessor, Tommy Ratliff.

Cutler said the incident was investigated by the Texas Rangers and presented to a grand jury, which did not indict the officers. "As a result, to my knowledge, no discipline was received," Cutler said.

Robert Threadgill said Monday that he still experiences great pain from the injuries he received that day.

"I still wrap my ankle every day so I can walk," he said. "I've had headaches ever since it happened."

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## Medical experts discuss future needs during UT System health conference

By Collin Eaton

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

To meet the health needs of its growing, aging population, Texas should add up to 1 million nurses and up to 150,000 physicians in the next 15 years, Arthur Garson Jr., senior vice president at UTHealth, told health administrators from across the state Monday.

To get there, Texas medical schools would need to double their output over the next four years and nursing schools would need to double their output over the next 14 years, Garson said. There's one problem, he added: "It isn't going to happen."

Garson was among several speakers Monday at a conference hosted by the University of Texas System titled "Developing the Workforce to Provide Health Care for an Expanding Population of Insured Texans." Professionals from the Texas Medical Association, Texas Nursing Association and other associations joined medical school administrators to discuss how to meet a de-

mand for medical services that increasingly is outpacing the state's supply of physicians and nurses.

The trend is expected to balloon with health care reform, especially when the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act goes into full effect in 2014, adding nearly 2 million people to Texas Medicaid rolls.

Texas has the largest uninsured population in the country, and an increase in physicians per person has not been sufficient for the problems of the population, said Larry Kaiser, president of UTHealth, also known as the UT Health Science Center at Houston. There were 188 physicians per 100,000 Texans in 1990. In 2010, that number grew to 200 per 100,000, making the state 42nd in the nation.

"There's no if, and, or but about it — Texas has a shortage of physicians in primary and specialty care," and the shortage could strain health care services, said Ben Raimier, a senior vice president at the UT Medical Branch in

Galveston.

Texas had 25.1 million residents in 2010, census data show. Raimier said projections show the state might have up to 45 million in 2040.

Kaiser said Texas' supply of physicians and nurses started to dwindle after the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which froze funding for graduate medical education at 1996 levels.

Garson's idea of how to meet the increasing demand for health services includes using trained senior citizens, or "Grand-Aides," to assist patients with common health problems that don't need a costly trip to the clinic.

"The public has plenty of capability to take better care of itself — to not be 300 pounds, to not smoke, to not kill other people — but they don't do it very well," Garson said. "Right now, (physicians and nurses) are doing a lot that they don't have to do. The public shows up to the emergency room when they have a cold, and they need the education not to do that."

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## AUSTIN



Ralph Barrera AMERICAN-STATESMAN

### A snapshot of success

Day in and day out, the south steps of the Capitol are a popular spot for photos, with groups of all kinds seeking out their legislators and posing for a snapshot. On Monday, state Rep. Dawnna Dukes, an Austin Democrat, joined Alpha Kappa Alpha. More than 100 members of the sorority took part in Texas AKA Day at the Capitol.

## POLITICS: Rail, district representation discussed

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for a route from the downtown area to the University of Texas area.

White and Miller cautioned that rail systems in their cities were significantly aided by private contributions. They said the systems have not eliminated traffic snarls or commutes — and were not intended to do so, and they warned that Austin should be careful about pitching urban rail that way.

However, cities should be forward-thinking, Cisneros said.

"History has been replete with cities that did not think

beyond the moment and actually stunted their growth. ... It sounds scary, but it's real," he said.

Leffingwell also wants to ask voters to restructure Austin's political system, mainly by having most council members elected from individual districts, as opposed to citywide.

The federal Voting Rights Act forced San Antonio, Dallas and Houston to switch to that system.

Politically active voters in the central and western parts of Austin tend to vote in higher numbers and exercise outsized influence in city politics. Austin voters have consistently

voted down a switch to district representation, with critics noting that Austin could not produce a majority black district and could lose the seat traditionally set aside for a black representative via an unwritten, decades-old "gentlemen's agreement."

Cisneros, Miller and White said geographic representation has been an overall plus for their cities.

"One of the major beneficiaries was the suburban periphery," White said. "Often, those areas might not have felt they had a place at the table."

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## TRIAL: Women say girls weren't alone with guru

Continued from B1

wrapped up several days of occasionally emotional recollections from the women, who described how a man they were brought up to believe was a divine being repeatedly molested them as they entered puberty.

In the afternoon, Prakashanand's defense team had a turn to tell its side. "Prosecutors closed their case today by failing to produce any evidence to corroborate the stories of the three accusers, and painting a misleading and highly inflammatory image of Barsana Dham and Hinduism in general," said Jeff Kearney, the guru's lead attorney.

Prakashanand's lawyers on Monday quizzed five women who'd had lengthy experience with the ashram, either as devotees or residents themselves, or who have been otherwise close to the goings-on at the 200-acre facility on RM 1826 in Driftwood. In sum, their recollections were presented to cast doubt on the claims and remembrances — and credibility — of the guru's accusers.

"I never saw a child alone

'Prosecutors closed their case today by failing to produce any evidence to corroborate the stories of the three accusers.'

**JEFF KEARNEY**  
Guru's lead attorney

with Swamiji," said Emily Roberts, a 27-year-old who, like the three women claiming abuse, grew up at Barsana Dham.

Prakashanand was almost always surrounded by people, said Sharilini Saknena, a resident of New Delhi and longtime devotee. She added that she never saw him alone with a teenage girl.

Alexandra Roberts, 17, said that she has been following Prakashanand since she was a very young girl and that she had "absolutely not" ever been alone with him, nor was she aware of any children being alone with the holy man in his bedroom. That's where Prakashanand's accusers have

said several instances of his molesting occurred.

Responding to questions from the guru's attorneys, Diwakari Devi, who has lived at the ashram since 1993 and who is now president of Barsana Dham, reported different furniture in different locations from that reported by the accusing women.

She, too, insisted Prakashanand could not have been alone with the young girls in his bedroom. "It never happened."

In her questioning of the witnesses, Hays County Assistant District Attorney Cathy Compton asked whether they could reasonably claim that they knew what Prakashanand was doing every hour of every day. Most agreed they could not.

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