

Two prisoners are executed in 1 day

United Press International

Arthur Frederick Goode III, killer of two small boys, died crying in Florida's electric chair Thursday less than 24 hours after Louisiana executed Elmo Patrick Sonnier.

It was the first time two men have been put to death on the same day since the Supreme Court lifted its ban on capital punishment in 1976. The electrocutions brought to 18 the number of condemned prisoners executed since 1976.

Eleven of those executions have taken place in Southern prisons. Goode was the fourth to be electrocuted in Florida since 1976; no other state has held more than three executions.

Goode, 30, who had said earlier he would "kill as many kids as I can get my hands on" if he was set free, repented in his final tearful seconds before the death hood was dropped over his face.

Sonnier, 35, convicted of raping a teenage girl and then killing her and her boyfriend, looked into the eyes of

his victims' fathers as he was strapped into the chair in Angola prison and begged their forgiveness.

One nodded his acceptance, but the other stood grimly silent. The men were allowed by the state to watch the death of the man who killed their children.

Sonnier, 35, died in "Gruesome Gertie," the oaken Louisiana electric chair, at 1:15 a.m. Goode was pronounced dead in "Old Sparky" at Starke, Fla., at 7:09 a.m.

The pudgy, pockmarked Goode spent an hour-long press conference Wednesday telling newsmen of the pleasure he found in child molesting. His last wish, he said, was to have sex with a small boy.

But he presented a different picture in the death chamber.

"I'm very upset," he said in a quavering voice when a prison official extended a microphone for his last words. "I don't know what to say, really."

"I want to apologize to my parents," he said haltingly,

tears welling from his eyes. "I have remorse for the boys I murdered. It's difficult for me to show it."

Goode killed Jason Verdon, 9, after escaping from a mental hospital in Spring Grove, Md., and later killed 11-year-old Kenneth Dawson in Falls Church, Va. He was sentenced to life in prison in the Virginia slaying.

Sonnier, in his final statement in the Louisiana death chamber, apologized to Lloyd LeBlanc and Godfrey Bourque, the fathers of teenage victims David LeBlanc and Loretta Bourque.

Bourque, his arms folded, stared at Sonnier silently.

Sonnier and his younger brother, Eddie, then 17, abducted the teenagers from a lovers' lane, raped Bourque while her fiancé was handcuffed to a tree, then shot both to death. Eddie Sonnier was sentenced to life in prison.

White pushes education reforms

United Press International

AUSTIN — Despite a continuing state budget crunch and delays in devising a specific plan for teacher pay raises, Gov. Mark White said Thursday he still is determined to push a package of expensive educational reforms through the Legislature in a special session this summer.

"The time for action is now. We should not delay it," White said.

He said the special session, aimed at implementing the recommendations of H. Ross Per-

ot's education committee, might be held later in the summer than originally hoped because the committee will not complete work on a specific teacher pay raise plan until late this month.

The governor said he would not set a date for the session nor give legislators a look at a tax hike plan until the Perot committee finalized its recommendations.

The committee released a preliminary report last month but still has not come up with a

definite pay raise plan for teachers.

"We're not going to be circulating a tax plan until we see what the costs are," White said at his weekly news conference. "We're going to get the final report in before we ask somebody (legislators) to sign off on some unknown."

"I don't think it's fair to the Legislature to suggest to them that they should agree to something before they see it in writing. Until we have some consen-

sus on some written package, then we won't be calling the session."

Once the report has been completed, White said, he would not expect lawmakers to simply pass the plan.

Legislators also expressed concern about the estimated \$2.6 billion price tag on the recommendations in light of predictions of a revenue shortfall as high as \$4 billion in the next biennium.



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-on campus delivery will be April 18-19.

Attorneys still hunt for nurse trial site

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — A defense attorney for Geneene Jones said Thursday that he and Bexar County prosecutors have not found a suitable site for the nurse's pending trial on charges of injury to a child.

Corpus Christi said no because it lacked courtroom space, he said.

Attorney Royal Griffin and special prosecutor Nick Rothe were scheduled to appear before District Judge Pat Priest at 10 a.m. today for a change of venue hearing.

Jones, 33, is scheduled to go

on trial May 14 on charges she injected 4-month-old Rolando Santos with heparin, a blood-thinning drug. The child survived.

Griffin said Priest will decide on a new site for the trial if attorneys cannot mutually agree.

If the decision is left to Priest, the law provides the new site must be in a county close to Bexar County but beyond the reach of San Antonio newspaper and television coverage.

Last month, Jones was convicted of murder in the injection death of a 15-month-old Kerrville girl.

Challenging act for bees in space

United Press International

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Thousands of buzzing bees will spend six days in orbit aboard the shuttle Challenger in a student experiment to find out if the insects can build their sticky honeycombs in the weightlessness of space.

Dan Poskevich, 19, a student at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tenn., designed the experiment as part of NASA's student involvement program.

"I never have done anything with bees," the engineering student said Thursday at the Kennedy Space Center. "I've never raised bees."

"When I first started, I didn't really want to do it. I thought there was no way anybody from around here (Waverly) could

About 3,300 honeybees and their queen will be used in the experiment. They will spend their time in space housed in a special bee box stowed in Challenger's crew cabin.

J. Robert Peterson of Honeywell Inc., sponsor of the project, said the bee box is structurally reinforced, and the astronauts will not need any fly swatters for their mission.

"Any bee that gets out of there is really going to be a terror," he said. "The box is built like a tank."

Honeybees typically build regular, six-sided cylinders as the structural unit that makes up the honeycomb. The hexagon shape holds more honey than triangular or square structures, and also provides strong stability.

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