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Fireman dies at school

University News Service
A 50-year-old utility company employee from Georgia collapsed and died Tuesday while attending a classroom session during the Texas Firemen's Training School. He was identified as Ralph Saye of Rome, Ga., an employee of the Georgia Power Co.

Saye was attending class at Brayton Firemen Training Field when he suddenly collapsed about 9 a.m. and was transported by ambulance to St. Joseph Hospital.

Officials said Saye had not mentioned feeling ill and had not shown any apparent medical problems earlier that morning.

Lockdown ordered in prisons

United Press International

HUNTSVILLE — Texas Department of Corrections officials ordered a lockdown of about 700 inmates at the Coffield Unit, where seven Hispanic inmates attacked four black prisoners with homemade knives Wednesday.

TDC Director Ray Procnier called the number of weapons being confiscated from prison inmates astronomical.

"In an average prison in Texas with about 2,000 to 2,500 inmates, to find three to five weapons would be a concern," he said.

"But this is astronomical," he said of the discovery of 489 weapons at the Coffield Unit near Palestine last month.

Procnier said he did not know if the weapons used Wednesday were missed during the five-day search involving about half the prison's 3,600 inmates last month or if they had been made since the search. The assault occurred in one of the two cellblocks searched in July.

"The staff is going to do a shake-down in that section," TDC spokesman Phil Guthrie said in Huntsville. "The rest of the prison is normal. We don't know how long the lockdown will last."

In addition to the stabbings at Coffield, an inmate at the Darrington Unit was cut on the nose and face late Wednesday morning and an inmate at the Beto 1 Unit near Palestine was stabbed in the stomach Tuesday night.

A 30-member search team is being formed by Procnier to assist wardens at the 26 Texas prison units in controlling the flow of weapons.

Warped

by Scott McCull



On the Fringe

by Fred Leonard



SHOE

by Jeff MacNeil



Jury hands down guilty verdict to Lutheran minister in Kansas

United Press International

EMPORIA, Kan. — A jury Wednesday found a Lutheran minister guilty of soliciting the murder of his former church secretary's husband in a plot prosecutors said was motivated by love and greed.

The Rev. Thomas Bird, who claimed he was innocent of both criminal solicitation and having an affair with his secretary, looked down when the guilty verdict was read but otherwise showed no emotion. He refused to comment as he left the court room.

The jury announced its verdict at 10:50 a.m., closing eight hours of deliberations that began Tuesday afternoon.

Bird, 33, was accused of plotting in May 1983 with his former secretary, Lorna Anderson, and another

Emporia man to kill her husband, Martin. Anderson died of three gunshot wounds to the head in November 1983 along a dark Geary County road he and his wife had stopped on after she complained of being ill.

Authorities allege his death stemmed from a separate plot carried out by Mrs. Anderson and at least two other men.

Jurors were escorted from the court house by sheriff's officers after telling Lyon County District Judge Gary Rulon they voted as a group not to comment to news reporters and others concerning their deliberations.

Rulon said Bird, pastor of Emporia's Faith Lutheran Church until resigning June 1, would be sentenced at 9 a.m. Aug. 30. Criminal solicitation is a class D felony carrying a

minimum prison sentence of one year and maximum of 10 years.

Alan Rees, Faith Lutheran's minister, said the church needs to know now that the jury has returned its verdict.

"We need to start acting like Christians again instead of all the fighting that has been going on," he said. "I think the sooner we get behind us, the better off we will be."

Family members of Bird's wife, Sandra, were in the courtroom when the verdict was read. Mrs. Bird died in a one-car accident in July 1983 and family members in Little Rock, Ark., have hired an attorney to investigate her death, which occurred in the same manner as the prosecution's chief witness testified Bird discussed killing Anderson.

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