

life sentence of prison activist

Court upholds

AUSTIN (AP) — The aggravated robbery conviction and life sentence for prison activist David Ruiz was upheld Wednesday by the 3rd Court of Appeals.

It was Ruiz who, while serving an earlier prison sentence in 1972, filed the lawsuit that led to a sweeping overhaul of the Texas prison system, reforms which continue today.

Ruiz had appealed his conviction and prison sentence in the Sept. 15, 1984 robbery of three people in an Austin residence.

According to court records, three men broke into the house that evening, robbed the residents, beat one of the men and sexually assaulted a

About a week later, the victims identified Ruiz from a lineup of 49 photographs. A subsequent search of his home found jewelry described by two of the victims along with several firearms

'We find the evidence sufficient to support the judgment of convicthe unanimous opinion authored by Justice John Powers said.

Ruiz had argued several errors were made that should overturn his conviction, including a contention that he was improperly placed in double jeopardy because an earlier trial for the aggravated robbery of one of the victims ended in a mis-

State District Judge C.C. "Kit" Cooke sentenced Ruiz to life in prison as a habitual criminal after the 1985 trial.

According to court records, Ruiz has been convicted several times for crimes including robbery in 1960,

aggravated robbery in 1968 and aggravated perjury in 1982.

Ruiz was the chief plaintiff in the federal lawsuit that sparked major changes in the Texas Department of Corrections. The suit alleged that the state's prisons were overcrowded, there were inadequate sanitary and medical facilities and that prison officials allowed selected convicts to supervise other inmates.

The Texas prison system today remains under federal court order to improve conditions for inmates.

Ruiz's lawyer, Bob Looney, argued during the 1985 trial that law enforcement officers and prosecutors had picked on Ruiz because of his prison reform activities.

Jacobs' Ladder

Federal Sign employees Doug Snider, on the ground, and Tony Jacobs replace a neon trans-

ing days

10

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former on an exterior sign of the College Station Hilton. Jacobs is approximately 110 feet in the air.

Music teacher adds harmony to lives of older people through rock 'n' roll

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Gary Botello beves a person never gets too old to rock 'n' roll although some individuals may need to slow

So without a fret, 34-year-old Botello has aken it upon himself to help people twice his age add some harmony to their lives by learning uplay the guitar.

The city Parks and Recreation Department employee developed a program in which he teaches four music classes on Friday mornings

enior citizens who participate in activities at e Commander's House on South Main Ave-"I am probably learning a lot more from

em," Botello said. "I have learned to relax because most of them

Botello, who has worked with the Parks and

Recreation Department for 10 years, said beginning and intermediate students usually take guitar lessons to enjoy the companionship of other

musicians their age. Ambitious advanced students learn to read music.

A guitar player since 1964, Botello said many of his students at the Commander's House are

But he admits none plays well enough to become the next Eddie Van Halen.

'Van Halen . . . I don't think most of the people here would even know who he is," Botello said, referring to the famous rock 'n' roll guitar player. "But a song like 'Kansas City' is pretty heavy metal to them.

Even though he may not be molding future musical super stars, Botello said it is rewarding to know that his classes have enabled his stuter since she's been playing the guitar But then again the future could hold some

For example, Botello never intended to learn

to play the guitar. When he was attending the fifth grade in Fairfield, N.J., he and some friends decided to get some instruments and mimic the Beatles and the Dave Clark Five in an elementary school talent show.

But the show was canceled and they never had a chance to lip sync for their childhood fans, so they learned to play the instruments for

He moved to San Antonio with his family 14

When he is not teaching at the Commander's House, Botello teaches classes for students of all ages at other city facilities. He also plays in a San Antonio band, Rich and Company.

te pretty mellow," he said. "But I try to tailor ne lessons to where their interests lie." dents to enjoy their lives on a brighter note. "Some of them have told me it helps their arthritis," he said. "One lady said she used to get

Church serves up nourishment for body, soul

annon Murphy receives the word God at the Park Cities Baptist hurch. On a weekday afternoon, ejourneys to her house of worship nourishment of a different sort. "I come here for the grilled seese sandwich," said Murphy, 17. 'm not kidding."

Hidden beneath the soaring eple of the red-brick church on orthwest Highway, a little-known aptist burger joint called The Pickck has fed the hungry for nearly years. Though the airy, nine-oth grill barely breaks even, urch administrators said they'd ther lose money than forsake their

From a cost-effective standpoint,

said. "But from a ministry point of view, boy, that place must stay open. It's a huge attraction for our young

Open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays, except Wednesday when the grill stays open until 6 p.m. to accommodate church activities, The Pickwick serves as a gathering place for mothers collecting little ones from church day care, older church members organizing visits to the homebound and the church's 65 full-time staffers, Shelton said.

People "in the business world" t place should be closed," church shops across the street. And when daily, he said.

DALLAS (AP) — On Sundays, business administrator Jack Shelton school ends, Duren said, The Pickwick becomes a summer hangout for teenagers who grab a burger after basketball in the church's full-size gymnasium or foosball in the recreation room just beyond the lime- and lemon-colored booths.

Shelton said, "In early American life, the church was really one of the central modes of life. And it's com-

ing back to that place."

With an inexpensive diner like
The Pickwick, Park Cities Baptist Church is nudging that trend along. Most of the items are sold at cost, Shelton said, and, of course, there's no sales tax charged. The 5,900also dine at The Pickwick, said Don member church, being a non-profit Duren, minister of activities, refer-ring to workers in the myriad small mately \$400 The Pickwick collects

A "Pickwick Hamburger (buns and meat only)" costs a dollar. Large milk shakes (vanilla, strawberry and chocolate) are 90 cents; coffee costs a quarter. The most popular Pickwick luncheon, a cheeseburger and french fries, according to counter clerk Lorenza Razo, costs less than

Its reasonable prices are just one reason for The Pickwick's popularity, however. Even when it's closed, the little diner attracts a crowd, said Jay Propes, who was enjoying a Pickwick chef's salad on Tuesday.

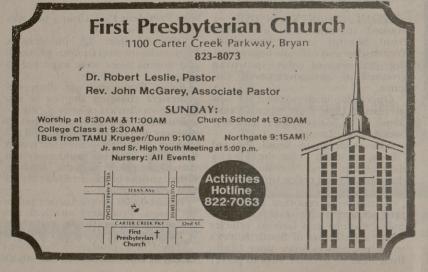
"A lot of people skip Sunday school down here," said Propes, 19. "From those stairs (leading to the sanctuary), they can't see you sitting in the booths.

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