The Battalion **STATE & LOCAL**

Wednesday, July 26, 1989

Man opens fire with rifle on police

WICHITA FALLS (AP) - A police officer died of cardiac arrest shortly after undergoing surgery for bullet wounds he suffered when a man angered by construction noise opened fire on police, officials said. Lt. Walter Tommy Collins, 52, died at about 6:15 p.m. at Bethania Regional Hospital, Sgt. Jim Ber-nethe, who heads the homicide unit,

said. The body was being sent to Dallas for an autopsy. Bernethe said Collins had undergone open heart surgery a few years ago.

Collins and two other officers were investigating a report of a man with a gun when Collins was shot in the shoulder. charges. The helicopter plucked the sus-pect from the Wichita River, which

Officer Steve Pruitt, 38, was in sta-

One officer dead, two injured in Wichita Falls gery for a shoulder wound, said Les-lie Schaffner. "He's got a serious injury, but it's not a life-threatening

she said. one. Officer Don Gossett, 35, who was

shot in the leg, was treated and released.

The suspect led authorities on a six-hour manhunt before he was ap-prehended by a highway patrol heli-copter. Bernethe said the man could face a capital murder charge and two attempted capital murder

flows through this North Texas city ble condition after undergoing sur- about 125 miles northwest of Dallas,

said Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman David Wells.

He was taken to Bethania Reional, the same hospital where the officers were treated, and was to undergo surgery for a gunshot wound to the left shoulder, Schaffner said.

The gunman fired a .30-30-caliber rifle when the officers arrived at the suspect's trailer home about 11 a.m., officials said.

"When the first officer arrived on the scene, he tried to tell the man to put the gun down and he was shot. Two other officers responded. They also were shot," said Pat Yates, Wichita Falls Police spokesman.

Witness R.J. Logan said he saw

the suspect and one officer stand 'toe-to-toe" and exchange fire. Logan said the officer was hit in the shoulder and the suspect was wounded in the side.

Authorities could not immediately confirm Logan's report.

Ann Perry, administrative assis-tant to the Wichita Falls Housing Authority, said the confrontation be gan when the man, who lived in a trailer next to the Ben Donnell public housing complex, complained about noise from a construction crew modernizing a vacant, six-unit building:

"He told them to settle down," Perry said. After a heated exchange, the suspect went in his house and returned with a rifle

Senate committee votes \$225 million for collider funding

WASHINGTON (AP) - The superconducting super collider, clearing one of its last legislative hurdles, worr \$225 million in 1990 funding Tuesday from the Senate Appropriations Commit-

The committee's action came in a unanimous vote to approve the Energy and Water Appro-priations Act. The full Senate could begin debate on collider. funding Thursday. "We have one more hurdle to

get over before we can be assured construction will begin next year," said Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas.

His Texas colleague, Republi-can Phil Gramm, called Tuesday's vote the biggest step in the legislative process for the collider,

which is to be built near Waxahachie.

"We will have a groundbreak-ing sometime after Oct. 1 on the most important scientific project to be built anywhere in the world," Gramm predicted.

Bentsen said an amendment might be offered during the committee meeting regarding foreign funding of the collider. No amendment was offered, how ever.

President Bush asked for \$250 million to begin construction on the collider, but the House ap-proved only \$200 million.

Many Texas congressional leaders viewed Senate approval as the largest obstacle to collider funding, but Bentsen said, "Things have gone better than any of us expected so far."

Inmates confined to cells for investigation

MIDWAY (AP) - More than 400 inmates remained confined to their cells Tuesday as officials investigated a weekend disturbance that ended in the first state prison slaying in more than a year.

Inmates in three cell blocks at the Texas Department of Corrections' Ferguson Unit only were being allowed out of their cells to take showers, said prison spokesman David Nunnelee

One cell block was involved in the racially-motivated disturbance between blacks and Hispanics on Sunday afternoon, Nunnelee said.

Donovan Fitzgerald Ingram, a 24year-old inmate serving a 10-year term for aggravated robbery in Montgomery County, was stabbed twice and later died at Huntsville Memorial Hospital. Twelve other inmates were injured and were treated at the prison infirmary.

Prison officials decided to confine prisoners to their cells in the other two cell blocks on Monday because of "racial tensions," he said. There

Gang-rape trials of 3 will be moved

were no reports of further violence. Two inmates suspected of insti-

gating the disturbance were being held in detention, but authorities had not identified any possible suspects in the fatal stabbing. Ingram's death was the first kill-

ing in the prison system this year, Nunnelee said. The last occurred July 17, 1988, when William Horton, a 24-year-old inmate from Harris County who had been in prison about 18 days, was stabbed to death with a screwdriver in an unprovoked

attack at the Goree Unit in Huntsville

"There were reports from the officers that there were racial tensions. You determine that by what the prisoners are saying," Nunnelee said. Prison guards used tear gas to

stop the disturbance, which involved about 120 inmates.

Inmates broke furniture and windows, using the glass as a weapon, Nunnelee said. Guards also found five homemade stabbing devices along with several padlocks attached to belts.

"It's not something we expected, obviously," Nunnelee said of the dis-turbance. "But it's a young popula-tion there. You have a bunch of young men who think they are tough. It might have been some sort of power play to see who was tougher. That happens more with the younger (prison) population."

research consortium Texas A&M President William H. and recruiting additional collabora-

Mobley joins Houston

Mobley was appointed to a 15-mem-ber board of directors this week for tion the Houston Area Research Center, a non-profit research consortium designed to serve as a link between industry, universities and govern-

ment A spokesman for HARC said they

Austin to vote Saturday on fate

tive institutions from across the na-

HARC specializes in research on materials science, lasers, high energy physics, supercomputing, geotech-nology, space and policy studies.

Texas A&M, with Rice University, the University of Texas at Austin plan to move into 1990 by making a and the University of Houston, more streamlined board of directors founded the research consortium.

SAN DIEGO, Texas (AP) - The trials of three de-fendants in the March 1988 gang rape of a Duval County woman will be moved, prosecutors and attornevs agreed. "I think we'll get a fair trial there," W.R. Hitchens, attorney for Roberto Andres Garcia, who will be tried in

Zapata County on charges of aggravated kidnapping and sexual assault, said Monday. Attorneys said the trials of Isidro Soliz and Corando

Perez Jr. will be moved to Jim Hogg County. Garcia and Perez are accused of aggravated kidnap-

ping and sexual assault and Soliz is accused of aggravated kidnapping. Assistant District Attorney Rudy Gutierrez said his

office expects the woman to testify at the trials although his office has not had any contact with the victim since May, when the last pretrial hearing was held in the case.

'More or less, we know how to get hold of her," Gutierrez said, referring to his office's working with the woman through Crisis Services, a counseling program that has figured heavily in the woman's efforts to cope with the gang rape.

Gutierrez said he will attempt to consolidate the trials of six defendants listed on two separate aggravated kidnapping indictments. He said attorneys for three of those defendants - Garcia, Perez and Soliz - tentatively have agreed to combining the cases

Duval County authorities charged 10 men and a juvenile in connection with an incident in which a San Diego woman reported that she was kidnapped from a street near her home and taken to a rural area where she was sexually assaulted by as many as 20 men.

The woman said, and witnesses later confirmed, that men attending a cockfight would not come to her aid while she was being assaulted by the men on the hood of an automobile.

Defense lawyer Jose Luis Ramos, who represents Perez, said the outcome of previous trials showed the need for moving the trials out of Duval County. The first two defendants, Orlando Garza and Felipe

Chew, were given 20- and 30-year sentences, respectively, after Duval County juries recommended stiff penalties. The third defendant, Roberto Perez, was tried in Hidalgo County and given a two-year suspended sen-tence and five years' probation. Ramos said he believes the Duval County juries were

compelled to return stiff sentences to offset the battering that San Diego's image has taken from news coverage of the incident and trials.

"Can you imagine what would have been said if they had been found not guilty? That's why we're moving, Ramos said.

TDC claims Harris County hogs prison space

HOUSTON (AP) - The Texas Harris County's get-tough crime ready has established an administra-Department of Corrections claims

policies - not the prison system - tive formula in which Harris County have created the backlog of felons. "We're not saying they cannot be tough and aggressive on crime," said Assistant Attorney General Robert Ozer. "But, if they are, they better be prepared to build some jails, to add some capacity.

felons get about 25 percent of prison beds, even though the county has about 16 percent of the state's population.

of proposed convention center

AUSTIN (AP) - Austin voters will decide Saturday whether the city should build a \$69 million convention center that backers say is a key to increasing tourism in the capital

Analysts say the decision will rest on one factor: whether voters believe is can be built without any cost to local taxpayers.

Supporters say the convention center can be built, paid for and maintained using revenue generated exclusively from convention center operations and the hotel bed tax. which is paid by visitors to the city.

Opponents disagree. 'It's simple," says Mayor Lee Cooke, who characterizes the convention center as a business investsimply a bad business deal." Under the proposal, the city plans to acquire five blocks of downtown land just west of Interstate 35. The city owns half of a block, the University of Texas nearly one block, and

private landowners the rest. If the project is approved by voters and goes according to plan, the convention center would open in July 1992. At that time, the costs would continue on two other levels: operating costs and debt repayment.

Since the beginning, debate has focused on the contention by proponents that the entire project could be built and funded with a portion of the revenues of the 7 percent tax.

that the city levies on hotel rooms. The revenues from this tax would

lose so much money that the hotel tax and operational revenues will not be able to cover the costs - and city taxpayers will end up paying the bill, probably through increased property taxes.

To address this issue, the City Council hired the Minneapolisbased accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand. The firm conducts surveys on the market demand for such projects, analyzes how much money they could bring into the community and proposes methods of paying the costs.

In the latest report, earlier this month, the consultant estimated that the convention center will draw enough business and generate enough hotel tax revenues to pay for

Harris County is hogging more than its share of the state's prison space.

Harris County officials have blamed TDC for its overcrowding problems, saying that TDC won't accept all of its prison-bound inmates.

The county has sought an order forcing TDC to accept all convicted inmates, and U.S. District Judge James DeAnda indicated last month he would rule for the county unless prison officials provided evidence the crowding isn't their fault.

But in papers filed Monday in federal court, the prison system said

In addition, the TDC accused the county of treating tight state prison space as an unlimited "free good," saying the county sentences higherthan-average numbers to prison.

TDC, which is under a federal court order to keep its population under 95 percent of capacity, al-

The county's judges were criticized for reluctance to use personalrelease bonds, alternative sanctions and community release programs, and for relying on prosecutors' sentencing recommendations without question

But county officials said prosecutors and judges have the duty to try criminals, and the state has the duty to house them.

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ment based on economic project tions. "If you think our economy will rebound, then this convention center will work. If you don't, then vote against it."

Ed Ramsey, chairman of Citizens Against Convention Center Bonds, says. "The consultant's use of outdated population growth projec-tions, which they obtained from the city, combined with inflated revenue projections for the convention center creates an investment risk factor so high that many prudent investors would pass it by. This is purely and

be apportioned so that, of every cents collected, 4.5 cents would be used for the convention center and 2.5 cents would be used for cultural arts programs and tourism promotion.

Because the hotel tax currently generates about \$7 million a year and because not all of that money would be available for the convention center, project opponents have the funding questioned whether plan will work.

Opponents say the convention center will cost so much to build and

itself





