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Texas ties 1935 record for executions

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A man convicted of killing a convenience store clerk and a gang leader condemned for the rape and murder of a teen-age girl were put to death Wednesday in Texas' first double execution in 2 1/2 years.

Dorsie Johnson-Bey, 30, was pronounced dead at 6:18 p.m. CDT, eight minutes after a lethal dose of drugs was released into his arms.

He was followed in the death chamber by Davis Losada, 32, whom a doctor pronounced dead at 7:30 p.m.

Losada's death brought to 20 the number of executions in Texas already this year, equaling a single-year record set in 1935 when the electric chair was the state's method of capital punishment.

The third and fourth executions in Texas this week also marked the first double execution in the state since January 1995 and only the second multiple execution since capital punishment was resumed with lethal injections in 1982.

Johnson-Bey spoke softly in a brief final statement, saying "I'd like to tell my family I love them and always be

strong and keep their heads up and keep faith in Jesus."

Johnson-Bey's brother, Doug, watched through glass a few feet away and tapped on the window to get the inmate's attention. The condemned man looked toward his brother and, as the drugs took effect, the brother ran toward the back of the chamber and was allowed to leave.

Losada expressed his innocence in a brief statement from the death chamber gurney.

"If it matters to anybody, I didn't kill Olga," he said of his victim.

Then he turned toward five relatives watching nearby and referred to them by name, expressing love and thanks and urging them to "trust in God."

Before his witnesses arrived, Losada chatted with a chaplain and remarked, "This is nothing incredibly special. God is with me. Everything's cool."

He died six minutes after the lethal dose began flowing into arms covered with tattoos, including one of the Grim Reaper.

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CONSTRUCTION

Continued from Page 1

Fischer also said the state has tried to make the work as little an inconvenience to drivers as possible.

"Initially, we could have had a plan where the road stayed open, but reduced the number of lanes from four, two in each direction, to two, one in each direction," Fischer said.

"But we realized how bad that would be at eight in the morning and five in the afternoon, especially for people going to campus."

Funding for the \$4.8 million project, which is expected to be completed next summer, is being provided by both the state of Texas and College Station, Hard said.

"The city has worked with the state on this, and we contributed a sizable amount of money (\$700,000) to improve College Station," Hard said.

Once construction on the nearly one-mile-long stretch of Texas Avenue is completed, the state hopes to begin improvements on the section of the road between Dominik Street and FM 2818.

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