

## Anderson man convicted for assaulting niece

TYLER (AP) — An Anderson County constable has been convicted in the 1987 sexual assault of his niece.

A jury deliberated just over an hour Monday evening before returning its verdict against Andre Ingram.

The victim, now 25, wept and clung to lead prosecutor Alicia Cashell in the hallway afterward.

State District Judge Cynthia Kent tripled Ingram's bond to \$150,000. The jury was told to return at 10 a.m. yesterday for the trial's sentencing phase.

This was Ingram's second trial in Smith County on charges of sexual assault of a child. In February, a mistrial was declared when a jury could not reach a verdict after deliberat-

ing more than nine hours.

Ingram's half-sister, Charlotte Garrison, tearfully told jurors that Ingram made graphic comments about a sexual relationship with his niece, who was 14 years old at the time of the alleged assault.

Ingram has been the Precinct 2 constable for Anderson County since 1988. Ingram told jurors he never had any sexual contact with his niece.

He testified he never saw her, except at family reunions where they might have played dominoes. He accused the prosecution's witnesses, including his sister, of lying.

The niece testified Saturday the abuse began when she was nine.

She said she was spending the week of Christmas 1987 at her father's house in Tyler

when Ingram came over. She told jurors that on Dec. 28, 1987, her parents went to work in the morning, leaving her and a younger sibling home alone with the defendant.

She said while the younger child played with her Christmas toys in another room, the defendant had sex with her on a couch in the den.

A Smith County grand jury handed up an indictment last December accusing him of a Dec. 28, 1987, sexual assault of a girl who was 14 at the time.

In March, an Anderson County jury acquitted Ingram on two counts of indecency with a child; a mistrial was declared on three remaining counts of the same charge.

The victim in the Anderson County case also was Ingram's niece, officials said.

## On the edge



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## State military base to receive \$140 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas will receive \$140 million for military base construction through legislation the House passed.

Members of the House approved a \$8.2 billion military construction appropriations bill Monday night by a 396-10 vote.

Texas lawmakers welcomed inclusion of their projects in the legislation.

"The funding will help provide quality of life projects for soldiers and their families and create jobs for Central Texans," Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, said, who secured \$53 million for Fort Hood. But he bemoaned the fact that the overall bill is nearly \$1 billion smaller than last year's.

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio, also welcomed the tens of millions of dollars in funding for defense facilities in his area, calling the money "essential to ensure that our San Antonio installations remain cost effective and provide the best education, medical, training and support facilities for our armed forces."

The money would help pay for the following Texas projects:

- \$53.2 million for Fort Hood in Central Texas. Of that total, \$21.6 million would be for family housing construction, \$17.5 million for the

first phase of construction of a railroad facility, \$11 million for a military care clinic and \$31 million for a blood donor center.

- \$21.8 million for the Houston in San Antonio racks renewal.

- \$14.9 million for the Air Force Base in San Antonio including \$8.1 million for operations facility and \$6.8 million for a dormitory.

- \$12.4 million for Dyer, Abilene, including \$9.1 million for family housing and \$3.3 million for B-1 munitions maintenance.

- \$12.2 million for the Texas A&M University at Galveston.

- \$7.3 million for the Air Force Base in Del Rio, including \$4.1 million for a consolidated operations facility and \$3.2 million for a control tower.

- \$7 million for a medical center at Brooks in San Antonio.

- \$4.1 million for a tactical center at Fort Bliss in El Paso.

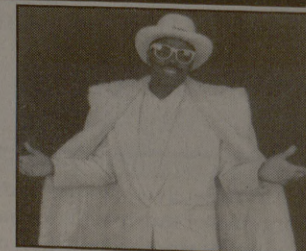
- \$4 million for Galveston Bay Reserve Training Center.

- \$3.1 million for the Air Force Base in San Antonio for operations facility.

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