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Riva trial sets tone for accomplices' trials

DALLAS (AP) — Now that prison escapee George Rivas has been sentenced to death for killing an Irving police officer, prosecutors are setting their sights on Rivas' accomplices.

"We have one down and we've got five more to go," District Attorney Bill Hill said Wednesday after jurors condemned Rivas to death for the Christmas Eve shooting death of Office Aubrey Hawkins during a robbery of an Oshman's Sporting Goods store.

Legal experts not involved in the case say Rivas' trial provides momentum for the capital murder trials of the other escapees, but some say Rivas' confession and the fact that he took responsibility for Hawkins' death could prove strong ammunition for the others' defense.

"It sets the tone from a public outcry standpoint that this is an individual who deserves the death penalty if there ever was one," said Dallas appellate consultant Robert Scott. "I think they made that case in the court of law and in the court of public opinion."

Rivas, the admitted ringleader of the band of inmates who escaped in December from a maximum security facility in South Texas, confessed

to shooting Hawkins and asked to die for his crime.

"What you call the death penalty, I call freedom," Rivas said during testimony. "I can finally be free. I'm telling you right now I don't want another life sentence."

The jury deliberated less than two hours before choosing a death sentence over life in prison with the possibility of parole in 40 years.

"This is a very easy case for the prosecution," Scott said. "Rivas is a defendant that a jury can hate."

After the verdict, Hawkins' wife and mother were allowed to address Rivas.

"You brutally murdered my child. Why? Because you're a coward and a brave man with integrity got in your way," said Hawkins' mother, Jayne.

"You have no idea what you've done," said Hawkins' widow, Lori. "And you sit there with no remorse on your face ... George Rivas, you will never have my forgiveness."

Dallas defense lawyer Dan Hagood said just because Rivas' jury handed down a death sentence does not mean the other juries will.

Mother, kids found dead in home

MANSFIELD (AP) — A woman and two children were found dead Wednesday afternoon in a Mansfield mobile home, police said. Authorities said the bodies were discovered by a family member of the dead woman.

The names and ages of the victims were not revealed.

Kirk Grable, public information officer with the Mansfield Police Department, said: "We're handling this as a death investigation," but declined to label the deaths as homicides.

"Anytime you have any type of fatality, it's not a pretty scene."

— Kirk Grable
public information officer

"We haven't been able to determine any specifics as of yet," Grable said.

"Anytime you have any type of fatality, it's not a pretty scene," he added.

Grable said police got at 5:22 p.m.

Neighbors said the victim was a boy, about 13, and a girl, about 11, WFAA reported.

Neighbors also said they were searching for the woman's ex-husband, who the children's stepfather

NEWS IN BRIEF

Suspects arrested for shipping drugs

EL PASO (AP) — Nine men have been arrested in connection with a ring that shipped marijuana and other drugs from El Paso to Wichita, Chicago and Detroit.

FBI agents and other law enforcement officials seized counterfeit money and other items at various El Paso homes Wednesday after a two-day investigation.

He said details about the suspects fit into the border traffic scene could not be closed because the investigation is continuing.

The suspects arrested in a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana were Gilberto Valadez, 56; Edgar Ivan Martinez Gonzalez, Francisco Sida Corral, 40; Acevedo, 25; Claudia Munoz, 20; Dario Renteria and Sebastian Horacio Valverde, 54.

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DENVER (AP) — Federal agents arrested a man in what federal officials say is the biggest drug bust in the community since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Three of the men arrested in a 16-year-old prison if Britney Spears' ecstasy heist is a

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KEEPERS CREEPERS (R)	12:45 3:10 5:20 8:00 10:25 12:40	12:10 10:15 10:15
O (R)	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:40 10:05 12:35	9:30
JAW & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK (R)	11:50 2:10 4:40 7:20 9:50 12:15	2:30 7:20 10:10
AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS (PG-13)	2:40 7:30 12:20	RAT RACE (PG-13)
AMERICAN OUTLAWS (PG-13)	12:25 2:40 5:00 7:30 10:30 1:00	RUSH HOUR 2 (PG-13)
AMERICAN PIE 2 (R)	11:45 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:45 12:20	12:35 2:30 4:35 7:35 10:35
ON TWO THIRDS	12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:20 12:50	SUMMER KATIE (PG-13)
BUBBLE BOY (PG-13)	11:55 2:00 4:20 7:10	12:00 2:25 5:05 7:55 10:45
CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN (R)	1:00 4:00 7:00 9:55 12:50	THE OTHERS (PG-13)
GHOSTS OF MARS (R)	12:25 5:10 10:00	11:55 2:25 4:55 7:15 10:15
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