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**FRIDAY, MARCH 1  
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## Federal court determines cause of rampage, 4 dead

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A federal court jury is trying to determine whether negligence or deliberate indifference by the city of Harlingen led to a July 1998 rampage in which four people, including two Border Patrol agents, were killed.

The case revolves around a gun that a citizen turned over to city police, thinking it would be destroyed. The gun ended up in the hands of a police officer's son, who used it in the shooting spree.

The jury of five women and one man deliberated for about 30 minutes Monday in a lawsuit against the city and will resume deliberations Tuesday.

Attorneys are seeking damages of \$40 million for the husband, daughter and parents of agent Susan Lynn Rodriguez and the parents of agent Ricardo Salinas. They also are seeking \$5 million for Raul Rodriguez, a sheriff's deputy who was wounded in the shootout.

Plaintiffs say their case may

become a landmark in setting standards on the police handling of firearms.

Sylvia Pirtle testified last week that she turned the semiautomatic assault weapon over to the Harlingen Police Department in 1996 so it would be destroyed.

Ultimately, police Detective R.D. Moore took the AR-15 rifle home, where it was stored in a safe that was accessible to his son, 25-year-old Ernest.

The younger Moore used the gun in the final hours of a shooting spree that claimed four lives. Susan Rodriguez and Salinas were killed and Deputy Raul Rodriguez was wounded while helping hunt for Ernest Moore.

Ernest Moore ambushed the three officers in a cornfield. He also died from wounds in the shootout.

"What is ironic is that a weapon meant for destruction so it would not be used for the wrong purpose is ultimately used for exactly that reason," attorney Price Ainsworth said during closing arguments.

City Attorney Tom told the jury the case was on a misguided conspiracy alleging a cover-up that didn't

He said that the had failed to prove actions led to the de

"They've got to the police chief and placed them in the p were in and stripped their constitutional tions," Lockhart said that's contrary to the

The older Moore last week that the thought it had discre weapon's disposal.

Referring to that Ainsworth said, "it's definition of disposal guests deliberate indit posal means throw aw

Plaintiffs also str younger Moore had the mental institution and tory of cocaine abuse as not ruled had been told of Moore ty for Nazi memoranda s dwindling he displayed in his

## Jurors decide Yates' insanity

HOUSTON (AP) — The fate of Andrea Yates depends on whether jurors believe she was insane when her five children were submerged in the family bathtub, one after another, until they no longer could breathe.

An expert witness for the defense will attempt to convince jurors of that notion when he retakes the stand Tuesday. The day will also mark what would have been the eighth birthday of Yates' first-born son, Noah.

Dr. George Ringholz, a neuropsychologist from Baylor College of Medicine, told prosecutors outside the jury's presence Monday that he is prepared to testify that Yates was insane when she admitted drowning her children last June.

Yates suffers from schizophrenia that began during childhood and surfaced initially when she considered grabbing a knife and stabbing Noah, Ringholz testified.

Ringholz said he made his de based on Texas' legal standard, Yates and family history and a battery of ducted on the 37-year-old former stay-at-home mother.

Ringholz said during tests he cond score was well within the range of the positive for schizophrenia. Jurors we mental illness is characterized by impairment in functioning and symptoms, hallucinations, incoherence and

Defense attorney Wendell O Ringholz if Yates had ever been diagnosed with schizophrenia before.

"Not that I'm aware of," Ringholz Ringholz said Andrea Yates might previously been diagnosed with schizophrenia because her doctors only saw her for He said without reviewing her entire might be inappropriate" to make such

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**Vet school**  
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**Rudder-Bus**  
Monday - Friday  
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