

Worthen's bid sets showdown with state on branch bank laws - Page 1D

Even Iran's enemies give money, offer aid for earthquake relief - Page 6A

Car wars: Police, speeders locked in radar detector duel - Page 4A

Arkansas Democrat

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Partly cloudy and hot today

Simmons gets wish, dies for 16 murders



DEATH PROTESTERS Dallas Stansberry, Charle Baker, the Rev. John O'Donnell, Alana Martin and Deborah Hillard (from left) hold hands and pray just minutes before the Monday night execution of convicted mass murderer Ronald Gene Simmons. They were at the injection, leading to his prison.

Injectons take 17 minutes to kill man who massacred family in '87

BY MAX PARKER
Democrat Capitol Bureau
Convicted mass murderer Ronald Gene Simmons was pronounced dead at 9:10 p.m. Monday, at last fulfilling his wish to "let the torture and suffering in me end."
The flow of lethal drugs began at 8:02 p.m. Simmons, 45, was pronounced dead 17 minutes later by Lincoln County Coroner Keith Griffin, who made the announcement after examining the inmate with a stethoscope.
Once in the execution chamber, the condemned inmate asked Prison Director A.L. "Art" Lockhart, "Shouldn't the execution proclamation be done first?"
"No, Lockhart responded. "I had to say just a few words," Simmons said. "Justice delayed finally be done is justifiable homicide."
The proclamation was read after he was pronounced dead. Simmons, of near Dover (Pope County) was executed for the December 1987 murders of 16 people, including 14 relatives, making it the nation's largest family massacre.

It marked the state's first execution by lethal injection and the first in which an inmate waived all appeals.
It was Arkansas' second execution in a week.
As expected, Simmons took to his grave his reasons for the murders, which resulted in two separate capital murder convictions and two death sentences. Eighty-three journalists signed in for the event at the Cummins Unit near Varner (Lincoln County).
Many believe the Christmas holiday massacre was prompted by Simmons' incessant obsession with his eldest daughter, Sheila Simmons McNulty, and his belief that his family was planning to leave him.
The condemned inmate was strapped to a gurney. A white sheet stretched from his feet to his gray beard, said Bill Simmons, Little Rock bureau chief for The Associated Press, who was selected as one of two media representatives.
Pope County Sheriff James Bolin and Prosecuting Attorney's See SIMMONS, Page 8A

Stoic murderer meets his fate by quiet means

EDITOR'S NOTE - The following is a first-person account of the Monday night execution of R. Gene Simmons as witnessed by Bill Simmons, Arkansas bureau chief for The Associated Press.

BY BILL SIMMONS
Associated Press Writer
VARNER - If R. Gene Simmons was scared, he didn't show it.
At 9 p.m. Monday, the curtains were parted from the WASHINGTON through which 16 witnesses peered into the room in which Simmons was to die.
He was strapped to a gurney, a white sheet covered him from his flowing gray beard to

On the inside:

- Public defender drives more than three hours to protest. 2A
- Gay residents say "don't bring to Simmons." 2A
- Tobacco crisis leads to idea of saving executions. 2A
- List of witnesses. 2A
- KARIN IV, Charlene, A copy station to interrupt for word of execution. 2A
- Russellville reporter reflects on history of the Simmons case. 2A

Russellville, nearby residents let Simmons, case die quietly

BY JOHN HANAN
Democrat Capitol Bureau
RUSSELLVILLE - There was no fanfare of "Ronald Gene Simmons" on Monday at Sims left. Many, who he massacred, and former store clerk shot two of his former co-workers on Dec. 22, 1987.
At the Public Safety and Dismantling Law, Jimmie, Seagood and Gleaswood streets, no memorial gestures were made for Keith Simmons (Kefauver), the 24-year-old, developer and repairman, killed by four shots from Simmons' gun a few minutes before the convenience store shooting.
As nightfall approached, no cars were hovering around the

property in the Pleasant Grove community where Simmons murdered 16 family members as they arrived for a Christmas celebration.
Simmons' trailer house has been burned to the ground by arsonists, and only the cinder-block chimney is standing. Wildflowers have grown over the rusty rubble, brightening a somber scene cluttered with old bathtubs, bed springs and plumbing pipes.
A few feet away from where the house stood, a child's bicycle lies in the weeds next to a deflated ball. A charged news article from the Russellville Courier-Democrat lies among the rubble, along with a maga-

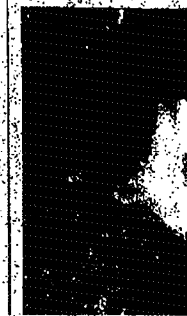
zine article about Christian parenting.
Two green outhouses remain untouched, as well as a small structure that appeared to be a doghouse or a child's playhouse, containing a few articles of clothing.
Throughout the Russellville area, there were no signs of celebration as the hours progressed toward Simmons' execution.
"Really, I put this behind me a long time ago," said attorney David Eddy, who was in the law office when Kendrick was killed.
"This is really not a major event," he said. "I think the See MOOD, Page 8A

High court upholds abortion notice laws

BY RICHARD CARELLI
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court made it significantly more difficult Monday for girls to obtain legal abortions without first notifying their parents.
The court voted 6-3 to uphold an Ohio law that bans abortions for unmarried girls under 18 who are dependent on one or both parents unless a parent is notified or a judge's approval is obtained.
And the court voted 5-4 to

either parents by getting a judge's permission instead by a separate 4-4 vote, the justices struck down a provision in the same Minnesota law that would have required two-parent notification with no judicial bypass option.
Abortion rights advocates and anti-abortion forces skirted the law's provisions, heightened the probability the high court would reverse its 1972 Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion.
But nothing in the two decisions, which required nine separate opinions and conflicting coalitions among the justices,

Fire fighting



Flag flap burns on in Senate

BY STEVEN KOMAROW
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON - The Senate on Monday debated a constitutional amendment against flag burning that was a Sen. Burgers' idea after he was killed by the gun law.
House last week but remained alive with political consequence.
Flag burning, like pornography, was "beyond the founding fathers' understanding of freedom," said Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., calling on the Senate to help send the amendment to

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