

State executes Irick

NASHVILLE (AP) — Tennessee carried out the execution Thursday of a man condemned for the 1985 rape and murder of a 7-year-old girl, marking the first time the state has applied the death penalty in nearly a decade.

Inmate Billy Ray Irick, 59, received a three-drug injection at a maximum-security prison in Nashville and was pronounced dead at 7:48 p.m., authorities said. He was convicted in 1986 in the death of Paula Dyer, a Knoxville girl he was babysitting.

Asked if he had any words before the chemicals began flowing, Irick at first appeared to sigh and say "no." But then he said, "I just want to say I'm really sorry and that, that's it."

Then the execution proceeded. A minute later, his eyes closed. At 7:34 p.m., there was coughing, huffing and deep breaths. An attendant began yelling "Billy" and checked the inmate and grabbed his shoulder, but there didn't seem to be any reaction.

Hours earlier Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for the execution, denying Irick's request for a

stay. But Justice Sonia Sotomayor issued a blistering dissent, recounting details from a recent state court trial of a case brought by inmates contesting Tennessee's execution drugs.

Irick ordered up a burger, onion rings and a soft drink for his last meal, and spoke with chaplains, Shiles said.

It was the first execution in Tennessee since December 2009, when inmate Cecil Johnson received a lethal injection for the 1980 killings of three people during a Nashville convenience store robbery. Since then, the state has endured legal challenges and difficulties finding execution chemicals, including its previous drug, pentobarbital.

The execution comes a week after Pope Francis revealed new Catholic church teaching that deems the death penalty "inadmissible" under all circumstances.

Prior to the pope's emboldened stance against the death penalty, three Catholic bishops in Tennessee wrote Gov. Bill Haslam, telling him that "the death penalty contributes to the growing disrespect for human life."



IRICK

Delicious ribs



Margaret Hobbs photo

Rebecca Barnes gets ribs to go at Smokin' in McMinnville's rib sampling event Friday night. She is served by Kevin Roberts and Tracie McCord. For the price of \$8, customers were given eight delicious ribs.



The parade is a great way to kick off Viola Valley Homecoming. Pictured is the start of last year's parade.

Viola Valley Homecoming to see changes and return of favorites

BY **LISA HOBBS**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Changes are being made to a longtime favorite event, Viola Valley Homecoming, which is slated for Aug. 25.

"The tractor pull is back," said Trent Prater, Viola Valley Homecoming Commission president. "Rather than having two separate events, we are combining everything into one day. From the feedback I've received, people like the idea of bringing the two back together."

The motorsport competition begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 for ages 12 and up, \$5 for ages 6-11, and children 5 and under are admitted free. It is a Middle Tennessee Pullers Associated-sanctioned event.

If that experience doesn't tickle your fancy, check out The Funny Dummy show at 11 a.m. The new addition is presented by ventriloquist Ken Karter, who has a whole menagerie of characters that will make you laugh. Karter has 25 years of experience and offers a lively show filled with humor and outrageous puppets.

The day-long event begins at 10 a.m. with a rich Viola Valley tradition, the parade. Lineup is at 9 a.m. at the community center. While the parade will be a showcase for a variety of entries, only the floats will be judged.



An addition to Viola Valley Homecoming is ventriloquist Ken Karter, who is scheduled to perform The Funny Dummy Show at 11 a.m.

There's prize money to be awarded for the top three floats: first place \$200, second \$150, and third \$100.

Prater said the float competition is not exclusive to Viola residents.

"Anyone can enter a float. The competition is open to any organization or individual who wants to enter. Please try to stick to this year's Homecoming theme 'Where the corn grows and the creek flows.'"

After the parade, the tiny town will explode with activity including a Kids Pedal Tractor Pull, Rhythm Express clogger demonstration, car show, concessions, balloon animals, bounce

houses, crafters, and more.

Back by popular demand will be cobbler and karaoke competitions. Registration for the food challenge begins at 12 p.m. at Town Hall. Bring your tastiest homemade fruit cobbler and vie for prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50. Amateur singers take the stage at 2 p.m. and skill-

fully contend for prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50.

The On the Road Again Show, a mainstay of the event, takes place at 3:30 p.m. on a stage in Town Square. Come watch local individuals impersonate your favorite singers. In the past, mimicked have been Kenny Rogers, Tanya Tucker, Carrie Underwood, Ray Stevens, Reba McEntire, Bob Seger and many others.

Funds raised during the event are used by the Viola Valley Homecoming Commission toward town improvements.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 10 A.M. Parade
- 11 A.M. The Funny Dummy Show
- 12:30 P.M. Rhythm Express Cloggers
- 1 p.m. Kids Pedal Tractor Pull
- 1 P.M. Cobbler contest, registration at noon
- 2 P.M. Karaoke
- 3:30 P.M. On the Road Again Show
- 5:30 P.M. Gates open for tractor pull
- 7 P.M. Tractor pull begins

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Not guilty

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Older brother David Delane was called to the stand and said he and his brother, Alex, were friends with neighbors Dan McCloud, owner of the cabin where the party took place. In fact, he said they grew up with his children. He insisted they weren't trespassing, but were merely checking on their neighbor's property and stayed to socialize at the gathering.

Both David and Alex Delane testified the alleged victim was flirty and forward in her behavior

toward Alex. Alex claimed the victim led him from his vehicle to the cabin where they kissed and touched before he realized she was on her menstrual cycle. He continually said "I did not have sex with her" throughout the duration of his testimony.

Once the verdict was delivered, Alex Delane embraced his attorneys and family with a relieved smile. Defense attorney Larry Ross along with his wife, Tami, said that was the quickest verdict they've ever experienced and were more than pleased with the results.

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THANK YOU!

THE WORDS 'THANK YOU' DON'T SEEM ENOUGH TO CONVEY HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO THE PEOPLE OF WARREN COUNTY FOR RE-ELECTING ME AS YOUR TRUSTEE. I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF MY AMAZING FAMILY AND FRIENDS. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAMPAIGNED, ENCOURAGED, AND VOTED FOR ME. I AM HONORED TO WORK FOR EACH OF YOU AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUE SERVING OUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU!!

DARLENE BRYANT

TRUSTEE

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank each and every one who took the time to cast your complimentary vote for me in the General Election. I am honored to serve you, the people of Warren County, for another 4 years.

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