

MONDAY



Central America Trade opportunities abound —Moneyplus, Page 10D



Title game Michigan meets Duke —Sports, Page 1C

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Harding dies in gas chamber

By Chris Limberis and Jim Erickson The Arizona Daily Star

FLORENCE — Don Eugene Harding, the Arkansas jail escapee who beat, hopped and finally shot two salesmen in a Tucson motel 13 years ago, was executed this morning...

nearly round-the-clock since Wednesday, failed. Harding, 43, entered the gas chamber around midnight. He was dressed only in undershorts and hooked up with three wires to a heart monitor.

He sat with his back to the more than 20 witnesses. He was strapped to a black metal chair that is perforated to allow the poisonous fumes of cyanide gas to surround the prisoner's body.

The execution began at 11:18 and Harding was pronounced dead at 11:29 a.m. Harding shook for six minutes. During that time he looked over at Attorney General Grant Woods, raised the middle finger of his left hand and extended it towards Woods.

While he was struggling against the straps, he looked over at his attorneys and one of the attorneys gave Harding a thumbs up signal. Harding was silent until six hours before the execution and his attorney and minister a half hour before leaving the cage-like cell where he was watched by two guards.

A four-person execution team, in a small room to Harding's right, prepared the solution of distilled water and sulfuric acid. One member was selected to pull a lever to drop cyanide tablets into the solution, which was poured under the chair.

Harding died after his appeals and plans for clemency, going on

General's Office said at 11:36 p.m. Anticipating a defense move, the office had already filed briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court.

At 12:31 a.m., Telford announced that the U.S. Supreme Court had unanimously turned down an appeal. By the time of Telford's announcement, the execution process had

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David Sanders, The Arizona Daily Star

Law enforcement officers check cars going into the state prison at Florence, just hours before the scheduled execution of Don Harding

Candlelight vigil is held in protest of execution

By Kim Keilher The Arizona Daily Star

FLORENCE — With burning white candles and signs proclaiming "Thou Shalt Not Kill," about three dozen demonstrators gathered outside the state prison here last night to protest Don Eugene Harding's execution.

church and civic groups — including Amnesty International, the Episcopal Diocese, and the Coalition Against the Death Penalty — in a candlelight vigil surrounded by prison guards.

"I just came for myself because I feel I should," said 77-year-old Jean Spencer, a retired dollmaker who lives in Florence.

At the protest, a sign reading "I value human life," said Miss Beel, 97, as he carried a sign reading "Athiests against Capital Punishment" on one side and "Death Penalty is First Degree Murder" on the other.

"I made a vow a long time ago that I would do this when my state decided to take someone's life," said Chip Rowman, 41, a Pima County public defender who joined a colleague for the hour-long drive to Florence.

"A spiritual connection" we wanted to have a spiritual connection with Don to show our quiet protest of this killing, said Donna Haman of Phoenix, director of Middle Ground, a prison reform and family advocacy group. Haman said prison officials would not allow the protesters to march or use a loudspeaker.

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Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart, largest U.S. retail chain, dies at 74

By Dennis Byrd The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Sam Walton, the feisty business pioneer who never lost touch with his Arkansas roots as he built Wal-Mart into the nation's largest retail chain, died yesterday. He was 74.

Walton died about 8 a.m. at the University of Arkansas Medical Science Hospital, where he had been

for more than a week, Wal-Mart officials said. Born March 29, 1918, in Kingfisher, Okla., he attended the University of Missouri, receiving a bachelor's degree in economics in 1940. He went to work as a management trainee at J.C. Penney Co., then served in the Army from 1942 to 1945.

After the war, Walton opened a Ben Franklin variety store in Newport, Ark. He moved it to Bentonville, Ark., in 1969 and renamed it Wal-Mart. Walton and his sometime partner, brother James L. "Bud" Walton, eventually operated 15 Ben Franklin stores.

Walton was a shrewd businessman who used high-tech management and lots of cheerleading to sell employees on a philosophy of efficiency and service to the customer.

"Hillary and I treasured Sam Walton's friendship and we will miss him very much," Clinton said. "He was... one of the greatest citizens in the history of the state of Arkansas."

Walton died about 8 a.m. at the University of Arkansas Medical Science Hospital, where he had been

Pleas for mercy unable to sway parole board

By Joe Salkowski The Arizona Daily Star

FLORENCE — Lawyers, doctors and friends of Don Eugene Harding dominated the first 8 hours and 40 minutes of a 9-hour hearing yesterday pleading for his life.

Doctors and professors testified that Harding committed the murders partly because of brain damage dating to a traumatic childbirth in which his umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck.

But the meeting's final minutes made their arguments moot: all six members of the Arizona Board of Pardons and Paroles approved his death.

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WEATHER



Sunny and warm. Today is expected to be sunny with northwesterly winds of 10 to 20 mph. Look for a high from 78 to 83 degrees.

Table with 2 columns: Location and Forecast. Includes entries for Tucson, Phoenix, and other Arizona cities.

Iran raids Iraqi territory, bombs Iranian rebel base

By Eric Schmitt © 1992 New York Times

WASHINGTON — Iranian warplanes bombed an Iranian rebel base in Iraq yesterday in the most serious attack by Iran on Iraqi territory since a cease-fire ended fighting between the two countries in 1988.

Hundreds of Iranian dissidents storm Tehran's embassies in North America and Europe. Page 8A.

Iran said its ground force shot down one of eight Iranian F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers and captured its two-man crew. A senior Pentagon official monitoring intelligence reports confirmed the account.

Iran's state-operated Baghdad radio immediately denounced the raid. Iranian rebel leaders in Iraq accused President Hashemi Rafsanjani of trying to whip up public support before Iranian elections on Friday.

The official Iranian news agency said the raid was in response to an attack on Saturday by guerrillas of the Mujahadeen Khalq, or People's Holy Warriors, on two Kurdish tribal settlements. The attack took place in western Iran where "several people were killed, injured and kidnapped," the news agency said.

Rafsanjani is seeking to oust hard-line fundamentalists in Parliament. The fundamentalists oppose his efforts to open the country to the West and institute a free-market economy to rebuild a nation that was shattered in the Iran-Iraq war.

Marine Lt. Col. Jerry Gersthanek, a Pentagon spokesman, said

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