

## Hillsboro man convicted

HILLSBORO (AP) — A 28-year-old Hillsboro man has been convicted of aggravated murder in the February stabbing death of his estranged wife.

The same Washington County Circuit Court jury that found Michael P. Wille guilty Thursday will return to the courtroom Tuesday to determine whether he should be sentenced to death for the killing.

Jurors deliberated about 10 hours before convicting Wille of three counts of aggravated murder, two counts of first-degree burglary and one count of second-degree kidnapping in the death of 26-year-old Brenda Wille.

The panel rejected the defense argument that Wille was suffering from extreme emotional disturbance at the time of the killing.

Brenda Wille died of a stab wound to the heart outside her mother's rural Hillsboro home where she was staying with the couple's two small children. She had filed for divorce and obtained a restraining order against her husband in January.

In closing arguments Wednesday, District Attorney Scott Upham called Brenda Wille's death "a brutal, horrible, unimaginably horrid way to die."

Witnesses testified Wille had threatened to harm his wife in the weeks before she was killed. Upham said Wille had told them that if he could not have his wife, no one could.

Defense lawyer Timothy P. Dunn, who argued for a manslaughter verdict, said Wille was so emotionally obsessed with trying to get his wife back that he was not thinking clearly the night of the killing.

## Officer who shot suspect justified

CORVALLIS (AP) — The Corvallis police officer who shot a robbery suspect six times on Sept. 4 "acted properly and with justification," Benton County District Attorney Peter Sandrock has determined.

Officer Joseph A. Troncoso, 26, emptied his service pistol into robbery suspect Olin Vance 'Buck' Cutright after Cutright pointed a loaded revolver at him. Cutright later was pronounced dead at Good Samaritan Hospital.

"The officer acted properly despite the result of a tragic loss of life," Sandrock said Wednesday, adding that Troncoso's life was in danger.

Cutright earlier had pulled the trigger twice on a clerk at a 7-Eleven convenience store, but the gun did not fire, Sandrock said.

Cutright and two women had driven up to the store about 4 a.m.

"The intent of Cutright and one of the women was to rob the store, but the clerk

wouldn't let them in because the floors had just been waxed," Sandrock said. The clerk called police, and Troncoso came to the store.

While Troncoso was at the store, a Benton County deputy spotted the car and eventually pulled it over in the downtown area, where the driver ran away.

One of the two women in the car, Lorrie Zastoupil of Albany, told officers that Cutright was armed. She led officers to the home of some friends, where Cutright had arranged for her to pick him up on the street a few blocks away.

She agreed to let Troncoso hide in the back seat. She drove along the street and when Cutright was beside the car, Troncoso jumped out of the back seat with his pistol drawn and told Cutright to "freeze."

Cutright shouted and ran. Troncoso ran after him. Behind

a house, Cutright tried to jump a 3-foot board fence, but tripped and fell on the other side, Sandrock said. Troncoso ran up to the fence and looked over.

"Cutright rolled over and he had in his hands a pistol pointed directly at Officer Troncoso," Sandrock said. "(Troncoso) told him again to freeze and he didn't respond. The officer began to fire, at the same time ducking down and backing away from the fence."

Troncoso emptied his revolver, firing all six shots within two seconds. Two passed through the fence, but all six struck Cutright, Sandrock said.

It is normal operating procedure for an officer to fire more than one shot and it is not unusual for the officer to empty his gun, he said.

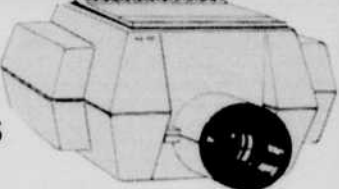
"In this case, the officer's life was at stake," he said.

Troncoso was returned to his regular assignment last week.

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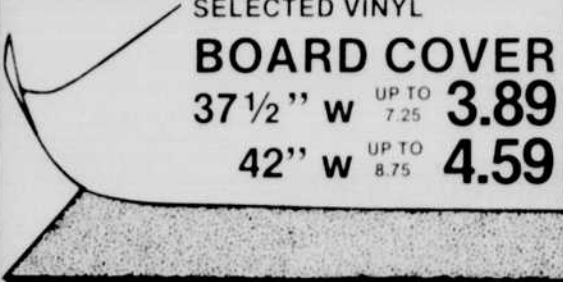
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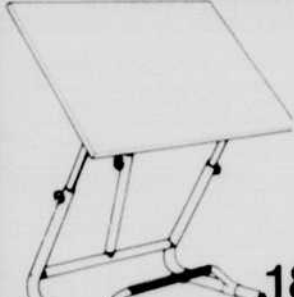
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