

Around town

Registration for Bryan Flag Football held

Registration for the Bryan Recreation Division Adult Flag Football League will end August 28. There is a \$140 entry fee. Call 779-5622 for more information.

TAMU tennis team tryouts to be held

The Texas A&M University Men's and Women's Tennis Teams will be holding tryouts Friday and Saturday. All interested students should meet in the Tennis Stadium Friday at 1 p.m. dressed and ready to play. Players must furnish their own balls. If you have any questions or problems, contact Coach Kent at 845-2816.

College Station offering Flag Football

The College Station Parks and Recreation Department is offering an Adult Flag Football program. Registration will continue through Sept. 7, at the College Station Parks and Recreation office at Central Park. Registration fee is \$180 per team.

Racquet Club sponsors Fall tennis open

Royal Oaks Racquet Club is sponsoring a Fall Tennis Open on Sept. 7 and 9. Competition is offered in 11 divisions and each player may enter two divisions. There is a \$8 entry fee for singles and a \$16 entry fee for doubles. Entry deadline is Sept. 4. All proceeds go to Brazos Valley Young Life. For more information and playing times call, 823-7891.

Contempt

Parents still refuse to testify

United Press International

HOUSTON — The parents of a teenage murder suspect refused for a second time Tuesday to testify before a grand jury investigating their son and argued their claim of a parent-child privilege under Texas law.

David Port, 17, is charged with murder in the June 7 shooting death of letter carrier Debra Sue Schatz, 25. He remains free on \$20,000 bond.

State District Judge I.D. McMaster, who ordered Bernard and Odette Port to testify, said he would schedule a hearing to have the Ports explain why they should not be held in contempt — and possibly jailed again — for refusing to testify.

"What these parents are going through is mind-boggling," said defense attorney Randy Schaffer. "The state is asking this court to compel the parents to do the impossible — to sacrifice their child."

The Ports claim Texas law provides a privilege in which parents cannot be forced to testify against their children, much like a husband-wife privilege in which spouses cannot testify against each other in most cases.

However, McMaster said there is no such provision under Texas law and refused to grant a defense motion to block the parents' appearance before the grand jury.

The couple appeared before the panel twice Tuesday, but refused to answer prosecutors' questions both times, citing the parent-child privilege, the 5th Amendment and their contention the questions were beyond the scope of the murder investigation.

McMaster, however, ruled the questions were "relevant and proper."

Schaffer said he expected the legal saga to follow the same lines of a previous appeal, with the matter winding up before a state appeals court.

"I think it will be a carbon copy of before," he said.

The Ports previously refused to testify to a grand jury in their son's investigation and on June 27, a judge held them in contempt of court. They were ordered jailed indefinitely and fined \$500 each.

However, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals last month overturned the contempt order on a legal technicality. The court said the judge should have found the couple in contempt of a grand jury — not contempt of a district court.

The appeals court did not rule on the question of parent-child privilege, but Schaffer said he would again press the court to decide that issue.

"It would be nice to know where the parameters (of the law) are," Schaffer said.

Prosecutors have given the Ports immunity for their testimony. However, authorities have questioned why the Ports did not report blood stains and bullet holes in their home or that their son was missing until police discovered evidence in their home.

Port was arrested one day after the mailcarrier was reported missing. Police say he confessed to the killing. However, authorities say the confession is inadmissible in court because it was never recorded nor signed.

The family of the slain postal worker has filed a \$5 million wrongful death lawsuit against the Ports for their alleged negligence in the woman's death.

Rains hinder, help West Texas living

United Press International

EL PASO — Heavy rains have hurt West Texas cotton, chili pepper and alfalfa farmers, but the unseasonably high amounts of moisture have been a boon to allergists who are treating hay fever sufferers in record numbers, officials said Tuesday.

Dr. Edward Egbert, an allergist, said weeds have flourished as a result of the rains and pollen counts have already picked up tremendously, resulting in record numbers of patients complaining about hay fever.

Farmers are also complaining. Hay that was waiting to be cut is rotting in the fields and cotton in El Paso and southern New Mexico, which was on its way to being a record crop, will now produce an aver-

age yield at best, said John White, county extension agent for horticulture.

"The worst is yet to come," he said. "If it gets hot and dry, we're going to have something to behold."

El Paso received a record 5.3 inches of rain during August, breaking a record set in August, 1981, the National Weather Service reported.

While farmers are hurting with the rains, allergists are busier than ever.

Gordon Robertstad, a professor of biological sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso, said his department does pollen counts three times a week and sends the results to area physicians.

Corporation bought out Texas bingo operation

United Press International

NEW YORK — International Medical Technology Corp., a defunct Brooklyn firm, announced plans Tuesday to buy three Texas companies involved in bingo on Indian reservations in California, New York and Canada.

Officials said the former medical company is being used as a vehicle to buy the Texas firms, then will change its name to North American Bingo Inc. and move to Dallas.

Paland Inc., OBO Inc. and CBO Inc., all based in Texas, will be bought by the Brooklyn company. A new board of directors will also be elected, the firm said.

Paland Inc. operates a bingo parlor at the Santa Rosa Rancheria, an Indian reservation near Lemoore, Calif., officials said.

Officials said CBO and OBO planned to open bingo facilities next spring on the Oneida reservation in Madison County south of Sherrill.

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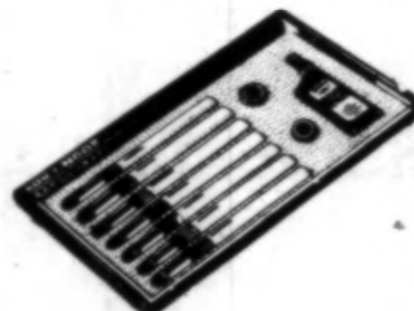


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