

# Airline request rejected

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Transportation Department Thursday rejected requests by American Airlines and the city of Fort Worth to delay a ruling that allows start-up Legend Airlines to operate out of Dallas Love Field.

Legend, which intends to begin offering service in late February, has found itself battling its foes in the courts, on Capitol Hill and with federal regulators for the right to fly out of Love Field.

In an earlier ruling, the Transportation Department held that the start-up could offer service at Love Field, rejecting opposition by American Airlines, Fort Worth and Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. American and Fort Worth asked DOT to postpone that ruling — a request DOT denied Thursday.

"American and Fort Worth have failed to satisfy the standards required to obtain a stay of an agency decision," DOT said.

"In particular, American and Fort Worth have made no showing that the enforcement of our orders would injure them. In addition, granting a stay would deny the public the benefit of increased service at Love Field and frustrate Congress' decision to authorize unrestricted service at Love Field if operated by smaller aircraft."

Legend's chief executive, T. Allan McArtor, welcomed DOT's action.

"The Department of Transportation has reminded the industry, and especially Fort Worth and American Airlines, once again that this is a federal-law controlled airport and there's nothing they can do about it," McArtor said in an interview.

The request for a stay, McArtor said, was "just a matter of trying to harass and interfere with Legend's business plan and run us out of business, run us out of money."

Pat Svacina, spokesperson for the city of Fort Worth, said Thursday's ruling is what city officials expected out of the DOT.

"It's no surprise," Svacina said. "This has been the DOT's position since they got involved in this. The real decision is going to be in the courts, which will rule in the city of Fort Worth's favor."

American Airlines did not return telephone calls from the Associated Press.

At issue is a decades-old federal measure that limits flights to and from Love Field.

Legend became the first airline to test a provision that lets carriers fly anywhere from Love Field in planes with 56 or fewer seats.

# Two dead after gunman opens fire in sports bar

SAN DIEGO, Texas (AP) — A South Texas man faces capital murder charges after two bar patrons were killed and three others were injured in a shooting involving an assault-style weapon, police said yesterday.

He has also been linked to a separate shooting that injured a county commissioner's wife.

Brian Mark Kopatz is accused of firing shots Wednesday evening inside Mr. C's Sports Bar in San Diego, about 50 miles west of Corpus Christi.

Killed were Jesus Valles Sanchez, 48, and Ana Hinojosa, 45, both of San Diego, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported.

Kopatz was arrested at his parents' home in Kingsville after negotiating with Kleberg County deputies, Kingsville police, Texas Department of Public Safety troopers and Texas Rangers.

The 26-year-old was transferred from the Kleberg to Duval County jail Thursday afternoon.

San Diego police officer Andy DeLeon said the bar's patrons had noticed a man watching another man and woman as they talked at the bar.

Soon after that, the man identified as the shooter left briefly.

He then returned to Mr. C's with an assault-style weapon and opened fire, killing the man and woman, DeLeon said.

Witnesses inside the bar said the gunman fired until he emptied one ammunition clip. The man then reloaded and began firing again.

"A man walked in with an assault weapon at his side, he raised it and started shooting,"

Lolo Trevino said, who was having a beer at the bar when the shots rang out among the dozen or so patrons.

"I've never seen him before. He did not say anything before he started shooting."

Trevino said he hid from the gunfire in a side room of the bar. He was not hurt. Investigators are still searching for a motive.

"Right now, everything is still under investigation and everything is preliminary," Duval County Sheriff's Department investigator Bruno Valdez told the Alice Echo-News.

Police were also checking for a link between the bar incident and the shooting of a county commissioner's wife at her nearby home.

**"A man walked in with an assault weapon at his side, raised it and started shooting."**

— Lolo Trevino  
Eye witness

# Jury finds 17-year-old guilty of father's murder

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A widowed mother cried out in anguish Wednesday after a Bexar County jury convicted her teenage son of killing his father at the family home more than a year ago.

"Oh, dear God, no!" cried Madeline Vaughn after the verdict was read against Brian Vaughn, 17. "I can't lose them both."

For his own part, the defendant reacted to the verdict first with a faint look of surprise, then weeping as bailiffs handcuffed him for his trip to Bexar County Jail, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The trial's sentencing phase is set to begin today. The teen could be sentenced to five to 99 years in prison for the murder of Leslie Vaughn, but juries can recommend probation.

The San Antonio criminal defense lawyer was found shot in the head Nov. 10, 1998, at the couple's northwest Bexar County home. His son maintained his innocence when he testified on his own behalf Tuesday.

From the start, prosecutors told jurors their case was circumstantial: They produced no gun, no bloody clothes, no damning DNA evidence.

Instead, Brian Vaughn's own words proved his guilt, assistant district attorney

Jill Mata in her closing argument, said.

"He killed his father that night, and he will not take responsibility for it," Mata told jurors.

The teen testified Tuesday he heard a "pop" about 1:30 a.m. the morning his father's body was found. Concerned, he gathered his younger brother from elsewhere in the house to his own bedroom, then went to check on the father. He said he heard snoring, so he went back to his room.

Minutes later, he grew alarmed when he heard the snoring get louder and "wet," so he

once again moved his brother and returned to his father's door.

He got no answer when he called out through the locked door, he testified.

Next, he called 911 from a kitchen phone, hustled his brother to a neighbor's house, and returned home to await authorities and his mother, a nurse who was working a night shift.

But prosecutors said Brian, then 16, shot his father and staged the killing to look like a break-in.

They said he threw a rock through the glass balcony doors in the master bedroom after the shooting, then took his brother to neighbors and called 911 only after returning to the Vaughn home.

**"Oh, dear God, no! I can't lose them both."**

— Madeline Vaughn  
Mother

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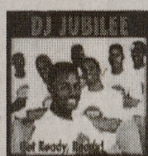
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