

NEWS-PRESS Charlotte SECTION B FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1978

Alert for suspect issued in murder case

By KAREN FELDMAN News-Press Bureau
PUNTA GORDA — A statewide alert has been issued for a Illinois man wanted by the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office in connection with the murder of Linda Pizarri.

Law enforcement agencies across the state have been instructed to hold Brian Patrick Kane, 22, for questioning in connection with the Oct. 12 murder of the 13-year-old Port Charlotte girl.

Officials would not confirm or deny that Kane is a suspect in the murder case. L. Williams Clement, chief investigator for the sheriff's office, said Friday his department is investigating "a number of suspects."

When asked if Kane was among those suspects, Clement said "I'm not excluding him but I'm not excluding any of them at the present time."

According to the bulletin issued by the sheriff's department, Kane is described as being white, 6 feet 2 inches tall, 165 pounds with brown hair and blue eyes. He is believed to be driving a car with Illinois license plate...

Drake, 26, of 1181 Orlando Blvd., Port Charlotte, is not suspected of committing the murder, according to Assistant State Attorney Gene Berry, but is believed to have made a false statement to investigators who under arrest.

Contractor says he deceived his employer

By KEVIN BLOOM News-Press Bureau
PUNTA GORDA — A residential contractor whose license was suspended two weeks ago said Thursday he deceived an employer into signing his qualification papers.



Contemplating Four-year-old Michelle Burkhardt seems to have some weighty thoughts moving through her growing mind.

Clifford Williams said members of the county's building board he slipped a letter verifying his qualifications into a stack of papers designated for routine signatures by a contracting company's secretary-treasurer.

A county ordinance stipulates that a person applying for a certificate of competency must demonstrate four years of experience in the field.

Williams submitted a letter signed by Robert Schelab, of Frank Schelab and Sons Construction Company Inc., claiming he had worked for that company from 1966 to 1968.

Thursday night, Williams said, Mr. Schelab (Robert) was signing several papers. I just slipped it in with the other papers.

Schelab said the first time he had seen the letter attesting to Williams' experience was when it was presented to him by building department officials.

"I had never seen it before," Schelab said. "I took it to Mr. Williams and conferred with him."

The result, Schelab said, was that Williams was "relieved of his duties two weeks ago."

Schelab said the letter stopped by because he routinely signs "a lot of letters in a day."

After hearing Schelab's statement, building board members voted to take no action against him.

The board upheld the suspension of Williams' license for an indefinite period.

Building Director Arnold Vervey said because Williams had falsified statements attesting to his four-year requirement, he will have to wait four years before reapplying.

Williams' attorney, Cheryl Casanova, argued that because Williams' license expired Sept. 30, the board had suspended a license Nov. 2 that retroactively was not valid.

County Attorney H. William Thompson said the license renewal period extends to Jan. 1, 1979.

City employees' petition dismissed

By KAREN FELDMAN News-Press Bureau
PUNTA GORDA — A petition aimed at dissolving the city employees' fledgling union, which was denied by the state Supreme Court Nov. 3, certification of the suit was not accomplished until June 14.

Under state labor laws, Prata said, a petition to dissolve the union cannot be filed until 11 months after the date of certification. That means the petition could not be filed before next June and, therefore, Keady's petition was premature, according to Prata.

Prata said he would have preferred if PERC had dismissed the petition based on the objections he filed early this month.

The commission will not consider any motions of a petition, however, if the document does not comply with certain PERC standards, Prata said.

Representing the union, Prata filed two motions with PERC against the petition begun by Tom Roadman, deputy city engineer.

Those objections are based on the grounds that the petition was filed prematurely and that employees might have been induced, in signing it under false pretenses.

Prata said that because of the city's suit to dissolve the union, which was denied by the state Supreme Court Nov. 3, certification of the suit was not accomplished until June 14.

Under state labor laws, Prata said, a petition to dissolve the union cannot be filed until 11 months after the date of certification. That means the petition could not be filed before next June and, therefore, Keady's petition was premature, according to Prata.

Roadman now probably will go back to the 30 employees who signed the petition and file a new petition, Prata said.

Roadman could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Prata said he is not worried about the petition for decertification, saying he already has enough registered union members to win an election "even if it were held tomorrow."

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Head's attorney files case appeal

By PETER G. JOHNSON News-Press Bureau
PUNTA GORDA — The attorney for Anthony Head has filed a notice to appeal the conviction and subsequent sentencing of the North Port teenager.

No grounds for the appeal were included with the notice and the attorney, Assistant Public Defender Stephen Widener, would not comment on the issues he wants reviewed by a higher court.

Widener said the public defender's office in Lakeland will handle the appeal and will prepare the list of grounds that the appeal will be based on.

In September, 16-year-old Head was convicted of brutally beating an 85-year-old Englewood woman and was sentenced to serve 114 years in prison.

Circuit Judge James R. Adams, who handed down the stiff sentence, justified it by saying "I see no hope for rehabilitation" for the teen-ager.

Adams told the boy the beating of Mercedes Frank was "the most brutal, the most senseless, dumb and stupid crime I've ever seen committed."

"I was very little if any, hope for you on the street," Adams said.

Head was sentenced to 99 years in prison for "harboring of an occupied dwelling with the intent to commit assault, an offense that carries a maximum penalty of life in prison."

He also was sentenced to 15 years for aggravated assault, the maximum penalty for the second degree felony.

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Dial-a-ride system for county elderly under way

By KEVIN BLOOM News-Press Bureau
PUNTA GORDA — A dial-a-ride system for Charlotte County residents over 60 years-old should be operational within two weeks.

Because the program is funded under a Title III grant from the federal government, charges can not assessed for the service.

But, Mrs. Morgan said recipients will be advised of the cost — \$1.60 per ride — and can make donations at their option.

Registration for the service is being held at the three locations of the county library.

Applicants will receive a card of tickets, which are given to the driver of the vehicle.

Mrs. Morgan said the service will be subcontracted through a local taxi company.

High school seniors to donate blood

News-Press Bureau
PUNTA GORDA — With the need for blood increasing daily in Charlotte County, more than 80 Charlotte High School seniors will donate some of their own.

According to Jane Barnes, director of public relations for the Kidney Regional Blood Center, the need for additional donors increases daily as the population of the county increases.

"We've been using unusual amounts of blood in recent months," she said. "All the county hospitals require more blood and it's local residents who must fill it."

The Charlotte County Blood Center, a branch of the Edison center, will send a mobile unit to Charlotte High School next Wednesday where

seniors who registered will donate blood.

Anyone 17 years of age or older and weighing more than 100 pounds is eligible to give blood, Mrs. Barnes said.

She added that the mobile unit will only can accommodate 75 persons a day so a second date will be set for those who cannot be taken Wednesday.

The 1978 senior class is establishing the first Charlotte High School Blood Group Credit Plus for students and their families in connection with the planned donation.

Dr. Raymond Whitted, the school principal, will be the first volunteer blood donor to kick off the Turpin Blood Drive the day before Thanksgiving.

Anyone interested in donating blood can contact the Charlotte Blood Center at 625-1874.

When this happens, he said, interest rates normally rise and loans are hard to come by.

With the commitment to have funds available at a set interest rate, Avella said he is optimistic that General Development will be able to weather any slowdown in the economy.

General Development head gives optimistic report

By PETER G. JOHNSON News-Press Bureau
PUNTA GORDA — Despite predictions of an economic recession next year, the president of General Development Corp. (GDC) guarantees his company's customers will find money available to build homes.

William R. Avella, who was attending a company awards banquet in Port Charlotte Thursday, said GDC officials have secured commitments from financial institutions to provide mortgage loans at a fixed rate for all of 1979.

"We have anticipated a slowing down of the economy and rising interest rates and have prepared for them," he said.

Avella said in August company officials decided "to take a gamble" and get mortgage commitments for all of 1979.

"We now have all our mortgage funds in fixed rates for all of 1979," Avella said. "Back in August it looked like the rates were a little high but now they look pretty good."

Don Denton, general manager of GDC's Charlotte County interests, explained that "a consortium of financial institutions" have guaranteed to provide General Development with money at a set interest rate over the upcoming year.

Inside Today's B-Section

DAMAGES ARE estimated at \$1 million in a protracted fire that gutted a two-story restaurant lounge at a motel resort on the Gulf of Mexico. 7B

A FREELANCE writer for New Times magazine says he was able to get into the Lane County jail and interview accused murderer Theodore Robert Bundy — right under the nose of Sheriff Kim Kansasi. 11B

PENSACOLA POLICE still are trying to definitively identify a body found in an open field. But a spokesman says they are reasonably certain it is that of a 5-year-old girl who "vanished" from her nearby apartment three months ago. 11B