

HERALD

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MEMORIAL DAY
May 25, 1998

50 cents

Taco Villa, BSPD combine to ID youngsters at Kid's Day

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

It's not something parents who participated in Saturday's Taco Villa Kid's Day want to ever have to use, but should something ever happen to their children, the Big Spring Police Department (BSPD) will have a head start.

Dozens of parents and children turned out Saturday afternoon to have a videotape made of their children and had children fingerprinted so that if the unthinkable does happen, the police have a video record as well as fingerprints of their children.

The entire atmosphere was fun and festive, but for the BSPD personnel videotaping and fingerprinting children, Saturday was well worth the time and effort, especially when it comes to the safety of children.

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Children of all ages were videotaped and fingerprinted, including Gloria Olivares. Irene Flores took Gloria to Taco Villa to be videotaped and fingerprinted and said she never gave it a second thought. "If something should ever happen, this is a way to help the police," Flores said. Taco Villa decided to get involved because the end of school means more children will be out and about during the summer months and a little extra precaution never hurts. "We decided that with summer coming on, now is the time to do this kind of safeguard," Taco Villa manager Teri Ossorio said. "I think it's wonderful that the police department has so many volunteers out to

do this. The community really came out today and made this very successful."

"This is the way to protect our children," Ossorio said.

BSPD Crime Scene ID Technician Wayne Jones said what Saturday's event does is identify the child and gives the BSPD a video reference.

"What we get is the child's name, age and approximate height," Jones said. "Fingerprints are helpful to us if we're at a crime scene."

"Parents get to keep the videotapes and we can update them each year when we do this program," Jones added.

Today, computer technology can enhance a photo and give police a pretty good estimate as to what a person looks like several years after a photo has been taken, but with the videotape, police have an actual photo identification of the child.

Fly your flag!



MEMORIAL DAY 1998

11 A.M. — F-4E PHANTOM DEDICATION, VIETNAM
MEMORIAL, CORNER OF SWORDS AND RACKLEY, AS
TRIBUTE IS PAID TO THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

DPS says take precautions, not chances

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

Thirty people are predicted to lose their lives on Texas highways this Memorial Day weekend, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), but DPS officials are hoping people will take all of the necessary precautions to keep that prediction from coming true.

The DPS's Operation Motorside program began at 6 p.m. Friday and continues through midnight tonight.

One of the ways DPS officials are hoping to decrease the number of traffic-related injuries this weekend, which is a four-day weekend for many, is by pushing motorists to buckle up.

"The easiest way to protect yourself and your family from traffic-related injuries is to make sure everyone is properly restrained," Assistant DPS Director Lt. Col. Thomas A. Davis said Thursday. "All it takes is the click of a buckle. It's quick, it's easy and once you get into the habit, it becomes second nature."

This Memorial Day weekend falls during a special nationwide enforcement project aimed at increasing the use of seat belts and child safety seats.

According to DPS officials in Midland, the effort which will continue through May 31, is associated with the Buckle Up America campaign.

Every available trooper will

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F-4E Phantom dedicated at Memorial



HERALD photo/Linda Choate

The Big Spring Vietnam Memorial Committee today dedicated the F-4E Phantom jet at the Vietnam Memorial, located at the corner of Swords and Rackley. The F-4E was obtained from Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls and transported to Big Spring last Dec. 7. It joins the UH-1 Huey helicopter, dedicated last Memorial Day. The Memorial itself was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1991.

Approximately 1,000 persons were expected to turn out this morning as members of the Vietnam Memorial Committee dedicated F-4E Phantom II Tail No. 368 as part of the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial.

The huge warbird, which drew heavy duty during the United States' involvement in Southeast Asia, weighs 19,000 pounds.

The steel pedestal to which it is mounted weighs another 13,000 pounds while nearly 200,000 pounds of concrete was

used for the foundation at the Memorial, located at Swords and Rackley, just east of the campus of the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.

The F-4E joins the UH-1 Huey helicopter, dedicated last Memorial Day.

Brig. Gen. Michael C. McMahan was to be the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

McMahan, now commander of the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, served in Southeast Asia from June 1972 until April 1973.

He was an OV-10 forward air controller assigned to the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron, Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam and to the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron, Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand.

Color Guard for today's dedication was provided by Co. B of the Texas Army National Guard.

Buglers performing echo Taps at the ceremony were Jose Gonzales and Diane Livengood.

Rev. Flynn Long performed Amazing Grace on bagpipes.

Routine traffic stop reveals cash, marijuana

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

As if Operation Motorside was not enough to keep Department of Public Safety officials busy this weekend, a routine traffic stop on U.S. Highway 87 Friday, just south of Big Spring and developments from last Tuesday's fatal accident on Highway 349, have yielded a few surprises.

Friday, DPS troopers stopped a pickup pulling a boat and during subsequent questioning of the two men, both Hispanic, troopers discovered \$5,500 in cash and about 40 pounds of marijuana along with drug paraphernalia and drug packaging materials.

The unidentified driver had

been previously arrested in Martin County for carrying two and a half pounds of marijuana by one of the DPS troopers making the South 87 stop.

Further details were not available at press time, but speculation from one of the two troopers at the stop was that the passenger in the pickup was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Also, troopers discovered that last Tuesday afternoon's accident on Highway 349, 18 miles north of Midland, just outside the Howard County line in Martin County was not just a matter of a 20-year old Odessa man not seeing a parked 18-wheeler before slamming into it.

When phones started to ring and people began asking questions about the wrecked car,

employees of B&B Wrecker and Recovery in Midland became suspicious.

Alfredo Rodriguez was killed after slamming his 1990 model vehicle into an 18-wheeler driven by Kevin McCallister of DeWitt, Ark.

McCallister had stopped for a survey crew when Rodriguez's car ran under the truck.

The mystery surrounding the accident began when B&B began receiving numerous phone calls concerning the status of the Saturn.

Police now believe that those inquiries may have had something to do with \$120,000 in cash that was found throughout the vehicle as a result of B&B becoming suspicious and calling the Department of Public Safety.

Big Spring man arrested for murder of girlfriend

By **JOHN H. WALKER**
Managing Editor

Juan Ruben Gaitan, 27, is being held without bail today after being charged with the murder of 20-year-old Barbara Irene Villegas.

Villegas, who was said to have been Gaitan's girlfriend, was found in an out building at 1302 Wood St. after a search of the property by police.

According to police reports, Villegas' mother reported her missing at 10:24 p.m. Saturday. At that time, police officer Steve Wright and detective Charlie Calvert went to the residence, where they made contact with Gaitan in an attempt

to either locate Villegas or gather more information into her disappearance.

It was then that Gaitan gave officers written permission to search the residence and property and the body was found in what was described as a garage in the offense report.

Villegas was pronounced dead at 11:15 p.m. by Peace Justice Marilyn Carson, who ordered an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

The police report indicated there were no visible wounds to the body and that death was caused by strangulation.

The murder was the first in Howard County since a drive-by shooting on Big Spring's north side on Sept. 5, 1996.

WEATHER

Today: Today and tonight, mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Low around 60. East wind 5-15 mph. Tuesday, partly cloudy with a slight chance of thunderstorms, high in the lower 90s. South to southeast wind 10-20 mph. Chance of rain less than 20 percent.

Tues: Wed: Thur:

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To reach all departments, please call 263-7331

BSPD officers to join in Special Olympics Torch Run

By **KATHY GILBERT**
Staff Writer

Big Spring police officers will join more than 600 other Texas law enforcement officers in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for the 1998 Special Olympics Texas games Tuesday through Sunday.

The run has raised more than \$800,000 for Special Olympics so far, Raquel Espinoza, spokeswoman for Special Olympics Texas said.

Officers will be carrying the "Flame of Hope" from their local

towns to Houston, a total journey of more than 3,000 miles, she added.

Nearly one thousand officers used vacation and personal time to organize and participate in the event, she added.

Big Spring team members will meet up with law enforcement officers from Amarillo, Odessa and Midland at 10th and Lamesa Highway between 11 and 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, event organizer Lupe Liedecke said.

They will run south on Gregg, then turn on Fourth Street. A press conference will be held

on the steps of the courthouse.

From there Big Spring's four team members will leapfrog all the way to Austin, said Liedecke. At least one person will be on foot, on bicycle, and in a vehicle at all times.

Officers will join up south through Big Spring on Gregg Street to San Angelo, then travel to Brady, and then on to Austin.

They will drive from Austin to Houston, where they will participate in uniform in Special Olympics opening ceremonies.

"We'll meet up with people

from all over Texas," Liedecke said. "You get to run a lot, and it's a lot of fun."

Last year the Midland Police Department adopted the Big Spring team members, providing T-shirts and logistical support.

This year Big Spring will have its own T-shirts, and raise some of the funds themselves. Next year, the team plans to do its own local fundraising events.

Javier Becerra, John Stowers,

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Veteran fights property owners association over right to fly American flag

CONROE (AP) — A man who was in the U.S. military during World War II and Korea is fighting one last battle for his flag.

Carl Ragsdale, a retired Navy captain who was in the military for 42 years, is battling the Property Owners Association of Bentwater on Lake Conroe over whether he can erect a flag pole in his front yard so that he can display the flag he fought for.

And he's not about to surrender without a fight.

Ragsdale and his wife, Diane, are battling with the Architectural Control

Committee of the Property Owners Association at the exclusive subdivision, where homes regularly sell for a half million dollars and up.

"I'm a veteran of the second World War and Korea and I and a lot of other people shed blood under color of this flag," he told the (Conroe) Courier. "We revere it."

Cullum Heard, president of the property owner's association and an employee of the Bentwater developer, said the committee's concern is not with the flag itself.

They object to the pole being

installed on a homeowner's lot. "If you want to fly a flag from a pole on your house, that's no problem," Heard said.

Ragsdale has refused so far to comply with the committee's request that he take down the pole.

Property owners fear that allowing poles in the ground will lead to a cluttered look as well as to legal problems. "And certainly," Heard said, "the association wants to maintain" the aesthetically pleasing look of the subdivision.

Heard also said the association

would have no grounds for prohibiting other flags if the rules are broken for the American flag.

"I'm proud of the flag and I fly it at my own home," Heard said. But he displays the flag from a pole on his house, not one installed in his yard.

"Once you allow one, then anybody can do it regardless of the type of flag," Mark Markel, an attorney for the association, did not return calls.

If flags could be limited only to the American flag, Heard said he personally would have no objection.

"But there are three other committee

members," he said. Charles R. Kaufmann, who represents Ragsdale, said the objection to the poles is "silly."

"There is nothing in the deed restriction that precludes having a fixed pole," he said. "The architectural committee is relying on a provision that requires approval for building plans."

Heard said it wouldn't be appropriate for home after home to have a flagpole in the front yard.

A deed restriction dispute could be heard in either justice of the peace or state district court.


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Sonic Drive-In 1200 Gregg St. 267-6790	Scenic Mountain Medical Center Home Health 600 Main St. 267-1314	Lee's Rental Center & Self Storage 1606 E. FM 700 263-6925	87 Auto Sales 210 Gregg St. 263-2382	Big Spring Mall 1801 E. FM 700 267-3853	Texas RV Park 4100 S. Hwy. 87 267-7900
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Memorial Day




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—lest we forget

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We pledge to remember their service and sacrifice, which was made for each of us and for the future of our nation.



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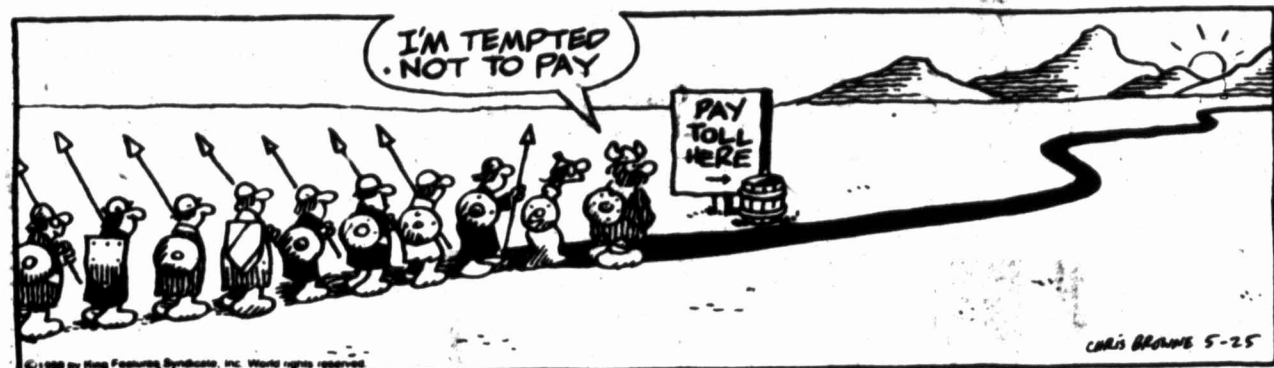
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MAY 25 1998

MONDAY MAY 25

Table with 34 columns representing different TV channels (KIMD, KOPE, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their scheduled times.

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B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



"Barfy! Get your nose out of that bowl! That's DADDY'S soup!"

"ME AND RUFF THOUGHT WE'D KEEP YOU COMPANY."

WIZARD OF ID

