

Botched raid lands former officer on trial

HOUSTON (AP) — A former Houston police officer who participated in a controversial raid that left one man dead went on trial Monday for misdemeanor trespassing, despite objections from the victim's family that the prosecution could impede a federal probe.

James Willis, 28, was one of six officers who raided the apartment

of Pedro Oregon last July 12, acting on a tip that drugs were being sold there. Oregon was shot 12 times, including nine times in the back, and no drugs were found.

A gun was found in Oregon's apartment, but it had not been fired.

All six officers were fired, although Willis was the only one indicted. Jury selection began Monday

afternoon after a judge rejected pleas from Oregon's family to dismiss the trespassing charge.

Family attorneys contend the state trial could interfere with a federal grand jury investigation and prevent more serious charges from being filed against the officers.

They deny accusations by Willis' attorney that the family

wants the charge dropped because Oregon's brother, Rogelio Oregon, was involved in dealing drugs.

"There's a legitimate federal investigation into a homicide that we want completed before Mr. Oregon takes the stand," said Chris Flood, Oregon's attorney. "He has nothing to hide. He just doesn't want to participate in this cover-up."

Accident at theme park kills 1, injures 10 others

ARLINGTON (AP) — Three people remained in good condition at an Arlington hospital Monday, a day after an amusement ride at Six Flags Over Texas went awry, killing a woman and injuring 10 other people.

Arlington authorities and park officials worked through the night and early Monday searching for clues at the park as to why a raft-like boat on the Roaring Rapids ride overturned Sunday.

"The witnesses who were on the boat say everything was proceeding normally when they were about to finish the ride," police spokesperson Dee Anderson said, "then the boat suddenly overturned when it went down into a depression."

In the ride, raft-like boats carry up to a dozen passengers while floating through a series of rapids in water up to 4 feet deep.

Velaria Cartwright, of West Helena, Ark., apparently drowned after being trapped upside down in waist-deep water when the raft capsized. The 28-year-old woman was taken to Arlington Memorial Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Autopsy results were expected Monday afternoon, Anderson said.

Most aboard the overturned raft were able to unbuckle their seat belts and get out of the water, authorities said.

Six of the victims were treated for minor injuries and released Sunday evening. Three others — two women and one man — were in good condition Monday, according to hospital officials.

Jessica Venneberg of Lawrence, Kan., was released Monday from

Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth. The 9-year-old mother was treated and released for a broken leg, and her father was in good condition.

Six Flags spokesperson St. Pierre said park officials including engineers and an independent safety expert, expect to begin their investigation Monday evening.

Wendy Crown, a witness who attempted to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to the victim, said park employees looked as if they were not prepared for the emergency.

"That's an outsider's perspective," St. Pierre said. "It was an accident scene, we knew exactly what we were doing. Our employees respond in an emergency."

St. Pierre said all park employees receive emergency training and are tested. She noted the training does not include mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Joel Cliff, a spokesperson for the International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions in Virginia, said the type of emergency training is usually provided by the amusement park in conjunction with their own and outside consultants.

"Since safety is fundamental to the industry — if you're not safe, you're out of business — it's important to say parks make safety a top priority and parcel of their mission," Cliff said.

Cartwright's death marked the first guest fatality at Six Flags since the park opened in 1961.

GREAT DEALS EVERY TUESDAY IN THE BATTALION

COUPON MANIA

CLIP & SAVE

Wicks'n'Sticks™
 Customer Appreciation Month
10% Discount
 with this coupon, limit one coupon per purchase.
 thru Sunday 3/31/99
 Post Oak Mall

GRIN AND TAKE IT
 DEFENSIVE DRIVING ... COMEDY STYLE
Defensive Driving with a Punch (Line!)
 (Only \$25 with Coupon)
 USA Training Co. Inc. C0928
 • NOW OFFERING MON./TUES. AND SATURDAY CLASSES!
 • State-approved for ticket dismissal/insurance reduction
 • Taught by professional comic Bobby Bernshausen '90
 • Aggie Owned and Operated
 • <http://www2.cy-net.net/~grin>
To register, call 778-GRIN (778-4746)

Eastmark Apartments
 Don't throw money away!!
PRELEASE NOW
 Receive \$150 off your deposit!
1-888-222-5108 toll free
 Limit 1 per apartment. Offer expires 04-15-99.
7600 Central Park Lane, C.S.
 ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS

NewVues Disposable Soft Contact Lenses
 by Ciba
\$144.00
 Includes four 6 packs of contacts, exam, fitting, and follow-ups
 (AFTER \$25 MAIL-IN REBATE)
 CALL **846-0377** FOR
 QUALITY CONTACT LENSES AND EYE CARE AT
 VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES!
 Check out our website at www.softcontactlens.com
 for more contact lens specials.
Charles C. Schroepel, O.D., P.C.
 Certified Therapeutic Optometrist
 505 University Dr. East Suite 101
 College Station, TX 77840

Exclusively Nails
 Treat Yourself to the Best!!
 • Hot Oil Manicures \$10 off Full Sets
 • Jacuzzi Spa Pedicures \$3 off Reg. Fill
 • Artificial Extensions \$2 off Pedicures
 • Silk Wraps & Fiberglass
 • Massage Therapy
 • Pampering Packages
 • Licensed Aggie Nail Art \$2 off Hot Oil Manicures
 Aggie Owned & Operated **696-9751**
 1220 Harvey Rd. (by Hobby Lobby)
 Exp. April 6, 1999

AVALON
 Auto Body & Glass
HAIL DAMAGE SPECIAL
 Save on your deductibles!
 on auto body repair and glass
 Use our special discount toward your insurance deductibles.
 No out of pocket money in most cases.
 For details call or stop by our shop.
691-0366
 5591 Raymond Stotzer Pkwy. (Hwy. 60), College Station, (West University)
Shape that body!

We Accept Aggie Bucks!!!
 Look What's New For Back To School
 One Pair Color Tint or Opaque Daily Wear ~~Now \$169~~
 3 Months Supply of 2 week disposables ~~Now \$129~~
 Price Includes Eye Examination, Contact Fitting, Care Kit, and Contacts!
 Master Eye Associates
Joseph S. Allison, O.D.
 Family Vision Care & Contact Lenses
 Post Oak Mall - 1500 Harvey Rd., Ste 16, College Station, TX 77840
 693-8476
 *Offer expires March 31, 1999. Offer not valid where prohibited by law. Lens brand and trial period to be determined by the eye care practitioner.

Petal Patch Florist
Friday Flowers
 (roses, lillies, daisies, misty blues, tulips)
 All Wrapped Flowers
 Cash & Carry. All Major Credit Cards Accepted.
1/2 PRICE
 1919 Texas Ave. S College Station 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday-Friday 696-6713
 707 Texas Ave. Bryan 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday 822-2141

PRO-NAILS
 Complete and Professional Nail Care
 QUALITY & FRIENDLY SERVICE
 BEST SERVICE & LOWEST PRICE
 We Carry OPI Polishes
SPECIALS
 MANICURE & PEDICURE \$23.00
 REFILL \$10.00
 FULL SET \$20.00 w/coupon
 4409 S. Texas Ave. Bryan, TX 77802 (409) 846-0823 (Near Fajita Rita's)
 Mon-Fri 9 am-8 pm Saturday 9 am-7 pm
 Appr. & Walk-ins Welcome Offer good at these locations only.
 1919 S. Texas Ave. College Station, TX 77840 (409) 696-7250 (next to Tom's BBQ)

Abortion rights group targets Bush, Dole in ads

WASHINGTON (AP) — An abortion rights group launched a series of television ads Monday that accuse presidential hopefuls George W. Bush and Elizabeth Dole of camouflaging strict anti-abortion positions.

The two early favorites for the Republican presidential nomination, who have also been attacked by anti-abortion groups questioning their commitment to the cause, are now the target of ads bought by the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL). The ads, which began airing Monday morning on stations in Manchester, N.H., and Des Moines, Iowa, use quotes from the pair in an attempt to show they are opposed to abortion. The ads accuse them of trying to "hide their extreme views," NARAL director Kate Michelman said.

"George W. Bush opposes a woman's right to choose, Elizabeth Dole opposes a woman's right to choose," she said. "But they both know they must communicate more moderate views in order to be elected."

Michelman would not say how much money was being spent on the campaign or how often the ads would run.

"It is a significant buy," she said. The ads are running around morning and evening newscasts in

the two cities and later will broadcast in other regions.

Bush, the governor of Texas, said he is opposed to abortion with exceptions only for the mother, rape and incest. Though he personally would like to see abortions outlawed, he

"I don't expect to get everyone's vote should I decide to run ... I'm pro-life."

Americans' hearts are not on the issue, so Republicans fight for incremental steps banning late-term abortions requiring parental consent for teenagers.

"I don't expect to get body's vote should I decide for the presidency," Bush Monday. "I'm pro-life."

Dole has declined to disclose her views in any detail entering the presidential race. Iowa is the site of the first presidential caucus in 2000. Hampshire holds the first

Panelist attempt to quell fears misconceptions about Y2K

WASHINGTON (AP) — The greatest danger from the Year 2000 computer problem may be panic among Americans convinced there will be major disruptions, emergency experts told a House hearing Monday.

The panelists did, however, caution people to be ready for minor breakdowns in basic services. The International Association of Emergency Managers said communities should prepare as if for a storm, including aftereffects, lasting about seven days.

"It is important to say the sky is not falling because of Y2K," Mike Walker of the Federal Emergency Management Agency said, which is helping local emergency systems deal with the computer problem.

"There is no need to hoard, there is no need to take money out of banks, there is no need to head for the hills," he told the House Government Reform Committee's government management panel.

"Fear of unknown consequences places citizens at the risk of either

overreacting or not reacting to the subcommittee's chairman Stephen Horn, R-Calif. said.

The Y2K problem arises from the ability of many computers to read only the last two digits of the year. Those computers would read year 2000, or "00," as 1900, causing computers to malfunction or shut down, possibly threatening services ranging from electricity to hospitals.

Walker joined other experts concluding that, after spending billions to fix computers, the government and the large industries can say there will be major infrastructure problems Jan. 1.

But there has also been information and hype, much of it on the Internet, that has some people preparing for catastrophic events.

"There are those who are afraid," Rep. Jim Turner of Texas, subcommittee's top Democrat, said. He said his own father was talking about spending more than \$2,000 for an electric generator

The Texas...
 mit harmfu...
 students an...
 approaching...
 quing bars...
 income fro...
 Dr. J. Mall...
 ent for stud...
 preliminar...
 administrat...
 e options fo...
 oblems als...
 "We are a...
 t and conce...
 President...
 inistration...
 gulation id...
 action is tak...
 of occur un...
 Dr. Denni...
 alcohol and...
 aid alcohol i...
 late at the...
 charge amou...
 Bowen say...
 tern stems fr...
 ng students...
 ence of a...
 groups, alco...
 students an...
 ability for stu...
 St...
 Direc...
 Bike...
 n read...
 BY...
 The Texa...
 (AMC) "Bo...
 initiated in...
 Sir...
 Wom...
 peake...
 audie...
 o rela...
 BY ME...
 Karen Kai...
 ad author...
 400 at a...
 liting Wom...
 Clark's lig...
 encouraged...
 atotic sche...
 ch person...
 Clark, pres...
 ective Pa...