

Citizens on Patrol

Bryan police introduce new resident-volunteer program

BY BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

Assuming the identity of police assistants, civilian employees of Bryan Police Department will take to the streets under a new program being implemented by the city of Bryan.

Joe Brown, public information officer for the city of Bryan, said police assistant positions were created Aug. 23, to respond to calls in which law enforcement is not required and to alleviate Bryan police officers' duties by allowing police assistants to respond when a certified peace officer is not required.

"[The program] will free police officers to do what the public expects police officers to be doing," he said.

Brown said the program is not being implemented as a result of a high crime rate and the city's level is lower than normal.

Brown said the city of Bryan invests substantial amounts of money into the training of its police officers.

The city trained the police assistants in criminal law, municipal ordinances, preliminary investigations and writing reports.

They work with the Bryan police department detective and patrol division, and support services. Duties performed by assistants include traffic direction and taking reports; however, their duties are not limited to those tasks.

Brown said police assistants are also utilized for regulating funeral traffic direction as well as coordi-

nating with the funeral home to safely maintain order without severe disruption of traffic.

These assistants are distinguished from Bryan police officers by their different uniforms and patrol cars.

Police assistants will wear gray polo-style shirts with "police assistant" and the logo of the city of Bryan on them.

Unlike police cruisers, the automobiles driven by police assistants have green and yellow overhead lights.

According to a press release, two police assistants are working with the department's patrol division.

Brown said the program will provide the citizens of Bryan with better protection and service.

Mystery surrounds deaths of homeless

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — When the first few bodies turned up in the gurgling trout stream that winds through a park in this city on the edge of the Black Hills, the deaths drew little attention. Police investigated, but all the evidence indicated that the homeless men had spent their days and nights drinking along Rapid Creek and simply passed out and drowned.

As more men died, however, law officers became suspicious. The deaths now total eight in 6 months, three this year. In typical years, only about one homeless person turns up drowned along the creek.

"There's just too many of them to say it's coincidence," Police Chief Tom Hennies said. "But could be."

Authorities have no witnesses who saw any of them go into the creek. There are no bullet holes, stab wounds or evidence of other injuries. Police do not know where most of the men entered the stream.

What investigators know is that six of the eight were Indians and all but one had been drinking heavily just before they died. Most had blood alcohol levels of at least 0.25 percent, or more than 2 1/2 times the 0.1 percent level at which drivers are presumed to be drunk.

The homeless people who live under bridges along the creek believe someone is pushing unconscious or helpless drinkers into the water.

Clement Standing Elk said he and other street people no longer risk hanging out alone.

"We go around in packs," he said.

Rumors reported to police include accusations that the creek people are being killed by a fellow homeless man, by racist skinheads, a moped owner, members of a Satanic cult and a big hite man on a bicycle. One report even accused police officers.

Standing Elk is among those who blame racist skinheads and said the creek people have banded together to chase some of them away.

"They came by here," Standing Elk said. "There were four of them and they said they were going to throw another dead Indian in the creek."

Gadhafi designs high-tech car

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Moammar Gadhafi has been busy inventing a high-tech car shaped like a rocket, during the years of sanctions.

A green prototype was unveiled Monday. It holds five passengers and has air bags that deploy all around the interior.

It also has a collapsible bumper and a system of anti-roll panels.

The vehicle is meant to highlight the Libyan leader's concern for humanity and human life, Al-Dukali Al-Mugaryef, general commissioner of the Libyan Arab Domestic Investment Co., said.

Those eager to take a spin in one will have to wait until it hits the market in a couple of years. As for its price, Al-Mugaryef said it will be quite affordable.

SILVER TAPS

The Silver Taps ceremony will be held tonight in front of the Academic Building at 10:30pm. The ceremony is conducted to honor those students that have passed away during their enrollment in Texas A&M University.

The following students will be honored:

- Natalie Christine Bredthauer (Industrial Distribution)
- Arend Gabro Higgs (Agriculture Systems Management)
- Bunpot Owarang (Civil Engineering)
- Michael Duane Wagener (Environmental Design)
- John Earl Willard (Computer Science)

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