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Pampa

Vol. 95 No. 12 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday *1

Pampa Cyber News

Internet Page for the New Millenium

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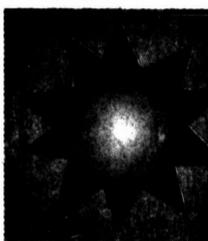
Joanna Ostrom

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High today is 72.
Low tonight, 47.
For weather details, see Page 2.

No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: 4-7-12-27-33-35

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$10 million.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) —

Thousands of Texans could one day get their drinking water from the Gulf of Mexico, according to a study commissioned by state officials.

The \$59,000 research grant paid for by the Texas Water Development Board may help determine whether a large desalination plant at Matagorda Bay is worth building.

The plant would convert salt water to drinking water in an effort to meet demands from consumers as far away as San Antonio, according to today's editions of the San Antonio Express-News.

Once considered prohibitively expensive, the technology behind desalination is getting cheaper while the cost to build and maintain traditional water reservoirs is rising.

The study could launch a \$400 million project proposed by the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority, if the treatment process is shown to be cost effective and environmentally friendly.

Reservoirs across the state are at a 20-year low, having fallen to 72 percent of their capacity, according to the state water board.

"We historically have been involved with groundwater, so now we're having to look at other types of sources," said Ron Brown, an engineer with San Antonio Water System.

• Georgia Lofton Durham, 89, homemaker.

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Travel group makes unexpected stop

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Travel counselors from across Texas learned Wednesday morning Pampa is rich in hospitality, even if they get pulled over by local law enforcement.

As three bus loads of Texas Department of Transportation Travel Counselors pulled into Pampa on Highway 152 West shortly before 11 a.m., the Pampa Police Department and Gray County Sheriff Department "arrested" the travelers.

Pampa Chamber of Commerce representatives were responsible for the "arrests". The chamber officials learned the group was going to be going through Pampa as they traveled from Amarillo to Alibates Canyon enroute to destinations in Mobcettie and McLean.

Local residents wanted the group to see Pampa and learn what the community has for tourists to see. Linda Daniels headed the project to get local leaders together to welcome the group as they came through town.

Each counselor was given a t-shirt stating they had been "arrested" in Pampa and a sack of Pampa souvenirs informing them about the community.

The travel counselors are the people who work in the 12



Texas Department of Transportation Travel Counselors were "arrested" and welcomed to Pampa Wednesday morning as they learned about Pampa's friendly and active community. Christine Jones of Orange, left, local resident Kathleen Chaney, Joey Sermino of Harlingen and Tonji Rudd of Waskom visited briefly as Chaney presented the travel counselors with T-shirts.

Texas Travel Information Centers across the state, and inform tourists about sights to

see in the Lone Star state. Each year the Texas Travel Industry Association hosts a

Texas Travel Fair held in conjunction with the Texas DOT Travel Counselors' Conference.

The conference is currently under way in Amarillo.

The counselors learn about the region in which the conference is held by taking bus tours through the areas. Last year the counselors met in Corpus Christi. They will meet in El Paso next year.

The buses and their passengers were escorted through the Pampa community. Local law enforcement took their "prisoners" on a brief tour as they travel through town, turning south on Hobart, then east on Foster. The counselors were welcomed by local residents to the downtown area as they turned south on Cuyler.

As the buses arrived at the Recreation Park area and the Top O' Texas Rodeo arena, the out-of-town group was met by over 50 chamber representatives and local leaders. The group briefly mingled with the crowd before they left the local community. A local group, Out 'n Back, had an old fashioned chuck wagon set up for the travel counselors to view and see the Texas way of life.

Daniel said the group was very impressed with Pampa and its people during their brief visit to the community. She anticipates the group will go back to their homes and be able to inform travelers about the Pampa area in the Texas Panhandle.

Eskridge: 'Pampa cares'

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

"My worst day in Pampa is better than my best day in Houston."

That comment by City Manager Bob Eskridge drew nods of agreement from the home-town crowd Tuesday at the monthly luncheon of the Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce.

While city government and local businesses may be experiencing some tough times, Eskridge said, "We need to be thankful for what we have in Pampa and not dwell on what we don't have."

Among those things, he said, is the fact "we can let kids go to the parks by themselves, we can go to an ATM at night and we have a sense of community here," Eskridge said.

Admitting that he was proba-

bly "singing to the choir," Eskridge pointed to the many volunteer and civic efforts that take place here and told chamber members and guests, "Pampa is a community of people who care."

After his opening comments, Eskridge got down to business with facts about the City of Pampa and praised local government employees who work in 26 departments that have responsibility for at least 140 major functions.

"These employees do more with less every year," he said. "We have a great bunch of employees ... people need to appreciate that."

To illustrate his point, Eskridge said the city, once the newest financial plan is implemented, will have 154 employees, down from 209 workers in 1985.

While making other compar-

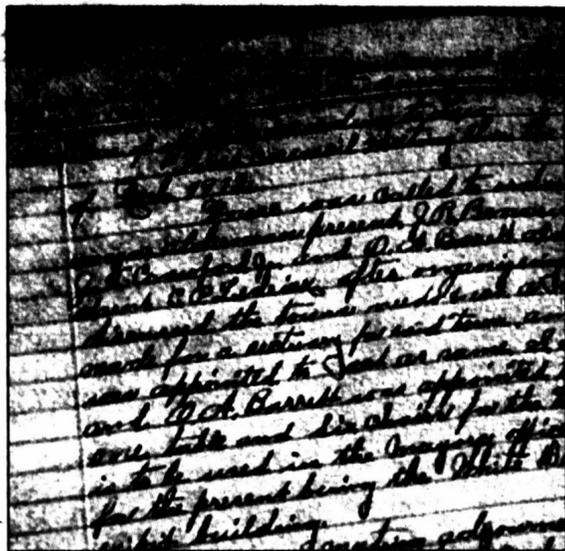
isons to 1985, Eskridge said there has been 56 percent inflation nationwide since then meaning it takes \$1.56 today to equal the 1985 purchasing power of \$1.

Regarding the assessed value of property in Pampa, in 1985 it was \$410 million and in 1999 it had dropped to \$395 million. Likewise, the 1985 tax rate was 65 cents per \$100 valuation and last year it was 64 cents.

Translated into revenue, all property taxes brought in \$2.351 million in 1985 and last year's revenue was less at \$2.325 million, Eskridge said. And the story is much the same for sales tax receipts.

"We are considerably down in sales taxes and most other revenues," Eskridge said. "We've fallen behind ... but that's not news to anyone here who is in business."

In winding up, Eskridge (See ESKRIDGE, Page 2)



City Manager Bob Eskridge displayed the book showing the first recorded minutes for the City of Pampa, dating from 1912, at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

School race voting starts

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Early voting begins today in school trustee races in the Pampa Independent School District (PISD) and across the area for the May 6 election. Voting early prior to the election will continue through May 2.

Pampa, Lefors, McLean, Grandview-Hopkins, White Deer and Panhandle school districts all have races which are contested.

Two Groom Independent School District incumbent trustees are seeking a return to the board of trustees and have no opposition. Groom ISD canceled the election as the state election code provides a public entity is not required to hold an election if there is no opposition.

Pampa voters may participate in early voting at the PISD personnel office at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert, 8 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5 p.m. today through May 2.

Pampa ISD

Two positions are open in the Pampa Independent School District. The Place 4 position on the school board is currently held by incumbent Sue Fatheree. She is being challenged by Nancy A. Coffee. She is a retired high school teacher.

Place 5 incumbent Lee Porter is unopposed in his bid to return to the board of trustees.

Lefors ISD

Four candidates are seeking two positions in the Lefors Independent School District Board of Trustees race.

Four candidates, Roy Lott, Ron Turpin, Ken Miller and Stephanie Brooks, are seeking one position on the ballot.

Miller is an incumbent while the other incumbent, Jada Murray, is not seeking reelection.

McLean ISD

Seven candidates are seeking two positions in the McLean ISD Board of Trustees. Two incumbents, Neal Odom and John Holland, are seeking reelection to the school board along with five other candidates.

They are Dan Fish, Toni Bohlar, Shandee Tolleson, Gene Smart, and Terri Adams.

Grandview-Hopkins

Three positions are open on the Grandview-Hopkins ISD Board of Trustees.

Incumbents Charles Bowers, Joe Smith and Ted Hutto are seeking reelection to the three positions on the board.

Marshall Hopkins is the fourth candidate who is seeking a position on the board.

White Deer ISD

Two places will be filled in the White Deer ISD Board of Trustees race. Voters will also cast ballots on a proposition in the election.

(See VOTING, Page 2)

Two remain hospitalized after car-cycle collision

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Staff Writer

Two Pampa residents remained hospitalized early today following a car-motorcycle accident Wednesday evening at the intersection of Browning and Frost streets.

Michael Dean Steadman, 26, 625 N. Frost, was reported to be in satisfactory condition at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo, according to hospital officials. Velora Huckabee McGee, 76, 2136 N. Banks was admitted to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC) for observation and was in stable condition at press time today, hospital officials reported. A third person reportedly injured in the accident, Idella Giblin, 100 N. Faulkner, was taken to the hospital, but declined treatment at the PRMC emergency room, hospital officials said.

According to a Pampa Police Department report, the accident occurred at 7:32 p.m., Wednesday, at the intersection of Browning and Frost streets.

The accident report states that McGee was driving a 1986 Oldsmobile 98 east and had pulled away from a stop sign at the 300 block of West Browning when the accident occurred. Steadman, riding a new motorcycle south in the 400 block of North Frost, struck the car in the left driver's side door, the report said. Steadman was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident, according to the report.

McGee, Giblin and Steadman were all listed as having incapacitating injuries at the scene. One person was transported to PRMC

(See COLLISION, Page 2)

Get Out And Enjoy The Easter Lights!!

Daily Record

Services tomorrow

DURHAM, Georgia Lofton — Graveside services, 10:30 a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, McLean.

Obituaries

GEORGIA LOFTON DURHAM

McLEAN — Georgia Lofton Durham, 89, died Tuesday, April 18, 2000, at Amarillo. Graveside services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday in Hillcrest Cemetery at McLean with Jim Reyna, minister, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Lamb Funeral Home of McLean.

Mrs. Durham was born Feb. 15, 1911, in Callahan County. She moved to the McLean area as a young girl and lived there most of her life. She was a homemaker and a member of McLean Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by a son, E.B. Durham, in 1990.

Survivors include a daughter, Pat Wilson of McLean; a son, Oran Durham of Groom; two sisters, Cora Castleberry of Clarendon and Velma Castleberry of Amarillo; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to High Plains Children's Home, Box 7448, Amarillo, TX

Ambulance

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, April 19

10:39 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported one to a local nursing facility.

10:31 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to White Deer on mutual aid; White Deer unit transported to PRMC.

11:36 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Magnolia and transported one to PRMC.

1:57 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Northwest Texas Hospital and transported one to PRMC.

2:45 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported one to Baptist St. Anthony West.

3:45 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

5:52 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Short Street and transported one to PRMC.

6:58 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of North Banks and transported one to PRMC.

7:34 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Frost and transported one to Lifestar for Northwest Texas Hospital.

7:40 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Frost and transported one to PRMC; a second person refused transport.

8:20 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of North Banks; no transport.

9:40 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded PRMC and transported one to NWTH.

10:53 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Naida and transported one to PRMC.

11:38 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Veterans Administration Medical Center in Amarillo and transported one to a local nursing facility.

Thursday, April 20

1:35 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Prairie and transported one to PRMC.

2:38 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1700 block of Wells and transported one to PRMC.

Emergency numbers

Ambulance.....911
 Crime Stoppers.....669-2222
 Energas.....1-888-Energas
 Fire.....911
 Police (emergency).....911
 Police (non-emergency).....669-5700

Police report

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, April 18

An employee for Beall's, 1201 N. Hobart, reported forgery.

Wednesday, April 19

Jason Ellis, 17, 500 Harlem, was arrested in the 1300 block of Charles on capias pro fine for minor in possession, two warrants for failure to appear and disorderly conduct, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

A manager for Pizza Hut, 855 W. Kingsmill, reported disorderly conduct - language.

Disorderly conduct - fighting was reported at Pampa Middle School, 2401 Charles.

Sheriff's Office

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, April 19

Gary Schyler Wyatt, 25, Borger was arrested on a bond surrender for driving while intoxicated - second offense.

Christopher Wayne Teakell, 22, 2108 Christine, was arrested on a charge of stalking.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, April 19

7:43 a.m. — A 1989 Chevrolet pickup driven by Irma Josefina Saldierna, 39, 735 S. Barnes, and a 1981 Ford pickup driven by Jack Donald Osborne, 74, 824 N. Dwight, collided at the intersection of Frederic and Barnes streets. Saldierna was cited for no proof of insurance. No injuries were reported at the scene.

7:30 p.m. — A 1986 Oldsmobile 98 driven by Velora Huckabee McGee, 76, 2136 N. Banks, and a motorcycle driven by Michael Dean Steadman, 26, 625 N. Frost, collided at the intersection of Frost and Browning streets. Steadman, Huckabee, and a passenger in the Oldsmobile, Idella Giblin, 100 N. Faulkner, suffered incapacitating injuries, according to police reports. Citations are pending.

Fires

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, April 19

3:11 p.m. - Two units and eight personnel responded to the 1300 block of Duncan on a structure fire. Smoke damage was reported due to a frying pan catching on fire.

5:59 p.m. - One unit and four personnel responded on a medical assist in the 500 block of Short.

7:39 p.m. - Two units and six personnel responded to a motorcycle-car collision at the intersection of Frost and Browning.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atchafalaya Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	2.07	Coca-Cola	48 15/16	dn 1/4
Milo	3.03	Columbia/HCA	26 1/2	up 5/8
Corn	3.46	Enron	71 1/2	up 1
Soybeans	4.38	Haltiburton	41 5/8	up 3/16
		IRI	87 1/16	up 1/8
		KMI	32 3/16	up 1/8
		Kerr-McGee	54 7/16	up 9/16
		Limited	44 1/8	dn 5/8
		McDonald's	35 1/16	up 2
		Exxon Mobil	77 7/8	up 7/16
		New Atmos	14 7/8	NC
		NCE	31 3/8	up 5/16
		OKI	25 5/8	up 1/4
		Pennco's	12 15/16	dn 1/16
		Phillips	47 1/2	dn 3/16
		Phoebe Nat.	9 3/4	NC
		SLB	73 15/16	up 3/16
		Tenneco	9 1/8	up 1/16
		Texas	50 7/8	NC
		Ultramar	26 5/16	dn 1/16
		Wal-Mart	55 3/4	up 1/16
		Williams	38 3/16	dn 3/16

The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:

Occidental	20 5/16	dn 1/8
Fidelity Magell	133.65	
Puritan	18.59	

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

Amex	50 3/16	up 1 3/8
Amex	77 3/4	NC
Amex	25 3/4	up 3/8
Cabot O&G	17 1/2	NC
Chevron	84 7/8	up 1/8
New York Gold	280.70	
Silver	5.10	
West Texas Crude	27.36	

Pentagon will help U.S. military getting family food stamps

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top Army official suggested pushing some of the country's lowest-paid soldiers off of food stamps — by making their incomes look higher on paper.

But Defense Secretary William Cohen rejected the proposal Wednesday, saying it had "sent mixed signals ... to men and women in uniform."

In a three-paragraph statement, Cohen said he will work with the Agriculture Department to try to get a change in the way soldiers' income is calculated — a move that could make more eligible for the help. The announcement followed a howl of disapproval by soldiers and others over an earlier idea that would have recalculated the income of service members already getting food stamps.

The recalculating would make their income look higher on paper, and so get them kicked off assistance rolls. Critics suggested the discounted idea was intended to paper over a problem that has caused embarrassment for the military — the specter of having uniformed people in the ser-

vice of the country forced to seek outside help in feeding their families.

Though Cohen had never approved the earlier proposal, he said Wednesday that he wanted "to set the record straight."

"I support military men and women receiving every federal benefit to which they are entitled," Cohen said.

The Pentagon says about 6,300 people in the military were on food stamps in 1998, compared with 12,000 in 1995. It says the base salary going into effect in January for a sergeant with six years in the service will be \$1,691 a month.

At issue was a suggestion by Bernard Rostker, the army undersecretary nominated to become the Pentagon's top personnel official. Rostker said in a Senate committee confirmation hearing last week that methods for calculating income were different for those living off-base and those living on-base — an inequity he wanted to correct.

Under the system, people who live off-base get a housing allowance and that money is

added onto their pay to calculate their income. Those living on-base get free housing; there is no housing allowance given, so none calculated on their income — making them look poorer on paper than their counterparts, and eligible for help.

Rostker said he wanted to start counting the value of on-base housing as income — a move that would have knocked most of those on-base and receiving food stamps into a higher income level and made them ineligible.

Acknowledging that he didn't know Cohen's position on Rostker's idea, Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon sought in a briefing with reporters Tuesday to defend the idea.

"The issue here is equity," said Bacon, explaining in detail that 60 percent of food stamps go to those living on base as part of the current system.

But Cohen said Wednesday he would ask the Agriculture Department to change the rules so housing allowances paid to people off-base would not be counted in their income.

ESKRIDGE

reviewed a list of city projects, many of which he said "aren't short-term projects."

For instance, he said it will take some years — at 50 jobs a year — to demolish the 400-to-500 vacant, dilapidated structures in town but said 130 have been torn down since 1998.

He talked about wastewater and water system improvements, the dumpster replacement program, street sign replacement program, golf

course improvements and many such other projects.

Eskridge said "number one" on the city's citizen complaint is high weeds and told the crowd a new city ordinance has toughened the penalties to the point "it will be to people's benefit to cut the grass."

Next month's chamber luncheon will be held in conjunction with the annual Pampa High School Hall of Fame luncheon on May 5 at the M.K. Brown Room of the Pampa Community Center.



City Manager Bob Eskridge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

VOTING

In the Place 1 spot incumbent Earletta Moore is being challenged by four men. Seeking the position are Stephen Warminski, Terry Lewis, Dudley Pohnert and Terry Harrah.

In the Place 2 position incumbent Mike Chaney is being challenged by Kent Kelp.

White Deer voters will also vote on a proposition which authorizes the school board to purchase attendance credits directly from the state or another school district if it is more advantageous to White Deer ISD. The attendance credits have most recently been purchased from another school district.

Panhandle ISD

Two positions are being sought on the

Panhandle ISD by five candidates. Both incumbents are seeking reelection to office along with three other candidates.

The five candidates are incumbents Dr. Carol Hillhouse and Kevin Powers. Leslie Cleek, Mark Smith and Jony Thomas are also vying for the positions.

Groom ISD

There will be no election in Groom school district as the election was called off. State law allows for the cancellation of an election if there is no contested race.

Only two candidates, both incumbents filed for the two positions open on the board. They are Barry Fields and Tony Britten.

The two men will automatically be certified as winners and will be sworn into office.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

COLLISION

by Rural Metro Ambulance and another person refused transport at the scene. It was not clear from police or ambulance reports who was transported and who refused transport.

Steadman was transported by Rural Metro Ambulance to Panhandle, officials said, where the ambulance was met by Lifestar helicopter. Steadman was then taken to Northwest Texas Hospital by Lifestar.

No citations had been issued at press time today. The police report stated that charges were pending.

Columbine students remember school shooting anniversary

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Family and friends hugged and cried softly today during a graveside service for Columbine High victims as an angel windssock adorned a nearby cross moved in a gentle breeze.

The service was one of several scheduled on the anniversary of the attack that left 13 plus the two student gunmen dead in the peaceful Denver suburban high school.

Cherry Creek High School student Sam Mamtherne, 17, was friends with Rachel Scott. She was in tears. "It's hard just remembering it, the good times and then remembering how it all ended," she said, tears falling from her eyes.

The cemetery, where Scott, Corey DePooter and teacher Dave Sanders are buried, has 13 wooden crosses to honor them and their fellow victims in an area called Columbine Gardens. The windssock dangled from Scott's cross.

The massacre has left an indelible mark on Colorado, but it should be easier for residents to deal with the effects of the deadly rampage once today's anniversary has passed, Gov. Bill Owens said.

"I think Columbine will be with us forever just as the Oklahoma City bombing," Owens said this morning as he stood in Clement Park near Columbine High.

"There will never be much closure," he said. "For at least a generation, those of us who lived through it will always be living in it...when we pass the one-year anniversary, it will be easier to move on."

Owens planned tre

Columbine." "Obviously, there's a lot of crying and a lot of hugging, a lot of solemn remembering," said Rick Kaufman, a Jefferson County School District spokesman.

Classes at the school were canceled and attendance was optional. In addition to the private assembly, a public remembrance and an evening candlelight vigil in the Clement Park, near the school, were planned.

Workers unloaded barricades at nearby Clement Park on Wednesday, preparing for thousands of mourners bringing flowers, handwritten messages and teddy bears.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Sunny today with a high of 72 and northwest winds at 15-25 mph. Tonight, a low of 47 and light and variable winds. Tomorrow, sunny with a high near 80 and south winds at 10-20 mph. The overnight low was 45.

STATEWIDE — Weekend rains in Texas could result from the latest series of fronts to arrive in the southwestern United States.

A dry cold front today extended from Fort Worth to near Brownwood and near San Angelo, dropping temperatures

as it swept across the state. The weak front triggered a couple of very strong thunderstorms west of San Antonio.

Winds were northwesterly to southerly and gusty over 20 mph behind the front and along the coast. Variable conditions from 5 to 15 mph existed ahead of the front. Skies were clearing west of Abilene to Junction.

Early-morning temperatures extended from low 40s in the northern Panhandle to the upper 60s, extending about 100 miles behind the front. South of it, they ranged into the 70s.

Readings included 66 degrees at Conroe and 81 at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio.

A warming trend and lower humidity was expected for the weekend, when isolated showers and thunderstorms were possible over South Central and Southeast Texas.

Daytime highs should be in the lower 70s in the Panhandle and mountains to mid 80s to lower 90s in the Big Bend, except for lower 80s along the coast. Lows overnight will be in the 30s in the far north to the 60s in the southern half of the state, along the Rio Grande and along the coast.

City Briefs

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

AGGIE MUSTER Apr. 21, 6:30 p.m. Pampa Chamber of Comm. 665-8410 for reserv.

MIKE YOUNG at Crowson Barber Shop, Wed. - Sat. 669-6721

ONSTAGE KARAOKE: Hideaway Lounge, every Thurs. & Sat. 8:30 p.m.

PET PATCH Easter Sale/abration, Saturday Specials, 866 W. Foster, 806-665-5504.

SADIE HAWKINS Pre-Easter Sale, all 24 oz. beers-\$1.15, 6 pks.-\$4.45, 18 pks.-\$11.35. Beer Specials good for Fri. & Sat.

ST. MATTHEW'S Day School enrolling now for 2000-2001, 3 yr. olds, 4 yr. olds, Pre-K, Kindergarten, Day Care. Spaces limited. Come by 727 W. Browning or call 665-0703.

STILL LOOKING for that special Easter dress? A wonderful selection for you and your little ones at Twice Is Nice!

YARD SERVICE. Call for quote, 665-0491 lv. message.

ANYONE HAVING had an animal hurt by a pair of blood red Pit Bulls, call 665-6725, 665-6653

AROUND THE CLOCK Bail Bonds. 24 hr. confidential jail release. Call 665-3553.

CALF FRIES, Moose Lodge, Thurs. 20th 7 p.m. Members & guests.

COMET EASTER Special, men's suits \$7.50, dress shirts \$1.85, ladies dresses \$9.

EASTER IS here, let us make a Special Basket or Stuffed Balloon for your little one. Open 10-5:30, every Thurs. 10-9 p.m. Celebrations, Coronado Center, 665-3100. We deliver!

HOLIDAY GREETERS lighted Easter display avail. Crosses, Bunnies, & Baskets 669-1986.

Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL

Pampa Area Literacy Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

THEE PLACE

Thee Place for Singles is open 7-10:30 p.m. Saturdays at 520 W. Kingsmill.

ADHD/ADD SUPPORT GROUP

If interested in the ADHD/ADD Sport Group call Connie at 669-9364.

OPEN DOOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule — seven days a week — two meetings a day — noon till 1 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday noon meetings are non-smoking. For more information, call 665-9702.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Womens Support Group for Child Management offers parenting skills to assist parents and children in dealing with anger and behavioral issues resulting from peer pressure, sibling rivalry, family violence and/or sexual abuse from 7-8 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call Tralee Crisis Center, 669-1131.

LAS PAMPA WATER GARDEN AND KOI SOCIETY

Las Pampa Water Garden and Koi Society meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Austin Elementary School. For more information, contact Sharron Andrew at 665-6138 or Lance DeFever.

CCPC

Clarendon College-Pampa Center will offer the following continuing education courses: "Bible as Literature," instructor Linda Haynes, 6-7 p.m., March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2 and 9; and "Microsoft Access '97," instructor Tex Buckhaults, 1-3 p.m., April 3, 10, 17 and 24. Cost for each course is \$25. For more information, call 665-8801.

FLAG CEREMONY

Lakeview ISD will host a special flag-raising ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. April 22 in honor of ex-students and all area veterans. Former news commentator Bob Izzard will serve as MC. Activities will include bagpipers, a wing of vintage World War II airplanes and a hamburger meal fund-raiser. The public is cordially invited to attend the special event.

PAMPA ELEMENTARY CHORUS

The Pampa Elementary Chorus will present "The King and I" at 7:30 p.m. April 28-29 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door.

INVESTMENT SERIES

Greg Brown and Richard Russell, A.G. Edwards and Sons, Inc., will present a series of investment topics during the noon hour each Thursday in April in Room #102 of Clarendon College-Pampa Center. The public is cordially invited to bring a lunch and attend the sessions. The series will cover: "Stock Market History and Trivia," April 6; "Mechanics of the Stock Market," April 13; "The Federal Reserve System and the Stock Market," April 20; and "Stock Analysis - Technical vs. Fundamental," April 27.

MAYFEST

Mayfest, a Festival of Mind, Body and Spirit, will be held from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. May 6 in Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4901 Cornell, Amarillo. Activities will include workshops, entertainment, readers and vendors. Admission is \$3 per person. A percentage of the proceeds will benefit Martha's Home. For more information, contact Sherri Lebow at (806) 463-5533.

HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following breast cancer screening clinics: April 10 and May 8, First United Methodist Church Educational Building, 201 E. Foster, Pampa; April 12, Parkview Hospital, 901 S. Sweetwater, Wheeler; April 24, Shepherd's Crook, 919 N. Crest, Pampa and Hemphill County Hospital, 1020 S. 4th, Canadian. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

CATTLEWOMEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Top O' Texas CattleWomen will award one \$500 scholarship and two \$250 scholarships to high school seniors who are planning to major in an agricultural, nutritional or health-related field in college. These scholarships are available to students living in Carson, Collingsworth, Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts or Wheeler Counties. Applications — now available at schools in these counties — must be received by April 28 and should be mailed to Sandra Christner, P.O. Box 522, Wheeler, TX 79096. The winners' schools will be notified in early May prior to graduation.

BOY SCOUTS

The Golden Spread Council of Boy Scouts of America is open to boys between the ages of 6 and 18 and includes a 27-county area in the Texas Panhandle. The BSA program includes Club Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing, a new program for 14- to 20-year-old boys and girls. For more information, call (806) 358-6500.

LIFE AFTER LOSS

American Cancer Society and Crown of Texas Hospice will sponsor a four-week "Life After Loss" seminar for those who have recently suffered the loss of a loved one from 5:30-6:30 p.m. April 4, 11, 18 and 25 at Crown of Texas Hospice, 10000 S. Jefferson, Amarillo. To register or for more information, call (806) 353-4306.

CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

Wheeler Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a "Citywide Garage Sale and Car Show" fund-raising/community project Saturday, May 6. For more information, contact the Chamber at (806) 826-3408.

POETRY ANTHOLOGY

Sunshine Publishing is accepting poems for its "Whispers in the Wind" anthology to be published in July. All entries are free. Up to three poems, 25 lines or less, may be submitted and should include a SASE. Write: Sunshine Publishing, ATTN: Whispers, P.O. Box 413832, Kansas City, MO 64141-3832.

KENTON EASTER PAGEANT

The 49th Annual Kenton Easter Pageant will be at 6 p.m. (MST) April 22 and 23 at Kenton, Okla. Meals will be served at Camp Billy Joe following the two performances. Camper hookups are available at Kenton, Camp Billy Joe and Lake Etling. Supper and breakfast will be \$4.50, for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12. For more information, call (580) 261-7479.

PPROA

Panhandle Producers and Royalty Owners Association will hold its annual meeting May 2-4 at the Radisson Inn in Amarillo. Activities will include a Sporting Clays Tournament at Amarillo Gun Club and a PPROA Annual Golf Tournament at Comanche Trail Golf Course. Just some topics to be covered are: "A Royalty Owner's Checklist," "Hedging Strategies for the Oil and Gas Producer," and "Oil Protectionism and the New Economy." For more information, call 1-800-658-6169.

SKY CAMP

Crown of Texas Hospice Foundation will present the third season of "SKY Camp," a camp for grieving children, June 30-July 2 in Ceta Canyon Camp and Retreat Center, 40 miles southeast of Amarillo. The camp is free to all participants and will focus on children between 7-17 grieving the death of a loved one. For more information or to make application, call (806) 372-7696 or 1-800-6365. The deadline for application is May 15.

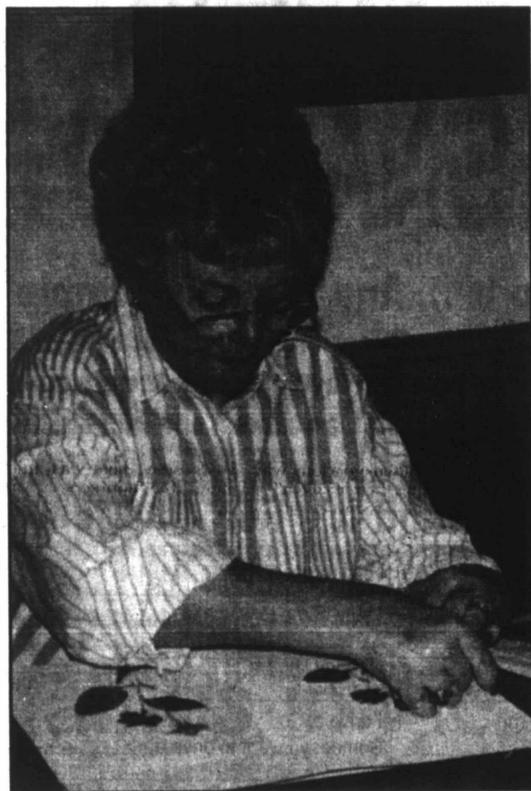
THEATRE WORKSHOPS

Circle in the Square Theatre School, a professional actor training program, will hold auditions May 5 in Dallas for its Professional Two Year Workshops (both acting and musical), seven-week Summer Workshops (acting and musical), and Super Intensive Musical Master Class Week. For more information, call (212) 307-0388 or write: Admissions, Circle of the Square Theatre School, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY, 10019-6795.

MS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Multiple Sclerosis Association of America will conduct PROJECT: Learn MS 2000 national essay competition for high school juniors and seniors and freshmen and sophomore college students. Scholarships will be awarded to the winners. Participants must submit a 500-1,000 word essay on how MS affects a person or his or her family on a daily basis. Each entry must be typed and double spaced and can take the form of a traditional essay, personal narrative, open letter, feature or fiction story. All entries must be postmarked by June 2. For more information or for an official registration form, visit www.msaa.com, e-mail projlearn@msaa.com or call 1-800-LEARN MS.

Art Show



(Special photos)

Alice Raymond of Pampa Art Club completes a project for PAC's Art Show slated from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, May 4 in the auditorium at Lovett Memorial Library. The exhibit will not only showcase the work of 18 current members but will include pieces by former member Sophie Vance. The show will include paintings, hand-painted china, jewelry, one-of-a-kind stationery, paper sculptures, clay art, stained glass creations, pottery, enamel art, hand-made baskets and more. Admission is free and open to the public.

LAST 2 DAYS OF EASTER SALE AT DUNLAPS

ROSE FLOATING CANDLES

*blue, pink, green
*great Mothers Day gift

\$15.99 reg. *28.00



M.C.-2 EMBROIDERED TEE'S

\$14.99 reg. *22.00

*Asst. styles



SUPER ESSENTIALS ORGANIZER

*black
red
green
navy



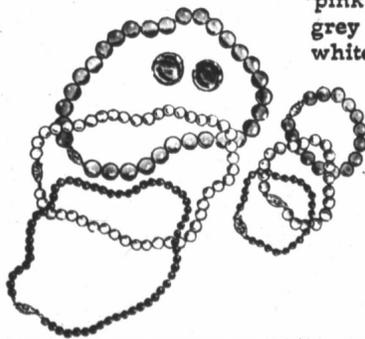
\$19.99 reg. *40.00

JOJAK MAGNETIC PEARLS

\$9.99 to \$14.99

reg. *20.00 to *26.00

*pink
grey
white



Come Try ...

Gourmet Burger

Half pound Burger Patty Topped With Bacon And American Cheese. Served Open Face With Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Pickles And Potato Chips

\$1.00 off Any Entree

one coupon per customer
coupon expires soon

Hoagies Deli

Coronado Center 665-0292

FRI & SAT OPEN 10:00 AM

Poll finds Americans want trigger locks, stricter enforcement

By WILL LESTER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three-fourths of Americans, including a majority of gun owners, favor requiring guns to be sold with trigger locks, an Associated Press poll found. People had mixed feelings about whether tougher gun laws or stricter enforcement was the

most effective way to cut violence. The poll found that 43 percent thought stricter enforcement was more likely to cut gun violence, while 33 percent said enacting tougher gun laws was a better approach. A fifth of those polled said neither option was best. "We need more enforcement of existing laws," said Donna

Mesa, a reservation agent from Honolulu who was roaming the National Mall on a sunny Wednesday afternoon. "We need more law enforcement at the local level." The poll was conducted for the AP by ICR of Media, Pa. An AP poll taken immediately after the Columbine High School shootings, which occurred a year ago today,

showed that more people at that time thought tougher laws were the answer. The argument for better enforcement of current gun laws often is used by gun control opponents to fight more laws. Teacher Joyce Bell, who was with her 11-year-old daughter near the Washington Monument on Wednesday, said she wanted better enforcement and stricter laws.

Seven in 10 women favor tougher gun control laws, while half the men said they felt that way in the AP poll of 829 people taken Friday through Tuesday. It had an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points. Just over half of those polled said background checks for gun purchases help reduce the number of crimes committed with guns, while four of 10 said they do not.

More than four of five women support requiring trigger locks, while two-thirds of men said they favored the idea. Seven of 10 gun owners in the poll said they backed trigger locks, while gun owners were split on the overall question of more gun control laws. Maryland enacted a law earlier this month requiring that, beginning in October, all guns sold in the state must have external trigger locks. After 2003, new handguns will have to be equipped with built-in locks. Although Maryland is the only state to have passed such a law, the trigger lock movement has been gaining momentum nationally. Jeff Teasdale, a printing plant supervisor from Baraboo, Wis., was for requirement of trigger

Rape suspect found in police department's sexual assault unit's cleaning crew

DALLAS (AP) — Law officers searching for a man wanted in a series of rapes and robberies found him sweeping the floor above the Police Department headquarters' sexual assaults unit.

When the suspect was arrested Wednesday, he was carrying a handgun. Investigators hoped to formally charge the man by later today, said Deputy Police Chief Zack Bolton.

"Once we showed some people who work at the service a composite sketch of the suspect, they identified him, and we found him on the fourth floor, cleaning up the building," Bolton told The Dallas Morning News.

Police on Tuesday alerted South Dallas residents that a man had committed five sexual assaults in the area in the last month and that they were concerned that the level of violence was escalating. In three attacks Monday, two women were shot while trying to escape. Two victims who were attacked and robbed positively identified the man police sought, Bolton said. The

suspect was arrested Wednesday on pending charges of aggravated sexual assault and aggravated assault.

Investigators could not confirm the .25-caliber handgun confiscated from the man was used in the recent attacks. But they said the weapon's caliber matches evidence recovered from the Monday shootings.

Police were trying to find two victims from March to identify the suspect, Sgt. Pat Welsh said. He said a fifth victim from Monday was recovering at Baylor University Medical Center from a gunshot wound she sustained while trying to run.

The rape suspect approached his victims while they walked alone at night or waited at bus stops in the Fair Park area of South Dallas, then forced them at gunpoint to a secluded area or vacant house, where they were raped and robbed.

The suspect was working for a janitorial firm that the city uses to clean up police, Fire Department and other municipal offices, Bolton said.

Remember when ... Senior Snapshot

You lived during a time that is hard for the younger generation to imagine. Share with us some of your memories as a child and young adult. A photo is required ... it can be childhood, young adult or recent.

Name _____

Birth Date & Place _____

Family _____

Favorite Childhood Memory _____

When I Grew Up I Wanted To Be _____

My Best Friend Was _____

People Remember Me As Being _____

My Favorite Toy _____

My Favorite Game _____

My Favorite Radio Show _____

The First Movie I Ever Saw & The Cost _____

The First Phone I Ever Used Belonged To _____

The Person That Most Influenced My Life _____

The Historical Event That Most Affected My Life & Why _____

The Thing I Remember Most About The Depression Was _____

The Biggest Honor I've Ever Received Is _____

If I Could Change One Thing About My Past It Would Be _____

My Whole Family Enjoyed _____

The Person From My Childhood I Wish I Could Visit With Today Is _____

My First Job Was _____

Year & Make Of The First Vehicle I Drove _____

Cost Of Gasoline When I First Drove _____

On My First Date I Went To _____

My Favorite Hang Out Spot Was _____

The Fashion Trend Was _____

My Favorite Saying Was _____

My Favorite Song Was _____

Another Memory I Want To Share Is _____



SUNDAY SNAPSHOT

Anyone Can Do It ... And It's This Simple
Just Fill Out The Following Questions (you do not have to answer all the questions to be a Sunday Snapshot) And Bring It To The Pampa News Office. We Can Take Your Picture In The Office Or You Can Bring A Favorite Photo With You. It's That Easy ... And It's For All Ages!

- Name: _____
- Occupation/Activities: _____
- Birth Date & Place: _____
- Family: _____
- If I had a different job, I'd be a: "or" _____
- My personal hero: _____
- The best advice I ever got was: _____
- People who knew me in High School thought: "or" _____
- The best word or words to describe me: _____
- People will remember me as being: _____
- The four guests at my fantasy dinner party would be: _____
- My hobbies are: _____
- My favorite sports team is: _____
- My favorite author is: _____
- The last book I read was: _____
- My favorite possession is: _____
- The biggest honor I've ever received is: _____
- My favorite performer is: _____
- I wish I knew how to: _____
- My trademark cliché or expression is: _____
- My worst habit is: _____
- I would never: _____
- The last good movie I saw was: _____
- I stay home to watch: _____
- Nobody knows: _____
- I drive a: "or" _____
- My favorite junk food is: _____
- My favorite restaurant is: _____
- My favorite pet: _____
- For my last meal, I would choose: "or" _____
- I wish I could sing like: _____
- I'm happiest when I'm: _____
- I regret: _____
- I'm tired of: _____
- I have a phobia about: "or" _____
- The electrical device I couldn't live without is: _____
- My most embarrassing moment: _____
- The biggest waste of time is: _____
- If I won the lottery, the most extravagant thing I would do is: _____
- If I had three wishes they would be: _____
- If I could change one thing about Pampa, it would be: _____

It's Happening at **HOMELAND**

Saturday April 22nd

Easter Egg Hunt!

This Saturday At 6:30 Am, (Store Will Open At 7:00 Am Instead Of 6:00 AM So We Can Hold This Event.) Ages 10 And Under ... **THE EASTER BUNNY WILL BE HERE!** Free Coffee And Donuts For The Parents!

Hot Dog Sale ... 11 AM To 5 PM

Hot Dogs 4/1:00 With Free Coke With Purchase ...

Ping Pong Ball Drop

Sat. At 2 PM

In The Parking Lot ... Last Years Event Was A Great Success ... Don't Miss It!



Product Demos ... Throughout The Day ... Free Samples

Weekend Special 18 Pk Coors, Budweiser SLB Marketing, Limit 2.....

\$8.89

Chamber luncheon



One of the newest members of the local chamber of commerce, Wilbur Cotner (left), who with his wife Theima recently moved from Florida to Pampa is joined at this week's chamber luncheon by Jim Davidson. The men were among a large crowd who heard speaker City Manager Bob Eskridge.

(Pampa News photo by Kate B. Dickson)

Oil patch producers scramble for workers

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico's oil patch is recovering as gasoline prices climb to all-time highs, but oil producers are scrambling to find workers to fill production demands.

Labor shortages throughout the oil industry are hampering efforts to increase production, drill new exploratory wells and relieve debts that were built up over the past three years when the market sank to profit-robbing lows.

"It's a problem wherever the industry is — New Mexico, West Texas, anywhere," said Roswell oilman George Yates of Yates International.

While gasoline prices have more than doubled in the past year, the oil industry is still recovering from the two-year bust that began in 1998, Yates said.

Oil field workers — the backbone of the industry — fled the

business in droves in the past three years, leaving the companies that persevered through the hard times searching for qualified workers to run their drilling rigs.

"If you want to drill a new well, it's going to be a long wait," Yates said.

The state Labor Department has tracked a decline in the number of workers in the state's oil and gas extraction industries dating back to 1997.

Comparing the month of February to the same month in the previous two years shows a 3.6 percent increase in the number of workers in 2000 from 1999. Compared to February 1998, however, the number of oil and gas workers in the state has dropped almost 15 percent — from 10,200 to the present 8,700.

Annual figures show the average number of workers in New

Mexico's oil and gas industries has dropped more than 10 percent from 1998 to 1999. There was an average of 9,800 oil and gas workers in the state in 1998, while the average was 8,800 in 1999. In 1997, that average was 10,000.

"The oil and gas numbers aren't up yet," said Gerry Bradley of the Labor Department's Economic Research and Analysis Bureau.

Bradley said employment in that sector has improved, but remains short about 1,000 workers.

The labor shortage couldn't come at a worst time. Prices for crude oil have soared and that means demand is high for rig workers.

There were 763 rigs either looking for or developing oil and natural gas deposits in the United States in February. That's up 41 percent from the 541 rigs working in February 1999.

Also, government sponsored incentives designed to prod New Mexico's oil and gas industry into high activity is further stressing the labor pool.

Nationally, the drain on qualified personnel hasn't been limited to the field. Layoffs and cutbacks have driven knowledgeable oil workers at all levels to competing industries, said Mark Kobelan, president of Marquee Corp. in Houston.

"I think people are getting opportunities to get a job elsewhere: geologists, engineers, (etc)," he said. "If they found something good, they're not coming back."

Dairy industry tries to juice up its sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping to juice up its sales, the dairy industry is making big changes in the looks of the plastic jug, created half a century ago.

New on the market are a pitcher-like jug so easy to pour from that a 4-year-old can use it — without spilling — and jazzy single-serving bottles of flavored milk aimed at teen-age boys that would replace the half-pint cartons that are the staple of school cafeterias.

"The milk industry realized some years ago that it had to perk up its act a bit, or appear more relevant to consumers, especially young consumers," said John Sicher, editor of Beverage Digest.

For years, milk has been steadily losing market share to soft drinks, juice, bottled water and other beverages. Milk consumption dropped from 19.4 gallons per person in 1988 to 18.2 gallons in 1998.

Enter the Milk Chug, single-serve bottles of flavored milk introduced by the nation's second

biggest dairy processor, Dean Foods Co. of Franklin Park, Ill. Sales totaled \$100 million in 1999 and are projected to double to \$200 million this year as the product is introduced nationwide, thanks to a new technology that the company says triples the shelf life of milk to six weeks or more.

The drinks give kids a healthy alternative to soda, said Eric Blanchard, a Dean Foods spokesman.



Happy "17" Birthday Miss Toastie Love Mom & Dad

Names in the news

NEW YORK (AP) — Composer Jason Robert Brown and conductor Roberto Minczuk were honored as this year's recipients of the \$5,000 Martin E. Segal Awards from Lincoln Center.

The awards, presented Wednesday, celebrate rising artists and their outstanding achievements in the arts.

Brown, 29, won the Tony Award as composer and lyricist of "Parade," which opened in December 1998 at Lincoln Center Theater's Vivian Beaumont Theater.

In accepting the award, Brown played and sang a new song, "I Could Be in Love with Someone Like You," from a two-character musical.

"Great acceptance speech," said Beverly Sills, chairman of Lincoln Center.

Minczuk, 32, was the first winner not present to accept the honor. He taped an acceptance speech from Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he was conducting a concert of Brazilian composers for the country's 500th anniversary.

Minczuk, who is from Brazil, is co-artistic director of the Sao Paulo State Symphony and music director of the Ribeirao Preto Symphony in Brazil. He conducted the New York Philharmonic's summer concerts in 1998 and 1999.

NEW YORK (AP) — Luciano Pavarotti is celebrating the start of his 40th season of performances with a concert at Madison Square Garden this fall.

"New York is the city with the most important theater for a singer in the entire world," the tenor said Wednesday during a visit to city hall. "I grew up in Italy but I came here and a lot of my career was made in New York, so I have a very, very particular feeling for this city."

Pavarotti gave a free concert in Central Park in 1993 that was attended by some 500,000 people.

The concert at Madison Square Garden is scheduled for Sept. 14.

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Metallica dropped Yale from a lawsuit after the university stopped its computer network users from connecting to an Internet site that allows people to trade copyright music.

Yale blocked access to the Napster site last week, after the heavy metal band sued the Ivy League school, two other universities and California-based Napster, which makes the popular Internet music sharing software.

"We appreciate the prompt and responsible reaction by Yale University in dealing with the gross violations of copyright laws and the protection of intellectual property," Metallica said in a written statement Wednesday. "We thank them for their quick response to the matter."

Metallica contends the universities allowed free trade of copyright songs by failing to block access to the Napster sharing program, which allows Internet users to download music directly from each others' computer hard drives. The music is stored in a digital format known as MP3.

Yale spokesman Tom Conroy said the school blocked access to

the Napster site during business hours a few months ago. In February, he said the school "alerted" students to federal copyright laws as they applied to Napster.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The cast of "The Practice" and others who have worked to outlaw capital punishment have been honored by an anti-death penalty group.

Writer-producer David E. Kelley, who created "The Practice," stood by as series star Camryn Manheim accepted the Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award.

The award, named for the late California Supreme Court Chief Justice, was presented Tuesday by Death Penalty Focus, a group headed by actor Mike Farrell.

"Death Penalty Focus shouldn't be giving awards; they should be getting them," Manheim said. "Thank you for your tireless work to eliminate this barbaric process."

Death Penalty Focus also presented awards to actor Ossie Davis, Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., Los Angeles Rabbi Leonard I. Beerman and Chicago Tribune reporters Judi Marriot and Martha McKinney whose stories led to an Illinois moratorium on the death penalty.

DIABETICS

(children & adults) who have suffered any serious side effects of

REZULIN

may be entitled to seek MONEY DAMAGES 1-800-414-9757

George Hazzard, Lawyer - Dallas, Tx.

accepted claims will likely involve referral Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Had enough of the round trips?

pampa/ama
ama/pampa
pampa/ama
ama/pampa
pampa/ama
ama/pampa
pampa/ama
ama/pampa
pampa/ama

pampa



PAMPA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

One Medical Plaza
Pampa, Texas 79065
806 665 3721

Amarillo Gunfighters to host Sheriff's Fast Draw Competition

■ The Sheriff's Fast Draw Competition is just one of the scheduled events to take place at the outpost. It is part of a benefit fund-raiser for the family of Matthew Allsup (age 4) who was injured in a car wreck and spent three months in Northwest Texas Hospital Pediatric ICU. Other events will include a barbecue brisket cookoff, a chili cookoff and a fast draw competition that will be open to everyone.

AMARILLO — A challenge to a gunfight has been issued to all sheriffs and sheriff candidates in the Texas Panhandle, according to Richard Spears with the Amarillo Gunfighters. The challenge is part of a special competition to be held Saturday, April 29 at the Rusty Spur Outpost near Palo Duro Canyon State Park. "When the gunsmoke has cleared, we'll know who the fastest lawman in Texas is," Spears said.

The Sheriff's Fast Draw Competition is just one of the scheduled events to take place at the outpost. It is part of a benefit fund-raiser for the family of Matthew Allsup (age 4) who was injured in a car wreck and spent three months in Northwest Texas Hospital Pediatric ICU. Other events will include a barbecue brisket cookoff, a chili cookoff and a fast draw competition that will be open to everyone.

During Sheriff's Fast Draw Competition, sheriffs of the panhandle will face the meanest, ugliest, most vile outlaw in the west. His name is "Slim," and he's the resident mannequin at The Rusty Spur Outpost. Old West fast draw speed will meet 21st century technology as an electronic timer will measure the reaction speed of the shooter. The competitor's will keep their hand a minimum of 6-inches from their shootin' iron until they hear the buzzer.

The electronic timer will measure reaction time from the buzzer to the fired shot in thousands of a second. A balloon on Slim's chest will be burst from the blank that will be fired, ensuring the competitors aim was correct.

There will be two scenarios for each contestant. The standing event will have the competitor shoot from a standing position 10 paces from the opponent. The poker table event will have the competitor sitting at a poker table holding five cards in his gun hand. When the buzzer sounds, he will drop the cards, grab his six-shooter on the

table and fire at the opponent on the other side of the table. Sign-up for all chili cooks, barbecue cooks and fast draw competitors will be from 9-11 a.m. All weapons must be inspected and tied down in holsters and safety ruled will be strictly enforced. The Sheriff's Fast Draw Competition will be held at 12 noon followed by the regular fast draw competition at 1 p.m. Judging for the barbecue cookoff will also begin at 1 p.m. The chili cookoff judging will be at 2 p.m. Throughout the day, musical entertainment will be provided in addition to an Old West Medicine Show, cowboy poetry and much more. The cook-off and fast draw competitions will be open to everyone. Spectators are welcome and will be able to sample the chili and barbecue for a \$5 entry fee. The fee for competitors is \$10 per event. For more information or for entry rules, contact Spears at (806) 655-5679.

The Rusty Spur Outpost is located one-half mile west of the entrance to Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Trophies will be awarded in all competitions and a Tieman "Son of a Brisket" smoker will be raffled off.



(Special photo)

Eight marketing education students from Pampa High School recently participated in the 53rd Annual Career Development Conference for DECA, Texas Association at the Corpus Christi Bayfront Convention Center in Corpus Christi. pAbove: (front row, left-right) Desarae Hilton, Jill Forman, Liana Ammerman; (back row, l-r) Angela Bowman, Amber Hathcoat, April Rodgers and Miranda Dyer.

JP Kurt Curfman attends eight-hour training school in Shamrock

Kurt R. Curfman, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, recently attended an eight-hour training school in Shamrock.

The Panhandle Association of the West Texas Justices of the Peace and Constables Association provided this school. Department of Public Safety troopers of Texas provided the training for approximately 28 Justices.

This school covered not only Texas but also Federal laws pertaining to License and Weight laws. New laws and recent changes pertaining to inquest hearings was also presented.



Kurt R. Curfman

NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN ENVIRONS GAS RATES AND SERVICE CHARGES

On March 8, 2000 Energas Company filed a statement of intent with the Railroad Commission of Texas to increase its gas rates in the unincorporated areas ("Environ's") surrounding the sixty-seven West Texas Cities listed below. The proposed increase would affect all classes of environ's tariff customers including Residential, Commercial, Public Authority, Small Industrial and Air Conditioning customers and would be identical in relative magnitude to those proposed by the Company for the sixty-seven West Texas cities in the Company's pending Appeal at the Railroad Commission. The proposed effective date for the increase is April 27, 2000. The Railroad Commission may delay the proposed effective date for up to 150 days. However, the environ's rates will not be changed until the rates inside the sixty-seven West Texas Cities are changed. There are approximately 22,275 Environ's customers in the unincorporated areas surrounding the sixty-seven West Texas Cities from which the Company has appealed to the Railroad Commission. The proposed changes in environ's rates are expected to increase the Company's annual revenues by approximately \$1.0 million or 8.5%, adjusted for normal weather. The change is a "major change" under state law only in the environ's of Lubbock and Odessa.

Energas proposes to restructure its gas rates to moderate bill variability during the heating season, to increase its revenues from gas service by increasing the customer charges and lower pricing blocks, and to increase its charges for miscellaneous services such as reconnecting gas services following nonpayment. The Company also proposes changes to its Gas Cost Adjustment ("GCA") Clause to collect all of the gas cost and related taxes instead of just the difference between actual gas cost and a base cost of gas in the base rates. Copies of the proposal may be obtained at the Energas Office at 5110 80th, Lubbock, Texas, 79424.

Customers who are affected by the proposed environ's rate changes may, within 30 days following the proposed effective date, file written comments or a protest with:

Docket Services Section
Legal Division (Re: Docket No. 9002-9068)
Railroad Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 12967
Austin Texas 78711-2967

Any such protest must be received by the Commission no later than May 27, 2000. The deadline to file a petition to intervene in the case as a party is May 27, 2000.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Abernathy | Lamesa | Quitaque |
| Amherst | Levelland | Ralls |
| Anton | Littlefield | Ransom Canyon |
| Big Spring | Lockney | Ropesville |
| Bovina | Lorenzo | Seagraves |
| Brownfield | Los Ybanez | Seminole |
| Buffalo Springs Lake | Lubbock* | Shallowater |
| Canyon | Meadow | Silverton |
| Coahoma | Midland | Slaton |
| Crosbyton | Muleshoe | Smyer |
| Dimmitt | Nazareth | Springlake |
| Earth | New Deal | Stanton |
| Edmonson | New Home | Sudan |
| Floydada | Odessa* | Tahoka |
| Forsan | O'Donnell | Timbercreek Canyon |
| Frona | Oton | Tulla |
| Hale Center | Opdyke West | Turkey |
| Happy | Pallasades | Vega |
| Hart | Pampa | Wellman |
| Hereford | Panhandle | Wilson |
| Idelou | Petersburg | Wolfforth |
| Kress | Plainview | |
| Lake Tanglewood | Post | |

PHS students compete in DECA conference

Eight marketing education students from Pampa High School recently participated in the 53rd Annual Career Development Conference for DECA, Texas Association at the Corpus Christi Bayfront Convention Center in Corpus Christi.

In addition to business meetings, career workshops and educational tours, students participated in curriculum-related competitive events which allowed them to compare their knowledge and skills about various concepts in marketing, merchandising and management, with those of students from over 500 high schools across the state. There were approximately 4,000 DECA members and their advisors that took part in the conference.

Students recognized as state finalists at the Grand Awards Assembly earned the right to compete at the National DECA

Career Development Conference in Louisville, Ky., on April 29-May 3 with part of their expenses paid by the Texas Association of DECA.

Jill Forman, Desarae Hilton and Liana Ammerman were named state finalist. Jill Forman and Desarae Hilton were the chairpersons for the Pampa Chapter Free Enterprise Project that earned first place honors. The Free Enterprise Project consisted of the marketing students teaching the Lamar fifth graders about the five principles of the economic system. Liana Ammerman's Hospitality and Recreation Research Event earned her first place honors. Ammerman's project consisted of developing an institutional promotion campaign for Subway.

Montana Farnum will also be attending the National Conference as the District 8

secretary. Farnum will participate in the Leadership Development Academy.

According to local chapter advisor, Donna Crow, the following students represented their chapter at the conference in Corpus Christi: Jill Forman, Desarae Hilton, Amber Hathcoat, April Rodgers, Liana Ammerman, Miranda Dyer and Angela Bowman.

DECA is a 51-year-old youth organization with almost 12,000 members statewide and 150,000 members nationwide. DECA's unique role is to provide leadership experiences and recognition for its members as they prepare for dynamic careers in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. To be a member of the Pampa Chapter of DECA, a student has to take one of the Marketing Education courses at Pampa High School.

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SPORTS

Notebook

BASEBALL

MONTREAL (AP) — Vladimir Guerrero drove in four runs and hit a go-ahead double in the seventh inning Wednesday night that led the Montreal Expos over the Chicago Cubs 7-3.

Guerrero went 3-for-5, falling a home run short of the cycle. He also struck out for the first time since last Sept. 25, a span of 22 games.

Henry Rodriguez and Jeff Reed homered for the Cubs.

It was 3-all in the seventh when Guerrero hit a two-out, two-run double off Ruben Quevedo (0-2).

Carl Pavano (2-0) allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings.

HORSE RACING

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Jockey Pat Day won four races at Keeneland and became the track's all-time winningest jockey with 720 career wins.

In the ninth and final race, Day was thrown from his horse, Nealski's Bro, after a victory. Day was taken to the track's first-aid room, where he was treated and released.

BASKETBALL

HOUSTON (AP) — Starting today, life will be different for Charles Barkley. He understands that and he's ready.

"I've played against Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, Dr. J., Michael (Jordan), and now guys like Grant Hill, Patrick Ewing," Barkley said after his final game Wednesday night. "It won't be the same down at the rec."

Barkley put the cap on a 16-year NBA career with six minutes against the Vancouver Grizzlies, his first playing time since Dec. 8, when he ruptured a knee tendon that cost him most of his final season before retirement.

He had two points, an assist, a rebound and a blocked shot in six minutes. That's all he wanted.

"I can't explain what tonight meant to me," Barkley said. "I've won and lost a lot of games. But the last memory I had playing was being carried off the court. I couldn't get over that mental block."

"I didn't have any illusions of getting 20 points and 10 rebounds, but it was important for me to feel good and walk off the court."

Barkley checked into the game with 7:26 to go in the second quarter, and received a standing ovation amid shouts of "Barkley, Barkley, Barkley." Fans waved cardboard cutout Barkley masks and groaned when Barkley missed his first shot.

Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich kept Barkley in the game until he got an offensive rebound and put it back for a basket with 1:24 to play in the first half. Barkley left the game with 1:19 to play, and that was it.

Barkley returned to the sidelines for the second half, where a fluffy recliner awaited him.

"One of the hardest things, is no matter what I accomplish the rest of my life, nothing will compare to what I did these last 16 years," Barkley said.

The Grizzlies held off a late Houston push for a 96-92 victory in the season finale for both teams. Michael Dickerson led Vancouver with 20 points. The Grizzlies snapped a seven-game losing streak, and Walt Williams led Houston with 20 points.

The Rockets saved their praise of Barkley until after the game.

"He has what I call the heart of a champion," Tomjanovich said. "He always played to win. He put the team above himself, and he always followed the golden rule 'The open man gets the ball.' If he was double-teamed 10 times, he passed it out."

Hit batsmen play big role in Astros' victory

LOS ANGELES (AP) — If he wanted, Dodgers pitcher Orel Hershiser could have fallen back on a couple of excuses. He did, after all, have a slight groin muscle pull, and he also had to cut short his pregame warmups.

After he tied a modern major league record by hitting four batters in Los Angeles' 10-3 loss to the Houston Astros on Wednesday night, Hershiser took complete blame for his messy 11-3 innings.

"I felt fine. My groin was no problem. I had 54 pitches (in the game) to get loose. I just didn't pitch well," the Dodgers right-hander said after allowing seven runs on four hits in his wild, brief stint.

"I just stunk."

Although he only lasted through one out in the second inning, Hershiser equaled the major league mark for hit batsmen in a game,

shared by 19 others and last matched by Anaheim's Omar Olivares last June 13.

"I was trying to make some adjustments, and every adjustment I made, it just seemed to get worse," Hershiser said. "It's a shame I had to put our team through that."

The Astros' Richard Hidalgo also had a rough evening — he was hit twice by Hershiser and a third time by reliever Matt Herges, tying another modern major league record. It was the 20th time one batter was hit three times in a game.

"Tonight was unbelievable, they were very wild," Hidalgo said. "It was a little bit scary."

Even Hershiser felt bad for the battered Hidalgo.

"The second time I hit him in the middle of the back, I apologized," Hershiser said. "The back of his jersey must have looked like a catcher's mitt by the end of the game."

Obviously unable to control his pitches, Hershiser hit Hidalgo and pitcher Shane Reynolds in the first inning, then hit Jeff Bagwell and Hidalgo again in the second.

Hershiser (1-1) gave up seven runs on four hits and two walks. He threw several pitches far inside, several others into the dirt and several more to the backstop.

There seemed to be no animosity toward the 41-year-old pitcher, and Hidalgo, Reynolds and Bagwell all remained in the game after being hit.

"I don't think he had any intention of doing that," Reynolds said, adding that Hershiser told him he didn't know where the ball was going as Reynolds was walking to first.

Dodgers manager Davey Johnson thought Hershiser was wild because he didn't get his usual 15-

minute warmup in the bullpen prior to the game, cutting it five minutes short because the game was scheduled to start at 7:05 p.m.,

rather than the usual 7:10 start. "We messed up. He has his routine and he expected 15 minutes in the bullpen," Johnson said.

National League standings

By The Associated Press
All Times EDT
East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	8	6 .571	—
Montreal	8	6 .571	—
Florida	9	7 .563	—
New York	8	7 .533	1/2
Philadelphia	5	8 .385	2 1/2

Central Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	10	5 .667	—
Cincinnati	7	7 .500	2 1/2
Houston	6	8 .429	3 1/2
Milwaukee	6	8 .429	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	6	8 .429	3 1/2
Chicago	6	11 .353	5

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Arizona	11	4 .733	—
Los Angeles	8	6 .571	2 1/2

Colorado	8	8 .500	3 1/2
San Diego	7	8 .467	4
San Francisco	4	10 .286	6 1/2

Tuesday's Games

Montreal 4, Chicago Cubs 3
Florida 12, Pittsburgh 5
N.Y. Mets 10, Milwaukee 7
San Francisco 13, Cincinnati 9
St. Louis 5, San Diego 4
Atlanta 4, Philadelphia 3, 12 Innings
Arizona 7, Colorado 1
Los Angeles 5, Houston 3
Wednesday's Games
Montreal 7, Chicago Cubs 3
Pittsburgh 5, Florida 1
Cincinnati 5, San Francisco 4
N.Y. Mets 3, Milwaukee 1
Atlanta 10, Philadelphia 1
St. Louis 4, San Diego 3
Arizona 8, Colorado 7
Houston 10, Los Angeles 3

Soccer MVPs



(Special photo)

Senior defender Brad Gardner (left) and senior midfielder Jeremy Hall shared Most Valuable Player honors for the Pampa boys soccer team this season. Gardner served as co-captain and Hall led the team in goals, assists and points.

Spurs turn back Lakers in OT

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — With Tim Duncan injured, David Robinson and the Spurs reserves clinched homecourt advantage for the first round of the playoffs.

San Antonio came back from a 17-point deficit in the fourth quarter for a 103-98 overtime victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night.

David Robinson scored six points in overtime and four Spurs reserves scored in double figures — including Antonio Daniels with 11 points in the fourth quarter and overtime.

"Boy, we're actually starting to turn into a team again. That's a lot of fun," Robinson said.

San Antonio had to win to clinch homecourt advantage in the best-of-five first-round series against Phoenix. The teams were tied heading into Wednesday's games, and the Spurs owned the tiebreaker.

Duncan again was sidelined because of torn cartilage in his left knee. It was the fourth game he's missed with the injury, and it's questionable whether he'll be ready for the start of the playoffs.

Robinson led the Spurs with 17

points. "I know I keep sounding like a broken record, but I'm real happy for these guys," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich. "They've been playing well the past month and I'm just happy to get this done."

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 23 points, and Shaquille O'Neal had 22.

The Spurs got off to a quick start in overtime on field goals by Daniels and Robinson and outscored Los Angeles 14-9 in the extra period.

With 1:39 left in overtime, Robinson picked up a foul guarding O'Neal and fell to the floor as O'Neal elbowed him in the ribs. O'Neal was called for a technical foul, and Popovich was so mad over the incident he had to be held back at the bench by his assistants.

"It was unnecessary," Robinson said. "It (O'Neal's elbow) was after the play. I'm just glad the referees saw it as so."

O'Neal left the Alamodome without commenting.

Unlike the Spurs, the Lakers had nothing at stake in the game. But coach Phil Jackson said his team was trying its best to win despite using mostly reserves down the

stretch.

"The second unit had a 17-point lead. They had an obligation to take it home," Jackson said. "We wanted to have a competitive game, and we got that."

The Lakers led 48-40 at halftime. Though the Spurs lurked close behind until midway through the third quarter, a 16-3 Los Angeles run opened a double-digit lead for the Lakers — 72-57 with 2:11 left in the period.

With a 74-61 advantage entering the fourth quarter, the Lakers inched further ahead and led by 17 points two minutes into the period. Then a 10-0 by Spurs reserves got San Antonio back in it.

San Antonio pulled to 84-81 on a dunk and follow-up free throw by Malik Rose with 4:48 remaining. A 3-pointer by Daniels tied the game at 84-84, two free throws by Terry Porter moved the Spurs ahead and a hook shot by Samaki Walker gave San Antonio a four-point lead with 1:58 remaining.

The Lakers went more than seven minutes in the fourth without a field goal before tying the game at 89-89 with 29 seconds left on a 3-pointer by Devean George.

Pampa beats Dumas in JV game

AMARILLO — Pampa defeated Dumas 17-9 in junior varsity baseball action Monday.

Wes Martin led Pampa's hitting attack with three hits. Antonio Estrada. Evan Miller, Kevin Schaub and Adam Wright had two hits each. Kyle Keith and Mike Galloway had one hit each.

Shawn Strate, Jon Lambright and Kyle Keith pitched for Pampa with Lambright picking up the win.

"The team played five very good innings. From the third to the seventh we played like we knew how to. We got off to a terrible start, forgetting all the basics of baseball for two innings," said Pampa coach Troy Owens.

Courtesy runner James Lee gave the team a big lift when he

stole three bases.

"He was a great help," Owens added. "He coached first base, warmed up the pitcher and is a great leader and teammate."

Dumas scored seven runs in the first two innings, and only three were earned. Owens said the Pampa defense did an out-

standing job the rest of the game.

Pampa JVs have an 11-5 record. They play in the Amarillo Tournament today and Friday. They close out the season at 3:30 p.m. Saturday against Hereford on the home field.

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Team Petty carries on after patriarch's death

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

Even after Lee Petty left racing nearly four decades ago, he still poked his head inside the family's garage every week to offer advice.

"Here's where you messed up ... what went wrong ... what you should have done Sunday," he would tell the drivers and crew.

But the patriarch of NASCAR's first family of racing doesn't come around anymore. Petty died April 5 of complications from a stomach aneurysm, leaving behind a dynasty that still loves to drive fast but is struggling to cope at slower speeds without the man who got it all started.

"It's been pretty hard on us," grandson Kyle said. "The one thing that has helped is the outpouring from the fans. My grandmother has been amazed ... that's been a big help for her to know there are that many people

out there who knew who Lee Petty was and what he had done."

The pioneer driver and greatest star of the 1950s won 55 races, still seventh-best in NASCAR history, and three Grand National — now Winston Cup — championships.

In 1959, he became the photo-finish winner of the first Daytona 500.

Petty's legacy goes beyond his own accomplishments, though. One son, Richard, became The King of stock car racing with a record 200 victories and seven championships. Another son, Maurice, was the family's engine builder.

Richard's son, Kyle, is now in his 20th year as a Winston Cup regular, and has taken over the day-to-day business of running the team. Kyle's son, 19-year-old Adam, made his debut in Texas just three days before Lee's death, making the Pettys the first four-generation family of

NASCAR racers.

Lee's passing was not unexpected — he was 86 and had been in failing health since undergoing surgery in February — but it's been especially hard on his widow, Elizabeth, and their two sons.

"I've seen my father in 10 million different situations in his lifetime, from laying in a hospital bed to standing on top of his car in the Daytona 500 victory lane," Kyle said. "But I don't think I've ever seen him this emotional about anything."

Together, the family had struggled, suffered and endured. When Richard and Maurice were young children, the Petty home in Level Cross, N.C., burned down. Maurice was stricken with polio. Lee was seriously injured in 1961 during a qualifying race at Daytona, effectively ending his driving career.

"I think the bond that those four people had was an incredible bond," Kyle said. "All fami-

lies are that way to some degree. But for this family, it just seemed to be a lot more intense. I think it's been hard for them to adjust to him not being there."

The eldest Petty lived out his days in a modest white bungalow near where he founded his racing organization in a farm shed more than a half-century ago. In his later years, he still walked through what became a sprawling complex almost daily and would practice his golf swing in front of his home.

But he had no interest in cashing in on NASCAR's amazing surge in popularity over the past decade.

"He never thought of himself as anything but Lee Petty, who just happened to drive a race car and put food on the table," Kyle said.

Lee was intensely competitive, even protesting when it appeared Richard had won his first race at a North Carolina dirt track in 1959. Race officials later

changed their ruling and declared Lee the winner.

Earlier that year, it took NASCAR a while to decide it had erred in declaring Johnny Beauchamp the Daytona winner. Petty got the trophy, Beauchamp the congratulatory kiss.

Kyle Petty said his grandfather's motives in the North Carolina race are misunderstood to this day.

"The reason he protested was because he had a late-model car, and the race paid a couple of hundred dollars more for a late-model car to win than it did for my father's car to win," Kyle explained. "And that's what it was all about to him, putting food on the table."

After crashing at Daytona, the elder Petty raced occasionally, then retired in 1964.

"Once he walked away, he just walked away," Kyle said. "He didn't care about all the hoopla and all that stuff that went on when NASCAR had their 50th

(anniversary). If they didn't call, it didn't bother him."

In the past year, there have been more changes at Petty Enterprises. Richard still signs off on major decisions, but little else.

These days, he might stop by the track on race day, but is more inclined to be at his second home in the mountains of Wyoming or traveling the country with his nine grandchildren.

"He doesn't have to do this anymore," Kyle said. "Finally, he has gotten to the point in his career where he wants to know something different."

The Pettys — Kyle is joined by John Andretti in the Winston Cup cars — have struggled with engine problems this season. They are hopeful that a switch next year from Pontiac to the new Dodge improve their fortunes.

If not?

"This is all we do," Kyle said. "We race cars."

Ripken repeats — hit No. 3,001 is a crowd pleaser in Baltimore

By BEN WALKER
AP Sports Writer

Cal Ripken gave the crowd at Camden Yards one more reason to celebrate.

Playing his first game at home since getting his 3,000th hit, Ripken provided another highlight with a homered in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift the Baltimore Orioles to a 3-2 victory over Tampa Bay.

"If you were trying to write a script, trying to get the next hit and trying to celebrate all over again, this would be a good way to do it," Ripken said.

"The ballgame, sitting on 3,000, getting a chance to celebrate a win with a sudden death home run — it's a good feeling," he said.

In other AL games, New York downed Texas 5-4 in 10 innings, Boston beat Detroit 10-0, Oakland defeated Cleveland 10-5, Toronto topped Anaheim 12-4, Minnesota beat Kansas City 7-6 and Chicago stopped Seattle 5-2.

Ripken recorded his 3,000th hit Saturday night at Minnesota. He did not play Sunday, and the Orioles' home games Monday and Tuesday against the Devil Rays were rained out.

Given a pair of early standing ovations, Ripken rewarded the fans later. He opened the ninth by hitting a 1-0 pitch from reliever Jim Mecir (2-1) into the left-field stands for his third homer of the year.

Baltimore won its third in a row. "Guys like Cal, I don't think any one of us should be surprised at the things they do," Orioles manager Mike Hargrove said. "They only get stronger and more consistent. I was going to say better, but you can't get much better."

Ripken hit the third game-ending home run of his career and his first since doing it against Kevin Hickey of the Chicago White Sox on July 13, 1984. Wednesday's homer moved him past Roberto Clemente into sole possession of 23rd place on the career hits list.

Before the game, fans were treated to video recap of his career. Four banners bearing the number "3-0-0-0" were unfurled on the B&O Warehouse beyond right field, but only the first and last flags unrolled.

It was left to an Orioles employee to reach out of an open window to knock the stubborn banners loose with a baton.

Yankees 5, Rangers 4, 10 innings
Clay Bellinger homered in the 10th inning and New York finished off its first three-game sweep at Texas since 1983. The Yankees have won eight in a row, their longest streak since taking nine straight in August 1998.

The Yankees have beaten Texas in nine consecutive playoff games, and extended the domination to the regular season. They are 5-0 against the Rangers this year.

Ivan Rodriguez connected for a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth off Yankees closer Mariano Rivera (2-0), tying the score. Rivera had been successful on 27 straight save chances since last July 16 — that was the date he last allowed a home run, to Atlanta's Andruw Jones.

Bellinger, who entered the game as a pinch-runner in the eighth, homered against Jeff Zimmerman (0-2).

Roger Clemens pitched seven strong innings and left with stiffness in his lower back. The Yankees said it was not a serious problem.

Red Sox 10, Tigers 0
Trot Nixon hit a grand slam and Boston hit four other home runs to win at Comerica Park.

Jose Offerman, Troy O'Leary, Mike Stanley and Nomar Garciaparra also homered for the Red Sox. Nixon drove in five runs.

Brian Rose (1-2) and three relievers teamed on a six-hitter as the Red Sox shut out Detroit for the second straight day.

Blue Jays 12, Angels 4
David Wells struck out 10 in his second complete game of the year,

bouncing back from a poor start to pitch Toronto past visiting Anaheim.

In his previous outing, Wells (2-1) matched the shortest outing of his career, giving up six runs in one inning.

Wells allowed eight hits in his 38th career complete game. He shut out Texas on April 8.

White Sox 5, Mariners 2
The White Sox withstood a near-homer by Alex Rodriguez to beat Seattle at Comiskey Park.

Rodriguez thought he had hit a tying home run around the left-field pole in the seventh inning, but third base umpire Fieldin Culbreth called it foul. Manager Lou Piniella asked for a second opinion and, after the umpires conferred, the call stood.

Television replays were inconclusive.

Athletics 10, Indians 5
Miguel Tejada hit his first career grand slam and Kevin Appier pitched Oakland past Cleveland at Jacobs Field.

Appier (3-1) won his third straight start. Jason Giambi, Ben Grieve and Matt Stairs also homered for the Athletics.

Twins 7, Royals 6
Butch Huskey singled home the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning at the Metrodome. Minnesota sent Kansas City to its fifth straight loss.

Matt Lawton bounced a one-out double over the head of second baseman Carlos Febles. Corey Koskie was intentionally walked with two outs, and Huskey singled.

Air League participants



Some of the youngsters who participated in the Pampa Air League this year display their medals. Front row, from left, are Teresa Roundy and Kiersten Kinser; Back row, from left, Abby West, Lydia West, Kelsey Kinser, Elizabeth Delong and Julie Schuneman. Elizabeth Delong was the league winner and Teresa Roundy was selected as the most improved participant in the girls division.

Blues are close to elimination

By The Associated Press

The St. Louis Blues are frustrated, confused and on the brink of playoff elimination.

The Blues, who had the NHL's best regular-season record, trail 3-1 in their Western Conference first-round series with San Jose after a 3-2 loss to the Sharks on Wednesday night.

"It's not easy to come back from 3-1 all the time, but we did it last year and we hope to do it again," St. Louis' Pierre Turgeon said.

The Blues overcame a 3-1 deficit last season when they beat the Phoenix Coyotes 4-3 in a first-round series.

San Jose, 0-4-1 in five regular-season meetings with the Blues, is one win from duplicating its 1994 feat, when it ousted the Detroit Red Wings in a first-round series as a No. 8 seed.

In other NHL playoff games, Detroit swept its series against Los Angeles with a 3-0 victory; Ottawa edged Toronto 2-1; Washington beat Pittsburgh 3-2; and Phoenix defeated Colorado 3-2.

Gary Suter's slap shot from just inside the blue line skipped into the net with 8:37 remaining and proved to be the game-winner in San Jose.

The best-of-7 series moves back to St. Louis on Friday for Game 5.

The winning shot was set up when Alexander Korolyuk threw the puck across the ice and it bounded off the boards to Suter, who wound up for a slap shot near the blue line. The puck took a bounce off the ice and shot between goalie Roman Turek's stick-side arm and his leg.

"It looked like a knuckleball. Boom, boom, it was in," St. Louis

coach Joel Quenneville said.

Trailing 2-0 after goals by Marco Sturm and Mike Ricci, the Blues tied it by scoring twice in a 36-second span of the second period.

With the Blues on the power play, Turgeon got off a pass to Jochen Hecht, who whisted the puck past goalie Steve Shields at 12:54.

Just a few seconds later Jamal Mayers got off a shot that Shields stopped, but before he could cover up the rebound, Mike Eastwood skated in scored.

Red Wings 3, Kings 0
Pat Verbeek and Larry Murphy scored power-play goals 1:57 apart late in the first period, and Chris Osgood earned his eighth career playoff shutout as Detroit beat Los Angeles to sweep the series.

American League Standings			
All Times EDT			
East Division			
W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	11	3.786	—
Baltimore	8	5.6152	1/2
Boston	9	6.8002	1/2
Toronto	6	10.375	6
Tampa Bay	5	9.357	6
Central Division			
W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	9	6.800	—
Cleveland	8	6.571	1/2
Kansas City	8	7.533	1
Minnesota	5	10.333	4
Detroit	4	10.2864	1/2
West Division			
W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	8	6.571	—
Anaheim	8	7.533	1/2
Oakland	7	8.4671	1/2
Texas	6	9.4002	1/2
Tuesday's Games			
Tampa Bay at Baltimore, ppd., rain			
Boston 7, Detroit 0			
Oakland 8, Cleveland 5			
Minnesota 3, Kansas City 1			
N.Y. Yankees 6, Texas 3			
Anaheim 16, Toronto 10			
Chicago White Sox 18, Seattle 11			
Wednesday's Games			
Late Game Not Included			
Chicago White Sox 5, Seattle 2			
N.Y. Yankees 5, Texas 4, 10 innings			
Toronto 12, Anaheim 4			
Baltimore 3, Tampa Bay 2			
Boston 10, Detroit 0			
Oakland 10, Cleveland 5			
Kansas City at Minnesota, (n)			
Thursday's Games			
Kansas City (Rosado 1-1) at Minnesota (Bergman 0-0), 1:05 p.m.			
Tampa Bay (Flugo 0-2) vs. at Baltimore (Halladay 1-2), 7:05 p.m.			
Boston (Martinez 3-0) at Detroit (Nikowski 1-2), 7:05 p.m.			
Oakland (Hudson 1-1) at Cleveland (Burba 1-1), 7:05 p.m.			
Anaheim (Botterfield 1-1) at Toronto (Haladay 1-2), 7:05 p.m.			
Only games scheduled			
Friday's Games			
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto, 4:05 p.m.			
Cleveland at Boston, 7:05 p.m.			
Anaheim at Tampa Bay, 7:15 p.m.			
Minnesota at Texas, 8:05 p.m.			
Detroit at Chicago White Sox, 8:05 p.m.			
Kansas City at Seattle, 10:05 p.m.			
Baltimore at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.			

Independent monitors announced for Sydney drug testing

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — In a move to eliminate suspicions of cover-ups and faulty procedures, independent observers will monitor drug testing during the Sydney Olympics.

The initiative was announced Wednesday as the International Olympic Committee cleared the way for blood tests to be introduced in Sydney if a reliable method for detecting the banned hormone EPO is validated in time.

"The odds are 50-50 we'll have an EPO test for Sydney," Jacques Rogge, vice chairman of the IOC medical commission, said. "It's a race against time."

Rogge said the independent monitors will be appointed by the new World Anti-Doping Agency to watch over the entire drug testing system during the Sept. 15-Oct. 1 games.

The observers will be present at all stages, including the collection

and analysis of urine samples and disciplinary hearings for athletes who test positive.

This will be the first time that independent delegates will observe testing at the Olympics. Until now, the IOC has been the sole overseer of drug controls.

The need for greater openness, oversight and accountability in Olympic drug testing has been a major demand of athletes' groups. Critics have accused the IOC of hiding positive tests at past Olympics.

"Athletes want controls to be fair," Rogge said. "They feel that doping controls are generally not correct. They fear cover-ups. There is a general suspicion among athletes and part of public opinion."

"While these concerns are unjustified, the best way to alleviate the suspicion is to have an independent observer who follows the whole sequence of doping con-

rol."

IOC vice president Dick Pound, chairman of the anti-doping agency, added: "Unless the athletes buy into the doping control system, the system won't work."

It's uncertain how many observers will be needed. With more than 2,000 drug tests to be carried out during the Sydney Games, Rogge said the observers will be selective in their monitoring.

"We don't need the U.N. army with blue helmets," he said. "You don't need a big brother mentality of observers behind the shoulder for every doping control."

Rogge, meanwhile, gave one of the IOC's most upbeat assessments of the possibility of having a test for EPO, or erythropoietin, in Sydney.

EPO, which enhances endurance by boosting the production of oxygen-rich red blood

cells in the body, was at the center of the Tour de France drug scandal in 1998 and is believed widely used in several sports.

EPO cannot be detected by standard urine tests.

Rogge said the IOC has finalized the legal rules which would allow blood sampling to be carried out in Sydney if a test is ready.

Researchers at the Australian Institute of Sport have told the IOC they can produce a reliable EPO test by early July.

"We can't accept a test that has not been scientifically validated," Rogge said.

The IOC will announce shortly the procedures for scientific validation, including publication in a highly-respected journal, independent peer review and approval by legal experts.

Rogge said he remained cautious because of the experience of the 1996 Atlanta Games, where

seven athletes tested positive for the stimulant bromantan.

The results were thrown out by the Court of Arbitration for Sport because the bromantan test was finalized only three weeks before the games and had not been scientifically approved.

"Four months later, the test was accepted," Rogge said. "For me, it was a pain in the heart that we had to leave those seven athletes without punishment."

On another issue, Rogge criticized Major League Baseball for failing to prohibit the use of androstenedione, the controversial substance used by Mark McGwire in 1998 when he hit a record 70 home runs.

Andro is included on the IOC's list of banned substances as a steroid, but Major League Baseball says more study is needed to determine whether it affects athletic performance.

"I can't understand why andro is still freely available over the counter in the U.S.," Rogge said. "It's a precursor of anabolic steroids. It is forbidden in the rest of the world. It is potentially damaging to your health."

The issue of drugs in Olympic baseball came to the fore Wednesday following confirmation that former Milwaukee Brewers catcher Dave Nilsson failed a test for the stimulant pseudoephedrine.

Ephedrine is not banned by either the U.S. or Japanese major leagues but is on the IOC's banned list.

Nilsson tested positive in November during the Intercontinental Cup in Sydney, where he was voted MVP of Australia's winning team. The ephedrine was contained in a dietary supplement Nilsson was taking.

Census Bureau: Response rate reaches 1990 level

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Census Bureau is turning its attention to a massive door-to-door effort to reach uncounted Americans now that the mail response has tied its 1990 return rate.

Census Director Kenneth Prewitt proclaimed the 65 percent mailback rate "a serious achievement," on Wednesday, and noted that forms are still coming in.

"Now our job is cut out for us: We will make every effort, beginning on April 27, to contact all those who did not return their forms so we can achieve a 100 percent count of our nation's population," Prewitt said at a briefing.

He said equaling the 1990 return rate reverses a "decades-long decline in meeting our civic responsibility."

The 1990 rate was matched despite controversy in recent weeks about questions on the long form which some people felt were intrusive. Prewitt said he believed that has hurt the overall response.

Returns of the short form have are better than

1990, 66.8 percent compared with 66 percent, he said. But the long form is lagging with just 54.1 percent returned so far, compared with 60 percent a decade ago.

"Federal statistics are not about individuals, therefore they are not about privacy," Prewitt said. He declined to speculate, however, on whether people who received the long form would be more likely to resist Census takers when they come to the door.

The Census Bureau budgeted for a 61 percent mail response rate this year because the rate has declined each decade since 1970 — from 78 percent to 75 percent in 1980 and 65 percent in 1990.

Now a half-million Census workers go into the field in follow-up operations scheduled last until July 7.

The better-than-expected mail return could result in some savings for the agency, but that may be balanced by the extra work needed to make up for the low return rate on the long form, which was

sent to one household in six.

The Constitution requires the count every 10 years in order to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives.

In addition, billions of dollars in federal money are distributed based on population formulas calculated from the information collected in the Census.

This makes a good response vital to local officials who conduct campaigns to encourage their citizens to cooperate. Indeed, some communities reportedly have gone so far as to offer their residents cash to complete their Census forms.

The Census Bureau itself relies on encouraging people to do their civic duty to get them to respond but it is also looking for new ways to improve that cooperation. One method scheduled for a limited test includes offering the incentive of a calling card worth 30 minutes of long-distance calls in return for their response.

In March, about 120 million census question-

naires were mailed or hand-delivered to homes across the country.

The Bureau launched a promotional campaign challenging communities to top their 1990 response rates by 5 percent and about 15 percent of cities and towns have done so, the agency reported.

While detailed figures being posted on the bureau's Internet site show the current response nationally at 64 percent, Prewitt said the overall total has now reached the 65 percent mark of a decade ago.

He said forms are expected to continue coming in slowly and final response figures should be available in a week or two.

The strongest showing this year is in the upper Midwest with return rates of more than 70 percent in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Even so, some of these were below their 1990 rates. Minnesota was down 4 percentage points, for example.



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2 family yard sale 9-? Friday 705 E. Denver, little bit of everything, waterbed.

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Tralee donation



(Community Camera photo)

Tralee Crisis Center recently received a donation from Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star. Above are (left-right) Donna Swindle, Deputy Grand Matron; Linda Town, executive director, Tralee; and Virginia Fore, Worthy Matron.

'Frontier Regiment' seeking members to participate in re-enactment activities

Residents of the Texas Panhandle who love frontier history can relive the life of their ancestors through a newly formed reenactment group, the "Frontier Regiment," according to veteran re-enactor Leon Watson of Fritch. The group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27 in the second-story court room of the Gray County Courthouse in Pampa.

The new "regiment" will include U.S. cavalry, infantry, buffalo soldiers, artillery, medical and military band units as well as pioneer women and children.

Watson said the entire family is urged to get involved. There will be something offered for the youngest to the oldest members. "The most fun for me is to go to old forts or historic sites," he said. "Many of them are now state parks which have old fort days or pioneer day celebrations. You get to meet re-enactors from all over the country. Many of the

re-enactors have been in movies such as 'Gettysburg,' 'Geronimo,' and 'Son of the Morning Star.' " Though being involved as a re-enactor can be expensive since all participants must buy or furnish all their own uniforms, costumes, cavalry equipment and weapons, Watson stressed that it is not necessary to be in costume or even own a horse to be a member. Those interested in joining the "Frontier Regiment" are urged to attend an organizational meeting on Thursday, April 27. For more information, call (806) 857-6489.

Watson, who was a charter member of the 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment (Memorial) in Lubbock 15 years ago, said interest in forming a frontier regiment in the Amarillo area has increased in recent years. The period of time the group reenacts may cover from the Civil War up the turn of the century. The organization will be non-profit, and will put on programs for schools and special events, ride in parades, serve as honor guards and go on camp-outs and trail rides.

"It will be an educational group," Watson said. "We want to represent the frontier soldiers and pioneers as they actually were, and not how they have been portrayed by Hollywood, artists or novelists. We want to

Harrington String Quartet to hold season finale

AMARILLO — The Harrington String Quartet will present the third and final subscription performance of their 1999-2000 season at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 29 at Northern Hall at West Texas A&M University in Canyon. HSQ will perform three works: Haydn's "Lark" Quartet, Wolf's "Italian Serenade" and Beethoven's Quartet in E-flat major, Opus 74.

The Harrington String Quartet was formed in the fall of 1981. In late 1980, the Don and Sybil Harrington Foundation made two grants — one to West Texas State University and one to the Amarillo Symphony to jointly organize a quartet. The members of HSQ are violinists Corinne Stillwell and Annie Chalex, violist Joanna Mendoza and cellist Emmanuel Lopez.

Single tickets for each Harrington String Quartet concert are \$7 for adults and \$2 for students and senior citizens. A free reception will follow the performance. Tickets are available in advance from the Amarillo Symphony or at Northern Hall, WTAMU on the day of the concert. For information, call the symphony office at (806) 376-8782.

Fourth generation



(Special photo)

Above are Tiffany Dennis, standing, mother; Tina Dennis, grandmother; Pat Bolton, great-grandmother; Dee Dalton, great-great-grandmother; and baby Chase Dennis.

Drilling Intentions

Oil Well Completion
 GRAY (PANHANDLE) Bradley Operating Co., #11A Gething 'B', Sec. 14,A-9,H&GN, elev. 2790 gl, spud 2-2-00, drlg. compl 2-6-00, tested 3-28-00, pumped 25 bbl. of 43.5 grav. oil + no water, GOR 480, TD 2845', PBTD 2845' — Replacement well

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 HEMPHILL (S.E. CANADIAN Douglas) Questar E&P Co., #4-48 Humphreys 'K', Sec. 48,1,G&M, elev. 2492 kb, spud 10-1-99, drlg. compl 10-21-99, tested 12-16-99, potential 15000 MCF, TD 7300', PBTD 7264' —

HEMPHILL (WEST CANADIAN Upper Morrow) Questar E&P Co., #2-127 Mitchell, Sec. 127,42,H&TC, elev. 2393 kb, spud 9-2-99, drlg. compl 9-25-99, tested 12-7-99, potential 6000 MCF,

TD 10400', PBTD 10302' —
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Miami High School's April 14 flight team with their experiment on torque. Pictured from left are Amanda Kilcrease, Teacher Melissa Shaver, and Daniel Rankin.



Miami students aim high

Photos courtesy of NASA



Miami senior Amanda Kilcrease, center, performs an experiment on how torque works under certain gravity conditions while fellow team member, Daniel Rankin, right, succumbs to the side affects of weightlessness.

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Staff Writer

MIAMI — Eight Miami High School students tasted the astronaut life at Johnson Space Center in Houston last week and discovered it can be an unsettling experience.

Four high school seniors, three sophomores and three science teachers from Miami High School were chosen by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to attend *FlyHigh 2000*, a week-long promotional event aimed at smaller high schools throughout Texas.

Schools were chosen based on a 250-word essay submitted last October on how the experience would benefit students, the school and the community. Miami learned it had been chosen to attend in December with Roosevelt, Tahoka and Bovina high schools.

Melissa Shaver, science and math teacher, explained that the students, science teachers and Bill Philpot of Miami, a former professor at Rice University, met several times and developed the essay.

"We emphasized that small schools can excel in science, can encourage other small schools to get involved and can promote sciences in the community," Shaver said.

During the week at Johnson Space Center, the students toured the astronaut training facilities and the mission control room used in early space flights, saw a mock-up of a space station and the Hubble telescope, and viewed space suits valued at \$14 million.

But the highlight of the week for most of the students, they said, was the actual astronaut training they experienced and the opportunity to perform an experiment in space-like conditions.

Only juniors and seniors were able to go up in the aircraft, they explained, so Miami's four seniors, Mitchell Locke, Daniel Rankin, Trey Rogers and Amanda Kilcrease, were formed into two flight crews. Sophomores Preston Williams, Joseph Smith, Taylor Adkins and Lauren Seuhs, formed the ground crew. Teachers Jimmy Glenn and Melissa Shaver also served on flight crews, while Pam Hill directed the ground crew.

With the help of NASA mentors Matt Mickle and Dom DeRosso, the Miami students developed an experiment on the affects of zero gravity on torque applied in different positions. The students built a 26-inch by 26-inch metal plate with a top bolt and a side bolt to be used in the experiment. They painted it bright red, white and blue to look like a Texas flag.

"(The experiment) had basic physics in it, something we don't teach in Miami right now," Shaver said. "We hope it might create more interest in the subject."

Astronaut Dr. Jim Newman, who recently visited in Miami as a guest of the Miami Chamber of

Commerce, met the students when they arrived at the space center.

"He met us at the hotel at 6:30 a.m. and had breakfast with us," Shaver said. "Then he went with us to Ellington Field and helped us load stuff for our experiment."

Each student shared their most interesting *FlyHigh 2000* moment with the *Pampa News* in a recent interview:

Mitchell Locke — "It was the physiological training. We had seven hours of class and then we went to an altitude chamber and were exposed to the affects of hypoxia (oxygen deprivation). We had to be certified to do that. Now that we are, we can fly in a high altitude aircraft for the next three years. The chamber simulates going up to 25,000 feet. Your ears pop! Then you take off your oxygen mask and try to perform simple tasks and math problems. I thought I was doing just fine, but on the video I saw I wasn't paying attention to what they were telling me to do. The affects are gone five seconds after you put the mask back on."

Preston Williams — "I liked the neutral buoyancy lab. It's 200 feet long and 100 feet wide and 40 feet deep. It holds six million gallons of water. If it should break, it would flood toilets all over Houston! The power went out while we were there, so we didn't get to see the astronauts training, but we watched the divers and a crane. I couldn't believe the size of the mock-up space station. The Hubble telescope was on one side of it."

Daniel Rankin — "I got to take off in the KC135, sitting just behind and between the pilots. I could hear what they were saying. The KC135 — also known as the 'vomit comet' — is the airplane used to perform zero gravity maneuvers. It lived up to its name."

Rankin holds the distinction of being the first person to wear a cowboy hat in the KC135. After his unsettling experience, he said he almost swore off flying in airplanes forever. The flight home from Houston reminded him that not every plane ride is like the "vomit comet", however.

Rankin wasn't the only student to suffer from the affects of high altitude, zero gravity and two "G's" of gravity. One student from another high school was so sick she had to be taken off the plane in a fork lift. Researchers who paid to go up in the plane to perform experiments often get sick, and Miami's second flight crew all became so sick they were unable to perform the experiment. Only Amanda Kilcrease remained well enough to complete the experiment.

Amanda Kilcrease — "The experiment wasn't supposed to be a one-man thing, but I ended up doing it by myself. It taught me to be ready for anything. I thought someone would be reading the clipboard and writing it down, but I didn't have anyone to do that. One of the good things was communicating with the ground crew through head phones. Preston (Williams) would tell the

stuff to do. I saw the reason for the ground crew. I found out what it was like to do things in gravity like on Mars and like on the Moon. I really can't describe it."

"It's like the feeling that you get at the top of a roller coaster, but it lasts a lot longer," Trey Rogers interjected.

Shaver said that two medical doctors go on every flight of the KC135. "Some people get very sick," she said. On April 14, two researchers from St. Jude's Children's Hospital were on the plane with the Miami students and they became very sick, too, she said.

Joseph Smith — "I liked seeing the Coast Guard and the Apache helicopters. They have 20-millimeter cannons. They live at NASA. I saw them go out to the Gulf on a rescue mission." Smith served as project director for the experiment. He conducted the briefings.

Taylor Adkins — "I liked watching everyone get sick on the video down link. I got to instruct the flight crew on how to perform the experiment."

Lauren Seuhs — "I liked the plane called 'Guppy.' Its a cargo plane with a big bubble on the top. It's the only one in the world that can carry 52,000 pounds. The cargo bay is built in the shape of the Space Shuttle. If it won't fit in the 'Guppy'

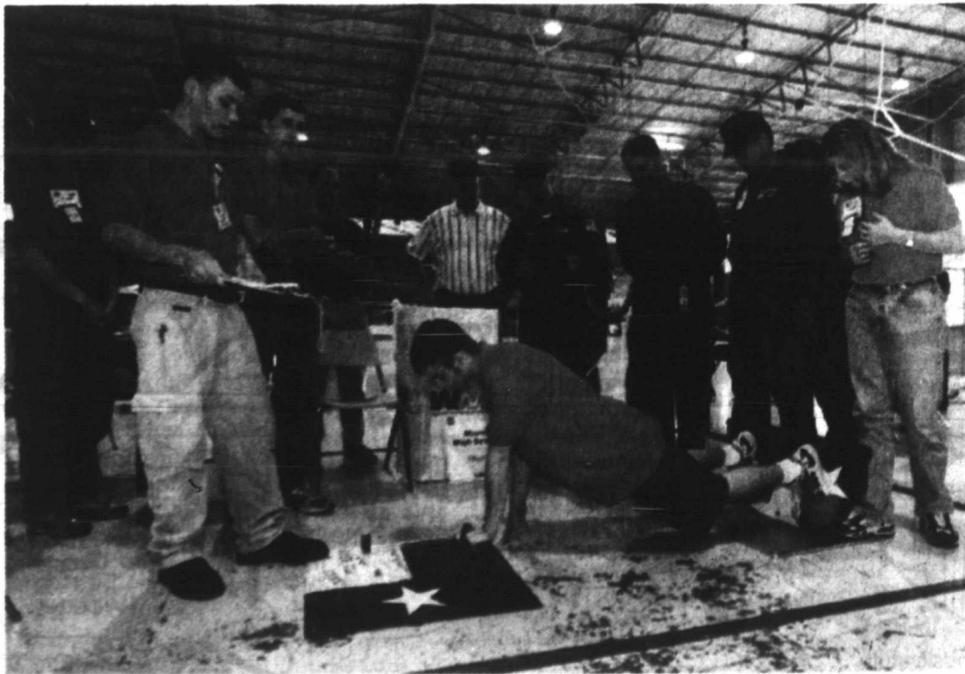
it won't go in the Space Shuttle."

Seuhs served as publicist for the team. She took notes at all the meetings, took pictures, wrote up the results of the experiment and will write a summary for the team and the NASA mentors.

Trey Rogers — "I saw them assemble the space suits. Dom (DeRosso) took us back and showed us the space suits, even Russian space suits. (NASA) makes the different parts in small, medium and large. Then they assemble for each astronaut. They recycle the different parts. They only have enough for 18 suits. I learned it cost \$14 million for a space suit to be used in space, like the one they used when they repaired the Hubble telescope. The orange suits that they use for take-off and landing cost about \$100,000 each. The flight suits that we had to wear cost about \$220. They're like overalls."

Despite the air sickness, the Miami students and teachers kept the astronaut tradition of going to a Houston restaurant "PeTe's" and eating. Coach Glenn said the astronauts usually eat red beans and rice, but the Miami students settled on different types of seafood.

The students agreed that in looking back on their time at NASA, they learned more from working together as a team than they actually learned from the experiment itself.



In the photo at left, Miami High School's ground crew demonstrate their experiment to NASA inspectors prior to the flight team's departure. Pictured from left are, Miami science teacher Pam Hill, Joseph Smith, Taylor Adkins, NASA employees, and Lauren Seuhs. In the photo above, Miami B2 flight crew pose outside the KC135 in which they experienced the extremes of zero gravity and 2G forces. Pictured from left are Mitchell Locke, Trey Rogers and Jimmy Glenn, Miami coach and science teacher.

Clean Hands Prevent Infection In Hospitals, Homes and Schools

DEAR ABBY: We would like to add to the discussion about unwashed hands being a hazard for patients. We are certified infection-control practitioners in a large medical center. The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology is a well-established organization with more than 3,000 professionals, whose goal is to promote excellence in infection control and prevention.

Hand-washing is the No. 1 prevention against spread of infection, inside and outside the hospital setting. It is important in the home, in schools and in every workplace. It is the cornerstone of infection-control practice and education for everyone who works in health care.

Proper hand-washing is taught during orientation for new employees and daily by most practitioners whenever the need arises. Soap, running water, friction and 10 to 15 seconds covering all surfaces of the hands are necessary to loosen dirt and wash the germs down the drain. It is the responsibility of all health-care employees to practice proper techniques to protect patients — as well as ourselves.

At our facility, hand-washing is considered serious business and proper practice is enforced. Alcohol foam or gels for hand antisepsis are recommended for those "difficult times" when an employee is unable to get to a sink.

We agree with your statement, "Proper hygiene practices are an essential part of high-quality med-



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

ical care." And we want Dear Abby to continue to be part of our team, promoting good infection-control practices, hand-washing and good health. Thank you, Abby.

JAN WROBEL, RN, AND BARBARA WIXSON, RN, SUMMIT MEDICAL CENTER, OAKLAND, CALIF.

DEAR JAN AND BARBARA: I'm sure many readers will be as surprised as I was to learn that most hospitals have a full-time infection-control team or nurse whose job it is to do surveillance, prevention and control of hospital-acquired infections.

A patient, relative or friend of a patient who witnesses a breach of proper hygiene practices should report it to the charge nurse, the administrator of the facility and the infection-control coordinator. Speaking up will not jeopardize the comfort of the patient; however, failing to speak up could endanger the health, or even the life,

of the patient.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I adopted a newborn girl three years ago. We knew the birth mother three months before delivery. She is a wonderful young woman. We keep in touch four or five times a year.

She is now 21 and is being married to a very nice young man. He knows about our daughter, but his parents do not. Because our child's skin color is darker than ours, they would surely realize that her birth mother is the bride.

We have been asked to attend the wedding but not to bring our daughter. I say no — but my wife wants to go. Help! OPENLY ADOPTING IN CANADA

DEAR OPENLY ADOPTING: Resist the temptation to show off your daughter at the wedding. Do as the bride wishes and give her a loving send-off as she enters her new life.

Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$2.95 per booklet (\$4.90 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Booklets, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61064-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Horoscope

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2000

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** You feel inspired by what is going on. A friendship plays a prominent role in your plans. Invite another to join you on a weekend day trip. You will feel refreshed and renewed. Examine what is happening behind the scenes at work. Tonight: Do something totally different.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** A boss knows how to energize you. Brainstorm and share ideas. Nothing needs to be done immediately. In fact, the planning stage is as important as any. Another sees a project differently than you do. Validate this person's ideas. Tonight: Let it be nice and intense.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** You have daydreams to fulfill. Reach out for others. Let your popularity speak. Do research and break new patterns. Listen to a partner who has some great ideas. Share with others. Enjoy the process of free association. Tonight: Be personality plus.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Take the first step and initiate a discussion about money and/or feelings. Relate on a one-on-one level. A co-worker has a strong opinion of you. Place more emphasis on caring for and nurturing others. Tonight: Get some exercise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Another might be vague, but his elusiveness is interesting on another level. Don't let your imagination get carried away. Allow your playful side to emerge. Be spontaneous; let others bathe in your sunny side. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Check out an investment carefully. Someone might be selling you a bill of goods. Be skeptical; ask questions. Meanwhile, clear off your desk and return calls. Make sure you are free and clear for the weekend. You need some time away from it all. Tonight: Head on home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** You might not be sure about exactly how to approach a child or loved one. Saying nothing won't work, however. Make an effort, even if you are uncomfortable. Return calls; make plans. What seems like a great idea needs to sit on the back burner for a while. Tonight: Join friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** What you believe to be a sure thing isn't. Do needed research. Investigate, then let the idea sit for a while. You could be surprised by what turns up with time. Recheck financial figures; double-check investments and policies. Tonight: Your treat!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** You easily attract attention today. Others naturally seek you out and want to be close to you. Creativity and a unique sense of perception mix to make you popular. Allow sensitivity to accompany your spirited ways. Make plans that feel right. Tonight: Having a jolly good

time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** If you don't like what is happening financially, take charge and stop spending while you analyze the situation. Remember, few are as astute about money management as you are. Use your skills to enhance security. Tonight: Stay in control.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Concentration might not be your strong suit right now. However, you know what you aspire to and want. Don't sell yourself short. Postpone decisions. Make meetings and bring friends together. Others are receptive to your ideas. Tonight: Where the gang is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** You might not be sure about a choice or direction. Defer to another's leadership or control. Stay free and easy. Go with the flow. Be less concerned about details. Take a walk to keep your mind fresh and focused. Tonight: A must show.

BORN TODAY

Actor Tony Danza (1951), actress MacDowell (1958), singer Iggy Pop (1947)

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$2.95 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic, and Spanish-speaking psychics are available. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Computer key
- 6 Jumble
- 11 Get excited
- 12 Phone answer
- 13 Eyed
- 14 Cove
- 15 Auto race site
- 17 In the past
- 19 Epoch
- 20 Be decisive
- 23 Home to Duke
- 25 Met solo
- 26 Custom
- 28 Actress Judith
- 29 Contaminated
- 30 Road goo
- 31 Bikini half
- 32 Legal matter
- 33 Nursery tale girl
- 35 Pond cover
- 38 "The Waste Land" writer
- 41 Hard stuff
- 42 Improve
- 43 Raised to the third power
- 44 Romantic gift

A	S	P	I	C	W	H	A	T	
P	E	A	R	C	A	I	R	O	
L	A	G	O	S	A	C	T	I	O
O	P	E	N	B	L	O	U	S	E
M	O	B	S	A	L	P	E	R	
B	R	O	C	H	E	S			
T	R	O	D	E	S	K			
C	A	W	P	A	N	E	Y	E	
O	R	I	G	I	N	H	I	N	T
M	E	T	O	O	P	I	L	O	T
A	N	T	O	N	C	R	A	T	E
S	A	Y	S		S	T	E	E	R

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377/99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



"Stop horsing around. You're supposed to be standing in the corner being punished."

The Family Circus



"How come there's only music stuff inside this toy box?"

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggag The Horrible



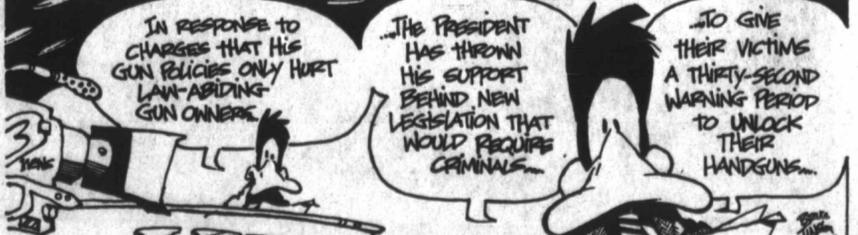
Peanuts



Blonde



Mallard Filmore





Pirate Pride

Thursday April 20, 2000



Lefors One Act Play Advances to District

Pirate Pride editor
Jeremy Pierce

The Lefors One Act play advanced past zone on the 23rd of March. Their play was "The Attempted Murder of Peggy Sweetwater." Many of the actors and actresses received awards at Zone. Those winning awards were: Honorable Mention all-star cast: Micheal Steele, Eric Keiser, all-star Cast: Todd Mullen, Best Actor: Jeremy Pierce. Lefors beat out three other plays from Groom, Hedley, and McLean. The other advancing play was from Samnorwood.

On the 30th of March district One Act Play competition was held at Clarendon College. The four plays competing for advancement was Follett, Higgins, Lefors, and Samnorwood. Again Lefors came away with numerous awards including: Honorable Mention all-star cast Amanda Daugherty, Micheal Steele, and Eric Keiser. All-star Cast Todd Mullen and Jeremy Pierce. Although their play did not advance, they did place third.

Much time was spent in the preparation of this play. Long hours on both the parts of the actors and the director. Those participating in the OAP were:

Cast:

Sir Phillip Dowden	Todd Mullen
Edward Llewellyn	Jeremy Pierce
Giles (the Butler)	Eric Keiser
Percy Saunders	Michael Steele
Morte Bunte	Amanda Sprouse
Bill Baxter	Amber Ehmann
Myrtle Baxter	Jennifer Sprouse
Peggy Sweetwater	Amanda Daugherty
Sean "Sidestep" O'Doodle	Angela Mullen
The Duchess of Lardham	Jennifer Andis
Morely	John Dauselt

Crew:

Candid Ray	Dee J Preston
Willie Hathaway	Buddy Murray
Melody Seely	Jesse Callaway

Our director, Jennifer Moore, has done a lot for our One Act Play and deserves a majority of the credit. She spent endless hours getting our costumes together and gathering props. With out her, the play would have never been a success.

AB Honor Roll

Brooks, Austin Hardy
Hammond, Zachary Scott
Kimbley, Brenden Chase
Schaefer, Kiela Annlee
Callaway, Keely Shaye
Fry, Seth Zachary
Maness, Abigail P
Santacruz, Keenan J
Smith, Haley Jeannette
Coombes, Brittney Nicole
Furgerson, Kegan Dale
Mcbee, Brandon Kyle
Pairsh, Misty Lee
Adkins, Chelsea
Andis, Jerad Marshall
Cox, Chelsea Michele
Denton, Stephen
Hughes, Tommy Leaverne
Marcum, Nikki Shalyn
Roberson, Brently Taylor
Vela, Veronica
Andis, Kayla Marie
Crump, Stacy Lavada
Daugherty, Matthew Taylor

A-B Continued

Duckworth, Lindsay Gail
Mayberry, Jordan Dane
Coombes, Tad
Ingersoll, Andrew William
Miller, Nicholas Andrew
Sprouse, Bobby Lee
Barnes, Katherine Jeanette
Boyd, Dennis J
Klein, Andrew Wiley
Luedecke, David Aric
Smith, Savannah Jeanine
Furgerson, Mase Ryan
Hess, Laraine Lynn
Jackson, Cory Kevin
Jackson, Joshua Dean
Preston, Dee J
Searcy, Linda Marie
Woodard, Amanda Nicole
Ehmann, Amber Dawn
Dauselt, John
Gilbert, Rebecca Lynn
Mullen, Todd Andrew
Ray, Candid Ann
Seely, Melody Amber
Seitz, Julius

A - Honor Roll

Dodge, Erika Noel
Finney, Curston Elizabeth
Howard, Stormy
Morris, Shayley Renee
O'Brien, Mercedes Marie
Barnes, Joseph Cameron
Law, Dani Michelle
Jackson, Emily Joann
Johnson, Ashlyn Denece
Lawrence, Rebecka Joyce
Miller, Gabriel Heath
Spotts, Aaron Keith
Lawrence, Amanda Rena
Maness, Hannah Dawn
Jackson, Drake Evan
Stubbs, Rachael May
Roberson, Trenton Keith
Andis, Jennifer
Daugherty, Amanda Lea
Kidd, Zachary Levi Lafawn
Schwab, Sarah Marie
Sprouse, Amanda Jo
Pierce, Jeremy Lee

Area Track

Meet

The district track meet turned out to be a success for the Pirates. Eight runners advanced to area. The 400m relay (Michael Steele, Eric Kieser, Willie Hathaway, and Caleb Barnes) advanced. The 1600m relay (Michael Steele, Willie Hathaway, Caleb Barnes, and Jesse Callaway) advanced as well. In the 300m hurdles Micheal Steele advanced. Eric Kieser advanced in the 110m hurdles. Buddy Murray advanced in the 1600m run and the 3200m run. Candid Ray advanced in the 400m. Amanda

Daugherty advanced in the mile.

The area track meet will be Friday 21, at Randall High in Amarillo. There will not be any preliminary races.

Rich or Poor?

One day a father and his well-to-do family took his young son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing him how poor some people can be. They spent a day and a night at the farm of a very poor family.

When they got back from their trip the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"
"Very good, dad."
"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Yeah" said the son.
"And what did you learn?" asked the father.

The son answered, "I saw that we have a dog at home and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of the garden; they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lamps in the garden, they have the stars. Our patio reaches to the front yard, they have the whole horizon." When the little boy was finished, his father was speechless.

His son added, "Thanks dad for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't it true it all depends on the way you look at things? If you have love, friends, family, health, good humor and a positive attitude towards life, you've got everything. You can't buy any of these things. You can have all the material possessions you can imagine, provisions for the future, etc., but if you are poor of spirit, you have nothing



"She's bloody fainted!"

Michael Steele and Amber Ehmann preparing their minds for the "Big Show."



Tennis District Tournaments

Staff writer
John Dauselt

April the 5th and 6th the Lefors tennis team headed to the Pampa tennis courts to compete in district.

The first day was successful when Amanda Woodard and Jonie Greenwell defeated a team from Allison in straight sets, and Caleb Barnes and Ray Turpen defeated the Hathaway brothers from Fort Elliot. This put them into semi-finals against a team from Groom. Unfortunately, Angela Mullen and Jennifer Sprouse lost their 1st round match against another double from Allison in split sets, and Woodard and Greenwell lost their 2nd round against two girls from Groom.

After winning his first round match, Andrew Johnson, had to play the number 2 seed, Curt Smith, from Fort Elliot, who went to state in doubles last year. Although Andrew improved a lot this year, he couldn't keep up with him Smith and lost in straight sets.

John Dauselt also competed in boys-singles. After a bye in the first round and a win in the second round, he played last years district champion, James Roach, from Miami. In an exciting match he defeated him 6:3, 6:4 and went on to the finals.

No Lefors girls made it to the semi-finals. Andrew, Caleb, Ray and John did advance on to the second day of the tournament. Andrew, Caleb and Ray to fight for third and John was trying for first. Ray and Caleb had a tough match, which they lost in the second set tiebreaker, they finally made the 4th place in boys-doubles. Andrew Johnson lost his match against Roach 6:4, 6:4, which placed him, 4th place too. John's final was over faster than he expected. He defeated Curt Smith 6:2, 6:3 and claimed the boys singles title.

Overall the Lefors tennis players did surprisingly well and will have very good chances with Andrew Johnson in singles and Caleb Barnes and Ray Turpen in doubles to advance to regionals next year.

THIS IS SOME AMAZING STUFF!!!

Moses and the people were in the desert. But what was he going to do with them? They had to be fed. Feeding 2 or 3 million people requires a lot of food. According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, it is Reported that Moses would have to have 1,500 tons of food each day. Did you know that to bring that much food each and every day, two freight trains each a mile long would be required!

Besides you must remember, they were in the desert and they would have to have firewood to use in cooking the food. This would take 4,000 tons of wood, a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day. And just think they were forty years in transit. Oh, yes they would have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11 million gallons each day and a freight train with tank cars 1,800 miles long, just to bring water!

And then another thing: They had to get across the Red Sea in one night. If they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would require 35 days and nights to get through. So, there had to be a space in the Red Sea, 3 miles wide so that they could walk 5,000 abreast to get over in one night.

But then another problem: Each time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750 square miles long. Think of it! This space just for nightly camping.

Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left Egypt? I think not! You see, Moses believed in God. And God took care of these things for him. Now do you still think God has any problem taking care of all your needs?

CAR CARE

Wire Maintenance Key To Vehicle Performance

If your car, light truck or sport utility vehicle just doesn't seem to be running the way you think it should, the culprit could be worn or damaged spark plug wires.

Worn or damaged spark plug wires can cause a misfire condition that could result in engine starting difficulty, rough idle, lack of acceleration, rough running engine, lower fuel mileage, and/or excessive emissions.

"Preventative maintenance on spark plug wire sets is a relatively easy proposition," according to Mike McKee, wire products product manager at Federal-Mogul Corporation. "There are some easy visual inspections, as well as some more extensive testing procedures that will help ensure safe, efficient vehicle operation."

Here are some visual techniques you can use to determine if it is necessary to replace the spark plug wires on

your vehicle:

With the engine running, look at the wires and listen for any sign of:

- **Arcing** - Intermittent spark occurring anywhere along the exterior of the spark plug wires can cause this effect. This is typically seen as a short blue spark and heard as a cracking or snapping noise. You should look closely at points along the spark plug wire that are close to ground planes or other wiring.

With the engine not running, look at all wires for signs of:

- **Dirt/Soiling** - Make sure the wire, boots, and nipples are not caked with oil, grease or dirt.

- **Exterior damage** - Make sure the wire, boots, and nipples have no burns, cracks, chafing, or obvious signs of damage such as cuts, swelling, etc.

You can compare the wires to each other to determine if damage exists.

- **Electrical Tracking** - Ensure there

are no signs of tracking on the boots, spark plugs, wires, and nipples, and wire to coil/distributor tower (if applicable). Tracking is most commonly seen as a thin erratic burn line on the outside surface of the spark plug and/or coil; the inside surface of the boot or nipple; or the outside surface of the wire at the end of the boot and/or nipple.

- **Arcing to Grounds** - Make sure the spark plug wires are not arcing to any ground surface such as an exhaust manifold, engine bracket, or heater hose. Spark plug wires should not be in contact or within 1/2" of any potential grounding surface.

- **Heat Aging** - Make sure the wire, boots, and nipples are not too hard, too soft, or spongy by squeezing them with your fingers. These rubber components should feel firm, like a pencil eraser.

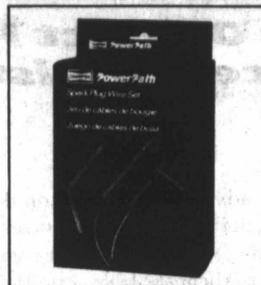
If any of these visual inspections

leads you to the conclusion that these conditions exist, the spark plug wire and the mating part should be replaced.

One final inspection procedure, which requires an ohmmeter, can also be performed.

Make sure the spark plug wire does not have an open circuit, and as a general rule, the resistance should not exceed 1,000 ohms per inch (but may be permissible by some O.E. manufacturers' specifications). To check, perform the following steps:

- Remove the spark plug wire from the engine;
- Using an ohmmeter, measure the resistance of the wire from terminal end to terminal end. If no reading is observed, the spark plug wire has an open circuit;
- Measure the length of the spark plug wire in inches;
- Divide the resistance reading by the



length of the spark plug wire to determine ohms per inch.

If any of the above conditions exist, you should replace the spark plug wire set.

"All of our Champion PowerPath wire sets come with easy-to-follow installation instructions," said McKee. "Wires and/or wire sets replaced at recommended intervals or as part of regular vehicle maintenance will certainly extend the life of the engine and the vehicle."

Things You **Auto** KNOW!

Four out of five cars on the road need maintenance. Is yours one of them?

Grandpa's Ten Commandments

From: "Gramps" <gramps@em-ail.com>
To: "Princess" <princess@em-ail.com>
Subject: Your car

Dear Princess,

Loved the photos of your "new" car. Since my first one was a Studebaker, I'm qualified to pass on a little automotive advice. Indulge me for a moment; it may save you a bundle.

Treat your car with special care. Imagine that you and your car, like you and your body, are together forever. You can't trade in your body for a new one; what if you had to keep your car till death do you part?

Keeping your car looking young and acting healthy, so to speak, is a matter of good use and care habits. The age and the mileage are immaterial, because like your body, your car is as young as it feels.

Here are Ten Commandments from the Car Care Council that can help you and your car live a long and happy life together. Make an old man happy and obey them.

Love,
Gramps

- I. Drive sensibly. Don't abuse the car.
- II. Feed it the right stuff, like quality gas and oil.
- III. Give it regular maintenance.
- IV. Take care of minor problems immediately so they don't accumulate.
- V. Pay attention to ominous symptoms when you first notice them.
- VI. Keep your car clean, inside and out. Pop cans make poor decorations.
- VII. Fix dents and scratches as soon as possible. They quickly turn into rust.
- VIII. Set a few dollars aside monthly so you're able to pay for needed repairs.
- IX. Keep a log of routine maintenance, repairs and gas purchases.
- X. Carry all necessary papers with you, including insurance and registration.



The Council offers a free pamphlet entitled "How to Find Your Way Under the Hood and Around the Car." For your copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Car Care Council, Department SS0-UH, 42 Park Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452.

Feeling Powerless? Conquer The Feeling

If your engine suddenly were to quit, would you know what to do? Screaming is not your best option.

Pilots, trained to handle "dead stick" landings, know how to deal with the situation. Their best measure, and yours, too, is preventive. A well maintained vehicle is unlikely to conk out, but it does help to know how it would feel with no power brakes nor power steering. Lose an engine, and you'd still be able to steer off the road and stop, as long as you could avoid the traffic around you.

The brakes and steering wheel will require a lot of physical effort, but you can retain control. To get the feel of it, find a huge area where you are out of danger of hitting someone or something.

A giant shopping center parking lot on a Sunday morning works well. Start at one end, accelerate to about 35 mph, put your car in neutral and shut off the engine.

You'll notice a sudden stiffening of the steering wheel. You still can steer, but maneuvering is difficult. Try to do big figure eight's as you coast to a stop. If the car has power brakes, you'll

begin to have trouble stopping after about three applications of the brake pedal. It will take lots of additional foot pressure to stop. Most braking systems have a little reserve power, but not much.

The Car Care Council offers a free pamphlet entitled "The Signals...When to Have Your Brakes Serviced." For your free copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Car Care Council, Department SS0-B, 42 Park Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452.

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Close Examination Can Save Serious Trouble

The family had driven into a repair shop after hearing a strange noise from under their van.

"This van is an accident about to happen," warned the technician before even checking under the vehicle. Having detected the strong odor of gasoline, he pointed to a fine spray coming from a fuel filter connection. The ominous noise was diagnosed as a badly worn wheel bearing.

"This bearing has disintegrated, leaving you vulnerable to an accident. Combine that with spraying gasoline and you could be engulfed in flames."

The scenario, while grim, is believable, say safety experts. Sometimes it's the combination of several factors that lead to accidents. Five percent of fatal highway accidents are directly attributed to mechanical failure. Nearly all of these are preventable with comprehensive inspection of the vehicles.

"Because they are out of sight and out of mind, many discrepancies show up only in a comprehensive examination. They are conditions that would not be discovered by a cursory checkup," says Rich Davis, Vice President of Marketing for the Council's Certified Inspection. "Worn motor mounts are a classic example.

Motor mounts are not examined in normal service procedures but have been reported unsatisfactory in 16% of our random analysis of inspection results. A failed motor mount is bad news for a driver who's far from home."

Timing belts failed the inspection in 13% of vehicles. A worn or broken belt can disable or damage an engine, resulting in major expense. Nearly one out of four vehicles had drive belts that needed adjustment or replacement.

"A loose or broken drive belt can be inconvenient or worse," says Davis. "Because they drive the alternator, cooling system water pump, power steering, air conditioner compressor and more, our safety and mobility are dependent upon the integrity of drive belts."

Don't gamble on the mechanical condition of your vehicle. Not only for safety's sake but also for better fuel economy and air quality, invest in a comprehensive inspection.

Car Care Council offers a brochure entitled *An Annual Physical For My Car?*

For a free copy send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Car Care Council, Department SS0-XI, 42 Park Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452.

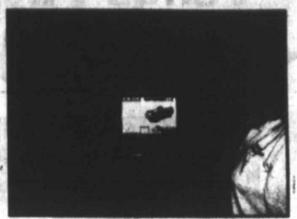
Lookin' Good

"Want to know what your truck will look like with these wheels and the new bug deflector," asked the shop owner? "Come over here and take a look." On a computer monitor the customer's make and model appeared with the new accessories.

"Cool," he said, approving of his selection. "My truck has a whole new personality."

It's one of the latest marketing techniques, not unlike what's offered in beauty parlors to show how one would appear with different hair styles. The idea of accessorizing one's car has been around for about as long as we've been driving. The radio, rear view mirror and side mirrors were once owner options usually bought at auto supply stores. The innovative designer who incorporated the "trunk" into the body structure went to the head of his class. Even the heater and air conditioner were add-ons.

Personalizing a vehicle now offers the owner a wider variety of



merchandise than ever before, says the Car Care Council. Remember the compass? Still around, of course, but the GPS (global positioning satellite) guides you directly to your destination. Keyless entry includes an alarm system. Stainless steel rocker panel trim below the doors, stylish decals and spoiler are among the products that impart one's own personality to a vehicle.

Meanwhile, enhancement products under the hood and under the vehicle can be added to tailor performance to the owner's liking.

Things You
Auto
KNOW!

Car Care Council says a modest investment in an annual inspection of your vehicle can save gas, improve performance and, help the environment.

Proper Disposal Protects The Environment

National news recently carried the story of a Douglasville, Georgia resident who racked up more than one million miles on a 1982 Toyota Starlet. The secret to the longevity of the never-rebuilt engine? Faithfully changing the engine oil and oil filter every 3,000 miles, according to Jim Jeter, the car's owner.

While you might not achieve such notable results (or even want to!), changing your oil and oil filter regularly does extend the life of your car and can increase the safety of your vehicle on the highway. And, proper disposal of your used oil and oil filter contributes to a cleaner environment.

Regular Oil & Filter Changes

Periodic oil and filter changes keep your engine clean on the inside. A car's motor oil becomes contaminated by substances such as dust, metallic shavings, condensation, and even antifreeze. Plus, additive packages contained in some motor oils break down over time and also act as contaminants.

As contaminants are whipped into the oil, sludge forms which adheres to engine parts, causing an engine to perform less efficiently. Left long enough, sludge can cause permanent

engine damage.

An oil filter's job is to sift out contaminants, allowing the oil to flow through the engine without restriction. When the oil filter becomes full or "clogged," the oil and contaminants will flow around the filter. This "bypassing" is a safety mechanism. As far as your engine is concerned, dirty oil is better than none at all! However, when bypassing occurs, contaminants enter the engine. This reduces fuel economy, increases emissions and can potentially lead to engine failure. Engine breakdowns also create safety hazards on the highway.

How often should oil and oil filters be changed? The best advice is to follow the guidelines provided in the vehicle owner's manual, but "every 3,000 miles or 3 months" is a good rule of thumb. Many car manufacturers today are recommending extended oil drain intervals for some drivers. However, if you regularly make short trips in your car, drive in stop-and-go traffic, idle for extended periods, drive in dusty or dirty air conditions, tow a trailer or live in a cold-weather region, you probably won't

qualify. Read carefully your car manufacturer's instructions.

Proper Disposal

If you have your oil changed at any of the member Automotive Oil Change Association fast lube centers across the country, you won't have to be concerned that your used oil and filters are being managed properly. Oil changes are quick, clean, and safe. In addition, ACOA fast lube centers participate in a nationwide oil recycling program. Used motor oil is converted for new uses, such as industrial fuel, new lubricants and even gasoline - this means a cleaner environment for all of us!

If you change your own oil, be sure to properly dispose of all waste. Pouring used oil down the drain or into the ground not only is illegal, it is harmful to the environment. More than 75% of ACOA member lube centers now accept used oil from do-it-yourself (DIY) oil changers. In fact, a 1999 survey indicated that ACOA members collect more than one million gallons of DIYer used oil annually.

Simply drop off your used products anytime during a participating center's business hours.



Automotive Oil Change Association member fast lube can change your oil and filter for you, and also properly dispose of all waste. ACOA is a Dallas-based nonprofit association that promotes professionalism, training, customer care and environmental responsibility among its members.

(Lube centers are required by the federal government to log in each receipt.) It is critical never to mix used oil with other products, such as antifreeze, paint, etc. This could render the mixture as hazardous waste, which cannot be recycled. Put used oil into original oil containers or other clean, plastic closed containers, with the contents clearly labeled on the outside.

Labeling helps lube centers know exactly what they are collecting.

Whether you do it yourself or opt for the convenience of an ACOA member fast lube center, regularly changing your motor oil and oil filter will protect the investment you have in your car. And proper disposal of the waste will protect the cleanliness of your surroundings, both now and in the future.

Shine With A Smile

There is a lot of satisfaction in putting the shine back in your vehicle's finish and giving it long term protection from the elements. There is usually considerable time and physical effort involved as well, unless you're willing to pay someone hundreds of dollars to do it for you. Then, to protect the paint, you are committed to keep up with regular washing and re-polishing. Good news! Some exceptional, innovative, car care products by Prolong Super Lubricants, Inc. are changing all that, making care fast and easy with professional-quality results.

Protection that lasts

Prolong Paint Sealant bonds to the paint for a durable coating that lasts as long as a professionally applied paint sealant at a fraction of the cost. It gives a showroom shine and protects the painted surfaces from the harsh elements, lasting far longer than conventional waxes and polishes. The

product is so easy to use that it can be applied in as little as 15 minutes, even in the sun. A patented hand-held applicator developed specifically for use with the paint sealant keeps the product off the user's hands. The manufacturer offers a limited lifetime warranty against fading and loss of gloss.

Wash your car without water

Prolong Waterless Wash & Shine is a revolutionary new method of washing and shining your car in less than 15 minutes without water. No buckets, no hoses, no rinsing and drying! It is simply sprayed onto the surface and wiped dry, allowing you to wash your vehicle anywhere, anytime. The unique formulation dissolves dirt and stains such as tree sap and bugs. Special lubricating agents encapsulate the dirt so that it can easily be wiped off a car's delicate surface without scratch-



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Venus And Mars ★ Talk Cars ★



Venus and Mars, aka Jessica Levy and Roger Kwapich, are renaissance technicians. From the wrench to the word processor to the classroom to the boardroom, they do it all. Through their editorial contributions to the Car Care Council they address the different automotive needs of male and female motorists while encouraging them to become better maintainers of their vehicles.

Dear Venus and Mars,

My husband has a truck with 30,000 miles on it. When the "service engine" light came on recently, he put a piece of tape over it and kept driving. I thought all of the dash lights were important, but he says it's OK to let it go.

The View from Venus

My suggestion is that if you're comfortable reading and understanding your owner's manual, do that. If not take it immediately to a repair facility.

The View from Mars

Putting tape over anything that indicates a problem is NOT a good idea. I'll bet he wouldn't put tape over the gas gauge, would he?

(Note: to test the bulbs, most of the warning lights come on and then go off as you start the vehicle.)

According to my owner's manual, temporary malfunctions, such as poor gas quality or an improperly installed gas cap may illuminate the service engine soon light.

These are easily corrected by filling the tank with good quality fuel and properly installing and tightening the gas cap. After 3 drive cycles (a cold engine startup followed by mixed city/highway driving) without these or any other temporary disruptions, the light should turn off and no additional service is required.

If the light is not continuous, but blinking, engine misfire is occurring. Roger explained the implications for a catalytic converter in this situation. My manual says to drive moderately (avoid heavy acceleration, deceleration and steep uphill grades) and have your car serviced immediately.

Over the years, a variety of warning lights have been developed for different makes and models, which is

Whenever a check engine or service engine soon light illuminates, it indicates a problem even if the engine appears to be running fine. This light informs the driver that the car's computer has sensed a problem in the engine management system and something is not working correctly.

Take it to your repair shop at your earliest convenience. I would only drive it a few days, max. Thereafter, a possible minor problem could turn into multiple complex problems.

Keep in mind that many dash lights are color-coded. If the light is red, it's an immediate problem. If it's amber, you have a day or two.

Ignoring the light for an extended period could cause additional damage. For instance, a lazy oxygen sensor could be responsible for the check engine light. Because it's not doing its job, raw fuel is dumped into the exhaust system, possibly destroying the catalytic converter. Now, instead of a \$150 repair, it's over \$400. So ignoring the "smart" light can cost you.

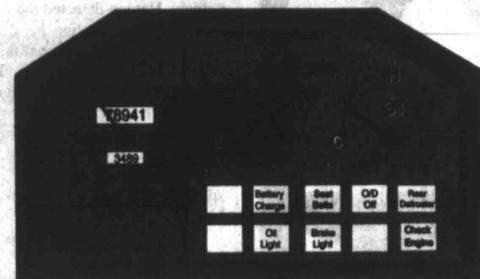
Here's the probable scenario at the repair shop. They will connect the needed equipment to the on-board computer and go through a series of tests. The preliminary diagnostic charge could be

why your specific car's manual is important. The bottom line is to read your manual and understand what the lights on your dash mean, otherwise ask your technician or service manager/advisor for an explanation.

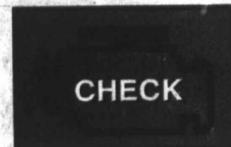
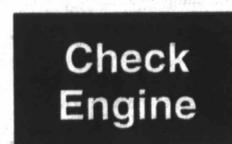
between \$50-\$80. The actual repair will be in addition to that fee. (Note: emission related problems are covered under the manufacturer's warranty. A car with only 30,000 miles may qualify.)

Good luck, and keep the tape away from your husband.

DASHBOARD EXHIBIT



DASHBOARD LIGHTS



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Antifreeze is considered by many to be "one-size-fits-all" as most antifreeze has a distinctive lemon-lime color. However, the actual formulations can vary greatly between types. Conventional antifreeze is formulated ethylene glycol-based (EG) and can have serious health risks.

It is estimated that each year 90,000 pets and wildlife die from accidentally ingesting EG-based antifreeze. Animals are attracted to antifreeze for its sweet smell and taste. Animals, and children for that matter, can accidentally ingest antifreeze from spills, cooling-system leaks or improperly stored containers.

As an alternative, automotive chemical manufacturers have formulated a newer type of antifreeze using propylene glycol (PG) instead of EG, which is less harmful if accidentally ingested. A popular brand is SIERRA®, the first nationally marketed PG-based antifreeze.

Recently SIERRA was awarded a Special Achievement Award from the American Humane Association (AHA) for its support of animal welfare and safety. SIERRA is an ongoing sponsor of the AHA's "Be Kind to Animals Week."

Safer, PG-based antifreeze provides performance and protection comparable to conventional EG-based antifreeze in four key areas of engine protection: boil over, freeze-up, corrosion and heat transfer.

SIERRA, and other PG-based antifreeze products are available nationwide, and can be the extra margin of safety to protect your pets and neighborhood wildlife.

Long-Life Platinum Plugs Put The Spark In Today's High-Tech Low-Maintenance Engines

Today's cars, trucks, vans and SUVs are engineered to travel longer distances between scheduled tune-ups and maintenance.

In the past, it was common to perform major tune-ups every 12,000 miles, or once a year; oil changes were performed every three months or 3,000 miles. Major tune-ups consisted of replacing spark plugs, points, ignition cap and rotor, fluids, filters and adjusting the carburetor.

Thanks to fuel injection, hydraulic valve adjustment and electronic engine management systems, today's motorists have far less to do under the hood to maintain their vehicles. Major tune-up intervals for modern cars and trucks are around 30,000 to 40,000 miles; some cars can go up to 100,000 miles.

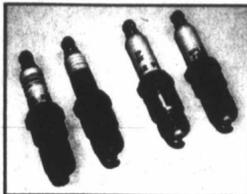
However, just because cars have longer service intervals doesn't mean that maintenance can be entirely ignored.

"The perception among some consumers is that cars could have their hoods welded shut and they can forget about it," said Mike Sheridan, brand marketing manager for SplitFire® spark plugs. "But it's still important to keep your engine running good to ensure

a dependable, fuel-efficient engine."

Spark plugs are one of the most crucial items in the ignition process as they ultimately determine how well an engine will run. Trouble signs include: rough idle, hard starting, stalling or poor gas mileage. If your car exhibits any one of these signs, it's a good idea to check the spark plugs.

Ironically, inspecting and changing spark plugs are among the few things a vehicle owner still can do at home given a few simple tools and tips.



Replacing old, worn and fouled spark plugs (left) with long-life premium plugs (right) can restore engine performance and gas mileage.

Reading Your Plugs

Your old spark plugs can give you a good idea about what's happening inside of your engine. To inspect your spark plugs,

carefully remove the spark plug wire by gently pulling on the connector. Using a spark plug wrench or socket, unscrew the plugs one-by-one (or label the wires to ensure they go back on the same plug).

Look at the firing end of the plug, the part that was inside the engine. The hooked part at the top is the side electrode. The bump right under its tip, encased in ceramic, is the center electrode. The electrical current from the ignition system travels through the wire and plug, and then jumps the gap between the electrodes, creating a spark.

It is this spark that cause spark plugs to wear out. When high-voltage current jumps from one electrode to another, a little metal from both is lost. After 30,000 to 40,000 miles of operation, the plug has fired 100 to 150 million times and the crucial distance between the electrodes has increased. Worn or badly fouled spark plugs cannot be adjusted or cleaned. They must be replaced in sets, particularly if they exhibit the following signs: dry, black soot; wet oily deposits; red, white, green or yellow deposits.

When installing new plugs, gap the plugs to the recommended

setting and tighten them to the manufacturer's specifications. Over-tightening the plugs can damage your engine.

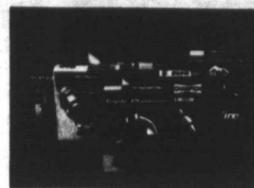
Premium Spark Plugs

Advancements in spark plug technology have increased the recommended replacement interval with unleaded gasoline engines, up to 30,000 miles in cases; the use of "premium" long-life plugs in many new vehicles can be beneficial.

Premium plugs command higher prices because of the precious metals in their tips - platinum or gold-palladium, which resist wear and gap erosion that causes misfires and poor gas mileage.

SplitFire makes two lines of premium and ultra-premium spark plugs for virtually every gasoline engine. In designing its ultra-premium SplitFire Triple Platinum plug, SplitFire incorporated its patented split "V" side electrode and three separate points of platinum, more points of platinum than any other plug on the market. SplitFire is so confident of its technology, it offers a 100,000-mile guarantee on its spark plugs.

"This is the industry's first 100,000-mile guarantee," said Sheridan. "Our customers will get



Premium and ultra-premium spark plugs are engineered for today's cars and light trucks.

100,000 miles of satisfactory performance or we'll replace the plugs. No questions asked."

With a 100,000-mile plug, replacing the wires with a high-quality premium wire such as SplitFire's DUAL-MAG makes sense. They are more durable than original equipment, last longer and are more resistant to heat, oil and cracking.

Because premium plugs and wires can extend the normal recommended replacement intervals, their longer life and better performance can offset their higher price and save money and time in the long run.

This spring as you prepare for the year ahead, consider installing long-lasting premium spark plugs in your vehicle's engine.

Wire Maintenance Key To Vehicle Performance

If your car, light truck or sport utility vehicle just doesn't seem to be running the way you think it should, the culprit could be worn or damaged spark plug wires.

Worn or damaged spark plug wires can cause a misfire condition that could result in engine starting difficulty, rough idle, lack of acceleration, rough running engine, lower fuel mileage, and/or excessive emissions.

"Preventative maintenance on spark plug wire sets is a relatively easy proposition," according to Mike McKee, wire products product manager at Federal-Mogul Corporation. "There are some easy visual inspections, as well as some more extensive testing procedures that will help ensure safe, efficient vehicle operation."

Here are some visual techniques you can use to determine if it is necessary to replace the spark plug wires on

your vehicle:

With the engine running, look at the wires and listen for any sign of:

- **Arcing** - Intermittent spark occurring anywhere along the exterior of the spark plug wires can cause this effect. This is typically seen as a short blue spark and heard as a cracking or snapping noise. You should look closely at points along the spark plug wire that are close to ground planes or other wiring.

With the engine not running, look at all wires for signs of:

- **Dirt/Soiling** - Make sure the wire, boots, and nipples are not caked with oil, grease or dirt.
- **Exterior damage** - Make sure the wire, boots, and nipples have no burns, cracks, chafing, or obvious signs of damage such as cuts, swelling, etc. You can compare the wires to each other to determine if damage exists.
- **Electrical Tracking** - Ensure there

are no signs of tracking on the boots, spark plugs, wires, and nipples, and wire to coil/distributor tower (if applicable). Tracking is most commonly seen as a thin erratic burn line on the outside surface of the spark plug and/or coil; the inside surface of the boot or nipple; or the outside surface of the wire at the end of the boot and/or nipple.

- **Arcing to Grounds** - Make sure the spark plug wires are not arcing to any ground surface such as an exhaust manifold, engine bracket, or heater hose. Spark plug wires should not be in contact or within 1/2" of any potential grounding surface.

- **Heat Aging** - Make sure the wire, boots, and nipples are not too hard, too soft, or spongy by squeezing them with your fingers. These rubber components should feel firm, like a pencil eraser.

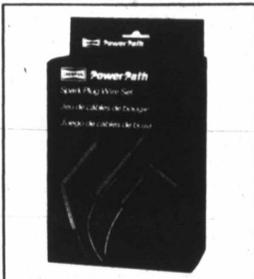
If any of these visual inspections

leads you to the conclusion that these conditions exist, the spark plug wire and the mating part should be replaced.

One final inspection procedure, which requires an ohmmeter, can also be performed.

Make sure the spark plug wire does not have an open circuit, and as a general rule, the resistance should not exceed 1,000 ohms per inch (but may be permissible by some O.E. manufacturers' specifications). To check, perform the following steps:

- Remove the spark plug wire from the engine;
- Using an ohmmeter, measure the resistance of the wire from terminal end to terminal end. If no reading is observed, the spark plug wire has an open circuit;
- Measure the length of the spark plug wire in inches;
- Divide the resistance reading by the



length of the spark plug wire to determine ohms per inch.

If any of the above conditions exist, you should replace the spark plug wire set.

"All of our Champion PowerPath wire sets come with easy-to-follow installation instructions," said McKee. "Wires and/or wire sets replaced at recommended intervals or as part of regular vehicle maintenance will certainly extend the life of the engine and the vehicle."

Things You **AUTO** KNOW!

Periodic engine maintenance is especially important when towing a trailer. In addition to performance services like new spark plugs and filters, be sure to start your trip with an oil and filter change, says the Car Care Council.

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Emergency Roadside Service

Storm Warnings

Being behind the wheel during a violent spring thunderstorm can bring back memories of the horrendous flood scenes we've seen on TV. Even with good lights and windshield wipers, the sooner you can safely get off the road the better.

Unless you're lucky enough to find shelter in a solid building, Car Care Council suggests that you stay in the car. Park in an open area away from trees and power lines.

If lightning strikes, a vehicle generally is a safe place to be as you are shielded by metal. In the event your car is struck by lightning you'll have a scare you'll never forget but probably no injury.

Your vehicle, however, could need a paint job or more. If the proverbial golf ball size hailstones don't ruin the finish, the lightning could scar the paint right off the metal. It could wipe out electronic components, as well.

Downed power lines are another hazard. If one should hit your vehicle, causing a fire, open the door and jump as far as you can from the vehicle. Never touch the ground and the car at the same time. If there's no fire, stay in the car and wait for help.

The Car Care Council offers a free pamphlet that offers advice on emergencies. For your copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Car Care Council, Department SS0-EM, 42 Park Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452.

Wipers And Safe Visibility

Safety and visibility go hand in hand when driving any vehicle today. Visibility is very important as speed limits increase and more drivers are hitting the road.

When it comes to seeing the road clearly, there are a few things to remember. When you have limited visibility, it can cause increased fatigue creating stress and strain on your eyes. Reaction time in dangerous situations can be jeopardized, leaving more room for error and accidents.

Wiper blades are one of a few things that directly affect clear vision of the road ahead. Keeping your wiper blades in their best operating condition is critical to everyone's safety. Below you'll find a quick list of questions to make sure you're doing the most for your wiper blades and safety. **How often should I change my wiper blades?**

Windshield wipers should be replaced at least every six months. Fundamental driving safety relies on the driver's ability to see the road clearly.

Wipers that do not work are dangerous!! At ANCO, you're safety is important to us!

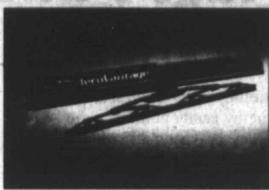
What are some performance problems that may occur, indicating that my blades need to be replaced?

Smearing/streaking: Sections of windshield are missed as the blade passes over it

Chattering: Blade moves irregularly across the surface, making a chattering noise as it "hobbles" across the glass

Hazing: Oil-like film spreads across the windshield, causing glare; usually a result of road grime or contamination to the rubber

Beading: Appears as a collection of water droplets



ANCO AeroVantage. The blade that beats the wind.

on the windshield AFTER the blade passes over

Windlift: Blade "lifts" off the windshield and loses full or partial contact with the glass, usually happening at highway speeds

What indicators would suggest that a blade is either worn, defective, or of poor quality?

Cracked Rubber: Look for splits and slashes on the rubber

Contaminated Rubber: Result of road grime and chemicals adhering to the rubber element, causing a hazy film on the windshield

Torn Rubber: Rubber element has pulled away from its supporting structure, causing "slapping" noise to occur

Park Set Rubber: The rubber element has lost its flexibility and no longer "flips" over as it begins the downstroke

Abraded Rubber: Worn ragged edges on the element

Damaged Superstructure: Metal or plastic elements of the wiper arm, blade or refill is damaged, bent or cracked

Should I choose blades or refills?

Most folks replace the entire wiper blade. It is quick and easy with ANCO KwikConnect! There is no need to worry about potential performance problems caused if the refill doesn't fit properly or the blade frame is

damaged. Installing a brand new wiper blade also gives your windshield a fresh look.

For those who choose wiper refills, it's a little more technical. You will need to know if the wiper blade you are refilling came with the car new or whether it's been replaced already. If it has been replaced, you'll need to know the brand and type of blade for accurate refill parts.

ALL ANCO wiper blades feature KwikConnect, the easiest installation and removal on the market today.

Do I replace all wiper blades at the same time?

Yes, always replace all wiper blades! Like many other parts on your car where there is more than one (tires, brakes, etc.), changing all simultaneously makes the most sense, assuring accurate maintenance records and even wear.

Can I install the wiper blades myself?

Of course! Most people do! ANCO KwikConnect wiper blades fit virtually every car, truck or SUV **Right out of the Box!!!** Our new, easy to follow instructions make it possible for any do-it-yourselfer to install them in seconds.

I have had problems in the past with my blades lifting off of my windshield?

Try our high performance AeroVantage wiper blade. With its vented bridge and sleek aerodynamic design, it's engineered for today's sloping windshields and faster highway speeds.

ANCO AeroVantage is the blade that beats the wind!

Lighting And Safe Visibility

With the number of people in the world driving today, your lights are critical to the safety and visibility you need while driving. You need to see everything ahead of you clearly and accurately to react as quickly as possible and to avoid potentially dangerous encounters.

Making sure you have the right technology and the highest quality is the only way to assure that you're getting the best option when it comes to seeing safely while driving. Review the maintenance topics below to assure your vehicle is equipped with the lighting necessary for the best safety. **How often should I check my headlamps?**

Headlamps can go out anytime, for any reason. Burnt out, debris and rocks, minor fender benders, along with ice and snow, can shatter or crack a headlamp lens leaving it useless. Sometimes it's not easy to notice a burnt out headlamp from behind the wheel. Checking them regularly during gas station stops is an effective method for inspecting headlamps.

How do I know what to replace? Today's vehicles are built with either a sealed beam headlamp or a replacement capsule system.

Sealed Beam: The sealed beam is a glass housing mounted to a metal frame. The bulb is permanently mounted inside. When this type of headlamp burns out, you need to replace the entire unit.

Capsule: The capsule is becoming more and more popular in newer vehicles. This is simply a removable bulb and base housing that is installed into a glass or plastic lens housing which is permanently attached to the vehicle.

How many headlights do I have?

Vehicles are manufactured with two different types of systems: **Four headlamp system:** This system uses different bulbs for the high beam setting than it does for

the low beam setting. You will see four different sealed beam housings or four different capsules in your front headlight area.

Two headlamp system: This system uses the same bulb for both the high and low beam settings. There will be one sealed beam or capsule on either side of the forward lighting area.

Do I replace both lamps at the same time?

Yes, always replace in pairs! Whether its both low beam or high beam headlamps or the dual beam lights, replace each like system in pairs. Like many other parts on your car where there is more than one (tires, brakes, etc.), changing all like parts at the same time is critical to managing maintenance schedules.

Can I install the sealed beams and capsules myself?

Of course! Many do-it-yourselfers do! Simply visit your favorite local auto parts store, purchase the correct pair of sealed beams or capsules and follow the easy-to-install instructions on the package. You should also refer to your vehicle maintenance manual for assistance.

Are all headlamps the same?

No, absolutely not. There are some big differences in the headlamps available today.

Britelite - Wagner Britelite offers the best visibility over other lights, using Xenon gas. It is the brightest, whitest light on the road, 80% more when compared to a regular halogen replacement light.

HalogenGold - The longest life bulb from Wagner Lighting.

HalogenGold delivers more than twice the life of standard halogens, keeping you from having to change bulbs as frequently.

Halogen - Wagner Lighting offers standard halogen sealed beams and capsules for those looking for an economical replacement.

The NAPA Spring Clean Checklist™

In anticipation of warmer weather, millions of Americans get in physical shape. NAPA (National Automotive Parts Association) recommends that consumers do the same for their vehicles by following a simple checklist to ensure safe and headache-free summer road trips and driving. The checklist is relatively inexpensive and can be completed by an ASE-certified (Automotive Service Excellence) automotive technician in a short time. **The NAPA Spring Clean Checklist™**

- 1. Wiper Blade Check.** Your wipers worked hard all winter getting rid of dirt and debris on your windshield. Replacing them now means that you can drive with confidence during April showers.
- 2. Cleanliness Check.** Check the radiator and the cowl (area on your hood just ahead of the windshield) for accumulated debris from winter. Remove any leaves or trash so that air intakes are clean.
- 3. Cooling System Check.** Have your cooling system analyzed, including a check of your antifreeze. Fresh antifreeze is vivid in color (usually bright green or blue), whereas dirty antifreeze looks dull. If the thermostat in your cooling system isn't operating properly, your engine can run too hot or cold, causing either your gas mileage to decrease or, worse, your engine to overheat.

4. Belts and Hoses Check. In the winter, your belts and hoses take a lot of abuse from snow, salt and sand. They should be checked each spring to ensure they'll endure the summer's temperatures.

5. Brake Check. After cold weather driving, a brake check is a smart safety precaution. One of the most obvious warning signs is brake noise, including excessive grinding, squealing, screeching or chatter. If you have driven frequently through standing water, an inspection will ensure your brakes are free of corrosion and operating properly.

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AAA Survey Reveals 28% of Motorist Had Auto Breakdown This Past Year

A large number of motorists have experienced mechanical or operational breakdowns in the past year, according to a survey released by AAA that shows many of these breakdowns could have been prevented if drivers had properly maintained their vehicles. At least 28 percent of 1,500 motorists surveyed said they had at least one problem in the last year that disabled their vehicle.

The survey also found that while 74 percent of vehicle owners said they were familiar or very familiar with the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule, only about half of all respondents regularly followed those recommendation.

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