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4 SECTIONS, 28 PAGES

All systems are 'go' for shuttle launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA gave its newest space shuttle Challenger a "go" for launch today as high-altitude winds that threatened postponement of the first flight subsided.

The \$1.2 billion ship, second in America's shuttle fleet of four, was set to shroud off 2 1/2 months of troubles and rocket off its launch pad at 12:30 p.m. CST.

"A decision has been made that we are 'go' for launch," NASA spokesman Hugh Harris announced at 9:15 a.m., after scientists studied the data gathered by Air Force weather balloons that sampled the jet stream. Midmorning velocities at 45,000 feet were 105 mph.

If the winds were too turbulent they could put dangerous stress on the orbiter during its ascent from the launch pad.

Starting before dawn, National Aeronautics and Space Administration crews filled the shuttle's peach-colored external tank with 383,000 gallons of liquid hydrogen and 141,000 gallons of liquid oxygen.

THE NEAR-FLAWLESS countdown, stopped for more than 24 hours to give most launch team members Easter Sunday off, resumed shortly after midnight.

"Our job is to certify Challenger for routine space missions," said Paul J. Weitz, 50, a retired Navy captain who is commander of the ship's maiden flight. He spent 28 days in orbit aboard the Skylab space station in 1973.

Riding with him are three astronauts who are newcomers to space flight: Air Force Col. Karol J. Bobko, 45, the pilot, and mission specialists Story Musgrave, 47, a medical doctor, and Donald H. Peterson, 49, an engineer.

They are to remain in orbit five days, thoroughly checking Challenger's systems, just as astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen did two years ago when they took the first shuttle, Columbia, into space for its inaugural spin.

Related Stories, 2A

Other than putting the new shuttle — slimmer and more powerful than Columbia — through its paces, the space travelers have two major assignments — deploying the world's largest, most complex communication satellite and executing the first space walk by U.S. astronauts in nine years.

Challenger's debut had been set for late January, but fuel leaks sprung in all three of its main engines and in a fourth brought in as a replacement. While engineers worked to fix a basic design defect in the engines, a wind storm raked the Kennedy Space Center on Feb. 28 and contaminated the satellite cargo with sand and dust, causing additional delay.

LT. GEN. JAMES A. Abrahamson, director of the shuttle program, told reporters Sunday that the 10-week delay in getting the ship off the ground "is not a great deal to pay for a space flight now to assure we get mission reliability later" when flights are scheduled every month. He said he had great confidence that Challenger's engine problems are over.

"We have four lives that are going on that ship," he said. "In addition to that we have the treasure of the nation and frankly, the hope of the space program, going on every time. If we had any real lingering doubt (about the engines), we wouldn't do it."

Launch director Al O'Hara described the lengthy countdown, which began Wednesday, as one of the smoothest ever in the American space program. He said the launch team was confident, adding, "We're anxious to add Challenger to our space fleet."

That fleet is to grow to three later this year when Discovery is delivered here from the Rockwell International plant in California and to

four when Atlantis rolls off the assembly line next year. Each is designed for at least 100 roundtrips into space.

Packed in Challenger's 60-foot-long cargo bay is the 4,668-pound Tracking and Data Relay Satellite, the first of three forming a network to provide orbital tracking and two-way communications between Earth and as many as 26 orbiting satellites, including shuttles.

Musgrave and Peterson were to release the payload into its own orbit late today, 10 hours after lift-off, and a rocket was to propel it to a stationary outpost 22,300 miles high. Once unfurled, its solar panels will measure 57 feet from tip to tip and its gold-clad wire mesh antennas will become glittering spider webs in the sky.

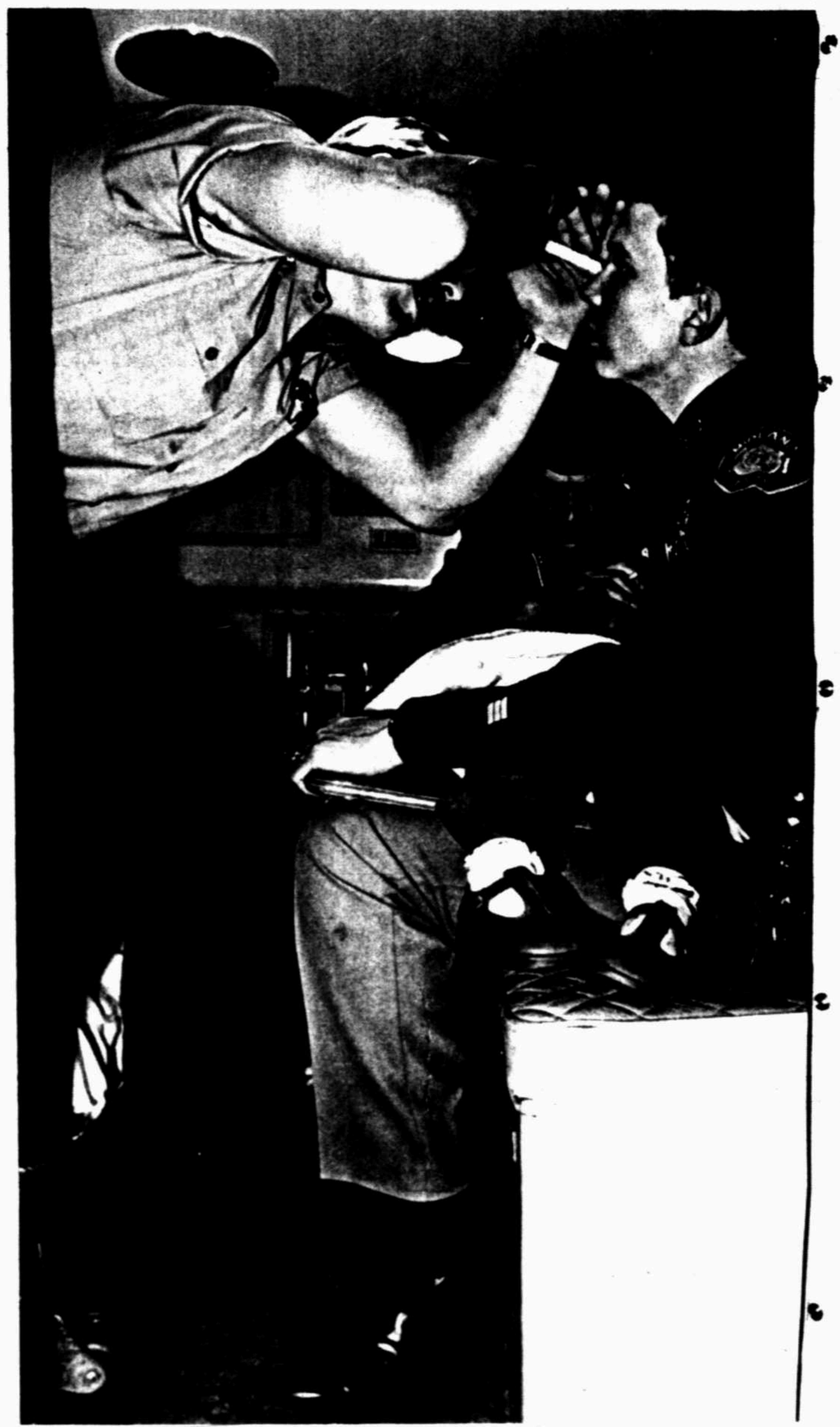
"TDRS IS THE most complex satellite ever built, the system will revolutionize space communications," said Leonard Dworkoski, engineering vice president for Spacecom, the private company that will operate the satellites for NASA.

A double space walk is set for Thursday afternoon, with the two mission specialists donning bulky space suits to step into the open cargo bay for 3 1/2 hours to test tools and techniques for retrieving and repairing satellites on future shuttle missions.

A similar excursion planned for Columbia's fifth flight last November had to be canceled because of spacesuit problems. A fan broke in one suit and a pressure regulator in the other. The faults have been corrected and Challenger is carrying a spare suit just in case.

The space walks will be the first for American astronauts since a Skylab mission in February 1974.

Challenger also carries a number of experiments, including three that were begun on Columbia missions: the separation of materials in latex, the making of tiny, identical latex beads — both of which could have medical applications.



Staff Photo by Paul Gilbert

Aiding the injured

Emergency medical technicians administered first aid treatment late Sunday to Officer Bruce Williams and a small child he is holding.

Williams, the child and seven others were injured in the three-vehicle crash on Interstate 20.

Nine injured in accident

Police took a Midland man into custody after the car he was driving was involved in a three-car accident on Interstate 20 near Midkiff Road late Sunday, injuring nine people.

According to police reports, a car driven by John Williams Shallosky, no address available, was westbound in the eastbound lane of I-20 about 11:55 p.m., pursued by Officer Bruce Williams. Shallosky's vehicle collided with a car traveling eastbound driven by

Related Photo, 2A

Daniel Jimenez Palomino, of 503 E. Mississippi Ave.

Police reports indicate Shallosky's vehicle then spun around and collided with the patrol car driven by Williams.

Shallosky and Williams suffered minor injuries and were treated

and released at Midland Memorial Hospital.

Palomino and six passengers in his vehicle were also treated and released from MMH. Passengers in the Palomino vehicle included Incensio Valenzuela, 26, Charlotte Valenzuela, 2, Concepcion Valenzuela, 2, and Yolanda Valenzuela, 1, all of Odessa. Other passengers were Jose Valenzuela, 22, of Odessa, and Sandra Juarez, 19, of 1206 E. Missouri Ave., Midland.

Barges crash, explode

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Salvage crews scrambled to mop up crude oil leaking from two barges on the Mississippi River today as residents downstream from St. Louis kept a wary eye on a miles-long oil slick threatening their water supply.

The slick, between seven and nine miles long, came after two barges crashed into two bridges and exploded Saturday night, unleashing a stream of flaming oil that torched shoreline brush and two grain barges along the St. Louis riverfront.

The oil could contaminate drinking water for the 5,000 residents of Chester, Ill., about 55 miles south of St. Louis, officials say.

"We've got two half-million gallon tanks and that will last us two days if we need it," said Russell Rader, assistant superintendent of the Chester water plant. "There's no danger so far. But we'll just have to wait and see how much of it comes down."

"If it thins out enough, our filtering system may be able to handle it," he said.

Chester is believed to be the only municipality in the area which takes its water supply directly from the river.

Federal emergency response teams began assessing damage from the accident Sunday, after the flaming river halted river traffic for about 10 hours.

Coast Guard Lt. Jg. John Baker said the cause of the accident was not known, but said crews still were investigating the site.

"We are very concerned about the spill," Morris Kay, regional administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said late Sunday. "But we don't know the exact impact it could have. We're working with the Coast Guard and will get a full report Monday."

Kay said "there could be fish kills" and indicated that property along the river bank could be damaged by the oil. But he said it was too early to predict what kind of problems might occur.

Kay said he thought community water supplies downstream from the accident might not be affected because intake lines generally are below the oil, which floats on the water's surface.

St. Louis, which also takes its water from the river, was not affected because the explosion occurred downstream from the city's water intakes.

A commercial salvage company hired by the owner of the towboat, Valley Towing Inc. of Memphis, Tenn., began pumping the remaining oil from the three barges still afloat Sunday night. No salvage plans had been made for one barge which sank, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

"We've got a floating fence up and have collected more than 2,000 gallons of oil," Baker said. "There's not much we can do about the one that sank."

Another Coast Guard spokesman, Chief Petty Officer Telfair Brown, estimated that about 10,000 gallons of oil had spilled into the waterway Sunday. He called it a "bad coincidence" that the Mississippi was near flood stage after two days of steady rain, because the oil could spread into backwaters.

The towboat City of Greenville and four barges were heading downstream to an unknown destination laden with 2.73 million gallons of oil from a facility owned by Marathon Oil Co. at Wood River, Ill.

At least seven fires broke out after the accident, which occurred about 11 p.m., giving the riverfront an eerie orange glow that could be seen for miles.

Policeman who shot 5-year-old boy has entered sanitarium, paper says

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A policeman who shot a 5-year-old boy to death after mistaking the child's toy gun for a real one has been placed in a sanitarium, the Los Angeles Times reported today.

A close family friend told the newspaper that Officer Anthony Sperl, 24, of Stanton initially sought

consolation from his family's parish priest after Patrick Mason was shot inside a darkened apartment March 3.

Sperl's moods zigzagged from highs of non-stop talking and pacing to lows of silent brooding, the friend said. When Sperl eventually spoke to a psychiatrist about the incident, he

began having nightmares, the friend added.

The officer lapsed into a deep, silent depression, and on the advice of his psychiatrist, he entered a private hospital for the emotionally disturbed, said the friend, whom the paper didn't identify.

Sperl had been investigating a

report that the child and his 29-year-old mother, Patricia Ridge, had not been seen in 10 days. The boy was left alone in the apartment while his mother worked because she said she couldn't afford day care. Because the apartment was sparsely furnished, Sperl thought it might have been burglarized or vacated, police

said. He heard a noise, kicked open a door, saw a figure holding a gun and opened fire. Patrick was hit in the neck.

When Sperl realized he had shot a child he rushed to the boy, and Patrick clung to Sperl's leg and looked up at him pleadingly, the

family friend said. "Oh my God, I shot the...kid," the apartment manager heard Sperl say, the Times reported. "What have I done? What have I done?"

Neighbor Luann Barnes, 42, said two police officers helped Sperl out of the apartment. Although Sperl was standing,

Pope John Paul delivers annual Easter sermon

By The Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service

VATICAN CITY — Celebrating Easter during an unseasonably cold and rain-soaked outdoor Mass at St. Peter's Square, Pope John Paul II, prayed Sunday for the worldwide victims of terror, violence, hunger and war.

The Vatican estimated that more than a quarter of a million people, most of them under umbrellas and bundled in winter clothes, crowded the huge square to participate in the two-hour Mass and hear the pope's annual sermon, "urbi et orbi" — to the city and the world — in his joint roles as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

An additional 20,000 led in a hunger and peace march by Rome's

Communist Mayor Ugo Vetere, were forced by police to discard their peace banners before entering the square.

In an unusual departure from his customary practice of directing holiday greetings to Christians in a variety of languages, the pontiff read "Happy Easter" or its equivalent in 42 languages including Bulgarian and Chinese, then unexpectedly inserted "Happy Passover" in Hebrew.

It was the first time in the memory of Vatican journalists that he had especially greeted the Jews on Easter.

Dressed in white and gold vestments and speaking from the balcony above the center door of St. Peter's Basilica, the pope asked fellow Poles in his native tongue to "dry your tears," but made no fur-

ther references to the suffering that occurred under martial law in Poland, where he will visit in June. A group of Polish pilgrims carrying a large "Solidarity" banner cheered and applauded him. Although martial law has been officially lifted in Poland, Solidarity, the independent trade union remains suspended.

"O risen Christ, in your glorious wounds, accept all the throbbing wounds of the men and women of today," the pope prayed, "the wounds that are so much talked about in the media."

Then with only one reference to a specific country — Colombia, where 230 people died Thursday in an earthquake in the ancient city of Popayan, the pope prayed for the world's miserable and ill-treated.

"We are with you who suffer from misery and hunger...We are with

you, the millions of refugees, ejected from your homes, exiles from your native lands. We are with you, all the victims of terror, locked up in prisons or concentration camps, consumed by ill-treatment or by torture.

"We are with you who have been kidnapped. We are with you who live in the nightmare of daily threats of violence or civil war. We are with you, young people who are discouraged at not finding work, a home or the social dignity to which you aspire."

The annual Easter ceremony, broadcast on live television to 33 countries, followed a weekend of church ceremonies. The pontiff marked Good Friday night in a torchlight ceremony at which he carried a wooden cross along the 14 stations of the cross.

INSIDE TODAY

Meter maid

Gloria Teichman reminds some people of the Statue of Liberty; to others she resembles a grandmotherly Grim Reaper.

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Weather

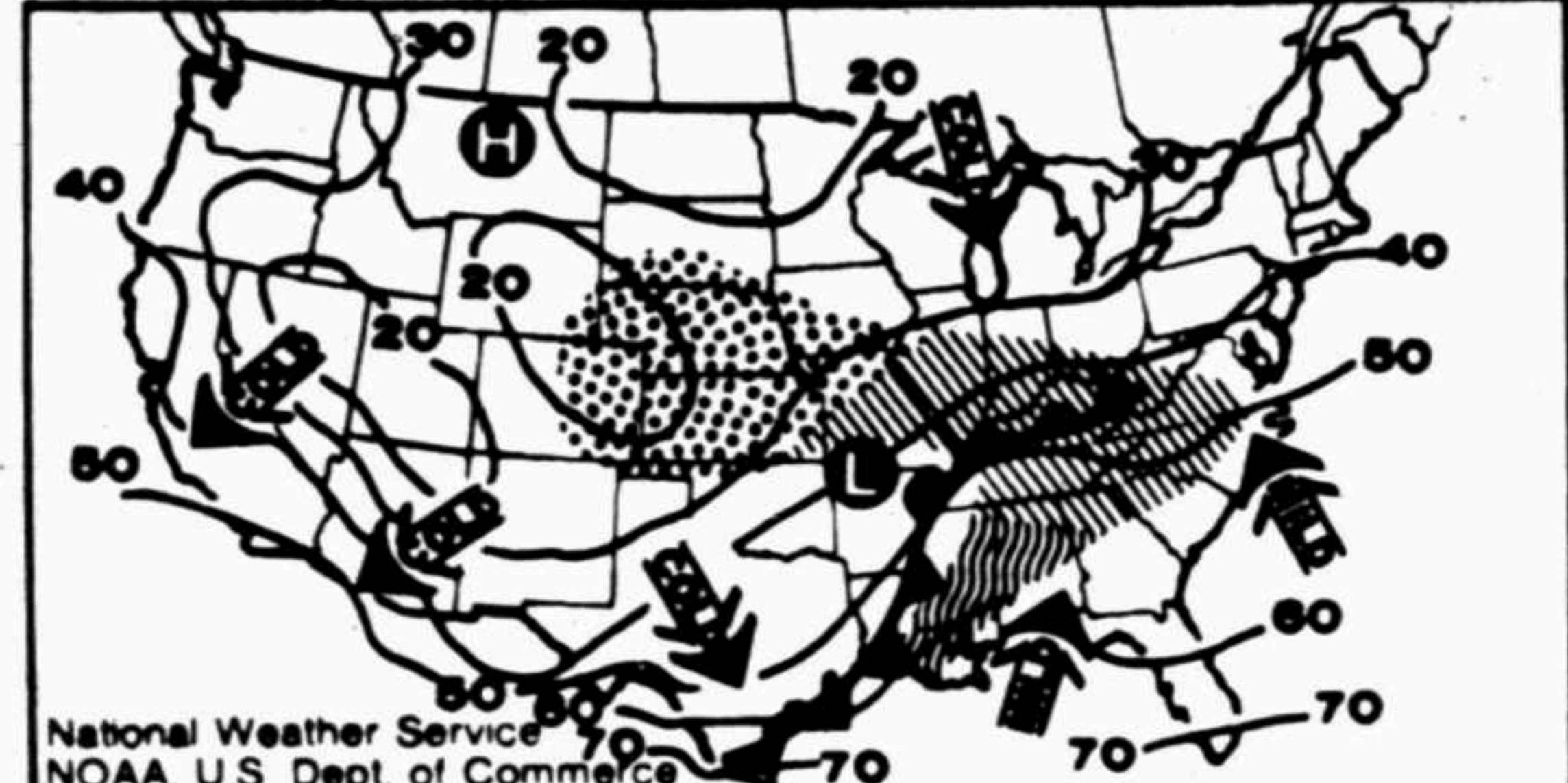
Cloudy and cold tonight with a 30 percent chance of light rain and a low temperature in the middle 30s. Details on Page 2A.

Service

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WEATHER SUMMARY

The Forecast For 7 a.m. EST Tuesday, April 5
Low Temperatures



National Weather Service
NOAA, U.S. Dept. of Commerce

Fronts: Cold Warm Occluded Stationary
AP Laserphoto Map

The National Weather Service forecasts rain mixed with showers for most of the Atlantic states and Mississippi River states. It will turn to snow over the central plains.

Temperatures expected to turn cold

The warm weekend, dust, and all, is over and Midlanders may look forward to a wet week of work.

According to the National Weather Service at Midland Regional Airport, temperatures will turn cold and a 30 percent chance of light rain will persist through Tuesday.

Temperatures are expected to drop into the middle 30s tonight and reach only into the upper 40s Tuesday.

Tonight's northerly winds, blowing at 10-15 mph, will increase to 15-20 mph Tuesday.

Sunday's sunny high of 85 missed by nine degrees the record high temperature of 94, set in 1946. The overnight low of 44 was 16 degrees warmer than the record low of 28, set in 1945.

FORECAST		Weather elsewhere	
Cloudy and cold tonight through Tuesday with a 30 percent chance of light rain. Low tonight in the mid die 30s. High Tuesday in the upper 40s. Northerly winds tonight at 10-15 mph, increasing to 15-20 mph Tuesday.		Albany	48 38 44 cdy
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE READINGS		Albuquerque	64 30 cdy
Overnight Low	44 degrees	Anchorage	32 32 cdy
Sunrise today	7:10 a.m.	Ashville	53 32 cdy
Sunrise tomorrow	6:33 a.m.	Atlanta	45 33 10 cdy
Precipitation	0.00 inches	Baltimore	65 43 cdy
1st 24 hours	0.00 inches	Bilings	38 23 08 cdy
1983 to date	0.00 inches	Birmingham	59 35 cdy
1983 to date	1.61 inches	Bismarck	43 31 01 cdy
		Boston	41 40 91 cdy
		Buffalo	50 11 06 cdy
		Burlington	42 36 24 cdy
		Charleston, S.C.	67 51 cdy
		Charleston, W.V.	49 41 01 cdy
		Charlotte, N.C.	54 32 cdy
		Chicago	32 12 84 an
		Cheyenne	40 36 40 cdy
		Cincinnati	43 39 10 cdy
		Columbia, S.C.	61 32 cdy
		Columbus	48 39 06 cdy
		Dayton	44 38 03 cdy
		Denver	38 20 24 an
		Des Moines	43 32 cdy
		Detroit	51 37 02 cdy
		Duluth	37 30 cdy
		Farbergs	47 29 cdy
		Fargo	41 32 02 cdy
		Flagstaff	44 32 02 cdy
		Great Falls	43 22 05 cdy
		Hartford	42 37 15 cdy
		Helsinki	45 27 08 cdy
		Honolulu	85 67 06 cdy
		Indianapolis	42 39 05 cdy
		Jackson, Miss.	70 44 cdy
		Jacksonville	72 43 cdy
		Juneau	52 44 cdy
		Kansas City	44 34 13 cdy
		Las Vegas	59 46 40 cdy
		Little Rock	65 43 cdy
		Los Angeles	67 53 cdy
		Louisville	43 35 02 cdy
		Memphis	60 42 cdy
		Miami	80 74 cdy
		Milwaukee	38 35 03 cdy
		Minneapolis	43 29 02 cdy
		Nashville	50 31 cdy
		New Orleans	72 50 cdy
		New York	48 43 173 cdy
		Northak	87 48 cdy
		NorthPlatte	32 28 07 an
		Oklahoma City	68 47 cdy
		Omaha	41 31 cdy
		Orlando	78 48 cdy
		Philadelphia	66 45 cdy
		Phoenix	75 47 cdy
		Pittsburgh	47 38 11 cdy
		Portland, Me.	38 37 57 cdy
		Portland, Ore.	57 38 cdy
		Raleigh	61 37 cdy
		Rapid City	33 08 cdy
		Reno	46 35 01 cdy
		Richmond	68 45 cdy
		St. Louis	44 39 cdy
		St. Pete Tampa	70 49 cdy
		Salt Lake	37 24 40 cdy
		Salt Lake	68 53 cdy
		San Diego	59 49 cdy
		San Francisco	43 34 15 cdy
		Seattle	53 40 cdy
		Shreveport	74 51 cdy
		Sioux Falls	43 29 01 cdy
		Spokane	49 33 cdy
		Syracuse	50 39 04 cdy
		Topoke	48 34 17 an
		Tucson	74 46 cdy
		Tulsa	62 47 02 cdy
		Washington	64 45 cdy
		Wichita	50 33 89 an

LOCAL TEMPERATURES		SOUTHWEST TEMPERATURES	
7 a.m.	53	8 p.m.	78
8 a.m.	51	7 p.m.	84
9 a.m.	55	6 p.m.	72
10 a.m.	61	5 p.m.	61
11 a.m.	70	4 p.m.	60
noon	78	3 p.m.	64
1 p.m.	81	2 p.m.	64
2 p.m.	82	1 a.m.	61
3 p.m.	84	12 a.m.	60
4 p.m.	84	11 p.m.	60
5 p.m.	84	10 p.m.	60

Texas area forecast

West Texas: Winter storm warning northern panhandle today and tonight. Travelers advisory southern Panhandle today through early Tuesday. Snow and blowing snow Panhandle with accumulations of 3 to 6 inches northern Panhandle and 2 to 4 inches southern Panhandle today with additional accumulations of 2 to 4 inches tonight will cause hazardous driving conditions through early Tuesday. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over remainder of West Texas except west of mountains today spreading west of mountains tonight and continuing Tuesday. Much colder Panhandle today and across most of area tonight and Tuesday. Windy most sections today. Highs today lower 30s Panhandle to near 80 Concho Valley and upper 20s Big Bend. Lows tonight near 20 Panhandle to lower 40s lower Pecos Valley. Highs Tuesday near 30 Panhandle to near 60 lower Pecos Valley and lower 70s Big Bend Valleys.

South Texas: Mostly cloudy warm and windy today. Scattered showers and thunderstorms north and west tonight spreading east and south Tuesday. Turning much cooler northwest Tuesday. Highs today upper 70s Southeast Texas to near 90 along the lower Rio Grande.

Extended forecast

Wednesday Through Friday

West Texas: Cloudy throughout the period with occasional light rain tapering off by Thursday. Rain mixed with snow north during late night and early morning hours. Not so cold Thursday and Friday. Lows mid 20s Panhandle to lower 40s lower Pecos Valley and Big Bend through Friday. Highs Wednesday near 40 Panhandle to upper 50s Concho Valley and near 70 Big Bend valleys warming to lower 50s Panhandle to lower 60s lower Pecos Valley and mid 70s Big Bend valleys by Friday.



Midland Police Officer Bruce Williams was in pursuit of a vehicle driven by John William Shalosky late Sunday when Shalosky's automobile struck a third vehicle on Interstate 20, reversed course and collided with the patrol unit.

NASA seeks space sickness cure

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — You're an astronaut arriving in outer space for the first time. You unbuckle to float from your couch and what's the first thing you do? Chances are 50-50 you'll get sick.

Astronauts on the Apollo, Skylab and Shuttle flights have been stricken with a problem newly dubbed space adaptation syndrome. No one can predict whom it will effect.

It causes cold sweating, dizziness, a lousy appetite, pallor and nausea. You may vomit, develop a headache and not want to do anything but sleep.

Once, the flight surgeon would have said you had "space sickness." Like sea sickness, but in space. He'd prescribe a medicine called scopolamine, a combination of Scopalamine and Dexamine. It's supposed to ease the nausea and chase the drowsiness.

But the difficulty was renamed because it is a problem of adaptation, not really an illness, said Dr. Philip C. Johnson, chief of the life sciences branch at the Johnson Space Center.

"We don't know what causes it," he said. "We've got a lot of theories, but we really aren't sure."

The difficulty, however, was serious enough to affect space missions. Officials worry that it could strike at a critical time and endanger lives. As a result, NASA is conducting a major effort to control it.

The illness strikes about half of the first-time space fliers. Pilots who can take five G turns in a high performance jet without a moment of queasiness have turned pallid, limp and miserable in space.

Story Musgrave, a physician-astronaut on the mission launching today, said he is almost immune to motion sickness in aircraft and on boats.

"But what does that mean to my immunity to spaceflight?" he asks. "I can't say."

Astronauts generally are reluctant to talk of their illnesses from space. They may ask for a private medical conference with a doctor on the ground and the physician prescribes medicine.

Under a new policy, the physician

Crowds don't gather to watch Challenger

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Beach bunnies and the Easter holiday competed with America's new orbiter for attention on Florida's Space Coast, cutting into the number of shuttle watchers gathering for today's maiden flight.

Prime parking sites sat empty along the Indian River across from the launch pad Sunday night, hours before the liftoff of Challenger. In the past these were filled a couple days before blastoff.

The sleek spaceship locked in its gantry 15 miles away wasn't drawing all the stares this time. Throngs of bikini-clad collegians on spring break at Florida's sun-drenched beaches in Fort Lauderdale and Daytona were getting their share.

At California Tees, a souvenir and T-shirt stand on the beach in Titusville, business was off but manager Jim Harris was optimistic.

"It's an afternoon launch; the latest ever scheduled," he said. "People can arrive late this time. Besides it's Easter Sunday and families have plans for church services and dinner get-togethers. And the college kids are going to stay on the beach as long as they can."

Retired crane operator Fred Russell had a more pessimistic view. "The first few shots the

place was packed. You couldn't move up or down the streets," said Russell who can watch the launch from his backyard.

"I think the interest is starting to wear off. The numbers aren't here. It's like anything else; when it's new it's beautiful, everyone wants to see it. Then the thrill wears off. It's just like marriage."

Even authorities were split, with the Florida Highway Patrol predicting as many as 1 million visitors would criss the beaches, parks and causeways before launchtime and Titusville police doubting it.

In the 1970s, when the Apollo program put man on the moon, the special invitation-only guest list read like a who's who of politicians and movie stars.

Today, the invitees are more special guests than VIPS or celebrities, NASA said.

"They are the people who have an interest in a particular launch, or they're people who have an interest in an experiment on the shuttle, or they're people who have an interest in doing business on a future shuttle," says Arnold Richman, chief of NASA's visitors services bureau.

Among those expected for lift-off were singer John Denver, a number of congressmen and diplomats.

As soon as they did, some of them suddenly became ill.

The problem at first was frightening.

"They (the astronauts) didn't know what was going on and we didn't know what was going on," recalls Johnson.

It soon became clear, though, that the sick astronaut returned to nor-

mal after a day or so and was not affected again during the flight.

Some believe it occurs because the brain receives new messages after leaving the accustomed gravity of Earth.

"The brain overreacts to a lack of signals from the otolith (inner ear) and from the positioning senses," said Johnson.

Scenes from the eyes add to the brain's confusion. Earth's horizon, usually in one place, is moving around.

Johnson said the rearrangement of fluids in the body also may be a factor. Fluids pool in the legs on Earth, but in orbit they collect in the head and thorax, changing the "body sense." Some astronauts report feeling like the head is floating free, unattached to the body, he said.

A series of tests that started on the fourth space shuttle flight and are continuing on the sixth may better define space adaptation syndrome. Eye and hand movement will be monitored to find clues to the signals the brain is receiving.

Astronauts being tested will don sensors on their face and then follow a series of lights with their eyes. Then they will fix their eyes on a point and move the head. The cycle will be repeated with the eyes covered.

Two astronaut-physicians, Dr. Norman Thagard and Dr. William E. Thornton, will make detailed studies in space when they fly on the seventh and eighth missions respectively. They were added to the crews for the express purpose of conducting medical tests on the physiological changes associated with the problem.

NASA hopes to find countermeasures and ways of predicting whether astronauts will get sick in space.

But Johnson said he doesn't think there will ever be perfect control. Men have been going down to the sea in ships for and medical science has yet to conquer sea sickness, he noted.

"We take the Navy view," said Johnson. "They (the astronauts) had better be ready."

Tank car spills toxic chemical

Denver residents evacuated

DENVER (AP) — Small pools of acid were all that remained today of a mustard-yellow cloud of nitric acid gas that hovered over the Mile-High City after a railroad tank car spilled 18,000 gallons of the toxic chemical, officials say.

As many as 5,000 residents of a northwest Denver neighborhood were forced to leave their homes Easter morning after the tanker ruptured in a railyard about two miles from downtown.

Assistant Fire Chief Paul Spurgeon said some acid remained in the ruptured tanker and in small pools around the railyard and probably would be removed later today. He said that the 500-block area that was evacuated consisted primarily of factories and warehouses.

"The real hazard is gone now; it's been taken care of," he said Sunday night.

About three dozen people sought treatment at area hospitals for eye and throat irritations. Three fire-

fighters sustained burns, all minor. No serious injuries were reported.

Nitric acid, used in the production of fertilizer, drugs and explosives, is highly irritating and corrosive to the lungs and mucous membranes.

The spill occurred at 4:15 a.m. Sunday near the intersection of Interstates 25 and 70, and portions of both highways were closed for several hours until crews could neutralize the spill.

Miles Slocum, an adviser for the Office of Emergency Preparedness, said the acid spilled from the tanker when a coupling from another rail-car pierced it in a Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad yard.

As the acid spilled, it ignited a minor fire and sent a thick billowing cloud that caused explosions in some electrical transformers, causing power outages in the immediate area.

"When I saw that cloud, it was just missing downtown," said Gov. Richard Lamm. "If it had been just

20 blocks more to the south and on a work day, well, people might have panicked."

"The kids were crying. We're not going to have Easter! We're not going to have Easter!" said Dorothy Young, who sought refuge with her 10 children at George Washington High School, one of eight schools used as emergency shelters. "I told them we've got to get out of here or we might die."

About 1,500 people gathered at George Washington, where a classroom was turned into a makeshift infirmary, but officials said they treated only minor eye irritation and respiratory problems.

By noon, crews had neutralized the spill with soda ash, using snowblowers borrowed from the Denver airport. By 2:30 p.m., the interstates were reopened and people evacuated at dawn began returning home, officials said.

Heavy, wet snow began falling in the area shortly after the acid was



The Easter Bunny, alias Cyndy Douglas, passes out candy to Denver children who were evacuated from their homes when a railroad tank car spilled 18,000 gallons of toxic chemicals.

Weather puts damper on Easter celebrations across nation

By The Associated Press

Rain slickers replaced Easter bonnets on New York's Fifth Avenue and a spring blizzard buried parts of Wyoming, but the sun shone on the Atlantic City boardwalk, where celebrants strutted their finery on Christianity's holiest day.

In Wyoming, an Easter Day blizzard with winds up to 40 mph closed highways in the southern part of the state.

The last report from Cody, Wyo., according to National Weather Service forecaster Harry Gordon, was this glum message late Sunday: "The Easter Bunny is lost in up to 8 inches of wet, heavy snow."

By early today, 12 inches of snow had piled up on Cheyenne, with other sections reporting up to 13 inches.

Gordon, based at Kansas City, said the storm also hit Montana, Utah, Idaho and Nebraska.

The inclement weather didn't stop an Easter egg hunt for the blind in Salt Lake City, where blind children and their parents searched for plastic eggs that emitted a cheeping noise.

But what may be the nation's largest Easter egg hunt went off with-

out a hitch in Homer, Ga., where more than 6,000 people turned out Sunday to search for 18,000 chicken eggs, 40,000 candy eggs and 50 prize eggs.

It was the 24th year that Herbert and Betty Garrison planted the eggs on their 40-acre farm.

"We've all had a big day," Mrs. Garrison said, adding that former Gov. Lester Maddox and Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin made the trip to Homer. "We're planning our 25th now. Next year will be our silver anniversary and we're already working on it."

In New York, the traditional

promenade down Fifth Avenue was reduced to a trickle of rain-coated spectators around St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Heavy rains, winds and gray skies kept most Easter duds packed away, but Hermine Price, 61, sported a wide-brimmed, flower-bedecked bonnet for her 21st Easter parade in Manhattan.

"I spent too much time making this hat to let it sit until next year," said Mrs. Price, who once made hats for a living.

In his address at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Cardinal Terence Cooke, archbishop of New York, recalled

the special significance of Easter this year, the 1950th anniversary of Christ's resurrection, which has been proclaimed as Jubilee Year of Redemption by Pope John Paul II.

President Reagan, winding up a vacation at his Santa Barbara, Calif., ranch, joined the millions who celebrated the holiday by going to church.

In a weekend holiday message, Reagan called Easter "the triumph of life over death." He was expected back in Washington D.C. today for the tradition Egg Roll on the White House lawn.

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Gwen Woody, left, and Gloria Teichmann room to get a head start on their upcoming sign tickets in a police department briefing workshift.



Gloria walks about 10-12 miles each day, five days a week, in pursuit of parking violations. She says she wears out a pair of footgear about every six months.

Your time is running out

As she strolls the streets, pen in one hand and pad in the other, Gloria Teichmann cuts a figure that could be viewed one of two ways by most Midland motorists.

Those with freshly filled parking meters might be reminded of the Statue of Liberty — a sentinel for justice, truth, the American Way — as she cradles her tablet in one arm and brandishes a ballpoint instead of a beacon.

But to drivers illegally parked, confronted by red "time expired" flags, yellow curbs and Gloria's scrawling blue pen, she may look more like a grandmotherly Grim Reaper.

"They always say we're the meanest two old ladies. It's not fair," said Gwen Woody, Gloria's friend and fellow parking control attendant, as they sat together in a police station briefing room before a recent workshift. "It's because they're doing something they aren't supposed to and we catch them."

Fortunately, according to Gloria, most people are fairly pleasant even after being ticketed. "You get some" who are abusive, she said, "but the rest make up for it."

"ONE CAN BE NASTY to you and you'll feel kind of 'Oh well, I'm sorry.' And then another one will bring your spirits right back up."

In fact, she said, meeting friendly folks and exchanging "good mornings" on downtown streets and sidewalks is one of the job's most attractive fringe benefits.

Gloria, a North Dakota native and long-time Midlander, is the veteran on a crew of six parking control attendants — four "walkers" and two scooter drivers — charged with policing parking violations in Midland's downtown.

After six years as a crossing guard at Sam Houston Elementary School, she and another woman were hired almost seven years ago as the city's first female parking attendants.

"I love it. It's still being outside. I don't believe I could work inside. I tried it one day and it almost killed me."

"We do have a few problems when they've got big dogs in the back of pickups. And it's always BIG dogs, with BIG teeth. But you know, you sure get good at flipping those tickets and hitting windshields."

"AND WE'LL GET the prettiest sun tan you ever saw. From here to here," she said with a laugh, chopping a sunburned hand against her wrist and bicep, "and from here to here," doing likewise at her neck and forehead.

Women were recruited for parking control when city officials decided they could no longer afford to tie up commissioned officers for full-time parking patrol, according to Gloria, 54, a mother of three and a grandmother twice.

"We were really an experiment," she said, adding that although her original partner and others have quit because of the leg-wearing walking involved, "we

worked out pretty good, I think.

Gloria covers an average of 10-12 miles of pavement each day, five days a week. "We've had a lot come and go because they can't stand the walking. I have been offered the scooter a couple of times, but I like walking." Besides, she said, chuckling, "I think I'd wreck in that old scooter."

"This is good for me, walking. I'm as healthy as an ox. Walking and sweating, you sure use a lot of deodorant and hair spray. We should do a commercial."

"I'll tell you one thing, you need very good shoes."

She said she wears out a pair of footgear about every six months. She's suffered a stress fracture to one foot and recalls spending many nights soaking her feet during her early days on the job.

"If I knew then what I know now about taking care of your feet..." she mused. "I'd go home and soak every night. But you get used to it. And I got better shoes."

GLORIA AND GWEN, much like police desk sergeants and bartenders, said they've seen or heard just about everything during their years patrolling downtown.

They recalled one old man who often took catnaps while parked in no-parking zones and spit at them as he cruised the downtown.

Gwen remembered the following exchange with an Oriental gentleman whose vehicle was illegally parked in a freight loading zone:

"Do you know freight loading zone?" Gwen asked, getting only a shrug in reply.

"Do you know white curb?" Another shrug.

"Do you know \$25 fine?" A nod.

"Do you know move?" A vigorous nod, followed closely by the man's departure.

Gloria said she's had people drop money from the fifth floor of a downtown building, hoping she'll feed the meter instead of issuing a ticket.

SHE'S ALSO JUMPED behind some shrubs after staring down the barrel of a gun, pointed innocently enough by a man studying a rifle taken from the back seat of a salesman's parked car.

"And then we have those people who accuse us of standing and waiting for their meter to run out," Gwen said, shaking her head.

Despite the many excuses offered by motorists for their parking transgressions, Gloria said she manages to write an average of 150-175 tickets during an 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. shift.

She said she'll probably work "forever, as long as I can walk. I don't think to the future. I just work everyday."

Gloria, who's ticketed her son on one occasion, said she plans to maintain a tough stance when issuing deserved tickets.

"Once I start a ticket, I issue it. They say: 'Please don't give me that ticket, Gloria.' I give it to them anyway. That's why they call us witches."

"Nobody likes to get tickets. I don't like to get them. But I have to give them. That's my job."



The red "time expired" flag is up and Gloria's off and writing another ticket. She writes about 150-175 tickets each day.



Gloria Teichmann, the veteran of the Midland Police Department's parking control attendant crew, prepares to issue another citation.

Text by Vince Giorgi

Photos by Cody Bell

Photo by Paul Gilbert

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AP Laserphoto

Holly Mason, 10, peers longingly at an ever-growing pile of gumballs being poured into a vending machine in Lubbock by her mother, Sherry Mason, an employee of the vending company. Holly has an eye-level view of the confections.

Man who offered homeless place to stay has no takers

MANVEL (AP) — When Lucian Smith offered his overgrown acre of land as a place to stay for a few homeless families, the response was hardly what he had anticipated.

Dozens of people from around the country called after publication of a newspaper article about Smith's offer and praised his gesture.

But he received only "a few nibbles" and no takers, he says in a story in today's editions of the Houston Chronicle.

Smith invited people to use part of his land in Brazoria County southeast of Houston to start a garden and "enjoy the harvest," however, the weed-infested property, bordered by a cleared two-acre lot and mobile home on one side and an open pasture on the other, still has no garden.

Considering the headlines drawn by Houston's Tent City, which

sprang up and shut down since his offer in March 1982, Smith says he is "disappointed" to see so many people apparently "looking for a free ride."

His offer to share his property with three or four desperate families carried only one stipulation — his non-paying tenants had to be seriously looking for work.

"I wasn't looking for permanent neighbors," Smith said. "I just wanted to offer them a base, an address, a telephone, anything to help them find a job. When they found out there was some work involved, they lost interest."

One of the "nibbles" was an unemployed man with a wife and baby who came to see the property. The man had been doing odd jobs at a nearby campground.

"I offered his wife typing work for a little cash," Smith said.

Midland man in critical condition after shootout at southside lounge

A Midland man was in critical condition in Midland Memorial Hospital's critical care unit this morning after undergoing surgery for multiple bullet wounds he received in a shootout with another man Sunday morning at a southside nightclub.

Arturo Payan Franco of 1927 E Pecan Ave. suffered eight bullet wounds after engaging in a gunfight about 1:30 a.m. Sunday inside the Mio Barrio Pobre lounge at 1706 Rankin Highway, according to police department reports.

Witnesses said Franco and

another man argued before pulling guns and firing on each other. Police responded to the scene to find Franco lying in a pool of blood near the backdoor of the bar.

An MMH spokeswoman said Franco was admitted to surgery about 3:35 a.m. Sunday. Police reports indicated he suffered wounds to the abdomen, chest and right knee.

A police department spokesman said no charges have been filed or arrests made in the incident.

BIRTHS

MIDLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
March 30, 1983
 Mr. and Mrs. Dean Allen Phillips, 1300 Cottonflat Road, Sp 59, a boy.
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Mitchell Ullom, 3001 Midland Drive, a boy.
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wilson Pierce, 5003 Castleford Road, a girl.
 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Gene Blakeley, 409 W. Hart, a girl.
March 31, 1983
 Mr. and Mrs. James Bennett Kingston, 4812 W. Storey Ave., a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. James Edward Booth, 606 Devonian Drive, a girl.
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Warren Evans IV, 4401 Erie Drive, a boy.
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nichols Hendricks, 8627 Holiday Drive, Odessa, a boy.
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ray Ballard, 4009 Godfrey, a girl.
 Mr. and Mrs. Linden Rand Boch, 414 Alta Avenue, a boy.
 Mr. and Mrs. John David Cox, 3100 Caldera Blvd., Apt. 1811, a girl.

Houston may soon have year-round school

HOUSTON (AP) — The traditional school calendar could become as obsolete as the mule-and-plow society that once dictated it, if Texas lawmakers go along with a plan for the state's first year-round school, administrators say.

Students at Janowski Elementary here would still go to school 178 days a year, but instead of the traditional summer vacation, they would get 30-day breaks spread throughout the year.

Houston Independent School District administrators say the pilot program could alleviate the school system's overcrowding. Their proposed legislation, House Bill 2077, would direct the Texas education commissioner to change the mechanics of school financing if a district wants to send students to class year-round.

Fourteen states have school districts with year-round education, but only six states have more than one system with the schools — and

only California, with 40, has more than four.

Janowski principal Rita Poimbeauf sees the program as the answer to her prayers. "I see bad, bad overcrowding without it," she said.

Two kindergarten classes have been squeezed into one room at Janowski, which is expected to have 80 more students in another five years than it was designed to accommodate.

Redrawing boundary lines is out of the question, administrators say, because every other elementary school in the area also is overcrowded.

In past years, Houston has accommodated its pockets of rapid growth by building more schools, but now, lean economic times are catching up with administrators.

Taxpayers are in no mood to cover both future deficits and the construction of more schools, James Lehmann, executive deputy superin-

tendent, told the Dallas Morning News.

"How long can we continue to build and build and build? How long is our constituency going to support that mode of thinking?" he asked.

But money is not the only reason HISD is eager to try year-round education.

Proponents say the series of breaks throughout the school year help prevent both teacher and student burnout. Students' retention is improved, they say, because there is no 3-month long break between one instructional year and the next.

John Liechty, principal of Berendo Junior High School in inner-city Los Angeles, says he would not go back to the traditional school calendar even if his school's enrollment dropped.

"If I had my way, all schools would be year-round," he said. "I think it serves the students and the community."

Charles Ballinger, executive secre-

tary of the National Council on Year-Round Education, acknowledges that many Americans still regard children's summer vacation as sacrosanct.

But, he said, "You have to wonder why so many urban districts continue to follow a rural calendar developed to let children work in the fields, when 75 percent of the kids are not needed in the summer months for employment."

Houston School Superintendent Billy Reagan does not wonder at all.

"The American people do not have the guts to change the school year," he said.

But Janowski parents already have been canvassed and are ready to give the plan a try, Ms. Poimbeauf says. Only one teacher has asked to be transferred, she says.

Lehmann predicts that the program will be successful.

"I guarantee you. You come back next year, and I'll have some disciples," he said confidently.

Houston police officers pleased with performance at Klan rally

HOUSTON (AP) — Police officers who successfully controlled fist-shaking, jeering demonstrators as Ku Klux Klansmen marched through downtown Houston were aware they would be judged by their performance, a police spokesman says.

"They knew there would be a lot of attention on them and that the success of the operation would be judged on how well they performed — on the discipline and restraint they showed," said Larry Trout, public information officer for the Houston Police Department.

About 500 police in full riot gear and another 100 in civilian clothes separated the 50 Klansmen from demonstrators who lined the 10-

block parade route Saturday.

The officers — from a force often labeled as brutal and criticized for morale problems — returned to the Albert Thomas Convention Center, shaking hands and slapping each other on the back.

"There were a lot of grins when they came back. You could tell they were really proud of what happened," Trout said. "There's nothing like being in the middle of a situation where there's the potential for violence."

Two men and a teenager were arrested during the parade, and police confiscated knapsacks and shopping bags filled with rocks, marbles, sticks and electrical batteries.

There were incidents of rock- and egg-throwing, but no one was injured, police said.

Dressed in traditional white robes, black uniforms with riot gear and camouflage fatigues, Klan members marched to the park-like grounds of City Hall for a rally. A police line kept the crowd, estimated at 2,000, about 100 feet away.

Police Chief Lee Brown, a black, congratulated the officers for their professionalism. He said his officers had "set the state of the art for policing such events."

Planning for the Saturday's parade and rally began after a violent confrontation during a Klan parade Feb. 19 in Austin.

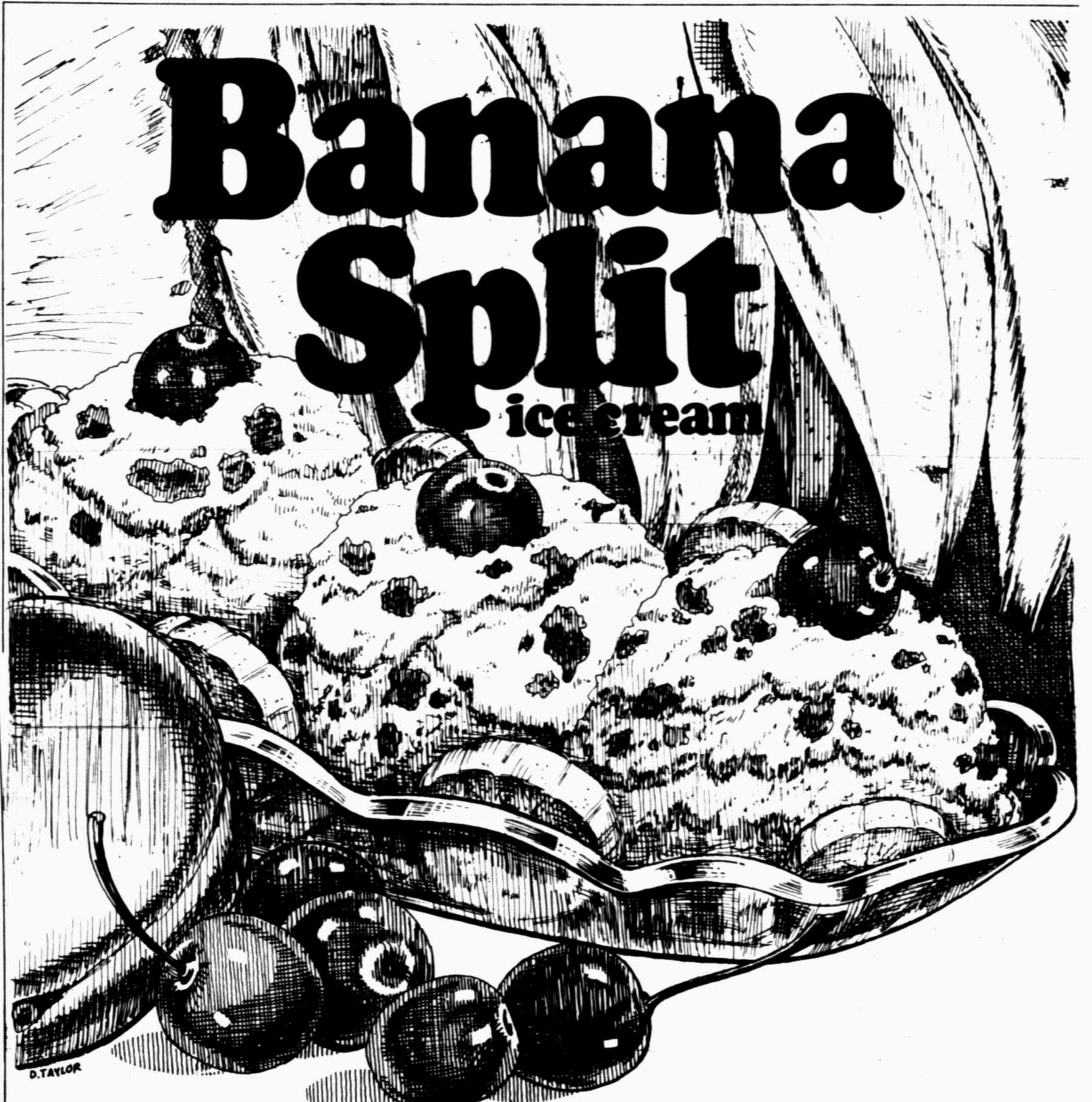
DEATHS

Samuel Crech

Services for Samuel Clay Crech, 7, of Midland, will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in First Baptist Church of Stanton with the Rev. Bill Schockley of Lamesa officiating and the Rev. Ed Carson of Stanton assisting. Burial will be in Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland under direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

He died Saturday in a Lubbock hospital following a brief illness. The child was born Jan. 14, 1976, in Hobbs, N.M.

Survivors include his parents, Steven Clay Crech and Pamela Jean Crech of Sonora and Annel Crech of Midland; his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Thearl Crech of Stanton and Mr. and Mrs. Y.A. McCann of Hobbs; and his great-grandmother, Lucy Bullion of Grayford.



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