

CAPITOL NETWORK NEWS

Today's news from Oklahoma's best government information resource

Daily Edition, Tuesday, November 19, 1996

LAWMAKERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) With their right hands raised, 23 recently-elected and reelected members of the state Senate and all 101 members of the House of Representatives took their oaths of office and began the move toward the opening of the 46th Legislature.

Oklahoma Supreme Court Chief Justice Alma Wilson administered the oath to members of both legislative houses, reminding the legislators of the importance of their job.

"There is probably no greater trust than yours that you enact laws that preserve the rights provided in the constitution and that they be retained by the people," Wilson said in the Senate, adding that she knew of no better state constitution than that of Oklahoma.

Noting the turmoil in other nations, Wilson said, "It is a privilege to be born in a nation under and in the great state of Oklahoma."

Sen. Charley Ford, R-Tulsa, was absent from the Senate proceeding, but had already been administered the oath of office, Senate Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor, D-Claremore, told those on hand, which included a gallery full of well-wishers for those on the floor.

Absent was the usual seriousness of the legislative day as members introduced their

family members, friends, neighbors and campaign workers.

Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa, took the time to get to know the son of a new member, Sen. Jeff Rabon, D-Idabel, trading play punches with the young boy as he was held by his father and allowing him to briefly wear the trademark glasses dangling around her neck.

Sen. Trish Weedn, D-Purcell, was joined on the floor by her grandson, which the senator dubbed the "sine day baby" for his birth on the last day of 1994's legislative session.



Sen. Trish Weedn

Her father, she explained, passed away on the first day of the last legislative session and her mother was too ill to make the trip.

"This campaign," she said, "was for my dad."

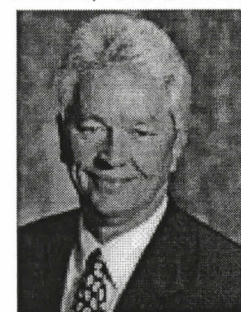
It was a tearful Weedn who explained that Tuesday's swearing-in ceremony was the first missed by her mother and father.

Sen. Gene Stipe, D-McAlester, who has been serving in the legislature since 1948, told those gathered for the ceremony that he had attempted to convince members of his family to attend but without success.

"My granddaughter is having a ballet recital today," he said, "so I was kind of preempted."



Sen. Gene Stipe



Sen. Bill Mickle

Sen. Bill Mickle, D-Durant and majority floor leader, will not face reelection until 1998, but he joined his fellow lawmakers on the floor, taking advantage of the time to announce his reelection bid and to comment on Stipe's tenure.

"I was three-years-old," Mickle said, See *Lawmakers*, page 2

BILL TO PROTECT PUBLIC WORKERS FILED

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Two state lawmakers filed a measure on Monday which would forbid municipalities and counties from adopting rules or policies for employees who act to defend their family or home that are more harsh than those applied to other citizens.

SB3, by Sen. Charley Ford, R-Tulsa and Rep. Ray Vaughn, R-Edmond, follows publicity during the summer about the case of John Jerkins, a Stillwater police officer who was demoted and disciplined after refusing to admit that he was wrong when he slapped a 17-year-old boy he found in his home and who had just had sex with his daughter.

Ford, who pledged in August to file the bill, said then, "This whole situation is ri-

diculous. No charges were ever filed against the officer and the only reason he's being punished is because he disagrees with his superiors. In my day if a father caught a boy having sex with his daughter, a slap was the least he could expect."

Ford said neither a city nor a county has a right to tell its employees how to parent their children in their own homes.

"This is an example of why people are fed up with today's intrusive government," Ford said in August. "This affair is none of the city's business and this bill will keep the city or county from sticking their nose where it doesn't belong."

The bill is third to be filed in anticipation of the 46th legislative session and the first to carry both a House and Senate author.

What's Inside

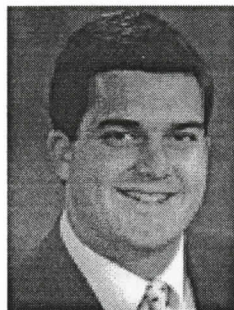
Libertarian Party Sues State Election Board ...	2
Department of Corrections: Painting by Numbers	2
Ten Railroad Crossing Upgrades Approved ...	3
Health Department Confirms First Hantavirus Case in Oklahoma	4
Governor Receives Trauma Task Force Report	4
Garrett Announces State Schools Considered Among Best in Nation	5
Comments Invited on Request by Rose Growers	5
NHTSA Concerned ABOUT Chrysler Hatch Latch Replacement Rates	5
DOE Wins Popular Science "Best of What's New" Awards	6
EPA Receives Hammer Award	6
Prefiled Bills	7
Calendar	8

Lawmakers, continued from page 1

"when Sen. Stipe entered the Senate. I grew up in his district, but I had to move out of it to get elected."

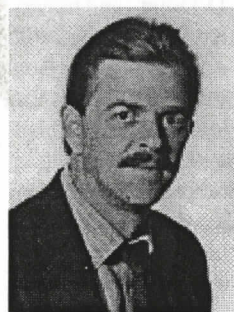
The scene was much the same in the House, where Speaker-elect Loyd Benson, D-Frederick, presided over his first gathering of all 101 representatives.

Rep. Wayne Pettigrew, R-Edmond, used his time on the House floor to introduce his new wife, Toni, who he met during his first campaign for office.



Rep. Sean Voskuhl

Rep. Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, joked about the narrow margin by which he won reelection, 18-votes, saying he was "back by popular demand."



Rep. Mike Mass

Rep. Mike Mass, D-Hartshorne, said his wife and daughter had come to the capitol, "because they heard they could get a free airplane ride," referring to the controversy surrounding the recently-purchased governor's airplane. Ironically, Benson then called on Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa and the most outspoken critic of the airplane purchase. The

laughter in the House soon died as Roach described a recent conversation with his wife in which she, citing personal attacks during the recent election, said she hoped their son never sought public office.



Rep. Russ Roach

"That's something we should think about," Roach said, wiping away tears. "That's something we can change."

Only moments earlier, Roach's son appeared to become the youngest person ever to take the oath of office, standing beside his father with his hand raised, reciting the oath along with his father.

The impact of the general election was also evident in places other than the House and Senate floor. A notecard placed on the House pressboard, for example advertised a cottage for rent, where "Rep. Stottlemire stayed (here) for three terms."

Stottlemire, D-Tulsa, lost his District 77 reelection bid to Mark Liotta, R-Tulsa.

**LIBERTARIAN PARTY SUES
STATE ELECTION BOARD**

**By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer**

■(GIT) The state chapter of the Libertarian Party asked a federal judge on Monday to prevent the state election board from enforcing a law that would put an end to the party's official recognition, effectively removing them from future ballots.

The party's presidential candidate, Harry Browne, garnered only 5,005 votes in the general election, a little less than one-half of one percent and well below the 10 percent of the votes cast in a general election needed to remain a recognized political party.

"The law requires that political parties receive at least 10 percent of the vote in a general election," said Lance Ward, state election board secretary, "and that if they do not, they will cease to exist as a recognized party. That is exactly what happened here."

The statute, the lawsuit alleges, favors the established and more entrenched political parties — Republicans, Democrats and Reformers — over smaller, fledgling organizations.

See Libertarian, page 3

**DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS:
PAINTING BY NUMBERS**

**By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer**

■(GIT) Numbers are not a game for the Department of Corrections.

According to a facility capacity report released Monday, the comments of the department's interim director and its governing board, numbers are the most important factor influencing the agency's decision making. Under current conditions, the report, staff and board agreed, that generally means making do with less than what is needed.

That situation was reflected in a supplemental budget request and fiscal year 1998 budget request recently approved by the board for the department. In order to meet the department's anticipated population growth by the end of the current fiscal year, officials say \$25.3 million will be needed. For fiscal year 1998, the department is seeking its largest state appropriation in history — \$350.5 million for operations and \$326.9 million for capital outlay, including the construction of additional prison space.

Currently, department records show, the agency is responsible for the supervision of 51,284 convicted criminals, including:

- ✓ 19,918 inmates;
- ✓ 28,589 probationers; and
- ✓ 2,777 parolees.

Of the inmates, 14,932 are locked up in Department of Corrections facilities, while 1,510 are housed in private prisons in Oklahoma and Texas. An additional 316 are backed up in county jails, waiting to be introduced in the department's system. The remaining inmates are housed in county jails and other contract facilities, such as halfway houses.

By the end of the current fiscal year, department officials project they will need room to house 19,825 inmates. That number grows to 21,256 by the end of fiscal year 1998. Including private prison space, the department projects it will have beds for 17,700 inmates by the end of the current fiscal year, some 2,125 beds short of the number projected to be needed.

Those projections, David Miller, the department's chief of staff and operations, noted Monday, are made under current conditions, absent the introduction of programs such as truth in sentencing, which are expected to increase the flow of inmates into

See Corrections, page 3

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CORPORATION COMMISSION APPROVES 10 RAILROAD CROSSING UPGRADES

By Michelle Boyd Waters
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission recently approved applications by the Burlington Northern Railroad for safety and facility upgrades of 10 railroad crossings.

The number of crossings up for improvement tends to run in spurts, said Patrick Petree, commission public information officer. The commission receives several applications whenever the federal money is available, but they may go three months without seeing an application.

"The commission is required by law to approve or disapprove the applications," Petree said. "But the contract is between the railroad and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation."

G. R. (Buddy) Combs, Corporation Commission railroad manager, said that the intersections ranged from being too rough to being dangerous. He said that each railroad crossing in Oklahoma is given a priority. When the crossing reaches the top of the

priority list, it is repaired, Combs said.

ODOT and Burlington worked on terms agreeable to both organizations and then ODOT sent the application to the commission.

The improvements will include advance warning signs, flashing-light signals with traffic control gate arms and replacement of rail crossing surfaces. Federal railroad grade crossing improvement funds will pay 90 percent of the estimated \$840,825 cost of the upgrades. Cities, counties and the railroad will provide the required 10 percent matching funds.

The upgrade applications approved are:

- ALTUS: flashing-light signals with gate arms and a 40 foot concrete crossing surface at Ridgecrest Road. The estimated project cost is \$103,000. The city of Altus will pay \$10,300.

- BEGGS: flashing-light signals with gate arms at a county road approximately two miles south and two miles east of Beggs. The estimated project cost is \$76,800. Okmulgee County will pay \$7,680.

- ENID: flashing-light signals with gate arms and a 70 foot concrete crossing surface at East Chestnut Avenue. The estimated project cost is \$71,500. The City of Enid will pay \$7,150.

- FOYIL: flashing-light signals with gate

arms and a 48 foot concrete crossing surface at State Highway 66. The estimated project cost is \$90,000. Rogers County will pay approximately \$9,000.

- HENRYETTA: flashing-light signals with gate arms and a 40 foot concrete crossing surface at Corporation Street. The estimated project cost is \$100,000. The City of Henryetta will pay \$10,000.

- HOLDENVILLE: two 32 foot timber crossing surfaces and two railroad crossing advance warning signs at a county road about 1 mile south of Holdenville. The estimated project cost is \$32,845. The Burlington Northern Railroad will pay about \$3,285.

- OKMULGEE: flashing-light signals with gate arms and a 32 foot concrete crossing surface at Auction Barn Road. The estimated project cost is \$52,000. Okmulgee County will pay \$5,200.

- OKMULGEE: flashing-light signals with gate arms and a 56 foot concrete crossing surface at Sixth Street (State Highway 56). The project cost is estimated at \$156,400. Of the 10 percent required matching funds, the state will pay \$12,360 and the Burlington Northern will pay \$3,280.

- SAPULPA: flashing-light signals with gate arms, two railroad crossing advance warning signs and two sets of pavement

See **Crossings**, page 4

Libertarian, cont. from page 2

The suit marks the third federal suit filed against the election board this year, noted Ward, who has now presided over five general and three presidential elections as state election board secretary. Currently, the Oklahoma affiliate of the Reform Party also has a suit pending against the state board, alleging discrimination in the voter registration process. An earlier challenge to the state's ballot access laws by the Natural Law Party was rejected by a federal judge.

"I would say the fact that we've had three federal suits filed against us this year is a bit odd," Ward said. "It's not unusual to have a candidate, particularly a defeated candidate, bring an action in district court and to see that move to the Oklahoma Supreme Court during a major election season, but that didn't happen this time."

When the Reform and Libertarian parties' suits are decided, Ward added, essentially every aspect of Oklahoma's election laws will have been touched in one way or another.

"The Natural Law Party took issue with the requirements to get on the ballot," Ward explained. "Then, the Reform Party is challenging the process involved in registering people. This lawsuit addresses the requirements to remain on the ballot. After this, I'm not sure what is left."

Corrections, continued from page 2

the prison system for a number of years before leveling off.

When department officials speak of bed space, they are usually referring to the number of beds available versus the number of inmates they need to put in them. On Monday, department figures showed there were 79 more beds than there were inmates inside agency facilities, while 316 were waiting to be brought in.

Inmates, however, appear to have a different view of bed space, evidenced by lawsuits which challenge the conditions in which they are housed. According to the facility capacity report, an inmate's gender and unit assignment play a key role in that equation.

The average inmate in Department of Corrections custody is allotted 94-square-feet of space. That is particularly true for the system's male inmates, whose average space assignment is 95.6-square-feet. Women, however, fare worse, averaging just 77-square-feet.

In the cases of both male and female in-

mates there are wide swings in the amount of allotted space. Male inmates assigned to the restrictive housing unit at Clara Waters Community Corrections Center in Oklahoma City get an average of 16.7-square-feet per inmate, while inmates locked in the medical unit at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester have an average assigned space of 238.5-square-feet.

The space difference is somewhat less for women inmates. Female offenders incarcerated at the administrative unit of the Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in Oklahoma City have an average of 37.6-square-feet of space, while those at Hollis Community Work Center are afforded 175-square-feet per inmate.

Within the department, those numbers are compared to a state-accepted standard, which may be modified to reflect actual practices, that stipulates a minimum of 120-square-feet per inmate. The facility report, however, recognized that current population trends prevent the department from adhering to that standard.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS FIRST HANTAVIRUS CASE IN OKLAHOMA

By Michelle Boyd Waters
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Oklahoma Health Department officials recently confirmed the first case of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome in a resident of Texas County in the state's Panhandle, said J.R. Nida, M.D., Oklahoma State Department of Health commissioner.

"HPS is a newly discovered viral disease, considered to be an emerging pathogen," Nida said. "The virus is present in the excreta (urine or droppings) of infected mice. Persons may become exposed to the virus by breathing airborne particles of dust containing the virus. Cases are associated with exposure to rodents, rodent excreta and contaminated dust."

The best way to avoid exposure to the virus is to avoid areas that may be infested with rodents.

Dr. Mike Crutchers, state epidemiologist, said Hantavirus does not affect its rodent carriers. It is transmitted to humans through an environment contaminated by rodent urine, droppings or saliva, but cannot be transferred from person to person.

The disease was first reported in the United States in an outbreak in the Four Corners region of New Mexico and Arizona in 1993. Cases have continued to occur sporadically throughout the country since that time, including some in Kansas and Texas. A total of 152 cases have been reported in the United States.

After the discovery of the disease was made, doctors tested blood and tissue samples stored in labs for the disease. Some of the samples tested positive for the virus, so it has been around longer than three years, Crutchers said. He also said that cases of the virus have

been found in South America and Canada.

Crutchers said many varieties of Hantavirus exist around the world, but the strain found in the United States is known as *Sin Nombre*.

"The virus kills half of the people that it infects," Crutchers said.

If one suspects one has been in an area contaminated by the virus, one should see a doctor. Crutchers said a chest x-ray will be able to help a doctor distinguish between Hantavirus and the flu. The first symptoms of the disease appear approximately two weeks after contact with the virus. There is no evidence of person-to-person spread of the disease.

Hantavirus is characterized by high fever, muscle aches and stomach complaints. Crutchers said that these symptoms do sound a lot like the ordinary flu, but the infected person then develops a dry cough followed by an abrupt onset of pneumonia.

People who are infected with the virus must be hospitalized under intensive care, Crutchers said. Hospital personnel treat the person aggressively, which may require careful management of electrolytes and respiratory support.

Medical care is limited to supportive care, Crutchers said. Doctors can only provide care to the patient while the body fights the infection. Patients that die from the virus usually suffered respiratory failure as a result of the infection.

The doctor said no cures or treatments

have been developed to date.

Avoidance of exposure to rodents is the primary method for the prevention of Hantavirus infection. General methods for limiting exposure to rodents include the following:

- ✓ Eliminate rodents and reduce the availability of food sources and nesting sites used by rodents inside the home. Use rodent traps and rodenticides and properly dispose of trash and clutter.

- ✓ Prevent rodents from entering the home. Cover all openings into the home that have a diameter greater than one-fourth inch.

- ✓ Reduce rodent shelter and food sources within 100 feet of the home. In general, keep the area around the home as free of clutter and brush as possible and keep all potential food sources in rodent-proof containers.

- ✓ Wear rubber or plastic gloves while handling rodents or cleaning rodent-contaminated areas. Dispose of rodents by placing them in a plastic bag containing a sufficient amount of general purpose household detergent to thoroughly wet the carcass. Seal the bag and then dispose of it by burying in a two to three foot deep hole or by burning.

- ✓ When camping or hiking, do not use cabins or campsites if you find signs of rodent infestation. Do not disturb rodents or their burrows. Avoid sleeping on bare ground. Do not sleep near woodpiles or garbage areas that may be frequented by rodents. Store food in rodent-proof containers and promptly dispose of garbage.

GOVERNOR RECEIVES TRAUMA TASK FORCE REPORT

From The Governor's Office

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Governor Frank Keating Tuesday received a report and final recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Trauma Systems Development for Oklahoma. The task force was formed after questions arose over the state's lack of a formal, comprehensive trauma care system.

"I appreciate the fine work of this group of medical professionals. I am impressed with their recommendations and I look forward to continued discussion on how to possibly implement them. Where possible, I hope we can accomplish these goals with existing systems and resources. I have asked the task force for a well defined, focused agenda to implement the recommendations. We need to figure out which state agencies would be responsible for the suggestions and what regulatory and statutory changes would be required. Quick access to quality emergency medical care is extremely important and I will continue to work with this task force to examine the issue," Governor Keating said.

Among the recommendations of the task force: establishment of a statewide trauma system that matches minor or major trauma hospital resources with an injured person's treatment needs; implementation of standardized guidelines for patient triage, transport and transfer statewide; implementation of a trauma registry in all hospitals and rehabilitation centers statewide; exploration and implementation of digital and communications technology (telemedicine); promotion of statewide access to 9-1-1 service; and implementation

See *Trauma Report*, page 5

Crossings, continued from page 3
markings at Armory Road. The estimated project cost is \$75,780. The City of Sapulpa and Creek County will share equally matching fund costs of \$7,578.

- SUMNER: flashing-light signals with gate arms and a 32 foot timber crossing surface at Red Rock Road near Sumner. The project cost is estimated at \$82,500. The Burlington Northern will pay \$8,250.

Combs said the upgrade projects comply with all state railroad crossing safety regulations. Crossing upgrades financed 90 percent by federal grade crossing improvement funds must be completed within 12 months, he added.

GARRETT ANNOUNCES STATE SCHOOLS CONSIDERED AMONG BEST IN NATION

From Okla. Dept. of Education

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) State Superintendent Sandy Garrett announced Monday that she is nominating six Oklahoma schools for the 1996-97 Blue Ribbon Schools Elementary Recognition Program. The program is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Education and recognizes outstanding schools.

"These schools are models of excellence and are recognized as being six of the top 300 best schools in the nation," Garrett said. "I wish each of them all the best as they now compete for this national honor, but they are already winners in my book."

The schools nominated for Blue Ribbon status are:

- Almor West Elementary, Lawton Public Schools
- Clara Reynolds Elementary, Harrah Public Schools
- Coronado Heights Elementary, Putnam City Public Schools
- Pershing Elementary, Muskogee Public Schools
- Pioneer Park Elementary, Lawton Public Schools
- Western Oaks Middle School, Putnam City Public Schools

A state review committee comprised of educators reviewed the state Blue Ribbon applications and presented Garrett with its six recommendations. The USDE allows each state to submit six nominations.

Now that the state nominations have been announced, the USDE will arrange to visit each school this spring. During their visit, USDE staff will gauge the schools' effectiveness by determining if the schools have: challenging standards and a rigorous curriculum; student focus and support; extensive leadership and organizational opportunities; school, family and community partnerships; a learning centered environment; high daily student and teacher attendance rate; and various avenues for professional growth and collaboration. Those schools receiving the most favorable evaluations will be named Blue Ribbon Schools by the White House in May.

Edmond's Sequoyah Middle School and Woodward Middle School were selected for the honor last year.

"Belief is harder to shake than knowledge."

Adolf Hitler

COMMENTS INVITED ON REQUEST BY ROSE GROWERS

From Environmental Protection Agency

■(WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency is inviting comments on a request from rose growers to allow workers to harvest roses by hand earlier than would otherwise be permitted under the Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

Among other things, the WPS prohibits agricultural workers from entering pesticide-treated areas for specified periods of time ranging from four to 72 or more hours (depending upon the toxicity of the pesticide) following pesticide applications. The WPS is intended to reduce the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural employees who may be exposed to pesticides while performing hand-labor operations in or on farms, forests, nurseries and greenhouses, as well as pesticide handlers who mix, load or apply pesticides.

The request by Roses Inc. covers all cut-rose production in greenhouses throughout the United States. According to Roses Inc. without an early-entry exception allowing for harvest of cut roses two times per day, cut-rose growers will lose a significant portion of their crop and therefore suffer substantial economic harm. Roses Inc. also maintains that health risks to workers would not be increased.

In 1994, EPA granted an exception that allowed, under specified conditions, early entry into pesticide-treated areas to harvest roses by hand for a maximum of three hours during a 24-hour period. The exception expired in June of this year. In granting the 1994 exception, EPA noted that if rose growers needed an exception beyond the two years, the industry would need to provide additional information concerning economic hardship, as well as measures to mitigate risks to workers.

EPA is soliciting comments on whether

the data submitted are adequate to support granting the requested exception.

Comments on the request by Roses Inc. are due to the Agency by Nov. 29 and should be sent to: Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), U.S. EPA, 401 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. The Federal Register notice of this announcement appeared on Oct. 30.

NHTSA CONCERNED ABOUT CHRYSLER HATCH LATCH REPLACEMENT RATES

From National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

■(WASHINGTON) While reporting good progress overall on the repair campaign under which 1984-1995 Chrysler minivans can receive a stronger, safer rear liftgate latch, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said that the response rate by owners of the oldest models continues to be very low.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez, M.D., said that the repair campaign began in September 1995 on a phased-in basis. The completion rate for the later-model year vehicles is high — 62 percent of the 1993-95 models with the remote latch release feature and 60 percent of the 1993-95 models with a manual latch release have had new latches installed. However, NHTSA is concerned that only about 26 percent of the 1984-89 minivans without the remote release feature and 14 percent of the 1984-89 minivans with the remote release feature have had new latches installed.

"Automobile safety on our roads is our highest priority, and we strongly urge minivan owners to obtain the stronger, safer rear latch from their dealers as soon as possible," Dr. Martinez said.

At the insistence of NHTSA, Chrysler made a commitment to undertake a number of measures to encourage owners to bring the vehicles to their dealers for repairs. This included follow-up owner notification letters, phone calls and advertising. These activities will continue in an effort to boost the completion rate for the older vehicles.

"3 o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do."

Jean -Paul Sartre

Trauma Report, cont. from page 4

of widespread injury prevention education programs.

The task force reports that injuries kill more children than all other causes of death combined and are the leading cause of death for adult Oklahomans up to age 44. Oklahoma's injury death rate is 20 percent higher than the national average.

The task force was formed following the airing of a national TV news program which pointed out apparent flaws in Oklahoma's system.

DOE WINS POPULAR SCIENCE "BEST OF WHAT'S NEW" AWARDS

From U.S. Dept. of Energy

■(WASHINGTON) Flexible solar electric shingles, a desert tower that stores the sun's energy, an inexpensive device to disinfect water, and a new aerosol-based technology for sealing air leaks in heating, cooling, and ventilation (HVAC) ducts — all developed with support from the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy — are winners of *Popular Science* magazine's "Best of What's New" awards for 1996. The Grand Award in Environmental Technology went to the solar shingles.

"These award winners represent not only the 'Best of What's New,' but also the power the Department of Energy's research and development programs offer the Nation and the world," said Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary.

The solar electric shingle roofing modules were developed by United Solar Systems Corp., in collaboration with Energy Conversion Devices Inc., both of Troy, Mich. They are solar electric modules, resembling conventional asphalt roofing shingles, that are composed of amorphous silicon photovoltaic (PV) cells deposited on flexible stainless steel. These overlapping shingles replace ordinary architectural roofing materials. The modules can produce 5-6 watts AC/square

foot peak power in full sun conditions and produce approximately 25 watt-hours/square foot on average for daily energy output. Actual performance depends on several factors including local climate, roof orientation, and building features.

Solar Two is the world's most technically advanced solar power plant. It uses an innovative molten salt technology to capture and store the sun's energy — a technology vastly different from other solar technologies because it allows the practical storage of solar energy, generating electricity when needed, including at night and in bad weather. Located in California's Mojave Desert, Solar Two uses 1,926 heliostats (mirrors) in a circular formation around a 300-foot tower. The mirrors track the sun's path, focusing sunlight onto a central receiver to generate a clean, inexhaustible supply of energy. Solar Two is a joint effort of DOE and a consortium of electric utilities and high tech companies led by Southern California Edison.

Scientist Ashok Gadgil of DOE's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) in Berkeley, Calif., was cited for his development of UV Waterworks. This inexpensive device uses ultraviolet light to cheaply disinfect water from the viruses and bacteria that every year kill millions of people in developing nations. Waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and dysentery are transmitted mainly through the drinking of unsanitary water. The two most common methods of disinfecting water in developing nations — chlorination and boiling — both have drawbacks and limitations. The UV Waterworks is a purification system that uses an

off-the-shelf ultraviolet light to kill bacterial and viral contaminants. Running on a car battery if necessary, one unit can provide water for a village of 1,000 people. Each unit should cost between \$250 and \$600.

A new aerosol-based technology for sealing air leaks in HVAC ducts was developed by LBNL scientist Mark Modera. In typical homes, sealing these leaks can reduce heating and cooling energy costs from 15 to 30 percent. According to a 1991 study, sealing these leaks could save some one quadrillion BTU's per year in this country for an annual energy savings of approximately \$7 billion. Using Modera's system, grilles are temporarily sealed, aerosolized adhesive particles are blown into the duct system and flow to the leakage sites, creating a sealant. The research to develop aerosol sealing was supported as well by the California Institute for Energy Efficiency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Electric Power Research Institute.

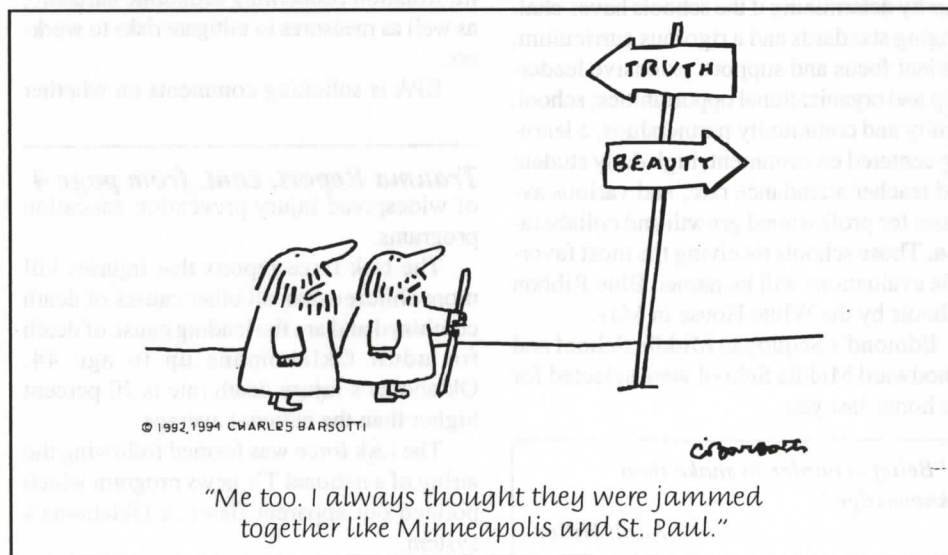
Each year, the editors of *Popular Science* magazine review thousands of new products, technology developments, and scientific achievements to select 100 for distinction as the "Best of What's New." This year's winners were announced at an awards event last week in New York City. A 24-page special editorial section highlighting the award winners is the cover story for the December 1996 issue of *Popular Science*. This year the "Best of What's New" will also extend to millions of computer users on the Internet's World Wide Web. These viewers will choose from the 100 winners for the Reader's Choice Award, to be announced on January 3, 1997.

EPA RECEIVES VICE-PRESIDENTIAL "HAMMER" AWARD

From Environmental Protection Agency

■(WASHINGTON) On Nov. 18, the Environmental Protection Agency received a Vice-Presidential "Hammer" Award which recognizes teams or individuals for contributions to building a government that works better and costs less.

The Hammer went to EPA's Use and Exposure Team in the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, for establishing a partnership with the chemical industry in which up-to-date chemical data are provided to EPA voluntarily, eliminating the need for information collection regulations and improving EPA's ability to assess and act on potential chemical risks to human health and the environment. Over 100 companies have provided new data on 40 chemicals of concern. The award ceremony was hosted by Eastman Chemical Co., Kingsport, Tenn.



Prefiled Bills

SB 1 Principal Author(s): Fisher, Ted V. Requires the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics to solicit proposals and award grants for pilot projects that develop and establish model programs implementing advanced science and math curriculum at local vocational-technical school sites or at local school sites via distance learning.; Emergency. Prefiled

SB 2 Principal Author(s): Fisher, Ted V. Modifies membership and powers and duties of Physical Therapy Committee. Provides for licensure of foreign-trained applicants. Requires State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision to establish by rule requirements for continuing education.; Effective Date: 11/01/97. Prefiled

SB 3 Principal Author(s): Ford, Charles R.; Vaughn, Ray Prohibits policies, rules and ordinances that place a greater burden on a municipal or county officer or employee than the burden that is placed on any other person who acts to defend the person's family, home, or property.; Emergency. Prefiled

Statutory Citation Cross Reference

Title	Section	Motion	Bill	Title	Section	Motion	Bill	Title	Section	Motion	Bill
51	24.5	NEW LAW	SB 3	59	887.4	AMEND	SB 2	70	1210.404	NEW LAW	SB 1
59	887.12	AMEND	SB 2	59	887.6	AMEND	SB 2				

Bill Subject Cross Reference

CITIES & TOWNS
SB 3

COUNTIES
SB 3

EDUCATION
SB 1

PROFESSIONS & OCCUPATIONS
SB 2

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Wednesday, November 20, 1996

- 9:00** **Police Pension & Retirement Board**
1001 NW 63rd Street, Suite 305, Oklahoma City
-
- 10:00** **Adult Day Care Task Force — DHS**
312 NE 28th, Oklahoma City
-
- Oklahoma State Banking Board**
Okla. State Banking Dept., Conference Room, 4545 N. Lincoln, Suite 164, Oklahoma City

Thursday, November 21, 1996

- 9:00** **Horse Racing Commission**
Shepherd Mall Activity Center, 2426 Plaza Prom, Oklahoma City
-
- Commission on Children & Youth**
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 114, Oklahoma City
-
- Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Commission**
Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Dept., Colcord Bldg., 15 N. Robinson,
First Floor Conference Room, Oklahoma City
-
- 9:30** **Joint Interim Committee on Electric Utility Task Force**
Created by SJR 37
State Capitol, Senate Chamber
-
- 10:00** **Interim Study 96H-03, Manufactured Homes**
State Capitol, Room 412-C
-
- House Adoption Law Reform Committee**
State Capitol, Room 512-A
-
- Oklahoma Wheat Commission**
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Board Room, Oklahoma City
-
- 1:00** **State Board of Education**
Oliver Hodge Memorial Bldg., Room 1-20, Oklahoma City
-
- 2:00** **Commission on Natural Gas Policy**
State Capitol, Room 432-A

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Monday, November 25, 1996

- 10:00** **Rehabilitation Services Commission**
3535 NW 58th Street, Second Floor Large Conference Room, Oklahoma City
-
- 1:00** **Joint School Residency Funding Task Force**
State Capitol, Room 432-A
-
- 2:00** **Senate Interim Study 96S-105, English as Official Language**
State Capitol, Room 419-C

Tuesday, November 26, 1996

- 9:30** **Environmental Quality Board**
SW Technology Center, Altus
-
- 10:00** **Commission on Children & Youth**
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 114, Oklahoma City
-
- House Interim Study 96H-25, Ft. Sill State/National Cemetery Site**
State Capitol, House Chamber

Monday, December 2, 1996

- 10:00** **State Board of Equalization**
State Capitol, Governor's Conference Room
-
- 11:00** **Oklahoma Transportation Commission**
200 NE 21 St., Commission Room, 1st Floor, Oklahoma City

Tuesday, December 3, 1996

- 9:30** **Oklahoma Commission for Human Services**
Room 214, Sequoyah Office Bldg., Oklahoma City

Tuesday, December 10, 1996

- 9:00** **Commissioners of the Land**
State Capitol, Governor's Large Conference Room

Thursday, December 12, 1996

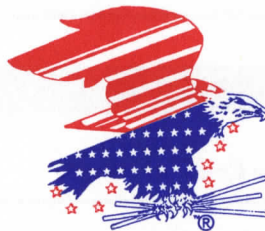
- 1:00** **Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Prep**
Dyer Room, Oklahoma Education Association, 323 E. Madison, Oklahoma City



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