



Toddler terrorist?

A woman says she and her 19-month-old son were kicked off a plane after she refused a flight attendant's request to medicate her son to keep him from saying, "Bye, bye plane."
Please go to A-16



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Suddenly, Pryor is a rocking community

Somebody I know is going to Pryor for the concert. Not the gigantic country music concert that somehow managed to hold its ground in the wake of recent flooding; the people I know are going to the rock concert featuring the dyed-hair bands of the eighties — the *nineteen* eighties — Poison, among others.

A big field and stage east of Pryor has become something of a Woodstock for the set that would rather take a mineral bath and some glucosamine than a mud bath and some acid.

Some places go for architecturally advanced monster arenas made up of swirls of sparking glass and sheets of shining metal. Pryor seems to have chosen a more elementary approach to answer its entertainment needs: lots of rows of benches under — if it ever quits raining — a vibrant heartland sky.

Fans from 50 states and numerous countries will show up to see whether the women still love the hair bands, now that the women are aunts.

Sightseers: Somebody I know is just back from a restaurant on this side of Pryor, the Tulsa side, where they had the best fried green beans they had ever tasted.

These green beans were rolled in a light batter and had to have been a tiny bit healthy, and at least better than no green beans at all, even when dipped in sauce.

And an acquaintance said he was in Pryor not long ago and had taken a tour of the industrial park. He said that according to a sign, guided tours were available. He and his family had simply driven around the park, looking at all the action.

Pryor?
Come on.
This Pryor?
Our Pryor?

No Pryor restraint: I drove the 40 or so miles to Pryor last weekend and had the fried green beans and circled MidAmerica Industrial Park, both turning up better than advertised.

The industrial park at Pryor is just barely believable, even after you have seen it.

There's a sign in front of a building so enormous that you can't see from one end to the other that says Gatorade is now hiring for its future bottling and warehousing facility that will be about three times larger than Tulsa's huge Expo Building at the fairgrounds.

No kidding — *now hiring*; judging from the expanse of the place, they'll be signing up people for a while.

Almost 80 companies have sites at this industrial park, with Google soon to arrive.

The park is comprised of 9,000 acres and has surely become one of the state's wonders as you wonder: Why didn't I think of this? Some friends of mine have a ranch about halfway between Pryor and Tulsa.

They said it's no longer a simple decision when it's time to go left or right for a night out.

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Dozens remain in flood shelters

► But FEMA is opening recovery centers in Miami and Bartlesville and bringing trailers for temporary housing.

By JACLYN COSGROVE
World Staff Writer

MIAMI, Okla. — Dozens of residents remained in an emergency shelter here Thursday, more than a week after floodwaters forced hundreds of people from their homes.

Meanwhile, the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Friday will open disaster recovery centers in Miami and Bartlesville, two of the hardest-hit areas.

Those still displaced include about 45 Northeastern Oklahoma

A&M College students and family members whose residential apartments in Miami were damaged last week.

"It's our hope that in less than two weeks the air quality will be high enough in the apartments that we can move them back," said Christen Stark, director of public relations and marketing for NEO.

Dave Knoer, an American Red Cross public affairs representative, said 32 residents, including some students, were living in a Miami shelter as of Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, other Miami residents were given hope for more permanent housing while their homes are repaired or as they search for new ones.

FEMA will bring as many temporary house trailers as needed to Miami and is determining that number, FEMA spokeswoman Helen Sheppard said.



A motorist drives through high water in a strip mall parking lot at 101st Street and Memorial Drive in Tulsa during a thunderstorm Thursday.

STEPHEN HOLMAN / Tulsa World

The mobile homes that FEMA will bring to Miami are different from the travel trailers that were taken to Gulf Coast residents for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief. Some of those reportedly contained formaldehyde, and it made some residents ill.

Sheppard said none of the trailers bound for Miami contain the substance. She wasn't sure when the trailers would arrive.

As of Thursday, FEMA had received 1,058 applications for individual assistance, officials said.

SEE FLOOD A-13

DRIVING THEM WILD: MICHIGAN STYLE



SHERRY BROWN / Tulsa World

Bobby Hughes of Lubbock, Texas, wipes rain from his 1930 two-door Pontiac coupe, which is on display at the 35th annual Pontiac Oakland Convention car show in downtown Tulsa.

Pontiac pack revs for show

► Auto enthusiasts tour the Tulsa area while offering residents a peek at car heaven.

By JARREL WADE
World Staff Writer

The roar of a drag-racing monster reverberated against downtown office windows Thursday as Tom Wilhite gunned his 1959 Pontiac Catalina down Third Street.

But with only a few feet of empty road, Wilhite was not trying to beat the car's 136-mph maximum.

He was just showing off. Other Pontiac and Oakland car enthusiasts stared in awe as Wilhite tested Tulsa's noise ordinances and cruised his 9-second racing machine behind his wife, Sharon Wilhite, in her 10-second dragster.

"The other is a '58 Pontiac Star Chief, and it's just as noisy," Wilhite said about his wife's car. "It's a full-boogie race car."

The drag-racing couple drove from Derby, Kan., for the 35th Annual Pontiac Oakland Convention, hosted by the Indian Nations Pontiac Club in downtown Tulsa through Saturday. Tom Wilhite started racing

the 1958 Pontiac Star Chief in 1971 and gave the car to his wife after they married in 1988.

The two have been racing together ever since.

"It's just what we do together," Sharon Wilhite said.

About 300 cars and 500 other Pontiac enthusiasts from across the country were registered for the convention Thursday, and more are expected to arrive.

The convention is at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and on surrounding downtown streets, which will remain closed through Saturday.

If it does not rain, spectators can see the Wilhites and other enthusiasts drag race all day Friday at the Tulsa Speedway.

"We'll go out . . . and stretch our legs out a little," Tom Wilhite said.

Larry Crider, president of the Indian Nations Pontiac Club, said it is the first time the convention has been held in Oklahoma, and his chapter of the national organization worked for three years to plan it.

One of the goals the club has for the event is to give the

35th annual Pontiac Oakland Convention car show

When: Friday and Saturday
Where: Third Street between Detroit and Boulder avenues
Number of cars: 637 were registered for the show Thursday
Parking: Available at several lots around downtown, including garages on Cincinnati Avenue and Second Street
Cost: Free



enthusiasts an affordable convention and a proper introduction to Oklahoma, Crider said.

The convention will host a powwow at 8 p.m. Friday and is offering its members several sightseeing tours of Tulsa and the surrounding area.

"It has actually come together pretty well," Crider said. "We try to get them (the enthusiasts) some Oklahoma flavor, and they've been astonished."

The convention is open to the public, and Crider said he

expects the car show Saturday to draw the most people.

"All of them (the cars) will be down these streets, backed up to the curb," he said. "Everybody has their favorite. It's just nice to get familiar with one type of brand."

The Oakland Motor Car Co., the predecessor to Pontiac Motor, was founded in 1907, according to General Motors' Web site.

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New poet laureate announced

► N. Scott Momaday won a Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for his debut novel.

By BARBARA HOBEROCK
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — Gov. Brad Henry named Pulitzer Prize-winning writer N. Scott Momaday on Thursday to be Oklahoma's centennial poet laureate.

Momaday's term as the state's 16th poet laureate runs until Jan. 1,



SELECTED
N. Scott Momaday: His term as Oklahoma's 16th poet laureate will end in 2009.

2009. He succeeds Francine Ringold of Tulsa.

The Lawton native won the Pulitzer in 1969 for his first novel, "House Made of Dawn."

Henry described Momaday — a poet, playwright, artist and scholar — as a great storyteller who early

in life was instilled with a love of the arts, language and Native America.

A friend of the governor's, he read poetry at both of Henry's inaugurations.

Momaday, 73, said he considers the poet laureate designation to be a great honor.

He said he plans to travel the state discussing poetry.

"As far as I am concerned, poetry is a statement concerning the human condition, composed in verse," he said.

SEE POET A-13

\$3 MILLION NEEDED JUST TO START

Fundraising falls short, stalling planned Indian cultural center

By BRIAN BARBER
World Staff Writer

Leaders of a planned American Indian cultural center have failed for a second time to meet a \$3 million fundraising milestone required by its land lease with the River Parks Authority.

The deadline was June 30, which had been extended from Dec. 31.

"It's been a slow process to raise the money we need," said Monetta Trepp, a member of the board of di-

rectors of the National Indian Monument and Institute.

The group submitted its list of contributions and pledges, totaling \$1.74 million, to the River Parks Authority on Thursday.

It also provided a recent letter from a restaurant company promising to give \$1.5 million.

That would put the total at more than \$3 million.

SEE INDIAN A-13