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CITY & STATE

SECTION B
News of ▸St. Petersburg ▸The Suncoast ▸Florida

Tampa Bay area on air pollution alert

By DICK BOTHWELL
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

A 24-hour air pollution alert was issued Wednesday for Pinellas and Hillsborough counties as high humidity and a lack of wind turned the Tampa Bay area into a pressure cooker.

Peter Buijet, director of Florida's Pollution Control Department, said stagnant conditions for the past three days had produced accumulations on high as 115 to 160 parts of irritating ozone per billion parts of air.

(Alerts are declared when levels of ozone exceed 100 parts per billion parts of air.)

UNLESS conditions improve the alert may be extended another 24 hours, Buijet said.

Some wind and rain moved into the Tampa Bay area Wednesday night, offering the possibility of relief.

Ozone can cause coughing, choking, headaches and severe fatigue. It also can affect plants, fabrics and other items.

Ozone is a colorless, pungent gas. It is formed by the reaction of nitrogen oxide and hydrocarbon in the presence of sunlight.

AUTO emissions are a major source of nitrogen oxide. So are power plant emissions.

Buijet said vapors from fuel-handling and painting operations, as well as auto emissions, are major sources of hydrocarbons in the atmosphere.

He warned that individuals in the two-county alert area should remain indoors as much as possible during the alert. Highly sensitive individuals with respiratory problems should contact their doctors if they feel ill.

If effective counter measures are not taken, Buijet said, more high concentrations of ozone could occur.

HE URGED the following steps:

✔ Persons operating motor vehicles in the alert area should eliminate all unnecessary travel.

✔ Mass transportation, if available, and car pools should be used for required trips.

✔ All private industries and commercial operations are requested to reduce electrical energy consumption as well as any hydrocarbon fuel usage by curtailing operations.

✔ The general public is urged to reduce electrical energy consumption by using only those electrical appliances that are essential.

✔ Electrical power generating facilities are requested to curtail operations by obtaining power from outside the alert area.

✔ All surface coating such as the application of oil-based paint, varnishes and primers should be postponed.

✔ All open burning is prohibited.

THE FOLLOWING commercial and industrial establishments are urged to postpone or curtail operations at least until 1:30 p.m. today: dry cleaning establishments, petroleum storage operations, commercial surface coating operations (unless using only water-based coating) and gasoline marketing operations.

This is Pinellas' second alert of the year; one was ordered May 8-10. Hillsborough also had one May 3-5 and another May 9-11.

Last summer one alert was ordered — July 26 in Hillsborough, July 27-28 in Pinellas.

The elements are not cooperating to relieve the situation by washing the skies or blowing the air pollution away.

The Weather Service reported that a weak stationary front is lying through Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, with high humidity and high temperatures due to continue today. A weak high-pressure ridge will continue over South Florida today.

The Weather Service in Tampa forecast a 30 per cent chance of thundershowers today and tonight, with south and southwest winds 10 miles per hour. Temperatures will continue seasonal, in the low 70s to the low 90s.

Abductor collects payment, slays two

Compiled from AP, UPI Wires

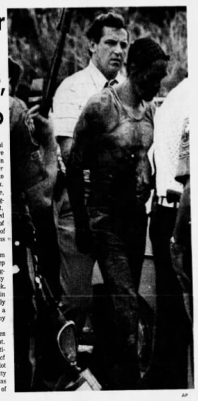
MIAMI — A wealthy Miami industrialist and his wife were executed with single shots in the head Wednesday after their abductor forced them to withdraw $50,000 from a bank.

"Wall - to - wall" police, armed with pepper-gas fogger, discovered a suspect, an employe of the murdered man, barrowed in the mud of an overgrown field south of Miami near where the victims were murdered.

"I found him not far from where we started the sweep (with the pepper-gas fogger)," said Dade County Sheriff's Sgt. Russell Kubik. "He was really barrowed in the mud. He was completely motionless. He didn't say a word, even when I put my gun to his head."

THE SUSPECT was taken to a hospital for treatment. Kubik said the suspect, identified as Thomas Knight, 25, of Opa-Locka, had "taken a lot of gas and looked in pretty bad shape." Knight later was charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

(See MURDER, 11-B)



AP
Suspect in slayings led away by police

Water system probe set

By STEPHEN NOHLGREN
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

A major examination of Pinellas County's water system was ordered Wednesday after health officials found high levels of copper flowing through taps of five homes in St. Petersburg Beach and the Seminole area.

In all five homes the copper content was close to or exceeded federal limits for copper in drinking water, Dr. W. Ross Cameron, director of the County Health Department's adult health division said.

The high levels were found in the morning when taps first were turned on. After a little water was allowed to flow copper levels dropped sharply. Corroded copper pipes were discovered in all five homes, leading health officials to conclude that the high copper levels built up overnight as water reacted with the pipes.

RESIDENTS OF ALL five homes were found to have higher-than-normal copper concentrations in their hair or bloodstreams, said Dr. Frederick Timmerman, assistant county health director.

Eighteen persons recently have been tested by the health department and found to have high concentrations of copper in their bodies.

Four or five of the 18 live in St. Petersburg, but Timmerman said high copper levels were not found in their water.

Copper is poisonous when it is ingested in large amounts at once. The high copper levels in Cameron's testing were the result of gradual accumulation in very small amounts.

(See WATER, 11-B)

St. Petersburg Times Photo by Fraser Hale
Annie Dame in her Bee-Hive on Fourth Street S

Fleeing youth, 18, killed by deputy

By TOM KANE and PATRICK McMAHON
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writers

An 18-year-old Largo man was shot and killed Wednesday night after fleeing in a wooded area near High Point to avoid being arrested on felony drug charges, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office said.

Chief Deputy Bill Roberts said deputies tried to arrest three men at the Pick Kwick convenience store, at 5280 Roosevelt Blvd. N, when one broke away.

The man was chased several blocks into a wooded area by members of the sheriff's vice squad at which time "the subject wheeled around and Deputy Ken Kovacs thought that the man had a gun and fired," Roberts said. "It caught him in the midsection and he died almost instantly."

One other shot was fired as the man was being chased, Roberts said. He said a deputy told him that he was trying to stop the man and "he said he shot in the air."

On the scene to investigate the shooting, were officials of the sheriff's office and the Pinellas-Pasco state attorney's office.

(See SHOOTING, 11-B)

MIKE THOMPSON
. . . South Florida office.

PAULA HAWKINS
. . . inflation the issue.

No. 2 man for Thomas is ad man Thompson

MIAMI (AP) — Former State Senate president Jerry Thomas announced Wednesday that Mike Thompson, senior vice president of a Miami advertising agency, will be his running mate in the Republican gubernatorial primary.

The only announced GOP candidate for governor, Thomas said that if he is elected Thompson, as lieutenant governor, would maintain a full-time office in Miami.

"COMMON SENSE dictates the feasibility of having a lieutenant governor physically located where Florida's greatest problems are concentrated," Thomas said.

Thompson, 34, of Coral Gables, is a Republican state committeeman. He is a former Sunday editor of the Miami Herald and since 1968 has been co-owner and vice president of an advertising agency.

(See THOMPSON, 7-B)

Hawkins enters race to unseat Gurney

By VIRGINIA ELLIS
St. Petersburg Times Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Echoing the "I'm just a Maitland housewife" theme of her last campaign, Public Service Commissioner Paula Hawkins said Wednesday that she will oppose incumbent U.S. Sen. Edward Gurney in the Republican primary.

Mrs. Hawkins, the only woman in Florida elected statewide to office, became the first GOP candidate to announce that she will oppose Gurney.

Gurney was indicted last week on charges of bribery, conspiracy, making false statements and accepting unlawful compensation.

Mrs. Hawkins said inflation and the high cost of electricity will be the major issues of her campaign.

(See HAWKINS, 7-B)

TIMES DIGEST

Saxbe visits Pinellas today; flight over wetlands slated

U.S. Atty. Gen. William B. Saxbe will be in Pinellas County today to take a helicopter ride to view wetlands and speak at a conference of federal and state officials at Innisbrook, a resort between Dunedin and Tarpon Springs. An aide says Saxbe is concerned about the lack of wetlands. "He fears that if we don't enforce the federal statutes and the Rivers and Harbors Act the wetlands are in jeopardy," the aide said. About 25 to 30 persons are expected to attend the meeting including Assistant Atty. Gen. Wallace H. Johnson, head of the Justice Department's Land and Natural Resources Division, the aide said. Others include attorney generals from the Gulf coast states and officials from the Department of the Interior, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Sports Fisheries. Saxbe is to speak at a noon luncheon.

WILLIAM SAXBE

Corrections, Section B

Sherrell M. Brooks was charged by St. Petersburg police Tuesday with failing to slow down to avoid an accident when her car ran into the rear of a car operated by Jeanne B. Zink, 48, on Haines Road at Ninth Street N. Mrs. Zink was not charged. A picture caption in Wednesday's editions had the facts scrambled.

✔ ✔ ✔

Two Democratic candidates have announced for the legislative seat of State Rep. Richard Price, R-St. Petersburg, not one as reported Tuesday. The two are William Griswold and Myrtle Smith.

Downtown will miss Annie Dame

of all things
OAT
dick bothwell

A little chunk of old St. Petersburg will break off and drift away in Hissing today. Not so little, really, for Annie Dame is a big woman with heart to match.

Close-cropped silvery hair, bright hazel eyes, ruddy complexion, all wrapped up in a big smile and boundless energy.

For almost a quarter of a century she and her late husband Lew were part of the downtown picture, serving customers at their little convenience store, the Bee-Hive.

The Bee-Hive, 117 Fourth St. S, is tucked into the northeastern corner of Tramor Celebria's pink stucco bulk. But most people think of it as being on the alley behind The St. Petersburg Times and Evening Independent — whose employes were great patrons of the Hive.

A FEW WEEKS AGO, Leslie E. Dame, 88, whose health had been failing for several years, died. So now Annie, 61, has sold out to a Mr. Smith and John Nye, who will reopen the Bee-Hive as a sandwich shop this fall.

And the motherly Queen Bee, whose happy disposition and warm personality were as much a part of the downtown scene as sunshine, will leave this morning for Houston, where she'll be living with her only daughter, Mrs. Fred Lassiter.

Wednesday was rather an emotional occasion in the cluttered little store with all the homemade signs: DILL PICKLES 10 cents, GOOD COFFEE 15 cents, DOUGHNUTS, TOAST, SANDWICHES.

(See OF ALL THINGS, 3-B)

Realty agent is challenger for seat on School Board

By ROBERT HOOKER
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — With a promise to inject "some young blood and new ideas" into the Pinellas County school system, Sylvia J. Gibson of Seminole qualified Wednesday to seek the School Board seat now held by Calvin Hunsinger.

Mrs. Gibson, 32, a Republican, promised to work for stabilization of math and reading programs, an immediate start on the air-conditioning of all schools and a broadened program of vocational-technical education for students who now drop out.

"It is time for a change," said Mrs. Gibson, a real estate salesman. "We need some young blood and new ideas; we need action — not procrastination."

HUNSINGER has announced that he will seek re-election but has not qualified yet. The only other candidate to qualify for that seat so far is Jeanne Rackow. Sue and Hunsinger also are Republicans.

(See GIBSON, 11-B)

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