Driving under the influence too great a risk

Drugs and driving - why do people take the risk? Millions of people take drugs every day and most are unaware that many of these substances affect their driving skills. Alcohol, tranquilizers, marijuana, and a variety of other drugs can affect the mental and physical skills needed for safe driving even some over-the-counter medicines can affect driving.

The effects of a drug vary significantly from one individual to the next, and even vary in the same individual at different times. The driver's age, sex, weight, emotional state, the amount of drug and when it was taken are all factors which influence the ability to drive safely.

Taking more than one drug at a time is especially dangerous because each one can add to the impact of the other. This is particularly true when one of the drugs is alcohol.

Alcohol is a mind-altering drug that works as a sedative; it changes the way a person thinks and acts. It affects judg-

Amy Diller and Tony Parker plan to 4-Hnews marry Saturday, April 27, at Seven Dolors Catholic Church in Manhattan. His parents are Lauren and Geralyn

Parker of Goodland. Her mother is Ruth Diller of Chanute. He graduated from Goodland High School and from Kansas State Univer-

Amy Diller and Tony Parker

Couple

in April

to marry

sity with a bachelor of arts degree in English in 2001. He is a tennis professional at Indian Creek Racquet Club in Overland Park.

She graduated from Coffeyville High School and from Kansas State University with a bachelor of arts in marketing in 2000. She is the operations manager at Staples Office Supply in Emporia.



Wilson and Lovins **Couple plans** May wedding in the park



ment and coordination and is a factor in 50 percent of America's highway deaths. It is well known that alcohol increases the sedative effects of tranquilizers and barbiturates (sleeping pills). Mixing these drugs, on or off the road, is extremely hazardous.

Even caffeine, a stimulant in coffee and tea, which is suppose to help the drowsy driver stay alert, cannot make a drunk driver sober. Studies show caffeine does not improve an inebriated person's driving. He or she is simply a wide-awake drunk.

Marijuana is also a mind-altering drug. Its use affects a wide range of ing and reflexes are slowed, causing

responding to sudden unexpected events. Also, a driver's ability to "track" (staying in one lane) through curves, to brake quickly, and to

maintain speed and the proper distance between cars is affected. Research clearly indicates that normal levels of driving performance are not regained for at least four to six hours after smoking a single marijuana cigarette. Drinking alcohol in combination with marijuana greatly increases the risk of accidents.

Tranquilizers are central nervous system depressants (drugs which slow down the body) and help relieve tension and anxiety. Major and minor tranquilizers, such as chlorpromazine (Thorazine) and diazepam (Valium), can have pronounced effects on driving skills. Studies show that prescribed

drivers difficulty in doses of tranquilizers can affect driv- in a traffic accident. ing skills by slowing reaction time and interfering with eye-hand coordination and judgment. Warnings against taking these medications while driving are often ignored. Research suggests driving skills are most impaired in the first compounds that can be dangerous for hour after a tranquilizer is taken. If your doctor prescribes a tranquilizer or sedative, make it a point to discuss how the drug will affect your ability to drive safely.

> Amphetamines, cocaine, phenylpropanolamine, ephedrine, and caffeine (often found in cold tablets and cough syrups) stimulate the central nervous system. Small amounts of these drugs generally make people who are tired feel more alert. However, thought and motor skills, a great deal repeated use of stimulants to combat fatigue will result in loss of coordination. Heavy amphetamine use may keep an individual awake and active for long stretches of time, but it will also make the driver edgy, less coordinated, and more likely to be involved

Non-prescription drugs, such as cold tablets, cough syrups, allergy remedies, and similar drugs, purchased over-the-counter may contain antihistamines, alcohol, codeine and other drivers. Labels should be carefully read. Always check with your doctor.

Other drugs, such as LSD, PCP and other hallucinogens, distort judgment and reality, cause confusion and panic, and can produce severe mental problems resulting in strange and violent behavior. Clearly, individuals under the influence of these kinds of drugs should not drive.

Driving requires a combination of of common sense and a concern for the safety of everyone on the road. Safe driving requires an observant eye, a steady hand, and a clear head. By mixing drugs with driving, you are only asking for trouble. Why take the risk?

Couple plans April wedding

The March monthly meeting of the Prairie Dale 4-H Club was held Monday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at the 4-H possible. building. The meeting was called to

order by Chance Schilling. A special ceremony was presented, the Pledge of Allegiance, before the 33 members and two leaders answered roll call with their favorite 4-H activity. There were 15 guests and two pre-4-Her's also present.

Officers gave their reports, and

sales and how much the club made. Delivery should be made as soon as

Under new business, the club moved to donate \$50 to the fair board for the cabinets in the 4-H building office. A committee was set up to organize the concession stand for the spring show. It was tabled to donate money to sponsor belt buckles and chairs to the spring show.

The program started off with a song council members reminded the club of led by Andrew Miller, America the fair themes due by April 1st and Spring Beautiful. Hats off to America's Beef Show on May 10 and 11. Clay Schil- Producers was the title of John ling gave a report on the Butter Braid Mosbarger's project talk. Clay Schil-

ling gave a great heath and safety talk about poison. Grant and Drew Wilkens demonstrated how to dress like an onion to keep warm and Ryan Taylor gave a talk on disguising the difference in pigs

The club then recessed for recreation where Hazen Deeds lead the group in a game of Limbo. The club then was adjourned and refreshments were served by the Mosbarger and Ihrig families.



Melvin L. Musil, Jr., and Mary J.

day, April 20, at the First Christian Church in Goodland.

He was born in Goodland, raised in Edson and graduated from Goodland High School in 1988. She was born and raised in Colorado Springs and graduated from Mitchell High School in 1993. His parents are Melvin L. and Dorothy Musil of Edson. He has three children, Kiera, Christy and Misty Musil. Her parents are Jean and Terry J. Isenberg from Colorado Springs.



CHILDREN, from Page 1

what she did," Baylor University Law School professor Brian Serr said Thursday. "That evidence is already there."

"There are times when less is more and this may be one of those times," Southern Methodist University law professor Dan Shuman said. Neil McCabe, a professor at South

Texas College of Law, said he believes prosecutors aren't presenting additional evidence because they can't prove Yates is a future danger.

"They don't have the evidence, so they are not putting it on," he said. "She won't be dangerous in the future because there won't be any children in the mining that Yates is a danger and there future for her to kill."

Defense attorney George Parnham

pression that drove her to kill 7-yearold Noah, 5-year-old John and 6month-old Mary. Charges have not been filed in the deaths of Paul, 3, and Luke, 2.

A human rights group has filed a complaint with state regulators over Yates' psychiatric treatment, contending that she received "shoddy" mental health care before drowning her chil-

Yates was in a psychotic state caused by premature release from care, use of inappropriate drugs and overmedication, according to CCHR Texas' complaint filed with the state Board of Medical Examiners.

Jurors must be unanimous in deterare no mitigating circumstances in order for a death sentence to be imposed.



Veronica Lovins and David Wilson, Jr., plan to marry Saturday, May 25, at the park in Hill City.

Her mother is Rhonda Lovins of Goodland. Her grandparents are Iverna Eby of Goodland and Conroy and Ellie Lovins of Paradise, Calif.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. David Wilson of Hill City. His grandmothers are Daisy Wilson of Hill City and Elenora Nichols of Cedaredge, Colo.

She graduated from Goodland High School and is a certified nurses aide at Hill City Hospital.

He graduated from Morland High School and the Northwest Kansas Technical College. He works at Praire Ag & Auto at Palco.

Alliance for the Mentally Ill, who told jurors that Yates would not get conjugal visits in jail and would receive psychiatric medication on a voluntary ba-

Joe Lovelace, who has worked with legislators to increase funding to care for mentally ill prisoners, said if Yates were to become pregnant while in jail her child would be taken from her upon its birth.

"There would be no opportunity to raise a family in the prison system," he said.

Yates had pleaded innocent by reason of insanity, contending it was severe psychosis from postpartum de-

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