



Daily Dispatch

Head Line News

Newsletter Date
February 2009

Issue 2



EMPLOYEE of the MONTH

Starting March 1st we will start recognizing an employee in the transportation department monthly that goes above and beyond their normal duties to provide first class service and safety to our customers.

Qualities.

- Friendly
- Helpful
- Courteous
- Dependable
- Knowledgeable
- Involved
- Respected
- Safe
- Service minded

So be thinking about, and looking out, for that person in our midst each month that you think best exemplifies these qualities.



Be on the lookout in the near future for a nomination ballot that will allow you to choose the person you think best deserves this honor.

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Headline News
- ✓ Employee Profile
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Industry News
- ✓ Shop Talk
- ✓ Local News
- ✓ Birthdays

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How About a "Cup of Joe"



Walking around the parking lot this morning I did a spot check of the bright yellow child check strips hanging down from the rear windows of the buses.

Thank you !

I was very pleased to see that every bus I checked had one hanging down and visible from the outside except one. So doing the responsible thing I opened the bus door and

started to check the bus, and much to my pleasure I found it was a bus I had not installed one in yet. So my congratulations go out to all of you. We are definitely doing our part to make sure that :

No child is left behind!

Look for future information coming your way about the

congestion and potential hazard we have at our high school campus during loading and unloading. I have been invited to attend a meeting with our District Staff next week to discuss the situation and offer our recommendations to make some positive changes. Get with me if you have suggestions that you would like me to convey.

Safety News

Why are school buses painted yellow?



In 1939, delegates to the first National Minimum Standards Conference wanted **a uniform color so school buses would be recognized by the same color nationwide.** A second consideration was cost since manufacturers charged additional for special colors. Plus, delegates concluded that for safety sake, yellow was easier to see in fog, rain, and other bad weather conditions.

National School Bus Chrome Yellow was first adopted at that conference. By the way, the conference was held at Teachers College, Columbia University, April 10-16, 1939. All 48 states were represented, usually by someone from the state department of education. The group called itself the "National Council of Chief State School Officers," and H.E. Hendrix, State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Arizona, was the first president.

In 1974 the federal government approved Standard 17. In this standard, which has since been revised and is now a highway safety guideline, the federal government suggested that school buses should be painted National School Bus Chrome Yellow. That's when the states started to use yellow on all new buses. At present there is no federal law that requires school buses to be painted yellow. It is up to each state to do so. Some states, South Carolina for example, paint some of their school buses, in this case activity buses, white though the bulk of the state's fleet is painted school bus yellow.

Local News



There are other unsung heroes in our community, similar to a school bus driver, who go out of their way to be a good citizen and provide great service.

If you get the opportunity, make sure you take the time to thank Dan, Doug, and James at the local Deming post office for their help and support of our school district.

"They always look for the cheapest way to send our mail out",

"When our postage meter broke down, they told us to bring our letters down to them and run them through their meter, so that report cards could get out on time",

"They are always helpful and friendly."

These are some of the comments I heard when I asked some of the transportation staff to tell me why they feel so positive about our local post office.



Shop Talk: where the rubber meets the road

This month Gary and Alex talk about tires and rims.

Since the start of the school year we have paid a tire vendor \$4,292.02 for tire and rim services.

New first round tires for our buses cost about \$265.00 each.

As you can see the expense can be significant.

But for your and your passengers' safety, we need reliable tires.

So what can you do?

- Bump your tires daily, listening for the change in tones.
- Check your sidewalls for cuts and exposed chords.
- Try not to curb your tires.
- Look for rust trails around your lug nuts.
- Check for leaking oil around the hubs.

- Make sure nothing is lodged between your dual tires.
- Look for nails or anything that might be embedded in the tire.

Remember, if you have a flat tire the bus is out of service until it is repaired.



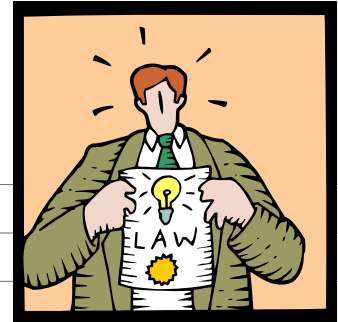
Industry News

How are school buses Regulated?

School buses are probably the most regulated segment of the transportation industry. That's probably due to the fact that they carry children, and parents care about their children.

manufactured to stringent safety standards. But federal jurisdiction only prevails until the vehicle hits the road. Then it becomes a state responsibility.

States nationwide have extensive school bus regulations, typically in their motor vehicle laws and also education laws.



The federal government only regulates the industry at the manufacturing level. Through a series of federal motor vehicle safety standards, Uncle Sam requires all school buses to be

Again, no one knows for certain, but research by *School Transportation News* has uncovered more than **500 state laws governing school transportation.**

In addition, school districts, as public entities, typically have extensive policies governing their school bus operations.

These policies reflect both federal and state laws.

Humor: Be Careful of What You Wish For

A couple had been married for 40 years and also celebrated their 60th birthdays.

Next, it was the husband's turn and the fairy assured him he could have any wish he wanted, all he needed to do was ask for his heart's desire.

During the celebration, a fairy appeared and said that because they had been such a loving couple all these years, she would give them one wish each.

The fairy picked up her wand and kazoom! ... The husband turned 90!

Being the faithful, loving spouse for all these years, naturally the wife wanted for herself and her husband to have a romantic vacation together, so she wished for them to travel around the world.

He paused for a moment, and then said, "Well, honestly, I'd like to have a woman 30 years younger than me."

The most wasted day of all is one in which we have not laughed.

The fairy waved her wand and boom! ... The wife had the tickets in her hand.

unknown



Birthdays and Special Days

Happy Birthday Wishes To:

Job Anniversary Dates:

Virginia Pederson	February 1st	Diana Anderson	2/08/1999	10 Years
Jeff Harrison	February 2nd	Bob Nelson	2/22/1994	15 Years



CONGRATULATIONS



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A Typical Day

By George F. Horne

May 30, 1991

"Some jobs can't be measured by the money I make...
Compensation is not always green."
If you've ever carried a bus load of kids,
You'll surely know just what I mean.

Every Student is a "Guest of Honor"



Alexandr Tikhonov

"Axel "



Alex was born and raised in Russia; he and his family moved to the Boston area in 1989. Alex and Luyda have been married for 25 years, and have 6 wonderful children.

Alex has many talents. He was a machinist / tool and die maker in Russia. When he joined the Russian military, they assessed his talents and placed him in the motor pool to work on vehicles. He said, "Even as a young boy anything that involved machinery fascinated me".

Employee Profile

While interviewing Alex he took time to show me a special tool that he had fabricated out of steel that helps when pulling the transmissions out of buses. He proudly says with that irrepressible smile that, "I saved the district \$250.00 by making this tool". Head mechanic Gary Varang agrees and said about Alex, "The guy is amazing, all I have to do is tell him what I need and he goes into his little rag-tag machine shop and turns it out; he is a great asset".

Alex's other love is music. When I asked him what he did when he

wasn't working, he stated that he was always working on one of his children's cars.

I said what do you do to relax? He said that he likes to lay down and listen to music.

Alex and his family love music; he and his family often sing at church. Alex said his oldest daughter can really carry a note and has a great voice. Alex also plays many musical instruments including the piano, accordion, guitar, mandolin, and drums.

Pretty impressive mechanic we have!

When I asked Alex his favorite American food, like any good American he responded "pizza with white sauce."

Nice job!



Alexandr the Great