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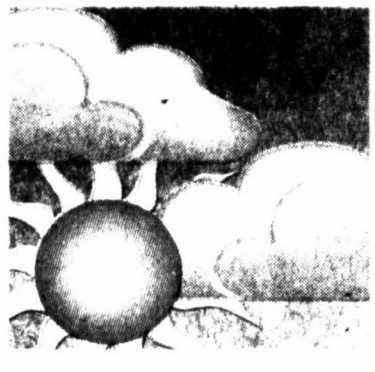
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High today 76
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For weather details see Page 2

PAMPA — Child performers are needed for ACT's upcoming production, "The Trial of Goldilocks." The cast calls for about 30 children, ages 9-13. "The Trial" is directed by Gina Kane and performance dates are July 29, 30 and 31. Auditions will be Thursday from 5-8 p.m. at The Pampa Mall (entrance on west side). For more information call Kane at 665-5352.

No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The jackpot was worth about \$7 million. The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 3, 11, 14, 16, 26 and 47. Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$10 million.

Pampa News classified advertising gets results. Call Beverly at 669-2525 for help in placing your ad.

- Jerry Dunlap, 31, employee of Lincare.
- Vicki Lynn Goddard, 40, homemaker.
- Rosemary Huseman, 45, dispatcher at Amarillo Police Department.
- Ella F. Lay, 87, retired employee Jim Hess Printers.
- Inez Lee, 88, homemaker.
- Thomas Wayne Meek, 72, farmer, rancher.
- Antonio Montes C., 75, farmer, rancher.
- Charles Niblett, 81, former hospital employee, scrap metal dealer.
- Francis Lucile Wagner, 87, first president of Pampa Garden Club.

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Sales tax report: Another big drop

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

The third largest drop in sales tax returns of the fiscal year has left both the city's finance director and the president of the local chamber of commerce puzzled.

"I did not expect this kind of drop," Finance Director John Horst said today. "I'm really puzzled by it. It thought things were going to level out."

Horst was making reference to the two previous reports which showed sales tax collections under last year's collections, but only slightly.

Instead, the latest figures, which reflect

April sales, show a drop of 15.09 percent with \$144,114 collected as compared to the same time a year ago when \$169,725 was returned to city coffers.

Clay Rice, president of the chamber, said in his recent talks with local merchants, "I haven't hear a lot of negative things. I'm very surprised by the numbers."

Rice said he plans to get with the chamber's retail committee and with other chamber members to discuss how they perceive the problem and to discuss what can be done to improve the Pampa economy.

Meanwhile, Horst said he has begun work on the next fiscal year budget

which will start Oct. 1 and his eye is on lower sales tax projections. Instead of the \$2.1 million in sales taxes he thought would come this year, Horst says he'll budget next year's return at \$1.9 million "to be on the safe side."

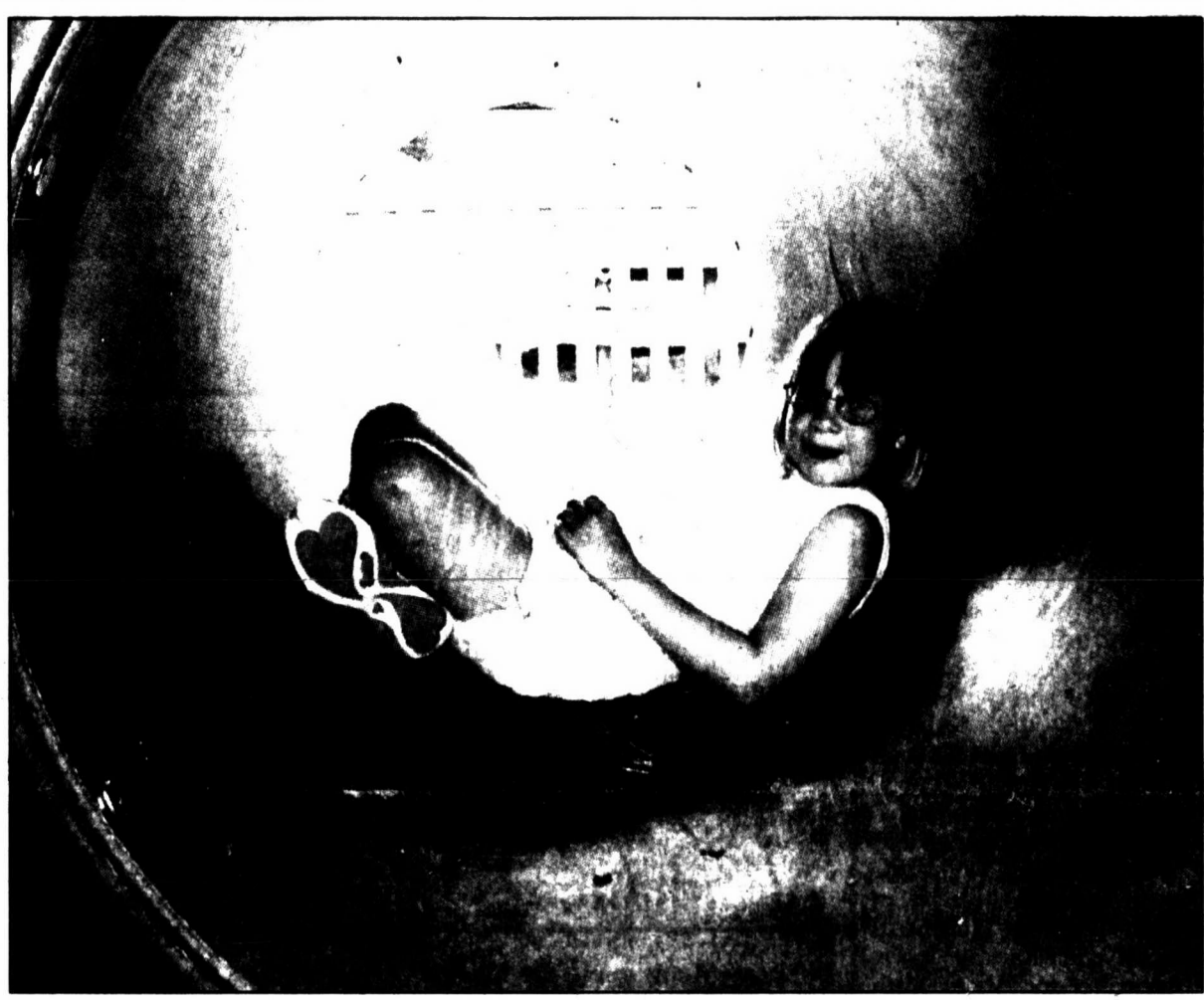
This fiscal year Horst says the trend predicts the tax shortfall will be about \$148,000. That is, he said, unless things worsen between now and fiscal year end.

Last month, city commissioners cut the current budget by \$160,000 to make up for the sales tax shortfall.

The finance director said he is especially anxious to see August figures which reflect June sales, traditionally one of the best retail business months in town.

"I did not expect this kind of drop. I'm really puzzled by it. It thought things were going to level out."

— Finance Director John Horst



Eight-year-old Elizabeth Gambill finds some shade in a crawling tube at the Super Playground Sunday.

(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Serial killer suspect once arrested nearby

PANHANDLE — Authorities believe a suspected railway-hopping serial killer may have crossed the border and headed south into Mexico, but Carson County Sheriff Loren Brand said today that doesn't mean local residents should let down their guard.

Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, 39, originally from Puebla, Mexico, is being sought in connection with a string of murders spanning two years and two states — Kentucky and Texas. A nationwide alert is out for him and he has been featured on the television show America's Most Wanted.

Resendez-Ramirez was arrested in Carson County about six years ago after being stopped driving a stolen car.

Brand said today that Resendez-Ramirez was arrested in 1993 in Carson County by a Department of Public Safety trooper after a high speed chase down Interstate 40. Resendez-Ramirez was driving a car that had been stolen in Missouri.

While Resendez-Ramirez was charged with evading arrest in Carson County, Missouri authorities did not pursue auto theft charges against him and Resendez-Ramirez was released after serving his sentence for evading arrest.

"He was here by accident," Brand said. "There is no reason to think that Resendez-Ramirez has friends or relatives in the panhandle area, the Sheriff said, but that doesn't mean the fugitive could not return to the region."

"He is a very dangerous man," Brand said. Authorities believe Resendez-Ramirez killed 26-year-old Noemi Dominguez of Houston, then headed west in her 1993 Honda Civic. The trail stopped cold at Mexico's border, where the car was found abandoned in a Del Rio parking lot.

The white, four-door vehicle, located in the City Taxi parking lot near the International Bridge, was reported to police after it

(See KILLER, Page 2)

Summer activities in full swing

Summer recreation activities are in full swing with almost 300 local children participating.

The first session began last week at the Pampa Middle School and will continue through June 18. Recreation Superintendent Shane Stokes reports 289 local youngsters are participating in the program. Coordinator is Melody Youre.

Activities include arts and crafts, softball, track, computers, gymnastics, basketball and golf.

The second session will begin June 21 through July 2. Cost for the program is a \$10 registration fee for one class and a \$5 fee for each additional class.

Each participant receives an official City of Pampa Summer Recreation T-shirt. T-shirts will identify those students eligible to attend classes.

Classes are for one hour per day Monday through Friday. Registration is based on a first-come, first-serve basis. Most classes are limited to 10 to provide more individualized instruction.

A parent program will be held on Friday which is the final day of the current session. Parents are encouraged to attend the final day programs to learn what their children have accomplished during the summer recreation sessions.

Woman tries to shoot herself but bullet misses

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

Pampa police feared a woman lying motionless in a field was a suicide victim until she woke up while the ambulance on the way.

Police went to Sunset and Yeager about 4:22 a.m. Sunday when a caller reported hearing a gunshot and seeing a woman lying down.

When police arrived they found a 56-year-old Pampa woman lying on her side with her arms stretched out toward a small .25-caliber handgun, according to Sgt. Fred Courtney. He said she also had a cordless phone by her. Officers on the scene could find no visible injuries but could also find no pulse.

Right before the ambulance arrived, the woman woke up but appeared to be very intoxicated and incoherent, Courtney said.

It appears that she did fire a shot in an apparent attempted suicide but missed. Courtney reported she told them the gun then jammed and wouldn't fire again. After several police officers including David Conner, Kelly Kidwell and Gray County Deputy Derrick Peters searched they found a spent shell casing from the pistol.

The woman was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center and an emergency commitment hearing was held. She was later taken to the Northwest Texas Hospital Pavilion in Amarillo for evaluation.

"I'm glad it worked out the way it did," Courtney said. "It came pretty close I'd say."



Austin Elementary Principal Ron Warren and Pampa ISD Personnel Director Jack Bailey are among 75 school personnel and local residents attending a two-day school safety workshop being held today and Thursday at the M.K. Brown Room at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce. School leaders are seeking to develop a plan for the Pampa schools prior to the reopening of school in August.

(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

The Panhandle Country **SHOPPER** 806-669-2525
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Summer Enrichment Program



(Community Camera photo by Sarita Reeve)

Some Pampa Middle School students recently participated in a Junior University Workshop as part of the Superintendent Scholar Summer Enrichment 1999 Program. During the workshop, Darrel Schroeder, Katy McEwen, Clay Banner, Crystal Gatlin, Katherine Zemanek, Jessica Morrison and Kim Slaybaugh constructed SAT word lists to laminate.

Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL

Pampa Area Literary Council office will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

PAMPA CHESS CLUB

The Pampa Chess Club meets every Tuesday night at Yummie's Pizza in the Pampa Mall at 7:30 p.m. We offer casual yet competitive games, free instruction, and a quarterly newsletter. For more information contact James A. Shook at 669-0227.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON

Clean Air Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-3988.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER FOR WOMEN

Tralee Crisis Center for Women is offering an in-house support

group for victims of family violence. Meetings will be Tuesday's from 11 a.m.-12 noon and on Thursday's from 7-8 p.m. For more information call (806) 669-1131. All calls are kept confidential.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR

The Lovett Memorial Library is presenting a Pre-School Story Hour every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This story hour is for children ages 18 months to 5 years old. If you have any questions, call Shanla Brookshire at 669-5780. This schedule will be subject to change pending the move of the library back to 111 N. Houston.

PAMPA AREA CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

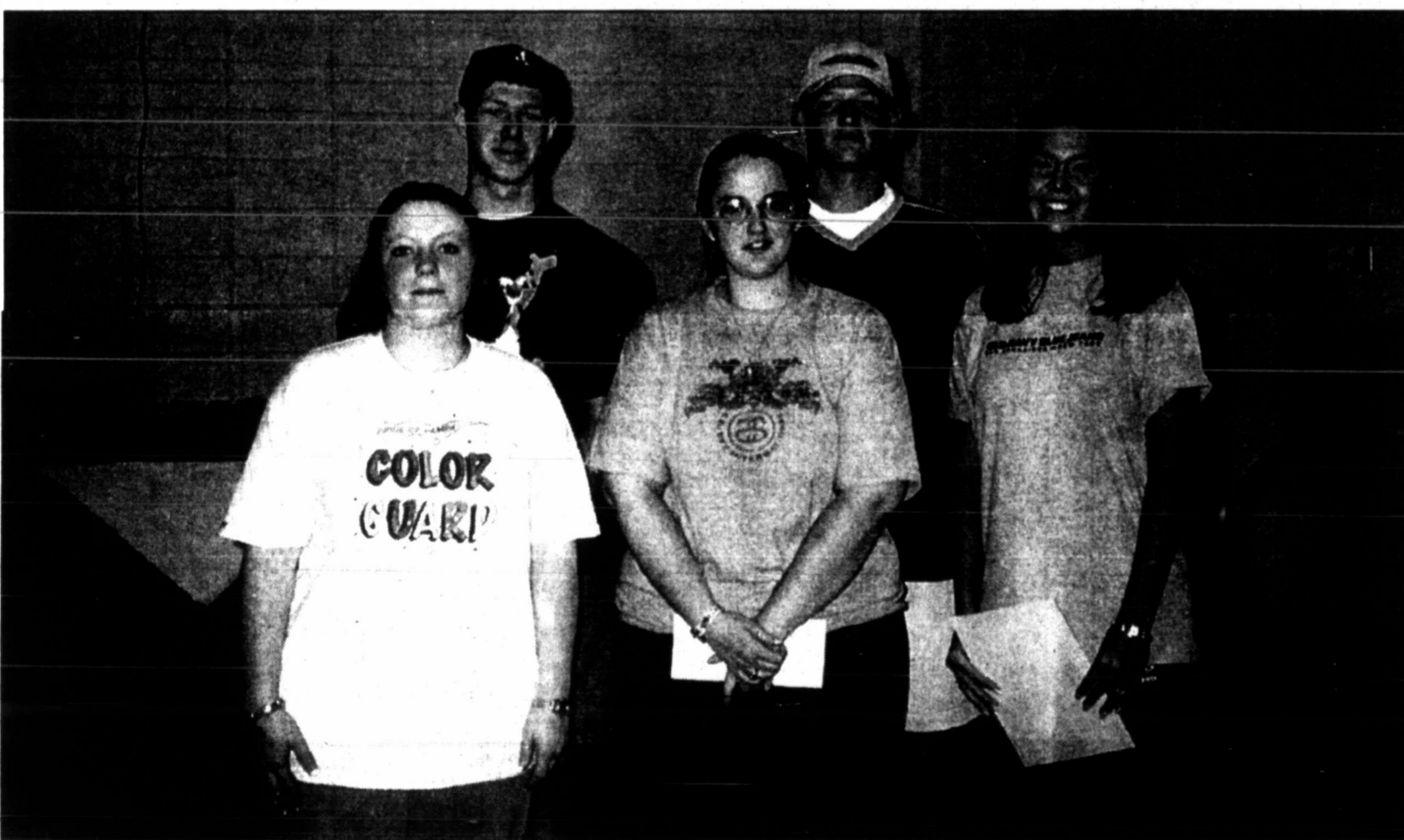
The Pampa Area Cancer Support Group for individuals, families and friends who have been touched by cancer will meet from 7-8 p.m.

June 17 in the cafeteria of Pampa Regional Medical Center. Program for this month's meeting will be "The Natural Way of Prayer-Being Free to Express What You Feel Deep Within." The public is invited. For more information, call 665-4742 or 665-2654. For a ride to the meeting, call 669-2198 after 5 p.m. or 665-2654.

PAMPA AREA SINGLES

Pampa Area Singles Dance and potluck will be from 7-11 p.m. June 26 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Dee O'Kelley (Karaoke Country) will be the featured entertainment. No alcohol permitted. Cost is \$5 per person. For more information, call 665-0219.

Scholarship winners



(Community Camera photo by Stacey Ladd)

Pampa High School Class of 1999 scholarship winners included: (back row) Justin Hampton, West Texas A&M University; Jonathan Waggoner, Texas Tech University; Amanda Browning, college of choice from Pampa Middle School; (front row) Ashleigh McWilliams, Texas Tech; and Erin Mulanax, Amarillo College.

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Salute to Our Flag Is Also Salute to All Who Served

DEAR ABBY: Our national flag, "Old Glory," does not get the respect today that it deserves. The enclosed piece titled "Remember Me?" may remind our citizens to respect it and honor those who have died in battle so that "Old Glory" could continue to fly over the land of the free. Please print it again.
CLAY MATTHEWS, WORLD WAR II VETERAN, RIO LINDA, CALIF.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR CLAY: Thank you for reminding me of this moving piece. Today is Flag Day, and I'm reprinting it to remind American citizens to respect our national flag, and in turn, honor our veterans who bravely fought in days past, and our servicemen and women taking part in the Kosovo operations even now.

REMEMBER ME?
by David C. Graham
Hello. Remember me? Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star-Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America.
Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you — because it is about you and me.

I remember some time ago, people would line up on both sides of the street to watch the parade, and naturally I was leading every one, proudly waving in the breeze.
When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat

and placed it against his left shoulder so that his hand was directly over his heart — remember?
And you, I remember, were standing there, straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember your little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you with her right hand over her heart — remember?

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I've added a few more stars since you were a boy, and a lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago.

But now, somehow, I don't feel as proud as I used to feel. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets. You may give me a small glance, and then you look away. I see children running around you shouting; they don't seem to know who I am.

I saw one man take his hat off, then he looked around, and when he didn't see anybody else take off their hat, he quickly put his on again.

Is it a sin to be patriotic today?

Have you forgotten what I stand for, and where I have been? Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea and Vietnam!

Take a look at the memorial honor rolls, and see the names of those patriotic Americans who gave their lives to keep this republic free. When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So when you see me, please stand straight and place your hand over your heart, and I'll know that you remembered. I'll salute you by waving back!

DEAR ABBY: I'm engaged to be married during the summer of 2000. Most of our plans are working out well — except for one.

I don't believe in the Bible, or the devil or God — and my fiancé believes there is "something" out there, but not necessarily a god. So the question is, if a clergyman can't marry us, who could that won't make us say or do anything "religious"?

FRUSTRATED IN BREMERTON, WASH.

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Congratulations on your upcoming marriage. Since you prefer not to have a religious ceremony, enlist the services of a justice of the peace or a judge.

Horoscope

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1999
BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** Suck to the fundamentals. Have a discussion with a family member. Honor security first. You could easily become frustrated and lose your temper. Getting angry helps no one, not even you! Find words to convey your frustration. You can make a difference! Tonight: Lounge around the house.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** Make use of your communication skills. Sharing ideas and respecting each other's opinions is instrumental in making positive changes. Sort through work demands; discern what is absolutely necessary and what isn't. You could get frustrated with a co-worker. Tonight: On the phone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
*** Your possessive side emerges. You might not be sure about which way to go. Keep a high profile. Refuse to be intimidated by another in a money matter. This person wants to do things his way, but you could be uncomfortable with the risk. Be careful with your commitments. Tonight: Pay bills.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** You're amazing, and everyone knows it! Examine your long-term desires when dealing with a family mem-

ber who could be a bit aggressive and pushy. You know how to handle his energy. Make a long-needed change on the homefront. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
*** The answers lie within. Think through a decision rather than acting on it. Refuse to be pushed. Take your time and do the needed research. Your sense of humor emerges if you don't overreact to another's curiosity. Pace yourself. Don't be coerced to act before you are ready. Tonight: Take a night off.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** Be careful about spending. Halt unnecessary extravagance. Your sense of humor comes out with a friend. Discussions are animated, lively and directed. Brainstorm, exchange news — even swap a joke or two. Your sense of direction emerges. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** You can only push so far and so hard. Even you, the zodiac's diplomat, could lose your temper. Be more aware of work, image and demands. Have discussions with others, but don't feel you need to take their word literally. Take a break at lunch and do something just for you. Tonight: In the limelight!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** Listen to news. Seek alternatives and new sources of information. You might not have the complete story. As you attempt to come to terms with another's opinions, you could feel frustrated. There might be another solution. Pull back, don't trigger. Answers come forth. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Determine what is important to a partner. You might need to pull and tug in order to get the information you are seeking. Another doesn't mean to be coy, he just wants to be sure that you are receptive to his ideas. A friend makes demands that you can't meet right now. Tonight: With the gang.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** Follow a different drummer; veer off the beaten path. Examine another's ideas, though you might not be comfortable with them. Pressure from a boss or a higher-up could be a bit disconcerting. You feel you're being pulled in several directions. Decide what you want to respond to. Tonight: Out and about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** Emphasis is on work and accomplishment. Though a lot comes across your desk, you can handle it. Still, information from a distance could spin you in several different directions. Understand your limitations. Stay focused on what you feel is important. Tonight: Try a stress-buster.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
**** You may feel torn between two alternatives or courses of action and may be unsure about which way to go. Tap into your imagination, allow more spontaneity into your life. Take time for a child or a new friendship. A demanding partner or associate could irritate you. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

BORN TODAY
Actor — Jim Belushi (1954), actress Courtney Cox (1964), actress Helen Hunt (1963)

Crossword Puzzle

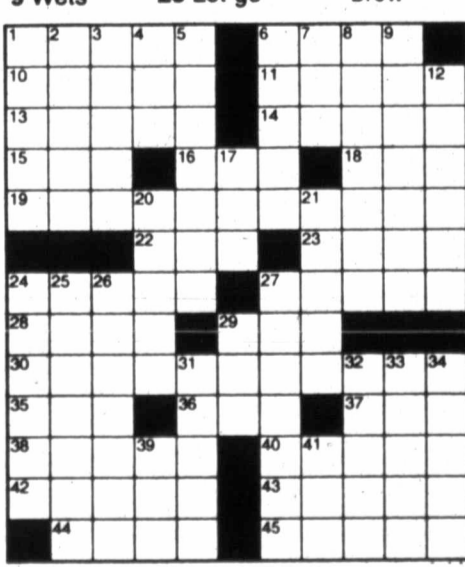
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Student of Socrates
 - 6 Alkali
 - 10 Like a judge
 - 11 Food fishes
 - 13 Intense pain
 - 14 Letter need
 - 15 Tacit okay
 - 16 Spot
 - 18 Health resort
 - 19 Great joke
 - 22 Foul caller
 - 23 Skating site
 - 24 Orderly layout
 - 27 Violet's cousin
 - 28 Convene
 - 29 Three or four
 - 30 Tippler
 - 35 Society page word
 - 36 Broadcast
 - 37 Writer Levin
 - 38 Clothing store sights
 - 40 TV comic Bob
 - 42 Song-writer's org.
- DOWN**
- 1 Practical joke
 - 2 Enter a password, perhaps
 - 3 Dwelling
 - 4 Decimal base
 - 5 Long journey
 - 6 Lost
 - 7 Snip
 - 8 Out of control
 - 9 Wets
 - 12 Baseball's Lyle
 - 17 Sprite
 - 20 Muse of poetry
 - 21 Shrimp's kin
 - 24 Egyptian god of the universe
 - 25 Let go
 - 26 Hitchcock film
 - 27 Eyes
 - 29 Mulder's org.
 - 31 Stingers to eat
 - 32 Invitation
 - 33 Build
 - 34 Velocities
 - 39 Crazy — Pub brew

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Saturday's answer

- 12 Baseball's Lyle
- 17 Sprite
- 20 Muse of poetry
- 21 Shrimp's kin
- 24 Egyptian god of the universe
- 25 Let go
- 26 Hitchcock film
- 27 Eyes
- 29 Mulder's org.
- 31 Stingers to eat
- 32 Invitation
- 33 Build
- 34 Velocities
- 39 Crazy — Pub brew



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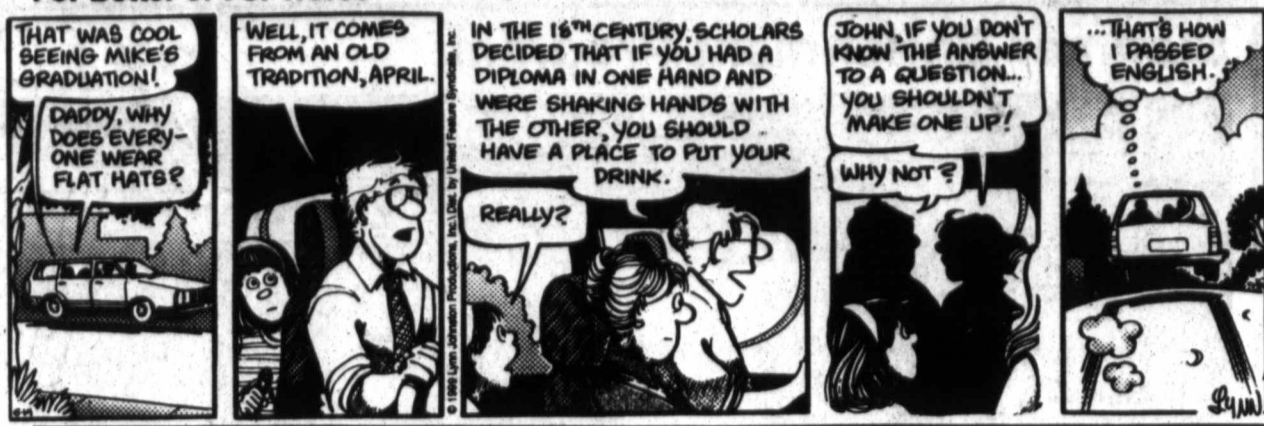
Marmaduke



The Family Circus



For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



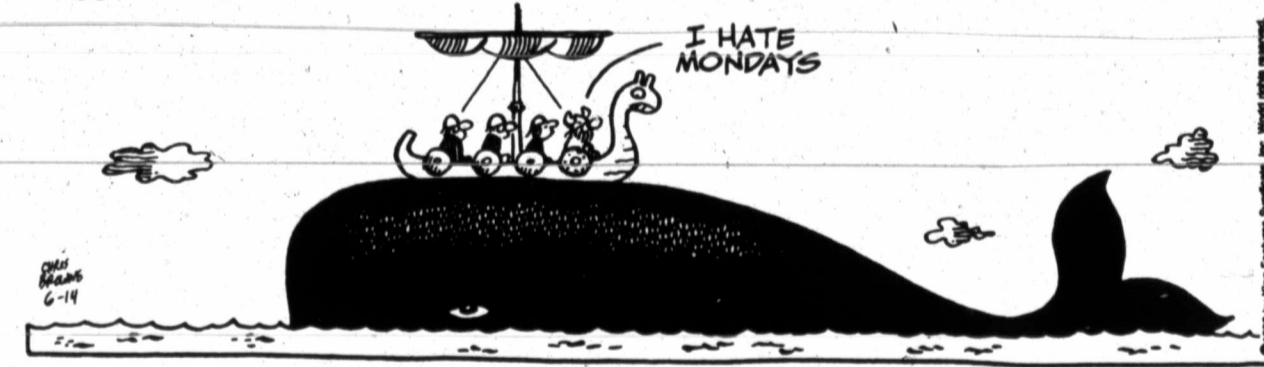
Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



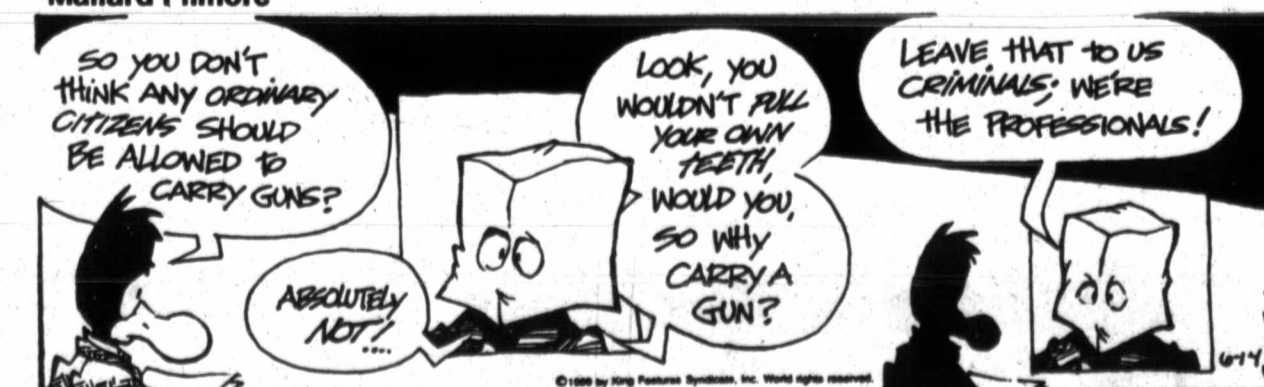
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



MEDICAL

Dieting during adolescence can damage bones, researchers say

WASHINGTON — Experts have a bone to pick with dieting: The pursuit of thinness is causing many teenage girls to lose bone density along with pounds. And, moms need to know their attitudes about dieting may be causing serious harm to their dieting daughters.

Any teenage girl will tell you, slopping meals and downing diet soft drinks are commonplace. But these habits are depriving growing bodies of calcium at a time when it's needed the most. Teen girls can literally "diet away their bones" and miss out on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build bone. Many young girls avoid milk because of misconceptions that milk is fattening. In reality, fat free milk contains only 80 calories and offers nine essential nutrients with no fat. Diet sodas are virtually void of nutrients.

"Unfortunately, our daughters are inheriting our unhealthy preoccupation with weight," says nutritionist and body image expert Debra Waterhouse, M.P.H., R.D. author of "Like Mother, Like Daughter: Breaking Free From the Diet Trap." "Dieting has become epidemic. More than 98 percent of women will diet at some point in their lives and girls are starting to diet as early as age 9."

Mothers may not realize that they have a profound influence on their daughters' eating habits, attitudes about food and body image. Studies show, among other things, if mothers don't drink milk, their teenage daughters are likely not to drink milk either and if a mom tells her children to drink milk, they are more likely to drink milk.

Teens need to build up their "bone bank" at a time when it is critical to deposit calcium. Unfortunately, most young girls are short-changing their bodies of calcium to their own detriment and contributing to America's teenage calcium crisis. Teenage girls who miss out on calcium may be at risk for stress fractures now and osteoporosis in the future, and these are some of the little known facts:

— Nearly half of all bone is formed during the teen years; 15 percent of adult height is added during this crucial stage.

— Nine out of 10 teenage girls fail to get the calcium recommended to build bone.

— According to the National Academy of Sciences, teens should consume at least 1,300 mg of calcium per day, the equivalent of at least four 8-ounce glasses of milk.

"Many dieters choose diet soft drinks instead of milk and this deprives their bodies of calcium," says Waterhouse. "The average teen girl is drinking more than 600 cans of soda a year and this may be replacing more nutrient-rich beverages."

Robbing the body of calcium during adolescence can mean bones won't reach their full growth potential. And achieving a maximum peak bone density at around age 25 is one of the most significant factors determining an individual's future risk of osteoporosis. As

America's daughters are starting to diet at younger ages and as their physical activity level drops, the future incidence of osteoporosis is predicted to rise even higher. Experts say prevention is the only solution to help protect against osteoporosis, and it must begin before adolescence.

"Moms should talk to their daughters about eating a variety of foods. We should focus on nutrient-packed meals and avoid categorizing certain types of food as bad," says Waterhouse. "Moms also need to stress that calcium is critical to their daughters' health and lastly, tell your daughters the scale is not a valid indicator of good health."

One growing problem that parents should watch out for when dieting goes too far — a problem that's particularly common among young female athletes. It's a syndrome that has recently been given the name the "Female Athlete Triad." The Female Athlete Triad links disordered eating habits, amenorrhea (loss of menstruation) and osteoporosis. When exercise is accompanied by healthy eating habits, it can have positive effects on bone. But, when excessive exercise and dieting lead to amenorrhea, damage may be done. The lack of menstruation, and particularly the drop in estrogen, can lead to a severe loss of bone density.

"This condition is essentially premature osteoporosis," says Susan Barr, Ph.D., R.D.N., sports nutrition expert and professor of nutrition in the Division of Human Nutrition at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C. "In fact, studies indicate that many amenorrheic athletes have bone density levels similar to those of postmenopausal women, as well as a higher incidence of stress fractures than athletes who maintain normal menstrual cycles."

Though dubbed the Female Athlete Triad, it can affect a broad range of women who diet and exercise excessively, not just athletes. But the condition seems to be most common in young women involved in gymnastics, dance, figure skating, swimming and long-distance running. All of these sports share a common thread; they favor a lean appearance or emphasize leanness for optimal performance. It's critical to identify teen girls at risk for this condition before bone damage occurs.

Research shows that increasing calcium during the teenage years can help decrease the risk of stress fractures and significantly increase bone density levels. Adding milk to a teen's diet helps increase bone mass. Even small gains in bone density can help reduce the risk of osteoporotic fracture later in life.

"Mothers would be wise to work with their daughters to encourage a nutritious diet, including at least 1,300 mg calcium, or the equivalent of at least four 8-ounce glasses of milk each day," says Barr. "They need to reinforce that fasting or skipping meals, following the latest fad diets, taking diet pills or exercising fanatically are not safe nor even the most effective methods for losing body fat."

Scientists seeking new way to grapple with dangerous germs and viruses

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — It sounds like science fiction: Microscopic oil droplets protect patients from germs and viruses by fusing with the dangerous bugs and causing them essentially to explode.

University of Michigan scientists, hunting ways to protect soldiers from biological warfare, say they have created just such a drug. It can eradicate deadly anthrax within an hour of contact, and promises to be so non-toxic to humans that one day it might be possible to decontaminate germ-laden food.

Dr. James Baker, creator of these drug droplets so tiny they have been dubbed "nano-bombs," added some to a sample of cholera viewed through a microscope.

A few minutes later, "All that's left here is debris. The remarkable thing is this happens almost immediately," Baker said.

While still highly experimental, Baker told a biotechnology meeting here recently he envisions one day using the nano-bombs not just to treat infection, but as protection. They might work as an HIV-blocking vaginal cream. Or spray them in your nostrils during flu season and you might not get sick.

Baker mixed them to the consistency of skim milk and put them in a standard paint sprayer as a way to decontaminate the environment after, say, an anthrax threat.

If you add peppermint, he said, "it actually tastes pretty good."

Baker's creation is part of a Star Trek-like field of science called "nanotechnology," creating drugs and other products so minute that researchers have to build them one molecule at a time.

Such discoveries have so intrigued the Clinton administration that it just listed nanotechnology as a research priority for the next budget, said Gregory Milman, director of the National Institutes of Health's Office for Innovation.

Joining nanodrugs on the wish list are computer chips capable of storing trillions of bits of information on a pin-head and miniature sensors that could detect hidden ovarian cancer.

Also Wednesday, researchers said they are designing nanochips to quickly read a patient's genes to help pinpoint medical treatment, and "nanoswitches" to turn off defective genes.

Just how small is nanotechnology? A nanometer is a mere one-billionth of a meter. Bacteria and viruses are many times smaller than a human hair, and Baker's nano-bombs are hundreds of times smaller than that.

Size is key because it makes the oil droplets "likely to fuse with bacteria while leaving our own cells alone," said Baker, whose Defense Department-funded research also is important to doctors hunting ways to fight the growing problem of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The droplets bind to the membrane coating germs or viruses and disrupts that coating "so much that the organism literally explodes," explained Baker. He said he successfully has killed a host of bacteria and viruses — even HIV, anthrax and smallpox — in test-tube studies.

Animal tests showed success, too. Spraying the wounds of mice dying of anthrax reduced mortality by 85 percent. Nano-bombs decontaminated environmental anthrax faster than bleach, one of just a few chemicals strong enough to kill the spores on contact.

That is important considering growing fear over use of this deadly infection by bioterrorists. The nation had 5,000 anthrax threats last year, Baker said.

When people are thought to be exposed, they may be washed down with bleach or given antibiotics in an attempt to stave off infection, but doctors — and the Defense Department, worried about biowarfare — want better protection.

When Baker tried to infect mice with a severe flu strain, those whose noses first had been swabbed with the nano-bombs did not get sick. Unprotected mice died.

Why would not nano-bombs hurt our cells, too? Most human cells have a different coating that seems to keep them from fusing with the droplets, Baker said. So far, animals have not shown any sign of harm. But he will have to prove safety in lengthy clinical trials before Americans could use such a drug.

Baker's first goal is to use nano-bombs as an environmental decontamination agent because that takes less testing than the Food and Drug Administration requires for a medication.

But his first human drug study, to be conducted at NIH, is planned: using nano-bombs as a vaginal cream to try to protect women from the AIDS virus and other sexually transmitted diseases.

'Bone mass gene' discovery made in South Africans

SEATTLE (AP) — Scientists have discovered a gene that appears to control bone density, opening the way to possible new treatments for crippling osteoporosis.

Researchers from the biotechnology company Chiroscience R&D found the gene in a small group of South Africans suffering from an inherited disease that is the opposite of osteoporosis — these patients can die because their bones grow too dense and large.

A mutation in the gene appears responsible for making bone grow out of control. Chiroscience hopes to harness the protein this gene produces and turn it into a drug that might increase the bone mass of people with osteoporosis, the disease that makes bones brittle.

Developing a drug, however, takes years — and osteoporosis experts urged caution.

More immediately, doctors who treat Afrikaners, South Africans of Dutch descent who suffer from sclerosteosis, the large-bone disease, hope the discovery will lead to a genetic test to help their patients in planning children.

"What we have found is really the holy grail of bone biology," said Chiroscience researcher Jeffrey Van Ness in announcing at a biotechnology meeting here that the company had successfully mapped the "bone mass gene."

While this may be the first gene discovered in the complex process of bone building, nobody knows what role it could play in osteoporosis, said Dr. Conrad Johnston of Indiana University, an adviser to the National Osteoporosis Foundation. He cautioned that many genes may play a role in osteoporosis, and that studies of other large-bone diseases have found more bone is not always better — sometimes it's fracture-prone.

"Certainly if you discover a gene that increases amounts of bone, it is very interesting and should lead to lots of good research," Johnston said. But "whether it will lead to any treatment is highly speculative."

Osteoporosis afflicts 10 million Americans, mostly elderly women. They're at risk of severe injury, such as breaking a hip,

along with chronic pain and stooped posture as spinal vertebrae and other bones fracture. The disease costs \$14 billion annually in medical bills and lost productivity.

Bone is living tissue: Cells called osteoclasts dissolve worn-out bone while other cells called osteoblasts replace it with new bone. During childhood, new bone builds faster than old bone dissolves. People hit their peak bone mass in their mid-20s.

As people age, bone removal exceeds new bone formation. When that happens too fast, or when people didn't build up enough strong bone when young, osteoporosis results.

Some treatments, including estrogen and the popular nonhormonal drug Fosamax, can slow bone loss and help restore a little bone. But no drug can reverse osteoporosis by building large amounts of bone.

Sclerosteosis is an incurable rare

disease that is the opposite — bones, even the skull, grow very dense. By middle age, skull pressure often causes incurable headaches, even sudden death.

Chiroscience worked with Dr. Peter Beighton of the University of Cape Town to study the genes of a small group of Afrikaners with sclerosteosis. Only a few other people around the world have ever gotten the disease.

Afrikaners who suffer from it inherited a mutated bone mass gene from each parent. Chiroscience pinpointed the problem gene on chromosome 17, mapped it and say they discovered that a single mutation appears to be the culprit.

Beighton said in a statement that creating a genetic sclerosteosis test should be a priority so Afrikaner couples will know if they're at risk. About one in 20,000 are thought to be, and two Afrikaner children are born with sclerosteosis every year.

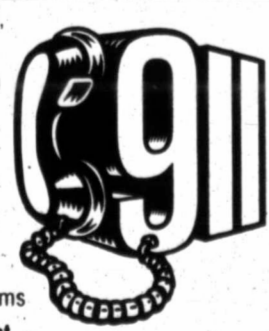
Warning Signs of Stroke

American Heart Association

- Sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm, or leg on one side of the body
- Sudden dimness or loss of vision, particularly in one eye
- Sudden loss of speech, or trouble talking or understanding speech
- Sudden severe headaches with no known or apparent cause
- Sudden unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness, or falls, especially with any of the previous symptoms

If you experience any of these warning signs get help! Call 911 immediately.

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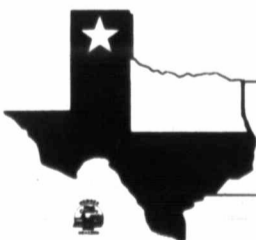
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