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# Pampa

Vol. 95 No. 45 • Pampa, Texas  
50¢ Daily • Sunday \*1

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## PISD expects revenue to drop

By DEE DEE LARAMORE  
Staff Writer

Lower tax valuations and the loss of another 100 students are expected to combine to reduce school revenues next year.

That's what the Pampa Independent School District's (PISD) board of education heard when it took a first look at the 2000-2001 budget at its regular meeting last week at the Pampa High School library.

"During the budget workshop the board took a preliminary — very preliminary — look at revenues for next year," said Dr. Dawson Orr, school superintendent. Orr said at this stage, it appears the school district's 2000-2001 revenues will be "slightly down" from last year, because of lower tax valuations.

"We're also looking at the loss of another 100 students," he added.

"After taking a look at the revenue and expenditures, the board emphasized a stronger commitment to facilities repair, especially at the secondary level," Orr said.

He explained that an extensive amount of remodeling and repair is needed at Pampa High School and Pampa Middle School, but stressed that the work on the budget was "very general" right now.

Board members approved bids for basketball, soccer, swimming, tennis and training room supplies. "We have to order now so they can ship it in time," Orr said.

The board also accepted bids for bulk teaching supplies and audio/visual products and furniture. "These are things to be kept in the warehouse through the year until the teachers need them," he said.

Orr also said in all cases, the lowest bid was accepted as long as the bid met the specifications.

A recommendation to accept the low bid of \$11,666 from A-1 Floor Covering for rubber stair treads at Pampa High School was also approved by the board.

The board heard a report on the Math Vertical Team Initiative. Orr explained that a group of Pampa ISD teachers spanning kindergarten through 12th grade form the initiative.

"They're working to assure a consistent and logical progression of the school district's math curriculum from kindergarten through 12th grade," he said. Joann Jones serves as facilitator.

Calling the initiative a success, Orr said the school district is considering expanding the program to include other subjects, such as reading, next year.

Approximately 30 minutes of the four-hour meeting was dedicated to the "Academic Spotlight." At this time sponsors of various school activities talked

about their respective groups. Outstanding students and their parents were also introduced to the board. The "Spotlight" culminated with a performance by the Fiesta Dancers.

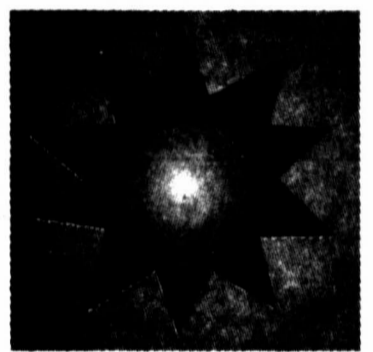
Other items approved by the board included the following:

- an interlocal agreement with EDNET 16;
- an instructional agreement with Clarendon College;
- Pampa Learning Center's Alternative Accountability Report; and
- a request to demolish six delinquent tax properties.

In addition to the Math Vertical Team report and budget workshop, the board heard the following reports:

- priority performance goals;
- Health Plan Update;
- Baldrige in Education participation;

(See PISD, Page 2)



High today 100-105  
Low tonight 60-65  
For weather details see Page 2

One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated \$9 million.

The ticket was sold in San Antonio.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were 1, 20, 24, 32, 33, 48.

**FORT WORTH (AP)** — Some City Council members are reviving efforts to more strictly regulate gun shows at city-owned facilities.

Bans on the shows are not expected at the Fort Worth Convention Center and other public places where they are conducted, but some city leaders say they at least want to require that all gun dealers have a federal license.

The city does not require gun show promoters to insist on federal licensing of dealers or to conduct background checks on buyers.

"Basically, we are allowing John Q. Criminal to walk into a facility free of a background check and purchase that weapon," Councilwoman Wendy Davis told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for a story published Sunday. "It troubles me that we are allowing these loopholes to exist."

Council members first considered local controls on gun shows about six months ago, but the issue has gone without action on a council committee's agenda. The committee's chairman, Councilman Chuck Silcox, said he is now ready to revive it and will likely take it up in July or August.

- **Lige Lindsey, 78**, retired owner, operator of Lindsey Furniture Mart.
- **Opal Tennant, 92**, home-maker.

Classified ..... 9  
Comics ..... 4  
Medical ..... 5  
Sports ..... 6



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

The American flag stands atop flags from countries across the world in the circular display at the Freedom Museum. Veterans are honored during Memorial Day observances throughout the country for defending the United States during countless military actions.

## Beryllium testing for former Pantex workers scheduled

Starting this week former Pantex workers may participate in a nationwide beryllium screening program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The program is an effort to identify those workers who may have developed beryllium sensitivity or chronic beryllium disease (CBD) due to exposure to beryllium dust during their past work activities.

Beryllium is a hard, lightweight metal that is very strong and easy to shape. While handling beryllium itself is not dangerous, workers who may have inhaled the dust or fumes created when beryllium is machined, ground, heated or sanded may be at risk to become sensitized to the metal and subsequently develop CBD.

CBD causes inflammation and scarring of the lungs and prohibits the lungs from getting oxygen to the bloodstream. It may not appear for several years, or even decades, following exposure, according to a news release. Although not considered fatal, serious cases of CBD can be debilitating. CBD can't be cured, but treatment is available.

About 7,300 former DOE and contract workers employed at Pantex were sent letters in April regarding the screenings. The screenings consist of a blood test and a brief health questionnaire and are paid for by DOE. All results will be confidential.

For information about the program, contact Bill Strange, Ph.D., at 303-966-8373 or 1-800-269-0157 (ext. 8373), or write ORAU-RFETS, 10808 Highway 93, Unit B, Building T-115C, Golden, Colorado 80403.

## Rotary to sponsor camper

District 573 of Rotary International will offer a local camp for children ages 7-14 with diabetes in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico June 12-17 at Ceta Glen Christian Camp in Happy. Activities will include short courses in diabetes control and management conducted by medical school faculty as well as games, sports and crafts for every age and skill level. Meals and snacks will be planned and supervised by a registered dietician.

Pampa Rotary Club will sponsor a camper from the Pampa area. For information, call Lee Waters at 669-8014 or Jeff Boyd at 665-8446.

## Reading program success at Travis marked with party

By NANCY YOUNG  
Managing Editor

Travis Elementary's Accelerated Reader students ended the 1999-2000 school year with a large celebration of special activities during the last week of school.

The young students have improved their reading skills during the five or six years the program has been in operation, said Susan Ferguson, coordinator of the program at Travis Elementary.

"The Accelerated Reader program is absolutely so beneficial to the students," said Ferguson. "Our TAAS scores have shown much improvement. Our children are really better test-takers now."

Over 200 students participate in the program composed of students in third through fifth grades. Kindergarten through second graders participate in the

program as enrichment, said Ferguson.

"This program is especially good for reluctant readers," said Ferguson. "It provides the extra encouragement that the students need."

Students read the books and then are tested on comprehension skills of the material. During the school year, the students are recognized every six weeks for their accomplishments and have a mini-celebration, said Ferguson.

The students who participated in the end-of-school program maintained an average of 92 percent accuracy. The students also exceeded their school-wide goal of 18,000 accelerated reader points by achieving 22,023 points.

During the special events this week the students planted trees and plants around the school to make a lasting contribution to the school grounds.

(See READING, Page 2)



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

JaCee Villarreal and Desiray Vance, two fourth graders at Travis Elementary School, decorate their time capsules with their own unique designs during the accelerated reader celebration last week. Each capsule contains a Millennium Madness memory sheet completed by each participant. The time capsules will be opened in five years.

**From The Board And Staff Of The Pampa Chamber Of Commerce Have A Safe And Happy Memorial Day!!**



# Calendar of events

**PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL**  
Pampa Area Literacy Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

**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**  
Tralee Crisis Center will offer Volunteer Training for people interested in working with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crime victims. For more information, call Diane Wells at 669-1131 or 1-800-658-2796.

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD**  
Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle is extending clinic hours in Pampa. The clinic is now open from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 408 W. Kingsmill Ave., #175-A. Special evening hours until 6 p.m. are available by appointment. For more information or for an appointment, call 665-2291. Planned Parenthood is a not-for-profit health care organization serving women and men in 17 offices covering 26 counties in the panhandle.

**HOSPICE LUNCH**  
Crown of Texas Hospice will sponsor "Sunshine Lunch," a bereavement luncheon (Dutch treat), from 11:30-1 p.m. Tuesday, May 30 at Dyer's Bar-B-Que in Pampa. The luncheon is a social time for individuals grieving the death of a loved one. For reservations, call 1-800-572-6365.

**BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM**

Clarendon College-Pampa Center will host free brown bag lunch seminars at 12 noon each Thursday throughout the month of June with Ben Watson of Edward Jones. The first two presentations will be "Investment Basics" on June 1 and "10 Investment and Financial Risks" on June 15. The presentations are free and open to the public.

**IMMUNIZATION CLINIC**

The Texas Department of Health will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4:30 p.m., June 7, Family Health Care,

600 W. Kentucky, Pampa; and 2-4 p.m., June 14, McLean Medical Center, McLean.

**ROTARY CAMP**

District 573 of Rotary International will offer a local camp for children ages 7-14 with diabetes in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico June 12-17 at Ceta Glen Christian Camp in Happy. Activities will include short courses in diabetes control and management conducted by medical school faculty as well as games, sports and crafts for every age and skill level. The camp promotes self-confidence, independence and friendship and fun with other children. Meals and snacks will be planned and supervised by a registered dietitian. Pampa Rotary Club has committed to sponsor a camper from the Pampa area. For more information, call Lee Waters at 669-8014 or Jeff Boyd at 665-8446.

**PAMPA AREA CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

The Pampa Area Cancer Support Group for individuals, families and friends who have been touched by cancer will meet at 7 p.m. May 18 in the cafeteria of the Pampa Regional Medical Center, One Medical Plaza. Program for this month's meeting will be "Flexibility Exercises" to be presented by instructor Linda Lamb, a self-taught volunteer who leads classes at First Presbyterian Church.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. The public is invited. For more information, call 665-4742 or 665-2654. For a ride, call Betty Whitson after 5 p.m. at 669-2198 or Linda Norris at 665-2654. In case of inclement weather, call ahead in case meeting is canceled.

**HERITAGE FEST**

Lake McClellan will host "Heritage Fest" Sept. 23 at the lake. The event will feature performers and displays.

**CAREER CAMP**

Clarendon College will host Career Camp 2000 beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 11 and ending at 6 p.m., Wednesday, June 14. Participants must bring linens or a sleeping bag, pillow, alarm clock, swimsuit, towel/washcloth, toiletries, tennis shoes, notebook, pen, paper, sun screen, shades, cap, comfy clothes and shoes. Camp is limited to 30 students and is open to local eighth graders. Cost of the camp is \$35. To enroll or for more information, call 1-800-687-9737.

**GREEN THUMB**

Green Thumb, Inc., the country's oldest and largest provider of mature worker training and employment, launched its statewide search for Texas' Outstanding Older Worker for Year 2000. Texas employers are urged to join this initiative by nominating their outstanding older employees. Nominees

must be at least 65, a Texas resident, and work 20 or more hours a week. To nominate a supervisor or co-worker must provide a brief narrative covering the overall contribution to their employer, a description of skills the nominee has learned since beginning of employment, any disabilities the nominee has overcome to perform his/her job and other community involvement. Nominations will be evaluated by a state-wide selection committee and the winner announced mid July. In October the winner will attend the national Prime Time Awards in Washington, DC, in conjunction with Presidentially-proclaimed Employ the Older worker Week. For more information, call 1-800-880-5292. The deadline for nominations is June 15.

**CLARENDON COLLEGE**

Clarendon College is accepting applications for its Licensed Vocational Nursing Program of the 2000-01 school year. Early applications are encouraged to insure prospective students get a place in the first class. Students may attend nursing classes on either the Clarendon or the Shamrock campuses. Anatomy and Physiology I and II are being offered at Clarendon, Childress and McLean via interactive television in the first and second summer sessions. For an application, contact CC (806) 874-3571.

For more information, call Director Vickie Moore on the CC campus or 1-800-687-9737.

**CATTLEWOMEN SCHOLARSHIPS**

Top O' Texas CattleWomen scholarships are available for the fall semester for qualifying college junior, senior or graduate students. Applicants should come from a ranching family and should plan to pursue a career associated with the beef industry. This scholarship is one of several made through Ivomec Generations of Excellence program sponsored by Merial and administered by the Texas Cattle Women. The local organization covers the following counties: Carson, Collingsworth, Gray, Hemphill, Hutchison, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts and Wheeler. For more information, an application or rules write: Sandra Christner, P.O. Box 522, Wheeler, TX 79096; or call (806) 826-3572. The deadline is June 15. Applications are also available through Pat Youngblood, P.O. Box 424, Lefors, TX 79054, (806) 835-2904.

**YOUNG RANCHER'S SCHOLARSHIP**

Top O' Texas CattleWomen is seeking applicants for the Ivomec Generations of Excellence Program's Young Rancher's Scholarship to Texas A&M's Beef Cattle Short Course slated Aug. 7-9. Deadline for applications is June 15. The forms must be turned in to Sandra Christner, P.O. Box 522, Wheeler, TX 79096; or call (806) 826-3572. Applicants must be 20-39 years of age and

must obtain one-half of their income from ranching. Applications are available from Pat Youngblood, P.O. Box 424, Lefors, TX 79054, (806) 835-2904.

**HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER**

The Women's Center of the Don, and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following breast cancer screening clinics: May 8 and June 12, First United Methodist Church Educational Building, 201 E. Foster, and June 23, Shepherd's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, Pampa; May 16, Parkview Hospital, 901 S. Sweetwater, Wheeler; and May 3 and 17, Hemphill County Hospital, 1020 S. 4th, Canadian; May 23, Family Care Center, 1010 S. Main, Shamrock. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

**WTAMU 'e CAMP'**

West Texas A&M University's "e Camp" for youngsters will explore the radio, television and film industry. For more information, write, call or e-mail the following: Dr. Leigh Browning, e Camp director, WTAMU Box 60747, Canyon, TX 79016-0207; (806) 651-2412; lbrowning@wtamu.edu.

## Eastern Star awards



(Community Camera photo)

Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star recently bestowed 70-Year Awards upon (left-right) Virginia Fore, Worthy Matron, Florence Rife, and Gordon Fore, Worthy Patron.

## Bush launches Project ChildSafe

AUSTIN — Gov. George W. Bush recently launched "Project ChildSafe," a five-year, \$5 million program to provide free child safety locks and firearm safety information to Texas parents. The program will be funded through a grant from the Governor's Criminal Justice Division.

"Providing free child safety locks to parents is a commonsense, practical way that government can help parents improve safety in their homes," said Gov. Bush. "Most trigger lock proposals focus on legislation requiring manufacturers to put safety locks on new guns, which I would sign, and this proposal goes even further by making trigger locks available to millions of people who already own guns," he said.

The GCJD will provide materials to be distributed through county sheriffs' and local police departments based on population data. The Governor's Office will work with local law enforcement officials to distribute the kits in the most efficient way possible. The GCJD will notify sheriffs and police chiefs during the next few weeks about ways to participate in Project ChildSafe.

Project ChildSafe is the latest action taken by the governor to protect children from harm by firearms. Since 1995, the governor has signed laws making it a criminal offense for an adult to allow a child access to a loaded firearm unless the child is under adult supervision. Under Gov. Bush, Texas has also increased penalties for anyone selling, renting or giving a handgun to a child and requires automatic detention for juveniles caught illegally carrying a gun or committing a crime with a gun.

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# Military Spouses Deserve Our Thanks for Sacrifices at Home

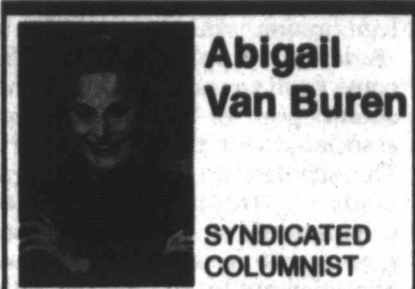
**DEAR ABBY:** The letters you have printed from men and women in the Armed Forces reminded me of an experience I would like to share.

My husband is in the service. One day last fall, we made a quick stop on our way to a formal Marine Corps event. As we walked through the store, many people looked at my husband in his dress blues. One woman approached and thanked him for what he does and the sacrifices he makes. She said her husband was in the Army for many years and that he now rests in Arlington Cemetery. Then she thanked me and said she understood what a difficult job I had being his wife.

My husband and I walked away touched by the sincerity in her words. I will never forget her, not only because she took the initiative to thank my husband, but because she also recognized a large group of people who are usually overlooked: the spouses.

To all of those other military wives (and husbands) out there: You are appreciated! All of you who faithfully wait for reunions, who have lost count of the tearful good-byes, those who sleep in empty beds that suddenly seem so large, who comfort the children because they miss Dad or Mom, and those afraid to leave the house because they might miss that weekly phone call from thousands of miles away.

Thanks to all who, like my husband, leave their loved ones for



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

sometimes months at a time and wipe the tears as they go. Thanks to all of those who share my job of supporting their spouses over the miles and keeping them strong.

And last, thank you, Abby, for shedding light on this subject. A lot of hard work and heartache go with being involved in the service. These men and women deserve our thanks.

**PROUD AND LOVING WIFE IN GEORGIA**

**DEAR PROUD:** You have a right to be proud. My hat is off to the families of our servicemen and women, because the home fires often require a lot of stoking and the task falls upon them. Your letter reminds me of a quotation first uttered by John Milton: "They also serve who only stand and wait."

**DEAR ABBY:** I was touched by the letter you printed from Ula Pendleton, the retired teacher from Westminster High School in Los

Angeles, who received praise from a student years after she had taught him. How wonderful for her to know the fruit of her labor.

Teachers are truly the unsung heroes of our lives. No, I'm not a teacher, but I know many teachers, and I always tell them, "I could never do what you do." Most of them labor at an incredibly tough job for years and may never know the results of their work.

As an ER nurse, I, too, have a tough job. However, I can see the results of my efforts — mostly positive — on a daily basis. Not so for most teachers, who face many obstacles and may not know if they have made a difference. They deserve our highest praise.

B.O.G., BASS LAKE, CALIF.

**DEAR B.O.G.:** I agree. I have received many letters from readers praising their former teachers — usually because the teachers were fair-minded, caring, and helped their students master a subject.

Teaching is an art, and I, too, admire those gifted individuals in the field of education who have made a positive difference in the lives of their students.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$2.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

### For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



## Horoscope

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2000

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)

Assess recent events and costs. You make excellent decisions involving security and your long-term needs. Others seek you out and present an idea for feedback. You could find that someone is unusually idealistic. Tonight: Regroup at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Beam in what you want. Others are highly responsive to your inquiries and get the gist of where you are coming from. A boss wants your feedback, but at times he can't hear you or what you say. Don't be nebulous. Tonight: As you like it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Take your time when mulling over money issues. There are a lot of ways you can go. Trust your instincts in communication. Another has a lot to share, but he might not know the best way to let you know where he is coming from. Tonight: Nice and quiet.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Friends prove to be more influential than you think they'll be. Take charge. Move a project along. Network: attend meetings; bring others together. Your sense of humor comes out with a partner. Be aware of the ramifications

call!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Take charge if you can. Finish work; return calls; get ahead. Do your research. Your mind works like a ticker tape. Head in the direction in which you need to go. Be open about choices and directions. Others respond. Tonight: Work late if need be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Revise your thinking through an important discussion. You can have what you want. Allow yourself to be a more dynamic thinker. A co-worker might be confusing, but he has your best interests in mind. Work together. Ask questions when you are confused. Tonight: Aim high.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Aim for what you need. Listen to feedback. Working as a team — something quite natural for you — helps you get what you want. Take charge at work. Others need your sense of direction. Confusion involves a loved one. Tonight: Remove your rose-colored glasses.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Charge into work and get the job done. You find that others easily distract you. Sort through and delegate. Make time for personal conversations during a break. Stay anchored, despite your feelings. Let your mind rove if you must. Tonight: Use your imagination.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You still might be committed to the pleasure ethic as you roll into work. However, you quickly gain focus and direction. Brainstorm with an associate; you come up with a moneymaking idea.

Tonight: Off to the gym.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your ability to sleuth your way through complications makes you a sure winner. Don't settle for any vagueness when it comes to your finances. Make sure all agreements are drawn up clearly. Consideration for a co-worker improves productivity for both of you. Tonight: Have fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Though communication is active at work, you might need to ponder some personal issues to get past a blockage. You also might not be seeing a situation clearly. Knock on another's door; get feedback. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Specifics are important when dealing with others who might not see eye to eye with you. Clearing up any vagueness or confusion helps define what the real issue is. Creativity and humor charge your communication. Others listen. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

BORN TODAY

Actor Blake Bashoff (1981), actor Keir Dullea (1936), actor Clint Walker (1927)

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$2.95 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic, and Spanish-speaking psychics are available. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

## Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

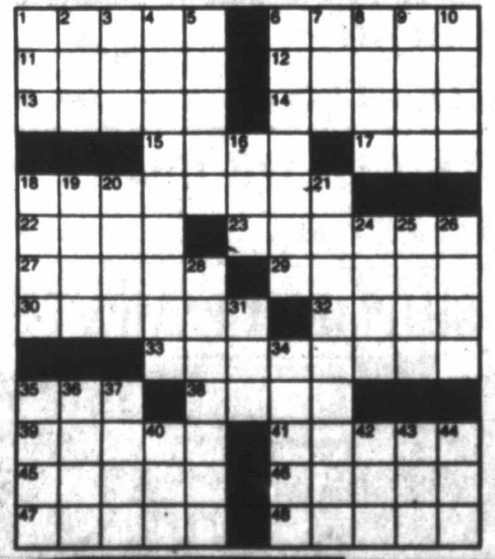
ACROSS

- 1 Some Mideast-ers
- 6 Planetary path
- 11 "Under-stand?"
- 12 African mammal
- 13 Last Greek letter
- 14 Indianapolis team
- 15 St. Louis landmark
- 17 — Angeles
- 18 David Hume essay
- 22 Mural setting
- 23 Fit for eating
- 27 Actor Alan
- 29 Shoplift
- 30 Think appropriate
- 32 Feb's foe
- 33 Series airings
- 35 Actor Linden
- 38 Moola
- 39 Suspect's story
- 41 Radiant
- 45 One of the primates
- 46 Aussie critter
- 47 In the midst of
- 48 Moved sideways

WILTS	ACIDS
IDIOT	DUCAT
TESLA	OPINE
HATERS	CIA
ATE	FLAILED
LEN	LAUREL
	DENTS
LAREDO	COB
MISSTEP	APO
AFT	RIPPER
STUBS	LATINE
TUTOR	OTTER
SPEWS	TEARS

Saturday's answer

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 20 Actress Sommer   | 31 Cravat          |
| 21 E.L.             | 34 Quench          |
| Doctorow book       | 35 Joke            |
| 24 Rosary           | 36 Grad, for short |
| 10 Fing             | 37 Fancy auto      |
| 16 Runner Sebastian | 40 Outlaw          |
| 18 —                | 42 Fall            |
| brillig ...         | 26 Fraternal       |
| 19 Rabbit's cousin  | group              |
|                     | 28 Taking          |
|                     | small bites        |
|                     | 44 Bankroll        |



### STUMPED?

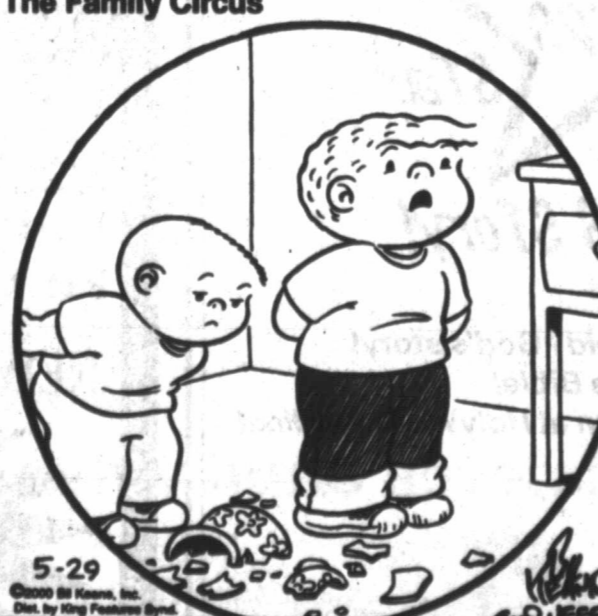
For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

### Marmaduke



"He isn't interested in watching television, so he's watching me."

### The Family Circus



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# MEDICAL

## New heartburn treatment targets cause instead of acid

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aline Humphrey was losing a 10-year battle with worsening heartburn. Medications didn't help, and she had resorted to eating only easy-to-digest baby food.

Then doctors snaked a tiny tube down her throat to fix the faulty valve causing the problem. The California nurse celebrated several months later with an eight-course French meal and a bottle of Dom Perignon — no more antacids, no more heartburn.

Now other sufferers can try it, too: The Food and Drug Administration has approved the first non-drug treatments for acid reflux — two different medical devices that send a tube down the throat to fix the actual cause of chronic heartburn instead of just suppressing painful stomach acid as medications do.

The hourlong, outpatient procedures could significantly change the way heartburn is treated.

One device is like a tiny sewing machine that puts a few stitches in the faulty valve causing heartburn, creating little pleated gathers to

strengthen it. The other device, which Humphrey tried, zaps the faulty valve with radiofrequency energy, beams of heat.

"Both rely on the fact that we think fixing the valve is a good long-term option rather than staying on medications for the rest of your life," explained Dr. Neil Stollman of San Francisco General Hospital, who tested the radiofrequency device, Curon Medical Inc.'s Stretta system.

"I still practice medicine, and I know a lot of patients who are going to benefit," said Dr. Brian E. Harvey, the FDA senior medical officer who reviewed Stretta and competitor C.R. Bard Inc.'s Endoscopic Suturing System. The FDA approved both earlier this month.

Some 14 million Americans suffer chronic heartburn, called "gastroesophageal reflux disease," or GERD. A valve where the esophagus meets the stomach, called the lower esophageal sphincter, relaxes at the wrong times, allowing acidic stomach contents to back up into the delicate esophagus — a burning sensation.

Spicy foods or overeating could give anyone occasional heartburn. But GERD causes serious, repeated heartburn. The stomach acid can actual-

ly corrode the esophagus, causing inflammation or scarring that makes it hard to swallow. One recent study found people with severe reflux are eight times more likely to develop esophageal cancer.

Acid-blocking medicines — such as Prilosec, the world's best-selling drug — are highly effective at relieving symptoms.

Some people don't like taking daily medicine. Others don't have insurance to cover the drugs. Curon cites one estimate that patients and insurers worldwide spend \$14 billion a year on anti-heartburn drugs.

Still other patients get no relief from drugs, or suffer side effects. When acid blockers fail, patients have tried Propulsid, a drug that pushes food through the stomach faster so there's less to reflux — but one drug the manufacturer is about to quit selling because it also can cause lethal irregular heartbeats.

Until now, the only non-drug alternative was surgery to tighten the valve.

The two new systems don't require cutting patients:

—Curon's Stretta has electrodes on an endoscope threaded down the throat. The electrodes burn spots on the muscle controlling the faulty valve. A flexible scar-like tissue forms. Doctors aren't sure if that tightens the valve, or if the heat zaps overactive nerves that made the valve mal-

function. Regardless, in a study of 47 patients followed for six months after the procedure, 70 percent had quit taking all heartburn medicines.

—Bard's suturing device, developed by a physician at the Royal College of London, is like a miniature sewing machine on an endoscope. Tiny stitches tighten the valve. In a study of 64 patients, 67 percent had either no heartburn or only occasional, brief episodes six months later.

No one knows how long the effects will last — patients may need retreatment every few years, FDA's Harvey cautioned.

Both procedures can cause mild chest or stomach pain that day, but studies found no serious side effects. However, physicians do need training to perform the procedures, something both companies are beginning. The procedures will cost \$2,000 to \$2,500.

"If it turns out that this works as well as we think, it's going to be very appealing to physicians and our patients," said Emory University's Dr. Patrick Waring, who tested Bard's suturing system. "I think there's a lot of people ... who don't want to have an operation, who don't want medicine on a daily basis but still want relief from their heartburn."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Lauran Neergaard covers health and medical issues for The Associated Press in Washington.

## Scientists develop new approach to nasty drug-resistant germs

By RICK CALLAHAN  
Associated Press Writer

Scientists have created a molecule that delivers a knockout punch to deadly, drug-resistant strains of bacteria, raising the possibility of a powerful class of antibiotics just when doctors need them most.

Drug-resistant bacteria are a growing global threat, a phenomenon blamed on overuse of antibiotics.

In a recent issue of the journal Nature, researchers at the University of Wisconsin at Madison reported that they have created a molecule modeled on peptides, the natural proteins that organisms ranging from plants to humans use to kill bacteria.

Up to now, attempts to harness peptides have met with problems because they are rapidly disarmed within living tissues and often harm human cells along with the germs.

But the researchers said their synthetic version, called a beta-peptide, appears not to harm blood cells or break down within the body.

In the lab, it proved active against several drug-resistant bacteria, including strains of vancomycin-resistant enterococcus and methicillin-resistant staphylococcus.

Vancomycin is an antibiotic that is considered the last line of defense against enterococcus bacteria, which cause deadly infections in the abdomen, urinary tract, post-surgical wounds and even heart valves. Methicillin targets staphylococcus, which is responsible for serious infections of the skin, tissue, bones and joints.

Up to now, attempts to harness peptides have met with problems because they are rapidly disarmed within living tissues and often harm human cells along with the germs.

The beta-peptide seems to work by the same mechanism as the natural peptide, by punching holes in the bacteria's membrane, said Samuel Gellman, a chemistry professor at Wisconsin.

"It points to a whole new class of potential antibiotics that people haven't thought about before. It's a sort of new dimension in design," Gellman said.

Because the molecule works differently than traditional antibiotics, it would probably be harder for bacteria to evolve resistance to it, said Marissa Miller of the National Institute of Allergies and

Infectious Diseases. "What's interesting is that this is an entirely new approach and we need every new idea we can get to combat antibiotic resistance," she said.

Drugs already in advanced stages of development could be altered to incorporate the type of potent beta-peptide created by Gellman's team, said Robert Hancock, a professor of microbiology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

"This points to a way of making these molecules less toxic and longer-lasting in the body," he said.

A government panel recently urged the Food and Drug Administration to approve Zyvox, a synthetic compound made by Pharmacia & Upjohn that has shown promise attacking drug-resistant bacteria. If approved, it would be the first entirely new antibiotic in 35 years.

On the Net: NIH infectious disease home page  
<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/dmid.htm>

## Texas Heart Institute implants tiny heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — A miniature heart pump, the first of its kind to be used on a person in the United States, has been implanted in the heart of a patient at the Texas Heart Institute.

The operation brings scientists closer to the elusive goal of finding a permanent alternative to the heart transplant, surgeons say.

"It's a major advance. We're all looking forward to it," said Dr. Patrick McCarthy, director of the heart transplant and artificial heart pump programs at the renowned heart research center at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

The device, known as the Jarvik 2000, is about the size of a wine cork and runs on batteries. It fits directly into the heart's left ventricle and the tiny turbine pushes oxygenated blood throughout the body when the heart no longer is able to pump properly.

The Texas Heart Institute received permission from the Food and Drug Administration to implant the device in a limited number of patients in a pilot study, the institute said.

The Jarvik 2000 was developed by Dr. Robert Jarvik, the pump's New York-based inventor, and Dr. O.H. Frazier, chief of cardiopulmonary transplantation at the Texas Heart Institute.

The device was implanted in the unidentified patient as a "bridge to transplant," buying the person time until a donor heart is available. One of the pump's developers said a second device will be tested in Oxford, England as a permanent booster

to keep a heart going for the rest of a patient's life.

A similar device pioneered by Dr. Michael DeBakey of Houston-based Baylor College of Medicine has been implanted as a bridge to transplant in 28 people in Europe, with nine people eventually getting donor hearts.

About 40,000 people have end-stage congestive heart failure. The ideal therapy is a transplant but the number of donor hearts has leveled off at 2,000 a year.

The new device also could save people who suffer sudden damage because of a heart attack.

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## Fiber can cut diabetics' blood sugar levels

By JANET MCCONNAUGHEY  
Associated Press Writer

Many diabetics can significantly lower their blood sugar — and maybe even reduce their medication or stop taking it altogether — by eating lots and lots of fruits, vegetables and high-fiber grain, researchers say.

The experimental diet — tested on 13 diabetics — contained 50 grams of fiber a day, or about twice the amount recommended by the American Diabetes Association. That is equivalent to seven or eight servings of fruit and vegetables and three of whole wheat or other high-fiber grain.

The study was published in a recent New England Journal of Medicine. It was led by Dr. Abhimanyu Garg of UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Diabetes occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin, the hormone needed for the body to process sugar for energy. The most common form of diabetes, striking up to 2,000 of every 100,000 people, usually develops gradually in adults. These people produce insulin, but not enough. Their disease usually can be controlled with diet, weight loss and once-a-day pills.

All of the people studied had this form of diabetes; 10 of them were taking pills.

The diabetics spent six weeks on the ADA-recommended diet and six weeks on the experimental diet. The experimental diet reduced blood sugar levels about 10 percent. The ADA diet is aimed at keeping blood sugar under control but does not reduce levels.

The drop in blood sugar was about the same as what a second pill might have brought, Dr. Marc Rendell of the Creighton Diabetes Center said in an editorial.

None of the patents in the study were able to reduce their medication, but Garg said that wasn't the

point of the experiment. He would not speculate on whether the diet could let patients reduce their medication.

The diet also improved the diabetics' cholesterol levels, which was encouraging. Heart disease is a major cause of death among diabetics.

An ADA task force is working on new dietary recommendations and hopes to have them out before January.

"My hope would be that the task force would take a close look at this

study," said Anne Daly, ADA vice president of health care education.

The average American eats about 16 or 17 grams of fiber a day.

Daly said the study will help more doctors realize the importance of diet in controlling diabetes.

Diabetics whose disease develops rapidly in children and teenagers often produce so little insulin that they must give themselves shots of it. The form affects about one-tenth as many people as the other form.

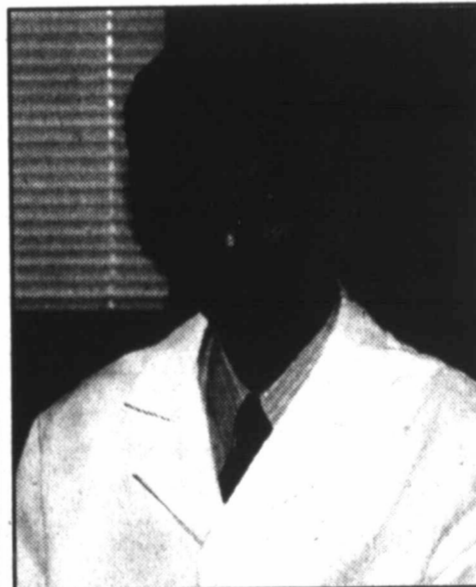
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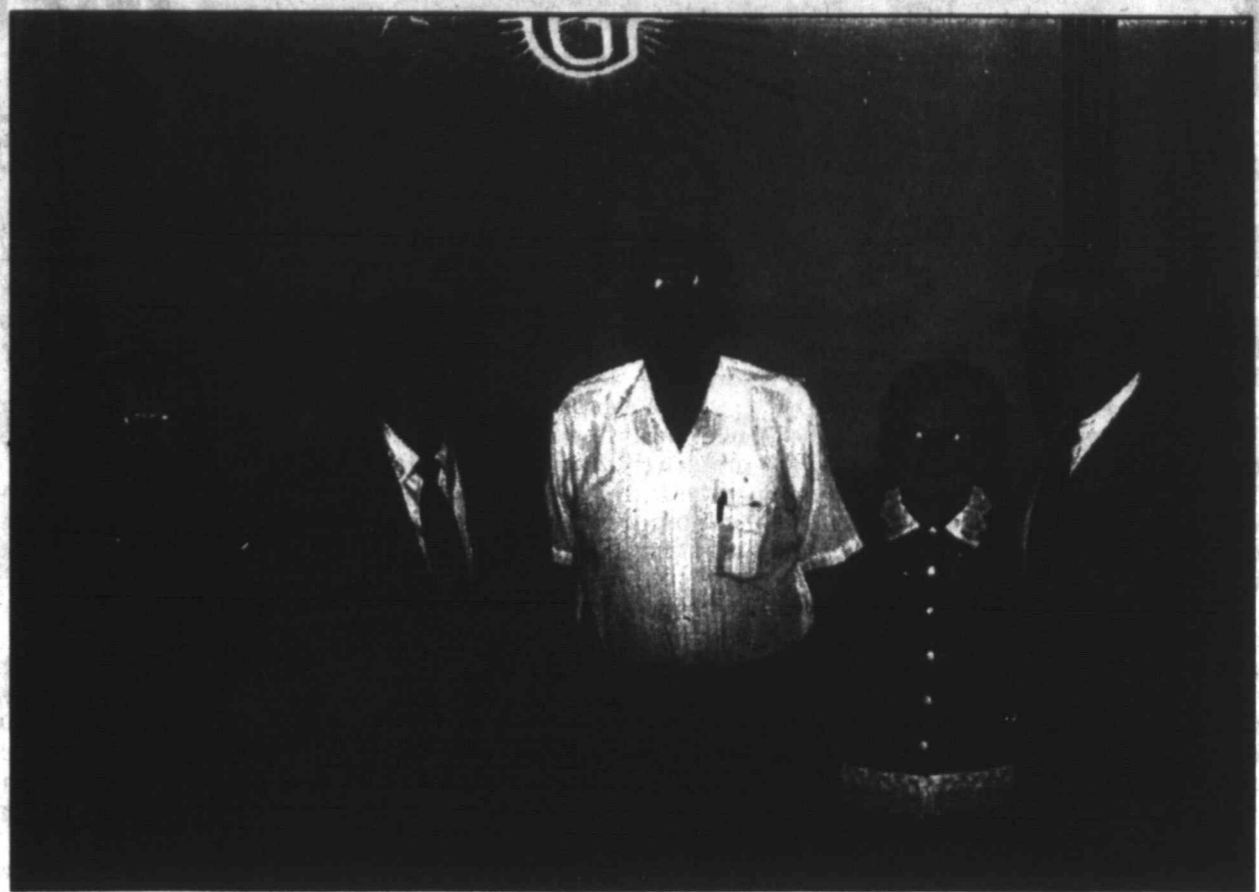
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### Eastern Star awards



(Community Camera photos)

Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star recently bestowed 50-Year Awards upon (left-right) Virginia Fore, Worthy Matron, Yvonne Scrimshire, and Gordon Fore, Worthy Patron, and 25-Year Awards upon (right) Virginia and Gordon Fore as well as Howard Musgrave, Melvin Stephens and Willie West.

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## Soldiers who fought alongside each other in 1968 Vietnam reunite

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The telephone call to the comfortable middle-class home was jarring: "Four-Five! This is One-Five Alpha!"

John Howe, a big man with a lot of Army sergeant still in him, cried at the greeting he last heard in the jungles of Vietnam as part of Bravo Company. The call transcended 32 years since the two men on the line last clung to life together, side by side.

Howe, now 53, took that call and the memories of terror that came with it to reunite with Randy Keck, 50, of Baltimore, over the Memorial Day weekend. But what makes this reunion of two veterans at Howe's Albany home rare is that it's not simply between combat veterans who shared the same theater of operations, branch of service, or even

the same sprawling unit. They shared hours that could have been their last.

"John and I just look at each other, not say a word, and understand each other," said Keck, who spotted Howe's name in a veterans' publication and conversed by e-mail. "We have a common bond of a traumatic experience that has affected both of our lives ... I've got a lifelong friend now."

It's been a long time between chat sessions.

"We got to know each other talking philosophy, leaning on M-16s, on some Godforsaken trail," Howe said.

They got to know each other better on a patch of jungle in the Iron Triangle north of Saigon over four days in September 1968.

Back then, Howe could see Keck in a foxhole 30 yards away as mortars fell and rockets screamed. The next day they were part of a "bait mission," in which they scaled a steep slope with grappling hooks to draw fire.

Exhausted, they went to sleep that night in the field.

Then came 2 a.m., on Friday the 13th.

What Howe described as a human wave of Viet Cong hit the infantry unit. In Keck's small foxhole, a friend named Lonnie Lunday was killed.

"We fought like hell for four or five hours and that's an eternity," Howe said.

Bravo Company shot 400 to 500 rounds of mortar, a month's supply. Helicopters fired 2,000 bullets a minute 4 feet off the ground in support. The company shot 80 to 100 rounds of yellow-orange flares to illuminate the dark, the mortar smoke, and to locate the source rockets and green tracer bullets raining on them. For hours.

"It was brutal," said Howe, who has made a good living writing about Vietnam and as the host of a radio show. But he finds this night hard to describe.

When it was over, Howe and Keck were still standing. After 100 days in the jungle, the unit was back at the main base. Jeep trailers were filled with beer, soda and steaks for a celebration.

They celebrated as hard as they

fought. Then it happened again at 2 a.m.

Rocket attacks. Howe and Keck rolled into trenches, then into their gear and scrambled into trucks that rushed them to the helicopter pads. Minutes later they were in the jungle, with heavy steel helmets on throbbing hung-over heads, in 100-degree temperatures, and no plan to get them out.

As the onslaught eased with their advance, Howe stepped near a freshly shed 12-foot cobra skin and wondered just where he was.

Then, a soldier from Puerto Rico slung his rifle down and strummed it like a guitar while singing Latin rhythms. He shouted: "We're going to have ice cream!"

Thirty-two years later, Howe and Keck planned to have that ice cream.

"That would be great," Howe said. "We'll have ice cream."

On the Net: <http://www.veterans.state.ny.us/vnmemorial.htm>

## No. 1 U.S. Jersey herd sold

MENOMONIE, Wis. (AP) — With milk prices hitting bottom, dairy farmer Charlie Price decided to go out on top — selling off the nation's No. 1-ranked Jersey herd.

Price, of Red Cedar, said several factors motivated him to decide earlier this year to liquidate his 80-head herd.

"Poor milk price, I think, is the main reason," Price told the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram as he busied himself in the barn, within earshot of the auctioneer's patter Saturday.

In February, Price's milk income fell short of meeting expenses. Since then, milk prices have continued to drop to their lowest levels in years.

Though he has a steady income selling bulls to artificial insemination firms, Price decided it was a

good time to get out.

Since switching from Holsteins to Jerseys in 1985, Price has built one of the nation's finest herds.

For the past two years Price has raised the top U.S. Jersey herd, ranking first in the nation for milk, fat and protein. In 1997 the herd topped the nation in protein and the year before it ranked highest in fat.

The first cow put on the auction block Saturday morning drew \$22,000, which pleased Price.

"The cows are at their prime, so I expected them to sell well," he said.

Neal Smith of the American Jersey Cattle Association, who assisted with the sale, said he had never seen a herd of such high quality for sale. Buyers came from as far as Texas, Pennsylvania, and Washington state to bid on the

herd. Price said he wouldn't be surprised if the cattle were spread out across 10 or 15 states.

Wade Schoneck traveled three hours from Marion in central Wisconsin for the opportunity to bid on Price's high-quality heifers. Early in the sale, Schoneck nabbed one for his own herd.

Schoneck said he wasn't surprised at the sale, but he said it wasn't a good sign for the dairy industry when the nation's top breeder decides to sell.

Price said all the cattle were sold Saturday, bringing in a total of \$264,750, and some were shipped to the new owners immediately.

Ten cattle, including the top-selling cow, probably not leave for about a week for a trip to Ephrata, Wash., he said.

Price said he handled the sale well, but when the last trailer rolls out "it's probably going to be a little hard to take."

"You hate to sell your life's work," he said, "but then there's always a time to sell."

However, Price he said he looks forward to a new job working for his son's trucking company. He also wants to save time for a little traveling now that he will be free from the responsibility that goes with dairy farming.

"It's just too darn hard to get away from a herd of cows," he said. In three decades Price and his wife Jean have taken only two vacations.

Price said other Jersey breeders had mixed reactions when they discovered he was selling.

"They're excited about the opportunity to buy the animals, but they're a little surprised I'm getting out," he said.

Dairy farmer Kenneth Larson, a former neighbor of Price, said he understood Price's decision that it was the right time to leave the business.

"If he gets lonely for it, he can start over again," Larson said.

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