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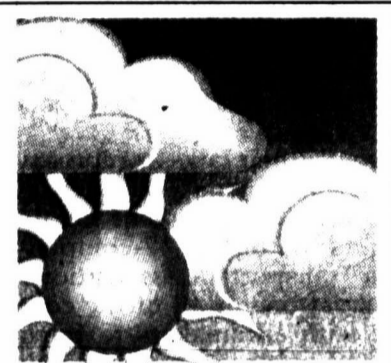
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ROBERT KNOWLES
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SHOPPER

Vol. 93 No. 48 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday \$1

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For weather details see Page 2

PAMPA — The WRCA Junior Ranch Rodeo and Horse Auction was held recently at the Clyde Carruth Pavilion. Over \$500 was raised during the Horse Auction which featured Pokey the Clown and his "custom designed" stick horses. Several panhandle teams qualified to participate in the WRCA Junior Ranch Rodeo World Championship Finals slated this fall in Amarillo — teams from Sinclair Cattle Co., Panhandle; Sinclair Cattle Co. (Junior Division Team), Panhandle; Anchor M Ranch, Dumas; and the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association Team, Pampa. For more information, contact the rodeo office at (806) 669-0434.

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The jackpot was worth \$10 million. The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 1-15-18-32-46-47. Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$14 million.

- **Natalie Kate Christner**, 17-month-old daughter of Jeff and Millie Christner.
- **Gayle DeLeon**, 61, employee of Morrison's Supply in Amarillo.
- **Gail Lee Freeman**, 59, retired teacher, Arabian horse breeder.
- **Joe W. Jernigan**, 45, former assistant district attorney in Potter County.
- **Herschel E. Powell**, 59, aircraft worker.
- **Stacey Kaye Sehorn**, 19, PHS Class of '99 graduate.

Classified 7
Comics 4
Medical 5
Sports 6

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PHS Class of '99 grad dies in pickup accident

A Class of '99 Pampa High graduate, Stacey Kaye Sehorn, 19, was killed and three other young people were injured in a pickup truck rollover early Sunday morning.

They were traveling south at 2:45 a.m. on Loop 171 in a 1995 GMC extended-cab pickup when DPS reports show the driver, Justin Sober, 22, failed to stop at a stop sign at the intersection with the Lefors Highway (273). The truck hit a bar ditch and became airborne. According to Pampa firefighters the vehicle had overturned but landed on its wheels 144 feet from the road.

Sehorn, the daughter of KGRO-KOMX radio owners Darrell and Linda Sehorn, was apparently killed instantly, according to reports.

Although his leg was broken,



Stacey Kaye Sehorn

Sober got out of the pickup and made his way to the road to seek help. He was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center

where he remains in stable condition today.

Also in the pickup were Nakisha Horton, 19, Amarillo, who along with Shawn Allen Reames, 29, of Pampa, were both airlifted to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo where both remain in critical condition today with head injuries.

According to reports, none of the four were wearing seat belts. Emergency personnel on the scene said all three passengers were still in the vehicle when they arrived but Sehorn was already dead.

Sehorn had graduated Friday and planned to attend Amarillo College. She was working for ADVOCOM Companies which provide employment for the mentally and physically challenged.

Her obituary is on Page 2.

Judge nixes motion to suppress evidence Men to stand trial for drugs

Two men must still stand trial for drug possession after a motion to suppress evidence was denied.

Pete Vargas Perez and Jesus Rodriguez both of Pampa, were arrested July 24 of last year at a vacant house at 405 Davis. Police had been called to the residence on a suspicious person call, according to Pampa Police Officer Keith Morris.

Officer Morris and Trevor McGill entered the house through the back door and Officer Heather Kemp entered through the front door; all had their guns drawn.

They found Perez and Rodriguez in the kitchen. In plain sight the officers found a syringe full of suspected cocaine. In the bathroom, also in view, according to Morris, they found some alleged cocaine.

Both men were arrested for drug possession. Attorneys Gene Thompson, representing Rodriguez, and David Holt, representing Perez, filed motions to suppress on the basis that the vacant house is owned by Rodriguez's mother, Manuela, and they had her permission to be in the house.

They contended that the police had no search warrant and therefore no right to enter the house.

Last week, 223rd Judge Lee Waters ruled against the motions on the grounds that the vacant house was not a residence and not regulated by rules on entering a home.

He also ruled that the search of the house to search was reasonable under the circumstances and there were circumstances that would make a search of the house reasonable.

Filter to rid bingo hall of smoke

The Pampa Veterans of Foreign War Post 1657 recently installed an air filtration system to eliminate any second-hand smoke originating from bingo players who do smoke during bingo games.

The membership has had an ongoing concern that some individuals who might wish to participate in the bingo games were refraining from doing so because of the tobacco smoke, according to a news release.

The release said that after a great deal of deliberation and some extensive research, the

membership arranged for financing for the installation of a state-of-the-art air filtration system which will all but eliminate any second hand smoke derived from those bingo players who do smoke.

VFW members hope the investment will enable more people to enjoy the bingo games held each Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evening while at the same time make for a healthier environment for everyone using the VFW Post Home, according to the release.



Pampa High School Valedictorian Thann Scoggin gives his address to the Class of '99 during commencement ceremonies Friday night. Behind him is PHS principal John Kendall.

Meeting Zach



(Pampa News photo by L.D. Strate)
Miami Dolphins star Zach Thomas holds 2-year old Daniel Winton during a benefit appearance at St. Vincent Catholic School Saturday afternoon. Daniel is the son of Gary and Sheila Winton of Pampa. Thomas, a Pampa native, enters his fourth season as the Dolphins' starting middle linebacker.

PISD resignations, hirings, renewals get board approval

By **NANCY YOUNG**
Managing Editor

Pampa Independent School District trustees have approved the renewal of administrative contracts at the campus and district level, employed two new teachers and accepted the resignation of four new teachers.

Teacher resignations were accepted last week from Jessie Brantwein, Pampa High; Patricia Muniz, Pampa Learning Center; Cara Kee, Lamar Elementary; and Cyndi Austin, Pampa Middle School.

Two new teachers were hired for Pampa High. Don Ledesma will teach art and Timothy Leeper will teach science.

Campus administrative contracts which were approved were Ron Warren, principal, Austin Elementary; Cay Warner, principal, Lamar Elementary; Tom Lindsey, principal, Wilson Elementary; Doug Rapstine, principal, Travis Elementary; Tim Powers, principal, Pampa Middle School; John Kendall, principal, Pampa High; Floyd Sackett, assistant principal, Pampa High; Daniel Barker, assistant principal, Pampa High; Randall Stephenson, assistant principal, Pampa Middle; Raymond Thornton, assistant principal, Pampa Middle; and Richard Steele, counselor, Pampa Learning Center.

Central administration contracts which were approved were Jane Steele, assistant superintendent; Mark McVay, business manager; Carol Fields, assistant business manager; Debbie Robertson, special education director; Jack Bailey, personnel director; Anita Patterson.

(See PISD, Page 2)

Jail time in 'coke' case

A former Pampa resident was sentenced to 90 days in Gray County jail after agreeing to a plea bargain last week.

Sandra Denise Rogers, 38, 1229 Darby, who has been living in Lubbock, pled guilty to delivery of a controlled substance on May 20 of last year.

The incident happened when two undercover members of the Panhandle Drug Task Force entered the Biarritz Club in Pampa. According to court records, the two lawmen began talking with Rogers at the club and the conversation soon turned to drugs. Rogers said she could get some "crack" for the pair.

The three then left the club and drove to the 1100 block of Huff where Rogers approached several men on the sidewalk. She ask for \$75 of crack cocaine and he gave her 5 "rocks of crack cocaine" but said the price was \$80. She paid the difference and gave the officers four of the "rocks" and kept one for herself.

The officers then took the package to Amarillo where it tested positive for cocaine.

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M.G. Dancers



(Special photo)

Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics Center will hold its spring recital at 7:30 p.m. June 5 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Performing during the performance with the M.G. Dancers: (back row) Meagan Clark, Kaylee Greenhouse, Lindzi Schiabe, Kristen Hagg, Lauren Denney, Audrey Dunn; (third row) Staci Clay, Brianna Bailey, Kaylee Keith, Brianna Stynes, Lauren Watters; (second row) Musetta Carver, Alyson Orr, Natasha Bailey, Jacklyn Cargill, Annie Chumbley; (front) Kaylie Brewer.

Club News

Club news is published strictly on a first come first serve basis due to limited space. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m. (Tuesday at 12 noon the week of Thanksgiving and Christmas) though this deadline does not guarantee publication. Thank you.

Highland Hobby Club

Highland Hobby Club met recently at the home of hostess Johanie Rohde with President Gloria Norris presiding. Five members were present.

Mairlyn Kirkwood, secretary-treasurer, read minutes from the previous meeting and gave the financial report. Both were approved.

The door prize was won by Jewel Holmes.

The next meeting will be in September with Mildred Salsman serving as hostess.

Preceptor Theta Iota

Preceptor Theta Iota Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met recently in the home of Carolyn Smith for its end of year salad supper. Eleven members were present.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Assignments were made for the coming year and secret gifts were exchanged.

—The PTI and other chapters in the City Council will sponsor a Special Olympics banquet in June. Monica Leonard will chair the event.

—The chapter hosted a meeting for potential members recently. During the meeting Membership Chairman Nancy Broggin discussed the history and advantages of BSP, an international social and cultural organization for women which meets twice monthly. For further membership information, call Broggin at 665-5855.

Altrusa

Altrusa International, Inc., of Pampa met May 25 at Pampa Country Club with President Mayda King presiding. Guest Susan Triplehorn was among those present. Members observed a moment of silence in memory of longtime member Marian Jameson.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—The recipient of the Geraldine Rampy Adult Vocational Award was J.J. Slatten.

—Donna Crow presented the accent, "Key to Altrusa."

—Lifting a Spirit awards were bestowed upon Kadda Schale, Linda Lamb, DeLynn Gordzelik and Terry Gamblin.

—Glydene Shelton installed the following officers for the 1999-00 club year: Schale, president; Karen Bridges, president-elect; Brenda Tucker, vice president; Cinda Jennings, recording secretary; Anne Stobbe, corresponding secretary; Gamblin, treasurer; Myrna Orr, parliamentarian; Julie Cooke, Kerrick Horton, Jeanne Mitchell, directors; King, immediate past president.

—King delivered her president's report and was presented a plaque as outgoing president.

—The gavel and president's pin were passed on to incoming president Schale who reviewed her goals for the coming year and announced her theme, "Sowing the Seeds of Service."

The next meeting will be June 8 at the country club.

Gymnastics of Pampa Summer Ballet

with Deanna McGill

Ballet Registration June 2nd

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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GOSPEL MEETING

MAY 30 - JUNE 4

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TOGETHER WITH—

LAWRENCE KELLEY - NEDERLAND, TEXAS

SUNDAY-9:30 AM CLASS— A CHURCH LIKE JERUSALEM

10:30 AM WORSHIP— WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER

6:30 PM WORSHIP— HE IS RISEN

WEEKDAY MORNING STUDY THEME—

'ANCIENT WISDOM FOR MODERN MAN'

MONDAY-10 AM—*PROVERBS*

7:30 PM—GOD'S FORMULA FOR TRUE HAPPINESS

TUESDAY-10 AM—*ECCLESIASTES*

7:30 PM—WINNERS AND LOSERS

WEDNESDAY-10 AM—*JOB*

7:30 PM—THE PRODIGAL SON

THURSDAY-

7:30 PM—MAKING THE MOST OF MARRIAGE

FRIDAY-

7:30 PM—BE NOT WEARY IN WELL DOING

"HAPPY IS THE MAN WHO FINDS WISDOM, AND THE MAN WHO GAINS UNDERSTANDING; FOR HER PROCEEDS ARE BETTER THAN THE PROFITS OF SILVER, AND HER GAIN THAN FINE GOLD. SHE IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN RUBIES, AND ALL THE THINGS YOU MAY DESIRE CANNOT COMPARE WITH HER." - PROVERBS 3: 13-15.

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.

Clarendon College offering computer CEUs

CLARENDON — Clarendon College will be offering several continuing education computer classes in June including: "Internet for Non-Surfers," "Beginning Microsoft," and "Intermediate Microsoft Excel."

Internet for Non-Surfers will demonstrate how to get connected and explore what is available on the Internet. It will teach students to download programs, send e-mail and search for information. The course will be offered from 1-4 p.m., June 15-17. Cost of the course is \$30.

Beginning Microsoft Word will deal with creating and editing documents as well as common word processing tasks. The course will be offered from 6-9 p.m. June 17, 24 and July 1. Cost of the course is \$30.

Intermediate Microsoft Excel will explore how to use this program for spreadsheet tasks. The course will be offered from 6-9 p.m. June 15, 22 and 29. Cost of the course is \$30. For more information or to register for a course, call CC at 1-800-687-9737 or (806) 874-3571.

In Loving Memory of
Sanford La' Craig Kelley
Dec. 24, 1969 May 31, 1995

Every morning I wake up.
I go outside to see.
The handwork of Jesus.
Is all around me.

A walk in the house.
A picture of you I see.
That smile on your face.
I still hold dear to me.
A song sometime I hear
Remind me of you
We miss you SAN, Sweet memory of you.

Love Always
Ed. & Mrs. Hubert Kelley
Edric, Monica, Shavious & Veronica
We miss you daddy
Destiney, Kersey & La'



THE Pampa NEWS

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1-800-687-3348 • FAX: 669-2520
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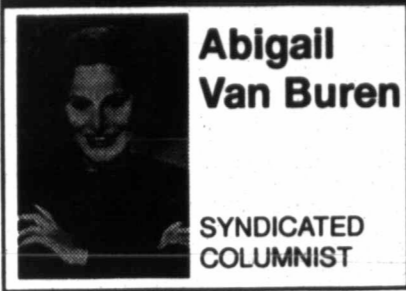
Vows Celebrated in Silver Are Just as Good as Gold

DEAR ABBY: My mother insisted I read the letter from "Married (Really!)" — it was fantastic! Six weeks ago, I replied, "In a heartbeat," when the love of my life asked me to marry him. My engagement ring is a diamond-shaped turquoise stone set in sterling silver. It's a Native American piece we found in our favorite antique shop. I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of it, what it means to me, and how special the man who gave it to me is. Neither of us is a gold-and-diamond person. We love the western United States, the outdoors, Levis and a comfortable pair of boots. Silver and turquoise was the natural choice.

An Apache legend says that if you follow a rainbow to its end and dig in the wet earth, you'll find precious turquoise. So my comment to anyone who questions the significance of my "rock" is: "Diamonds look like ice; ice is cold. Why would I want a chunk of ice announcing my engagement?"

Thank you, Abby. That clipping is heading for the keepsake box. You may print my name.
ANN KELLY (SOON TO BE SNEYDER), SIDNEY, ILL.

DEAR ANN: My congratulations to you and your fiancé. You are a wise woman. Diamonds aren't a girl's best friend — the man who asks her to share his future is. Regardless of Apache legend, the treasure at the end of your rainbow was



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

your fiancé. May it ever be thus. Some of the responses I've received about wedding rings have been gems. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing to encourage "Married (Really!)" whose wedding vows are represented by silver and turquoise wedding rings. She seems at her wit's end in dealing with the rude remarks of others regarding this very personal choice of rings.

When my husband and I married, we exchanged lovely rings, each with three diamonds. However, several years into our marriage we both found ourselves working in jobs where wearing rings would be hazardous or they could easily be lost. By mutual consent, we stored our precious rings and wear them only on special occasions.

When we first started appearing without our rings, the small-town rumor mill started churning. Now, 15 years later, people are still amazed to see us together. We've been happily married for nearly 30 years. Each passing year is richer than the last — and quite frankly, I

couldn't care less what others think about our marriage. I certainly do not have to prove to anyone that I am married.

So, "Married (Really!)," enjoy the rings you and your spouse chose as the symbol of your loving bond with each other, and to heck with anyone who questions your marital status. STILL MARRIED (REALLY!), GREAT FALLS, MONT.

DEAR STILL MARRIED: Rumors can be devastating if you let them. I applaud your healthy attitude. If everyone swept his own doorstep, the world would be a better place. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm responding to the letter from "Married (Really!)" in Arizona. When my wife and I were engaged, I could afford only a modest wedding band set with a very small diamond. Years later, in better times, I broached the idea of a new engagement ring with a larger diamond.

My wife was appalled at the idea. The original was the ring that I had given her, and no other could replace it! I have since come to realize that the real jewel in our marriage is the love we have for each other.

BOB IN BUFFALO

DEAR BOB: Absolutely. I couldn't have put it more succinctly.

Horoscope

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 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) *** Recognize that you are in the limelight. Others come to you for help and advice. Be willing to give 100 percent. You might be stunned by how serious everyone is after such a joyful weekend. Pressure is intense. Frustration mounts. Tonight: Working late.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** Recognize your limitations. There are some loose ends that need to be tied up. Ask questions and find solutions. An expert might be exactly what you need. Detach; take an overview. Your mind could drift to recent events. Relax and go with the flow. Tonight: Watch a favorite movie.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Success is likely if you keep a low profile and follow your intuition. Discussions with a partner are very important. Let him walk you through a situation step by step. Remain in touch with your feelings. Don't accept terms of a decision with which you aren't comfortable. Tonight: Could be cozy!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Your magnetism is high. Know what you want, and understand where others are coming from. Your instincts lead you in the right direction.

Make time for an important meeting. Listen to your inner voice when making choices. Right now, the world is your oyster. Tonight: Say "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Get into work. You can and will accomplish a lot. Your wisdom is sought; many look to you for advice. However, be aware that dispensing it requires assuming responsibility. Take a walk at lunch to relax as tension builds. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Your creativity surges. You think your ideas are great, but another is a skeptic and could rain on your parade. Listen to feedback politely, then do your own thing. A child or loved one still wants more time from you. Why not? Allow more joy into your life. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Discussions with associates emphasize security and high-priority issues. Take your time when making decisions. Settle in some; think things through. Carefully check out an investment, especially if it involves real estate. A family member needs you. Tonight: Spend time with a special friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Others seek you out. Popularity builds. Listen to feedback, but call your own shots. Your sense of responsibility comes through, no matter what. Be upfront and ready to take action. Communication is busy, sometimes overwhelming. Return calls. Tonight: Buy some flowers on the way home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** Accent finances and work. You

land on your feet as you tackle one project after another. Respect co-workers, but make your own choices. Be careful — it might be way too easy to spend money. If you're feeling uncomfortable, make a resolution to change what is ailing you. Tonight: Pay bills.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Somehow, you are relieved to be back to work and to your routine. Take time with a child or a difficult loved one. Your creativity seems off, but your magnetism runs high. Go for what you want, but be open to another's opinions. Success lies in brainstorming. Tonight: Your choice!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ** Say little while you feel a bit down. Remain optimistic, despite news that comes your way. Maintain an overview. Listen to options, but defer a decision. A family member could be rather hard on you. Don't internalize his comments. Tonight: Head home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Start conversations, even if another is remote and difficult. Get together with friends. Attend a must meeting. Bring friends together. A political or personal commitment occupies some extra time. The effort is worth it! Tonight: Go for what you want.

BORN TODAY
Actor Rene Auberjonois (1940), actress Lisa Hartman Black (1956), musician Ron Wood (1947)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.coolpage.com/bigar>. © 1999 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

For Better or For Worse



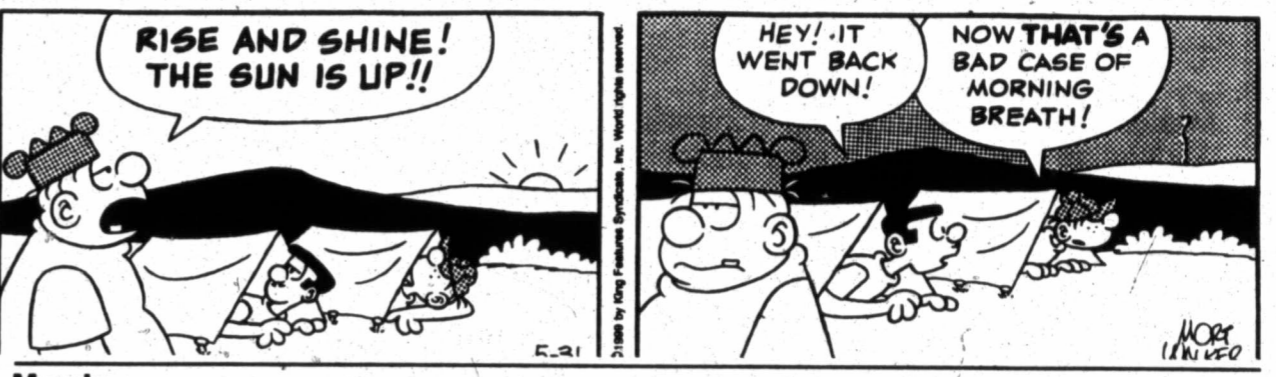
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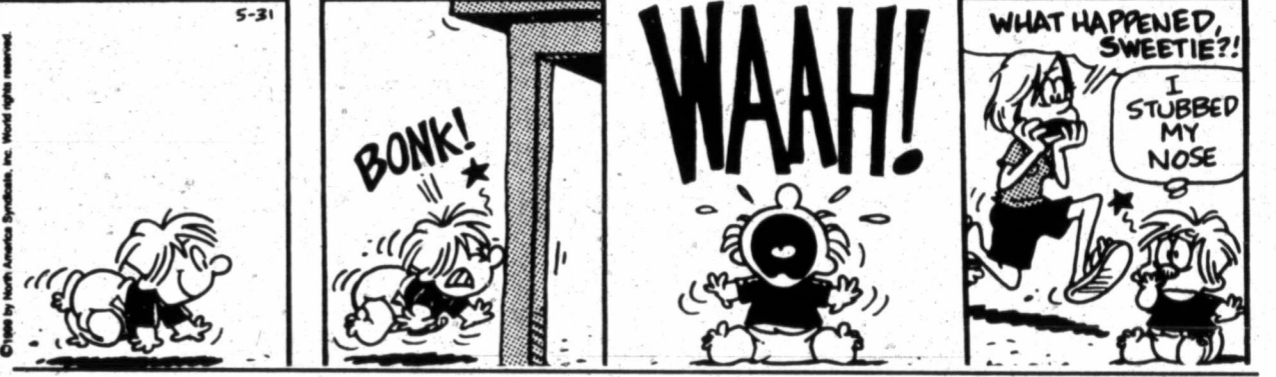
Garfield



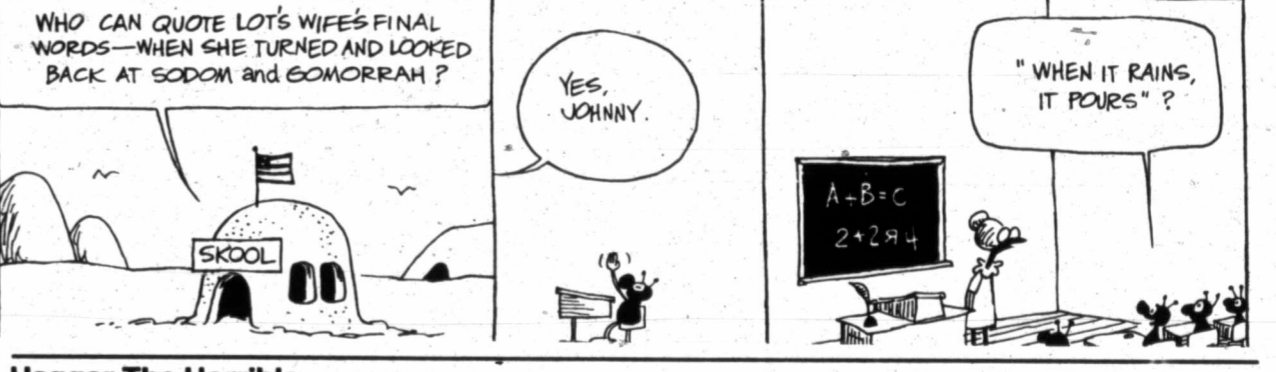
Beetle Bailey



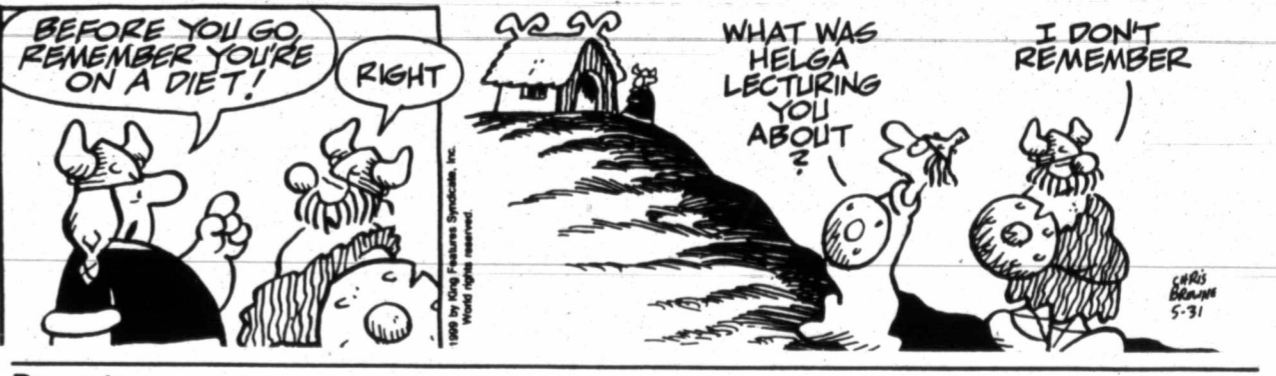
Marvin



B.C.



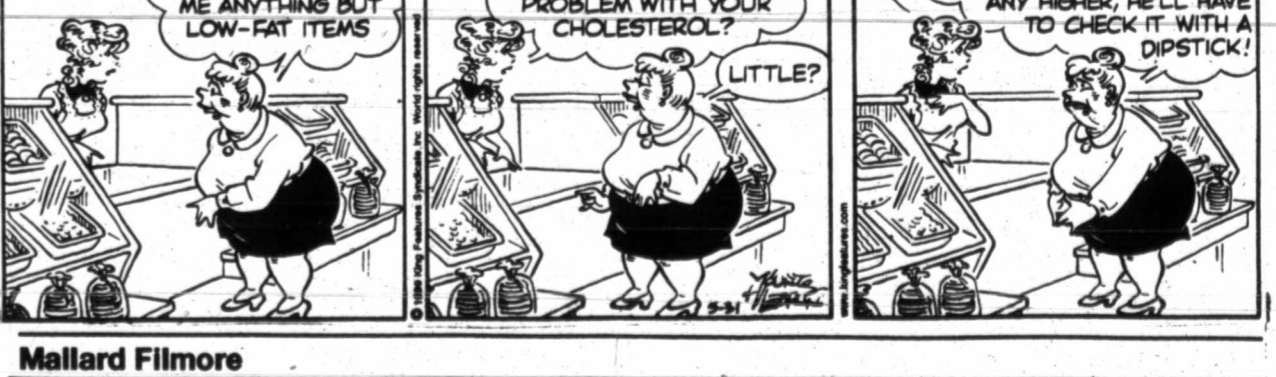
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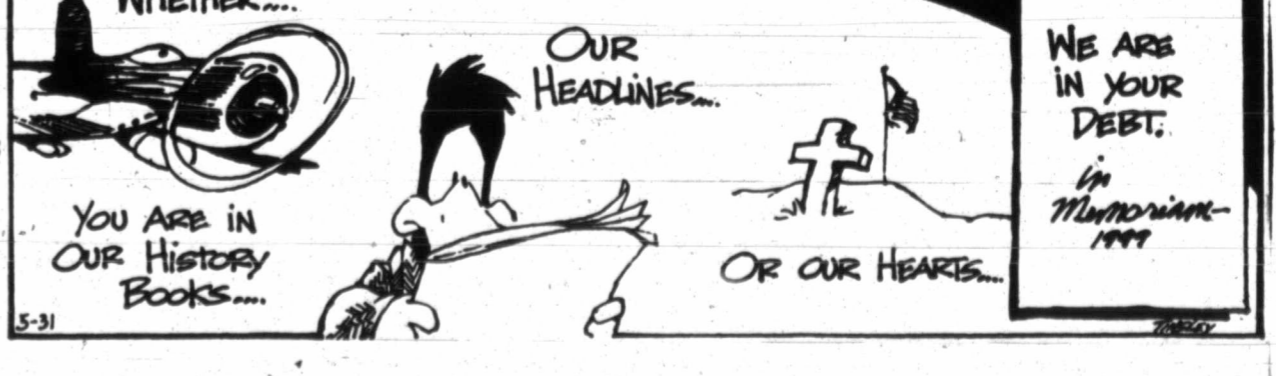
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

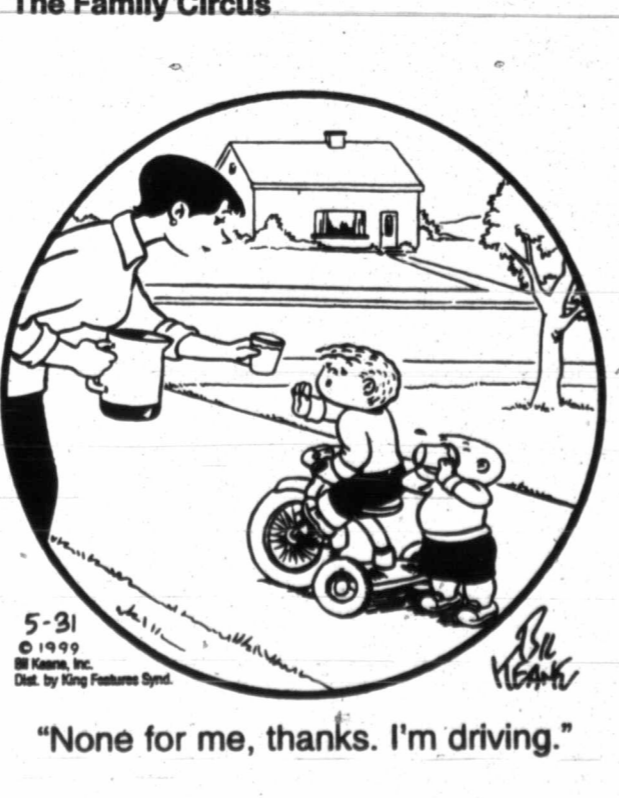
- ACROSS**
- Castle
 - surrounders
 - Steven Bochco series
 - Tax cheat's worry
 - Suspect's story
 - TV ad, for short
 - Water sources
 - Nights before
 - Golf support
 - Relax
 - Egyptian symbol
 - Water down
 - Cloth piece
 - Copier need
 - Tatter
 - At one's — end
 - New soldier
 - Fall behind
 - "Geel"
 - Banish
 - Beer type
 - "Manhattan" director
 - Scent
 - Banquet
 - Joined
- DOWN**
- Atlas page
 - Wildler's "— Town"
 - Fuss
 - Joint-ownership condo
 - Kitchen need
 - Court action
 - Pub brew
 - Melody
 - Competent
 - Like a sage
 - Final
 - Final
 - Formerly
 - Gumbo base
 - Cultivating item
 - Hand or foot
 - Head, in France
 - Gaelic
 - Like radishes
 - Arafat's grp.
 - Koran faith
 - Tree part
 - Wheel connector
 - River to the Colorado
 - Guitarist Paul
 - Obtained
 - Aussie bird
 - Grammys category



Marmaduke



The Family Circus



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

MEDICAL

Tackling the isolation of mental illness

By BEN DOBBIN
Associated Press Writer

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Tim Cassidy lives a mostly solitary life. Alone in his studio apartment, planted in his armchair, he'll spend an entire weekend watching television. Heading out to his part-time clerical job, he may greet a neighbor in the hallway with little more than a polite hello.

And when his case manager calls, it's strictly business, the 37-year-old Cassidy said with a shrug. "We don't go out to the movies or anything."

But Cassidy, a former Navy seaman's apprentice who suffers from chronic schizophrenia, is not entirely on his own. He has a friend in David Miller, 41, a volunteer who's been coming by for a few hours every couple of weeks for the last 12 years.

Often, they'll go to a hockey game, catch a movie or set off hiking. The day frequently wraps up with an exuberant family meal with the Millers and their three children. "I look forward to going out with Dave. When he calls, I'm excited," Cassidy said with sudden emphasis, as if rousing himself from a stupor.

Cassidy has lost years of his life to mental illness. He's inching back with the help of sophisticated drugs, community-based housing and a national organization called Compeer Inc., which enlists volunteers to befriend people with psychiatric disorders.

Breaking through the social isolation that commonly accompanies mental illness can be a crucial step on the bumpy road to recovery. "It's the loneliest illness in the world," said Bernice Skirboll, who launched Compeer in 1977 and draws on 5,000 recruits in 30 states. "People are feeling so down about themselves, like they're not worth anything."

"If you have friends who support you and nurture you, you can overcome any obstacle, whatever curves life throws you. We have incredible outcomes. People begin to believe in themselves; they increase their risk-taking."

Dan Fisher, a psychiatrist in Lawrence, Mass., once stricken with

schizophrenia, thinks isolation is a primary trigger in mental illness. In his case, he said, a crucial factor in recovery was "having a significant social role, being accepted and accepting oneself as a member of a community one lives in."

Breaking through the social isolation that commonly accompanies mental illness can be a crucial step on the bumpy road to recovery.

Compeer emerged when severely ill adults were leaving psychiatric institutions in droves, the result of a switch in emphasis to community care. "My goal was to make them less dependent on the institution by making the community a friendlier place," Skirboll said.

Nonetheless, stigma and discrimination remain pervasive. "Mental illness has not come out of the closet like cancer or AIDS," she lamented. "We've been looking for a national spokesperson for years. We've written to a lot of celebrities."

Cassidy was diagnosed at age 20 with schizophrenia, an illness typified by disordered thinking. His grip on reality came loose during an eight-month cruise. Lying on his bunk, he began hearing voices and seeing visions of "people and shadows and things."

Recounting his four-year odyssey through hospitals and psychiatric wards doesn't appear easy for him, as if the illness has blurred his memories. But the locked doors, the strictness, the absence of good food are vivid. "I had my share of cereal," he joked.

Most days, he still sees "dark lines" on his apartment floor. Periodically, he gets an uncomfortable feeling he's about to step on someone. Dislocated voices sometimes issue commands, but they're no longer negative, he said.

Schizophrenia affects, in varying degrees, about 1 percent of Americans. With science opening up understanding of brain disorders long considered intractable, two-thirds of sufferers live functional lives.

Cassidy takes Clozaril, an antipsychotic drug that keeps his demons at bay. He is still prone to bouts of lethargy, dread and depression, and may begin taking an additional medicine.

A stocky man, Cassidy recently went shopping with Miller for a bicycle. Besides providing much-needed exercise, it will take him across town to play miniature golf, his favorite pastime.

Cassidy's mother, Joan Welch, helps with shopping, drives him to work when he feels so sluggish he wants to quit and prods doctors to try more effective treatments.

"I've always been his advocate," she said. One of Cassidy's six siblings also lives in town and helps out.

Under a community residence program run by Rochester's East House, Cassidy first lived in a group home with a dozen other mentally ill people. He progressed to living with a roommate and then got his own place in 1997.

"Each step is better for me," he said, although the \$490 rent leaves little for luxuries. He earns \$60 a month at his job, and so he relies heavily on Social Security and food stamps.

His friend Miller, a manager at a textile company, said, "All of us experience depression or loneliness or some type of mental illness from time to time. I just think some of us pull out of it differently than others."

In the Compeer program, Miller receives periodic training that emphasizes building up interdependence in people who, after years of inwardness, have lost social skills and contacts.

"I always look forward to seeing Tim," Miller said. "The first couple of years, our visits were quiet. But as we've gotten more comfortable and sillier with each other, we spend more time talking."

"The friendship helps me slow down and keeps me focused on the most important things in my life, too. I get with Tim and can begin to imagine walking a mile in his shoes."

Study finds rise in signs of eating disorders

By ALEXIS CHIU
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Symptoms of eating disorders have increased fivefold among teen-age girls on Fiji since television came to the Pacific island nation, researchers say.

The year TV was widely introduced in Fiji in 1995, only 3 percent of girls reported they vomited to control their weight, according to the study by Harvard researcher Anne Becker.

Three years later, 15 percent reported the behavior.

"They look to television characters as role models," said Becker, who presented her findings Wednesday at the American Psychiatric Association annual meeting in Washington.

"While it's an everyday concept to Americans, reshaping the body is a new

concept to Fijians," she said.

Though Becker cautioned that the study does not establish a definitive link between television and eating disorders, she said the increases were dramatic in a culture that traditionally has focused on the importance of eating well and looking robust.

Other warning signs were high in the follow-up study in 1998, with 74 percent of the Fijian girls reporting feeling "too big or fat" at least sometimes and 62 percent reporting dieting in the past month.

Traditionally, Fijians call noticeable weight loss "going thin," and see it as an alarming sign of illness or lack of resources, she said.

Fiji has only one TV channel, which shows mostly American, Australian and British programs. Favorites include "Melrose Place," "ER"

and "Xena: Warrior Princess."

One girl in the study said the teen-agers on television are "slim and very tall" and that, "We want our bodies to become like that ... so we try to lose a lot of weight."

For the study, a total of 129 girls ages 15 to 19 were interviewed, said Becker, head of research at the Harvard Eating Disorders Center and assistant professor of medical anthropology. Researchers surveyed 64 girls in 1995 and 65 in 1998 and did not track individuals over the three-year period.

The shift by young people away from an acceptance of heaviness comes as Fijians and other South Pacific peoples battle problems brought on by a high-fat, high-volume diet, like pig meat and calorie-dense root foods like yams, cassava and taro.

Becker also found that 84 percent of village women in the study's sample were overweight or obese, and New Zealand's National Heart Foundation has said more than 70 percent of Pacific Islanders suffer from health problems related to bad diet, including heart disease, obesity and the highest diabetes incidence rate in the world.

Television, however, is just one part of the cultural change taking place on the once-isolated island.

"Television is part and parcel of this rapid change and exposure to global values and media images," she said. "In a community such as Fiji, adolescents are particularly vulnerable."

"They're trying to emulate a lifestyle: Western-style clothes, haircuts and slim bodies," she said.

Dr. Lil Nguyen at Stanford University said the findings don't surprise her.

"There is very possibly a correlation between how the media portrays women and how it affects the value girls place on their bodies," said Nguyen, who works with young women who have eating disorders. She had not seen the Harvard study.

Dietary supplement claims to aid in fertility

WASHINGTON (AP) — A nonprescription fertility aid? A company claims to found a dietary supplement that may improve a man's sperm quality, citing European studies that have some fertility specialists cautiously intrigued.

But the same doctors who plan to experiment with the product, called proXeed, warn that there's no proof yet that it works — and are urging Americans to see a doctor before trying it on their own. There are many causes of male infertility, occasionally life-threatening ones, that proXeed can't help but that regular medicine can.

"I'm anxious and excited to see how it works, but I'd not at this point tell patients it's going to work," said Dr. Larry Lipshultz, a Baylor College of Medicine urologist and president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

But proXeed isn't thought to cause side effects, so "the only thing you have to lose is the \$100 a month you're going to spend" trying it, added Lipshultz, who is giving it to patients.

Other options such as in vitro fertilization can cost thousands.

Up to 40 percent of conception difficulties are believed caused, at least partly, by poor sperm. That means 2.5 million American couples potentially could try proXeed, said Sigma-Tau Consumer Products, which begins marketing the citrus-flavored drink mix Wednesday.

ProXeed contains two types of L-carnitine, a compound naturally present in the body important for cellular metabolism. People absorb L-carnitine mostly from red meat and dairy products.

Scientists know L-carnitine is highly concentrated in sperm-related tissues. The theory: Perhaps men with low sperm counts or poor sperm quality — such as sperm that don't swim well — lack L-carnitine. Small European studies suggest taking specific amounts of L-carnitine and a metabolite, acetylcarnitine, for three to six months gave sub-fertile men more normal sperm.

It won't create super fertility.

"ProXeed's not a miracle drug. It does one thing: It optimizes sperm quality, and it does that very well," said Brad Stewart of Sigma-Tau, an Italian-based company that also sells prescription drug versions of L-carnitine, including one sold in the United States to treat a rare metabolic disease.

The European research is promising, but "it's not all that firm, in all honesty," cautioned Dr. Jon Pryor of the University of Minnesota.

He will perform the first U.S. study this summer, giving up to 80 men at his clinic and Brown University either proXeed or a dummy pill.

Doctors are reassured about trying proXeed because the Food and Drug Administration says the prescription L-carnitine that treats metabolic dis-

ease has proved safe.

But L-carnitine also is sold as a dietary supplement, and dietary supplements are largely unregulated. The FDA cracks down only on dangerous ones, or those claiming to treat disease like a drug. FDA officials could not say if "optimizing sperm quality" would cross that line.

Consumers, however, can buy supplements without consulting a doctor.

Don't do that, Pryor urged infertile men. Much male infertility is caused by something treatable such as a hormone imbalance that proXeed won't affect, and a few men even may have testicular cancer or another serious condition.

CDC recommends chickenpox vaccine for schoolchildren

ATLANTA (AP) — Federal health officials recently recommended that all states require chickenpox vaccinations for all children entering day care or elementary school.

The requirements are recommended because the highly contagious disease is most prevalent among children ages 1 to 6, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Some 4 million Americans, mostly children, get chickenpox every year. Caused by the varicella virus, it typically just causes severe itching and rash in children.

The CDC estimates that about 100 people from 1990 to 1994 — before the vaccination became available — died from complications such as pneumonia, hemorrhaging and blood infections. As many as 11,000 are hospitalized annually.

"There is data out there to suggest that deaths are continuing to occur," said Dr. Jane Seward of the CDC's National Immunization Program. "It's not a lot compared to other vaccine-preventable diseases but it's too many when you've got a way to prevent them."

The vaccine is 80 to 90 percent effective, and protects against the most severe symptoms of chicken pox in all cases, according to the CDC.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the nation's first chickenpox vaccine, Varivax, in 1995 and the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics had recommended vaccinating children for chickenpox at 12 to 18 months.

Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington D.C., have already passed laws requiring vaccinations for children.

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Middle school raises money for St. Jude

Pampa Middle School students raised \$1,092.05 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by doing their math.

Twenty-two local middle school students participated in the educationally-based fund raising program. The Pampa students obtained sponsors for the completed math problems in special workbooks.

As the local students computed many math problems in their efforts to raise the money for cancer research, the young people learned the importance of helping children who are less fortunate.

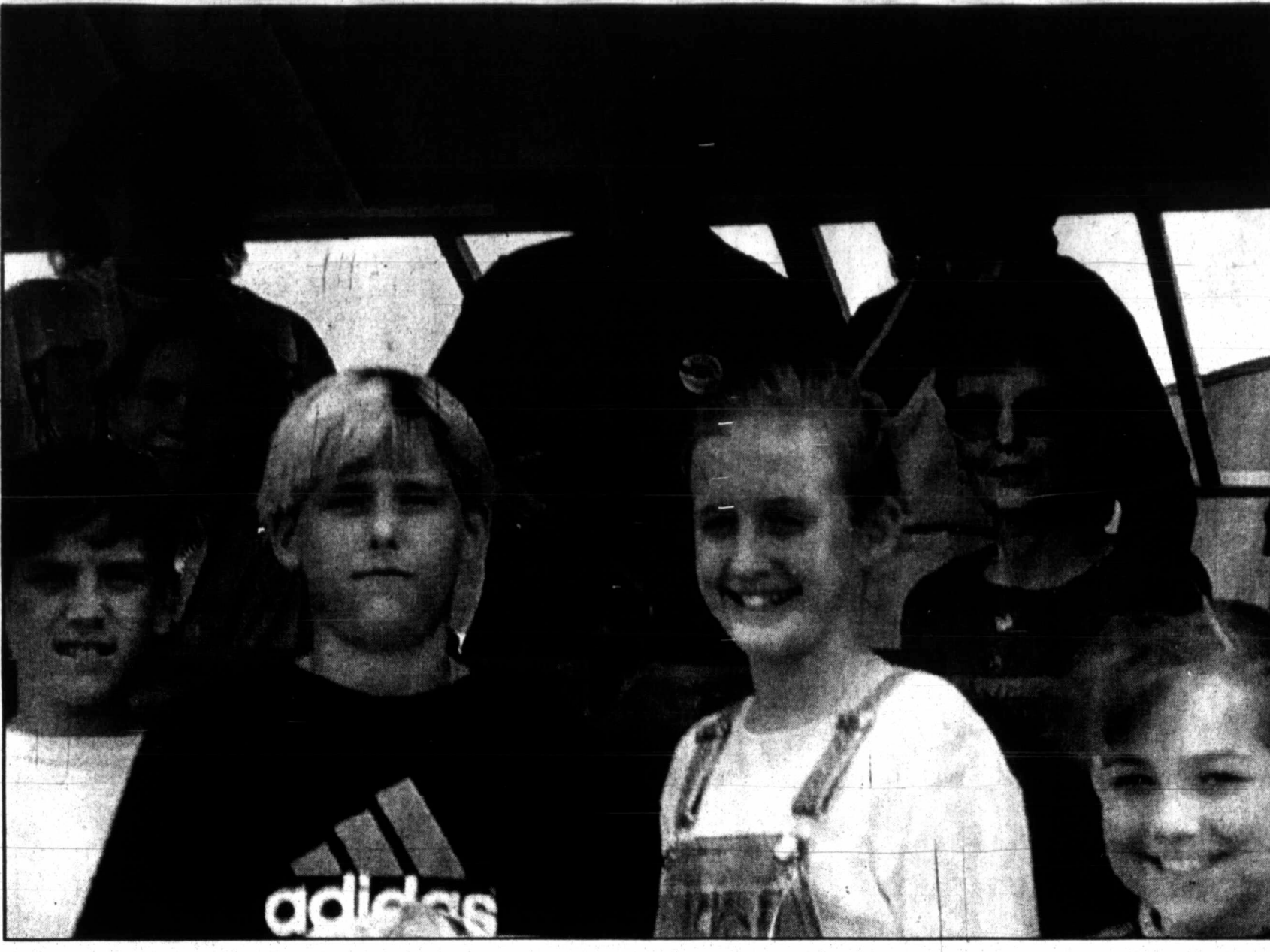
Through the Math-A-Thon, the students are able to assist in providing a future for St. Jude's. Founded in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, the hospital treats children with more than 200 forms of cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Today, more than 70 percent of all children with cancer will survive their bout with the disease as the survival rate for most forms of pediatric cancer have risen dramatically. St. Jude's credits the successful treatments to students at Pampa Middle School and around the world who support the efforts of the research hospital.

Local volunteer coordinator Linda Forman said, "We are very proud of our students for working so hard on the Math-A-Thon." She continued, "With their help, St. Jude Hospital will be able to create new treatments that may one day lead to a cure for many forms of cancer that will benefit the children of our state, our country, and around the world."

"I also want to extend our thanks to the Pampa community for supporting our students. It takes all of us to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer, and we can all feel proud of our response," said Forman.

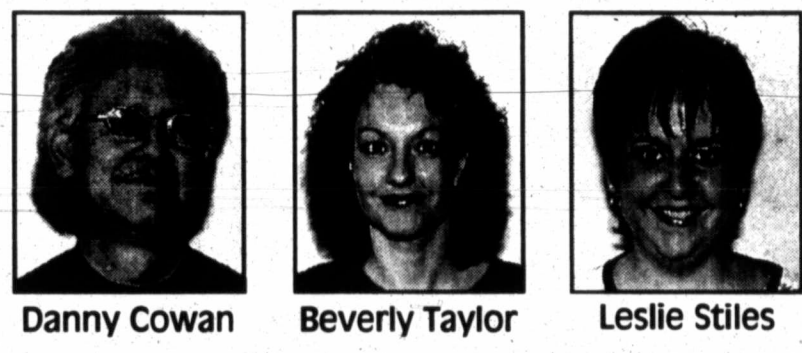
The Math-A-Thon program is sponsored nationally by Six Flags Theme Parks, who provides free passes to their parks for each student raising \$35 or more.



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)
Travis Elementary students Chris Burns, Seth Simpson, Amber Qualls and Lacie Long were among the student body who celebrated the last day of school with a meal cooked outside by the kitchen staff. Kitchen staff Vicki Blackmon, Bill Nolan and Trudy Myers assisted in cooking while teachers Natalie Davis and Mary Lou Lane, middle, assisted in serving the students.

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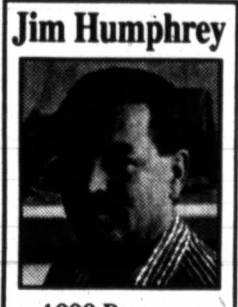


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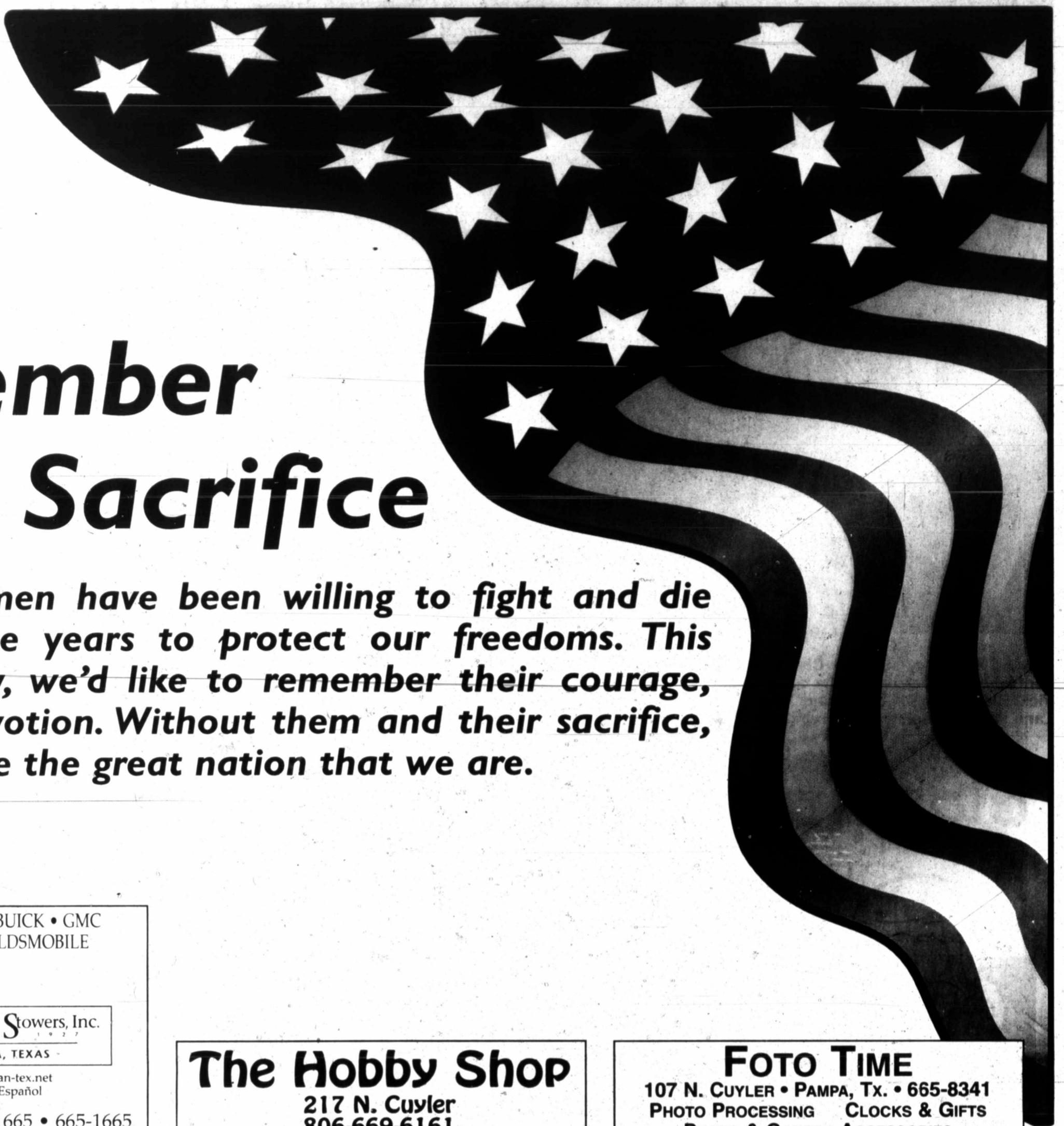
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