

Firefighters contain five small blazes

LAKE ARROWHEAD, Calif. (AP) — Authorities on Tuesday were looking for a man who may have set at least one of five small fires near this mountain resort community in Southern California.

The fires were quickly doused Monday after burning less than an acre each, said Sgt. Rick Whitehead of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Most of the fires appeared to only burn grass and did not get into trees.

The fires came as the region had record high temperatures. Firefighters kept a close eye on dry brush, power officials monitored electricity use, and residents sought refuge at beaches and in swimming pools.

All the Lake Arrowhead fires were under investigation. At least one was deemed suspicious and a second may have been caused by a faulty power line, U.S. Forest Service fire information officer Maria Daniels said.

A witness reported seeing a man wearing goggles and carrying a duffel bag near the fires, which were about a quarter-mile apart from one another, Whitehead said.

"The fact that this guy was coming out of the forest alone raises suspicion," Whitehead said.

In Riverside County, a 2,083-acre wildfire that once threatened as many as 400 homes was fully contained.

That blaze broke out Sunday in a motor home, spread to vegetation and destroyed two mobile homes and nine vehicles. The cause of the motor home fire was under investigation.

Temperatures of 100 and higher were reported Monday in coastal cities as well as through inland valleys and into the desert. Long Beach topped out only four degrees under Death Valley's 105.

The National Weather Service reported a high of 99 in downtown Los Angeles, eclipsing the record of 91 set in 1972. Other records included 100 in Santa Maria on the Central Coast, 91 in San Francisco, which usually averages 65 this time of year, and 93 in San Jose.

Conference set at end of April

CANYON — Rick Carson, creator of the Gremlin Taming Method, will be the keynote speaker at West Texas A&M University's 2004 Waugh Conference scheduled for 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, April 30 at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo.

Carson is a clinical member and approved supervisor for the American Association for marriage and family therapy and a psychotherapist and trainer for mental health professionals, businesses and non-profit organizations.

He is an author and founder of the Gremlin Taming Institute in Dallas. His Gremlin Taming Method is a guide to overcoming barriers to success. Carson illustrates how to achieve dreams in spite of the gremlins or fears that cause doubt.

The Ken Waugh Counseling Conference is presented each year to honor Dr. Ken Waugh, who served more than 28 years at WTAMU as a counselor education professor as well as director of the Testing, Counseling and Career Center.

For more information about the one-day professional conference, contact the WTAMU counseling office at 806-651-3623 or visit <http://www.wtamu.edu/~rbraunmmer/page2.html>.

Aid groups assess long-term needs for N. Korea

By AUDRA ANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP) — North Korean train explosion victims battling severe burns and meager medical options received visits Tuesday from international aid workers, who began assessing long-term needs for relief.

North Korea said Tuesday the disaster caused about \$356 million in damage. South Korea has promised \$1 million in relief goods and the United States said it would give \$100,000 to the Red Cross to help those left homeless from Thursday's explosion.

Germany said Tuesday it would send \$119,000 to finance food deliveries and building material. China has dispatched truckloads of tents, blankets and food. Japan, Russia, Australia and the United States have also offered to send supplies.

KCNA, the North Korea's official news agency, said more than 30 public buildings and houses for at least 8,000 families were destroyed, and that the blast was equivalent to about 100 one-ton bombs

going off at the same time. Getting more food, blankets and medicine to the thousands injured and made homeless are among the priorities, aid agencies said.

Private aid organizations, U.N. groups and the Red Cross "are proceeding with detailed plans for getting the job done, making sure things are reaching the right spots," Masood Heyder, U.N. coordinator in the North's capital, Pyongyang, told The Associated Press.

The death toll stood Tuesday at 161 with more than 1,300 people injured and many more left homeless, aid agencies said.

"We saw a number of families searching for their belongings — what was left of them — and then loading what little they could find onto hand-pushed carts or ox carts and moving out of town to find new accommodation elsewhere," said Tony Banbury, the program's Asia regional director of the U.N. World Food Program.

"It was a very sad and poignant sight."

The destroyed school taught more than 1,000 students a day, and the U.N. Children's Fund was looking for other buildings

nearby where classes could be held, said Pierette Vulthi, UNICEF's representative in Pyongyang.

"We know that for children who have been traumatized, that going to school restores a sense of normalcy," she said. "It is psychologically extremely important."

Video released by the United Nations showed patients squeezed two to a bed in shabby hospitals. Many had compresses over their eyes and facial injuries from being struck by a wave of glass, rubble and heat in the blast Thursday in Ryongchon, not far from the North's border with China.

"It was really a horrific scene," said Richard Ragan, North Korea director for the WFP. He toured a hospital in the nearby city of Sinuiju.

Banbury said he saw patients whose "skin was charred and ripped off" and others whose faces had been blackened by apparent chemical burns. He said doctors told him five victims had been completely blinded.

During their visit Sunday, the hospital had 360 patients,

WTO issues landmark ruling in cotton case

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — In a decision that could have far-reaching repercussions for the American farmer, the World Trade Organization has ruled that U.S. cotton subsidies are unfair to farmers in developing nations.

Siding with a complaint from Brazil, the WTO said the subsidies boost U.S. production and exports while lowering world cotton prices.

The ruling is the first time a country has been challenged over its domestic agricultural subsidies, and the first case that looks at the effect of export subsidies on crops.

Monday's decision came in a long-awaited report by three WTO experts. A trade official in Washington, who declined to be named, said the United States plans to appeal.

"We believe U.S. farm programs were designed to be, and are, fully consistent with our WTO obligations," the official said. "We have serious concerns with aspects of the panel report."

If allowed to stand, the decision could bode ill for all U.S. farmers who benefit from government support. Curbing subsidies for cotton would mean support for other U.S. crops could be vulnerable to trade challenges.

It could also expose other industrialized nations to similar complaints.

Brazil, the world's fifth-largest cotton producer, says the United States has managed to keep its spot at the planet's second-largest pro-

ducer only because the U.S. government paid \$12.47 billion in subsidies to farmers between August 1999 and July 2003.

Details of the report were not made public but Clodoaldo Huguency, a top economic official with Brazil's Foreign Ministry, said it showed that the 147-nation WTO agrees with some of Brazil's key arguments.

"We're satisfied with the conclusion," he told reporters in the capital of Brasilia.

Farm support payments have long been a source of contention in trade negotiations between wealthy and developing nations. The disagreement contributed to the collapse of world trade talks last year in Cancun, Mexico.

Neil Harl, an Iowa State University economist who sat on a panel appointed by Congress to examine limits on subsidies, said he had warned the commission last year that the United States likely would be forced to limit payments at some point.

The decision is particularly important for Brazil, which has led Latin American efforts calling for the elimination of U.S. crop subsidies that make it difficult for poor farmers in the hemisphere to compete with their richer American counterparts.

Cotton production in Brazil has doubled over the last decade as South America's largest country turned itself from a cotton importer into a cotton exporter.

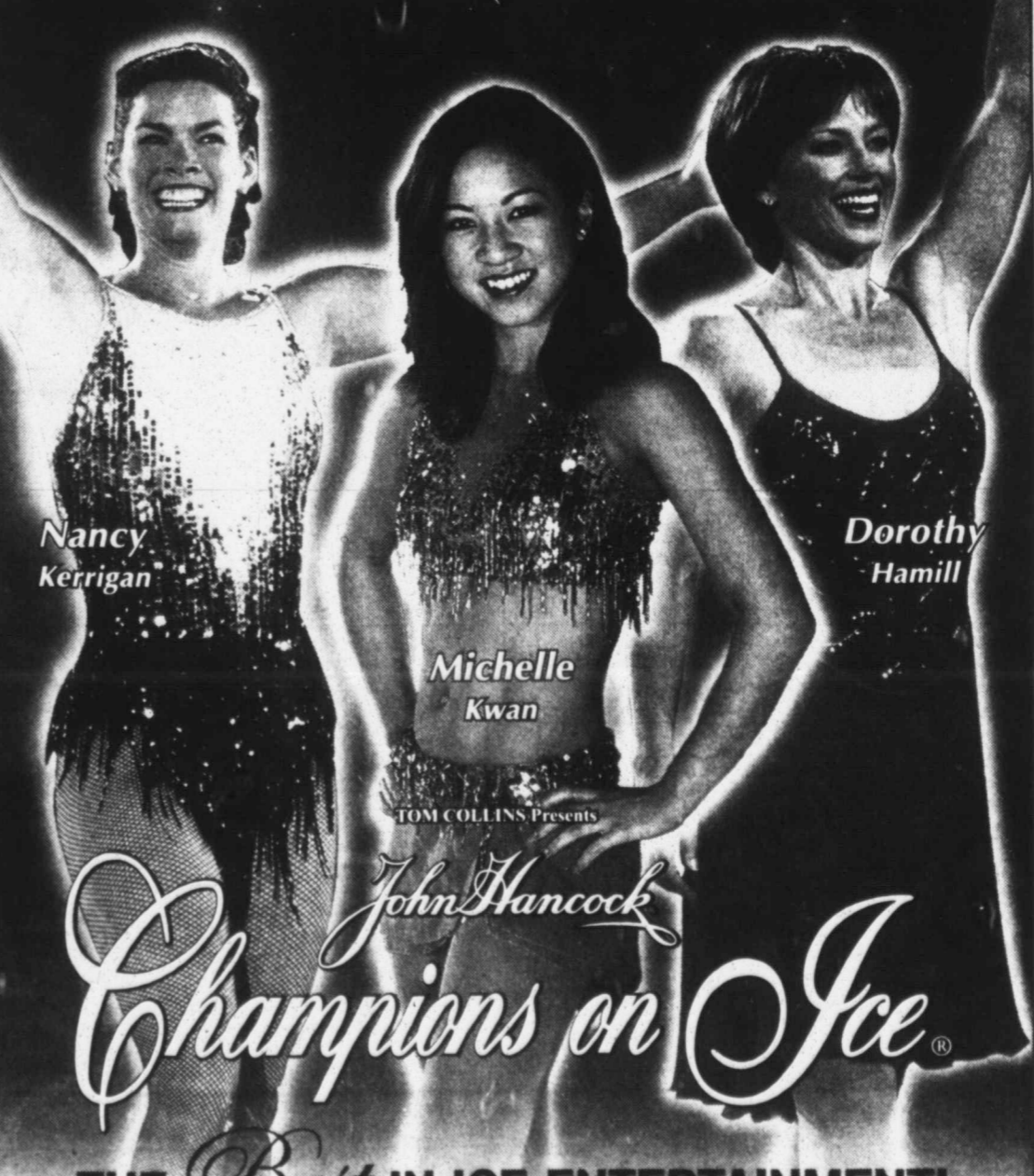
PAC exhibit and tea



(Courtesy photo)

Linda Nowell, president-elect of Pampa Art Club, is shown here with an award-winning piece of her art. PAC is currently readying for its Annual Guest Tea and Exhibit set from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 4 at Lovett Memorial Library. The event is open to the public.

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The Pampa News Comics

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Being Chosen as Bridesmaid can Become a Costly Honor

DEAR ABBY: I am writing regarding your response to "Re-Fit to Be Tied," whose daughter has been asked to be a bridesmaid. You advised her that as long as a bridesmaid's dress is "identical," it doesn't matter where it is purchased. You went on to add that if the bride insists the dress be purchased from a particular store in her area, then the bride should foot the bill. I disagree.

I am a former wedding organizer. Dye lots are extremely important when it comes to bridesmaid's dresses. If the fabric isn't from the same dye lot, the chances of the "odd-dress-out" matching the others is very slim. In fact, it's recommended that the shoes be dyed all at once and that they be matched to an actual swatch from one of the dresses -- not a sample swatch from the bridal shop.

As to alterations, I have never seen a bridesmaid's dress that fit "off the rack." Alterations are par for the course.

When a woman agrees to be in a wedding, the costs can be prohibitive, but they are the responsibility of the person being given the place of "honor." I suggest that potential bridesmaids do the following:

(1) Make sure the bride knows how flattered you are to be asked, but consider your answer carefully.

(2) Don't be afraid to ask the bride if the maids' outfits are going to be moderately priced. By simply asking her in a tactful way, the bride will hopefully take the cost of this "honor" into consideration before making her choice.

(3) If you are distant, find a local bridal shop that sells that particular line of bridesmaid's dresses and have your measurements taken. Once you are certain about the size of the dress you'll need, based on the manufacturer's size chart, send that information to the shop ordering the dresses.

(4) Be prepared for additional costs

such as alterations, pantyhose and shoes, and plan accordingly.

I'm not sure when the honor of being a modern-day "lady in waiting" got to be so expensive, but it did. Good luck to your readers, Abby! -- JENNIFER M. MANCHESTER, N.H.

DEAR JENNIFER M.: You are a sweetheart to lend your professional expertise on this one. I was inundated with similar letters. I suspect that the burden on bridesmaids increased around the time that brides began using their weddings as platforms to live out their fantasies. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I read your column every day and usually agree with your advice -- but not this time. To get dresses that are perfectly matching, they must be ordered at the same time from the same dye lot. Otherwise, the shade can be noticeably different. Trust me, nothing looks worse in pictures than having three royal-blue dresses and one slightly teal. That bride is not being unreasonable. Thanks for listening, and keep up the good work. -- OFTEN A BRIDESMAID, ONCE A BRIDE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR OFTEN: Now you tell me! From the onslaught of letters I have received on this subject, I must remind readers that if you agree to be a bridesmaid, it is your responsibility to shoulder the cost of the dress and alterations. Otherwise, you should decline the honor because of financial hardship.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

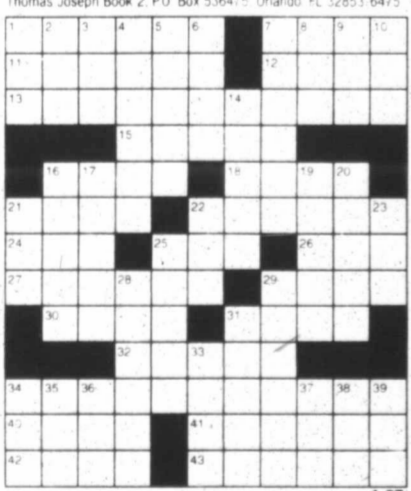
- ACROSS
2. Fancy planter
 7. Cordial "Gnarly!"
 11. Advice giver
 12. Creative germ
 13. Lionel Richie song
 15. Joined the cast
 16. Rotisserie part
 18. Editor's place
 21. Sow's mate
 22. "Rats!"
 24. Crunch targets
 25. Nearest star
 26. Bear's kin
 27. Tear off
 29. Have supper
 30. Nevada city
 31. Cronies
 32. Watery porridge
 34. Programmer's goof
 40. Uncivil
 41. Paper holder
 42. Small workers
 43. List of players
- DOWN
1. Shoe part

ALPHA SIADAT
CANON EXILLE
EVALT RENTS
LISA GOT
ANDY CAPP
LEAH THOMAS
SOLOS SPIRE
ONECUP PLEA
KRIAZYKIAT
RIP ERIC
ADLIB NOTED
PLACE ECIOLE
TENET SKLEIN

Yesterday's answer

20. Pottery ovens
21. Rotten
22. "Isn't that obvious?"
23. Golf peg
25. Get a touchdown
28. What protractors measure
29. Home of the cowboy
31. Basil sauce
33. Cold War
34. Bit of history
35. Habit
36. Banned pesticide
37. Flamenco of the cry
39. Each

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Marmaduke



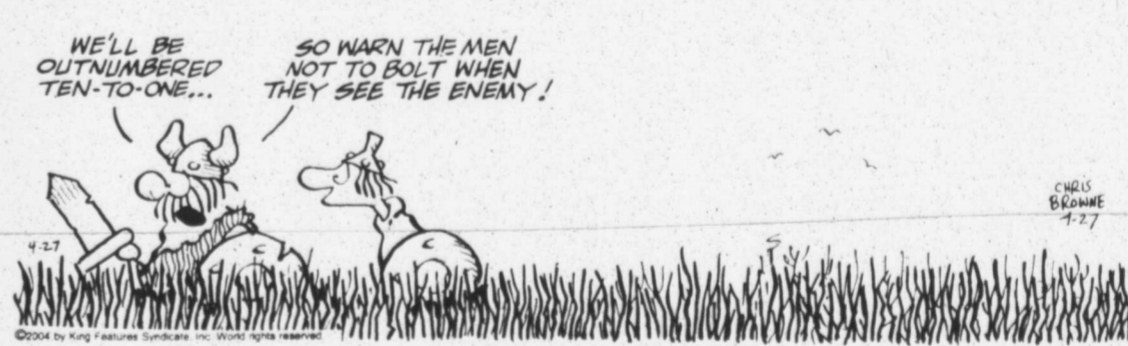
The Family Circus



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



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Weekly Writing Corner

Fiesta Time!

If I ran a festival, I would have a pet theme. I would have a petting zoo, pony rides and plenty of fun. My decorations would be lots of different pictures of pets. Everyone would bring their pets and we would have many contests, prizes and give-aways. It would be so much fun that both people and animals would want to stay all day!

Mika, 6th Grade

If I could be in charge of a fiesta, I would celebrate life. "Life Day" would be a day to look back at all your old pictures and remember the past.

Tree, 5th Grade

If I were in charge of a fiesta, I would celebrate "Strawberry Fiesta!" There would be strawberries and strawberry pie, ice cream and strawberry juice. One activity could be to discover who can eat the most strawberries? We could also pin the stem on the strawberry, and lots more games.

Sydney, 5th Grade

My fiesta would be with horses. I would let everyone bring their horses. There would be food for people and food for horses with carrots and different kinds of hay. There would be horse races. It would be a good time for people and horses together.

Emily, 3rd Grade

If I were to run a festival, I would celebrate my school's birthday. The party would be at the school and all the people that work there would come. We would eat hamburgers on buns, corn dogs, nachos, burritos and ice cream.

Francisco, 4th Grade

I would like to have a pickle festival and I would call it, "The Return of the Pickle King." People would be dressed up like pickles. There would be games like "Bob for the Pickle," "Pin the Bump on the Pickle," and much more. We would eat pickle salad, hot dogs with pickles and pickle sandwiches. The only drink would be pickle juice. When you leave, you would get a jar of pickles as a gift.

Megan, 3rd Grade

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People



This Week: Cinco de Mayo

© 2004 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 20 No. 18

MUSIC! MARIACHI MAZE

Mariachi bands sing and play guitars, violins and trumpets. Help this mariachi trumpet player find his instrument.



On the fifth of May, people from Mexico and Mexican-Americans celebrate a holiday called *Cinco de Mayo*. *Cinco de Mayo* is how you say *fifth of May* in Spanish.

On May 5, 1862, in the town of Puebla, Mexico, a tired, poor and small Mexican army defeated the large, well-armed forces from France.

Mexicans did not want to be ruled by the French; they wanted to rule themselves. The French left Mexico after that, and each year Mexicans celebrate with food, games, music and dancing. It's a festival or, as they say in Spanish, a *fiesta!*

Standards Link: Social Science. Students compare customs, ceremonies, traditions and social practices of varied cultures.

Can you find the sombreros that match?

Standards Link: Investigation. Find similarities and differences in common objects.

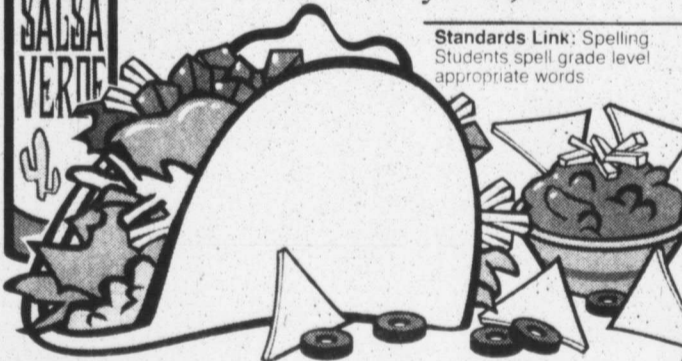


FOOD!

Burritos, guacamole, tacos, enchiladas and more! How many words can you make from the letters that spell ENCHILADA?

SCORE

- 1 - 3 words: Mild
- 4 - 7 words: Hot Stuff
- 8 - 10 words: *Muy Caliente!* (very hot!)



Standards Link: Spelling. Students spell grade level appropriate words.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

What traditional Mexican drink do people like to sip at a *Cinco de Mayo* fiesta? Unscramble the letters to find out the answer.

**THO
GOLAEHCOT**

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension. Follow simple written directions.

Extra! Extra!

PLAN A FIESTA!

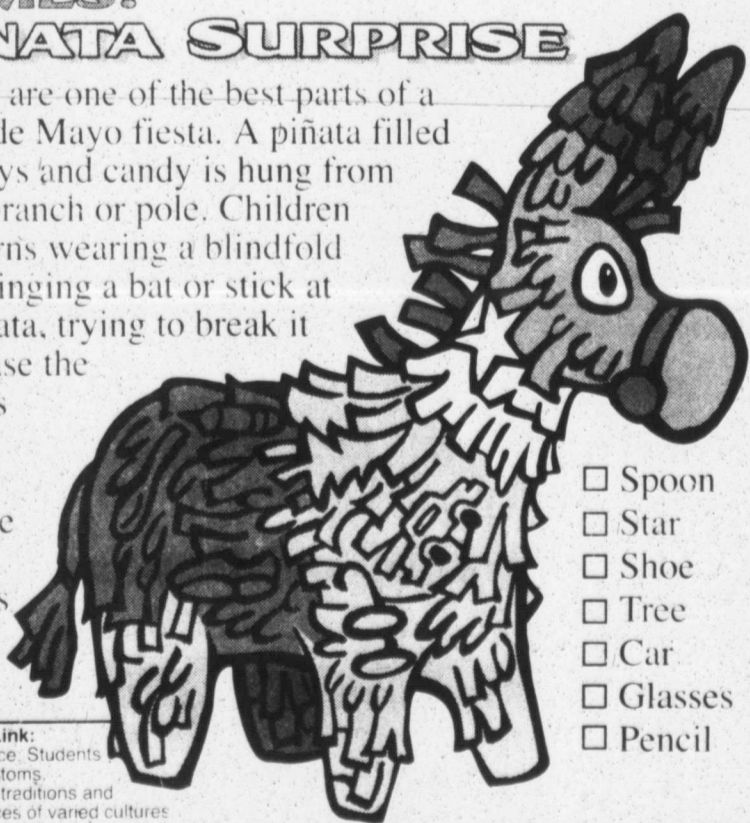
Pretend you have \$100 to spend to have a fiesta. Look through the newspaper for food and things you would want to buy for your fiesta. Figure out what you can get for \$100.

Standards Link: Number Sense. Calculate sums using money amounts to \$100.

GAMES! PINATA SURPRISE

Piñatas are one of the best parts of a *Cinco de Mayo* fiesta. A piñata filled with toys and candy is hung from a tree branch or pole. Children take turns wearing a blindfold and swinging a bat or stick at the piñata, trying to break it to release the goodies inside!

Find the hidden pictures in this piñata.



- Spoon
- Star
- Shoe
- Tree
- Car
- Glasses
- Pencil

Standards Link: Social Science. Students compare customs, ceremonies, traditions and social practices of varied cultures.

Double Double Word Search

- FIESTA
- MEXICO
- CINCO
- PUEBLA
- TRUMPET
- SPANISH
- TACOS
- ARMY
- MUSIC
- SIP
- BURRITOS
- MAYO
- TOWN
- LOOK
- MUY

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

M A S O T I R R U B
H L B S O C A T A E
S B Y X I T E O T X
I E X A O P O H S M
N U L W M Y A S E U
A P N U A M E X I S
P A R M Y V I N F I
S T Y U X C M U Y C
C I N C O K O O L T

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Festive Words

Clip five words from the newspaper that describe the festivities of *Cinco de Mayo*. Write a sentence using each adjective. Select your favorite sentence and use it as the main idea for a paragraph.

Standards Link: Grammar. Recognize and use adjectives in writing. Writing Applications. Write short narratives with main idea and supporting details.

Write On!

Brain Builders

List three to five ways you can exercise your brain this summer.

Deadline: May 23, 2004

Published: Week of June 20, 2004

Send your story to:

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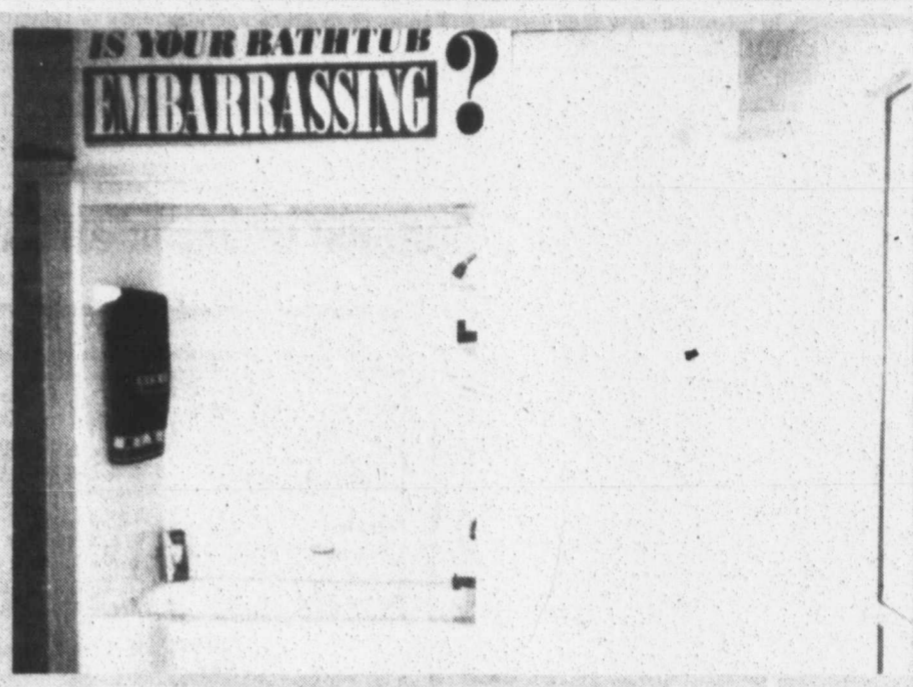
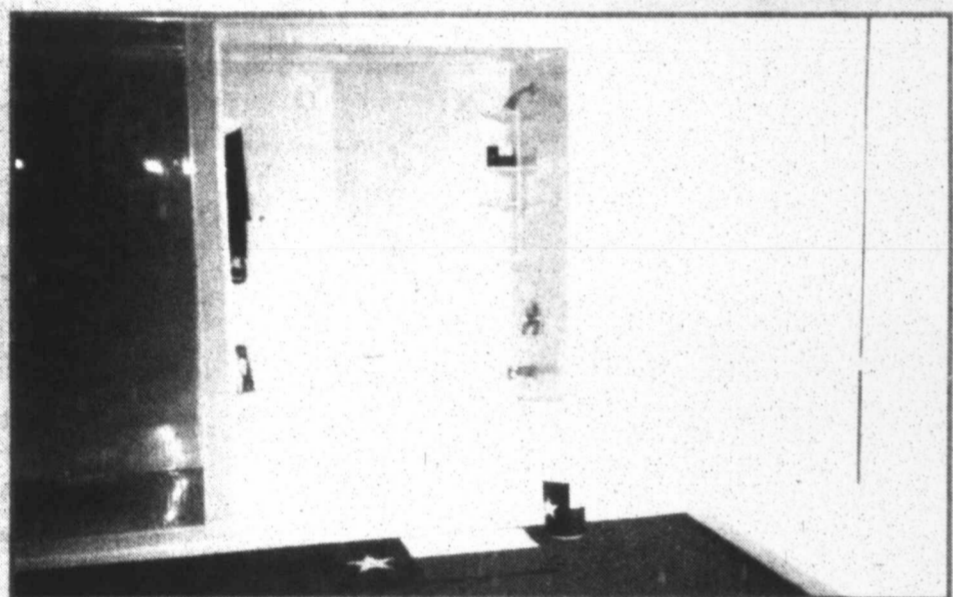
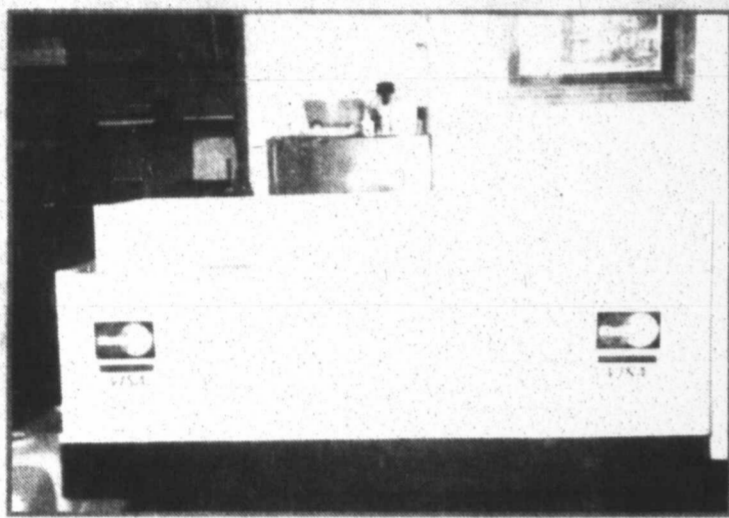
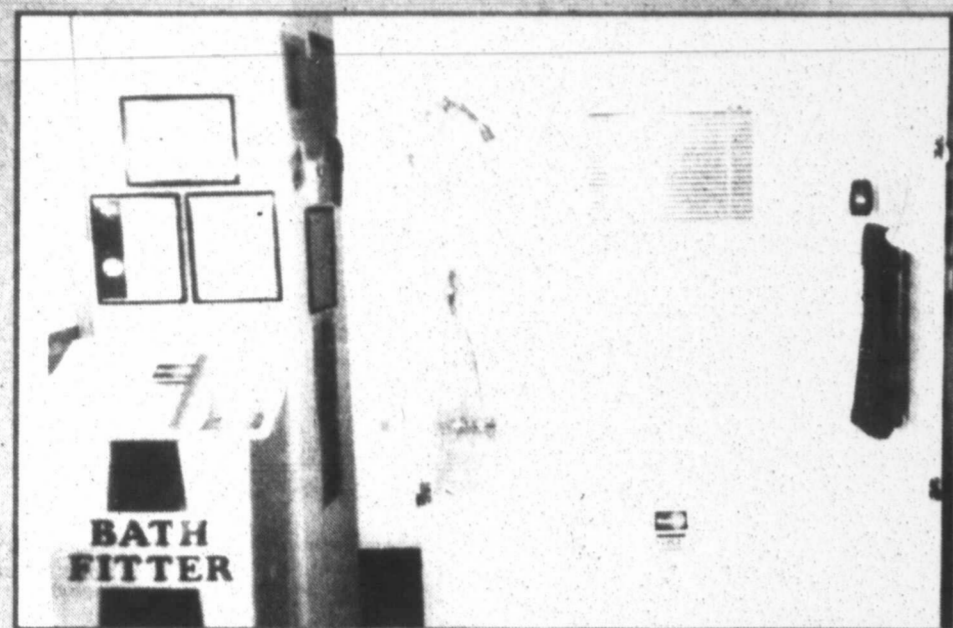
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BUSINESS REVIEW

Bath Fitter gives facelifts to worn-out tubs, showers



No plumber is needed and there's no debris to haul away. Since installation is so quick, the bathroom is ready for use again in no time.

Bath Fitter is easy, simple and adds value to the home.

Since 1984, Bath Fitter has manufactured and installed acrylic bathtub liners, garnering a strong following of happy customers throughout North America.

Bath Fitter offers common sense solutions to remodeling bathrooms - solutions that help make dreams become reality.

The first step to turning an old bathroom into a new one often starts with a dream - a look, a design, a style, a desired function.

Ideas may come easy, but making an idea become a reality, may not be. That's where Bath Fitter's approach to bathroom renovation begins to make sense.

Several problems can be associated with bathroom remodeling. The bathroom becomes unusable for weeks, and sometimes months, during the construction process; construction debris disrupts the whole household; and construction costs can be prohibitive.

Bath Fitter solves these com-

mon problems. It is a product that usually requires only one day for installation, is easy to clean and maintain, and lasts for years, says Curt Pohlmeier, local owner of Precision Construction & Remodeling, who before discovering Bath Fitter had used traditional bathroom remodeling techniques.

The Bath Fitter factory, in an exclusive process, creates a complete shower or tub based on the customer's selection of features, color and design. The new shower or tub is measured to fit perfectly where the old one was located.

The seamless one-piece wall system is not only beautiful, the high gloss, non-porous finish can be cleaned quickly and simply. And there's no vertical seams to caulk, maintain or scrub.

After more than seven years in the industry, Precision Construction & Remodeling has refinined dozens of bathtubs and showers with the Bath Fitter product in hotels, apartments, institutions and homes.

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