

Girl Scouts

_____ The county's Girl Scout Council will no longer ~~will~~ accept any checks during its annual cookie sale-a-thon.

_____ During its last sale-a-thon, the council lost \$4,284 due to ~~=~~worthless checks.

_____ "That may not sound like a lot, but it's a serious loss for us," said Linda Goree, the Girl Scout's county executive. "It cuts into our profits, but ~~al-~~so wastes too many hours of our ~~time~~."

_____ Next year, Goree said, the county's Girl Scouts will ~~accept-~~ only accept cash.

_____ Two factors aggravated the ~~pro-~~blem during the scouts' last sale-a-thon, Goree continued. ~~F-~~irst, more ~~pe-~~ople paid by check. Second, a larger percentage of the checks ~~the-~~n Girl Scouts received bounced.

_____ "Some people pay by check because they don't have the cash," Goree said. "Or, they want to place a large order. We have people who place orders for \$100 or more, and ~~the-~~se ~~pe-~~ople are especially likely to pay by check. ~~W-~~e also receive checks for as little as one or two dollars."

Scout leaders call people who signed the checks that bounce and, in most cases, ask them to mail new ~~W-~~ checks to the city ~~o-~~ffice. The scout leaders are unable to reach everyone, however. ~~Some-~~e ~~pe-~~ople have moved. ~~Other-~~s do not have telephones — or do not seem to answer their ~~tele-~~phones.

_____ "Usually it's an honest mistake, ~~an-~~d people are embarrassed when we call them," Goree said. "Th~~ey~~ want to take care of the problem right away. Other people say they want to pay but don't have the money, and we can usually work something out with them. Unfortunately, there are other people who get mad at us, like it's our fault or something, and refuse to pay. Or, they write new checks that also bounce. It puts our leaders ~~s-~~ in a terrible situation. A Girl Scout leader shouldn't have to deal with ~~-~~problems like that. Also, it's not a good situation or example for our girls, and that's the reason for our ne~~w~~ policy; ~~;~~ why we'll no longer accept any checks."

Men's Longevity

Being a middle-aged man and single can be deadly, ~~two~~ sociologists ~~at your~~ ~~college-~~warned today.

_____ The ~~S-~~ociologists, Margo Matos and LeeAnne ~~V-~~erkler, found that single, middle-aged men ~~who remain single-~~ double their chances of dying.

_____ For 10 years, Matos and ~~V-~~erkler tracked one thousand men in the ~~S-~~tate. All of the men were 40 ~~old-~~ years old at the start of the study, and half were married. Matos and Verkler ~~found~~ that 11.7% ~~percent-~~ of the men who

remained unmarried died before their 50th birthday, compared to only 5.9% ~~percent~~ of the men who were ~~remained~~ married.

Some of the married men were divorced or widowed during the study, and 7.1% ~~percent~~ of those who remained unmarried ~~alone~~ for at least half the study ~~period~~ also died.

"We aren't sure of all the reasons," Verkler said. "That's what we'll look at next. We think poor diet plays a role, and ~~a~~ Also the use of alcohol, smoking, a lack of exercise, and even low incomes. Men who live by themselves seem to do more drinking and smoking, and many don't make ~~PRE~~prepare healthy ~~good~~ meals for themselves. Plus, there's the absence of social support. It ~~e~~helps to have someone to talk with; ~~7~~ someone who shares your life and is there to provide help when you need it."

Matos and Verkler found that men also live longer if they have a roommate. "It doesn't matter who the person is; ~~7~~ a parent, child, or friend," Verkler said. "We've found, however, that none of the alternatives are as beneficial ~~conducive to a long life~~ as a stable marriage. Those are the men who live the longest: ~~7~~ the men who are happily married."

Outstanding Teacher

Wilma DeCastro is an English teacher at Kennedy High School who ~~and~~ ~~six months ago~~, was named the city's "Teacher of the Year" ~~7~~ six months ago. Today she resigned.

"All my life I wanted to be a teacher," DeCastro said. "I've really enjoyed it, but I have two little girls and ~~c~~Can't afford it any longer. I want a good life for my family, and ~~now~~ we can't afford to buy a new car, nice clothes, a decent house in a good neighborhood, ~~a new car, nice clothes~~, or so many of the other things we want. ~~W~~we skimp on everything, even food."

Three years ago, DeCastro began to sell real estate during her summer vacations. In ~~For~~ the last year, she ~~has continued to sell~~ real estate part-time, primarily on ~~we~~ weekends

"I can't do it any longer," she said. "I can't ~~w~~ork two jobs, do well in ~~a good~~ ~~job at~~ both of them ~~jobs~~, and ~~a~~lso have time for my daughters. ~~7~~ ~~so~~ I've decided to go into real estate full time because ~~7~~ I can triple my salary ~~my salary~~. In ~~NN~~ a few years, if I work hard, I should be able to do even better than that. ~~E~~ventually, I'd like to go into business for myself."

Greg Hubbard, superintendent of the city's school system, said ~~7~~ "Of course we're sorry to see her leave. ~~7~~ We'd like to keep her, and to be able to pay all our teachers ~~mr~~ more - ~~7~~ especially our best teachers - ~~7~~ ~~B~~but there's no money for higher salaries. No ~~o~~ne wants to pay higher taxes."

DeCastro, ~~is~~ 28, ~~and~~ started teaching at the high school ~~01~~ six years ago. ~~S~~she was named "Teacher of ~~OF~~ ~~t~~he Year" in part because of her popularity, but

also because she inspired several students to start a literary magazine, which has ~~that has~~ won a dozen prizes.

Heroic Girl

~~Ww~~ While walking to school this morning ~~moning~~ ~~morning~~, an 11-year-old girl noticed a gunman robbing two clerks ~~S~~ in a convenience ~~convenience~~ store on Colonial Drive

~~rara~~ The girl, Kathryn Kunze of 94 Jamestown Drive, ran to a nearby telephone, dialed 911, then returned to the store. She ~~and~~ noticed an empty car parked nearby with its motor running. ~~S~~ She reached ~~d~~ inside, shut off the car's motor, ~~and~~ took the keys.

~~S~~ "Imagine what the robber thought when he ran out of the store, jumped into his ~~HIS~~ car and realized the keys were gone!" said Sgt. Tammy Dow. "She was one smart girl, and ~~b~~ Brave, too."

~~The g~~ Gunman went back into the store and asked the clerks ~~there~~ for the keys to their ~~there~~ cars. Both clerks, however, said that they had walked to work and did not own a car.

~~A~~ The gunman then walked to a nearby park, where ~~and~~ the police arrested him ~~there~~ five minutes later.

~~William Jj.~~ Chuey, 27, of 5710 M ~~m~~ichigan Ave was charged with armed robbery.

~~Polic-e~~ officers later questioned the girl at school. "I saw this man with a gun, just like on television ~~television~~," she said. "Then I saw the car. It was running, and I just figured it was the robber's, so I took his keys and ran ~~here~~."

~~Kathryn's mother,~~ said she was ~~p~~ proud of ~~—~~ (and frightened ~~—~~ by) her daughter's actions. "I ~~M~~ am proud she thought so quickly," Mrs. Lauren Kunze said. "But I don't want her to try anything like that ever again."

Roadbed Trails

~~Ra~~ Ailroads have abandoned hundreds of miles of old roadbeds in the State, and today the governor ~~today~~ revealed plans to convert the roadbeds into trails for bicyclists, hikers, horseback riders, and runners.

The ~~governor~~ ~~governor~~ said her budget for ~~n~~ next year will include an extra \$10 million for the Department of ~~N~~ Natural Resources, which will use the money to acquire ~~acquire~~ and maintain ~~maintain~~ the trails.

"The initial outlay is modest, ~~the gov. said.~~ ~~B~~ but we hope the program will expand so that, ~~in~~ five or ten ~~10~~ years, we'll have hundreds of miles of these trails.

Eventually, the people using them should be able to hike or ride from one end of the State to the another."

_____ A representative for the State's railroads said that most will probably agree to sell their abandoned roadbeds to the state, provided they receive a fair price.

_____ "We aren't using the roadbeds for anything," he said, "and there aren't many other buyers. They were our least profitable routes, and that's why we abandoned them."

_____ During a press conference this morning, the governor added that: "We need more land for recreation, and this is the perfect solution. We think we can acquire the roadbeds for a reasonable price, and we'll start with some of the most scenic ones. Initially, we'll also concentrate, at least initially, on the roadbeds closest to the State's population centers, so they're convenient for the majority of the people using them."

_____ The governor said that after acquiring the roadbeds, the biggest expense, after acquiring the roadbeds, will be improving their bridges. "We'll need better flooring and railings to protect the public, and that will cost some money," she said. "The railroads have already torn up the tracks, so selling them for scrap."

Repossessing Cars

_____ Police Chief Tony Sullivan Wants to begin seizing the cars driven by drunken drivers.

_____ While testifying before a legislative committee in the State Capitol this morning, Sullivan said police officers in the state need the authority to seize the vehicles used by motorists convicted three or more times of drunken driving. Sullivan's proposal would also apply to motorists convicted of driving with a suspended license, suspended or revoked because of drunken driving; and also to motorists convicted of driving under the influence of drugs.

_____ "We're running across too many repeat offenders," Sullivan said. "They ignore the laws now in effect, and it's time to do something about it. It doesn't do any good to just take away their licenses, since they'll drive without one."

Sullivan said some motorists in the State have been convicted of drunken driving more than a dozen times. "We've got people who've served a year in jail, some who've served five years," Sullivan said. "It doesn't seem to do any good. Whether they have a license or not, they start to drink and drive again as soon as they get out. As soon as they get out, they start to drink and drive again, whether they have a license or not. If we take away their cars, they'll have to stop. Unless they're ultra-rich, there's a limit to how many cars they can afford to buy."

Tobacco Ban

Beginning next fall, students in the city's public schools will have to leave their cigarettes and other tobacco products at home.

Last night, the School Board voted 6 to 1 to ban the possession and use of all tobacco products on school grounds.

"The board's policy will apply to everyone," said Superintendent Gary Hubbard,

of schools. "It's not just for our students. The policy will also apply to our teachers, other school personnel, and, in addition, to any visitors using our facilities."

Students found smoking on school property will lead to a reprimand, the second offense will lead to detention, and the third will lead to a three day expulsion. School personnel will be reprimanded by their principal. Other people will be asked to stop using the tobacco products, or they will have to leave the school grounds.

"Previously," Hubbard said, "we allowed students to smoke in designated areas, both inside and outside our buildings, such as in our football stadium, for example. It's bad for their health, and last night we decided that we weren't being consistent. It doesn't make any sense for us to tell students about the dangers of smoking, in their classes, and then to allow them to smoke under our supervision. Besides, We were also getting a lot of complaints from nonsmokers."