



How much for that ... ?

Photo by Pamela Rimoldi

Max Tucker, right, a senior agronomy major, gives away puppies in front of Rudder Tower Friday. Many people use the area to give away pets they can't keep. Rich Baxter, a junior chemical engineering major, took one of the puppies home.

New flu outbreak

United Press International
ATLANTA — After a 35-year absence from the United States, Dengue fever, a disease with symptoms similar to the flu, seems to be spreading in an area of the Texas-Mexico border, federal health officials say.

The disease, carried by mosquitoes, is sometimes called "breakbone fever" because its symptoms include intense muscle, head and joint aching.

Though the disease is seldom fatal, it leaves its victims severely ill for up to a week and is characterized by explosive outbreaks.

The first naturally-occurring case of dengue fever in the United States since 1945 was reported in a Brownsville, Tex., girl last month by the Center for Disease Control.

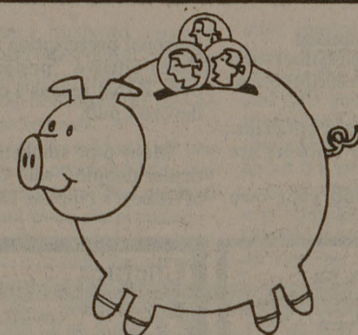
The Atlanta-based federal health agency said Friday six persons with histories of dengue-like symptoms had been reported by household surveys made by health officials in two Brownsville neighborhoods.

Of the six, five lived in the same neighborhood where the original case occurred.

Results are pending from tests conducted on blood specimens taken from 271 people in an effort to determine the extent of dengue infection, the CDC said.

Historically, the illness has been prevalent in many South American and Caribbean countries, but has been moving steadily northward through Mexico toward the Texas border.

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Indian heritage slowly vanishing

Arapaho saving their language

United Press International
CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Pius Moss encounters a sobering irony — school children making fun of how students trying to speak their own language.

On the Wind River Reservation in mountains and rolling hills of central Wyoming, Moss — a year-old rancher who teaches Arapaho at the St. Stephen's Mission school near Riverton — is one of the few trying to save his tribe's language from extinction.

In one respect, a language is like an organism whose survival is endangered. Anthropologists estimate that up to 300 North American Indian languages existed on the continent at one time. In 1962, however, linguist Wallace Chafe guessed there are 200 remaining, with the number still declining.

Moss estimates that only about 30 Arapaho remain on the reservation still speak the language fluently, and most of them are over 35. As a result, many Arapaho fear their language will die with another generation or two.

Already, Moss said, most of the children entering grade school think their tribal tongue as a second language. Many fail to take it seriously. They make fun of one another when they're speaking it. Moss expects to give them worksheets with words and their meanings. "I'll find them in the yard, you know — bits of them crumpled up in the convention and there."

Since last year, Moss and other teachers on the reservation have been using a 16-character Arapaho alphabet developed by University of Massachusetts anthropology professor Zdenek Salzman.

They hope use of the alphabet will elevate the effort to restore the language and that someday, as in the case of the Navajo tribe, the number of fluent speakers will begin to increase rather than decline.

The alphabet is about as perfect as a person could want it, Moss said. It's better than what we tried to do with ourselves.

The lady that helps me write it, says words just the way they're supposed to be said, according to the

various stops and accent marks. I'm surprised that she talks just like an Arapaho would, but she doesn't know what she's talking about."

The Arapaho alphabet, as developed by Salzman, is made up of the letters B, C, E, H, I, K, N, O, S, T, U, W, X, Y, the numeral 3 and the comma. The comma is for glottal stops, which are sounds made as in the English "uh-oh." There is no letter "A."

The letter "X" is for the Klike sound of Arapaho, which is much rougher than the English "K" sound. The numeral 3, along with the letters S, X, and H, are for the fricatives — sounds formed by forcing air through a narrow slit somewhere in the mouth, as in the "th" sound.

"The elders aren't really accepting it," Moss said of the Salzman system. "Their argument is that the language was never meant to be written and should be taught in the home. But the younger people, they don't

know it. My argument is 'How are we going to preserve it?'

"After a few more years, say, 50 years, most of us that know it will be gone. So no one will know anything about it unless it's recorded."

William C'Hair Jr., 36, learned Arapaho from his grandparents and now teaches it at the Wyoming Indian High School near the reservation community of Ethete. He said a year of Arapaho is required, but that is not enough time.

"In order for someone to learn a foreign language, it takes 900 to 1,300 contact hours," C'Hair said. "They're only getting about 30 or 40 contact hours a semester."

Moss said Salzman hopes to complete, in two years, the first Arapaho dictionary.

"I imagine other tribes have gone into that area, like the Walapai and the Navajo," Moss said. "They have something to go by. In fact, my son took a course in Navajo (at Fort

Lewis College in Durango, Colo.)."

The whole effort is a sort of race against time. C'Hair said it was still too early to determine how effective the new alphabet is.

"This is the first year we've been using the present approach," he said. "Only time will tell."

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