

Cancer victim gets birthday wish

United Press International
FORT WORTH — A surprise party has been planned for Lisa Newton's fourth birthday next week, but the biggest surprise already has been sprung. Lisa and her family will spend the day at her grandparents home in Ohio.

Lisa, who has been under treatment for cancer for almost two years, had only one wish for her next birthday: to spend it with her grandparents in Brunswick, Ohio.

Someone at the Moncrief Radiation Center in Fort Worth, where Lisa received her chemotherapy, relayed the dream to A Wish With Wings Inc., a non-profit organization in suburban Arlington which in six months has fulfilled the wishes of five other seriously ill children.

Pat Skaggs, a co-founder of the organization, said she matched Lisa's desires with a Dallas pre-school PTA's interest to help someone.

"It seemed a natural since Lisa's a pre-schooler, too," Skaggs said.

With tickets purchased by the PTA, Lisa and her parents, Ann and Sam Grief of Fort Worth, leave Saturday for a week's visit with Mrs. Grief's parents, Jim and Joan Brantner.

"She is ecstatic," said Mrs. Grief, director of a hospital emergency department.

"The last time we were there was December 1982. But she remembers it. She had a nephew to play with and she remembers opening presents for Christmas. She's wanted to go back ever since."

Lisa ended 18 months of chemotherapy treatments recently. She will undergo X-rays in another month to determine the success of the treatment.

Aid proposed for small fish

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The government, fearing pollution and collectors are destroying the Ozark cavefish, is proposing federal protection for the tiny fish found only in portions of Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants to officially make the 2-inch fish a threatened species and has given opponents until March 16 to request a public hearing and until April 2 to comment on the proposal.

"This cavefish is presently known from only 13 caves in six counties of the Springfield Plateau of southwest Missouri, northwest Arkansas and northeast Oklahoma," said a Federal Register notice written by biologist James Stewart.

"This cavefish has apparently disappeared from over 40 percent of its historic locations. The causes of the decline appear to be habitat alteration and collectors," he said.

Nearly devoid of pigment, the fish has an elongated, flattened head and a projecting lower jaw. The dorsal and anal fins are located far back on the body, the

caudal fin is rounded and pelvic fins are absent.

"It is found only in cave daylight, it would probably be because of sunburn. In the caves, we've found them knee-deep or less water."

The fish historically has been found in at least nine counties with unconfirmed reports in five more — all in a range of highly soluble limestone bedrock formations. However, recent surveys turned up only a few cavefish in 13 caves in counties. Most of the caves are on private property.

Biologists say the fish is endangered because development of the Greene County, Mo., has resulted in highly hazardous water contamination from things as landfills, dumpsites, charges, toxic chemicals.

"The low reproductive abilities, confined habitat and inability to elude captors make the Ozark cavefish very vulnerable to overutilization," Stewart said. "Offers to purchase cavefish have appeared in various publications."

Stewart said another factor may be the decline of the endangered gray bat as the cavefish populations scatter where the most bats are and their bat guano is the primary energy source for the cavefish.

"It could have a tremendous impact," Stewart said. "It could lose the bats and lose the entire population."

Under threatened species status, it would be against the law to export, sell or move the cavefish without permission and the government would monitor the growth or declines of populations of the tiny vertebrate.

Police round-up suspects

United Press International

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. — Federal authorities Thursday continued their roundup of people indicted on drug-related charges and moved to seal a coal mine and other property allegedly bought with proceeds from the alleged illegal operation.

Those indicted included former West Virginia University football stars, a WVU professor who is the father of a basketball player, a 10-year veteran of the Clarksburg police department and a former Harrison County assistant prosecutor.

At least 23 of those charged were arrested Wednesday and Thursday, U.S. Attorney William Kolibash said. A shooting by an officer during the apprehension of one man, no one was injured.

Those named in the 500-page indictment handed by a federal grand jury in Elkhart were mostly West Virginians, including residents of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida, California, Hawaii, Ohio and Maryland.

The indictment charged a group with being involved in the distribution of cocaine, methamphetamine, quaaludes, LSD and marijuana beginning in 1979 and continuing through 1982, primarily in northwestern West Virginia.

"We're talking about a substantial operation," Kolibash said. "It (the arrests) should tighten up the supply (of the drugs), make it more difficult to get these types of things."

Seventeen of those charged face maximum penalties of at least 100 years in jail and a maximum fine of at least \$145,000.

The suspected "kingpin" of the operation, Carl L. Gallo, of Reynoldsville near Clarksburg, was jailed in lieu of a million bond on various charges, including racketeering and extortion.

If found guilty on all counts, Gallo could be sentenced to life in prison plus 1,105 years and fined nearly \$3.2 million.

Kolibash said he filed documents Thursday to attempt to seize Gallo's home and a 92-acre strip mine owned by the defendant. He said the property was bought with profits from the drug operation.

Federal authorities also planned to seize apartments, a car and a taxi company owned by Gallo and several other small pieces of personal property, vehicles owned by other defendants, Kolibash said.

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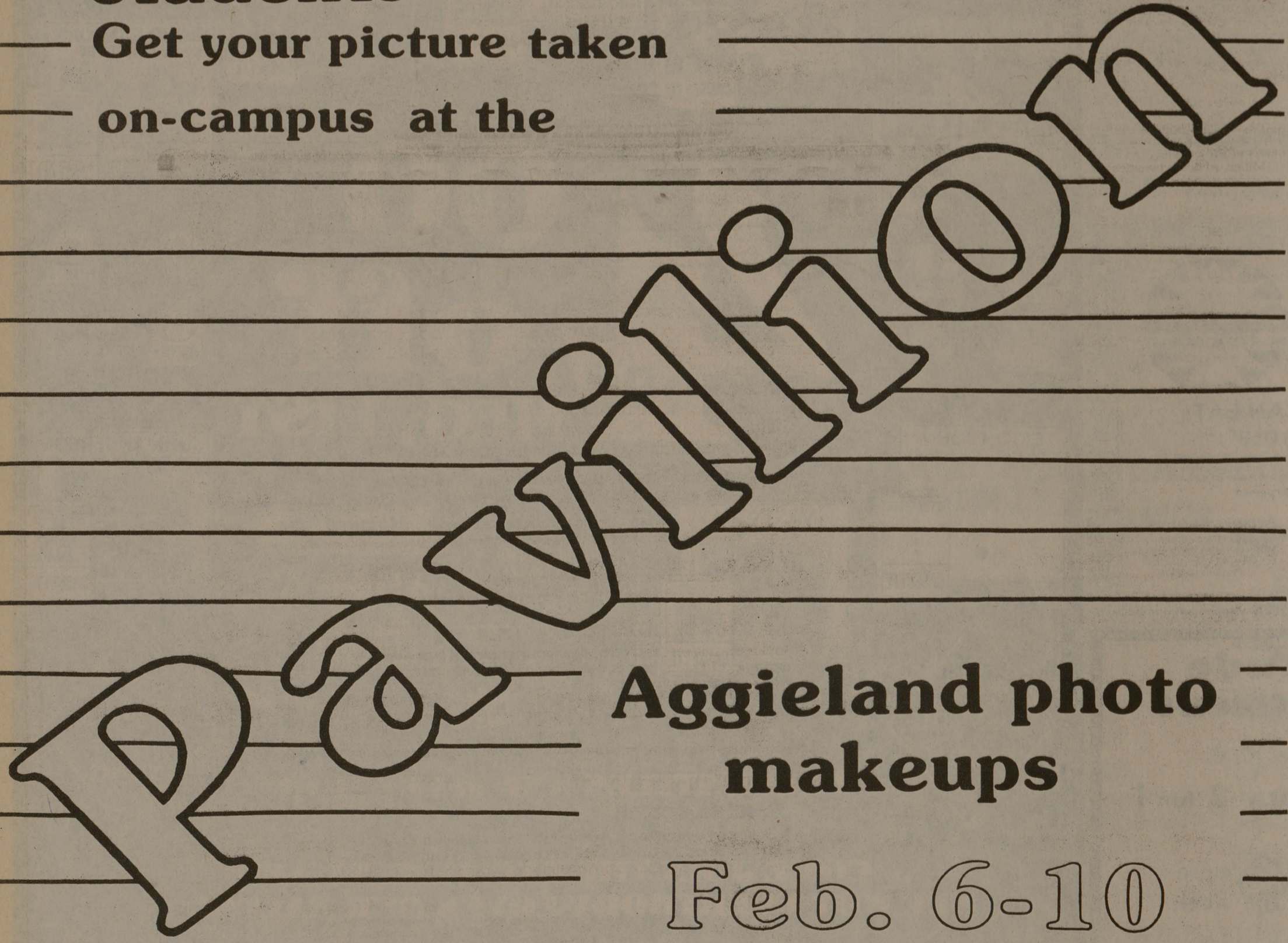
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