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Gum Ingredient May Prevent Ear Infections

According to the results of a study conducted in Finland with 857 healthy children in day care centers, xylitol, a sweetener used in several US chewing gum products, may be able to prevent acute middle ear infections. The results of the research, which were published in the medical journal *Pediatrics* show that after three months xylitol reduced ear infections by 40% as compared to children who did not get xylitol. Researchers studied syrup, sticks of chewing gum and lozenges — all used five times per day. The syrup and chewing gum produced the best results. The amount of xylitol used was considerably greater than the amount in US commercial chewing gums. Researchers described their finding as "important" in view of the number of antibiotic resistant ear infections that are now being reported.

One researcher at another institution noted the results were "impressive," but went on to observe that xylitol has yet to be evaluated in the age group of children in which ear infections are the greatest (6 to 18 months). A researcher at a different institution indicated that there are questions that were not answered in the Finland study, namely an indication of the most appropriate dosage schedule and formulation of xylitol that should be used.

SPORTS

Raider varsity team splits first two games

The Rice Raiders varsity basketball team split their first two games of the year this past week.

In the first game, the Raiders were butted by the Brahmas of East Bernard 66-41.

On Friday, the Raiders came back and took the bite out of the Palacios Sharks, 70-66, to even their record at 1-1.

Tuesday, Nov. 17, the Raiders opening game of the 1998-99 basketball season was a lackluster affair as the Brahmas cruised to a 61-41 victory.

The Raiders started out slowly and never really got it together as they missed easy shots and made numerous turnovers to help out the Brahmas.

Scoring for the Raiders were Jay Knight with seven; Warren Scott and Matt Gertson, six each; Jon Godley, Coy Sunderman and Chad Kallina; five; Kevin Godley and Jeremy Parker, four; Adrian Middleton, two; and Norris Powell, one point.

Friday, Nov. 20, in a fast-moving but mostly sloppy game, the Raiders pulled out their first victory of the year by defeating the Sharks 70-66.

For the most part, the Raiders looked better Friday than they did Tuesday... finally hitting some key shots and getting big rebounds to hold off Palacios at the end, said their coach.

Scoring for the Raiders were Scott with 25; Gertson, 18; Kevin Johnson and Parker, seven; Kallina, five; Sunderman, three; Kevin Godley and Middleton, two; and Powell, one.

The Raiders should get better as the season goes along as there are many new faces on the team this year, commented their coach. Only four of these players have played at the varsity level but, for the most part, they are showing improvement everyday.

The biggest obstacle they must overcome is learning that this is a team game and they must play together. The sooner they learn this, the better off they'll be.

The Raiders next opponent was to be Brazos on Monday, Nov. 23. The games were to begin at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 24, the Raiders were to play at home against the Hallettsville Brahmas. The games were to begin at 5 p.m. with the freshmen; JV at 6 and the varsity around 7:30 p.m.

You'll come out and support these boys as they work hard to get better every week.

New County Ag. Agent approved by Commissioners

Colorado County Commissioners approved the employment of Bernard Mitchell as the new Colorado County Extension Agent-Agriculture during their meeting Monday morning, Nov. 23.

Mitchell, who has been employed in the same capacity in Wharton County since Nov. 16, 1979, will replace C. Jack Hunter and is scheduled to report to his new position Jan. 4, 1999.

A native of Waelder in Gonzales County, he graduated from Waelder High School in 1968, and received his bachelor's degree in animal science in 1972 and master's degree in agricultural education in 1973 from Prairie View A&M University.

Mitchell launched his career as assistant county agent-agricultural in Jasper County on July 1, 1973, with primary responsibility in 4-H and youth development.

During his tenure in Wharton County, he has worked with a com-

performance demonstration to compare hybrids for their yielding ability and other characteristics and conducted a 22-variety sweet corn demonstration with commercial producers to monitor corn earworm damage as it relates to varieties.

He also has developed a strong program in commercial pecan and vegetable production. He started the first county pecan show with 104 entries, and educational programs in pecans include the annual Pecan Field Day, grafting demonstrations and result demonstrations.

Mitchell's work with commercial vegetable producers results in 21 local growers marketing at the Farmers' Market and Houston area markets to subsidize family incomes. He also worked to organize the Gulf Coast Vegetable Conference with adjoining counties which attracts some 150 vegetable producers in the Gulf Coast region.

In community development,

Mitchell has worked with nine rural minority communities to plan educational programs on parenting, self-esteem and family values. Among his other programs were crime prevention training, community youth organization, parliamentary procedure training and general community leader training.

He also worked with members of the Hungerford Community Development Club and county officials to receive an initial grant of \$500,000 in 1985 to begin and complete work on the Hungerford Water and Sewer Project.

In April 1993, he received a Texas Agricultural Extension Service Initiative Grant in the amount of \$3,500 to work with minority adults and youth. Six training workshops, consisting of six hours of training on parenting, self-esteem and family values were conducted in Spanish Camp, Glen Flora, Hungerford, Boone's Bend, Wharton, Egypt, Elm Grove and El Campo.

Mitchell has received plaques for outstanding excellence in the area of Result Demonstration Handbook in 1993, Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in 1994, Superior Service Award in 1995 and Distinguished Alumni Signal Service Award.

He and his wife, LeBertha, are the parents of one son, Rayford.

The Court tabled action on four agenda items. Action on an administrative contract with the Texas Capital Fund Program for administrative services, amendment to operations and management agreement with Sheridan Parks and Recreation Center Inc. (SPARC) for the Sheridan Waterpark, and approval of a lease agreement for hangar space at Robert R. Wells Jr. Airport will be considered at (See Commissioners, Page 10)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following cases and calls for the week ending Nov. 23.

On Nov. 17, at 10:47 a.m., Officer Stephen Nelson was dispatched to a traffic hazard at Burns and West Post Office Streets. The vehicle was moved so as not to impede traffic.

At 12:15 p.m., Chief Keith Webb and Officer Nelson met with a subject in reference to a theft. The investigation continues.

On Nov. 18, at 12:22 a.m., Officer Brian Lasley met with a complainant in reference to an assault.

As a result of the investigation, Gable Barrios was arrested for family violence, processed at the police department, then transported to the Cou-

nty Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

Sgt. Bill Lattimore investigated an accident at N. Lake and E. Main at 5:57 p.m. involving a 1981 Chevrolet driven by Mark Glover and a 1992 Chevrolet pickup driven by Raymond Leal Jr.

Glover's brakes failed, causing his vehicle to run a stop sign and travel into the intersection, striking Leal's vehicle on the passenger side. One passenger was transported to Rice Medical Center for treatment.

At 8:13 p.m., Officer Lasley met with several subjects in reference to a disturbance. It was settled at the scene.

On Nov. 19, Officer Michael Kre- (See Police, Page 10)

Auction

wall hanging with dried flowers, Sandy & Sam Thomson, Mary Kay Cook, \$25;

53. 1998 Capitol Ornament "The Lone Star Flag", Mary Kay & Robby Cook, Darlene Hayek, \$60; 54. 2 Wooden bird houses, Cub Scout Pack #3078, Kate Spalinger, \$16; 55. Looney Tunes weekender bag, Patti & Dick Weatherly, Kari Canaris, \$21; 56. 3-State of Texas Capitol Christmas ornament, Fair Wells, Connie Lange, \$100; 57. Grooming for one dog or at, Lynn's Grooming (Lynn Ellis), Eula Wintermann, \$35;

58. Two State of Texas Inaugural ashtrays, commemorating Gov. Mark White; Jan. 18, 1983; Evangeline & Elbert Whorton, Harold Black, \$5; 59. Primitive bench, Joe Duncan, Fair Wells, \$60; 60. Hand-crafted ash lamp, Lake Lumber (Mary Ann & Walter Gold), Evangeline Whorton, \$45.

MAIN AUCTION

1. Mammogram, Rice Medical Center, Connie Lange, \$70; 2. 4 Astros tickets, Mary Lou & Arthur Anderson, Carol Gore, \$200; 3. 1 Year service contract, Cannell Air Conditioning, Bob Wilcox, \$80; 4. 1 Night's lodging for 2, The Farris

1912 (Toy Kurtz), Dr. Russell Thomas, \$45; 5. Fall wreath, Connie Webb, Steve Balas, \$75;

6. Basket of Beanie Babies, Kate & Charles Spalinger, Melvin Stancik, \$75; 7. 1 Month certificate, Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Center (Terry Sablatura), Thurston Webb, \$35; 8. 18" Blonde-haired doll with wardrobe, Betty Wilcox, S&S Irrigation (Al Schindler), \$120; 9. Plate of homemade divinity, Liz Waddell, Bill Harrison Sr., \$90; 10. 1 Car telephone, Lake Motors Inc. (Deborah & Tom Reed), Darlene Hayek, \$50;

11. Fishing Trip, Clifton Tyler, Cynthia Treybig, \$160; 12. Teeth whitening package, John Myres, D.D.S., Dr. Russell Thomas, \$60; 13. Half-page ad, Eagle Lake Headlight (Jeannine Fearing), First National Bank, \$150; 14. Grooming for one dog or cat, Lynn Ellis, Betty Eivorit, \$30; 15. Annual gourmet dinner (Raymond & Elfe Thomas, Russell & Robin Thomas), Steve & Linda Balas, John & Laura Myres, Jim & Jean Wiese and Wayne & Brenda Corman, \$1,250;

16. Tiffany lamp, Wallis State Bank, Eula Wintermann, \$105; 17. Coconut cake on domed cake plate, Anna Lee Higgins, Bill Harrison Sr., \$70; 18. Covered wagon ride & hamburger supper, Jean & Kenneth Abel, Arthur Anderson, \$300; 19. 4 Tickets for the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Judi & Jack Johnson, Chris McCreary, \$250; 20. 2 books of Season tickets for Houston Symphony (5 Sunday performances), Mrs. Eula Wintermann,

Bill Farris, \$425; DOOR PRIZE: Connie Lange;

21. Winchester wall clock, Johnny's Sport Shop (Melody & Michael Grigar), Harry Anderson, \$60; 22. Amethyst & gold pendant with enhancer, Mr. & Mrs. Les Euers, Fair Wells, \$100; 23. Barbecued ham (to be ordered), Austin's BBQ (Denise & Ron Janow), Dr. Russell Thomas, \$90; 24. Crocheted afghan, squares of variegated colors, Blanche Reid, Melvin Stancik, \$55; 25. Chuck Wagon Supper at Kell's country place for 20 people (Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Casteleman, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Kell & Mr. J.W. Shavers), Joe Lee McCreary, \$600;

26. 4-Piece white wicker doll furniture, Furniture Shoppe (Joyce & Melvin Stancik), Bill Harrison Jr., \$160; 27. Christmas tree skirt, Brenda Corman, Mary Kay Cook, \$90; 28. Queen-size quilt, Dresden Plate pattern, Betty & Bob Wilcox, Eula Wintermann, \$225; 29. Basket of wines, Clifton & Ida Tyler, Joe Lee McCreary, \$90; 30. "Peace & Valentine" Beanie Babies on wicker settee, Alice & Henry Sunderman, Shelly Myres, \$95;

31. 4 Seafood buffets, Sportsman's Restaurant (Janie & Doug Schwemm), Thurston Webb, \$60; 32. Three F. Scott Fitzgerald books, Virginia Reed, Bernice Bornstein, \$200; DOOR PRIZE: Mahalitic; 33. Red Flyer Wagon with wooden sides, Ethel & Joe Lee McCreary, Joe L. McCreary, \$175; 34. 1 Year service contract, Cannell Air Conditioning, Thurston Webb, \$40;

Continued from Page 7

35. Dressed porcelain doll (plays "Sound of Music"), Connie & Willard Lange, Denise Janow, \$40; 36. Plate of homemade pralines, Jackie Middleton, Dr. Leonard Bornstein, \$85; 37. 4 Tickets for the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Singleton, First National Bank (Bill Harrison Jr.), \$200; 38. 30x36 Oil painting, Grandeur, Bunny Frazar, Harold Black, \$120;

39. Luncheon & Bridge for 12, Anna Lee Higgins, Dorothy Cassidy and Bunny Frazar, \$225; 40. 8 Volumes History of the Civil War, Elaine & Orson Hess, Mark Anderson, \$45; 41. 3 Plants (Thanksgiving, mum; Christmas, poinsettia; and Easter lily), Lake Crest Flowers (Pansy Burger), Bob Wilcox, \$65; DOOR PRIZE: Phyllis Psenick; 42. Basket of homemade jellies and breads, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Mahalic, Dorothy Cassidy, \$120; 43. Handmade pottery bowl vase, Paulina Kearney potter, Bill Harrison Sr., \$140;

44. Crocheted afghan, off-white shell pattern, Catherine Mehner, Harry Anderson, \$80; 45. 2 books of Season tickets for Houston Symphony (5 Sunday performances), Mrs. Eula Wintermann, Dr. Raymond Thomas, \$400; 46. Tatted doily and tatted bookmark, Helen Craig, Fair Wells, \$30; 47. Crocheted afghan made by Phyllis Thomas, Ernie Sommerlatte; Elbert Whorton, \$50;

48. Two books from "100 Best Books List", Virginia Reed, Amy Fearing, \$25; 49. Crocheted baby afghan, shell, pink and white, Katherine Mehner, Billy Cook, \$50; 50. 4 Tickets for an Astros game, Becky & Mark Anderson, First National Bank, \$210; 51. 1 Month certificate, Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Center (Terry Sablatura), Mary Kay Cook, \$50; DOOR PRIZE: Dr. Leonard Bornstein;

52. Goodie basket including wildflower seeds, Wildseed Farms (John & Marilyn Thomas), Raymond Kohleffel, \$90; 53. Book, Bunnies in My Head, by Tricia Tusa with art from the Children of M.D. Anderson, Virginia Reed, Kate Spalinger, \$40; 54. Case International child's pedal tractor, Boettcher-Hlavinka Case Dealership, Steve Balas, \$150; 55. Primitive bench, handmade, lumber from old John Deere place, Evangeline & Elbert Whorton, Bill Harrison, \$175; 56. Antique Canada Goose signed Ducks Unlimited, Eagle Lake Drugstore (Linda & Steve Balas), Ruby Johnson, \$120;

57. Treasure Box, covered with antique carpeting, Helyn & Bill Farris, Bernice Bornstein, \$130; 58. BBQ Caddy with utensils, John & Phyllis Psenick, Cook Farms, \$175; 59. \$50 gift certificate to Austin's BBQ, Al & Riana Jamison, Dr. Raymond Thomas, \$110; 63. Handcrafted ash lamp, Lake Lumber (Mary Ann & Walter Gold) Elbert Whorton, \$45; DOOR PRIZE: Bill Harrison Sr.

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Foot Facts

By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist

FOLLOW-UP TO FROZEN TOES

Anyone who has spent an afternoon skiing or building snowmen knows the feeling of cold toes. When that feeling progresses to frostbite, however, there is serious trouble ahead. Even if the frostbite is treated properly, with the extremities warmed and resuscitated, the problems are not over. Frostbite of the foot leaves some of the blood vessels permanently damaged, leaving circulation to that part of the body impaired. As a result, the natural narrowing of blood vessels that occurs in response to cold can quickly reduce blood flow to dangerously inadequate levels. Extra care must always be taken to insulate feet, as well as to take frequent breaks to warm and rest feet when exposed to cold.

For those who participate in outdoor activities of all kinds, professional attention and guidance, such as you'll find here at our office, can help reduce the potential for frostbite and other conditions. Any difficulties with your feet can adversely affect your comfort and lifestyle. Call for your appointment at 234-5571, at Rice Medical Center, and rest assured you'll receive comprehensive foot care geared to your personal foot care needs. I am there every Tuesday.

P.S. Early symptoms of frostbite include burning, stinging, and the numbness. Don't ignore them!

