WHAT'S INSIDE

An alleged drug trafficking ring is in cuffs after a series of raids in Calgary. **Page 4**

Columnists

Warren Kinsella	15
Lorne Gunter	15
Michael Coren	15

Regulars

Life	39
N.Y. Times Crossword	40
Advice	41
Showbiz	42
The Scene	44-45
TV listings	46
Movie listings	50
Obituaries	51
Classified	53
Coffee Break	56-57
SUNshine Girl	Sports 24

WEATHER

Raindrops keep falling on your head

High 12
Low 2
Details: **Page 59**

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Last night's draws

PICK 3: 219
EXTRA: 6479705

In the event of a discrepancy between this and the official numbers, the latter shall prevail.

HOCKEY MARATHON FOR KIDS

Out of the dark

Little Emma suffered terrible visions — but no more, thanks to docs

KATIE SCHNEIDER
Calgary Sun

It's not uncommon to hear a child complain of monsters in the closet or under the bed.

But for Emma Gaschnitz, 11, frightening visions of monsters were not just a bad dream — they were terrifying hallucinations as a result of severe seizures.

However thanks to surgeons at the Alberta Children's Hospital, she is seizure free, and also freed from a life of fear.

Emma received her epilepsy diagnosis at the age of four and had seizures that involved visions of a monster.

"She would run and grab me and start screaming," her mom, Marie, said.

"To her it was very real."

"It was very psychologically disturbing to her and she would get a lot of anxiety and fear."

She was placed on medication, and when that didn't work she was put on the strict Ketogenic diet.

They went for tests at the Sick Kids hospital in Toronto to help locate where her seizure focus was, and then eventually had surgery at the Alberta Children's Hospital, when she was eight years old, that involved capturing where the seizure was, using electrodes on her brain.

Doctors removed a 2-by-3 cm section. Eventually she became seizure free.

Marie is grateful for the world-class hospital and the care they gave her little girl, including staff at the Dr. Gordon Townsend School, housed within the hospital, she attended after her surgery.

"The staff, they go beyond their call of duty and they really do care," she said.

"Without them, Emma may not be alive, it was that serious."

Husband Michael called it a miracle how doctors could rid her of a life of fear.

"What the hospital did for us, compared to where she was and where she is now, was a miracle," he said.

"After the surgeries we saw a light in her eye and joy we hadn't seen."

Emma said she too is thankful for the kind doctors who helped her.

"I feel not so frightened because they helped me," she said.

The family is touched the Hockey Marathon for Kids — the world's longest hockey game at the Chestermere Rec Centre running May 4 to 14 — is raising money for brain health at the hospital.

"Epilepsy is one of those things that isn't talked about as much and it maybe doesn't get as much attention so I think any effort to raise money for a cause that is so close to us is phenomenal," she said.

Emma agreed. "I like they are raising money for the hospital, so they can help more kids," she said.

katie.schneider@sunmedia.ca
@SUNKSchneider

DARREN MAKOWICHUK/CALGARY SUN

@hockeymarathon

To donate, visit hockeymarathon.com

DAY 5 RECAP

Team Hope	Team Cure
2083	1968

24 Flats of eggs eaten in 12 hours

1 Player sent to hospital with wrist injury

CALL SWITCHBOARD FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE 403.410.1010

NEWS TIPS 403.250.4122 • FAX – 403.250.4180 cal-news@sunmedia.ca

SPORTS EDITOR Todd Saelhof 403-250-4108 todd.saelhof@sunmedia.ca

SHOWBIZ EDITOR Mark Daniell mark.daniell@sunmedia.ca

Rates below include GST. Sun GST # 898291453

RATES (INCL. GST) – SINGLE COPY MONDAY-SATURDAY $1.05 • SUNDAY $1.05 (CALGARY) / $1.32 (SUBURBAN) – HOME DELIVERY SEVEN DAYS $5.60 (CALGARY) / $5.95 (OUTSIDE CALGARY) • FRI TO SUN $3.12 (CALGARY) / $3.15 (OUTSIDE CALGARY) • SAT-SUN $2.30 (CALGARY) / $2.45 (OUTSIDE CALGARY) • SUNDAY ONLY $1.25 (CALGARY) / $1.40 (OUTSIDE CALGARY)