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The Niles Bugle

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Bugle News

7400 WAUKEGAN RD., NILES, IL 60714

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2003

VOL. 46, NO. 36

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NILES FLEA MARKET

Niles Senior Center Flea Market coming in May. Reserve a table to sell your treasures, Contact Jaymi at 847-588-8420.

KING OF HEARTS BALL

Special evening of dance and games for boys in grades kindergarten thru 6th with their Mom, Grandma or Aunt. Starts at 7 pm at the Howard Leisure Center on March 7. Call 847-967-6633.

AUDITIONING AT OAKTON COLLEGE

Open auditions are being held at Oakton College on March 25 and 26 for upcoming performance of "Crossing Delancey." Call the college for more information.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Group for caregivers meets on second Wednesday of each month at Glenview Terrace Nursing Home. Call 847-729-9090 for information.

TAI CHAI FOR SENIORS

March 11th demonstration of Asian exercise for seniors. Four-week course begins March 11 at Morton Grove Senior Center. Call 847-470-5223 for information.

DIABETES LECTURE

Lecture on diet, nutrition, exercise and lifestyles for those managing diabetes. March 18 at 2 pm at Morton Grove Senior Center. Call 847-470-5223 for information.

JAZZ CONCERT

Morton Grove 17-piece jazz band performs March 16 at 2 pm at Morton Grove Library. Call 847-965-4220 for information.

Snapshots From Our Town



Niles Park District and Bright Beginnings preschool welcomed Officer Alec Laule from the Niles Police Department. He recently made a visit to Ms. Maura's 4-year-old class during Community Helper Week. He read a story about strangers and talked about keeping safe. He is shown with some of the students from the Flex Care Program.



St. John Brebeuf School recently held the 21st Annual Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee for students in the fifth thru eighth grades. From left, Matthew Hanna took first place, Kristin Kaiser came in third place and Alexis Bargione took second place. These students will represent their school at the regional spelling bee.

Legion locked out; files suit

It's a whole new round between American Legion Post 320 and the Skokie Park District in the matter of space the Legion occupies at 8212 Lincoln Ave.

The Legion filed suit in Cook County Circuit Court Feb. 25 after the Park District changed locks on the building, barring the Legion entry to its headquarters.

The suit asks the court to enforce the lease, to award damages in view of improvements they made to the space, and asks for compensation for the rent it would expect to pay until 2017, lease-end.

The locks were changed after a letter from a park district attorney advised the Legion to vacate by Feb. 21 or the park district would take possession.

The Legion owned the building until 1998, then sold to the park district. The park district gave the Legion a lease on the lower level.

But the park district claims the lease provides use of the space until 2017 or until the building is sold.

The Legion's attorney says the lease language does not include the "until sold" provision.

The Park District operated a teen center in the building but

closed it in late 2001 because it was not paying its way.

With the teen center closed, the park district decided to sell the property to the village.

The village intends to demolish the building and sell the land to developers, thus returning the property onto tax rolls.

However the village will not purchase the site until the dispute is resolved, said Mayor George Van Dusen.

Shalom Baby Announcement

Did you or someone you know recently give birth to a Jewish baby in the greater Chicagoland area? If so, the Women's Division of the Jewish United Fund wants to send a complimentary SHALOM BABY kit to welcome the newborn to the Jewish Community!

Included in this kit are newsletters on raising a Jewish baby, a Mazel Tov book, the Guide to Jewish Living in Chicago and other useful information.

Simply send all of the following information: baby's name and birth date, parents' names, complete mailing address with zip code and phone number, and, if you are not the parent, your name and phone number. Call (312) 357-4826 or fax (312) 553-5485 or email shalombaby@juf.org or visit www.juf.org and click onto New Parents. We look forward to hearing from you.

Congratulations!!

SJB All Class Reunion

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Parish Church of St. John Brebeuf in Niles the school will have an All Class Reunion on Friday, April 11 from 7 p.m. until midnight.

Complete details may be found on the school website at www.sjbschool.org or by calling the reunion hotline at (847) 966-3266 extension 29.

Morton Grove holds "Taste" Mar. 6

The Morton Grove Foundation will hold its annual fund-raising activity from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Chateau Ritz, 9100 Milwaukee Ave., in Niles.

This year the foundation's "Taste" event is themed "Let's Rock n' Roll."

The event contributes to charitable agencies. This year the foundation hopes to distribute \$30,000 between 16 groups, while holding another \$20,000 for distribution throughout the year.

Event chairwoman, Morton Grove trustee Terry Liston, expects more than 500 people to come for the 16 food stations and silent auction.

Food vendors participating are Maier's Bakery, Black Forest Restaurant and Delicatessen.

Graziano's Brick Oven Pizza. Catering by Michaels, China Chef, Dairy Queen in Niles, La Pasta Ria, El Sol, Bringer Inn, Costco, the Morton Grove Fire Department, Walter's in Park Ridge, Old World Country Buffet, Marilyn's and Champs Sports Bar and Grill.

Many local businesses have donated cash ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 and others have donated prize merchandise.

Tickets are \$25 purchased in advance or \$35 purchased at the door.

Advance tickets can be obtained at Century 21 Marino Realtors, 5800 Dempster St., and Minuteman Press, 6038 Dempster St.

Further information is available at www.mgfound.org.

Voice of Democracy



During its annual Voice of Democracy Awards Ceremony held on January 8, 2003, Commander Larry Pike of Niles VFW Post 7712 presented certificates to 1st Place winner Carolyn Pike of Regina Dominican High School and 2nd Place winner Elizabeth Cross of New Trier Township High School. This year's theme was "Freedom's Obligation." Also present were Co-Chairs Pauline Bolton, President of the Niles VFW Ladies Auxiliary, and Jack Pufunt, Niles VFW Senior Vice Commander.

Pictured left to right are Jack Pufunt, Sr. Vice Cmdr.; Pauline Bolton, President of the Ladies Auxiliary; Elizabeth Cross, 2nd Place winner; Carolyn Pike, 1st Place winner, and Larry Pike, Commander of Niles VFW Post 7712.



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Trustee campaigns, plans move out of district

Leon Finkel, a trustee of District 219 Niles Township High Schools, is running for reelection in spite of his announcement that he will move out of the district with his family this summer.

Finkel, a Morton Grove resident, issued a statement to the D219 school board at a meeting Feb. 17.

His decision to continue campaigning is based on getting across his message—that to survive, the district must get a referendum passed.

No other board candidates have taken that stand, said Finkel.

Finkel said his leaving would

District 71 News

Culver Spelling Bee Winner.

On Tuesday, February 11, Culver School held its annual Spelling Bee. Rebecca Hong was the winner, successfully spelling "Anxiously." Rebecca will represent Culver at the 2003 Chicago Tribune Spelling Bee. Josephine Tritsch was the runner-up. A special thanks to Mrs. Santana for acting as "pronouncer."

Culver Commendation Awards.
The following students received the February Culver Commendation Award:

Kindergarten - Patricia Tolentino, Jack Brocar, Jacob Mrs. Oncall Yousef.

1st Grade - Beata Soltyz, Hubert Szlag, Shariq Khan.

2nd Grade - Emily Sen, Jakub Kowalczyk, Emmanuel Patchadas.

3rd Grade - Olivia Hanusiak, Paulina Graca, Kelly Sanks.

4th Grade - Matt Gorski, Sagar Dedhia, Brittany Wallace.

5th Grade - Zack Dessent, Ryle Abill, Maggie Kearns.

The students are commended for following the Culver code: Be Responsible. Be Positive. Be Respectful of people and property. Be Honest. Be Cooperative. Congratulations to all!

Local Resident Named to Dean's List

Mona K. Patel of Niles, IL, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2002 semester at St. Louis College of Pharmacy. To make the Dean's List, students must have a 3.0 grade point average for the semester.

Patel is the daughter of Kano and Shushila Patel and a 1999 graduate of Maine East High School. She is involved in Student Alumni Association and International Student Organization.

Established in 1864, St. Louis College of Pharmacy is the only private and independent college in the nation exclusively dedicated to the field of pharmacy. More than 900 students attend the college and approximately 90 percent of the pharmacists in the St. Louis bi-state region are alumni.

have been easier if other candidates had taken a strong pro-referendum stand.

Finkel feels that other candidates have backed off knowing the position is unpopular.

His run also recognizes that decisions will be made over the next months on matters like budget cuts, staffing and leadership issues.

"I would like to be part of those decisions, and accordingly, I do not intend to withdraw from this race," said Finkel.

Finkel is one nine candidates

vying for four seats.

Regarding his move, Finkel said the district's current financial woes caused him and his wife to focus strongly on the advisability of a move.

The Finkel's three children include a high school freshman and a fifth-grader.

If Finkel is reelected, the school board will appoint his replacement when he leaves.

District 219 estimates a \$10 million deficit next year. It expects to run out of money by 2006.

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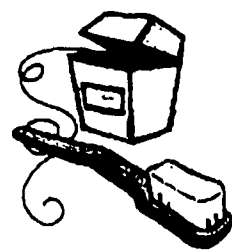
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Skokie volunteer group disbanded, involuntarily

Skokie's emergency volunteer unit, an organization that dates back to the 1960s, has been disbanded.

Skokie Village Manager Al Rigoni cited two reasons. For one, emergency disaster planning must become more professional, he said.

Secondly, new federal and state laws mean the group would have to become accredited in order to continue receiving the funding it now gets.

Skokie's Emergency Services Disaster Agency (ESDA) began

as a civil defense group at the height of the Cold War. "At that time we stocked bomb shelters," said member Stu Trock.

With training over the years, they expanded to fire fighting and to helping on storm detail. They were also available for public event duty.

More recently, the group was responsible for updating and maintaining Skokie's disaster plan and submitting it to the state.

Harold Peters, the unit's part-time assistant director, worked

less than 20 hours a week at his job, whereas guidelines now require a minimum of 20 hours spent directing the organization, to get accreditation.

Harold Peters received an annual salary of \$10,420. The unspent remainder of federal money will be redirected into Skokie's general fund, Rigoni said. The group's duties will be turned over to the fire and police departments.

Member Stu Trock noted that this is a time when the president is asking for volunteers. "We'd like to continue doing that," Trock said.



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Park Ridge Catholic Woman's Club

The Park Ridge Catholic Woman's Club will meet Monday, March 10, at 12:15 p.m. at the South Park Recreational Center, Park Ridge, located at 733 Talcott Road, Park Ridge.

We will have a St. Joseph's, St. Patrick's table. Please bring a meatless dish or dessert to serve six, or a donation may be made to charity. Gifts to our charity "IN-FANTS" is always appreciated.

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Park Ridge vehicles targeted, two charged

Park Ridge police have charged two individuals, a 17-year-old Park Ridge male and a juvenile, with recent vehicle burglaries and arsons.

Robert Miller, 17, was charged with possession of a stolen car, burglary to an auto, criminal trespass, criminal damage and arson.

Miller was arrested Feb. 8 at his home. Bond is set at \$100,000.

Both arsons occurred on Feb.

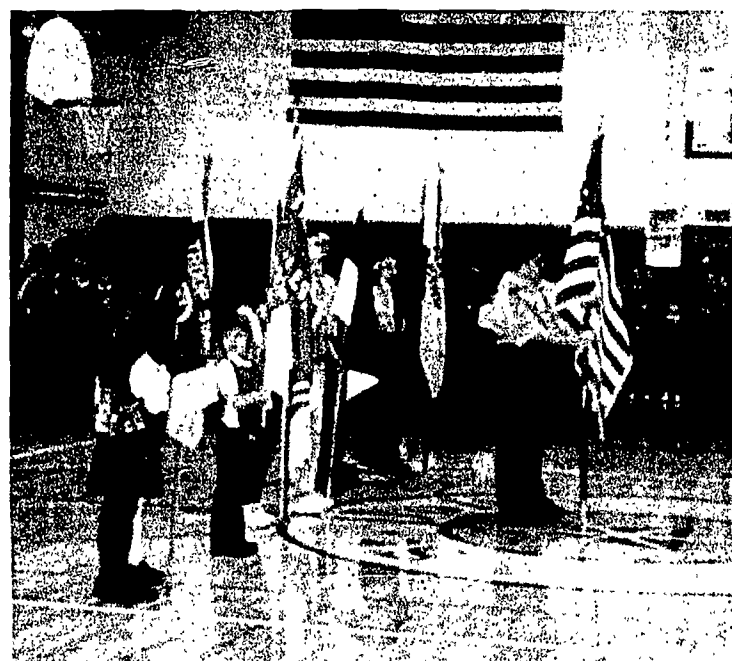
2 and involved Chrysler convertibles.

When a car stolen Feb. 7 was recovered, items inside reflected the take from previous burglaries, said Park Ridge Deputy Police Chief Thomas Swoboda.

The juvenile was charged with one count of possession of stolen auto and two counts of burglary to an auto.

The juvenile will be prosecuted through the juvenile court system.

SJB Scouts Help Celebrate America



The students of St. John Brebeuf recently celebrated Catholic School's Week. Each day brought a new theme and a variety of activities emphasizing how Catholic Schools make a difference.

On Wednesday of Catholic School's Week, the students celebrated America. Over 100 Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts proudly wore their scouting uniforms to school that day. The entire school community gathered in the gym for the morning prayer. Afterward, the Scouts led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. The ceremony was a touching experience for everyone who was in attendance.

'Junior Night' to Aid in College Selection Dist. 219

Niles Township juniors and their parents are invited to attend "Junior Night" at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18 in the auditorium at Niles North High School, 9800 North Lawler, Skokie. This event is designed to aid juniors and their parents in the college selection process. There will be an opening presentation by college admissions experts beginning at 7:30 p.m. After the presentation, smaller groups will be formed, and the experts will provide more in-depth information and answer specific questions.

Students and their parents may learn about the following: "Role of State Universities out of Illinois" by Michael Barron, Director of Admissions, University of Iowa; "Selective College Admissions" by Richard Bischoff, Associate Director of Admissions, University of Chicago; "University of Illinois System" by Martha Moore, Associate Director of Admissions, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL; "State Schools" by Robert Burk, Director of Admissions, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL; "Other Illinois State Schools" by Steve Adams, Director of Admissions, Illinois State University, Normal, IL; "Role of Private Colleges" by Michelle Darnell, Assistant Dean of Admissions, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL; "Two Year Colleges" by Dale Cohen, Admissions Specialist, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL; or "Vocational Schools" by Jeff Jerdec, Director of Applied Sciences and Technology, Niles North High School.

For more information, please contact college counselors Donna Virkkan at (847) 626-2170 or Gloria Moore at (847) 626-2682.

Unlocked cars invite thefts

Five cars parked in the same Park Ridge neighborhood were entered and items reportedly stolen because the cars were left

unlocked, according to police reports filed in February.

The incidents took place over the evening of Feb. 16 to the morning of Feb. 17.

Headphones and an ID card were reportedly taken from an auto parked on a driveway. In other cases, small amounts of cash, credit cards and a driver's license were reportedly taken.

The burglaries occurred in an area that included the 200 block of South Home and the 400 block of South Western.

Deputy Police Chief Thomas Swoboda said this most likely was the work of a juvenile out checking for unlocked doors.

Red Cross Offers Free CPR Saturdays in March

This March, set hearts aflutter and become someone's hero - learn the lifesaving skill of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The American Red Cross of Greater Chicago presents its first-annual CPR Saturdays event offering free CPR training to anyone who signs up for a sponsored class. Use the opportunity to become CPR-certified for the first time, or to renew your skills.

CPR Saturdays will be held at the Red Cross community facility in Arlington Heights, 544 West Northwest Highway, on March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. A morning course (8 a.m.-12 p.m.) and an afternoon course (1 p.m.-5 p.m.) are scheduled at this site and six others in the Chicago metropolitan area. Space is limited and advance registration is required. Participants will learn the basic skills of American Red Cross CPR training and, upon passing a written test and a skills test, will receive Red Cross CPR certification and a special CPR Saturdays t-shirt.

Individuals can register for a free CPR Saturdays class, or get more information, by calling 800/33-SAFETY or visiting www.chicagoredcross.org. Registration will continue until classes are filled.

The American Red Cross of Greater Chicago is committed to making our communities safer and healthier places to live and has been a leader in the field for nearly 90 years. Locally, the chapter serves more than 7.5 million people of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties through the generous contributions of individuals, corporations, foundations and the United Way. For more information, call (312) 729-6100 or visit www.chicagoredcross.org.

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Here's the surprise. The very best, most qualified, most motivated buyers often expect to tour homes on short notice. How short? It could be only hours, and sometimes mere minutes.



While this may seem unreasonable to you when selling, think twice before you turn down an unexpected request to show your home on thirty minutes notice. Remember, despite the inconvenience to you, it is highly likely that the prospect making the request is dead serious about buying a home. That home could be yours.

The more restrictions you place on the hours of showing or advance notice required, the more you lower the chances of selling your home. Your agent will always attempt to give as much advance notice as possible, yet it is the prospects who ultimately set the schedule.

To capitalize on this unpredictable aspect of home marketing, be flexible and be ready for a showing at any time. Let your agent do the rest.

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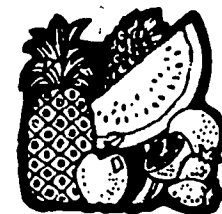
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OLR 1st Graders Travel the Globe



If you ask the first graders at Our Lady of Ransom School what they did today, don't be surprised if they tell you they were on the other side of the world. As part of their Social Studies Program, the students are learning about the continents and the countries within them. Each expedition starts at the world map with Miss Gryder pointing out the new location for travel. This allows the students to see the relationship between where they actually live and where they will be studying. Then the students discuss three questions: What do we already know? What do we want to find out? and when the week is over, what we have learned?

During the past weeks, the students have traveled from North America to Antarctica, Australia and Asia. Stopping at countries along the way, the students learn about many things including the different customs, clothing, lan-

guage, food, climate, and geographic features of the land. They learn why people all over the world are the same even with so many differences.

The highlight of every trip is learning about an item unique to each place. So if you want to know about the size of a baby koala, or how long it took to build The Great Wall of China or how Emperor Penguins handle the cold temperatures in Antarctica, just ask an OLR first grader. They have all the answers.

As part of their social studies program, learning about China, the students recreated the Great Wall of China.

Miss Gryder's 1st grad class at Our Lady of Ransom School visited Antarctica as part of their social studies program. Pictured left to right is Jan Suarez, Althea Yap, Michael Seibt and Melody Betran in front of the ice hill where the Emperor Penguins played.

Answers for Special Kids (ASK) Special Connections

Answers for Special Kids (ASK) and Special Connections, two local parent groups for families with special needs children, are teaming up to sponsor a special presentation on Saturday, March 8, 2003. Dr. William D. Bursuck, Ph.D., Professor of Learning Disabilities at Northern Illinois University will be presenting "Homework Practices That Support Students with Disabilities." He has published numerous articles on learning disabilities, inclusion, early literacy for students-at-risk and homework practices.

Discussion topics will include:

Solving homework communication problems, using planners to increase homework completion, teaching students how to self-monitor their homework assignments, cooperative homework strategies.

The presentation will begin at 9 a.m., and will take place at Niles North High School, Room PW2, 9800 N. Lawler Avenue, Skokie, IL.

To reserve a seat please RSVP to specialconnections@attbi.com. (847) 679-8618 or a.s.k.@attbi.com. (847) 733-1739.

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Cleaning Out Parents Home Can Be Difficult

When one or more parents pass on or must move to assisted living and leave their family home, family members are forced to assume the responsibility of liquidating the parent's household possessions. This can be an emotionally difficult and time-consuming process.

Jim Frugoli of June Moon Estate Sales has helped many families dispose of the unneeded items accumulated through the years by their parents and evaluate and sell them for the best price, quickly and efficiently.

Jim offers the following advice to family members facing this situation. First of all, do not dispose of any items other than opened food stuffs, paints, hazardous cleaners or poisons without consulting an expert in evaluating the remaining property. Many times well-meaning family members have disposed of antique or collectible objects, photographs and paper items that could have provided needed funds to the estate. Even broken or damaged items should be inspected first.

Once family members have taken the heirlooms they desire or the furnishings that are needed by the parent in assisted living, June Moon Estate Sales can be called on to determine the best method of disposing of the remaining items.

A sale on the premises of the

home is usually the best alternative if there are numerous household items to dispose of. But other methods are available including the direct purchase of property, charity donation or a total cleanout of the entire home including the attic, basement and garage so the home can be prepared for sale.

If an estate sale is preferred, June Moon Estate Sales has the experience and staff to do a professional job quickly. All items in the home are displayed, evaluated and tagged, then sold in one to three days through a well publicized sale. All permits and fees are paid for by June Moon Estate Sales. Sales commission varies and depends upon the amount of items and the number of sales staff required to safely and properly conduct the sale. A free estate evaluation without obligation is always provided in advance.

For more information about the services offered by June Moon Estate Sales call Jim Frugoli at (847) 294-0018 or visit the June Moon store in downtown Des Plaines at 1486 Miner Street, across from the train station. Open afternoons Tuesday through Saturday.

Judea Mizpah to Host Activist for JUF

Temple Judea Mizpah will host a reception featuring Rabbi David Saperstein, the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, on behalf of the 2003 Jewish United Fund Annual Campaign and the Israel Emergency Campaign. The reception will be held on Sunday, March 9, at 7 p.m. 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie.

As Director of the Religious Action Center for 24 years, Rabbi David Saperstein represents the national Reform Jewish Movement to the administration and Congress. In 1999, Rabbi Saperstein was elected as the first Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, created by an act of Congress. An attorney, Rabbi Saperstein teaches at Georgetown University Law School. His latest book is Jewish Dimensions of Social Justice: Tough Moral Choices of Our Time.

To make reservations or for more information, please call Julius Weiss at JUF at (312) 444-2914.

The Jewish United Fund Annual Campaign funds essential social welfare, education and relief programs for 300,000 Chicagoans of all faiths and 2 million Jews worldwide.

Trinity Women's Guild White Elephant & Bake Sale

Trinity Women's Guild, located at 5106 N. LaCrosse Avenue (Foster & Elston), will be having their White Elephant and Bake Sale on Saturday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Traditional pastry delicacies of Czech-Slovak origin will be featured, including nut-poppy seed rolls, strudel and kolacky-tortes. Coffee and pastry will be served all day as well as homemade chili, hot dogs and polish sausage for lunch.

Be sure to arrive early to take advantage of the baked goods as this is a popular event.

news & notes

Thurgood Marshall Honored On New Stamp

BLACK HERITAGE
USA 37

Thurgood Marshall

Harriet Tubman commemorative stamp.

Born in Baltimore, Md., on July 2, 1908, Marshall graduated in 1930 from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, determined to become a lawyer. Later that year he entered Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C.

(NAPS)—Thurgood Marshall, a famed civil rights lawyer and most notably the first African American to serve as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, received one of the nation's highest honors when the U.S. Postal Service issued a new commemorative postage stamp in January 2003.

The stamp is the 26th in the Black Heritage stamp series. The series began in 1978 with the issuance of the

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Hoofbeat Ridge Camp

Hoofbeat is a family owned and operated camp located 20 miles west of Madison, Wisconsin. Girls, ages 7-16, from beginner to advanced riders enjoy Hoofbeat which is nestled in the rolling hills countryside of south central Wisconsin. Campers receive daily riding instruction in Western, English or Jumping styles and classes in complete horse care. Riders are grouped according to riding style and ability level. Campers also are offered trail rides on our beautiful 250 acres, mounted games, horse shows, bareback riding and more.

Other activities include sports, drama arts & crafts, camp games, cabin activities, special theme night activities and out-of-camp trips. Campers stay in modern bunkhouses and the girls are grouped according to age. Instructors are certified by the Horsemanship Safety Association. Hoofbeat's professionally developed camp program has been accredited since 1964 by the American Camping Association. Hoofbeat Ridge meets their rigorous standards for recreation, safety and education. Low camper-to-staff ratio and excellent pro-

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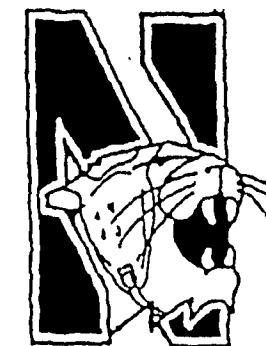
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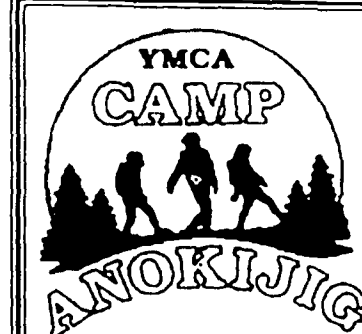
SESSION 1: TEAM CAMP
Sunday, July 13 - Thursday, July 17

INTENSIVE PIN-TO-WIN CAMP
Friday, July 18 - Sunday, July 20

SESSION 2: TECHNIQUE CAMP
Friday, July 20 - Thursday, July 24

TOSS AND TURN MINI CAMP
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Letters to the Editor

"What were you thinking?" I hated hearing that question from my father growing up. It was strictly a rhetorical question. I know that because the action prompting it always screamed what we both knew - I wasn't thinking.

Let's ask State Senators Jeffrey Schoenberg, Susan Garrett, and John Cullerton, "What were you thinking?" Of course, like me years ago, don't expect them to answer. Their actions speak loud enough.

Yesterday, I read through the new crop of bills in Springfield. I know that I should not be surprised at the left leaning of our Capitol, still the language that I read assaults my reasoning.

The Freedom of Choice Act (SB 17) leads me to believe that I am surely missing something? Are Illinoisans not "free to choose" now? The real impetus is found in the final portion, which reads, "Repeals a Section declaring that the General Assembly would prohibit if Roe v. Wade is overruled or significantly modified." Now I see their point.

Or how about SB 140, the clinic access bill? This would make it illegal to interfere with access to abortion clinics. Really, isn't that already illegal? Excuse me Senators, your agenda is showing, and it is surely your agenda.

According to a Gallop poll conducted last year, 73% of Americans think abortion laws

should be more restrictive. SB 140 would not only afford compensatory damages to the clinic (sue me for the damages my actions cost you,) it also provides for punitive damages (sue me to punish me too). This hardly seems more restrictive.

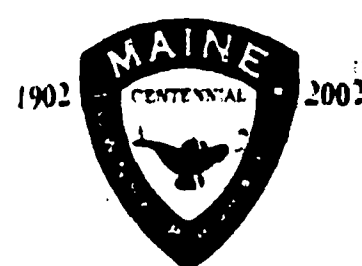
Sen. Susan Garrett also sponsors SB 110. This bill makes it a crime to own or be employed by a childcare facility if you have been declared sexually violent or dangerous. Who can fault the Senator for trying to protect our vulnerable? Does it strike you as disingenuous or at least incongruent that the Senator would want to protect the weak among us in one bill and strip their mouthpiece of protection under SB 140? In my house, we call that schizophrenic legislation.

I like the statement Jill Stanek recently reported. "The 93rd General Assembly has swiftly revealed its liberal penchant for self-destruction." I certainly hope so, Jill. And I hope that thinking people in my community will aid them in the self-destruction of this agenda! It is an assault upon our reason, our morals and the good sense of our citizens.

Brad Greer

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Shahab Ajmal

Marine Corps Pfc. Shahab Ajmal, a 1990 graduate of Maine East High School, Park Ridge, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

Ajmal successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

Ajmal and fellow recruits began their training at 5 a.m., by running three miles and performing calisthenics. In addition to the physical conditioning program, Ajmal spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments which included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training.

to forced tax funding of abortions. No to forcing men unto women's athletic teams. And on and on. It's time to kill this radical agenda. Everyone needs to call their legislators with the simple message: Stop the ERA once and for all.

Karen Hayes
Palos Heights, IL

Dear Editor:

How can a feminist dinosaur still roar in the 21st Century? Inquiring minds want to know! Illinois and the United States of America have said NO to feminist plans for over twenty years. No to drafting our daughters into the military. No to same-sex marriages, which is an oxymoron. No

Editor,

I am SHOCKED! The time limit to pass the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) expired 24 years ago. It's not about equal rights for women. Court cases have proven that! Supporters won't accept that the Illinois Gen-

eral Assembly wisely defeated it 13 times during a 10-year period. It's dangerous for women. As a woman, I strongly oppose it and ask the Illinois General Assembly to do the same -- again.

Denise Hassoun
Addison, IL

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Niles Tam Tennis & Fitness Senior Discount

The Niles Park District and Tam Tennis & Fitness Complex are presenting Niles resident seniors with a special tennis discount. "Age is your Discount". Starting Monday, March 10, seniors in their 60's will get 60% off the court time fee of \$20. Seniors in their 70's get 70% off the fee, etc. This promotion is available Monday thru Thursday between 12 to 4 p.m. It is eligible for those who just want to drop in and play a game of tennis. It is also a perfect time to purchase permanent court time at this great rate. For more information and to register, please call Tam Tennis at (847) 967-1400 and mention "Age is your Discount".

Niles Senior Men's Bowling

Wed., Feb. 12, 2003

TEAM/STANDING	W	L
#4-Callero-Catino	31	11
#2-Colonial #2	30	12
#8-Dr. Bello	30	12
#12-Skaja #1	26	16
#11-Heatmaster	26	16
#13-Candlelite	26	16
#7-Monarch	24	18
#9-State Farm	24	18
#5-Tramcar	21	21
#16-J.F. Barber Shop	21	21
#6-Skaja #2	19	23
#14-Minelli	19	23
#18-Miners Team	19	23
#3-REMAX	17	25
#10-NorthShoreMtrWrks	17	25
#19-Alliance	17	25
#15-MCH Htg&Clg	16	26
#20-Malee and Sons	16	26
#1-Colonial #1	12	30
#17-Pennys	9	33

HOT SHOTS

Larry Pasdiora	616
Ken Daluga	605
Joe Machina	576
Ches Peterson	576
Orville Fischrup	566
Joe Kucan	555
Morgan Lewis	551
Henry Doleschal	551

Catholic Women's Bowling League

Wed., Feb. 19, 2003

TEAM	W	L
NorthSide Comm. Bk.	35	14
Candlelight Jwlr	32	17
Classic Bowl	27	22
Niles Dairy Queen	24	25
Thomas Drodz, DDS	18	31
Skaja Terrace	11	38

HIGH SERIES

Millie Kroll	504
Paula Bergo	479
Fe Fabunan	471
Mary Wasilewski	469
Gertie Schultz	465

HIGH GAMES

Mary Wasilewski	184
Millie Kroll	177
Paula Bergo	175
Fe Fabunan	174
Gertie Schultz	170
Rosemary Mitchell	169

NEWS FROM THE Niles Senior Center

FOR YOUR HEALTH - MARCH

Wednesday, March 12 - Blood Pressure Screening - Every second Wednesday of the month is Blood Pressure Screening. Next Blood Screening: Wednesday, March 12, 1 to 3:30 p.m. No appointment needed. Free.

Thursday, March 13 - Diabetic Support Group - A monthly support group for diabetics will start Thursday, March 13, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Our focus will be on better diabetic management. Learning together while providing support to each other. We'll also be planning future speakers and activities together. Cost will be \$10 for materials. Registration is required.

Monday, March 17 - Diabetes Screening - Monthly screening by appointment. Fasting from midnight required. Please take morning medications with water (medications that can be taken without food). Monday, March 17, 9 to 11 a.m. Fee: \$1. Appointment taken in-person at Center.

Thursday, March 20 - Coping with Fibromyalgia - Nurse diagnosed with Fibromyalgia in her 30's teaches about the disease and how to live well within its limits. Thursday, March 20, 2 to 3 p.m. Free.

FLEA MARKET
Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Niles Senior Center Flea Market is coming in May. If you are interested in reserving a table to sell the many treasures in your home that you no longer use, please contact Jaymi at the Senior Center as soon as possible. Space is limited.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Thursday, May 22, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Niles couples, celebrating 50, 55, or 60 plus years of marriage in 2003 are invited to the Golden Anniversary celebration. Reservations are now being taken for the couples, married in 1953, 1948, or 1943 and earlier to be our guests at this annual event. Guests will be honored with a catered luncheon at the Niles Senior Center and a special presentation from Mayor Nicholas B. Blase. Entertainment will be provided by the Niles Senior Center's Golden Notes. Contact the Niles Senior Center at 588-8420 to make reservations.

MARCH TICKET SALES
Ticket Sales Procedures

Tickets for Niles Senior Center events are available through a mail-in/drop-off registration procedure. Upon receipt of the Program Guide, members can mail-in or drop-off a completed & signed registration form with payment to the Niles Senior Center. Forms MUST be in NO LATER THAN 5 p.m., Friday, March 7. Providing space is still available, you may register in person starting Wednesday, March 12.

For detailed information, please see the March Program Guide, call us at 588-8420 or check out the Senior Center under the Village of Niles web site at www.niles.com. It is easy to receive the Program Guide: Become a member of the Senior Center. (You must be a Niles resident, 62 years or older, or a younger spouse. Membership is FREE.) Listed below are some of what we are offering during our March ticket sales:

• **Lunch with Red Hatters: Hackney's on Lake -- Wednesday, April 2, 12 to 2 p.m.** - Red Hat Society members only! Choice of Fresh Stuffed Tomato, Strawberry Spinach Salad, Grilled Chicken and Fresh Asparagus over Penne Pasta, Veggie Burger or the Famous Hackneyburger. (Meal selections will be made at Hackney's at the event.) Purple outfits and red hats are required. Cost: \$13.75. Call Kelly for information on how to become a member of the Red Hat Society.

• **Evening at the Center: Ridgeville Band Returns to the Center - Wednesday, April 2** - This outstanding 40+ member brass band is back for a return engagement. Join us for dinner featuring Salad, Grecian Chicken, Stuffed Shells, and Dessert. Then close your eyes and you might think you're at Ravinia - except no mosquitoes! Check in: 5 p.m. Dinner: 5:30 p.m. Band starts: 7 p.m. Fee: \$10.

• **Men's Golf Kick-off Meeting - Thursday, April 3, 10 to 11:30 a.m.** - Join us for an informative meeting to hear what's new with the golf program. Enjoy a guest speaker, raffle & refreshments. Advance registration is required. Free.

• **Book Discussion: Dancing After Hours - April 4, 10 to 11 a.m.** - Cost of \$1 includes discussion of Andre Dubus' book & refreshments.

• **April Lite Lunch & Movie - Friday, April 4, 12 to 4 p.m.** - Enjoy sliced turkey on wheatbread and potato salad! Then sit back and watch *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001, PG-13). Note: Running time of this movie is 3 hours. Fee: \$3.50.

• **Sunday at the Center: Through the Years - Sunday, April 6, 12 to 3 p.m.** - Spend the afternoon enjoying turns from all the decades. Dress in your favorite fad as you listen to Jerry May's Mel-low-Tones. Lunch will be Boneless Chicken with Lemon Sauce, Buttered Noodles with Mushrooms. Mixed Vegetables and Cucumbers Vinaigrette. Fee: \$10.

Morton Grove Seniors

TAO CHI DEMONSTRATION & CLASSES

Seniors who are curious about Tai Chi can come to the Morton Grove Senior Center and watch Louie Stallone as he gives a free demonstration of this ancient form of exercise at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 11. Tai Chi is a popular exercise that is low-impact and focuses on balance and breathing techniques to maintain well-being. If there is enough interest, Louie will be offering an introductory four-week course in Tai Chi from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. on March 25, April 8, 22, and 29. The cost will be \$2.50 per class for residents and \$3.50 per class for non-residents. Register in person at the Senior Center Reception Desk.

"HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FUTURE" LECTURE

Learn how to protect the family nest egg in these turbulent economic times by attending this informative seminar at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 12 in the Morton Grove Senior Center, presented by Arthur Miller, Certified Senior Advisor. Some of the topics he will discuss are:

- Eliminate paying income taxes on Social Security income
- Avoid probate while retaining full financial control.
- Stretching IRA distributions.
- Diversifying portfolios to minimize market loss.
- Inflation-proofing your money.

Please register today by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at (847) 470-5223 to reserve a spot for this free program.

"BRANSON SHOWTIME" TRIP PREVIEW

Those who enjoy Branson, Missouri should plan to attend this free Trip Preview at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 13 for the trip that the Morton Grove Senior Center is planning from Sept. 22 through 25. Imelda Flores of Mayflower Tours will describe the details, including the five top shows during the trip. To register for the Trip Preview, call the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at (847) 470-5223. Refreshments will be served.

THINK GREEN!

Monday, March 17 is St. Patrick's Day - the one day of the year that everyone can be a little bit Irish. Come to the Morton Grove Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. and sample some Irish Soda Bread, tell a favorite Irish joke, and enjoy some toe-tapping music. Also, enjoy a performance by dancers from the T'N'c Dance Troupe who will be giving a sneak preview of the performance they are planning to give on Wednesday, May 14 at 2 p.m. also in the Senior Center. Don't miss it! No registration is required for this free program.

"DIABETES" LECTURE

Dr. Thomas Tambouratzis, M.D. will present information related to nutrition, diet, exercise and lifestyle accommodations necessary for those managing diabetes from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. This lecture will also address hereditary, physical and emotional risk factors related to diabetes. Register today by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at (847) 470-5223 and reserve a spot for this free program.

"WHO GETS GRANDMA'S YELLOW PIE PLATE?" LECTURE

Kathy Reuter, Extension Educator with the University of Illinois, will be speaking on this very popular topic from 1 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 20 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. Transferring non-titled property such as wedding pictures, a vase or even grandma's pie plate often impacts families regardless of the financial worth of the items. The value comes in the memories and sentimental feelings identified with personal belongings. Each person will receive tools to facilitate discussions with other family members. Register by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at (847) 470-5223 and reserve a place for this free program.

For more information about these senior services and recreation programs, call the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at (847) 470-5223. Membership in the Morton Grove Senior Center provides the following annual benefits: six bi-monthly issues of the *Seniors in Morton Grove* newsletter mailed to the home; free Diabetes Screening at the monthly Senior Center clinic; free passage on the Senior-tran Bus for resident members; free Colorectal Test Kits available at the Senior Center; free Computer usage in the Senior Center Library; priority registration (five working days before non-members) for trips, classes, and seminars; and an annual members-only function. Membership registrations are accepted any weekday morning at the Morton Grove American Legion Memorial Civic Center, 6140 Dempster Street.

Power Wheelchairs Available for 2003 FOR SENIORS AND THE DISABLED

The Senior Wheels USA Program makes available Power (Electric) Wheelchairs to Senior Citizens (65 yrs. old & up) and the Permanently Disabled at no cost to the recipient, if they qualify.

The Power Wheelchairs are provided to those who cannot walk and cannot self-propel a manual wheelchair, and who meet the additional guidelines of the program. No deposit is required.

If the patient's need is for use in the home, please call for more information to see if they qualify. Call toll free at 1-800-246-6010.


In Addition.. The Senior Wheels USA Program's main purpose and goal is to develop public awareness that there are assistance options that allow senior citizens (as well as the permanently disabled) to remain independent in their own homes. Without this awareness and assistance, the family may prematurely choose a nursing home, or make an unnecessary retail purchase on power mobility equipment.

If the patient does not meet all the requirements of the program, we may still be able to help them through our donation program. This is made available when people call us wanting to donate their power wheelchairs that are no longer needed.


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Alzheimer's Support Group Hosted by Glenview Terrace

Glenview Terrace Nursing Center hosts a monthly Alzheimer's Association-Affiliated Community Support Group on the second Wednesday at 6 p.m. It is open to all community members who are caregivers. This Community Support Group is an excellent opportunity to share common experiences, concerns and ideas on ways to cope. For more information, call Jami Mandl at (847) 729-9090. Glenview Terrace is located at 1511 Greenwood Road in Glenview.

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OBITUARIES

JEROME G. SEBO

Jerome G. Sebo, 85, of Niles, died Friday, January 24 at Resurrection Medical Center. He was born November 5, 1917 in Gary, IN. Beloved husband of Leokadia Sebo. Beloved father of Vince (Carol) Sebo, Geri (James) Camic, Donald (Pat) Sebo, Bernie Ladda and Kathy (Charlie) Eble. Step-father of Darek Sokolowski and Agatha Sokolowski. Brother of Sr. Irene Sebo, OSB, Amelia Kmiecik, Vivian Corbino, the late Yolanda Schoon, the late Ann Brantner, the late Irene Katz and the late Clara Buncich. Services were held January 28 at St. Benedict Home. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in Calumet Park Cemetery.

STELLA A. MAMOLA

Stella A. Mamola, 84, of Morton Grove, died Wednesday, January 29 at Lutheran General Hospital. She was born July 27, 1918 in Chicago. Beloved daughter of the late Ambrose Drzewiecki and the late Mary Drzewiecki. Beloved mother of Barbara (Larry) Golen, Bobby Mamola, Fred Mamola, Jerome Mamola, Mark Mamola, Marlene Mamola and Theresa Mamola. Services were held February 3 at St. John Brebeuf Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in Maryhill Cemetery.

KARL HEUMANN

Karl Heumann, 66, of Glenview, died Wednesday, January 29 at Maryhaven Nursing. He was born September 4, 1936 in Barnsville. Beloved husband of Gisela Heumann. Beloved father of Theodore Kekstadt and Gertrude Heumann. Brother of Monica (Horst) Lochner, Eugene (Barbara), Lucille (George) Daichendt, Manfred (Kathy), Max (Jan), Maria (David) Andrade, Christopher and the late Dorothy (Guenther) Georgi. Uncle of many nieces and nephews. Services were held February 3 at St. Catherine Laboure. Arrangements handled by Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Home, Niles. Interment was in Abraham Lincoln. Memorials to: Children's Memorial Hospital, 2300 Children's Plaza, Chicago, IL 60614.

HOWARD E. ELLIS

Howard E. Ellis, 86, of Niles, died Thursday, January 23 at Lutheran General Hospital. He was born February 1, 1916 in Butler, IN. Beloved husband of Vera Ellis. Beloved father of Steven (Deborah) Ellis, Bonnie (Bill) Lamb and Sandra (Nick) Nix. Services were held January 27 at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

JOHN J. HINCHY, JR.

John J. Hinchy, Jr., 76, of Arlington Hts., died Thursday, January 30 at Northwest Community Hospital. He was born December 31, 1926 in Chicago. Beloved husband of the late Jeanne Hinchy. Beloved son of the late John J. Hinchy, Sr. and the late Catherine Hinchy. Beloved father of Mark (Lynda) Hinchy and Thomas (Deborah) Hinchy. Grandfather of John & Thomas Hinchy. Services were held February 1 at St. Juliana Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in Maryhill Cemetery.

JOHN A. KAHLER

John A. Kahler, 89, of Chicago, died Sunday, January 26 at Glenview Terrace Nursing Home. He was born November 27, 1913 in DeWitt, IA. Beloved son of the late Adolph John Kahler and the late Leone Kahler. Fond uncle of Kathy (Marty) Howe and Bob Kahler. Services were held January 28 at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in Rosehill Cemetery.

ELSIE B. GEYER

Elsie B. Geyer, 95, of Niles, died Sunday, January 26. She was born November 24, 1907 in Chicago. Beloved wife of the late William. Beloved daughter of the late Louis Uher and the late Beatrice Sokol. Beloved mother of the late Diane Arnold, Sheila (Milan) Dragovich, Nancy (Joseph) Ratay and Guy (Joan) Welch. Services were held January 29 at St. Isaac Jogues Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in St. Adalbert Cemetery.

JOSEPH M. ESTRADA

Joseph M. Estrada, 85 of Niles, died Wednesday, January 29 at Hampton Plaza Nursing Home. He was born February 21, 1917 in Guatemala. Beloved son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Estrada. Beloved father of Jacqueline (Charles) Morello, Joseph (Fran) Estrada, Gloria Ogle and Carole Taub. Dear Grandfather and Great Grandfather.

LOIS M. RITCHEY

Lois M. Ritchey, 76, of Niles, died Thursday, January 23 at Ballard Nursing Home. She was born July 6, 1926 in Chicago. Beloved wife of Koerlen T. Ritchey. Beloved daughter of the late Frank Check and the late Frances Check. Beloved mother of Ronnie Paul Ritchey, David Ritchey and Gale Louise Ritchey. Services were held January 27 at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in Ridgewood Cemetery.

PAUL R. SANDRE

Paul R. Sandre, 55, of Morton Grove, died Thursday, January 23. He was born November 30, 1947 in Chicago. Beloved husband of Carol A. Sandre. Beloved father of Catherine Sandre and David Sandre. Brother of Janice (William) Lowing and Barbara (the late Daniel) Priester. Uncle of many nieces & nephews. Services were held January 27 at St. Isaac Jogues Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in St. Adalbert Cemetery.

Jasmine M. Phillips

Air Force Airman Jasmine M. Phillips has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches; and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the stepdaughter of Tonina Phillips of Cleveland, Ohio, and daughter of Lillian Bogans of Glenview.

Phillips is a 2001 graduate of Shaw High School, Cleveland.

Recommended Improvements to VA Budget

The Bush administration's 2004 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs has a strong bottom line but a few disturbing proposals, according to American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley.

"I'll give the administration credit for seeking \$25.4 billion in VA health care funding, not counting the \$2.1 billion VA expects to collect from third-party insurance providers," Conley said. "This is a substantial request and a good sign from the administration."

Having said that, The American Legion cannot support a couple of proposals that would affect veterans in VA's lower health-care priority groups. Charging a \$250 enrollment fee to all veterans in Priority Group 8 and to non-service connected veterans in Priority Group 7 is utterly ridiculous. Congress should reject that proposal, just as it did the administration's plan last year to charge Priority Group 7 veterans a \$1,500 deductible. Additionally, although eliminating the pharmacy co-payment for certain veterans in the second through fifth priority groups is laudable, raising it from \$7 to \$15 for the bottom two priority groups should be avoided.

"Having toured 18 VA hospitals in 16 states, since I was elected National Commander in September, I've seen firsthand the effects of under-funding VA health care. It makes hundreds of thousands of veterans wait months for an appointment at a VA medical facility, and it forces dedicated VA professionals to work with inadequate resources. The short-term answer is to provide adequate discretionary funding to VA without forcing those who sacrificed for freedom to make enormous financial sacrifices to receive the health care they should expect from a grateful nation. The long-term answers are to fund VA the way Medicare and Social Security are funded - on a mandatory basis - and to allow veterans on medicare to use their benefits to pay for treatment at VA."

Photography Exhibit

40 Breathtaking Scientific Photographs showcased at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, through April 7.

WHAT: The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum features *Images from Science*, an exhibit promoting a wider appreciation of scientific photography by showcasing beautiful, but rarely seen images drawn from oceanography, geology, biology, engineering, medicine, physics and the inside of laboratories. Photos include a 78-million-year-old flower fossil, a human adult digestive system and images from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

The exhibit is the brainchild of Michael Peres and Andrew Davidhazy, professors at Rochester Institute of Technology's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. The international exhibit features 58 photographs selected on the basis of their aesthetics, visual impact and scientific content.

WHEN: Through April 7, 2003.

WHERE: Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Drive (at Fullerton Avenue), Chicago.

COST: Admission to the Nature Museum is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children ages 3-12 and \$5 for seniors age 60+ and college students. Chicago residents receive a \$1 discount off the price of general admission. Thursdays in 2003 are free.

Mingling Singles

First Friday Mix March 7, 2003=5:30 p.m. at Maxwell's, 6415 Dempster, Morton Grove.

Join us for a fun evening of great food and socializing. You will be glad you did. All are welcome! You just pay for the food you eat plus up and tax. Please call for reservation at (847) 475-6563.

Sunday, March 23, \$12, 6:30 p.m. "Spring Ahead" Appetizers, snacks and dancing.

A DJ will entertain us with Danceable music. Prime Mimster Restaurant, Location 3355 Milwaukee, Glenview, Cash Bar.

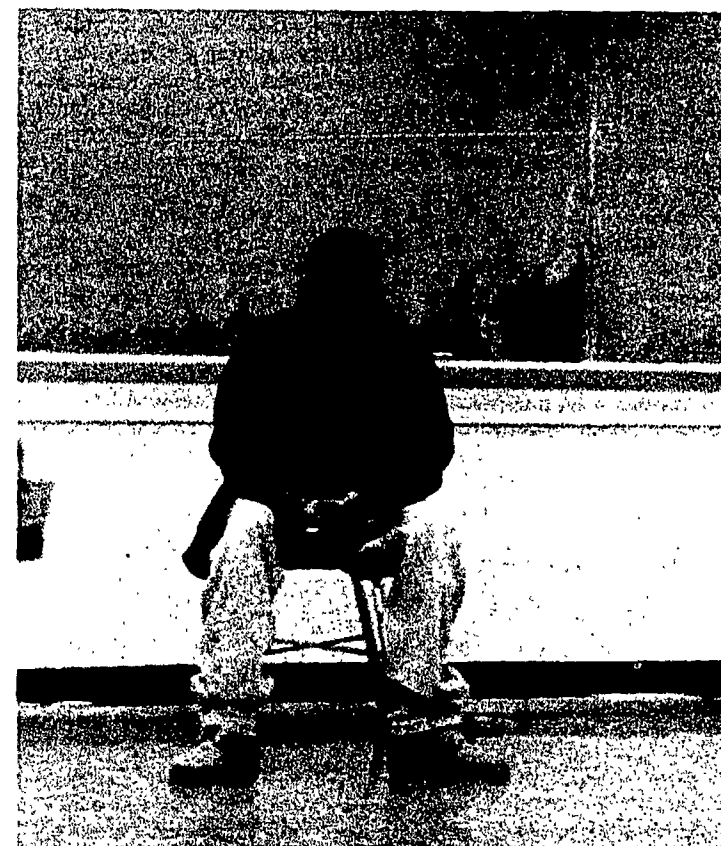
Reservation by March 19. Checks payable to Mingling Singles call (847) 967-9848.

St. Ladislaus Women's Club Annual Fish Fry

Every Friday during Lent, except April 18, the Women's Club of St. Ladislaus Parish will be sponsoring its Eighth Annual Fish Fry. We will be offering excellent Fried Fish and Shrimp Dinners, Cheese Pizza, Green Pepper & Egg Sandwiches and a "Pasta and Soup of the Week." All dinners reasonably priced. Come join us for a delicious dining experience between the hours of 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets available at the door. Carryouts available by calling (773) 725-2300.

Niles West students perform in Shakespeare Competition



Jean-Marc Julien (pictured) recited from "Julius Caesar" in the Shakespeare Competition held recently at Niles West High School. Niles West High School is one of the few North Shore schools that competed in the contest. Initiated in 1983 with just 500 students in New York City, the Competition now reaches over 15,000 students and 2,000 teachers across the United States.

Maine East Cheerleaders Qualify for State Championship

The Maine East Coed Varsity Cheerleaders are:

DesPlaines
Laiza Altai, junior
Nadege Beauvoir, senior
Kamil Loch, sophomore
Shaun McGee, sophomore
Andrew Neff, senior
Peter Pak, senior
Niqui Pasetes, junior

Glenview
Melvin del Rosario, junior
Mel Joseph, senior

Morton Grove
Peggy Dermody, sophomore
Jan Hembrador, sophomore
Melanie Serevo, senior
Leanne Serevo, sophomore

Niles

Ken Comia, senior
Elinore Correa, sophomore
Josh Costes, junior
Gretchen Gutierrez, senior
Michelle Hackl, senior
Doug Pagers, senior
Natalie Rumas, junior

The Maine East 2002-03 All-American cheerleaders are:

Nadege Beauvoir, senior, Des Plaines;
Ken Comia, senior, Niles;
Melvin del Rosario, junior, Glenview;
Michelle Hackl, senior, Niles;
Niqui Pasetes, junior, Des Plaines.

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Saturday - Mar 8 - Full Effect Dance Trio - 9 to 1
Sunday - Mar 9 - Judy Roberts - Greg Fishman - 5 to 9

TUESDAYS - KARAOKE - 8 to 12
WEDNESDAYS - Jack Carr, Pianist, Singer - 7 to 10:30
THURSDAYS - Jack Carr, Pianist, Singer - 6:30 to 9 and
JAZZ JAM - John Bany, Charlie Braugham and Don Stille - 9 to 1

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Chicagoland Family Pet Show Features Four-Legged Phenoms

The Chicagoland Family Pet Show, March 14-16, at Arlington Park Racecourse in Arlington Heights features some of the most amazing animals performing in one-of-a-kind shows designed to thrill the whole family. Featured acts include:

The Superdogs. They're recognized at airports. They're mobbed by frenzied fans. They entertain more than a million people every year. Trained to run, jump and retrieve at incredible speeds, and to jump and soar to unbelievable heights, they have become the world's most popular dogs. They're THE SUPERDOGS... and they cause Poochmania wherever they go! Trained to run at incredible speeds and to jump unbelievable heights their athletic achievements are truly astonishing. The SUPERDOGS are the canine version of Ice Capades or The Harlem Globe Trotters. THE SUPERDOGS perform with all the speed, skill, spirit and endurance of an Olympic athlete. At the same time they combine all the qualities that make for the most humorous and funny situations and performances. You can never predict the spontaneous reactions of these clever performers.

Friskies Cat Team. Direct from Hollywood, the Friskies Cat Team with their trainers, will be at the Pet Show. The event features a Friskies Living house in which cat lovers can make cat crafts, learn about feline nutrition in the Cat Café, see training demonstrations and get advice from cat experts. Visitors also can explore Feline Reality stations to experience how cats see, hear, smell and interact with their surroundings. And, three times each day, the Friskies Cat Team dazzles audiences with its Friskies Living stage show - a fun, educational.

Hedgehog Olympics and Costume Contest. The Hedgehog Olympics & Costume Contest spotlights the unlikely superstars with a truly one-of-a-kind event as the lovable critters go head-to-head in Olympic style events including hurdles, dashes, floor exercises and more. A crea-

tive costume contest follows.

Dog Grooming Competition - Sat. & Sun. A professional dog grooming competition with four classes, non-sporting, terrier, sporting, and potpourri and all other breeds, will be held. Sat. & Sun. look at the day in the life of a frisky cat.

Canine Freestyle Dancing. The World Canine Freestyle Organization and the Freestyle Fanatics are coming to Chicagoland Family Pet Show to dance with their dogs. Canine Freestyle is the "Tail Wagging Sport" with basic obedience training combined with music, timing, costume, routine development and showmanship. The Chicagoland Family Pet Show is sponsoring "Wagtime Ragtime" hosted by WCFO and the Freestyle Fanatics from Michigan and supported by the BC Dog Training of Chicago. "Wagtime Ragtime" is a 2 day tripping competition on Friday, March 14 (until 3 p.m.) and Saturday, March 15 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.). The Freestyle Fanatics and winners of the competitions will also present several demos.

The "WCFO TailWaggin'" Freestyle Workshop will be on Sunday morning, March 16. Workshop attendees have the opportunity to learn this exciting

Open Call for 'Crossing Delancey' at OCC

Open auditions for the Performing Arts at Oakton production of "Crossing Delancey" are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, and Wednesday, March 26, in Studio One at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines.

The play features a cast of two mature females, one young female, and two young males. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Calls backs are scheduled for Thursday, March 27.

"Crossing Delancey" will be presented at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 9, and 16, and Saturday, May 10 and 17, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 4 and 11.

sport that encourages fun and bonding from these top freestylers all under one roof. They will teach you how to get started dancing with your dog by training moves, picking music, costumes and much more.

day and Sunday at the Chicagoland Family Pet Show. For more info on entering, call Judy Kurpiel at (847) 758-1938.

Shows and Contests. The Cat Fanciers Association (CFA) Purebred Cat Show will be featured each day. Also, local pets can get in the action as well with the "Most Lovable Pooch" contest. (Pre-registration is required for all local pet contests.)

Exhibitors. The 300 exhibitors provide one-stop pet shopping with everything for pets. Fluffy is sure to be spoiled with leashes, dog coats, pet food, treats, toys, beds, artwork, training, even pet massage! Breed clubs, rescue groups, agility and training groups will be on hand to offer expertise.

For more information about the Chicagoland Family Pet Show, March 14-16 at the Arlington Park, please call (630) 469-4611 or visit us online at www.towershow.com.

North American Youth Sports still has openings!!

North American Youth Sports announced today that they still have openings in their annual spring youth basketball tournament in the Bolingbrook Illinois area at the Annerino and Brac Recreation Centers on April 4-6.

This tournament will feature ten different brackets. They include 5th & 6th grade boys; 5th & 6th grade girls; 7th grade boys; 7th grade girls; 8th grade boys; 8th grade girls; 9th & 10th grade boys; 9th & 10th grade girls; 11th & 12th grade boys; and 11th & 12th grade girls. All grades are based on the grade in which a student is currently enrolled.

The entry fee for this tournament is \$110 and guarantees each team a minimum of two games. There will be awards presented in each bracket.

King of Hearts Ball

It's a magical night out with your favorite little guy in grades kindergarten through 6th. Moms, Grandmas and Aunts are invited to join Niles Park District for an evening of fun, dancing, games, prizes, and refreshments. Our rocking DJ leads the way to get everyone moving to the music. Don't miss this special event to be held on Friday, March 7 at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard Street from 7 to 9 p.m. Call (847) 967-6633 to register.

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Fresh Broiled Salmon.....\$9.95

Down & Under Butt Steak.....\$9.95

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LUNCH SPECIALS starting.....\$5.95

Domestic Beer \$2.00/Bottle

Morton Grove Public Library Events

Yiddish and Laughter. Sunday, March 9, at 2 p.m. Barry Schechter, Rabbi of Congregation Kol Emeth, was born and raised in London and now lives in Morton Grove. Rabbi Schechter has been described as "one of Britain's and now America's most skillful Jewish raconteurs" by the international journal *Humor*. Rabbi Schechter is an authority on the Yiddish language and dialects; he has the rare gift of making people laugh and learn at the same time. Laugh and learn with Rabbi Schechter on Sunday, March 9, at 2 p.m. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Free.

Using Microsoft Word 2000: A Computer Class. Jennifer Didier of Knowledge Alliance will present a lecture/demonstration in two parts, Wednesdays, March 12 & 19, at 7 p.m., on the basics of Microsoft Word: entering text, file and save commands, navigating in a document, editing techniques, paragraph formatting, setting tabs and inserting tables, page appearance, tools, and printing. Note: this is not a hands-on course. Registration applies to both sessions, no separate registration will be taken for the second session. Please call (847) 965-4220 or sign up at the References Services Desk. For more information, please call (847) 965-4220, TDD (847) 965-4236 www.webary.org.

Morton Grove Park District Community Jazz Band Concert. Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m. Ron Surace directs the Morton Grove Park District Community Jazz Band, a 17-piece group that has been performing jazz with a big band sound for many years. On Sunday, March 16, at 2 p.m., at the Morton Grove Public Library, the Band will perform some new compositions, such as *Summer's Over*, written and arranged by Bill Liston and Thomas Matta's *Time to Spare*, as well as many jazz favorites. Two special treats will be the Band's performance of the original arrangement of Freddie Green's *Corner Pocket* and vocalist Bob Duda's performance of Frank Sinatra hits. Seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-

served basis. Doors open at 1 p.m. Light refreshments will be served following the concert. Free.

Marimba Magic with Keith Buerger. Tuesday, March 18, 11:30 a.m. The marimba, derived from early African and South American instruments, is a larger version of the xylophone with a range that extends lower than most melodic percussion instruments. Percussionist Keith Buerger will perform musical selections by Bach, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and many others in a concert Tuesday, March 18, at 11:30 a.m. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Free.

ble on a first-come, first served basis. Free. For further information, call (847) 965-4220, TDD (847) 965-4236 www.webary.org.

Adolfo Bolanos

Marine Corps Cpl. Adolfo Bolanos, 1 2000 graduate of Maine West High School, Des Plaines, IL, recently was promoted to his current rank while serving with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va.

Bolanos was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in his designated specialty.

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at an American Family

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US Consumers Receive Large Savings on Prescription Drugs from Canada

US Consumers Receive Large Savings on Prescription Drugs from Canada

The Canadian cross-border trade in pharmaceuticals continues to expand. That helps increase the pressure on the drug industry as well as Congress to address the problem of high costs. Some older Americans have for years headed across the United States' northern border to buy the medicines they need but can't afford. Drug prices there can be half or quarter of prices in

United States.

Canadian drug prices are much lower because the country's system of socialized medicine keeps a tight hold on pharmaceutical costs. In addition, the U.S. prices are high because companies add the cost of research and development as well as the price of lobbying and advertising campaigns.

Many people, especially senior citizens on fixed incomes, feel the pinch. Horror stories abound: A Vermont woman who paid \$95 a month for the tamoxifen that

kept breast cancer at bay now goes to Canada, where the drug now cost her \$125 a year. An older couple who were paying thousands of dollars a year for medicines was able to cut that expenditure in half by a regular northward journey.

Chicago area consumers are taking advantage of this opportunity as well. Martha B., a 73-year-old Park Ridge woman without drug insurance, ordered her medication from MEDSFORALL.COM which is based in Glenview, IL. Martha B., who formerly bought her drugs at a local Sam's Club, said, "I had heard that people had gotten drugs cheaper from Canada, but I didn't know how." At MEDSFORALL.COM, she boasts that she saved about 26% on her Evista medication to treat osteoporosis. Martha B. says she is pleased with the service and plans to continue to shop at the pharmacy service. And, DesPlaines customer John T., 77, another MEDSFORALL.COM customer said he saved \$100 off his order for a three-month supply of three different drugs.

Some charitable organizations sponsor drug-buying trips, and a small industry has sprung up to help seniors with chartered buses that operate on a regular schedule from many areas within a day's drive. Once there, seniors see Canadian doctors or U.S. Doctors, with licenses to prescribe drugs in both United States and Canada. Pharmacies near the border accommodate Americans gladly. However today, with easy Internet or toll free telephone access to companies like MEDSFORALL.COM U.S. consumers no longer need to spend their time and money for a costly bus trip to Canada.

Some movement has been seen on the national front recently, where discussions are underway on proposals to reform Medicare to include drugs or offer incentives to companies or subsidies to the neediest seniors to bring down the cost of insurance to cover prescriptions. Until some type of reform or change happens, it seems likely that more and more senior citizens will try to bypass the system to get drugs they need but feel they can't afford.

Another success story: About MEDSFORALL.COM: American mail order pharmacy service provides affordable prescription drugs at up to 80 percent less than U.S. retail drug prices. It provides personal service to US customers who can obtain additional information and receive hands-on assistance through the ordering process either through Internet website at www.medsforall.com, through customer service toll-free number 1-800-708-3493, 24 hours a day 7 days a week or stop by at the Chicagoland Customer

Service Center located at 950 N. Milwaukee Ave., Suite 215 in Glenview, IL.

MEDSFORALL.COM offers the following benefits to anyone without drug coverage or high drug co-pays:

- Capable customer service staff who can carefully assist consumers through the process of placing orders, refills and handling any questions

- Deal directly with U.S. company, not an unknown Canadian pharmacy.

- No hidden fees or currency exchange hassles. All prices in U.S.

- All prescriptions carefully filled by licensed Canadian pharmacists.

Free & Low Cost Prescription Drugs Available

Are your medications too expensive for your budget? If so, information in two new publications might help you save money.

The Prescription Assistance Clearinghouse has just published a booklet, "How to Get Free Prescription Drugs When You Can't Afford to Pay" and a new special report, "How to Get a Free Prescription Discount Card to Save Money on Prescription Drugs." The booklet gives information on how and where to get free & low cost prescription drugs directly from drug manufacturers. The special report gives step-by-step instructions for consumers to obtain a free prescription drug discount card that can be used at Chicago, IL area pharmacies.

"There are over 70 programs from major drug manufacturers that provide free or low cost medication. These programs are rarely, if ever publicized," says Chris Pongsak, a researcher at Prescription Assistance Clearinghouse. "We've published an A to Z listing of all the drugs that are available to qualified Chicago, IL area residents for free or at very low cost directly from the manufacturer."

According to the Prescription Assistance Clearinghouse, the information in the special report can help consumers receive a free prescription drug discount card even if their income is too high to qualify for drugs directly from the manufacturer. There are nearly 46 million Americans that are lacking health care insurance, many of whom could benefit from the information in these publications.

Consumers can receive a copy of both publications by sending \$5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Central Fulfillment Center, Free Prescription Drug Booklet Offer #FPD0218F, P.O. Box 408342, Chicago, IL 60640-8342. Information is also available at: www.PrescriptionAssistanceClearinghouse.org.

Lambs Farm Vehicle Donation Program

With the increasing number of participants holding off-campus jobs and a rise in the number of additional community residences, Lambs Farm's Vehicle Donation Program needs a variety of new and slightly used vehicles in low-repair cost condition. By donating a vehicle to Lambs Farm, individuals will be helping those with developmental disabilities to have more meaningful lives.

The donated vehicles are used for maintenance purposes, for work on the grounds and to transport participants in the community houses to special events, off-campus jobs or appointments. Last fiscal year, the Vehicle Donation Program raised \$160,000.

All donations are welcome, as Lambs Farm auctions many of its donated vehicles that have a high cost of maintenance or those which are unable to be used on campus. "Nothing will go to waste. We will either fix the car and put it to use or sell it off at auction for the money," said Claude Ulrich, Director of Support Services at Lambs Farm.

Individuals can drop off their vehicles at Lambs Farm or at a central location, or Lambs Farm can arrange towing in Lake, Cook, DuPage, McHenry and Kane County at no cost. To donate, please call:

1.877.711.LAMB

In addition to vehicles, Lambs Farm accepts new lawn and home maintenance equipment, or funds to purchase new equipment. Call Lambs Farm for items needed, that would greatly increase the efficiency and care of their participants and campus.

Lambs Farm is a non-profit organization in Libertyville that empowers people with developmental disabilities to lead personally fulfilling lives through a full range of services in vocational training, residential assistance and social support. For more than 40 years, Lambs Farm has been assisting individuals in creating their own pathways to meaningful experiences at work, home and in the community. For additional information on Lambs Farm, their mission, and the variety of family activities they host, please call (847) 362-4636 or visit:

www.lambsfarm.org

Tomasz Dawlidowicz

Coast Guard Seaman Tomasz Dawlidowicz, son of Irina Dawlidowicz of Des Plaines, IL, and Janusz Dawlidowicz, recently was promoted to his current rank while serving at Coast Guard Training Center, Cape May, N.J.

Dawlidowicz was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in his designated specialty.

Spaying or Neutering Your Pet - Is It Necessary?

To spay or not to spay/neuter, that is the question. How many people have said any of the following statements: "My pet will get fat and lazy," "I read that it is better for the animal if it has at least one litter," "I do not want my male dog/cat to 'feel' like less of a male." These are just a few of the countless number of untrue reasons or myths that pet guardians use to not get their pet altered. There are more reasons/benefits to having your pet spayed/neutered than to not have the procedure done. I will try to dispel some of the myths of the process.

The procedure of spaying a female dog/cat is done by removing the reproductive organs. Neutering of a male dog/cat is done by removing the testicles. Both surgical procedures when done on a healthy animal are relatively minor and your pet will usually go home the same day of surgery, depending upon your veterinarian. Animals tend to recover quicker from surgery faster than people do. As for the cost of the surgery, there are some shelters in the area that have low cost spay/neuter programs.

Overall, having your pet spayed or neutered has many health and behavior benefits in addition to being less costly in the long run. Your pet will typically live a longer, healthier life by reducing his/her chances of getting cancer relating to their respective

reproductive organs. A female dog or cat that is not spayed runs the risk later in life of enduring a pyometra (an infected uterus). This condition can be life threatening if not cared for in a timely manner. It can also be a very expensive surgery requiring your pet to spend several days in intensive care with your veterinarian. It is best to have your dog/cat spayed or neutered as early as possible once they reach six months of age. Your pet does not need to have either one heat cycle or litter before spaying her. Instead, you want to have the surgery done before its first heat cycle.

Neutering your male dog or cat will not make him less protective of the family or house. In fact, it will help in reducing your pet's need to "mark" his territory or in wandering away from home in search of a mate. Your male pet will be less likely to bite or fight thus reducing the chance of causing harm to other people. Overall, you may notice that your dog or cat's behavior may be calmer but he/she will still remain a loving and protective companion.

Probably one of the most important reasons to have your pet spayed/neutered is to help reduce the problem of pet overpopulation. Shelters today are overwhelmed with dogs and cats of all ages that have come to them for numerous reasons from abuse to can no longer care for. The litter size of a dog can range from 2-20 puppies while a cat can have 2-10 kittens. If you do the math, the number of puppies and kittens grows rapidly in a very short time. There are just not enough good homes out there for the thousands of unwanted companion animals in shelters, foster homes or breed rescue groups.

Please contact your veterinarian or local animal shelter to discuss spaying/neutering of your pet. You can also contact Peter Babikan, Niles Animal Control Officer (847)588-6508 for more information or phone numbers.

Karol J. Rosa

Army Pvt. Karol J. Rosa has graduated from the light-wheel vehicle mechanic advanced individual training (AIT) course at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

The student was trained to perform maintenance, troubleshoot, and repair wheeled vehicles and related mechanical components, including suspension systems, internal combustion engines and power trains, wheel-hub assemblies, hydraulic brake and steering systems, and operate a wheeled vehicle crane, hoist, and winch assemblies.

Rosa is the son of Jan J. Rosa of Des Plaines. The private is a 2002 graduate of Maine Township East High School, Park Ridge, IL.

Payday Loans Create Downward Spiral

Consumers who use payday loan facilities can pay interest rates as high as 600 percent. Officially known as "delayed deposit services," a payday loan store/ check cashing facility will loan consumers up to \$500 (amount varies state to state) to tide them over between paychecks. For consumers who don't have the cash to pay their utility bill or an emergency situation such as a sick child or car repairs, a payday loan may seem like an easy and quick short-term solution. However, with fees as high as \$30 every two weeks for every \$100 borrowed, that short-term solution can quickly become a long-term nightmare.

A payday loan essentially works like this. A consumer goes into the establishment, writes a personal check for the amount they wish to borrow along with the processing fee. The facility gives them the money and then holds their check for 14 days. At the end of that two week period, the company cashes the check. By that time the consumer must have the money in their account to cover it or begin to pay finance charges to keep rolling the loan

Business

(NU) - The success story of Robin Baron, of Robin Baron Home Inc., started in the early 1980s. To learn more about this entrepreneur and her business, log on to www.robinbaronhome.com.

over another two weeks.

Before long, payday loan customers are reduced to going from different store to different store taking out loans to cover the loans they already have, each time incurring a new fee to cash the check. It becomes an endless cycle of spiraling debt with no real way to get out.

Catherine Williams, vice president of education for Consumer Credit Counseling Services, can offer advice on how to avoid becoming stuck in this endless cycle. "There are certain instances where a short-term loan makes sense, but make sure you know exactly what your rates and fees

are before you sign the check. If you don't feel you can pay the money back in two weeks, don't take out the loan. Consider contacting your creditors to work out a payment plan instead. Or should you feel that the situation is already out of control, contact a reputable non-profit credit counseling agency to work on your behalf. In order to avoid falling back on a payday loan establish an emergency savings account now. Smart planning can't eliminate the occasional unexpected expense, but it will give you a better idea of how long it will be before you get back on your feet financially."

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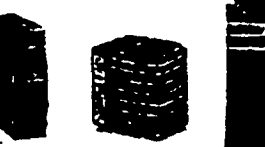
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Ten free white flowering dogwood trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during March 2003.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

"White flowering dogwoods will add year-round beauty to your home and neighborhood," John Rosenow, the Foundation's president, said. "Dogwoods have showy spring flowers, scarlet autumn foliage, and red berries which attract songbirds all winter."

The trees will be shipped post-paid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to *Arbor Day*, the Foundation's monthly publication, and *The Tree Book* with information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE DOGWOOD TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 31, 2003.

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Cub seeks \$27 million fine for Nicor Gas

Nicor Gas should be fined \$27 million for lying to state regulators in an effort to hide a complicated scheme that used improper accounting procedures to defraud consumers at a time when customers were paying record-high gas prices, the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) said in a motion for sanctions filed with state regulators Wednesday.

The motion, filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) by CUB and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, cites the company's actions in promoting its performance-based regulation (PBR) plan, which was approved by the commission

in 1999. The company discontinued the plan January 1, in the wake of the accounting scandal.

"This is the first time a utility has been caught lying so blatantly to state regulators," CUB Executive Director Martin R. Cohen said. "By levying a heavy fine on Nicor and ultimately ordering refunds to consumers, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) will be letting all utilities know that this kind of abuse and deception will not be tolerated."

Nicor's wrongdoings came to light last summer, after a company whistleblower sent a 14-page memo to CUB detailing how the utility had used accounting tricks

to overcharge customers and hide the ill-gotten profits from the ICC. At the time, the ICC was in the process of reviewing the Nicor plan and considering whether it should be renewed.

Under traditional regulation, utilities buy natural gas on the open market and then pass these costs on to consumers with no mark-up. Under PBR, Nicor's gas purchasing was measured against a "benchmark" price, with any savings or additional costs shared equally with consumers.

Nicor argued that the PBR plan motivated the company to seek cheaper natural gas for its customers. However, evidence uncovered by CUB shows that Nicor merely intended to use the plan to profit off the release of "LIFO" gas -- extremely cheap gas that had been in storage from as far back as the 1950s. Customers would have gotten 100 percent of the benefit of that cheap gas under traditional regulation, but under the new rate plan, Nicor got to keep half.

Nicor's own investigation of the scandal concluded that it had never lied to the ICC, but evidence obtained by CUB, and detailed in its motion, flies in the face of that claim. For example, in documents filed with the ICC, Nicor repeatedly denied it had done "any projections, analyses or studies" about how it planned to generate profits under the PBR plan.

Yet, CUB recently obtained a Nicor report, dated October 1998, which explains how the company can "capture" the benefits of the LIFO gas by "filing and implementing a Gas Rate Performance Plan (GRPP) related to gas costs."

In 2002, during the ICC's review of the program, Nicor again lied to state regulators. The company claimed it saved customers \$54 million but denied to CUB that it had quantified where those savings came from. But internal documents obtained later show that Nicor had in fact done such an analysis -- and that most of the savings came from the "LIFO" gas. In fact, a Nicor memo dated August 4, 2000, discusses the company's requirement to report results of the PBR plan to the ICC and plots how the company can conceal its profits. "We will need to be careful to not highlight the LIFO benefit," the memo says.

CUB determined the amount of the proposed fine based on the company's claim that it had saved consumers \$54 million under the PBR plan, to be split equally between Nicor and its customers. If Nicor had been truthful about the intent of the plan, the ICC, in all likelihood, would have rejected it and the company would have been out its \$27 million profit.

In addition to seeking the fine which would be paid to the state, CUB will be asking for refunds to consumers of all the money that were overcharged. Nicor has estimated it owes customers \$15 million because of the scandal. But CUB believes the harm to consu-

mers was much greater and the group is studying other evidence of wrongdoing by the company.

CUB is a nonprofit statewide utility watchdog organization created by the state legislature to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. For more information on CUB and its efforts to protect consumers, visit: www.Citizens-UtilityBoard.org or call CUB's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-669-5556.

Deadly High-risk Drivers Go Unpunished

Unlicensed and habitual drunk drivers are among the greatest safety threats on the nation's highways, according to two studies released today by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Specifically, habitual drunk drivers make up 40 percent of all drinking-driving trips, while unlicensed drivers are almost five times more likely to be in fatal crashes than drivers with valid driver's licenses.

"A relatively small number of irresponsible and intoxicated individuals are endangering the rest of us on the roads," said Steve Nolan, spokesperson for AAA Chicago. "Unfortunately, these high-risk drivers are slipping through the cracks and escaping punishment."

Among other findings of the studies:

- Two-thirds of drivers with suspended licenses continue to drive;
- More than half of all drivers arrested for driving while intoxicated are repeat offenders;
- There is a less than 1-in-50 chance that a drunk driver will be arrested on any given drunk driving trip.

AAA Chicago noted that in Illinois, 19.8 percent of fatal crashes were alcohol related, according to the most recent data. Additionally, 13 percent of drivers involved in a fatal crash in Illinois were driving without a license.

As Congress prepares to reauthorize a major transportation-funding bill, AAA will push for continued federal support to reinstate state and local efforts to address drunk driving. AAA supports simplifying the federal safety grant process and including performance-based criteria. On the state level, AAA will push for states to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of their laws, license regulations and assessment programs to combat these deadly drivers.

"We believe this new research can be the catalyst in helping to focus on the problem and to develop tailored solutions to reduce high-risk driving in our state," said Nolan.

The research studies by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety can be found at: www.aaafoundation.org.

Reclaiming Your Good Name

What to do if you are a victim of identity theft.

Whether you discover unusual charges on your credit cards, start receiving bills for items you never bought, or notice accounts listed on your credit report that are not yours, identity theft is not easy to fix.

"As soon as you discover that you've been a victim of identity theft, take immediate action," said Steve Rhode, president and co-founder of Myvesta, a nonprofit financial management organization. "Every day you delay will make clearing your name that much harder."

According to Rhode the first thing you should do is contact your local police department and report the crime. "Some banks may require a police report as proof you've been a victim of identity theft," Rhode said. "Then it's time to get on the phone and notify your creditors of what happened. Call your creditors and ask to speak to their fraud department, then follow up with a certified letter, return receipt requested, to confirm your call."

Rhode also recommends taking these additional steps after being a victim of identity theft:

- Obtain a consolidated copy of your credit report from Myvesta.org. A consolidated report contains information from all three credit-reporting agencies -- Experian, Trans Union and Equifax.
- Contact the credit reporting agencies and have them place a fraud alert in your file.
- Call your bank or credit union and have them cancel your account numbers, ATM and debit cards and PIN numbers, then get new ones.
- Call your local utility companies to let them know that services may have been opened fraudulently in your name.

Loren C. Hord

Navy Seaman Apprentice Loren C. Hord, son of Gordette M. Cote and David L. Hord of Skokie, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

During the eight-week program, Hord completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis is also placed on physical fitness.

Hord and other recruits also received instruction on the Navy's core values -- honor, courage and commitment -- and how to apply them in their military performance and personal conduct.

Men and women train together from their first day in the Navy just as they do aboard ships and at shore commands around the world. To reinforce the team concept, Hord and other recruits also were trained in preventing sexual harassment and ensuring equal opportunity.

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instances of my life, you are with me. I want
in this short prayer to thank you for all
things and to confirm that I never want to
be separated from you, even and in spite of
all material illusions. I wish to be with you
in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy
towards me and mine. Say this prayer for 3
consecutive days and a favor will be granted.
Thank you.

B.D.

A Prayer St. Jude's Novena

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of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude,
worker of miracles, pray for us.
St. Jude, helper of the helpless,
pray for us. Say this prayer nine
times a day, for nine days. On the
eighth day your prayers will be
answered. It has never been
known to fail. Publication must
be promised. Thank you. St.
Jude.

L.S.

MOST MIRACULOUS LORD

You have granted so many of my
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petition). This now becomes your
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son. For this I thank you, O
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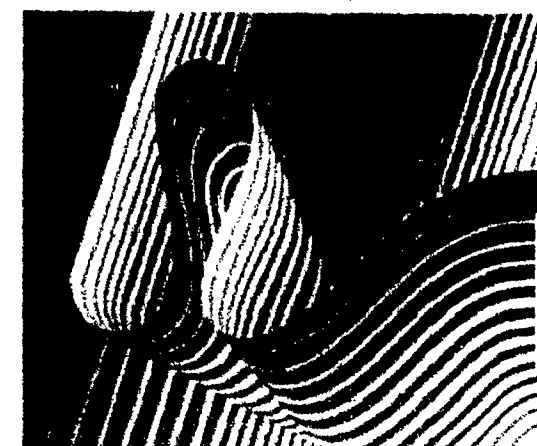
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