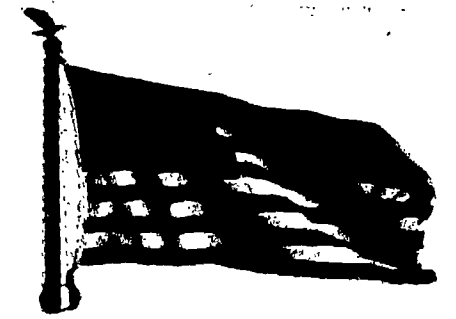


# THE BUGLE



Since 1957

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Vol. 47 No. 48

NILESBUGLE.COM • PARKRIDGEBUGLE.COM • MORTONGROVEBUGLE.COM

## Inside



### Rescuing the River

Liz Goodwin and her daughter Casey hold a volunteer t-shirt at last Saturday's Chicago River Rescue Day in Linne Woods. For the story see page 21.



### Smash it

Notre Dame's Dan Kamin smashes the ball at last Thursday's meet. The Dons have made great strides in tennis. For the story, see page 15.

## MG Board dismisses rumors of MCC settlement

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER  
editor@buglenewspapers.com

The Morton Grove Village Board dismissed rumors that a settlement had been reached with the Muslim Education Center (MEC) at the Town Hall meeting, Wednesday, Apr. 5.

Addressing persistent rumors that the village would announce progress on the mediation process between the village and the MEC at the Town Hall meeting, Mayor Dan Scanlon read a statement informing attendees that no settlement had been reached and that the village would make an announcement when there was something definite to announce.

"We cannot discuss the future of the MEC's proposed expansion or the litigation at tonight's meeting," said Scanlon. "As many of you know, at the urging of the court and the Department

of Justice, the Village has been participating in discussions with the MEC regarding their facility plans."

In his statement, Scanlon argued that the MEC expansion was not, as rumors have hinted, a "done deal."

"No 'done deal' would have taken this long," he said.

The mediation continues, Scanlon said, and any result would be shared "when appropriate."

"The Federal Government has requested that parties involved in the mediation refrain from public comment," Scanlon said.

He also reminded attendees that the approval of any plan that results from mediation would have to be approved in an open meeting and that there would be public input.

"The village will continue to work with the press to provide our community with additional information as it is warranted," Scanlon concluded.



Photo by Allen Kalata/Bugle

## Play Ball

Members of the Cardinals all search for family members at the same time as they reach the end of the parade marking opening day of Niles baseball at Grennan Heights Park Saturday morning May 8.

## Niles, Morton Grove Firefighters drill at Y



Niles Firefighters from Engine Company #2 return their equipment after drilling on the eighth floor of Niles' Leaning Tower YMCA Thursday, May 6.

Firefighters from Niles and Morton Grove participated in drills last week at Niles' Leaning Tower YMCA. The drills were designed to help the nine different companies in the two communities prepare for what Niles Fire Lieutenant Rich Teper termed the building's "unique challenges."

Those unique challenges are caused because the building is a high rise and a hotel, with an exercise facility.

"There is a high life hazard in this building," said Teper. The building is of particular interest to the Niles Fire Dept. because of the high density of people who could possibly be using the facility

if a fire ever broke out.

Six drills were held at the Y, last week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Fire personnel drilled in two different parts of the building: the eighth floor and the basement.

"We decided rather than doing a

Continues...

FIRE DRILL page 3.



## Parkview Takes Aim at Nationals

Pat Conrad, 12, adjusts the Parkview School Science Olympiad's trebuchet, a projectile launching device, during the school's open house Thursday, May 6. The Science Olympiad will be going to the national competition in Pennsylvania May 19. The story is on page 2.

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### Introducing The Bugle's new Real Estate section.

Check it out for useful home tips, news and ads from your local realtors (page 21).

NEWS

**Parkview Science Olympiad soars to national competition**

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER  
editor@buglenewspapers.com

The Parkview Science Olympiad is bound for its fourth national competition in a row. This year, they're heading to Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania to compete against the best teams in the country.

The Science Olympiad is a national competition designed to stimulate interest in the sciences among primary-level students. The competition has 23 different events, covering a wide range of scientific fields.

Team members featured some of their projects at the Parkview Open House last Thursday, May 13: a two-liter bottle simulated a bottle rocket, the projectile-launching trebuchet hurled a rubber ball with precision to hit teachers and Parkview Supt. Gary Zabilka and, to top them all, 8th-grader Ryan Moy's rubberband-powered airplane circled the gymnasium at a stately pace while silent attendees watched.

"It's amazing that one coach could build a team like this," said Parkview School Board

President Tony Hofeld who has had a student on the Science Olympiad Team for the last four years. "We're very proud."

The five-day trip, beginning on the 19th and ending on the 24th will pit Parkview against 53 other teams from around the country. But first, an opening ceremony is held before the competition begins on the 21st that Hofeld described as moving. "They generally bring in a prominent person to speak," he said. "When they speak everyone realizes the honor of being there."

Following the speech, an oath is administered to one official, coach, and team member. On the 22nd, the competition is held, on the 23rd students take a day off and return to Morton Grove on the 24th.

Cole estimated that his team would finish in the top ten, which is no small feat for a team from the underdog. "We are probably the smallest non-laboratory school there," said Cole. "What we do is phenomenal for a school our size." "I coach chemistry," said Hofeld. "We compete against schools that have chemistry coaches who are heads of university chemistry

departments."

This year is bittersweet, Hofeld felt, because after leading the program for 10 years, Cole is retiring.

"It's bittersweet for us," he said. "He'll become the Regional Tournament Director for 2005 though and he'll be excellent at it."

Cole said that his team was prepared to continue without him.

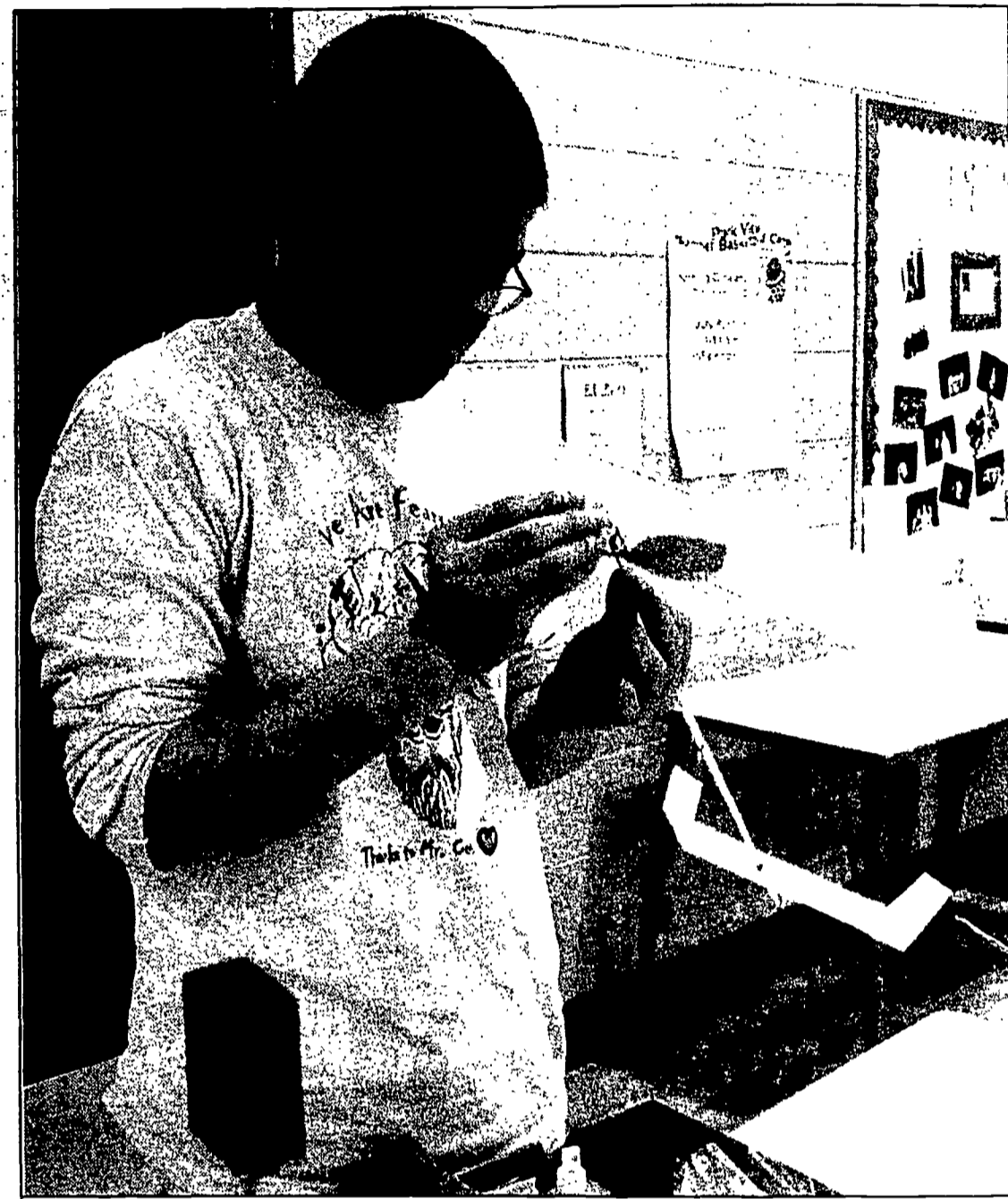
"It's ok," he said. "We've really set up the program so that it can continue. The heart of the program is, after all, the parents."

For each of the last four years, the Parkview team has gone to nationals with the blessing and support of not only their parents, but also the community.

"We have to raise \$15,000 by May 19," said Hofeld. "It's a daunting task but each year we've met the challenge."

So far, \$3,000 has been raised towards the trip. Donations can be sent to:

Park View School Science Olympiad Team  
C/o Matt Cole, Head Coach  
Park View School  
6200 Lake Street  
Morton Grove, Illinois



8th-grader Ryan Moy adjusts the propeller on his rubberband powered plane before displaying it to an awestruck audience at Parkview's Open House Thursday, May 6.

**Fire drill**

(Continued from page 1)

normal drill, like in the case of a house fire, it would be good to practice some new techniques," said Teper. "We asked the people at the Y and they thought it was a good idea."

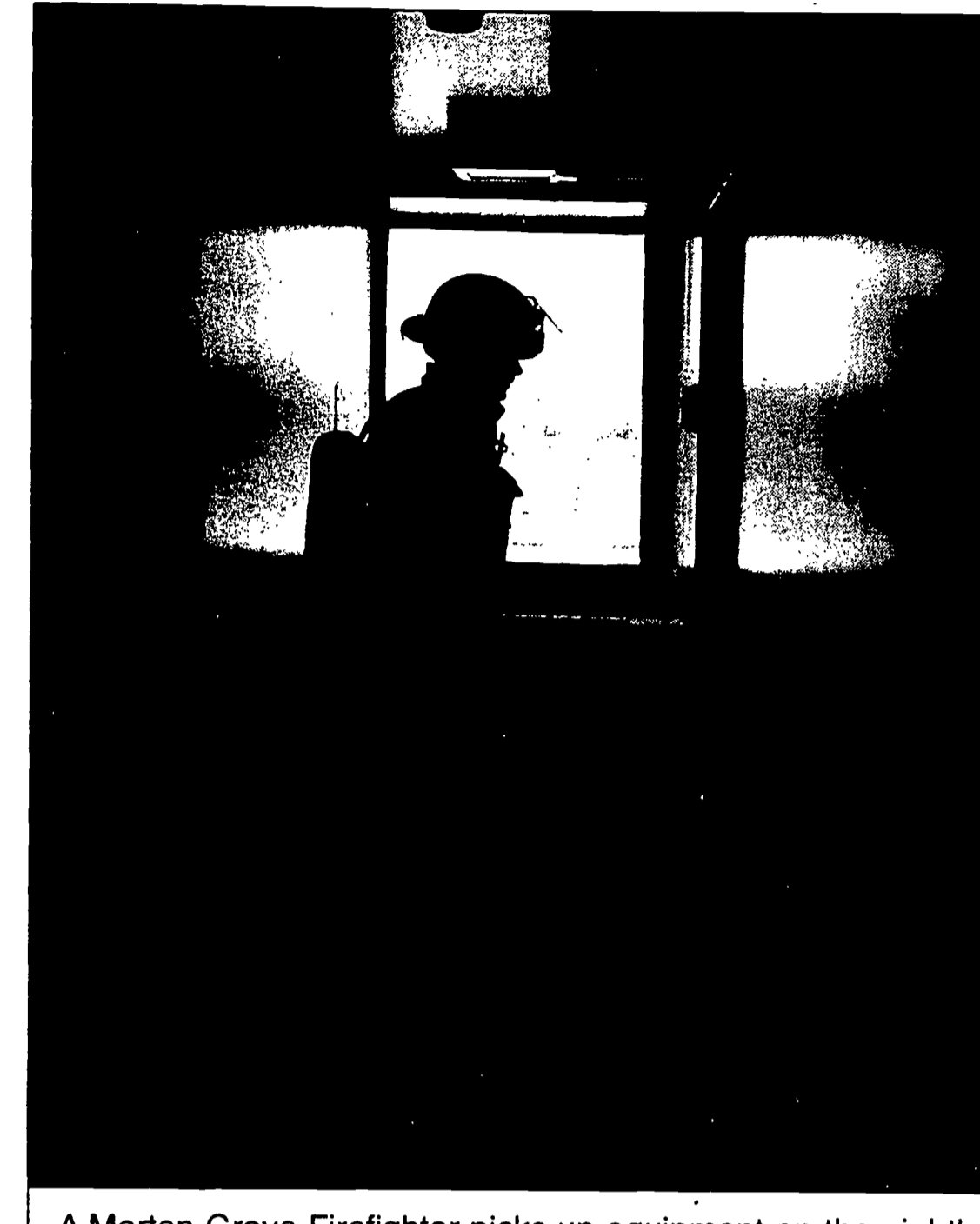
The drill also gives Niles and Morton Grove a chance to drill together.

"Because of the Mutual Aid system we will respond to each other's incidents," said Teper. "This allows us to practice our coordination and become more familiar, faster, and effective which will enable us to save more lives in an emergency. Working with Mutual Aid makes us all better at our jobs."

The objectives for the drills were to learn different things about the Y building specifically, such as what keys open what locks, which ways are the best to lay hoses and how best to deploy equipment. Data gained during the drills will also allow the Niles Fire Department to refine its Pre-Emergency Plan for the Y building.

After the second set of drills on Thursday, Teper thought that personnel from both departments functioned well.

"The guys did great," he said. "These drills give us the chance to work to work out the details. Sometimes little nuances don't go like you expect but the guys can learn and adapt."



A Morton Grove Firefighter picks up equipment on the eighth floor of the Leaning Tower YMCA after drills Thursday, May 6

NEWS

**Street resurfacing set in MG**

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER  
editor@buglenewspapers.com

The Morton Grove Public Works Department has designated most of the streets that will be completely or partially resurfaced this year under the 2004 Street Improvement Program.

In the village's budget \$664,812 was budgeted to resurface streets this year and the initial proposal, which called for work on seven different streets throughout the village. The bids that were returned for the project were substantially lower than the budgeted amount: \$494,319. This leaves enough money for another street to be resurfaced, approximately \$140,000.

"I think that some of these companies actually wanted work for a change," said Andy DeMonte, director

of Public Works.

The streets that will be resurfaced are: Greenwood Ave. from Olcott Ave. to Oriole Ave. and Emerson St. from Harlem Ave. to Waukegan Rd.

Five other streets are slated for micro surfacing. They are: Churchill Ave. from Washington St. to Oriole Ave., Ozark Ave. from Beckwith Rd. to Palma Ln., Michael Ct. from Beckwith Rd. to Wilson Tr., Lake St. from Austin Ave. to Central Ave., and Monroe St. from Central Ave. to Long Ave.

The micro surfacing process puts a thin layer on top of the existing surface. DeMonte said that it could add from five to six years of life to the roads.

As far as the extra road that will be resurfaced, DeMonte said that the Public Works Dept. was compiling a list. One possibility under consideration is the remaining portion of Greenwood.

**Niles Teen Center Grand Opening set for May 15**

The Niles Youth Council will host a dedication and open house of the new Niles Teen Center from 10:00am-1:00pm on May 15, 2004. The public is invited to attend the official opening and welcome the Teen Center to the Niles community.

"We hope everyone in the community will join us to celebrate this great

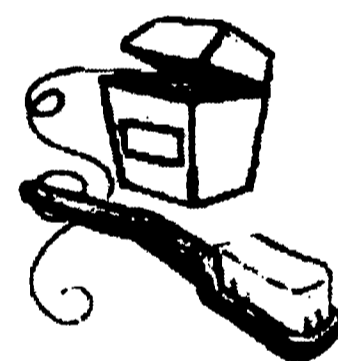
addition to the Village of Niles said Christine Eischen, Youth Coordinator for the Niles Teen Center. "A lot of time and hard work have gone in to the Center."

The Niles Teen Center offers a variety of activities for teens. It is located at 7680 N. Caldwell, at the corner of Caldwell and Howard.

THE BUGLE

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NEWS

# Niles Police time capsule opened ahead of schedule

## LAY CORNERSTONE AT NEW POLICE-COURT BLDG.

New Police-Court Home Time Capsule Placed In Building

The Bugle's front page on Mar. 5, 1964 featured an article on the recently demolished Niles Police Station and its time capsule. Speakers on hand predicted it would be opened in 2064.

civic and homeowners' associations.

The 17 of the 36 civic homeowners' groups that responded were: Niles Chamber of Commerce, Grennan Heights Garden Club, Jonquil Terrace Civic Association, Niles Public Library, Chesterfield Gardens Improvement Ass'n, Niles Lions Club, Niles Citizens Committee, Oakton Manor Homeowners Ass'n, Kirk Lane Community Organization, Rotary Club, Safety Council, Village Board of Trustees, Woman's Club of Niles, School District 71, Park Lane Community Association, Women's Auxiliary of Niles Police Department and the Niles Police Department.

The opening address of the ceremony was made by Herb Adler, who introduced Ed Berkowsky as organizational representative. Mr. Adler then held the time capsule, already sealed, up for everyone to view. A brief address was given by Niles Police Chief Clarence Emrikson who said "there is 10 times as much room here (the new station) which will make our work a little easier." In attendance were Judge Anton A. Smigiel, Judge James McCullen, and Judge Herbert Stoffels. The final speaker was Mayor Blase, who extended his appreciation to the people of Niles for their contributions (tax wise). The invitational blessing was given by the R. Rev. Msgr. John Flanagan, pastor of St. John Brebeuf Catholic Church.

Police Chief Emrikson then placed the capsule within the cornerstone and the Mayor completed the ceremony. The historic event was closed with a personal invitation from Herb Adler to all those present to attend the opening ceremonies on Friday, Feb. 29, 2064.



## Niles Chamber awards scholarships

The Niles Chamber of Commerce Dollars for Scholars committee awarded their 2004 scholarships at a ceremony on May 8, 2004 hosted by Landmark Ford in Niles. Two graduating eighth graders Jeena Chorath (St. John Brebeuf School) and Keith Banaszak (St. John Brebeuf School) each were awarded a \$500 High School scholarship. Alejandra Rosas (Niles West High School) and Alex Tseger (Niles North High School) were each awarded a \$1000 College Scholarship. "We were overwhelmed by the caliber of applicants, our decision was a difficult one to make" says Bob Raminiak, Chairman of Niles Chamber Dollars for Scholars. All applicants were judged on their academic achievement, community involvement, written recommendations and short essay skills.

The Dollars for Scholars committee could not have awarded the 2004 scholarships without the financial support of individuals and businesses who purchased raffle tickets in the Ford Escape Grand Raffle and without the generous contributions of Landmark Ford, Northwest Community Credit Union and National City Bank.

A photo that appeared on page four of last week's issue of The Bugle appeared once before, on Mar. 5, 1964. The article, "Lay Cornerstone at new Police-Court Building" concluded with an invitation to the time capsule's opening ceremonies Friday, Feb. 29 2064, 100-years from the dedication date.

After last week's issue had gone to press, Editor Andrew Schneider was paging through the archives and found the photograph on page one.

"It was really funny," said

Schneider. "I was turning the pages and it just sort of popped out at me."

The text of the 1964 article is reprinted below:

*Lay Cornerstone at new Police-Court Bldg., Time Capsule Placed In Building*

A brief ceremony in commemoration of the new Police station and Municipal building being built at Touhy and Waukegan took place on Saturday, Feb. 29. The ceremony was climaxed with the placing of a time capsule, a copper box 16" by 5" by 4". The box contained predictions of 17

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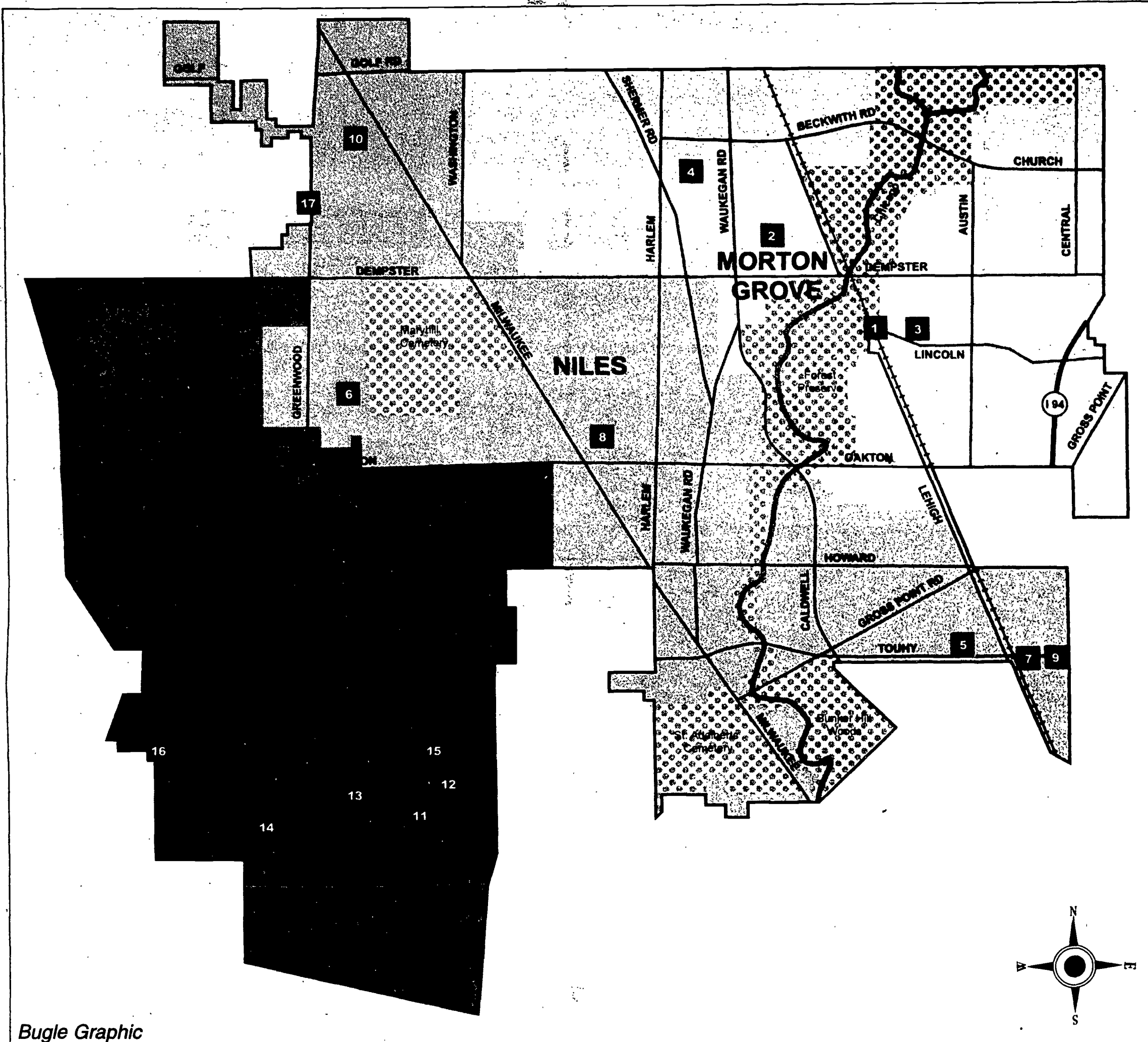
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**POLICE BLOTTER**



Bugle Graphic

**MORTON GROVE**

The following items were taken from official reports of the Morton Grove Police Department for the week ending May 7, 2004.

**1** **Evanston man busted with dope (Lincoln and Lehigh)**  
A 37-year-old Evanston man was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver Friday night April 30 after a Morton Grove police officer stopped the man for allegedly disobeying the train crossing at Lincoln and Lehigh.

**2** **Two cell phones stolen (6800 Dempster)**  
A 51-year-old Chicago man told police his two cell phones were stolen Monday night May 3 after he left them on the bench in the men's locker room of a health club in the 6800 block of Dempster. The man said he walked out of the dressing room and when he realized he had forgotten the phones he returned to the locker room but the phones were gone. The phones were valued at \$430.

**3** **Bathtub stolen (8400 Callie)**  
A contractor reported a 5foot fiberglass bathtub was stolen from a construction site Tuesday afternoon May 4. The contractor told police the tub was stored in a new garage for a townhome in the 8400 block of Callie. The garage did not have a door. The tub was valued at \$350.

**4** **Cars vandalized**  
Cars at the following addresses were vandalized overnight May 2 when someone used a sharp object to scratch the cars from bumper to bumper along

the drivers side. In all cases but one the cars were parked in the street. The addresses were: 9233 Marion, 9221 Marion, 9216 Marion, 6908 Church, 6948 Church, 7105 Church, 7050 Church and 7115 Church.

**5** **Vacuum cleaner stolen (6100 Touhy)**  
A \$500 vacuum cleaner was stolen from the Target store in the 6100 block of Touhy Thursday night May 6. According to police an activated fire alarm led security to finding an open door and a customer telling police someone walked out of the door with a vacuum cleaner.

**6** **Stolen vehicle (8500 Normal)**  
A 1981 Ford Thunderbird was stolen from a home in the 8500

block of Normal Saturday morning May 8. The owner of the car told police a friend had been living at his home with his wife and himself. And when they awakened on May 8 they found the house guest gone, the car gone, their house keys missing, and their cell phone.

**7** **Retail Theft (5600 Touhy)**  
A 20-year-old Chicago man was arrested May 8 after a security officer at Walmart watched the man remove four music CDs from a display and remove the packaging and hide the CDs under his clothing. The man was stopped outside of the store.

**8** **Car windows smashed (8000 Oketo)**  
The front and rear windows of a 1995 Dodge van parked in the driveway of the owners home in the 8000 block of Oketo early Friday morning May 7.

**9** **Retail Theft (5600 Touhy)**  
Three women ranging in age from 18-31 years of age were arrested for shoplifting May 6 when store security at Walmart watched the women conceal merchandise in their purses and under

an infant that was in a shopping cart. Police later found out one of the women was wanted on an outstanding warrant out of Skokie.

**10** **Thousands of dollars of clothing stolen from auto (Golf Mill mall)**  
A 42-year-old Northbrook woman told police someone removed more than \$10,000 worth of clothing and furs from her SUV while she was parked outside of the Target store at the Golf Mill shopping center Thursday afternoon May 6. The woman told police she was unsure if she left the car unlocked and according to police no forced entry was made. The woman told police two fur coats valued at more than \$10,000 along with a bag of blouses and other clothing items were taken from her 2000 Mercedes ML320

**PARK RIDGE**

The following items were taken from official reports of the Park Ridge Police for the week ending April 23-29, 2004.

**11** **Vandalism (700 block of S. Courtland)**  
The driver's side mirror of a 1993 Cadillac was broken while the car sat in the owner's driveway in the 700 block of S. Courtland Friday night April 30.

The driver's side mirror of a 1998 Buick Park Avenue was broken Friday night April 30 while the car was parked in the street in the 700 block of Courtland.

**12** **Vandalism (400 Stewart)**  
The driver's side mirror of a 2004 Chevy Corsica was broken Saturday night May 1 while the car was parked in the street in the 400 block of Stewart.

**13** **Vandalism (900 S. Cumberland)**  
The side mirror of a 1998 Infinity was broken Saturday night May 1 while the car was parked in the 900 block of S. Cumberland.

**14** **Vandalism (1000 block Knight)**  
Someone threw a rock through the front window of a home in the 1000 block of Knight Saturday night May 1.

**15** **BB gun vandalism (700 Vine)**  
Someone shot up a basketball backboard in the yard of a home in the 700 block of Vine Monday night May 3.

**16** **Juvenile arrested for locker theft (1100 S. Dee Rd)**  
Police said a juvenile was arrested for opening an unlocked locker and stealing \$40 at Maine South High School. The alleged theft occurred sometime between February 20 and May 3.

**17** **Park Ridge man arrested with marijuana (Ballard and Greenwood)**  
Park Ridge police arrested Thomas Cipczyński, 21, of the 1900 block of Washington Wednesday afternoon May 5 with enough marijuana to charge him possession and delivery. Police said the arrest happened near Ballard and Greenwood. Cipczyński is scheduled to appear in court June 3.

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		<b>GREEK SAUSAGE</b> \$2.29 LB
DAIRY		
<b>MOREY'S ATLANTIC SALMON (LOX)</b> \$8.99 LB	<b>PRAIRIE FARMS 2% MILK</b> \$2.79 EACH GALLON	<b>PRAIRIE FARMS YOGURTS</b> 3 FOR \$1.00 8 OZ
GROCERY/FROZEN		
<b>PAGLIACCI CRUSHED OR PEAR TOMATOES</b> 99¢ EACH 28OZ	<b>IMPORTED TANINA EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL</b> \$3.99 EACH 1 LITER	
<b>SANTORINI STUFFED VINE LEAVES</b> \$1.29 EACH 10 OZ	<b>CORONA BEER</b> 12.99 EACH 12 PACK	<b>NESCAFE INSTANT COFFEE</b> \$7.49 EACH 2.00 GR
<p>8800 WAUKEGAN ROAD MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS (CORNER OF WAUKEGAN &amp; DEMPSTER) <b>(847) 581-1029</b> Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-9, Sat. 8-8, Sun. 8-7 SALE DATES GOOD 5/13/04 TO 5/19/04</p>		

EVENTS CALENDAR

CIVICS

Thursday, May 13 -6:30 p.m. Dee Rd. Station Remodeling Community Meeting, Public Works Service Center, 2nd Floor
Monday May 17 -7:30 p.m. Park Ridge City Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 19 -7 p.m. Village of Niles Adjudication Hearing

COMMUNITY

Friday, May 14 -Niles West High School will present a free community performance of "Korczak's Children," at 10 a.m. in the auditorium, 5701 W. Oakton, Skokie. Two other performances will be held tonight at 4 p.m. and tomorrow, Saturday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$8.
Monday, May 17 -A seminar on Diabetes will be held at the American Legion Memorial Civic Center 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove on Monday, May 17 at 1:30 p.m. Get general information, learn about the signs, symptoms, complications, prevention, current treatments and stay for a question and answer session. No charge but please register by calling the Senior Hotline at 847-470-5223.
Wednesday, May 19 -The Park Ridge Catholic Woman's Club will attend a Mass of Thanksgiving, at Our Lady of Hope Church, located at 9711. W. Devon Ave., in Rosemont. After Mass they will proceed to the Cafe La Cave, located at 2777 Mannheim Rd. in Des Plaines for their Annual Spring Luncheon. Cocktails at noon, luncheon at 1 p.m. Bill and Susan Goodman will entertain. Reservations at \$35.00 are being taken by Anne Scheller at 847-825-4520, or at our regular meetings. Deadline May 10.
-Morton Grove Hadassah will have their culminating Installation Luncheon at the Cotillion, 360 Creekside, Palatine, IL. RSVP by May 9th, 2004. Please call 847-967-9859.

PARKS

Thursday, May 20 -7:30 p.m. The Board of Park Commissioners meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Maine Park Leisure Center (unless indicated otherwise), 2701 Sibley, Park Ridge, Illinois.

Meetings for governmental bodies are held in the following locations:
Niles Village of Niles: Niles Civic Center 1000 Civic Center Dr., Niles IL.
Niles Park District: Howard Leisure Center 6676 Howard St., Niles, IL.
Park Ridge City of Park Ridge: City Hall, 506 Butler Pl., Park Ridge, IL.
Park Ridge Park District: Maine Park Leisure Center 2701 Sibley Ave., Park Ridge, IL.
Morton Grove Village of Morton Grove: Village Hall, 6101 Capulina Morton Grove, IL.
Morton Grove Park District: Prairie View Center 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove, IL.
Submit events to : Calendar@buglenewspapers.com

SOUND OFF!



"I have no issues with Powell. I think Powell has multilevel experience. I think Rice is highly qualified." Marion Dunn - Chicago



"I voted for the president and I trust his judgement. Powell's my favorite. Cheney is my least favorite. Rumsfeld is a little arrogant." Dolores Borst- Morton Grove



"I think they have the wrong cabinet members in the wrong places. Rumsfeld acts like an arrogant field commander. Colin Powell should be the Secretary of Defense." Gene Paprocki- Morton Grove

Opinion Members bid farewell to Woman's Club Founder

Dear Editor,
It is with great sadness that the Morton Grove Woman's Club had to bid farewell to their founder and first president Elizabeth (Betty) Orphan. In 1953 she and eighteen other ladies of Morton Grove started the Morton Grove Woman's Club. The club and Betty have been an intricate part of the community. She was a lover of arts, so even today the club has two literature groups that meet monthly, attend plays in the Chicago area and have book reviews.
Betty loved to ski, play bridge and music, especially Ravinia during the summer. The club grew with the village along with the monies raised to help the children of Morton Grove attend nursing school, first at Lutheran General and later at Oakton Community College. Money was raised to give scholarships to the universities in Illinois and also the Fire Dept., the library, park district, and Orchard School, where Betty was a member of the board.
Betty was an example of the many young women who stayed home with the children and helped to make the community a great place for the children to play, learn and grow up as strong young people. Thanks Betty. We will miss your leadership.

Margie Morton Grove Woman's Club

Parkview Science Olympiad needs your support

Dear Editor,
We have some really exciting and positive news. Park View School's Science Olympiad Team has once again been named Illinois State Science Olympiad Champion. This time it occurred on April 24, 2004 at the Illinois State Tournament sponsored by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It was a day of great adversity and success, of lows and highs, with final results that astounded even experienced coaches and officials.
That's the good news, so what's the bad news? There is no bad news. By winning this competition, Park View has also won a spot at the National Tournament, to be held this year on May 21st and 22nd, hosted by Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. The Olympians will be traveling there by bus on May 20th, staying until May 24th, and then traveling home.

His all sounds really good, so what do you want me to do? First and foremost, please send the Olympians a short note or letter of congratulations. Whether you know an Olympian, many Olympians, or are just excited that the team has achieved this success, please send congratulatory and encouraging postcards or notes to:
Park View School Science Olympiad Team
C/o Matt Cole, Head Coach
Park View School
6200 Lake Street
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053
Second, this team needs money, and they need it now. The estimated costs for the team to attend this National Tournament are: Bus Transportation at approximately \$6,000, Hotel accommodations for 18 Olympians and 3 coaches at approximately \$4,500, Meals and snacks approximately \$1,500, Entrance Fees and Tournament Costs will run approximately \$1,000, Equipment still to be purchased and Contingency Funds are estimated at \$2,000. This totals \$15,000. Because of this year's very late State Tournament we've only got 3 weeks to raise these funds. Impossible? NO. We can do it with your immediate help.

Park View School Science Olympiad Team Parents Committee

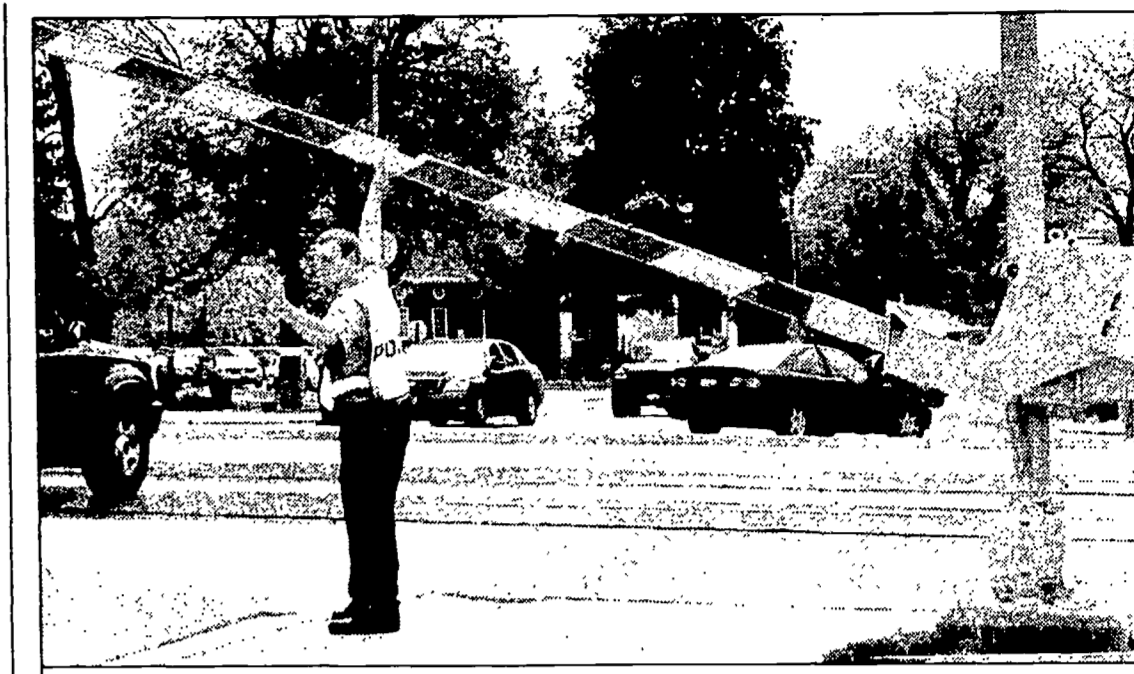
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PARK RIDGE NEWS

Plans for Oakton Sports complex unveiled

The Park Ridge Recreation and Park District is seeking individuals to discuss the future of the Oakton Sports Complex at 2800 W. Oakton Street, Park Ridge. At its Thursday, May 6 meeting, the Park Board reviewed several options including the addition of batting cages, miniature golf, a family aquatic center, expansion of the existing Ice Rink, and enlargement and/or relocation of the dog park.
Burnridge Cassell and Associates has developed five concepts for consideration:
Option A - This design features the addition of a miniature golf course at the northwest corner of the Oakton Sports Complex. The batting cages would be on the south side of a control booth built to serve both activities.
Option B calls for a 43,500 square foot family aquatic center where the current diving well and pool are located. A separate bathroom would be built to enhance the pool experience. A miniature golf course would be added to the fun. One booth would serve both golf centers.
Option C is a concept that calls for a miniature golf course in the grove of Oak trees that contributes to the beauty of the existing complex. The removal of some of the driving range stalls to build batting cages is a part of this design.
Option D includes a 41,000-square-foot family aquatic center to replace the pools. Seven batting stations and a 44,000 square foot miniature golf course would be built near the existing driving range. The golf course/driving range/batting cage area has an expanded control booth and a concession area plus restrooms.
Option E calls for elimination of the driving range so that a second sheet of ice could be built west of the ice rink. A family aquatic center would replace the range on the southwest side of the property. Locker rooms would be added for use at both rinks. The dog park would be relocated to the northwest corner of the site. A miniature golf course and batting cages would surround a concession area and a control booth.
The second floor of the ice rink would be removed. An extension of the building would be built to house team locker rooms. In this particular option, the dog park would be expanded by a move to the northwest corner of the property.
The main building itself would be left much the same as it is now. A small concession area would be added. A one-story addition used as a separate drop-off area and entrance to the ice arena and locker rooms would be constructed on the west side.
Discussions are not being limiting to these four or five concepts. They are to serve as a starting point to generate ideas, thoughts, desires and needs from you - are general public that is why the Park Board is asking for volunteers. For more information, contact Renie Schreiber, manager of public relations at 847.692.3346 or by fax 847.692.6949 or e-mail prpdrenie@aol.com



And Lift

A Park Ridge Police Officer hold up the gates at the Prospect Ave. train crossing in Uptown Park Ridge Saturday afternoon. The signals went out, requiring officers to direct traffic until they were repaired.

New police station may be in the works

The Public Safety Committee of the Park Ridge City Council met last week to discuss property acquisition for a new police station. The Committee went into closed session to discuss property acquisition. According to City Manager Tim Schuenke, the discussion centered around property for a new police station. "I wasn't at the meeting," Schuenke said. "But I believe the discussion was held for property acquisition for a new police station." A call to Ald. Mike Tinaglia (1st) was not returned by the time this week's edition went to press.

to be reminded financially of their obligations.

So, why do I bring this up? Because, for me, it bears on the more fundamental question of governance at every level: Who do you trust?

OUTSIDE IN, INSIDE OUT By Chuck Baldacchino

Tort Reform

Try to stay out of anything except (very) local public issues; but sometimes there are topics at "higher" levels of government that either bear on a local issue or illuminate thinking that needs to be examined at every level. One of those, for me, is tort reform.
Tort reform is the effort to put monetary caps on jury settlements in civil suits. You've heard both sides of the argument.
Defendants say: wildly excessive verdicts will put (doctors, manufacturers, ...) you fill in the blank with a number) out of business, depriving consumers of (healthcare, durable goods, ...) fill in this blank, too).
Plaintiffs say: malpractice needs to be punished to deter future hacks; greedy corporations making money decisions instead of human ones need

peers, to be able to accept testimony, analyze the situation, and arrive at a judgment that they would want for themselves were they in your position.
Try this experiment. Ask the next 10 people you meet to name the top 10 reasons why our form of government is so good. If they can give you 10 reasons, surely one of them will be "trial by jury"; that if they're in a bad legal spot, they take some small comfort from knowing that they can be judged by a jury of 12 of their peers.
But what does "tort reform" do? It takes that decision out of the hands of your peers.
It says to me that proponents of tort reform just don't trust you, or you practice premiums) just because that might risk their "fleeing" out of state? Isn't THAT a license to commit harm?
OK. The rhetoric can get hot on this topic. But it boils down to this: Who do you trust?
If you trust our jury system, if you think that someday YOU may need to rely on the good sense of your neighbors and friends - peers - to conclude whether you or a loved one were wronged by malpractice, you MUST reject tort reform.
On the other hand, if you'll never need a jury trial or you really do think the government knows better than you, line up behind tort reform. But be aware.
Chuck@ParkRidgeBugle.com

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### Niles West Science Olympiad earns fourth place at state

Congratulations to the Niles West Science Olympiad Team that earned fourth place at the state competition held recently at the University of Illinois. In the fierce and well-fought contest, the Niles West team was just 20 points shy of the state championship and a scant eleven points from a trip to Nationals. The team should be proud of their outstanding season: accomplishments include a silver medal at the Regional Competition, a gold medal at the Prospect Invitational and a bronze medal at the Northmont Invitational. Gold medals were awarded to: Lisa Wickert and Michelle Stein for "Science of Fitness"; Taje Klint and Will Dluger for "Remote Sensing"; Eric Kato for "Wright Stuff"; and Nik Emerson and Ben Grover for "Sound of Music".

Silver medals were earned by: Dmitry Vorobiev, Pat Wheeler and Michelle Stein for "Experimental Design". Bronze medals were awarded to: Steve Gullen, Pat Wheeler and Dmitry Vorobiev for "Mission Possible"; Robert Wand and Steve Gullen for "Bottle Rocket"; Michelle Stein and Steve Gullen for "Forestry"; and Calvin Lee and Ben Hofeld for "Polymer Detective". Calvin Lee and Pat Wheeler earned a fourth place medal for "Chemistry Lab". Team members Jorie Glassner, Amy Ostrowski, Chucky Klint and Khadeer Ahmed also gave strong performances. The Science Olympiad coaches are Elizabeth Ramseyer, Howard Swider, Chris Barnett and Elizabeth Watkins.

#### Maine East News

The Maine East Rocket Team has qualified to participate in the Team America Rocketry Challenge, the world's largest model rocket contest in Great Meadow, The Plains, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C., on May 22, 2004. The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and the National Association of Rocketry (NAR) sponsor the national model rocket competition for U.S. high school and middle school teams. More than 7,000 students in 600 teams attempted to meet the contest's rigorous requirements, but only the top scoring 100 high school teams qualified to compete in the finals. The contest requires that students design, build, and test a model rocket that can fly as close to 1,250 feet as possible with a payload of two raw eggs, and successfully parachute the eggs back to the ground unbroken. The top ten teams will share a prize pool of \$60,000 in savings bonds. The Maine East Rocket Team has been competing all year against teams from all 50 states. Team members include Ismet Saric and Maulik Choksi of Niles, Pavan Trivedi of Glenview, and Jie Chou, Vincar Patel, Shubhi Sharma, Wai Tong, Shrikant Shah, and Cyriac Tharappel, all of Des Plaines. The faculty sponsor is science teacher Patrick Voitik.

May 13 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at which time it will present a cash prize of \$50 to the winner in each category. Refreshments will be served.

The students who will have artwork displayed are: DESIGN: Kerri Aitken of Des Plaines, Angela Behrendt of Morton Grove, Alex Broda of Arlington Heights, Sherry Choi of Niles, and Anna Konovalova and Maria Surawska, both of Des Plaines; DIGITAL IMAGE: Agnes Gora of Niles, Meghan MacDuff and Paul Millares, both of Glenview, Dorothy Mlynarczyk of Niles, Vicool Patel of Des Plaines, and Jess Sanchez of Niles; DRAWING: Amy Behrendt of Morton Grove, Julie Beierwaltes and Karen Kowalysen, both of Niles, Sylvia Prokopowicz of Des Plaines, and Arthur Swidzinski and Robert Wojtowicz, both of Niles; PAINTING: Kathy Banek and Marta Dobrzycki, both of Des Plaines, Puja Metha of Morton Grove, Malgorzata Pakulska of Des Plaines, Natalia Pajak of Niles, and Natalya Sturlis of Glenview; PHOTOGRAPHY: Allison Beck of Glenview, April Harrington and Liz Hickey, both of Morton Grove, Kristi Horwitz of Niles, Christine Koh of Morton Grove, Jennifer Romero and Susan Song, both of Des Plaines, and Yvonne Szumski of Niles. Student photographer for the event is Rachelle Mann of Des Plaines.

The faculty sponsor is science teacher Patrick Voitik. The Great Frame Up at 7919 Golf Road in Morton Grove will be exhibiting artwork from 32 Maine East students in its store from May 6-18. The store mats and frames all the work to be displayed. It is providing a reception that is open to the public on

### SCHOOLS

#### District 219 Superintendent Testifies in Springfield

On Tuesday, April 27, District 219 Superintendent Neil Codell testified to the Elementary and Secondary Education Appropriations Committee at the State Capital Complex in Springfield. Elizabeth Coulson (R), Representative of the 17th District, invited Codell to speak on the topic of school funding and to explain how it affects suburban districts in Illinois.

District 219, which passed an education fund referendum in March, is now making school

funding reform a priority. "Even though we passed a referendum, we still need to fight for improved funding for public schools," said Codell. "Speaking to the appropriations committee was the first step in a long journey. We will endlessly pursue impacting the legislation through various efforts," Codell added.

In Codell's testimony he explained that through the gracious support of the Niles Township community, District 219 was able to escape massive cuts to educational programs. He said that although the District will be on better financial ground, it is not a permanent solution to a poorly funded public education system. Codell sympathized with the financial burden placed on taxpayers and challenged the state government to play its part in supporting the schools.

"Communities across the state—affluent or poor, upstate or downstate, city or suburbs—are facing daunting financial circumstances," said Codell. "We need the state government to step up to the challenge, just as our community in District 219 did."

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# BUSINESS

### Dollars and sense by David Uffington

#### There's no free lunch

Someone once said the definition of freedom is having the right to say no. Sadly, too many people forget how to say no when they find themselves wined and dined at a seminar run by groups such as real estate developers, investment companies, time-share sales outfits, or more often these days, "wealth management" organizations.

It starts with an invitation that addresses you as that discerning person who would appreciate what the company can do to get you a special deal on whatever you may be looking for, or help you grow your money and make you very rich, or guide you on how to start a business of your own, etc., etc. And all this is possible if you accept your invitation to a well-known restaurant. There you'll be served a free surf-and-turf luncheon complete with an open bar, and listen to the experts tell you how they can help you make the kind

of money that will have you eating like this every day of your life. So you accept, feeling sure that you'll enjoy the meal and the drinks and if you decide you're not interested in what the sponsors are pitching, you'll leave. Well, that's what most people tell themselves when they RSVP yes. However, the fact that these marketing ploys are repeated over and over again means they work, and that means they get more than enough people to pull out a credit card, or even just a pen to sign an agreement to make the investment in your lunch and libations pay off big time.

So, can you enjoy a free lunch without being reeled in by one of these spiels? The experts say it's more difficult than you think, and suggest when you get these invitations you tear them up. Better yet, go out and buy your own expensive lunch because it could be cheaper than what you might ultimately have to pay for your freebies.

Next Week: There are seminars that have something to offer besides an impressive buffet table, and we'll look at how you can find those that best suit your needs.

Write to Mr. Uffington in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 or e-mail letters.kfws@hearstsc.com.



The DunnSolutions Group Building at 5550 W. Touhy is home to First Financial Credit Union, a financial institution Manager Luis Reyes calls well worth the search.

## First Financial, well worth the search

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER  
editor@buglenewspapers.com

Financial are initially confused. But Reyes said the great service and competitive rates kept people coming back. First Financial has been in business since 1936. They started out as Teletype Credit Union to serve telecommunications workers. Today First Financial offers a variety of services to attract consumers who would be better served by a credit union than by a traditional bank. "We have to let people know why we're different and why they should choose us instead of others," said First Financial's Marketing Specialist Sophia Chen. "It's difficult to set yourself apart when there are so many financial institutions." First Financial offers all of the traditional banking services from free checking to savings accounts and certificates of deposit. "Continues..."

FIRST FINANCIAL page 12.

### BUSINESS PEOPLE



#### Niles' Farrell recognized

Niles resident Lisa Farrell was recognized as the "Salesperson of the Month" for April at Callero & Catino Realty. She led the sales team at the Niles-based realtor to one of the busiest Aprils in their history. Farrell has been an agent with Callero & Catino since 1990. She is a graduate of the Illinois Realtors Institute, and holds the professional designations of Accredited Buyer Representative and Senior Real Estate Specialist. Farrell has consistently been one of the top sales agents at the company. In addition to her real estate sales, she teaches home buying and selling courses at local community colleges. Callero & Catino expects the real estate market to remain very busy for the rest of this year, even though interest rates are increasing.

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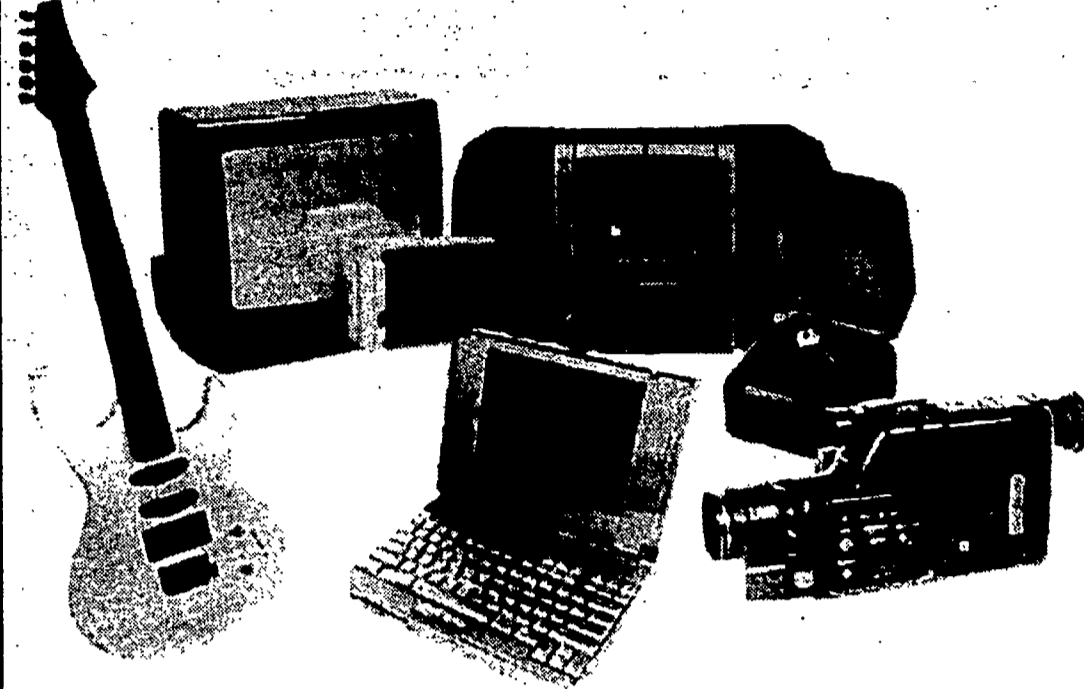
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## BUSINESS

### First Financial

(Continued from page 11)

deposit. But it also offers the full range of online banking services. And if you're looking to try online bill payment, it's free for the first six months.

"Most people have a busy schedule," said Chen. "If they can't come in here, the internet is available."

Chen also said that First Financial's online banking was completely secure, so members

of the credit union need feel no fear about entering personal information like social security numbers.

Another of the First Financial's advantages, according to Reyes, is its not-for-profit status.

"We don't have to drive up the interest rates on loans and drive down the rates on savings like a traditional bank," said Reyes.

"Members of the union can enjoy extremely competitive rates."

The main office of First Financial Credit Union is located at 5550 W. Touhy. There are branch offices at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge and Indian Hill Court in Naperville. For more information, contact First Financial at (847) 676-8000.

**BP** The Bugle runs business profiles to highlight those businesses that support the publication.

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Hearing aids shown at actual size.

**FREE Hearing Test**

**FREE Hearing Test**  
 Hurry into your local Miracle-Ear or Sears Hearing Aid Center listed and schedule your free no obligation hearing test\*\* today.



## 'Laps for Leukemia' holds walk-a-thon at Harrer Park

Somebody's Hero," the Kathleen Meyers-Grabemann Chapter of the Leukemia Research Foundation will hold a Laps for Leukemia walk-a-thon to raise money for leukemia research. The event will be held this Sunday, May 16. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The cost to enter is \$25 and \$10 for each additional family member. All pledges support the "Somebody's Hero" chapter of the Leukemia Research Foundation. The registration fee includes walk, breakfast, and a prize drawing. After registration, there will be a speech by a Leukemia survivor. The walk will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. It will be held at Harrer Park, 6250 Dempster, Morton Grove. For more information call (847) 4224-0600.



**Quite a crowd**  
About 120 seniors packed the American Legion Civic Center in Morton Grove for a Mother's Day program that included a performance by a ukelele band and hula dancers. The program was facilitated by the Community Nutrition Network of Morton Grove, an organization which provides low-cost, nutritious meals to seniors.

## NEWS

### Niles Street resurfacing underway

**Noriega expects completion no later than summer's end**

"When it went out for bid it came back under what the engineers had estimated," said Niles Public Works Director Jun Noriega. The streets to be resurfaced this year are: Davis St. from Greenwood to Cumberland, Grace Ave. from Ballard to Davis, Delphia Ave. from Ballard to the village limits, Maryland St. from Ballard to Church, Church St. from Cumberland to Milwaukee, and Joey Dr. north of Ballard. "It started last week with curbing, gutter and sidewalk work," said Noriega. "Then they'll begin milling the asphalt." Noriega said that he expected the work would be completed on all streets before the summer ends.

**Bone up and breathe easy!**

**Bone Mineral Density Test**

**Wednesday May 19**  
8:30 am - 11:00 am

Are you concerned about osteoporosis? Bone mineral density (BMD) testing measures the density of your bones, and could detect low bone mineral density before a fracture occurs.

**Enjoy complimentary refreshments & a free mini massage after your test ~ AND take home a healthy flowering plant!**

**Pulmonary Function Test**

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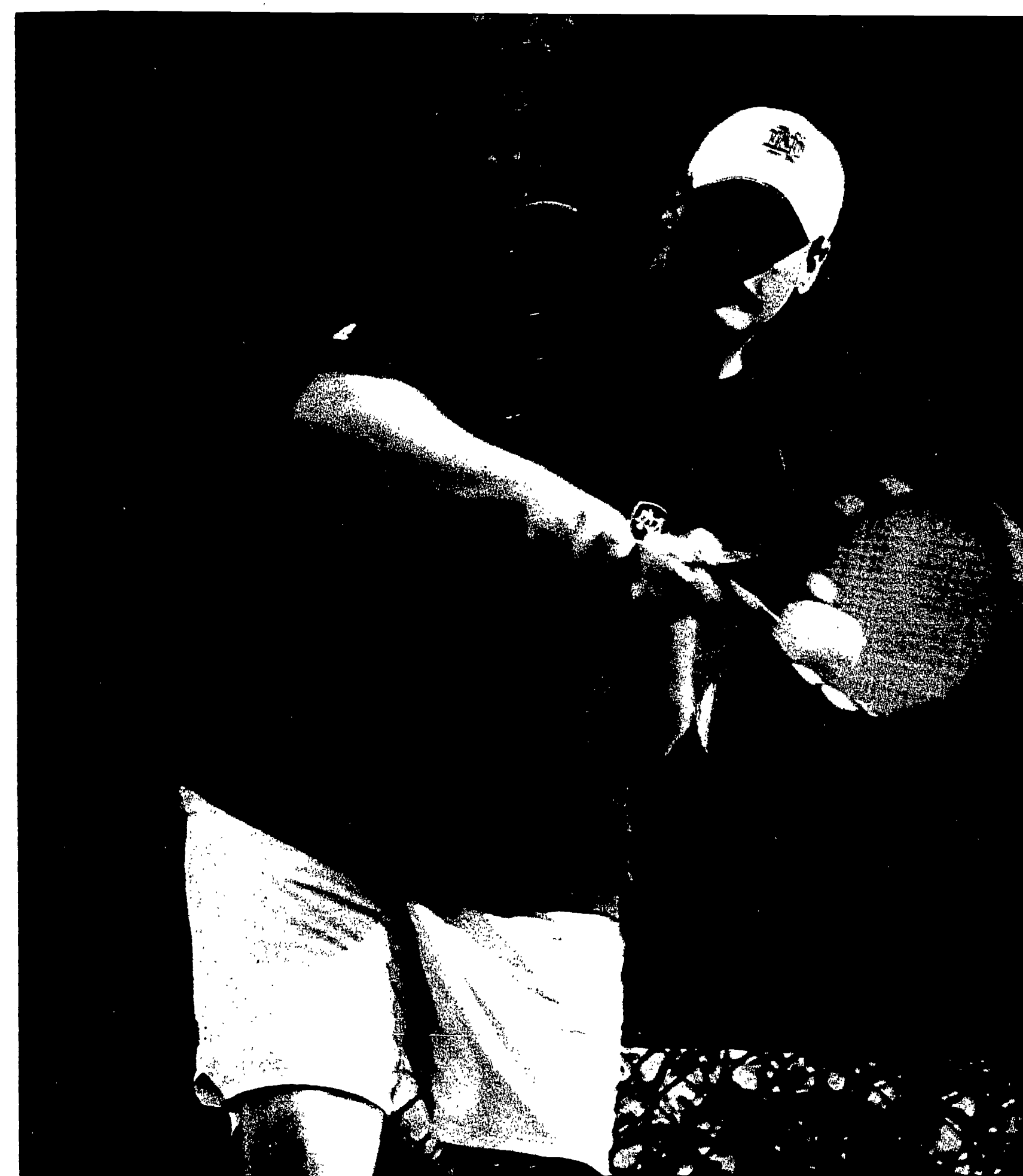
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# SPORTS



Notre Dame's Dan Kamin returns a shot from Carmel's Nick Andres during their East Suburban Catholic Conference match at Northeast Park in Park Ridge Thursday afternoon May 6.

## Don Tennis Team has made great strides

BY RYAN BISHOP  
rbishop@buglenewspapers.com

The Notre Dame boy's tennis team has made great strides over the past three years and has enjoyed their best conference record since varsity coach Steve Jankowski took over as coach. A former tennis player at the school and a graduate in 1994, Jankowski has coached the team to a 4-5 conference record. The program's first year produced no wins, three wins the second year and five wins in its third year.

#1 singles player Dan Kamin, a junior, and #2 singles player, sophomore Song-Jae Lim (7-1 conference record) have been instrumental in the team's success this year. Although both players lost their matches in their final home match of the season, they took their opponent to three sets against the always tough Carmel Caravan.

"Our guys finished up extremely well against a team we always struggle against. I was happy for our number one doubles team, going out and beating Carmel as seniors. It gives them confidence going into the conference match," said Jankowski.

#1 doubles team of Tim Mueller-Sim and Mark Fita won their match against Carmel's #1 doubles team 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, improving to 4-3 on the year. The duo was effective in their long game and sideline shots. The two celebrated their last home victory together and it was especially gratifying since they have never beaten Carmel in their four years on the varsity team.

"We started out shaky in our first set, not getting our shots over, but we pulled it together in the second set and played as a team. I think once we do that we are unstoppable. This is the first year we won a game off Carmel. Last year we lost 5-0 and we took them to three sets this year," said Mueller-Sim.

"We really started to turn things around after the Marian Catholic match, where we put everything together. We lost a few matches that we know we could have won. This victory gives us a lot of confidence going into conference tournament," said Fita.

The Dons have had key wins against Marian Catholic, St. Joseph, St. Patrick, and Nazareth, while also posting wins against Maine East, Lane Tech and Mather. The #3 doubles team of Anthony Angelini and Danny Kusek have the top doubles record on the team at 5-2 (conference). In addition, the team won the Gordon Tech tournament for the first time in school history. Angelini and Kusek dropped their last home match 6-4, 6-4.

Continues...  
TENNIS page 16.

## WEEKEND WARFARE

THE MATCHES YOU CAN'T MISS!

**Niles West/Maine South Baseball and Softball**

When: 5 PM, Thursday May 13  
Where: Softball @ Maine South High School, 1111 S. Dee Rd., Park Ridge  
Baseball @ Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie, IL

Outlook: After beginning the season on a hot streak the boy's baseball team has found the season to be a little bumpy. In the last week the Hawks have had to face top ranked New Trier team that has devastated them on both occasions. Before they face Niles West this Thursday they will hopefully regain their composure and return to the form they opened the season with. The Maine South girls on the other hand have turned a sour opening into a sweet middle. After opening the season 1-6 the girls have completely turned things around with a record of 12-9. This Thursday they also face the Niles West Wolves, but at home. Either way both games will give you a chance to enjoy a local ball game that should be a lot of fun.

### Boy's Track-CSL & ESCC Conference Championships

CSL Championship: Friday, May 16, 4:30PM  
Evanston High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL  
ESCC Championship: Saturday, May 15, 9AM  
Marian Catholic High School, 700 Ashland Ave., Chicago Heights, IL

Outlook: The Hawks are poised to have a good shot at the conference championships this Friday. Last Thursday they took second at the Glenbrook North Relays, losing by 73 points to New Trier. New Trier will be the Hawks biggest competition this Friday. The CSL conference championships always have a mix of extremely talented athletes, making for a very exciting meet.

In the ESCC Championship the Notre Dame Dons look poised to grab the title. The Dons took first on April 29th in a meet that was a semi preview of the conference match up. In the meet, the Dons beat St. Joseph, St. Viator, and Nazareth. They'll have to do it again this Saturday if they hope to take the championship.

### Maine South and Maine East Girls Track, IHSA Sectionals

When: 5 PM, Friday May 14  
Where: Elk Grove High School, 500 W. Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove Village, IL

Outlook: Both teams have fared well this season, but in the last month the Maine South girls have shown that they are ready to head downstate. The girls finished 3rd out of 12 teams at the Elk Grove Invitational. They'll be at the same track Friday when they look to send some runners downstate. Despite the wet and cold conditions the Hawks performed extremely well. The forecast calls for rain again this Friday. With these conditions, look for the Hawks to send more than a few to the next meet.

Does your team whether high school, grade school, or park district, have an exciting game coming up? We want to know about it! Email msantor@buglenewspapers.com with details and contact information and your team could be featured in next week's Weekend Warfare!

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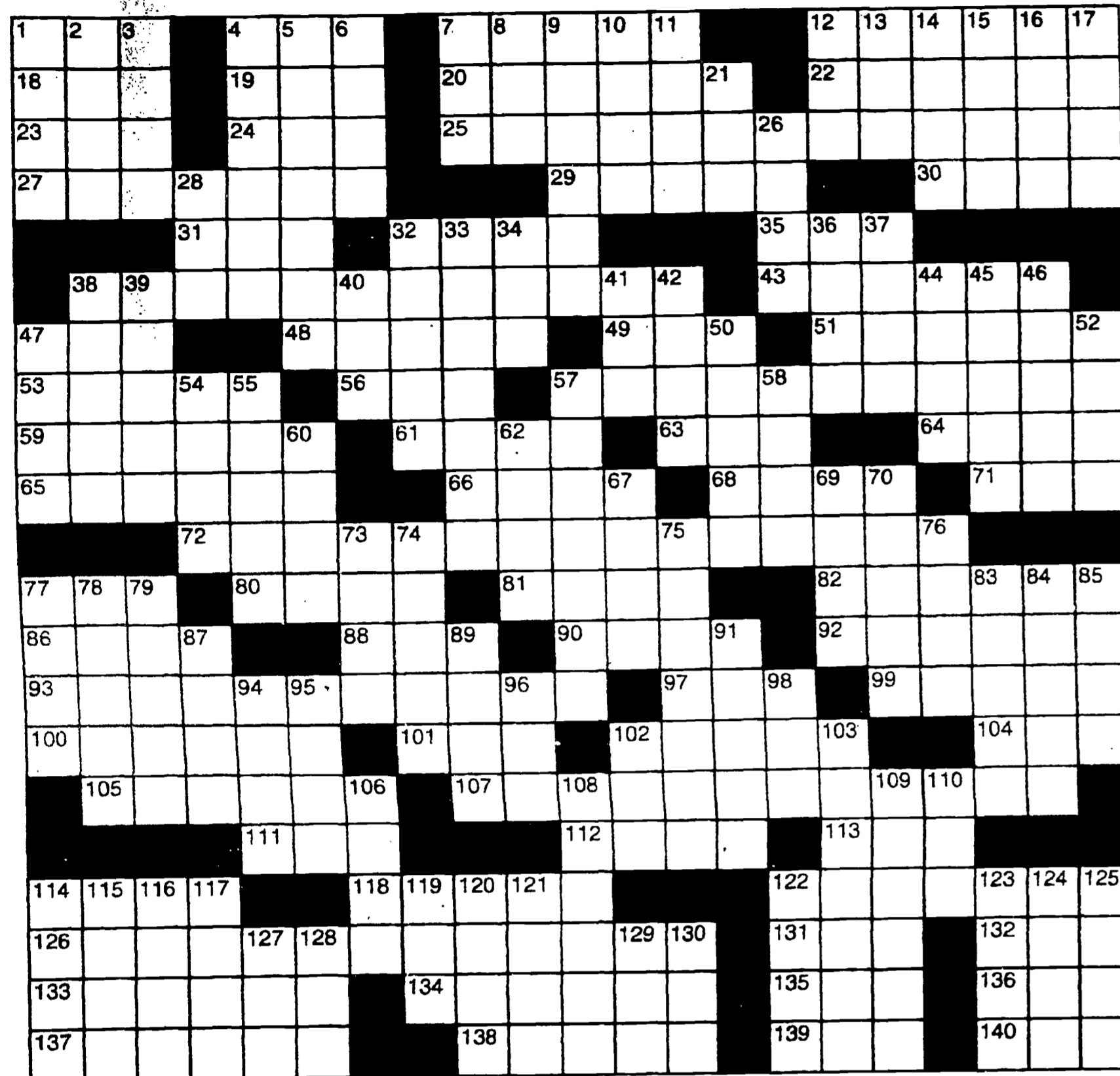
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LIFE



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- 101 Mil. base
- 102 Slanted
- 104 Expert
- 105 Doesn't have to
- 107 Myron Floren's boss
- 111 Stroke's implement
- 112 Seldom seen
- 113 Joan Van -
- 114 Blind part
- 118 Emit
- 122 Spock's specialty
- 126 "Roseanne" actress
- 131 Pablum variety
- 132 Conduit fitting
- 133 Stang or Schwarzenegger
- 134 Author Collins
- 135 Buckingham (Abbr.)
- 136 Spider's snare
- 137 Tangled
- 138 Gravel-voiced
- 139 Ending for Capri
- 140 Boot part

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- 2 Tigris-Euphrates land
- 3 Computer selection list
- 4 Classical hunk?
- 5 Cure-all
- 6 Very. in Versailles
- 7 Subside
- 8 Rob Roy's refusal
- 9 Showy shrub
- 10 Blanchett of "Elizabeth"
- 11 Starch source
- 12 Bigwig
- 13 Give it - (try)
- 14 '87 Streisand film
- 15 Base stuff?
- 16 "Leaf" ('71 film)
- 17 Ulrich of Metallica
- 21 - Tin Tin
- 26 Lucy Lawless role
- 28 April initials
- 32 Perplexed
- 33 Ma, for one
- 34 Hwy.
- 36 Smell
- 37 "David Copperfield" character
- 38 She brought out the beast in men
- 39 Oriental
- 40 Equal an opponent
- 41 Cops' org.
- 42 Forever, so to speak
- 44 Jeopardize

- 45 Dynamite philanthropist?
- 46 Stowe sight
- 47 Hardy heroine
- 50 Hersey setting
- 52 Way out
- 54 Gator's cousin
- 55 "Salome" role
- 57 Hale or Revere
- 58 First name in fashion
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- 62 Believe
- 67 Nimble
- 69 Part of MA
- 70 Gogol's " - Bulba"
- 73 Compote component
- 74 Metropolitan
- 75 End a space flight
- 76 French Sudan. today
- 77 Ostentation
- 78 React to a pun
- 79 Intense
- 83 South African province
- 84 Pottery defect
- 85 Thornfield governess
- 87 Poker stake
- 89 Inland sea
- 91 Notre Dame's river
- 94 Fuss
- 95 Moflo or Magnani
- 96 Fit - fiddle
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- 102 Coach Parseghian
- 103 4 p.m. vehicle?
- 106 In good shape
- 108 Inflicts
- 109 Twist and turn
- 110 Scrape by, with "out"
- 114 Act like a wrestler
- 115 - Flynn Boyle
- 116 Em or Bee
- 117 Jogger's gait
- 119 Emulate Betsy Ross
- 120 Recipe instruction
- 121 West Coast sch.
- 122 London district
- 123 Salamander
- 124 "The People's Choice" pooch
- 125 Czech river
- 127 - de France
- 128 Hall of Famer
- Roush
- 129 Mouth piece?
- 130 Enchanted

**SUPER CROSSWORD**

**ANIMAL TAILS**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Messina or Morrison
- 4 Address abbr.
- 7 Pass into law
- 12 Pillager
- 18 Vein contents
- 19 Historic org.
- 20 Mideastern mall?
- 22 Herbivorous reptile
- 23 Stocking shade
- 24 Indefinite pronoun
- 25 Benjamin Bunny's creator

- 27 Theologian Thomas
- 29 Director Sergio
- 30 Lumberjack tools
- 31 Rocker Ocasek
- 32 "God's Little " ('58 film)
- 35 Wordless greeting
- 38 Musical medium
- 43 Dolls up
- 47 "Whether - nobler in the mind .
- 48 Groom's gangplank?
- 49 He'll give you a squeeze
- 51 Baltimore bird
- 53 Maestro Leinsdorf
- 56 Slippery character?
- 57 Source of ills
- 59 Like King's fans
- 61 "Ritorna vincitor!" singer
- 63 Mr. Mineo

- 64 Military chapeau
- 65 Uruguayan title
- 66 Adjusts an alarm
- 68 Undiluted
- 71 Provide rooms
- 72 Software
- 77 Duval's org.
- 80 Mailer's "The - Park"
- 81 Stick in the mud
- 82 Daze
- 86 Marineland performer
- 88 "The - Daba Honeymoon" ('14 song)
- 90 Court order?
- 92 Compensation
- 93 Genesis peak
- 97 After taxes
- 99 Ravi-shing instrument?
- 100 Scott role

**LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS**

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# REAL ESTATE

## Be In The Know

By Doris A. Black

Some contractors are notorious for being quick to start a job but slow to finish it. Finding a reputable contractor is worth taking the time to do. Here are some tips from homeowners and experts.

Good contractors are always busy. Don't be surprised if you find them booked months in advance. If by chance you come across a contractor who happens to be "in-between jobs" and can start your project right away, make sure you have a clear understanding that they will work on the job steadily until it is finished, not just one or two days a week. You might even have a deadline written into the contract based on the estimate the contractor gives you.

The best way to find a competent contractor is through word of mouth. Ask your neighbors,

friends and coworkers whom they have used in the past. This doesn't necessarily mean they will be the right contractor for you, but it's a good place to start. Reasons the highly recommended contractor might not work out are: they do not do the type of work you request, their time frame is not in line with yours and their personality is not compatible with yours.

Avoid unscrupulous contractors by recognizing the most common warning signs:

- Request for a large deposit. Reputable contractors only require a 10 to 20 percent down payment.
- Offer for a one-day special discount. Reputable contractors don't need to go door to door seeking work.
- Refusal to put anything in writing. Always get a written contract outlining the job, including costs and materials.
- Lack of proof of liability insurance. A reputable contractor will

have full liability insurance and be able to show you proof of that insurance. Don't ever hire someone who doesn't have insurance, not even to replace a broken window.

- Lack of references. A reputable contractor will be happy to give you the names and phone numbers of satisfied customers. Call two or three of them.
- No phone number or address. Even contractors who work from their home should be willing to give you their address. Do not accept a P.O. Box as a business address and ask for more than a cell or pager phone number. You will want to be able to reach your contractor easily.

If a misunderstanding or other situation should arise causing the contractor to leave the job unfinished, take steps to minimize future problems by making a list of issues that need your immediate attention, such as covering exposed materials and addressing any safety issues.

Take pictures of the project for future reference before hiring another contractor to finish the work. Inventory and document what materials are on hand, so you'll be able to relay that information to the next contractor. You'll have to start the hiring process from scratch again, interviewing contractors, getting references and asking for another contract in writing. Some contractors may be reluctant to step up to the plate not knowing what transpired before them, so a brief explanation of the situation may also be in order.

Good contractors are busy and you may have to wait a while before they can start your project. Hiring a contractor that you feel comfortable with, however, is very important to any remodeling job. You don't want to go around second-guessing every move they make. Remodeling projects can be an inconvenience, but by working with a good contractor, they can go smoothly.



## Ladder Safety

**Q:** We're getting ready to paint the exterior of the house, and I'm purchasing supplies. We only have a stepladder and need a taller ladder. What size and type of ladder do you recommend? — Tammy G., St. Petersburg, Fla.

**A:** The right type of ladder is important for the area you'll be painting, since you want to be able to work as comfortably and safely as possible. In this case you're painting the exterior, so I'd recommend more than one ladder — three, if your budget will allow it. A small stepladder (less than 4 feet) is versatile and can be used both indoors and out, whether to reach higher shelves safely or to paint certain areas from a better angle (such as window frames). A hinged ladder, reaching 5 to 7 feet, will be your mainstay for first-floor painting. Choose a ladder made of fiberglass rather than metal, as it's sturdier and does not conduct electricity as easily (if you should contact a power line for some reason). A shelf near the top of the ladder is

Continues... HAMMER page 23.

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BY SERGIO SIDERMAN

Aside from taxes and loan payments, homeowners insurance may be the biggest expense on the minds of potential new homebuyers in today's booming real estate market.

Many previous insurance losses on a property are not disclosed at the time of sale.

There are many reasons for non-disclosure. For instance, it can be as simple as a seller unaware of the history of the property or a homeowner who forgets

to disclose a series of seemingly innocent "accidents" on the property. Problems like leaking hot water heaters, burst pipes or dozens of other incidents that lead to insurance losses might not seem important but they are.

Insurance companies track property losses for their policyholders, recognizing that past losses on a property can be a strong indicator of future problems. Think about it. Any problem, even if fixed, can serve as a warning of more to come-like dry rot or termites.

Insurance companies review a property's loss history before issuing a policy and for new properties, this usually occurs after the sale closes and the bank has granted the loan.

There's a simple solution to avoid the pitfalls described. A simple disclosure report is available to every seller, buyer and their agents. It's called a C.L.U.E.® Risk Only Report, currently available only from Property I.D.

expected insurance premiums.

Today, one of the most insidious of all problems is mold. Occurring mainly after water damage and leaks yet silent and dangerous, mold causes chronic health problems and property damage if left unchecked.

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Four Tips to Sell Your House for Top Dollar

BY DAVID FINKEL



Selling a home can be difficult. But by employing the right tactics, you can find a buyer who's willing to pay the price you want.

Here are four tips to help you sell your home for top dollar:

\* Create competition for the property. Create an environment where multiple buyers are competing to buy. Stack appointments to show the house in a narrow window so that several buyers are at the property at the same time.

\* List it with the very best agent in the area. Interview agents and choose one who has a record of

selling homes for a high percentage of the listing price. You should interview at least three agents, ask for referrals and ask for proof of their ability to do what they say they can do.

\* Set the right scene in your house. Make sure the house is bright, clean and open. Get the temperature right, and make sure the house smells nice.

To improve the front view, use

Continues... SELLING TIPS page 24.

REAL ESTATE

Wood Decor Adds History, Uniqueness to a Home

A home featuring traditional wood crafts, folk art and hand-carved furniture exemplifies a unique style of beauty. Whether you proudly display family heirlooms or collectibles gathered throughout the years, the addition of wood as a classic backdrop throughout your home will set the stage for these historic treasures and enhance your home's sense of warmth and style.

Here are some tips for adding wood decor to your home. \* Start with the entrance. An impressively detailed, hand-carved wood

door will set the tone before anyone even takes a step into your home. A stately carved wood door informs those entering the home of your own personal style.

An elaborate wood entry system, like those available in the Jeld-Wen IWP Collection, features extraordinary details that emphasize the wood's character. These doors are created by artisans who carefully craft each masterpiece to match and highlight a home's architectural details.

\* Include interior decorative wood pieces. From windows, doors and furniture to clocks and artwork, decorative

pieces are available in the wood species and style of your choice. Many of these pieces are still being created by hand. Artisans utilize their skills to replicate the exquisite works of old-world craftsmen, as well as create new, original designs. Craftsmen construct each piece individually, often choosing and planing the lumber themselves to bring out the true beauty of the wood.

\* Create your own style. Continue your wood theme throughout your home when selecting moulding, cabinetry and any additional woodwork. Using the same species all through

your home creates a truly harmonious, classic feel. Or, use a blend of species by coordinating two or three different types of wood to create a varied, somewhat eclectic look.

From maple, pine and oak to mahogany and rosewood, these woods complement each other and promise an exotic design that will add interest and character to each room.

\* Mix and match old with new. When decorating, match hand-carved wood items with factory-built accents, which are stylish yet economical. Handcrafted tables, cedar chests and armoires blend seamlessly with man-

ufacturer-made wood picture frames, clocks and candlesticks. Mixing in your antique treasures will add that final touch, giving your home the individuality you desire and a proud display of your prized possessions.

Whether your home's style is colonial, country or shaker, handcrafted elements instill a bit of style and tradition. Look for local craft fairs and galleries to find artisans in your area, and visit www.jeld-wen.com for more information on Jeld-Wen IWP hand-carved doors. Copyright © 2003 NewsUSA www.newsusa.com

Hammer

essential to hold paint cans and tools for the job.

To reach second-floor wall surfaces, eaves and gutters, an extension ladder is necessary. Choose an aluminum ladder with flat rungs; a commercial or Type 2 ladder is also desirable because of its sturdiness. If you foresee using this very tall ladder only for one job, consider renting or borrowing one for the project.

Safety, of course, must always

be addressed in ladder use. All ladders should be sturdy enough to support the weight of the heaviest person on the project. Avoid using any ladder when another person isn't around, even a stepladder.

And two people are essential when using an extension ladder, as the base of this ladder isn't as stable as the other types. One person climbs while another braces the base with a hand on each side of

the ladder. The "spotter" should stay in place until the climber is done working in that area.

Tall ladders require additional attention. Always carry the ladders upright, rather than horizontally, and keep a sharp eye out for power lines. Set the ladder base about 2 feet from the base of the wall and carefully lean it inward. Extend the top of the ladder 6 inches above the area where

you'll be working. Once everything is set, pull the bottom of the ladder out farther until it sits at a distance equal to a quarter of the ladder's length. This will help stabilize it further.

HOME TIP All ladders have a load capacity rating that indicates the weight they will bear, from light duty (200 pounds) to extra-heavy duty (300

(Continued from page 21)

pounds). Choose a ladder that will support the heaviest person on your project, plus 10 additional pounds.

Send questions or home repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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REAL ESTATE

Selling Tips

(Continued from page 22)

flowers with color and ensure the front porch looks tidy. The door should be either freshly painted or brand new.

The kitchen and master bedroom deserve special attention. Simple things like new hand towels in the bathroom or fresh flowers in the kitchen go a long way.

\* Spend money for the upgrades that buyers want most. Before you rush off to make repairs in the property or pay for expen-

sive upgrades, tour five or more homes of similar value that are selling in your area. See what final touches are popular with actual buyers. For example, a Jacuzzi tub can be an important feature on homes in certain price ranges but can be a waste of money in others. The key is to ensure upgrades generate at least twice their cost in the home's final selling price.

David Finkel is co-author of the Wall Street Journal best seller

"Making Big Money Investing in Foreclosures Without Cash or Credit." He also is a full-time real estate investor and the host of the nationally broadcast "Real Estate Radio." His Web site, www.freeinvestortools.com, is ranked as one of the top 10 investor sites on the Web by the American Real Estate Investors Association.

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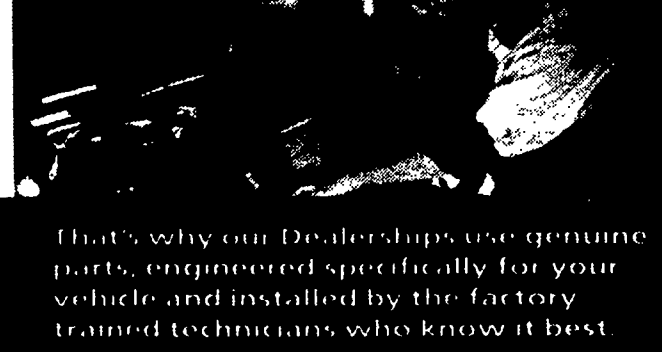
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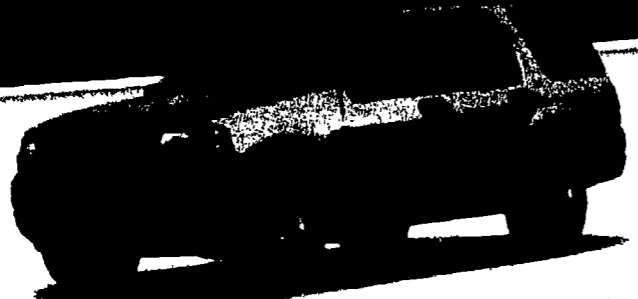
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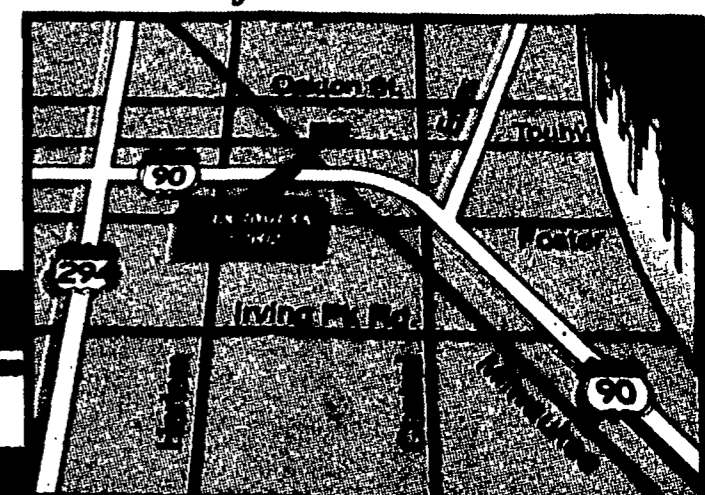
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