

Since 1957

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Vol. 47 No. 49

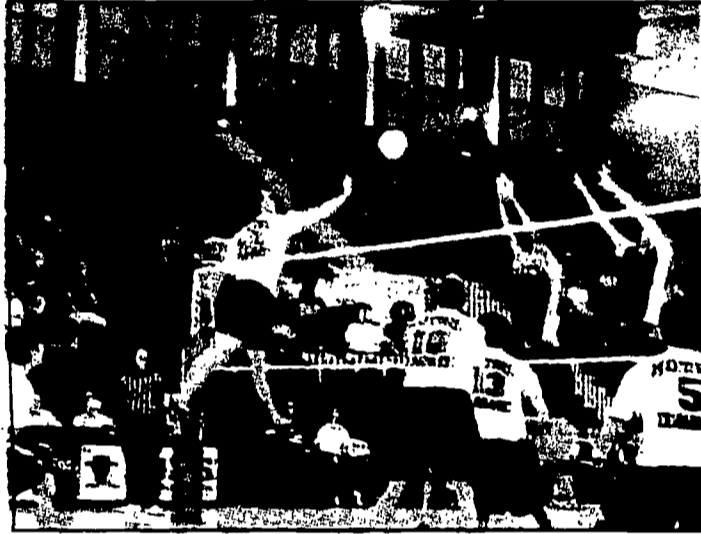
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## Inside



### Showing their colors

Children of Norwegian descent waved their flags in the Norwegian Constitution Day Parade held last Sunday in Park Ridge. For the story on the event which drew people from as far away as Wisconsin, turn to page 15.



### This week in sports

Notre Dame's John Escher tries to slip up the defense by tapping the ball gently over the net in their first game against Carmel May 13. For this and more sports, see page 13.

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## Abatement districts take a bite out of mosquitoes

Mosquito abatement is actively underway in both the North Shore and Northwest Mosquito Abatement Districts.

Both districts have already begun larviciding, the process that involves using insecticides to prevent larval mosquitoes from reaching their adult forms. Recent heavy rains have also raised concerns about mosquito breeding, which can occur in any water that stands for seven days.

"The rains have picked up and that's a concern," said Mike Szyska, director of the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District, that covers part of Niles and Park Ridge. "We're entering a wet spring and when the ground is saturated there can be a lot of standing water."

This standing water provides the perfect breeding ground for nuisance mosquitoes, which are mostly harmless and also for the more dangerous Culex mosquito, carrier of the West Nile Virus.

"Culex mosquitoes are primarily container-breeding," said Szyska. "That means that they'll breed in wheelbarrows, watering cans, gutters, children's toys, bird baths, and even pools."

Concerns about West Nile were raised early this year, after infected birds and mosquitoes were found in DuPage County. Those mosquitoes were a less-common variety that are not known to transmit to humans.

"It's not unusual to find bird this early in the season," said Szyska. "But finding infected mosquitoes this early is not a good sign."

Bob Barry, director of the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District that covers Morton Grove and the remaining portion of Niles, said that larviciding in his District began in April and that they are conducting a variety of out-reach programs to educate residents on what they can do to mitigate the risks of contracting West Nile.

"We have a 20-minute information video available through municipalities and libraries," said Barry. "It tells residents how to get rid of standing water in their yards and provide other tips to make themselves safer."

Both Barry and Szyska agreed that not much was known about

Story Continues...  
**MOSQUITOES** page 2.



## Teen Center Opens

Niles Youth Coordinator Christine Eischen cuts the ribbon to open the Niles Teen Center Saturday morning May 15 while Niles Park District Commissioner Jim Hynes (left) and Mayor Nicholas Blase, and attending teens look on. The new Teen Center is located at Howard and Caldwell.

## Maximum house size set for new construction in MG

### Comprehensive review of zoning code in the works

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER  
editor@buglenewspapers.com

Anyone building a new home in Morton Grove will only be able to build on 60 percent of the lot or less after the village board approved a maximum floor-to-area ratio (FAR) at last Monday's meeting.

The new FAR will limit construction on a particular lot. It includes square-footage on any floor that is more than 50 percent above ground which includes the first and second floors of a home, its basement and garage, but not a cellar, which is defined as 50 percent or more underground. It was approved as a text amendment to the zoning code.

"A lot of communities are looking at the problem of tear-downs," said Village

Administrator Ralph Czerwinski. "This is a way for us to control the mass of a structure on a particular lot that's above grade."

The amendment is a response to a problem facing many communities as property values rise and new residents want more house for their money. The amendment does not include paved space such as a driveway or patio.

"This is not unique to our community," said Czerwinski. "It went through a hearing process and it was decided that it would be a way to provide additional controls as to what can be built on a particular lot."

Czerwinski felt that the amendment wouldn't stifle residential development, but would provide for appropriate development.

"This doesn't stymie development," he said. "It just provides for appropriate development."

At the meeting, residents stood up to complain that the village was altering its zoning

Story Continues...  
**ZONING CODE** page 10.

## This week's Bugle has new improvements

### Community-specific editions begin

Three different editions of The Bugle were published this week with two community-specific pages according to Publisher Rich Masterson. A "Commentary" section was also added in order to accommodate more letters from readers and even guest editorials.

"We're very happy to make these improvements to your newspaper," said Masterson. "We're marking the one-year anniversary of our purchase of The Bugle and it's nice to be able to bring you and even better paper than we have previously."

Each week, papers delivered to the homes in Niles and Morton Grove, and to stores in Park Ridge will have specific community content on pages two and three.

Story Continues...  
**IMPROVEMENTS** page 10.

# \$FREE AD\$

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All classified in The Bugle that advertise an item for sale at \$25 or less now run for free! For more information, contact Gloria at: (847) 588-1900 ext. 120.

### NILES NEWS

## Niles residents walk in Chicago for MS



Philip and Claudia Bruni, of Niles, right, standing with Team Alste leaders, Jerry and Maureen Edelman, of Glenview, left, after having completed the 3 mile walk for the MS foundation. The walk took place Sunday May 02, starting at Grant Park, passing in front Field Museum, continuing along the lake front and back to Grant Park. The weather was sunny, the wind chilly, but all walkers were in a good mood and energetic.

## Niles continues work towards an urban forest

### Green, leafy town just around the corner

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER  
editor@buglenewspapers.com

Niles Public Works employees will plant 200 trees in this year's planting program according to Director Jun Noreiga. Half of those trees will go to replace trees that were taken down in the last year and the other half will be planted in new sites. The program is designed to create an urban forest.

Noreiga said that the Public Works Department is compelled to remove about 100 trees each year that have been the victims of storm damage or disease. He stressed that the creation of an urban forest requires a long-term commitment and patience.

"It takes at least ten years for new trees to become mature," he said. "If we don't add more trees every year then we'll lose progress towards an urban forest."

Noreiga said that if there were enough funds he would like to plant 400 new trees this year. According to the current planting schedule it will

take about a decade to plant trees in all of the planned sites.

"We need more than 1000 trees," said Noreiga. "Because we're limited to 100 per year it will take ten years. But if I could get additional trees then I could finish earlier. The urban forest is very important."

Choosing the varieties of trees to plant each year is also a challenge for Public Works. The maple tree is the most common in Niles so few of those will be planted this year. Several varieties of hardwoods will be planted including sycamores and ginkos.

"The ginko is a big tree and it grows," said Noreiga. He added that many communities are using the ginko tree more extensively because of its rapid growth and durability. "I can count the number of ginkos in Niles on my fingers and toes," said Noreiga. "They're very nice and hardy trees that handle roadside pollution well."

The resistance to pollutants such as salt used during the winter is another advantage of the ginko.

Niles has already made significant progress towards its urban forest. Noreiga said he really enjoys all of the fall colors every year.

"You don't have to go to Door County to see colorful trees," Noreiga laughed. "Just drive around Niles. I really like all the colors I see now."

## Mosquitoes

(Continued from page 1)

West Nile, since it's a comparatively new virus.

"The Illinois Department of Public Health has said that there may be a correlation between warm weather and a higher incidence of West Nile," said Barry. "But there's still a lot to learn about the virus and even that is still in the theory phase."

West Nile is not a problem that is likely to go away, Barry said, citing evidence of the first incidence of West Nile in

Pennsylvania in 2001.

"In 2002 the rates of West Nile went down," he said. "But then, in 2003, it rose again. I think this is a problem that isn't going to go away."

While the Abatement Districts are vigilant, there is a great deal that residents can do to reduce the risk of exposure to West Nile.

"Residents have to be aware that there are infected mosquitoes out there," said Szyska. "You should wear repellent,

avoid being outside during peak times, especially at dawn and dusk."

Wearing long pants and sleeves is probably also a good idea, said Szyska.

Information on mitigation efforts can be found on the Districts' websites, [www.nwmadil.com](http://www.nwmadil.com) and [www.nsmad.com](http://www.nsmad.com). Barry will also be appearing at the Morton Grove Town Hall meeting,

Wednesday, June 2 at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Civic Center.

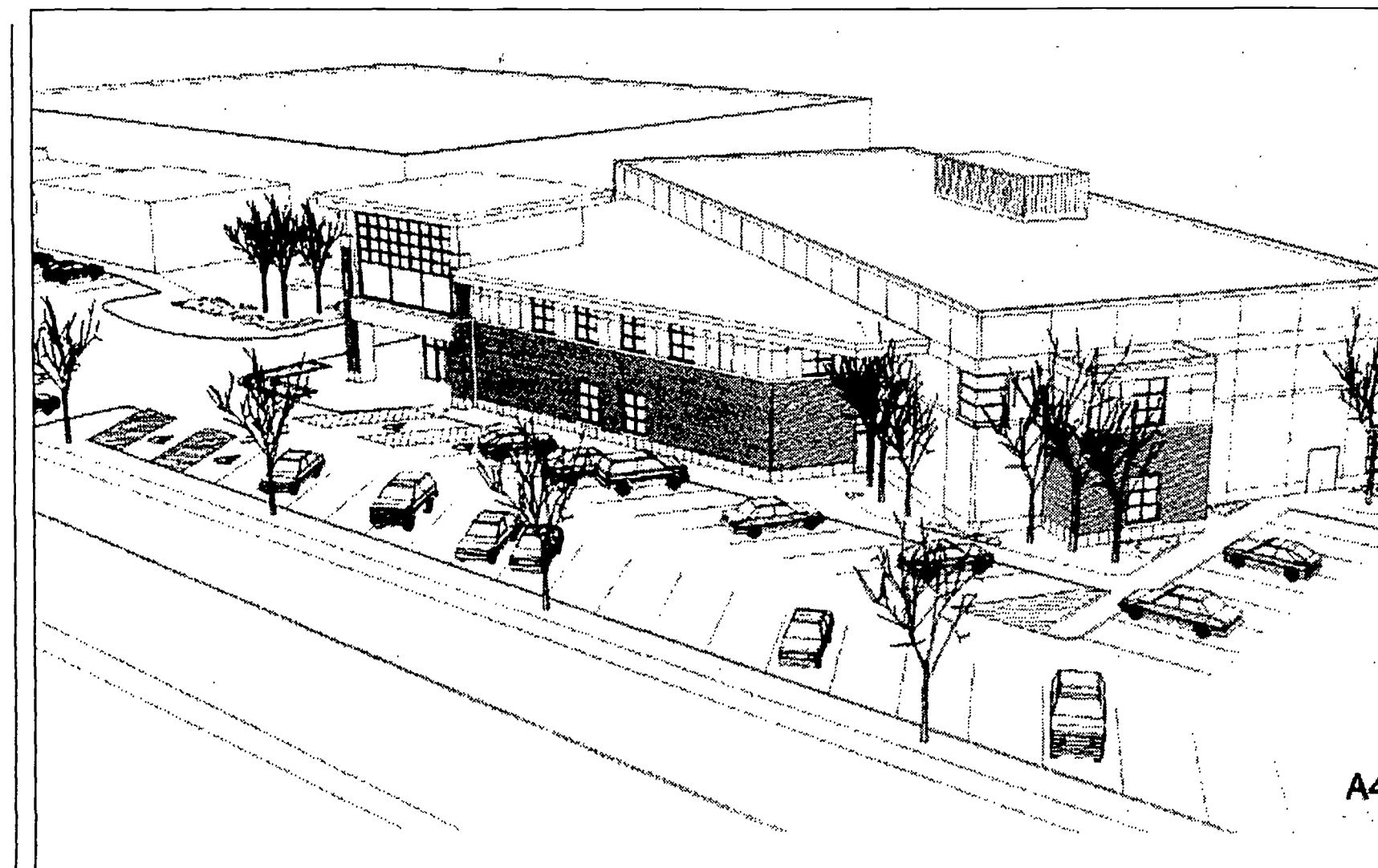
### NILES NEWS

## Forest Preserve passes bicycle helmet ordinance

The Forest Preserve Board passed an ordinance on Wednesday, May 5 requiring children under age 14 to wear a protective helmet while riding a bicycle on Forest Preserve property. The law also applies to children riding in a restraining seat attached to a bicycle or in a trailer towed by one.

The ordinance will take effect on

Jan. 1, 2005. Violation is an infraction punishable by the following: the first violation will be a warning, the second will be a fine of \$10 and each additional violation will be a fine of \$25. The parent or legal guardian having control or custody of an unrestrained minor whose conduct violates the ordinance would be jointly or severally liable.



## Police launch 'Click-It or Ticket' mobilization

Niles Police will increase seat-belt law enforcement from May 24 to June 6 as a part of the national "Click-It or Ticket" campaign. Those who fail to buckle up will be issued a ticket that carries a fine of up to \$75 in Niles.

The goal of the effort is to boost the state's 80 percent safety belt use rate and reduce fatalities. Safety belt use is especially important for teens and young adults. Motor vehi-

cle crashes are the leading cause of death for people aged 15 to 34 in the United States and while most individuals buckle up, the majority of those injured in crashes were unrestrained.

In Niles, law enforcement officers will conduct daily seat belt enforcement zones in select locations around town. In addition, all officers will increase their safety belt enforcement in the course of their normal duties.

## Park District presents design for new building

The Park District presented plans for their new multi-purpose building to be located on the former Moscow Nights property near the corner of Howard and Caldwell.

The building will include a

gym, exercise equipment, a running track, concessions, an open area with couches and chairs and administrative offices.

The plans were officially unveiled Tuesday night at the Park Board meeting. The

Public was invited to offer input on the design.

No name has, at this time, been determined for the building, but Park District Director Joseph LoVerde has said that submissions from the public may be considered.

**THE BUGLE**

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 First Honors  
 First Honors  
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 Grade 6 Room 29

Second Honors  
 Katie Garvey, Leo Milano, Michael Pizzo, Alisa Roman, Thomas Rueve, Eryk Szymanski, Michael Zachacki  
 Grade 6 Room 30  
 First Honors  
 First Honors  
 First Honors  
 Second Honors  
 Jacqueline Ave Maria, Nicholas Mazur Ryan Abens, Jolene Drblik, Matthew Moser, Tony Durso, Kerri Huber, Matthew Sachaj, Veronica Esquera, Joe

Kalkowski, Emily Svachula, Kaitlin Russell, Alexandra Kuechel Lisa Zarembski, Robby Martin  
 Grade 7 Room 31  
 First Honors  
 Second Honors  
 Alexis Bargione, Arielle Besyk, Michael Bartley, Myrene Gallardo, Joey Mahoney, Danny Mazzolini, Alex Mussar, Nicole Morisco, Celia Nguyen, Eric Neuhengen, Reymond Ramos, Anna Poloncarz, Emily

Szachowicz, Maggie Porada  
 Grade 7 Room 32  
 First Honors  
 Second Honors  
 Renee Bacik, Asha Leroy, Michael Carr, Brittany Metoyer, Attie Dean, Jennie Scaletta, Kristin Kaiser, Arielle Ordenez  
 Grade 8 Room 34  
 First Honors  
 Second Honors  
 Alina Barnas, Tim Casey, Drew Beierwaltes, Michelle Cruz, Anthony Chavez, Erin Jones,

Jeena Chorath, Peter Kwon, Christine Martin, Nicholas Orlandi, Alison Musur, Stephanie Rescober, Alexandra Vroustouris, Danny Zajac  
 Grade 8 Room 35  
 First Honors  
 Second Honors  
 Michael Casey, Keith Banaszak, Nancy Gaden, Kelli Caruvana, Sonu Joseph, Roz Domingo, Charlie Vasis, Elvin Guevarr, Christina Lapke, Megan O'Grady, Rony Youkhana

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**Maine Township School News**

The Family Center at Maine East High School recently provided free computers to deserving families in the school. The computers were refurbished and recycled by students in the A+ Computer Repair and Networking course taught by Applied Technology teacher Jonathan Hunter. Business

teacher Dale Lasky, Family Center consultant Arantza Jauregui, and student volunteers assisted social worker Angela Foster in distributing 25 computers to Maine East families. The computers offer students an opportunity to enhance their educational experience and provide families with tools needed to support their students' academic success. Ms. Foster anticipates a total of 50 computers to be distributed by the end of the school year.

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SPORTS

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Niles Family Fitness present a highly instructional, highly competitive basketball program. Fee \$130.00 / Member \$145.00 / Non-Member Youth Group Fitness Training Tae Kwon Do, Vinyasa Yoga Jr., Strength Training Basics and BOSU Jr. Ages: 8 years-15 years Classes Begin June 23rd Niles Family Fitness Center 987 Civic Center Dr. Niles, IL Call 847-588-8400 for registration details

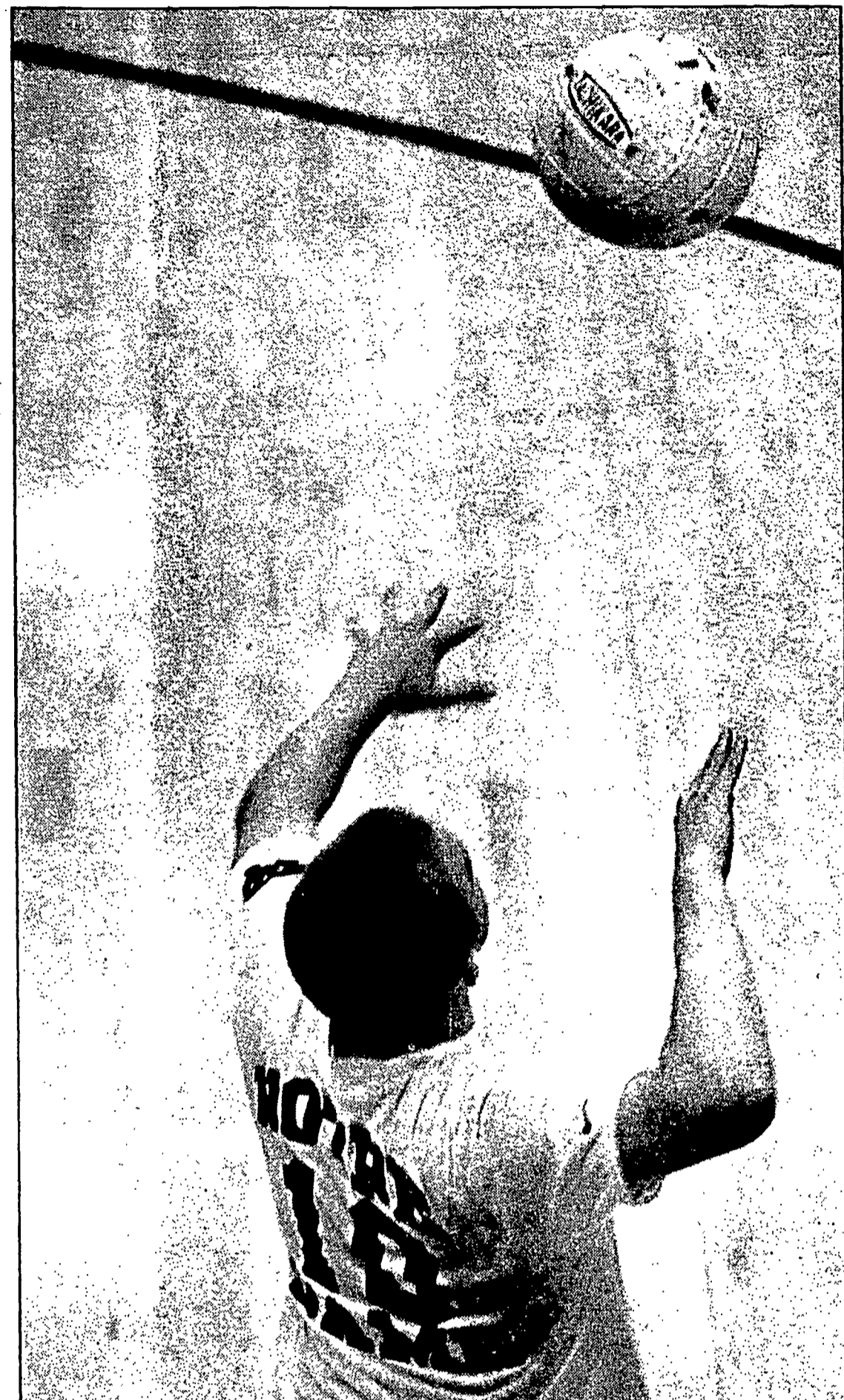


PHOTO BY ALAN KOBEL/BUGLE

Serve it up

Notre Dame junior Tim Staunton serves in the second game of their match against Carmel Thursday night May 13 at Notre Dame. The Dons dropped both games 25-18 and 28-26.

Sporting View

(Continued from page 13)

marked by injuries and poor performances. Warner was replaced at quarterback by Marc Bulger in 2003, and his future in St. Louis began looking bleak. His big contract was now an albatross. Most teams looking for a quarterback will have to evaluate if Warner can still perform and be a starter. His agent has said that Warner would keep an open mind about teams that might want him mostly as a reserve. But the teams that are interested in Warner must also evaluate his spouse. Brenda Warner was part of the sweet story when all was going well for Kurt. But once things headed downhill for him, she moved into a starring role all her own. In 2002, she openly disputed Rams Coach Mike Martz's version of how the team was handling a hand injury suffered by Kurt. She followed that up in 2003 by selling a St. Louis radio audience that her husband would want to leave the team if he wasn't the starting quarterback. In the macho world that is the NFL, it

is safe to say that her statements were not exactly embraced warmly. Former NFL star Troy Aikman, in his column in The Sporting News, pointed out that a quarterback has a unique leadership role on a team, one that could be upended by actions of the type Brenda had taken. The bottom line is that most people at a job interview don't have their spouse factor into the evaluation of their abilities. But a potential employer of Kurt will likely do so, because no matter how good Kurt is on the field, if the team chemistry is disrupted, he won't be worth it. This is not to say that Brenda Warner was wrong in speaking up, or that she would be wrong to speak out again if she perceived an injustice being done to her husband. But it is to say that past actions on and off the field will likely make teams fully examine both Warners. A buyer will have to evaluate if this two-for-one deal is a good one. (c) 2004 King Features Synd., Inc.

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LIFE

EVENTS CALENDAR

CIVICS

Monday, May 24 -7 p.m. Village of Morton Grove Board of Trustees regular meeting. Tuesday, May 25 -5 p.m. Village of Niles Community Relations Meeting -8 p.m. Niles Village Board Meeting

COMMUNITY

Saturday, May 22 -6 p.m. New Hope United Methodist Church hosts "Hunger Banquet" to open hearts and eyes to poverty, hunger and injustice. The banquet will take place at 7115 West Hood Avenue, Chicago, IL. For more information, please contact Helen Murphy, at 773-775-1215. "Golden Lights" the annual spring Luncheon sponsored by St. John Brebeuf Catholic Women's Club, will be held at the Rosewood restaurant in Rosemont. This is the 50th anniversary of the St. John's Women's Club, a milestone in the parish history. The ticket price is \$30 per person and can be purchased by calling 847-966-6606, 847-966-5438 or 847-967-8130.

PARKS

Thursday, May 20 -7 p.m. Morton Grove Park District regular board meeting. -7:30 p.m. Park Ridge Park District regular board meeting.

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

Norwegians crowd Park Ridge for Constitution Day



BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER editor@buglenewspapers.com

Native Norwegians and Americans of Norwegian descent swarmed Park Ridge last Sunday for an annual gathering to celebrate Norway's Constitution Day, "Syttende Mai," the 17th of May. The event, which has been held in Park Ridge for several years, is sponsored by the Norwegian National League of Chicago. It drew participants and attendees from as far away as Barrington, Aurora, Fox River Grove and even Wisconsin. Traditional and American beverages and food were available. Music was also provided on the steps of City Hall by Kara Konken, Banjo Buddies and the Spare Squares dance club. "We come every year," said Jim Marino of Chicago. "We're all Norwegian, except me." The Masvie Family of Aurora said that they come to the festivities in order to introduce their children to the Norwegian culture. "We want to let our kids get an idea of what being Norwegian is about," said Inger Masvie. The Masvies were wearing several different traditional Norwegian outfits. According to Inger and her husband, Torikild, the clothing is generally worn on special occasions such as weddings, confirmations, Christmas and baptisms. "They used to be worn mostly by women," said Torikild, "but they're becoming popular for men as well." Each region of Norway has its own specific traditional clothing. The Masvies were wearing outfits specific to the North Troendelag and Troms regions. "Members of the Norwegian Parliament wear them whenever they're involved in official proceedings," said Torikild, adding that the all-wool men's outfits were, "not made for Chicago's climate."

From left, Torikild Masvie waits in line for a hot dog with his daughters Ellisiv and Maria at the Norwegian Constitution Day Parade held last Sunday in Park Ridge.

MISTER BREGER By Dave Breger



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LIFE

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-125.

SUPER CROSSWORD

TIME WARP

ACROSS

- 1 Puccini heroine
6 Keen
10 Actress Lanchester
14 Be in charge
18 Fully developed
19 Farm measure
20 Sag
21 Inspect too closely?
22 Automaton
23 Start of a remark by Doug Larson
25 Sue of "Lolita"
26 Squander
28 Clinton's hometown
29 Woodland delities
31 Sporting dog
34 Manifest
36 Heredity letters
37 - kwon do
38 Antiquity, archaically
39 Born
40 "Serpico" author
41 "The Donkey Serenade" composer
43 "September" (61 film)
45 Fire
46 James of "Misery"
47 - facto
51 Part 2 of remark
58 Kind of clam
59 Dhamar's locale
60 "Rebel Without a Cause" actor
61 Rocker Halliwell
62 "Man bites dog," e.g.
63 Myrdal or Nelson
64 Fall behind
67 Encore exclamation
68 Flock female
69 Norm
71 Move, with "about"
72 Spanish title
74 "... some curds and -

- 75 Tennis pro Nastase
77 Ralph of "The Waitons"
78 Stillier's partner
80 "Appalachian Spring" composer
84 Part 3 of remark
88 Siamese
89 Coup d-
90 Good times
91 Chucky, for one
93 Yellowish brown
95 WWII site
97 Room for research
100 Ginnie -
101 Friend
104 EMT's skill
105 Commandment word
106 Remarkable
108 Talisman
110 Galaxy glitterer
111 Buy off
112 Writer Paretsky
113 End of remark
117 Too heavy
121 Mix with water
122 Inexperienced
123 European capital
124 Talk really big
125 Away from the wind
126 Richard of "Intersection"
127 Rocker Van Halen
128 Birth-related
DOWN
1 Pitch
2 "Deep Space Nine" role
3 Fill in
4 Circus performer
5 Reach
6 Fowl feature
7 Encore exclamation
8 Wrath
9 Permit
10 Act like Etna
11 Stud site
12 Impresario Hurok
13 Italy's Mountains

- 14 Celeste or Ian
15 Tut's turf
16 Maui greeting
17 Obtuse
20 "Light My Fire" rock-ers
24 Big bird
27 "I told you so!"
29 Tasty tuber
31 Wine word
32 Deere things
33 Fess up
34 Poet Khayyam
35 Windmill part
36 - butter
41 Actress Dunaway
42 Fondness
44 Printemps follower
45 Comic Elliott
46 Machine parts
48 Neighbor of 116
49 "Slammin' Sam"
50 Bouquet
52 Crane
53 Simple life form
54 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
55 Glasses
56 Loser to Truman
57 Big bird
62 Jawaharlal's jacket
63 Bellyache
64 Terrier tether
65 A Pointer sister
66 Like Notre Dame
69 Early Brits
70 Baseball family name
72 "M\*A\*S\*H" Emmy winner
73 Actor Stephen
74 Power unit
76 Urban transport
78 Carpenter's corner
79 List ender
81 Postfix
82 Cover girl Campbell
83 Poet Thomas
85 Seductive
86 Without value
87 Detect

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Grid for last week's crossword answers.

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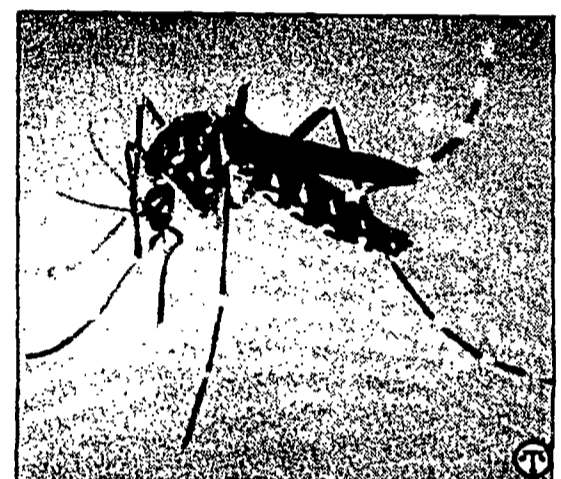
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REAL ESTATE

Prevent Mosquitoes Now To Protect Yourself Later

(NAPSI)- Flowers aren't the only things blooming when the weather warms. The beauty of the season also brings a nuisance for anyone who likes to be outside- mosquitoes. These pesky insects, which can be found nearly everywhere, begin breeding now to cause problems all summer. Fortunately, a few control measures now can reduce the number of mosquitoes in your yard all season. Take the following steps to lower mosquito populations and protect yourself and your family: Eliminate breeding sites. Remove objects that may collect rain water where mosquitoes breed. Common locations include clogged roof gutters, birdbaths, wading pools, plant pots, swimming pool covers, old tires and toys. (Mosquitoes need



only a thimble-full of water to breed.) Replace outdoor light bulbs with yellow bulbs or sodium vapor bulbs that are less attractive to mosquitoes. Install or repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out. Make sure that your window and door screens are "bug tight" (18 x 18 strands per square inch) with no holes. According to Paul Bello, entomologist and technical director for Orkin, Inc., once mosquito season hits, you should take additional precautions. "When possible, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when outdoors and apply insect repellent that contains a high percentage of DEET," says Bello. "Mosquitoes are annoying pests, but you can help steer clear of them by avoiding being outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active." It is important to protect yourself from mosquitoes-for more reasons than just their itchy bites. Mosquitoes can be dangerous and can spread diseases such as West Nile virus, which can cause very serious symptoms. A blood-borne illness, West Nile virus is transmitted by mosquitoes to a variety of hosts, including birds, horses, cats, dogs, bats, rabbits and humans. Most cases of West Nile in humans show up in late summer or early fall, but can appear year-round in warmer parts of the country. To combat mosquitoes, Orkin has launched a new, three-pronged mosquito treatment service in more than 80 cities to help reduce mosquito activity in residential and commercial settings. The three steps include educating customers to identify potential breeding sites around their home or business, targeting mosquito larvae located in permanent standing water and treating areas where adult mosquitoes may hide. To learn more, visit www.orkin.com. For more information about West Nile virus, ask your doctor or visit www.cdc.gov. Make sure your window and door screens are "bug tight."

THIS IS A HAMMER Sagging Shelves. Q: Recently, I put up a couple of shelves in the bathroom to store extra towels and supplies. However, one of them is now "drooping" slightly, and the screws seem to be pulling out of the walls. How do I fix this? - Charlene I., Gadsden, Ala. A: What's happened to your shelves is that the screws are not properly anchored for the amount of weight they're carrying. Even though a few towels don't seem like much, the dry-wall (or plaster, in older homes) really can't support additional weight. After all, drywall's main purpose is to cover up the actual home and wall supports (i.e., studs). You've probably been told that when hanging fairly lightweight items such as pictures, to avoid putting screws into the studs. However, in the case of shelving or heavy objects, these supports can be used to bear additional weight. To further minimize stress on the wall, an object's weight should be distributed if possible. How is this accomplished? In the case of shelves, a set that includes long vertical runners (called "standards") is optimal, because the

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Continues... HAMMER page 19.

REAL ESATE

Contractors can be a help in any home repair job

**NAPSI)-** Your home may be your castle, but what do you do when a home improvement project invites others to invade your private domain? Do you leave for vacation to escape the chaos? Do you stay home to watch over everyone? After the job begins, do you spend all your time cleaning up someone else's mess?

These were among the questions in a survey conducted on behalf of the SCOTT Rags in a Box business. The answers reveal a love-hate relationship with the people we hire to renovate and repair our homes.

The top three complaints about contractors from respondents who had used an outside contractor in their homes within the last few years were:

- Not showing up when they say they will.
- Jobs that take longer than expected to complete.
- Waiting a long time for work to be scheduled.

As for pet peeves, the biggest

ones reported by this group were:

- Not cleaning up after the work is finished.
- The mess and the dust.

Respondents who had hired contractors were also asked to describe how they felt when contractors were in their homes. While one-third said it didn't bother them to have workers around, 17 percent reported feeling like they had to stay home all the time to protect their possessions from theft. Thirteen percent said they felt "creepy" with strangers roaming all over the house and nine percent said they wished they could leave for vacation and come back when it was over.

**Overcoming Objections**

How can home improvement contractors improve their image? One way, according to eight in 10 respondents, would be for them to wear gloves, shoe mitts, disposable coveralls and provide their own cleaning products, such as drop cloths, pre-moistened hand wipes or disposable towels

that remove dirt, dust and paint.

Despite these concerns most people will still need outside contractors because they don't have either the time or skills to do many home improvement jobs themselves. Nearly half of those who had hired contractors said they did so because of their own lack of skills, while one-quarter cited lack of time.

Overall impressions of the final outcome of a job by an outside contractor were largely positive, with close to half saying it generally met but did not exceed expectations.

**Relying on Word of Mouth**

Despite a proliferation of circulars, flyers and Yellow Pages ads, the vast majority of respondents (81 percent) said they would be most likely to hire contractors based on recommendations from neighbors, friends or relatives.

New survey reveals a love-hate relationship with the people who renovate and repair homes.

Newlyweds can harmonize their homes

**(NAPSI)-** Newlyweds not only bring different interests and experiences to a relationship, they also bring different furniture, design styles and accessories.

Differing tastes don't have to be cause for trouble, however. With some simple design tips, couples

can build a harmoniously designed home that will appeal to both persons' senses.

"A lot of times, couples think they have to select just one of their furnishings or design style, because their things just don't seem to go together," said Stephen Saint-Onge, home and style designer on the popular TLC show, "While You Were Out." "But, there are many ways to combine styles, colors and themes to reflect both partners' tastes and make the home uniquely theirs."

Continues...  
NEWLY WEDS page 20.

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REAL ESTATE

Hammer

(Continued from page 17)

standards distribute the weight of the shelves and their contents along their length. This is better than gambling on one or two bolts holding everything in place.

Sketch out a design of the type of shelves you'd like to place in the bathroom, and measure the wall space available. Then determine the number of standards, brackets and shelves needed to fill the space. (A shelf must be supported with standards and

brackets every 24 inches.) Purchase the amount and style of shelves desired, and paint or stain them before installing, if needed.

Locate the studs within the wall and mark them in pencil (studs are typically 16 inches apart). Then, set the leftmost standard against the leftmost stud to be used. Make sure it is right-side up (set a bracket into it to check) and use a level to ensure it is placed absolutely straight. Then,

mark screw locations and pre-drill holes into the stud before securing the standard. Repeat this for each standard used.

Placing the standards correctly is the most important part of this type of shelving. If they're not straight or not secured properly, the shelves will lean or sag.

Once complete, place the brackets evenly and set the shelves atop them. Remember that these types of shelves aren't as stable as built-in shelving, so always

load items onto them from the middle and work outward. Place heavier object in the center of the shelves to avoid tipping.

Using the wall studs and distributing the weight of shelving will ensure that you have a secure platform for storing household items for years to come.

**HOME TIP**

There are several methods for locating wall studs: 1) tap the wall with your knuckles, listen-

ing for areas that do not sound hollow; 2) use a magnetized stud finder, or an electronic sensor; or 3) look for nail heads along the top of a baseboard.

Send questions or home repair tips to homegur@2000@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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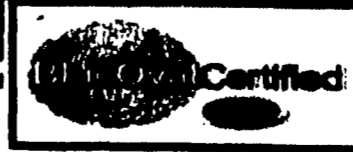
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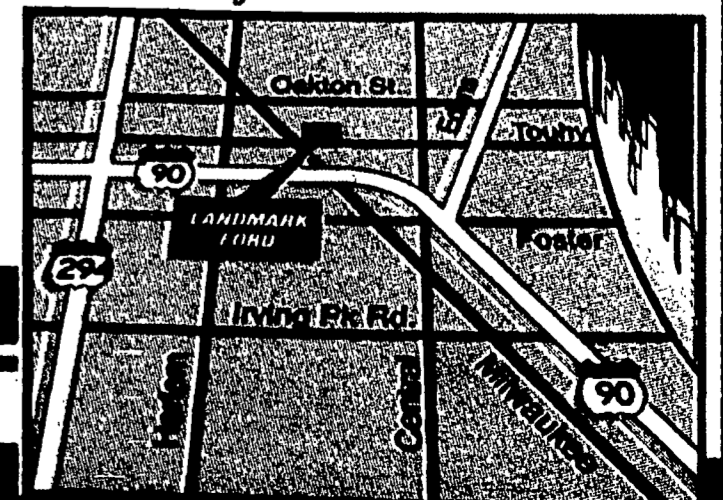
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