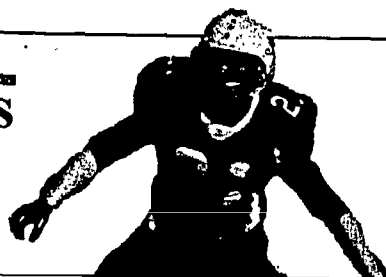


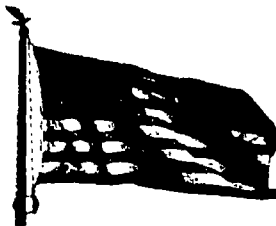


**MCC CELEBRATES, BREAKS
GROUND FOR MOSQUE**
NEWS, PAGE 3



**MAINE SOUTH DEFEATS
STEVENSON**
SPORTS, PAGE 10

THE BUGLE



SINCE 1957

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2005

VOL. 49 No. 26

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Niles Parks may explore professional fees for skating pros

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER
EDITOR

The Niles Park Board was set to discuss a potential professional fee for the private skating teachers at the Iceland Arena at their Tuesday night board meeting.

Members of the public and some

skating pros from Iceland were planning to attend the meeting, which occurred after The Bugle's weekly deadline.

According to Niles Park District Director Joe LoVerde, the item on the agenda was a discussion of pro fees and he hoped that the board would authorize Parks staff to study the issue and bring a recommendation back to the board.

Part of that study, LoVerde said, would be to negotiate with skating pros at Iceland and develop a revenue sharing agreement or a professional fee with their input.

The issue has been heating up since last month when Iceland Director David Santee resigned his position because the Park District wouldn't pay for him to accompany his students to the national

competition in Duluth, MN, something he said has been considered a part of his job in the past.

LoVerde said that the District's position was that the student's were Santee's private students and he should not be paid to accompany them.

Story Continues...
see ICE page 3.

More Inside

The Park Ridge Park Board will discuss their ice rink policies tonight, page 4.

Morton Grove considers property tax levy hike

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

At the final budget workshop, the Village of Morton Grove discussed various proposals, including increasing the gas tax to 2 cents per gallon and increasing the property taxes by 20%.

Finance director Scott Neukirch emphasized that these increases are proposed and not finalized. They won't be finalized until the appropriations hearing that is set for Dec. 12. About seven residents attended this final budget workshop, some expressing concerns with the increases.

"I think it was a very open and

informative discussion," said Neukirch. "Nothing's been finalized at this time."

One of the major reasons for the increases is that an additional \$50,000 contribution to the police and fire pension fund is proposed. Village administrator, Joe Wade, also said that money is needed for capital equipment purchases. For example, Wade said currently squad cars are purchased through installment loans and they would like to purchase them without these loans, to be more cost efficient. Another reason for the proposed increase in taxes is that health insurance costs have also increased.

Story Continues...
see LEVY page 2.

Honoring our Veterans



Angelo Troiani, captain of the color guard for the Niles Veterans of Foreign Wars Post salutes the post commander during the Veterans' Day Celebration last Friday. For more photos, turn to page 14.

NEWS

LEVY:
Taxes could
increase

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The proposed budget also calls for a 5% increase in the rate in the water fund, due to infrastructure work that is needed. In the commuter parking fund, it is also proposed to increase fees from \$1.25 to \$1.75. The original budget proposal included a 5% increase in property taxes, but this has been changed to a pro-

posed increase of 20%.

The resident portion of the SWANK fees on the garbage bill is proposed to be paid for by the village instead of residents and the solid waste assistant program that helps residents who are in need of financial assistance with their garbage payments will increase from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

It is also proposed that the amount of money for police department renovations will increase by \$20,000, for a total of \$120,000, in order to add video surveillance and make other department updates.

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Morton Grove commuter
parking fees to increase \$.25

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

The Village of Morton Grove board of trustees heard the first reading of an ordinance that would increase commuter parking fees from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day at the village board meeting on Monday, Nov. 14.

The purpose of the fee, according to the ordinance, is to bring the daily commuter fees "in line with other communities."

Other municipalities' commuter parking rates range from

\$1.50 to \$3.00 per day. The fees apply to parking in any municipal parking zone that utilizes an electronic fare collection device system at a railroad commuter station.

If it is approved, the parking rate increase would be effective on Jan. 2, 2006.

The director of public works completed a survey of parking rates in other municipalities and found that Morton Grove's parking fees were the lowest out of all the communities involved in the survey.

If the fees are increased to \$1.50, an additional \$24,110

will be generated per year in revenue.

This additional revenue will be used for maintenance and future maintenance of commuter parking lots.

A one-day survey that was conducted recently showed that of 361 spaces available, 93 were used by Morton Grove residents, 245 were used by non-residents, and 23 spaces were not used at all.

The administration of the ordinance is handled by the finance department, police department and public works department.

Correction

In last week's issue the article entitled, "Illinois Racing Board approves OTB petition for Niles" contained a misstatement in the second paragraph.

That paragraph read: "Several Niles Residents, Village Attorney Joe Annunzio and Arlington Park Management showed up to voice their opposition to the facility, proposed by Melrose Park-based Inter-Track Partners, LLC."

It should have said read that Joe Annunzio was in attendance, not that he was opposed to the Inter-Track. The Bugle regrets the error.

NEWS

MCC Breaks ground for Mosque



The Muslim Community Center broke ground Friday for its Mosque and school expansion at their Muslim Education Center at 8601 Menard in Morton Grove. Several public officials were on hand for the ground-breaking including U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Park View Supt. Gary Zabilka and D219 Supt. Neil Codell.

TASTE:
Event features
festive food

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

games, a silent auction to start peoples holiday shopping, door prizes and a cash bar. Local participants include Tony Spavone, representing Italy; The Hellenic Five, for Greece; The White and Red Band for Poland and The Katie Sullivan Band representing Ireland. And don't worry, for those Chicago Bears fans, the Bears game will be televised at this event.

Filmmaker, Jenna Constantine, of Chicago, will also appear at this event. She produced a new

documentary, "The Spirit of Chicago Greeks: Alive in '05" and a portion of the sales of her DVDs will go toward helping with Niles Greek-American sister cities efforts.

According to a press release, Andrew Przybylo, owner of the White Eagle Banquets, the foreign born population in Niles has grown by 65%, showing the amount of cultural diversity that exists in the community. He said that immigrants have always been welcome to Niles and he feels the "continued attraction" of Niles is very satisfying.

Joseph said Poland was the newest addition to the Niles Sister Cities, joining the others this year.

"Our goal is to get a few more," said Joseph. She said over the next few years they hope to add more cities to their organizations.

ICE:
More coverage
next week

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The District's staff have conducted some preliminary investigation into the possibility of instituting a fee for professional teachers at Iceland, researching eight other

rinks in the area: Glenview, Skokie, RM Sports Complex, Franklin Park, Northbrook, Park Ridge, Winnetka and Wilmette.

Of those surveyed, only Glenview, Skokie and Northbrook assess a fee. Glenview's is highest, a \$50 charge to teach lessons at the rink. Northbrook charges \$10 a year for staff and \$20 a year for non-staff and Skokie charges \$15.

Look for more coverage from the meeting in next week's issue of The Bugle.

THE BUGLE

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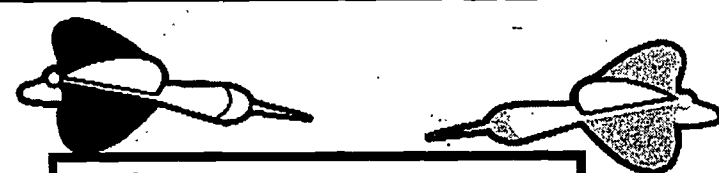
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NEWS

Park Ridge Park Board will discuss 'policies' of Oakton Ice Arena

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER
EDITOR

The Park Ridge Park Board will discuss the organization and philosophy of its Oakton Ice Arena at their meeting tonight (Thursday). The issue was placed on the agenda by Park Board President Marty Maloney, who said that last week's report in **The Bugle** about the Niles Park District's skating program ("Niles Park District, skating pros on thin ice over fees") inspired the agenda item.

The Bugle article reported on a growing controversy over professional fees at Niles' Iceland Arena, where its skating director since 1997, former Olympian David Santee, resigned in a dispute with management of the Niles Park

“Skating is a second job for most of our teachers.”

James Santee
Oakton Ice Arena
Coordinator

District over policies involving how skating instructors are regulated and compensated.

Maloney says that he has questions about the way that Oakton is managed: how private skating instructors are compensated for their time and how the district is compensated for the use of its facility by those instructors. Maloney is also interested in discussing whether those instructors should pay a fee to the Park District.

“We will be discussing our policies,” Maloney said Monday. “I don’t understand some of the current business practices at the rink. I want to be reassured that what we are doing is in the best interest of the public at large.”

But a professional fee is an ill-advised move, according to Park District Facilities Coordinator James Santee, who oversees Oakton and is a private skating instructor. Santee is also the brother of David Santee, the former manager of Iceland in Niles and part-time private instructor at both Iceland and Oakton.

David Santee and Jamie Lynn Santee (James’ wife) teach private lessons at the rink as do other skating instructors, eight of which are not listed in the district’s skating instructor pamphlet available at the rink.

Those unlisted teachers were another source of concern for

Maloney, who questioned whether they were subjected to the same scrutiny as employees of the District who are required to undergo criminal background checks.

The Cons of Pro Fees

The lack of a fee on those private skating instructors is justified, James Santee believes, because they also teach in the rink’s “We Skate” program, a first-level group instruction skating class, for which they are paid about \$18 an hour. According to Santee, those instructors volunteer to teach these group lessons in order to snare the more lucrative private lessons, which are the bread and butter of teaching professionals.

Santee says that skating instructors will stop teaching at Oakton if they are required to pay a fee to the District and will simply take their students to a neighboring rink that does not charge a professional fee. He also feels that their students would balk if those instructors tried to pass the fee on to their students.

“The negative side of a pro fee is that coaches generally pass it down to a skater,” said Santee, “and it’s already an expensive sport.”

The private instructors aren’t the only expense for skating students, but they are probably the largest. A survey of the Park District’s pamphlet shows that the instructors earn an average of about \$52 an hour for private lessons, which are purchased in twenty and thirty-minute increments.

Santee said that there are four or five instructors at Oakton who teach 20-25 lessons per week, while others range from fifteen lessons a week all the way down to only five lessons.

“Skating is a second job for most of our teachers,” Santee said.

Santee maintains that the departure of any instructor from Oakton would also be bad for the rink because the instructor and his or her students return a benefit to Oakton beyond their fees by improving the culture of the rink, participating in open skate and patronizing the pro shop.

Oakton’s Revenue

If a student decides to take lessons at the Oakton Ice Arena they pay the rink a “Patch and Freestyle” (P&F) fee of \$6 for an hour on the ice. For the same hour the private instructor training the student makes \$52 on average.

Students can also participate in what the Park District brochure calls a “tuition” program or contract for ice time, which allows them to sign up for a long-term skating commitment in one of the rink’s three sessions: spring, summer or fall. That commitment could range from skating one day a week to five days a week, and it offers up to a 20-percent discount if a skater commits to a five-day-a-week contract.

Oakton’s P&F fee revenue has remained fairly steady, moving up and down in an apparent cycle from about \$94,000 in 2001 it jumped to about \$113,000 the next year and declined to \$101,500 last year. This year it’s on pace to be higher, with year-to-date revenue at about \$95,000 as November. Assuming each \$6 of that revenue represents an hour-long lesson with an Oakton skating pro and taking the average cost of \$52 per hour lesson, the skating pros at Oakton grossed \$828,126 together so far this year. That number could be higher, however, as much as \$1,035,157 if each student purchased contract ice with the 20-percent discount.

The District admits that it has no records of how much money any of the private instructors generate from providing their services at Oakton, however, because no records of individual instructor hours other than a hand-written log are currently kept.

The P&F fees represent only a portion of Oakton’s revenue, which includes hockey leagues, the annual ice show, public skate and general programs like “We Skate.” So far this year those revenues, excluding hockey and public skate have totaled about

\$196,263.
Open or closed?
According to the rink’s published hours, Oakton is in operation approximately 70 hours per week. Nine and a half hours each week are available for public skating. The balance of operating hours is devoted to hockey and private lessons, as well as to affiliates such as the Park Ridge Speed Skating Club and the Oakton Figure Skating Club.
But the private lessons fit well into the rink’s operations, according to Santee, because the private instructors take ice time that’s difficult to sell.

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SCHOOLS

Recommendation expected for new Culver District Chief last Tuesday

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates of Glenview will give the Niles Culver School Dist. 71 school board a presentation regarding recent community interviews about the search for a new superintendent at the board meeting on Nov. 15. The search firm interviewed various segments of the community, such as board members, teachers, parents, secretaries, administrators and other community members, so they could

determine what characteristics and attributes people were looking for in the new superintendent and then develop a superintendent profile.
The search firm will present their findings to the board at the Nov. 15 meeting. There will be a committee meeting at 6 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7 p.m.
There was also a community meeting that was open to all members of the community, and only three people attended that meeting.
“People are very vocal and want to be heard,” said Karen Johnson, Culver School board

president.”The board felt it was very important to open it up to the public.”
Johnson said unfortunately only three people attended that open meeting that she said was well publicized in the newspapers, newsletters and on the district’s website.
After a profile is created, then they will think about their advertising options, such as where they wish to advertise and how often.
Johnson said that she expects that the various segments of the community will look for different attributes and characters for the new superintendent.



St. John Brebeuf Acquires four new listening centers

St. John Brebeuf School, 8201 Harlem, Niles, will acquire four new listening centers to be used in their library to assist students in reading, literature and math. The school was able to purchase these state-of-the-art learning devices through proceeds raised at the Scholastic Book Fair.
More than two hundred people attended the book fair which was hosted by the Parish/School Association (P/SA). “We were delighted to see so many people excited about reading,” said P/SA President Sheila Ryan. “Over \$4,000 was raised, 98 books were donated to teachers at the school, and 151 books were donated to Kids In Distressed Situations.”
Book Fair guests entered Flanagan Hall that was decorated as a magical kingdom. They browsed the selection of best-selling titles, award-winning books and interactive products. The were also entertained by the magic and comedy of “The Amazing Gary.”
The P/SA is very thankful for the support given by the attendees as well as the parents, teachers and Principal Margaret Whitman.

Maine East English Dept. holds Awards Breakfast

Maine East English teachers rewarded 85 exceptional students Thursday morning, November 10, 2005 with a breakfast reception for students and their parents. Over 100 people attended and enjoyed breakfast treats provided by the teachers. Administrators and counselors were also on hand to congratulate students and meet proud parents. Principal David Barker welcomed the guests, and senior Neha Agnihotri read a humorous, award-winning essay about the Internet to entertain all. (She was recently recognized by the National Council of Teachers of English with an Achievement Award in Writing.)
The awards event is held quarterly on scheduled mornings from 7:00 – 7:45 a.m. so that parents can

stop by on their way to work. Some parents bring younger children on their way to school. Each English teacher selects one student per class for the award and criteria include accomplishments such as most improved, best class discussion leader, best effort, highest grade, etc. All grade levels are eligible for awards.

D64 seeks members for Finance Committee

Park Ridge Niles School Dist. 64 is currently searching for new individuals to join its Community Finance Committee.
“We’re looking for community members to join,” said Cheryl Deyoung, community relations specialist for the school district. “There’s been some turnaround. We kind of want to revitalize it.”
The purpose of the committee is to educate members about the district’s current financial situation, develop creative solutions to the financial challenges and to provide information that is requested by the district’s board of education. There are three sub-committees that belong to the finance committee, which are revenues, expenses and communications.
The Community Finance Committee is an advisory committee that makes recommendations regarding district finances to the board of education.
More specifically, the committee will study the district’s budget, property tax caps, tax appeals,

fund balances and other budget-related topics.
At a minimum, the committee is composed of one parent from each school, one teacher from each school, four community members (including two senior citizens), one elementary school principal, one middle school principal, one teacher assistant, one custodial/maintenance employee, one secretarial/clerical employee, and two board of education members.

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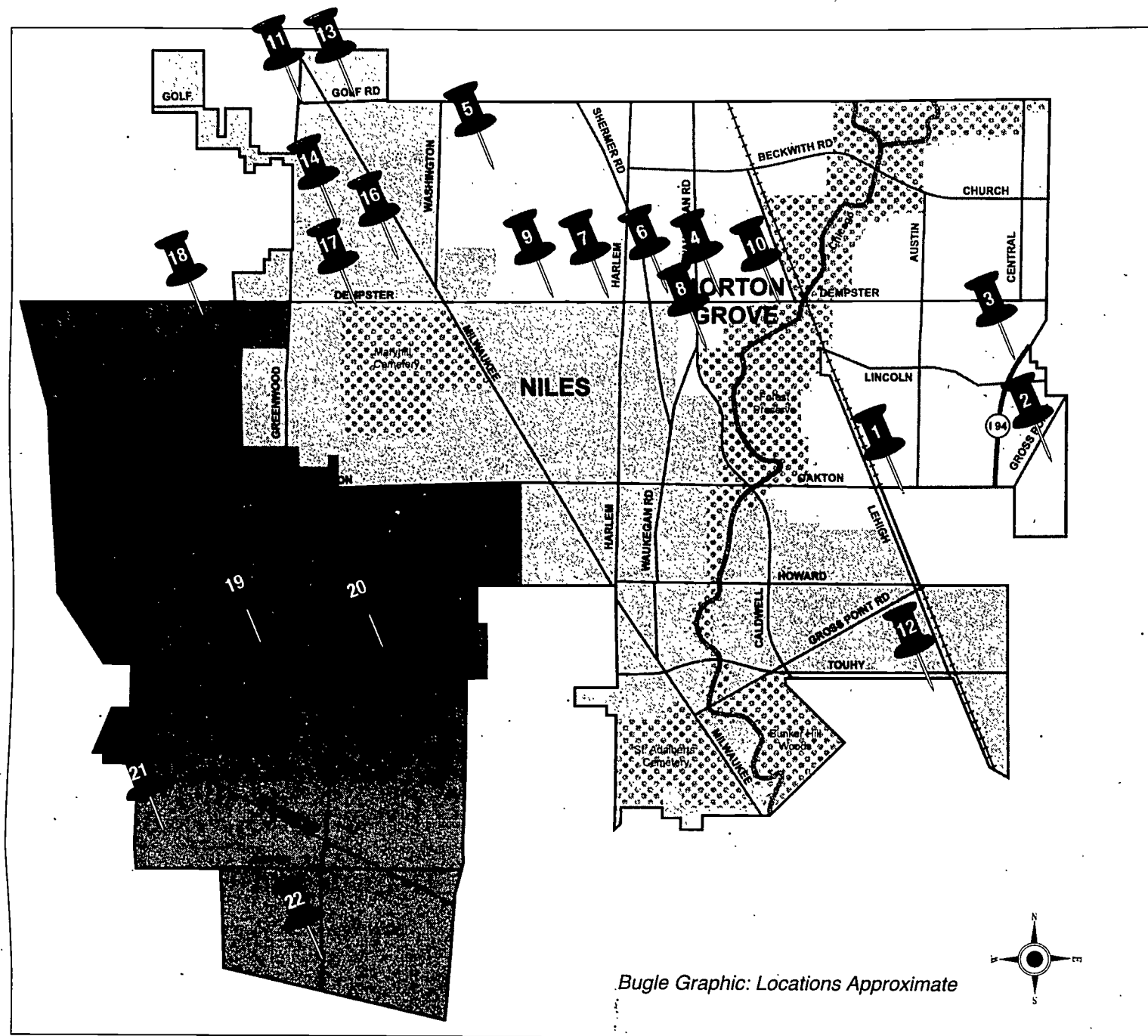
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POLICE BLOTTER



Bugle Graphic: Locations Approximate

MORTON GROVE

The following was derived from the official reports of the Morton Grove Police Department for the week ending Friday, Nov. 11.

1 Burrito Prince apprehended (Oakton and Menard)

A Morton Grove police officer was driving at Oakton and Menard when he spotted a boy wearing gang clothing with a pant leg rolled up. He went to talk to the teen, who swore at the officer and ran away. The teen was eventually caught after a foot chase and admitted to being a member of the Latin Kings out of the south side of Chicago. The boy, 16, of Skokie has a criminal history of burglary and drug crimes. His nickname is the "Burrito Prince."

2 Rock through bedroom window (8200 Central)

A man, 74, was sleeping in his second floor bedroom the night of Nov. 6. He awoke at 4 a.m. and was very cold. He then saw a rock on the bed, glass on the bedstand and his window shade moving. He lifted the shade and saw it had

been smashed by the rock throw.

3 Condo board member keyed (5500 Lincoln)

A painter, 61, who is a member of his condo association board of directors had his vehicle keyed Nov. 6 in the condo garage.

4 Car wash theft (9100 Waukegan)

A driver, 18, took his car to the carwash Nov. 3 and left a digital camera in the backseat. When he got back in the car, the camera was gone. The car wash manager and a police officer questioned the car washers but none said they had seen the camera.

5 Suspicious person (Melzer School)

The site coordinator for the after school program at Melzer School on the 9400 block of Oriole reported that a suspicious man was walking the school grounds Nov. 4 and peering into gym.

6 Customer Dispute (8800 Waukegan)

A customer and an automotive repair worker had an angry argument Nov. 4.

7 Waitress falls (7200 Dempster)

A waitress, 63, of a casual dinner fell on the job behind the counter Nov. 4. She said the rubber mats behind the counter were wet.

8 Paintballed (6800 Dempster)

A Maine Niles Association Recreation Department vehicle was pelted with paintballs Nov. 7.

9 Pricetag switch (7200 Dempster)

A man, 29, of Des Plaines was caught switching price tags at TJ MAXX Nov. 7 in a bid to get false discounts.

10 DUI Request (Dempster and Birch)

A Chicago woman, 31, arrested at Dempster and Birch for DUI requested "more beer" from police while locked up at the station Nov. 9.

NILES

The following was derived from the official reports of the Niles Police Department for the week ending Friday, Nov. 11.

11 Dentist Threats (8700 Golf Road)

A Niles man was warned by police to change his behavior after he called his dentist office, swore at the receptionist and threatened the dentist in the Russian language Nov. 9.

12 Counterfeit \$100 bill (Touhy Wal-Mart)

A counterfeit \$100 bill was used to purchase \$10.70 worth of merchandise Nov. 6. The bill was passed by a Hispanic woman in her 40s wearing a yellow jacket and black pants.

13 Syringes (9600 Milwaukee)

A Niles construction worker was arrested for illegal possession of hypodermic syringes Nov. 9.

14 No license in accident (Ballard and Prospect)

A Lake Zurich man was arrested after an accident at Ballard and Prospect for driving without a license.

15 K9 smells drugs (Fenton High School, Bensenville)

The Niles police dog assisted in

a drug search Nov. 8 and located cannabis. The K-9 also assisted in a drug search at Willowbrook High School and detected more drugs.

16 Stolen car found (Golf Mill Mall)

A stolen car was found parked in Golf Mill Mall and returned to the rightful owner - a factory worker, 25. The 1991 Oldsmobile Cutlass did not have any damage and was driven off by owner without any problem. The car was found as the officer randomly ran license plates through the computer Oct. 30.

17 Apartment burglarized (8200 Dempster)

An apartment was burglarized Nov. 7 and watches, DVDs and a DVD player were taken. The offender gained entry through the bathroom window.

PARK RIDGE

The following was derived from the official reports of the Park Ridge Police Department for the week ending Monday, Nov. 14.

18 Punched in the face (2600 Dempster)

A 17-year-old student was punched in the face Friday, Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. after an argument.

19 BB Window (200 N. Delphia)

A BB gun was used to shoot the window of a vehicle Nov. 5.

20 House thrashed (100 N. Prospect)

A police officer arrived at a residence on the 100 block of N. Prospect Friday, Nov. 4 at 11 p.m. responding to an alarm. The officer found the front door open, broken bottles strewn around the house, a bathroom door damaged, a computer monitor thrown on the ground, lawn furniture tossed around in the back yard and the deck rail damaged.

21 Signs Swiped (1100 S. Dee)

Offenders took a speed limit and a no parking sign from a driveway of a business.

22 Resisting arrest (1900 S. Cumberland)

A woman, 26, of Chicago was arrested Nov. 9 for retail theft and obstructing a peace officer.

All information printed in the 'Police Blotters' is obtained from written reports of the respective police departments.

Cracking the case

The Bugle's Editor reports from the Niles Citizen's Police Academy

The Niles Police Department sponsors a Citizen's Police Academy each year. This year, our editor, Andrew Schneider, has joined the class and will be providing The Bugle's readers with a look at how the police department operates. Who knows, after reading this you may want to join up for next year's session!

Week 10: Ho hum, another day in Investigations

Detective Tom Gragassi gave the members of the Niles Citizens Police Academy an idea of what it's like to be a detective at the last class and it turns out, it isn't elementary my dear reader.

Five detectives on that case?

It turns out Gragassi's work is a lot like a newspaper reporter's; he's given a list of crimes and police reports detailing unsolved mysteries and is told to go follow-through until all the leads are exhausted.

"I'm handed a file and I'm supposed to follow every lead until I've run out," Gragassi said.

Sometimes he ends up with large files and sometimes he ends with small ones, it all depends on the case.

Fragassi demonstrated by holding up two files, one on a small crime and one on a larger one, for a difference of about six inches.

"Sometimes you'll run out of leads and you'll be at a dead end," he said. "You document it all and file."

Then years later, he said, you never know what case you may solve.

Designing drugs

The second part of our class focused on designer drugs and the

dangers they pose to youth and the community.

A drug is a "designer" when amateur chemists can modify its molecular structure to change it, but not its affects. This is useful to drug peddlers because a drug that is illegal one day, like Ecstasy, can be legal the next is a slightly different form.

These drugs are general called "party drugs" and are used at "Raves" which attract young people, making them a particular concern for police and parents.

Ofc. Robert Tornabene, one of our regular teachers, discussed the designer drugs and told us a little about their symptoms.

"One of the most dangerous things about these drugs is that most parents don't know the symptoms," Tornabene said.

Those can include bloodshot or dilated eyes, and over sleeping. "Generally, if your child comes home from a party and sleeps for two days, that's not normal," Tornabene said.

I'm not a parent, but if I was, I've learned that this Citizens Police Academy would be a great source of information.

NEXT WEEK: Week 10 of the Citizen's Police Academy will focus on Use of Force. If you'd like more information on the Citizen's Police Academy, contact the Niles Police Department at (847) 588-6500.

SJB 'Turkey Shoot' Friday

It's that time of year again for the annual "Turkey Shoot" sponsored by the Holy Name Men's Club of St. John Brebeuf Parish. The event will take place on Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Ministry Center, 8305 N. Harlem, Niles.

Five games will be featured, including golf putting and a bean bag toss. Gift certificates will be given out as prizes and complimentary sandwiches, soft drinks and beer will be provided. Admission to this event is free and no one under 21 will be admitted.

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COMMENTARY

Letters to the Editor

Resident hasn't forgotten campaign promises

Dear Editor,

At the final budget workshop for Morton Grove, the topic of reducing the budget and thereby returning something to the residents by eliminating a 2006 con-

tribution to the reserve funds was dismissed by trustees Brunner, Minx, Stackman, and DiMaria. The reason given was that we need a big cushion in the treasury in case Morton Grove is hit by a tornado, conflagration, or other natural disaster.

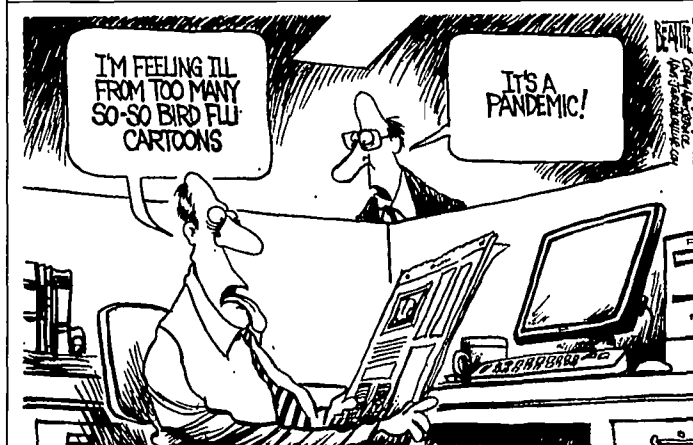
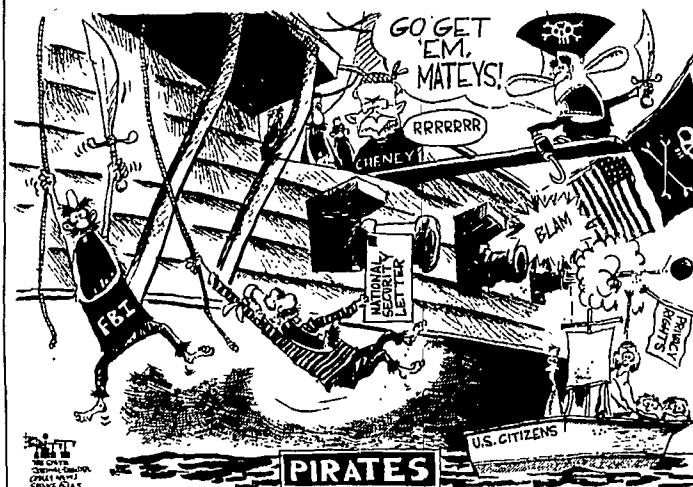
The likelihood of this happening is very low, based on previous history of such events. Our budget reserves already have a 4 million dollar plus surplus, which includes a one million dollar surplus from the 2005 fiscal year. The Caucus trustees, Minx and Brunner, are especially off base on this one because they

campaign on reducing taxes. They obviously think that hoarding our funds is more important than their promises to the Morton Grove citizens.

Also in this budget meeting windup, it was agreed to raise Morton Grove property taxes by 20 per cent. Maybe the Caucus party thinks that the voters will forget about this huge tax increase by the time elections roll around, just like they are hoping we will forget about their promises to lower taxes made in their campaign six months ago.

Sherwin Dubren, Morton Grove

Other Views



Cartoons From Copley News Service

The Terminator's toughest challenge

BY ROBERT J. CALDWELL
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Rudely rebuked by the voters and mugged by the adversaries he challenged, Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger now knows the limits of his celebrity. He has a year to re-establish his credentials by demonstrating that he can govern effectively. If he fails, California likely will return after the 2006 election to the one-party government it endured under Gray Davis with Democrats controlling the governor's office, the Legislature and most or all state constitutional offices.

For Schwarzenegger, the road back must begin with recognizing what went wrong with his "year of reform." The short answer: almost everything.

Clearly, Schwarzenegger and his advisers overplayed their hand. Stunning success at the polls in 2003 and 2004 led the Schwarzenegger team to assume he could win again by appealing directly to voters over the heads

of Democrats in Sacramento.

In retrospect, that proved to be an act of hubris. That it was managed badly and inadequately explained to the public compounded the error.

California's voters, an independent lot trending Democratic in recent years, want the politicians in Sacramento to work together. Note that Schwarzenegger's popularity reached its giddy zenith when he won cooperation from an intimidated Democratic Legislature in the year after he ousted Davis. When he challenged and defied both the Democrats in the Legislature and their core constituencies, the public employee unions, Schwarzenegger's popularity rapidly eroded.

Tactically, the governor's camp also erred by waiting far too long to respond to the avalanche of attacks, many of them flagrantly dishonest, against him and his reformist agenda. An anticipated \$60 million in negative ads targeting Schwarzenegger and his four ballot initiatives turned into \$80

million, then \$100 million and by election day perhaps \$150 million, most of it from public employee unions.

The governor raised just over a third of that for counter ads - too little, too late.

By then, the opposition had defined the Terminator as untrustworthy and mean spirited. The voters, weary anyway from three straight elections in three years and never persuaded of the need for Schwarzenegger's special election, balked accordingly.

So, does this spell finis for the movie mogul governor and clear sailing for California's Democrats and their special interest supporters? Hardly.

Democrats, too, can blunder and overreach, as the hapless Gray Davis proved by being recalled less than a year after he was re-elected.

The Democratic establishment in Sacramento will commit a fatal error if its leaders interpret the defeat of Schwarzenegger's ballot initiatives as a public endorsement of the status quo.

BUSINESS

An exit strategy? 20-somethings can't leave home without one



If you're in your 20s, there's a decent chance that you're reading this column in your parents' house. Maybe your mom even made you breakfast or is getting ready to toss your dirty clothes into the washing machine for you.

Actually, there are an awful lot of grown kids who have overstayed their welcome at mom and dad's place. According to a study by researchers at Harvard University, almost 4 million Americans between the ages of 25 and 34 are still hanging around.

You will do yourself and your dear parents a favor if you start planning an exit strategy.

At first glance, the odds of financial independence will seem insurmountable. Yeah, sure, you don't enjoy the financial stability of your parents, but there are ways you can compensate.

Whether you're still sleeping in your old twin bed or you've graduated to your own place, what follows are ways that twenty- and thirtysomethings can boost their chances of financial success:

- Invest today. No one expects you to have as much cash stockpiled as your parents, but you possess something that your mom and dad can't buy - lots and lots of time.

Time is a great gift because it allows a modest investment account to grow spectacularly through compounding. If a 25-year-old, for example, invests \$400 a month for 40 years, with an average 10 percent return, he or she would retire with

\$2,529,632. If someone waited until age 45 to get started, the portfolio would reach a mere \$303,748.

- Check prices. You'll have more cash to invest if you pay attention to the price of insurance, groceries, loans, monster TVs and the sort of stuff you can acquire by spending just one hour in Costco.

If you agonized about prices as much as you do about what it cost for your last tank of gas, you'd probably be in much better shape financially than most people.

In reflecting upon how you blow through money, it could be helpful to think about what Juliet Schor, a Harvard professor, concluded in her book, "The Overspent American: Why We Want What We Don't Need."

Schor suggests that consumers are no longer content with keeping up with the Joneses. They're now trying to emulate the lifestyles of the rich and famous. Or at least Angelina, Brad, Jen and the other celebrities we watch vicariously on the screen.

Grand Opening Original Mitchell's Express



Under new owner Dino Mitchell, the Original Mitchell's Express held their ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, November 12, 2005 located at 8080 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, also available for carryout, this fine establishment is excited about its new home in Niles. The weekend grand opening celebration included entertainment, Jesse White Tumblers and tons of delicious food. The ribbon cutting was held at 1:00p.m. on Saturday with the Mayor of Niles Nicholas B. Blase and Niles Chamber of Commerce board members and ambassadors.

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SPORTS

Defense delivers for Maine South in 23-10 win over Stevenson

BY ALI BHANPURI
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The weather was inconsistent at best and the field conditions caused cleats to become virtually ineffective last Saturday night at Stevenson high school.

In a battle between two powerhouses in their respective divisions, the game was decided predominantly by whose defense would be more effective. The Hawks (11-1) were playing short-handed in the backfield without their agile running back Jake Bachmeier, leaving multi-faceted quarterback Tyler Knight to pick up the reigns, again, in leading the Hawks offense.

However, helping out Knight was the Maine South defense, which forced two interceptions, a safety and batted down a total of five Stevenson passes in a 23-10 victory in the Class 8A quarterfinals. Maine South will compete at home next Saturday against Hinsdale Central (9-3). Adam Fee was unstoppable

on both sides of the ball, setting the tempo early with a blocked punt. He also knocked down three passes and caught a 13-yard touchdown pass from Knight (11-of-19 passing, 150 yards). Fee's key hits on 5-foot-11-inch, 205-pound running back Carl Johnson resulted in eruptions from the crowd and his teammates.

"I was just sitting and he cut back, not seeing me until the last second and I just got him under chin. It was just good timing," Fee said on his crushing blow to Johnson in the third quarter.

The latter of the two interceptions came with 5:18 left in the fourth quarter on a potential scoring drive by the Patriots (11-1). After Stevenson quarterback Preston Earl drove his team down to the 11-yard line, he attempted a roll-out pass to the corner of the end zone, which linebacker K.C. Kaage picked out of the air to seal the Patriots' fate.

The first interception came unexpectedly as Earl threw a low pass that hit off 305-pound Pat Burke, who in turn took it

and ran up field for 17-yards.

"It was just natural hands, baby. I was trying to tip balls all day, the window opened, I saw his eyes and I just jumped up and it fell in my hands," said Burke on his first career interception.

The Hawks shutout the Patriots in the second half, making key third and fourth down stops to halt Stevenson drives. The defensive effort may be attributed to head coach David Inserra, who kept his sixteen starting players a bit longer in the locker room at the end of the half, telling them to look at one another and to band together.

An early score from the Hawks was reciprocated by the Patriots after Carl Johnson scored from the one-yard line to tie the game at 7-7. Thereafter, the Patriots only scored on a Mitchell Rasmussen 36-yard field goal.

Not to be outdone, the Hawks retaliated with their own time-consuming drive, capped with Knight's 29-yard pass to receiver Jimmy Coy, who had to stop in his tracks to fight the wind.



Anthony Borsellino tackles Stevenson running back Carl Johnson during Maine South's victory over Stevenson Saturday.

The Bugle Welcomes Ali Bhanpuri - Sports Contributor

The Bugle would like to take a moment to welcome its new Sports Contributor, Ali Bhanpuri.

Bhanpuri is a senior at Niles West High School and will contribute regular sports features to The Bugle.

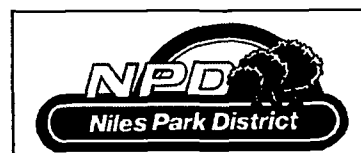
We are glad to have such an enterprising young man on board.

If you'd like to get sports news in The Bugle, contact Bhanpuri at ali@buglenews-papers.com

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SENIOR LIVING GUIDE

Niles Bids Adieu to Frances Bruno

Wife of long-time Niles police and fire commissioner

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

Frances Bruno, wife of long-time police and fire commissioner for the village of Niles, Sam Bruno, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 3.

"At Southport and Clybourne, this beautiful lady got on the street car," said Bruno, remembering when he first saw

"At Southport and Clybourne this beautiful lady got on the street car..."

Sam Bruno
Niles Police and Fire Commissioner on his first memory of his wife, Frances



Sam Bruno, Niles Fire and Police Commissioner pictured with his wife Frances. They were married over 50 years.

"We did a marvelous tango," said Bruno, who said his wife was a wonderful dancer and talented seamstress. Frances worked at Teletype Corporation and was a tool inspector. Bruno said she was promoted to one of the top jobs that was male dominated at the time.

"She was a very dedicated, committed and supportive wife," said Bruno, about his wife.

When Santo "Sam" and his wife first moved into town, he said there was only 4,000 people in town and 98% of the population was Polish.

"I was running with an Italian name," said Bruno. "I really became elected initially because of her."

Bruno said that they put her maiden name, which is a Polish name, "Wiercinski" on the campaign literature and he was elected to the village board in 1959. He served two terms on the board and in 1969, he became the police and fire commissioner.

"She was both mother and father at home while I was busy with politics," said Bruno, who said that he misses his wife.

"She was a great lady," said

Niles deputy police chief Charles Giovannelli. "Whenever I was with her she was very gracious and lady-like."

Frances is survived by husband, Santo "Sam" Bruno; daughters, Cynthia Bruno and Cheryl (Joseph) Melone; sons, Joseph and Micheal (Ann) Bruno; and grandchildren, Nicholas, Stefanie, Michele, Jason and Vincent. She is preceded in death by her parents, Leonard Wiercinski and Mary Wiercinski, as well as her sister, Irene (Ted) Kirpluk and brothers, Stanley and Vincent.

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The Senior Living Guide is a monthly supplemental section of The Bugle. It provides Seniors in our area with content and



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SENIORS

Veteran's Day: A Day to Honor the Living



Top left
Attendees at the Niles Memorial Waterfall celebrated Veteran's Day Friday.

Top Right
Veterans and members of the Niles and Gladstone Park VFW posts salute during a 21-gun salute for America's Veterans.

Bottom Left
Niles Deputy Chief of Police Charlie Giovanelli receives the Cross of Malta at the Veterans Day Ceremony Friday. Giovanelli served in Vietnam and is a recent member of the Niles VFW post.

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SENIORS

Train tours are on a roll through Arizona's sights

FYI Travel

By Tom Roebuck
Copley News Service

Arizona has several one-of-a-kind railway destinations that bring back a certain sense of nostalgia from days gone by.

- The Verde Canyon Railroad, just a half-hour from Sedona,

Passengers have the option to overnight at the canyon if they'd like to spend more time savoring the views. Visit www.thetrain.com.

- The Yuma Valley Railway - a two-hour ride along the banks of the Colorado River - is a

prime opportunity to view southwestern Arizona's wildlife and agriculture. Along the way, passengers aboard the 1922 Pullman coach will get sweeping views of the Arizona, California and Mexico landscapes. The train operates from October through May out of Old Town Yuma, departing from 100 North Second Ave. Visit www.visit-yuma.com.

FYI: For more information on Arizona, visit www.arizona-guide.com.

A HILTON HEAD HIT
The Hilton Head Marriott Beach & Golf Resort in South Carolina has a

tempting offer for cuisine connoisseurs. The Dine Around package costs \$169 per room, per night, and features lavish accommodations and a two- or three-course dinner at one of seven of the finest island restaurants, including Antonio's, Frankie Bones, Boathouse II, Harbourmaster's Ocean Grill, CQ's, Marley's and Old Fort Pub.

Located along South Carolina's Treasured Coast, the 512-room resort is ideal for a quick weekend getaway or a lengthy retreat, with oceanfront views, natural wildlife surroundings and three signature on-site golf courses. Shelter Cove Marina features dolphin cruises, deep sea fishing and water sports, and Harbour Town offers a host of shopping, dining and other activities.

FYI: For more information or

reservations, call (843) 686-8400, or visit www.HiltonHeadMarriott.com.

BROWN'S WILL BE BACK
After a 20-month, \$33 million renovation, London's historic Brown's Hotel will reopen on Dec. 12.

Brown's Hotel was the first luxury hotel to open in London.

It was established in 1837 by Lord Byron's valet, James Brown, when he acquired four adjacent town houses on Dover Street. In 1859, prominent entrepreneur James John Ford bought the hotel and extended it to include the St. George's Hotel on Albemarle Street.

Since then, Brown's Hotel has

consistently played a significant role in the history of London. Alexander Graham Bell made the UK's first telephone call from Brown's in 1876, Rudyard Kipling wrote "The Jungle Book" as a hotel guest and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt honeymooned at Brown's. The hotel has hosted Queen Victoria

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Jennifer Ingraffia, BS, CAD
Special Care Unit Director

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Aging Lifestyles

New Medicare drug plan unveiled

Joe Volz
Copley News Service

The new voluntary Medicare prescription drug program, Part D, which goes into effect Jan. 1, will ease mounting health costs for many seniors - but not all.

You can sign up now but before you do, make sure that the coverage and costs will actually be better than the prescription drug coverage you now have.

Many retirees have no prescription drug coverage now or participate in one anemic program or another offering, perhaps, 10 percent discounts. In their case, Part D is better.

But my wife, Kate, and I are not going to sign up.

We already are among the fortunate people who have an excellent drug plan as part of our pension as retired AARP employees. We pay an annual deductible and a co-payment of no more than \$20 for "name" prescriptions and \$10 for generic drugs. We do not pay a monthly premium. A number of

employer and union retiree drug programs have similar benefits.

However, seniors who spend at least \$68 per month for drugs out of their own pockets would likely save money by signing up for Plan D. They would break even on costs and be prepared should the day come when they needed more expensive drugs.

Here's how Plan D will work: Unlike Medicare Plans A and B, run solely by the government, Part D plans will be operated by private companies and there will be a variety of them.

One option is to sign up for a Medicare HMO plan, which includes drug coverage. We will discuss that option in a future column.

For the millions who only wish to add Part D coverage, the monthly premium will be somewhere around \$32 next year depending on which private drug plan approved by Medicare you sign up for. You must enroll in Part D between Nov. 15 this year and May 15 next year to

avoid paying a penalty.

You pay the premium by having it deducted from your Social Security check, just as you do for Part B, which covers doctors' bills. Or you can pay the premium directly to the drug plan sponsor you have chosen.

Call Medicare at (800) 633-4227 to find out which plans are offered in your area. The law requires that at least two plans are available in each area throughout the country.

If you currently are enrolled in a Medicare-approved drug discount plan, note that these cards will no longer be honored after May 15. The current drug card plan was just temporary until Part D started.

The deductible you must spend on drugs before Part D kicks in can be no higher than \$250 per person, though some sponsors may charge less.

After you have paid your deductible, Part D will pay for 75 percent of the next \$2,000 worth of drugs. You will pay the

remaining 25 percent. That means that Part D will pay for \$1,500 of the costs while you pay the deductible and \$500.

But Part D has a big coverage gap - often called the "doughnut hole." If your drug expenses are greater than \$2,850, you will pay for everything over that amount until you've spent \$3,600, not including the Medicare premiums you pay.

At this point, Part D will take over and pay most additional drug costs.

But, remember, Part D only pays for drugs on the plan sponsor's list of approved prescriptions. So, if you do decide to sign up, the next step is to check out the various plans to make sure they cover the drugs you need - or pay for a comparable medication.

Even though your drug expenses are minimal now, you still might want to enroll in Part D right away. AARP's Web site (www.aarp.org) gives the theoretical example of Jill who does-

n't sign up for Part D in 2006. She waits three years until she realizes she is using more drugs than anticipated. The drug premium for 2009, let's say, has risen to \$46 per month. Jill's late enrollment penalty is 1 percent per month for each month she delayed signing up. So she pays an extra \$14.26 per month on her Medicare premium. Jill's monthly premium, therefore, would be \$60.26 instead of the basic \$46 premium paid by those who enrolled in Part D in 2006.

For further information, go online to www.medicarerights.org or call the Medicare Rights Center at (212) 204-6219.

E-mail Joe Volz at jvolz2003@adelphia.net or write to 2528 Five Shillings Road, Frederick, MD 21701.

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Seniors Action Service Appoints Director of caregiver program

Executive Director Nan Anderson announces the appointment of Rebecca Sturgeon as Director, Caring Home Aid Program, for Evanston-based Seniors Action Service, Inc.

Through SASI's caregiver assistance program, older adults are able to continue living at home and maintain their activities and independence. Sturgeon, whose back-

ground is in the eldercare field, looks forward to continuing her work developing a client-centered workforce to meet the needs of today's older population.

According to Sturgeon, "over one-third of our 130 caregivers are available on a 24/7, live-in basis, although a good portion of people request help for just a few hours each week.




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SENIORS

Nor-Wood Life Care Board member does her part

Ulstrup provides medical assistance to Katrina Survivors

Sometimes bureaucracy can become its own worst enemy in the face of disaster relief. This is what Dr. Karin Ulstrup, a board member of Nor-Wood Life Care NFP (NWLC) since 2003, experienced when trying to help survivors of Hurricane Katrina. She was one of seven medical personnel, plus a retired police officer and a friend who traveled in several vans from Chicago to Baton Rouge to assist in the relief effort.

"I wanted to help in the wake of such a disaster in our own country," said Ulstrup, an internist with Chicago Lake Shore Medical associates at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. "I felt I could do something immediate."

The reports and graphic details in newspapers did little justice to what existed. "I saw poverty and devastation beyond what I could imagine," said Ulstrup, who upon arrival was dispatched from the Emergency Operation Center in Baton

Rouge to St. Tammany Parish. "We went to Covington, Slidell and some areas that weren't even really towns, just school gymnasiums that were transformed into evacuation centers. In Baton Rouge, there was the Calvary Baptist Church and the abandoned Belmont Hotel. The hotel was transformed into a "first responder's clinic" and a shelter. It was there that I cared for the brave first responders of New Orleans - the fire fighters and police officers who lost almost everything, saw their city torn apart but still worked long days and nights."

Ulstrup said it was one of the most humbling experiences of her life. "I felt inspired and motivated by the people of Louisiana's strength and courage." In addition to her volunteer work with NWLC, she now plans to get more involved in local charities that provide free medical care in Chicago

and also to contact a U.S. Senator she met last year who was interested in making medical care one of his top priorities. "I look forward to presenting him with some ideas on the importance and implementation of providing efficient and available care for the underserved," she said.

Ulstrup, who also has a Bachelor's degree in General Engineering from the University

of Illinois in Champaign, is proud of her Norwegian heritage and work with Nor-Wood Life Care and its three divisions, Norwood Park Home, Norwood Park Seniors Network and the Norwood Park Foundation. She serves as secretary of the Nor-Wood Life Care NFP Board of Directors, chairs the Medical & Ethics Committee and is a member of the Executive, Nominating and Strategic

Planning & Campus Repositioning Committees. Emil Ulstrup, Karin's father, served earlier as member of the NWLC Board of Directors. NWLC is located at 6016-20 N. Nina Avenue in Chicago.

"I'm pleased to continue a family tradition of perpetuating our Norwegian heritage while helping to better the lives of our older adults in the Nor-Wood Life Care community," she said.

Park Ridge Seniors set for holiday fun

WOMEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Park Ridge Senior Center's Women's Club is planning their annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 2 at the Chamber's in Niles. It's lunch with games, music, and a Christmas candle exchange. The menu includes soup, your choice of stuffed chicken breast or BBQ ribs and shrimp combination, potato, vegetable and dessert. This is always a wonderful party for the ladies and is usually a sell-out. Make reservations now according to our current registration policy. The charge is \$18.50. Please indicate your menu choice at time of registration and also bring a Christmas candle for the exchange.

MEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Reservations are now being taken for the Center's Men's Club Christmas Party. The party is open to any club member and a guest. The date is Monday, December 5. Come at 12:30 p.m. for lunch catered by Portillo's. After lunch, music will be provided by a favorite entertainer, Edizon Dayao. There will undoubtedly be a visit from Santa Claus, too. Reservations are required in advance and should be made according to our current policy. The charge is \$7.50.

WOMEN'S CLUB OUTING

The Center's active Women's Club is sponsoring a trip to hear the Apollo Chorus presenting Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 18. It will be held at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park. This trip will only include your main floor ticket and motor-coach transportation. The bus leaves at 1:30 p.m. On the return trip there will be the chance to see the Christmas lights downtown. Reservations are required and the cost is \$54.00.

These outings are a small sample of the activities at the Park Ridge Senior Center. The Center welcomes people to come visit, take a tour of the facility and taking out a membership is quick and easy. Other activities include Writer's Workshop, tap dancing, exercise classes, table tennis, science club, camera club, genealogy club. The Center's chorus, The Chordiers, is always looking for new members, as well. Come visit the Center at 100 S. Western, or call 847-692-3597.



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SENIORS

SCANNING THE BOOKSHELF

Brief Book Reviews from Copley News Service

"The Lost Painting: The Quest for a Caravaggio Masterpiece," by Jonathan Harr; Random House; 250 pages; \$24.95.

Maybe it's the dramatic light. Perhaps it's the fleshy and remarkably realized nature of his figures. But no Italian painter of the 1600s appeals more to modern eyes than Michelangelo Merisi de Caravaggio - far better known as Caravaggio. Like his contemporaries, he painted scenes from scripture. Yet he set himself apart by giving these images a streetwise quality. He secularized the sacred.

Since the mid-19th century, when Caravaggio began his rise from obscurity, his fame has been expanding. Biographies of him have burgeoned. In the late 1990s alone, there were three hefty volumes in English, all highly readable: Helen Langdon's "Caravaggio: A Life," Catherine Puglisi's "Caravaggio" and Peter Robb's "M." If you prefer a short version of the life, there's a new one by novelist Francine Prose, "Caravaggio: Painter of Miracles."

Some of that fascination begins with the painter's life. He was a man of bad temper who tangled with the law and seemed to prefer

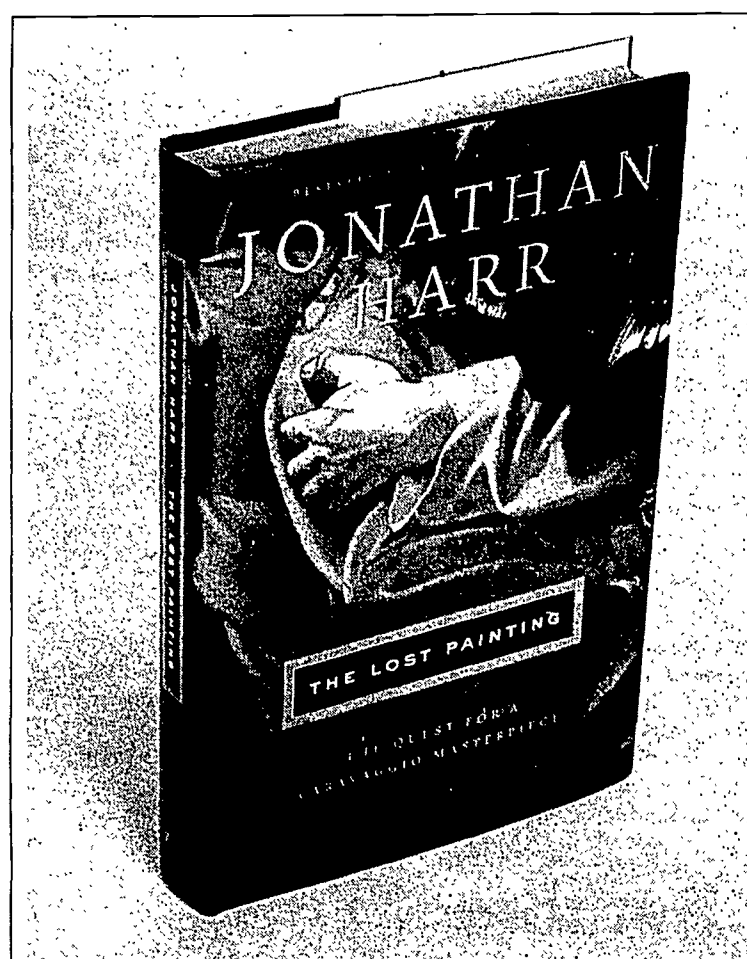
the company of poor folk and prostitutes to his patrons. He combined sensuality and spirituality in his paintings in a way that no other artist of his day could manage.

"The life of Caravaggio is the closest thing we have to the myth of the sinner-saint," writes Prose.

All of these books mention a painting entitled "The Betrayal of Christ" or "The Taking of Christ," which until 1990 had disappeared from view for centuries - at least from the purview of those who could identify it as a Caravaggio. It now hangs in the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin, an addition to the short list of pictures by the artist. (Experts offer different numbers, but there are only 60 to 70.) How it was found and how it ended up in that museum is the story Jonathan Harr tells in "The Lost Painting."

Harr's reputation, as much as Caravaggio's, will bring readers to his new book since his debut was the hugely popular "A Civil Action," which was also a box-office hit as a film. The similarities between the two are obvious: Both are nonfiction novels and both are detective stories.

"A Civil Action" has the decided edge on suspense, with its tale of a



the Biblioteca Hertziana, "a long wooden table, scarred from years of use. ... The afternoon sun came in through tall French doors, which opened onto a balcony where a tangle of overgrown roses and vines grew from cracked terracotta vases. From this spot, Francesca looked out the French doors to the sprawl of Rome below."

The presence of history is everywhere in the places Harr evokes, and love of the past is a passion that all of the people in this story share. For one of the Caravaggio scholars Harr describes, the venerable Sir Dennis Mahon, "paintings are a window back into time."

Mahon helps Cappelletti as she takes her search to England and Scotland. But clues and expertise don't prove to be enough. Along with expertise, one needs luck, and Benedetti, employed by the National Gallery of Art in Dublin, is the one who benefits from a twist of fate.

The painting was hidden in plain sight - in a Jesuit residence. He happens to see it when they want to have a few pictures restored. Convinced it is the real thing, Benedetti sets about persuading the director of the National Gallery, and works on its restoration in secret. He does research that leads him to Cappelletti and Testa, and their work helps him confirm his hunch.

The discovery of the picture changes his life - Cappelletti's and Testa's too. Harr recounts their odysseys with admirable subtlety. Along the way, he also conveys how one of the world's great pictures spent many years on the walls of the Jesuit residence, waiting to be found.

- Robert L. Pincus
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court case that pitted big corporations who polluted the drinking water of Woburn, Mass., against the independent law firm representing citizens who suffered the terrible consequences. The outcome of "The Lost Painting" isn't in doubt; even the book jacket tells us as much. It's less about what happens than how the missing Caravaggio is found.

Harr is fascinated with obsessive people. As much as the riveting story, it is the tormented and intensely driven defense attorney Jan Schlitchmann who is at the core of "A Civil Action." In his desire to win the case, he ruins his career and ends up penniless. "The Lost Painting" is a sunnier story, even if its central characters - art history students Francesca

Cappelletti and Laura Testa, and art restorer Sergio Benedetti - become just as consumed with their ambitions.

Cappelletti and Testa aren't even searching for information about "The Taking of Christ" when it surfaces in an early 17th century inventory book of the Mattei family, which owned multiple Caravaggios. But they knew a lead when they saw it; the discovery becomes their obsession.

Harr's story conveys some Old World charm along the way, with its descriptions of the libraries and archives where Cappelletti and Testa do their digging. They are places that seem unchanged by time.

"She (Francesca) had a favorite place in the library," Harr writes of

HAVE YOU HEARD
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTSChuck Wagon Drive to Benefit
Maine Township
Emergency
Food Pantry

Maine Township with help from state, township, and local officials is launching a massive food drive to help meet the growing need to feed hungry families during the holidays. Called The Chuck Wagon, the drive will launch from three locations in three communities at the same time and run for five Saturdays leading up to Christmas.

"The need for food never ends and even picks up during the holidays," says Bob Dudyecz, Maine Township Supervisor and organizer of the drive. "We decided to meet the need head-on with this pilot program involving Niles, Park Ridge, and Des Plaines kicking off on Friday, Nov. 25 and running Saturdays through Dec. 24."

The kick-off event will be at the Park Ridge Uptown Open House on Nov. 25. A Chuck Wagon will be parked in front of City Hall from 5-9 p.m. Santa and his Elves will be on hand to collect food donations and pass out candy canes to those visiting the Santa House in Hodges Park. Mayor Howard Frimark will help launch the drive that night in Park Ridge. The Mayors of Des Plaines and Niles are also supportive of the food drive in their communities.

Then the next day, Chuck Wagons (actually large trucks)

will be located at Oakton Street and Milwaukee Avenue (Niles), Busse Highway and Greenwood Avenue (Park Ridge), Lee and Oakton Street (Des Plaines), and at the Shop N Save north of Miner and west of River Road (Des Plaines) from 11 - 11:30 a.m. Then the Chuck Wagons will



proceed through the city streets of the three communities while playing holiday music and handing out candy canes until 3 p.m.

The program will repeat on Dec. 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Saturday.

"There are no direct expenses to the Township since this effort is being sponsored by State Senator Cheryl Axley with assistance from Eric Leys of Maine Sch. Dist. 207, Maine Township Highway Commissioner Bob Provenzano, and Dave Johnson of the Glenview Library Board," Dudyecz said. Provenzano is covering drivers, trucks, and fuel, Axley is paying for signage and an announcement mailing to residents, and Johnson is providing the candy. Other sponsors include The Bugle Newspapers.

Dudyecz notes that any contributions of non-perishable food and money are always appreciated. The most pressing needs are for peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, chunky soups, and large cans or plastic bottles of juice especially apple, orange and grape flavors.

Donations may also be brought to Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Rd., Park Ridge on Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. For questions on the Chuck Wagon drive or assistance with deliveries, contact Carol Langan, Food Pantry Coordinator at 847/297-2510.

Morton Grove Foundation Approves
Grant For 28 Organizations

The Morton Grove Foundation approved the grant applications of 28 organizations that benefit the community of Morton Grove. The following are this year's grant recipients:

Advocate Hospital-Adult Down Syndrome Center, American Brain Tumor Association-Paul Fabbri Memorial, Association of Horizon, Between Friends, Boy Scouts of America-Northwest Suburban Council, Christmas in April, Community Nutrition Network, Connections for the Homeless, First Step Foundation, For Autistic Kids Foundation, Foundation for Nager and Miller Syndromes, Friends of the Morton Grove Forest Preserves, Glenkirk, LaRabida, Leukemia Research Foundation, Little City Foundation, Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, Maryville Academy, Morton Grove Days Commission, Morton Grove Park District, Morton Grove Woman's Club, Niles North High School, Orchard Village, Plato Academy, Shelter, Inc., Shore Training Center, St. John Brebeuf School and Turning Point.

The goal of the Morton Grove Foundation is to distribute more than \$50,000 to these agencies. This goal is dependent on the foundation's major fundraiser, "A Taste of Spring" in March.

The organizations support a wide variety of programs that benefit the community including summer camps and recreational programs for needy and disabled children and adults, research to cure brain tumors, autism and leukemia, assistance in rehabilitating homes in Morton Grove that belong to needy families or senior citizens, nutritious meals for seniors program, emergency support for homeless persons and domestic violence victims, support for families displaced by Hurricane Katrina, counseling and vocational support for individuals who are developmentally challenged, housing and tutoring for the at-risk children and teens, scholarships for needy Morton Grove women, fine arts programs for local schools and natural resource education program for area school children.

The "Taste of Spring" will be held on Thursday, Mar. 2 at the White Eagle Banquets, 6844 Milwaukee Ave., Niles. This will be the 18th annual Taste that will feature food from local restaurants, entertainment and silent and live auctions and raffles. People can support this event by being a sponsor, buying raffle tickets and attending the event.

For more information on the foundation call the chairperson, Teresa Hoffman-Liston at 847 470 5220.

Niles Family Fitness Announces Winter Camptastic 2005

WINTER CAMPTASTIC 2005

The Niles Family Fitness Center's Camptastic is the perfect way for your child to spend the Winter Holiday. Activities include sports, games, swimming, crafts, and more!

OUR MISSION: Our goal is to provide your child with the best camp experience of their lives. We want every day to be a safe, fun-filled adventure!

AGES: Ages 6 - 12 welcome.

CAMP DATES:
Monday
December 19th - December 23rd

Monday
December 26th - December 30th

CAMP HOURS:

EXTENDED CAMP HOURS:

3 PM - 5 PM

8 AM - 3 PM

Monday through Friday

CAMP FEES (per day)

EXTENDED CAMP FEES:

\$10

\$30 Member/Resident

\$39 Non-Member/Non-Resident

REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

A lot of planning goes into providing your child with the best camp experience possible, therefore, we must set registration deadlines. The registration deadline is December 12th.

Please Note: Camp registration is limited. Some sessions fill up quickly! To ensure your space and avoid disappointment please register early. Payment is due prior to the start of camp session.

REFUND POLICY:

No refunds will be made for days missed due to illness or vacation. Fees are non-transferable. A \$15 service charge will be applied to any refunds issued due to participant cancellation. Refunds will not be issued after a session has

begun. A 10-day notice must be given to cancel any class for a refund. All refunds issued at the discretion of the Camp & Fitness Center Directors.

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:
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Monday-Friday: 5:30AM-10PM
or
Saturday: 7AM-6PM.
Sunday: 7AM-5PM

FAX: (847) 588-8451,
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LIFE

PERFECT PAIRINGS

Iron Chef Cat Cora combines Greek chicken with classic pinot noir

RON JAMES
Copley News Service

Cat Cora had just graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., and was considering her next career move.

"I wanted to learn from the best," she said. "So I sent out resume packets to 10 French chefs - all of them were three-star Michelin guys, including Paul Bocuse. And I received eight straight rejection letters. I was devastated! I still have them somewhere; I think I'm going to wallpaper my bathroom with them."

But the last two letters were another story. Not one, but two three-star French chefs, Georges Blanc and Roger Verge, offered Cora a position.

"I accepted both," she said with a laugh. "They have such different styles; Blanc has a very much lighter, cutting-edge style of new French cuisine and Verge's style is the classical style of French cooking. And they're from very different regions of the country, so I knew it would serve me well if I did both. And it did. I took away a lot from that experience, although it was one of the hardest and scariest things I've done in my life."

Cooking with Roger Verge on the French Riviera was a far cry from Cora's Greek-American roots in Jackson, Miss., where she learned to love her Southern and Greek heritage, especially the food. "It was in my blood," Cora said. "My grandfather and godfather both ran restaurants, and my mom was a great cook, so it was just a long line of great cooks in my family," Cora said. "I knew when I was 15 that I wanted to have my own restaurant and actually drew up a business plan for one."

While going to college, her interest in food waned a bit as Cora majored in exercise physiology and biology. But fate stepped in and her passion for food was again stoked.

"I was in Natchez, Miss., and there was a book-signing for Julia Child," Cora said. "I got to sit down with her and she mentored me about the business and which culinary school to go to. I'll never forget that, she took all the time

in the world, just like we had known each other forever. And right after that I applied for the CIA. And the rest is history."

After her stint at the CIA and her foray into France, Cora became Chef de Cuisine at Bistro Don Giovanni in Napa, Calif., and then executive chef of Postino in Lafayette, Calif.

In 2004 her first cookbook, "Cat Cora's Kitchen: Favorite Meals for Family and Friends" (Chronicle, \$22.95) was published. He career took off into the stratosphere when she was selected to be the first woman Iron Chef on the Food Network, where she has been using all of her experiences to reign supreme in Kitchen Stadium.

THE DISH

"My mother came from a long line of cooks," Cora said. "When she met my dad she set out to re-create the dishes that he ate as a kid. One of them was one of my favorites, kota kapama - chicken cooked slowly in a savory sauce of tomatoes and onions with a hint of cinnamon. The melding of flavors is addictive. In fact, every birthday she would ask me what I wanted for dinner and every year I said kota kapama. I even bribed my brother to ask for it for his birthday!"

Cora suggests serving the chicken dish with buttery noodles and cheese.

"But it's also good over rice or any kind of pasta," she said. "My dad is passionate about kota kapama with long macaroni. The aroma of this dish is so heavenly, you wonder if it can taste as good as it smells. And yes, it can!"

Cora suggest that to make this great dish greater you skip the supermarket shrink-wrapped cut-up chicken and buy a fresh whole one and cut it up, or have your butcher do it for you.

"Fresh-cut poultry really makes a big difference," she said.

"This dish is low in fat because I use olive oil instead of butter or cream," Cora said. "It is stewed for a long period of time which means there is added flavor and it gives busy people time to open mail, spend time with the kids or simply pour a glass of wine. The chicken is flavored with a

touch of cinnamon, which is traditional in the Greek diet."

For a true kota kapama, Cora suggests that the dish should be finished with an aromatic sheep's cheese called mizithra. It is similar to ricotta but has a more interesting flavor and texture. It is kind of nutty and quite salty, so a little bit can go a long way. You can find the cheese in specialty markets or from several online vendors. In a pinch, you can substitute freshly grated Romano cheese.

THE WINE

The wine match for the kota kapama is a Buena Vista 2002 Carneros Pinot Noir (\$15).

"A great pinot noir would be great with this dish," Cora said. "Pinot noir is perhaps the most versatile and food-friendly wine in existence. The spiciness of the pinot complements the spiciness of the dish and the fruit and acidity contrast nicely with the savory flavors."

Making great pinot noir can be a real pain for winemakers. "It's an alluring challenge," agreed Buena Vista Vineyard's winemaker Jeff Stewart. "But it's very finicky about where and how it's grown. Diversity is the key to our pinot noir - we select from a dozen clones planted in 40 individual blocks in Carneros. We try to emphasize some of the distinguishing characteristics

of Carneros pinot by extracting the red cherry, raspberry and spice flavors."

Stewart also points to another characteristic of Buena Vista's pinots, a woody earthiness he calls the walk in the forest component. That quality really works with this and other rustic kinds of dishes.

The wine is aged 10 months in French and American oak barrels, where the wine picks up notes of toasty vanilla, clove and Asian spice. The aging reduces excessive tannins to ensure the inherent silkiness typical of great pinot noirs.

Ron James welcomes comments and suggestions. E-mail him at ronjames@perfectpairings.us. Listen to his "Gourmet Club" radio show and see archives of previous columns at www.perfectpairings.us. © Copley News Service Visit Copley News Service at www.copleynews.com.



THE RECIPE

KOTA KAPAMA

(Greek stewed chicken)

1 chicken (2 1/2 to 3 pounds), cut into 8 pieces.

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon.

2 teaspoons kosher salt

1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

4 cups medium yellow onions, coarsely chopped

5 peeled garlic cloves, minced (divided use)

1/2 cup dry white wine

2 cups water

1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste

1/2 cup grated mizithra cheese.

Yields 4 servings.

Pat chicken dry with paper towels to avoid spattering while browning.

Mix cinnamon, salt, and pepper in small bowl. Rub chicken pieces

on all sides with seasoning.

Heat olive oil in large nonreactive deep skillet (see note) over high heat. Add chicken to oil and brown for about 4 to 5 minutes on each side. Turn chicken pieces using metal spatula, as they have a tendency to stick. Remove pieces when well browned on all sides and set aside.

Reduce heat to medium-high and add onions and 3 minced garlic cloves. Cook about 3 minutes, stirring constantly, until onions have softened and are rich golden brown. Add wine, and scrape bottom of pan with spatula or spoon to deglaze pan, loosening any particles stuck on bottom.

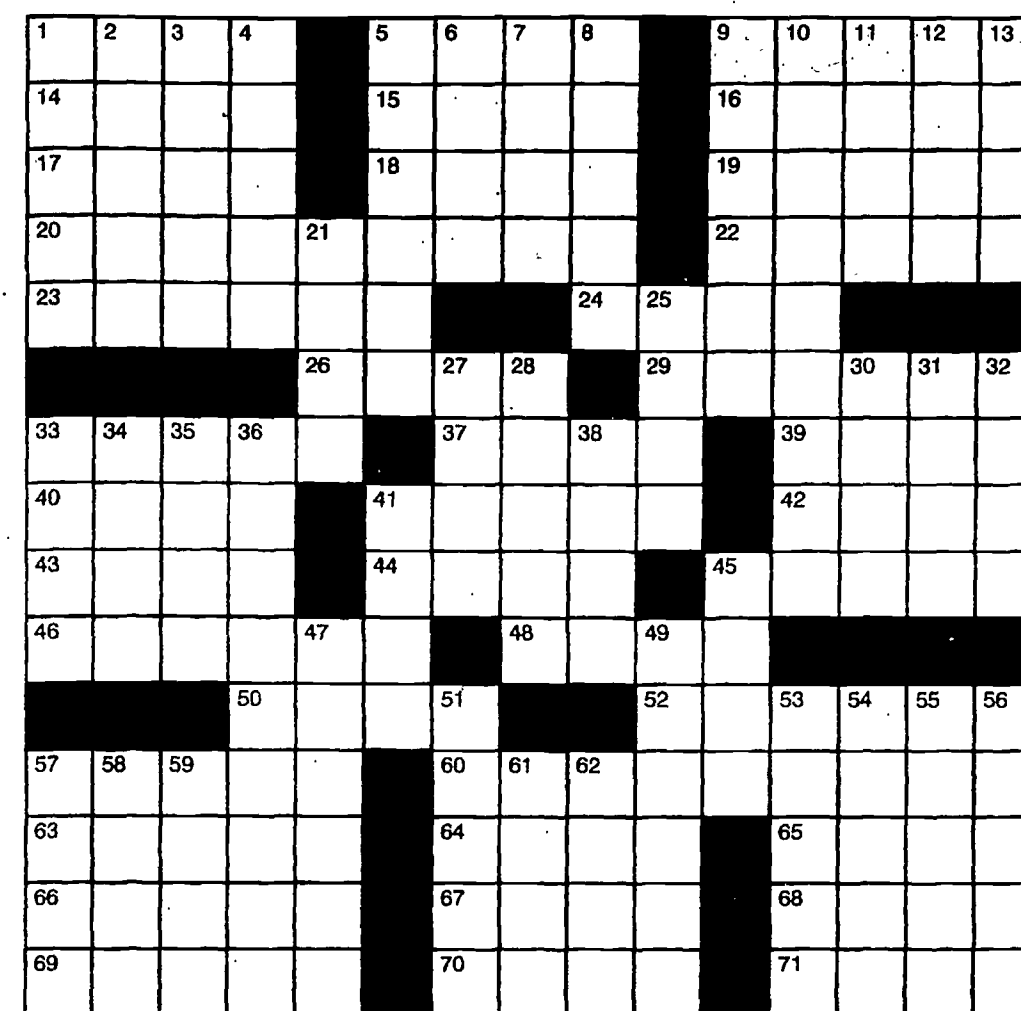
When wine has evaporated, add water, tomato paste and remaining 2 minced garlic cloves. Return chicken to pan. The liquid should

cover about 3/4 of the chicken pieces. Cover the pan and simmer over low heat for about 1 hour or until the chicken is tender and thoroughly cooked. If the sauce becomes too thick, it can be thinned with a little more water. Season the finished sauce with kosher salt and pepper, to taste. Serve over cooked, buttered pasta (such as orzo or macaroni) or rice. Sprinkle grated cheese over each serving.

Note: A 12-inch skillet with sides about 2 1/2 to 3 inches high will allow you to brown all chicken at once. Otherwise, brown chicken in 2 batches using 1/2 the oil for each batch. It's important chicken isn't overcrowded, which would cause it to steam rather than brown.

LIFE

DESCRIPTIVE



COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

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- 37 Cleopatra's mascara
- 39 Down to the
- 40 Pitcher Hershiser
- 41 Polite
- 42 Sir Geraint's wife
- 43 Table card
- 44 Bay
- 45 Expunge
- 46 Boat, in Bayonne
- 48 Singer Eartha
- 50 Cat's meow, perhaps
- 52 "Evangeline" colony

- 57 Funny bone, locale
- 60 Ewing ranch
- 63 Genoese admiral
- 64 Offend, in a way
- 65 Cannon boom
- 66 Black wood
- 67 Pinza, of "South Pacific"
- 68 Hang keep
- 69 Cauldron additives?
- 70 Not inspiring
- 71 Visible

DOWN

- 1 FBI decoy
- 2 Integrity
- 3 Word with tower or Coast
- 4 Slow, to Mozart
- 5 "The Count of Monte"
- 6 Bounce
- 7 Mexican stew
- 8 Equals
- 9 Cream puff
- 10 The clout of retirees
- 11 Lawn comb
- 12 Anon's partner
- 13 Guarding

- 21 Cores
- 25 San Francisco's Nob

- 27 Muskogee denizen of the 1930s
- 28 Kim, of Liebestraum
- 30 Pinta's sister ship
- 31 Rainbow goddess
- 32 Say uncle
- 33 Fiasco
- 34 Neighborhood
- 35 1996 Tony-winning musical
- 36 Siamese cat
- 38 LP player
- 41 Board game
- 45 Write on stone
- 47 "I'll be loving you,"

- 49 Drum signal
- 51 Angela's
- 53 '70s hair styles
- 54 Blackmore's "Lorna"
- 55 Seeing red
- 56 Ohio rubber city
- 57 "East of"
- 58 Ear section
- 59 Forehead
- 61 Ari's liqueur
- 62 "Exodus" author

LAST WEEK'S
PUZZLE ANSWERS

NO NET

FAD THUDS LLAMA
ETE ORLOP LILAC
WALKTHEWILDOIDE
ERIKKA SRI BAR
RISKYLIFEANDLIME
SCIT LELIA
ANNA EDS LORIS
DANGEROUSGROUND
STEAD FAR SETS
INCH GAS
OPENACANOFWORMS
ULM CRO ELTAN
TEMPTPROVIDENCE
RAYED ISERE SEA
ESSES SEXES EDD

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Be the First to send in the answers
to this week's
crossword puzzle and your name
will be listed in next week's Bugle.

This Week's

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LEO MADURA

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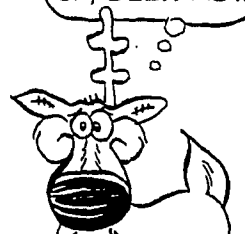
BUGLE KIDS

By J.R. Rose-Copley News Service

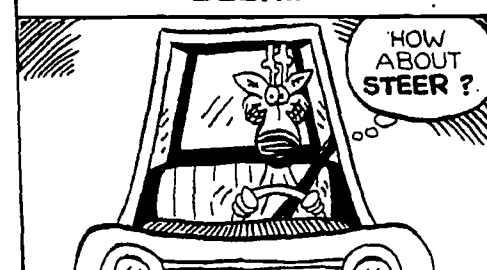
DRAW IT!

DRAW ANOTHER ANTLER ON THIS DEER...

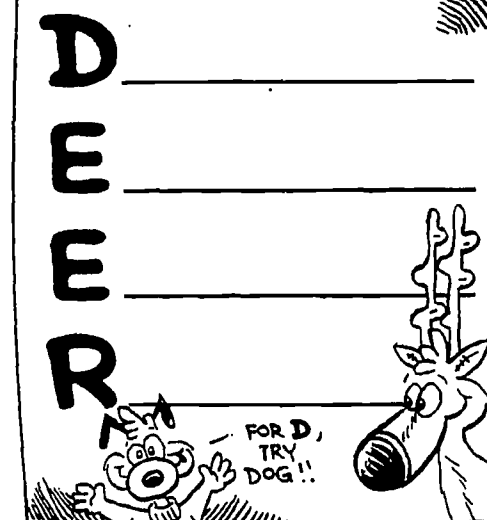
OH, DEER ME!!



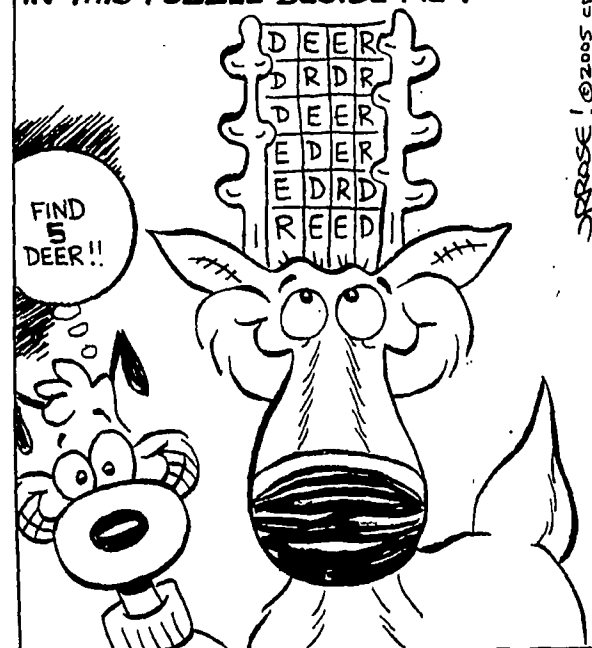
GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR DEER...



THINK OF ANOTHER ANIMAL THAT STARTS WITH THE LETTERS IN...



DEER HAVE ANTLERS TALL AND WIDE! ON HIS BACK I'D LIKE TO RIDE! HOW MANY DEER DO YOU SEE IN THIS PUZZLE BESIDE ME?

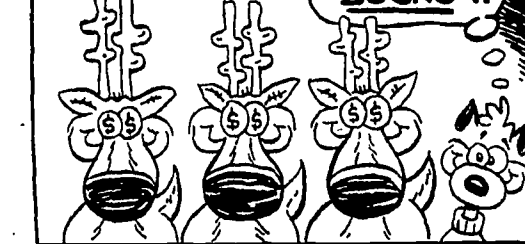


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Grammar Matters

by Patty Gibbons Saunier

Is Everybody Ready?

Indefinite pronouns replace nouns that are not named. *Anybody, everybody, everything and several* are just a few examples. The trick is to figure out whether these pronouns take singular or plural verbs. Can you match the correct verbs to the subject pronouns in the sentences below?

1. Everybody taking chemistry classes (want, wants) Mr. Lane as a teacher.
2. Nobody in Maria's family (is, are) able to make it home for the holidays.
3. Many of my neighbors (has, have) offered to rake Grandma Stewart's leaves.

I don't need help from anyone, thanks!

3. have. Use the plural verb because "many" is plural.

Answers: 1. wants. Use the singular verb because "everybody" is singular.
2. is. Use the singular verb because "nobody" is singular.
3. have. Use the plural verb because "many" is plural.

Copley News Service

Nature Newswatch

Huddled masses



It's a cold, cruel world out there - and being a small animal in such a place is tough. Because small bodies have a larger surface-to-volume ratio than larger bodies, they lose heat more quickly. Controlling the balance between heat production and heat loss can be the difference between life and death.

The northern flying squirrel is a small, warm-blooded creature that stays active all winter, feeding on fungi, lichens, nuts and seeds, generating heat derived from both the food and the muscular work involved in foraging all night.

Resting in a tree cavity during the day, however, the squirrels conserve heat by sleeping together in huddled masses of up to 20 or more, benefiting from one other's body heat. In effect lowering their collective surface-to-volume ratio, the snuggling makes them one large animal in terms of heat loss.

Similar sleeping aggregations can also be found among snow buntings, bobwhites and garter snakes.

Northern flying squirrel
Glaucomys sabrinus
Head and body, 5 1/2-6 1/2 inches; tail, 4-5 1/2 inches
Habitat: coniferous and mixed forests
by Tim Herd © 2005
www.naturenewswatch.com

REAL ESTATE

DECOR SCORE

It's how you frame and arrange that matters

ROSE BENNETT GILBERT
Copley News Service

Q: I've hung a bunch of pictures on the short wall of our living room, but I'm not happy with the way they look. Nothing seems to relate to anything else, and they look more confused than interesting. Maybe you can show and tell some ways to handle groups of pictures better?

A: As with all things in the design world, "how" matters more than "what" when you are arranging a wall of artwork. Or anything else, in fact.

I've been pulled over to peruse art walls that display nothing more than magazine clippings, simply because they were so well framed and arranged. And I'm not talking about beautiful, expensive antique frames, either (although I've seen walls of frames hung toally empty because they are wonderful works of art all by themselves).

Variety seems to be the spice of interesting wall arrangements. To intrigue the eye, you need a play of different size and differently shaped frames. Try to work some ovals and rounds into your grouping, and use a mix of vertical and horizontal shapes.

Build in a little visual "tension," too: avoid perfect symmetry - nothing's more predictable than two same-size pictures hung side-by-side - unless it's that one large picture anchored above a chest or sofa. Much more interesting to balance large artworks with several smaller ones underneath or on one side. In the same way, three same-size pictures stacked up a wall is interesting; hung side-by-side-by-side, they're a bore.

New York designer Jeffrey Bilhuber offers several nuggets of professional



advice in his smart "Design Basics" book (Rizzoli publishers). He's worked out what he calls "the 1 plus 1 equals 3 Design Theory," based on his assertion that objects by themselves exist in a state of completion. But when they're combined with something of an opposite shape or finish, Bilhuber says, the sum is bigger than its parts.

In other words, objects gain importance from being seen together. The relationship between them is "connecting the dots," as Bilhuber puts it. One suggestion on how to connect those dots in a picture grouping: establish a set amount of space between them. The designer suggests hanging pieces 3 inches apart, no matter what shape or size you're dealing with.

That guideline, applied to the grouping in the photo we show here, helps achieve a classic sense of calm without the usual symmetrical balance. The variety of sizes and the different depths of the objects in this cohesive arrangement generates the kind of visual energy that makes all of Bilhuber's interiors look as contemporary as they are classic.

GOING THROUGH AN "IDENTITY CRISIS" AT HOME?

We're not here to discuss your private life, only to report on one of the freshest ideas to come from the latest International Home Furnishings Market in North Carolina: monogrammed furniture. Seabook Classics (www.seabookclassics.com) has added cottage-style, custom-painted headboards, chest, benches, you-name-it to the list of monogrammables that used to focus on towels, linens, and shirt sleeves.

Their painted monograms are available in four traditional styles in any of 38 colors. Now Goldilocks can never again plead confusion when she crawls into the wrong bed.

Rose Bennett Gilbert is the co-author of "Hampton Style" and associate editor of Country Decorating Ideas. Please send your questions to her at Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190, or online at copleysd@copleynews.com.

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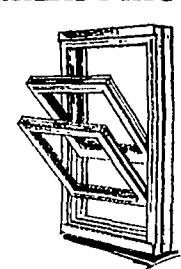


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REAL ESTATE

HERE'S HOW Fireplace brickwork can go from sooty to beauty

GENE GARY
Copley News Service

Q: The brick and grout surrounding the opening in our fireplace is black and sooty due to very large fires. Now that the pyromaniacs in our family have grown up and moved out, I would like to know how we can clean this area.

A: Smoke is a difficult stain to remove from masonry, particularly if your fireplace front is constructed of light-colored brick.

Often, a thorough scrubbing, using a stiff brush with scouring powder containing bleach, will do the job.

Rubbing alcohol also can be effective for the removal of smoke stains. Use a soaked rag or paintbrush to apply the alcohol and wipe the smoke stains off.

Another method uses a paste of powdered pumice and concentrated ammonia. Apply the paste heavily to the smoked area with a brush. Let it set for two hours, then scrub with

hot water and soap. Rinse with clear water.

For more stubborn stains, a poultice using trichloroethylene will pull stains from the pores. Precaution should be taken to ventilate a closed space in which trichloroethylene is used, as the fumes can be harmful.

There are also good masonry cleaners on the market. Check with your masonry dealer for products specifically recommended for the removal of smoke stains.

Another source would be ProSoCo, a leading manufacturer of masonry restoration and conservation products. Visit the company's Web site, www.prosoco.com, or call (800) 255-4255 for information on their product line and recommended cleaners for smoke stains.

Be sure and follow manufacturer directions carefully and give the cleaner plenty of time to work. More than one application is often necessary.

If you still can't remove the

staining, there are a number of stronger chemicals on the market for cleaning bricks. Choosing the right one depends on whether the brick is glazed or unglazed. Avoid acid cleaners on glazed brick and light-colored brick.

a masonry contractor who has the special expertise, equipment and products to deal with your specific cleaning problem.

Q: We have a terrazzo fireplace hearth that is very dull and spotted. The numerous cleaners we have tried have been ineffective. Any suggestions you could give us regarding cleaning and restoration of this surface would be appreciated.

A: First, give your hearth a good cleaning, scrubbing with a nylon scouring pad or stiff bristle brush - do not use a wire brush - using warm to hot water. While the surface is still damp, apply a poultice 1/2-inch thick, made as follows: Using an abrasive cleaning powder, preferably one containing bleach, make a thick paste with hot water, about 1 pound of powder for each 1 1/2 square feet of surface to be covered.

Let the poultice remain on the surface for 48 hours, or until completely dry. Then remove with wood paddles to prevent scratching the surface. Rinse well.

If this fails, make a poultice of whitening and hydrogen peroxide, to which a few drops of household ammonia is added. Spread over the stained areas and let dry. A third suggestion: Use a "flush-off" paint and varnish remover. You can also try a commercial stain remover.

As mentioned above, I would suggest contacting ProSoCo's customer hot line, (800) 255-4255, for their suggestions on products. After the stains have been removed, give the surface two coats of a sealer recommended for terrazzo. This will help resist further staining.

Send e-mail to copleysd@copleynews.com or write to *Here's How*, Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190. Only questions of general interest can be answered in the column.

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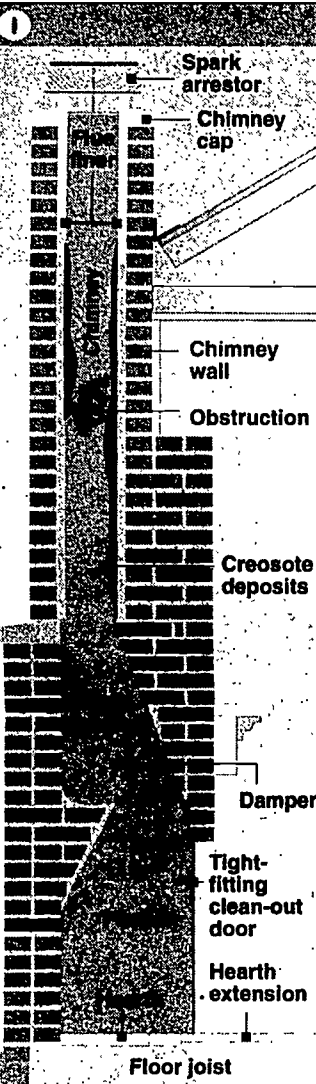
HOME-HOW-TO

Got smoke?

To prevent fires, it is paramount that chimneys are cleaned regularly to remove unburned gases and tar. Your chimney should be examined at least once a year. The chimney not only gets dirty from use, but the bricks weather and can become loose with age, and flues may crack or become blocked. To make cleaning easier, practice good chimney hygiene and follow a regular maintenance and cleaning schedule.

- Scrub masonry with scouring powder containing bleach, using a stiff brush.
- Soak a rag or paintbrush with rubbing alcohol and wipe off smoke stains.
- Apply a paste of powdered pumice and concentrated ammonia with a brush and let it set for two hours before scrubbing with soap and water.
- Use a poultice with trichloroethylene to pull stains from the masonry.
- Try a smoke cleaner for masonry by ProSoCo. For more information, phone (800) 255-4255.
- Build smaller, hotter fires that burn more completely and produce less smoke.
- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned on a regular basis.

Source: Chimney Safety Institute Of America Copley News Service / Pete Chenard



GARDEN TIP

Forced bulbs: a bright idea

Begin 15-16 weeks before you expect your bulbs to bloom.

1. **Choose** a pot that is at least twice as tall as the bulbs.
2. **Mix** bulb fertilizer into your potting soil.
3. **Fill** the pot with a light potting soil so that when the bulb is placed on top of the soil, the growing tip reaches the top of the pot.
4. **Place** the bulbs on top of the soil. They should be placed close together, but should not touch each other or the pot.

5. **Sprinkle** soil around the bulbs until only the shoulders are showing.

6. **Water** the soil and keep it moist.

7. **Place** the pot in a cool dark place, such as a refrigerator. Most bulbs need about 12 weeks of cold storage. (No cooling is required for some bulbs, such as amaryllis.)

8. **Move** the pot to a warm, sunny spot to stimulate bloom when the stems are about 2 inches tall.

9. **Plant** ivy around the bulbs when they begin to bloom.

PARTS OF A TULIP

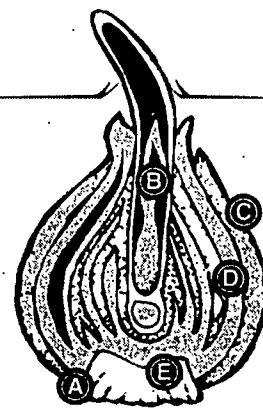
A. Roots take up water and nutrients

B. Flower bud at the center is the gestating bud that must not freeze

C. Tunic paperlike outer covering

D. Scales hold stored food needed by the bulb to grow

E. Basal stem connects flower, scales and roots



Copley News Service / Pete Chenard

A GREENER VIEW Bulbs can bloom early in force

JEFF RUGG
Copley News Service

Q: I want to force some bulbs, but I don't know what to do. Can you help?

A: Forcing is a botanical term for causing a plant to produce its shoots and blooms earlier than usual. You can't force a bulb to do something it isn't designed to do. You can coax your bulbs into blooming early or into blooming indoors by giving them the conditions they need.

Bulbs, like all plants from cold or dry climates, have a dormancy period. This is a time when there is little or no growth.

In nature, plants wait out the cold or dry times in a variety of ways. Many plants have a storage area built into the root system that supplies the new growth with nutrients until the leaves can take over producing carbohydrates.

True bulbs look like onions. They have a ring of roots at the bottom (the basal plate), a little new growth sticking out the top, and layers of tissue (scales) surrounded by dry skin (the tunic) on the outside. Some bulbs, like lilies, don't have a tunic. Some plants have underground stems called tubers, which have several new growth points called eyes, just

like a potato or a caladium. A corn is a solid mass of stem storage tissue that has buds and is typical of a gladiolus.

Tuberous roots such as dahlia and ranunculus are true roots that lack nodes and internodes. Buds are present only at the crown or stem end of the root.

Rhizomes are thickened horizontal stems growing along or below the surface of the ground. Underground rhizomes of canna and calla produce roots on their lower surfaces and send shoots above ground. Most of these spring- and summer-blooming flowers are generically known as bulbs.

Bulbs that grow in cold climates need to be cold for many hours below certain temperatures. Once these requirements are met, the bulb can begin growing a new top. The flower bud for next spring's growth is already deeply hidden and it matures into a full-sized bloom as the dormancy period ends. Roots also grow during dormancy.

As long as you can re-create the chilling requirements for a particular type of bulb, it will begin the next phase of growth when the temperature warms up. Most

CONTINUED
GREENER VIEW...Page 25

REAL ESTATE

CONTINUED FROM
GREENER VIEW...Page 24

tulips, daffodils and other spring-blooming bulbs need to be chilled for at least 12 weeks - 15 is even better. The temperature should be kept just above freezing to as high as the upper 40s. This can be done in a refrigerator or outside, buried in the ground. Being buried in the ground does not mean planted; it could mean planted in a pot then buried in the ground.

The bulbs need to be kept in the

dark during this dormancy time. Because of the need to grow roots, the bulbs can't just be left in the bag and set in the fridge. Plant them into normal potting soil and keep the soil damp during the whole time it is being refrigerated. Some summer-blooming rhizomes, such as daylilies can just be left in the bag under cold storage, then planted in the spring.

The longer the bulb is chilled, the more the conditions mimic a natural winter and the faster the

bulb will bloom when warmed up. The shorter the time it is chilled, the less time the roots will have to grow and the longer it will take the bulb to bloom.

Bulbs listed as early bloomers are easier to force. Shorter-growing varieties will force better indoors, because they won't become floppy and fall apart.

For southern areas of the United States that don't get a sufficiently long chilling time at the proper temperatures, Dutch growers have implemented a chilling pro-

gram. They prechill the bulbs so they can be planted outdoors to bloom in the spring. They are not cooled in soil, so they still need to go in the ground to grow roots.

The other problem with spring bulbs in the south is that they get too warm too quickly, and the leaves go dormant before the bulb has enough carbohydrates to keep it alive another year. Spring-flowering bulbs are typically grown as annuals in the south.

Some hyacinths, crocuses and

tulips are sold prechilled for use indoors. Just buy them, plant them and watch them grow. There are special hyacinth jars that allow the bulb to sit up above the water, while the roots grow down into the water. They will stay in bloom, producing their sweet fragrance for a couple of weeks. As each bulb finishes, a

ke its place, by
CONTINUED
GREENER VIEW...Page 26

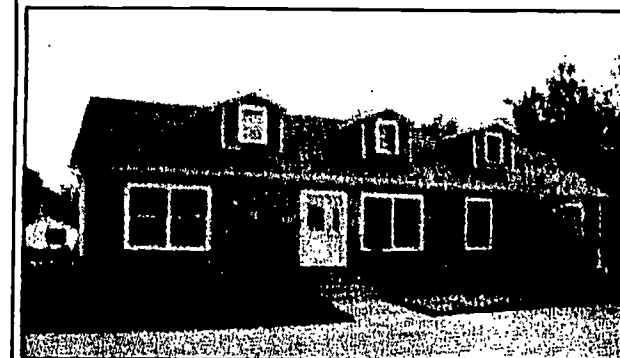
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HOME IDEAS

CONTINUED FROM
GREENER VIEW...Page 25

staggering the starting times, a hyacinth can be in bloom for many dreary winter weeks.

As the bulb's chilling requirement has been met, it begins to break dormancy and the top of the plant will begin growing. Once it is 2 inches above the soil, it should be moved into bright - but not direct - sunlight. The soil should be kept moist and the temperature should start out for the first week or two in the 50s, before warming up later when the shoots turn green. Rotate the pots so the plants are evenly lit. The blooms last longer if the pots are moved into a cool room at night.

Bulbs that originally grew in naturally dry environments don't need to be chilled. They need to go through a dry dormancy, during which they are not watered. When they are repotted and receive water, they begin to come out of dormancy. Amaryllis and paperwhite narcissus are two bulbs that are sold ready-to-grow as soon as they receive water. Paperwhites can be grown in a vase filled with marbles and water.

Forcing bulbs to bloom early usually

causes them to consume more carbohydrates and to be unprepared for another year's growth. It is typical for a forced bulb to take several years of recuperation to bloom again, even if it is planted in normal conditions. Except for amaryllis, most forced bulbs are disposed of after blooming. Crocus and daffodils offer the best chance at survival outdoors. The best choices for forcing cold-weather bulbs are crocus, daffodil, galanthus (snowdrop) hyacinth, iris x hollandica, iris reticulata and tulip. Precooled or chilled bulbs are even better.

Bulbs take a month or so to bloom after dormancy ends. If the chilling period is 12 to 16 weeks, add another month to plan for flowers four to five months in advance of when you want them, if you do the chilling. Precooled bulbs can bloom a month after planting. E-mail questions to Jeff Rugg at info@greenerview.com. © Copley News Service Visit Copley News Service at www.copleynews.com.

Century 21
Pro-Team



Custom Built-All Brick Bi-Level - Morton Grove

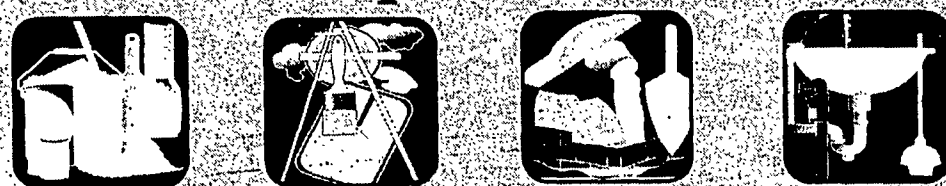


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AUTO SCENE

Newest Range Rover is built for off-road and street

Mark Maynard
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

When I got past the sticker shock of fuel economy ratings for the Range Rover Sport - 14/19 - I found a commanding luxury vehicle more like a sports sedan than an SUV. It takes lots of horsepower, heavy-gauge steel, permanent four-wheel drive and a network of computerized suspension enhancements to make a Range Rover the capable trail climber that it is. But all that also makes it a good road vehicle.

In the Land Rover family, the Sport is the third SUV and the second in the Range Rover line. Compared with the Range Rover, the venerable flagship, the Sport is the younger sibling that is just as handsome, more athletic and better at socializing with the opposite sex.

The Sport shares an architecture with the Land Rover LR3, but has a shortened wheelbase and technology not available on the LR3. It has the classic Range Rover silhouette, but it's more aerodynamic and tough-looking. It was built for handling and compliance in all situations, the company says.

It is sold in two models with two engine choices. Pricing starts at \$56,750 for the HSE with a 300-horsepower, 4.4-liter V-8. Standard equipment includes a six-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode, a 4WD system with a two-speed electronic transfer gearbox, an electronically controlled locking center differential and an optional rear differential lock.

A power sunroof is standard, as is the killer 13-speaker Harman, Kardon, Logic 7 audio system.

The base vehicle is still a truck that could get dirty and desert pinstriped. With the optional luxury packages, however, the leather upgrade is so refined it would be negligent to scuff it up off-road.

And, how many owners would risk scrubbing one of the 19-inch Continental CrossContact tires or alloy wheels on an off-road whim?

"For people who come to Land Rover, there is some desire to have off-road capability in their vehicle, but whether they use it or just boast of it is up to debate," says spokesman

Larry Rosinski. "It's the heritage that is important to them."

Today's test truck was equipped for Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills and had an as-tested price of \$64,900. As equipped, it was as luxurious and inviting as the full-size sedans from Jaguar, Lexus or those German marques - but cheaper. Free scheduled maintenance is part of the four-year warranty.

shut out, and it just feels good to throw this SUV into a sweeping off-ramp or backcountry curve.

The air suspension adjusts and balances all weight management and leaves no chance for unseated tippleness. Even when pulling into an angled driveway, there is little to no head-tilt for passengers. That's an accomplishment for a truck with a 7,700-pound tow rating.

The driver has command seating. There are good sightlines over the front, over the fenders and over the shoulder. Front and rear park sensors help greatly in tight spots. Put all that together and the 38-foot turning circle makes the Sport handler in most urban situations than a large sedan.

One gripe involved the heated windshield at night. Its array of micro-tiny heating elements made

appearance.

The instrument panel has well-integrated features and intuitive placement of controls.

The navigation system has a user-friendly learning curve, and it's not necessary to page through the screen display to adjust audio or temperature.

Too hot? Reach for the fan knob. Want the airflow away from your face? Well, look here, there's a dial right at hand. That's simplicity and sophistication to the max-machine interface. And it's the beauty of designing amid the space of an SUV. Passengers in back get raised seating, a headrest for all, a center armrest, grab handles with coat hooks and reading lights, but no cup holders that I could find.

The back seat easily flips and folds for cargo extension. The tailgate has a lift glass so you don't always have to heft the whole door, and this one's heavy enough that an automatic closer might be a readily purchased option.

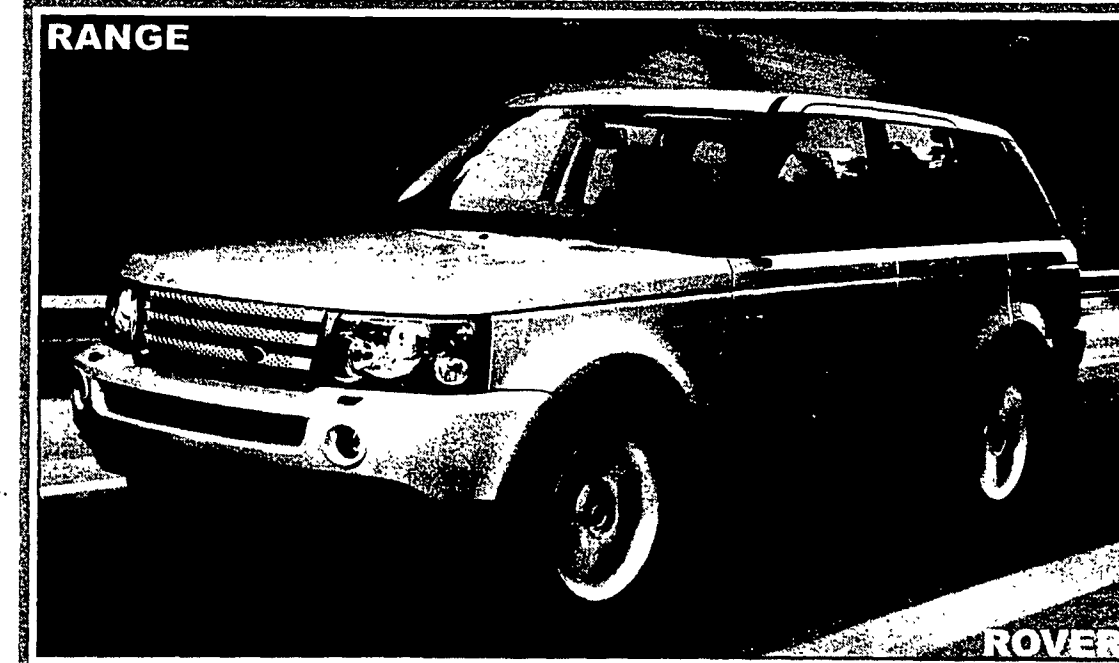
Safety features include six air bags, including side-curtain air bags that run the length of the passenger compartment, and dynamic stability control (to help maintain the intended direction after the driver has sent the Sport into a turn).

An electronic parking brake is one of the smartest ideas in the industry. A small switch on the center console sets the brake, which makes the foot-pumper and even the hand brake seem old-fashioned and a waste of space.

The Sport is built with an Old World vaultlike solidity that not even Mercedes does any more. That robustness makes the truck feel as if it will last a lifetime.

For all the hype touting the Sport as a performance SUV, the non-supercharged HSE is only one-tenth of a second faster to 60 mph than the full-size Rover HSE. And the big, supercharged Rover is one-tenth of a second faster than the super-charged Sport.

Mark Maynard is driving in cyberspace at mark.maynard@uniontrib.com. Visit Copley News Service at www.copleynews.com.



The supercharged model starts at \$69,750 and comes with 20-inch wheels and most available option packages for the HSE.

Its 4.2-liter supercharged V-8 puts out 390 horsepower and 410 foot-pounds of torque. The supercharged engine can push this heavy hauler, which weighs 5,764 pounds with all the options, to 60 mph in 7.2 seconds, a full second quicker than the HSE. Fuel mileage is 13/18.

It's painful pumping the premium into this rig, but the truck overdelivers in pleasure. And on a long drive in the test truck, I was averaging 15.7 mpg, according to the onboard computer.

The high-octane rumble of the V-8 is provocative. The cabin is so well sound-isolated that all worries are

The handling is credited to the Dynamic Response system of electronically controlled anti-sway bars that stiffen up the vehicle in the corner, but fade into the background off-road for maximum articulation.

Ground effect spoilers (part of the lower body trim) at the base of the front doors are functional to help keep the vehicle grounded at speed. And they are not as easy to tear off on a woods road as you might expect.

The interior dimensions are close to the flagship Range Rover. The Sport is about 7 inches shorter and has a few inches less shoulder room. Front head and shoulder room are good, but leg room can be close for those taller than about 6 feet 3 inches, front or rear, but that's true in either truck.

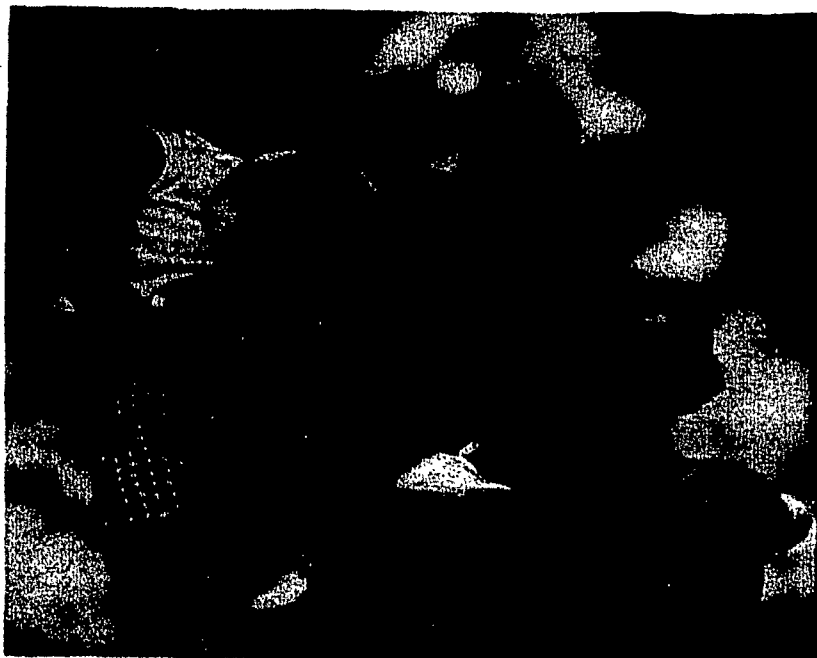
driving, especially in the rain, somewhat blurry.

SUVs are terrific for space to build-in conveniences. The Sport's broad center console (with some slim storage) allows room to work the shifter in manual mode and use the cup holders.

The front seats have pull-down armrests on the inboard side that can be adjusted for angle. Too restricting? Just push them up and out of the way and spread out. There are dual glove boxes, too, and a dashboard tray on the passenger side and dual storage slots in each front door.

Wide door panels - leather-covered with wood trim - give two levels of arm-resting comfort. The wood trim looks real, and the brushed aluminum trim pieces have an aircraft-quality

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