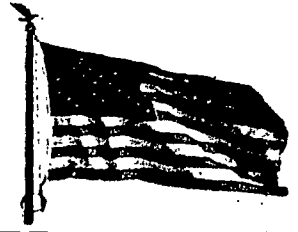


Year in Review 2005 *Part II*

THE BUGLE



SINCE 1957

THURSDAY JANUARY 5, 2006

VOL. 49 NO. 33

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Helping Those in Need

NAME Edelstein, of Skokie, holds a sign on Dempster St. in Morton Grove over the weekend. His daughter and several other school children from the area held a car wash over the weekend to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

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Niles Zoning Board Chair Callero Re-appointed

All of the politicking from the past election cycle boiled to a head with the re-appointment of the Zoning Board chairman. His appointment was one of three contested posts. The desire to have a woman on the zoning board was also raised.

Krier backs off plan to name patrolman new deputy chief

Officials have charted a new course for leadership of the police department. While the mayor and other officials had planned to appoint 15-year police vet Marvin Bormschlegel deputy chief, they have since changed their minds. The police chief is retiring at the end of the year.

Dave Sullivan, Republican State Senator will not seek reelection in 2006

Citing a desire to earn more

money to pay his children's tuition bills, State Sen. Dave Sullivan is bowing out of the Springfield legislature.

Sullivan will work as a hired gun lobbyist. The tuition bills for his two-college aged children are expected to reach \$60,000.

Uptown project stalled

With Uptown development stalled by a legal challenge, the City of Park Ridge is looking to back up the PRC developers with cash. The city is considering indemnification for the bank and developers to protect against the lawsuit. That means that if the suit is successful, the city would fork over cash to cover the costs.

\$17,000 later; Bedoya family caught between rock and hard place

A Bunker Hill family in Niles trying to upgrade their home has been stalled by village fines and fees. The family wanted to build out on their home but vocal neighbors opposed the plan. At the Sept. 28, 2004 meeting, the Niles Village Board put a moratorium on

YEAR IN REVIEW

any Bunker Hill building. 70 percent of homes in the subdivision have backyards that do not conform to village rules.

Bugle launches kids page, new food column

The Bugle newspaper kicked off two new content items this week. Bugle Kids offers younger readers enjoyment and 'foodies' can enjoy the new "Perfect Pairings" food column added to spice up Bugle content.

"We're very happy to announce these new features," said Bugle Publisher Rich Masterson. "We hope that our readers will continue to enjoy their newspaper and encourage them to let us know what more they would like to see."

Mayor Nick Blase Wants OTB for Niles

After Inter-Trak partners was rebuffed in Morton Grove, Niles mayor Nick Blase says he supports locating an OTB in Niles municipal limits.

"Personally, I'm against gambling," he said. "But it's hard to ignore that kind of revenue." The OTB could bring in \$400,000 a

year to village officers. The OTB company first wanted to locate at Lehigh and Oakton but then Morton Grove outlawed off-track betting.

Niles couple open unique garden

Norm and Nancy Stanczeks award-winning garden has been 30 years in the making.

The couple opened the 9051 Maryland Garden in Niles to the public last week as part of the Open Days program of the Garden Conservatory.

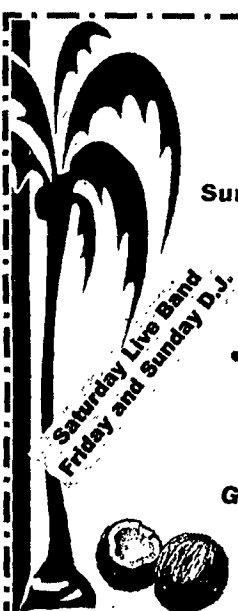
Hearing on Islamic House of Worship at Shermer, Golf in Glenview Continue

A small Islamic sect wants to build a holy house off Shermer and Golf. The Islamic House of Worship would contain a prayer area, school classrooms, a social hall and office space. Officials said the facility is different than traditional Muslim mosques. The faith is led by Swiss-born Aga Khan who lives in Paris and traces his ancestry to the prophet Muhammed. There are between 5,000 and 15,000 Muslims in Chicago and 15 million to 20 million worldwide.

Morton Grove Liquor Licenses Under Scrutiny

An audit has begun to probe the liquor licenses in Morton Grove. Officials said key information may be missing from liquor forms and certificates. Business owners have been given two certificates that expire every six months though that differs from official rules.

OTB operators quiet



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on Niles site

Inter-Trak Partners, LLC has declined to discuss the possibility of opening an off-track-betting parlor in Niles. Meanwhile, the mayor said he has received seven phone calls from residents on the issue. Five callers supported a Niles OTB and two opposed the plan.

New commission to promote community health

A local doctor whose son is undergoing drug abuse rehab is looking to create a new public health commission in Park Ridge. The commission would work with the hospital and schools to battle drug and alcohol abuse amongst local youngsters.

"We want to make this a cleaner community," said Dr. John Bello.

Park Ridge Approved \$5M guarantee to Developer

The Park Ridge City Council has approved a \$5 million guarantee to protect Uptown Developers PRC against revenue that may be lost if a lawsuit filed by a resident trying to halt the development is successful. Officials said the likelihood that resident Charles Baldacchino's lawsuit prevails in court is minimal, but the guarantee was needed to ease the anxiety of PRC. Baldacchino balked at this, saying his suit is on solid footing and that the Uptown development is illegal.

Police investigate tire-slashing spree

An estimated 50 vehicles had
Continues...
see REVIEW next page.

YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW:

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

their tires slashed last week. The majority of the cuttings occurred in Park Ridge, but Niles police also received reports of vehicles having their tires slashed. The slashing occurred over the weekend.

"In this instance, we are talking about quite a large number of vehicles," said the Park Ridge deputy police chief.

New Morton Grove Library Trustees Sworn In

Three new MG library trustees have been sworn into office. Agnes Quinn, Patrick Kansoer and Sadiqua Ahmad joined the four-member board last week. This ensures the board will have an easier time making quorum for their meetings.

Charges pending in beating, stabbing

A melee of six men were involved in a stabbing and shooting on the 8000 block of W. Church Aug. 7. The group of men

beat, shot and stabbed the Niles resident. Police had two suspects in custody at press deadline time. The victims injuries were not life threatening.

Niles Police to Retire Badge of Officer

The police badge of Steven Zourkas, the first ever Niles officer to die in the line of duty, is set to be retired in honor next week. The community mourned the unprecedented loss this week.

"Zourkas was a fantastic guy and a good police officer," said police chief Dean Strzelecki. "Other departments, like Chicago, have a tradition of retiring badges of officers lost in the line of duty and we felt this was the best thing to do."

Morton Grove Store may have sold liquor in case of drowning teen

A 42-year-old Morton Grove shopkeeper was arrested Monday night after police said he sold liquor to minors. That liquor was then consumed at a party attended by a teen who then drowned. Pinal

Vyas was released on \$1,000 bond and issued a Sept. 6 court date.

OTB proposed for Golf Mill Site

An OTB company called Inter-Trak Partners, Inc. has applied to operate a betting parlor in Niles. The application will be discussed by the Plan/ Zoning Commission Sept. 12. The OTB could bring in about \$400,000 per year to village coffers.

Leaning Tower YMCA Resident Dies After Fall

A Touhy YMCA resident, 62, died last week after sustaining injuries in a fall. Authorities say the victim was 'highly intoxicated.' The injured person was found at the rear loading dock and transported to the hospital passing away four hours later.

Niles Trustees, Mayor Visit Out of Town

Continues...
see REVIEW next page.

Morton Grove Revokes Quick Stop Liquor License

After a three-hour hearing, a liquor store-owner had his license revoked last week. The owner of Quick Stop Food & Liquor is believed to have sold booze to teens who threw a party. One Glenview teen attended the party and then drowned and died.

Sales tax in Niles increases .25 percent

Niles shoppers will be coughing up some extra change after the Village Board approved a sales tax increase at the Aug. 23 meeting. The hike brings the total sales tax to 8.75 percent. The new tax takes effect Jan. 1. Officials said the tax rate brings Niles in accord with other communities.

20 Maine South Students Caught by Police at Underage Party

Four Park Ridge police squad cars "crashed a party" Saturday night sending 20 teens scrambling. About 25 others remained on the scene and told police they had not been drinking; it was those who fled that drank. An anonymous letter sent to The Bugle says a star football player was involved.

THE BUGLE

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Police Retire Badge of Officer Killed on Duty



Niles police retired the badge of the late Steven Zourkas last week. He was the first Niles officer to die on duty. A ceremony was held and a plaque was placed on the Honor Wall of the police station. The officer died in a traffic accident. He swerved to avoid a pedestrian, crashed into the median, and then cascaded into a parking lot. -August 18

REVIEW:

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

OTBs

To examine what they are voting on, Niles mayor Nick Blase, four trustees and four members of the zoning board dropped by two OTB's operated by the company that wants to open a horse betting parlor in Golf Mill Mall.

"They were impressive," the mayor said. "Clean, nice-looking and spacious."

It was not known if any of the Niles officials bet on the horses during the visits. -August 25

Quick Stop reopens after appeal to state liquor commission

A local shop that sold booze that led to a Glenview teens death reopened this week.

The store had its liquor license revoked by Morton Grove mayor Rick Krier but two days later the state liquor commission said it could continue to operate. Glenview police have charged the store-owner with an illegal sale to a minor after an investigation into the drowning death of Glenview teen Joseph Tyrapak. -August 25

Morton Grove Administrator Resigns

The administrator of Morton Grove is departing village hall for a job in neighboring Skokie where he will head the fire department. Ralph Czerwinski will take the helm of the Skokie Fire Department in 60 days.

YEAR IN REVIEW

"There were other openings that I saw that I didn't apply for because I enjoyed what I was doing here," he said. "But when I saw the Skokie opening, I thought it was a great opportunity to get back to something I really love." -September 1

Residents, schools work to aid hurricane victims

The local community mobilized to support the victims of the deadly storm Hurricane Katrina. The local Knights of Columbus, Red Cross and Notre Dame High School are among the groups who got to an early start to collect money and supplies for the victims of the disaster. "Can you imagine being uprooted and losing everything?" asked Robert Galassi. "We're going to have to help these people." -September 8

Morton Grove mayor willing to negotiate to end TIF lawsuit

The village of Morton Grove is looking for ways to settle a lawsuit that has stalled the village's big tax increment financing plans. The suit was filed by Larry Bowman. He is the owner of Domicile Furniture which he says was falsely appraised by the village. -September 8

D64 to hear objections to \$5 million bond sale

Speak Sept. 12 or forever hold your peace.

Niles Park Ridge School Dist. 64 has a public hearing set for that date to hear from any taxpayers who object to a \$5 million bond sale under consideration. The bonds will cover costs as property tax proceeds come into school coffers late.

-September 8

Niles Zoning Board gives nod to OTB

The Niles Zoning Board/Plan Commission voted 5 to 0 to accept a proposal to bring an Off-Track Betting parlor to Golf Mill Mall Monday, Sept. 12. People raised security, safety and gambling addiction concerns. The commission required that adequate lighting and security be provided at the site. -September 15

Retired police officer found dead in YMCA

Niles police discovered the corpse of a retired Evanston police officer living in the Touhy YMCA Sept. 5. The body of Donald Pfau, 52, was discovered in room 431 after his brother contacted the YMCA out of concern. -September 15

Judge to Rule on Park Ridge Uptown Lawsuit Oct. 13

A Cook County Judge is set to rule on a lawsuit challenging the mammoth \$122 million Park Ridge uptown development project. Judge Richard Siebel listened to arguments in the suit seeking to block the development. The suit was filed by Chuck Baldacchino challenging the huge project that would bring high-density modern lofts, condos and retail to the area bounded by Touhy, Northwest Highway, Summit Avenue and Morris Street. -September 15

Golf Mill May Land 14-screen Movie Theater

accepting a new 14-screen movie theater at the popular shopping mall.

Officials originally considered a 16-screen moviehouse, but determined that there was not quite enough space on the movie theater site. The mall used to host a three-screen movie theater, but that closed a few years ago. -September 22

Morton Grove TIF Case Ruling Favorable for Village

A Cook County Judge has issued a ruling into the Morton Grove Lehigh/Ferris Tax Increment Financing District. At first blush, the 85-page ruling of Judge Alexander P. White appears to be a win for Village Hall. However, officials worried the case concerning the condemnation of Larry Bowman's Domicile Furniture Warehouse could drag on. -September 22

Maine South Student Struck by Auto Sept. 2

A 14-year-old Maine South girl was struck by a car crossing Talcott. The driver of the car was also a Maine South student. The accident led to call for ramped up security at the crossing or consideration of a new traffic sign there. The Illinois Department of Transportation has been consulted as they may have authority over the roadway. -September 22

Niles Board Approves OTB for Golf Mill Site

A new Off Track Betting parlor was approved by a 4-3 vote of the

Continues... see REVIEW next page.

YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW:

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Niles Village Board with mayor Nick Blase breaking the tie voting in favor of the OTB. Trustees Kim Biederman, Bart Murphy and Louella Preston voted against the proposal while trustees Robert Callero, Tom Bondi and Andrew Przybylo voted in favor of allowing an OTB to open in the former Circuit City in Golf Mill Mall. -September 29

New Crossing Guard Deployed at Maine South

After a Sept. 2 student pedestrian car accident at Maine South triggered a debate about crossing safety, the City of Park Ridge stationed a crossing guard in front of the school. Ald. Rex Parker had called for a police officer to be stationed in front of the school but police chief Jeff Caudill demurred. Eventually, a crossing guard was stationed there as a compromise. -September 29

Golf Mill, Kerasotes sign deal for new theaters

Get ready for the popcorn shows. A new 14-screen theater is set to be constructed at Golf Mill Mall in Niles. The deal for the theater was signed Friday, according to the community development director. -September 29

Auto Hits, Kills Niles Woman in Oakton Crosswalk

Maria Keller, 87, of Niles was struck by a car and killed Sept. 29 at the southwest corner of Oriole and Oakton.

"At 87, she sustained enough injuries to die from," said Park Ridge Deputy Chief Tom Svoboda. "The paramedics did transport her to the hospital. She died about three hours later."

She was hit by Mike Troiani of Niles. -October 6

Morton Grove Offers Top Staff Position to Glenview Official

Glenview assistant village manager Joe Wade may become the next Morton Grove village administrator.

"I've already offered him the job and we'll bring it in front of the board," said mayor Richard Krier. If approved, Wade would take the

place of current administrator and former fire chief Ralph Czerwinski. -October 6

D64 Issues Working Cash Bonds to Cover Apparent Shortfall

At a Sept. 26 meeting, the Dist. 64 School Board approved a 2005-06 budget that is balanced however an overall shortfall exists. The board approved the sale of up to \$5 million in bonds Sept. 26. The bonds would cost homes worth \$800,000 about \$100 extra per year for three years. Critics said it was a 'backdoor referendum.' -October 6

Morton Grove Lowers Liquor License Fees

Changes to Morton Grove's liquor license include lower application fees and a requirement that retailers must have a camera videotaping all booze buys. Previously a Class A liquor license cost \$3,500 with an annual \$3,500 fee. After the changes, the fees were reduced to \$1,000 with an annual fee of \$2,750. -October 13

Niles Village Manager has Mixed Feelings on Resignation of Office

Village Manager Mary Kay Morrissey is preparing to begin retirement at the end of the year after working for the village for more than three decades. Morrissey has been village manager for three years and has been a village employee for 32 years. Although she is looking forward to her retirement, she said she also feels very sad and it will be difficult to leave. "This place is like a family," she said. -October 13

Park View Adopts Linne Woods

Park View School in Morton Grove has joined the Forest Preserve Keeper Corps and will work to keep the land clean and fresh. They will pull out an invasive plant called Garlic Mustard and try to keep trash away. 120 sites have been adopted through the Keeper Corps by about 7,000 volunteers. -October 13

Alderman says Park Ridge's \$650,000

Continues... see REVIEW page 7.

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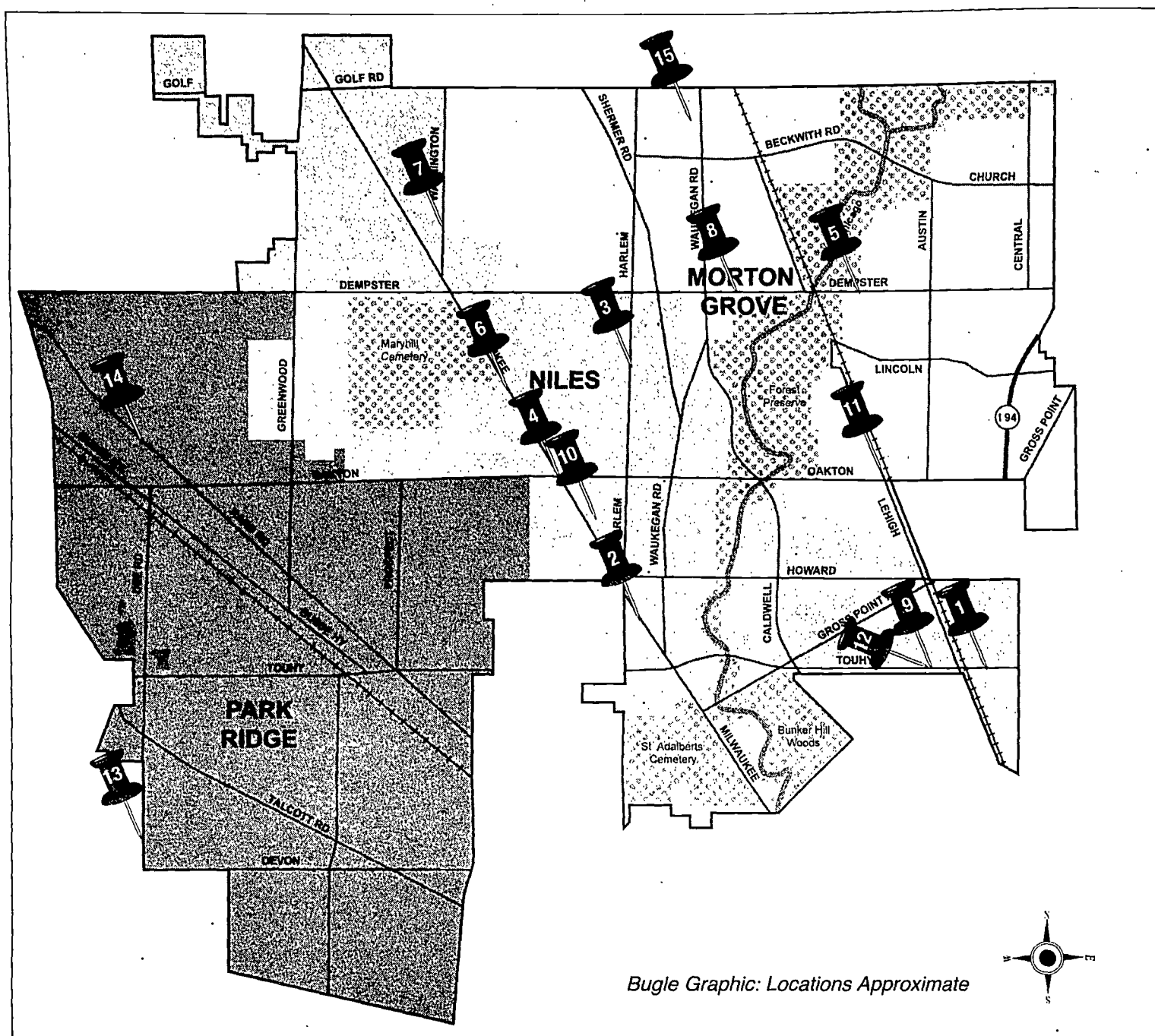
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POLICE BLOTTER: YEAR IN REVIEW

THE BUGLE



Bugle Graphic: Locations Approximate

1 Date steals car (5600 Touhy)

On April 14, a man met a woman on the corner of Western and Peterson in Chicago. He rented a room at the Days Inn and the two then went to a grocery store for late-night food and drinks. She said she was tired and would wait for him in the car. When he walked out of the grocery store, his 2002 Saturn was gone.

Police search turns bad (2900 W. Summerdale, Chicago)

A Morton Grove police officer was wounded Jan. 21 and two men were dead after police tried to search a Chicago home connected to a Morton Grove home invasion where the resident was pistol-whipped. When approaching the location, two men began to fire at police and were shot and killed.

2 Don't use my bowling ball (7300 Milwaukee)

An 18-year-old from Park Ridge became enraged when a stranger continued to use his bowling ball. An argument

broke out and the man punched the bowler in the face for using his bowling ball.

3 Chase (8300 Harlem)

A Joliet man was arrested for leading police on a high-speed chase July 1 and trying to run over a police officer. The chase began when officers pulled up to a vehicle in the St. John Brebeuf parking lot. The man's vehicle path was partially blocked by the squad and the officer approached on foot. The driver revved the engine, slammed the car in reverse and evaded the squads. At this point, he allegedly accelerated towards the officer on foot and the officer barely avoided being run over. The driver then sped away out of the parking lot. After zooming recklessly through Niles, the driver pulled into the police station and turned himself in peacefully.

4 Home invader captured (8000 Milwaukee)

Niles police apprehended a man shot in the face during a May 2004 Elgin home invasion June 9. During the home invasion, the suspect, 33 of Chicago,

entered an apartment with a handgun. The apartment owner wrestled the gun from him and shot him in the face. The resident was shot in the leg during the struggle but recovered. The home invader was turned over to Kane County authorities June 9.

Firefighter suspected in 10 arsons (Park Ridge)

Chicago Fire Lt. Jeffrey Boyle was arrested Feb. 11 and is suspected of igniting 10 blazes in Park Ridge. He was charged with four felony counts of arson.

5 Robbery suspect captured (6300 Dempster)

A Morton Grove officer chased down a robbery suspect on foot June 30 at the Road Runner Pantry. Police received a call that a neighboring vendor heard someone yell "Don't f...n move" followed by a loud bang. The officer arrived at the scene, saw a youth running away, chased him down and marched him back to the pantry where he was identified positively. He stated that he had been "drinking and smoking weed" before

entering the store and got into an argument over two beers with the cashier.

6 Indecent exposure (7300 Milwaukee)

A woman, 20 of Skokie was driving July 21 when a man in a shirt and blue pants pulled up beside her vehicle in a green Honda. The man smiled at the girl and blew her a kiss. Then, he pulled down his pants and played with himself as he eyed the girl.

Tire slashing spree (Park Ridge and parts of Niles)

An estimated 50 vehicles had their tires slashed from July 22 to July 23 in Park Ridge and parts of Niles. Nine Park Ridge tire slashings occurred the night of Friday July 22, 11 slashings were reported the next day and 25 more tire slashings occurred July 25. Niles police fielded five tire slashing calls July 22. Each of those vehicles had two tires cut apiece.

7 Stabbing and beating (8000 Church)

A resident looked outside his

window Sunday night the week of Aug. 6 and saw six to eight men standing near the backyard. He asked them to leave and one of the men attacked him with a baseball bat. The man was also stabbed in the torso. A gunshot was then fired hitting one of the attackers who was anonymously dropped off at the hospital.

8 Wrong picture on fake \$100 bill (6800 Dempster)

Two young women were shopping Aug. 6. They went separately to make their purchases. The first paid with a \$100 bill and left. The second came to the register, appeared nervous and handed over a \$100 bill as well. She then said she "had to find her friend" and walked out without the bill, change or merchandise. Upon examination, both fake bills had a picture of Abe Lincoln, not Ben Franklin and each bill had the same serial number.

9 Intoxicated man dies (Touhy YMCA)

A 62-year-old resident of the Touhy YMCA died around 4 a.m. Aug. 19 after a fall near the loading dock. A worker alerted authorities after finding the man near the rear of building.

10 Naked Burglar Chase (7900 Oconto)

A resident, 21, was awakened by a dog bark at 3:30 a.m. Aug. 25. He looked out the window and saw a prowler lurking near the backyard. He yelled and the man ran. The resident then jumped out of bed in the nude and ran outside chasing after the prowler. He ran south down Oconto a half block looking for the burglar. He then returned home, got dressed, jumped in his car and drove around looking for the burglar. The man had swiped a jackhammer and drill from the garage of the home.

11 Chicken Head Bomb (8100 Lehigh)

Morton Grove police assisted Glenview for a suspicious package call Aug. 27. A witness reported that a blond woman placed a strange black package on the railroad tracks. A police bomb squad opened the package and found three headless chickens.

12 Retired officer found dead (Touhy YMCA)

Niles police discovered the body of a retired Evanston police officer, 52, in poor conditions in room 431 of the Touhy YMCA Sept. 5. The corpse had been deteriorating and body flu-

Story Continues... see BLOTTER next page.

Most Significant Crime of 2005 As reported by The Bugle

Thieves pull off daring Golf Mill jewel heist

In a brazen move, two masked prowlers entered Golf Mill Mall in the middle of the night Aug. 3 and cleaned out a jewelry store.

The men cut a hole in the gate of the mall store and made off with loads of gold and silver jewelry and eluded a dragnet of police who swarmed on the mall in the middle of the night.

When the jewelry store alarm went off, a night mall cleaner was working by the food court and standing next to a water fountain.

He walked toward the alarm sound near the JC Penny's and saw two men in masks cleaning out the display cases of jewelry.

The burglars spotted the cleaner and pointed menacingly to a crowbar.

The cleaner then ran away in fear.

The on-duty mall security worker was on the other end of the mall during the incident and saw nothing.

Another night worker was on break sleeping in his car. The store alarm went off at 2:48 a.m. Police descended on the mall and created a perimeter around it searching for the duo.

The daring jewel heist remains unsolved. As of the end of the year, Niles Police representatives say that the case is still open.

BLOTTER:

A Year's worth of crime reports

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

ids and blood were all over the room. The retired officer had 26 years service on the Evanston police force and had been undergoing substance abuse counseling.

13 Student struck by auto (Maine South High School)

A 14-year-old crossing Talcott Road after school was struck by an auto driven by another student Sept. 2. The girl was transported to the hospital and treated for minor injuries. The accident led to a call by officials for a crossing guard or police officer at the location.

Murder/Suicide (1300 West Lois Ave.)

Park Ridge police investigated a murder suicide after finding two dead bodies Sept. 22. The deaths were caused by gunshots. The victims, 51, and 55, had been divorced two years ago. A 12-gauge shotgun was found and the woman's body was in the kitchen and the man in the living room.

14 Gun car robber (1100 Dee)

A victim was threatened with a handgun after approaching a vehicle as a thief yanked a radio out of a parked car. The witness approached the offender and saw him reaching into a car with a shattered window. As he got close, the offender brandished a handgun and ran away.

15 Accident runner caught in backyard (Golf and Sayre)

When police officers arrived at a crash scene they saw two totaled cars but only one driver. The vacant vehicle contained four empty beer bottles and no people. The other motorist said two men jumped out of the car after the accident and ran south down Sayre.

A resident on the 9500 block of Sayre then called police and said two strange men were in her backyard. Police arrived and arrested the duo.

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

YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

'Investment' in Peotone Airport is Gone

A City Council study of Park Ridge's \$650,000 investment in a third south-suburban airport has found that "the money's gone." The report outlines the history of the O'Hare battles during the administration of mayor Ron Wietecha. In late 2002, after years of legal battles against O'Hare expansion, Park Ridge joined Elk Grove and Bensenville and funded a study for the Will County Airport that would alleviate O'Hare congestion. The report recommended against a lawsuit to recoup the funds.

Morton Grove raises \$26,000 for Slidell, LA

Families came out in force this week and raised big bucks to help a community devastated by Hurricane Katrina through a fundraising event. "The heart of Morton Grove is very big," said mayor Rick Krier. The fundraiser included food, music, a raffle and entertainment to raise funds for the Katrina victims on the Gulf Coast.

Racing Board Delays Vote on Niles OTB

After objections from Arlington Park Race Course, the Illinois State Racing Board delayed a vote on a proposed OTB at the former Circuit City in Golf Mill Mall. The president of the racetrack argued the Niles OTB would hurt attendance.

The village has approved the Golf Mill OTB which is expected to bring in about \$400,000 per year in tax revenue.

Morton Grove Approves MCC Land Leasing Agreement

Village trustees approved an agreement between Morton Grove and the Muslim Community Center this week. The agreement calls for the MCC to build, maintain and operate a new parking lot. In return, the village would utilize about 25,000 sq. ft. of disputed green space. Some residents were concerned about "giving" public land to a private entity but supporters said the agreement is just a legal formality and nothing will change at the northwest part of

8601 Menard Street.
-October 27

Newspaper delivery- man menaced with bat

A newspaper deliveryman was threatened by two bat-wielding men last week in Morton Grove. The man typically delivers the downtown daily tabloid each morning from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. As he was driving down an alley, he saw a man relieving himself and another guy. He drove away but then a blue car pulled in front of his blocking the path. The two men got out of the car with baseball bats, swore and swung the bats at the car.

District 207 to Discuss Budget Cuts

The Maine Township High School Dist. 207 finance committee met Oct. 20 and considered increasing the number of classes for English teachers from four to five and eliminating secretarial positions. "I was not in favor of it," said board president Eric Leys. Out of 46 school districts in the area, Dist. 207 and Lake Forest are the only district whose English teach-

ers have four assignments rather than five. English teachers and supervisors are slated to discuss the matter more in the future.

Niles Drops Gambling Ordinance Charges

A proposed change to the Niles village code's gambling ordinance was not adopted at the last board meeting because of general confusion regarding the meaning of the measure. The only mention of the

Continues...

see REVIEW next page.

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COMMENTARY

Another Perspective Rearview Mirror

Morgan Dubiel
Columnist



Two men look out from prison bars; One saw the mud, the other saw the stars.

I watched *It's a Wonderful Life* again this Christmas. It must be the 40th time, but I still get choked up. The greatest loss that there is, is the loss that results from the failure of individuals to reach their potential. Poor George Bailey cannot even see his potential. You see he has accomplished so much and made such a difference, only it happened in the ordinary way. His goals and dreams only seemed unfulfilled. You see he kept them the same, even though circumstances continued to carry him in a different direction.

This is the time of year we each face our own personal challenges and opportunities. We look back over the past year and say, "How or what can I do better?" Nothing beats a written goal. Without one it is hard to know either where you have been or where you are going. When Alice asks the Cheshire Cat for directions, she simply states that she doesn't care where she goes as long as she gets somewhere. The Cat wisely answers

Randomness leads to failure. Think about why people don't succeed and you find a few common denominators: failure to do adequate realistic planning; lack of desire, commitment, and dedication; failure to use time effectively; and failure to correct one's mistakes. When our plans are given to thoughtful effort and based on eternal principles the results are nothing less than spectacular.

Through organizations like the Lions, the Niles Crime Stoppers, the Community Emergency Response Team, the Niles Chamber of Commerce, the Optimists Club, the Niles 986 and dozens of other volunteer groups individuals fulfill their highest potential. It occurs not only in formal organizations, but individually as we magnify our callings as husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbors and friends. The potential to do better and to do good is limitless as the human imagination. We can make a difference.

When you look about the world you can see chaos and danger or you can see order and opportunity.

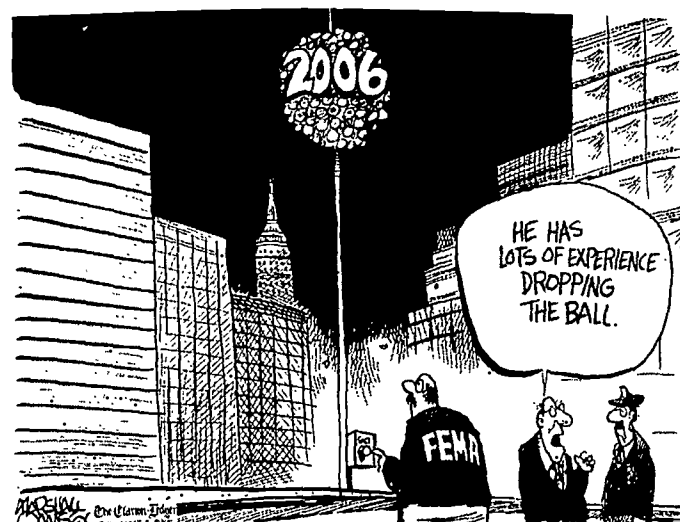
The Freedom House survey notes the modest advances in the Middle East, blue fingered Iraqis testify to the greater change in the region including Lebanon and Egypt, and throughout the world (apparently deny people the right to vote is a sure guarantee they will vote enthusiastically and in large numbers). 4.2 billion people live in countries rated free or mostly free; 64% of the world and the highest number in the surveys history. Although not perfect, as nothing in this world will be, the march of liberty is real.

Wherever you are in your life the world is rich with opportunities, opportunities to improve your own lot or that of others. Whether for your own self, family, community or world you are valuable and needed. Look back with pride at your accomplishments, make corrections and strive for even greater things in 2006. Overall be positive. We live in a negative world, a world of entropy and decay. It is easy to destroy what took years to build. Our goal should be to be the best we can be and to raise others up, not drag them down.

Regret is the greatest poison. Make the commitment to make a better world for yourself, your family and the world. The world needs more George Baileys, be one.

"Stand up to your obstacles and do something about them. You will find that they haven't half the strength you think they have." -Norman Vincent Peale

OTHER VIEWS



"I see Jack Abramoff... I see the Enron trials... I see 2006 becoming known as the Year of the Plea Bargain."
Cartoons From Copley News Service

BUSINESS

Revealing your financial secret just might help to set you free



LYNN O'SHAUGHNESSY
Copley News Service

Late last year, Frank Warren, a guy who lives in Germantown, Md., passed out 3,000 postcards to strangers, inviting them to mail him a secret they had never divulged to anyone else.

Sure, it was a curious request, but many people found the opportunity to reveal a secret on an unsigned postcard irresistible.

As the postcards flooded in, what had started as a community art project turned into a global phenomenon. Warren began posting a sampling of the secrets on a Web site, www.postsecret.com. And this being America, a book deal came next - "PostSecret, Extraordinary Confessions From Ordinary Lives," which has turned into one of the hottest-selling books during the holiday season.

Some of the secrets you'll find on the Web site and in the book are poignant. One sender wishes he would contract lung cancer so his mom would stop smoking. Others wonder if they are trapped in loveless relationships. Some postcards might make you laugh: "I still suck my thumb. I'm 18."

When I was flipping through PostSecret, I never read anyone's financial secrets. The closest one I saw came from someone who posted a snippet of an income tax return on a postcard. Across the postcard, the sender wrote: "Income from teaching creative writing: \$32,654.00. Income from writing creatively: \$0.00." The secrets project, however, got me thinking about what people must be hiding about their financial lives. Revealing these secrets can be healthy if it prompts people to examine their own relationships with money.

To encourage self-reflection, I've dreamed up the sort of financial secrets that I strongly suspect haunts many people. I've interspersed them with a few of the real secrets (in quotes) that people have mailed to PostSecret. Let the secrets begin:

My wife didn't realize that the document she signed when I retired waived her rights to my pension if I die first. We're enjoy-

ing a bigger monthly check as long as I'm around, but I'm not sure how she'll manage if she becomes a widow and the checks stop.

I don't see why financial experts think I'm committing financial suicide because I've stuffed my 401(k) with my company's stock. My stock is never going to crater like Enron, WorldCom, General Motors or Merck.

"When my friends go on diets, I discourage them. This is because I really want them to be fatter than me."

I never saved much money for my retirement, because I always thought I'd inherit a big windfall from my parents. Now they're both in a nursing home, and the cash is going fast.

I'm afraid to open my Individual Retirement Account statements because I fear that the account balance will only remind me of what a pathetic investor I am.

"I once put hair in my pasta at a restaurant when I decided that I wanted fries instead."

I'm invested in a municipal bond mutual fund even though I'm not sure what muni bonds are or if I need them.

I own three expensive life insurance policies, because I have trouble saying no.

"I wish my parents could see me for what I am instead of what I didn't become."

On the surface, our family lives a fantastic life. Our kids go to private school, our vacations are incredible, and the master bathroom in our McMansion is much bigger than the bedroom I shared with my brother growing up. But I'm nearly broke, and I'm afraid to seek financial help because I fear an adviser will think I'm a loser for not being able to live on \$175,000 a year.

If I continue to pay the minimum on my credit cards, I won't retire my debt for 21 years.

"I wish I would have spent more time with him, when he still remembered my name."

I'm so petrified that I'll lose money investing that I shun risk. I invest strictly in certificates of deposit, which generate a little more income than the rolls of quarters that I keep in a mayonnaise jar.

I can't stop tormenting myself about how filthy rich I'd be if I had somehow found the money to buy more than one house in San Diego in the early 1990s.

"I used to fertilize a ring in our lawn every time I mowed it. It grew. My parents still think it was aliens."

My husband and I love our kids dearly, but we haven't found time to write a will that would officially designate who would raise our children if we died.

I rely on the eenie, meenie, minie, moe method of investing. "I am afraid no one will ever love me as much as my dog does." And here's my financial secret: I'd rather have skipped writing this week's column - I'm too pre-

occupied with other things at this time of year - but if I did, I wouldn't get paid. As I'm writing this, I'm thinking about how I'd rather be in the kitchen watching "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" and making my 14th batch of Christmas cookies - no lie.

If you want to reveal your own secret, you can write to PostSecret at 13345 Copper Ridge Road, Germantown, MD. 20874.

Lynn O'Shaughnessy is the author of "The Retirement Bible" and "The Investing Bible." She can be reached at LynnOShaughnessy@cox.net. Visit Copley News Service at www.copleynews.com.

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BY JEFFREY CARDELLA
Special to The Bugle

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Edward Jones

Time to Make New Year's Financial Resolutions

Do you remember any of the New Year's resolutions you made for 2005? If you don't, it may not be such a tragedy. After all, you still may have had a good quality of life even if you didn't get to the gym three times a week, learn a new language or take that gourmet cooking class. On the other hand, you can make a big difference in your future if you make — and keep — financial resolutions for the coming year.

Of course, as with all resolutions, the financial ones are easier to keep if they don't force you to radically change your lifestyle. So, with that in mind, here are a few achievable financial resolutions you may want to consider for 2006:

• **Increase your 401(k) contributions.** If your salary goes up this year, increase the percentage of your earnings that you defer into your 401(k). With tax-deferred growth, pre-tax contributions and a variety of investment choices, a 401(k) is one of the best retirement savings vehicles around. Plus, since the money is taken out before it even reaches your check, you won't really "miss" your increased contribution.

• **"Max out" on your IRA.** In 2006, you can put up to \$4,000 into a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$5,000 if you are 50 or older. If you cannot come up with the maximum amount at once, try dividing your IRA contributions into 12 equal monthly payments — and have the money taken automatically from a checking or savings account.

• **Pay down your credit card debt.** As you may know, the Federal Reserve raised short-term interest rates 12 straight times from June 2004 through November 2005. Sooner or later — and probably sooner — these

rate increases will affect interest rates charged by credit card providers. So, if you are paying a variable rate on your credit cards, be prepared to pay more in interest. These interest payments do you no good, as you can't deduct them from your taxes; consequently, you'll want to pay down this debt as quickly as you can.

• **Review your investment portfolio.** It's a good idea to review your investment portfolio at least once a year. Over the course of 12 months, your life can change in many ways: e.g., new spouse, new house, new child, new job, etc. And if your life changes significantly, your investment goals may also change. But even if your circumstances haven't changed much in a year, you should review your holdings to make sure they are properly diversified in a way that reflects your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term objectives. A financial professional can help you review your investments to make sure you are still on track.

• **Avoid last year's mistakes.** Everyone makes investment mistakes — but the smartest investors make them only once. Try to identify any errors you made in 2005. Did you chase after "hot" stocks only to find they had already cooled off by the time you purchased them? Did you incur a large tax bill by constantly buying and selling investments? These are the types of mistakes you should seek to avoid in 2006.

So, there you have them: some New Year's financial resolutions that, if followed carefully, can provide you with benefits long after 2006 is over.

JEFFREY Cardella can be reached at Edward Jones, 8141 N. Milwaukee, Niles, IL. 847-470-8953

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YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

gambling code change was made when the mayor said it had been removed from the agenda. This occurs as opponents of an OTB at Golf Mill are taking their fight to the State Racing Board.

-November 3

Four Escape Morton Grove Fire

A Morton Grove family of four escaped from a second-floor house fire at 8920 Oketo at 3:20 a.m. Tuesday. The family was alerted to the blaze thanks to a fire detector dispensed by the village fire department.

"This was a victory today," said fire chief Tom Friel. "And it's thanks to [Fire Captain] Bill Porter and his crew of guys in the Fire Prevention Bureau."

The fire caused about \$6,000 in damage. The contents inside the home were on fire and the blaze was extinguished before it spread to the house structure itself.

-November 3

62 Apply for MG Chief

Morton Grove mayor Rick Krier said this week the search for a new police chief is moving on schedule.

62 candidates applied for the post. The applicants included current chiefs, deputy chiefs, captains, members of the Chicago police department and more.

-November 3

Illinois Racing Board Approves OTB Petition for Niles

The Illinois Racing Board voted 9-1 to approve an OTB at Golf Mill Mall Nov. 8. The opposition was headed by Arlington Park Race track. Some Niles residents have also been vocal in their opposition to the OTB but village officials say the betting parlor will add needed revenue to village coffers and the state racing board did not stand in their way Tuesday.

"We're very pleased," said Inter-Track OTB President Bob Bilocerkowycz. "We worked very hard for this petition."

-November 10

Niles Park District's Golf View Recreation Center Opens

About 150 people attended an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony last week at the brand new Golf View Recreation Center. The new gym with a view and commu-

nity center is located at 7800 N. Caldwell. The center has a basketball court, fitness room, indoor walking and running track, concession area and open space community room.

-November 10

Niles Park District Skating Pros on Thin Ice Over Fees

Ice instructors are threatening to skate out of Niles if they don't get a better pay deal. About a dozen ice skating instructors at the Iceland Arena have threatened to depart if the Park District adopts new skate lesson pay rules. The park district says the instructors charge for lessons without paying enough to the park district for ice time or costs to operate the Ice Arena.

-November 10

Niles Parks may Explore Professional Fees for Skating Pros

The Niles Park Board has considered a new pay scheme for professional ice skate Iceland Arena instructors. A revenue sharing or fess structure scheme are on the table. A study is also expected. Iceland Director David Santee

resigned last month and was angered because the Park District wouldn't pay for his travel to Duluth, MN for a national skating competition.

-November 17

Morton Grove Considers Property Tax Levy Hike

Morton Grove officials are considering a tax hike of up to 20% of the property tax levy and adding an extra 2 cents per gallon at the gas pump. The proposals were discussed at the final budget workshop. The village needs more money to pay police and fire pensions.

-November 17

Recommendation expected for new Culver chief

A school chief search firm will give a presentation to the Culver School Dist. 71 board Nov. 15. Hazard, Young, Attea and Assoc. will explain the tactics they will use to find a new school superintendent. The search firm interviewed people to find characteristics that a good school chief should have. They will present their findings Nov. 15.

-November 17

Niles sued over late-September traffic death

A lawsuit has been filed after an on-duty village employee driving a village of Niles vehicle struck and killed Maria Keller, 87, on Sept. 29.

The estate of the woman filed suit against the village for "wrongful death and negligence."

The vehicle was driven by community development department inspector Mike Troiani.

The accident occurred at Oakton and Oriole.

-November 24

Over 800 Get 'Taste' of Niles Sister Cities

In a bid to spark ethnic diversity and honor Niles' sister cities in Greece, Italy, Ireland and Poland, between 800 and 1,000 people attended the first ever Taste of Niles Sister Cities event Sunday, Nov. 20.

The event featured entertainment and ethnic food. It took about five months to plan, said sister cities coordinator Denise Joseph.

-November 24

Park Ridge woman, 85, struck and killed by train

A woman, 85, was hit by a train and killed Nov. 17 as she tried to walk across the rail intersection. The woman is believed to have fallen down on the rails as the train approached. The train engineer saw the victim as he steamed forward at 45 miles per hour. He sounded the horn and tried to stop the train but couldn't halt the train in time.

-November 24

Niles Trustee Przybylo: U.S. Out of Iraq?

A Niles village trustee is calling for the village board to approve a resolution calling for a timely withdrawal of U.S. troops stationed in Iraq.

"We want our national leaders to know that we expect them to look more critically at our involvement," said trustee Andrew Przybylo. "My personal belief is that the board and the mayor are supportive."

The non-binding resolution could come to a vote Jan. 24.

-December 1

They Did It!

Morton Grove Lions make the world's largest sausage



Members of the Morton Grove Lions Club and volunteers work together to break the world record for the longest sausage at the Morton Grove Days Festival over the Fourth of July weekend.

-July 14

SCHOOLS

Culver raises \$2,000 for Louisiana School

Students celebrate successful fund-raising effort

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

Culver School has doubled its original goal of \$1,000, raising about \$2,000 that will be donated to Vic Pietre School, in Westwego, Louisiana.

"It was hit pretty hard," said Kristen Ninni, sixth grade teacher at Culver School, about the effect that Hurricane Katrina had on the pre-K to fifth grade school. Culver adopted Vic Pietre, and is taking it under its wings.

Although the building was not destroyed, it did suffer wind and water damage and many books and supplies were damaged.

Students, student council members, staff and other members of the community worked together to make donations for the school. Bake sales and lollipop sales were held as a way to raise money as well. And revealing their holiday spirit, instead of exchanging gifts with each other, many staff members made donations of money or school supplies for Vic Pietre.

"A lot of kids have dug very generously out of their own pockets," said Ninni.

In order to celebrate their successful fund-raising efforts,

Culver School had a special culminating assembly, called "Be a Star: Help Other Kids" on Thursday, Dec. 22.

At the assembly older students performed their version of "Dancing with the Stars" (the reality show) and they asked younger kids to dance along with them.

"We're so excited," said Ninni, about what they've accomplished for Vic Pietre.

Culver students are also writing letters to the students at Vic Pietre School. Some classes have shown video footage and pictures of the aftermath of the tragic Hurricane Katrina, so children are well aware of the situation.

Vic Pietre was chosen as the school for Culver to adopt because it had similar demographics to Culver School.

D63 board approves 3 percent increase in tax levy

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

The East Maine School Dist. 63 board of education approved a tax levy increase of about 3% over the prior year at the school board meeting on Dec. 7.

According to Stacey Mallek, the executive director of business services for the district, for the limited funds and tax cap funds there is a levy increase of 4.13%. However, since the increase for the bonds and interest is slightly down, she said the total increase is 3%.

The levy in the limited funds and tax cap funds includes a 3.3% CPI (consumer price index) plus any

estimated new construction, such as new commercial entities or homes.

"We're fairly well built out

"We're fairly well built-out in this area."

Stacy Mallek
Business Services Director
Speaking on home construction in the District

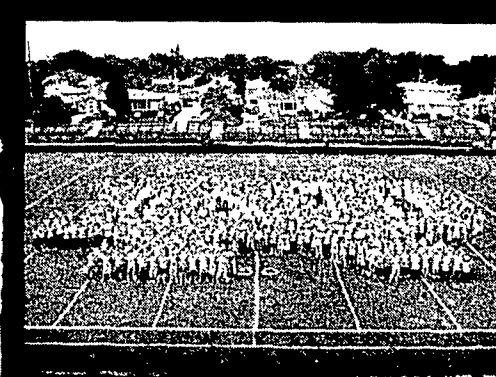
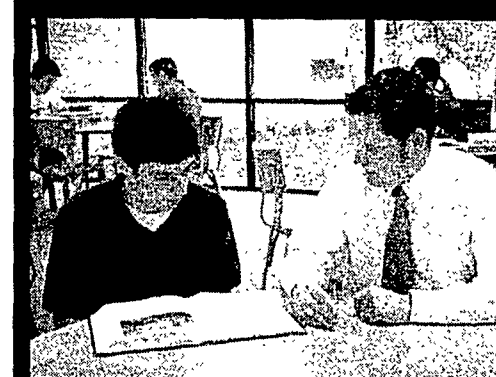
in this area," said Mallek. She said it is estimated there is about .5 % of new construc-

tion. From the 2003 levy to the 2004 levy there was a 21% increase due to a referendum passed in November of 2004. The referendum included a 40 cent tax rate increase.

"That increase was significantly higher," stated Mallek. Mallek said that this year has a balanced budget and programs have been re-instated as a result of the money from the referendum.

Prior to the referendum, class sizes were up to about 30 to 37 kids in a class and many after school activities had to be eliminated.

Over the last four years, there was \$7 million in cuts made at Dist. 63.



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SCHOOL

Kid's Home Library

Celebrate the New Year, Chinese style

BY LEE LITTLEWOOD
Copley News Service

Celebrating the New Year with funny hats and noisemakers can become boring. How about introducing kids to the festivities (dragons! gifts! feasting!) of the Chinese New Year this time? These books will help families learn about the meaningful customs of the Chinese (the celebrations usually fall in January or February during the spring in China).

"Happy, Happy Chinese New Year!" by Demi; Crown Publishers; 20 pages; \$9.

This cool little book's colors pop off the pages, with a bright turquoise cover festooned with orange parade dragons. Demi's brief page spreads introduce the Chinese New Year, when it falls and how the people celebrate the season for planting and for new beginnings. Young children should take note that Chinese kids typically wash their hair, get haircuts, buy new clothes, pay their debts and even catch up on homework for this holiday.

The importance of firecrackers, meaningful food preparations, candy gifts, dragon lion dances and lantern festivals are excitedly explained - and should interest little readers in the marvelous customs of the Chinese. Best of all - Demi's adorably detailed illustrations add oomph to her celebratory book.

"D is for Dragon Dance" by Ying Chang Compestine; illustrated by Yongsheng Xuan; Holiday House; 32 pages; \$17.

Another smart, brightly colored introduction, "D is for Dragon Dance" uses the alphabet to explain this dynamic celebration.

"A is for Acrobats" who perform, "C is for Calligraphy," (children write characters for good luck); while "S is for Steamed Dumplings" - special treats eaten to begin the New Year.

Beautiful but child-friendly illustrations add a sense of traditional Chinese art to the pages of this lovely picture book for 3- to 8-year-olds, who will be amazed at the amount of festivities involved in the Chinese New Year.

"Made in China" by Deborah Nash; Frances Lincoln Books; 32 pages; \$17.

What was made in China 2,000 years ago that is still used today? This is the riddle posed to a paper butterfly by a dragon in this festive picture book. The butterfly visits carp in a pool, but they don't know the answer. She then flies on to two stone lions, a dining family, monkey kings and an army of ancient soldier statues, but none can answer the puzzle. Finally, after noticing a paper butterfly just like herself, she learns that paper is the answer.

A neat voyage with a fun purpose, "Made in China" includes plenty of awe-inspiring references alongside the butterfly's journey. Readers will learn the historical meanings behind the stone lions, monkey kings and more - and will get a chance to concoct their own paper butterflies with simple instructions at the back of the book.

"Shanghai Messenger" by Andrea Cheng; illustrated by Ed Young; Lee & Low Books; 42 pages; \$18.

A unique mesh of poetic picture book and detailed chapter book for 8- to 12-year-olds, Cheng's exotic journey follows an 11-year-old half-Chinese girl as she heads to Shanghai to visit family. Though apprehensive about being accepted as a girl from America, Xiao Mei is soon embraced by aunts, uncles and cousins and immersed in the busy hubbub of daily living in China.

After overcoming a bout of homesickness, the youngster brings "a little bit of China" back home to the United States.

Lyrical and detailed drawings, "Shanghai Messenger" is a lovely story of adventure, self-discovery, family ties across the miles, and Chinese culture.

SJS Students Share with the Elderly



photo (left to right): Eighth grade students Caitlin Yawger and Tracey Mangan visit with one of the residents of Forest Villa Nursing Center in Niles, Illinois.

The spirit of service and generosity was very evident during the month of December as the seventh and eighth grade students of St. Juliana School made and wrapped gifts for the elderly residents of Forest Villa Nursing Center in Niles. The Junior High students filled gift boxes with handmade crafts created by the students. Also included in the gift boxes were items like socks, soap, and candy.

On Friday, December 16th the eighth grade students walked from St. Juliana School to Forest Villa Nursing Center to personally deliver their gifts and visit with the residents. Also accompanying the students during their visit with the residents of Forest Villa were Junior High teachers Mrs. Lidgus and Mrs. Holly as well as the pastor of St. Juliana Parish, Fr. Steve Kanonik

NDHS names National Honor Society Inductees

In November, the Fr. Basil Moreau, CSC chapter of the National Honor Society at Notre Dame High School proudly announced the induction of 24 new members, 17 juniors and 7 seniors, to its ranks.

The National Honor Society at Notre Dame High School is a select group of Notre Dame students who best represent the virtues of character, scholarship, leadership and service.

Students do not apply but are selected for membership by a faculty committee. Only juniors and seniors who have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or above are considered.

The 2005-2006 inductees include the following:
Juniors: Andrew Bishop - Niles, Jason Burgos - Chicago (60631), John Bussa - Wilmette, Steven Carleton - Chicago (60656), Joseph Casey

- Chicago (60656), Joseph Crespo - Chicago (60630), Bradley Hammer - Chicago (60646), Jeffrey Larsen - Chicago (60656), Daniel Marcus - Niles, Brian McGuigan - Park Ridge, Michael Mendoza - Chicago (60631), Brian Pelrine - Chicago (60631), Luigi Randazzo - Glenview, Paul Sidlowski - Morton Grove, Michael Smith - Park Ridge,

Phillip Szachowicz - Morton Grove and Zachary Wiatr - Chicago (60631).

Seniors: Matthew D'Amato - Chicago (60656), Michael Debnar - Chicago (60634), Peter Debnar - Chicago (60634), David Kissane - Chicago (60631), Giuseppe Randazzo - Glenview, Christopher Stachula - Chicago (60656) and Nicolai Szuflik - Chicago (60631).

ANTIQUES
ANTIQUE OR JUNQUE

1908 beverage set still popular

ANNE MCCOLLAM
Copley News Service

Q: In the 1960s my father-in-law, who is a pastor, and his wife often called on an elderly member of their church. As a thank-you for their many visits, she gave them this set of amethyst Carnival glass pitcher and tumblers. Recently, my mother-in-law asked me to select one of her pretty keepsakes. Since I've always loved this set, I chose it. Each piece is marked with the letter "N" and in excellent condition. I plan to pass the set on to my daughter and would like to know more about its history.

A: Northwood and Co. made your pitcher and tumblers. There were located in Wheeling, W.Va., and made Carnival glass from 1908 to 1915. The pattern is "Grape and Cable" and was one of their most popular designs and today is highly collectible.

Your circa 1908 set would probably be worth \$425 to \$575.

Q: This mark is on a set of porcelain dinnerware that belonged to my late husband's grandmother. The set started out as a service for 12, but during World War II the family rented rooms and served meals



to teachers and over the years many pieces were broken. It is now a 71-piece service for eight. I am almost 82 and attempting to gather information on the antiques that are family pieces.

A: Oscar and Edgar Guthertz

Manufacturers, who are located in Altohau, Bohemia, Austria, made your dinnerware. They have been in business since 1889. Your dishes were made around 1900 and would probably be worth \$500 to \$700.

Q: I have a set of Fenton opaque turquoise glass dishes that was purchased in the 1950s. Included in the set are two covered mayonnaise jars on a pedestal tray that has a handle in the center. The pattern is "Block and Star," was made by Fenton Art Glass, and is in perfect condition.

What is the approximate value of the mayonnaise set? A: Fenton Art Glass introduced the "Block and Star" pattern in January 1955. You have a lovely example of their buffet set that

was also available in white milk glass. Production of the turquoise line ended in 1957. Collectors find that just about any piece in turquoise is scarce, especially the buffet set. Your buffet set was made sometime between 1955 and 1956. It would probably be worth \$200 to \$250.

Q: Would you please give me an estimated value of "Marybel, the Doll That Gets Well"? Madame Alexander Co. Inc. made her in New York, in the 1950s. She is 15 inches tall, made of vinyl, has blond hair and is in very good condition. I still have the original box, including her sunglasses, crutches, bandages, casts, pink shoes with pompons and clothes. The only things that

are missing are the yellow and red measles/chicken pox dots. A: Madame Alexander designed "Marybel" to reassure children that even though children's illnesses and injuries can be scary, they are just a part of growing up and they will recover. In an era before measles and chick pox vaccines, just about every child could expect the dreaded red and yellow spots. Sunglasses were included because it was believed that exposure to light could cause injury to the eyes of children with measles.

Depending on the condition and region your Marybel would probably be in the range of \$200 to \$400.

Address your questions to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. For a personal response, include picture(s), a detailed description, a stamped, self-addressed envelope and \$15 per item (one item at a time).

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Antique Book Review I

House of Collectibles has recently published the seventh edition of "Official Identification and Price Guide to Antique Jewelry" (\$27.95) by Arthur Guy Kaplan. He has been a dedicated collector for more than 35 years, and along with lecturing, has exhibited his collections in major antique shows in the United States and London. This excellent reference features 200 years of jewelry from 1750 to 1960. It is chock-ablock with photographs, tips, technical information, detailed descriptions, price ranges, proper care of fine jewelry, insurance advice, market trends, buying and selling. His section "History of Jewelry" explains the importance of classifying the periods of styles from the Georgian period to the Retro period. Also included are a glossary, bibliography, a British and American currency conversion chart and index. This easy-to-use book has become the gold standard for jewelry reference guides for both new and seasoned collectors as well as dealers.

The paperback is available in bookstores. Address your questions to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. For a personal response, include picture(s), a detailed description, a stamped, self-addressed envelope and \$15 per item (one item at a time).

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ANTIQUES

MORE ANTIQUE OR JUNQUE

'Nut Harvest' a good pick & 'Bushberry' hard to beat

ANNE MCCOLLAM
Copley News Service

Q: The porcelain bowl seen in this photo was my mother's. It is 9 inches in diameter, in perfect condition, and my mother told me it was made in France. On the back are the words "Hand Painted - W. Pickard China." Below that is the capi-

tal letter "A" superimposed over a mother purchased a pair of tall porcelain compotes in Germany. I have enclosed the mark seen on the bottom of both pieces. Also included in the mark are the words "East Germany - Handmalerei." Each compote is over 13 inches tall and is decorated with applied porcelain flowers and figurines of children. The rims

of the compotes are reticulated and the bases are trimmed in gold. I am having a difficult time finding any information on these compotes and hope you can help.

A: Von Schierholz's Porcelain Manufactory has been located in Plau, Thuringia, Germany, since 1817. Many of Von Schierholz's pieces were inspired by Dresden porcelain. Objects marked "East Germany" were made between 1949 and 1990. "Handmalerei" is the German word meaning hand-painted. Your compotes were made around 1949 and each would probably be worth \$300 to \$400. Q: I have a plate decorated with the alphabet, goldfinches on a branch, and green foliage. It is 7 inches in diameter and in excellent condition. "Rd. No. 154" is marked on the back. I was told it is a baby plate that belonged to my grandfather, who was born in 1885. Can you tell me how old it is and if it has any value other than sentimental?

A: You have an ABC plate and collector interest has shown a leap in recent years. The "Rd. No. 154" is a British Registry mark that your plate was made in 1884. Although many were made in Staffordshire, England, as early as 1812, it wasn't until around 1890 that Germany began making ABC plates. A decade later, American factories introduced their ABC wares. They were often unmarked by manufacturers, particularly English and German, and decorated with transfer prints, decals and embossed letters. Your plate would probably be worth \$200 to \$250.

Q: Enclosed is a photo of a vase that I received from my grandmother. It is decorated with leaves and berries in relief against a matte amber background that shades to brown. It stands 15 inches tall and is in perfect condition. Marked on the bottom are the words and numbers "Roseville - U.S.A. - 40 - 15." Could you tell me anything about my vase?

A: Roseville Pottery in Zanesville, Ohio, made your vase. The pattern is "Bushberry" and it was introduced in 1948. The number "40" is the design number and "15" is the size. Bushberry was available in over 60 different pieces that included vases, pitchers, jardinières and candleholders. They were hand-painted and finished also in orange, green and blue matte glazes. Your vase would probably be worth \$600 to \$700.

Q: I have a set of porcelain dinnerware that my mother bought just before the start of World War II. Enclosed is the mark seen on the back of each dish. The set is a 67-piece service for 16 and includes serving pieces, all in excellent condition. It is decorated with a floral border and trimmed in 22-karat gold. What is my set worth?

A: Former Noritake employee Kotero Asukai, around 1908, founded Meito China Co. Along with at least 30 Noritake artisans, he established the Nagoya Seito Co. that made Meito China. The factory was sold in the early 1940s to Sumitomo Steel



Industry Co. They are now operated under the name Narumi Seito Sho and today are suppliers to Mikasa.

The value of your dinnerware set would probably be \$600 to \$1,000.

Q: I have an old pencil sharpener that was made by the U.S. Automatic Pencil Sharpener Co. It has a rotating cutter with three blades and is marked with a patent date of Oct. 15, 1907. There apparently was a base of some

sort that is missing. Is it collectible and does it have any value?

A: Vintage pencil sharpeners are collectible. Originally yours was attached to an oak base. U.S. Automatic Pencil Co. was one of the leading manufacturers of sharpeners in the early 1900s. They produced several different versions from around 1906 to 1926.

All things considered, your circa 1907 Automatic Pencil Sharpener would probably be worth \$125 to \$200.

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Antique Book Review 2

Best Furniture Buying Tips Ever was written by a leading home furnishings expert and well-known antiques dealer, Jennifer Litwin. She provides a thorough education on furniture styles from antique to modern, including price ranges. Litwin simplifies the shopping experience by explaining the importance of asking the right questions about construction, how to detect fakes, and the meaning of finishes, and reveals blatant misconceptions that abound in retail. She also advocates a working knowledge of the industry lingo and even dressing to impress! This handy little guide is big on invaluable advice. Readers will learn to talk the talk, walk the walk! Published by House of Collectibles. It is softcover and available in bookstores at \$14.95.

Address your questions to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. For a personal response, include picture(s), a detailed description, a stamped, self-addressed envelope and \$15 per item (one item at a time).



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SPORTS

Lady Wolves Take 3 of 5 Games In Snowflake Tournament

BY ALI BHANPURI
Sports Contributor

The Niles West girls' basketball team has struggled this season, particularly on offense. However, the Lady Wolves came together as a team last week, taking three of five games at the 23rd Annual Snowflake Tournament at Saint Viator High School.

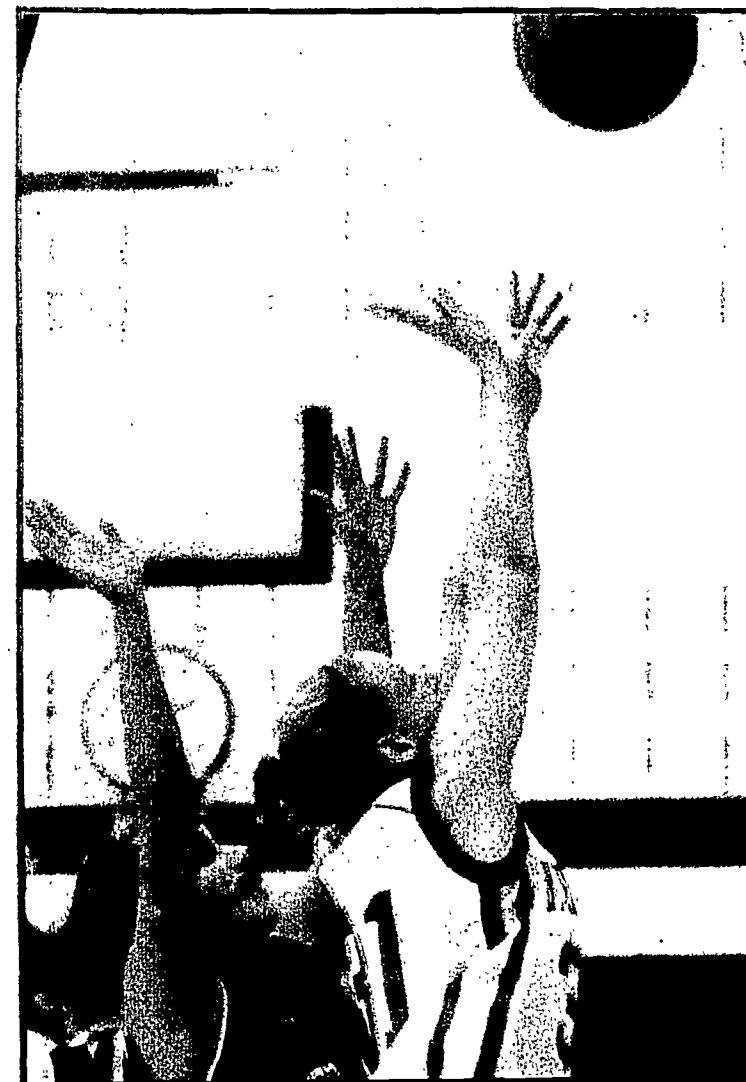
During the five day tournament that ended on Dec. 30, the Wolves defeated Elmwood Park, Ridgewood and Highland Park. The latter of the three victories came on the closing day of the tournament, where the Wolves, who will continue Central Suburban League South competition on Jan. 6 against Waukegan, prevailed over the Highland Park Giants 46-36.

"I think the team has really got after it the past three games," said head coach Lou Metallo. "I think it's great, but now we need to continue to improve."

The Wolves were led by junior forward Ana Gonzalez who pulled down 13 rebounds and scored 12 points in the victory. Senior F Stefani Masterton and Gonzalez overpowered the Giants in the paint, driving to the basket with powerful maneuvers.

"Ana and Stefani play as hard as they can each game," Metallo said. "They're both only five-foot-eight so their aggressiveness is critical to their success."

The Wolves as a team shot 37



free throws, allowing them to control the tempo and keep the momentum in the game. Masterton finished with five points, three steals and three rebounds.

At the end of the third quarter, the Wolves' aggressive performance earned them a 30-22 lead.

Highland Park tried to steal some of the momentum away by scoring first in the fourth quarter, but the Wolves were unable to stop the Wolves' offense, which produced 16 points in the final eight minutes. Clutch free throws from junior guard Lisa Czerwinski and Gonzalez gave the Wolves a secure lead, ultimately leading to the 10-point victory. Czerwinski finished with seven points, with six coming in the fourth quarter.

The Wolves ended both the first and second quarters with last second shots that padded their lead and added to the team's momentum. Junior G Katie Long went base line and added a two-footer to put the Wolves up by five.

Following her teammate's actions, senior G Alison Temkin went coast to coast with six seconds remaining in the first half and scored on an easy lay-up to give the Wolves an 18-16 lead. Temkin was the team's second highest scorer with 11 points.



Marco and Michael Andretti.
(Photo Shawn Payne courtesy of Indianapolis Motor Speedway)

MICHAEL, MARCO ANDRETTI TO DRIVE IN 2006 INDIANAPOLIS 500

Legendary veteran exits retirement to seek elusive win, help son in Indy debut

An Andretti will be back in the driver's seat in the Indianapolis 500 this May. Better yet, make that two Andrettis. Indy legend Michael Andretti and his son Marco announced Dec. 20 that they will compete in the 90th Indianapolis 500 on May 28, 2006 as teammates with Andretti Green Racing. Marco Andretti also will drive for AGR in the entire 2006 IndyCar Series season.

It's the first time an Andretti will be in the field since 2003, when Michael Andretti last drove in a race before focusing entirely on his co-ownership role at AGR. Michael Andretti led twice for 28 laps during that race before a broken throttle linkage ended his day after 94 laps. He placed 27th.

Michael Andretti will drive the Jim Beam/Vonage Dallara/Honda/Firestone at Indy and Marco Andretti will drive the No. 26 Arca Ex Dallara/Honda/Firestone.

"I'm really looking forward to returning to Indy in the Jim Beam/Vonage car as one of the drivers on this team, and I'm excited about the chance I'll have to run with Marco," Michael Andretti said. "As a driver, he has developed much quicker than I think anybody expected, and that is what really made this possible."

"I think I'll have as good a shot as I've ever had to win the Indianapolis 500, and I think I can also be a big help to Marco as he

gets ready to make his first Indy 500, start." Said Marco Andretti: "I'm excited about having the opportunity to drive the ArcaEx car for Andretti Green Racing. Over the past couple of years, I've had the opportunity to spend time in the paddock with the ArcaEx team, as well as my three teammates, so that is a plus. I know that I have a lot of work ahead of me and a pretty steep learning curve, but I also know that I have one of the best teams in motorsports working with me." This will be the first time that two generations of the famed racing family will race together in the Indianapolis 500 since 1994, when 1969 Indy winner Mario Andretti made his 29th and final start in the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing" with Michael Andretti also in the field.

Michael and Marco Andretti will be the 19th father-son pairing with Indianapolis 500 starts on their resumes but just the fourth such duo to race together at Indy. Al Unser and Al Unser Jr. were the first, in 1983, and Mario and Michael Andretti achieved the feat in 1984. Mario and Jeff Andretti became the third father-son combo in the same race in 1991.

"This announcement is an early Christmas present for fans of the Greatest Spectacle in Racing," said Joie Chitwood, president and chief operating officer of the

CONTINUED TO
ANDRETTI...Page16

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SPORTS

ON TRACK AUTO RACING

2005 was full of great racing

JANE MILLER
Copley News Service

As 2005 comes to a close, I'm enjoying thinking back on some of the best and worst of the recently completed racing season.

Whether you got to several races, just one favorite venue, or just watched on TV, this year was full of highlights.

Here are some of mine.

FAVORITE MOMENTS

No. 1 - Tony Stewart's scream of joy as he crossed the yard of

bricks at Indianapolis under the checkered flag. How wonderful it was to watch someone fulfill his lifelong dream.

Runner-up - Tony Schumacher's NHRA Top Fuel national-record elapsed-time run (4.437 seconds) at Route 66 Raceway in October. I get goose bumps just thinking about it.

And No. 3 - Danica Patrick taking the lead in the Indianapolis 500. The crowd went crazy - it was an electrifying moment.

WORST CRASH

The Kenny Koresky-Bruce Allen

Pro Stock crash at Las Vegas this fall. Those cars are not meant to withstand that kind of impact - Koresky T-boned the underside of Allen's car - but both lived to race another day.

Runner-up - Ryan Briscoe's cartwheel into the catch fence at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet in September.

STRANGEST RACE

The U.S. Grand Prix at Indianapolis, where all but six cars pulled off the track before the start of the race because of

tire issues. There is no runner-up.

That may have been the strangest race of all time.

BEST CHAMPIONSHIP BATTLE

The NHRA Funny Car chase, which had Gary Scelzi, Ron Capps and John Force in a virtual tie until the final race.

Scelzi came out the winner, but watch out for those other two guys next year.

Runner-up - NASCAR's Chase for the Championship. Even though Stewart had the best season, the title wasn't wrapped up until the last race because of the new format and the cut for the final 10 also came down to the wire.

MOST DOMINATING PERFORMANCE

A tie between Tony Schumacher, who set records for points and margin of victory in the Top Fuel class of the NHRA, and Dan Wheldon, who just whopped everybody in the IRL. Wheldon was the first driver in series history to win the championship and the Indianapolis 500 in the same year.

WIMMER FINDS A JOB

Scott Wimmer, released after two years with Bill Davis Racing, has landed a job with the No. 4 Morgan-McClure car next season. The team's new sponsor will be Aero Exhaust.

LESS IMPOUNDS

Nascar.com is reporting teams have been told there will only be five impound races next year - both races at Talladega and Richmond and the Pepsi 400 at Daytona in July.

Last year there were 21 races where cars were impounded following qualifying, a procedure which wasn't especially popular with fans or drivers.

CONTINUED FROM
ANDRETTI...Page 15

Indianapolis Motor Speedway. "The Andretti name is synonymous with auto racing, so it's only fitting that an Andretti, make that two Andrettis, will be entered in the 90th Running of the Indianapolis 500.

"Michael is very public about his passion for the Indy 500, and the Speedway. Now, he will be able to share that passion with Marco in a way few others have experienced by competing together on the track. It will be fun to watch Mario Andretti in May as his son and grandson build upon the Andretti heritage at the Speedway."

Michael Andretti, 43, has made 14 previous Indianapolis 500 starts, with a best finish of second in 1991. He has four top-five finishes at Indy and has led 426 laps, the most of any driver without an Indy 500 victory. But he entered Victory Lane last May as a co-owner of AGR, which fielded the winning car for Dan Wheldon.

It will be the first time that the defending winning team owner also will race in the Indianapolis 500 since 1999. Eddie Cheever Jr. won the 1998 Indianapolis 500 as an owner-driver and finished 18th in 1999.

Michael Andretti is believed to be the first person to win the Indianapolis 500 as an owner only and then defend that title from the driver's seat the following year. Marco Andretti, 18, will make his first Indianapolis 500 start but his third career start at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. He won the Liberty Challenge Menards Infiniti Pro Series' race last June on the IMS road course during the United States Grand Prix just four weeks after placing 16th in the Freedom 100 on the oval during the Month of May.

SENIORS

Niles Senior News

NSC Highlights

For a detailed description of programs & activities or to ask about membership or registration requirements, please check the Naturally Active Program Guides or call the Niles Senior Center at 588-8420 ~Visit us online at www.vniles.com. Pre-registration is required for most programs. Call for more info.

Niles Senior Center and Family Services Departments will be closed Monday, January 2nd in celebration of the New Year.

JANUARY REGISTRATIONS

Drop off Registrations are due at the Center by 5:00PM, January 6th

In-person Registrations begin 8:30AM on Wednesday, January 11th. Providing space is available

NEW MEMBERS INVITED TO GET AQUIANTED WITH THE CENTER

On the third Thursday of every month, Newcomers are invited to meet the Staff and learn about the programs and services available to members. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 19th from 10:00 - 11:00AM. Advanced registration 847 588-8420.

ENTHUSIASTIC SENIORS' NOVELTY MUSIC GROUP LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

This enthusiastic group wants you if you like to hum, sing or even whistle. If you can carry a tune, bring your voice! We want you if you play a conventional reed, percussion, keyboard, or stringed instrument, guitar or ukelele. We'd especially love you if you play a harmonica, kazoo, washboard, spoons or whatever (have your own homemade instrument - we can incorporate it into the band!). No pay, but lots of fun! Join the Niles Senior Center Kitchenaires Kitchen Band. Call for our practice schedule or for more information (call MaryAnn 847 588-8420). Non-residents are welcome.

PACE (Persons with Arthritis Can Exercise) REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

PACE Classes vary to provide the appropriate level of exercise for individuals. A Doctor's Permission Slip is required for all levels. Call Sue Friedman (847 588-8420) for more specific information about the program. All instructors and exercises are certified by the Arthritis Foundation.

AGING LIFESTYLES

90-year-old defies time - and conventional wisdom

JOE VOLZ
Copley News Service

We celebrated Aunt Jean's 90th birthday in Tucson, Ariz., the other day.

As far as I can tell, Aunt Jean's lifestyle these many years has ignored virtually all of the rules of healthy living. By anyone's standards, except Aunt Jean's, she should have died a long time ago. The experts - and there are legions of them now studying aging - tell us, almost to a man and woman, that those who live longest not only have good genes but also practice healthy lifestyles.

Jean certainly has good genes. Her big brother, for example, is 91. Both he and Jean live independently in their homes with no assistance from health care workers. They both drive and do their own shopping. Needless to say, neither suffers from the scourge of many older Americans - Alzheimer's disease.

Oh, they do have some of the frailties that come with advanced years - they don't walk as fast as they used to, they use canes and their hearing has declined.

Jean has a substantial hearing problem, but she vehemently denies it and refuses to wear a hearing aid.

But the experts insist that nonagenarians should eat healthy foods, get plenty of exercise and refrain from smoking while limiting their drinking to a glass of wine. The professionals also argue that have a pleasing personality and plenty of friends helps, too.

The only rule Jean abides by is not smoking.

But she breaks all of the others. When it comes to booze, for example, she tosses down scotch on the rocks as if it is about to be rationed. And she has never met a steak that she didn't fall in love with. In fact, her closest brush with death came when she choked on a piece of steak at a fancy restaurant and was saved by a waiter who knew the Heimlich maneuver.

So, how do you tell her that she would live longer if only she followed the advice of the longevity experts? Many of those experts are in their 30s, by the way, but they have done a lot of studying on the subject.

When I suggest that she is shortening her life by ignoring these learned folks, Jean laughs, "Oh, Jo, Jo."

She thinks I am kidding. The other day, I thought I had some ammo to convince Jean to reform her ways. The Associated Press reported that the world's oldest person, according to the Guinness World Records, is living an exemplary life following all the rules. Maria Esther de Capovilla of Guayaquila, Ecuador, married at the end of World War I, is 116 - 26 years older than Jean.

De Capovilla eats "three square meals a day," has never smoked or drank hard liquor - just a small cup of wine at lunch. And she danced a lot when she was younger. She also has a tranquil personality. Nothing seems to rattle her.

"Well, heck Jean, don't you want to live to 116?"

"Oh, Jo, Jo," she roars.

Jean, who never married, rejects every entreaty from her legions of nieces and nephews about changing her ways. They want her to move from her small cluttered garden apartment into a retirement home. But Jean likes it where she is.

They want her to move to the Midwest - she grew up in Ann Arbor, Mich. - or the East, where just about all of her relatives live. Jean asks, "Why?" She loves life under the Tucson sun. It is nice and warm, not frigid like winters in Michigan, where she lived for five decades.

Jean wants to live her own life, not our version of how she should live.

Well, she should join some senior clubs, we implore. She doesn't have many friends. But joining groups and meeting new people terrifies this introverted woman. She insists we are not doing her any favors by making such a request.

"You people are trying to tell me how to run my life and I don't like it," she says in exasperation if we press our demands. So, the other day, we drank to Jean's longevity at her favorite steakhouse. The rest of the crowd had some wine. Jean, as usual, downed scotch on the rocks.

Here's mud in your eye, Aunt Jean.

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

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Professional Golf Tips With Tina Mickelson

Rid arms of tension

One of the most common set-up flaws is not necessarily a bad aim, grip, or ball position. It's too much tension in the arms. The swing is supposed to be a fluid motion and that can't be achieved if there is a lot of tension in the arms at address. Once you set-up to the ball and you know your address position is correct (aim, grip, set-up), concentrate intently on relaxing your arms. Let them dangle freely under your shoulders. Once you are convinced that your arms are relaxed, relax them even more. Make it a conscious effort. You'll find that it's easier to take the club back properly. You will get a fuller turn and will be able to generate more speed in your downswing without extra effort. By simply relaxing your arms you can change your entire swing path. You'll find that your contact is more consistent and more shots will go straight.



Copley News Service/Tina Mickelson, PGA

Photo by Paul Nasri



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WINTER COMPUTER CLASSES OFFERS NEW CLASSES

Following is a list of the classes set to begin in January. A full description can be found in the December Naturally Active Program Guide. Some classes have prerequisites. For information about Computer Classes, please contact Jaymi Ostman at 847 588-8420.

PRE-INTRO TO COMPUTERS (for those who have no computer experience) Begins Jan.3

INTRO TO COMPUTERS Begins January 9th

HOW TO GET STARTED SELLING ON E-BAY Begins January 10th

INTERNET (How to browse and surf the net) begins Jan. 13th

MICROSOFT WORD 11 begins Jan. 17th

CONTINUED TO
NILES SENIOR NEWS...Page 18

SENIOR CITIZENS

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SENIORS

Reaching 'full retirement'? January may be the time to file

TOM MARGENAU
Copley News Service

January is an important month for millions of Social Security beneficiaries because all of them will be getting a 4.1 percent increase in their monthly pension checks.

But January is an equally important month for hundreds of thousands of potential Social Security beneficiaries who are reaching their so-called full retirement age in 2006. And all of them should at least consider the possibility of filing for their benefits this month, even though they may not be reaching their retirement age until later in the year.

The reason for this early filing time frame has to do with some quirky and complicated features of Social Security's earnings penalty provisions. Those provisions generally keep seniors who are still working off Social Security's rolls until they reach that magic "full retirement age." (To find your full retirement age, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retirecheck.htm.)

The law essentially says if you

are over 62 but under your full retirement age and are still working full time, you are not eligible for Social Security. Specifically, the rules require that the Social Security Administration deduct \$1 from any retirement benefits you might be due for every \$2 you earn over \$12,480.

Conversely, the rules say that once you reach your full retirement age, you are due full Social Security benefits, even if you are still working and no matter how much money you are making. If Bill Gates were a senior citizen and pushing age 66 this year, even he'd be eligible for Social Security benefits despite the fact that he makes a gazillion dollars per week.

But let's forget Bill and his gazillions and follow the more realistic example of Bob and his tens of thousands of dollars of income. Let's say Bob was born in January 1941, which means he's reaching his full retirement age of 65 years, 8 months in September. And let's further say Bob generally makes about \$60,000 per year and he plans to

continue working indefinitely.

Based on the earnings penalty rules I briefly outlined above, Bob figures he must wait until September to begin collecting his Social Security benefits. As I said, at that magical point the earnings penalty rules no longer apply and he can get his Social Security.

But we all know government rules are never that simple. Here's the twist, and here is why Bob should check into applying for Social Security in January. Congress set up a more lenient earnings threshold for the year you reach your full retirement age. Specifically, it says you can earn up to \$33,240 between January and the month you reach your full retirement age and still get Social Security benefits. And even if you earn more than \$33,240, you lose only \$1 from your benefits for every \$3 you exceed that threshold.

Bob is going to make \$40,000

between January and August (i.e., before he reaches his full retirement age). That's \$6,760 over the limit and, using the \$1 for \$3 deduction rule, it means Social Security must deduct \$2,254 from the benefits he's due before he reaches his retirement age - assuming he applies in January.

If Bob's Social Security benefit at full retirement age is \$1,800 per month, let's look at his options. Bob's first option is to wait until September (his full retirement age) to start his Social Security benefits. He'll get \$1,800 per month for four months or \$7,200 for the year 2006.

Bob's second option is to file for Social Security in January. Starting his benefits slightly early, his monthly rate is reduced to \$1,700. That comes out to \$20,400 for the year 2006. But from that amount, SSA must deduct \$2,254, leaving Bob with total 2006 benefits of \$18,146.

The downside to option two is his ongoing monthly benefit rate will be \$1,700, \$100 less than what he'll continue getting in option one. If I were Bob, I'd choose the second option.

I know these rules are complicated and the math in the examples above was difficult to follow. But my overall message is easy to follow: if you're reaching your full retirement age in 2006, talk to a Social Security representative sometime this month to find out if it's to your advantage to file for those benefits in January.

Questions may be sent to Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190. Or send e-mail to your-socialsecurity@comcast.net. © Copley News Service Visit Copley News Service www.copleynews.com.

Maine Township's MaineStreamers Offer New Winter Programs and Trips for Seniors

The Maine Township MaineStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership is free and includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter that details all activities for the upcoming month. All activities take place at Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Rd., Park Ridge, unless otherwise noted. For further information on membership or programs, call MaineStreamers at 1-847-297-2510.

GRANDPARENTING PROGRAM

"Healthy Food, Healthy Start" Tuesday, January 10 10 to 11 a.m.

No Cost - Registration Required When the grandkids just want fast food, what can you offer that is nutritious and fun to eat? We will discuss meal and snack ideas that you can make for them or with them. We will also discuss picky eaters. Newcomers are always welcome! Free books and refreshments.

THE ROAD CLASS Thursday, January 12 1:30 to 3 p.m.

No Charge - Registration Required

Need to renew your drivers license? Plan on attending this

Secretary of State refresher course that prepares you for the written exam. Next Class: April 13th.

"The Secrets of Feeling Great and Losing Weight" PROGRAM

Tuesday, January 10 1 to 2 p.m. Presenter: Dr. Travis Dearborn, Park Ridge Chiropractic

This lecture will help you pick and choose which lifestyle changes you should make and which ones you should avoid! This program is straight forward so you can take what you learn and apply it!

MEDICARE PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

Maine Township has trained staff to assist you with the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug program. For an appointment call Maine Township at 1-847-297-2510 #236. Please note that all Circuit Breaker Recipients MUST apply for this coverage to remain eligible for the Circuit Breaker benefits.

Day Trips

The following Day Trips are currently on sale. In order to sign up for a Day Trip you must first sign up to be a member and then

a reservation form will be sent to you. To become a member call the MaineStreamers at 1-847-297-2510 and ask for an application. All Day Trip departs from the State of Illinois Building, 9511 Harrison St. in Des Plaines.

"SPIRIT OF MILWAUKEE" TRIP

Tuesday, January 24 8:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. Trip Rate \$3 \$40 members/\$45 guests

We have selected a few destinations that we feel bring out the "Spirit" of Milwaukee. Let's start at the International Clown Hall of Fame. Tour the elaborate exhibits of the Hall of Fame inductees including Red Skelton and Emmet Kelly. Then enjoy an actual Clown Show.

Our lunch stop will be at the Safe House...just finding the place feels like "Mission Impossible." Look for a red door bearing the name "International Exports, Ltd." - a front, of course. Once inside (be prepared to be de-briefed at the door) you'll be transported into the world of international espionage. Our lunch is your choice of Roast Loin of Pork or Pepper Steak with a dessert of Ice Cream Cake Roll.

Our final stop will be at the Pottawatomic Casino.

LIFE
PERFECT PAIRINGS

Spicy Texas appetizer goes with cool California white wine

RON JAMES
Copley News Service

THE CHEF

It's one thing to attract locals to a fine restaurant in the boonies. It's another to attract dozens of celebrities from around the world.

Yet that's just what Jeff Blank's culinary oasis in the Texas Hill Country, Hudson's on the Bend Restaurant, does - in spades.

Tommy Lee Jones, Farrah Fawcett, Johnny Depp, Lance Armstrong, Dan Rather and Willie Nelson - to name a few - have made the pilgrimage to this hot spot just outside Austin.

As Blank says in his new cookbook "Fired Up" (Laurentius; \$35), "Most of my restaurants have been on the path less taken. My motto is, 'Let's see how far they will drive to eat our food!'"

Blank's journey began when he was 16 with a gig as manager of the Beef & Bun in Lakeway, Texas. Later, Blank admits, he attended Oklahoma State University's Hotel and Restaurant School in order to avoid serving in Vietnam. "But," he said, "I'll never run for a political office so I don't have to worry about this admission." After college, Blank landed a job as maitre d' at Lakeway Inn in Austin, where German-born Gert Rausch was executive chef. Rausch introduced Blank to a new world of flavors.

"The food industry in the West was pretty much a culinary wasteland at the time," Blank explained. "Gert exposed me to classic sauces, veal stocks and much more European cooking. He had an enormous influence on me."

Still, Blank's primary passion at the time was water skiing near Austin or snow skiing in Aspen, Colo., where he and Rausch opened the Wineskin Restaurant in 1971. "The restaurant business in a ski resort is much like farming," Blank laughed. "If it didn't snow, the crop didn't come in. It didn't snow and we had to shut 'er down seven years later."

A second restaurant in San Antonio also failed. "After three years of standing in the middle of Broadway Street dressed in a shark costume wearing a sandwich board promoting the Broadway Oyster Co., I decided to shuck the endeavor." Regrouping in Austin in the early '80s, Blank spied a house for sale while driving one day on Ranch Road 620. Purchased with "nothing more than a hill country handshake," that small stone ranch house became Hudson's on the Bend, which was named by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine as one of the "Top 50 Restaurants in America."

Today, after Blank's long, strange journey, he has become a culinary legend in Texas and a celebrity chef known nationwide.

THE DISH

According to Blank, this spicy Smoked Duck Diablos appetizer was created as finger food for a Texas charity benefit. "The inspiration came from a hill country wild game finger-food staple, dove and jalapeno wrapped in bacon," he explains wryly. "Hudson's, not being able to leave well enough alone, always changing ingredients, fired it up with even fierier jalapenos, jicama, balsamic vinegar and mission figs. We made it our own! I recommend that you eat this playing ZZ Top's 'El Diablo' at full blast!"

Blank has substituted other meats for the duck, including smoked quail, pheasant and dove. "The faint of heart can use smoked chicken thighs," he suggests. "They can be pre-assembled and held in the refrigerator under plastic wrap. The sauce can be made 24 hours in advance."

To present the Diablos, cut a raw jicama or potato in

half to use as a skewer holder

THE WINE

With all the heat generated by this fiery appetizer, you'll want to cool down with a crisp, cold sauvignon blanc like the Flora Springs 2003 Soliloquy (\$18). The grape is grown in the Oakville appellation of California's Napa Valley in an area normally known for growing

red grapes.

But Flora Springs' gamble paid off with a well-balanced wine showing the traditional sauvignon blanc flavors of gooseberry, spice and herbs. The crisp acidity contrasts nicely with the savory heat, and the spice and fruitiness of the wine matches well with the figs and red chili glaze.



RED CHILI GLAZE

1 cup champagne vinegar
1 to 1 1/2 tablespoons
crushed red chili peppers
(use more if you like it hot,
up 2 tablespoons)
1 tablespoon garlic, minced
2 tablespoons onions,
minced
2 cups light brown sugar,
packed
1/4 cup tomato paste
1/2 cup soy sauce
1 teaspoon salt
1 stick unsalted butter, cut
into 8 to 10 chunks

In heavy saucepan over medium heat, simmer champagne vinegar, chili flakes, garlic and onion until reduced by 1/2. Add brown sugar, tomato paste, soy sauce and salt and return to a simmer for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and whisk in butter chunks. Serve with Smoked Duck Diablos.

SMOKED DUCK DIABLOS

4 dried figs, quartered from stem to nose (Blank prefers mission figs)
4 ounces balsamic vinegar
3 duck breasts, skinless
Salt and pepper, to taste
8 slices of smoked bacon, cut in 1/2 and cooked soft
1 small jicama, peeled and cut into 16 french fry-size slices
4 jalapeno peppers, quartered and seeded
16 wooden skewers, soaked in water

Red Chili Glaze (recipe below)
Yields 16 skewers.
Place figs in nonreactive bowl

and marinate in balsamic vinegar for at least 1 hour.

Season duck breasts with salt and pepper, to taste. Smoke seasoned breasts in stovetop smoker over high heat for 10 minutes. Place cooked 1/2 bacon strips flat on cookie sheet. Stack 1 fig slice, 1 jicama slice, 1 jalapeno quarter and 1 slice of duck breast at 1 end of each bacon slice. Roll and secure with skewer. Place on cookie sheet. Repeat 15 times. Bake skewers on cookie sheet in 350 F oven for 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from oven and drizzle with Red Chili Glaze. Serve hot.

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LIFE

IN FASHION

Weighing in: Fashion tips for the new year

SHARON MOSLEY
Copley News Service

After all the parties and festivities of the past few months, most of us are ready for some downtime - but it's also a great time to reflect on life at the present moment - and that includes our appearance. Because, what is the one thing most of us actually start thinking about in January? Yep, losing all those cocktail carbs and turkey telltale signs of a little (or a lot) of weight gain.

So here are a few tips to help get you started on the new year ahead from fashion gurus, Stacy London and Clinton Kelly, hosts of The Learning Channel's "What Not To Wear" and authors of the new style guide, "Dress Your Best: The Complete Guide to Finding the Style That's Right for You" (Three Rivers Press; \$18.95).

"Dress your body the way it is now," say the charming duo who pull no punches when making over their TV fashion victims and the "real" women in their new book who pose in black leotards showing "before" and "after" results from their new looks styled by London and Kelly.

"Do not wait until you 'lose that last 10 pounds' or 'bench press 350,'" they chide readers. "Because while we don't want to discourage you from your goals, our goal is to dress you in the present. What we've learned is that looking good now will help you feel better later."

And the cold month of January is not when you want to be getting too cozy in those new flannel pj's you just got for Christmas.

"Walking around in oversized sweats makes you look like you've given up," says Kelly. "And you may start to internalize that feeling. So, this is one time in life when a quick fix can actually have long-term effects. We've seen it hundreds of times. Don't wait for what may or may not change about you in the future. You are perfect now."

No, you don't have to aspire to be in perfect shape like Barbie

and Ken either. "We've all heard that balance is the key to a happy life - work a little, play a little, relax a little," says London. "Well, the same principle applies to dressing as well. The key to looking your best is creating a balanced body shape through clothing."

London and Kelly take dozens of body shapes (men and women) in their book and give their readers ideas of what to wear depending on height, shape and build. They also have lots of "universal" fashion tips that apply to everyone, no matter what their size. For instance:

• "With all of our research, we have yet to find one person whose body has been flattered by wearing a tapered jean. While we're still trying to unravel the mystic

ry involving the continuous sale of this item, we hereby declare a boycott of this style. If you own a pair, just burn 'em. And perhaps the manufacturers will take note."

• "Get used to the idea, that everyone, regardless of body shape, can benefit from some alteration to their clothes once in a while. High-end stores usually offer complimentary alteration service. But for the rest of us, tailoring clothes to fit perfectly, regardless of price point, will make them look infinitely more expensive."

• "In America we've taken to buying in bulk - from toothpaste to tuna fish, paper towels to peanut butter. And unfortunately we do the same with our clothes. Instead of buying five sweatshirts at 30 bucks apiece, buy one cashmere sweater that fits you wonderfully."

• "If you gain or lose 10 pounds, make sure to get refitted for your bras! Your size can change significantly with weight fluctuation."

• "A pointy-toe shoe with a kitten

heel is ideal for work with any skirt silhouette. It's flattering to the leg and comfortable to wear."

• "Don't worry about the length of a jean. If they fit well, ask a tailor to hem them again with the original stitching (no one besides you and your tailor will ever know the difference. The width of the

pant matches and balances the width of the shoulder and mid-section. We're not fans of the traditional five-pocket straight jean with creases on the leg. It's kinda nerdy, to be honest."

• "The illusion of a double-layer knit helps to balance out a wider bottom. Look for layering pieces on top to balance the entire body line."

• "Try using 'softer' neutrals with brights. Instead of black (which has a tendency to look harsh for day), for a more sophisticated color palette. Try chocolate brown, navy, or charcoal gray. They're all still dark and they're just as 'slimming' as black."

• "Go crazy for evening. Mix your metallics!" Silver, gold, bronze "play equal yet complementary roles. We feel a couple of embellished pieces for evening are a staple of any woman's wardrobe."

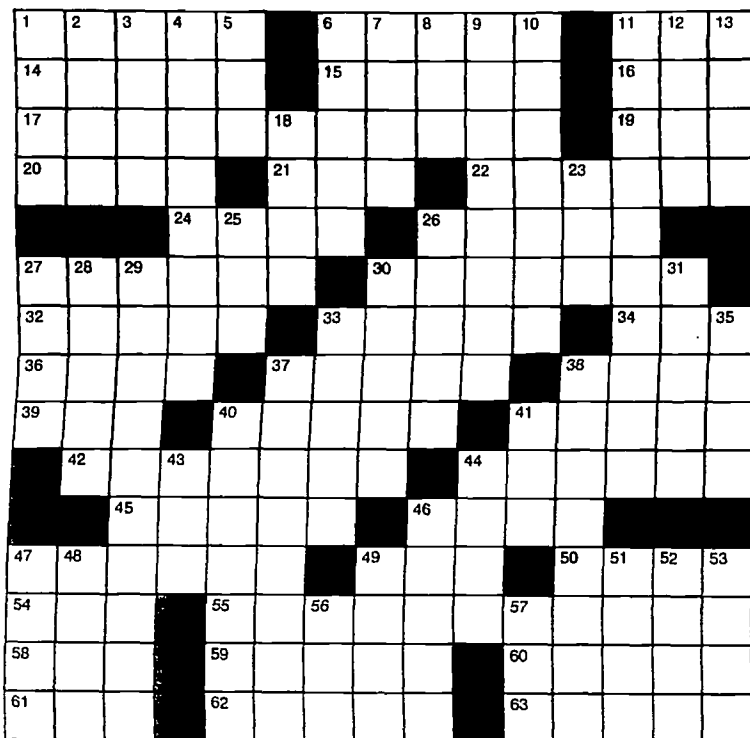
• "Add some fun to a muted-color work suit with bold accessories." London and Kelly's favorites? "Brooches, bangle bracelets, multiple-chain necklaces, cocktail rings, chandelier earrings."

Sharon Mosley is a former fashion editor of the Arkansas Gazette in Little Rock and executive director of the Fashion Editors and Reporters Association.

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LETTERED



ACROSS

1 In the lead
6 Strikebreakers
11 Cribbage piece
14 diem
15 Gem weight
16 Gob
17 Gilbert and Sullivan opus
19 was saying ...
20 Villa d'
21 Afore
22 Wore a smile
24 Church recess
26 Mme Curie
27 Arboreal Australian marsupials
30 Supervisors
32 Brownish-yellow
33 Ghastly
34 Go one better
36 Got: abbr.
37 Trig function
38 A minute
39 Ms. Sothern
40 City on the Rhine
41 One of Columbus' three
42 Cut
44 Tarry

DOWN

45 Civil wrongs
46 "Fan Tutte"
47 Do electrical work again
49 Monk
50 Do in
54 Ab from the beginning
55 Taxpayers' nemesis
58 Knightly title
59 Macabre
60 It's sometimes wild
61 Moose
62 Clown's perch
63 Passion
1 Pine
2 They overact
3 Once, once
4 Pled
5 Agnus
6 Say boo!
7 Bristle
8 Orinoco tributary
9 Uncivilized
10 Took the wheel
11 Grade school event
12 Facilitate
13 Lattice
18 Loch
23 Goal
25 Duffer's dream
26 Edible mushroom
27 Sen. Kennedy's daughter
28 Portents
29 It carries
30 Jeopardy
30 Joined
31 Nick, of films
33 Comes in second
35 Bosc
37 British statesman John
38 Clergyman
40 Goose and blue
41 Omicron followers
43 "Che Sapete": Mozart aria
44 Laundry unit
46 Vinegar bottle
47 Slood
48 Immoral
49 Get an F
51 Noisy
52 Sacramento arena
53 Flanders river
56 Lanka
57 Ms. Lupino

By Charles Preston

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 Winner is...
Lorraine Truskolaski

Send your answers to the editor, Andrew Schneider
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X MARKS THE SPOT



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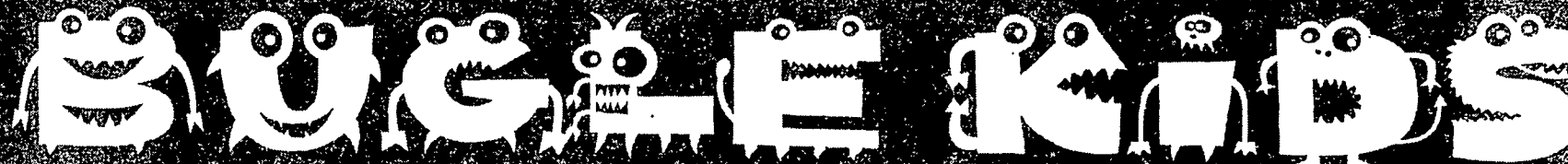
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ENTRANCE ON GAGE ST. IN ROSEMONT PLAZA



By J.R. Rosa-Copley News Service

DRAW IT!

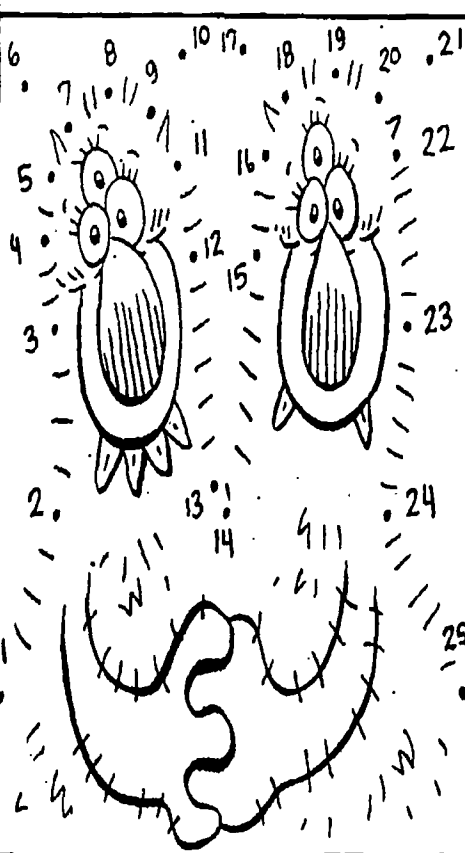
DRAW A
SECOND HEAD
ON THIS
MONSTER...



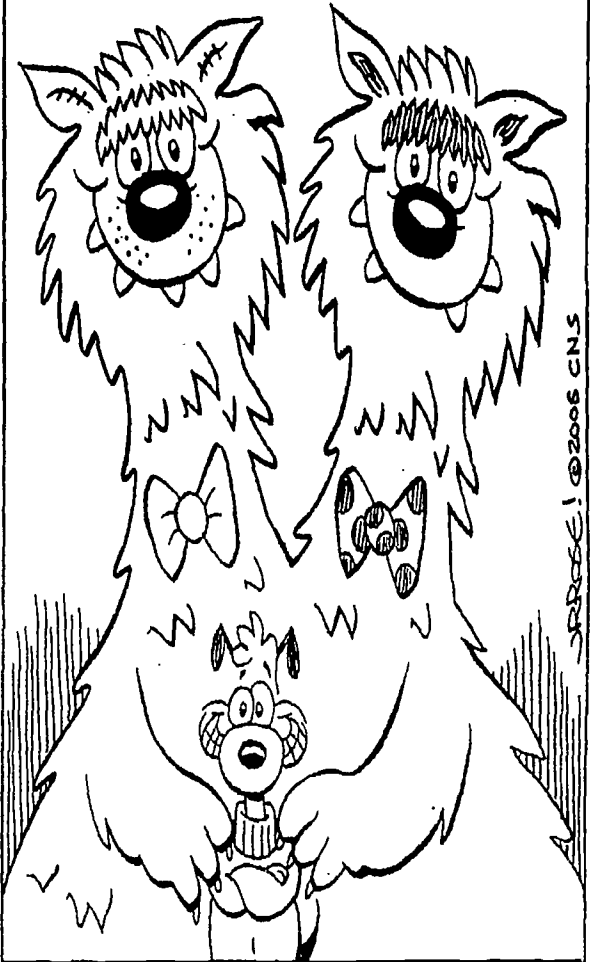
GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR
HEAD...



CONNECT THE DOTS TO FIND
A TWO-HEADED MONSTER...



THESE TWO ARE MY MONSTER FRIENDS
WHERE ONE HEAD STARTS, THE OTHER ENDS!
FIND FIVE WAYS THEY'RE NOT THE SAME
IN THIS TWO-HEADED MONSTER GAME!



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WHAT DO YOU CALL
SOMETHING WITH A HEAD,
BUT NO BODY?



PUP THANKS AUDREY MELCHER, ARBUTUS, MD

Grammar Matters

by Patty Gibbons Saunier

Misprintz

Signs, labels and menus occasionally contain errors that end up being humorous. Can you determine what these sentences were intended to say?

1. Medicine label: Take 1 teaspoon every four hours for a funny nose.
2. Menu: Try our dreaded veal cutlet.
3. Sign on door: No Bear Feet Inside.

Wow! This stuff
really works!



Answers: 1. Take 1 teaspoon every four hours for a runny nose.
2. Try our breaded veal cutlet.
3. No Bare Feet Inside.

Copley News Service

Nature Newswatch®

Lynx links

Reclusive, rare and silent, the Canada lynx is a predator whose very fortunes depend on the success and well-being of its chief prey, the snowshoe hare.

With ear tufts that act like antennae, eyes that can detect a white hare on white snow, and large webbed paws covered with fur that act as snowshoes, the lynx matches the hare's advantageous adaptations with confounding counteractions of its own.

Depending on the season, hares make up 60-90 percent of the cat's diet, so as the hares fare, so goes the lynx. But in Canada and Alaska, snowshoe populations fluctuate wildly in a nine- to 11-year cycle, gradually increasing in numbers, only to suddenly and severely crash. The following year, the lynx follow the boom-and-bust cycle in a steep plummet to minimum numbers. And in the immediate hard years to follow, almost any added mortalities can doom a local population.

Canada lynx: *Lynx canadensis*
Head and body: 30-39 inches; tail: 4 inches

Habitat: northern, and mountain forest, swamp, tundra
www.naturenewswatch.com

by Tim Herd
© 2006



HAVE YOU HEARD

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children Delighted With Gifts From Toys For Tots US Marines and Niles Fire Department Spread The Joy!

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

The children's faces lit up with excitement as they received several toys collected through the second annual U.S. Marine Corps/Niles Fire Department Toys for Tots Drive. Since the beginning of November until the week of Christmas, community members have been dropping off toys at the Niles Fire Department for children who are less fortunate.

"They did mention that we were the number one stop as far as picking up toys," said Niles Firefighter Roman Kopinski. He said that every week, six to seven boxes filled with toys were picked up from the fire station. Corporal David Ciero of Marine Air Control Group 48 picked up the toys at the Niles

location and distributed them. Thousands of toys were taken to a Marine Corps warehouse and the toys are being distributed to various organizations in need.

Kopinski and others also visited six different families living in Niles to drop off bags filled with toys for the children. He said a couple of the families that received toys this Christmas also received Thanksgiving dinners.

At one home, Kopinski said that a four year old boy was extremely excited to receive the toys.

"He was yelling and screaming; he was so happy," shared Kopinski. He said that they received some thank you notes from families that were very grateful for the donations.

In addition to visiting the individual families, toys were also

taken to the Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital. Kopinski said they had a Christmas celebration with the sick children in the hospital.

How were these gifts of holiday giving made possible?

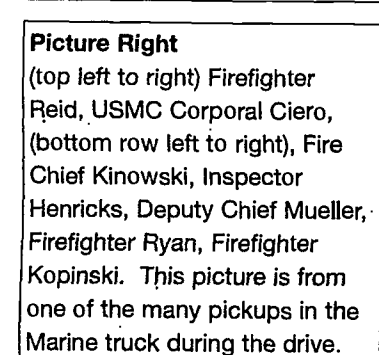
Well, toys were collected in many classrooms, at holiday parties and children even gave up their own allowances in order to help other children in need. Individuals also made donations.

"It was an overwhelming response," said Bernadette Fish, of the Niles Fire Department. "It was probably more than last year. There were several families in the area in need."

Kopinski said that both last year and this year, "people were very generous."



Picture Left
(left to right) Firefighter Leibach, Firefighter Ryan, Firefighter Kopinski, USMC (United States Marine Corps) Corporal Ciero, (center) 4 year old boy patient.



Picture Right
(top left to right) Firefighter Reid, USMC Corporal Ciero, (bottom row left to right), Fire Chief Kinowski, Inspector Henricks, Deputy Chief Mueller, Firefighter Ryan, Firefighter Kopinski. This picture is from one of the many pickups in the Marine truck during the drive.



Picture Left
(left to right) Firefighter Ryan, Firefighter Leibach, USMC Corporal Ciero, center girl patient with parents, Firefighter Kopinski.

Edward Jones Presents "Making Sense of the Headlines"

Edward Jones investment representative Nick Katsoulas of Niles will host a free satellite broadcast titled "Making Sense of the Headlines" at 10:30 AM, 5:30 or 7:30 PM, with light refreshments Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at the offices at 7627 N. Milwaukee Avenue between Oakton and Howard in Niles.

The broadcast, featuring financial columnist Jeremy Siegel, will focus on how major events like the recent hurricanes, record high gas prices and the changing of the guard at the Federal Reserve will impact the economy and one's investment decisions.

This interactive event is presented at select Edward Jones branch offices nationwide via the firm's private video network.

To reserve a seat or for more information about the Tuesday, January 10, 2006 program, call Katsoulas at 847-663-1650. If you are unable to attend, additional viewing opportunities are available.

Edward Jones, one of the only major financial-services firms providing advice to individual investors exclusively, currently serves more than 6 million clients. The firm offers its clients a variety of investments, including certificates of deposit, taxable and non-taxable bonds, stocks and mutual funds.

The largest firm in the nation in terms of branch offices, Edward Jones currently has more than 9,000 offices in the U.S. and through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom.

The Edward Jones interactive Website is located at www.edward-jones.com.

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Pilates Beginning I
7:10-8:05 PM
Wed. 3/8-4/20

Pilates Continuing II
9:10-10:00AM
Mon 3/6-4/17

Pilates Beginning I
6:15 - 7:05PM
Wed. 3/8-4/20

MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

The Morton Grove Park District would like to invite all interested parents to an Open House showcasing our Preschool programs. Please join us the evening of Tuesday, January 10, 2006 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Please call (847) 965-1200 for further details and locations.

REAL ESTATE

DECOR SCORE

Smart glass goes to head of the class

ROSE BENNETT GILBERT
Copley News Service

Q: We're bumping out our kitchen to make space for a family room. Our old kitchen is dark and cramped, so we want to bring as much light as possible into the new space. One worry is that the addition will be north-facing and so really big windows may not make sense, what with the cost of heating the house. Also, we have toddler twins, so we want to put down a floor that's going to be easy to keep and not cold and hard. Any suggestions along these lines?

A: You need to do a little homework about your home to discover the wealth of new and advanced materials you have to work with these days. The answers to all your questions are as close as the Internet or telephone.

For example, take the glass in today's windows. Glass may be one of the oldest of man-made products, but now it's also one of the most technologically clever. Window manufacturers like Marvin, Andersen, and Pella offer Low-E glass - Low-E means low-emission - glass with a microscopic layer of metal oxide that blocks the loss and gain of heat.

You'll also discover insulated glass, two panes with a layer of air or inert gas trapped between. You can't see it, but you sure can feel it in the comfort-level of your room, and in the gentler impact on your energy budget. You'll pay a bit more upfront for such smart glass, but it will allow you to have your light and your northern exposure, too, without becoming an energy-guzzler. Learn more from Web sites like the American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy at www.aceee.org.

Now about your floor: hardwood is still one of the most practical flooring materials around. It, too, is one of the oldest, now offering offers technological innovations, such as new urethane finishes that make it long-wearing and easy to maintain. Learn more at www.hardwoodinfo.com.

At the same time, man-made flooring materials give you a choice in other materials, at least the look of them. The kitchen we show here is floored with a laminate that pretends to be ceramic

tile, only it's softer underfoot and much warmer to the touch (easy to keep and less expensive, too). Learn more at www.pergo.com. This tile-look floor is also an effective reflector of light - whether it comes through the windows or from the electric fixtures, light waves will bounce off light-colored surfaces (including the ceiling) and ricochet brightly all around a room.

One more bit of research before you start: if floor-level warmth is important to you and your twins, look into radiant heating, a low-

voltage wiring system that's easiest to install in new construction. It can go under almost any kind of flooring material, including hardwood, tile and laminates. Special conditions apply, so consult the North American Laminate Flooring at www.nalfo.com.

Q: How can we save enough money this winter to finance a spring redecorating project?

A: With the Energy Information Administration projecting heating bill hikes from 31 percent (in the Northeast) to a whopping 71



percent (in the Midwest), it's never too late to take action against heat-waste at home. Home improvement expert Lou Manfredini (who's also Ace Hardware's Helpful Hardware Man), offers a number of money- and energy-saving tips. Even in mid-winter, Manfredini says, it's worth \$75 to \$100 to make sure your heating system is running at personal-best efficiency.

Manfredini also pushes for a programmable thermostat that lets you lower temperatures automatically when you're at work or in bed. Cost: \$40 - \$100; pay-back time: a matter of a few months, he says. Install weather stripping around windows and doors, and ceiling fans that you can run slowly in reverse to circulate warm air. And consider replacing an old water heater with a non-tank version that fires up only when you need hot water.

Two final suggestions from the expert: keep windows open to the sun by day, insulated behind closed curtains and blinds by night, and be sure your furniture doesn't block warm air vents and radiators.

Besides, a new furniture arrangement can also wake up your home life during these long cold winter nights while you're waiting for spring.

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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GETTING ORGANIZED..... Holiday mess cleaning tips

STEPHANIE DENTON
Copley News Service

Q: My house is showing the results of having had two sets of out of town guests over the holidays, plus a New Year's party. Do you have any suggestions for cleaning up after such festivities? The kitchen is a mess, my table linens have wax on them and I'm sure you can imagine the rest.

A: The cleaning experts at The Maids Home Services suggest the following cleaning tips to help ease the pain of post holiday cleaning:

- To clean burnt baking pans, coat the bottoms with baking soda and add just enough water to cover. Let stand for three hours, then gently scrape out the burnt food with a plastic spatula.
- To clean your glassware, add a few tablespoons of vinegar to dishwasher to cut grease and leave your glasses sparkling. Do not scour glassware with abrasives.
- To clear all the grease and grime inside your oven, set the oven temperature to low for about 20 minutes and then turn off. Place a small dish of full-strength ammonia on the top shelf. Put a large pan of boiling water on the bottom shelf and let it sit overnight. In the morning, open the oven and give it some time to air before washing with soap and water. Even the hardest baked-on grease will wash off easily.

NOTE: Be careful not to mix ammonia with bleach, vinegar or anything

CONTINUED TO
GETTING ORGANIZED...Page 25



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Every Picture Tells a Story

REAL ESTATE

A GREENER VIEW

Make room for heirloom vegetables, fruits and flowers

JEFF RUGG
Copley News Service

Many people plant some of their garden or patio potted vegetables from seeds. In the spring, it is possible to find a few varieties of tomatoes, peppers, beans and one or two other garden vegetables at the big box stores and a few more varieties at the specialty garden stores.

You won't find corn, okra and other standard plants, let alone something like the African horned cucumber. You won't have more than 100 choices of melons or beans or tomatoes, but you can find those choices of common and rare vegetables in seed catalogs.

Stores will have the common varieties of flowers and vegetables available as plants and as seeds. If you want the rare or newest or strangest varieties, you will have to get seeds from a catalog.

This year, why not dedicate a few feet of one of your garden's crop rows or a large patio flowerpot to something you have never tried before. You could try something simple, such as one of the long beans that will grow seed pods more than 2 feet long. Or you could try the African horned cucumber, which is actually more like a melon. It has a green pulp that looks like lime Jell-O, but tastes sort of like banana and lime mixed together. Don't just plant the same old, common variety of tomato from a store as you did last year. Did you know that ripe tomatoes can be green, orange, pink, purple, white, yellow and striped, in addition to the regular old red? There are hundreds of varieties that taste better and look nicer than the same old store-bought plants.

You can buy white-, yellow-, orange- and pink-fleshed watermelons, too. You aren't going to be able to buy a 200-pound watermelon at the store, but you can grow one yourself if you plant the Carolina Cross, which produced the 262-pound world record watermelon.

What is your favorite garden vegetable? Whatever it is, there will be a dozen or maybe 100 varieties available in garden catalogs. Try at least one new variety

every year and you will really enjoy your favorite vegetable.

There are new types of fruits and vegetables available through seeds that will never be available in grocery stores because the produce spoils too quickly to be shipped. There are numerous Asian and Oriental fruits, melons, greens, peppers and other vegetables that you will have to grow yourself if you are ever going to eat one.

A great catalog for heirloom seeds is available from Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. and at the company's Web site, www.rareseeds.com. They have traveled the world so you don't have to, to find an incredible variety of garden products.

GARDEN TIP

Take that garden to a new level

For rare, new or strange fruit and vegetable varieties, get seeds from a catalog. Choices of common and obscure vegetables that can be found in seed catalogs include beans that will grow seed pods over 2 feet long and the African-horned cucumber that has pulp colored like lime Jell-O.

A great catalog for heirloom seeds is available from Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. and at their Web site, www.rareseeds.com. They have traveled the world, so you don't have to, to find an incredible variety of garden products.

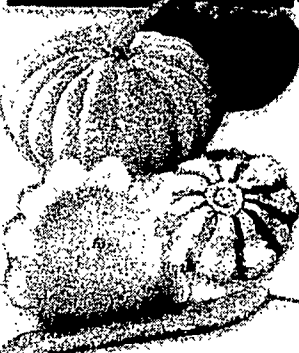
AVAILABLE SEEDS FROM RARESEEDS.COM:

■ Red, green, orange, pink, purple, white, yellow and striped tomatoes.

■ White, yellow, orange and pink-fleshed watermelons.

■ The Carolina Cross watermelon that produced the 262-pound world record.

■ Asian and oriental fruits, melons, greens, peppers and other vegetables.



Copley News Service / Pete Chenard

ety of garden products.

Many people are concerned about the widespread practice of genetic engineering and the unknown consequences of genetically modified foods. Taking up heirloom gardening reassures us that we can enjoy vegetables and fruits that are pure, natural and unchanged.

Heirlooms are sometimes given as gifts this time of year. They are a special present from a past generation to a younger one. An heirloom plant could be an individual plant handed down and planted in a garden, or in more general terms, it is a variety of a plant that has not been hybridized. It is still the genetically variable plant that was propagated years ago.

To be considered an heirloom, the plant itself - be it vegetable, fruit, herb, etc. - must be open-pollinated, which means it must be able to produce seeds that will

come back true year after year.

There are four classifications of heirloom plants: family, commercial, created and mystery heirlooms.

Most commonly, there are seeds passed down through the generations of a family or local area, which are called family heirlooms.

Until hybrid varieties came along after World War II, most commercially grown varieties of food crops were open-pollinated and are now called commercial heirlooms.

It is possible to create an heirloom by the deliberate crossing of two known hybrids or an heirloom and a hybrid, if the seeds

come true to type thereafter. The preceding two crosses are called created heirlooms.

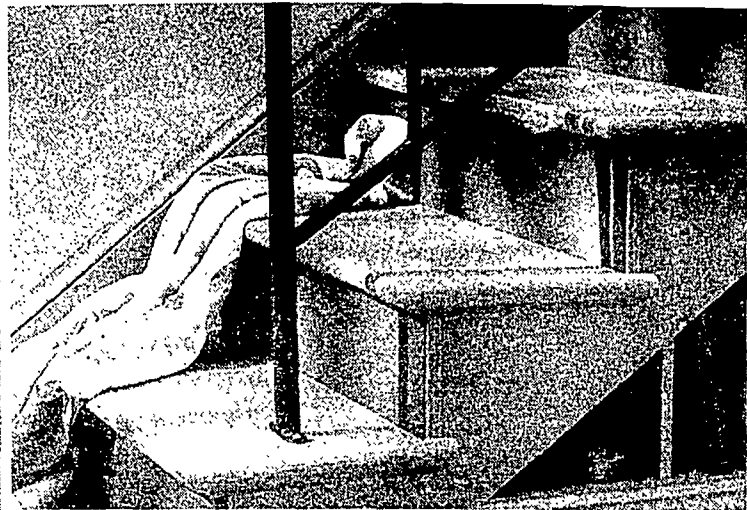
Then there are the mystery heirlooms that are the result of the natural crossing between two heirlooms, when only one parent is known.

Some catalogs do not list their seeds as heirlooms, but do list them as antique seeds. This is usually the same thing as an heirloom seed; some people say that a seed cannot be an heirloom unless it has a history that can be traced back at least 50 years - and some say more than 100 years. But if a plant has a real uniqueness that cannot be found in other plants, some people will waive the age requirement. If the seeds can be traced to a special region of the world, then they may be worth saving so the area's plant diversity can be saved.

It is not just the flavor of the fruit that is missing in modern produce, but is also the genetic diversity. Just going back about 100 years, you would find several thousand varieties of virtually every food crop. But now, there are only 1,000 or so of each kind of food, and in many crops, there are only 100 or so varieties in commercial production.

If a drought or disease comes along, it would harm those varieties with such a limited parentage. Then we could have a food problem on our hands.

E-mail questions to Jeff Rugg at info@greenerview.com.
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Color your world ... carefully

CHRISTINE BRUN
Copley News Service

Every surface in your home has the potential to display color. Floors, chair seats, walls, curtains and picture frames all can add color to your environment.

In deciding just where you'll add color, pay close attention to the smallest details. Even building materials have color and need to be considered when you're selecting such items as window frames, baseboards and cabinet finishes. Your color scheme must take into account these sorts of background elements.

For example, a wall full of family photos has both the background color of the wall and the frames with matting to consider. If the matting color is forest green on the four or five framed pictures, green factors in as a part of your scheme.

Even tiny accents like the color of your cabinet hardware and door handles are important. If you have gray tones and a cool color scheme going on, you will probably want hardware that is silver in orientation - brushed chrome, pewter or nickel. If you introduce a bright brass fitting into your cool decor, the overall design will appear to be out of kilter.

Have a look at the stairway shown in the photo here. The cubbyholes beneath the treads certainly add interest, but look at what a difference the paint selections make. A soft aqua stair skirting meets up with the turquoise baseboard. The wood stair riser is stained a medium orange tone, while the tread is a natural wood tone. By selecting paint carefully, materials that have to be used anyway become design elements. Every wood species accepts the same stain differently. Some woods have a certain tonal character that cannot be masked without expert treatment. That's why it's important to make the right wood choice to use for a stair tread or a hand rail. Selection of a wood floor presents the same issue in terms of the surface being more yellow or red in base color.

Carpet is another excellent example. Even natural tans can range from rose-colored to khaki. The same truths apply to the use of natural stone, ceramic or porcelain tile, or laminate floors.

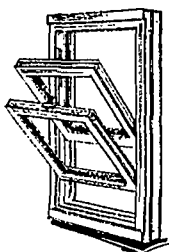
Another easily forgotten material that influences a color scheme is grout. Your beautiful tile job might be altered in a surprising way with the use of a strong contrast color. Suddenly the tile will appear totally different from the way you imagined it should look.

The color of grout is a tiny detail, but it can make or break the design. Try to match the grout color to the largest tile being used. Grout selection should never be an afterthought.

From the floor your eye moves up to the windows. If there is a color to the window frame, that becomes another issue. Suppose that you have stained the frames of your windows in the same orange/rust tone of the stair skirting. If you intend to use wood blinds, think of how pure white will appear with an orange line visible behind the slats. It would be much smoother to install a wood-stained blind that blends in with the window frame. In this way the eye is not stopped and does not pick up any jarring detail when looking at and through the window.

Evaluate each of your rooms to see where you might add a touch of color. Then make sure every detail - from the wood tone to the smallest accessory - contributes to making the statement you want.

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REAL ESTATE

HERE'S HOW

Homeowners without adequate smoke detection are playing with fire!

GENE GARY
Copley News Service

Q: We purchased a house that doesn't have smoke detectors. I have looked around at various products, and find a vast difference in pricing. Can you recommend what to look for when shopping for these safety devices?

A: There are a variety of systems available, but for adequate safety protection, it's important to look for dual-detection alarm systems. These feature a combination of an ionization sensor for high-flaming fires, as well as a photoelectric sensor that detects smoking, smoldering fires.

The dual system should be able to detect both problems with equal effectiveness and speed. Many of the less expensive smoke detectors are good at detecting high-flame fires, but less adept at sensing smoky fires, such as those caused by smoldering upholstery or bedding, which can be equally dangerous to the occupant. Many fire victims die of smoke inhalation, not burns.

There are battery-operated smoke detectors as well as electric, hard-wired alarms that can be linked together with other units to provide a complete whole-house system. In such systems, all alarms will respond simultaneously when one unit detects fire flames or smoke.

In some areas, laws have been passed that require new construction to have a whole-house, interconnected AC smoke detector system that is connected to house wiring. Alarms are required on each floor. Any electric system should also be equipped with a backup battery alarm to provide protection in case of power outages.

To retrofit an existing structure with a hard-wired electric system would be expensive and is probably not the most feasible approach.

Whether a system is battery operated or electric, it should be equipped with a test button to test electronic circuitry, alarm and battery function. Battery systems should have an alert system that chirps or flashes red every few seconds to indicate when batteries are low. Tamper-resistant locking pins are another feature that helps deter theft or tampering. Alarm units should have a hinge or easy-to-remove cover for easy cleaning. Dust can cause a sensor to fail. Experts recommend that individual units be replaced each decade to protect against malfunctioning.

Specialized features include strobe lights that flash when the alarm is activated, which is important for the hearing impaired.

Another special feature for when children are in the household is an audio alarm. The KidSmart Vocal Fire Alarm allows parents to record a message in their own voice. Studies have shown that children often sleep through a normal smoke detector's alarm, or respond too slowly. They are likely to

respond much more quickly to a parent's voice. Mounting this type of battery-operated unit in each child's room provides added protection. However, this model is photoelectric only, so you would also want to install an ionization alarm in the same area. In testing done by several panels of experts, including Consumer Reports magazine, the First Alert Dual Sensor Remote Control Smoke Alarm SA302 was rated as the best smoke detector you can buy. This unit runs on a replaceable 9-volt battery and features a combination ionization and photoelectric sensor that is by far the most accurate and effective detection method available.

It has extra features that many detectors do not, such as an 85-decibel alarm, a remote-controlled alarm silence and test, Intelligent Sensing, which differentiates nonthreatening conditions - kitchen smoke, for example - from real emergencies, and an automatic daily self-check test. This model has a 10-year warranty, which does not include the battery.

Battery replacement is recommended yearly in most units. In fact, a popular public-service safety campaign has popularized the idea of changing your smoke detector battery when you change your clocks each spring for daylight saving time.

Smoke detectors can range in price from the cheapest models (under \$10), equipped with an ionization sensor only, to more elaborate dual units with extra safety features (\$100 and up). An individual ionization sensor placed in an area with a photoelectric sensor will provide protection for both smoke and flaming fires, but it is probably better and less expensive to invest in one dual unit. Be sure that any unit you buy is UL-approved.

Q: I have followed a number of your recommendations for cleaning and household repairs. Hopefully you can help me. My living room-dining room walls are covered with grass cloth. It has some area stains and marks. Do you have any recommendations for cleaning this type of wall covering?

A: This type of wall covering is made of jute, linen or grass, woven then bonded to a backing. It is susceptible to damage from furniture rubbing against it and will stain and collect dirt. It can be very difficult to clean.

Use a vacuum cleaner with a soft-bristle brush. Put the unit on low suction if possible.

Do not use a sponge or rag, which may damage the textured weave. Avoid moisture. Treat marks with an aerosol solvent made to remove grease.

If furniture or other objects have marred the finish by rubbing off the textured material, it can't be repaired.

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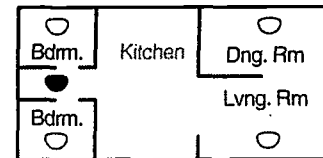
HOME HOW TO

No smokescreen for detectors

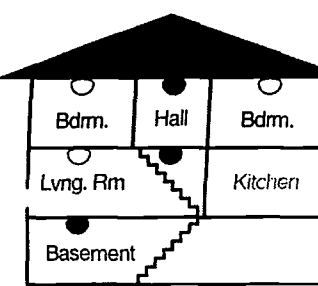
For adequate safety protection, it's important to look for a dual-detection fire alarm system (such as the First Alert Dual Sensor SA-302 at right), which uses a combination of an ionization sensor for high-flaming fires, as well as a photoelectric sensor, which detects smoking-smoldering fires.

Smoke detector placement

- Required by National Fire Protection Agency
- Recommended by NFPA



Single-story residence



Multistory residence

Fire statistics

■ More than 800 children age 14 and under die in home fires each year. That's more than 15 children each week.

■ A home fire doubles in size every 30 seconds.

■ 1 in 5 alarms are inoperable due to dead or missing batteries.

■ 1 in 3 fires occurred in homes with inoperable smoke alarms due to dead or missing batteries.

■ Once a house fire starts, you have less than 5 minutes to get you and your family to safety.

■ Most deadly fires in America occur during the night, between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. The majority (51.6%) of victims of home fires die in their sleep.

■ Each year, home fires kill more Americans than all natural disasters combined.

SOURCE: FirstAlert

Copley News Service / Pete Chenard

CONTINUED FROM GETTING ORGANIZED...Page 23

else acidic while cleaning. When mixed together, the two can create a toxic chemical cloud that is dangerous for you and your entire family.

• To rid your refrigerator of nasty leftover odors, pour a box of baking soda onto a jelly-roll pan and place it on a shelf inside the fridge.

• To clear your microwave of odors and splattered food particles, drop a lemon wedge into a cup of water and boil inside the microwave for a few minutes. The food particles will easily wipe off.

• Remove melted wax from tablecloths or clothing by placing a

brown paper sack, free of any writing, over the wax stain. Gently rub a warm iron over the sack. The heat from the iron will re-melt the wax, and the paper from the sack will help absorb it.

• If your holiday candle holders are spotted with spilled wax, put the candle holder in the freezer for at least an hour. The wax should easily come off.

• Before putting them away for next year, dust artificial wreaths and flower arrangements fast with a blast of cool air from your blow dryer set on the low speed. For decorative objects like ceramics, dust carefully using a paintbrush with soft bristles, or gently vacuum using a brush attachment tool.

• To clean a collection of holiday teddy bears, use a vacuum with an extension wand attachment, covered with a nylon knee-high secured with a rubber band. Dust by blotting the object with the vacuum attachment. The nylon will insure small features like button eyes are not lost.

For more information, check www.maids.com.
Stephanie Denton is an organizing expert, speaker and past president of the National Association of Professional Organizers. Send your questions to her at Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190, or e-mail her at copleysd@copleynews.com.

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HOME IDEAS

Costly full custom cabinetry not needed for a custom look

LINDA PESCATORE
Copley News Service

Houses aren't made one-size-fits-all, but cabinetry and furniture often are. If you don't have the cash to get a complete custom makeover in your kitchen or bath, but you want features such as wider doors, deeper cabinets or unique corner units, take a look at semicustom cabinetry. The cost lies between that of standard sizes and full custom work.

By mixing a wider variety of standard units with the ability to tweak dimensions, semicustom cabinets help you maximize your storage space. For example, you may be able to fill the space above standard kitchen cupboards with custom-sized cabinets or display cases that meet the ceiling. You can even create one-of-a-kind china hutches, kitchen islands and window seats that perfectly match your cabinetry, because they are made from the same materials.

One company that offers semicustom options is HomeCrest Cabinetry, with its Custom Choice line. The company has a system for manufacturing cabinets that shortens the lead time, so custom pieces are created in a timely manner and delivered at the same time as the standard pieces.

"Especially in remodeling, nobody has a home that exactly matches the dimensions of standard cabinets," said HomeCrest spokeswoman Mary Lou Denny. "If you have a funny little pipe that you have to cover (with cabinets), HomeCrest can size it to cover that pipe."

The cabinets, of course, are offered in a wide variety of styles, from traditional to contemporary, including the popular Arts and Crafts style. Materials include cherry, maple, oak, hickory and thermofoil-melamine. Denny recommends that homeowners consult a kitchen and bath designer to be sure to get the right look with an expert fit.

Although many cabinetmakers have semicustom lines, Denny says HomeCrest is the only manufacturer that mixes standard sizes with semicustom, allowing the customer to save money. For more information visit www.homecrestcab.com.

WHAT'S THE RIGHT OVERLAY?

When designing new cabinetry, one con-

sideration of many is the amount of "overlay" you want. Overlay refers to the amount of cabinet frame that is covered by each cabinet door or drawer, and each amount gives your cabinetry a different appearance, according to Kraftmaid Cabinetry.

A full overlay, in which the frame is close to completely covered, provides a clean, seamless look ideal for modern designs.

A 1-inch overlay allows a one-half-inch to show between the cabinets. Still suitable for contemporary designs, the 1-inch overlay is less expensive. For traditional decor, more of the frame is exposed with one-half-inch overlay cabinets and drawers.

KNOW WHEN TO FOLD

Whether you want to transform a closet into another use - such as an office, laundry alcove or entertainment center - or if you're tired of being blocked from half the closet by heavy sliding doors, there is a solution.

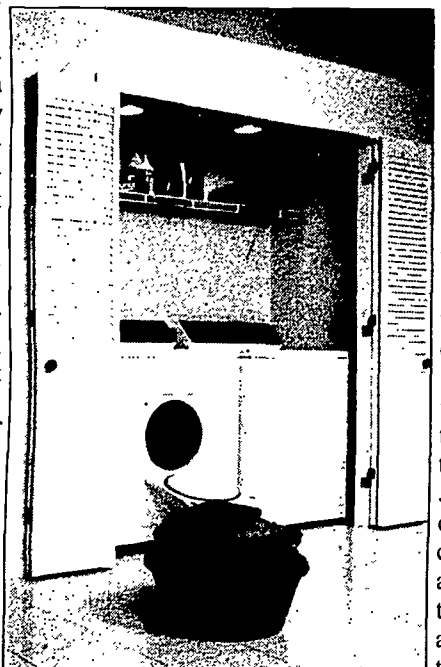
Full access folding doors open up the closet by getting the doors out of the way, neatly folded against the adjoining walls. The closet is all yours to utilize, from jamb to jamb. When you want to get it all out of your way, just close the doors.

A kit by Johnson Hardware includes all the pieces needed except the doors, which you can choose based on your dimensions and decor. Narrow closets can use two-door systems, and wider closets use four doors.

It's a lot easier to install than you might think; there's no mortising needed. Johnson's jamb hinges, control arm and panel-connecting hinges all attach with screws, so the only tools required are a screwdriver and a tape measure. It's estimated that an experienced handyman can get the doors "up and folding" in about 10 minutes.

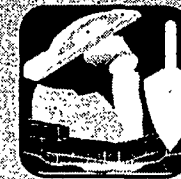
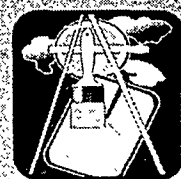
You can request information on how to convert your closet to a useful space by writing Full Closet Access Ideas, L.E. Johnson Products Inc., 2100 Sterling Ave., Elkhart, IN 46516. For more information visit www.johnsonhardware.com and click on "Bi-folding Door Hardware."

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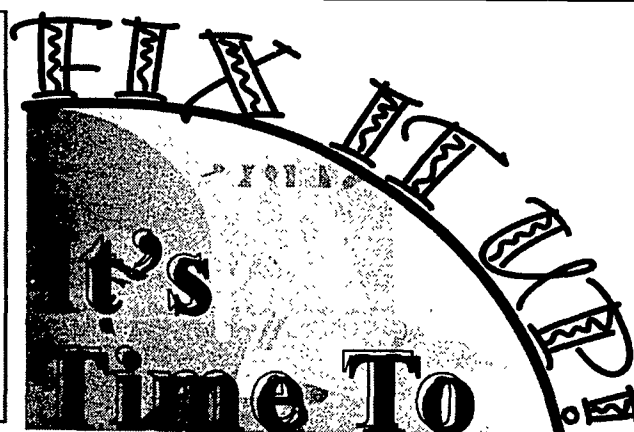
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AUTO SCENE

Nothing wimpy about Hummer 3

Mark Maynard
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Sometimes the warnings tags on U.S. products seem stupendously silly, such as not using a hair dryer in the bathtub. But somebody tried that once, right?

It also seems quite obvious that the Hummer H3 is built for a purpose, which from the look of it would be for driving off-road. It even looks like a hiking boot.

The big tires (32-inchers, standard), stubby front and rear ends, mighty tow hooks sticking out at the bumpers, prominent hood with fake air vents and blocky fender flares are pretty good indicators that this isn't one of those car-based crossover sport utility vehicles that are meant to look like a truck but are as wimpy as the old family station wagon.

Why, then, are Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City the top-selling regions for the H3?

Should this truck come with a yellow tag that reads: "Best enjoyed if driven off-road at least six times a year?"

The Hummer H3 is a well-forged tool, a born trail rider, with full-time four-wheel drive and locking differentials.

Whoever is buying this truck is keeping the Hummer brand alive. The sales rate hasn't plunged as it has in most SUV segments.

August logged 4,772 sales, followed by 4,054 in September and 4,461 in October. Those are encouraging numbers when compared to the more mainstream Chevy Trailblazer SUV at 13,910 sales last month.

And according to J.D. Power data, 42 percent of H3 buyers are female, compared to 23 percent for the H2. And, should you be curious, H2 sales have been running less than half that of the H3. As for the H1, the big one, it found 28 buyers in September and 21 last month.

H3 pricing starts at \$29,000, which leaves room for accessorizing. The test truck, with options, had a sticker price of \$36,605.

As SUVs go, the Hummer H3 is a smarter truck than the larger H2,

which is almost too big and heavy for its own good, off-road or on.

The littlest Hummer is a modern SUV, as capable on-road as off. It is built on the boxed frame of GM's Chevy Colorado and GMC Canyon

flated without ever leaving the cab. The reinflation part can take an hour to get all four tires back to road pressure. But, alas, it's a cost issue.

"CTIS is an extremely expensive system to develop and would require

The engine gets winded on long uphill and when pressed for passing power. There's talk of offering a 5.3 liter V-8 and a diesel engine, but both are a couple of years out.

The ride quality is taut, the interior

To say "Hummer" and "refined" in one sentence might be an oxymoron, but it works here.

A handsome upgrade is the Morocco leather, part of the \$3,125 luxury package. The seats are a two-tone nutmeg-rusty color surrounded by black. The package also adds OnStar, six-disc CD changer, power heated seats and leather-wrapped steering wheel.

The cargo area is hard plastic - not carpet - for easy cleanup. With tiedowns and a storage box, it's ready to load the dog kennel for that upcoming dove hunting trip. The liftgate with spare tire is heavy, however, particularly when parked on an incline.

The standard equipment list is substantial enough to support a vehicle costing \$30,000-plus.

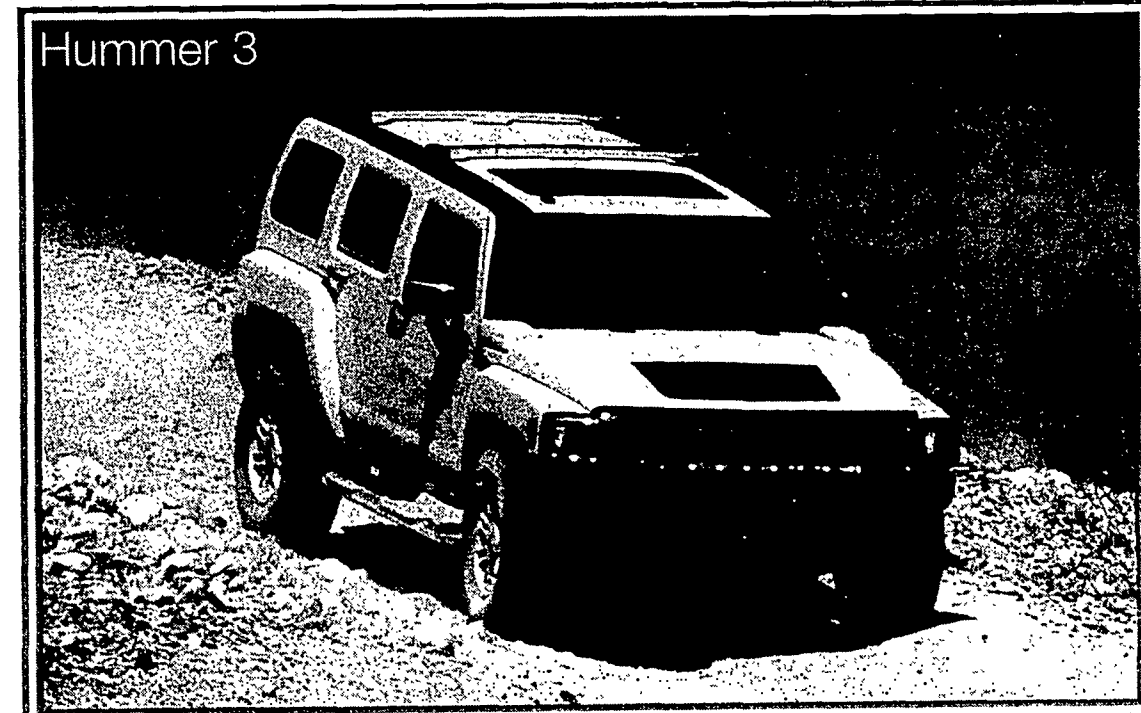
However, if women are a large percentage of buyers, why isn't there a covered vanity mirror on the driver's visor, as there is on the passenger side?

And the placement of window controls on the door armrests might be an awkward backward reach, even for those who ride with the seat pushed all the way back. And if you don't plan to be lashing things to the roof rack, don't spend the money on the step rails (\$695). They just get in the way of what would normally be an easy entry and exit.

You could also save \$600 on the black brush guard that doesn't look rugged enough to deflect a cow but appears more than capable of crunching backward into the hood, causing more damage than brushing past shrubs and branches.

Al, but it is that look that makes this truck so popular. The H3 is not the same old thing - it does not represent the conspicuous consumption of the H2 - and consumers are sending a message to all carmakers with those sales.

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

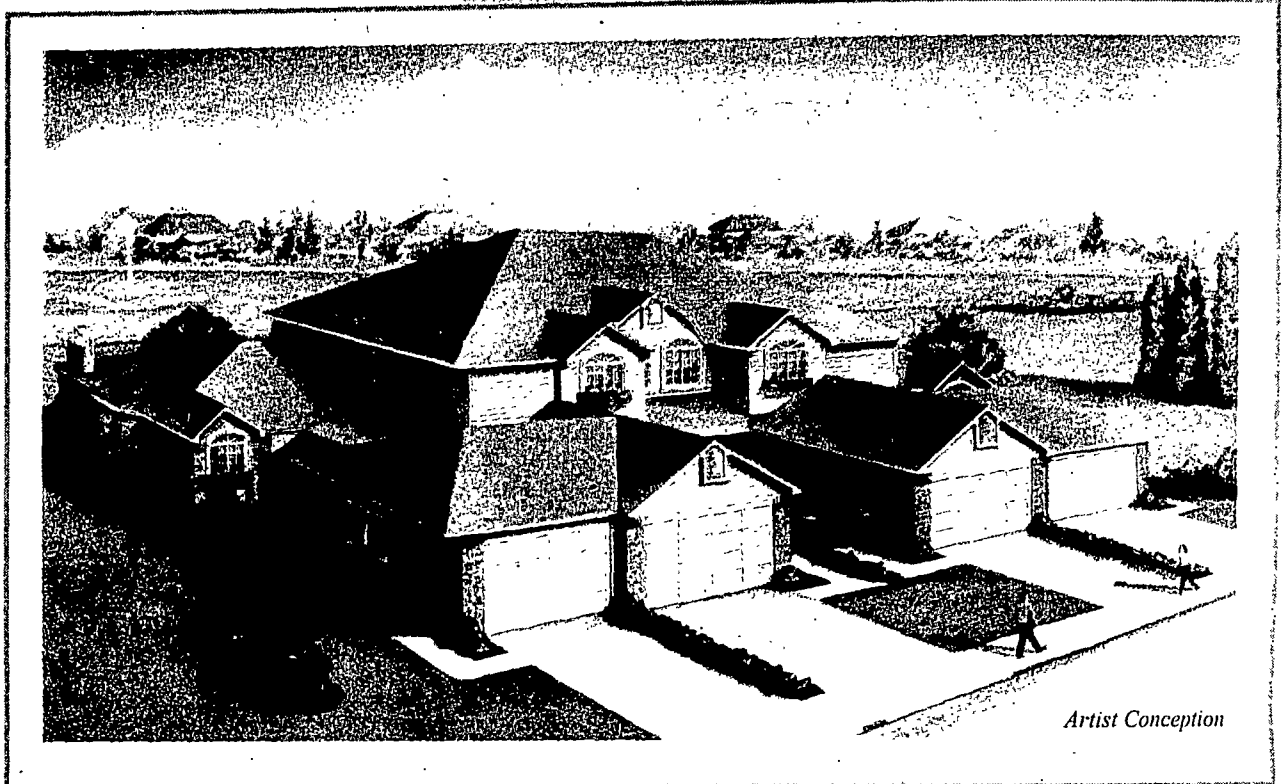


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