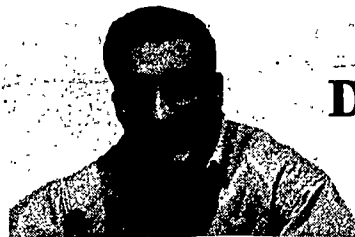


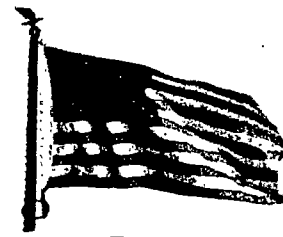
Primaries
ELECTION DAY TUESDAY!
**DISTRICT 69 TRIES AGAIN
FOR REFERENDUM**
OTB Referendum Letters Inside
PRIMARIES 2006, PAGES 19-21



OTB VOTE ISN'T ALL
**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN
COOK COUNTY PRIMARIES**
Morgan Dubiel's Column

SINCE 1957

THE BUGLE



THURSDAY MARCH 16, 2006

VOL. 49 No. 43

NILESBUGLE.COM • PARKRIDGEBUGLE.COM • MORTONGROVEBUGLE.COM

Morton Grove arrests bank robber

Morton Grove police busted a 39-year-old man Thursday, March 9 for robbing a local bank. Shannon Brown, 39, of Rolling Meadows was arrested with \$6,000 cash after robbing LaSalle Bank, 8745 Waukegan Road.

Brown walked into the Morton Grove bank branch at about 3 p.m. He walked up to the teller and handed her a note declaring a robbery. The note implied Brown was armed and threatened the teller.

After obtaining \$6,000 in cash,

Brown fled in a white van.

A bank employee gathered a description of the van and relayed the information to police. Officers then spotted the van, conducted a traffic stop and arrested Brown recovering the cash.

No weapons were found and no one was injured.

The bank robber appeared in federal court Feb. 10. Bond was denied and Brown faces up to 20 years prison time.

The Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago FBI Robert Grant

commended the Morton Grove police and Chief Paul Tasch for capturing Brown.

"The swift apprehension of this potentially dangerous individual prevented him from committing another robbery and endangering other citizens," said Grant.

Jewish Federation takes over Shermer Park

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

The story goes back to the fall of 2004 and for both the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and the Niles Park District it has a happy ending.

The Jewish Federation has acquired a parcel of land, known as Shermer Park. The Circuit Court of Cook County approved the transaction on March 2.

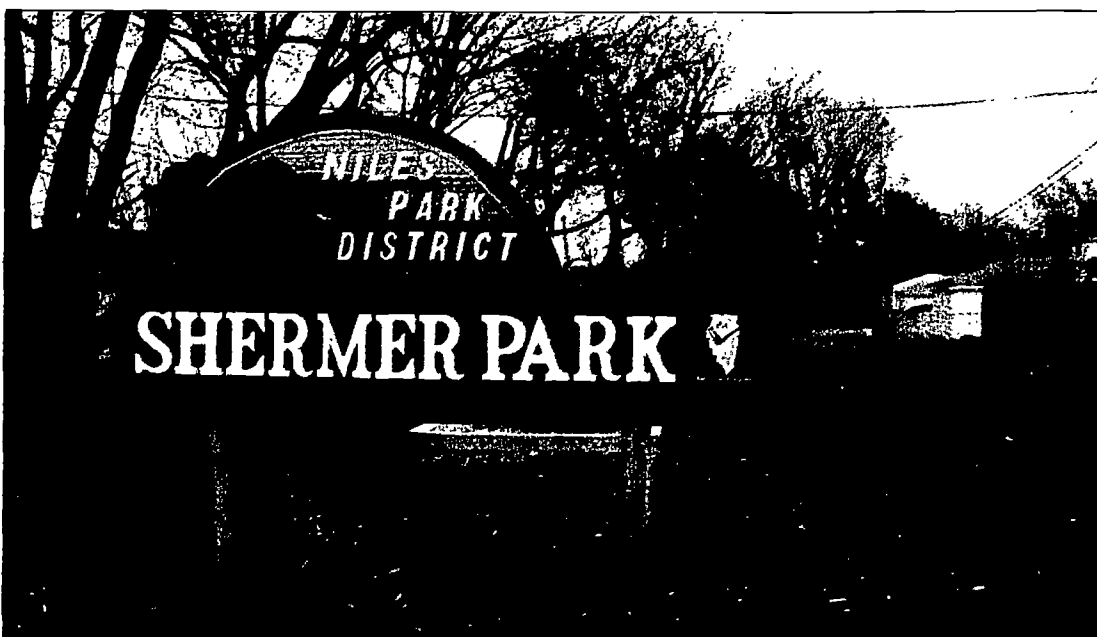
The site is directly adjacent to a two-acre cemetery site on Waukegan Road south of Dempster and the federation says

there are Jewish graves located at the Shermer Park site.

"It's the obligation of the Jews in the Jewish Community to protect and preserve the graves," said Joel Schatz, manager of media relations for the foundation. "We certainly believe there are unmarked graves there."

Schatz said that the federation has an "extensive volunteer network" that will work to preserve, protect and maintain the site. He said that the federation had a group of volunteers maintain the

Story Continues...
see **SHERMER** page 2.



Shermer Park, pictured above is now owned and maintained by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. They believe there are unmarked graves on the site.

Strzeleckis, Katrina volunteers, others win Niles Chamber 'roses'

Many times, the best thing we can do is take the time to lend a hand. The 2006 Niles Night of Roses recipients mirror this sentiment. The Niles Chamber of Commerce is very pleased to announce the 2006 award recipients for our Third Annual Niles Night of Roses Community Recognition Dinner - A Tribute to Home Grown Success. All recipients will be honored on April, 22, 2006 at the Chateau Ritz. An invitation can be found inside this edition of the Bugle Newspaper.

Shure Incorporated and Lucky Magees Racino Grill & Sports Lounge are the major sponsors for this event. Contact the Niles Chamber (847) 268-8180 for reservations or for more information.

This year the **Bob Wordel Living Legend Award** honors **Walter Beusse**. In a town like Niles, there are people who have built this community, its programs, services and neighborhoods, from their hearts. Today we often take for granted what

some people spent a lifetime creating. Join us to honor Walter Beusse and these fine individuals:

Business of the Year: Callero & Catino Realty. In their 50th year as a Niles business, Callero & Catino Realty has made significant contributions not only to real estate in the area but also to local organizations such as the Optimist Club, Sister Cities program and the Niles Chamber of Commerce.

Story Continues...
see **ROSES** page 3.

Sex offender arrested for going to Nelson School

Registered Sex Offender Gary Samela, 45, of Lombard was arrested over the weekend and charged with being a registered sex offender within a school zone in early February, Niles' Nelson School.

According to Niles Police Sergeant Jim Elenz, Samela was observed in Nelson School Feb. 17 with his girlfriend by a woman who recognized him and knew that he

was a registered sex offender. When she asked what he was doing there, he responded that he had permission from his probation officer to visit the school for a meeting about his girlfriend's daughter.

The woman contacted his probation officer to verify his story. When she could not, she called Nelson School on Mar.

Story Continues...
see **SEX OFFENDER** page 2.

NEWS

This Election Don't forget Cook County



By Morgan Dubiel
Columnist

This Spring, for the first time in my recollection, Cook County voters have a real choice as to who will run County government. The incumbent, John Stroger, represents the political machine and 19th century Tammany Hall power politics. His opponent, Forrest Claypool, represents a hope for a new style of Illinois politician. Normally, the Illinois voter is faced with a choice

between 'garbage' or 'trash'. Same difference, so why vote. Now, you have a real choice between two distinctly different candidates.

Cook County government affects your life much more than Springfield or the more distant Washington, DC. County government is a \$3,000,000,000.00 dead-weight laying heavily on municipalities, voters and taxpayers. It is rife with waste, fraud and abuse. Don't believe me? Let's start at the top of the list with the new Cook County Hospital - John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County.

Firstly, isn't there something a little sick when we start naming public property after living people? Especially when that person is intimately involved in the politics and funding of said project. The shocking fact is that Cook County has too many hospitals. Most hos-

pitals barely make money and most are non-profit for this reason. At the same time there is a desperate need for more acute care facilities and trauma centers in neighborhoods where they are best suited to serving those most at risk and in need. The projected budget for the John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital was \$551 million, so far it cost over \$623 million. Imagine how much health insurance that would buy. Imagine how many care centers could be funded?

Look at the Forest Preserve system. This is a natural resource that is allowed to lay fallow and wasted. If Illinois were to experience a prolonged drought all that deadwood would burn like the California or Texas wildfires. Imagine the smoke, fire and damage that would cause to Cook County homes, families and

forests. For the money we spend our preserves should be pristine shining examples that are clean and safe and that enrich our lives.

The most obvious sign of waste and corruption is tax increases. There is no reason for government to grow faster than revenues. Governments at all levels collect more than enough taxes to fund all the government we need. It is the frivolous spending, including cronyism, that leads to tax increases. Tax increases were the norm for the Cook County Board until 2003, when a collection of courageous commissioners from both sides of the aisle stood up and said, "No." The current election for Cook County Board President is the culmination of that event.

When taxes are thought of as the first resort and as spending goes through the roof, what effect does

that have on local families and businesses? The line on taxes must be held. Illinois families cannot take another tax increase. There is a better way to run government, not as your personal fiefdom or a place to employ friends and family, but as a trust. There is an enormous amount of waste, fraud and abuse that can be cut, while still delivering top services to Cook County.

As we enter the 21st century, the future is literally in the hands of the voters. What kind of government will they have? Will it be responsive and responsible or will it continue on as 19th century power politics?

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." - Albert Einstein

SEX OFFENDER: Late April court date set

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

3 to alert them to Samela's presence.

Niles Police were contacted and, after verifying the facts, obtained a warrant for Samela's arrest. He was apprehended by police in DuPage County Saturday, Mar. 11. He has a court date on Friday, Apr. 21 at 9 a.m. in the Skokie Court House.

Samela is currently serving federal probation for abducting a child under 16.

NEWS

Lawmaker rethinks hate panel appointment

BY JEFF BORGARDT
STAFF WRITER

A local state lawmaker was recently caught up in a controversy sparked by anti-Semitic remarks made by the Rev. Louis Farrakhan. The African-American Nation of Islam minister delivered a sermon two weeks ago laced with assaults aimed at the Jewish community.

After the sermon, members of the Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes panel asked fellow member Sister Claudette Marie Muhammad, an associate of Farrakhan, to refute the statements.

She refused and two Jewish members of the committee resigned in protest.

After that, the governor appointed local Jewish State Rep. Lou Lang of Skokie to fill a seat on the

commission.

Lang first accepted the appointment but then changed his mind.

"I had hoped to use my appointment to overcome the dispute," Lang writes in a resignation letter. "Unfortunately, my own appointment is now suddenly drawing unnecessary controversy."

He did not return a phone call but his ally State Sen. Ira Silverstein said Feb. 6 he thinks Lang made the right decision.

"This is an extremely unfortunate situation," Silverstein said. "This is about hateful speech. It's not about black or white."

Silverstein said Muhammad, the director of protocol of the Nation of Islam, should renounce the remarks or leave the anti-discrimination panel.

The Senator also said Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich should do more to resolve the situation as he is responsible for overseeing the

board.

"I have not heard from the governor," Silverstein said. "Usually it's OK to deal with staff and aides but I think it's time to be more proactive now."

Silverstein said he gives Muhammad the benefit of the doubt but that acceptance of Farrakhan's hateful remarks merits disqualification from a seat on the anti-discrimination panel.

ROSES: Chamber names honorees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Coach of the Year: Michael Bucior. Michael Bucior has coached basketball, softball, and volleyball for both St. John Brebeuf and the Niles Park District. He has shown extraordinary dedication to teaching our youth sportsmanship, self-esteem, and a desire to challenge themselves to be better athletes and people.

Dynamic Parent Volunteer: Dan Vonder Heide. This is a new award for the event, and a strong

precedent has been set by recipient Dan Vonder Heide. Dan's high energy and willingness to help exceeds expectations. He gives what all organizations, projects and goals need - attention and dedication to see it through.

Fire Fighter "Hot Spot"

Michael Siena, Steven Zook, & James Leibach. In what was the worst natural disaster in our country's history, three Niles fire fighters braved the uncertainty and offered to help. Michael Siena, Steven Zook, & James Leibach, were dispatched to New Orleans in August with little notice and little time to prepare. They joined emergency response firefighters from Illinois to fight fires, recover personal property, rescue Americans, and try to restore basic operations for emergency

care.

Ken Scheel Chamber Member of the Year: Dean Strzelecki. Every organization faces a transitional period. Dean Strzelecki was a leader during a challenging time for the Niles chamber and continues to be a great supporter.

Niles Citizen of the Year: Jack Melfi. Jack Melfi has been a Niles resident for over 15 years. He is a special education teacher for the hearing impaired, known for his role as "Santa" to these children "he has the patience of an angel." He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, a C.C.D. teacher at St. John Brebeuf, he has been a volunteer coach, a tutor for area children, and in 2003 to 2005 was the AYSO Regional Commissioner.

Niles Good Neighbor: Ron

Kucha. Great communities are the products of the people in their neighborhoods. Ron Kucha takes the time to help his neighbors. His attitude creates a spirit of giving amongst on their street. His neighbors consider him a "guardian angel for senior citizens."

Police Officer "Special Agent": Vincenzo Genualdi. Vincenzo Genualdi, a detective, exemplifies this award, by excelling in his duties, obtaining honorable distinctions, being involved in community organizations, and proving he is one of the best and the brightest of Niles.

Teacher of the Year: Anne deTagyos. Anne deTagyos, a teacher at Notre Dame High School, she cares about all her students, is willing to extend personal time and energy to help each

student succeed, is fearless in expressing her opinion, supportive of new ideas and pilot programs. She is a person of integrity, always honest, always fair.

Unsung Worker - Not Enough Hours in the Day: Laurie Strzelecki.

Laurie Strzelecki since 1986 has been the pre-school teacher at the Niles Park District, in addition supervises camps, parades, parties and various programs. She accomplishes anything and everything that she sets out to do.

Youth of the Year: Keith Banaszak. Keith Banaszak, a sophomore at Maine East High School, involved in the Boy Scouts, a good student, a boy of integrity and kindness and spends his Saturdays volunteering at a Nursing Home.

THE BUGLE

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDWARD JONES INVESTMENT REPRESENTATIVE HOSTS 'OUTLOOK AND OPPORTUNITIES' SEMINAR

Edward Jones investment representative Nick Katsoolias of Niles will host an "Outlook and Opportunities" investment strategies seminar at 6:30-8PM Wednesday, March 22, 2006 at Chamber's Restaurant & Lounge, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave. "Discover the Power of Global Investing. "Dinner will be served, reservation required. Please call office administrator, Joy Culver at 847-663-1650, today.

Some of the topics Katsoolias will be covering in the seminar include:

- The 2006 economic outlook
- The impact political and social events may have on the financial markets
- The importance of maintaining a long-term investment strategy

The seminar is free, but seating is limited. To reserve a seat, call Katsoolias at 847-663-1650.

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 Edward Jones interactive Web site is located at www.edward-jones.com.



Starbound Dance Company Competes At Hollywood Connection Regional

On March 4, 2006, Morton Grove Park District's Starbound Dance Company competed at the Hollywood Connection Regional Dance Competition. The Company comprised of Co-Captains Lynda Pisula and Katie Foley, Vicki Baird, Kirstie Beck, Colleen Bonoris, Julie Gitman, Mary Jayne, Maggie King, Adrienne Ordonez, Brenda Sekosan and Liz Sorenson are instructed by Helen Lazicki and Lauren Lazicki. The competition was held at the Sheraton Northwest Chicago in Arlington Heights. Graduating senior Lynda Pisula received a Silver Rating - 2nd Place for her Tap Solo. The Lyrical and Jazz Companies each received a Silver Rating. The Company performs several times throughout the year including the Illinois State Fair in August.

Jazz Company Pictured: 1st row L-R: Brenda Sekosan, Adrienne Ordonez, Lynda Pisula, Colleen Bonoris; 2nd row L-R: Vicki Baird, Maggie King, Liz Sorenson, Katie Foley, Mary Jayne, Julie Gitman and Kirstie Beck.

NORWOOD PARK HOME HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

Leave your worries to us, and finally begin enjoying your twilight years! Take this opportunity to discover Norwood Park Home (NPH), a premier Assisted Living provider, by attending its Open House. The event will be held on Tues., Mar. 28, beginning at 2:30 p.m., at 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago.

Guests will view newly renovated suites and visit other living areas, meet residents and staff, have questions answered, and become better informed about improving their own quality of life or that of a loved one. Learn about the Norwood Park Seniors Network community outreach program that includes home delivered meals and other services.

In between tours, relax and enjoy Baker's Square pie, coffee, tea, and a fun raffle. Picture yourself or a loved one living in a worry-free environment where housekeeping, laundry, meals, and medication reminders are someone else's responsibility. Maybe it's a good time to discover why Norwood Park Home is a lovely community for many older adults.

Norwood Park Home, a not-for-profit division of Nor-Wood Life Care NFP, received a perfect rating - "no deficiencies" - for the second consecutive year in its recently completed annual licensure renewal inspection conducted by the Illinois Department of Public Health. In addition to Assisted Living, NPH offers Memory Support, Post-Hospitalization Care through Medicare Part A, Skilled Nursing Care, Hospice Care, and Respite Services. If you have any questions, call Silvia at (773) 577-5323.

Morton Grove Park District Awarded Certificate of Achievement

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to Morton Grove Park District by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

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SCHOOLS

Notre Dame High School

Roundup

The Notre Dame High School Debate Team finished 15th among 104 schools from 23 schools at the recent National Congressional Tournament at Harvard University. Freshman Joe Mahoney led the team by advancing to the semifinals where he received top scores for his great debating skills.

The Pin Dons Bowling team captured 2nd on both the Junior Varsity and Varsity levels in the Chicago Catholic League and 4th place in Sectionals.

Congratulations to Notre Dame's WYSE Academic Challenge and Bridge Building Team on their recent 1st place performance at the regional competitions. The results were: in Chemistry, Kevin Duber, 2nd and Peter Romei, 3rd; in Engineering Graphics, Chris Lara, 1st and Adam Tandez, 3rd; in Computer Science, Dmitry Barsky, 2nd and Ryan Oblenida, 3rd; in English, John Johann, 2nd; in Mathematics, John Johann, 1st and Kawa Cheong, 3rd; in Physics, John Swobda, 2nd, Andy Bishop, 3d,

Michael Debnar, 3rd, Bob Draths, 3rd, and Jim Kolodziej, 3rd.

The Classics Club successfully defended their spirit title at the Illinois Junior Classic's Convention. Individual honors went to Dan Marcus, 1st place for English oratory; Michael Carr, 2nd place for Tantalus costume; and Andy Bishop, 2nd place for modern myth.

Tim Pompall set a new Notre Dame record with a 42' 1" triple jump at the Maine East tournament.

The Notre Dame cheerleaders wrapped up a great competitive cheer season. The all-girl team competed in the Spirit Athletics Badger Cheer Championship in Madison, Wisconsin where the Junior Varsity division took first place in the JV division against 3 other schools and finished with the fifth highest score among 33 other high schools. The Varsity took first place in the Varsity Super division against four other teams including McHenry HS, Carmel HS, Brother Rice HS and Oak Creek HS. Varsity also took the Grand Champion Award with the highest high school score of the day of all 33 high school scores! The Varsity is set to compete in the Americheer Nationals competition in Florida on March 17 & 18th. The squad leads cheers at ND sporting events throughout the year.

The Notre Dame Ministry Office is hosting a Lenten Enrichment Series entitled: "Sacraments: Our Sign Language System For Speaking About the God Stuff." Fr. Rich Conyers, CSC will present these enlightening one-hour sessions at 2 pm on each of the five Sundays of Lent: March 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th and April 2nd. The sessions will be held at Notre Dame, 7655 W. Dempster Street, Niles.

SJB students learn about Ireland



The first grade students in Miss Harrington's classroom at St. John Brebeuf School have been very busy studying about life in Ireland.

The students learned that faith, family and education were extremely important in each family. Holidays were a time for gathering together to share stories, eat delicious food and give thanks for blessings received.

A display of Irish treasures allowed students to observe and appreciate items made in Ireland. Pictured left to right are Danny Farley, Connor Early and Kevin Beneda.

Maine East Students Qualify for DECA International Conference

Three members of the Maine East chapter of DECA, an Association of Marketing Students, have qualified for the International Career Development Conference to be held in Dallas, Texas from April 29th to May 3rd. The three Maine East students, senior David Budzinski, senior Hiren Shah, and junior Chris Georgiou, all from Des Plaines, qualified at the DECA State Career Development Conference at Decatur, Illinois March 2nd thru

March 4th.

Budzinski qualified to attend the international conference as an Illinois State Officer for DECA. Shah and Georgiou qualified with their written Business Services Marketing Plan. "Our kids represented our school and community really well at state. This is the first year that three students have qualified for the international competition," commented DECA Advisor, Dale Lasky.

The International Career Development Conference (ICDC)

is the highlight of the DECA year for approximately 13,000 members, advisors, businesspersons and alumni. Most of the participants are at ICDC as competitors in one of DECA's competency-based competitive events. Top competitors in each event category are recognized for their outstanding achievements. With the most elite competition that DECA has to offer, the ICDC gives members an opportunity to meet the competition they will face someday in the real world.

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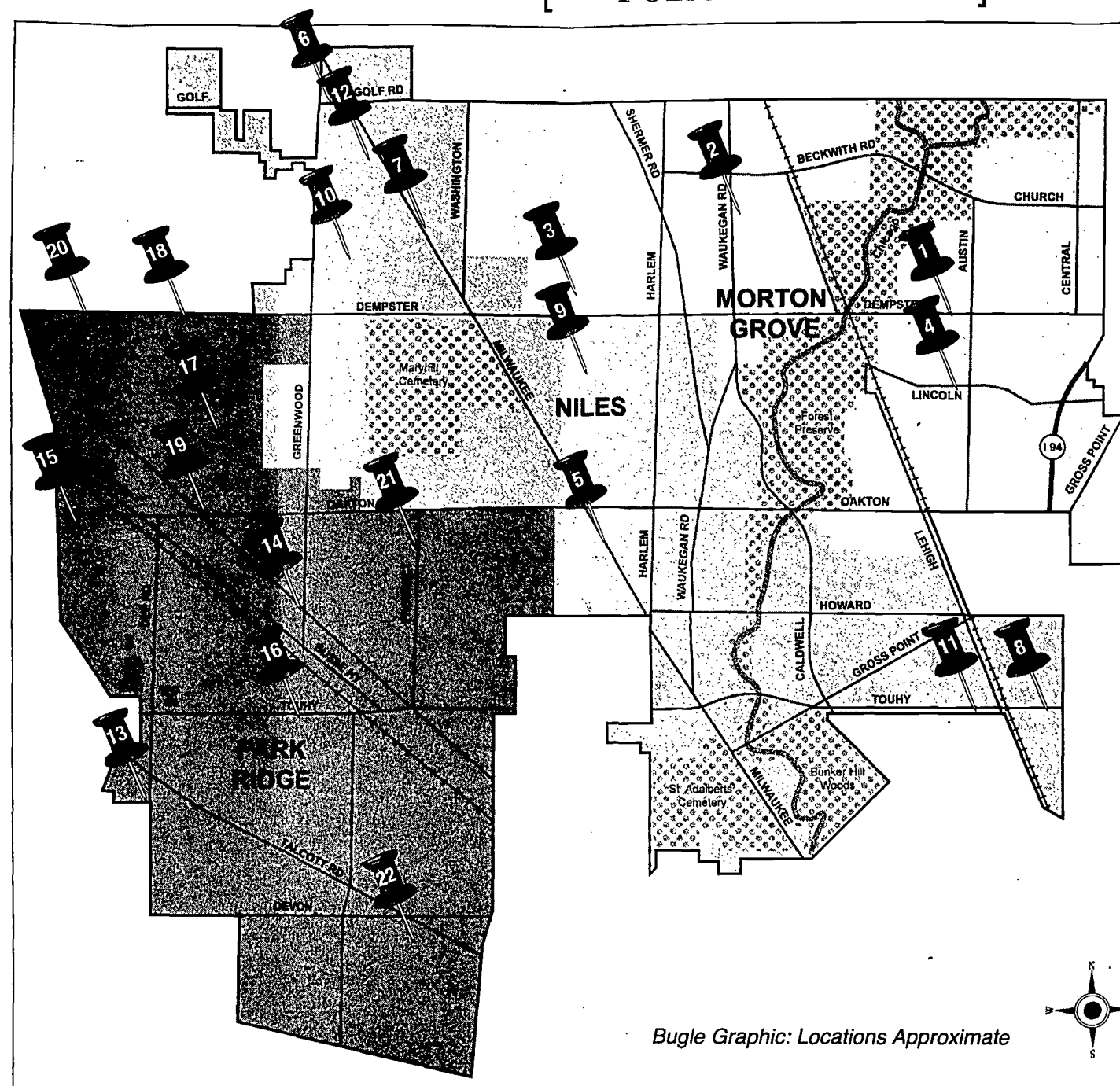
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POLICE BLOTTER



Bugle Graphic: Locations Approximate

MORTON GROVE

The following was derived from the official reports of the Morton Grove Police Department for the week ending Friday, Mar. 10.

1 Attempted dental burglary (6100 Dempster)

Someone tried to pry open the doors of a dental office the night of March 6. Nothing was missing.

2 Short term memory loss (9500 Waukegan)

A police officer was at a gas station March 7 taking a gas theft report when a strange man, 63, wandered up and started talking to the officer. The man said that he ran out of gas and can't find his vehicle. The officer then learned that the Franklin Park man's vehicle was blocking traffic at the entrance

to the Avon building. The keys were in the ignition and the vehicle was out of gas. He was transported home to Franklin Park.

3 ID Theft (9000 Oleander)

A woman, 45, was doing her taxes and received notification that the state had sent someone pretending to be her several thousand dollars last year.

4 Death Investigation (8500 Marmora)

A woman, 58, died last week. She was sitting in her living room smoking a cigarette when she went numb. Her relatives and then ambulance workers tried to rejuvenate her but she was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead. She was

taking medication at the time and her body was transferred to the medical examiner to determine the cause of death.

NILES

The following was derived from the official reports of the Niles Police Department for the week ending Monday, Mar. 13.

5 Battery (7900 Milwaukee)

A Des Plaines floor man, 31, was arrested for battery March 11. He was stopped for a traffic violation and found to have an outstanding arrest warrant.

6 Armed robbery (8700 Golf)

A woman, 68, was approached by a man in a mask

March 9 at 7 p.m. in a parking lot. As she walked up to the car, the masked man approached her and grabbed her two purses. As he was grabbing the purses, there was a brief struggle and the offender brandished a gun.

Stolen motor vehicle

7 (8000 Lake Avenue) A green van was stolen March 11. The van was left running on the street as the driver ran inside to see a friend for 15 minutes. When the driver returned outside, the van was gone.

8 Fake bill (5600 Touhy)

A man walked up to the Wal-Mart cashier and proffered a \$100 bill for payment, appeared nervous and then abruptly walked out of the store. The bill

appears to be a \$5 bill washed and turned into a fake \$100 bill.

Stolen vehicle

9 (8700 Osceola)

A 1994 white Mercury Grand Marquis was reported stolen March 10.

Reckless driving

10 (Golf Mill Mall)

A motorist, 22, of Skokie was cited for disorderly driving March 11 in the Golf Mill Mall parking lot. He was driving fast, squealing tires and making "donuts" by driving in circles. He had a Polish drivers license, but no American one. He had insurance.

Burglary to auto

11 (6300 Touhy)

A dental assistant, 36, of Chicago had her purse taken from her parked car March 11.

Underage drinking

12 (9400 Milwaukee)

An office assistant, 19, was arrested for drinking under age.

PARK RIDGE

The following was derived from the official reports of the Park Ridge Police Department for the week ending Monday, Mar. 13.

13 Knifing, DUI (Talcott and Dee)

A man, 50, was arrested March 2 for DUI and unlawful use of a knife.

14 Road rage (800 N. Northwest Hwy)

A man, 52, was involved in an altercation with a motorist who was trailing him on the block he lives. He was arrested and charged with battery.

15 Burglary (900 N. Wesley)

A rear window was pried open March 2 and a box of jewelry worth about \$5,000 was stolen.

Blotter Continues... see BLOTTER next page.

Apartment bur-



BLOTTER:

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

16 glarized (0-100 S. Greenwood)

A kitchen door was pried open and a burglar entered an apartment. A computer, fax machine, suitcase, digital camera, computer receiver and cash were taken.

17 Tools taken from garage (1600 Habberton)

Someone waked into an open garage and took about \$725 worth of tools the night of March 2.

18 Leather jacket swiped from Mercedes (2600 Dempster)

A leather jacket was removed from the back seat of a parked vehicle March 4.

19 Man jumped, \$53 taken (1000 N. Northwest Hwy)

A man was walking through a business parking lot last week when a car pulled up. The two motorists said they knew the walker, then got out of the car, pushed the person down and

took \$53 from his pants pocket.

20 Defective windshield (2700 Dempster)

A motorist, 23, of Des Plaines was pulled over March 7 and arrested for driving without a license and having a vehicle on the road with a defective windshield.

21 BB shoots out window (900 N. Prospect)

A BB gun shot out the front window of a home the night of March 3 causing \$250 damage.

22 Laptop, cell phone charger stolen (1400 S. Crescent)

Someone took a laptop computer, cell phone charger, and several other items from a 2001 Nissan parked on a home driveway Mar. 6.

Notice

All items listed in The Bugle's Police Blotter were provided by the respective Police Departments.

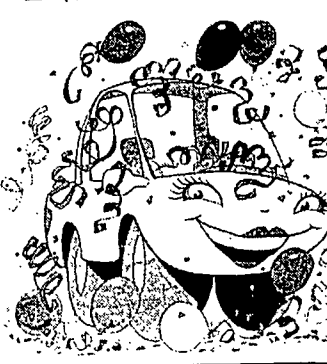
Publication in the Police Blotter does not necessarily assume guilt or innocence which can only be determined by a court of law.

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COMMENTARY

Letters to the Editor

Former Bugle Owner against OTB, speaks on Niles History

Dear Editor,

One of the great ironies to the upcoming vote on the upcoming OTB gambling issue is the likelihood residents will overwhelming-

ly oppose it while their representative, Nick Blase, favors it. It's ironic because in 1961 when Nick Blase was first elected he campaigned to eliminate gambling in Niles. Even though village ordinances forbid gambling, only Cicero had more gambling outlets than Niles in suburban Cook County.

After Blase was elected he expressed ambivalence about opposing gambling. He contended a query of residents did not result in opposition to this issue. But trustee Ken Scheel and his fellow-trustees insisted upholding their campaign issue to end Niles

gambling. This successful opposition also led to eliminating the sleazy unincorporated area on Milwaukee Avenue on Niles' southern border.

When Niles sought its All American award Nick Blase headed a local Niles group which made a presentation which led to Niles receiving the award from its sponsor, Look magazine. The elimination of gambling was at the core of Niles presentation. Not only did the gambling issue vault Blase into the Mayor's chair but it also presented the village with an award which presented Niles as a outstanding American community.

Now, near the end of Blase's political career, he's willing to leave Niles with this unwanted gambling reputation. It is curious Nick no longer supports its village's slogan, "Where People Count". We're sure people count in all the other north shore and near northwest communities as well, but none of them sought or approved a betting facility. The one other suburban community which was willing to accept Off Track Betting was Rosemont. It is a sad commentary Niles could place itself on a similar level.

Blase and his political supporters contend they need the estimated \$500,000 annual OTB income for village purposes. It's a hokey argument. Next door neighbor, Morton Grove, turned down the Off Track Betting bid to reside there. M.G. receives \$12-\$15 million less annually than Niles in sales tax revenue. They turned down the gambling facility on ethical grounds, despite its much greater need for revenue in their town.

Niles per capita return of sales tax is larger than any North Shore community. It is among the top ten Illinois communities in sales tax per capita receipts.

Look at every suburb in Chicagoland and compare its new public buildings with the new extravagant public buildings in Niles. The huge sums of sales tax money Niles receives as well as the taxes from its Niles Township industrial complex, makes the argument for more revenue somewhat moot.

The old phrase, "Follow The Money" may or may not be significant regarding the new gambling business. In our years publishing The Bugle we received many phone calls from new incoming retailers and industrialists noting the insurance men who knocked on their doors days after the Mayor dropped in to welcome them. It may or may not have been a coin-

cidence the insurance people had offices in Blase's offices.

In 1961, the night the trustees eliminated Niles gambling, I was stopped by a man who asked if I was "Bud". After denying it I went into the old Milwaukee Avenue village hall where the vote was about to take place. I stopped at the police headquarters on the first floor and asked a police sergeant to find out who was the man who stopped me. He identified him as a top Chicagoland hoodlum who controlled gambling in our area. A couple of years later he was in federal prison sentenced for committing murder.

Several months after Niles knocked out the gambling in town I was at a dinner with Niles former mayor who preceded Blase. He told me I never understood about the illegal gambling in town. He said quite bluntly, "There was nothing I could do about it". The implication was once the gambling interests had a money interest in your community you no longer had control of your own town.

Bud Besser,
Bugle Owner-Publisher
1957-1997

Niles Resident For OTB

Dear Editor,

I was really glad to see that we were getting an Off Track Betting Parlor (OTB) in Niles. I thought that it would be a welcome sight. Not to mention helping us with our taxes.

I have been a resident of Niles for 33 years and it is wonderful to see how our community has grown and improved under the jurisdiction of Mayor Blase. It truly surprises me that so many people

Letters Continue...
see LETTERS page 10.

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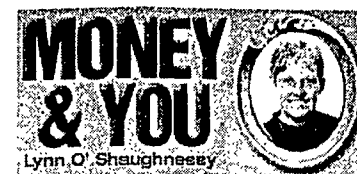
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BUSINESS

A merit award may help pay your kid's college



For teenagers, picking out colleges can be nearly as fun as the limousine ride to their senior prom. The world seems full of infinite possibilities when you've got colleges unabashedly telling kids and their parents whatever they want to hear.

Poring over one of those fat college guides can bring the same delight to high schoolers as the Toys R Us catalogs did when the kids were still wearing their precious OshKosh outfits. As these kids start fantasizing about leaving their dorky parents behind, they think about more important things. Like whether they'd prefer a school that's two or three time zones away.

Or perhaps they're drawn to a campus with historic red brick buildings, or one that's close to ski slopes. Some kids will prefer a

small school, where you wouldn't need name tags to learn everyone's names, while others will be excited about attending a major research institution.

What's often missing from the collegiate preening that ensues during these higher-ed beauty contests is any attempt by parents to inject financial reality into the selection process.

In talking with some of the nation's leading college financial experts, they all tell me the same thing: Kids reach for the best universities and colleges they can get into, but they ignore whether these schools are going to reward them with the sort of serious cash that can make their dreams financially realistic.

It's not very helpful if a child receives an acceptance letter from a school with a \$42,000 annual price tag if the college doesn't toss in money or barely kicks in enough to cover the textbooks. This only sets up a no-win situation in which parents look like

Story Continues...
see MONEY next page.

Durbin proposes law to aid Small Employers with health benefits

Bill to extend government health plan dies in committee

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) recently joined with fellow Senate Democrats to introduce legislation that would give small businesses affordable choices among private health insurance plans—but the bill did not make it past the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on Wednesday, March 8.

"Unfortunately Durbin's bill did not make it out of the committee, but it was supported by every Democratic senator," said Sandra Abrevaya, a spokesperson for Senator Durbin.

Although it didn't make it out of the committee, Abrevaya said it has "huge Democratic support" and still has a chance.

"There's potential movement on it in the future," she explained.

The Small Employers Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) would have allowed small businesses across America to join together and use their joint purchasing power in order to receive lower health care prices. They would spread their risk over a large number of participants.

The program is modeled after the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, which has been successful. This program has provided more than eight million government workers and retirees with a variety of private health insurance choices for more than 40 years.

Sen. Durbin has said in a press release that there are 1.8 million people living in Illinois with no health insurance and there are also thousands of other people who are under-insured. He also said that many people assume people with no insurance are unemployed, but that is not the case. He explained that many of them work full time for small businesses that can not afford to offer health insurance to their employees.

In a press release, Durbin stated, "With today's coverage options, small businesses are unfairly forced to make a choice between taking care of their employees and paying the bills that keep their doors open."



BY JEFFREY CARDELLA
Special to The Bugle

Edward Jones

Don't Underestimate Your Ability to Build Retirement Savings

Many of your fellow Americans just don't think they are capable of building a reasonable amount of savings for their retirement years. Should you be equally gloomy? Not if you save and invest early and often.

Just how pessimistic are people about building their net worth? Consider these findings from a recent survey sponsored by the Consumer Federation of America and the Financial Planning Association:

- Only 26 percent of the adults surveyed think they could accumulate \$200,000 in net-worth in their lifetime.
- A whopping 21 percent of those surveyed said winning the lottery would be the most-practical strategy to accumulate several hundred thousand dollars.

In looking at these figures, two things jump out: The first group may be overly pessimistic - and the second group is totally unrealistic. In fact, a person's chances of winning huge in the Powerball are about 1 in 120 million, give or take a few hundred thousand. So, if you are doubtful that you'll accumulate enough money to retire, and you can't count on the lottery, what can you do to improve your savings outlook? Here are a few suggestions:

- **Set some goals.** You will find it easier to invest for your retirement if you know how much money you will need to reach your goals. Try to visualize the type of retirement lifestyle you'll want. Will you travel? Volunteer? Open your own small business? A qualified financial professional can help you set a general "price tag" on your goals and show you about how much you will need to save each year - and what sort of investment return you will need to achieve - to meet your objectives.

ment return you will need to achieve - to meet your objectives.

- **Put time on your side.** The earlier you start saving and investing, the better your chances of building the resources you'll need to enjoy a comfortable retirement. You might be surprised at how much you can accumulate over time. For example, if you can afford to put away \$100 a month in a tax-deferred investment (such as a traditional IRA) that earned a hypothetical 7 percent a year, you would accumulate more than \$121,000 after 30 years. Even after you pay taxes on your withdrawals, you'll still have a sizable sum.

- **Take advantage of your employer's retirement plan.** If your employer offers a 401(k) or other tax-advantaged retirement plan, take full advantage of it. Every time you get a raise, try to increase your annual contributions. At the very minimum, contribute enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered.

- **Avoid heavy debt burdens.** Debt is one of the biggest threats to your ability to accumulate the money you'll need for retirement. Every dollar you use to pay off a high-interest credit card is a dollar that could be used for investing. Of course, it's not easy for many of us to make ends meet these days, but do whatever you can to live within your means and avoid racking up a huge debt load that will take you years to pay off.

By following these suggestions, you should gain confidence, over time, in your ability to increase your net worth to levels that once seemed unimaginable to you. And you can save money on those lottery tickets, too.

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

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BUSINESS

Morton Grove holds business Forum

A spring local business forum to discuss ways to improve the aesthetics of a business in a cost effective way was held at the American Legion Civic Center on March 7.

"The overall content was fantastic," said Bill Neuendorf,

director of community and economic development for the Village of Morton Grove.

Neuendorf said that there was a nice turnout at the event. He said that panelists gave great advice and brought in samples of before and after pictures of prop-

erties to show the guests the difference an upgrade can make.

"There's a lot of visual improvements to the design at hardly any cost," said Neuendorf, referring to the examples given at the forum. He said the key is to attract people

to a business by improving its aesthetic, but not spending a lot of money to do so.

Panelists included Peter Theodore of Camburas and Theodore (commercial architect), Jay Rossman of NutraLawn (landscape archi-

tect), John Swanson of J.D. Signs (commercial signage), Kurt Meyer of the Rose Group (general contractor) and John Hunt of Cambridge Bank (commercial lender).

"It went very well," said Neuendorf, about the forum.

MONEY:

How to pay their way

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

jerks if they tell the child they can't afford the place. Or worse, Mom and Dad cave into the pressure and hock their house and 401(k)s to pay the tab.

Focusing on financial realities, however, doesn't mean you have to be a killjoy. What it does require is focusing the search on schools that will back up their excitement about your child with money. In other words, in addition to need-based financial aid, which is largely determined by a formula, you'll want expensive schools to sweeten the deal with merit money.

Merit awards, by the way, are primarily a phenomenon of private schools. Unless your child is a brainiac, who is one of the very top students entering a public university, you shouldn't expect merit money. Curiously enough, the Ivy

League schools are also notoriously miserly with merit scholarships.

Experts say you can get a rough idea of whether a school will splurge on your child by comparing his or her SAT or ACT scores with the kids who are accepted into that institution. You're searching for schools at which your child's standardized test scores will hoist him or her into the top 25 percent of the entering freshmen class.

You can find a school's scores by visiting the College Board's Web site, www.collegeboard.com. For each institution, the College Board provides the middle 50 percent range of scores generated by students attending the school.

As an example, let's take Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. The middle range for Pepperdine students' verbal SAT test is 550 to 650 out of a perfect 800. The range for the math portion of the test is 560 to 660. So if your child did better than the top combined math and verbal scores of 1310, he or she probably has a shot at some cash.

You also want to look at the percentage of need-based financial

aid a school provides. According to the College Board, Pepperdine, which charges \$39,960 for tuition and board, meets 90 percent of the need-based aid of its students. What made my jaw drop, however, was the average merit package that Pepperdine offers: \$21,569. Now that's some serious dough.

While standardized test scores are critical for capturing merit money, experts say that your child's grade-point average is not a big factor. Why? Colleges look at the tests as a handy equalizer of talent, while they regard grades as

the rigor of a college-prep high school, where everyone is expected to attend college, for example, can be quite different from a high school where half the kids drop out and generous grades are handed out like Tic Tacs.

Panning for merit money is only one strategy that parents should be exploring once their kids are in high school. Most families, however, muddle through the process alone and are oblivious to this and many other approaches that can whittle the costs down.

Those who aren't sure what they should be doing may want to get professional outside help. An excellent resource is the National Institute of Certified College Planners, which provides training and certification for investment professionals. On its Web site, www.niccp.com, the NICCP lists experts who have received a designation called the certified college planning specialist.

Since the institute was created in 2002, 460 people have been certified, with most of these graduates coming from the certified financial planner and certified public accountant ranks. When searching for someone with a CCPS designation, you don't have to confine your search to your own city or state. One of the most noted experts in the field, for instance, is Rick Darvis, an accountant who stays very busy from his office in Plentywood, Mont. (population 1,827).

Many college planners specialize in helping families who won't qualify for need-based financial aid. Planners steer these families to a variety of tax write-offs and

deductions that can significantly reduce the financial burden.

Others work mostly with middle-class families who have a shot at getting financial aid. When seeking outside advice, you need to be aware of some insurance agents and brokers, who have gravitated to the college niche to push what is often unnecessary life insurance and variable annuities.

For those who prefer to go it alone, I'd recommend reading a book that Rick Darvis wrote, titled "College Solution, A Roadmap to Selecting Your Best Strategy to Fund College and Retirement ... Without Going Broke." If you keep in mind that this book was written by an accountant, perhaps you won't be disappointed by its sparse prose.

While you're at it, download a free handout from Davis' Web site, www.solutionsforcollege.com, called "153 Strategies to Cut College Costs."

Lynn O'Shaughnessy is the author of "The Retirement Bible" and "The Investing Bible." She can be reached at LynnOShaughnessy@cox.net.

LETTERS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

would oppose something that the mayor obviously approves of since I am certain that everything he does is in the best interest of Niles.

I have worked at Chicago area racetracks for 25 years and know first hand what to expect from an OTB. If there is a fear of it bringing undesirables into Niles, I assure my neighbors that it will not. The average person at an OTB

or racetrack doesn't come from a radius of much more than ten miles.

A very large number of the patrons are retired elderly men and even some women that are just looking for a way to occupy their time, visiting and making a few bets.

I am hoping that my neighbors won't be hypocritical. There are bingo games in churches and lottery tickets everywhere you go. Is this not gambling?

There is no more crime at any

race track or OTB than at any other public facility, which could include movie theatres, shopping centers, restaurants and grocery stores, etc.

If you were to take a trip to the Oak Brook OTB or Arlington Park intertrack, you might be surprised it's not full of derelicts or undesirables. Just the average person out for entertainment, perhaps dinner, a drink and some fun. I'm hoping that the citizens of Niles will realize that this will help lower our taxes and bring something to Niles

that they just might enjoy.

Marlene Brown, Niles

Czarnik says vote yes on OTB

Dear Editor,

I have been reading about the concerns that some people have about the OTB that is coming to our town. I was taken back by some of the comments about the

types of people that visit these facilities. I hope my insight can put those comments to rest.

First of all, I am a business owner and a 15 year-resident of Niles. I am also involved in our community as a park commissioner. My wife grew up in this town and we have children who attend our Niles Schools. I love this town and have no intentions of ever leaving.

Letters Continue...
see LETTERS page 19.

SENIOR LIVING GUIDE

Free Tax Assistance at Niles Senior Center

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.

MARCH REGISTRATIONS

Drop off Registrations were due at the Center on Friday, March 3 In-person Registrations began 8:30AM on Wednesday, March 8th

ATTENTION ILLINOIS CIRCUIT BREAKER PARTICIPANTS

If you are currently enrolled with Circuit Breaker, please contact the Niles Senior Center for assistance in reenrollment. Renewals may be made over the internet or by mail. New applicants MUST file a paper form. Income limitations apply. Call the Center for more information 847 588-8420.

CREATIVE CARD MAKING every Thursdays ~ 9:30 to 11:30am ~ \$10.00/session All supplies included! Doesn't it make you feel good to receive a card made especially for you? You too can make beautiful handmade cards (that look like it took hours to make) in minutes! In each weekly, 2 hour session, you will make 6 cards, using different techniques. It's simple and easy. New skills learned each week!

If you liked making valentines as a kid, you'll love this class!!

Join us on Thursdays, learn new techniques, and make handmade cards that can be used for any occasion. Take a break from your daily routine and let your creativity flow. All are welcome! Advanced registration is required.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION,

Wednesday, May 31, 2006.

Niles couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, and 65 or more years of marriage are invited to this Niles Senior Center annual Anniversary Celebration.

Were you married in 1956, 1951, 1946, or 1941 and earlier? Please contact the Senior Center for information on how you can be a part of this wonderful afternoon. Contact: MaryAnn 847 588-8420.

SAFETY FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

The Village of Niles urgently needs to know if you are a hearing impaired Niles resident who uses a TTD - or if you know of some one who is. We want you to contact the Niles Senior Center so we can collect phone numbers of TTY users to improve the Village's ability to contact users during the event of an emergency (such as weather alerts).

We have been informed that when the Village sends out Reverse 911 alerts people using TTYs are unaware of the messages. By collecting phone numbers we will be able to contact hearing impaired residents through the Relay Center for the Deaf so the message can be delivered. Please contact Trudi Davis at 847 588-8420.

GRIEF WORKSHOP TO OFFER SUPPORT - BEGINS April 12

Niles Senior Center will hold a three-session grief workshop for Niles residents touched by the loss of a loved one. Participants may attend one, two, or all three workshops. The sessions will meet on Wednesdays from 1:30 - 3:00PM and will focus on the following areas:

Workshop #1 - April 12 "What has

happened to me?" Trying to make sense of the many feelings you experience after the loss of a spouse or a loved one is a difficult process.

Workshop #2- April 19 "Dealing with expectations of ourselves and others." Dealing with other people's feelings and concerns can raise anxiety, especially if we feel people want us to "move on" or "be happy again."

Workshop #3- April 26 "On my own." At this workshop we will explore the stress of living alone and ways to adjust to new social roles and responsibilities.

Please call Bev Wessels, MSW, LSW, ACSW, or Melanie Amin, LCSW at 847 588-8420. Enrollment necessary. No cost

GOLF KICK-OFF MEETING DATES SET

Niles Senior Center sponsors three golf leagues. The Men's Club offers both a nine-hole league (played monthly at Tam) and an eighteen-hole league that plays a different course every month from May through September. The Women's Golf League plays twice a month at Tam. The Men's Golf League kick-off meeting is Thursday, April 6 at 10:30AM and the Women's Golf kick-off is set for Friday, April 7 at 10:00AM.

Story Continues...

see NILES SENIORS page 13.

Inside

Features

- 4 Tips for speeding disability claims *Your Social Security*, pg. 13
- Want to bike down Pike's Peak? *FY! Travel*, pg. 15
- Grandparents as parents *Aging Lifestyles*, pg. 18

Senior Centers

- AARP driving program *Morton Grove Seniors*, pg. 12
- Domino Tournament scheduled *Park Ridge Seniors*, pg. 14
- Medicare Part D program *MaineStreamers*, pg. 17

The Senior Living Guide is a monthly supplemental section of The Bugle. It provides Seniors in our area with content and advertising specifically tailored to their interests.

GlenBridge Nursing Centre holds Family Night

Please join us for Family Night March 29th, 2006 At GlenBridge Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre 2:00 PM and 6:30 PM

Sara Leiber, Outreach Coordinator for Medicare Part D, from the Illinois Department Of Aging will

be presenting and answering your questions on Medicare Part D.

GlenBridge Nursing & Rehabilitation located at 8333 W. Golf Rd., Niles, IL 60714. For more information, call (847) 966-9190.

Refreshments will be served.

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SENIOR LIVING GUIDE

AARP Mature driving program at Morton Grove

Morton Grove Senior News

"GETTING STARTED WITH COMPUTERS" WORKSHOP

Learn the basics about computing including Windows navigation, mouse skills, and basic computer concepts from Morton Grove Senior Center computer instructor, RJ Bruno. This one-day class from 8:30 to 10 a.m. is scheduled for Saturday, March 25. The cost for the class is \$8 for Senior

Center Members and \$10 for non-members. Register in-person at the Senior Center.

MALL SHOPPING

Morton Grove seniors wishing to join shoppers on a trip to Golf Mill Mall on Tuesday, March 28 should call the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223 to reserve a seat on the Seniortran. Home pick-ups begin at 9:15 a.m. with arrival at Golf Mill at 10:15 a.m. Trips are free for Senior Center Members and \$1 for all others.

DIABETES SCREENING

Many people with diabetes go

undiagnosed because they are unaware of the signs and symptoms. Some of the warning signs are frequent urination, excessive thirst, extreme hunger, unusual weight loss, increased fatigue, irritability and blurry vision. Diabetes screening is offered at the Morton Grove Senior Center from 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28. Screening is free for Senior Center Members and \$1 for all others. Please fast for 12 hours. Water is allowed. Hold diabetic medications.

"MAMELAHI!"

Direct from New York City, this hilarious and heartfelt off-Broadway musical about lifelong friendship is a living scrapbook of special memorials for both men and women. It takes the audience down their personal "memory lanes" with stops in the Catskills, the beaches of Boca Raton, and the nostalgic streets of the Bronx, to name a few. Audiences everywhere have asked, "How did someone know to write a musical about my life?" The bus will depart from the Morton Grove Senior Center at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29 for Centre East in Skokie and return at 4:30 p.m. The cost for the show and transportation is \$42 for Senior Center Members and \$48.50 for non-members.

"INTERNET SAFETY" WORKSHOP

Protecting a personal computer and personal identity from some of the dangers of the Internet will be emphasized at this workshop taught by Morton Grove Senior Center computer instructor, RJ Bruno. This one-day class from 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 1 will provide hands-on practice in applying viruses and spy-ware protection. The cost for the class is \$8 for Senior Center Members and \$10 for non-members. Register in-person at the Senior Center, class size is limited. The prerequisite is a knowledge of basic computer skills.

THE ULTIMATE ELI'S EXPERIENCE

Take this tour of Eli's bakery and see how they make their wonderful cheesecakes! Enjoy a fantastic lunch at the café located inside the factory. Sample different flavors of cheesecake... yum! Learn from the pros! Decorate a own cheesecake to take home and receive an Eli's t-shirt after the tour. Please note that for safety, Eli's requires that rubber-soled, low-heeled, close-toed shoes must be worn by each guest, no exceptions. All tour guests will be required to walk approximately 400 feet. Also, no cameras are allowed in the bakery. The bus leaves the Morton Grove Senior Center at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 7 and returns at 2 p.m. The cost is \$30 for Senior Center Members and \$35 for non-members. Please register in-person at this program at the Senior Center.

CROCHET CLUB

People with all levels of crochet skill are welcome to join the Morton Grove Senior Center's "Crochet Club from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. every Friday morning between April 7 and Sept. 29. The fee for this club is \$13 for Senior Center members and \$16 for non-members. Register in person at the Senior Center. Please note

that the Crochet Class taught by Diane Brunger will resume in October.

AARP MATURE DRIVING PROGRAM

AARP's "Mature Driving Program" formerly known as "55 Alive" is an eight-hour two-day course for older motorists. It focuses on the physical changes that accompany aging and on ways drivers can compensate for these changes in improving their driving skills. Additionally, drivers will find that by completing this course they can receive a discount on a portion of their automobile insurance. Courses are now offered monthly in Morton Grove with the next course times from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, April 8 and 15 at the Morton Grove Senior Center; and from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9 and Thursday, May 11 in the Prairie View Community Center. The cost of the course is \$10. Call the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223 to sign up.

GRANNY'S KITCHEN

In this marvelous presentation by Ceci Wiseloge at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, April 10, the Morton Grove Senior Center will be transformed into an old-fashioned kitchen with antique house wares, as the audience plays "guess the gadget" and learns what these mysterious looking utensils were once used for. The cost is just 50¢ so please register in-person at the Senior Center.

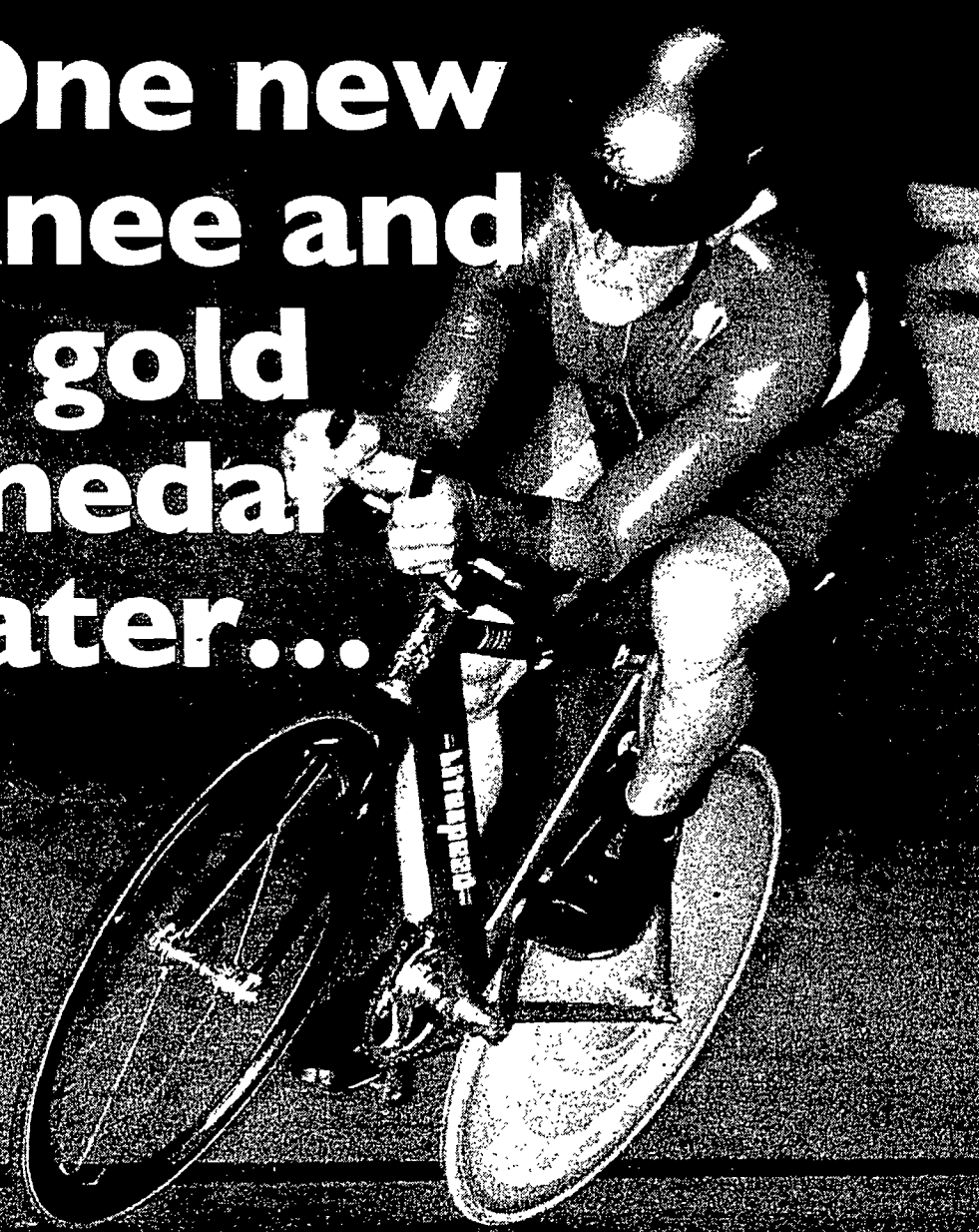
SEDGEBROOK OF LINCOLNSHIRE LUNCH & TOUR
Join the Morton Grove Senior Center for this special trip to Sedgbrook Independent Living in Lincolnshire. Dine on a fabulous lunch and tour this luxurious new complex. This is a walking tour so wear comfy shoes! The bus will depart from the Senior Center at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11 and return at 2 p.m. The cost is just 50¢. Please register in-person at the Senior Center.

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

This isn't an average pirate story and it is definitely not rated G. It's a fun, family musical that will have the audience ready to swab the decks to avoid walking the plank. When a nurse mistakes a father's instructions to leave his son in the hands of "pirates" and instead leaves him in the hands of "pirates" - the comedy begins. One of Gilbert and Sullivan's most enjoyable operetta's, "Pirates of Penzance" is a swashbuckling comedy that stands today as one of the most popular and enduring works of musical theatre.

Story Continues...
see MG SENIORS page 14.

One new knee and a gold medal later...



Just months after his knee replacement surgery, Masters' bicycle champ Richard Simons won a gold medal at the prestigious National Track Championships. Thanks to the Transitional Care Pavilion at Glenview Terrace. "My therapist at Glenview Terrace was a great coach," Richard beams, "and it was the perfect collaboration for me to get back on my bike." To see what we can do for you, call us or visit us on line today.

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SENIOR LIVING GUIDE

Your Social Security
4 Tips for speeding disability claims

Tom Margenau
Copley News Service

Q: I was in the audience for a speech you gave to the family members of people afflicted with cardiac problems. You gave some tips for speeding up the Social Security disability claims process. Can you repeat them in your column?

A: Good idea. Here they are.

TIP 1

The first tip to a speedier and positive decision in a Social Security disability claim is to answer the questions on the medical report (one of the forms you will fill out as part of the process) as thoroughly as possible. And don't simply list your primary disability. For example, if you are filing for disability benefits because of a heart condition, you should obviously note that on the application.

But list all other physical AND mental problems you have, no matter how insignificant you think they are. If you have high blood pressure, put that down. If you have a bad back, list it. If you get frequent headaches, tell the Social Security Administration. If you occasionally feel depressed, put that in the report.

Listing all your impairments is important because frequently one disabling condition might not be enough to meet the strict legal definition of disability. But a combination of impairments might put you over the top.

TIP 2

Another part of the disability questionnaire asks you how your condition(s) prevents you from working. So many applicants simply write on the form: "I get weak"

or "I can't do my job." Once again, be as thorough as you can when answering this question. Describe in specific terms how each impairment you have keeps you from doing the different tasks that make up your job. These are key factors the disability evaluator needs to know to make a decision on your claim.

TIP 3

In the medical sources section, list every doctor you've seen, every hospital or clinic you've been to, and every lab you've visited. For each medical source, list your patient number or any other identifying information you have.

The primary reason disability claims take so long to process is a long wait for medical evidence. Social Security requests patient records from most sources you list.

That usually involves a letter sent to the medical provider. So any information you provide (such as patient numbers) will help the provider locate your records and get them to the Social Security Administration.

And your personal involvement in this process can't hurt. For example, call your doctor's office and tell them that you've filed for Social Security disability benefits. Tell them you would appreciate it if they promptly respond to any requests they get from Social Security.

TIP 4

Stay involved in the disability claims process. Most people file for benefits and then sit around and wait for a decision. Instead, I suggest that a week or two after you file your application, call Social

Security. By that time, they should have shipped the medical forms to the contracting agency they use to make medical decisions.

Ask the Social Security Administration representative for the name and phone number of the person at that agency who is processing your claim. Make that person your new best friend! Call him

or her occasionally to check the status of your claim and to find out if there is anything you can do to speed up the process.

Questions may be sent c/o Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190 Or send e-mail to yoursocialsecurity@comcast.net.
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Jennifer Ingraffia, BS, CAD
Special Care Unit Director

For a Tour Call
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Forest Villa
Extended Care
6840 W. Touhy Avenue
Niles, Illinois 60714

NI SENIORS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE at the Center

A limited number of appointment times remain for qualified seniors to have Free tax preparation assistance at the Niles Senior Center. To schedule an appointment, call the Tax Appointment desk 847 588-8440 Monday thru Thursday, between the hours of 9:30AM and 3:00PM. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact MaryAnn at 847 588-8440.

NEW MEMBERS INVITED TO GET AQUAINTED 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. You'll be taken on a tour of our beautiful facility and will

have an opportunity to meet members of our staff. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 20th from 10:00-11:00AM. Please register in advance by calling 847 588-8420.

HOOKED ON FISHING?!

-Busse Woods
Experienced! Inexperienced! Men! Women! All are invited to join us for fishing, fun, and friendship. Equipment is available for those who don't have their own fishing gear. Monthly outings are planned, beginning in April. Cost includes bait, a lite morning snack, lunch, and prizes. Our April Outing is at Busse Woods and features a Lou Malnati's Pizza Lunch. Outings begin at 8:00AM. We will meet at the outing site. Maps and driving directions are available at the Senior Center. For more information, contact MaryAnn at 847 588-8420.

SENIOR LIVING GUIDE

Park Ridge Senior Center hosts Domino Tournament

Park Ridge Senior News

GOLF MEETING

We may still be in the middle of winter, but you can begin thinking about warm weather activities...namely, golf. The Park Ridge Senior Center will be holding a golf meeting for men and women on Thursday, March 23. Women will get together at 2 p.m.; men at 3 p.m. Come and learn of the plans and make your suggestions. If you cannot attend, just call the center and let us know of your interest.

IRISH SWEEPSTAKES

On Tuesday, March 28 at 12:30 p.m. the Center will have another of its monthly programs which is a part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations. It's Irish Sweepstakes this month

which will include a lunch of corned beef sandwich and potato salad. There will be horse races on video with play money which can be used to buy prizes. The charge is only \$7.00. Call to check on ticket availability.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Many activities at the Center are ongoing and many are free. Mondays we have folk dancing at 2:30 p.m.; card players start at 12 noon on Tuesdays; table tennis at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays at 10 a.m. the discussion group meets; at 1 p.m. it's table tennis, and the science club also meets at 1 p.m.; Thursdays at 9 a.m. it's the diet club, computer group and woodcarving that fills much space; at 10:15 a.m. it's humanities and table tennis again at 1 p.m. Fridays duplicate bridge starts at 9 a.m.; the bazaar workshop begins at 10 a.m.; the chorus starts singing at 1 p.m. and the gamers begin their play at 1 p.m. All of these activities are

available without charge.

A small charge is asked for the exercise classes, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. There is also a charge for the ceramics class that meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.; Tai Chi at 1:30 p.m. and tap dance at 12:30 and 1:30 p.m.

At this time of the year the Center offers a very important service, income tax help. An appointment is required. Just phone at 847-692-3597.

DOMINO TOURNAMENT

A domino tournament is planned for Wednesday, March 29 at 1 p.m. The game played will be "Mexican Train." It only costs \$1.00 to participate. Prizes will be given. If you're interested, sign up in advance at the office by Monday, March 27.

If you have any questions about these activities or would like more information about the Center, call 847-692-3597.

MG SENIORS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The bus leaves the Morton Grove Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. for the Drury Lane Theatre on Wednesday, April 19 and returns at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$72 for Senior Center Members and \$82 for non-members and includes transportation, show and lunch choice of Baked Lemon Sole or Roast Pork. Please register in-person at the Senior Center.

TWELFTH NIGHT

Twelfth Night is one of Shakespeare's great "golden comedies," featuring ship-wrecked identical twins lost in a strange land, a handsome love-sick Duke, beautiful women who have sworn all men, a vulnerable heroine disguised as a man, and a noble pirate king. In classic Shakespearean style, all the plot twists are resolved with practical jokes, bawdy wordplay, and plenty of romance! A great time will be had by all so sign up today!

The bus will depart from the Morton Grove Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 3 and return at 6 p.m. The cost is \$75 for Senior Center Members and \$86 for non-members and includes transportation, show and lunch choice of Salmon

Dijonnaise or Chicken Vesuvio. Please register in-person at the Senior Center.

INCOME TAX RETURNS

Free assistance for local seniors age 60+ with their State and Federal Income Tax Returns is available by appointment any Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at in the Morton Grove Senior Center. Seniors who have low or moderate incomes that can be reported on basic IRS forms are welcome to call the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223 for a personal and confidential appointment. Taxpayers should bring in the W-2, Social Security (SSA-1099), 1098 and 1099 forms they receive in the mail along with a copy of their 2004 tax returns.

HOW DOES OUR GARDEN GROW?

Through the efforts of wonderful and caring volunteers, the Morton Grove Civic Center patio gardens have been one of the highlighted attractions for guests. Anyone interested in getting a little dirty and being a part of the beautiful blooming should contact Bud Swanson at the Center by calling 847/663-6110.

"DO NOT RESUSCITATE" FORMS

The Illinois Department of Public

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consolidated and Community Development Plan
Cook County Community Development Block Grant Program
Emergency Shelter Grants Program
HOME Investment Partnership Program

DATE: Thursday, March 30, 2006
Thursday, May 11, 2006

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Cook County Board Room
118 North Clark Street
County Building-Room 587
Chicago, Illinois 60602

The Cook County Consolidated Community Development Plan includes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnership Program. The area covered by these programs are primarily suburban municipalities under 50,000 in population. These programs do not include the City of Chicago.

PURPOSE: The Cook County Community Development Advisory Council will hold two (2) Public Hearings for the 2006 Consolidated Community Development Program Year which begins October 1, 2006.

The approximate amount of funds available for the 2006 Program Year are: \$11,010,395 for CDBG, \$460,417 for ESG and \$5,820,276 for HOME, and American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) \$111,012.

The purpose of the first hearing, March 30, 2006, is to hear proposals from the non-municipal and emergency shelter grant applicants regarding their 2006 Program Year applications submitted to Cook County, and to hear testimony from interested persons or groups.

The purpose of the second hearing, May 11, 2006, is for the Advisory Council to approve the recommended projects for the 2006 Program Year Annual Action Plan - Year 2 of the New Consolidated Community Development Plan.

All interested persons, groups and municipalities are invited to attend and participate.

BWF/spb

SENIOR LIVING GUIDE

Mountain bikers can coast down Pikes Peak

FYI Travel

By Tom Roebuck
Copley News Service

Challenge Unlimited, an adventure travel company based in Colorado Springs for the past 22 years, is kicking off its 16th season of leading mountain bike trips down the Pikes Peak Highway. People of all skill levels can experience one of the highest organized bike rides in the world.

Participants are transported to the 14,110-foot summit of Pikes Peak. With seven states in view, they are greeted by guides who provide bikes, helmets, all-weather clothing, instructions and encouragement.

The spectacular, 20-mile ride down the mountain winds through five distinct vegetation zones. Periodic stops allow participants to take photos, learn about the area, rest and get to know their fellow riders.

People have been driving the Pikes Peak Highway since the 1800s, but biking presents a whole new way to visit the mountain. Without the constraints of a car, riders are better able to experience the elements and view the wildlife and beautiful scenery of Pikes Peak. Challenge Unlimited guides share their knowledge of the history as well as the flora and fauna of the mountain and the surrounding area.

During the border seasons (late April, May, September and early October), one trip a day is run, departing at either 8 a.m. or 1 p.m. During the regular summer season (June, July and August), morning and afternoon trips are run.

FYI: The morning ride costs \$105 per person (discounts available for groups of three or more) and includes transportation, breakfast, lunch,

27-speed Specialized/K2 mountain bikes, helmets, warm-weather gear, experienced mountain bike guides (EMT and first-aid trained) and a souvenir water bottle. The afternoon ride costs \$90 per person and includes all of the above except breakfast and lunch (a light snack will be served). Groups of 10 or more that book before April 20 will get discounted rates: morning ride \$85, afternoon ride \$75.

For more information call Challenge Unlimited (800) 798-5954 or visit www.bikithikit.com.

PICASSO'S BIRTHDAY BASH

Spain will commemorate one of the country's legendary artists with a yearlong program of exhibitions, operas, ballets, special lectures, workshops and activities for children and families.

Marking the 125th anniversary of the birth of Pablo Picasso, Malaga's most famous native son, the Museo Picasso Malaga will present three shows. Barcelona will host three exhibitions, three ballets and several concerts to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the artist's return to that city. And two of Madrid's leading museums, the Museo del Prado and the Museo Reina Sofia, will also mark the 25th anniversary of the return of "Guernica" to Spain.

Opened in 2003 in the heart of Malaga's historic district, the Museo Picasso is housed in the Buenavista Palace built between 1516 and 1542 by Jewish converts. Located at Calle San Augustin, 8, it is open Tuesdays to Thursdays and Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from



10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Closed Mondays. Admission is about \$7 (www.museopicassomalaga.org)

The Museu Picasso in

Barcelona occupies three buildings on the Carrer Montcada and was opened in 1963 through donations by Picasso and his friends. The museum has 3,600

pieces in its permanent collection divided into three sections: paintings and drawings, engravings, and ceramics. Admission is about \$7 and it is open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (www.museupicasso.bcn.es)

The Prado Museum is located on Paseo del Prado (www.museoprado.mcu.es) and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Mondays. Tickets are about \$7, except Sundays, when admission is free. The Reina Sofia's main building, at Calle Santa Isabel, 52, is open six days a week Mondays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Closed Tuesdays.) Admission is around \$3.60 and free on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. (www.museoreinasofia.es).

FYI: For further information about Spain, contact the Tourist Office of Spain at (212) 265-8822 or www.spain.info.

Visit Copley News Service at www.copleynews.com.

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**Our Goal is Simple:
help you hear better**
But hurry, these offers
end March 24, 2006

Limited Time Offer

If you wait, it'll be too late!

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Get two custom fit AudioChoice® digital hearing aids for the price of one.

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Make your appointment today!

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Hurry! Offer ends March 24, 2006



Some restrictions apply. Offer good on AudioChoice Contour model ACT02 only. Offer expires March 24, 2006.

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Joliet Sears Louis Joliet Mall 815-577-8332
Matteson Sears Lincoln Mall 708-503-1623
Niles Sears Golf Mill Ctr. 847-803-8162
Oak Brook Sears Oak Brook Ctr. 630-990-0104
Orland Park Sears Orland Square Mall 708-226-5647
Schaumburg Sears Woodfield Mall 847-995-1908
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SENIOR LIVING GUIDE

MaineStreamers offers Medicare Part D program

Maine Township Senior News

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.

BOWLING OUTING

Thursday, March 23
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sims Bowling Alley 1555 Ellinwood, Des Plaines Cost: \$13 members/\$15 guests

Come and have fun bowling with your fellow MaineStreamers as you enjoy two games of bowling, prizes and a lunch featuring Salad, Pizza and dessert. Beginners are welcome!

"AARP'S DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM"

Mon., March 27 & Wed., March

29 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Instructor: Stanley Fukai, AARP
Cost: \$10 check due on the first day made payable to AARP This two-part class helps you update your knowledge of age-related changes and rules of the road. Upon completion, your automobile insurance company will offer a discount.

INTRO TO COMPUTERS CLASS

Mondays, April 3 to June 19
(No classes 5/8, 5/22, 5/29 & 6/12)
9 to 10:30 a.m. Instructor: William Wamouth Cost: \$35 for 8 classes

A Computer Lap Top will be available to you throughout the class at no charge.

This class introduces you to the world of computers. Learn computer terminology, gain familiarity with the keyboard, plus learn how to use a mouse and the toolbar.

INTRO TO MICROSOFT WORD CLASS

Mondays, April 3 to June 19
(No Classes on 5/8, 5/22, 5/29 & 6/12) 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Instructor: William Wamouth Cost: \$35 for 8 classes

Prerequisite: Introduction to Computer. A Computer Lap Top will be available to you throughout the class at no charge. This class

will review common computer basics, but will move quickly into an introduction to Microsoft Word and then Microsoft Excel.

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 Trip

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.

"COOL VIBRATIONS" TRIP

Featuring the Joffrey Ballet
Sunday, May 7 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$96.50 members/\$101.50 guest

The performance of the Joffrey Ballet- "Cool Vibrations"- features a rock and roll tribute with Twyla Tharp's Deuce Coupe set to music by The Beach Boys, a World Premiere of Motown hits and music by Prince. This fabulous show of talented dancers should delight all of you!

BETHANY TERRACE

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SENIOR LIVING GUIDE

Aging Lifestyles

Grandparents parenting their grandchildren face challenges

Joe Volz
Copley News Service

Many grandparents today are being cast in a role they never expected: parenting their grandchildren. It's estimated that more than 2.4 million grandparents are raising their grandchildren today.

An AARP staff member in a second marriage took on the care of his 3-year-old grandchild. The staffer's son had a severe drug abuse problem.

It took 10 years before the grandfather felt it was safe to send the child back to his father, who had cleaned up his act and had been drug-free for some time.

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of U.S. children in their grandparents' care increased by 30 percent, according to the National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren at Georgia State University. There is little sign that their numbers will decrease anytime soon.

There are various reasons grandparents end up raising a child again. They may step in when an adult child dies of a drug overdose or disease, such as cancer or AIDS.

Other parents will walk out and leave the child behind. Grandparents may take over when their son or daughter is serving in the military, in jail or when they have a debilitating disease.

Raising grandchildren is a tough job. This is partly because it's so unexpected and partly because grandparents have done the job once and thought their child-rearing days were over.

A lack of financial resources to raise children or the grandparents' questionable health can also make things difficult. According to the U.S. Census data, grandparent-headed households are twice as likely to live in poverty as other American families.

While some grandparents in this position are in their 40s and 50s, almost 25 percent are over 65, retired and living on fixed incomes. Raising grandchildren can make it a real struggle to make ends meet every month. It also can mean skipping out on going to the movies, baseball games and on vacations - things many grandparents expect in their retirement

years.

But help is available.

In many communities, a state department on aging sponsors support groups designed to help grandparents who may feel alone and isolated. Support groups create a network of grandparents who can go to one another for assistance and advice. When grandparents feel as though they are in an endless cycle of child rearing, support groups can be a great place to voice concerns. Check your local yellow pages to see what your community offers.

YMCA's provide special programs designed for at-risk children, which can be useful for some children of grandparent-headed households. The YMCA offers children active summer camps and sports programs that include basketball, baseball and racquetball.

There is an abundance of information on the Web today. AARP hosts a grandparents' center on its Web site. The organization provides information on topics such as "legal issues for grandparents," "helping your grandchild succeed

in school," and "take care of yourself, too." For more information, visit www.aarp.org.

The National Council on Aging has an online database that tells you which federal, state and local programs you and your grandchildren might be eligible for. The Web site is www.benefitscheck-up.org.

The Administration on Aging has many resources including federal programs and reports, state programs and legal options. Visit www.aoa.gov for more information.

The Children's Health Insurance Program, run by the federal government, has information on health insurance coverage for grandchildren. If the child's parents have died, grandchildren may be eligible for Social Security payments as well as Medicaid for health care. There is also Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Visit www.spdp.org/tanf.htm for additional information.

Grandparents can end up facing unique problems. In some residential housing communities restrict-

ed to adults only, grandparents are evicted when their grandchildren move in. Often they are unprepared to move and lack the resources to do so.

But a new trend is special housing for grandparents who are raising children. This is just beginning and is yet to be available in most places, but it's something to watch out for in your community.

If the adult parents are completely out of the picture, grandparents are faced with another problem. There is no one to give them a break from the kids or an afternoon to relieve stress. The National Center for Respite and Care Crisis has some suggestions for grandparents in this situation. Visit the Web site at www.archrespice.org/archfs45.htm. Sometimes churches, synagogues and mosques provide assistance to grandparents. Check with your religious institution to see what is available.

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

NEWS

School District 69 seeks tax increase

Referendum in last election failed by 65 votes

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

This school year all after school sports and activities at Skokie School Dist. 69 were eliminated and class sizes were increased. With hopes to restore teaching positions and after school programs, the district is once again going out to referendum on March 21.

The school district is asking for 73 cents per \$100 assessed valuation in the education fund property tax rate. On a \$350,000 home, this equals about \$428 per year.

Last year, the district went out to referendum, asking for 78 cents, and it failed.

"We lost by a heartbreakingly close 65 votes," said Rebecca Nelson, superintendent for Dist. 69 that serves students in Skokie and Morton Grove.

Nelson said that they used to offer a wide variety of programs for students to meet their interests and needs, such as a chess club, a gardening club, a NASA rocket club, Read it and Eat it (where kids got to read menus

and then cook) and much more. She said they were also involved in a Niles Township sports program that involved many sporting events.

As a result of the failed referendum,

"We lost [our last referendum] by a heartbreakingly close 65 votes."

Rebecca Nelson
D69 Superintendent

end, the district cut 10 teaching positions and as a result class sizes increased by four to six students.

If the referendum fails, Nelson said they would have to make about \$500,000 in cuts in teacher, administrative, custodial and other services. If it passes, Nelson said they would restore teaching positions and bring

back after school activities and sports as well.

Up until this point, including prior to last year's failed referendum, there has been about \$1.5 million in cuts made at Dist. 69.

Nelson said that other school districts in the area receive more resources than Dist. 69 students and she wants them to remain competitive with other students so that when they enter high school they will be on an even playing field.

Nelson said the district has held information meetings for the public and has also released a referendum survey to find out what cuts people would make if it fails and what they would bring back if it is successful. She said that the district has studied the finances thoroughly and believes that 73 cents is the right amount to ask the public for.

Several seniors living in the area have spoken out against the proposed tax increase. Morton Grove Resident and Plan Commission Member Richard Dorgan even wrote a letter published in this week's edition (page 20) that was opposed to the proposal.

LETTERS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

I have an automobile business that is located in Oak Lawn. In neighboring Crestwood there is an OTB parlor. We have many customers who visit the OTB while having their vehicle serviced in our dealership. These customers for the most part are hard working blue-collar people that enjoy going to the OTB just as I would enjoy going to watch a baseball game, which is something that I love to do. One of these people who enjoyed going to the OTB was my uncle who we just lost to cancer a couple of weeks ago. He was 76. Whenever he brought his vehicle in for Service he would look forward to calling up one of his buddies, have him come over to pick him up and off to the OTB for a couple of hours they would go. He would always come back and tell me that he won \$12 or lost \$6 or something to that effect. Whatever it was he enjoyed it. At the wake I asked my uncle's friend, Elmer, "Just what was it that had you guys go to the OTB all the time?" He told me that it really was for fun. Just to be together to talk and laugh and share their old stories with others and also get in a bet or two. I went and visited this OTB one day last week after my uncle had

passed. I wanted to see what they really saw in going there each time my uncle visited. What I saw was nothing out of the ordinary. Most of the people there, both men and women seemed to be in my uncle's age group. There were younger ones, but only a few. I didn't see any one that would make me afraid to be there. As a matter of fact they all seemed to be minding their own business and enjoying themselves. I did not see any police or for that matter any security at all. It seemed to be a pretty safe place to me. Maybe this is a place where you place a bet or two, but I think of it also where you could go and share some old stories and have a laugh or two with a buddy. When was the last time anyone did that?

In today's economic downsizing of businesses of all sizes it sure would be nice to have one in town that has staying power for years to come. If someone said to me that we could draw a legitimate business to our town, one in which it pays property taxes, real estate taxes, is regulated by more government agencies than any other, and it would also give back to the town a percentage of each dollar wagered, I would say, as anyone else would, that it's a no-brainer. Bring it on. Well, there is one and its here. Vote for it on March 21.

Letters Continue...
see LETTERS page 20.

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect James Michael McGing Judge/A copy of our report is or will be available at the Illinois State Board of Election



NEWS

Tree trimmer challenges incumbent commissioner

Three-term incumbent Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri is facing challenger Dan Kollman of Chicago on the March Republican ballot.

The two men are running in the ninth district for a spot on the county board.

Silvestri was first elected county commissioner in 1994 and is now completing his third term on the board. He also serves as village president of Elmwood Park. Silvestri said he lives by the philosophy that "increasing taxes is not the answer."

He said he has a record of consolidating departments and eliminating vacant jobs.

Silvestri also spearheaded a

drive to privatize forest preserve golf courses.

He said the golf courses were losing \$1 million per year. Then, golf management was privatized and now the golf courses bring in a net profit of \$350,000.

"If the private sector do it and it is not an essential service, then privatization may work," he said. "We might as well not lose money [such as the golf courses]."

The commissioner also said he opposes all tax increases, supports saving the Cook County Hospital building and worked to impose a maximum on legal bills charged to the county.

Though he has a law degree from DePaul University, Silvestri

says he does not operate a private legal practice.

Surviving three terms on the board as a Republican has not been easy for Silvestri since there are more registered Democrats in the ninth district than Republicans.

He says he has won by convincing people to cross party lines and support his candidacy.

Silvestri said that he has represented the area well and he understands that many county issues affect this area differently than other places in Cook County.

He said that his opponent seems to have filed paperwork for the office but has not done any public campaigning and is difficult for people to contact.

Kollman does not have a website and his phone number is unlisted.

"If the other guy wants to file and then do nothing, hey, it's a free country," Silvestri laughed.

Daniel Kollman, 46, works for the City of Chicago as a tree trimmer. He also worked for the Cook County Forest preserve as a tree trimmer and supervisor in the past.

If elected to the board, he said he'd trim the county payroll of upper management positions.

"We have too many upper management jobs and not enough workers," he said.

He said he is running for the post because he feels Silvestri is not doing a good job. He said that

Silvestri has three jobs while most people have trouble getting one job.

The three jobs are county commissioner, village president and state liquor commissioner.

"He's going to get three pensions from the taxpayers. There is something not right about that," Kollman said.

Kollman said he doesn't have a lot of money "like Silvestri" but that he is still running a campaign with the help of family and friends.

Frank Coconte is the chair of the anti-Daley Northwest Side Democratic Organization.

Coconte said he supports Kollman in the race and thinks he would be a good commissioner.

LETTERS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Maybe you will have a story or two to share one day with a couple of your buddies. Thank you.

Ray Czarnik, Niles Park Commissioner

Zoning Board member for OTB

Dear Editor,

I have been a resident of Niles for almost 50 years. During that time, I served on three school boards, on one of which I'm still active. I maintained my Niles business for my entire career until I recently retired. As a Niles resident I have volunteered and served on many committees, currently serving as chairman of the Village of Niles plan commission and zoning board of appeals.

Along with the six members serving alongside me on this village board we take our job seriously. Each and every time we vote on a matter brought in front of us, we always have the best interests of the majority of the citizens in Niles at heart. Niles is and will always be a city "where people count" as long as Nicholas B. Blase is the mayor.

Prior to hearing Case 05-ZP-17 on locating an off-track wager facility at 9215 Greenwood Ave. in Niles, all of the Board of Appeals Commissioners took a bus to two existing off-track facilities spending approximately six hours observing how they operate, their clientele, their professionalism or lack of, the appearance and noise levels of the buildings and operations. After this and many hours of discussion, the Board unanimously approved Case 05-ZP-17, five to zero. This facility will generate needed revenue so the Village of Niles can maintain and continue the services now provided to its residents. Without this additional

revenue it is only a matter of time until taxes are increased or services are reduced.

My family will vote in favor of the off-track wager facility at 9215 Greenwood Ave. because we know this is what is best for the majority of the residents of Niles, a city "where people count."

James R. Callero
Concerned Niles Resident

Resident, business owner for OTB

I am writing to offer support for the Inter-Track Partners OTB project. Every factual resource that I have seen shows this business to be a well-run and responsible corporate citizen.

Through my membership in the Niles Chamber of Commerce, I encourage and support the establishment of new business in Niles. New business helps our community grow and keep the tax bill down for the rest of us. This new OTB

facility will provide increased property taxes, sales taxes and a new wagering tax that will bring in over \$500,000 to Niles.

I'm one of the silent majority that did not sign any petition, but I will be voting "yes" for the OTB referendum on March 21.

Randy Greco, Niles

Vote 'No' for D69 referendum

Dear Editor,

Seniors and retirees exercise your right and vote on March 21, 2006. Cook County has increased your tax bill with the recent reassessment of your property. The village of Morton Grove is raising their share of the property tax 20%.

Dist. 69 is asking you to vote on a tax referendum to increase the property tax on your home to \$2,575 per \$100 assessed valuation. On a \$400,000 house that would be an increase of \$494. This is a 73% increase (Or \$362 on a

\$300,000 home.)

The total increase in your tax bill could be as much as \$750. This is an addition to other taxing body increases. Seniors vote your wallet. Vote the Dist. 69 increase down.

R.F. Dorgan, Morton Grove

Park Commissioners: 'Yes on Referendum'

Dear Editor,

Early voting is already underway and the March 21st election will be here before you know it. For the first time in years residents will have a tremendous opportunity to help shape the future of the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District. Residents will be given a choice to support a Referendum that includes something for everyone

(a new Year-Round Indoor Sports Complex, Improvements to the Oakton Ice Rink, New Family Aquatic Center at Centennial Pool, and a New and Enlarged Kitchen Area at the Senior Center).

The proposed referendum has the support of the Park District staff and overwhelming (6-1) majority of the Park Board Commissioners. The items in the referendum are ones that were discussed and debated by the past and current Park Boards on numerous occasions over the last twenty four months. The rationale for going to referendum is that proposed package not only meets the current recreational needs of residents, but also well positions them to do so for generations to come.

To help residents make an informed decision on March 21st, the Park Board has completed several public meetings

Letters Continue...
see LETTERS page 21.

Mayors of Morton Grove, Niles and Skokie Support Lou Lang for Helping Our Communities

What do Morton Grove Mayor Richard Krier, Niles Mayor Nicholas Blase, and Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen have in common?

They have all endorsed State Representative Lou Lang for Niles Township Democratic Committeeman.

Why?

Because Lang successfully fights for our communities. For example, Lang has:

- Secured a \$5.5 million state grant to build the new Holocaust Museum in Skokie
- Helped secure \$20 million in state, federal, and local funding to convert the old Sears factory in Skokie to the Midwest's foremost bio and nano research park, creating new 3,000 direct jobs and 10,000 indirect jobs for our communities.
- Convinced the CTA to develop a new Skokie Swift Stop
- Won state money to fund the resurfacing and upgrading of Touhy Avenue in Lincolnwood, Golf Road in Skokie, Morton Grove and Niles; and Dempster Street in Morton Grove and Skokie
- Provided state money to help pay for Lincolnwood flood control systems
- Provided state grants to upgrade parks and libraries to Lincolnwood, Morton Grove and Skokie

Lou Lang

Effective Leader, Fighting for Our Communities

PRESS #100

State Representative Lou Lang

for Niles Township Democratic Committeeman

Vote Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Paid for by Lang for Committeeman.



"No one works harder for all our communities in Springfield than Lou Lang."
—George Van Dusen, Mayor of Skokie



NEWS

LETTERS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

and a number of informational meetings for various community groups around town. The goal of all these meetings was to provide residents with facts and figures, address their concerns or questions, explain the rationale for going to referendum and most importantly to encourage residents to come out and vote. In addition to these meetings, the issues have also been discussed during a number of regular Park Board or Committee of the Whole meetings. There have also been more than thirty news articles published in our local newspapers addressing the items included in the referendum. Once again, the overall objective being to inform residents so they can make an informed decision.

The reality is the recreational needs of residents in the Park District have changed over the last forty years and our Park District has an aging inventory. When voting, obviously think of yourself, but also think of your children and grandchildren. Above all, ask yourself if the passing of this referendum would genuinely improve the

quality of life for all residents in our community. We've asked ourselves and are proud to say we will be voting YES and encouraging you to vote YES as well. Vote YES, if you are genuinely interested in the Park District and the future well being of our community.

In closing, to the Park Board members who support this referendum, we applaud your vision, integrity, energy and genuine concern for the needs of all residents and not your own special interests.

To those residents who said during a public informational meeting "who cares about soccer and baseball" and worst of all "who cares about the kids" we have but one message: "WE CARE" and assure you there are many other residents in this town who care as well.

Sal Raspani, Jim O'Brien,
Park Ridge Park Commissioners

ELECT JAMES MICHAEL BAILEY JUSTICE - ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT



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Cook County Prosecutor for 22 years. Argued numerous cases before the Illinois Appellate and Supreme Courts. Served as Senior Felony Trial Assistant in Narcotics Bureau.

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Executive Board Member of American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 300.

VOTE DEMOCRATIC - MARCH 21, 2006

PUNCH 62

JAMES MICHAEL BAILEY
FOR APPELLATE COURT JUSTICE

Paid for by Citizens for James Michael Bailey

Elect

Robert A.
Provenzano
Maine Township Republican Committeeman

Punch #58



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- Republican Women of Park Ridge
- Illinois Committee For Honest Government

- Independent Voters of Illinois - IPO
- Italian American Political Coalition
- Mexican American Political Coalition



"Robert Provenzano will provide integrity and the unifying leadership necessary to lead the rebuilding of our Maine Township Republican Party. I strongly endorse him."

—Senator Dave Sullivan (retired), Park Ridge

On Tuesday, March 21st... It's Time For A Change.
Elect Robert A. Provenzano - Republican Committeeman

SPORTS

Outlook bright for Wolves Baseball season

BY ALI BHANPURI
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Baseball is already underway in the high school sports world, with mid-March marking the start of a highly anticipated season for Niles West. The Wolves, who finished the 2005 season 16-15 overall and 1-1 in regional competition, looked to begin the season with a bang against Wheeling yesterday.

With Greg Eastman and Chris Toy now freshmen in college, the Wolves are without their one-two pitching punch of a year ago. Their absence left a vacancy in the number-one starter role and more importantly, a dent in the entire rotation. However, head coach Gary Gustafson is confident in the group of hurlers he will be putting on the mound this year.

"I think we have a solid pitching staff with five or six guys that can eat up innings," Gustafson said. "Jake Ehrenberg will be our number-one starter and will lead us come conference games on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will

start off with a five-man rotation, allowing all our pitchers to get some work, but once conference begins, we'll probably shift to three main starters."

Gustafson noted that the team plays 13 games before April 1, which he feels will be a great opportunity to see how the pitchers are coming along. Filling the rest of the spots in the rotation will be seniors Ryan Boldt and Clint Senensky, junior Chris Thompson and sophomore Chris Kontos.

The captains for the Wolves are seniors Matt Shimanovsky (short-stop) and Ehrenberg (P/ third base) and junior Andy Parsill (catcher). When Ehrenberg is on the mound, Gustafson plans to place Kontos at the hot corner in his stead. Last year, Kontos was the first freshman to make the varsity roster since Gustafson took over the head coaching spot at Niles West.

Although the team is comprised of sophomores, juniors and seniors, Gustafson said that his players get along well and have "great chemistry" with one another.

Assistant coach Mitch Stern

added to the positive remarks, acknowledging each player's versatility as the focal point of the team.

"This team has the most depth overall that we've had at the varsity level in a long while. Many of the guys can step in at any position and still play well," Stern said.

According to Gustafson, senior outfielders Matt Ceisel and Senensky along with Parsill will be the major run producers for the club. On the base paths, juniors P.J. Coorlas and Dean Vardijan will provide the team with speed and mobility. Gustafson also mentioned senior Steve Angarola, who wasn't on the team last year, but was one player who truly "earned a spot."

The major competitors for the Wolves will be New Trier and Glenbrook South. Gustafson recognized New Trier's consistency over the years and referred to the South as a team loaded with athletes.

If weather permits, the Wolves will face off against Foreman this Saturday at home.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE Bowled Wednesday, March 8, 2006

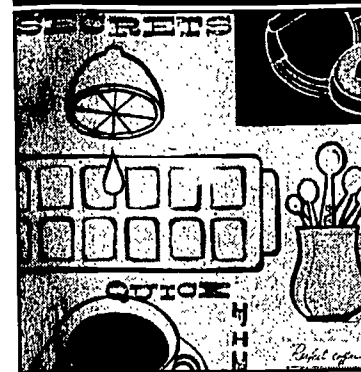
	Points Won	Points Lost
Bielinski and Bono Dental	52	18
Skaja Terrace Funeral Home	39	31
Niles Dairy Queen	37	33
Candlelight Jewelers	31	39
NorthSide Community Bank	26	44
Classic Bowl	25	45

High Series/High Games

Millie Kroll	506/181
Mary Johnson	486/166
Angie Strazzante	469/169
Melissa Lang	451/178
Jan Repel	171
Remy Huszar	160
Jan McReynolds/Mary Wasilewski	157
Shirley Wheeler	155

LIFE

Simple tips can help bring kitchen under control



CAROLINE DIPPING
Copley News Service

MORE ODOROUS MATTERS

You don't need one of those fancy-schmancy stainless-steel bars to rub your hands on to get rid of strong food odors such as garlic, onions or fish. If you have a stainless-steel sink, just rub your hands along the sides of the sink, and that will eliminate the odors. Or you can fondle your flatware for the same effect.

THE ICE CUBE TRAY COMETH

If you have an overactive lemon tree, the fruits of your labor don't have to go to waste. Simply juice the lemons - taking care not to squeeze too much or you will get the pithy flavor into the juice - and freeze the juice in ice cube trays. Once the juice is frozen, remove the cubes and put them in a freezer bag. They will keep nicely for one year in the freezer. If you are not awash in citrus, you can freeze strong brewed coffee in ice cube trays and use the frozen java cubes to make a frosty frappe at a moment's notice.

THE DAILY GRIND

Sparking of coffee, apparently many folks have been languishing for years with a too-weak brew. According to Corby Kummer, author of "The Joy of Coffee" (Houghton Mifflin, \$20), the correct proportion is 2 tablespoons of ground coffee for 6 ounces of water, and the proper size for a coffee scoop is 2 tablespoons. But some coffee-machine manufacturers have distributed scoops half that size to make consumers think they are using less coffee. You can check the size of your coffee scoop by pouring a couple of tablespoons of water into it. If your scoop comes up short, you will have a good idea why your coffee is less than stellar.

THIS SPUD'S FOR YOU

A friend of mine swears by keeping her potatoes in the garage, where it is cool and dark (the favorite clime of spuds). She says these environs are good for keeping potato eyes at bay.

Another tater trick: During the holidays, sidestep the eleventh-hour hassle of mashing potatoes for a crowd by using your slow cooker. Several hours before your feast, make your mashed potatoes, put them in the slow cooker, cover with a thin layer of cream or milk and keep warm on the lowest setting of the slow cooker.

Just before serving, stir in the cream. This nifty tip produces creamy spuds without all the calories of those make-ahead casseroles that are loaded with sour cream, cream cheese and butter. And you will avoid the last-minute kitchen tango.

FOR GOOD MEASURE

From Cook's Illustrated magazine, I learned that my measuring spoons would serve me a lot better if I took all my sets (four and counting) off their metal rings and placed the spoons in a little pot on my kitchen counter. This has the pretty effect of looking like a stainless-steel bouquet. You can find the spoon you need quickly, and you only have to wash the one you dirty rather than the whole shebang.

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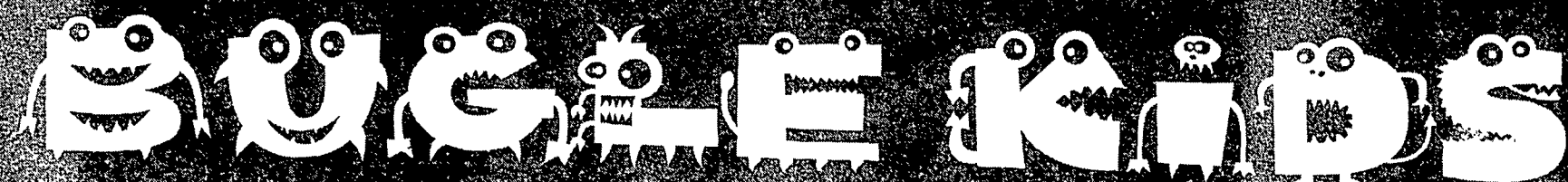


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By J.R. Rose-Copley News Service

DRAW IT!

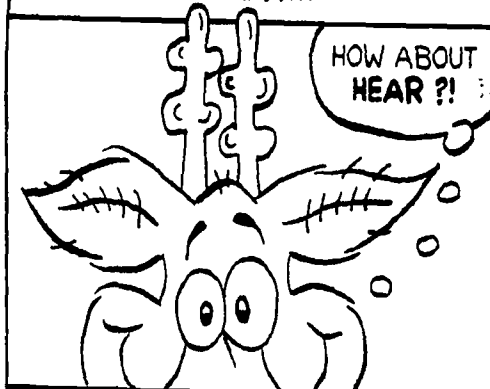
DRAW ANTLERS ON THIS DEER...

MAKE ME A BUCK !!

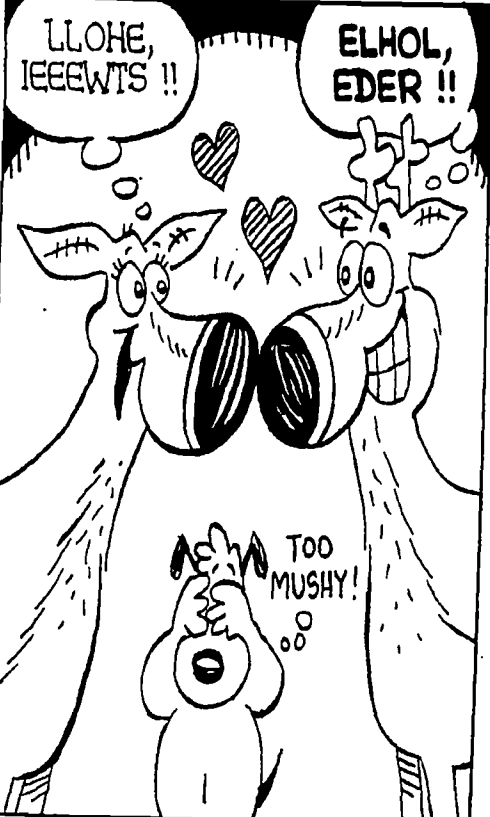


GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR DEER...

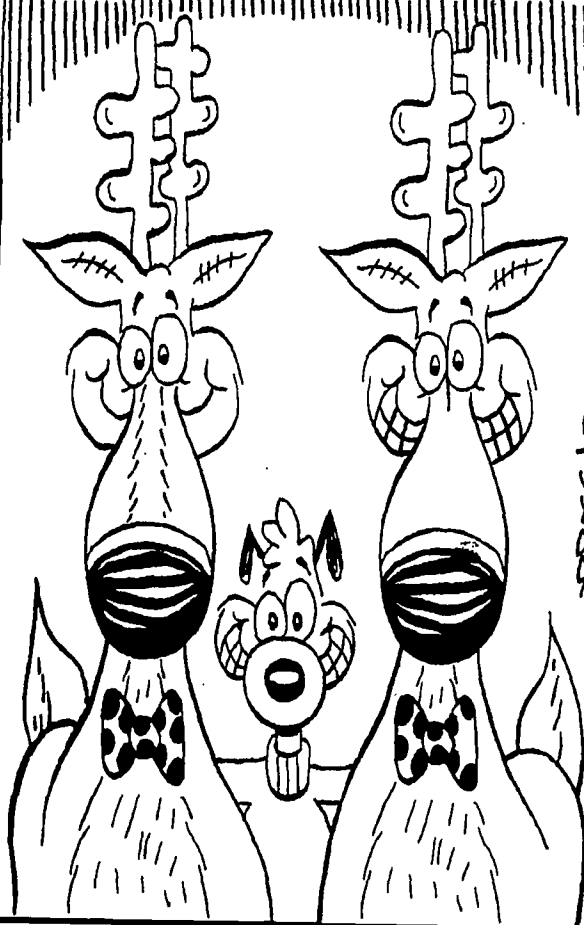
HOW ABOUT HEAR ?!



UNSCRAMBLE THESE TWO DEER...



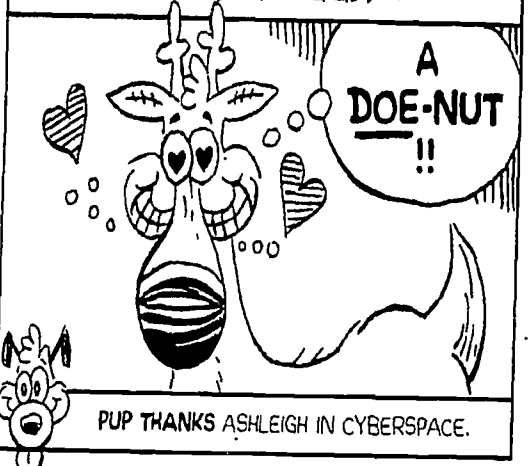
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WHAT DO YOU CALL A BUCK THAT'S CRAZY ABOUT FEMALE DEER?



PUP THANKS ASHLEIGH IN CYBERSPACE.

Grammar Matters

by Patty Gibbons Saunier

Is Everything All Right?

Read the following sentences below. Some are written correctly, but others contain mistakes. Determine which sentences need corrections.

1. I guess we are having ice cream for dessert.
2. Your not the only one who wants to quit.
3. This test will not effect your grade to much.
4. Have you decided weather you are staying overnight?
5. The car's tires need to be rotated.



Answers: 1. OK
2. You're not the only one who wants to quit.
3. This test will not affect your grade too much.
4. Have you decided whether you are staying overnight?
5. OK

Copley News Service



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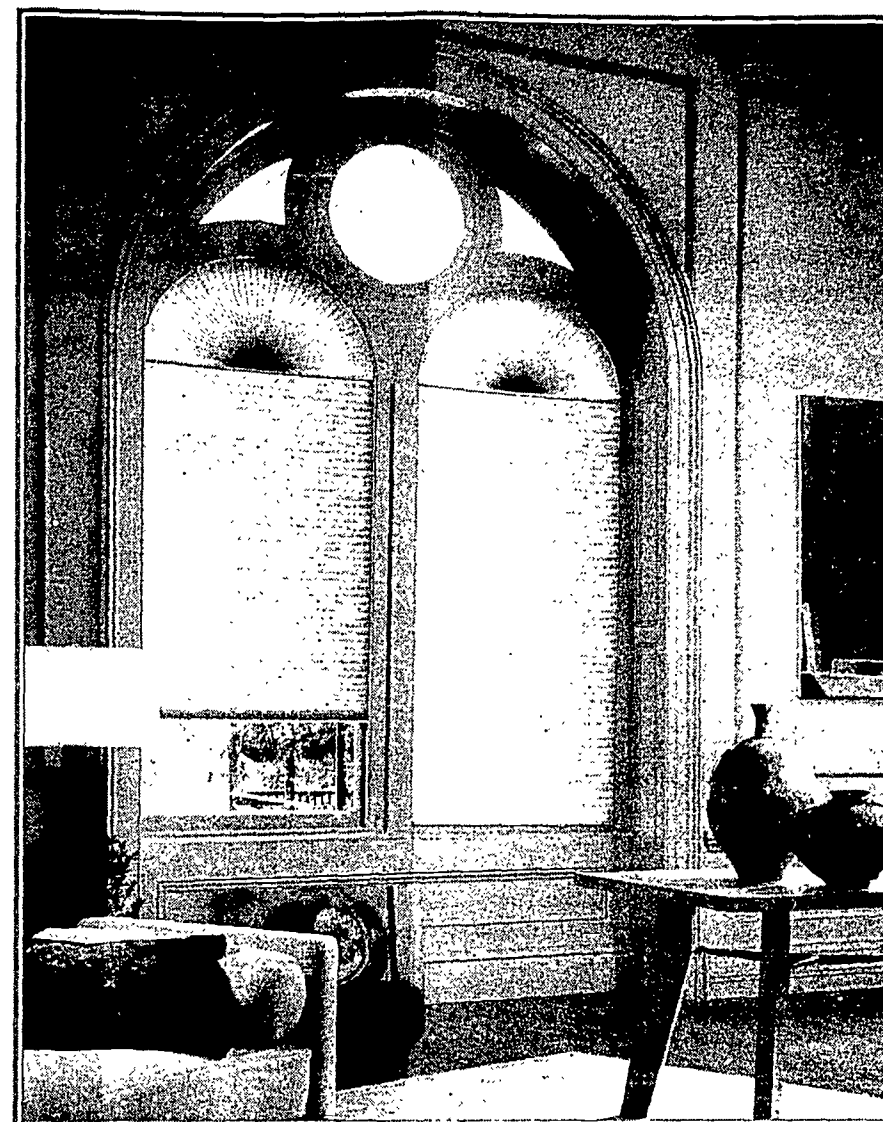
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REAL ESTATE

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A high-tech solution for an old-fashioned window



ROSE BENNETT GILBERT
Copley News Service

Q: What's the best way to handle an arched window? Should we just ignore the arch and hang curtains straight across? But that will hide the window, which is the nicest thing about our living room.

A: Often, the most attractive solution is none at all: leave the arch bare and dress the lower, rectangular part of the window, if you must, for privacy and light-control.

Traditionally, the only apt cover-

ing for a rounded window was a sheer curtain, gathered to fit and tacked permanently in place. Today, your window-treatment shop can custom bend curtain rods to fit exactly inside an arch. Or you might consider a whole new way of dressing windows: The elegant old architecture in the photo we show here is updated with cellular honeycomb shades. It's from Hunter Douglas at www.hunterdouglas.com or (800) 274-2985. The upper shades are fanned to fit snugly inside the double arches, then complemented by draw-down

Gold. Was there, did that! Any other suggestions would be appreciated.

A: Just in time - ta-dum! There's a movement toward the warmer, richer look of bronze in kitchen appliances. At least one upscale manufacturer, Jenn-Air, has added what it's calling "oiled bronze" to its appliance offerings. The finish is hand-rubbed to encourage subtle shadings, which means your refrigerator won't be nearly as in-your-face as gleaming stainless.

Q: I need more space! My one-bedroom apartment is so crowded

panels that reach the window sills. This way, you get both privacy, and energy-control - the honeycomb structure of the shades insulates against heat loss and gain - without obscuring the inherent beauty of the architecture.

Q: For our new kitchen, I definitely do not want stainless steel appliances. My mom had them and she was always wiping off the fingerprints. Besides, stainless steel just looks too cold and industrial for me. I'm a country kitchen type, so I don't want black or white, either. But don't talk to me about Harvest

I either have to move or get rid of a lot of the oversized hand-me-down furniture from my parents. Can you steer me to some smart double-duty furniture?

A: Assuming you're already onto the obvious - like convertible sofas and storage ottomans - let's explore some other new space-makers that are making today's home scene.

A company named Arason Enterprises has a new bed-in-a-chest that's sized right for a small home or apartment. What looks by day like an ordinary oak or birch chest flips by night into a comfy double bed. See more at www.fu-chest.com or call (410) 703-4412.

Make room for one more around the dinner table with a handsome new drop-leaf whose leaves flip up, rather than down, and fold small between meals. It's from Storehouse

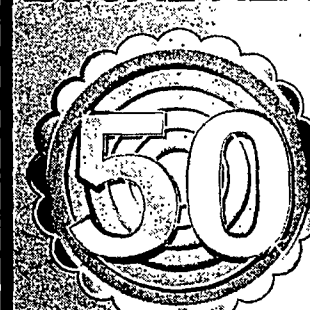
www.storehouse.com or (888) 786-7346.

Storehouse also offers a country kitchen workshop table with a flip-top and storage drawers. Two more space-makers, well worth their square footage are a shoe chest that stands 5 feet tall but only 8 inches deep, and a revolving bookcase that swivels to a full-length mirror on the other side.

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

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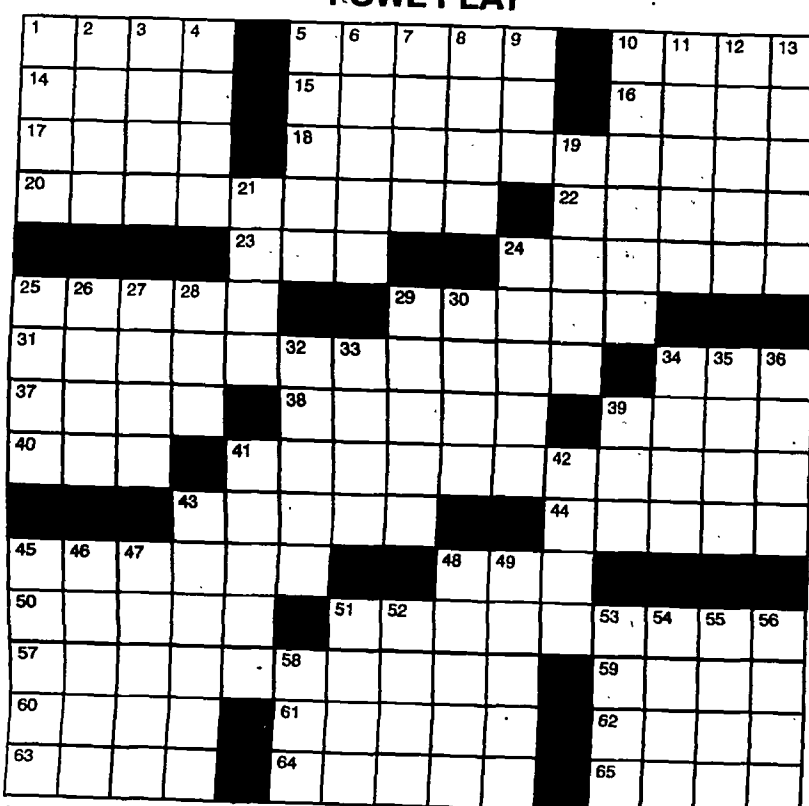


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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

FOWL PLAY



COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Flowing garment
5 Egyptian dam site
10 Prepare potatoes
14 Basra's nation
15 Phantom
16 Writer Quindlen
17 Light tan
18 How some people quit smoking
20 Unusual people
22 Lunar trench
23 Gorilla or gibbon
24 Potential jurors
25 Keen
29 What Lou Brock often did
31 Trap shooter's targets
34 Furious
37 Smog
38 French landscapist
39 Food
40 Metallic substance
41 Two on a par five
43 Tailor's product
44 Adage
45 Wards off
48 Cows' genus
50 Resentment

51 NBA Coach of the Year in 1998
57 Type of athletic tournament
59 Lotion ingredient
60 Nastase, of tennis
61 Kate Nelligan role
62 Take shape
63 Pool lengths
64 Pitcher's mistakes
65 This may be double or triple

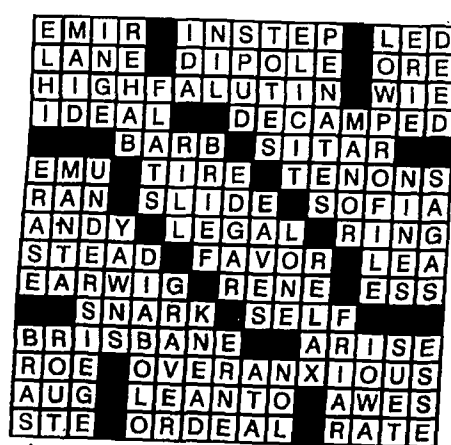
DOWN

1 Stadium level
2 Killer whale
3 Actress Teri
4 Pastel shade
5 Songwriters' organization: apron
6 Push hard
7 Corduroy feature
8 Gets a total
9 Lepidopterist's tool
10 Nautical
11 Bracelet site
12 Fishhook attachment
13 Isaac or Helen
19 Continental divider
21 Lawman Wyatt

24 Florence's Vecchio
25 Reverberate
26 Like 49 Down
27 Stare
28 Hurricane center
29 Central Europeans
30 Part of a kit
32 Religious images
33 Chacun à son
34 Biblical gift-givers
35 Singer Guthrie
36 Judge
39 Modern message
41 Passé
42 No problem
43 Good fiber source
45 When NHL playoffs begin
46 Stringed instrument
47 Supply
48 Edge
49 This puzzle's theme: Gr.
51 Ms. Falana
52 Cain's brother
53 California region
54 Evergreen shrub
55 Part
56 Farmer's spot?
58 CSA soldier

Last Week's
Puzzle Answers

UPS AND DOWNS

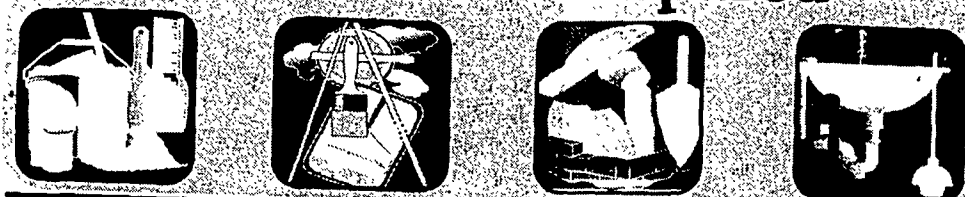


COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

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
Fax: 847-588-1911
E-mail editor@buglenewspapers.com

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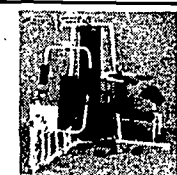
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LEGAL NOTICE

The Village of Niles Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 3, 2006, at 7:30 P.M. at the Niles Municipal Building, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, Illinois, to hear the following matter(s): 06-ZP-5 - Josef Kowalkowski, 7839 Oleander, Niles, requesting a variation to Sec VII © (9) to reduce corner side yard from 25' to 14' to construct front porch canopy at 7839 Oleander. 06-ZP-6 - Greg Hudson, 250 Riverside Street, Chillicothe, OH, requesting change in zoning from B-2 to B-2 Special Use to operate a pet shop with Dog kennels at 5661 Touhy, Peotone, IL. 06-ZP-7 - Virgil Tiran, Ionei Capalinas, 2701 Belmont Avenue, Chicago, requesting change in zoning from M to R-4 Special Use PUD to construct 210 residential condominium units at 7777 and 7847 Caldwell, variations to Sec. XI (H) (6) (E) (5) and (6) to P.U.D. required yards and space between buildings and Plat of Subdivision for Club Subdivision at 7777 and 7847 Caldwell Avenue. 06-ZP-8 - Specialty Printing, 6019 Howard, Niles, Requesting a variation to Appendix B, Sec. IX (B) (4) (a) to reduce the required front yard on a through lot minimum of 25' to 15' to construct an addition at 6019 Howard Street. The Village of Niles will comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. If you or someone you know with a disability require accommodations for a Village service or have any questions about the Village's compliance, please contact George Van Geem, Village Manager, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, Illinois, 847-588-8000.

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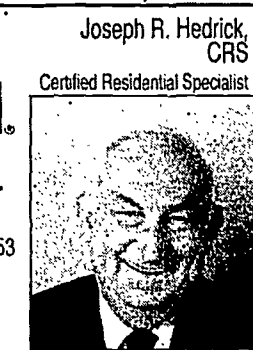
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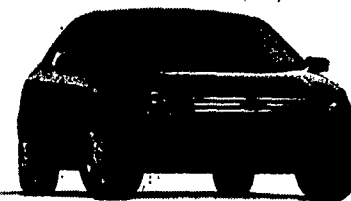
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24K MI, Black, Stk#T12847A..... Landmark: \$17,995

'05 Mazda 6..... Kelly Blue Book: \$18,835
13K MI, Red, Stk#P4412..... Landmark: \$17,995

'04 Volkswagen Passat..... Kelly Blue Book: \$21,035
17K MI, Gray, Stk#T12759A..... Landmark: \$18,495

'02 Lincoln LS..... Kelly Blue Book: \$21,765
36K MI, White, Stk#P4388B..... Landmark: \$18,495

'02 Ford Explorer..... Kelly Blue Book: \$19,385
57K MI, Stk#T12854A, Red..... Landmark: \$18,950

'04 Ford Explorer Sport Trac..... Kelly Blue Book: \$20,965
17K MI, Stk#T12680A, Green..... Landmark: \$19,650

'04 Ford F-150 4X4..... Kelly Blue Book: \$21,215
62K MI, Stk#T12872A, Silver..... Landmark: \$19,750

'03 Nissan Murano..... Kelly Blue Book: \$23,465
Black, Stk#1658A..... Landmark: \$21,950

'03 Infiniti G35..... Kelly Blue Book: \$24,560
Stk#P4430..... Landmark: \$21,950

'05 Ford Explorer..... Kelly Blue Book: \$23,910
26K MI, Stk#P4523, Grey..... Landmark: \$21,950

'05 Ford F-150..... Kelly Blue Book: \$25,755
11K MI, Stk#T12851A, Grey..... Landmark: \$22,950

'04 Ford Expedition XLT Sport..... Kelly Blue Book: \$27,410
4x4, 52K MI, Stk#1742A..... Landmark: \$23,950

'04 Pontiac GTO..... Kelly Blue Book: \$25,945
6K MI, Red, Stk#P4438..... Landmark: \$23,950

'04 Ford F-150 S-Crew 4x4..... Kelly Blue Book: \$28,040
52K MI, Red, Stk#T12661A..... Landmark: \$26,950

'06 Cadillac CTS 3.6L..... Kelly Blue Book: \$30,950
10K MI, Stk#P4453..... Landmark: \$30,950

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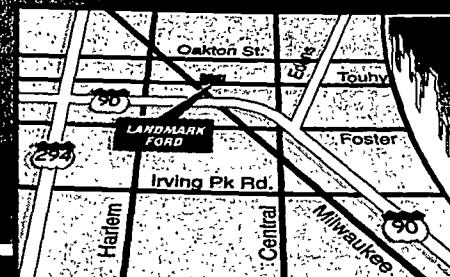
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