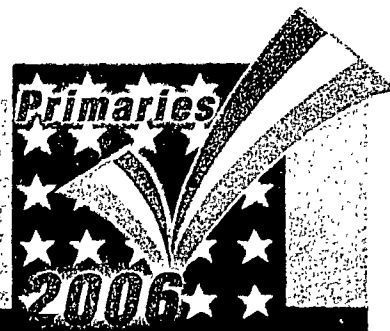


THIS WEEK
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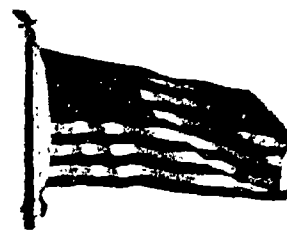
PRIMARIES 2006
**MORE ELECTION
 RESULTS, POPULAR RACES**
Follow-up Coverage



PAGES 2, 13

SINCE 1957

THE BUGLE



THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2006

VOL. 49 No. 44

NILESBUGLE.COM • PARKRIDGEBUGLE.COM • MORTONGROVEBUGLE.COM

Niles voters affirm OTB in referendum

Primaries 2006

Topinka wins GOP Primary

Republican Ballot For Governor

Name	Votes Won	%
Judy Baar Topinka	269,565	37.9
Bill Brady	132,446	18.6
Jim Oberweis	225,395	31.7
Ron Gidwitz	76,559	10.7
Andy Martin	5,826	0.82

Democratic Ballot

Rod Blagojevich	585,525	70.9
Edwin Eisendrath	249,868	29.9

Advisory referendum confirms mayor, village board position

Niles residents voted strongly in favor of a planned off-track betting (OTB) parlor for the former Circuit City site in Golf Mill Tuesday, offering affirmation to the Niles' leaders who have strongly backed the project since it was first approved in 2005.

Niles voters gave a nod to the project by about 500 votes or 2400 to 1900 vote in favor with most

precincts reporting Tuesday night. The results are approximate as official tallies were not available at press time.

In spite of these odds, opponents of the project, lead by Niles Residents Morgan Dubiel and Rosemary Palicki fought tirelessly, first at the village board meeting where it was approved, then again at the Illinois Racing Board and

finally with a referendum dispute that was decided in their favor in Cook County Circuit Court.

"Our real victory was won a few weeks ago," Dubiel said Tuesday night referring to the County judge's order to place the referendum on the ballot in the first place. "What was important here was that the people had the opportunity to vote."

Heading to, from the Polls



Voters enter and leave the polls at Gemini Junior High School in Niles Tuesday morning. Four precincts vote at Gemini making it one of the larger polling sites in the area.

Niles police officer injured in accident

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER
 EDITOR

A Niles Police Officer is still recovering from injuries she received in an accident early Monday morning which hospitalized here and two others.

The officer was driving east-bound on Dempster St. in response to a medical emer-

gency call at about 12:05 a.m. on Monday, Mar. 20 when she attempted to change lanes and lost control of her squad car near Oswego and spun into the westbound lanes.

Her squad then collided with a Toyota Corolla driving by a 45-year-old Skokie man. He and his passenger, a 35-year-old Morton Grove resident were treated for minor injuries at

Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

Morton Grove Cmdr. Brian Bolger said that no citations were issued in the accident.

All the individuals involved in the crash have been released from the hospital according to Niles Police Chief Dean

Story Continues...
 see OFFICER page 2.

Niles resident arrested for three robberies

A 17-year-old Niles man was arrested for two armed robberies and one attempted armed robbery that occurred recently in Niles and Park Ridge.

Stephen L. Zagodon of the 9000 block of Churchill in Niles was charged on Tuesday, March 14 for an armed robbery

he committed at J.P. Cleaners at 980 N. Northwest Hwy in Park Ridge on Feb. 28, said police. He was arrested on March 14 and earlier on that day, he was also arrested by the Niles Police

Story Continues...
 see ROBBERIES page 2.

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NEWS

Chicago man charged with attempted murder of Niles girlfriend

Maher Namatallah, 25, of 600 N. California, Chicago was charged with attempted murder of his girlfriend, a Niles resident Monday and is currently being held on \$1,000,000 bond after a violent car chase that careened through Niles residential streets.

According to Niles Police Cmdr. Dennis McEnerney, Namatallah had been dating a Niles woman for several weeks when he contacted her mother on Sunday and said that her daughter was in trouble somewhere in the city.

When the search turned up nothing, McEnerney said that Namatallah and his girlfriend's mother returned to the girlfriend's home to await her return. When she did return around 4 a.m., Namatallah emerged from her mother's car to confront his girlfriend.

She apparently was avoiding him, McEnerney said and returned to her car with two of her friends to drive away.

But Namatallah gave chase in the other car, not only colliding but also shooting at the other car with a handgun, according to McEnerney.

Police were able to recover the gun and several shell casings on the street, McEnerney said. No one was injured in the incident.

Namatallah was charged with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm and one count of unlawful use of a weapon.

Park District weighs options after referendum failure

The people came out and voted. The result: The Park Ridge Park District referendum question to issue \$24.6 million in bonds to build a 62,000 sq. ft. indoor multi-sport athletic center at Oakton Park and make other improvements and expansions failed.

The multi-sport center won't replace the Oakton Park pools, entry lockers, showers and office areas.

The center would have featured basketball courts, an athletic field for soccer, baseball, soccer and football, a gymnastics room and a climbing wall.

Plan also included a 3,700 square foot addition with locker

rooms and showers at the Oakton Park ice arena. The Oakton Park site was also to be improved, including parking and storm water detention, replacing the existing pools at Centennial Park with a new aquatic pool and new filtration system. The pool will have a zero-depth design, spray features, lap lanes, slides, concessions and children's water playground.

The Park Ridge kitchen facilities will also be improved, expanded and equipped as a result of the referendum passing.

Money might have been the issue: Some anti-referendum signs demanded a better plan.

The estimated tax increase for a

homeowner with a home at a market value of \$300,000 would have been \$149 annually, \$12 monthly and \$.41 daily. On a home with a \$500,000 market value taxes would have increased \$248 annually, \$20 monthly and \$.67 daily.

Park Board President Marty Maloney said that the vote was a disappointment but that the people had spoken.

"I was glad to see the high voter turnout," said Maloney. "That was what the referendum was about, letting the people have their say."

Maloney said that something would now have to be done with the Oakton Pool site, which is deteriorating.

Record number of suburban residents registered

A record number of voters in suburban Cook County were registered to vote in Tuesday's March 21 primary election.

The latest registration figures revealed that 1,383,712 residents were signed up to vote. This number is the highest total of registered voters in suburban Cook County prior to a primary election, according to Cook

County Clerk David Orr's office.

This defeats the previous record of 1.314 million suburban Cook County residents on the voter rolls before the March 2002 gubernatorial primary election.

This year's record also eclipses the 1.375 million voters prior to the November 2004 presidential election. The overall record was created in November 1992 when a little more than 1.4 million suburban voters were signed up to vote.

"Suburban areas continue to

grow and that is reflected in the voter rolls," said Orr, in a press release. "Hopefully, those voters will take the next step and vote on Election Day."

The local totals show that 21 of 30 townships experienced increases from the November 2004 election.

A new state law extended the registration deadline an extra two weeks, until March 6, and 151 suburban Cook County voters signed up during this 14-day grace period.

OFFICER:
Police Chief wishes for speedy recovery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Strzelecki. He said that the officer was bruised but that he hoped she would be back to work soon.

"She's doing fine," Strzelecki said. "Shes bruised and sore here and there, but most people are when they've been involved in an accident."

Strzelecki also said that the officer was wearing her seatbelt, a factor that probably helped her avoid serious injury.

"We'll be glad to be having her back to work soon," he said. "We've also received a lot of calls from concerned individuals. We really appreciate the concern."

NEWS

Niles Parks names Elenz assistant director

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

Tom Elenz, the finance director for the Niles Park District was expected to be granted the additional title of "assistant director" of the park district at the park board meeting on Tuesday, March 21.

"He's been handling the operations when I'm not around," said Niles Park District Director Joseph LoVerde. "He is very capable."

LoVerde said that Elenz, who has been the finance director for seven years, and he runs the park district operations when LoVerde is out of town or unavailable.

LoVerde said just in case anything happens to him, it is good to be prepared for the future. In that case, Elenz would act as the interim director.

Elenz is a native of Niles and was previously the senior accountant for the Village of Niles where he was employed

for 10 years.

There will not be a salary increase or any other changes, said LoVerde.

Also on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting, was the approval of the Shermer Park contract that would formally hand over the parcel of land from the Niles Park District to the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

The transaction for the piece of land that is believed to contain Jewish graves was approved by the Circuit Court of Cook County on March 2.

The Shermer Park parcel is adjacent to the two-acre cemetery on Waukegan Road, south of Dempster.

The Jewish Federation says they are looking forward to protecting and preserving the Jewish graves.

The approval of a cell tower contract (T Mobile) and the approval of custodial services, Crystal Maintenance Service were two other agenda items under old business.

March going out like a big cat



A student struggles home from school last Thursday, Mar. 16 during a heavy snow storm. That storm deposited about three inches on the area. On Tuesday, Mar. 19, the second day of spring, temperatures dropped below freezing.

THE BUGLE

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Mario's Cleaners, located in the 8700 block of W. Dempster, was the last place police say Stephen Zagozdun attempted to rob. He was later arrested at the Portillo's on Dempster.

ROBBERIES: Man arrested at Portillo's

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Department after he attempted to rob Mario Cleaners, located at the 8700 block of W. Dempster, Niles.

At about 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, Niles police responded to a report of a man with a gun at Mario's Cleaners. Police said the

male carried a handgun and black backpack and after attempting to rob the Cleaners, he fled from the store on foot without taking any money.

Niles Police said they spoke with several witnesses who said they saw a subject who matched the description of the offender running towards the Portillo's restaurant on Dempster. The subject was found inside the restaurant and a large nickel-plated handbag was found in his backpack and was recovered. The sub-

ject was positively identified by the victim/owner of Mario's Cleaners.

The subject also admitted that he was involved in yet another armed robbery that took place Monday evening on March 13 at VideoPol, in the 9000 block of Courtland, Niles.

Zagozdun was charged with one count of attempted armed robbery—at Mario's Cleaners, one count Armed Robbery—VideoPol and one count Armed Robbery—JP Cleaners.

Park Ridge police charge man with sexual assault

Park Ridge Police detectives recently traveled to Las Vegas Nevada and after working with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department a 43-year-old subject was found and arrested on March 16 for two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse that were reported to the Park Ridge Police.

In July, 2003, the Park Ridge Police Department received a report from a 20 year old female who said that a family member had been sexually abusing her several times between the years 1989 through 1995. In November, 2003, the police department received a second report that an 18-year-old female said that a family member was sexually abusing her from 1989 through 2000.

Police said the two victims are related and the suspect in these two incidents of sexual abuse is related to both victims. One of the victims currently lives out of state.

The suspect moved out of the area shortly after he learned from other family members that a police report had been made against him. At that time, an investigation was performed but criminal complaints could not be obtained since there was insufficient evidence.

In February, 2006, the Park Ridge Police learned that the suspect, James R. Bartczak, might be living in Las Vegas. In conjunction with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, he was located.

Upon returning to Park Ridge and conferring with the Cook County States Attorney's office, a warrant was issued on March 7, 2006 for the subject's arrest for two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse and his bond was set at \$300,000.

On March 16 the Las Vegas police arrested the subject without incident on the outstanding Park Ridge warrant. He is currently being held in Las Vegas Nevada pending extradition back to Park Ridge in order to stand trial.

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SCHOOLS

Local schools have mixed feelings on junk food ban

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Rod Blagojevich's proposal to ban junk food and soda in Illinois elementary and middle schools was adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education on March 16.

Under the National School Lunch Program, the state board has the authority to prohibit the sale of junk food and soda during the school day at elementary and middle schools that participate in the program throughout the state. Blagojevich asked the nine-board member to ban soda and junk food in November.

"I have mixed emotions," said Linda Hargesheimer, the cafeteria director at Culver School in Niles.

Hargesheimer said she supports healthy, nutritious food for the kids and she tries her best to always follow the state guidelines. However, she feels that some of what the state is asking for is "a little too much."

For example, she said they do not allow plain bottled water. Instead, it has to be fortified with some other nutrient. Also, they prefer 100% juice drinks.

As for the older students, Hargesheimer said that if they want pretzels or gummy bears they will go to the store and buy them or bring junk food to school from home.

"They're going to get it," said Hargesheimer.

Hargesheimer said the school

does not serve any soda and their pizzas are low-fat with whole wheat crust. She said their menu offers children a variety of fresh salads and fruit options.

Sue Arndt, the coordinator for health services at East Mainc School Dist. 63 said that the district has already taken steps

“
They're going to
get [junk food].

Linda Hargesheimer
Culver Cafeteria
Director

”
to eliminate some junk food and soda. She said that at the junior high, the candy bars have been removed from the vending machines and the soda is not available during school hours.

Arndt said the district has formed a required wellness committee in order to create a plan to improve nutrition and promote good health and their plan will be presented to the board of education in May for its approval. She said they support the Governor's proposal.

"Good nutrition helps children attend school more regularly, behave better when they're in school and score better on tests," said Blagojevich, in a press release.

Hargesheimer said the school

Maine East Wins Poetry Slam Award

The Maine East team competed in a Poetry Slam as a part of Louder than A Bomb 2006 — The 6th Annual Chicago Teen Poetry Festival sponsored by Young Chicago Authors at the Metro downtown in Wrigleyville. The team participated in the preliminary bouts on March 3-6 and then in the finals on March 12. The venue was sold out with 900 attending the event. Maine East finished third out of 44 teams from the

Chicagoland area. The team had the highest scoring team piece at finals and senior Samer Allababidi of Park Ridge made the Chicago All-Star team to qualify to compete in the National Youth Poetry Slam in New York. Other poets on the Maine East team are Kristian Vistan of Des Plaines, Caitlin Swedroe of Niles and Kim Truong of Morton Grove.

A slam is essentially a competitive poetry reading, or as

they like to call it, "the Olympics of Poetry." There are four members on a team and each member is responsible for writing an individual piece. Then the team writes a collaborative piece of which all members must be a part. After the poems are performed, they are scored by five judges and the scores are 1-10. The lowest and highest scores are dropped to prevent any type of bias or poor judging. The best possible score is 30.

SJB Announces Lenten Activities

Students at St. John Brebeuf School are celebrating Lent with various activities to remind themselves of the 40 day journey in preparation for Easter. On Ash Wednesday the children received ashes in church and had a very simple noon meal. Each classroom has a special reading to be read over the P.A. system to start our school day. Then each classroom also places a symbol of the reading on the wooden cross standing in the front entrance of school. These activities are a daily reminder of how each of us

can prepare for Easter by prayer, almsgiving, and fasting.

At home the children are learning to follow Christ's example of caring for those in need by using the material of Operation Starfish supplied by Food for the Poor. We hope to make a real difference in the lives of families in Latin America and the Caribbean with our donations.

Lent can be a time to help others in need, reflect on our daily actions in life, and strengthen our good deeds.

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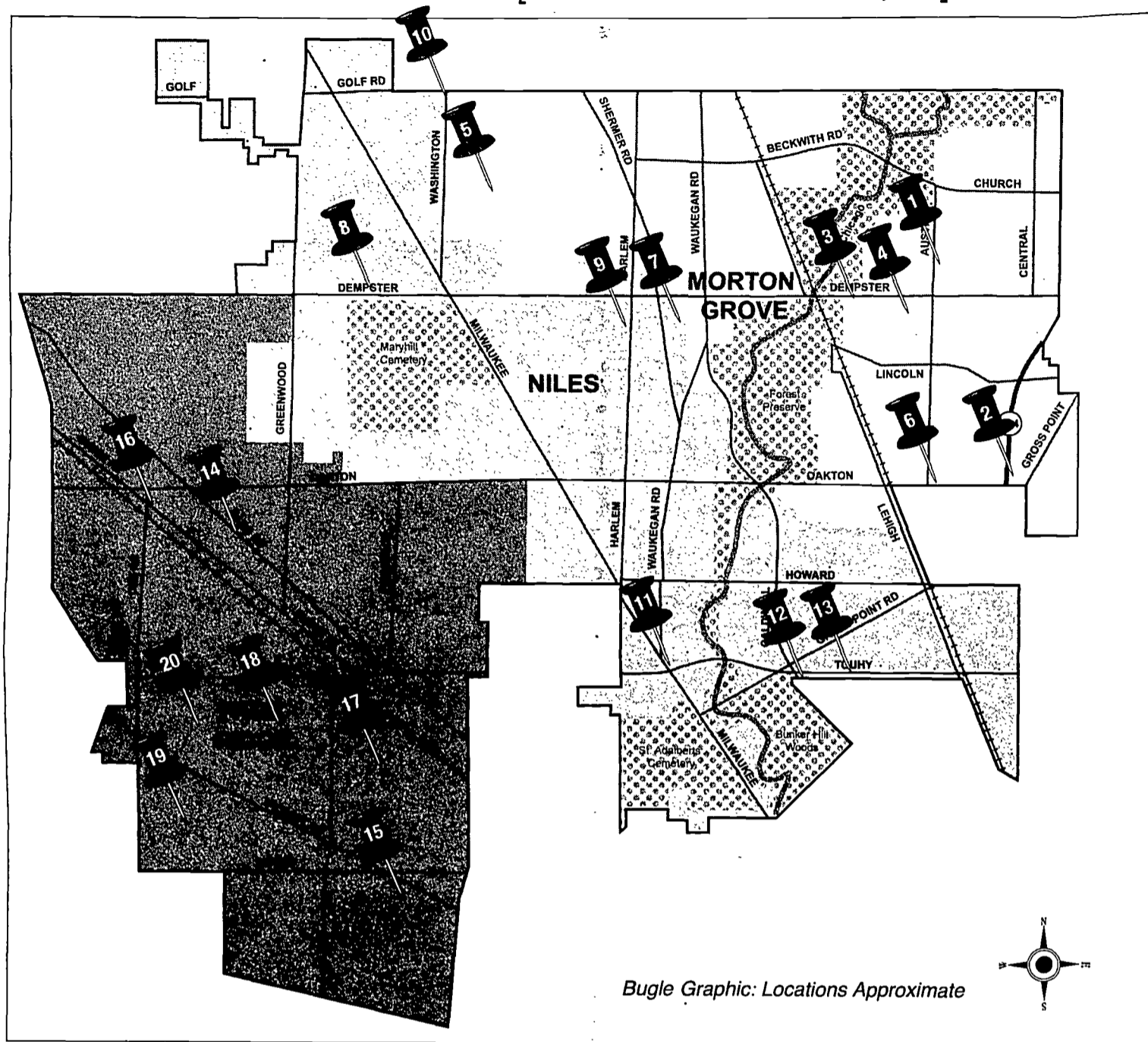


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POLICE BLOTTER



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. 17.

1 Paintballs Thrown at Statue of Liberty
(9000 block of Austin)

Unknown offender(s) threw paint balls at a Statue of Liberty in the front yard of the property at the 9000 block of Austin on March 15, said police.

2 Stolen Vehicle
(8000 block of Parkside)

Unknown subject(s) gained entry to a vehicle at the 8000 block of Parkside and stole the vehicle on March 16, said police. The vehicle was parked on the street in front of the vic-

tim's residence. Police said the vehicle had a broken passenger door window that was covered with plastic, which may have been the method of entry into the vehicle.

3 Theft of Gas
(6300 block of Dempster)

Offender pulled up to a pump and put \$38.08 worth of gas in his tank at the 6300 block of Dempster and then drove off eastbound on Dempster St. without paying on March 10, said police.

4 Driving on Lawn
(6100 block of Dempster)

A blue minivan was driving on the front lawn at the 6100 block of Dempster on March 10. Police activated the emergency lights, curbing the vehicle. Police said the driver

said he thought a driveway existed in front of the American Legion and he was attempting to turn around. Offender was issued a ticket for the destruction of village property. The hearing date is Apr. 12, said police.

Burglary to Auto
(9400 block of Ozark)

Sometime between March 9 and March 10, police said someone burglarized an automobile at the 9400 block of Ozark and removed air conditioning tools.

One of the machines taken was valued at \$450 and the other at \$320. Police said there were additional pieces of equipment taken as well.

Lights Taken from Truck
(6000 block of Oakton)

Police said \$265 worth of lights were taken from the side of a tow truck between March 10 and March 11.

Police said offender used a screwdriver to pry out the lights and wire cutters were used to remove them.

Police said offender used a screwdriver to pry out the lights and wire cutters were used to remove them.

Police said offender used a screwdriver to pry out the lights and wire cutters were used to remove them.

House Fire
(700 block of Carol Ct.)

The victim was out of his house and when he came back and entered through the front door of his house on March 16 he discovered smoke, said police. More smoke was found upstairs. The Niles Fire

Department put out the fire.

Battery over Traffic Dispute
(Oak and Cumberland)

A victim and offender got into a minor traffic dispute on March 16, said police. The offender got out of his vehicle and began to walk to the victim's car. The victim and offender exchanged words and then the offender struck his left cheek with a closed fist, said police.

Gang Graffiti
(7200 block of Dempster)

Unknown offender(s) used spray paint to put gang symbols on the north and west walls of the sports store on March 14, police said.

Armed Robbery
(8000 block of Golf Road)

While a woman and man were getting into their vehicle in the parking lot, an unknown offender grabbed two purses that were hanging from the victim's left arm on March 9, police said. Police said the offender pulled out a pistol and shoved the barrel into the victim's chest. As the offender pulled one of the purses off the victim's arm she fell to the ground.

Damage to Village Property
(7000 Touhy)

The offender was waiting for a taxi at the Niles Police Station when he entered the front lobby restroom on March 19, said police. The offender wiped his bodily functions on the toilet seat and clogged the toilet with newspapers, said police.

Phone Harassment
(6300 Touhy)

Police said an offender called a victim and yelled into the phone on March 18, said police. Police said the victim said this frequently happens in the morning. Police said the offender is emotionally disturbed and harasses other residents as well.

Blotter Continues... see BLOTTER next page.



Do you have any information on these or other crimes in Niles?

Call the Niles CrimeStoppers at 847-588-6533. Remember CrimeStoppers only wants information. They are not interested in your name.

NEWS

BLOTTER:

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Burglary to Auto
(6300 Touhy)

Police said an offender shattered the passenger's side window of a vehicle and grabbed the victim's purse that was on the floor next to the driver's seat and was not covered on March 11. Police said the purse contained a wallet, credit cards, \$30 in USC, driver's license and ID.

PARK RIDGE

The following was derived from the official reports of the Park Ridge Police Department for the week ending Monday, Mar. 20.

Burglary
(1500 block of N. Northwest Hwy)

Unknown offender(s) entered an office building by non-force means between Feb. 24 to March 7, said police. A cardboard box containing documents was taken from the building.

Burglary to Motor Vehicle
(600 block of W. Talcott)

Unknown offender(s) entered a victim's 2001 Ford pick-up by breaking the window on March 11, said police. A briefcase with documents was taken.

Broken door handle

Police said unknown offender(s) broke the driver's side door handle of a victim's 2004 Mitsubishi Lander on March 15 in a school parking lot. Police said the estimated cost of the damage is unknown.

Stolen Wheelbarrow

17 (600 block of S. Prospect)

A wheelbarrow worth \$200 that was in the alley next to the victim's garbage cans was taken at the 600 block of Prospect between March 6 and March 7, said police.

Suspicious Incident
(Clifton and Crescent Streets)

A 13-year-old female was walking home from school when a male, in his late 40s, driving a silver car stopped and asked the victim if she would like a ride home on March 14. The victim ignored the subject and walked away, said police. The subject drove off in an unknown direction.

Beer Bottle Thrown at Car Window

Unknown offender(s) threw a beer bottle through the rear window of a victim's 2003 Lincoln Navigator on March 11. Police said the estimated cost of the damage is \$250.

20 Stolen Vehicle
(1900 block of Parkside)

Police said between March 13 and March 15, a 1993 Chrysler LeBaron was discovered missing from the residence parking area in the multi-use residence parking lot.

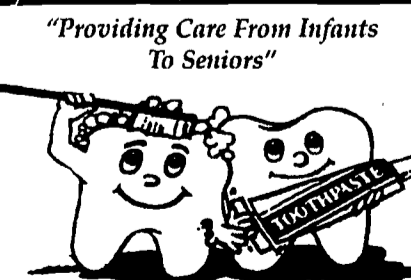
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COMMENTARY

Letters to the Editor

D'Amico observes Women's History month

Dear Editor,

In honor of Women's History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to not only increase awareness of the great contributions women have made to our country, but also discuss important issues facing women today.

Women have helped make America the rich, diverse world leader it is today. Whether it's politics, science, sports, exploration or the arts, women like Rosa Parks, Eleanor Roosevelt, Marie Curie, Wilma Rudolph, Amelia Earhart and Alice Walker paved the way for women to participate in every aspect of American life. Their hard work and courage will enable young girls, like my daughters, to shoot for the stars and explore any career or endeavor they want.

There are still many issues of importance to women, and much more work to be done, though. One of the most prevalent issues women, and all residents of Illinois, face today is access to affordable, quality health care.

Recently, I helped pass legislation to provide women with important cancer screenings for ovarian cancer (Senate Bill 521). Domestic violence and sexual assault are also two very real threats to women. To combat these despicable crimes, I helped pass legislation to establish April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Illinois (House Resolution 261) and allow lifetime supervision of our state's most dangerous sex offenders (House Bill 2386). I also introduced legislation creating the Division of Domestic Violence Prevention to investigate domestic

violence offenses, train police statewide in domestic violence prevention techniques and track statistical data on domestic violence in Illinois.

Although women have come a long way, there is still much more to accomplish. We must continue to work to ensure that all of Illinois' residents have access to a good education, quality health care and economic opportunity. It is for these reasons that we pay tribute not only this month to those female trailblazers who helped make America what it is today, but all year round.

For further information or assistance, please call me at (773) 736-0218.

John D'Amico, State Representative, 15th District

Niles Resident against OTB

Dear Editor,

I don't know if my letter will have enough merit for you to print. I read your letter as well as other letters regarding the OTB and would like to express my opinion to you. Forever and a day, I hear about Niles taxes being so much lower and the added value the OTB will bring to the town of Niles in an effort to keep taxes down.

Well, my husband and I are two people who do not buy the value of an OTB in Niles. Firstly, we are grateful to the people who fought to put the OTB on the ballot next week. Everyone has a right to vote because the residents are the people that live, and die in this town not a select few that feel their decisions are the only right ones for the town.

Let me tell you the experiences we have had since we became residents in Niles almost 9 years ago. We lived in the sister town of Morton Grove for 8 years before

moving to Niles.

If we stayed in our home in Morton Grove our home value would have tripled since we moved there. Since we moved to Niles, our home value has not even doubled. In fact, most of our neighbors who have tried to sell their homes in our neighborhood have had to reduce their price two to three times and the market value time has been more than 3 times the amount of our sister suburbs Morton Grove and Park Ridge. Let me state that we live in one of the most desirable locations in the town of Niles - the furthest western part of the town literally across the street from Park Ridge. It has been noted that the same type of homes in Park Ridge will sell significantly higher than our homes in Niles, even though the schools and park district are Park Ridge. Apparently people just don't like the zip code or they think Niles address means we have cooties.

Now I would like to mention that every time I get a flyer from the Mayor stating that Niles has such low taxes, I'd like Mayor Blase to pay my tax bill once. Our real estate taxes went up over 30% despite the fact that I petitioned my taxes and despite the fact that Niles homes have not appreciated at the same rate our sister towns Morton Grove and Park Ridge have.

Apparently many people think Niles is not their kind of town. Secondly, I would like to say how ashamed I feel taking anyone visiting from out of the area to Golf Mill. It is not only dispicable but gang filled and dangerous. At no time would I ever let my teenage children near the mall without me nor would I feel comfortable for them to roam around the town of Niles. In fact the only reason my husband and I have stayed here is because of the value of the Park Ridge schools and the only place they can freely roam is in the town of Park Ridge.

Now I would like to know the added benefit of an OTB in Niles.

Other Views



Cartoons From Copley News Service

How can anyone say that it would benefit the town with respectable visitors who like fine dining when the Mayor has never saw fit to clean up the rif raf at Golf Mill? Clean up the mess you made with Golf Mill first. I would like the Mayor or his entourage to explain why the residents taxes went up 30% this year, while the value of homes have not increased at the same capacity of Morton Grove and Park Ridge and why he doesn't see fit to clean up Golf Mill before the undertaking of OTB in Niles.

I hope the years of the boys discussing the way the town should be run in behind closed doors have finally ended. With all the talk about Americans losing their civil rights and a free America isn't it

only right that the residents who live here have a vote on what establishments can operate in our town. Yep, you better believe we'll find the time to vote next Tuesday in the primary.

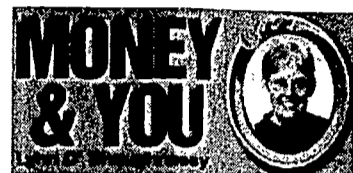
Diane Guimond, Niles

Clarification

In last week's issue at letter titled "Vote No on D69 referendum" was identified as being writing by Morton Grove Plan Commission Member Richard Dorgan. Mr. Dorgan's office was only provided for the information of readers and was not meant to imply any position on the part of the village of Morton Grove.

BUSINESS

New book unsnarls hidden costs of bonds



If you search Amazon.com for a book on investing in stocks, you could scroll through nearly 20,000 titles. But if you want to learn more about bonds, you can pretty much memorize the titles. In fact, if you type "bond" into the search engine, plenty of the hits would involve Agent 007.

It's rare for anybody to bother writing a book about bonds, and it's even more unusual for these titles to be worth preserving on your bookshelf.

The reason for this literary bond bust is easy enough to understand. Fixed-income investments are complicated and hard to track. An investor interested in placing a bet on a stock has about 8,000 choices, but bond investors face more than 1.7 million choices, and that's just in the municipal bond market.

If you want to learn about the stock of Chiquita Brands International or La-Z-Boy, a few clicks of your mouse will unleash a deluge of information. If you want to research port authority bonds in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, well, um, good luck!

Because of the complexity, it's a great relief that a book has hit the shelves that can enlighten bond investors on the vicissitudes of the fixed-income universe. "The Only Guide to a Winning Bond Strategy You'll Ever Need" provides thorough explanations of bonds, how they should be used, which ones are as welcome as a tetanus shot, and how you can avoid getting ripped off.

The co-authors are Larry E. Swedroe, a nationally known investment adviser who has written several other investing books, and Joseph H. Hempen, a bond

expert at Buckingham Asset Management in St. Louis.

One of many topics the book tackles involves misconceptions regarding bond costs. Many people think that they only pay \$25 or \$50 to a brokerage firm when buying or selling bonds.

If only this were true.

Actually, these transaction fees are often as insignificant as the sprinkles dusting a chocolate sundae compared to what they're really paying. Firms make their serious cash on "markups" and "markdowns." A markup refers to the amount of money added to the wholesale price of a bond that a brokerage firm sells its customer. The markdown is the amount subtracted from the price the buyer pays the individual selling a bond. While a modest markup or markdown is justified, a firm can charge any amount it wants - or can get away with.

"Large, hidden markups are amoral, but unfortunately they are legal," Swedroe laments.

It's harder, however, to hide the lard bucket when a trade involves a short-term bond. Suppose you were eager to buy a bond with one year left until maturity that is yielding 3 percent and trading at face value. If the markup is 1 percent, it would be easier to spot. The bond's yield to maturity would drop to about 2 percent.

It would be even more audacious for a firm to slap a 4 percent markup on the same bond. The yield to maturity, in this case, would turn negative. If the bond had a face value or par of \$1,000, you'd pay \$1,040 to buy it and, in return, get \$30 back in interest. Investors who get lured into one of these nutty transactions would pay for the absolute certainty of losing money.

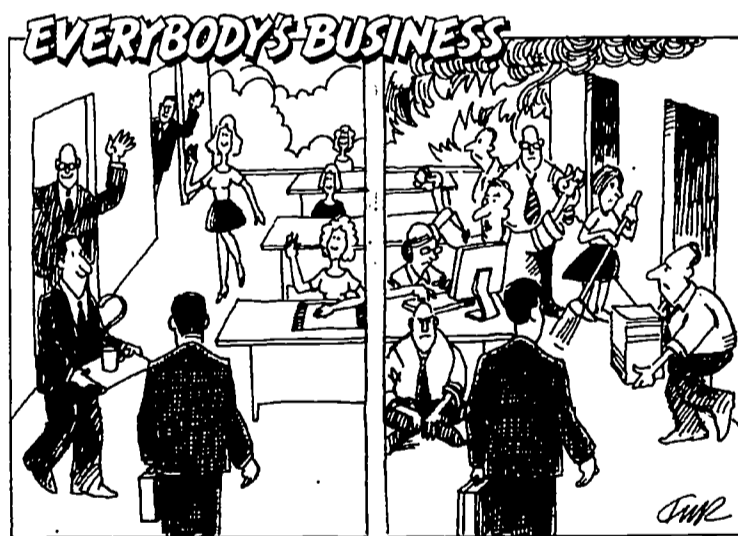
To discourage investors from

Story Continues... see MONEY next page.

Grand Opening Soy Essentials



The Niles Chamber of Commerce is pleased to officially welcome Soy Essentials, Etc. to the neighborhood. Village Manager George Van Geem, Niles Chamber President Tony Madl, chamber ambassadors and board members joined owner Ron Meyers for a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, March 17, 2006. Soy Essentials, Etc. is located at 8267 W. Golf Road, Niles in the Four Flagg's Shopping Mall.



WHILE INTERVIEWING

ONE MONTH INTO THE NEW JOB

THINK SAVING FOR RETIREMENT IS COMPLICATED?

THINK AGAIN.

Some of the best plans in life are often the simplest ones, especially when saving for retirement. For example, you can invest a set amount of money on a monthly basis into an Edward Jones IRA. This lets you take full advantage of contribution limits and potential tax benefits, which may help you reach retirement even sooner.

To learn why it may make sense for you to invest a set amount of money into an Edward Jones IRA each month, call or visit today.

Automatically investing each month does not ensure a profit and does not protect against loss in declining markets. Such a plan involves continual investment in securities regardless of fluctuating price levels of such securities. You should consider your financial ability to continue the purchases through periods of low price levels.



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A reminder about individual health insurance. A "take your pick" reminder.

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BUSINESS

Amos Press acquires Des Plaines-based Clapper Publishing

Sidney, Ohio, March 3, 2006: Amos Press announced today that it has acquired the assets of Clapper Publishing Company from Lyle & Marie Clapper. Clapper launched its first publication, Pack-O-Fun, in 1951. During the past 55 years, the Clapper family has expanded its crafts publishing business by adding to its offering the publications Crafts 'n Things, The Cross Stitcher, Painting and most recently Paper Made Easy.

"Clapper is a well established, highly respected publisher of crafts magazines and we are thrilled with

the opportunity to acquire their titles," says Bruce Boyd, President and CEO of Amos Press.

"Expanding our publishing expertise into the crafts market represents a significant opportunity to diversify our enthusiast publishing business," says Bill Fay, V.P. of Operations for Amos Press.

Jeff Clapper, Publisher of Clapper's magazines, says, "Our primary concern was finding the best possible home for the Clapper titles. We wanted our magazines to be in good hands with people who understand the enthusiast publishing business and share our values

of quality publications, excellent customer service with a family oriented, long-term operating perspective. I'm confident that the Amos family will build on our successes."

Amos Press is also pleased to announce that Jeff Clapper has agreed to join Amos Press as Publisher of their Crafts Publishing operations, which will continue to be located in Des Plaines, Illinois. This will assure a seamless transition in ownership and operation of the Clapper titles.

About Amos Press: Amos Press is a family owned publisher of

enthusiast magazines located in Sidney, Ohio. Amos publications include the market leading weeklies Linn's Stamp News and Coin World, The Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalog, Scott Stamp Monthly, Coin World's Coin Values and Paper Money Values. All of these titles serve the stamp and coin collecting communities. In addition, Amos has a stable of car enthusiast publications that include Cars & Parts magazine,

Corvette Enthusiast, Mustang Enthusiast, Pontiac Enthusiast and Muscucar Enthusiast.

About Clapper Publishing Company: Clapper Publishing Company is a family owned and operated publisher of special interest magazines serving the crafts market located in Des Plaines, Illinois. Publications include Crafts 'n Things, Pack-O-Fun, The Cross Stitcher, Painting and Paper Made Easy.

MONEY:

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

spotting Waldo quickly, brokers prefer hawking bonds with longer maturities. Swedroe uses a variation on the previous bond example to show how easy it is to fool investors with the industry's devilishly opaque pricing.

Suppose the bond has a 25-year maturity and the investor is slapped with a 4 percent markup. The yield to maturity would drop to 2.79 percent, which would hardly prompt the new owner to hurl a shoe at the guy who sold it to him. But it remains the same Porky Pig markup.

Besides getting your pockets picked, there's another danger of hanging around brokers who keep the shelves stocked with longer bonds. These bonds are riskier, but

historically they have not generated higher returns. Consequently, it's best to limit your fixed-income portfolio to short-term bonds, which have a maturity of one year or less, or intermediate bonds, which mature between one and 10 years.

Luckily, ways exist to escape the bond industry's dunking booth. For starters, you can gravitate to the one seller who will never pad the bill: the federal government. If you're in the market for U.S. Treasury bills, notes and bonds, you can purchase them at www.TreasuryDirect.gov. By eliminating the middleman and dealing strictly with the Treasury, you avoid commissions and other transaction-related fees.

If you're interested in other types of bonds, Swedroe advises that you restrict your purchases to new issues. Spanking-new bonds are offered to all investors - whether buyers are little guys or institutions - for the identical price. Go this route and you can skip the commission and markup.

If you prefer holding individual bonds, make sure your commitment is stronger than Jessica Simpson's wedding vows. Because of the high cost of trading, you certainly don't want to incur the expense of purchasing a bond only to get smacked with a mark-down later on when your enthusiasm for the investment evaporates.

In other words, don't purchase individual bonds - Treasuries are the exception - unless you are absolutely positive you will be able to hold them until maturity.

For many investors, particularly those who don't have at least \$500,000 to diversify into non-Treasury bonds, the easiest and best way to own bonds will be through mutual funds and exchange-traded funds. The key, however, is to avoid what the authors characterize as mutual funds that charge Georgia O'Keeffe prices for paint-by-number pictures. Steer clear of any bond funds that charge a load or commission. Instead, stick with bond index funds or ETFs that offer extremely low expense ratios.

Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index Fund, for instance, charges 0.18 percent annually and the cost drops to 0.11 percent for large investments. Another option is the Lehman 1-3 Treasury Bond Fund, which is an ETF with an expense ratio of 0.15 percent.

Next week: More on bonds.

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(847) 583-7000

Niles West High School
5701 W. Oakton St.
Skokie, IL 60077
(847) 626-2510

Smithereen Pest Management
7400 N. Melvina Ave.
Niles, IL 60714
(847) 675-0010

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HAVE YOU HEARD

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORWOOD PARK FOUNDATION
TO PRESENT 2006 BENEFIT GALA

Gala 2006, the annual benefit for Nor-Wood Life Care NFP, will be held on Sat., April 8, at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave. in Park Ridge. Chairing the event is Roar and Randi Broch, of Evanston; co-chairs are the Hon. Per Bye Ohrstrom and his wife, Liv, of Arlington Heights. Norwood Park Foundation, a division of Nor-Wood Life Care NFP, is presenting the event with proceeds to benefit the rejuvenation and expansion of the Norwood Park Home campus.

The elegant affair will include a cocktail reception, dinner and dancing to Joe Lill's Six of One, presentation of the Dr. Larsandrew Dolan Award, and live and silent auctions. Guests will have the opportunity to bid on sports collectibles, getaways, and other wonderful and unique items. Orion Samuelson, WGN Radio 720, will serve as emcee. During the reception and dinner, a pianist will provide an array of



Orion Samuelson, WGN Radio 720 personality, congratulates Betty Ohlgren, the 2005 recipient of the Dr. Larsandrew Dolan Award. Samuelson, who emceed the event, delighted the guests with his Norwegian humor and on-air demeanor.

soft music amid an ambience of classical elegance. Tickets are \$200 per person.

The Norwood Park Foundation enhances the independence and well-being of older adults by advancing the programs and serv-

ices of Norwood Park Home and the Norwood Park Seniors Network, both located at 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago. For more information, call Trish Hinkes, Foundation executive director, at (773) 577-5367.

Morton Grove Park District
Hosts April Events

Prairie View 5K Run/Walk - Sunday, April 9 - 8:05am: Runners and walkers of all ages can enjoy this 3.1 mile Run and Fun Walk as it winds through the streets and forest preserve in Morton Grove. Awards presented to the top male and female finishers overall and to the top three male and female finishers in each age division. Pre-registered participants are guaranteed a long sleeve t-shirt and a \$4 gift card compliments of Starbucks. Post race food tent sponsored by Dominicks Finer Foods. Fee is \$18-early registration and \$20 - Day of Race. Register on-line at www.mortongrovecity.org by April 7th and save \$1. Stop by Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster Street for a registration form. Any questions, please call us at 847-965-1200.



Morton Grove Park District's Family Garage Sale - Saturday, April 22nd - Join our family garage sale and clear out all the stuff you've been dying to get rid of. Rent a table and sell your surplus all at once. The event will take place on Saturday, April 22nd from 9:00am - 1:00pm outside in Dempster St. Cost is only \$12/table for residents and \$16 for non-residents. In case of inclement weather the garage sale will be held indoors in the Prairie View Gymnasium. The public is invited to visit this event at no charge. For more information, please call 847-965-1200.



residing in Morton Grove. Please bring your own basket. You can register your child(ren) by calling 847-965-1200 before the April 7 deadline.



Teddy Bear Tea Party - Sunday, May 7th from 4:00pm - 5:30pm. All girls ages 4 and up are invited to attend a tea party with your mother or favorite female adult. Wear your favorite party dress or school outfit and bring your teddy bear. Girls will make a craft project and then join their mom for some tea(lemnade) and finger foods. The afternoon will conclude with a teddy bear parade. Resident fees are \$15 per couple and \$7 per additional daughter. For more information, please call 847-965-1200.

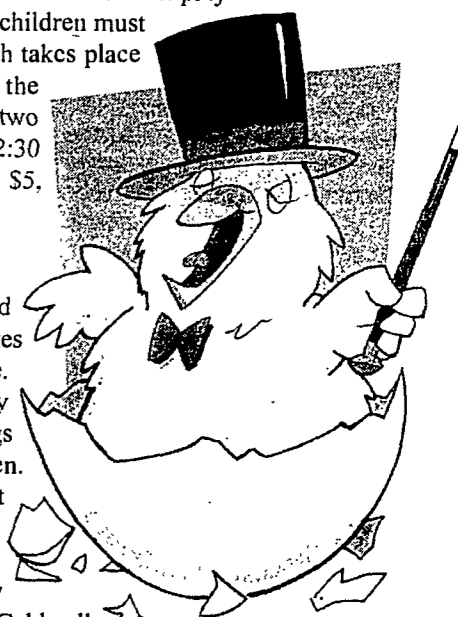
Niles Park District Hops
Into April With Spring Events

Lunch with Bunny

Kids up to 3rd grade and adults are invited to celebrate Spring with a buffet lunch with Bunny. Bunny will be available for this perfect photo opportunity. Special entertainment and craft project included. All adults and children must register for this event. Lunch takes place on Saturday, April 1 at the Howard Leisure Center with two sittings at 11:00 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. Fee is Children Res \$5, Non-Res \$10; Adults \$5.

Spring Egg Scramble

Bunny will scatter eggs filled with lots of goodies. Kids ages 1-8 are invited to participate. There will be complimentary refreshments and goodie bags for registered children. Remember to bring a basket to collect your treasures! Egg Scramble takes place on Saturday, April 8 at Golf View Recreation Center, 7800 N. Caldwell at 9:30 a.m. Fee is Res \$5; Non-Res \$10.



Flashlight Egg Hunt

Kids 8 years & up are invited to participate in this fun event at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course. Grab a flashlight and get ready for some egg-hunting! A pizza dinner will be served before the egg hunt. Don't forget your flashlight and bag for your eggs. Event takes place on Wednesday, April 12 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Fee is Res \$8; Non-Res \$13.

JEWISH SENIOR MINGLING SINGLES
(FORMALLY NORTH SHORE JEWISH SINGLES)

First Friday Dinner April 7th 2006 - 6:30 P.M. Kappy's Restaurant, 7200 Dempster, Morton Grove. Pay only for what you order Plus Tax & Tip. To save a place call 847/676-2872 after 6:00 pm before 10:00 pm so we can save a place for you.

For other April events call either 847/967-9848 or 874/676-2872.

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847 647-8332

NEWS

Morton Grove residents argue to save trees

For quite some time, certain residents have been doing whatever they can to fight to save the trees in Morton Grove.

To help address the issue, a memo, signed by Doug Steinman, the chairperson of the Morton Grove Natural Resource Commission and addressed to permit applicants was recently created. In this correspondence, the permit applicants are asked to "please check with the village before starting any construction or other activity which would affect any existing trees."

Concerned residents have approached village board members and Mayor Richard Krier and have urged them to help prevent trees from being cut down for construction projects.

The memo explains that in 2005 the Natural Resources Commission was asked to prepare an ordinance that would protect the trees village-wide. In the meantime however, they are asking that special consideration will be given to protect all trees on or adjacent to the property.

The memo states, "We firmly believe the long term benefits of tree preservation far exceed any short term advantages of damaging or eliminating trees."

Benefits of tree preservation listed in the correspondence include: Filtering pollution from the environment, Supplying oxygen to the environment, Acting as wind breaks, Deadening sound, Providing Shade, Relieving stress and tension, Providing privacy and Increasing property values.

At the village board meeting on Monday, March 13, concerned resident David Conrad said that there should be a "good tree protection in place before construction starts." For example, he said there should be a way to avoid trucks driving over tree roots.

"This board, myself included, has made tree protection a priority," said Mayor Richard Krier. He said the village has been writing tickets and having greater enforcement and to date, he said there has been about \$4,000 in fines collected related to this issue.

Niles Library holds poetry contest

Get ready to pick up those pens and put your poetry-writing skills to the test.

Entries are being accepted for the 9th annual poetry contest at the Niles Public Library District. There is a contest for teenagers and another contest for adults. Prizes are \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and third place is \$25.

"We usually get around 200 entries in the young adult contest," said Kate Wolicki, a young adult librarian. She said

in the past, they have had as many as 700 to 800 entries in the young adult category. For the adults, they generally receive 50 to 100 entries.

April 14 is the deadline for people to enter the contest. Winners are chosen and announced the following week.

"I'm always looking for judges," said Wolicki. She said the panel of judges generally includes community college professors, high school teachers and some teenagers.

For the teen category, they must be 10 to 18 years of age to enter. Poems could be of any topic and of any length. Up to six poems will be accepted per poet, but each poem should be handed in on a separate sheet of paper. Poems that are e-mailed in can be submitted as one single message however. Poets should include their name, age, address, phone number and the name of their school on the back of every entry.

MG Board discusses impoundment ordinance

An ordinance that would establish a procedure for the seizure and impoundment of vehicles used in connection with certain criminal acts was presented on first reading at the Morton Grove village board meeting on Monday, March 13.

Under the ordinance, when a vehicle is seized the owner will be required to pay a \$500 administrative penalty or they may decide to post a cash bond.

Other communities have started similar seizure policies and have increased their revenues by \$50,000 to \$100,000.

According to the ordinance, some of the criminal acts include driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, reckless driving, drag racing, prostitution, indecent exposure, leaving a scene of an accident, reckless homicide or vehicular homicide, falsely representing oneself as a police officer, the purchase or consumption of alcohol by a minor, etc.

In the ordinance, the minimum fine for failure to pay commuter parking fees parking in the commuter parking zone is also increased from \$5 to \$15 per offense.

When a police officer has probable cause to believe a vehicle is subject to seizure and impoundment, the Chief of Police will authorize a facility for the vehicle to be towed to.

The police would make a reasonable effort to notify the owner of the vehicle of the seizure and to inform the owner of his/her right to request a preliminary vehicle impoundment hearing.

NEWS

Primaries 2006 Topinka wins GOP Primary

Democratic Ballot Selected Elections

Name Votes Won %

For Lt. Governor

Pat Quinn 107,693 100

For Treasurer

Alexander Giannoulas 471,389 61.3
Paul L. Mangieri 296,725 38.6

Congress - 9th District

Jan Schakowsky 17,280 100

For County President Undecided

John Stroger 46,940 37.5
Forrest Claypool 78,199 62.4

For County Sheriff

Tom Dart 72,798 66.1
Sylvester Baker 20,600 18.7
Richard Remus 16,640 15.1

State Senate - 33rd District

Dan Kotowski 7,535 63.4
Jim Morici 4,341 36.5

State Central Committee - 9th

Bill Marovitz 9,391 59.4
Patrick McDonough 6,415 40.5

County Board - 9th District

Bruce Best 2,504 39.9
Jodi Biancalana 3,757 60.1

Committeeman - 9th District

Lou Lang 3,554 69.5
Richard Reeder 1,557 30.4

Republican Ballot Selected Elections

Name Votes Won %

For Lt. Governor

Sandy Wegman 87,177 13.3
Joe Birkett 330,695 50.6

For Treasurer

Lawrence L. Bruckner 39,931 6.11
Steven J. Rauschenberger 195,440 29.9

For County President

Christine Radogno 53,496 100

Congress - 9th District

Mike Shannon 11,827 85.0
Simon Ribiero 2,082 14.9

For County Sheriff

Tony Peraica 53,152 100

For County Sheriff

Peter Garza 51,895 100

State Senate - 33rd District

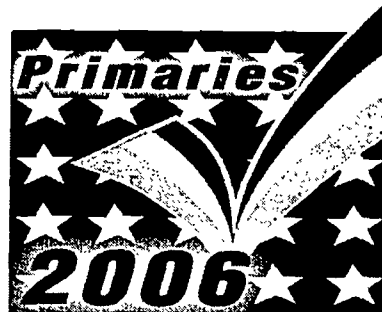
Cheryl Axeley 2,061 100

County Board - 9th District

Peter Silvestri 4,628 86.2
Daniel Kollman 738 13.8

Maine Township Committeeman

Mark Thompson 2,693 52.1
Robert Provenzano 2,467 47.8



Referendums

Niles OTB

Shall the Village of Niles permit the establishment of an off track wagering facility within Village borders?

Votes Won %
Yes 2,400 55
No 1,900 45

Results approximate, official data unavailable at deadline

Park Ridge Park District Gym and Water Park

Shall bonds of the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District, Cook County, Illinois, to the amount of \$24,600,000 be issued for the purpose of replacing the Oakton Park pools with approximately 62,000 square foot indoor multi-sport athletic center at Oakton Park, replacing the existing pool at Centennial Park with a new aquatic pool and new filtration systems including zero-depth design, spray features, lap lanes, slides, concessions and children's water playground and improving, expanding and equipping the kitchen facilities at the Park Ridge Senior Center and for the payment of expenses incident thereto?

Votes Won %
Yes 1,628 31.8
No 3,488 68.1

District 69 - Increase Taxes

Shall the maximum annual tax rate for educational purposes for Skokie School District Number 69 be increased and established at 2.575 percent instead of 1.845 percent, the present maximum rate? a) The approximate amount of taxes extendible for educational purposes under the maximum rate now in force in said School District is the sum of \$7,321,627. b) The approximate amount of taxes extendible for educational purposes under the proposed increased rate is the sum of \$10,218,531. c) The total dollar amount of the most recently approved annual budget of said School District is the sum of \$17,872,378, the total dollar amount of said annual budget, if increased by the amount of additional tax which may be levied if the proposition is approved, is the sum of \$20,769,282; the percentage of increase is 16.21 percent. d) The percentage of increase between the maximum rate at which such taxes for educational purposes may be levied if the proposition is approved and the annual rate at which such taxes for educational purposes is currently levied is 39.57 percent.

Votes Won %
Yes 593 57.0
No 446 42.9

42% Of Precincts

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NEWS

Morton Grove eBooks gaining grounds over paper-books

Years ago, when someone told you that you could access thousands of books without stepping foot in a library, you make think they were crazy. But today, it is possible and the Morton Grove Public Library just started offering the online eBook service on March 1.

MyMediaMail (<http://www.webrary.org>) is allowing village residents to access more than 1,000 titles and popular eBooks from any computer that is connected to

the Internet.

"We're really happy it's here," said Ben Schapiro, the Morton Grove Public Library Executive Director. "We've been working on this project for the past few months."

Patrons can utilize the eBooks by downloading the free reader software and then using their library cards to check out and download the material. They are available in Adobe PDF and Mobipocket format. eBooks are automati-

cally returned, eliminating the need for patrons to worry about return dates of their library books.

The digital books can be read from laptops or a PDA and there are also audio books that can be transferred to MP3 players or CDs so that travelers and families could listen to them together.

The library's selection includes non-fiction, fiction, classics, best-sellers, from famous authors and publishers

such as McGraw-Hill, HarperCollins, Zondervan and John Wiley and Sons.

"You don't need to come (to the library) to have us help you out," said Schapiro.

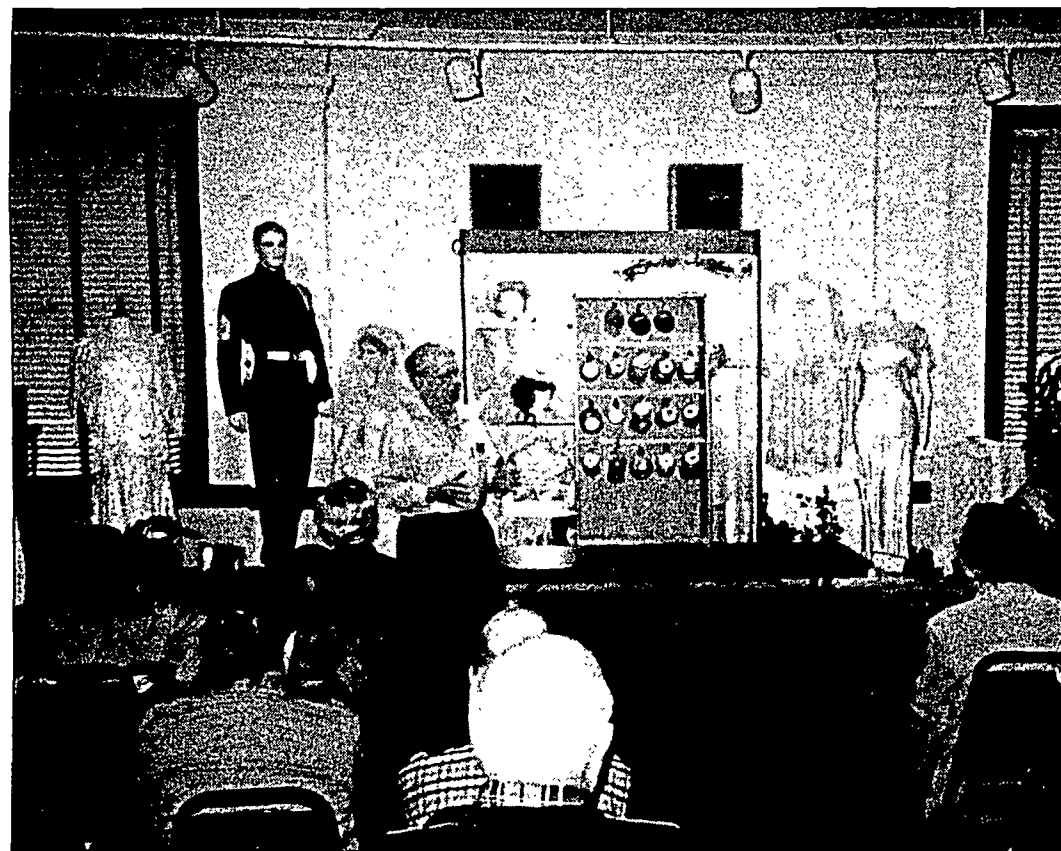
The first year, the library will pay \$5,000 for the service and then it will pay about \$2,500 every year after that.

MyMediaMail was created as a result of 24 different libraries in Illinois that worked together with the North Suburban Library System. As part of a

different consortium, Skokie and Park Ridge libraries also have access to the eBook system.

The Morton Grove Public Library held a "Digital Day" program on Saturday, March 4 in order to introduce the eBooks and other forms of technology to patrons. A digital photography class was held as part of this program as well. Schapiro was at the event to answer any questions library patrons had about the new service.

Beer Steins exhibited



The Niles Historical Society featured Mr. Al Schafer, who gave a presentation on old Beer Steins that are in his personal collection on Sunday, Feb. 26.

The next presentation will be called "Video of Old Niles" and will be held on Sunday, March 26 at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend the event.

For more information call Marge Berles or Walter Beusse at 847 390 0160.

Remembering
'Old Niles'

A Niles Historical Society Meeting

REMEMBER WHEN? The Niles Historical Society is pleased to bring OLD NILES to the Historical Museum on March 26 at 2:00 p.m.; a program you are sure to enjoy. The program is a video of places, people and events if you have not seen it, you will enjoy it and if you have seen it, there is sure to be something you've forgotten. Also, we will have pictures, some advertising pieces, memorabilia, and artifacts. If you have something for "show and tell," be sure to bring it with you and share the story.

All programs are open to the public and geared to the whole family, admission is free, the donation jar available, lots of parking all free, and refreshments and dessert are free. There are three floors of exhibits and many new displays. Tours are given on request. A great afternoon is planned for everyone. Be there.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 26 at 2:00 p.m. Join your friends and neighbors for a fascinating program. Come early and socialize. We look forward to seeing you.

The Niles Historical Museum is open every Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Stop by for a visit, a tour or both. If other times are more convenient, we will gladly try to make arrangements at your convenience.

Call 847 390 0160.

OLD NILES, ITS HISTORY AND SHOW AND TELL
Sunday, March 26, 2006 2:00 p.m.
Niles Historical Museum
8970 Milwaukee Avenue

Free Historic Nature River Walk this
Saturday, Mar. 25

A free historic nature river walk will take place on Saturday, March 25 at 2 p.m.

The Morton Grove Historical Museum will take guests on an informative and enjoyable walk along the Chicago River.

Retired naturalist and archeologist with the Cook County Forest Preserve, Ed Lace will guide the walk and discuss the history of the river, the Indians

that once farmed and hunted there and identify interesting flora and fauna along the way. The walk will include a stop at the Indian Fishing Weir, a place where local Indians once cast their nets.

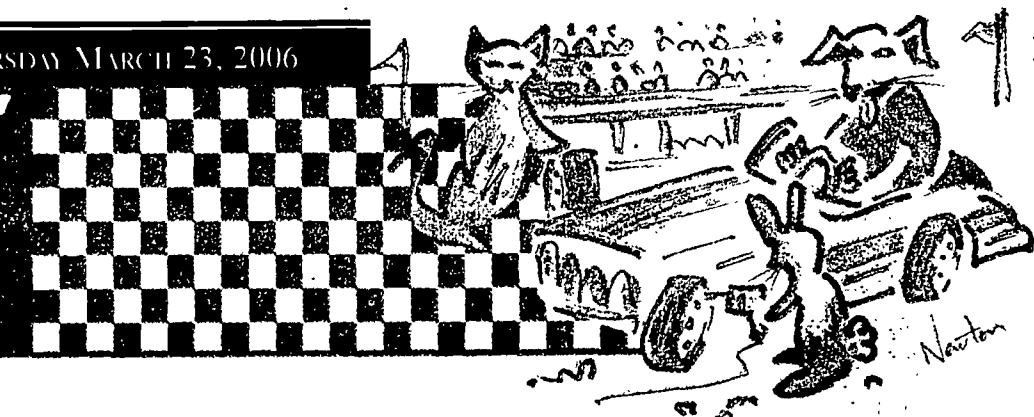
A legal guardian must accompany children under 18 years of age. The walk will not be strenuous.

Those interested in the walk

will meet in the Forest Preserve at the entrance to St. Paul Woods, across from the Morton Grove train station and behind the Morton House condominiums.

Reservations are required, although there is no charge. People can call 847 965 0203 to make a reservation. Please, no pets on the walk. If it rains, the walk will be postponed or canceled.

the PET STOP



True Love

Dogs? Cats? Naw, some favor ferrets

BY TRACY YOSHIDA GRUEN
STAFF WRITER

Kat Walsh of Niles is a true ferret lover.

Walsh has never owned a dog or a cat, but she currently owns her second ferret, named Chili.

"They're really wild," said Walsh. "They're just very entertaining and curious."

Now eight years old, Chili has health difficulties, as many ferrets do later in life. Her last ferret died at age nine, which she says is a long life for a ferret.

Walsh said ferrets are very active, but they also sleep for several hours at a time. When they are awake, they have a lot of

per week.

Veterinarian Christine Wilmes said that now is the time for owners of ferrets, cats and dogs to be properly prepared for the flea/tick season that goes along with the warm weather.

"Now is a really good time to start to see your vet," said Wilmes.

Wilmes said that a few years ago ferrets starting to become very popular as pets. She said they are still pretty popular today.

In order to treat fleas and other similar problems, pet owners can give their pets a chewable medication once a month or put a certain product on their skin. Although these

"They're really wild. They're just very entertaining and curious."

Kat Walsh
Niles Resident,
ferret owner

products may be available at pet stores, Wilmes recommends asking their veterinarians for these products.

energy and like to squeeze under things.

How did Walsh decide to have a ferret as a pet?

Well, her husband's roommate gave away his ferret to them. Since then, she said she has grown to love them and she got hooked on them.

Chili is a patient at the Niles Animal Hospital where they see about 10 ferrets

Hey Readers! Like our new "Pet Stop" Section?

We hope you're enjoying our Pet Stop Section. Sneakers is our the Pet of the month this issue. If you think your pet is the most lovable, our next issue is April 27, so send or e-mail your photos to:

Pet Stop: Pet of the Month
The Bugle Newspapers
7400 N. Waukegan Rd.
Niles, IL 60714

Or e-mail: editor@buglenewspapers.com

Good luck!



PET STOP

Points on Pets

St. Bernard puppy's eyes water often

R. G. Elmore
Copley News Service

Q: We have noticed that our St. Bernard puppy's left eye waters a lot and the eyelid looks abnormal. There is a bright red area below the eye and the inside of the lower left lid is visible. Is this normal for St. Bernard puppies? Is this something to bring to our veterinarian's attention? Our puppy is full of energy and growing rapidly.

A: Without examining your puppy, I can not tell whether or not his eye is normal. But it is likely he has a common condition called ectropion, which is an abnormal rolling-out of the eyelid. Although the condition can occur in any breed, it is thought by some authorities that ectropion is inherited in cocker spaniels, St. Bernards, bloodhounds and basset hounds.

Another similar problem often seen in puppies is called entropion, which is the inward rolling of the eyelid. Entropion usually shows up as a birth defect or it can occur secondary to other eye injuries. The condition is most often diagnosed in chows, English bulldogs and the hunting breeds. Usually only the lower lids are involved.

Both ectropion and entropion can lead to serious eye problems if they are ignored. Dogs with entropion rub their eyes frequently due to severe irritation. This can eventually lead to ulcers and blindness. Untreated ectropion can eventually cause severe infections of the cornea.

Both entropion and ectropion can usually be corrected by simple, uncomplicated surgeries. A veterinarian should examine your dog as soon as possible to give you a diagnosis and advice regarding treatment.

Q: Although we live in area where there are snakes, we have never heard of a dog or cat receiving a snakebite. Are pets susceptible to snakebites? Our pets are very curious and are always looking under things and running through the tall grass. Should we worry about snakes biting our pets?

A: Although pets are susceptible to snakebites, the amount of susceptibility varies greatly among different species. Here is the descending order of susceptibility: horses, sheep, goats, dogs, rabbits, pigs and cats. In other words, horses are the most susceptible and cats are the least susceptible. Interestingly, snakes often bite horses on their noses while they are looking at snakes on the ground.

If an animal has been bitten by a snake, it should be taken to a veterinarian as soon as possible. If the snakebite is on the leg, a tourniquet should be applied between the wound and the animal's body. However, the tourniquet should not be applied too tightly. One finger should fit between the leg and the tourniquet. A properly applied tourniquet and immediate veterinary care maximizes the chance of recovery following a snakebite. Of course, keeping your pets away from snakes is the best method to avoid snakebites.

Send e-mail to
copleysd@copleynews.com or write to **Pets, Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190.** Only questions of general interest will be answered in this column.



Pet of the Month

Sneakers - Christmas is his favorite

Sneakers is a four-year-old Scottish Terrier who is as feisty today as he was when we got him when he was two months old. He is always running around the house and wanting someone to play with him.

When Sneakers is not protecting us by chasing various animals in the yard (and sometimes getting sprayed by skunks) he enjoys going for long walks and playing with his favorite toys (his shoe, Donkey from Shrek, tennis balls, giant stuffed moose, and too many others to mention).

Sneakers is very helpful to our family. When his dad goes to the bank, Sneakers goes along for the ride just to make sure his dad's okay. When Monica takes him to the pet store to buy food for his sister (an eight year old Tabby cat, Petrie), Sneakers sits in the cart with his paws in

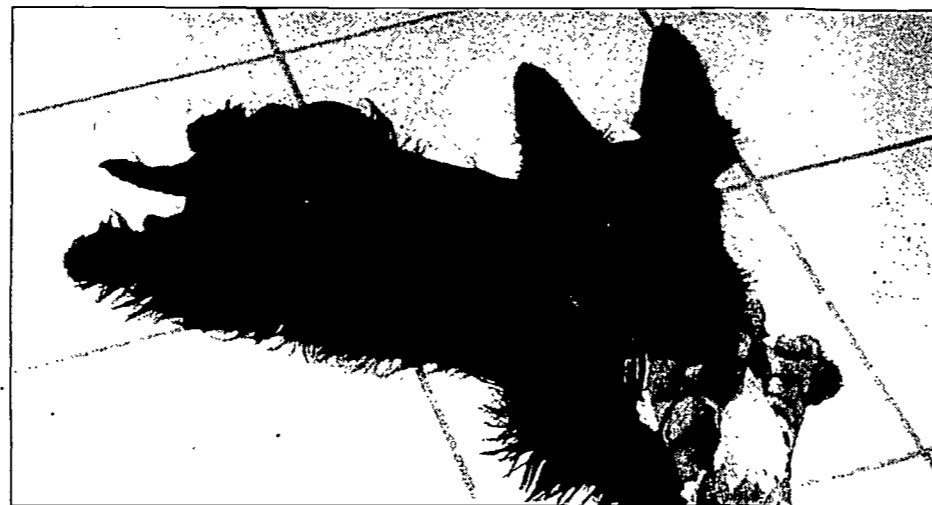
front navigating through the aisles. And when his mom is cold, Sneakers will go and cuddle with her to warm her up.

Sneakers' favorite holiday is Christmas. Not only does he get to eat turkey, but he is rewarded with presents for being a good pup throughout the year. He also loves to make "Sneaker Angels" in the snow.

Sneakers is our very loyal companion who has changed our lives for the better. Each day with him is a special gift.

-Monica M. Kiehar, Morton Grove, IL

To submit your pet for consideration as The Bugle's "Pet of the Month" send a photo and a description of why they should be selected to: The Bugle, 7400 N. Waukegan, Niles, IL 60714 attention "Pet of the Month."



SPORTS

Wolves lose perfect record

BY ALI BHANPURI
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Niles West track and field team watched their five-meet winning streak come to an end last Friday night at the Central Suburban League South Conference meet held at Evanston. Evanston annihilated the field with 152 points, followed by Maine South (115), New Trier and Glenbrook South (70), Niles West (67) and Waukegan (17). West struggled in almost every area except for the field events, where newcomer George Ricketts achieved his personal best in two different jumps.

The senior, who lived in Germany for 11 years, returned to the United States for his senior year in high school. According to Ricketts, his participation on the Niles West track and field program marks the first time he has been on a real team. Ricketts tied for fourth in the high jump with a new high, 5-10, and took third place in the

long jump (20-2) after surpassing his goal of 20 feet.

"It feels great to do my best in both of the events, but I really want to improve and go farther on the long jump. I need to strengthen my legs, because coach says that I have to work on my landing technique," Ricketts said.

Niles West coach Chris Vivone was pleased with Ricketts' jumps, despite a lackluster performance from the rest of the team.

"I had a strong feeling he would do well. Every time we go to Evanston our jumpers do well, and I'm glad to see George get the marks that he did," Vivone said. "Overall, Friday was disappointing. I didn't care much about winning, but I really wanted our guys to get their [personal records] and that didn't happen. It was simply not a good day."

According to Vivone, the duo of senior Billy Oline and junior David Cho, accomplished a feat that had not been done since he began

Story Continues...
see WOLVES page 18.



Senior George Ricketts launched a personal best 20-feet-2-inches during the Central Suburban League South Conference Meet.

(Photo by Ali Bhanpuri)

The Weekend Match-ups

A Small Selection of this weekend's athletics

Friday, March 24, 2006

Boys Track and Field

Notre Dame @ Niles West Invite: 5 p.m.

Boys Volleyball

Niles West @ Loyola: 7:30 p.m.

Girls Softball

Maine East @ Glenbrook North: 6 p.m.

Evanston @ Maine South: 7:30 p.m.

Niles West @ Waukegan: 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 25, 2006

Boys Baseball

Lane Tech @ Niles West: 1 p.m.

Maine East @ Nazareth (DBH): 10 a.m.

Maine South @ Rolling Meadows (DBH): 11 a.m.

Boys Gymnastics

Niles West @ Rolling Meadows Invite: 6:30 p.m.

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SPORTS

New name for MLS team - Red Bull New York - has opened a can of criticism

BY MARK ZEIGLER
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

A few months after the deal to sell D.C. United fell through and a few weeks removed from the PR nightmare of finding a PC name for the new Houston franchise, Major League Soccer turned to Red Bull. It downed a can of the high-octane energy drink, jumped off the nearest cliff and hoped, like the ad campaign promises, it gives them wings. In some respects, it might. Red Bull purchased the MetroStars from the Anschutz Entertainment Group as well as a 50 percent stake in the 20,000-seat stadium AEG is building in Harrison, N.J. Add in stadium naming rights for 10 years, and the deal's total value is reportedly in the \$100 million neighborhood.

"This is a landmark moment for Major League Soccer," Commissioner Don Garber said. "It's the most significant single investment in the league in our history."

Added MetroStars General Manager Alexi Lalas: "A seminal moment not only for this team but for this league."

The deal helps soothe a credibility issue MLS has been battling for years, the notion that no one wanted to buy its teams. The deal to buy D.C. United, the league's most successful team, fell apart shortly after being announced in July. Then AEG tried to unload the San Jose Earthquakes, the 2004 MLS champions, only to have an apparent sale to a local ownership group unravel; AEG put the team up for sale again,

couldn't find a buyer and shipped it to Houston.

Enter Red Bull, the Austrian company owned by billionaire Dietrich "Didi" Mateschitz that sells the energy drink in the small can that packs a big punch. Red Bull has sunk its sponsorship dollars into Formula One racing and extreme sports, and more recently into soccer.

MLS got Red Bull's dollars and progressive marketing. The cost: surrendering naming rights to the club and its stadium.

Overnight, the MetroStars became Red Bull New York with the Red Bull corporate logo of two bulls charging a sun (with a soccer ball in it). The new stadium in Harrison will be called Red Bull Arena.

"This is certainly something that's different," Garber said, "but Major League Soccer is a different kind of sports league."

Whether it is a stroke of marketing genius or a leap of faith without wings remains to be seen. Already there are grumblings about the appropriateness of the name from a variety of sources, ranging from consumer health experts to New Jersey politicians.

Red Bull was dreamed up by Mateschitz in a Hong Kong bar in the early '80s, and by the late '90s it had established itself as the kingpin of a multibillion-dollar energy drink industry. Its three main ingredients are caffeine, the amino acid taurine and the carbohydrate glucuronolactone - none of which is currently on the banned substance list for international sports.

There are several issues,

however. One is that Red Bull can cause dehydration, not exactly conducive to a sport that involves endless running in a league with a spring-summer schedule. Another is that it has become the mixer of choice with hard alcohol, allowing people to party longer. Another is the paucity of comprehensive studies about its long-term effects on the body, enough of a concern for France to ban its sale.

"You can't assume something's dangerous just because there is no scientific evidence that it is," said Mark Kantor, an associate professor at the University of Maryland who specializes in diet and consumer health. "But it does leave open this question. ... There's the potential for adverse effects to come out in some sort of study or an actual case. Potentially, it could backfire on them."

The other half of the name, "New York," has stirred even more controversy. The MetroStars were originally the New York/New Jersey MetroStars before both state names were dropped for the purpose of linguistic brevity.

The club has a year left on its lease at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J., and the new stadium in Harrison is not scheduled to open until 2008 at the earliest. And George Zoffinger, the president of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority that runs the Meadowlands, says Red Bull New York isn't "playing in this stadium (in 2007) with that name."

The \$160 million project in Harrison includes \$40 million

in public money, and local politicians are wondering aloud about the point of building a stadium in New Jersey for a team called New York.

"This is a new league and a new franchise," state Sen. Paul Sarlo said, "and we've got to be a little territorial here. To be called strictly a New York team is not acceptable."

Queried about the reasons behind the name change, Red Bull spokesperson Patrice Radden wrote in an e-mail: "In the tradition of the New York Jets and New York Giants and even the New York Cosmos, we believe that the metropolitan

New York area is truly one of the most influential markets in the entire world and the New York affiliation is an excellent representation of this international culture."

It doesn't sound like Red Bull will bow to the pressure, either, as MLS' Houston franchise did earlier this month after its first choice of names, Houston 1836, offended the Mexican-American community.

Asked if her company is reconsidering its choice, Radden wrote: "The name of the team is Red Bull New York."

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE Bowled Wednesday, March 15, 2006

	Points Won	Points Lost
Bielinski and Bono Dental	52	25
Skaja Terrace Funeral Home	46	31
Niles Dairy Queen	44	33
Candlelight Jewelers	31	46
NorthSide Community Bank	31	46
Classic Bowl	27	50

High Series/High Games

Helma Dmg	502/188
Mary Wasilewski	488/192
Melissa Lang	463/161
Kay Pecoraro	183
Linda Fabey	182
Angie Strazzane	173
Shirley Wheeler	168
Janet Trozzo	162



RAIDERS ROUNDUP

Week of March 18, 2006
MEN'S BASKETBALL (18-14 Overall, 11-3 Skyway Conference)
Hey Now You're an All-Star: Oakton is sending two players to the NJCAA Region IV Sophomore All-Star Game at North Park University on Sunday, March 26. Selected were Oakton's leading scorer and rebounder Steve Parham and assist leader Stanley Boateng.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Walking Tall: With the Allstate Arena hosting first round NCAA Division I women's tournament

games March 18-20, Oakton is the practice site for many of the participating teams. Liberty, Michigan State, and UW-Milwaukee will be preparing for "March Madness" on campus today (Friday, March 17), while North Carolina St. practices at Oakton tomorrow (Saturday, March 18). **BASEBALL** (16-1)
Starting off Right: Oakton pitchers Brian Schmelter (York), Ryan Stobart (St. Viator), and Matt Michals

(Rolling Meadows) all have compiled 3-0 records so far this season. Schmelter has not allowed an earned run all season, while Michals boasts a 0.65 ERA and Stobart has 2.45 ERA. Jon Moore (Lincoln Way East) leads NJCAA Division II in steals with 18. Oakton's only blemish so far this season is a 6-3 loss to St. Scholastica College on Tuesday, March 14. In the Raiders 17 games played, they have outscored opponents 127-12.

SENIORS

Golf kick-off dates set for 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.

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, LCSW, 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.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE at the Center
A limited number of appointments remain for qualified seniors to have Free tax preparation assistance at the Niles Senior Center. To check on availability, 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.

Internet Safety workshop held at Morton Grove

Morton Grove Senior News

"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 class from 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 1 will provide

hands-on practice in applying virus 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.

CHOLESTEROL SCREENING

The Morton Grove Senior Center's monthly Cholesterol Screening will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 5. Swedish Covenant Hospital will administer the screening, which provides a

full lipid profile including total cholesterol, HDL, LDL and triglycerides. Results will be available within seven working days. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223. Fasting for 12 hours is also required but water and medications are allowed. The cost is \$10 for residents age 65+ and \$12 for non-residents and residents under age 65.

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Story Continues...
see MG SENIORS page 20

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WOLVES:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

coaching at West. Both Oline and Cho hurried the shot put over fifty feet to take second and third respectively. Oline's toss of 50-4.5 is a foot and a half shorter than his personal best, which he reached earlier this year.

The Wolves also scored points from juniors Roger Campbell and Alex Wickell, who both reached the finals for the 50-meter dash. Campbell took third place after faltering off the blocks with a time of 5.8, with Wickell following right on his heels.

Evanston dominated both hurdle events, with Kris Jamieson and Mike Bolden taking first and second place honors in both the 60 highs and lows. West's Kevin

Nejati and Mike Nieves could not keep up with the Wildkit runners, but settled for third and fourth place respectively.

With the outdoor season quickly approaching, Vivone acknowledges the team's need to put the conference meet behind them.

"It's a long season and it has its ups and downs, but we have to keep working hard and turn it up a notch. This meet taught us that we're not as good as we thought we were, but at the same time, we're not as bad as we may feel right now," Vivone said. "For the outdoor season, I'd like to see some really good marks and our goal is to win conference."

The Wolves will host the 28th Annual Niles West Invite tomorrow evening at 5 p.m., where they look to get back on the winning track.

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SENIORS

Aging Lifestyles

Why not go on a cruise?

Joe Volz
Copley News Service

So, here you are a seasoned senior citizen and you have never gone on a cruise, even though you have spent the last decade toying with the idea.

Why not?

Certainly, you are not a member of the Flat Earth Society, fearful that you will fall off the face of the earth. But maybe you worry about the different lifestyles on a ship or that you may get seasick.

Well, here's a bulletin just in. Today's cruise liners have been built with stabilizers to limit the rocking. Also, seasick pills are very effective. Take the pills a half hour before you board the ship.

Well, you argue, spending your vacation confined to the ship may be pretty boring. Actually, unless the ship is crossing the Atlantic or Pacific

Ocean, you won't spend too many nights at sea. Cruises to the Caribbean and along the coast typically land in different ports just about every night.

Plus, when you are on the ship, there are so many things to do - swimming, shuffleboard, dancing, gambling and eating. Now the last one may sink you if you are not careful. Cruise liners are really floating five-star restaurants with a million courses and plenty of places to eat.

Most ships have two sittings for dinner. To keep your appetite under control, I'd go for the first sitting at 6 p.m. The second sitting is not until 8 p.m.

On my last cruise to the Caribbean, I wanted to lose five pounds by skipping desserts, bread and booze. I lost three pounds. A little too much bread. What about shipboard etiquette? You don't want to feel

like some untrained oaf. Forget it. Most evening attire is casual dress. On a five-day cruise there will likely be one formal night, so you may want to rent a tux or a gown before you board the ship. Although I have noticed, normally, about half the passengers don't wear formal attire and they are not barred from the dining room. However, it is a good idea for men to bring a jacket.

Now what objection do you have now?

Too expensive?

Not anymore. Millionaires are not the only ones dining at sea. Check out the latest cruise bargains online. Just type in "cruises" and shop around. For example, our recent five-day Caribbean cruise out of Miami, with stops in the Grand Caymans and Key West cost \$400 per person. We stayed in a delightful cabin with a beautiful

view near the upper deck. Our purchase did not include airfare, but cruises can be booked with airfare included.

As far as service goes, cruise liners provide the best. At the end of the trip, guests can provide written comments regarding stay and service. Waiters and maids take these comments very seriously. A couple of bad ratings could demote a waiter to assistant waiter for the next voyage.

Keep in mind that you will encounter a few added expenses. Guests are expected to tip the waiters and maids at the end of the cruise \$3 or \$4 per day. And although the food is included in the ticket price, drinks are not. If you are not careful, you can easily run up a hefty bar bill. Also, an on-board casino may present another temptation.

Tours can be another expense. Cruise liners often offer tours when you arrive in the port, which range from \$30 to \$40 per person. I like to wander around town on my own or hire a cab, which can often be cheaper.

When planning your flights, I recommend flying to the embarkation point one day before the ship leaves port. Leaving early will be helpful in case the plane is delayed or the luggage misses the flight. On my last cruise, three of my four bags did not land with me in Fort Lauderdale. My bags did make it to my next flight and thankfully made it to the ship on time. On my next trip, I will make sure I leave one day early.

Bon voyage.

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

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MG SENIORS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

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 for 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" 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. Register by calling the Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223.

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 Sedgebrook 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.

LIFE

PERFECT PAIRINGS

Miller shows there's art behind Southwestern cuisine

RON JAMES
Copley News Service

THE CHEF

Mark Miller is one of a handful of American chefs forever associated with a single cuisine - in his case, Southwestern cuisine. One might think he was born and raised on the Texas panhandle or New Mexico's red-earthed hills, but oddly enough his hometown is Boston, Mass., where his exposure to hot peppers likely was limited to black pepper from a shaker.

In 1967, Miller's curiosity about the world led him to California where he enrolled at Berkeley to study Chinese art and anthropology.

"My background is in anthropology. I'm not a chef," Miller explained with a chuckle. "I have strong passion and feelings about certain cultural areas, and I use that to inspire my cuisine whether it is Asian, Southwestern or Western."

"I love the lore and history of the West and try to bring it forward into my food," Miller continued. "When you look at Native American textiles or pre-Columbian art, you see fantastic rich panoply of ideas and textures and a wonderful subtlety. And I say that they would have carried the same mentality over into their food. You would have seen levels of delicacy, interest and subtleties that would be reflected in their food as it is reflected in pre-Columbian art."

After graduation and a bit of teaching and postgraduate studies, Miller followed his interest in ethnic food into the world of food and one of the world's great kitchens - Alice Water's Chez Panisse. It was here that he learned the ways of restaurant cooking and was exposed to the wonders of fresh seasonal ingredients.

In 1979, he opened his first restaurant, the Fourth Street Grill in Berkeley, where he served some of the first Southwestern food outside of the Southwest. He opened his second Berkeley dining spot, The Santa Fe Bar and Grill, in 1980. In these restaurants, Miller developed a cuisine that reflected his interests in native cultures and his travel in the Southwest, Asia and North Africa.

After selling the restaurants in 1984, Miller moved to Santa Fe, N.M., the heart of the Southwest. In 1987, he opened his now world-famous Coyote Cafe and received international acclaim. It was followed in 1992 by the ambitious Red Sage restaurant in Washington, D.C., and then

another Coyote Cafe in December 1993, in Las Vegas. In 2002, Miller went international and opened two restaurants in Australia including Wildfire, across the bay from the world-famous opera house in Sydney.

His fame blossomed as he authored 10 cookbooks, including the best-selling "Coyote Cafe" published in 1989 by Ten Speed Press. And he started a food-poster revolution with creation of his famous chili poster that sold millions of copies. He and his restaurants have garnered many awards including the "Best American Chef" Southwest by the James Beard Foundation in 1996.

His many business interests keep Miller moving and eating around the world.

"I travel a lot. I eat at about 300 restaurants per year. I think that we're living in the golden age of cuisine. I think that Americans are so lucky to have the chefs we have here, like Charlie Trotter and Thomas Keller. When I started cooking, the idea that Americans would be considered to be among the best chefs in the world was very improbable. Now we live in a golden age and we have the pounds to show," he said with a laugh.

THE DISH

One popular appetizer at Miller's Red Sage restaurant (he is currently no longer a partner) is Chile-Dusted Fried Green Tomatoes and Fresh Corn Fritters. The dish is touted in his cookbook, "Red Sage: Contemporary American Cuisine" (Ten Speed Press, \$40), as "Mark Miller's celebration of the wild, wild West - where diplomats, locals and even the president dive into platters of Chili-Dusted Green Tomatoes and Fresh Corn Fritters."

CHILE-DUSTED FRIED GREEN TOMATOES
1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
1/4 cup flour
1 1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
1 1/2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese
1 teaspoon chile molido
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 large eggs
4 green tomatoes, sliced 3/8 inch thick
1/4 cup olive oil or nonstick cooking spray
Yields about 20 pieces.
Combine cornmeal, flour, salt and pepper, and stir well.

For most Americans, fried green tomatoes came on the culinary radar when they were made famous by the best-selling novel "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe" by Fannie Flagg and the 1992 hit movie by the same name. Although fried green tomatoes seem quintessentially Southern, the dish actually

the villages of northern Italy.

The tomatoes in Miller's recipe are dusted with a combination of ingredients that includes chile molido, which essentially translates to "fresh" chile powder made from dried chiles. It can be very hot or mild depending upon which dried chile is used. Use the powder judiciously or your guests will have watery eyes and throbbing lips. The powder is



hails back to 16th century Italy. In Italy, the Catholic church banned tomatoes as an aphrodisiac because the texture of the skin was similar to that of humans. Italians quietly defied the church, consuming tomatoes in great quantities behind closed doors. Eventually, the church redefined its ban to allow the masses to eat green tomatoes because the skin color wasn't similar to human skin. The first fried green tomatoes were cooked in olive oil in

available in some supermarkets and most Latin American specialty shops and from several online spice vendors.

THE WINE

Green tomatoes and wine? At first blush a challenge - but the key in matching is that the tomatoes are fried and have high acidity. Dry sparkling wines are perfect for fried foods and the fact that they have high acidity works with the acidity of the tomatoes.

A very dry Frank Family Vineyard's Blanc de Blancs (\$28) sparkling wine would match very well with Miller's tasty fried offering.

"With this dish it would be like a wonderful sorbet, cutting the fried oiliness and texture and it brings out the spices in the coating," explains Napa Valley wine legend and Frank Family manager Dennis Zablosky.

The Frank Family Winery is owned by Hollywood giant Rich Frank. Like millions of wine lovers, Frank used to frequent Napa Sonoma to taste great wine and eat wonderful food. His friend, winemaker Koerner Rombauer, called Frank at midnight in 1992 telling him that the Komell Champagne Cellars was for sale. A couple of days later, Frank owned the winery on the historic site of the Larkmead winery in northern Napa Valley. They make a complete line of still red and white wines along with four sparkling wines. A trip to the winery tasting room is like visiting Napa 20 years ago, where the tastings are still free and the staff is exceedingly friendly.

The term blanc de blanc translates to white from white in French. It's usually used in relation to making champagne or sparkling wine from chardonnay grapes. The Frank Family blanc de blanc is made from 100 percent Napa Valley chardonnay grapes, and is crisp, bone-dry champagne with a long, rich, dry finish.

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

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FRESH CORN FRITTERS

4 ears corn
1/4 cup masa harina
1/4 cup cornmeal
1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
4 large eggs, slightly beaten
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup sautéed diced onion
Corn or vegetable oil, for frying
Yields 36 to 40 fritters.
Bring large pot of water to a boil over medium heat. Add corn and boil for 2 to 3 minutes to half-cook them. Rinse under cold running water to stop the cooking. Let cool. Cut kernels

off cobs with knife and set aside.
Combine masa harina, cornmeal, coriander, salt and pepper. Beat in eggs and sour cream, mixing well, then add onion and corn kernels.
Heat 2 inches of oil in frying pan over medium heat. When hot, spoon corn mixture into oil, 1 tablespoon at a time, without crowding. Cook for 1 or 2 minutes on each side, or until golden. Drain on paper towels.
Serve fritters and tomatoes together or individually on one hot platter as desired. Or serve on individual plates in quantities that depend on number of guests.

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IN FASHION

Shoes get in the thick of it

SHARON MOSLEY
Copley News Service

Want to get a leg up on the newest spring fashion trends? Just slip into your favorite shoe store and you'll soon rise to the occasion when you browse the shelves lined with platform shoes. Thick soles and heavy heels have taken the place of the spindly stilettos. Not since the late '60s and '70s have the stacked heels been so popular.

"I haven't been tall since," says one petite artist friend whose shoe wardrobe now consists mostly of comfortable Birkenstock sandals.

"I'm scared to wear them," confesses another middle-aged baby boomer who nonetheless plans to dig out her patent leather Mary Janes from high school days and dance the night away at her class reunion.

While orthopedic surgeons may be waiting for the fallout, many women are clamoring to wear the newest trendy platforms this spring, from metallic pumps with stacked wooden heels to jute-covered wedges with ankle straps. But most women are a little smarter now about going to towering heights just to be fashionable.

"Platforms are rockin' it out this spring," says Meghan Cleary, shoe expert and author of "The Perfect Fit" (Chronicle Books, 2005; \$13). This shoe diva admits she has given in to the retro redux and purchased a few pairs. "I've bought these amazing Azzedine Alaïa that have silver python platform heels," she says. "They are major!"

Cleary also bought a more "practical" pair of black leather wedge platform espadrilles from Enzo Angiolini. "I really love both of them," she says.

And just why are these high-rise shoes causing such commotion these days? Well, even though this new trend in footwear may be creating some buzz, most women are ready to give up the spiky heels, according to Cleary.

"Platforms give height," she says, "without as much pain as a stiletto for a few reasons." And therein lies the rubbed blister. "Often the platform in the front makes the actual rise of the heel (that the foot feels) smaller than it would appear," explains Cleary. "You might have some 4-inch platform heels, but because the

platform is also in the front, it feels like 2 or 3 inches."

In other words, ladies, we can stand to fudge a little bit - and still stand tall.

"The wedges are so popular now," says Cleary, "because they give a feeling of solidity as the heel supports the entire foot." However, she adds, "You have to be careful in wedges because you can actually hurt yourself more if you trip because your entire foot has to bend, unlike regular stilettos that bend with the foot and offer a bit more flexibility if you hit a snag in the sidewalk."

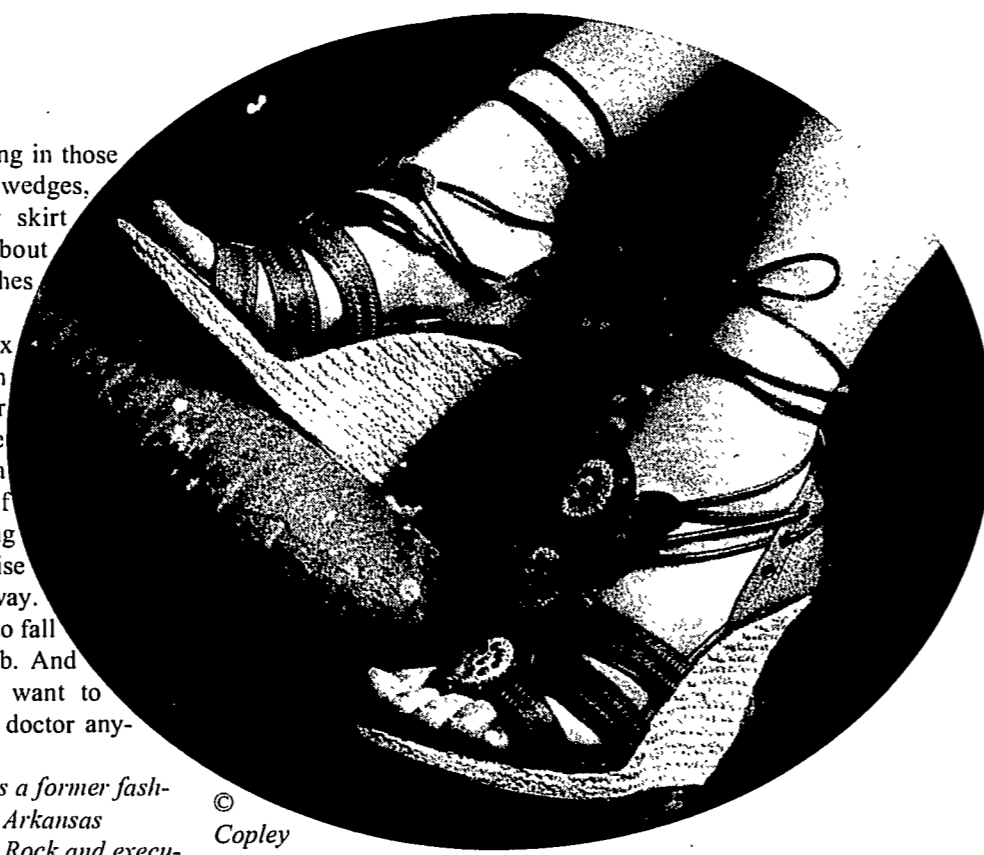
Platforms also present a few other fashion missteps. It's probably best to limit those soaring heel heights to an inch or less, if you've already worn platforms in another, previous life.

And remember, the shorter the skirt, the higher the heel. So make sure if you're soaring to new

heights this spring in those laced-up little wedges, you keep your skirt lengths only about one or two inches above the knee.

And don't mix wedges with tight jeans or fishnets. You've already got a thing going if you're standing on those high-rise platforms anyway. You don't want to fall down on the job. And you sure don't want to visit your ortho doctor any time soon.

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



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THE ALERT CONSUMER

E-mail fees? It's no joke

G. PATRICK KELLEY
Copley News Service

Charging businesses for e-mail could wind up costing consumers in the end, advocates say. "This is a bad idea from the consumer standpoint," said Jeannine Kenney of the Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports magazine. "If vendors now feel they have to pay a fee, that cost will ultimately be passed on to the consumer."

Yahoo and America Online, two of the world's biggest e-mail account providers, have said they plan to introduce a service that would charge large e-mailers - usually businesses - a fee to route their e-mail directly to a user's mailbox without first passing through junk-mail filters.

The fees - ranging from 1/4 cent to 1 cent per e-mail - are the latest attempts by the companies to weed out unsolicited bulk ads called spam, and identity-theft scams. In exchange for the fee, senders will be guaranteed their messages won't be filtered and will bear a seal alerting recipients they're legitimate.

"It breaks down to whether consumers can rely on the protection they're getting from their Internet service providers," Kenney said. The fees will create the impression that companies can or conceivably can "buy

their way around" the protection already in place, she said. "Your spam filter service should allow consumers to get the kind of e-mail they want," while blocking out that e-mail they don't want, she said.

Mark Cooper, director of research at the Consumer Federation of America, said AOL and Yahoo "have no market power." There are "perhaps thousands" of Internet service providers now that don't charge for e-mail. "Consumers are in no way, shape or manner forced to get that service from (AOL and Yahoo)," as opposed to telephone companies, where consumers don't have nearly as many choices, he said.

Cooper recalled that in the early days of the Internet, the big providers wanted to charge people, but so many smaller, regional Internet service providers gave it for free that they were unable to make prices stick. "AOL is bleeding customers. Their ability to coerce you to step up to that service" is beyond their grip on the market. It's the same as the issue between the Internet providers and bulk e-mailers, he said.

"If they do that, they may lose more customers," Cooper said. The e-mail issue comes up at a time when the Senate Commerce Committee will begin looking at "Net neutrality," or a ban to stop

Internet access companies from giving preferred status to certain content providers. The concern is that companies that do not pay could find it hard to reach customers or attract new ones, threatening the openness of the Internet.

A national poll conducted by the Consumers Union and Consumer Federation found that more than 75 percent of Internet users are seriously concerned about having free choice on their Internet service provider, or being required to pay twice for certain Internet services. Another 70 percent were concerned about providers blocking or impairing their access to Internet services or sites, such as Internet telephone service or online retailers.

Executives of several large telecommunications companies, including Bell South and AT&T, suggested that they should be paid not only by the subscribers to their Internet services but also by companies that send large files to those subscribers.

Payment should come from only one direction, Kenney said. If consumers pay for a service, but their subscription services also have to pay, it will raise the cost for consumers.

"They can't have it both ways," Kenney said.

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE!

Here's what detractors say about AOL's and Yahoo's plans to charge bulk mailers for e-mail: CON

- The fees could cost large, legitimate mailers in the millions, and the cost is likely to be passed along to consumers.

- Companies already filter e-mail and some already use a service that assures legitimacy, at lower prices.

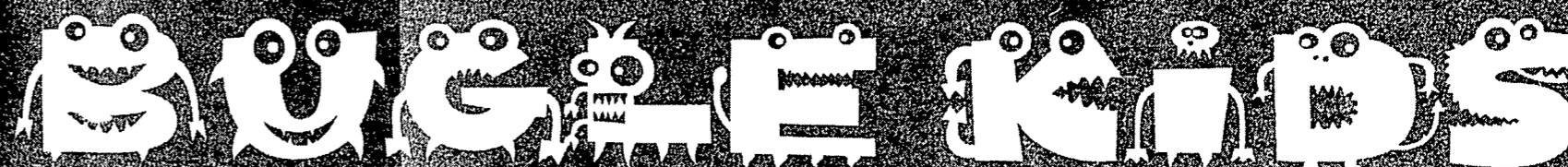
- The system will apply not only to mass mailings but also to individual commercial messages such as order confirmations and low-fare notices from airlines.

- Unpaid messages will be subject to a filtering process that could divert them to a spam folder.

- Most unpaid messages will be displayed without original images and links.

Here's what supporters say about AOL's and Yahoo's plans to charge bulk mailers for e-mail: - E-mail senders will be guaranteed their messages won't be filtered and will bear a seal alerting recipients they're legitimate. - The system would weed out unsolicited ads, spam and identity-theft scans. - The way images and Web links are stripped now sometimes falsely identifies legitimate messages as junk mail. - The plan is optional and would affect a fraction of people sending e-mail, and would charge message senders rather than those receiving them. - Companies that don't want to pay will be able to send e-mail to Yahoo and AOL members as they have in the past.

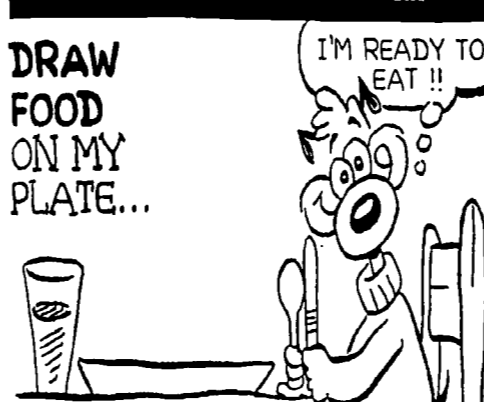
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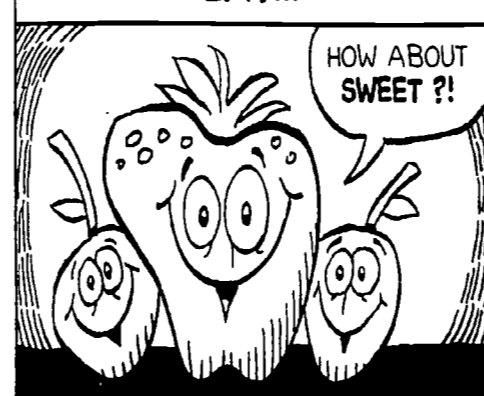
By J.H. Mose-Copley News Service

DRAW IT!

DRAW FOOD ON MY PLATE...



GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR EAT...



UNSCRAMBLE PUP TO SEE WHAT HE IS SAYING TO THIS COW...

TAHW SHA EON NRHO DAN EGSVI IKLM?



PUP THANKS MADDY WHEAT IN CYBERSPACE

LOOK INSIDE THIS PUZZLE, DUDE AND YOU WILL SEE LOTS OF FOOD! VEGETABLES ARE GOOD FOR YOU SOLVE THIS GAME, THEN EAT A FEW!

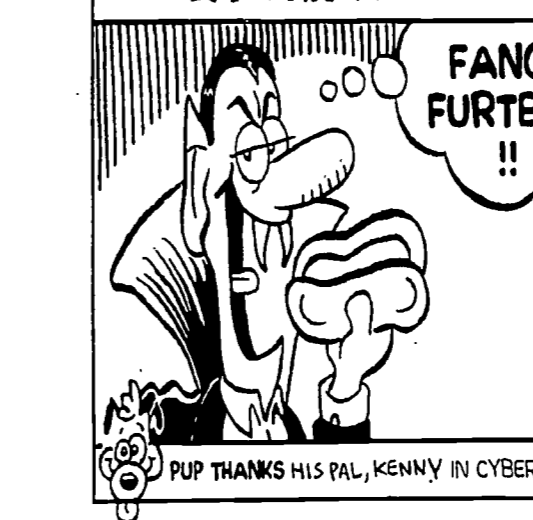


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WHAT IS A VAMPIRE'S FAVORITE FOOD?



PUP THANKS HIS PAL, KENNY IN CYBERSPACE

Grammar Matters

by Patty Gibbons Saurier

All Together Now



Decide which words in the parentheses should be used in the sentences.

1. Can we sing "Happy Birthday" to Stanley (*all together, altogether*)?
2. They stood (*all together, altogether*) as the soldiers passed by.
3. This budget for next year is (*all together, altogether*) ridiculous.
4. (*Altogether, all together*) there were six people who came to the open house.

Answers: *Altogether* and *all together* have different meanings. Use *all together* when you imply that members of a group have done something collectively. Tip: If you can rephrase a sentence and separate the two words by sticking another word or two between them, use *all together*. Example: They stood *all together*. They all stood *together*.

Copley News Service

Nature Newswatch

Gotta fly now

Tundra swans are now touring northward along traditional migration routes, navigating over some 4,000 miles of inland North American countryside. See if you can catch a glimpse of them as they pass overhead.

The graceful white swans with the mellifluous voices spend winter on both coasts. As the season ends, courtship and pairing of young adults is already under way and continues through the spring migration. Previously paired adults reinforce their bonds in a melodious duet, while bowing in a head-to-head, high-stepping, wing-waving display. When it's time, a flapping headlong dash into the wind for 15-20 feet gets them airborne.

With mellow, musical honking, a classic vee formation and majestically powerful wings beating a low-pitched, airy whistle, they proceed at a leisurely pace. Taking more than 100 days, despite needing a little more than 100 hours of flight time, they arrive in the northern tundra by May, in time for mild weather and the start of the nesting season.

Tundra swan *Cygnus columbianus*
46-58 inches; wingspan: 5-7 feet; 14-20 pounds
Habitat: lakes, bays, estuaries, marshes, tundra
Range Key: ☐ Summer ☐ Migrating ■ Winter
by Tim Herd © 2006
www.naturenewswatch.com

PHOTO: JILL KENNER

REAL ESTATE DECOR SCORE

Let new daughter add personality to room

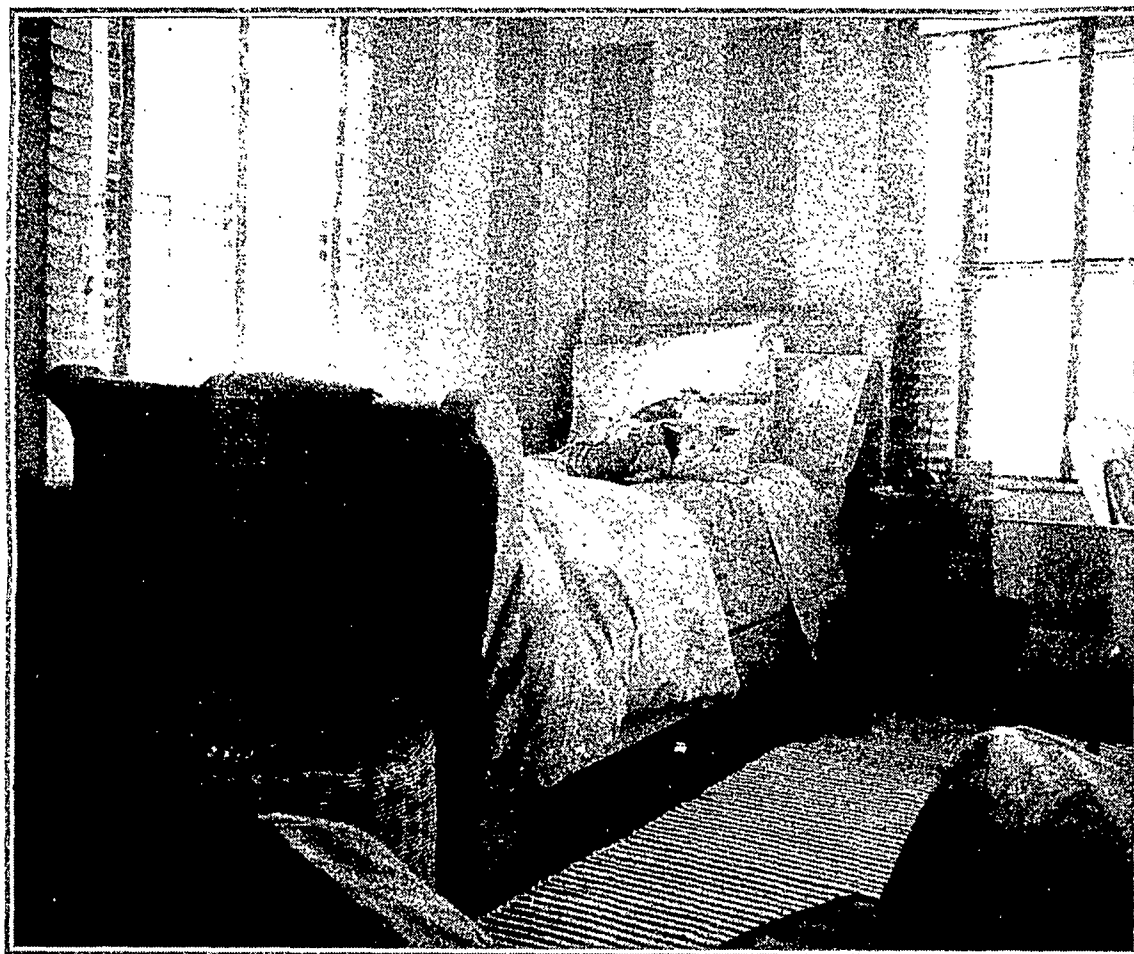
Rose Bennett Gilbert
Copley News Service

Q: I need ideas! My husband's daughter, 8, from his first marriage, is coming to live with us - don't ask! We're lucky to have a bedroom for her, but how to decorate it? She's so young. Should I wait and see what she wants, or make it nice for her arrival?

A: Yes, to both questions. Why don't you go on and get the basics in place - the bed, a desk and a chair, at least, so she knows you're expecting her. I'd also have a few paint samples, wallpapers and fabric swatches on hand, too - no more than three of each, or things could get confusing. Give her a few days to make her pick, then you can decorate her new room together.

At her age, you'll probably be doing it again in short order, so relax and have fun. There's no "mistake" you can make that can't be painted over. In fact, paint is your cheapest and easiest decorating medium. Look what joy a couple of gallons bring the young girl's room we show here. Designers from Glidden have personalized the sleigh bed, and striped and stenciled the once-plain white walls. Add a color-related comforter, blinds or shades for privacy, and perhaps an inexpensive - read, washable - rug, and she's got an almost-instant room of her own.

One hint: to paint the stripes, lay on the under-color first, in this case, chartreuse. When it's dry, mark off the stripes with a plumb line (from the wallpaper store), and masking tape, then use a roller to paint. Wiggly edges will only add to the charm. The stenciled flowers around the ceiling were stolen from the comforter. Trace the design, transfer to stencil board, cut out and paint on. For more easy tricks with



paint, go to punch up www.glidden.com or call (800) GLIDDEN. **Q:** My girlfriend tells me you can buy furniture from Princess Diana's family estate, the place where her brother now lives and where her memorial is. Is this true?

A: True, indeed. The ninth Earl Spencer, Charles, brother to the late princess and current resident of the sprawling, five-century-old family home Althorp, has allowed famous furniture-maker Theodore Alexander to make reproductions of selected furniture pieces in the house.

He's not alone. Lots of the landed English gentry have looked to

licensing in their struggle to keep their "stately piles" alive. Proceeds from the Althorp sales will help preserve the enormous estate.

The Anthorp collection offers some 200 pieces, including a repro of the "Washington" chest which had been in the family when our George's great-great-grandfather left England for the New World in 1656. The Washingtons and the Churchills and the Spencers are all related, didn't you know?

First introduced in 2004, the collection is now making its way into American furniture stores. Click on www.theodorealexan-

der.com to find out where.

Q: We recently moved from Australia and bought a house that needs work. We needed to reclaim the third bedroom, which had been turned into a

master bedroom/sitting area and laundry room. We don't want to move the laundry, but now we have no closet for the third bedroom. We thought we could just buy a "wardrobe," which are quite common in Australia - they include doors, sidewalls, hanging rack for clothes and built-in drawers. All I can find are numerous "closet" companies, who specialize in interiors.

A: What we may have here is the old failure to communicate. Indeed, wardrobes as you describe them should be easy to find in antique and "used furniture" stores. Back when the United States was younger, house builders in a hurry to get back to their crops couldn't always be bothered with adding closets to their rooms. So large wardrobes especially designed for hanging and storing took their place.

Today, we call them in the French manner, "armoires," and all major furniture retailers offer them, from Ethan Allen to Pottery Barn and Storehouse. One caveat: most people who live in today's closet-rich houses use armoires to hold their TV set, not clothes. Peek inside before you buy to be sure you're getting the hanging rods and other et ceteras you need to let your armoire serve its original purpose.

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GARDEN TIP

Horticultural oils cut down spring insects



New dormant oils on the market effectively control pests that lay eggs on plants during the winter months, which hatch and destroy plants.

Even the most sensitive plants, like roses, can benefit from the use of sprays such as Year-Round Spray Oil.

Odorless, environmentally responsible insecticides kill aphids, whiteflies, spider mites, mealybugs, scale, thrips, fungi, gnats, various beetles and other larvae.

Copley News Service / Jay Wing

REAL ESTATE

HOME ZONE

Be your own best barista

LINDA PESCATORE
Copley News Service

He likes coffee, you like tea. It isn't a problem because you can brew them both at home.

There's no shortage of single-serve brewer systems on the market that will let you whip up everything from hot cocoa to cappuccino without venturing to a coffeehouse.

The machines are not all alike, however. Tassimo Hot Beverage System, for example, is touted as the only one of its kind to use real liquid milk to create foam for cappuccinos or lattes, without using a steam wand or frothing attachment.

Tassimo uses its proprietary T-Discs - pods that contain a precise amount of coffee, tea, chocolate or concentrated milk, sealed to keep the contents fresh. Each T-Disc also holds an electronic bar code that is read by the Tassimo brewing machine's micro-processor to set

the correct temperature, brewing time and amount of water needed to make a perfect hot drink.

Tassimo also uses an inverse flow of filtered water, which means your beverage pours directly from the T-Disc, where it is brewed in about a minute, to your cup. Since no machine part has come in contact with your beverage, your tea will still taste like tea, even when you make it immediately after his coffee.

The manufacturer suggests using an included cleaning disc about once a week, and all the removable parts are dishwasher safe except the water container, which can be hand-washed.

The Tassimo Hot Beverage System can be found at most major home appliance retailers, including Macy's, Bloomingdale's and Bed, Bath and Beyond, or online at

www.amazon.com or www.tassimo.com. It makes a great gift, especially for weddings.

Tassimo retails for \$169. T-Disc prices range from \$6.49 to \$9.99 for packages that contain 18 or 20 discs.

CLEANUP CREW

Does your house pass the white-glove test? How about a gray-

ers, oven cleaners and dusting sprays were not on their list; Findley says you don't need them, and can get better results with common, environmentally safe products.

The book then helps you put together a sensible cleaning schedule so you can get the big once-a-year jobs done along with your daily quota of chores.

The chapters detail how to clean each room - kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living room - and how to wash floors, walls, ceilings and windows, but along with their step-by-step instructions, the authors intersperse hints, caveats and some general info. Garages, attics and basements are also tackled, and you'll

even learn to clean outdoor fixtures like gutters, pools and patios. By the end of the book, you'll be ready for the professional tips in the "Speed Cleaning" chapter. An appendix discloses the secrets of stain removal.

"The Complete Idiot's Guide to Cleaning" is available at most major booksellers, or online at www.amazon.com and www.idiotsguides.com.

STOVE-TOP SAVINGS

When was the last time you replaced the drip pans under your electric range's heating elements? If the pans have become grimy or dull, it's better to throw them out than to clean them.

And that's not due to laziness.

Installing a new set of chrome-plated drip pans every year not only makes your kitchen look shinier and cleaner, it can actually save you money on your utility bills in the long run.

"The reflectiveness of the chrome coating allows you to use a lower heat setting than you usually do. The result of that per year is a \$50 savings on your electricity bill," said Karen Griff, a client support representative with Range Kleen Manufacturing Inc., a Lima, Ohio, company that manufactures drip pans and other kitchenware.

Range Kleen drip pans fit most common ranges and are available at major houseware retailers, including Wal-Mart. Because the chrome finish will break down and become dull after about a year from repeated washing and normal wear and tear, Griff recommends replacing the drip pans annually at the same time every year - at the beginning of daylight-saving time, for example.

To browse the company's full line of drip pans, bake ware, range-cleaning products and more, visit www.rangeklean.com. © Copley News Service
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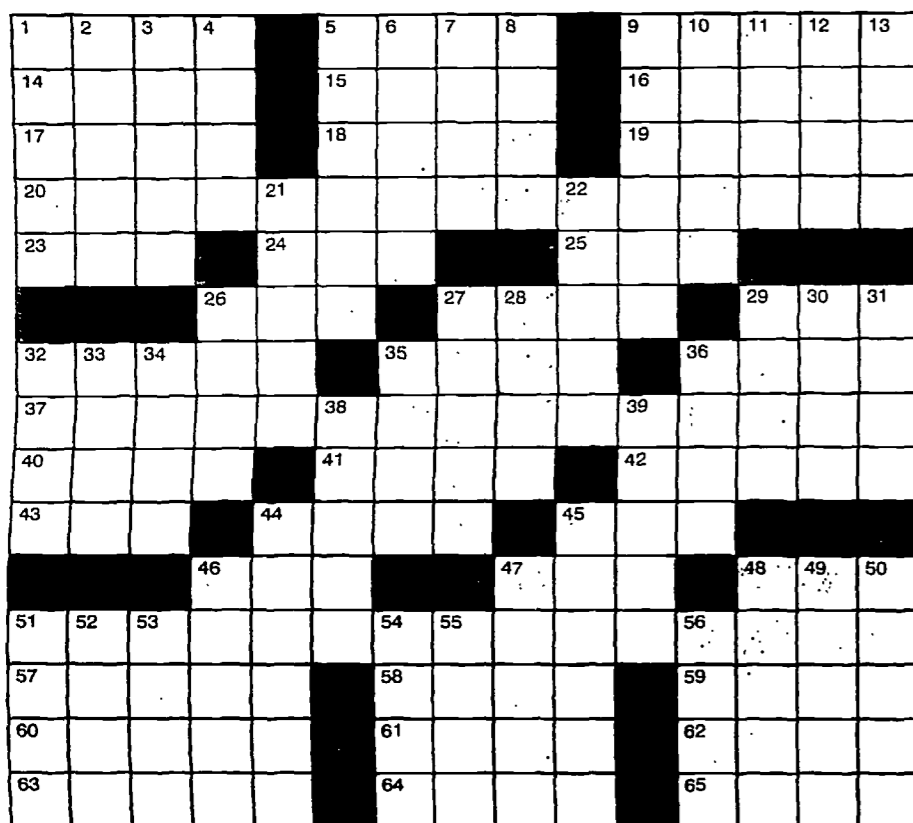
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

MEETINGS IN THE WILD



COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 Broad or horse bean
5 Hub, in a way
9 Wispy-washy
14 Amenhotep's god
15 Tel _____
16 Boxing ring site
17 Rock group
18 Cloud number
19 Sky and meadow birds
20 Prime minister with a president
23 Scary street
24 Gat
25 Suffix for amen or civil
26 Triumph
27 Triangular sails
29 Subside
32 Angler's basket
35 1995 Oscar nominee
36 Kingston, e.g.
37 Novelist with an actor
40 Roof trough
41 Computer O/S
42 Lets up on
43 Soar
44 Skirt length
45 Small boy
46 Cable channel

- 47 Luau neckwear
48 Neon, for one
51 Child star with a British actress
57 "_____ Africa"
58 Poet Pound
59 Hoosergow
60 Ms. Oyl
61 Aries, e.g.
62 Corrupt
63 Malted together
64 Binge
65 Refuse

DOWN

- 1 Aesop's genre
2 In any way
3 Malevolence
4 Hardy boy
5 Persevere
6 Like some hallowed walls
7 Chianti, e.g.
8 Partner of anon
9 Menservants
10 "The Sheik of _____"
11 Country of the Incas
12 Invisible, indelible and India
13 100-yard _____
21 Sardonically but subtly

- 22 Taunting remarks
26 Plural contraction
27 Janet and Tony's girl
28 Animal with recurring horns
29 Son of Aphrodite
30 Wait
31 Springsteen sobriquet
32 Kitchen head
33 Unfeigned
34 A deadly sin?
35 Curse
36 Stool or stone
38 SA revolutionary council
39 _____ to please
44 Jabbed with a shiv
45 Occupant
46 Pirate's treasure
47 Slow movement, in music
48 Cluster of trees
49 Encourage to enter
50 With much hesitation
51 Blunder
52 Humdinger
53 Porter miss who regrets
54 Wisecrack
55 Basso Pinza
56 Imitated

Last Week's
Puzzle Answers

FOWL PLAY

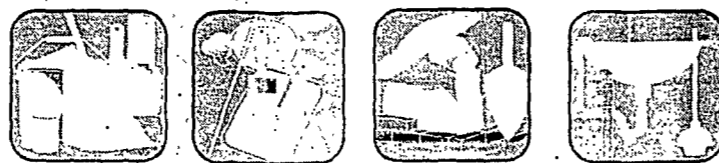


COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

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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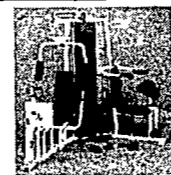
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AUTO SCENE

A more refined Vue: Saturn fit and polish gets rid of rough edges

MARK MAYNARD
Copley News Service

In my road test of the first Saturn Vue in 2002, I said it was a good first effort, but would take a few years to dial in refinement. A local dealer wasn't fond of the criticism, but even Saturn knew there were problems and started correcting some of them by 2004. First up was more soundproofing and the optional 3.5 liter V-6 from Honda.

Four years later, the Vue has now what it needed then - refinement, refinement, refinement.

Those early years of cheap, rough interior plastic and the raspy 3.0 V-6 are mostly gone. Vue's still not perfect, but it's perfect enough for those who want to support a good American-made product. (For now, the Vue is still built in Spring Hill, Tenn.)

This is a platform also shared with the Chevy Equinox and Pontiac Torrent, but the Vue seems most distinct. The styling is one of the most complete and contemporary of the lot, which includes Jeep Liberty, Ford Escape, Hyundai Santa Fe, Toyota RAV4 and the Honda CR-V.

Vue is sold in four-cylinder or V-6 models, with a choice of all-wheel drive only on the V-6. Pricing starts at \$17,990, which includes such extras as remote locking, air conditioning and power windows, locks and mirrors. A four-speed automatic transmission adds \$1,355.

The V-6 starts at \$21,990 and was \$26,200 as tested. Options included a power sunroof, leather, power driver seat and head curtain side air bags. Floor mats added \$80.

Vue comes with another desirable feature. The National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration gives it a top five-star rating for driver and passengers in front- and side-impact tests.

The 2006 Vue has gone through what is called a major midcycle redesign that updates just about everything seen or touched. That includes a new interior, new front and rear fascias with an integrated step pad, hood and grille.

This freshening is particularly timely for the launch of the Vue Green Line gasoline-electric hybrid.

temperature readouts.

The four-cylinder model is a good starter vehicle and a worthy consideration for a college student. There's plenty of cargo capacity with the forward-folding front seat back and rear 70/30 split seat.

The engine has an oil-life monitor to remind drivers when it's time for a change. The first tune-up isn't for 100,000 miles.

It's also a favorite as a dinghy for RVers because it can be flat-towed without racking up

6 has the choice of front- or all-wheel drive and the five-speed manual or optional five-speed automatic.

For those who have someplace to be and are in a hurry to get there, the V-6 is the better choice. It'll get up to highway speed - zero-to-60 mph - in about 7.5 seconds, which is plenty to keep you out of trouble.

Fuel economy isn't horrible at 20/28, on 87 octane, but the gas tank is just 16 gallons, so it might seem the needle moves quickly

and no individual rear reading lights, but you don't pay for those, either.

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

Rahal Letterman
Racing hopes to
regain form

After an up-and-down 2005, Rahal Letterman Racing hopes to regain its championship-contending form this season.

2004 Indianapolis 500 winner Buddy Rice and 2005 Bombardier Rookie of the Year Danica Patrick return to the Hilliard, Ohio-based team with Bombardier Rookie of the Year candidate Paul Dana and sponsorship from Team Ethanol joining this season.

"Everyone is optimistic prior to the first race of the season, but I think there are a number of positives as we head into the '06 season," team co-owner Bob Rahal said. "I expect Buddy to recapture the form that made him a title contender in 2004 and I expect Danica will take another big step forward."

There are a lot of expectations that are placed on her by the media and the fans. But the amazing thing is those expectations are less than she places on herself.

Paul will be trying to make up for the lack of experience in the IndyCar Series. My charge to him will be the same as any rookie driver. Finish races and maximize your experience. The more laps you turn, the better prepared you will be for the next race."

toward empty.

Small SUVs are ideal because of their tough-it-out personalities. This one still has an array of storage slots, boxes and consoles built in. A nifty foldaway bin in the cargo area is good for corralling grocery bags or muddy boots.

Somewhere in the evolution, the turning circle has grown more than a foot, to 39.4 feet. That's too much for the trail or the niall.

And there is no lock on the glove box, no rear center armrest



SATURN VUE

The fully loaded Vue will have the necessary style and refinement to make a good impression on the many buyers who will seek this SUV for its improved fuel economy. The Vue Green Line goes on sale this summer.

As part of the Vue's value pricing, the Power Package was made standard, which adds cruise control; power windows, locks and mirrors; remote keyless entry; and an auto-dimming rearview mirror with compass and outside

mileage on the odometer.

I've only ever driven the V-6, so I can't say how rapidly the 143-horsepower four-cylinder can motivate its 3,207 pounds. Kelley Blue Book testers say it is surprisingly fast off the line, but that dissipates quickly as more passengers and cargo are added.

Fuel economy is 23/28 with the five-speed manual and 22/26 with the four-speed automatic.

The four-cylinder is available only in front-wheel drive. The V-

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2006 Ford Freestyle

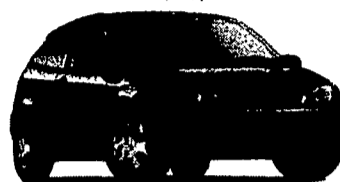
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2006 Ford Focus

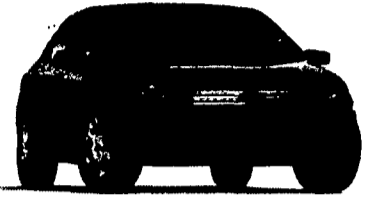
Safety Pkg, Stk#D4220
MSRP: \$16,990



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\$999 due at signing

2006 Ford Fusion

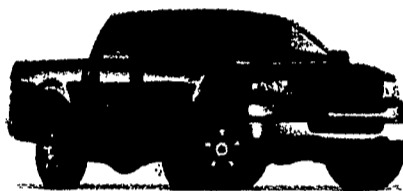
Stk#D4214 MSRP: \$19,375



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'00 Mercury Sable 89K MI, Stk#D4213B, White Landmark: \$5,995	'02 Ford E-350 White, Stk#P4397 Landmark: \$12,950	'02 Isuzu Rodeo Black, Stk#P4395 Landmark: \$14,995	'04 Jeep Grand Cherokee Blue, Stk#T1775A Landmark: \$17,950	'03 Infiniti G35 Stk#P4430 Landmark: \$21,950
'01 Ford Taurus SE 45K MI, Stk#T1780A, Brown Landmark: \$7,950	'03 Chevy Venture LS 43K MI, Silver, Stk#P4440 Landmark: \$12,995	'04 Pontiac Grand Prix Red, Stk#T1270A1 Landmark: \$15,475	'04 Ford Escape LTD 4x4 57K MI, Tan, Stk#4479 Landmark: \$17,975	'05 Ford Explorer 26K MI, Stk#P4523, Grey Landmark: \$21,950
'00 Honda Civic EX Silver, 77K MI, Stk#P4448 Landmark: \$9,950	'03 Ford Mustang Coupe 31K MI, Silver, Stk#P4437 Landmark: \$13,495	'05 Toyota Scion XB 14K MI, Blue, Stk#P4462 Landmark: \$15,750	'03 Ford Escape XLT 24K MI, Black, Stk#T12847A Landmark: \$17,995	'05 Ford F-150 11K MI, Stk#T12851A, Grey Landmark: \$22,950
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'99 Cadillac DeVille 59K MI, Stk#T1765A, Black Landmark: \$10,950	'01 Jeep Grand Cherokee LTD 4x4, Stk#P4456 Landmark: \$13,750	'04 Saturn VUE Black, Stk#P4402 Landmark: \$15,950	'04 Volkswagen Passat 17K MI, Gray, Stk#T12759A Landmark: \$18,495	'04 Pontiac GTO 6K MI, Red, Stk#P4438 Landmark: \$23,950
'01 Nissan Xterra Silver, Stk#P4414 Landmark: \$10,995	'02 Volkswagen Jetta GLS 40K MI, Black, Stk#P4442 Landmark: \$13,795	'03 Nissan Altima Stk#P4425 Landmark: \$15,950	'02 Lincoln LS 36K MI, White, Stk#P4388B Landmark: \$18,495	'04 Ford F-150 S-Crew 4x4 52K MI, Red, Stk#T12651A Landmark: \$26,950
'03 Ford Focus 35K MI, Stk#T12764A, Silver Landmark: \$11,950	'04 Dodge Stratus 30K MI, Black, Stk#P4445A Landmark: \$13,950	'03 Jeep Liberty LTD 4x4 Blue, 29K MI, Stk#P4447 Landmark: \$15,950	'02 Ford Explorer 57K MI, Stk#T12854A, Red Landmark: \$18,950	'06 Cadillac CTS 3.6L 10K MI, Stk#P4453 Landmark: \$30,950
'01 Chrysler Sebring Conv. White, 49K MI, Stk#P4450 Landmark: \$11,950	'01 Honda CRV 25K MI, Stk#D4245A, Black Landmark: \$14,950	'04 Toyota Solara 36K MI, Stk#T1730A, Red Landmark: \$16,950	'04 Ford Explorer Sport Trac 17K MI, Stk#T12880A, Green Landmark: \$19,650	
'03 Mercury Sable LS 31K MI, Gray, Stk#P4432 Landmark: \$11,950	'06 Mercedes E320 Stk#4348A Landmark: \$14,950	'03 Chevy Trailblazer Stk#P4418 Landmark: \$16,995	'04 Ford F-150 4x4 62K MI, Stk#T12872A, Silver Landmark: \$19,750	

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