

Twins Ben (left) and Charlie Okolita, 18 months, munch on animal crackers as they sit comfortably in the arms of their mother Kendra and watch juggler Andy Head perform at the Niles Park District's Oak Park Concert series, Friday night, August 8.

Friendships forged over books at the Morton Grove Library

BY WENDY ELLIS

To many youngsters, summertime means swimming, baseball, and picnics in the park. When that last school bell rings in June, books are often put aside and bicycles come out of storage. Library Summer reading programs are available to young people who like to read, but what about those just beginning to see the magic between the covers of a book? For young readers just reaching that gap between learning to read and reading to learn, a summer without books can be a big set back.

The Morton Grove Public Library found a solution to that summer slowdown by offering a new program called Book Buddies, pairing up young first and second grade readers with older, teenaged library volunteers. Each week, for half an hour, the two buddies meet in the library basement and read together. Morton Grove mother Mary Ann Rohn says for her two oldest children it has been a wonderful experience.

"There's something really special about it, but I haven't put my finger on it," says Rohn. "For the first time they realize reading is a super serious step in life, like learning to swim." Rohn says her family put specific time aside for Book Buddies, just like swimming lessons and going to camp. For 8 year old Jamie and her 6 year old brother Thomas, the reading program has made all the difference.

"When school ended last June, Jamie's teacher said she was exactly 50-50 in reading," said Mary Ann Rohn. "Her teacher said the best thing she could do was read, read, read."

And that's exactly what she

did. Sitting with a stack of books in front of her, Jamie reads fluently to her Buddy of the day, David Jacob. David, heading to high school next year, said his parents wanted him to get involved in the community, and volunteering at the library was his choice. David is one of 28 teenage volunteers at the Morton Grove Library, although not all of them are Book Buddies.

6 year old Thomas spent most of his summer reading with David, and after only his first session, Mary Ann saw the light go on. "That night he brought books home, and for the first time he could read on his own." Mary Ann says her children think of their buddies as their own special reading teachers. When Jamie's Buddie came to her lesson dressed in a Sari, the 8 year old thought it was especially for her.

12 year old Allison Netmin, a student at Gemini Jr. High said her summer book buddy was a little reluctant at first, but is now a lot more confident in reading. Although the library gives the older kids guidelines, mostly the librarians remind them they are there to listen to the younger kids read, to help with a hard word, to give them positive encouragement. "We know the basics," said Allison. "But we build our own way of working with them."

The weekly sessions are coming to an end as school is about to begin again in Morton Grove. But the library is hoping to attract more teen volunteers and bring more beginning readers in to share time with them on a once a month basis this winter. No one wants to close the book on a program that works.

See photos, page 10

Traveling Vietnam Wall Visits Rose Hill

BY WENDY ELLIS

A finger moves slowly along the shiny black surface, across the rows, down the columns, searching for that special name that will bring to mind a long lost face. A brother, a father, a son, a friend. The scene is repeated almost every weekend across the country,

wherever the traveling replica of the National Vietnam War Memorial makes its stop. That Traveling Vietnam Wall stood at Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago from Friday, Aug. 8 to Sunday, Aug. 10, as hundreds of residents from the city as well as the north and northwest suburbs came to pay tribute to the men and women who died in

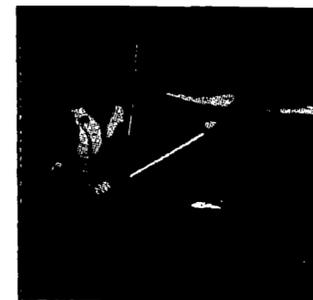
Vietnam.

The faux granite wall stands 8 feet high and 240 feet long, three quarters the size of the real Memorial in Washington, D.C. The names of over 58,000 Americans are etched into its surface, just as they are in Washington. 11,000 Illinois

Story continued on next page

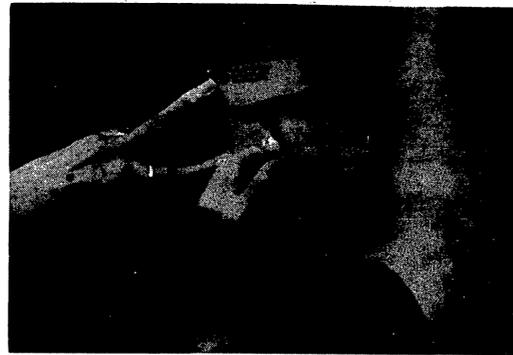
Inside Today's Bugle

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Vietnam Wall



Continued from page 1

names appear on the wall. Loved ones of all ages come to find the names of those friends and family lost over thirty years ago, some just to remember, some to make paper rubbings of the names to take home to show other relatives.

Barbara Weteska of Chicago found the name of her brother in law, Walter Kisala, who served in Vietnam in 1967, and made a paper rubbing.

"He's my daughter's uncle and I wanted her to see it," said Weteska. Ray Morahan came to the ceremony with his 12 year old son Billy, and his friend Steve Lindeman, a Vietnam Veteran.

"We just live a block away," said Morahan, "This is really something special." Lindeman had buddies to look for on the wall, but wasn't sure he'd have much success.

"The thing is, I don't know their real last names," said the vet. "I knew them by their nicknames. But I'm going to try anyway."

The wall did not come silently into town. Several remembrance services were held at the cemetery over the weekend, including opening ceremonies that included the awarding of four long earned but never given medals. Congressman Rahm

Emanuel (D-IL) awarded four Bronze Stars and a Distinguished Service Cross to four veterans, three from World War II and one from the Gulf War. DeLoss Besch of Chicago received his Bronze Star for heroism during the Battle of the Bulge. George Ustupski of Northlake also received a Bronze Star for putting his life on the line for others in WW II. Sean Flanagan, of Chicago, was awarded his Bronze Star for a series of selfless acts during the Gulf War in 1991. A Bronze Star and the Distinguished Service Cross went to Arco Anthony Ciancanelli of Glenwood who, under fire from the enemy, killed two German snipers and took 20 enemy soldiers prisoner single handedly outside Vesoul, France.

Also on display were several quilts from the Agent Orange Memorial Quilt Foundation. The quilts pay tribute to the many soldiers whose names do not appear on the wall, but who were sickened and later died due to exposure to Agent Orange during their years in Vietnam. "Quilts in Remembrance" is an "orange wall" memorial to these soldiers and the families who suffered with them. There is also a "Children's Victims' Quilt", dedicated to the children whose lives were affected by Agent Orange, a Celebrity Endorsement quilt, and a "Desert Storm Quilt".

Remembrance services for those killed in Action in Vietnam were held Friday evening, and Missing in Action and Prisoners of War were honored at services on Saturday night. The wall, adorned with flowers, flags flying briskly in the breeze, stood open to everyone around the clock from Friday evening until the end of closing ceremonies on Sunday.

BY WENDY ELLIS

To the sound of Taps, long-time Niles resident John V. Heinen was laid to rest at Maryhill Cemetery last week. Heinen was a familiar, smiling face to many people around town, through his wife Elaine's work as a Niles Park District Commissioner, and his membership in American Legion Post 134 and the Knight's of Columbus.

Although Elaine Heinen has been a park district commissioner for almost a quarter century, John Heinen was always content to be the man behind the scenes, stumping tirelessly whenever his wife ran for reelection.

"He was the doorbell ringer and a hard worker for Elaine," said Park District Executive Director Joe LoVerde. "He was a very kind man and they dedicated their life to the park district."

"He never wanted to climb the ladder himself. He said that was for other people," said Elaine Heinen of her late husband. "But he was always behind me 100%." When John entered the hospital last March, just before the last election, he was

concerned that he wouldn't be able to vote. "He said, what if you lose by one vote?" said Elaine, who won that race by her largest margin ever. "He really knew how to get the people to come out to the polls."

John and Elaine began their years together in Chicago, where they were introduced by John's aunt, a nun. "He was a confirmed bachelor, but boy was he a hunk, right to the end," said Elaine. It was love at first sight, and after marrying a few months

later, the couple settled in Niles. John served in the army following World War II and worked as



Elaine Heinen, r., currently a Niles Park Commissioner pictured here with her husband, John. He passed away July 16 at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

a service man for Westinghouse and R.J. Cooper in civilian life. The couple were members of St.

John Brebeuf Church, Niles, and although they never had children themselves, Elaine said all the neighborhood children knew and loved John, calling him "Mr. President" whenever they saw him. During their 30 some years in Niles, the couple brought Bingo to town, running the event weekly at St. John Brebeuf for 18 years.

"He'd tell the little old ladies, 'You come back next Sunday, I know you're gonna win.'" said Elaine. "They came back. But they never won!" Members of the St. Vincent

DePaul Society also benefitted from John's generosity over the years, something Elaine didn't know until Pete Zonsius, the church janitor, mentioned it at John's funeral. Pete and John would often repair appliances for the society's clients who couldn't afford it. "John would buy parts with his own money and fix their appliances for free," said Elaine. "I never knew."

John Heinen died Wednesday, July 16 at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Elaine Heinen said she was touched by the many, many people who paid their respects at John's visitation, July 18 at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Honor guards from both the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus stood guard that evening. Funeral Services were held the following day at St. John Brebeuf Church, and interment followed, at Maryhill Cemetery on Milwaukee Avenue, where military personnel played Taps. "It was very emotional," said Elaine. "And it was very fitting for a man like John."

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Seniors stay in 'Maine' stream with Township recreation programs

BY TIFFANY ELLIS

If you are an active person, at least 55 years of age and a Maine Township resident or property owner, then the Maine Township MaineStreamers may be just what you are looking for.

MaineStreamers, a program that emphasizes the social side of adult and senior services, has been providing its members with a variety of social, recreational and educational activities for over 25 years. They offer everything from monthly luncheons to classes in yoga and even tai chi.

Other activities include bowling, pinochle tournaments, book reviews, bingo, self-help seminars, computer training classes, social game afternoons, fishing outings and monthly day trips.

"Our day trips are very popular," said Director Mary Swanson.

With a staff of 6 and a number of volunteers, MaineStreamers take at least two day-trips a month. Their most recent outing was a bus trip to see "The Lion King."

Extended tours are taken at least once every other month.

Trips have been taken to national parks and the Great Lakes. Transportation, accommodations and most meals are included.

Some seminars have included RTA's Reduced Fare Program, Maine Township's Native Prairie Garden Program, Healthy Cooking, Rules of the Road, Protecting Your Retirement Nest Egg, and Health and Medication. These seminars are offered for a nominal fee.

The program also emphasizes social issues and cultural diversity programs.

Inter-generational programs jointly conducted by MaineStreamers and local school districts for elementary and high school students allow MaineStreamers the opportunity to share their knowledge, experience, education, and skills with students who may not have older relatives nearby to share in their activities, listen to their concerns, and help them with their studies.

MaineStreamers is funded through Maine Township. Members pay individually for the activities.

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Niles residents share a 'Night Out'



Taylor Embry, 7, of Niles gets fingerprinted by Niles Police Officer Joe Paglia at the National Night Out celebration at Golf Mill Park, Tuesday evening, August 5. Besides fingerprinting, police photographed the children, and collected basic information on the child for the parents to have on hand for identification.

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Police Blotter

Morton Grove

The following items were taken from official reports of the Morton Grove Police Dept. for the week ending Friday, Aug. 8.

Burglary

More than \$2,000 worth of tools were taken from a public storage locker in the 8600 block of Waukegan Rd. sometime between July 7 and August 3, 2003. The owner of the tools said a bolt cutter was used to cut off the lock.

Headstone leads to investigation

Morton Grove police are investigating the discovery of a 49-year-old gravestone found in the yard of recently purchased home in the 9000 block of Linder, August 4.

According to police the owners of the property called authorities after they discovered the small gray headstone near the south end of the building. The stone had the name Baby Judith Harris, September 12, 1953 - December 12, 1953.

Police contacted the previous owners of the home, Russ and Sandra Villano, and were told that the gravestone belonged to the child of their in-laws.

They said upon their death the in-laws were later in the same plot as the child and at that time they removed the child's grave stone and replaced it with one containing the names of all the family members buried in the plot. The previous owners said they brought the child's headstone home and placed it against the wall in the back yard.

Police asked the new owners of the property to delay any demolition until they could investigate further.

Theft from auto

Tools valued at \$1,250.00 were taken from a 1999 Ford van in the 5700 block of Keeney, sometime between August 2, and August 4. According to police, the owner of the van said he was on vacation when employees called him about the burglary.

Handicap Parking discovers fraudulent placard

Parking in the wrong place at the

wrong time led to a Morton Grove police officer confiscating a fraudulent handicap parking placard August 1.

According to police, a Morton Grove police officer on patrol seen a car parked in a handicap spot in front of a Walgreen's store in the 5700 block of Dempster. The police officer seen the couple walk back to their car and approached them for their handicap placard.

According to the report, the driver briefly showed the officer the placard he had in the car. The officer asked to see the placard again and upon examining the placard noticed that the name on the placard did not match the driver or the passenger and that it was a copy of the original placard. After some questioning, the officer discovered the placard did not belong to driver or the passenger.

The officer confiscated the placard and issued the driver a ticket for parking in a handicap zone. Police said more charges may be pending.

Niles

The following items were taken from official reports of the Niles Police Dept. for the week ending Tuesday, Aug. 12.

Theft

An address book was discovered missing and a items disturbed after a man in the 9000 block of Clifton heard noises in his basement when he returned to his home after working in his yard. According to police, the resident was working in her yard and went back in the house for a moment when she heard noises in the basement. The woman said she had seen the legs of someone in the basement and ran out of the house. A witness told police the homeowner ran out the house shouting, "call the police." Niles police went through the home but the offender had escaped.

Theft from locker at YMCA

One hundred and sixty dollars and an ATM card were reported taken from a locker in the Leaning Tower YMCA, August 9. Police said no forced entry was made to the locker.

continued on next page

READ THE BUGLE

Pop Psychology

The Sing-A-Long Relationship Seminar Musical Opened at the Mercury Theater August 7.

Pop Psychology, the interactive, improvisational, non-stop hilarious, sing-a-long night at the theater is playing at the Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport, through September 21. This audience crowd-pleaser features musical advice from "Dr. Tony" (played by Tony Rogers) on dating, romance, the difference between the sexes, marriage, and heartbreak. By the end of the evening, you'll not only have sung along with Dr. Tony's original songs on the subject, but also various classic songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. You'll also be proclaimed a Pop Psychology "graduate!"

The fun doesn't come just from Dr. Tony. The audience will be asked to fill out surveys on their romantic history prior to the show, and what Dr. Tony does with these answers is not to be missed. You'll also witness an actual blind date on the stage of the Mercury Theater.

Hot off a smash run at Schuba's ("Extraordinary!" WXRT, "Exceptional fun." WBEZ, Critics' Choice, The Reader), the show has been ending nightly with the audience on their feet, singing along.

See Pop Psychology and you will, among other things:

- Heal the emotional scars from your teenage years with powerful ancient healing chants (circa 1981)

- Take the musical litmus test that will determine whether or not you've made a horrible mistake

- Save your marriage, make 'em love you again, or meet newly available singles

With lots of crowd participation, Pop Psychology is a different show every night. You are invited to bring a date or find your mate.

Produced by Darren Lee Cole, Pop Psychology is written and performed by Tony Rogers, who sings and plays acoustic guitar, accompanied by licensed piano masseuse Steve Kouba and bassist

Tad Santos. The show is directed by Michael D. Starceovich, a Second City grad.

The regular performance is Thursdays at 8 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. "Registration" for the seminar (important!) begins a half hour prior to show time. Tickets are \$20 on Thursdays and Sundays, and \$25 Fridays and Saturdays. Group Discounts for 10 or more are available by calling SHOWTIX at (312) 943-5056. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at The Mercury Theater Box Office at (773) 325-1700.

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For instance, how many homes has your agent sold in the last year, and in your neighborhood specifically? What is the agent's average "list-to-sale" price ratio? Determined by how closely the original listing price matches the final sale price, you want those numbers to be as close as possible.



Overpricing your home only extends its time on the market. An accurate market analysis will produce a price in line with other homes like yours, and guarantee consideration by buyers who comparison shop. So ask for your agent's average listing time on the market for a good indication of their pricing and marketing skills. Don't be afraid to ask what the agent will specifically do to market your home.

Finally, an agent can provide you with past sellers' feedback and testimonials. Successful agents build their listings by word of mouth and referrals from past clients. When you find the agent with the answers, you've found the agent to sell your home.

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Readers are advised that items appearing in the blotter are from police reports and only a court can determine guilt or innocence.

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Knightly News & Views

The Brothers of N.A.M. hope you are enjoying the good weather!

We're still taking reservations for the Formarty's Club's Steak-Fry, Saturday, August 23, in Flanagan Hall. The dinner will be handled in the finest tradition of the club. Reservations for the complete steak or chicken dinner, with all the trimmings, can be made by returning your sheet and funds to President Bob Galassi. Your opportunity to join the best event of the year was mailed to you or use the form in the bulletin! Social Hour - 6 p.m., Main Food Service will start at 6:30 p.m. Join us for the

outstanding food and best company available! We would like to surpass 200 attendees this year. Will you be one of the fortunate ones?! Join us!! For more info call Bob @ (847) 965-0920.

Bob Galassi would like to borrow any photos of the 50th Anniversary Mass, the Council Honor Guard and float for the 4th of July Parade or any recent event. Bob will pick them up and return them to you. Please contact Bob at (847) 965-0920.

Mark your calendar to attend the next regular Formarty's Club meeting, Wednesday, August 27, in Flanagan Hall, 7:30 p.m.

President Bob Galassi will report on all past and upcoming events. A special Contest of Skill will be presented with special rewards for attendees and competition winners. Come down to the meeting, renew your brotherhood and have some fun!

On September 3, N.A.M. will present a 1st Degree Exemplification prior to the regular meeting in Flanagan Hall. All Catholic gentlemen are invited to join us for this beautiful ceremony, joining this fantastic organization. For more information, contact membership director Leo Weiss @ (847) 689-1939. We have an invitation with your name on it - come join us!!

The Sheridan-Carroll Council will be hosting a special 1st, 2nd & 3rd Degree Exemplification on Sunday, September 14, in our area. All candidates for membership and 1st Degree Brothers are invited to attend these special ceremonies. For more information, contact Leo Weiss @ (847) 689-1939.

Please call or visit a sick friend. Keep in mind the many folks fighting illnesses who could use assistance. Also remember the deceased members of our family in your prayers and pray for the sick and distressed members of our K of C family. Keep the health of all family members in your prayers!

We all know some good Catholic men in our community that

could join the Knights. Most men do not join on the first attempt. Ask him!!! Continue to ask them to join! Do you have a son, a relative and/or neighbor who could join?! Please ask them to be a Knight. For more information on membership - call Leo Weiss @ (847) 689-1939.

Remember to consult the Council Web Page = www.northstarnet.org/prkhome/kofc4338/

K of C Auxiliary Invitation
If you like helping others and supporting a great organization you are a candidate for membership in the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary. All Catholic women are eligible to join this organization that assists the Knights in their work.

Council 4338 Ladies Auxiliary President Clara Weiss invites all women to attend the next general meeting for all members, scheduled for the first Monday of each month, in St. John Brebeuf Rectory, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles.

If you are interested in more information and/or joining this great organization, contact Kristine Wiechec @ (847) 965-9526 or attend an upcoming meeting. You will not be disappointed!!

The Brothers of North American Martyrs Council 4338, thank the Auxiliary members for their tremendous support and assistance to the Council throughout the year.

Northwest Choral Society

Northwest Choral Society Welcomes Singers for 2003-2004 Concert Season

The Northwest Choral Society (NWCS) invites experienced singers who enjoy performing four-part choral literature to become new members for its 38th anniversary season. The NWCS annually performs a winter holiday concert, spring classical concert and summer Broadway concert. The chorus also sponsors educational workshops for members and the public that focus on vocal technique and principles of musicianship.

The NWCS rehearses Tuesday nights from September to June from 8 to 10:10 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 855 Lee Street, DesPlaines, IL. Rehearsals for the 2003-2004 concert season will begin on September 2. Prospective new members who are at least 17 years of age are invited to call (847) 438-6740 to attend a NWCS rehearsal and arrange an audition with Music Director John H. Melcher.

The NWCS is a nonprofit community organization that has been performing classical and popular music in northwest Chicago and the surrounding suburbs since 1965. Numbering nearly 50 men and women, it is dedicated to encouraging the appreciation, study and performance of imaginatively programmed and carefully prepared choral works.

Illinois Insurance Hotline

Q: I've seen several ads for term life insurance coverage. What is term insurance, and is it something I need?

A: Term policies provide life insurance coverage for a limited time period, like 5, 10, or 20 years. Benefits are paid if you die during the term of the policy. There is no benefit (or refund) if you outlive the policy term. These are temporary plans with no cash value or savings features.

Term policies are popular for several reasons. First, they're straightforward. There's coverage if you die during the policy term. There are no savings or investment decisions to make. Second, they're less expensive. There are no added savings or investment handling fees, and there are plenty of companies competing for your business. Third, term coverage is easy to shop for. Quotes are available from local agents, direct marketers, and the Internet. Fourth, the term and amount of insurance can be tailored to meet your specific needs. You can buy coverage until your home is paid for, your children are out of college, or you retire. Finally, term policies typically include conversion options that allow policyholders to switch to whole life plans without medical exams.

There are downsides to consider as well. First, term policies have no cash value. You get nothing if you live past the policy term. Second, premiums increase with age. You'll pay a much higher premium if you decide to renew your term policy.

How do you know if term insurance is right for you? Determine coverage needs by evaluating your financial situation, your current standard of living, what you

want for your dependents or survivors, and other existing life insurance policies. Before making a decision you should have a clear understanding of the cost of the insurance, the terms of the policy, and the company's licensing status, financial stability, and complaint ranking.

Q: Can homeowners coverage be nonrenewed for losses that were beyond my control? What can I do?

A: Homeowners insurance policies are legal contracts where insurers agree to provide specific coverages for specific time periods. A nonrenewal notice means the insurance company is unwilling

to extend coverage for an additional time period.

There are a number of state laws insurers must comply with regarding nonrenewal notices, but companies are allowed to discontinue coverage based on claim activity. Thus, your policy may be nonrenewed for loss experience, provided the company sends the proper notice informing you of their intent.

What can you do? First, find out if your current insurer is willing to reconsider. Offer to take a higher deductible. Second, explore your options with other companies. And third, talk to your agent about the Illinois

FAIR Plan. The FAIR Plan is the market of last resort, and has two basic requirements: 1) You must make three attempts to buy coverage from insurance companies; 2) The property must meet basic fire, loss prevention, and safety standards.

Illinois Insurance Hotline is a monthly column based on consumer questions. The Hotline is a consumer resource sponsored by insurance companies doing business in Illinois. If you have questions about insurance, call the Illinois Insurance Hotline toll-free at 1-800-444-3338 between 9-4 Monday through Friday. We're here to help!

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First American Bank Adds Two Execs To Its Wealth Management Group

Elk Grove Village, IL August 4, 2003 The Wealth Management Group of First American bank is pleased to announce that two new executives are joining the team. Susan Berchiolli was named Vice President and head of its Retirement Plan Services Division. Also named was James L. Parsons who was appointed vice President and Senior Relationship Manager.

Susan Berchiolli is a graduate of Elmhurst College and holds QPA and CEBS professional designations. She was formerly Vice President and Employee Benefits Officer at Old Second National Bank in Aurora. James Parsons has been associated with the Trust and Investment markets serving individual clients for over 28 years, specializing in investments counseling, estate planning and retirement planning.

First American Bank's Wealth Management Group provides customized investment management, trust and retirement plan services to individuals and business. It has over 30 branch offices throughout the greater Chicagoland area.

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The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is a variable rate based on the highest Prime Rate published in the Money Rates section of The Wall Street Journal on the first business day of the month. Based on the 7/1/03 Prime Rate of 4.02% the following rates would apply: 3.70% APR for credit lines of \$100,000 or more; 3.95% APR for credit lines of \$25,000 to \$99,999; and 4.25% APR for credit lines of \$5,001 to \$24,999. The maximum APR is 18%. The minimum draw is \$500. Loan to value must be less than or equal to 80%. Monthly payments of interest only will result in a balloon payment. *No closing costs unless the purpose of the loan is to purchase the real estate used as collateral to secure the loan. Costs to satisfy certain prior liens may be assessed. A \$50 annual fee applies after the first year. A \$375 Early Cancellation Fee applies to any account closed within 36 months of its opening date. Property insurance is required, flood hazard insurance may be required. Consult your tax advisor about the deductibility of interest. Offer applies to owner-occupied 1-to-4 family residences secured by first and second mortgages. Subject to credit approval which includes verification of application information and receipt of collateral documents. © 2003 First American Bank. Member FDIC

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Book Buddies

Photos from story on page one

At left, David Jacob, 14, a Morton Grove Library volunteer, helps 8 year old Jamie Rohn pick out a book as part of the Book Buddies program. The library hopes to extend the program into the winter months on a limited basis.

Below, Thomas Rohn, 6, will head into first grade with some extra reading skills thanks to older readers like 12 year old Allison Netttrin, another of the Morton Grove Library's Book Buddy Volunteers.



North Shore Financial continues growth over five years of service to communities

BY JULIE MURPHY

Nestled within a row of nondescript office complexes along Dundee Road, you could easily drive pass North Shore Financial Services unknowingly. Yet, for over five years, under the ownership and guidance of the firm's president Olga Sheyn, North Shore Financial Services has acquainted itself with the North Shore community as a growing financial services provider. As a mortgage brokerage firm, the

company offers its clients a wide range of services, including refinancing, purchasing, new construction projects, and some equity lines.

North Shore Financial Services may be small in size, yet it is very competitive in its field. In addition to independent advertising, the company relies heavily on references from past clients and its partnerships with area realtors for new clientele. Although the number of full-time staff is limited, there are several loan officers available to

assist customers virtually 24 hours a day through employees' extremely flexible work schedule. Monday through Friday, the office is always open from 8:30-9:00a.m. to 7 or 8p.m., and on Saturdays from 11a.m. until 4 or 5p.m., along with some Sundays, all based on the needs of client.

North Shore Financial Services
3330 W. Dundee Rd.
Suite #C5
Northbrook, IL 60062
(847) 205 1003

New Niles branch of Mid-America Bank clears \$1 Million in deposits in first week



Pictured above, a crowd gathered Tuesday, July 29 for the ribbon cutting ceremony at a new Niles location of Mid-America Bank. The ceremony took place several days after the bank was open for business. The Bank's president announced at the ceremony that as of that day, the new branch had received \$1,000,000 in deposits. "We're excited to have Mid-America in Niles," said Village Manager Mary Kay Morrissey.

Dollars and sense

by David Uffington

A Risky Balancing Act

This week we'll touch on the third in the series of columns alerting you to the risks involved in trying to reduce your credit-card debt by using companies that promise quick fixes that usually wind up costing you more both in time and money.

I call this third practice "A Risky Balancing Act." It involves transfer-

ring the outstanding balance on your current high-interest credit cards to a low-interest credit card. Sounds good, until you know that this can often be self-defeating.

For example, the rates on those low-interest credit card offers are not fixed. They last, at most, for about three months, and then rise to your former, or even higher rate, which raises your outstanding balance once again. Shifting the balance to another low-rate card works. But only for a few months, and you're shifting once again. To make matters worse, each time you switch, a flag goes up on your credit report and soon you look like such a bad risk that even the card companies that had been flooding

your mail with offers now start rejecting your applications. That leaves you with your credit-card debts still weighing you down and, apparently, with no way to get out from under.

But that's not necessarily so. For one thing, a homeowner can find a fixed-rate home equity loan, which is sometimes available even to people with a questionable credit history. But not always.

Your best bet is to get advice from experts who are there to help you, not take advantage of your vulnerable situation. As I've mentioned in past columns, consider contacting the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. It's a free non-profit group (which gets paid by your creditors)

and will come up with a plan that will work for all the parties involved in your case. You can find an NFCC agency close to you by calling its 24-hour automated listing service at 1-800-388-2227. Good luck.

Write to Mr. Uffington in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 or send e-mail to letters.kfws@hearstsc.com.

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Garrett's Transportation Task Force Bill Signed

Garrett's Bill Creating Transportation Task Force Signed by Governor

Legislation sponsored by State Sen. Susan Garrett (D-Lake Forest) creating a regional transportation task force was signed into law by the Governor last Friday.

Garrett, who serves as Vice Chairman of the Illinois Senate Transportation Committee, and was the bill's chief sponsor in the Senate, acknowledges the goal of the new task force is to improve efficiency of the transportation system in Cook and the collar counties.

"There are currently 102

board members among seven agencies which deal with transportation issues in the Chicago Metro Area. This new task force will facilitate and better coordinate operations among these agencies, providing greater efficiency and safety for those who use what are some of the busiest highways in the country," she said.

The non-salaried board will consist of 22 members, 11 of which will be appointed by the Governor,

the four legislative leaders, and various transportation agencies. Garrett has ensured two of these members will be U.S. Congressional Representatives. The other 11 will serve as advisory, nonvoting members, and will be appointed by regional planning councils and elected officials.

The task force will present an advisory report to the Governor's office in March of 2004.

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "WEASEL." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds.



Answer: (Across) WAS, SEA, EAT, PAT, (Down) WEAS, SEAS, EAT, PAT

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson



What Can You Do With a Can?

You can recycle a can, clean with a can, store stuff in a can — and you might even be able to keep your kids busy and creative with a can. In fact, with these quick summer fun ideas with cans... I know you can!

BRAINSTORM

While rinsing out cans and peeling off the labels for these activities, exercise your brains and think of expressions using the word "CAN," such as "It was a can of worms," "It's in the can," "She has a can-do attitude," and "He got canned!" Then think of words that contain the word "can," such as "canister," "cantaloupe," "candy" and "canopy."

SHAKE AND CREATE

Loosely roll an 8-1/2-by-9-inch sheet of construction paper and tuck into a potato-chip can so that the paper

lines the interior. Pour different colors of acrylic paint in puddles on paper plates. Dip two or three marbles in the paint, one color per marble. Roll them around to cover them completely, then drop them in the can. Snap on the lid, shake a few times, remove the lid and pour the marbles onto newspaper. Remove the paper to reveal your modern art! Splashes of color will be scattered all over! Use the designer-looking paper for notecards or gift wrap, or trim it to size and glue to the outside of a soup can for a snazzy pencil-holder for your desk.

Note: You may use other size cans or containers with snap-on lids. Simply cut the paper to fit the inside before you begin.

BLOOMING WELCOME

When a relative comes to stay this summer, make him feel welcome by hanging a "canned" bouquet of garden flowers from his bedroom door. Wash out and remove the label from a standard soup can. An adult should use a hammer and nail to poke holes on opposite sides near the top rim of the shiny can, making sure all sharp edges are smoothed out. Thread ribbon or wire through the holes for a handle. Meanwhile, help your child pick several daisies, sweet peas or other garden flowers. Pour water in the can, arrange the flowers and hang from the outside door handle of the room.

SAFETY NOTE: Always be sure there are no sharp edges on a can before letting your child handle it.

Write Donna with your questions and ideas at www.donnaday.com. Donna's latest book, "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families," is available in bookstores nationwide.

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Local stars shine at Niles All-Star Tournament

BY BRENDAN DIAMOND

The stars are shining this month as the summer wears down. Niles' baseball teams comprised of local 9- to 13-year-olds competed against other nearby all-stars in "Round Robin" tournaments.

According to Dan Kosiba, who helps run the tournament from Grennan Heights, the "Round Robin" means, "Everybody plays everyone else." There are eight teams in each age group, and each team plays seven games no matter its record. In addition, Kosiba says, "Everyone gets a shot—that is, every kid on the team gets to bat." At the end of the Round Robin tournament, the four

teams in each age division with the best records participate in a single-elimination playoff.

Halfway through the tournament, the Niles teams are scorching the competition. "Right now, all the Niles teams are in the top four [in their respective tournaments]," Kosiba says. Victory may not be far behind.

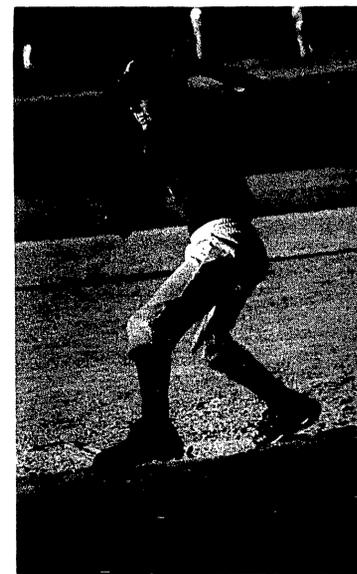
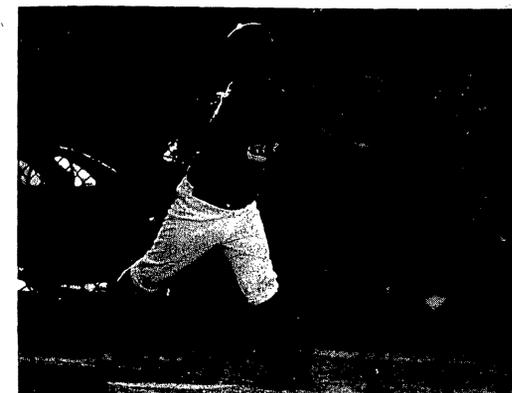
The teams involved in these all-star tournaments come from Niles, other suburbs such as Park Ridge and Oak Park, and Chicago neighborhoods like Oriole Park and Dunham Park. Each team has eleven players and three alternates.

"Each league has its own way of selecting its players," explains Kosiba. "In Niles, for example, the managers in the house league [the non-traveling league in

which everyone participates] nominate kids from their own teams. The managers then see all the kids at a tryout and vote on who they think are the best players. The top eleven are chosen for the team, the next three as alternates."

There are great hopes for the tournament. Kosiba says there is certainly a need for something like a Round Robin because kids need to be allowed to play as much as possible. "The kids that play at [other] tournaments could be on a team all season, but they might play two games," he claims. "In a Round Robin where everybody plays everyone else, all the kids get a chance."

The tournament ended Sunday, August 10.



Above, Anthony Stanfa of Niles connects for a base hit in the top of the third inning of their playoff game against the Gompers Park Phillies in the Niles Park District Summer Baseball All-Star game, Tuesday night, July 29, at Grennan Heights Park.

At left, Jeremy Burgos of Niles bears down to strike out Timothy Quintus of the Gompers Park Phillies in the bottom of the third inning.



The Game Remains the Same

There are a key series of games beginning this week in baseball, yet none involves a major-league team.

Instead, 16 teams from around the globe will meet in Williamsport, Pa., during a 10-day period to determine the winner of the 57th Little League Baseball World Series.

While the battle of 11- and 12-year-olds will be held on U.S. soil, there is a definite foreign aspect to what is often considered America's game.

Evidence of it certainly can be seen at the major-league level, where foreign players like Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki and Los Angeles' Hideo Nomo have notched high levels of success.

And foreign-based teams have won more often than not in recent years at Williamsport. In fact, in the past 10 years (1993-2002), the foreign squad has won seven times. It was seven-of-

nine before Louisville, Ky., behind pitching ace Aaron Alvey, defeated Sendai, Japan, in 2002.

Then there's the growing "foreign" influence of television. ESPN and ABC are teaming up to broadcast a record 27 games this year, with each team guaranteed to be on national TV at least once. ABC, which has telecast the championship game since 1963, will show the U.S. title game and the championship game in prime time during the weekend of Aug. 23-24. This all stems from a contract that began in 2001 and is reportedly worth a shade more than \$7 million over six years.

Along with that, some would argue that cheating — something that should be foreign to youth baseball — has increased as the Little League World Series has become more famous and more television-worthy. It was especially notable in 2001, when Danny Almonte's age became an issue, and in 2002, when a debate ensued as to whether certain players lived in a team's district.

Stephen D. Keener, the president and chief executive officer of Little League Baseball, told The New York Times in 2002 that such issues came up every year, but that they got more press now because the event was getting more attention overall.

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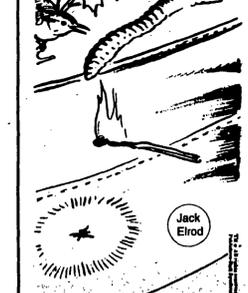
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 2. Morton Grove
 3. Niles
 4. Norwood Park
 5. Oak Park
 6. Oriole Park
 7. Park Ridge-Blue
 8. Park Ridge-Red
- 10 year-olds**
1. Dunham Park
 2. Edison Park
 3. Elmwood Park
 4. Gompers Park
 5. Humbolt Park
 6. Niles
 7. Norwood Park
 8. Park Ridge
- 11 year-olds**
1. Hiawatha Park
 2. Niles
 3. Norwood Park
 4. Oriole Park
- 12 year-olds**
1. Elmwood Park
 2. Humbolt Park
 3. Niles
 4. Norwood Park
 5. Oriole Park
 6. Palatine
 7. Park Ridge
- 13 year-olds**
1. Niles
 2. Park Ridge
 3. Oriole Park
 4. Norwood Park

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Sports QUIZ
by Chris Richneck

- Entering 2003, who are the only two pitchers in baseball history to have 20 saves one season and 20 victories the next?
- Name the last major-league franchise to switch cities.
- Only two linemen have won college football's Heisman Trophy. Who were they?
- Following the 2002-03 NBA season, how many consecutive seasons had a George Karl-coached team finished .500 or better?
- Name the only two NHL Stanley Cup champions to be swept in the first round of the playoffs the following year.
- Who scored a quicker heavy-weight boxing championship knockout — Hasim Rahman when he beat Lennox Lewis in April of 2001, or Lewis when he beat Rahman in November of 2001?
- Who was the last gelding before Funny Cide in 2003 to win the Kentucky Derby?

Answers:

- Wilbur Wood of the Chicago White Sox (1970-71) and Derek Lowe of the Boston Red Sox (2001-02).
- The Washington Senators became the Texas Rangers in 1972.
- Leon Hart of Notre Dame (1949) and Larry Kelley of Yale (1936).
- It has been 12 seasons.
- The Detroit Red Wings in 2003 and the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1952.
- Rahman scored a knockout in five rounds, Lewis in four.
- Clyde Van Dusen in 1929.

Morton Grove Park District Adult League Standings

Co-Rec Sand Volleyball AS OF: 7-24-03		Summer Basketball AS OF: 7-28-03	
CRASH	15-3	SLAVES OF GRAVITY	6-1
DEFECTORS	16-5	THE REGULATORS	5-1
WELTER PLUMBING	12-6	SCORE	5-1
W.P. / M.F.	12-6	DACARA SALON	4-2
MASTER FLOW	11-7	ILLANOTIX	3-3
DUNES	8-10	MONSOON	2-4
RUSTY'S	4-17	SCREAMING SAWBLADES	2-4
PINK PANSIES	3-15	CARTMEN	1-6
KOENIG & STREY	3-15	GRAPE SODA	0-6
Softball AS OF: 7-24-03			
MONDAY MEN'S 12"		EXPRESS	5-4
BREWDOGS	9-1	BUDWEISER	3-5
EXPRESS	8-2	RUSTY'S	3-8
TNT	8-3	12 INCHERS	0-8
THUNDERSTRUCK	6-5		
THE BALLERS	4-6	WEDNESDAY MEN'S 16"	
DUGANS DRUNKARDS	1-9	BRINGER INN	8-0
HOSS	0-10	RASCALS	8-1
TUESDAY WOMEN'S 12"		YOUNG GUNS	5-2
GATORS	11-1	M-BEST	5-6
RETURN OF THE JEDI	10-1	DRAGONS	3-5
JUST SHUT UP	9-3	JUGGY'S	3-5
SMACKERS	7-5	ADP	3-5
O.B.I.	5-7	COUNTRYSIDE	3-6
BALL BUSTERS	3-9	CREAM	1-8
V.I.P.'S	2-9		
V.I.P.-AMERICAN	0-11	FRIDAY CO-REC "A"	
TUESDAY MEN'S 16"		EL SOL	9-1
EL SOL	9-1	CRASH	12-0
ROUGHNECKS	8-2	LUNATICS	9-3
GAYNOR MONUMENT	8-2	FRIDAY KNIGHTS	6-6
POWERBALL II	6-4	CHAMPS	2-10
PREDATORS	5-5	FRIDAY CO-REC "B"	
SCRUBS	4-6	THE BLUES	11-1
KILLER PIGS	4-7	EXTREME SOFTBALL	8-4
HITMEN	1-9	HOT SHOTS	7-4
HIGHLANDERS	1-10	CHARLIES VARIETY	6-6
WEDNESDAY MENS 12"		YAHOOOS	4-7
COWBOYS	8-1	TAPPERS	4-8
BABYLONIANS	8-2	TRACKSIDE	4-8
BREWDOGS	6-4	PLUNGERS	0-12

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New Guerin Varsity Coach

Mother Guerin High School has named Johnnie Gage as the Gator's varsity basketball coach for the upcoming season. Gage, with an extensive and successful basketball career, is well known in the area, having coached at St. Vincent's and Trinity H.S. in River Forest.

Gage is anxious to get to work on the program at Guerin. Starting with the fundamentals and working toward contention are his main goals. "I consider myself a basketball 'teacher,' said Gage, "just passing along all the things that I've learned to my players." Gage believes he is a good fit for Guerin and is excited about the opportunity to make a difference in the school's program. "The girls will have to work hard," he said, "but the real goal is to execute and do the things we need to do to play the game and still have fun."

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Niles Park District halts Express hockey league

BY ANDREA SAVIANO

At a recent meeting, the Niles Park District Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to end the 20-year merger of the Niles Rangers House League and the travel league program the Express Hockey Association.

According to the NPD's Director of Hockey, Steve Glickman, the merger was dissolved due to the Express's failure to live up to the agreement of feeding over players to the Ranger House Program, while the Rangers sent a consistent number of players to the Express. Over the past few seasons, this unequal distribution caused the Niles Rangers' participation numbers to decline.

The NPD and Glickman plan to focus their efforts on building a competitive house league program.

"We intend to continue doing what we have been doing and that market and promote our quality program," said Glickman. "But now we will be encouraging the better, more talented and competitive players to stay with the Niles Rangers as we move to eventually have our own travel-all star program."

The Express was highly concerned about losing a high quality feeder program, however Glickman feels that the decision will greatly benefit the Niles Rangers.

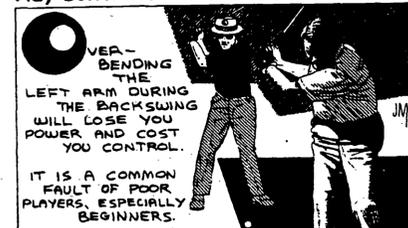
"We look forward to the new and exciting challenges that are ahead of us in offering a more diverse and exceptional hockey program for all levels of experience, talent and commitment."

Registration open for Niles fall youth soccer leagues

Niles Park District is accepting registration for Fall Youth Soccer Leagues. There will be programs for both girls and boys ages 4 to grade 8. Clinics and practices begin September 6th. Participants will get the opportunity to learn individual skills and teamwork, as well as enjoy the benefits of physical fitness.

Niles Park District will provide soccer uniforms, but the participants will need to purchase soccer spikes and leg guards. Registration is being held at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard Street. For any additional information about Youth Soccer, please call (847) 967-6975.

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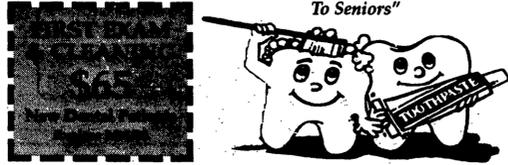
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by Andrea Wyatt
M.S.S., C.S.C.S.

Exercise More Without Getting Sore

Q I'd like to exercise more, but it seems I'm always aggravating soreness in my knees and back. Any suggestions on a fitness program that would go easy on those areas? — Fred W., Spokane, Wa.

A Finding the most effective and least aggravating form of exercise to fit your individual needs is extremely important.

No fitness program can meet everyone's needs. Therefore, it's necessary to assess your condition and goals before embarking on one.

There are many ways to design a fitness program that will lead you toward your fitness goals while allowing you to get there in one piece. Here are some suggestions:

• Modify high-impact forms of aerobic exercise. Exercises such as running or jogging as well as high-impact group exercise classes (such as step aerobics) all have the potential to aggravate both the knees and back. The repetitive stress on those areas can lead to soreness and injury if not tended to. If you're going to exercise

this way, be sure to move at YOUR OWN pace.

• Jump in the pool. Exercising in the water is a fantastic way to make fitness strides without the extreme impact on your joints. Whether you are swimming laps, "running" laps or completing a water aerobics class, this may be the relief your knees and back are looking for. The body is more buoyant in the water, allowing you to move through it without having as much stress on your joints.

• Make sure you are executing resistance and bodyweight exercises correctly. Incorrect training techniques account for many fitness setbacks. Make sure you are completing each exercise safely and with the appropriate weight or resistance. For example, doing lunges incorrectly, or poor posture when performing crunches are common causes for both knee and back aggravation, respectively.

• Last, but not least, speak with your physician and rule out any serious medical conditions or injuries that may be at the root of your soreness.

With modifications and careful fitness programming, you can make your fitness level soar without all the stress.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. If you have a fitness or training question, e-mail Andrea at letters.kfws@hearstsc.com or write her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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Amber Waves



by Dave Phipps



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Office 2003

Over 1,200 splash down in Palatine's Twin Lakes Recreation Area to 'Paddle in the Park'

BY ANDY SCHNEIDER

The 11th Annual Paddling the Park event drew over 1,200 people from the Northwest Suburbs and beyond to Palatine's Twin Lake Recreation Facility Saturday and Sunday July 26 and 27.

Boating organizations from as far away as North Carolina sponsored the event, which gives attendees the opportunity to take clinics in kayaking and canoeing. But the event didn't just draw people that were interested in learning how to sea kayak or solo canoe, it also drew families.

Among the organizations present were the Illinois Dragon Boat Association that sponsors races between teams piloting full Taiwan-style dragon boats. The boats are paddled by eighteen individuals who synchronize their efforts with a single person, beating a drum at the boat's front end. Clinic participants became familiar with the rhythmic sound and the passage of the 40-foot boat crowded with families.

Sigrid Pilgrim, the event chair for the last 11 years says she hopes to hold the organization again next year, but it all depends upon the volunteers.

"Between safety monitors, food tents, instructors, and clubs there are over 100 volunteers involved in making it happen," she said.

Attendees could participate in two-hour clinics for \$10. Among the clinics offered at the event were: solo and tandem canoeing, river and coastal kayaking, and kayaking for kids. Sailing clinics were planned, but high winds made and an ill chairman made it impossible.

14 vendors were present at the event, allowing participants to test-drive kayaks and canoes. Organizations such as the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association took individuals out on the lake in groups. Between them and the clinics, the water was crowded with excited and often soaked people.

"It's a great event," said Pilgrim. "I hope we can do it again next year."



Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• Someone once asked Mario Puzo, author of "The Godfather," if he had any rules for writing a best-selling novel. He replied, "Never let a domestic quarrel ruin a day's writing. If you can't start the next day fresh, get rid of your wife."

• According to folklore, if a woman gathered dew from under an oak tree during the month of May and applied it to her skin, she would be beautiful for a full year.

• It's reputed that President William McKinley always wore a red carnation in his lapel for luck. One day, he removed the flower to give to a young girl in a crowd. A few minutes later, he was shot.

• Chinese script has more than 40,000 characters.

• Soon there may be a new addition to the ever-growing electronics market: A computer disguised as a toaster. An inventor and his wife wanted a computer in the kitchen, but they didn't want the bulk of a conventional computer, and they didn't want it to look out of place. The solution: A processor placed in the body of a toaster, a flat-screen monitor that flips down from under a cabinet, and a wireless keyboard and mouse that can be stored in a drawer when not in use.

• Tongue prints are as unique as fingerprints. But I imagine that inking the tongue for purposes of identification will never catch on.

Thought for the Day: "A lie is an abomination unto the Lord and a very present help in time of trouble." — Adlai Stevenson

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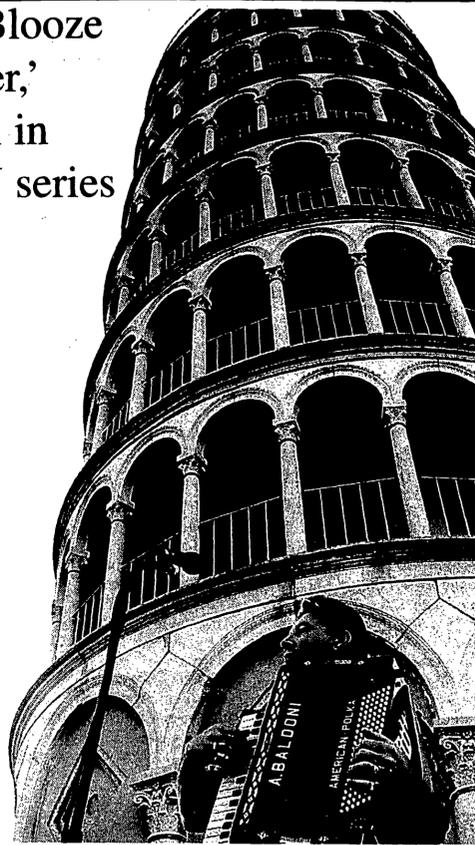
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Concerts from 'Blooze Brothers,' 'Jazmer,' 'Stardust' remain in Leaning Tower Y series

Now in its 5th year, the Niles Concert Series is as diverse as ever. Held at the Leaning Tower Plaza, four free performances still remain for this summer. The Casey Homel Polka Band performed last Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Remaining performances scheduled include the Blooze Brothers on August 14th, Jazmer on August 21st, and Stardust on August 28th.

The concerts originally began after Mayor Nicholas Blase and the Board of Trustees completed renovations of the Leaning Tower in 1997. The dedication ceremony included a performance by Italian musician Enzo Incadela which ignited such a great response, that the Village hosted three more concerts that summer.

At Right, Steve Meisner of Meisner Magic entertains hundreds with polka tunes at the Leaning Tower Concert, Thursday night, July 24. The free concerts are part of a series of various performers sponsored by the Village of Niles throughout the summer.



NILES SENIOR CENTER

SENIOR MEN'S HANDICAP BOWLING BEGINS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27th, 12:30pm
Men, consider joining this 20 team, friendly league - regardless of your experience level - good, average, or "haven't bowled in years." Shirts provided by local sponsors.
Kick-off Wednesday, August 27th, 12:30pm at Brunswick Lanes, 7333 Milwaukee. League play begins September 3rd, 12:30pm. Call 847/588-8420 for more information.

AUGUST REGISTRATION
In-person registration began Wed., Aug. 6th. Use registration form in August Guide. Pay by cash, check or credit card. Special accommodations needed? Call 588-8420.
Book Discussion - Friday, September 5th, 10:00am - 11:00am, \$1.
Join us as we discuss *Educating Esme*, by Esme Raji Codell. Refreshments included.
September Life Lunch & Movie - Friday, September 5th, 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Enjoy an Italian Beef lunch, followed by the musical *Chicago*, starring Catherine Zeta Jones, Renee Zellweger, and Richard Gere. (2002, PG-13). Cost: \$3.50.
Drive Wise, Stay Alive - Thursday, September 25th, 10:00am - 1:30pm

Traffic safety is vital for drivers of all ages, but older drivers experience physical changes that may affect driving ability. Presenters provide information on the effect of certain medications, suggestions on how to maintain driving skills, confront traffic challenges, and improve driver performance. Program is sponsored by Office of Chief Judge, Honorable Timothy C. Evans, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation. Complimentary lunch. Registration is required. Space is limited. Free **Evenings at the Center**
Arlington Jazz - Tuesday, Sept. 30th, 5:00pm - 8:30pm, \$10.
Sing, Sing, Sing! *Stormy Weather* and *Stardust* are just two of the songs you can dance or listen to. But first, enjoy a delicious dinner featuring Pasta served with Italian Sausage & Meatballs, Salad, Rolls & Dessert.
High Seas Fantasy - Friday, Oct. 10th, 5:00pm - 9:00pm

A special evening of dinner & dancing on the high seas. Your 5:30pm meal features Spinach Strawberry Salad, Teriyaki Shish Kabobs, Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Vegetables Thai Style & Dessert. Then get ready for the music of Ron Smollen Orchestra. \$20.
Canasta - Thursdays, Sept. 4th - 25th, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, \$8.

Learn this enjoyable game. Learn about melds, drawings, threes & more. This is a four week course. There is a minimum enrollment required.
Ceramics
AM Session: Thursdays, Sept. 4th - Dec. 4th, 9:00am - 11:00am, \$30.
PM Session: Thursdays, Sept. 4th - Dec. 4th, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, \$30.
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COMING SOON
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OBITUARIES

MILDRED MESSINA
Mildred Messina, 96, of Chicago, died Monday, July 28 at Resurrection Life Center. She was born June 15, 1907 in Chicago. Beloved daughter of the late Anthony Messina and the late Frances Messina. Sister of Angeline Cicero, Sophie (the late Bernard) Colantonio, Rose Messina and the late Tony Messina. Aunt of Constance Singer. Services were held July 30 at Immaculate Conception Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in St. Joseph Cemetery.

LAVERNE A. LUKA
LaVene A. Luka, 81, of Niles, died Thursday, July 31, 1999. She was born March 23, 1922 in Chicago. Beloved wife of the late Chester Luka. Beloved daughter of the late William Santowski and the late Ann Sass. Beloved mother of Carol (Ronald) Grohndieck, Elaine Johnson, Dolores (Thomas) Kevane and Gary (Kathy) Luka. Services were held August 5 at St. John Brebeuf Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in Maryhill Cemetery.

ANNA H. TOKARZ
Anna H. Tokarz, 92, of Morton Grove, died Thursday, July 31 at St. Matthew Home. She was born April 10 in Blue Island, IL. Beloved wife of the late John "Janz" Tokarz. Beloved daughter of the late Felix Brzezinski and the late Marianna Brzezinski. Beloved mother of Jerome (Kathleen) Tokarz and Michelle (Fred) Haney. Sister of Lillian Peters and Lillian Brown. Grandmother of John, Krista Tokarz, Anne (Arthur) Mees, Alexia Haney and Stefan (Megan) Haney. Great grandmother of Arthur J. Mees, III and Tryn Haney. Services were held August 4 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in Maryhill Cemetery. Memorials to: Alzheimer's Association, 4709 Golf Rd., Skokie, IL 60076. American Cancer Society, 625 North Ct., Ste. 280, Palatine, IL 60067-8162.

THERESA KACZMAREK
Theresa Kaczmarek, 88, of Niles, died Saturday, July 26. She was born May 24, 1915 in Chicago. Beloved daughter of the late Leon Metler and the late Victoria Metler. Beloved mother of Elaine (Ron) Wojcik, Marilyn Payne and James (Krys) Kaczmarek. Sister of Joseph (Tina) Metler, the late Agnes (the late Chester) Kunze, the late Eugene (the late Dolores) Metler and the late Frances (the late Henry) Danek. Grandmother of John & Robert Wojcik, Steven & Scott Payne, the late Wendy Payne, Thomas & Laura Kaczmarek. Sister-in-law of Emily Kaczmarek. Aunt of many nieces and nephews. Services were held July 29 at Our Lady of Ransom Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in St. Adalbert Cemetery.

BEN JANCHITRAPONVEJ
Ben Janchitraponvej, 58, of Niles, died Tuesday, July 29 at Lutheran General Hospital. Beloved husband of Lydia Janchitraponvej. Beloved father of Benjamin Richard Janchitraponvej. Also survived by parents, sister, and 2 brothers in Thaila. Friend of Dr. & Mrs. Sirichai and Victor Sirichai. Services were held August 2 at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Memorials to: American Cancer Society, 625 North Ct., Ste. 280, Palatine, IL 60067-8162, American Diabetes Assoc. American Lung Association.

PEGGY LYNN JOHNSON
Peggy Lynn Johnson, 59, of Niles, died Friday, August 1 at Hospice of North Shore. She was born June 24, 1944 in Chicago. Beloved daughter of the late Russell E. Johnson and Gertrude Johnson. Beloved mother of Sara Anastasia Johnson. Sister of Terry (Jean) Johnson. Aunt of Rebecca (Jack) Staszczek. Friend of Kirk (Hilary) Steinhaus. Services were held August 4 at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in Acacia Park Cemetery.

IRENE ZIEL
Irene Ziel, 82, of Park Ridge, died Tuesday, July 29. She was born March 20, 1921 in Chicago. Beloved wife of Chester Ziel. Beloved daughter of the late Paul Urkevich and the late Katherine Polanchak. Beloved mother of Christine (Leonard) Goduto and Kathleen (Charles) Szachowicz. Services were held August 1 at Our Lady of Ransom Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in St. Joseph Cemetery. Memorials to: Lighthouse for the Blind, 1850 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60608.

TIMOTHY ROGER HEIZA
Timothy Roger Heiza, 44, of Niles, died Monday, July 28. He was born June 23, 1959 in Chicago. Beloved son of Roger Heiza and Joanne Heiza. Beloved father of Alyssa. Brother of Donna de la Flor, Russell Heiza and Scott Heiza. Nephew of many aunts & uncles. Uncle of Ashlea, Michele, Ian & Teddy. Nephew of many aunts & uncles. Services were held July 31 at St. Juliana Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment was in Maryhill Cemetery.

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Tomb Raider 2 Dimensional

BY MIKE KONCZAL

If you were asked what you liked most about your favorite video game, all the elements of a good story would end up at the end of the list. Video games don't work well at creating engaging plots and charismatic characters. Their elements are all style and surface: graphics, noise, and flashiness. One would assume movies based off video games would suffer the same problem, and sure enough, *Tomb Raider 2* proves them right.

In the second installment of the movie franchise based off the popular Playstation video game, the elite British secret agent Laura Croft (Angelina Jolie) travels the world trying to stop a group of bio-terrorists from finding a mythological weapon of mass destruction. Like it's cinematic forefathers, James Bond and Indiana Jones, she is rushed from one exotic part of the world to the next with breathtaking speed. She switches outfits as

often as scenes all the while getting to play with all kinds of nifty toys, from scuba gear to parachutes to nifty watches, all capable of filling even the largest plot holes.

But the movie feels flat and boring. The things that separate the best action movies from the rest of the heap are all missing. The bio-terrorist villain that Croft chases across the globe is forgettable the moment he walks off screen. The awkwardly placed action scenes do not fill us with either awe or excitement. And the movie takes itself seriously in a way that leaves no room for any humor to entertain the audience.

Worst of all, Jolie lacks the presence needed to pull this movie off. An action movie is going to fail if the audience doesn't feel anything for the hero, and it seems impossible for Angelina to breath life into this video game character. And who can blame her for failing with a character known primarily for being two-dimensional?

Collecting by Larry Cox

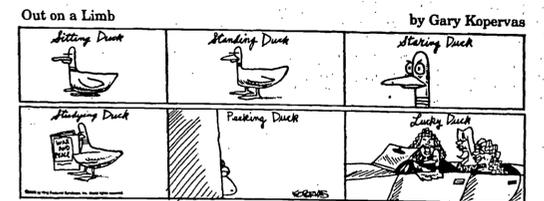
Q I collect cast-iron items, including toys, bookends, doorknobs and kitchenware. Can you recommend either a reference book or club so that I can establish values for some of these items? — Cynthia, Tampa, Fla.

A Iron is one of our most common elemental metals. According to the "Metalwares Price Guide," edited by Kyle Husfloen, scientists believe that early man probably extracted iron from meteorites and pounded it into primitive tools. As early as 1200 B.C., iron was being smelted and widely used in many cultures.

Cast-iron collectibles have become extremely popular. Husfloen cautions that reproductions of both cast and wrought iron have flooded the marketplace, so special care is necessary when buying. Newer cast pieces are generally cruder than their original counterparts.

Values listed in this excellent book include a cornbread pan manufactured by Griswold, Model F, \$75; a Little Red Riding Hood doorknob, \$396; lead toy soldiers, U.S. made and from WWI era, \$19 each; Scottie dog paperweight, 1930s, \$75; and a cowboy on bucking bronco bookend, \$195.

The just-released second edition of "Metalwares Price Guide" features more than 4,000 entries and hundreds of illustrations, including a 16-page color section. The book is \$17.95 and available from the publisher, Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990; www.krause.com; 1-800-445-2214.



Morton Grove Seniors

"RECHARGE, REJUVENATE AND RECONNECT"

Dr. Jerry Gore, Director of the Center for Holistic Medicine in Riverwoods will present this intriguing program from 1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. RECHARGE with good nutrition, relaxation and breathing techniques. REJUVENATE by harmonizing with the natural rhythms of the day and by using holistic medicines. RECONNECT with meaningful relationships and with inner wisdom. Gourmet pastries will be served. There is no fee for this class but registration is requested by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at (847) 470-5223.

This program will be preceded by a nutritious meal served by the Morton Grove Lunch Bunch at 11:45 a.m. For a lunch reservation call the Lunch Bunch at (847) 967-6876.

NEW VISIONS: HELP FOR SENIORS EXPERIENCING NEW VISION LOSS

The Catholic Guild for the Blind, in partnership with the Villages of Morton Grove, Niles and Skokie, will be presenting a dynamic new four-week program to help seniors who are experiencing new vision loss from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Fridays, Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. New Visions provides people with new vision loss and the people who support them, with practical tips to make their lives easier and safer.

The registration fee is \$15 for each session or \$50 for all four sessions and includes support person registration (highly recommended), skill building products, reference materials, and light refreshments. To register or for more information, please call Kerry Obrist at the Catholic Guild for the Blind at (312) 236-8569 or Jackie Walker O'Keefe at the Morton Grove Senior Center, (847) 470-5219.

55 ALIVE DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

AARP'S "55 Alive Driver Safety 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. The next course offered at the Morton Grove Senior Center will be held starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 16 and Saturday, Aug. 23. The cost of the course is \$10. Call the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at (847) 470-5223 to sign up.

"SUCCESSFUL AGING" LECTURE

Jay Lewkowitz, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Executive Director of Oakton Pavilion in DesPlaines will discuss "Negotiating Life Transitions: A Paradigm For Successful Aging" at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 20 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. There are many ways to approach change or transition. Mr. Lewkowitz will explore the nature of changes in one's life and aging in particular, as a life transition. He will urge participants to look at their own style of adaptation - what's worked in the past and what may need to be further refined for success in the future. Through the use of questions, exercises, and humor seniors will come away with some useable techniques for life application. Refreshments will be served and there is no charge for this program. Please register by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at (847) 470-5223.

This program will be preceded by a nutritious meal served by the Morton Grove Lunch Bunch at 11:45 a.m. For a lunch reservation call the Lunch Bunch at (847) 967-6876.

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

The rising rate of elder financial abuse around the country committed by greedy children and/or grandchildren is prompting an increasing number of states to enact tough laws to punish those who enrich themselves by stealing from their elderly parents. Similar legislation is also planned on the federal level.

The following are three of the more common abuses, and what you can do to protect yourself against them:

1. Abuse of powers of attorney. Instead of using these instruments to handle their elders' financial affairs (e.g., pay nursing-home fees, property taxes, etc.), these scoundrels use them to get their hands on their parents' funds for their own purposes. To prevent this from happening, do not grant powers of attorney to anyone unless you absolutely cannot handle financial or other matters on your own because of poor health or disability. If you do name a child or grandchild to act in your behalf, tell other family members. Chances are they'll keep an eye on the "chosen one" to make sure he or she doesn't abuse your trust.

2. Getting loans that are never repaid: The would-be borrower often cites a desperate need. How can a parent or grandparent say no? If you decide to lend money, get an I.O.U. noting the date of the loan, the amount, and how and when repayment is to be made. If the borrower balks at signing it, that should tell you something, and maybe you should send your "needy" offspring to a bank.

3) Taking over a parent's home and threatening to institutionalize him or her unless the deed is transferred to them: If threatened, file a police report. Contact your local adult protective services agency and your state attorney general's office.

For more information on financial elder abuse, as well as other forms of elder exploitation, contact the National Center on Elder Abuse at 1-202-898-2586 or www.elderabuse-center.org.

Write to Matilda Charles in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mails to letters.kfws@heartstsc.com.

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

I don't know how widespread it is, but I'm told that since the onset of the second Gulf War in Iraq, veterans of the first Gulf War are experiencing flashbacks that can range from mild to severe. Other veterans also report flashbacks, largely prompted by the "shock and awe" images they saw on television a few months ago.

Some psychiatrists say flashbacks are a good thing: that they help release repressed memories that lie hidden beneath our consciousness. I don't know if they're good or not. But I do know that if they interfere with normal living patterns (eating, sleeping, work, enjoying the company of family and friends, etc.) it's advisable to get medical help. And, of course, I welcome your comments on this or other topics.

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Local Service Helps Homeowners Find Reliable Contractors

So you want to remodel your kitchen...but you don't know a single, reputable contractor. Or you want to repaint your house, but none of the painters are returning your calls. Or you've just moved in...your roof is leaking...and you don't even have a phone book. "Where do you start? Who do you call? If you're a smart consumer, you contact The Home Improvement Network, a free contractor referral service that services all of Chicagoland, including all the north suburbs and the city of Chicago. Whether you call in your project, or submit it online, you will get connected to several reliable contractors - all established, pre-screened, local area contractors eager for your business. And yes, all this is free for you, the homeowner.

"What's the catch?" you ask. There is no catch. The Home Improvement Network was established in 1998 to fill a void in the home improvement industry...to provide reliable and available contractors to the homeowners that need their services. The Home Improvement Network connects reputable contractors with qualified customers, and the service is unique to the Chicagoland area. While there are other contractor referral services, most of them are national and internet-based. They can't necessarily evaluate contractors first-hand, or offer the level of personalized service that The Home Improvement Network can.

Pete Thomas is the owner of The Home Improvement Network, and he carefully, and personally, evaluates all of the contractors that service this area. Each contractor is interviewed in person by Pete, references are verified, and proof of current insurance is obtained before any contractor can become a member of the service. In addition to being reputable and reliable, each contractor must have a reasonable level of availability and must pledge two assurances: to service ten homeowners a month...and to return all phone calls. In return, the membership contractors pay a monthly fee based on the amount of referrals they receive from the service. Membership contractors do not raise their costs or fees because they use The Home Improvement Network, and The Home Improvement Network never receives a percentage of any projects their contractors complete.

Since 1998, over 15,000 homeowners have used The Home Improvement Network to find quality home improvement professionals for their next interior or exterior project. Armed with an abundance of dependable and available contractors in the area, Pete often exhibits at local home improvement shows to meet local area residents that may need his service. You may have personally run into Pete at The Home Improvement Network booth at the Lincoln Park home show at De-

Paul University in May, or at some of the other home improvement shows this past Spring, including at the Arlington Race track in March.

To date, there are over 225 contractors in The Home Improvement Network, many of which cover the northern, western, and southern suburbs for the vast majority of home improvement projects, including decks and brick-paver patios, kitchen & bathroom remodeling, roofing, handyman work, and more! Maybe you are looking to install a new floor? If so, then Wendel Stahl of Romanian Flooring, based in Niles, is ready to give you a free in-home estimate for your project. Perhaps you tell the Home Improvement Network that you need your kitchen, bathroom, or basement remodeled? Then Kitchen and Bath Corner Inc. located in Park Ridge, would likely be calling you to schedule an appointment at your convenience. Whether it is smaller handyman projects via F&G Remodeling on the north side of Chicago, or landscaping and brick-paving services by Landscape 21 out of Glenview, there is a Home Improvement Network contractor available and ready in all of Chicagoland to give you a free estimate right away!

"There is a great deal of distrust between consumers and

contractors," says Pete. "A lot of it is simply lack of communication." The Home Improvement Network staff talks with each of the homeowners so they can understand the full scope of the project. Then they can match them up with the right contractors for that type of job. "We only refer contractors who have the capacity to take on new work. Construction is still largely a mom-and-pop industry, which means a contractor can only handle so many projects at once. When they're already busy, they tend not to re-

turn phone calls. Finding a good contractor doesn't have to be a negative experience," explains Pete. "Our job is to take the headache out of it."

To inquire about receiving free estimates for your next home improvement project, or just to get more information about The Home Improvement Network, please call toll-free at 1-(800) 553-1810, or submit your project online at www.thehomeimprovement.com and a customer service representative will contact you right away!

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VETERANS POST
by Freddy Groves

I don't know how widespread it is, but I'm told that since the onset of the second Gulf War in Iraq, veterans of the first Gulf War are experiencing flashbacks that can range from mild to severe. Other veterans also report flashbacks, largely prompted by the "shock and awe" images they saw on television a few months ago.

Some psychiatrists say flashbacks are a good thing: that they help release repressed memories that lie hidden beneath our consciousness. I don't know if they're good or not. But I do know that if they interfere with normal living patterns (eating, sleeping, work, enjoying the company of family and friends, etc.) it's advisable to get medical help. And, of course, I welcome your comments on this or other topics.

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Leave it hanging on a sturdy branch, and watch the birds feast!

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THIS IS A HAMMER

By Samantha Mazzotta
Sweaty A/C Unit

Q. We have a 10-year-old ranch home with a crawlspace that slopes from about 2 feet to 4.5 feet with the tall end underground. We have a heat pump with the electric furnace and air handler mounted to the floor joists in the tall end. The main ducts are insulated metal with insulated flex ducts going to each room. The problem is, on humid days when the A/C is on, the air handler and all the ducts sweat so much that water puddles on the plastic covering the ground. I don't recall this condition in years past, and I was thinking of putting a fan down there to circulate the air. Is this condition normal? If not, do you have any suggestions? — Russ, via e-mail

A. I'd say that since the amount of condensation you're experiencing is new, it's not normal. After all, you've had humid days in the past without this problem. In this case, I'd say the age of your system has something to do with it. Few air conditioning units (or heat pumps) have warranties past 10 years, and for good reason — the unit's age can mean more breakdowns or maintenance problems, and parts are harder to come by.

This doesn't mean that you need to replace your current heating/cooling system. The condensation problem

may be a relatively easy fix. You're on track regarding air circulation in the crawlspace. Better airflow will reduce humidity, and subsequently reduce the amount of condensation caused by warm, humid air meeting cool metal. Also, your main and flex ducts are insulated, which also reduces condensation and increases cooling (and heating) efficiency. By all means, try running a fan in the crawlspace and see what happens. (Make sure it's placed in a dry spot, of course.) Some do-it-yourselfers also recommend using a dehumidifier in enclosed spaces.

Two common problems (with just about any A/C unit) are leaking drain pans and clogged drain hoses. An air conditioner removes moisture from the house and condenses it on the refrigeration coils. From there, the water collects in a drain pan and then exits via a drain hose. Scott Meenen of G&S Mechanical Services in Maryland (www.toad.net/~jsmeenen) recommends cleaning the drain hose using a wet/dry vac to suck out debris. The drain pan should be cleaned as well.

More serious causes are out there, however. When checking the drain pan, look for holes or damage caused by rust. A hole in the drain pan means that both the pan and the condenser coils must be replaced. Check the condenser coils themselves for oil or grease spots, which prevent water from condensing properly. To fix either of these situations, bring in a professional who deals specifically with heat pumps.

Send questions or home repair tips to homegurur2000@hotmail.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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RACING

by Greg Zyla



Richard Childress and Robby Gordon in victory lane after Gordon won the road course event in June at Infineon Raceway in California. (Harold Hinson/RCR Photo)

An Interview with Richard Childress

As founder and head of Richard Childress Racing Enterprises, Inc. (RCR), located in Welcome, N.C., Childress has been at the car owner helm since mid-1981, when he exited the cockpit of his own Winston Cup race car to assume the duties as an official car owner for a young, champion-caliber Dale Earnhardt. Childress is the first NASCAR team owner to win championships in Winston Cup (Dale Earnhardt — 1986, '87, '90, '91, '93 Earnhardt '94), Busch Grand National (Kevin Harvick — 2001) and Craftsman Truck Series (Mike Skinner —

1995), earning more than 100 victories. Childress' current team of drivers includes Kevin Harvick, Robby Gordon and Steve Park in Winston Cup, and Ron Hornaday and Johnny Sauter in Busch Grand National.

ZYLA: Richard, in the past you've been accustomed perhaps to better overall performances on the track, but right now you've visited victory lane in 2003 in Winston Cup with Robby Gordon, while Kevin Harvick is seventh in points following the New Hampshire 300. Your Busch Grand National teams also are doing well. How do you view your performances on the track as related to your performances for your major sponsors?

CHILDRESS: Our major sponsors — GM Goodwrench, Cingular and AOL/Time Warner — are happy because we've been competitive and been up front in a lot of races. Sometimes the results don't show it, like when Kevin (Harvick) ran out of fuel with two laps to go running second at Chicago. He would have been fifth in points if we had finished.

ZYLA: How many teams have really top-quality sponsors?
CHILDRESS: With the exception of four or five cars in Winston Cup, every team has top-quality sponsors and top-quality marketing departments. So, somebody has to run 30th every week.

ZYLA: You've been in this form of racing for 35 years, and I believe I counted 35 sponsors listed in your press kit.
CHILDRESS: We've been very fortunate to associate ourselves with many great companies. Our major sponsors in Busch are Payday and AC Delco, and then we have 30 support sponsors. The sponsors have great marketing groups that can market in excellent fashion even a 10th-place

car. But that's how it is nowadays in Winston Cup. Tenth-place cars receive lots of attention.

ZYLA: Staying on that premise, I just read Bones Bourcier's column in the September issue of *Speedway Illustrated*, and he noted that Helio Castroneves and Gil de Ferran were waiting for a flight in an airport, and barely a few people recognized them. But if the driver walks into a Winston Cup points walk in a Winston Dixie, there will be a ruckus in Aisle 3. Good point, and I'm sure it's what you are relating to.

CHILDRESS: Exactly. The marketing tools we have with television exposure and all of the specific marketing of NASCAR's people, from crew chiefs to owners, means you end up with a great marketing end result. This

is why some of the owners, mechanics and crew chiefs in NASCAR are as popular as the greatest drivers in other forms of racing.

ZYLA: Let's talk about NASCAR's new sponsor for 2004, Nextel. How do you feel about the other wireless companies, with the exception of those already involved (Cingular, Childress; Alltel, Penske), not being allowed to come in?

CHILDRESS: It's simply policy. A non-R.J. Reynolds cigarette company couldn't get into Winston Cup either. Marlboro couldn't come in and have a car because Winston was our major sponsor. I do think, however, it is a very good move on NASCAR's part to grandfather Cingular and Alltel to their current teams because they were already involved.

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Niles Police dogs show off crime-fighting skills

BY BRENDAN DIAMOND

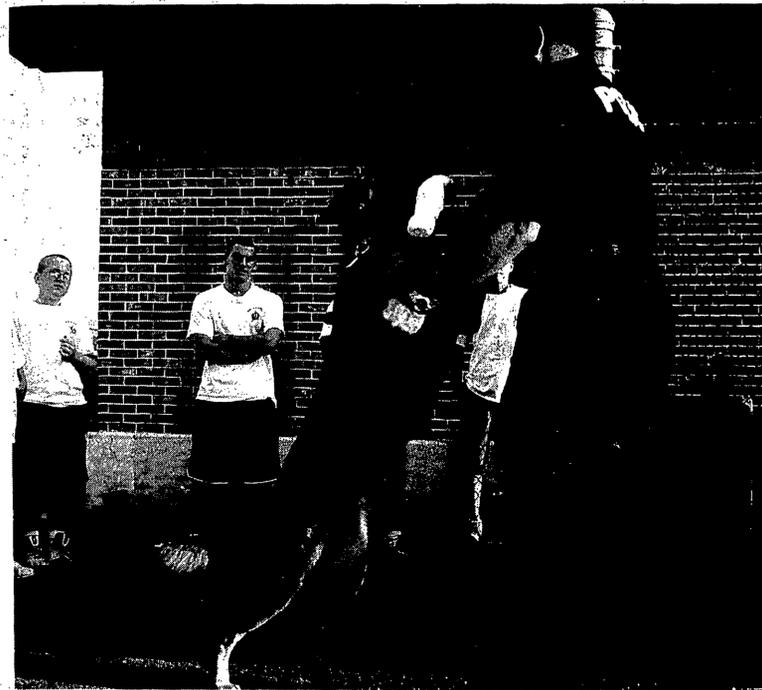
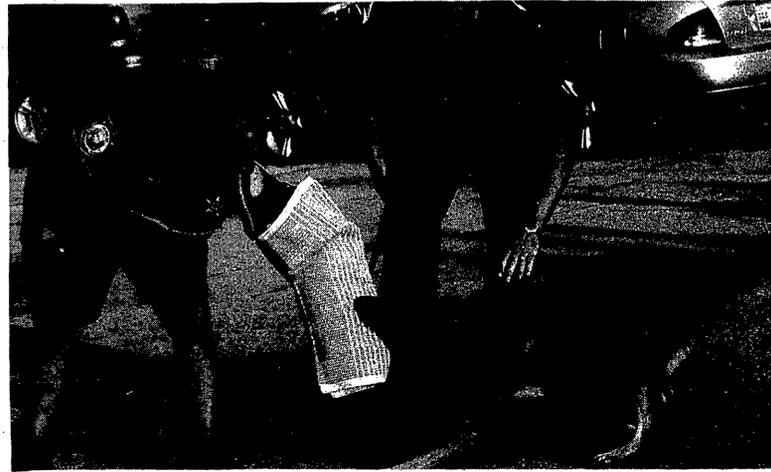
The Niles Police Department went to the dogs last week. And that's a good thing.

The Niles Youth Police Academy, made up of 7th-10th graders in Niles, witnessed the Department's canine unit Wednesday, Aug. 8.

"[The Youth Police Academy], like the Citizen's Police Academy, gives kids insight of how the police department operates," said Deputy Chief Charlie Giovannelli. "It's very general; the curriculum isn't that sophisticated, since it's geared at a younger audience." But the dogs were certainly a high-

The canine officers, Noah and Max, are the unit's dogs. "We've had Noah, who's a golden labrador, for several years," Giovannelli continues. "Max, the German Shepherd, is newer."

The dogs were trained in Indiana, where an academy for canines trains dogs for many different units, including those in both the suburbs and Chicago. "[The Niles dogs] receive the same training as the ones in the City," Giovannelli says. They are trained to "sniff out" apprehension in suspected law-breakers, drugs, and scents for tracking.



At left, "Max" a 3-year-old German Shepherd sniffs out drug residue hidden in a trailer hitch during a demonstration of the dog's amazing sense of smell.

Top right, Niles patrol officer Robert Tomabene (left) wears a protective bite sleeve while Max hangs on during a demonstration by Niles K-9 officer Joe Romano on how the dog subdues a suspect.

Bottom right, Showing his affection and not wanting to give up his chew toy, Max gets up on the shoulders of his handler Niles police officer Joe Romano.

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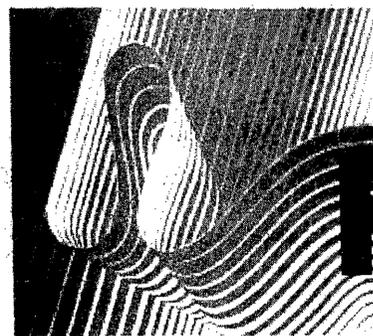
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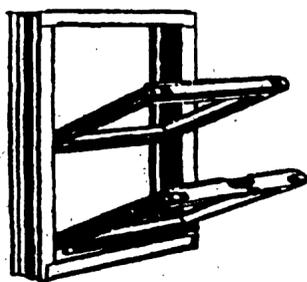
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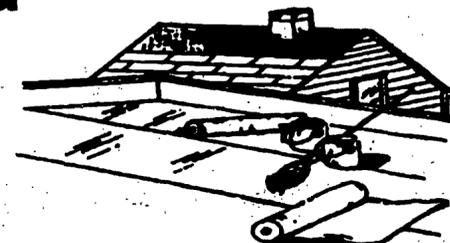
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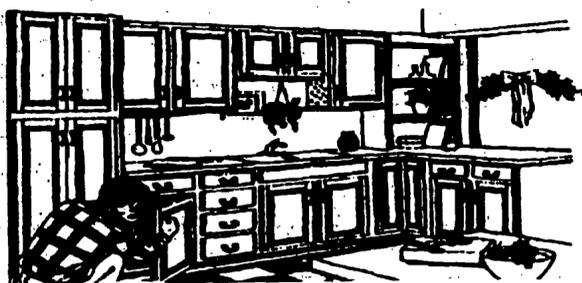


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