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THE

BUGLE



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DEC 25 2003

Thursday, December 25, 2003

Vol. 47 No. 26

NilesBugle.com • ParkRidgeBugle.com • MortonGroveBugle.com

Morton Grove man returns from Iraq

BY WENDY ELLIS
wellis@buglenewspapers.com

Fallujah is a dangerous place to be an American. Sargon Yalda, an Iraqi born resident of Morton Grove, who became a U.S. citizen 25 years ago, can tell you first hand just how dangerous it is. For the past six months he has been serving as an interpreter for the U.S. military police in Iraq, and spent much of his time in and around that often violent Iraqi city.

and sons that it was something he needed to do. After only a few days of training in Oklahoma, Yalda was shipped to Baghdad, his home town. But he stayed there only one night before being assigned to a National Guard unit from Rhode Island, the 115th Military Police.

"My first three months were in Fallujah," said Yalda, "It was tough there, but we survived. We faced a lot of hostility from the locals." Yalda spent much of his time with the Fallujah Iraqi police, coordinating with the American MP's. Fallujah is a city of half a million people, and Yalda said the Americans had 130 miles of city and surrounding desert to cover every day.

"We'd go up and down the highways looking for trouble," he said. "Most of the time I felt extremely protected. I always had one or two people with me. I was their tongue. Nobody else could speak it." Once, however, he suddenly realized that he was alone in a crowded marketplace. Still talking to the locals, his unit was driving
(See *IRAQ* on page 7.)



Morton Grove Resident Sardon Yalda, who was born in Iraq recently returned from Iraq where he was serving as an interpreter for the U.S. Military. Photo courtesy Sardon Yalda.

Dist. 219 Board approves tax referendum for March 2004 ballot

Proposed tax increase of 23 cents per 100 dollars on the ballot

A tax referendum will be put before the voters in Niles Township High School Dist. 219 in March, 2004. The Dist. 219 Board of Education voted at its meeting Dec. 15 to ask the taxpayers to increase their tax rate by 23

cents per \$100 thousand equalized assessed valuation (EAV). That would amount to an increase of about \$108 a year for the average Niles Township homeowner. The increased amount is actually 3 cents less than one recommended by the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC), a group of community members who were asked to recommend budget cuts and possible solutions to the district's budget problems

The meeting was held in the auditorium at Niles North High School to accommodate the large crowd of residents who showed up to comment on the proposed increase. A number of people stood to express opposition to the referendum, while still others spoke in favor of it. Students were also on hand to urge the board not to make anymore cuts in programs like sports and fine arts.

Last year, the FAC recom-

mended over \$4 million in increased fees and budget cuts, in addition to \$3 million the previous year. The district has hired a consultant to evaluate the structure of the district's administration for possible cost saving recommendations. That report is due in January.

"An education fund increase is necessary because our sources of revenue have not increased at the same rate as our continually rising operating

costs," said Superintendent Neil Codell. "Including escalating special education costs, growing health insurance expenses, increasing student enrollment and unfunded state and federal mandates." At the same time, Codell said that if approved, the referendum would not be a permanent cure for the district's financial woes, but should give the district some stability at least until 2010.



Letters to Santa

Writing to Santa

For many years *The Bugle* has published letters to Santa written by students at St. John Brebeuf School in Niles. For this year's letters, turn to pages 11 and 12.



Saving our Preserves

Maine South student Sandy Boltryk turns away from the heat of a fire of deadwood Saturday morning Dec. 6 in the Forest Preserve Damn #4 which neighbors the High School. For the story, turn to page 13.



Cradling your opponent

Notre Dame's Rusty Trella (left) goes for a take down against Tom Cornille of Maine South in their match at the Maine East sophomore tournament Saturday morning Dec. 20. For coverage on Hawk wrestling, turn to page 20.

News

Morton Grove hires new personnel

BY WENDY ELLIS wellis@buglenewspapers.com

A new Finance Director will be on board in Morton Grove beginning Monday, Jan. 5. Scott Newkirk, formerly Assistant Finance Director in Niles, will take over the job in Morton Grove that has been vacant since the departure

of Dave Erb. Erb resigned in July to take a similar job in Mount Prospect. Newkirk takes over at a time when the village is looking for creative ways to avoid a budget shortfall next year. Several new taxes and fees have been implemented as part of the village's efforts to balance the 2004 budget.

Also joining the Morton Grove Village staff will be Ryan

Gillingham as City Engineer. Gillingham starts his new job Jan. 2. He has been working as an engineer at the Glen in Glenview. Gillingham replaces former Village Engineer Noel Basquin, who also resigned last July to take a job in Batavia. Both Newkirk and Gillingham received the nod of approval from the village board at its meeting, Dec. 8.

Village seeks dismissal of residents' lawsuit

BY WENDY ELLIS wellis@buglenewspapers.com

Attorneys for the Village of Morton Grove have filed a motion in federal court asking that the lawsuit filed against them by a neighborhood organization be dismissed. Ted Hadley, of Chicago law firm Chilton, Yambert, Porter and Young, says the motion asks that all federal and state charges of civil rights violations against the village and several of its officers, be dismissed on the grounds that the neighborhood organization does not have the right to sue.

have the right to complain about improper prosecution are the people

"The only people that have the right to complain about improper prosecution are the people being threatened by the prosecution."

Ted Hadley-lawyer representing Morton Grove

"You must have legal standing to bring suit," said Hadley. "The only people that

being threatened by the prosecution. Just because you're standing next to the cop with the radar gun when a speeder goes by doesn't give you the right to tell

him to arrest that driver." The lawsuit charges that the village and its officers have failed to fully enforce village zoning and parking laws at the Muslim Education Center, 8601 Menard, especially during Friday worship services at the school. Hadley says his filing also argues that the Morton Grove Organization (MGO), LLC, the neighborhood group, as an entity does not own property, so it has not suffered any damages.

The MGO, LLC, has until January 7 to file a response in federal court in Chicago. Federal Judge Paul Plunket recently threw out federal charges of civil rights violation on the part of the Muslim Community Center, a defendant in the same lawsuit. Several state charges still stand against the MCC.

THE BUGLE

Index | Weekly Vol. 47 No. 26

- Niles & Morton Grove Blotters... p. 6
Calendar... p. 8
Business... p. 11
Park Ridge... p. 13
Park Ridge Blotter... p. 14
Sports... p. 17
Life... p. 21
Seniors... p. 23
Home... p. 25
Classifieds... p. 28

Staff

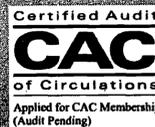
Publisher: Richard Masterson
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Display Advertising: (847) 588-1900 ext. 124
Classified Advertising: (847) 588-1900

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

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News

Countdown to 'Taste' already begun

Food may be the focus for the hundreds of people who visit the annual "Taste of Morton Grove", but that's probably the easiest cog in the wheel for the people who plan the party. It may only be December, 2003, but for "Taste" chairwoman Terry Liston and her people, the countdown to March 4, 2004 has already begun.

The "Taste", which treats ticket holders to a sample of the fine cuisine offered by restaurants in and around Morton Grove, is into its sixteenth year, and has already outgrown two locations. This year's event will be held at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6845 N. Milwaukee, Niles, and planners are hoping its ample parking lots will solve one of the biggest problems for recent "Tastes"-no place to park.

Twenty local charities and service organizations are on the list of this year's recipients, with the largest amount going to the Maine-Niles Association of Special Education (MNASR). This is only the second year that the "Taste" committee has chosen to give a large part of the evening's proceeds to one major beneficiary.

"To some larger organizations like MNASR, Little City and LaRabida Hospital, a thousand dollars might not mean as much as it does to a smaller organization," said Mike Simkins, committee chair for beneficiaries.

That doesn't mean smaller groups won't get anything.

"There are a lot of under the radar beneficiaries," said "Taste" Chairwoman Terry Liston. "Like the Friends of the Morton Grove Forest. We might give them \$1,000 which is a fortune to them."

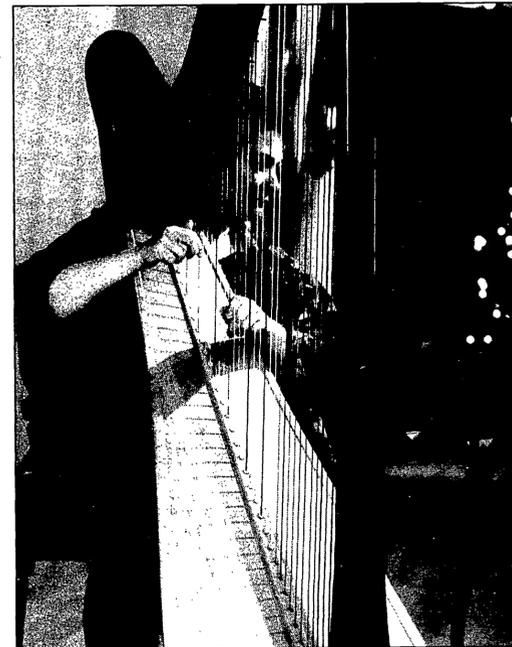
MNASR services disabled residents throughout the North and Northwest suburbs by providing them with hundreds of recreational programs throughout the year. Summer camps, theater outings, athletic contests, art classes, computer classes, dances, are all part of the MNASR programs that touch hundreds of lives.

"The Foundation has been very generous to us, and very supportive of the services we provide," said MNASR Executive Director Sue Bear. "Last year, we targeted the money from the foundation for scholarships for our day campers. There is a great need among our families for assistance. Of our 85 daycampers, 40 percent were scholarshiped."

One of the primary sponsors of the "Taste" from the beginning has been MB Financial Services. This year the bank has given an additional \$2500 to help the Morton Grove Foundation pay for a new web site that will promote the "Taste" and better highlight the beneficiaries of the "Taste" pro-

ceeds. Keep an eye out for www.mortongrovefoundation.org. It will also provide information on the many business and private groups that sponsor this one and only fundraising event for the Morton Grove Foundation. The Foundation is always looking for sponsors to help offset any costs of the "Taste". Sponsorships begin at \$500, or businesses can buy an advertisement in the "Taste" Ad book for \$50 to \$250, or the business can provide a product or service free of charge. Pre-sold tickets cost \$25 and will go on sale soon. That evening, tickets to get in cost \$30, patrons can take a chance at winning money on a square board, or buy tickets for a raffle of some impressive items.

Simkins says people are more than generous. "They know a very high percentage of their donation goes to a good cause." Having been around for most of the previous 15 "Tastes", Simkins says one thing has always impressed him. "This is the only thing that incorporates all facets of the community-village government, park district, schools, business, even public works," said Simkins. "Everybody jumps on the band wagon." This year's theme will be "All that Food", so dust off your spats and fringed frock and get ready for a roaring good time.



Hum and Strum

Harpist Robin Galante performs at the Niles Public Library Open House, Sunday afternoon, Dec. 7.

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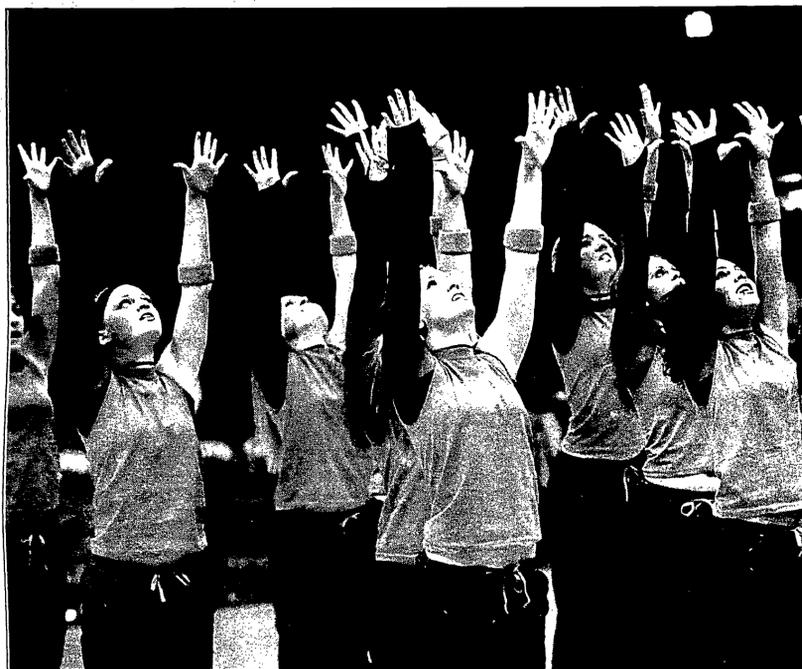
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SPORTS



Reaching for the stars

Maine South's Hawkettes entertain the crowd at half-time at the Maine South game against Hersey, Saturday night Dec. 20 at Maine South. The Hawkettes recently won the Illinois Drill Team Association dance competition in Summit.

A Sporting View: The Pivotal Point

By Chris Richcreek

Truth is that you can be successful and still not be successful enough. Even winning coaches can be fired for one reason or another—whether it be one bad season, a key personality conflict or just not winning enough. Many coaches have a "pivotal point," a time in which the coach goes from immortality to a very mortal state. Oftentimes, it isn't until after the coach is gone that one can look back and see the true pivotal point. Believe it or not, a pivotal point might already be in place for Florida's Billy Donovan.

2000, he took the Gators to the NCAA title game, only to lose to Michigan State. In short, despite an occasional veiled potshot from an opposing coach about his recruiting tactics, Donovan has been a success at Florida. He has more NCAA Tournament victories (nine) than the program had total (seven) before he arrived. He has taken the program to a new level—and yet that still might not be enough. Here's the potential pivotal point: In the past three NCAA Tournaments, the Gators have had one first-round exit and two second-round losses. These days, the Gators are seen as a team that compiles great regular seasons and then cannot escape the first weekend of the NCAA Tournament. So, despite winning 67 percent of his games at Florida—considered a "football school"—going into this season,

Donovan has his detractors. He also has another talented team, one led by junior David Lee and sophomores Anthony Roberson, Christian Drejer and Matt Walsh. The Gators are expected to play up-tempo basketball throughout the season, but Donovan has already said he's taking a different approach to make sure his players are fresher come March Madness. But if they falter in the NCAA Tournament again... It is unlikely Donovan would be fired. He's more likely to get a job offer and jump for it, be it in the pros or at another school. He'll know he has run his course at Florida, and those who are running and watching the Gator basketball program will know it, too. After all, you can never be too successful at this level.

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SPORTS



Niles Park District

Niles Park District Events...

Niles Youth Council Looking for Hand-Me-Downs Exciting things will be happening in 2004. The Niles Youth Council will be moving to its new location at the old Tam Driving Range at 7680 W. Caldwell Ave. This Teen designated space will house the weekly Youth Council meetings and will be open for registered teens to study, meet new people, play games and relax. For this location to prosper, equipment is needed. If anyone would be interested in donating old TVs,

video game machines, tables, chairs, a microwave, recreational equipment, board games and anything else that may be taking up space, please contact Christine at (847) 967-6633. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will go to good use.

Rent-a-Court on New Year's Day at Grennan Heights Niles Park District is accepting registration for the Annual New Year's Day Rent-a-Court on January 1, 2004. What a great way to ring in the New Year with family and friends. This event is at Grennan Heights Recreation Center, 8255 Oketo. Two basketball courts are available by the hour between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. at \$20.00 per hour per court. Basketballs are available. Football games will be on a big screen television in a spacious lobby with plenty of tables and

seating. Registration is being accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard Street. For reservations, please call (847) 967-6633.

Winter Gymnastics Classes Niles Park District is accepting registration for the Winter/2004 Learning Gymnastics Program. Classes are held at Grennan Heights Recreation Center, 8255 Oketo. Programs offered are for ages 3 to 14 and include beginner to intermediate skill levels. Winter sessions begin January 5th on Monday and Friday evenings. Skills taught include tumbling, balance beam, vaulting, mini-tramp and bars. There is a 7 to 1 instructor/gymnast ratio. Registration is being accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard Street. For more information about Gymnastics, please call (847) 967-6975.



Correction

In last week's issue this photo was supposed to have run on page 17 for the article titled "Hawks defeat Ice Dons after intense match." Another photo was reproduced due to technical problems. *The Bugle* regrets the error.

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the week in sports

Niles West

- Boys Basketball Dec. 27-31 Pontiac Holiday Tournament V
- Boys Swimming Jan. 2 New Trier Diving Invite V 9:30 am

Maine East

- Boys Basketball Dec 27-30 Luther North Tournament
- Girls Basketball Dec. 27 @ McHenry Tournament
- Girls Gymnastics No meet until Jan 8
- Wrestling Dec 30 @ Maine West V 5pm
- Jan 2 vs Maine East V 6pm
- Dec. 29 @ Palatine V 2pm
- Jan 2 @ Notre Dame V 5pm

Maine South

- Boys Basketball Jan. 3 @ Notre Dame S/V 6/7:30pm
- Boys Swimming Jan. 2 @ New Trier Invite. Divers 9:30 am
- Girls Basketball Jan. 2 @ New Trier Invite. Divers 9:30 am
- Girls Gymnastics Dec. 27-29 @CHBC Tournament at Loyola
- Wrestling Dec. 30 @ Maine West Invite V 5 pm
- Jan 2 @ Maine East Meet V 6 pm
- Dec 27 @ Homewood Flossmor Inv. V 9 am
- Dec. 30 @ Rolling Meadows Quad V 9 am
- Jan. 3 @ Barrington Tri JV/V 11 am

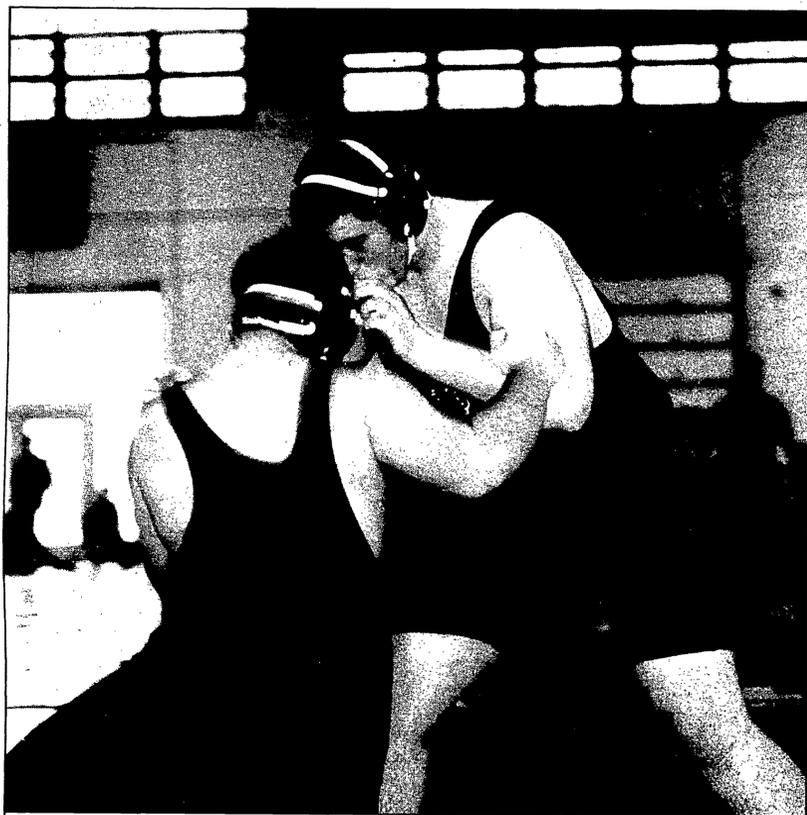
Notre Dame

- Boys Basketball Dec. 26-27 Notre Dame Christmas Tourn. S
- Bowling Dec 26-27 @ Wheeling Classic V
- Swimming & Diving Dec. 26 Xmas Tourn. F A/B
- Wrestling Dec. 27 vs Leo @ Brunswick Arena V noon
- Next meet Jan. 6 @ Maine West
- Dec. 29 @ Gordon Tech Fresh Tourn 9:30 am
- Jan 2 Notre Dame Invite V 9 am

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE
Bowled Wednesday, December 17, 2003

	Points Won	Points Lost
NorthSide Community Bank	65	40
WINNER OF FIRST HALF		
Bielinski & Bono Dental	63	42
Niles Dairy Queen	52	53
Skaja Terrace Funeral Home	50	55
Candlelight Jewelers	49	56
Classic Bowl	36	69
High Series/High Games		
Millie Kroll	500/181	
Baby Virtusio	473/165	
Gerie Schultz	177	
Mary Wasilewski	157	
Linda Fahey	164	
Rita Slechta	155	
Lois MacAdam	154	

SPORTS



Maine South's Tom Cornille (left) goes for a take down against Notre Dame's Rusty Trella in their quarterfinal heavyweight match at the Maine East sophomore tournament Saturday morning, December 20.

Hawk wrestling dominates Wolves

BY MIKE SANTORO
msantoro@buglenewspapers.com

The Maine South wrestling team had a rough opening, but football season has ended returning key starters to the Hawk team. Since then they have done one thing: dominate. In their last meet when they did just that defeating conference rivals Niles West 58-24.

With over 100 wrestlers in the Hawk wrestling program Head Coach Crag Fallico has a lot of options when he needs to fill in a starter spot. Despite this depth his team was lacking key wrestlers that were engaged in football as the Hawks marched toward the state championship. They lost their first three meets in close matches, but after returning players filled their ranks they have won 8 straight.

Those younger wrestlers who were asked to fill big shoes in varsity have gone back to lower levels and provided some strong wins. Against Niles

West the freshman team won 66-24, and the Junior Varsity team easily defeated the Wolves 72-12.

"They're our arch rivals," Fallico said about Niles West. "Whenever we can beat them good we want to do that. That's why you saw them so aggressive tonight."

Niles West typically gives Maine South a good challenge for the conference championship, and for a while they did so. Halfway through the meet, thanks to pins by Mark Klein (119), and Marty Poulos (130) and one forfeit, the Wolves led 24-18. After that the Wolves wouldn't score again as Maine South took seven victories by fall and won the overall meet 58-24.

"Usually this is a very close bout," Fallico said. "Tonight I think we made a statement that were going to wrestle hard to defend out conference title. Tonight we wrestled super tough. We dominated."

All eyes were on Maine South Senior Nick Fallico(160) as he came to the mat to wrestle Niles

West's Louis Hutchinson. With only one loss to the top ranked wrestler in the state most figured a quick pin from Fallico. Hutchinson surprised most when he gained the first advantage by taking Fallico down for two points. After escaping Fallico returned the favor by taking Hutchinson down. Hutchinson then escaped and Fallico was again able to take him down, but was unable to flip him for a pin before the first period ended.

Opening the second period, with Fallico on the bottom, Hutchinson found himself overwhelmed as Fallico escaped by overpowering Hutchinson, then proceeded to put him down on the mat for a take-down. With 1:22 left in the period, Fallico did what everyone expected him to by pinning Hutchinson and giving the Hawks six points.

Other winners for the Hawks were Anthony Lovero (275), Andrew Krieger (103), Dan Olszewski (125), Nick Schittino (140), and Matt Rice (145) by fall, Jimmy Walter (171) by major decision, and Rick Loera (189) by forfeit.

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THE BUGLE

LIFE

'Lord of the Rings' will stand the test of time



People often ask "Where are the great American movies these days?" Instead of relaxing and enjoying the movies that are produced today, people are often anxious, for reasons artistic and commercial, to find the next set of movies that will still be talked about 50 years from now. This isn't an easy question to answer, as the future is notoriously fickle about such matters, but I think we can easily say that Peter Jackson's trilogy of "The Lord of the Rings" movies, completed with the final chapter "Return of the King", will stand the test of time and be one of the highest achievements of the current day Hollywood.

I don't give out this compliment lightly. Peter Jackson has earned every bit of it, doing something nobody thought he could do - make an actual trilogy exciting as parts and as a whole. There have been many blockbuster trilogies in the past couple of decades, from the good (Star Wars) to the ok (The Matrix, Back to the Future).

The problem with most of these examples is that they had a very successful first movie, and producers went ahead and tacked on two more movies to try and milk more money out of the franchise. "Lord of the Rings" was envisioned as three movies and filmed all at the same time, and the wisdom of that production shows. Since there were no focus audiences or nosy studio heads reacting to the first movie nobody could force Peter Jackson to mess significantly



The Knights of Columbus and members of Council 4338, Father Tom May, Father Adam Galek and Father Larry Springer, celebrated the special Mass for the deceased members and wives of members at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles.

Knights hold memorial mass

BY WENDY ELLIS
wellis@buglenewspapers.com

A special memorial mass was held at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles recently to honor the deceased members of the local council of the Knights of Columbus. Wives of the four members who died this past year were invited to take part in the annual remembrance mass held by North American Martyrs Council 4338.

The ceremony, held on Wednesday, Nov. 12, began with

a procession led by a Knights Honor Guard. Memorial plaques honoring the missing members were placed on the altar, and the wives of the recently departed members each placed a piece of the Knight's regalia on a symbolic empty chair placed on the altar. The regalia, or uniform of the Knights of Columbus, includes a cape, a chapeau, a sword, and a baldric, the strap that holds the sword across the Knight's chest. The names of the deceased members were then read to the congregation as four Sir Knights stood guard and saluted their missing

brethren. "This is our way of being able to honor and remember everybody who has gone before us," said Fourth Degree Knight Bob Galassi. Each widow received a white rose from Grand Knight John O'Keefe, before the final recessional.

The Knights of Columbus has 11,000 members worldwide. The Niles based council, started in 1955, numbers about 300 members. The Knight's of Columbus was formed to assist priests in their Catholic duties and to support the church.

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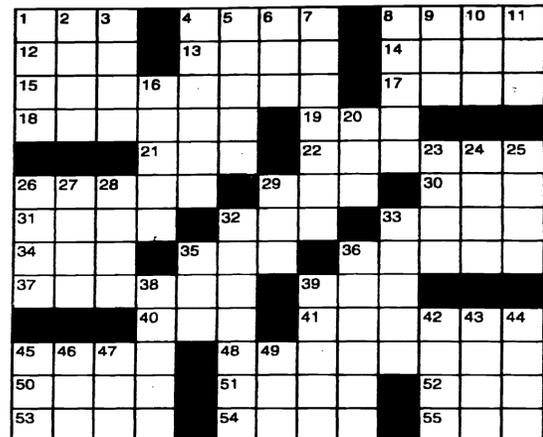
LIFE

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29 Saturn model
32 Sunshade
33 Senses
35 Old hand
36 Upright
38 Iced tea enhancement
39 Appor-tions (out)
42 Portent
43 "Moon-struck" cast member
44 Recog-nize
45 Harper Valley org.
46 Branch
47 Polygraph blip
49 Zoo attraction



ANSWERS from 12-11
HYDE OMAR OLGA MASH
EARN HAVE CLOUDS ACHIE
SLEED FOREE ADMITRE CHUM
SIEQUE CROGS DINE OTE
RIAGE PHONERFORJOAN
GENERALS LIMMO TREEE
ACE FLEA EIRE ARIA
SHITFORBIRT BARNNESS
POLAR GAS OWEN VETT
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REY MEMO SOIS NIEGIE
ELEOTRITIC SLACKSIFORWAK
SETH KITE HIKE LICE
ALLAN BEAR PITFALLS
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ADJ ETRIE EASSEL ROMIAN
MODI ERASER GOFORIDII
URIS RICERS ONUS ELAN
SNAP STAG TALLE SOME

Be the first to drop off on fax in your answers to The Bugle and have your name printed here.
847-588-1911
Attention: Mr. Schneider

SENIORS



THE NILES SENIOR CENTER WILL BE CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25th & NEW YEAR'S DAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 1st DECEMBER REGISTRATION
Register in-person using cash, check or credit card. Special accommodations needed? Call

588-8420 for more information including questions on ticket availability & class reg.
ACTIVITIES
Book Discussion - Friday, January 2nd, 10:00am - 11:00am. Cost: \$1.00
If you like to read, join us as we discuss The Number One Ladies Detective Agency by R. A. McCall Smith. Refreshments included.
Lite Lunch & Movie - Friday, January 9th, 12:00noon - 3:00pm. Cost: \$5.00
Enjoy The In-Laws (2003, PG-

13) starring Michael Douglas and Albert Brooks. Prior to the movie, lunch featuring Lasagna and Garlic Bread will be served at 12:00pm.
Pinochle Tournament
Friday, January 16th, 12:00 noon - 4:00pm. Cost: \$4.00
Participate in a 3-Handed Tournament. Lunch, refreshments, and prizes are included.
Hawaii Travelogue - Wednesday, January 28th, 12:00 noon - 3:00pm. Cost: \$5.00
Escape the cold and make a video journey with us to the warm, tropical island of Hawaii. Lunch fea-

tures Hawaiian Chicken, Rice and Fruit.
Poker Tournament - Friday, January 30th, 12:00 noon - 3:00pm. \$4.00
Play 7-Card Stud and 5-Card Draw Poker. Lunch, refreshments, and prizes included.
COMPUTER CLASSES
Intro to Computers-Mondays & Wednesdays, Jan.5th-Feb.11th, 9:00-10:30am. \$20
Learn the fundamentals of Windows 98. Includes instruction, handouts and lab time. Learn how to get your computer working for you. This is a 6-week course. (Pre-requisite: Pre-Intro to Computers, or equivalent.)
Microsoft Word - Tuesdays & Thursdays, Jan. 6th-Feb. 12th, 9:00am-10:30am, \$30
Microsoft Word is a wonderful word processing program. Learn the basics, from writing letters to creating posters. This is a 6-week course. (Pre-requisite: Intro to Computers.)
Pre-Intro to Computers - Tuesdays & Thursdays, Jan. 6th-15th, 11:00-12:30. \$15



Contact: Bud Swanson, Family & Senior Services, 847/663-6110 December 22, 2003

MAH JONGG LESSONS
Learn how to play this fun game by joining this class on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the Morton Grove Senior Center. A 2004 Mah Jongg card must be purchased before the first class and is available at most Hallmark Stores or online at www.mahjongg-maven.com. Also, bring paper and a pencil to take notes. The fee is \$17 for Senior Center Members and \$18.50 for non-members. The next eight-week session begins on Tuesday, Jan. 6. Sign up in person

at the Senior Center.
CHOLESTEROL SCREENING
The Morton Grove Senior Center's monthly Cholesterol Screening will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 7. 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 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.
BRIDGE LESSONS
This class, with instructor John Krelle, is designed to be an introduction to the game of Bridge. The next 12-week session will be conducted on Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. beginning Jan. 8 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. The fee is \$47 for Senior Center Members and \$51 for non-members. Please register in person at the Senior Center.
DID SOMEONE SAY CROCHET?
A 12-week Crochet Class is beginning at the Morton Grove Senior Center from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays starting Jan. 9 taught by artist Diane Brunger. All levels of crochet skills are welcome. Some materials will be provided. The cost is \$28 for Senior Center Members and \$35 for non-members. Register at the Senior Center.

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BY JEFFREY CARDELLA Special to The Bugle PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISEMENT
Edward Jones Time for Financial New Year's Resolutions
Now that it's almost 2004, it's time to make some New Year's resolutions. What are yours? Lose weight? Volunteer more? Quit smoking? Spend more time with your family? All these are worthwhile goals. But, while you're in the resolution-making frame of mind, don't forget your financial resolutions. Here are some to think about:
Diversify your portfolio - By spreading out your dollars over a wide range of assets - stocks, bonds, government securities, etc. - you can help cushion the impact of a downturn that may affect just one particular area. And by owning many different investments, you give yourself a better chance to succeed.
Keep emotions out of investing - There's plenty of evidence that fear and greed drive the market. Don't be ruled by your emotions. If a stock is falling, you don't have to join the selling stampede - especially if the company has good prospects. Conversely, don't chase after "hot stocks" - they may already be cooling off by the time you buy.
Protect your family - Go over your insurance coverage to ensure it is sufficient to help your family meet their needs should something happen to you.
Check your beneficiary designations - If you've gone through any significant changes in your life - divorce, remarriage, stepchildren, etc. - you'll want to make absolutely sure the beneficiary designations on all your financial documents are up-to-date and correct.
Boost college savings - If you have a child, it's never too soon to start saving for college. Consider opening a 529 plan or Coverdell Education Savings Account.
Rebalance as needed - As your needs, goals and personal situation evolve over time, you'll want to adjust your portfolio. Your investment professional can help you make the appropriate changes.
By following through on these resolutions, you can make great strides toward improving your financial situation in 2004 - and in all the years to follow.
JEFFREY Cardella can be reached at Edward Jones, 8141 N. Milwaukee, Niles, 847-470-8953

SENIORS

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ Q 7 6 5 3
♥ 9 5 3
♦ 10 9 2
♣ 3

WEST
♦ 7 8
♥ A K Q 7 4 2
♦ A 8
♣ A 9 2

EAST
♦ 4 2
♥ J 10 8 6
♦ Q J 5 4 3
♣ 8 4

SOUTH
♦ A K 10 9
♥ —
♦ K 7 6
♣ K Q 10 7 6 5

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 C Dble
Pass 1 H 2 C 4 H
Pass Pass 4 S 5 H
5 S Pass Pass Dble
Opening lead—ace of hearts.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Steve Becker

FAMOUS HAND

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 C Dble
Pass 1 H 2 C 4 H
Pass Pass 4 S 5 H
5 S Pass Pass Dble
Opening lead—ace of hearts.

This deal occurred in the 2002 Cavendish Invitational Pairs in Las Vegas. The three-day tournament, which takes its name from New York's now-defunct Cavendish Club, where the contest originated, annually attracts 60 of the world's top pairs by offering substantial cash prizes to top finishers. The pool for last year's contest came to more than \$1,070,000. North-South were Zia Mahmood and Bob Hamman, both of whom would be on anyone's list of the world's top five players. As usual, the two—who are not a regular partnership—displayed excellent judgment in the bidding to gain 215 IMPs when compared with the results at the other 29

tables. After Hamman's one-club opening, West, Brian Glubok, doubled for takeout, planning to bid his hearts next to show extra strength. When his partner bid one heart, however, Glubok immediately leaped straight to four, a two-way action designed to get his side to game if game could be made, while at the same time making it harder for the opponents to locate their potential spade fit. Many players holding the South cards might have elected to defend against four hearts, but Hamman had seen this type of hand many times before. Having already shown his long club suit, he now bid four spades, asking his partner to choose

between spades and clubs. The bid was intended primarily as a sacrifice against the opponents' vulnerable game, but might also produce a game for his side if his partner held the right hand. And that's exactly the way it turned out. After Glubok bid five hearts, Zia, who now had a very good idea of what his partner's hand looked like, took a stab at five spades, doubled by Glubok. With no way to get his partner on lead for a diamond return through the king, Glubok could score only his two minor-suit aces, and the doubled game—worth 650 points—came rolling home. (c)2003 King Features Syndicate Inc.

HOME



Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

Pet-friendly travel
Q. My husband and I regularly take driving vacations with our dear pet Rusty, a toy poodle. We're getting along in years, though, and would prefer to fly to these destinations in the future. But I can't stand the thought of transporting Rusty in a plane's cargo hold, or of leaving him behind. Is there any way to resolve this dilemma? — Susan P., Newton, Mass.
A. Traveling with pets, espe-

cially small pets, has become much easier over the years. In response to consumer concerns, the airlines are more accommodating in regards to carrying small pets in passenger cabins. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) allows airlines to decide whether or not pets are allowed in their passenger cabins. Some permit them; others do not. (Service animals are always permitted in the passenger area.) In general, the pet must be in a carrier that is small enough to fit under the seat in front of you, and he must stay in that carrier throughout the flight. Each airline has its own set of rules as to the type and number of pets allowed on board. To fly with a pet, reserve your seats (and the pet's space) well ahead of time (there is usually an additional fee for the pet). Make sure Rusty's shots are updated

before reserving, as the airline will probably require current health records. Purchase a soft-sided carrier (Sherpa or Samsonite offer sturdy models) for Rusty to ride in; these come with side pockets and carrying straps for convenience. Minimize other carry-on luggage to make transit through the airport easier. Bring along a few treats and water for the trip. Motion sickness may be a problem, so reduce the chance of it happening by feeding Rusty several hours before the trip, avoiding high-fat foods. And carry a small supply of plastic bags and paper towels in case of accidents. Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com (c) 2003 King Features Synd.,

The Garden Bug New Year's resolutions for gardeners

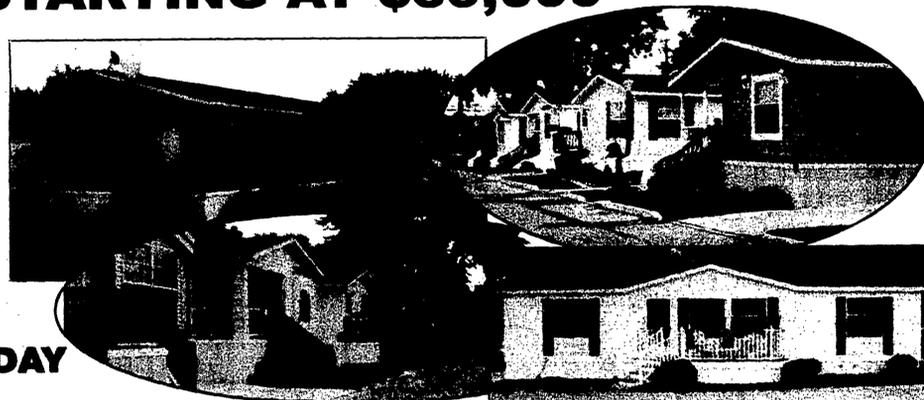
- Try to use more organic gardening methods, such as non-pesticide pest removal and composting for soil enrichment.
- Plan for the entire year now. Consult a local gardening guide for proper times for soil preparation and maintenance, planting, watering schedules, harvesting and other concerns in your area.
- Keep a journal of your garden. Monitor your successes and failures, and use that knowledge to make improvements.

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THIS IS A HAMMER

By Samantha Mazzotta

Cabinet tips

Q. Some of the doors of my kitchen cabinets don't hang exactly straight, or they open with a little "clunk" sound. I tried to tighten the screws in the hinges, but they don't tighten any more—just spin around instead. How can I fix them?— Jane S., Long Island, N.Y.
A. Over the years, cabinet hinges can work loose of their fittings, creating a situation where the doors don't open correctly or hang straight. Re-tightening the hinge screws does work, but only if the screw holes haven't gotten worn down. Luckily, there is an inexpensive fix for this problem. Remove the cabinet doors and unscrew the hinges from the face frame (the cabinet frame to which the door is attached). Then, find a wooden dowel with the same diameter as the worn screw hole (a golf tee will work in a pinch). Coat the end of the dowel with wood glue and insert it into the screw hole. Using a utility knife, cut the dowel flush with the face frame and let the glue dry. When the glue has set, drill a pilot hole through the center of the dowel. Repeat these steps for all affected screw holes, and then reattach the hinges and doors. If the screws that attach the hinge to

the door side are loose, use the same technique to repair the holes. Just be careful when drilling the new pilot hole so you don't drill through the other side of the door. This technique can be used for other loose cabinet and drawer hardware, not just with wood dowels. For drawer pulls that are loose and can't be tightened, remove the hardware and fill the screw holes with wood putty. Be sure to clean the holes thoroughly before filling. Wipe off excess with a damp cloth and let the putty dry completely, then drill a pilot hole through the center and reattach the hardware. The best type of putty for this job is a powdered product designed to be mixed with water just before applying. It has several advantages: Not only does it dry and set harder than most premixed putties, but the powder can be stored much longer as well.

HOME TIP
Make sure your Christmas tree has plenty of water—fill the basin it rests in to within an inch of the top, and note any brown pine needles or large amounts of fallen needles, which means the tree isn't getting enough to drink. To ensure that it does, either cut a half-inch from the bottom of the trunk, or cut small notches on each side of the trunk. Send questions or home repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2003 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOME

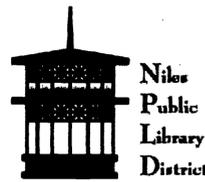
DONNA'S DAY: CREATIVE FAMILY FUN- Make New Year's "Memory" Dessert

By Donna Erickson
Illustrated By David Larochele

Laughing, singing and eating are ingredients of holiday memories that draw families and friends together year after year. As you make plans for this New Year's Eve, enjoy this exciting activity that brings back fond shared memories of the year gone by.

one by one. After the remembering is all done, the whole group can call out the name of each month as the designated adult candle-lighter lights the candles. When all 12 cupcakes are aglow, sing "Auld Lang Syne," blow out the candles and ring in 2004 with noisemakers and song!

Write Donna with your questions and ideas at www.donnasday.com. Donna's latest book, "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families," is available in bookstores nationwide. (c) 2003 Donna Erickson



Upcoming Programs at Niles Public Library

Kids Invited to Build a Model Airplane
Looking for something fun to do with the kids over winter break? How about building a Revell-Monogram SnapTite model of an F-18 Blue Angel Hornet Naval airplane! Thanks to the generous

donation of Library Trustee Morgan Dubiel. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton Street, will be offering the free plane-building program on Monday, December 29, from 3:00-4:00 pm. Children must be at least 8 years old and accompanied by a parent or caregiver. All materials will be provided. No gluing or painting is required, just plenty of fun. The program is limited to 24 children, so early registration is recommended. Register in Children's Services or by calling 847-663-6623.

Festival of Lights Scavenger Hunt
December 10 - January 10
People all around the world celebrate festivals of light during the month of December. Facts about

these festivals from Japan to Sweden will be on display throughout the Children's Department. Children are invited to participate in a scavenger hunt to discover the facts and win prizes.

Children's Ongoing Programs
Babytime
Mondays, 11:00 am-noon
Babies ages 2 and under and their caregivers are invited for a morning of songs, action rhymes, one or two books, and social play with developmentally appropriate toys. No registration required. Free.

Preschool Story Club
November 10 - January 11
Preschoolers earn a piece of a laminated puzzle each week by

listening to five books at home. The completed puzzle is a colorful children's book illustration. Register in the Children's Department. Free.

Reading Patch Club
Labor Day - Memorial Day
Kindergarten and 1st graders who listen to 50 books, 1st to 2nd graders who read 20 books, and 2nd to 6th graders who read 20 books and complete the required activities earn a cloth patch that looks terrific on a backpack. Register and get further details in the Children's Department. Free.

Adult Ongoing Programs
Fourth Tuesday Film Series

Enjoy a film on the large screen in the large meeting room the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. No registration required. Call 847-663-6640 for further details. Free.

Book Discussions
Afternoon Discussion Group - third Wednesday of the month, 1:00 pm
December 17 selection: Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand. Evening Discussion Group - fourth Monday of the month, 7:00 pm
December 15 selection: Dreaming Water by Gail Tsukiyama.

To join a book discussion group, please contact Greta Ulrich at 847-663-6618 or gulrich@nileslibrary.org.



Upcoming Programs at Morton Grove Public Library

Library Closings: The Library will be closed on Wednesday, December 24, and Thursday, December 25, for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and

will close early, at 5:00 pm, on New Year's Eve. The Library will be closed for New Year's Day.

Exhibits:
Be sure to see the portraits and still life paintings by Eugenia Norlock, a resident of Park Ridge. Ms. Norlock's work will be on exhibit through December in the Baxter Room. Library staff member Jim Tain exhibits holiday origami in the Lincoln Avenue entry.

Youth Services:
Friday, January 2: Start the new year off right! Make a 2004 Calendar

Preschoolers can make a 2004 calendar in a craft session at 1:00 pm. Registration is required; please call 847-965-4220 or stop by the Youth Services Desk at the Library.

Children in grades K - 6 can make their 2004 calendars in a craft session starting at 4:00. Registration is required; please call 847-965-4220 or stop by the Youth Services Desk.

Wee Read on Fridays at 11:00am: Infants from birth to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to drop-in for a special time of stories, music, and activities especially designed

for wee ones.

Free Films:
Holes, (Rated PG, 111 minutes) will be shown Friday, January 2, at 2:00 pm. This film is based on Louis Sachar's book, Holes. The story is about Stanley Yelnats IV, a teenager who is wrongly accused of stealing a pair of sneakers, and who chooses a work camp over prison. Stanley and the other "campers" find themselves digging holes all over dried up Green Lake. The boys are told they are digging the holes because it builds character but they soon discover that the "warden" is really searching for buried treasure.

For teens: Anime Club
Teens in grades 9 - 12 are invited to join the Library's new Anime Club. Beginning January 5, the club will meet on the first Monday of every month (except September) to watch and discuss selected anime films. For further information, Call Melissa Rice, Teen Librarian, at 847-965-4220. January 5, the film will be Metropolis, rated PG-13, 108 minutes. February 2 the Club will view Castle in the Sky, unrated, 124 minutes.

For further information, or for mobility and communication access assistance, please call 847-965-4220, TDD 847-965-4236.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF Cook County, Illinois County Department - Chancery Division. Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Plaintiff, vs. Joanna Danko, et al., Defendants. No. 02CH-22405. PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Forfeiture entered in the above entitled cause on September 5, 2003, Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, January 7, 2004, at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 W. Madison St., Suite 718A, Chicago, IL, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described property: Commonly known as: 8028 N. Wisner St., Niles, IL 60714. The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The judgment amount was \$266,831.25. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the premises after confirmation of the sale. For information: Jackie Smith of Pierce & Associates, Plaintiff's Attorney, 18 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60603. (312) 372-2060. Please call between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. PIERCE & ASSOCIATES File No. PA0210723. 209383C.

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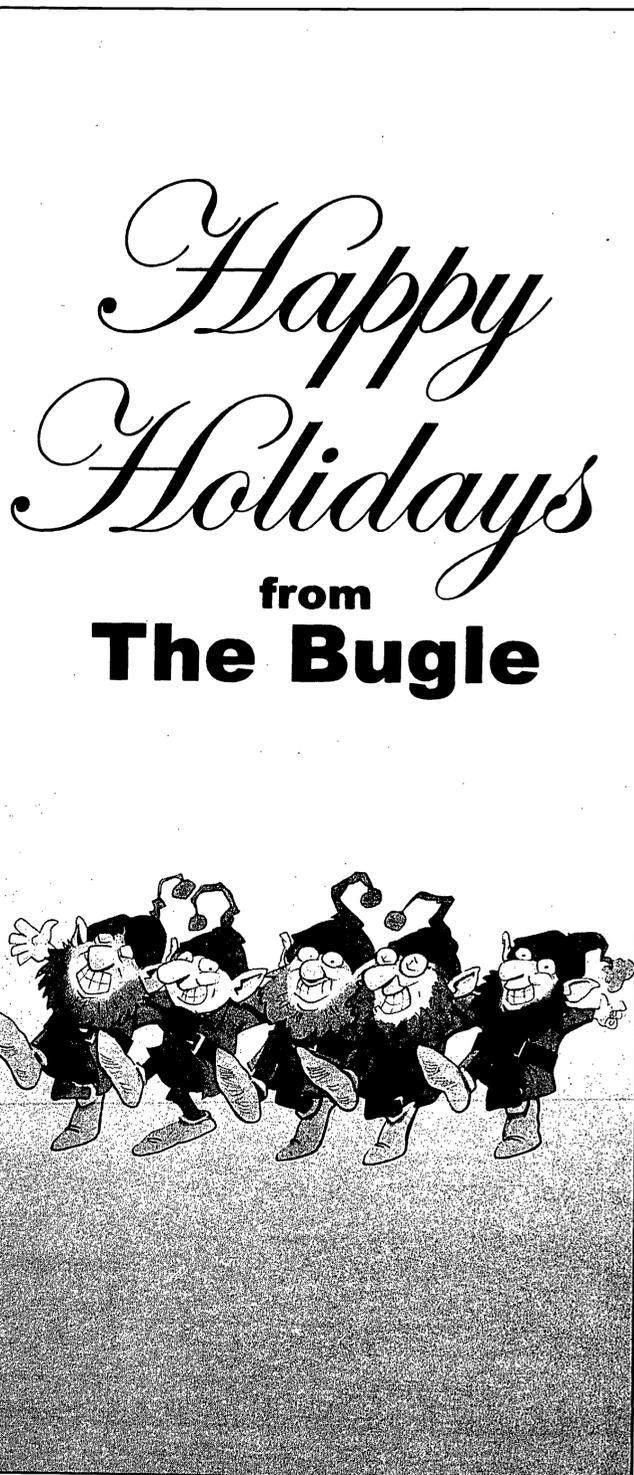
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'A Christmas Story'

Roy Piraino shows his daughter Natalie the beautiful architecture of the Pickwick Theatre before the beginning of "A Christmas Story" presented by The Bugle Newspapers Monday night, December 15. (Photo by Allen Kaleta)

the High School. For the story, turn to page 13.

ing Dec. 20. For coverage of Thanksgiving, turn to page 20.