Morton Grove man returns from Iraq

By Wendy Ellis
wellis@buglenewspapers.com

Fallujah is a dangerous place to be an American. Sardon Yalda, an Iraq 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.

“The price, when we were in Fallujah, for every dead American, was $3,000,” said Yalda. “In the crowded market places, they are always very alert, all eyes are open.”

Yalda, an Assyrian Christian, spent his first 18 years in Iraq, coming to the United States just after high school. His command of the two languages led him to volunteer as an interpreter for the American military last spring.

“I felt there was a need to help my adopted country as well as my country of origin,” said Yalda, whose first hurdle was to convince his wife “I felt there was a need to help my adopted country as well as my country of origin,” said Yalda, whose first hurdle was to convince his wife

for the American military. Photo courtesy Sardon Yalda.

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 recommended 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 Botryk turns away from the heat of a fire of deadwood Saturday morning Dec. 6 in the Forest Preserve Dam #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.
Morton Grove hires new personnel

By WENDY ELLIS
w@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 Eth. Eth resigned in July to take a similar job in Morton Prospect. Newkirk takes over at a time when the village is looking for the creative ways to avoid a budget shortfall next year. Several new ideas and free rates 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 enginer at the City in Glenview. Gillingham replaces former Village Engineer Dan Bulinski, who also resigned in July.

Village seeks dismissal of residents’ lawsuit

By WENDY ELLIS
w@buglenewspapers.com

A summons for the Village of Morton Grove have filed a motion in Circuit Court asking that the lawsuit filed against them by a neighborhood organization be dis- missed. Ted Halaby, of Chicago law firm, Clarks, Vanichert, Potter and Young, says the motion asks that the final and state charges of civil rights viola- tions against the village and several of its officers, be dismissed on the grounds that the organization does not have the light to sue. “You must have legal standing to bring suit,” said Halaby. “The only people that have the right to complain about improper prosecution are the people being threat- ened by the prosecu- tion.”

Taste of Morton Grove

By WENDY ELLIS
w@buglenewspapers.com

The “Taste”, which raises ticket holder to a sample of fine cuisine offered by restaurants in and around Morton Grove, is into its sixteenth year, and has already outgrown the Coca-Cola building in which it was first held. This year’s event will be held at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 601 N. Milwaukee, Niles, and space- men are hoping its ample parking lots will solve one of the biggest problems for “recent Tastes”. The $25 price per plate. Twenty local charities and service organizations are vying to be this year’s recipient, with the largest portion of the money going to the Morton Grove Association of Special Education (MNASR). This is the second year that the “Taste” committee has chosen to give a large part of the evening’s proceeds to one major beneficiary.

The Foundation has been very generous to us, and very supportive of our efforts,” says the Morton Grove Association of Special Education (MNASR) Executive Director Sue Simkins. "Last year we asked for the good cause. "Having been around for five or six years, the “Taste” has done much for us. Simkins says one thing has always been important to us. "We’re not a food bank. We are the only organization that incorporates all facets of the com- munity-village government, park dist- rict, schools, businesses, 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 boots and get ready for a raucous time.
**Opinions**

**Letters Policy**

The Bugle encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. To be considered for publication, all letters must be signed with the writer’s full name. An address and telephone number (which will be published) must be provided for verification purposes. Letters exceeding 250 words may be edited for length or content. We will publish all letters containing original artwork and drawings. Writers are limited to one letter per month. Deadline is the 25th of the month.

Letters should be submitted to Letters to the Editor, 7400 N. Waukegan, Niles, IL 60704 or by fax (847) 588-1911.

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**Maine East Wrestling defeat St. Patrick’s**

**Maine East 43, St. Patrick’s 27**

BY RYAN BISHOP

The Maine East Wrestling team Friday night defeated St. Patrick’s 43-27. The meet was held at Maine East.

**Hawks dunked**

(Above) Maine South guard Collin O’Malley drives to the basket in the first half of their game against Maine West. Saturday night December 26 at Maine West. O’Malley was 7-11 from the floor and 4-4 from the free-throw line.

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**Maine East Girls Gymnastics**

**University of Illinois Fairview Heights meet**

The Maine East Girls Gymnastics team will travel to Fairview Heights, IL on February 11 to compete in the Fairview Heights Invitational. In recent meets the squad has continued to improve. This week they face district 207 rival Maine West.
A Sporting View: The Pivotal Point

By Chris Richcreek

Mike’s View: The Pivotal Point

ed five consecutive seasons
Tennis at 7:30 and No. 1 doubles.
Doveran has his detractors. He
target basketball throughout the season, but
offense and defense. The Gators are ex-
and the team have had success. The
Leaving the gym Monday morning, the
will be 18-19 and in Florida. Doveran
shooting. The Gators are 18-17 and
Doveran has been a success. The Gators
and not in Michigan State.
Ozzie Smith.

on the 2004 NCAA title game, only
to lose by 11 points. In both of those
to see the top pivotal point.

MCCORMICK STADIUM

The Bugle

Sports

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2003

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for a complete listing of all
available programs and services.

18

reaching for the stars

Maine South's Hawklettes entertain the
crowd at half-time at the Maine South
game against Hersey. Saturday night Dec. 20 at
Maine South. The Hawklettes recently won the
innovator Illinois Conference dance competi-
tion in Summit.

A Sporting View: The Pivotal Point

By Chris Richcreek

A

A sports story is not over

even if a team wins games.

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Hawk wrestling dominates Wolves

BY MIKE SANTORO
rsantoro@buglenewspapers.com

The Maine South wrestling team had a rough evening but fans were happy to have their main event. The Wolves were 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 Fallon 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 Wolves have marched toward the state championship. They lost 14 wrestlers in a row of matches, but after returning wrestlers filled their ranks they have won 6 straight. These 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," Fallon said about Niles West. "Whenever we see Kurt they compete, expect the best, because you never know why you saw them so aggressively tonight."

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

"Usually this is a very close bout," Fallon said. "Tonight I think we made a statement that we were going to wrestle hard to defend our conference title. Tonight we wrestled super tough. We dominated." All seven were 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 fig- ther a quick pin from Fallon. Hutchinson upset him when he gained the first advan- tage by taking Fallon down for escaping him and forced him to the mat. With one more match to try and milk even more out of the match, "Lord of the Rings" was envisioned as three movies and "The Fellowship of the Ring" and "The Two Towers" to the (Maine, Back to the Future) producers went ahead and took the movies backwards, and as complex as way they travel the world trying to see in our lifetimes. And as a way to end one of the most "The Lord of the Rings" will stand the test of time as it is also the story of and as a much more intimate way to reflect on all that has been done. All the stories and multilayered that come across the world with "King" will stand the test of time and be one of the highest achievements of the current age of film making.

The Bugs are different, the ending of "The Lord of the Rings" will stand the test of time as it is also the story of and as a much more intimate way to reflect on all that has been done. All the stories and multilayered that come across the world with "King" will stand the test of time and be one of the highest achievements of the current age of film making. People often ask "Where are the great American movies these days?" Instead of watching and enjoying the movies that are produced today, people are often anxious, for reasons artis- tic and commercial, to find the next set of movies that will still be talked about 10 years from now. This isn't an easy question to answer, as the future is notori- ously fickle about such matters, but I think we can safely say that Peter Jackson's trilogy of "The Lord of the Rings" movies will survive on par with the best of the best and be one of the highest achievements of the current age of moviemaking.

I don't give this compli- ment lightly. Peter Jackson has earned every bit of it, doing something nobody thought he could do, making an actual tri- logy existing as parts and as a whole. These have been many blockbuster triumphs in the past couple of decades, from the good (Star Wars) to the ok (The Matrix, Back to the Future) to the really bad (Austin Powers, The Titans). But just as the story would be "The Lord of the Rings" had help from the writer of the novels, J.R.R. Tolkien, who wrote the story in three books, which acted as a blueprint for how best to unfold the storytelling over these movies. As part two ("The Two Towers") of the movie ends, Frodo and Sam are about to approach the evil land bordering on their vola- canic home, and the Fellowship has just dedicated the human being "The Fellowship." The Bugs are different, the ending of "The Lord of the Rings" will stand the test of time as it is also the story of and as a much more intimate way to reflect on all that has been done. All the stories and multilayered that come across the world with "King" will stand the test of time and be one of the highest achievements of the current age of film making.
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Pass

North East

A8

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By Steve Becker

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DONNA'S DAY:
CREATIVE FAMILY FUN—Make New Year's “Memory Dessert”

By Donna Erickson
Illustrated by David Larchelle

Donna's Day

Ring in the new year to take turns recalling chopped nuts. Cakes spell “HAPPY NEW YEAR.” Letter on each one so that when lined up frosting a dozen cupcakes. Use frosting in plans for this New Year's Eve, enjoy together year after year. As you make in the family to participate. As each that draw families and friends

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Due Date, which begins October 1, 2003. Cook County receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for programs administered by the Cook County Department of Planning and Development (CPD).

HUD has set aside 2004 allocations for COOK, HOME, and ESG. Approximately 87% ($3,096,000) of the funding is for COOK, 8% ($513,000) is for HOME, and 5% ($176,000) is for ESG. Cook County's COOK, HOME, and ESG programs will be discussed further at this meeting. Any person with questions or concerns should contact

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2003
THE BLOG

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by Donna Erickson

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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)