Four people were hospitalized and portions of Howard St. and Milwaukee Ave. were closed following a midday collision at the intersection of Harlem Ave. and Howard in Niles last Thursday. According to police, a van traveling northbound on Harlem ran a red light, striking a fire truck that was traveling westbound on Howard.

The fire truck was a 1989 aerial ladder truck that belonged to the North Maine Fire Protection District and was returning to its garage at the time.

"It was definitely not nearing the end of its life," said North Maine Chief Robert Batey. "We probably would have used it for another ten years."

When the van struck the fire truck, its hydraulic system was disabled, causing the drivers to lose brakes and steering. It struck a tree and stoplight at the northwest corner of Harlem and Howard, passed through the adjacent Parkview Bank Plaza, crashed a sport utility vehicle against a building, and continued across Milwaukee, stopping after it hit a parked, unoccupied school bus on the west side of the street.

"I was stopped at a light at Milwaukee when it happened," said one bystander. "I used to live in an apartment that it almost hit. I'm still shaking."

Three firefighters that were in the truck and the driver of the van were taken to Lutheran General Hospital. Story Continues... COLLISION page 4.

Our Lady of Ransom School to close
After 43 years of education Our Lady of Ransom Elementary School is closing

N early 200 parents and parishioners filled a good portion of Paluch Hall, Thursday night February 26, to hear from school board president Patty Krouse that a study showed enrollment was declining, demographics were changing, and the economics of running a viable educational program at the school were not possible. The school will close at the end of the present school year.

Parents and parishioners quickly turned the meeting into an emotionally charged evening as they shouted from the audience that they never were informed of the poor financial position of the school and that Our Lady of Ransom pastor Fr. John Hall had vetoed any attempts by parishioners to raise money for the school in the past. By the end of the evening a petition was circulated among the group calling for the removal or resignation of Fr. Hall.

"I have no intentions of resigning," said Fr. Hall. "You made the choice for us without giving us a chance," shouted one person from the audience.

"This is the first time we are here together," she said. "Some admonished the school board for making the decision without informing parents. One tear-eyed parent who had graduated from the school more than 20 years ago told Fr. Hall, "I want to do is see my son graduate from here. I felt it was the best nine years of my life.""

"This is a farce," shouted another member of the audience, "Don't trust these people," he said.

Emotional audience members pointed out that over the last three years they had asked Fr. Hall for a dinner dance and silent auction to raise money for the school and that he had vetoed the idea. Yet, they said, "all I want to do is see my son graduate from here. I felt it was the best nine years of my life.

Local chefs are firing up their grills, putting the finishing touches on their tortes and sprucing up their circuses as the 16th annual Taste of Morton Grove kicks off tonight in a swirl of 1920's spats and spangles. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6845 N. Milwaukee, where the Taste has been moved to accommodate every increasing crowds and parking needs. Dozens of eateries from Morton Grove and its environs offering samples of their menus.

"This is the first time we are here together," she said. "Some admonished the school board for making the decision without informing parents. One tear-eyed parent who had graduated from the school more than 20 years ago told Fr. Hall, "I want to do is see my son graduate from here. I felt it was the best nine years of my life.""

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Culver School had 55 solo events and 5 ensembles entered in the Illinois Grade School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Contest held at Chute Middle School in Evanston on February 14, 2004. Each solo and ensemble event was performed before a judge who gave written comments and awarded a first place, second place, or third place rating. Congratulations to the following Culver music students:

* Perfect Score

**FIRST PLACE MEMORIZED SOLOS**
- Michael Undus

**FIRST PLACE SOLOS**
- Alex Arsenievich
- Natalia Alam
- Haesun Chang
- Tyler Pazik
- Megan Gibbons, tenor sax
- Alex Swintek, alto sax
- Sergio Loubriel, alto sax
- *Lauren Shimovosky, tenor sax
- Alicia Peake, trumpet
- John Nashan, trumpet
- Jason Kim, trumpet
- James Alvarado, trumpet
- Joey Owens, snare drum
- Brad Springer, drum set
- Ryan Volkodov, timpani
- Tami Gorodetzke, snare drum
- Jake Wengerski, trombone
- Maggie Kearns, flute
- Jessica Ang, flute
- Grace Lee, flute
- Justina Danilowski, clarinet
- Alexandra Bedoya, clarinet
- Matthew Scheler, alto sax
- *Florian Damas, baritone horn
- Steven Morzy, alto sax
- Jack Chen, alto sax
- Jorey Gallego, clarinet

**SECOND PLACE SOLOS**
- Jack Baran
- Nicole Melfi
- Christian Dieter
- Chris McNichols
- Stefan Kovacevich, alto sax
- Patrick Sen, tuba
- Adam Provost, trombone
- Elbran Ermin, trombone
- Nicole Kielar, flute
- Jaclyn Peterson, flute
- Nadia Bronson, clarinet
- Cyndy Deal-Banks, clarinet
- Prachi Shah, clarinet
- Josephine Trisch, clarinet
- Daniel Krollczyk, baritone horn
- Trevor Lee, alto sax

**FIRST PLACE ENSEMBLES**
- Snare Drum Trio - Heath Anderson, Brad Springer, Ryan Volkodov
- String Quartet - Susan McNichols, Vanessa Retondo
- String Quartet - Nashida Alam, Jumi Lee, Alex Arsenievich, Jamie Kim

**Trumpet Trio**
- Francesca Diosio, Ellen Shin, Kim
- Nashida Alam

- Alex Arsenievich
- Natalia Alam
-* Perfect Score

**Culver School Orchestra Instructor JoAnne R. Culver School Orchestra Instructor JoAnne Ross enjoys a short break at the Illinois Grade School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Contest with her violin students. Pictured from left, Jumi Lee, JoAnne Ross, Nicole Melfi, and Laura Wilczynska.**

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**District 64 Seeks Members for Finance Committee**

Park Ridge/Niles School District 64 is looking for interested individuals to join a Community Finance Committee. The purpose of the committee will be to educate members concerning the District’s financial situation, solicit their help in developing creative solutions to our financial challenges, and work to provide information, as requested, to the Board of Education.

This committee will study the District budget, property tax caps, tax appeals, fund balances, and other budgetary topics. It is an advisory committee, which will make recommendations to the Board of Education related to school district finances. The committee will be composed of the following representatives (at a minimum): one parent from each school, one teacher from each school, four community members (including two senior citizens), one elementary principal, one middle school principal, one custodial/maintenance employee, one secretarial/clerical employee, and two Board of Education members.

Monthly meetings will begin in April 2004. Please notify Pat McGuire, District 64 Controller, at (847) 318-4234 if interested in joining this committee.

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**Niles West Concert features Concerto Competition winners**

Among the performers at this year’s Niles West Festival of Orchestras will be the winners of the 2004 Niles West Concert Competition. Senior violinist Sharon Chang will perform Barber’s “Violin Concerto” and senior percussionist Emily Salz will play Creston’s “Marimba Concerto.”

The community is invited to hear these performances and more by the Niles West orchestras at the concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 14 in the Robert Johnson Auditorium at 5701 West Oakton, Skokie. In lieu of an admission charge, concertgoers may elect to donate to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For more information, please contact Orchestra Director Steven Katz at (847) 626-2629.

They will play an assortment of musical pieces, including the “Finale” from Tchaikovsky’s “Symphony No. 4,” Mendelssohn’s “War March of the Priests” and Wagner’s Overtures to “Rienzi.”

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Notre Dame guard Jovaughn Mixon heads for the basket in the first half of their game at Notre Dame, Friday night Feb. 27.

Notre Dame suffers loss to St. Pat's

BY RYAN BISHOP
rbishop@buglenewspapers.com

Notre Dame’s gym was packed to the gills in anticipation of Friday night’s fierce rivalry basketball game. To add to the hysteria, it was senior night and St. Patrick was in town. Unfortunately for the Dons the game did not live up to its billing as St. Patrick dominated, winning 58-31.

The win improved St. Pat’s record to 20-5, and 10-3 in the conference, behind only Marist and undefeated St. Joseph.

For the Dons, they finished a disappointing year at 9-15, and 6-7 in the conference. The good news is they return 12 juniors and 4 freshmen that saw limited action this year and St. Joseph.

That got the St. Pat’s confidence going into the playoffs Tuesday. The Dons are fighting to get over the .500 mark in conference for the last two weeks and if they could defeat the Shamrocks they would accomplish that goal and give them confidence going into the playoffs Tuesday.

St. Pat’s came out the aggressors in the first quarter, taking a quick 4-0 lead on a driving layup by Daniel Bolger and a mid-range jumper by senior forward Kevin Kloak. That got the St. Pat’s for a four-point lead, which the Shamrocks never relinquished.

The Dons were roughed up by the more experienced players, who held the Dons to 6-23 from three-point range.

Kevin Kloak.

The Dons were in the game to the half, scoring their 31 points on 12-26 from the field and a 4-11 mark from three-point range.

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The Ice Dons down but not out

The St. Viator Deer Down but not down,

Katie Brown fired a power-play jumper with 11:18 left to play. Rick Shanas took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 10:09 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 9:13 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 8:26 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 7:39 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 6:52 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 5:55 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 4:58 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 3:51 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 2:54 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 1:57 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. With 0:58 left, Anthony Cassal took a hard shot and hit the St. 'Tiator defense for a goal. The goal was disallowed and after a couple of minutes, the game resumed at 11:18 left.

In the second period, with the momentum from the third goal of the game and the 3-1 lead, the Don's defense was solid and their offense was clicking. Brown fired a power-play jumper with 11:18 left to play. Matt Marino controlled the tempo of the game, grabbing 36 rebounds and scoring 16 points and getting a rhythm of the game.

The Dons also could not stop 6'7" freshmne James Carrabotta to Ryan Finneke and a jumper before the buzzer gave the Shamrocks a 1-5 lead. The Don's defense was solid in the first half, but the Shamrocks were doing defensively, we wore on we extended our lead to three points, so we played with a solid defense. They would have fallen it would have been a much closer game, as we said. We didn't make our open shots and our defense was solid.

"I hope our guys can take this into the game," he said. "They have to cut down on our mistakes and get in a rhythm offensively." The Dons were down 1-5 by making it to the Final Four of a field of 24 Melio League teams by making it to the Final Four. The Dons defense was solid and their offense was clicking.

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Tuesday, March 29th and Wednesday, March 30th

Niles Senior News

She could win the Nobel Prize some day. Send her to college with Lion Power.

She could win the Nobel Prize some day. Send her to college with Lion Power.

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She could win the Nobel Prize some day. Send her to college with Lion Power.
BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Periodic blood pressure measurement is helpful in determining if health is threatened by high blood pressure (hypertension). Hypertension is a contributor toward strokes, heart disease, and kidney failure. Unfortunately, hypertension usually has no symptoms so a person can feel great and not know they have it. Frequent screenings are offered from 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 9 in the Morton Grove Senior Center.

MORTON GROVE SENIOR CENTER
2300 Waukegan Road
Morton Grove, Il 60053

Phone: 847-663-6474
Fax: 847-663-6475

Senior News

Morton Grove

TOP STORY

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Morton Grove

Morton Grove Senior News
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