

DONS LOSE

ND varsity squad loses to Carmel
SPORTS, Page 19

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THE BUGLE



SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

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Niles smoking ordinance ready in January

Draft ordinance may be ready by November

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen
STAFF WRITER

An ordinance regarding the issue of whether smoking should be banned at public

places in Niles will be drafted in the near future, with an expectation to go in front of the village board in January.

Andrew Przybylo, village trustee, White Eagle Restaurant owner, and one of the key players in this issue, said that Mayor Nicholas Blasé, Village Attorney Joseph Annunzio and himself will soon draft a "loose" ordi-

nance and then seek additional input from restaurants and other public facilities in the village.

Przybylo said that they plan to share the draft with the board of trustees in November and it will probably go in front of the board for passage in January.

The Village of Niles held two smoking ban hearings where residents were able to share

their thoughts regarding a smoking ban in public places in Niles.

"I kind of wish there were more people there," said Przybylo, about the attendance at the hearings.

Przybylo said that at the hearings people were concerned with three main aspects of how a smoking ban could affect the

village; on economics, health and a "Libertarian" perspective, that involves letting the market place decide.

If the Village of Niles does not create its own ordinance on this issue, the Cook County ordinance that has a total ban of smoking in all public places will come into effect in Niles in March of next year.

'Can Man' will see better with new glasses

Concerned resident, Lions Club help provide new glasses

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen
STAFF WRITER

The man known by many as "Can Man," who walks around picking up cans and bottles left on the streets of Niles will soon hopefully have a new pair of eye glasses.

A concerned resident, Nory McCluskey has noticed that his current eye glasses are broken and in working with the
See Can Man, page 4



Students at Golf Middle School, where Niles Police Officer Steven Zourkas listen to speakers at a ceremony dedicating a memorial tree and plaque at the neighboring Frank Hren Park.

Niles Police officer honored

The day that District 67 officials chose for the dedication of a memorial to fallen Niles Police Officer Steve Zourkas dawned bright and sunny, a sign that Golf Middle School Principal Keith Westman said indicated the officer was looking down on them.

"As I went to bed last night I listened to the thunder and lightning and I wondered whether we'd be able to hold the dedication outside," Westman said. "I think this beautiful weather shows that Steven Zourkas is looking

See Memorial, page 4



The memorial to Steven Zourkas at Frank Hren Park.

Group with District 64 urges new referendum

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen
STAFF WRITER

The Park Ridge-Niles School Dist. 64 Finance Committee is urging a tax rate referendum along with spend management techniques and increased outreach in order to improve the district's financial health.

"The school is not in crisis, they have some time," said Phil Eichman, the chair of the financial structure subcommittee, that offered a comprehensive review of the district's current and projected financial health.

Eichman said that it is up to the board of education whether or not they will go to referendum in 2007, but he personally believes they should go to referendum by 2008.

The finance committee, composed of about 30 citizen volunteers, plans to present the possible tax increase amounts to the board of education at the board meeting on Sept. 25.

One of the subcommittees, the Spend Management subcommittee, recommended that the district adopt a "spend management" process.

The Communications sub-

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Niles Assessor sponsors tax appeal seminar 9/25

Concerned about the property tax bill that you will receive next year? Niles Township Assessor Scott Bagnall will sponsor a Board of Review appeal seminar on Sept. 25 at 6:30 pm. Cook County Board of Review staff will explain the procedures to appeal a 2006 assessed valuation. The amount of a tax bill is based, in part, on assessed value. This seminar will also address the type of evidence

necessary to present a successful appeal to the Board of Review. The seminar is open to all Niles Township taxpayers, whether residential, commercial or industrial.

Niles Township taxpayers may file a Board of Review complaint with Bagnall's office. The Board of Review will announce a filing deadline in late September. Taxpayers may also fill out a complaint form at the seminar

to appeal their 2006 assessed values, which will be used to calculate the 2006 property tax bill payable in 2007. Taxpayers are encouraged to bring their 2nd Installment 2005 tax bills (which were due on Sept. 1.

There is no prerequisite to filing an appeal with the Board of Review. The seminar will take place at the office of Assessor Scott Bagnall, 5255 Main St., Skokie, 847-673-9300.

The decline of Legos

When I was a child there was no toy with more potential than the incomparable Legos. I had a steamer trunk filled with them and my brother and I would dive in when we returned home from school. I spent countless hours bent over that trunk stirring the Legos around in an attempt to find a particular piece I needed.

My brother and I developed our own code to describe the generic pieces: I need a three-by-two, you need a two-by-twelve. It wasn't a complicated code but it got the job done.

We constructed spaceships, sailing ships, vehicles and buildings from our favorite cartoons that bore almost no



Page Two
ANDREW SCHNEIDER | EDITOR

resemblance to the actual thing but we spent hours in our collective imagination, courtesy of Legos.

The company, founded in 1932, is headquartered in Denmark. It's name comes from two Danish words: "leg god," meaning to "play well." It is still owned by the family that founded it and it has

made progress in the intervening 74 years; it's now the sixth-largest manufacturer of toys in the world and they've realized that their toy's power now exists not only in its utility but also in its brand.

When I go to a toy store to buy a gift for a child I always look at the Legos first. That's a habit that may still exist if and when I have children but Lego has moved past the days when my brother and I built everything with right angles or the slightly more sleek circular pieces (no ovals back then, it would have been unprecedented).

Today, Lego has realized there's big money in capitalizing on their brand of course, but they've also found they can capitalize on other brands. As children my brother and I made X-Wing fighters from the "Star Wars" films but, thanks to modern corporate synergy my children won't have to stretch their minds to come up with the right combination of pieces, they can just buy a Lego X-Wing.

Lego company has partnered with Lucasfilm, Ltd. and puts out Lego kits to make many more "Star Wars" ships including the Millennium Falcon, B-Wings, Y-Wings, AT-ATs and other ships only fanatics would remember.

Initially when I saw them I was thrilled. I remembered the long hours spent crafting an X-Wing that was barely reminiscent of the real thing. I had to buy one just for old time's sake.

But when I began putting it together I realized it wasn't nearly as much fun. I used to

See Column, page 4

Liponi Foundation receives donation



Norbert Johnson, left, director of the Clark-Halladay Memorial Foundation presents the organization's sixth annual donation to Dean Strzelecki, a trustee of the Liponi Foundation for special recreation. The Foundation was formed in 1990 to aid Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation (M-NASR) in advancing the participation of children, teens and adults with physical, mental and emotional disabilities in recreational programs.

Tour OLR's renovated church

A tour of the newly renovated Our Lady of Ransom church will be held on Sunday, Sept. 24 for all current parishioners. The tour will follow the 12:15 p.m. mass or approximately

1:30 p.m. Father Hall will talk about the history of the church and how the furnishings of St. Angela's, which is now closed, were incorporated into the

present renovation. The invitation is open to all current parishioners and a similar tour for the neighboring community will be held at a later date.

Park Ridge blood drive Oct. 2

The Park Ridge Community and LifeSource, Chicagoland's Blood Center, are hosting a blood drive on Oct. 2 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the South Park Church, 1320 S. Courtland.

As a special token of thanks, all presenting donors will receive a LifeSource calendar that shares

the stories of real people who are alive and well due to the generosity of the blood donors.

Every two seconds someone is in need of blood, for surgeries, medical procedures, cancer treatments and emergencies. One person's blood donation can save the lives of three

different people. Donors must be at least 27 years' old, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in good general health. Most medications are accepted.

For more information or to make an appointment those interested can call 847 803 7943.

Niles Historical Society presents 'Presidents and Their First Ladies'

Herbert & Lou Hoover
By William and Sue Willis

After 20 years of operating their own theatrical company in the resort of Ocean City, MD, the couple has been bringing to life the

stories of 31 different Presidential couples:

"Hoover caused the Great Depression, and who even has heard the name Lou Hoover" might be many people's first reaction to this couple. But

their story is a great tale of love, partnership, and international and national good works of fame. This program will truly show how this is one of the most misunderstood Presidents and First Ladies.

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\$20K grant to charity

Thanks to the generosity of Jan Capalmas of A-American Custom Flooring on Caldwell Ave., the village of Niles was the recipient of a \$20,000 donation which was presented to Mayor's Blase's wife, Faye. The check was to be distributed to local charities chosen by Mrs. Blase. She selected the Niles Lions Club for \$10,000 to be donated toward blind activities and \$5,000 each to the Northwest Italian American Club and Niles Optimist Club

to be used for needy children. Pictured left to right are: President of the Niles Optimist Club John Jekot, from the Niles Lions Club Ginger Troiani, President of the Niles Lions Club Phil Bergquist, Faye Blase, Mayor Nicholas Blase, President of the Northwest Italian American Club Tony Pirolo, President of A-American Custom Flooring John Capalmas from the Northwest Italian American Club and Niles Optimist Club



Members of the Zourkas family including Steven's wife Ivy and son, Andrew, listen to speakers at an event honoring the Niles Officer who died in the line of duty last year.

Memorial

continued from page 1
down on us. Westman was speaking to friends, family, students and fellow officers Monday, Sept. 18 at the dedication of a tree and memorial plaque to the memory of Zourkas who died on Apr. 8, 2005 responding to a call. Zourkas was a Golf Middle School graduate.

"Steven Michael Zourkas was a devoted father, son and husband," said Dist 67 Supt. Linda Marks. "He not only worked on a beat patrol but he was also an evidence technician and involved in the homicide unit." Marks also said that Zourkas loved life. "And it is in this spirit that a tree was planted," she said. "It will grow straight and tall and protect those

who shelter under it." Student Blake Whitehouse remembered him as a man of honor and integrity. "He had a heart of gold," Whitehouse said. "He can inspire us. His presence and spirit will live on in us for the rest of our lives." The memorial tree and plaque are located in the Frank Hren Park adjacent to Golf Middle School at 9401 Waukegan Rd., Morton Grove.

Can Man

continued from page 1

Niles Lions Club, they managed to come up with the funds for him to get an eye exam and a new pair of specs. McCluskey previously gave the man, who keeps to himself, a reflective vest so he can remain safe while walking around on the streets

at night.

McCluskey said that she will give him the letter and voucher from the Niles Lions Club the next time she sees him out and about in the community.

Norbert Johnson, of the Niles Lions Club, said that all of the members were happy to help the Can Man out, since he has spent much time and

effort cleaning the streets of Niles.

The Lions wrote a \$50 check and the foundation will take care of the rest of the costs to get him an exam at Lens Crafters in Golf Mill and a new pair of glasses.

"Providence has opened a window—now he gets to decide what to do about it," said McCluskey.

Dist 64

continued from page 1

committee said that more than two dozen talks have already been planned to keep parents and community members up

to speed on the "state of the district."

Even going beyond a referendum, Eichman suggested that the board also think about a referendum that would do more than address the imbal-

ance, but would also enhance program quality by restoring certain cuts, reducing class sizes and implementing enhanced curricula.

"Some of those cuts were pretty deep," said Eichman.

Column

continued from page 2

unpack these sets every Christmas holiday and dump out bags of pieces on the ground. Looking at those pieces wouldn't give me any clue how to fit them together or what they'd look like once assembled. But looking at the pieces of that X-Wing I could see specially fabricated parts

that were molded to look like the canopy, the nose, the engines.

And "Star Wars" isn't the only brand with which Lego has partnered; parents and relatives can buy their young sets based on "Harry Potter," "Bob the Builder," "Thomas the Train and Friends," "SpongeBob Squarepants" and even "Batman."

Among other sets the plastic

mold has crept up from a plain platform to mountains and even the beginning of walls for castle sets.

I'm not a kid anymore but I have no say that looking a steamer trunk full of "Star Wars" and "Harry Potter" components would make it difficult to dream up very many building projects that didn't involve one or the other.

SCHOOLS

Maine East Varsity Soccer kicks off, defeats ND



The Maine East varsity soccer team held its annual Kick-off Classic in the newly renovated Maine Memorial Stadium on Monday, August 28. Park Ridge Mayor Howard Frimark made opening remarks at the ceremony. The inaugural game featuring Maine East vs. Notre Dame High School for Boys was held after the dedication. The new seating marks the first stadium renovation in over 50 years. Maine East won over Notre Dame 2-0. Above, some patrons brave the rain to enjoy the game.

Notre Dame High Walkathon today

Step by Step, a Walkathon through Niles to raise \$50,000 for school clubs, activities and the continued installation of new exterior windows at Notre Dame High School will take place on Thursday, Sept. 21.

All Notre Dame High School students, faculty, staff and volunteers can participate in the Walkathon that will start at 10:30 a.m. at Notre Dame High School and end back at the school.

On Sept. 21 there will be no

classes, but the students are expected to share in the Walkathon event. The goal of \$75 per student has been set. As in the past years, students who bring in \$125 will receive a day off from school as an incentive. In addition, if the school reaches a minimum goal of \$50,000, the entire school will receive a day off during the spring semester.

Along with the Walkathon, there will also be a pep rally, lunch and various activities.

OCC offers off-site courses for parents

A number of off-site locations have been announced for new courses offered by the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at Oakton Community College.

Baby Sign Language (COM B03-02) allows parents to learn how to communicate with their child using sign language. Benefits include enhanced language, cognitive, and social-emotional development. One-

week course meets 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 30, at Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Course fee is \$29.

For a complete Alliance for Lifelong Learning class schedule, including registration and fee information, visit www.oakton.edu/cont_ed/all/index.html, or call 847-982-9888, press 3.

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Two-ton air conditioner stolen from yard

MORTON GROVE

1 Two-ton air conditioner stolen (Madison St.)

Police said a two-ton air conditioning unit was stolen from the victim's yard sometime between Sept. 11 and Sept. 12. The air conditioner is worth \$800.

2 Theft from Locker (6800 Dempster)

Police said that unidentified person(s) opened the victim's master key lock and stole a \$500 18K gold bracelet, \$55 in cash and lotto tickets on Sept. 7. Police said the cleaning lady in the locker room has access to the bolt cutter in the manager's office.

3 Burglary to Vehicle (7400 Beckwith)

The victim said that the lock to the rear of her van was "punched out" and several construction tools worth \$3,090 were stolen between Sept. 9 and Sept. 11.

4 Arrest on Warrant

A 38 year old Morton Grove resident was arrested at the Morton Grove Police station on two warrants out of Kane County on Sept. 12. Police said the subject was bonded out and give a Kane County Court Date.

5 DUI Arrest (Golf/Waukegan)

Police arrested a 25 year old Niles man for driving under the influence on Sept. 8. The man was stopped after a traffic violation. His court date is Oct. 11.

6 Possession of Cannabis Arrest (Oakton/Menard)

Police arrested a 21 year old Des Plaines woman for possessing cannabis on Sept. 9 after a traffic violation. The woman has a court date of Sept. 25.

NILES

7 Threat to Shoot Victim (7300 N. Harlem)

A subject was reportedly denied entry to the business because he was intoxicated and became angry and threatened to come back and shoot the victim on Sept. 17. Police said the subject left southbound on Harlem prior to the officer arriving at the scene.

8 Odor Investigation (7800 Nordica)

Police said a complainant said there was a "foul odor" that was coming from a residence due to dog urination and

feces in the house on Sept. 11. Police said the owner of the residence owns several dogs and the officer could see boxes and garbage piled up high inside the home. The owner of the house told police that his wife was sick and would not let him in the house, asking him if he could come back the next day.

9 Harassing Phone Calls

A 19 year old teenager has been receiving harassing phone calls for about two years. The unknown subject has made sexual comments to her. The subject has also reportedly described the clothing she was wearing and said he was watching her.

10 Asst. Niles Fire Dept. with Choking Person (8400 Golf)

Niles police assisted the Niles Fire Department on Sept. 13 with a victim choking on their dinner. Police said the victim was conscious and breathing and that no liquor was involved in the incident.

11 Money Order Fraud (5600 Touhy)

Police said a victim came into the business to inquire about cashing three money orders that she received from the subject in regards to winning the "Euromillions . Loteria International" on Sept. 15. Police said the money orders are fraudulent.

12 Vehicle Theft (7900 Park Ave)

Police said that two unknown subjects wearing dark hooded sweatshirts were seen running away from the vehicle southbound on Wisner St. The victim parked the stolen vehicle in her assigned parking spot on Washington Street and last saw it on Sept. 14. Sometime between Sept. 14 and Sept. 15 the vehicle was stolen.

13 Mob Action Arrest (8500 Dempster)

Police arrested a 17 year old Des Plaines man for aggravated assault, Mob Action and possessing cannabis. In the

restaurant parking lot, the victim said that two guys with a gun were standing by a vehicle. The teen was arrested on Sept. 16 and his court date is Oct. 13. He received a \$1,000 bond.

14 Unauthorized Videotaping Arrest (Golf Mill)

A 28 year old Wheeling man was arrested on Sept 10 for using his cell phone to take pictures of a 16 year old's underwear underneath her skirt.

15 DUI Arrest (7700 Milwaukee)

Police arrested a 22 year old male from Niles on Sept. 17 for driving under the influence of alcohol. The man received a \$1,000 bond and court date of Oct. 24.

PARK RIDGE

16 Burglary to Vehicle (2600 W. Dempster)

Police said unknown person(s) entered the victim's 1999 Chrysler Cirrus by unknown non-force means on Sept. 9. The

unknown subject(s) took a Cannon camera worth \$600 from the vehicle.

17 Planter and Hubcaps Stolen (1100 W. Arthur)

Police said unknown subject(s) removed a planter worth \$100 from the victim's front porch and also two hubcaps worth \$500 from the victim's vehicle parked in the driveway between Sept. 4 and Sept. 7.

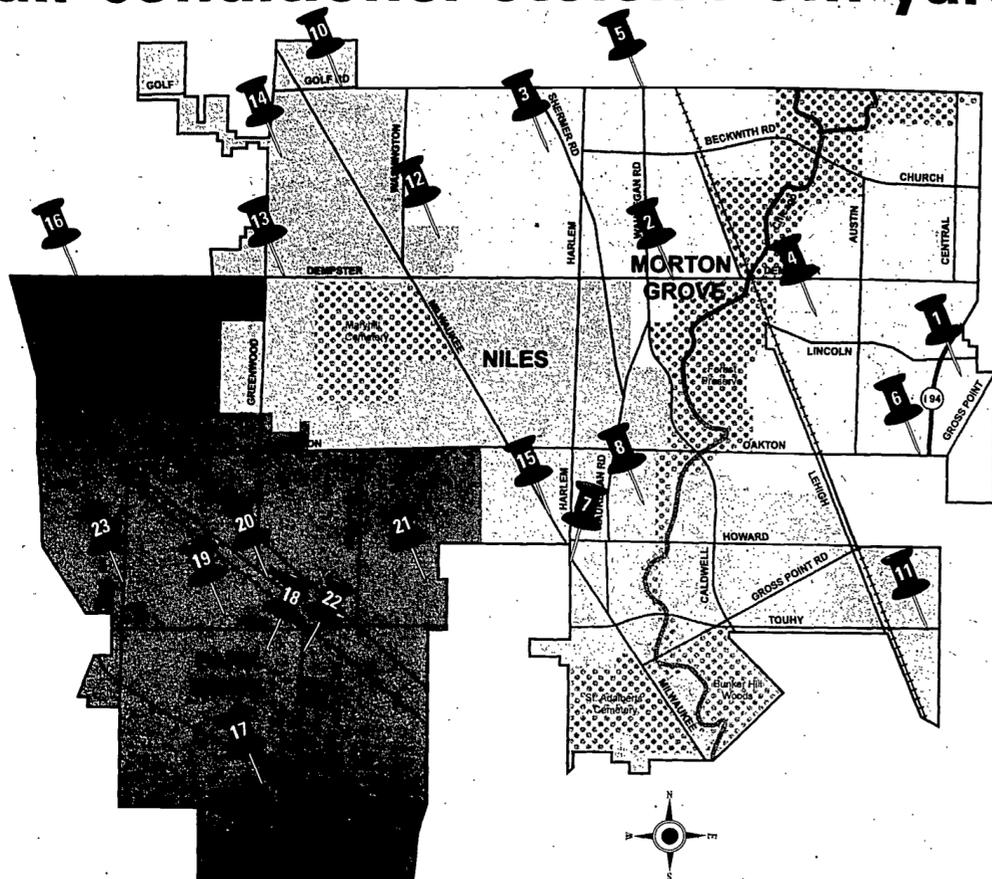
18 Two Bicycles Stolen (1100 W. Garden)

Unidentified person(s) entered the victim's detached garage by undetermined non-force means between Sept. 8 and Sept. 11. Two bicycles worth \$680 were stolen.

19 Attempt to Enter Garage (100 N. Western)

Sometime between Sept. 12 and Sept. 13, unknown person(s) attempted to gain entry to victim's garage by prying open the service door. The entry was unsuccessful, said police.

See Blotter, page 7



Bugle Graphic: Locations Approximate

MG man struck, killed by auto

Ivan Zakarija, 85, of Morton Grove, died after being struck by at least two vehicles traveling southbound on Waukegan Rd. on Sept. 14.

Morton Grove Commander Brian Bolger said there is reason to believe that the man likely fell to the ground prior to being struck by the vehicles and that he had "pre-existing medical conditions."

Zakarija was crossing from east to west on Waukegan Rd. after shopping at Dominicks. Bolger said witnesses saw him laying on the roadway with his bag of groceries by his side.

Police said the drivers have been interviewed and the investigation is as yet ongoing. No charges have been filed as of press time.

Destiny of 'Domicile' property considered

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen
STAFF WRITER

What will be developed at the old Domicile warehouse property site in Morton Grove now that a settlement has been made?

The Morton Grove village board had a meeting to discuss this topic with consultant, SB Friedman on Sept. 6. About 20 residents attended the meeting.

Economic Development Director Bill Neuendorf said that the village has five main options that are the "most reasonable", which are developing a market rate residential (condos or townhomes), commercial or restaurants, a senior-oriented residence that will be for moderate to lower income seniors, a new public library or a mixed use development, most likely containing residential and commercial.

According to Neuendorf, the option with the highest sales value and property tax value is the market rate residential and the option with the next highest values is the mixed-use option, with residential and commercial. On the other end of the spectrum, donating the property to build a

new library would not benefit the village financially. However, Neuendorf said that option would also benefit community members, in a way that can't easily be measured, unlike a monetary value. He said the other options fall somewhere in between these.

Neuendorf said that the board members had various questions that the consultants will be investigating for them. He said they didn't seem to favor any option over the others.

"It's not a great commercial site," said Neuendorf. He said that the property is off of Dempster St. and is more likely to attract businesses, such as a dental office or smaller retail business, as opposed to a large retail store.

At the meeting, the board discussed the possibility of a neighborhood retail strip mall or a stand alone restaurant, such as an Applebees type of facility.

"It's a decision that can't be made over night," said Neuendorf. However, he said that he does want to see the project move ahead as quickly as possible.

Blotter

continued from page 6

20 Scratched Vehicle (400 Busse Hwy)

Police said unknown subject(s) scratched the driver's side of the victim's 2002 VW Jetta on Sept. 9. The estimated cost of the damage is unknown.

21 Criminal-Trespass to Motor Vehicle (300 N East Ave)

Unidentified person(s) entered the victim's unlocked 2003 Nissan Pathfinder between Sept. 9 and Sept. 10. Nothing was reported missing.

22 Arrested for Striking Vehicle (900 Garden)

Police arrested a 58 year old Park Ridge female for striking an unattended vehicle and having no proof of insurance on Sept. 8. The bond is set at \$2,000 and she has a court date of Oct. 27.

23 Criminal Trespass Arrest (400 N. Deo)

A 25 year old Park Ridge man was arrested for criminal trespass to motor vehicle and criminal trespass to residence on Sept. 10. The bond is at \$1,000 and court date is Oct. 13.

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The True Cost of Lawyers

The first thing we do is kill all the lawyers", says a character in Shakespeare's Henry VI. The idea of a world without lawyers was considered a utopia back in that day. For my part, I like my attorney and my friends who are attorneys. Yet, there are real problems within the legal system that need to be addressed. The phrase has context when it comes to wasteful and destructive lawsuits.



Another Perspective
MORGAN DUBIEL | COLUMNIST

The trouble is that our court system was designed to get at the truth, through the adversarial process, and not built to make lawyers rich. People who are injured need to be made whole. The problem arises when the law is abused and those who really need help and justice do not get it. There is a lot of fraud in the personal injury business.

The asbestos lawsuit industry is ridden with fraud. Many plaintiffs who won suits for asbestosis now claim to have silicosis. Yet, the two diseases almost never occur

together. Cigarettes were called "cancer sticks" back in the 1920s. Tobacco was considered a health menace when it first arrived in Europe from American Indian stocks in the 16th century. The American airplane industry was devastated by lawsuits holding manufacturers responsible for accidents to planes that are 10, 20, 30 or more years old. Isn't there a statute of limitations? Shouldn't owners have some responsibility, especially since the planes worked fine and studies by the GAO found that 2/3 of all crashes in private planes are due to pilot error and negligence?

To figure this out, just follow the money. Medical screening and testing companies get paid only for positive findings of injury. Many claimants are suffering no ill effects or harm, yet they are part of the class action lawsuit that gives them apparently free money. The lawyers are the biggest winners of all. They get 33-40% of the award as a fee and they still charge for their costs. Companies have paid an estimated \$70 billion on asbestos personal injury claims alone. What is 33% of a \$70 billion?

Before you point a finger at China and blame them for the loss of manufacturing jobs, think of the effect of countless lawsuits on American industry. All that money goes, not to those that need it most, not toward investments to keep American companies competitive, but to greedy lawyers. While just pennies go to those most in need millions flow into the accounts of attorneys bringing these suits. This kind of enrichment is simply wrong. What

happens is that these big payouts act as a secret tax that we all pay. It comes in the form of higher costs without any improvement in quality or safety. We overpay so companies can protect themselves from lawsuits, yet get nothing in return. The most famous abusive lawsuit being the McDonald's hot coffee spill, when a woman spilled coffee on herself. Isn't coffee supposed to be hot? Aren't there things we need to take personal responsibility for? The system is cock-eyed and needs serious reform. Fixing the problem is not going to be easy. My wife worked for a medical review organization. She brought home some real horror stories of doctors who, over a few years, were responsible for three or four negligent deaths. Had you read the reports yourself you wouldn't call them deaths, you'd call them murders. Yet, they were allowed to continue to practice with little more than a hand slap. Clearly, the process needs reform, but not at the expense of those legitimately harmed. Wrongdoers must be held accountable.

I think caps on awards are the wrong way to go. There

are times when a high dollar verdict is called for, especially when the wrong is egregious, ongoing and a known danger. There is some evidence that caps have done little to reduce insurance costs or lawsuits. I like a simpler and clearer solution: loser pays. This means that if you bring the lawsuit and lose, you pay the costs for both sides. It will raise the stakes on shady plaintiff's attorneys who work for "free" without a retainer and churn cases through the system looking only to enrich themselves. This also assures that only cases with real merit get to court. It places balance back into the system by not forcing settlements.

It is a ruinous system that enriches those cunning enough to exploit it without helping those who really need it. The system places an inordinate burden on our economy. If we are going to destroy whole industries, close plants and lose untold jobs these lawsuits better be based on sound objective science; real measurable harm; and litigated in a way that benefits true victims.

Grand Opening - Blue Moon Restaurant



Blue Moon Restaurant at 6913 Milwaukee Ave. opened its doors on Friday, September 15, first with a ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Nicholas Blase and chamber representatives followed by a night of dining, entertainment and live music. Welcome new owners Francisco & Dorothy Barreto.

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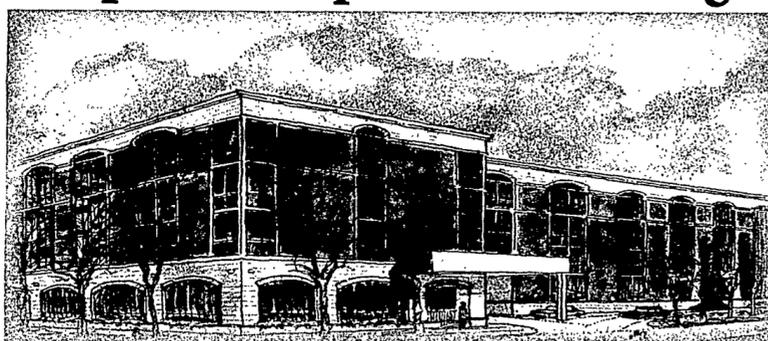
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Legislation may protect pensions, but definitely encourage savings

By Lynn O'Shaughnessy
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

When a member of Congress introduces a bill that weighs more than a stack of best-sellers, do the politicians read it?

MONEY & YOU

For one particularly unwieldy slab of legislation, the answer doesn't matter because it's a done deal. Last month, Congress passed the Pension Protection Act of 2006, which supporters called the most sweeping pension reform in 30 years.

One of the chief goals of the bill was to discourage corporations from boxing up their pension obligations and tossing them into the trash. Unfortunately, corporations have proved to be more efficient housecleaners than Heloise. Back in the mid-1980s, corporations sponsored 112,000 pension plans, but by 2004 that number had shriveled to fewer than 30,000. At this point, whether the new law persuades

companies to play nice with their employees or backfires is something pundits are furiously debating.

But taking even a cursory look at the legislation - which is probably more than most of the politicians did - indicates that Congress has hedged its bets. The act creates new reporting and funding requirements for companies that continue to maintain pension plans. But at the same time, the sponsors stuffed the bill with all sorts of provisions that they hope will prod workers into saving more of their own cash for retirement. That way, if the life raft sinks, workers will at least be able to cling to their own life preservers.

One practical effect of the law is that savings dynamos can't accuse the government of being obstructionist. Contribution ceilings for retirement accounts still exist, but they are so high - think vaulted ceilings - that most investors will never bang their heads on them.

What the pension act specifically did was extend the gradu-

ated saving tables that Congress passed a few years ago. If you're at least 50 years old, for instance, you can stuff a total of \$25,000 between an Individual Retirement Account and a 401(k) in 2006. A working couple could theoretically save double that amount. Younger investors who invest through both types of plans could squirrel away \$19,000 a year.

The government's generosity hardly stops there. This week and next, I'll share some of the other features of Congress' largesse.

Auto Pilot Savings

You can make 401(k)s as attractive as possible, but millions of workers still won't devote the 10 minutes it probably will take to enroll. Up against that grim reality, the pension act's authors hope to trick slothful noninvestors into saving. The act gives companies its official blessing to enroll these procrastinators into 401(k) plans without their permission.

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Niles Park District Preschool Openings

There are still openings for Niles Park District Bright Beginnings Preschool for this year. Spaces are still available in the morning and afternoon programs. Registration will be accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard Street, until classes are filled. For more information on our Bright Beginnings Preschool Program, please stop in the Howard Leisure Center or call (847) 967-6633 to have information mailed to you.

Youth Basketball Academy

Our Basketball Academy is designed to help the beginner as well as the more experienced players. Boys and Girls grades 2-8 will learn and develop the fundamentals of the game. Dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding, and defense are a few of the skills that will be taught. Students will show off their skills while playing actual games against other students. Academy takes place at Golf View Recreation Center, Wednesday October 11-November 1, or Friday October 13-November 3. Time is 4:00-6:00 pm and fee is Res \$39; Non-Res \$44. Questions, please call (847) 967-1529 or (847) 967-6975.

An Evolving Neighborhood, a New Summit Square

Dramatic changes are happening at Summit Square Retirement and Assisted Living Residence. The retirement community's location in beautiful Uptown Park Ridge remains the same—but the neighborhood itself is fast becoming the place to be for shopping, dining and entertainment.

It's this connection to a dynamic community that makes Summit Square so great. Residents can walk to places like the historic Pickwick—Park Ridge's beautiful landmark movie theater—and enjoy 1st-run films at 2nd-run prices. Shops, churches, banks and medical facilities are also nearby. Before long, new restaurants will be just steps away. Also coming soon to the Summit Square neighborhood are well-known and boutique retailers and Trader Joe's, the specialty grocery chain that everybody's talking about.

Plus there's a new Summit Square in the making. Plans are underway for exterior and interior renovations that will offer more spacious apartments and a variety of new

amenities to choose from. The strength of Summit Square's thriving retirement community goes beyond its proximity to shopping, entertainment, family and friends. It's also a wonderful place to relax at home in comfortable apartments with convenient amenities. With all the great changes happening all around us, Summit Square will be abuzz with excitement for many months to come. The community is sure to grow even stronger and more nurturing as a whole.

For more than 20 years, Summit Square has enjoyed a reputation for providing quality services, stimulating activities, convenient amenities and having a great location. The improvements to both the neighborhood and Summit Square itself will certainly make it an even stronger community.

To contact Summit Square Retirement & Assisted Living Residence, call 847-825-1161 or visit www.summitsquare-retirement.com. Escorted tours are available upon request.

ST. JOHN BREBEUF "JOY IN JESUS" PRE-SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registrations for the St. John Brebeuf "Joy in Jesus" Sunday pre-school program are now being taken. The program is open to children ages 3 1/2 through kindergarten age. Classes are held during the 10:45 Mass each Sunday. Registration fee is \$35 and covers all materials for the year.

Special emphasis is given to the development of self-awareness in the children and their place in the Christian community. The goal of the program is to provide a foundation for the future understanding of their faith. To register, or for additional information, please call Charlotte Lindquist, 847/470-1434.

Morton Grove Park District performs at Illinois State Fair



Pictured Left to Right front row: Adrienne Ordenez 2nd Row: Vanessa Retondo, Andrea Pasminski, Stephanie Kost, Michelle Kloda, Teagan Smith, Monika Dzierzanowski, Mary Jayne, Kirstie Beck and Lori Andel. Back Row: Megan Foley, Brenda Sekosan, Katie Foley, and Amelie Zeng

The Morton Grove Park District's Starbound Dance Company and members of the Advanced Repertoire/Toe Ballet classes performed at the Illinois State Fair on Saturday, August 20 (pictured above). Five members of the 2005 Company performed: Kirstie Beck, Katie Foley, Mary Jayne, Adrienne Ordenez, and Brenda Sekosan. Members from the Advanced Repertoire and Toe Ballet class included Monika Dzierzanowski, Michelle Kloda, Stephanie Kost, Andrea Pasminski, Vanessa Retondo, Teagan Smith and Amelie Zeng. Megan Foley and Lori Andel also performed. The group is lead by Dance Coordinator Helen Lazicki and assistant

Lauren Lazicki. Morton Grove Park District offers two dance companies for the dancers 13 years and older. Spotlight Company is a non-competitive group which perform Jazz and Tap routines. Starbound is the competitive company and offers Jazz and Tap as well as a Ballet group for advanced students. The Companies rehearse weekly and hosts guest dance instructors. Registration for the 2006-07 dance program at the Morton Grove Park District is in progress. Classes are offered for dancers ages 3 to 18 years including Creative Dance, Tap & Jazz, Hip Hop, Ballet, Lyrical Ballet and Repertoire. Call 847-965-1200 for more information.

SAINT ANDREW LIFE CENTER AND RESURRECTION RETIREMENT COMMUNITY ARE HOLDING FREE OPEN HOUSES

Saint Andrew Life Center, 7000 North Newark Avenue, Niles, will hold a dedication and festival on Sunday, October 8. At 10:30 a.m. a celebration Mass will take place in the newly remodeled Saint Andrew Chapel, followed by "Celebrating Autumn" festivities from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Activities will include tours, refreshments, and plenty of autumn activities. Free parking is available. Please call Saint Andrew Life Center at 847-647-8332 for more

information. Resurrection Retirement Community, 7262 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, will hold an open house of its Garden Terrace assisted living center and efficiency apartments in the independent living facility on Saturday, October 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Activities will include tours and refreshments. Free parking also is available. Please call Resurrection Retirement Community at 773-792-7930 for more information.

Resurrection Retirement Community recently was licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide assisted living services. Saint Andrew Life Center is licensed to provide assisted living and intermediate nursing care in addition to independent living. Resurrection Health Care is a not-for-profit Catholic organization sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Sisters of the Resurrection.

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Niles Senior Center untangles assessment questions

Niles Senior News

Don't Understand Property Assessments?

On Wednesday, October 18th at 1:00PM, Nancy McCready of the Cook County Assessor's Office will be on hand to answer your questions. If you have specific questions about your tax bill, please bring a copy of your second installment bill. Please register in advance.

5th Annual Pet Parade Oct. 9

The animal kingdom will reign supreme at our annual Pet Parade. Whether large or small, cute or scary, four-footed (or three), costumed pets and their adoring humans will take center stage to thrill animal lovers of all ages. All Niles Pet Owners (of all ages) are invited to enter their pets (or their "grandpets"). Advanced pet registration required.

'Into the Woods'

Into the Woods and

Carlucci's Restaurant, Wednesday, Sept. 27 10:30-5:PM \$62 (Open to non-residents) Lunch before the show is at Carlucci's, featuring a choice of entrée. Then it's off to Marriot for Stephen Sondheim's musical classic of fairy tales and maybe not so very happy ever-afters. It's a great show and lunch at Carlucci's is always fabulous. Join us!

Oktoberfest

Friday, October 20th 11:30AM- 2:00PM \$12

Join us as we welcome the Bill Beilfuss Duo to perform a lively show of Yodeling, Schnitzelbank, Chicken Dance and other great songs. We will feast upon a delicious catered luncheon featuring Bratwurst and Sauerkraut, Herb Baked Chicken, German Potato Salad, Corn Cobettes with butter and delicious Bavarian Crème Jello Dessert.

FallFest

November 3, 5:00PM-9:00PM \$12

Our evening begins with a delicious meal featuring salad, baked potato, BBQ ribs, and dessert followed by an evening of dance and dance instruction by Bob & Denise Boyle of Denim and Diamond. If you need a break from dancing or dancing just isn't "your cup of tea" you can try your luck in our BINGO Room.

How to Buy a Computer

Friday, Sept. 22 10:00-11:30AM \$1

Get some clarity! Join us for this free seminar that will assist you in purchasing your computer. Filter out fact from fiction. Get answers to your questions. Mac vs PC - MHz, GB, MB, RAM - what do these mean? How much "computer" do you need? Budget? Software vs Hardware - and more... Cost \$1. Registration required.

Referrals for Constructions & Home Maintenance

The Niles Senior Center is creating a referral list of Construction and Home

Maintenance services for our members. If you are interested in having yourself or your company considered for outside referral, please contact Angelo Ginger Troiani at the Center(1 847 588-8447). By mail: submit your/your company's name to the Niles Senior Center (999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, IL 60714); Address, Phone Number, Trade or Service, Short History of your Company/Services, Up-to-Date Referrals, and Hours of Operation.

Lite Lunch and Movie

SAHARA, Friday, October 6 12:00-4:00PM \$4.50

Matthew McConaughey stars as Dirk Pitt in this adaptation of Clive Cussler's novel. When a rare coin is found in a river in Africa, it seems to give some support to a belief by some that a Civil War Iron Clad ship with a Confederate treasure made it all the way to Africa. Dirk also makes the acquaintance of Dr. Eva Rojas (Penelope Cruz) a scientist investigating a rapidly

spreading disease with world-wide implications.. Lunch, served promptly at noon includes Lasagna, Garlic Bread and Dessert. Movie rated PG-13

Dinner & A Movie

The Lake House, Wednesday, October 18th (2006 PG) \$2 5:00PM - 8:00PM

A hot dog dinner will be served at 5:00, prior to the movie. Stars Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves.

Lunch with Red Hatters

On Monday, October 30th, the Red Hatters have reservations at Lucky Magee's Racino Grill and Sports Lounge in Niles. Red hatters will meet at noon for a buffet luncheon featuring Fried Chicken, Polish Sausage, Cold Cuts, Cheese, Kraut, Potato Salad, Cold Slaw and Dessert. Please call Kelly for carpooling and/or directions. Red hat and purple outfit are required. Cost \$14.25.

Two outstanding communities Two beautiful fall weekends Two fun-filled open houses

Enjoy two great weekends with us and see our outstanding retirement communities. We will have tours of our efficiency apartments, lots of fun activities and refreshments. Learn from our residents and staff about our wonderful services, clean, modern apartments, fun activities and comforting spirituality. Make new friends before you even move in! We are here—for you.

Sunday, October 8

10:30 a.m.- Mass in our newly-remodeled Chapel.
11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.- Celebrating Autumn Activities
Saint Andrew Life Center
7000 North Newark Avenue, Niles
(One block south and west of the Niles Veterans Memorial Waterfall)
847-647-8332

Saturday, October 21

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.- Autumn Open House for the Garden Terrace assisted living center
Resurrection Retirement Community
7262 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago
773-792-7930

Resurrection Health Care
For All of You, All of Your Life

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Sisters of the Resurrection. Resurrection Health Care is committed to fair housing. Its retirement communities include features for persons with disabilities, as required by the federal Fair Housing Act.

Resurrection Retirement Community and Saint Andrew Life Center are licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide assisted living services.



Cholesterol screening held at MG Center

MG Senior News

Cholesterol Screening

The Morton Grove Senior Center's monthly Cholesterol Screening will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 4. 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 can be made by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223. Fasting for 12 hours is also required but water and medications are allowed. The cost is \$10 for residents age 65+ and \$12 for non-residents and residents under age 65.

Computer Classes

"Getting Started with Computers" is a class designed

for students with little or no computer experience. There will be lots of hand-on exercise and loads of fun in this four-week course from 9 to 10:30 a.m. starting Sept. 30 through Oct. 21 at the Morton Grove Fire Station #4 at Lincoln and Callie Avenues. The fee is \$32 for Senior Center Members and \$37 for non-members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center.

The "Internet" course is

designed for beginner Internet users and explorers who want to increase their Internet knowledge and proficiency. This four-week series meets from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting Sept. 30 through Oct. 21 at the Morton Grove Fire Station #4 at Lincoln and Callie Avenues. The fee is \$32 for Senior Center Members and \$37 for non-members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center.

Crochet Class

Learn basic and advanced crochet methods, knots, and have fun! All levels welcome to this twelve-week class from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. every Friday from Oct. 6 through Dec. 29 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. There will be no class on Friday Nov. 24. The instructor once again will be the incomparable, Diane Brunger. The class fee is \$28 for Senior Center Members and \$32 for non-members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center.

Tai Chi Demo & Classes

Join the Morton Grove Senior Center for an introduction to Tai Chi. Tai Chi uses slow, gentle movements to improve flexibility and build muscle strength gradually. It can help ease sore joints and muscles. An introductory demonstration class will be offered from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12 at a cost of \$1 for Senior Center Members and \$1.50 for non-members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center before Oct. 3.

Two six-week Tai Chi Class series will also be offered starting in October. The Monday classes from 10 to 10:45 a.m. begin on Monday, Oct. 23. The Friday classes also from 10 to 10:45 a.m. begin on Friday, Oct. 27. The cost for each six-week series of classes is \$25 for Senior Center Members and \$29 for non-members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center before Oct. 19.

'Normal Aging vs. Dementia' Lecture

Ever wonder how to tell the difference between the normal signs of aging or some form of dementia? This presentation will highlight the signs that may indicate a problem and methods of maintaining a healthy brain. The lecture will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 16 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. The cost is \$1 for Senior Center Members and \$1.50 for non-

members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center before Oct. 9.

Visually Impaired Motivators Field Trip

The Visually Impaired Motivators (V.I.M.) of Morton Grove is sponsoring a trip to Friedman Place in Chicago from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 17. Friedman Place is a residence for blind and visually impaired residents. The cost of the trip is \$2 per person, which includes the monthly V.I.M. Meeting, transportation, tour and lunch. For more information or to make a reservation contact Morton Grove Village Nurse, Margaret DiSalvo at the Morton Grove Senior Center, 847/663-6109.

'Opera in Focus'

Here's an opportunity for music lovers to listen and view excerpts from the well-known operas *IL Trovatore* and *Phantom of the Opera*. Transportation to the theatre in Rolling Meadows will be via luxury climate controlled bus and will depart from the Morton Grove Senior Center at 12:30 p.m. and return at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 18. The cost is \$30 for Senior Center Members and \$34.50 for non-members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center before Sept. 28.

Flu Immunizations

The Village of Morton Grove will provide influenza (flu) immunizations for residents age 65 and older. A flu shot is given annually and is the primary method of preventing the flu and its possible severe complications. There will be no charge for Morton Grove residents who have Medicare Part B and bring in their Medicare card. Residents without Medicare Part B will be charged \$36.46. Anyone allergic to chicken eggs, those who have had a severe reaction to a flu shot in the past or anyone who has previously developed Guillain-Barre Syndrome in the six weeks after getting the flu shot should not get the shot. Any person with an active infection or fever should postpone their shot until their symptoms subside.

Resurrection Medical Center will be administering the immunizations at the Morton Grove Senior Center on:

Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m.

See Morton Grove, page 13

PR Senior Center illuminates 'The Missing Links'

Park Ridge Senior News

The Missing Links

"The Missing Links" is a new nine week class being offered at the Park Ridge Senior Center beginning Wednesday, October 4 at 1 p.m. The class is being taught by John Pierre and covers many things facing adults as we get older. Balance, coordination, and skill development are three of the most neglected components in older adults today. Aging seniors often lose the ability to respond to stimuli and to react appropriately to daily challenges. These diminished reflex responses are normally due to disuse and are not a part of the normal aging process. The Missing Links will help to awaken the nervous system once again and teach the bodies, brain and muscles to respond quicker and with more skill and coordination. This is a favorite class because every senior smiles, laughs and learns. Pre-registration is required. The charge is \$48 for the 9 weeks. Guests are welcome to attend.

Flu Shots

Again flu shots will be given by the American Lung Association at the Senior

Center Thursday, October 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. No reservations are required.

Real Estate

It's a buyers real estate market. Come join us to learn how to sell your home for top dollar and in the shortest amount of time. This workshop takes place, Tuesday, September 26 at 9 a.m. It will be presented by: Baird and Warner agents, Sharon Curcio and Marlene Tesar, Realtors; Carmela Primavera, a licensed mortgage broker with key financial services and Bruna Corso, Attorney at Law.

Curcio and Tesar will share information about current real estate trends as well as what you should know before you buy or sell and what you should do before you buy or sell a home. Primavera will discuss mortgage trends and rates and explain the latest mortgage and financing options, including reverse mortgages.

Corso will talk about the legal aspects of buying and selling a home including the essential provisions in the real estate contract. She will also discuss new construction contracts and what you should know about them before you make a purchase.

Time is allotted for questions

and answers. Seating is limited. Sign up no later than noon on Monday September 25. Refreshments will be served.

Pop Tops

Save your pop tops from your pop cans (and beer cans) and bring them in to the Center. They can be deposited in various decorated found around the Senior Center. The Center is saving them for Ronald McDonald House.

Trivia

Something new has been added. If you are good at trivia, come try the team "Trivia" game. The first date will be Monday, September 25 at 1 p.m. If there is enough interest, it will be made a regular program on the Center's schedule, so you all come.

Art Class

Well known local artist, Beverly Ellstrand, will be starting another art workshop at the

Center beginning Monday, October 2 to November 20 (8 weeks). The time is 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. You are encouraged to bring a lunch. These classes are open to everyone at all levels. You can work in the media of your choice, pencil, pen and ink, colored pencils, watercolors, pastels, etc. Or...learn about the possibilities of mixed media which will be the focus of this class. The class is limited to 15 people and there is a charge of \$65.00.

Running | Jogging | Walking

Hip and many miles later.

Pain prevented Sheila Raffe from enjoying life. Just walking across the room was unbearable. But after her hip replacement surgery—and with the help of our top-notch therapists—she quickly reclaimed her active lifestyle. Now she's even speed walking at the track. To see what we can do for you, call us or visit us online today.

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The dialysis center consists of 3 stations, in which each resident has their own dialysis machine. There are privacy curtains surrounding each unit, a common television with DVD/VCR combo and telephone. Our 12-patient, unique and individualized program focuses on providing the highest quality of care for dialysis patients. Upon admission to the program, Bethany Terrace and Fresenius Medical Care provide individuals with an orientation to the program.

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Can't decide between Canada and the Caribbean?

By Tom Roebuck
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Rosewood Hotels and Resorts has created a Two Nation Vacation that takes travelers on two dramatically different experiences - the thrills

FYI TRAVEL

and pampering of one of the world's top wilderness lodges and the pleasures and relaxation of the consummate Caribbean resort.

The Two Nation Vacation is an eight-night package with three nights at King Pacific Lodge in British Columbia and five nights at Little Dix Bay in Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands. The package can be enjoyed all at once or in two parts at any time through September 2007.

King Pacific Lodge is a luxury floating wilderness lodge anchored in a sheltered harbor along the shores of Princess Royal Island in the Great Bear Rain Forest. Little Dix Bay is a timeless resort with a half-mile, crescent-shaped beach and a colorful barrier reef. Guests



The King Pacific Lodge offers visitors a view of Princess Royal Island and Great Bear Rain Forest.

have a choice of elegant villas and guest rooms, including hexagonal cottages and two- and three-bedroom villas nestled along gardens and shaded footpaths. Complimentary services include a wide array of water sports, use of the on-site

fitness center and tennis courts, and more.

At King Pacific Lodge, the Two Nation Vacation includes round-trip private charter flights from Vancouver, three nights in an ocean-view room, all meals including beverages

and an open bar, unlimited guided ocean fishing, kayaking and hiking, wildlife viewing and a cultural tour, 90-minute spa treatment, welcome bottle of rum in the room and handling and packaging of your fish catch to take home.

At Little Dix Bay, the package includes a bottle of champagne on arrival, five nights in an ocean cottage, three dinners, including a private, torch-lit dinner on the beach, boat drop-off on a secluded beach, two 50-minute massages and transfers to and from Tortola airport.

FYI: Rates start at \$13,525 for two. For reservations call 888-ROSEWOOD (888-767-3966), or visit www.rosewoodhotels.com. King Pacific Lodge is open from May through October: www.kingpacificlodge.com. Little Dix Bay: www.littledixbay.com.

Yosemite's Doorstep

Amid the pine-studded Sierra Nevada Mountains, minutes from Yosemite National Park, is the boutique, garden-themed Apple Tree Inn. This intimate resort features 54 rooms, including 19 cottages, across six acres of rolling woodlands. Each room has a gas fireplace and other cozy appointments. The peaceful grounds are lined with native ponderosa pines, sugar pines, firs, maples and oaks.

See Travel, page 16

Maine Township seniors plan fall trips, classes

By Doug Mayberry
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: I love my grandchildren, who are both in their late teens. They are full of enthusiasm,

DEAR DOUG

and they are wizards in terms of technology. They are busy, busy and I find I am not able to keep up with them. I want to be a part of their lives but I am

finding it difficult to keep in touch. What can I do?

A: You've hit the nail on the head. If you don't keep in touch with them, they will pass you by. Their minds, culture and fast-paced electronic equipment allow them to communicate with their peers, parents and family almost instantly.

Telephone calls and letter-writing are only a memory to young people. Do you have a

cell phone and computer for e-mailing? Many of us have chosen not to have anything to do with these capabilities. It's a mistake not to try.

As you know, younger adults and kids bug us by intruding on our quiet environment, which we enjoyed. That culture is over. The distraction we now experiencing permeates everything. Communication is being con-

See Gadgets, page 17

Registration Required.
Presenter: Lee Huber

Why should you learn how to use the computer and the internet? Are you using the computer now and would like to pick up tips and tools? This workshop is filled with ideas you can take back and apply. If you are part of the 78% of people that do not go online, e-mail and/or use the internet, attend this session to learn how using the computer can be a lot of fun with immense rewards. Learning how to use a computer may seem like a daunting task, but the process doesn't have to be overwhelming. If your initial perception of computer use is "I can never learn that," please sign up.

Only instructor has computer.

Maine Twp. Senior News

MaineStreamers

The Maine Township MaineStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. All residents and property owners are invited to apply for membership. Membership includes a free subscription to the MaineStreamers monthly newsletter, which details all activities for the upcoming month. Most activities take place at Maine Town Hall located at 1700 Ballard Rd. in Park Ridge. Members pay individually for whichever activities they want to participate in. For more information contact the MaineStreamers at 847-297-2510 or visit us at www.mainetownship.com.

Acrylic Painting Class

Wednesdays, Oct. 4 to Dec. 6, (No classes on Oct. 18 & Nov. 22), 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Cost: \$30

We will continue to learn creative brushstrokes and double loading of color on our brushes as we decorate wooden objects and create more greeting cards and learn simple Rosemailing. Newcomers welcome.

'FallFest' Luncheon

Wednesday, Oct. 18, Doors open: 11 a.m., Lunch served: 12 noon, Crystal Palace, 2648, Dempster, Park Ridge., \$13 members/\$14 guests + \$1 fish

Come enjoy an afternoon with us. Our menu will feature Cream of Mushroom Soup, Roast Loin of Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Apple Sauce, Peas & Carrots with Butter Pecan Ice Cream for dessert.

Our performer will be the fabulous Lou Adams who will entertain us with his great sense of humor as well as his piano and vocal talent. Bingo will follow. Reservations and cancellations must be received by Wednesday, Oct. 11.

Computer Workshop

Monday, Oct. 16, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Cost: \$10

Handyman Guides 2006 Available

Fresh off the press... the brand new 2006 Handyman Guides are available to residents at no charge. The guide lists numerous handymen that offer services that included plumbing, painting, roofing, remodeling, snowplowing and many more. The book MUST be picked up at the Town Hall and is limited to one per household.

Day Trip

The following Day Trip is currently on sale. In order to sign up for a Day Trip you

See Maine Twp., page 16

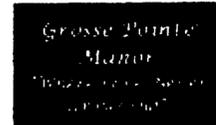
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Papers also seem to bear bad news

By Joe Volz & Kate Bird
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Reading newspapers is torturing these days.

Just look at the front page of any newspaper. You can count on there being at least one tragic, horrible or unsettling story prominently displayed.

AGING LIFESTYLES

We kept track of front-page stories for a few days in our three daily newspapers.

The Frederick (Md.) News Post (our local paper) carried stories about auto accidents during which people died - usually not the driver who caused the accident.

The Washington Post, as usual, had stories on Iraq and how President Bush's war is sinking into civil war.

The New York Times had lengthy stories about the Lebanon/Israeli war as well as Iraq. Another was about a criminal escaped from jail after killing a guard and seri-

ously wounding two others.

Good grief! What a way to start the day.

We wonder how reading a steady diet of unpleasant news affects older people.

Many older people wake up slowly and don't really function until after their ritual of tea and the morning paper.

Author William Styron, who was clinically depressed and sometimes suicidal throughout his life, wrote that he couldn't stand reading the paper in the morning. The bad news only made him feel worse.

Recently, we read a piece (in all three newspapers) that has us even more up in arms.

The story was about a new study from the National Institutes of Health and the elder advocacy group AARP about being overweight. The study relied on the standard Body Mass Index gauge and purportedly reveals whether a person is within normal weight limits according to height.

The study contends that being even slightly overweight - a few pounds - could shorten our lives by 20 percent to 40 percent.

By the narrow limits used for the BMI measurement, the study claims that a staggering three-fourths of us are either overweight or obese.

No critics of the study were quoted nor were the limitations of the BMI mentioned anywhere.

Typically, the index takes only a person's height and weight into consideration. It doesn't include age or physical fitness.

Despite BMI readings, common sense tells us that a 350-pound man with diabetes and heart trouble is much more likely to die early than a physically fit man who's 5 pounds overweight with no discernible illness.

In addition, the study contradicts an earlier study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that suggested being slightly overweight might even lower

a person's chance of dying.

Why on earth are we struggling so hard to watch our diet and exercise when both of our BMIs are slightly out of whack? We might as well give up now and sit down in our rocking chairs to wait for death's embrace.

Furthermore, we are willing to bet that over the next few months or years, the study's conclusions will be challenged successfully. It's commonplace to read about medical reports that carry dismaying news only to find another study down the road that is contradictory.

We don't recommend canceling your newspaper subscriptions. But we have some suggestions for older people on how to read papers without dropping into despair.

Read only the headlines of dismal or depressing stories. Check with other media sources to find out if all agree on a given story or a study's results. Always read the light stuff. Go to the style or home sections and the comics.

Look for any tidbit that makes you laugh. Write letters to the editor about stories you question or find lacking.

Go for some exercise immediately after reading the paper. Take a long walk, ride your bike, work out at the gym, go for a swim - anything that can get your gloomy spirit to lift. Finally, to check our theory about depressing news stories, go to the library or online and check out the front pages of several papers over a week or so.

You're likely to be as appalled as we are. Then contact your local media and ask for more accurate reporting.

Who knows? Newspapers might even join. E-mail Joe Volz at jvolz2003@adelphia.net or write to 2528 Five Shillings Road, Frederick, MD 21701.

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Travel

continued from page 14

After visiting Yosemite, guests can present their park pass at checkout and get \$20 taken off their final bill. Rates begin at \$99. The Park Pass package is valid Sunday through Thursday until May; holiday periods are exempt. Guests can also take advantage of the Apple Tree's Deluxe Dinner package and receive a \$40 gift certificate toward dinner at the nearby Tenaya Lodge. Rates begin at \$119, are valid Sunday through

Thursday and holiday periods are exempt.

FVI: The Apple Tree Inn is located on scenic Highway 41 in historic Fish Camp, two miles from the south gate of Yosemite National Park. For more information or to make reservations, call 888-683-5111 or visit www.appletreeinn-yosemite.com.

Know Where to Go

To help visitors hoping to catch Virginia's brilliant fall colors, www.fallinvirginia.org will feature weekly foliage reports starting in October, when the

leaves will be changing. Current photos will be posted to let leaf-peepers know where the best colors are. New to the site this year is the "What's nearby" mapping feature, highlighting lodging, dining and attractions nearby. Visitors can also create detailed driving directions and determine exact mileage between points.

FVI: For more information call 800-932-5827 or visit www.fallinvirginia.org.

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Maine Twp.

continued from page 15

must first sign up to be a member and then a reservation form will be sent to you. To become a member call the MaineStreamers at 1-847-297-2510 and ask for an application. All Day Trips depart from the State of Illinois Building, 9511 Harrison St. in Des Plaines.

Intergenerational Trip

"Reindeer Ranch," Rantoul, Illinois, Saturday, Nov. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Cost: \$40 mem-

bers & children.

Come enjoy a wonderful day in the country with your grandchildren and/or friends at Hardy's Reindeer Ranch.

On the way we will play games and award prizes to make our journey enjoyable. We will get to see and pet real reindeer. We will also enjoy a Chuckwagon BBQ lunch, a Buggy ride, and a Corn Maze. The menu for lunch consists of Hot Dogs, Smoked Brisket, Baked Beans, Sweet & Sour Slaw and Corned Bread. A "Surprise" Dessert will complete your feast.

Program helps survivors as well as retirees

By Tom Margenau
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

A note to my readers: In addition to the many other ways that people remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001, I would like to use this opportunity to

YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY

remind you that Social Security is so much more than just a retirement program.

You may be wondering: Where is the connection? Well, there are thousands of women, men and children who are getting Social Security benefits to this day (and for years to come) because of that tragedy five years ago. They are the widows, widowers and children of people who died in those airplanes, or at the Twin Towers, or at the Pentagon. They are receiving monthly Social Security survivor's benefits.

I hear so many younger people say, "Social Security is a rip-off. I'll never see a nickel of that money." Even though they are wrong (Social Security will be there when they retire), they are focused only on one aspect of the program. They forget that their Social Security taxes are also paying for potentially valuable life insurance as well as disability insurance. So if you are a middle-age or younger person reading this column, please remember that Social Security will be there if some tragedy ever strikes your family. And it will be there if you are fortunate enough to live until you reach retirement.

Q: I get my Social Security check near the end of each month. But my neighbor gets his check at the beginning of each month. So the government is penalizing me every month because I am losing interest on my Social Security that is directly deposited into my bank account. What can I do to stop this injustice?

A: Wow! You must have the first dollar you ever earned if you are worrying about pennies worth of interest on a Social Security check. And as I see it, you are not as bad off as you think.

I can see where you can claim

you lost some interest on your first Social Security check - if it came at the end of the month while your neighbor's check came at the beginning of the same month. But after that, both of you are getting a check every 30 days or so. So you can earn the same amount of interest in that time as your neighbor can.

In case some readers are confused about the premise of this question - staggered Social Security delivery dates - allow me to explain.

For the first half century of Social Security's existence, all checks were paid on the third of the month - for the prior month. So, for example, September Social Security checks were all sent out on Oct. 3. But a few years ago, the Social Security Administration's long-range thinkers decided that continuing to pay Social Security checks on the same day each month would lead to all kinds of problems.

They knew that the agency's telephone lines were already clogged around the third of each month with people reporting problems with their Social Security checks. And the once-a-month payments also were causing headaches for the Postal Service. They reasoned those problems would only grow worse as the baby boomers retire. So they came up with a staggered Social Security check delivery plan. Beginning with claims processed in the late 1990s, Social Security checks are now paid this way:

■ People whose birthdays fall on the 1st through the 10th of the month get their Social Security checks on the second Wednesday of each month.

■ People born on the 11th through the 20th get their checks on the third Wednesday of each month.

■ People born after the 20th get their checks delivered on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Questions may be sent c/o Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190. Or send e-mail to your-socialsecurity@comcast.net.

Gadgets

continued from page 15

ducted while we drive, shop, eat in restaurants, use restrooms, even in movies. Silence remains golden but is no longer available. Messaging is constant and pervasive 24 hours a day.

Don't allow yourself to miss the opportunity of being a part of your grandchildren's world. There are many opportunities to learn the new technology. Senior classes are available in schools, senior centers and volunteer organizations as well as from retailers who sell the equipment. Most grandchildren are also willing to show you how to use it. It is a wonderful chance to bond with them. Enlist the kids into showing you how their gadgets work. They'll feel good about it, and you will, too!

Q: I have a dear friend whom I've known since childhood. She is disappointed because she as she was unable to have children. However, she chose to volunteer to teach elementary children to read in her home after school. She also chose to become a professional and

returned to college and received her degree in childhood education. She is successful in using techniques based on one-on-one student problems. Her husband supported her efforts, and after his death she continues to help kids. Recently, she fell and now she isn't able to move around easily. For her, just to answer the doorbell is difficult. She is very independent and proud, and I would like to help her continue her teaching, which she desperately wants to do. How could I help her make this happen?

A: How wonderful it is to find talented individuals who are willing to volunteer and share their talents with others. They are treasures. Is it possible you could become her mobile assistant? If so, you could be available prior to the students' arrival; you could let them in and seat them for her to teach. If you couldn't do so full time, how about asking your friends to take a turn once a week?

Also, could the parents of the children being taught commit to being responsible not only for bringing them to class but

to stay while they are being taught?

If they are unable to do so, could they find substitutes who would be able to help out? If the parents are pleased with their children's progress, it's reasonable they should also be willing to help out.

Volunteers are so desperately needed in today's world, and many of us would like to help but don't know-how to do so. Your friends, the students' parents and possibly you and your mobile assistants would be rewarded by sharing both in observing the students learn as well as staying engaged yourselves. Serving others in need earns its own rewards.

No doubt there are other options available, but toss out a few to your friend and make it happen. It's a win-win!

Doug Mayberry lives in a retirement community in Southern California. Send your questions to him at dear-doug@msn.com or write to him at P.O. Box 2649, Carlsbad, CA 92018.

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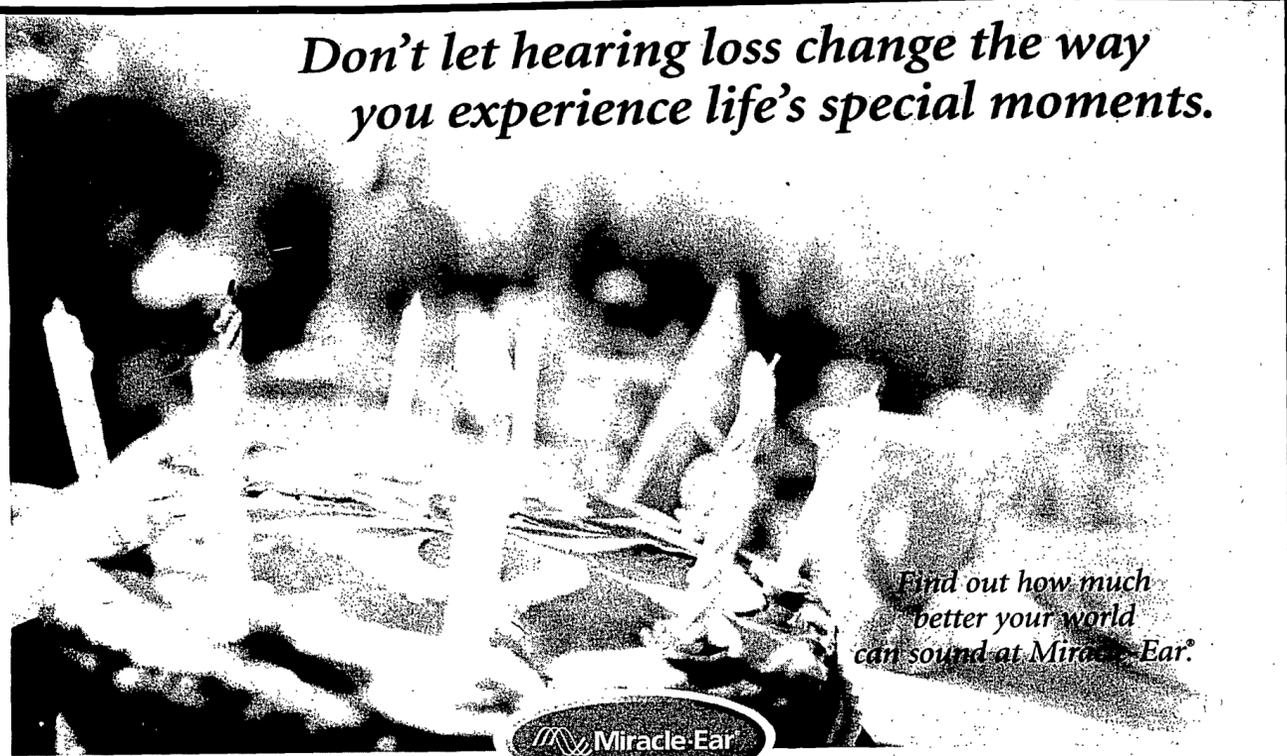
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†See store for details.

Notre Dame Varsity team loses to Carmel

A promising three-game win streak took a minor setback this weekend as the ND Sophomores and Varsity both lost to Carmel. Big time hopes

COACH HENNESSEY'S WEEK IN REVIEW

of staying in a first place tie with Carmel on both levels was dispelled as Carmel defeated the Sophomores Dons 47-7 and the ND Varsity 50-20. The lone highlight of the weekend was an outstanding win by the ND Freshman Football team on Saturday as they beat Carmel 35-0.

The ND Sophomores got off to a bad start as big plays by Carmel and too many first half punts led to Carmel amassing a big halftime lead. Running back Matt Bascom scored an ND touchdown on a third quarter run.

First quarter defensive stops and offensive ball possession comprised the ND Varsity game plan that did not go according to plan. Carmel scored on their first offensive possession and stopped ND on their first series, and the tempo of the game was set. Carmel went on to score a handful of first half touch-

downs before the ND offense connected in the 2nd quarter on a 46-yd touchdown pass from QB Jeff Larsen to WR Mike Achino. ND scored two touchdowns in the second half as junior linebacker Rick Szukala blocked a punt and scored six points, and QB Zach Abraham tossed a 22 yd TD pass to WR Mudiaga Eruteya.

The pressure to get a weekend victory over Carmel fell to the Frosh, and Coach Pat Kelly's (ND alum '81) squad surprised Carmel with a big aerial attack and a shutout as they beat Carmel 35-0. The

ND Freshman Offensive Line (Joe Bushell, Mack Mondala, Zach Fudalej, Eric Schuler and Chang Hee Lee) and the ND Defensive Line (Bob Nichol, Cory Campbell, Tyler Nicholson, Larry Travers and Matt McNulty) controlled the line of scrimmage all day long. Three interceptions by DB Kevin Knorr and outstanding special teams plays by DB Ian McGrath were a few of the individual highlights in an excellent overall team victory.

All 3 levels sport a solid 3-1 overall record as Homecoming/Spirit Week

comes upon the Notre Dame community. Alumni events all weekend, a cookout in the courtyard for elementary school students on Friday, the ND Walkathon on Thursday and the Homecoming Dance on Saturday are all a part of a great weekend at Notre Dame. The centerpiece of the weekend's events will be our Homecoming Football Game on Friday, Sept. 22 as the Dons host Nazareth Academy (Sophomores - 5 pm, Varsity - 7:30 pm). Come on out and get involved with the ND Spirit - it's gonna be a tremendous week.

Plainfield North HS penalized by-law violations

A series of sanctions involving Plainfield North High School and several staff members was announced Monday by IHSA Executive Director Martin L. Hickman. The school and staff members were found in violation of several Illinois High School Association by-laws.

The IHSA initiated an investigation at Plainfield North after receiving a call from the district's Superintendent, Dr. John Harper, reporting potential violations of the Association's rules.

Plainfield North High School was cited for its failure to enforce the requirements of IHSA By-law 3.043. Plainfield North High School has allowed participation in interscholastic activities prior to requesting eligibility rulings in cases where students transferred from one school in the Plainfield district to another without moving to a new atten-

dance area in the district.

Personnel at Plainfield North High School were also cited for multiple violations of the IHSA By-laws 3.071, 3.072 and 3.073 (Recruiting of Athletes). The principal and two football coaches attended a junior football league practice to discuss issues related to Plainfield North High School.

Sanctions:

The head football coach has been suspended from coaching football at Plainfield North High School for the remainder of the season.

Two assistant football coaches were suspended from coaching football at Plainfield North High School until October 2, 2006.

The high school principal has been barred from acting as the school's official representative to the Illinois High School Association.

The high school athletic director has been barred from acting as the school's official representative to the Illinois High School Association.

Plainfield North High School has been cited for its lack of institutional control. The school is required to develop and implement a remediation plan that will include a comprehensive plan to educate coaches and

other appropriate personnel regarding IHSA By-laws. The school must further develop in-house procedures to ensure compliance with IHSA By-laws.

Plainfield North High School football program will not be permitted to participate in the IHSA Football Playoffs for a period of two years. Plainfield North High School may petition to have its football program rein-

stated once an agreed-upon remediation plan is developed and implemented.

"The violations uncovered during the course of this investigation are serious breaches of our rules," said Hickman. "While some of the violations may have occurred due to a lack of understanding of the Association's by-laws, they are nonetheless violations."

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE

Bowled Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Points	Won	Lost
Bielinski and Bono Dental	5	2
Candlelight Jewelers	4	3
Skaja Terrace Funeral Home	4	3
Niles Dairy Queen	3	4
NorthSide Community Bank	3	4
Classic Bowl	2	5

High Series/High Games

Helen Reyes	521/215
Kay Pecoraro	473/190
Helma Drag	457/162
Mary Wasilewski	/178
Millie Kroll	/164
Linda Fahey	/163
Mary Ann Slack	/160

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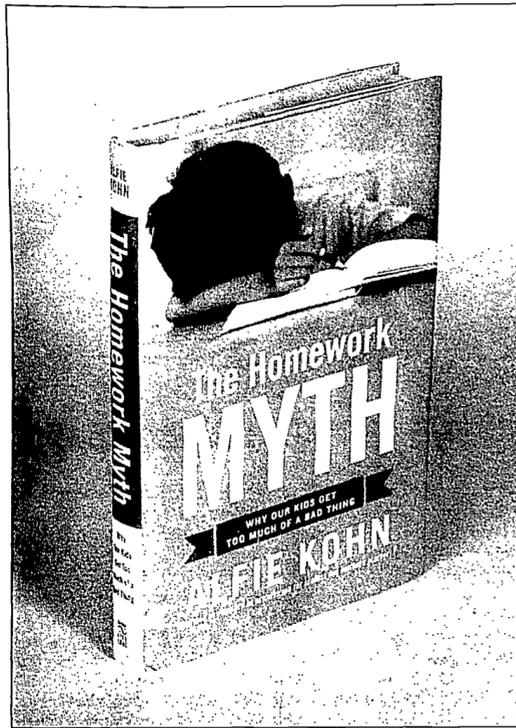
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Brief Book Reviews: The Homework Myth



COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

"The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing" by Alfie Kohn; Da Capo Press; 256 pages; \$24.95.

For parents who hate the homework wars, this book's title alone will seem like a lifeline.

SCANNING THE BOOKSHELF

Alfie Kohn, author and lecturer, has campaigned for what he believes is wrong with education. In 11 books, countless articles for major publications and in-person appearances at universities and elsewhere, he has looked at standardized testing, grades and competition in the classroom, among other things, and asked "why?"

Now, he's asking the same thing about homework.

He builds a case that "it's worth asking not only whether there are good reasons to support the nearly universal practice of assigning homework, but why that practice is so often taken for granted - even by vast numbers of parents and teachers who are troubled by its impact on children."

And that may be the crucial thing parents and teachers take away from the book: Challenge the status quo.

The book is not an easy read - feels like homework, frankly. But contrary to what he would

say, do it anyway. If you do, you'll see him chip away at the conventional thinking that homework improves achievement, that homework improves grades, that homework builds character and all the other things we've heard about it since we were doing it.

He says - and shows by analyzing research studies and talking to experts - that homework doesn't do any of those things for the vast majority of young children (he does seem to see the point of homework for high schoolers) and worse, may have the adverse effect of dulling a child's interest in learning altogether.

Anyone who has sat at a kitchen table with a child who's struggling over math problems or a vocabulary or spelling list is going to love Kohn's theories. So will those who have been caught up in the screaming matches over just getting the work done. That, he says, is all the more reason to end the tyranny of homework.

He echoes the concerns of others who say that school is for schoolwork and home is not for homework, but for family time. He agrees with those who say that the assignments are often the proverbial "busy work" or are meant to make up for what the teacher should have covered in class.

"But homework teaches per-

sonal responsibility," you find yourself saying, "and self-discipline."

Nope, he counters. That will appear to be true for those kids who already are responsible and self-disciplined. For others, it will just be a frustrating task that leaves them liking school - and learning - even less.

Kohn takes many of the things we assume about homework and shreds them, showing over and over how little research there is to back up all the accepted theories.

"Some parents seem to figure that as long as their kids have lots of stuff to do every night, never mind what it is, then learning must be taking place." That statement, early in the book, is the one that will keep parents reading the rest of the book.

And hopefully, teachers, too.

Because in the end, what Kohn wants parents and teachers to do, if nothing else, is think about this homework issue. Really think. And then talk about it among themselves and, ultimately, take that conversation to the principal and the district level. That, he says, is the least we can do to show we really care about children and their education.

- Jane Clifford

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'Last Kiss' a disappointment

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

New Releases

The Last Kiss - Tony Goldwyn, mainly an actor, did fine directing with "A Walk on the Moon" (1999), performance-driven but credibly shaped. Yet,

FILMS IN FOCUS

with an almost equally fine cast, "The Last Kiss" is all bunk and bungle. The movie is based on Gabriele Muccino's "L'Ultimo Bacio," a 2002 confection I kissed off as "perky pasta." At the least (and most), it was vitally Italian. But Americans don't like subtitles, so now the story has shifted from Florence, Italy, to (wow) Madison, Wis. Paul Haggis, a writer overpraised for "Million Dollar Baby" and "Crash," has recooked the plot pasta in a cement mixer. And Goldwyn tries desperately to keep the sloppy tonal shifts (rue-

ful, comical, tragic, ludicrous) from washing his actors away. It's about males hitting 30, yearning for long-gone 20, bewildering their more adult women. Zach Braff has the lead as Michael, a budding architect still unmarried to lovely, impressive Jenna (Jacinda Barrett); she is newly pregnant and wants, of course, the full package. A Paramount Pictures release. Director: Tony Goldwyn. Writer: Paul Haggis, Gabriele Muccino. Cast: Zach Braff, Blythe Danner, Jacinda Barrett, Rachel Bilson, Casey Affleck, Harold Ramis. Running time: 1 hour, 45 minutes. Rated R. 1 1/2 stars.

Haven - The young director and writer Frank E. Flowers uses enough flash and dash in "Haven" to make you briefly think "trash." But he is up to something interesting - a crime film that seems like an acid kiss-off of his homeland, the Cayman Islands. Right away we

are plunged into the surf, then briney heat and sun-baked natives and party-mad tourists, some relishing the Caymans' identity as a tax haven. Investor and dodger Carl (Bill Paxton) arrives more desperately on the lam from imminent arrest in Miami, with a big valise of cash to pad him through the failure of his corrupt Caymans bank. His princess' daughter, blond Pippa (Agnes Bruckner), huffs about some dirty sheets, not much caring about dad's dirty money. Soon, she is adrift in the scene, her young head hazed by drink and coke and a stud named Fritz (Victor Rasuk), an island rascal "on vacation his whole life." A Yari Film Group release. Director, writer: Frank E. Flowers. Cast: Orlando Bloom, Zoe Saldana, Stephen Dillane, Bill Paxton, Victor Rasuk, Agnes Bruckner. Running time: 1 hour, 50 minutes. Rated R. 2 1/2 stars.

Contract drives home the rules of the road

By Scott Hilyard
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

It belongs in the Good News/Bad News Hall of Fame. If there were such a thing, of course.

TODAY'S LIFESTYLE

Your teenager has a driver's license. That means no more days scheduled minute-to-minute hauling your child back and forth from every movie theater, ice cream stand, soccer field, roller rink, school gymnasium and scout camp.

Good news. Your teenager has a driver's license. A driver's license. That means the child who just yesterday was putting caterpillars in his nostrils can drive.

A car. On roads. With friends. And other cars. And trucks.

Bad news. Of course, it's no laughing matter. Teens make up 7 percent of the driving population, yet they account for 14 percent of all fatalities, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers, and 16-year-olds have higher crash rates than drivers of any other age.

In 2004, 7,386 people were killed in crashes involving young drivers ages 16 to 20, 3,523 of whom were the driver of the car. Based on estimated miles traveled annually, teen drivers have a fatality rate four times the rate of drivers who are ages 25 to 69.

Sixteen-year-old drivers



have a crash rate three times more than 17-year-olds, five times greater than 18-year-olds, and two times that of 85-year-olds.

Here's more:

- Drivers are less likely to use restraints when they have been drinking. In 2004, 62 percent of the young drivers (ages 16-20) who were killed in crashes were unrestrained. Twenty-eight percent of young drivers killed in fatal crashes in 2003 were intoxicated. In 2002, 61 percent of teenage passenger deaths occurred in crashes in which another teenager was driving. Among people of all ages, 20 percent of passenger deaths in 2001 occurred when a teenager was driving, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

- Nearly two-thirds of teen passenger vehicle occupants killed were unrestrained, according to the NHTSA.

- Forty-one percent of

teenage motor vehicle deaths in 2003 occurred between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

- In 2001, the estimated cost of police-reported crashes involving drivers between 15 and 20 years old was \$42.3 billion.

With those kind of statistics to back it up, Illinois instituted a Graduated Driver Licensing System at the beginning of the year, a system intended to ease teenagers into full driving privileges over a couple of years. In it, teens have limited driving privileges from the time they get a permit at age 15 until they turn 18. Limits include a curfew, cell phone restrictions and the number of people allowed in a car when the teen is driving. The law also includes age-specific sanctions for traffic offenses and moving violations.

Parents can add their own laws.

A new concept has become

popular when it comes to teens and driving - a contract signed by parents and drivers that spells out the household rules on use, and consequences of misuse, of the family car.

"I think contracts are a good idea," said Mark Klockenga, a veteran driver's education teacher at Dunlap (Ill.) High School. "But what people have to remember, the contract is only as good as the parenting."

There are lots of printable contracts available on the Internet, some free, some at a minimal charge. The good ones, Klockenga said, first outline the reason for the need of a contract, then list the rules and the consequences for violating them.

"You really need to get their attention about the seriousness of driving," Klockenga said. "When we talk about the risks associated with driving in the classroom, it gets real quiet in here."

A succinct and user-friendly contract is available for free at the National Safety Council's Web site, www.nsc.org/issues/teendriving/agreement.pdf. It includes three basic rules:

- Check in with parent every time you drive.
- Obey all traffic laws and signs.
- Do not take unnecessary risks.

There are variations to each rule, and beneath the rules on the contract are example violations and a column of consequences with a fill-in-the-blank amount of time a specific violation would result in the loss of driving privileges.

Example violations are:

- Teen used alcohol or other drugs and drove.
- Teen got a ticket for speeding.
- Teen failed to make all passenger wear seat belts.
- Teen lied about where he or she was going with the car.
- Teen came home late without calling.
- Teen violated the agreed-upon passenger restriction.
- Teen violated the agreed-upon nighttime restriction.

Depending on the seriousness of the infraction - a speeding ticket 25 mph over the speed limit or 5 mph, for instance - would also determine the consequence, from a driving ban of a couple of days to a month or more.

"The big one is driving by yourself for the first six months with just one person under age 20," Klockenga said. "Violate that one by driving with a careful of friends would be worthy of a loss of driving privileges for six months or more, I'd think. The teen needs to earn it back. After all, we're talking about your child's life here."

And don't let the contract become just a worthless piece of paper.

"It's also important to go over the contract with the teen," Klockenga said. "Otherwise it doesn't have the impact. It's something the teen could possibly just blow off and forget about. Parents need to enforce the rules and stick with it."

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Frequent fliers facing crowds, security, delays

By Jennifer Davies
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Michael Farrell recently did something he hasn't done for 15 years. He checked a bag at the airport.

THE ALERT CONSUMER

Because of that, Farrell, an avid business traveler who logs 110,000 miles a year, had to get to the airport early. When he arrived at his destination, he had to wait 45 minutes at the baggage terminal. He estimated the new security measures prohibiting carrying on liquids added at least an hour to

his day. "I'd forgotten why I needed that carry-on bag," said Farrell, the vice president of marketing for San Diego biotech company Resmed.

His plan from now on is to bring his carry-on and buy new toiletries once he gets to his destination.

The newest security measures are only the latest hassle in a long line of annoyances facing avid business travelers like Farrell.

The combined effect of the Sept. 11 attacks and the roiling airline industry has fundamentally transformed the business travel experience, forcing the

committed road warrior to face plenty of new airport skirmishes.

Gone are the upgrades to first class and the half-empty flights that allowed travelers to spread out with their laptops. Delays and jammed airports are also part of the new reality.

"It's kind of hard to remember when it was so easy to travel," said Barry Lyda, who travels to all the PGA events for Callaway Golf in Carlsbad, logging more than 120,000 miles a year.

While the new security measures might be temporary, packed planes and many other changes are probably here

to stay.

Load factors, which represent the percentage of available seats that are actually purchased, are at historic highs, said Caleb Tiller, spokesman for the National Business Travel Association.

American Airlines, for instance, increased its load factor for July to 87 percent from 85.1 percent from the previous year, even though it had fewer passengers for the month. In 2005, American had about 9.6 million passengers in July, but in August the airline only boarded about 9.2 million passengers.

Tim Smith, an American

Airlines spokesman, said the company had to reduce the number of flights to help maintain profitability.

But the fact is that the more crowded the flight, the less likely it is that business travelers will get the much-anticipated upgrade to first class.

"Free upgrades are harder to come by if there are no seats to upgrade to," Tiller said.

Lyda has experienced the dwindling first-class upgrade phenomenon.

"It's gotten to the point where I'm spoiled," he said. "You are bummed when you don't get upgraded. It feels like you've been downgraded."

DRAW IT!

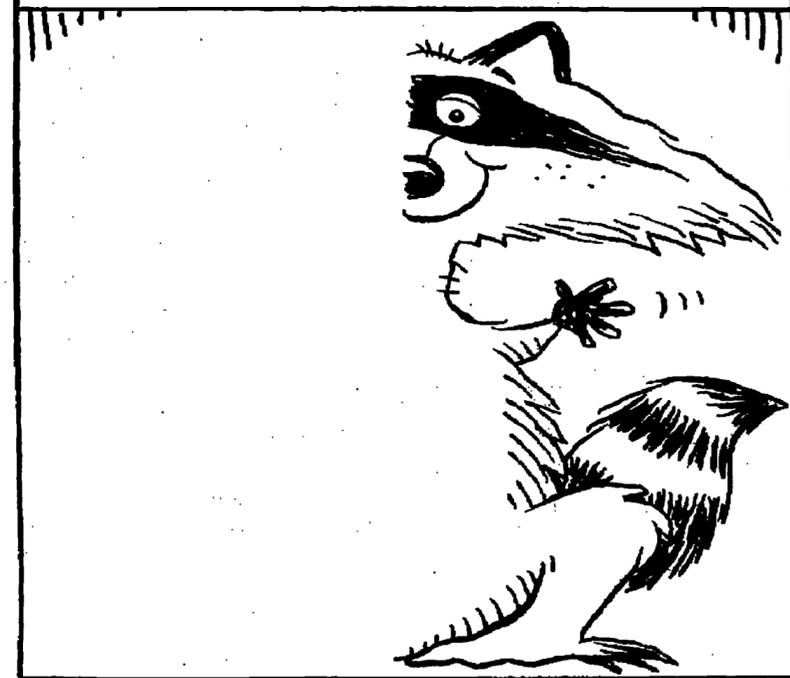
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GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR EAT...



DRAW THE OTHER HALF OF ME...



Nature Newswatch®

Week of Sept. 17-23, 2006

Crabby spawn



The blue crab is a formidable beast, with two keen eyes on retractable stalks, one pair of clawed legs for food capture and defense, three pairs of sticklike legs for walking and one pair of paddle-shaped legs for swimming.

In the warm waters of late summer, the boldly blue crabs molt, meet and mate. The female then migrates to deeper water for the winter, storing the sperm in a special chamber until she returns to the inshore waters in spring. Only then does she produce as many as 2 million eggs and fertilize them with the stored sperm.

She juggles all those eggs under her body for two to three weeks until they hatch as nearly microscopic, free-swimming larvae - looking more like bug-eyed horror-movie aliens than miniature crabs. But, settling in the eelgrass to grow and molt many times over the next year, they gradually assume the family resemblance in shape and color.

Blue crab *Callinectes sapidus*

Adult: 5-10 inches wide

Habitat: coastal and inshore waters

by Tim Herd © 2006 www.naturenewswatch.com

Grammar Matters

by Patty Gibbons Saunier

Irregularities

Irregular verbs do not follow a set pattern in forming their principal parts. Can you fill in the blanks below?

	Present	Past	Past Participle
Ex:	go	went	gone
1.	freeze	_____	_____
2.	put	_____	_____
3.	do	_____	_____
4.	eat	_____	_____



Answers: 1. freeze, froze, frozen 2. put, put, put 3. do, did, done 4. eat, ate, eaten

Copley News Service

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Happy Rosh Hashanah



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The central observance of Rosh Hashanah is the sounding of the shofar, the ram's horn, which represents the trumpet blast of a people's coronation of their king. The cry of the shofar is also a call to repentance; for Rosh Hashanah is also the anniversary of man's first sin and his repentance thereof, and serves as the first of the "Ten Days of Repentance" which culminate in Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Another significance of the shofar is to recall the Binding of Isaac which also occurred on Rosh Hashanah, in which a ram took Isaac's place as an offering to G-d; we evoke Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his son and plead that the merit of his deed should stand by us as we pray for a year of life, health and prosperity. Altogether, the shofar is sounded 100 times in the course of the Rosh Hashanah service.

A traditional Recipe for the Rosh Hashanah observance is the Classic Honey Cake.

- 3 Eggs
- 1 1/3 cups honey
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 cup strong black coffee
- 2 tsps. Baking powder
- 3 Tbsps. Margarine, softened
- 1 tsp. Baking soda
- 4 cups flour
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Preheat oven to 325.

Grease and flour a 9 by 13-inch cake pan.

In a large mixer bowl, beat eggs and honey together. Add sugar and mix again. Mix coffee with baking powder, and then add with margarine to the egg mixture. Add baking soda, flour, and cinnamon and beat together well.

Pour into greased cake pan. Bake for 55 minutes to an hour.

USE: 9 X 13-inch cake pan
YIELDS: 1 cake

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The Bugle Wishes All A Very Happy Rosh Hashanah

Bringing the past back to the future

By Rose Bennett Gilbert
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: We've got this cute little apartment that the landlord says is OK to paint or wallpaper or whatever we want. I love things from the '50s, and hope to start a

DECOR SCORE

collection. Meanwhile, we want to do a fun makeover that's not too expensive. Where to start?

A: Start at the beginning, with the shell of your room, the walls, floors and ceiling. You're in luck here: it seems that a lot of 21st century designers are also nostalgic for the 20th century.

For example, you'll find peons to Mid-Century Modern in hot shops like Jonathan Adler's (www.jonathanadler.com) and Todd Oldham by La-Z-Boy (www.la-z-boy.com). Look under "Collections." Young and hip, both of these designers are rethinking what was once old and stodgy, reviving colors and patterns that conjure thoughts of icon like sock hops and poodle skirts.

By the way, both Adler and Oldham have written books



about their design philosophies. Adler's title tells all: "My Prescription for Anti-Depressive Living." Oldham's book is called "Hand Made Modern." And while you're researching your favorite time period, have a look at a book by a real veteran, Vladimir Kagan ("The Complete Kagan").

One of the true originators of Mid-Century Modern, Kagan's sinuous, virtually airborne sofas and sleek, organic tables are back - and hot. The '50s originals are collector's items, and Kagan is still creating new designs for companies like American Leather (www.americanleather.com).

Yes, if you didn't live through them the first time, the '50s can be amusing, comforting, even. And also affordable, since authentic artifacts can still be unearthed at yard sales, junk stores and all over eBay.

But don't wait until you can afford furniture and other fun '50s stuff. It's also possible to evoke the era immediately. For example, the room we show here is happily retro from the walls out, thanks to a new line of wallpapers and fabrics that mines period images and colors ("Urban Attitude" by Waverly; www.waverly.com). What's old: those stylized, oversized flow-

ers; what's new, the sophisticated colorways they come in, like pewter and onyx.

Also new: the ease with which you really can install the pre-pasted, washable and strippable wallpapers available today. Designed to be totally kind to amateurs, they're a far cry from what your grandfather may have struggled with back in the good old days of the 1950s.

Q: I am very interested in applying the principles of feng shui to my home. The idea of running water really appeals to me. Would it look funny if I put a regular garden fountain in the entry hall?

A: Not necessarily. Much depends on the style you chose and how well the fountain melds with your other furnishings. As long as the radius of the splash is containable, you should be able to use almost any outdoor fountain indoors. Just add an attractive catch basin, maybe filled with sand or hand-some stones, and plug her in.

Check out some of the unusual fountains offered by companies like Stone Forest (www.stoneforest.com) of Sante Fe, N.M. Their designs include curved metal waterfalls and natural stones roughly hewn into simple organic shapes like plinths and spheres.

You're hardly alone in loving living with the sound of running water. The eco-fervent designer Clodagh - years ago one of the first design pros to have a feng shui geomancer on her staff - almost always insists on including fountains in her installations, especially at the spas for which she's well known. In her own New York office, water gurgles from many sources, including a table she designed that comes with a running water channel right down its center.



Smart Real Estate
BILL ALSTON

Market slows, what to do?

Summer is over and your home has not sold. The real estate market is a lot slower than last year. There are more homes for sale and fewer buyers. What can you do? Actually, there are a number of things that you can do to help get your house or condo sold before the end of the year.

How is your asking price? Selling prices are 3% to 5% lower than during the peak market last year. We are still getting higher prices than in 2004, however. No investment increases in value indefinitely. Many homes have almost doubled in value since the year 2000. Just as the stock and bond markets go down sometimes, so does real estate. Adjust your price to reflect the current conditions. You are still making a big profit compared to values just six years ago.

Also, be aware of pricing brackets. Typical brackets are units of \$25,000 or \$50,000. Buyers instruct their agents to look in a certain price range, for example between \$350,000 and \$400,000. If your asking price is \$399,000, it will show up in the agent's computer search of available homes. If your asking \$401,000, it will not show up. Being below a price bracket will always generate more showing than being just over.

Be aware of your price relative to the other homes for sale to place yourself earlier on the showing list. The buyers tell their agent what they are looking for. The agent then searches all available properties in a price bracket and comes up with a list of homes that meet the buyers' needs. The list is printed in order of price. Buyers common-

See Smart, page 25

Insects are making pests of themselves

By Jeff Rugg
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: I just wanted to know if you know anything about a small mothlike flying insect that seems to be breeding in my home. I've tried so many ways, but can't

A GREENER VIEW

seem to get rid of them. They look like a very small moth, almost chalky when they are crushed. I would appreciate any help you can give me.

A: The moths are probably one of two types. Both Indian and Mediterranean meal moths, which are found in grain products, are brown to gray and about one-half inch long. They

fly in a very haphazard manner, which makes them hard to hit, but once hit they are easily killed. They are not attracted to light but are more active at night. The meal moths are not attracted to clothing. Many other insects are attracted to stored food, including many types of beetles, weevils, ants and fruit flies.

The eggs, larvae and adults of all these insects can be found inside whole-grain seeds such as those found in wild bird seed, pet bird seed, and small rodent pet food. They also eat a lot of other foods found in the pantry. Who doesn't have in the pantry an open box of some of these foods: nuts, rice, wheat flour, breakfast cereal, crackers, dried soup, dried fruit, powdered

milk, red peppers, candy, chocolate, tobacco or pet food?

The problem isn't so much with the adult moths - they may be ugly, but they don't eat much. They can lay more than 300 eggs that hatch into half-inch caterpillars and they can eat a lot. As they walk around, they leave a silk thread like a spider web that clumps the food together and sticks it to the box. When they go into the pupa stage, they weave a cocoon in tight spots like under the box flaps or along the junction of wall and ceiling.

Since the insects are tiny and can be inside the seeds, it is not easy to treat the seeds in such a way that either won't harm the animal the food is intended for or lower the nutritional value

of the seed. There are several ways to deal with these pests. First, seal up all suspected sources of infestation or discard those you can't keep. Put them in the garbage outside so they can't get away and get back to the pantry. Clean the cupboards and use an insect bomb if you must.

Prevention is the best method of control. Since they are tiny, these insects can get into the house rather easily; just leave a bruised peach on the counter and see how long it takes for fruit flies to gather. In other words, any infested product may not have been infested when it was purchased. Keep all vulnerable foods stored in containers that seal tightly and keep them sealed. Inspect packages when you buy them for small holes or signs of insects under the flaps.

Repellents may work, but from the list of things they eat, I am not too sure. Try using bay leaves, dill, lemon peel or black pepper.

One thing that works very well is pheromone traps. These sticky glue traps contain bait that

releases a sex scent that only the pests can smell. When full, the trap it is easily disposed of.

Once the pests are in a food product, you can try killing them by freezing them, but some stages of the life cycle can survive this treatment. Try at least a week or try a repeating schedule of one week in and one week out of the freezer to kill them. This may work on small bags, like gerbil food, but doesn't work well on 50-pound sacks of sunflower seeds.

Another method is to bake the food at 150 degrees for about a half-hour. Overcooking ruins the nutritional value - and it doesn't work very well on chocolate.

Don't worry about a few bugs in the wild bird seed; the birds will eat them more quickly than they do the seeds. In fact, seeds in the feeder attract insects for the birds to eat. Sometimes people notice that birds stop using a feeder that still has food visible in it. It may be that the insect larvae have used their silk webs to stick the food together and the birds have eaten all they can reach, so check to see that the food still flows properly.

Smart

continued from page 24

ly start with the lowest prices and visit homes until they see one that they like. Then, they stop looking and write an offer. Let's say there are 10 homes on the list, and the buyers look at the first 6 then write an offer on #6. If your home is #8, they never saw it. Maybe, just a modest price reduction would have made you #5 on the list. Then, your home would have been shown and considered. The earlier on the showing list, the more showings. More showings mean a better chance of an offer.

Make it as easy as possible for agents to show your home. Buyers cannot decide they like your home if they cannot get into it when they need to. Buyers shop for a home according to their schedule, not yours. Most realtors have electronic lock boxes available that provide excellent security, yet make your home easily available to

buyers agents. If you are not using one, why?

Make your home special with a home warranty. For about \$400 you can provide a home warranty policy that will protect the buyer from most unexpected repairs for the first year they own the home. Think, do you normally buy anything that does not have some kind of warranty? In the eyes of a buyer, a warranty has value, adding an average of 2% to the amount they offer. It also minimizes a buyer's fears about how worn are your homes components. Best of all, just like the commission, you do not pay for the warranty until the successful sale of your home. Only about 10% of the homes for sale have a warranty, so it is a special feature.

Is your agent doing a good job? Are they advertising consistently? Are they having an "open house" once or twice a month? Have they been making suggestions as to how to

make your real estate more saleable? If so, listen to them. If not, maybe it is time to change agents. Selling real estate is a skill, and not every agent is at the same skill level.

Are you trying to sell by owner? Good luck. The market is difficult. Just like when you have any other difficult problem, it is time to call a professional, and make sure you get a good one.

The end result? Many homes will still be sold before the end of 2006, but many more will not be sold. You can do a lot to increase the odds of your home being in the sold category.

Call me at 847-967-6800 if you would like reprints of our earlier articles on how to help in the sale of your home or to answer any other real estate related questions.

Bill Alston CRB, CRS, ABR, GRI, President of Callero & Catino Realty, 7609 Milwaukee Ave., Niles. 847-967-6800.

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