



BRING ON THE TURKEY

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THE BUGLE



NOVEMBER 23, 2006

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Kerasotes Theater Opens

Complex boasts 12-screens, plush seating

By Andrew Schneider | EDITOR

When you visit the new Kerasotes ShowPlace 12 theaters in Golf Mill Mall, you won't have to step on anyone's toes to get to your seat.

In a grand opening tour for dignitaries the day before the theaters opened, Dean Kerasotes, one of the top officials with the family-owned company explained that space was incorporated in the design to make each aisle wider, so that there's more room for feet, either while watching the film or while walking over those who like the aisle seat.

"There's been a lot of thought given to the architecture," Kerasotes said to those in attendance as they first entered the theater. Construction workers were still hard at work early Thursday, putting the finishing touches on some of the larger theaters so that they would be ready for the opening night. Patrons to the Showplace 12 were able to see some of the year's biggest films for only a dollar.

See Kerasotes, page 10

Golf Mill launches renovation, Business, page 9

Former Niles Police Chief dies

Clarence "Whitey" Emrikson, retired Niles Chief of Police, passed away on Nov. 12 in Florida as a result of a heart condition at age 78.



Clarence "Whitey" Emrikson

A wake was held for him on Nov. 17 at N. H. Scott and Hanekamp Funeral Home in Glenview and a funeral service was held on Nov. 18.

Emrikson served as the chief of police for the Village of Niles from 1961 to 1989.

"He was a darn good chief," said Niles Deputy Police Chief Charles Giovannelli. "He was a nice man. He was very innovative, always on the cutting edge with technology."

Giovannelli said that Emrikson always made sure they had good squad cars with good communication systems and the latest in technology.

Emrikson was the beloved husband of Joan, nee Marciano and father of Linda (Gary) Grandt and Kathleen (Larry) Keller; grandfather of Kristi, Jennifer, Edward, Jason and Scott; great grand-father of Gabrielle, Rachel and Ryan.

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Action Party announces Slate of Candidates for '07

The Morton Grove Action Party recently announced its slate of candidates for the upcoming April 2007 municipal election. Three seats on Morton Grove's Village Board will be on the April ballot.

The Action Party is one of Morton Grove's local political parties.

Daniel J. Staackmann, slated by the Action Party, currently serving as Trustee on the Village Board; will run for his second term. Staackmann has been a Village Trustee since 2003.

Staackmann served on the



Dan Staackmann, John Thill and Shel Marcus, Action Party candidates for the Morton Grove village board.

Morton Grove Park Board for 16 years.

In 2001, Staackmann was awarded the Illinois Association

of Park District's "Outstanding Board Member" award.

Staackmann also served as Board Member, Treasurer, and

President for the Maine Niles Special Recreation Association.

As a founding member of the Morton Grove Days Committee, Staackmann served as President of the organization for one year. He was also honored in 1993 as "Man of the Year" by the Liponi Foundation.

Shel Marcus, also slated by the Action Party, has been a Morton Grove resident since 1968. After founding a business here in 1972, he has been a member of the Village's Chamber of Commerce for 24 years, at one

See Candidates, page 3

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Park Ridge Parks employee on leave following allegations

An employee of the Park Ridge Park District is on "unpaid investigative leave" after being arrested for battery and public indecency toward a 17-year-old girl. The victim said that on Nov. 10, 11 and 12, the Niles man committed battery by touching her in an insulting manner and committing inde-

cent exposure in the music room of the Oakton Recreation Center in Park Ridge. The Park Ridge Police responded to a delayed report that was made by the girl on Nov. 14 at 4:20 p.m. The man who was arrested is 40 years old and lives in Niles, said Park Ridge Police

Chief Caudill. The court date is set for Dec. 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the Skokie Courthouse and the bond was set at \$1,000 and police said he is out on bond. The man who is employed at the Oakton Recreation Center is on "unpaid investigative leave," according to the park district.

St. John Brebeuf Parish wins award

Pathways Awareness Foundation, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Chicago, is pleased to announce that St. John Brebeuf Parish, of Niles has been selected as one of the 2006 Open Hearts Award winners. Winning parishes are being recognized for their outstanding efforts to welcome parishioners of all abilities into all aspects of parish life. Open Hearts Award winning parishes provide not only physical buildings that are accessible

to all, but also a parish environment that respects and nurtures the gifts of each individual of every ability. Joseph Cardinal Bernardin inaugurated the Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors inclusion movement in 1996. November 14, 2006, was the 10th anniversary of his death. The Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors program continues with the blessings of Francis Cardinal George who inaugurated the Parish Inclusion

Representative Program in 2000. The annual Open Hearts Awards recognize Chicago area houses of worship for their outstanding inclusion efforts. Winning congregations receive up to \$1,000 to provide accommodations so that parishioners of all abilities can participate in spiritual, educational and social activities. Congratulations to St. John Brebeuf Parish, along with the other 2006 winners.

This Thanksgiving, keep it in perspective

It's a scene that will be acted out across America on Thursday, Nov. 23; a turkey will be taken gingerly from the oven while a table is set in the next room and anxious cooks hover around to make gravy, carve the bird and move on to the main event. Thanksgiving is a holiday that is meant to help we notoriously work-a-holic Americans to stop for a few minutes and be thankful for those who are closest to us. But that isn't always easy - stress at work or at home, trouble in romantic life, frustrated ambitions, even world events or the sluggish economy can all make



Page Two
ANDREW SCHNEIDER | EDITOR
us think that there isn't much to be thankful for this year. But there is an entire hospital of children on Chicago's north side that are thankful this year to be walking, to be with their fam-

ilies or to simply be alive. I visited Children's Memorial Hospital last week. I can't imagine facing the sort of struggles that young children face on every floor of that hospital, myself, but I saw children, mere hours after surgery, smiling and laughing with their parents. It made me realize how resilient children are, and how thankful I should be for what I have in this world: I have a family that loves me, a challenging job, wonderful co-workers, good friends, I'm healthy and lead a rewarding life. But this Thanksgiving, I'm most thankful to the kids at Children's Memorial. They taught me that every life is as filled with opportunities for joy as for sadness. They taught me that just being there for our friends and family is often all it really takes to make them happy. They helped give me some perspective on what it means to be thankful. It's a lesson I intend to carry with me through the holiday season that is more commercial every year and focused on the material gifts rather than the personal ones. I hope more people take the time this year to remember the blessings, however small they may seem, that we enjoy. I will.

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The Bugle's offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24 to allow our employees to spend the holiday with their families.

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Candidates

continued from page 1

time serving as the Chamber's President. Marcus was a candidate for State Representative in 1986-88, and has served as the Niles Township Republican Committeeman for 11 years. He was the State Central Committeeman for the Illinois Republican Party. Marcus is a past President of School District 219, having served as a Board Member for seven years. He was also a Board Member of School District 67 for six years. He is the past Chairman of the Niles Township Council School Boards. Marcus hosted "Dateline Morton Grove," a cable television show, from 1993 until 1998. John C. Thill, a 40-year resident of Morton Grove, has also been slated by the Action Party. Thill and his wife, Marian, have been active for many years with the Friends of the Morton Grove Forest Preserves. He has been President of this organization since 2002. Thill is also a volunteer for the Cook County Forest Preserves and currently serves as a site steward. From 1991-2001, he served as Vice

President of the environmental group, "Wild Ones". For the past five years, Thill's wife, Marian, has volunteered her time at Park View School District 70, teaching a program that familiarizes students with the forest preserve that borders their school. In addition to his commitment to the forest preserve, Thill is currently a member of the Village's Natural Resource Commission, and serves on the Taste of Morton Grove's planning committee. "We are very pleased to have such dedicated and hard-working people associated with the Morton Grove Action Party and know they will give the citizens of the Village their very best in pursuit of honest, non-partisan and efficient government," stated Bill Grear, President of the Action Party of Morton Grove. The Action Party of Morton Grove cordially invites all residents to attend its Campaign Kick-off event. Come out to meet and greet the Action Party candidates on Tuesday, November 28, 2006 from 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm at the Black Forest Restaurant, 8840 Waukegan Road, Morton Grove, IL.



Delilah Denka of Niles had her first haircut last week and donated her hair to Locks of Love.

Niles 5-year-old donates hair

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen
STAFF WRITER

For the very first time since she was born, 5-year-old Delilah Denka of Niles took the plunge and went to a local salon to cut off her long brown hair. However, the 11 inches of hair will definitely not go to waste. Delilah, a student at St. John Brebeuf in Niles, was watching a program on television when she saw bald children and asked her mother why they didn't have any hair. Her mother told her they

were sick children. Together, they made the decision to donate her hair to Locks of Love, an organization that provides wigs to ill children. Helen, Delilah's mother, said that they waited awhile and now she said Delilah is ready and excited to cut her hair and is happy to be helping sick children. "It will be a lot easier to take care of," said Helen. She said she used to go through bottles and bottles of conditioner on a regular basis. Delilah jumped up in the chair

at Susie's Family Hair Care on Waukegan Ave. in Morton Grove. When she was finished she sported a stylish, cute, bob haircut. Helen smiled at her daughter through the mirror and asked her if she liked her new hairstyle. Delilah smiled and shook her head, yes. The mother and daughter team at Susie's Family Hair Care said that they often cut hair that people decide to donate to Locks of Love. They wait until they have a huge pile and then make the donation at one time.

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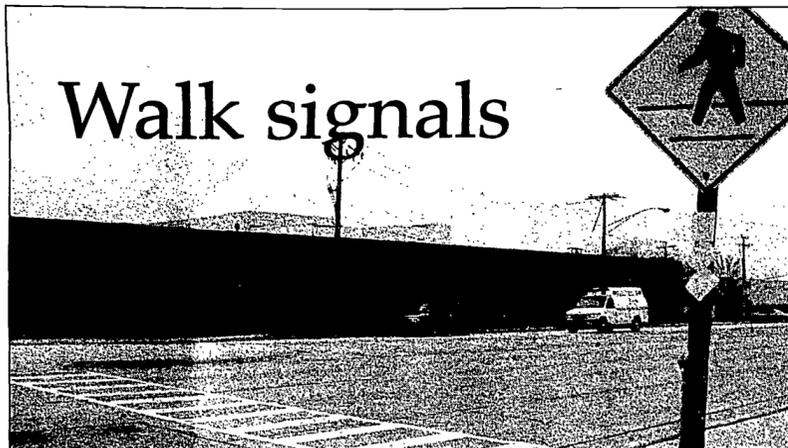
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Walk signals



MG residents concerned about crosswalk

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen
STAFF WRITER

Several residents of the condominiums on the west side of Waukegan Rd. south of Dempster in Morton Grove met with two representatives from IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) regarding the safety of the pedestrian crossing just south of Dempster on Waukegan Rd. on Oct. 20.

The meeting was organized by Morton Grove resident, Sherwin Dubren, after learning that recently a resident was struck by two cars while crossing Waukegan to get to his condo. Resident Seymour

Zimmerman said that the residents of the condos have been trying for almost 10 years to get improvements to Waukegan Rd., with little success. The death of one of the residents, about a year ago, while crossing Waukegan at Dempster was accentuated by another recent death.

After the meeting with IDOT, the following will be implemented:

- IDOT is sending a request for Morton Grove to move the flashing yellow signals from their upstream traffic locations to be immediately in line with the crosswalk
- IDOT is asking Morton

Grove to trim a tree, which has blocked the warning signal

- IDOT will change the signs at the crossing to more clearly indicate the results of pushing the buttons on posts, in line with the crosswalk

- IDOT is asking Morton Grove to install a streetlight to illuminate the crosswalk

In addition, Dubren also asked IDOT to implement a linkage in the traffic signals on Waukegan between those at Dempster and those further south at the bowling alley in order to create longer gaps in the traffic. IDOT said they will look into this possibility as well.



1,000 attend annual Taste of Sister Cities

This year's Taste of Sister Cities event attracted about 1,000 guests, including children, family and friends. The event held at the White Eagle in Niles featured cuisine from more restaurants than in the past, a silent auction, live ethnic music, live Irish dancers and a kids' activities room.



Last week for property tax appeals

The Cook County Board of Review is now accepting applications from owners of property in Niles, Maine, Elk Grove, Leyden and Rich Township who want to appeal their property tax assessments.

Applications will be accepted through Nov. 27.

Those property owners who want to appeal their assessment may pick up an application form at the Board of Review, 118 N. Clark, Room #601 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or they can call Commissioner Maureen Murphy's office at (312) 603-3644 to find out about Board of

Review locations in Markham, Bridgeview, Maywood, Rolling Meadows and Skokie.

Last year, the board reviewed more than 127,000 appeals. More than 66 percent of residential parcels appealed by individual homeowners received a reduction.

SCHOOLS



Dora LaMonica (left) was honored as TLC Staff Member of the Year.



Jeff Fougerousse (left) of the MG Park Dist. and Jill Olson (right) of the Golf Maine Park Dist. were honored as "Friends" of Education.



Maureen Statland (left) was honored as Volunteer of the Year.

TLC dinner reception raises almost \$20,000

Event honors donors, volunteers

Over 300 people attended the District 63 Total Learning Foundation Fundraiser earlier this month. The event honored those who had made a contribution to the organization.

"We have over 300 supporters of TLC in this room and I think that's fantastic," said TLC Director Pam Surber at the event.

Honored were: Dora LaMonica, TLC Staff Member of the Year, Jose Figueroa, District 63

Employee of the Year, Maureen Statland, Volunteer of the Year, Jeff Fougerousse and the Morton Grove Park District and Jill Olson and the Golf Maine Park District as "Friends" of Education and the Maine Township Board of Trustees as the "Most Valuable Partner."

There was a 20 percent attendance increase from the first year and 60 percent increase in the amount of money raised at the event, to nearly \$20,000, largely in part to the two major sponsors, Wal-Mart and JC Penney.



Jose Figueroa was honored as District 63 Employee of the Year.



The Maine Township Board of Trustees was honored as the "Most Valuable Partner."

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Morton Grove man suspect in possible identity theft

MORTON GROVE

1 Attempted Identity Theft (5600 block of Theobald)
A Morton Grove man is the suspect for attempted identity theft. The victim, a Florida man, said that he received e-mails that stated he purchased a \$287 iPod Video and that documented a change of address. The victim said he did not purchase the iPod Video or request a change of address. The attempted identity theft was reported on Thursday, Nov. 16.

2 Burglary to Auto (7200 block of Dempster)
Unknown person(s) entered a vehicle at the 7200 block of Dempster and stole a \$100 wallet, \$45 in USC, credit cards and a driver's license on Sunday, Nov. 12. The victim parked the vehicle in the parking lot and did not lock the doors of the vehicle before going into a store.

3 Theft at Residence (9100 block of Newcastle)
Police said that two males in a Comcast truck arrived at the victim's residence to do work on Monday, Nov. 13 and stole an acoustic guitar worth \$550. One of the males made a comment about the missing acoustic guitar. The signature on the Comcast work order was faint and not legible, said police.

4 Deceptive Practice (7300 block of Dempster)

A subject wrote a bad check on a closed account on Tuesday, Nov. 14. The person was advised that she can not enter the bank property again and the checks were taken from her.

5 Roll of Stainless Steel Stolen (8000 block of Austin)

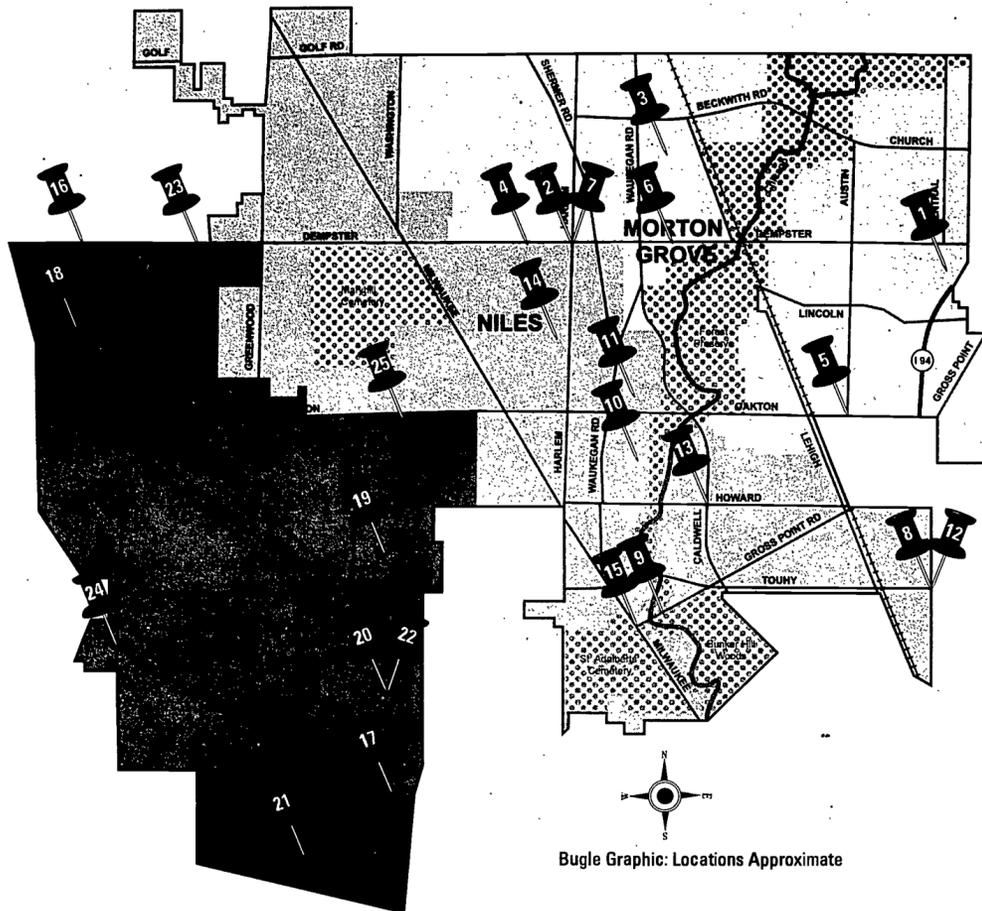
Unknown subject(s) stole a 1,500 pound roll of stainless steel sometime between Monday, Oct. 23 and Wednesday, Nov. 15. The roll costs \$12 per foot to purchase. The complainants said the theft must have happened after hours because there's security during the day time.

6 Arrest on Warrant (6800 block of Dempster)

An 18-year-old Glenview woman was arrested on warrant on Nov. 8. The court date will be assigned by Glenview.

7 Retail Theft Arrest (7200 block of Dempster)

Police arrested a 30-year-old Glenview woman who was observed stealing a cashmere sweater by a loss prevention agent on Nov. 14. The court date is set for Dec. 21.



Bugle Graphic: Locations Approximate

NILES

8 Attempted Robbery (5600 block of Touhy)

The victim was placing items into her vehicle when a subject approached her and tried to pull the victim's purse away from her on Nov. 16 at the 5600 block of Touhy. They struggled, but the subject could not get her purse. The subject then got into a vehicle that was driven away by an unknown person.

9 Stolen Vehicle on Fire (7100 block of Riverside)

Police observed a vehicle at the 7100 block of Riverside that was on fire and the front passenger side door was open on Nov. 16. Both the front door locks had pry marks and the driver's side lock was missing.

10 Burglary to Vehicle (7800 block of Nordica)

Unknown subject(s) burglarized a vehicle at the 7800 block of Nordica between Nov. 15 and Nov. 16 and took a Toshiba laptop computer, Sony camera and miscellaneous CDs, cables

and pens.

11 Assist Another Agency (6900 block of Seward)

Niles police assisted Des Plaines Police officers in locating two suspects involved in an armed robbery at a Des Plaines convenient store on Nov. 19. A 17-year-old Niles man and an 18-year-old Wisconsin man were both at home and both went to the Des Plaines Police Department for questioning without incident, said police.

12 Retail Theft (5600 block of Touhy)

A woman left her purse at the register after checking out and said that someone stole her purse containing a digital camera from her purse on Nov. 19. A check of the video showed the subject took the purse, but the video is not clear enough for identification. The value of the items stolen is \$400.

13 DUI Arrest (7600 block of Caldwell)

A 59-year-old Niles man was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving

with a suspended license, improper lane usage, uninsured motor vehicle at the 7600 block of Caldwell on Nov. 20. The bond is set at \$3,000.

14 Resisting Peace Officer (8300 block of Octavia)

Police arrested a 23-year-old Niles woman for driving under the influence of alcohol and resisting a peace officer at the 8300 block of Octavia on Nov. 17. The woman was swearing at the police officer. The bond is set at \$1,000 and the court date is Jan. 4.

15 No Valid Driver's License (7000 block of Milwaukee)

A 21-year-old Niles man was arrested for driving with no driver's license, improper lane usage and no valid insurance on Nov. 19. The bond is set at \$1,000 and court date is Jan. 2.

PARK RIDGE

16 Cell Phone Stolen (2600 block of W. Dempster)

Unknown person(s) removed

victim's Sidekick 3 cell phone worth \$300 from the victim's unattended purse on Nov. 4.

17 Burglary to Vehicle (100 block of W. Talcott)

Unknown subject(s) used an unknown tool to remove the locking mechanisms on both front doors and rear door of the victim's 1998 Ford Club Wagon van sometime between Nov. 11 and Nov. 12. Tools and a cell phone were taken from the vehicle.

18 Damaged Fence (1400 block of N. Hoffman)

Unknown subject(s) used an undetermined type of force to separate a section of the victim's wood fence from the posts sometime between Nov. 12 and Nov. 14. The estimated cost of the damage is unknown.

19 Beer Bottle Breaks Out Window (300 block of W. Elm)

Police said unknown subject(s) used a beer bottle to break out the rear window of a
See Blotter, page 7

Cook County Dept. of Health provides flu shots

Dept. of Public Health urges vaccinations

The Cook County Department of Public Health wants to remind residents that flu season is here and the best way to avoid getting sick is to receive a flu shot.

For the first time, this year the department has created an appointment-only system to streamline the process of receiving immunization.

"Appointments eliminate the anxiety of standing in line," said Stephen Martin, chief operation officer.

Locally, the Niles senior center is providing flu shots for

residents by appointments and walk-ins as well.

Sue Friedman, village nurse, is having clinics on December 4, 5, 6 and 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and walk-ins will be taken at that time.

This year, the Village of Niles had 1,200 people sign up and will receive 1,800 doses.

Friedman said a lot of residents also get shots from pharmacies or doctors offices.

Friedman said she encourages residents to get flu shots anywhere they can.

Through Cook County, vaccines are available by appointment in Rolling Meadows, Maywood, Bridgeview, Markham and South Holland.

They are provided at no-cost to eligible suburban Cook County residents.

The flu, influenza, is caused by a virus that attacks the nose, throat and lungs. Generally, the flu includes symptoms such as a fever, cough, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, headache, muscle aches and fatigue.

Niles police arrest two Florida men

Niles Police recently announced that the result of an arrest of two Florida men by Niles Police investigators in August of this year has led to additional charges against them in Florida.

Collier County, Florida investigators came to Niles in August to talk with David Winfrey, 45 and Ransom Yates, 52, both of Fort Myers, Florida, regarding a series of burglaries to lockers in Collier County.

The men from Florida were apprehended in this area after

they had committed a burglary to a locker at the X-Sport Fitness Club in Niles. They used credit cards taken from the locker at the Target store in Golf Mill Mall the following day.

Collier County prosecutors have charged them both with 40 criminal counts including Burglary, Grand Theft, Petty Theft, Dealing in Stolen Property and Illegal Use of Credit Cards.

The charges accuse the pair of taking their victims for more than \$100,000.00 in merchandise.

The two men would enter the fitness centers using fictitious names and then enter the men's locker rooms to break into lockers. The investigation showed that the pair was using the stolen credit cards to purchase expensive watches that they then sent to a jewelry store in Chicago. The two men are currently being held in the Cook County Jail on the Niles charges.

A bond amount of \$1 million has been set on each subject for the Florida warrants and charges.

William W. Durband receives commission

William W. Durband has graduated from Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga., and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

During the 14 weeks of training, the officer candidate received "basic soldiering" instruction in leadership, professional ethics, soldier team development, combined arms tactics, weapons defense, combat water survival, squad drill, intelligence, field training exercises, and navigation, maintenance, communications, staff and general military subjects, and physical training and conditioning.

Durband has served in the military for one year, and is the son of Jeff J. and Kathleen A. Huber of Mason Ave., Morton Grove, Ill.

The candidate was tested on leadership skills and team work abilities required of a commissioned officer. The student utilized acquired skills to function in "leader and follower" positions in squad and platoon sized elements in a stressful and demanding field environment.

Durband has served in the military for one year, and is the son of Jeff J. and Kathleen A. Huber of Mason Ave., Morton Grove, Ill.

He graduated in 1999 from Loyola Academy, Wilmette, Ill., and received a bachelor's degree in 2003 from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Blotter

continued from page 6

victim's 2006 Ford F250 sometime between Nov. 10 and Nov. 11. The estimated cost of the damage is \$300.

20 Vehicle Emblems Stolen (200 block of W. Columbia)

The emblems on the front and rear of the victim's 2000 Mercedes were taken by unknown subject(s) sometime between Nov. 10 and Nov. 11. The value of the items is unknown.

21 Burglary to Vehicle (1600 block of S. Fairview)

Sometime between Nov. 13 and Nov. 14 unidentified subject(s) entered the victim's unlocked 2002 Ford F150 pick-

up and took miscellaneous tools, briefcase and miscellaneous documents. The value of the items is unknown.

22 Side Mirror Damaged (200 block of W. Columbia)

Unknown subject(s) struck the right side mirror on the victim's 1997 Land Rover causing the glass to break between Nov. 12 and Nov. 13. The estimated cost of the damage is \$200.

23 Criminal Trespassing (1300 block of W. Dempster)

A 48-year-old Park Ridge woman was arrested at the 1300 block of W. Dempster on Nov. 10 for criminal trespassing. The woman was released on her own recognizance. The court date is Dec. 12.

24 DUI Arrest (Talcott and Dee)

A 47-year-old Park Ridge woman was arrested on Nov. 9 for driving under the influence of alcohol, improper lane usage and no proof of insurance. The bond is set at \$2,000 and the court date is Dec. 11.

25 Zero Tolerance For Minors (200 block of W. Kathleen)

Police arrested an 18-year-old Park Ridge man for zero tolerance for minors, illegal transportation of alcohol, damage to city property, driving off the roadway and no proof of insurance on Nov. 12. He was released on his own recognizance and the court date is Nov. 28.

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In appreciation of

I don't know about you, but time seems to have sped up for me. When I was young a year took so long. After the Christmas madness fueled by candy, cakes, food, and wrapped surprises wore off next Christmas seemed so far away. Time now seems to move quite a bit faster. My kids who were just little babies wrapped in swaddling not too long ago are quickly approaching their teens.

Work too seems to have gone haywire. I am busier than ever and can barely find a moment to come up for air. We rush from work to home to church to obligations and back to work again. Even pleasure and entertainment now happens at a rapid, intensified pace. No one just sits on the porch or hangs out. It is as if the world is being compressed and the hours, minutes and seconds are spilling out, wasted on the floor. It was under this kind of circumstance that I started my car only a few mornings ago.

I had a full day scheduled. I got up at 4:55 AM and got started. Heading out to the car I had a mind bursting with the things to be done that day. Household chores, items to purchase, necessities to buy, work to do, kids to chauffeur and a long list of other time stealing events that I would have to pack in and accom-



Another Perspective
MORGAN DUBIEL | COLUMNIST

plish that day. It felt like a full load, but I had grown used to it. As I slipped into the seat of my car I noticed a note card propped on the steering wheel. It surprised me because no one is up in my household or even the whole block at this hour. As I pulled out of the driveway I opened it. It was a note from my wife and children telling me how much they loved me and why.

It described in detail the little things I had done for my family to show them how much I love them. My daughter listed tickling her and playing dollies. My youngest son wrote how much he liked having his hair rubbed and being sung to as he went to sleep at night. My oldest boy told me in dear words just how much my support and love as a father and friend meant to him. My wife also listed all the little things I had done to support her in the household and in those many

chores that she had. I got so choked up I could hardly speak. I waited later into the morning so that I could call and thank them, but I could barely get a word out. I had not realized just how empty I was running. How low my appreciation meter had gotten. I was burning the candles at both ends, but to what purpose and for whom. My family reminded me why and it was a real blessing to remember.

This is one of the most special things that my wife has brought to our marriage. She has been my girl for twenty years, yet I can still remember way back when she wrote her first note card to me. The card and the words were the usual romantic stuff, but touching nonetheless. What was most special was that she would take the time to write it out and give it to me. Sometimes we forget to say "I love you." We forget to fulfill the most critical of all human yearnings — being loved, yet when I saw the words written down it helped to fill some of that emptiness that each of us feels. Going about our busy day, doing our duty and completing those tasks expected of us can leave us feeling empty. What is it all for? The human connection is needed to relight our fires and remind us that

See Perspective, page 10

Letter to the Editor

D64 board members thank committee members

Dear Editor,
School District 64 residents will be impressed by the depth and quality of the reports recently completed by the 30 volunteer members of the Community Finance Committee. The CFC is an independent advisory group established by the Board of Education in February 2004 to analyze and recommend strategies to maintain and improve the District's financial strength. Its work is part of a long tradition of grassroots involvement of the community in support of local schools.

Divided into three subcommittees, dedicated individuals from all segments of our community contributed their expertise and wisdom in developing these important proposals, which offer a unique per-

spective to the Board. This community service reflects their passion for quality education and offers an inspiring role model for our students.

On behalf of the District 64 Board of Education, we would like to thank all who served and particularly acknowledge the leadership of the chairmen: Diana Stapleton, Spend Management Subcommittee; Craig Elderkin, Communications Subcommittee; and Phil Eichman, Financial Structure Subcommittee.

We invite all local residents to visit the District's enhanced Web site: www.d64.org to review the full CFC reports. While visiting, do be sure to enter the extraordinary, new Education Finance Fact Book, which is the direct result of the ongoing collaboration of the CFC and District 64. It is a handy, central resource to

help unscramble the jargon surrounding school funding.

We also invite the community to attend any of our upcoming meetings to ask questions or share their thoughts. To better focus on these complex financial issues, the Board has scheduled two new Committee-of-the-Whole on Finance meetings on October 30 and November 6. Committee meetings also have been planned in advance of our regular sessions on November 13 and 27, and on December 11. In addition, all are welcome to hear our "State of the District" presentation at the November 13 meeting. Please consult our web site for agendas and meeting details.

Chris Mollet, President
Sue Runyon, Vice President
District 64 Board of Education

Golf Mill announces major renovation project

80 attend breakfast, celebrate 12-month planned project

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen
STAFF WRITER

A breakfast to celebrate the multi-million dollar renovation plans for Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles was held on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

"We were very pleased with the outcome," said Jeanne Jordan DeFrank, marketing consultant that was hired for the project. About 80 representatives from stores in the mall attended the event.

At the breakfast, Steve Kriegel, the senior director of development, said that over the next nine to 12 months a lot will change at Golf Mill. The atmosphere of the mall will be warmer. Renovations include a "grand monumental entryway" and a water feature at center court.

"The excitement really is building," said General



Steve Kriegel, the senior director of development, said that over the next nine to 12 months a lot will change at Golf Mill.

Manager for Golf Mill, Mike Williams, with enthusiasm in his voice. He thanked the members of the press and other guests who attended the breakfast.

Starting this month, the renovations that include \$8

million in projects will begin. The improvements are expected to finish by June of 2007. Renovations include new flooring, state of the art lighting, comfortable seating throughout the common areas, new interior landscap-

ing, new entranceways with improved directional signage and new seating in the food court.

The first major part of the renovation is the opening of the new Kerasotes movie theater that took place on

Friday, Nov. 17, with a ribbon cutting on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 10:30 a.m. The theatre will feature oversized reclining high back "Euro" style seats with flip-up armrests and unobstructed views as well as state of the art digital sound systems.

Also at the breakfast, plans to open the Elephant Bar Restaurant, a California-based national restaurant will open its first location in the Chicago area in June 2007 at Golf Mill. The restaurant has 42 locations in nine states and offers a menu that offers a variety of unique food items such as sandwiches, salads, Pacific Rim Specialties and a full-service bar. It is estimated that 8,000 to 10,000 visitors per week will visit the Golf Mill location.

"With the mall renovation plans, the new movie theatre and the Elephant Bar opening next year, we feel strongly that other new national retailers will be attracted to enhance the current tenant mix," said Mike Williams.

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BY JEFFREY CARDELLA
Special to The Bugle

PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISEMENT

Edward Jones Giving Financial Gifts? Know the Rules

The holidays are approaching rapidly, so shopping may be on your mind. Of course, you can find many different types of thoughtful presents that will "make the day" of your loved ones. But why not give a gift that can brighten their entire future? Specifically, why not give a financial gift that has long-term benefits?

Before you give shares of stock or other financial assets, however, you might want to brush up on some of the rules governing financial gift giving.

Understanding Gift Taxes

When you give someone a "typical" holiday present — clothing, electronics, books, gift certificates, etc. — you don't have to worry about any taxes, except sales tax. But if you want to give away stock or other securities, you will have to consider gift tax rules, which are basically designed to prevent people from removing most of the assets from their taxable estates through large gifts.

However, gift tax rules are, for most people, quite generous. Consider the following:

- You can give up to \$12,000 to an individual in a tax year without facing any tax consequences. In fact, you can make \$12,000 gifts to as many different people as you'd like in a tax year without incurring gift taxes.
- You can give your spouse a gift of any amount without facing gift taxes.
- You and your spouse can each give the same individual \$12,000, for a total of \$24,000, gift-tax free.

Giving Stocks? Do Your Homework

If you decide to give stocks, you have to keep a few things in mind. Make sure you know what you

originally paid for the stock (its tax basis), how long you've held it and its fair market value at the date of the gift. The recipients will need this information to determine gains or losses if they decide to sell the stock you've given them.

Both you and your loved ones can gain valuable tax advantages from your gift of stock. When you give your shares of stock, you also give away your holding period — the amount of time you've held the stock. So, even if the recipients own the stock only a day or so before selling it, they'll pay the long-term capital gains tax rate, which may be considerably lower than their current income tax rate. And by giving shares of stock, you also will benefit — because you'll avoid the capital gains taxes you would have paid if you had sold the stock yourself. Before taking any action, though, consult with your tax adviser.

Gifts for IRAs

You don't have to actually give stocks to help your intended recipients make progress toward their financial goals. As an alternative, consider giving your loved ones money to add more shares of stock (or bonds or other investments) to an IRA. For 2006, investors can put up to \$4,000 into a Roth or traditional IRA (or \$5,000 if they are 50 or older). If your intended recipients have fully funded their IRAs for 2006, they can apply your gift for 2007, for which the contribution limit is the same.

Long-lasting Gifts

The holidays are here for only a short while — but your financial gifts to your loved ones can make a difference in their lives for years to come.

Jeffrey Cardella can be reached at Edward Jones, 8141 N. Milwaukee, Niles, IL. 847-470-8953

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Selling a cash-value life insurance policy? Better be extra careful

By Lynn O'Shaughnessy
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

If you own a cash-value life insurance policy, you could have insurance agents pestering you to sell it. Behind the scenes, there are some power-

MONEY & YOU

ful - and sleazy - reasons why some policyholders are being urged to swap their policies for cash.

Many people aren't aware that they can sell their policies, but the fast-growing life settlement industry is determined to talk as many customers as it can into relinquishing their policies. Life settlement companies buy life insurance from policy owners, take over the premium payments, then collect the death benefit when the insured person dies.

The companies entice the curious with a simple message: If you no longer need the life insurance or you can't afford the policy, we can buy it from you for more than its cash surrender value - that is, what your insurance company would give you if you decided to cancel your policy. For many people, this offer

sounds a lot better than the deals that send contestants into fits of giddiness on the "Price Is Right." But is it?

Before you can possibly answer that question - which is vastly more complicated than it looks - you have to know whether an outsider would even covet your policy. A firm will take a pass if it suspects that you share Methuselah's DNA.

Buyers will be more excited if your doctors predict you'll live for no more than seven to 10 years, but you still could generate some interest if your life expectancy doesn't exceed 15 years. The shorter your life expectancy, the more money you should get. The life settlement firms will expect documentation of your health from your physicians, which can cost hundreds of dollars.

Because of the costs involved in these transactions, nobody is going to get excited about a policy that has a death benefit that's worth less than \$100,000. Many policies generate a purchase price of 15 percent to 30 percent of the face amount. That, however, doesn't include the brokerage commission, which can be huge.

Glenn Daily, a fee-only insurance consultant, suggests

that the way in which insurance agents and life settlement brokers are rewarded for generating new business is "bizarre." Commissions, which are often 6 percent, aren't calculated on the policy's purchase price but on its face amount. So if the policy's face value is \$1 million and the purchase price is \$150,000, a 6 percent commission would be \$60,000, not \$9,000.

You don't need an economist's degree to appreciate why an agent might not always be motivated to find the largest purchase price for his client when he's going to get paid the same amount no matter what offer he reels in.

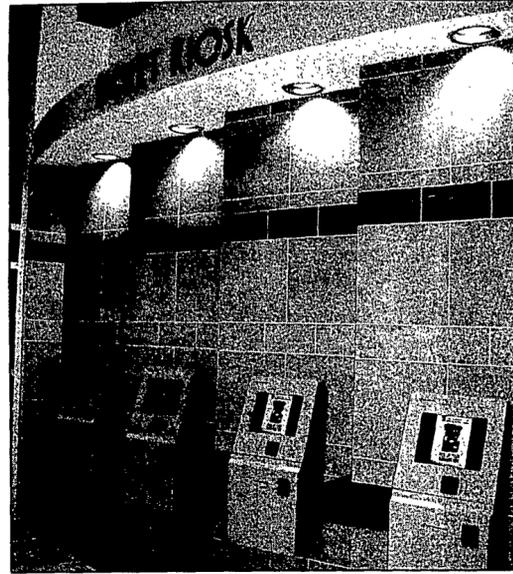
This strange compensation arrangement could be one reason why the industry is in the cross hairs of Eliot Spitzer, the New York attorney general who won election as his state's governor Tuesday.

Last month, Spitzer filed a lawsuit against Coventry First LLC in Philadelphia that alleges the industry leader rewarded life settlement brokers with secret payments to send business their way. The brokers are supposed to obtain the best prices for their clients by seeking bids from various life settlement firms.

have blessed us. We are only on this earth a short time. Those we love now need to know it in the here and now. As we remember to appreciate others, we in turn are more appreciative and appreciated. As you celebrate this Thanksgiving take the time to express your appreciation for those around you.

Appreciation is just a synonym for love. We might well do better to treat Thanksgiving as New Year's and make a resolution to make every day of our lives a day to give thanks and love one another.

Wishing you, your family and loved ones a wonderful Thanksgiving.



Kerasotes

continued from page 1

The theater features large auditoriums with three-story tall screens spanning 60-feet. The sound systems in the theaters are powered by over 900 watts. Kerasotes pointed out that all the seats in the theaters are high back "Euro" style covered with plush velour, have extra wide fixed sea bottoms, reclining backs and flip-up cup holder armrests.

The 62,500 square foot theater has a total seating capacity of 3,264.

There are two entrances to the theaters, either from the mall concourse or from two entrances on the north and south side of the theater near the mall concourse entrance.

Ticket prices for the new theaters are \$9 for adults, \$5.75 for children 12 and under, \$6 for seniors, \$6 for adult matinees, \$5.75 for the last matinee daily

and \$7.50 for Sunday evenings.

Kerasotes pointed out that, for movie-goers who like snacks, they offer free-refills on fountain drinks and popcorn.

Chicago-based Kerasotes ShowPlace Theatres, LLC was founded in 1909 when Gus Kerasotes opened his first nickelodeon, The Royal, in Springfield, IL. Louis and Nicholas Kerasotes, Gus' sons later led the business as Kerasotes Theatres grew to a regional company with 50 theaters by the mid-1960s. Today, Kerasotes is principally managed by the third generation of the family, Tony and Dean Kerasotes, who have directed the company's aggressive growth since 1985.

Reflecting the increasing presence of Kerasotes Theatres in the Chicago metropolitan area, the Kerasotes ShowPlace 12 in Niles is the third new multiplex opened this year. The company's flagship, ShowPlace 16 in Naperville, opened this June and ShowPlace 14 in Cicero opened earlier this month.

This spring, Kerasotes also acquired the City North 14 and Webster Place 11 in Chicago.

Other upcoming projects include a 14-screen theater in Bridgeview planned for 2007 and a 16-screen theater in the South Loop anchoring the new mixed-use development, Roosevelt Collection.

Today, Kerasotes ShowPlace Theatres is the nation's seventh-largest film exhibitor, operating 81 theaters with 685 screens in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa and Ohio.

HAVE YOU HEARD

Grand Opening of Park View at Norwood Crossing Celebrated



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held recently to mark the opening of the Information Center for the planned Park View at Norwood Crossing independent living apartment homes. Norwood Crossing has a stellar reputation and was recently selected by Consumer Reports magazine as one of the top 29 nursing homes in Illinois. Participating in the ceremony at the information center, 6400 W. Raven St. in Chicago, are (from left) State Rep. Michael P. McAuliffe, Norwood Life Care Foundation Chief Executive Officer Marcia R. Mahood, Ald. Brian Doherty, and Norwood Crossing Board of Directors Chairman Richard L. Corrin, Jr. The current Norwood Crossing campus features Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing and Respite Care. The future Park View community on the nearly five-acre existing Norwood Crossing campus (formerly Norwood Park Home) in Chicago's Norwood Park will contain 139 one- and two-bedroom apartment homes along with two-bedroom plus den units. In addition to the independent living apartment homes, the campus also will include Assisted Living studio apartments and private and semi-private accommodations in the nursing center. The Norwood Crossing campus will offer a carefree lifestyle to meet the needs of older adults well into the 21st century as it transitions from a nursing home to a Continuing Care Retirement Community. For more information, call Stan Banash at (773) 577-5324.

"Room at the Inn" returns to Saint Matthew Center for Health for 5th year

Saturday and Sunday,
December 2 and 3, 2006
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

A beautiful non-commercial Advent exhibit the whole family will enjoy.

The tradition spread from Italy to the rest of Europe and beyond. Today, many Christian families annually display a crèche, often one that has been handed down from generation to generation. Susan Greeley is producer of the radio program "Grace Matters" for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,



Susan Greeley (right) with her husband, Pastor Jeff Greeley, with a few of the hundreds of nativity sets that will be on display at St. Matthew Center for Health Dec. 2 and 3.

For the fifth year, Oak Park resident Susan Greeley will be displaying over 300 nativity scenes she has collected over many years from around the world at St. Matthew Center for Health in Park Ridge. A limited number of sets from other friends of Saint Matthew will be included in the event. "I hope visitors will be struck by God's overwhelming love and generosity by seeing the way other people and other cultures imagine the nativity," Greeley says. Many visitors return each year to see the display. One returning Park Ridge resident said, "The display of the Nativity collection is the highlight of our pre-Christmas religious preparation."

The tradition of the nativity scene, or crèche, dates back to 1223. St. Francis of Assisi is said to have been traveling to the Italian village of Greccio at the time, when the sight of shepherds in moonlit fields evoked images of the first Christmas. Inspired by the midnight scene, he beckoned villagers that Christmas Eve to light the sky with their torches, bring their animals, and re-enact the Nativity. During succeeding centuries,

While viewing this beautiful, inspiring exhibit, guests may register for a chance to win a nativity set of their own. Children will enjoy the "Please Touch" table, and may participate in a separate drawing to win a set that has special appeal to them. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free.

Saint Matthew Center for Health is located at 1601 N. Western Ave. in Park Ridge, two blocks south of Dempster Street. For more information on "Room at the Inn" call 847-825-5531, or visit www.StMatthewCenter.org.

Holiday Events at Niles Park District

Breakfast With Santa

Join Santa for his annual breakfast with Niles Park District. Every year, Santa makes a stop at Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard Street. Children will enjoy eating breakfast, making a special craft, visiting and taking a picture with Santa. All adults and children in attendance must register for this event. Please register early, spaces fill up fast! Event will be held Saturday, December 9 at 8:30 am, 10 am or 11:30 am. Fee is Resident \$6, Non-resident \$11 and Adults \$6. Call 847-967-6633 for registration information.

Make a Holiday Gingerbread House

Make your own no-bake gingerbread house for a special holiday centerpiece. Instructions and all materials included for each parent/child couple to make a Gingerbread House to take home. This special event will be held

Wednesday, December 13 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Howard Leisure Center. Fee is resident \$45; non-resident \$50 per couple. Call 847-967-6633 to register for this holiday fun event!

Santa's Mailbox

Santa's elves have installed a special mailbox at the Howard Leisure Center. Santa will write back to each child who drops off a letter. Since Santa must have time to pack his sleigh, he can only answer those letters received by Monday, December 11. Santa takes care of the postage, there is no charge for this service. Don't forget to include your return address.

Santa's Calling

Santa will once again be calling children ages 3-8 this season to check their holiday lists. Parents must complete Santa's information sheet available at the Howard Leisure Center. Calls will be made Wednesday, December 6 between 4:30-7:30 p.m. Registration required. Call (847) 967-6633 for information.

Holiday Open House Set at Summit Square

Families are invited to attend a Holiday Open House with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Summit Square Retirement & Assisted Living Residence, 10 N. Summit Ave. (at Touhy), Park Ridge. The cost is \$5 and brunch is included.

Children will get a chance to visit with Santa, tour his workshop and marvel at his gingerbread town. There will be free toys for good boys and girls in attendance.

Local schools and scouting organizations are decorating Christmas trees with their own themes. Those trees will be displayed during the Holidays at Summit Square. Those attending the Open House will be able to vote for their favorite tree. There will also be caroling by children's groups.

A breakfast brunch will be served starting at 9 a.m. No reservations are needed. Guests are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry.

For more information on Summit Square, its many programs and services, or activities, call 847-825-1161 or visit www.summitsquareretirement.com.



Preschoolers Celebrate Thanksgiving

Niles Park District preschoolers celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday by dressing as Indians around the fire. Pictured are students in a 3 year old class at Howard Leisure Center.

SHOWPLACE 12 IN NILES TO OFFER FREE MOVIES

WHAT: The NEW Kerasotes ShowPlace 12 Theatres in Niles will offer free admission to first run films plus a free small popcorn and a free small fountain drink to guests attending the first matinee presentations.

WHY: Tony Kerasotes, President and CEO of Kerasotes Theatres, LLC, recognized the strong family presence in the opening week of the theatre and wanted to give back to the community for its open and warm welcome.

WHERE: Kerasotes ShowPlace 12 Theatres, 301 Golf Mill Center (located on the west side of the Golf Mill Shopping Center) Niles, IL 60714

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, November 25 & 26, 2006 for the first matinee presentations only.

HOW: Doors will open 1 hour prior to the first matinee allowing guests to obtain tickets at the Kerasotes ShowPlace 12 Theatres box office. No advance (day prior) tickets will be available for these special "be our guest" matinee presentations. After obtaining admission tickets, guests may proceed to the concession counter to obtain a complimentary small popcorn and a complimentary small fountain drink.

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And From All Of Us At The Bugle

Flu shots available at Niles Senior Center

Niles Senior News
Flu Shot Clinics Dec. 4-7
The flu vaccine has arrived and the scheduled clinics are on as scheduled. Those with appointments should check in at the designated times. If you do not have a scheduled flu shot appointment, a limited number of walk-in appointments will be available during both morning and afternoon sessions on clinic days. Adults age 18 and older are welcome.

What Exactly is Arthritis?
Thursday, December 28 12:00-1:00PM
Join us in Room 231 as Dr. Sergey Furmanov, Rheumatologist, will speak on arthritis - the different types of arthritis, diagnosing, treatment options, and answers to your specific questions. ALL Senior Center members are welcome! FREE but pre-registration is required.

Crime Prevention for the Holidays
Thursday, December 7th 1:30PM
Join Officer Ron Brandt of the Niles Police Dept for an informative lecture that can help you reduce your potential of becoming a victim of crimes that are abundant during the holidays. A representative from ADT Home Securities will also be on hand to give you tips on making your home safer and less desirable to thieves.

Around the World in 60 Minutes
Wednesday, Dec. 6 11:00-12:30 \$7
Bill Helmuth has visited more than 100 countries and traveled 4,000,000 miles to bring you this informative, visually stimulating program of memorable places and natural wonders. Bill's descriptive experiences will take you to 25 countries around the world, on both sides of the equator, to explore monumental architectural treasures, intimate shrines, and religious rites and festivals.

Lunch with the Red Hatters
On December 7th, the Red Hatters have luncheon reservations at Hay Caramba, 122 S Prospect in Park Ridge. Join us for a deliciously authentic Mexican Lunch featuring your choice of entrée. Cost \$16.50. In January the Red Hatters will be dining at Riggio's, 7530 Oakton. Lunch will feature an old-fashioned Italian family-style banquet. Cost \$16.50
Contact Kelly for carpooling and/or directions. Red Hat and Purple outfit required.

Senior Music Group looking for members
This enthusiastic group wants you if you like to hum, sing or even whistle. If you can carry a tune, bring your voice! We want you if you play a conventional reed, percussion, keyboard, or stringed instrument, guitar or ukulele. We'd especially love you if you play a harmonica, kazoo, washboard, spoons or whatever (have your own homemade instrument - we can incorporate it into the band!). No pay, but lots of fun!

Tickets for Holiday Party Spectacular
Friday, December 1 11:00 at the White Eagle \$27.
Niles Senior Men's Club invites you to join them at this year's annual Holiday Party at the House of the White Eagle. A family-style lunch will feature boneless breast of chicken, beef, and fish served with delicious side dishes. Meet Santa! Enjoy

The King and I at Drury Lane
Thursday, January 18th 11:15 - 5:30 \$50.
You're sure to enjoy this Rodgers and Hammerstein classic with its enhancing musical score. But first, enjoy a fabulous lunch featuring your choice of Roast Sirloin of Beef or Stuffed Chicken Breast.

Identity Theft
Friday, December 15 - 1:30-2:30PM \$1
Is someone using your credit card? Is someone using your social security number? Learn how to avoid becoming a victim of IDENTITY THEFT and what to do if it happens to you from Maureen O'Bryan of the State's Attorney Office. Light refreshments will be served.

Pre-New Year's Eve Party
Thursday, December 28 5PM- 9PM \$18
Get a head start in ringing in the new year! Join us at the Center for a delicious catered meal, featuring Boneless Breast of Chicken Teriyaki, Green Beans Edwardian, Twice Baked Potato, and Dessert. Then get ready for the Popology Band when they take the stage for your listening and dancing enjoyment.

Maine Twp. seniors plan trips, classes and more

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.maine-township.com.

p.m., Cost: \$2 or 2 Coupons each Bingo
Come enjoy a wonderful afternoon playing Bingo. Prizes, delicious sweet rolls and coffee are included in the price. Books of 6 coupons can be purchased for \$5 at either Bingo.

Computer Workshop
Monday, Dec. 4, 3 p.m. to
See Maine Twp., page 14

Senior Citizens
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Bingo
Friday, Dec. 1, Oakton Arms, 1665 Oakton Pl., Des Plaines.
Thursday, Dec. 7, Town Hall, 1700, Ballard, Park Ridge.
Doors Open: 12 noon, Games: 1

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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.

Park Ridge seniors collecting pull tabs

Park Ridge Senior News

Pull Tabs

The Park Ridge Senior Center has started a program of collecting pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House so as you recycle your aluminum cans save the pull tabs and bring them to the Center. The Ronald McDonald House Pop Tab Collection Program was established in 1987 by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Ronald McDonald House community. To date more than 400 million

pop tabs have been collected generating more than \$4 million. Last year, \$18,000.00 was raised for the Ronald McDonald Houses by collecting and recycling pop tabs. They hope to surpass that amount this year. Pull tabs can also come from soups, pet food cans and the like. This is a small thing to do for so much good. The Ronald McDonald Houses also work with local recycling centers to receive money for collecting aluminum cans. The Center's donation of pull tabs will go to the Ronald McDonald House at

Loyola Hospital to help support families of ill or injured children receiving treatment at Loyola University Medical Center or neighboring hospitals.

AARP Tax Program

Volunteers are needed for the AARP tax program. This service provides income tax assistance to many of our members and overall to more than 2 million people annually. If you would like to take the course and volunteer to assist with tax preparation, please call the Senior Center at 847-692-3597.

Classes begin in January and tax assistance in February.

A Dazzling Chicago Christmas

Celebrate ... A Dazzling Chicago Christmas on Wednesday, November 29. The trip includes a visit to the Museum of Science and Industry and enjoy "Christmas Around the World." Then a special guided tour of the Palmer House which has been restored to its original elegant beauty. Lunch will be at the Palmer House French Quarter

Restaurant. There will even be time to visit the Christkindel Market at the Daley Center. There are over 40 booths that feature handmade ornaments, nesting dolls, roasted almonds, beersteins, and Christmas stollen. It is recommended you wear comfortable shoes. Members can make reservations in advance according to current policy. Cost for the day is \$74.00 which includes all tours, lunch and motorcoach transportation. Tour hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Maine Twp.

continued from page 13

4:30 p.m., Cost: \$10 - Registration Required, Presenter: Lee Huber

With the Holidays around the corner, you will be capturing memories of the season with your camera. Attend this class and learn how to avoid printing problems. You will learn how to pick the perfect paper and nine quick steps to

hassle-free printing. Interested in buying a camera for the season? Lee will make the choice easier and save you hundreds of dollars. Only instructor has computer.

Twilight Dining

Tuesday, Dec. 12, Bob Chinn's Crab House, 393 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Cost: \$32 members/\$34 guests

Celebrate the holiday sea-

son with a nice dinner out. Our menu will feature a tossed salad, an appetizer plate of garlic shrimp, crab vermicelli and sweet potato fries. Dinner includes a sampling of grilled steak medallions, coconut shrimp and teriyaki chicken breast. Save room for dessert as we enjoy Purple Paradise Pie. Newcomers welcome - it's a great way to meet new people.

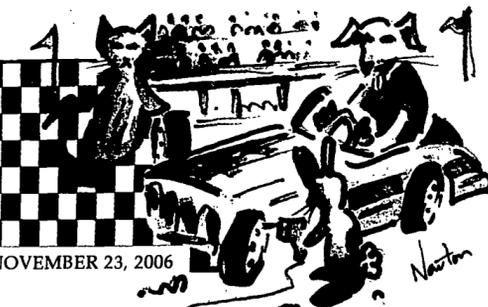
Used Cell Phone Collection

Maine Township, in cooperation with the Cook County Sheriff's Office, is collecting used cell phones to be converted for emergency 911 usage for Senior Citizens. If you have a phone you would like to donate drop it off at Maine Town Hall. Distribution of the cell phones will occur at a program scheduled in Dec. Watch for all the details to follow.

Day Trip

The following Day Trip is currently on sale. In order to sign up for a Day Trip you 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 847-297-2510 and ask for an application. All Day Trips depart from the State of Illinois Building, 9511 Harrison St. in Des Plaines.

the PET STOP



Pet of the Month



Bella

Out of all the articles I've written, what can be more fun than writing about your own puppy?

Bella is a very unique 6 month-old puppy. She is half beagle, half lab, aka a "Beagador." This worked out perfectly since I really wanted a beagle and my husband, Adam has always wanted a lab. She's the cutest, sweetest, funniest puppy. So cute, that she makes us forget everything she's tried to chew up in the last hour.

Being newlyweds, we weren't quite ready for a baby, so we decided to start out with a puppy. And so far, so good. She has filled our new townhouse with so much love, happiness and chewed up dog toys that it truly feels like home now.

We love the way she quick-

ly vacuums up the cheerios that fell on the floor, cries when she's bored, and plops on the floor next to us while we're watching TV. And it turns out she's a couch potato like mom and dad.

We just discovered that she loves to watch the puppies on Animal Planet.

Thanks for making Bella, "Puppy of the Month." She's such a wonderful addition to our family.

Tracy and Adam Gruen

If you'd like your pet to be our next "Pet of the Month," send a picture and a small description of what makes your pet special to: The Bugle Newspapers, Pet of the Month, 7400 N. Waukegan Rd., Niles, IL 60714 or e-mail to editor@buglenewspapers.com.

Winter is a dangerous time if animals stray

Niles officer urges caution, closed gates

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen
STAFF WRITER

After the first of the year, there are generally more stray dogs on the streets of Niles than in the past few months.

"The cats are pretty steady," said Niles Animal Control Officer Peter Babikan. "It's dogs that are on the rise."

This year, there have been about 80 stray dogs roaming the streets of Niles. Generally, they find about 100 stray cats every year.

Babikan said that in November and December there's not as many stray dogs found on the streets, but January is a busy month.

Babikan said that sometimes

after the holidays people decide they don't want their pet any longer or during the winter some people say they couldn't close their gate because of the snow.

"You hear all kinds of excuses," said Babikan. In the summer, he says that you may hear people say that the landscaper didn't close their gate.

Winter is one of the most dangerous times for stray animals, because of the cold weather and the fact that there is not as much food on the ground.

Babikan said that he has made an effort to work closely with local shelters in order to form a partnership to help the animals.

Famous Fido, the Original Doggie Deli and Bakery in Andersonville, will host a gourmet holiday buffet for

homeless dogs on Dec. 10. Dogs of The Animal Care and Control Center of Chicago will be fed Chicken a la Fido, Yankee Pup Roast, Canine Casseroles, Doggie Cheesecake and more. At this event, people can come and adopt a pet as well.

A representative from Famous Fido said that they encourage residents from Niles and other surrounding areas to come to the event and take a look at the pets who need a home. The dogs who are at the buffet can be taken home that same day.

The buffet will take place on Sunday, Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Famous Fido/Ruff N Stuff, 5430 N. Clark St. in Chicago.

Famous Fido has customers from Niles, Skokie, Chicago, and many other suburbs.

Local Vet offers holiday tips for pets

The following was prepared and provided by Peter S. Sakas, DVM, MS, of the Niles Family Animal Hospital to keep pets safe during the busy holiday season:

Introduction

The holidays are joyous and active times for people and their pets. Our pets partake in many

of the seasonal festivities with us which makes the holidays that much more special. However, many of the decorations and objects we have around the household during the holidays may be dangerous to our pets. By taking a few precautions, we can make this wonderful time of year a safe one for our pets.

Holiday Food/Cooking

Food is a very important aspect of our holiday celebrations as many human waistlines can attest.

Unfortunately, many of these foods can cause serious problems in our pets and as any veterinarian will tell you, this is the time of

See Tips, page 16

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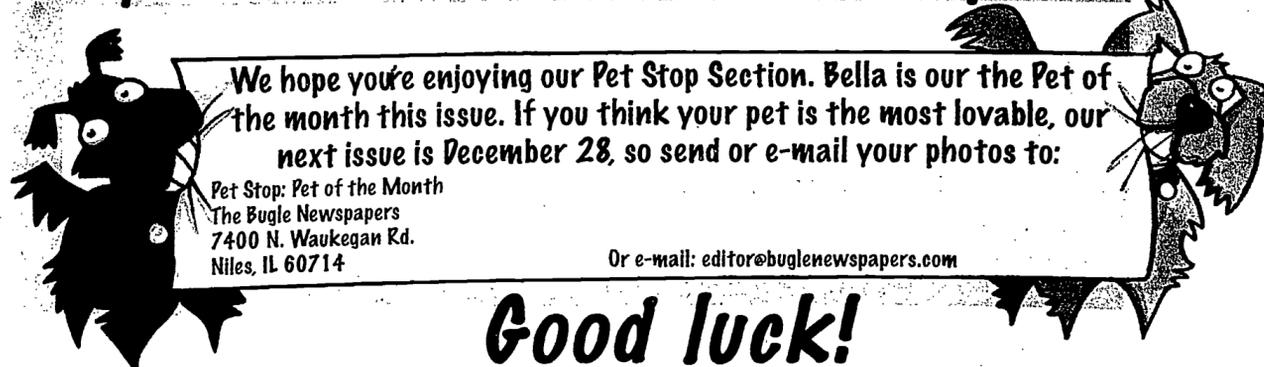
Hey Readers! Like our new "Pet Stop" Section?

We hope you're enjoying our Pet Stop Section. Bella is our the Pet of the month this issue. If you think your pet is the most lovable, our next issue is December 28, so send or e-mail your photos to:

Pet Stop: Pet of the Month
The Bugle Newspapers
7400 N. Waukegan Rd.
Niles, IL 60714

Or e-mail: editor@buglenewspapers.com

Good luck!



Tips

continued from page 15

year that we see numerous gastrointestinal problems in pets.

Food Preparation - The preparation of food can be a problem, especially for pet birds. Birds have a very effective respiratory tract and coupled with their relatively small size are susceptible to toxic elements in the air. During cooking if food burns or smoke is produced, any birds nearby by the kitchen could be at risk of fatal smoke inhalation. If non-stick cookware is used there is another risk for pet birds. Under normal cooking conditions, the cookware is safe but if polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) coated products (such as Teflon, Silverstone, and Supra) are overheated (over 530 degrees F), they can emit toxic fumes which are fatal to birds. PTFE coated drip pans achieve high temperatures under normal usage so they should not be used around birds at all. If your bird has been exposed to smoke or fumes get them to an area of good ventilation and seek veterinary care.

Holiday Food/Leftovers - Avoid the temptation to feed your pets leftovers from your holiday meals. Many of these

foods are rich, especially those that are high in fat, and can often cause severe gastrointestinal disturbances in pets which could prove fatal. Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) is a very common disease of dogs and is frequently caused by the eating of table scraps. The pancreas plays a role in digestion of food but when an animal eats a rich or fatty meal, the pancreas is 'over-stimulated' and the organ over-secretes enzymes leading to inflammation of the pancreas and surrounding tissues. Signs of pancreatitis include vomiting and abdominal pain, sometimes quite severe. The condition is very uncomfortable for the pet and sometimes can be fatal. If you notice these type of symptoms seek veterinary care.

Be cautious with any bones provided to your pet. Sharp bones, especially from chicken or turkey, may become lodged in the mouth or throat of your pet. If the bones move further into the digestive tract, there is a risk that the bones could perforate the stomach or intestines. This situation may require surgical removal and if they do not receive veterinary attention, they may die. Provide your pet with commercial chew toys to avoid

any potential problems.

Chocolate - Providing a piece of chocolate to a pet may seem like an act of kindness but there is a risk that this treat could have serious consequences. Chocolate may be fatal to your pet, especially dogs, because they are sensitive to theobromine, a compound in chocolate. It may cause vomiting, diarrhea, heart irregularities, muscle tremors, seizures and coma, sometimes with fatal results. Cats are rarely poisoned due to their more 'discriminating' habits. Keep those chocolate goodies out of the reach of your dog. If your dog accidentally eats some chocolate, seek veterinary care immediately.

The Christmas Tree

Decorations go up once a year and for a brief period of time. Your pets will be very interested in new and unusual objects scattered around the house believing that these are special 'toys' for their own use. Often these playthings end up lodged in the intestinal tract causing a blockage. Many dangers lurk on the Christmas tree. Overzealous dogs or cats have felled numerous wonderfully decorated trees. Support the tree securely with a sturdy stand and wires.

The Tree - There are several factors to consider with the tree. The trunk of a live tree is often coated with chemicals, such as fertilizer or insecticide. When the tree is placed in the stand and watered, the chemicals from the trunk contaminate the water. If your bird, dog or cat drinks it, they may become sick. The needles begin to fall out as the tree ages and dries. The needles are not poisonous but are very sharp, can puncture the skin and produce abscesses. If your pet tries to eat them, the needles can cut the tongue, lips and gums. If swallowed they are relatively undigestible and can actually pierce the lining of the stomach and intestines or cause a blockage.

The branches from artificial trees can be easily pulled out. The artificial needles can be sharp and are always non-digestible. If your pet chews on the branches, they might take in some of the needles. Just like the needles from the live tree, they can cause gastrointestinal problems such as bleeding and blockage.

Lights - The lights pose many dangers. They often get very hot after being on for a while and could burn your pet if they are touched. For some strange reason pets seem attracted to wires and like to chew on them. So keep a watch on your pets for

this type of activity and check the lower strings of lights for evidence of chewing. You might want to 'pet proof' the tree by keeping objects, such as lights and ornaments, at heights that your pets cannot reach. If you want lights all over the tree, then string them on the lower branches, but place them away from the tip of the branches. The pets will have a more difficult time reaching them if they are placed on the inner portion of the branches.

Electrical Cords - Electrical cords often seem delectable to many pets, especially cats and young puppies. Chewed cords can cause severe burns and sometimes fatal, electrical shocks. If your pet seems overly interested in electrical cords, string or tape them in a position that is inaccessible to your pet. If that does not work you can cover the cords with hot pepper sauce or use bitter tasting commercial products sold in most pet stores.

Ornaments - Avoid using glass ornaments around pets. They are fragile, break easily and the shattered pieces are sharp. If any of the pieces are swallowed, the glass can puncture the intestines, which could lead to peritonitis and possibly death. Ornament hooks are also very sharp. They can be picked up and swallowed, resulting in gastrointestinal problems such as obstructions and punctures.

Be cautious with 'edible' type ornaments. Sometimes the store-bought varieties may not be edible and contain hardening agents/preservatives that could be toxic. If you make your own edible ornaments, your pet may try to eat them. They may knock over the tree trying to get a string of homemade popcorn or a gingerbread ornament.

The safest ornaments are one-piece, non-breakable and made of non-toxic material. They should be too big to swallow. Also, have them out of the reach of curious beaks, mouths and paws.

Tinsel - One of the most dangerous materials to put on a Christmas tree is tinsel. Animals are attracted to its bright finish and flexibility. Cats are especially attracted to tinsel and if you have a cat, it is recommended that you do not use tinsel on your tree. If your pet eats tinsel, there is a good chance that it will become wrapped around the tongue. As the pet struggles to remove it, the tinsel gets stretched out and wraps even tighter. It can cut sensitive tissues in the mouth and stop the circulation of blood to the tongue. If a strand is swallowed it can bunch up and block the intestine. If this occurs, sur-

gery is usually required to remove it. The best advice is, if you have pets, do not place tinsel on your tree. You may lose the aesthetics of the icicle effect, but your pets will be much safer.

Holiday Decorations and Packages

Many people place decorations throughout the house including lights, evergreen branches, holiday knickknacks and other assorted objects to provide a festive environment. We have discussed some of these dangers previously. Lit candles can burn a curious pet or could be knocked over and start a fire. Centerpieces of dangling streamers and feather fronds are enticing to the curious pet. If chewed and swallowed, these materials can cause an intestinal blockage. Icicles and tinsel draped on a mantle are as dangerous as tinsel on a tree. Monitor your pets and watch out for any evidence of chewing on these objects.

Wrapped presents can pose a hazard to pets. They are attracted to the decorative bows, ribbons and other frills placed on the packages. If your pet would chew and swallow these materials, there is a risk of intestinal blockage. Food packages wrapped as gifts and left under a tree can entice a hungry animal. With their keen sense of smell they can sniff these out and decide to have a feast. Exercise caution with these types of presents around pets, especially dogs.

Poisonous Plants

Many homes are decorated each year during the holiday season with poinsettias and mistletoe. These plants do represent the season; unfortunately they are toxic for our pets and represent a problem for curious dogs, cats and birds. Poinsettias produce a milky sap that is irritating to the skin and eyes on contact and to the gastrointestinal tract if eaten. It may cause irritation and blistering of the mucous membranes of the mouth and stomach. Intake of large amounts of mistletoe may cause nausea, vomiting and gastroenteritis. Make sure that these plants are kept out of the reach of your pets. If you do catch your pet eating a poinsettia or a few loose mistletoe berries, seek veterinary care immediately.

The preceding discussion was garnered from several excellent sources including:

Your Healthy Pet by Amy Marder, VMD

A Dog for All Seasons by Jane Leon, DVM

LIFE



Butter Recipes

Pomegranate Clementine Butter

1 cup (2 sticks) salted butter, room temperature
 1/4 pomegranate syrup, chilled
 2 tablespoon Clementine zest, finely grated (see note)
 1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar, or more to taste
 Yields about 1 1/4 cups.

Place butter in medium mixing bowl and beat until light and fluffy. Scrape down sides. Beat in pomegranate syrup, Clementine zest and sugar, scraping sides of bowl as needed to incorporate ingredients.

Optional: Add 1/4 cup toasted and chopped almonds, hazelnuts or pecans if desired.

Note: Any orange or mandarin variety may be substituted for Clementines.

Five-Spice-Pumpkin Butter

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
 1/2 cup canned or fresh pumpkin puree, strained (to remove any excess water)
 1 tablespoon orange or lemon zest, finely grated
 1 to 2 tablespoons Chinese five-spice powder (see note)
 Salt, to taste
 Yields about 2 cups.

Place butter in medium mixing bowl and beat until light and fluffy. Scrape down sides. Add pumpkin puree, zest and five-spice powder, scraping down sides of bowl, and beat to incorporate ingredients. Taste and adjust seasonings, to taste.

Variations: Add confectioners' sugar for sweeter applications. Add 1/4 cup chopped walnuts or pecans, if desired.
 Note: Bottled five-spice powder can be found in supermarket spice aisles.

Marjoram-Shallot Butter

1 cup and 1 tablespoon (2 sticks and 1 tablespoon) salted butter, room temperature (divided use)
 1/2 cup finely diced shallots
 Salt, to taste
 2 tablespoons dry vermouth (or dry white wine)
 2 tablespoons fresh, sweet marjoram, finely chopped (or 2 teaspoons dried)
 1/2 teaspoon finely ground white pepper
 Yields about 2 cups.

Heat 1 tablespoon of butter in small saucepan over medium heat. Add shallots and season with a pinch of salt. Saute until soft, but do not brown. Add vermouth, and simmer until pan is almost dry. Set aside to cool completely. Place butter in medium mixing bowl and beat until light and fluffy. Scrape down sides.

Add marjoram and pepper, beat to incorporate, scraping down sides. Add cooled shallot mixture and beat to combine. Adjust salt and pepper, to taste.

Cranberry-Sage Brown Butter

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened (divided use)

Continued on next page

Spread holiday cheer with gourmet flavored butters

By Jennifer Mastroianni
 COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

It's a simple truth: Life is better with butter. And now we have even more ways to enjoy this delicious gift of nature: Homemade flavored butters.

COOKING CORNER

With the addition of a few choice ingredients inspired by the season, butter can take on unexpected and exciting new tastes. Flavored butters are easy to make, and their uses are endless in both sweet and savory dishes, whether for spreading on breads, melting on vegetables or adorning meats.

Take for instance, Pumpkin Five-Spice Butter. Slather it on honey-nut muffins, and you'll swoon. But it's just as tasty melted over roasted pork loin or glazed carrots.

Serving flavored butter is a simple. When you've finished mixing, scrape the butter into a small bowl, crock or butter mold and cover tightly.

Or you can shape it into a long roll on plastic, wax paper or parchment paper and then store and slice as needed. If you're making a log, dress it up even more by rolling it in chopped nuts, fresh herbs or dried fruit bits prior to serving. And with holiday entertaining approaching, keep in mind that butter logs make a thoughtful hostess gift. Simply wrap the log with a colorful bow and include your favorite recipe for using the butter.

Get a jump-start on Thanksgiving by making your butter now. Butters can be frozen for up to a month. A day before you plan to use it, thaw the butter in the refrigerator. When ready to serve, allow refrigerated crocks or

containers to sit at room temperature for 15 minutes before serving. If using a log, slice chilled log into 1/2-inch thick rounds and arrange on butter dish or butter plates 15 minutes prior to serving.

Pomegranate-Clementine Butter: With its head-turning hue and sweet-tart flavor, Pomegranate Clementine Butter is lovely for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Serve alongside bread, muffins, waffles, turkey, ham, sweet potatoes or vegetables.

Five-Spice-Pumpkin Butter: Great on the table to accompany everything from breakfast pastries to dinner breads, or melt over meats such as turkey, ham or chicken. Fragrant and flavorful, it also adds richness to root vegetables such as sweet potatoes, carrots, parsnips and beets.

Marjoram-Shallot Butter: Serve this herb-flecked butter on everything from mashed potatoes to dinner rolls. It's also ideal for rubbing under the skin of turkey and chicken prior to roasting.

Cranberry-Sage Brown Butter: This flavorful butter is equally

good with or without dried cranberries. Use it during the holidays on potatoes, vegetables or meats. It also is delicious year round tossed with pasta or as the final touch on broiled or grilled fish.

Honey-Sesame Butter: Such versatile butter turns simple vegetables into stunning side dishes.

See Corner, page 18

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LOCAL SPORTS?

Are you tired of local newspapers that have one story about Niles and then go on for pages about neighboring towns you don't care about?

The Bugle focuses in on the local sports that matters to you.

Niles Only
 Local Newspaper.



Corner

continued from page 17

Add a pat or two to green beans, snap peas, asparagus, carrots, and parsnips. The sweetness from the honey also makes it perfect for spreading on dinner rolls, breakfast breads or bagels, and for topping pancakes, French toast and waffles.

Bittersweet Chocolate-Orange Butter: This decadent mix makes

even the simplest bread or roll special. Try it on toast, biscuits, pancakes, French toast, waffles, bread pudding or banana bread. It especially pairs well with ethnic holiday breads such as Italian panettone, Swedish cardamom bread and stollen, the German bread studded with fruit.

Jennifer Mastroianni is a food writer for the Canton (Ohio) Repository. Her e-mail address is jennifer.mastroianni@cantonrep.com.

Butter Recipes continued

1/2 cup onion, finely diced
1 clove garlic, minced
2 tablespoons fresh sage, chopped
1 teaspoon sea salt
1 teaspoon pepper, freshly ground
1/2 cup dried cranberries, finely diced
Yields about 2 cups.

In a medium skillet, melt 1 stick butter over moderate heat. When butter begins to foam, add onion and garlic and continue cooking until butter turns a nut brown color. Remove from heat and stir in sage, salt, to taste, and pepper; cool completely.

Place remaining butter in a medium mixing bowl and beat until light and fluffy. Scrape down sides. Add brown butter mixture and beat to incorporate, scraping down sides. Stir in cranberries.

Honey-Sesame Butter

1 cup (2 sticks) salted butter, room temperature
2 tablespoons honey
1 teaspoon toasted sesame oil
3 tablespoons lightly toasted sesame seeds (use a mix of black and white sesame seeds if desired) (see note)
Salt, to taste
Yields about 1 1/2 cups.

Place butter in medium mixing bowl and beat until light and fluffy. Scrape down sides.

Add honey, sesame oil and sesame seeds and beat to incorporate, scraping down sides. Add salt, to taste.

Note: To toast sesame seeds, place seeds in single layer in an ungreased, shallow pan. Bake at 350 F for 5 to 10 min., or until golden brown. Remove from pan to cool.

Four stars for 'An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus' film

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

New Releases

Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus ★★★★★ - "Fur" reunites writer Erin Cressida Wilson with director Steven Shainberg. They made "Secretary," a sparky oddball with ace work by Maggie Gyllenhaal. Nicole Kidman is just as terrific in this film, playing photographer Diane Arbus,

FILMS IN FOCUS

maybe surpassing her Oscar-winning Virginia Woolf in "The Hours." Wilson, who truly conceived this script during the late phase of her pregnancy, drew on Patricia Bosworth's esteemed Arbus biography, and Bosworth was a producer. But her fresh take is often inspired. The focus is young Arbus of the 1950s, a sort of finishing school fawn who helps with her husband's advertising photography, filmed by Shainberg in mildly mocking setups. Diane ("Dee-ane," she insists) has two girls and loves her husband, but is going a bit cuckoo in her classy Manhattan nest; something is greatly needed beyond cocktails and Adlai Stevenson. It's her inner cuckoo that saves Diane - she is a voyeur with a kink, her antennae tingling for nudists, outsiders, "freaks" (in her book, Bosworth notes that Arbus' avidity once led her to confide having "envied a girlfriend who'd been raped"). Not since "Dreamchild" (1985) so richly probed Lewis Carroll has a movie taken such fertile liberties with an artist, to stir our



Nicole Kidman is outstanding as photographer Diane Arbus in the new movie "Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus." (CNS Photo courtesy of Abbot Genser)

grateful gratification. To call "Fur" one of the year's best seems a little diminishing - it's a classic. A Picturehouse release. Director: Steven Shainberg. Writer: Erin Cressida Wilson. Cast: Nicole Kidman, Robert Downey Jr., Ty Burrell, Harris Yulin, Jane Alexander. Running time: 1

hour, 50 minutes. Rated R.

Little Children ★★ - Clocking in at more than two hours, "Little Children" starts to feel like a slab of time you might want for a different eternity. This nail-down-their-souls drama has real suction of solemnity. Todd Field directed. **See Films, page 20**

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2006, will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, 2006. Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact:

East Maine School District 63 10150 Dee Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (847)299-1900 8:00am-4:30pm
School District/Joint Agreement Name Address Telephone Office Hours

Also by January 15, 2007, the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2006, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website @ www.isbe.net

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2006	Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Bond & Interest	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Site & Construction/Capital Improvement	Working Cash	Rent	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	23,370,391	3,750,807	4,004,302	1,233,900	659,776	0	607,691	26,614
Flow-Through Sources	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Sources	3000	2,861,982	0	0	694,154	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	1,751,837	928,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DIRECT RECEIPTS/REVENUES		27,984,210	4,678,807	4,004,302	1,928,054	659,776	0	607,691	26,614
TOTAL DIRECT DISBURSEMENTS/ EXPENDITURES		25,863,347	3,486,702	3,531,356	1,727,294	798,477	0	0	84,530
Other Financing Sources & (Uses)		584,500	(106,000)	(326,000)	(32,500)	0	0	(120,000)	0
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, 2005		3,372,061	4,639,273	6,086,124	1,516,404	1,427,003	0	3,499,373	711,146
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30, 2006		6,077,424	5,725,378	6,233,070	1,684,664	1,288,302	0	3,987,064	653,230

East Maine School District 63

Gross Payment For Certificated And Non-Certificated Personnel For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2006 Certified Under \$25,000:

Allen, Luke; Atanus, Susanne; Ballard, David R; Behrman, Doris; Bello, Tamara; Benishay, Sarah; Blackmore, Kari; Blitz, Donald N; Bonkoske, Mary; Bubaris, Nikolaos A; Bullis, Barbara L; Castignetti, Dorothy A; Chaet, Sandra J; Chandrathil, Kurian; Chang, James; Childers, Mary C; Collinsworth, Judy; Coppin, Lee Ann; Dass, Shipra; Davidson, Joslyn; Dubrock, Judith; Dunitz, Harlene A; Dunton, Nancy; Escobar, Luz E; Evans, Kathryn; Feery, Fadra; Fulkerson, Stacy; Garnick, Marlene; Gassman, Beverly; Gassman, Merrill L; Geller, Ann; Gerdy, Joan; Gerson, Noreen; Glassman, Sharon; Goldberg, Dale; Goldstein, Sandra L; Gonzalez, Robert; Greenberg, Maxine; Grippo, Amy; Gulik, Josephine; Guzzarde, Tiffany; Heit, Joyce; Henry, Diane; Holleb, Sandra L; Huenecke, Joan M; Ideno, Helen A; Jacobson, Roberta S; Janowitz, Thelma; Janusek, John; Jaworski, Cary; Jensen, Ann E; Johnson, Karen; Kakares, Helen; Kaplan, Judith M; Karol, Ilene; Karp, Deborah J; Katin, Jennifer G; Kenneally, Geri A; Kennedy, Meghan M; Kopach, Kellie; Kosmas, Angela; Kouris, Pamela; Kowalke, Beth; Labow, Susan M; Lakota, Laura; Lazowski, Elizabeth; Lepere, Kenneth L; Loeffler, Linda; Lukowski, Rachel; Lutz, Mary M; Maguire, Timothy H; Mandel, Marlene; Marovitz-Foreman, Rochell; Marshall, Sybil; Mcaloon, Annemarie; McCarthy, Susan; Merck, Judith; Mihelic, Rosemary; Misthos, George E; Mott, Neil; Mulcrone, Mary Catherine; Nagai, Bridget; Nasiakos, John; Neiman, Debra B; Neumann, Aimee; Ng, Lily; O'neill, Maureen; Oros, Emanuela; Pankow, Maureen; Park, Joyce; Pellar, Donna B; Penrice, Tyrethis; Persson, Cecilia A; Peters, Kimberly; Petersen, Leah; Phillips, Robert; Piedallu, Gladys O; Plis, Karen; Plusker, Donna K; Pope, Susan V; Pressburger, Barbara A; Prodanich, Patricia; Quinlivan, Paula; Rabin, Barbara; Raitzik, Charlene; Rangelov-Sizos, Larissa; Reichardt, Delores; Romo, Luis; Ronis, Sophia; Rosenberg, Roberta; Roth, Linda; Rubio, Ulises F; Schienberg, Marilyn; Schiffman, Joan; Schlosser, Angela; Schulman, Lauren; Siegel, Geraldine; Smith, Ellen; Stelzer, Sandra; Szewczyk, D.Patricia; Szyska, Susan; Tafazoli, Simin; Taylor, Jr., Charles T; Tesla, Biljana; Thomas, Shajie; Thorne, Allyson; Toulon, Gregory; Treslo, Kylene; Tsilipetros, Alexia; Vega, Randi B; Voehringer, Brad W; Walsh, Heather; Weiner, Allen; Weiner, Sandra; Weinstein, Paul; White, Thomas W; Yagnis, James; Certified \$25,000 - \$39,999: Aguirre, Sandra E; Ahern, Jenny L; Altschul, Nicole C; Banas, Lynn A; Bialas, Lynn A; Bongiorno, Ann; Bonn, Jason; Brennan, Judith; Briggs, Bonnie; Brockway, Lisa; Clements, Tracy; Corrigan, Nicole; Cory, Barry; Cotromanes, Christine; Couzens, Michele; Curry, Lauren; Davis, N. Stuart; Derusha, Nicole; Dooley, Kay; Douglass, Christine S; Evans, Lisa; Farinosi, Daniel; First, Julie L; Freels, Eva; Gallegos, Mercedes; Garbossa, Cathy; Goldberg, Jillian; Gross, Aaron; Hardy, Stephanie; Harmon, Christopher; Henriksen, Kristy L; Hirsch, Christina; Janus, Matthew J; Kueffner, Jami; Lavidas, Alexia; Linder, Noreen; Loughin, Kristy; Marcus, Erin; McCulley, Matthew; McKenzie, Molly; Miller, Rachel; Molnar, Nicole; Morgan, Kathleen; Morrow, Patricia; Naumowicz, Lori M; Nedwick, Sarah; Papahronis, Michael; Parsley, Jessica; Perea, Mary; Perelgut, Erica L; Poonawalla, Anjum; Prunotto, Donna; Rapaport, Kelly; Rizman, Stuart; Roberts, Melissa; Robey, Nancy J; Rudnick, Sarah; Schultz, Pimchan; Schwartz, Cassandra; Shapiro, Allison; Sibaja, Maureen; Sievert, Amanda; Smigaj, Stacey; Smolen, Courtney B; Stafseth, Kristina; Stanczyk, Ashley; Steiner, Stacy A; Stovel, Lauren; Sutter, Sarah; Turner-Busiel, Stephanie; Vance, Michael; Vicari, Dana; Villarreal, Liza; Weinzimmer, Kerry; Whitman, Karee; Wilbur, Jennifer; Woody, Jessica; Yablong, Andrea; Yacopino, Laura Certified \$40,000 - \$59,999: Arndt, Susan; Arvanitis, Sophia; Ballas, George; Ban, Susan M; Boudreau, Shannon; Bozovich, Lisa A; Brainin, Ilyse; Brandl, Jojean; Braun, Leslie A; Brumley, Joseph P; Budzik, Brian; Burkman, Pamela P; Camacho, Karen S; Campagna, Margherita; Carter, Maria; Centanni, Erin; Chamlin, Jane E; Clendenning, Heather M; Cotts, Kristin A; Courtney, Shawn; Crock, Corinne V; Czarniecki, Wendy; Dekors, Sabina; Dellaringa, Gina; Desjardins, Jenna L; Dettloff, Dawn; Drivas, Eleftheria M; Dubinsky, Mitchell W; Edelheit, Lynn C; Ekstrom, Nancy J; Engel, Allison; Eydis, Eillian H; Feldman, Marlene; Finnegan, Lynn; Fischer, Jennifer R; Fishman, Janice E; Fradin, Haïna; Fragassi, Tracy; Franchi, Dana; Fratamico, Patricia E; Geeve, David R; Ginzburg, Judith M; Goerner, Nicole M; Good, Allison; Gordon, Michael; Grodin, Rosanne; Groner, Wendy; Gross, Alyssa; Hall, Leslie G; Harford, Eileen; Harkins, Donna M; Harnack, Beth; Harvey, Elizabeth M; Hoffmann, Mary Sue; Hughes, Heather; Hyman, Sharon F; Jacobson, Anne F; Janke, Karen A; Jayko, Marilyn J; Kaplan-Patterson, Bari N; Kassap, Kaylie; Kaup, Kimberly; Kavina, Binaifer; Kent, Lisa G; Kim, Carol; Kleisch, Linda; Koegel, Susan L; Kosiba, Carolyn; Koupas, Georgia; Labouff, Linda; Lange, Robert C; Leese, Beth A; Liese, Hilary A; Mclaughlin, John; Mehrrens, Kathryn M; Melfi, Margaret E; Merkel, Brenda K; Meyer, Mari; Moyer, Christine A; Nape, Noel E; Nickell, Craig A; Nielsen, Kirstin A; Nizamuddin, Noorunnisa S; O'brien, Alison; Oklepek, Shannon; Pedrigi, Gina; Perelgut, Eva; Peters, Karen M; Plos, Brandon S; Puzen, Linda S; Ray, Rosemary; Rosen, R. Cheryl; Rundell, Joan; Sage-Wohlman, Jeaninne S; Sarandos, Pamela; Schiller, Patricia; Schlebecker, Jennifer; Seamans, Cynthia A; Siegel, Amelia; Simpson, Teresa; Sjolholm, M. Kathryn; Slivka, Rosemary A; Sloan, Judy G; Smith, Nancy B; Stone, Loreen; Swidzinski, Maria; Teeter, Kim M; Terrazas, Eva; Thomas, Shana; Titze, Kirsten; Turnbow, Laura A; Turnbow, John P; Ulery, Kristen D; Vellios, Litsa; Warchol, Thomas; Weiland, Pamela W; Wirtz, Peter; Wirtz, Robert J; Younan, Jennifer; Zajac, Anna; Certified \$60,000 - \$89,999: Achille, Phyllis M; Baranowski, Terrence; Barone, Harriet J; Beaudette, Lynn; Bloom, Harold L; Boyle, Monica; Brahmner, Kristine L; Branda, Helen M; Bryant, Joy; Burda, Edward; Chazin, Helene; Corrigan, Mary F; Dahl, Ruth L; Daskalopoulos, Christina; Dubinsky, Ruth; Elsey, Paulette H; Esposito, Lynn; Feller, Elaine P; Getzoff, Francine; Glickman, Lynn C; Green, Marla B; Hillman, Karen A; Jackson, Marlene M; Johnson, Phyllis; Katzman, Janet K; Kaufman, Rosalie L; Kleckner, Gregory; Kraus, Anne; Kriesman, Elissa K; Kueffner, Carolyn; Lapping, Leslye; Lebovitz, Cynthia S; Lee, Helen; Levin, Janice A; Levin, Rachel; Lindorfer, Patricia; Maieritsch, Ann B; Markos, Nancy; McNulty, Paul R; Meade, Lavinia; Mell, Laura; Metcalf, Adrienne P; Misevich, Maryann; Mitchell, Patricia M; Morris, Karen K; Moss, Joy; Nelson, Brooks M; Norquist, Thomas L; O'connell, Helen; Otten, Carol A; Owens, Maria; Palivos, Catherine; Paul, Scott B; Piotrowski, Bonnie L; Punches, Sharon; Pyzik, Russell A; Reed, Susan B; Ruck, Kathy S; Sakoda, Amy; Schub, Karla D; Sehner, Patricia J; Shaikes, Harriet; Sompolski, Josephine; Stafford, Debra L; Stein, Gayle G; Tatera, Nancy K; Valentine, Mary E; Van Ness, Mary; Webber, Robert; Welter, Dave E; Zite, Sharon; Zlogar, Katherine S; Certified \$90,000 And Over: Clay, Scott; Deaton, Susan; Eitelbrick, Diane; Gibson, William M; Herrmann, Scott; Johann, Michael J; Kell, Gwynne; Krueger, Susan; Maldonado, Nicholas; Mallek, Stacey L; Mishkin, Larry; Ruh, Katherine A; Satkiewicz, Judith; Williams, Kathleen G; Non-Certified Under \$25,000: Abbas, Masooma; Aesho, Caroline S; Akhunji, Gitara; Alex, Nancy; Andrious, Marlin; Arifi, Selvije; Auob, Rakzan; Azar, Abir; Aziz, Jeanette; Bahi, Lamia; Baldinger, Gail; Baxi, Smriti K; Bellino, Ramona J; Berezin, Rachel S; Bernal, Maria D; Bhatti, Seemal; Bitte, Dawn M; Boblett, Wanda K; Bosak, Mary Ann; Boyle, Kathleen; Boyrazian, Maral; Brandel, Lisa; Brandt, Anne M; Burdi, Louise; Burge, Patricia L; Campagna, Liliana; Chalabi, Julit; Choukarov, Victoria; Conrad, Marianne; Corsini, Lorri B; Cross, Cynthia; D'attome, Susan; Dankha, Jamila; Daul, Vanita; Daviston, Dante; Debenedictis, Mary; Del'herbe, Sabrina; Dermer, Linda; Digregorio, Ercelia Q; Dobkin, Teri; Dolan, Catherine; Doushow, Almas; Escobedo, Lai Ying T; Fadl, Magda; Fiol, Judy; Flowers, Carl; Frias, Erickson; Goodchild, Kathryn; Gradl, Alice F; Grodin, Laura E; Gummati, Sarath; Gusak, Grace; Guzzarde, Danielle H; Guzzarde, Tina; Haapala, Julie N; Heiman, Lynn R; Herrmann, Zachary; Hoq, Sitara; Hyman, Geraldine; Ilc, Ligia N; Jacobs, Jill; Janik, Natalie; Jelonek, Stacy; Johann, Ryan; Johann, Scott; Johnson, Theresa M; Jozwiak, Beata; Kachow, Beronya I; Kanelos, Mary Ann; Kasso, Betty; King, Theresa G; Klepadlo, Diane; Kniazuk, Maria; Konstantinidis, Chris K; Kontos, Peggy; Kowalysheh, Eileen; Krank, William; Lara, Ricardo;

Notre Dame Hockey: Fast start gets them fighting for recognition

The Notre Dame High School Ice Dons hockey team is on a roll that just won't stop. They are undefeated this year (8-0-1) in their first nine games. The last ND hockey team to do that was the State Champions in the 1992-93 season.

Newly elected President of the Notre Dame Hockey Club, Ray Czarnik says it's about time. Notre Dame Hockey has been in the doldrums long enough. Lets face it, when High School Hockey is mentioned anywhere, it's always New Trier or Loyola

or Fenwick. Nowhere would Notre Dame even be mentioned. Things are about to change and ND wants everyone to know that. It has been a very impressive couple of years. Last year's Varsity team went to the final four in their states bracket finishing fourth. That was the first time in over 10 years that a ND Hockey team went so far. It's nice to be involved in a program that is on the upswing, Czarnik says. These kids are what it's all about. If we as a Club can help them develop and at the same time keep them focused on what matters most and that is school, then I say we did our job. Heck, I am very happy and excited for these kids. They have worked so hard this year and it is starting to show on the ice. It's all about them.

There is a whole new attitude around the Club this year. They had a taste of winning last year and now it's time to finish what

they started. The Club as a whole wants to get back to the final four and show everyone that it wasn't a fluke (last year's effort). Our top players are really focused to get to the finals this year and go out on top. The players know that we opened up some eyes last year and now we really have to show that we belong with the top high school teams. We are trying to create a New Trier atmosphere here in Niles. (New Trier has been known as a powerhouse in H.S. hockey, and attracts the best players from the North Shore). We want people to be aware that when Notre Dame is mentioned, they think of a team that has a reputation for being a class organization that is very competitive, who are ready and willing to give an all out effort to show that we belong in the upperclass of High School Hockey.

Varsity head coach Shawn

Brown and his assistant coach Tom Walsh agree. We have a very good nucleus of kids that have something to prove Brown said. This club is very focused and our leaders on the ice know what to do. Notre Dame has five seniors on this solid team: Center Devin Haponovich, Forward Joel Antol, Defensemen Matt Orchard and Stephan VonAulock and Goaltender Andrew Murphy. The team has a solid base going for it. This year's team should bring a lot of attention and next year's team...well lookout, says Brown. You have our leading scorer junior Joey Indurante and a solid netminder sophomore Scott Czarnik to go along with thirteen returnees and there you have it. A team that will be used to winning and will help build the winning tradition that Notre Dame Hockey has lacked for far too long. Sounds like a team fighting for recognition.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOWLING

Bowled Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Points	Won	Lost
Candlelight Jewelers	54	23
Bielinski and Bono Dental	46	31
Classic Bowl	38	39
Skaja Terrace Funeral Home	33	44
NorthSide Community Bank	31	46
Niles Dairy Queen	29	48

High Series/Game: Kay Pecoraro 515/226, Olivia Tanada 515/187, Janet Trozzo 485/169, Bing Calso 462/160, Cora Reyes 455/172, Jan Repeal 454/164, Millie Kroll 166, Mary Wasilewski 161, Dahlia Sarosario 161, Helma Drag 160

Turkey Shoot Winners: Team 1 Kay Pecoraro, Team 5 Kim O'Keefe, 2nd Place Linda Fahey, Team 2 Olivia Tanada, Team 4 Remy Huszar, 2nd Place Bing Calso, Team 6 Emily Abesamis, Team 3 Pam De La Cruz, 2nd Place Janet Trozzo

Kezar part of Niners' quirky start

By Jerry Magee
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

At Kezar Stadium, some of the blitzes would come from the sea gulls. Droplets from on high.

SPORTS UNLIMITED

"There were only 20,000 seats between the goal lines and they were never filled, except for Rams games," Dan Fouts remembered. "The 49ers weren't very good, and if they were losing, people would begin leaving in the third period, which would stir the sea gulls out in the parking lot. If you were not wearing a cap, you could just get bombed."

The San Francisco 49ers' history began in these, uh, untidy circumstances. At Kezar, with politicians in the press box, too many seats in the end zones, little parking and patrons given to pelting the home team's athletes when they were not performing well, which they generally were not.

On the 49ers' side of the field through one phase of this period would be Fouts. His father, Bob, was a radio and television personality associated with the 49ers, and Dan was a ball boy for the team on game days.

"I was in Kezar when I probably was in my mother's womb,"

said the former Chargers quarterback, who, I might add, is the toughest individual I have encountered in my time hanging around professional football. "I think I must have sat in every seat in Kezar."

This has to be a sad time for the junior Fouts and his father. The Niners have announced plans to take up new quarters in Santa Clara. The franchise intends to retain the name "San Francisco 49ers," but Santa Clara is not San Francisco.

It is difficult to think of the 49ers at an address other than San Francisco. Only it is to become in a real sense a city without an NFL club, and that is distressing for anyone with a feeling for the team's history.

The 49ers trace their origins to the All-American Football Conference, which came into being in 1946, when the country was experiencing a postwar boom. The AAFC was organized by Arch Ward, a sports editor of the Chicago Tribune. Ward had backers with money in their pockets and they spent it, luring more than 100 players from the NFL to franchises in New York, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Miami, Cleveland, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

To meet the challenge of the AAFC, the NFL named Bert Bell, a part owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, as its com-

missioner. A fortuitous choice. Bell would remain in office for 14 years. It would be Bell who would institute unlimited substitutions and would establish what is the touchstone of the NFL's success, a college draft based on the inverse order of the teams' standings the previous season.

Few teams in either the NFL or the AAFC prospered during the period of their mutual existence. After the 1949 season, a merger was agreed to, with the NFL dictating the terms. AAFC teams in Cleveland, Baltimore and San Francisco would be admitted into the NFL; the other clubs were disbanded, with players from the other clubs distributed among the NFL teams.

The Niners never had won an AAFC championship, not competing against the Cleveland Browns, with Otto Graham and others, but they had done the important thing. They had survived. Their years in Kezar would continue. They would be uproarious.

Bob Fouts remembered an afternoon when the 49ers were engaging the Chicago Bears and George Halas had been stalking up and down the sideline, which was Halas' practice. A gentleman likely with drink in his came onto the field and kicked Halas in the backside.

A fireplace makes a house a home



Home hearth - This one-of-a-kind fireplace design is just one of the unusual inspirations author Jane Gitlin shares in her book "Fire Places." (CNS Photo courtesy of Mark Samu)

By Rose Bennett Gilbert
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: We have bought a turn-of-the-century house that had sat empty for several years and was vandalized.

DECOR SCORE

Someone came in and pried the marble mantelpiece off the fireplace in the second parlor. There's nothing but a flat wall left around the fireplace opening. We've haunted the architectural salvage yards and junk shops in our neck of the woods, but haven't found anything that fits either the fire surround or the mood of our room (Victorian with a twist).

Do you have any suggestions?

A: Here's my hottest tip about fireplaces: Race to your nearest bookstore or library for a copy of a new tome by expert Jane Gitlin, called, simply enough, "Fire Places" (The Taunton Press, \$25). She explores the hearthside from every angle, every stylistic point of view, and many practical aspects, too, including

"Here's my hottest tip about fireplaces: Race to your nearest bookstore or library for a copy of a new tome by expert Jane Gitlin, called, simply enough, "Fire Places" (The Taunton Press, \$25)."

how to install a completely new fireplace.

As you already have the basic firebox, you're more than halfway home to a glowing hearth. You have only to tap into cyberspace to find a fitting decorative fireplace surround (some Web sites worth investigating include www.chateaustone.com, www.mantelsdirect.com, and www.mobergfireplaces.com).

Or you might give your fireplace your signature "twist" by commissioning a local artist to carve, mold or forge an original decorative surround, such as the leafy metal trees and leaves that sprout from the jambs on either side of the opening in the fireplace we show here. The one-of-a-kind design is just one of the unusual inspirations. author Gitlin shares in her book.

Whatever length you must

go to is worth the trouble to get that fireplace up and crackling again. Never mind that fire is one of humankind's oldest passions, it's still the warm heart of the room we most want to come home to, beautiful and dangerous, endlessly fascinating, always soothing to both body and soul.

Q: I have just become engaged and my mother and grandmother are after me to pick out some "good" china. My fiance and I have lived together for two years and we already have some dishes we really like.

Should I just give in and register for a pattern even though there are other things we'd rather have for wedding presents than formal china? We are not formal people.

A: Neither is some of See Decor, page 24

Falling prices creating more affordable opportunities

By Jim Woodard
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

A number or real estate professionals and economists are pointing to the advantages of buying a home or investing in other real estate in today's buyer's market.

OPEN HOUSE

"This is a great time for people to start investing in real estate for their own retirement, for their children's college fund, or to build their own wealth portfolio," said Santo Rizzo of Rizzo Realty Group, a real estate investment firm. By the same token, this just might be a strategic time to make a needed home purchase.

Key reasons for buying now: Prices have softened in most markets and sellers are finally realizing that they must lower their price expectations or be willing to offer significant concessions (i.e., sales incentives) to market their property successfully.

At the same time, the econ-

omy is strong and some economists are projecting more growth next year with a Democratic-controlled Congress. Interest rates on purchase mortgages are still extremely low, historically. Thus, it's not likely that prices will tumble much more in future months, some economists say. Considering all contributing factors, today's market is shaping up positively for home buyers and real estate investors.

"Real estate is the safest investment consumers can make, and right now buyers are in the driver's seat," Rizzo said. "We can't stress enough that consumers should take advantage of today's real estate cool down for their own long-term investment needs."

Of course, real estate opportunities vary greatly from market to market.

"In real estate, it's difficult to find a bargain in a rising market," Rizzo said. "But there are certain markets where properties are still affordable, yet prices are on the rise. For investors, such a

combination will increase the probability of selling the property at a substantial profit."

However, there is still an ample supply of experts who believe home prices will continue to decline, and they recommend that prospective buyers hold off with their home purchase. They point out that, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, median prices of new homes have dropped by 9.7 percent over the past year, and prices will probably continue to drop.

Others see the glass as half full, not half empty. Instead of perceiving this to be simply a buyer's market, they see it as a buyer's opportunity market.

The proportion of refinance mortgage applicants who want to generate cash from their refinance transaction is growing. In the third quarter of this year, 89 percent of Freddie Mac-owned mortgage loans that were refinanced resulted in new mortgages with loan amounts that were

at least 5 percent higher than the original mortgage balances, according to a report from Freddie Mac, a major buyer of existing home mortgages.

"Mortgage borrowers continue to refinance their mortgages at a higher frequency than historically would have occurred given the rise in mortgage rates this year," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac's

chief economist. "But the wide proliferation of adjustable-rate mortgages originated in the past few years that are nearing their first interest rate adjustment provides borrowers an incentive to refinance into a lower-cost ARM or fixed-rate mortgage."

"Also, borrowers who might have considered a See Open House, page 24

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New Scooba robotic floor washer surfaces in homes

By Linda Pescatore
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

After selling more than 2 million Roomba vacuuming robots, manufacturer iRobot Corp. has taken the concept of self-propelled floor cleaning

HOME ZONE

further, evolving two new species: Scooba, a floor-washing robot, and Dirt Dog, a rugged vacuum for the workshop.

Although it shares the size and shape of the original Roomba, Dirt Dog's heavy-duty innards are better suited for sweeping debris such as sawdust and nails from basement and garage floors.

"A lot of our current (Roomba) owners, typically women, were complaining that their male counterparts were taking Roombas to clean the back porch, and they were coming back a mess," said iRobot President Greg White, presumably referring to the vacuums, not the men. Since consumers were reluctant to use the same device on their delicate living room carpets, the company decided to develop a tougher device that could stay in the workshop.

With its stiffer, counter-rotating bristle brushes and rugged wheels, Dirt Dog works like a street sweeper to scoop up larger litter into its oversize debris bin. It works with standard Roomba accessories, such as the remote control self-charging home base and the "virtual wall" that fences the Dirt Dog into a prescribed area, according to iRobot.



Rise and shine - The new Scooba from iRobot Corp., makers of the popular Roomba robotic vacuum, zips around the house unattended, prepping, washing and drying floors. (CNS Photo courtesy of iRobot)

Joining the vacuums is Scooba, which the company claims is the first floor-washing robot available for home use. The robots not only wash the floor using a specially formulated Clorox cleaning solution, they also prep, scrub and dry it, too. They are safe for use on tile, linoleum and even sealed hardwood, the company says.

Scooba 5800 retails for \$300 and can cover about 250 square feet on a single charge. For larger homes, the longer-lasting 5900 model covers about double the area and retails for \$400.

Dirt Dog is \$130. Roomba comes in seven models, includ-

ing two specifically designed for homes with pets, priced from \$150 to \$350. Refurbished Roombas begin at \$110.

For more information call 800-727-9077 or visit www.irobot.com.

Open and shut case

Ever wonder why they make drawers deeper than you can reach? A new full-extension hardware system from HomeCrest Cabinetry of Goshen, Ind., lets you reach all the way back into those once-dark recesses or, if you prefer,

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Decor

continued from page 23

today's "good" china. You might not have been looking, but 21st century tables reflect the more casual and individualistic lifestyles of today. Gone are the days of formal, matched dishes marching around the table rim, flanked by bewildering rows of sterling flatware and flights of crystal goblets.

What's in now is what's fun, and never mind if it is translated into fine porcelain; mixed - not matched - patterns, and personality pieces have put the joy back in setting a festive table. Take artist Bridget Dobson's approach: A successful painter, Emmy award-winning writer, and producer of TV dramas, she's now turned her hand to designing whimsical fashions for the table.

"Times are changing," Dobson said. Striving to "capture the Zeitgeist of our age for people who want to fling off the mantle of another era," she's found design inspiration in a flour-sack dress she had as a child, in an elegant but

gnarly cockatoo that took a great dislike to Dobson's mother, and even in Hollywood agents who say things like "Let's do lunch" (interpreted in a pewter napkin ring where a miniature alligator is about to devour a sitting duck).

Check out her fun ideas at www.bridgetdobson.com, then tell me you're still not interested in new dishes!

P.S. If you are house-proud, how about putting its portrait on a set of dinner plates, a platter or a desk tray? Pickard China, the 113-year-old manufacturer that has set The White House table, among many, can turn a digital or print photo into a drawing of your house - or yacht, clubhouse, whatever - and fire it onto fine china (www.pickardchina.com).

Rose Bennett Gilbert is the co-author of "Hampton Style" and associate editor of Country Decorating Ideas. Please send your questions to her at Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190, or online at copleysd@cop leynews.com.

Open House

continued from page 23

prime-rate home equity loan for a home improvement or other need are turning to cash-out refinance options now that the prime rate is above 8 percent," Nothaft said.

As many borrowers of adjustable-rate mortgages face substantial increases in their required monthly payment, and with home values declining in some markets, the inevitable is happening: Foreclosures of residential properties are on the increase. One in every 363 households nationally - or 318,355 properties - entered some stage of foreclosure during the third quarter of this year, according to RealtyTrac Inc., a company that monitors such data. That reflects a 17 percent increase over the previous quarter - and a 43 percent increase over the third quarter of last year.

"Higher interest rates and a general softening of the real estate market are two key factors contributing to the increase in foreclosure filings," said James Saccacio, CEO of RealtyTrac. "What our third quarter research appears to be showing is that

the first wave of adjustable-rate mortgages is having a negative impact on the number of homes going into foreclosure. Considering the volume of these loans, this is a trend that definitely bears watching."

To avoid further increases in monthly payments, many borrowers with ARM loans are now refinancing them with a fixed-rate mortgage.

In a study by the Consumer Electronics Association, it was found that 38 percent of recent home buyers and 61 percent of those planning to buy listed as a top-priority preference a monitored security system. However, only 29 percent of home builders surveyed were offering that option, it was noted.

About 86 percent of builders said technology is an increasingly significant factor in marketing their new homes, compared with 66 percent just two years ago. Nearly 32 percent of new home buyers said they did not buy structured wiring in their recently acquired home because the builder did not offer it.

Also, about 36 percent of all households had home theaters, up from 28 percent three years ago.

Plenty to do while waiting for cold season's greetings

By Jeff Rugg
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

It may seem like there isn't much to do in the garden over the winter, but here are some ideas that may keep you busy.

A GREENER VIEW

If your area of the country experienced some degree of drought this summer, make sure that your plants go into winter well watered. Check new plantings, south-facing slopes and evergreens for dry soil. All these areas are more susceptible to other problems if they are allowed to dry out in the fall before the ground freezes.

Water these areas slowly and deeply and cover them with a layer of mulch to keep the soil from winter's drying winds. Plants in regions of the country that don't freeze need to be monitored all winter long.

For northerners, is your snowblower ready? Do you have the gas and oil it needs, and electric cords that aren't frayed? Make sure you have sand or salt and

snow shovels in the garage and car. Use sand on the walks to reduce slipping. It works at any temperature - salts don't - and won't harm plants, concrete or asphalt. Sand and salt can be pre-mixed together to make it easier to spread them. If you get a sticky snow, you can spray the shovel or inside of the snowblower with a nonstick cooking spray.

Calcium chloride salt is less harmful to plants than sodium chloride salt. Salt in pellet form works better than flake or rock forms; it burrows through the ice and finishes melting on the walk, where it loosens the ice from the surface. The ice then melts, or it can be shoveled off.

If you buy a pre-cut Christmas tree, get it early since they are usually sold several weeks after being cut. Cut a few inches off the trunk to open fresh water-conducting pores. Leave it in a bucket of water outdoors in a protected location until you are ready to bring it inside.

A live tree that will be planted after Christmas should be kept outdoors until a few days before

Christmas. Put it in the garage for a few days before and after Christmas to acclimate it to the changing conditions. Dig the hole for it early while the ground is still soft, fill the hole with loose newspaper or straw, and cover it with plastic. Store the soil from the hole somewhere it won't be frozen when you plant the tree in January.

To make pretty wreaths and indoor decorations, you can prune yew, juniper, arborvitae, holly or boxwood. Do not prune pine or spruce branches since they will not grow back properly. Look for interesting twig color, shape and berries on other landscape plants.

Indoors, you can force paper-white narcissus, daffodil, tulip, crocus and amaryllis bulbs for indoor winter blooms.

Northerners who have not planted outdoor bulbs should do so as soon as possible, before the ground freezes. They won't grow any roots until spring, which will force early-blooming bulbs to a later schedule. For instance, some tulips normally bloom in April, some in May and some in June,

but if they all have to wait until spring to grow roots, they will all bloom together in June.

Once the ground does freeze, cover the bulb planting area with a 4- to 6-inch layer of any organic mulch to reduce damage from freezing and thawing cycles.

Trees and shrubs can be installed until the ground freezes, but small plants like ground cover or perennials have much less chance of surviving and should not be planted until spring.

Prevent winter damage to young trees, newly planted trees, fruit trees and maples by wrapping the trunk with burlap or tree wrap paper. If you use the paper, start at the bottom and overlap it so it sheds water. Then duct tape both ends.

Duct tape could have been called landscape tape. It can be used to repair cracked handles, fix holes in gloves, boots and jeans, and stop hoses from leaking.

The best protection against rodent and deer damage is a mechanical barrier. Wrap the trunk or whole plant in chicken

wire or hardware cloth. Fencing may need to be raised higher if the snow "raises" the ground level. The ends of tree branches can be protected by loosely wrapping a wire on the last six inches of the branch and extending the wire out past the end of the branch a few inches. The deer will think that the end of the wire is the end of the branch.

Check multistemmed plants and evergreens to see if they need to be supported to prevent damage from ice and snow. Gently brush off heavy wet snows as soon as possible to prevent breakage. Be careful if there is an ice buildup on the plants because ice can snap the branches off.

Spray an anti-desiccant on newly planted trees and shrubs, evergreens in windswept areas like roadsides, and Christmas trees that are going to be replanted. Cloudcover and Wilt Pruf are two brand names. Check the label to see if the anti-desiccant can be used on cut Christmas trees. These sprays coat the leaves and stems of the plant and slow water loss.

Home Zone

continued from page 24

easily remove the drawer altogether to organize it, take craft supplies with you, or just clean out dust and debris.

Called SofTouch Drawer Guide, the system provides more usable drawer space in which to keep stuff organized. The mechanism is concealed so the drawer's side panels look neat even when opened.

Another feature of the system is its spring-loaded closing action. Rollers quietly glide your drawers into place with a gentle touch of the fingertip -

no more slamming drawers to keep them shut. The permanently lubricated synthetic rollers require no maintenance, according to HomeCrest.

SofTouch is available as an upgrade to new 3/4-inch HomeCrest Deluxe wood drawer. Owners of existing HomeCrest cabinetry can purchase SofTouch conversion kits from their cabinet dealers. The system supports 15- and 18-inch tracks.

For more information visit www.homecrestcab.com.

Tower of water power

Just because you don't have

time to draw a bath and soak until you're prunelike doesn't mean you have to go without a Jacuzzi. The best-known manufacturer of whirlpool jet tubs recently debuted a line of four "shower towers," high-tech systems that spray, pulse or stream water to relax or invigorate you while standing in the shower.

Ristorre Metallo is one of the four new models - a one-piece tower that incorporates six body spray nozzles, an adjustable rain head above and a personal hand shower on a long leash, all regulated using state-of-the-art controls,

according to Jacuzzi Inc.

The tower also features conveniences such as a shelf to hold shampoo or soaps and a fog-free mirror that makes life easier for gentlemen who prefer to shave in a steamy shower.

Shower towers are designed to be retrofitted to your bathroom without adding plumbing or doing costly remodeling, according to Jacuzzi. Finish choices include white, chrome and satin chrome.

Ristorre Metallo retails for \$1,080. The other models in the Ristorre line are priced slightly lower.

And when you step out of

your shower, reach for a towel heated by Jacuzzi's Home Spa towel warming drawer. It's meant to be installed in standard cabinetry. The warming drawer debuts during the first quarter of 2007.

Jacuzzi products are available through home centers and bath showrooms. To find a dealer, call 800-288-4002 or visit www.jacuzzi.com.

Linda Pescatore is an editor with Copley News Service and a former magazine writer and newspaper editor. E-mail linda.pescatore@copleynews.com.

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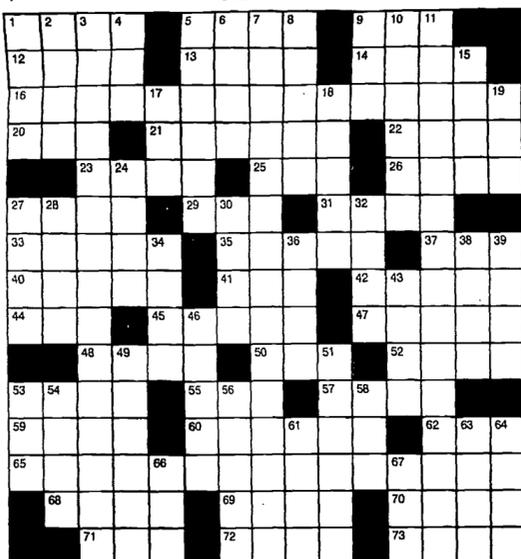
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COPY NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lasting leader
 - 5 Spurs Spot to charge
 - 9 Kind of rod
 - 12 Peregrinate
 - 13 Azure dye
 - 14 One of the Ages
 - 16 Set
 - 20 ___ Aviv
 - 21 Heron's kin
 - 22 The auld sod
 - 23 Baron trailer
 - 25 Short epistle?
 - 26 Bright light
 - 27 Teri, in "Young Frankenstein"
 - 29 Sault ___ Marie
 - 31 Adept Genesis man?
 - 33 Settle a debt
 - 35 Sullen look
 - 37 Wrong
 - 40 Nasal dividers
 - 41 Airport letters
 - 42 Furry floater
 - 44 East, in Emden
 - 45 Lili or Gigi, once
 - 47 Toxic ___
 - 48 Panama, e.g.: abbr.
- DOWN**
- 10 Actress Dahl
 - 11 Set
 - 15 Actor Franco
 - 17 Animal part
 - 18 Kind of 2 Down
 - 19 Iniquitous 70 Across
 - 24 Like a high wire
 - 27 ___ facto
 - 28 Dundee denials
 - 30 Industrial autocrat
 - 32 Exhale like a whale
 - 34 Covenant
 - 36 Bay of the Seine feeder
 - 38 Goat's milk cheese
 - 39 Sitar part
 - 43 Kind of force
 - 46 Now, in Nogales
 - 49 Zeno's disciples
 - 51 Provides workers
 - 53 Chew the 17 Down
 - 54 Turon non-fiction work
 - 56 Actress Winger
 - 58 U.N. organization
 - 61 Coup d'___
 - 63 Fit to serve
 - 64 Slugger Musial
 - 66 ___ As a Stranger
 - 67 Vandalize
- 50 Actor Snipes, to some
- 52 Ella's forte
- 53 Horned creature
- 55 Ball or lot leader
- 57 Oliver, for one
- 59 Part of AD
- 60 Secure a tomb anew
- 62 Arith. symbols
- 65 Set
- 68 Not sound, in Seville
- 69 Our neighbor's mil. fliers
- 70 Location
- 71 Estival hrs.
- 72 ABA people
- 73 Tom Hanks title word
- 1 Once, of yore
- 2 Ballot
- 3 Set
- 4 Short mediator
- 5 Alleviates
- 6 Death Valley's county
- 7 Set
- 8 Frozen rain
- 9 Grande, for one

Last Week's Puzzle Answers



Be the First to send in the answers to this week's crossword puzzle and your name will be listed in next week's Bugle.

THE WINNER

1st Lorraine Truskotaski
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Send your answers to the editor:
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