

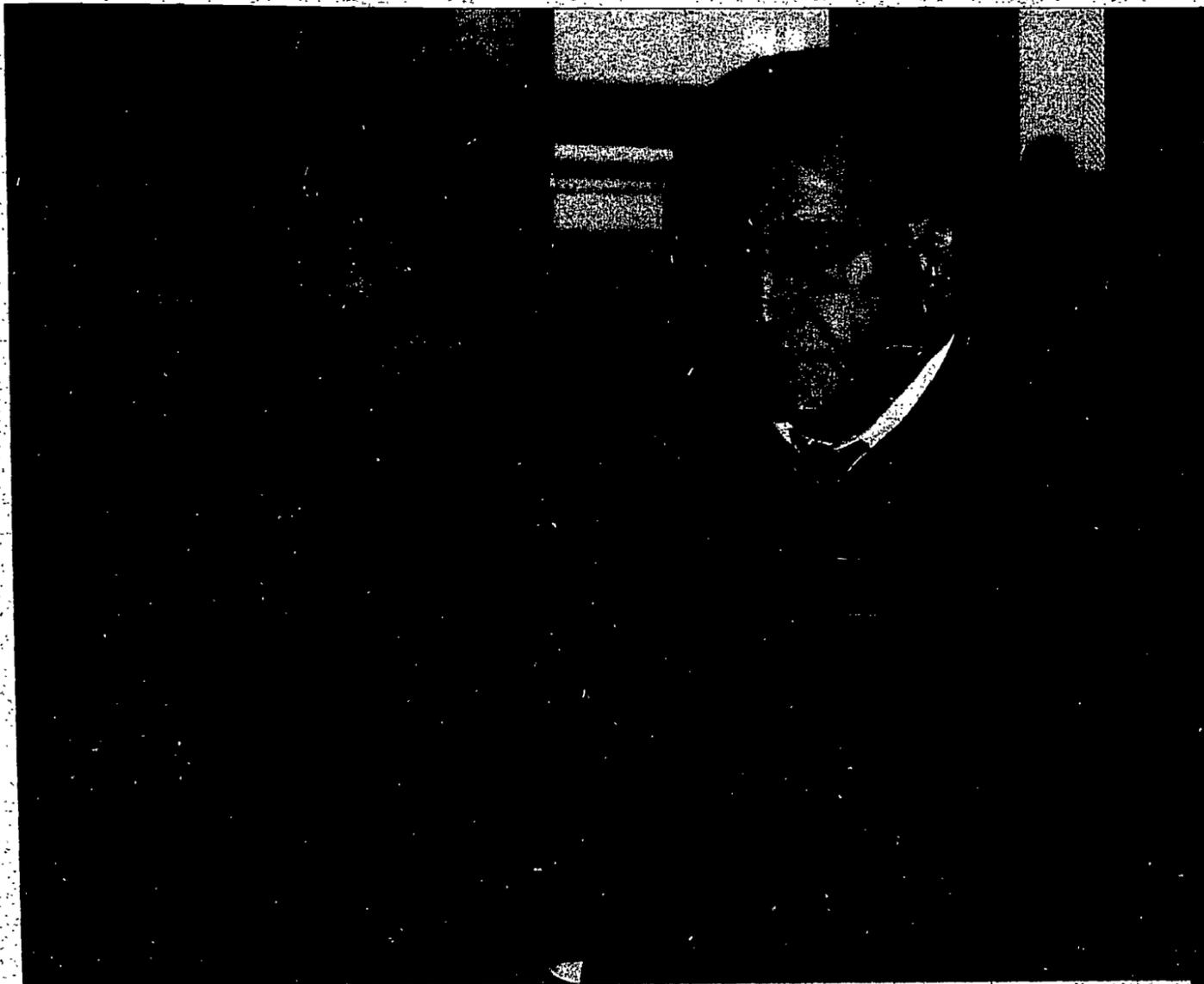
THE BUGLE



JANUARY 4, 2007

OUR VILLAGE, OUR NEWS

VOL. 50 NO. 33



Blase indicted

On Oct. 5, Niles Mayor Nicholas B. Blase (right) was officially indicted on federal corruption charges. For more, turn to page 6.



Super H-Mart opens Page 4



Man rescued Page 5



Dems picket BP Page 3

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JULY

Demolition to build new retail center on the horizon

Demolition to make way for a 3,200 square foot retail center on Milwaukee Ave., from Block Electric to the corner of Harts and Milwaukee will begin in about three months. The Village of Niles granted a 21% parking variance at a recent board meeting. The center is described as a "very unique building."

-Published July 6

Lehigh/Ferris TIF redevelopment workshop slated for July 26

A community workshop regarding the Lehigh/Ferris TIF redevelopment district priorities and projects will take place on July 26. Potential projects could include re-alignment of public streets and utilities, improved rail crossings, possible new Metra Station and more. The village believes that public input is essential.

-Published July 6

Village of Niles to hand over records on 50 Niles businesses, related to arrest of Mayor Blase

The Village of Niles has received two subpoenas by the US District Court of Northern

Illinois related to the arrest of Niles Mayor Nicholas Blase. The village had to hand over records on about 50 Niles businesses. The records pertain to anything that the village regulates, such as zoning, licensing, permits, etc.

-Published July 6

Morton Grove votes to settle the \$1.9 lawsuit with Lawrence Bowman

Breaking a tie, Morton Grove Mayor Richard Krier votes yes, to authorize the settling the Village of Morton Grove vs. Lawrence Bowman lawsuit for \$1.9 million. Bowman, a property owner who was contesting the eminent domain procedure

against his property in the Lehigh/Ferris Tax Increment Financing District, has been discussing the sale of the warehouse for a long time.

-Published July 13

Congregation of Holy Cross withdraws their sponsorship, Notre Dame stays positive

Notre Dame High School in Niles is confident that they will stay open, despite the Congregation of Holy Cross, Indiana Province's decision to withdraw their sponsorship of the high school at the end of the 2006-2007 school year. The

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1
school is in strong financial shape and has received \$2.5 million in pledges from 17 people.
-Published July 13

New outreach program to address increase in domestic violence reports

The Niles Family Services Department has created a new outreach program to provide assistance to local families. In the past few years, domestic violence reports in Niles have been increasing. Life Span, a non-profit emergency service and shelter agency, is partnering up with the department in this effort.
-Published July 13

Glenview Man killed in vehicle crash, driver's blood alcohol level three times legal limit

A Glenview man, 47, was killed in a vehicle crash at the 7600 block of N. Waukegan Rd in Niles on July 12. The driver reportedly had a blood alcohol level three times the legal limit. The man crashed into a legally parked pick-up truck and rolled over onto its roof.
-Published July 20

The Archdiocese of Chicago forms partnership with lay board of Notre Dame High School

The Archdiocese of Chicago intends to form a partnership with the lay board of Notre Dame High School to lead the school going forward in the future. The lay board and the Archdiocese have planned a series of meetings during the next month in order to draft a proposal to present to the Holy Cross Congregation.
-Published July 20

Wilmette sees second Emerald Ash Borer infestation in Illinois

The second emerald ash borer infestation has been found in Illinois, this time in Wilmette, which is closer to home. The Ash Borer is a non-native, destructive pest that feeds on Ash Trees, thus destroying them. "It does concern me," said Niles Public Works Director Scott Jochim. "It's sure closer to Niles than it was two months ago."
-Published July 20



Babies were born to sisters Gina Lisowski and Patty Szafraniec within hours of each other at Lutheran General. See story on next page. -Published August 17

Mosquitoes in Morton Grove test positive for West Nile Virus

Mosquitoes in Morton Grove has tested positive for the West Nile Virus on July 17. The Northwest Mosquito Abatement District also detected positive mosquitoes in Park Ridge, Glenview, Des Plaines and more. The District is encouraging people to protect themselves by wearing proper clothing and using repellent.
-Published July 27

MEC raises \$110,000 at Brick Donation Day

The Muslim Education Center (MEC) of Morton Grove raised about \$110,000 at the

Brick Donation Day. The money raised will help fund their addition. The MEC said they need about \$500,000 more to complete the outer shell of the addition.
-Published July 27

Programs, teaching positions restored thanks to Skokie School Dist. 69 referendum passage

Many programs and teaching positions have been restored for the upcoming school year at Skokie School Dist. 69 that serves children in Skokie and Morton Grove. The restorations are a result of the passage of the March referendum. Ten teaching positions have been

restored since the residents voted to raise the maximum tax rate for the education fund.
-Published July 27

AUGUST

Heat alert issued due to recent hot temps

The Village of Niles issued a Heat Alert due to the recent extremely hot temperatures. During the alert, residents were advised to stay in their homes and to keep an eye on any elderly neighbors. The Niles Family Services received a phone call from a senior who suffers from severe asthma and they put her up at a hotel due to the heat.
-Published August 2

Sam's Food, Tobacco, Beer and Wine, Inc.'s appeal denied by Morton Grove

In a unanimous vote, the Morton Grove Village Board denied an appeal filed by Sam's Food, Tobacco, Beer and Wine, Inc at the last board meeting. The business lost its license following alleged liquor violations. Despite having the liquor license revoked, Sam's had been continuing to have liquor on the premises.
-Published August 2

More than 100 attend Lehigh/Ferris TIF community workshop

About 140 people attended the Lehigh/Ferris TIF redevelopment workshop held on July 26. Small groups filled 13 tables and ideas regarding key possible projects, such as a new public library, a new Metra station, new mixed use parking structure, senior housing project and more were discussed.
-Published August 2

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New Niles animal ordinance implemented; limit 8 pets per household

The Village of Niles has implemented an animal ordinance that limits the number of dogs, cats or ferrets a resident can have per household at eight. Prior to the new ordinance, residents could only have two dogs per household but now they are allowed to have three dogs. Also, the village made the penalties for vicious dogs harsher.
-Published August 10

National Night Out draws crowd of 300

Residents of Niles came out to fight crime and drugs at the National Night Out event. About 300 people came out to take part in this year's event held at Notre Dame High School. The event included a drunk driving simulation, crime prevention tips a k-9 demonstration and more.
-Published August 10

Village of Niles property tax levy same level as 2005

An ordinance setting the property tax levy for the Village of Niles at \$4,142,485,

which is at the same level as the total levy in 2005, was presented at the last village board meeting. "It's the board's effort to keep the Village of Niles an affordable place to live," said Scott Neukirk, finance director for the Village of Niles.
-Published August 10

Should smoking be banned in Niles? The village wants public input

The Village of Niles is encouraging residents to attend upcoming public hearings to discuss a proposed ordinance on a smoking ban in public places. By March of next year, if the village doesn't create an ordinance of its own they will have to follow Cook County's total smoking ban ordinance. A committee has been formed and has been meeting with various hospitality businesses in Niles to see what their feelings are on the topic.
-Published August 17

Babies of two sisters born within 2 1/2 hour time frame at LGH

Staff at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge delivered the babies of two sisters who were born within a two

and a half hour time frame. "This family is a very special family," said Dr Carrie Johnson, who delivered the babies. She said that in the eleven years of her career she has never seen that happen before.
-Published August 17

Niles Park District Coach allegedly struck boy in jaw; suspended permanently

Martin Nicholson, 47, of Niles, has been suspended permanently from coaching for the Niles Park District. Nicholson allegedly struck a 14-year-old baseball player in the jaw with his fist. Police said the boy grabbed Nicholson's shirt, which led to him allegedly hitting the boy. The boys guardian did not wish to sign complaints.
-Published August 17

Maine Twp. democrats peacefully protested outside BP gas station

With signs in their hands, members of the Maine Township Regular Democratic Organization marched up and down the sidewalk outside of
Continued on page 4



Protesters demonstrate against what they call the cavalier attitude of British Petroleum (BP) about the pipeline-break in Alaska. They believe that the break is just another excuse that oil executives are offering for high gas prices. -Published August 24 (Photo by Tracy Yoshida Gruen)

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A boy in traditional Korean dress was one of two children on hand to present dignitaries with flowers after they spoke at the Super H Mart grand opening festivities on Friday, Aug. 25. —Published August 31

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Continued from page 3
the British Petroleum (BP) gas station at Oakton and Prospect in a peaceful demonstration. They believe that the BP corporation is poorly run. The demonstrators were protesting what they thought was BP's cavalier attitude toward the repair of a pipeline in Alaska.
—Published August 24

Ticket amnesty program extended due to its success
The Village of Niles has collected \$20,000 as a result of a ticket amnesty program and due to the success of the pro-

gram it will be extended until the end of September. The money collected will go into the village's general fund. Violators that have 10 or more outstanding tickets will have a restraining device put on their vehicle.
—Published August 24

Morton Grove welcomes Daniela Tainer-Partipilo as new finance director
Daniela Tainer-Partipilo has been named the new finance director for the village of Morton Grove. For the past few years, she has been the assistant finance director for the neighboring village of Glenview. The vacancy was left by Scott Neukirch.
—Published August 24

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500 attend the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Super H-Mart
Super H-Mart, an Asian grocery store, that also sells American products, held a grand opening that attracted more than 500 people of all nationalities. The ceremony for the new super market, located in the Civic Center Plaza, included speeches, traditional clowns and flowers presented to key dignitaries by children in Korean costume.
—Published August 31

Harry Kinowski passes the torch to new fire chief Barry Mueller
Barry Mueller is now the fire chief for the Village of Niles. At a recent village board meeting, former long-time fire chief Harry Kinowski presented Mueller with a chief's badge. Previously the deputy chief, Mueller is a 29-year veteran of the fire department.
—Published August 31

Three residents spoke at first smoking ban hearing in Niles
Three residents shared their opinions regarding a smoking ban in public places at the first public hearing that the Village of Niles held. One resident strongly opposed to the smoking ban said that "one micro inch at a time, we're eliminating our freedoms." Another resident said she wanted to see smoking banned in restaurants.
—Published August 31

SEPTEMBER
West Nile Virus human cases increasing in Cook County
Cook County Department of Public Health recently reported

that five more human cases of West Nile Virus have been confirmed. Now, there are a total of nine human cases in suburban Cook County. "Even though the weather's getting cooler, it's very much a time when people are at risk," said Robert Berry, supt. of the Northshore Mosquito Abatement District.
—Published September 7

Toy dinosaurs recalled by Niles Public Library; chance of contamination
Niles Public Library recalls 100 toy dinosaur prizes that were passed out to children as summer reading prizes. Kipp Brothers, the toy's vendor, recently advised the library that another set of bendable figures, not purchased by the library, could have been contaminated with lead. The library was told that there is a chance that the "rubber may have been contaminated."
—Published September 7

Second smoking ban hearing in Niles attracted larger crowd
More people attended the second public hearing regarding a smoking ban ordinance for the Village of Niles. Village Attorney Joseph Annunzio said that an ordinance is "still months away." Some residents were concerned about how a smoking ban would affect businesses and they were against a ban. Others, were concerned with health issues and were in favor of one.
—Published September 7

Victims of Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy remembered by Culver School
Students and staff at Culver School in Niles held a special moment of silence and dedicated the Pledge of Allegiance to the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy. In the classrooms, teachers discussed the tragic event with the students at an appropriate age level. The school practices safety/security measures to make sure they are prepared in the case of a terrorist attack.
—Published September 14

More than 70 vehicle burglaries in Park Ridge; local police on the look out for burglars
In the past several weeks, there have been more than 70 vehicle burglaries throughout Park Ridge during the over-



Firefighters from the Niles Fire Dept. and several surrounding agencies work to free a man from a collapsed trench Wednesday, Sept. 27. —Published October 5.

night hours. In most of these burglaries, the vehicles were not locked and valuable property was left in plain sight. Local police departments are on the look out and area asking for the community's help to find the burglars.
—Published September 14

John W. 'Jack' O'Brien passes away; greatly missed by the community
John W. Jack O'Brien passed away after falling off the roof while he was fixing the chimney. Morton Grove Mayor Richard Krier said O'Brien was a "fixture in Morton Grove." He was a co-founder of the Action Party of Morton Grove, a member of St. Martha's, the American Legion and the Lions Club.
—Published September 14

Park Ridge/Niles Dist. 64 finance committee urges a tax rate referendum
The finance committee for the Park Ridge Niles Dist. 64 school district is urging a tax rate referendum along with spend management techniques and increased outreach as ways to improve the district's financial health. The finance committee is composed of about 30 citizen volunteers and has various subcommittees that looked at different areas of the financial health of the district.
—Published September 21

Dedication in honor of Steven Zourkas held at Golf Middle School
A special dedication in honor of Steven Zourkas, a graduate

of Golf Middle School and a former Niles Police officer who died while responding to a call, was held at Golf Middle School. Family, friends, students and officers attended the dedication that included a memorial tree and a plaque in his honor.
—Published September 21

"Can Man" soon to receive new eye glasses from concerned resident, Lions Club
A man who walks around the neighborhood streets picking up cans and bottles, known to many as the "Can Man," may soon receive a new pair of eye glasses. A concerned resident, Nora McCluskey and the Niles Lions Club have managed to

get him a new pair of eye glasses so he can be safer while out on the streets.
—Published Sept 21

Super H-Mart donates \$7,000 check to village for Taste of Sister Cities event
The new Super H-Mart presented Mayor Nicholas Blasé and the Village of Niles with a \$7,000 check. The money will go toward the popular Taste of the Sister Cities event that will take place in November. Representatives from Hmart will select a city in Korea that will also become one of the village's sister cities, along with Italy, Ireland, Greece and Poland.
—Published September 28

Dan Kotowski, Dem. candidate for Illinois State Senate, works for State-wide ban on caliber sniper rifles
Democratic Candidate for the Illinois State Senate, 33rd district, Dan Kotowski, announced that he will work for a state-wide ban on .50 caliber sniper rifles at his Park Ridge office. Kotowski believes the rifle is an "ideal tool" for terrorism and a threat to the safety of the public. He has called on his opponent, Cheryl Axley, to join him in supporting his actions against the rifles.
—Published September 28

ComEd consumers to see 26% hike in electricity costs
ComEd customers will see a 26% increase in electricity costs. State legislators and leaders from the Citizens Utility Board are "outraged" at the increase and are fighting to try to appeal the move. For the average residential customers, this amounts to about \$160 a year, starting on Jan 1, 2007.
—Published September 28

OCTOBER
Chicago man rescued from collapsed trench in Niles
A 54-year-old Chicago man was rescued from a collapsed trench by Niles firefighters after digging for more than two hours. The man was working in a trench next to a house being remodeled at the 8300 block of Octavia when it collapsed and buried him in clay and dirt, almost to his chest.
—Published October 5
Continued on page 6

Qualatex Building property owners propose self storage facility

The owners of the former Qualatex Uniform Rental building that is now vacant in the 7400 block of Waukegan Rd. would like to develop a self-storage facility in the residential area. At a recent meeting, 30 residents were opposed to the self storage facility in their neighborhood. The soil at that property is contaminated. —Published October 5

Natural gas prices may decrease this winter

Prices for natural gas, the primary household heating fuel, are expected to slightly decline this winter. The citizens utility board (CUB) said they "are concerned that this winter gas suppliers will try to capitalize on the fears that people have of a repeat of last year's sky-rocketing prices." —Published October 5

Federal Grand Jury charges Mayor Blase, five counts of mail fraud

Niles Mayor Nicholas Blase was indicted last week. A federal grand jury charged him and two insurance executives with five counts of mail fraud, saying that Blase took bribes and kick-backs with a total of more than \$420,000 since 1997. They believe the corruption may even go back as far as three decades. If convicted, the crimes can have a possible sentence of 20 years in prison and up to \$1.25 million in fines. —Published October 12

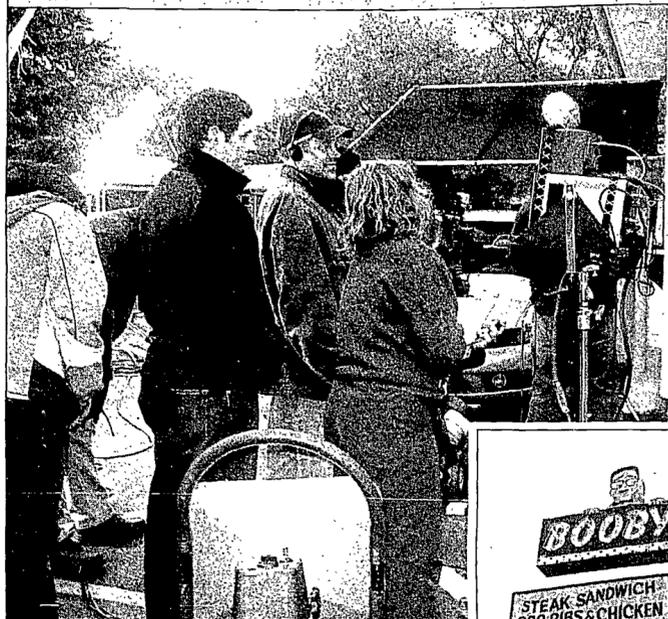
Morton Grove discusses smoking ban ordinance

The Village of Morton Grove discussed the topic of a smoking ban ordinance at their last village board meeting. As written, the proposed ordinance would prohibit smoking in all enclosed public places and places of employment in the village. Smoking would be allowed in hotel and motel sleeping rooms rented to guests as smoking rooms, private clubs, private residences, and a few other exceptions. A second reading will be held in January. —Published October 12

Minelli Brothers honored by Order Sons of Italy

The Minelli Brothers received the Order Sons of Italy Humanitarian award on Oct. 6. A special tribute was given to their mother Mrs. Josephine

Lights, Camera, Action



Booby's Restaurant in Niles hosted a commercial production crew filming an ad for a Nebraska bank. —Published November 9.



(Mama) Minelli. The Minelli Brothers have owned a foods store in Niles for 37 years and "represent the true spirit of a warm Italian family," according to Anthony Baratta, state president of the Order Sons of Italy of Illinois. —Published October 12

Niles West High School student in critical condition following vehicle collision

A 17-year old Niles West student and Lincolnwood resident was still in critical condition at Lutheran General Hospital on Tuesday following a vehicle accident in Morton Grove. The teen was driving at a high rate of speed, began weaving in and out of traffic and struck a median. He crossed into the eastbound lanes and collided with two other vehicles. —Published October 19

No Halloween costumes during the school day at Apollo School

Apollo School of East Maine School Dist. 63 will not have children wear Halloween costumes during the school day this year. The decision was made to respect various cultures and beliefs. The school will still

have its popular Halloween party in the evening. —Published October 19

Voters can vote early without a reason or excuse

Many Illinois voters will be voting early for the first time without needing a reason or excuse to do so. Suburban voters can go to any of 32 sites. Early voting will be conducted on touch screens. About 16,000 people voted early for the March primary. —Published October 19

Mayor Blase states: Not guilty to all corruption counts

Niles Mayor Nicholas Blase pled not guilty to all corruption counts against him in federal court. His next court date is set for Nov. 30. An attorney representing Blase, Jonathon Feld, said that they had no comment to offer after the plea was entered. Blase is facing five counts of mail fraud. —Published October 26

Grand opening held for Wal-Mart store on Golf Rd.

Wal-Mart held a ribbon cutting and grand opening for its

new store on Golf Rd. in Niles. Customers were already lining up outside the store as the dignitaries gathered for the celebration. Wal-Mart held a special event where they handed out donations to various community organizations, such as East Maine School Dist. 63 Niles Chamber, Niles Public Library, police and fire and more. —Published October 26

Niles Public Library continues with Ralph Weiner Insurance

The Niles Public Library has approved payment for a new insurance policy with Ralph Weiner and Associates, the company that federal prosecutors say sent commissions on policies to a company allegedly controlled by Blasé. Library officials say it was too late this year to go out to bid for a new provider, but they will go out to bid in the spring. They said they will possibly choose a new insurance broker. —Published October 26

NOVEMBER

Niles to explore new "Virtual" computer system

The Village of Niles is inves-

tigating their options for a new main computer system. This would be an unbudgeted big-ticket item that could cost \$200,000. The current computer system is showing signs that it is about to fail after 14 years of nearly continuous operation. The village will explore a new "virtual" system. —Published November 2

Guests can experience melting pot of cultures at Taste of Sister Cities

The second Taste of the Sister Cities will take place on Nov. 19. The annual food and cultural festival will be held at the White Eagle Banquets. This year there will be 17 local restaurants that represent the four sister cities in Greece, Ireland, Italy and Poland. —Published November 2

Mispelled IDOT sign taken down by Village of Niles

Niles Public Works took down an IDOT sign that was misspelled. The IDOT sign near the St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles read, "Cemetery Entrance." With the word "entrance" misspelled. Public Works Director Scott Jochim said that IDOT said they shouldn't have touched their sign, but said that they will replace the signage. —Published November 2

33rd District Senate candidate Kotowski, Axley prepared to head home; votes trickle in

Both Dan Kotowski and Cheryl Axley, candidates for the 33rd district senate, were prepared to head home and call it a night after they saw the slow rate that the votes were trickling in on Nov. 7, election night. At press time, the total vote revealed a close race, with Kotowski bringing in 51% of the votes and Axley with 48%. —Published November 9

Cook County Commissioner Tony Peraica loses bid to claim presidency

Cook County Commissioner Tony Peraica apparently lost his bid to upset Democratic Party control and claim the County Board presidency. At press time, the votes were 56% for Stroger and 43% for Peraica. Peraica marched on the County Building with a crowd of more than 120 supporters to ensure that every vote was counted. —Published November 9

Blagojevich makes history; re-elected to post

Rod Blagojevich is now the first Democrat to be re-elected to the post since 1964. Blagojevich was re-elected and won 49% of the votes, while Topinka had 40%. Blagojevich reportedly spent more than \$30 million on the campaign, primarily for television ads. —Published November 9

Park Ridge man shot in face/chest outside his home

A 48-year-old Park Ridge man was gunned down outside of his home located at the 600 block of N. Broadway by an unknown assailant. The man suffered gunshot wounds to his face and chest. Witnesses said the man was wearing a ski-mask and carried a long rifle or shotgun and then fled the area. —Published November 16

Spina family celebrates early holidays with their son who is leaving for Iraq

The Spina family has been enjoying having their 19-year-old son Gregory Spina at home before he gets deployed to Iraq. Spina said that ever since he was a young boy he has wanted to be a part of the army. Spina is a graduate of Notre Dame High School. The family had an early Thanksgiving, Christmas and birthday party for Gregory. —Published November 16

First reading of 2007 budget presented at Morton Grove board meeting

Morton Grove presents the first reading of the budget. A couple of trustees said that the budget should have been fully completed by the time of the first reading and it was not. Trustee Roy Kogstad felt it was unfair to the residents that a couple of changes were made since the budget workshops and they haven't sent he latest version of the document. —Published November 16

Kerasotes Theater at Golf Mill has Grand Opening Photos Page 16

Kerasotes Theater at Golf Mill held its grand opening the day before the 12-screen theatre with plush seating opened for the public. The new theatre will feature more leg room to provide a more comfortable movie experience for cinema buffs. —Published November 23

Morton Grove action party announces slate for upcoming April election

The Morton Grove Action Party announced its slate of candidates for the upcoming April 2007 municipal election. Three seats will be on the April ballot for service on the Morton Grove Village board. The candidates are Dan Staackmann, John Thill and Shel Marcus. —Published November 23

Park Ridge parks employee arrested for battery/public indecency

An employee of the Park Ridge Park District has been arrested for battery and public indecency toward a 17-year-old girl and is on "unpaid investigative leave." The victim said she was reportedly touched in "an insulting manner" and exposed himself in the music room of the Oakton Recreation Center in Park Ridge. —Published November 23

Village's electronic sign offers motivational sayings

The electronic sign at the Niles Police Station gives people up to date information on traffic and community announcements, but also includes various sayings. Recently, the sign said, "Achievers aren't born, they're made." The sayings come from a file that was collected by Niles officials for years. Some signs are motivational and make people stop and think. —Published November 30

\$5 Million in alternate bonds approved for renovation of Oasis Pool and Rec Center

The Niles Park District approved \$5 million in alternate bonds in order to fund the renovation of Oasis Pool and the Oasis Recreation Center on Milwaukee ave. The bonds will likely be sold in mid-January. The Morton Grove Park District has offered that the Niles residents who use Oasis Pool use Morton Grove's facility at the Morton Grove resident rate during the time of construction. —Published November 30

Morton Grove may assist Holocaust Museum in issuance of bonds for new Skokie facility

The Village of Morton Grove Continued on page 16

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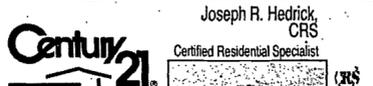
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Illinois newest class of criminal - you

That is right. Unless you installed a CO detector within fifteen feet of a sleeping room in your home, you are now guilty of a misdemeanor. Go turn yourself in to the nearest police officer. Remember that seat belt laws were originally only enforced as part of a traffic stop for another violation. Then they became a primary reason for a stop with the occasional traffic safety road blocks thrown in just for good measure. How long until the nanny state requires an annual inspection of the interior of your home. This is the state of government here in Illinois.

Now you may say, "Wait a minute, this is a good thing." If it is such a good thing, why do you have to be forced to do it? According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, 21 people died in 2004 from poisoning by gas, the latest year available. Now every death is a terrible tragedy, but this category doesn't just include carbon monoxide deaths, but tear gas, vehicle exhaust, nitrogen oxides [laughing gas & aerosol gas propellant], sul-



Another Perspective
MORGAN DUBIEL | COLUMNIST

fur dioxides [burning coal, oil, industrial processes & volcanoes], & utility-gas.

The National Safety Council estimates that nationwide 300 people die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning. Our national population is 300 million or so. That means about a .0001 percent chance of dying from carbon monoxide poisoning. That is a very small number. We are below the national average. The best way to protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning in your home is to not use your oven range as a heat source, don't barbeque indoors, and have your furnace checked annually.

The real problem with this class of laws is that it is a feel good law. This is an easy law

to pass. It hurts no one and at the cost of just a little liberty. Who demands these laws? CO detector companies get a nice financial windfall, you'll likely have to get two if your sleeping rooms are on different levels. Remember a while back it was booster seat laws? Did a group of parents storm Springfield demanding that they be forced to put their kids in booster seats? Why didn't our legislators, who love and care about us so much, make us get sprinklers in our homes or fire extinguishers? Eventually, they will get around to it.

You see, the real reasons feel good laws get passed is that there are real, serious problems in our state. It is hard to work on these difficult problems. Solving them involves risk and possibly some angry voters. It is easier just to borrow and push the problems out a few years or so.

Illinois desperately needs new businesses and yet it is one of the least business friendly states in the nation. A recent poll showed Illinois in 46th place (50 states total - See Perspective, page 10

Letter to the Editor

Gerald R. Ford 1913 -2006

A local Boy Scout Troop Leader submitted these thoughts on Former President Gerald Ford this week.

Judge Hugh W. Brenneman, Jr., Council President said of President Ford, "President Gerald R. Ford was sometimes referred to in his public life as a Boy Scout. I believe that was high praise for both the man and the Scouts.

President Ford treasured his days as a Boy Scout. He was the first Eagle Scout to become a President of the United States. More importantly, his life was a living definition of what an Eagle Scout should be. The term Eagle Scout and the name of President Gerald R. Ford will be forever synonymous."

Council Board member Dick DeVos said, on hearing of the death of the President, "President Ford lived by the Boy Scout Oath that calls on a Scout to do his best to do his duty to God and country. He was among this nation's most upstanding citizens, leading

our democracy through one of its most trying times while helping to heal America. As a former Boy Scout and friend of President Ford's, I saw him live the values of Scouting, always doing his best, always keeping his moral compass pointed north. It made him a strong leader, a positive role model for young people all across this country, and while we celebrate his life we are saddened to have lost his company here on earth.

Michael D. Sulgrove, Scout Executive of the Gerald R. Ford Council, Boy Scouts of America, remarked "President Gerald R. Ford never forgot his Boy Scout Oath and Law! I believe, in fact, that it was this Oath and Law that guided his daily actions and thinking as our nation's leader.

President Ford was often "blamed" for being too much of a Boy Scout - a fact to which he quickly retorted by saying "more people need to act like Boy Scouts." Our Council will forever be named in honor of this great leader. In our nation's

darkest hour of doubt and fear in the office of our President - it was an Eagle Scout who renewed our faith."

There has been a great deal of media shared information out as it relates to our Boy Scout's participation in the funeral for President Ford.

The Gerald R. Ford Council is looking for Eagle Scouts who would like to participate in the Eagle Scout Guard, that will line Pearl Street as the funeral procession returns to the museum for repose. Eagle Scouts need to be in full uniform (Shirt, pants, socks, belt, Council Shoulder Patch, OA Sash-if member, and Takachsin beads-if member) and need to call Matt Adams at 616-785-2662 to leave your name and phone number. This is for Eagle Scouts only.

An individual Scout may pay tribute to President Ford the day of the funeral-Wednesday, January 3, 2007

Submitted by Robert Galassi, Niles

Talk about inspirational: Raising cash and spirits

By Lynn O'Shaughnessy
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Even though the holidays have just passed, I'd like to share an inspirational tale that I've been sitting on for several months. This is a story about

MONEY AND YOU

some kindhearted souls, who seized upon a simple plan to leverage their charitable donations far beyond what they could have done by writing their own checks.

The plan, which you could now argue has been elevated to more of a phenomenon, began during the Sunday services a few years ago at a church not far from where I work.

Denny Bellesi, who was then pastor of Coast Hills Community Church in San Diego, handed out crisp \$100 bills to 100 volunteers during the Sunday church services. As the perplexed guinea pigs stood in front of the congregation eyeing the money, Bellesi explained what he hoped would happen to the \$10,000.

The pastor urged them to think of a creative way to spend the money on a worthy cause and report back to the congregation in 90 days. The inspiration for this task, which he named The Kingdom Assignment, was the Parable of the Talents in the New Testament.

It's the story of a master who gave his three servants money and what the men did with it. The servants who multiplied the cash were rewarded.

Bellesi acknowledges that it was tough coaxing church members to volunteer before they knew what their mission was. He recalls losing eye contact with nearly everyone sitting in the first few rows when he made his pitch for volunteers.

But those who left their pews ultimately embraced the challenge to multiply their seed money. One woman approached bookstores to match her \$100 to buy books for hospitalized children. A Cub Scout leader successfully urged his troop and their parents to raise money for a needy group of boys who didn't have enough money to buy uniforms or handbooks.

Another church member raised money from old frat brothers, college roommates, co-

workers and others to pay the funeral costs for two siblings, who had died of a genetic disease. During the process, a surviving brother received needed dental work.

The most dramatic success story, however, belongs to a dynamic woman named Terry Zwick, who attends the church in the Aliso Viejo area of San Diego. She leveraged her money to create a battered women's shelter, as well as a transitional women's facility.

She and a few other people had talked for months about their dream to start the facilities, but The Kingdom Assignment jump-started the project. Hours after the church service, she shared what had happened during her birthday party at a restaurant.

Friends tossed in money, as did the owner of the restaurant. She ended up persuading someone to give a \$75,000 donation, and a construction firm donated \$150,000. When the local press publicized her project, more cash flowed in.

"The Kingdom Assignment," she told me, "grew this ministry very quickly and grander than it would have been."

Ultimately, the original church members turned \$10,000 into a windfall of \$1 million. The story, however, didn't end with self-congratulations. Bellesi has called what has happened in the years that have followed as an "underground movement that keeps chugging along."

Across the country, hundreds of other churches have launched their own Kingdom Assignments. A teenager at a church in Texas used her seed money to hold a concert at a church that raised \$3,000.

In San Diego, a woman held a shoe party by inviting each of her friends to bring a new pair of shoes for the poor in Mexico. Elsewhere, a woman used her \$100 to throw a party for Hurricane Katrina victims and she got others to kick in money for decorations, invitations and gifts.

If you'd like to learn more about The Kingdom Assignment, you should visit the Bellesi Web site at www.kingdomassignment.com. Bellesi and his wife, Leesa, have also written two books, "The Kingdom Assignment" and "The Kingdom Assignment 2," to provide further inspiration.

Niles Parks honored for financial reporting work

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the Niles Park District.

The certificate was awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report.

The certificate of achieve-

ment is the greatest recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, such as demonstrating a construction "spirit of full

disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association that serves about 16,000 government finance professionals. They have offices located in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Multi-chamber event January 31

A Connect 7 multiple-chamber networking breakfast involving seven area chambers of commerce will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 31.

The Niles Chamber of Commerce, DBR, Glenview, Northfield, Skokie, Wilmette and Winnetka Chambers will be involved in the multi-chamber networking

Event info

The breakfast will take place at the North Shore Senior Center located at 161 Northfield Rd. in Northfield.

breakfast.

The breakfast will take place at the North Shore Senior Center located at 161

Northfield Rd. in Northfield.

The event will feature a progressive networking format and will begin with informal networking over a continental breakfast. Next, there will be two sessions in which participants will break off into small groups. Every individual will have the chance to present his/her business.



BY JEFFREY CARDELLA
Special to The Bugle

Edward Jones

Time for New Year's Financial Resolutions

PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISEMENT

Once again, it's time to make New Year's resolutions. If you can succeed in your efforts to exercise more, travel, learn a new language or any of the other worthy goals you might have, you can expand your horizons and enjoy a better quality of life. But if you want to make an even bigger impact on your future, you also may want to make — and keep — some financial resolutions.

As with all resolutions, the financial ones are easier to keep if they don't force you to drastically change your lifestyle. So, with that in mind, here are a few attainable financial resolutions to consider for 2007:

• **Increase your retirement plan contributions.** If your salary goes up this year, increase the percentage of your earnings that you defer into your 401(k) plan (or your 403(b) if you work for a nonprofit agency, or your 457(b) if you work for a state, county, city or other governmental agency).

With tax-deferred growth, pretax contributions and a variety of investment choices, these plans are great retirement savings vehicles. Plus, since the money is taken out before it even reaches your check, you won't really "miss" your increased payments. And in 2007, the contribution limit for these plans has increased to \$15,500. (If you're 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$5,000.)

• **"Max out" on your IRA.** In 2007, you can put up to \$4,000 into a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$5,000 if you are 50 or older. If you cannot come up with the maximum amount at once, try dividing your IRA contribution into 12 equal monthly payments that are automatically withdrawn from a checking or savings account.

• **Build adequate cash reserves.** Try to build a sufficient cash cushion — about six to 12 months' worth of living expenses — to handle any unexpected financial needs, such as a major car repair or an expensive new appliance. By building an emergency fund, you won't need to tap into your investments. And by giving your investments the potential to grow as long as possible, you'll accelerate your chances for progress toward your long-term financial goals.

• **Review your investment portfolio.** It's a good idea to review your investment portfolio at least once a year. Over the course of 12 months, your life can change in many ways; e.g., new spouse, new house, new child, new job, etc. And if your life changes significantly, your investment goals may also change. But even if your circumstances haven't changed much in a year, you should review your holdings to make sure your investment mix reflects your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term objectives. A financial professional can help you review your investments to make sure you are still on track.

• **Don't take a "time out" from investing.** In every year, you can find any number of events — war, political turmoil, natural disasters, market volatility, etc. — that might motivate you to "take a break" from investing. But the most successful investors stay invested, no matter how gloomy the news may be. So, in 2007, look beyond the headlines. Instead, focus on quality investments and your long-term investment strategies.

If you can achieve these New Year's resolutions, you'll go a long way toward potentially improving your financial situation in 2007 — and beyond.

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

Perspective

continued from page 8

just a reminder). Of the states right on our borders - Iowa was 5th, Indiana 6th, and Minnesota was 7th. Our state ranks 10th highest nationally in per-capita property taxes. The 2004 Tax Foundation report has Illinois ranked 13th highest after factoring in federal taxes. Illinois has lost almost 200,000 manufacturing jobs over the past five years, and that Illinois' tax and legal climate contributes to the ongoing jobs crisis. Illinois is a high-tax state, an expensive state to live in for young and old alike and largely anti-business (unless you are a politically connected fortune 500 company). It is out of control fiscally as well.

Illinois is raiding the state pension system for billions of dollars in order to pay current bills. Those pensions are guaranteed by law and paid from your taxes. In just three years, our state government has increased its general obligation bonds, from \$7.6 billion to \$20.3 billion. Cook County commissioners recently authorized an 18-month, \$200 million line of credit, at 10 percent interest, to cover an expected deficit. Can you guess who will be paying for all this? Yet, you can feel good - the county did pass a no smoking ordinance.

When the mustard hits the fan most of the guys who caused the problems will be in Florida, enjoying the sunshine and their state-guaranteed pensions. You, dear citizen, will be here holding the check and, quite possibly, your nose.

Questions abound as more consumers than ever shop for high-definition TVs

By Jonathan Sidener

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Market researchers expect that more digital TVs than analog will be sold this year, and the weeks leading up to Christmas and the Super Bowl are the peak

THE ALERT CONSUMER

of the TV shopping season. That means there are more people than ever trying to figure out the complicated transition from analog to digital TV, a world filled with acronyms, engineering numbers and new accessories.

■ Wait. First you were talking about HDTV, then digital TV. Are they the same?

Digital TV and HDTV are related, but different. Let's start with digital TV. In the past, TV signals were transmitted as a series of squiggly radio waves. With digital TV, the signal is encoded as a series of zeros and ones. It's a different technology that requires digital hardware to decode the signal.

For a number of reasons that have nothing to do with picture quality, Congress has mandated that TV stations switch from analog to digital signals by Feb. 17, 2009. To receive the digital signals, consumers will need either a digital TV, a converter box or a digital cable or satellite subscription.

HDTV is a category of digital TVs capable of displaying a high number of details known as pixels - picture elements. Pixels are scanned onto the screen as horizontal lines, and so a TV's resolution is measured by its number of horizontal lines.

HDTVs, by definition, are those capable of displaying between 720 and 1,080 horizontal lines of information. This is a significant improvement in the amount of detail in the images over standard definition TV, which has as many as 480 lines.

■ OK. But what about plasma? Plasma is one form of digital TV. Some are HDTV, and some aren't. Some digital TVs - primarily less-expensive plasma and LCD flat screens - display fewer than 720 lines. These are considered enhanced-definition TV, or EDTV.

■ So is 1,080 better than 720? And what's the 1080p that all the ads talk about?

This part gets more complicated. HDTV is more than the number of lines on a screen. It also takes into account how those lines are scanned onto the screen.

Traditional TV uses a little trick to display images. The picture tube first scans all the odd-numbered lines onto the screen and then goes back and scans the even lines. The practice, called interlacing, is barely perceptible. Digital TVs are capable of scanning the lines consecutively. This method, called a progressive scan, creates a smoother image.

By definition, HDTV images are a minimum of 720 lines progressively scanned (720p), or 1,080 interlaced lines (1080i). Many HDTV enthusiasts consider 720p to be a better image than 1080i.

A new version of HDTV, 1080p, is technically superior to either of the original display formats. But there's currently no TV content produced in 1080p. The

emerging technologies of Blu-Ray and HD-DVD offer movies in 1080p, but only for people who buy the new high-definition movie players.

■ Do I need cable or satellite TV to get HDTV? What about DVD?

There are three ways to get HDTV: cable, satellite or antenna. For cable and satellite, you'll probably need additional hardware. Digital cable ready HDTVs can work without a set-top box, using a decoder "CableCard" that fits into a slot in the TV. The cards, provided by cable companies, typically cost less than high-definition set-top receivers, also rented from cable companies.

CableCards have advantages and disadvantages. Video may look better because the signal is decoded in the TV, eliminating any degradation that occurs between a set-top box and the TV. But the cards aren't capable of two-way communication with a cable operator, so they can't provide services such as pay-per-view.

A third option is to get free over-the-air signals, using an antenna. As of March 1, all TVs 25 inches or larger were required to include an HDTV tuner and be capable of receiving free signals if connected to an antenna. Hills can make over-the-air reception difficult, so this won't be a viable alternative for everyone.

A significant number of HDTV owners never connect to an HDTV source, and only use their digital display for improved DVD viewing. DVDs aren't high-definition, but can be progressively scanned on an

HDTV. They'll look better displayed at 480p on a digital TV than at 480i on an analog TV.

■ I keep hearing about DLP. What's that?

There are four types of HDTVs: direct view, rear projection, front projection and flat panel. Direct view is the digital version of the good old CRT picture tube. These are the least-expensive type of HDTV. They have extremely high-quality pictures. On the downside, they're bulky, heavy and are only available in sizes up to 34 inches.

Projection TVs, front and rear, are the second-least expensive versions of the new TVs, although front projectors are most often used in custom home theaters that can easily cost tens of thousands of dollars for the whole setup. Rear-projection TVs use lenses and mirrors to display a large image from behind a screen. CRT projectors are used in the least-expensive projection TVs. They're big, heavy and can't produce very bright images.

Other projector technologies are called microdisplays. They use various tiny electronic devices to control bright light sources. DLP from Texas Instruments is one of these microdisplay technologies. It uses more than 1 million microscopic mirrors to control the pixels.

Other technologies include LCD and liquid crystal on silicon to control the projected image.

Flat panels - plasma and LCD - are the thinnest and lightest of the HDTVs. Plasma is generally the most expensive of the new TVs, but prices have dropped and it remains the top-selling big-screen HDTV. LCDs are the most popular choice for HDTVs smaller than 32 inches, but larger models can be more expensive than plasma. In flat-panel TVs between 37 and 42 inches, plasma and LCD are competitive in price and picture quality.

■ Some TVs have HDMI. Is that important?

High-Definition Multimedia Interface is a digital technology to connect the TV to devices such as cable set-top boxes, game systems and DVD players. Older systems such as component video use analog cables to move the signal from the set-top box to the TV. The digital HDMI signal is never converted to analog, so it's capable of producing a better image.



Father Dennis O'Neill from St. Martha's in Morton Grove with Michael Kinsch, owner of Norwood Park Dodge, with 2007 Dodge Caravan SE. First Prize in the St. Martha's "Super Sunday Sweepstakes." Drawing February 4, 2007 at NOON.

ST. MARTHA'S PRESENTS 'SUPER SUNDAY SWEEPSTAKES'

St. Martha's Church in Morton Grove is sponsoring a "Super Sunday Sweepstakes." The Parish Life Commission has worked with area businesses in coordinating the prizes for this event.

First Prize: 2007 Dodge Caravan SE. Michael Kinsch, owner of Norwood Park Dodge at 6333 N. Northwest Highway in Chicago (Phone: 773-775-9600) has worked with St. Martha's to make this tremendous prize a reality! The vehicle will be on display at the dealership until further notice. Come in and see what you can win!

Second Prize: A 5 Day/4 Night Bahamas Cruise (includes cruise and tax). Jeanne Langlo from Complete Travel at 9213 Waukegan Ave. in Morton Grove (Phone: 847-966-0800) has worked with St. Martha's to help "2" special people get away from it all! She has also generously donated a portion of this prize to St. Martha's.

Third Prize: A Panasonic 32" HDTV. Abt at 1200 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Glenview (Phone: 847-967-8830) has donated a portion of this prize. What a better way to "catch" the "Big Game."

Tickets are \$50.00 each. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold! You have a 1 in 1,000 chance of winning one of these great prizes. That's better odds than the lottery!

Tickets can be purchased at St. Martha's Rectory, 8523 Georgiana in Morton Grove. Call ahead for availability, 847-965-0262. Tickets will also be sold before and after Masses on Saturday and Sunday in the vestibule starting Dec. 30, 2006. Members of all Parish Commissions will also have tickets available.

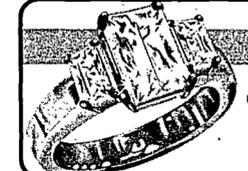
The winner will be drawn at NOON at St. Martha's Church on "Super Sunday" which is February 4, 2007. Come in and thrill in the anticipation and "catch" the excitement that day.

Terms and Conditions of this sweepstakes available at the rectory. Think of it this way - what a "Super" way to start the New Year!



'TOTS R US' CLASSES AT NILES PARK DISTRICT

We are offering fun sport programs every day of the week for ages 3 & 4. Monday is Tiny Basketball, Tuesday is Indoor T-Ball, Wednesday is Catch, Throw, Bounce, etc, Thursday is Tiny Soccer, and Friday is Floor Hockey. Classes run 8 weeks and begin January 22, 2007. Registration is taken for each class separately and fees are Res \$49; Non-Res \$54 per class. For additional information, please call (847) 967-6975.



FOUND
Woman's Diamond Ring
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Saturday, December 30th
Call 847-812-1332

Advocate Group Hosts Three Area Workshops
Fitness Center offers an Exercise Program for People with Arthritis

Advocate Lutheran General Fitness Center is offering an exercise program designed specifically for people with arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program uses gentle activities to help increase joint flexibility and range of motion and to help maintain muscle strength. It is a community-based program that takes into consideration the pain, fatigue, decreased strength and motion, which often accompany the disease. The next six-week session will offered January 8 through February 14. Classes are held from 1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday at Lutheran General Fitness Center, 1875 West Dempster Street, Suite G01, Park Ridge. Course fees are \$63. Lutheran General Fitness members get a discounted rate.

All of the exercises were designed to be within the capability of most people with arthritis. Participants must contact their physicians before starting to find out if any special precautions are necessary. For more information and to register contact Bonnie Spiros at 847-723-6138.

Couples Communication Workshop

Give your relationship a gift that will give you the tools to build a healthier and more satisfying life together with Couples Communication. The Counseling Center of Advocate Medical Group will sponsor a four-week Couples Communication workshop from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, January 18, through February 15.

The workshop is designed to enhance participants' communication skills and increase satisfaction in intimate relationships. During the sessions, couples will choose issues to address, identify their own responses, behaviors and desires, and work toward renewed intimacy and mutuality. Skills in self-awareness, communication and conflict resolution also will be described, modeled and coached.

The series fee per couple is \$240, plus \$50 for workshop materials. The workshop is held at The Counseling Center, 1610 Luther Lane, Park Ridge. For more information or to register, call The Counseling Center of Advocate Medical Group at 847-795-3100.

Workshop Offered for New Grandparents

New and expectant grandparents who plan on lending a helping hand may be a little "out-of-practice" when it comes to caring for newborns. Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is offering a three-hour workshop aimed at new grandparents. The class provides an opportunity to discuss current childbirth and parenting practices, including childcare and feeding philosophies. Participants will share their own ideas or questions about what it means to be a grandparent today.

The "Grandparenting Class" will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, January 19 at Lutheran General Hospital, located at 1775 Dempster Street, Park Ridge. The class requires advanced registration and a \$15 fee to cover reference materials. To sign up please call 1-800-3-ADVO-CATE (1-800-323-8622) or visit www.advocatehealth.com. The reference code for this course is 8B01.

Food Pantry Gets Helping Hand On Christmas Weekend



Maine Township's Food Pantry got a helping hand on Christmas weekend as food and money were collected at the Park Ridge Jewel and the Des Plaines Dominick's stores. Here, from left, are Supervisor Bob Dudycz, General Assistance Director Marsha Warnick, Jim Coursey, Township Staffer Marge Stoklosa, Nick Ryan, John Aykroid, and Trustee Peter Ryan. For information on how to donate or volunteer, call 847-297-2510.

Hearling Is Near!

Kerasotes Theatres ShowPlace 12 - NILES
301 Golf Mill Center (West side of Golf Mill Shopping Center) Niles, IL 60714
Office phone: 847-544-7380
ShowTime phone: 800-326-3264 #1643

ShowTimes for January 5-11, 2006

CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50; Fri-Sun early matinee 10:50am
CODE NAME: THE CLEANER (PG-13) 2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15; Fri-Sun early matinee 11:45am
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) 12:50, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30; Fri-Sun early matinee 10:00am
HAPPILY N'EVER AFTER (PG) 2:00, 4:50, 7:00, 9:40; Fri-Sun early matinee 11:20am
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) 12:45, 3:50, 6:50, 10:00; Fri-Sun early matinee 9:45am
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 2:40, 6:30, 10:10; Fri-Sun early matinee 11:00am
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30; Fri-Sun early matinee 11:30am
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) 1:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45; Fri-Sun early matinee 10:30am
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:00; Fri-Sun early matinee 11:10am
ERAGON (PG) 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 9:15; Fri-Sun early matinee 10:20am
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25; Fri-Sun early matinee 10:40am
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) 1:00, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20; Fri-Sun early matinee 9:50am

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FDIC

Victorian side chair seating a profit

By Anne McCollam
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: This chair was found in a cottage that a friend purchased years ago. After he passed away, his sister-in-law asked me to store it until her son could pick

ANTIQUE OR JUNKIE

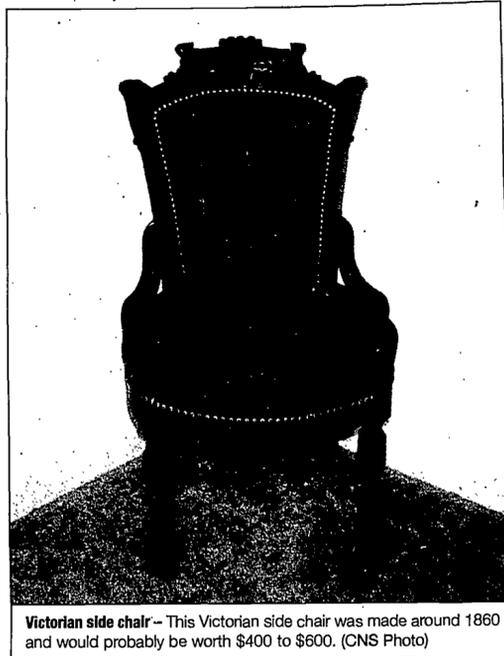
it up. Nine years went by and I never heard from her or her son.

Ten years later, I decided they weren't going to claim it and I might as well use it. Since the original upholstery was beyond repair, I had it recovered. The wood frame is walnut, decorated with carving, and the front legs have casters.

What can you tell me about its age and its value, if any?

A: You have a Victorian side chair. The demiarms or skirt guards, turned front legs with casters, incised carving, canted back legs and round seat are characteristics of the Victorian substyle, Renaissance Revival. Your chair was made around 1860 and would probably be worth \$400 to \$600.

Q: I have enclosed the mark that appears on our set of china. I bought it in Germany in 1952 when I was stationed there with the U.S. Army. The set is a service for 12 and has 93 pieces



Victorian side chair -- This Victorian side chair was made around 1860 and would probably be worth \$400 to \$600. (CNS Photo)

including serving dishes. They are decorated with dark pink moss roses against a white background. Also included with the mark are the words "Petal Lane - Winifred."

Could you please tell me

what you think our set of china is worth?

A: Rosenthal China has made porcelain since 1879. The factory is located in Selb, Bavaria, Germany. "Petal Lane" is the name of the pattern and

"Winifred" is the name of the shape.

Assuming your set is in mint condition, it would probably be worth \$900 to \$1,500.

Q: My friend has four Norman Rockwell limited-edition porcelain plates. They were made by Edwin M. Knowles China Co. in 1985 and are part of Rockwell's American Dream series.

Could you please tell us what their value is?

A: Edwin M. Knowles China Co. in West Virginia made a plethora of planned collectibles for the Bradford Exchange.

In the 1960s and early 1980s, the market for limited-edition plates reached a crescendo. By the mid- to late 1980s, values plummeted, bringing an end to the collecting frenzy. People who bought them as investments found their prospect of selling on the secondary market to be dismal.

The truth be known, most plates were produced in enormous quantities. The market became flooded and collector interest crashed. Although there are a few exceptions, most limited edition plates have modest values.

The value of your friend's set of four plates would probably be \$75 to \$100.

Q: My mother bought a china

pitcher in 1940 and gave it to me about 10 years ago. I can remember her filling it with ice water on hot summer days and setting it on the kitchen table.

It has a round shape and is decorated with yellow and orange flowers and brown leaves. Marked on the bottom are the words "Hall's Superior Utility Kitchenware."

What can you tell me about my pitcher?

A: You have a nice example of the Jewel Tea Co.'s Autumn Leaf pattern that was made by Hall China Co. Jewel Tea Co. was located in Barrington, Ill. The "Jewel Tea Man" sold and delivered tea, coffee and other grocery items door to door. The dishes were offered to customers as premiums for buying their products.

This pattern was introduced in 1933 and produced until 1976.

The Autumn Leaf pattern pitcher was introduced in 1938 and would probably be worth \$50 to \$75.

Address your questions to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. For a personal response, include picture(s), a detailed description, a stamped, self-addressed envelope and \$15 per item (one item at a time).

European countries officially adopted Jan. 1 as New Year's Day, with the adoption of the Gregorian calendar.

Through the years, certain symbols came to be associated with the holiday. First of all, there is the baby, a symbol of rebirth that dates back to the early Egyptians. The image of an often-winged baby wearing a New Year's banner with the date imprinted was brought to this country by the Germans, who were responsible for so much of our holiday iconography, while a bearded Father Time, carrying a scythe, represented the passing of the old year.

Noisemakers evolved from the practice of ancient peoples banging on drums or pots to scare away evil spirits on New Year's Eve, and hats began to be worn by the Victorians - top hats for men and paper crowns for women - at parties and balls symbolizing a full, bountiful year. The song "Auld Lang Syne," usually played after the stroke of midnight, is an old Scottish tune,

the words written in part by Robert Burns.

The most popular - and prolific - New Year's collectible is the vintage New Year greetings picture postcard. The emergence of holiday greeting cards happened to coincide with the point in the late 19th century at which Americans were really getting into all-out New Year's Eve celebrations and, especially from the turn of the 19th century to about 1913, there were enormous quantities of printed and embossed holiday cards exchanged, made by such firms as Raphael Tuck and Sons and the George C. Whitney Co. They incorporated such familiar symbols as a clock set at midnight, as well as calendars and candles indicating the passage of time; horseshoes, four-leaf clovers, goats, chimney sweeps and pigs, all boding good luck; angels, flowers, bluebirds and snowy scenes, in addition to the New Year's baby and Father Time. Most of these can

See Collect, page 13

Happy New Year collectibles

By Linda Rosenkrantz
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Although they aren't as profuse as Christmas collectibles, there are still enough vintage New Year's Eve and New Year's Day items available - from noisemakers to decora-

tions to hats to postcards - to form a very engaging collection reflecting the celebratory nature of the holiday, so don't be too hasty in tossing out the remnants of your New Year's bash.

The first of January was not always considered the com-

mencement of the New Year, although it has been for many centuries. In the old Roman calendar, it was March 1 that marked the event, then in A.D. 526 the start of the Julian calendar was set at March 25 to celebrate the Annunciation, until finally most Western

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These childrens toys are 'sew' collectible

By Linda Rosenkrantz
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

In the days when there was a much sharper divide between boy toys and girl toys, there

CONTEMPORARY COLLECTIBLES

was an abundance of playthings dealing with needlework of every type - sewing, embroidery, knitting, crocheting and weaving - and these provide an appealingly nostalgic, non-tech area for the collector.

Museum doll and textile conservator Darlene J. Gengelbach has produced an exemplary "Encyclopedia of Children's Sewing Collectibles" (Collector Books) identification and value guide to these toys, one that will provide a visual and informational feast for anyone whose memory dates back to pre-Barbie days (and can recall

learning the rudiments of basting, seaming and hemming) and open a new world of graphic treats to others.

Divided into a number of sub-category chapters - separate ones for sewing and embroidery sets for bisque, composition, hard plastic, paper, mannequin and celluloid, cloth and rubber dolls, for example - each one offers a chronological survey of that specialty area and provides a more extensive historical background than would be expected.

The earliest examples are among the most charming, and the most valuable, some priced at upward of \$1,000, particularly for those made in France and Germany. One of these, called "The Little Dressmaker," was probably made in France for the American market, and is a boxed set containing a delicate Simon and Halbig bisque doll dressed in a white chemise and

large hat, all ribbons and lace, surrounded by patterns for 12 articles of clothing, lengths of fabric and lace, metal and glass buttons, cloth flowers, spools of thread, a metal thimble and more. Later sewing sets could be equally elaborate, some containing miniature sewing machines, scissors and embroidery hoops, and others having the added attraction of a celebrity doll - real or fictional - such as the Dionne Quintuplets or Little Orphan Annie, or a special focus like nurse or bride.

At the other end of the spectrum are some modest items that hold a similarly sentimental appeal. Take sewing card sets, which every female of a certain age will remember and which were seen as having an educational agenda. These boxed sets, offered by firms such as Milton Bradley, usually had graphically appealing cover designs and cards "suit-

able for framing," with the outlines (usually perforated) of animals, flowers, nursery rhyme figures, children, household objects or toys, sometimes with floss or yarn included. More modern sets were based on such icons as Holly Hobbie and the Sesame Street characters.

Then there are the looms and knitting and crocheting sets. The looms, made of wood, metal or plastic, were, of course, responsible for the ubiquitous potholders found in every early to mid-20th century kitchen. Some of these, such as the 1954 Transogram Weaving Loom, came with a bag of jersey loops plus an adjustable plastic looper loom, a metal looper hook and a plastic needle.

Another favorite needlework activity was spool knitting, which, as author Gengelbach explains, originated from rake or frame knitting and has been

known by a variety of names, including French knitting, ring knitting, Knitting Nancy, spool knitting, corking, knitting knob, knitting dolly and horse-reins. It consisted of a plain or figural base with two to six pegs, on which a cord could be formed that could be used to fashion mats, rugs, belts, doilies, baskets, etc. One of the most popular examples was made by Spears Games of England and called Knitting Nancy, and can be found in the \$25 range.

Another, more ephemeral, area of this category is paper patterns for making dolls' clothes, of which there are an almost infinite variety. They range from the delicate pastel-colored early Lettie Lane's Doll clothes patterns that appeared in the pages of the Ladies' Home Journal in 1911, to Betsy McCall's '50s clothes to patterns for a Barbie instant wardrobe.

Recent releases for the collector's bookshelf

By Linda Rosenkrantz
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

What with the latest James Bond launching on Nov. 17, here comes a new book cele-

CONTEMPORARY COLLECTIBLES

brating its 20 predecessors: "The Art of James Bond: From Storyboard to Screen - The Creative Process Behind the James Bond Phenomenon" by Laurent Bouzereau (Abrams, \$40).

Over its 40-year reign, the Bondian franchise has influenced not only film, but, much

more broadly, style and design. This lavishly illustrated book is presented from the points of view of the creative forces behind the movies and film makers impacted by them, including Steven Spielberg, Ridley Scott and Peter Jackson, as well as authors such as Peter Benchley and Ken Follett. Especially interesting to collectors will be the production and behind-the-scenes material, from the book jackets of the original Ian Fleming novels, to costume and set sketches, details of car and gadget design, storyboards, musical scores and the like, though the book could do with a few more

explanatory captions.

The death of Queen Victoria's beloved consort Prince Albert in 1861, and her extended 40-year mourning for him, precipitated a cult of death, dying, and mourning that swept over Britain and crossed the ocean to this country. This was a period of high infant mortality and rampant epidemic, making early death a constant threat and reality. "Fashionable Mourning Jewelry, Clothing & Customs" by Mary Brett (Schiffer, \$60) goes way beyond the usual collectibles price guide to provide a substantial survey of this phenomenon, examining rituals of preparing

the home for impending death, mourning clothes, funeral arrangements, including caskets and floral arrangements.

Among the vast array of collectible material are memorial cards depicting the deceased as they were in life and deathbed and postmortem photographs and drawings, photographic remembrance pins and cuff links, jewelry incorporating hair of the departed, mourning ribbons, pins, handkerchiefs and fans, and black bridal attire.

"The Art of Collecting Photography" by Laura Noble (AVA, \$60) is a well-organized and generously illustrated

introduction to a category that seems to be getting hotter by the minute, covering its entire historical range, from the 19th century pioneers up to contemporary figures like William Wegman and Gregory Crewdson.

Informative chapters cover everything from advice on purchasing prints to conservation, plus useful suggestions as to how to form a collection along thematic lines. Perhaps the best thing about the book, however, is the sense it gives of the richness and variety of the medium by way of mini-profiles of 60 of the world's greatest photographers.

Collect continued from page 12

be found for a couple of dollars, and are ripe for recycling. Noisemakers also might make an amusing collection: tin and wood (and later plastic) horns, rattlers, slappers, clickers and shakers, especially those made by T. Cohn, Kirchof, U.S. Metal Toy Mfg Co., and J. Chien. Other New Year collectibles include punch bowl sets, dinnerware and champagne glasses made specifically for the occasion, handkerchiefs imprinted with seasonal greetings, vintage

paper party hats, jewelry, commemorative silver spoons and Victorian New Year's trade cards given by merchants to their customers.

There are other peripheral sub-categories related to annual New Year's events that provide additional opportunities for collecting. These include the Tournament of Roses Parade, which dates back to 1886 and originally celebrated the ripening of the California orange crop, and the Rose Bowl football game that became part of the party at the beginning of the 20th century.

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Isoye to head Maine East

Steven Isoye was approved as the new Principal of Maine East High School effective July 1, 2007 by the Maine Township District School Board last month.

Mr. Isoye replaces Mr. David Barker who is retiring after a long and distinguished career in District 207.

Mr. Isoye is currently the Principal at the O'Plaine Campus of Warren Township High School. He has held that position since 2003. Prior to that time, he was a curriculum leader in Warren Township High School from 2000-2003. He served as a science department chair and teacher at Highland Park High School from 1997-2000.

Mr. Isoye has taught science at Loyola Academy, the Latin School of Chicago, Warren Township High School, and Deerfield High School. In 1998 Mr. Isoye was named Illinois Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Isoye has his Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Illinois University in science; he has his Masters degree in Curriculum and

Instruction from Concordia University and a Masters degree

"I look forward to joining in and celebrating the many accomplishments of the school, while working on continuous improvement efforts to ensure that Maine East High School will always be recognized by all as a school of excellence"

Steven Isoye | NEW MAINE EAST PRINCIPAL

from Northern Illinois University in Educational Administration. He received his Ed. S (Superintendent's endorsement) from Northern Illinois University in 2002 and is currently pursuing his doctoral degree also from Northern Illinois University.

In terms of professional activities, Mr. Isoye is the Vice-Chair for the Board of Trustees for the Illinois Math and Science Academy. He is also President of the Executive Board for Healthy Communities, Healthy Youth in the Village of Gurnee.

Mr. Isoye states "I am excited about joining the administrative team at Maine Township High School District 207 and having the opportunity to work with the students, faculty, staff and parents of Maine East High School. I look forward to joining in and

celebrating the many accomplishments of the school, while working on continuous improvement efforts to ensure that Maine East High School will always be recognized by all as a school of excellence."

Maine East Principal Barker receives Advocacy Award, to retire

Judith Barker, first grade teacher at Central School in Des Plaines, congratulates her husband, Principal David Barker, who was awarded the 2007 Else Hamayan Advocate of the Year Award by the Illinois Resource Center at the 30th annual statewide conference for teachers of linguistically and culturally diverse students. Both Barkers are retiring at the end of the school year.



Principal Barker receives Advocate of Year Award

Maine East Principal David Barker was awarded the 2007 Else Hamayan Advocate of the Year Award, an honor bestowed by the Illinois Resource Center, on December 12 at the 30th annual statewide conference for teachers of linguistically and culturally diverse students. The annual award goes to an individual within the state of Illinois that exemplifies living and working by the principles of social jus-

tice, working tirelessly for the underdog—fighting the "good fight", empowering others to find their voice and vision, acknowledging and inviting the expertise of others, valuing and cultivating a collaborative, collegial and trustful work environment, and seeking tenaciously to discover a way to accomplish the seemingly impossible. Principal Barker is retiring this year after 40 years of service to District 207.

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Golf Middle School announces first-quarter Honor Roll

Golf Scholar

Saba Ahmed, Kristiene Alonzo, Christopher Biundo, Maygan Braddy, Vi-vien Bui, Allison Bunag, Brandon Chan, Diane Choe, Emma Cibrowski, Matthew Curtis, Samantha Cuya, Jann Marko Dacpano, Eva Dubovoy, Tiffany Ebeling, Kayleen Enriquez, Tudor Galbau, Merrin George, Evan Goldstein, Joseph Hancock, Derek Hardin, Emily Henry, Zachary Hess, Janine Hood, Eric Huynh, Ayana Jamal, Colin Kaplan, Kaitlin Karlin, Kasey Karlin, Zainab Khan, Maciej Kowalkowski, Bartosz Krupa, Michelle Leong, Dale Lim, Giorgos Losoff, Steve Lukose, Shannon Mascarenha, Rachel Matthies, Monika Maxouris, Daniel Noboa-Hidalgo, Reena Patel, Zaid Patel, David Paykin, Corianne Randstrom, Kristin Reichert, Paola Rojas, Michelle Scaunas, Zain Siddiqui, Vasiliki Stathopoulos, Jennifer Steffens, Michelle Tanaka, Sofiya Teplitskaya, Tanlya Tomy, Paula Vilorio, Faisal Warsani, Dominique Watson, Blake Whitehouse, Yuliyia Yukhvidina and Gardenia Zozan

High Honor

Maria Acosta, Aliza Ali Malyani, See Honor Roll, page 15

Notre Dame schedules 2007 Winter Baseball Camps

The Notre Dame Dons Baseball Program will be offering camps that will concentrate on the three major phases of the game: hitting, defense and pitching. The camps will run on three consecutive Sundays, Feb. 18, 25 and Mar. 4, from 9:30 am-12 pm. All 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited to attend.

The Dons coaching staff, now in its 5th year at Notre Dame, consists of two coaches who were with the 1996 Northeastern Illinois Golden Eagle baseball team, the same team that played in the NCAA Division I Tournament and competed against great teams such as the Florida State Seminoles who were led by now-L.A. Dodgers outfielder J.D. Drew.

Head baseball coach, Robert Kostuch, teaches Physical Education and is the department head of Health Education at Notre Dame. He played four years of Division I college baseball at Northeastern Illinois University. Upon graduation, he became an assistant varsity

coach at Ridgewood High School. After three years at Ridgewood, he moved on to become assistant coach at Notre Dame to manager Gaetano Gianni. Then, in June of 2002, Kostuch was appointed head varsity coach. To complete his coaching staff, he hired Issie Sopena and Michael Paskvan as his assistants.

After playing college baseball at Georgia Southern University, coach Sopena went on to play with the Philadelphia Phillies. After his playing days, coach Sopena was a scout for several years, and then an assistant coach at Northeastern Illinois University. Sopena remains a part-time coach with the Dons.

As the pitching ace for Joliet Junior College, coach Paskvan helped his school to win the Junior College World Series before moving on to play for Northeastern Illinois University. After his baseball career, he became a teacher and pitching coach at Barrington High School. He now teaches health and physical education

at Notre Dame.

The Notre-Dame baseball program is one of the top programs in the state. The program experienced unprecedented success in 2004, winning the Class AA State Title and is now one of the elite programs in the area.

The 2004 Dons were a resilient group especially in the quarterfinal game, where they came back from a seven-run deficit TWICE, to beat a tough Carmel team, which propelled the team in to the State Championship. After that win, the momentum was with the Dons, and it carried through as the Dons went on to defeat Joliet Catholic 6-4 to win the 2004 State Title. In 2005 the Dons continued their winning ways winning the tough East Suburban Catholic Conference and making it to the Super-sectional game vs. Oak Park at Alexian Field, home of the Schaumburg Flyers. The 2005 Dons posted a 29-10 record. Last year, the Dons posted a fourth-straight 20-win season, where Coach K became one of

the youngest coaches in state history to record 100 wins. The Dons are 108-44-1 under Coach Kostuch. The winter camps will demonstrate all the drills the Dons utilize in practice and feature ND baseball coach from all levels.

If you are interested in attending the Winter Baseball Camps, which will feature all the drills the Dons have used to achieve such a high level of success, please contact coach Kostuch at 847.779.8653 or rkostuch@ndhsdons.org.

Athletes must bring a bat, glove and blank videotape to each session. Due to limited space, each camp will be filled on a first come-first serve

Camp Schedule

Feb. 18 (4th-8th)

Camp #1 - HITTING: Each hitter will participate in Notre Dame High School's hitting drills to improve their skills and knowledge. There will also be drills on the proper mechanics of bunting. Each hitter will be videotaped in our cage for further analysis. Each hitter

will receive a T-shirt and Notre Dame folder containing several hitting drills. The first 50 participants will be accepted.

Feb. 25 (4th-8th)

Camp #2 - PITCHING: Each pitcher will participate in a number of drills to improve their pitching mechanics. The pitchers will be videotaped for instructional purposes. Coach Paskvan will devote instructional time to each individual. The first 40 participants will be accepted.

Mar. 4 (4th-8th)

Camp #3 - PITCHING: Giving a team more than three outs in an inning will decrease your chances of winning. The more positions you play, the more marketable you are to your team. Your ability to play several positions may be the difference in you making a team. This camp will go through all the drills for all positions, positioning, stances, double plays, and some of our secrets. Make sure you have a glove and please wear a cup and supporter basis.

Register for Niles baseball this month

Niles baseball registration will take place in January and February.

Registration will take place on Saturday, Jan 13 and Saturday, Jan 27; Saturday, Feb. 10 and Friday, Feb. 9.

The Saturday registration will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the recreation center building at 7877 N. Milwaukee

Ave. (next to Oasis Pool). The Friday registration will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Sports Authority, 7233 W. Dempster (at Harlem and Dempster).

Returning players can register online at www.eteamz.com/NBL.

For players ages 7 and 8 the fee is \$60; for 9 and 10 its \$70, 11

and 12 is \$80, 13 and 14 is \$90 and ages 15, 16 and 17 is \$90.

A late fee will be applied for registering after the assigned dates. New registrants are required to have their birth certificates.

For general information and registration information those interested can call (847) 604-2725.

Honor Roll

continued from page 14

Jay Louis Alonzo, Daniel Ammer, Shana Ariaz, Samantha Blank, Colin Austria, Lyndale Baroro, Edward Bote, William Braubach, Sky Busch, Nicholas Catriona, Atan Chabo, Hannyl Choi, Evan Chwa, Giana Civito, Jason Cutler, Lara Dababneh, Tricia Dacpano, Chantal Dakhoul, Rachel Dakhoul, Christopher Dalstrom, Kelsey Dalstrom, Jasmine De Guzman, Shaun De Guzman, David Dickson, Fred Dickson, Jacob Douglas, Melissa Ewart, Francinne Fotopoulos, Juliana Frake, Rey Fregoso, Sabrina Gheorghita, Athanasia Giannetos, Yiorgos Giannetos, Rebecca Gilbert, David Goodwin, Natalie Grosch, Charmaine John, Aneeta Johnson, Ashley Jose, Stacy Joseph, Daniel Kessler, Nida Khan, Edward Kim, YuMee Kim, Carly Knepper, Edward Ko, Logan Kost,

Shawn Lukose, Samuel Luo, Snehith Mesquita, Daniel Miranda, Brett Nagel, Ashour Nissan, Mohammed-Noormohammed, Alex Nieves, Samantha Oliveri, Janki Patel, Sonali Patel, Janet Perez, Jonass Placitis, Jennifer Randstrom, Sabrina Roti, Brittany Reilly, Jessica Rojas, Varton Sarkissian, Bijan Sharifi, Matthew Sund, Abraham Thomas, Justin Thomas, Tebin Thomas, Martyna Tos, Vivien Tran, Thomas Valente, Jelena Vuckovic, Hailee Whitehouse, Megan Whitehouse, Valerie Yannias and Andrew Zouzani.

Honor Roll

Anabel Abraham, Abraaruddin Ahmed, Farhana Ahmed, Eman Atia, Nathan Barreto, Holly Betke, Quentin Blum, Arthur Bunag, Joseph Burge, Alethea Busch, Julia Choi, Justin Choi, Hilary Colbert-Grant, Chris Dankha, Brittany Ebeling, Matthew Esz, Cal

Fajardo, Carl Ference, Robert Ference, Artur Freitas, Nancy Garcia, Sam Garcia, Aleksandar Glisovic, Berina Gradjan, Saagar Gupta, Holli Hess, Chad Hirsch, Terry Ho, Rej Hoxha, Matthew Ibrahim, Mohammad Imran, Edhem Jukovic, Saad Khan, Justin Ko, Stephanie Kost, Alexander Levin, Michelle Marin, Sebastian Marin, John Martin, Adam Moniger, Nahrain Odisho, Dimitris Panagopoulos, Nitesh Patel, Nicole Pena, Anna Poloz, Traci Randstrom, Jacqueline Roti, Brandon Sandy, Scott Schwall, Susan Shaba, Alex Shamrov, Lillian Shekter, Despina Stathopoulos, Naveen Siddiqui, Nicholas Solovastru, George Vail, Alexandra Vidican, Caitlyn Wheeler, Jovan Williams, Sandra Younan, Natasha Yousif and Lena Zouzani

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOWLING

Bowled Wednesday, December 20, 2006

Points	Won	Lost
Candlelight Jewelers	78	27
Classic Bowl	55	50
Bielinski and Bono Dental	53	52
Skaja Terrace Funeral Home	49	56
NorthSide Community Bank	44	61
Niles Dairy Queen	36	69

High Series/Game: Olivia Tanada 505/179, Helma Drag 501/183, Janet Trozzo 486/186, Kim O'Keefe 476/191, Dahlia Sarosario 183, Bing Calsi 181, Helen Reyes 174, Kay Pecoraro-170, Linda Fahey 166, Millie Kroll 165, Deanne Drozd/Jan Repel 164

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Red and white can be right for any kitchen

By Rose Bennett Gilbert
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: I really, really want a red and white kitchen! My mother had a red and white kitchen, so there's a sentimental attachment there. My friend says it's

DECOR SCORE

retro, that I will have to do a '40s look to go with the color scheme.

Is that true? We have a Victorian house with high ceilings in the kitchen and white cabinets. A 1940s look won't fit.

A: Relax about the retro business. Red and white can be just right for any style of kitchen, from rustic country to pure, cool contemporary. It's all about how you use it.

In the photo we show here, the dynamic duo becomes a trio with true brio, teaming with black to jazz-up an old-fashioned kitchen without overpowering its vintage charms. Smartened up by the gleaming-red enameled range and lively checkered floor, this is a kitchen for any era, with energy to spare and decorating

tips to share, such as the easy mix of wood tones and painted cabinets; the sassy swags hung over efficient striped shades; the small island that doubles for work-on and eat-on space.

And don't miss the minimal under that Old World-ish wooden exhaust hood. It's a focal point for the entire room, created from glass-over-ceramic tiles.

Glass tiles are hot, by the way. Check out the latest ways to add sparkle to your decor in a new book called "Glass Tile Inspirations for Kitchens and Baths" by Patricia Hart McMillan and Katharine Kay McMillan (Schiffer Publishing, www.schifferbooks.com). You can also find a free book of other tile patterns at www.tri-keenan.com.

Do you yearn to decorate like a Maharaja?

Then French designer Paul Mathieu is your man. Think tall chests of drawers and curvy, carved chairs dipped in Indian silver (purer than standard British sterling, we're told). Not your usual Indian furniture, this. Mathieu explores the intri-

cate carvings and sensuous forms we associate with royal Indian digs, but the sophisticated sensibility behind his recently introduced collection is tres French and tres chic.

On view in Stephanie Odegard's New York showroom (212-545-0069), the collection also includes a low credenza clad in glowing copper and intricate, lacy ceramic lighting fixtures. Everything's made in India, of course, and comes close to costing a maharaja's ransom (\$17,457 for the seven-drawer silver chest; \$7,860 for the copper credenza).

That doesn't include silver polish, but what an exotic way to add real gleam to your decor.

Can you be upstaged by your own window shades?

It's possible, what with all the product placements in movies today. The latest: Hunter Douglas window shades and vertical blinds playing supporting roles in the comedy hit "Stranger Than Fiction" (human stars are Will Ferrell, Emma Thompson, Dustin Hoffman, Maggie

See Decor, page 25



This kitchen's vintage warmth radiates from the range-top's hearth, where a tall wooden hood frames a quilt-design, glass-tile meditation. (CNS Photo courtesy of Trikeenan Tileworks)

Tax deduction to save homeowners hundreds

By Jim Woodard
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Beginning in January, many home buyers who must purchase private mortgage insur-

OPEN HOUSE

ance to obtain needed financing will finally be getting a break.

Premium payments for such insurance will be tax-deductible for borrowers who

earn less than \$100,000 a year. That tax break will usually save borrowers from \$300 to \$350.

"That will go a long way to help homeowners and potential homeowners who simply want to own a piece of the American dream," said Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League. The law was passed by Congress Dec. 9.

Private mortgage insurance is usually required by lenders for borrowers who contribute less than 20 percent of a home's purchase price as a down payment. The insurance - protecting the lender - is paid by the borrower and is quite expensive, but in some cases it's the only way a home buyer can finance the purchase.

About one in five new mortgage loans within the past few years include mortgage insurance. However, there is a growing trend to take steps to avoid the cost of this insurance.

The most obvious and practical way is to hold off purchasing a home until the buyer saves enough to make a

20 percent down payment. But that is not always possible or advisable. Other often-used methods are to finance the down payment separately with a home-equity loan, or a second "piggyback" mortgage loan.

The increasing use of these methods is bad news for mortgage insurers like MGIC Investment Corp. and the PMI Group Inc. These firms have been benefiting from the substantial flow of premium revenue for many years. They, of course, welcome the news about the tax deductibility of mortgage insurance premiums, but are losing revenue by the increasing number of home buyers who sidestep the need for their insurance.

Private mortgage insurance shouldn't be confused with government insurance, primarily offered through the Federal Housing Administration. This program is primarily for borrowers who are considered too risky for conventional mortgage programs. These mortgages are frequently used by first-time buyers and military veterans.

Sales of new single-family homes is down, but there are strong signs of stabilization and a strengthening market ahead, according to figures released by the U.S. Commerce Dept.

"The new-home sales report by the government is in line with what home builders have been reporting, that the market correction in terms of sales is largely behind us and the current market is stabilizing," said David Pressly, president of the National Association of Home Builders.

"A variety of market measures indicate that home sales now are stabilizing following a substantial correction from the unsustainable highs reached last year. Aggressive sales efforts by builders, combined with historically low mortgage interest rates and solid growth in employment and household income, have buoyed housing affordability in recent months," he said.

Frank Nothhaft, senior economist for Freddie Mac, had this to say about the current

See Open House, page 25

Decor

continued from page 24

Gyllenhaal and Queen Latifah).

While the characters have their ups and downs, the vertical blinds enjoy admirable camera time when a wrecking ball crashes through the window into Ferrell's apartment. And every time Emma Thompson's character studies the spectacular view through her big-city office windows, she's looking through Hunter Douglas' light-filtering Remembrance window shades.

The Columbia Pictures film acknowledges Hunter Douglas in the end credits, but so far there's no mention of an Oscar nomination.

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@copleynews.com.

Open House

continued from page 24

and future mortgage market: "Continued signs of slowing in the housing market and weakness in the manufacturing sector (are) helping to keep mortgage rates down. As a matter of fact, the 30-year fixed mortgage rate is nearly the lowest it has been over the past year.

"Looking forward in the housing market, we think that housing is about two-thirds of the way through the correction, and should stabilize by midyear 2007."

Apparently women are paying more for home mortgages than men. That's the conclusion of the Consumer Federation of America after examining factors that surfaced from a study they sponsored.

The study revealed that about a third of women took out mortgages with interest rates over 7.6 percent - well above the average prime mortgage rate of 5.8 percent, compared with about a quarter of men. The study examined 4.4 million mortgage originations nationwide where borrowers were identified by their gender. It also found that women with high incomes were 46 percent more likely than men with comparable incomes to have the more expensive mortgages.

Acidic experiment should prove to be pHun and inpHormative

By Jeff Rugg
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: I am an eighth-grader doing a science fair project involving pH and plant growth, specifically beans. If possible, please comment on

A GREENER VIEW

what you think will happen if I water the plants at pH levels 5, 6.5, 7, 8 and 9. I really would appreciate your input.

A: This is a great question and a fun hypothesis to consider. As I am sure you have found out by now, some plants prefer low-pH, acidic conditions for the soil and water they grow in, and some plants prefer the opposite conditions of high-pH, basic soil and water.

The pH of the soil affects which chemical nutrients are available to the plant, so the pH of the soil and water can be very important to know for a person trying to grow a particular kind of plant.

Plants - and animals for that matter - have a specific range of conditions for every environmental factor that is best for their growth, health and reproduction. Outside of that best state of conditions are areas that allow the organism to survive, but not thrive. Outside of those are a range of conditions that cause a slow death. Then there are the extreme conditions that cause a quick death.

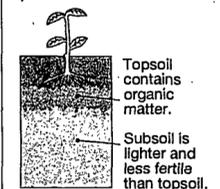
Having several factors at survival or slow death mode can still cause a quick death. For example, climbers on Mount Everest might have low

GARDEN

Healthy soil

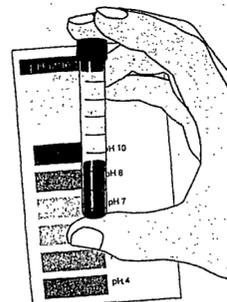
Preparing the soil is the most important step in gardening. Soil preparation can save you time, labor and money. Through a simple test and soil analysis, you can prepare healthier soil for your plants.

SOIL TEST
A test measures the soil's ability to supply nutrients to plants. This analysis provides a guide to the soil's pH levels and nutrient content. This helps determine the type of fertilizer and the amount of lime needed to grow desired plants.



SOIL TEXTURE
Soil texture is determined by the relative amounts of sand, silt and clay. Soil should have a good structure, with spaces for air and water. The ideal soil is a rich loam composed of about 20 percent clay, 40 percent silt and 40 percent sand, which results in good drainage and water retention, combined with a high fertility.

Source: Encyclopedia of Gardening



Test kits use a chemical solution that changes color when mixed with soil. Match the color to the chart to determine the condition of the soil tested.

SOIL IMPROVEMENT
Most gardens are made of soil with less than ideal conditions. Whether the soil has too much clay, sand or an unbalanced pH level, the answer is the same: adding organic materials brings its structure as close as possible to the ideal. Extra nutrients are easily added to the soil with fertilizers and lime. Lime corrects soils that lack alkaline.

Copley News Service/Bob Kast

Water may have a different pH than the soil, but it might not have much influence on the soil's pH because of all the different components in the soil. To have an effect on the soil, the water would need to have a very different pH or it would need to rinse through the soil many times. To help get around this problem in your experiment, you could use a soilless medium, such as perlite.

In fact, if the soil in your experiment has many ingredients and has a nearly neutral pH, it could counteract the effect of the more extreme pH being added through water. To compare the effect the soil is having on the experiment, you would need to simultaneously do it without soil and grow some bean seeds hydroponically using waters with different pHs.

It might be interesting to check the pH of water before and after it goes through the soil in the pot. By checking it when it gets into the saucer under the pot, you can check to see if the pH of the water was changed by the soil. If all the water comes out of the pots with a neutral pH, the soil might be affecting the pH and you will know why the plant growth didn't change. If the water's pH doesn't change, you will have good information there, too.

To give your beans the best chance at growth, make sure they get good bright light, warm temperatures (beans grow in the summertime) and pots with drainage holes so the water doesn't build up and drown your plants.

oxygen levels, low temperature levels, a need for high levels of calories, plus fatigue, which all together can cause a quick death.

Fortunately, common organisms have a high tolerance for a wide variety of conditions - that's why they are common. Beans for example, are a common garden vegetable that can

tolerate a wider variety of conditions, including pH levels, than blueberries, which need acidic conditions to grow. This, of course, is unfortunate, since I would much prefer to grow and eat blueberries than green beans.

Soil has a wide variety of components, of which air and water are very important.

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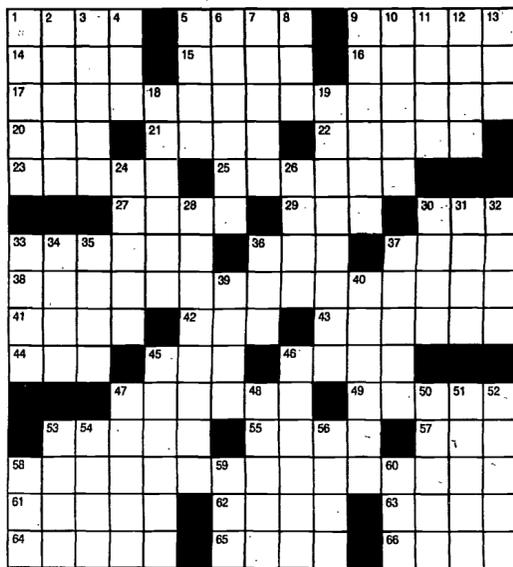
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PARTING WORDS



COPLLEY NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

- ACROSS**
- 1 Arrivederci
 - 5 Sad endings
 - 9 Au revoir
 - 14 Expert
 - 15 Canton locale
 - 16 School-year divisions
 - 17 Hemingway novel
 - 20 Understand
 - 21 Moor grass
 - 22 Dental filling
 - 23 Pamphlet
 - 25 Cheese-maker's extract
 - 27 Threadlike
 - 29 Lion tail
 - 30 Pongid
 - 33 Skin disorder
 - 36 Dudgeon
 - 37 Wing-shaped
 - 38 Philip Roth title
 - 41 Part of A.D.
 - 42 Meddle
 - 43 French star
 - 44 Ruby, of films
 - 45 Greek letter
 - 46 Smell
 - 47 Press person?
 - 49 Short dogs, for short
- DOWN**
- 53 Popular astronomer
 - 55 prius court
 - 57 Pay attachment
 - 58 1918 hit song
 - 61 John, of music
 - 62 Tuscany's river
 - 63 Great deal
 - 64 Hasta la vista!
 - 65 Roster
 - 66 Cheerio!
 - 1 Strand
 - 2 Conclude
 - 3 Circe's island
 - 4 Bobby, of hockey
 - 5 John Wayne's birthplace
 - 6 Vino, e.g.
 - 7 Diacritical mark
 - 8 Impresario Hurok
 - 9 Makes up for
 - 10 Distributed cards
 - 11 Akkadian deity
 - 12 TV award
 - 13 Letters on a carrier
 - 18 Bury
 - 19 Like a Christmas tree
 - 24 Doctrine
 - 26 Octavia's spouse
 - 28 Caller's instrument
 - 30 Toulouse- Lautrec's hometown
 - 31 Simon or Williams
 - 32 Gaelic
 - 33 An expletive
 - 34 Spruce fruit
 - 35 Time follower
 - 36 Gellid
 - 37 Roman love
 - 39 Actress Gray
 - 40 Ideal spot
 - 45 Shrimp cousins
 - 46 Familiarize
 - 47 Domed domicile
 - 48 It precedes
 - 49 Febrero
 - 50 Australian tree-dweller
 - 51 He wrote "Ash Wednesday"
 - 52 Yuletide visitor
 - 53 Small herring
 - 54 High: prefix
 - 56 Portico
 - 58 Darjeeling
 - 59 Deface
 - 60 Pistol

Last Week's Puzzle Answers

NAME GAME

D	I	M	E	T	O	L	L	E	D	E	N
A	L	L	I	T	H	A	D	A	M	I	L
B	L	A	C	K	B	E	R	R	I	V	E
H	O	E	R	M	O	T	I	V	E		
W	A	C	L	A	M	B	A	I	S	N	E
A	D	R	E	A	M	L	E	N	A	P	E
S	L	I	S	S	O	U	L	K	A	P	U
P	A	S	S	E	H	E	T	A	G	O	R
S	I	T	T	E	D	A	J	A	R	E	W
A	N	I	T	R	A	A	I	D	E	D	E
P	O	L	C	R	A	Y	O	N	S	R	O
R	U	B	A	T	O	A	G	I	N		
I	T	A	L	W	H	I	T	E	S	A	L
M	E	L	T	E	A	T	E	R	V	O	L
E	R	L	E	L	I	O	N	Y	O	K	E

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 Thomas C. Gekas
- 2nd Ralph Stempinski
- 3rd Lorraine Truskolaski
- 4th Leo Madura
- 5th Dale Trebbs

Send your answers to the editor: Andrew Schneider
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(NAPSA)-To combat the stress of everyday life, more and more people are choosing products that help them relax and rejuvenate. To learn more, visit www.homedics.com.

Social Security recipients would receive a more fair and adequate COLA if it were based on a "seniors" Consumer Price Index. Visit www.SeniorsLeague.org or call (800) 333-8725 for more information.

For a healthy American classic, alternate two Morningstar Farms veggie burgers with low-fat cheese, lettuce and tomato. For flavorful veggie burger recipes and tips, visit www.morningstarfarms.com.

Dark purple Mission or light Golden figs contribute a significant amount of fiber to the diet. For recipes and healthful information on dried figs, visit www.valleyfig.com.

Children need to use a booster seat from around age 4 until they are 4'9", which is usually after their 8th birthday. In addition, all children need to be properly restrained in the backseat until age 13. To learn more, visit chop.edu/carseat or statefarm.com/KidSafety.htm.

As the manager of Jay Leno's "Big Dog Garage," Bernard Juchli has the pleasure of working with classic cars every day. A large portion of Jay's 96 cars and 84 motorcycles are classic or vintage models and require careful maintenance.



According to Lisa Talamini, RD-Chief Nutritionist and Program Director for Jenny Craig, Inc., "Even during this hectic time of year, you can still find time to exercise and maintain a positive mindset." For healthy holiday tips, visit www.jennycraig.com.

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