

# THE BUGLE



DECEMBER 13, 2007

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## Morton Grove Tables Tax Levy Thursday

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen  
STAFF WRITER

The Morton Grove Village Board of trustees tabled an ordinance for a proposed 3.5% tax levy to a special meeting that they scheduled for this evening, Thursday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.

Trustee Roy Kogstad made a motion to amend the ordinance to reduce the proposed 3.5% tax levy by one percent to 2.5%.

"The people of Morton Grove deserve tax relief," said Kogstad. He said that the industry standard is

the "accrual" method of accounting and feels it's a more efficient way of looking at the budget as opposed to the cash method of accounting.

"I think lowering the levy is more of a political ploy," said Mayor Richard Krier, who believes the cash method is the more transparent method. He said that the accu-

al method makes it look like there's more money because of assets, etc.

"I pay taxes too," said Krier. "I live here too. We're not asking for a lot of money."

Finance Director Daniella Partipillo said that on an average tax bill, a 3.5% tax levy would be about \$15 and a 2.5% tax levy, proposed by Kogstad, would be \$11.

Earlier in the board meeting, Trustee Thill said, "Someone said to me, it's all about politics." He said he had always thought it was "all about finances" but he could understand the statement.

"I have tried to keep politics out of my decisions," said Thill. He said if the decision regarding

See Tax Levy, page 7

## Snow Hits Early; 1K Tons of Salt Used

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen  
STAFF WRITER

Village of Niles public works trucks have been out to salt the streets four times this winter.

"We've used 1,000 tons of salt," said Director of Public Works Scott Jochim. "It's a lot worse as far as salting goes."

Jochim said that the recent snowfalls have lasted for several hours so they've had to use a good amount of salt.

Niles public works trucks were out the day before Thanksgiving, Dec. 1 for the ice storm, Dec. 4 when the village got 6½ inches of snow and then the evening of Dec. 6.

During the Dec. 4 snow storm 28 trucks in Niles were out on the streets salting and plowing for about 24 hours.

Public works employees in Morton Grove were just as busy.

"We started at about 4 a.m. and finished at 3:15 p.m.," said Director of Public Works Andy Demonte.

The Village of Niles board of trustees approved repairing the entrance for the public works salt dome.

"The salt dome is about 30 years old," said Jochim, who said the entrance needs repair work.



## Christmas From Around the World

Kathleen Barton, Principal of St. Juliana School which serves Niles, Edison Park and Park Ridge, checks out the Christmas tree on display at The Summit of Uptown. The tree was decorated by the school's 4th grade Spanish and art classes under the direction of Tricia Smith and Barb Sherman. It is displayed as part of the popular Breakfast with Santa event at Summit. (Submitted Photo)

## January 1 Marks Start of State-Wide Smoking Ban

Public Forum on Smoke-Free Illinois Act On Dec. 19

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen  
STAFF WRITER

This New Year's Eve will not only be a countdown until the New Year, but it is also a countdown until the day that Illinois becomes smoke-free.

A public forum will be held in Arlington Heights to answer any questions regarding the new statewide smoking ban on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Local municipalities, such as Morton Grove and Niles, created smoking ordinances of their own after listening to concerns from residents and restaurant owners, some in favor of the ban others worried how it would have a negative impact on their business; but those villages will now have to abide by the state-wide smoking ordinance.

The Smoke-Free Illinois Act prohibits smoking in all enclosed public places and places employment throughout the entire state, except for private residences, designated rooms in hotels, long term care facilities and certain tobacco retailers.

"Breathing clean air should be everybody's right," said Cook County Board President Todd H. Stroger, in a press release. "Cook County saw the value of going smoke-free when we passed the

See Law, page 11

**INDEX** Commentary 5 • Blotter 6 • Business 8 • Schools 11 • Sports 12 • Health 14 • Seniors 15 • Have You Heard 18 • Life 19

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## Local Artist Leon Oks Displays Work

The artwork of internationally acclaimed contemporary artist, Leon Oks, of Niles, was displayed at the Morton Grove Civic Center in a complimentary art show on Dec. 1 and Dec. 2.

The show, titled World of Dreams, included a public book signing for his newly released book, Dreamscape, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

More than 16 pieces of his original art



and limited edition prints on canvas were displayed at the show hosted by Art and Beyond Studio of Morton Grove.

"Art is beauty," stated Oks, in a press release. "I think it's a powerful instrument. Most of the times viewers are mesmerized by looking at my art. They're thinking and they're enjoying."

Oks' pieces have won a first place award in several international art competitions and shows.

Oks was born in Ukraine right before World War II then left his homeland in the early 1980's to come to the United States. He now resides in Niles.

Most recently, his work has been shown in Las Vegas, New York and worldwide in Austria, Belgium, Spain, Denmark and other European countries.

To learn more about Oks those interested can check out his website at [www.leonoks.com](http://www.leonoks.com).

## PR City Manager Says Good-Bye

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen  
STAFF WRITER

Park Ridge City Manager Tim Schuenke is taking an early retirement incentive and Feb. 29, 2008 will be his final day as the city manager.

Schuenke has been the city manager of Park Ridge since 1996 and was recently recognized by the International City Management Association for his 30 years of service as a local government manager.

After much thought, Schuenke decided to take advantage of the early retirement incentive offered

to IMRF employees.

"This isn't a spur of the moment decision," said Schuenke.

"I enjoyed it very much. Park Ridge is a very good community. I think we have an excellent staff," said Schuenke. "We've got good quality people in management and supervisory positions and I think that pays off for the residents."

Schuenke said it has been a goal of his wife and his to end his career in Wisconsin because both of their extended families live in Wisconsin and he has a number of years in the Wisconsin Retirement

Fund. While he doesn't have another position lined up yet he is keeping his options open.

Mayor Frimark said Schuenke has done an "outstanding job" and has demonstrated leadership and patience in guiding the city staff through six to eight years of political turmoil while keeping a maintaining a quality staff and services.

Schuenke also recommended the adoption of Park Ridge's first long-range strategic plan.

Frimark also noted that the city has improved its tax base, "a legacy that will benefit Park Ridge significantly for years to come."

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## Maine East Fine Arts Winter Concert

The Fine Arts Department of Mairie East High School will present its annual Winter Concert on Sunday, December 16 at 2:00 p.m. in the Maine East Auditorium, 2601 W. Dempster Street. The concert, entitled The Awakening, will include performances by the school's bands, choirs and symphonic orchestra. In addition student artwork and photography will be on display in the auditorium lobby.

The program will include a wide variety of cultural and seasonal music including "Candlelight Carol," "A Festive Christmas," selections from "Nutcracker Suite" and "Avinu Malkeynu" featuring guest artist Christopher Lorimer, Professor of Voice at DePaul University.

To conclude the concert, the band, choir and orchestra will combine to perform a special selection, "Old Glory," composed

by Alexander and Frances Harley, noted Maine Township music educators who founded Tri-M International Music Honor Society. The piece was composed in 1938 to text written by Charles M. Himmel, then principal of Maine Township High School. It was last performed during the World's Largest Concert, hosted by the National Association for Music Education in 1994.

See Concert, page 11

## Henry Hyde Funeral Mass

A bi-partisan funeral mass for Congressman Henry Hyde was held on Dec. 7.

At age 83, Hyde died in Chicago from complications to heart surgery. Hyde served 32 years representing Illinois' 6th Congressional District that includes part of northwest Cook County and most of DuPage.

Hyde is well known for his fight against abortion and the impeachment of President Clinton.

"He was a very fine legislator and a good friend and was always there," said John Owens, a Park Ridge resident, who worked with Hyde on his political finance committee.

"I knew him most of his career," said Owens, who describes him as a "jovial" person who was always there if you had a question or concern.

"He'll be missed both in Congress and by his friends," said Owens, who knew him for

about 40 years.

Both attorneys, Owens and Hyde worked together on a legal case in the past as well.

"Over his 32 years in Congress, Henry Hyde was known for his strong convictions and beliefs. While we often disagreed, we were always able to talk about our differences and work together on bipartisan efforts such as ending the genocide in Sudan and the AIDS epidemic in Africa. Henry Hyde worked hard to serve his constituents and the interests of Illinois. He will be missed," according to a statement by Rep. Jan Schakowsky.

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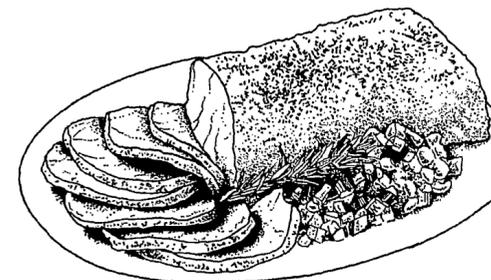
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## Niles Grandparents Grandson Receives Gold Star on Kid Nation

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen  
STAFF WRITER

Pat Neukirch, of Niles, is proud to report that her grandson, Hunter Jeffers, has won a gold star worth \$20,000 on the reality television show Kid Nation.

Out of the 40 children, 13 children receive a gold star for their hard work. An elected council of kids awards one child a gold star at the end of each episode.

The premise of the show is that

the kids work together to create a functioning society on a remote ranch in New Mexico.

"We're very proud of him," said Neukirch, about her 13-year-old grandson being awarded a gold star.

The kids have the option of keeping the gold star or receiving a check for \$20,000 and getting a replica of the gold star. Neukirch said her grandson's family chose to take the \$20,000.

At Hunter's home in Georgia his family held a big party with 150 people. They raffled off items from the show and raised money that will be donated to the Make a Wish foundation.

"It was really an honor and it was so fun," said Neukirch, about her grandson's involvement in the reality show.

Ron and Pat Neukirch have lived in Niles for 38 years and Hunter's mother, Dawn, grew up in Niles and attended Gemini Jr. High School and Maine East High School.

Scott Neukirch, the village finance director, is Hunter's uncle and believes the experience has been a great one for his nephew.



## Maine Township Student Government Day

Maine Twp. Supervisor Carol A. Teschky, standing, took a special interest in Student Government Day at Maine Township Friday. Here, she meets for a working lunch with students from all three Maine high schools to explain how township government works. Students also had a chance to tour two of the social service agencies funded by the township. Later, they conducted mock agency funding hearings to conclude their full day of activities.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Budget Fallacies In Morton Grove

After attending one of the Morton Grove budget workshops and watching the other two on replay by Comcast, I came to certain conclusions. It seems like the only big benefactors of this budget are the village employees (4% plus raises in salaries), police and fire (continued large contributions to their pension funds), and contractors doing work in the Lehig Ferris TIF. The residents were way down the list, with no relief from the annoying garbage tax, or municipal taxes.

There is a large sum of money (around 6 million dollars) in our General Fund, presumably there to help the village with any sudden shortfalls in spending. The gloom and doom trustees are preparing for a catastrophic event in the village, like a tornado or earthquake. I have been living here over 20 years and have not seen one catastrophe of any magnitude. There are always options to take out short-term loans, if

the need arises. Point is, once the village board gets a hold of taxpayer money, they are reluctant to give it back. A proposal by Trustee's Minx and Kogstad to use some money from the General Fund to change the tax levee and also reduce the garbage tax was met by either silent opposition, or complaints of last minute changes to the budget, as if it were written in stone.

A problem of leaf accumulation in the village was mentioned because this year the leaves fell later than usual, and the landfills have already shut down their acceptance. This gives more impetus for an argument of the village setting up our own composting operation to accept leaves, any time of the year. There is plenty of land south of Oakton St. to set up something like that. Maybe if we spent less on parking lots on Dempster St., we could afford to set aside some land for this project.

Sherwin Dubren  
Morton Grove



Bush responds to the National Intelligence Estimate on Iran

## What Child Is This

Which child do you prefer? Child A cannot control himself. He shows no self-restraint, pursuing whatever he wants whenever he wants it without regard to consequences or harm. Child B is thoughtful, thinks before he acts, looks to the future and plans for it.

Child B doesn't exist by accident. He has been raised right and taught which paths to walk. Yet, how often in our culture do we celebrate children with focus, determination and commitment? We have sports pages in our local papers that celebrate victories on the field, mat and track. Those are important to recognize. They are fun and a source of pride both for parents and children. Kids in sports tend to avoid some of the more serious problems our chil-



Another Perspective  
MORGAN DUBIEL | COLUMNIST

dren face today; to succeed in this arena takes effort, focus and a lot of practice.

On much rarer occasion we see those who achieve academically in our local media, but it is at a miniscule volume. Yet, those that achieve academically take just as much if not more focus and determination. Kids that are working hard to develop their minds also avoid the worst elements and traumas in

the world. There is a strong link between academic achievement & low drug or alcohol use. Academic achievement is better than sports achievement in determining future success as an adult. It is unusual to read a story about academic success, but we are seeing more and more of them.

Virginity is something we don't even celebrate at all. Movies, television and the media reinforce the idea that staying sexually pure is some kind of disease or disorder. While we hear parents say that their child 'caught the winning pass' or 'is getting straight As', we never hear parents say their child 'is committed to sexual abstinence'. Why the double standard?

Sexually active teens face all  
See Perspective, page 10

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FDIC

# \$1,650 Vehicle Scooter Lift Stolen from Business

## MORTON GROVE

**1 Vehicle Scooter Lift Stolen** (6000 block of Dempster)  
Unknown person or persons took a vehicle scooter lift from a business in the 6000 block of Dempster on Nov. 29. The lift is worth about \$1,650, police said.

**2 Theft of Gas** (9500 block of Waukegan)  
The driver of a vehicle pulled up to gas pump and pumped \$77 worth of gas and left without paying southbound on Waukegan on Nov. 30.

**3 Criminal Damage to Property** (7800 block of Golf)  
Unknown person or persons spray painted graffiti on the front living room window of a residence in the 7800 block of Golf between Nov. 28 and Nov. 30.

**4 Employee Stealing Money from Register** (7200 block of Dempster)  
A 39-year-old Chicago man who was employed by a company in the 7200 block of Dempster was arrested on Dec. 3 for stealing money over a period of several months. Police said more than \$7,000 was taken from the register. The court date was Dec. 7.

**5 Traffic Violation** (Lincoln and Menard)  
A 21-year-old Morton Grove man was arrested after being stopped for a traffic violation on Dec. 5. The court date is Jan. 8.

**6 No Valid Driver's License** (Dempster and Menard)  
A 23-year-old Des Plaines man was arrested on Dec. 4 for driving without a valid driver's license. The court date is Dec. 19.

## NILES

**7 Man Steals Passport, Then Asked Victim For \$500** (6800 block of Milwaukee Ave.)  
An unknown male stole a black leather jacket containing a passport and car keys from a pub and then called the victim that evening and said, "I have your passport and I want \$500." The victim didn't give him money.

**8 Suspicious Incident** (8100 block of Prospect Ct.)  
While the resident of a home in the 8100 block of Prospect Ct. was snow plowing his driveway he noticed the offender who said he was interested in purchasing the home next door but needed to check his base-

ment for a water leak on Dec. 6. The resident and the offender entered the resident's home and police said the complainant believes that three other people entered the home as well.

**9 Paint Ball Shot at Home** (8200 block of New England)  
Unknown person or persons used a paint ball gun to shoot paint balls at a home in the 8200 block of New England on Dec. 3.

**10 Construction Worker for Oasis Water Park Injured** (7800 block of N. Milwaukee)  
While performing his normal work activities, a worker accidentally shot himself in the hand with a nail gun on Dec. 3.

**11 Perfume Stolen** (200 Golf Mill)  
A woman stole perfume worth \$92 from a store at 200 Golf Mill on Dec. 3.  
**12 Criminal Damage to Business** (7100 block of Dempster)  
Unknown person or persons

used a hard object to break the front door glass of a business in the 7100 block of Dempster between Dec. 4 and Dec. 5.

**13 Felony Residential Burglary** (8100 block of N. Greenwood)  
An 18-year-old Niles man was arrested for felony residential burglary on Dec. 5 after he committed a burglary with a 15-year-old Des Plaines male. The court date was Dec. 11.

**14 Domestic Battery** (Grace and Davis)  
A 20-year-old Park Ridge male was arrested on Dec. 3 after striking a woman with a closed fist and then fleeing on foot. Bond was set at \$50,000 and the court date was Dec. 12.

**15 Video Game System Stolen** (6100 block of Touhy)  
A 19-year-old Chicago man was arrested on Dec. 4 for concealing a \$600 video game system in a box priced at \$20. The man also left the store with \$289 worth of other products. The bond is \$1,500 and the court date was Dec. 11.

**16 Driving with Suspended License/Speeding** (7400 block of Milwaukee)  
A 28-year-old Morton Grove man was arrested on Dec. 7 for speeding and driving with a suspended license. The bond is \$1,000 and the court date is Jan. 21.

## PARK RIDGE

**17 Suspicious Person Confronts Child** (Western and Stewart)  
A male in his late 30s, driving a silver Audi, drove up next to an 11-year-old female walking to school at Western and Stewart and asked her name, what school she attended and if she wanted a ride on Nov. 30. The girl did not talk to him and continued walking to school where she reported the incident, said police.

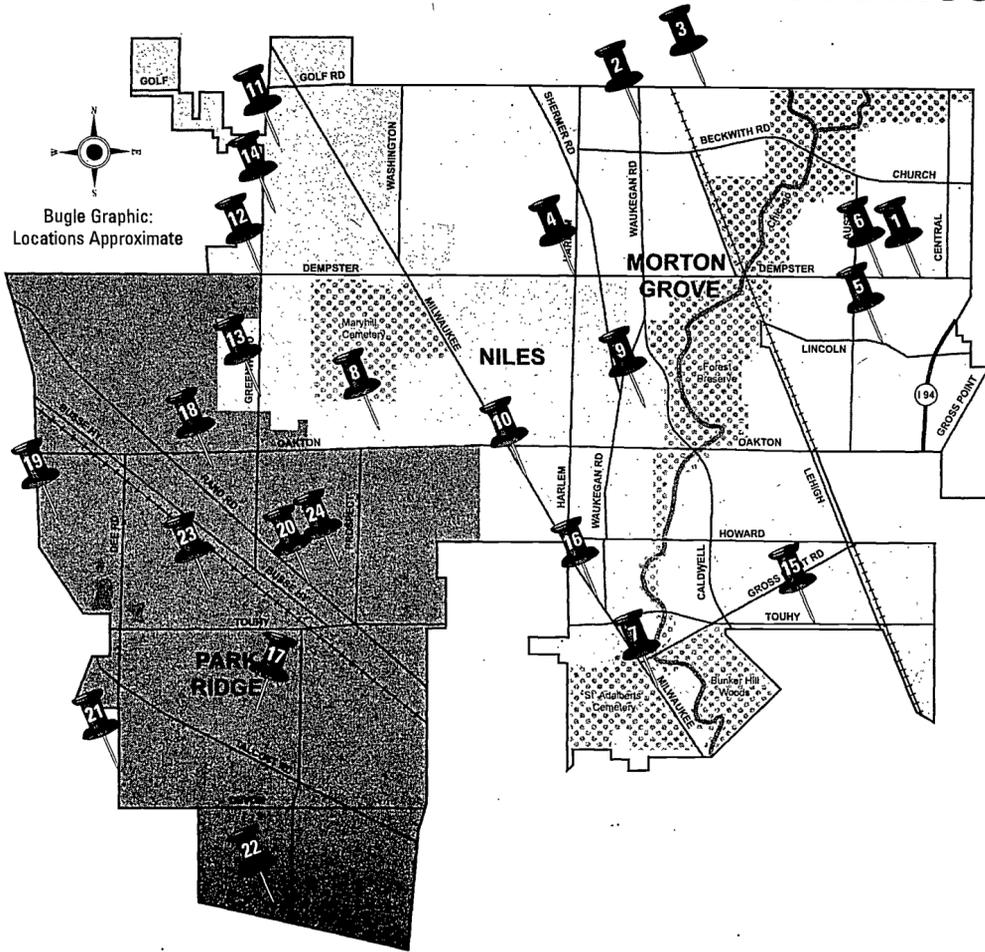
**18 Snow blower Taken** (1500 block of N. Laverne)  
Unknown person or persons entered an unlocked garage in

the 1500 block of N. Laverne and removed a Craftsman snow blower worth \$450 sometime between Dec. 3 and Dec. 4.

**19 Raw Egg Freezes on Vehicle** (700 block of N. Goodwin)  
Unknown person or persons threw a raw egg at a vehicle in the 700 block of N. Goodwin and the egg froze on the vehicle on Nov. 30. The estimated damage is \$200.

**20 Three Baby Blankets Stolen** (100 block of N. Northwest Hwy.)  
Three unknown females entered a retail store in the 100 block of N. Northwest Hwy. and left without paying for three baby blankets worth \$180 on Dec. 2.

**21 Theft from School** (1100 block of S. Dee)  
Unknown person or persons removed a cell phone worth \$179 from an unattend-



## Tax Levy

continued from page 1

the tax levy is about politics, then "I'll be dragged down the political trail, kicking and screaming."

"I would urge you not to take more money from us the tax payers," commented resident, Pat Kansoer, who believes the cash accounting method "works against transparency."

Former village trustee Dan DiMaria attended the board meeting to share his thoughts on the tax levy.

"I don't think it's fiscally

responsible to lower the levy," said DiMaria. "At the same time I don't think it's fiscally responsible to raise the levy."

DiMaria said having businesses come to Morton Grove, such as the OTB that went to Niles instead, would have made the tax levy/financial situation a lot easier.

Trustees Kogstad, Thill and Staackmann voted in favor of the motion to reduce the tax levy, but four votes were needed for approval. The trustees will continue to discuss the tax levy at tonight's meeting.

## Blotter

continued from page 6

ed backpack in the boy's locker room of a high school in the 1100 block of S. Dee on Dec. 4.

**22 Theft from Vehicle** (1000 block of W. Peterson)  
Unknown person or persons removed a trunk and hood ornaments from a vehicle in the 1000 block of W. Peterson sometime between Dec. 1 and Dec. 4. The items taken are worth \$200.

**23 Outstanding Park Ridge Warrant For Reckless Driving** (200 block of N. Knight)  
A 20-year-old Park Ridge man was taken into custody for an outstanding Park Ridge warrant for reckless driving on Nov. 29. The bond is \$5,000 and court date is Jan. 10.

**24 Pumpkin Smashes Windshield** (300 block of N. Grand Blvd.)  
Unknown person or persons used a pumpkin to smash the windshield of a vehicle between Nov. 29 and Nov. 30. The estimated cost of the damage is unknown.

Joseph Hedrick, CRS  
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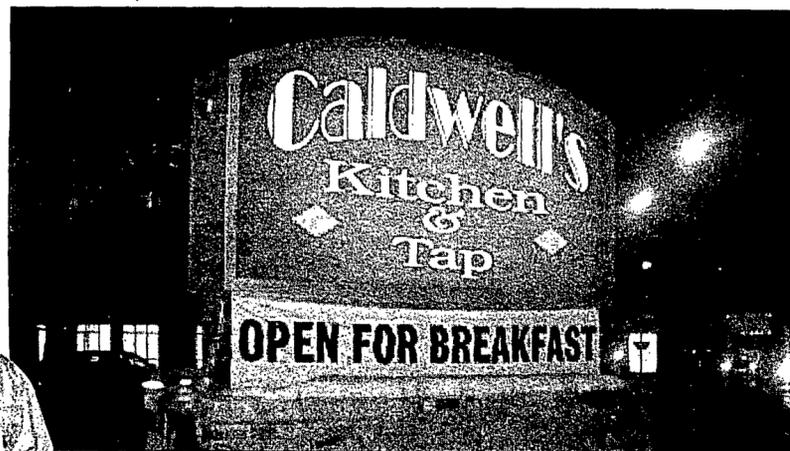
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# Caldwell's Kitchen & Tap: A Second Home

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen  
STAFF WRITER

Caldwell's Kitchen and Tap in Niles can be considered a "Home Away from Home." Open from 7 a.m. until 1 a.m. Monday through Saturday, customers can order from a menu that offers a wide array of items, anytime of day or night that they are hungry.



"We try to create a "warm feeling" here at Caldwell's. It's the perfect place for a "home away from home" and a great after work hang out as well." **Greg Bucko** | CALDWELL'S MANAGER

Greg Bucko

The manager of Caldwell's is Greg Bucko, who has been the manager for the past year and a half. The owners used to own and operate Melrose Restaurant that was at the same location

for about 13 years. Bucko said although Caldwell's has a very different look and a classy ambiance, the prices are about the same as they were at Melrose. Bucko said they try to create

a "warm feeling" at Caldwell's, located at 7201 N. Caldwell Ave. He said it's the perfect place for a "home away from home" and a great after work hang out as well. The restaurant features a bar and

televisions that broadcast sporting events.

The menu offers Athenian chicken breast, chicken breast gorgonzola, buffalo chicken wrap, lake superior whitefish, tilapia, London broil, Caldwell's meatloaf, spicy shrimp marinara, spaghetti pomodoro, tangy barbeque ribs, various sandwiches, burgers, salads and appetizers and much more. There are specials that change everyday.

On certain nights, live musical performances take place at Caldwell's and during special occasions, such as the Superbowl, they hold special parties. During the summertime, people enjoy dining outside on the patios.

About 30 employees work under Bucko, who has much experience in the restaurant business. He previously worked at restaurants, such as Gale Street Inn.

Stel Mallios and her family own Caldwell's.

Caldwell's is open from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. on Sundays and 7 a.m. until 1 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

## Season of Giving, Part 1

By Carrie Schwab Pomerantz  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

It is the season of giving. In the next three articles, I'm going to talk about ideas for giving in every sense of the word - giving to our friends and families; giving the gift of knowledge (a gift we should all give more often to those we care about); and giving to charity. This week features the joys and dangers of present giving.

The old cliché seems even truer this year: Christmas comes earlier every year. The weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas represent the busiest shopping season of the year, with retailers of every kind working overtime to convince us that the secret of holiday happiness is in buying and giving more. We all know, philosophically, the speciousness of that argument, but it's hard not to get caught up in the holiday frenzy.

Now I don't want to come off like Ebenezer Scrooge. Holiday shopping is fun, but don't let the spirit of the season wreak havoc with your finances.

There's nothing worse than the post-holiday remorse you may feel when a flurry of credit card bills arrives in January. Here are some simple steps you can take to help approach the holiday shopping season prudently:

■ **Make a budget:** Start by determining a budget for holiday shopping, a budget that's reasonable for you. Be honest with yourself about how much you can afford to spend, and don't feel pressured to give beyond your means. You don't want to break the bank just because it's the holiday season.

■ **Be cautious with credit cards:** Credit cards are convenient and useful, but it doesn't help you curb the impulse to spend. Consider paying for your presents with cash. An eye-opening study at Massachusetts Institute of Technology confirmed that people are willing to spend considerable more money on a particular item when they pay with credit instead of cash. In a similar vein, be wary of store promos that will entice you to open yet

See Money, page 10

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## Dear Franks: Where They Know Your Name & Your Order

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen

After dining at Dear Franks a few times, employees will start to know your name and your order.

Dear Franks is located at 5699 W. Touhy Ave. in Niles at the Village Crossing Shopping Center.

The menu features a variety of hot dogs including a double dog, chili cheese dog and jumbo char dog; various hamburgers, gyros, Italian beef sandwiches, bratwursts, fried fish sandwich, grilled pork chop sandwich, dessert and much more.

There are a variety of sides, such as breaded mushrooms and mozzarella sticks to choose from and a menu just for the kids. There are also healthier options such as turkey burgers, veggie stir-fry and fresh salads.

Prior to the family-owned and operated business taking over, the restaurant used to be U-Dawg-U.

Owner Randy Kash said the menu is very similar but they have added more sandwiches. He operates the restaurant with his brother, Jeff.

"The owners are always on site, working and visiting with the customers," said Kash. After a few visits to Dear Franks, Kash said the employees know the names of their customers and even start preparing their meal when they see regulars pull up in the parking lot. "It's a more personal feel," said Kash, compared to other big chain fast food joints.

Kash said the employees are well known because many of them were working for U-Dawg-U for several years and are now employed by Dear Franks.

Kash said their location on Touhy in Niles has been an excellent place for a hot dog joint.

Dear Franks is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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**Perspective**

continued from page 5

kinds of social, physical, psychological, emotional and moral difficulties. They are less likely to achieve academic success, more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, and more likely to get caught up not just in unwholesome lifestyles, but negative ones including criminality. Studies show that these children are more likely to be pursued by adult predators. 80% of children in poverty are born to unmarried mothers. The risks simply do not outweigh the momentary pleasure and false feelings of belonging and love that these children experience through sex.

The commitment to sexual

"Sexually active teens face all kinds of social, physical, psychological, emotional and moral difficulties. They are less likely to achieve academic success, more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, and more likely to get caught up not just in unwholesome lifestyles, but negative ones including criminality."

abstinence is probably more challenging and difficult than sports or academic success. It is not positively reinforced in our popular culture. Music preaches hyper-sexuality to children. Television and movies essentially lie about the negative aspects of sexual promiscuity or they simply ignore the consequences. Instead of recognizing and celebrating the mature determination of these young adults they are more likely to be ridiculed.

Yet, think about the level headedness, maturity and amount of determination this decision entails. Studies show that teens who abstain from sex are less likely to be depressed and to attempt suicide; to experience STDs; to have children out-of-wedlock; and to live in poverty and welfare dependence as adults. Best of all, teens who delay sexual activity are more likely to have stable and enduring marriages as adults. Successful families are the foun-

ation of Western civilization. We are right to celebrate our children's sports and academic achievements. But, the challenge this next generation faces is a moral one. Giving proper due and recognition to decisions that show integrity, personal worth, and maturity need celebrating too.

I mean do we really want our daughter's boyfriends to say, "I've slept with most of your daughters friends, I'll have her home by midnight"? Or our

son's girlfriends to say, "I like football players, all of them, and your son is number 97."? High standards originate with those children look up to for guidance and direction. Despite all the attacks on families from all the sources in the world, study after study indicates that the advice and guidance they most want is from their parents. Those same studies show that teens feel they get too little of it. What should parents do? Talk to your kids about your expectations and support their success in achieving and maintaining them. Children desperately want rules, limits and high standards. Science is finally proving what religion has been preaching. How much more evidence do you need?

**Money**

continued from page 9

another credit account with a one-time discount. Often these accounts carry a hefty interest rate, and you could find yourself left with a very expensive debt load.

Think about shopping online. Some people are more prudent shoppers when they

shop online. If window-shopping and crowded malls trigger your buying impulse, consider doing more shopping on the Internet.

Make a list: Pair your gift list with your budget, and you'll have a good tool for making decisions. If your list is long and your budget is small, be creative. Baked goods are always welcome in the Schwab-

Pomerantz household.

Quality vs. quantity: This is old advice but it's good. "It's the thought that counts." A thoughtful, well-chosen present will always be received with gratitude and pleasure, no matter how much it cost. And when it comes to your kids, remember that most of them have plenty. Don't overdo it when shopping for the kids.

Cash can be a meaningful present; a gift of money earmarked for a larger purpose or a long-term goal can be a great present. Open a savings account or custodial account for your child as a way to get them involved with personal finance. One way to keep them interested and motivated is to match their future contributions to the account.

Create a college savings plan for a child or grandchild. Or perhaps you can jump-start the process of saving for a once-in-a-lifetime family trip that will create lasting memories. The point, I think, is to go beyond the usual gift cards or gift certificates, and instead contribute to a meaningful goal.

In essence, remember your priorities as you shop for the holidays and be true to them. Generosity is a wonderful thing, and if you have the urge, by all means act on it. But be charitable in a way that reflects your realities and values.

The goal of gift giving, it seems to me, is to acknowledge in a tangible way that you care about people. It shouldn't become an onerous duty or a financial burden, but a source of pleasure.

Carrie Schwab Pomerantz is chief strategist, Consumer Education, Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. You can e-mail Carrie at askcarrie@schwab.com.

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# SCHOOLS

## Gemini Junior High School Recognized For Academic Improvement

The Illinois State Board of Education recently presented Gemini Junior High School with an academic improvement award.

In order to earn the award a school must have shown an improvement of at least 7.5 points in the state test scores in both reading and mathematics between 2005 and 2006, an improvement of at least 15 points in state test scores in reading in math between 2004 to 2006 and an upward trend in state test results.

"This does not happen without the dedication and commitment of staff, students and community," said State Supt. of Education

Christopher A. Koch, in a letter.

"I acknowledge your leadership and applaud your accomplishment. It is obvious that you and the staff at your school are improving the educational experience in your students."

Gemini School has also been removed from the NCLB improvement status.

Principal Scott Hermann believes the success of their students is directly related to their efforts as a staff.

Hermann believes the efforts of the staff have also helped to close the gap between the highest and lowest achieving students at Gemini.

**Law**

continued from page 1

Cook County Clean Indoor Air Ordinance last March. Smoke-Free Illinois ensures that customers and employees can be protected from secondhand smoke in offices, restaurants and businesses throughout the state. This is truly a victory for every citizen.

The forum will be held at the Arlington Heights Senior Center at 1801 W. Central Rd. from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Cook County Department of Public Health will work with the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the Respiratory Health Association and the Illinois Department of Public Health to answer questions

and provide information about the new law at the public forum.

Residents, elected officials, business and restaurant owners and members of Cook County Chambers of Commerce are invited to attend the free event.

A forum will also be held on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Tinley Park Village Hall.

"It will be very difficult to continue to be a smoker, particularly if you reside in this state," said CCDPH director Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H. in a press release. "Take this opportunity to stop smoking and live a healthier life. There are multiple ways to get help, from our online quit service to the Illinois Quit Line. Call our tobacco prevention staff for information about cessation programs."

**Concert**

continued from page 3

Audience members will then be asked to join in by lending their voices to a performance of the

Maine Alma Mater.

Admission is free and the public is encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Edward Eubank, Fine Arts Department Chair at (847) 692-8498.



## 20th 'Field Follies' Show

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen | STAFF WRITER

The 20th annual production of Field Follies, a show written by fifth grade students at Field School, attracted a big crowd once again. This year's show, titled "Band Aid", was held on Friday, Nov. 9, Saturday, Nov. 10 and Sunday, Nov. 11. More than 300 students from kindergarten through fifth grade and more than 100 parent volunteers contributed in order to make this year a huge success. There were four sold-out performances. "Each scene consisted of an act, a song and a dance," said Karen Marino, a parent of two kids at Field School. "We sell out every single show." Marino and Mike and Erin Paluch of the Field School PTO produced the show that was sponsored by the PTO. Some of the 13 acts were called "Cheetah-licious Mystery," "School of Wok," "ABC, More Food For Me," "Green Peach Day," and "Rumpelstiltskin's Devo Dilemma." Many volunteers helped with behind the scenes jobs involving music, costumes, props, set design, set construction, runners, tickets, hall monitors, ushers and more.

## Maine East Gifted Students Assist 'The Harbour' For Service Project

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen  
STAFF WRITER

Gifted students at Maine East High School are currently completing a service learning project that involves working with The Harbour, a safe place for girls who were previously living in dangerous circumstances.

The Junior Gifted Lyceum program is composed of the top ranked students in the 11th grade.

"In order to help this organization, we have decided to renovate and clean up, donate funds and fund certain services such as "Mommy and Me" classes that the girls would really benefit from," said Elma Lugonjic, a stu-

dent at Maine East who is a member of the gifted program. "In order to be successful in this we need to get the word out to our community. We will be having fundraisers such as Coin Buckets to raise money for this service learning project."

The students recently put up a giving tree asking the Maine East staff to take a name from the tree and donate baby items for the Harbour's residents who have small children and they are donating a Christmas tree to the local residence.

So far, they have already raised \$500 and are donating a computer to the Des Plaines residence.

"The kids need to raise over

\$5,000 to complete the tasks they have planned for the next two years," said Judy Tyler, Gifted Coordinator at Maine East.

"The Lyceum program has definitely changed me and the rest of my classmates for the better," shared Lugonjic. "It has made us aware of all the problems our society is currently facing, and it has opened up our eyes to all that we could do to fix those problems. Lyceum has definitely been an inspiring program to participate in."

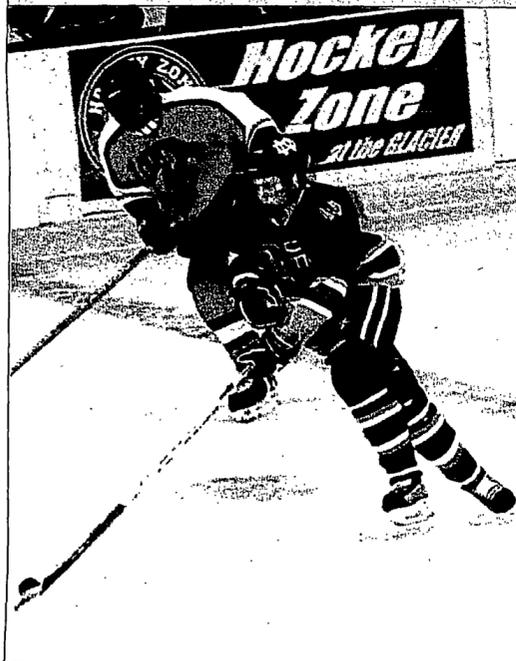
"It has made us all a little bit more optimistic about our futures, and about being able to go on to do good things with our lives."

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Dons Ranked 10th



Notre Dame High School's Varsity Hockey Team is currently ranked 10th in Illinois according to the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois Inc. (Photo Courtesy Notre Dame)

Dons Wrestling Making Progress

In the dual against Addison Trail the Dons were down 18 points early but were able to come back and pull out an 39-21 Victory. Leading the way were Sr.112 Alex Tsakanis, Jr. 140 Bill Gavin, Jr. 145 Tim Gavin, Jr. 152 Denis Walsh, Sr. 160 Joe Metzger, Jr. 171 Sean O'Hara, Soph. 189 Brian Ridge, Sr. Bo Cisek and Jr. Heavyweight Jack Thompson.

In the dual against State Ranked Oak Park, Notre Dame took it on the chin, our inexperience really showed as we were only able to win one match, we did have our opportunities in 4 or 5 others but we were unable to finish. Sr. 215 Bo Cisek won the only bout 10-2.

In the dual against Conant the Dons did wrestle better, losing 32-23. Winning for us

were Soph. 103 Kevin Heneghan, Sr. 112 Alex Tsakanis, Jr. 125 Vince Metzger, Soph. 189 Brian Ridge, Sr. 215 Bo Cisek, and Jr. Heavyweight Jack Thompson.



We have alot of work in front of us but as long as the team does what they are suppose to do, everything else will fall into place. We will only have 4 seniors in the lineup at one time during the season, so we are not only working for this season but for the future. Notre Dame Wrestling will be fine.

At the J.V.Tournament at Buffalo Grove, Coaches Ed Luety and Joe Masciopinto pushed their team to a Runner-up finish as 8 wrestlers made it to the finals. Leading the way were 135 pound Soph Matt McNulty,

152 pound Jr. Dave Messina, 189 pound Jr. Eric Damlos, wrestling heavyweight 200 pound Jr. Marc Nunes, all Champions. Runner-ups were 119 pound Soph Mike Resurreccion, 145 pound Jr. Kevin Peters, 171 pound Anthony Czahor and at 215 Jr. Mike Carr, also earning a Championship but not scoring team points because he was wrestling unattached was 215 pound Soph. Eric Schuler.

"The interesting part about this season will be that Notre Dame will have 3 Legacy's wrestling for us that have dad's that wrestled for me in the 80's. They are Soph. 103 pound Kevin Heneghan, Fr. 135-140 pound Jim Wallenberg and Fr. 103 pound Matt Sommers. This is a true Honor for the Notre Dame program."

IHSA Takes Legal Action in Dispute

In an effort to bring definitive resolution to a dispute over the sale of photographs of IHSA events, the IHSA has filed a counterclaim against several Illinois newspapers asking the court to stop the newspapers' practice of selling photographs taken at IHSA State Championship events. The countersuit, filed in Springfield, is in response to the lawsuit filed earlier against the IHSA by the Illinois Press Association and two of its member newspapers.

Several Illinois newspapers are in violation of a long-standing IHSA policy that prohibits the sale of photographs taken at IHSA-sponsored events. The media is allowed entry into IHSA events under a Media Pass, conditioned on the agreement



to abide by IHSA policies, including the agreement not to sell photographs taken at the events. The newspapers named in the counterclaim advertised photographs of IHSA events for sale on their Web sites and elsewhere. All had been asked to cease the practice of advertising and selling IHSA State Championship photos, but refused to do so. The counterclaim also requests damages

arising from the violations.

The IHSA has no objection to a broad range of traditional uses for newspaper photographs such as publishing them in newspapers and the more recent practice of posting them in newspapers' online photo galleries. However, the IHSA policy is explicit in prohibiting their sale. The policy is similar to policies enacted by the Big Ten Conference, the University of Illinois, Illinois State University and many others. "We are in no way interfering with any newspaper's ability to report the news," explained Executive Director Marty Hickman. "You don't need to sell a photo in order to report the news, nor does selling the photo enhance the news."

Continued on next page

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Hot Mamas	47	44
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Wanderers	45	46
Lucky Ladies	39	52
Last Ones Out	30	61

High Series/Game: Lori Loquercio 547/189, Lucy Augustine 514/181, Kim Colombani 493/185, Carol Szubart 475/189, Kathy Favata 467/166, Julie Barrera 465/172, Deanne Drozd 460/167, Susan De La Cruz 188, Kay Pecoraro 170, Karen Kreher 168, Janet Trozzo 167

LaDainian Tomlinson Has New Fan

Have you ever thought what it would be like to be a professional sports hero? I have on numerous occasions and like many who dream about such glory, it's usually the spoils of the victor that motivate my dream. The flashy red sports car, the million dollar home, the tropical vacations and of course the perfect smile that will put you on the cover of your favorite magazine. Society today is not much different than in Roman gladiator times in terms of putting athletes on a pedestal. Competition can level a field that doesn't care which side of the tracks you grew up on only whether or not you had the courage to cross them. I

have to admit that the thought of financial security is a compelling motivator to get out of bed every morning and forge toward a fictitious future of perfect happiness. There are those who get to the top and implode almost as quickly as they rose and those who ascend to great heights without ever leaving the ground. One of my all time favorite pro athletes was Chicago Bear great Walter Payton who's character on and off the field has become his legacy. There are so many examples of those who put life before sport and another one was profiled last weekend on 60 Minutes after a football game. San Diego Charger LaDainian



Chalk Talk ROBERT LEACH | SPORTS EDITOR

Tomlinson has found a new fan after watching the report on who he is and what he stands for. Is he a great football player, yes but it is his off the field actions that impressed me.

Tomlinson is a giver plain and simple. He gives of himself freely and usually to those who could never repay him. He hasn't let the money he makes define him, in fact when asked what was more important to him on the field or off the field he was quick to respond off the field. Here is a player that will never hear the crowd stop cheering for him long after his playing days are through. When I look in the mirror I take inventory of what I have accomplished in my life thus far and I realize I have missed the mark so many times. This Christmas season I am reminded that life isn't about what you get but what you give. As if

Tomlinson wasn't enough to admire, Heisman Trophy winner sophomore quarterback Tim Tebow for Florida opened his acceptance speech with his thanks for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Yep another jersey I have to go out and buy this holiday season. I have and continue to publicly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior as well but admittedly I have not been as faithful to Him as He has been to me. With all the recent reports of athletes falling victim to their own success, it is refreshing to see that new heroes are born every day. Now off to find that number 21 Chargers jersey. As always, I'll see you in the stands!

Continued from previous page

The IHSA has an agreement with VIP Photography granting VIP exclusive rights to sell photographs of IHSA State Championship events. In exchange, VIP provides thousands of photographs to the IHSA free of charge each year.

In early August, IHSA

Executive Director Marty Hickman met with the leadership of the Illinois Press Association and its attorney and asked the Illinois Press Association to enumerate its concerns in writing so that IHSA could deal with them formally. The Illinois Press Association did not send such a list; instead, it chose to file the lawsuit against the

Illinois High School Association. In November, a judge denied the Illinois Press Association's request for a temporary restraining order, which would have allowed the sales, and urged the two sides to continue their negotiations. The Illinois Press Association then withdrew its request for a preliminary injunction, but

its members continued to sell the photos.

Because the press association has shown no interest in continuing to discuss this issue, and the newspapers have continued their practice of selling photos from IHSA State Championship events, IHSA was compelled to file its own claim.

"We believe that the law

allows the IHSA to have a contract with VIP granting them the exclusive rights to sell IHSA State Championship photos. Certain newspapers are intentionally interfering with that contract and taking advantage of the access we give them to our events," stated IHSA Executive Director Marty Hickman.

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By Scott LaFee  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

A new study suggests the notion that "thin is beautiful" has permeated all American ethnic groups, with a resulting increase in eating disorders and weight control behaviors, even among boys.

The Wesleyan University study, one of the first to examine trends in adolescent weight control behaviors, examined nationally representative samples of high school students from 1995 to 2005.

Not surprisingly, it found that dieting and diet product use among female adolescents significantly increased during this time period. Male adolescents also dieted more, but also showed greater interest in exercise.

Black female adolescents are the least likely to practice weight control, according to the researchers. White female adolescents are the most likely. Among males, white adolescents are the least likely to practice weight control; Hispanic adolescents the most likely.

The increase in weight control behaviors among males, say the study's authors, indicates increasing social pressure for

men to achieve unrealistic body ideals.

The authors suggest that black women tend to have more flexible concepts of beauty, which may make them less

## Lifelong Dieting Study

A new study suggests the notion that "thin is beautiful" has permeated all American ethnic groups, with a resulting increase in eating disorders and weight control behaviors, even among boys. (CNS Photo)

vulnerable to social pressure. However, this may put them at increased risk for becoming overweight, given the current environment of super-sized portions of nutritionally deficient foods.

**Medtronic**  
Everyday health, everyday health.com

A general site for health news and advice, covering everything from acne to cancer. Diverse links feature Q&As with experts, a video library on various dis-

ease topics and patients' stories.

### Stories for the Waiting Room

In medieval England, a common cure for tooth-aches was to take a lit candle and

"It sure looks flat," agreed the second doctor.

"It feels flat," confirmed the third doctor.

The three doctors then stood, scratching their heads and wondering what they should do, until, in unison, they declared: "We'd better run some tests."

### Never Say Diet

The world's speed-eating record for strawberry shortcake is 15.25 pounds in 8 minutes, held by Patrick Bertolotti.

### Body of Knowledge

There are more than 1,500 miles of airways in a pair of adult lungs, connecting approximately 300 million alveoli or air sacs. Laid flat, the inside of the alveoli would cover an area the size of a tennis court.

### Phobia of the Week

**Scolerophobia** - fear of worms

**Curtain Calls**  
In the 1960s, Jerome Rodale, 72, was a talk show regular who touted his "secrets" for growing old with vigor and style. Rodale claimed he intended to live to be 100.

In 1971, he was a guest on the "Dick Cavett Show," tossing one-liners with the host and another guest when his head suddenly dropped to his chest and he let out a loud snore.

Cavett asked Rodale if the conversation was boring him.

Moments passed, before anyone realized Rodale had simply, suddenly died. Cause of death: An undiagnosed kidney inflammation that resulted in a quick and fatal cerebral hemorrhage.

### You Look Marvelous

Pump up your ego and hoist some weights. Research in the journal Body Image shows that for women, the ability to lift more weight improves body image more than simply looking better. In a study of 44 men and women, researchers found that women scored higher on body image assessments after seeing an increase in the amount of weight they could lift and strength they gained. Men's body image, however, improved only when they thought they looked better.

### Cut 500 Calories A Day

Washington University researchers found that among middle-aged adults who cut 400 to 500 calories a day by either diet or exercising, the latter group came out on top, losing an average of 15 pounds a year while maintaining bone density and muscle mass. The diet-only group lost a similar amount of weight but three times as much bone. If you can't squeeze in six hours of exercise a week, combine diet and exercise to peel off about 500 calories a day.

### Niles Senior News

#### Cash Dash

January 9, 9:30-1:00 p.m. Free Unclaimed property? Insurance Claims? See what the state of Illinois maybe holding for you. A representative of the State Treasurer's Office will be on hand to research if you have any lost or forgotten cash coming your way. It doesn't take long to check...just a few minutes.

#### Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Open Enrollment

Are you considering enrolling in or changing your Medicare part D plan? The Annual Coordinated Election Period (AEP) for Medicare Part D is November 15 - December 31, 2007. Carefully review your plan during this time as you might want to switch drug plans if another plan better meets your needs. Since processing the paperwork may take a couple of weeks, make changes by December 5th to avoid a lapse in coverage.

#### Feel the Heat!

(A Return to Summer), Wed., January 16, Noon - 2 p.m. \$10. Join us as we warm up with a delicious Hawaiian themed meal featuring Chicken Kabobs, Rice, Fruit Salad and Dessert. Following lunch, we'll

be transported to the beautiful Hawaiian Islands by the beautiful Barefoot Hawaiian dancers.

#### "The Buck Stops Here!"

The Harry Truman Story, Thurs., Jan. 24 2:30 p.m. \$3 This slide show presentation includes a biography of Harry Truman, a tour of his home, and a visit to the Truman Presidential Library. Reservations required.

#### Five Wishes

An Advance Directive with "Heart & Soul," Wed., January 30 1:30 p.m.

Learn About the Five Wishes document- A Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare all in one, easy to read, non-threatening, legal document that makes your choices clear - no attorney required. Free. Please register in advance.

#### The Good-Bye Girl

Thursday, Jan. 10th 10:15-5:30 p.m. \$55

Enjoy this musical production of Neil Simon's well-known film at the Drury Lane Oakbrook. Prior to the show, we will lunch at Drury Lane on Tilapia or Roast Sirloin of Beef (your choice). Call for ticket availability (847 588-8420).

### Morton Grove Senior News

#### Wes Harrison "Mr. Sound Effects"

Wes Harrison uses his remarkable talent to give the world what it needs - laughter - and that's the best sound of all! In the 1950's he provided sound effects for the Disney productions of "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" and "Peter Pan," and worked at MGM studios on "Tom and Jerry" cartoons. He has made guest appearances on

every major talk and variety show on television. He will visit the Morton Grove Senior Center at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 18 for a free program of many of his unforgettable works. Register by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223.

#### "Oklahoma"

Oklahoma! is Rodgers and Hammerstein's first collaboration. See Morton Grove, page 17

#### Senior Citizens

We Work On Volume- Not Price!!

- Shampoo & Set ... \$5.00
- Haircut ... \$5.00
- Everyday Except Sunday
- Sr. Men's Clipper Styling ... \$3.00 & Up
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- Manicure & Pedicure Together ... \$20.00

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### NILES FAMILY FITNESS CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

#### New Preschool Programs For January

**Aqua Antics 1-5 Years** - Play group in the pool! This non-instructional swim class is designed to help your child become comfortable in the water. Come splash around while participating in active songs and circle fun. Water toys will be available.

#### Parent/Child Classes

**Mini Picasso's 18 mos.-3 years** - A great place for your toddler to explore their creative

side. They will enjoy painting, play dough, bubbles, and more. Class may be messy so please dress accordingly.

**Romp, Stomp & Roll 10-20 mos.** - This class is a social experience for both you and your child. Mats, balls, tunnels and age appropriate toys will be offered in this active free play class. Your toddler can climb, jump and roll around in our carpeted multi-purpose room.

#### Tiny Tot Playtime 1-2 years

- Meet other parents and interact with your child during

movement, activities, free play and a simple craft. Music and circle time will add to the Fun.

**Me Two 2 Years** - This class is offered to ease fears and encourage independence. Your child will have fun in a semi-structured environment. Stories, music and art are included in each class.

#### Tumble Bees 2-4 Years

- Children will be introduced to basic tumbling skills by participating in activities that teach gross motor skills and organized movement. Class includes basic introduction to the balance beam, floor and horizontal bar.

#### Child Only Classes

**Mini Sportsters 2-4 Years** - An introductory sports class for your active two, three and four year old. Try out a different sport each week. Have fun while getting fit.

## Holiday Special

Offer Valid: December 1-31, 2007  
Please Bring Ad In

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1 Month of Fitness \$24.95!

Offering you: state-of-the-art equipment, spacious, modern locker rooms, a clean family atmosphere, in-and-out fitness, helpful staff, fantastic hours, guaranteed lowest prices in the area and much more! Become a part of our fitness family!

1 MONTH OF FITNESS BEGINS ON THE DATE OF PURCHASE. SALES BEGIN DECEMBER 1ST AND END ON DECEMBER 31, 2007. THIS SPECIAL MAY BE APPLIED TOWARD AN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP.



Snow White - Summit Meadows Adventures, operated by Deer Valley Resort in Park City, Utah, offers snowmobile tours off-site at the Garff Ranch in nearby Brown's Canyon. (CNS Photo courtesy of Deer Valley Resort)

## Utah's Snow Isn't Just for Skiing

By Tom Roebuck  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Summit Meadows Adventures near Park City, Utah, offers a variety of guided snowmobile tour options for individuals as well as groups. Located on the beautiful Garff Ranch and oper-

ated by Deer Valley Resort, Summit Meadows is just a five-mile, 10-minute drive from Park City's Main Street. Scenic views of the Wasatch Mountains and canyons make this an adventure not to be missed. Free transportation from Park City is available.

FYI: For more information or

reservations, call 800-424-3337 or visit [www.deervalley.com](http://www.deervalley.com).

#### China in A Week

Space is still available on Ritz Tours' "Beijing in a Week" and "Shanghai in a Week" winter special programs with value-

See FYI Travel, page 16

## Balance Program & Vestibular Rehab

Are you worried about dizziness & falls?

- Falls
- Diagnosis
- Dizziness
- Treatment
- Vestibular Rehabilitation

The National Institute of Health estimates that 40%-50% of people over age 40 experience dizziness or balance problems at some point in their lives.

Many fall patients are rarely diagnosed and treated for the root cause of the dizziness and falls, which may be musculoskeletal, cardiac, neurological or vestibular in nature, or a combination thereof.

New technology is now available, using an ekg-like technology that objectifies and measures physiological indicators as to the cause of the fall.

Videonystagmography, VNG testing is now available by appointment only. The testing is painless, covered by Medicare, and takes only 20 minutes to administer.

The results of your VNG are ready after 48 hours, and are evaluated by a Board Certified Rehabilitation Medicine Physician.

Only a licensed physician can interpret, and evaluate the results of your test, and diagnose, prescribe, or treat a medical condition.



VNG TEST Now Available!

Covered by Medicare

# Maine Twp. Seniors Plan Seasonal Trips, Classes and More

## Men's Group Winter Wonderland

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$3.50 - Lunch provided. Registration required.

Steve Frenzel will be doing a 90 minute presentation of clips from Holiday specials and classic films featuring Jack Benny, Judy Garland, Bing Crosby, Red Skelton and other favorites.

## Bowling Outing

Thursday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sims Bowling, 1555 Ellinwood, Des Plaines. \$15 members/\$17 guests.

Come bowl with us. Newcomers are welcome to join in. You will enjoy two games of bowling, prizes and a lunch featuring salad and pizza.

## Digital TV Transition Program

Monday, Jan. 14, 10 to 11 a.m.

Presenter: Agent Chris Jelinek, FCC. No charge - Registration required.

This program is a short presentation by the Federal Communications Commission. The main focus will be the changes to off-air television signals that will take effect on Feb. 17, 2009. After that date, federal law requires that all full-power TV stations stop broadcasting in analog format and broadcast only in digital format.

mat. FCC personnel will explain what this means to you and your television viewing. There will also be a general overview of the FCC and the Commission's Chicago District Office.

## Day Trip

The following Day Trip is currently on sale. In order to sign up for a Day Trip you must first sign up to be a member and then a reservation form will be sent to you. To become a member, call the MaineStreamers at 847-297-2510 and ask for an application. All Day Trips depart from Golf Mill Mall in Niles.

## 'Historical Extravaganza'

Museum of Science and Industry and The Parthenon Restaurant. Thursday, Feb. 21 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$48 members/ \$53 guests.

History was made on June 4, 1944 when a German submarine, known as U-505 was prowling off the coast of West Africa on a hunt for American and Allied ships, when depth charges from the USS Chatelain blasted the dreaded U-boat out of hiding. The Museum of Science and Industry invites you to step inside the real U-505 - the only German submarine in the U.S. This is just one of many exhibits you will enjoy on this extravaganza. Then, your off to the Parthenon Restaurant where you will experience Greek food at its best. The menu features appetizers of saganaki, gyros and taramosalata, Greek salad, and a combination plate of different Greek foods. Of course dessert will be baklava and galaktoboureko. Enjoy a trip full of history and great food.

## FYI Travel

continued from page 15

added pricing starting respectively at \$999 and \$1,099 per person, based on double occupancy, including airfare, hotel accommodations and sightseeing.

"Beijing in a Week" - Time in the capital city and political center of Beijing opens a window into the soul, spirit and experiences that define much of China's history. Popular sites include Tiananmen Square (the world's largest public square), the ancient Forbidden City, the peaceful setting of the Summer Palace at Kunming Lake, the historic Ming Tomb Museum, the Temple of Heaven, and the magnificent Great Wall that meanders through the northern part of the country.

Two free days of leisure allow travelers to stroll along the city's streets, souvenir shop, enjoy an optional excursion to the Hutongs of old town Beijing and absorb centuries of ancient culture.

Priced from \$999 plus taxes per person, based on double occupancy, the "Beijing in a Week" winter special features round-trip airfare from Los Angeles or San Francisco (starting at \$1,249 plus taxes per person from JFK in New York); five-star hotel accommodations at the New Otani for five nights; daily breakfast at the hotel; sightseeing in air-conditioned busses; meals and entertainment per the itinerary; and the services of knowledgeable tour guides.

## Shanghai in a Week

A cosmopolitan port city located on the East China Sea, Shanghai is a treat to the senses with its mix of ancient and modern influences. Travelers can appreciate the dramatic landscape of China's largest city plus shopping on bustling Nanjing Road, picturesque Yu Garden and the waterfront Bund, a mile-long stretch along the Huangpu River. The itinerary also features a tour to the "Garden City" of Suzhou, well-known for its network of canals and rich silk fabrics.

Guests can enjoy two free days of leisure to explore the city at their own pace, souvenir shop, savor local cuisine, and absorb Shanghai's enticing and dynamic culture.

Priced from \$1,099 plus taxes per person, based on double occupancy, the Shanghai in a week winter special features round-trip airfare from Los Angeles or San Francisco (starting at \$1,249 plus taxes per person from JFK in New York); five-star hotel accommodations at the Jinjiang Hotel for five nights; daily breakfast at the hotel; sightseeing in air-conditioned busses; meals and entertainment per the itinerary; and the services of knowledgeable tour guides.

Departures of both programs are available daily now through Feb. 10, 2008. For both tours, weekend surcharges apply. Travel insurance is not included but can be purchased separately.

## Obituaries

### Stefan T. Birlet, 84

Stefan T. Birlet, 84, of DesPlaines, IL, passed away Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at Lutheran General Hospital. He was born October 29, 1923 in Poland. Beloved husband of the late Genowefa Birlet and the late Birlet. Loving husband of Kazimiera (nee Przechlaska) Birlet of DesPlaines. Cherished father of Henry, Anna, John, Erika, and Michael. Uncle of Krystyna Danilkowicz and great uncle of Anna Kobb. Services were held December 7, 2007 at St. John Brebeuf Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment at All Saints Cemetery. He was a Real Estate Agent.

### Joyce Cheryl Felitto, 63

Joyce Cheryl Felitto, 63, of Elk Grove Village, passed away Thursday, November 29, 2007 at Alexian Brothers Medical Center. She was born October 24, 1944. Beloved daughter of the late Virginia (nee Reichbauer) Novotny and the late John William Novotny. Loving mother of Brent William (Susan) Felitto of Winnetka and Raymond Nicholas Felitto. Grandmother of Justine, William and Jared Felitto. Sister of Diana Novotny. Services were held at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home December 3, 2007. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment at Irving Park Cemetery. She was a Real Estate Agent. Memorials to Donations to Alexian Brothers Hospital appreciated.

### Morton Grove

continued from page 15

tion, and one of America's best-loved musicals. Enjoy musical numbers such as, "People Will Say We're In Love," "The Surrey With The Fringe On Top," "I Can't Say No," and of course the title song, "Oklahoma!" The bus will depart from the Morton Grove Senior Center for the Cahn Auditorium in Evanston at 1 p.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 27. Register in-person at the Senior Center before Nov. 29 and pay a reduced cost of \$56 for Senior Center Members and \$64 for non-members. After Nov. 29 the costs are \$64 for Members and \$73 for non-members. There must be a minimum of 15 people registered by Nov. 29.

### Daniel G. Harvey, 86

Daniel G. Harvey, 86, of Morton Grove, passed away Thursday, November 29, 2007 at Glenview Terrace Nursing Home. He was born April 4, 1921. Beloved husband of Doris of Morton Grove. Loving father of Daniel, Jr. (Francine) Harvey and Roger Harvey and step father of Pam (Russ) Broska and Karla (John) Carleo. Grandfather of Geoffrey, Becky, Nick and Andrea. Brother of the late Harold Harvey and the late Jane Harvey. Services were held December 3, 2007 at Simkins Funeral home. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment at Acacia Park Cemetery. He was a Mechanical Engineer and an Army Air Corps Veteran of WWII.

### Edwin Joseph Koziol, 78

Edwin Joseph Koziol, 78, of Skokie, passed away Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at St. Francis Hospital. He was born October 7, 1929 in Chicago. Beloved son of the late Joseph Koziol and the late Katherine (nee Madura) Koziol. Loving husband of Barbara (nee Sowa) Koziol of Skokie. Cherished father of William Koziol, Paul Koziol and Jennifer (Jostein) Baustad. Grandfather of Christopher, Benjamin and Jack. Brother of Alphonse (Loretta), Stanley Koziol, Marion (Barbara), Aloysius (Barbara) Koziol, Julius (Marilyn), the late Joseph (the late Florence) Koziol, Francis (Evelyn), the late Chester (Mary) Koziol and the late Walter (the late Evelyn) Koziol. Uncle and great uncle of many.

### 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding' Movie

Toula is 30 and unmarried, which means as a nice Greek girl, she's a failure. All her cousins did the right thing - married Greek boys and made Greek babies. So everyone worries, "What will become of Toula?" The movie, including popcorn, will be shown at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 7 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. Register for this free program by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223.

### 'Tea Talk: The Art of Tea'

Tea expert, Anne Hampton will return to the Morton Grove Senior Center with an all new program: "The Art of Tea." Learn how the tea theme is incorporated in artwork such as China patterns and paintings. This interesting and unique program will be completed with a tea tasting! The program begins at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 11. Please register for this free program by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223 before Dec. 21. There must be a minimum of 10 people registered.

Services were held December 10, 2007 at St. Peter Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment at All Saints Cemetery. He was an Accountant in Banking. He was the Captain of the basketball team at U. of I., Member of the University Hall of Fame, Recipient of the Weber High School Man of the Year Award, and Member of the Knights of Columbus. In lieu of flowers donations to the American Diabetes Association appreciated.

### Jean Slupik, 86

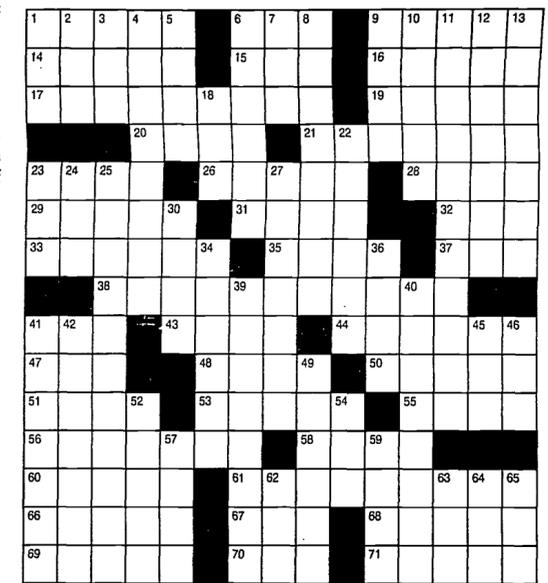
Jean Slupik, 86, of Niles, passed away Saturday, December 1, 2007 at home. She was born November 24, 1921 in Monessen, PA. Beloved daughter of the late Jan Kowalski and the late Stefania Kowalski (nee Haberek). Loving wife of the late William Slupik. Cherished mother of Patrick (Kathy) Slupik of Chicago and Marlene (Timothy) Golden. Grandmother of Daniel Sogruie, Ryan Slupik, Brian and Kevin Golden. Sister of Chester (Irene) Kowalski, the late Stella, the late Alex, the late Eugene (Phillis) the late Eleanoir (Joseph) Stepko and Sister in law of Chester (Evelyn) Slupik. Services were held December 8, 2007 at St. John Brebeuf Church. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment at Maryhill Cemetery. She was a Billing Clerk in Publishing. Memorials to: Rainbow Hospice, 444 N. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge, IL 60068.

pleted with a tea tasting! The program begins at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 11. Please register for this free program by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223 before Dec. 21. There must be a minimum of 10 people registered.

### 'Fred Astaire, Song & Dance Man'

Musical Historian, Jack Diamond will present this audio-biography of the incomparable Fred Astaire at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. Register in-person at the Senior Center before Dec. 20 at a cost of \$3 for Morton Grove Senior Center Members and \$4 for non-members. After Dec. 20 the costs are \$4 for Members and \$5 for non-members. There must be a minimum of 15 people registered by Dec. 21.

## MUSH!



COPY NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

### ACROSS

- 1 Cruiser
- 6 Seesaw girl
- 9 Customers, to an S&L
- 14 Liaison
- 15 Suffix for late or early
- 16 Clangor
- 17 Pinecone-shaped mushroom of Japan
- 19 1957 French Nobelist in literature
- 20 Ship facility
- 21 More than amend
- 23 Extremely high speed
- 26 Countercultural
- 28 Golden carp
- 29 Macabre being
- 31 Touch
- 32 Elev.
- 33 Rectories
- 35 Big name in jeans
- 37 \_\_\_ Plaines
- 38 Yellow mushroom, favored in France
- 41 The Company; abbr.
- 43 Service, for one
- 44 Vicinal
- 47 It borders all HOMES save M

### DOWN

- 48 Eye: prefix
- 50 Set
- 51 Luau strings
- 53 Korean port
- 55 Ach's successor
- 56 Thesaurus entry
- 58 Anjou's kin
- 60 Veni, in veni, vidi, vici
- 61 Malodorous mushroom
- 66 Birth-related
- 67 \_\_\_ de vie: brandy
- 68 Hawk's haven
- 69 Relieve
- 70 Male sex object?
- 71 Goody
- 13 Anagram of tseses
- 18 Billy Budd, e.g.
- 22 Fifth prime
- 23 Movie studio, for short
- 24 Eureka!
- 25 Link
- 27 Mushroom: L.
- 30 Bound
- 34 WWI canine ace, if only in his dreams
- 36 Seine outcroppings
- 39 Shawnee chief
- 40 Bazooka or onager
- 41 When close, they may kiss
- 42 Mushroom yielding a dark fluid
- 45 Calorie's big bro.
- 46 Craving
- 49 Lip
- 52 Corporeal
- 54 Nantes negative
- 57 Dudley Do-Right's friend
- 59 Three-handed card game
- 62 Skater Babilonia
- 63 Cassiterite or cinnabar
- 64 Fjord
- 65 Fishpound, for one

## Last Week's Puzzle Answers

### OVERDONE

AAHS LISZT SUIED  
WRAP TICER ESTA  
AIDE MONTE REND  
REACHING AS FAR AS  
EST ETS BOP  
FAS FRIGHIEN  
MANOR SLOE APE  
ACARDINAL NUMBER  
LITS NAPE NOISED  
LADYBUGS ODE  
EEN ADE OAF  
BEYOND TOLLERANCE  
ADAM AEGIS SERIE  
GILA TALES ENID  
STEN ELENA ADDS

COPY NEWS SERVICE

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 WINNERS

1. Lorraine Truskolaski
2. Leo Madura

Send your answers to the editor by  
Fax: 847.588.1911 or  
E-mail  
crossword@buglenewspapers.com

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## Liberty Bank Announces Holiday Movie, Events

Families are invited to attend a free holiday movie at the Pickwick Theater in Park Ridge. Liberty Bank for Savings is hosting the movie date on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. for a showing of the new Christmas classic "Polar Express" starring Tom Hanks.

The animated film tells the story of a young boy and his adventure riding a magical train to the North Pole. There is no charge for admis-

sion but those who attend are encouraged to donate to the official charity of the event, Rainbow Hospice.

The Pickwick Theater is located at 5 S. Prospect Avenue at the six-corner intersection with Touhy Avenue and Northwest Highway. Parking is available along Prospect, behind the theatre, and in the library parking lot across the street.

In addition, Liberty and Rainbow

Hospice are helping sponsor a live performance of Little Women presented by the Bog Theatre. The play will be on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. in the Pickwick Theatre. Musical entertainment and refreshments will follow the performance.

Later the same afternoon, Rainbow Hospice is offering its popular Sleigh Ride from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are required for both the play and sleigh ride. The ride starts

and ends in front of the theatre.

For more information on the movie, play, and other Liberty sponsored winter activities, call Susan Andrews at 773-489-4458 or visit [www.libertybank.com](http://www.libertybank.com).

For information or tickets for the sleigh ride, call Jackie Mathews, Director of Special Events for Rainbow Hospice, at 847-292-2353 or email [jmathews@rainbowhospice.org](mailto:jmathews@rainbowhospice.org).

## Santa Claus is coming to town!



Come visit Santa at the PNA Bank branch on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> From 10 am to 1 pm and receive a free picture with Jolly Ole Saint Nick!

PNA Bank and Catholic Charities have teamed up! Help support the 'Celebration of Giving'; bring in a new unwrapped toy for a child between the ages of 2-15 throughout December 15<sup>th</sup> at any PNA Bank location



7840 N. Milwaukee Ave. Niles, IL 60714 (847) 966-7900

## THEATER LISTINGS

### Kerasotes Theatres

NILES ShowPlace 12

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

Romeo & Juliet - 12/15 - 10:30 AM; 12/16 - 12:30 PM ONLY!  
Celine Dion - 12/17 - 7:00 PM ONLY!

1 Am Legend PG-13 12:15; 2:00; 2:40; 4:30; 5:10; 7:00; 7:40; 9:40; 10:20 Fri, Sat and Sun Early bird 11:30 AM

Alvin & the Chipmunks PG 1:50; 2:30; 4:10; 4:50; 6:30; 7:10; 8:50; 9:30 Fri, Sat and Sun Early bird 11:10; 11:50 AM

Perfect Holiday PG 1:30; 4:00; 6:30; 9:20 Fri, Sat and Sun Early bird 10:50 AM

Golden Compass PG-13 1:10; 2:10; 4:20; 5:00; 7:15; 7:50; 9:50; 10:30 Fri, Sat and Sun Early bird 10:30; 11:00 AM

Awake R 2:15; 4:40; 7:20; 10:00 Fri, Sat and Sun Early bird 11:20 AM

Enchanted PG 12:40; 3:20; 6:10; 9:00 Fri, Sat and Sun Early bird 10:00 AM

Hitman R 2:20; 5:15; 7:30; 10:10 Fri, Sat and Sun early bird 10:10 AM

This Christmas PG13 12:50; 3:45; 6:40; 9:45 Fri, Sat and Sun early bird 10:10 AM

August Rush PG 12/15 and 12/16: 6:20; 9:20; 12/17: 12:30; 3:30; 12/18-12/20: 12:30; 3:30; 6:20; 9:10

### Pickwick Theatre

5 S. Prospect Ave. (Touhy and Northwest Hwy) Park Ridge, IL 60068

(847) 825-5800

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Little Women Live On Stage - 7:00 pm  
Enchanted PG 4:15 6:30 8:45  
Fred Claus PG 6:00  
American Gangster R 8:15  
Alvin & the Chipmunks G 4:00, 6:00, 8:00

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

DECEMBER 15 & 16  
Little Women Live On Stage - 2:00 pm  
Enchanted PG 1:30 4:15 6:30, 8:45  
Fred Claus PG 1:00, 6:00  
American Gangster R 3:15, 8:15  
Alvin & the Chipmunks G 1:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00

MONDAY THRU THURSDAY

DECEMBER 17 THRU 20  
Little Women Live On Stage -  
Tue, Wed, Thu - 7:00 pm  
Enchanted PG 4:15, 6:30, 8:45  
Fred Claus PG 6:00  
American Gangster R 8:15  
Alvin & the Chipmunks G 4:00, 6:00, 8:00

COMING SOON

12/21 - National Treasure: Book of Secrets  
12/25 - Water Horse: Legend of the Deep

GET 2 FOR 1 BUY TICKETS AT  
[www.bogtheatre.com](http://www.bogtheatre.com)

## Consulting Affiliate of The Youth Campus Goes Independent

### TYC Board Announces Leadership Move

The Youth Campus (TYC) is announcing that The Center for Child Welfare Strategies is becoming an independent body, focused on its mission of aiding state and urban child welfare policy and systems. Joseph Loftus, CEO

of The Youth Campus will devote 100% of his time and energy to tackling the enormous systemic challenges faced by child welfare organizations in Illinois and throughout the country. He leaves TYC to manage The Center as an independent entity.

In 2001, The Youth Campus initiated a pilot project establishing The Chicago Center for Child Welfare Strategies to share "best practices" and improve outcomes for children and families. The project has been successful aiding urban child welfare systems in places like Philadelphia and Los Angeles. For example, TYC's contribution in Philadelphia has recently been documented in an evaluation of its first three years under The Center's performance contracting strategy. The percentage of Philadelphia's foster children who annually achieve permanency has climbed dramatically from 19% to 49%.

Mr. Loftus has been the CEO of The Youth Campus and leader of its numerous and diverse programs, delivering support and care to children and families in need in

Chicago.

Michael J. Sheehan, Board Co-Chair of The Youth Campus states, "As one organization deeply affected by the systemic shortcomings in and underfunding of the child welfare system today, The Youth Campus applauds Mr. Loftus' decision and fully supports the mission of The Center."

Richard DiStasio, Board Co-Chair of The Youth Campus states; "We are exceedingly grateful for the leadership and hard work that Joe has contributed to The Youth Campus over the years. His commitment to the cause of providing quality, compassionate care for children in need is an inspiration for all of us. What The Youth Campus is losing in a CEO, our children are gaining in a champion for the cause. We wish Joe great success!"

Mr. DiStasio will serve as interim CEO, while the Board of Directors undertakes a national search for Mr. Loftus' successor.

### About The Youth Campus

The Youth Campus has been changing the lives of children in need for 130 years. It is Devoted to children and families suffering emotional and physical traumas. Profound caring, a passion to serve and a commitment to innovate underpin the expert intervention TYC provides them. Learn more about The Youth Campus [www.theyouthcampus.org](http://www.theyouthcampus.org).

## St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church, located at 9081 N. Maryland St. in Niles (just south of Golf Mill Shopping Center) has scheduled its Christmas Services. Christmas Eve Service for 6:30 p.m. on Monday December 24th and will include special musical presentations by St. Matthew's Sunday School, Youth Group and choir. Christmas Day Service is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday December 25th. All members of the community are welcome to attend all services.

Contact (847) 827-4360 or e-mail [KnowJesusBetter@StMatthews.ws](mailto:KnowJesusBetter@StMatthews.ws)

## New Home Cleaning Service Opens

Royal Maids cleaning service, based in Skokie, offers home cleaning services to neighboring residents. A full service cleaning staff is available on a weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly basis or as needed. They are offering a Holiday Special of 10% off any service. Call for a free estimate 847-676-2300.

Royal Maids LLC., 4901 Oakton, Skokie, IL 60076



## Holiday Cookies are Sweet Tidings of Comfort and Joy

By Lori Weisberg | COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

I have a confession. I'm a cookie snob - but for good reason.

Each holiday season, I take time off from work and retreat to my kitchen, where I produce logs and mounds and slabs of cookie dough in preparation for a mega baking session that will yield carefully packaged gifts for friends, family and co-workers.

By the time I'm done, I'll have made a dozen varieties, all assembled in bulging, beribboned cellophane bags ready for delivery.

So when I'm invited to holiday cookie exchanges, I usually politely decline, preferring to selfishly hold onto my own confections, prepared from recipes culled from years of research and far too many calorie-laden tastings.

The recipes I've chosen to share reflect my personal taste of what makes a cookie appealing. Certainly, there are concoctions far more gourmet and swanky than these, but my favorites please because of their simplicity, appealing ingredients and tantalizing textures.

Personally, I prefer crispy cookies over soft and chewy, which is why I adore the Crispy Oatmeal Cookies, which spread to golden, crunchy disks once fully baked.

Similarly crisp in texture and always a

crowd pleaser are the tender Cornmeal-Pecan Biscuits. They're definitely labor-intensive, what with all the shaping and layering of the rectangles of dough, but the crunchy biscuits, redolent of toasted pecans and cinnamon, can be addictive.

I'm a pushover for any kind of buttery shortbread or a sugar-encrusted sable cookie - the key ingredient, being, of course, plenty of unsalted butter. You get the best of both worlds with Chocolate Swirled Shortbread, a combo of vanilla and rich chocolate emboldened by espresso powder.

Probably the most decadent of these Top 5 choices are the Chocolate Crackles. Coated in granulated and powdered sugar, they're sort of a cross between a chocolate molten cake and fudgy brownie. As the cookie bakes, you'll see a crackly pattern emerge on the surface, which makes for a showy presentation.

Baking, which can be a relaxing pursuit during the stressful holiday season, always reminds me of my grandmother, a prodigious baker who nourished my passion for culinary pursuits. Her Snowballs, aptly named for their cloak of powdered sugar, are the most tender, nutty version of this popular ethnic cookie that I've encountered.

If you're interested in making cookies as a gift, prepare and freeze the dough ahead of time. A day or two before you plan to give them out, start doing your baking so the cookies remain fresh. I've experimented with different ways to package the cookies, but I find an easy, attractive solution is to use holiday-themed cellophane bags, tied with raffia or curling ribbon. Attach a homemade label with the names of the cookies you've made.

Holiday Cooking  
Holiday cookies are a sweet treat that provides comfort and joy. (CNS Photo)

### Chocolate Crackles

8 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped  
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup unsweetened Dutch-process cocoa powder  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon coarse salt  
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened  
1 1/2 cups packed light brown sugar  
2 large eggs  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1/3 cup whole milk  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 cup confectioners' sugar  
Yields 5 dozen.

Preheat oven to 350 F  
Melt chocolate in heatproof bowl set over pan of simmering water, stirring. Set aside, and let cool.

In medium bowl, sift together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt; set aside.

Mix butter and brown sugar on medium speed until pale and fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. Mix in eggs and vanilla, and then melted chocolate. Reduce speed to low; mix in flour mixture in 2 batches, alternating with milk. Divide dough into 4 equal pieces. Wrap each in plastic wrap; refrigerate until firm, about 2 hours.

Divide each piece into 16 (1-inch) balls. Roll in granulated sugar to coat, then in confectioners' sugar to coat. Space 2 inches apart on baking sheets lined with parchment paper. Bake until surfaces crack, about 14 minutes. Let cool on sheets on wire racks.

Cookies can be stored between layers of parchment in airtight containers up to 3 days. \* Martha Stewart Holiday Cookies, December 2006

### Cornmeal Pecan Biscuits

1/2 cup whole pecans  
8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter  
1 cup sugar  
1 large egg  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup yellow cornmeal  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
2 tablespoons packed dark-brown sugar  
1 large egg white, lightly beaten with 1 tablespoon water  
Yields 2 1/2 dozen cookies

Preheat oven to 400 F. Place pecans on baking sheet. Toast in oven until golden and fragrant, 8 to 10 minutes. Let pecans cool.

In bowl of electric mixer fitted with paddle attachment, cream butter and sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, 2 to 4

minutes. Add egg and vanilla; incorporate. In medium bowl, whisk together flour, cornmeal, baking powder and salt. On low speed, add flour mixture to butter mixture. Mix until combined, about 30 seconds.

Transfer dough to clean work surface, and divide into 4 equal portions. Place 1 portion between two 12-inch square pieces of parchment. Roll out dough to a 3 1/2 x 9-inch rectangle. Repeat with remaining 3 portions of dough. Transfer to baking sheets; chill at least 10 minutes.

In food processor bowl, process pecans, cinnamon and brown sugar until nuts have been finely chopped, 12 to 15 seconds. Transfer mixture to medium bowl.

Remove top pieces of parchment from dough. Brush one lightly with egg white; sprinkle 1/4 cup pecan mixture over top. Brush second rectangle lightly with egg wash. Invert second rectangle over first; remove parchment on top. Repeat layering process, leaving top rectangle uncoated. Trim to a 3 1/2 x 8 1/2-inch brick. Wrap; chill overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment. Cut brick into 1/2-inch slices; space slices on baking sheets, spaced 2 1/2 inches apart. Bake biscuits until light golden, 12 to 15 minutes. Transfer to wire rack to cool. Bake or freeze remaining dough. Store in an airtight container up to 2 weeks.

\* Martha Stewart Holiday Cookies, 2001

By J.R. Rose - Copley News Service

## DRAW IT!

**DRAW PUP'S BABY BROTHER AND GIVE HIM A NAME...**



Hi, \_\_\_\_\_

**GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR NAME...**



HOW ABOUT SAME ?!

**A PALINDROME IS A WORD, PHRASE, VERSE, OR SENTENCE THAT READS THE SAME BACKWARD OR FORWARD. THINK OF THREE PALINDROMES...**



**WHILE PLAYING ON HIS UNCLE'S FARM, PUP HAD FALL AND BROKE HIS ARM! HIS ARM WILL BE INSIDE THIS CAST AT LEAST SIX WEEKS, IT WON'T HEAL FAST!**

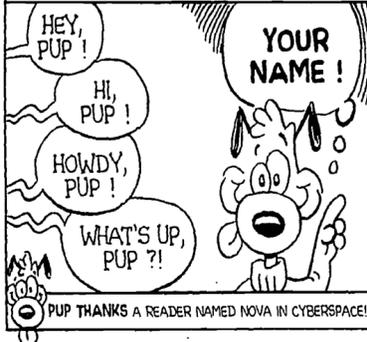
CHEER HIM UP BY SIGNING YOUR NAME ON PUP'S CAST...



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IF YOU HAVE ANY FUN GAMES OR JOSES SEND THEM TO: PUP 95 LAUREL STREET HARRISONBURG, VA 22801 OR E-MAIL: PUP@ON@APL.COM

**WHAT IS YOURS, BUT IS MOSTLY USED BY OTHER PEOPLE?**



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## ANIMAL ON THE SEEN



### Brown Bears at Brookfield Zoo

As one of the most feared animals in the world, brown bears are often portrayed as big, snarling beasts that attack at a moment's notice. This image began when 18th and 19th century explorers tried hunting the bears, only to discover that a wounded bear makes a dangerous opponent. When attacked, brown bears aggressively defend their territory and their young, giving the bears an almost mythic reputation for ferocity. In reality however, brown bears are intelligent and curious creatures that go out of their way to avoid people.

Brown bears are fascinating because not only are they the most widespread bears on Earth—found in North America, Asia, and Europe—but they are such a wide variety of sizes and colors that for years scientists divided the group into more than 200 different bear species. For example, female brown bears in parts of Europe can weigh as little as 160 pounds, while male Kodiak bears and Alaskan brown bears can weigh as much as 1,200 pounds! These bears are some of the largest in the world, and only polar bears can grow larger.

To confuse matters further, brown bears are a variety of colors. While many brown bears actually have brown coats, others run the color spectrum from cream to almost black. The brown bears of the Rocky Mountains—also known as grizzly bears—were named for the silvery, frosted look of their fur. Despite all this variation, brown bears can be distinguished from other bears by their large shoulder muscles, which give the bears a prominent shoulder hump, and their snouts, which slope upward sharply to the forehead, creating a dish-shaped face.

Brookfield Zoo has two Alaskan brown bears, named Angoon-Axhi and Kootznooowoo-Jim (Axhi and Jim for short). Each weighs about 1,000 pounds, and you can check out these big brothers at Bear Grotto, which will be brightly decorated for the zoo's 26th annual Holiday Magic festival.

Contents are courtesy of the Chicago Zoological Society, which operates Brookfield Zoo. Interested in getting fun info delivered directly to your inbox? Check [www.BrookfieldZoo.org/Ani-Mails](http://www.BrookfieldZoo.org/Ani-Mails) for info on FREE emails.

## Grammar Matters

by Patty Gibbons Saunier

### Group Therapy

Collective nouns are words that act as one unit. Examples of collective nouns are team, family and committee. Choose the correct word in parentheses in the sentences below.

- The class will hold (its, their) elections on Friday.
- My family (is, are) meeting me at the airport.
- The cheerleading squad clapped (its, their) hands and cheered after the touchdown.

Answers: Collective nouns require singular verbs and pronouns because they are considered one group or unit. Occasionally, that rule changes when the members of the group act as individuals. 1. The elections belong to the entire class. 2. The family is acting as a group. A singular verb is needed with the singular noun. 3. The cheerleaders belong to the entire squad.

Copley News Service

# REAL ESTATE

## DESIGNER HOMES

# Shara (403-39)

By Scott McAlexander  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Imagine an exquisite master suite, isolated for complete privacy, fitted with amenities such as a vaulted ceiling over a generous sleeping area, a huge walk-in closet, and private bathroom with twin basins.

This is only one of the outstanding features available to you in the 1,941-square-foot Shara. This remarkable two-story home, featuring four bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms, is a perfect fit for a family with college-age or young children living in the household.

The upper floor of the Shara is practically a home in itself. It has three good-sized bedrooms. One has a built-in desk any student would appreciate. The full bathroom that serves this floor has twin basins and a tub-shower combination. Two hundred forty-three square feet of attic space is at hand for storage.

The interior design of the first floor allows a free flow of movement throughout the Shara. The living room is next to the breakfast nook and kitchen. A raised eating bar separates the kitchen from the nook.

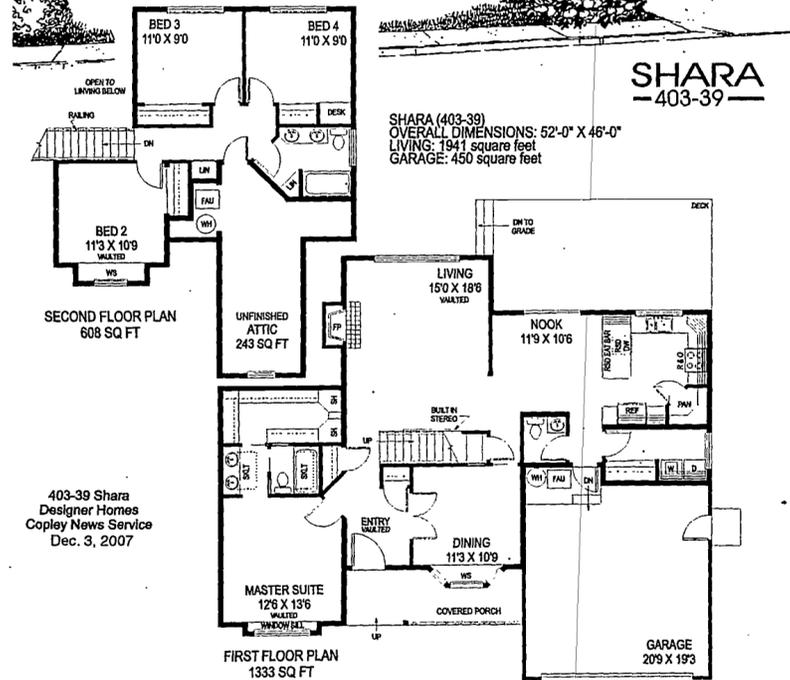
Sliding glass doors lead to the rear deck, which can act as the focus of family fun during the summer months. Kitchen amenities include a raised dishwasher, Lazy Susan, spacious pantry, range and oven.

The vaulted living room, directly in line with the entry, is the perfect spot to entertain your guests. A built-in fireplace will keep everyone snug on the coldest nights.

The formal dining room, toward the front of the Shara, has the added benefit of a window seat that projects outward to the front porch.

Located conveniently near the inside entrance to the two-car garage, is a handy utility room and a half bathroom.

Order this plan or search thousands of plans online at [www.landmarkdesigns.com](http://www.landmarkdesigns.com). Use the code CCN92 to save 15 percent on full-set orders made either online or by phone at 800-562-1151. Study plans for all our designs are available for \$24.95.



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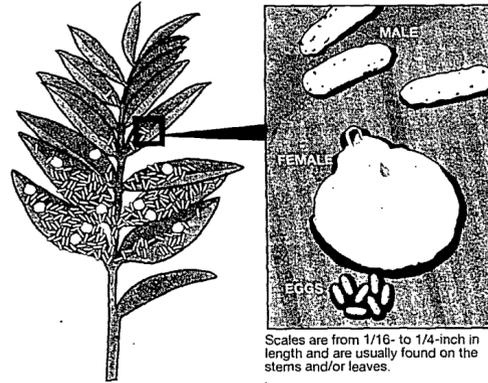
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# Unknown Culprit Affects Hibiscus Plants

## GARDEN TIP

### Scale insects

There are several species of scale insects. They are motionless pests that attach firmly to stems and the underside of leaves. Scales suck the fluids from leaves and stems, robbing them of essential nutrients.



Scales are from 1/16- to 1/4-inch in length and are usually found on the stems and/or leaves.

#### CONTROL METHODS:

**PHYSICAL REMOVAL** - With minor infestation, remove individual scales by hand or gently scrubbing the scales loose from the leaves and stems.

**INSECTICIDE SOAPS** - Mix 1/4 teaspoon horticultural oil, 1/2 teaspoon of commercial insecticide soap and 1 quart of warm water. Apply with a sprayer or soft cloth.

**SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES** - Inject systemic insecticides into the plant, which circulates through the plant, controlling both crawlers and adult scales with less impact on natural enemies.

**PRUNING** - Prune heavy infested leaves and stems or dispose of plant to prevent the spreading to other plants.

Source: <http://text.lsuagcenter.com>

Copley News Service/Bob Kast

By Jeff Rugg  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

My husband has hired a pesticide company to periodically spray for ticks and fleas in our backyard. While this seems to work on keeping our dog pest-free, our hibiscus trees seem to turn yellow soon after each application.

When we called the company out to take a look, we were told to use fertilizer. The last time this happened, we followed their advice and the leaves greened within a few weeks. However, we just had another pesticide application and, coincidentally, the leaves have started to yellow again. Our last fertilization was only eight weeks ago and we have had the usual amount of rain with twice weekly waterings.

Should we feed and water more, or is there a possibility that the pesticide is the culprit?

Your question has three parts and the answer is possibly yes to all three; however, let's do a test to see which one it is. First, when hibiscus plants are in an active growth phase or when they are blooming, they often need fertilizer, or they can turn yellow.

Second, they do like a steady moisture level but not too much water. So, if they dry out in hot weather, they turn yellow and

drop leaves; if they are too wet they do the same. This is rather frustrating when the opposite conditions of too dry and too wet both can give the same symptoms.

Lastly, hibiscus plants tend to be sensitive to pesticides and therefore they can turn yellow when treatments are applied. It doesn't matter if the treatments are liquid or dry, the chemical will still eventually get to the roots.

It could be that the treatments have been scheduled far enough apart that it was time for the hibiscus to be fertilized at that point. Or maybe the treatments were at about the same time that the plants were getting heat stress or overwatered.

I am not sure if your dog will get fleas and ticks if only half the landscape is treated, but let's do a test if we can. If you have hibiscus plants in different areas of the landscape, you could ask the applicator to apply the treatment to only half the area, allowing you to see what the plants do. If only the plants on the treated side turn yellow, then you might want to find an alternative to the treatments. If they all turn yellow, then you have a more widespread environmental problem.

I have about 30 houseplants and many outdoor plants. Many are infested with scale insects. It seems when the so-called "Asian scale" killed so many sago palms, it came through my windows and attacked many of my houseplants. I lost a very old parsleyed aralia. I tried everything to eradicate it, but now I'm losing two dieffenbachias. What can I do to protect my plants from scale insects?

Scale insects are often hard to treat. The adult female stays in one spot attached to a plant, pro-

duced underneath a waxy scale material that is impervious to water and most treatments. Insecticidal soap seems to work well against them, but you have to be able to find them all. They tend to hide in tight spots, like in the joints where leaves attach to the stem or between veins under the leaf.

The juvenile stage is called the crawler. It moves around the plant until it finds a suitable hiding spot to settle down. Crawlers don't have the protection of a scale, so they are easier to attack with traditional contact insecticides or insecticidal soap.

Both stages are small and difficult to treat when you are trying to treat them individually. It is often better to treat the whole plant. Horticultural oil sprays can be used to coat the plant and to smother the eggs, crawlers and adults. Large outdoor plants are sometimes hard to coat completely. Indoor plants will need to be moved outside for a full treatment.

Systemic insecticides are probably the most useful products to use on scale insects. They are soaked up into the plant and kill feeding insects. Scale insects suck plant sap, so they end up ingesting the insecticide. All other insects not feeding on the plants are left alone, including any predators or parasites of the scale; it is a friendlier approach to the environment too.

All of these treatments: insecticidal soaps, insecticides, horticultural oils and systemic insecticides are known to kill and harm plants. Especially palms, cycads and other large-leaved tropical plants that are used as landscape plants in the warm climates and as houseplants in the North. The first thing to do is to look on any product's label to see if the plant needing treatment and the pest are listed.

## A GREENER VIEW

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### LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE/ASSUMED NAME

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. FILE NO. D07109825 on November 28, 2007.

Under the Assumed Name of SMOR, with the business located at 9801 Canavan Ct., Niles, IL 60714. The true name(s) and resident address of the owner(s) is Stacy Alcala, 9801 Canavan Ct., Niles, IL 60714 and Bridget Alcala, 644 Marston, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.NW

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PRAYER  
NOVENA TO ST. THERESE

St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy face, I come before you to offer this Novena and beg you to answer the request I now place before you (state request). Say 24 "Glory Be's" each followed by "St. Therese of the child Jesus, pray for us".

Say this Novena each day for 9 days starting on the 9th day of the month and ending on the 17th day of the month and promise to spread word of it so others may offer it.

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EOE M/F/D/V

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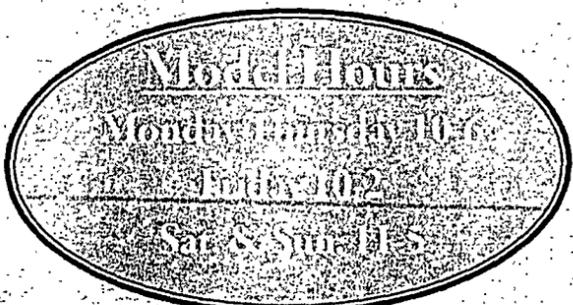
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### Directions to Copper Springs Point

Take I-55 to I-80 West to Rt. 47. Head South to Brentwood which is one street past Hoover on the west side of Rt. 47.