

2008 PREP FOOTBALL PREVIEW

FIVE PLAYERS TO WATCH • ANALYSIS • TEAM-BY-TEAM BREAKDOWNS • GAME SCHEDULES

KANE COUNTY

CHRONICLE

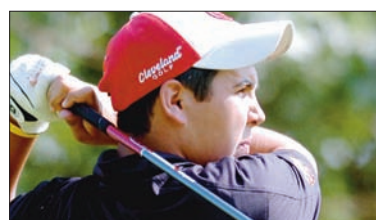
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2008

50 CENTS



'TRAITOR' ★★★
Smart plot drives film
Lifestyle Weekend, 12B



GENEVA INVITATIONAL
Huber aces 6th hole,
keys title Sports, 1B

On the go ...

SPORTS



AP photo

CUBS TOP PIRATES, SWEEP ROAD SERIES

Cubs pitcher Jason Marquis shut down Pittsburgh's batters on a cool, windy day, and the Cubs turned two well-placed bunts into two runs in the seventh inning, sweeping yet another three-game series from the Pirates with a 2-0 victory Wednesday. For more, see page 4B.



LOCAL

OAK STREET PROJECT BEHIND SCHEDULE

The two-lane Oak Street is being widened to three lanes. A continuous turn lane is being added to allow left and right turns. The \$3.2 million project began in April and is three weeks behind schedule, North Aurora Public Works Superintendent Mike Glock said.

"We had delays with AT&T," Glock said. "They had to move cable." For more, see page 3A.

JURORS: MEN'S DEATHS AN ACCIDENT

The death of Ionnis V. Maroulis and Javier Valadez-Chavez, who were electrocuted June 11 while in a cherry picker near a bike path along the Fox River, were ruled accidental by jurors Wednesday.

The jury recommended that ComEd officials reinforce policies of power shut-down requests from workers. For more, see page 5A.

COMING FRIDAY

WRITERS STRIKE STILL HAS EFFECT IN FALL

With TV networks still reeling from the disruption of last winter's strike by screenwriters, only 17 new series have been slotted for fall - about half the usual number.

And few new shows have been put in front of critics, who in other years, would be warming up the crowd. Read more Friday in Sidetracks.

WEATHER

HIGH **88** LOW **58**
Complete forecast on 12A

Kane County aims to tighten belt

Chairwoman McConnaughay calls for expense cuts, hiring freeze

By JONATHAN BILYK
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GENEVA - As retail sales have remained flat, Kane County's government may soon enact policies to constrain spending.

Kane County Board Chairwoman Karen McConnaughay has issued a

call for county departments to look for ways to cut spending.

The announcement, however, did not catch most county officials by surprise.

For months, county budget officials have watched anxiously as slumping retail sales have led to declining sales tax revenues flowing

into the county's coffers.

After seven months of collections, the revenue has been from 2 percent to 11 percent less each month than was collected in the first seven months of 2007, county Finance Director Cheryl Pattelli said.

The shortfall, Pattelli warned in her monthly report to the Kane

County Finance Committee, could have "a great effect on the 2009 budget."

To help ease the crunch, McConnaughay said the board and the county's elected officials must take immediate action.

See COUNTY, page 7A

WELCOME BACK, ST. CHARLES NORTH



H. Rick Bamman - hbamman@kcchronicle.com

St. Charles North High School social worker Susan Terronez cheers Wednesday as staff and faculty greet returning students.

Cheers to a new year

By BETHANY KRAJELIS
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ST. CHARLES - Students shuffling into St. Charles North High School on Wednesday were met with more than just a welcome.

Staff members and faculty crowded the lobby before the morning start bell rang and cheered as the school's more than 2,000 students arrived for the first day of school.

"It woke me up," junior Matt Scanlon said after he walked out of school and was headed to football practice.

Wednesday was the first day for all 17 schools within St. Charles School District 303, and Superintendent Don Schlomann said he believed that the welcome-back cheer occurred at

schools throughout the district.

Schlomann visited nine of the 17 schools Wednesday and said "it was a busy, but good day" for everyone involved. Besides a few crying kindergartners, Schlomann said it appeared the first day went smooth.

On top of the regular back-to-school planning, those at St. Charles North High School also had to deal with the aftermath of the Aug. 4 storm. High winds ripped a 10-by-15-foot section off the roof, which created damage to the school's inside lobby.

The damaged roof has been sealed and assistant principal Audra Christenson said replacement panels have been ordered and will be put up as soon as they arrive.

"It won't disrupt anything," Christenson said, adding that hard

work by school staff, maintenance and grounds crews were able to make the lobby look as if a storm never even hit the school.

Workers wearing orange vests could be seen on top of one of the campus' buildings, but Christenson said it was routine roof work not related to the storm damage.

Standing in the school's parking lot waiting for a ride, freshman Krista Joy said "you could hear them banging on the roof in some classes." Other than that, Joy said she enjoyed her first day as a high school student.

Scanlon said the storm repairs didn't inconvenience him in the least.

"They had it all cleaned up, so it didn't affect anyone," he said.

Cemetery offers green option

By BRENDA SCHORY
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ELBURN - Blackberry Township Cemetery, with its spreading trees and its earliest death date recorded in 1836, has entered a greener, more economical era in burial services.

This month the cemetery started offering a cremation spreading garden for \$450 to \$500 or cremation inter-

ment for \$400 to \$500.

Cremations cost less, take up less space than a standard burial and give families more options, said cemetery superintendent Fred Dornback.

"It gives us a chance to do something new and not upset old traditions," Dornback said. "It's greener a little more economical, too."

See CEMETERY, page 7A



Rob Winner - rwinner@kcchronicle.com

Fred Dornback, superintendent of Blackberry Township Cemetery in Elburn, explains Tuesday how the new cremation garden, which Dornback designed, will be utilized.

