

# Neighbor



TIGER  
BY BUD BLAKE

## The briefs

### Harpist to perform Sunday in Roselle

Roselle Public Library's free Musical Sunday performance will feature harpist Marysue Redmann at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at 40 S. Park St. For details, call (630) 529-1641.

### It's time to celebrate Mardi Gras for kids

Children can celebrate Mardi Gras from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Bloomingdale Public Library, 101 Fairfield Way. Students in first through fourth grades will create a mask, hear Cajun music and join a Mardi Gras parade. Registration is required. For details, call (630) 924-2740.

### Scholarship deadline March 1 for 4-H'ers

Current 4-H members who are high school seniors or in their last year of 4-H membership can apply for the 2007 Legacy of Leadership Scholarship. The application deadline for this merit-based award is March 1.

Scholarships may be used for expenses for further education programs, including trade schools, junior colleges, colleges or universities. For details and an application form, visit the University of Illinois Extension Office, 310 S. County Farm Road, Wheaton.

The Illinois 4-H Foundation seeks other individuals, corporations and organizations as partners in providing additional funds for future Legacy of Leadership scholarship recipients.

For details, call (630) 653-4114.

### Library asks readers to log, review books

The Bloomingdale Public Library's second annual winter reading program, "Get Between the Covers and Read," will run through March 16.

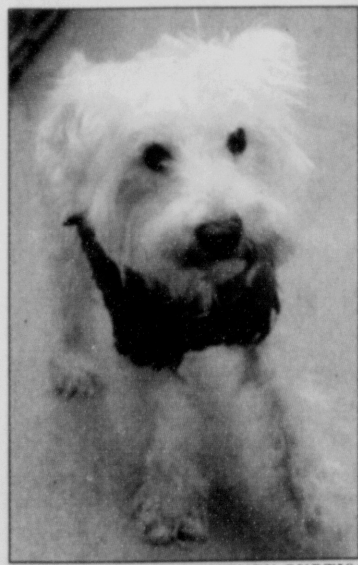
Adults and high school-age teens can pick up a book log at the adult reference desk and are also encouraged to fill out a book review form. The review forms are placed in a binder so other patrons can see what fellow readers have enjoyed.

Patrons are not required to read a certain number of books or books of a particular type; they're just encouraged to read as much as possible. For every book read, participants will be entered into the final drawing for prizes.

The grand prize is a lap-size quilt donated by the Loose Threads Quilt Group, second prize is a \$25 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble, and third prize is a fleece blanket and two mugs.

For details, call (630) 924-2730.

### Pet of the week



WHITNEY CURTIS/  
wcurtis@dailyherald.com  
Alex, 6, is looking for a new home. The playful, neutered male Westie mix would do well in a home with children older than 5. For details, call the DuPage County Animal Control, 120 N. County Farm Road in Wheaton, at (630) 407-2800. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays; noon to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays.

## Firm restoring historic courthouse to original glory



Sharon Huck  
Wheaton

In 1896, architect M.E. Bell designed the DuPage County Courthouse in Wheaton to last the test of time. And it has.

Standing proudly at the east end of downtown Liberty Drive, now shrouded in scaffolding, the venerable building is painstakingly being returned to its former glory.

Inside and out, workmen labor to repair the ravages of time, as well as past attempts to "modernize" the building. The task of restoring a building listed on the National Reg-

ister of Historic Places is far more complex than simply building a new condominium or even renovating an old structure.

Architect Tim Anderson, whose company is Focus Development, is in charge of the renovation. He is required to follow the standards set forth by the Secretary of the Interior for the Treatment of Historical Properties.

In addition, the aged structure must be brought up to date to comply with modern health and

safety codes and be handicap accessible.

Anderson, working in conjunction with the architectural firm of Antunovich Associates, said, "Part of our agreement with the city is that we would restore the exterior and the interior common spaces with amenities added for the new residents."

"There are a lot of beautiful courthouses in Illinois that have been outgrown," Anderson said, "but this is the first residential conversion."

The IHPA (Illinois Historical Preservation Agency) is very interested in it."

The first step, the easy part, was tearing down the old jail and the east courtroom addition from 1961. Neither was architecturally or historically significant. However, this left the east facade pockmarked with openings on each level that needed to be closed with matching brickwork — not an easy task given the

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BEV HORNE/bhorne@dailyherald.com  
She's a free spirit, he's all business. As "Barefoot in the Park" continues tonight at North Central College, Antonia Jankowski and Matt Lucki play unlikely newlyweds starting their life together.

## Opposites attract

North Central College's Studio Theatre to stage Simon's 'Barefoot in the Park'

BY ANN PICCININNI  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Greenwich Village in the 1960s and a young newlywed couple's first experiences with married life set the scene for North Central College's student production of "Barefoot in the Park."

The Neil Simon comedy, a stage play made into a 1967 movie starring Robert Redford and Jane Fonda, runs today and Saturday at North Central's Heininger Auditorium under the Studio Theatre banner.

"Students and audiences alike just love Neil Simon," said Deborah Palmes, associate professor of theater and the show's

faculty adviser.

"This is just very, very verbal, very much about male-female relationships."

Younger audience members may be reminded of the television show "Dharma and Greg," a comedy that used the unlikely pair's differences as a launching pad for laughs, she said.

While the husband in "Barefoot," Paul Bratter, is conservative, his wife, Corie, is not.

"She tends to be quite free-spirited and free-thinking," Palmes said.

"They have extreme opposite personalities," said student director Jennifer Boresek, a

### If you go

**What:** Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park"

**When:** 8 p.m. today and Saturday

**Where:** Heininger Auditorium, Larrance Academic Center, 309 E. School St., Naperville

**Cost:** Free; \$2 donations accepted

**Info:** (630) 637-5300

junior theater major from Streator. "She's fun and outgoing, kind of crazy. He's conservative and all business."

Boresek, who has directed scenes in other shows at the college, is debuting as director of a full-length production with "Barefoot."

"It's a lot of fun, but you have all the aspects of taking care of everything on your own," she said.

As a director, Boresek said she strives not to be too concerned with every minute detail of the action.

"I also try not to be too hands-off. I know what I'm looking for," she said.

Boresek said the script is faithful to Simon's original work.

"It's the actual stage script," she said. "Everything takes place in their apartment."

With a script as well-known and frequently produced as this one, the North Central production has a lot to live up to, Boresek said.

"You get a lot of expectations from people," she said.

But she's confident her cast

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## Bensenville offers many ways to beat winter blahs

If you're looking for an escape from the winter weather, the village of Bensenville offers sanctuaries

from the snow and ice. And the bonus? Most options cost little or no money.

To shake off cabin fever on the cheap, visit the library, 200 S. Church Road. It boasts not only a roaring fireplace, but 84,459 books to choose from. Odds are you'll find a book to curl up with.

And from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, you can enjoy coffee with your best-sellers, provided by the Bensenville Community Credit Union.

Library Director Jill Rodriguez says this perk was created to change stereotypes about libraries.

"We want to change ... the ones that say you can't drink or talk here," Rodriguez said.

"We want people to see the library as a place to go and spend time. You can drink coffee, sit by the fireplace and read. We want people to get excited about books and reading."

Want to compare the book to the movie version? Head over to the Bensenville Theater, 9-15 Center St., and take in a show.

Food Services Manager Albert Ciccio assures patrons an affordable time.

"It's warm here in the winter, cool in the summer and it's always a bargain," Ciccio said.

You can get soup, sandwich and chips in the Sundae's Too Ice Cream Shoppe for approximately \$3, and then pay \$3 more and see the movie.

Current show listings are posted on the village of Bensenville's Web site, [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us).

Make sure to wait at least a half hour after eating before you dive into the Water's Edge Aquatic Center, 545 John St., for a few laps around the heated



Rochelle Corso  
Bensenville, Wood Dale

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## Local romance novelist to sign her new book

BY ANN PICCININNI  
Daily Herald Correspondent

The Super Bowl didn't turn out quite as well as Chicago football fans had hoped, but best-selling Naperville author Susan Elizabeth Phillips is hoping there isn't too much of a hangover.

Phillips' new book is the final installment in her story featuring a fictional football team, the Chicago Stars. She signs copies of her new book this week in Naperville.

Her latest book, "Natural Born Charmer," follows the adventures of quarterback Dean Robillard, whose team's story began in the 1990s and has threaded its

way through seven of Phillips' 19 novels.

"I just get interested in a character or an idea and it takes off from there," she said, adding that each book contains enough exposition to carry new readers through if they haven't read previous volumes.

Phillips, whose books have won her the Favorite Book of the Year Award from Romance Writers of America four times, will wind up a book tour to promote "Natural Born Charmer" with an appearance at 1 p.m. Saturday at Anderson's Bookshop.

Phillips said she thinks of her books, often referred to as romance novels, in more general terms — fiction for women. "Romance is basically a book

about people finding love, in its broader sense," she said. "Good love does transform people."

Characters in her books usually go through positive changes and the endings are always happy, she said.

Phillips said her readers count on that satisfyingly upbeat ending, a fact that in no way interferes with suspense-building. After all, she said, readers of the mystery genre know that the mystery will be solved by the time the last page is turned.

She said she once bristled at the suggestion that she writes escapist fiction, but these days embraces the term. She's writing what women want to read,

### If you go

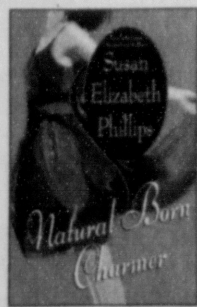
**What:** Susan Elizabeth Phillips book signing

**When:** 1 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Anderson's Bookshop, 123 W. Jefferson Ave., Naperville

**Cost:** Free

**Info:** (630) 355-2665, [www.andersonbookshop.com](http://www.andersonbookshop.com), [www.susanephillips.com](http://www.susanephillips.com)



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