

# Local Focus

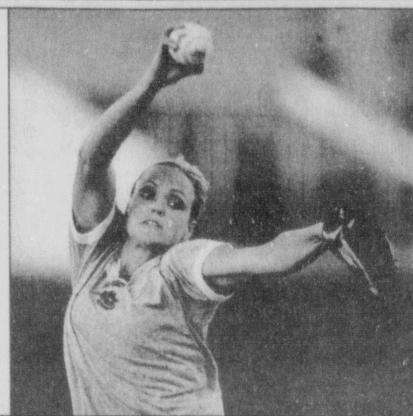


## Most-read stories

As of 4 p.m. Thursday

- Auto giant Rohrman sues plastic surgeon
- Waukegan mom's kids ok after train incident
- Schaumburg to end red light cameras
- Images from Friday's storms
- Man in fatal crash surrenders

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## Staycation destination

Looking for something to do close to home this summer? Every so often in this space we'll give you a suburban suggestion.

The Chicago Bandits professional softball team plays its home games at Judson University, just off I-90 and Route 31 in Elgin. Outfield seats are only \$8. The Bandits will host a five-game series against the Venezuelan national team starting on July 15. The defending league champs also will serve as grand marshals of Elgin's July 4 parade. For more, visit [chicagobandits.com](http://chicagobandits.com).

# Wheaton to view time capsule

*Mementos planted 50 years ago to be reopened in 2009*

BY ROBERT SANCHEZ  
[bsanchez@dailyherald.com](mailto:bsanchez@dailyherald.com)

A time capsule recently unearthed in Wheaton is giving town historians a glimpse into what happened when the city celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Now residents are getting the chance to see what the time capsule protected for 50 years. The items — including posters, toys and letters — will be on display 10 a.m. Saturday at Memorial Park.

"I think it's going to be a great highlight to our sesquicentennial year," Mayor Michael Gresk said of the ceremony. "I have to go back and look and see who the mayor was in 1959."

Wheaton's Center for History has been caring for the artifacts since they were recovered on June 19.

Alberta Adamson, the center's president and CEO, said the items were found in "excellent condition." They include phone books, comic books, catalogs, a bible, a silver dollar and a commemorative ashtray.

The ashtray and several other items were made for Wheaton's 100th anniversary.

Apparently, members of the committee that organized the celebration created the time capsule to mark the event.

They used a section of sewer pipe to make the time capsule, which was buried at the old police station site along Wheaton Avenue. It was unearthed for the first time when the building was demolished in 1992.

There were plans to open it then until a Glen Ellyn woman found a plaque in her garage that proved the time capsule wasn't supposed to be opened until 2009. So it was reburied at the current police station site along Liberty Drive.

Adamson said some letters found inside the time capsule might be read during Saturday's ceremony. Refreshments will be available immediately following the ceremony.

Meanwhile, the city is creating a new time capsule to be opened in 2059 for Wheaton's bicentennial anniversary. Community groups, students and individuals can submit items.

For more information about the new time capsule, visit the city's Web site at [wheaton.il.us](http://wheaton.il.us).



PHOTOS BY BEV HORNE/borne@dailyherald.com

Alberta Adamson, president and CEO of the Center for History in Wheaton, sorts through items from a 1959 time capsule, including unopened letters that residents addressed to their future family members. The items will be displayed during a ceremony on Saturday. Left, among the items found are tickets and buttons from Wheaton's centennial celebration.

## Firefighters, homeowner hurt in fire

BY LEE FILAS  
[lfilas@dailyherald.com](mailto:lfilas@dailyherald.com)

Two firefighters were injured Wednesday while battling an extra alarm fire in Plainfield, officials said.

The blaze that started in a two-story home on the 25000 block of West Willow Drive also sent one resident in the home to the hospital, Plainfield fire officials said.

The fire reportedly started at about 1 p.m., was elevated to a second alarm, and crews from nearby departments were called to assist, officials said.

One firefighter was injured when struck by a piece of equipment, while the second suffered heat-related injuries.

Both were transported to a nearby hospital. The first was treated, released, and returned to the scene of the fire, officials said. The second remains in the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The occupant of the home was hospitalized for a medical issue not directly attributed to the fire. That injury is not considered life-threatening either.

The fire reportedly started in the home's basement and climbed to the second floor and roof.

No damage estimates were available Thursday and officials are investigating the cause of the blaze.

## DuPage forest employees lose raises

BY JAKE GRIFFIN  
[jgriffin@dailyherald.com](mailto:jgriffin@dailyherald.com)

Saving taxpayers \$185,000 will cost DuPage County Forest Preserve employees their raises next year.

During recent talks, forest preserve commissioners removed the proposed pay hikes from the budget.

"I asked that it be done," said commissioner Mike Formento. "We're looking at economic conditions where I don't think anybody should be receiving pay increases, it's no reflection of the staff whatsoever."

The forest preserve district employs about 300 people, officials said. Employee raises aren't across the board, though. Each department head is given a pool equal to a percentage of that

department's salary budget.

Last year, it was 3 percent, and this year it would have been 1 percent. Department heads last year could have given high-performing employees as much as a 6 percent pay bump. But the maximum changes every year, officials said.

Formento said it's possible the raises could be reinstated if the economy turns around.

The district's human resources director, Laura Capizzano, said she was still asked to compile a report that outlines what other forest preserve districts are doing and paying for similar positions in the private sector.

"I'll bring back that information to the commission for consideration for merit increases," she said, "but right now, the

budget has no money for merit increases."

Formento said the commission made a mistake last year by approving 3 percent salary increases for themselves every year through 2012. That took the commissioners' annual salaries of \$50,079 in 2008 to \$56,912 by 2012. Formento was the lone dissenting vote at the time.

"I did not think it was a wise decision at the time," he said. "And I don't think it was wise now."

Commissioners must approve the district's budget by July 1 when its fiscal year begins. However, some eligible employees will still receive raises through December because that money was approved in the previous year's budget.

## DuPage County in 60 seconds

### Tollway fair a family affair:

The Second Annual Illinois Tollway Authority Family Safety Fair is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the tollway offices in Downers Grove. The event will feature various interactive demonstrations, free child safety seat inspections and car-care tips. The Radio Disney Rockin' Road Crew will be on hand from 11 a.m. to noon for music, dancing and games. In addition, the I-PASS customer service center also will be open during the event to help customers review and update their account information. For more details, visit [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com).

### Pleasant Hill Cemetery event:

A Patriotism and Family Day is planned for Saturday at Pleasant Hill Cemetery along Geneva Road in Wheaton. Scott and Katy Kohler of Winfield will start the program at 11 a.m. with the raising of the American flag in honor of their son, Jeffrey Kohler, who is a U.S. Army paratrooper serving in Afghanistan. The 50-piece Aurora American

Legion Band will present a concert of patriotic music during the program. The event, which is free and open to the public, will include a Civil War cannon salute by the Chicago Light Artillery. Speakers include Milton Township Supervisor O. Chris Heidorn. Because of limited parking near the cemetery, attendees can park at the Wheaton Bowl bowling alley on southeast corner of Geneva Road and Gary Avenue and ride a free shuttle bus to and from the cemetery.

### District hosts kids carnival:

The Glen Ellyn Countryside Park District will host a Kid's Day Carnival from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Armitage and Highland avenues in Glen Ellyn. The afternoon will include swings, a moonwalk, train ride, music, games, dunk tank, pony rides and food. For more information, call the park district at (630) 469-6010.

### United Way announces board:

United Way of the DuPage Area has announced that Jerry Broz of Lisle is the newly

elected president of its 2009-10 board of directors. Broz formerly served as vice-president. Other new officers are: Natasha Bonomo of Naperville, vice-president; Nathan Paulson of Wheaton, treasurer; Don Tomes of Wheaton, secretary. New members of the board are Violette Hawkins of Aurora, Mary Keating of St. Charles, Candace King of Glen Ellyn, Phillip Lorenzini of Wheaton, Orlando Murrell of Naperville and Marie Ward of Naperville.

**Madigan sues tour company:**  
Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan filed a lawsuit Thursday against a Wheeling tour company, saying the firm canceled trips but didn't refund its customers. Madigan's suit alleges that Cosper & Cosper Group Tours and its owners, William and Gayle Cosper, have accepted nearly \$24,000 from vacation planners for scheduling guided tours throughout the country. The suit claims the couple repeatedly failed to pay refunds to consumers when those tours were canceled.

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