

**Gay marriages face new challenges in two states where they had begun**



**Our All-Area boys team, featuring the best of the suburbs**



# Teen weighing 23 pounds found dead

*Mother charged with neglect; prosecutor says boy looked like Holocaust victim*

BY CHARLES KEESHAN AND PATRICK GARMOE  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

A 15-year-old Crystal Lake boy suffering from cerebral palsy weighed just 23 pounds Thursday morning when rescue

workers found him dead in his squalid family home. The body of Seamus M. Leonard was found lying on a floor amid feces, cat litter and debris so thick rescuers had trouble moving through the home, authorities said.



**Katherine O. Leonard**

bludgeoned body, a mutilated body," Pack said. "The condition

"The condition of this victim was like a body out of the Holocaust," McHenry County State's Attorney Gary Pack said. "This was worse than a bludgeoned body, a mutilated body," Pack said. "The condition of the body would bring anyone to tears."

The boy's mother, Katherine O. Leonard, 44, was charged Thursday with involuntary manslaughter, a felony punishable by up to 14 years in prison. She was being held overnight without bond in the McHenry County jail.

Preliminary findings from an autopsy indicated the boy died from pneumonia, but malnutri-

tion was listed as a contributing cause.

According to medical data, an average 15-year-old boy would weigh between 95 and 105 pounds. Seamus' body weighed 23 pounds, according to the autopsy report.

Katherine Leonard could face more serious charges, depending on the outcome of the investigation, officials said.

Her son's death comes less

than two months after Leonard completed a court-ordered parenting class as part of her ongoing divorce.

Leonard called Crystal Lake firefighters to the family home about 6:30 a.m. Thursday, reporting that her 15-year-old son was not breathing.

From the outside, rescue workers saw a two-story white

See **DEATH** on **PAGE 10**

# Deadly attack a mystery

**Who's responsible for bombs that killed nearly 200 in Spain?**

Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession Thursday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400. Spain at first blamed Basque separatists but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida for the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled on each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said.

The bombing came three days ahead of Spain's general election on Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group that is seeking greater autonomy.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

The bombings occurred exactly 2 1/2 years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, and was Europe's worst since the

See **SPAIN** on **PAGE 9**



Simultaneous bomb blasts ripped through four packed commuter trains in Madrid on Thursday, killing 192 people and injuring nearly 1,500.

## Blasts rock Madrid

7:39 a.m.

Three backpacks loaded with explosives detonate on a commuter train in the Atocha station.



7:44 a.m.

Four backpack bombs explode on commuter train entering Atocha station.

7:49 a.m.

Backpack bomb explodes as commuter train enters Santa Eugenia train station.

7:54 a.m.

Two bombs explode on double-decker commuter train in El Pozo station.

10 a.m.

Police carry out controlled explosions of three booby-trap backpack bombs; two in Atocha and one in El Pozo. They believe attackers planned to set them off after the first wave.

Note: All times local

Sources: Interior Ministry; ESRI

# Mom won't face death

*County won't make slaying a capital case*

BY ERIC PETERSON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Cook County prosecutors will not seek the death penalty for a Schaumburg woman charged with murdering her recently adopted Russian son in December.

Irma Pavlis, 32, faces two counts of first-degree murder in the death of her 6-year-old son, Alex, whom she and her husband had adopted along with Alex's younger sister only six weeks earlier.

Assistant State's Attorney Karen Crothers said the decision of whether to seek the death penalty in every eligible Cook County case is made by State's Attorney Dick Devine.

The reasons behind the decision are never revealed, however. "We never get into the decision-making process," said Jerry Lawrence, a spokesman for Devine's office, of the reasons. "There's no formula or

See **PENALTY** on **PAGE 12**

# Unable to stop, drug user dies at 21

BY AMES BOYKIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Steven Andrew Tate had just been promoted to manager at Wal-Mart, and the 21-year-old seemed poised to turn his life around after a drug overdose two years ago.

At that time, Tate told family members he would stop using cocaine and heroin — the combination that sent him to the hospital in 2002.

Tate didn't want help because he wasn't hooked, he told them.

Tate, who went to Conant High School and finished a year at Harper College, got a full-time job last year at Wal-Mart and



**Steven Andrew Tate**

started running with the same crowd his family members say lured him into using drugs, including a friend who recently had been released from jail.

About two weeks ago after he came home late one weekend, his mother, Helena Gasienica-Daniel, confronted Tate, telling

him he couldn't continue coming home late. If he was to live that lifestyle, he would have to move, she told him.

"I wanted him to straighten up," Gasienica-Daniel said.

After an apparent binge of heroin and alcohol, Tate was dropped off early Saturday at a 24-hour emergency treatment center run by Northwest Community Hospital in Schaumburg.

He died Monday at Alexian Brothers Medical Center, where he was born on April 24, 1982.

The high levels of heroin and alcohol killed him, the Cook

County coroner said.

See **OVERDOSE** on **PAGE 13**

# Rosemont feels optimistic

*Isle of Capri dramatically raises its bid by \$48 million at last minute*

BY ROB OLMSTEAD  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In the world of Illinois gambling licenses, nothing is ever a sure bet.

But the village of Rosemont and Isle of Capri went a long way early Thursday morning in the waning moments of an auction for the state's 10th casino license to ensure that a casino comes their way.

Isle of Capri, which had been significantly trailing Harrah's Entertainment in bidding for the license, gave one mammoth

push at 1:33 a.m. and upped its bid by a whopping \$48 million — the largest increase of the 16-hour auction — to \$518 million. That almost matched Harrah's bid of \$520 million for a Waukegan facility and far outpaces Midwest Gaming's Des Plaines bid of \$476 million.

The move came when the auction moderator, Todd Snyder, asked the three companies for their last, best and final offer in sealed envelopes. When he tore open and read Isle's bid, there was an audible, collective gasp from the sleep-deprived,

crowd of auction participants and observers.

"I think it was a shocker to everyone when they jumped \$48 million on the last bid," said Tom Swaik, executive director of the Illinois Casino Gaming Association, an advocacy group for casino owners.

Although Rosemont and Isle still trail Harrah's cash offer by \$2 million, the vast narrowing of the gap was significant because it put Isle within parameters that Snyder had seemed to indi-

See **CASINO** on **PAGE 10**

## Weather



It's better to look good than feel good: Sunny, 36.

See the back of *Fast Track Classified*.

## Business

### Why is Field's for sale?

Investors in Target Corp. are happy it wants to sell off its Marshall Field's business. Why has the glamorous store dropped in value? It could be bad policy decisions or changing shopping habits. Is Field's still a good store? Section 3.

## Local Focus

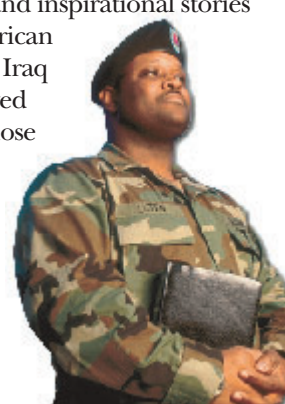
### Representative's husband indicted

Old check-kiting charges against the husband of U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky that the couple thought was behind them became official Thursday. Robert Creamer was indicted on 34 counts of check-kiting and income tax fraud. Page 15.

## Coming Sunday

### Soldiers who found God, plus stagnant stocks and the mighty Wisconsin

USA Weekend presents five heart-breaking and inspirational stories from American soldiers in Iraq who survived wounds, close calls and comrades' deaths with stronger, deeper faith.



**Wall Street Journal Sunday:** What will it take for the lackadaisical stock market to move significantly one way or another? Plus, why car leasing deals may be getting more attractive.

**Going Places:** Wisconsin's original lazy river is not a man-made production. The Lower Wisconsin River will take you to lots of neat places to explore. Also, Wisconsin ferry rides.



## Index

Bridge	6-54	Lottery	1-18
Comics	Sec 5	Movies	6-39
Cox	6-36	Obituaries	3-8
Crossword	Sec 5	Preps	2-18
Cryptquote	Sec 5	Restaurants	6-22
Editorials	1-16	Service Dir	8-7
Guarino	6-5	Stocks	3-3
Give	6-39	Television	6-36
Home sales	Sec 7	Theater	6-29
Horoscope	6-54	Weather	8-8

