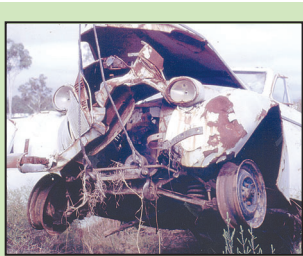


CAR OF THE WEEK?

See this 1939 Pontiac Roadster restored to glory, **Page B6**



DINING OUT

Angelino's shares tips with budding chefs, **Page B7**



A GLORIOUS FINISH

Homer Stallions take down Titans to wrap up season, **Page B1**



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ONE DOLLAR

Homer Glen to look into purchasing water utility

Village chipping in \$7,500 for multi-suburb study

By Lauren Traut
Staff writer

Homer Glen Village Board members earlier this month agreed to consider investing \$7,500 to study the possibility of purchasing its water utility, hoping to put an end to residents' water bill woes.

The village's current water service is provided by Illinois American Water, but residents have been less than satisfied and administrators are seeking the best solution.

"For over two years now, we've been looking at all the options. Our main goal is to see what we can do to lower the high rates that we have," said Village Manager Dwight

Johnson. The study would examine the cost of purchasing the pipeline, which serves 6,000 residents—nearly 79 percent of the community. The villages of Bolingbrook, Plainfield and Woodridge would also be included in the study, which would cost \$51,400 and take 21 weeks to complete. Homer Glen accounts for 14 percent of water taps for the four communities, totaling \$7,500 of the cost. An official vote November 28

"We're going to open up every door, every avenue to get rates down."

-Homer Glen Mayor
Russ Petrizzo

would approve the expenditure for the study. Three companies prepared proposals for the vil-

lage, including McDonough Associates, Inc. and Clark Dietz Engineers. Staff said that Postl-Yore presented the most thorough report and would be the most cost-efficient. If approved, the study by Postl-Yore would not be the first step the village has taken against Illinois American.

In 2005, Homer Glen Mayor Russ Petrizzo filed complaints with the Illinois Commerce Commission against IAW on behalf of residents frustrated over high bills and poor service

they say they received.

The complaint listed residents' issues with IAW, including, "unexplained, one-time spikes in billed usage... premature or unjustified collection or shut-off notices, including instances of harassment... (and) apparent back billing of estimated water bills."

The village's case against IAW is nearing completion, with a deadline set for Feb. 2, 2007.

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NO MORE PENCILS, NO MORE BOOKS

Lockport District 205 makes the move to paperless meetings

By Jennie Korb
Editor

The days of board members shuffling through stacks of paper to find the chart or memo they're looking for at a meeting—and of staff spending hours putting those packets together—will soon be over for Lockport Township High School District 205.

The board voted last month to move forward with the purchase and installation of a new system called ElectronicSchoolBoard, made by a company called InterCom Network, at a cost of \$1,000 per month.

The Web-based system will allow board members to follow the agenda and view agenda items on laptops, and voting can be done online, "like CSPAN," said Matthew Dusterhoft, the district's director of technology. The meetings will become more audience-friendly, as items in the packet, such as a chart or graph, can be projected onto a screen for the audience to see during meetings, as well, he said.

District 205 Superintendent Garry Raymond said this is something the board has been pushing for, for several years. He said the board needs to be more paperless and use technology more at meetings, and

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Introducing...

Logical Confusion

Young Homer Glen band taking the stage at Kobys for first real gig

By Garin Pirmia
Staff writer

So many kids dream of living out their rock 'n' roll fantasies. Obtaining an adrenaline rush from performing in front of a large audience, writing a hit song, and having universal acclaim and recognition encompasses being a rock star. But playing in a successful band takes more than just idle visions. Through hard work and perseverance, three young Homer Glen-area musicians are transforming their musical daydreams into reality.

Lockport High School freshmen Carl Horne and Andrew Okrzesik, both of Homer Glen, and John Fornino of Lockport formed their first band, Logical Confusion, a year and two months ago. They befriended each other in the sixth grade, and it was John's idea to start the band while they all were attending Homer Junior High. They had played individually but never as a collective before. The group classify the band as progressive rock



Photo by Garin Pirmia/Homer Horizon

Andrew Okrzesik of Homer Glen, John Fornino of Lockport and Carl Horne of Homer Glen practice some of their tunes as they get ready to play their first gig at Kobys in Homer Glen this Friday evening.

performing covers of late 1960s-70s classics from Led Zeppelin, Rush, and Black Sabbath.

"Because of who we've been listening to differently, it's made us adapt to our own type of style. We've become our own," said Fornino.

At the impressionable age of 14, the trio allows all kinds of influences to infiltrate their music. They cite the Beatles, Steve Vai, and King Crimson as muses. They listen to everything, though.

"The kind of music you like explains what kind of person you are," said Horne. "If you're into Metallica, you're probably going to be angry a lot of the time."

Music runs rampant in all their families, so it makes sense for them to be in a band. Andrew used to play the accordion but became bored with it. He

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SHOPPING FOR A SPECIAL FRIEND



Photo by Sandi Schuttler

Nicole Rosenberger looks for American Girl Doll clothes at the Christmas Crossroads holiday craft and gift fair at Lockport Township High School the weekend of November 18 and 19. For more photos, please see page A7.

Victory is C-O-N-T-A-G-I-O-U-S

Two dozen wordsmiths participate in first Victorian Village spelling bee

By Jennie Korb
Editor

Enthusiasm is contagious, and enthusiastic applause and cheering quickly filled the room when Ethel Harmeling correctly spelled the word "contagious" to win the first-ever Victorian Village spelling bee last week.

Nearly two dozen spellers had put their names on a list to verbally wrestle with the quirks and foibles of the English language on November 20, led by spelling bee aficionado Bill Smith, who also coordinates the annual Orland Park community-wide spelling bee.

Between the brave spellers—all of them female—who wore name tags sporting their numbers and first names, and the audience of about 50 in the chairs at the back of the room, it was a full house in the lower level of the retirement community.

In the moments leading up



Photo by Jennie Korb/Homer Horizon

Bill Smith, who led the first-ever spelling bee at Victorian Village on November 20, declares Ethel Harmeling the winner after she spells contagious correctly.

to the bee, the room was abuzz. "You have to be right the first time—you can't change in the middle," a woman named Essie, who was chatty throughout the bee, informed the spellers sitting around her.

The two judges, Debbie Scinto, the social director of Victorian Village, and Nancy Soleim, the administrative assistant, sat behind a long table at the center of the room. On top of the table were a stack of honorable mention ribbons,

as well as the coveted first through fourth place ribbons and a thick Webster's Dictionary.

"Are you going to spell, Essie?" one woman asked the chatty lady.

"Yep-S-P-E-L-L," she dashed off.

Sporting a button that proclaimed him, tongue-in-cheek, the "offishal spelling champ," Smith took to the microphone to share the instructions. If a

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Santa Claus is coming to Homer Glen A3

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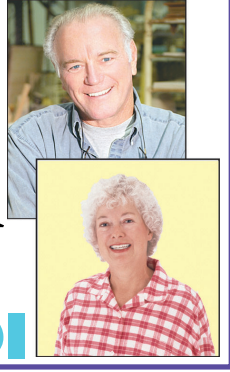
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Paperless

From Page A1

staff needs to spend less time preparing the reports.

The district saw the ElectronicSchoolBoard system at the annual National School Board Conference held in Chicago this spring, and Dusterhoft did a great deal of research and spent some time negotiating price, Raymond said.

"It is a very impressive program, but some of the initial setup costs seemed to outweigh the benefits," Dusterhoft said.

The company is used to dealing with county school systems, and had quoted District 205 a price of \$45,000 for up-front costs. But InterCom wants to get into District 205, which will be one of the first districts in Illinois to implement the system, so they worked with Dusterhoft to lower the price considerably, he said.

ElectronicSchoolBoard allows users to access all information via an Internet browser, and is easy for district staff to maintain and support, he said.

"It will change the way board packets are produced, conceptually," Raymond said.

Staff can log on to the site to request addition of an agenda item, or e-mail staff a notification to let them know they need approval of that item. Board members can log onto

the site at any time, from anywhere, to look at various items in the packet.

In the packets, there also will be locations for board members and staff to take notes using their laptops during meetings, and those notes will be saved under that person's particular login and settings, Dusterhoft said.

Wheaton-Warrenville Unit School District 200 has used the system for about a year, Dusterhoft said, adding that if the district likes the system and enters into a longer-term agreement, the cost would go down even more.

Board member Richard Petty said he has sat through the presentation on ElectronicSchoolBoard twice, and it seems very easy to use.

"It is frighteningly easy, and that's what's so attractive about it," Dusterhoft said.

Board member Jeffrey Rutter asked what would happen if the meeting needed to be held in a larger facility, as opposed to the wireless media center. Dusterhoft said staff can make any area wireless that isn't already, and the only aspect that might not happen in that case would be a projector.

Raymond said that board will ease into using the new system, and will continue to receive paperless copies of the agenda and packets at the next few meetings. There also will be training sessions on the use of ElectronicSchoolBoard, he said.

Soaring ahead with new technology district-wide

Earlier this month, at the board's November 20 meeting, Dusterhoft also updated the board on the leaps and bounds the district has made with new technology in the classrooms over the past year or so.

Dusterhoft said two years ago, before he came on board, the district had an audit done of the use of technology used throughout the schools. The audit resulted in a list of recommendations, and the first thing staff tackled was upgrading the infrastructure to make it quicker and more reliable.

"This year, we were able to build on that and make some new and interesting things available to the students," Dusterhoft said.

The district rolled out wireless mobile carts for the first time this year, and the East campus is on its way to being completely wireless. LCD projectors have been installed in almost all classroom spaces, which make it possible to use devices such as Smart Boards—an interactive, electronic white board being rolled out in the district for the first time this year—and document cameras.

Document cameras can be used for a variety of applications, from projecting a newspaper article on an overhead screen to avoid having to make a copy for each student, or showing the dissection of a frog onscreen instead of having everyone crowd around one table to see how it's done, Dusterhoft said.

The district also is now

using tablet PCs for instruction, he said.

Now that the network is more reliable and cutting-edge, it's also easier for staff to propose classes that are technology-centric, such as the three-dimensional design and animation and digital filmmaking classes the board has approved offering for the first time in the 2007-08 school year.

Dusterhoft said at this point, students should be seeing computers as tools, not as something unfamiliar they need to master.

"You don't think about your textbooks and your pencils, and that's what's beginning to happen with computers," he said.

Parents are becoming more and more comfortable with the upgraded technology offerings available to them, as well, Dusterhoft said.

Last year, the district rolled out its Parent Portal program to keep parents apprised of their students' progress and provide another avenue for communication. Last year parents of freshmen, who were taught about the program from the outset, were the biggest users, and now it's freshmen and sophomore parents, Dusterhoft said.

This year the district also has launched a program called Share Point, which gives teachers other ways to communicate with students, such as posting assignments on the electronic bulletin board, he said.

Logical

From Page A1

learned to play the clarinet because his dad did, and eventually took on the bass and keyboards. Carl began playing the violin at the prodigious age of three and drums at four. He picked up the guitar a couple of years ago. John has always been drawn to percussion and started playing the drums in fifth grade.

For most musicians, learning compositions from Zeppelin is a difficult accomplishment at any age, but at the precocious age of 14, these guys have mastered the intricacies. They also play in marching and jazz bands at school, always surrounded by their musical inclinations. They don't have a set practice schedule but play together when they feel compelled.

Music consumes every aspect of Carl's, John's and especially Andrew's lives.

"I go home, and I sit at the computer and I learn a bunch of songs," states Okrzesik. "I did that all summer. Then I'd write songs and write riffs."

He mentions he got into trouble at school for tapping too much. Music is a way of life for John, as well.

"It changes who you are because of what it says to you and how it makes you feel," he said.

The guys work together as a team to conjure ideas for songs. They all contribute lyrics and then add arrangements. Each bandmate has equal input.

"I think three is a good dynamic for us now," says Fornino.

For their songs, everyday occurrences stimulate their interest. Andrew tells an anecdote about how a teacher thought he was depressed because he wore black all the time. He went home and wrote an anti-suicide song expressing himself on the subject.

The guys will demonstrate their abilities at their first major gig on December 1 at Koby's Sports Bar and Grill in Homer Glen. The band played their school's talent show back in February, but this will be the first time they will play in a club setting.

"All we want to do is play for the people," they say in unison.

Doing covers of recognizable songs should appeal to their audience.

This is the first time bar owner Tina Kobylarczyk booked a band to play in her establishment. Kobylarczyk initially knew the band because

JUST SO YOU KNOW

WHO: Logical Confusion, a local band getting their start

WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday, December 1

WHERE: Koby's, 13001 W. 143rd Street, Homer Glen

ADMISSION: Free

her daughter is in Girl Scouts with Carl's sister. After seeing them play at a graduation party, she offered them the gig.

"I was totally blown away by these 14 year olds and the music. They're very talented," said Kobylarczyk. "We're doing this because I think they're really going places. People can say they knew them when."

For long term goals, the band remains modest and practical.

"We don't want to think about that," replies Okrzesik. "We don't like saying in five years we're going to be playing some big place."

Carl chimes in, saying they're doing it by steps.

"It's a tricky business to get into and to stay into," comments Fornino.

Risky or not, the guys are in it for the long haul.

"I feel complete elation when I'm playing with these guys," says Fornino. "I'm thankful to be with them."

Andrew adds in his thoughts: "If you want something that much, you can have it. That's what I've learned with these guys."

All of them want to go to college for music and be immersed in it for a career. "Even if we get separated, there's no replacing these guys," says Okrzesik.

They would like to head into a studio in a few months and record a demo. A Myspace page is on the horizon, too.

"You have to be confident but not overconfident," states Horne on making the band work.

"The whole thing is fun," offers Fornino. "The hard point is playing for people and getting a response while you're playing. It's very rewarding just to do something so simple for us after we've learned it and it's been so difficult and such a challenge. It's very worth it. It makes us want to progress."

When so many bands allow ego, immaturity, and money to get in the way of their art, the group remains wise beyond their youth. Despite an uncertain trajectory, they delineate a solid career path. This is just the beginning of what will likely be a prolific voyage for Logical Confusion.

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Dr. Gamagami received his medical training from George Washington University in Washington D.C. He completed his surgical residency at University of California in San Diego. Followed by a fellowships in endoscopic, laparoscopic, digestive, gastrointestinal, and colorectal surgery in Europe. Dr. Gamagami recently relocated to Will County from Central Illinois where he was in private practice.

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