

Aurora 15-year-old shot and killed

By **Matt Hanley**
STAFF WRITER

A 15-year-old Aurora boy died Sunday after being shot multiple times while walking with a friend Saturday afternoon in Aurora.

Oscar Rodriguez of the 500 block of Gates Avenue died at 12:45 p.m. Sunday at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. He was brought there by helicopter after being shot twice in the head Saturday at 2 p.m. near High and Grove streets.

According to police, Rodriguez and a 16-year-old female friend were walking on Aurora's near East Side when a dark-colored SUV, possibly occupied by several Hispanic men, drove south on High Street. The men in the car yelled out sev-

eral gang slogans and fired numerous shots, police said. The girl was not hit, but Rodriguez was shot multiple times, police said. He was taken to Provena Mercy Medical Center, but transferred to Lutheran General shortly after he arrived.

Rodriguez's death comes after a recent flare-up of gang related shootings in Aurora. Last week, two men were shot in gang-related shootings and another man narrowly missed

❖ Turn to **SHOOTING, A2**

TODAY'S WEATHER BY:
ERIC HASTINGS,
FEARN ELEMENTARY,
AURORA
HIGH 24, LOW 18



The Aurora Beacon News



TO DOROTHY FRAZIER,
OUR VALUED SUBSCRIBER

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007

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50 CENTS

A LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR-PUBLISHER

The Aurora Beacon News returns

As you can see by the masthead above, there are a few changes in today's Beacon News.

We've put the "Aurora" back in the newspaper's name, and we've renewed our commitment to serving the residents of Aurora, Montgomery, Sugar Grove, Big Rock and Hinckley.

How will the Aurora edition be different?

■ Starting today, we've brought the obituaries back to the A Section of the newspaper.

■ The Aurora edition will put even greater focus on Illinois' second-largest city. Aurora is our hometown, and nobody covers it as completely or as passionately as we do.

❖ Turn to **NAGEL, A2**

Special censuses can really add up

By **Kristen Zambo**
and **Heather Gillers**
STAFF WRITERS

While Aurora is about to wrap up a special census on the city's East Side, North Aurora is set to launch a new headcount of its own.

Both communities expect to reap additional dollars from their additional numbers.

Workers from the U.S. Census Bureau are expected to pull out of a six-mile stretch of Aurora's East Side soon, where they've been counting the city's new residents.

Extra people spell extra cash from Illinois, which pays about \$100 per person to help offset costs of providing services to the new residents.

"Everything is going great. It's on track," said Carrie Anne Ergo, the city's public information officer. "The Census Bureau is hoping to finish up by the end of January."

❖ Turn to **CENSUS, A2**

SUPER BEARS

CHICAGO SINKS THE SAINTS
IN FRIGID FIGHT FOR
NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

COMPLETE COVERAGE
OF BEARS VICTORY IN
SPORTS: C1, C4-C5

HOOSIERS NEXT: COLTS
TOP PATRIOTS TO WIN
AFC TITLE, C4



AP PHOTO/ALEX BRANDON



Chicago Bears fans go crazy at the Walter Payton's Roundhouse on Sunday as their team clinches its 39-14 win over the New Orleans Saints. Jarrett Payton, son of Walter Payton, hosted the NFC Championship game party.

CRAIG WATSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At fire station, alarms interrupt the cheering

■ Fans & firefighters: Snowy weather keeps crews hopping even as players keep slipping

By **Matt Hanley**
STAFF WRITER

In the downtown headquarters, it was Aurora firefighter Jim Rhodes who first let those two magic words slip out. Although when he said it, the Bears were up 25-14, but there was plenty of time — 12 minutes, 29 seconds — left in the fourth quarter.

Still, Rhodes couldn't help discussing some plans for Feb. 4. "I might even have to have a Super

Bowl party," Rhodes told the other firefighters and medics gathered at Aurora's downtown station.

On Sunday afternoon — a day when even priests were rooting against the Saints — you were allowed to dream early.

And, less than a minute later, Rhodes' confidence was rewarded when Bears running back Cedric Benson scored from 12 yards out to

❖ Turn to **FANS, A2**



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