

## Inside today's BeaconNews

Vol. 160 / No. 33  
4 sections, 28 pages

**A:** News  
**B:** Voice  
**C:** Sports  
**D:** Classified Marketplace

Comics / B5  
Crossword puzzle / B5  
Dear Abby / B4  
Dr. Gott / B4  
Lotteries / A10  
Movies / B3  
Newsflash / A10  
Obituaries / A8  
Openline / B3  
Police blotter / A9  
Scoreboard / C2  
Television / B4  
Weather / A10

## The Beacon News

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**Newsroom**  
Rick Nagel, Editor/Publisher, (630) 844-5840; Denise Crosby, Managing Editor, (630) 844-5870  
**Main newsroom number:** (630) 844-5900; **Fax:** (630) 844-1043

**Send e-mail to staff members at:**  
first initial last name@scn1.com  
**Example:** jrussell@scn1.com

**News question or complaint?** Call John Russell (630) 844-5902  
**To suggest a story or photo for any section:** Call Associate Editor John Russell (630) 844-5902

**To submit a press release for any section:** Call Community News Editor Janet Zohorsky or Service Editor Brian Pitt at (630) 844-5900 or e-mail beaconourtowns@scn1.com

**Local news editors:** Associate Editor John Russell (630) 844-5902; Opinions Editor Dave Parro (630) 801-5495

**Reporters:** Dave Garbe (630) 844-5889; Heather Gillers (630) 844-5966; Matt Hanley (630) 801-5414; Steve Lord (630) 844-5926; Christine Moyer (630) 844-5995; Andre Salles (630) 844-5845; Tim Wagner (630) 801-5487; Justina Wang (630) 844-5891

**Photographers:** Photo Editor Marianne Mather (630) 801-5413; Heather Eidson (630) 844-5803; Craig Watson (630) 844-5488

**Business, Entertainment, and Special Sections:** Sections Editor Dan Waitt (630) 844-5829  
**Voice:** Associate Editor Mike Cetera (630) 844-5853

**Editors and designers:** News Editor Tom Johnson (630) 844-5888; Design Editor Jennifer Messenbrink (630) 844-5886; Jeff Frosch (630) 844-5892; Johnathon Strube (630) 844-5887; Charlotte Gillette (630) 844-5893; P. Joseph Gillette (630) 844-5820; Bryan Noonan (630) 844-5885; Brad Melges (630) 844-5962

**Sports:** Sports Editor Todd Adams (630) 844-5954; Assistant Sports Editor Jason Bauman (630) 801-5491; Rick Armstrong (630) 844-5912; Bill Kindt (630) 844-5878; Mike Knapp (630) 844-5911

**Web site**  
www.beaconnews.com  
**Online content specialist:** Joseph DeRostor (630) 844-5957

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**Aurora firefighters respond to an accident at the intersection of Union Street and New York Street Sunday. The firefighters kept tabs on the Bears, but as Lt. Steve Weatherly said, "We're on call, no matter what."**

## FANS

From page A1

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

Illinois residents can start warming up the party dip and begin the search for that big-screen TV you've been waiting to buy. The 1985 team finally has company. Final score: Bears 39, Saints 14.

While the 2005 World Series could only bring true joy to White Sox fans, this time there will be no intrastate rivalry when the Bears line up against in Miami, two weeks from now in Super Bowl XLI (41, for those of you who gave up using Roman numerals).

In the Fox Valley, hundreds packed sports bars and gathered in parties at home to watch the Bears pull away, scoring three fourth-quarter touchdowns to close out New Orleans head coach (and Naperville native) Sean Payton's resilient club.

At the Aurora fire station, they too were dressed in blue, with snacks on the table and recliners surrounding the television. But, if you looked closely, there were some unusual features to this Bears gathering.

One: No one was cracking open a beer.  
Two: Lots of people left early, while the game was still very much in doubt.

But that's routine when you're on call for



**Kelly Bolen (left), and Jayme Schuler cheer on their Chicago Bears at Walter Payton's Roundhouse in Aurora Sunday as the final minutes of their 39-14 victory over the New Orleans Saints tick away.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG WATSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the fire department.  
"We don't punch out; we're on call," said Lieutenant Steve Weatherly. "We'll fly out no matter what."

"We catch it on the radio or in the hospital," said medic Jim Podbregar, after returning from traffic accident call.

In Sunday's steady snow, the dome-friendly Saints fumbled four times, including an early drop that neither the Bears nor the Saints could seem to pick up.

"I'm going to get the (heart) monitor from Medic 5," said firefighter Phil Bergeron. "I can't take it anymore."

But white wet stuff also caused havoc on the roads. Sure enough, just after the start of the second half, an accident with injuries called a paramedic and a firetruck crew away from the TV. It was just as well because they didn't have to see Reggie Bush's end zone leap that brought Saints within three.

Later, the firefighters would miss a key Bears touchdown, when an Aurora resident, on his way to watch the game, collided with the car of a pregnant woman which had slid through the intersection of Union and New

York streets.

Everyone was OK, but the accidents made it only more appropriate that the Bears game turned on a play at the heart of firefighters' work.

With 5:27 left in the third quarter New Orleans quarter Drew Brees — who seemed to be getting back his momentum — threw a pass to no one in particular while standing in his own end zone.

It was proof that whether you're an emergency responder or a Bears defender, there's few things more precious than safety.

As it turned out, the rest of the night was hectic at the station. The slippery roads led to head-on crashes and cars hitting poles.

But the big win made the day a little easier, and let everyone consider Super Bowl dreams again.

"If New England (Patriots) gets back and the Bears beat them again, that would be sweet," Weatherly said.

**In Sports:** The stats, what's next, more: C1

## For the Record

The Beacon News tries to be accurate and fair in every story it publishes. When a mistake occurs, we want to fix it. To report errors, call Associate Editor John Russell at 844-5902.

## Recent Deaths

Obituaries / Page A8

- Escalante, Johnny "Chencho",** 69, Aurora
- Hurrell, Thomas Alfred,** 48, Sugar Grove
- Johnson, Leona I. Burroughs,** 86, formerly Plano
- Mowinski, Tom James,** 60, Sandwich
- Parsons, Jayla Marie,** infant, Plano
- Pasteris, Mary F.,** 85, Oswego
- Salrin, Linda Kay,** 65, Plano
- Wagner, Susan L.,** 62, Montgomery
- Wolf, Shirley E.,** 87, Oswego

## Photo reprints

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## CENSUS

From page A1

But she added that they may extend their work into February because of the weather changes recently.

City planners selected a section of the East Side, where they have said that up to 6,600 new residents may live. Census Bureau workers started work last November.

"It's generally about four months to get results back," Ergo said.

According to the 2003 special census, Aurora had 162,184 people. That was up more than 13 percent from the 142,990 certified in the 2000 census. The regular census is conducted every 10 years.

### Village's new growth

In North Aurora, meanwhile, the village expects to reap about \$600,000 from a special census planned for this spring.

"We've had so many new homes built that we feel that it's

worthwhile to have a count," said Village Trustee Dale Ber-

man. Census takers will be counting residents only in new areas of town, where village staff predict more than 1,500 new people have moved in the two years since the last special census.

In the 2004 special census, the village counted 13,635 North Aurorans, nearly a third more than there were at the regular census in 2000.

"Even though we did (a census) just a short time ago," Ber-

man said, "we're always looking for more money for the community." If village predictions are right, one year of the new funding formula — which will govern budget allocations until the regular 2010 census — will more than pay back the \$132,000 cost of the special census.

Applications to become a North Aurora census taker are available at Village Hall, 25 E. State St. Questions can be directed to Wes Kornowski, North Aurora's management analyst, at (630) 897-8228, Ext. 233.

## SHOOTING

From page A1

being hit.

Then between Saturday night and Sunday morning, two other people were wounded in shootings, one in the 100 block of South Lincoln Avenue and another apparently near Galena Boulevard and Farnsworth Avenue, Aurora police said. Both men suffered non life-threatening injuries, Aurora police spokesman Dan Ferrelli said.

Ferrelli said the shootings are the results of a dispute between two gangs, and police have taken various steps, including shifting resources and manpower, to address the shootings.  
Now, police are also looking

for the public's help in identifying the men who apparently murdered Rodriguez.

Although they have no further suspect description, Ferrelli said the suspect's car possibly had an Illinois temporary license plate and was described as "dirty." It was last seen fleeing east on Grove Street, police said.

Anyone with information is asked to call Aurora investigators at (630) 801-6678 or Aurora Area Crime Stoppers at (630) 892-1000. Callers to Crime Stoppers remain anonymous and qualify for a cash reward of up to \$1000 for information that leads to the arrest.

Rodriguez's family could not be reached for comment Sunday.

His murder is the first of the year in Aurora, after four in 2006.

## NAGEL

From page A1

This zoned edition allows us to give better play to stories on the important, growing communities of Montgomery, Sugar Grove, Big Rock and Hinckley.

Of course, we'll continue to provide news about the Fox Valley as a whole, as well as the state, national and international news that affects your life and lifestyle.

Your schools, your streets, your safety, your home, your business, your history, your religion, your leisure, your births and anniversaries and weddings

and funerals.

Your story.

That's the information we provide that no other newspaper or Web site can.

Beginning a week from today, we'll introduce you to QuickRead Monday, a bright and fast-paced newspaper that looks ahead at the news and helps you get your week off to a great start.

We'll add the popular Sudoku puzzle to our lineup as well as new features, columns and graphics that will pack a ton of news, information and fun into your day.

Call us at (800) 244-5844 to subscribe or to extend your subscription to the new Aurora Beacon News!



## Coming Tuesday A glorious feeling...

The Paramount Theatre will screen "Singing in the Rain" as this week's 75-cent movie special. **Voice**

## Catholic Schools Week January 28-February 3, 2007



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