



CAN YOU CANOE?
ENTRY FORM FOR THE 6-MILE 'PADDLE THE FOX' CANOE & KAYAK RACE ON **PAGE B6**

SOFTBALL: WAUBONSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SQUAD EASILY ADVANCES IN POST-SEASON TOURNEY, **SPORTS, C1**



WWWWow!
AURORA QUADS WILLEY, WHITNEY, WILL JR., AND WYATT COME HOME, **D1**

ASHLAND BRIDGE IS TOWNSHIP'S PROBLEM

JUDGE DECIDES SPAN IS NOT IN AURORA OR MONTGOMERY, **NEWS, A3**

BUSH VETO: PRESIDENT REJECTS BILL SETTING TIMELINE FOR PULLING U.S. TROOPS FROM IRAQ, **NEWS, A9**

TODAY'S WEATHER BY:
FATIMA DELGADILLO
ROLLINS SCHOOL,
AURORA

HIGH 65, LOW 43
PARTLY SUNNY

The **Aurora**
Beacon News



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OUR VALUED
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THOUSANDS PROTEST NATIONWIDE:
THOUGH IMMIGRATION RALLIES SHRINK, CALLS FOR REFORM STILL LOUD AND CLEAR, **A8**

FLAG-WAVING LAW ADVANCES: AURORA CITY COUNCIL TO HEAR PROPOSALS AIMED AT CURBING NOISE, CELEBRATIONS, **A3**

AURORANS JOIN MARCH

SMALLER NUMBERS, SAME STRONG CONVICTIONS



By Heather Gillers and David Garbe
STAFF WRITERS

CHICAGO — About 100 Aurorans rode commuter trains here Tuesday while others drove to Chicago to join an estimated 100,000 people demonstrating for a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

The Aurora delegation was roughly 100 times smaller than the crowd that marched through the City of Lights a year ago, as Congress debated a bill that would have made illegal immigration a felony. That bill is no longer under debate, but the Aurorans who marched in Chicago Tuesday still had plenty of reasons for making the trip.

"We worry that the immigration (officials will) take us, and what happens with the kids?" said Andres Lopez, 36, a machine operator who has lived in Aurora for two decades. Neither he nor his wife are legal residents, but their 10-year-old daughter and 9- and 5-year-old sons were born in the U.S.

The threat of federal immigration raids loomed large in the minds of many calling for reform

Lourdes Espinoza (center) leads a group of Aurora residents in Tuesday's march for immigration reform through Chicago.
CRAIG WATSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

❖ Turn to **MARCH, A2**

Aurora loses last police dog

By Matt Hanley
STAFF WRITER

In court, injuring a police dog is the same as punching a human officer: You'd be charged with the same offense.

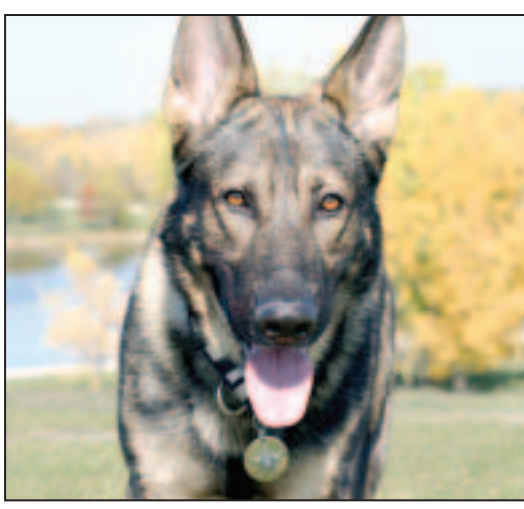
That's because a K-9 is considered a slightly more hairy member of the department. And when a young animal is lost, it hurts. Just ask Aurora Officer Pedro "Pete" Rodriguez.

Gunny, the Aurora K-9 officer Rodriguez worked with for four years, died suddenly Sunday from stomach complications. He was 6 years old.

"From the first week we were pals," Rodriguez said. The pure-bred German Shepherd trained for 12 weeks in Grayslake before he was turned over to Rodriguez, who had signed up to work K-9 almost on a whim.

"I have nothing to lose, only a dog to gain," he figured. "It was the start of a new thing."

Since October 2002, cop and dog were inseparable. Gunny — named for the gunnery sergeant rank in the Marine Corps — was Rodriguez's friend, tracking device, protection, crowd control and partner. And Gunny also came home at night,



Gunny was the last of Aurora's K-9 police unit.
SUBMITTED PHOTO

interacting comfortably with children when he wasn't working. On duty, though, Gunny was all business. He tracked suspects, found weapons and more than once encouraged suspects to think twice before tangling with Rodriguez.

"With him right next to me, the odds are going to be good," Rodriguez said.

After Gunny's death, Aurora now has no dogs working on the force. But Rodriguez said he'd considered working with another animal.

"As hard as it is now, I would," he said. "I'd do it in a heartbeat."

Her way of saying thanks, Uncle Jerry

Sheri McDonough was in grade school when she began asking questions.

Where was she born? Who was her daddy? Why wasn't he around?

It was then that her mother, Josephine, told her the story. About when she was young, unwed, pregnant.

About how the new mother and baby were rejected by their family — except for a loving brother-in-law who didn't hesitate to take them in.

Gerald Lewis, a supervisor at Barber Greene, and his wife Carmen had two tow-headed kids of their own. But they gladly opened their hearts and their Aurora home to Josephine and her dark-eyed baby.

Fifty one years later, Sheri McDonough, now a wife and



Denise Crosby
Columnist

mother herself, wants to say thank you to her uncle in a special way. And time is of the essence.

Less than a month ago, Gerald Lewis found out his stomach, lungs and liver were filled with neuroendocrine tumors, a quickly growing cancer that is in stage four of its attack. The disease hit him suddenly and aggressively.

But he is determined to see his 13-year-old grandson,

❖ Turn to **CROSBY, A2**

This just hurts

Gas climbs past \$3 (and it's only May)

BEACON NEWS STAFF

Gas prices have soared in recent weeks, with the average price in the Fox Valley reaching \$3.11 per gallon Tuesday.

The warm summer months, which bring more driving and overall energy use, invariably see higher gas prices.

But for the past several years, the spike has been getting higher — and coming earlier — every year.

Local gas prices didn't break the \$3 mark until the last week of June in 2006, and they peaked at \$3.23 in early August.

If the current run-up in prices (a dollar increase over 12 weeks) continues, prices could hit unprecedented levels this summer.

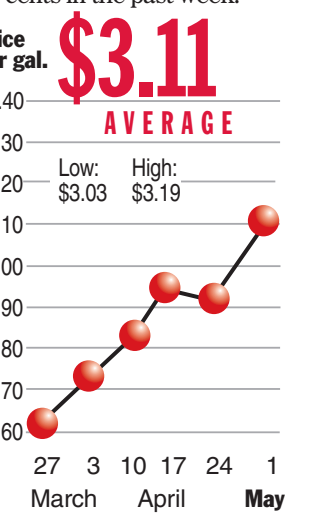
Energy analysts note, however, that increases in the past week stem from short-term problems in gasoline refining rather than increased demand.

Because the situations should be temporary, inventories will climb again sometime soon, said Mike Lynch, an oil market analyst at Strategic Energy and Economic Research Inc., in Amherst, Mass.

"I think the price is close to peaking out," he said.

GasGauge

Average gas prices went up 19 cents in the past week.



Price for a gallon of self-serve unleaded gasoline at 20 Fox Valley area stations, representing major and discount brands.

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