

JANUARY 14, 2007

5021

More letters to the editor

Providing programs for kids

Rich Township Youth and Family Services was fortunate in December.

On Dec. 6, the Assistive Technology Exchange Network, a division of United Cerebral Palsy's Infinitec program, donated two computers, monitors and keyboards to our junior high school after-school program. The program meets Mondays through Thursdays at the Leonard Robinson Community Center in Richton Park. One of our students, who attends Illinois School in Park Forest, has cerebral palsy. Mogda Walker, the principal of Illinois School was very supportive and helped us acquire these computers.

We are also very grateful to Matteson Wal-Mart for its generous donation of \$1,000 to our youth programs. This will be used for computers for the students. The junior high school program serves students from Matteson, Richton Park, Park Forest, Country Club Hills, Homewood, Flossmoor and Olympia Fields. Transportation is provided from the various schools in the township. This year we have a variety of students and they all seem to work together very well.

Rich Township also has an excellent job program for teens 13 through 18. The teen employment program has been around for more than 30 years and links teens to business and private employers. There are more than 300 teens in the registry.

Further information is available by calling Mary Pellegrini at (708) 228-5031, or Pat Cline at (708) 228-5027.

Pat Cline, Rich Township

LETTERS POLICY

THE STAR WELCOMES letters to the editor. The letter must be signed and the name of the writer will be published. We also ask that contributors include their address and telephone number for verification, but that information will not be published or given out in any way. Letters may be edited for brevity, clarity or legality. No date of publication is guaranteed. Letters can be mailed to: The Star, 6901 W. 159th St., Tinley Park, IL 60477. Fax letters to (708) 802-8088, or e-mail letters@starnewspapers.com.

118.4, \$29,000; logging workers, 92.9, \$31,290; aircraft pilots, 66.9, \$135,040; structural iron and steel workers, 55.6, \$43,540; refuse and recyclable material collectors, 43.8, \$30,160; farmers and ranchers, 41.1, \$39,720; electrical power line installers/repairers, 32.7, \$49,200; driver/sales workers and truck drivers, 29.1, \$23,800; miscellaneous agricultural workers, 23.2, \$24,140; construction laborers, 22.7, \$29,050.

Look at the top 10 most dangerous jobs. The police and firefighters don't even show. It isn't just the police or firefighters who never know if they will be receiving their death sentence that day. No one knows before they go to their job whether this is the day their job will take their life. The electrician who has 1,000 volts of electricity running through his body, and dies "in the line of duty" to sustain life as we know it suffers more than blisters and singed hair.

One letter writer said I should apologize to our fire department. It is our village board and administration that need to apologize to the citizens of Park

march across the globe.

Yet, with all these worthy issues filling our newspapers and weighing heavily on so many minds, and at the most thoughtful and spiritual time of year, the best cause to rally residents that our village leaders can come up with is a letter-writing campaign to woo retail?

Please, at the end of the day let's not kid ourselves. Stores will not come to Homewood because of nice bundles of pre-packaged love letters that no one will ever read. On the contrary, businesses will come here, like so many of their predecessors on the Halsted corridor already have, because of the deals and tax-free incentives that our village government is already prepared to wave in front of them.

So, if any one of you feels the need to do a good deed or participate in a worthy civic cause, then by all means do it. Just don't waste your time copying and signing a form letter for a restaurant or book store. On the contrary, volunteer at a church or a shelter. Visit a shut-in or send a check to a truly worthy cause. Whatever you think will actually help someone in need.

Whatever you do, don't be sweet-talked into wasting your good will on someone else's greed.

Robert McManamy, Homewood

Need to negotiate drug prices

U.S. House members Friday approved H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007, demonstrating their commitment to fixing the Bush Part D Medicare disaster.

Last November, voters overwhelmingly rejected the corruption and misman-