



Playoff fever: High school football postseason is about to kick off

Full coverage in SPORTS

Community Health

In SECTION 2

\$1 Newsstand



Named best small weekly in Illinois five times by the Illinois Press Association

THE REGIONAL NEWS

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Serving Palos, Orland and Worth townships and neighboring communities

76th Year, NO. 43 • 2 Sections



Photos by Anthony Caciopo

Nick's Barbecue, a popular restaurant on Harlem Avenue for more than two decades, will soon be relocating to Alsip. Temporary signage at the new location (below) on Cal Sag Road has already gone up.

Nick's deletes Palos Heights from menu

Move to Alsip allows video gambling

By Anthony Caciopo
Regional News Editor

Nick Andricopulos is closing his longtime Palos Heights eatery and moving to Alsip, where he's apparently betting on an increased bottom line.

For 24 years Nick's Barbecue, The Place for Ribs, has anchored the northwest corner of 127th

Street and Harlem Avenue in Palos Heights, but that long run is about to come to an end, reportedly in the next several weeks, possibly sooner.

The reason? Andricopulos hasn't responded to reach-out from The Regional News for comment, but last August when he was interviewed for a front-page story about the massive, record-setting Mega Millions lottery ticket sold at his store (which earned him \$500,000), he expressed displeasure during casual, unrelated con-

versation that Palos Heights does not allow video gambling.

Alsip, where he'll soon be in business, allows the popular activity and it's typically lucrative for business owners.

"(Nick) came to my office about three months ago," said Palos Heights Mayor Bob Straz. "His lease was coming up and he said he has other locations where they all have it (video gambling) and it makes money for him, and he

See NICK'S, Page 2



State passes on Orland Park bid for Amazon HQ

By Dermot Connolly
Staff Writer

Orland Park won't be home to Amazon's proposed second North American headquarters.

The village's response to Amazon's request for proposals was not included in the State of Illinois' bid for Amazon for the HQ2 facility, Mayor Keith Pekau announced Friday.

He released a statement explaining that state officials notified the mayor's office of their decision not to include the village on the final list of potential sites, which, according to published reports, include several in Chicago, as well as sites in Oak Brook and Schaumburg.

Orland Park's proposal had included two sites totaling 161 acres in the village's regional mixed-use campus in the Interstate 80 corri-

dor in Will County. It highlighted the fact that infrastructure such as roads and utilities are already in place, so the site could accommodate the 500,000-sq. ft. building Amazon envisions for its headquarters.

"State officials were very gracious and offered high praise for our application," Pekau stated. "They were impressed with our submittal, the quality of our assets as well as our geographic location, but stated that without an existing 500,000 square foot facility in place, Orland Park's bid could not move forward."

"I'd like to thank village staff for the tremendous effort put forth in developing our bid. I particularly want to recognize Village Manager Joe La Margo, Assistant Village Manager Karie Friling, Interim Assistant Director of Development

See AMAZON, Page 2

Palos Area Chamber of Commerce has new executive director

By Anthony Caciopo
Regional News Editor

Stacy Schuble is the new executive director of PAC, the Palos Area Chamber of Commerce, covering Palos Heights and Palos Park.

Schuble takes the reigns of the chamber from Mary Kay Spindler, who served as executive director since 2013.

"I'm excited that I have this opportunity to really help the businesses in the area grow," she told The Regional News. "I love the area, I love living here. We've got a lot going on."

Schuble brings to her new position 10 years of experience as a digital marketing consultant. She runs her own business and has been a member of PAC since October of 2015. Last year, she was invited to join the PAC Board

of Directors and earlier this year she became the organization's vice president.

"Our theme is 'Connecting businesses with communities,'" she said. "We want businesses to know there are events for them and ways to get involved with the chamber."

"And it isn't just the businesses," she added. "Everyone in the community can come to our events and check them out."

With the publication of this edition of The Regional News, Schuble and PAC will have just finished a Business After Hours event, held yesterday evening at CNB Bank, 12727 S. Ridgeland Ave. These events provide the opportunity for business people, as well as anyone else who'd care to attend, the opportunity to meet and network.

See DIRECTOR, Page 2



Photo by Anthony Caciopo

Stacy Schuble is the new executive director of the Palos Area Chamber of Commerce (PAC).

Let's be 'Blount': Dorothy enjoys life nearing 100

Still working, still behind the wheel

By Kelly White
Correspondent

Dorothy Blount certainly has something to celebrate. She will be marking the turn of a personal century on Nov. 3 with her 100th birthday.

"I've had a very full life, one that I've always enjoyed, and I am still enjoying my life now," said Blount, of Palos Park.

She just renewed her driver's license and describes herself as active and healthy, with no physical health issues holding her back.

"I'm very lucky," she said.

Born in Wheaton in 1917 to Earl and Gertrude Grange, Blount was the second youngest of four children: Ruth, Art and Doug. Her family eventually relocated to the Beverly area, where Dorothy met the man she would marry, Laurent Blount. At the age of 22, the couple wed in 1939.

They remained living in the Beverly area when Blount's husband made the decision to purchase property in 1949 on Wolf Road in Palos Park that he later developed into Old Creek Road. The couple said goodbye to their Beverly roots and moved into what was then unincorporated Palos Township in 1958, never looking back.

"It was really just a lot of land with very few houses," Blount's son, Doug, 73, of Palos Park, recalls. "It was very rural. Just trees and grass, almost forest-like."

Along with Doug, the Blounts had two more children while living in Palos Park, Barbara and Alan. Blount enjoyed staying home and raising her three children during their young and adolescent years. When asked about his childhood, Doug said he was grateful.

"We didn't really realize it at the time, but our entire childhood was so different from what children experience today," Doug said. "My mother was very outdoorsy. She would pack

See 100, Page 2



Photo by Patricia Bailey

Dorothy Blount (left), who turns 100 next Friday, shares a laugh with Lucy Crocilla, president of the Palos Park Woman's Club, during a birthday celebration for Blount at the Palos Park Public Library. A celebration will be held at 1:00 p.m. Nov. 4 to mark the library's 90th anniversary at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd.

LEAVE YOUR WORRIES AT THE CURB

NEW 2017 FIAT 124

The best-value roadster in America just arrived from Italy. It's class-exclusive turbo engine is also the most powerful four-cylinder in its class.†



Let Alec Bettenhausen and his staff Change Your Mind about Car Buying 17600 S. Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park

SALES HOURS: Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri-Sat 8am-6pm
SERVICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 7:30am-6pm, Sat 7:30am-4pm

888-744-4697

WWW.BETTENHAUSENFIAT.COM

*For a new 2017 Fiat 500X qualified buyers may receive up to \$2500 total cash, consisting of \$500 Consumer Cash, \$1000 Bonus Cash, \$1000 Owner Loyalty. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee. Offer ends 10/31/17. See dealer for complete details. Not everyone will qualify as determined by financial lender. Dealer not responsible for typographical or printing errors. Images are for display purposes only and may not represent vehicle purchased. †Based on the FCA Standard 2-Seat Roadster segment.

