

High court sets new rules for death penalty

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**Tuesday's TALK AROUND TOWN**

What people are talking about in DuPage County

**SUBURBAN LIVING**



**Savvy or sell-out?**  
Sting was once known as an international musical star. Now, he's just the latest musician to cash in his name for a commercial. Does this mean the concept of "selling out" has died? — Section 3

**TIME OUT! TODAY**

**He made us laugh**  
He took the blame and pain in the face all to make children laugh. Puppeteer, artist and comedian Roy Brown, alias Cooky the Knobby Cook, dies at age 68 — Page 2

**NEIGHBOR**

**Stitch for a cause**  
Students in Susan McCoy's class at Albright Middle School in Villa Park are getting quilting lessons — and learning social responsibility at the same time. The fifth-graders are creating quilts to donate to Family Shelter Services in Glen Ellyn, a group that works with victims of domestic abuse. — Section 5

**BUSINESS**

**Good times over?**  
All the bad economic news is raising doubts about our future, but most analysts believe this is a temporary dip, not the start of a recession. — Section 4

**WORLD & NATION**

**Galapagos threat**  
A fuel spill from a tanker that ran aground off Ecuador's Galapagos Islands was under control Monday but not before a dark film threatened some of the world's rarest sea animals and birds. — Page 3

**Escapes captured**

Police intensified their manhunt for two Texas prisoners after four other escapees were arrested and one killed himself in Colorado Monday — Page 3.

## President looks back on past year in G

Wark recalls Maryknoll, streets and sewer projects

By HARRY HETZMAN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The successful Nov. 7 referendum that launched a \$57 million plan to improve Glen Ellyn's streets and sewers, along with the purchase of the vacant former Maryknoll seminary, highlighted the year 2000.

In addition, the village received some \$9 million in federal, state and county assistance, which will

save taxpayers money. "It was a year of unprecedented opportunity," said President Joe Wark in his annual State of the Village Address Monday night.

The village also collected a record \$2.7 million in sales taxes, a 6 percent increase over 1999.

"In my judgment, the state of the village is financially strong and

extremely strong," Wark said. Trustee James Perstein agreed. "I think things are in very good shape," he said. "We've had an enormous list of accomplishments."

To help buy the Maryknoll land, the Glen Ellyn Park District received \$2 million through George Ryan's Illinois FIRST pro-

gram, another \$1 million from the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, and a \$1 million interest-free loan from the village.

The park district currently is interviewing architects to decide on a plan for the campus.

"Future generations of Glen Ellyn residents will have 25 acres of open space that in my judgment

## 'We will solve it'

15 years after girl's murder detectives still hold out hope of catching her killer

By CHRISTY CIROVASKI  
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

The tip came in last fall. The female caller spoke of a man who, she thought, knew a lot too much about a young girl found raped and murdered years ago in a field near her home in DuPage County.

Before long, sheriff's deputies Greg Figiel and Tim Garlich were driving to Kaituma C/O, Mo., where the man now lives. An anxious feeling grew within them. Figiel still recalls in vivid detail those 4½ days in 1985 when he collected evidence in the prairie along Route 53 near Glen Ellyn where the girl's body was found.

"I actually can still see her out there in the field," he said.

Heaven't had too many happy memories of 15-year-olds. (The memory doesn't lessen with time.)

As they drove, he and Garlich hoped they were about to uncover the answer to one of DuPage County's most tragic mysteries. Who killed Kristina Marie Wesselman's?

More than 700 people crammed into St. James the Apostle Church in Glen Ellyn to bid Kristina farewell.

Her murder on July 22, 1985, struck at the community's heart, not only because of the way she died but also because the blonde, blue-eyed girl embodied so much of what suburban



**Kristy Wesselman**

Sexually assaulted and stabbed July 22, 1985, in a field behind a grocery store just blocks from her home near Glen Ellyn, Mo. She was 15.

## Bush abort first as pl

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush took it on direct to the voters by legalizing abortion day re-instituting restrictions on U.S. his father and for men had instituted. "It is my conviction funds should not be used to promote abortion abroad," Bush wrote memorandum to International Development Cooperation Agency countries. It was Bush's 1 action since being Saturday.

It reverses the stration's position family-planning money to inform use their own mon — either through surgery, counseling operation or lobbying policy.

On his first work a written set anniversary of the sion that legalized. "The promises it are not just for t healthy. They are dren," his statem work toward a day and protected in a Abortion rights i Bush's latest act rights, following o opponents to ley Ashcroft for attor Gen. Tommy Th human services.

Bush "is using tively already to u and clear a path Wash. Post. "I think it's a h preme Court app tress on a tradit women's reproduc "He clearly is b these issues. He c cloak of moderat Bush advisers h controversy over t top two priority t cut.

"It would do all of our hearts good to know (police) were able to do something with it. No matter how long it took."  
Kristy is remembered for her gentleness, the way

she always defended the underling and, most of all, her boundless energy. "A killer stole all that she would become one Sunday on the hooded home from a neighborhood store after buying a candy bar and soda. Her mother, Sandy, reported her missing

See KRISTY on Page 7





Sandy Wesselman with a photo of her daughter, Kristy, as she appeared in eighth grade. Daily Herald File Photo/Bev Horne

## Mom still confident killer will be caught

Sandy Wesselman wondered how Kristy's fifth-grade school picture would turn out.

The youngster had just gotten braces. Her mother expected to see a tight-lipped grin staring back at her.

She was wrong.

"She had the biggest smile," Sandy Wesselman laughs. "She was like, 'So what.'"

A killer four years later would forever erase that smile.

She was killed July 22, 1985, in a well-traveled field just blocks from her home near Glen Ellyn. The 15-year-old girl had just left a local grocery store where she bought a candy bar and soda.

As Sandy Wesselman looks at the old pictures, she still holds out hope 15 years later that someone, somewhere knows who killed her daughter.

Sheriff's detectives are working full time to find the killer. Using improved DNA testing, they recently compared his profile to blood samples taken from 26 potential suspects.

None matched.

"I really and truly believe they're going to find him," Sandy Wesselman said. "Every time we eliminate someone, we're that much closer to finding out who he is."

Last April, Kristy would have turned 30. Her friends and siblings have become adults. Her best friend lives in Las Vegas. Another became a lawyer. And her little sister next winter will become a wife.

But Kristy forever stays that bubbly, broad-smiled teenager who, on one occasion, wore out her leg cast by dragging it around as she rode her bike.

Justice won't salve her family's grief. But, it will provide answers — and some closure.

"As long as he's not caught, he could be out there killing someone else's daughter," Sandy Wesselman said.

"It won't bring her back. But at least we'll be able to say, 'OK. It's over. It has been finished.'"

— Christy Gutowski

Continued from Page 1

around midnight.

Investigators pieced together that Kristy was ambushed from behind — she had no wounds indicating she had put up a defense — as she walked down a familiar path from the local Jewel store to her home in the Valley View subdivision, southwest of Route 53 and Butterfield Road near Glen Ellyn.

She was raped and fatally stabbed eight times in broad daylight, just feet from a back yard where a family was gathered for a summer barbecue.

They heard nothing.

Former DuPage sheriff's deputy Kevin Buchholz found Kristy around 11 a.m. the following day.

She appeared as if she were sleeping. Her partially clothed body lay on a bed of leaves under two trees.

Years later, Buchholz, now an officer in Pembroke Pines, Fla., still can't erase Kristy from his mind.

"There was a lot of innocence there," he said. "You take a person who didn't hurt anybody, who had a lot of things going for her. She had so many positives. To have something like that happen is so totally wrong."

In the days, months and years that followed, he and other detectives identified nearly a dozen suspects while probing hundreds of leads.

None has ever resulted in an arrest.

A bloodhound followed a scent from Kristy's shoes to a house in the neighborhood. Police checked up on known trouble-makers and transients. They looked into similar rapes in Chicago. They consulted a psychic at a homicide convention who provided uncanny details.

Still nothing.

A gang member in Chicago who dated a girl in the suburbs even confessed. His story, however, didn't pan out.

As police searched, the community coped.

Leaders called neighborhood meetings. The school arranged counseling sessions for grieving students and adults. Monetary awards were offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Kristy's killer.

At her funeral, the Rev. Edwin

Joyce offered solace to a grieving community, words immortalized in newspaper accounts:

"We are in pain today because we realize how precious was the life of this one girl, how precious is all life," he said.

"I ask you to reflect on the goodness and kindness of this young girl, whose goodness and kindness and love attracted so many."

Almost a year ago, DuPage County Sheriff John Zaruba formed a Cold Case Unit to work full time on unsolved murders such as Kristy's.

Figiel and Garlisch, who make up the two-man unit, identified 49 unsolved homicides in unincorporated pockets of DuPage County that they believe still can be solved. The earliest dates to March 28, 1945.

But it is Kristy for whom they've focused much of their efforts. Their work has been a mix of success and disappointment.

Last summer, the county's crime lab uncovered a more conclusive genetic profile of Kristy's killer by re-examining evidence left behind.

The evidence had been tested shortly after the murder and four years later in 1989. But only through recent advances in DNA testing were forensic scientists able to put together a more informative genetic profile of the killer.

"Seven years ago, you wouldn't be talking about the kind of DNA we're talking about now," said Douglas Saul, a forensic scientist for the county. "We got enough (on Kristy's killer) that we could search and share our information nationally and even internationally."

In the past several months, Saul has compared the killer's profile to blood samples taken from 26 potential suspects.

None have matched — including the man's in Missouri.

"These are people whose names have come up over the years but were never ruled out," Garlisch said. "Their names have been under a cloud of suspicion all these years."

The list even included two serial killers.

Of the 26, only one of the potential suspects has died since Kristy's murder. The majority still live in the area.

They either agreed to provide

# KRISTY: Detectives hoping for a DNA match

blood samples or the detectives obtained them through court-ordered search warrants.

Such was the case with the man in Missouri.

"That's what DNA is all about," Zaruba said. "It's about getting at the truth. It also eliminates a lot of interviews and a lot of footwork."

At 11:32 a.m. on July 24, 2000, Saul entered the killer's DNA profile into a national database to compare it to profiles of more than 500,000 people convicted of violent crimes and of "forensic unknowns" — DNA samples taken from crime scenes.

Some 44 states and Washington, D.C., participate in the FBI database.

Detectives are hopeful they'll find a match. Unfortunately, some states still haven't installed the FBI database and, because of a lack of funding, many participating states have thousands of DNA profiles they have yet to enter.

"Even in those states that are doing it, there is such a backlog they tend to only have entered those inmates leaving prison," Saul said. "A low priority is given to those who, say, got a life sentence."

Congress is considering two pieces of legislation promising \$750 million for forensic research. Some states, including Illinois, are

increasing such spending.

"Because of the large demand, we're basically accumulating more work than we can handle," said Paul Bresson, an FBI spokesman in Washington. "We've seen how powerful the technology can be."

In addition to entering its DNA profile in the national database, the Cold Case Unit has another batch of potential suspects it will concentrate on in coming months. The list is just over a dozen.

Crime experts say two things can change about an unsolved case that may help detectives pinpoint the perpetrator.

Besides new forensic tools, people who were silent at the time of the crime might slip up and disclose details to others.

Conversely, the killer may have died or never committed another crime, rendering tools such as the national DNA database useless.

The three men most familiar with the murder — Figiel, Garlisch and former deputy Buchholz — are steadfast in their belief Kristy's killer one day will be brought to justice.

"Whoever did this isn't going to have done it only one time," Figiel said. "Sexual crimes are repetitive. We will solve it."

"I've got a minimum of 18 more years before I retire," Garlisch said. "I'll never give up."

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