



SUNDAY NEWS-DEMOCRAT

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Jill Grosse of Belleville brought a bag of books to keep 5-year-old son Blake busy for two hours as she waited to renew her license.



Robert Smith of O'Fallon waited more than four hours and made three trips to straighten out mistakes on the registration for his new Jeep.



Samantha Shanks of Alton entertained her daughters, ages 1 and 3, for more than three hours before reaching the counter to pay sales tax.

Husband says he didn't plan to kill pair

Tells slain wife's mom he's sorry, but she wants him to be executed

BY CAROLYN P. SMITH
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — LeRon Wilborn is prepared to lay down his life for what he did to his wife.

During an interview at the St. Clair County Jail, Wilborn admitted killing his wife, Nicole Jacobs, and her friend, Wayne Dunnivant, at Jacobs' apartment on East C Street in Belleville, but said he doesn't believe he should be charged with first-degree murder. He said it was an accident.

"I didn't plan to kill her. I didn't go to our apartment planning to kill her," he said, wiping tears from his eyes. "She was the only woman I wanted to be with. If she's laying out there in a box six feet under, I don't feel bad about the possibility of having to pay for it with my life.

"If she can go through it, so



LeRon Wilborn



Nicole Jacobs



Wayne Dunnivant

Please see **HUSBAND, A2**

Jesse White's waiting room

Illinois' Secretary of State says money is key to shorter lines at drivers service facilities, but other remedies may exist

BY GEORGE PAWLACZYK
News-Democrat

Samantha Shanks knows better. So do lots of people who visit metro-east secretary of state driver services facilities.

They know their wait will be longer than the maximum of 90 minutes estimated by state driver services director Michael J. Mayer.

Recent interviews with drivers, timed visits and local complaint letters obtained from the Illinois secretary of state, backed that up.

"I saw people coming in, looking around at all the people, and then walking out. It's ridiculous," Shanks said during a trip to the driver services facility in Bethalto on Aug. 9, a day when three staffers called in sick.

Shanks and her daughters, ages 1 and 3, waited three hours and 15 minutes to pay sales tax on a used car.

"I'm so tired," she said afterward as she let her 1-year-old down on the grass to play.

Secretary of State Jesse White said that when he took office in 1999, "I inherited an office with a history of long lines and indifference to the public."

White cited a number of im-

Please see **WAITING, A7**

DISCUSSION BOARD: Want to discuss services of the Secretary of State drivers license facilities with others online? Go to www.bellevilnewsdemocrat.com, follow the link to the Discussion Boards and join the "drivers license services" discussion.



GEORGE PAWLACZYK/News-Democrat

It's a waiting game at the Belleville driver services office for patrons, including, front row, from left, Helen Schwendeman, Paul Zinck, Ashley Amann and her mother, Glenda Moore. Zinck waited three hours; Amann and her mother waited two hours only to be told they had brought the wrong document.

Avoiding the rush hours at drivers license facilities

Want to beat the crowd? The conventional wisdom is to head to a rural Secretary of State driver services facility such as Waterloo or Nashville. Also, Tuesdays and Saturdays are generally busy times to go, but the rush

hours and days vary by facility. All offices are open 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. They are open 8 a.m. until noon Saturday and are closed Sunday and Monday. Facilities include:

Belleville

400 W. Main St., 236-8750

Peak times: 8 to 10 a.m. and from noon to 2 p.m. Peak days are Tuesday and Friday.

Written complaints: 13 since January 2004.

East St. Louis

8750 Church Lane, 397-9488.

Peak times: 8 a.m. to noon. Peak days are Tuesday and Saturdays and the beginning and end of the month.

Written complaints: 15 since January 2004.

Edwardsville

1502A Troy Road, 656-8956.

Peak times: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Peak days are Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Written complaints: 4 complaints since January 2004.

Granite City

1810 Edison Ave., 877-2451.

Peak times: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Peak days are Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Written complaints: None.

Bethalto

20 Terminal Drive, 258-0600.

Peak times: 8 to 10 a.m. Peak days

are Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Written complains: 4 since January 2004.

Nashville

480 N. Kaskaskia Street, 327-4184.

Peak times: No significant rush times, but Tuesday and Saturday may be busier.

Written complains: None.

Waterloo

511 Illinois Ave., 939-3663.

Peak times: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Peak days are Tuesday and Saturday.

Written complains: 2 complaints since January 2004.

Pastor dies after trying to help at blaze

ATF begins inquiry into fire

BY WILL BUSS
News-Democrat

CAHOKIA — A congregation that lost its church in a fire Friday will worship today with help from another church.

But they will also mourn the loss of a neighboring Pentecostal church's pastor, who went into cardiac arrest and died after going to the fire.

On Saturday, investigators from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were at the New Psalmist Church of God in Christ. Fire officials declined comment on the probe.

The Rev. Robert Murry,

Please see **PASTOR, A7**

Church services

New Psalmist Church of God in Christ will hold services at 11 a.m. today at St. James Church of God in Christ, 1200 Calhoun St. in Madison. Members will meet at 9 a.m. to discuss the Cahokia church's future.

New developments often get rolling without help of tax rebates

Developers find ways to make things work

BY LISA P. WHITE
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — Not everyone has to offer \$20 million to bring a big store to town.

When THF Realty approached city leaders in Maplewood, Mo., about building a Wal-Mart and a Sam's Club, it was not the town's only suitor. The St. Louis developer faced

tough competition from a group that wanted to put a Costco and Home Depot Expo on the same site.

Both developers asked the city for tax increment finance funding, which would help pay for the developments by borrowing against future increases in property taxes.

With city leaders leaning toward Costco, THF Realty upped

the ante by agreeing to build the project without tax increment money.

When Home Depot Expo dropped out and the developer was unable to secure another anchor store, Maplewood went with THF.

The city agreed to impose a 1 percent sales tax to pay for road and other infrastructure improvements, but unlike the proposal to bring a Wal-Mart Supercenter and Lowe's to Belleville,

THF Realty did not get any sales tax rebates to build the \$110 million Maplewood Commons. It opened in October.

"It was the marketplace that dictated it. It was the right time at the right place," said Maplewood city manager Martin Corcoran.

THF Realty developer Alan Bornstein said the Maplewood deal is an anomaly.

"That was what I would call a once-in-a-lifetime event. Wal-

Mart actually agreed to proceed under a much more expensive program," he said. "They still knew they were going to get \$12.4 million (for infrastructure). The TIF (tax increment financing) would have been helpful to provide additional funds, but in the competitiveness with Costco, they were willing to forgo the TIF."

He said the part of the devel-

Please see **REBATES, A2**



Coming Monday

Belleville used to be known for making stoves and Stag Beer. But in the 21st century, metro-east's most-populated city is known for cranking out medical products, mining equipment, shoes and all sorts of food. In Business Monday.

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POWERBALL: 13-27-28-29-49 Powerball: 36 Jackpot: \$18.8 million Power Play: 4

