

Kaput keeper
Bradley-Bourbonnais
loses match, goalie ● D1



Bradley's Christian Henock

FRIDAY EDITION

THE DAILY JOURNAL



Heidi and Paul Parlich, Watseka

Back to the bucks
Deer season opens
● B1

October 1, 2010

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MAPLE HUTCH

2 stackable pieces, shelves above, cabinet below, good condition, 42" W — 64" H.

For this ad and other furniture items, see today's classifieds.

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Weather

Saturday
60s, rainy

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75¢



Patience is golden

1st offer for gold seldom most lucrative

By Robert Themer

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Don't take the first offer. That's important advice if you try to sell gold, silver or other precious possessions to Ohio Valley Gold & Silver Refinery.

The only gold I had to offer for sale, in an "undercover" assignment, was my thick wedding ring, made from dental gold by my father-in-law, Milt Schultz.

At local pawn shops and jewelry stores, the offers ranged from \$20 to \$74.89. At Westphal Jewelers in Bradley, owner Kary Westphal offered \$68, after which I interdicted myself, told her I intended to check Ohio Valley's pricing and regretted I had no more gold to offer.

Despite my generally scruffy appearance, she lent me a gold bracelet she appraised at a scrap gold value of \$110 and accepted my business card for security. Westphal, like other local jewelers, said she buys gold items at 50 percent of their value as gold scrap.

Shipping and processing fees reduce the return to about 35 percent, she said.

So, with the bracelet and a ring, I went out looking. Here's what I found:

Jeff Yonke, assistant manager of Volkmann Diamonds in Kankakee, offered \$112.37 for the bracelet and \$74.81 for the ring — \$187.18.

Paul Horstmann at Andaul Jewelers in Bourbonnais, offered \$165.80 for both — \$112.80 for the bracelet and \$43 for the ring (using a lower carat rating for dental gold).

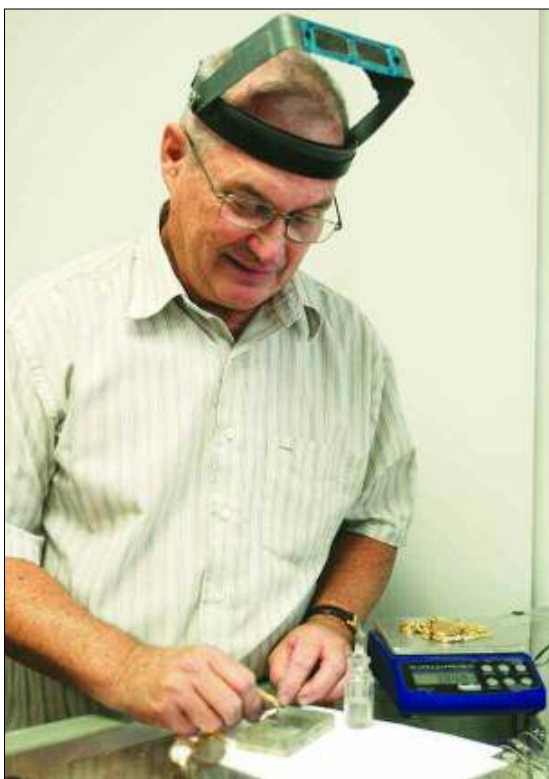
Westphal and Yonke said they don't haggle about what they'll pay. Volkmann doubles the offer, if you use it to buy something new. Westphal doesn't. Horstmann said Andaul's sometimes makes a second offer.

Then I went to Ohio Valley, working this week at Bradley's Quality Inn & Suites.

Joe Prizy, of Beaverville, sold some scrap gold jewelry ahead of me and passed on the valuable information that he was first offered \$10, but it grew in three stages to \$46.

Armed with that schooling, and unidentified as a reporter, I rejected the \$39.20 offer made by the first "expert" I met.

She then called manager Ronnie Stinson, who tested the items for gold purity and offered me \$269, which I rejected. His final offer was \$358 — also rejected — \$134 for the ring and \$224 for the



The Daily Journal/Scott Anderson
Andy Thomas, Goldsmith at Andaul Jewelers in Bourbonnais, performs an acid test and weighs gold at the store Wednesday morning.

bracelet. Stinson said the employee isn't authorized to pay anything but scrap prices, although their idea of scrap price is different than the local jewelers' idea.

He said he evaluated the items for their retail value and has access to a store where they can be marketed.

As for the difference from local jewelers, he said: "As far as I know, nobody can touch me on gold anywhere I have been."

The jewelers were surprised by the offers. Yonke had sent employee Mandy Humphries on their own price check. She said she took four rings and received a first offer of \$35 and final offer of \$211. Yonke said he had appraised the rings for scrap for \$257.

How many people accept Ohio Valley's first offers? "Depends on what they've got," Stinson said. "Most people know what they have. Ninety percent of what we see is scrap — one earring or a bent ring, stuff they want to get rid of."

Tip No. 2: expect long wait
● A3

\$75,000 to county inmate for no dentist

Bill goes to insurance company for payment

By Kristen Zambo

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Waiting for the dentist can be painful. But this wait will cost Kankakee County's insurance company \$75,000.

Kankakee County settled a federal lawsuit with a former inmate, Thomas A. Cunningham, 47, who said that the county's failure to get him dental help violated his civil rights.

Cunningham was in such pain with an abscess that he removed part of his own tooth with a toothbrush, according to court records.

Still, the \$75,000 settlement price agreed to by both sides Aug. 5 will not come from the cash-strapped coffers. Rather, County Board Chairman Mike Bossert and State's Attorney Jamie Boyd said Thursday that the county's insurance company will pay it.

"Typically, that would happen when you sue a government entity," said Cunningham's attorney, Fabian Rosati, of Chicago. (Although, settlements taken from a policy can also become part of the equation when the renewal rate is negotiated.)

Cunningham filed a federal lawsuit in March 2008 in U.S. District Court in Chicago contending his civil rights were violated while he was jailed for four months as a federal detainee at the Kankakee County Detention Center, located on South Indiana Avenue. He was transferred to the old jail Sept. 17, 2007, from the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago. He had been arrested for robbing a Lansing, Ill. bank of \$1,255 before fleeing on a bicycle and leading suburban police on a chase.

He was convicted in 2008 of bank robbery and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. He is currently in a high-security federal prison in southern Florida.

Cunningham stated in his lawsuit that he told correctional officers he was in pain and thought he had an abscess. Yet, he didn't see a dentist.

He tried to remove it himself Nov. 1, 2007, with a plastic toothbrush. Part of the tooth remained, so he tore off a piece of bedding, tied one end to the tooth and the other to his shoe and stepped down — trying to pull out the rest, according to the lawsuit. That proved unsuccessful, and a piece remained.

He also claimed he didn't receive adequate medical care or nursing visits, twice developing infections while in jail, according to the lawsuit.

Cunningham sued Kankakee County, the Sheriff's Department, the Kankakee County Detention Center and Jerome Combs Detention Center, Sheriff Tim Bukowski, sheriff's Chief Deputy Mike Downey, Medical Group of Kankakee County and a host of both named and unnamed correctional officers and medical staff. He accused them of violating his rights to medical care, the intentional infliction of emotional distress, and negligence.

At the U.S. District courthouse in Urbana, Chief Judge Michael P. McCuskey dismissed the lawsuit July 21 against every defendant except Kankakee County, and correctional officers Edwin Kriegel and Mike Canfield, and Cpl. Clifton Johnson.

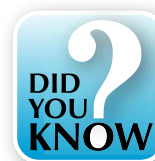
As part of the settlement, the county accepts no liability, Rosati and Boyd said. "The county didn't decide to settle it. Outside counsel that represents the insurance company decided to settle it," Boyd said Thursday. "I'm not convinced we had a whole lot of liability."

Briefs

The cost of a first-class **U.S. Postal Service stamp** was less than 10 cents from 1863 through March 2, 1974.

SOURCE: www.costofstamps.net

Postal Service price hike rejected
● D8



STELLE

Solar home tour Sunday

National Solar Home Tour will be featured at the village of Stelle in Ford County from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Highlights will include solar electric and solar hot water systems, wind generator, affordable solar backup system, solar power telephone company, straw bale home, a permaculture talk and tour, and more.

The event is sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Community and Stelle Community Association. Lunch is available from Carmen's Deli of Herscher.

For more information, visit the website www.centerforsustainablecommunity.org.
- The Daily Journal staff report



The Daily Journal/Scott Anderson
Charlie Chaplin, played by Tober Corrigan, of Bourbonnais, attended the "Sounds of Silents!" fundraising event at the Paramount Theatre in Kankakee Thursday night.

New life for silent era

Crowd of 500 embraces symphony benefit

By Dennis Yohnka

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The Art Deco style provided the ambiance at the Paramount Theatre.

The Kankakee Valley Theater supplied the ditty flappers, swarthy heartthrobs and other characters from a bygone era.

And a 30-piece contingent of the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra created the soundtrack for a fundraising time machine Thursday night in downtown Kankakee.

With vintage cars in the street, movie premiere searchlights in

the sky and excitement in the air, the "Sounds of Silents!" brought more than 500 people out for an evening of old-time slapstick, melodrama, campy commercials and memorable music.

The red carpet was rolled out and it was shared by bankers, painters, students, teachers and Douglas Fairbanks Sr. OK, maybe it wasn't the real Fairbanks, but the crowd was peppered with familiar faces, from "Lucky Lindy" to Al Capone, Coco Channel, Clark Gable and a lost farmgirl named Dorothy.

The short holdup — for a computer glitch and an orchestra member who fell ill — would not diminish the sense of success event Chairman Terry Nordmeyer was feeling. He thanked his committee members who worked on "Silents," a KVSO fundraiser, and set the stage for the symphony's season-opening concert, Sunday at Kankakee Junior High School.

The film program included a World War I-era U.S. Army recruiting newsreel and an odd commercial for Warner's Rust-Free Corsets. And then it moved on to a "Felix the Cat" cartoon, with informative introductions provided by emcee Gary Wright.

The best was reserved for last, when Buster Keaton starred in the still-funny "One Week." The audience seemed to enjoy his pratfalls — maybe as much as they did 90 years ago when the movie was released.

Also on the bill was a Charlie Chaplin classic, "The Immigrant," and an episode from the "Perils of Pauline."