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**News briefs****(February 25, 2006) — Two tie up clerk, rob shoe store**

Rochester police are looking for two people who robbed a North Winton Road shoe store and tied up a clerk Friday afternoon. The robbery at Belle Grande, 180 N. Winton, occurred about 4:15 p.m., said Lt. John Koonmen. A man and woman approached the store and the clerk let them in; once inside, the man pulled out a handgun and demanded money.

The thieves took money from the register, tied the woman up, stole some jewelry, then took off.

**GOP ball likely to raise \$1 million**

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks' fundraising ball tonight will once again bring in more than \$1 million for the local GOP, party officials said Friday.

The event at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center is sold out and is to be attended by more than 2,500 people.

Attendees will pay between \$300 for an individual ticket and \$10,000 for a private dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Brooks and state and local Republican Party Chairman Stephen Minarik.

Several statewide Republican candidates are expected to attend, including Republican gubernatorial candidate William Weld, state attorney general candidate Jeanine Pirro and U.S. Senate candidate John Spencer.

Last year's ball also brought in \$1 million, considered a record for a single political fundraising event in Monroe County.

**Clerk's Office is open today for passport services**

The Monroe County Clerk's Office will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today to provide passport services, including photos. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office also will be there to issue Operation SAFE CHILD ID cards, which provide parents with photo identification of their children that includes fingerprints and biographical data.

The cards help law enforcement locate a missing child.

The clerk's office is on the first floor of the County Office Building, 39 W. Main St., Rochester.

**Gospel Songfest at Hochstein School tonight**

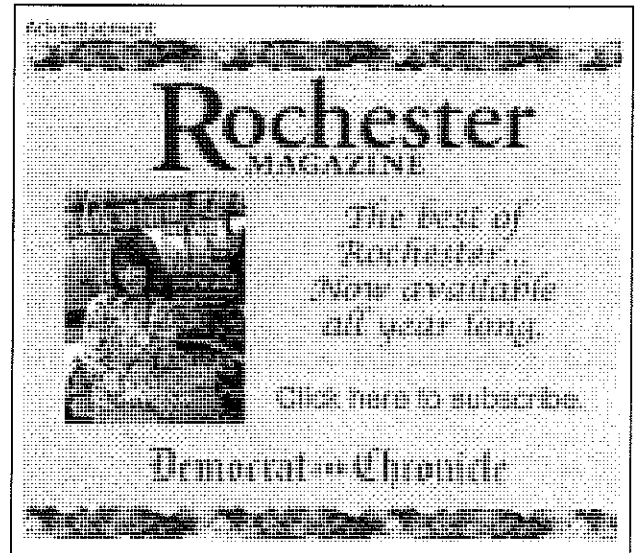
The Rochester Urban League Guild presents its second annual "Express Your Worship" Gospel Songfest at 6 tonight.

The songfest is a salute to Black History Month. The free event features a worship service, youth and male choirs as well as a youth step group.

It is at the Hochstein School of Music & Dance, 50 N. Plymouth Ave.

**NTID program gets \$1.1 million boost**

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf has received \$1.1 million more for its continuing work linking collegiate programs for deaf



students around the world.

The donation, from the Nippon Foundation of Japan, brings the foundation's total donation to \$7 million for the Postsecondary Education Network-International program, based at NTID, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology. The program had originally planned to receive \$6 million over five years.

The project is intended to equip deaf students with the skills needed to compete in a high-technology workplace and to enable universities to share teaching techniques.

PEN-International works with colleges and universities in China, the Czech Republic, Japan, the Philippines, Russia and Thailand, and plans to partner with colleges in Korea, Vietnam and Hong Kong this year.

Other plans this year include a summer leadership institute in England and workshops in Vietnam and Hong Kong to develop sign language dictionaries.

#### **Police technician discusses blood samples at Zacher trial**

The fifth week of testimony is expected to begin on Monday in the murder trial of David Zacher. A police technician Friday detailed each of the numerous blood samples he took in the Zacher home in April, where Karelin Zacher, 34, and her two daughters were stabbed.

David Zacher, 35, is charged with two counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of his wife and their daughter, Halle, 4, and assault in connection with injuries that another daughter, Elizabeth "Libby," now 3, suffered. The trial began Jan. 9 with jury selection; testimony began Jan. 27.

Assistant District Attorney Doug Randall told state Supreme Court Justice Joseph Valentino that he anticipates calling five or six more witnesses, including DNA experts and a medical examiner. He said he does not expect to call Libby Zacher or her brother, Tyler, who was 7 at the time of the stabbings.

Defense lawyer John Parrinello would then have the option to call witnesses in the case.

#### **Stevens steps into new Monroe County job**

Patricia Stevens, who has served as Monroe County's commissioner of human services since July 2004, has been appointed director of government and community affairs for the county.

County Executive Maggie Brooks announced the appointment Friday. The position that Stevens, 59, fills has been vacant since January 2004.

As commissioner of human services, Stevens oversaw the biggest part of the county budget. Human service spending is expected to total \$464.7 million in 2006.

Joseph Martino, who served as deputy commissioner of human services, has been named acting commissioner.

In her new job, Stevens serves as Brooks' principal liaison to community organizations, agency providers, cultural groups and area municipalities.

She will also provide staff support for the Monroe County Council of Governments and the Center for Civic Entrepreneurship.

"It is a perfect fit," said Brooks spokesman Larry Staub.

#### **Slaughter backs Great Lakes research site**

BROCKPORT — Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-Fairport, visited State University College at Brockport on Friday to voice her support for college plans for a Great Lakes research and education center.

She did not announce any new plans or funding.

Brockport has received \$300,000 in federal funding, secured by Slaughter and Rep. Tom Reynolds, R-Clarence, Erie County.

The estimated price tag of the center is \$7 million. It would be located in Charlotte near the mouth of the Genesee River.

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