

'Omen' is wicked scary—
for all the wrong reasons



When literacy
is a health issue



Zambrano
throws a gem

Chicago Tribune



FINAL

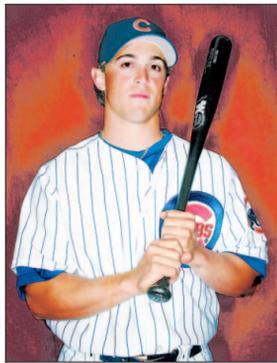
50¢ City & Suburbs; 75¢ Elsewhere

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2006



CHICAGO

159TH YEAR — NO. 157 © CHICAGO TRIBUNE



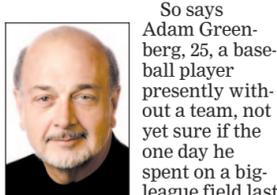
Getty Images photo by Ronald Martinez
Knocked out of the majors by a beanball, Adam Greenberg says, "I've got plenty of game."

1 chance, 1 pitch, 1 dream deferred

Back then, I thought, "Well, there'll be other days." I didn't realize that that was the only day."

Thus spoke Dr. Archibald "Moonlight" Graham, or at least a whimsical version of him brought to life by Burt Lancaster in the 1989 baseball—some would say cornball—film "Field of Dreams."

"One day, you're on top of the world. Next day, you've got to pick yourself up."



Mike Downey

So says Adam Greenberg, 25, a baseball player presently without a team, not yet sure if the one day he spent on a big-league field last year will turn out to be his only day.

Greenberg was diagnosed with a condition called Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo after being struck in the head by the first pitch he saw in his first game with the Cubs last summer. His dizzy spells proved to be temporary, but his baseball career took a turn for the worse that continues.

A few days ago, the young outfielder asked the Cubs to free him from his contract, and they said OK and released him. Whether he can make it back to the major leagues for another crack or becomes another Moonlight Graham for the ages

PLEASE SEE **DOWNEY**, BACK PAGE

Drug source shut in city heroin deaths

By Jeff Coen
and Tonya Maxwell
Tribune staff reporters

A clandestine laboratory in Mexico capable of producing millions of doses of the potent, sometimes lethal, drug fentanyl has been shut down, the U.S. drug czar announced Monday in Chicago, but not before it may have contaminated supplies of street drugs here and across the country.

Heroin mixed with the powerful painkiller has been blamed for hundreds of deaths across the U.S. in the last year, including at least 60 in Chicago. The synthetic narcotic is being added to heroin to give a more powerful high to users, authorities have said. Some users have sought the combination and others may not have known what they were buying.

Just over the weekend in Cook County, there were 13 fatal overdoses that now are being investigated for connections to fentanyl, the county's chief

PLEASE SEE **DEATHS**, PAGE 12

New warning for canned tuna

Mercury risk for pregnant women too high, Consumer Reports says

By Michael Hawthorne
Tribune staff reporter

The chance that canned tuna will contain high levels of mercury is great enough that pregnant women should never eat it, according to new recommendations from a leading consumer group.

Officials at Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer

Reports magazine, said they decided to recommend a tuna-free diet for pregnant women based on a Tribune investigative series on mercury in fish and the latest testing by the Food and Drug Administration.

The newspaper reported late last year that about 15 percent of canned light tuna—the kind of tuna touted by the FDA as a low-mercury option—is made with a



species that often contains high amounts of the toxic metal.

FDA officials later revealed that 6 percent of canned light tuna sampled between 2001 and 2005 had mercury levels that exceeded the average in canned albacore tuna, which the federal government tells pregnant

women and young children to limit eating because it tends to have high levels of mercury.

In a two-page article in the July issue of Consumer Reports, the consumer group also urged pregnant women to shun four other kinds of seafood because of mercury concerns—

Chilean sea bass, halibut, American lobster and Spanish mackerel.

Health experts agree that eating fish is good for most people. But there are concerns that mercury and other pollutants can offset the benefits.

It is unclear if a single meal of high-mercury seafood could damage a fetus. Consumers Union, though, concluded that enough experts think the developing brain is so sensitive to mercury that caution should prevail. "This is important in-

PLEASE SEE **TUNA**, BACK PAGE

MORE ON THE INTERNET

Find the Tribune's original investigation, plus a calculator to help measure your mercury intake at chicagotribune.com/mercury

America's biggest housing bargains?



Tribune photo by John Smierciak

\$224,000 Sprawling three-story Tudor with veranda, five bedrooms, rich stonework, walnut paneling, swimming pool, for discriminating buyer. "If this house were on Chicago's North Shore it would be worth \$1 million or more," said owner Tony Freeland.

With the nation's lowest median house price, the Danville area's residents feel the pain of selling out

By William Sluis
Tribune staff reporter

HOOPESTON, Ill. — A four-bedroom, two-story house with fireplace on a tree-shaded street for \$54,900?

A three-bedroom brick ranch, with attached garage, for \$79,900?

They sound like real estate listings from the early 1970s, but these houses are for sale today in Vermilion County, 100 miles due south of Chicago.

Property values are declining in many smaller midwestern towns that are facing industrial decline, and nowhere is that more evident than here.

Home prices in the Hoopeston/Danville area have tumbled 12 percent in the last year, representing the sharpest decline of any metropolitan market in the country. The median price for a house is now \$52,500, the lowest in the nation, according to first quarter statistics from the National Association of Realtors.

By comparison, the median price for the overall Chicago metropolitan region is \$263,600.

In Hoopeston, a community known for its annual Sweet Corn Festival and beauty pageant, the downward spiral is the equivalent to winning the ugly duckling award. But there is a bright side for some: With the biggest real estate bargains anywhere, Chicagoans are flocking to look.

RuthAnn Amarteifio, who formerly

PLEASE SEE **BARGAINS**, BACK PAGE



\$52,155 HOOPESTON

Four-bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, 2-story house is 'charming' with some original woodwork, new windows on the main level, new counter tops, fireplace and 3-car garage. The 20x26 foot attic is under renovation. It sits on a 50 x160 corner lot.



\$74,900 ROSSVILLE

Two-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom ranch is in 'impeccable, move-in condition.' The 967-square-foot house has a fireplace, energy-efficient, all-electric, central air, full usable basement, one-car attached garage plus 20-by-24-foot garage, all appliances stay. It sits on a 54x165 lot.



\$49,500 ROSSVILLE

Three-bedroom, 1 bath house features spacious rooms, a wrap-around porch, formal dining room, large eat-in kitchen, lots of cabinets and lots of closets. The 1.5-story house sits on a 66x165 lot and has a 2-car detached garage.

Boeing aircraft parts in Iran offer

Lure to end nuclear crisis would lift ban in place since 1979

By Helene Cooper
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — The European Union's chief foreign affairs diplomat, Javier Solana, arrived in Tehran on Monday night with incentives intended to resolve the nuclear crisis with Iran, including a proposal to allow Iran to upgrade its aging civilian air fleet through the purchase of aircraft parts from a Chicago-based company, Boeing.

The package, to be presented Tuesday to Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki and to Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, is to include waiving trade sanctions against Iran to allow the purchase of American agricultural technology, said European diplomats and a senior Bush administration official.

The offer includes a commitment from the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—plus Germany, to support Iran's plan for a nuclear energy program for civilian use, including building light-water reactors through joint projects with other countries, the diplomats said.

The United States and Europe also agreed to back Iran's membership in the World Trade Organization.

The six nations reached agreement on the package last week in Vienna, but they declined to make the proposal public. Officials said they first wanted to present the package to Iranian authorities. But with Solana's arrival in Tehran, several European and American

PLEASE SEE **IRAN**, PAGE 10

INSIDE

WORLD

Kidnappers
brazenly snatch
50 in Iraq

Men in police uniforms
blockade street and seize
bus passengers and
pedestrians. **PAGE 8**

Weather: Storms; high 84, low 66
Index, Page 2
Online at chicagotribune.com

