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Tackling the Cubs curse

April 7, 2004

FOOD NEWS BY [DENISE I. O'NEAL](#)

Advertisement

First Harry Caray's blew up the blasted ball that those of superstitious minds believe cost the Cubs the pennant last fall, and now Jimmy Bannos, chef/ owner of Heaven on Seven, hopes to ward off the 1945 Billy Goat curse with a goat roast.

The event -- Reverse the Curse ... Roast the Goat -- takes place Monday, the day of the Cubs' home opener, at the restaurant's Wrigleyville location.

All in fun, and to raise funds for the American Cancer Society, the daylong festivities kick off at 10 a.m. and continue well into the night.

The restaurant will roast a goat spitted over a fire. Radio personalities Steve Dahl and Kevin Matthews, both of WCKG-FM (105.9), will broadcast live from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors wearing any form of Cubs merchandise will receive free samples of the roasted goat. Special roasted goat meals with sides will be available for \$19.45. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

For attendees who believe in the dreaded goat curse, the event is intended to shake the spell and see the Cubs secure a berth in the playoffs come October.

Heaven on Seven is at 3478 N. Clark. For more information, call (773) 477-7818.

FINALLY, THE GUY YOU KNOW WITH THE TICKETS IS YOU.

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Dog days

Hot dogs and baseball add up to a Fluky's giveaway on opening day for the Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox.

To receive a free hot dog, a visitor must either wear a Cubs or Sox jersey or present the cashier with your opening day ticket on Monday, which is the home opener for the Chicago Cubs, or on Tuesday, home opener for the White Sox. The promotion will be honored at all Fluky's locations.

For more information, visit www.flukys.com.

Different breed of dog

McDonald's is teaming with the Chicago Area Shelter Alliance and other animal organizations to help boost animal adoption in the Chicago and northwest Indiana area. McDonald's Owners of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana will host dog adoption events throughout the month at various locations. The fast food giant will also offer "The Dog" Happy Meal, which will feature 12 different breeds of dogs as its toys. The meals will offer dog adoption information. The promotion continues through April 29.

For more information, visit www.ronaldmcdonaldnews.com.

Easter benefit

O'Donovan's Pub & Restaurant will host an all-you-can-eat Easter brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

Special items will include mahi-mahi with roasted shiitake mushrooms and grape tomato in beurre blanc sauce; assorted quiches, and scrambled eggs, bacon, and Cheddar cheese in potato baskets. The cost is \$13.95 for adults; \$4.95 for children. A photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny will be available for children up to age 12.

The cost is \$5. A portion of the proceeds from the photos will benefit the High Ridge YMCA's summer camp program.

O'Donovan's Pub & Restaurant is at 2100 W. Irving Park. Call (773)478-2100. Visit, www.odonovansbar.com.

Celebrating a new year

Vong's Thai Kitchen celebrates the Thai New Year of 2457 with a four-day celebration. Beginning Monday, the River North eatery will offer a special menu for its Songkran Festival.

The event not only recognizes the new year, but pays homage to water, one of the most necessary elements in southeast Asia's agriculture.

In honor of the festive occasion, chef Arnie Tellez will offer a three-course meal for \$24.95, which includes a choice of one of three starters; one of three entrees; Thai coconut flan for dessert, and one Singha beer.

A skilled vegetable carver will turn produce into works of art. Floral designers will demonstrate their art. Dancers dressed in festive garb representing the four regions of Thailand will perform traditional dances nightly from 6:30 to 8:30 during the festival.

In addition, one visitor will win a trip for two to Thailand in a special drawing.



Vong's Thai Kitchen is at 6 W. Hubbard. For more information, call (312) 644-8664.

Hot spot

Ben Pao's Hot Pot Cafe opens today. The area, separate from the restaurant's main dining area, offers the experience of true communal cooking.

The Hot Pot Cafe has four tables with built-in hot pots that have been designed according to proper feng shui techniques. The broth-filled cooking pots can be used for meats, vegetables and seafood. The hot pot menu is \$20.95, and includes Oolong tea. Diners can add appetizers, wines and dessert fondue to the meal for additional costs.

Ben Pao is at 52 W. Illinois. For more information, call (312) 222-1888.

Direct to you

Customers can now purchase and ship perishable food items across the country via Insight 360 Degrees, a user-friendly food kiosk. The touchscreen mail order system is available at Portillo's restaurants and features Chicago-style restaurant foods in bulk orders such as 10 Portillo's Chicago-style hot dogs or eight Portillo's Italian beef sandwiches.

Gino's East downtown will be the next restaurant where the kiosk will be placed.

Portillo's restaurants carrying the Insight 360 Degrees kiosks are at 211 E. Townline Rd., Vernon Hills; 15900 S. Harlem Ave., Tinley Park; 1992 W. Jefferson Ave., Naperville; 611 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, and 155 S. Route 83, Elmhurst.

Navel passage

Belly dancers, whip out your harem pants and veils. Tizi Melloul Mediterranean Restaurant & Lounge is looking for contestants for its Golden Navel Belly Dance Contest. Each entrant must submit a completed application along with a \$25 fee. The deadline is April 30.

The grand prize winner will waltz away with \$500 and the opportunity to dance at the Moroccan restaurant for a month.

Tizi Melloul Mediterranean Restaurant & Lounge is at 531 N. Wells.

For more information, call (312) 670-4338.

If you have news about classes or other food events open to the public, send it at least two weeks in advance to: Food News, Chicago Sun-Times Food Section, 401 N. Wabash, Chicago 60611.

Hi, Denise.

Vong's Thai Kitchen will have floral designers creating Thai ma lais during the upcoming event in Bits07. Sounds like the Hawaiian lei, but we shouldn't assume that.



Could you please check with VTK and add a brief explanation of what these ma
lais are.

thanks.

margaret

More questions arose Thursday, and Denise suggested we simplify this to
mention floral designers demonstrating their art. So that's what we did.

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