



The economy may be in the toilet, but people still are forking over big money for those shiny new plasmas. IN SUNDAY, A21

SOUTHTOWNSTAR

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TRAVELING FOR THANKSGIVING?



Gabriella Gaetani, of San Francisco, redistributes items in her checked bags to make the weight requirements and avoid paying a higher fee Friday at the Southwest Airlines counter at Midway Airport in Chicago. JOSEPH P. MEIER — SOUTHTOWNSTAR

ROAD KILL

Think getting to grandma's house will be easy this year because fewer people are traveling? Not so fast.

When you're standing in line to take off your shoes at airport security, try to stay focused on the pumpkin pie. When the kids won't stop fighting in the back seat even though you've still got another hour to drive, remember that your mother's stuffing is better than anyone else's. When the traffic becomes maddeningly clogged, think of the way turkey makes the whole house smell wonderful. Chances are good you're getting ready to go somewhere for Thanksgiving dinner. More than

37 million of us will travel more than 50 miles for a holiday get-together this week. It's the busiest travel holiday of the year, though this year's poor economy means slightly fewer of us are traveling than in any of the past six years. Even with a smaller crowd of travelers, your Thanksgiving trip is likely to have some frustrating moments. So remember, there's nothing quite like succumbing to a full-bellied turkey-induced nap on the couch while football is on TV and your in-laws are doing the dishes.

» KIM JANSSEN REPORTS ON THANKSGIVING TRAVEL, A3

37.2 million
Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home this holiday.

82 percent
of all holiday travelers will go by car.

4.6 million
will go by plane.

64 percent
of Thanksgiving travelers will stay with relatives or friends.

Source: AAA

INTERSTATES 57/294

INTERCHANGE TO FORCE RESIDENTS TO MOVE

Some Posen homeowners caught by surprise, not happy

Southland officials are doing handsprings over the state's decision to build a long-sought interchange to link Interstates 57 and 294 in Bremen Township.

But for Volare O'Connor, Rodney Lane and six other homeowners on their block in Posen, there's no cause for celebration. They're going to lose their homes — houses that were built within the past five years.

They will be among 42 houses and two businesses that will be demolished to make way for the interchange. The Illinois Toll Highway Authority will buy them and pay for the owners to move.

O'Connor and his wife cringe at the thought that the dream home they bought for \$265,000 in 2006, where they planned to stay for many years and raise a family, will be just a memory.

And they and Lane are angry that no one told them and their neighbors that an interchange was possible.

"We should have been informed," O'Connor said. "Somebody had to know something."

» GUY TRIDGELL REPORTS, A5

Everyone wants to know ...

Who will Democratic leaders choose to replace Debbie Halvorson as state Senate majority leader?

» MCQUEARY, A32



Mount Carmel falls in football semifinals

Hinsdale Central takes Caravan 24-21; Lemont dominates Antioch 38-14; Providence loses to Sacred Heart-Griffin 24-17.



» IN SPORTS

Vote online for local shelters to win a million bucks

BY DONNA VICKROY
STAFF WRITER

get this?" said Linda Estrada, director of the Animal Welfare League. The Chicago Ridge facility now is No. 16 on the list. "We currently have 1,248 animals in our building," Estrada said. Emily Gruszka, executive director of the South Suburban Humane Society in Chicago Heights, said that facility was No. 1 during the first few weeks of the contest last fall. It now is in 30th place. "We really need the community's help to stay in the top 20," Gruszka said. Shelters that make it into the top 20 spots by the March 13, 2009, deadline then will

move on to the next round of competition, which includes a visit and assessment by the panel of judges. After that, 10 shelters will continue to the final round in April, when once again the public will be encouraged to vote. Stray Rescue of St. Louis won last year's competition. Next spring, one shelter will win a million-dollar makeover; 19 runners-up will receive cash prizes totaling \$195,000 to be used toward shelter improvements. You can help boost either shelter by visiting zootoo.com and "earning" points for that facility by registering with the site, uploading a photo or even

GO ONLINE

For more information on the Million Dollar Shelter Makeover Contest, visit zootoo.com/makeover.

adopting an animal. Zootoo was founded by multimillionaire Richard Thompson in 2007 as a way to bring animal lovers together and to sponsor a contest for shelters.

Visitors tour the Animal Welfare League in Chicago Ridge during Citter Camp. JOSEPH P. MEIER — SOUTHTOWNSTAR



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