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January 3, 2008

A PIONEER PRESS PUBLICATION

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Kaela LaFortune, 4-month-old daughter of Staff Writer Chris LaFortune, wishes our readers a Happy New Year.

NEWS

Powerless elevator traps cleaning crew over weekend. Page 3

NEIGHBORS

Visions of cookies, cakes turn attorney to baking career. Page 49

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Previews of films, DVDs, concerts and CDs coming in 2008. Page B1

Inside!



Photo by Rob Hart • Staff Photographer

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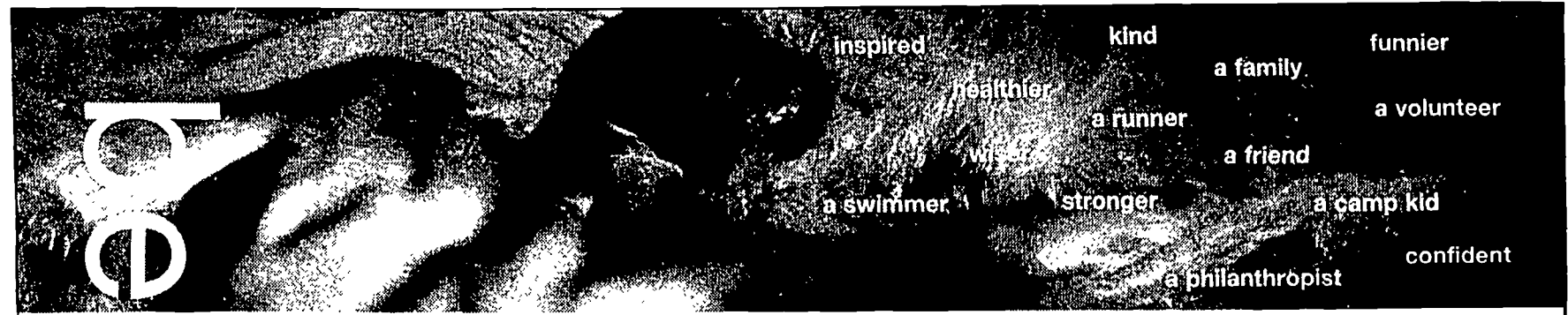
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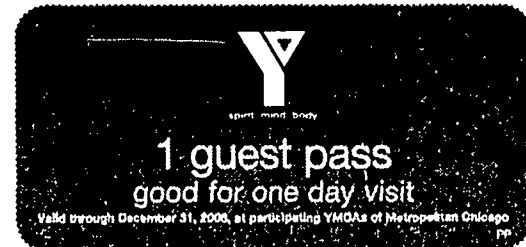
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NEWS



FRESH BASIL IN WINTER?
Grow your own herbs indoors and you'll have fresh greens to spice up your meals.
See Food, page 47



BLACK GOLD
Bruce Ingram reviews "There Will Be Blood."
See Diversions, page B4

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WHAT'S NEW AROUND TOWN THIS WEEK

Township to register voters through Jan. 8

The Maine Township Clerk's Office is offering voter's registration for the 2008 Primary Election which will be held Feb. 5. Voter registration for this Primary Election will end Jan. 8.

Clerk Gary K. Warner advises that Polling Places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. but to vote you must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age by the date of the next election (Feb. 5) and have resided in the precinct 30 days prior to the next election. You must also be able to produce two pieces of identification; one of which must show your correct address, the other must be a photo i.d.

Residents may either vote early or request an Absentee Ballot. Call the Clerk's Office at (847) 297-2510 to find the location of a polling place in Maine Township.

Crew rescued in the nick of time

Stalled elevator traps cleaning crew

By ALAN SCHMIDT
Staff Writer
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Two women who were trapped in an elevator for a weekend were rescued in time to be home for Christmas.

The person they have to thank is Grant Koster, the facilities manager at Athletico, 6000 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago. The business had closed at noon Saturday, Dec. 22, and wasn't going to be open again until the next Wednesday (Dec. 26).

The cleaning ladies, a mother and daughter who work for Coverall Cleaning Concepts, a national company with a local center in

Downers Grove, went in the evening of Dec. 22 between 6 and 8 p.m., and stepped into the elevator. The doors shut, the elevator dropped about six inches, and went dead, said Koster who found them inside it about 10:30 a.m. Dec. 24. The doors wouldn't open no matter how hard they tried. They had left their cell phones in the car and had to resort to activating their car alarm to summon help, he said. No one was scheduled to be there for another two days.

Koster said his stop at the building was happenstance. "My wife is a physician and was on call," he said. "I had some time to kill, and I decided I'd just wrap up some last-minute Christmas gifts."

He pulled into the parking lot behind the building, which is also home to Frozen

Ropes and Edgebrook Bank, just inside the Chicago border from Niles. When he got out of the car, a bank employee came running out to tell him that she kept hearing a car alarm going off. Koster walked over to the car to find out what the problem was. Inside he saw clothes and purses, but there was no one nearby.

"I was just concerned because the car alarm kept going off."

Koster went into the building's first floor lobby and pressed the elevator button to go up to Athletico, which is on the second floor. He suddenly heard screaming and banging coming from the other side of the elevator door. Koster immediately called the building owner and the Chicago Fire

See RESCUED, page 5

Progress at Oasis

By KIT KADLEC
Staff Writer
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Although recent snow has delayed some of the roofing work at the renovated Oasis Water Park, Niles Park District Executive Director Joe LoVerde said he still expected a Memorial Day 2008 reopening for the pool.

LoVerde said he expected the roofing to be complete by late December, and had promises from some of the workers that they would continue at the site the day after Christmas, rather than wait until after New Year's Day.

Board of Trustees President William Terpinas thanked LoVerde, saying it was his daily presence at the site that has helped pressure the developer to stay on time.

LoVerde also detailed some of the interior of the new Oasis structure, located at 7877 N. Milwaukee Ave., to the Niles Park District Board of Commissioners at its December meeting.

He said the building will have a multicolored interior, with variations of green, red, blue and yellow.

"We tried to keep everything bright," LoVerde said.

The \$5 million in renovations includes a new 11,000-square-foot building with showers and bathhouses, as well as rental rooms for parties. Renovations to the pool itself, estimated at \$900,000, includes new plumbing, a drop slide and a 3,500-square-foot spray play area.

"It offers a lot of rental opportunities for parties," LoVerde said the of the three multipurpose rooms.

One has a special wood panel dance floor, and all feature French doors that open into the outdoor water park.

LoVerde said he hopes the Park District can also cater events held in the mul-

See OASIS, page 6

AT TAM FOR TENNIS



Harold Zarky (right) watches as his tennis partner, Teresa Look, returns a serve as they played Lawrence Grubman and Marilyn Zarky at the Tam Tennis Club in Niles on Dec. 21. The Niles Park District credits recent upgrades with the facility's financial success. Story on page 6. — Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer

WHAT'S UP NEXT WEEK

Secretary of State Jesse White, in cooperation with the Niles Senior Center, will offer a Rules of the Road review course for all citizens in the Niles area from 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 7 in the center, 999 Civic Center Drive. The purpose of the course is to help participants pass the Illinois driver's license renewal examination and prepare applicants for the general written and road examinations. It also provides information on the vision screening. The course is free. For more information, call the center at (847) 588-8420.

Four face charges from credit card theft

By KIT KADLEC
Staff Writer
kkadlec@pioneerlocal.com

Four people were arrested and charged with crimes relating to the theft and then use of credit cards from a Notre Dame High School employee from her purse in her office.

Marcus D. Allen, 18, and John Crawford, 38, both of 8827 N. Washington Ave., Niles, were arrested and charged with two felony counts of misuse of a credit card and one felony count of retail theft on Dec. 18.

The arrests related to a previous police item involving the arrests of Charlene D. Clifton, 41, and Dolis Norfleet, 40, both of 1932 Emerson St., Evanston, who were charged with use of the credit card of the Notre Dame employee, retail theft and attempted retail theft on Dec. 12 at a Kohl's store in Lincolnwood.

Niles police said on Dec. 5, a

50-year-old enrollment department employee at Notre Dame High School, 7655 Dempster St., Niles, reported her wallet had been stolen from her purse in her office at around noon. It contained \$80 and seven credit cards, she told police.

When she started to cancel some of the cards, she learned they had already been used at a nearby McDonald's restaurant and Citgo gas station.

An employee at the school later identified to police seeing Allen, who is not a student at Notre Dame, walk through the hallway near the office on Dec. 5.

The enrollment department employee said she was also suspicious after seeing Crawford that day, who said he was interested in enrolling his son at the school. She told police Crawford, who is Allen's stepfather, never returned the following week for an appointment, and there was no record for the person he said was his

son when she later checked at the current school he gave.

The woman then realized, on Dec. 11, that she had forgot to cancel her Kohl's credit card. Police discovered it had been used on Dec. 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 at Kohl's stores in Niles and Lincolnwood.

On Dec. 12, Niles police said Clifton and Norfleet attempted to use the card in Lincolnwood, leading to their arrest that day.

Police at this time were also searching for Allen and Crawford. A squad car located and followed Crawford's car as it left his address at around 10 p.m. on Dec. 14. Eventually the officers turned on the flashing lights in attempt to pull him over.

Police said Crawford did not pull over, and continued into the Golf Mill Shopping Center, Golf Road and Milwaukee Avenue. After circling once, and not stopping for pedestrians or other vehicles,

he eventually came to a stop, police said.

On that evening, he was charged with reckless driving, fleeing and eluding an officer and having a revoked driver's license. A passenger, Douglas A. Pritchett, 26, also of 8827 N. Washington Ave., Niles, was arrested and charged with two counts of obstructing a peace officer because he did not follow an officer's request to back away from the car, police said. He was held on \$1,000 bond and faces a Jan. 7 court date.

While Allen was walking down the street Dec. 18 he was pulled over by an officer. Allen was held on \$5,000 bond and faces a Jan. 3 court date.

Crawford was held on \$100,000 bond and assigned a Dec. 18 court date for charges related to the theft. He also was assigned a \$2,000 bond and has a Jan. 7 court date for his charges for eluding an officer.

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Betsy D'Attomo, owner of Baked by Betsy in Park Ridge, stands beside her first mixer (left) and her largest mixer at her bakery. She swapped a career in law with starting a baking business. See story on page 49. — Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer

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'Happy Memories' spreads holiday spirit

By PAT KROCHMAL
Staff Writer

Volunteers gather every year at this time to create "Happy Memories" for needy families in Elk Grove Village, Des Plaines and Schaumburg.

But the volunteers - who come not only from Elk Grove, but also from Algonquin, Arlington Heights, Barrington, Niles, Lake Zurich, Schaumburg, Rolling Meadows, and other towns, as well - seem to enjoy their team effort just as much as their guests.

Coming back

The event started a little more than two decades ago when Kenneth Krzywicki, a retired Elk Grove Village police sergeant, and Michael P. Cayley Sr. of Barrington, president of Midaco in Elk Grove, realized that not everyone has warm recollections of Christmas trees with shimmering lights, delicious holiday meals and carefully wrapped presents.

Krzywicki obtained a list of needy families from Elk Grove's community service department, including ages and genders, but not their names, so as not to violate their privacy.

Then he drew up invitations to be mailed by the community service department. The first year, the guest list included about 50 who were treated to a holiday celebration that was subsidized by whatever donations Krzywicki and Cayley could raise.

But by the time last year's event came around, the annual donations totaled about \$30,000, which provided a merry time for more than 300. And all of the money was spent on the families, because all of the work that makes the event possible was done by volunteers, Krzywicki said.

"Mike drew on his contacts to put together the building blocks of the effort. He contacted an attorney, who gave



Joanna Krzywicki (right) of Elk Grove Village bags one of her wrapped items while Marge Crawford of Elgin finishes wrapping one of hers Dec. 5 during the "Happy Memories" gift wrapping session for area families. — Michelle Lohmann/Staff Photographer

him a lot of good legal advice. And the attorney became a board member. Then Mike contacted a CPA who gave him good advice about setting up the non-profit organization, and the CPA became a board member," Krzywicki said.

"Then, some of Mike's employees wanted to help. Once they came, so did their friends and relatives. In fact, some of the same people have been coming back to help for years - even from as far away as Florida," he added.

Between 30 and 40 gathered at Midaco for their gift wrapping session Dec. 5, then at the Elk Grove Park District's Al Hattendorf Center Dec. 8, the use of which the park district donated for the Christmas party.

Pam Werfel of Elk Grove, who works in Midaco's accounts payable department, bought all the toys at Walmart by shopping for them once a week since early November. "I loaded seven or eight

carts up one at a time, leaving each at customer service until I finished. Every child got four toys totaling between \$50 and \$55. We had 189 children to buy for this year, so we needed 758," she said.

"I keep doing this because it feels so good to see the kids having a good time. Besides having a wonderful meal, they also had their faces painted, enjoyed entertainment and left with a full bag of groceries for their Christmas dinners at home. I don't think they get anything else," she added.

'A genuinely good thing'

Nancy Armstrong of Barrington, once a company consultant, has been helping out at the event for 14 years.

"People just hear about it and want to be involved, because it is a genuinely good thing. They just become perennials... I can't help going back every year," Armstrong said.

Kathy Gustafson of

Schaumburg, who does everything from serving food to cleaning up afterward, has been donating her time to the event so long she can't remember when she started.

"I keep coming back because it serves a lot of people in the community and it makes a lot of people feel good," she added.

Larry Walter, who with brothers Thomas and Kevin, owns Tasty Catering of Elk Grove, provided a holiday dinner of sirloin steak, chicken breast, potatoes and vegetables for the Happy Memories crowd this year.

"We had owned Tasty Dawg restaurants and sold them after becoming successful with corporate catering. We had been giving back to the community in various ways through the restaurants and were looking around for something to replace that with when Mike (Cayley) approached us about catering the Happy Memories event,"

Walter said. "When Mike told us how the people were chosen, how much in need they are, and we could see how much his heart was in this, we had to become a part of it, too," he added. So the Walter brothers not only donated much of meal, but also contributed items to the take-home bags. Eric Halvorsen, who works in Midaco's purchasing department and has been a part of the Happy Memories team for 13 years, may have summed up the feelings of most of the volunteers. "I really enjoy seeing the joy and excitement of the kids," Halvorsen said. "And at the end of the day when they are getting their gifts, they are so happy that I wish the day would never end for them - or me."

Tb volunteer in the future, call Midaco at (847) 593-8420. Tb donate, send a check to 2000 E. Tbuhy Ave., Elk Grove Village IL 60007.

The ironic thing about it all, Koster said, is that the building owner went into the elevator to figure out what the problem was and ended up getting stuck inside himself. Again, Koster called the fire department. They arrived to get the building owner out too.

RESCUED

Continued from page 3

Department. Firefighters arrived, forced the doors open, and got the women out. Koster said they were very grateful.

"They were just happy to get out for Christmas," he said.

Koster offered them some water and Power Bars that he had in his office, and the two went home.

He said the power was on at the office, but for some reason the power for the elevator was out.

percent, were unable to go up the staircases. Those customers were redirected to other Athletico locations.

"I'm upset about the elevator, but I'm even more upset about what happened to those two ladies," Koster reported. "It could have been much worse."

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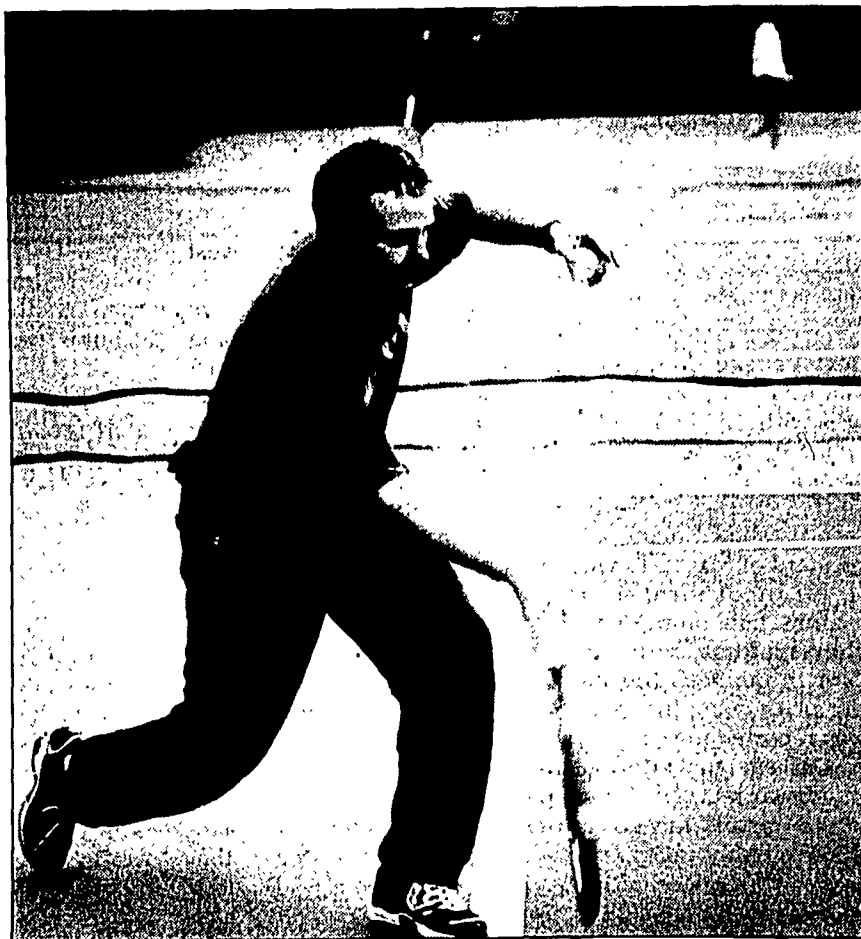
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Marcin Kozerski gives tennis instructions at the Tam Tennis Club in Niles. Remodeling at the center, which included repainting the courts, was recently finished. — Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer

Investments pay off in Tam Tennis revenues

By KIT KADLEC
 Staff Writer
 kkadlec@pioneerlocal.com

Sometimes you need to spend money in order to make more money. That's the lesson Niles Park District Executive Director Joe LoVerde saw with the recent \$2 million renovations to the Tam Tennis Club at 7886 N. Caldwell Ave., which the Park District bought five years ago. Revenues for this past year were at \$885,903 as of last week, which was \$90,000 more than was estimated in the original 2007 budget. "That's what a \$2 million renovation will do for you," said LoVerde. "It's now one of the premier tennis courts around." The facility was reopened in September 2006 after three months of renovation.

OASIS

Continued from page 3

tipurpose rooms. On the exterior, new shaded areas have been added, as well as additional room for chairs around the pool. LoVerde said he also plans to have more green space around the build-

Memberships are also up, said Niles Park District Finance Director Thomas Elenz. As of mid-December, 683 passes were purchased at Tam for 2007, compared to 501 for 2006. When the Niles Park District purchased the facility, it was slated to become a recreational center. But that idea changed to an indoor tennis facility, both from a financial standpoint, but also to meet to the needs of the community, LoVerde said. The major part of the revenue increase has been from programs, such as private lessons, senior leagues and adult and junior programs, said Elenz. A 12-month adult pass for a Niles resident costs \$150. For non-residents, who make up the majority of users, it is \$250. The club has eight tennis courts and is an official United Tennis Association welcome center.

ing, with more trees and grass. Overall, he said he was excited about the new building and the renovations. "You could build a building like this (in size) for peanuts, with no character, or you could do what we have done here," he said to the commissioners. "You should be really proud of what we have here."

Missing woman may have run away with other man

By CHARLES BERMAN
 Staff Writer
 cberman@pioneerlocal.com

After a week's worth of extensive air, ground and water searches in and along the Des Plaines River in Wheeling, police said they now believe Anu Solanki voluntarily left the Chicago area with a male friend.

Cook County Sheriff Thomas Dart said Friday that cellular telephone records show Solanki, 24, a resident of Maine Township in unincorporated Des Plaines, had multiple phone conversations with Karan Jani throughout the morning of Dec. 24, the day she was reported missing.

Dart said that after Solanki left work at the gift shop of the Westin Chicago North Shore on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling around noon, those conversations continued, apparently leading up to them meeting at a forest preserve about two miles south of the hotel. Police previously thought Solanki's last cell phone call

was made in Wheeling alerting a friend that men may have been following her. Dart said investigators now know that call was made about 60 miles further west near DeKalb.

Dart said e-mails prove that the two had an ongoing close friendship for at least one year, but would not speculate whether it became a romantic relationship. Jani, 23, recently graduated from the University of Southern California, although his last known address was in Levittown, Pa. Police said they don't know how or where Solanki and Jani met. Solanki's husband, Dignesh Solanki, found out about the relationship from police after his wife of about six months went missing, Dart said.

Alkesh Patel, Anu Solanki's cousin, said Dec. 27 that from all accounts, Dignesh and Anu Solanki were happily married, although it was an arranged marriage. Patel distributed missing-person fliers along Milwaukee Avenue in hopes she was still in the area. Patel and about 10

family members from Virginia and New Jersey have flown into the Chicago area to support one another.

While some reporters attended Dart's news conference Friday about Anu Solanki, others visited the Solankis' two-story home on

"I'm frightened for her and I hope they find her safe."

Nancy Bridgeman

Meadow Lane in unincorporated Des Plaines.

At the house, a man who identified himself as a family member said Dignesh Solanki was praying at his temple.

"He has been under a lot of stress. We want to give him some time alone," he added.

A family spokesman said no one had informed Anu Solanki's family of Dart's Friday press conference or that the search had been

called off because police now believe she has disappeared voluntarily.

Solanki was last seen wearing a long black coat and a brown hat Monday, four hours before her Honda Civic was found abandoned off of Hintz Road and Milwaukee Avenue around 4 p.m. A bag and a laptop computer were missing from her running car, Dignesh Solanki said. He said the last time he spoke with his wife was 11:28 a.m. Dec. 24.

"She was just asking me what to cook when you come home," he said. "And that's about it. It was just a regular talk."

Dignesh Solanki said his wife told him earlier in the day that she planned on going to the river to place a religious statue in the water after work. The statue of the Hindu deity Ganesh was broken in the mail when it was sent by relatives. A religious leader told them it should be wrapped in a red cloth and placed in a lake or a river to prevent bad luck, Dignesh Solanki said.

Anu Solanki, who works three days a week at the hotel gift shop, typically has Mondays off. However, co-worker Nancy Bridgeman asked Solanki to switch shifts so she could spend the afternoon of Christmas Eve with her son.

"I wish we would have never switched shifts," Bridgeman said Friday before Dart's news conference. "I'm frightened for her and I hope they find her safe."

Dart said that after four days of searches — which included dive teams from area fire departments, helicopter surveillance and officers canvassing a six-mile stretch of river by boat and by foot south to Dam No. 2 in Mount Prospect — the statue has not been located. The search, which cost about \$250,000, is now over.

The Sheriff's Department is now asking Anu Solanki and Jani to contact the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department at (847) 294-4733.

Staff writer Pat Krochmal contributed to this report.

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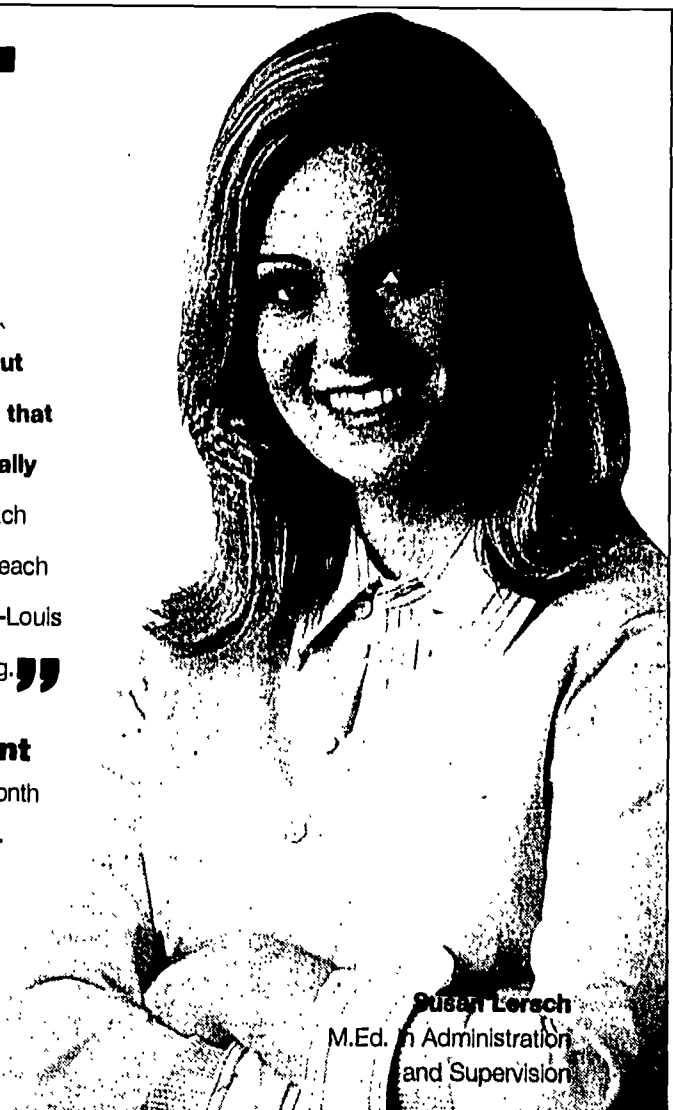
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POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were listed in the official bulletin of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest by police does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination. Unless otherwise indicated, all court appearances are in Skokie.

ORDINANCE VIOLATION

Numerous drivers called Niles police around noon on Dec. 24, complaining about backed-up traffic heading northwest on Milwaukee Avenue. Police determined the traffic was due to Christmas Eve customers trying to enter the Oak Mill Bakery at 8012 N. Milwaukee Ave. Police said the business did not have an arrangement with neighboring stores for use of their lots, so an officer issued the bakery a ticket for failure to provide sufficient parking. The police report noted that the neighboring restaurant, Riggio's, opened its lot shortly afterwards to assist with the parking issue.

RETAIL THEFT

Alberto Millan, 20, of 2042 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago, was arrested and charged with retail theft at 3:17 p.m. on Dec. 24. Police said Millan concealed \$260 worth of shoes and clothing from the Kohl's store in the Golf Mill Shopping Center. Then left without paying for the merchandise. Bond was set at \$50,000. Millan has a Jan. 3 court date.

Jean P. Landero, 22, of 1709 W. North Shore Ave., Chicago, was arrested and charged with retail theft at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 24. Police said Landero concealed five bottles of cologne and four bracelets, valued at \$420, from the JCPenney store in the Golf Mill Shopping Center. Then left without paying for the items. Bond was set at \$50,000. Landero has a Jan. 3 court date.

Maria Debowski, 48, of 8533 N. Olander Ave., Niles, was arrested and charged with retail theft at 3:45 p.m. on Dec. 23. Police said Debowski concealed five bottles of cologne valued at \$266 in a bag at the JCPenney store in the Golf Mill Shopping Center, then attempted to leave without paying for the items. Bond was set at \$50,000. Debowski she has a Jan. 3 court date.

Waheeda Reshma, 37, of 4615 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, was arrested and charged with retail theft on Dec. 19. Police said she concealed \$194 in clothing in a bag at the Kohl's store in Golf Mill Shopping Center, then left without paying for the items. Bond was set at \$10,000. Reshma has a Jan. 19 court date.

BATTERY

Police said a 46-year-old Niles woman swung her hand bag, striking a 53-year-old Park Ridge woman in the face during an argument outside the Costco store entrance at 7311 Melvina. Police said the Park Ridge woman had a bloody nose but declined medical treatment and declined to sign complaints.

A 31-year-old Niles man said he was pulled outside and beaten by three men in front of his home, at 7:36 p.m. Dec. 23 after answering a knock at his door on the 7500 block of Main Street. The man was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge and

treated for head and body injuries, police said.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Police said a Mount Prospect man punched a hole through a wall at 7:25 p.m. on Dec. 25 at the Kerasoles Theater in the Golf Mill Shopping Center, 301 Golf Mill. Marko Preradovic, 20, of 1039 Arbor Court, was cited for the incident. Police said he had been asked to leave after refusing to take down his hood in the theater, and punched a fist-sized hole in the wall on his way out. Police said the theater has agreed to drop its prosecution if Preradovic pays for the damage.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

Reports were made to Niles police of 11 burglaries or attempted burglaries to vehicles between Dec. 21 and Dec. 27, some involving unlocked cars, and others with broken windows.

On Dec. 21 at 6:50 a.m., police were notified of a broken window and ransacked front console at a vehicle parked at the 7500 block of Jonquil Terrace; nothing was reported missing.

At 8:20 a.m. Dec. 21, a resident at the 6900 block of Rosemary Lane reported her vehicle's window was broken and her purse was missing; the estimated amount of loss was not available.

On Dec. 22 at 3:50 a.m., a man who parked his vehicle at 9003 Milwaukee Ave. said his window was broken and radio cracked in an apparent attempt to remove it; nothing was reported missing.

At 6 p.m. Dec. 22 on the 8200 block of Golf Road, a vehicle window was reported broken; items were strewn about, but nothing was reported missing.

At 7:45 p.m. Dec. 22, on the 8500 block of Golf Road, a resident reported his window was smashed and a \$500 GPS system had been removed.

On Dec. 25 a resident of the 8900 block of Wisner said a digital camera and three credit cards were taken from an unlocked vehicle.

At 10 a.m. Dec. 25 on the 9300 block of Knight, police were notified of a smashed vehicle window and missing Sirius radio and receiver. The radio was deactivated by the owner.

On Dec. 27 a resident of the 6600 block of Alton said a vehicle window was broken and GPS charger and mount, valued at \$40, were removed.

At 5:09 p.m. Dec. 25 on the 8500 block of Carot, three unlocked vehicles were reported as burglarized to police. One car was missing \$30, another \$2, and the third was missing 25 cents; all appeared to have been searched by an intruder, according to police reports.

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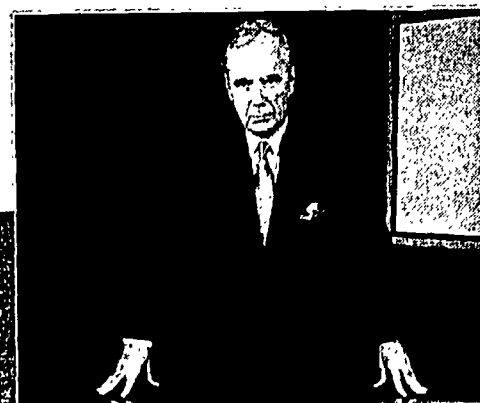


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FORUM

What would you suggest for resolutions for 2008?

See editorial on this page

Making resolutions

January traditionally is a time for making resolutions. Some are very personal — lose some weight, give up smoking, exercise more, spend more time with the family — but others can be more widespread in their scope.

Here are a few we'd like to see our lawmakers resolve to do:

■ Be conservative in spending. Knowing the economy is struggling, avoid approving big, expensive projects that aren't necessary. Does every streetscape need fancy light poles? Does every school have to be enclosed in ornate wrought iron fences? Taxing bodies should make a genuine effort to live within their means, so taxpayers can afford to pay the taxes.

■ Keep life affordable for residents. If they can't keep up with ever-rising taxes and service fees and utilities, foreclosures or emptied properties may follow. The goal should be to build stable communities where people establish their lives and have a stake in the future, not to attract transient owners who don't stay.

■ Support services that maintain residents, such as public safety and garbage pickups. To reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions, give drivers a dependable, affordable public transportation system. The same system can support the needs of the non-drivers of all ages, if the network of services is strengthened. Playing political games with transit funding generally means the transit

agencies hike the rates, shred the service network and make the system too undependable to use.

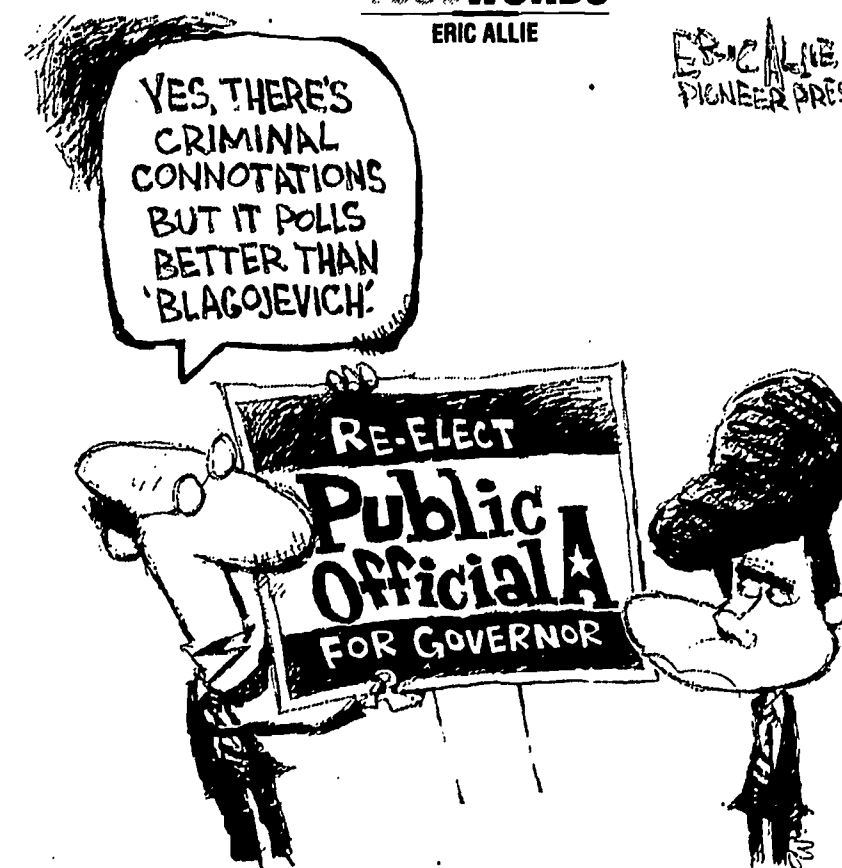
■ Encourage job retention and development. The economy can't recover without these.

■ Think twice about allowing dense development for density's sake. Any development that destroys viable retail areas for the sake of building mega stores can damage not just that block but also the shopping patterns for an entire community. Similarly, a proliferation of giant houses allowed to intrude in a moderately sized residential neighborhood can change the character of an entire community.

■ Avoid really frivolous legislation. Chicago's ban on foix gras and Illinois' mandated "moment of silence" come to mind as legislative over-kill. Instead of spending time micromanaging such personal projects, governmental leaders should be balancing budgets or finding fair solutions for problems they continue to postpone.

What would you suggest for resolutions for 2008? Please send your ideas to us, in care of this newspaper, to 130 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge IL 60068 or e-mail to parkridge@pioneerlocal.com. Please include your name and your home community.

1000 WORDS
ERIC ALLIE



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By mail: The Niles Herald-Spectator, 130 Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068
By fax: (847) 696-3229
By e-mail: parkridge@pioneerlocal.com

Letters may be edited for space or content and must include name, address and a daytime phone number.

Family Services came through Dec. 23

I personally found out what a great job Family Services does for the people of Niles. On the morning of the 23rd of December, my electric power went out. It was so cold, ("How cold was it?" they chimed in) I was freezing in my house... I was about to freeze to death — not really, but close — when out on the lawn, there arose such a clatter. Ho Ho Ho, it was Public Works and a fellow named Seth Knobel from Family Services. They were out there discussing how long they felt the power would be out. Seth told me that he heard the power would be out for maybe another 10 hours or so and that they would put me up at the Days Inn, on Caldwell and Touhy. FREE!!! Till the power came back on.

At first I turned them down, but Seth

told me he would be back to check a little later if I changed my mind — because of the oxygen I use, he was worried about me! What a guy! Well, needless to say, knocking icicles off my nose, I took him up on his offer. Having no power, my garage door opener wouldn't work, so he opened it manually, so I could get my car out and drive down to the motel. He then put it back together, so when the power came back on it would work, electrically.

I drove down to the motel and he signed me in and I got to take a shower and get some warm air around my frozen body. The next morning, the 24th, I had their complementary breakfast, called home, the answering machine worked and showed me the power was back on, so I came back home.

I'll tell you, from my experience, no other group besides Family Services and Mayor Nicholas Blase would have done this for me. God Bless them one and all! Yes there is a Santa, and his name is Nicholas B. Blase. Mayor Blase and the Village of Niles had saved my life once more.

Russell C. McAndrew
Niles

See LETTERS, page 12

LETTERS

Continued from page 11

Remember the givers in holiday season

Toys for tots....? Great! Now how about gifts for givers....?

It's traditional -- and easy -- to give gifts to the ones we know and love at this season of the year. But what about those givers we don't know all that well, and perhaps never thought of loving?

This includes more than the paper boy and mail carrier. There are some other givers in our lives that, well, we take what they give us enormously for granted.

Like, say, the doctors whose care has helped you be able to read this....or the E.R. staffs whose emergency attentions may have made it possible you're here this season....then there are those two or three special teachers you always talk about fondly, but have never taken the time to thank....and what about the clergy in your life whose spiritual services have quietly but profoundly helped sustain who and why you are.

So here's the deal! While we're busy searching and packaging gifts each year for the special ones in our life, would it be so hard or so inconsistent with the season to drop a line to some of these givers?

Ahhh, but what to say? As a teacher who's joyously received such thanks over the years, probably the best bottom-line words would be the ones givers most truly appreciate.

"Thank you for what you've been and done in my life!"

Now see, was that so hard....?

Jack Spatafora
Park Ridge

SCHOOLS DIGEST RESURRECTION

Resurrection High School will offer the High School Entrance Exam for the Class of 2012 on Jan. 12. Girls should arrive at Resurrection High School, 7500 W. Talcott Ave. Chicago, by 7:45 a.m. and will be dismissed at 1 p.m. Call Debbie Gillespie at Resurrection High School (773)775-6616, ext. 129 or e-mail dgillespie@reshs.org.

The Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) awarded funds to Resurrection High School to enhance the physical education curriculum at the school. Funds will be used to purchase fitness assessment software and fitness equipment to supplement the current physical education program. The project at Resurrection, entitled "Fit for Four", is part of an initiative to keep students fit for the four years that they are in high school. Resurrection High School's physical education curriculum strives to educate young women about the essential components of fitness and wellness and have stu-

dents form habits and attitudes about fitness and wellness that will serve them for the future.

Marcia Berko, Resurrection Physical Education chairperson, is a member of the IAHPERD, and was the lead applicant for the grant. The grant will support the "Fit for Four" initiative, which is particularly targeted toward students who would not normally participate in organized athletics and encourage those students to become and remain physically active.

On Nov. 5, six Madonna Scholars from Resurrection High School participated in a leadership seminar sponsored by the Gannon Scholars of Loyola University. The leadership seminar was held at Notre Dame High School for Girls for the 87 young women in Chicago who are current Madonna Scholars. A reception was held following the leadership seminar for the Madonna Scholars, parents and school administrators.

The Madonna Scholars at Resurrection High School are: sophomore **Angela Betancourt**; senior **Michelle Brennan**; junior **Danielle Byrne**; freshmen **Alyssa Goff** and **Amanda Rage**; and sopho-

more **Darina Yakimiec**.

The Madonna Scholars is a scholarship program of the Madonna Foundation, which is sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. The Madonna Foundation is focused on increasing access to Catholic high schools in the Chicago area for young urban women, as well as supporting their spiritual, psychological, academic and social dimensions. The Madonna Foundation's purpose is to be of service to the needy, and particularly to young adolescent urban women. Long-time sponsors of Catholic schools, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, know and support Catholic high schools for young women as uniquely effective environments of transformation for young women.

OAKTON

Students interested in health care as a career are invited to attend a variety of free information sessions in January at both campuses of Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, and 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Sessions will showcase Oakton's degree and certificate programs in four distinct areas.

See DIGEST, page 55

Pictures of the Year 2007

We share some of our favorite images of the year with you



Director Karen M. Hall (foreground) works with students and administrators during rehearsal for the spring musical "Bye Bye Birdie" at Maine East High School in Park Ridge. Hall is a drama teacher at the school. — Buzz Orr/Staff Photographer



Apollo School second- and third-graders perform "Go Fish." Clown Fish Ewelina Komasa (left) and Cowboy Nirali Gohel dance during the number "Roundup in the Sea." — Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer



Cecile Jekat of Niles sports her "Happy New Year" tiara during a New Year's party at the Niles Senior Center. — Jason Brown/Staff Photographer



Election Judge Michael Crisci checks in a voter at the Iceland Skate Arena, 8435 W. Ballard Road in Niles. — Rob Hart/Staff Photographer



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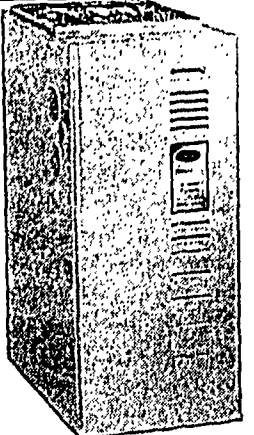
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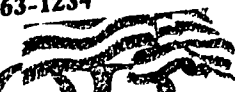


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Kaela LaFortune, 4-month-old daughter of Staff Writer Chris LaFortune, wishes our readers a Happy New Year.

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Four face charges from credit card theft

By KIT KADLEC
Staff Writer
kkadlec@pioneerlocal.com

Four people were arrested and charged with crimes relating to the theft and then use of credit cards from a Notre Dame High School employee from her purse in her office.

Marcus D. Allen, 18, and John Crawford, 38, both of 8827 N. Washington Ave., Niles, were arrested and charged with two felony counts of misuse of a credit card and one felony count of retail theft on Dec. 18.

The arrests related to a previous police item involving the arrests of Charlene D. Clifton, 41, and Dolois Norfleet, 40, both of 1932 Emerson St., Evanston, who were charged with use of the credit card of the Notre Dame employee, retail theft and attempted retail theft on Dec. 12 at a Kohl's store in Lincolnwood.

Niles police said on Dec. 5, a

50-year-old enrollment department employee at Notre Dame High School, 7655 Dempster St., Niles, reported her wallet had been stolen from her purse in her office at around noon. It contained \$80 and seven credit cards, she told police.

When she started to cancel some of the cards, she learned they had already been used at a nearby McDonald's restaurant and Citgo gas station.

An employee at the school later identified to police seeing Allen, who is not a student at Notre Dame, walk through the hallway near the office on Dec. 5.

The enrollment department employee said she was also suspicious after seeing Crawford that day, who said he was interested in enrolling his son at the school. She told police Crawford, who is Allen's stepfather, never returned the following week for an appointment, and there was no record for the person he said was his

son when she later checked at the current school he gave.

The woman then realized, on Dec. 11, that she had forgot to cancel her Kohl's credit card. Police discovered it had been used on Dec. 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 at Kohl's stores in Niles and Lincolnwood.

On Dec. 12, Niles police said Clifton and Norfleet attempted to use the card in Lincolnwood, leading to their arrest that day.

Police at this time were also searching for Allen and Crawford. A squad car located and followed Crawford's car as it left his address at around 10 p.m. on Dec. 14. Eventually the officers turned on the flashing lights in attempt to pull him over.

Police said Crawford did not pull over, and continued into the Golf Mill Shopping Center, Golf Road and Milwaukee Avenue. After circling once, and not stopping for pedestrians or other vehicles,

he eventually came to a stop, police said.

On that evening, he was charged with reckless driving, fleeing and eluding an officer and having a revoked driver's license. A passenger, Douglas A. Pritchett, 26, also of 8827 N. Washington Ave., Niles, was arrested and charged with two counts of obstructing a peace officer because he did not follow an officer's request to back away from the car, police said. He was held on \$1,000 bond and faces a Jan. 7 court date.

While Allen was walking down the street Dec. 18 he was pulled over by an officer. Allen was held on \$5,000 bond and faces a Jan. 3 court date.

Crawford was held on \$100,000 bond and assigned a Dec. 18 court date for charges related to the theft. He also was assigned a \$2,000 bond and has a Jan. 7 court date for his charges for eluding an officer.

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'Happy Memories' spreads holiday spirit

By PAT KROCHMAL
Staff Writer

Volunteers gather every year at this time to create "Happy Memories" for needy families in Elk Grove Village, Des Plaines and Schaumburg.

But the volunteers - who come not only from Elk Grove, but also from Algonquin, Arlington Heights, Barrington, Niles, Lake Zurich, Schaumburg, Rolling Meadows, and other towns, as well - seem to enjoy their team effort just as much as their guests.

Coming back

The event started a little more than two decades ago when Kenneth Krzywicki, a retired Elk Grove Village police sergeant, and Michael P. Cayley Sr. of Barrington, president of Midaco in Elk Grove, realized that not everyone has warm recollections of Christmas trees with shimmering lights, delicious holiday meals and carefully wrapped presents.

Krzywicki obtained a list of needy families from Elk Grove's community service department, including ages and genders, but not their names, so as not to violate their privacy.

Then he drew up invitations to be mailed by the community service department. The first year, the guest list included about 50 who were treated to a holiday celebration that was subsidized by whatever donations Krzywicki and Cayley could raise.

But by the time last year's event came around, the annual donations totaled about \$30,000, which provided a merry time for more than 300. And all of the money was spent on the families, because all of the work that makes the event possible was done by volunteers, Krzywicki said.

"Mike drew on his contacts to put together the building blocks of the effort. He contacted an attorney, who gave



Joanna Krzywicki (right) of Elk Grove Village bags one of her wrapped items while Marge Crawford of Elgin finishes wrapping one of hers Dec. 5 during the "Happy Memories" gift wrapping session for area families. — Michelle Lohmann/Staff Photographer

him a lot of good legal advice. And the attorney became a board member. Then Mike contacted a CPA who gave him good advice about setting up the non-profit organization, and the CPA became a board member," Krzywicki said.

"Then, some of Mike's employees wanted to help. Once they came, so did their friends and relatives. In fact, some of the same people have been coming back to help for years - even from as far away as Florida," he added.

Between 30 and 40 gathered at Midaco for their gift wrapping session Dec. 5, then at the Elk Grove Park District's Al Hattendorf Center Dec. 8, the use of which the park district donated for the Christmas party.

Pam Werfel of Elk Grove, who works in Midaco's accounts payable department, bought all the toys at Walmart by shopping for them once a week since early November.

"I loaded seven or eight

carts up one at a time, leaving each at customer service until I finished. Every child got four toys totaling between \$50 and \$55. We had 189 children to buy for this year, so we needed 758," she said.

"I keep doing this because it feels so good to see the kids having a good time. Besides having a wonderful meal, they also had their faces painted, enjoyed entertainment and left with a full bag of groceries for their Christmas dinners at home. I don't think they get anything else," she added.

'A genuinely good thing'

Nancy Armstrong of Barrington, once a company consultant, has been helping out at the event for 14 years.

"People just hear about it and want to be involved, because it is a genuinely good thing. They just become perennials... I can't help going back every year," Armstrong said.

Kathy Gustafson of

Schaumburg, who does everything from serving food to cleaning up afterward, has been donating her time to the event so long she can't remember when she started.

"I keep coming back because it serves a lot of people in the community and it makes a lot of people feel good," she added.

Larry Walter, who with brothers Thomas and Kevin, owns Tasty Catering of Elk Grove, provided a holiday dinner of sirloin steak, chicken breast, potatoes and vegetables for the Happy Memories crowd this year.

"We had owned Tasty Dawg restaurants and sold them after becoming successful with corporate catering. We had been giving back to the community in various ways through the restaurants and were looking around for something to replace that with when Mike (Cayley) approached us about catering the Happy Memories event,"

Walter said. "When Mike told us how the people were chosen, how much in need they are, and we could see how much his heart was in this, we had to become a part of it, too," he added. So the Walter brothers not only donated much of meal, but also contributed items to the take-home bags. Eric Halvorsen, who works in Midaco's purchasing department and has been a part of the Happy Memories team for 13 years, may have summed up the feelings of most of the volunteers.

"I really enjoy seeing the joy and excitement of the kids," Halvorsen said. "And at the end of the day when they are getting their gifts, they are so happy that I wish the day would never end for them - or me."

To volunteer in the future, call Midaco at (847) 593-8420. To donate, send a check to 2000 E. Tbuhy Ave., Elk Grove Village IL 60007.

percent, were unable to go up the staircases. Those customers were redirected to other Athletico locations.

"I'm upset about the elevator, but I'm even more upset about what happened to those two ladies," Koster reported. "It could have been much worse."

"They were just happy to get out for Christmas," he said. Koster offered them some water and Power Bars that he had in his office, and the two went home.

He said the power was on at the office, but for some reason the power for the elevator was out.

Firefighters arrived, forced the doors open, and got the women out. Koster said they were very grateful.

RESCUED

Continued from page 3

Department. Firefighters arrived, forced the doors open, and got the women out. Koster said they were very grateful.



Betsy D'Atomo, owner of Baked by Betsy in Park Ridge, stands beside her first mixer (left) and her largest mixer at her bakery. She swapped a career in law with starting a baking business. See story on page 49. — Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer

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Marcin Kozerski gives tennis instructions at the Tam Tennis Club in Niles. Remodeling at the center, which included repainting the courts, was recently finished. — Dan Lueder/Staff Photographer

Investments pay off in Tam Tennis revenues

By **KIT KADLEC**
 Staff Writer
kkadlec@pioneerlocal.com

Sometimes you need to spend money in order to make more money.

That's the lesson Niles Park District Executive Director Joe LoVerde saw with the recent \$2 million renovations to the Tam Tennis Club at 7686 N. Caldwell Ave., which the Park District bought five years ago.

Revenues for this past year were at \$885,903 as of last week, which was \$90,000 more than was estimated in the original 2007 budget.

"That's what a \$2 million renovation will do for you," said LoVerde. "It's now one of the premier tennis courts around."

The facility was reopened in September 2006 after three months of renovation.

OASIS

Continued from page 3

tipurpose rooms. On the exterior, new shaded areas have been added, as well as additional room for chairs around the pool. LoVerde said he also plans to have more green space around the build-

Memberships are also up, said Niles Park District Finance Director Thomas Elenz. As of mid-December, 683 passes were purchased at Tam for 2007, compared to 501 for 2006.

When the Niles Park District purchased the facility, it was slated to become a recreational center. But that idea changed to an indoor tennis facility, both from a financial standpoint, but also to meet to the needs of the community, LoVerde said.

The major part of the revenue increase has been from programs, such as private lessons, senior leagues and adult and junior programs, said Elenz.

A 12-month adult pass for a Niles resident costs \$150. For non-residents, who make up the majority of users, it is \$250. The club has eight tennis courts and is an official United Tennis Association welcome center.

ing, with more trees and grass. Overall, he said he was excited about the new building and the renovations.

"You could build a building like this (in size) for peanuts, with no character, or you could do what we have done here," he said to the commissioners. "You should be really proud of what we have here."

Missing woman may have run away with other man

By **CHARLES BERMAN**
 Staff Writer
cberman@pioneerlocal.com

After a week's worth of extensive air, ground and water searches in and along the Des Plaines River in Wheeling, police said they now believe Anu Solanki voluntarily left the Chicago area with a male friend.

Cook County Sheriff Thomas Dart said Friday that cellular telephone records show Solanki, 24, a resident of Maine Township in unincorporated Des Plaines, had multiple phone conversations with Karan Jani throughout the morning of Dec. 24, the day she was reported missing.

Dart said that after Solanki left work at the gift shop of the Westin Chicago North Shore on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling around noon, those conversations continued, apparently leading up to them meeting at a forest preserve about two miles south of the hotel.

Police previously thought Solanki's last cell phone call

was made in Wheeling alerting a friend that men may have been following her. Dart said investigators now know that call was made about 60 miles further west near DeKalb.

Dart said e-mails prove that the two had an ongoing close friendship for at least one year, but would not speculate whether it became a romantic relationship. Jani, 23, recently graduated from the University of Southern California, although his last known address was in Levittown, Pa. Police said they don't know how or where Solanki and Jani met. Solanki's husband, Dignesh Solanki, found out about the relationship from police after his wife of about six months went missing, Dart said.

Alkesh Patel, Anu Solanki's cousin, said Dec. 27 that from all accounts, Dignesh and Anu Solanki were happily married, although it was an arranged marriage. Patel distributed missing-person fliers along Milwaukee Avenue in hopes she was still in the area. Patel and about 10

family members from Virginia and New Jersey have flown into the Chicago area to support one another.

While some reporters attended Dart's news conference Friday about Anu Solanki, others visited the Solankis' two-story home on

"I'm frightened for her and I hope they find her safe."

Nancy Bridgeman

Meadow Lane in unincorporated Des Plaines.

At the house, a man who identified himself as a family member said Dignesh Solanki was praying at his temple.

"He has been under a lot of stress. We want to give him some time alone," he added.

A family spokesman said no one had informed Anu Solanki's family of Dart's Friday press conference or that the search had been

called off because police now believe she has disappeared voluntarily.

Solanki was last seen wearing a long black coat and a brown hat Monday, four hours before her Honda Civic was found abandoned off of Hintz Road and Milwaukee Avenue around 4 p.m. A bag and a laptop computer were missing from her running car, Dignesh Solanki said. He said the last time he spoke with his wife was 11:28 a.m. Dec. 24.

"She was just asking me what to cook when you come home," he said. "And that's about it. It was just a regular talk."

Dignesh Solanki said his wife told him earlier in the day that she planned on going to the river to place a religious statue in the water after work. The statue of the Hindu deity Ganesh was broken in the mail when it was sent by relatives. A religious leader told them it should be wrapped in a red cloth and placed in a lake or a river to prevent bad luck, Dignesh Solanki said.

Anu Solanki, who works three days a week at the hotel gift shop, typically has Mondays off. However, co-worker Nancy Bridgeman asked Solanki to switch shifts so she could spend the afternoon of Christmas Eve with her son.

"I wish we would have never switched shifts," Bridgeman said Friday before Dart's news conference. "I'm frightened for her and I hope they find her safe."

Dart said that after four days of searches — which included dive teams from area fire departments, helicopter surveillance and officers canvassing a six-mile stretch of river by boat and by foot south to Dam No. 2 in Mount Prospect — the statue has not been located. The search, which cost about \$250,000, is now over.

The Sheriff's Department is now asking Anu Solanki and Jani to contact the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department at (847) 294-4733.

Staff writer Pat Krochmal contributed to this report.

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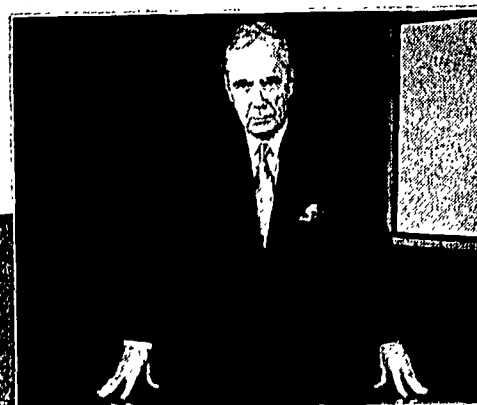
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FORUM

What would you suggest for resolutions for 2008?

See editorial on this page

Making resolutions

January traditionally is a time for making resolutions. Some are very personal — lose some weight, give up smoking, exercise more, spend more time with the family — but others can be more widespread in their scope.

Here are a few we'd like to see our lawmakers resolve to do:

- Be conservative in spending. Knowing the economy is struggling, avoid approving big, expensive projects that aren't necessary. Does every streetscape need fancy light poles? Does every school have to be enclosed in ornate wrought iron fences? Taxing bodies should make a genuine effort to live within their means, so taxpayers can afford to pay the taxes.

- Keep life affordable for residents. If they can't keep up with ever-rising taxes and service fees and utilities, foreclosures or emptied properties may follow. The goal should be to build stable communities where people establish their lives and have a stake in the future, not to attract transient owners who don't stay.

- Support services that maintain residents, such as public safety and garbage pickups. To reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions, give drivers a dependable, affordable public transportation system. The same system can support the needs of the non-drivers of all ages, if the network of services is strengthened. Playing political games with transit funding generally means the transit

agencies hike the rates, shred the service network and make the system too undependable to use.

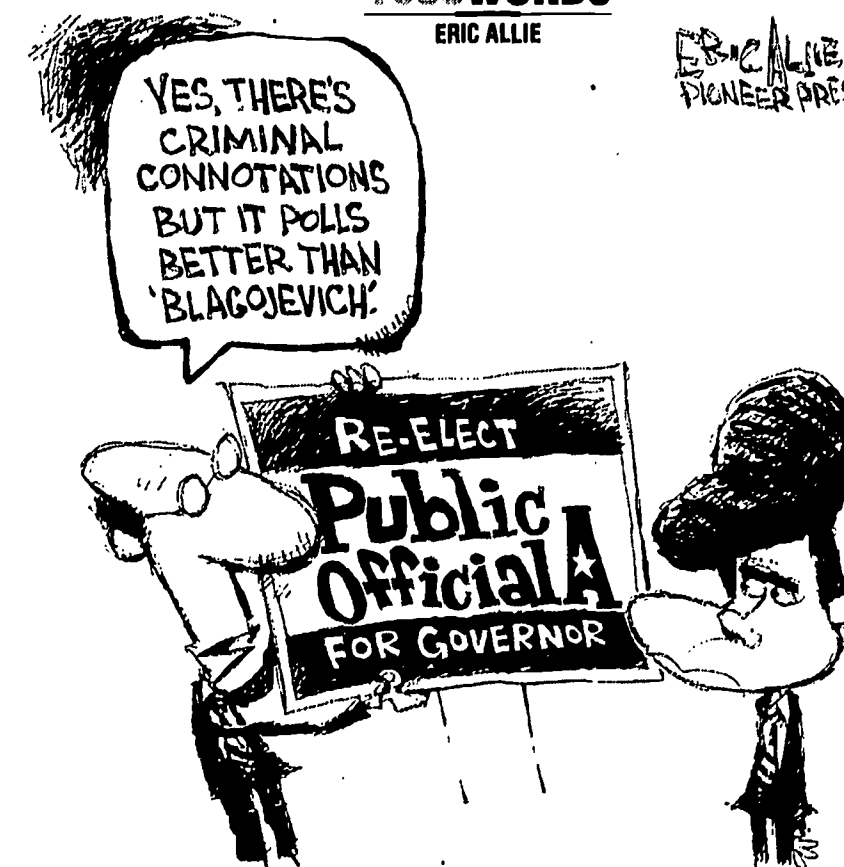
- Encourage job retention and development. The economy can't recover without these.

- Think twice about allowing dense development for density's sake. Any development that destroys viable retail areas for the sake of building mega stores can damage not just that block but also the shopping patterns for an entire community. Similarly, a proliferation of giant houses allowed to intrude in a moderately sized residential neighborhood can change the character of an entire community.

- Avoid really frivolous legislation. Chicago's ban on foix gras and Illinois' mandated "moment of silence" come to mind as legislative over-kill. Instead of spending time micromanaging such personal projects, governmental leaders should be balancing budgets or finding fair solutions for problems they continue to postpone.

What would you suggest for resolutions for 2008? Please send your ideas to us, in care of this newspaper, to 130 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge IL 60068 or e-mail to parkridge@pioneerlocal.com. Please include your name and your home community.

1000 WORDS
ERIC ALLIE



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By mail: The Niles Herald-Spectator, 130 Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068
By fax: (847) 696-3229
By e-mail: parkridge@pioneerlocal.com

Letters may be edited for space or content and must include name, address and a daytime phone number.

Family Services came through Dec. 23

I personally found out what a great job Family Services does for the people of Niles. On the morning of the 23rd of December, my electric power went out. It was so cold, ("How cold was it?" they chimed in) I was freezing in my house... I was about to freeze to death — not really, but close — when out on the lawn, there arose such a clatter. Ho Ho Ho, it was Public Works and a fellow named Seth Knobel from Family Services. They were out there discussing how long they felt the power would be out. Seth told me that he heard the power would be out for maybe another 10 hours or so and that they would put me up at the Days Inn, on Caldwell and Touhy. FREE!!! Till the power came back on.

At first I turned them down, but Seth

told me he would be back to check a little later if I changed my mind — because of the oxygen I use, he was worried about me! What a guy! Well, needless to say, knocking icicles off my nose, I took him up on his offer. Having no power, my garage door opener wouldn't work, so he opened it manually, so I could get my car out and drive down to the motel. He then put it back together, so when the power came back on it would work, electrically.

I drove down to the motel and he signed me in and I got to take a shower and get some warm air around my frozen body. The next morning, the 24th, I had their complementary breakfast, called home, the answering machine worked and showed me the power was back on, so I came back home.

I'll tell you, from my experience, no other group besides Family Services and Mayor Nicholas Blase would have done this for me. God Bless them one and all! Yes there is a Santa, and his name is Nicholas B. Blase. Mayor Blase and the Village of Niles had saved my life once more.

Russell C. McAndrew
Niles

See LETTERS, page 12

LETTERS

Continued from page 11

Remember the givers in holiday season

Toys for tots...? Great! Now how about gifts for givers...?

It's traditional -- and easy -- to give gifts to the ones we know and love at this season of the year. But what about those givers we don't know all that well, and perhaps never thought of loving?

This includes more than the paper boy and mail carrier. There are some other givers in our lives that, well, we take what they give us enormously for granted.

Like, say, the doctors whose care has helped you be able to read this...or the E.R. staffs whose emergency attentions may have made it possible you're here this season...then there are those two or three special teachers you always talk about fondly, but have never taken the time to thank...and what about the clergy in your life whose spiritual services have quietly but profoundly helped sustain who and why you are.

So here's the deal! While we're busy searching and packaging gifts each year for the special ones in our life, would it be so hard or so inconsistent with the season to drop a line to some of these givers?

Ahhh, but what to say? As a teacher who's joyously received such thanks over the years, probably the best bottom-line words would be the ones givers most truly appreciate.

"Thank you for what you've been and done in my life!"

Now see, was that so hard...?

Jack Spatafora
Park Ridge

SCHOOLS DIGEST

RESURRECTION

Resurrection High School will offer the High School Entrance Exam for the Class of 2012 on Jan. 12. Girls should arrive at Resurrection High School, 7500 W. Talcott Ave. Chicago, by 7:45 a.m. and will be dismissed at 1 p.m. Call Debbie Gillespie at Resurrection High School (773)775-6616, ext. 129 or e-mail dgillespie@reshs.org.

The Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) awarded funds to Resurrection High School to enhance the physical education curriculum at the school. Funds will be used to purchase fitness assessment software and fitness equipment to supplement the current physical education program. The project at Resurrection, entitled "Fit for Four", is part of an initiative to keep students fit for the four years that they are in high school. Resurrection High School's physical education curriculum strives to educate young women about the essential components of fitness and wellness and have stu-

dents form habits and attitudes about fitness and wellness that will serve them for the future.

Marcia Berke, Resurrection Physical Education chairperson, is a member of the IAHPERD, and was the lead applicant for the grant. The grant will support the "Fit for Four" initiative, which is particularly targeted toward students who would not normally participate in organized athletics and encourage those students to become and remain physically active.

On Nov. 5, six Madonna Scholars from Resurrection High School participated in a leadership seminar sponsored by the Gannon Scholars of Loyola University. The leadership seminar was held at Notre Dame High School for Girls for the 87 young women in Chicago who are current Madonna Scholars. A reception was held following the leadership seminar for the Madonna Scholars, parents and school administrators.

The Madonna Scholars at Resurrection High School are: sophomore **Angela Betancourt**; senior **Michelle Brennan**; junior **Danielle Byrne**; freshmen **Alyssa Goff** and **Amanda Rage**; and sopho-

more **Darina Yaldemec**.

The Madonna Scholars is a scholarship program of the Madonna Foundation, which is sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. The Madonna Foundation is focused on increasing access to Catholic high schools in the Chicago area for young urban women, as well as supporting their spiritual, psychological, academic and social dimensions. The Madonna Foundation's purpose is to be of service to the needy, and particularly to young adolescent urban women. Long-time sponsors of Catholic schools, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, know and support Catholic high schools for young women as uniquely effective environments of transformation for young women.

OAKTON

Students interested in health care as a career are invited to attend a variety of free information sessions in January at both campuses of Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, and 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Sessions will showcase Oakton's degree and certificate programs in four distinct areas.

See DIGEST, page 55

Pictures of the Year 2007

We share some of our favorite images of the year with you



Director Karen M. Hall (foreground) works with students and administrators during rehearsal for the spring musical "Bye Bye Birdie" at Maine East High School in Park Ridge. Hall is a drama teacher at the school. — Buzz Orr/Staff Photographer



Apollo School second- and third-graders perform "Go Fish." Clown Fish Ewelina Komasa (left) and Cowboy Nirali Gohel dance during the number "Roundup in the Sea." — Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer



Cecile Jekot of Niles sports her "Happy New Year" tiara during a New Year's party at the Niles Senior Center. — Jason Brown/Staff Photographer



Election Judge Michael Crisci checks in a voter at the Iceland Skate Arena, 8435 W. Ballard Road in Niles. — Rob Hart/Staff Photographer

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DIVERSIONS

Managing Editor: Michael Bonesteel | mbonesteel@pioneerlocal.com | (847) 486-6854

Circle the date

What's coming up in '08

Let's face it. It's time to stop living in the past. 2007 had its moments, that's for sure, but it's over now. Gone. Kaput.

In case you haven't been paying attention the past few days, we've got a brand new year stretching out ahead of us. That means a lot of opportunities and a lot of perils, particularly when it comes to sorting through all the new movies and music heading our way in 2008. Fortunately we're here to give you a heads-up, beginning with this preview of noteworthy films, DVDs, concert tours and CDs.

Our guarded assessment is that things look pretty good at the starting gate. Of course, they always do...

FEATURED ATTRACTIONS

- "Be Kind, Rewind"** Michel Gondry ("The Science of Sleep") wrote and directed this comedy about a man and his friend (Jack Black and Mos Def) who accidentally erase all the movies in a video store — and replace them with their own re-makes. Jan. 25.
- "Rambo"** The big 'Bo returns. Stallone wrote, direct-

ed and stars in the fourth installment in the series, 20 years after leaving well enough alone with "Rambo III." Jan. 25.

"The Spiderwick Chronicles" Three kids (Freddie Highmore plays twins) battle goblins on the rundown Spiderwick estate in this adaptation of the best-selling children's book series. Feb. 15.



"Charlie Bartlett" An oft-ex-pelled rich kid finds a way to fit in at a public high school after appointing himself the new school psychiatrist. Feb. 22.

"Shine a Light" Martin Scorsese directs a career-spanning documentary on the Rolling Stones, featuring concert footage from the group's Bigger Bang tour. April 4.

"Iron Man" Robert Downey Jr. stars in the latest Marvel comic adaptation, about a crime-fighting billionaire industrialist whose armored suit also keeps him alive. May 2.

"The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" The "Narnia" series continues with the Pevensie children coming to the aid of a young prince whose throne has been usurped. May 16.

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" Harrison Ford and director Steven Spielberg re-team for the fourth installment of the Indy saga. This one concerns a race for possession of an ancient Mayan relic with supernatural powers during the Cold War. May 22.

"Wall-E" A robot spends 700 years attempting to clean up the polluted Earth of the future, then discovers the true meaning of its life. The latest from Pixar Animation Studios. June 27.

"The Dark Knight" Batman (Christian Bale) takes on The Joker (Heath Ledger) on lower Wacker Drive. July 18.

"Bond 22" Marc Forster ("The Kite Runner") directs the

as-yet untitled follow-up to "Casino Royale," Daniel Craig's license to kill having been extended indefinitely. Nov. 7.

"Star Trek" Young Kirk (Chris Pine), young Spock (Zachary Quinto) and other future Enterprise crew members stir up some shenanigans at Starfleet Academy. J.J. Abrams (TV's "Alias") directed the prequel. Dec. 25.

PLAYING OUT, LISTENING IN The buzz-heavy sound of the British post-punk quartet Editors will be on display Friday, Jan. 25, at the Vic Theatre. Louis XIV and Hot Heat share the bill.

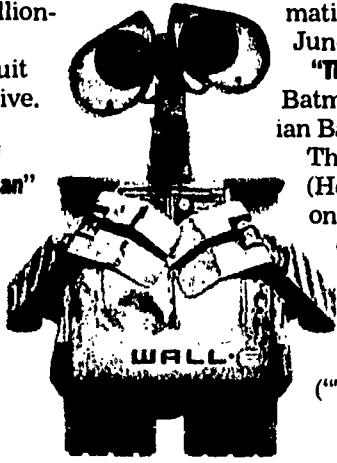
Last year, it was Paul McCartney releasing an album through Starbucks, a John Lennon tribute set and a spruced-up Traveling Wilburys set featuring George Harrison. Later this year, the Beatles' entire catalog gets released digitally. See **CIRCLE**, page B3



'BETTER LATE' GREAT IN 2008

For its 33rd season, Northlight Theater commissioned playwrights Larry Gelbart (Emmy and Tony Award-winning author of "M.A.S.H." and "City of Angels") and Craig Wright ("Grace," "Lady") to create "Better Late," a comedy starring John Mahoney and Michael Nussbaum.

It's a story about an elderly man who is forced to move in with his ex-wife and her new husband. As the laughter builds and the situation spirals out of control, the big question is: How long can this go on? Billed as a "December-December-December romance," the world premiere production directed by BJ Jones — now in his 10th year at Northlight — runs April 2 to May 11 at Northlight, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are \$55-\$35; opening night, \$60 (includes post-show reception with cast). Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.



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By **CATEY SULLIVAN**
Contributor

Ask most people to conjure a mental image of a racist, and the picture is likely to be of someone blaringly, obviously awful — someone wholly unlike themselves. And that, says Gift Artistic Director Michael Patrick Thornton, is part of the explosive, disquieting power of "White People," the three-person drama opening Jan. 7 at the Jefferson Park venue.

"You think of racists, and you think of some big fat hillbilly in a Grand Imperial Wizard Costume. You don't think of a college professor of anthropological history. Or a young mother trying to cope with a very sick child," said Thornton. Yet a highly educated academic and a self-sacrificing mother are the title, unnervingly racist people of J.T. Rogers troubling drama.

"Obviously, we're not going to solve the race problem in a 70-minute drama. But what I'm hoping is that this opens the door for a little more self-analysis. People — white people — I think will have to recognize themselves in these characters," Thornton said.

"Part of the appeal and the complexity of this play is that these characters aren't monsters. You can't dismiss them out-of-hand as bad people. With so many movies and TV shows, it's so simple, picking out who the bad guy is, the reprehensible demon," said cast member Paul D'Addario.

Through a series of loosely interlocking monologues, "White People" lays bare the ugly, arguably inevitable, attitudes toward race that are ingrained in Alan Harris, the professor (D'Addario), as well as those of Mara Lynn Dodson (Anna Carini), a Fayetteville prom queen whose life since high school and spiraled into an exhausting struggle to keep one step ahead of the rent and the medical bills. The final third of the story belongs to Martin Bahmueller (John Kelly Connolly), a

high-powered corporate lawyer raising an intensely troubled son in an all-white enclave of St. Louis.

The monologues, laced with unexpected, bitter humor, start quietly and crescendo like a symphony, building to a finale that virtually explodes with both emotional and physical violence.

In addition to peeling the lid off a swarming wasps' nest of racial issues, "White People" ultimately broaches questions about the limits



The cast of "White People" broaches questions about the limits of tolerance and forgiveness at The Gift Theatre.

of tolerance and forgiveness. The confessional, direct-address style of the piece makes it ideal for the Gift, a theater where even from the back row you can lose yourself in the actors' eyes.

"The driving force of the Gift is to tell stories in an honest, intimate and simple way," said Thornton, who along with D'Addario, won Jeff Awards for doing just that in the Gift's productions of "The Good Thief" and "HurlyBurly."

And yet, despite the company's stellar track record, there are risks to staging "White People," Thornton noted — not the least of which is that it's a play about race that doesn't have any characters of color. Everybody that is working on the show, Thornton added, is white. And isn't that sort of homogeneous insularity part of the very problem the drama addresses?

"The idea of doing a show about racism totally from a white perspective is both electrifying and dangerous," Thornton said. "There are all sorts of landmines. Look, I considered bringing in a U.N. of a design team to cover my ass a little, but at the end of the day, that seemed condescending, gratuitous and precious."

"Race, and racism, tend to be such emotional topics that when they come up, people immediately get defensive or shut down," D'Addario said. "If 'White People' just helps start a conversation, even one, that would be gratifying."

CIRCLE THE DATE

Continued from page B1

But in the meantime, **Wingo Starr** gets back in the game with the release of "Liver-pool 8," produced by Eurythmic Dave Stewart, on Jan. 15.

Let love rule: **Lenny Kravitz** comes to the Riviera Jan. 26. **Rob Thomas** and **Matchbox Twenty** bring their tour behind "Exile on Mainstream" to the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates for a show Feb. 1. Sharing the bill: **Alanis Morissette**. Tickets are available at the venue's box office, select Amcore Bank outlets, www.searscentre.com or by phone at (888) SEARSTIX.

Sure the Bears won't be in it, and the game will likely be a Pats blowout, but who cares? **Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers** are the halftime entertainment for the Super Bowl Feb. 3.

Sheryl Crow returns with her first album of new music since 2005's "Wildflower" when "Detours" hits the stores Feb. 5. That same day, Kravitz is back with "It Is Time for a Love Revolution."

Onetime Maywood postal carrier **John Prine** brings his considerable songbook, as well as singer-songwriter and frequent collaborator **Iris DeMent**, to the Chicago Theatre for a show Feb. 8. And how's this for a trifecta: **Marilyn Manson** plays the Aragon Ballroom that night.

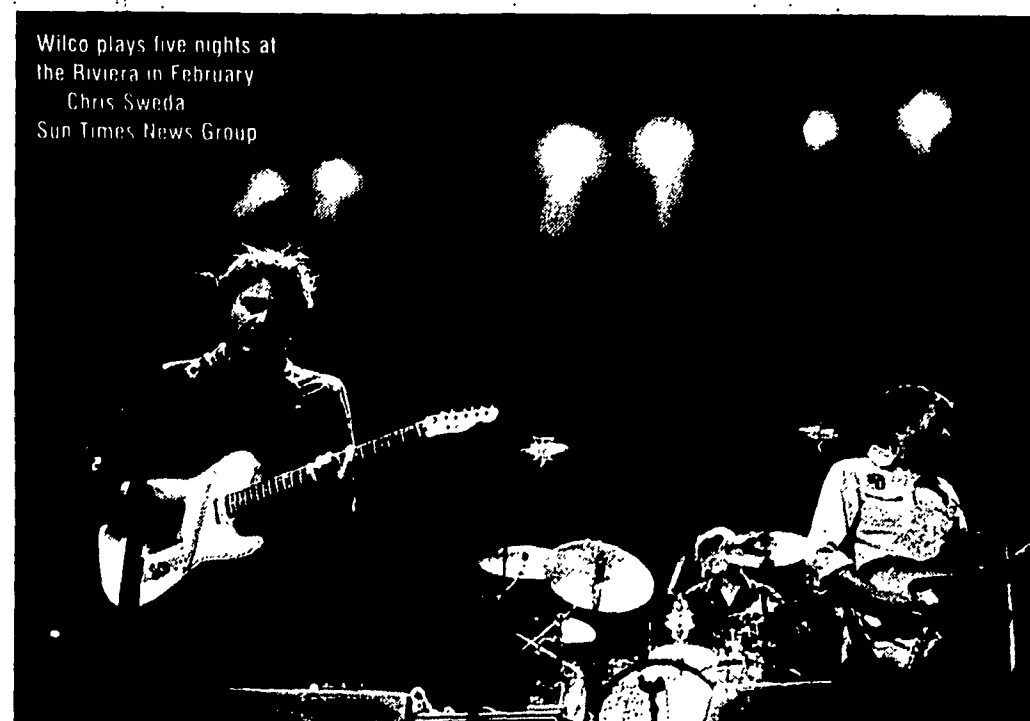
Jeff Tweedy's homecoming takes place at the Riviera Theatre in Chicago as **Wilco** highlights one of their albums on each of five nights Feb. 15-16 and 18-20.

You really got him: Ex-Kinks frontman **Ray Davies** drops his follow-up to 2006's sublime "Other People's Lives" with "Working Man's Café," out Feb. 19.

Country legend **Dolly Parton** returns to the area for a show Feb. 29 at the Chicago Theatre.

Chris and Rich Robinson are joined by new sidemen Luther Dickinson and Adam MacDougal on their new "Warpaint" CD, out March 4.

The Pogues bring a punky St. Pat's Day vibe to town with their shows at the Riviera Theatre March 5 and 6.



Wilco plays five nights at the Riviera in February. Chris Sweda/Sun Times News Group



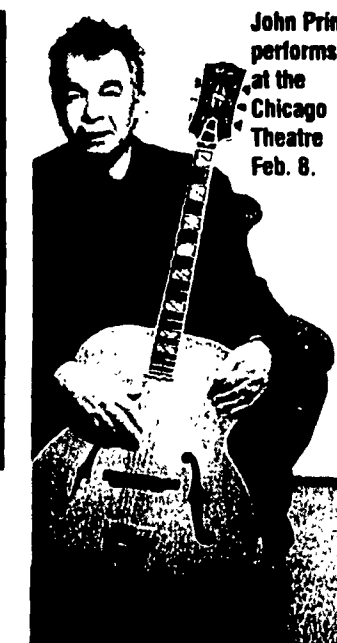
Heath Ledger plays The Joker in the new Batman movie, "The Dark Knight."



Anniversary DVD releases for 2008 include "An Affair to Remember" and "In the Heat of the Night."



Video store auteurs: Jack Black and Mos Def in "Be Kind, Rewind."



John Prine performs at the Chicago Theatre Feb. 8.

Steve Earle plays a solo acoustic show at the Vic Theatre March 7. His wife, **Anison Moore**, is also on the bill. Also playing in town that night is former Sugar and Husker Du leader **Bob Mould**, who brings his band to Metro.

The Belfast Cowboy is back. **Van Morrison** adds to his considerable legend with the new "Keep It Simple," out on Lost Highway Records March 11.

Git 'r done in Waukegan: "Blue Collar TV" staple **Larry the Cable Guy** plays two shows, at 5 and 8 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at the Genesee Theatre, 203 N. Genesee St., Waukegan.

Gordon Lightfoot will play hits including "If You Could Read My Mind" and "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" when he plays the Genesee in Waukegan at 8 p.m. March 28. "Fascination Street" leads

right through the northwest suburbs May 17 as **The Cars** play the Allstate Arena in Rosemont. Tickets for the canceled Sept. 29, 2007, show will be honored.

Leaving Las Vegas: **Colbie Corbett** just ended her five-year gig at Caesars Palace, and now she's headed here. Dion brings her tour behind the "Taking Chances" album to the United Center Nov. 4.

No date yet, but coming soon: **Chris Martin** and **Coldplay** return with a new, Brian Eno-produced disc, release date and title unknown. Other upcoming CDs without release dates, include discs by **John Legend**, **Eminem**, **Mudcrutch** (Petty's original band) and **Franz Ferdinand**.

HOME VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

"An Affair to Remember" Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr star in the 50th anniversary release of the classic romantic drama. Don't miss it if you liked "Sleepless in Seattle." Jan. 15.

"In the Heat of the Night: 40th Anniversary" Sidney Poitier is still incredibly cool as the New York detective coping with homicide and racism in a small Southern town. Rod Steiger (who won an Oscar) isn't bad either as the grudgingly respectful sheriff. Jan. 15.

"Postwar Kurosawa" The Criterion Collection is releasing a no-frills collection of five hard-to-find films by Akira Kurosawa on its Eclipse Label. Titles include "No Regrets for Our Youth," "One Wonderful Sunday," "Scandal," "The Idiot" and "I Live in Fear." Jan. 15.

"Thunderbirds 40th Anniversary Megaset" A 12-disc collection of 32 digitally remastered episodes of the 1960s "marionation" sci-fi adventure series. Jan. 15.

"Cops: 20th Season Anniversary" A double-disc retrospective celebration of the law-enforcement reality show. Feb. 19.

"Forbidden Hollywood" A sizzling set of five restored and remastered films made before the self-censoring Hollywood production code went into effect: "The Divorcee," "A Free Soul," "Three on a Match," "Female" and the infamous "Night Nurse." March 4.

"Bonnie and Clyde" A restored and remastered special edition of Arthur Penn's groundbreaking 1967 gangster film. March 25.

'Blood' strikes it rich



BRUCE INGRAM

FILM CRITIC

THERE WILL BE BLOOD

★★★★

The American Dream is writ large and strange in Paul Thomas Anderson's flawed, but still fascinating — and devastatingly powerful — portrait of ambition, greed and corruption in the California oil fields at the turn of the last century.

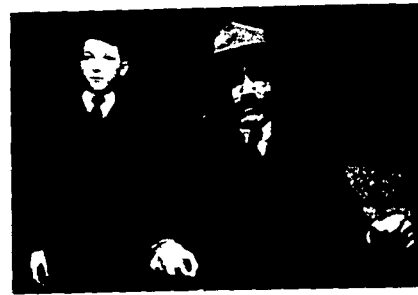
Daniel Day Lewis is almost guaranteed another Best Actor nomination for his fierce performance as a man driven by a monomaniacal desire for wealth and power — whose success eventually destroys him.

From the opening shot of "There Will Be Blood," a sudden shock of lonely desert landscape set off by a dissonant shriek of strings, it's clear that something terrible is going to happen. But Anderson, an extravagantly talented filmmaker best-known for more contemporary

sagas of Southern California such as "Boogie Nights," "Magnolia" and "Punch-Drunk Love," takes a long, slow, almost hypnotically engrossing time, slowly gathering momentum over nearly 30 years, to deliver on that promise.

Anderson makes the first of many bold stylistic moves by introducing us to Daniel Plainview (Day-Lewis, again disappearing so completely into a character that the performance is almost disconcertingly real) and continuing his film for almost 20 minutes without dialogue. Unless you count the "There she is!" Plainview mutters after falling down a mine shaft, shattering his leg and spotting a nugget of silver ore. The extraordinary score by Radiohead guitarist Johnny Greenwood does most of the talking throughout the film, playing such a dramatic role in the proceedings that it virtually becomes an additional character.

By 1911 Plainview has acquired an adopted son (10-year-old Dillon Fressier) and become a voraciously acquisitive oil man, exploiting the leases he's acquired from inexperienced small landowners wherever oil is discovered. He finally gets the chance of a lifetime when he learns first of an untapped oil field near the tiny town of Little Boston, buys



Thicker than water: Daniel Day-Lewis and Dillon Fressier in "There Will Be Blood."

up all the land surrounding it and determines to build a 100-mile pipeline to the ocean that will make him independent of interference from Standard Oil and the railroads it controls.

In a more conventional rags-to-riches story, Plainview's great discovery might have been the triumphant high note of his life and career. In "There Will Be Blood," however, this is the point where the foreboding that has haunted the film from the beginning begins to be fulfilled. When his son, the only person he was close to in the world, loses his hearing in an accident at a gushing oil well, Plainview eventually turns his back on him — and loses his only emotional tie to the world. "I hate most people," Plainview confides to a drifter (Kevin J. O'Connor) who earns his trust as the half-brother he never knew. "I want to earn enough money so I can get away from everyone." As his power

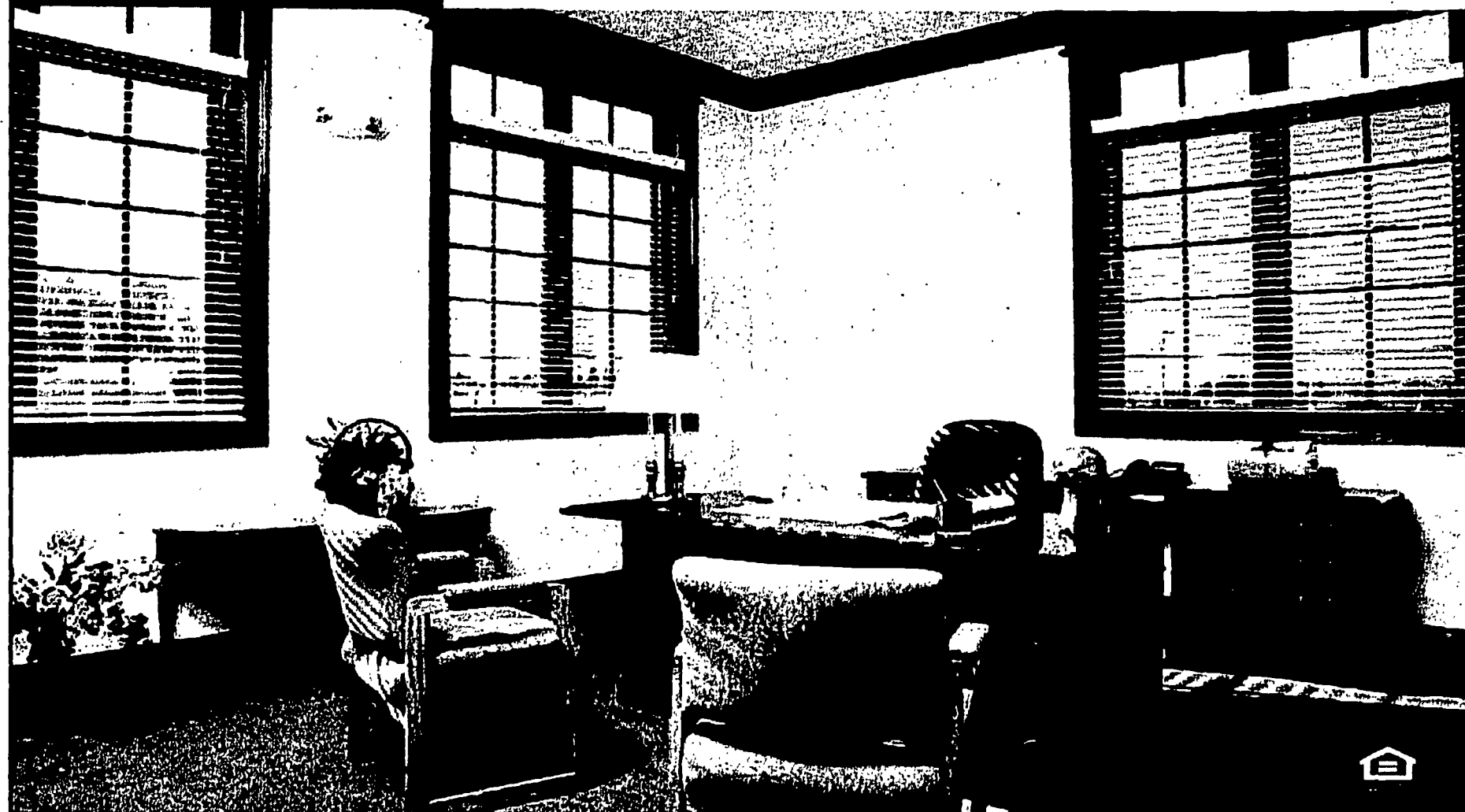
grows, Plainview's hatred becomes more pronounced — eventually setting the stage for madness and murder.

From the first day in Little Boston, though, his hate is particularly directed at Eli Sunday (Paul Dano, the Nietzsche-loving teenager from "Little Miss Sunshine"), a farm boy who proclaims himself a divinely inspired preacher and competes with Plainview for power. Plainview (based on the California oil tycoon Edwin Doheny) and Sunday (probably modeled after the evangelist Billy Sunday) were natural antagonists for the anti-capitalist, anti-religious novelist Upton Sinclair, whose 1927 novel "Oil!" is the source for Anderson's screenplay. Unfortunately, their rivalry falls flat in Anderson's film, perhaps because Dano, despite delivering a solidly creepy performance as the weaselly Sunday, doesn't succeed in creating a character that could have credibly inspired years of seething resentment in Plainview. And that seriously undercuts the almost operatic overindulgence in violence and revenge that ultimately justifies the film's title.

Even so, "There Will Be Blood" is a must see, for its gorgeous cinematography, epic character study and, above all, the stunning performance at its center. One week in, this one seems likely to be one of the best of 2008.

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'Blood' strikes it rich



BRUCE INGRAM

FILM CRITIC

THERE WILL BE BLOOD

★ ★ ★ ★

The American Dream is writ large and strange in Paul Thomas Anderson's flawed, but still fascinating — and devastatingly powerful — portrait of ambition, greed and corruption in the California oil fields at the turn of the last century.

Daniel Day Lewis is almost guaranteed another Best Actor nomination for his fierce performance as a man driven by a monomaniacal desire for wealth and power — whose success eventually destroys him.

From the opening shot of "There Will Be Blood," a sudden shock of lonely desert landscape set off by a dissonant shriek of strings, it's clear that something terrible is going to happen. But Anderson, an extravagantly talented filmmaker best-known for more contemporary

sagas of Southern California such as "Boogie Nights," "Magnolia" and "Punch-Drunk Love," takes a long, slow, almost hypnotically engrossing time, slowly gathering momentum over nearly 30 years, to deliver on that promise.

Anderson makes the first of many bold stylistic moves by introducing us to Daniel Plainview (Day-Lewis, again disappearing so completely into a character that the performance is almost disconcertingly real) and continuing his film for almost 20 minutes without dialogue. Unless you count the "There she is" Plainview mutters after falling down a mine shaft, shattering his leg and spotting a nugget of silver ore. The extraordinary score by Radiohead guitarist Johnny Greenwood does most of the talking throughout the film, playing such a dramatic role in the proceedings that it virtually becomes an additional character.

By 1911 Plainview has acquired an adopted son (10-year-old Dillon Freasier) and become a voraciously acquisitive oil man, exploiting the leases he's acquired from inexperienced small landowners wherever oil is discovered. He finally gets the chance of a lifetime when he learns first of an untapped oil field near the tiny town of Little Boston, buys



Thicker than water: Daniel Day-Lewis and Dillon Freasier in "There Will Be Blood."

up all the land surrounding it and determines to build a 100-mile-pipeline to the ocean that will make him independent of interference from Standard Oil and the railroads it controls.

In a more conventional rags-to-riches story, Plainview's great discovery might have been the triumphant high note of his life and career. In "There Will Be Blood," however, this is the point where the foreboding that has haunted the film from the beginning begins to be fulfilled. When his son, the only person he was close to in the world, loses his hearing in an accident at a gushing oil well, Plainview eventually turns his back on him — and loses his only emotional tie to the world. "I hate most people," Plainview confides to a drifter (Kevin J. O'Connor) who earns his trust as the half-brother he never knew. "I want to earn enough money so I can get away from everyone." As his power

grows, Plainview's hatred becomes more pronounced — eventually setting the stage for madness and murder.

From the first day in Little Boston, though, his hate is particularly directed at Eli Sunday (Paul Dano, the Nietzsche-loving teenager from "Little Miss Sunshine"), a farm boy who proclaims himself a divinely inspired preacher and competes with Plainview for power. Plainview (based on the California oil tycoon Edwin Doheny) and Sunday (probably modeled after the evangelist Billy Sunday) were natural antagonists for the anti-capitalist, anti-religious novelist Upton Sinclair, whose 1927 novel "Oil" is the source for Anderson's screenplay. Unfortunately, their rivalry falls flat in Anderson's film, perhaps because Dano, despite delivering a solidly creepy performance as the weaselly Sunday, doesn't succeed in creating a character that could have credibly inspired years of seething resentment in Plainview. And that seriously undercuts the almost operatic overindulgence in violence and revenge that ultimately justifies the film's title.

Even so, "There Will Be Blood" is a must see, for its gorgeous cinematography, epic character study and, above all, the stunning performance at its center. One week in, this one seems likely to be one of the best of 2008.

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TODAY'S
New Homes
A PIONEER PRESS PUBLICATION
VOL.11/NO.1
JANUARY 2/3, 2008

Start the new year with a new home

If they move quickly, house hunters can start the New Year off with the aroma of a crackling log fire in their new home's family room hearth.

Inventory-rich Chicago-area developers have a wide assortment of single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums that are ready for quick move-in for home buyers who want to occupy a new residence early in 2008.

In Chicago, immediate-occupancy opportunities include new single-family homes in the Edgebrook/Forest Glen, Old Irving Park and Portage Park neighborhoods, townhomes in West Roscoe Village on the Northwest Side, and an eye-popping assortment of condominium choices in new developments running from Uptown to downtown.

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

At Edgebrook Glen, a development of 64 luxury single-family homes at 5200 W. Armstrong Ave. on the Far Northwest Side, six new homes are built and ready for early 2008 occupancy.

The secluded 11-acre site adjoins the western border of the Indian Woods Forest Preserve at the edge of the Edgebrook and Forest Glen neighborhoods.

"We have four completed homes that ready for immediate occupancy, and two 'spec' homes that can be ready for move-in within 60 to 90 days," said developer Paul Bertsche of C.A. Development.

SEE IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY ON PAGE 3

LUXEHOME

THE 2008 HOME OF THE YEAR

Dream homes available for immediate occupancy

Orren Pickell Designers & Builders offers immediate luxury living on the North Shore

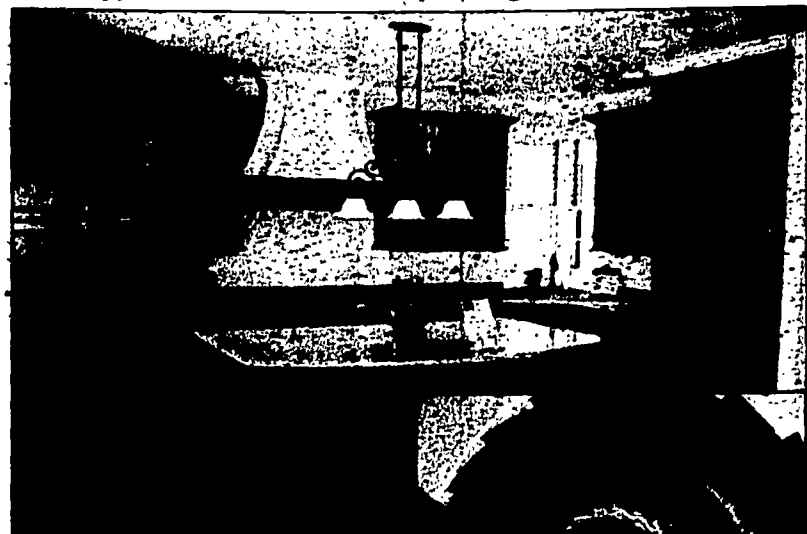
For over 33 years, Orren Pickell Designers & Builders have been known for their luxurious custom homes. In recent years, the firm has expanded their inventory to include homes available for immediate occupancy with all the amenities and fine architectural details homeowners expect from the builder.

One home is located in the beautiful suburb of Glencoe. Built in 2007, this home has five bedrooms and four-and-one-half baths. The focal point of the home is the dramatic 3-story spiral staircase. An open floorplan allows the family to be together whether they are in the kitchen, the spacious family room or dining room as each room flows into the next.

The kitchen is fully stocked with high-end appliances and handsome cabinetry from CabinetWerks. A custom built island in the center of the kitchen allows the family to cook and congregate in the space. The kitchen includes an area for all family meals with large windows showcasing the stone patio and backyard.

The first floor also offers a room for privacy with a cozy library sectioned off with charming French doors. This quiet space on the main level provides an area for relaxation away from the hustle and bustle of the family.

Upstairs, four substantial bedrooms allow for the family to grow while retaining individual privacy. The master bedroom suite is 16-feet by 14-feet and boasts a luxurious master bath with a shower, whirlpool and rich wood custom cabi-



Above: The kitchen comes complete with top of the line details including custom cabinetry from CabinetWerks. Right: The spiral staircase in Pickell's Glencoe residence serves as the focal point for the home.

etry, plus a customized walk-in closet. Three additional bedrooms on the upper level provide plenty of space for the expanding family and guests.

"When building spec homes, we have to include the amenities that would entice prospective homeowners," said Orren Pickell. "A finished and spacious basement is a necessity for the active family."

In another home just complete and available from the builder, located in the

heart of Sunset Park in Highland Park, the basement is designed to appeal to all generations. This includes a stage for the youngsters, a large family room with space for the big screen television and an area for the family game table. Adjacent to the family room is a room with glass door perfect for keeping an eye on the kids while enjoying the big game. An additional room offers the option of a fifth bedroom or an exercise room plus a full bath.

TODAY'S New Homes

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IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY FROM PAGE 1

The two spec residences—an Oak II floor plan and a Chestnut II design—now are available at 2008 "early-bird" pricing, Bertsche said. The homes are finished on their exteriors and have rough-finished interiors.

"People can still pick custom upgrades on these two spec homes and have them finished in 60 to 90 days after signing a contract," Bertsche said.

Homes are pre-construction priced from \$699,900 to \$989,800, according to Tim Flannery, sales manager for Garrison Partners, the exclusive sales and marketing agent for Edgebrook Glen.

Attractive buyer incentives now are available for a limited time at Edgebrook Glen, Bertsche said.

"We have eliminated the lot-upgrade premium on the sale of the next five homes at Edgebrook Glen," he said. "This means we are giving away up to an extra 4,000 square feet of free land—a value of \$15,000 to \$135,000."

In addition, C.A. Development also is offering six months of free interest payments on a homebuyer's new mortgage through the builder's preferred lender.

The sales center and Chestnut III furnished model at 5200 W. Armstrong Ave. is open Saturday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., or by appointment. For more information please call (773) 631-9225 or visit www.cadevelopment.com.

The Residences of Old Irving Park. Five Estate Homes are available for early 2008 occupancy at The Residences of Old Irving Park, located in the Old Irving Park neighborhood on the Northwest Side of Chicago.

Two homes, the Greenwood and the Willow, are available for immediate occupancy. Three homes, a Greenwood, Birch and Elm, are available for occupancy within 120 days.

The Estate Homes at Residences of Old Irving Park are built on double lots measuring 50 to 57 feet wide.

C.A. Development also is offering new Estate Home buyers the six-month free mortgage interest incentive, said Bertsche.

The decorated model home and sales center for the Residences of Old Irving Park is open at 4000 N. Kolmar. Sales center hours are noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and by appointment during the week. For more information, please call (773) 777-8910 or visit www.cadevelopment.com. Or call broker, Barbara O'Connor of Baird & Warner at (773) 883-2444.

Mayfair Crossing. Three homes are available for immediate occupancy at Mayfair Crossing, a new development of 26 new-construction single-family homes at Kilpatrick and Berteau avenues in the Portage Park neighborhood on the Northwest Side.

Base prices range from \$489,900 for a three-bedroom home and range upwards to \$649,900 for the largest four-bedroom residence at Mayfair Crossing.

Families interested in purchasing a home at Mayfair Crossing may tour the new model home and sales center located at 4219 N. Kilpatrick by appointment. The current sales office and model home at 4000 N. Kolmar is open from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment.

For more information, please call (773) 777-8910 or visit www.cadevelopment.com, or call C.A. Development's exclusive broker, Barbara O'Connor of Baird & Warner, at (773) 883-2444.

TOWNHOMES

Cornelia Court. Five townhomes are available for immediate occupancy at Cornelia Court, a 63-unit development at 3001 W. Cornelia Ave. in Chicago's West Roscoe Village neighborhood.

"We have five townhomes that can be classified as move-in now residences—with delivery available in 30 days to 60 days," said Gale Goldstick of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, the exclusive sales and marketing agent.

"We also are offering a buyer incentive of \$10,000 that purchasers can use toward upgrade options or toward closing costs," Goldstick said.

A professionally decorated and furnished 3-story model townhome is on display at Cornelia Court. The sales center, located at 3002 W. Cornelia, is open Tuesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

For more information on Cornelia Court, or to reserve a townhome, please call Gale Goldstick of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage at (773) 477-3030.

CONDOMINIUMS

Jameson Realty Group is offering a nice selection of "immediate-occupancy" condominiums available for quick move-ins in early 2008, including several affordable options priced under \$250,000.

"The new year is one of the best times to purchase a newly renovated or newly built condominium and move in before the Super Bowl," said Charles Huzenits, president of the Jameson Realty Group.

For condo buyers shopping for an immediate occupancy new-construction residence, here are a couple of choices:

Pointe 1900 On State. Only one new-construction condominium is available for immediate occupancy at Dynaprop Development's 131-unit mixed-use residential and retail development located in Chicago's burgeoning South Loop neighborhood.

The remaining one-bedroom, one-bath unit comes with a free washer and dryer and is priced at \$239,900, according to Jameson Realty Group. For more information, please call (312) 751-0300, or visit www.pointe1900.com.

Fulton Place. Only two units remain at Fulton Place, and construction is nearing completion at the 75-unit mid-rise condominium development at 657 W. Fulton in the heart of the Fulton River District at the north end of the West Loop.

For more information on Fulton Place and other developments being marketed by Jameson Realty Group, please call (312) 751-0300 or visit www.jameson.com.

Flats on Fulton. Two units remain in the first phase of Flats on Fulton. These new-construction 3-flats are located at 2907 and 2909 W. Fulton in the East Garfield Park neighborhood on the West Side.

Condos offer two-bedroom, two-bath floor plans and are affordably priced from \$199,900 to \$248,900.

North Beach Lofts. Four units remain at North Beach Lofts. This 43-unit adaptive-reuse and new-construction loft condominium development is located at 1225 W. Morse Ave.—only one block from Lake Michigan—in East Rogers Park. A virtual tour is available at www.jameson.com.

Jameson Realty also is marketing condominiums in several North Side courtyard buildings where buyers will find completely renovated interiors with restored fireplaces, hardwood floors, new baths and modern kitchens featuring new 42-inch cabinets, granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances.

Here is a look at some of the choices for buyers seeking to move in immediately:

3016 W. Belle Plaine. Only two of the 11 condos in this walk-up apartment building are still available. Floor plans include one-bedroom or two-bedroom simplexes with one bath and two-bedroom, two-bath duplexes. Remaining units are priced at \$139,900 and \$229,900. A virtual tour is available at www.jameson.com.

2916-2924 Berteau Condominiums. Only two condos remain for sale in this vintage red brick building at 2916-2924 W. Berteau in the Ravenswood neighborhood. The remaining duplexes are priced at \$269,900. A virtual tour is available at www.jameson.com.

Abbot Court Condominiums. Only two units remain for sale at this classic graystone development at 2828 N. Orchard in the Lakeview neighborhood. Both units are priced at \$399,900. A virtual tour is available at www.jameson.com.

Paulina Ridge Court. Two residences remain for sale at this beautifully rehabbed vintage condominium at 5909 N. Paulina in the Ravenswood neighborhood. Two-bedroom, two-bath duplexes and simplexes and two-bedroom, one-bath simplexes are base priced from \$229,900 to \$279,900.

A furnished model is open Sundays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. A virtual tour is available at www.jameson.com.

Winthrop Terrace Condominiums. Only a few units remain at this 19-unit vintage condominium development located at 4936-4938 N. Winthrop in the Uptown neighborhood. Remaining units are priced from \$159,900 to \$254,900. A virtual tour is available at www.jameson.com.

The Grove at Greenleaf. Seventy percent of the 44 units have been sold in this vintage courtyard condominium development is located at 1358-1366 W. Greenleaf in the Rogers Park neighborhood. The two-bedroom condos are priced from \$169,800. A furnished model is open Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. A virtual tour is available at www.jameson.com.

Eastwood Court. Only two units remain in this 32-unit vintage rehab development is at 3106-3108 W. Eastwood and 4634-4642 N. Albany in the Ravenswood Manor neighborhood. The remaining simplex is priced at \$169,900. One remaining duplex is priced at \$199,800. A furnished model is open at Eastwood Court on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. A virtual tour is available at www.jameson.com.

Avers Court. One remaining two-bedroom, two-bath unit is priced at \$189,900 at this charming rehabbed 31-unit vintage building is located at 5148-5158 N. Avers in the Albany Park neighborhood. A virtual tour is available at www.jameson.com.

Troy Court Condominiums. Eighty percent of the condos have been sold at his vintage 20-unit condominium conversion located at 4333-4337 N. Troy in Albany Park. One-bedroom-plus-den and two-bedroom layouts are priced from \$189,900 to \$219,900. A virtual tour is available at www.jameson.com.

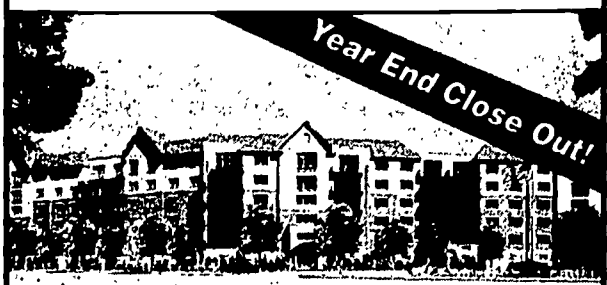
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MORTGAGE NEWS

Bankrate mortgage update

By Holden Lewis • Bankrate.com

In their predictions early in 2007, economists were pretty accurate about the movement of mortgage rates. They said they expected rates to move upward in 2007, but not by a lot. That's what happened, but it's not the whole story.

Mortgage rates were higher at the end of this year than they were at the beginning, but only because they went up this week. The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rose 10 basis points to 6.31 percent, according to the Bankrate.com national survey of large lenders. A basis point is one-hundredth of 1 percentage point. The mortgages in this week's survey had an average total of 0.34 discount and origination points. One year ago, the mortgage index was 6.23 percent; four weeks ago, it was 6.17 percent.

The benchmark 15-year fixed-rate mortgage rose 7 basis points to 5.97 percent. The benchmark 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgage rose 10 basis points to 6.31 percent, and the 30-year jumbo rose 4 basis points, to 7.3 percent.

At the beginning of 2007, the benchmark rate on a 30-year fixed was 6.24 percent. It rose as high as 6.84 percent in the middle of June and bottomed out at an even 6 percent the first week of December.

Other factoids about mortgage rates in Bankrate's weekly surveys this year:

- Half of the time, the 30-year was higher than 6.32 percent in Bankrate's weekly survey, and half the time it was lower. That's another way of saying that the median rate was 6.32 percent.
- The average rate in 2007 was 6.4 percent. The average rate in 2006 was 6.47 percent and in 2005, 5.93 percent.
- The biggest one-week jumps: The 30-year fixed fell from 6.5 percent to 6.28 percent in September, and it rose from 6.61 percent to 6.84 percent in June.

Key definitions

5/1 ARM: A 5/1 ARM is an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) that has an initial interest rate for five years, and thereafter has an adjustment interval of one year. The adjustment is based on (or "indexed to") another rate—often the yield on a Treasury note.

Closing Costs: Expenses incurred by buyers and sellers when transferring ownership of property. Closing costs include lender fees, title charges, government recording fees, escrow and pre-paid items.

Points: A point equals 1 percent of a mortgage or other loan. Some lenders charge "origination points" to cover expenses of making a loan. Some borrowers pay "discount points" to reduce the loan's interest rate.

Amortization: The payment of a debt in installments over an agreed-upon period, during which principal and interest are paid off.

APR: Annual Percentage Rate. A yearly rate of interest that includes fees and costs paid to acquire the loan. Lenders are required by law to disclose the APR. The rate is calculated in a standard way, taking the average compound interest rate over the term of the loan, so borrowers can compare loans.

Fixed: The payment of a debt in installments over an agreed-upon period, during which principal and interest are paid off.

Term: The time to the maturity of a loan or deposit, expressed in months or years.

Cost of Funds Index

	Prime Rate	Fed Funds Rate	11th Dist. COF
This week	7.25	4.25	4.233
Last change	7.50	4.50	4.383
Last year	8.25	5.25	4.346

For more information please visit www.bankrate.com.

Mortgage Payment Comparison

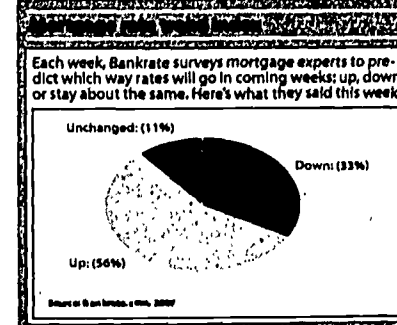
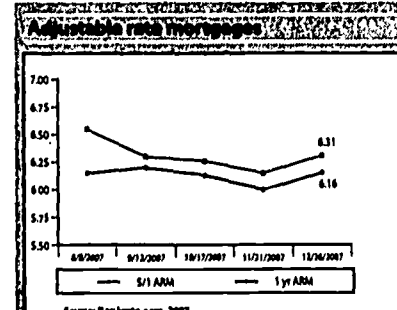
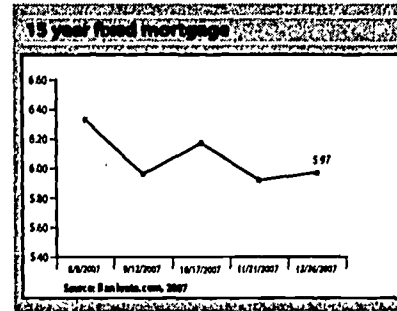
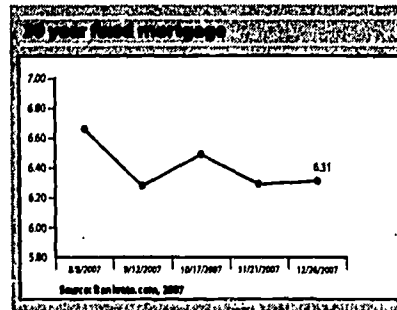
Loan program	Rate	Monthly payment
1 yr ARM	6.16%	\$1,006.29
5/1 ARM	6.31%	\$1,022.38
15 yr fixed	5.97%	\$1,389.69
30 yr fixed	6.31%	\$1,022.38

For more information please visit www.bankrate.com.

Mortgage tip: Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are levying new fees on conforming mortgages to cushion their bottom lines as house prices decline. That spells higher rates.

Bankrate National Index

	30 yr fix	15 yr fix	5 yr ARM
This week	6.31	5.97	6.31
Last week	6.21	5.90	6.21
Four weeks ago	6.17	5.87	6.17



Source: Bankrate.com*. For more comprehensive, objective and free personal finance information go to Bankrate.com - www.bankrate.com

Immediate occupancy homes at Liberty Grove priced lower than in 2005

A unique opportunity awaits a homebuyer in the sought after Ferris Homes community of Liberty Grove in Libertyville, IL.

Located at 258 Cater Land in Libertyville, this gorgeous, single family home model, The Aspen, has approximately 3,000 square feet, four bedrooms and three-and-a-half baths, and includes a first floor master bedroom suite with a Spa Shower in the master bath with three additional bedrooms - most with walk-in closets, and two in-suite bathrooms. The upstairs bedrooms are adjacent to a loft area which overlooks the foyer below. The first floor has a study with box bay windows, great room with fireplace, separate, formal dining room and island kitchen. There is a powder room, guest closet and laundry room off the foyer. This model has terrific exterior features include Hardiplank and stone exterior, double hung Marvin windows and a beautiful front porch. The home features many upgrades including upgraded Kohler kitchen and bath faucets, master bath whirlpool, a granite fireplace surround and 42-inch Woodmode cabinets, stainless steel Kohler appliances and hardwood floors throughout. The home also features a 9-foot English basement.

"Response and feedback has been tremendous," said Drew Ferris, president and owner of Ferris Homes. "Our homebuyers and potential

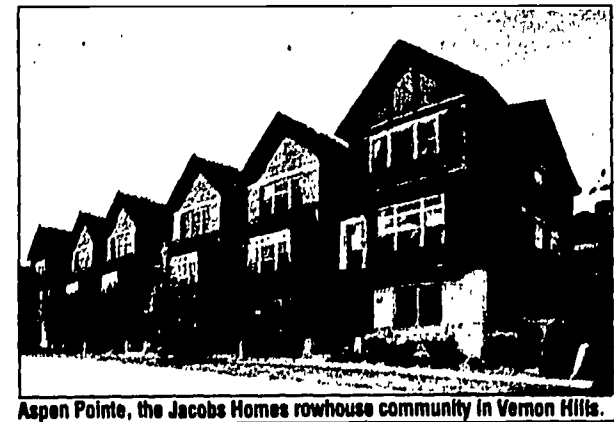
homebuyers are thrilled at the amount of high quality, luxury goods that are included in our homes at Liberty Grove. Customers feel that they are getting a phenomenal value for the product and the home in the end is really beautiful, both on the interior and the exterior."

At Liberty Grove in Libertyville, the community boasts 18 classically designed single-family homes and 30 town homes - all embraced by their natural surroundings and built by premiere homebuilder, Ferris Homes. Located adjacent to Independence Grove, an award winning forest preserve of 1100 untouched acres of nature preserve overlooking a pristine 115-acre lake, homeowners will enjoy maintenance free living.

This home is priced at \$711,275. Interested parties still have some time to make interior changes to the home.

For more information on Liberty Grove and 258 Cater Lane, interested parties can visit the sales office, which is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Liberty Grove is located at the corner of Rt. 137 (Peterson/Buckley Road) and Rt. 21 (Milwaukee Avenue) at 200 Cater Lane in Libertyville, IL. The phone number is (847) 680-0001 or visit Liberty Grove on the web at www.liberty-grove.com.

New Year, new home --- Jacobs Homes offers immediate deliveries at Aspen Pointe



The multifamily community features homes for immediate occupancy.

"It's a great time of year to get into a new home, and buyers have a wide variety of choices at Aspen Pointe," said Keith Jacobs, president of Jacobs Homes. "You could be entertaining for the holidays from your new home if you act now."

The rowhomes at Aspen Pointe ready for occupancy feature numerous upgrades and extras included in the price of the home.

"The homes feature warm, neutral palettes that suit any buyers' tastes," Jacobs added. "All you have to do is move in and enjoy your new home."

Jacobs is currently offering a generous incentive to Aspen Pointe residents who refer a family member or friend who purchase a home at the community.

The community's 132 upscale rowhomes have all the space of a single-family plan-2,300 to more than 2,400 square feet—with all of the extras one would expect in a custom-built home.

Two rowhomes are currently available for quick occupancy at Aspen Pointe, featuring upgraded carpeting and appliances, hardwood floors, granite countertops and 42-inch maple kitchen cabinets.

"Buyers still have time to choose finishes at one of the homes under construction if they act fast," Jacobs added.

Two floor plans are available with three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and attached two-car garages. Prices start in the upper-\$300,000s.

Aspen Pointe is located on the southwest side of Route 60 just west of Aspen Drive in north-suburban Vernon Hills. An onsite sales center and furnished models are open—turn south onto Aspen Drive, and then a quick right into the community.

For more information on Aspen Pointe, please call (847) 362-4700. For more information on any Jacobs Homes community, please call (847) 945-6500 or visit the online gallery at www.jacobshomes.net.

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Is recession inevitable? Will American homeowners dodge the bullet?

As Americans warily inch their way into the New Year, many of the nation's crystal ball gazing economists say the United States is on the brink of recession.

Despite the subprime loan mess, the real estate downturn and the endless war in Iraq, it is easy to see why the forecasters are leaning that way if you view the latest bar graph from the National Bureau of Economic Research.

At almost regular intervals—say every decade or so—the economy plunges into the dark abyss of recession. Forget the Great Depression, which lasted more than a decade. Recession occurred once in the early 1960s, twice in the 1970s, once in the early 1980s, and again in the early 1990s. Then in 2001, the economy literally took a nose dive right after 9/11.

Home-loan delinquencies and foreclosures currently are at long-term highs and rising, experts say. In 2008, some \$300 billion in adjustable-rate mortgages (ARM) are due to undergo a rate reset at a higher level. The average ARM monthly payment likely will rise \$250—enough to throw a young homeowner's tight budget out of balance.

Indeed, many homes have declined in value to the point where the average American homeowner will not be able to refinance in today's tight credit environment, despite recent actions by the Federal Reserve Board.

In the future, experts say it is likely that only home buyers who have good credit and save significant down payment money will be blessed with a mortgage approval.

Meanwhile, the new home and condominium inventories are on the rise, and a record number of resale homes are on the market creating the biggest housing glut in decades.

Housing analyst John McIlwain, an Urban Land Institute senior resident fellow, observed that the nation's housing market clearly is "softening and in some cases collapsing while mortgage markets are experiencing more turmoil that they have in decades."

So, with 2008 already here and 2009 and 2010 not far away, and the nation already plunged into an age of turbulence, isn't it about time for a deep, pocketbook squeezing recession?

While the next couple of years may be grim for the housing market, as some areas of the U.S. experience declines in resale values of 20 percent from 2006 highs, McIlwain sees stability on the horizon.

"There are reasons to be hopeful," McIlwain writes in Multifamily Trends magazine. "Overall, the U.S. population continues to increase by 3 million people each year. And, in particular, the oldest of the Echo Boomers—a generation estimated to number 75 million, is larger than their parents' generation, the Baby Boomers."

McIlwain notes that the Echo Boomers are now in their late 20s, forming their first households and looking to buy their first homes.

"By all rights housing should boom after the current mess is sorted out," he predicts.

However, McIlwain stresses that amid the subprime loan disaster bankers have learned a brutal lesson in loan underwriting. Home buyers will once again be required to make down payments, prove their income, have a decent credit rating and review and sign thick packages of documents.

"This may seem conservative, even a bit stuffy and old fashioned, but the old ways are back," McIlwain said. "Real loan underwriting is in, subprime loans are out, and a large segment of demand will be excluded from the market."

The Home Front, Don DeBat's weekly real estate column syndicated by DeBat Media Services, unravels the complexities of home buying, mortgage shopping, homeownership, renting, building, renovation and remodeling. For more home-buying information visit his website at: www.dondebat.net.



DONDEBAT

New suburban condominiums available for a quick New Year's move-in

If you are shopping for a new-year housing deal in the northwest suburbs, quick occupancy choices include luxury condominiums developed by R. Franczak & Associates in northwest suburban Des Plaines and Palatine.

DES PLAINES

Seven luxury condominium residences are available for occupancy within 30 days at The Waterford Condominiums, a new three-building R. Franczak enclave at 799 Graceland in downtown Des Plaines.

"Inventory residences The Waterford showcase steel interiors with high-end urban finishes, upgraded stainless-steel appliances and open floor plans with 9-foot and 10-foot ceilings that evoke city-style loft living," said Lynne Gregg, sales manager for R. Franczak & Associates.

• **The Lennox.** Residence 501 is a two-bedroom-plus-den, two-bath floor plan in Building I at The Waterford. With 1,545 square feet of space, the home is priced at \$319,900.

The residence features an island kitchen overlooking the adjoining living/dining room creating an open great room feel. Bedrooms are on either side of the great room for maximum privacy. A second Lennox design, Residence 301-B priced at \$329,900, is available for quick occupancy in Building III.

• **The Princeton.** Unit 205-A, a two-bedrooms-plus-den, two-bath floor plan in Building II at the Waterford, features 1,577 square feet of living space. Priced at \$319,900, the home includes oak wood flooring in living room, dining room, kitchen and den. The kitchen and baths include upgraded cherry cabinetry, Corian counter tops and sinks.

• **The Abbey.** Residence 510-A in Building II at The Waterford is a two-bedroom, two-bath residence on the fifth floor featuring dramatic 10.5-foot ceilings and 1,444 square feet of living space. The spacious kitchen features a seven-foot peninsula which can seat up to four for casual dining. This plan offers split bedrooms and baths. All rooms view the beautifully landscaped courtyard. The Abbey is priced at \$328,900.

• **The Pembroke.** Residence 407-A, a corner model in Building II, features two bedrooms, two baths and 1,594 square feet of living space. This professionally decorated model showcases many exceptional design upgrades including Tiger wood hardwood flooring in the living areas, a dynamic gourmet kitchen with 42-inch Ginger Maple cabinetry with extended buffet area, stainless-steel gourmet appliance package, designer selected crème paint colors, dramatic 1.25-inch verde Peacock granite in kitchen. It is priced at \$334,900.

• **The Regency.** Residence 506-A, a penthouse model unit in Building II, is one of the exceptional fifth-floor units available at The Waterford. The Regency has two bedrooms, two baths and 1,405 square feet of living space. The Regency model is priced at \$334,900.

The Regency penthouse features dramatic 10.5-foot ceilings, light beech wood floors through the main living spaces, and a designer kitchen granite with Italian marble mosaic tile back splash 42-inch Cherry Mocha Polo cabinetry, an upgraded stainless-steel appliance package.

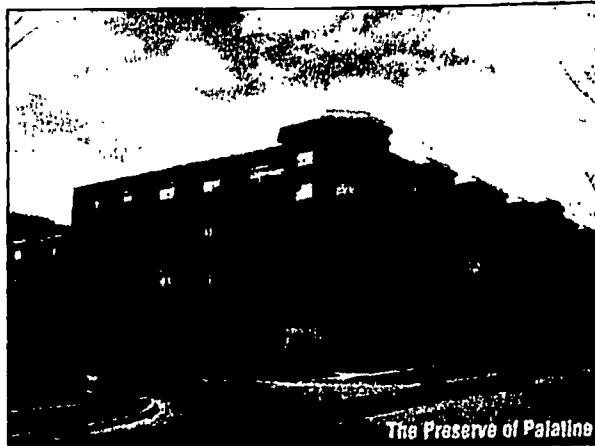
• **The Wedgewood.** Residence 205-B is a three-bedrooms-plus-den, two-bath model in Building III that showcases 1,856 square feet of living space. The residence features a dynamic gourmet kitchen with a five-foot customized peninsula, 36-inch white cabinets, designer wave lighting with matching pendant lights, two lazy Susanne's and spacious pantry.

The master bedroom in the Wedgewood feature a six-foot spa shower with rainfall shower head and four body sprays and a double bowl vanity with a dressing table. The Wedgewood model is priced at \$375,900.

For more information on Franczak's immediate occupancy homes in Des Plaines, visit the sales center for The Waterford located at 799 Graceland in Des Plaines. Or, call (847) 297-6769 or visit the developer's website at www.rfanczak.com.

PALATINE

R. Franczak & Associates also is offering a dozen immediate-occupancy condominium residences that will be ready for move-in in 30 days in two Palatine developments.



The Preserve at Palatine

Residence 310, a Cedar design, is one of six model units available for immediate occupancy at The Preserve, at 435 Wood Street, just off of Quentin Road.

The Cedar offers 1,682 square feet and also features two bedrooms, a den and two-and-a-half baths. The Cedar also features a spacious island kitchen, den with built-in desk, and two master suites with private bath and room sized walk-in closets.

"This builder model features Franczak's sleek and urban finishes including upgraded stainless-steel appliances, hardwood floors throughout the living areas, decorator selected paint colors and an open floor plans which evokes city-style loft living," said Katie O'Brien, sales manager for Franczak. The Cedar is priced at \$339,900.

Residence 203 at The Preserve is a Pine design, a two-bedroom, two-bath model residence with 1,659 square feet of living space. The Pine is a spacious floor plan which showcases a split-bedroom layout and walk-in closets in both of the large bedrooms, open kitchen with a peninsula and Espresso maple cabinetry, Corian counter-tops and upgraded stainless steel appliances. The Pine is base-priced for \$339,900. A second Pine floor plan, Residence 303, also is available for immediate occupancy. It is priced at \$349,900.

Other immediate occupancy choices include: a pair of two-bedroom, two-bath Aspen designs, each with 1,498 square feet of living area, are priced at \$299,900 and \$305,900, and a Mahogany floor plan with two bedrooms, two baths and 1,655 square feet of living area, is priced at \$359,900.

The sales center for The Preserve of Palatine is located at 435 West Wood Street, just off of Quentin Road in Palatine. The sales office is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and by appointment on weekday. For more information, please call (847) 705-2220 or visit or website at www.rfanczak.com.

The Stratford Condominiums

Six immediate occupancy residences also are offered for sale at The Stratford Condominiums located at 190 West Johnson Street in Palatine.

Residence 203, a Hamilton design, is a two-bedroom, two-bath corner residence with 1,594 square feet of living space. It is priced at \$389,900. The Hamilton includes a full-size dining room, living room, kitchen and dinette, cabinetry with a built-in dinette buffet, balcony, laundry room and foyer.

Some of the luxury upgrades include sandstone maple custom kitchen cabinetry, stainless-steel appliances, Corian kitchen and bath counter-tops, Mahogany wood floors in living areas, upgraded ceramic tile and carpet. Residences 206 306, additional Hamilton designs, are priced at \$349,900 and \$367,900.

Other immediate occupancy choices at the Stratford include: Residence 202, a Carlton design with 1,577 square feet of living area priced at \$329,900; a Griffen II design with 1,364 square feet of living area priced at \$289,900, and a Birch floor plan with 1,481 square feet priced \$349,900.

The sales center for The Stratford Condominium is at 190 West Johnson Street and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (847) 705-6238 or please visit: www.rfanczak.com.

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Because of the holiday, some theaters were unable to provide complete listings by our deadline. Please call individual theaters for information on titles and times.

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FILM CLIPS: MOVIES TO SEE AT THE THEATER
OPENING THIS WEEK

ONE MISSED CALL

Shortly before they die, people receive voice mail messages with recordings of themselves in their own fatal moments. Edward Burns stars in the remake of the Japanese thriller "Chakushin Ari." (87 min.) Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and terror, frightening images, some sexual material and thematic elements.

THE RAPE OF EUROPA

The effort to reclaim millions of European artworks looted by the Nazis during World War II is the subject of this documentary. (117 min.) No MPAA rating.

THERE WILL BE BLOOD

Paul Thomas Anderson ("Boogie Nights") directed Daniel Day-Lewis in a drama reviewed in this section. (158 min.) Rated R.

STILL PLAYING

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM

Alien warriors choose a small town as a battleground and force the residents to fight for their lives. Special effects veterans Colin and Greg Strause of Waukegan directed the sequel to the 2004 sci-fi thriller. (86 min.) Rated R.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS

The 1960s animated series about a songwriter (Jason Lee) who adopts a trio of musical chipmunks, remade with a combination of live action and computer graphic imagery. Tim Hill ("Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties") directed. (91 min.) Rated PG for some mild rude humor.

ATONEMENT ★ ★ ★ 12

A sumptuous, intelligent, potentially erotic adaptation of Ian McEwan's best-selling novel — brilliantly written, acted and directed. The 1930s and '40s period romantic drama details the terrible damage done when an over-imaginative 13-year-old English girl (Saoirse Ronan), who has a crush on the son of the groundskeeper (James McAvoy) of her father's estate, falsely accuses him of a shocking crime after learning he has become the lover of her older sister (Keira Knightley). Director Joe Wright ("Pride & Prejudice") moves the action from the English countryside to the British retreat from Northern France in World War II (featuring a spectacular live-minute steadicam shot on the beach at Dunkirk) — and concludes decades later when the girl has become a famous novelist (Vanessa Redgrave) seeking atonement through her art. The complex narrative, which jumps back and forth in time, is occasionally hard to follow as it traces the girl's life causes for everyone, but that's a minor quibble considering the grand sweep of its emotions. "Atonement"

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR ★ ★ ★

It's probably a bit too simplistic in its depiction of the political machinations involved in America's covert landing of the rebel war that drove the Russians out of Afghanistan, but at least "Charlie Wilson's War" gives you a hero to pin a medal on when it's all over. It's also smart, funny and sophisticated into the bargain, if you can overlook its heavy-handed attempts to stir up righteous indignation about Soviet war atrocities. Tom Hanks is predictably likable as the charming, scandal-plagued playboy Congressman "Good Time" Charlie Wilson, who is dispatched to Pakistan by wealthy supporter/part-time lover/born-again anti-Communist Joanne Herring (Julia Roberts). There, despite himself, Wilson is radicalized by the suffering of Afghanisthan refugees and by the Afghan Mujahideen lighting Russian troops with World War 1 surplus weapons. With the help of an obstreperous, street-savvy CIA veteran (Philip Seymour Hollman, who steals every scene), he uses his position on the Defense Appropriation Subcommittee to increase funding to the rebels a hundred fold. He also forges an near-impossible alliance between Israel, Egypt and Pakistan to provide them with the Russian-made weapons necessary to shoot Soviet gunships out of the sky. Director Mike Nichols ("Primary Colors") and screenwriter Aaron Sorkin ("The West Wing") have somehow distilled journalist George Crile's non-fiction best-seller into a brisk, efficient 94 minutes that lays out some complex historical material without straying too far from an audience-friendly tone that emphasizes political satire, screwball comedy and bedroom shenanigans. They even manage to deal efficiently and elegantly with the complicating fact that the freedom fighters Wilson rushed to arm against the Russians are now our mortal enemies — summing up with the issue of foreign policy blowback with one eloquent line of Sorkin dialogue. The trouble with putting a ball into play, he suggests, is that it sometimes keeps bouncing even after you've lost interest in it. (BI) (97 min.) Rated R.

low. The only part of his body he can control is his left eye. But his thoughts, his imagination and his memory are unlettered. With a dreamy collage of flashbacks and fantasies, Schnabel (winner of the Best Director prize at Cannes) deftly demonstrates how he turns that into a sort of liberation. "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" is adapted from a memoir Bauby dictated letter by letter, blinking yes or no to an assistant reciting the alphabet aloud. He can imagine anything, anywhere, anytime, but his thoughts are preoccupied with friends, family, lovers and, increasingly, a sense of regret — for "women I failed to love, opportunities I failed to seize, happiness I let drift away." Schnabel and screenwriter Ronald Harwood (an Oscar winner for "The Pianist") are less concerned with the way Bauby (poignantly played by French actor Mathieu Amalric) overcame his handicap than the way it forced him to examine his life and come to terms with himself. "Does that make a book?" he asks his transcriber shortly before slipping into another coma? Indeed it does. And a beautiful, moving film as well. In French with subtitles. (BI) (112 min.) Rated PG-13 for nudity, sexual content and some language.

ENCHANTED

A cartoon-animated fairy tale princess (Amy Adams) is exiled by an evil witch (Susan Sarandon) into real-life New York City, where she finds her Prince Charming (Patrick Dempsey). Kevin Lima ("Tarzan") directed the romantic adventure. (107 min.) Rated PG for some scary images and mild innuendo.

THE GOLDEN COMPASS ★ ★ ★

Based on two sides by controversy regarding the religious/irreligious ideas in Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" trilogy, director Chris Weitz has prudently chosen a compromise course for "The Golden Compass" and gulped it to safe harbor as a spectacular, thrilling and intriguingly dark, if not particularly daring, fantasy adventure. As it stands, "The Golden Compass" is a beautifully filmed and thoroughly engaging 'faux-mythic rippling yarn, with enough intellectual stimulation to keep the frontal lobe in gear. Basically, the plot revolves around a conflict between an oppressive theocracy called The Magisterium and a group of free-thinkers on an Earth-like planet in a parallel universe. Spunky twelve-year-old Lyra Belacqua (very nicely played by newcomer Dakota Blue Richards) joins the struggle when her scientist/explorer uncle Asriel (Daniel Craig) journeys to the arctic to investigate an outbreak of cosmic life-force Dust — strictly suppressed by the authorities. Lyra uses the last remaining truth-telling Golden Compass to help her uncle with the help of rebel Gypsians, a flying witch queen (Eva Green), a Texas sky pilot (Sam Elliott) and a warrior ice bear (with the stentorian voice of Ian McKellen). There's a lot to admire

THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY ★ ★ ★ ★

From its opening shot, "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" is extraordinary. Painter-turned filmmaker Julian Schnabel, who previously directed the artist portraits "Basquiat" and "Before Night Falls," puts us inside the head of a stroke victim awakening from a coma, whose point of view is limited to what's directly in front of his eyes. Even in those first moments, there is a remarkable discrepancy between the interior world of Jean-Dominique Bauby, until very recently the editor-in-chief of the French "Elle" magazine, and the stricken man who lies paralyzed in a hospital bed. Bauby can't move, or speak, or even swal-

CLIPS
Continued from page B6

about "The Golden Compass." The characters are unusually complicated, the special effects are dazzling and the peril is disturbingly imaginative — as Magisterium scientists plot to control the next generation by separating children from their souls. The best thing about the whole business, though, is the fact that Pullman made the hero of his story a girl. There just aren't enough of them to go around. (BI) (113 min.) Rated PG-13 for sequences of fantasy violence.

GRACE IS GONE

A husband and father (John Cusack) struggles to cope when his wife is killed in the line of duty in Iraq. (85 min.) Rated PG-13 for thematic material, brief strong language and teen smoking.

THE GREAT DEBATERS

After forming a first debate team at a small African American college in 1935, an inspirational professor leads them to challenge Harvard University. Denzel Washington directed and stars in the drama. Rated PG-13.

I AM LEGEND ★ ★ ★

"I Am Legend" is not in the style of the action-crazy, but acting-challenged, "Resident Evil" trilogy — more a "28 Days Later" meets "Castaway." Will Smith is Dr. Robert Neville, one of the few humans, and apparently the only one in New York City, who doesn't turn into a blood-thirsty mutant after a potential cancer cure goes renegade. Much of "Legend" follows Neville's treks through the city with his German Shepherd, looking for fresh food and following a routine meant to keep Neville sane. Some real emotion is on display with shots showing Neville and Sam curled up in the bathtub while the infected humans shriek in the night. Unfortunately, the CGI mutants don't live up to their stunning backdrop. They're too thin, too agile and look like they wouldn't make an indent if thrown against a wall of Jell-O. The deserted New York City, though, look fantastic. Weedy streets and silent storefronts give "Legend" a haunting and quiet vibe that Smith matches. (JT) Rated PG-13 for sequences of action and violence.

JUNO ★ ★ 12

Pardon my ambivalence, but I can't help feeling conflicted about this smart, funny, well-acted but fundamentally irresponsible teenage pregnancy comedy. "Juno" is the debut film by screenwriter Diablo Cody, a former Minneapolis-based film critic who has also published a memoir called "Candy Girl" about her experiences working as a stripper. I mention Cody so prominently because her voice — the same wise-cracking, sharply observant but emotionally uninvolved voice you'll hear in "Candy Girl" — is what gives "Juno" its character. Performances in the film are excellent across the board, partic-

ularly Ellen Page's wryly soulful turn as the pregnant high-school sophomore, which is almost guaranteed to draw an Oscar nomination. But the real star of "Juno" is Cody's snarky dialogue. After losing the fertility coin toss the first time she has sex with the geeky boyfriend (Michael Cera of "Superbad"), Juno decides against abortion because the clinic is a horror, picks a seemingly perfect couple (Jason Bateman and Jennifer Garner) out of the Penny Saver to adopt her baby, informs her liked but supportive father and stepmother (J.K. Simmons and Allison Janney) of her plan and sets out on her adventure in pregnancy. That's precisely the way it plays out for Juno. The larger and rounder she gets, the more of a cool outsider she becomes ("I'm a cautionary whale," she observes) and the more support and attention she receives from friends and family. The more challenging her condition becomes the more bravely she perseveres, allowing her to learn life lessons about maturity, friendship and love just in time to hand the baby off, forget it and get back to her rudely interrupted high school career. All of this is handled skillfully by director Jason Reitman ("Thank You for Smoking") and, unless you find Cody's snazzy verbal stylings off-putting, the movie will probably sweep you up and carry you along very effectively, with only a couple of bogus sentimental moments to trouble you at the very end. But latent bogosity is not what bugs me the most about this movie. Like "Waitress" and "Knocked Up," "Juno" concerns itself with the life-changing choice of an expectant mother to take an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy to term. In this case, though, the mother-to-be is still a teenager and the ramifications of her decision are downplayed to the point where they are practically nonexistent. Just as there's never been a 16-year-old as hip, savvy and completely self-assured as Juno, I'm willing to bet this film has little or no relationship to what it's really like to be a pregnant teenage girl. I suspect it's not nearly as lighthearted, whimsical or regret-free and I'm kind of sorry that this film is out there to confuse the issue. (BI) Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material, sexual content and language.

MARGOT AT THE WEDDING ★ ★ ★ 12

As he did in "The Squid and the Whale," Noah Baumbach demonstrates a remarkable gift for demonstrating just how excruciating family life can be — and transmuted all that pain into uncomfortable comedy. Nicole Kidman gives one of her best performances as the selfish, passive-aggressive, celebrated writer Margot, who attends the wedding of her estranged sister Pauline (Jennifer Jason Leigh), ostensibly to make peace but actually to carry on an affair with a famous novelist who lives down the road. The sisters have a lifelong love/hate relationship, but any hope that the tensions between them will be resolved evaporate as soon as Margot makes it plain that she doesn't approve of Pauline's no-hoper fiancee Malcolm (Jack Black). Throughout the film, old wounds are re-opened and new ones are inflicted — the most hurtful being the damage passed on from abused daughter Margot to her pubescent son Claude (Zane Pais). Yet, somehow, Baumbach manages to make us feel something like sympathy for everyone involved. (BI) (91 min.) Rated R.

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

Treasure hunter Ben Gates (Nicolas Cage) goes on a new adventure in search of a missing page from the diary of John Wilkes Booth. John Turteltaub directed the sequel to his 2004 hit. Rated PG for some violence and action.

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN ★ ★ ★

It's easy to understand why the Coen brothers were attracted to Cormac McCarthy's grim, fatalistic, but exotically violent crime novel "No Country for Old Men." It has a colorfully offbeat cast of characters that might have been made to order for them. It also gets under way with the sort of stripped-down, pure pulp-fiction, but essentially perverse, plot that served them so well in "Blood Simple," "Miller's Crossing" and "Fargo." There's only one problem with McCarthy's doomsday-drenched story as the source for a first-rate piece of genre filmmaking: It completely confounds expectations. It's not satisfied to toy with them; it thwarts them. The Coen's faithful adaptation makes the most of the material McCarthy provides, generating considerable suspense and adding some welcome touches of dark humor, but it's still likely to frustrate anyone looking for a conventionally satisfying dramatic resolution. Javier Bardem steals the show as a philosophic/psychopathic hit man hard on the heels of a trailer-dwelling Vietnam vet

THE KITE RUNNER ★ ★ ★

Director Marc ("Finding Neverland") Forster's faithful screen version of Khaled Hosseini's international best-seller incorporates all the key plot points of the novel and brings them to life with serviceable performances and no-frills cinematic competence, but it never really soars. Fans of the book will no doubt find it satisfactory, if not rapturous. Those who have not read the book may also find its story of soul-saving second-chances moving, but they're just as likely to wonder what all the hosannas were about. Much of the film deals with the childhood friendship of rich, privileged and spoiled Amir and the wise, saintly and brave servant boy Hassan — whose best times together are spent flying kites in pre-Russian Invasion Kabul. When Amir fails to help his friend after seeing him being beat-


en and raped by racist thugs, his cowardice turns him against the boy and his shame stays with him until adulthood. After fleeing to America with his father and growing up tormented by guilt, he finally has a chance to return to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and make things right. (BI) (122 min.) Rated PG-13 for strong thematic material including the rape of a child, violence and brief strong language.

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CLIPS

Continued from page B7

(Josh Brolin), on the run with \$2-million in stolen drug money. Both are being pursued by an aging Texas sheriff (Tommy Lee Jones) who frets that all the resulting carnage might be a sign that the world is beyond redemption. (B) (122 min.) Rated R.

THE ORPHANAGE ★★★

"Orphanage" is beautifully shot with tremendous performances that surpass the clichés of the gothic, but modern-day set, ghost story. Director Juan Antonio Bayona understands what so few directors do, that the hint of something horrible is more frightening than putting it fully into the daylight, where it's unlikely to live up to our imagination. Married couple Laura (the remarkable Betén Rueda) and Carlos (Fernando Cayo) have moved into a new home — the old orphanage where Laura spent her childhood — which they plan on re-opening as a home for children with disabilities. They live with their 7-year-old son, Simon, whose penchant for imaginary friends is met with fond exasperation until a new, more aggressive pal begins to influence his behavior. One creepy guest visitor later, Simon learns the truth about his past, and in a heart-wrenching scene, he disappears from home. "The Orphanage"

has a wealth of suspense, scares and dread, and like del Toro's "Pan's Labyrinth," the decision about what is real, and what is imagined, is left partly up to interpretation. The film's greatest accomplishment is that the emotional ending is not a "twist," but a natural evolution, and one that will linger in the mind for days. In Spanish with subtitles. (JT) (100 min.) Rated R.

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY

A divorced mom (Gabrielle Union) struggling to raise three kids gets what she wished for and more when one of her children tells a mall Santa (Morris Chestnut) that her mom wants a compliment from a man for Christmas. (96 min.) Rated PG for brief language and some suggestive humor.

P.S. I LOVE YOU

A young wife (Hilary Swank) is helped through the mourning of her husband (Gerard Butler) by letters he wrote to her before he died. Richard LaGravenese ("Freedom Writers") directed the romantic drama. (126 min.) Rated PG-13 for sexual references and brief nudity.

THE SAVAGES

After being estranged from their father for years, a brother and sister (Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Laura Linney) are forced to take responsibility. Tamara Jenkins ("The Stums of

Beverly Hills") wrote and directed the dark comedy. (113 min.) Rated R.

SWEENEY TODD

★★★★

Stephen Sondheim couldn't have asked for a better director to bring his dark, perversely funny and ultimately tragic grand guignol musical to the screen than Tim "Corpse Bride" Burton. And Burton couldn't have asked for a better outlet for his Gothic sensibility than "Sweeney Todd: Demon Barber of Fleet Street." Together, they have produced a gloriously misanthropic, all-singing/all-stashing ode to love and death (mostly death) that could put the last nail in the coffin of the barber trade — and make you everlastingly suspicious about what's really inside your chicken pot pie. The venerable penny-dreadful plot, which has been made into at least four films in England going back to 1926, might sound like low-grade schlock-shock horror material, but Sondheim gave it heart and soul when he fleshed it out for Broadway. Sweeney Todd may be a raving homicidal lunatic, but he has a philosophy of life: That we all deserve to die. His lovestruck landlady (Lisbeth Scott), but naturally feels she has to help her man dispose of all those telltale bodies — and that it's a shame to let all that fresh meat go to waste. Burton's longtime alter-ego Johnny Depp is frighteningly good as the

melancholy, murderous, vengeance-crazed barber who turns his shop into a throat-cutting slaughterhouse provisioning the downstairs meal-pie shop owned by his landlady (Helena Bonham Carter, equally impressive). Sondheim's songs may have been sung more spectacularly in the past, but Depp and Carter act their way through them in a way that ensures maximum emotional impact. And the songs aren't the only thing that packs a visceral punch. Burton's graphic approach to the blood-letting in "Sweeney Todd" — blood geysering is more like it — will undoubtedly revolt the squeamish, but it underscores the film's horrific nature. "Sweeney Todd" is gorgeous in a ghastly sort of way; it's artful and intelligent and even Goth dream-date romantic. But it's a horror show at heart. (B) (117 min.) Rated R.

THIS CHRISTMAS

An extended family gathers together for their first Christmas celebration in four years. Preston A. Whitmore II ("Crossover") directed the holiday drama. (117 min.) Rated PG-13 for comic sexual content and some violence.

WALK HARD ★★★

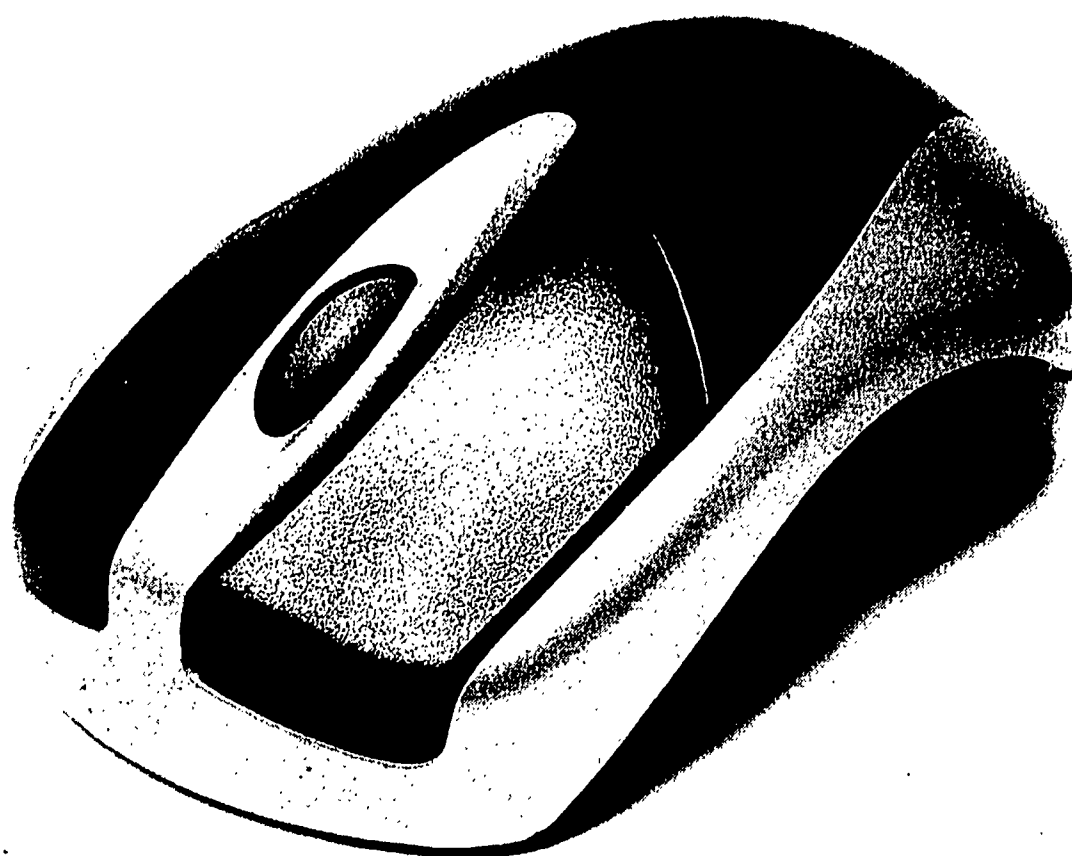
There's not much going on here that you wouldn't see in any other "Airplane!"-style genre parody, but Judd Apatow, who produced and co-

wrote this send-up of rock 'n' roll biopics with director Jake Kasdan, does it just a little bit better on all fronts. The jokes are hit and miss, but when they hit, they're hilarious. The song spoofs are good enough to stand on their own, particularly the salacious June Carter/Johnny Cash-style "Let's Duet." Even better, with John C. Reilly playing the rock 'n' roll trend-hopping idiot savant Dewey Cox, you might actually find yourself starting to get involved in the story. Reilly plays the guilt-haunted, "smell-blind," rehab-prone Cox, who never met a drug he didn't like, a sink he didn't like to rip out of the wall or a woman he didn't like to marry (even two at a time), from boyhood to rockin' decrepitude. It's not always pretty ("You can take the children, but don't you dare take my monkey," shouts the divorcing Dewey), but it's almost always good for a laugh. (B) (96 min.) Rated R.

THE WATER HORSE: THE LEGEND OF THE DEEP

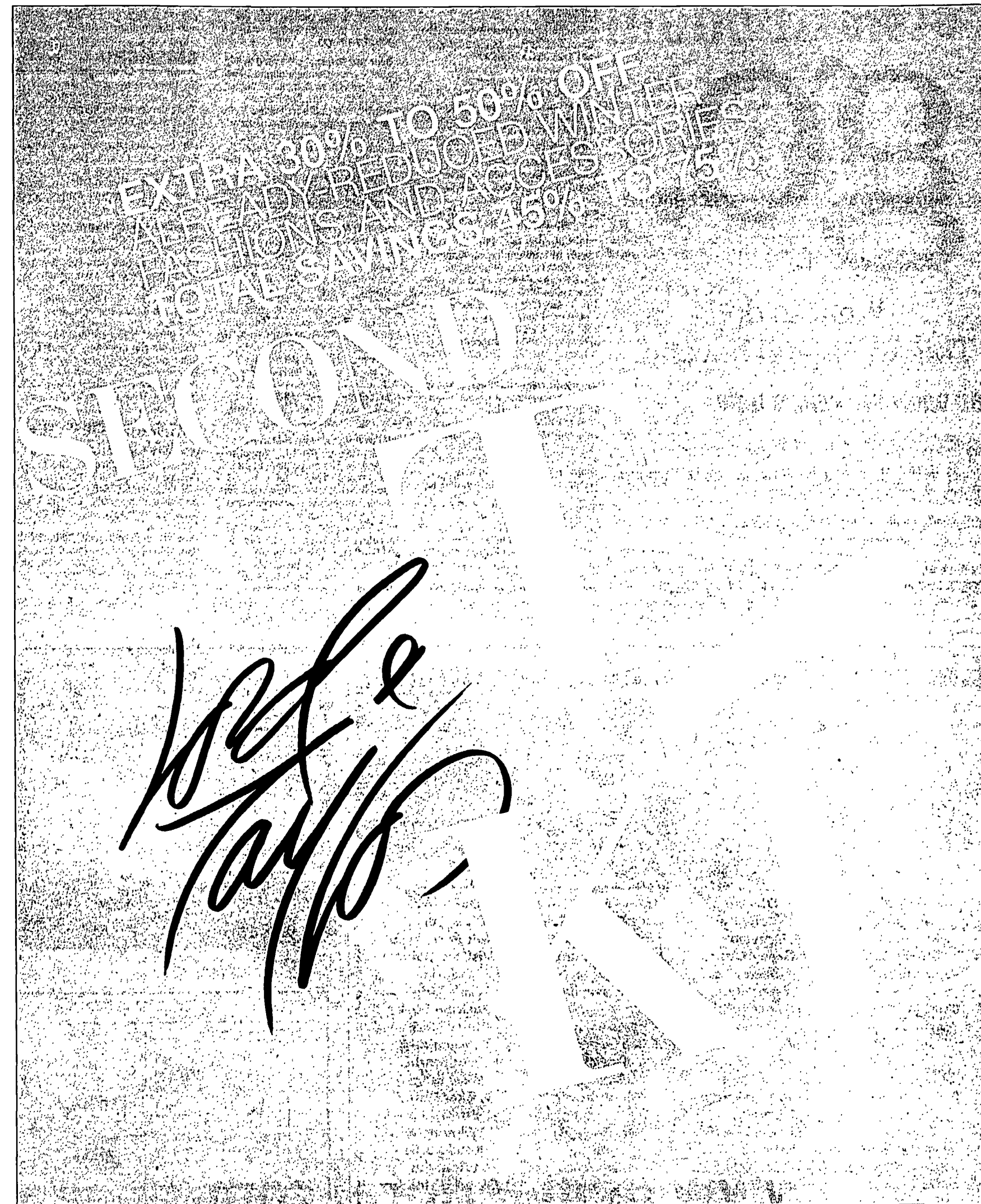
A lonely young boy (Alex Etel) in Scotland discovers an egg that hatches into a Nesle-like "Water Horse" and decides to keep it as a pet. Jay Russell "My Dog Skip" directed the family adventure. Rated PG for some action/peril, mild language and brief smoking.

Reviews by Bruce Ingram and Jenny Thomas



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stage

"Carousel," 8 p.m. Jan. 25-26 and Feb. 1-2; 2 p.m. Jan. 27 at Northwestern University's Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Tickets: \$25; \$20 for senior citizens and Northwestern faculty and staff; \$10 for students. For tickets, call (847) 467-4000 or visit www.pickstaiger.com.

"Cats," March 18-19 at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. \$25-\$55. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling Ticketmaster at (312) 559-1212.

"Ella," through Jan. 11 at Northlight Theatre at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Performances are Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$38-\$58. (847) 673-6300 or www.northlight.org.

"Hizzoner: Daley the First," Feb. 22-March 2 at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. Performances at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. The play examines Mayor Richard J. Daley, authoritarian politician, family man and dynasty builder, whose life was inextricably bound to Chicago, the city he loved. Tickets: \$35; \$30 for seniors. Call (773) 282-7035, ext 10.

The 2007-08 Interplay Series will introduce new plays by accomplished and emerging American playwrights at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Feb. 25: "Three Italian Women" by Laura Maria Censabella.

April 21: "Ground (A Play about Borders)" by Lisa Dillman. \$15 per reading at the door; \$10 for students. (847) 673-6300.

"Over the Tavern," presented by Big Noise Theatre Company Jan. 11-Feb. 3 at Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines. Performances at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$20; \$18 for senior citizens and students; \$12 for children under 12. (847) 604-0275 or www.bignoise.org.

"A Run-Through for Angela," presented by The Prospect Players Jan. 18-27 at Unity Northwest Church, 259 E. Central Road, Des Plaines. Performances at 8 p.m. Jan. 18-19, 25-26; with matinees at 3 p.m. Jan. 20 and 27. \$10 general admission; \$8 students and seniors. For information or tickets, call (847) 427-1727.

"Storybox," a 90-minute, one-act improv production for adult audiences, created and performed by an ensemble of improvisational storytellers, Jan. 10-Feb. 3 at the Piven Theatre, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$10. For tickets, call (847) 866-8049 or visit www.piventheatre.org.

"White People," Jan. 3-March 1 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee, Chicago. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Fridays; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays. Three characters wrestle with racism — America's and theirs — in a series of searing confessional monologues. Tickets: \$20 Thursdays and Sundays; \$25 Fridays and Saturdays. \$15 tickets are available at all performances for students, seniors, and industry with proper identification. Tickets for

previews, Jan. 3-6, \$15. For tickets, call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

classical

Arx Viva, conducted by Alan Heatherington, performs at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.arxiviva.org. Single tickets: \$60 box seats; \$40 reserved; \$35 seniors; \$15 students. Feb. 3-4, 7:30 p.m.: Corigliano: Elegy (for Samuel Barber); Barber: Violin Concerto, Ilya Kaler, violin; Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral").

Chamber Opera Chicago presents "Te Amo: An Evening in Spain," a tribute to dancers Pascual Oliviera and Angela Del Moral, at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1 at the Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The blend of music and dance will feature highlights from "Carmen," "Man of La Mancha," "La Vida Breve," "Granada" and other works, sung in tandem with traditional Spanish dances performed by the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater and video clips of Oliviera and Del Moral. Tickets: \$15; \$10 seniors and students. Group rates available. Visit www.chamberoperachicago.org or call (312) 951-7944.

Chicago a cappella performs at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$35 for preferred seating, \$28 for general admission, \$22 for seniors and students. For tickets, call (773) 755-1628 or see www.chicagoacappella.org. Feb. 24, 4 p.m.: "Romanticism and Rock 'n' Roll." Gems from the 19th century Romantic tradition, including part songs from

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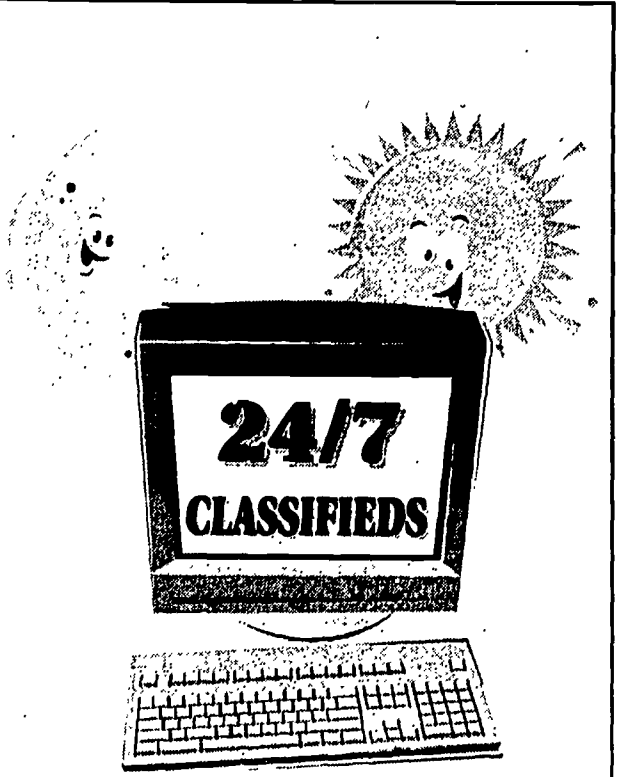
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Defining front-wheel versus all-wheel drive



Q: Ira, I'd like to offer a rebuttal to your recent response regarding the benefits of all-wheel drive over front-wheel drive. You seem to think that all-wheel drive vehicles are better than front-wheel drive vehicles based on your response to someone who was looking to purchase a new vehicle. I disagree. I don't think it's necessary to buy a vehicle with all-wheel drive. As a truck driver for 47 years, I generally see people driving these all-wheel-drive vehicles at least 10 mph over the speed limit. Most of the drivers driving all-wheel-drive vehicles don't realize that going faster means they'll need more distance to stop when driving on slippery pavement. I think that people driving all-wheel-drive vehicles have a false sense of security and don't it. All-wheel drive is just a more expensive option (adding about \$8,000 to the sticker) and requires more expensive maintenance. Front-wheel drive vehicles with anti-lock brakes should be more than sufficient. B.H., Alsip

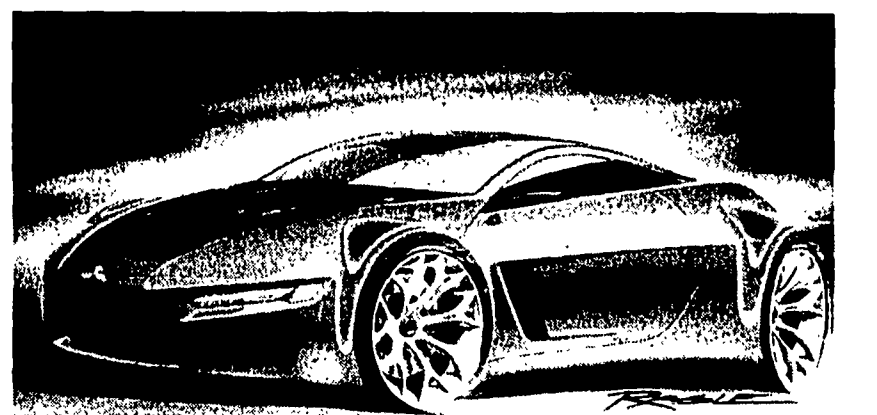
A: B.H., we obviously have a difference of opinion. And I is probably unfair to say that mainly drivers of all-wheel-drive vehicles drive too fast. Regardless of whether the vehicle powers the front, rear, or all four wheels, I've seen all sorts of vehicles going over the limit or faster than they should on slippery roads. And over the years, I've lost count of the number of 18-wheelers that have whizzed by me on snow-covered highways. Regardless of which vehicles/drivers may be driving too fast for conditions, I have found that all-wheel-drive vehicles offer much better traction than front-wheel-drive vehicles. I have formed that opinion by driving hundreds of vehicles over the past 14 years while reviewing them

for various publications. There are conditions when powering two wheels is sufficient and there are conditions when being able to send the power to all or any one wheel is advantageous. Vehicles with all-wheel drive detect wheel slip during acceleration and they can send the engine's torque to the wheel(s) with grip. In most cases, the cost difference between all-wheel drive and two-wheel drive isn't as significant as you mentioned. And while cost of maintenance, like everything else, has risen over the years, the frequency of maintenance for today's cars has dramatically declined thanks to improved technologies and long-life fluids. There's good reason why more and more manufacturers are offering all-wheel-drive vehicles. For a long time, I have favored systems like Audi's Quattro and Subaru's Variable Torque Distribution (VTD), but now there are others entering this arena. Obviously, having all-wheel drive doesn't mean that one should drive faster than conditions permit. But when faced with a buying decision between front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive, I'd take all-wheel drive.

Q: I own a 2004 Mitsubishi Outlander and I'm having trouble finding a shop manual for this vehicle. I checked all the auto parts stores and the Mitsubishi dealer. Could you please help? D.D. Monee

A: D.D., I searched on the Internet and found several sources for an electronic version. As a cost-saving measure, most manufacturers have gotten away from hard copy versions.

Ira Siegel is an Automotive Instructor and ASE Certified Master Auto Technician. If you have auto-related questions for Ira, you can call and leave your questions at the Auto Adviser Hotline at (708)-633-6839 or e-mail a question to autoadv@nl.com.



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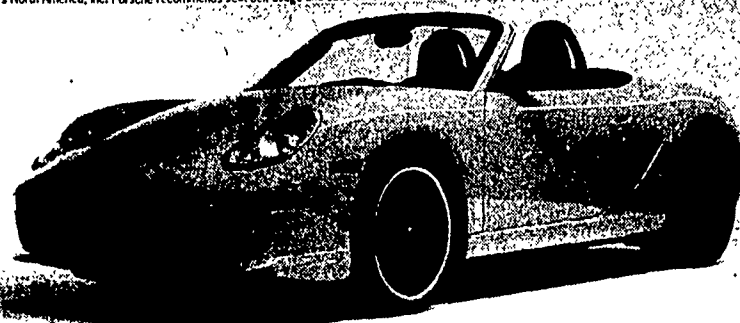
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From page B10

Brahms, Schubert, Schumann and the English Romantics, are paired with a capella charts from the '50s and '60s.

The Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra performs at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on the Northwestern University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, (847) 866-6888. www.chicagophilharmonic.org. Tickets are \$70 on the main floor; \$60, \$50 and \$35 in the balcony. **Feb. 17, 7 p.m.:** Lary Rachleff, conductor, and Richard Cheung, piano. "Don Juan," by Richard Strauss; Piano Concerto #1 in G Minor by Felix Mendelssohn; and Beethoven's Symphony #5 in C Minor.

Evanston Symphony Orchestra, directed by Lawrence Eckerling, performs at 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 864-8804. www.evanstonsymphony.org. Tickets are \$25; \$20 for senior citizens; \$5 for students. **Feb. 3:** Performance by Evanston resident Donald Draganski and Evanston flutist Sherry Kujala. The program includes Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2.

Music of the Baroque performs at First United Methodist Church of Evanston, 1630 Hinman, unless noted otherwise. (312) 551-1414. www.baroque.org. Single tickets are \$30-\$75. **Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.:** "Glover Conducts Mozart." Jane Glover, conductor, and Imogen Cooper, piano. W.A. Mozart: Symphony No. 34 in C Major, K. 338; Piano Concerto No. 22 in E-flat Major, K. 482; Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major, K. 543.

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. **January Concert Series:** From the Ground Up: Milestones in the History of Flight, from noon-2 p.m. Wednesdays. **Jan. 9:** Runway Models: The Flying Machines of Leonardo da Vinci. **Jan. 16:** Into Thin Air: The Rise of the Hot Air Balloon from Montgolfier to the Modern-Day Magellans. **Jan. 23:** Getting it Wright: The Road to Kitty Hawk and the Invention of Aeronautics. **Jan. 30:** The Far Side Revealed: The Incredible Story of the First Manned Flight to the Moon. **Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.:** Faculty and Friends Series with Shmuel Ashkenazi, violin. Paul Coletti, viola, and Antonio Lysy, cello. The trio will be joined by MIC faculty members David Cunliffe, Desiree Ruhstrat and Sai Kardan, for a performance of Brahms' String Sextet in B-flat Major. Tickets: \$15; \$10 seniors; \$7 students. **Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration with The Brotherhood Chorale of the Apostolic Church of God, \$15. Proceeds benefit the William Warfield Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Paul Vermeil, music director, presents concerts at 3:30 p.m. Sundays in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. Pre-concert commentaries by Carolyn Paulin, a member of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and a staff member of radio station WFMT, begin one hour prior to each concert. Individual concert tickets are \$20; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. Children under age 14 are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. www.northwestsymphony.org. **Jan. 13:** "A Baroque Festival." Soloist will be harpsichordist Jory Vinikour, who will perform J. S. Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in D Minor and Haydn's Harpsichord Concerto in D Major. Other works on the program include "Three Canzone for Brass and Woodwind Choirs" by Gabrieli and Haydn's Symphony No. 99 in E Flat Major. **March 18:** The spring concert will feature cellist Benjamin Lash, winner of the Paul Vermeil Young Artist Award, playing Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Major. Also on the program will be Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A Major and John Corigliano's "Promenade Overture." **May 11:** Pops Concert. Featured soloists are singers Lauren Cumow and Edward Mout from the Lyric Opera's Ryan Opera Center.

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Individual tickets are \$20 in advance; \$16 for students and senior citizens. Tickets at the door are \$25/\$20. Call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861. **Feb. 10, 2:30 p.m.:** "Viennese Opera Favorites" with Sarah Hibbard, soprano, and James Cornelson, tenor. With selections from "The Magic Flute," "The Merry Widow," "Die Fledermaus," "Tosca" and others. **March 9, 2:30 p.m.:** "Lotsa Beethoven," with John Goodwin, piano, and the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Chorus. **May 4, 2:30 p.m.:** "Spring Pops," with Oliver Colbenson, violin. The program includes works by Mozart, Sarasate and Dvorak.

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgeil.org. **Feb. 14, 7 p.m.:** Pianist Eugene Kwok plays classical and popular romantic tunes. **Feb. 28, 7 p.m.:** Ian Hominick, professor of music from Mississippi University, will perform classical piano pieces.

Rembrandt Chamber Players perform in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, (312) 360-3145. www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org. **Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.:** "Winter Warmer," a potpourri of chamber works including Debussy's Trio for flute, viola and harp.

Segovia Classical Guitar Series, presented by the Northwestern University School of Music and the Chicago Classical Guitar Society **Jan. 31-May 4** at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, and Lutkin Hall, 700 University Place, both on the modern-day Magellans. **Jan. 23:** Getting it Wright: The Road to Kitty Hawk and the Invention of Aeronautics. **Jan. 30:** The Far Side Revealed: The Incredible Story of the First Manned Flight to the Moon. **Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.:** Faculty and Friends Series with Shmuel Ashkenazi, violin. Paul Coletti, viola, and Antonio Lysy, cello. The trio will be joined by MIC faculty members David Cunliffe, Desiree Ruhstrat and Sai Kardan, for a performance of Brahms' String Sextet in B-flat Major. Tickets: \$15; \$10 seniors; \$7 students. **Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration with The Brotherhood Chorale of the Apostolic Church of God, \$15. Proceeds benefit the William Warfield Endowed Scholarship Fund.

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Giuliani, Berlioz and Bizet. \$19/\$16/\$8.

Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. (847) 673-7774. www.skokieilibrary.info. **Jan. 13, 3 p.m.:** VOX 3 will present "From Russia with Love," featuring works by Russian composers Rachmaninoff, Mussorgsky, Medtner and Tchaikovsky. VOX 3 members featured in the concert include soprano Dana Campbell, baritone Brad Jungwirth, soprano Alexia Krugs, baritone Brian Von Rueden, and pianist Irina Feoktistova. Free. **Young Steinway Concert Series**, a showcase for talented performers of classical music who have not yet graduated from high school. The concerts are held at 3 p.m. the first Sunday of each month, October through June, in the library's Petty Auditorium. Admission to all events is free. **Jan. 6:** Nikko Wadden, harp. **Feb. 3:** Agatha Kielczewski, piano, Adisson; and Ryan Meehan, violin, Winnetka.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra performs at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are \$22-\$30; \$8 for children. For performance information, call (847) 679-9501, or text 3014, or visit www.svsso.org. For ticket information, call (847) 673-6300. Free pre-concert lectures begin at 1:30 p.m. **Jan. 13, 3 p.m.:** "The New Kid: The Plot Thickens." Young Artist Competition winner Yoshihiko Nakano, violinist, performs Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending. Also on the program is Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral); Mozart's Rondo in D Major, K382, with Francesco Mililotto performing the double role of soloist and conductor; and Mozart's Overture to The Marriage of Figaro. Pre-concert lecture begins at 1:30 p.m. **March 16, 3 p.m.:** Rossini: La Gazza Ladra (The Thieving Magpie) Overture; Mahler, Lieder einer fahrenden Gesellen (Songs of a Wayfarer); Mascagni, Cavalleria Rusticana (semi-staged one-act opera). **April 12, 3:30 p.m.:** Finals of the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra's 28th Young Artist Competition. Call the SVSO office for location and further information. **May 18, 3 p.m.:** Strauss, R., Serenade for Winds in E-flat major TrV 106. op. 7; Mozart, Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550; Brahms, Symphony No. 1 in C minor, op. 68.

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300. www.centreast.org. **Feb. 9, 8 p.m.:** "And the Winner Is." Mac Frampton and the Hollywood Hills Orchestra. \$60. **Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.:** Neil Sedaka, \$75-\$125.

Chambers, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, (847) 647-8282. www.thechambersonline.com. **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**, 7-10:30 p.m.: Buddy Charles, pianist/singer. **Thursdays**, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.: Jazz Jam with John Bany, Charlie Braughtam and Don Stille. Sunday music is from 5-9 p.m.: Friday-Saturday music is from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Dick's River Roadhouse, 702 N. River Road, Mount Prospect, (847) 298-7200. www.dicksriverroadhouse.com. **Alto and Kickin'**—live music at 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays. **Jan. 9:** Sweet Jane. **Jan. 16:** 7th Heaven.

Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. (847) 376-2787. www.dppl.org. Advance registration required for activities unless noted otherwise. **Jan. 27, 2 p.m.:** The Hurricane Saxophone Quartet will perform "From Bach to the Beatles and Beyond."

Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse, 7574 N. Lincoln (at Howard), Skokie, (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhumanist.org. **Jan. 12:** Folksingers David and Gail Hardest, following 8 p.m. open mike (7:30 p.m. sign-up). All genres, all acoustic, \$5.

Famous Freddie's Roadhouse, 1799 S. Busse Road, Mount Prospect, (847) 593-2200. Shows start at 9 p.m. Fridays and 10 p.m. Saturdays. **Jan. 4:** Covergurl (party rock). **Jan. 5:** Elevation (U2 tribute). **Jan. 11:**

Helen, Wolfgang Van Helen, with special guest Ky-Mani Marley. \$149.50, \$79.50, \$49.50. **May 17, 7 p.m.:** The Cure. \$65, \$50.

American Legion Music Hall, 1030 Central St., Evanston, (847) 573-0443. www.chicagobluegrass.com. **Bluegrass Legends Concerts—Bluegrass Legends Concerts—** show at 8 p.m. All ages, no smoking. Admission: \$20; \$15 for senior citizens and children. **Jan. 18:** Larry Stephenson Band.

Blis's Blues, 1029 Davis St., Evanston, (847) 424-9800. www.blissbluesbar.com. Cover charges vary. **Tuesdays**, 8:30 p.m.: Blues Jam hosted by Two For The Blues. **Wednesdays**, 7 p.m.: Pro Jazz Jam with Mike Finnerty. **Wednesdays**, 10 p.m.: DJ John Nance Dusty Steppin'. **Sundays**, 4 p.m.: Lifest Open Mike. **Jan. 3, 10 p.m.:** Ginger Joy (F&B). **Jan. 4, 8:30 p.m.:** Sammy Fender Blues Band. **Jan. 5, 8:30 p.m.:** Ron Prince Blues Band. **Jan. 6, 7 p.m.:** Small Potatoes (folk). **Jan. 10, 10 p.m.:** Hair of The Dog Party (DJ). **Jan. 11, 8 p.m.:** Big Band Jazz Night with The Sidemen and The Prohibition Orchestra of Chicago. **Jan. 12, 8:30 p.m.:** Elmore James Jr. Blues Band.

Black Ram Steakhouse, 1414 Oakton St., Des Plaines, (847) 824-1227. www.blackramsteakhouse.com. **Fridays and Saturdays**, 8-11:30 p.m.: Live jazz and dance music.

Wingman, Jan. 12: Kashmir (Led Zeppelin tribute). **Jan. 18:** Libido Funk Circus. **Jan. 19:** I.R.S. (independent rock society). **Jan. 25:** The Play Doctors (female pop rock). **Jan. 26:** Chicago Rock Circus (classic and party rock).

The Hidden Cove, 5338 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, (773) 275-6711. Free juke box, free karaoke starts at 9 p.m. Free live music at 6 p.m. **Jan. 4:** Crème Tangerine. **Jan. 5:** The Cavern Kitten. **Jan. 6:** Larry Butler & the Nameless. **Jan. 12:** Flat Top. **Jan. 13:** Kokoro Jo. **Jan. 19:** 14 Miles to Empty. **Jan. 25:** Dan Witaker & the Shinebenders. **Jan. 26:** Mystery Train.

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. Entertainment at 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in the Fifth Province Lounge, no cover. **Jan. 4:** Celli Dancing with Ceoltoiri. **Jan. 5:** Athea. **Jan. 11:** Mulligan Stew. **Jan. 12:** Dyd in the Wool. **Jan. 18:** Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore. **Jan. 19:** Donofinn. **Jan. 25:** Dooley Brothers. **Salon concert series**, held in the third floor theatre — **Feb. 21, 8 p.m.:** Chulrua will perform jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, walking marches, slow airs and set dances from its newest CD, "The Sing Kettle." Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door.

Kafein Café, 1621 Chicago Ave., Evanston, (847) 491-1621. **Mondays**, 9 p.m.: Open mic event for musicians, poets, and light comedy sketches. All are welcome to perform for five to 10 minutes on the center stage. Sign-up starts at 8:30 p.m.

Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre will hold auditions from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. **Jan. 5** for three different projects taking place in 2008. The projects include the Living History Project, which requires no theatrical experience. Actors, actresses, writers, poets and performance artists age 15-25 are needed. Writers and poets should bring in an original sample of their work to perform. The Legends Project is a new touring ensemble that will perform in elementary schools for students age 8-13. Actors, actresses, dancers, musicians and acrobats age 25 and older are needed for this troupe. The Staged Reading Series Project is a group of men and women age 18 and older who will present staged readings throughout the year. Rehearsal time will be minimal for this, making it perfect for busy professionals who cannot make a major time commitment. Auditions will be held at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Reservations are strongly encouraged; call (847) 448-8260, ext. 109.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300. **Jan. 3, 8 p.m.:** Elvis Birthday Tribute, featuring D.J. Fontana, Elvis Presley's original drummer, and Mary Sarr. **Jan. 18:** Neil Sedaka, \$75-\$125.

Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courland, Park Ridge, (847) 823-3164. www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org. **Jan. 18-19, 8 p.m.:** "Jazz In January," featuring Kent Wehman, Mike Levin, Bob Lovvick, Neal Wehman and Bruce Nelson. Tickets: \$30; \$40 after Dec. 23.

Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokiethetre.com. **Feb. 23:** Tribute to Irma Thompson, \$15. **Feb. 28, 7 p.m.:** Lincoln Junior High School Solo & Ensemble. **Feb. 29:** Bob Aci Octet. Free.

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Irish American Heritage Center Library, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. Hours: 4-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 1-4 p.m. Fridays and Sundays; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. **Jan. 20, 2 p.m.:** "Two Girls in Silk Kimonos: The Gore-Booth Sisters," a program on poet Eva Gore-Booth (1870-1928) and her sister, literary figure Countess Constance Markievicz. The program includes presentations on the sisters' contributions to Ireland's literary and political Renaissance. The lecture will also include performers Josephine Craven and Kelly Doherty reading Eva Gore Booth's poetry and the prison letters of Countess Markievicz. \$10. A book discussion group, **Great Irish American Books and Authors**, runs from September-May at 2 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month. Discussions are led by Virginia Gibbons, a teacher at Oakton Community College. **Jan. 13:** Chicago Stories by James T. Farrell.

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgeil.org. **Jan. 17 and 24, 10 a.m.:** Discussion of "The Ha-Ha by Dave King. **Feb. 21 and 28, 10 a.m.:** Discussion of "Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia by Elizabeth Gilbert.

Northwest Choral Society is holding auditions on Tuesday evenings, through **May 27**, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 855 Lee St., Des Plaines. Seeking bass, tenor, alto or soprano singers with previous choral experience. To schedule an audition, call Jane Peterson, (847) 438-6740, or visit www.nwchoralsociety.org.

The Chicago Academy for the Arts, an independent secondary school that offers specialized training in the performing and visual arts, will hold auditions and portfolio reviews on **Jan. 28** on its campus located at 1010 W. Chicago Ave., for students applying to grades 9 through 11. Both students and a parent or guardian must attend. Interested students must send in a completed application, which can be obtained online at www.ChicagoArtsAcademy.org or by calling (312) 421-0202.

benefits

"A Toast to the Town" sparkling wine tasting to benefit the Mount Prospect Historical Society will be held from 6-8 p.m. **Jan. 24** at Vino 100 wine shop, 110 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect. A selection of sparkling wines and champagnes will be available to sample, along with hors d'oeuvres. Admission at the door is \$10 per person. Open to ages 21 and older.

books & poetry

Borders, 909 N. Elmhurst Road, Mount Prospect, (847) 342-6421. **Jan. 12, 2 p.m.:** Jami Attenberg will read and sign *The Deep Man*.

Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. (847) 376-2787. www.dppl.org. Advance registration required for activities unless noted otherwise. **Jan. 8, 10 a.m.:** Discussion of Washington Square by Henry James. **Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.:** Discussion of *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

Irish American Heritage Center Library, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. Hours: 4-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 1-4 p.m. Fridays and Sundays; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. **Jan. 20, 2 p.m.:** "Two Girls in Silk Kimonos: The Gore-Booth Sisters," a program on poet Eva Gore-Booth (1870-1928) and her sister, literary figure Countess Constance Markievicz. The program includes presentations on the sisters' contributions to Ireland's literary and political Renaissance. The lecture will also include performers Josephine Craven and Kelly Doherty reading Eva Gore Booth's poetry and the prison letters of Countess Markievicz. \$10. A book discussion group, **Great Irish American Books and Authors**, runs from September-May at 2 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month. Discussions are led by Virginia Gibbons, a teacher at Oakton Community College. **Jan. 13:** Chicago Stories by James T. Farrell.

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auditions & opportunities

STAGE

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Northlight Theatre Academy, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, will hold auditions for its NTA Performance Company on **Feb. 11**. Children in grades 3-6 will audition for "The Little Prince" and those in grade 7-12 will audition for "The Giver." Students must bring a résumé/photo and prepare a short memorized monologue, story or poem. There will be cold readings from the script. Junior company are also asked to prepare a short song. There is a \$250 fee for those who are cast in the productions. For information or to set up an audition appointment, call (847) 679-9501, ext. 3301, or visit www.northlight.org.

ARTISTS

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SINGERS

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Lyric Opera of Chicago will hold auditions in January for experienced, classically trained singers in all voice categories who

"Impressions of Ireland: Four Artists Paint Ireland," featuring works by Kate Tully of Prospect Heights, Margaret Tully Nicolsia of Park Ridge, and Michael Latala and Fran Mazur, both of Skokie. Most of the work is landscapes and cityscapes painted with acrylics, oil paints and pastels during trips to County Clare and Mayo in Ireland. Opening night reception from 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 18.**

Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummett St., Skokie, (847) 674-1500. **March 3-April 8:** "Nature's Palette," an exhibit by members of the Skokie Art Guild.

Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Contact Shirley Engelstein, fine arts coordinator, (847) 674-3806. **Through Jan. 31:** "Free Flowing Abstracts," works by Morton Grove resident John Collier.

Skokie Art Guild artists showing paintings and media through January include Mila Ryk, oils, at Mid-America Bank, 5033 W. Dempster, Skokie; Pablo Warren, sculpture, at Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Ave., Skokie; Catherine Cajandig, pastels, at Bank of Lincolnwood, 4433 W. Touhy, Lincolnwood; and Mary Sass, oils, Valerie Schiff, oils, and Barbara Willeman, pastels, at Shore Early Intervention Center, 4125 Oakton St., Skokie.

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SINGERS

The Park Ridge Chorale spring session begins **Jan. 14**. Rehearsals are held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays at Maine South High School. The spring concert, "Love Is In the Air," a program of love songs, will be performed April 12. Auditions will be held **Jan. 14, 21 and 28**; or by appointment. For information, call (847) 825-5499.

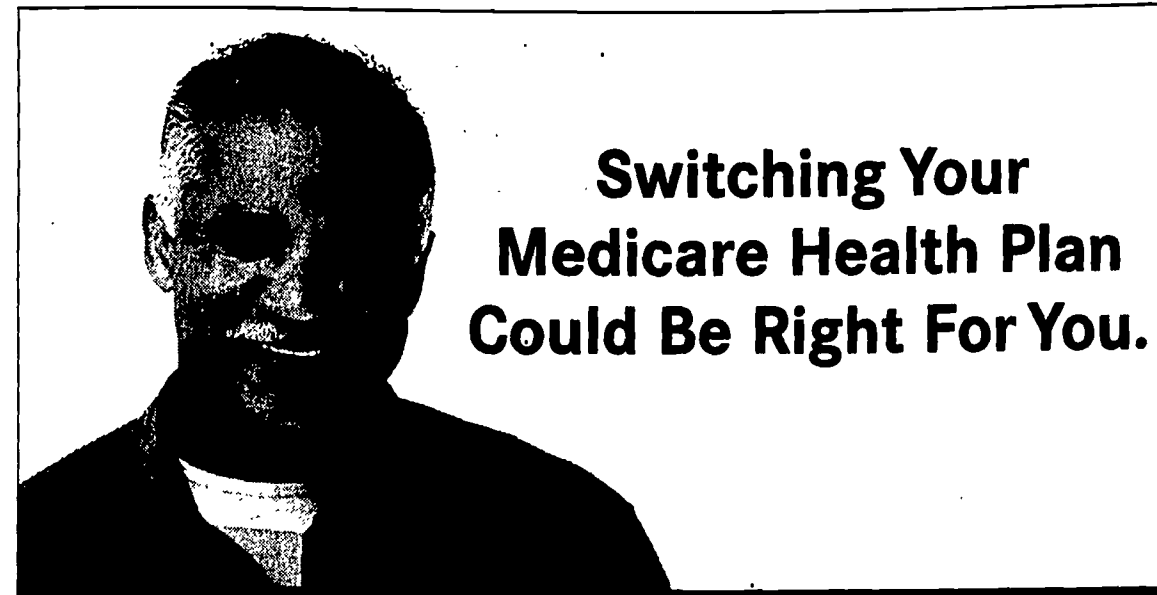
Lyric Opera of Chicago will hold auditions in January for experienced, classically trained singers in all voice categories who

Accompanist will be provided. Come prepared to dance. You may be asked to read from the script. Rehearsals begin **Feb. 4**, and performances are weekends, April 26-May 11 at Saint Patrick Performing Arts Centre, 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago. No appointment necessary. All roles open, no pay. For information, call (773) 734-2490 or visit www.risingstarstc.org.

The Niles North High School Theatre Department will hold auditions **Jan. 22** at the school, 9800 N. Lawler, Skokie, for its spring production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Youth ages 8-12 are needed to sing in the choir. Two audition times are available: 4:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Children should come prepared to sing (sheet music from the musical will be available at the Security Desk beginning Jan. 7). Rehearsals will begin the week of **Jan. 28** and will be held approximately four hours a week. Performances are March 13-15. For information, call Timothy Ortmann, (847) 626-2117.

Open auditions for the Performing Arts at Oakton production of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" will be held from 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 22-23** at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. The director is casting 11 men and six women. Candidates may read a Shakespearean monologue or be prepared to read from the script. "Macbeth" will be presented March 20-30 at Oakton's Des Plaines campus. For more information, call (847) 635-1897.

Northminster Players will hold auditions for three one-act plays at 11 a.m. **Jan. 26** at 2



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January 22 & 29, 2008 1:30 p.m. Santiago Pappasquario Rest. 3199 N. Central Ave. Chicago, 60641	January 29 & 30, 2008 11 a.m. Brass Rest. 105 Hollywood Blvd. South Barrington, 60010	January 23, 2008 1:30 p.m. Rose Garden Cafe 111 E. Higgins Rd. Elk Grove Village, 60007	

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From page B15

child's play

Barnes & Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. (847) 676-2230. **Preschool Jan. 11, 7 p.m.:** Appearance by Eoin Colfer, author of *Alman*.

Centre East's Youththeatre program announces its new season in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets to all performances may be purchased by calling (847) 679-9501, ext. 3100, or by visiting www.centreeast.org.

Jan. 29-Feb. 1, 10 a.m. and noon: Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats, \$9. **Feb. 2**, 10 a.m. and noon: "If You Give a Pig a Party," \$10. **Feb. 8**, 10 a.m. and noon: "The Spirit of Harriet Tubman," a one-woman show, \$7. **Feb. 13**, 10 a.m. and noon: Katie Couric's "Brand New Kid," a musical, \$10. **Feb. 15**, 10 a.m. and noon: "Buffalo Soldier," based on the true story of a veteran of the Spanish-American War. \$7. **Feb. 20**, 10 a.m. (kindergartners through second-graders) and noon (third-through fifth-graders): Super Scientific Circus, \$7.

Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines. (847) 827-5551. www.dppl.org. Registration required for programs unless noted otherwise. **Jan. 10 and 24**, 4-5 p.m.: "Stories and More," stories, crafts and related activities for children ages 5-7. **Jan. 17 and 31**, 4-5 p.m.: "Story Explorers," stories, crafts and related activities for children in grades 3-5. **Jan. 20**, 2 p.m.: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," presented by American Eagle Productions. No registration necessary. **Jan. 21**, 3 p.m.: "Winter Wonderland," Children ages 3-6 can sing and dance with Bill Hooper as he presents songs reflecting music and motion, nature and feelings. No registration necessary.

"Goldilocks and the Three Bears" will be presented by Chicago Kids Company Theatre for Children **Jan. 16-March 27** at the St. Patrick Performing Arts Center, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Performances at 10:30 a.m. **Jan. 16-18, 22-24, 29-31, Feb. 5-8, 12-13, 15, 18-20, 22, 26-27, 29, March 3, 5-7, 10, 12-14, 17-20, 24-27, and 12:30 p.m. Feb. 2 and March 8.** The show runs for one hour with no intermission, and is suitable for ages 2-10 years. Tickets: \$10. (773) 205-9600 or www.ChicagoKidsCompany.com.

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston. (847) 475-1030. www.mitchellmuseum.org. Suggested donation is \$5

adults: \$2.50 senior citizens, students and children. Maximum suggested admission per family is \$10. **Kids Craft Mornings** are offered from 10:30 a.m.-noon on selected Saturdays. Museum staffers and volunteers lead informal workshops where children learn to construct simple versions of traditional Native American objects and engage in other hands-on activities related to native culture. Admission to Kids Craft Morning programs is included with an entrance donation to the museum. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. No pre-registration is necessary. **Jan. 12:** Talking feathers. **Jan. 26:** Salt dough petroglyphs (rock carvings).

Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-1900. **Jan. 19**, noon and 2 p.m.: Children's concerts by Wee Hairy Beesties. A Chicago-based group that uses acoustic guitars and harmonicas. Wee Hairy Beesties assume cartoon animal personas while playing songs about squirrels, worms, flies, ducks and turtles. Tickets: \$7; \$5 for children under 12; \$4 for groups of 15 or more.

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgelibrary.org. **Jan. 4:** KidsFirst! Film Fest. showcasing new and classic children's films and DVDs from studios, independent producers and student producers around the world. Films for ages 2-7, 10-11:30 a.m.; films for ages 7-12, 1-3 p.m.; films for ages 10-16, 4-5:30 p.m. **Jan. 7**, 3:30-5 p.m.: Guitar Hero for all ages. **Jan. 9 and Feb. 13**, 3:45 p.m.: Wacky Wednesday, stories and jokes for grades K-1. **Jan. 10**, 4-5:30 p.m.: Guitar Hero. **Jan. 11 and Feb. 15**, 3:45 p.m.: Meet an American Girl, for grades 2-5, featuring crafts, games and food. **Jan. 14**, 10:15 a.m., or **Feb. 11**, 10:15 a.m.: Musikgarten music exploration program presented by Wunder Studios, for ages 18 months-3 years. **Jan. 16, 30 and Feb. 6, 20**, 3:30-5 p.m.: Dance Dance Revolution for grades 4 and up. **Jan. 20**, 2 p.m.: Erin Loe and Marci Gotta Sing! Open to all ages. **Jan. 21**, 2-3:30 p.m., and **Feb. 5**, 2:30-4:30 p.m.: Wii and Guitar Hero Open Play. **Jan. 21-Feb. 25 or Jan. 23-Feb. 27:** Teddy Bear Time Storytime for infants through 2-year-olds with an adult. **Jan. 22-Feb. 26 or Jan. 24-Feb. 28:** Storytime for 2's with an adult; siblings welcome. **Jan. 22-Feb. 26 or Jan. 24-Feb. 28:** Storytime for 3's: adults and siblings welcome. **Jan. 23-Feb. 27:** Storytime for 4's and 5's. **Jan. 12 and Feb. 9**, 10 a.m.: Second Saturday Family Storytime. **Jan. 23 and Feb. 27**, 3:45 p.m.: After School Special, for grades 2-3, featuring stories and crafts. **Jan. 24-Feb. 28**, 10:45 a.m. Thursdays: Little Tykes Playgroup for ages 2-4 years. **Jan. 25 and Feb. 22**, 3:45 p.m.: Just for Boys, for grades 2-5. The January topic will be spies and the February topic will be explosions. **Jan. 29 and Feb. 16**, 4 p.m.: Brickton Art Center Classes for grades 2-5. **Feb. 16**, 3 p.m.: Family Magic Matinee, for all ages. **Feb. 18**.

See go., page B18

2007-2008 CENTRE EAST SEASON

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Saturday, February 2, 2:00 & 5:00 pm
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"And The Winner Is"

Featuring The Hollywood Hills Orchestra, Mac Frampton, Lee Lussack and Joanne D'Brien
Saturday, February 9, 8:00 pm
Oscar's best musical moments with full orchestra and spectacular vocalists.

The Irish Rovers

Saturday, March 1, 8:00 pm
A rollicking, pre-St. Patrick's Day collection of hand-clapping hits.

Maureen McGovern

Saturday, March 29, 8:00 pm
Stunning five-octave voice brings classic favorites alive!

Max & Ruby

Saturday, April 5, 1:00 & 3:00 pm
Nickelodeon characters come to life in a musical stage production.

Craig Ferguson

Saturday, April 12, 8:00 pm
"Late Late Show" host delivers his outrageous brand of cutting-edge stand-up comedy.

Thodos Dance Chicago

Saturday, April 26, 8:00 pm
Chicago's own spectacular ensemble celebrates 15 years of vibrant choreography.

Joffrey Ballet

Saturday, May 3, 8:00 pm
Original, socially-relevant performance by a one-of-a-kind American company.

The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra

Saturday, May 17, 8:00 pm
Big band is back with legendary Buddy Morrow conducting!

Capitol Steps

Thursday, January 17, 7:30 pm
Friday, January 18, 8:00 pm
Saturday, January 19, 5:00 & 8:00 pm
Sunday, January 20, 3:00 pm
Masters of laugh-out-loud political satire.

Neil Sedaka

Thursday, February 14, 7:30 pm
Grammy-winning legend serenades sweethearts with his timeless hits.

The Smothers Brothers

Saturday, March 8, 8:00 pm
Masters of comedic timing and superlative showmanship.

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From page B16

1-3 p.m.: Dance Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero for all ages. **Feb. 19**, 4-5 p.m.: Dance Dance Revolution for all ages. **Starbucks Book Discussion** — Meet at Starbucks on Northwest Highway in Park Ridge. **Jan. 24**, 5 p.m.: *This Lullaby* by Sarah Dessen. **Feb. 21**, 5 p.m.: *How to Be Popular* by Meg Cabot.

Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100. **Jan. 25-27**: Arthur LIVE! featuring Arthur the Aardvark and his friends. Tickets: \$15-\$35.

comedy

Apollo Studio Theater, 2540 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. (773) 935-6100. www.apollochicago.com. **Fridays** at 10:30 p.m.: The Blu Mic: Stand-Up Comedy Performances. Niles resident Nick Lullo hosts a diverse lineup of comedians in an intimate theater setting. \$10, no drink minimum. Ages 17-plus. See www.NickLullo.com for talent schedule.

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.centreast.org. **Jan. 17**, 7:30 p.m. & **Jan. 18**, 8 p.m.; **Jan. 19**, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and **Jan. 20**, 3 p.m.: The Capitol Steps, \$45. **Feb. 23**, 8 p.m.: Hal Sparks, \$45. **March 8**, 8 p.m.: The Smothers Brothers, \$75. **April 12**, 8 p.m.: Craig Ferguson, \$60.

Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100. **Feb. 15**, 7:30 p.m.: Chris Rock. \$75.50, \$55.50, \$45.50.

dance

GROUPS & LESSONS

Chicago Dance Club, (847) 622-4466. Dance to DJ music from the '50s to today from 7:30-11:30 p.m. Saturdays at Knights of Columbus Hall, 15 N. Hickory St., Arlington Heights. Mostly swing dancing, some ballroom, Latin and line dancing. Open to ages 21 and older. \$6 members; \$9 nonmembers. Upcoming dates: **Jan. 12 and 26**.

Chicago's Windy City Jitterbug Club holds dances to the music of the '50s, '60s and more, from 8 p.m.-midnight at the American Legion Hall, 9757 W. Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, unless otherwise noted. Admission to club dances is \$5 for members; \$8 for nonmembers. Proper attire required; no blue jeans or shorts allowed. Must be 21 or older. Call (630) 616-2100 or visit www.jitterbugchicago.com. **Jan 5**: DJ Norm Oden. **Jan 19**: DJ Bill Matthews.

The Flying Squares Square Dance Club dances the first, third and fifth Saturdays of the month, **September-mid-May**, at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights. Round dancing at 7:30 p.m. and square dancing at 8 p.m. Guest callers. The group dances Plus level. New dancers welcome. Call (847) 934-1469

Northeastern Illinois University Fine Arts Center, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago.

Jan. 12-June 13: Saturday dance classes for children, teens and adults. Classes for children include creative movement, pre-ballet, ballet I, ballet II, and jazz dance. Classes for teens and adults include ballet I, ballet II, ballet III, pointe, and intermediate/advanced musical theater dance. Tuition is \$189 for the 21-week session (\$252 for musical theater dance) and discounts are available for students enrolled in multiple classes. Registration accepted through **Jan. 26**. Contact Rachel Burton at (773) 442-5941 or r-burton@neu.edu.

Square Spares & Pairs, a nonprofit square dance club, dances the **second and fourth Mondays** of the month all year long at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Rounds start at 7:30 p.m., with squares from 8-10 p.m. Admission: \$5 for members; \$6 for visitors. Square dance lessons are held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Glen Park Center, Room 201, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview. First lesson is free. For information on lessons, call (847) 663-0116 or (847) 398-8087.

Square Wheels Square Dance Club dances the fourth Saturday of each month, **through May 24**, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 304 W. Palatine Road, Prospect Heights. Round dancing begins at 7:30 p.m. with Howard and Anna Hoffman, and square dancing starts at 8 p.m. with guest callers. Refreshments served. Banner available through April 26. Admission: \$5. (847) 392-5512 or (847) 253-3206. **Jan. 26**: Wally Smulson.

film

Brickton Art Center, 147 Vine Ave., Park Ridge, offers Movie Talk from 10 a.m.-noon on the **first Sunday** of each month. Participants view an assigned movie outside of class and then meet to discuss it. Call (847) 823-6611.

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgeilibrary.org. **Feature films** — **Jan. 8**, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.: "The Namesake," rated PG-13. **Feb. 12**, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.: "The Nanny Diaries," rated PG-13. **Feb. 21**, 7 p.m.: "Waitress," rated PG-13. **Foreign Film Fest** — **Jan. 3**, 7 p.m.: "The Valet," rated PG-13. (French). **Jan. 10**, 7 p.m.: "Black Book," rated R. (Dutch). **Jan. 17**, 7 p.m.: "Italian for Beginners," rated R. (Danish). **Jan. 24**, 7 p.m.: "Zelary," rated R. (Czech). **Jan. 31**, 7 p.m.: "Nowhere in Africa," rated R. (German). **Travel films**, at 2 p.m. Thursdays — **Jan. 10**: Alabama. **Jan. 17**: Travel the World by Train: Africa.

"Spirit of the Marathon." 7:30 p.m. **Jan. 24** at the Niles Showplace, 301 Golf Mill Center, Niles. The documentary follows six runners as they prepare for and participate in the Chicago Marathon. Tickets are \$12.50 and available at the theatre box office and online at www.FathomEvents.com.

organizations

Des Plaines Art Guild meets at 7 p.m. on the **second Tuesday** of the month in Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 Thacker St., Des Plaines. There is a \$3 fee for nonmembers. For information, call Margaret Newman, (847) 824-8952, or visit www.dpag.org.

lectures

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. **"Intersections: Present, Past and Future in Irish Culture,"** a free lecture series sponsored by the Irish American Heritage Center and the DePaul University's Irish Studies Program, held at 2 p.m. the first Sunday of each month unless noted otherwise. **Jan. 6**, 3 p.m.: "The Christian Religion: The Troubles (1968-1998) and the Good Friday Agreement," with speakers Jack Leahy, professor emeritus, DePaul University, and

Joe McCartin of the European Peoples Party. **Feb. 2**: "Roddy Doyle's Fiction: Yesterday's Triumphs, Today's Challenges," focusing on Irish writer Roddy Doyle.

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgeilibrary.org. **Jan. 15**, 2 p.m.: "Footloose in Wales," presented by veteran hiker John Lynn. **Feb. 19**, 2 p.m.: "Main Street Illinois," presented by John Lynn. **Feb. 26**, 7 p.m.: "Historic Route 66," presented by David Clark.

workshops & classes

ART

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. **Jan. 8-March 11**, 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays: Art classes based on the Irish Book of Kells. The course, led by artist Frank Crowley, covers the manuscript's history and the methods of its decoration. Students will learn techniques for knot work, interlacing, spirals and color theory. The class is suited for both teens and adults and both beginning artists and intermediate artists. \$125.

THEATER

Northlight Theatre Academy, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 679-9501. www.northlight.org. Registration for winter classes is in progress. Classes will be held **Jan. 12-March 7** and include "Acting: From the Basics to Beyond," for grades 3-6 and grades 7-12, \$150; "improv," for grades 3-6 and grades 7-12, \$150; and "Music Theatre Technique," for grades 6-12, \$200.

MISCELLANEOUS

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. **Jan. 5-March 8**: Irish School at the Children's Center for Cultural Studies. Children from ages 6-16 can participate in lessons on Irish heritage, culture, customs, language, art and music, through drama, storytelling, crafts and games. Classes include Irish Language for children ages 6-11 and 12-16, the Teen Theatre Workshop for ages 12-16, and Celtic Mythology and Art for ages 6-11. Classes are held from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays. Fees are \$45 per class for IAHC members; \$60 for nonmembers. Discounts for families apply. To register, call (773) 282-7035, ext. 10.

et cetera

Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601. **Jan. 23-27**: "Disney's High School Musical: The Ice Tour." Performances are at 7 p.m. **Jan. 23-24**; 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. **Jan. 25**; 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. **Jan. 26**; and 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. **Jan. 27**. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$27. \$60 VIP and \$75 front row tickets are also available for each performance.

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.centreast.org. **Feb. 2**: 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.: Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats, \$27.

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. **Jan. 18-20**: ChicagoLand Outdoors Show, featuring products from fishing manufacturers, boats, fishing seminars and activities, and representatives from American and Canadian fishing and hunting lodges, camps, charters and outfitters. Show hours are 2-8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 2-9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission: \$9; \$8 for seniors; free for kids under 16 on weekdays, \$5 on weekends. www.chicagolandoutdoorsshow.com.

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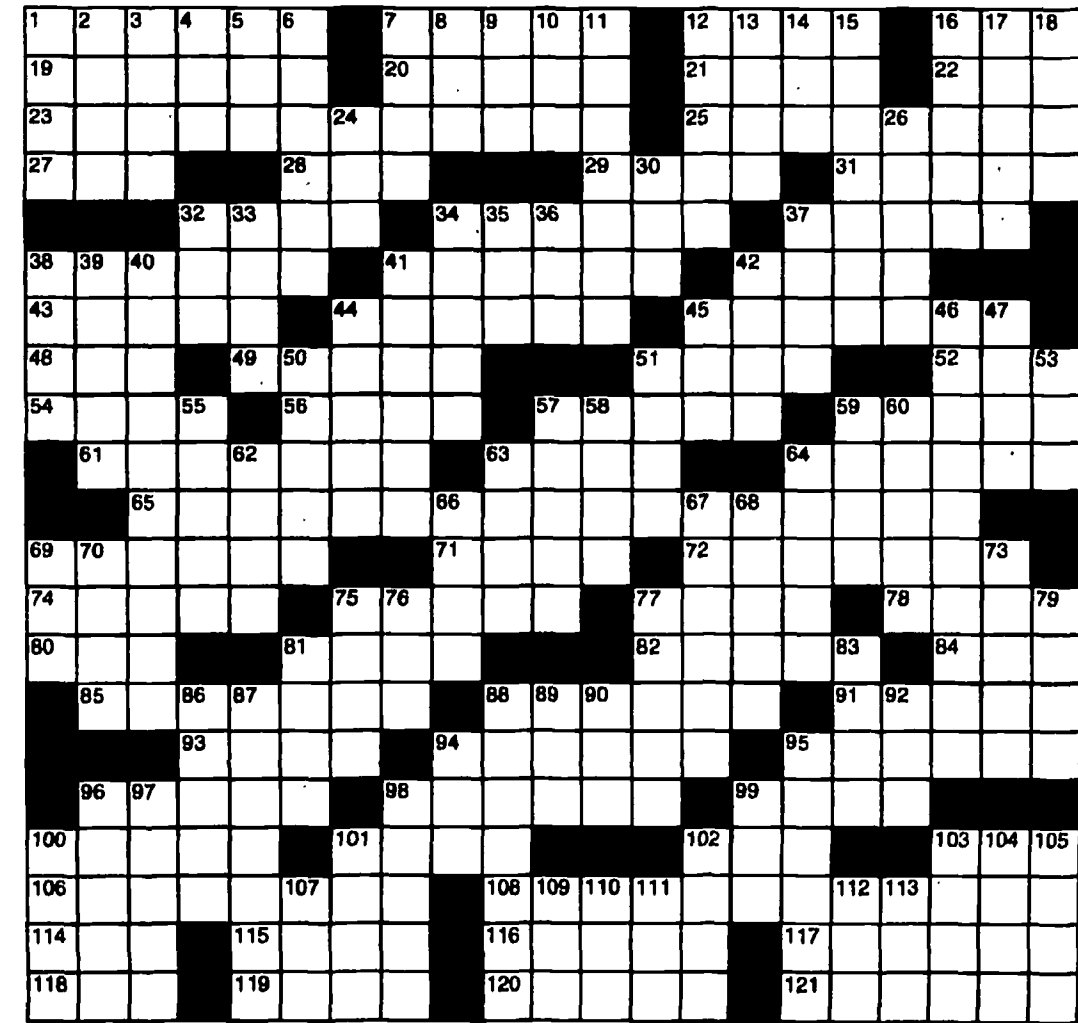
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ACROSS

- 1 Surrounded by
- 7 Nimoy role
- 12 Clout a cad
- 16 — Vicente, Brazil
- 19 Stew
- 20 — firma
- 21 Top-of-the-line
- 22 Prom wear
- 23 Start of a remark by
- 25 Reserve
- 27 Rep.
- 28 Savor the squid
- 29 Pin part
- 31 Powell or Quinn
- 32 Orwell's "Animal —"
- 34 Chastised, with "out"
- 37 Nick of "I Love Trouble"
- 38 Archaic affliction
- 41 Cotton cloth
- 42 — tape
- 43 Cognizant
- 44 Spoil
- 45 Part 2 of remark
- 48 Deface
- 49 Bunch of bees
- 51 Bulldog feature
- 52 Shady
- 54 English statesman
- 56 A deadly sin
- 57 Masters' "— River Anthology"
- 59 Cary of "Hot Shots"
- 61 Diva Renata
- 63 Trigger
- 64 Game-show giveaways
- 65 Part 3 of remark
- 69 With 6 Down, John Cleese sitcom
- 71 Grapefruit serving
- 72 Tableland
- 74 Tex-Mex favorite
- 75 Sturdy fabric
- 77 Goes (for)
- 78 556, to Flavius
- 80 TV's "Top —"
- 81 Trunk, in Tewkesbury
- 82 "She — Yellow Ribbon" ('49 film)
- 84 Holidayless mo.
- 85 End of remark
- 88 Brewer or Wright
- 91 — Park, NJ
- 93 Birthday buy
- 94 Danson's
- 95 Greek poet
- 96 Emerson's middle name
- 98 Word in a Hawthorne title
- 99 Sell
- 100 Rock's — Trick
- 101 A swan was her swain
- 102 "The Gold Bug" author
- 103 "— been ages!"
- 106 Notable
- 108 Speaker of remark
- 114 Plastic — Band
- 115 Sausage segment
- 116 Proofreader's mark
- 117 "Bewitched" role
- 118 Energy
- 119 Signor Ferrari
- 120 Pound the podium
- 121 Sheana of song
- DOWN
- 1 Copied
- 2 Budge
- 3 List entry
- 4 — es
- 5 Salaam
- 5 Pig's digs
- 6 See
- 69 Across
- 7 Dele dele
- 8 — diem
- 9 Galena, e.g.
- 10 Dernier —
- 11 Disputed territory
- 12 Bar food?
- 13 Burden
- 14 "— Day Now" ('62 hit)
- 15 NBC logo
- 16 Circus trop
- 17 Heroic
- 18 The yoke's on them
- 24 Overdramatic thespian
- 26 Maestro
- 30 Velvet finish?
- 32 In place of
- 33 Olympic hawk
- 34 Card game
- 35 Kreskin's letters
- 36 Stout relative
- 37 Worthless
- 38 Temptress
- 39 Watch for
- 40 Gave up
- 41 Pugilist
- 42 Hagler
- 42 Time to crow?
- 44 Black and white delight
- 45 Wine and dine
- 46 Hillary's
- 47 Mirth
- 50 Author Eudora
- 51 Victor of "Papillon"
- 53 Mag. submissions
- 55 Govt. security
- 57 Slosh the schnapps
- 58 Dragon of song
- 59 Part of Q.E.D.
- 60 Resided
- 62 —
- 63 Spumante
- 63 Circus barker
- 64 Part of a process
- 66 Voucher
- 67 Block
- 68 Marine leader?
- 69 TV watchdog
- 70 At the drop of —
- 73 Soft-palate extension
- 75 "Come Softly —" ('59 song)
- 76 Distress
- 77 Buck or Jesse
- 79 Violinist
- 81 South African activist
- 83 Exiled
- 86 Renown
- 87 Frog-to-be
- 88 Hot stuff
- 89 Building wing
- 90 Caviar
- 92 Gridiron position
- 94 Beyond balmy
- 95 Comic Herman
- 96 Complain
- 97 Famed fabulist
- 98 Little lizard
- 99 Harry — Zell
- 100 Karate blow
- 101 City on the Danube
- 102 Rose or Rozelle
- 103 "— You Babe" ('65 song)
- 104 Archaic preposition
- 105 Cartoonist Lee
- 107 — Tin Tin
- 109 Benzene source
- 110 Significant years
- 111 Donkey doc
- 112 Cell stuff
- 113 Drivers' lics., e.g.



HOROSCOPE

Predictions for Jan. 7-13

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) — Shutting people out to avoid distractions, even under a deadline, can cause hurt feelings. Instead, return calls and e-mails and explain why you need a zone of privacy for now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) — Although your keen Bull's eyes can usually discern what's fact from what's faux, that upcoming decision will need really solid data before you can risk a commitment.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) — As your confidence grows, you should be able to work toward your goals with more enthusiasm. Open your mind to suggestions. Some of them might even work for you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) — Reconnecting with someone from your past stirs up that old sense of adventure. But before you do anything else, be sure to get answers to those still-lingering questions.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) — Some people might resent the way you plan to resolve a difficult situation. But your commitment to making tough but fair decisions soon wins you their respect and support.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) — Mixed signals could be causing that vexing workplace problem. Before you choose to leave the project, ask for a meeting where you can get things out in the open.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) — Your good intentions could backfire if you're not careful with other people's feelings. Try using persuasion, not pressure, to get others to see your side of the situation.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) — Your dedication to finishing the task at hand is laudable. But be careful not to overdo the midnight oil bit. Take time for relaxation with someone very special.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) — Although your intuition will help you make some tough choices in the first half of the month, you'll need more facts to back up your actions later on.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) — All that hard work and research in the workplace finally pays off as you hoped it would. Ignore comments from jealous types who are out to get the Goat riled up.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) — An unfair decision creates unnecessary problems. But avoid anger and move carefully as you work this out. Expect to get support from an unlikely source.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) — A fuzzy financial vista persists until midmonth, when things begin to clear up. You'll also gain a better perspective on how to handle those pesky personal problems.

IF YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK: You have a wonderful way of being there for those who need your help in difficult times.

CLASSIFIED

Call: (847) 998-3400

E-Mail: classified@pioneerlocal.com

Fax: (847) 486-7456

Pioneer Classifieds also appear on our web site at www.pioneerlocal.com

Featuring specialized service for private party, help wanted and commercial real estate tailored to your advertising needs

For Sale.

Make A Wise Decision

For Rent.

For Life.

New!

SEARCHCHICAGO.COM/HOMES

TOOLS TO SELL YOUR HOME • COMMUNITY INFORMATION • MORTGAGE INFO • CALCULATORS AND RECENT SALES DATA
BUILDER NEWS • MARKET UPDATES • SALES AND TOURS • COMMUNITY OVERVIEWS • CENSUS DATA • SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

Before you rent or buy, be sure to try

SEARCHCHICAGO.com homes

Seekers Unite.

Announcements
100s

The Meeting Place
Call toll free:
888-228-9060
to advertise.

Business Directory
200s

Home Services
300s

Employment
400s

Rentals
500s

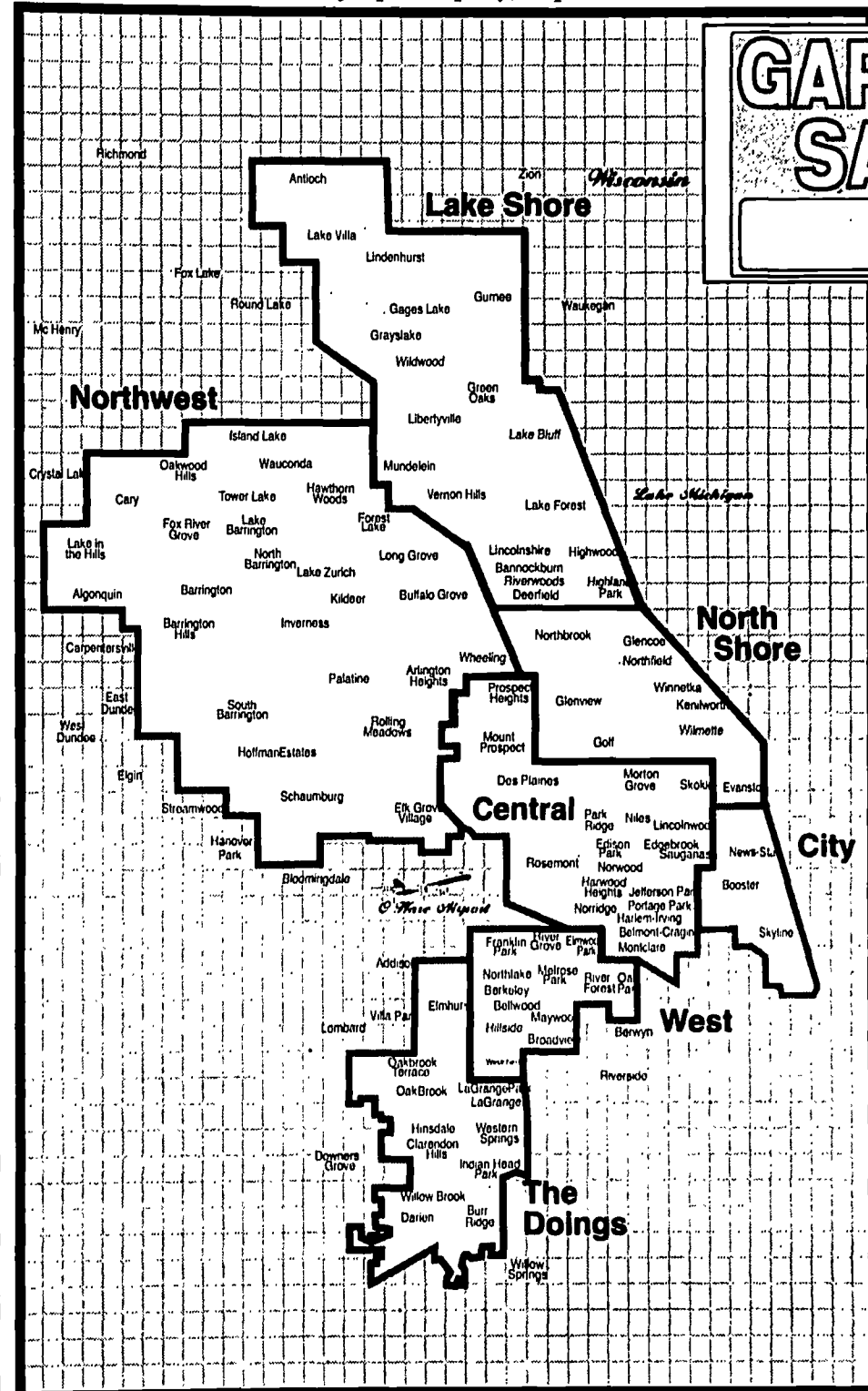
Real Estate For Sale
600s

Marketplace
700s

Sporting Mart
800s

Automobiles For Sale
900s, and ...
AutoMotive
Inserted in your Pioneer Press newspaper

Legal Notices
1000s



GARAGE SALE

Free Garage Sale Kit with purchase of 5-line garage sale ad.

Consult your rep for details.

Help Wanted Hotline
(847) 998-3404

Realtors
to place your classified ads, please call

Diane: (847) 486-7252
Stephanie: (847) 486-7254

PIONEER PRESS

Private Party Self-Service Classifieds
24-7

Go to pioneerlocal.com, click the Classified link, and follow a few simple steps for placing your classified ad!

www.pioneerlocal.com

Ad Placement
- Main classified phone number, 847-998-3400;
- Fax 847-486-7456;
- E-mail classified@pioneerlocal.com;
- In person at 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview
- Online at www.pioneerlocal.com.

Call-in hours
Mon. and Tues. 8am to 5pm and Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30am-5pm. Walk-in hours in our Glenview office are: Mon-Fri. 8:30am-4pm

Artwork
E-mail your electronic logos or photo to classified@pioneerlocal.com. Please provide detail of photo (i.e., suburb/address of property, make/year/model of vehicle, etc. along with your name and your sales rep's name.

Payment
For pre-payment of ads, we accept American Express, Diners Club, Discover, MasterCard and VISA.

Checks may be mailed to our Glenview office, 3701 W. Lake Ave. Please supply your ad number or account number on your check.

Payments are accepted in-person at our Glenview office, 3701 W. Lake Ave. Additionally, only exact payments are accepted (change is not available) at the following offices: 291 N. Dunton St., Arlington Heights, 440 E. Ogden Ave., Hinsdale; and 1140 Lake St., Oak Park.

Deadlines

Private Party Ads:
City Zone - 11:30pm Tuesday;
West and Doings - 3pm Tuesday;
All Other Zones - 4:30pm Tuesday;

Commercial Ads:
Commercial deadlines may vary. Call (847) 998-3400 and ask for the Commercial Classified Dept. for other deadlines;

Legal Ads:
Noon Tuesday; Classified Display Ads: 5 p.m. Monday; Logos or Artwork: 5 p.m. Monday.

Terms
Please Check Your Ad: The publisher will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Pioneer Press Classified must be notified before the second insertion. The newspaper reserves the right to edit or reject any advertisement.

Cancellations: No classified ad can be canceled after deadline. Display ads and ads containing artwork may incur a charge if canceled prior to first insertion.

Abbreviations: Pioneer Classified uses uniform, standard abbreviations, which are published periodically so readers will understand advertising messages. A list of acceptable abbreviations is available upon request.



Collector's Corner

BUYING
Rolex, Cartier, Patek, Philippe & Other Fine Watches
Antique, Gold & Gold-Filled Pocket Watches

TOP PRICES PAID!
JEWELRY • DIAMONDS
ANTIQUE JEWELRY
• Old Guitars
• Estates Collectibles
• Old Gold • Sterling

CHICAGO GOLD GALLERY
We'll Beat Any Offer • Free Appraisals
773-338-7787
1238 W. Devon
Entrepreneur & Location Since 1980

ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLES MARKETS
SUNDAY - JANUARY 19th (8-3) 95
EARLY BUYING 10:00am - 12:00pm / 1:30pm
LAKS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
GRAYHAWK, IL • RT. 120 & 45

SUNDAY - JANUARY 27th (8-3) 55
10:00am - 12:00pm / 1:30pm
OLDFAGE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
WILMINGTON, IL • 715-526-3769
www.w.zurkopromotion.com

LuLu's
at the Belle Kay

Extraordinary Vintage Couture Clothing And Accoutrement

3862 N Lincoln Avenue
773.404.LuLu (5858)
www.lulusbellekay.com

Open Tuesday through Sunday
Monday by Appointment

*Citrine Rhinestone Demi Parure
circa 1960 \$425.00*

Buying High-end Vintage Costume Jewelry

PREFERRONE

Collectible Dolls and Toys from the 60's thru 2007

Barbies • GI Joes • Lunch Boxes • Kiss Hot Wheels • Original Star Wars Simpsons • TV & Movie Personalities
Super Heroes • Star Trek • Mego Batman • Superman • Transformers Planet of the Apes • Wizard of Oz Monsters • Wrestlers • Books • He-Man • Thundercats • Bears
LPs • Old Games • Three Stoges

Largest variety of collectible toys in Chicagoland area.

7701 W. Belmont • Elmwood Park
(708) 452-7048
F/T 10-8, Sat 10-5

Is Your Silver Tarnished and Collecting Dust?

Flatware • Tea Sets • Trays
• Bowls • Candlesticks
Jewelry
Other Sterling Silver

We buy sterling silver with careful evaluation for maximal payment

Contact: Zach Douglas
847-251-3225
KENILWORTH



Season's Greetings

A special thanks to all advertisers for their greetings.

Nelson Funeral Homes
Family Owned & Operated since 1929

New Christmas & Happy New Year

Park Ridge
847.823.5122
820 Talcott Rd. at Cumberland

Chicago
773.561.5147
5149 N. Ashland Ave. at Foster

Warmest Holiday Wishes

SUPERIOR CHIMNEY SERVICES, CORP.
877-CHIM-FIX (244-6349)
http://www.superiorchimney.net

Full Service Maintenance & Restoration Experts

HAPPY * holidays!

Apartment People REALTY

RENTALS & SALES
619 Grove, Evanston | 847.733.8800
www.apartmentpeople.com

FESTIVE TIDINGS!

from your friends at
UNIQUE CARPETS
100 S. Northwest Hwy., Palatine
847-991-9494

Season's Greetings & Many Thanks

From All Your Friends at
PIONEER PRESS
YOUR LOCAL SOURCE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
OAK PARK APARTMENTS.COM
(708)386-RENT

A-1 JEWELRY & COIN

Top Dollar Paid

Jewelry
Diamonds
Watches
Coins
Flatware

GOLD
SILVER
PLATINUM

FREE APPRAISALS
773-868-0300
1827 W. Irving Park Rd.

Quality Antiques and Estates Wanted!

Why not sell some of your antiques, jewelry or collectibles?
FOR UPCOMING AUCTIONS...

- Antq. Furniture, Oriental Rugs, Paintings, Pottery, Figurines, Lighting, Bronzes & Jewelry
- Antique & Collectible Auctions Every 2 Weeks!
- Quality Consignments Accepted. One Piece or Entire Estate!
- We buy Antiques & Estates!

Visit our Website for Photos & Results, Upcoming Auction Dates, & Current Listing

Direct Auction Galleries
7232 N. Western Ave., Chgo., IL
(773) 465-3300
www.directauction.com

An Eye For Art

Tanya F. Cooper
Decorative Artist
www.tanyacooper.com
tfcart@yahoo.com
847 573 8435

Custom painted: murals, windows, tiles, furniture, glassware

Ask about art-themed parties for children and adults.

Collector's Corner

100's of OLD Stained Glass Windows

Funderburg Antiques

815-547-8186
www.FunAntiques.com
4650 Newburg Rd.
Belvidere, IL

Looking for interesting accessories?

Like Antiques, Collectibles or Fancy Junque...
Visit the local flea markets & antique stores featured in Pioneer Press' Collector's Corner.

"Where someone's trash is your treasure."

Publishing the first week of each month.

For Advertising Information:
Akasha Terrier (847)486-7251
Aja Terrier (847)486-7239

ELECTRIC

Specializing in Home Rewiring & Service Upgrades
Room Additions & Basements, Too!
Neat, Clean Work • Licensed • Bonded • Insured • 29 Years In Business
Call 708-409-0988 or Cell 708-738-3840

Wishing Everyone A Bright & Happy Holiday Season!

A&A

ELECTRIC

CARRIAGE TRADE ANTIQUES

Wishes you a "Good Old Fashioned Holiday"

LONG GROVE
(By Covered Bridge)
634-3160

From All Your Friends at
PIONEER PRESS
YOUR LOCAL SOURCE

Happy Holidays

Red's Hauling Services
773-616-0979

Will remove unwanted items from basements, garages, attics, storage & businesses as well as buy antiques & estates.

Fully Insured
Free estimates & senior discounts.
Same day service available!

Season's Greetings & Happy New Year

From:
Efim Presman Construction Co. Inc.
Lincolnshire, IL

NEW CONSTRUCTION • ADDITIONS • REMODELING
PHONE: (847) 561-4899

Season's Greetings

A special thanks to all advertisers for their greetings.

Best Wishes
for the **Holidays**
to all our friends and neighbors.

Alderman Richard F. Mell
33rd Ward District Office
3649 N. Kedzie Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60618
(773) 478-8040, fax (773) 478-8006

Please visit our website or email the Alderman.
www.33rdward.com
rmell@cityofchicago.org

PARLIAMENT ENTERPRISES, INC.
FINE VINTAGE RENTALS

Sends Our Holiday Thoughts To You:

Health • Wealth • Happiness
Family Fun • Terrific Presents
Sharing • Great Meals
And All Good Things
In the New Year!

312-822-1037

Warmest Holiday Wishes To All!

SHAWNEE SERVICE CENTER
332 Linden Wilmette
(At the "L" Station)
847-251-1234

Parkway's Family Wishes You A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PARKWAY DRUGS
333 Ridge Rd., Wilmette
(847) 256-1000

Happy Holidays
from Your Friends at

BANK OF LINCOLNWOOD
4433 W. Touhy Avenue
Lincolnwood, IL 60712
847-675-2800

Happy Holidays
from all of us at

WILMETTE AUTO BODY
1920 Lake Ave.
(847) 251-1535

St. Philip Lutheran Church
1608 Pfingsten Road (Lake & Pfingsten)
Glenview, Illinois
(847) 998-1948
www.stphilip.info

Christmas Eve—Monday, December 24
5:00 pm—Candlelight Worship with Brass Ensemble
9:00 pm—Candlelight Worship with Harp Music

Holy Communion at both services.

Sunday, December 30
8:30 am—Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am—Alternative Worship Service with Live Rock Band

Happy Holidays!

Alderman Patrick J. O'Connor
40th Ward
5850 N. Lincoln
773-769-1140
www.aldermanoconnor.com

Retire Your Snow Blowers, Long Johns and Heating Bills This Winter!

Kay Reed
Arizona Realtor
602-578-9642
www.KayReed.com

Season's Greetings

Announcements

100s

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- Adoption Services.....111
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- Single Scene.....113

107-Lost & Found

2 yr Old Male Yellow Lab. May have tags and a green collar. Very friendly. Answers to "Cincor" lost on Sunday December 1st. (773) 631-8974

THIS WEEK'S FOUND ANIMALS: Young male beagle on orange collar named Tim for sale. 2 1/2 week old grey chormers & 1 grey tabby, the handsome Mexi! For further info contact Melissa Park Animal Hospital 788-257488

108-Personals

Glory be to the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Thanks to: Mary & Joseph St. Jude The Entire Heavenly Body For: -Everyday -Help-see & usson -Joys of the heart -Comfort-Being there (hero) Offered by one who "KNOWS" JUST BELIEVE IT'S MAGIC! Then say thanks

Thanks to you Saint Jude for your intercession and resulting help with the impossible! O.A.M.

110-Adoptions Wanted

Adopt • Adopting Ood. lov- ing PT man. sking in winter. beaches in summer owoils baby. Expenses paid. 1-888-705-5055 Judy & Huck

Business Services

200s

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Answers to Super Crossword

AMIDST SPOCK SLAP SAO
POTATO TERRA AONE TUX
EVERYWHERE IS LAYASIDE
DEM EAT HEAD COLIN
VAPORS MUSLIN DUCT
AWARE PAMPER WALKING
MAR SWARM JOWL ELM
PITT ENVY SPOON ELWES
TEBALDI SPUR PRIZES
DISTANCEIFYOUHAVE
FAWLTY HALF PLATEAU
CHILITWILL OPTS DLVI
CAT BOOT WOREA AUG
THETIMETERESAMENLO
CAKE MALONE PINDAR
WALDO GABLES VENDOR
CHEAP LEDA POE ITS
HISTORIC STEVENWRIGHT
ONOLINK CARETENDORA
PEPENZO ORATE EASTON

Moving (Licensed) Storage - 248 -

Illinois law requires movers to be licensed by the Illinois Commerce Commission. The ICC number and respective business license must appear in the advertisement in this column. Licensed movers must have insurance on file. For more information, contact the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Doings and Pioneer Press Newspapers

Buying or Selling, Pioneer Classified is the place for you!

Computers, Electronic Services - 220 -

PAK Computer Services
Serving All Your Computer Needs. (847)566-4020

Financial Services - 230 -

Earn 4% per month payable monthly to your Visa, MasterCard & Discover Card. Call: 1-888-789-3372 or email oskcp@cashplusintl.com or visit www.CashPlusIntl.com for more details

Musical Instruction - 250 -

1 FREE ORG. LESSON. Why invest in your home \$300 lesson. 30 yrs exp. Snare & Drum Set. Plus what YOU want. Chad 847.376.2927

Suburban Network ads - 295 -

500 Police Impounds, Cars from \$500. Tax, Regs, US Marshal and IRS sales. Cars, Trucks, SUV's, Toyotas, Hondas, Chevys and more! For Listings: 1-800-298-1768 x1010

Suburban Network ads - 295 -

The Suburban Classified Advertiser Network (SCAN) provides Pioneer Press with advertising of a national op- portunity. To advertise in this category, please call SCAN di- rectly at (888) 482-2444. Pioneer Press recommends dis- cretion when responding. Please refer questions/ comments directly to SCAN.

The Doings and Pioneer Press Newspapers

Buying or Selling, Pioneer Classified is the place for you!

Suburban Network ads - 295 -

ALL CASH VENDING! Incredible Income Opportu- nity! Candy, Gumballs, Snacks, Soda...Minimum \$4K-8K Investment Re- quired. Excellent Quality Machines. We Can Save You \$\$\$\$. Toll free 800-922-9189

Stop Being Poor. Generate \$500 plus daily. 20,000 free leads to start. No cold calling ever. Automated System. Not a job. No SELLING ever. www.myhomeATM.com

Suburban Network ads - 295 -

Home Services

300s

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Suburban Network ads - 295 -

Our Automotive Section has the Car you are looking for.

Buying or Selling, Pioneer Classified is the place for you!

(847) 998-3400

Air Conditioning, Heating - 304 -

Heating & Cooling Service
All Makes & Brands
We Install Carrier & Trane
Thermo Heating 847-922-3430

Appliance Service, Repair - 306 -

APPLE APPLIANCE & REFRIGERATOR REPAIR
773-777-2522 • 708-456-1008

Basements - 307 -

BASEMENT MEN BY THE CREATIVE APPROACH
Basements & Genl Remodeling
We handle the complete job.
Foil Discounts. 847-831-3131

JNH Construction Complete Remodeling Basements & Bathrooms Free Consultation Bonded/Licensed/Ret/Ins. 847-472-1999

Builders, Contractors - 310 -

1-847-679-7860 NEIHAUS CONSTRUCTION CO. General Contractors - 24 Yrs

Carpentry, Cabinet Work - 312 -

All Types Of Remodeling Fin Carpentry, Kit. Bath, Bsm & Rm add, Rescuable Coles, Ins, Mold & 847-646-2222

Season's Greetings

A special thanks to all advertisers for their greetings.

Kathy's Facial and Nail Salon

Because the goodwill of those we serve is the foundation of our success. It is a real pleasure at this holiday time to say THANK YOU as we wish you a full year of happiness and success.

Kathy, Lena, Vera, & Joan

Kathy's Facial and Nail Salon
(847) 729-8820
1805 D. Glenview Rd. Glenview

Seasons Greetings & Happy Holidays
from **SCHERMERHORN & COMPANY**
2737 Central Street
Evanston
(847) 869-4200

Merry Christmas To All and Happy New Year!

J & J ROOFING & CONSTR., INC.

847-776-7966
708-458-7988

We hope this holiday season brings laughter, happiness, and joy into your home!

WILFRED JACOBSON & CO
FINE APARTMENT RENTALS IN OAK PARK.
847-674-5703

Season's Greetings & Many Thanks

Elite Construction Services
We take Pride in designing and building your dreams
380 E NW Highway
Ste 320-B,
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-803-3114
847-420-0978
elite.construction@att.net

From All Your Friends at
PIONEER PRESS
YOUR LOCAL SOURCE

Legal Notices



Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Amount. Includes 1000s, 1008-Assumed Name, 1060-Plan Commission & Zoning Hearings, 1066-Public Notices, 1068-Public Notices.

1008-Assumed Name

ASSUMED NAME
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to an Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of Business in the State...

1060-Plan Commission & Zoning Hearings

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below under the provisions of the Illinois Self Storage Act...

1066-Public Notices

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARINGS
The Village of Skokie has scheduled a series of meetings to solicit public input on the Skokie 2008-2009 Community Development Block Grant...

1068-Public Notices

THE PROPERTY OTHER-WISE KNOWN AS:
463 South Summit Avenue
All persons interested in the above described motor or vehicle are invited to attend and will be heard.

1066-Public Notices

Public Hearing
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on Thursday, January 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at the Park Ridge City Hall...

1066-Public Notices

Public Hearing
Application for a variance to allow the (1) installation of signs which contain more than three (3) items of information on a single sign face...

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THE PROPERTY OTHER-WISE KNOWN AS:
463 South Summit Avenue
All persons interested in the above described motor or vehicle are invited to attend and will be heard.

1066-Public Notices

Public Hearing
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on Thursday, January 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at the Park Ridge City Hall...

1066-Public Notices

Public Hearing
Application for a variance to allow the (1) installation of signs which contain more than three (3) items of information on a single sign face...

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARINGS
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FOOD

Managing Editor: Sheryl DeVore | devore@pioneerlocal.com (847) 486-7359



COMING ATTRACTION:

A new cookbook celebrates 25 years of local food history with recipes and menus from top suburban and Chicago chefs.

Get FRESH Indoor herb gardens mean flavor year-round

By DAVID JAKUBIAK, Contributor

It was a few days before Thanksgiving, and Michael Robin Maddox, executive chef and owner of Le Titi di Paris dipped into the herb garden at his Arlington Heights restaurant to snip a last few bunches of parsley. "The sage and the thyme are a little more hardy," he noted, acknowledging the soon-to-arrive cold that would, just few days later, bring an end to the growing season that had provided Maddox and his diners an ample supply of the freshest tastes possible throughout the warm months.



Michael and Susan Maddox stand in the small garden where they grow fresh spices and herbs used at their restaurant, Le Titi di Paris in Arlington Heights. — Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer



Michael Maddox, executive chef at Le Titi di Paris, cuts some fresh herbs from his garden before the last big freeze. — Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer

Of course these days fresh herbs are never far off, even when ice and snow dominate the landscape. At Café Lucci in Glenview, chef and owner Augie Arifi uses them year-round. "They're greenhouse grown," he said, adding that any well-stocked produce section also carries packages of fresh herbs ranging from basil and chives to rosemary and dill in one- or two-ounce packages. "That can be a lot of fresh herb," said Arifi. Though store bought herbs will keep for a week or so wrapped in a damp paper towel in the fridge, but many a cook has witnessed the sad fate of unused packaged herbs wasting away in the fridge. Besides, Arifi said, nothing matches fresh-picked herbs. "If you can get it right off the plant that's primo." See HERBS, next page

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HERBS

Continued from previous page

of sunlight in my kitchen and I can grow herbs. You may not get the big, huge, lush bucketfuls, but you can grow herbs."

The most critical aspects of successful indoor herb growing, she said, are things that people can control — like how to start a plant, how much water to use, and potting soil.

It's best to start small: with seeds. "I know people don't like to start from seed, but it really is easy and it's fun," Pagadala said.

Anything that holds soil can be a seed nursery. "When I do this with schools we use old yogurt cartons or cottage cheese containers or even plastic egg cartons," she said.

Cover-up

Start by planting your seeds in potting soil pre-moistened with water. This moisture helps hold the seed in place. Then cover your herb-to-be with a clear plastic bag to help contain the moisture. When the plant emerges, Pagadala warned, it's crucial that the plastic bag be removed. "As soon as you see any green, get rid of it so you don't get mold," she said.

Next, let your plant grow to a couple inches and then



Michael Maddox appreciates the special quality that the fresh herbs give to his dishes. — Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer

transplant the herb to its larger pot. "Any pot with a hole in the bottom will work," said Pagadala.

At this stage the herb must have at least three inches of soil for its roots and it must have the right com-

position. "Use any commercial potting soil, but mix in a little sand to loosen it up," she said.

The sand will help move water through the soil and keep it from pooling around the herb's roots.

Over-watering is the single biggest mistake most people make with indoor herbs, Pagadala said. Soggy soil invites bug problems by creating a perfect breeding environment for critters like whitefly, or worse, it will kill the plants by drowning their roots.

"The water should go into the soil, run right through, and come out the bottom," she said.

To help your herb thrive, Pagadala recommends keeping it in a window with southern exposure, making sure it never gets too cold, that is, below 60 degrees at night, and has good ventilation. This means that herbs shouldn't be packed too closely together.

"That's another thing that will invite bugs," she said.

Tough types

Pagadala suggested that beginners start with hardier varieties of herbs, like thyme, oregano, mint and chives. These are also good because they can be "snipped at," she said.

More experienced growers may want to experiment with challenging herbs like lavender.

Pagadala explained that without optimal conditions, indoor herbs won't be as lush as a summer herb garden, so one shouldn't expect, for example, enough

Tips for growing herbs indoors

- Start from seed.
- Pick hardy varieties like thyme, sage, oregano, mint, chives or rosemary
- Mix a bit of sand into your potting soil.
- Water just enough to moisten the soil.
- Keep herbs in a window with southern exposure.

basil for pesto. She noted that "It makes no sense for me to grow parsley because I use it in everything, so I can't grow enough to keep up."

Maddox, who starts his seeds indoors, recommended starting with something like sage or rosemary, "because a little of those goes a long way, and it's nice to use those in the wintertime when you're making a nice roasted duck or a pork roast or a beef roast."

For those still doubting their green thumb, he offered, "plants are like a car or a bicycle, if you take care of them, they will do well."

And raising herbs indoors has one other benefit in the dead of winter, said Maddox.

"When I'm starting the seeds, I like to look forward to the springtime when I can transplant them outside."

LAMB KEBABS WITH POMEGRANATE-LAVENDER GLAZE

From Michael Robin Maddox, executive chef and owner of Le Titi di Paris

- 1/4 C pomegranate molasses
- 1/2 C extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, pressed
- 1 tsp. fresh lavender, chopped
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 lb. trimmed boneless leg of lamb, cut into 24 3/4-inch cubes.
- 1 large red bell pepper, cut into 24 3/4-inch squares
- 24 small metal skewers, or bamboo skewers soaked in water for 30 minutes and drained

Mix pomegranate molasses, olive oil, garlic, lavender, salt, pepper, and cinnamon in 1-gallon plastic bag. Add lamb. Chill at least 1 hour and up to 4 hours.

Remove lamb from marinade. Thread 1 lamb piece and red pepper piece on each skewer; place on baking sheet. (Can be made up to 2 hours ahead. Cover and refrigerate.)

Prepare barbeque (medium-high heat) or preheat broiler. Sprinkle kebabs with salt and pepper. Cook, turning often, about 4 minutes for medium-rare.

Makes 24 skewers.

Find more recipes by visiting www.pioneerlocal.com

NEIGHBORS

A is for Attorney, B is for Baker

Career shift is sweet dream come true

By Joanna Broder
Staff Writer

jbroder@pioneerlocal.com

A year ago, Betsy D'Attomo, who now owns Baked by Betsy in Park Ridge, reached a fork in the road.

The 30-year-old-lawyer, turned-stay-at-home-mom, turned part-time-professional-baker, had been renting kitchen space at Unforgettable Edibles, a catering company in Edison Park. There she baked after business hours for people who had heard about her through friends, and for the Park Ridge Farmer's Market over the summer.

D'Attomo had always loved to bake, and enjoyed the work, but also found the night baking tiring. Thursday and Friday nights, for example, after taking care of her two children all day, D'Attomo would head over to Unforgettable Edibles at about 7 p.m., bake for hours, arriving home at 1 a.m. on a good night, she said.

But it was Thanksgiving and Christmas 2006 that really did her in. Because Unforgettable Edibles was also busy, D'Attomo often could not even get into their kitchen until 8 p.m. and she would end up baking until 3 a.m. Then she would go home and get about three hours of sleep before waking up when her children did at 6 a.m. She would then be a stay-at-home mom all day and at night start the baking cycle again. Worn out, D'Attomo knew she had to make a change: either shut down her blossoming baking business or find her own space.

"It was just too much," D'Attomo recalled. "I mean I couldn't be a mom during the day and do this at night," she said. "I couldn't. I was exhausted."



Owner Betsy D'Attomo shows the variety of sweet treats available from her shop, Baked by Betsy in Park Ridge. — Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer

Realizing a dream

Today, if you walk into Baked by Betsy at 124 S. Prospect Ave. in Park Ridge, you are greeted by an array of freshly-baked delectables such as peanut butter blossoms, pumpkin muffins, and Betsy's signature butter melts, which you are just supposed to let melt in your mouth not chew, D'Attomo said.

D'Attomo's goal in designing the shop was to create a casual environment where the homemade treats reminded customers of those made-from-scratch goodies that someone used to bake for them.

"I wanted it to be a place



Holiday season selections included cookies decorated like Santa, snowmen, snowflakes and angels. — Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer

where the stuff tastes like you could have made it yourself — (but) you just didn't have time," she said.

But deciding to rent the space — formerly occupied

by a financial planning firm, Lasting Legacy — was not an easy decision for D'Attomo.

While driving around looking for available retail

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space near the end of November 2006, D'Attomo happened to drive down Prospect Avenue, a street she rarely traveled. After noting a "for rent" sign hanging in the window of her business' future home, "I just sat there for the longest time thinking 'that looks pretty good,'" D'Attomo remembered.

Still she was scared. So D'Attomo went home and prayed to God to "Make it clear. Make it clear what I'm supposed to do."

D'Attomo waited months before deciding to rent the space. She was sure that someone would snatch it up. See **BAKER**, page 54



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PEEK AT THE WEEK DEADLINES

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 10 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Anne Lunde, Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 130 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge IL 60068. Information may be faxed to (847) 696-3229 or e-mailed to alunde@pioneer-local.com.

BENEFITS

St. Mary of the Woods will present its premier fund-raising event, Pre-lenten Dinner & Auction, Feb. 1. The Mardi Gras-themed dinner and silent and live auctions will be held at the Skokie Conference & Banquet Center, adjacent to the Holiday Inn on Touhy Avenue. The event will open with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction featuring a variety of items from sporting memorabilia and tickets to hotel and restaurant packages, as well as spa treatments and wine selections. A live auction will take place during the gourmet, sit down dinner. In addition, there is a Grand Raffle and 50-50 Raffle. All proceeds benefit St. Mary of the Woods School. Tickets cost \$55 and will go on sale Jan. 10.

CLUBS

The Niles Historical Society has planned a very special "surprise" program to end the year and begin a new one. Mark your calendars for 2 p.m. Jan. 6 in the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave. Bring your friends and family for a very wonderful afternoon. There is plenty of free parking, always free admission (donations accepted); a short business meeting, followed by the program and free dessert and refreshments (hot mulled cider). All programs are planned with the family in mind. Come early, a docent will be on hand to lead a tour of the building for viewing the many exhibits and answer questions. The Niles Historical Museum is open every Wednesday and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. If an appointment is needed at another time, call (847) 390-0160.

FITNESS CENTER

Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-8400, www.nilesfitness.com. New preschool programs are registering for January. Contact

the center for a complete list of available classes.

Aqua Artics – Ages 1 to 5, play group in the pool. This non-instructional swim class is designed to help a child become comfortable in the water. Come splash around while participating in active songs and circle fun. Water toys will be available. Parent/child class.

Mini-Picasso's – 18 months to 3 years A great place for a toddler to explore their creative side. They will enjoy painting, play dough, bubbles, and more. Class may be messy so dress accordingly. Parent/child class.

Romp, Stomp & Roll – 10 to 20 months. This class is a social experience for both parent and child. Mats, balls, tunnels and age-appropriate toys will be offered in this active free play class. Toddler can climb, jump and roll around in the carpeted multi-purpose room. Parent/child class.

Tiny Tot Playtime – Ages 1 and 2. Meet other parents and interact with your child during movement, activities, free play and a simple craft. Music and circle time will add to the fun. Parent/child class.

Me Two – Age 2 – This class is offered to ease fears and encourage independence. Your child will have fun in a semi-structured environment. Stories, music and art are included in each class. Child-only class.

Body Flex Kids – Ages 3 to 6. Scheduled during adult Body Flex, this high energy exercise class will get your child moving and grooving. To cool down, class will end with kids yoga. Child-only class.

The Tai Chi Program from the Arthritis Foundation is designed for individuals with arthritis, rheumatic diseases or related musculoskeletal conditions primarily characterized by muscle pain, decreased muscle strength and fatigue. It will run from 9:15 to 10 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 10 to Feb. 21. Cost is \$35, member; \$48, nonmembers.

Big Event Boot Camp is designed to help you lose weight and tone up for that special event. It combines cardio with resistance training and ends with a gentle stretch. Classes run from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 11 to Feb. 22. Cost is \$48, members; \$61, nonmembers.

Senior Strength and Stretch is designed to improve the strength, agility, balance and flexibility of older adults from 10:15 to 11:05 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 10 to Feb. 21. It will focus

on exercises (seated and/or standing) that will enhance the activities of daily living. This class will use light weights, flexible tubing, and small resistance balls. Cost is \$43, members; \$52, nonmembers.

Tai Chi - Small Group – Tai Chi, an ancient form of Chinese exercise, is a low-impact, gentle, physical activity from 6 to 6:55 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 10 to Feb. 21. Tai Chi helps improve circulation and maintain a healthy range of motion in the joints, as well as providing a source of relaxation and spiritual fulfillment. Cost is \$55, members; \$65, nonmembers.

Vinayasa Yoga – This intermediate to advanced class will flow from one posture to another through the breath, building heat and stamina through sun salutations, standing and seated postures, twists, backbends and inversions. It will be given from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 12 to Feb. 21. Cost is \$49, members; \$63, nonmembers.

Zumba Gold – Zumba is a hot new Latin dance inspired fitness class designed for everyone. This group exercise class features aerobic/fitness interval training with a combination of fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body. Zumba Gold is low impact and is for the mature adult or beginner. It will be held from 10:10 to 11 a.m. Mondays, Jan. 7 to Feb. 28, or 5 to 5:50 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 10 to Feb. 21. Cost is \$48, members; \$61, nonmembers. Another course will run from 9 to 9:50 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 8 to Feb. 19. Cost is \$42, members; \$53, nonmembers.

HEALTH

Resurrection Medical Center, 7435 West Talcott Ave., Chicago, will offer the following health and wellness programs in January.

Children ages 8 to 14 and their parents can participate in the Family Fitness Camp held every Wednesday beginning Jan. 9 from 5 to 6 p.m. in the ClubRes Fitness Center located in the Professional Building, entrance B, ground floor. This program focuses on family nutrition, exercise and general health and fitness. Weekly attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. A card system will allow the purchase of 10 classes (\$50) or 20 classes (\$80) to be used at anytime for up to one year. Advanced registration is required by calling 1-877-737-4636.

The American Red Cross Babysitting Class will be offered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 12 in the Health Management classroom, first floor of the Professional Building near entrance C. This program, for children ages 11 and older, teaches them how to handle emergencies, prevent accidents and care for children while babysitting. Children must bring a signed parental consent and a doll with movable arms and legs (not Barbie or similar dolls). Participants should bring a bagged lunch or money to purchase lunch in the cafeteria. There is a \$50 fee due prior to the class. Advance registration is required by calling 1-877-737-4636.

LIBRARY

Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., (847) 663-6434:

A program on Stress Management for Parents at 7 p.m. Jan. 10 is the second in a series of topics for Co-Parenting for Divorced Parents in the Niles Public Library. It will be followed by a program on how to tell normal adolescent behavior from a behavior a parent should be concerned about at 7 p.m. Feb. 21. Registration is requested. Stop at the Library Information Desk or call (847) 663-1234 or register online at www.nileslibrary.org.

PARENTING

Maine Township's MaineStay's "Parenting with Love and Logic" course provides ideas for getting kids to shed more sweat around the house, tricks in the art of out-arguing even the most challenging kid, and practical ideas for raising responsible kids who feel great about themselves. "Love and Logic" parents neutralize arguing, have energy, and actually enjoy being a parent. If interested, come to MaineStay Youth and Family Services for this seven-week course on parenting and learn more about the practical and fun approach to raising wonderful kids. Parents will learn about the two rules of love and logic, the anticipatory consequence, and ways to neutralize arguing, and will walk out with materials and ideas that can be put to use right away. The course will be held at the Maine Township Town Hall Building, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Cost is \$40 for seven sessions beginning Tuesday, Jan. 15, and running through Tuesday, March 4. Classes are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Scholarships are available with proof of need. Call Amy at (847) 297-2510, Ext. 274, to register.

PARKS

Niles Park District will present Youth Dodgeball Leagues for boys and girls in fourth through eighth grades. Games are fun, safe, competitive and exciting. Each team will play 10 matches plus playoffs; team jerseys are supplied. Sign up as a team or an individual by Jan. 18. Sessions run from 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 18 to Feb. 22. Fees are residents, \$44; nonresidents, \$55. Call (847) 967-6975.

Niles Park District will offer private piano lessons for the beginning and intermediate student. Thirty-minute lessons will focus on the fundamentals of technique, music theory, and good practice habits. Lessons meet at the Howard Leisure Center Wednesdays, Jan. 16 to April 16, and Thursdays, Jan. 17 to April 24. Fees are residents, \$280; nonresidents, \$322 for 14 lessons. Call (847) 967-6633 to reserve a lesson time.

Learn the basics of guitar with instruction on chords, songs, how to read notes, time signatures and scales. Private lessons are 30 minutes and all levels are welcome. Lessons are Thursday afternoons and evenings, Jan. 17 to March 13. Fees are residents, \$180; nonresidents, \$216. Call (847) 967-6633 for information.

Kids ages 5 to 12 can have some fun on winter break by registering for the Niles Park District Winter Camp. Start the morning at 8 a.m. at Grennan Heights, 8255 Oketo Ave., and end up at 5 p.m. at Ice-Land, 8435 Ballard Road. Camp continues Jan. 3 and 4. Register for one or two days. Fees are: residents, \$30; nonresidents, \$35 per day. Call (847) 967-6633 to register.

Niles Park District will be offering semi-private baseball lessons for boys and girls ages 7 to 14 years at Grennan Heights, 8255 Oketo Ave. There will be a maximum of four-to-one student-to-teacher ratio. Hitting, fielding, and throwing will be covered. Session for boys will run Fridays, Jan. 11 to Feb. 1. Session for girls will run Mondays, Jan. 14 to Feb. 4. Fees are: residents, \$55; nonresidents, \$69. Call (847) 967-6975.

An Epiphany Concert will be given at 2 p.m. Jan. 6 in the sanctuary of St. Mary of the Woods Roman Catholic Church, 7033 N. Moselle Ave., Chicago. In addition to the church's Liturgical and Contemporary Choirs, performing both separately and together, the church is hosting the Allegro Handbell Ensemble from the Union Church of Hinsdale. The Allegro Handbell Ensemble is a dedicated group of two dozen young people, each armed with bells of varying sizes and weights and musical tones. The 61 Schulmerich handbells used by the ensemble ring a five full octaves and range in size from just a few ounces to the approximate weight of a bowling ball (13 pounds). The concert, which celebrates the 12th Day of Christmas, is free. Call (773) 763-0206. See PEEK, page 53

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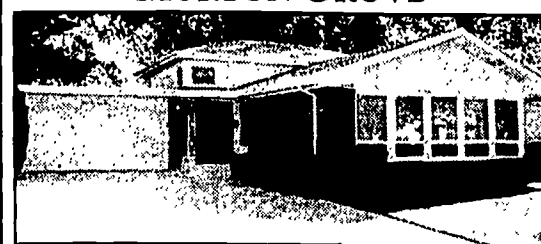
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Sisters Kate (left) and Emma Riggs of Evanston share a musical instrument at a Creative Kids Corner class in Skokie. CKC moved from Evanston to the Mayer Kaplan Jewish Community Center last January. — Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer

Creative Kids Corner finds new location in Skokie

By **MIKE ISAACS**
Staff Writer
misaacs@pioneerlocal.com

Anniversaries sometimes have a way of sneaking up with little warning.

Creative Kids Corner, where children are introduced to music and art and other life skills, where they dance and move and expand their imaginations, where some even learn to cook and speak another language, really has two anniversaries to celebrate. The first is a 10th anniversary, which recently passed by with little fanfare, said Creative Kids Corner Director Linda Kusel.

But another anniversary soon to come is also worth noting; January will mark the first year that Creative Kids Corner has been in its new home — tucked away in a cozy corner wing of the Mayer Kaplan Jewish Community Center in Skokie.

It is here — in several playfully decorated rooms — where little ones regularly gather, mostly with mommies and daddies but sometimes on their own. They are led by passionate and creative teachers who not only know how to teach, but how to inspire an important love for the arts.

Creative Kids Corner considers itself "a learning center" for kids 6 months to 15 years old

specializing in "enrichment and life skills." Most of the classes offered at the learning center revolve around music, art and dance, but CKC — as many refer to it — also serves up classes on foreign languages and cooking. This winter it will introduce karate.

"Music classes make up the bulk of our program," Kusel said. "But the idea of life skills is very important to us, and that means we consider other subjects as well."

A sample of classes offered in the winter session of 2008 suggests just what Creative Kids Corner has in mind — and in heart and soul for that matter: Creative Music and Movement; Picasso Sings; All By Myself; Music and More; Chinese for Family; Cooking For Life; Multi-Media Art; Young Einsteins; and classes in puppetry, hip hop and the aforementioned karate.

Children's art often adorns the walls of the classrooms. Those classrooms are filled with teachers like Jeanie B, an award-winning children's rock and roll musician who regularly leads kids in infectious songs and dances about Thanksgiving or Hanukkah or other timely and relevant happenings.

Jeanie B — Bonansinga is her actual last name — once worked at a now defunct children's center in Evanston called

Happy Child where she says she "fell in love with playing music for kids." Kusel's partner at the time found the talented Jeanie B who brought her on board at CKC about four years ago.

Bonansinga appears to have a limitless exuberance in teaching and performing music for children, but she sheepishly admits there are days ...

"There are days I wake up and say I just can't do this," Jeanie B, says. "But by the time I walk out of this classroom, I leave on a cloud. It is a cloud of joy. That's really what working with these kids does for you. It's just joyful."

When Jeanie B. joined the CKC staff, the facility was located in Evanston where it built a devoted following. Classes are limited to no more than a dozen students who come from as far away as Highland Park and Winnetka as well as closer to Skokie and Evanston.

Kusel has a degree in early childhood and elementary education and has taught in the Chicago public school system. She also has extensive training in dance and music.

But it was as a teacher for The Movement Center, part of National Louis University in Wilmette, that gave rise to the current Creative Kids Corner. Once the program was disbanded, Kusel and another teacher

PEEK

Continued from page 51

MAINE SENIORS

The Maine Township MaineStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the MaineStreamers monthly newsletter, which details activities for the upcoming month. Most activities take place at Maine Town Hall located at 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Contact the MaineStreamers at (847) 297-2510 or visit www.Mainetownship.com.

The Cook County Sheriff's Department will offer its "Free Emergency Cell Phones for Cook County Senior Citizens" program from 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 11. Register to come and receive a free cell phone to use in cases of an emergency.

"Viva Las Vegas" luncheon will be Jan. 15 at Crystal Palace, 2648 Dempster St., Park Ridge. Start the New Year right by joining us for our last luncheon at Crystal Palace. Lunch will consist of cream of mushroom soup, roast pork, mashed potatoes, garden mixed vegetables and strawberry cheesecake. Vito Zatto, a Las Vegas style singer, comedian and impersonator, will provide entertainment. Bingo will follow. Reservations

and cancellations are due by Jan. 8. Cost is \$14, members; \$15, guests; plus \$1 for fish.

A "Digital TV Transition" program will be given at 10 a.m. Jan. 14 by Agent Chris Jelinek of the Federal Communications Commission. The main focus will be the changes to off-air television signals that will take effect Feb. 17. After that date, federal law requires that all full-power TV stations stop broadcasting in analog format and broadcast only in digital format. FCC personnel will explain what this means to television viewing. There will also be a general overview of the FCC and the Commission's Chicago District Office. There is no charge but registration is required.

SENIORS

Secretary of State Jesse White, in cooperation with the Niles Senior Center, will offer a Rules of the Road review course for all citizens in the Niles area from 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 7 in the center, 999 Civic Center Drive. The purpose of the course is to help participants pass the Illinois driver's license renewal examination and prepare applicants for the general written and road examinations. It also provides information on the vision screening. The course is free. For more information, call the center at

from the school began an enrichment camp for children run out of one of their homes rather than a facility.

"I loved working with children so much that I had to stay with this," Kusel says. "It felt too good to stop. It was always a dream for me to work with young children. To me, life is just bland without arts enrichment."

Jeanie B says that Creative Kids Corner is different from similar arts enrichment facilities. The biggest reason, she says, is because of Kusel.

"She has extensive experience in teaching and is always helping us be better," Jeanie B says. "She cares so much and helps make us all better."

In many such programs, the same songs and dances are repeated again and again, Jeanie B says. But at Creative Kids Corner, Kusel and her teachers are consistently inventing and reinventing playful songs and games to the delight of the children.

The six teachers at Creative Kids Corner work part-time. They are also actors and teach-

ers and pathologists; they carry on with other jobs and bring their creativity from those jobs into classes that generally last about an hour.

Creative Kids Corner at the JCC runs programs from September through June. But CKC offers a year-round cooking program at Marie Murphy School in Wilmette as well.

And the school provides other special programs from time to time. For the first time, CKC recently sponsored a workshop run by Wave Productions from Northwestern University. Students studying performing arts came for 90 minutes to delight about 35 CKC children 4 to 7 years old with song, theater and games.

"We would love to do this on a regular basis," Kusel said. "I think the Northwestern students left very fulfilled and the kids just loved it."

Creative Kids Corner is trying to reach people to let them know about its new location. When the JCC became a facility only for children last year, it had some empty space to rent out. The match was ideal.

(847) 588-8420.

SENIOR CENTER

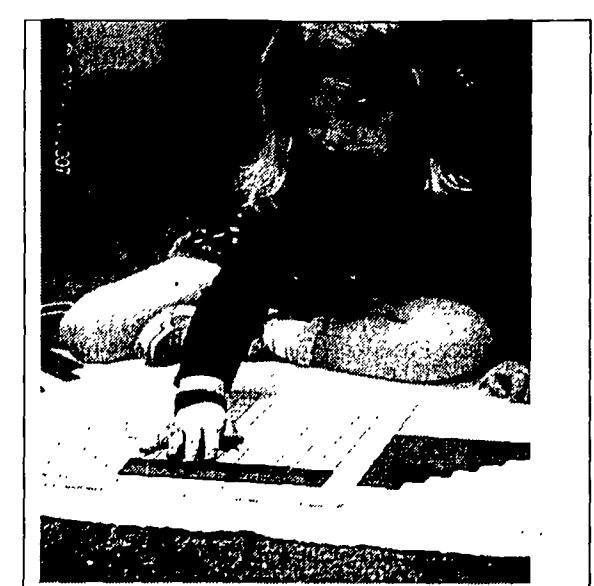
The Niles Senior Center offers free membership to Niles residents, age 62 and older and their spouses. To register for classes, trips or to purchase tickets, individuals must be members of the center. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420 for an application.

A representative from the State Treasurer's office will be on hand to research if members have any lost or forgotten cash through the Cash Dash program from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 9.

Volunteers are needed to assist seniors in preparing income tax forms. Required training will be provided in January.

An excursion to see Neil Simon's "The Good-Bye Girl" at Drury Lane Oakbrook will be featured from 10:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 10. Lunch will consist of tilapia or roast sirloin of beef. Cost is \$55. Call for ticket availability.

A Hawaiian-themed lunch will be featured from noon to 2 p.m. Jan. 16. Lunch will consist of chicken kabobs, rice, fruit salad and dessert. The Barefoot Hawaiian dancers will entertain. Cost is \$10.
See PEEK, page 55



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Maine East High School is packed with wrestlers during the Sharks Wrestling Club's 10th annual invitational, held Dec. 16. The invite featured area clubs and others from as far away as Indiana and Wisconsin.

YOUTH WRESTLING Sharks host huge field for annual invite

Due to the cancellation of a different youth wrestling meet on Dec. 16, the Sharks Wrestling Club meet at Maine East High School hosted an unexpected additional five clubs and nearly 200 more young wrestlers. It marked the 10th annual invitational meet since the club's founding, and offered children ages 5-14 an opportunity to compete against a mix of opponents from more than 47 clubs, members of which came from as far away as Indiana and Wisconsin.

The meet served as preparation for the upcoming regionals and sectionals, and ultimately, the state tournament. The meet ran smoothly with 12 mats seeing action at any given time. In addition to a donation from the Sharks, profits from food sales benefited the Maine East Athletic Boosters. Organizers Michael Conrad, Chad Conley, Steve Riportella, Terry Shannon, Emilliano Hernandez — as well as the parents of Sharks Wrestling Club mem-

bers — oversaw the event, aided by a corps of volunteer parents and supporters who provided services ranging from set-up and being cashiers to the matching of participants for their bouts and the final clean-up. The club is an affiliate of the Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation (IKWF) and practices at Maine East in Park Ridge. Those interested in joining the group or seeking more information should contact Mike Conrad at (847) 299-7531.

COLLET

Continued from page 58

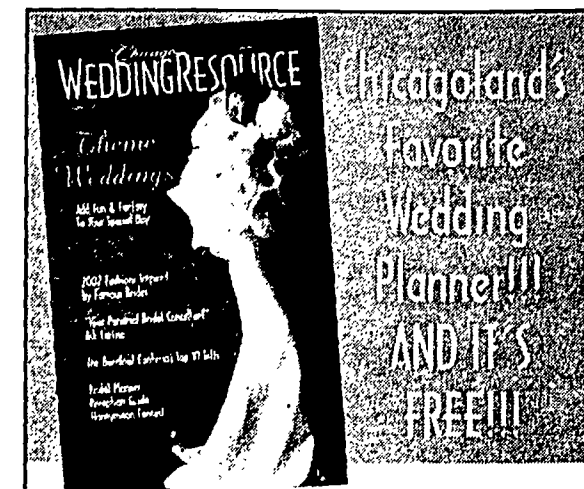
"My first lecture was at Maine South (in the mid-1980s)," Collet said. "Eventually, I gave talks at Maine East and Maine West, both Niles high schools, Oakton and Triton Colleges and many of the grammar schools throughout the area over the years." And Collet, who is vehement about his work, doesn't pull any punches when it comes to informing students about the dangers of steroid

use. "I always get the permission of the teachers first," Collet said. "But I do try to scare (the students). I show them pictures and describe all the things that can happen to them with steroid use. Aside from the heart problems, kidney problems and cancers (steroids) can cause, there are the sexual and psychological effects. There is the condition referred to as 'roid rage,' in which the individual exhibits aggressive and hostile behavior. (Steroid use) can also lead to psychosis, depression and sometimes even

suicide." Collet, who has received the National Academy of Sports Medicine's Medal of Honor as well as the Natural Athlete Strength Association's Positive Image Award, knows that his fight against steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs is a monumental one. "Steroids are more prevalent in the schools than we would like to believe," Collet said. "The bad part, from our side is, steroids do work. But the individuals that use them don't realize that it comes with a very high price."



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SPORTS

PACKED HOUSE

The Sharks Wrestling Club welcomes an unexpected addition of more than 200 wrestlers during the organization's 10th annual invite.

See page 57

Managing Editor: Rick Hibbert | rhibbert@pioneerlocal.com | (708) 524-4440 | Senior Editor-Sports: Rich Martin | rmartin@pioneerlocal.com | (847) 797-5106

Weightlifter Collet wages war on steroids

By JIM EDISON
Staff Writer

jedison@pioneerlocal.com

Even though the battle keeps getting tougher, Michael Collet continues the fight he began more than a quarter of a century ago.

Collet has been waging war against the use of anabolic steroids on two fronts. First, by setting an example as a drug-free athlete in competitive world class power lifting. And secondly, by making young people aware of the adverse effects of performance-enhancing drugs.

Just two months ago, Collet won his sixth world title when he captured the World Bench Press Federation Championship for his age and weight class Nov. 3. But for Collet, who has been a competitor since he was in high school, individual accomplishments are not nearly as important as his work the other 364 days a year.

Collet, 64, who founded Strong Athletes Against Steroids (SAAS) in 1982, uses the basement of his home in Park Ridge as headquarters for his assault on steroids.

"I have been fighting the fight for well over two decades now and it is getting harder and harder," Collet said. "Unfortunately, the win-at-any-cost mentality that exists in sports has become more prevalent. Look at the recent findings (of steroid use) in baseball. Just today, I was reading a (daily) newspaper and there were four different articles about steroids. I think this is going to leave a black mark on the game for years to come."

Collet's involvement in weight and power lifting began 48 years ago when he was a student at Maine East High School. It was actually his failure at one sport that led to his dedication in another.

"I went out for football and didn't make the team," Collet said. "I did make the



Strong Athletes Against Steroids (SAAS) founder Michael Collet (left) gives a presentation to young student-athletes regarding the adverse effects of steroid use.

swim team instead, but I really decided to work on building myself up and I focused on weightlifting. There were no gyms around back then, so my brother Bob and I set up our own (gym) in our garage. And we always had a healthy environment in our home. My mother and father wouldn't even have an aspirin in the house."

By the time he reached adulthood and became an employee at Centel, Collet was winning weight and power lifting competitions throughout the Midwest. In 1982, with the help of Centel, Collet started SAAS. He began lecturing at schools, printing up informational material and offering personal help (in resisting steroids) to anyone who needed it.



Michael Collet works out during a power lifting session. Two months ago, Collet, 64, won his sixth world title when he captured the World Bench Press Federation championship for his age and weight class.

See COLLET, page 57

Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide

Program	Rate	Disc/Orig Pts	Cr Rp/Anpr Fees	% Down	APR	Program	Rate	Disc/Orig Pts	Cr Rp/Anpr Fees	% Down	APR	Program	Rate	Disc/Orig Pts	Cr Rp/Anpr Fees	% Down	APR					
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15 yr Fix	Call	0/0	\$35/250	5%	Call	5/1 ARM	5.5	0/0	\$325/0	5%	5.81	15 yr Fix	.6	0/0	\$25/275	5%	6.08					
5/1 ARM Jumbo	5.625	0/0	\$35/250	5%	6.23	10/1 ARM	6.125	0/0	\$325/0	5%	6.08	5/1 ARM	5.875	0/0	\$25/275	5%	5.97					
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30 yr Interest Only	6.125	0/0	Call	5%	6.16	30 yr Fix	5.875	0/0	\$0/295	5%	5.92	15 yr Fix	5.5	0/0	\$0/250	5%	5.56					
15 yr Fix	5.5	0/0	Call	5%	5.55	15 yr Fix	5.5	0/0	\$0/295	5%	5.55	3/1 ARM	5.375	0/0	\$0/250	5%	5.43					
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Last year	6.23	5.96	6.11

Source: Bankrate.com. For more information visit www.bankrate.com. Bankrate national averages are based on 100 largest institutions in the top 10 markets in the United States.

MORTGAGE UPDATE

Rates rise at the end of the year By Holden Lewis • Bankrate.com

The trouble with the future is that it's so hard to predict. Almost a year ago, prominent housing economists issued their forecasts for mortgage rates and home sales, and they got some stuff wrong — and a few things right.

Economists were pretty accurate about the movement of mortgage rates. They said they expected rates to move upward in 2007, but not by a lot. That's what happened, but it's not the whole story. Mortgage rates were higher at the end of this year than they were at the beginning, but only because they went up this week.

The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rose 10 basis points to 6.31 percent, according to the Bankrate.com national survey of large lenders. A basis point is one-hundredth of 1 percentage point. The mortgages in this week's survey had an average total of 0.34 discount and origination points. One year ago, the mortgage index was 6.23 percent; four weeks ago, it was 6.17 percent.

The benchmark 15-year fixed-rate mortgage rose 7 basis points to 5.97 percent. The benchmark 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgage rose 10 basis points to 6.31 percent, and the 30-year jumbo rose 4 basis points, to 7.3 percent.

At the beginning of 2007, the benchmark rate on a 30-year fixed was 6.24 percent. It rose as high as 6.84 percent in the middle of June and bottomed out at an even 6 percent the first week of December. The 30-year fixed has risen rapidly in the three weeks since, partly because investors shifted from bonds to stocks and partly because Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are imposing new fees on conforming mortgages to insure against further drops in house prices.

Bottom line: At the beginning of 2007, many economists predicted that mortgage rates would be higher at the end of the year, and this week's rise makes them correct.

Expert predictions mixed

Doug Duncan, chief economist for the Mortgage Bankers Association, said in mid-January that he expected long-term rates to rise about 30 basis points in 2007. He made that forecast when the 30-year fixed was about 6.25 percent. Long-term rates were higher than 6.55 percent for one-quarter of the year, and they're higher now than they were then, so he was partly correct.

The economists at Freddie Mac made this prediction at the beginning of the year: "Low inflation is likely to keep long-term Treasury yields low, and in turn, keep 30-year fixed mortgage rates below 6.5 percent in 2007." Pretty close. In Bankrate's survey, the 30-year fixed was below 6.5 percent in 38 out of 52 weeks.

Fannie Mae's economists were less specific. They predicted that long-term rates would "remain relatively stable this year despite our projection of modest Fed easing, perhaps as the market looks ahead to 2008 as a year of economic rebound."

Ahead in 2008

With rates varying from 6 percent to 6.84 percent, it's a matter of opinion whether they were stable in 2007. As for people looking toward 2008 as "a year of economic rebound," that will be debated vigorously during the election year. The housing sector will continue to slide, while other parts of the economy might thrive. Other factoids about mortgage rates in Bankrate's weekly surveys this year:

- Half of the time, the 30-year was higher than 6.32 percent in Bankrate's weekly survey, and half the time it was lower. That's another way of saying that the median rate was 6.32 percent.
- The average rate in 2007 was 6.4 percent. The average rate in 2006 was 6.47 percent and in 2005, 5.93 percent.
- The biggest one-week jumps: The 30-year fixed fell from 6.5 percent to 6.28 percent in September, and it rose from 6.61 percent to 6.84 percent in June.



Happy New Year!

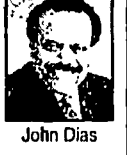
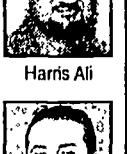
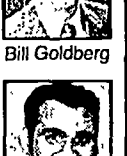
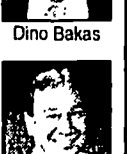
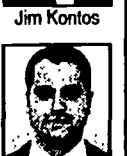
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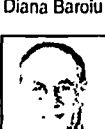
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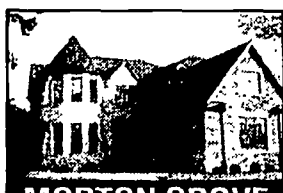
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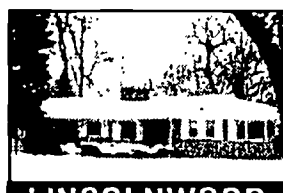
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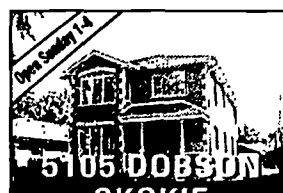
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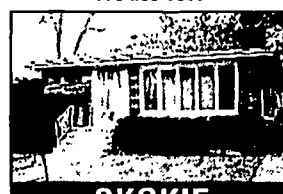
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 847-322-6277



CHICAGO CONDO CONVERSION
 In Hot Albany Park! Features Complete Gut Rehab W/ New Oak Hdvt Flrs, New Windows, European Design Kitchen W/ Ss Appls, Maple Cherry Cabinets, 1 1/2 Granite Tops, Bth W/ Designer All Marble, Whirlpool, Glass Bowl Sink, In Unit Washer & Dryer, Central Air, custom Paint, Recessed Lights & More! Close To X-Way & Brown Line. Seller To Pay For One Yr Pkg At School Across The Street

Dan Florian
 847-208-7944



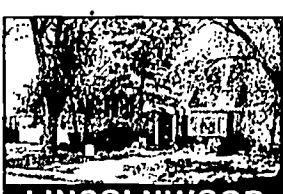
SKOKIE
 Lovely Well Maintained & Smartly Updated Ranch On Good Size Lot! Large Bright Rooms Hardwood Floors Recessed Lighting Very Large EA Kitchen Updated Several Years Ago W/ White Euro Cabinetry & New Appliances! Updated 1st Flr Bth W/ New Features & Custom Nice Bedrm & Closet Spacial Full Partially Finished Basement W/ Bathrm All New Thermal Windows, Electric, Hood Control, Central Heat & A/C Deck! A Bargain!

Ethan Lewis
 312-307-0400



SKOKIE
 Great Location! Great Home! On A 70 X 132 Ft Lot Handicapped Flat In Kit W/ Granite Counters Maple & Birch Cabs Large Bright Living Rm W/ Fireplace & Wall Of Picture Windows Overlooking Fenced Yard Dining Rm Opens To Living Rm or Large Parties Main Flr Main Flr W/ 1st Flr Main Flr Don't Let This One Go! For Inlaw Arrangement Full Finished Basement Lower Level W/ Hvc Rm & Powder Rm Large Updated 4 Bedroom 3 1/2 Bath In Prime Devonshire Woods Home Can Be Expanded Or Can Build Up To 5600 Sq Ft

Barry Benveniste
 847-708-1149



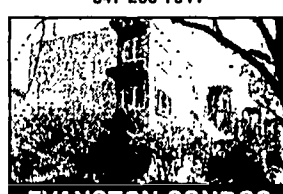
LINCOLNWOOD
 Sharp Brick Cape Cut In Estates Has Been Lovingly Maintained Inside And Out Versatile Floor Plan Living Room With Wood Burning Fireplace Separate Dining Room Hardwood Floors New Roof, Windows, Heat, A/C & Hot Water Beautifully Landscaped Attached Screened Porch Exceptionally Caring!!

Bill Goldberg
 847-334-6020



SKOKIE
 Beautiful Bright Newly Updated Bi Level In Sought After School Dist 73 1/2 Great Club Appeal & Tons Of Improvements Never Roof, Furnace Air Conditioner & Hot Water Heater Hardwood Flrs Throughout Lovely Open Family Room W/ Parquet Floors & Door To Private Fenced Yard Very Good For Entertaining

Don Keenan
 847-568-3107



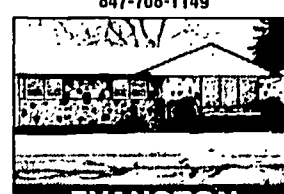
EVANSTON CONDOS
 Spacious Sunny Apt Luxurious 2bed 1 1/2 Bath 1175 Sq Ft 2nd Flr In New Condo Conversion In Heart Of North Evanston! In Unit Washer/Dryer Central A/C! Heat! Space vs New Kit! New Bath W/ Jacuzzi Tub! Huge Living/Dining Area! New Windows, Elect Plumbing Free Outdoor Pkg 1yr No Assmnts No Closing Cost And Free Pasma TV

Jim Kontos
 630-327-9136



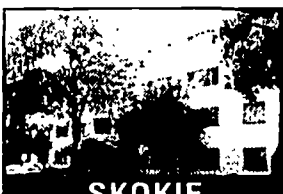
LAKE SHORE DRIVE CHICAGO
 The Best Deal In Town! Lakeview's Most Desirable Full Amenty Building & Location Rarely Available 09 Unit On Breathtaking 36th Floor W/ Lake & Skyline Views From Private Balcony Plenty Of Storage In Unit Also Storage Lockers Included Never Stainless Steel Appl & Carpeting Updated Kitchen & Bath Freshly Painted All At Your Doorsteps, Grocery Store, Red Line, Tennis, Golf, Wrigley Field & Lake Parkings Available! \$171,900

Sam Trakas
 847-921-8681



EVANSTON
 Charming 3 BR ranch on a large 60 x 170 lot Contemporary decor, bright rooms, rumpus with oversized, landscaped front and fenced backyards make this residence a cozy home Very comfortable floor plan with hardwood floors in most rooms, prepared for hot screen and Sat-TV, newly installed 200 amp electrical system w/ underground wiring! a 2-car gar are just some of the hallmarks of this fabulous home

Christina Ezzo
 773-616-7653



SKOKIE
 One Of The Largest Units On The 1st Flr Which Is Beautifully Maintained Has A Large Master Bedroom W/ Walk In Closet & Full Bath Other 2 Bedrooms Have A Nice Size Apts Include Heat, Water & Gas Near Downtown Skokie Condo See This Bright & Sunny Unit Ready To Just Move In

Grace Martinez
 773-520-2344



ELMHURST
 Below Market Value-Sought After Sunnyside Model-1 Bedroom Plus A Den! Downtown Elmhurst, Just 1 Blk To Train Location 42 In Hazelnut Maple Kitchen Cabinets, Deluxe Option Appliance Package, Upgraded Granite Tops, & Beautiful Framburg Light Fixtures Includes Office/DevSep Dining Rm Fitness Rm In Unit Laundry Cable TV Monitored Building-Entry System Heated Indoor Pkg & Storage

Sylvana Menolascino
 630-363-6059



CHICAGO
 Unique Brick 3 Story Townhouse Style 2 Flat 1st Floor 3 Rooms 1 Bedroom 1 Bath 2nd Floor Unit Is A Duplex Up With 3 Bedrooms & 1 1/2 Baths 2 Car Garage Plus 2 Car Out Door Spot These Units Are #1d & #2d.

Ivy Moy
 773-913-3710



CHICAGO
 Well Maintained Property! 1 Block To Blue Line Desirable Austin Island Location Easy To Rent Ann Chair Investment!!

Cyriac Lukose
 847-877-2870



AURORA
 Attractive Two Story Townhome W/ Two Car Garage Large Windows, All Appliances, Wood Trim Doors & Railing Large Eat-In Kitchen With Wood Cabinets & Ceramic Tile Flooring Spacious Rooms, Vaulted Ceiling, Ceiling Fan, Skylight Low Assoc Fee Exclude Candle Wall Decorations

Bonnie Cozzens
 312-805-6706



Liz Lindsay



Ivy Moy



Elena Dan



Ann Tranda



Christine & Bonnie Cozzens



Melanie Jano Javier



Dominick Guaberto



Don Keenan



Retta Wilson-Grar



Marc Shudnow



Michael & Cool Plurad