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Inside!
*Today's
New Homes*

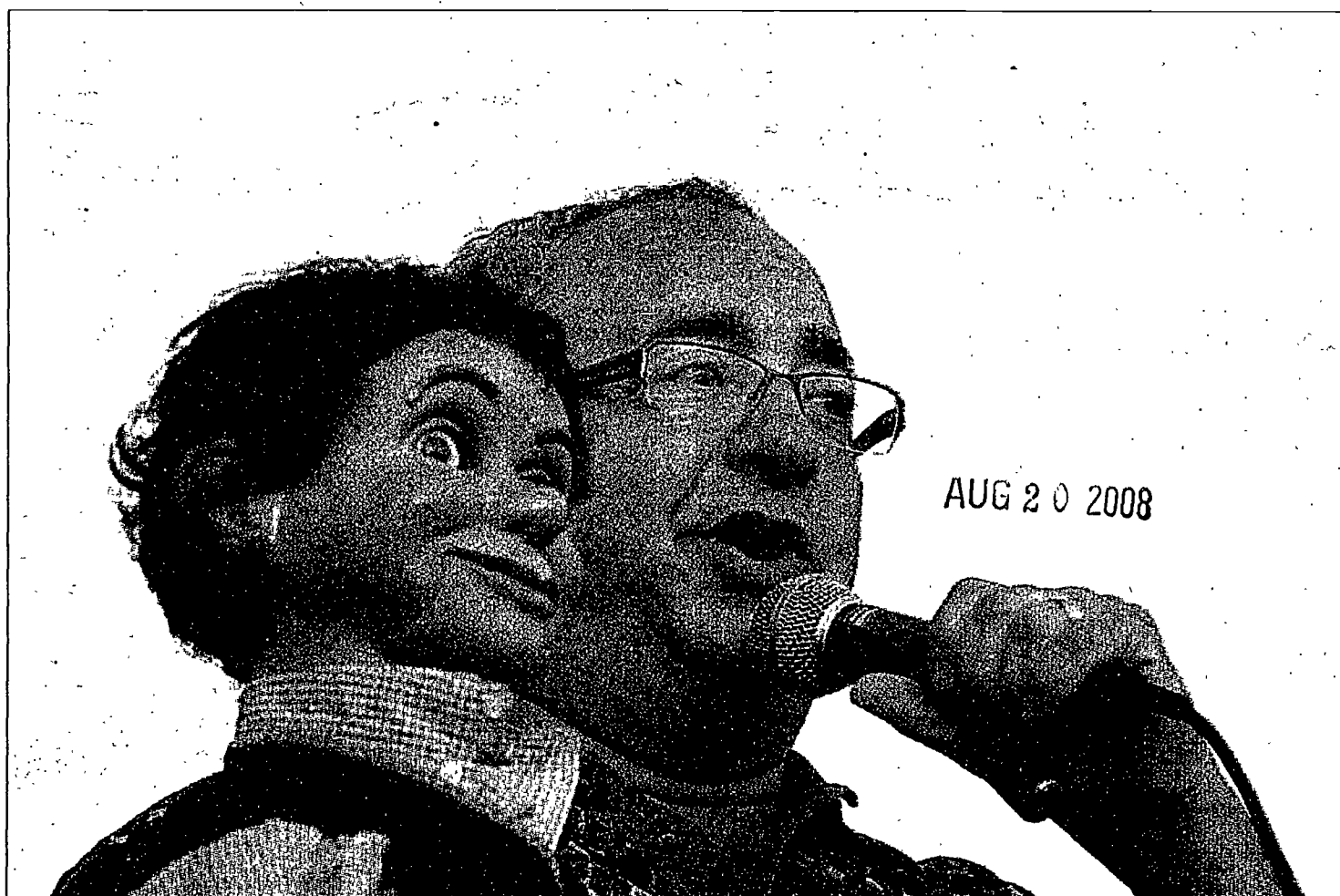
24/7 COVERAGE
Daily news from
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8000 North puts you
at street level

MOVIES
Reel Time blog with
Bruce Ingram

SPORTS
Heard in the Halls
athletics blog

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



TWO OF A KIND

Chuck Field and his stage partner, Ziggy, perform a ventriloquism act Friday at Oak Park in Niles. **PAGE 3.** PHOTO BY BRIAN VALENTIN/PIONEER PRESS

THIS WEEK

SCHOOLS



NEW LEADER

Dr. Nanciann Gatta has begun her new job as superintendent of Niles Township High School District 219.

PAGE 11

NEWS

BACK TO SCHOOL

The costs behind sending kids to class.

PAGE 4

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| Lincolnwood Great Lincolnwood location! Super 8 rm rambling ranch on a beautiful lot. Mera Wei ID#84408222 773-775-1855 | Skokie Spacious 3br, 2.1ba Georgian on huge park-like lot. Large rms. Remodeled kit. Nicole Flores ID#84408142 773-775-1855 | Lincolnwood Bright, updated with neutral decor bi-level with great size rooms. Karolina Ljubic ID#84408130 773-775-1855 | Morton Grove Totally remodeled 4BR w/ sub on double lot. Must see! Natalia Kanter ID#83158027 847-724-1855 | Lincolnwood rehabbers/developers! Red face brick split level on expansive corner 66x124 Imelda Bennett ID#4408072 773-775-1855 |
| Chicago 3BD/1BTH w/hw flrs, mouldings, Sep. DR. Fam rm overlooks yd. Fmc & a/c 05. Christine Drimala ID#83158090 847-724-1855 | Skokie Immediate possession! Lovely brick ranch, 3BR/1.1BA beautiful hdwds. 2Cgar. Della Joyce ID#83108056 847-491-1855 | Morton Grove, 7230 Suffield St. Updated 3bed home w/hrdwd flrs. Gourmet Eat-in Kitchen. Fam Rm, 2.5car gar. Barbara Palmer ID#83158101 847-724-1855 | Lincolnwood Great Lincolnwood location! 3br brick georgian with many, many updates. Mera Wei ID#84408115 773-775-1855 | Skokie Magnificent 2br/2bth 06' Bull Penthouse! Golf Course View Prime Gar spot. John Creighton ID#83108139 847-491-1855 |
| Skokie Rock solid 4BR VNTG bungalow quiet st. spotless. FNCD YD W/gardens 2c gar. Julie Naumlak ID#83108114 847-491-1855 | Park Ridge Large 4br/81/2 level in mint cond. Lg fam rm, spacious sub-bstm. Circular drive. Nuha Ayoub ID#84718116 847-823-1855 | Skokie Cheerful 3/4BR 1.5BA Brk Rnch w/Lg yard. 2Cgar. updated! New roof. Dist #68 Julie Naumlak ID#83108069 847-491-1855 | Des Plaines Fairmont Ridge spacious townhome in pristine cond. 3 bdrm. 2.1ba. Anne Camarano ID#84718081 847-823-1855 | Des Plaines 3br bungalow w/hdwd flrs, full bsm & 2 car gar on lg lot 70x220. Enc porch. Mary Childers ID#84718062 847-823-1855 |
| Lincolnwood Charming brick Cape Cod nestled on tree lined street. Entertain in lge rms Pauline Dreuth ID#84408164 773-775-1855 | Skokie Skokie brick Georgian - original cond with great potential & curb appeal. Irene Yungerman ID#84408156 773-775-1855 | Chicago Belmont Cragin Double lot, two PINs. 11 room home. Nanci Shirrel ID#83158067 847-724-1855 | Skokie Very nice brick Ranch. 3BR. Hdwd flrs, LR+DR combo, Kit w/EA. 2Cgar. Della Joyce ID#73107211 847-491-1855 | Morton Grove, 9350 N Shermer Rd. 3BD/2BA home w/new hrdwd, wndws, Fam Rm & patio. Best price in Morton Grove Gordon Smith ID#83158124 847-724-1855 |
| Niles Spacious Eagle Point 2 br 2 bath unit. Laundry in unit, balcony, Garage sp. Karen Wright ID#84718193 847-823-1855 | Skokie Elegant Optima blt 1BR/1BA condo nr everything. Full amenity bld! Vesna Gilsovic ID#83158009 847-724-1855 | Skokie Spacious 2B/1.1BTH BRK TWNHS W/PRKG Most convenient locale, no assessments. Terry Toton ID#83108130 847-491-1855 | Niles Renaissance 2nd fl 1 br unit. Eat in kitchen, laundry in unit. Bath heated gar. Patricia Huston ID#84718192 847-823-1855 | Des Plaines Large corner unit. Great loc facing pool. Updated kitchen w/Pergo flrs. Balc. Nuha Ayoub ID#84718074 847-823-1855 |

To learn more about any of the homes shown above, simply enter the ID Number in our homepage "Quick Lookup" box.



News

24/7: Check out pioneerlocal.com for more HOROSCOPE

In the stars

Check out this week's horoscope online. www.pioneerlocal.com

MOVIE REVIEW



He ain't heavy

Bruce Ingram reviews "The Rocker." www.pioneerlocal.com

FOOD



All in the family

Local chefs reveal cooking secrets learned at home. www.pioneerlocal.com

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BRIAN VALENTIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SHE'S NO DUMMY Chuck Field has audience member Meadow Albright, 6, of Niles, help him perform a ventriloquism act Friday at Oak Park in Niles.

Metaldyne might sell, close plant

Future for 200 jobs unclear

By **TONY BERTUCA**
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

The proposed sale or closure of a Japanese-owned aluminum die casting plant in Niles could affect nearly 200 jobs, according to the company.

Metaldyne Corporation, owned by Asahi Tec, announced that it would divest its Niles plant at 6119 W. Howard St. as well as a Middleville, Mich. facility.

"Our first objective is to try and sell the plants," said Metaldyne spokeswoman Marge Sorge. "We have great work forces there."

The sale will affect 167 hourly employees and 21 salaried employees at the Niles plant, which functions primarily as an auto parts supplier and has

been in operation since 1962.

"There is interest in the plants," Sorge said. "We don't know when they will be sold, but they will continue to operate until then."

Of course, Sorge said, there is no guarantee the plants will be sold or that they will continue to operate as they have been under a new owner — they could be closed.

"There is a market for the products these plants produce, so we think we'll be able to sell them," she said. "But all of that will be up to the new owners."

Metaldyne is headquartered in Plymouth, Mich. and has annual revenues of approximately \$1.8 billion. The company employs more than 6,300 employees at 33 facilities in 14 countries. Metaldyne is an indirectly wholly owned subsidiary of Asahi Tec Corporation, a Shizuoka, Japan-based

company listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

"As we reviewed our products and operations and their opportunity for growth, we found that some products and operations are no longer core and better suited for other suppliers," Thomas A. Amato, chairman and CEO of Metaldyne and co-CEO of Asahi Tec, said in a press release. "We continue to review all our products and proactively take action if necessary."

Since January, Metaldyne had closed facilities in Farmington Hills and Plymouth, Mich., and Greenville, N.C.

Metaldyne announced that it has been awarded more than \$50 million in contracts from multiple automakers to supply powder-metal-forged connecting rods for 4- and 6-cylinder engines used globally in 2009 and 2010 cars, crossover vehicles and minivans.

'Green-themed' shuttle starts in District 219

By **KATHY ROUNTLIFFE**
kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com

In what Superintendent Nanciann Gatta described as "a tip of the hat to going green," Niles Township High School District 219 has started an employee shuttle program that could cut the number of cars in Niles North and West High School parking lots.

The service will provide three pickups between 6:14 and 7:24 a.m. from both the Morton Grove Metra station and

(Chicago), I take public transportation without a second thought. I think people should as much as possible be able to live and go to work without needing a car. Most importantly it allows teachers to think about education instead of having to think about being caught in traffic."

Steve Grossman, who heads the Niles Township Federation of Teachers, said the program hasn't been discussed during negotiations, "but the district seems pretty

"It's been in the back of my mind for a while, and was also a response to the growing price of gas."

Superintendent Dr. Nanciann Gatta

the Skokie Swift CTA station. Two afternoon shuttles, at 3:50 and 4:25 p.m., will also be available.

The shuttle program was announced last month during the regular district school board meeting. Transportation will be handled by district security drivers whose existing district van routes will be rearranged to include the new service. The employee shuttles won't increase labor costs, Gatta said.

"It's been in the back of my mind for a while, and was also a response to the growing price of gas," she said last Friday. "After living abroad and

committed to green efforts. It might be limited to people who live close to the train stations, but having the ability to relax or go through papers on the way to work instead of dealing with traffic could work really well for some people."

Gatta said letters about the new program have been sent out to employees, asking them to contact the district if they are interested in taking part. Administrators will look at the program later in the school year to evaluate the response, "but we've already had some good feedback about it."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Starters

EAST MAINE DISTRICT 63

Cost to send 8th-grader to school: \$650

By TONY BERTUCA
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Today (Thursday) is the first day of school at East Maine Elementary District 63, and parents who have been opening wallets and purses all summer have been tapped once again for "back-to-school" season.

After a flurry of shopping and a cluster of checks to pay various school fees, moms and dads might be wondering just how much cash has gone out the door.

Below is an estimated cost based on the exact fees charged by District 63 and the cost of supplies for junior-high students.

Like most school districts, District 63 charges certain fees for books and materials, as well as activities like field trips.

Kindergarten fees include: \$45 for books and materials; and \$10 for universal activity.

In grades 1-6, fees include: \$55 for books and materials; \$10 for universal activity; and \$5 for

"I guarantee you, if a child shows up without class materials, they will not be refused an education."

District 63 official David Bein

assignment books (varies by school).

In grades 7-8, fees include: \$65 for books and materials; \$40 for universal activity; \$5 for assignment books (varies by school); \$5 for locks (7th grade only); \$12 for gym shirts (7th grade only); and \$30 for graduation (8th grade only).

The district also charges optional fees for extracurricular activities like athletics and band. Those include: \$10 for gym shorts; \$105 for instruments; \$35 per sport for athletics; and \$15 for athletic physicals.

District 63 also charges a \$25 fee if a student is taken out of school for a significant period of time and must be re-enrolled. There is also a \$350 bus-transportation fee for students who live outside

the regular bus zone. The bus cost is \$400 if paid after June 1.

Gemini Junior High School also requires students to have specified school supplies. A trip Monday afternoon to Wal-Mart, 8500 Golf Road, found supplies would cost a total of \$54.68.

Taking all these costs and fees into account, it will cost parents nearly \$650 to prepare a child for eighth grade. But District 63 official David Bein noted that no child will be turned away if they are unable to pay for fees and supplies.

"I guarantee you, if a child shows up without class materials, they will not be refused an education," he said. "There's a law guaranteeing public education. The district would have to pay for it."

THE PRICE OF AN EDUCATION

School supplies required for Gemini Junior High School students, and the cost of each at Wal-Mart, 8500 W. Gold Road, Niles, include:

- a TI-30XIIS calculator (supplied by the district), \$13.
- a 12-inch ruler, \$1.88.
- a package of wide-ruled notebook paper, 50 cents.
- a package of multi-purpose paper, \$4.28.
- Wite-Out, \$1.28.
- a pack of color pencils, \$2.72.
- two-dozen No. 2 pencils, 97 cents.
- a dozen black or blue pens, quantities of 10 cost 96 cents.
- two red pens, 96 cents.
- two highlighters, \$1.87.
- three glue sticks, \$5.64.
- a package of 3-inch by 5-inch index cards, 46 cents.
- a box of tissues, \$1.12.
- eight wide-ruled spiral notebooks, \$15.52.
- eight pocket folders, \$3.52.

Total cost: \$54.68

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Some changes in store for new school year

By TONY BERTUCA
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Superintendent Kathleen Williams of East Maine Elementary School District 63 has an interesting way of describing the back to school season.

"I usually say it's like juggling and spinning plates," she said. "Now, I would add juggling and spinning plates on a unicycle and hopping through a hoop that's on fire."

Thursday is the first day of school for District

63, and the district is welcoming 40 new teachers and instituting a new Spanish and Gujarati program.

Williams said the district has also made a number of improvements to some of its schools such as installing new plumbing at Gemini Junior High School and a new roof at Apollo Elementary School.

The district will also be enacting a new security measure that requires all visitors at every school to

exchange a form of identification, like a drivers license, to obtain a visitor's pass.

"This is a new, all-district policy," Williams said. "A few schools had it before, but now it is everywhere."

Williams also said she was excited about the school's new voicemail system. With it, every teacher and district employee will have voicemail capabilities. Teachers will be encouraged to leave recorded messages each

day explaining their educational goals for their classes. Parents will be able to call and listen to the message (phones will not ring during class) and leave their own messages for teachers.

"Parents can call directly to those lines," Williams said. "This is such a communication asset for us."

Williams said the district staff is working on entering all of the phone numbers on the district Web site.

Library celebrates Indian Independence Day

By TONY BERTUCA
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Officially, Indian Independence Day wasn't until Friday, but the Niles Public Library got a head start Aug. 12 with a special program designed to get young children interested in the nation's culture and history.

Manisha Chander, who visited the library to host the program, works with Meera Masi Publishing, a company that aims to create curiosity about the languages, traditions and culture of India through a variety of products including books, audio CDs, DVDs and interactive toys.

Chander has a 4-year-old son born in America, and she said it was especially important for children of Indian heritage to understand their ancestral home.

"I was born and raised in the United States," she said. "Sometimes, kids who are born here never experience India. We want kids to be able to get a feel for India."

Chander said the only mainstream celebration of Indian culture in the area is the Indian Independence Day parade along Devon Avenue.

"The only occasion to really celebrate in the



Manisha Chander with Meera Masi Publishing talks about Elmo's trip to India during an Indian Independence Day program last week at the Niles Public Library.

area is the parade down Devon Avenue, and not a lot of people can go," she said. "This program is really just another way to celebrate."

Chander's program for kids ages 3 to 8 employed a variety of teaching tools that included reading tra-

ditional Indian stories, listening to a recording of the Indian national anthem, and taking an imaginary trip to India with Elmo.

"He makes things fun for the kids," she said.

The children also created traditional rakhi

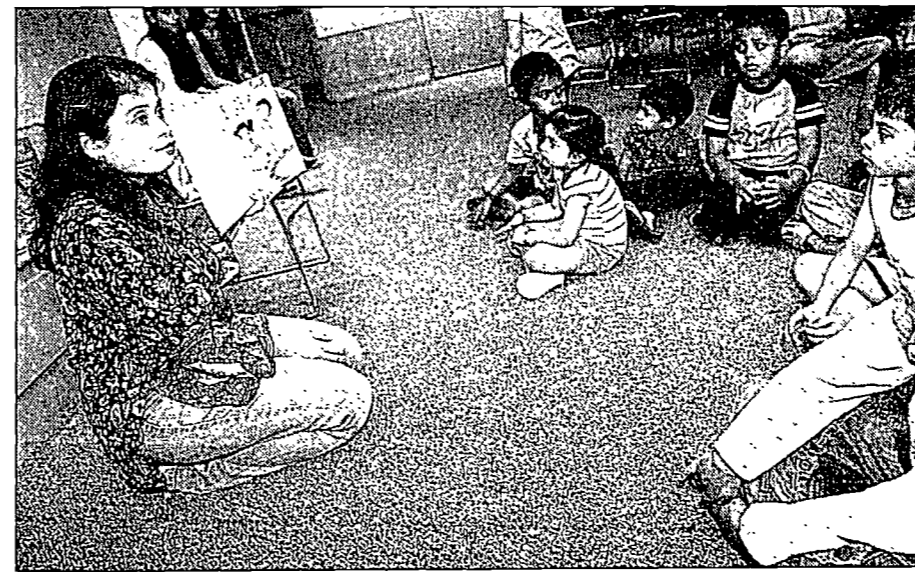
bracelets exchanged during the Indian holiday of Raksha Bandhan, which celebrates the relationship between brothers and sisters.

Niles Library Director Linda Weiss said the library prided itself on being able to offer culturally

diverse programming. "Providing programs and collections for our diverse community is one of the ways we accomplish our library's mission," she said. "Our foreign language fiction selection is one of our fastest growing collec-

tions." Weiss said the library had planned programs about understanding Muslim Ramadan and Native American culture in September, followed by Polish story time in November.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



Manisha Chander with Meera Masi Publishing reads a story to youngsters during an Indian Independence Day program.



Vidhi Soni, 4, of Des Plaines, listens to a story during the program.

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were listed among official reports of the Niles Police Department. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

DUI

- Martin Kachyna, 32, of 3527 Central Road, Glenview, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Aug. 17 on the 8700 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Sept. 10.
- Kristina Stevens, 34, of 4436 N. Mozart St., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Aug. 17 on the 7200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. She was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Sept. 24.
- David Montiel Cabanas, 20, of 1913 55th St., Kenosha, Wis., was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Aug. 16 on the 8700 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$3,000 bond and is due in court Sept. 10.
- Kyle Bauman, 28, of 9504 Park Lane, Des Plaines, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Aug. 17 on the 8100 block of West Ballard Road. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Sept. 24.
- Bruno Vanis, 29, of 608 Austin Ave., Park Ridge, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Aug. 12 on the 7900 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Sept. 24.

BURGLARY

- A radar detector valued at \$250 and an iPod of unspecified value were stolen Aug. 14 from a car parked on the 200 block of West Conrad Avenue.

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57TH HOUSE DISTRICT

Fundraising off to slow start

By ROBERT ELFINGER
refinger@pioneerlocal.com

State Rep. Elaine Nekritz, D-57th, of Northbrook raised \$8,300 while her Republican challenger in the November general election for the House seat, James Tatooles of Northbrook, didn't raise any money during the first six months of this year. Individual contributions to Nekritz totaled \$3,430 from January through June, according to the campaign fund-raising report she filed with the

Illinois State Board of Elections. She reported receiving \$4,800 from political action committees representing tradesmen, telecommunications, legal, health care and banking interests. The 50-year-old Nekritz, who is seeking a fourth term, has a larger campaign war chest than her opponent, who ran for judge in the 12th subdistrict in 2002 and 2006. She had \$43,000 available, \$30,000 more than the funds Tatooles reportedly had on hand June 30.

Tatooles, 70, is a trial attorney with his own firm, James P. Tatooles and Associates, which is based in Wheeling. Though Tatooles didn't report raising money to the Illinois State Board of Elections during the last six months, he reported he has \$13,032 on hand, raised while he was a judicial candidate. Most of that money came from individual donors. The 57th Illinois House district includes parts of Northbrook, Wheeling, Des Plaines and Glenview.

District hopes lessons in students' native tongues translate to success

By TONY BERTUCA
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

This year will be the first time East Maine Elementary School District 63, one of the most ethnically diverse in the state, will teach some children how to read and write in their native language, other than English. With 85 percent of the student population speaking a language other than English at home, district officials said educating children in their mother tongues will lay the groundwork for their ability to learn English in the future.

Erin Centanni, the district's bilingual-education coordinator, said research has shown that young children are more likely to succeed in learning English if they first receive a few years of instruction in their native language. "We'll start to transition the children to English after third grade," she said. "By fourth grade, we hope the students (in the program) will be able to be in all-English classes."

The new optional program will be available at several schools across the district. Stevenson, Nelson and Apollo schools will have a total of 137 students between kinder-

garten and second grade enrolled in Spanish-speaking classes. Melzer School will have 11 prekindergarten students in Spanish-speaking classes, and Mark Twain will have 19 first- and second-graders enrolled in Gujarati-speaking classes. The program will have a total of 12 teachers, five of whom are new hires. "This is an optional program and some parents were hesitant to delay their children's English education. 'They wanted their kids to do everything in English and they thought the program was a little too new.' But Centanni stressed the success rate among students who read and write adeptly in their native language before learning English. "Most American children don't even read and write English fluently until they are 9-years-old," she said. "Children who don't speak English need to be able to make connections with English and their native language."

WHAT'S NEW

Gemini Junior High

Don't miss sports try-outs because there is no sports physical on file. Sports physicals will be given from 2:30 to 6 p.m. Friday and again 3 to 6 p.m. Sept. 4 at Gemini Ju-

nior High, 8955 Greenwood, Niles. Cost is \$15. Students must have a current sports physical and parent consent form filed in the Health Office before trying out for any school sport teams. Dr. Elizabeth Manjooran will conduct sports

physicals by appointment only. No physicals can be given for students who have asthma, allergies, or other health issues. All paperwork and \$15 cash must be presented at the appointment. Call Ms. Corsini at (847) 827-1181, to schedule an appointment.

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Opinion

WE SAY

Murphy legacy: changed tax appeal process

Whenever you appeal your property tax assessment in Cook County with the Board of Review and win, give a quiet prayer of thanks to Maureen Murphy, who died Aug. 9.

If it weren't for Murphy, who was representing her south suburban constituents in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1993 to 1997, the tax appeal process probably would still be business as usual in Cook County.

Reform doesn't come swiftly, but Murphy was chief sponsor for legislation to replace the two-man Cook County Board of Appeals with a three-member review board elected from three different districts.

A state-level appeal process — already available elsewhere in Illinois — was finally opened to Cook County residents. And when Murphy left the legislature she ran for the review board.

The fact that she won a seat — being a Republican and the first suburbanite to do so — and was chosen as the Board of Review's chairman meant that she also had an opportunity to set a lot of procedures and policies. Although she lived in Evergreen Park, her district included many of the north and northwest suburbs and parts of Northwest Chicago.

Public notice on appeals deadlines for different townships within Chicago and its suburbs improved. The Board of Review started outreach sessions all over the county, for big audiences and small community organizations, to explain the appeal process to the average citizen. The success rate of these appeals was a mixed blessing at first — because the board inherited a lot of cases to review, delaying the bills county-wide for a couple of years — but the purpose of the process was fulfilled.

Chicago residents might have had a head start in understanding the property tax appeals process from outreach — from Patrick Quinn's city office of tax appeals back in the 1980s under the Harold Washington administration. However, for many suburban Cook residents, access to appeal information often depended on their township assessor's ability to unsnarl red tape.

Murphy also pioneered on other fronts, serving as the first woman chairman of the Cook County Republican Party (2002-2004), as well as the Worth Township Republican Committeeman and state central committee delegate from the 1st Congressional District.

It's never easy being a Republican, or a Republican woman, in Cook County politics. After two terms, she lost her Board of Review seat at the last election to Democrat Brendan F. Houlihan, but only by a 2 percent margin. She was back on a ballot earlier this year, as a delegate for then-GOP presidential hopeful Fred Thompson.

1000 WORDS



Gasping over gasoline



CHERYL O'DONOVAN
VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

The last time I filled the van's tank, the pump frisked me for 20s. It tipped over my purse and shook out LaserQuest tokens, a plastic leg to a Bionicle and a half-ripped ticket to "Ishtar."

Next stop: grocery store. Above the cash register is an airbrushed photo of former "Charlie's Angels" star Cheryl Ladd, head tilted in a sultry pose. Her quote: "When it comes to my heartburn, I trust my doctor."

When sex symbols get heartburn, a law of physics has reversed; a dynamic is missing its thermo.

The clerk stops scan-

ning items, hits a key and turns to me.

Glancing at the total, I gasp. "This isn't a grocery bill. It's a heist."

"That'll be your arm and your leg, ma'am," the clerk says. "If that's not enough, we can help you hock your ring."

But it is precisely here, in a grocery store, where the American Everyperson clashes with Celebrity Culture. Cheryl Ladd versus Cheryl O'Donovan. Same name, same heartburn, but one's a multimillionaire golfing, the other drives a minivan.

Retailers are struggling. Truckers are being driven out of business. People are losing their homes. Health-care costs are soaring. Workers worry about job security. People must decide between filling their tank or feeding their kids.

Yet, according to what dominates headlines, none of these hardships exist. I mean, who can under-

stand People magazine offering Brangelina \$14 million for photos of their twins?

Televised news only makes it worse. "Viewers will be suicidal if we don't throw in a cutesy or celebrity story," reason the producers.

The nightly newscast planning probably goes like this:

Bryce Bannon, anchor: "A killer asteroid destined for Earth is due Tuesday. Back to you, Tiffany."

Tiffany beams, "Brangelina went to a Laundromat and we've got exclusive photos of the couple putting quarters into the washers."

They cut to a commercial. To spike ratings, the producers created a reality show of infomercial stars. Oxyclean's Billy Hayes throws a chair at the Sham-Wow guy.

I watch, sigh, shrug. I just want to hijack the truck carrying Cheryl Ladd's heartburn meds.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

www.pioneerlocal.com

YOU SAY

Hope for the world in the produce aisle

I hope you're not one of those shoppers who moves thoughtlessly through your summer produce department. You know, grabbing some fruit and a few vegetables as you move on to the more exotic meat and bakery aisles. Big mistake!

Mom always advised us on the merits of our summer fruits and vegetables. A friend of mine is a produce manager, and he reinforces Mom with specific advice on how to pick produce at its peak. While I lack their credentials, I have some advice too. For shoppers seeking the answers to life's eternal questions, pause over your produce.

For example. When you choose among your summer berries, pause to rejoice at nature's goodness. Summer fruits are one more reason to feel life is good, the planet is still not dead, and God is in his heaven. The day summer harvests fail to yield up the joys of strawberries, blueberries and blackberries is the day to cash in your government bonds. Until then, caress your berries like you do your children (and you don't have to send them to college).

Bananas, of course, present the contemplative shopper with one of life's profundities. How long will I live? To be sure, the young shopper has no problem with ripe bananas. On the other and more sober hand, the aging shopper has cause here to meditate a moment. And I say, good for meditation.

Among life's most fundamental verities is the incaluable value of hope. Hope is the final weapon we can afford to lose in our struggle with despair,

Letters, PAGE 9

Board hears District 64's financial outlook is strong

By **ANDREW SCHNEIDER**
aschneider@pioneerlocal.com

The financial condition of Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 and its investments continue to be strong following last year's successful referendum campaign, board members learned Aug. 11.

Maine Township School Treasurer Tom Ahlbeck — who manages funds totaling about \$300

million from the elementary and high school districts in Maine Township — made a presentation to board members. He said the rate of return on all funds exceeded what could be expected in the current economic climate, bringing in nearly 4 percent in the last year.

"Our portfolio of the schools has not been adversely affected by these crises," Ahlbeck said, cit-

ing the housing and credit problems in the United States economy.

Also on Aug. 11, Bruce Martin, the district's business manager, gave the board his final quarterly report on the 2007-08 fiscal year.

On the revenue side, Martin said that District 64's Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), the property tax total across the district used to calculate

the tax rate, has increased by 2 percent. This, in part, boosted 2006-07 tax receipts to 108 percent of estimated revenues. That extra income, Martin said, generated an extra \$158,000 in interest.

Overall, Martin said, revenues — including fees and other income — exceeded budget estimates by 4.3 percent. Most of it can be attributed to higher tax receipts as a result of

the referendum, he said.

On the expense side, salaries and benefits will be up about 9 percent this year, an increase which was expected, Martin said. Class sizes have been decreased and more staff positions have been added.

Looking ahead, Martin says the district is on track to reach its goal for fiscal year 2009 of having a fund balance — representing 33 percent of a

year's operating costs — to carry over into the next school year. The district was able to set aside \$8 million more at the end of the last budget year, improving the carryover to a 28 percent level.

"Well done to everyone in the district for holding to the budget," said School Board President Sue Runyon.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Letters

Continued from PAGE 8

has taught us that there are glorious subtleties and nuances to our species, and as the serious shopper gazes upon arrays of iceberg, romaine, endive, arugula lettuces along with vine-grown, plum, and cherry tomatoes, eyes are opened and hearts are liberated to understand life in all its complexities.

If other shoppers catch you talking to yourself among the cucumbers, I say scoff at them, for they know not what you do!

Now I may be making more of produce departments than reason justifies. I do, however, have this one fall-back comfort that makes up for any unmet challenges I suffer here. Gene Kelly! Yes, in our store, whenever the automatic mists spray the produce, they do it to the swinging voice of Gene Kelly's *Singing in the Rain*.

See what I mean when I say pause more over your produce this summer....?

Jack Spatafora
Park Ridge

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District 219 absorbs effects of fuel costs

By **KATHY ROULIFFE**
kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com

Skyrocketing fuel prices are hitting school district pocketbooks just as noticeably as they have challenged families.

The proposed \$117.3 million 2008-09 budget for Niles Township High School District 219 reflects that, district officials said.

People can comment on the budget at tonight's board meeting (7 p.m., district headquarters, 7700 Gross Point Road, Skokie; closed session followed by open meeting at 7:45 p.m.) The school board expects to approve the final budget at tonight's meeting.

"It's affected us as much as anyone else. That's reality," Paul O'Malley said at the Aug. 12 meeting. O'Malley, assistant superintendent for business services, said

"It's affected us as much as anyone else. That's reality."

Paul O'Malley

"we pay conscious attention to conserving as much energy as possible in an effort to mitigate those costs." Fiscal director Susan Husselbee said fuel price is also reflected in higher costs for other supplies.

The budget is almost 8.2 percent higher than the 2007-08 budget. Direct operating costs comprise just over \$100 million of that — the district's education, operations and maintenance, transportation, legal liability, and retirement funds. That's just over 7 percent more than the current year's operating budget. Transportation costs show the largest

single fund increase; almost 13 percent, from \$3.9 million to \$4.5 million.

The district will spend less this year to pay off bond debt, \$5.8 million compared with this year's \$7.3 million. But it also plans to spend \$2.59 million on projects such as classroom additions and the creation of space for an employee daycare center. Those projects, and \$1.3 million in regularly-scheduled safety improvements required by the state, mean 2008-09 capital costs of \$9.8 million are more than 25 percent higher than budgeted this year.

However, the district

also expects to take in \$123.2 million in local, state and federal revenue, about 6 percent more than the same sources brought in for 2007-08. Almost 95 percent of direct revenue is local, largely property taxes. (Technically, so-called "other financing sources" hike total projected revenue to \$129.8 million, 5.9 percent more than last year. However, those are often intra-budget transfers or flow-through funds, and aren't considered true revenue sources.)

The proposed budget is available for review until the meeting, at public libraries within District 219's boundaries, at the District office, and through the district's Web site at, www.niles-hs.k12.il.us/pdf/tentative-budgetfy09.pdf.

Comment: pioneerfocal.com

New District 219 head exuberant about job

By **KATHY ROULIFFE**
kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com

Nanciann Gatta keeps a couple of manila folders in her files, filled, she says, with reminders of why she stays in education; pictures of teachers who mentored Gatta early on in her career, letters from students thanking her for the lessons they learned during her English classes.

Gatta, appointed last May to succeed Neil Codell year as Superintendent of Niles Township High School District 219, doesn't seem to need the folders' contents to charge her up. When she talked last week about her job, its challenges, and her determination to make sure every student in the district gets the best possible education, the smile never left her face.

After 14 years in the district — hired in 1995 to teach English at Niles West High School (spending two years at the helm of the Niles Township Federation of Teachers) becoming Niles North High School's director of English and fine arts in 2000, then assistant superintendent for human resources in 2004 — she



ALLEN KALETA/FOR PIONEER PRESS

Dr. Nanciann Gatta has begun her new job as superintendent of Niles Township High School District 219.

said, "I think I'm one of the few people here who can say I've been on every campus in the district. That gives me a great position to start this job from."

Her journey took her from Wheeling, where she grew up the daughter of two educators, to the University of Iowa and Loyola University, earning her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Before choosing full time education, Gatta edited children's books and was director of human resources at a private holding company.

But Gatta said it was the time she spent studying in Europe that taught her about courage, art,

culture and diversity.

"It taught me how to be uncomfortable every day," she said. "When you have to practice (the language) before buying a bottle of water, it gives you empathy for people who come to our country, to our schools, and take on that challenge."

In fact, Gatta said the district's ethnic and cultural diversity played a big part in convincing her to come, teach, and stay. Even before she starts working with the district school board and staff on a five-year strategic plan, she wants to revamp the district's Web site to provide translation abilities, and to provide real-time translation services for

major district functions.

Gatta's academic to-do list includes developing small learning communities within schools and ensuring that the seemingly endless batteries of required tests actually help educate students.

Her agenda appeared to leave little time for traveling, entertaining friends at home, or polishing her culinary skills, but Gatta remained enthusiastic: "In Latin, 'education' means to lead out of. If we're not educating kids out of the darkness of ignorance, if we're not leading them into a better life, then we're not doing our jobs."

Comment: pioneerfocal.com

Gatta shares thoughts on modern education

By **KATHY ROULIFFE**
kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com

Nanciann Gatta shared her thoughts on life, education and running a high school district last week, while preparing for her first school year as Superintendent of Niles Township High School District 219.

On the likelihood that federal education guidelines will saddle District 219 with another year of being labeled as failing to make adequate yearly progress:

"We have 960 students in the free or reduced price lunch program. We have 300 students, speak-

ing 30 languages, in our English language learners' classes. We have 720 students in special education, and about 1,408 taking advanced placement classes. Martin Luther King Jr. said 'We want to make justice a reality for all of God's children.' Well, we're doing it. We are not a failing school district."

On how teachers and school districts come together:

"It's just as important for a teacher to find the right community as for a community to find the right teacher. When I came to District 219 there was a rigorous selection

process ... I liked it. I thought, 'These people are not messing around. It's not going to be a case of them saying, oh good, she's normal, let's hire her.' They wanted me to prove myself."

On working with district employees: "I'm comfortable with the concept that adults have needs that we need to meet. I can talk with everyone, as long as they know that nothing will ever come at the expense of the children. If what adults say they need comes at that expense, or if people don't take the children's needs into consideration, then they've

forgotten why we're here. That's not negotiable."

On the importance of public input to education: "Criticism, in the best sense of the term ... is analysis. People forget that, but I was an English teacher, and I remember. Asking for criticism in a school district is inviting people to take ownership of their schools."

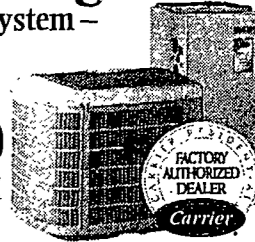
On the importance of education: "The one true success of America is its school system. We've gotten that right, but until it's right for every student, we still have work to do."

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Diversions

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Go to www.pioneerlocal.com, select a community and click on Entertainment:

» STAGE »

Dorothy Andries says wonderful things happen in the Light Opera Works production of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe." Writers' Theatre remounts its hit 2000 production of "Nixon's Nixon."

» BLOGS »

In Entertaining Ideas, Jennifer Thomas notes the WB TV network's plans to launch a Web site with new and old programming — and a new snacks-and-sweets board game called "Eat it." Steve Coogan talks about what attracted him to "Hamlet 2" in Reel Time.



"Redbelt"

» GAMES AND DVDS »

Erik Stein reviews "Madden 2009" and "Too Human." David Mamel's "Redbelt" fights its way to the top of our DVD coverage.

» KIDS »

Jack Bess checks in with children's entertainer Justin Roberts before several area performances.

» HOROSCOPE »

Check online for this week's forecast.

BRUCE'S TAKE

"The old guy is just a little too well-behaved and the kids in the band are just a little too hip and blasé to take 'The Rocker' to an entertaining extreme."

SEE MOVIE REVIEW PAGE B4

Creating women in full flower

MILA RYK

Work by the artist is included in "Exotica Erotica" (through Aug. 31) at Effe Leven Gallery, 213 W. Institute Place, 4th floor, Chicago. (312) 479-5176; www.effelevengallery.com. For information about Mila Ryk's art classes, call (224) 388-0582 or visit www.art-beyond.com.

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

A visit to the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe a decade ago changed the direction of Mila Ryk's art. The third generation Ukrainian artist, who lives in Morton Grove, was fascinated by the diversity and beauty of the flowers ex-

hibited in an orchid show.

She could have painted some of the orchids, but decided that would be no better than taking a photograph. Ryk mulled her options for three years. "I couldn't start right away. I had to figure out how I wanted to do it," she explained. What has gradually evolved in the year's since in Ryk's work is a blending of the nude female form with the essence of a flower. The resulting paintings are delicate, graceful and erotic.

Ryk is exhibiting three of her oil paintings as part of a group show called "Exotica Erotica," through Aug. 31 at Effe Leven Gallery in



Works by Mila Ryk such as this one, "Peaceful Dream (Orchids)," are a blending of the nude female form with the essence of a flower.

Chicago.

"I love it," said Leven of Ryk's work. "She has formal training from a Russian art teacher and her work really exhibits that type of feeling to it." Leven, who is a photographer, admitted that he is not an art expert; one of his interns located Ryk. Leven opened his gallery to offer artists of all types a place to exhibit.

Designing woman

In addition to creating fine art, Ryk is a graphic designer, with a lengthy client list. Her work includes designs for magazines, sales, packaging and products, plus many other projects.

Art & Beyond Studio Inc., based in Ryk's immaculate, tastefully furnished home, encompasses her graphic design work as well as other arts-related activities. These include gallery exhibits of other artists, and art classes for all ages and abilities.

"Art is not only for talented people," Ryk declared. "Art is something that you can bring to your life. You can open your eyes and look at nature different ways. It's kind of healing."

Ryk said that she always drew and sculpted when she was a child growing up in the Ukraine. She recalled being amazed when, years later, her grandmother showed her a sculpture that Ryk had created at the age of 5. "I made a whole story out of clay," she said.

Ukrainian immigrant

Ryk immigrated to the United States in 1991 with her husband and daughter. She has been taking private lessons with artist Leon Oks for several years, and credits him with greatly influencing her work.

A rotating exhibit of work by Ryk has been on display at the Morton Grove Village Hall for about a year. "I have an appreciation letter from the Mayor, that he loved it,"

Ryk reported. Her paintings have also been displayed at the Elmhurst Artists' Guild Gallery, Morton Grove Public Library, Skokie Public Library, Skokie Heritage Museum and a gallery in Arizona, among other places.

Two examples of Ryk's "orchid" paintings grace the walls of her living room — others are in process in her upstairs studio. "I do have some landscapes and I do have some still lifes," she said. But her main focus for the past several years has been the series inspired by that long-ago visit to the Chicago Botanic Garden.

"I named the series 'Orchids,' even if they don't look much like orchids," Ryk said. It's true that nude female figures, rather than flowers, seem to predominate in each work, but in paintings like "Peaceful Dream (Orchids)," in the current show, those figures look ready to blossom.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



Mila Ryk attended the opening reception for "Exotica Erotica" at Effe Leven Gallery in Chicago, where three of her paintings are on exhibit.

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KidStuff, the 7th annual celebration of children's creativity, runs from Aug. 21-Sept. 3 in Park Ridge.

Extravaganza celebrates creativity

By MYRNA PETLICKI
 Contributor

Children's artwork often winds up on refrigerator doors, but the young people who attended summer classes and summer camps at Brickton Art Center get to see their creations on gallery walls. KidStuff, the 7th annual celebration of children's creativity, runs from Aug. 21-Sept. 3, at 306 Busse Hwy., Park Ridge.

There is an opening reception on Friday, Aug. 22, from 6-8 p.m. It's a chance to view artwork by more than 350 young artists, ages 3-13, listen to live music, eat dilly bars and participate in games, face painting and other activities. Suggested donation is \$10 per family.

"We had classes in ceramics, sculpture, painting and mixed media," reported Executive Director Alyssa Kulak. Children had a range of camps to

choose from, including ones focusing on clay, Egyptian art and masks.

Kulak said the exhibit lets visitors see "what children in Park Ridge and the other northwest suburban youth are up to, what kind of art they're making and the things they're interested in. It's a good opportunity to support the local youth and celebrate them as artists." For details, call (847) 823-6611.

It's all about friendship

Think of "Friendship Fest" as the last blast of summer. The free celebration, running from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, at Rosemary S. Argus Friendship Park, 395 Algonquin Rd., Mount Prospect, includes performances of '50s and '60s music by the Daddy-O's, Impulse Dance Ensemble and Ballet Expressions. There will also be a kids'

craft tent, face painting and craft booths. Food will be sold.

For details, call (847) 298-3500.

Cat is purr-fect for preschoolers

Pack a sack lunch and bring a blanket to "Preschool Picnic and Concert with Cat Catalani," noon-1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, on the Village Green, east of the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The popular children's entertainer will present her "Animal Songs" show. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 673-7774.

See what hatches

A mysterious enchanted egg leads to adventure for a young boy in "The Water Horse." The movie based on the children's book by Dick King-Smith will be screened at 2 p.m. Satur-

day, Aug. 23, in the Large Meeting Room A&B at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Participants will be served a snack at this free 111-minute family movie.

For details, call (847) 663-1234.

Dash to Bash

A three day extravaganza will fill downtown Skokie the weekend of Aug. 22-24. From Friday-Sunday, at "Backlot Bash," there will be live music, carnival rides in the streets, food and drink tents, a classic car show, an art show and a business expo. You can even catch silent films at the Skokie Theater. Highlights include a performance by Little Nashville children's entertainers at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

For details, see www.backlotbash.com.

Comment: pioneerfocal.com

FAMILY FRIENDLY

STAGE

Rand is more than a road in historic show

'TALES OF THE RIVER'
 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 and Sunday, Aug. 24 in the Dining Room, Historic Methodist Campground, 1900 E. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines. \$5; groups \$4. (847) 391-5399.

By MYRNA PETLICKI
 Contributor

The land on which the Historic Methodist Campground is located was donated by Socrates Rand, one of the first permanent settlers of Des Plaines. That makes it a fitting place to stage "Tales of the River," by Des Plaines residents Daniel Scott (book and lyrics) and Tim Vana (music and additional songs). The story of Rand and other early residents of the area along the Des Plaines River will be presented in four performances in the Campground's dining room, the weekend of Aug. 23-24.

Scott and Vana were commissioned by the Des Plaines Historical Society to create a local version of Edgar Lee Masters' "Spoon River Anthology" in 2008. That first production, in the Waldorf Tabernacle on

the Campground, was such a success, the society asked Scott and Vana to restage the show this year. The current production features actors Scott, John Jasonowski, Stephanie Wooten-Austin and Jocelyn Mills playing multiple roles. Music is provided by Vana, Kimberly Vana, Dan Zahn and Randy Cerqua.

Scott recalled that, five years ago, "I started writing the monologues and then Tim would start either picking music or writing music."

In-person collaboration

"There was no e-mail," Vana reported. The pair would get together and Vana would play the music for Scott. "As somebody who writes a lot, I really had an affinity for the way Dan was developing the characters," Vana said. "And I'm very proud of the music that I came up with for this."

The project required extensive research by Scott and the Historical Society staff. Lifelong Des Plaines resident Vana, a history buff, was also a valuable source.

Both creators knew that

Socrates Rand would be a prominent character in the show. "Usually, he gets short shrift in this area," Vana said. "Who even knows who Rand Road is named after? And he was so influential in the development of the Des Plaines River Valley. He was sort of a mix of Renaissance meets the Industrial Revolution. He is the guy who brought the railroad out from Chicago to Des Plaines. He was a friend of Augustus Conant and many of his sermons are still preserved in the Chicago Historical Society."

Personal insights

"We have Conant in the show," Scott reported. "His diary is really fascinating because it gives you an insight into what life was like here at the very beginning. He saw the Northern Lights here and he talks about wolves howling. Of course, the Native Americans were still here and Rand dealt with them — they traded."

The show also features Grandma Ahbe, a midwife who delivered more than a thousand children, the last

when she was 90. Vana's tune dedicated to her, "Grandma Ahbe's Song," was an instant hit five years ago — with the audience singing along. "The lyrics are written in the program and it's a fairly easy melody to grab hold of, but I had not had that experience before," Vana said.

Scott is a professional actor, director and acting teacher, who had written cemetery walks and other projects for the Des Plaines Historical Society when he was chosen to create "Tales of the River." Vana, whose family sold its cab company last year after 36 years, now works as a dispatcher for a medical company and performs as a professional singer and guitarist.

The two believe there are more stories to be told about the Des Plaines River Valley beyond those in "Tales of the River." "I want to do the prequel," Vana declared. "Tim and I have talked about doing Marquette and Joliet," Scott added. "Maybe that will come down the pike sometime."

Comment: pioneerfocal.com



PHOTO COURTESY DES PLAINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Socrates Rand, for whom Rand Road is named, was hugely influential in the development of the Des Plaines River Valley by bringing the railroad out from Chicago.

"He was so influential in the development of the Des Plaines River Valley. He was sort of a mix of Renaissance meets the Industrial Revolution."



PHOTO COURTESY DES PLAINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Philippine Ahbe, aka "Grandma Ahbe," is the fifth from the left in the front row here. She was a midwife who delivered more than a thousand children in the Des Plaines River Valley — the last when she was 90.

STAGE REVIEW

'Iolanthe' insists you believe in fairies

"IOLANTHE" 2 p.m. Wednesday Aug. 20, 8 p.m. Friday Aug. 22 and Saturday Aug. 23, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24 at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. \$85 to \$29. Call (847) 869-6300 or visit LightOperaWorks.com.

By DOROTHY ANDRIES dandries@pioneerlocal.com

The world of Gilbert and Sullivan is as oblique and strange as the cosmos inhabited by opera. The audience must suspend disbelief and enter into a sphere where the wise are befuddled, the foolish win the day and everyone pretty much believes in fairies.

Light Opera Works opened G&S's "Iolanthe" Saturday night (Aug. 16) at Cahn Auditorium in Evanston and there were fairies everywhere. Unless you accept this, nothing wonderful can happen.

And wonderful things do happen in Gilbert and Sullivan's topsy-turvy world, where they tweak the noses of the pompous, in this case the British House of Lords, and even bend the laws of the fairy kingdom for a happy ending.

Here's the setup. Iolanthe is a fairy who 25 years ago broke a fairy command and married a mortal. She had a child, Strephon, who is half-human, half-fairy, whom she raised in exile as a shepherd. He has fallen in love with Phyllis, a shepherdess, who is also a Ward in Chancery — like being a minor ward of the state. The Queen of the Fairies commutes Iolanthe's harsh sentence and she is allowed to be with her son again.

However, fairies stop aging at 17 years, so when Phyllis spots her beloved kissing his mother, she believes he is untrue and



Graceful mezzo-soprano Jessye Wright has the title role in Light Opera Works' "Iolanthe."

breaks their engagement.

Try to stay with me here, because there's lots more. The entire House of Lords is also in love with Phyllis, as is her guardian, the Lord Chancellor.

Lords of pretension

Gilbert and Sullivan make fun of everyone, but saved their harshest satire for the Lords, who arrived wearing red capes with large ermine collars. "Bow, bow, ye lower middle classes," they sing, "Bow, bow ye tradesmen, bow ye masses."

You get the idea.

Courtney O'Neill designed a very pretty production for Light Opera Works. The first act is set in an Arcadian landscape. When the curtain opened

Saturday there was a mist floating among the toadstools, flowers and trees. Strephon, played by Colm Fitzmaurice and Phyllis, sung with distinction by the lovely soprano Alicia Berneche, were in matching pale blue outfits and with their blond hair they resembled 18th century porcelain figurines.

Ten twinkling fairies, all superb dancers, included two standouts: Heather Brandon-DeSouza as Leila and Natalie Ford as Celia. Ford had the title role in Light Opera Works' recent production of "Gigi." There were 10 members of the House of Lords and their main players were Bill Chamberlain as Tolloller and Alex Honzen as

Mountarat.

The second act, set in the House of Lords, included a silhouette of the London skyline.

Iolanthe was played by Jessye Wright, who is a natural. Her mezzo-soprano voice was unforced, she moved with utmost grace, and she is a fine actress. The Queen of the Fairies is a comic role and Veronice McHale had fun with it. Private Willis, the object of her affections, had a little number in which he wondered wryly why every child born in England was either a liberal or a conservative.

Patter master

Gilbert and Sullivan provided the musical world with wonderfully intricate tongue-twisting numbers called patter songs. "Iolanthe" has one of the most famous: "The Nightmare Song," which was sung by multiple Jeff Award-winner James Harms as the Lord Chancellor.

As he navigates the patter song's dense and multiple rhymes, the

singer must go faster and faster until he is gasping for breath. To say that Harms tore up the covers would be an understatement. He not only nailed the words, but he finished with a dazzling acceleration.

The show was directed by Kurt Johns, and artistic director Rudy Hogenmiller did the musical staging.

English is a language which is notoriously difficult to understand when sung, but catching the mischief and satire in the lyrics is crucial to the enjoyment of the show.

Bravo to Light Opera Works music and chorus director Roger Bingaman and the entire cast for making diction a high priority.

Bingaman conducted the 27-piece orchestra in the pit, which, as always, added immeasurably to the success of the production.

You don't have to believe in fairies to enjoy this show, but it helps.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



SLATED FOR A WEEK FROM SATURDAY Mr. Slate (from left) is Gary Perkins of Vernon Hills, Jim Wright of Chicago, Larry Malitz of Northbrook, Dean Fields of Grayslake and Jeff Weinman of Arlington Heights. The band performs high energy classic rock at 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30 at the Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette. Tickets are \$15. Call (847) 251-7424.

go.

Continued from PAGE B7

POP/FOLK/JAZZ

The Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago. (773) 478-4408. www.abbeypub.com. Sundays: Traditional Irish Session with Devin Shepherd. 4 p.m. Tuesdays: Open Mic Night with Nick Gonzales. 8 p.m. Wednesdays: Sweetwater Meltdown. 9 p.m. Thursdays: House band. 8 p.m. Aug. 22, 9 p.m.: J. Davis Trio. \$8 in advance; \$10 at the door. Aug. 23, 9 p.m.: Aesop Rock with Rob Sonic and DJ Big Wiz. \$20. Aug. 27, 10 p.m.: Flossstradamus and special guests. \$5. Aug. 29, 9 p.m.: Murley Shertz. Dave Tamkin. TBH. \$6 in advance; \$8 at the door. Aug. 30, 9 p.m.:

Elevation (U2 tribute). \$10. Aug. 31, 9 p.m.: Slow Gun Shogun, Fil, Six Gun Lullaby. Leaf Bird. \$6 in advance; \$8 at the door. 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. Sept. 25: Janet Jackson, "Rock Witchu Tour." Sept. 27: Enrique Iglesias and Aventura. \$150, \$85, \$65, \$45. Oct. 2, 7 p.m.: Weezer, Angels and Airwaves. Tokyo Police Club. \$50, \$40. Oct. 4 and 24, 8 p.m.: New Kids on the Block. \$35, \$55, \$75. Oct. 6: Tina Turner. Bill's Blues, 1029 Davis St., Evanston. (847) 424-9800. www.billsbluesbar.com. Cover charges vary. Sundays, 4 p.m.: Lilfest Open Mike. Mondays, 9 p.m.: Frank Bang & the Secret Slush (blues/rock). Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.: Blues

Jam hosted by The TFB Band. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.: Pro Jazz Jam with Mike Finnerty. Aug. 21, 7 p.m.: Lil Fest Singer/Songwriter Night (folk). Aug. 21, 10 p.m.: Bill West Productions (hip-hop). Aug. 22, 5:30 p.m.: Prohibition Orchestra of Chicago (jazz). Aug. 22, 9 p.m.: Milton Houston & the Chicago Blues All Stars. Aug. 23, 3 p.m.: Big Time Entertainment (rock). Aug. 23, 8:30 p.m.: Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials (blues). Aug. 23, 11:45 p.m.: Full Circle Talent (hip-hop). Aug. 24, 7 p.m.: Bruce Foster and Albie Powers (folk). Aug. 28, 7 p.m.: Kris Nichols and Marion St. John (folk). Aug. 29, 6 p.m.: Shanta Loecker (jazz). Aug. 29, 8:30 p.m.: Danny Adler (rock). Aug. 30, 8:30 p.m.: Sammy Fender (blues). Aug. 31, 7 p.m.: Amy Dixon-Kolar (folk). 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. Blues Bar, 2 W. Busse Ave., Mount Prospect. (847) 788-9977. www.bluesbar.com. Sept. 12, 9:30 p.m.: Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials. \$5. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. (847) 864-1679. www.celticknotpub.com. No cover unless noted otherwise. Mondays, 8 p.m.: midnight Bluegrass and roots music with the Mudflapps. Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m.: Irish music session. Aug. 24, 8 p.m.: Andy White. Aug. 30, 10 p.m.: The Black Oil Brothers. Sept. 7 and 21, 5-8 p.m.: Eric Lugosch. Sept. 13, 10 p.m.: The Mudflapps. Sept. 27, 10 p.m.: Naomi Ashley. 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.-midnight: Jazz Jam with John Bany, Char-

lie Braugham and Don Stille. Sunday music is from 5-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday Cool ('60s and '70s rock). \$5. Aug. 23: The Meteors (oldies). Aug. 24: Jerry Owens. Aug. 29: Ronnie Ross Show. Aug. 30: Route 66 (oldies). \$7. Aug. 31: Petra Van Nuis duet. Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhuman.org. Sept. 13: Folksinger/songwriter Kristin Lems at 8 p.m., following open mic (7:30 p.m. sign-up, all genres, all acoustic). \$5. Famous Freddie's Roadhouse, 1799 S. Busse Road, Mount Prospect. (847) 593-2200. www.famousfreddiesroadhouse.com. Shows start at 9 p.m. Fridays and 10 p.m. Saturdays. Aug. 22: J.P. & the Cats. Aug. 23: Covergurt. Aug. 29: Rebel Highway. Aug. 30: Drunken Skunk.

Gino's East, 8725 W. Higgins. Chicago. (773) 444-2244. Sept. 11, 18, 25 and Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.: Thursday Night Pizza and Blues Party. Music will be provided by Two for the Blues with special guest Aron Burton. No cover charge. 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 - Sept. 5: Ceili dancing with Ceoltoiri Chicago. Sept. 6: Paddy Homan's Band. Sept. 12: Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore. Sept. 13: Mulligan Stew. Sept. 19: Kevin Flynn & the Avondale Ramblers. Sept. 20: Joe Cullen and Kathleen Keane. Sept. 26: The Chancy Brothers. Sept. 27: The Dooley Brothers. Kaféin Espresso Bar, 1621 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 491-1621. Mondays, go., PAGE B12

Movie poster for 'The House Bunny' featuring Anna Faris. Text includes: 'Bodaciously Going Where No Bunny Has Gone Before. College.' 'ANNA FARIS IN THE HOUSE BUNNY FROM THE SCREENWRITERS WHO BROUGHT YOU LEGALLY BLONDE' 'STARTS FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES SORRY, NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT'

Movie poster for 'Pineapple Express' featuring James Franco and Robert Rodriguez. Text includes: 'Rolling Stone "Hardcore hilarious. It slaps a big, fat, goofy smile on your face that lasts for days. You'll go limp from laughing!"' 'USA TODAY "Gut-busting comedy. Side-splittingly funny. Franco is a revelation. The laughs are almost non-stop." CLAUDIA PUIG' 'ROBERT RODRIGUEZ AND JAMES FRANCO PINEAPPLE EXPRESS' 'FROM THE GUYS WHO BROUGHT YOU SUPERBAD' 'NOW PLAYING CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES'

Movie poster for 'Death Race' featuring Jason Statham and Tyrese Gibson. Text includes: 'DEATH RACE GET READY FOR A KILLER RIDE.' 'UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA AN IMPACT PICTURES - C/W PRODUCTION AN ASSOCIATION WITH ROBERT COHRMAN & PAUL W.S. ANDERSON FILM JASON STATHAM TYRESE GIBSON DEATH RACE' 'OPENS FRIDAY, AUGUST 22ND CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES'

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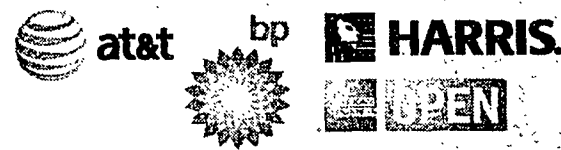
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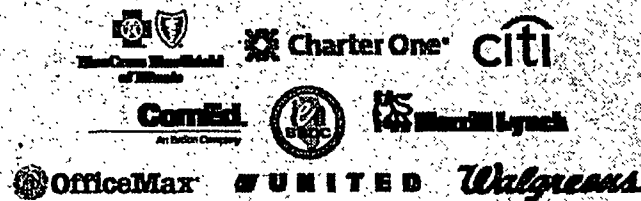
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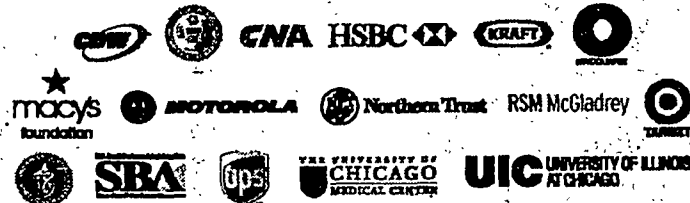
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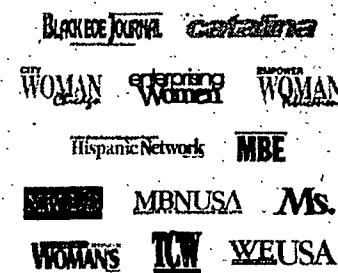
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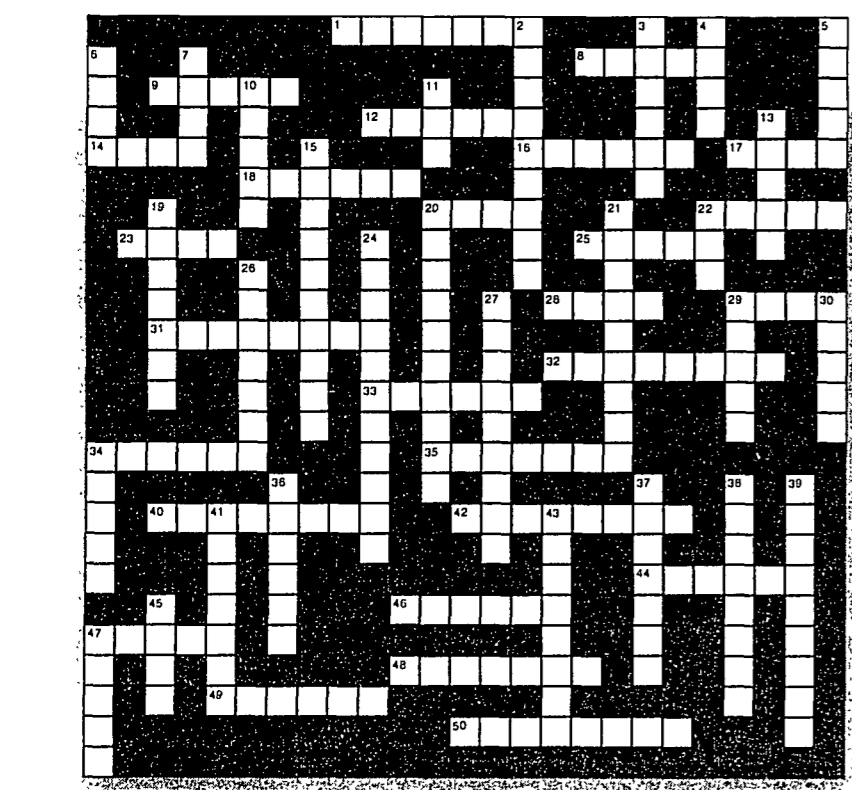
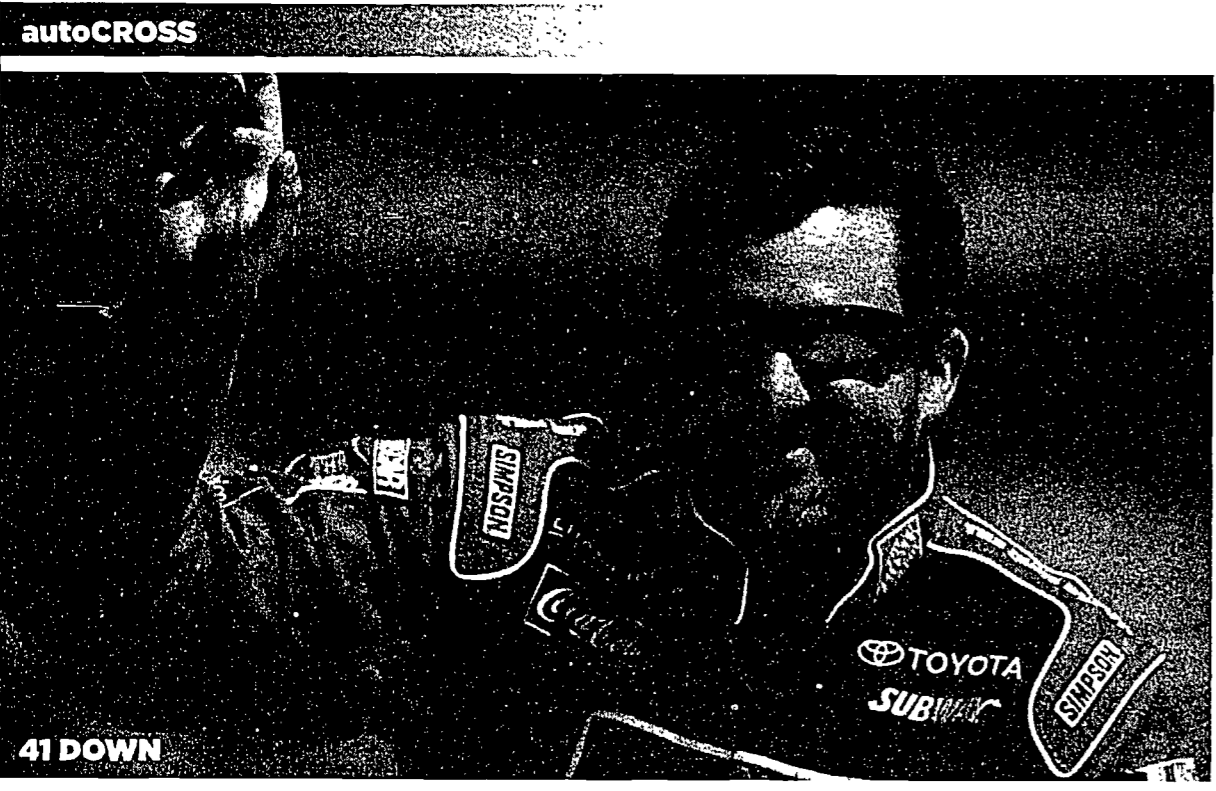


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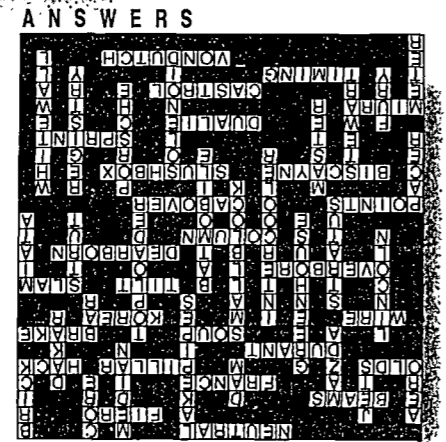
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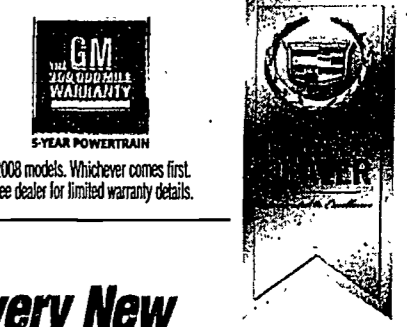
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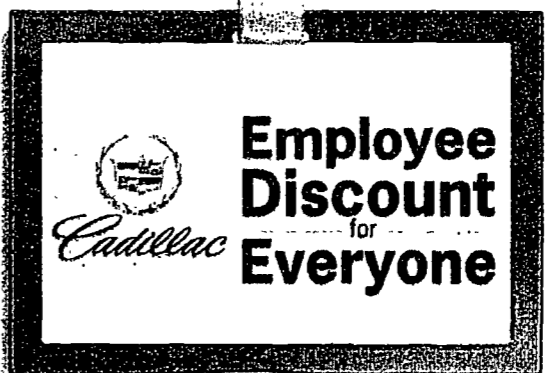
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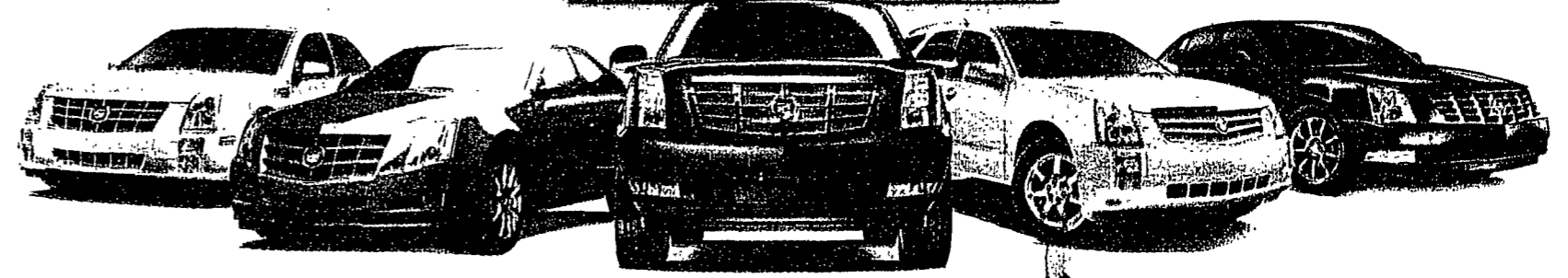
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Currie Motors advertisement for Ford of Frankfort, including contact information, location, and financing options.



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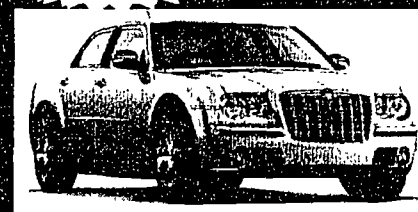
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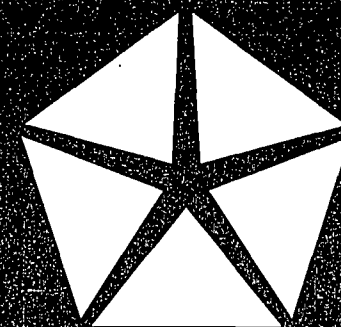
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Clubman expands the Mini lineup - literally



by **JILL CIMINILLO**
SearchChicago-Autos Editor
jiminillo@suntimes.com

For 2008, Mini expands its lineup. Literally.

The new Clubman model increases the overall length by 9.6 inches, adding a "club" door for backseat access and 9.18 cubic feet of cargo volume.

I've always been a fan of the Mini. It's cute, it's small and it's really fun to drive. Now there's just more to love.

The Clubman has the same basic styling as the regular Cooper, but you can definitely tell there's some extra length. It looks like a stretched version of the popular little car.

Another visual difference is the rear barn doors. Instead of a single hatch, the barn doors open out. The doors are surprisingly fluid because of the gas struts and they shut with a solid thwap.

The downside to the dual doors is the center joint. While driving the area where the two doors meet create a bit of a blind spot. Luckily, the dividing line is only a couple inches wide so you do get used to it after driving for a bit.

Another difference between the Clubman

and the original Cooper is the rear-access "club" door. It's situated behind the front passenger and gives backseat passengers easier access to the rear of the vehicle.

The interior of the Clubman is exactly what you'd expect from Mini, right down to the oversized speedometer on the center stack. I love this quirky little feature, especially when you're driving alone. If you have passengers, they're likely to take the role of backseat driver and comment on your speed. If you speed, that is.

The toggle switches that work the windows, lights and optional sunroof are attractive if not entirely functional. The main difficulty is that if you have a tall beverage in the cup holder, it blocks access to the window toggles.

Similar to the original Cooper, the Clubman comes with a two-engine lineup: the base 118-horsepower, 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine and the turbocharged, 172-horsepower four-cylinder engine contained within the S model.

The test vehicle was a Clubman S and I had a blast zipping onto the highway and around city streets. Even with its extra length, it's a petite vehicle that can maneuver well through city traffic and is easy to parallel park. You can feel the extra length with aggressive driving, which I tested on a racetrack, but it still does pretty well in regular driving situations.

My one beef with the handling of Clubman is the turning radius. For such a small car, the turning radius is a big fat zero. Trying to do a U-turn

autoSPECS

2008 MINI COOPER CLUBMAN S

ENGINE: 172-horsepower turbocharged four-cylinder

TRANSMISSION: six-speed manual

BASE PRICE: \$24,100

AS TESTED: \$33,200

FUEL ECONOMY: 26 city/34 highway

WEB SITE: www.miniusa.com

and getting out of my tight condo parking space were more difficult than they should have been.

While I'm still a fan of the original Mini, I can see the need for a slightly larger car if you need a little more space for cargo and people. The great thing, however, is that even with the increased size, fuel economy doesn't suffer. In fact, Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the Clubman gets exactly the same miles per gallon as its smaller sibling.

The base 118-horsepower engine incurs outstanding city/highway mileage numbers of 28/37. The Clubman S with the turbocharged engine has slightly lower numbers, but they're still pretty good at 26/34 miles per gallon. During the

test period, my mileage in the Clubman S hovered between 30 and 32 miles per gallon during heavy city driving. The mileage is great but keep in mind that the Clubman uses premium fuel.

The test vehicle didn't have any Mini accessories, which help customize the car with Union Jack flag roofs or checkerboard door handles, but it did come stacked with pretty much every available option, totaling more than \$11,000. Option highlights included the premium package with the panoramic sunroof (\$1,500), convenience package (\$1,500), sport package (\$1,500) and Steptronic automatic transmission (\$1,250).

Base price of the Clubman is \$20,600. The Clubman S jumps up to \$24,100. Fully optioned, the test vehicle rang in at \$33,200.

For a premium car, the starting point of \$20,000 is pretty attractive, but to get what you want, you're going to spend significantly more. At a minimum, I'd make sure my Mini had the convenience package, which includes an iPod hook up and Bluetooth connectivity. Heated front seats, panoramic sunroof and auto headlights would also be high on my list. And that would put me in the \$25,000 range for the base Clubman.

Cute, apparently, has a price tag.

But, I have to admit, as gas prices go ever higher, spending a little more up front seems to make more sense than slowly bleeding cash every time you fill up. With the extra space and easier access to the back seat, I think the Clubman is the right car at the right time.

autoREVIEW

37 MPG

(38 WITH A GOOD TAILWIND)

37 /28 MPG*



The MINI Cooper starting at \$18,700**

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*EPA Estimate. Actual mileage will vary with options, driving conditions, driving habits and vehicle operation. **MSRP. Including destination and handling charges. Price excludes license, registration, taxes, options and labor to install accessories. Certain features shown are optional accessories. Actual price determined by your dealer. ©2008 MINI, a division of BMW of North America, LLC. The MINI name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.

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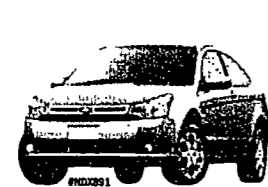
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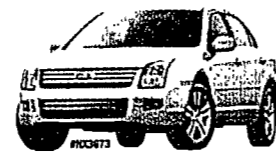
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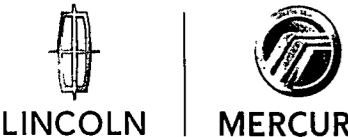
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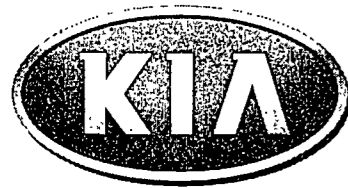
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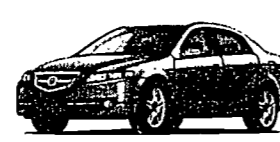
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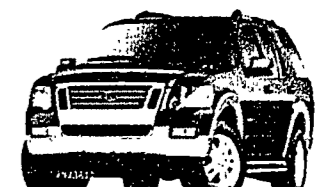
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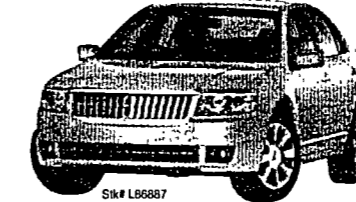
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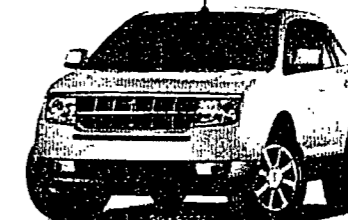
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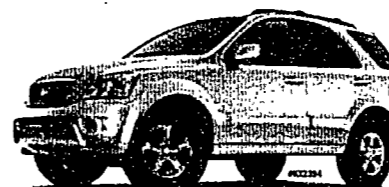
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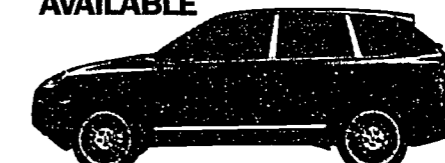


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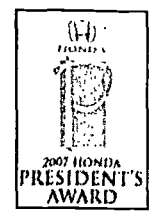


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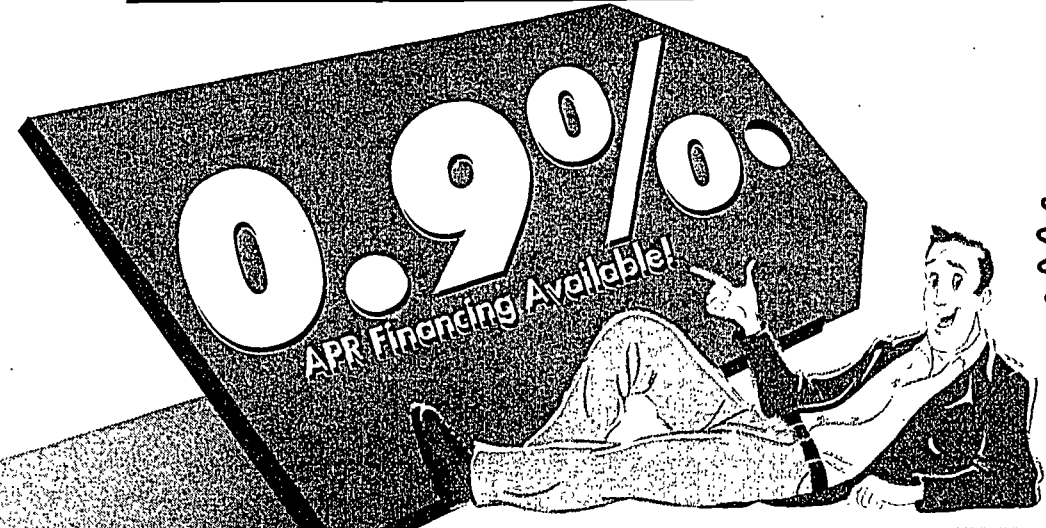
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Today's New Homes

NORTH EDITION AUGUST 20-22, 2008

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Exciting architecture makes custom homes unique

Exciting architectural design has made Harris Builders' custom homes a legend in the Barrington and Inverness area for the past 35 years. By combining superior architectural design and the latest product trends, Evan Harris has been successful in building innovative custom homes and reaping repeat business.

To bring the outdoors in, Harris Builders utilizes a variety of unique windows in their home designs. Palladian and stacked windows flood the interiors with natural light. Front doors with beveled or leaded glass sidelights and transom windows over the doors enhance front elevations and create greater curb appeal. Transoms are also prevalent throughout the house as a decorative

crowns for French doors.

"When we position a home on a specific lot, we make sure to maximize picturesque vistas," said general manager Dean Snow. "Rooms that are washed in sunlight help our homeowners relax and enjoy spectacular views of a neighboring lake, valley, meadow or golf course."

Adding to the overall beauty of each room is the decorative millwork that surrounds the window. Thick casings, carved moldings and beautiful accents embellish the glass, while 10-inch baseboards balance the height of a large room.

Another popular window form is the oversized bay or bow window, which enlarges a room and

Turn to HARRIS. 6



An exquisite hand-crafted Napa Valley limestone fireplace, palladian picture windows and an elegant crystal chandelier make this Harris Builders custom residence in Barrington appealing.

inside

As you like it

Work with a custom builder to realize your dream home.

Page 4

Many borrowers drop adjustable-rate mortgages in favor of old-fashioned fixed rates.



Read **Don DeBat**, Page 7

Meadow Ridge in Northbrook is taking reservations for hard-hat tours Saturday and Sunday.

Page 3

online

Market news, expert advice, neighborhood profiles and more. Visit:



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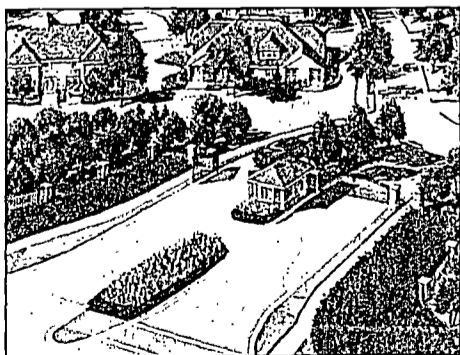
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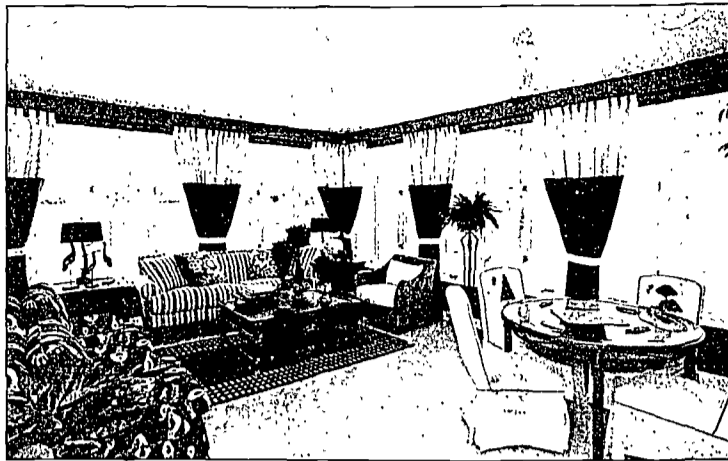
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Charles Page's new French Chateau includes complete sprinkler and security systems and state-of-the-art sound, lighting and Crestron technology. It represents the elegant, unique custom designs available to discerning buyers who choose to engage the creative talents of Charles Page.



Dartmoor Homes has constructed a sunroom in one of its professionally decorated two-story models.

Custom living can be found everywhere in Chicagoland

By Marcy Marro
SPECIAL TO SUN-TIMES NEWS GROUP

Many intricate elements go into building a new home. Deciding to build a custom home means you'll have even more things to think about and consider throughout the building process. Here are some local homebuilders that will help you create your dream home without the stress.

Page a masterpiece of luxury living

Located in one of the most impressive neighborhoods in Winnetka, this stone French Chateau, set on a half-acre of land, is the latest masterpiece from renowned architect Charles Page. Located within walking distance of downtown Winnetka, this elegant home includes 9,000 square feet of living space on three levels with six bedrooms, six full baths, three powder rooms, full finished basement and three-car side-load garage. Careful attention is paid to authentic details, and the stone exterior with cedar shake roof is accented with a turret and set amid lush planting by Mariani Landscaping. The home also includes a complete sprinkler and security system, in addition to state-of-the-art sound, lighting and Crestron technology. For more information, call the sales office at (847) 441-7860 or visit the Web site at www.charlespagearchitect.com.

Equal attention for indoor/outdoor environments

Buyers who are involved in the design and construction of a luxurious custom home are eager to give the home an appropriate natural setting. According to Jeff Samuels, president of Samuels Homes, a prominent North Shore custom builder, buyers seek just the right piece of property on which to build, and they want to create or enhance the natural setting as a completely integrated extension of the indoor living environment.

"Often, these buyers seek just the right piece of property on which to build, whether that property is an in-town location just blocks from the commuter train station, or on a golf course, lake or other natural attraction," Samuels said. "Regardless of the personal lifestyle preference, these buyers want to create or enhance the natural setting as a completely integrated extension of the indoor living environment. The indoor and outdoor spaces are seen as a beautiful, functional whole."

Often, the natural setting greatly enhances the interior ambiance of the home. Custom home buyers who choose a location without any exceptional ad-

vantages work with a professional to design a landscape plan that creates an outdoor environment that is as exquisite as the interior of the home. For more information on Samuels Homes, call (847) 480-6476.

Coventry Creek Estates over 50 percent sold

Coventry Creek Estates, a master-planned single-family home community on one of the last parcels of property within Lake Zurich, has sold more than 50 percent of the semi-custom homes in its exclusive development by Dartmoor Homes. The community's high-end ranch and two-story floor plans with three-car garages, fireplaces, air conditioning and basements range in size from 2,446 to 5,062 square feet and are base priced from \$694,900 to \$779,900. Residences are set on a quarter- to a third-acre sodded home sites and include four or five bedrooms, 2½ to 4½ baths, spacious kitchens, breakfast areas, dens (per plan) and master bedroom suites on the main level, per plan.

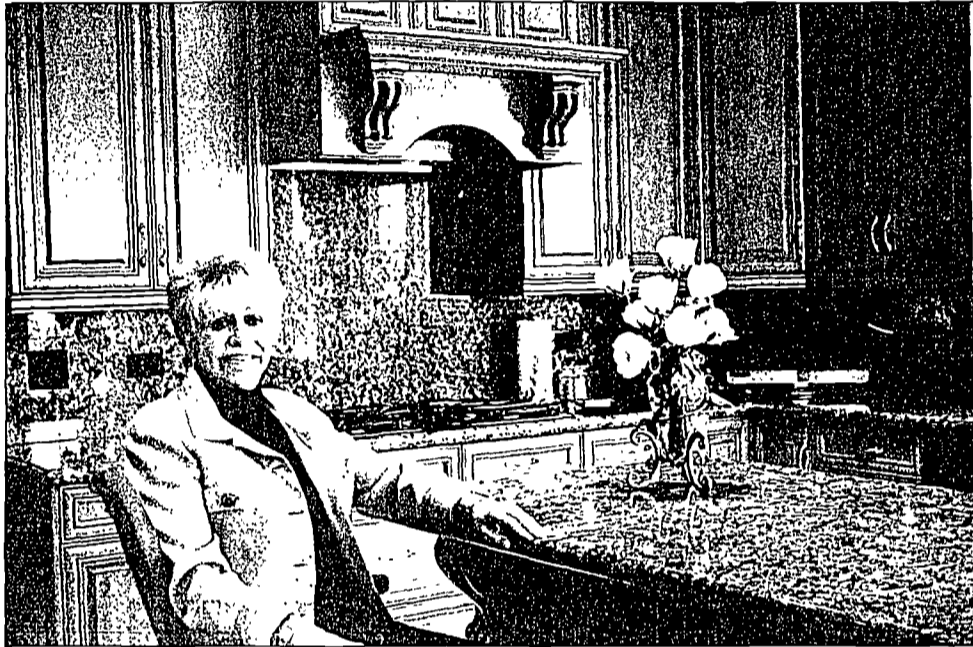
Buyers can choose from eight fully customizable plans that can be finished with many optional features. The community, set along a natural creek on its northern border, has a significant number of home sites that can accommodate optional walkout or lookout basements. The decorated model/sales center for Coventry Creek Estates, which is located on the west side of Quentin Road, just south of Route 22 and two miles west of I-53, is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment. For more information call (847) 726-3600 or visit Dartmoor's Web site at www.dartmoorhomes.com.

Dream homes available at Benck's Farm

Prime lots are now available on which a dream home can be built at Benck's Farm in Manhattan by Crescenzo Construction. Benck's Farm features a total of 127 home sites where new home shoppers can either purchase a home site and select the builder of their choice, or have Crescenzo Construction craft a custom home built to suit.

Spanning approximately 70 acres, features a charming path that meanders through the middle of the property ideal for walking, biking and horseback riding. Home sites are priced from \$95,000 to \$145,000, while semi-custom or custom homes can be built from \$300,000 to \$800,000, including the price of the home site.

Anyone who purchases a new home from Crescenzo Construction will receive a \$5,000 rebate check at closing, compliments



Jacky Schwartz, an expert in custom homes, has built five homes in her lifetime.



Today's custom home designs give equal attention to indoor/outdoor environments, says Jeff Samuels, North Shore custom builder.

of the Village of Manhattan (offer valid only until July 2009 or for the first 200 new homes sold in Manhattan, whichever comes first). If you build new with Crescenzo Construction, it will pay your electric utility bill for 10 years (not exceeding \$150 a month; offer valid only for the first 15 home buyers), a value worth up to \$18,000.

New model debuts at Thousand Oaks

KLM Builders Inc. has unveiled its fully furnished and decorated Brentwood ranch model at Thousand Oaks in Spring Grove, its newest community of 74 single-family, semi-custom homes. Located on Witn Road with easy access to Route 12 (Rand Road), buyers can select from more than 20 different floor plans, which include two-stories, ranch and first-floor master bedroom designs. All home sites feature plentiful, mature trees, with most sites heavily wooded, while some back up to scenic wetlands.

Each home features three to five bedrooms; 2½ to four baths;

wood-burning fireplace; vaulted, tray and 9- to 10-foot ceilings (per plan); oak trim and stair rails; three- to four-car garages (per plan); and a full basement with 9-foot poured walls. A standard one-acre home site is also included in the price of the home. Prices range from the \$470s to the low-\$700s, with homes ranging in size from 2,300 to 3,775 square feet.

Thousand Oaks also has a picturesque setting, conveniently located near Horse Fair Park, plentiful trails and biking paths, and the Chain O'Lakes State Park. The sales center is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call (815) 675-0011 or visit its Web site at www.klmbuildersinc.com.

Emerald Greens is part of the Reserve at the Merit Club gated community, which is comprised of 102 semi-custom homes, and 26 1-acre custom homes on 100 acres of rolling land surrounded by open space. To the east is the Lake County Forest Preserve, and to the south are 60 acres of

open land protected by Libertyville Township.

The Home Builders Association recognized the spectacular landscape and beauty of the community when it won the coveted Best Overall Community award in addition to five Key Awards for excellence in design and construction.

Conveniently located off Milwaukee Avenue in Libertyville, the sales center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call (847) 680-0090 or visit www.merithomes.net for more information.

Jefferson Estates is less than a mile west of downtown Naperville and is laid out to accommodate 37 large home sites. Presently there are only 20 of the ¼- to ½-acre home sites remaining in this exclusive community for customers to request Charleston to design and build their dream homes.

Jefferson Estates is located on the south side of Jefferson Avenue, between Mill and River Roads. For more information call (630) 420-8084 or visit www.charlestondevelopmentgroup.com.

Seven remain at Emerald Greens at the Merit Club

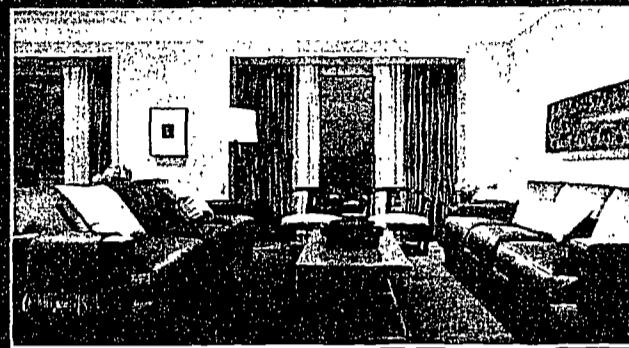
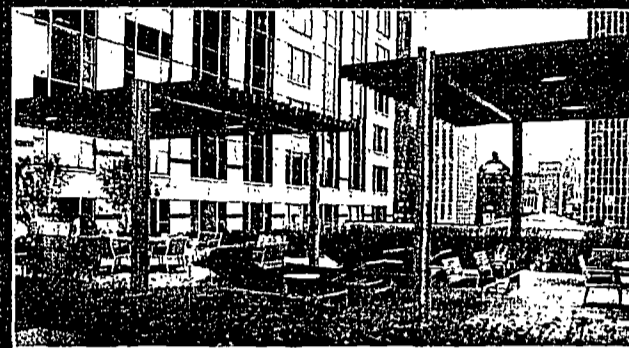
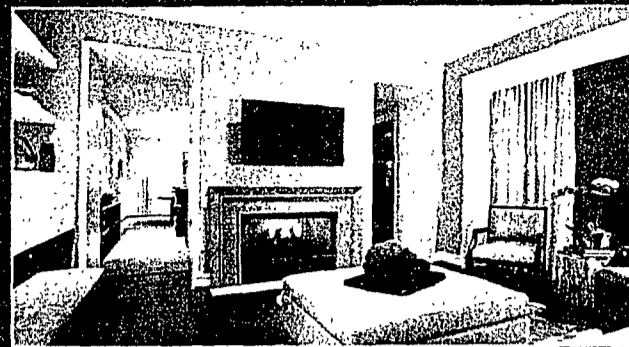
Emerald Greens at the Merit Club in Libertyville is now in its final phase of construction and only seven 1-acre golf course home sites remain. Custom homes will maximize golf course views of the famous Merit Club golf course, which hosted the U.S. Women's Open a few years ago.

To take advantage of the extraordinary natural settings, Merit Homes builds residences with an abundance of windows and expansive galleries, exceptional exterior architecture in the front and rear of the home, extensive landscaping, and spacious patios and porches.

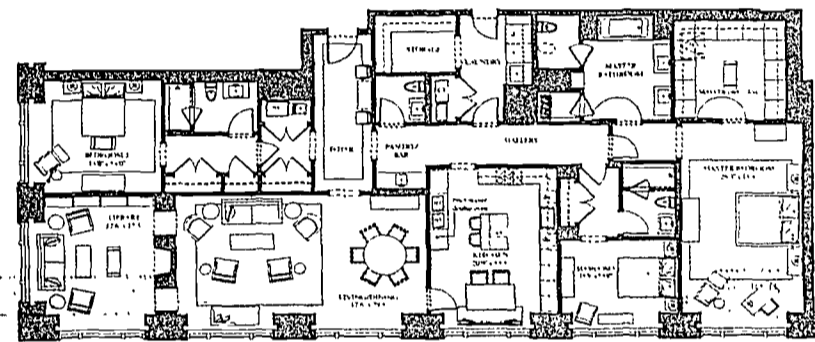
To save as many trees as possible, Dartmoor has agreed to dedicate more than 25 of the 106 acres of land for tree preservation and parks. Included in these open areas will be over three miles of bike paths that will meander through the community, several tennis courts and two tot lots with playground equipment.

Timber Trails is located on the northwest corner of Plainfield Road and Wolf Road. Decorated models and sales center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information is available at (708) 783-1600 or www.dartmoorhomes.com.

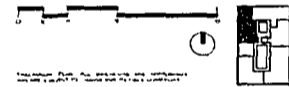
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Harris
FROM PAGE 1

enhances architectural styling. Expanding a kitchen with a breakfast bay is very common, as is adding a bay, bow or box window to the dining room, living room or master bedroom suite.

In addition to natural light flowing windows, exquisite light fixtures add pizzazz to any room. The emerging popularity of the elegant Old World crystal chandelier adds grandeur to a large or small space especially in master bedrooms, entryways, family rooms or powder rooms. A key controlled lift makes cleaning and servicing easier. Not only are they beautiful to look at but also crystal chandeliers spread soft light uniformly throughout a room.

Classic architectural columns separate living rooms from dining rooms and add distinction to a formal entryway. They provide a soft form of separation in keep-

ing with today's open floor plans and offer extended views throughout the home. Sometimes columns are used for decorative purposes and may enhance a lavish whirlpool tub in the master bathroom. Other times they hide the structural supports. Turn to HARRIS, 10

Today's New Homes

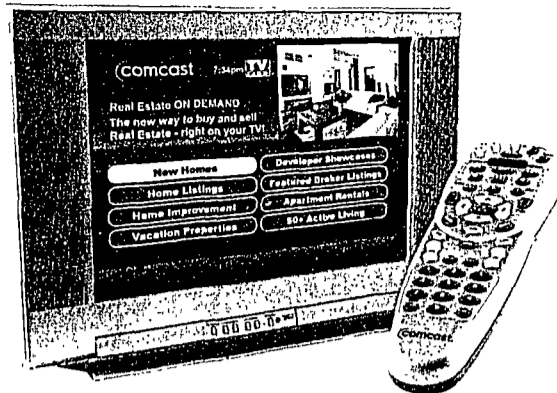
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NERI COMPANIES

Borrowers pass on adjustables, lock in fixed-rate loans

Shaken by the real estate downturn and the impact of risky adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) on the future of homeownership, worried Americans now are turning to old-fashioned fixed-rate home loans when they refinance, according to a new national study.

A new Freddie Mac survey revealed that in second quarter of this year 97 percent of borrowers who originally had a one-year ARM loan chose a new fixed-rate mortgage when they refinanced. Moreover, nearly all borrowers who had a fixed-rate loan refinanced into another long-term fixed-rate loan, Freddie Mac said.

Even though borrowers who refinance with a one-year ARM today would save about three-quarters of 1 percentage point



in rate compared with a five-year ARM or 15-year fixed-rate mortgage, experts say borrowers preferred 30-year fixed loans, the study said.

"The concerns about inflationary pressures leading to future interest rate increases may be causing borrowers to choose the safety and certainty of fixed rates," said Frank Nothaft, vice president and chief economist for Freddie Mac.

In mid-August, Freddie

Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that interest charges on benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 6.52 percent. Last year at this time, rates on 30-year fixed loans averaged 6.59 percent.

Meanwhile, average rates on 1-year Treasury-indexed ARMs averaged 5.22 percent in mid-August. Last year at this time, the 1-year ARM averaged 5.65 percent.

"Teaser rates on ARMs have largely disappeared," Nothaft noted. "During the second quarter, the initial interest rate on one-year ARMs averaged three-tenths of 1 percentage point higher than the fully indexed rate. Without an extra discount ARMs just aren't attracting many borrowers in today's market." The fully

indexed rate is the ARM's margin plus the one-year constant-maturity Treasury yield.

In addition, the Federal Reserve reported that 85 percent of the banks in a 50-institution survey have tightened lending standards on home mortgages. Only seven of the 50 banks said they still were participating in subprime mortgages, loans made to borrowers with weak credit histories. However, six of the seven said they had tightened lending standards on those loans.

"The housing market is continuing to act as a drag on the economy," Nothaft observed. "Mortgage applications for home purchases in the past few weeks fell to the slowest pace since the week ending Feb. 21, 2003, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. The

inventory of unsold homes remains at historically high levels.

"During the second quarter about \$38 billion in home equity was cashed out through refinancing of conventional loans made to prime borrowers, less than one-half the \$79 billion cashed out during the same period in 2007," said Amy Crews Cutts, Freddie Mac deputy chief economist.

"Homeowners benefited from the low level of mortgage rates that prevailed for much of the second quarter. On average, homeowners who refinanced during the second quarter lowered their rate by about one-half of 1 percentage point," Nothaft noted.

However, declining home values across much of the nation have curtailed the amount

of home equity available to be cashed out by homeowners.

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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 homebuying information, visit his Web site at www.donbat.net.

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Ravishing rowhomes offer lots of room

By Marcy Marro
SPECIAL TO SUN-TIMES NEWS GROUP

Here are some local communities that offer rowhomes for buyers who want lots of square footage in an attached home.

Model opens at Port Clinton Place

A decorated Catalina row-home model has been unveiled at Port Clinton Place in Vernon Hills by Rosemont-based Opus North Corp. Port Clinton Place includes 47 rowhomes and 66 single-level condominium residences in its first phase. The tri-level rowhomes have three bedrooms, 2½ baths, finished lower levels, and attached, rear-loaded two-car garages, and range in size from 2,028 to 2,464 square feet and are base-priced from the mid-\$400s. Condominiums offer one-bedroom-plus-den to three-bedroom floor plans with one to 2½ baths, range in size from 1,036 to 2,187 square feet and are base-priced from the mid-\$200s.

In addition to the 2,360-square-foot, three-bedroom, 2½-bath Catalina model, Port Clinton Place has two unfurnished three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath rowhomes available for viewing: the 2,028-square-foot Acadia and the 2,145-square-foot Bradford.

Port Clinton Place is in proximity of the budding Milwaukee Avenue corridor, which includes shopping and dining options, in

addition to being by the Ryerson Conservation Area with trails for bike riding, hiking and other outdoor activities. Located on Route 45 just west of Milwaukee Avenue and adjacent to the new Vernon Hills Town Center, the sales center is open Saturday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (847) 634-7711 or visit the community online at www.portclintonplace.com.

Waterbury Place offers taste of urban living

The addition of luxury rowhomes to its upscale homes at Waterbury Place, a 31-acre community in north-suburban Buffalo Grove, offers buyers a taste of urban living in one of Chicago's most desirable suburbs. Three builder-designed rowhomes, featuring a variety of floor plans and appointments, are now available for early delivery. These classic, two-story attached homes blend seamlessly into the maintenance-free, fully-landscaped community that includes single-family homes, townhomes, duplexes and attached villas, by Glenview-based Edward R. James Homes. Waterbury Place includes 62 rowhomes among the 156 total residences. The three early move-in homes feature three bedrooms, 2½ baths, full basements, private patios and attached two-car garages, and range in price from \$389,900 to \$423,900. All homes are en-

lanced by the surrounding landscape, which includes four ponds, open space and parks, and more than 50 species of trees.



Above: The Port Clinton Place kitchen boasts granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. At the center of the kitchen is a large island with space for bar stools. At right: Waterbury Place in Buffalo Grove features single-family homes, duplexes, townhomes, rowhomes and villas. Developed by Glenview-based Edward R. James Homes LLC, the community is surrounded by mature landscaping, ponds with fountains and a one-acre park.

Located off Route 22, just east of Prairie Avenue, the sales center and model homes are open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on Waterbury Place, call (847) 955-1213 or visit www.thewaterburyplace.com.



PULTE HOMES

'Perfect 10' sales event perfect way for buyers to save big

Pulte Homes has announced the return of its Perfect 10 sales event, taking place at all of its new home communities in the Chicago area on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 23-24.

The Perfect 10 sales event is bigger and better than ever and gives buyers the chance to save thousands on the purchase of a new Pulte or Del Webb home, with amazing 'event only' pricing that may never be seen again. The Perfect 10 sales event runs at all 15 of Pulte's new home communities throughout Chicagoland, which feature a variety of luxury townhomes starting in the \$130s and a great choice of luxury single-family homes that are priced from the \$210s.

The Perfect 10 event also includes Del Webb communities, where Sun City Huntley is celebrating its 10th anniversary, being open since 1998. Active adult ranch homes and duplexes at the four Illinois Del Webb communities are priced from the \$150s. Decorated models are on display at each community. "Our Perfect 10 sales event is the opportunity of a lifetime for homebuyers to save big on a new Pulte or Del Webb home of their choice at all of our Chicago community locations," said Chris Naatz, vice president of sales and marketing for the Illinois division of Pulte Homes. "We had a terrific response to this event when we did it last year and this time around, we've made it even better, with such unbelievable offers as \$10 closing costs and \$10 premium home sites. Buyers will truly have the chance to save thousands of dollars and if they are first time buyers, they can also take advantage of the newly enacted Federal Tax Credit to save even more. This event also helps celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of Sun City Huntley, which has been home to active adults since 1998."

The Perfect 10 sales event runs during regular sales center hours starting at 11 a.m. each day at all Chicagoland Pulte and Del Webb new home communities. During this event, buyers may take advantage of \$10 closing costs, up to \$2,500 in appliances for \$10 and \$10 premium home sites. Complete details on the Perfect 10 sales event is available at each community's sales center.



Buyers can take advantage of tremendous savings the weekend of Aug. 23 at all Chicagoland Pulte and Del Webb new home communities during the company's Perfect 10 sales event. During this event, buyers may be able to upgrade to a premium home site for just \$10. This event also coincides with the 10th Anniversary of Del Webb's Sun City Huntley active adult community.

The Pulte communities eligible for the Perfect 10 sales event include these locations throughout Chicagoland: single-family homes at Winchester Glen in Carpentersville, townhomes at Meadow Wood in Lake Zurich, single-family homes at Lake Grove in Lindenhurst, townhomes at Heritage Park in Lindenhurst, single-family homes at Cypress Park in Zion, townhomes at The Reserve in Elgin, single-family and townhomes at Prescott Mill in Oswego, single-family and townhomes at Autumn Creek in Yorkville and single-family and townhomes at Cedar Ridge in Lockport.

The Pulte communities eligible for the Perfect 10 sales event include these locations throughout Chicagoland: single-family homes at Winchester Glen in Carpentersville, townhomes at Meadow Wood in Lake Zurich, single-family homes at Lake Grove in Lindenhurst, townhomes at Heritage Park in Lindenhurst, single-family homes at Cypress Park in Zion, townhomes at The Reserve in Elgin, single-family and townhomes at Prescott Mill in Oswego, single-family and townhomes at Autumn Creek in Yorkville and single-family and townhomes at Cedar Ridge in Lockport.

Buyers can take advantage of tremendous savings the weekend of Aug. 23 at all Chicagoland Pulte and Del Webb new home communities during the company's Perfect 10 sales event. During this event, buyers may be able to upgrade to a premium home site for just \$10. This event also coincides with the 10th Anniversary of Del Webb's Sun City Huntley active adult community.

Find out more

For more information on Pulte's Perfect 10 sales event at its single-family or townhome neighborhoods throughout Chicagoland, please visit pulte.com. Information on the Perfect 10 sales event at Del Webb active adult communities is also online at delwebb.com. All Pulte and Del Webb new home communities are open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

where they can see firsthand the high quality construction and materials used in every Pulte or Del Webb home. The models also showcase our Signature Standards™, which are deluxe features that are included with every home," Naatz said.

Pulte's Signature Standards can include such items as 9-foot first-floor ceilings, hardwood or ceramic tile entry foyers and kitchens, deluxe kitchen cabinets, fully sodded home sites and much more. Buyers should check with each community's sales center to see which Signature Standards come with the homes at that community.

"Our Perfect 10 sales event makes August the perfect time to purchase a new home. We have some amazing offers and I know that buyers will not want to miss out on these deals because they may never be repeated. We're looking forward to giving buyers the chance to purchase their dream home with incredible savings during the weekend of Aug. 23," said Naatz.

Pulte Homes offers peace of mind with every home purchase. Thanks to the comprehensive coverage of the Pulte Protection Plan, with one, two, five and 10-year warranty protection. Prices stated may not include lot premiums, upgrades and options.

See a sales associate for complete details. For further details, contact your Pulte Homes community consultant. Prices are subject to change without notice.

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HEATHERSTONE
(847) 984-4671
The Vista: 4 BR plus loft & den, 2.5 baths. Upgraded exterior w/partial brick. Island kitchen w/pantry & breakfast area. Master suite w/luxury bath; full basement.
39924 N. ACKWORTH LANE
WAS \$305,840
NOW \$273,840

CORTLAND, IL



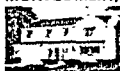
RICHLAND TRAILS
(847) 984-4944
The Grandview: 3 BR plus loft, 2.5 baths. Loads of upgrades—partial brick exterior, fireplace, white Colonial trim, stainless steel kitchen appliances, brushed-nickel hardware & light fixtures, 2-car extended garage, full basement, AC.
112 WEST MEADOW DRIVE
WAS \$273,410
NOW \$224,900

HUNTLEY, IL



COVINGTON LAKES
(847) 984-4883
The Canterbury: 4 BR, 2.5 baths, 2-story foyer; kitchen w/breakfast area, Princeton Cranberry Maple cabinets, granite countertops, built-in appls, including double oven & fridge. Fireplace, oak rails, stone exterior, 3-car garage, full deep pour basement.
10035 BERKSHIRE LANE
WAS \$440,150
NOW \$399,150

MONTGOMERY, IL



CAMBRIDGE AT FOXMOOR
(847) 984-4580
The Starling: 2 master suites, 3rd BR & loft. Fabulous kitchen w/42" maple cabinets & Corian® countertops. Fireplace, AC, oak rails, bay window.
2941 DARLEY DRIVE
WAS \$537,930
NOW \$292,930

PINGREE GROVE, IL



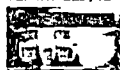
CAMBRIDGE LAKES
(847) 984-4883
The Dalton: 4 BR, 2.5 baths. Beautiful family home on large corner site. Gorgeous master suite w/luxury bath; beautiful kitchen w/granite & stainless steel. Hardwood floors, fireplace.
1919 LAKE BLUFF LANE
WAS \$405,670
NOW \$340,670

PINGREE GROVE, IL



CAMBRIDGE LAKES
(847) 984-4883
The Paramount: 4 BR plus loft & 1st-floor den, 2.5 baths. Over 3,000 square feet! Full walk-out basement & 3-car garage. Extras include oak rails, bay windows, stone fireplace, luxury master bath, 9' 1st-floor ceilings.
677 CANTERBURY LANE
WAS \$399,945
NOW \$339,945

PLAINFIELD, IL



LIBERTY GROVE
(847) 984-4550
The Tuscan: 4 BR plus den, 2.5 baths. Popular plan w/dramatic 2-story great room, island kitchen w/breakfast bar & nook, luxury master bath, full basement & 2-car garage. Can still choose interior colors & options.
15031 MEADOW LANE
WAS \$322,730
NOW \$282,730

VOLO, IL



SYMPHONY MEADOWS
(847) 984-4934
The Vista: 4 BR plus den, 2.5 baths, & 2nd-floor family-room. Breakfast-kitchen w/center island, 42" maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances, AC, master bedroom w/2 huge walk-in closets & luxury master bath, basement, 2-car garage.
951 RICHARD BROWN BLVD.
WAS \$315,190
NOW \$278,190

Traditional

JOLIET, IL



CAMBRIDGE RUN ATTACHED SINGLE-FAMILY
(847) 984-4949
The Violet: 2 BR, 1.5 baths. Former model home loaded w/upgrades. Granite countertops, security system, surround sound, oak rails, upgraded flooring, 2-car garage.
3627 HARMS ROAD
WAS \$236,220
NOW \$206,220

OSWEGO, IL



LINCOLN STATION
(847) 984-4949
The Wilmington: 2-story townhome w/2 BR plus loft, 2.5 baths, finished lower level. Kitchen w/breakfast area & stainless steel appliances including refrigerator, upper level laundry, 2-car garage.
594 LINCOLN STATION DRIVE
WAS \$221,240
NOW \$191,240

PINGREE GROVE, IL



CAMBRIDGE LAKES ATTACHED SINGLE-FAMILY
(847) 984-4875
The Belle: 2-story home w/2 BR, extra-large loft, 1.5 baths, 2-story foyer, formal dining room, kitchen w/breakfast area, large master bedroom w/walk-in closet, attached 2-car garage.
1974 DIAMOND HEAD TRAIL
WAS \$224,120
NOW \$199,120

PINGREE GROVE, IL



CAMBRIDGE LAKES TOWNHOMES
(847) 984-4882
The Butterfield: 2 BR plus loft, 2.5 baths. Huge country kitchen, luxury master bath, wood flooring on 1st floor.
623 YORKSHIRE LANE
WAS \$218,170
NOW \$198,170

PLAINFIELD, IL



PATRIOT SQUARE
(847) 984-4949
The Wilmington: 2 BR plus loft, 2.5 baths. Loads of upgrades including custom paint on main level, oak rails, hardwood floors, upgraded appliances. Great location across from park & tot lot.
24323 PATRIOT SQUARE DRIVE
WAS \$221,840
NOW \$211,840

VOLO, IL



SYMPHONY MEADOWS
(847) 984-4936
The Wilmington: 2 BR, 2.5 baths. Spacious townhome filled w/extras. 6-panel pine doors & trim; wood floors in kitchen, foyer, powder room, upgraded carpet & pad; upgraded cabinetry; low-e glass windows.
520 RICHARD J. BROWN BLVD.
WAS \$198,840
NOW \$186,840

Condominiums

PINGREE GROVE, IL



CAMBRIDGE LAKES
(847) 984-4874
The Hummingbird: 2 BR, 2 baths. Private end unit, beautifully appointed w/stainless steel appliances, 42" maple cabinets, gorgeous fixtures & more.
2215 AURORA DRIVE, UNIT 8
WAS \$178,490
NOW \$158,490
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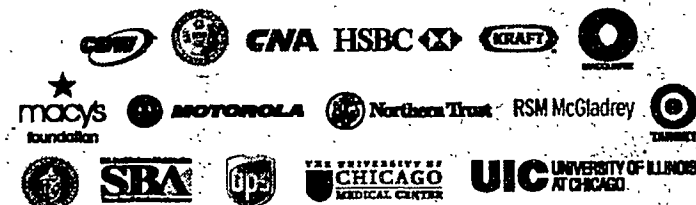
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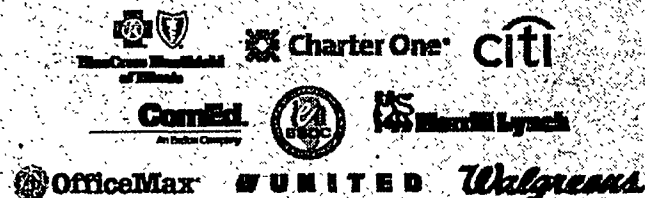
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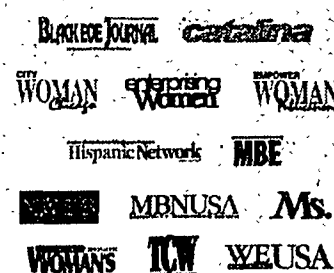
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PREVIEW PARTY 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.
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Continued from PAGE B9

8:30-10:30 p.m.: Open mic event for musicians, poets, and light comedy sketches. Sign-up starts at 8 p.m.

Na Mele Aloha, the Hawaiian music ensemble from Oakton Community College, performs at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at The Tiki Terrace, 7597 Lee St., Des Plaines; and at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month at Cheeseburger in Paradise, 1472 Market St., Des Plaines. For information, call Earl Essig, (847) 272-0762, or e-mail earlessig@aol.com.

Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. Concert tickets \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door, unless noted otherwise. Aug. 27, 1:30 p.m.: Dean Martin tribute, presented by Don Angelo, \$5. Sept. 6, 8 p.m.: Jim Schwall on guitar and mandolin. Sept. 7, 2 p.m.: Abi Gezunt, a musical celebration in Yiddish, Ladino, Hebrew and English, Sept. 10, 1:30 p.m.: Armed Forces Tribute, a big band salute to veterans, \$5. Sept. 12, 8 p.m.: Rhythm Futur (jazz), Sept. 13, 8 p.m.: Joan Curto performs classic Broadway numbers, \$25. Sept. 17, 1:30 p.m.: Singer-comedian Don Angelo, \$5. Sept. 19-20, 8 p.m.: Ac Rock (a cappella rock 'n roll), Sept. 21, 2 p.m.: The Schticklers musical troupe, Sept. 24, 1:30 p.m.: Hollywood Songbook, featuring big band music from the silver screen, \$5.

WFMT Midnight Special Folk Festival, 3-7 p.m. Sept. 28 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. The all-ages festi-

ART GALLERIES

Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, (847) 491-4000, www.block-museum.northwestern.edu. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays; noon-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission to the museum is free; unless noted, admission to all programs is also free. Docent-Led Tours, 2 p.m. Saturdays, through Aug. 23. Block Museum docents will lead free tours of the galleries that begin in the museum lobby. Reservations are not necessary. Docent-Led Group Tours, by appointment. The museum offers free docent-led tours to groups of eight or more. The 45-minute to hour-long tours are available each day the museum is open. Scheduled tour requests should be made at least four weeks in advance. Through Aug. 24: "Design in the Age of Darwin: From William Morris to Frank Lloyd Wright." The exhibit explores the relationship between evolutionism and English and American decorative arts during the half-century following the publication of Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species* (1859).

Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, (847) 823-6611, www.bricktonartcenter.org. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Aug. 21-Sept. 3: Seventh annual "Kids' Stuff: A Celebration of Children's Creativity." Opening reception from 6-8 p.m. Aug. 22, featuring refreshments, music, raffles, games, face painting, silent auction, and a performance by the Summer Stock Theatre camp troupe. \$10 suggested donation per family.

Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. (847) 376-2787, www.dpp.org. Sept. 1-30: Samantha Haring, a member of the Des Plaines Art Guild, will show 16 new paintings. The work consists of wild and exotic flowers in watercolor and oil.

Irish American Heritage Center Art Gallery, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. Gallery hours are 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Sept. 13-Oct. 5: "Irish Themes," a group exhibit showcasing works by photographers and painters, including Tom Boyle of Des Plaines, Gerrylea Ferriter of Tinley Park, Mary O'Rourke Mariotto of Crystal Lake, Dennis Osmanski of Wisconsin and Virginia Sheets of Iowa. The show includes paintings and photographs of Irish landscapes, castles, ruins, cottages and abbeys. Artists' reception will be held from 6-9 p.m. Sept. 12.

Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Through Sept. 20: "Works on Paper" by Franco Nicholas Muscarella. The artist works in mixed media including pen and ink, watercolor, acrylic and marker. Artists' reception will be from 5-7 p.m. Aug. 21.

Oakton Community College, Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, (847) 635-2633, www.oakton.edu/museum. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Through Aug. 28: "Nu-

ances of Printmaking." Various print-making methods, from etching and lithography to woodcut and linocut, are the focus of the exhibition. Sept. 4-Oct. 17: "Paul Sierra: Wrecked," an exhibition showcasing the work of Cuban-born artist Paul Sierra. The show features Sierra's recent paintings of violent car accidents, each framed in luminous landscapes absent of human figures. Opening reception from 5-8 p.m. Sept. 4.

Refuge: Center for Artists in Recovery, 4811 Main St., Skokie, (847) 673-3737, www.refuge.com. Through Aug. 29: "Seven Different Views," works by Joe Boudreau, John Calderon, Paté Conaway, Meghan Current, Daniel Dawson, Gene Skala and Stasius, Sept. 12-Dec. 19: "The 12 x 12 Show."

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

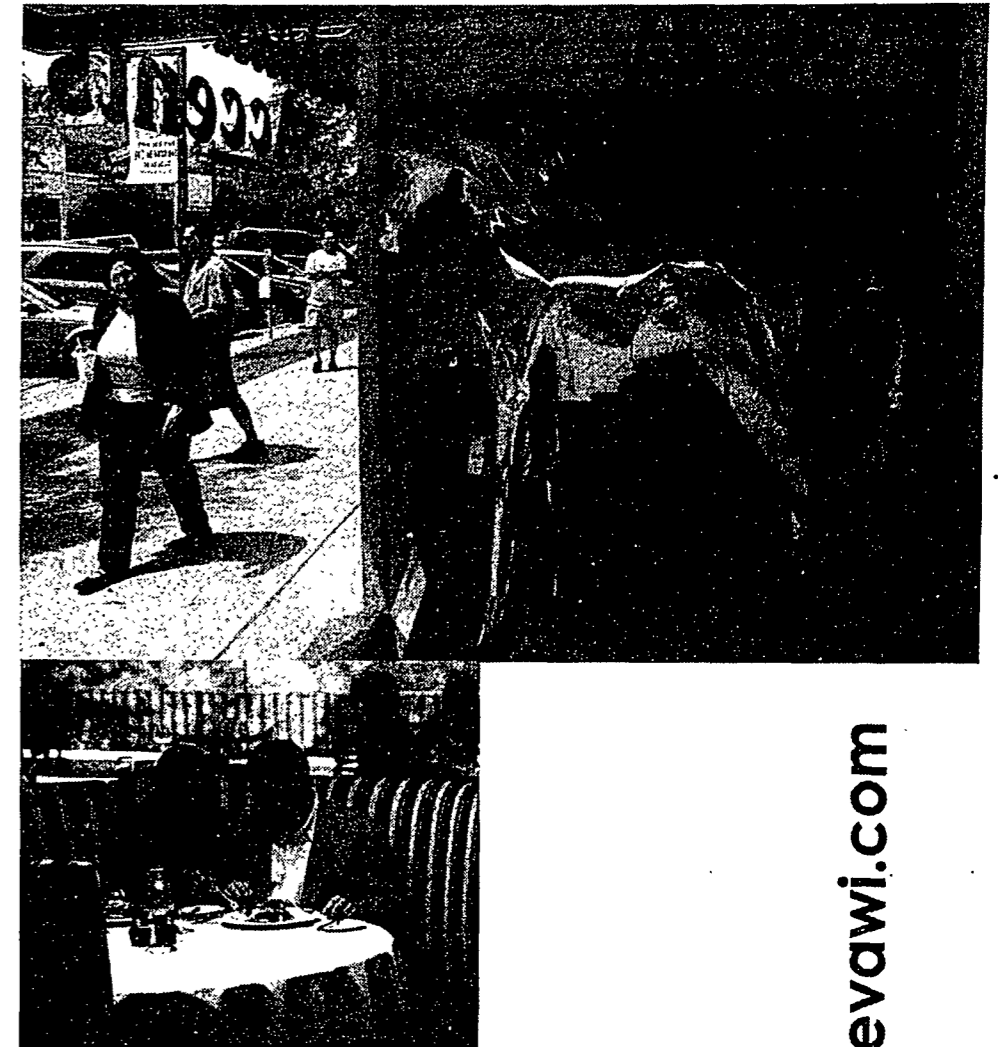
STAGE

Open auditions for the Performing Arts at Oakton production of "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller will be held from 6-9 p.m. Sept. 2-3 at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. The director is casting men and women of all ages. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Prepared monologues will be heard, but are not necessary. "The Crucible" will be staged Oct. 16-26 at Oakton's Des Plaines campus. For information, call (847) 376-7059.

Evanston Children's Theatre will hold auditions for "Robin Hood and Maid Marian" Sept. 9-11. Auditions are open to youth age 8-12. Auditions will be held from 4-6 p.m. Sept. 9 and 11 at the Levy Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston;

go, PAGE B14

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go.

Continued from PAGE B15

read from and sign copies of his novel, *The Strange Odyssey of Peter Sampson*.

CHILD'S PLAY

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. Oct. 4-Dec. 6. The Irish School at the Children's Center for Cultural Studies, for youth ages 6-16, offers lessons in Irish heritage, culture, customs, language, art and music. Taught through drama, storytelling, crafts and games. Classes include Irish language studies, the Teen Theatre Workshop and Celtic Mythology and

Art. Classes are held from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays. Fees are \$40 for IAHC members; \$60 for nonmembers. Discounts for families available. For information, call Frank Crowley, (773) 612-6584. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., (847) 965-4220. Aug. 22, 4 p.m.: Paint Your Self-Portrait, for ages 6-13. Art supplies will be provided. Aug. 23, 3 p.m.: Beads for Teens and Chainmaille Jewelry. Supplies and instruction will be provided. Aug. 24, 2 p.m.: World of Robots, an interactive program.

Wunder Studios Performing Arts Conservatory offers classes in the Pickwick Building in Uptown Park Ridge, 3 S. Prospect Ave. Fall class registration is in progress. Offerings include group musical theatre, guitar and drum classes for children 5 and older, as well as private music lessons for all instruments. There are also Musikgarten

classes that build music and movement skills for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Visit www.wunderstudios.com or call (847) 685-2030.

COMEDY

Pick a Cup Coffeehouse, 1813 Dempster, Evanston, (847) 332-2834. Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m.: Skokie resident Debbie Sue Goodman presents a comedy performance based on her books, *Still Single* and *Still Dating*. No cover charge. 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. Oct. 24, 6 p.m.: Carlos Mencia, "At Close Range." \$43.50. Nov. 1, 8 p.m.: "An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin." \$37.50, \$55, \$75. Nov. 8, 7:30 and 10

p.m.: Cheech & Chong: Light Up America. \$59.50, \$39.50. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokie theatre.com. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door, unless noted otherwise. Sept. 14, 8 p.m.: Ladies Night Out, comedy by Debbie Sue Goodman and Sally Edwards. Sept. 26-27, 8 p.m.: Tim Walkoe & Friends present comedy combined with improvisation and music. Oct. 3-4, 8 p.m.: Chicago Comedy All-Stars. Oct. 10-11, 8 p.m.: Blue Ribbon Comedy with Sonya White. Oct. 24, 8 p.m.: A Night at the Improv. Trattoria Peppino Restaurant, 7440 W. North Ave., Elmwood Park, (708) 453-2155. Aug. 22, 8 p.m.: Skokie resident Debbie Sue Goodman presents a comedy performance based on her books, *Still Single* and *Still Dating*. No cover charge.

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 American Legion Hall, 8664 W. Grand Ave., River Grove. Mostly swing dancing, some ballroom, Latin and line dancing. Open to ages 21 and older. \$5 members; \$9 nonmembers. Membership fee \$25. Upcoming date: Aug. 23. 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; \$10 for nonmembers. Proper attire required; no blue jeans or shorts allowed. Must be 21 or older. Call (773) 467-0177 or visit

www.jitterbugchicago.com. Upcoming dances are Sept. 6 and 20. Des Plaines School of Dance, 2222 Birch St., Des Plaines, (847) 391-5700. www.desplainesparcs.org. Offering beginning through advanced classes for ages 2 through 18 in jazz, tap, ballet, pre-pointe, pointe, modern and hip-hop, taught by professional working dancers. Call for a complete schedule and list of prices. Sept. 17-Nov. 23: Irish dance lessons with two-time World Champion and former Riverdance performer. Beginning through advanced classes for ages 5-plus. Des Plaines School of Dance, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, (847) 391-5700. www.desplainesparcs.org. Sept. 11, 7-9 p.m.: Wedding dance workshop featuring waltz, cha cha, Latin and ballroom. Residents \$32; nonresidents \$42.

go., PAGE B18



THE Juliet LETTERS

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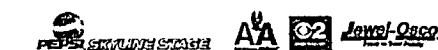
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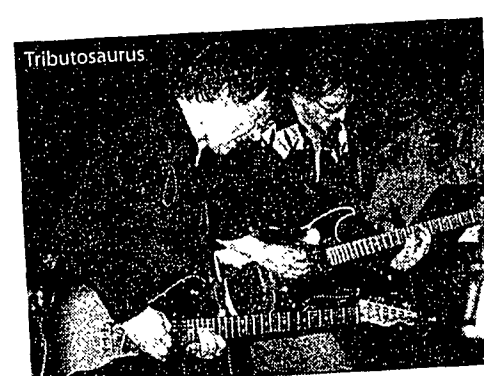
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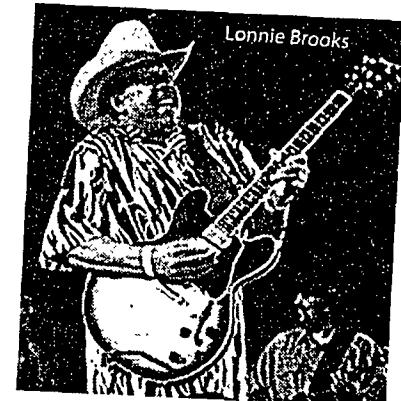
Friday-Sunday • August 22-24, 2008



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Romantics



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★ Carnival ★ Bingo ★ Beer Tent
★ Silent movies at the Skokie Theater ★ Classic Car and Motorcycle Shows ★ Much more!
For a full schedule of events, visit www.BacklotBash.com

MAIN STAGE

| Friday, August 22 | Saturday, August 23 | Sunday, August 24 |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 6 p.m. - Green Tangerines | 11 a.m. - Little Nashville (kids' show) | Noon - Kraig Kenning |
| 6:45 p.m. - 72Hours | 12:30 p.m. - Indika | 2 p.m. - Alex Wilson Band |
| 8 p.m. - Tributosaurus becomes Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young | 2 p.m. - Forte | 4 p.m. - Eddie "The Chief" Clearwater |
| | 4 p.m. - Hello Dave | 6 p.m. - Lonnie Brooks |
| | 6 p.m. - The Shadows of Knight | |
| | 8 p.m. - The Romantics | |

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Oakton Street Closure

A two-block portion of Oakton Street, between Lincoln and Laramie Avenues will be closed from Friday, August 22 at 10 a.m., through Sunday, August 24 at midnight.

For directions, detours, free parking and all event information, go to

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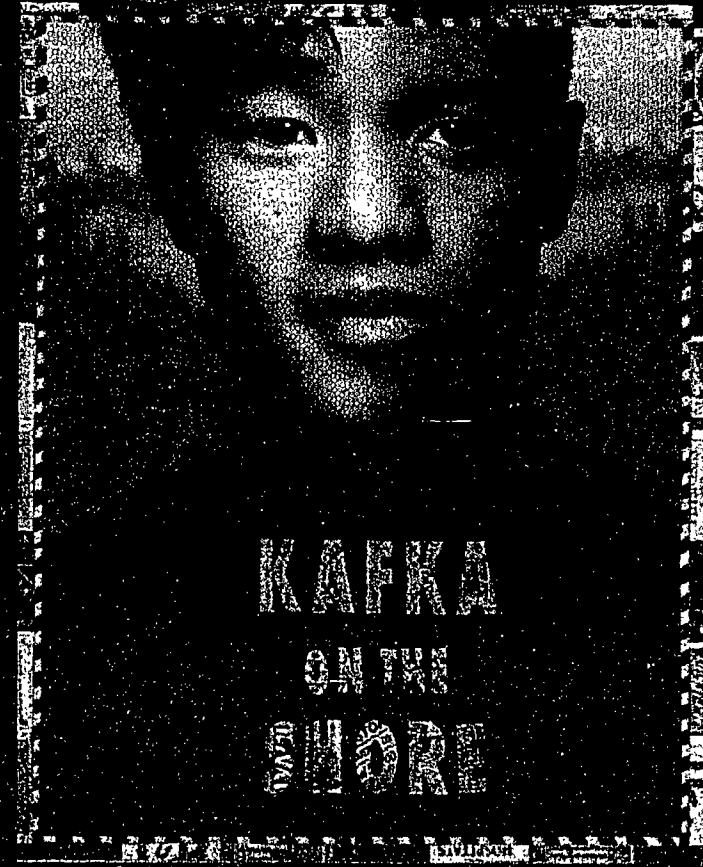
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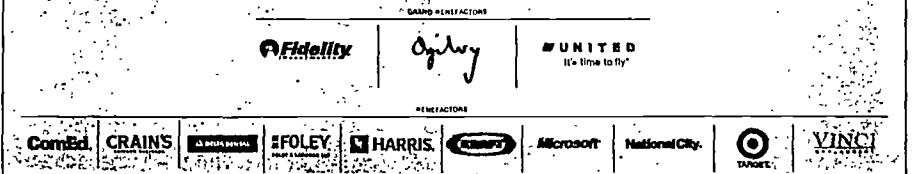
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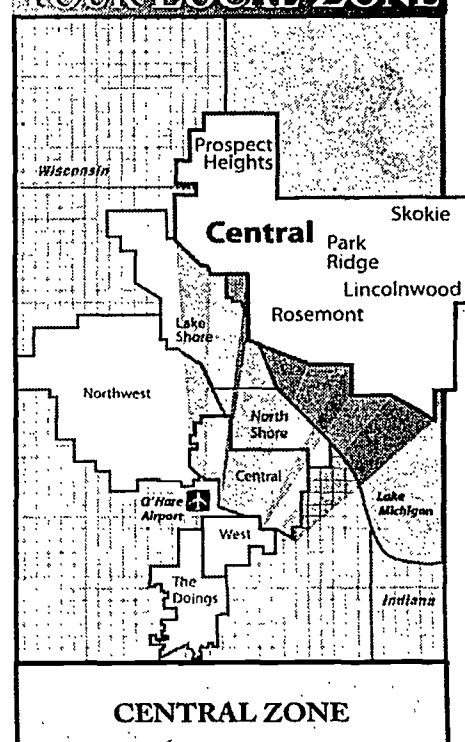
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TAKE A CHANCE
DWF 31, marriage-minded, NS, 5'10", curvy, bubbly, bubbly, mother of two, loves church, seeks WM, 28-41, NS, for friendship, maybe more. **TX276969**

SINGLE MOM
Fun-loving, very outgoing BF, 25, 5'11", 250lbs, would like to meet a man who likes to have fun to go out on dates with. **TX276969**

INTERESTED?
SBF, 35, 5'7", NS, enjoys bowling, dining, movies. Looking for hard-working SBM, 40-45, for friendship, maybe more. **TX285657**

DOWN-TO-EARTH
BF, 32, looking for SM, 27-45, to hang out and spend time with. If you're out there, give me a ring. **TX285652**

HOT, SEXY NURSE
SWF, 34, 5'4", 120lbs, blond/brown, seeks SWM, 35-65, for LTR. Now in the area. Wonderful winter fun a must. Let's get to know each other. **TX240633**

THE BEST OF LIFE
SBF, 29, 5'2", full-figured, shapely, attractive, NS, looking for a spontaneous, passionate SBM, 30-36, for friendship first, maybe more. **TX272211**

SIMILAR QUALITIES?
SBF, 31, 5'8", full-figured, soccer, NS, social drinker enjoying bowling, travel, weekend getaways and being spontaneous. Seeking tall, handsome, secure BM, 31-35, for dating. **TX274391**

SOMEONE SPECIAL
Sweet, down-to-earth SWF, 32, in search of mature, older man who enjoys dining, movies and quiet evenings at home. **TX280146**

OLDER GENTLEMAN
WWM, 6'1", 110lbs, college grad, attractive, active, 70s, caring, friendly, enjoys walks, movies, music, theater. Seeking intelligent man, 77-82, to share pleasant times together. **TX224625**

LET'S HAVE FUN
SWF, 62, NS, looking for honest, decent man, 55-70, who shares my interests, bookstores, coffee shops, casual dining. **TX289562**

CAN YOU KEEP UP?
Creative female, 54, 5'7", blond/green, hoping to find a man who likes car shows, museums and fishing. Would love to hear from you. **TX287256**

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT MAN
Soxy SJF, 56, 5'3", 125lbs, brunette, brown eyes, NKids, easygoing, honest, romantic, good dancer, seeks SWM, 53-65, NS, educated, loves to travel, good manners, for friendship possible LTR. **TX113956**

TAKE LEAP OF FAITH
I did. SJPF, 46, blonde, 5'8", appealing with traditional values, bright, advanced degree, fun, passionate, ethical, eclectic interests, very, very nice. Former personal assistant to nationally syndicated advice columnist. Seeking compatible WM, late 40s-mid-60s, for permanent best friend/lover. Great kisser! **TX749453**

GREAT CATCH!
Too nice to be alone! SWF, 49, blonde, petite, attractive, loves dogs, roses, travel. ISO nice, kind-hearted gentleman, 50 plus, for friendship, possible romance. SE Wisconsin. **TX287708**

DOES THERE EXIST...
a sincere male? SWF, blonde/blue, slender, attractive, NS, seeks gentlemanly SWM, 57-67 that's down-to-earth and wants to share good times/laughs together. **TX220337**

TAKE LEAP OF FAITH
I did. SJPF, 46, blonde, 5'8", appealing. Traditional values, advanced degree, fun, passionate, ethical, very, very nice. Eclectic interests. Seeking compatible WM, late 40s-mid-60s, for permanent best friend/lover. Great kisser! **TX283665**

A GOOD CATCH!
Queen-sized toasty bear, 62, the one for you! Responsible, independent, SBF, 5'6", loves cooking, quality times. Seeking SBM, 59-70, for friendship or more. **TX240660**

COMPASSIONATE
Sweet lady 68ish going on 30, attractive, loving, educated, compassionate, seeks honest, fit gentleman companion, 60-73, who likes travel, sharing. **TX283996**

WAITING FOR YOU
SWF, 46, brown/brown, mother, looking for LTR with SWM, 45-55. Let's talk and see what develops! **TX283269**

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

HI GIRLS!
SWM, 25, 5'8", 160lbs, handsome build, outgoing, entertaining, soxy, silly guy, wants SWIF, 18-26, wants one happy, sexy, soxy girl that's hilarious, spontaneous, adventurous, fun-loving. **TX893093**

WHAT'S UP?!
SHM, 28, 5'9", 140lbs, NS, NKids, looking to meet a nice SHF, 19-40, to share fun times, dating, hanging out and maybe romance. **TX288234**

DOWN-TO-EARTH!
Laid-back BM, 26, 5'7", 150lbs, with good sense of humor, would like to meet a cool, down-to-earth lady who wants a bit out of life. **TX288312**

ATHLETIC
SBM, 34, 6'4", 230lbs, NS, seeks nice woman, 24-38, to talk and joke with and get to know. I enjoy taking walks, basketball, football, jogging. **TX297790**

READY TO
settle down SM, 31, 6'3", 240lbs, long hair, light smoker, loves work, hanging out with friends, riding bikes. Looking for similar SW/AF, 18-29. **TX289308**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Retired widower, WM, 58', 160lbs, NS, healthy and financially secure, likes wood-working, movies, traveling. Seeking cheerful female companion, 45-60, for possible LTR. Please call. **TX192287**

HELLO OUT THERE
DWM, 54, 5'11", 200lbs, brown/brown, self-employed, loves car shows, fishing, snuggling on chilly nights, and simple pleasures. Seeking a loving, understanding SF to share good times! **TX248112**

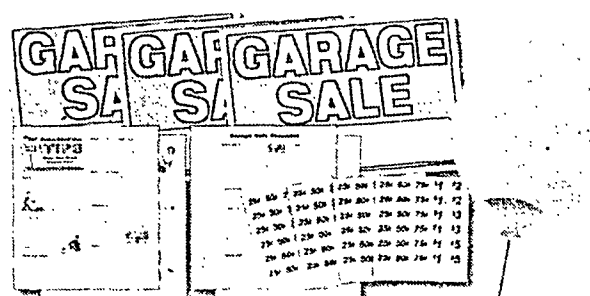
FUN TO BE WITH
SWPM, 6'1", 175lbs, dark brown/brown, very easygoing, attractive, has many interests, would like to meet a beautiful SBF, 30-60, for dating, possible LTR. **TX286638**

ISO SPECIAL LADY
45-year-old SBPM, teaches music on the side, classically-trained pianist. Loves life, very athletic and looking for a similar woman, 30-50, for friendship, dating and more. **TX289050**

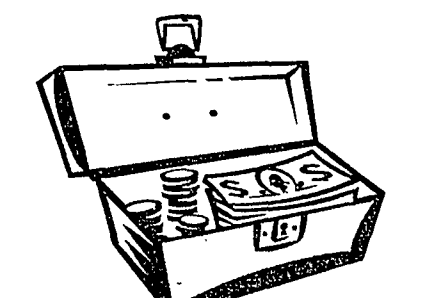
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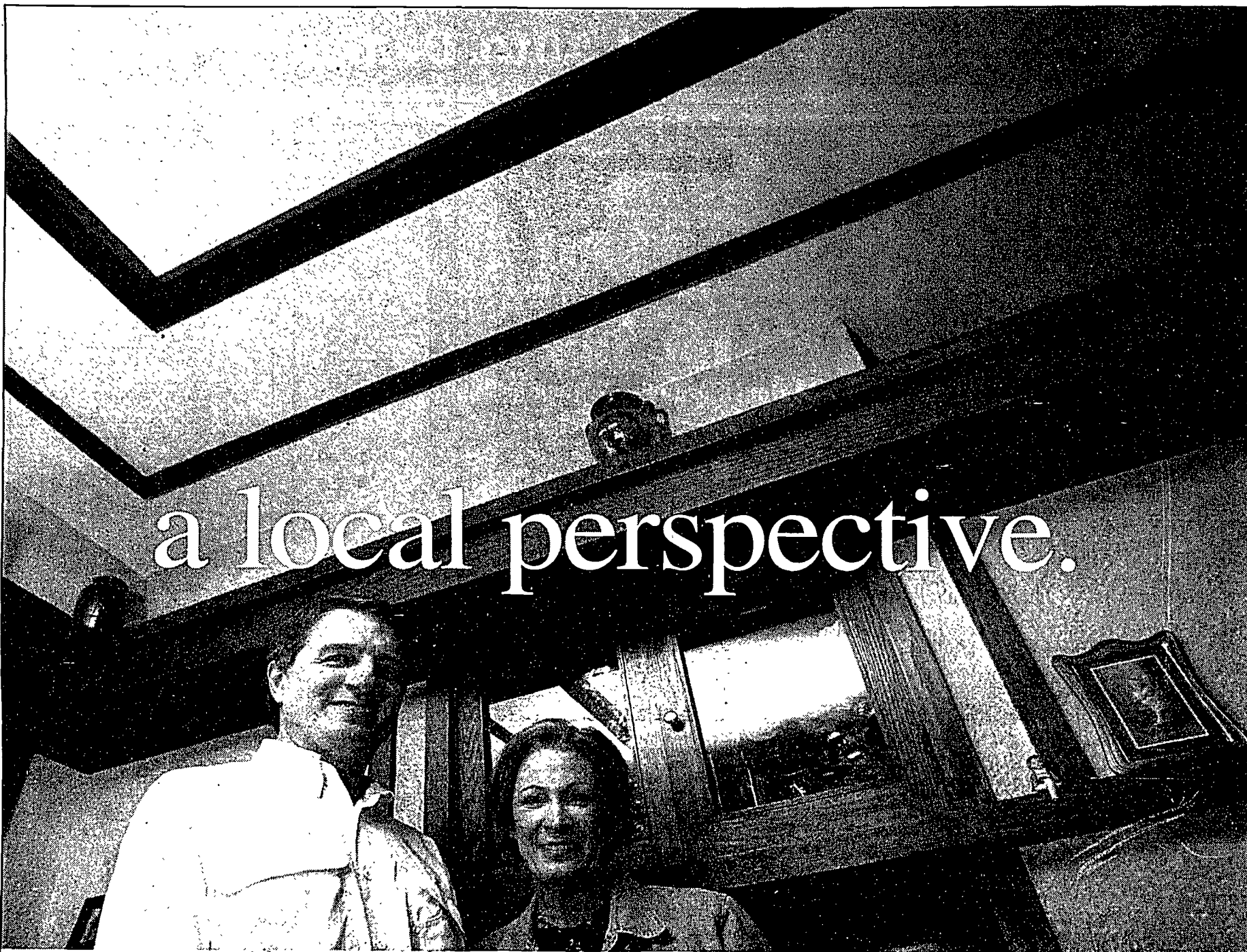
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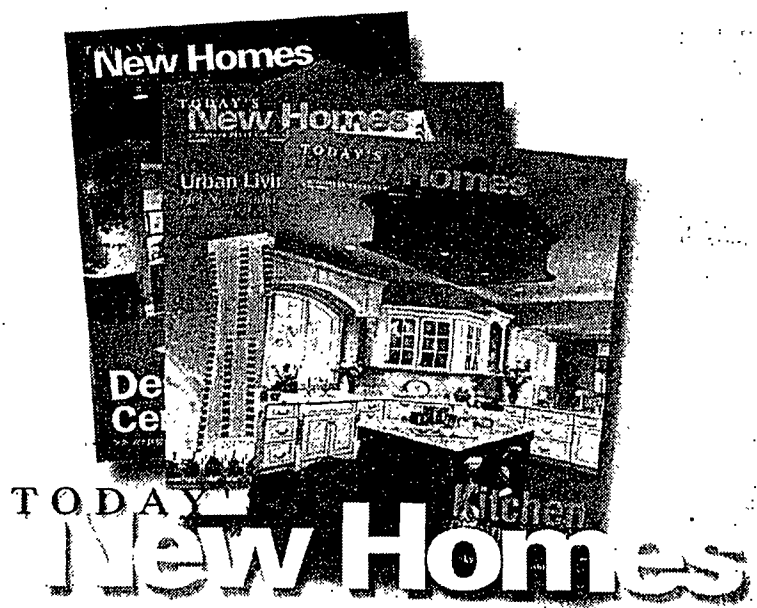
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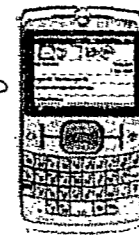
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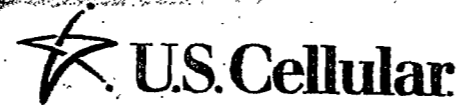
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Local chefs spill their family secrets

BY VERONICA HINKE
Contributor

On Christmas Eve 1969, a 14-year-old boy arrived in Chicago from Sicily. Along with his clothing and aspirations to run a restaurant, Phil Campenella brought with him recipes, habits, and traditions he learned watching his mother and grandmother in their kitchens.

These days, Campenella spends Christmas Eves mingling with guests and cooking for them in his kitchen at Regina's in Arlington Heights, the Italian restaurant he opened 23 years ago with his wife of 30 years, Regina.

"Tradition holds families together," Campenella said, standing under a framed photo of his mother teaching his daughter how to make the Italian flatbread known as focaccia.

It's one of dozens of family photos of weddings, birthdays, and holidays that cover the walls at Regina's. The décor reflects the homespun philosophy of their family-run business, which includes Regina's Via Trent Uno restaurant in West Dundee.

Family values

In both their restaurants and at home, the Campenella's follow hand-me-down values like keeping their kitchens stocked with fresh fruits and vegetables.

"Kids are what you give them," Campenella said. "They have to learn when they're young. If they get used to fast food, they're going to eat fast

REGINA'S RESTAURANT

27 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights. (847)394-2728. www.Reginas.net. For a limited time, Regina's will celebrate their 23rd anniversary by offering "create your own" 12-inch thin crust pizzas for \$10. They'll also offer 8-ounce carafes of red or white wine from C.R. Cellars for \$3.50.

CLARKE'S RESTAURANT

720 Clark St., Evanston. (847) 864-1610. www.ClarkesDiner.com.

food all their life."

Regina's nightly specials, too, are often inspired by what Campenella saw his mom and grandmother do while he was growing up.

"They planned our daily menu and made the food with whatever they had on hand. If they had chicken that day, we'd eat chicken," Campenella said.

That's how he developed Chicken Regina, a favorite house dish made of chicken breasts, garlic, chopped onions, mushrooms, peppers, and plum tomatoes.

"It's really simple," he said. "You can have this on your table in less than a half hour."

Wine for flavor

He cooks the chicken and vegetables together in a shallow pan on the stovetop. He throws in a few splashes of chardonnay white wine and lets it burn off, leaving only its flavor behind.

Campenella serves it over fettuccine, but recommends using short pastas for kids. His advice for cooking perfect pasta?

"Make sure the water is boiling before you put the pasta in. Otherwise, you're going to get pasta sticking to each other," Campenella advised, adding that different types of pasta, like angel

hair, will cook faster.

Campenella can tell if pasta is done by the way it moves in the water, but he suggests this test for less experienced cooks: "Bite into it. If you see a very thin, white line in there, that's when you know it's al dente," he said.

He tops off the dish with a sprinkle of shredded Parmigiana and Romano cheeses and a sprig of fresh basil or parsley for color.

"I like to put greens with reds," he said.

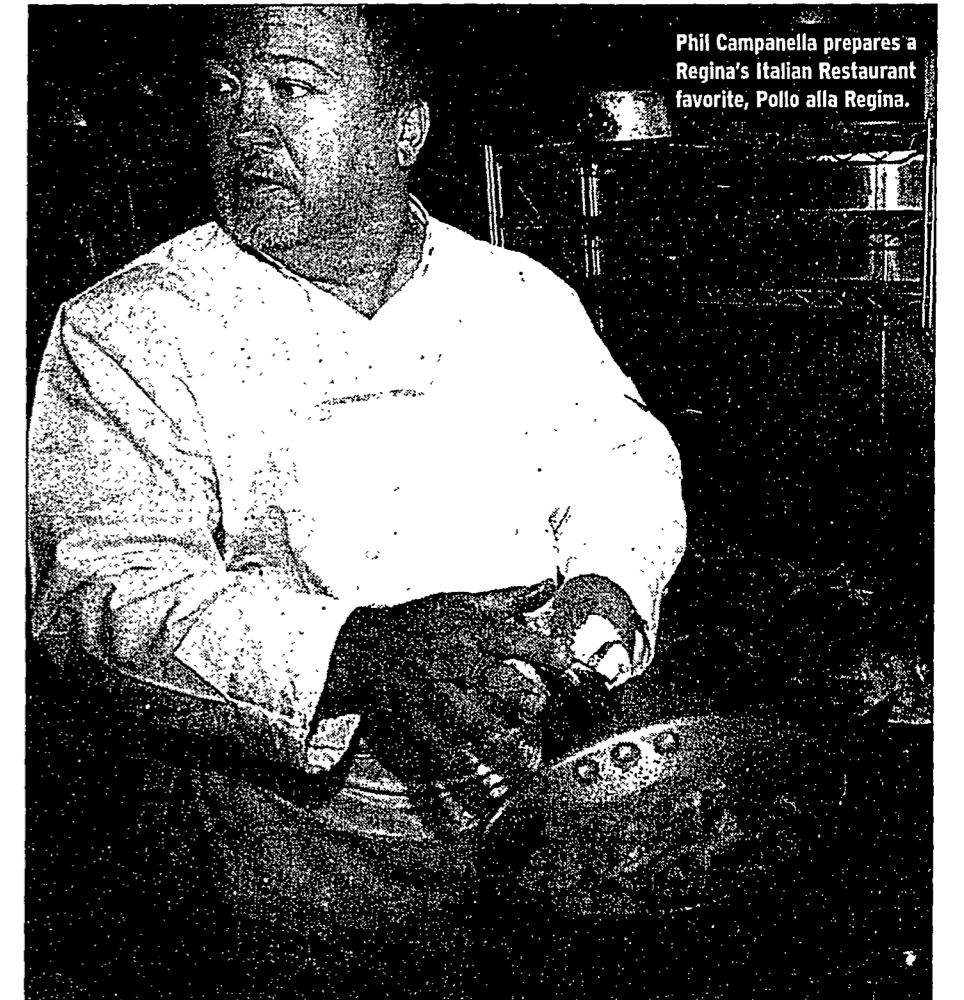
Greek taste

Blue and white — or the colors of the Greek flag — are dear to Stefanos Dionysopoulos. He came to Chicago from Greece and opened Clarke's, a 1950s-themed diner in Evanston 25 years ago with his business partner, Tom Tsatas.

Since then, they've opened two more restaurants, one in Chicago's Lincoln Park and one in Wrigleyville. Because they cook American foods, their menu doesn't offer Greek meals they grew up with, but their business is based on the wholesome, healthy, and tasty ethos both men learned from their mothers.

"It was a big thing for my mom to cook. She cooked every day," Dionysopoulos said.

They make soups from scratch daily, including



Phil Campenella prepares a Regina's Italian Restaurant favorite, Pollo alla Regina.

BRIAN VALENTIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tsatas' mother's tomato soup, which is packed with carrots, celery, and onions. "It could be called carrot soup," Dionysopoulos said.

Real bird

They use 100 percent chicken broth to make her chicken noodle soup. "It's four times as expensive as regular broth," Dionysopoulos said. But like the buttermilk Tsatas' mother's pancake recipe calls for, it's worth every penny.

To adapt to the restaurant, they only skip on one of their mother's ingredients: salt. "You have to make things less salty, so people can add as much as they like," Dionysopoulos said.



BRIAN VALENTIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pollo Alla Regina (Chicken Regina)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>3 oz. olive oil 1 lb. chicken breasts, or tenders, dusted with flour 1 medium Spanish onion, sliced 1/4 lb. white mushrooms, sliced 2 large cloves garlic, chopped 1 large green pepper, sliced 1 C white wine (Chardonnay, for example) 4 large plum tomatoes, or canned Italian plum tomatoes 2 C chicken stock 2 lbs. fettuccine pasta</p> <p>Cook pasta according to package directions. Heat olive oil in a hot</p> | <p>pan (not so oil smokes though). Add flour-dusted chicken. Cook 2 to 3 minutes, turn chicken in pan. Add onion and mushrooms. Cook 3 to 4 more minutes. Add garlic and green pepper. Cook 2 more minutes. Add wine and reduce. Add tomatoes and chicken stock. Cook another 6 to 8 minutes. Serve over hot pasta. Top with basil and Parmigiana cheese.</p> |
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BOYS SOCCER

Niles North to build on last year's success

BY JON YEE
Contributor

Niles North hopes to build on a successful 2007 season, which saw the squad compile an 11-8-2 overall record and capture a regional title in a thrilling four-overtime game against Evanston.

The Vikings' run ended last year with a disappointing loss to State qualifier New Trier in the sectional semifinals, but co-head coach Yoon Lee believes his experienced team is poised for another impressive campaign this fall.

"Last year was a successful year in our eyes, especially since we took regionals," said Lee, who serves alongside Dan Edminster as head coach. "This year we think we can take at least third in the CSL and once again take regionals."

Niles North should benefit greatly from the return of several players in many key positions, highlighted by Division-I prospect Javi Torres and senior goalkeeper CJ Lenhardt. Torres, whom Lee described as a workhorse, provides an immediate scoring threat at forward who should get plenty of service from the senior midfield duo of Costa Minchev and Erik Rodriguez. Minchev possesses one of the strongest legs on the squad, and he also kicks for the football team, while Rodriguez holds the honor for most minutes played last season.

Lenhardt offers stability and experience in goal, and he will be aided by defender Danny Braubach. Both players were pivotal to the team's defensive success in 2007, and Lee expects more of the same

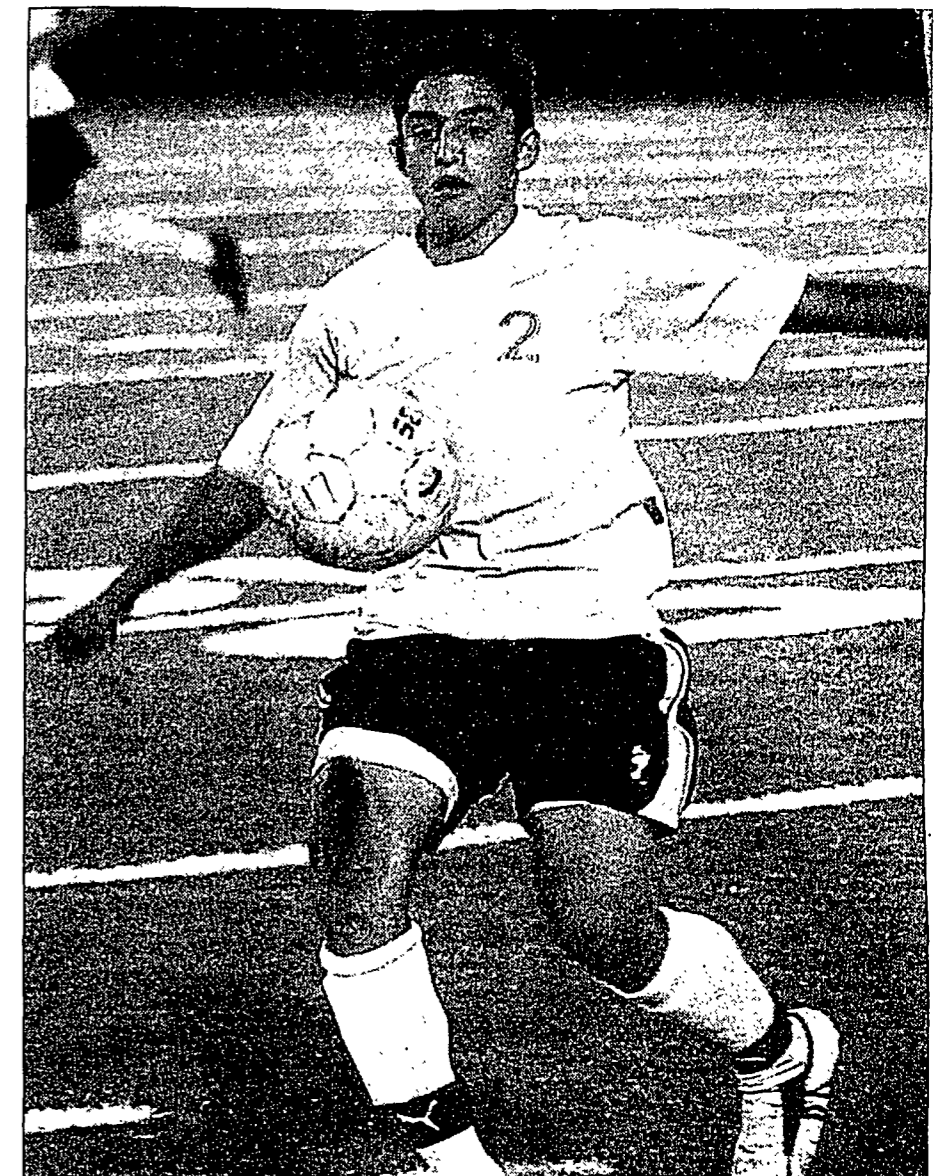
from the seniors this year.

With preparation for the fall just kicking off, it is still too early for Lee to see which newcomers to the team will crack the starting lineup, but he believes at least one freshman and a handful of sophomores will contribute along with a host of rising juniors.

"We should have a nice mix of veteran and younger players, and it will be important for us to improve in our play, understanding and communication on the field as the season progresses along," Lee said.

The Vikings open the 2008 season with road games against Buffalo Grove on Aug. 26 and Maine South on Aug. 28 before traveling south to Quincy one day later for the Notre Dame Invite.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



PIONEER PRESS FILE PHOTO
Niles North should benefit greatly from the return of several players in many key positions, highlighted by Division-I prospect Javi Torres.

NILES WEST BOYS SOCCER

Wolves commit to further improvement

BY JON YEE
Contributor

Niles West began last season with a somewhat disappointing 2-5-3 mark through its first 10 games before finally catching fire in the second half of its schedule.

The Wolves closed out the year with eight wins in their last 12 games, and they have carried on that improvement throughout the offseason and summer. Much of the team participated in a summer workout program that increased the players' physical strength and conditioning, and which should pay huge dividends when the regular season kicks off.

Seeing his team's commitment over the past few months has convinced head coach Scott Ackman that his players will not only avert another lackluster start but that they will pick up right where they left off at the end of last season. "We started out a little shaky last year but we came on really well at the end of the year," Ackman said. "And since last season we have had a lot more dedication from our kids. Three days a week they do strength and the other two days they do conditioning, so they have been working extremely hard in the offseason."

With the departure of just three starters from

last year, Ackman returns a wealth of talent to his lineup, headlined by senior Ben Pintilei. Pintilei (27 career goals) has struggled with an ankle injury recently, but Ackman expects his leading returning scorer to be healthy enough at the start of the season to challenge the school's all-time scoring record of 36 goals.

Among the other veteran standouts for the Wolves are seniors Hani Arabi, Ionut Ciocan (all-conference in 2006 and '07) and Santos Reyes (all-conference in '07) and junior Mahi Mameledzija. In addition, senior Cesar Alvarez and junior Martin Tomic have showed tremen-

dous improvement during the summer months and are on the verge of breaking into a loaded starting lineup.

Although preparations for the season are just getting underway, the players already have specific goals in mind and they are poised to meet them when their season begins at home against Fremd on Aug. 26.

"We added a much stronger schedule this year," Ackman said. "And we want to have a much better record. We also want to try and win conference and once again do well in the sectionals."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



PIONEER PRESS FILE PHOTO
Niles West's Ben Pintilei is the team's leading scorer with 27 career goals. He has struggled with an ankle injury recently, but coach Scott Ackman expects his leading returning scorer to be healthy enough at the start of the season to challenge the school's all-time scoring record of 36 goals.

Sports

NOTRE DAME GOLF PREVIEW

Coach hopes team will rebound after off year

By JIM EDISON jedison@pioneerlocal.com

For most high school athletic programs, there are always those figurative bumps in the road.

Last year was one such season for Notre Dame's golf program. The Dons, who have had many successful years under long-time coach Bob Beckman struggled in the regular season and finished with an overall dual-meet record of 5-9.

And while there will be no superstars on the 2008 squad, Beckman thinks the Dons will return to their competitive style as they make their way through the East Suburban Catholic Conference and beyond.

"Last year was just an off season," said Beckman, who took over ND's golf program in 1988. "The year before (2006) was our best ever, but I lost all those guys. So in 2007, I had only two returners.

"It was difficult and we were under .500 for the first time in quite a while. But amazingly, we did well in the regional as we had three qualifiers in Phil Bogusz, Padric Canavan and Anthony Salerno."

The good news for Beckman is that two of those regional qualifiers will be back on the course. Leading the attack this fall will be Canavan, who got in plenty of rounds this past spring and summer.

"Padric is looking pretty good at this point," Beckman said. "He played in junior tournaments and shot a 77 in one of the big ones."

Backbone of squad

Four other seniors who will form the backbone of the varsity squad are Justin Horodecki, Harry Johnson, Dennis Walsh and John Kronon.

The Dons will bring back a strong bunch of juniors. In addition to

Salerno, Beckman expects solid contributions from Tom Rueve, Robby Martin, Matt Carlucci and Dominick VonAulock.

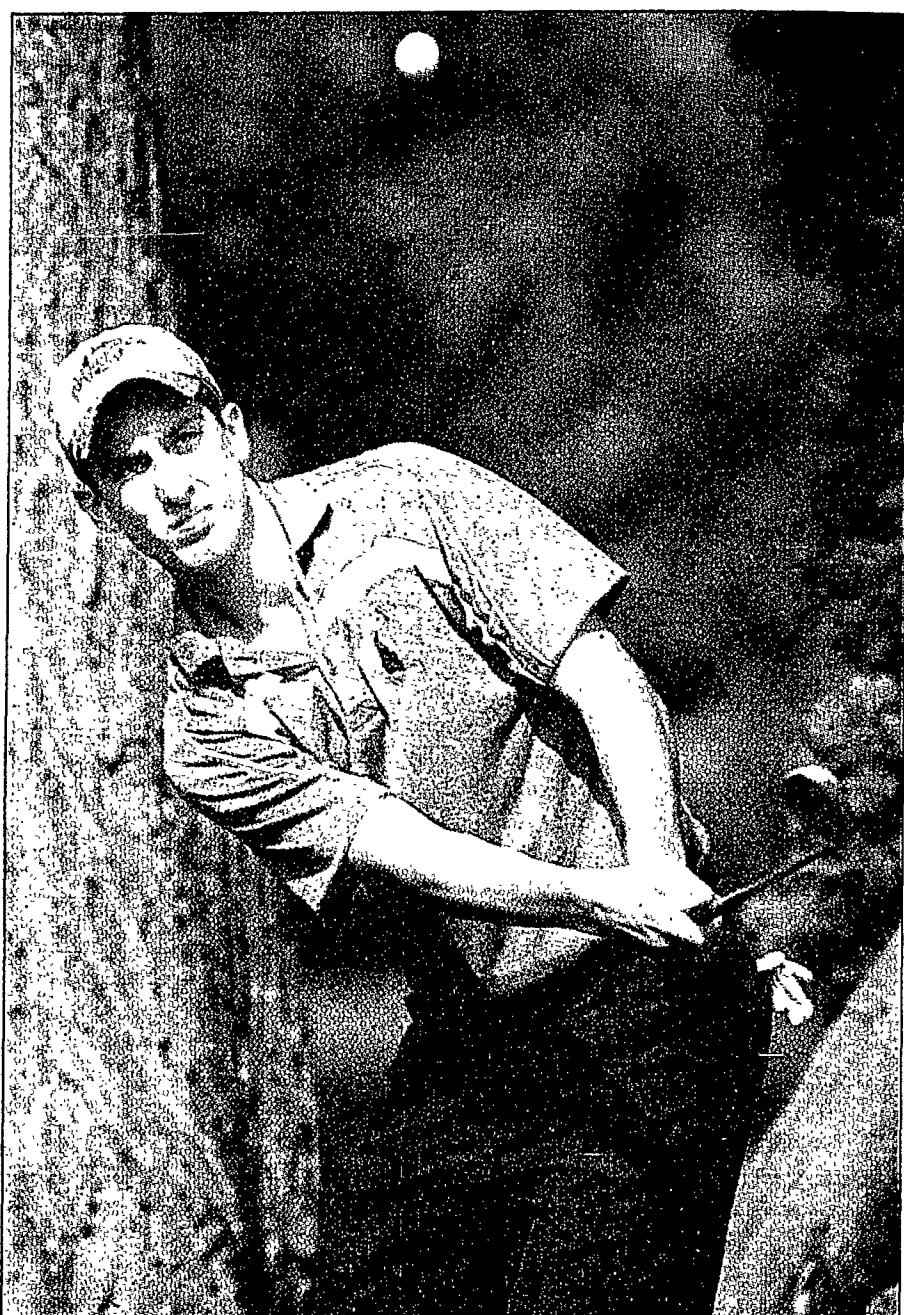
As is always the case, the Dons will face stiff competition in the ESCC.

"St. Viator will be very good this year," Beckman said. "And Carmel and Benet should also be tough. Benet is the only team in the league that I have never beaten as a coach. Last year we came very close, but lost by a stroke.

"In nonconference action, it looks like we will play a dual meet with Loyola for the first time. And we are looking forward to our season opener Friday against Ridgewood at home (the Rob Roy Golf Course in Prospect Heights).

"I told the kids not to get too excited, but to just play the best they can at their own level."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



JOEL LERNER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the seniors who will form the backbone of this year's Notre Dame golf team is Harry Johnson.

BOYS GOLF

Veteran seniors to shoulder Niles North load

By JON YEE Contributor

Niles North head coach Ryan Geu will be the first to admit that his young team may have struggled throughout last season. With a lack of senior leadership on last year's roster, the Vikings finished with a 2-13 record, including a 1-4 mark in the Central Suburban League, and they ended

the season fifth in conference. "We had a young team with only one senior on varsity last year," Geu said. "And there were some matches last year that we could have won." What the players lacked in victories and trophies a season ago, they more than made up for with hard work and effort, and they have since added another valuable

weapon to their bag: experience. Four of Geu's top five returnees are now seniors, and junior Tommy Madigan played on varsity last season as well. Seniors Max Kirshenbaum, Russ Nupnau, Dev Patel, Jon Perlin and Madigan are expected to carry the load for Niles North this time around, and Geu also believes a handful of underclassmen

can make an impact, too. "Our top five returning golfers are all fairly equal in talent and potential," Geu said. "One of the greatest strengths they all have is the ability to keep their composure during a round. They are also very teachable and have immensely improved their golf game over the years. We also have a good group of freshmen who made the team this year

and we do have some sophomores who might play up on varsity as well." Many of the team's experienced players have set a benchmark for the younger players by improving their strength in the offseason and working on their individual games throughout the summer. With a veteran group to rely on, Geu feels that the Vikings' win total has little choice but to improve.

"I hope to see some big improvements on our 18-hole tournament scores, which was a major weak point for us last year," Geu said. "We have basically the same team as last year, minus the one senior we lost (Zach Olander), so I expect to be better than we were last year." Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide

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Table with mortgage rates from various banks including Park Ridge Community Bank, Third Coast Mortgage LLC, Great Northern Financial Corp., Revere Mortgage Ltd, Allstar Home Mortgage, Inc., The Glen Financial, Inc., Glenview State Bank, and Mortgage Square, Inc. Includes a Wall Street Journal Prime Rate graph and a mortgage calculator table.

Rates are mixed; Fannie raises fees again By Holden Lewis • Bankrate.com

Mortgage rates were mixed this week, with fixed rates rising and adjustable rates falling. The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rose 4 basis points, to 6.74 percent, according to the Bankrate.com national survey of large lenders.

Now the fee will double to \$500 per \$100,000 borrowed, or one-half of 1 percent. As a rough rule of thumb, a fee of one-half of 1 percent would translate into an increase in the rate of one-eighth of a percentage point.

The same applies to homeowners who refinance their mortgages. Those with equity of 20 percent or more will pay more; those with less than 20 percent equity won't pay higher fees, but will have to buy mortgage insurance.

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| ARLINGTON HEIGHTS 138 E. Rand Rd.* 847-253-0329 | AURORA 740 N. Rte. 59* 630-851-2254 | BATAVIA 350 Randall Rd.* 630-761-2160 | BELVIDERE 1912 Gateway Center Dr. 630-582-4707 | BLOOMINGDALE Stratford Square Mall 630-980-4322 | BOLLINGBROOK 224 Weber Rd. 630-226-4660 | BOURBONNAIS 697 E. Boughton Rd.* 630-783-8966 | BRAUCLEY Northfield Square Mall 815-929-0693 | CALUMET CITY 840 Kinzie Ave. 708-862-0500 | CHICAGO NORTH 1245 Torrence Ave. 708-862-0500 | CHICAGO SOUTH 6451 W. Diversey* 773-836-4401 | CHICAGO CITY 1652 N. Milwaukee Ave.* 773-489-6200 | CHICAGO RIDGE 13447 S. Cicero Ave.* 708-346-9557 | CRESTWOOD 1125 South Route 31 815-444-6080 | CRYSTAL LAKE 1404 Butterfield Rd. 630-953-8052 | DOWNS GROVE 6543 Grand Ave.* 847-855-6019 | GURNEE 2201 S. Wolf Rd.* 708-947-2500 | HILLSDALE 9402 Joliet Rd.* 708-387-0554 | HOGGINS (Also serving South Barrington) 2734 N. Sutton Rd.* 847-645-0190 | HOFFMAN ESTATES 3330 Mall Loop Dr. 815-439-5100 | JOLIET 290 N. Randall Rd. 847-458-2866 | LAKE IN THE HILLS 3333 W. Touhy Ave.* 847-568-1554 | LICCATIWOOD 4063 211th St. 708-748-7444 | MATTESON 401 W. 81st Ave. 219-736-8400 | MERRILLVILLE, IN 2109 Southlake Mall 219-756-7440 | LET. PROSPECT 1 W. Rand Rd. 847-259-2627 | MAPERVILLE 111 E. Ogden Ave. 630-420-3299 | MILES 9635 N. Milwaukee Ave.* 847-967-1150 | NORTH BROOK 5700 W. Touhy Ave.* 847-647-7724 | NORTH AURORA NEW! Golf Mill Mall 847-298-3047 | NORTH RIVERSIDE Northbrook Court 847-509-8527 | ORLAND PARK 235 Skokie Blvd. 847-272-7770 | PALATINE 1852 Towne Center Dr.* 630-907-2055 | PLAINFIELD North Riverside Park Plaza* 708-442-0755 | SCHAUMBURG 9264 W. 159th St.* 708-403-8200 | SOUTH ELGIN Orland Square Mall 708-403-3122 | ST CHARLES 784 E. Dundee Rd.* 847-934-8113 | VERNON HILLS 12632 S. Rte. 59* 815-436-7388 | WEST DUNDEE 1249 E. Higgins Rd. 847-330-6010 | WHEATON Woodfield Mall 847-619-0773 | WILLOW BROOK 596 Randall Rd.* 847-695-1667 | WILMETTE 124 S. Kirk Rd.* 630-513-5326 | WILMETTE 701 N. Milwaukee Ave.* 847-247-2300 | WILMETTE Springhill Mall 847-426-2177 | WILMETTE 109 W. Geneva Rd. 630-668-2199 | WILMETTE 1538 E. Lake Cook Rd.* 847-215-8788 | WILMETTE NEW! 7450 Kingery Hwy. 630-887-2944 | ALGONQUIN The Wireless Network 1072 Algonquin Rd. 847-658-0808 | BARTLETT Wireless Millennium Communications 144 Bartlett Plaza 630-483-5050 | ELMHURST The Cellular Connection 540 W. North Ave. 630-834-2776 | HANOVER PARK Wireless Millennium Communications 1178 Lake St., Unit B-12 630-213-6060 | JOLIET The Wireless Network 16527 W. 159th St. 815-838-2900 | LAKE ZURICH Corporate Cellular 580 W. Main St. 847-540-4440 | OAK LAWN The Cellular Connection 10646 S. Cicero 708-499-4088 | ROUND LAKE BEACH The Wireless Network 800 E. Rollins 219-947-9900 | VERNON HILLS Star Wireless 122 Hawthorne Center 847-247-0361 | WAUCONDA Wauconda Cellular 210 W. Liberty St. 847-487-0400 | WEST DUNDEE The Wireless Network 625 S. 8th St. 847-426-9933 | WILMETTE Linear Communications 3217 Lake Ave. 847-853-3500 | ALGONQUIN JULIET KILDEER LINCOLN PARK* MCKENRY* MERRILLVILLE, IN MAPERVILLE MORRIDGE* NORTH AVE - CHICAGO ORLAND HILLS OSWEGO SCHAUMBURG SCHERERVILLE, IN VERNON HILLS |
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