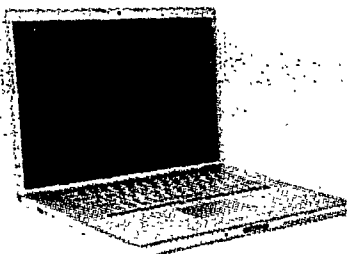




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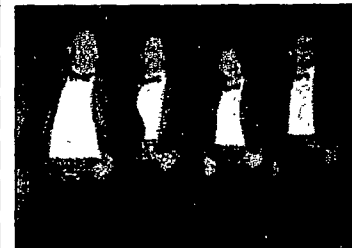


## AIR BALLS

Tobi Adeyemo, 10, of Des Plaines, practices with two balls during the children's juggling lesson Saturday afternoon at Niles Public Library. Page 12.

### THIS WEEK

**DIVERSIONS**



**PLAID BOYS**

Musical comedy "Forever Plaid" staged in Edison Park.

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**DIVERSIONS**



**STANDARDS FARE**

Kimber Leigh Nussbaum performs "Songs from My Heart" in Skokie.

PAGE B1

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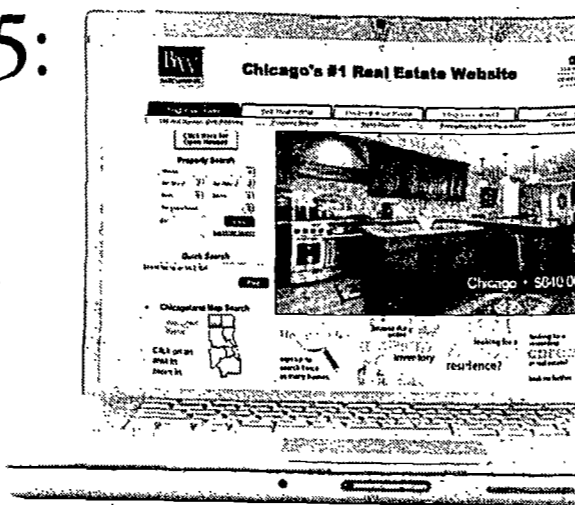


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<p><b>Skokie</b> Renovated ranch-4 bed, 2.2 bths. Entirely new kitchen! Refinished oak flrs. ID#83108085 John Creighton 847-491-1855</p>	<p><b>Skokie</b> Luxury 3BD 2BA w/quiet forest views, granite, cherry, Indr pool, pets OK. ID#83108127 Theo Shaw 847-491-1855</p>	<p><b>Skokie</b> Cozy &amp; inviting brk ranch in Fairview sch dist. Eat-in Kit w/doors to deck. ID#84408271 Diane Staton 773-775-1855</p>	<p><b>Skokie</b> New constr. 2BR/2BA condo close to town &amp; train. In-unit Indry, 2 gar spaces. ID#83158154 Maureen Dunn 847-724-1855</p>	<p><b>REDUCED PRICE</b></p>  <p><b>Lincolnwood</b> Great Lincolnwood location! 3 br. Brick georgian with many, many updates. ID#84408115 Mera Wei 773-775-1855</p>
<p><b>Skokie</b> Rock solid 4BR VNTG bungalow quiet st. spotless, FNCD YD w/gardens 2c gar. ID#83108114 Julie Naumiak 847-491-1855</p>	<p><b>Morton Grove</b> Well maintained 3BR/2BTH all brick ranch. Full basement, 2 car att. garage. ID#83158095 William Blohm 847-724-1855</p>	<p><b>REDUCED PRICE</b></p>  <p><b>Lincolnwood</b> Charming brick Cape Cod nestled on tree lined street. Entertain in lge rms. ID#84408164 Pauline Dreuth 773-775-1855</p>	<p><b>Skokie</b> Solid well maintained 3br 1.1 baths fin bsmt. 1st time on mkt since 1950's. ID#83108070 Bobbi Chasin 847-491-1855</p>	<p><b>Skokie</b> 3BR/1.1BTH all brick ranch. Finished basement almost doubles living space. ID#83158157 Doug Wurtzel 847-724-1855</p>
<p><b>REDUCED PRICE</b></p>  <p><b>Skokie</b> Skokie brick Georgian - original cond with great potential &amp; curb appeal. ID#84408156 Irene Yungerman 773-775-1855</p>	<p><b>Des Plaines</b> 3br multi-level duplex. Lg LR, separate DR, fam rm w/patio door. Fin rec rm. ID#84718234 Nuha Ayoub 847-823-1855</p>	<p><b>Skokie</b> Fab newer 2br 2ba! Sunset view balcony, w/d in-unit, gar pkg &amp; fresh decor! ID#83108179 Julie Naumiak 847-491-1855</p>	<p><b>Chicago</b> Belmont Cragin Double lot, two PINs. 11 room home. ID#83158067 Nanci Shirrel 847-724-1855</p>	<p><b>Schiller Park</b> 3br well maintained brick ranch. Hardw flrs, fin bsmt w/2nd kit. Walk to bus. ID#84718207 Donna Plank 847-823-1855</p>
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# District 63 officials blame language barrier for inadequate ISAT scores

By **TONY BERTUCA**  
[tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com)

East Maine School District 63 and three of its schools failed make adequate yearly progress according to the standards of No Child Left Behind and the Illinois Standards Academic Achievement Test, but school officials said their test scores suffered because many of their students were forced to take this year's test in a foreign language — English.

More than 80 percent of students at East Maine Elementary School District 63 come from non-English-speaking homes

and this was the first year Illinois students with limited English proficiency, or English Language Learners, were required to take the ISAT completely in English.

Before 2008, English Language Learners (ELL) students took the Illinois Measure of Growth in English (IMAGE) test, which was geared toward children with limited English proficiency.

District 63 Superintendent Kathleen Williams said the elimination of the IMAGE test was responsible for the poor reading scores at several schools that hurt the district's overall Adequate Yearly

Progress, or AYP, standing.

"Clearly, the omission of using scores from the state's IMAGE assessment for our English Language Learners and forcing our non- or limited-English-proficient students to take the same ISAT as English-proficient students made a huge difference in our scores, as we suspected they would," she said. "Three of our schools did not make AYP this year; the same schools that had been recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education for outstanding growth in achievement last year."

District 63 was recognized by the state last year because of its gains on the ISAT, and this is the first year District 63 failed to make AYP. Apollo, Stevenson and Mark Twain schools were also recognized last year because of their ISAT gains, and none made AYP this year.

But Williams said a new ELL exam similar to the IMAGE test would be used during the next testing period in March.

"We hope the new ELL test will level the playing field," she said.

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

# Deadline to apply for FEMA aid is Dec. 2

By **TONY BERTUCA**  
[tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com)

The village of Niles issued a statement to residents last week reminding them Dec. 2 is the deadline to apply for FEMA for flood assistance.

Village officials said only 500 Niles residents have called and registered with FEMA since September's floods even though they suspect there are many others who may qualify but have not registered.

"The No. 1 reason for not calling FEMA is that they think only loans are available," according to the village statement. "This is not true. Low-interest loans are available, but federal money in the form of grants also exists."

FEMA has already distributed more than \$3 million in grant assistance to residents in Cook County.

"Some of the things that are covered by FEMA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) go above and beyond insurance claims," according to the statement.

"Temporary housing, home repair, replacement of household items, medical, unemployment payments, and low-interest loans."

Village officials also urge residents to contact FEMA if they had damage to their furnaces or hot-water heaters.

Residents can call FEMA, 1-800-621-3362 (1-800-462-7585 TTY), go to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), or go to the Disaster Recovery Center, 1486 Miner St., Des Plaines.

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# Service defines new trio of '207's Best'

By **TONY BERTUCA**  
[tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com)

Maine Township High School District 207 recognized three seniors for their efforts in the community, and presented each with a 207's Best Award for Community Service.

The students are: Nestor Zavala, of Maine West, Farrah Malik, of Maine East, and Alexandra Alvarez, of Maine South.

Maine South Principal David Claypool said Alvarez is involved in volunteer activities with Lutheran General Hospital, the Maine Township mentor program and summer camp, and St. Paul of the Cross' efforts with Habitat for Humanity, and also serves as a bilingual volunteer for a local elementary-school district.

Malik, of Maine East, participates in the Muscular Dystrophy Association,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207. November honorees as "207's Best" recognized for their community-service efforts included: Alexandra Alvarez, of Maine South; Farrah Malik, of Maine East; and Nestor Zavala, of Maine West.

and serves as president of Maine East's National Honor Society.

"She has coordinated three events outside of school and chose to volunteer her Saturdays and Sundays to benefit the MDA," said Maine East Principal Steven Isoye. "So far, Farrah has helped our chapter raise \$1,400 of its \$6,000 goal. There are more events being planned by Farrah. These

include: a weekend event, a raffle, and change collection at Maine East High School. With those future events, our Maine East chapter hopes to bring in \$6,000. Farrah's hard work, management and dedication are evident in the outcome of this fundraising effort."

Maine West Principal Audrey Haugan said Zavala was a leader in the Hispanic Club and Key

Club, where he organized fund-raisers, dance decorations, Kiwanis Peanut Day, visits to senior centers, food and clothing drives, and campus cleanups.

The 207's Best Awards are given out each month to three seniors who have excelled in various areas, such as academic, athletics, community service and the arts.

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# Vietnam vet tells of family bonds formed with fellow servicemen

By TONY BERTUCA  
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

It was winter 1966 when Nick Sarich was drafted into the U.S. Army.

The country was at war in Vietnam, and the 21-year-old Maine East graduate from Des Plaines was soon on his way to fight.

"When I found out I was going, I didn't want to tell my mom, my dad or my sister," he said. "We just didn't talk about it."

Sarich even tried to use an old high school athletic injury to get declared physically unfit, but it didn't work.

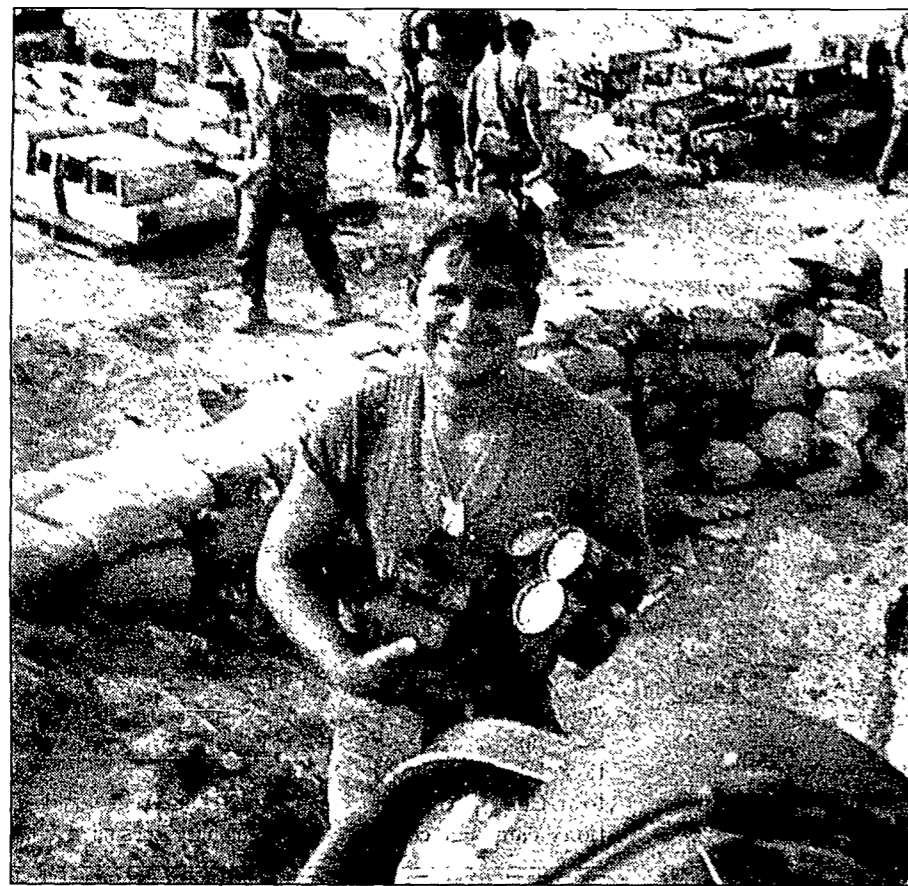
"I didn't want to go," he said.

But Sarich soon took comfort and pride in the unit to which he had been assigned: the 1st Squadron, 1st United States Cavalry, also known as the 1-1 Cav and the "Blackhawks."

It is one of the oldest and most storied military units in the United States, and traces its roots to the Black Hawk Indian War of 1832.

"I was gung-ho," he said. "Wherever we went there were bands playing. It made me proud."

Sarich and his unit were at sea for 18 days be-



Vietnam veteran Nick Sarich, of Niles.

fore arriving in Vietnam and it didn't take long for things to get ugly.

One day Sarich and his fellow soldiers were riding in a transport that struck a landmine. The vehicle exploded and Sarich was launched into the air. Ironically, it was his injured knee that the government declared was healthy enough to send Sarich into battle that got him a ticket home.

"I dislocated my knee," he said. "I don't really remember much, but when those things happen, whether you're religious or not, you say, 'Oh God, I hope I make it home.'"

No one died in the explosion and Sarich made it home. He went to work for a steel company owned by the father of rock star Ted Nugent. He has been married twice (his second wife died of lung cancer in

2001), and he has a daughter named Alexandra, 16, who attends Niles West High School. He now lives in Niles.

Sarich said he didn't talk about his war experience until the mid-1980s.

"You just didn't talk about it," he said. "There were a lot of people who knew me that never knew I served. It's a haunting thing."

Bonds, PAGE 10

# Circuit City to close by year's end

By TONY BERTUCA  
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Electronics retailer Circuit City filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy this month, and a Niles Circuit City store at 5701 W. Touhy Avenue will be closing its doors soon as a result.

The corporation announced last week it would be closing 155 stores across the United

States, and final sales at all stores are expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year, according to a statement from Circuit City.

Denise McCreery, spokeswoman for Niles' Department of Economic Development, said losing the store was lamentable, but it would not represent a major loss to village sales-tax revenue.

"While anything that

comes off the tax roll is not that appealing, that particular store has not been on our Top 20 list for sales-tax generation for years," she said. "It's a shame, but this economy is what it is."

McCreery said she expects the location to generate interest among other retailers. The Circuit City building is about 33,000 square feet, and the entire property is

about 160,000 square feet. "This is a very attractive property," she said. "It's a significant parcel, it has a great traffic pattern and we are confident it will be filled."

She said the store employed about 15 people, and that her office would be available to them for counseling and job-placement assistance.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

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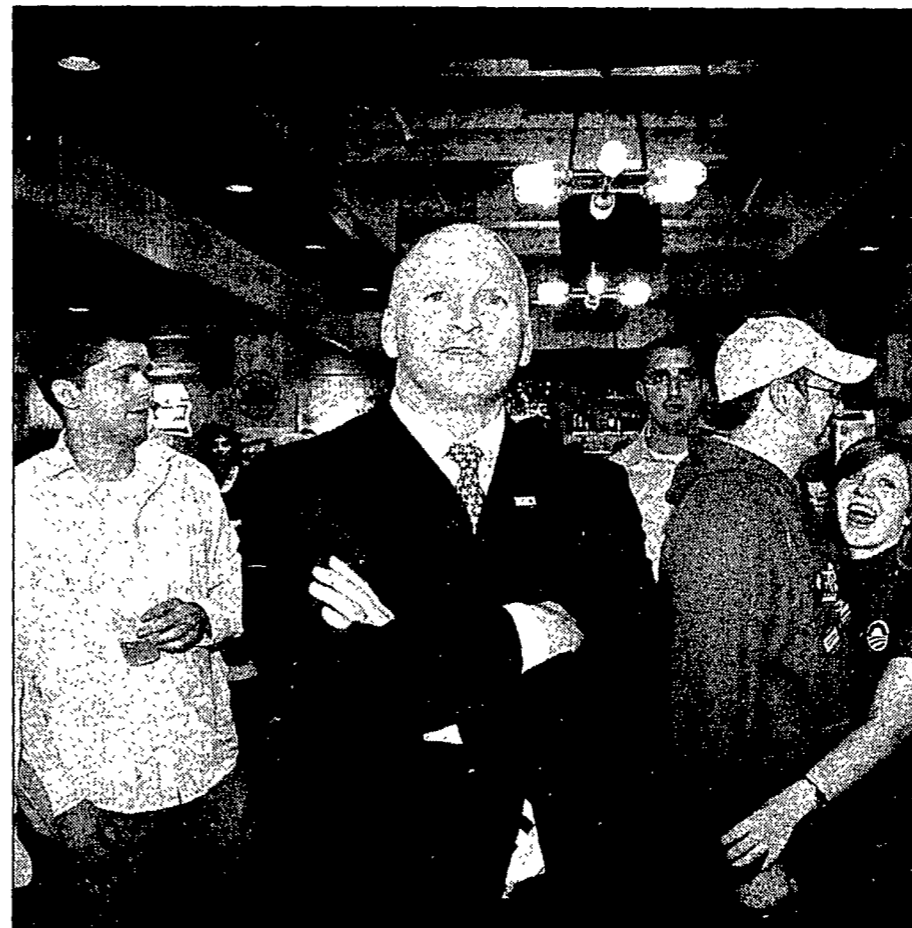
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RANDY BARAN/FOR PIONEER PRESS

State Sen. Dan Kotowski watches results at his campaign night party at El Famous Burrito in Park Ridge. Although complete precinct results were not available for the 33rd senate district on election night, Republican challenger Mike Sweeney called that evening to concede the election.

# Kotowski carries all parts of district for 33rd state Senate

By JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Democratic state Sen. Dan Kotowski will retain his 33rd District seat for a second term after receiving approximately 60 percent of the votes, beating his Republican opponent Mike Sweeney.

Based on unofficial results, Kotowski carried the district with 48,038 votes to Sweeney's 32,118 votes. This includes 46,452 in the 181 suburban precincts and 1,586 in Chicago's seven Northwest Side precincts for Kotowski, and 31,429 in the suburbs and 689 in Chicago for Sweeney.

Kotowski won in all the Chicago precincts and in the seven suburban townships including Leyden, Maine, Norwood Park, Palatine, Schaumburg, Wheeling, and Elk Grove Township where Sweeney is the township clerk.

"It was great turnout

and I just feel really honored and excited to serve the people of my community for another four years," Kotowski said, resting at his Park Ridge home the morning after the election.

Kotowski attributed his win to reaching out to voters throughout the district and talking about issues like property tax relief, health care, and ending pay-to-pay politics — issues Kotowski feels "matter most" to voters today.

"I think people of this district appreciate my independence and my willingness to work with both sides of the aisle to get things done," he added.

After spending time with him family — a trip to Disney World with his two young sons is in the works — Kotowski said he plans to focus his efforts on the biggest issues facing residents: providing property tax relief for home-

owners. Sweeney, admitting he was disappointed by the results and Republican turnout, said he called Kotowski to congratulate him Tuesday night.

"He knows he has a lot of work to do," Sweeney said. "I hope he and the other legislators can work to get Illinois back on track. That's the important thing."

Sweeney's campaigning for state senate might be over, but another race is right around the corner. Sweeney, a Mount Prospect resident and clerk of Elk Grove Township, said he plans to run for re-election next spring and is beginning the process of gathering signatures for the clerk's race. He said he will also continue his work as Elk Grove Township Republican committeeman.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# Schakowsky breezes to win in 9th Congressional District

By KATHY ROUTLIFFE  
kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com



Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky easily won three-way race for the 9th U.S. House District she has held since 1998, beating Niles businessman Michael B. Younan and Chicago retiree Morris Shanfield.

With 524 of the district's 587 precincts reporting, U.S. Rep. Schakowsky, D-9th, won a 69.5 percent margin — 158,277 votes. Republican candidate Younan was at 26.0 percent, with 59,254 votes, and Green candidate Shanfield earned 4.5 percent, with 10,170 votes.

Schakowsky, was one of the guests of honor at Sen. Barack Obama election night rally in downtown Chicago, as a national campaign co-chair.

She could not be reached for a statement late Tuesday night.

It was Schakowsky's sixth victory, a string which began in 1998, when the Evanston Democrat succeeded retiring longtime 9th District Rep. Sidney Yates to keep the 9th — a district split between Chicago and the suburbs, with 204,690 registered suburban voters as of

September, and roughly 280,187 registered in Chicago.

Schakowsky's own campaign was very low-key, despite having election two opponents. Niles businessman and Air Force veteran Michael Benjamin Younan, said last June he ran in part because he felt

Schakowsky was too liberal for her district, because he did not like unopposed races, and because he wanted to support veterans' issues. Chicago retiree Morris Shanfield said he ran on the Green Party ticket to publicize the country's need to restructure as a large-scale environmentally sound economy.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# McAuliffe holds onto his 20th District seat

By WYNN KOEBEL FOSTER  
wfooster@pioneerlocal.com



ALLISON WILLIAMS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State Rep. Michael McAuliffe, R-20th Dist., greets his cousin Jenson Whalen Nov. 4 before she votes at the Oxympark Field House on Chicago's Northwest Side.

Shortly after 10:30 p.m. on Election Day, state Rep. Michael McAuliffe, R-20, had already seen enough precinct reports from Chicago and the suburbs to feel confident he'd won reelection to his seventh term in the Illinois House of Representatives. His challenger, Democrat Michael Marzullo, was unavailable for comment on election night.

"I'm happy with the results and very humbled by them," McAuliffe said. "I'm a Republican after all, and this is the Democrats' year."

In unofficial totals for all precincts, available at the end of the week, McAuliffe had 59.48 percent of the vote — 39,951 — compared to Marzullo's 40.5 percent, 16,187.

In the suburbs, McAuliffe carried all but one of the Maine Township precincts — there were no votes cast for this race in Maine's 32nd precinct — as well as the Niles Township 9th precinct. In Norwood Park Township Marzullo carried the 10th and 17th precincts and the

candidates each got 50 percent of the 15th precinct. McAuliffe got more than 57 percent of the suburban votes.

In the city, Marzullo won the single precinct, from the 29th Ward, and 17 of the 36 precincts in

McAuliffe, PAGE 8

# 'If you don't vote, don't complain'

## Centenarian's voting history spans FDR-Hoover to Obama-McCain

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

Pauline Olbrisch, a 100-year-old Niles resident and native of Chicago's Northwest Side, cast her first presidential vote in 1932 for either Franklin D. Roosevelt or Herbert Hoover — she can't really remember.

"It was so long ago," she said.

And even though the grandmother of 10 has no trouble remembering who she voted for in last week's presidential election between Barack Obama and John McCain, she won't tell.

"The last time I said who I voted for, I caught hell," she said.

But after a little prying and some good-natured nagging, Olbrisch is quick

to show her political stripes as a faithful Catholic and coal miner's daughter.

"We should pray for Barack Obama," she said. "We shouldn't condemn him. I put this election in God's hands."

The centenarian also has some advice for anyone who couldn't make it to the polls Nov. 4.

"If you don't vote, don't complain," she said. "So many people don't vote, but then they want to complain."

Olbrisch said one of her main concerns during this election was foreign policy.

"I think 9/11 was just a scratch," she said. "We have to be worried about Russia. They have submarines and missiles."

Olbrisch is the daughter



Pauline Olbrisch, 100, sits with her granddaughter, Suzanne Hlotke, in her room at St. Andrew's Life Center the day after Election Day. Olbrisch has voted in every election since she was 21.

SUZANNE TENNANT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

of two Polish immigrants who came to Chicago and migrated downstate during the Great Depression so her father could get a job in

coal country. She later returned to the Northwest Side of Chicago and she and her husband got jobs working for Western Electric. Her

husband has been dead for 30 years, and Olbrisch now lives at St. Andrew's Life Center in Niles, where she is often visited by her granddaughter;

Suzanne Hlotke, 55. "She's an inspiration to me," Hlotke said. "People say I take care of her, but she really takes care of me."

Hlotke said her grandmother has good combination of traits that have helped her live to be 100 years old.

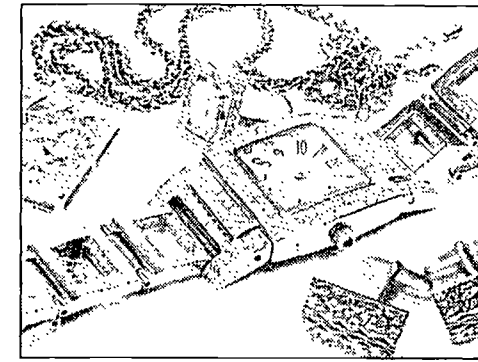
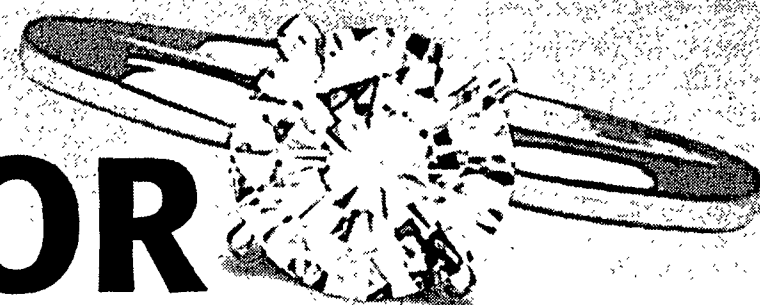
"She's active, she has a great sense of humor, and she has a deep faith," Hlotke said.

Olbrisch, who said she knows a thing or two about hard times after having lived through the Great Depression and World War II, said the country is in dire straits and needs to get behind its new president.

"We are in a lot of trouble," she said. "So we better get going."

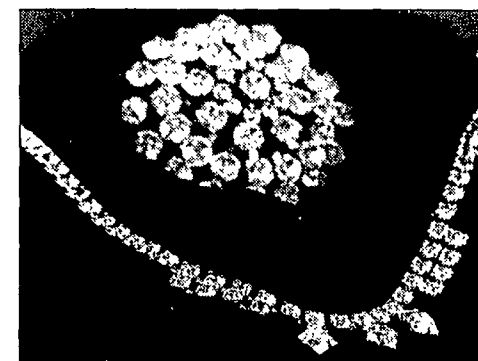
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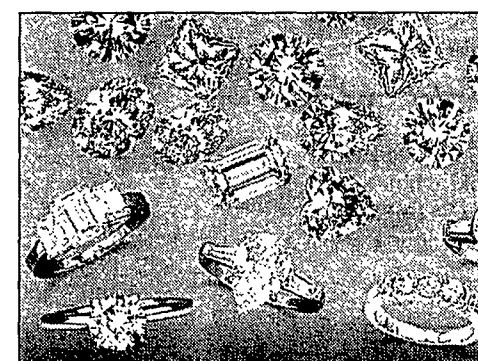
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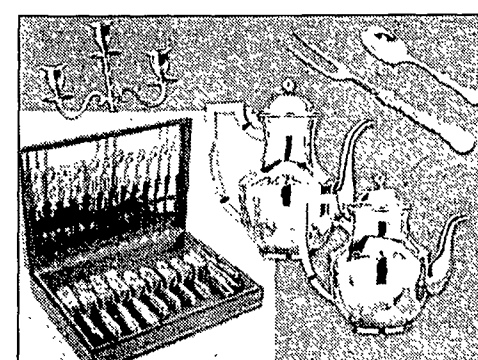
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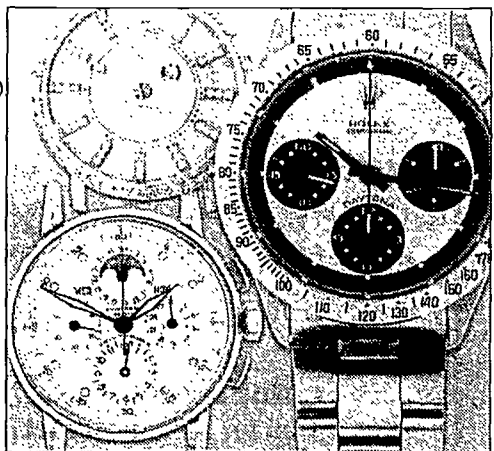
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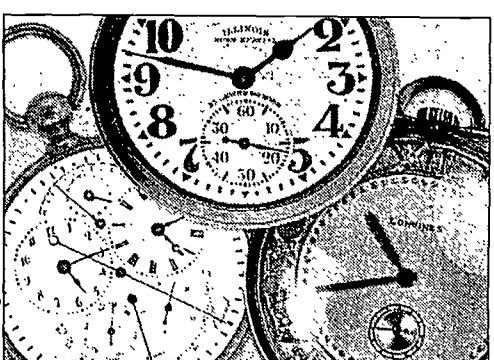
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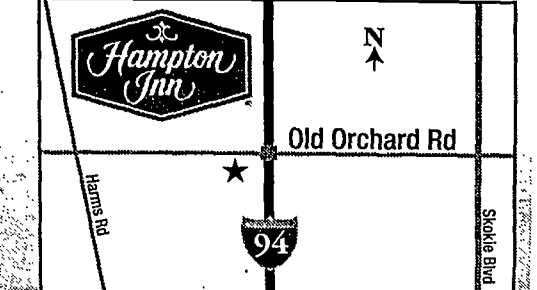
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# McAuliffe

Continued from PAGE 5

the 36th Ward. McAuliffe carried the 41st Ward precincts. Each won one of the 38th Ward precincts, but McAuliffe won the margin.

"I did well in the 36th Ward and the 41st," McAuliffe said, of his traditional Chicago ward strongholds. "I'm happy with my totals in Norridge and Harwood Heights, too."

In the House, McAuliffe chairs the Veterans Affairs Committee. More often than not, he is the sole Republican from Chicago serving in the Illinois House.

Marzullo, a brick mason, is employed by the city of Chicago Department of Aviation. He has made unsuccessful tries for public office before, for 41st Ward alderman and for state representative.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# Nekritz easily defeats challenger Tatooles

BY IRV LEAVITT ileavitt@pioneerlocal.com



Nekritz

Incumbent state Rep. Elaine Nekritz soundly defeated Jim Tatooles on Nov. 4 in the race for the 57th House District.

## 57TH DISTRICT

In unofficial returns, 23,302 people (about 68 percent) voted for Democrat Nekritz and 10,542 for her Republican challenger, with all 88 precincts reporting.

"I'm excited to have such strong support from the voters, and confirmation of the work that I'm trying to do," Nekritz said.

Asked why she had won by such a margin, she said, "That's a hard question for me, since I tend to be a self-effacing sort of person. But it may have something to do with the fact that I do make myself accessible and a lot of people feel that they know

me. And I have focused on some very local issues that are important to people: Flooding and rail con-

"I worked every train station ... so people still know I want this job."

Rep. Elaine Nekritz

gestion are two things I've heard about a lot." She cited her role in helping bring levees to the

Des Plaines River, leadership in the effort to expand the flood control role of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and her support for the Canadian National Railroad in its efforts to buy the E J & E Railroad, which could consolidate rail lines.

"There was a sweeping victory by the Democrats all across the board," Tatooles, a Northbrook attorney, said. "People in the 57th district have spoken. We did the best we could. We worked hard and she won fair and square."

Nekritz said last week, however, that neither candidate seemed to campaign hard in this election.

"I have received no reports that my opponent has knocked on a door, shaken hands at a train station or really been to public events where people can get to know him," she said.

"I worked every train

station, knocked on doors, and did the kind of work so people still know I want this job.

"But I've still maintained a legislative schedule. I have not campaigned as hard as in the past, though I was still out three or four nights a week at events."

Tatooles said last week that he was campaigning actively, adding "It's a

grass-roots campaign."

Nekritz said the strong showing by Democrats Tuesday won't last forever.

"We have to do this every two years," she said. "If the Democrats don't perform, we won't be here, so we'll have to buckle down and get to work."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## Sights and Sounds

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# Mount Prospect best place to raise kids: BusinessWeek

By RONNIE WACHTER rwachter@pioneerlocal.com

Mount Prospect residents, you are living in the whole country to raise children.

That is not election-cycle banter from politicians or the canned come-on from a school district — that is the result of research done by BusinessWeek.com. The magazine this week declared Mount Prospect the finest municipality in all the land to raise a family in 2008.

The news reached the community's politicians and school districts two weeks ago, when BusinessWeek.com film crews started showing up to covertly videotape a segment for their Web site showing why Mount Prospect is their number one. Unanimously, they said Friday that they were extremely excited about the designation, but not



DARRELL HARMON/FOR PIONEER PRESS Kelly Thompson, 11, Samantha Happ, 11, of Arlington Heights (standing), and Rebecca McLaurin, 13, of Mount Prospect (kneeling), wash cars in September at Holmes Middle School in Mount Prospect for the choir's car-wash fund-raiser.

all that surprised. "Everyone already knows how great it is," Mayor Irvana Wilks said.

"This is our ability to let the rest of the world know." "It really memorializes

what we've known for a long time," added Joe Leane, president of the School Board in Mount Prospect Elementary District 57. "It's really a credit toward every component of our community."

And BusinessWeek analyzed many of those components while making its search. The criteria included test scores, crime rates, housing options, library and park systems and the business community.

"We're hoping this will help put the focus on Mount Prospect nationally," said Jim Uszler, executive director of the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce. He confessed that he could not keep the secret to himself, and started touting Mount Prospect's forthcoming accolade while at a convention of chamber leaders last week in Decatur.

This year, every school

building in District 57 passed the federal government's Adequate Yearly Progress exam, a function of the No Child Left Behind Act that gets tougher every year. Fairview Elementary earned in September the federal Department of Education's highest honor, the Blue Ribbon — an award River Trails Middle School took in last year.

"My wife and I selected Mount Prospect pretty much for the schools," said Steve O'Mara, president of the River Trails Elementary District 26 School Board. "I'm not surprised at all to see an organization such as BusinessWeek select Mount Prospect."

The village and Prospect High School are organizing a celebration Wednesday at PHS; more details are pending.

As the news spreads, Wilks and Uszler said they

hope to parlay the distinction into changes that will make the best place to raise children even better.

"I hope it will help stimulate our local economy and our real estate market," Uszler said.

Uszler doubted it would affect rent or lease rates immediately, but said the report should make properties in the village move more swiftly. Wilks said that when young families come to visit Mount Prospect during the home-buying season next spring, they will find a community with new trees being planted right now.

"We have such good curb appeal to families," she said.

"It's amazing," she said of receiving the award.

"Simply amazing." (See related story on page 10.)

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# Des Plaines named No. 2 in Illinois among best places to raise children

By PAT KROCHMAL  
pkrochmal@pioneerlocal.com

Business Week magazine has named Des Plaines the second-best community in the state to raise children.

The Nov. 7 issue, featuring the Best Places in America to Raise Kids, named neighboring Mount Prospect the best place in the country, which also

made it the best in Illinois. However, Des Plaines was not ranked far behind.

"Mount Prospect just squeezed out several other Cook County communities, many of which also ranked high," the article stated. "The most important factors in our analysis (were) school performance, affordability and safety. But we also

"I thought this was the greatest place to raise a kid, that's why I raised my kids here. I don't know what makes Mount Prospect better, but it just squeaked by, so the difference between No. 1 and No. 2 is just a hair."

gave weight to cost of living, air quality, job growth, racial diversity, and local

parks, ball fields, zoos, recreation centers, museums and theaters." Des Plaines Mayor Anthony Arredia was not surprised at his city's high ranking.

"I've been bringing kids and family people to our City Council meetings since I've been mayor, applauding their awards and what they've done for other people," Arredia

said. "We have the kind of community that goes all out for people who are in need. And this designation justifies all that."

Arredia added: "I thought this was the greatest place to raise a kid, that's why I raised my kids here. I don't know what makes Mount Prospect better, but it just squeaked by, so the difference between No. 1 and No. 2 is just a hair."

Business Week partnered with OnBoard Informatics, a Manhattan-based provider of real-estate analysis, to decide each state's best affordable towns for raising children. They eliminated towns with populations of less than 50,000, and median

household incomes of less than \$40,000 or more than \$100,000. They ended up with a list including some well-known places such as Phoenix, Columbus, Ohio and Ann Arbor, Mich.

The magazine put Mount Prospect in first place because of its fiscal conservatism and community involvement, as well as its inclusion of new immigrants from Poland, Mexico, Korea and India, according to the article.

It described Mount Prospect as "a community with low crime, affordable homes, award-winning schools, ethnic restaurants, a major mall and small town charm."

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## Pantry collection days set

The Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry is seeking donations to stock up on food to meet the winter demands. The pantry helps feed hundreds of families and individuals each month.

Residents may stop by local Jewel food stores from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 6 and 13, at 481 Busse Highway (at Greenwood), Park Ridge and 1500 Lee St., Des Plaines (Oakton and Mannheim). Volun-

teers will be on hand collecting food and monetary donations.

Donations may also be brought to Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Assistance is available for large deliveries.

Any contributions of nonperishable food and money are appreciated. The most pressing needs are peanut butter, jelly,

spaghetti sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, canned tuna, chunky soups, dry cereal, macaroni and cheese, and large cans or plastic bottles of juice especially apple, orange and grape flavors.

For questions or assistance, contact the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry at (847) 297-2510 or visit the township web site www.maintownship.com.

## Bonds

Continued from PAGE 4

Today, Sarich says he can't help but feel alienated in his own country. His complaints range from illegal immigration to phony combat vets to lazy parents to the everyday lack of discipline in America.

"This country's being given away," he said. "I voted for McCain."

But aside from his own personal frustrations Sarich said he is proud to

have served his country and does not regret fighting in Vietnam.

"There were good things and bad things," he said.

What could have possibly been good about Vietnam?

"The guys," Sarich said. "I miss the guys."

Despite the pain of losing friends and the horror of armed conflict, Sarich still has fond memories of his buddies in the 1-1 Cav sticking up for each other and standing together through thick and thin.

But it wasn't until several years ago that Sarich and most of his army buddies reconnected.

"Now we talk all the time on the computer," he said. "Whether it's politics or sending dirty pictures or whatever it might be, we talk all the time."

Sarich said it is similar for many veterans who, bereft of their families and loved ones, carved out new families in military units and formed bonds that last lifetimes.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## 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

■ Susan Mayer, 48, of 6164 Washington Court, Morton Grove, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Nov. 8 on the 7400 block of West Dempster Street. She

was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Dec. 20.

■ Donald Kleis, 46, of 8531 N. Ferris Ave., Morton Grove, was charged with DUI on Nov. 8 on the 7100 block of North

Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$2,000 bond and is due in court Dec. 4.

■ Carlos Mojica, 19, of 6958 W. Schubert Ave., Chicago, was charged with DUI on Nov. 3 on the 8500 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$30,000 bond and was due in court Nov. 5.

■ Robert Majewski, 50, of 5836 E. Andover Drive, Hanover, was charged

with driving under the influence of alcohol Nov. 7 near the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Howard Street.

■ Alfonso Frasco, 53, of 5587 W. Shelly Court, Wheeling, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Nov. 9 on the 9400 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in

court Nov. 25.

### BURGLARY

■ A car was burglarized Nov. 8 on the 6700 block of West Albion. The car owner was missing \$200.

■ On Nov. 4 a residence on the 6900 block of West Touhy Avenue was burglarized. The homeowner was missing \$100.

■ A car was burglarized

Nov. 7 on the 5900 block of West Touhy Avenue. The car owner was missing a laptop computer valued at \$1,500, a laptop bag valued at \$50 and a leather wallet valued at \$200.

■ A car was burglarized Nov. 7 on the 9200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. The car owner was missing \$500.

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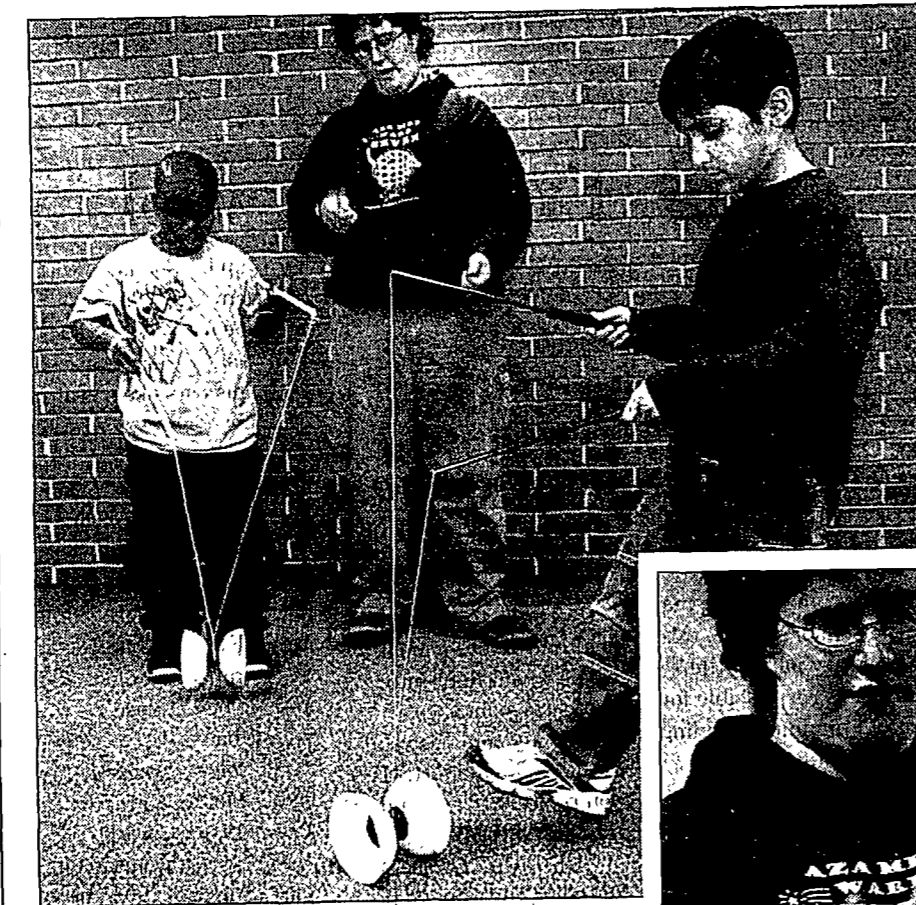
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**JUGGLING JUVENILES**  
 Chris Graham, left, and Aaron Nachsin, both 17 and of Evanston, warm up for their children's juggling lesson Saturday afternoon at Niles Public Library.



Jay Kaila, 8, of Niles, right, and Tobi Adeyemo, 10, of Des Plaines, left, learn from Aaron Nachsin, center, 17, of Evanston, how to use the diabolo during the children's juggling lesson Saturday afternoon at Niles Public Library.

MIA AIGOTTI/FOR PIONEER PRESS



Instructor Aaron Nachsin, 17, of Evanston, helps a girl learn to juggle three balls at once during the children's juggling lesson Saturday afternoon at Niles Public Library.

MIA AIGOTTI/FOR PIONEER PRESS

# Opinion

## WE SAY

### Saluting school board members

School board members in Maine High School District 207 and Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 will be saluted by the city of Park Ridge on Nov. 15, which Mayor Howard Frimark has proclaimed to be "School Board Members Day."

Other communities may follow, because this new event is being encouraged statewide by the Illinois Association of School Boards. The association is hoping to get momentum going to acknowledge the services of nearly 6,000 school board members across the state.

With a few exceptions — like Chicago, where the Board of Education is appointed and local school councils with lesser powers are elected — most school boards are elected by the residents of their districts.

Serving on a school board is not the glamorous position that some people envision. The positions are unpaid. The hours can be long, with committees and regular meetings, and often considerable research to stay abreast of new education trends and legislation. School boards can't operate in a vacuum.

Some loyal people serve several four year terms, often after their own children are out of the district, because they find fulfillment in this particular branch of public service.

Board members assume a lot of responsibility when elected. They have to be sure their district stays fiscally healthy, meets academic standards and fulfills all the mandates set by state and federal governments. They are also responsible for keeping their facilities in good repair and insured, negotiating contracts with various staff unions, hiring superintendents, and establishing policies for operations and education.

In districts where property taxes comprise the majority of funds used to operate the school system, taxpayers often keep an eagle eye on every part of the budget. They hold the board members responsible for holding expenses and spending to a minimum, finding wise investments and getting the maximum "bang" for their dollars. Prices never go down, but income doesn't go up quickly.

Board members also juggle a complicated plate of other topics — who's managing the school lunch program, how a district deals with food allergies, whether there are safe ways for children to get to school. They have to provide an array of options to handle special education students with extra needs who can't be served in the local schools.

And they also can set their own standards for improving education through the decisions they make, setting the bar higher.

Unfortunately, while there may be proclamations, there don't yet seem to be too many concrete ideas on how to salute the local boards. You can still address letters of appreciation to your local school boards.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## 1000 WORDS



### I've got the whole wheat blues



**CHERYL O'DONOVAN**  
 VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

I've sunk to a new health-food low. I sneak whole wheat flour into blueberry pancakes.

My husband chews and swallows with effort. "Did you remember to grind the grain first?"

"Oh, hush," I tease, rounding the table to pour the boys' milk.

"Maybe if I had four stomachs like a cow, I could handle this kind of roughage," he adds, holding the syrup bottle upside down, saturating the pancakes.

"Cows actually have digestive compartments."

He pats his tummy and winks at the kids. "This is my overhead compartment."

I tap his shoulder with an oven mitt. "The kids would eat at fast food 24/7 if I wasn't crafty."

"This eats like a craft, all right," he says. "A craft made of bark."

I slather on more DeLardo, a new margarine loaded with Omega-3 battery acids. Something must offset this gruesome taste. Even the blueberries jumped out of the mixing bowl to escape this wheat batter.

My oldest wrinkles his face, "Mom, this tastes burned."

This statement quickly gains consensus. My husband excuses himself to get a cup of coffee — at an IHOP 30 miles away. My youngest offers a bite to Kirby, our dog, who sniffs and rejects.

Mrs. Butterworth is shaking her head, saying she'd rather disgrace herself in another Geico commercial than coat any pancake I'd flip.

But when I wash the dishes, I gasp in horror:

The pancake batter has fused to the bowl.

This stuff is supposed to be edible, not dry harder than epoxy. I recall the History Channel special about Roman engineering, and how they invented something more enduring than concrete. Centurion pancake batter.

Well, three broken steak knives later, I've scraped, filed and sandblasted. My rubber gloves are shredded. The Brillo pad is mush.

And I'm pretty sure that blood in the sink belongs to me.

The bowl, though, is sparkling clean.

In my fix-it arsenal of hammers, nails and Bailey's Irish Cream, I add another tool. Next time something shatters in this house, an heirloom, a photo frame, a 401k account, I'm not reaching for the superglue.

Hello, Aunt Jemima.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## YOU SAY

### Homesharing makes housing affordable

In this time of economic uncertainty, your readers may find it useful to know that this northwest suburban area is served by one of the strongest homesharing programs in the country. The Center of Concern has been successfully matching home owners with extra room with individuals looking for a comfortable, affordable place to live.

Many home owners have found the rents they obtain through the program assist them in making mortgage payments and/or paying such basic bills as monthly utilities and semi-annual property taxes. In some cases rents are negotiated with allowance for the homesharer to perform limited tasks for the home owner such as meal preparation, laundry, or housework. Companionship is a plus for both home owners and homesharers.

People seek rooms in others' homes for many reasons; some are unable to pay market rents, while others can afford an apartment but choose to save money toward a future down payment on a condominium or townhome. Applicants come from various backgrounds, from retirees, to college students, as well as employed persons.

Homesharing, through an experienced organization, with character screening and a careful matching for compatibility, is truly a win-win concept. More information about The Center of Concern's 25-year-old program can be obtained through a visit to the organization's website at www.centerofconcern.org, or by calling the Park Ridge office at (847) 823-0453.

Eva Gertzel  
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## District 207 recognizes top three students

Maine High School District 207's Board of Education honored three students at its meeting Nov. 3: Alexandra Alvarez of Maine South, Farrah Malik of Maine East and Nestor Zavala of Maine West.

Among her activities, Alvarez participates in the Maine Township Mentor program, volunteers at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, works as a counselor for Maine Township Summer Camp, has participated in the Latino Summit and has worked with St. Paul of The Cross's Habitat for Humanity efforts. She also serves as a bilingual volunteer for Des Plaines Elementary District 62.

"Placing others before herself has long been a trademark," Maine South Principal David Claypool wrote of Alvarez in a letter to the board.

In accepting the honor, Alvarez told Board of Education members that she hopes to attend Washington University in St. Louis. Malik serves as vice

president of her school's chapter of DECA, a role in which she is coordinating the chapter's efforts to raise \$6,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She also is president of East High School's National Honor Society, which recently collected badly needed items for local families affected by the September flooding. She is expanding the Honor Society's charitable efforts to include fund-raising for UNICEF and volunteer work at local soup kitchens this winter.

"She is extraordinary, and chooses to use her talents to help other people," Maine East Principal Steven Isoy wrote.

Malik says she plans to major in finance at the University of Illinois.

Zavala's school and community activities include leadership roles in the Maine West Hispanic Club and Key Club. In his Key Club role, Nestor has organized Peanut Day, Oakton Arms visits, food and clothing drives, Senior Center visits and campus

clean-up efforts. He has helped with decorations for dances and done face painting for children at community events.

"He has absolutely excelled in giving of himself to others, and his countless hours of volunteer work set him apart from his peers," West Principal Audrey Haugan wrote.

Zavala hopes to earn a college major and work in the field of international affairs.

The "207's Best" program recognizes outstanding students each month throughout the school year. Academic achievement awards are given in five of the nine school-year months. Community service, improved performance, electives/performance, electives/performance honors are given one month each. Teachers nominate students, and an executive committee makes final decisions. Honorees are then recognized by the Board of Education, which instituted the program.

### SCHOOLS DIGEST

#### St. John Brebeuf School

Recently the student body of St. John Brebeuf School assembled to celebrate the installation of its newly elected student council officers and class representatives for the 2008-09 school year.

The ceremony began with a welcome given by Assistant Principal Jennifer Hodge, and followed by a prayer by Father Jacek. The keynote speaker of the afternoon was George Van Geem from the Village of Niles. Van Geem spoke to the group about leadership and service and presented the ceremonial gavel to eighth-grader Shannon McGinnis, the new Student Council president. Other

members of the Executive Board are Jessica O'Grady, vice president; Nick Bartley, secretary; Mimi Sperl, treasurer; and Cassidy McTague, school spirit director.

The officer installation program concluded with an oath of office and ceremonial candle lighting.

This was immediately followed by the installation of class representatives. They are: Grade 4: Caroline Rueve, Gina Brennan, Claudia Capobianco, and Anne Pilac. Grade 5: Albin Poothurall, Victoria Mazur, Tyler Bartley, and Gianna Romano. Grade 6: Ania Rostkowski, Eric Ponzetti, Heather Mall, and Angelica Casadi. Grade 7: Melissa Anderson, Chris Bargione, Gino Catalfo, and Catherine Mazur, and Grade 8: Andrew Nitz, Tim Duffey,

Jimmy Casey, Tara Quinlan, Elise Wittum, Armando Sacluti and Arun George.

#### Notre Dame

Notre Dame High School, a college prep for young men, will host its Open Houses for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 6 and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 16 at 7655 W. Dempster St., Niles. Visitors will receive a personalized tour of the school. For information, or to schedule a shadow day for an eighth grade student, contact LaVerne Bontempo at 847.779.8615 or lbontempo@ndhsdons.org.

#### Oakton

African shaman Malido-ma Patrice Somé, Ph.D.,

Digest, PAGE 15

## Digest

Continued from PAGE 14

will be the keynote speaker at the annual Men's Day Conference, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Nov. 23 at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines.

A West African medicine man and author, Somé was abducted as a child and taken to a mission school where he spent 15 years being indoctrinated to the ways of European thought and worship. Upon returning to his village Somé embarked on a mission to share his tribe's ancestral knowledge with cultures that have become disconnected from the richness of communal life.

The 2008 Men's Day theme, "Ritual and Spirit in the Modern World," focuses on issues of ritual, tradition and spirituality. More than 20 workshop sessions are offered.

Registration for Men's Day is \$65 in advance (the deadline is Nov. 17) and includes lunch. Registration is \$90 at the door. The program is designed for men, but women are welcome.

For more information, or to receive a program brochure, call Paul Johnson, (847) 376-7088, or e-mail [pjohnson@oakton.edu](mailto:pjohnson@oakton.edu); or call Gregory Baldauf, (847) 635-1846, or e-mail [greg@oakton.edu](mailto:greg@oakton.edu). For more information go to [www.oakton.edu/mensday](http://www.oakton.edu/mensday).

Registration for spring 2009 classes at Oakton Community College will begin Nov. 17.

Spring semester class listings may be found at [www.oakton.edu](http://www.oakton.edu), or in the Spring 2009 Credit and Noncredit Class Schedule, available at the Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road, or Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

The spring semester will begin Jan. 20. Students are encouraged to consult the Spring 2009 Credit and Noncredit Class Schedule for late-start course information.

In-person registration at either campus is 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays; and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Apply and register at [www.oakton.edu](http://www.oakton.edu). Students with a current application on file may register at [my.oakton.edu](http://my.oakton.edu).

For more information about spring classes contact the Advising and Counseling Center, (847) 635-1741 in Des Plaines, or (847) 635-1417 in Skokie.

A variety of fall courses are offered by the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at Oakton.

A Fast and Easy Twist on Walls (ART D21-01) provides decorating tips and secrets from a painter experienced in faux finishes. Students may come to class in their "painting clothes," ready for hands-on learning. A materials fee of \$27 is due at the first class. The course meets 6-8:30 p.m. Nov. 20 at Oakton's Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. The fee is \$30.

Pastry II (HEC C24-02) offers lessons in creating cakes and exotic desserts from a graduate of the French Pastry School. The four-week course will meet 7-9 p.m. Thursdays starting Nov. 20 at Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston. The fee is \$90.

Intermediate MS Excel (DPR A84-05) explores advanced operations of the popular spreadsheet software. The four-week course will meet 1-4 p.m. Sundays starting Nov. 23 at Oakton's Des Plaines campus. The fee is \$130.

Construction Trouble Bubbles (TEC E71-01) is for anyone considering new-home construction or a major renovation of their existing residence. The course meets 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Des Plaines campus. The fee is \$120.

For a complete Alliance for Lifelong Learning class schedule go to [www.oakton.edu/all](http://www.oakton.edu/all), or call (847) 982-9888, and press 3.

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**PEEK AT THE WEEK**

**DEADLINES**

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 10 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or e-mailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

**AUDITION**

**The Chicago Rush** will be holding auditions for the 2009 Adrenaline Rush Dancers Nov. 30 at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and auditions start at 9 a.m. Arrive early and expect to spend the entire day auditioning. Semi-finalists will continue with mandatory training camp sessions from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Dec. 2 and 4 in preparation for the final round to be held Dec. 6 in front of a panel of judges and special invited

guests. Dancers participate in all home games, attend community events, take part in media interviews and promotional opportunities and attend photo shoots throughout the year. Dancers wishing to audition must submit a \$25 non-refundable registration fee, be able to commit to the squad for one year and be age 18 by Nov. 30. For more information and to pre-register, visit [www.chicagorush.com](http://www.chicagorush.com) or call (773) 243-3434.

**BAKE SALES**

**Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Women's Club** Queen of Peace Guild, will hold its 36th annual Holiday Craft and Bake Sale the weekend of Nov. 15 to 16, in the newly renovated, elevator-accessible Paluch Hall, 8300 Greenwood Ave., Niles, between the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Stop by and see a variety of hand-

made crafts, ornaments, wreaths, afghans, baby knit quilts, dolls, home decorations, jewelry and more. There will also be a grand raffle, bake sale, a turkey booth and Christmas stocking tree for added chances at beautiful gifts and items. Home-baked bread will also be for sale. Proceeds benefit the parish. For more information, call the Ministry Center (847) 823-2550.

**BAZAAR**

**St. Haralambos Ladies Philoptochos Society** will hold a Holly and Ivy Bazaar and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 21 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 22 at St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N. Caldwell Ave. Niles. Holiday bazaar, crafts, gifts, Greek pastries and coffee shop. Lunch served both days, dinner only on Friday. Visit with Santa from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Call Sandy at (847) 647-8880.

**BENEFITS**

**The Park Ridge Board** of Northwestern University Settlement will hold its annual fund-raiser on Nov. 23 at the Park Ridge Country Club. The Cherub Brunch and Silent Auction will begin at 11 a.m. Northwestern University Settlement was founded in 1891 to provide resources that empower its West Town neighbors to take personal responsibility for overcoming the obstacles of poverty and improving the quality of their lives. For ticket information, contact Shari Olshansky at (773) 251-0706 or visit [www.events.org/cherub](http://www.events.org/cherub).

**Juvenile Diabetes Research** Foundation Illinois will host the annual Chance of a Lifetime Gala from 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. Dec. 13 at McCormick Place Lakeside Ballroom and Arie Crown Theater in Chicago. It will feature an evening filled with dinner, dancing, auctions, a live performance by Steve

Winwood and emceed by NBC 5 anchor Allison Rosati. Through the auctions and Fund-A-Cure, the gala has become JDRI Illinois' second highest earning fund-raising event. To preview auction items or to purchase tickets or tables for the event, visit the JDRI Illinois Web site, [www.jdrfillinois.org](http://www.jdrfillinois.org).

**General registration** for Hustle Up the Hancock is under way. Participants can register on-line at [www.lungchicago.org](http://www.lungchicago.org) for the event scheduled for Feb. 22, 2009 at the John Hancock Center with a post-climb expo at the nearby Hilton Suites Hotel. Hustle Up the Hancock, Chicago's world class stair climb, features a 1,000-foot vertical climb up 1,632 stairs to the 94th floor. A 52-floor climb of 816 stairs is also available. All proceeds benefit Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago's lung disease research, education and advocacy programs. Respiratory Health

Association is also offering participants the opportunity to become Lung Health Champions which secures a spot and preferred start times when the individual promises to raise at least \$1,000 for lung disease research. For more information, visit the Web site or call (312) 243-2000.

**Sport Clips stores** in Niles and Chicago are working with Children's Memorial Hospital to help raise funds for the Brown Family Life Center. From Nov. 1 to Nov. 30, Sport Clips' "Clips for a Good Cause" program will donate \$2 per every MVP haircut sold to Children's Memorial Hospital. Sport Clips is open everyday with no appointment necessary, and features TV's playing sports for clients who get their hair cut by "guy-smart" stylists. The participating stores are 5944 W Touhy Ave., in Niles (next to Al's Beef and Fifth Third Bank) and 1223 W. Fullerton Ave., at Racine Avenue, in Chicago.

If you would like to nominate your favorite charity or organization for Sport Clips' "Clips for a Good Cause" program, contact Ashley Felts at (312) 923-1010.

**Niles Fire Department** has been donating food to local families in the community at Thanksgiving for some time, this year it is a community effort. Since the need is greater, several Niles banks will be collection sites for food donations. Meals and food will be donated to community area families as well as to area food pantries. Non-perishable food items, including: tuna, canned meats, stews, chili, oatmeal, pasta, pasta sauces (no glass items jars), etc. are needed. Every donation you make will go to help families with children in need in the community. Donations will be accepted through Nov. 21 at the following locations: Niles Fire Department, 8360 Dempster; Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center

Drive; Citibank, 8400 W Dempster St.; First American Bank, 7747 N. Waukegan Road; First Bank, 8720 W. Dempster St.; Fifth Third Bank, 7100 W. Oakton St. and 5950 W. Touhy Ave.; MB Financial, 7757 W. Oakton St.; and PNA Bank, 7840 N. Milwaukee Ave. If you have any questions, contact Bernadette Knapik-Fish of the Niles Fire Department at (847) 588-6800.

**Entertainment Books** are available from the Knights of Columbus Council 4338. The 2009 edition costs \$20 and contains many coupons. For more information, or to reserve a book, call Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920. Proceeds go to area charities.

**CENTER OF CONCERN**

**The Center of Concern**, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453. Calendar of events includes:

(The center will be

closed Nov. 27, 28, and 29 for Thanksgiving.)

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - Employment counseling, by appointment.

Tuesday, Nov. 18 - Medicare and tax counseling, by appointment.

Wednesday, Nov. 19 - Grief and loss support group (call first).

Saturday, Nov. 22 - Legal counseling, by appointment; Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m. to noon (no appointment needed).

**Center tax counselors** are available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts, Illinois Cares Rx (prescription-drug assistance), the senior citizen real estate tax deferral, and the senior citizen tax-assessment freeze.

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of attorney for health care and property also are available by appointment.

**Support groups** for Alzheimer's caregivers, those suffering from grief and loss, and seniors seeking to improve their nutrition are available at the Center of Concern in Park Ridge. The center also offers affordable personal counseling to adults of all ages. For more information call center social worker Myrna Fogarty, (847) 823-0453. The center is at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge. The center also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing programs designed to prevent homelessness, in-home health care referrals, friendly visitors for the homebound and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field.

**TLC: Total Learning Community** in Partnership with Oakton Community College is offering free Family Literacy Classes Saturday mornings. Free child care is also provided. Participants will learn: about the United States school system; how to report a child's absent from school; understand report cards; prepare for parent-teacher conferences; how to complete school required forms; help with homework; and participate during the parent-child activity. Register now. Classes runs from 9 a.m. to noon at Stevenson School, 9000 Capitol Drive, Des Plaines. Classes will start at Stevenson and continue there until Gemini Jr. High

reopens. Note: Child care is available for children who are out of diapers only. If you have any further questions, call Pamela Surber, TLC director, at (847) 827-4137.

**Adelia's Closet**, a bead store at 9227 Waukegan Road, Morton Grove, hosts free beginning jewelry-making classes at 9 a.m. weekdays. For more information call (847) 966-2323.

**CHAMBER**

**The Niles Chamber of Commerce** is currently accepting applications for the

**Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists** will meet at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18 at Forest View Educational Center, Room 100, 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights. The November meeting will feature Craig Pfannkuche, who will discuss "The Chicago and Northwest Western Railroad." He will show how to find personnel records from the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society as well as records from other railroad historical societies.

**CLASSES**

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**CLUBS**

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Peek, PAGE 18

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# Peek

Continued from PAGE 17

Guests are welcome. Visit [www.nwscg.com](http://www.nwscg.com) or call (847) 818-9159.

**The St. Tarcissus Parents Club** will sponsor a Ladies Night Out (adults only) from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 21 in the St. Tarcissus Auditorium, 6040 W. Ardmore Ave. There will be vendors from PartyLite, Kara Vita, Pampered Chef, Lia Sophia, Mary Kay, Creative Memories and Avon plus purses, candles, clocks, jewelry, manicures, chair massages, and a 50/50 raffle. Wine, beverages and appetizers will be served. Admission is one can of food for St. Vincent DePaul.

**Poets Judith Valente** and Charles Keynard, husband and wife co-editors of the anthology "Twenty Poems to Nourish Your Soul," will discuss the connection between the poetry of Thomas Merton, a famous 20th century Cistercian monk and writer, and that of some current American poets at 2 p.m. Nov. 16 at Immaculate Conception Parish, 7211 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. They will examine how these poets embody Merton's contemplative spirit and find the spiritual and God in everyday life. Interested persons can buy their book at a discounted price at this event sponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society. Admission is \$5 for visitors and free to members. For more information, call Mike Brennan at (773) 685-4736 (home) or (773) 447-3989 (cell).

**Professionals in Learning Disabilities** and Special Education will hold its Fall Seminar from 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 22 at McCracken Middle School, 8000 E. Prairie Road, Skokie. "Warm Them Up to Writing: Working with Reluctant Writers" will be presented by Dr. Therese Hogan, director of Graduate Programs in Special

Education at Dominican University. Three hours CPDU credit for the seminar. Limited space. Registration is \$40 for members, \$45, non-members and \$30, students. Lunch included. Register and send check by Nov. 17. For more information call G. Lemme at (847) 432-2061.

**Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists** meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at Forest View Educational Center, Room 100, 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights. Guests are welcome. Visit [www.nwscg.com](http://www.nwscg.com) or call (847) 818-9159.

**LeTip International**, a business networking organization, recently opened a new local chapter. Area professionals seeking new leads, networking opportunities and valuable business tips are invited to join the group, which meets every Thursday at 7:01 a.m. at Omega, 9100 W. Golf Road in Niles. At each meeting, members exchange qualified business referrals, build professional relationships, create alliances, develop public speaking skills and take turns promoting their products and services. Fellow members serve as your sales force, providing access to clients you would not otherwise be able to contact. Also, in every LeTip chapter, each business category is represented by one member to prevent conflicts of interest (once you join, your competition cannot). To learn more about the Des Plaines/Mount Prospect/Niles chapter of LeTip, contact Janet Hansen at (815) 728-1483 or at [jvhansen@letip.com](mailto:jvhansen@letip.com). For more information on LeTip, visit [www.Letip.com](http://www.Letip.com).

**Join the Catholic Women's Bowling League** for Ladies Night Out at Classic Bowl, 8530 Waukegan Road, Morton Grove. Fee is \$15 per week. All skill levels welcome. Call Deanne Drozd at (224) 628-4009 or [d.drozd@comcast.net](mailto:d.drozd@comcast.net).

**The Knights of Columbus** provides ways for members to help others in the community while trying to improve their family and spiritual lives. During the next few weeks the North American Martyrs Council, Niles, will offer several opportunities to have a Catholic man or woman learn about membership in the organization. For more information contact Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920.

**The American Jewish Artists Club** is accepting new members. The group, founded in the early 1920s, focuses on the broad aspects of artistic performance and serves to enrich the cultural fiber of the Jewish community. For more information call Lorre Slaw, (847) 272-0744, or e-mail [lslaw@oakton.edu](mailto:lslaw@oakton.edu).

**Audubon Society of Park Ridge** meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month in the Maine Park Leisure Center, Forestview and Sylviawood. Guests of all ages are welcome. Call Roger Ginger, (847) 825-2982, for more information.

**The Jersey Pine Cruisers Motorcycle Touring Club** meets at 7:45 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Des Plaines Elks Club, lower level, 495 Lee St. (two blocks north of Route 14), Des Plaines. Jersey Pine Cruisers' Sunday Breakfast Rides leave at 9 a.m. from McDonald's Restaurant at Oakton and Lee streets in Des Plaines. Rides are usually 25 to 85 miles. Call Betty, (708) 366-3822, or Joe, (847) 217-5876, for more information: Visit [www.jerseypinecruisers.org](http://www.jerseypinecruisers.org).

**Niles Chapter Toastmasters** meets at 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Members learn how to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 583-9328.

## COMMUNITY

**An Austrian Community Christmas Party** will be sponsored by the Ameri-

can Friends of Austria at 6 p.m. Dec. 7 at Café La Cave, 2777 Mannheim Road, Des Plaines. For more information, call (773) 685-1481.

**American Friends of Austria** will feature a Chicago Zither Club Concert at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 23 at Catholic Kolping Center 5826 N. Elston Ave., Chicago. For more information, call (773) 631-2854.

**The Village of Niles** will host the fourth annual International Taste of Niles (formerly known as the Taste of Sister Cities) from 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 23 at White Eagle Banquets, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. This year's event will feature culture and cuisine from 18 local restaurants, representing more than eight countries around the globe. Also on hand will be live musicians, dancers and other entertainment that reflects the culture and history of the Niles Sister Cities in Greece, Ireland, Italy and Poland. Additionally, the International Taste of Niles will also feature a full cash bar, a silent auction and a complimentary prize drawing. For the kids, there will be a special children's activity area, and the adults may watch the Bears game in the White Eagle's lounge. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13, seniors and \$5, children ages 3 to 12. Children under 3 will be admitted free of charge. For tickets call (847) 588-8449. Tickets can also be purchased in person at Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive, in Niles or at the White Eagle Banquets, Niles. Participating restaurants are Filipino: Filipiniana Restaurant; Greek: Kappy's Restaurant, Marilyn's Restaurant, and Mykonos; Italian: Graziano's and Amici's; Mexican: Taco Burrito King; Polish: Niles Polish Deli, Forest View Bakery, Alexandra's Café, White Eagle Banquets and Lone Tree Manor; and Miscellaneous: Howard Street Inn and Farmer's Best International Market and Dairy Queen.

**The U.S. Census Bureau** is conducting Employment Testing. Thousands of part-time, well-paid jobs are available with the US Census Bureau. All positions require successfully passing a qualifying exam which will be given from 1 to 4 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Niles Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive. For more information, call 1-866-861-2010.

**Norwood Park Historical Society** will host its annual Norwood Park Holiday House Tour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Norwood Park Field House, 5801 N. Natoma Ave., Chicago. Visit five private Norwood Park homes, each stunningly decorated for the holidays plus visit Chicago's oldest home, the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, also dressed for the holidays. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Special pre-sale price: buy nine tickets, get the 10th free. Order tickets online at [www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org). Call (773) 631-4633 for additional information. Free shuttle service will be offered from the Norwood Park Field House to each of the neighborhood homes.

**In anticipation of the holiday season**, select Niles area banks are partnering up with the Niles Fire Department to collect non-perishable foods to pair with meals that will be delivered to households in need, within the Niles community. This collection ef-

**The Real Estate Investment Association** will hold

a breakfast meeting, "The Economic Effects of the November Presidential and Congressional Elections" Nov. 13 at Maggiano's Little Italy, 111 W. Grand Ave., Chicago. The keynote speak will be Ambassador J.D. Bindenagel, vice president, community governmental and international affairs, DePaul University and former U.S. Ambassador. Louis P. Vitullo will moderate a panel of experts. Breakfast at 7:45 a.m. with program at 8:15 a.m. Cost is \$40, members and \$60, nonmembers. Call (847) 676-0222 or go to [www.reia.org](http://www.reia.org).

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fort will take place through Nov. 17. Visit the following Niles area banks to make your food donation for your neighbors in need. If you have any questions, call any of the banks listed below. Citibank, 8400 W Dempster St., (847) 296-0402; First American Bank, 7747 N. Waukegan Road, (847) 586-2680; First Bank, 8720 W. Dempster St., (847) 768-0140; Fifth Third Bank, 7100 W. Oakton St., 5950 W. Touhy Ave., (847) 967-5300; MB Financial, 7757 W. Oakton St., (847) 583-7833; or PNA Bank, 7840 N. Milwaukee Ave., (847) 966-7900.

## CRAFTS

**Notre Dame High School** for Girls, 3000 N. Mango Ave., Chicago, will host its annual Breakfast with Santa fund-raiser Dec. 6. Crafters who would like to purchase a table to sell their handmade wares are needed. The event will run from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. and will take place at the school. Contact Pauline Garrett at (773) 622-1541 for more information.

**The Irish American Heritage Center**, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, will hold its Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 7. Mass will be celebrated in the auditorium at 10:30 a.m. and a traditional Irish breakfast follows. The Irish Heritage Singers will provide music for the Mass. Cost for breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children; reservations are required. To purchase tickets for the breakfast, call (773) 282-7035, Ext. 10. All other events are free. Holiday shoppers can browse the bazaar, where there will be a craft sale from Chicago artisans and an Irish-American quilt will be raffled off. The Jolly Holly Bake Shop sells homemade pies, bread, scones, cakes and cookies. Santa Claus will visit from 1 to 3 p.m., and children can have their photos taken with him for free.

**St. John Brebeuf Catholic Women's Club** will

host its annual Holiday Craft Fair from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 16 in the new Parish Ministry Center, 8305 N. Harlem Ave., Niles (handicap-accessible). A wide variety of seasonal and year-round handmade items will be featured. There will also be a selection of cakes, cookies, jams and jellies at the bake table. Shoppers can also enjoy a snack or lunch. Adult admission is \$1.

**New Horizon Center** for the Developmentally Disabled will hold its annual Holiday Crafts and Bake Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 14 at 6737 W. Forest Preserve Ave. The sale will feature seasonal items, crafts, holiday decorations and baked goods. All proceeds will benefit the children and adults at New Horizon Center. For information, call (773) 286-6226.

**St. Haralambos Ladies Philoptochos Society** will host a Holly and Ivy Bazaar and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 21 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov.

22 at St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles. The event will include crafts, gifts, Greek pastries, coffee shop, lunch served both days, dinner Friday only, visit with Santa on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (847) 647-8880.

**Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Women's Club** Queen of Peace Guild will hold its annual Holiday Craft and Bake Sale Nov. 15 and 16 in the newly renovated Paluch Hall (elevator accessible), 8300 Greenwood Ave., Niles, between 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Saturday) and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Sunday). There will be a variety of all hand-made crafts, ornaments, wreaths, afghans, baby knit quilts, dolls, home decorations, jewelry and more. Also included will be a grand raffle, bake sale, a turkey booth and Christmas stocking tree

Peek, PAGE 63

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"The Spew"

### » STAGE »

The Spew - an improv comedy show riffing on "The View" - performs Friday in the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre. Next Theatre mounts the Tony-nominated play "Well." Catey Sullivan reviews an "inspiring" production of "Someone Who'll Watch over Me" at Piven Theatre.

### » MUSIC »

Singer/songwriter Loudon Wainwright III performs Saturday at the College of DuPage. Dorothy Andries reviews a Chicago Philharmonic performance of Tchaikovsky and Chopin at Northwestern's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall.

### » BLOGS »

In Entertaining Ideas, Jennifer Thomas writes about an ongoing documentary of Barack Obama, recently picked up by HBO. In Reel Time, Bruce Ingram wonders whether the new, less-outlandish direction the new Bond films are taking are short-changing us on entertainment value.

## BRUCE'S TAKE

"Slumdog" builds to a high pitch of excitement by cleverly intertwining the various chapters of the main character's life with the cheesy, but not negligible, tension built into the all-or-nothing stakes of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." **SEE MOVIE REVIEW PAGE B5**



Musical comedy "Forever Plaid" is staged in Edison Park.

# Death-defying musical staged

**'FOREVER PLAID'**  
7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 1:30 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 23 at 6740 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago. \$20; \$15 students and seniors. (773) 792-3030 or [www.edisonparkumc.com](http://www.edisonparkumc.com).

By **MYRNA PETLICKI**  
Contributor

Four singers determined to be the next hot '50s male quartet are killed on the way to their first major concert. This would seem to be an unlikely scenario for a musical comedy staged in Edison Park, but "Forever Plaid" is an audience-pleaser because the Plaids get their chance to perform that concert — posthumously. And they sing such enduring hits as "Catch a Falling Star" and "Three

Coins in a Fountain." The John Waldron Arts Center and the James Downing Theatre are staging Stuart Ross' 1990 musical through Nov. 23, under the direction and musical direction of Chicagoan Micah Fortenberry.

Fortenberry, who earned a theater performance degree from Augusta State University in Georgia, noted that the initial reason for staging "Forever Plaid" was because they needed a musical that would fit the small venue. "Then, when I read it," he said, "I fell in love with the characters, because they're really fun and they're recognizable." The Plaids go by their high school nicknames. Jinx and Sparky are half brothers. "They've

both got a bit of shyness in them, but Jinx is probably the most shy, the most humble," Fortenberry related. He's also known for reaching high notes. "Sparky is the clown of the group. He's the one that's always cracking jokes and trying to make everybody laugh," Fortenberry said. "Humor is his defense mechanism when he gets nervous." Smudge is the worrier and he has an ulcer to prove it.

### Group's glue

"Frankie is the one that holds the group together," the director continued. "He's kind of the rock of the group, even though he can get a little panicky, too." Steven Lyons of Evanston plays Frankie. Lyons said that playing the member of a dead

quartet is "both exciting and bittersweet. Playing the role is sort of like a dream come true and yet the character is actually living out the dream of giving this concert that he never got to give when he was alive."

Lyons said that Frankie "feels responsible for the other guys. He's not necessarily the leader, but he feels like if things don't go well, it's on him. He likes to take care of everybody. He's the one who interacts with the audience the most, so he has to cover up his nervousness." The actor admitted that he is not as confident as his character. In fact, even though the 1980 Evanston Township High School graduate took some theater classes in college, "I didn't major in it. I was too shy."

Lyons considers acting "a career change for me. I was a journalist for many years working on trade magazines. Then my wife [Janet] encouraged me to audition because she knew I really liked theater. I discovered about five years ago my love for it and I've been hooked ever since."

Because the show has such a small cast, Fortenberry said, "The guys got to know each other really fast and were able to create a nice chemistry on-stage that the audience is able to recognize."

"We've become a great group," Lyons added. "I feel like we could go out and perform on our own now."

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**OPENING THIS WEEK**

**LET THE RIGHT ONE IN** ★★★

The title of this moody and eccentric pre-teen take on vampirism might seem at first to refer to the restriction on bloodsuckers that prevents them from entering the home of a victim without being invited, but I'd say it has more to do with the careful recruitment of a new friend – and potential caretaker – by a savvy 12-year-old vampire girl. Fragile, pallid and frankly somewhat spooky young Oskar (Kare Hedebrant) is having a tough time dealing with his divorced parents and the bullies making his life miserable at school when he meets the strange, but strangely intriguing Eli (Lina Leanderson), who is most decidedly not like all the other girls. For one thing, when the boy cuts his palm and offers to make her his blood sister, Eli gets down on the floor and laps up his drippings like a dog. When Oskar finally does figure out that the girl he's come to have fluttery feelings for is actually one of the undead, and that she's been draining the bodies of boozebesotted adults in the neighborhood, it doesn't bother him much – and it's not much of a leap when he finally has to decide whose side he's on. Swedish writer/director John Ajvide Lindqvist's grimly amusing tale of outsider puppy love was a big winner at this year's Tribeca Film Festival. In Swedish with subtitles. (B) Rated R for some bloody violence including disturbing images, brief nudity and language.

**QUANTUM OF SOLACE** ★★★

It's hard to know if there's much solace for James Bond in this vengeance-driven outing – he tends to be sort of tight-lipped on the subject of his innermost feelings – but he definitely gets a brisk workout. He kills bad guys left and right, hops around the globe from Italy to Haiti to Bolivia, gets involved in high-speed chases in cars, in powerboats, in airplanes and on foot and rivals Jason Bourne when it comes to speed-punching, aerobic hand-to-hand combat. "Quantum of Solace" is basically one long, breathless action sequence that's expertly executed and as thrilling as anyone could hope for, but there's not much human emotion to connect with – not even grim satisfaction with revenge. Director Mark Foster begins "Quantum" moments after the finale of the franchise-reinvigorating "Casino Royale" – kicking it off in high-gear and rarely slowing down. There's not much plot to speak of, just something about thwarting an evil organization's attempts to corner the water

**FILM CLIPS**

**RACHEL GETTING MARRIED** ★★★★★

Hardcore bad-news girl Kym (Anne Hathaway, achieving the antithesis of her role in "The Princess Diaries") is released from rehab just long enough to throw her sister's wedding into an uproar in this involving (and sometimes exceedingly painful) drama about a family coping with a terrible trauma from its past. Working from a debut screenplay by actress Jenny Lumet (daughter of director Sidney Lumet), which emphasizes naturalism over button-pushing plot manipulation, director Jonathan Demme ("Silence of the Lambs," "Philadelphia") does his best to make us feel that we're not so much watching this story as we are participating in it. And that's not always a comfortable feeling. Demme emphasized spontaneity from his large ensemble cast, shooting without rehearsals with roving hand-held cameras, and the results are fresh, surprising and unfailingly intimate. It will be quite a surprise if Hathaway doesn't receive an Oscar nomination for her complex, multi-layered performance. (B) (114 min.) Rated R for language and brief sexuality.

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE** ★★★★★

Danny Boyle's "Trainspotting," "24 Days Later," "Millions" directed this epic story of a poor Indian slum-kid who has a chance to win 20 million rupees on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" In English and Hindi with subtitles. Reviewed in this section.

**STILL PLAYING**

**BODY OF LIES**

A CIA field agent (Leonardo DiCaprio) in the Middle East clashes with his armchair-warrior boss (Russell Crowe). Ridley Scott ("Kingdom of Heaven") directed the espionage thriller. Rated R for strong violence including some torture and for language throughout.

**CHANGELING** ★★ 1/2

As you might expect, this somber drama about a mother's quest for her missing child has been handsomely mounted by Clint Eastwood. Ron Howard and company and it features an impressive emotional workout from Angelina Jolie. It's a bit too coolly detached to be completely involving, though, and it doesn't have the luxury of providing a satisfying resolution to its central mystery. The tailor-made-for-the-movies true story revolves around the disappearance in 1928 of nine-year-old Walter Collins and the media circus that develops when the corrupt Los Angeles police department return the wrong boy to his mother (Jolie) and then attempt to force her to accept him to save themselves embarrassment – even resorting to throwing her into a nightmarish psycho ward when she protests to reporters. Unfortunately, "Changeling" has a tendency to resort to melodrama (a few of the more lurid touches in the mental ward could have been taken from the 1948 shocker "The Snake Pit") that calls the entire film into question. (B) (140 min.) Rated R for some violent and disturbing content, and language.

**ROLE MODELS** ★★ 1/2

Considering the somewhat edgy comic talent involved in "Role Models," it's surprising and a little disappointing that the plot about a couple of man-children who finally grow up when they have to care for a couple of actual kids turns out to be so thoroughly formulaic. Fortunately, the writers and performers put just enough mildly transgressive spin on the material to make it intermittently amusing and the formula itself provides a modest feel-good payoff. That's an uneasy combination, though, and it doesn't provide complete satisfaction on either count. Paul Rudd (who wrote the script with director David Wain of the MTV sketch-comedy show "The State") and Seann William Scott of "American Pie" star as a couple of slackers who opt out of a jail sentence by agreeing to participate in a Big Brothers-like youth-mentoring program. Naturally, they're assigned nightmarish kids (Bobbie J. Thompson and Christopher Mintz-Plasse of "Superbad" as a cape-wearing superhero obsessed with a medieval role-playing game) who make jail look inviting. It doesn't take long, though, for the big boys to bond with the little boys (mutual points of interest include a reverential appreciation for women's breasts) and for the story to slip into paint-by-numbers mode. But there are a few inspired little touches that could make it worth a look if you're

supply in Bolivia, but it's pretty clear that Bond's main order of business is wreaking payback on the dastards who did him wrong in "Casino Royale." And that's enough, frankly, to keep the action coming and the adrenaline humming. It would be nice, though, if Craig's Bond could learn to enjoy himself just a little. It's hard to take vicarious pleasure from a story when its hero has all the warmth, humor and charm of a cobra. (B) Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, and some sexual content.

**SOUL MEN** ★★

A couple of old-school R&B backup singers (Bernie Mac, Samuel L. Jackson) go for a comeback. Malcolm D. Lee ("Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins") directed the comedy. (103 min.) Rated R for pervasive language, and sexual content including nudity.

**SYNECOCHE, NY**

A theater director whose life is crumbling (Phillip Seymour Hoffman) builds a replica of New York inside a warehouse to dramatize his personal struggles. Screenwriter Charlie Kaufman ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind") makes his directorial debut. (124 min.) Rated R for language and some sexual content/nudity.

**ZACK AND MIRI MAKE A PORN** ★★

The raunch is wall-to-wall in "Zack and Miri Make a Porno," but it's really a sweet romantic comedy at heart. As sweet as you can get with former porn star Traci Lords playing a character called Bubbles – and graphically demonstrating how she got the nickname with a bottle of bubble liquid and ... You don't want to know. Well, maybe you do, but I can't tell you about it here. Gen-X hero Kevin Smith, who has demonstrated a flair for transgression since his 1994 indie debut "Clerks" was slapped with an NC-17 rating for language alone, wrote and directed this surprisingly upbeat and good-hearted story of a couple of lifelong friends (Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks) who decide to produce and star in their own porn movies to restore their squandered finances. What they won't know, until their first sex scene, is that they're in love with each other – a revelation that complicates the scenario in not-especially-interesting ways. The stuff that really resonates for Smith and his excellent cast is the outrageously tawdry comedy that arises from the premise of a crew of gung-ho amateurs going the full monty and much, much more. More evidence that the end of civilization is near, perhaps, but at least there's laughter involved. (B) (101 min.) Rated R for strong crude sexual content including dialogue, graphic nudity and pervasive language.

– Reviews by Bruce Ingram

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"The Nutcracker," presented by Civic Ballet of Chicago at 3 p.m. Dec. 13-14 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets: \$34. (847) 673-6300 or [www.centreaast.org](http://www.centreaast.org).

"Nutcracker on Ice," presented Dec. 12-14 at the Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St., Evanston. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday; 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. General admission tickets are \$8.50; reserved seats are \$9.50. Group discounts available. Call (847) 448-9258.

"Misttoe and Holly," the annual Park Ridge Choral Christmas concert, will be presented at 7 p.m. Dec. 6 at St. Lukes Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Advance tickets are \$14, \$12 for seniors. Tickets at the door will be \$16, \$14 for seniors. Free admission for students and children under 18. For tickets, call Kyle Cartwright, (847) 825-5499 or Patti Bonk, (847) 825-2216.

"Holidays World Tour," presented by Chicago a cappella at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7 in the Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The ensemble will sing music for Christmas from six continents, including works from Australia, Nigeria, Argentina, Canada, Hungary and Japan, as well as Christmas spirituals and Hanukkah music by Stacy Garrop and Robert Applebaum. The concert will also feature pieces from Chicago a cappella's latest CD, "Christmas a cappella: Songs from Around the World." Tickets are \$35 for preferred seating, \$28 for general admission, \$22 for seniors and students. For tickets, call (773) 755-1628 or see [www.chicagoacappella.org](http://www.chicagoacappella.org).

"Candles and Carols," presented by the Northwest Choral Society at 4 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Edison Park Lutheran Church, 6626 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago. Tickets: \$13; \$10 for students and seniors. Call (630) 837-1666 or visit [www.nwchoralsociety.org](http://www.nwchoralsociety.org).

"An Evanston Symphony Christmas," the Evanston Symphony Orchestra's annual Christmas concert, will be presented at 3 p.m. Dec. 7 in the Evanston Township High School auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave. ABC 7 newscaster Harry Porterfield will serve as master of ceremonies for the performance, which includes selections from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and Handel's Messiah along with a varied program of other seasonal favorites. The concert also will feature the 100-voice Evanston Symphony Festival Chorus, madrigals and minstreys. The Evanston Dance Ensemble will also perform. Tickets: \$23; \$10 for children. Special family packages available. Visit [www.evanstonsymphony.org](http://www.evanstonsymphony.org) or call (847) 864-8804.

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra Family Holiday Special, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20 and 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. The program includes "Brother Heinrich's Christmas," a musical fable by John Rutter, with narrator Peter Van De Graaff. The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band will also play in a program for all ages, faiths and musical tastes. Tickets: \$40-\$59. Visit [www.arsviva.org](http://www.arsviva.org).

Holiday Pops & Sing-Along, presented by the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Chorus at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Tickets: \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861 or visit [www.parkridgecivorchestra.org](http://www.parkridgecivorchestra.org).

Mount Prospect Community Band will present free holiday concerts at 4 p.m. Dec. 7 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 605 W. Golf Road, Mount Prospect, and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 in the Lutheran Home chapel, 800 W. Oakton St., Arlington Heights.

"Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 825-3123. [www.parkridgelibrary.org](http://www.parkridgelibrary.org). Dec. 2, 7 p.m.: "Dickens of a Christmas." By showing film clips of the many versions of "A Christmas Carol," Steven Frenzel shows how Charles Dickens became inextricably entwined with Christmas in novels and in film. Dec. 11, 7 p.m.: "Christmas in Williamsburg, Virginia," a slide show highlighting colonial Christmas decorations. A demonstration of how to create colonial decorations follows. Dec. 18, 7 p.m.: "The Historic Christmas Tree Ship." Author Rochelle Pennington discusses one of the most famous shipwrecks of the Great Lakes. The presentation includes rare slides and actual artifacts from the ship. Dec. 30, 7 p.m.: "New Year's Eve Eve with Marshall & Gabor." Jazz vocalist Connie Marshall and pianist Johnny Gabor present musical standards to ring in the New Year. *Holiday films at the library* - Dec. 9, 2 and 7 p.m.: "The Holiday," rated PG-13. Dec. 16, 2 p.m.: "The Homecoming: A Christmas Story," rated PG. Dec. 23, 7 p.m.: "It Happened on Fifth Avenue."

Holiday Open House, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Friendship Park Conservatory, 395 Algonquin Road, Des Plaines. The event includes musical entertainment, crafts for children, live reindeer, hayrides and a visit from Santa Claus. Free admission. (847) 298-3500.

Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 and 3 p.m. Dec. 7 in Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. The Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra, University Singers, University Chorale and University Chorus perform choral music for the holiday season. \$12, \$9, \$6. (847) 467-4000.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols, featuring The Alice Millar Chapel Choir, Northwestern University Philharmonia and Millar Brass Ensemble, 10:40 a.m. Dec. 7 in Alice Millar Chapel at Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston. The carol settings - from medieval to modern for brass, strings, organ and choir - include Bob Chilcott's "The Shepherd's Carol" and Jeff Ens' "O Magnum Mysterium." Also featured is music by Herbert Howells, John Rutter and Camille Saint-Saens plus carol arrangements for strings by Matthew Naughtin. Free-will offering.

"Yuletide Treasures," presented by The Lakeside Singers at 8 p.m. Dec. 5 in Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The program includes carols from medieval to modern, holiday favorites in pop, vocal jazz, gospel and Broadway arrangements, and an audience sing-along. Tickets: \$30; \$20 seniors and students; \$10 children under 12. (847) 382-5085 or [CONCERTS MOVIES MUSIC ART CLUBS FESTIVALS SPEAKERS Thursday, November 13, 2008 B5](http://www.lake-</a></p>
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## 'Slumdog' hits the jackpot



**BRUCE INGRAM**

FILM CRITIC

### Slumdog Millionaire ★★★★★

Most movies about the fulfillment of destiny are concerned with characters rising to rule kingdoms or lead mighty armies or create immortal masterpieces. Is it possible to realize your karmic potential by attempting to go all the way on a TV game show? "Slumdog Millionaire" says yes, indeed, and makes you believe it.

The stakes couldn't be higher in this beautifully crafted epic adventure story involving a Dicken-

sian struggle against cruel poverty, the lifelong bond between two estranged brothers, true love that never dies, the resilience of hope and the workings of fate — and they couldn't be resolved in a more dazzling manner. This one's a must-see.

Based on a novel by the Indian author Vikas Swarup and featuring a screenplay by Simon "The Full Monty" Beaufoy, "Slumdog" was directed by Danny Boyle (with Indian director Loveleen Tandan). Boyle has already made remarkable films in a wide range of genres including the Hitchcockian thriller "Shallow Grave," the black-comic junkie horror-show "Trainspotting," the zombie rave-up "28 Days Later," the childhood fantasy-adventure "Millions," the apocalyptic sci-fi drama "Sunshine," but he

may have pinned himself with this Bollywood-inflected rags-to-riches saga about modern India that could almost stand as an update on "Oliver Twist."

"Slumdog" opens on the set of the Indian version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," with the uneducated, 18-year-old slum-kid Jamal (Dev Patel) one correct answer away from winning the ultimate jackpot of 20-million rupees. While he ponders his choice, Boyle cuts away to the previous evening, for scenes of Jamal being tortured and interrogated by police, who are convinced he must have cheated somehow. Then he poses the film's key question in "Millionaire" multiple-choice form: How could a slum-kid who has never gone to school know the answers to questions that should have stumped doctors, lawyers and profes-



Life-schooled: Dev Patel and Anil Kapoor in "Slumdog Millionaire."

sors? Did he cheat? Is he lucky? Is he a genius? Or is it written?

The film then proceeds to demonstrate how Jamal's entire life has led up to this moment — with something much greater than a 20-million rupee jackpot at stake. Each question flashes back to an episode in Jamal's life-and-death adventures — from the time of his birth in Mumbai's worst slum, to the murder of his mother during an attack by an anti-Muslim mob, to

his recruitment with his criminally inclined brother and his lifelong love Latika by a Fagin-like gangster (only much, much more evil), to his separation from Latika and his desperate search for her — and demonstrates how he learned his answers, sometimes at great cost.

"Slumdog" builds to a high pitch of excitement by cleverly intertwining the nail-biting suspense in the various chapters of Jamal's life with the cheesy,

but not negligible, tension built into the all-or-nothing stakes of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." But it also has a wealth of the cinematic virtues that can be found in most of Boyle's previous films: Breathless pacing, flamboyant visual flair and an almost old-fashioned, spell-weaving approach to storytelling.

If someone asks you to see "Slumdog Millionaire," there's only one correct answer: Yes, yes, yes.

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

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**ODD 'N' FISHY**  
 James Kennedy (pictured) signs copies of *The Order of Odd-fish* at 2 p.m. Nov. 22 at Borders, 7100 West Forest Preserve Ave., Norridge. His book has been nominated for the American Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults 2009 list. Call (708) 457-2111 or to order, visit [www.amazon.com/](http://www.amazon.com/) Order-Odd-Fish-James-Kennedy/np/038573543X.

**Singer**

Continued from PAGE B7

but also the love of travel, food and music. She has chosen a rich mix of classics (Ellington's "I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart"), lesser-known but great songs (Rodgers and Hart's comic lament "I Like to Recognize the Tune"), and contemporary numbers such as Liza Minnelli's ode to "Sara Lee."

Such an encyclopedia approach reflects the diversity of Nussbaum's influences, which include Chita Rivera and Ann-Margret "who had a sex-kittenishness that I was blown away by." She also delved into country music, visiting Nashville during spring break in college, and once joked that she

aspired to be a "Jewish Reba McEntire."

But ultimately she returned to her first loves, music theater and pop and jazz standards. Nussbaum occasionally sings this material in private parties with the Maxwell Street band, with whom she has performed for nine years. She hopes "Songs from My Heart" will be the first of many cabaret shows.

"There's a ton of music out there that I love and want to put together for a performance," she said. "I'm hoping this will open up the possibility of doing other shows, like songs from the '40s or '50s, or songs from particular composers. This music is so beautiful and I hope interest in it continues to stay strong."

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)



Kimber Leigh Nussbaum performs songs from the *Great American Songbook* at the Skokie Theatre.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY**  
**Find happy endings 'Into the Woods'**

By MYRNA PETLICKI  
 Contributor

The marvelous music of Stephen Sondheim will fill the auditorium at 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie, Nov. 14-23, when Devonshire Playhouse Children's Theater presents "Into the Woods, Jr."

The junior version is "essentially the first act of the main show," reported director Debbie Price, noting that is the lighter part of the musical, based on fairy tales. "Everybody gets their wish. The witch becomes beautiful. Cinderella gets her prince and they have their baby. The father and the son reunite before he dies."

Family, PAGE B10



Jack (Danny Morrison) and Jack's Mother (Rachel Seplashvill) are happy to have their precious cow (Bonnie Ledford and Alexis Alto) back in "Into the Woods, Jr."

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Sat. Nov. 15th	Chick Stella
Fri. Nov. 21st	Top Shelf Trio with Paul Guttillo
Sat. Nov. 22nd	Chick Stella
Fri. Nov. 28th	Top Shelf Trio with Paul Guttillo
Sat. Nov. 29th	Chick Stella

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go.

Continued from PAGE B11

Temple of Apollo, March 13, 2009; Suite Candy, April 14, 2009; Handel's "Dublin" Messiah, June 6, 2009; Reach for the Skies.

Cantate, conducted by Benjamin Rivera, concludes its American Music Festival concert series with a cappella works by Bernstein, Barber, Eric Whitacre and others at 8 p.m. Nov. 14 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 616 Lake. Evanston. Tickets are \$15 at the door or at a discount by joining the e-mail list at www.cantatechicago.org. For information, call (312) 804-9783. Chicago Chamber Choir, (312) 409-6890, www.chicagochamberchoir.org.

\$18 in advance; \$20 at the door; \$15 for students or groups of 10 or more. Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.: "From Generation to Generation: Songs of the Jewish People" will be presented in Nichols Concert Hall, Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 N. Chicago Ave., Evanston. The choir explores Jewish choral music through a program of psalms, liturgical music, folk songs and dances. The program includes Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, with organ, harp, percussion and soloist; two world premieres by Bob Applebaum; and works by Salomone Rossi, Louis Lewandowski, Max Janowski and Israeli composer Yedidiah Admon. Guest musicians include harpist Kara Berhad and percussionist Tina Laughlin. Chicago Chamber Musicians, (312) 225-5226, www.chicagochambermusic.org. Concerts are held at 7:30 p.m.

Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on Northwestern University's campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Season subscriptions are available in six-, five- and three-concert packages. Flex Pass subscriptions are also available along with tiered, senior and student pricing. Single tickets are \$20-\$40. Nov. 16: Böhmer: Sextet for Brass in E-Flat Major, Op. 30; Broughton: "Hudson River Valley"; and Dvorak: Piano Trio in F Minor, Op. 65. Feb. 8, 2009: Prokofiev: Overture on Hebrew Themes; Debussy: Première Rhapsodie; Newman: String Quartet; and Mozart: String Quintet No. 3 in C Major, K. 515. March 22, 2009: Debussy: Sonata No. 2; Ligeti: Trio; and Spohr: Nonet in F Major, Op. 31. April 19, 2009: Beethoven: Piano Trio in D Major, Op. 70, No. 1; Sextet for Winds in E-Flat Major, Op. 71; and String Quartet in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 131.

The Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 7 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on the Northwestern University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 866-6888. www.chicagophilharmonic.org. Tickets are \$70 on the main floor; \$33 main front wings; \$60, \$33 and \$20 in the balcony; \$20 obstructed view. Feb. 15, 2009: "A Valentine From First Chairs to Music Lovers." Robert Kahn: Serenade in F Minor, Op. 73; Dvorak: Bagatelles, Op. 47; Mendelssohn: Quartet No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 3. March 15, 2009: "Mendelssohn's 200th Birthday" with David Perry, violin soloist. Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64 and Symphony No. 3 in A Minor, Op. 56 ("Scottish"). May 31, 2009: "The Emperor Reigns;" with Jeffrey Siegel, piano soloist. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-Flat Major, Op. 73 ("Emperor"); Shostakovich: Symphony No. 9 in E-Flat Major, Op. 70. Classical Symphony Orchestra of Chicago, a professionally oriented training orchestra, and its sister group, the Protégé Philharmonic of Chicago, include Sam Park, trombone, of Morton Grove, Jaimie Connelly, oboe, of Park Ridge, and Rebecca Goldberg, oboe, of Skokie. (312) 334-7777. Nov. 23, 3 p.m.: The Classical Symphony Orchestra of Chicago and the Protégé Philharmonic of Chicago will present their Fall Showcase Joint Concert in the Harris Theater for Music & Dance at Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Drive, Chicago. The program includes works by Verdi, Rimsky-Korsakov, Mussorgsky, Ravel and Tchaikovsky. Tickets: \$15; \$10 seniors and students; \$5 for children under 12.

North Shore Choral Society concerts are at 3 p.m. Sundays at the Parish Church of Saint Luke, 939 Hinman Ave. Evanston. Single tickets in advance are \$22; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861 or visit www.parkridgecivorchestra.org. Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.: Holiday Pops and Sing-Along, with Cheryl Wilson, soprano, Feb. 8, 2009, 2:30 p.m.: Italian Opera at the Pickwick, with Sarah Hibbard, soprano, and James Cornelson, tenor. Featuring selections from Verdi's "Il Trovatore" and "Nabucco." Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," "La Bohème" and "Tosca," and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci." March 15, 2009, 2:30 p.m.: "Strings in Things," with Robert Hanford, violin, the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Strings and the Maine South Chamber Orchestra Strings. Vivaldi: The Four Seasons; and Tchaikovsky: Serenade. April 26, 2009, 2:30 p.m.: The Spirit of Brahms: A German Requiem, with the Park Ridge

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Lloyd Webber: "Memory" from "Cats"; Williams: "E.T." highlights; Williams: Pieces from "Schindler's List"; Dvorak: Cello Concerto. The Orion Ensemble performs at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$25; \$22 for senior citizens; \$10 for students. Free for children 12 and younger. (630) 628-9591 or www.orionensemble.org. March 29, 2009, 3 p.m.: Laura Elise Schwendinger's "Celestial City"; Max Bruch's Pieces for Clarinet, Viola and Piano, Op. 83; and Felix Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 49. June 7, 2009, 7:30 p.m.: Beethoven's Variations on a Theme from Mozart's "Don Giovanni"; John Williams' "Viktor's Tale" and Theme from "Schindler's List"; Franz Liszt's Fantasia on Themes from Verdi's "Rigoletto"; and Verdi's String Quartet in E Minor. Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents

concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Individual tickets are \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861 or visit www.parkridgecivorchestra.org. Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.: Holiday Pops and Sing-Along, with Cheryl Wilson, soprano, Feb. 8, 2009, 2:30 p.m.: Italian Opera at the Pickwick, with Sarah Hibbard, soprano, and James Cornelson, tenor. Featuring selections from Verdi's "Il Trovatore" and "Nabucco." Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," "La Bohème" and "Tosca," and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci." March 15, 2009, 2:30 p.m.: "Strings in Things," with Robert Hanford, violin, the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Strings and the Maine South Chamber Orchestra Strings. Vivaldi: The Four Seasons; and Tchaikovsky: Serenade. April 26, 2009, 2:30 p.m.: The Spirit of Brahms: A German Requiem, with the Park Ridge

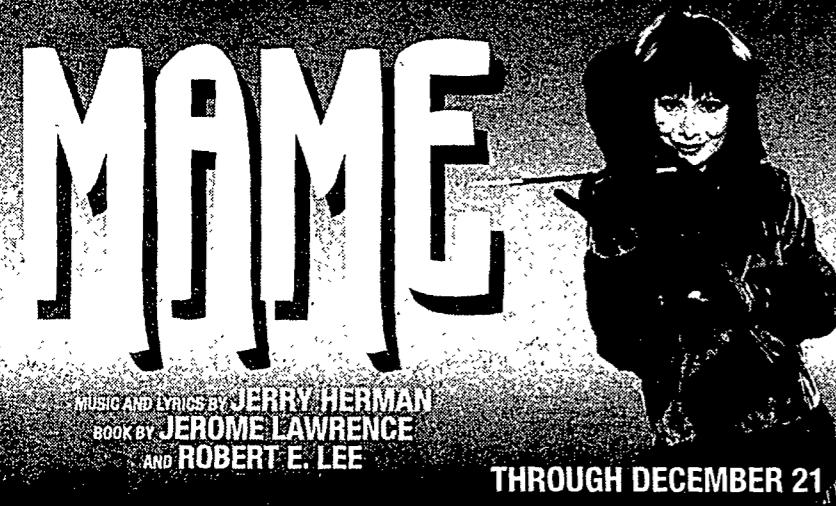
Northwestern Illinois University, Steinberg Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago. (773) 442-4636. Nov. 21, 8 p.m.: Pianist Vanessa Perez. Northfield Chapter of the Lyric Opera of Chicago will host a luncheon followed by a lecture, "Puccini Heroines in a New Light: Their Untold Stories," on Nov. 20 at the Evanston Golf Club, 4401 Dempster St., Skokie. The lecture will be presented by Geoffrey and Ryan Edwards, social hours at 11 a.m.; luncheon at noon, and program at 1:15 p.m., \$40. Call (847) 729-8648 for reservations by Nov. 15. Northshore Concert Band performs at 3 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, unless otherwise noted. Individual tickets \$15; \$12 seniors; \$6 students. (847) 432-2263. www.northshoreband.org. Feb. 15, 2009: Program includes Dana Wilson's "Shortcut Home" and Hindemith's Symphonic Metamorphosis. April 19, 2009: Steve Cohen, professor of clarinet at Northwestern University, joins the NCB to perform Michael Daugherty's "Brooklyn Bridge." The all-American program also includes Frank Tichelli's "Wild Nights"; Chance's "Elegy"; and Tull's "Sketches on a Tudor Psalm." June 7, 2009: Program includes Samuel Barber's "Commando March"; Clifton Williams' Symphonic Dance No. 3, "Fiesta" and a band arrangement of "Hello, Dolly!" Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Paul Vermet, music director, presents concerts at 3:30 p.m. Sundays in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. Pre-concert commentaries by Carolyn Paulin, a staff member of radio station WFMT, begin one hour prior to each concert. Individual concert tickets are \$20; \$15 for students; \$10 for seniors. Season tickets for the four-concert series are \$60; \$45 for seniors; \$30 for students. Children under age 14 are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. www.northwestsymphony.org. Nov. 16: "Mozart & Friends," featuring Larry Combs, principal clarinet, Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Debussy: Nocturnes I, II; Mozart: Clarinet Concerto; Grieg: Peer Gynt Suites I, II. Jan. 18, 2009: "Happy Birthday, Mr. Lincoln," with Mel Zellman, WFMT radio announcer, as narrator, Charles Ives: The Unanswered Question; Aaron Copland: A Lincoln Portrait, March 29, 2009: "Scotland and the Sea," with Iordanka Kitsova, violin, Mendelssohn: Fingal's Cave; Stephen Paulus: Sea Portraits; Bruch: Scottish Fantasy, May 31, 2009: Family Pops Concert with Allan Steele, cello, Offenbach: Ballet Parisien;

by flutist Mathieu DuFour. The program will be comprised of early and new music, including a Vivaldi concerto for flute played on period instruments. Tickets are \$7-\$20 and can be purchased by calling (847) 926-9898. Mostly Music Chicago presents pianist Vanessa Perez at 4 p.m. Nov. 23 at a residence in Evanston. As part of MMC's North Shore Series, Perez will play works by Albeniz, Villa Lobos and Chopin, with a short reception to follow the concert. Tickets: \$25; \$15 students. Call (312) 287-5761 or visit www.mostlymusicchicago.com. Music of the Baroque performs at First United Methodist Church of Evanston, 1630 Hinman Ave., unless noted otherwise. (312) 551-4144. www.baroque.org. Single tickets are \$38-\$65; \$25-\$30 students/seniors. Holiday Brass and Choral Concert. Edward Zelnis, conductor, at 8 p.m. Dec. 18 at Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 W. Division St., River Forest; and 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 20, and 3 p.m. Dec. 21 at Divine Word Chapel, 2001 N. Waukegan Road, Techyn/Northbrook. Jan. 18, 2009, 7:30 p.m.: "Glover Conducts Mozart," featuring the Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra. Kimberly McCord, soprano, Jessy Wright, mezzo-soprano, Peder Reiff, tenor, and Peter Van De Graaff, bass-baritone. Feb. 22, 2009, 7:30 p.m.: J.S. Bach: The Mass in B Minor, Nicholas Kraemer, conductor. Featuring the Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra. Amy Conn, soprano, Tove Dahlberg, mezzo-soprano, Harold Brock, tenor, and Thomas Meglioranza, baritone. March 29, 2009, 7:30 p.m.: "Celebrate! Handel, Haydn, Purcell, Mendelssohn," Jane Glover, conductor. Featuring the Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra. Sarah Gartshore, soprano, Emily Lodine, mezzo-soprano, Ryan Belongie, alto, Harold Brock, tenor, and Douglas Anderson, baritone. May 17, 2009, 7:30 p.m.: "Musical Fireworks," featuring Music of the Baroque Orchestra. Nicholas Kraemer, conductor. The program includes Handel: Concerto a due cori No. 2 in F Major; Haydn: Symphony No. 80 in D Minor; Haydn: Symphony No. 92 in G Major (Oxford); and Handel: Music for the Royal Fireworks. Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500, www.musicinst.org. Nov. 14, 7 p.m.: Sundays @ 7 free faculty recital featuring Bill Dresden, in the Thoreson Performance Center. Free. Nov. 15, 9:30 a.m.: Organ master class presented by Chicago organist David Schrader. Free. Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m.: High school students in MIC's Academy program present an orchestra concert. Free. Nov. 23, 3 p.m.: Lincoln Trio presents a chamber music concert celebrating the Lincoln Bicentennial. Joined by Ravinia Festival President and CEO Weiz Kauffman as narrator, the group will perform a commissioned "Lincoln" work as well as Mendelssohn's Trio No. 2 in C minor, Op. 66. \$20/\$15/\$7. The North Shore Chamber Orchestra will dedicate a Family Concert to the memory of Sidney Zimbalist at 3 p.m. Nov. 16 in Northwestern University's Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston. The program includes Johann Strauss's Voices of Spring; Rachmaninoff's Vocalise for Mezzo Soprano and Orchestra, featuring soprano Aimee Thompson as soloist; Aaron Copland's Nocturne; Ravel's Kaddish for Baritone and Orchestra, featuring Dane Thomas as soloist; and Bizet's Carmen Suite No. 2. Admission is \$10; free for those under 18 and all Northwestern University students. Call (847) 864-2288.

semble, "Concertinis." \$7/\$5/\$4. Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra, "First Symphonies." Program includes Elliott Carter's Symphony No. 1; Kennan's arrangement of Sergei Prokofiev's Clarinet Concerto in D Major; and Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 in C Major. \$7/\$5/\$4. Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.: Symphonic Band, "Wildflowers - The Music of Percy Grainger." \$7/\$5/\$4. Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.: Guarneri String Quartet, with special guest string bassist Peter Lloyd. \$25/\$22/\$12. Dec. 11, 11:30 a.m.: Mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves will conduct a master class featuring gifted students from the Biens School of Music's voice and opera program. \$7/\$5/\$4. Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.: Pianist Jeffrey Siegel's Keyboard Conversations program, "Basking in Beethoven." Featured works will include Beethoven's "Für Elise" and "Farewell" Sonata in E-

flat. \$23/\$21/\$16. Regenstein Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 60 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. Most ticket prices listed in three categories: general public; senior citizens and NU faculty and staff; and student rate. Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Saxophone Ensemble will present diverse transcriptions and original music. \$7/\$5/\$4. Dec. 7, 10 a.m.: Guarneri String Quartet will present a master class. Free. Dec. 7, 1 p.m.: A conversation with the Guarneri String Quartet. Admission is free. Rembrandt Chamber Players perform in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets: \$30; \$10 students. (312) 360-3145. www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org.

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Continued from PAGE B15

part choral singing. The group performs throughout the year singing Norwegian and American songs and coordinates a festival of song each spring. The chorus also participates in a bi-annual "Sangerfest," which is held in different locations around the country. Rehearsals are held from 8-10 p.m. Tuesdays at the Estonian House in Lincolnshire, September to June. Call Chuck Kessel, (773) 481-5941, or Karl Tanageros, (773) 631-9682, or visit [www.norwaysings.org](http://www.norwaysings.org).

**Northwest Choral Society** seeks bass, tenor, alto or soprano singers with previous choral experience. Auditions will be held during rehearsals on Tuesday evenings, through March 24, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 855 Lee St., Des Plaines. The chorus presents three concerts of classical and popular music each season, including a holiday concert, a winter concert and an early summer concert. To schedule an audition, call (773) 504-3426 or visit [www.nwchoralsociety.org](http://www.nwchoralsociety.org).

**Paul Lindblad Choristers**, a concert children's choir for ages third grade and older, promotes musical literacy, performs quality repertoire with a high level of artistry, and offers a concert series. In addition to choral music, vocal technique (breathing, posture), stagecraft, stage presence, improvisation, musicianship (ear training, music reading, sight singing), and principles of drama are also taught. Call (847) 420-9200 or visit [www.plchoristers.org](http://www.plchoristers.org).

**DANCERS**  
The Chicago Rush arena football team will hold auditions for the 2009 Adrenaline Rush Dancers on Nov. 30 at the Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and auditions start at 9 a.m. Semifinalists will continue with mandatory training camp sessions from 7-10 p.m. Dec. 2 and 4 in preparation for the final round, to be held Dec. 6. Representing the Rush both on and off the field, dancers participate in all home games (held at Allstate Arena in Rosemont), attend community events, take part in media interviews and promotional opportunities and attend photo shoots throughout the year. Dancers wishing to audition must submit a \$25 non-refundable registration fee, be able to commit to the squad for a full year and be 18 years old by Nov. 30, 2008. For information and to pre-register, visit [www.chicagorush.com](http://www.chicagorush.com) or call (773) 243-3434.

**ARTISTS**  
St. Beatrice School in Schiller Park is seeking crafters for its 26th annual Christmas Craft Show, to be held Dec. 5-6. Call (847) 678-1752 or visit [www.st-beatricecraftshow.com](http://www.st-beatricecraftshow.com).

**BENEFITS**  
"Folled Again," a cabaret act featuring Allison Bazarko, Rob Lindley, Anne Sheridan Smith and Jeff award-winning Doug Peck as musical director, will perform in the Wilmette Theatre Education Project's holiday benefit at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. \$30 per person. For information and reservations, call (847) 251-1197.

**ARTISTS**  
An Evening with Rising Stars," an auction, raffle, food, wine and musical gala to benefit North Shore Choral Society, will be held at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 15 at Jewish Reconstruction Congrega-

**CLUBS**  
The St. Patrick Parent's Club and Thespian Society will present "Big Top Stop Inn... Before You Drop" murder mystery dinner theatre at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 21 at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Adults only. Tickets: \$50. For reservations, contact Patti Fabrizio at (773) 282-8844, ext. 257, or [pfabrizio@stppatrick.org](mailto:pfabrizio@stppatrick.org).

**CHILD'S PLAY**  
Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. [www.centreast.org](http://www.centreast.org). Feb. 28, 2009, 1 and 3 p.m.

**BOOKS & POETRY**  
Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. (847) 376-2787. [www.dppl.org](http://www.dppl.org). Advance registration re-

**CHILD'S PLAY**  
Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. [www.centreast.org](http://www.centreast.org). Feb. 28, 2009, 1 and 3 p.m.

**FESTIVALS**  
"Digging To America" by Anne Tylor. Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. [www.irishamhc.com](http://www.irishamhc.com). Dec. 7, 2 p.m.: Writer, producer and performer Mike Houlihan will read from and sign his book, *Hooliganism*. Great Irish American Books and Authors book discussion group meets at 2 p.m. the second Sunday of the month, unless noted otherwise. The discussion is led by Virginia Gibbons, a teacher at Oakton Community College. Dec. 14: *An Irish Christmas* by John B. Keane and *How the Irish Invented Slang* by Daniel Cassidy. Jan. 11, 2009: *The Whitest Flower* by Brendan Graham. Feb. 8, 2009: *Natural History* by Maureen Howard. March 8, 2009: *The Poor Mouth* by Flann O'Brien. April 12, 2009: *Roscoe* by William Kennedy. May 3, 2009: *The Snapper* by Roddy Doyle.

**CHILD'S PLAY**  
Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 825-3123. [www.parkridgepubliclibrary.org](http://www.parkridgepubliclibrary.org). Nov. 15, 10:30 a.m.: Discussion of *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv, led by representatives of the Wildwood Nature Center. Reservations for this special book discussion can only be made by calling (847) 692-3570. Nov. 20, 10 a.m.: Discussion of *Whiteman* by Tony D' Souza.

**CHILD'S PLAY**  
Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. [www.centreast.org](http://www.centreast.org). Feb. 28, 2009, 1 and 3 p.m.

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**go.**

Continued from PAGE B17

woodlibrary.org. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.: Stories and More, for children ages 3-5. Each 45-minute session includes books, board stories, songs, finger plays and crafts. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.: Stories and More for children ages 3 and under, and their caregivers. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. (847) 965-4220. Nov. 14, 4 p.m.: Screening of "Kung Fu Panda," rated PG. Nov. 15, 2 p.m.: Roberts Mariettes presents "A Secret Garden." Nov. 15, 3 p.m.: Beads for Teens and Chainmaille Jewelry. Supplies and instruction will be provided. Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m.: Family Reading Night Party featuring Imagination Theatre's Read

All About It. Nov. 28, 2 p.m.: Screening of "WALL-E," rated G. Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. (847) 663-6623. www.nileslibrary.org. "Babytime" offers stories, songs and play for children up to 2 years of age at 11 a.m. Mondays. Pick Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Information: (847) 491-5441; tickets: (847) 467-4000. www.pickstaiger.org. Kids Fare series, featuring hour-long concerts for children ages 3 to 8 and their families. All Kids Fare concerts begin at 10:30 a.m. Tickets: \$6; \$5 for senior citizens; \$4 for children. Jan. 10, 2009: "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra and More" program will feature composer Benjamin Britten's salute to the symphony orchestra. Jan. 24, 2009: "Strike Up the Band!" Trombones, trumpets, horns, tubas, flutes, clarinets, oboes, saxo-

phones, bassoons and percussion instruments will be featured during a program of music written for band. Feb. 14, 2009: "Percussion Eruption" concert will focus on lively music composed for percussion instruments. Feb. 28, 2009: Northshore Concert Band presents "Musical Gems from the Northshore." April 4, 2009: "I've Got Rhythm and So Do You," featuring dancing by the Jump Rhythm Jazz Project. "Robin Hood and Maid Marian," presented by Evanston Children's Theatre at 7 p.m. Nov. 21, 3 and 7 p.m. Nov. 22 and 3 p.m. Nov. 23 at the Levy Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$8 and will be available at the door. For information, call (847) 448-8250. 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 in-

formation about the theater, call (847) 671-5100. Dec. 13, 11 a.m.: The Laurie Berkner Band. \$35, \$25. Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Nov. 14, 17, 20-21, 24-26, Dec. 1, 4-5, 8-10, 12, 10:30 a.m.; Nov. 14, 21, 24-26, noon; and Nov. 15, 1 p.m.: "Sleeping Beauty," presented by Chicago Kids Company. Tickets: \$10. Call (773) 205-9600 or visit www.chicagokidscompany.com. Wunder Studios Performing Arts Conservatory offers classes in the Pickwick Building in Uptown Park Ridge, 3 S. Prospect Ave. 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. The YADI Club (Youth Arts/Dance In-

ternational) holds dance classes for teens and younger students at the Jefferson Park Fieldhouse, 4822 N. Long. Classes are conducted by Tina Mangos Dance. (773) 282-5108 or www.tinamangosdance.com. **COMEDY** Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.centreast.org. Nov. 15, 8 p.m.: Comedienne Susie Essman. Opening for Essman will be Scott Blakeman, a co-host of NBC's "Sunday Today" and frequent contributor to National Public Radio and Air America. Tickets: \$60. May include language not suitable for younger or more sensitive audience members. Jan. 22, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 23, 2009, 8 p.m., Jan. 24, 2009, 5 and 8 p.m., Jan. 25, 2009, 3 p.m.: The Capitol Steps. \$44-\$48. April 21-23, 2009, 7:30

p.m.: Jackie Mason. \$72. Pick a Cup Coffeehouse, 1813 Dempster, Evanston. (847) 332-2834. Nov. 15, 7:30-10 p.m.: Skokie resident Debbie Sue Goodman presents a comedy performance based on her two books, *Still Single and Still Dating*. No cover. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokieththeatre.com. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door, unless noted otherwise. Dec. 20-21 and 27-28, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.: "Late Night Catechism." \$30. Dec. 31, 8 p.m.: "Late Night Catechism" New Year's Eve performance with champagne and chocolates following the show. \$50. **DANCE** **PERFORMANCES** Artistry in Motion, the resident dance company of the Des Plaines Park Dis-

trict, will presents its fifth annual Winter Spectacular at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 20 and 1:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines. Tickets go on sale Nov. 24. For information, call (630) 391-5700 or visit www.desplainesparks.org. Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.centreast.org. Feb. 14, 2009, 8 p.m.: Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago. \$46. April 18, 2009, 8 p.m.: River North Chicago Dance Company. \$46. Northwestern University Marjorie Ward Marshall Dance Center, 10 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Nov. 20-22, 8 p.m. and Nov. 23, 2 p.m.: Fall 2008 Dance Concert, an annual performance choreographed and produced by Northwestern's New Movement Project. Student choreographers are selected to create original and artistically mature premiere works in a variety of genres. Tickets: \$10; \$5 for children and full-time students. For tickets, call (847) 491-7282.

**GROUPS & LESSONS** Barefoot Hawaiian Inc., 1401 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines, offers dance and music classes. Classes include hula for youth and adults; Tahitian, beginners and advanced; Tahitian drumming Maori; ukelele; Pilates; and swing dancing. Call (847) 699-7336. 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, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. Mostly swing dancing, some ballroom, Latin and line dancing. Open to ages 21 and older. \$5 members; \$9 nonmembers. Membership fee \$25. Upcoming dates: Nov. 22; Dec. 13. 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 include Nov. 15: Dinner dance at the Chevy Chase Country Club. Advance tickets required; see Web site for details. DanceSport Center, 999 N. Elmhurst Road (Randhurst Shopping Center), Mount Prospect, offers ballroom and Latin dance classes for children age 5 and older and adults. No partner is necessary. Call (847) 342-0567 or visit www.chicagodancesport.com. Des Plaines School of Dance, 2222 Birch St., Des Plaines. (847) 391-5700. www.desplainesparks.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. The Flying Squares Square Dance Club dances the first, third and fifth Saturdays of the month, September-mid-May, at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights. Round dancing at 7:30 p.m. and square dancing at 8 p.m. Guest callers. The group dances Plus level. New dancers welcome. Call (847) 885-7387. Happy Twirlers Dance Club provides round and square dancing at 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, September-May, in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thacker and Lee streets, Des Plaines. Call (847) 827-6500 or (773) 685-8407. Kaleidoscope Dance & Movement

Center, 3944 Church St., Skokie, offers classes in ballet, jazz, hip-hop, tap, and modern. Call (847) 679-7842 or visit www.kaleidoscope.com. Karen's School of Acrobatics and Dance, 805 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. (847) 292-0255. Offering professional instruction in acrobatics: tumbling, jazz, hip-hop, ballet, tap, and musical theater. Competitive Dance classes and one-day "Flip" clinics for cheerleaders also available. Karen's is also offering adult group and private dance instruction for singles and couples. Professional ballroom dance instructor Patricia Kassanis offers group classes in social dance, salsa dance, ballroom dance and swing dance. Kassanis also specializes in preparing wedding couples for their "first dance" and is available by appointment for private or group instruction; call (630) 306-1761 or (630) 671-9407 for information. Leikarringen "Helmhug" dancers welcome those age 16 and older interested in Scandinavian folk dance to join them from 8-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the First United Methodist Church of Des Plaines, 666 Graceland Ave. No prior dance experience or partner necessary. Call (847) 823-7596 or (847) 692-6616. Lynette's School of Dance, 517 Talcott Road, Park Ridge, offers classes in ballet, pointe, tap, hip-hop, jazz and tumbling, beginners to advanced, for ages 3 to adults. All teachers are certified degree instructors. Call (847) 823-7334. Picture Us Different Dance Studio, 1011 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. (847) 692-3600. Professional and non-professional classes for ages 3 to adult in tap, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical ballet and classical ballet/pointe. Prairie Lakes Senior Center, 515 E.

go., PAGE B20

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# Today's New Homes

NORTH EDITION ■■■■ NOVEMBER 12-14, 2008

## Town center enclaves

Condominiums near suburban downtowns offer best of two worlds

With gasoline prices on a roller coaster, highways clogged with rush-hour traffic and endless road construction, today's savvy suburban condominium shoppers are buying homes in town-center enclaves near Metra train stations to ease the commuting hassle, experts say.

"Downtown Chicago workers need to commute to the Loop every day, but they'd also like a quiet place to come home to at night," said developer Ray Franczak of R. Franczak and Associates, who is developing condominiums near town-center enclaves in Des Plaines and Palatine.

New-construction condominium developments nestled near downtown Des Plaines and Palatine are located at the crossroads of quaint suburban living and big-city conveniences, developers say.

"The attraction of northwest suburban Des Plaines includes pastoral outdoor spaces, quiet environs, nearby shopping and dining, and easy access to downtown Chicago, not to mention O'Hare International Airport," noted Michael Glazier, principal of Sertus Capital Partners, LLC, developers of Everleigh, a 144-unit condominium in downtown Des Plaines.

Transit-oriented developments (TOD) have gained popularity as a strategy to address a number of urban home-buying problems including traffic congestion, affordable housing shortages, air pollution and sprawl, Franczak said.

Despite recent gasoline price declines, Chicago-area stations still are charging some of the highest prices in the country. That means more and more people are deciding to take public transportation, Franczak said.



Ray Franczak of R. Franczak and Associates is currently selling the remaining nine units of the Waterford Condominiums in Des Plaines. This 118-unit development, which are two-bedroom and two-bedroom plus den units, range in size from 1,405 to 1,731 square feet. Prices for the remaining units range from \$289,900 to \$349,900.

"Sometimes it's just less stressful — and more affordable — to take a 40-minute train ride to work instead of burning a tank of gasoline," Franczak said. "The convenience of public transportation

close to your home is a major buying consideration and the ultimate solution for people who have to travel to the city for work."

■■■■ Turn to ENCLAVES, 2

■■■■ inside ■■■■

### Down under

Home theater, a bar, electronic games — basements and lower levels can be devoted to fun.

Page 3

Will we see a housing or economic upturn in 2009?

There are enough signs not to rule a revival out. **Don DeBat,** Page 6



Westar Properties, Inc., will conduct a Nov. 23 auction of 18 brand-new luxury condominiums at **The Prairie Path Villas** in Lombard.

Page 2

■■■■ online ■■■■

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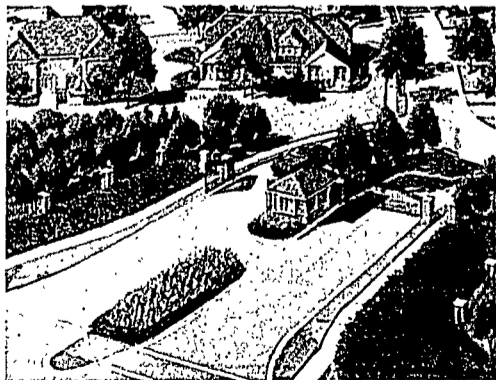
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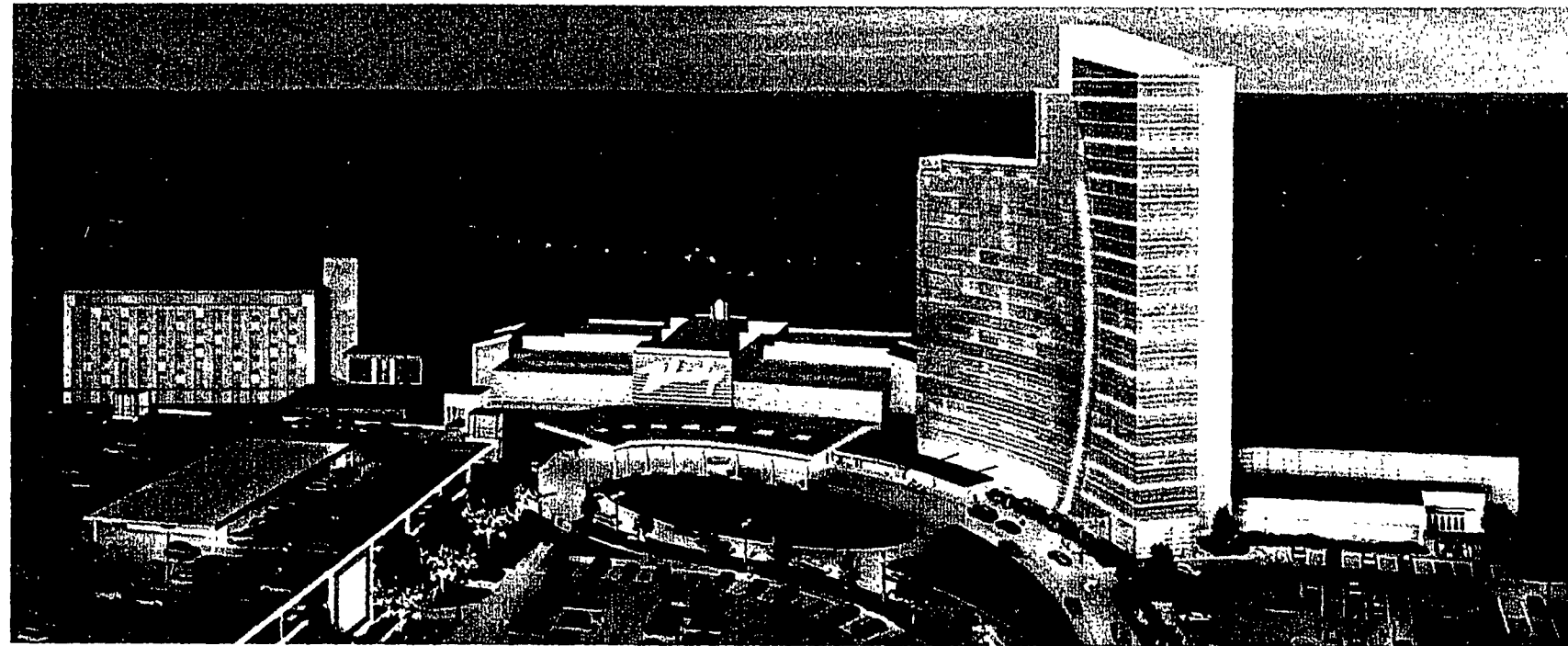


**in**  
SIDE

tips to  
**IMPROVE your**  
VIDEO POKER SKILLS

NOT YOUR  
**DADDY'S**  
**SLOTS**

by **John**  
GROCHOWSKI



# Expansive amenities make Blue Chip Casino the place to go



Guests will have an exciting new destination for 2009: Blue Chip Casino Hotel is adding a 22-story, 302-room hotel tower, 20,000 additional square feet of meeting and convention space, new restaurants and even more nightlife. The \$130 million Blue Chip expansion also includes a spa and fitness center.

Located just an hour's drive east of Chicago in Michigan City, Indiana, Blue Chip Casino Hotel offers exhilarating casino excitement in a comfortable, friendly setting. Currently, Blue Chip features a 65,000-square-foot, single-level casino with more than 2,000 slots, 50 tables games and a live poker room, a pavilion with three restaurants, a coffee station, gift shop, entertainment lounge and a 184-room hotel.

The new additions bring a touch of Vegas-style glamour which starts at the entrance, with a striking metal porte cochere to embrace guests as they arrive. The contemporary focal point will be a 286-foot-tall hotel tower, with a curtain wall of aluminum and varying shades of blue vision glass that award-winning architect Lucien Lagrange says, will echo its waterfront location: "The nautically-inspired design will be reminiscent of a tall light tower, like the prow of a ship." The new tower will feature 242 upscale rooms and 60 suites; bringing Blue Chip's room total to 486.

In addition, the 20,000 square foot event center will be one of the largest in Northwest Indiana, and will accommodate stage productions, concerts, conventions, trade shows, boat and vehicle exhibitions, weddings and other special events. Combined with the existing 5,500 square foot ballroom and three meeting/function rooms at the current facility, Blue Chip will offer more than 30,000 square feet of convention/entertainment space, in all.

For concerts or theatre productions, Blue Chip's event center will include a sizeable 2,000-square-foot stage with a 46-foot proscenium in its ballroom, which will seat 1,300 people theatre-style. For conventions and exhibitions, the 26-foot high ceilings in the main ballroom will accommodate most large-scale displays.

An added attraction for conventions and special events will be Blue Chip's luxurious, 10,000-square-foot spa blu. The spa, which will be located on the second floor of the new hotel tower and accessible from the spacious and elegant hotel lobby, will feature individual lounges for men and women, nine spa treatment rooms, a salon and a fitness room.

Guests can get a sneak peek at this exciting transformation by visiting Blue Chip Casino Hotel in Michigan City, Indiana. They can play all day and then stay the night. Reservations can be made by calling (888) 879-7711.

**online:**  
bluechipcasino.com  
**address:**  
2 Easy St.  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
**phone:**  
888-879-7711

IT'S GOOD TO **B** CONNECTED<sup>SM</sup>

COMING SOON  
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Blue Chip Casino will soon unveil its latest vision, which includes a stunning 22-story hotel tower, luxurious spa, convention center and expanded dining choices. Why wait until then? Come enjoy over 2,000 slots and unlimited gaming all on one level, people who make you feel connected and six simple words that can change everything. Want to go to Blue Chip?

**B**CONNECTED  
www.bluechipcasino.com  
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*Blue chip*  
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MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA  
A BOYD RESORTS EXPERIENCE

Must be 21 years of age or older. All gaming subject to government regulation. ©2008 Blue Chip Casino Hotel. All rights reserved. Blue Chip Casino Hotel is a registered trademark of Boyd Gaming Corporation. Boyd Gaming Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer. MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA



## Midwest casino lovers hit jackpot at Treasure Island

With the recent completion of a \$50 million entertainment and convention center addition, Treasure Island Resort & Casino is the Midwest's premier entertainment destination, offering guests a number of unique amenities.

Located in Red Wing, Minnesota, a short drive from the Twin Cities, the Treasure Island hotel features 480 beautifully furnished rooms that include flat-screen televisions and walk-in showers. Presidential and Governor suites offer guests the essence of luxury with upscale amenities and floor to ceiling windows that maximize the sweeping views of the Mississippi River bluffs. The lobby features Brazilian granite tile floors and walls and decorative glass chandeliers.

One of the main highlights of the addition, The Island Event

and Convention Center, offers 3,000 seats, all within 125 feet of the stage, and attracts nationally known artists such as Brooks & Dunn and Martina McBride. The event center is home to state-of-the-art Elacoustics Lineray V-Dos Sound System,

not found at any other casino in Minnesota, and two 14 by 24-foot retractable video screens.

In addition to nationally known entertainment, guests also enjoy free live music every Friday

and Saturday in two venues on the Island: Parlay Lounge and Emerald Bay. Parlay Lounge features an illuminated bar, ten 42-inch plasma LCD screens, sofas and armchairs, a fireplace surrounded by a video wall and an exclusive drink menu. Emerald Bay offers guests a fully stocked

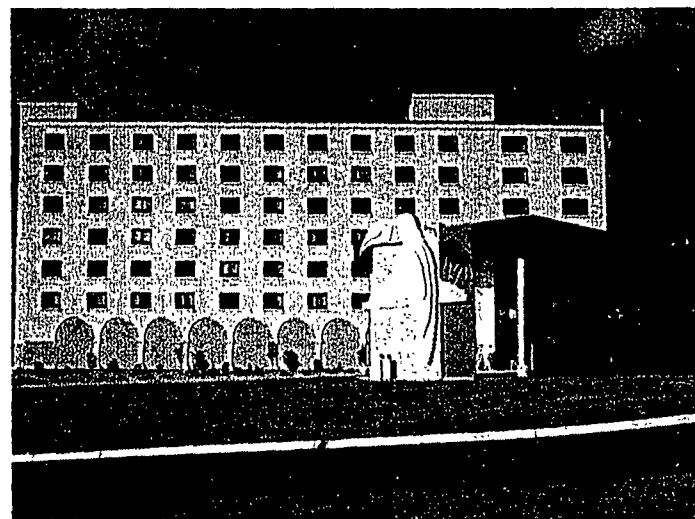
bar in a tropical theme lounge.

Families will enjoy the 30,000 square foot family fun center, Island Xtreme Bowl, featuring a 24-lane bowling alley, arcade, party rooms, snack bar, and lounge area.

Outdoor enthusiasts can play 18-holes or take a relaxing cruise and experience breathtaking views of the Mississippi River Valley. Mount Frontenac, a par-71 golf course owned by the Prairie Island Indian Community, features spectacular views of Lake Pepin and the Hiawatha Valley and is only a short drive from Treasure Island. Stay & Play packages are available.

The Spirit of the Water, a 120-passenger luxury cruise yacht offers brunch, lunch and dinner cruises down the Mississippi River. Regal bluffs and sparkling water surround passengers on their voyage, and dinner guests may witness a gorgeous sunset on the river.

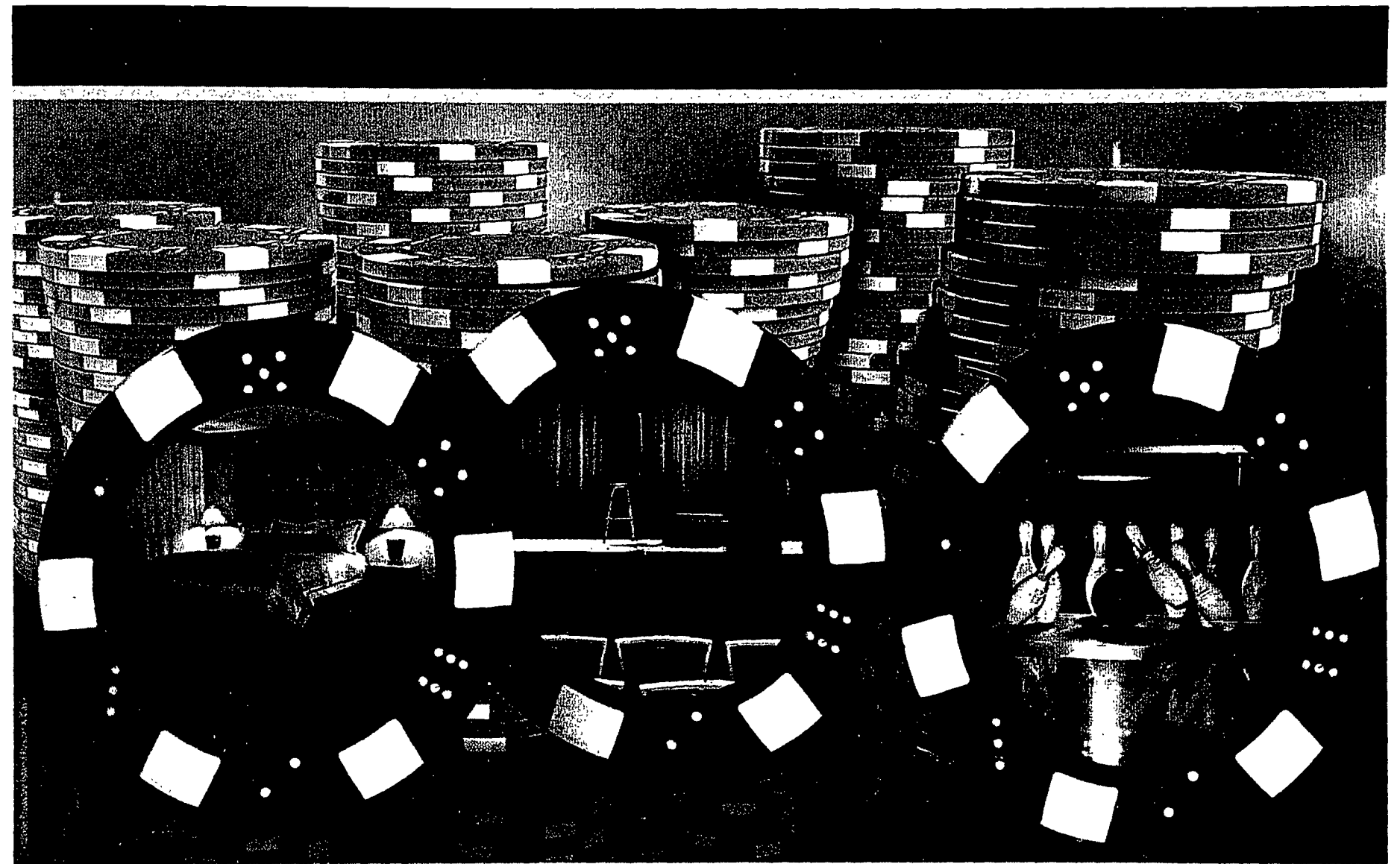
For seven consecutive years,



Treasure Island Resort & Casino has been voted Minnesota's Favorite Casino in the Midwest Gaming & Travel Readers' Choice Awards scoring ten awards in the magazine's seventh annual survey this year. In addition to Favorite Casino, Treasure Island won Favorite Casino Hotel, Best Video Poker, Best High-Limit

Area, Most Comfortable Hotel Rooms, Best Hotel Amenities, Best Hotel Ambience, Best Nearby Recreational Activities, Best Bingo Packages and Best Early Bird Bingo.

For event tickets, hotel reservations or more information, call 1-800-222-7077 or visit [treasureislandcasino.com](http://treasureislandcasino.com)



# WHERE HAVING FUN IS ALWAYS A SURE BET.

Treasure Island Resort & Casino has upped the stakes with two new breathtaking hotel towers, a 3,000 seat Island Event Center featuring some of the biggest names in entertainment and a 24-lane Brunswick Bowling Alley. Add all this excitement to our eight action-packed casino areas that are home to 40 blackjack tables, 2,500 state-of-the-art slot machines, live poker room, and bingo and you'll see why we are the best entertainment destination in the Midwest!

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# A bigger, better Potawatomi Bingo Casino



## \$240 million expansion brings more excitement to Wisconsin's No. 1 entertainment destination

**A** lot can happen in two years. And nowhere is that more evident than Potawatomi Bingo Casino in Milwaukee, Wis., where after two years of construction, a bigger, better entertainment experience now awaits its guests.

Since August 2006, tens of thousands of yards of concrete have been poured, millions of feet of wiring have been laid and miles upon miles of foundation piling have been driven. The result: a \$240 million, 500,000 square foot expansion that has tripled the size of the Casino.

On the expanded gaming floor, guests can choose from more than 3,100 slot machines—an additional 1,300 were installed as part of the Casino's expansion. The number of table games at the Casino has doubled to almost 120. Guests will be able to choose from their

**online:**  
playsbig.com  
**address:**  
1721 West Canal St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
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800-PAYSBIG

old favorites—such as Blackjack, Roulette and Craps—to some new options—War and Big Six. The poker room has moved and expanded, now featuring 20 tables, and an Off-Track Wagering room, opening later this summer, will provide an exciting new amenity to guests.

Dining at Potawatomi Bingo Casino has always been an experience unto its own. With two new restaurants, a food court and a center bar lounge added as part of the expansion, variety is, even more so, the operative word. Wild

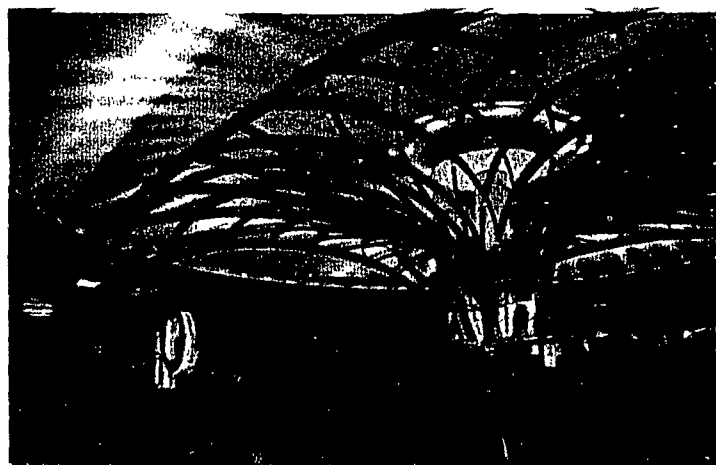
Earth, an American cuisine, casual restaurant, and RuYi, an Asian-concept restaurant with a heavy emphasis on noodle dishes from throughout the Far East, are sure to be two of the hottest new outlets in the area. The Menomonee Valley Food Court, featuring four outlets, will give guests a chance to grab a quick snack or sit-down meal. And Bar 360, situated at the center of the new gaming floor, will be a place for friends to meet and take in all of the action on the gaming floor.

Two restaurants guests have come to know and love have expanded and moved to the first floor as part of the Casino's construction. Four-Star, Four Diamond Dream Dance has expanded and moved to the Casino's first floor. Highlighted by Chef Jason Gorman's "New Wisconsin Cuisine," guests will enjoy an expanded bar and dining area, but will appreciate the restaurant's still-intimate setting.

Two private dining areas and a new street-level entrance are just a few of the upgrades. The Buffet, where six action stations bring the freshest entrees to our guests, will not leave hungry guests disappointed. An atmosphere full of fun, The Buffet will satisfy the most discriminating

structure to the James E. Groppi Unity Bridge was opened in June 2007. Both additions have made accessibility to Casino easier for guests and have helped alleviate congestion in the Menomonee Valley.

With all of these changes, guests



of diners.

As part of the Casino's expansion, a 1,700-stall parking structure opened in November 2007. Additionally, a bridge connecting the Casino's parking

are truly in for terrific experience when they visit a bigger, better Potawatomi Bingo Casino.

To find out more about Potawatomi Bingo Casino go to [www.playsbig.com](http://www.playsbig.com)

# ESCAPE for FREE

Potawatomi Bingo Casino now offers premier travel packages that you can get "on the house."

Packages include offers at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, hotel accommodations in downtown Milwaukee, roundtrip train transportation, tickets to a Milwaukee museum and a Rainbow Sky Travel certificate.

With six packages to choose from, each is a great deal. Packages range from \$65 to \$260, with their actual values ranging from \$94 to \$405.

For qualification details on how you can escape for free, visit [playsbig.com/travelpackages](http://playsbig.com/travelpackages) or call toll-free 1-866-257-0094.

*Must be a Fire Keeper's Club member to participate. Membership is free.*

Package	Receive	Occupancy
<b>ABSOLUTE ESCAPE</b>	Roundtrip transportation Ticket(s) to a Milwaukee museum Hotel stay in downtown Milwaukee \$15 Bonus Play(s) \$5 off The Buffet voucher(s) \$25 Rainbow Sky Travel certificate(s)	Cost: \$260 (double) a \$405 value  Cost: \$210 (single) a \$300 value
<b>DELUXE ESCAPE</b>	Roundtrip transportation Hotel stay in downtown Milwaukee \$15 Bonus Play(s) \$5 off The Buffet voucher(s) \$25 Rainbow Sky Travel certificate(s)	Cost: \$250 (double) a \$373 value  Cost: \$210 (single) a \$284 value
<b>INCREDIBLE ESCAPE</b>	Ticket(s) to a Milwaukee museum Hotel stay in downtown Milwaukee \$15 Bonus Play(s) \$5 off The Buffet voucher(s) \$25 Rainbow Sky Travel certificate(s)	Cost: \$210 (double) a \$317 value  Cost: \$205 (single) a \$256 value
<b>AMAZING ESCAPE</b>	Hotel stay in downtown Milwaukee \$15 Bonus Play(s) \$5 off The Buffet voucher(s) \$25 Rainbow Sky Travel certificate(s)	Cost: \$200 (double) a \$285 value  Cost: \$200 (single) a \$240 value
<b>RIDERS ESCAPE</b>	Roundtrip transportation Ticket(s) to a Milwaukee museum \$15 Bonus Play(s) \$5 off The Buffet voucher(s) \$25 Rainbow Sky Travel certificate(s)	Cost: \$195 (double) a \$210 value  Cost: \$100 (single) a \$105 value
<b>FABULOUS ESCAPE</b>	Roundtrip transportation \$15 Bonus Play(s) \$5 off The Buffet voucher(s) \$25 Rainbow Sky Travel certificate(s)	Cost: \$115 (double) a \$178 value  Cost: \$65 (single) a \$94 value



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# Getting casino comps involves give and take

By JOHN GROCHOWSKI

**A** player once complained that he'd never received a casino comp, even though he played regularly and wasn't afraid to bet.

"I've never been offered so much as a buffet," he said, shaking his head. "Was he using a player rewards card?" "No," he said. "I don't sign up for those. I don't want them to have my information."

That runs smack dab into the purpose of casino comps and player rewards programs. Casinos want to offer you rewards – meals, rooms, cash back and more – to encourage you to return and play again. To do that, they need your name and address, the information that the comp-less player was unwilling to give.

And they need to know how much you play. Rewards are based on your play, which is tracked either manually at most table games or through a reader that tracks every bet at the slots, video poker and video keno games.

Only when the casino knows how much you play can it kick back a percentage in comps and perks.

To get the most out of player reward systems, you need to check a few things out.

**Same-day rewards or direct-mail vouchers:** In some player rewards systems, you earn points as you play and can redeem them for cash back on the same day. For example, you might be told that each \$5 wagered brings you one point and each 100 points brings you \$1 in cash back. You know going in that if you make \$2,500 in wagers – and that's far easier than you think, even on a limited budget as you replay winnings – you'll be able to redeem for \$5 at the end of the day.

Other clubs don't let you in on the formula. Instead, they'll calculate rewards based on your play and send you a voucher redeemable on your next visit. If you're a frequent player, this makes little difference. If you don't play often, watch for expiration

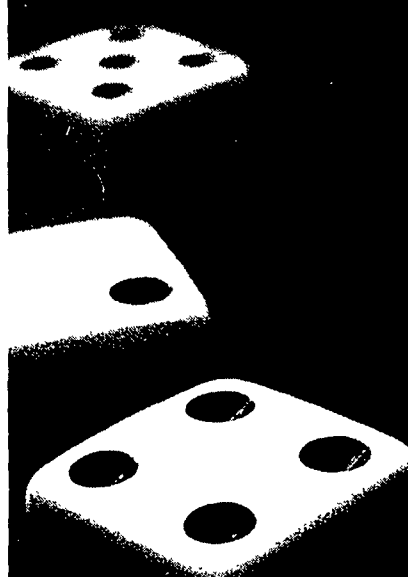
dates on the vouchers.

**Meals and other comps:** Here's something to ask about at the player rewards booth when you sign up for a card. Some systems put all rewards points in the same pool, and it's up to you to decide whether to redeem for cash or meals. Others track comp points separately from points redeemable for cash.

Often, clubs that don't offer same-day cash back accumulate comp points separately, so you can still get your free buffet on the same day you play. Check it out.

**Discounts and perks:** Many clubs will offer discounts on meals just for having their card, even if you don't qualify for a comp. Make sure you get all the details at the booth.

Look for John Grochowski online at [www.casinoanswerman.com](http://www.casinoanswerman.com) and listen to his *Beat the Odds Tips* at 6:20 a.m., 2:50 p.m. and 7:41 p.m. Saturdays and 8:20 a.m., 2:50 p.m. and 10:42 p.m. Sundays on WBBM-AM News Radio 780.



# Practice these tips to improve your video poker game

By JOHN GROCHOWSKI

"Interactive" has become something of a buzzword in the casino industry when it comes to video games. The original interactive hit in electronic casino games, of course, is video poker. Video poker players have been happily interacting with their cards, deciding when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em, for a quarter century now.

At any casino, players can get more for their money with a little practice and skill. Here are a few tips for improving your game.

**Watch the pay tables:** Either on the screen or on the glass above the screen, you'll find a pay table that will tell you how much each winning hand will pay, depending on how many coins you wager.

Take the game Double Double Bonus Poker, one of the most popular games around. On one high-paying version, full houses pay 9-for-1 and flushes pay 6-for-1.

Why mention those hands in particular? When casinos and manufacturers want to change a

game's payback percentage, they usually do it by changing the payoffs on full houses and/or flushes. If you see Double Double Bonus games where all else is equal, but one pays 9-for-1 on full houses and the other 8-for-1, the 9-for-1 payoff yields the higher-paying game.

Do a little comparison shopping on the casino floor before you play.

**Watch your bet size:** On most games, royal flushes pay 250 coins for each coin wagered if you're betting one, two, three or four coins, but the jackpot soars to 4,000 coins with a five-coin wager.

Overall, the house makes all its profit on coins 1 through 4, and gives a little back on coin No. 5. If you're short-bankrolled and must bet one coin at a time, that's fine. It's important not to over bet your bankroll. But don't bet three coins or four coins. Such bets give the house its maximum take.

Also, if a dollar game and a quarter game have the same pay table, and you're on a tight budget, don't bet just one coin at a time on



the dollar game. You'll get a better deal wagering \$1.25 on the quarter game instead.

Watch the low pairs: Expert strategy at video poker can be long and detailed, but one common mistake is that players will hold a single Jack or higher rather than a low pair. That will

result in more winning hands, since payoffs usually start at a pair of Jacks, but the average win is higher if you hold the pair instead. That gives you a better shot at three of a kind, full houses and four of a kind.

Don't undervalue low pairs. Watch your bet size. Watch the

pay tables. And good luck to you.

Look for John Grochowski online at [www.casinoanswerman.com](http://www.casinoanswerman.com) and listen to his *Beat the Odds Tips* at 6:20 a.m., 2:50 p.m. and 7:41 p.m. Saturdays and 8:20 a.m., 2:50 p.m. and 10:42 p.m. Sundays on WBBM-AM News Radio 780.

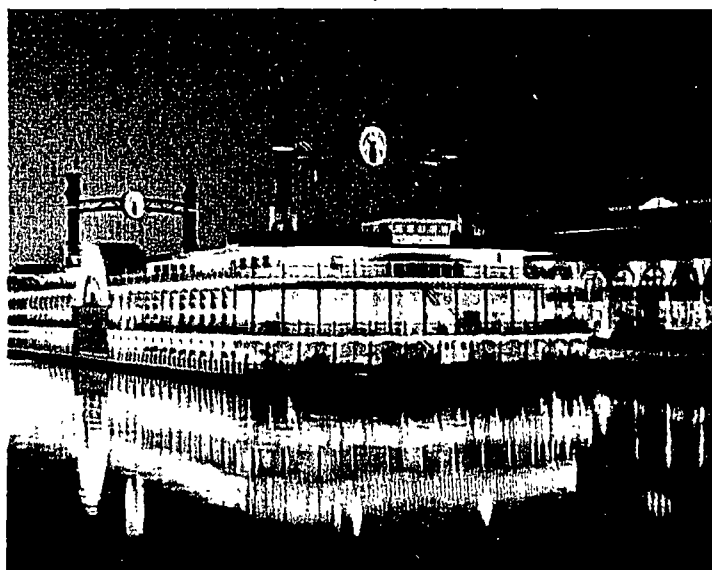
# With Grand Victoria everyone's a winner

When casinos talk about big winners it's easy to conjure up images of high rollers sitting behind piles of chips stacked on a blackjack table or ringing slot machines pouring out bucketfuls of coins. But there's one casino proving that not all who hit the gaming jackpot can be found inside a casino. Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin has dedicated an unprecedented amount of their net profits to benefit education, economic development, and environmental causes throughout the state of Illinois, and these funds have helped create winners who have most likely never pulled the handle of a slot machine.

for more information **online:** [grandvictoria-elgin.com](http://grandvictoria-elgin.com)  
**address:** 250 South Grove Ave. Elgin, IL 60120  
**phone:** 888-508-1900

development programs in three Illinois regions to assist low-wage workers with the training they need to gain higher paying jobs.

Not content to simply be a source of funding, Grand Victoria Casino has encouraged their employees to get directly involved in the community. In 2007 and 2008 alone, Grand Victoria's employees contributed over 15,000 hours to charitable and civic groups including United Way, Habitat for Humanity, the Well Child Center, holiday toy and blood drives, and a number of other worthwhile local organizations and community events.



Another way Grand Victoria is making a positive impact on the community is through their hiring practices and vendor relationships. Women and minorities make up a majority of Grand Victoria's total workforce, and almost half of their management team. Grand Victoria is extremely proud of their

team's diversity, which reflects the diversity of the Elgin area. Additionally, Grand Victoria is committed to using local and minority vendors and was the first casino in Illinois to initiate a diversity networking event, which was designed to bring together minority and women-owned

businesses with purchasing agents from the gaming industry.

These are just a couple of reasons Grand Victoria is consistently named Chicagoland's Best Casino by influential gaming publications like *Casino Player* and *Strictly Slots* magazines. Grand Victoria is always looking for ways to create a better gaming experience for its patrons. Just this year Grand Victoria has opened an all-new high limit room and introduced double-deck pitch blackjack, dubbed "... one of the best blackjack games you will find at any casino in the United States," by expert gaming columnist John Brokopp. And once approval is granted from the Illinois Gaming Board, Grand Victoria will open what promises to be Chicagoland's most exciting poker room. Improvements like this and their generous contributions to our Illinois communities just go to show that Grand Victoria Casino is Chicagoland's best casino, and will be, year after year.

*More winners. More fun.*

There's a big difference between winning and winning at Grand Victoria. Not only have we had Chicagoland's overall loosest slots for over 11 years running, we consistently deliver the biggest jackpots, too – paying out an average of over \$24 million every month, with slot progressive meters averaging \$3 million daily. At Grand Victoria our players win more, more often.

**Chicagoland's best casino is home to Chicagoland's biggest winners.**  
Why play anywhere else?

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# NOT YOUR DADDY'S SLOTS

## Today's innovative machines don't take money and lack arms

By JOHN GROCHOWSKI

The days when playing slot machines meant dropping coins in the slot, pulling the handle and watching the reels spin seem quaint, a relic of times gone by.

Few slots even accept coins or tokens anymore. Instead, you buy credits by sliding currency or bar-coded tickets into a bill validator and you're paid off in tickets that can be redeemed for cash or played again.

Not many machines even have handles – the one-armed bandits are mostly armless. On those that do, pulling the handle yields results no different than the more common method of play, pushing the buttons.

Watching the reels spin? Ah, that you can still do, though the reels are as likely as not to be on a video screen. But there's so much more to playing the slots in the electronic era.

The move from physical spinning reels

has given game designers the freedom to go anywhere their imaginations can take them, constrained only by legal standards for randomness and payback percentage, and the public's willingness to wager on a game.

There's plenty of room for games within a game, multiple progressive jackpots and unlockable features – just about anything you can do on a computerized game.

Take Star Trek, one of the latest and greatest from Waukegan-based WMS Gaming. It's really three games in one, with unlockable games within a game and the ability to store player information so that you can pick right up where you left off the next time you play.

When you first climb into the Bose-speaker-equipped chair and warp ahead into the initial game called Star Trek: Explore



New Worlds, your journey includes two video bonus rounds, one where the onscreen reels are replaced by a screen full of aliens, which you pick off to reveal bonus awards.

In the course of the bonus rounds, you collect medals. Collect enough and you unlock a second game, Trouble With Tribbles. The screen changes and you get new graphics, new game play and new bonus rounds. Collect more medals and again everything changes, this time to a game called Trek Through Time.

What if you don't play long enough to unlock the extra games? Never fear. Pick a Star Trek character, create a screen name and next time you play you can log back in and the game will remember you. If you've earned 10 medals in the past, you start with 10 medals. If you've unlocked Tribbles and not Time, then you can still play Tribbles and work toward Time. At casinos logged into WMS' wide-area network, games will remember you even if you're playing at a different casino.

That's just one of the ways this generation of slot machines will keep you coming back. As you explore casino slot floors, there are plenty of high-tech innovations to watch for:

**WINNING TOGETHER:** WMS has a big hand in here, too, with its Community Gaming line of slots. The pioneer here was Monopoly Big Event, where, in addition to playing their own games with their own results, players sometimes will find themselves in one of six shared bonus events. The big one is Once Around, where everyone shares a trip around a Monopoly board on a giant plasma screen, collecting credits for each property on which they land.

The success of Monopoly Big Event has led WMS to extend the line with Press Your Luck, the pig-themed Bigger Bang Big Event and other Community Gaming Entries.

Other slot manufacturers put a different spin on playing together. International

Game Technology, the Reno, Nev., company that is the world's largest slot maker, got things going with Wheel of Fortune Super Spin. Players sit around a giant wheel. If more than one player qualifies for the bonus event at the same time, they can win on the same spin of the wheel.

What could follow Wheel of Fortune? How about the auction-themed eBay slots, where players can win together on giant reels the width of an entire bank of machines.

**MULTILEVEL PROGRESSIVES:** A walk through the casino will take you past progressives, progressives and more progressives, where a percentage of each wager is added to the pot until someone wins. Especially popular on low-denomination games down to pennies are multilevel games with four, five or more progressive jackpots. They might be \$5 at the bottom level, they might be thousands at the top, but everyone has a chance to win.

The breakthrough system here was the Australian firm Aristocrat Technologies' Cash Express, railroad-themed, steaming through four progressive levels. Aristocrat has since added many themes to its Hyperlink line, with Bank Buster as one of the latest.

Other companies have jumped on the bandwagon, with IGT's Fort Knox, WMS' Jackpot Party Progressives and Atronic's Game of Life among the multilevel hits.

That just scratches the surface of slot-machine innovation. In fact, programmers will tell you that they're still just scratching the surface.

Are they just spinning their wheels while you're spinning the reels? Far from it.

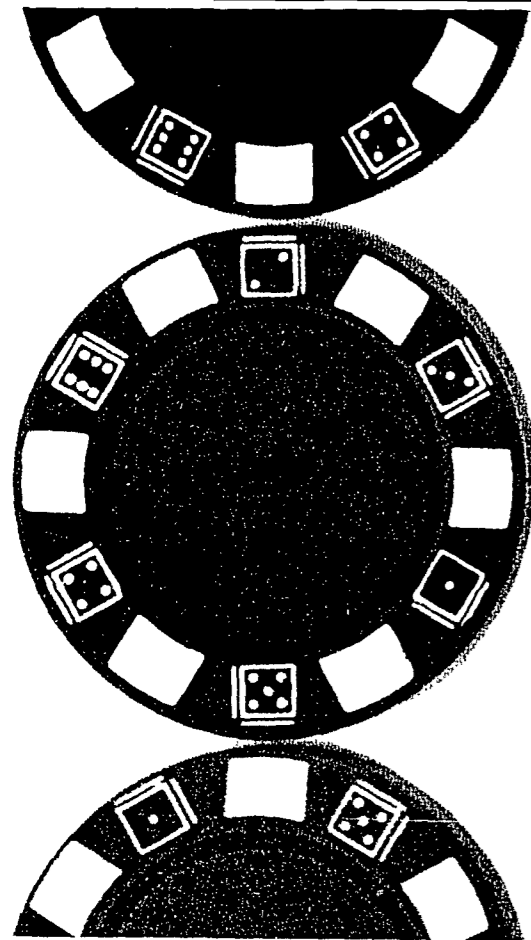
Look for John Grochowski online at [www.casinoanswerman.com](http://www.casinoanswerman.com) and listen to his *Beat the Odds* Tips at 6:20 a.m., 2:50 p.m. and 7:41 p.m. Saturdays and 8:20 a.m., 2:50 p.m. and 10:42 p.m. Sundays on WBBM-AM News Radio 780.



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# Basic strategy table can help blackjack players

By JOHN GROCHOWSKI

If you're a blackjack player and have never looked at a basic strategy table, you should.

It's a tidy little grid, with possible player hands down the side and possible dealer face-up cards across the top. Find the rectangle directly across from your hand and directly down from the dealer's. The basic strategy table tells you whether to hit, stand, split, double down or even surrender, if the house permits such a thing.

Mostly the plays fit into neat little groupings, with large blocks of hands having the same correct play. It's very orderly. The charts don't tell you to make one play against one dealer up card, the opposite play against the next higher card and then go back to the original play against the next card.

Except...

When you have a pair of 9s, the blocks aren't quite so neat. Sure, there's a big block that tells you to split the pair.

Whenever you have a 2 through 6, the chart tells you to split. But when you have a 7, it tells you to stand. Then it says to go back to splitting if the dealer has an 8 or 9, and back to standing against a dealer's 10-value or Ace.

The hands to focus on are those three rectangles that tell us just to stand on our pair of 9s.

We stand when the dealer has a 7, and we stand when the dealer has a 10-value or an Ace. What the basic strategy chart is telling us is that in blackjack, sometimes we play offense and sometimes we play defense.

If you start with a pair of 9s and the dealer has a 7, you have an edge. Your 18 will win whenever the dealer has a 10-value - 10, Jack, King or Queen - face down and it will push whenever the dealer has an Ace face down. There are no cards that turn the dealer's 7 into an instant winner against you. Standing pat is your best offense in that situation.

But if the dealer has a 10-value or an Ace, your 18 will lose more often than it wins. Splitting the pair just leaves you with two hands that lose more often than they win.

Time to play defense. We stand on the 9s when the dealer shows a 10-value or Ace because we don't want to make a second bet and increase our risk.

So we play that little game of back-and-forth-and-back on the basic strategy chart. Dealt a pair of 9s, we play offense and maximize our potential winnings by standing when the dealer shows a 7, and we play defense, minimizing losses, when the dealer has a 10-value or Ace.

All very neat, don't you think?

Look for John Grochowski online at [www.casinoanswerman.com](http://www.casinoanswerman.com) and listen to his *Beat the Odds Tips* at 6:20 a.m., 2:50 p.m. and 7:41 p.m. Saturdays and 8:20 a.m., 2:50 p.m. and 10:42 p.m. Sundays on WBBM-AM News Radio 780.

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By continuing to exceed its guests' expectations, the Venue's exclusive service is dedicated to satisfying a diverse variety of needs. Guests love the fact they are able to rely on Horseshoe Casino's proactive and attentive planners and coordinators to produce their ideal event. Listening, anticipating and following up help make every event as innovative as it is meaningful.

For more information regarding the Horseshoe Casino, including employment opportunities, visit [www.horseshoehammond.com](http://www.horseshoehammond.com). The Horseshoe is at 777 Casino Center Dr.; call (866) 711-7463.

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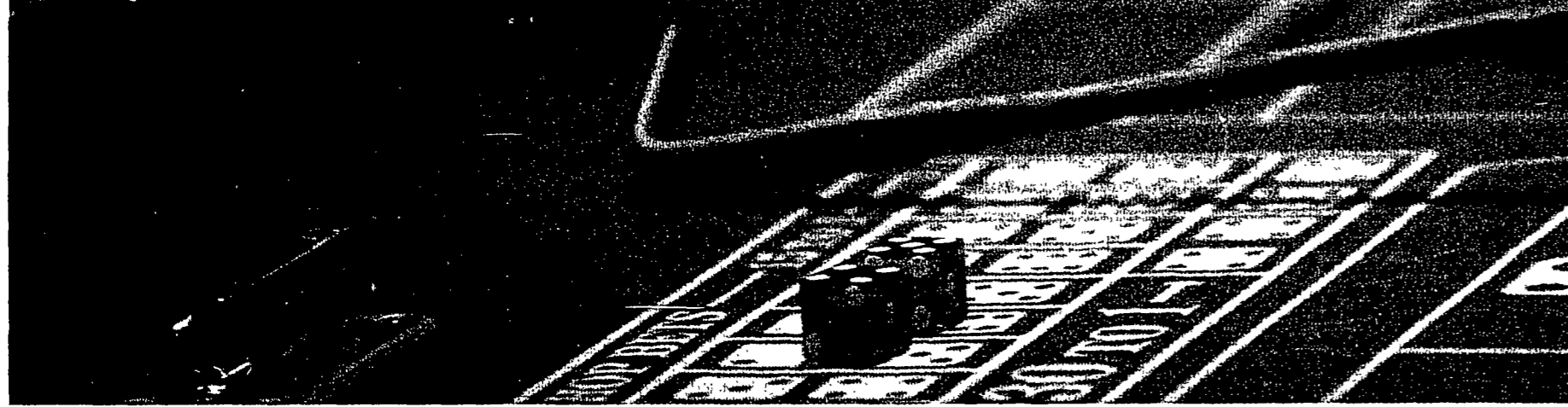
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# THAT'S HOW WE ROLL!

Craps—It's not as difficult as it looks **BY STEVE BOURIE**



**A**t first glance the game of craps looks a little intimidating because of all the various bets you can make but actually the game itself is very simple, so first let me explain the game without any reference to the betting.

Everyone at the craps table gets a turn to roll the dice, but you don't have to roll if you don't want to. The dice are passed around the table clockwise and if it's your turn to roll you simply take two dice

and roll them to the opposite end of the table. This is your first roll of the dice, which is also called the "come-out" roll. If you roll a 7 or 11, that's called a "natural" and you win, plus you get to roll again. If you roll a 2, 3 or 12, those are all called "craps" and you lose, but you still get to roll again. The only other possible numbers you can roll are 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 or 10 and if one of those numbers shows up, then that number becomes your "point" and the object of the game is to roll that number again before you roll a 7.

If a 7 shows up before your "point" number does then you lose and the dice move on to the next shooter. If your "point" number shows up before a 7 does, then you have made a "pass." You then win your bet and you get to roll again. That's all there is to the game of craps.

Two of the best bets you'll find on the craps table are in the areas marked "pass" and "don't pass." When you bet on the "pass" line you're betting that the shooter will win. To make a pass line bet you put your bet right in front of you on the pass line. Pass line bets are paid even-money and the house edge on a pass line bet is 1.41 percent. You can also bet on the "don't pass" line in which case you're betting that the shooter will lose. To make a don't pass bet, you put your bet in front of you in the don't pass area. Don't pass bets are also paid even-money and the house edge on them is 1.40 percent.

In reality, the odds are always 1.41 percent against the shooter and in favor of the "don't pass" bettor

by that same amount. Of course, if you're a "don't pass" bettor the casinos don't want to give you a bet where you have an edge so they have a rule in effect on "don't pass" bets where on the come out roll if the shooter throws a 12, you don't win. You don't lose either, the bet is just considered a "push," or tie, and nothing happens. In some casinos they may make 2 instead of 12 the number that's a push.

All right, let's say you put \$10 on the pass line and you roll the dice. If you roll 7 or 11 you win \$10 and if you roll 2, 3 or 12 you lose \$10. So, what happens if you roll any of the other numbers? Well, as I said before, that number becomes your point and you have to roll that number again before you roll a 7 in order to win your pass line bet.

Once your point is established the dealer at each end of the table will move a marker into the box that corresponds to your point number to let everyone at the table know what your point is. The marker that's used has two different sides. One side is black with the word "off" and the other side is white with the word "on." Before any point is established the marker is kept in the Don't Come box with the black side facing up until you roll a point number, and then the dealer turns it over to the white side and moves it inside the box that contains your point number.

For example let's say your come-out roll is a 4. The dealer simply turns the marker over to the white side that says "on" and places it in

the 4 box. This lets everyone know that 4 is your point and that you will continue to roll the dice, no matter how long it takes, until you roll a 4, which will make you a winner, or a 7, which will make you a loser.

Now, keep in mind that once your point is established you can't remove your pass line bet until you either win, by throwing your point, or lose, by rolling a 7. The reason for this is that on the come out roll the pass line bettor has the advantage because there are 8 ways to win (by rolling a 7 or 11) and only 4 ways to lose (by rolling a 2, 3 or 12). If a point number is rolled, no matter what number it is, there are then more ways to lose than to win and that's why the bet can't be removed. If you were allowed to remove your bet everyone would just wait for the come-out roll and if they didn't win they would take their bet back which would give them a big advantage over the house and, as you know, casinos don't like that, so that's why you can't remove your bet.

As previously noted, the pass line is one of the best bets you'll find, but there is a way to make it even better because once your point number is established the casino will allow you to make another bet that will be paid off at the true odds. This is a very good bet to make because the casino has no advantage on this bet.

In this instance, since your point was 4, the true odds are 2-to-1 and that's what your bet will be paid off at: \$2 for every \$1 you bet. This

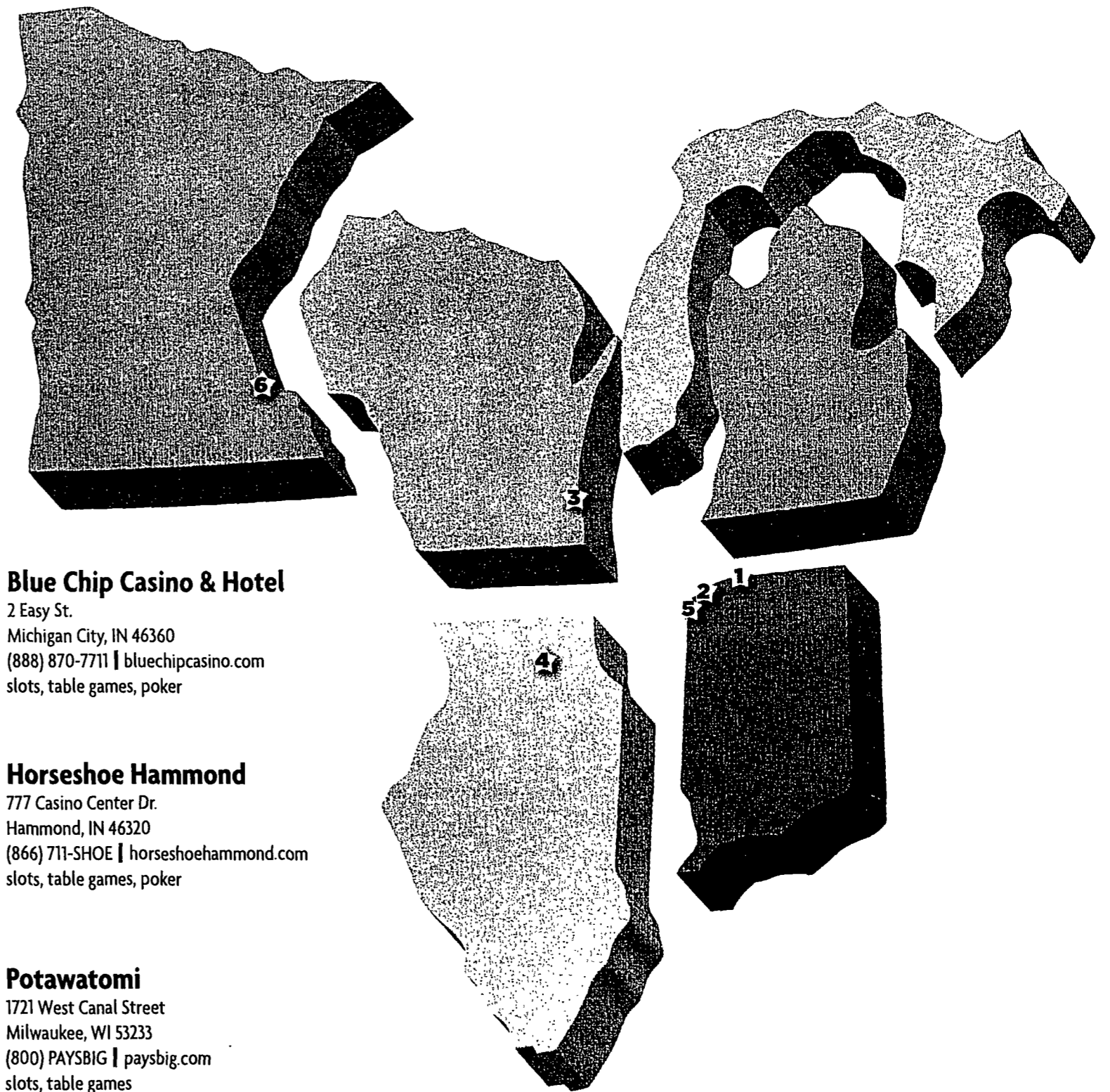
is called an "odds bet," "taking the free odds" or "betting behind the line." To make this bet, you simply put your chips directly behind your pass line bet. There is a limit to how much you're allowed to bet and for many years most casinos allowed a maximum of 2 times the amount of your pass line bet.

Because the casino has no advantage on these bets you are effectively lowering the house edge on your total pass line bet by taking advantage of these free odds bets. For example, the normal house edge on a pass line bet is 1.41 percent but if you also make a single odds bet along with your pass line bet you will lower the house edge on your total pass line bets to .85 percent. If you were to play in a casino that allowed 10 times odds the edge would be lowered to only .18% which means that, statistically speaking, over time, that casino would only make 18¢ out of every \$100 you bet on that table. As you can see, the more the casino allows you to bet behind the line, the more it lowers their edge, so it's always a good idea to take advantage of this bet.

Steve Bourie is the author of the *American Casino Guide*, the most comprehensive publication available for information on any U.S. casino/resort, riverboat or Indian casino. His guide has been published annually since 1992 and is now the biggest selling book in the U.S. on the subject of casino gambling. Find out more at [www.americancasino.com](http://www.americancasino.com)

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Information for the casinos featured in this guide



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### 3 Potawatomi

1721 West Canal Street  
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slots, table games

### 4 Grand Victoria

250 South Grove Ave.  
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### 5 Ameristar

77 Ameristar Blvd.  
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### 6 Treasure Island

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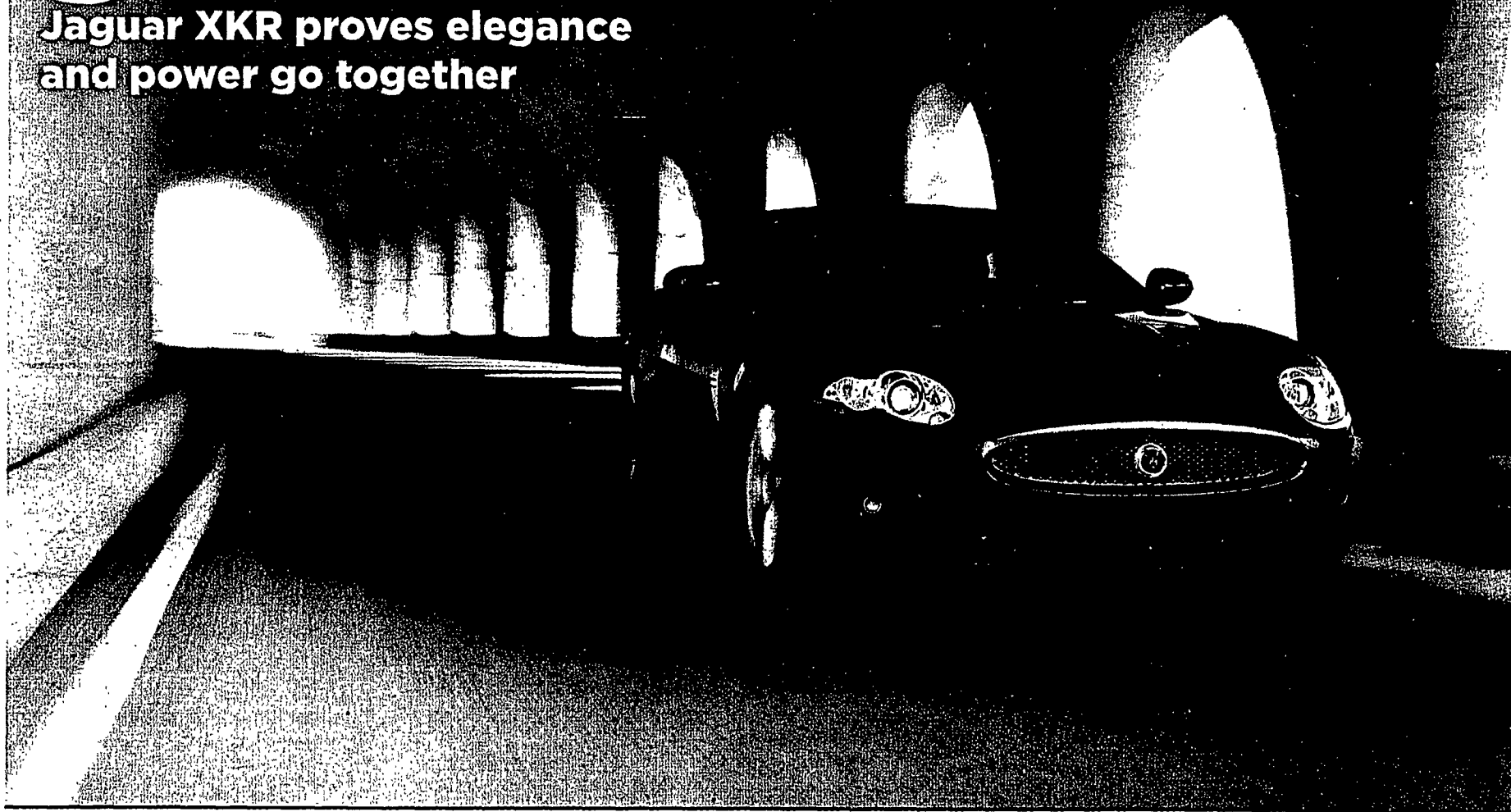
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inside ►

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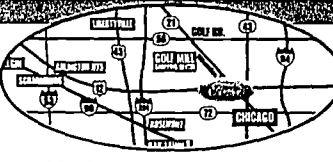
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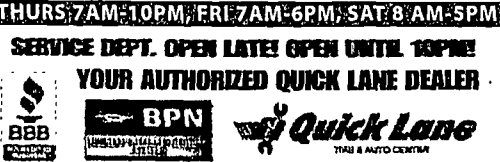
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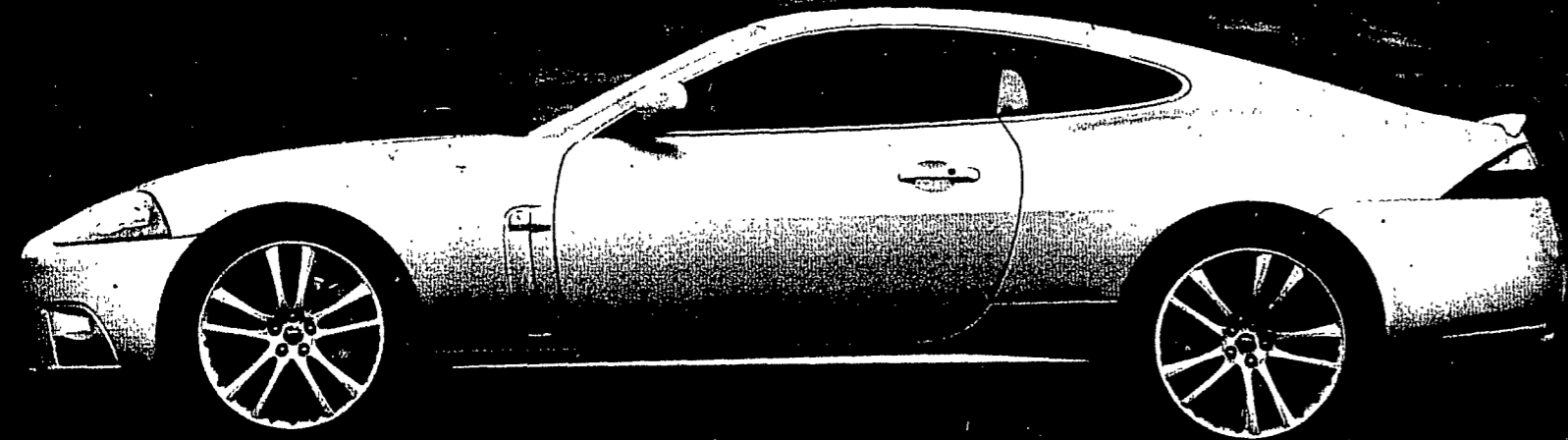
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## 2009 Jaguar XKR pounces with power and style



by JILL CIMINITELLO  
SearchChicagoAutos.com Editor  
jcciminitello@suntimes.com

I picked up the 2009 Jaguar XKR Coupe at the airport after coming back from a visit with my parents in Florida. I'd been up since 4 a.m. and still had a full workday ahead of me by the time my feet hit the floor at O'Hare at 10 a.m. Needless to say, I was dragging just a little bit.

But my first view of the medot-colored XKR in the parking garage perked up my senses and my heart rate.

After the drive to the office, I was fully awake and ready to tackle the day — quickly — so that I could head back to the car for another chance to drive.

Hands down, I think the rear-wheel drive XKR is one of the most elegantly stunning vehicles I've had the opportunity to test. And with the supercharged engine under the hood, it's got the grunt to back up the good looks.

The sporty coupe from Jaguar comes as both

an XK and XKR model, with the main difference being 120 horsepower. Both vehicles come with a 4.2-liter V-8, but the supercharged XKR delivers 420 horsepower and 413 pound-feet of torque. This translates to a 0-to-60-mpg time of 4.9 seconds, which is a full second faster than the XK version.

Of course, the tremendous power also translates to city/highway mileage figures of 15/23 mpg, which isn't great. And I was lucky during the test week if I hit 15 mpg. As one of my passengers remarked during the test week, this car just isn't one you can drive slowly. But I have to imagine that if you're spending almost \$100,000 for a car, fuel economy and a premium fuel requirement are the least of your concerns.

The ride and handling of the XKR are sublime. With its low center of gravity, the XKR is incredibly fun to fling around corners and sweep on ramps. And stomping on the accelerator when merging with highway traffic is pure joy as the rear wheels dig in and propel the vehicle forward. You definitely get a good connection with the road, but the XKR is pure luxury and you won't feel every divot, groove or bump in the road.

As an XKR, the base price of the test car was \$88,175. And that's one well-stocked vehicle with a 525-watt surround-sound audio system,

adaptive front lighting, bi-xenon headlights with power wash, Bluetooth wireless technology, navigation and heated 10-way power adjustable front seats.

The test vehicle managed to add \$10,000 in options, including adaptive cruise control (\$2,200), 20-inch Senta wheels (\$5,000), a luxury interior with walnut burl (\$2,300) and a Bowers & Wilkins premium sound system (\$750).

The exterior of the XKR has long sleek lines reminiscent of a shark that could easily devour an innocent bystander if given half the chance. The supercharged hood scoops add a little mean to the sexy, giving the XKR the overall air of a vehicle that means business.

The coupe always has been a personal favorite, but if you're a top-down kind of person, the XKR also comes as soft-top convertible. But add an extra \$10,000 for the advantage.

On the inside, all the textures were luxurious from the suede ceiling liner to the sumptuous leather. The wood accents complimented the caramel-colored leather, and I liked the look, but not the feel, of the plastic brushed aluminum accents on the center stack surrounding the navigation system.

Actually, the whole info screen setup on the center stack needs an overhaul. This was the one jarring, dare I say ugly, element in the vehicle. First and foremost, the color scheme is a nightmare of drab lifelessness, and the overall setup comes off looking cheap. Furthermore, I'm not a fan of having to manipulate your climate, audio, navigation and phone through a single touch screen that you have to lean to reach.

And, by the way, if I turned off the car with the map screen on top, it'd be nice to turn on the car and have the map screen still showing. Instead, it defaults to the split climate/audio screen. Plus, hello, rear back-up camera, please. The car graphic with red lines indicating your closeness to an obstacle are OK, but I really do expect more for \$90,000.

I do like the shape of the seats, and the lumbar

support is really nice. The 10-way power adjustable seats gave me a great driving position with excellent visibility for such a low-slung vehicle. The oddly shaped rear window is going to create a bit of a blind spot, but that's what side mirrors are for.

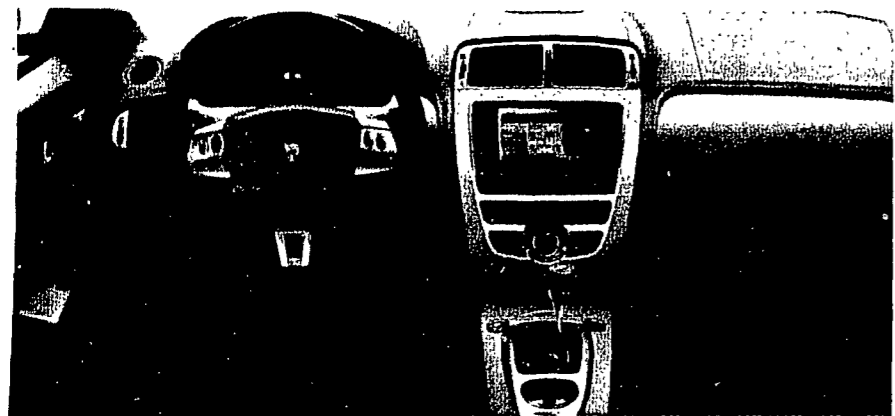
The rear seats are mostly for show, even when you have a driver like me who's going to push the seat to its far-forward position. Someone in the area of 5-feet tall would fit back there, but it's still going to be a tight fit, especially in terms of head room.

My favorite interior feature by far is the heated steering wheel. We had a chilly patch during the test week, and it was really nice to click that on and have my hands nice and toasty within minutes.

Really, outside of that dastardly info screen, there isn't much I didn't like about this car. From the ride and handling to the break-neck acceleration to the comfort level, this is one hot car that will continually top my list of favorite luxury vehicles.

### autoSPECS

**2009 CADILLAC**  
**ENGINE:** 4.2-liter V-8, 322-hp, supercharged V-8  
**TRANSMISSION:** six-speed automatic  
**DRIVETRAIN:** RWD  
**FUEL ECONOMY:** city 15 / highway 23  
**BASE PRICE:** \$88,175  
**AS TESTED:** \$98,425  
**WEB SITE:** www.jaguar.com



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P9188	2008	CADILLAC STS V8	\$37,995	P8959	2007	CADILLAC DTS	\$33,995	P9113	2008	CADILLAC SRX AWD V8	\$32,995	6429B	2004	CADILLAC BEVILLE	\$11,995
P9143	2008	CADILLAC STS AWD V8	\$47,995	P8923	2007	CADILLAC DTS II	\$25,995	P9214	2008	CADILLAC ESCALADE ESV	\$28,995	P9132A	2004	CADILLAC CTS-V	\$22,995
P9199	2008	CADILLAC STS AWD V8	\$40,995	P9208	2007	CADILLAC CTS 3.6 NAV	\$27,995	P9193	2008	CADILLAC DTS	\$29,995	P9082	2004	CADILLAC CTS 3.6	\$18,995
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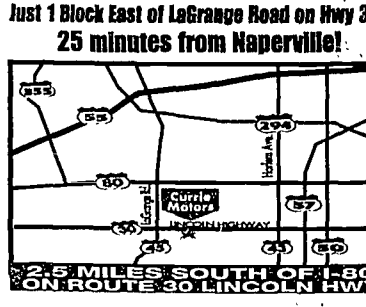
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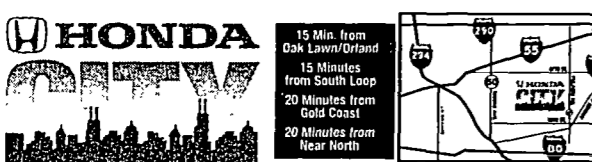
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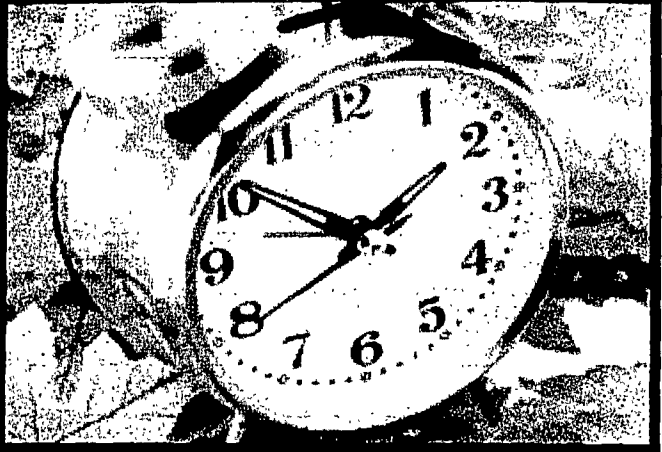
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Continued from PAGE B19

Thacker, Des Plaines, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12, 8-10:30 p.m.: Alice Lowy will host ballroom dancing to live music. \$25 per couple at the door. Nov. 16 and 23: Alice Lowy offers swing (jitterbug) classes. Beginners from 6:30-7:30 p.m., advanced from 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$75 per couple. Nov. 22, 8-10:30 p.m.: Alice Lowy will host ballroom dancing with taped music. Admission is \$15 per couple at the door. For information, call (847) 825-2901 or (847) 825-6637.

Block Cinema, in the Pick-Laudati Auditorium at the Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, (847) 491-4000. www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/block-cinema. Admission is \$6; \$4 for Block Museum members, senior citizens, and students with ID, or as noted below. All films shown at 8 p.m., unless noted otherwise. The Berlin School series - Nov. 13: "Milchwald" ("This Very Moment"); Nov. 20: "Schläfer" ("Sleeper"); Dec. 4: "Madonnen" ("Madonnas"); WWII: The Photography of John Swope and Hollywood's Depiction of World War II series - Nov. 14: "The Bridge on the River Kwai"; Nov. 19: "I Was a Male War Bride"; Nov. 21: "The Burnese Harp"; Dec. 3, 7 p.m.: "The Best Years of Our Lives"; Dec. 5: "A Time to Love and a Time to Die."

Square Spares & Pairs Square Dance Club, a club for couples and singles, dances the second and fourth Mondays of the month all year long at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Rounds start at 7:30 p.m., with squares from 8-10 p.m. For information, call (773) 775-9427 or (708) 442-8646. Square dance lessons are held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Glen Park Center, Room 201, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview. First lesson is free. Nov. 24: "Pumpkin Pie & Turkeys." New toys will be collected for Toys for Tots. Dec. 6: "Hooray for the Holiday."

Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. (847) 376-2787. www.dppl.org. Advance registration required for activities unless noted otherwise. Nov. 16, 2 p.m.: Screening and discussion of "Persepolis." Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. (847) 965-4220. Nov. 18, 11:30 a.m.: "Turtles Can Fly," rated PG-13. In Kurdish with English subtitles. Nov. 19, 7 p.m.: "Do the Right Thing," rated R. Nov. 20, 2 and 7 p.m.: "Iron Man," rated PG-13. Nov. 21, 2 p.m.: "Pretty in Pink," rated PG-13. Reel Conversation to follow the film. Nov. 22, 2 p.m.: "Bella," rated PG-13. Reel Conversation to follow the film. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgelibrary.org. Films at the Library - No registration needed. Doors open for seating one-half hour before show time. Nov. 25, 7 p.m.: "Pieces of April," rated PG-13. Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, (847) 677-7761. www.skokietheatre.com. Tickets: \$13 for feature films. \$11 students and seniors; \$10 for documentaries; \$8 students and seniors. Nov. 21-23: Polish Film Festival in America. Friday: "Katy" at 6:30 p.m.; "Chronicle of the Ghetto Uprising According to Marek Edelman" at 8:30 p.m.; Saturday: "Death to Zygelmajm" at 6 p.m.; "The Purim Miracle" at 7 p.m.; "Deborah" at 8:30 p.m.; Sunday: "The Sandler's List" at 3 p.m.; "Photoauteur" at 4 p.m.; "Far from a Window" at 5 p.m.; and "Austeria" at 7 p.m.

### FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Holly and Ivy Bazaar and Holiday Bake Sale, presented by the Ladies Philothochos Society, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Nov. 21 and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 22 at St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N. Caldwell Ave., Wiles. Lunch will be served on both days from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and dinner will be served on Friday only, from 5:30-9 p.m. (847) 647-8880.

### FILM

### ORGANIZATIONS

The American Jewish Artists Club is currently accepting new members. The group, founded in the early 1920s, focuses on the broad aspects of artistic performance and serves to enrich the

cultural fiber of both the Jewish community and the wider general community. For information, call Liva Ayal, (773) 743-0469. Des Plaines Art Guild meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 Thacker St., Des Plaines. New members are welcome. For information, call Margaret Newman, (847) 824-8952, or visit www.dpago.org. Des Plaines Camera Club meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, September through June, in the Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines. Call (847) 384-9487 or visit www.dpsplinescameraclub.com. Park Ridge Art League meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Friday of the month in the South Park Fieldhouse, 833 Talcott Road, Park Ridge. Guest fee is \$3. Call Dorothy DuSoid, (847) 825-3505. Skokie Art Guild meets at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Visitors welcome. For information, e-mail Ina-Marlowe@gmail.com, March 24, 2009, 7 p.m.; Jessica Fine, pastel from a photo, April 28, 2009, 7 p.m.; Jamie Thome, book and papermaking, May 26, 2009, 7 p.m.; Leslie Riley, quilting, June 23, 2009, 7 p.m.; Members' critique and student awards. Skokie Photographic Society meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 W. Oakton St. All levels of photographers welcome. Call (847) 677-8324. Weavers Guild of the North Shore meets at 10 a.m. the first Thursday of the month at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. New members are welcome. Call Lou Spedale, (773) 274-6505, or e-mail manouli@people.com.

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# Destinations Inns & Resorts

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**MICHIGAN** **Stafford's Bay View Inn** For over 40 years the Stafford Smith family has owned, operated, and lovingly restored, this grand Victorian Country Inn on the shores of Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay. Built in 1886 in the Historic Landmark District of Bay View, this Inn sets the standard in country inn dining and gracious service. www.stafford.com/bay-view-inn or 800-258-1886

**Applesauce Inn Bed & Breakfast** Applesauce Inn Bed & Breakfast is a beautifully restored 1893 four-square farmhouse; five minutes from world-famous Torch Lake, Alden, Shanty Creek Resort and the Grass River Natural Area. Charlevoix, Petoskey, Bay Harbor, Traverse City, Sleeping Bear Dunes & Mackinac Island are all great day trips from the Inn. www.applesauceinn.com or 888-533-6448

**DeLano Inn Victorian Bed and Breakfast** A tribute to Victorian elegance, the DeLano Inn is decorated in high Victorian furnishings, five suites with period antiques throughout. Gourmet breakfast every morning. Romance packages and specials are listed on our website. www.delanoinn.com or 866-686-0240

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Barcelo La Jolla de Mismaloya 5++	Puerto Vallarta	ALL-INCLUSIVE!	TUE, Jan 6-20	4 nts	\$749
Hotel Castillo Huatulco 2		SAT, Jan 3-10	7 nts	\$899	
Point Village 3	Negril, Jamaica	ALL-INCLUSIVE!	MON, Jan 5-26	7 nts	\$899
Natura Park Beach Eco-Resort & Spa 3++		ALL-INCLUSIVE!	WED, Jan 7-28	7 nts	\$899
Dreams Puerto Aventuras Resort & Spa 6	Riviera Maya	Unlimited Luxury*	MON, Jan 5-26	4 nts	\$949
Occidental Grand Punta Cana 4		ALL-INCLUSIVE!	WED, Jan 7-21	7 nts	\$949
Melia Azul Ixtapa 6		ALL-INCLUSIVE!	WED, Jan 7-21	7 nts	\$1099
Riu Negril 5	Jamaica	ALL-INCLUSIVE!	MON, Jan 5-19	7 nts	\$1199
Royal Solaris Los Cabos 5		ALL-INCLUSIVE!	FRI, Feb 13-Mar 13	7 nts	\$1249
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Continued from **PAGE B20**

**DINING**

Don's Fishmarket Grill, 9335 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 677-3424. Through Nov. 16: Annual Lobsterfest, featuring specials on lobster dishes including New England lobster pot, grilled lobster over linguine, live Maine lobster and Australian lobster tail.

**TOURS & OUTINGS**

Mount Prospect Historical Society will present its 21st annual Holiday House-walk from 3:30-9 p.m. Dec. 5, featuring houses on Bobby Lane, Lincoln Street and Clevlen Avenue. The interiors of five private homes and the exterior of one other will be on the tour. Tour-goers will pick up programs in a heated tent located at the intersection of Clevlen Avenue and Bobby Lane. Tickets are \$20 in advance, available at Midwest Bank, 50 N. Main St.; MB Financial Bank, 15 E. Prospect Ave.; Busse Flowers and Gifts, 100 E. Northwest Highway; A Perfect Petal, 108 S. Main St.; River Trails Weiss Center, 1500 E. Euclid Ave.; Lions Park, 411 S. Maple St.; Rec-Plex, 420 W. Dempster St.; Brie's Gift Gallery, 710 E. Northwest Hwy.; and the Dietrich Friedrichs House museum, 101 S. Maple St. Tickets may also be purchased on the day of the walk for \$22. For information, call (847) 392-9006 or visit [www.mphist.org](http://www.mphist.org).

Norwood Park Historical Society, 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago, (773) 631-4633. [www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org). The Norwood Park Historical

Society, a nonprofit organization, resides in the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, Chicago's oldest home. Hours are noon-4 p.m. Saturdays, or by appointment. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

**WORKSHOPS & CLASSES**

**ART**

Amdur Productions will host a boot camp to help artists prepare for the 2009 summer art festival season from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Bella Via Restaurant, 1899 Second St., Highland Park. Topics will include the ins and outs of juries, tips on how to make your work and booth stand out, and how to price to maximize sales. Cost is \$260 per person (additional spouse/partner \$200); \$150 for full-time students. Fee includes breakfast and lunch. Applications are available at [www.amdurproductions.com](http://www.amdurproductions.com). For information call (847) 926-4300.

Clayground, 617 N. Main St., Mount Prospect, a division of River Trails Park District, features classes for all ages in pottery, freehand clay, youth pottery, portrait sculpture, general ceramic, infant or toddler hand print plaque, mosaics at all levels, life sculpture, watercolor, still life, glass etching, glass painting and sagging, drawing, pastels, charcoal drawing, photography, Teen Expression. Call (847) 342-6653.

Kolor Me Kid Studio/Art Gallery, 8 B W. Devon Ave., Park Ridge, (847) 692-3744. Kolor Me Kid has been teaching and inspiring students for several years in local schools. Classes include cartooning, sculpting, papier maché and marionette-making. The gallery also offers a variety of adult classes and work-

shops. Lincoln Terrace Art Studio, 5027 Warren St., Skokie, offers art lessons for kids and young adults. For rates and schedule, call Sonya Osseny, (847) 673-0345.

Skokie Art Guild Figure Drawing workshops are held from 7-9:45 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Fees are \$10 for Skokie Art Guild members and \$15 for nonmembers, per session. Live models, no instructor. Call Richard Wilberg, (847) 677-3461.

**MUSIC**

Bel Canto Conservatory of Music, 209 S. Main St., Mount Prospect, offers acting, piano and voice lessons for all ages and levels; private half-hour and hour lessons with qualified trained professional instructors in all styles of music: Musical theatre, pop and classical classes are Monday-Friday, scheduled on personal preference. Call (847) 707-5392.

Rusty Jones of Park Ridge, jazz drummer, provides drum lessons in his home at \$40 per hour. Call (847) 698-9328.

Center for Musical Development, 8201 N. Karlov, Skokie. Kindermusik classes offered are: Our Time (ages 1 1/2 to 3 years); Imagine That (ages 3-5); and Young Child (ages 5-7). Also, Skokie Children's Choir for ages 7 and up is offered (no audition required). Contact Pat Heineman-Vernon, director, at (847) 679-5121 or [phvcfd@aol.com](mailto:phvcfd@aol.com), or visit [www.centerformusicaldevelopment.com](http://www.centerformusicaldevelopment.com).

Gregory Ceurvorst offers music lessons in piano, organ, drums, music theory, church music, and improvisation: all styles of music, beginning to ad-

vanced instruction, available in a downtown Mount Prospect location. Ceurvorst holds a master's degree in music from Northwestern University and is a professional church musician and teacher. Call (847) 749-4068.

Five Hands Piano Studios, 5200 W. Mulford St., Skokie, offers classical, blues, pop and jazz piano with firm foundation in theory and technique. Violin and guitar instruction also provided. Instruction for all ages. Private and group lessons, song-writing workshops, computer lab and numerous performance opportunities are a few of the features offered. Now featuring recording and podcasting capabilities. Go to [www.fivehands.org](http://www.fivehands.org) or call (847) 673-2847 for a free information package.

Jack Hubble, jazz pianist, has openings for beginning and advanced students. Accent is on jazz theory and harmony. Hourly lessons are \$40 in his Skokie home. Call (847) 966-8462.

Theresa T. Mrowka provides private piano lessons in the Harwood Heights-Norridge area. Thirty-minute instruction available for beginner and intermediate levels. Call (773) 775-7077.

Northwest Music School, 920 E. Northwest Highway, Mount Prospect, (847) 394-9442. Offering lessons in guitar, bass, drums/percussion, piano, voice, woodwinds and strings.

Park Ridge Recorder Society offers ongoing individual and group instructional and performance classes for all ages. Children ages 5-17 rehearse Monday afternoons and evenings; adults meet from 7-8 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. Private instruction is scheduled on a personal basis. Call Jeanne Beszelzyn, director, (847) 698-

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**go.**  
Continued from PAGE B22

4590. Park Ridge Strings offers violin, viola and cello one-on-one and group classes at an Uptown Park Ridge studio and St. Andrew's School, 260 N. Northwest Highway. Students ages 5 through high school learn note-reading, sight-reading, music theory and history, and present solo and ensemble performances, summer open-air concerts, and perform at local fund-raisers. Call (847) 877-0846 or e-mail play@ParkRidgeStrings.com.

George Peyovich, Suzuki specialist, offers lessons in violin, piano and voice on an individual basis in his Skokie and Glenview studios. Call (847) 674-8235.

Rhona Reagen has a few openings in her Skokie studio for violin and viola students. Reagen has been a Suzuki method instructor for more than 25 years and is a faculty member of Midwest Young Artists chamber music faculty. Parents are involved in the learning process but do not need to have prior musical knowledge. For more information, call (847) 677-4753 or e-mail violalady1@gmail.com.

Herman Reyes offers lessons in saxophone, flute or clarinet in Elmwood Park. All ages. Call (708) 583-9122.

John Temmerman, recording artist, offers individual lessons in saxophone and clarinet performance to students of all ages and skill levels in his Skokie studio. Lessons are also available in jazz improv for all instruments. Call (847) 322-6768.

Wunder Studios Performing Arts Conservatory, located in the Pickwick Theater Building, 3 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 685-2030. [www.wunderstudios.com](http://www.wunderstudios.com). Offering acting, musical theatre, guitar and drum classes. Instructors are also available for private music lessons for piano, voice, guitar, brass, winds and strings.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Alliance for Lifelong Learning at Oakton Community College offers a variety of single-session continuing education courses that meet evenings at various locations. To register, visit [www.oakton.edu/all](http://www.oakton.edu/all) or call (847) 982-9888 and press 3. Nov. 18, 7:30-9 p.m.: "Impressions: The Hand and Glove of Debussy and Monet" (MUS 542-01) explores the influence of Impressionistic art on Claude Debussy. Course meets at Glenbrook South High School, 4000 W. Lake Ave., Glenview. Fee is \$20.

**ET CETERA**

The Art of Beadwork, the Bead Society of Greater Chicago's sale of members' work, noon-5 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Skokie Banquet and Conference Center at the Holiday Inn North Shore, 5300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie. \$4 admission. [www.bsgc.org](http://www.bsgc.org).

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. [www.centreeast.org](http://www.centreeast.org). Jan. 31, 2009, 2 and 5 p.m., and Feb. 1, 2009, 2 p.m.: Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats. \$32.

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 825-3123. [www.parkridgelibrary.org](http://www.parkridgelibrary.org). Nov. 18, 2 p.m.: "Thankful Tales." Professional storyteller Elyne Handler will entertain with tales from Japan, Alaska, Cuba and Europe that uniquely illustrate thankfulness.

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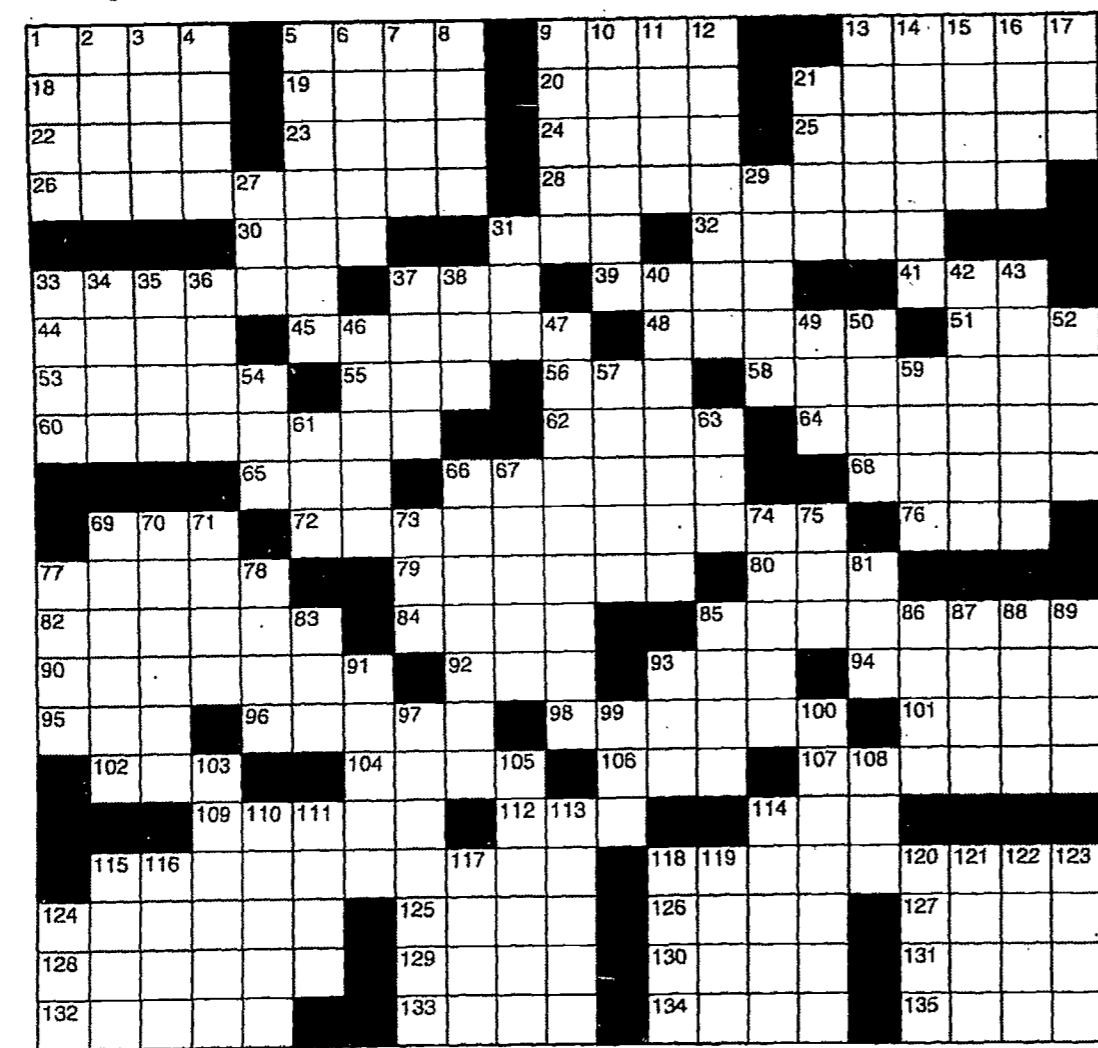
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Slightly open
  - 5 Celt
  - 9 Lose one's fur
  - 13 Orchestra section
  - 18 Ahmedabad attire
  - 19 Voice type
  - 20 Munich mister
  - 21 Proof-of-purchase, often
  - 22 Skip
  - 23 Skeleton part
  - 24 Proficient
  - 25 Second Triumvirate member
  - 26 Soda jerk?
  - 28 Laundry CEO?
  - 30 Revolutionary Guevara
  - 31 Opie's aunt
  - 32 Drawing room
  - 33 "NYPD Blue" creator
  - 37 — sauce
  - 39 Dandelion or darnel
  - 41 Neutral color
  - 44 Soap additive
  - 45 Charlotte, for one
  - 48 Sacred song
  - 51 Swell place?
  - 53 Psychedelic Timothy
  - 55 Wharton's "The — of Innocence"
  - 56 Gram lead-in
  - 58 Golf instructor?
  - 60 Deli worker?
  - 62 Shoot down
  - 64 Tristan's tootsie
  - 65 Qty.
  - 66 Gimpel and Jong
  - 68 Writer Rogers St. Johns
  - 69 Existed
  - 72 Gas station attendant?
  - 76 Hook's mate
  - 77 Criticizes
  - 79 Mischievous
  - 80 Mauna —
  - 82 Dental appointment, e.g.
  - 84 Manuscript imperative
  - 85 Yacht peddler?
  - 90 Roller coaster operator?
  - 92 — Dawn Chong
  - 93 Baby beaver
  - 94 Record player
  - 95 Actor Chaney
  - 96 Attract the IRS?
  - 98 Minnie of "Circle of Friends"
  - 101 Sturdy trees
  - 102 Inc., in England
  - 104 Spare fare
  - 106 Mrs. McKinley
  - 107 Unrefined
  - 109 "Midnight at the —" ('74 hit)
  - 112 Joplin composition
  - 114 Good buddy
  - 115 Herpetologist?
  - 118 Phrenologist?
  - 124 Fiesta target
  - 125 Bring to ruin
  - 126 Austin or Garr
  - 127 Fancy fabric
  - 128 Starting point
  - 129 Sentence pt.
  - 130 Ormery
  - 131 Spoken
  - 132 Prevent
  - 133 It may be spare
  - 134 Writer Harte
  - 135 Guarded
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Beginning on
  - 2 Actress Gertz
  - 3 Neighbor of Cal.
  - 4 "Puttin' on the —" ('83 hit)
  - 5 South American cowboys
  - 6 TV's "Kate & —"
  - 7 Italian rumbler
  - 8 Bank offering
  - 9 Contour
  - 10 Semitic tongue
  - 11 Perry's creator
  - 12 Dons one's duds
  - 13 Sonata movement
  - 14 Range
  - 15 College collar
  - 16 "Stop!"
  - 17 Sneak a peek
  - 21 It's often jumped
  - 27 Travel agcy.?
  - 29 Egyptian statesman
  - 31 "Later!"
  - 33 Cinderella's soiree
  - 34 Spread in a tub
  - 35 Nag subtly
  - 36 Towel word
  - 37 Regret audibly
  - 38 Wordsworth work
  - 40 Certain inscription
  - 42 One of the Judds
  - 43 It's in the groove
  - 46 Page or LaBelle
  - 47 Waugh's "Brideshead —"
  - 49 Fragrant neckwear
  - 50 Butte
  - 52 Surface measurement
  - 54 Singer Sumac
  - 57 Texas river
  - 59 Cryptanalyst's concern
  - 61 UN agency
  - 63 City in Kyrgyzstan
  - 66 New Haven hardwood
  - 67 — -dope (Ali tactic)
  - 69 Pop Art pioneer
  - 70 Impassioned
  - 71 "Graf —"
  - 73 Fleur-de—
  - 74 Raise spirits?
  - 75 Parisian potentate
  - 77 Monastery garb
  - 78 Computer command
  - 81 Matterhorn, e.g.
  - 83 Potok's "My Name Is Asher —"
  - 85 Hindu deity
  - 86 Restaurateur Toots
  - 87 Ditch under a drawbridge
  - 88 Egyptian symbol
  - 89 Investigative
  - 91 Chatter box?
  - 93 Baby butter
  - 97 Cause confusion
  - 99 Fix a fight
  - 100 Courbet, e.g.
  - 103 Pharmacist's concern
  - 105 Wall Street figure
  - 108 Half and half?
  - 110 Moving
  - 111 Mikita of hockey
  - 113 Battery part
  - 114 Kind of soup
  - 115 TV's "Spenser: For —"
  - 116 "What's — for me?"
  - 117 Cross inscription
  - 118 Use a dagger
  - 119 Gourmet Graham
  - 120 Deere thing
  - 121 Skater Lipinski
  - 122 Epps or Sharil
  - 123 Bank (on)
  - 124 Seal school



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## Pet Tips for a Happy Thanksgiving!

By Joanne Carlson, D.V.M.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and whether that conjures warm memories of family gathered around a wonderful feast or a nightmare of in-laws that have inundated your house, it is important to remember that pets will be around for the holidays as well. Personally, Thanksgiving is my favorite meal and it isn't hard to imagine how much our dogs would enjoy some of the leftovers of our feast. However, we have to remember that no matter how human-like our pets act, their bodies function differently than that of a human. Their gastrointestinal tracts are not equipped to handle the amount of fat that comes with drippings, stuffing, and buttered mashed potatoes.

Most dogs usually eat the same meal every day. Their diets are much less varied than that of humans, and adding new foods can result in diarrhea or vomiting, a scenario best avoided.

Also, many dogs become lactose intolerant as they get older. The rich, creamy fare of Thanksgiving provides a sure way to an upset stomach.

If you must give holiday treats, try to stick to the more bland provisions, such as simple starches like boiled potatoes or non-spiced meats. It is best to avoid anything with a lot of spices in it.

For behavioral reasons, if you want to feed your dog people food, this should not be done directly from the table. Your pooch, or even your cat, will think that the dinner table means an opportunity for delicious snacks and begging is a tough habit to break.

If your dog gets an upset stomach, give its stomach rest for a day. A good substitute for your pet's food is bland rice or cooked hamburger. If your pet's upset stomach persists, consult your veterinarian.

Some common ingredients in our traditional Thanksgiving Day feast are toxic to our pets. Garlic and onions are members of the allium family and can

cause blood disorders, including hemolytic anemia in which the red blood cells essentially burst. Red blood cells serve a number of purposes, but perhaps most importantly, transfer oxygen throughout the body to the necessary tissues.

Raisins and grapes are also little known pet toxins; these seemingly harmless treats have been linked to kidney failure.

Also, Theobromine, the active ingredient in chocolate, can cause heart complications. Chocolate, when given to dogs, can cause serious heart abnormalities. The more rich the chocolate, the more dangerous it is to your pet. Dark chocolate is worse than milk chocolate, and bakers chocolate can be very serious and a potentially lethal problem for dogs.

There are a number of other random ingredients that can cause problems for your pet, such as macadamia nuts and avocados. For this reason, it is best to err on the side of caution by not feeding your pet human

food. It is also important to keep the phone number for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Hotline nearby 1-888/426-4435.

Many of us buy dog bones for our dogs at the pet store, so it is not too far of a leap to assume that the bones from a turkey carcass or a roast are also safe to give to your dog. However, the danger with bones from your turkey carcass or roast is that they could fracture into pieces and cause an obstruction or tear your pet's gastrointestinal tract.

The bottom line for giving thanks to your dog this year is to keep it simple. Though it might seem like a treat to bestow your Thanksgiving table goodies to your favorite pet, keep the leftovers in the fridge and the dog food bowl relatively boring for a healthy holiday overall.

For more information about the dangers of feeding your pet foods other than those intended for pets, talk to your veterinarian.

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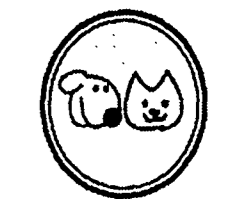
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Healthcare

440- Help Wanted
Healthcare

440- Help Wanted
Healthcare

445- Help Wanted
Part Time

505- Apartments, Condominiums- Suburban

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EARLY DEADLINES for LEGAL NOTICES

THANKSGIVING DAY NOVEMBER 27, 2008

The deadline for publishing legal notices during the week of November 27th is 1 DAY EARLIER than normal.

LEGAL DEADLINES FOR TAX LEVY, TREASURER'S REPORT, and ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS

The deadline for these notices is WEDNESDAY at 12:00 NOON ONE WEEK BEFORE PUBLICATION DATE.

Real Estate for Sale

600s
605- Apartment Bldgs, Flats (all sizes)
610- Duplexes, Townhouses
615- Houses
620- Houses
625- Houses
630- Houses
635- Houses
640- Houses
645- Houses
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760- Houses
765- Houses
770- Houses
775- Houses
780- Houses
785- Houses
790- Houses
795- Houses
800- Houses

DISPLAY ADVERTISING OUTSIDE SALES

Pioneer Press and The Doings are seeking candidates for full time outside advertising sales positions based in Hinsdale and Waukegan.

We are seeking motivated and professional individuals to call local businesses to offer creative advertising ideas, both in print and online.

Our ideal candidates will possess a college degree in advertising or marketing but we will also consider recent college graduates with experience selling advertising for their college newspaper.

You should be outgoing, self-motivated, creative, detail and deadline oriented. Most importantly, you must be a good listener so as to identify customer needs. Competency with MS Word and Excel is assumed.

If you meet this description and have a reliable auto, a valid driver's license and proof of auto insurance, we want to meet you.

We offer a base salary, commissions and an excellent benefits package including medical/dental/vision insurance, paid vacations and a 401-K.

PIONEER PRESS THE DOINGS AND PIONEER PRESS NEWSPAPERS







1010- Auctions Notice of Sale or Disposition of Property Pursuant to Illinois State Law, a sale or disposition of property stored in the renter's space to satisfy the owners lien will be held on November 20, 2008 at or after 10:00 AM and continue until completion.

1010- Auctions Unit 1117 - Mike Shan Fax machine, trophy, football pads, misc. boxes & bags Unit 739 - Olga Manuzuma Totes, DVD player, VCR, stereos, pictures

1010- Auctions Office furniture, Picture, Boxes Unit 837 - Syrrita Robinson Chair, Bed, Air Conditioner, Microwave, Loveseat, Beds, Stereo

1013- Bid Notices BID NOTICE The Board of Education, Main Township High School District 207, 121 South Orange Road, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068, will receive sealed bids for:

1013- Bid Notices BIO NOTICE The Board of Education, Ridgewood High School District 234 is accepting bids for Restocking Abatement. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 2008, at 5:30 p.m.

1046- Liens PUBLIC LIEN SALE That on 12/29/2008, a sale will be held at 3:00 p.m. at Grand Auto & Truck Center, 2427 W. Grand Avenue, Chicago, IL 60612. All bids to be in writing, to all the following articles to enforce a lien existing under the laws of the State of Illinois against such articles for labor, services, skills or material expended upon or storage furnished for such articles at the request of the following designated person(s), unless such articles are redeemed within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice.

1062- Probate ESTATE OF BETTY L. FUMBANKS CHAMBERLAIN, Deceased. No. 2805 P 4556 AFFIDAVIT OF NON-RESIDENCE CARY A. LIND, on oath states for purposes of appointing the First and Final Accountant of the Supervised Administration of this Estate and of the Administrator of this Estate and of the closing of the Estate, as to UNKNOWN HEIRS OF NATHANIEL CHAMBERLAIN, an unknown heir, cannot be found so that notice cannot be served upon them.

1062- Probate STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, PROBATE DIVISION In the matter of the estate of Betty Strassman, Deceased. Case No. 08 P 6103 PUBLICATION NOTICE Notice is hereby given of the death of Betty Strassman of Niles, IL. Letters of Office were issued on September 25, 2008 to Robert Strassman, 1833 Birchwood 302, Chicago, IL 60626, whose attorney is Cary A. Lind, 123 S. Wike Rd., Suite 407, Arlington Hs. IL 60005, 847-577-9000.

1062- Probate CARY A. LIND, P.C. Attorney for Representative of the Estate of Betty Strassman, 123 S. Wike Road, Suite 407, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 (847) 577-9000. Published in Pioneer Press 10/30, 11/6, 11/13/2008 (1640751C)

1066- Public Notices MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207 PUBLICATION NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of Maine Township High School District 207 is accepting bids for restocking abatement work for the school year 2008-2009.

1066- Public Notices MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207 PUBLICATION NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of Maine Township High School District 207 is accepting bids for restocking abatement work for the school year 2008-2009.

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Worth 1,000 Words Sold by Pioneer Classified Alaskan Bear Hide Cheesecakes, Baklava Video Telegrams Beehive Urns Louis XVI Armchairs Muskrat Stroller Coat w/racoon collar 4 ft Ceramic Tiger Seeburg 1950s Jukebox Barn Lumber White Barber Pedestal Sink Player Pianos Buckskin Quarterhorse Elvis Presley Decanters 1961 Studebaker Oriental telephone chest 1500 lbs Candle Wax 114 pes King Richard Sterling Flatware Log Splitters 2-one-way tickets to Las Vegas French Candelabra Bombay Chest Steamer Trunk 60s Life Magazine 1926 Dodge 1935 Louis XV Steinyard Grand Piano English Jumping Saddle Peruvian Guinea Pigs Lucky Bingo Necklace Russian Brass Samovar Butterfly Collection Long White Musk Scarf French Legion of Honor Medal BFKitching Orchestra Burner Massage Table

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, the undersigned, PS Orange Co., will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on November 25, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. on the premises where said property has been stored, and which is located at Public Storage, PS Orange Co, 5638 N. Pulaski, Chicago, Illinois 60646, the personal property described below, in the matters of:

Buying or Selling, Pioneer Classified is the place for you! (847) 998-3400

1046- Liens PUBLIC LIEN SALE That on 12/22/2008, a sale will be held at 3:00 p.m. at Castro Automotive Inc., 1624 Oakton Street, Oak Plain, IL 60451. All bids to be in writing, to all the following articles to enforce a lien existing under the laws of the State of Illinois against such articles for labor, services, skills or material expended upon or storage furnished for such articles at the request of the following designated person(s), unless such articles are redeemed within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice.

1066- Public Notices MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207 PUBLICATION NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of Maine Township High School District 207 is accepting bids for restocking abatement work for the school year 2008-2009.

ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK ADOPTION A Baby is Wanted: ADOPTION Young, happily married couple (mom-to-be is a teacher) is eager to give your child a loving home and the opportunity to pursue a great education, personal interests and talents. We'd love to get to know you! Call ERIN & ROB 1-866-844-2023

ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE. Do you earn up to \$800/day? Your own local candy route. 30 Machines and Candy. All for \$99.95. 1-800-453-5832 AIN#B0213.

ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK LEGAL SERVICES Attn: Flatbed Vacations: Great home time, Benefits, Vacation, Holiday Pay and More

ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY CLAIM DENIED? Free Consultation. No Fee until we get B.T.S. Group, Inc. Specializes in Appeals and Hearings. Read the Testimonials at www.btsgroupinc.com 1-800-810-4277

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, the undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on November 25, 2008 at 10:10 A.M. on the premises where said property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage/PS Orange Co, 859 McCormick, Skokie, IL 60076, the personal property described below, in the matters of:

Buying or Selling, Pioneer Classified is the place for you! (847) 998-3400

1046- Liens PUBLIC LIEN SALE That on 12/4/2008, a sale will be held at 9:30 a.m. at VIP Auto Body, Inc, 1827 North Leclair, Chicago, IL 60639.

ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK ADPTION ADOPTION Young, happily married couple (mom-to-be is a teacher) is eager to give your child a loving home and the opportunity to pursue a great education, personal interests and talents. We'd love to get to know you! Call ERIN & ROB 1-866-844-2023

ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE. Do you earn up to \$800/day? Your own local candy route. 30 Machines and Candy. All for \$99.95. 1-800-453-5832 AIN#B0213.

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ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK MISCELLANEOUS CAN'T WORK? DISABLED? Social Security Disability Claim Denied? Free Consultation. No Fee until YOU get paid. B.T.S. Group, Inc. Specializes in Appeals and Hearings. Read the Testimonials at www.btsgroupinc.com 1-800-810-4277

Purchases Must Be Made With Cash Only And Paid For At The Time Of Sale. All Goods Are Sold As Is And Must Be Removed At The Time Of Purchase. Sale is Subject To Adjustment. Published in Pioneer Press 11/6, 11/13/2008 (1643683C)

Buying or Selling, Pioneer Classified is the place for you! (847) 998-3400

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**53- Name Change**  
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
 In the Matter of the Petition of: For Change of Name.  
 Gen. No. 08MR441  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
 Public Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on July 30, 2008, at 1:30 PM in Courtroom C-306, 1207 Springfield Road, Park Hill, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the proposed name change of: [Name]. The Court, upon hearing, may grant the name change if the petitioner has shown good cause therefor. The Court, upon hearing, may also require the petitioner to file a report as to why the name change is necessary. This hearing is open to the public. All interested parties are notified to appear at the hearing. A public hearing will be held on August 13, 2008, at 10:00 AM in Courtroom C-306, 1207 Springfield Road, Park Hill, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the proposed name change of: [Name]. The Court, upon hearing, may grant the name change if the petitioner has shown good cause therefor. The Court, upon hearing, may also require the petitioner to file a report as to why the name change is necessary. This hearing is open to the public. All interested parties are notified to appear at the hearing.

**1060- Plan Commission & Zoning Hearings**  
 NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE PLAN COMMISSION AND ZONING BOARD  
 CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS  
 Notice is hereby given that the Plan Commission will hold a public hearing for the proposed amendment of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance on the proposed zoning change of the subject property from Residential Single-Family to Residential Single-Family-2 (RS-2) on the following property: [Address]. The hearing will be held on [Date] at [Time] in the City Hall, 325 North 10th Street, Highland Park, Illinois. The hearing is open to the public. All interested parties are notified to appear at the hearing.

**1062- Probate**  
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
 In the Matter of the Estate of: [Name].  
 No. 08 P 604  
 CLAIM NOTICE  
 Notice is given of the death of [Name]. The estate of [Name] is being administered by the undersigned. All persons having any claim against the estate of [Name] are notified to file and prove their claim within the time specified in this notice. Failure to do so may result in the claim being barred. This notice is published in the Pioneer Press on [Date].

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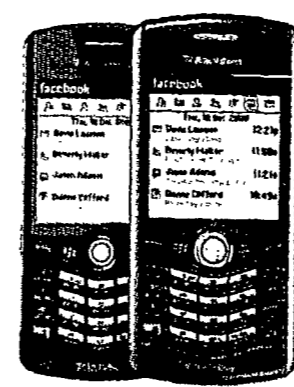
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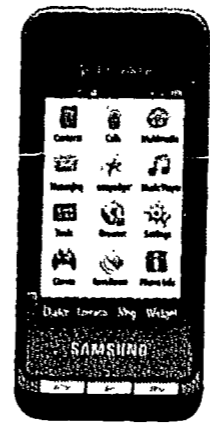
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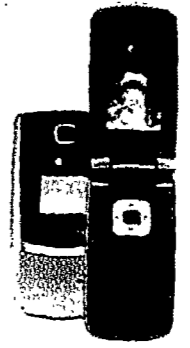
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# Neighbors

www.pioneerlocal.com

## 'Tour' Saturn with NASA Ambassador Vittallo

By JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Audiences around the Chicago area are getting a front row seat on a mission to Saturn aboard the Cassini orbiter, thanks in part to Park Ridge native John Vittallo.

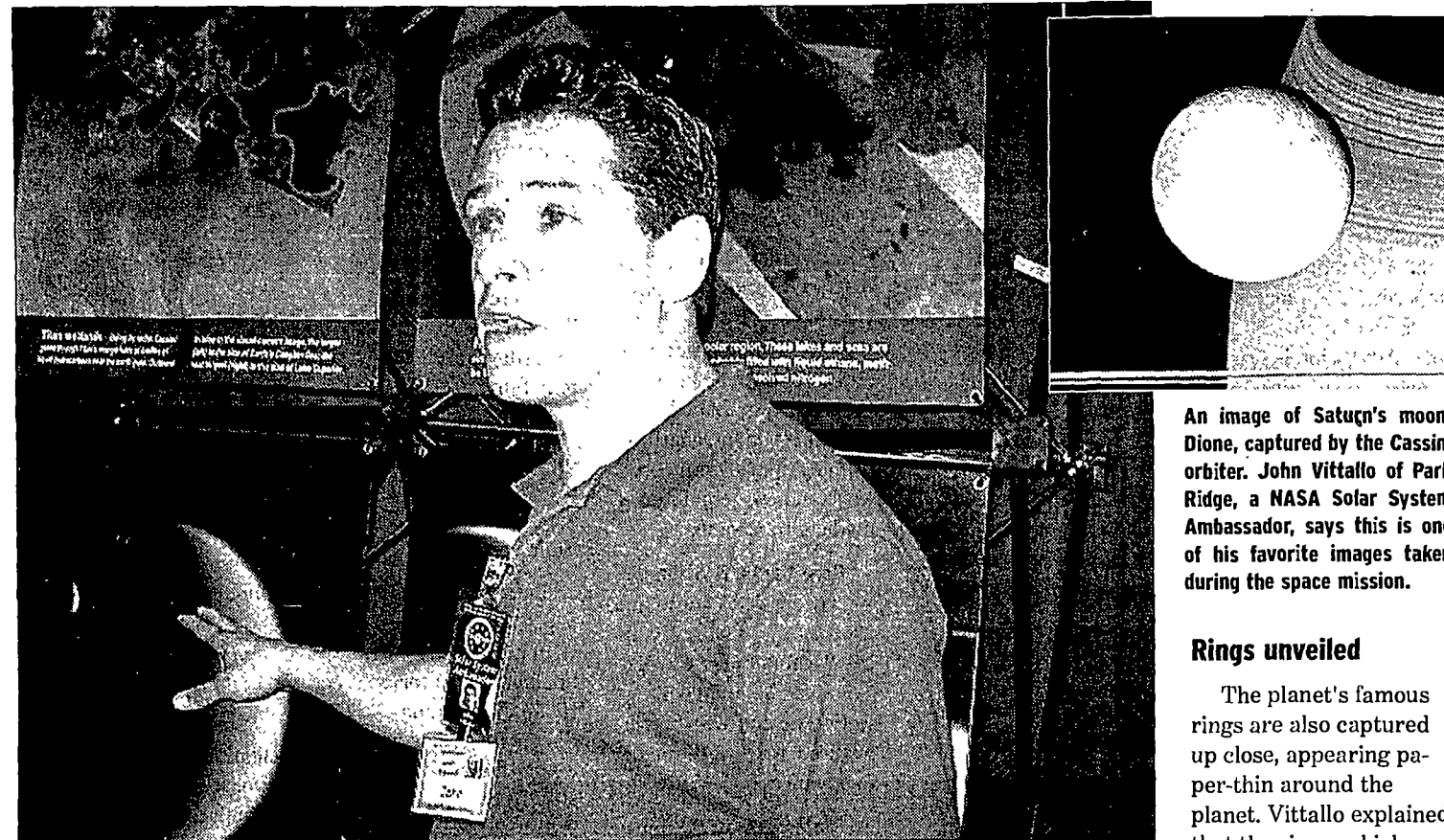
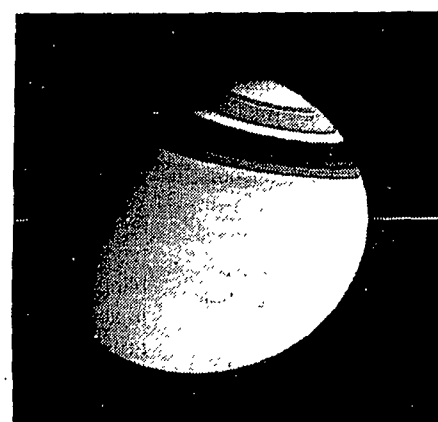
Vittallo is a NASA Solar System Ambassador, giving him an opportunity to speak to audiences about NASA missions and share actual images taken from space. Vittallo's latest series of programs, presented with co-worker and fellow ambassador Jim Kovac, focus on NASA's Cassini-Huygens mission to study Saturn, its rings, and its many moons.

"This was the next best thing to working at NASA," he said of joining the ambassador program.

The Solar System Ambassadors program gets the word out to the general public about NASA's missions and scientific discoveries, and generate excitement about them, Vittallo said. He conducts about 10 presentations each year, with the Cassini-Huygens mission being the current focus.

"If I can get one audience member to check out the Cassini web site, that's success to me," he said. "It's to get that little bit of interest going."

The paper-thin rings of Saturn can be seen in this image captured by NASA's Cassini orbiter. The two small dots are two of Saturn's moons.



NASA Solar System Ambassador John Vittallo of Park Ridge speaks at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. As an ambassador, Vittallo speaks to the public about NASA space missions. His specialty is the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn.

### Explaining space

In his presentations, Vittallo combines scientific data with explanations the average audience can understand, throwing in a little humor as well.

"Some of the times the data is very, very detailed and technical. I try to be able to appeal to an audience of nine-year-old kids as well as adults, so I try to mix it together," Vittallo said.

Vittallo grew up in

Park Ridge, attending Franklin Elementary School and Emerson Middle School. His family moved away by the time he reached high school, but as an adult he returned to Park Ridge where he still resides.

Growing up, he says he "always had an interest in space."

"I remember having this giant atlas that has some spectacular images of some of the gas giant planets, Jupiter, etc.," he said. "I loved opening that giant book up and looking through it as a kid."

Vittallo's interest in space propelled him to NASA's Solar System Ambassadors program in 2002, his first space presentation taking place at the Park Ridge Public Library.

Vittallo, who works in telecommunications design and engineering for

Motorola, has made dozens of NASA presentations with Kovac, the latest taking place at the Deerfield Public Library on Oct. 23.

### Exploring mission

The presentation drew a crowd of about 40, including a number of children who stared at the images sent from the Cassini orbiter with rapt attention.

The mission is named after 17th Century astronomer Giovanni Cassini and Christian Huygens. Cassini discovered several of Saturn's many moons (60 are known to exist) and Huygens discovered Titan, Saturn's largest and probably most well-known moon.

The Cassini orbiter reached Saturn seven years after its launch in 1997, and the mission has been extended two more years.

Vittallo and Kovac's

presentation includes close-up images of Saturn itself, its unique rings and the terrain of several of the planet's moons, with craters and mountain ranges clearly visible.

The mission made a number of discoveries. The Huygens probe landed on Titan, Saturn's biggest moon, sending back data of a surface that has "the same consistency of wet sand," Kovac said, and images of a hazy, orange atmosphere of methane fog. The surfaces of other moons were also photographed up close, mountain ranges and other terrain quite visible.

At Saturn's South Pole, the probe captured what appears to be perpetual hurricane measuring 45 miles deep and 5,000 miles wide.

"On Earth this would be a category 200, I'd assume," Vittallo joked.

An image of Saturn's moon, Dione, captured by the Cassini orbiter. John Vittallo of Park Ridge, a NASA Solar System Ambassador, says this is one of his favorite images taken during the space mission.

### Rings unveiled

The planet's famous rings are also captured up close, appearing paper-thin around the planet. Vittallo explained that the rings, which measure 180,000 miles wide, are estimated at only 50 ft. in width. The rings are actually "countless numbers of individually orbiting objects, some as small as micron-sized cigarette smoke, others as large as the size of a house."

Some of Saturn's moons have even carved out space between the ring particles as they orbit the planet.

The Cassini orbiter traveled 3 billion miles and took seven years to reach Saturn. Since 2004 it has been orbiting the planet and sending back images and data that are transmitted via three Deep Space Network communications facilities located around the world.

Vittallo's next local presentation will be on Jan. 22 at Vernon Area Library, 300 Old Half Day Road in Lincolnshire.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## Peek

Continued from PAGE 19

for added chances at beautiful gifts and items. Proceeds benefit the parish. For more information, call the Ministry Center at (847) 823-2550.

**Miracle House** will sponsor a Holiday Boutique from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 15 at Asbury Court, 1750 Elmhurst Road, Des Plaines. Get a jump start on holiday shopping with Pampered Chef, Mary Kay, PartyLite and many craft items. Admission is free. For more information, call (847) 296-5258.

**The Norwood Park Historical Society** announces Victoria's Annual Holiday Boutique & Cafe which will be held Dec. 4 through 7 at the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. Admission is \$1. The event will feature handmade holiday gifts from local artisans and crafters including ornaments, holiday kitchen decorations, stained glass, painted decorations, and hand-sewn items. The Cafe will offer homemade goodies, including sandwiches, soups, bread, cookies, pies and cakes, and other pastries. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Norwood Park Historical Society members enjoy an exclusive Members' Night on Dec. 3, 7 to 9 p.m. To become a member, sign up and get admission to this exclusive event. Victoria's Boutique is connected to the society's other major holiday event, the Holiday House Tour on Dec. 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advance ticket sales for the tour will be available at the craft fair on Wednesday (members' night), Thursday, and Friday only. To purchase advance tickets for either event or for more information, call (773) 631-4633 or visit [www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org).

**Club** is looking for crafters for its 2007 Holiday Craft Fair. The fair will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 22 in the St. Juliana's Ahearn Center, across from the church, at 7201 N. Oketo Ave. The fee for each table is \$55. Electricity is available for an additional fee, but is limited. For more information or an application form, vendors should contact Patti McDonagh, (773) 792-3931, or the St. Juliana parish business office, (773) 631-4127.

**The Parents Club** of Guerin College Preparatory High School seeks crafters for its annual craft show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 29, featuring only handcrafted items across the first floor of the school, 8001 W. Belmont Ave., River Grove. Admission is \$2; children younger than 12 are free (strollers are not permitted). Refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information about the show, or to receive an application form, call (708) 453-6233. Crafters may also download an application at [www.guerinprep.org](http://www.guerinprep.org).

**St. Raymond de Penfort Church** of Mount Prospect is looking for artists to participate in its annual Old St. Nicholas Holiday Boutique from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 7. Applications are available at [www.st-raymond.org/](http://www.st-raymond.org/). All items must be handcrafted.

### FITNESS CENTER

**Niles Family Fitness Center**, 987 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-8400, [www.nilesfitness.com](http://www.nilesfitness.com):

The **Fitness Center** has scheduled some Fun-tastic programs for children to correspond with its popular aerobic classes. Instructors will even escort the children to and from the Clubhouse. A half-hour in the ClubHouse is included in all Fun-tastic class fees. Classes are held Mondays through Fridays: sports, fitness, art, science, cooking and more. Stop by or call; ask for Jenny or

The St. Juliana Mothers'

Joy at (847) 588-8400.

**Friday Night Fun** for ages 5 to 12 offers an evening filled with swimming, gym, crafts, snack and more from 6 to 9 p.m. Fridays, Nov. 14 and Dec. 19. Fees are \$10, members; \$15, nonmembers.

The following is the **Group Fitness** schedule. Daily drop-in fees are \$8 for residents; \$9, nonresidents. Express cards are available for numerous visits.

**Cardio Fusion:** Cardiovascular workout with muscle shaping, using interval Step, plyometrics, Kickboxing or BOSU combinations with strength training. Finish with core work and stretch; intermediate to advance.

**Core Cardio & Strength:** Improve core strength and tone your body. Class will include functional strength exercises, ab and back work, and end with a yoga inspired stretch; beginner to advance.

**Fantasy Fight:** 60 minutes of choreographed low-impact simulated fight sequences derived from the martial arts, boxing and basic self-defense, designed to condition the heart, burn calories and improve self-confidence.

**Heart Rate Up & Pump:** Get your heart rate up with this variety of high intensity, low impact cardiovascular routines with some muscle conditioning; beginner to intermediate.

**Lite & Fit:** Perfect for the mature adult. Work at your own pace - a combination of low impact (with some high intensity) aerobic. May include basic step, stability ball work, and body toning with ab and back strengthening; beginner to intermediate.

**Step, Drills & Strength:** This Step class will offer variety from week to week. One week is Step with 10 minutes of cardio drills followed by core strengthening and the next week Step Interval; intermediate to advance.

**A.I.S. Stretch:** Isolated stretching to increase flexibility; 8-8:50 a.m. Tuesdays.

**Aerobic Medley and Tone:** Low-impact aerobics, kickboxing with some toning exercises for beginner and advanced participants, working at their own pace; 5:15-6:15 p.m. Wednesdays.

**Body Flex:** Increase lean muscle mass and boost resting metabolic rate with this strength-training class 6:20-7:20 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; 10:05-11:05 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 9:05-10:05 a.m. Saturdays; and 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays.

**Cardio Dance:** Instructor will teach a variety of moves; intermediate to advanced level; 8:45-9:30 a.m. Sundays.

**Cardio Interval:** Try this cardiovascular workout with muscle shaping. Participants will interval Step, Hi/Lo, Kickboxing or BOSU combinations with weight training. Intermediate to Advanced levels; 9:20-10:20 a.m. Wednesdays.

**Cardio Kickbox:** This 60-minute workout combines high-intensity aerobics, boxing, kickboxing and conditioning exercises. Handwraps are required and are available at the Membership Service Desk for \$5; 7:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays.

**Cardio Step:** This step class includes a warmup, high-intensity step aerobics, abdominal exercise and a cool-down stretch; 6:10-7:10 p.m. Tuesdays.

**Core Challenge:** Challenging core stability with cardiovascular and strength drills on the BOSU balance trainer; 9:10-10:05 a.m. Mondays.

**Easy Does It:** Offers mature adults the opportunity to exercise under the close supervision of a certified instructor to achieve individual desired level of fitness. The class consists of low-impact aerobics, step or walking, resistance work, floor work and stretching; 10:10-11:05 a.m.

Mondays and 10-11 a.m. Fridays.

**Dance Aerobics:** Includes a mix of dance and aerobics, followed by an abdominal workout for intermediate to advanced levels; 6:10-7:10 p.m. Mondays.

**Step, Drills and Strength:** This class will offer variety from week to week for intermediate to advanced levels; 6:10-7:05 p.m. Thursdays.

**Total BodyToning:** Participants will develop muscle tone using higher repetitions of lighter weights; for beginner to advanced levels, 5:15-6:05 p.m. Tuesdays.

**Yoga:** Stretch and soothe your mind from 8-9 a.m. or 5:20-6:20 p.m. Mondays, 7-8:05 p.m. Tuesdays, 8:15-9:15 p.m. Wednesdays, 6:50-8 p.m. Thursdays, and 10:10-11:20 a.m. Fridays.

**Spinning is indoor cycling** to motivating music. Everyone rides at their own pace in a team atmosphere. Reservations are required at the Service Desk before each class. Bring a towel, heart-rate monitor and a water bottle to class. Classes are 45 minutes. Class times vary. Daily drop-in fees are \$6 for members; \$9, nonmembers.

**Spinning-Yoga Blend** class will flow from Spinning right into yoga. Express Yoga will focus on stretching and include core strengthening. Express Spin is from 6 a.m. to 6:35 a.m., and Express Yoga from 6:40 a.m. to 7:15 a.m., Wednesdays.

**Niles Family Fitness Center**, 987 Civic Center Drive, offers Fall Fun-tastic Children's Programs. The goal of the programs is to provide a stimulating environment that will encourage learning and fun. Beginning classes are for parents and children to explore and create together. For class schedule go to [www.nilesfitness.com](http://www.nilesfitness.com), or call (847) 588-8400.

Li Pilgrim, 1 to 5 years.

Parents and children are invited to join in a special Thanksgiving celebration with crafts, games stories and more. **Holly Day Party**, 1 to 5 years. Holly Day games, crafts, stories and more will fill a child's morning. **Friday Night Fun**, 5 to 11 years. Join the enthusiastic staff for an evening filled with swimming, gym, crafts, snack and more. **Girls Spa Night**, 5 to 11 years. Girls get ready to be pampered in an evening of hair, nails, lotions, jewelry-making and anything else "girly." **Aqua Antics**, 1 to 5 years. Play group in the pool! non-Instructional swim class is designed to help children become comfortable in the water. Splash around while participating in active songs and circle fun. Water toys will be available. Parent/child. **Mini Picasso's**, 18 months to 3-years: toddler to explore their creative side with painting, play dough and bubbles. Class may be messy, so dress accordingly. Parent/child.

**Romp, Stomp & Roll**, 10- to 20-months. This class is a social experience for both parent and child. Mats, balls, tunnels and age appropriate toys will be offered in this active free play class. Your toddler can climb, jump and roll around in our carpeted multi-purpose room. Parent/child. **Tiny tot Playtime**, 1 to 2 years. Meet other parents and interact with your child during movement, activities, free play and a simple craft. Music and circle time will add to the FUN. Parent/child. **Me Two 2 years**. Stories, music and art to ease fears and encourage independence in a semi-structured environment. Child only. **Mini sportsters**, 2 to 4 years. An introductory sports class for your active toddler. Try out a different sport each week. Have fun while getting fit. Parent/child. **Tumble bees**, 2 to 4 years. Introduction to basic tumbling skills by participating in activities that teach gross motor skills and organized movement. Basic

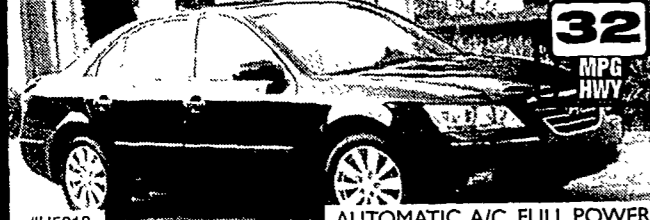
Peek, PAGE 65

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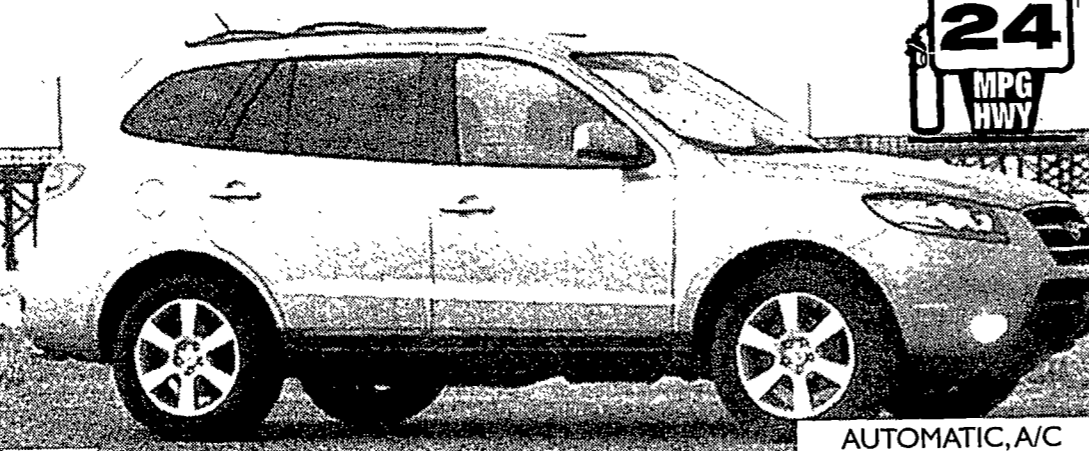
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P416 07 Hyundai Elantra . . . . . \$12,988	H5205A 01 Nissan Maxima . . . . . \$9,488

**Peek**

Continued from PAGE 64

introduction to the balance beam, floor and horizontal bar. Parent/child. **Just For Me**, 3 to 4 years. Designed for children who missed the Sept. 1 cut-off for preschool, but are ready to be on their own in a social environment. Letters, numbers and colors will be taught through active play. Daily gym time and snacks are provided. This class

will be offered with a continuing curriculum through spring 2009. **Body Flex Kids**, 3 to 6 years and 5 to 9 years. Scheduled during adult Body Flex, this high energy exercise class will get your child moving and grooving. Class ends with kid's yoga. Instructor escorts children to and from the Clubhouse. **Fantastic Fridays**, 3 to 6 years. Children play games, make crafts, swim and make new friends. Must be toilet trained. **Playtime Picasso's** 3 to 6 years. Arts and

crafts, painting, play dough along with age appropriate play. Messy class. **Recipe for fun**, 3 to 6 years. Make simple recipes. Measuring, mixing, pouring and stirring. Each chef will get to eat or take home their own creations. **Silly science 3 to 6 years**. Hands on science class is designed to combine learning and fun. Using everyday household items, kids become a silly scientists with simple experiments. **Sports kids 4-6 years**. We introduce your child to a variety of sports:

T-ball, basketball, bowling and more. Class is designed to improve listening skills, instill a sense of teamwork and encourage physical development. **The Niles Fitness Center**, 987 Civic Center Drive, is taking registration for fitness classes, including: **Aqua-Arthritis**, an opportunity for people with arthritis and post-rehab conditions to help improve flexibility, coordination and muscle strength (a doctor's note is required); **Big Event**

**Boot Camp**, which is designed to help participants lose weight and tone up for a special event, combines cardio with resistance training and ends with a stretch; **Core Strength**, which offers total-body-strength exercises using weight and the BOSU and includes abdominal and low back exercises (all ability levels are welcome); **Laughter Yoga**, a technique that uses simple laughter exercises, interspersed with gentle breathing, stretching exercises and


rhythmic clapping; **Senior Strength**, designed to improve the strength, agility, balance and flexibility of older adults, using light weights, flexible tubing, and small resistance balls; **Zumba**, a Latin-dance-inspired fitness class featuring aerobic/fitness interval training with a combination of fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt. Call (847) 588-8400 for days, times and fees, or go to [www.nilesfitness.com](http://www.nilesfitness.com).

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Peek

Continued from PAGE 65

**Niles Family Fitness Center** offers the following Pilates classes: a nine-week program of MAT Pilates, using a series of controlled exercises that engages the mind and body to develop strong flexible muscles without building bulk. Each movement begins with the abdomen, focusing on controlling core muscles. Routines alternate stretching

with strengthening. Pilates for Golf is designed to improve balance, coordination and flowing movement. This class will help with spine and shoulder stabilization and core strength. Bring an iron to class. The Fitness Center offers classes Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Call for times and details. For those experienced in Mat Pilates private and semi-private training sessions are available in the Pilates Reformer Training Room. All sessions are 50 minutes,

and members and non-members may purchase 1-, 5-, or 10-session packages. Call Danielle Desherow, (847) 588-8410, for times and pricing options.

**FOOD DRIVE**

**Saint Andrew Life Center**, 7000 N. Newark Ave., Niles, will accept food donations to support the Chicago Food Depository until Dec. 31. Each year, the Chicago Food Depository feeds thousands of Chicago-area residents. Non-perish-

able food items can be dropped off at Saint Andrew Life Center, and donors will be entered into a free raffle. Winners will be notified in January. For more information, call (847) 647-8332.

**FUND-RAISERS**

**The Service League of Advocate Lutheran General** will sponsor a Silver Leaf Jewelry Sale fund-raiser from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 24 and 25 in the Grainger Atrium of Advocate Luther-

an General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge. The sale will include a variety of discounted designer silver, costume jewelry, accessories, gift items and more. For more information, contact Elsa Rivera-Araujo at (847) 723-6105.

**The Men and Women's Association of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital** will present a rousing folk music tribute featuring The "Choirboys" Folk Revival Trio at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 15 in the hospital's Olson Auditorium, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge. The music group features the '50s and '60s sounds of the Kingston Trio, The Chad Mitchell Trio, Peter, Paul & Mary, the Limelisters and others. Tickets are \$20, and includes refreshments. Free parking will be available. Proceeds from this performance will benefit Lutheran General Hospital special projects. To purchase tickets, call Elsa Rivera-Araujo at Lutheran General Hospital, (847) 723-6105.

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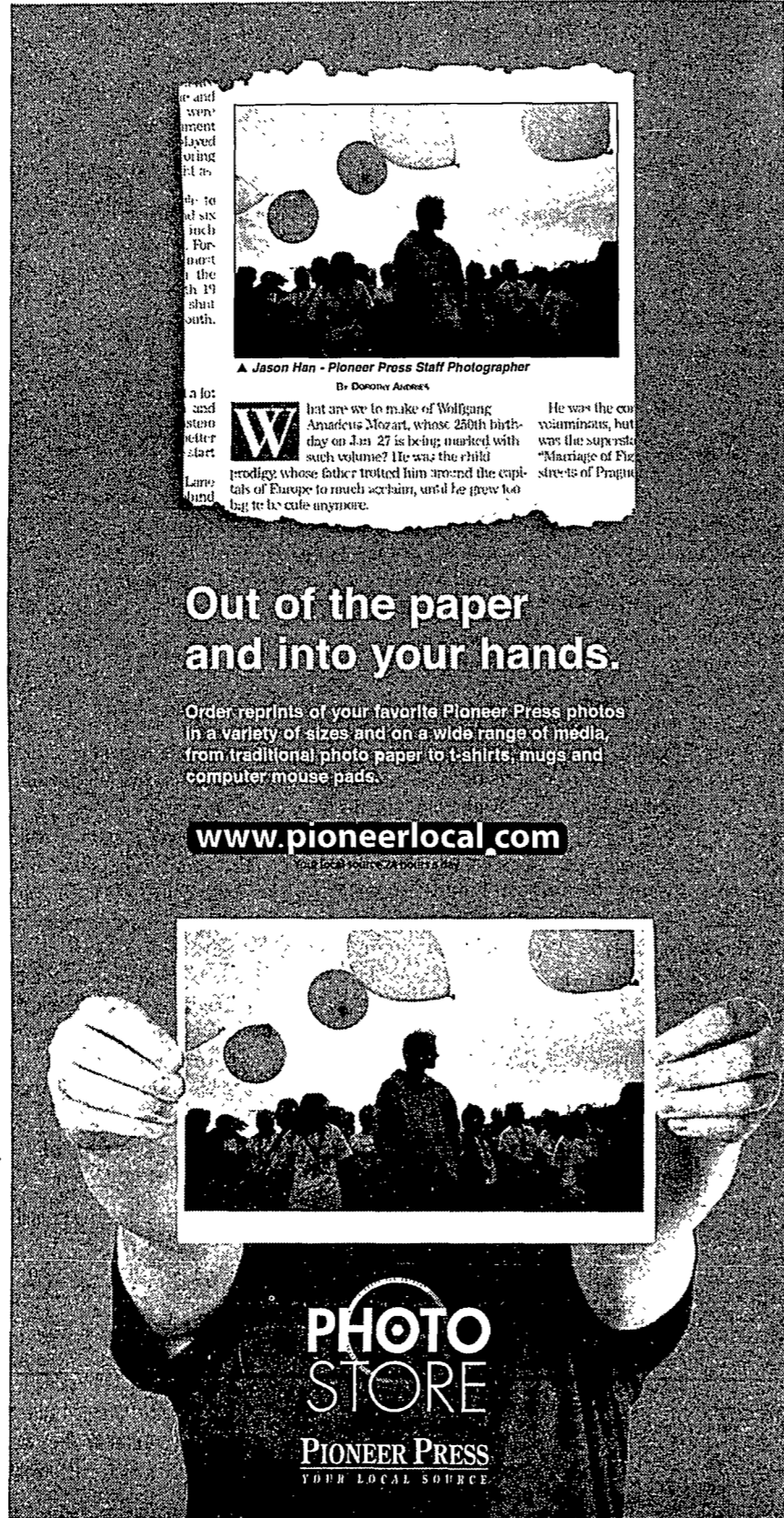
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Gold Medal Bleached or Unbleached Flour <b>\$2.69</b> Ea. 5 Lb.	Racconto Whole Artichoke Hearts <b>\$1.99</b> Each 14 Oz.	Tassos Extra Virgin Olive Oil <b>\$22.99</b> Ea. 3 Lt.	DiFratelli Tomato Sauce 4 for <b>\$1</b> Ea. 8 Oz.
Vlasic Kosher Whole or Butter Chips Pickles <b>\$1.99</b> Ea. 24 Oz.	Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce Whole or Jellied <b>\$1.29</b> Ea. 16 Oz.	Domino Sugar <b>\$1.99</b> Ea. 4 Lb.	Assorted Brownberry Stuffing 2 for <b>\$5</b> Each

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Food

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**A cookbook for 'What America is today'**

BY DAVID JAKUBIAK  
Contributor

Sheila Lukins recently called in to Tom Ashbrook's "On Point" radio show on National Public radio to talk about her latest cookbook *Ten: All the Foods We Love and 10 Perfect Recipes for Each* (Workman, 2008).

Towards the end of her interview, a woman called in and held back tears as she described making Sunday dinners for her children for 25 years out of the book Lukins co-wrote with Julee Rosso in 1982, *The Silver Palate Cookbook*.

Lukins said it has happened before.

She's written seven books, for a quarter century she's been the food editor of PARADE, and all along her goal has been making gourmet food accessible. "No weird recipes," Lukins said.

Her fans, she said, "feed their children these foods, like pork chops and potato gratin, and they say they love these recipes because they always work, they can find the ingredients in the supermarket and they taste delicious."

**Craveable foods**

Lukins' latest work will likely embed her even

more deeply into the souls of cooks. It goes after the foods that are so deep in our subconscious that we can always count on them to call us.

"We all love and crave foods. We all love steaks, we all love lobsters, we all love pasta. Certainly during these depressing times we all love roast chicken, we all love mashed potatoes. It's just a time when we all crave certain foods," she explained.

So Lukins set out to write a book of foods we crave and to provide 10 recipes for each. After chicken, steak and lobster, she thought of seasonal cravings. "In certain seasons we can't wait to bite into a fresh slice of tomato, we can't wait to gobble down some Silver Queen corn."

Then she thought of passions. "We love chocolate, we adore spare ribs, baby backs, and we all adore ice cream, or most of us do."

And when you add the recipes for additional sauces, like tomato-honey jam, Lukins had nearly 400 recipes. "I make them all right here in my kitchen," she said.

In this book, Lukins dives into international flavors.

"I have Asian-style in-

gredients, I have Indian-style ingredients, I have southern-style ingredients, and I have flavors from around the world, which is really what America is today."

**Nothing weird**

But she stresses they are all standard ingredients.

"They're just my recipes, it's not weird food. It's not weird food to do 10 roast chickens. To do a brined roasted chicken or an Asian roasted chicken or an herbed roasted chicken is not odd, or a tandoori style with Indian spices is not weird."

A lot has changed since Lukins and Rosso opened their gourmet shop, The Silver Palate, in New York City back in 1977. Then, arugula and even button mushrooms were exotic items.

Now, she says, shoppers can step into a supermarket and "you would find chipotle chili powder and you will find ancho chili powder, and you will find smoked paprika, and that's because McCormick makes it."

But just to be sure, Lukins explains all of her ingredients in the book, and even offers tips on where to find them. "In the beginning I used to get

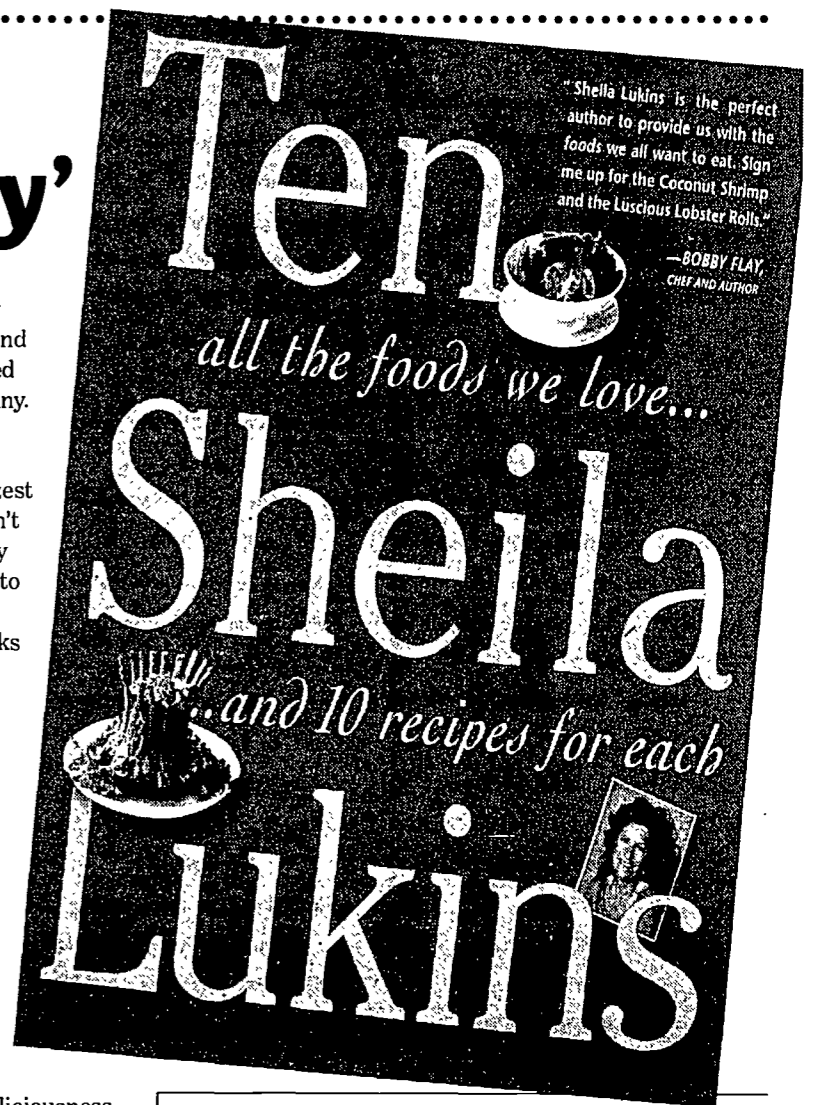
calls asking where to buy lemon zest, and then I realized that's not funny. They need to know exactly what lemon zest is so they don't have to worry about where to buy it."

As she talks it becomes clearer why pork chops and potato gratin could, after all these years, reduce a caller to tears.

Lukins has opened pantries and filled them with deliciousness, helped to raise children with flavor, helped men and women feel empowered at the range.

She suggests that they're saying thanks because life in the kitchen was a drudge, and now it's not. "They're saying 'Thanks for helping us with recipes our kids like, thanks for making our life in the kitchen a lot more fun, and thanks for making it easier.'"

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)



**Author appearance**

Sheila Lukins, cook, author and food editor at PARADE, appears at a special event at Mirani's, 727 Elm St. in Winnetka at noon, Thursday, Nov. 20. Reservations for the event, which is being held in partnership with The Book Stall at Chestnut Court, are \$50 and will include lunch, wine and an autographed copy of Lukins' new book *Ten: All the Foods We Love and 10 Perfect Recipes for Each*. Call (847) 446-2894 to make a reservation.



**Roasted Carrot Ginger Soup**

- 1 1/2 lbs. carrots, peeled and halved lengthwise
- 1 lb. parsnips, peeled and quartered lengthwise
- 1 large onion, sliced.
- 1 piece (3 inches) fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
- 6 T (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
- 3 T (packed) dark brown sugar
- 8 C chicken broth, preferably homemade

- or more if needed
- Salt, to taste
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 1/4 C crème fraîche, for garnish
- Snipped fresh chives, for garnish
- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
- Combine the carrots, parsnips, onion, and ginger in a shallow roasting pan.
- Dot with the butter and sprinkle with the brown sugar: Pour 2 cups of the

broth into the pan, cover tightly with aluminum foil, and bake until the vegetables are very tender, 2 hours.

Transfer the vegetables and broth to a large soup pot, and add the remaining 6 cups of broth. Season to taste with salt and cayenne pepper, and bring to a boil. Then reduce the heat and simmer, partially

covered, for 10 minutes. Puree the soup, in batches, in a blender or food processor until smooth, adding more broth if needed. Return the soup to the pot, adjust the seasonings if necessary, and heat through. Serve each portion dolloped with a teaspoon of crème fraîche and sprinkled with chives.





# Weekly Worship



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 Sundays, 10:30 a.m. Poltuck, 11:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School for Preschoolers & Nursery Age  
 Bible Study, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. & Fridays, 7:00 p.m.  
 Youth (High School) Bible Study, Sunday 1:00 p.m.  
 Young Adults Bible Study, Sunday, 12:00 p.m.  
 Choir Practice: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.  
**Susannah Wesley Club (Women's Group)**  
 Meets once a month on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month  
 Youth Worship Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month  
 Pastor, Rev. Jerry Miller  
 Organist, Dana Samona  
 Musical/Youth Director, Noralyn Baroja  
 Senior Exercise Class, Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30 a.m.  
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**The Edgebrook Church**  
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<http://edgebrookchurch.org>  
 Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
 Ensemble Practice, Wednesday 6:30 pm  
 Praise, Prayer & Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 pm  
 Pastor Phil Ostwald  
**Bethel Community Church**  
 7601 W. Foster Ave. (773) 775-2355  
[www.bethelcommunity.org](http://www.bethelcommunity.org)  
 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am  
 Encounter Gathering: Sunday 6:00 pm  
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study - 9:45 am

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 Studies - September thru May - call for information or see the website.  
**Norwood Park Lutheran Church - ELCA**  
 5917 N. Nina Avenue (at Nickerson) (773) 631-2860  
 Sunday Services - 10:00 am  
 Holy Communion celebrated 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays  
 Service of the Word on 2nd & 4th Sundays  
 Sunday Church School - 9:00 am (with Confirmation Ministry)  
 Unstaffed Nursery available Sunday from 9:45 - 11:00 am  
 Rev. Robert C. Johnson, Pastor  
 Joyce M. Kissenger, Director of Music  
 Children's Sermons 2nd Sunday of the Month  
 "Celebrating God's grace and mercy for over 86 years in old Norwood Park"  
**Our Lady Mother of the Church**  
 8701 W. Lawrence Avenue (773) 625-3369  
[www.ourladymotherchurch.com](http://www.ourladymotherchurch.com)  
[olmotherchurch@aol.com](mailto:olmotherchurch@aol.com)  
 Mass Schedule:  
 Weekdays Monday through Friday 8:30 am  
 Saturday 5:00 pm  
 Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11 am  
 Sunday 11:00 am Young People's Liturgy of the Word - Holy Days 8:30 am & 7:00 pm  
 Tuesday 9:00 am Perpetual Help Novena  
 Eucharistic Adoration  
 First Fridays 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Saturday Confession 4:00 - 4:30 pm  
 Baptism 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the Month  
 Rev. Richard J. Klajbor, Pastor  
**Our Savior Lutheran Church - Norwood Park LCMS**  
 6099 N. Northcott Ave. (773) 631-1100 & (773) 631-1606  
[www.oslc3@sbcglobal.net](http://www.oslc3@sbcglobal.net)  
 Sunday Worship 9:00 am  
 Sunday School and Adult Bible

**CHICAGO**  
 Study 10:30 am  
 Wednesday Worship Chapel Service at Norwood Crossing at 2:00 pm  
 6016 N. Nina Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631  
 Advent & Lenten Worship  
 Services - Wednesday at 7:00 pm  
 Rev. Peter Berg  
**St. Eugene Catholic Church**  
 7958 W. Foster Ave. • (773) 775-6659  
[www.st-eugene.org](http://www.st-eugene.org)  
 Daily Masses: Mon thru Fri - 6:30 & 9:00 am  
 Weekend Masses: Sat - 8:30 am & 5:30 pm,  
 Sun - 7:00, 9:30, 11:30 am & 4:30 pm  
 Confession: 4:00 - 5:00 pm Sat  
 Baptism: 1:00 pm 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month  
 Rev. George Koeune, Pastor;  
 Rev. Jerome Twarog, Associate Pastor;  
 Rev. Philip Grib, SJ, Resident  
**St. James Lutheran Church**  
 7400 W. Foster Avenue, (773) 631-7666  
[www.stjamesjofoster.org](http://www.stjamesjofoster.org)  
 Sunday Morning Worship - 10:00 am  
 Call Church for Dates & Times for the Following Activities:  
 Jazzercise, Weight Watchers, Choir  
 Line Dancing, A. A. Meetings,  
 Girl Scouts  
 Pastor Susan Schneider  
**St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church**  
 7033 N. Moselle, (773) 763-0206  
[www.snow.org](http://www.snow.org)  
 Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 pm  
 Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am and noon  
 Weekday Masses Mon - Fri 6:30 and 8:00 am  
 Confession Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm Holy Days Vigil 7:30 pm  
 Holy Days 6:30, 8:00, 9:00 am and 7:30 pm  
 Rev. Gregory Sackowicz, Pastor  
 We have a Preschool (3 yrs. Old) through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade School And offer wonderful programs of Religious Education for Children and adults.  
**St. Monica Catholic Church**  
 5136 N. Nottingham, (773) 763-1661  
[www.stmonica-chicago.com](http://www.stmonica-chicago.com)  
 Daily Mass: Mon - Fri 8:00 am  
 Weekend Masses: Saturday - 4:00 pm

**CHICAGO**  
 Sunday - 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, and 12:00 pm  
 Polish Liturgy Mass: Sunday - 1:30 pm  
 Confessions: Saturday - 3:00 to 3:45 pm  
 Baptism: 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of the Month  
 Rev. Ted Schmitt, Pastor  
 Rev. Andrew Izyk, Associate Pastor  
 Fr. James O'Brien, In Residence  
 Fr. William Holbrook, In Residence  
[contactparish@stmonica-chicago.com](mailto:contactparish@stmonica-chicago.com)  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
 5650 N. Canfield, 60631  
 708-867-5044  
[www.stpaulcanfield.org](http://www.stpaulcanfield.org)  
 Rev. Walt Schoenfuhs  
 Street Level, Air Conditioned  
 Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am  
 Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30 am  
 Saturday Worship 6:00 pm  
 St. Paul Lutheran Christian Day School  
 Pre-K - Grade 8  
**SHARING GOD, TOUCHING LIVES, EVERYWHERE**  
**Victory Worship Center**  
 3750 N. New, (773) 205-3787  
[www.victoryworshiponline.com](http://www.victoryworshiponline.com)  
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am  
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm  
 Friday Worship 7:30 pm  
 Youth Service Friday 7:30 pm  
 Christopher Lewis, Pastor  
 Rev. Ramona Dorsey  
**Windy City Community Church**  
 6131 N. Newark Avenue, (773) 631-WCCC (9222)  
[www.windycitycommunitychurch.org](http://www.windycitycommunitychurch.org)  
 Sunday 10:00 am Worship Service  
 Adult Sunday School 9:00 am  
 Children's Sunday School 10:00 am  
 Many Ministry Groups for all Ages  
 Senior Pastor Steve Story  
 Church Email - [wcccchgo@ameritech.net](mailto:wcccchgo@ameritech.net)

**DES PLAINES**  
**St. Stephen Protomartyr Church**  
 1280 Prospect (847) 824-2026  
 Hispanic Number (847) 824-7526  
[www.ststephen-desplaines.org](http://www.ststephen-desplaines.org)  
 Daily Mass - 8:00 am  
 Saturday Masses: 9:00 am & 5:00 pm  
 Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 10:30 am, 6:00 pm Spanish Mass

**DES PLAINES**  
 Holy Day Masses: 7:00 & 9:00 am, 7:00 pm  
 Confessions: Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 pm  
 Rev. Gerald Rogala, Pastor  
 Rev. Flavio Gonzalez, Associate Pastor  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
 A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 675 E. Algonquin Road (At Wolf Road)  
 847-827-6656  
[www.trinitydesplaines.org](http://www.trinitydesplaines.org)  
 Email: [trinityldp@ameritech.net](mailto:trinityldp@ameritech.net)  
 "In response to the love of Christ, all are welcome here."  
 Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:30 pm  
 Sunday worship 8:00 and 10:30 am  
 Sunday Adult Education 9:15 am  
 Sunday School 10:30 am  
 Wednesday Trinity Activity Night offers Education, choirs and fellowship for all ages.  
 (please call for more information)  
 George M. Scheller, Senior Pastor  
 Leslie Williamson, Associate Pastor  
 Douglas S. Williams, Minister of Music  
 Cathy Williams, Sunday School Director

**MORTON GROVE**  
**St. Luke's Christian Community Church**  
 9233 Shermer Rd. (847) 966-9233  
 Sunday Worship - 10:00 am  
 Sunday School 11:00 am  
 Sunday Teen Praise Band Rehearsal 11:00 am  
 Choir Rehearsal Wednesday 7:30 pm  
 Youth Group Friday 8:00 pm  
 Praise Service Last Sunday of each month  
 Featuring our Praise Band  
 Paster Gordon Smith

**To List your congregation please call Andrea Shumate at 847-486-7252.**  
 Changes can be faxed to her at 847-486-7456 or [ashumate@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:ashumate@pioneerlocal.com)



# Weekly Worship



**NILES**  
**Lutheran Church of the Resurrection**  
 8450 N. Shermer Rd. Niles IL, 60714  
 (847) 965-8210  
 Sunday (Sept.-June) 10:30 (June-Sept) 9:30 a.m.  
 1st Sunday of Month: 7:30 p.m. - Jazz Vesper Service (Sept.-June)  
 Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Anderson - Pastor  
 Carolyn N. Sanderson - Minister of Music  
 A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
**St. Michael's Orthodox Church**  
 7313 N. Waukegan Road, (847) 647-8398  
[www.stmichaelniles.org](http://www.stmichaelniles.org)  
 Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
 Discover the ancient faith and rich traditions of the Orthodox Church - the first Christian Church - founded By the Lord Jesus Christ and described in the pages of The New Testament. Today her Apostolic doctrine, worship, and structure remain intact.  
**NORRIDGE**  
**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
 8600 W. Lawrence Ave.  
 Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
 Sunday School 10:35 am  
 Youth & Adult Bible Class Sunday 10:45 am  
 Midweek Bible Study Wednesday 10:30 am  
 Luther John Bajus, Pastor  
 Communion service  
 3rd Sunday of every month  
 Choir practice Thursday 7:00 pm  
 708-453-3514 Fax 708-456-8818  
[www.zionnorridge.org](http://www.zionnorridge.org)  
**PARK RIDGE**  
**First Baptist Church of Park Ridge**  
 1266 N. Northwest Highway (Corner Potter Rd. and Northwest Hwy)  
 (847) 692-6101  
<http://fbccc.park-ridge.il.us/>  
 Sunday Worship 11:00 am (Childcare provided)  
 Sunday School 9:45 am  
 Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 pm  
 Rev. Matthew K. Weber  
**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
 330 Touhy Ave. (847) 823-3329  
 Sunday Service 10:30 am  
 Wednesday Testimonial Meeting 7:30 pm  
 Sunday School 10:30 pm  
 Christian Science Reading Room, 13 N. Prospect Ave. in Park Ridge  
 Hours: Tues - Fri 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Sat 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**PARK RIDGE**  
**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church & School**  
 260 N. Northwest Highway (847) 823-6656  
[www.standrewsparkridge.org](http://www.standrewsparkridge.org)  
 Sunday Worship: September through May 8:30 & 11:00 am, June - August 9:00 am  
 Contemporary Worship: Saturday 5:00 pm  
 Vespers: Monday 7:30 pm  
 Sunday School & Adult 9:45 am (September thru May)  
 Christian Day School - Pre-Kindergarten thru 8th Grade  
**St. Luke's Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
 A Reconciling in Christ Congregation  
 205 N. Prospect Ave. (847) 825-6659  
[www.stlukespr.org](http://www.stlukespr.org)  
 Email: office@stlukespr.org  
 Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 am (School Year), 8:30 & 10:00 am (Summer)  
 Thursday Worship (Summer) 7:00 pm  
 Sunday - Christian Education for all ages  
 9:45 am (School Year) Child Care Provided  
 Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Larson, Lead Pastor  
 Rev. Kristina C. Weber, Associate Pastor  
 Rev. Dr. Malcolm Minnick, Jr., Pastor  
 Emeritus, Anne Krenz Organ, Director of Music Ministries  
 Melinda Ramseth Holland, Director of Children's Choirs, Nancy Olson, Member Care Coordinator  
**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
 306 S. Prospect Ave. (847) 823-4126  
[www.stmaryspr.org](http://www.stmaryspr.org)  
 Sunday Services: 8:00 & 10:00 am  
 Wednesday Service: 9:00 am  
 Sunday School & Nursery during worship, Youth Fellowship  
 The Rev. Sarah D. Oddestol, Rector  
 The Rev. Anny Carrubba, Curate  
**WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
 Check website for all activities.  
 Handicap Accessible  
**Park Ridge Presbyterian Church**  
 1300 W. Crescent Ave., (847) 823-4135  
[www.parkridgepresby.org](http://www.parkridgepresby.org)  
 Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
 Nursery care during service  
 Children's Programming for Ages 3 - High School  
 Adult Education 9:15 am  
 Rev. James P. McCracken

**PROSPECT HEIGHTS**  
**St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church**  
 411 N. Wheeling Rd. (847) 255-7452  
[www.saintalphonsus.com](http://www.saintalphonsus.com)  
 Worship Days & Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:15 a.m.  
 Mass of Anticipation: 5:00 p.m., Saturday  
 Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
 Pastor: Rev. Curtis A. Lambert  
 Additional Information:  
 School: Pre-3 thru 8th Grade - Before & After School Care  
 Ongoing Faith Formation - Kindergarten thru 8th Grade  
 High School Youth Ministry Program  
**ROSEMONT**  
**Our Lady of Hope**  
 9711 W. Devon Avenue, (847) 825-HOPE (4673)  
[www.ourladyofhopechurch.com](http://www.ourladyofhopechurch.com)  
 Rev. John Clemons, Pastor  
 Saturday Mass 5:00 pm  
 Sunday Masses 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am  
 Weekday Mass 8:30 am  
 Eucharistic Services M-F 12:10 pm  
 Confession Saturday 4-4:40 pm  
 Holy Days 8 am, 12:10 and 7:00 pm  
 Little People's Church ages 3-5, First three Sundays/mo. 10:45 am-noon  
 Religious Education Programs grades 1-8, Sacramental Programs also offered  
**SKOKIE**  
**Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church**  
 4950 W. Pratt, (847) 673-4441  
[www.cwupc.net](http://www.cwupc.net)  
 Sunday Morning Worship Schedule:  
 9:00 Contemporary Service  
 10:00 Sunday School (for all ages)  
 11:00 Traditional Service  
 12:00 Fellowship Hour  
 Michael Scott Porter, Senior Pastor  
 Alex Wickell, Director of Youth Ministries  
 Office Hours: Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
**Temple Beth Israel**  
 3601 W. Dempster St. 847-675-0951  
[www.tbiskokie.org](http://www.tbiskokie.org)  
 Likrat Shabbat/Kabbalat Shabbat, first Friday of each month, 5:30 p.m.  
 Light Nosh - 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat service  
 Shabbat Service Fridays 8:15 p.m., Shabbat Service Saturdays 10:30 a.m.  
 Shabbat Katan, third Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m.  
 for families with children under the age of five.  
 Morning Minyan Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m.  
 Religious School Pre-K-7th Grade Sundays 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
 Hebrew School Grades 3-7 Sunday's 11:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.  
 and Wednesday's 4:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 Youth Groups Adult Education:  
 Koleyim - Volunteer Choir  
 High Holiday Services  
 Rabbi Michael A. Weinberg Cantor Pavel Roitman  
 Lori B. Sagarin Director of Congregational Learning

**SKOKIE**  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
 5201 Galitz Street, (847) 673-5030  
[web.mac.com/jstpaulskokie](http://web.mac.com/jstpaulskokie)  
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am  
 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm  
 Fellowship Hour, Sundays 8:45 - 9:45 am  
 Sunday School & Bible Study Class, Sundays 9:00 - 9:45 am  
 Rev. Peter A. Zadeik, Jr. Vacancy Pastor John Schman, Minister of Music  
 Dale Luksha, PK - 8 Academy Principal  
 The Church is Handicap Accessible  
 Variety of Worship Formats,  
 Small Group Ministry  
 Adult Choir & Handbell Choir  
**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
 Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue, (847) 673-8166  
[www.stpetersskokie.org](http://www.stpetersskokie.org)  
 Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
 Sunday School 9:00 am (September thru May)  
 Rev. Richard Lanford  
 Childcare provided.  
 Air Conditioned Sanctuary  
**Congregation Bene Shalom**  
 4435 Oakton, (847) 677-3330  
[www.beneshalom.org](http://www.beneshalom.org)  
 Fridays 7:30 pm;  
 Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 pm on 3rd Friday of the month  
 Kabbalistic Prayer/Meditation Service 10:30 am On 2nd Saturday of the month  
 Special Kabbalistic Meditation Service Sunday, August 31st, 10:00 pm  
 Esther Knapp Religious School  
 Sundays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 Hebrew School Sunday 12:00 - 1:00 pm  
 Thursdays 4:00 - 5:00 pm  
 Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhammer  
 Ass't. Rabbi Shari Chen  
 Cantorial Soloist Charlene Brooks  
 Choir Director Nona Balk  
 Interfaith Families Welcome  
 All services sign language  
 Check our website for Adult Education classes  
 And High Holiday Schedule  
 Handicap Accessible

**SKOKIE**  
**Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue**  
 7800 Niles Avenue, (847) 674-9146  
[www.devaremet.org](http://www.devaremet.org)  
 Saturday 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Services  
 Wednesday 7:00 pm Midweek Religious Studies for Adults and Youth  
 Wednesday 6:30 pm Club Maccabee  
 Children's Club  
 For K-5th Graders at Devonshire School in Skokie  
 Rabbi Kirk Giebe  
 Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue is a community of Jews who believe and teach that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Promised Jewish Messiah.  
**Temple Judea Mizpah**  
 8610 Niles Center Road, (847) 676-1566  
[www.templejudea.org](http://www.templejudea.org)  
 Friday 8:00 pm  
 Second Friday of the Month 7:00 pm  
 Family Shabbat Religious School Grades K-7  
 Sunday 9:30 am - 12:00 pm  
 Hebrew School Grades 3-7  
 Tuesday 4:15 - 5:15 pm  
 Religious School Grades 8-12  
 Sunday 11:45 am - 1:15 pm  
 Religious School PreK  
 Two Sundays a month 10:15 am  
 Rabbi Amy L. Mennis-Foler  
 Cantorial Intern Beryl Bellows  
 Sally Gold - Education Director  
 Terry J. Kane - Executive Director  
 Adult Education Multi-faith  
 Families Welcome Community Theater  
 High Holiday & Festival  
**St. Timothy Lutheran Church**  
 9000 N. Kildare, (847) 676-1300  
[www.sttimothyskokie.com](http://www.sttimothyskokie.com)  
 Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
 Choir Practice, Thursday 7:30 pm  
 Bible Study, Monday 10:00 am  
 Youth Christian Education  
 3rd Sunday at 10:30 am  
 Rev. Erik Weber  
 Birthday Sunday 3rd Sunday of each month  
 Accessible Building

**To List your congregation please call Andrea Shumate at 847-486-7252.**  
 Changes can be faxed to her: at 847-486-7456 or [ashumate@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:ashumate@pioneerlocal.com)



**Swoboda - Veasey**

Jacqueline Ellen Swoboda, of Park Ridge, and Tito Donyelle Veasey, of Rock Island, IL, were married August 9, 2008, at St. Paul of the Cross Church in Park Ridge, Fr. Carl Morello and Fr. Joseph Mulcrone officiated. A reception was held at Fountain Blue in Des Plaines. Victoria Swoboda was the maid of honor and James Veasey was the bestman.

The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Linda Swoboda, and the late Lynn Swoboda, of Park Ridge. She is a 2003 Maine South High School graduate, and earned a Bachelor degree from Western Illinois University. Jacqueline is a Police Officer in Grayslake.

The groom is the son of James and Ruby Veasey, of Rock Island, IL. He is a 1994 Rock Island High School graduate, and earned a Bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University. Tito is currently an Assistant Plant Manager with Malcolm Meats in Bensenville.

Jacqueline and Tito honeymooned in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, and make their home in Elk Grove Village.



**Stanley and Marlyn Wykowski  
50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

Stanley and Marlyn Wykowski were married on November 1, 1958 at Christ Lutheran Church, in Chicago. Stanley worked for General Motors companies until 1998. Marlyn worked in the banking industry until 2000.

Stan and Marlyn were blessed with three children; Laura, Douglas (Jacqueline), and Marlaina (Thomas), and they truly enjoy their grandsons; Kevin, Jeffrey and Michael.

In their retirement, they enjoy spending time with their family and friends, traveling and just enjoying life.

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!  
Love,  
Your Children and Grandchildren



**Ron and Diana Kosach  
45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

Ron and Diana Kosach, of Park Ridge, will celebrate their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a family trip to Hawaii later this year. The couple met during a neighborhood softball game in Forest Glen. The Carl Schurz high school sweethearts married November 16, 1963, at Saint Sylvester Parish in Chicago. The Kosachs have two daughters: Deborah (Shane), of Des Plaines, and Susan (Scott), of Niles.

"May you both enjoy many more years of happiness together with your family and friends!"

Congratulations!



**McGowan - Foley**

Elizabeth Sarah McGowan, of Wilmette, and Thomas Gill Foley, of Evanston, were married September 20, 2008 at St. Francis Xavier in Wilmette, Fr. William Sheridan and Fr. William Mannion officiating. A reception was held at the Michigan Shores Club, in Wilmette.

Ms. Lindsay Zoeller was the maid-of-honor, and Mr. Daniel Foley was the bestman. Lindsay Ryg, Erin Hedlin, Giulia LaBellarte, Amanda Hirsch, Stacey Verdon, Anne Cummings, and Lauren Headley were bridesmaids. Matthew McGowan, Bob Byrne, Keith Hermann, Scott Steiner, James Conlon, Vincent LaVecchia, and T.K. MacKay were groomsmen, and Jeremy Frasar, Matt Sterenchuck, Peter Krackenberger, and Kevin Gorman were ushers.

The bride is the daughter of Mark and Nancy McGowan, of Wilmette. She is a 2000 graduate of New Trier HS, and a 2004 graduate of John Carroll University. Elizabeth is employed as a Supply Chain Supervisor for PepsiCo. The groom is the son of Patrick and Margaret Foley, of Evanston. He is a 1994 graduate of Loyola Academy, and a 1998 graduate of Loras College. Thomas is currently Director of Membership for the American Production and Inventory Control Society.

The couple honeymooned in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and resides in Chicago.

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Information is provided by Record Information Services, Inc. in St. Charles, www.public-record.com, (630) 365-6490. The company provides public record data for including new incorporations, business licenses, bankruptcies, foreclosures, judgments, mechanic liens, state and federal tax liens, residential and commercial real estate transfers, building permits, DUI arrests, divorce reports and sheriff sale foreclosures.

**NILES**

- 8145 N. Grand Court, Cianfaglione Trust to Edward and Danuta Gorman, \$505,000, Sept. 3.
- 8363 W. Kay St., Countrywide Bank Fsb to Timothy Schneider, \$285,000, Sept. 4.
- 6980 W. Touhy Ave., Miresse Trust to Gilbert and Marge Debouver, \$233,000, Sept. 4.
- 7249 W. Lee St., Willie Hopp to Joy Hess, \$278,000, Sept. 8.
- 8319 N. Oleander Ave., Rafal Kolbiarz to Vito Battista, \$625,000, Sept. 9.
- 7091 W. Touhy Ave., Charles V. Russo to Shane Sekorrarithi, \$175,000, Sept. 10.
- 7053 W. Monroe St., Poland Trust to Senad and Elvira Ceric, \$318,000, Sept. 10.
- 8928 W. Heathwood Circle, Theresa R. Carpino to Teofila B. Dejesus and Mary Jane D. Russell, \$255,000, Sept. 10.
- 9012 W. Heathwood Circle, Hsbc Bank Usa Trustee to Christian Han and Ah Young Sung, \$200,000, Sept. 12.
- 9128 W. Terrace Drive, Ok Jin Kim to Jung Choo, \$110,000, Sept. 15.
- 8970 W. Heathwood Circle, Byung Joo Yoon to Joanne Nice L. Flores, \$288,500, Sept. 15.
- 6660 W. Wood River Drive, Waldemar Rydzewski to Rachel E. Stryjak, \$213,000, Sept. 18.
- 8132 N. Odell Ave., Marek Pyzik to Margarita Sisoi, \$390,000, Sept. 19.
- 7846 W. Oakton St., Dorothy M. Dobosiewicz to Mohamed A. Elgarawany, \$210,000, Sept. 22.
- 8529 W. Normal Ave.,

- Vitale Trust to Nina G. Mikhail, \$245,000, Sept. 23.
- 8101 W. Courte Drive, Peter Arvanitis to Pat Arvanitis, \$300,000, Sept. 23.
- 7139 W. Lill St., Grigore Tuser to Adalbert and Marcela Soti, \$275,000, Sept. 23.
- 7942 N. Harlem Ave., Us Bank Na to Edinson A. Naranjo, \$180,000, Sept. 25.
- 8120 W. Park Ave., Ballard Pointe LLC to Ibrahim and Sefka Matezic, \$317,500, Sept. 25.
- 8120 W. Park Ave., Ballard Pointe LLC to Alex W. and Christine B. Markos, \$320,000, Sept. 25.
- 8120 W. Park Ave., Ballard Pointe LLC to Richard M. Kosinski, \$308,500, Sept. 25.
- 8120 W. Park Ave.,
- Ballard Pointe LLC to Ronald Montemagni and Silvia Izzi Neri, \$345,000, Sept. 25.
- 8815 W. Golf Road, Chicago Title Land Trust Co. Trustee to Alexander Reznik, \$115,000, Sept. 26.
- 7913 N. Oconto Ave., Grazyna H. Rzeszutko to Tudor and Cornelia Vacaru, \$342,000, Sept. 26.
- 7027 W. Carol Ave., Robert S. Applebaum to Fitisum B. Andegergish and Fireweini T. Medhin, \$257,000, Sept. 29.
- 7918 N. Neva Ave., Stone Gate of Des Plaines LLC to Richard and Lin Choy Chin, \$305,000, Sept. 29.
- 6913 W. Jarvis Ave., Homesales Inc. to Matthew and Norma Diaz, \$319,000, Sept. 29.
- 8028 N. Wisner St., Law
- Offices A. Wojewnik Trustee to Jamal Khoshaba and Amal M. Audish, \$225,000, Sept. 29.
- 7048 W. Main St., Galinski Trust to Mohammed and Shakila Fazil, \$350,000, Oct. 1.
- 8422 W. Johanna Drive, Antoni Pedzisz to Cecylia Koscielniak, \$463,000, Oct. 2.
- 8417 W. Oak Ave., Evanthia Nafpliotis to Odiaseas Ninis, \$430,000, Oct. 2.
- 8249 N. Newcastle Ave., Chicago Title Land Trust Co. Trustee to Stanley M. and Joanne A. Pedroza, \$285,000, Oct. 2.
- 9098 W. Terrace Drive, Brenda Wycykal to Luis J. and Alejandra Z. Gonzalez, \$108,000, Oct. 3.

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Congratulations to her loving parents  
**Mike and Tressie Brichta**

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**Death Notices**  
**Burns, Mary P.**  
Mary P. Burns, nee Shannon, 78, former resident of Park Ridge, IL, passed away November 3, 2008 in St. Matthews Center for Health. Born in Winthrop, MA in 1930, she was the loving daughter of the late Laurence and Nora Shannon.  
Beloved wife of Robert Burns of Park Ridge, IL, cherished mother of Ellen (Ken) Cetera of LaGrange, IL, Robert Jr. (Liz) of Capron, IL, Jane (Richard) Bonahoom of Arlington Heights, IL, and the late Jennifer Burns of Park Ridge; proud grandmother of Carolyn Cetera, Julie Bonahoom, Peter Bonahoom, Jay Bonahoom, and Laura Burns.  
Mary attended school at the Academy of the Assumption in Wellesley Hills, MA, and later attended college in Boston and Nova Scotia. She was well known for many years in Chicago as a sales and management executive with TWA, and later was manager of international tourism for the Illinois Department of Commerce.  
Memorial Mass to be held at St. Paul of the Cross Church in Park Ridge, IL, at 10am on Friday, November 28, 2008.  
Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)

**Death Notices**  
**Cherry, Norma Emma**  
Norma Emma Cherry, nee Tess, of Park Ridge. Beloved wife of the late Roy Allen; cherished mother of Allen, of Des Plaines, Robert (Jamie Leigh), of North Carolina and the late Joan (Abbey Botkin) and the late Michael; loving daughter of the late Emma and Walter Tess; dear sister of Mildred "Babe" (Howie) Schalk, formerly of Park Ridge, and the late Jane (Vin) Hruby; dear sister-in-law of Jean (Phil) Nelson and Ruth (Huston) Bouslog; proud grandmother of Michael and Kelly Cherry-Leigh and Allie Botkin; dear aunt of many nieces and nephews and beloved friend to many.  
Norma was a graduate of Lake Forest College and served many years as a teacher's aide in the Park Ridge school system. She was also proud to be an activist who worked on political campaigns and contributed to causes she believed in. A Memorial Service will be held at Park Ridge Community Church, Saturday, November 22, at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Medical Closet, Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068 or The Center for Concern 1580 N. Northwest Hwy., Suite 310, Park Ridge, IL 60068 would be appreciated. Arrangements by the M.J. Suerth Funeral Home, for further information 773-631-1240 or 847-823-6540.  
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**Death Notices**  
**Drag, Gerard**  
Gerard Drag, 80, beloved husband of Helma; loving father of Robert (Lynn Marie) and Richard; dear Grandfather of Glenn and Kaylin.  
Memorial Mass Saturday, November 15, 2008 at St. Isaac Jogues Church, 8149 W. Golf Rd., Niles, IL 60714, 10:00 a.m. Inurnment to follow at Maryhill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Isaac Jogues Church appreciated. Info 847-581-0536 or [www.colonialfuneral.com](http://www.colonialfuneral.com)  
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**Death Notices**  
**Hall, Sheldon "Ray"**  
Sheldon "Ray" Hall, 71, longtime resident of Glenview, died suddenly October 18, 2008 in Wisconsin. Survived by his wife Carol nee Berg; three children, Michael (Patty) Hall, Diane (Steve) Labahn and Mark (Diane) Hall; and six grandchildren. Memorial Visitation Sunday, November 16 from 1pm until 3pm. Service following at N.H. Scott & Hanekamp Funeral Home, 1240 Waukegan Rd., Glenview (just South of Lake Ave. on West side). In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to American Heart Association, 208 S. LaSalle, #900, Chicago, IL 60604. Funeral Info 847-998-1020.  
Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)

**Death Notices**  
**Riha, Daniel G.**  
Daniel G. Riha, age 67 of Morton Grove, IL passed away November 4, 2008 at Rainbow Ark Hospice in Park Ridge, IL. He was born in Chicago June 11, 1941, to the late John and the late Mary, nee Stoffel.  
Dear brother of the late John (Marian) Riha, Geraldine (Roy) Hattendorf of Morton Grove, Marge (Jack) Tures of Huntley, and the late Ruth (Karl) Tegert; and devoted uncle of many nieces and nephews. Daniel was a craftsman of tools and dice. A memorial mass was held Monday, Nov. 10 at St. Martha Church, 8523 Georgiana Ave., Morton Grove. Interment private. Arrangements made by Simkins Funeral Home, 6251 Dempster St., Morton Grove. (847) 965-2500.  
Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)

**Death Notices**  
**Robins, Ernest**  
Ernest Robins, age 84, passed away November 4, 2008 in Phoenix, AZ. Born in Montreal, Canada, and a previous resident of Skokie, IL, he attended Northern Illinois University and received a masters at Northwestern University. Ernest taught 5th grade for 35 years in Evanston, IL at College Hill, Kingsley and Lincoln Schools. He was married to the late Bertha (Birdie) Marie, and is survived by children Thomas & Laura Robins, Phoenix, AZ, Diane Robins, Scottsdale, AZ; grandchildren Brittany Mariah & Seth Sutton (great grandchildren Sedona Skye, Sienna Rae, and Saige Marie) of Phoenix, Beau John Robins, Glendale, AZ, Christian Robins, Phoenix; and brother Fred Robins, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.  
Graveside Memorial Service will be November 24, 2008 at Phoenix Memorial Park at 10:00 a.m., with burial to follow immediately.  
Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)

**Death Notices**  
**Stecher, Adolph "Tony"**  
Adolph "Tony" Stecher, age 90, a 50 year resident of Park Ridge passed away November 8, 2008. Dear husband of the late Elizabeth, nee Banach, for over 60 years; loving father of Lee (Cynthia) Stecher; proud grandfather of Jeffrey R. Stecher (Stacey Ford). Mr. Stecher was a longtime member of the Park Ridge Senior Center and an avid golfer. His military service during WWII included serving in the 774th Grand Division, the Army Artillery, and part of the contingent responsible for the Pope's safety.  
Visitation was Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Nelson Funeral Home, 820 Talcott Rd. (at Cumberland) Park Ridge. Funeral was Wednesday, Nov. 12 from the funeral home to Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church for Mass. Entombment St. Adalbert Mausoleum. Funeral info 847-823-5122 or [www.nelsonfunerals.com](http://www.nelsonfunerals.com)  
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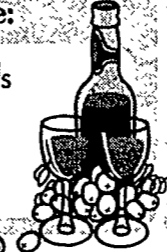
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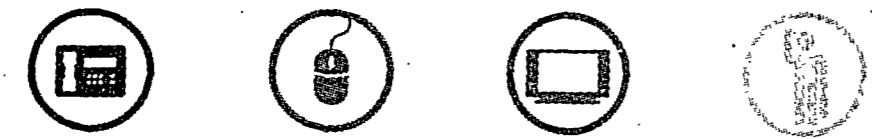
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### GIRLS SWIMMING

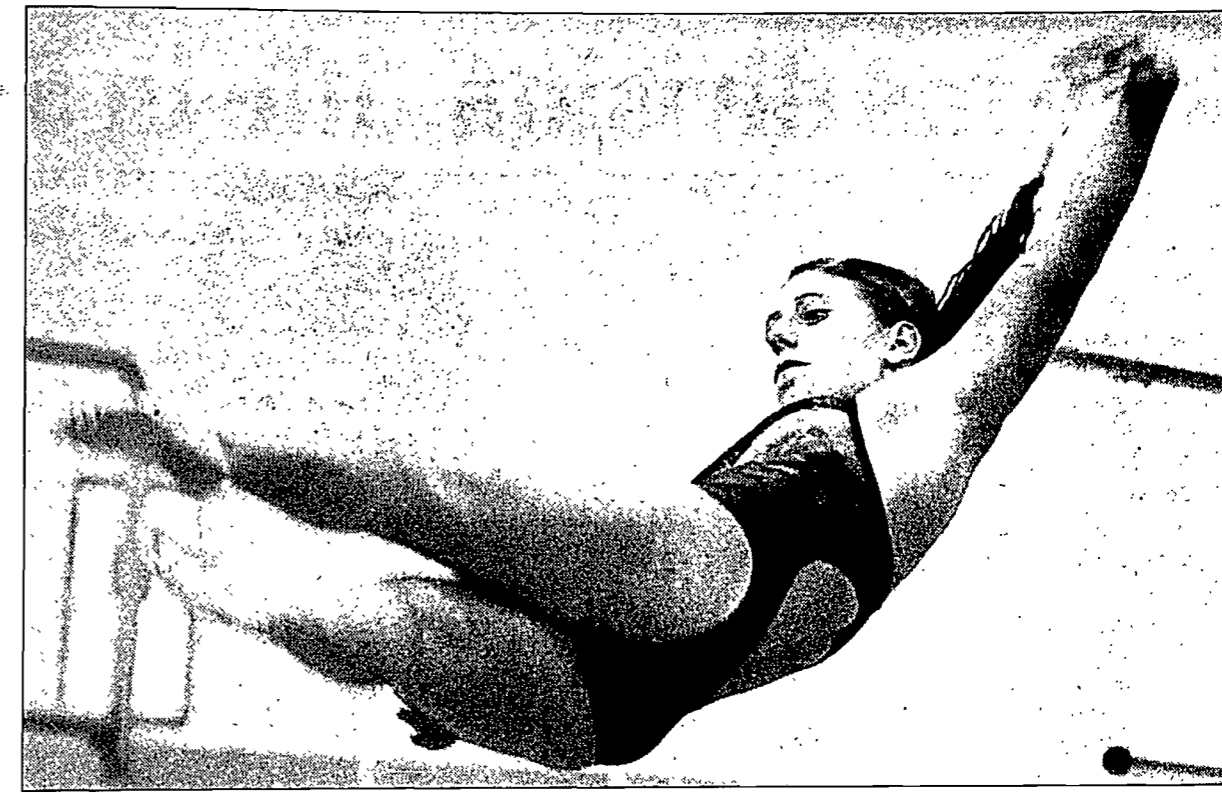
# West divers make splash in conference meet

By DENNIS MAHONEY  
dmahoney@pioneerlocal.com

Niles West's swimmers and divers combined to win the meet within the meet — the head-to-head competition with Maine South — during Saturday's Central Suburban League South championship showdown at New Trier.

After outscoring the Hawks 137-101 to claim fourth place in the five-team meet, now West will shift its attention in an attempt to capture some individual glory at the New Trier Sectional. Only first place finishers — and those who equal or better existing IHSA state qualifying standards — will keep their seasons alive to qualify for the state finals at Evanston in two weeks.

So far, West's swimmers haven't really approached those qualifying standards, and divers **Jasmine Ramahi** and **Emily Fung** appear to be the squad's best bets to move on. That doesn't mean the rest of the Wolves won't be in the hunt, according to head coach **Jason Macejak**. "We swam pretty well at the conference meet,"



JEFF KRAGE/FOR PIONEER PRESS

Niles West's Jasmine Ramahi performs a dive during Saturday's CSL South conference meet at New Trier. Ramahi was the Wolves' top diver, placing fourth overall.

Macejak said. "But I'd actually be concerned going into the sectional if we'd had an outstanding meet last week. We know there's still room for them to improve, and this is the week they've been training for all year." Most of West's front-line swimmers will complete their training tapers this week, and should be

fully rested for Saturday's sectional test that begins at 1 p.m. While it was an uphill battle as far as earning top individual places against elite programs like New Trier and Evanston, the Wolves did chalk up several season and lifetime bests Saturday. Ramahi (332.90 points), Fung (330.85) and **Amy**

**Heller** (312.30) finished 4-5-6 behind three New Trier divers and helped set the early tone toward the team goal of outscoring Maine South. New Trier repeated as team champion with 502 points to Evanston's 395. "Our divers did a great job and they gave us a pretty good cushion over Maine South (29 points)

coming in, but then we swam better than they did, too," Macejak pointed out. **Carolyn Masterton** placed ninth in the 50-yard freestyle in 27.02 seconds, a lifetime best, and also made a splash with a best time of 58.60 in the 100 freestyle, where she ended up 10th. "I thought Carolyn

swam very well, considering that she wasn't tapered," her coach said. "That's the first time she's been under a minute in an open race in the 100."

Lifetime bests were also recorded by **Callie Sher** (12th in the 50 freestyle in 28.14), **Jaci Moy** (10th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:16.16). Season best efforts were turned in by **Sara Collen** in both the individual medley and 100 butterfly, and **Becky Shukhman** in the 100 backstroke.

Senior **Maureen Gullen**, in the midst of both her taper and a bout with the flu, couldn't approach her season bests and will be looking to bounce back in sectionals in both the 100 and 200 freestyle races.

"She didn't feel well the night before and she had a hard time Saturday," Macejak said. "We had hoped she'd take a step in the other direction. But halfway through their tapers sometimes people don't feel good, and I told her a lot of the girls from New Trier, Evanston and Glenbrook South were in the same boat with her."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

### GIRLS SWIMMING

# Vikings deliver solid results in league showdown

By DAN CURRIER  
dcurrier@pioneerlocal.com

A small contingent represented Niles North at the CSL North conference meet, but what an impact this group of hungry girls made for coach Paul Torres.

Torres brought only nine swimmers to Glenbrook North on Saturday, but these nine performed

so well that the Vikings still finished fourth in the team standings with 137 points.

"We're very satisfied with our effort," Torres said. "Our numbers are short, so we really had to make our points count. The girls swam out of their minds. Best results since I've been at Niles North." The Vikings got solid

efforts from Loren Dutca, **Ksenia Kopylova** and **Camila Marquez**. Those three finished in the top five of their events, giving Niles North the best finish in several years.

"It was totally unexpected," Torres said. "Kopylova was perhaps our best swimmer out there. She did it all for us." Kopylova, a sophomore, took third in the

100-yard breaststroke in 1 minute, 11.91 seconds — and was fifth in the 100 butterfly in 1:04.96. She also swam in the 200 medley relay — along with Dutca, **Alison McTague**, and Marquez — to a fifth-place finish in 1:59.09. For the 200 freestyle relay team that finished sixth in 1:51.11, the four swimmers were Kopylova, **Lauren Smyth**, **Meredith Mämlak**

and **Carolyn Frankson**. Dutca, a junior, took third in the 100 backstroke in 1:03.41, and finished fourth in the 100 free (56.81).

"We didn't know she would do this well," Torres said. "She had some outstanding swims." Marquez's best performance came in the 50 free. The freshman placed fifth in 26:06.

Kopylova and Dutca both earned all-conference honors for their efforts.


"If things go like they did (at conference), I'm looking for really good things at sectionals," Torres said. "It is pretty exciting."

The Vikings will compete in the New Trier Sectional on Saturday.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com


# **CORRECTION**

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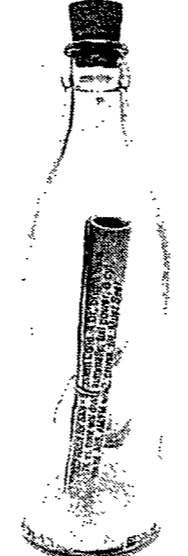
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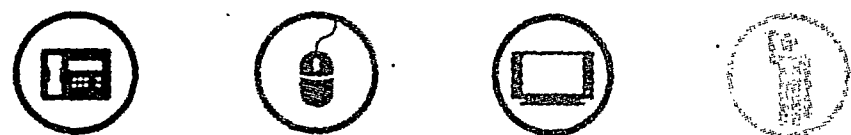
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GIRLS SWIMMING

## West divers make splash in conference meet

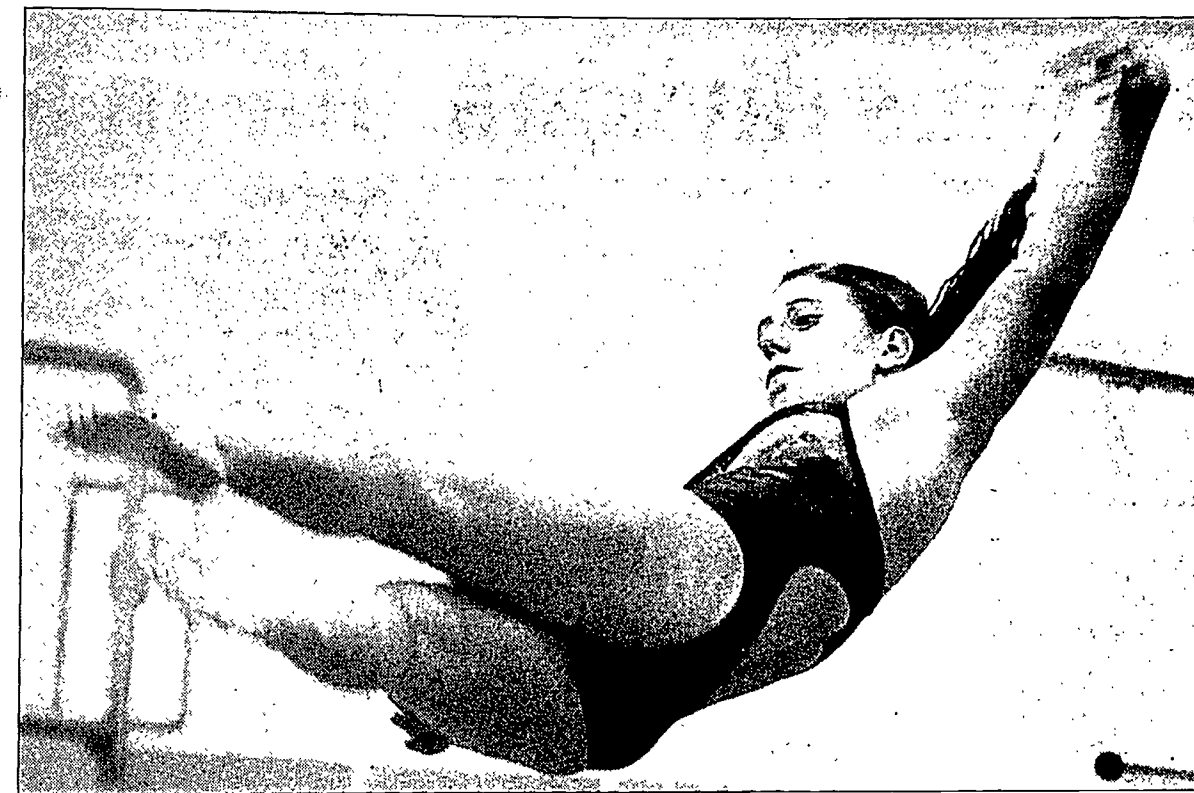
By DENNIS MAHONEY  
dmahoney@pioneerlocal.com

Niles West's swimmers and divers combined to win the meet within the meet — the head-to-head competition with Maine South — during Saturday's Central Suburban League South championship showdown at New Trier.

After outscoring the Hawks 137-101 to claim fourth place in the five-team meet, now West will shift its attention in an attempt to capture some individual glory at the New Trier Sectional. Only first place finishers — and those who equal or better existing IHSA state qualifying standards — will keep their seasons alive to qualify for the state finals at Evanston in two weeks.

So far, West's swimmers haven't really approached those qualifying standards, and divers **Jasmine Ramahi** and **Emily Fung** appear to be the squad's best bets to move on. That doesn't mean the rest of the Wolves won't be in the hunt, according to head coach **Jason Macejak**.

"We swam pretty well at the conference meet,"



JEFF KRAGE/FOR PIONEER PRESS

Niles West's Jasmine Ramahi performs a dive during Saturday's CSL South conference meet at New Trier. Ramahi was the Wolves' top diver, placing fourth overall.

Macejak said. "But I'd actually be concerned going into the sectional if we'd had an outstanding meet last week. We know there's still room for them to improve, and this is the week they've been training for all year."

Most of West's front-line swimmers will complete their training tapers this week, and should be

fully rested for Saturday's sectional test that begins at 1 p.m.

While it was an uphill battle as far as earning top individual places against elite programs like New Trier and Evanston, the Wolves did chalk up several season and lifetime bests Saturday.

Ramahi (332.90 points), Fung (330.85) and **Amy**

**Heller** (312.30) finished 4-5-6 behind three New Trier divers and helped set the early tone toward the team goal of outscoring Maine South.

New Trier repeated as team champion with 502 points to Evanston's 395.

"Our divers did a great job and they gave us a pretty good cushion over Maine South (29 points)

coming in, but then we swam better than they did, too," Macejak pointed out.

**Carolyn Masterton** placed ninth in the 50-yard freestyle in 27.02 seconds, a lifetime best, and also made a splash with a best time of 58.60 in the 100 freestyle, where she ended up 10th.

"I thought Carolyn

swam very well, considering that she wasn't tapered," her coach said. "That's the first time she's been under a minute in an open race in the 100."

Lifetime bests were also recorded by **Callie Sher** (12th in the 50 freestyle in 28.14), **Jaci Moy** (10th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:16.16). Season best efforts were turned in by **Sara Collen** in both the individual medley and 100 butterfly, and **Becky Shukhman** in the 100 backstroke.

Senior **Maureen Gullen**, in the midst of both her taper and a bout with the flu, couldn't approach her season bests and will be looking to bounce back in sectionals in both the 100 and 200 freestyle races.

"She didn't feel well the night before and she had a hard time Saturday," Macejak said. "We had hoped she'd take a step in the other direction. But halfway through their tapers sometimes people don't feel good, and I told her a lot of the girls from New Trier, Evanston and Glenbrook South were in the same boat with her."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

GIRLS SWIMMING

## Vikings deliver solid results in league showdown

By DAN CURRIER  
dcurrier@pioneerlocal.com

A small contingent represented Niles North at the CSL North conference meet, but what an impact this group of hungry girls made for coach Paul Torres.

Torres brought only nine swimmers to Glenbrook North on Saturday, but these nine performed

so well that the Vikings still finished fourth in the team standings with 137 points.

"We're very satisfied with our effort," Torres said. "Our numbers are short, so we really had to make our points count. The girls swam out of their minds. Best results since I've been at Niles North."

The Vikings got solid

efforts from Loren Dutca, **Ksenia Kopylova** and **Camila Marquez**. Those three finished in the top five of their events, giving Niles North the best finish in several years.

"It was totally unexpected," Torres said. "Kopylova was perhaps our best swimmer out there. She did it all for us."

Kopylova, a sophomore, took third in the

100-yard breaststroke in 1 minute, 11.91 seconds — and was fifth in the 100 butterfly in 1:04.96. She also swam in the 200 medley relay — along with Dutca, **Allison McTague**, and Marquez — to a fifth-place finish in 1:59.09. For the 200 freestyle relay team that finished sixth in 1:51.11, the four swimmers were Kopylova, **Lauren Smyth**, **Meredith Maumlik**

and **Carolyn Frankson**. Dutca, a junior, took third in the 100 backstroke in 1:03.41, and finished fourth in the 100 free (56.81).

"We didn't know she would do this well," Torres said. "She had some outstanding swims."

Marquez's best performance came in the 50 free. The freshman placed fifth in 26.06.

Kopylova and Dutca both earned all-conference honors for their efforts.

"If things go like they did (at conference), I'm looking for really good things at sectionals," Torres said. "It is pretty exciting."

The Vikings will compete in the New Trier Sectional on Saturday.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Sports

MAINE EAST SWIMMING

Bialecka wins division title in 50 free

By JIM EDISON  
jedison@pioneerlocal.com

It was a lengthy dry spell for Maine East girls swimming coach Scott Guilfoil.

But Saturday, the disappointment of not having a conference champion came to an end at Glenbrook North. Swimming in the always-tough Central Suburban League North meet, the Demons received a stellar effort from Natalia Bialecka in the 50-yard freestyle.

Bialecka became East's first league champ in 14 years when she upset GBN's Caroline Bendarht with a time of 24.85 seconds.

"It was certainly one of my proudest moments in a long time," said Guilfoil, who has been both girls and boys head coach at East for 28 years. "She had her career-best time and beat her closest oppo-

nent by a decent margin. Our last conference champion was Linda Chu in 1994."

Bialecka was actually a double-medal winner as she placed third in the 100 freestyle with a time of 54.95. East's only other medal came from Jelena Krstic. Krstic, the team's captain, overcame a sore shoulder to land sixth in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:29. 54.

"Even though we placed last in the team standings," Guilfoil said, "I was very happy to see we had 13 season-best times. I think that will give us some good momentum as we head to the (Stevenson) sectional on Saturday (at 1 p.m.)."

Other good swims were turned in by Krstic in the 100 breaststroke (1:15.06), Lauren Laluz in the 200 freestyle (2:29.90), Felice Chan in the 200 individual medley (2:49.95), Susanne Purc in



Jeff Krage/for Pioneer Press  
Maine East's Jelena Krstic competes in the 200-yard individual medley during Saturday's Central Suburban League North Division meet at Glenbrook North. Krstic, the team's captain, medaled with a sixth-place finish in the event.

the 100 backstroke (1:18.66) and Nicole Tagle in the 200 freestyle (2:38.56).

As expected, Deerfield and GBN battled it out for the team title. In the end, Deerfield edged the host

Spartans 410-385. Maine West was third with 270 points, followed by Niles North (132), Highland

Park (120) and Maine East (72).

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

ICE HOCKEY

Notre Dame squads piling up victories

The Notre Dame Ice Dons varsity squad defeated Brother Rice, Latin School and St. Ignatius — and the JV team defeated Mount Carmel White — marking the first time in school history that both teams have secured double-digit wins before Veterans Day.

On Nov. 4, the varsity team played Brother Rice in a Catholic League

game and were victorious over the Crusaders 4-1. Goals were scored by seniors Matt Dunne and Mike Coca, with freshmen Jeff Levar and Tim VanDermeir also putting the biscuit in the net. Assists were credited to Micah Orchard, Alex Murphy, Coca and Anthony Lupo.

Goaltender Jeremy Krautstrunk stopped 18 shots in the victory.

On Friday, the Ice Dons' Metro Central opponent was the Latin School of Chicago. The Dons started out slowly in the matinee event at Johnny's Ice House, in Chicago, and trailed going into the third period. Notre Dame then exploded for five goals and won 5-3 over the Romans.

Goals were scored by Kevin Orchard, Levar,

Johnny Blas, Steven Leick and VanDermeir. Assists were credited to Kyle Gronset and Murphy, with Mike Coca getting three assists. Goalie Ryan Maize was in the nets for the victory.

The Dons returned to Johnny's Ice House on Sunday against St. Ignatius and were victorious 10-1. It was a total team victory, with everyone on the Dons either scoring or assisting. Crisp passing, wicked shooting and standout goaltending were the highlights as Notre Dame' record swelled to 23-2 for the season.

This week, the Dons

are on the road against top ranked Barrington and top-10 ranked Prairie Ridge. They play at home against Providence on Thursday, vs. Jacobs on Saturday and against Maine Township Nov. 18. All home games are at the Iceland in Niles.

The JV Ice Dons traveled to Southwest Ice Arena on Saturday and played Mount Carmel Caravan White of the Catholic League. The Dons struck twice in the opening period and held on to a 2-1 victory over an older, bigger and stronger team.

Brandon Taylor opened the scoring with a shot from the point that beat the Caravan goalie on the

glove-side after receiving a pass from center Kevin Sanetra. The game-winner was scored by center David Fabris in the slot on a pass from defenseman Peter Prestia. Goalie Kevyn Frost stopped 21 shots in the victory. The JV team's record is 11-3-1. This week, the JV team plays road games against presently undefeated Barrington and Prairie Ridge — and a home game against Jacobs on Saturday in what will be a tough seven days for the JV this season. The Saturday home game will be at Iceland in Niles.

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MORTGAGE UPDATE

Mortgage rates plunge By Holden Lewis • Bankrate.com

Mortgage rates continued riding a seesaw this week, plunging one-third of a percentage point compared with the week before.

The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 33 basis points, to 6.44 percent, according to the Bankrate.com national survey of large lenders. A basis point is one-hundredth of 1 percentage point. The mortgages in this week's survey had an average total of 0.35 discount and origination points. One year ago, the mortgage index was 6.34 percent; four weeks ago, it was 6.2 percent.

The benchmark 15-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 25 basis points, to 6.21 percent. The benchmark 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgage fell 21 basis points, to 6.46 percent.

Bankrate's survey is conducted weekly, each Wednesday -- and for six Wednesdays in a row, the benchmark 30-year fixed has zigged or zagged sharply in a direction opposite to the direction of a week before. This week the 30-year fixed fell 33 basis points compared to a week ago, but in a process called runoff. Mortgages are being paid off when houses are sold, either willingly or in foreclosure. Because servicers are in the business of servicing mortgages, they don't really have the option of allowing all their loans to run off. If they did that, they would be out of business. So Koss' theory is that servicers are buying loans, and indirectly pushing rates down. Don't apply, won't be turned down. Meanwhile, few new loans are being originated. The Mortgage Bankers Association reported that, in the week ending Oct. 31, loan applications fell 23 percent compared with the week before, and were down 43 percent compared with the same week a year before. That decline probably was a result of that week's rise in rates. But lenders also worry that borrowers are scared away from applying for mortgages, fearing that they will be turned down. "Loans can be done," Koss says, but adds, "If you have anything unique about yourself, it's going to be difficult." This is the case with loan applicants who are self-employed or collect commissions.

Cause of volatility? This week's rate drop didn't appear to be related to the presidential election. In fact, no one is quite sure why mortgage rates have been so volatile lately. There has been speculation that the Treasury has been responsible for at least one sharp rate drop by buying lots of mortgage-backed securities. That would have the effect of driving up bond prices, which would cause yields to drop -- and mortgage rates would follow. Brian Koss, managing partner with Mortgage Network Inc., a mortgage bank based in Westford, Mass., traces the rate drop to something more prosaic than the Treasury putting its thumb on the scales. He hears that mortgage servicers are buying loans, thus driving up prices and ... you get the picture. He says servicers are buying mortgages because they are steadily running out of loans to manage, in a process called runoff. Mortgages are being paid off when houses are sold, either willingly

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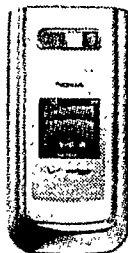
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