

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

FEBRUARY 25, 2010 ★ A PIONEER PRESS PUBLICATION ★ WWW.NILESHERALDSPECTATOR.COM ★ \$2.00

THIS WEEK

DIVERSIONS

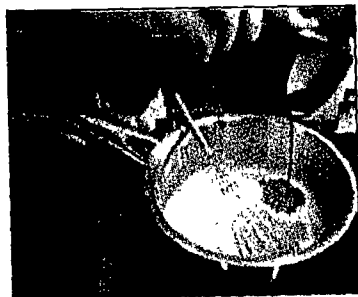


CRIME BUSTERS

The action comedy 'Cop Out' is featured in this week's Film Clips.

SEE PAGE B2

FOOD



NOT JUST FOR SIPPING

Tea makes appealing ingredient in recipes.

SEE PAGE 28

Inside!

today's homes

Look for it in the center of
SearchChicago-Autos



CHEESE TASTING

Meijer customer Marge Brausam, of Des Plaines, eats cheese while watching Sarah Kaufmann, also known as "The Cheese Lady," creating a replica of the Leaning Tower in Niles out of cheddar cheese Saturday at the Meijer store in Niles. PAGE 10 (Buzz Orr/Staff Photographer)

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 Morton Grove New const. 4br 4 bath brick home. Chfs kitchen, mstr br suite, h/wd t/o, rec rm ID#84408270 George Nicosia 773-775-1855 \$784,900	 Glenview Distinctive 4bd/3.1 Custom hw w/qlty finish! Grmt kit/fmrl lr & dr ID#93109273 Sheila Doyle 847-491-1855 \$784,000	 Evanston Substance & Style! Premier 06 tier. Superb upgrades & Spectacular views! ID#93909185 Mary Anne Perrine 847-446-1855 \$745,000	 Glenview Upgraded & Redesigned 3+ bd/3.1ba duplex! Full finish bsmt-excellent value! ID#3105037 Natalia Kanter 847-491-1855 \$549,000	 Lincolnwood Beautiful 2-story home on 75x132 lot! Enjoy the lovely landscaped yard ID#94409658 Olivia Lee 773-775-1855 \$535,000
 Lincolnwood Prest Lincolnwood towers! Br ranch on amazing park like, 3 lots of record ID#94409574 Terry Sills 773-775-1855 \$529,000	 Chicago Sauganash pk! Beautiful 3br, 2.5ba georgian features well chosen improvmts ID#4405020 Patty Cerny 773-775-1855 \$499,900	 Chicago Edgebrook 5 bedroom Country English-spacious w/great architectural detail. ID#84408374 Irene Yungerman 773-775-1855 \$499,900	 Skokie Spacious 2 story colonial in desirable skokie towers-fairview district. ID#94409653 George Nicosia 773-775-1855 \$494,900	 Lincolnwood Welcome home! Newer townhome w/soaring ceiling & corner fireplace in the lr ID#94409347 Lynn Pulpa 773-775-1855 \$425,000
 Glenview Terrific Swainwood Value. H/wd Flrs, Fireplc, Enclsd Porch. Quiet Street! ID#3105045 Sheila Doyle 847-491-1855 \$390,000	 Skokie Short Sale! Brick mid-century big lot 4br/2bth Stenson Sch- l-94! 2 car gar. ID#3105047 Charlie Vernon 847-491-1855 \$333,000	 Skokie, 8706 East Prairie Road Lovly 3br 1.1ba Cape Cod w/h/wd flrs. LR w/FP Updtd Kit & Bths. Main flr FR. ID#93109259 Della Joyce 847-491-1855 \$327,000	 Skokie Outstanding Bldg! Units are occupied, 2bd/1bth w/updtd Kts & Bths! Invst opp ID#3105042 Rosemarie Hoffmann 847-491-1855 \$325,000	 Skokie Wonderful 4bd/2ba brick ranch! H/wd flr on main lvl, rm/dld centip lower lvl. ID#93109200 Ray Thompson 847-491-1855 \$307,500
 Morton Grove 3Bdrm, 2.1Ba, 1st flr fm rm, mstr suite, Lg eat in kit, h/wd flr w/ carpet ID#94409424 Pauline Dreuth 773-775-1855 \$299,900	 Skokie Bright spcs top flr newer condo. Lrg Kit, grt cists & strg. In-unit W/D. Gar pkg. ID#93109196 Julie Naumliak 847-491-1855 \$229,000	 Chicago Sharp 1 br - great location w/ balcony, roof top deck & deeded pkg included ID#93109261 John Creighton 847-491-1855 \$219,900	 Chicago Motivated seller - moving out of town. Why rent when you can buy 2BR condo ID#94409282 Minerva Reynolds 773-775-1855 \$159,900	 Morton Grove Immaculate condition! Huge 1,285 sq ft 1st floor one bedroom unit w/lg balc ID#4405054 Mary Andriotis 847-823-1855 \$129,000

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DISTRICT 207

Union to vote on whether to negotiate

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Members of the Maine Township Teachers Association are expected to vote early next month on whether to begin talks with the District 207 school board concerning the current teacher's contract.

"The question that will be posed to the membership is whether or not MTA should enter into discussions with the Board of Ed regarding opening the contract to make cost-saving modifications," said MTA President and Maine South High School teacher Emma Visee.

Visee said the membership will vote on this question within seven days of Monday's District 207 board meeting. She cautioned that if the membership votes to begin discussions, talks will not involve negotiating the terms of the contract.

"It is an attempt to come to mutual understandings agreeable to both parties if/when both sides should decide to enter negotiations," Visee said.

This month the Board of Education approved cost cuts that included the elimination of 75 teaching jobs, as well as 62 support-staff positions.

But the district has proposed a compromise that officials say could spare 40 to 45 teachers if the teachers union agrees to lower overall pay increases and a one-year cost-of-living salary freeze. According to the recommendation the district will "tap deeper into its fund-balance reserve and commit up to an additional \$2 million in deficit spending" during the next two fiscal years if the MTA agrees to the concessions.

NILES POLICE

Woman shot by her husband in critical condition

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
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A Niles mother of three remained hospitalized and in critical condition this week after she was shot Feb. 16 by her estranged husband in an attempted murder-suicide outside the home they once shared just north of Park Ridge.

According to Niles Police Sgt. Tom Davis investigators do not have a motive for why Gregory Vaughn, 46, of the 8100 block of Prospect Avenue, in Niles, shot his wife, Amy Vaughn, 46, in the face before turning the gun on himself, said Sgt. Tom Davis.

"We don't really know what was going through his head," Davis said, stating only that the couple were going through a divorce. Court documents indicate Amy Vaughn had filed for divorce in mid-January.

Gregory Vaughn did not leave behind a note of any kind, Davis said.

According to police Amy Vaughn, who was staying with a relative in Northbrook, was inside her vehicle, waiting to pick up her children for a visitation about 3:40 p.m. when Gregory Vaughn approached her. Amy Vaughn reportedly told investigators that she lowered her window a few inches when her husband

held up a gun and fired it at her, striking her in the left cheek.

When police officers arrived at the scene they found Gregory Vaughn dead in the street from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head and recovered a .32-caliber pistol, police said. An autopsy found that Gregory Vaughn died of a gunshot wound to the mouth and his death was ruled a suicide, according to the Medical Examiner's Office.

At the time of the shooting the Vaughns' three children, ages 11, 13 and 16, were inside the home, according to police.

In the weeks leading up to

the shooting and suicide, Niles police were called to the Prospect Avenue home four times. On Jan. 21 and 22, police responded to domestic disputes involving the Vaughns, one leading to the arrest of Amy Vaughn, and on Jan. 29 police were called to a reported visitation interference involving Gregory Vaughn, Davis said. On Feb. 16, a little more than two hours before the shooting, police responded to a motor-vehicle accident at the address.

Emerson Middle School in Niles and Field Elementary School in Park Ridge, where a hospital spokesperson listed her condition as critical Monday.

last week advising them of the incident and offering support services to any students in need.

Gregory Vaughn was the owner of Owner's Choice Auto Body, which had locations in Des Plaines, Highland Park and Elk Grove Village.

A funeral mass for Gregory Vaughn was held Saturday at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Niles. Amy Vaughn remained hospitalized at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, where a hospital spokesperson listed her condition as critical Monday.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

MAINE SOUTH

Water main break cancels classes at high school

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

A water-main break Tuesday shut down Maine South High School and District 207's administrative headquarters in Park Ridge.

Students and staff were told not to come to school Tuesday morning after water service to the campus was turned off due to the break, which occurred near

Dee Road and Devon Avenue.

"The crux of the problem was simply that Maine South's water had to be shut down in order to make the repair," said District 207 spokesman Dave Beery.

All after-school sports practices and open gyms were canceled, as well as the girls track meet.

Acting Water Department Foreman Ryan Rundquist

said the department learned of the main break at 9 p.m. Monday, but repairs did not begin until 7 a.m. the following morning when normal Public Works Department shifts began.

Public Works Director Wayne Zingsheim said that because the break occurred on Maine South property, the city agreed to repair the main only if the school district reimbursed the city for

the work. Zingsheim said the city did not get involved in the repairs until the school district made the request Tuesday morning.

The estimated cost was not immediately known, he said.

The break took crews about 6.5 hours to repair, Rundquist said. The water leak was primarily underground, he added.

The water-main break also

reduced northbound traffic on Dee to one lane during the morning rush hour. The Park Ridge Police Department issued an advisory to drivers through the Nixle alert system, advising them to drive slowly due to slippery road conditions. This was the first community alert the department posted through the system since it joined earlier this month.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



Hooray, Hawkettes!

The Maine South Varsity Hawkettes took third place in the High Kick category at the UDA National Dance Championships Feb. 6-7 at Walt Disney World. They also qualified for the Large Jazz Finals and placed 11th in the nation in the Jazz category. Pictured from left, back row: Coach Jackie Graney, Mollie Stevens, Maggie Holbrook, Lauren Rooney, Taryn Degrazia, Melissa Kroll, Emily Lynch, Jenny Parrino, Jaima Hajek, Kristie Daniels; middle row: Michelle Larocca, Chase Krug, Lauren Campbell, Nicole Silwicki, Taylor Sheehan, Urszula Parfieniuk, Catherine Otis; front row: Claire Tichawa, Catherine Tapling, Caitlin Kelly, Stephanie Nelson. (Contributed photo)

LAST WEEK
TOP FIVE STORIES

1. Man shoots estranged wife, then turns gun on himself in Niles

Niles police reported a man shot his estranged wife then turned the gun on himself the afternoon of Feb. 16 at a house on the 8100 block of Prospect. The woman was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Her condition was not immediately known. Police were not yet releasing the identity of the shooter.

2. Tennis coach accused of sex with underage girl

A Park Ridge man accused of having sex with an underage girl he reportedly coached at Tam Tennis Club in Niles was placed on leave last year by Park District administration after it was learned he was under investigation.

3. Man sues nursing home after finger amputation

A man filed a lawsuit against a north suburban nursing home for allegedly failing to treat and diagnose his injuries after a fall, leading him to contract gangrene and to the eventual amputation of his ring finger.

4. Do or Dye Hair Salon: Buzz cuts to benefit effort to prevent seizure deaths

From 1-3 p.m. Feb. 28, nine professional stylists - all volunteers - will be giving buzz cuts to several hundred men and boys expected to line up outside Do or Dye Hair Salon, 6005 N. Nina, to remember 4-year-old Danny Stanton, who died in his sleep Dec. 12, two weeks before Christmas.

5. Niles West 41, Evanston 40

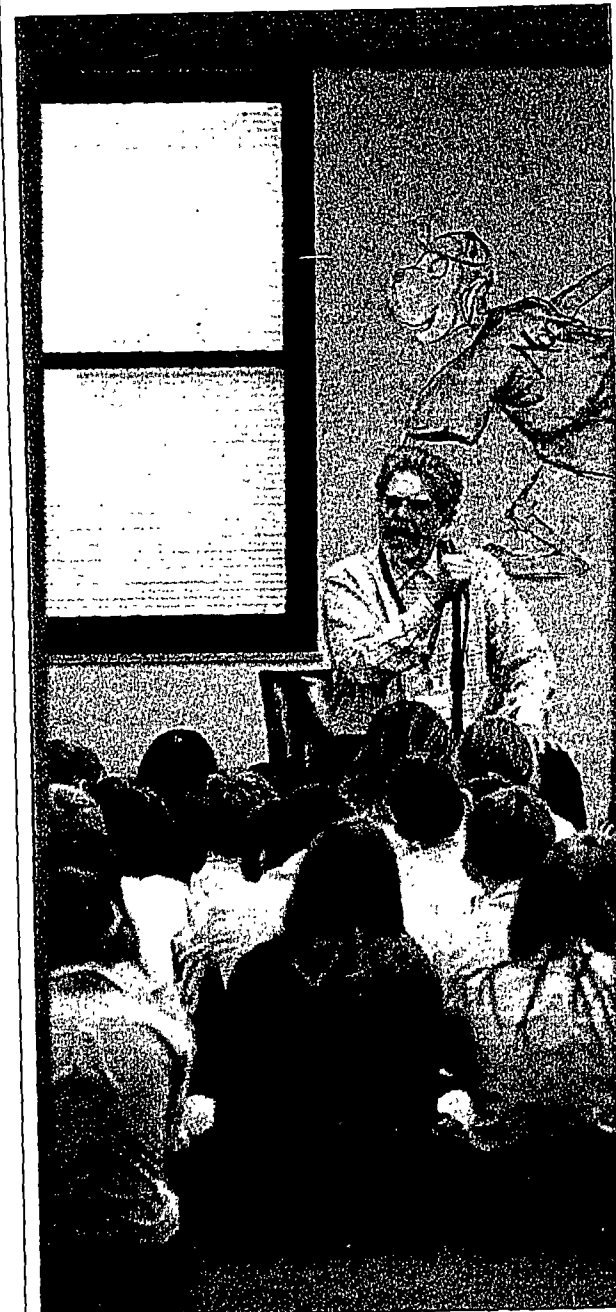
Girls Basketball? - Niles West senior Allie Guiang hit the game-winning layup with nine seconds remaining in overtime as the Wolves defeated Evanston 41-40 in the Class 4A Evanston Regional final.

To find stories go to www.pioneerlocal.com.

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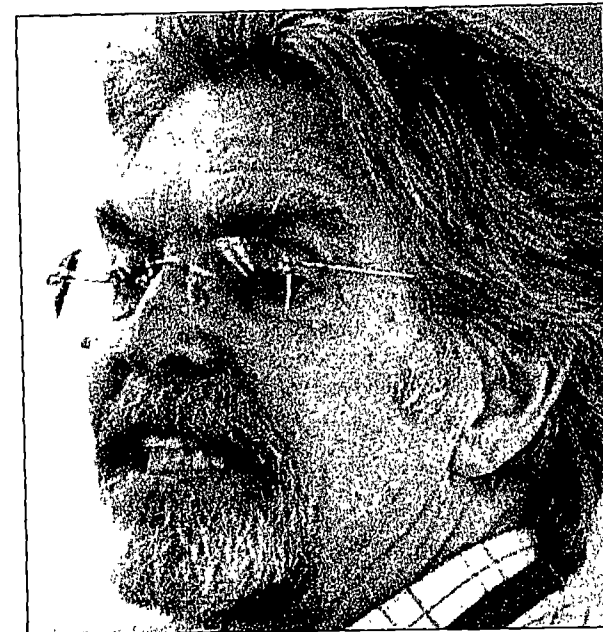
Be a part of the story - and the storytelling? There are photos and stories we want to publish in our new section, Your Niles Herald-Spectator. But we need your help. E-mail Assistant Managing Editor Matt Schmitz at mschmitz@pioneerlocal.com.



Children's author Jim Aylesworth addresses sixth- through eighth-graders Feb. 16 at Mary, Seat of Wisdom School in Park Ridge. (Photos by Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

Author visit

Jim Aylesworth, the children's author of *The Mitten*, *Old Black Fly* and *Little Bitty Mousie*, on Feb. 16 stopped by Mary, Seat of Wisdom to read to youngsters in kindergarten through eighth grade.



NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

SERVING READERS SINCE 1951

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NILES PARK DISTRICT

Hi-ya! learning

Register at Niles Park District for karate classes.

Classes are taught by instructors of the Illinois Shotokan Karate Club, under the direction of John DiPasquale, four-time National Champion, former U.S. Karate National Coach and National Faculty Member of ACEP (American Coaching Effectiveness Program), according to the Niles Park District Web site, www.niles-parks.org.

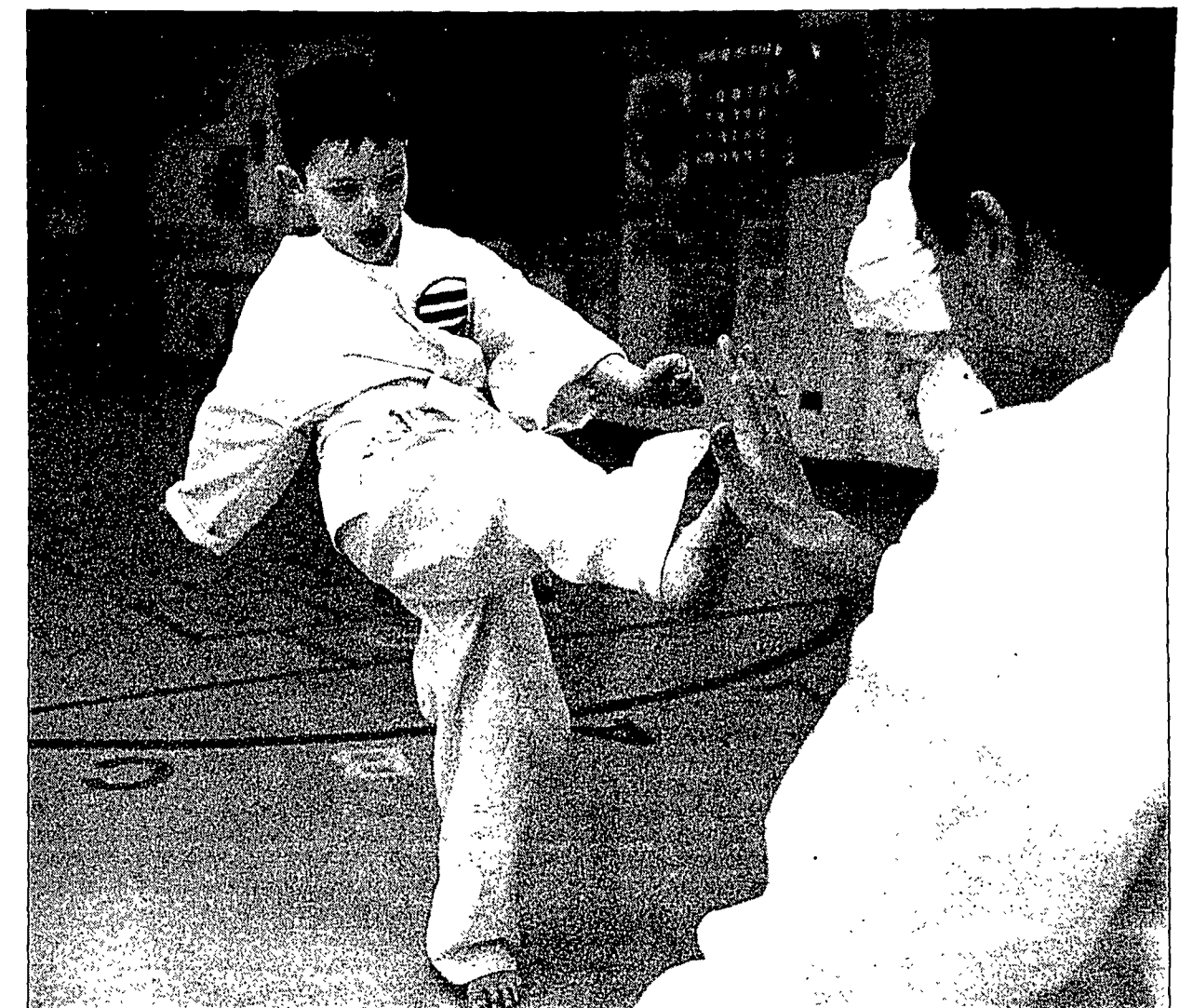
Skills taught in Youth Karate courses, "put children in touch with their bodies and help build coordination, agility, strength and poise," the site states. "Karate skills release ten-

sion brought on by school and peers. The confidence gained through karate helps foster a strong, positive self-image.

"The mental aspect involved in karate builds self-confidence, control and discipline. The physical aspect of this program is enjoyable and beneficial. Karate can improve your child's sports, school and social activities."

The same class is also offered through the Skokie and Morton Grove park districts.

For more information call (847) 967-6633 or go to www.niles-parks.org.
Comment: pioneerlocal.com



Instructor Vlad Klipinitser works with Danny Downes, 7.



Instructor Vlad Klipinitser works with Danny Downes, 7, and his brother, Ryan Downes, 9, last month during youth karate class offered by the Niles Park District.



Victoria Kielb, 9, of Niles, practices.



Eleven-year-old Vubin Dominic, of Morton Grove, throws a punch.

Photos by Brian O'Mahoney/Staff Photographer

NILES WEST

Indo-Pak Day honors south Asian heritage

By JENNA HASKITT
jhaskitt@pioneerlocal.com

Niles West High School's Indo-Pak Day earlier this month celebrated the cultures of two countries too often at odds these days: India and Pakistan.

Students experienced henna painting, Indian food, dancing, a presentation on

wedding customs, a cricket lesson and interactive games about India's film industry, nicknamed Bollywood.

The Information Resource Center was packed each period for the school's Indo-Pak Day event.

More than half the student body attended. There were 1,100 students that at-

tended from classes and additional students came to the event during their lunch or study hall.

"I'm just thrilled with the way it turned out," Penny Swartz, IRC coordinator and librarian, said about the event that reached more than half of the student population.

Poonam Patel, Niles West

science teacher, shared India's wedding customs. Patel is originally from England and her husband is from Chicago. She decided to get married in her homeland of India and her wedding celebration lasted seven days. It consisted of a lot of dancing and gift giving and receiving. Her wedding dress was a tradition-

ally Indian bridal wear which consists of a skirt, blouse and scarf. The skirt portion weighed 16 pounds and the outfit was embroidered, very intricate and colorful.

There was one day during the wedding celebration called the garba which was a day dedicated to dancing.

Niles West has their own cricket team. According to

cricket team sponsor and social studies teacher Evan Bauman, cricket is the second most popular game in the world next to soccer. Although cricket is similar to baseball, there are major differences.

In cricket there are no pitchers instead they're

Heritage, PAGE 13

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Niles \$875,000
Spectacular 4 br, 5.5 ba new construction. Open floor plan. Each br has bath. Maple/cherry kit with granite, stainless, hardwood floors.

Morton Grove \$649,000
New construction w/4,500 sq ft. Home 4brs 4+ baths. Kit w/granite counters, SS appl, FR w/lp/c. Media Rm & ba. Att 2+ car gar.

Morton Grove \$459,900
Beautiful 4 br, 2.5 ba newer home. Mstr br w/2 walk-ins, ba w/jacuzzi, 5ap liv & din rm. Granite kit w/stainless appl. Fam rm w/wb, patio.

Debbie Domick CRS, GRI 847-724-5800 Victoria Atanus 847-384-7599 Susan Cooney 847-866-8200 Bill Taliya 773-935-4466

Morton Grove \$459,900
Remodeled 4 br, 3 ba home. Liv & din rms w/hdwd. New kit w/SS appl, 42-inch cab & granite counters. Spacious fam rm. Huge 2nd-flr mstr ste.

9427 N Western, Niles \$439,900
Terrific 5 br, 3 ba brick Colonial. Fml liv rm, sep dining rm. Large eat-in kit w/pantry. Main flr br, lam rm. Att garage. Roof deck.

Morton Grove \$369,900
The Woodlands 2BR, 2.1BA townhome with two story living room, gourmet kitchen with granite counters, master suite with balcony, and more.

Niles \$360,000
Gorgeous 5 br, 2 ba home w/granite counters in kitchen overlooks living room. Hardwood floors. 2-car garage. Large yard.

6701 N Milwaukee Ave 410, Niles \$339,200
Bunker Hill Custom Condo. 3Brs 2Bths. Hdwd flrs like brand new. Party room. HTD Pkg.

Morton Grove \$329,000
2 br, 2 ba condo in the woodlands of morton grove. Highly upgraded w/designer's decor, hdwd flrs & baths. Eat-in kit w/upgraded ss appls.

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Niles \$319,900
Brick ranch in Grennan Heights. Decorated home features 3 br, 2 full ba, hardwood floors in living room and br. Sun room. Fin basement.

Niles \$310,000
3 br, 2.5 ba 2nd flr unit w/large balc facing courtyard. 2 masters, lux mstr ba. W/d in unit. Eat in kit w/lots of cabs & appl. Hd gar.

Morton Grove \$299,000
Delightful 3 br, 2 ba brick ranch w/newer Pella windows, updated eat-in kitchen, newer furnace & ac. 2.5 car garage & garden w/deck.

Niles \$289,888
4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home being sold in as is condition. Well maintained, but in need of some updating. Full finished basement with tpic.

Niles \$280,000
Recent rehab. 3 br ranch. New kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Hardwood floors. Crown molding. 2-car gar. Park Ridge school dist.

Niles \$267,500
Pristine condition 2 br, 2 ba condo w/gorgeous view overlooking forest preserve wood floors, balcony & heated garage space.

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Niles \$250,000
Eagle Point 2 br, 2 ba condo w/balcony. New g/w in eat-in kit. Bldg by forest preserve! In-unit full size laundry. Deck! Heated gar space.

Morton Grove \$235,000
3 br, 2 ba brick ranch on lrg lot. Great Parkview & Niles West School Dist. Hdwd flr, eat-in kit. Lrg fin bsmt w/4th br, 2nd kit & ba.

Morton Grove \$224,900
Beautiful 2 br, 2 ba condo. Open plan. Lovely kit w/granite counters opens to liv/din rm w/sliders to balc. In-unit laundry. Undergrd prkg.

Morton Grove \$185,000
2 br, 2 ba end unit. Liv rm opens to balcony. Spacious din rm. Eat-in kit opens to lrg lam rm. Mstr ste w/walk-in closet & bath. Hd prkg.

Niles \$179,900
2 br, 2 ba top-flr unit. Sunny E exp. Dbl wide balcony. Parquet flrs. Laundry in unit. Close to shops, trans. Heated gar, pool & tennis.

7021 W Touhy Ave 507, Niles \$159,000
Fabulous Renaissance condo in secure, convenient loc. Well-managed bldg. Loads of cabs in fully appointed eat-in kit. 17x6 balcony.

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Morton Grove \$155,000
2 br, 2 ba unit w/balcony. Custom blinds, carpet in living room/dining room combo, updated master bath, galley kitchen w/lots of cabinets.

Morton Grove \$120,000
Spacious 1 br condo. Freshly painted in soft colors. Eat-in kitchen. 22 ft balcony. In-unit laundry & underground heated garage.

Morton Grove \$107,900
Wonderful 1 br spacious unit w/great closet space. Liv rm w/bay window. Newer appl. Same flr Indry & storage. Great bldg. Clean & neutral.

Morton Grove \$105,900
Fresh 1 br top flr corner unit w/views. Updated maple kit w/brkt bar & ceramic tile flr, updated ba. Tons of closet space. Newer HVAC.

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NILES WEST

Indo-Pak Day honors south Asian heritage

By JENNA HASKITT
jhaskitt@pioneerlocal.com

Niles West High School's Indo-Pak Day earlier this month celebrated the cultures of two countries too often at odds these days: India and Pakistan.

Students experienced henna painting, Indian food, dancing, a presentation on

wedding customs, a cricket lesson and interactive games about India's film industry, nicknamed Bollywood.

The Information Resource Center was packed each period for the school's Indo-Pak Day event.

More than half the student body attended. There were 1,100 students that at-

tended from classes and additional students came to the event during their lunch or study hall.

"I'm just thrilled with the way it turned out," Penny Swartz, IRC coordinator and librarian, said about the event that reached more than half of the student population.

Poonam Patel, Niles West

science teacher, shared India's wedding customs. Patel is originally from England and her husband is from Chicago. She decided to get married in her homeland of India and her wedding celebration lasted seven days. It consisted of a lot of dancing and gift giving and receiving. Her wedding dress was a tradition-

al Indian bridal wear which consists of a skirt, blouse and scarf. The skirt portion weighed 16 pounds and the outfit was embroidered, very intricate and colorful.

There was one day during the wedding celebration called the garba which was a day dedicated to dancing.

Niles West has their own cricket team. According to

cricket team sponsor and social studies teacher Evan Bauman, cricket is the second most popular game in the world next to soccer. Although cricket is similar to baseball, there are major differences.

In cricket there are no pitchers instead they're

Heritage, PAGE 13

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9427 N Western, Niles \$439,900
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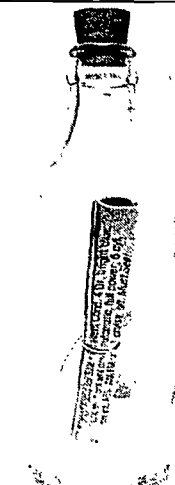
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Students interested in pursuing a career in health care are invited to attend free information sessions during March at both campuses of Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, and 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie.

Sessions are designed to showcase Oakton's degree and certificate programs in a variety of disciplines. Faculty will be on hand to discuss course requirements and industry trends.

Scheduled sessions include: *Nursing*, 5 p.m. March 3 (Room A145, Skokie); *Physical Therapist Assistant*, 4 p.m. March 10 (Room 1604, Des Plaines); and *Medical Coding, Medical Billing, and Medical Transcription*, 6 p.m. March 10 (Room A145, Skokie).

For more information, visit www.oakton.edu/healthcareers or call (847) 635-1629.

The Oakton Community College Alliance for Lifelong Learning offers spring courses at Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler Ave., Skokie.

Pet First Aid (REC S19-01) reviews what to do if your dog or cat is injured or becomes ill. Learn how to check vitals, basic CPR, and treatment for bleeding and poisoning. Single-session course meets 6 - 10 p.m. March 3. Course fee is \$45.

Soups, Salads, Appetizers, and Desserts (HEC G01-02) focuses on healthy, low-fat recipes. Four-week course meets 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays starting March 3. Course fee is \$95.

Mosaics (ART C61-02) guides students through the creation of designs made from tile, stone, glass, and other materials. Bring tile nippers and an item with a rigid surface to class. Three-week course meets 7 - 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays starting March 3. Course fee is \$150.

The Art of Spain: From El Greco to Dali (ART F15-01) provides insight into the

OAKTON BRIEFS

world and works of Spanish artists from the 1500s through the late 20th century. Five-week course meets 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays starting March 3. Course fee is \$99.

For a complete Alliance for Lifelong Learning class schedule, visit www.oakton.edu/all or call (847) 982-9888, press 3.

Register now for Passport to the World, a series of foreign relations lectures offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton Community College, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Join local experts for an analysis of international events and issues.

Register for either of two available 11-week sessions: 1-2:30 p.m. Thursdays starting March 4, and 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fridays starting March 5.

The series begins with *The "Constitution: What's Race or Gender Got to Do With It?"*, an examination of language and the U.S. justice system. Other lectures include: "Lebanon" (March 11-12); "Sri Lanka: After the Tigers" (March 18-19); "Another View of Iran" (March 25-26); "Tumult in Tehran" (April 1-2); "Mexico at a Crossroads" (April 8-9); "A New 'Great Game?' Power Struggle in Central Asia" (April 15-16); "China: Domestic Transformations and Global Governance" (April 22-23); "Freedom's Frontier in Korea: War 1950 to Crisis 2010" (April 29-30); "The State of Our World" (May 6-7); and "Myths of Power" (May 13-14).

The series-only fee is \$66 for in-district residents age 60 and over, and \$81 for out-of-district residents and those under age 60. Half-price tuition does not apply.

Oakton's Emeritus Program offers credit and non-credit courses, lectures, seminars, and tours, while providing a chance to share learning experiences with peers age 50 and over.

For more information, call

(847) 635-1414 or (847) 982-9888, press 3. For a complete list of Emeritus classes, course fees, seminars, and events, visit www.oakton.edu/emeritus.

Enroll in a variety of spring courses offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie.

The Life and Symphonies of Gustav Mahler (1860-1911) (MUS B64-71) details the composer's enduring works including "Titan," "Resurrection," and "Symphony of a Thousand." Eight-week course meets 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mondays starting March 1. Course fee is \$110.

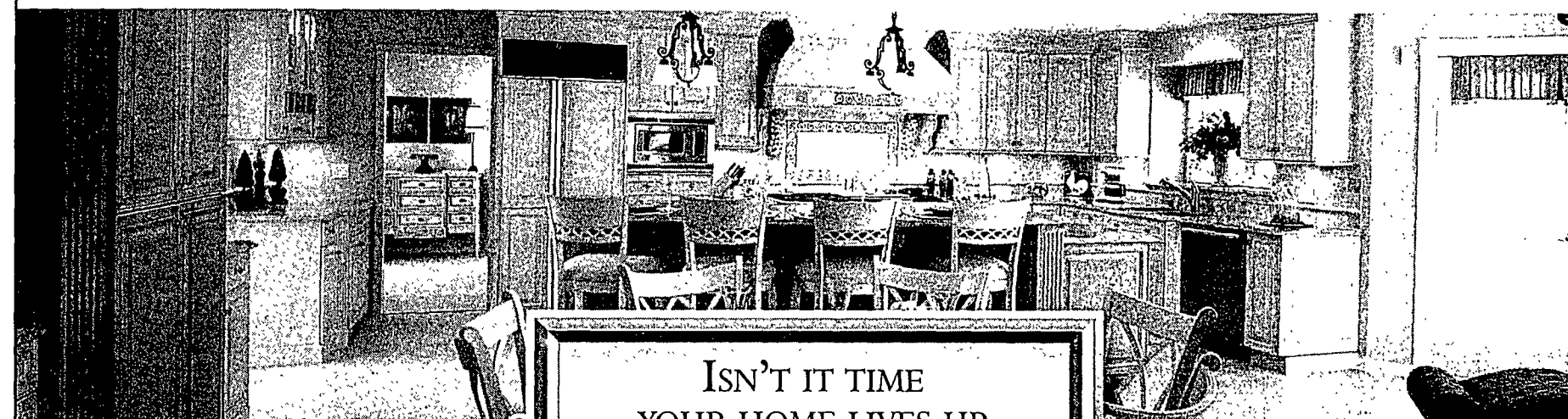
Russian Greats: Short Stories (HUM C68-71) provides an overview of Chekov, Tolstoy, and other 19th century Russian writers. Learn about a different author each week. Eight-week course meets 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays starting March 2. Course fee is \$100.

The Story (PSY X04-71) is a new class devoted to reading short fiction about older people, from their diverse attitudes toward life to their role in society. Eight-week course meets 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesdays starting March 3. Course fee is \$110.

2D to 3D: The Wave of the Future? (HUM F15-71) considers the commercial and critical acclaim of four animated films including "Up," "Ratatouille," "Wall-E," and "Howl's Moving Castle." Four-week course meets 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays starting March 3. Course fee is \$70.

Other available courses starting in March include: *Tai Chi* (PED E30-72), *Three Faces of Electra* (HUM C66-71), and *From Hebrew to Jewish Identity and Religion* (PHL E96-71).

For more information, call (847) 635-1414 or (847) 982-9888, press 3. For a complete list of Emeritus classes, course fees, seminars, and events, visit www.oakton.edu/emeritus.



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BUSINESS

Cheese sculptor does Leaning Tower Y — in cheddar

In the world of sculpting, Sarah Kaufmann is a big cheese. In the world of cheese sculpting, anyway.

For 14 years, her skills as an expert cheese carver have been sought for everything from tailgate parties to weddings. Her sculptures, numbering in the hundreds by now, are all made from 100 percent cheese.

She has done everything from trucks and trains to football and baseball players and cowboys to SpongeBob SquarePants. She has even done a dragon weighing more than six tons.

On Saturday, this cheese wiz was in Niles, carving the northwest suburb's skyline — complete with its Leaning Tower replica at its YMCA.

It's an unlikely career for someone who never ate cheese as a child — even though she's from Wisconsin.

"I didn't like cheese until college," Kaufmann said. "I didn't like it at all as a kid, but now I like all the different kinds of cheese, even the stinky ones like Gouda."

Kaufmann, 58, counts gorgonzola and brie among her favorite foods. When she got married last summer, she designed the stone on her ring to resemble a piece of Swiss cheese — holes included.

"Cheese really found me," Kaufmann said.

She studied commercial art at Madison Area Technical College before becoming an art director for the Wisconsin dairy industry. After going to some cheese trade shows for her job and seeing cheese sculptures on display, Kaufmann decided to try doing it herself.

She now lives in Cincinnati and works as a full-time freelance cheese carver.

Kaufmann says cheddar is the best cheese to carve with because of its dense, uniform consistency. She also likes to work in other types of cheese, like provolone or pepper jack, to create accent inlays in her work.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Kaufmann was at the Niles Meijer, 9000 W. Golf, sculpting the city's skyline and its famed replica of the



Sarah Kaufmann, also known as "The Cheese Lady," creates a replica of the Leaning Tower in Niles out of cheddar cheese Saturday at the Meijer store in Niles. (Buzz Orr/Staff Photographer)

Leaning Tower of Pisa using two 150-pound blocks of Wisconsin cheddar cheese provided by the store. All excess cheese scrapings became samples for customers.

"It's like retail theater," Kaufmann said. "It's entertainment. This is just a crazy fun thing to do, and I love it."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Meijer customer Adrian Anszczak, of Niles, prepares to eat cheese while watching Sarah Kaufmann (not pictured), also known as "The Cheese Lady," creating a replica of the Leaning Tower in Niles out of cheddar cheese Saturday at the Meijer store in Niles. Adrian, 14 months-old, was at the store with a family member. (Buzz Orr/Staff Photographer)



DO OR DYE HAIR SALON

Buzz cuts to benefit effort to prevent seizure deaths

By PATRICK BUTLER
pbutler@pioneerlocal.com

From 1-3 p.m. Sunday, nine professional stylists — all volunteers — will be giving buzz cuts to several hundred men and boys expected to line up outside Do or Dye Hair Salon, 6005 N. Nina, to remember 4-year-old Danny Stanton, who died in his sleep Dec. 12, two weeks before Christmas.

He wasn't suffering from a lingering illness like cancer. He wasn't killed in an accident. It wasn't SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). He died of a reportedly rare condition doctors call Sudden Unexplained Death From Epilepsy, said Mary Duffy, a family friend who was at the Stantons' that evening.

"He went to his older brother's (6-year-old John) basketball practice and we watched a Christmas special. Then the kids played hide-and-seek; he went to bed and when they woke up next morning he was gone. No warning," said Duffy. "That was why it was especially upsetting. They were never told death was even a possibility."

"He had only two or three (epileptic) seizures in his life and hadn't had one for some time."

Especially heartbreaking was the fact that Danny was always so alive, said Duffy and others who knew the preschooler already well-known for his trademark buzz cut.

Hence the haircuts at Do or Dye, Duffy said.

"When someone asks about the short haircut, kids can say they were friends of Danny's and they're raising money to give other kids a

fighting chance," Duffy said. Duffy and the newly formed Danny Did Foundation don't expect to be able to stop epilepsy dead in its tracks. But they do hope to

"locate, modify or create" an alarm system enabling families to deal with potentially lethal seizures in time to save lives, explained Mike Stanton, Danny's dad and co-founder of the foundation.

The Danny Did Foundation is also lobbying medical researchers and other epilepsy support groups to determine the most effective ways to prevent seizure-related deaths — then get that information out to the public, said Duffy, the foundation's spokeswoman. One of the group's goals is to see the development of a seizure alarm that could one day be given out at doctors' offices to seizure-prone patients much the same way they distribute inhalers to asthma sufferers.

Mike Stanton and others who knew Danny also want people to keep the boy's memory alive, recalling his love of life and his impact on others. During his 1,744 days he high-fived elderly neighbors, helped them with their groceries, comforted shy children and held his own in almost any sport.

Not surprisingly the Danny Did Foundation has attracted more than 6,200 friends in little more than a month.

Even the name of the foundation created in his honor, Duffy said, came from the final words of the eulogy given by Danny's father: "Please go and enjoy your lives. Danny Did."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



Danny Stanton

NILES NORTH

Checkmate: Vikes are state chess champions

By JENNA HASKITT
jhaskitt@pioneerlocal.com

The Niles North Vikings chess team dominated the competition during the state chess tournament earlier this month, coasting to a well-deserved championship.

"We have an incredibly strong team. They really played so well and there's so much team unity. It was really amazing," said Harry Kyriazes, head coach and Niles North science instructor.

Fielding strong chess teams is nothing new for the Vikings. The team placed third in state last year and got hot at nationals, finishing fourth. This isn't even the Vikings' first championship, as the team won state in 2006.

This year's state championship chess team members are Eric Rosen — board one, Fedor Titov — board two, Saagar Gupta — board three, Michael Chinitz — board four and Evan Spiegel on board five, with Chad Hirsch and David Paykin splitting board six, Rafah Qazi and Evan Goldstein splitting board seven, and Emmett Barr and Adil Dzellilovic rotating on board eight.

According to tournament rules, eight players represent the high school with the best player playing board one, the second-best playing board two and so on in descending order to the eighth player. Each player, in turn, faces the other school's comparably ranked player.

A win on board one is worth 12 points for the victor's team, a win on board two nets 11 points, all the way down to five points for



The Niles North state champion chess team with its trophy. Front row, from left, Eric Rosen, Fedor Titov, Saagar Gupta, Michael Chinitz and Evan Spiegel. Second row, from left, Assistant coach Heather Ingraham, Rafah Qazi, Adil Dzellilovic, Chad Hirsch, alumnus and Assistant Coach Ben Rothschild, Coach Harry Kyriazes and Grandmaster Yury Shulman. Back row, from left, Evan Goldstein, Emmett Barr and David Paykin. (Photo courtesy Betsy Dynako)

"We have an incredibly strong team. They really played so well and there's so much team unity. It was really amazing."

Harry Kyriazes, head coach

and Niles North science instructor

the eighth-seeded winner for a total of 68 possible points. Draws split the points.

The Vikings started out hot Feb. 20, sweeping their challengers, Northside College Prep, Riverside and Buffalo Grove, 68-0 in the first three of four rounds that day. They finished that Friday's competition soundly beating eventual fourth-place finisher, Aurora's Illinois Math and Science Academy, 51-17.

The second day's rounds produced some closer matches, as the Vikings faced three teams that all finished in the top 10 of the

130-team tournament. The Vikes delivered No. 3 Hinsdale Central's only tournament loss with a 62-6 laugh-off, then followed that with a tough 41.5-26.5 win over No. 9 Glenbard West.

Niles North entered the final round as the only unbeaten team and was significantly ahead on tie-breaker points, so the players were fairly certain of the overall win even if they lost the round, Kyriazes said. Fittingly, No. 8 Whitney Young (the only other team in the tournament to face four top 10 teams) gave the Viking players their toughest test. Niles North pre-

vailed 38.5-29.5 despite Rosen's only defeat on board one — to the overall board-one champion Michael Auger. At tournament's end, the team racked up 44 wins, eight losses and four draws. Gupta on board three and Spiegel on board five both finished the tournament 7-0, with Spiegel finishing first and Gupta second at their level.

"When you're all playing on the same team you just try to get everyone better," Kyriazes said about team members sharing knowledge about clever moves they've discovered. The students have played a lot of chess, which helped later in the matches, Kyriazes said: When others got tired, they had stamina.

Assistant coaches are English instructor Heather Ingraham and science instructor John Kretsos.

The national tournament will take place in Columbus, Ohio, April 16-18.

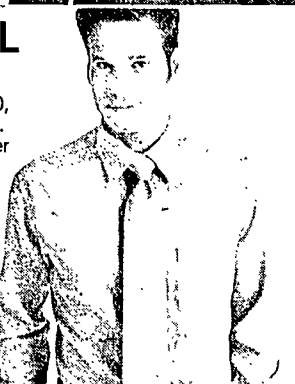
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Reg. 99.99, after special 59.99. Only at Macy's. Basics Starter 12-pc. stainless cookware set by Tools of the Trade.



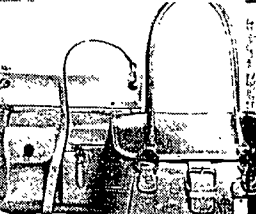
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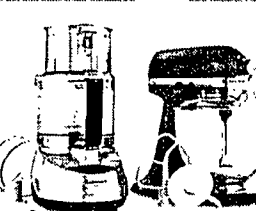
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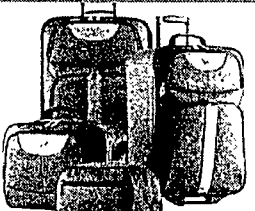
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Reg. \$160, after special 79.99. Only at Macy's. American Explorer De Soto 4-pc. luggage set.



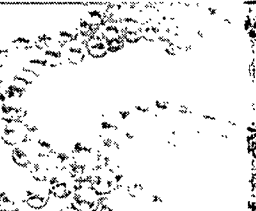
SPECIAL 34.99

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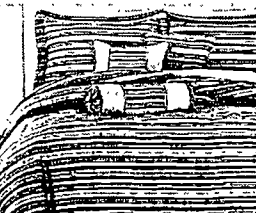
SPECIAL \$99

Reg. \$500, after special \$200. 100" 7-8mm endless cultured freshwater pearl strand.



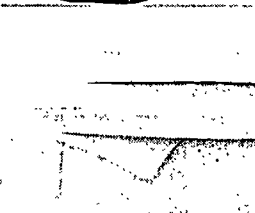
SPECIAL 49.99

Reg. \$200, after special 59.99. Only at Macy's. Dillon Brown 7-pc. jacquard comforter set. Queen or king.



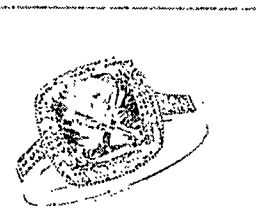
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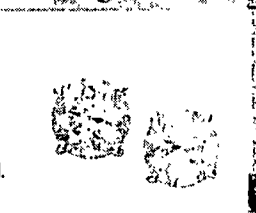
SPECIAL \$199

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Poonam Patel, biology teacher at Niles West High School, is assisted by senior Satni Ganger, of Morton Grove, while she talks about her traditional Indian wedding during Indo-Pak day in the school library Feb. 10. (Curtis Lehmkuhl/Staff Photographer)

Heritage

Continued from PAGE 6

called bowlers, one team does all their batting then the other team does their batting, there are no innings, the ball is bounced on the ground at 90 miles per hour and the bat is flat. The object is to score the most runs and also to break the wickets to get the batsman out.

The cricket team was scheduled to play against Rolling Meadows on Monday at the Niles West field-house.

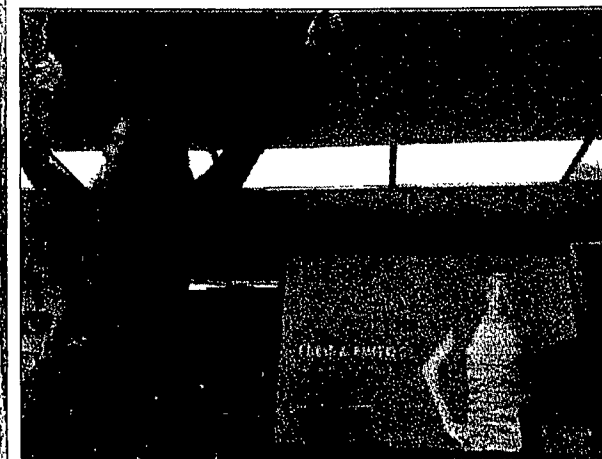
The advanced theater studio classes offered educational and interactive presentations about Indian film. Andy Sinclair, theater teacher, had his students do research on Hollywood and Bollywood so they would be able to teach their peers about the Indian culture in terms of film. The theater

students used the audience to play their own version of Jeopardy.

Foods served were kulli which was prepared by the school's commercial chef's classes and samosas and papad which were donated by Sheila Galani at the Skokie Holiday Inn.

This event was part of Skokie's larger initiative Coming Together in Skokie. This is the first year for the initiatives undertaking which was started by Skokie Public Library Director Carolyn Anthony, First Lady of Skokie Susan Van Dusen, District 219 Superintendent Nanneciann Gatta, Holiday Inn North Shore and Skokie Business Community Sheila Gilani and President of the Indian Community of Niles Township Usha Kamaria.

For more information about Coming Together in Skokie and to view upcoming events visit www.skokie-library.info.



Marina Spasova, of Morton Grove, a sophomore at Niles West High School, demonstrates how to perform a dance from the movie, "Slumdog Millionaire," during Indo-Pak Day in the school library Feb. 10. (Curtis Lehmkuhl/Staff Photographer)

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Fire Chief Barry Mueller, Trustee Jim Hynes, Retiree Dave Schweigert and Mayor Bob Callero. (Contributed photo)

NEWS BRIEF

Firefighter honored for 36 years' service

Dave Schweigert, firefighter apparatus engineer, was honored at the Jan. 26 Village Board meeting for his 36 years of service to the Niles Fire Department. Schweigert was appointed to the department April 16, 1973. From that day until his retirement on Nov. 25 he is said to have been considered a great asset to the depart-

ment. "During his career, Dave experienced many changes and improvements in the fire service," a news release stated. "He welcomed and embraced that progress and changed with the times. He was very skilled and proficient in his duties. He was loyal to his fellow employees and the department and had an exemplary attendance record during his career.

"He displayed a friendly, caring and happy attitude which is so welcomed in any organization. Finally, Dave was always willing to mentor newer employees and pass on to them his vast knowledge and considerable experience." Fire Chief Barry Mueller presented Schweigert with a retirement plaque and thanked him for his dedicated service to the department and the community.

POLICE BLOTTER

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

THEFT

Asma Albaki, 31, of 8618 W. Summerdale, Chicago, was charged Feb. 16 with retail theft from Sears, 400 Golf Mill. She allegedly stole a wallet and children's clothing items with a total value of \$49.77.

Krystal Rocha, 21, of 110 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling, was charged Feb. 12 with retail theft from Sears, 400 Golf Mill Center. She allegedly stole a \$17.99 bottle of cologne and a \$57 halter top.

Saud Khurshid, 21, of 8931 Bronx Ave., Skokie, was charged Feb. 12 with petty theft from Walmart, 8500 Golf Road. He allegedly switched prices between 10-pound and 25-pound dumbbell weights and purchased

the 25-pound weights.

Bobby O. Gonzalez, 31, of 4416 N. Clifton, Chicago, was charged Feb. 10 with petty theft and possession of marijuana at Home Depot, 901 Civic Center. He allegedly stole \$5.90 worth of plumbing fittings. The marijuana was reportedly found while he was in the Asset Protection office.

ALCOHOL

A 17-year-old male from Niles was charged Feb. 9 with consumption of alcohol by a minor and for cost of police and fire emergency services on the 6900 block of Milwaukee Ave. He was turned over to his father.

Mary C. Nolan, 54, of 415 N. Washington St., Park Ridge, was charged Feb. 17 with driving under the influence on the 7100 block of Milwaukee Ave. She was also cited for speeding. Her court date is March 10.

Wieslaw Sokolowski, 56, of 3330 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, was charged Feb.

14 with driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to signal when required, disobeying a red light, driving on the wrong side of roadway and improper lane use on the 8700 block of North Harlem Avenue. His court date is March 29.

Samantha C. Hacker, 22, of 7624 Monroe St., Forest Park, was charged Feb. 12 with driving under the influence and driving under the influence with a blood alcohol level over .08 percent. She was also cited for speeding, operating the vehicle without an illuminated rear registration lamp and illegal transportation of alcohol. Her court date is March 10.

Velko S. Ivanov, 45, of 8351 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, was charged Feb. 10 with felony driving under the influence, blood alcohol level above the legal limit, improper lane use, speeding and no valid drivers license on the 8800 block of Harlem Ave. His court date was Friday.

Information provided by Record Information Services, P.O. Box 894, Elburn, IL 60119; Phone (630) 557-1000; Fax (630) 557-1001.

GLENNVIEW

10359 Desrievs Road Apt 2g, Deutsche Bank Natl Tr Co Tee to Stephano J Woo, \$92,000, Jan. 11.

1121 Golfview Lane, Chicago Title Land Tr Co Tee to Alkarim Tajuddin Dilshad Tajuddin, \$1,350,000, Jan. 21.

1502 Crown Drive, Bressett Trust to Yair Gavrilov, \$391,000, Jan. 21.

1555 Woodlawn Ave., Chicago Title Land Tr Co Tee to Harish Kumar Batra Ritu Batra, \$1,350,000, Jan. 19.

1816 Wagner Road, Shardeni Shanava to Jorge J Machado Doris Machado, \$1,490,000, Jan. 26.

1904 Glen Oak Drive, Arthur Nadolny to Peter J Loughran Susan Loughran, \$1,095,000, Jan. 20.

2226 Harrison St., Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Jenny E Rutenberg Lu Anne Betcher, \$250,000, Jan. 15.

3844 Lizzette Lane, Gennady Gorenjuk to Svetlana Toulissova, \$540,000, Jan. 21.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

3921 Triunvera Drive Unit 7a, Reinla Trust to Ilya Poletaev Angelica Poletaeva, \$120,000, Jan. 11.

710 Windsor Road, Chicago Title Land Tr Co Tee to Alkarim Tajuddin Dilshad Tajuddin, \$1,350,000, Jan. 21.

755 Milwaukee Ave. Unit 2c, S K I Development Corp to Bang Ji McLaughlin Samuel McLaughlin, \$165,000, Jan. 13.

915 Kings Lane, Robert K Davis to Sarah H Winston Douglas A Scheffner, \$1,225,000, Jan. 21.

1301 W Touhy Ave. Apt 315, Christine Mytko to Joseph R Hancock Candace M Hancock, \$110,000, Jan. 19.

1317 Granville Ave., Susan Farrell Herrmann to Kenneth Walters Jeanne Walters, \$373,000, Jan. 22.

1632 S Greenwood Ave., Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Zbigniew Luszczewski, \$217,000, Jan. 15.

1824 Norman Boulevard, Dennis Jager to Craig J Murray Allison J Ledtke Murray, \$329,000, Jan. 13.

225 East Ave., Homesales Inc to Stuart Davis Erin Davis, \$310,000, Jan. 11.

303 N Western, Krzysztof Perkowski to Mary Jo Carpenter, \$920,000, Jan. 19.

320 S Knight Ave., Chicago Title Land Tr Co Tee to Marko Markos, \$290,000, Jan. 15.

523 Engel Boulevard, Martha S Gamble to John Huber Jennifer Huber, \$678,000, Jan. 15.

Chifchiev Nina Chifchiev, \$175,000, Jan. 15.

PARK RIDGE

1100 Austin Ave., Sauter Trust to Kathleen T Bucaro Zobens Arno Zobens, \$372,000, Jan. 14.

129 Wisner St., Duerkop Trust to Douglas H Oomen Jr Brandy Oomen, \$620,000, Jan. 21.

1301 W Touhy Ave. Apt 315, Christine Mytko to Joseph R Hancock Candace M Hancock, \$110,000, Jan. 19.

1317 Granville Ave., Susan Farrell Herrmann to Kenneth Walters Jeanne Walters, \$373,000, Jan. 22.

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WE SAY

We're sorry, too, Mr. Blase

Allow us to go on record saying we were unimpressed with the "year and a day" sentence handed down last month to disgraced Niles Mayor Nicholas Blase.

In the end, the guy who's been muscling local businesses for untold years in an insurance-kickbacks scheme likely will serve no more than 10 months starting Monday, the day he's scheduled to surrender to authorities. That means he could conceivably be back in a lounge chair in Florida by the first of 2011. Not bad for a near half-century in office, stealing from the community for who knows how long. (The true scope of this sad story continues to unfold and others are implicated in Blase's racket.)

But perhaps we naive proponents of open, honest government should be pleased Tricky Nick got any time at all. The sympathy card practically plays itself when the perp is an affluent white octogenarian in a necktie who steals \$500,000 instead of some cartoonish urban street thug sporting gang colors who steals \$50. White-collar crime that abuses the public trust often doesn't carry the same sense of moral depravity as a one-on-one robbery.

Heck, the way the court practically apologized to Blase when accepting his

guilty plea more than a year before his Jan. 28 sentencing, we expected a righteous wrist-tickling. So a year sentence for an elderly man with a tarnished legacy of his life's work might not seem so bad by comparison.

But how tarnished is that legacy? That, we admit, is what really sticks in our craw. We've never understood the continued unwillingness — if not blind loyalty — to publicly criticize this man. We recall little community outcry over the charges. Some of his village colleagues have unflinchingly stood by him even while taking great pains to undo the decades of erosion he caused to democratic government in Niles. Even the mayoral hopefuls in last year's election who campaigned on a reform agenda treated any direct reference to Blase at a Pioneer Press-sponsored debate as the white elephant in the room.

"I think it would be overwhelmingly clear that the good he has done for the community far outweighs the bad," Sheldon Zenner, one of Blase's attorneys, told the court last month.

Would it? What is the exchange rate these days for corrupt deeds against free buses and reliable snowplowing?

In reality there's a big difference between being wishy-washy on whether

something's right or wrong; between a smile at someone at a bar on a business trip and being unfaithful to one's spouse; between wanting to help out your pal's insurance company and subtly intimidating business owners into buying insurance from him, then accepting a steady paycheck for your trouble — for decades — as federal Judge Wayne Andersen noted at the sentencing.

At some point Blase consciously made that decision for the first time, knowing full well it was wrong. Then he made it again and again and again.

Now he's sorry. We don't suppose that generous donation of \$750,000 to the local Niles school districts would have come from the kindness of Blase's heart, nor his million dollars payment of owed taxes to the IRS, in which case he'd been stealing from us all, had the feds not coming knocking at his door on that fateful birthday of his.

Some might say it's an easy shot to take, a cliché even, but after nearly 50 years in office and however long spent arrogantly abusing his position, Blase isn't truly sorry for what he's done.

He's sorry he finally got caught.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

1000 WORDS



Tweeting from a bathroom stall



CHERYL O'DONOVAN
VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

Do we now worship at the altar of the Internet and gadgetry?

In high school, I was voted "Most likely to flub technology." I love the convenience, but not the intrusion of people jabbering on cell phones in the produce aisle.

Video and Web cams capture every second. Skype allows us to see each other in our jammies. We're addicted to our e-mail inboxes. We're distractible and harried.

On Facebook, I thought, "Hey. My stats are solid, over 100 friends and counting." I felt vaguely popular, like I might be asked to the spring prom. Until I saw that a kid from junior high

had 1.23 million Facebook friends.

Yes, we blog, chat-room, flame, text and Tweet. We chronicle every emotion we feel, measure every action we take, and dull the brain of some poor sap who visits our blog.

My take? I can barely get my own husband to pay attention, much less people out there in cyberspace.

Not to mention, these diversions are huge time drains.

Einstein could not have devised his theories if he blogged and fired off comments. "Ludwig, you are a lug-head about wormholes. AtomicBoyz, general relativity has nothing to do with a family reunion."

The great events in American history were not recorded on a cell phone camera.

Imagine Utah in the late 1860s, as a jubilant crowd gathered around dusty steam engines. The last spike was hammered, establishing the first transcontinental railroad.

Bursting into applause, witnesses wept. "East

meets west. We're at last a nation!"

Meanwhile, inside the Tumbleweed Café, a cowboy yawned and Tweeted: "Hot schoolmarm gave me her Morse code number."

Back at our ranch, I text my husband. "Headed upstairs."

"LOL." My husband texts a reply. "I just heard you trip."

Kirby texts his followers: "Westminster, schmestminster. I dated Sadie the Scottish Terrier back in obedience school."

People are duped into believing they can multitask. Even though it's more dangerous than driving intoxicated, people still attempt to text and steer a vehicle.

Just pray to God snipers don't adopt this multitasking mentality. Or a heart surgeon.

Besides medical professionals, there is one profession I would never, ever want to Tweet while he's working. The air traffic controller helping land my plane. Comment: pioneerlocal.com

YOU SAY

Volunteers thanked for holiday help

Each year as the holiday season approaches, the Center of Concern is approached by area residents who are needy and want to spare their children the full reality of their financial situation.

Each year, our caring

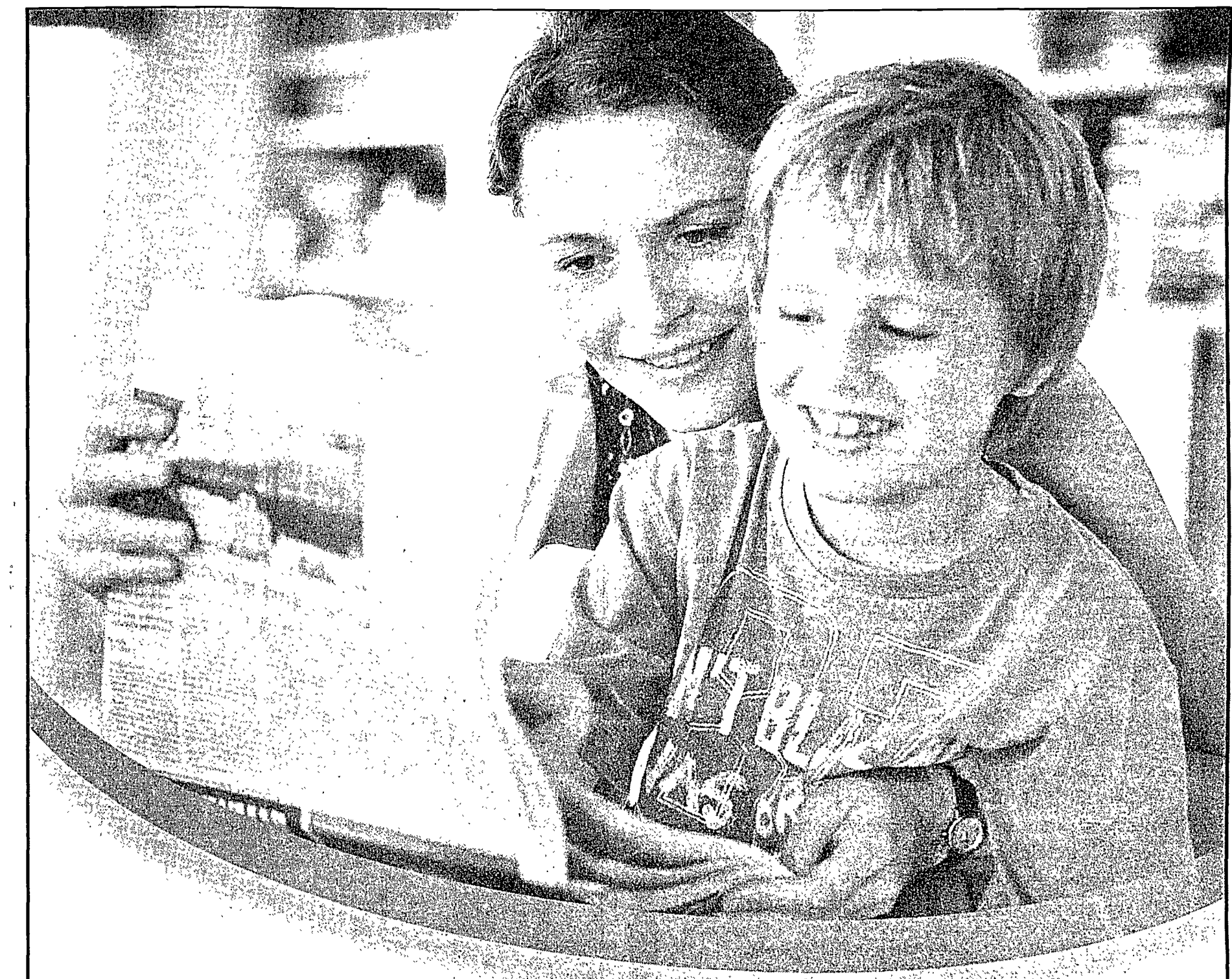
community rises to the occasion. This year they helped 135 families.

More than 20 individuals and families joined 15 organizations and businesses in providing gift baskets and wrapped gifts, generously filling wish lists.

Thank you to all who participated in donating and delivering these gifts.

Without our community friends, we at would not have been able to bring holiday cheer to so many.

Mary A. Schurder
Executive Director



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How The Fixer gets things fixed



STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN

THE FIXER - Chicago Sun-Times

Dear Readers: Team Fixer is often asked how we can stand to constantly argue with companies over missing rebates, broken appliances, melted computers, lost luggage, double-billed merchandise and the occasional AWOL repair guy.

Well, for one thing, it's not our money. Taking the raw emotion out makes it a lot easier to fix things.

Of course, we also benefit greatly from the backing of a big newspaper company, as opposed to being a lonely consumer battling a huge corporation. All told, we've saved Chicago-area consumers more than \$875,000 since 2005. Our only regret is that with about 8,000 reader letters a year, we can't help everyone.

So how do the letters get chosen? How does The Fixer fix things? Here are some Fixer FAQs:

How do I write to The Fixer?

Go to www.pioneerlocal.com, where you'll find a simple form to fill out. There's ample room on this electronic form for your story.

We much prefer online submissions than letters via snail mail. If we pursue your case, we can hit a button and forward the whole thing to the top brass at the business in question, along with information gleaned from our interviews with you.

A tip: If you write your letter in a separate computer document, you can cut and paste it in The Fixer's online form and also send it straight to the Better Business Bureau, the Illinois Attorney

General and other agencies. More on that below.

Can't I just call?
Sorry — if we took problems over the phone, there wouldn't be any time left for fixing.

Can I write you anonymously?

"Dear Fixer" letters must include a full name and town. The exception is our ongoing series of Costly Lessons — consumers' anonymous, unfixable tales of woe. Also more on that below.

How do you choose which letters to fix?

We're constantly fixing things, so when we get a break in the action, we start sifting through the letters for our next one. First, we determine if the problem is fixable. Sometimes we look for dramatic stories, or things we haven't seen before. Sometimes we choose an issue that typifies an experience many people have had.

Is there anything you won't fix?

If the consumer has gotten himself into trouble — by not paying bills on time or not following rules — we usually can't help. If the business is in bankruptcy, it's almost always hopeless.

We focus on consumer issues. If you are frustrated by an unjust parking ticket, bounced paycheck, dead-beat dad, noisy dogs, vicious squirrels or a desire to reconnect with your high school prom date, we're afraid we can't help. If you've got a juicy tale about public corruption, talk to The Watchdogs at watchdogs@sun-times.com.

How will I know if you've picked my letter?

If we choose your letter, a member of Team Fixer will interview you, usually over the phone.

What happens next?

If your problem is with a local business, we do a records search and find out who is in charge. Sometimes we track them down at home or go through their family members —

whatever it takes to get your complaint in front of them.

With big companies, we generally go through their corporate media relations department. These people usually know exactly who can fix something.

What's a Costly Lesson?

Costly Lessons are "unfixable" stories that might prevent others from getting into trouble. Sometimes readers generously offer their tales to help others. For Costly Lessons, we leave out the reader's last name to spare them further embarrassment.

What if you didn't choose my letter?

You can go to The Fixer page at suntimes.com, click on "links and numbers," and file your complaint directly with the Better Business Bureau, the Illinois Attorney General and other agencies. We've heard positive feedback from readers who've taken this route.

What's the Web chat?

The Fixer holds a 15-minute Web chat at noon every Monday at suntimes.com. We usually have a main topic — such as getting out of credit card debt or avoiding scams — and then try to answer readers' consumer questions.

It's easy for you to fix things. Why do I have such a hard time?

That's the depressing part about this job. It's frustrating that we can fix something in a day that readers couldn't get resolved in a year. But it is a lot easier to get things done when you've got a media company ready to publish the results, and having a column like this is a way to keep everyone on their toes. Our hope is that businesses will improve customer service, making it easier for readers to fix problems on their own.

To reiterate:

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem? Tell it to The Fixer at www.pioneerlocal.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 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.

Benefits

Half Price Books launches its annual Half Pint Library Book Drive. The six-week program runs to March 31 and collects and distributes children's books to families and children in need through local nonprofit and community organizations. Books donated through the Half Pint Library program helps boost literacy outside of school. The drive accepts any type of children's books, including Spanish-language books, as long as they are in good condition. All Half Price Books locations: 5605 W. Touhy Ave. (Niles); 1319 N. Rand Road (Palatine); 366-370 W. Army Trail Road (Bloomington); 14 Countryside Plaza (Countryside); 151 Skokie Valley Road (Highland Park).

Center of Concern

The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays (every week)
- Employment counseling, by appointment.

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays - Income tax preparation, by appointment.

Saturday, Feb. 27 - Legal counseling, by appointment.

Saturday, Feb. 27 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m. to noon (no appointment needed).

Monday, March 8 - Alzheimer's caregivers support group, 10 a.m.

Tuesdays, March 2 and 16 - Medicare counseling, by appointment.

Wednesdays, March 10 and 24 - Grief and loss support group, call first.

Saturday, March 6 - Dinner Auction Fund-raiser, 6 p.m., Hyatt Rosemont.

Saturdays, March 13 and 27 - Legal counseling, by appointment.

Saturday, March 27 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

Low-cost income tax preparation will be available by appointment at the Center of Concern in Park Ridge on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, through April 10. Adults of all ages with annual incomes under \$40,000 (excluding Social Security benefits) are welcome. The fee for basic federal and state returns, including Schedules A, B and D and forms for the Earned Income Tax Credit, is \$35. More complex returns cost up to \$50. Call (847) 823-0453 to make an appointment. Homebound residents may ask to have a tax preparer come to their home.

Center counselors also are available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax re-

lief grants and license-plate discounts, Illinois Cares Rx (prescription drug assistance), the senior-citizen real-estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen tax-assessment freeze, and the longtime-occupant-homeowner property-tax exemption.

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. 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.

Employment counseling and preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also are available by appointment. All services are offered at the Center of Concern offices at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, in Park Ridge. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Chamber

Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian, DBR, Des Plaines, Evanston, Glenview, Glen-coe, Highland Park, Mount Prospect, Niles, Northfield, Park Ridge, Skokie,

Wheeling/Prospect Heights, Wilmette and Winnetka Chamber members will have a chance to promote their businesses to an expanded audience at the Mega-Connect Multi-Chamber Networking Lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 18 at Bristol Court Banquets, 828 E. Rand Road, Mount Prospect, (beside Brunswick bowling alley). This event is \$25 for members paying in advance and \$35 at the door. Walk-ins strongly discouraged and may not be accommodated. RSVP and payment are due by 5 p.m. March 11. RSVP by calling the Skokie Chamber of Commerce at (847) 673-0240. Table sponsorships are also available for \$35.

The Niles Chamber Dollars for Scholars Charter is an all volunteer committee dedicated to youth. This 2009-10 academic year, four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating eighth-grade students and four \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors. Applications are judged on service to the community and school, response to an essay, awards and honors, school transcripts, and letters of recommendation. Application information can be found at www.nileschamber.com. Deadline is Feb. 26. Call the Chamber office (847) 268-8180.

The Maine Township Food Pantry is in desperate need of nonperishable items, including: canned vegetables, canned fruit, jelly, peanut butter, hamburger/chicken helper, cookies, crack-

ers, spaghetti, rice and snack bars. Items may be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Niles Chamber of Commerce office, 8060 W. Oakton St., inside the North Side Community Bank building.

Classes

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc., is now offering "Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy," dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is \$60. Contact Dorida King at dhking@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy, will host a seminar, "Perfecting the Canine/Human Team," with PK Shad-er. The two-day seminar will take place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 6-7 at 6042 W. Oakton St., Morton Grove. Cost is \$100 a day or \$175 for two days. Humans only, no dogs. A light lunch and beverage will be provided. Contact Barbara Sanders at Babs2909@comcast.net or (773) 637-3501 for reservations.

Low-cost adult computer classes are offered by the Niles Township Government, 5255 Main St., at Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Classes cost \$70 for Niles Township residents and \$85 for out-of-district students. Instructors work at a slow, basic pace, so that students can absorb material. Two free practice sessions are available each week with an instructor in attendance so students can practice and go over

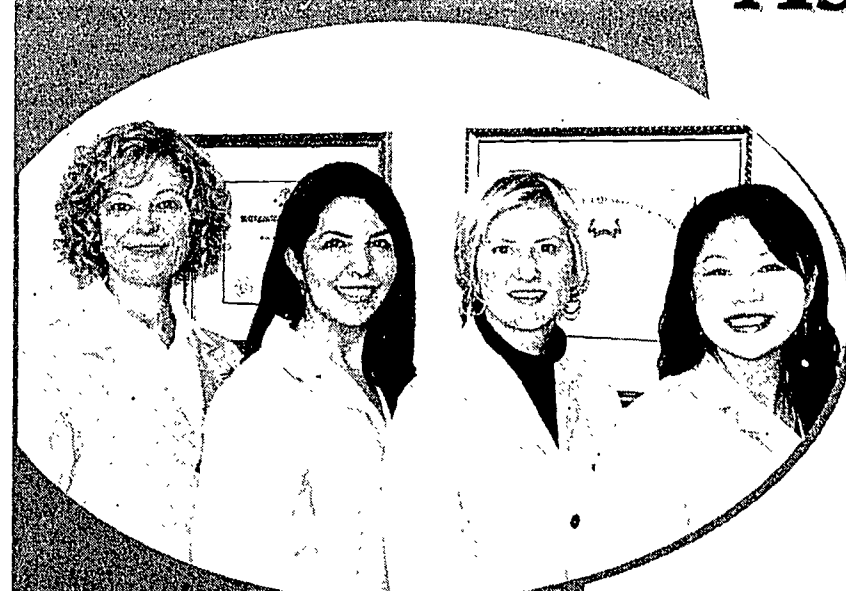
material and have questions answered. A typing tutor program is also available for those who do not type or need a refresher course. All course materials are provided. Upcoming classes include: Introduction to Desktop Publishing (class No. DP5) 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays, March 1-22. Introduction to Internet & E-Mail 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 9-25 (class HEM7). Introduction to Desktop Publishing (class No. DP5) 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays, March 1-22. Introduction to Internet & E-Mail (class No. EM7) 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 9-25; and Introduction to Computing (Class No. ID17) 3-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 9-April 1. Sign up online at www.nilestownshipgov.org or call Vicki, (847) 673-9300, ext. 222.

Clubs

The Twenty-first Star Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at 11:30 a.m. March 10 at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. A luncheon will be served at noon with a meeting and program to follow. Hostesses for the day are: Liz Feltmann and B.J. Weinman; Mary K. Redmann, chairman. Tom Weber, sales manager and trainer with Freedom Personal Development, will present his program, "Increase Your Memory Power." Weber travels across the United States teaching

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Calendar

Continued from PAGE 19

workshops in Memory Training, Smart Reading, and more to thousands of business professionals. He will show how those skills can help one reduce stress by remembering more. Remember to bring "White Elephants" for the Silent Auction fund-raiser. Women who are interested in membership in DAR should know that any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership. The 21st Star Chapter provides genealogy research assistance; contact Second Vice Regent, Betty Borman at (847) 818-9001.

Les Bavards, a monthly francophone lunch group, will meet at 6:30 p.m. March 3 for dinner and conversation in French at a restaurant in Des Plaines to practice using the language in an informal setting. Participants, including a few native speakers, have various levels of proficiency in speaking French. Participants must have the ability to carry on general conversations in the language. No membership is required. Visit lesbavardsfrancophones@blogspot.com. Attendees are asked to e-mail lesbavards-duNord@yahoo.com or call (847) 921-7864 before noon the preceding Tuesday.

Elizabeth Brackett, PBS NewsHour correspondent and author of *Pay to*

Play: How Rod Blagojevich Turned Political Corruption into a National Sideshow, will speak about "Women in Journalism" at the League of Women Voters Women's History Month Luncheon on March 6. Sponsored by the Leagues of Women Voters including those of Park Ridge and Niles, the luncheon commemorates Women's History Month by acknowledging the contribution and inspiration of female history makers. The luncheon, at the Glen Club, 2901 W. Lake Ave. in Glenview, will begin with an 11:45 a.m. reception, followed by lunch at 12:15 p.m. and Brackett at 1 p.m. Cost of the luncheon program is \$38; reservations are due by March 1. Call (847) 866-7844. Non-perishable food items or paper goods will be collected for local township food pantries. Monetary donations are also welcome.

The Niles Historical Society will feature a program with Dr. Ann Durkin Keating, "Chicago: City and Suburbs of the Railroad Age" at 2 p.m. Feb. 28 in the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 Milwaukee Ave. Dr. Durkin holds the C. Frederick Toennies Professorship at North Central College, is a history professor and chair of the History Department and quoted as an expert source about Chicago area history. Visitors can also ride on the new magnetic elevator, see all the new displays on music, sports, hats, collectibles, the school room, 1920s kitchen, living quarters from the '30s and more (tools, covered wagon, typewriters, barber shop, etc.). All programs are planned with the family in mind and are open to all. Free ad-

mission and parking, a brief business meeting, refreshments. Call (847) 390-0160.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois will present "Chicago Jewish Orphanages and Family Trees." Julian Frazin and others speak about the Chicago Jewish orphanage experience at 2 p.m. March 21 at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. Ask any genealogical related questions regarding research into a family's history. The JGSI meeting facilities at Temple Beth Israel will open at 12:30 p.m. to accommodate those who want to use the library materials, get help with genealogy Web sites or ask genealogical related questions before the main program. Visit www.jewishgen.org/jgsi or call (312) 666-0100.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 meet at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7680 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis in Niles on Howard Street). The Post is open also on Fridays from 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernard Beverley, (847) 966-5479, e-mail bond54762@yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890.

The Korean War Veterans Association, Greater Chicago Chapter No. 25, meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Montclare-Leyden VFW Post, 6940 W. Diversey Ave. Call Joe Hennueller, (773) 774-9671.

Ichiacchieroni Italian-language dinner group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Salerno's, 1716 E. Kensington Road,

Mount Prospect. This is a casual evening of conversation in Italian. The next meeting will be March 11. Call Gabriella, (847) 292-0089, or e-mail: ichiacchieroni@yahoo.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.drozd2@comcast.net.

The Knights of Columbus (North American Martyrs Council, Niles), provides ways for members to help others in the community while trying to improve their family and spiritual lives. Call Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920.

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

Knights of Columbus, North American Martyrs, Council 4338, is sponsoring a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on March 13 in the St. John Brebeuf May Parish Ministry Center, 8305 N. Harlem Ave. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 and entertainment at 8. Harrington's Catering will provide dinner with all the trimmings. Council will provide soda, wine and beer. (Chicken dinners can be special ordered - must be noted on reservation sheet.) Entertainment will be provided by the Dillon-Gavin Irish Dancers. Tickets are \$28;

widows and widowers pay \$26. Send check to Leo Weiss, 1631 N. Western Ave., Park Ridge IL 60068, by March 6. Call Weiss at (847) 698-1939. All are invited.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago invites families and community members across Chicagoland to explore resident camp programs at a "Camp Night" taking place from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m. (overnight) March 20 at the Latof YMCA, 300 E. Northwest Highway, Des Plaines. This event is an opportunity to meet Y staff and learn about available camp opportunities. Camp Night at the Latof YMCA will include an indoor-overnight campout with traditional camp activities. The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago operates five resident camps in Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. All YMCA camps offer values-based recreational and educational programming with a goal of helping children build self-esteem, self-discipline, and learn about teamwork. Call the Latof YMCA, (847) 296-3376.

Global Handmade Hope, a fair trade store, located at 428 W. Touhy Ave. in Park Ridge, is promoting "Making a Difference in March." Discounts and gifts will be given in March to people who have chosen to make a difference in the world every day. The store is dedicating the month of March to the police force, fire fighters, clergy, school teachers, and social service workers. Any time during March, a member of one of these professions simply needs to provide identification and they will receive a

Someone must pay



PAUL SASSONE

Jobs. Jobs. Jobs. That's all we hear about: Jobs. Who has them? Who doesn't have them? Why aren't there jobs? Whose fault is it? Who is going to create jobs? When will there be more jobs? For a change of pace on the job, or lack-of-job, scene, let's visit Elementary School District 89. This school district serves students in Maywood, Broadview and Melrose Park. And District 89 has job news. And that news is that for the last four years or so, the District has been overpaying some of its teachers.

When's the last time you heard of something like that in the job market? "Hello. I'd like a teaching job in District 89." "Well, you have the qualifications and the experience. You're hired." "What would I be paid?" "Your salary might be \$400 a week." "Might be \$400 a week?" "Yes, it might be. You could get lucky and it might be more. We're not so good here with numbers. Just check your paycheck each week. Whatever it says there is what your pay is." OK, that's not what happened: Just an improvisation on a theme. What District 89 officials think is that some teachers were mistakenly paid at a higher step on the salary scale than they should have been. For instance, a less-experienced teacher, say at step 1 on the scale, might mistakenly be paid at a more experienced teacher level, say step 4.

District officials contend some teachers have been overpaid by as much as \$20,000. And the school district wants the money back. Which hardly seems fair. Teachers already have paid income tax on some of those earnings. Are school district officials planning to adjust the amount the district wants returned? And some teachers are saying they reported the overpayments to school district officials but that nothing was done to correct the matter. How on earth did all this happen? District officials aren't saying. Ongoing investigation, they know. What we do know is that someone is going to pay for this mess. Want to guess who? How about District 89's tax-paying residents? And, no, I don't know if any of those overpaid teacher jobs still are available. *Comment: pioneerlocal.com*

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*Source: 2009 Chicago Scarborough Sun-Times Release with 1.5 inch lead 5 day, 1 Sunday insertion in each of the 311 daily publications, 1 insertion weekly in Print & Press and 7 days on STM websites (excludes Internet Free versions, e-mail pages, etc.)

*Source: ABC Audit Report dated March 25, 2009. All copy Paid Circulation

SUN-TIMES MEDIA & MONSTER

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University Dermatology

Dr. Dimitropoulos received his medical degree from Rush University. He completed his Dermatology residency in 2005 at the University of Michigan as well as additional training in the Melanoma Multidisciplinary Clinic. Dr. Dimitropoulos followed his residency with a fellowship in Mohs Micrographic Surgery at Rush University, completed in 2006. Dr. Dimitropoulos is board certified by the American Board of Dermatology and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology.

Dr. Brown is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine. He completed his internship at the University of Chicago Hospitals and his Dermatology residency in 1999 at Rush University Medical Center. He completed a fellowship in Mohs Micrographic Surgery at Baptist Medical Center, Kansas City, Missouri, in 2000. Dr. Brown is board certified by the American Board of Dermatology and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology.

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2500 Niles Road Ste 11 St. Joseph, MI 49085 P 269-428-5199

Accepting Most Insurances - Accepting Medicare Assignment

Calendar

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Stephens Convention Center Ballrooms, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. Peaches Boutique of Chicago will host two prom fashion shows, runway times at 4 and 6 p.m. featuring the latest prom attire. KISSFM 103.5 will be on hand as well as other vendors, handing out coupons throughout the day. Door prizes will be presented and will include gift certificates for free tuxedo rentals, prom accessories, discounts on limo services and more. The Glass Slipper Project asks for everyone's support by bring new or slightly used prom dresses, shoes and accessories to the Expo. (Glass Slipper collects new or nearly new prom dresses and accessories and provides them free of charge to Chicago high school students who are unable to purchase their own prom attire.) Admission is free for students along with parking validation, when using the Williams Street Garage. Call (847) 692-6415 or e-mail: catering@rosemont.com.

For healthy and delicious recipes, head down to the new Meijer store in

Niles at 9000 W. Golf Road. Meijer Healthy Living Advisor Maribel Alchin is presenting a cooking demonstrations from noon-2 p.m. Feb. 28: Cook Once, Eat Twice.

Any women interested in joining the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Threshold Singers can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900. Practices are held on two Thursdays each month starting at 6:45 p.m. in Park Ridge. Threshold Singers are trained to sing in groups of two and three at the bedside of those who are sick and dying. The songs are generally traditional or simple rounds, chants, lullabies and hymns that can be chosen to respond to musical taste and spiritual direction. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, offers the following events - A special "sneak peek" of *Kartemquin Films' new documentary, "Prisoner of Her Past"*, tells the haunting story of a secret childhood trauma resurfacing 60 years later to unravel the life of Holocaust survivor Sonia Reich. at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 28. The film follows her son, Chicago Tribune arts and jazz

critic Howard Reich, as he journeys across the United States and Eastern Europe to uncover why his mother believes the world is conspiring to kill her. Along the way, he finds a family he never knew he had. This film is the first to expose the little-known, little-understood illness: late-onset Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. A panel discussion, question and answer session, and book-signing with Howard Reich will follow the screening. Museum members: \$15; nonmembers: \$20. Call (847) 967-4889 or visit www.il-holocaustmuseum.org for reservations.

Avenues Thrift Shoppe offers great prices and specials on gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60 years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items. The main shop is located at 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago, and the "boutique" shop at 7700 Touhy Ave. features upscale clothing, outerwear, collectibles and finer merchandise. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Donations are

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7805 REDWALL SKOKIE
 Equipped gut rehabbed brick, Georgian in a great school district, interior welcomes you with open fire place, gleaming hardwood floors and recessed lights through out. Stunning kitchen with granite tops & upgraded stainless steel appliances. Open great room! Marble bath rm. w/whirlpool, whirlpool 3 Family size bdrms. Refinished basement w/huge family rm. Flood control system installed. \$278,900

16318 KEYSTONE SKOKIE
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8501 MILWAUKEE SKOKIE
 Huge 5br, 2ba completely gut rehabbed condo in skokie! Features custom crown molding throughout, 5' brazilian cherry hvr flrs & all new windows. Designer kit w/strand granite, cherry cabinets, stone top & ss appliances. Huge master suite has walk in closet & luxurious bath. New in unit washer/dryer. Low asset. \$179,900

4448 FRANCISCO SKOKIE
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Comment: pioneerlocal.com

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Calendar

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accepted 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing; broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Venues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum &

Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, welcomes its second traveling exhibition, "Anne Frank: A History for Today" runs through Feb. 28. Hours are: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The story of Anne Frank and her family is juxtaposed against world events before, during and after Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party's rise to power. Included are dozens of photographs of the Frank family and other occupants of the Secret Annex. The exhibition depicts those who chose to join the Nazi party, those who were bystanders and those who were willing to resist Nazi tyranny. It explores how racism, persecution and genocide were facilitated by political deci-

sions as well as the actions of individuals. Call (847) 967-4800.

Fitness Center

Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Dr. Niles, (847) 588-8400 or www.nilesfitness.com.
Friday Night Fun for ages 5-12 offers an evening of swimming, gym, crafts, snack and more. The program runs from 6-9 p.m. March 12 and 26, April 23 and May 21. Cost is \$10, members; \$15, nonmembers.
Nonmember group Express Card options includes: Spinning and "Free Member Classes" - Land and Water. 10 Class Express Card: \$71 resident; \$81 nonresident; 20 Class Express Card: \$124 resident; \$144 nonresident; 30 Class Express Card: \$149 resident; \$179 nonresident.

Daily Drop In Class Fees - Spinning (indoor cycling): \$6 member; \$9 nonmember. "Free Member Classes": \$8 resident; \$9 nonresident. Fitness classes include: A.I.S. Stretch, Body Flex, BOSU Blast, Cardio Fusion, Core & Strength, Dance Aerobics, Fantasy Fight Express, Heart Rate Up & Pump, Lite & Fit, Step & Stretch, Turbo Kick, Yoga, Zumba.
Thai Yoga Bodywork sessions are offered. Thai Yoga Body Work is like yoga combined with acupuncture, combining the stretching aspects of yoga and the subtle use of pressure, enabling a relaxing therapeutic benefit that restores bodily harmony, flexibility, and overall health. Sessions are performed on a cushioned floor mat. A 50-minute session costs \$55 for members or \$65, nonmembers; 25-minute session is \$30, members or \$35, nonmembers.

Fundraisers

The Men and Women's Association of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is sponsoring an Avon products sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 9 in the 10 West Special Functions Dining Room of the hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge. Call (847) 723-6105.

The Center of Concern, a nonprofit social service agency which provides services to seniors and others in need, will hold a dinner dance, "Plant Seeds of Hope" March 6 at the Hyatt Rosemont Hotel, corner of Devon Avenue and River Road (free parking is available). The evening begins at 6 p.m. and includes an open bar, appetizers, dinner, dancing, raffles and auctions. Tickets are \$125 per person or \$1,000 for a table of 10. For tickets, contact Dawn, (847) 823-0453, ext. 125.

It is not too late to donate money to the annual Knights of Columbus Candy Drive to help mentally handicapped children. To donate, send tax-free donations to: KC Council 4338, c/o Ken Lee, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles IL 60714.

The Knights of Columbus Council 4338 is conducting a Wheelchairs for the Needy campaign. The public is invited to help others by providing donations for a wheelchair. For as little as \$75, the needy can gain their mobility with a new wheelchair. Donations may be sent to: Wheelchairs for Needy, c/o KC Council 4338, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles IL 60714.

The Knights of Columbus are still

distributing Tootsie Roll candy and banks with all profits given to mentally handicapped children. Tootsie Roll bars are available at 50 bars per package for \$6. The candy banks are \$2 each. Contact Ken Lee, (847) 967-6234. Send monetary donations to: KC Council 4338, c/o Ken Lee, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles IL 60714.

Health

Medical experts from Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital are featured speakers at an "Advances in Pediatrics 2010" conference, which will focus on the latest treatment approaches for common pediatric problems. The conference will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 12 in Olson Auditorium at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge. Topics will include: state-of-the-art pediatric brain surgery; an intensivist approach to severe asthma; atrial septal defect and ventricular septal defect, how the hospitalist fits into the health care team; vaccinations and the flu, pediatric dysphagia from the ENT perspective; and nutrition and obesity (keynote lecture). In addition, hospital tours will be offered, question-and-answer sessions will be held with the conference faculty, and exhibits will be on display. The fee is \$35 for physicians, \$30 for Advocate Health Care physicians, \$30 for American Academy of Pediatrics (Illinois chapter) members, and \$25 for residents, nurses and other health care professionals. Fees include program materials, continental breakfast and refreshment breaks. Registration deadline is March 5. Online registration is preferred at www.advocatehealth.com/cme. Registrations also can be made by calling HealthAdvisor at 1-800-323-8622. In addition, persons may sign up by mailing a check, payable to Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital, to: Roberta Johnson, Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital - Pediatrics, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge IL 60068. Call (847) 723-7903.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital and the American Red Cross offer an Infant/Child CPR Course. This five-hour course teaches participants how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in infants and children. It also includes information on how to prevent injuries to infants and children at home and in play areas. The next course will be held from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. March 6 at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge. Upcoming session will be March 20. Fee is \$50. Call 1-800-323-8622 or visit www.advocatehealth.com to register. The code for this class is 8C16.

A local dialysis clinic, Fresenius Medical Care Niles, 9371 N. Milwaukee Ave., has started a new night-time program for dialysis patients. The new service allows patients to receive treatments in the clinic at night, for eight hours, while sleeping or resting, usually three times a week. In addition to having their days free for other activities, patients often report having more energy and better dialysis results. Medicare-certified Fresenius Medical Care Niles is now accept-

ing new dialysis patients. Call (847) 581-0334.
Resurrection Medical Center, 7435 West Talcott Ave., Chicago, will offer the following health programs. Advance registration is required, unless noted otherwise, by calling 1-877-737-4636. Free on-site parking is available.
Family Fitness Camp, Mondays and Wednesdays, through April 28, from 5-6 p.m. This fun program is for parents and kids (ages 8 to 14) to focus on exercise and education. Mondays are in the swimming pool and Wednesdays are on land. Bring a swim suit and water shoes to the pool classes. Fee: \$5 per class.
Ongoing programs - Moms In Motion: Prenatal and postpartum moms are invited to participate in this land/water exercise program offered Mondays and Wednesday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Club Res Fitness Center. Fee: \$5/class. Call 773-990-5600 for more information. **Yoga**: All levels are welcome. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:10-10:30 a.m. at Resurrection Medical Center. Fee: \$8/class or \$75 for a 10 class punch card. Call the Health Management Department at 773-792-5022 for details.

Senior Advocate of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital offers free blood-pressure screenings from 10 a.m.-noon on the first Wednesday of every month at the hospital's Patient Resource Center, 8820 W. Dempster St., Niles (across from the hospital). No appointment is necessary. Call (847) 723-7277.

Kids

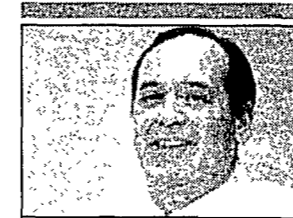
South Park Church Children's Ministry is hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt & Resurrection Faire from 9 a.m. to noon March 27 featuring 10,000-plus Easter eggs, face-painting, games, inflatables, crafts, refreshments, balloons and puppet shows. Children will meet Bible characters, watch funny skits and more. Friends and family are invited. Free. Visit www.southparkchurch.org for Egg Hunt schedules. South Park Church, 1330 Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, (847) 825-5507.

Maine Township

Families and all residents are invited to come and get a closer look at historic Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, and learn more about the wide variety of services offered by the Township's departments. The Township is hosting an Open House from 5-8 p.m. March 10. Highlights of the evening include tours of Town Hall, light refreshments and a prize drawing for children. Admission is free but donations of non-perishable food will be gratefully accepted for the Emergency Food Pantry. Town Hall was designed in the late 1950s by the son of legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright, originally used as a church but later sold to the Township. Call (847) 297-2510 or see www.maintownship.com.

Maine Township's FISh (Friends In-deed Serve and Help) is in need of volunteer drivers to provide residents free transportation to medical facilities in and near Maine Township. Volunteers may choose how much time

Who is running things?



RANDY BLASER

The Vancouver Olympics is a disaster that only a few acknowledge.

The state wants to ticket parents who use cell phones after dropping their kids off at school.

The state is about to go bankrupt.

Those stories caught my attention last week and keep weighing on my mind.

I watched the Olympics regularly last week. My conclusion midway through the Games?

Canada, the former self-proclaimed greatest country in North America, should never be allowed to host another Games. When disaster counts run parallel to medal counts, what else can you think?

Officials designed a luge

track that killed this poor athlete from Georgia. They couldn't get the fourth Olympic torch to raise during the opening ceremonies. Then they put the torch behind a chain link fence. They really don't have winter weather in Vancouver. They don't know how to make ice for the speed skating track.

And just when I thought there was enough, the women's downhill race took place on a course that some of the top skiers in the world couldn't navigate without crashing.

Let's move on to the state being broke and ticketing parents for using a cell phone near a school.

In my twisted view, these two stories are related. The state can't, or won't, pay its bills, yet legislators have time to go after parents who drop their kids off at school and then make a call or take a call while heading off to work.

I realize that talking on a cell phone is a distraction. And I know we want to be

safe when driving, especially near school. But every day, twice a day, my kids and my neighbors' kids ride on a school bus with no seat belts. If I tried that on my way to Chuck E Cheese's, well, let's just say I would get a call from DCF's.

Oh, and the state is broke. Public transportation is going out of business.

They're talking about universities closing or not being able to finish the semester. Social service agencies are going to lay off people because the state won't pay what they promised. Unemployment took an unexpected jump last week.

But all that can wait. The state has to stop parents from making phone calls after dropping their kids off at school.

Can we get some serious people to run this place?

Randy Blaser is a real estate agent with REMAX Center in Grayslake. He can be reached at rjblaser@comcast.net.

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Calendar

Continued from PAGE 22

energy, and approach their role with a newfound enjoyment. Upon completion of the group, MaineStay will also offer a free, ongoing Love and Logic support group from 6:30 p.m. Thursdays. Scholarships are available with proof of need. For questions or to register, call Andy Young, (847) 297-2510, ext. 273, or e-mail ayoung@maintown.com.

Parks

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation offers people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities. MNASR serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with special needs by volunteering, call (847) 966-5522.

Niles Preschool registration for the Niles Park District Bright Beginnings pro-

gram will take place March 1 for residents and March 8 for nonresidents. Both 3- and 4-year-old programs are offered. There are a variety of class times and locations to choose from. Registration will be accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St., until all classes are filled. Stop in the Howard Leisure Center or call (847) 967-6633.

Niles Park District New 3's Preschool is offered for children who turned 3 after Sept. 1, 2009, missing the deadline for the regular 3-year preschool. Classes are held Tuesdays/Thursdays or Wednesdays/Fridays, from 12:30-2 p.m. at Howard Leisure Center. Call (847) 967-6633.

Niles Park District introduces a new camp called School's Out Sport Camp. The camp will be available on five school holidays. The main emphasis of the camp is to provide safe, fun-filled days of playing and learning sports. Campers should bring a sack lunch and beverage. Camp takes place at Grennan Heights on Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day and Pulaski Day. Fees are: residents, \$36; nonresidents, \$45 per day. Call (847) 967-1529.

Niles Park District is offering private piano lessons (30-45 minutes) for beginning and intermediate stu-

dents Wednesdays and Thursdays at Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Lessons will focus on the fundamentals of technique, music theory and good practice habits. Call (847) 967-6633 to reserve a lesson time.

Golf Maine

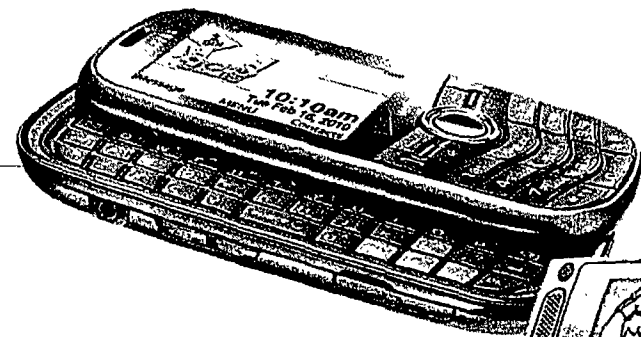
The Golf Maine Park District offers a selection of ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale to the public from a Lights for Learning kiosk. Proceeds from the sale of every bulb will directly fund the scholarship program sponsored by the district. The scholarship program allows children the opportunity to attend camp when they may not have the resources to do so on their own. The kiosk will also house the Lights for Learning teacher tool kits, designed for educators and organization leaders, to provide informational materials on the overall Lights for Learning Program. ENERGY STAR Activity Books for children, as well as ENERGY STAR home energy-conservation and electronics information, will also be available. A recycling bin for used CFLs will also be available. CFLs may be purchased at Feldman Park,

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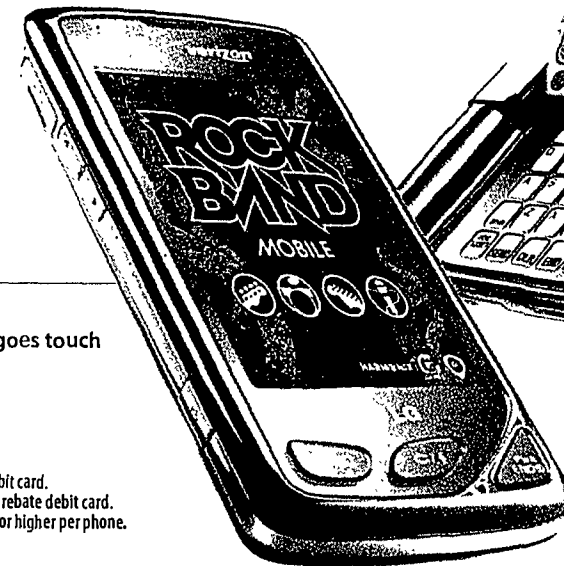
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diversions | PAGE B1

CONTACT: Jennifer Thomas, Managing Editor
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4 For Your Consideration

A quartet of activities for
the coming week



Yang Liu

1. Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra presents "Nordic Warmth: Music of Norway, Denmark and Finland," with guest soloist Yang Liu, violin, at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. The program includes works by Grieg, Nielsen and Sibelius. \$44-\$70. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.arsviva.org.

2. "The Dining Room," at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 and March 6 and 8 p.m. Feb. 28 and March 7 at the Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. The show will be presented cabaret style, with appetizers and desserts for sale. 2400.

3. Folk music group Sons of the Never Wrong performs at 8 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokiethatre.com.

4. Park Ridge Civic Orchestra will hold its ninth annual gala, Shamrock Ball, at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Café la Cave, 2777 N. Mannheim Road, Des Plaines. The evening includes cocktails, dinner, raffle, silent and live auctions, and dancing to music of the Rob Parton Orchestra. \$125 per person. Call (847) 692-7726 or visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org.

Student art shines at North Shore Center

SOAR (Student Outstanding Artist Recognition) Exhibit
March 3-22 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Recognition Reception 5-6:30 p.m., March 15, presentation at 5:30 p.m. For more information, e-mail info@skokie.org.

By **MYRNA PETLICKI**
Contributor

There are many opportunities for young singers, dancers and actors to shine, but Andrea Siegel of Skokie was concerned that kids in her town who are gifted visual artists weren't having their moment in the spotlight. Eight years ago, the chairman of the Skokie Fine Arts Commission came up with a solution — SOAR (Student Outstanding Artist Recognition).

Each year since then, art teachers at all of Skokie's schools have been invited to display work by their students in the lobby of the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. This year, the exhibit runs March 3-22, with a recognition ceremony open to the public on March 15. The exhibit is held every March because it's National Youth Arts Month.

Siegel, who is a visual arts teacher at Dawes and Lincoln schools in Evanston, noted that, "We have the YEA Festival (Young Evanston Artists) in Evanston. In May, there's a big outdoor exhibition where all the schools in Evanston participate. I always wanted something like that in Skokie."

With this concept in mind, Siegel contacted the North Shore Center. "They were looking for ways of bringing the community into the building," she said. "That gave us a venue."

Each school is given a 7-foot by 4-foot board to fill with artwork by their students. That holds 16-20 pieces, depending on the size of the work.

"It's a feel-good opportunity for everybody involved," said Tarryl Saipe, who teaches art at Jane



Skokie school students at last year's reception for the SOAR (Student Outstanding Artist Recognition) exhibit.

Stenson School. She noted that the annual exhibit shows "what it is that we teach the children and what the children are able to accomplish in their art classes."

In selecting work for SOAR, Saipe chooses pieces from all five grades that she teaches. "I also try to display examples which show a variety of media and art concepts that the students learn about," she said.

Saipe emphasized that she doesn't consider SOAR a contest. "I try to avoid competition in art," she said. "The kids don't know that I am selecting work for SOAR until they get an invitation telling them that their work has been selected and that they're invited to the reception. The kids glow with pride when they find out that something of theirs has been recognized."

That annual reception is a thrilling experience for the young artists, chairman Siegel said. "They're so proud to be acknowledged for their work. They come dressed up. They get to meet the mayor." Each child

receives a recognition certificate and is photographed with the mayor and the other artists from their school.

Siegel believes that beyond showcasing the talents of young Skokie artists, SOAR serves a larger purpose. She noted that fine arts studies have sometimes been in jeopardy in the Skokie schools. "A few years ago, in one of the school districts in Skokie, they had to pass a referendum raising taxes in order to keep the fine arts," Siegel said. "You have to be able to see what you'd lose. It's a way to promote the arts. There's always performances that parents go to but they don't get to actively participate in visual arts."

Saipe said that SOAR benefits Jane Stenson School because, "It's a chance for us to show off our art program and the great artwork that the kids do. It gives us an opportunity to let the public know that a total education is more than the three R's. Art plays a really important role in the total education." *Comment: pioneerlocal.com*



For the SOAR exhibit, each school is given a board to fill with student artwork.

OPENING

COP OUT

When a veteran New York cop's (Bruce Willis) precious baseball card is stolen, threatening his daughter's upcoming wedding, he and his partner (Tracy Morgan) set out to track it down. Kevin Smith ("Clerks") directed the action comedy. Rated R for pervasive language including sexual references, violence and brief nudity.

THE CRAZIES

The inhabitants of a small town go violently nuts in this remake of

a 1973 shocker from horror maestro George Romero. Directed by Breck Eisner ("Sahara"). (101 min.) Rated R for bloody violence and language.

STILL PLAYING

SHUTTER ISLAND

★ ★ 1/2
Unless you happen to be criminally insane - or an insane Martin Scorsese fan - it's probably a good idea to think twice before going to "Shutter Island." That's not to say there's nothing to admire about this tricky old-fashioned suspense thriller, but most of its trickiness

arises from a narrative strategy that's likely to make you think some sort of spell has been cast on its high-priced cast (with a couple of inconsistent exceptions), turning them into an ensemble that would barely pass muster in a second-rate dinner-theater production. Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo play a couple of '50s-era federal marshals sent to explore the mysterious disappearance of a murderous inmate from a grim, isolated, high-security mental institution. The story revolves around the gruesome hallucinations (or are they?) plaguing detective Daniels (DiCaprio), since his arrival. Has he lost his mind? Has he been drugged? Is he being pursued by ghosts from his past? "Shutter Island" looks great and it's nicely crafted, but for a long, uncomfortable time, its poor acting and blatant artificiality make it look like the closest thing to a complete misfire director Scorsese has delivered. Eventually, it turns out that there's an interesting reason for the film's awkwardness. But that revelation is a long time coming and not entirely satisfactory when it arrives. (B) (138 min.) Rated R for disturbing violent content, language and some nudity.

VALENTINE'S DAY

An assortment of couples make up or break up thanks to amorous complications on V-Day. Garry Marshall ("The Princess Diaries," "Pretty Woman") directed the romance featuring Jamie Foxx, Jessica Alba, Patrick Dempsey, Jennifer Garner, Ashton Kutcher and Queen Latifah, among others. (125 min.) Rated PG-13 for some sexual material and brief partial nudity.

THE WOLFMAN

★ ★ 1/2
Directed by Joe Johnston, an Oscar-winning visual effects guy ("Raiders of the Lost Ark") who has made a directorial specialty of effects-driven films such as "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" and "Jumanji," this grisly remake of the 1941 Universal horror classic ultimately works itself up into a fairly ripping (and chomping and entrail-scattering) yarn, but it takes a good long time. Brooding, heavy-lidded Benicio del Toro steps into the Lon Chaney, Jr. role as Lawrence Talbot, who's summoned home to ancestral Talbot Hall to investigate the mysterious (and exceedingly nasty) death of his younger brother, who appears to have been mauled by some sort of devilish beast. Before you can spell lycanthropy, Lawrence has been bitten and infected by the monster and is indulging in some beastly behavior himself. There's plenty of gloomy atmosphere in the new "Wolfman," a little too much really, and no short-

FILM CLIPS



Tracy Morgan, Seann William Scott and Bruce Willis star in Warner Bros. Pictures' crime comedy 'Cop Out.'

age of plot manipulations, including a touch of tragic romance and Oedipal complications with Lawrence's old dad (Anthony Hopkins), but the real payoff comes from effects maven Rick Baker's painful, limb-wracking transformation scenes. Is anything else truly memorable about any werewolf movie ever made? (B) (102 min.) Rated R for bloody horror violence and gore.

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF

A teenager (Logan Lerman) discovers he's the descendant of Poseidon and becomes involved in an ancient battle among the gods of Greek myth. Chris Columbus ("Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets") directed the fantasy adventure. (119 min.) Rated PG for action violence and peril, some scary images and suggestive material, and mild language.

DEAR JOHN

★ ★ 1/2
Director Lasse Hallstrom ("Chocolat," "The Hoax") gives a touch of initial dramatic heft and credibility to this tragic-romance from novelist Nicholas Sparks ("The Notebook") about the long-distance letter-writing relationship between a soldier on an extended tour of duty and his hometown honey (Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried) - but their postal passions become wearisome pretty quickly. A very large part of the problem is that Tatum and Seyfried don't seem to have the slightest genuine erotic connection to each other. Which makes it appear that their characters are merely going through the motions, as if karmically compelled to undergo romantic misery. The always reliable Richard Jenkins ("The Visitor") ups the emotional angst level as Tatum's coin-collecting autistic dad. (B) (105 min.) Rated PG-13 for some sensuality and violence.

DISTRICT 13: ULTIMATUM

A couple of supercops framed for a heroin bust team up with gang

leaders in the segregated crime zone District 13 to expose deadly political corruption. The prolific writer/director/producer Luc Besson again contributed the screenplay to this sequel to his 2004 action/adventure hit "District 13." In French with subtitles. (101 min.) Rated R for some violence, language and drug material.

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE

A young personal assistant (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) in the office of the U.S. ambassador partners with a loose-cannon CIA agent (John Travolta) to foil a terrorist threat. Pierre Morel ("Taken," "District 13") directed the action/adventure, also featuring script contributions from Luc Besson. (92 min.) Rated R for strong bloody violence throughout, drug content, pervasive language and brief sexuality.

FROZEN

Three skiers stranded on a chair lift are forced to take dangerous measures to survive. Adam Green ("Fairy Tale Police") wrote and directed the thriller. Rated R for some disturbing images and language.

THE LAST STATION

The great novelist Leo Tolstoy and his wife Sofya (Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren) wage marital battles during the last years of his life. Michael Hoffman ("The Emperor's Club") directed the historical drama. (112 min.) Rated R for a scene of sexuality/nudity.

EDGE OF DARKNESS

A homicide detective (Mel Gibson) investigates the murder of his daughter and becomes embroiled in corporate skullduggery. Martin Campbell ("Casino Royale") directed the thriller. Rated R for strong bloody violence and language.

WHEN IN ROME

★ 1/2
It's kind of rare to find a movie that actually manages to be excruciatingly bad, but "When in Rome" rings that sour gong repeatedly.

Kristen Bell (TV's "Gossip Girl," "Forgetting Sarah Marshall") plays a brisk, tightly wound Guggenheim curator (um ... yeah, right) who's given up on romance until she fishes a handful of coins from an enchanted fountain in Rome and becomes the object of ardent desire for four men: A portrait painter (Will Arnett), a self-worshipping male model (Dax Shepard), an inept street magician (Jon Heder), and a sausage magnate (Danny DeVito). And a fifth, to be named later. All of this complicating our girl's budding romance with her newly discovered dream man (Josh Duhamel). "When in Rome" is jam-packed with stuff that's supposed to be funny, but isn't, and it takes off its shoes and wades into some truly sappy sentimentalizing before it's done. Though there is one funny bit involving a smart car and an elevator that suggests things could have been better. Directed by Mark Steven Johnson ("Ghost Rider"). (B) Rated PG-13 for some suggestive content.

EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES

★ ★ 1/2
If you must have a dose of this sort of medicine, it'll answer reasonably well in a generic sort of way. But don't expect miracles. Based on a non-fiction book about the struggle of two parents to save two of their children born with a fatal neuromuscular condition, "Extraordinary Measures" teams earnest, nice-guy businessman dad Brendan Fraser with gruff medical researcher Harrison Ford in a race to develop a treatment. Unusually, most of what's most interesting about this medical/family/inspirational drama has to do with the examination of the odd couple's business travails after forming a bio-chemical company - and the complexities (moral and otherwise) of the pharmaceutical industry. The result is more dramatic ballast than you might expect, though there are also plenty of sob-worthy moments from the feisty, beautifully suffering children. (B) (105 min.) Rated PG for thematic material, language and a mild suggestive moment.

- Reviews by Bruce Ingram

SHOWTIMES

Movie times are effective Friday and are compiled from information available on Tuesday. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change. If no listings are provided please call the theater for information.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Arlington Theaters

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COP OUT (R)

Fri: 4:45-7:10-9:30
Sat-Sun: 12:00-2:20-4:45-7:10-9:30
Wed: 2:20-4:45-7:10
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 4:45-7:10

SHUTTER ISLAND (R)

Fri: 4:10-7:00-9:50
Sat-Sun: 1:20-4:10-7:00-9:50
Wed: 1:20-4:10-7:00
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 4:10-7:00

VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13)

Fri: 4:45-7:15-9:45
Sat, Sun: 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 4:45-7:15
Wed: 2:15-4:45-7:15

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF (PG)

Fri: 4:30-7:00-9:30
Sat, Sun: 11:45-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 4:30-7:00
Wed: 2:00-4:30-7:00

DEAR JOHN (PG-13)

Fri: 5:10-7:30-9:50
Sat-Sun: 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 5:10-7:30
Wed: 2:50-5:10-7:30

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13)

Fri: 4:30-7:10-9:40
Sat, Sun: 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:10-9:40
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INVICTUS (PG-13)

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Sun-Thurs: 1:30-4:15-7:00

THE YOUNG VICTORIA (PG)

Fri-Thurs: 2:15-7:15

UP IN THE AIR (R)

Fri, Sat: 4:45-9:30
Sun-Thurs: 4:45

PRECIOUS (R)

Fri-Thurs: 2:15-7:15

A SERIOUS MAN (R)

Fri, Sat: 4:45-9:30



Tracy Morgan and Bruce Willis in "Cop Out."

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THE LAST STATION (PG)

Fri-Sun: 1:15-4:00-7:00
Tues-Thurs: 1:50-4:20-7:00

CRAZY HEART (R)

Fri-Sun: 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:20
Tues-Thurs: 2:10-4:45-7:20

NORTH FACE (NR)

Fri-Sun: 11:10-1:45-4:30-7:15
Tues-Thurs: 1:45-4:30-7:15

CREATION (PG-13)

Fri-Thurs: 2:00-4:40

AN EDUCATION (PG-13)

Fri-Sun: 11:30-7:10
Tues-Thurs: 7:10

A SINGLE MAN (R)

Fri-Sun: 11:00-7:40
Tues-Thurs: 7:40

THE WHITE RIBBON (R)

Fri-Thurs: 1:30-4:35

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Mon: 10:15-12:40-3:00-5:20-7:50
Tues-Thurs: 3:00-5:20-7:50

THE CRAZIES (R)

Fri: 3:10-5:30-7:55-10:10
Sat, Sun: 10:35-12:50-3:10-5:30-7:55-10:10

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13)

Fri, Sat: 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
Sun-Thurs: 2:00-4:30-7:00

SHUTTER ISLAND (R)

Fri: 1:15-4:10-7:05-9:55
Sat, Sun: 10:25-1:15-4:10-7:05-9:55
Mon: 10:25-1:15-4:10-7:05
Tues-Thurs: 1:50-4:40-7:30

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF (PG)

Fri: 1:55-4:35-7:10-9:45
Sat, Sun: 11:15-1:55-4:35-7:10-9:45
Mon: 11:15-1:55-4:35-7:10
Tues-Thurs: 2:00-4:35-7:10

VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13)

Fri: 1:35-4:20-7:00-9:40
Sat, Sun: 10:55-1:35-4:20-7:00-9:40
Mon: 10:55-1:35-4:20-7:00
Tues-Thurs: 2:10-5:00-7:40

THE WOLFMAN (R)

Fri: 3:05-5:25-7:45-10:00
Sat, Sun: 10:30-12:45-3:05-5:25-7:45-10:00
Mon: 10:30-12:45-3:05-5:25-7:45
Tues-Thurs: 3:05-5:25-7:45

DEAR JOHN (PG-13)

Fri: 1:50-4:15-6:50-9:15
Sat, Sun: 11:25-1:50-4:15-6:50-9:15
Mon: 11:25-1:50-4:15-6:50
Tues-Thurs: 2:30-4:50-7:15

THE WOLFMAN (R)

Fri: 3:05-5:25-7:45-10:00
Sat, Sun: 10:30-12:45-3:05-5:25-7:45-10:00
Mon: 10:30-12:45-3:05-5:25-7:45-10:00
Tues-Thurs: 3:05-5:25-7:45

DEAR JOHN (PG-13)

Fri: 1:50-4:15-6:50-9:15
Sat, Sun: 11:25-1:50-4:15-6:50-9:15
Mon: 11:25-1:50-4:15-6:50
Tues-Thurs: 2:30-4:50-7:15

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R)

Fri-Sun: 9:35
Mon-Thurs: 7:20

TOOTH FAIRY (PG)

Fri: 2:05-4:50-7:20
Sat, Sun: 11:40-2:05-4:50-7:20
Mon: 11:40-2:05-4:50
Tues-Thurs: 2:40-5:05

A SINGLE MAN (R)

Fri: 2:55-5:10-7:35-9:50
Sat, Sun: 10:20-12:35-2:55-5:10-7:35-9:50
Tues-Thurs: 2:55-5:10-7:35

AVATAR (PG-13)

Fri: 2:50-6:10-9:25
Sat, Sun: 11:30-2:50-6:10
Mon: 11:30-2:50-6:10
Tues-Thurs: 2:50-6:10

AVATAR (PG-13)

Fri: 2:50-6:10-9:25
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Mon: 11:30-2:50-6:10
Tues-Thurs: 2:50-6:10

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Tues-Thurs: 2:00-4:35-7:10



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FAMILY FRIENDLY Actor hops into 'Max & Ruby' role

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

It's a happy, hoppy time for Winnetka native Andrew Ash, who plays 3-year-old bunny Max in Theatreworks USA's national touring production of "Max & Ruby." The family musical, based on the Nick Jr. television show, comes to North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd., at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27.



The family musical "Max & Ruby," based on the Nick Jr. TV show, will be performed Feb. 27 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts. (Photo courtesy of Joan Marcus)

"It's fun to get inside the mindset of a toddler," said Ash, who has performed professionally since graduating from Yale University in 2008. "To get back to that simple, natural, spontaneous place has been the main challenge, but also the main fun of the rehearsal process."

Ash described Max as "a really wonderful, fun-loving character. The play is about how Ruby has some grand plan and is struggling to make that happen and Max is usually inadvertently getting in her way. It's about their relationship and their enormous love for each other."

Tickets are \$18. For details, call (847) 673-6300 or see northshorecenter.org.

TP time
Your kids can celebrate the birthday of children's author and illustrator Dav Pilkey in a most appropriate way at the Captain Underpants Party, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 4, at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. Not surprisingly, partygoers will play underwear games and do toilet paper activities.

For details, call (847) 677-5277, Ext. 234.

Building blocks
Children will have a chance to use their imaginations to create any structure they desire at Lego Mania, 4-5 p.m. Monday,

March 1, in the First Floor Meeting Room at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. The library will provide the Lego blocks at this drop-in event for kindergartners through sixth-graders.

For details, call (847) 825-3123.

Purim fun for everyone

A mini Megillah reading for ages 5 and younger at 9:30 a.m., followed by a mini carnival, will kickoff the Purim Festival on Sunday, Feb. 28, at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. At 10 a.m. there will be a king's grand Megillah reading, plus a costume parade with jesters, jugglers and knights. A Purim carnival begins at 11 a.m. with games, prizes and lunch (for sale).

For details, call (847) 675-0951.

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Skokie residents Jeff Winter and Janis Fine will perform March 7 in Skokie.

Jeff and Janis at 10 years

Jeff and Janis Thank You Concert! 10 Years of Song!
 3 p.m. March 7 at Ezra-Habonim The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 W. Dempster St., Skokie. Free, cake and punch will be served. (847) 675-4141 or jwin27@aol.com.

By **MYRNA PETLICKI**
 Contributor

A decade ago, at the suggestion of a colleague who noted their interest in performing similar types of music, Skokie residents Jeff Winter and Janis Fine combined their talents at a faculty coffeehouse at Loyola University. It turned out to be a perfect musical match. Ten years, 400 performances and two CDs later, the two college professors are still performing together as Jeff and Janis.

Winter and Fine will celebrate that milestone at a free public concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 7, at Ezra-Habonim The Niles Township Jewish Congregation

in Skokie. The diverse program will include Broadway show tunes, standards and popular music, as well as Yiddish and Israeli selections. The audience will include their biggest fans, spouses Sally and Mark, as well as members of their supportive extended families.

During a chat at a local Starbucks, it's apparent why — in addition to clicking musically — the partnership has worked so well. Winter and Fine are both positive, highly intelligent, witty and playful people. They shared a hearty laugh about how Winter earned first billing. "I have to carry all the equipment for every show," he reported.

Early in the collaboration, Fine and Winter began working with vocal coach/arranger Kay Kaiser of Evanston. They're still with her 10 years later. "We're trying her out,"

Winter joked. "It takes us a while to decide for sure."

They also quickly, but thoughtfully, decided, "Who we are as musicians and what we bring that's different," Fine said. "We developed over time the idea of the Jewish cabaret. We do Hebrew, Yiddish, Israeli show tunes, American songbook favorites, period pieces."

The two squeeze their frequent performances into their busy teaching schedules, but they have other things in common besides teaching careers. They each have one son named Josh. Winter's Josh and wife Liz have four children. Fine's Josh is engaged — to a woman named Liz.

The Jeff and Janis musical collaboration works so well, Fine concluded, because "We never take ourselves too seriously."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

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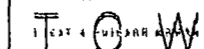
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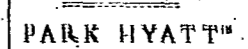
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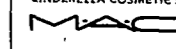
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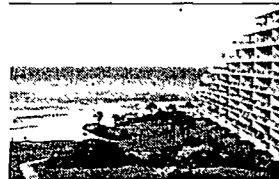
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STAGE

"Awake and Sing!", through Feb. 28 at Northlight Theatre, located in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$35-\$50; \$10 for young adults, age 25 and under. For information, call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

"The Dining Room" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 and March 6 and 3 p.m. Feb. 28 and March 7 at the Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. The show will be presented cabaret style, with appetizers and desserts for sale prior to all performances. Call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400.

"The Fantasticks," March 6-28 at the John Waldron Arts Center, housed at Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 1:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$20; \$15 for senior citizens and stu-

dents. Tickets can be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/97851 or by calling (224) 72-JDOWN.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," March 11-May 9 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee, Chicago. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. No show on April 11. Tickets: \$25; \$15 for previews, March 11-14. Call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

Includes Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite I; Nielsen: Violin Concerto; and Sibelius: Symphony No. 3 in C.

Cahn Auditorium at Northwestern University, 600 Emerson, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. Feb. 25-27, 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 28, 3 p.m.; Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." \$22/\$18/\$8.

Music of the Baroque performs at First United Methodist Church of Evanston, 1630 Hinman Ave. (312) 551-1414. www.baroque.org. Tickets are \$30-\$75. Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.; "The Royal Handel," with the Music of the Baroque Orchestra and Chorus, Jane Glover, conductor.

The Music Institute of Chicago presents its annual Four Score Festival March 5-7 at Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The festival honors American women composers Augusta Read Thomas, Stacy Garrop and Laura Elise Schwendinger, and includes concert, lecture, exhibit and workshop presentations. Performing artists include Rachel Barton Pine, Amy Briggs, Winston Choi, Matthew Hagle, Ensemble Dal Niente, Barbara Ann Martin, Christine Miller, Lincoln Trio, Duo Diorama, Abraham Stockman, James Setapen, Caroline Pittman, Julia Bentley and Roland and Almita Vamos. Single tickets are \$20; \$15 for seniors; \$7 for students. Series tickets are \$45; \$36 for seniors; \$15 for students. Visit www.musicinst.org or call (847) 905-1500, ext. 108.

North Shore Choral Society presents "A Song of Peace - Sim Shalom" at 3 p.m. March 14 at Ezra Habonim Synagogue, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie. The program includes sacred and secular pieces by Jewish and Christian com-

posers, including works by Michael Isaacson, Leonard Bernstein, Srul Irving Glick, Elizabeth Alexander, Eric Whitacre and Randall Thompson. Violinist Martin Davids and pianist Sharon Peterson will be featured. Tickets at the door are \$25; \$22 seniors; \$15 students. Visit www.northshorechoral.org or call (773) 956-8400.

The Orion Ensemble performs in Nichols Hall 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 28, 3 p.m.; "Musical Connections," The program includes Robert Kritz's "Connections," written expressly for Orion, along with the Quartet in B-flat Major for Clarinet, Violin, Viola and Cello, Op. 18, by Heinrich Baermann, and Tchaikovsky's Trio in A Minor, Op. 50, for Violin, Cello and Piano.

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Tickets are \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org or call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861. March 14, 2:30 p.m.; "A Shakespearean Dream," with Gwyn Downey, bassoon soloist, and the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Women's Chorus. The program includes Mozart's Concerto in B flat major for Bassoon; and "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Opus 21 and 61 by Mendelssohn.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra performs at 3 p.m. Sundays at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are \$22-\$30; \$9 for children. Free pre-

concert lectures begin at 1:45 p.m. For tickets, call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.svso.org. March 14: "A Season of Sweet Sunday Treats: Timeless Classics," under the direction of Francesco Milloto. Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" will be performed, with Yuan-Qing Yu, assistant concertmaster for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as the featured violinist. The program will also include Brahms's Symphony No. 2.

Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601. March 27, 8 p.m.: Michael Bubl . "Crazy Love Tour,"

Chambers, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. (847) 647-8282. www.thechambersonline.com. Feb. 25, 7:30-11:30 p.m.: John Bany, Charles Braugham and Don Stille (jazz). Feb. 27, 9 p.m.: The Renditions (oldies). \$5.

Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhumanist.org. March 13, 8 p.m.: Folksingers Sandy Andina and Stephen Lee Rich, along with Natural Bob Holdsworth and Micky. \$7 minimum donation includes refreshments. InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. www.icohare.com/montrose_room. (847) 544-5300. Friday Nights Live, featuring music from 8:30 p.m.-midnight in the Montrose Room. \$5 cover, unless noted otherwise. Feb. 26: Robert Hynes Band. Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035.

InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. www.icohare.com/montrose_room. (847) 544-5300. Friday Nights Live, featuring music from 8:30 p.m.-midnight in the Montrose Room. \$5 cover, unless noted otherwise. Feb. 26: Robert Hynes Band. Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035.

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March 22, 2010 | 7:30 PM NOW AVAILABLE!
AN EVENING WITH E. FAYE BUTLER
Join award-winning performer E. Faye Butler for a sumptuous evening of songs in her trademark style.

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Continued from PAGE B9

www.irish-american.org. March 14, 7 p.m.: Munnely. With members from Mayo, Dublin, Donegal, Tyrone and Brighton, England, the sextet combines button accordion, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, banjo, piano, bodhrán and flute with the singing of All-Ireland champion Shauna Mullin. \$20. Entertainment at 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in the Fifth Province Lounge, no cover - Feb. 26: Joe McShane. Feb. 27: Joe Cullen and Kathleen Keane. March 5: Celli Dancing with Ceoltoiri Chicago. March 6: Tony Leonard's Band. March 12: Donofinn. March 13: St. Patrick's Festival. March 17: St. Patrick's Day celebration.

"Moishe Oysher: The Master Singer of His People", a concert featuring cantor Arik Luck, the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, Kol Zimrah Choir, and actors Sari Greenberg and Harvey Der-shin, will be presented at 8 p.m. March 20 at Beth Emel, 1224 Dempster St., Evanston. The performance includes Yiddish, Hebrew, klezmer, folk, opera, jazz-infused scat and liturgical music made famous by the seventh-generation cantor and matinee idol of Yiddish cinema's Golden Age. \$20. Call (847) 869-4230, ext. 301, or visit www.bethemet.org.

Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more in-

formation about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. March 25, 7 p.m.: Justin Bieber. \$39.50, \$29.50. April 9-10, 8 p.m.: Celtic Woman (Irish music). \$50, \$75.

Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokie-theatre.com. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, unless noted otherwise. Feb. 27, 8 p.m.: Sons of the Never Wrong (folk). Feb. 28, 2 p.m.: Ron Hawking. \$35 in advance; \$44 at the door. March 7, 2 p.m.: Marcus Gentry presents "For Your Precious Love: A Musical Love Story." March 13, 8 p.m.: "Three Cat Media presents Amy Cole in 'Cole on Cole,' featuring the music of Cole Porter, Nat (King) Cole and Natalie Cole. March 14, 2 p.m.: Charlene Brooks in "Big Band Meets Broadway." March 20, 8 p.m.: "Lena Home and Friends," starring Ava Logan. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. March 21, 2 p.m.: "A Touch of Coward in the Afternoon," the words and music of Noel Coward. March 27, 8 p.m.: Joan Curto. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. March 28, 2 p.m.: Ron Hawking. \$35 in advance; \$44 at the door. March 28, 7 p.m.: "Femme Finale: A Century of Women Songwriters," starring Hilary Ann Feldman, with musical director Beckie Menzle.

ARTISTS
Skokie Art Guild's 49th annual Art Fair will be held July 10-11 on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton, downtown Skokie, featuring fine art and offering prizes and awards. For an application or information, visit www.skokieartguild.org or call (847) 677-8163.

BENEFITS
Park Ridge Civic Orchestra will hold its ninth annual gala, Shamrock Ball, at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Café la Cave, 2777 N. Mannheim Road, Des Plaines. The evening includes cocktails, dinner, raffle, silent and live auctions, and dancing to music of the Rob Parton Orchestra. \$125 per person. Call (847) 692-7726 or visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org.

BOOKS & POETRY
Irving Cutler will read from and sign his book, *Chicago's Jewish West Side*, at 7 p.m. March 24 at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton, Skokie, (847) 673-7774; at 1 p.m. April 20 at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 Dempster St., Skokie, (847) 675-0951; and from 9-11:30 a.m. April 25 at Ezra Habonim-Niles Township Jewish Congregation, Skokie, (847) 675-4141. The book features more than 200 vintage photographs along with a supportive narrative.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES
Open auditions for musicians to appear in the Performing Arts at Oakton production of "Fiddler on the Roof" are scheduled for 7-10 p.m. March 4 at Oakton Community College's Studio One Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Prepare 32 bars of music and to be prepared to sight read. All instruments will be heard, with special emphasis on violin, accordion, clarinet, double bass

and tuba. Production dates are April 29-May 16. For more information, call (847) 635-1897.

MUSICIANS
Chicago's Jewish West Side, at 7 p.m. March 24 at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton, Skokie, (847) 673-7774; at 1 p.m. April 20 at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 Dempster St., Skokie, (847) 675-0951; and from 9-11:30 a.m. April 25 at Ezra Habonim-Niles Township Jewish Congregation, Skokie, (847) 675-4141. The book features more than 200 vintage photographs along with a supportive narrative.

ARTIST GALLERIES
Irish American Heritage Center Art Gallery, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. www.irish-american.org. Gallery hours are 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. March 5-

callers. Refreshments served and banner available through April 24. Admission: \$6. For information, call (847) 392-5512 or (847) 253-3206. Feb. 27: Rick Allison.

PERFORMANCES
Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, (773) 736-4050. www.portagetheater.org. March 27, 7 p.m.: The Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago. Sonas de Mexico Ensemble Chicago and Wesley Lud Polish Folk Dance Ensemble present "The Essence of Folklore." \$15-\$20.

GROUPS & LESSONS
Chicago Dance Latin & Ballroom School, 3660 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, (773) 267-3411. www.chicagodance.com. March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, 8:30-11 p.m.: Salsa dance parties. \$15.

Happy Twirlers Dance Club provides round and square dancing at 7 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, through May 8, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thacker and Lee streets, Des Plaines. \$6 per guest. For information, call (847) 699-5501 or (773) 685-8407.

Social Dance Night will be held March 19 at the Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln, featuring ballroom, Latin, swing and salsa music. Doors open at 7 p.m.; free lesson at 7:15 p.m.; open dancing from 7:45-9:45 p.m. \$10. For information, visit www.TinaMangos-Dance.com or call (773) 282-5108.

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. \$5 for members; \$6 for guests. For information, call (773) 775-9427 or (708) 442-8646. March 8: "Spring Fling," with Tom Davis and Chuck Jaworski.

Square Wheels Square Dance Club dances the fourth Saturday of each month, September through May, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 304 W. Palatine Road, Prospect Heights. Round dancing begins at 7:30 p.m. with Howard and Anna Hoffman, and square dancing starts at 8 p.m. with guest

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Social Dance Night will be held March 19 at the Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln, featuring ballroom, Latin, swing and salsa music. Doors open at 7 p.m.; free lesson at 7:15 p.m.; open dancing from 7:45-9:45 p.m. \$10. For information, visit www.TinaMangos-Dance.com or call (773) 282-5108.

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. \$5 for members; \$6 for guests. For information, call (773) 775-9427 or (708) 442-8646. March 8: "Spring Fling," with Tom Davis and Chuck Jaworski.

Square Wheels Square Dance Club dances the fourth Saturday of each month, September through May, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 304 W. Palatine Road, Prospect Heights. Round dancing begins at 7:30 p.m. with Howard and Anna Hoffman, and square dancing starts at 8 p.m. with guest

callers. Refreshments served and banner available through April 24. Admission: \$6. For information, call (847) 392-5512 or (847) 253-3206. Feb. 27: Rick Allison.

PERFORMANCES
Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, (773) 736-4050. www.portagetheater.org. March 27, 7 p.m.: The Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago. Sonas de Mexico Ensemble Chicago and Wesley Lud Polish Folk Dance Ensemble present "The Essence of Folklore." \$15-\$20.

GROUPS & LESSONS
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SANDWICHES
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Turkey Sub Sandwich • Honey Mustard Pita Wrap
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All sandwich specials include Fries or Fruit. No Soup.

Glass of Wine \$2.50 with meal. Martinis \$3.00, Manhattans \$3.50

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— Variety

Willow Creek Community Church | North Shore
315 Waukegan Road, Northfield

Film Screening: March 4, 2010 Time: 7 p.m.
Cost: FREE Note: Film is rated PG-13

Director Justin Dillon will be interviewed following the film.

Questions? Contact Jackie Herron
jherron@willowcreek.org | 224-512-6637

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go.

Continued from PAGE B11

Skokie Festival of Cultures Planning Committee meets at the Oakton Community Center at least one Monday per month leading up to the 20th annual Festival of Cultures on May 22-23. To participate or for information, call Pamela Zeid, (847) 674-1500, ext. 2180.

FILM

Oakton Community College's 24th annual Modern Language Film Festival, through April 29, with free screenings at both campuses, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, and 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

Skokie. Films are presented in their original language with English subtitles. All films are unrated by the Motion Picture Association of America and may be appropriate for mature audiences only. For information, call (847) 635-1806. "Bienvenue Chez Ch'tis" (French, 2008) will be shown at 6 p.m. March 9 and 12:30 p.m. March 11 in Des Plaines, and 6 p.m. March 10 in Skokie.

LECTURES

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.centreast.org. March 13, 8 p.m.: The Ethicist Randy Cohen. A New York Times commentator, humorist Cohen pens two weekly columns, "The Ethicist" and "The Moral of the Story," and hosts a

weekly podcast. Ticket buyers will have a chance to meet Cohen at a book signing in the lobby after the performance. \$44.

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. www.irish-american.org. March 7, 2 p.m.: The Irish Heritage Library Lectures features Patricia Falvey, author of The Yellow House, a tale of love set during the war for Irish independence. Falvey will read from and sign her novel and present a lecture, "In Loving Memory: An Emigrant's Search For Home." Tickets are \$8, which includes a reception.

SINGLES

Young at Heart Singles Club sponsors ballroom dancing for all ages. Semi-

dressy to dressy attire for women; jackets for men. No jeans or gym shoes. All dances are from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 for members; \$9 for guests. Call (847) 678-7068. Feb. 26: Dance at the American Legion Hall, 9757 Pacific, Franklin Park, with music by The Variety Pak.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Oakton Community College offers Alliance for Lifelong Learning classes. For information or registration, visit www.oakton.edu/all or call (847) 982-9888, press 3. Spring courses at Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler Ave., Skokie, include: Mosaics (ART C61-02) guides students through the creation of designs made from tile, stone, glass, and other materials. Three-week

course meets from 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, starting March 3. Course fee is \$150. The Art of Spain: From El Greco to Dalí (ART F15-01) provides insight into the world and works of Spanish artists from the 1500s through the late 20th century. Five-week course meets from 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays, starting March 3. Course fee is \$99.

Oakton Community College Emeritus Program offers courses at its Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. For information about the Emeritus Program, call (847) 635-1414 or visit www.oakton.edu/emertus. The Life and Symphonies of Gustav Mahler (MUS B64-71) details the composer's enduring works including "Titan," "Resurrection" and "Symphony of a Thousand." Eight-week course meets from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mondays, starting

March 1. Course fee is \$110. Russian Greats: Short Stories (HUM C68-71) provides an overview of Chekov, Tolstoy, and other 19th century Russian writers. Eight-week course meets from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, starting March 2. Course fee is \$100. The Story (PSY X04-71) is a new class devoted to reading short fiction about older people, from their diverse attitudes toward life to their role in society. Eight-week course meets from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesdays, starting March 3. Course fee is \$100. 2D to 3D: The Wave of the Future? (HUM F15-71) considers the commercial and critical acclaim of four animated films including "Up," "Ratatouille," "Wall-E" and "How's Moving Castle." Four-week course meets from 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays, starting March 3. Course fee is \$70.

ET CETERA

"Half the Sky Live," a celebration of International Women's Day featuring musical performances, celebrity commentary, and the world premiere of "Woineshet," a short film directed by Marisa Tomei, will be broadcast at 7:30 p.m. March 4 in movie theaters nationwide, including the Niles Showplace, 301 Golf Mill Center, Niles. Tickets are available at the theater box office or www.FathomEvents.com. For information, visit www.halftheksylive.com. Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokie-theatre.com. March 6, 13 and 20, noon and 2 p.m.: Samantha Martin and

The Amazing Acro-Cats and the Rock-Cats. The cats are part of Amazing Animals by Samantha, a private educational zoo owned and operated by Samantha Martin, a Chicago-based animal trainer and feline specialist. \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door for adults; \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door for children.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. www.ilholocaustmuseum.org. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission: \$8; \$5 for children ages 5-12; \$6 for students

ages 12-22 and senior citizens. Special exhibitions are free with museum admission. Through Feb. 28: "Anne Frank: A History for Today," a traveling exhibition sponsored by the New York-based Anne Frank Center USA, Inc. The story of Anne Frank and her family is juxtaposed against world events before, during and after Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party's rise to power. The exhibition includes dozens of photographs of the Frank family and other occupants of the Secret Annex. Feb. 28, 1:30 p.m.: Screening of Kartemquin Films' new documentary, "Prisoner of Her Past," the story of Holocaust survivor Sonia Reich. A panel discussion and book signing with Howard Reich will follow the screening. \$15 for members; \$20 nonmembers. Reservations required.

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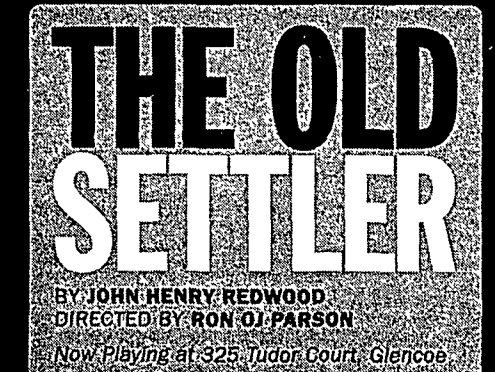
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Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Singer Ian
 - 6 Get the picture
 - 11 Bespectacled dwarf
 - 14 Craze
 - 17 Coleridge's "Dejection: —"
 - 18 Piled up
 - 20 Honest name
 - 21 Nutritional abbr.
 - 22 Start of a remark
 - 24 "Short —" ('86 film)
 - 26 — di-dah
 - 27 Cavalry characteristic
 - 28 Wapiti
 - 30 First-class
 - 31 Neighbor of Cal.
 - 32 Hindu deity
 - 36 Excludes
 - 37 Caution
 - 40 Peter of "Becket"
 - 42 Long-logged wader
 - 44 Part 2 of remark
 - 50 Tree trim
 - 51 Mischievous
 - 52 Trigger-happy guy?
 - 53 Cen. segments

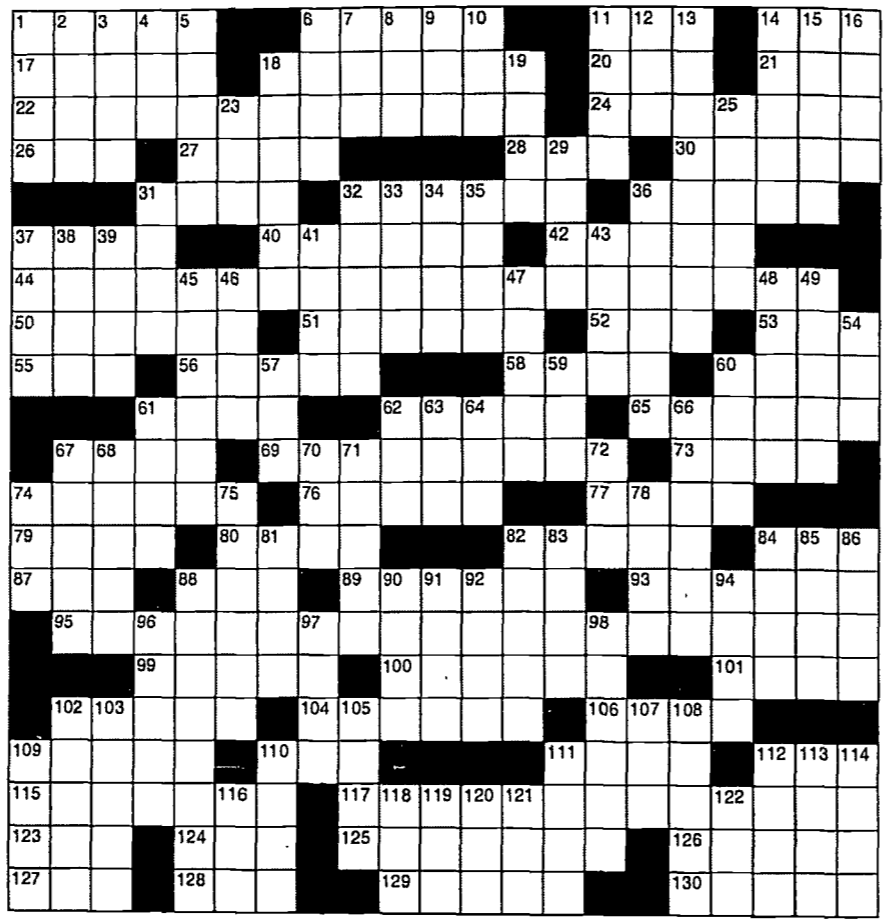
- 55 Label
- 56 Mortgages, e.g.
- 58 Virginia —
- 60 Small combo
- 61 Adolescent
- 62 Witch wheels?
- 65 Repeated
- 67 TV's "— City"
- 69 Part 3 of remark
- 73 Temporary calm
- 74 Witch doctor
- 76 Synonym source
- 77 Support
- 79 Sheet of stamps
- 80 Heady quaffs
- 82 Destroyed
- 84 Regulatory agcy.
- 87 White House spokesman
- 88 Sault — Marie, MI
- 89 Alex. Rieger, for one
- 93 Bunch of bass
- 95 Part 4 of remark
- 99 Amin
- 99 Black or Valentine
- 100 Reach
- 101 Riches' predecessor

- 102 Rubbish
- 104 Mortarboard
- 106 Cookbook author
- 109 Guitar features
- 110 John — Passos
- 111 On the briny
- 112 Fast filer
- 115 Last name in talk
- 117 End of remark
- 123 Mineral suffix
- 124 Wrong
- 125 Printing
- 126 Romeo and Juliet
- 127 — Guevara
- 128 Dram
- 129 Examine
- 130 Like a lummo

- DOWN**
- 1 Secure spot
 - 2 Dancer
 - 3 Piñon
 - 3 Hit the chips
 - 4 A mean
 - 5 Passover
 - 6 Feds
 - 7 Vote kin
 - 8 Gray matter?
 - 9 Vane dir.
 - 10 — diem
 - 11 Actor
 - 12 Ben —
 - 14 Healthful snack
 - 15 Mine entries
 - 16 See socially
 - 18 Wonder Woman, for one
 - 19 Believe
 - 23 Yalie
 - 25 Hold fast
 - 29 Bolger/Haley
 - 31 Hill dwellers
 - 32 High times
 - 33 Gambol
 - 34 Jai —
 - 35 Coop
 - 36 Baltimore bird
 - 37 Skater
 - 38 Katarina
 - 39 Talled
 - 41 Pollux or Bert
 - 43 Rochester's missis
 - 45 Montana's capital
 - 46 Tannis pro
 - 47 Pulsate

SWEET TALK

- 48 Austrian province
- 49 Bay window
- 54 Lay down the lawn
- 57 MIT grad
- 59 Cassowary
- 60 Consequently
- 61 Use a stopwatch
- 62 Marsh
- 63 Actress
- 64 Legendary
- 66 Boxing maneuver
- 67 Lewis or Belafonte
- 68 "— Room" ('02 film)
- 70 Archaic preposition
- 71 Puccini heroine
- 72 Indian export
- 74 Health club
- 75 Character
- 78 Essence
- 81 — majesty
- 82 Rope material
- 83 Utah city
- 84 "My kingdom —, NJ"
- 121 Security grp.
- 122 Cambodia's — Nol



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Answers: Inside today's classified section

HOROSCOPES

For the week of March 1 - March 7

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Change is still dominant for Rams and Ewes, both in the workplace and their private lives. This is also a good time to look at a possible relocation if that has been one of your goals.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Doing things for others is what you do well. But don't forget that Bovines thrive on the arts, so make some time for yourself to indulge your passion for music and artistic expressions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
While the Romantic Twin considers where to go for his or her upcoming vacation, the Practical Twin will start making travel plans now to take advantage of some great bargains.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Your sensitive nature helps you deal with a difficult emotional situation. Be patient and continue to show your sincere support wherever (and for whom) it is needed.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
You're making progress as you

move through some unfamiliar territory. And while there might be a misstep or two along the way, overall you're heading in the right direction. Good luck.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
Some good news arrives — and just in time to remind you that you're making progress. Perhaps things aren't moving as quickly as you'd prefer, but they're moving nevertheless.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
This is a good week to step back and assess the facts that have recently emerged to see where they can be used to your advantage. Also, don't hesitate to make changes where necessary.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
You should begin to experience some support from those who now agree with your point of view. This should help counter the remaining objections from die-hard skeptics.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
Don't let your aim be deflected by trivial matters as you try to resolve a confusing sit-

uation. Take time to find and thoroughly assess the facts before making any decision.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
The possibility of moving to another location has come up. But before you dismiss it as unworkable, it's worth checking out just in case it does have some merit after all.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
New relationships — personal or work-related — show mixed signals. Best to assume nothing. Let things play themselves out until you have something substantive to work with.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Your ability to make needed changes without causing too much, if any, negative ripple effect comes in handy when dealing with a sensitive matter either on the job or in the family.

BORN THIS WEEK:
Although you like things to go smoothly, you're not shy about making waves when you believe the situation calls for it.

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Remembrances

Miller, Carol J.
Carol J. Miller died on February 18, 2010, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's, in Healthcare Center at Richmond Place in Lexington, Kentucky. The family would like to express a special thank you to all Richmond Place staff and to Carol's Hospice of the Bluegrass team for the loving care she received during the last months of her life. She grew up in Chicago, IL, and graduated from Purdue University, where she met her husband Sande. Together they raised their family of three children in Park Ridge, Illinois. She was known for her beautiful roses and her extensive knowledge of plants and the natural world. She was very active in the Park Ridge Garden Club and plant conservation, and the Presbyterian Church Women's organizations. She was one of the original founders of the Gulf Breeze Garden Club and served as President, when she and Sande lived in Gulf Breeze, Florida prior to moving to Lexington. She was predeceased by her husband, Sande, who died in April 2008. She is survived by her daughter Karen Miller and husband Leonard Oloff; her son Scott Miller and wife Cleofe Miller; her son Roger Miller and wife Julia Meyer-Miller; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She will be much remembered for her helpful hand and support given not only to her children but many others as well, her infamous chocolate chip cookies, and those perceptible (also known as pierce-able) ears that caught many a hand sneaking into that cookie jar. We will all miss her. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Condolence cards may be sent c/o Karen Miller, 565 Maple St., Apt. 1, White River Junction, VT 05001. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of the Bluegrass, 2312 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, KY 40504.
Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com

Fleischman, Marian E.
Marian E. Fleischman, 93 years of The Moorings of Arlington Heights, formerly of Park Ridge, IL. Beloved wife of the late William; loving mother of Nancy and William (Susan); proud grandmother of Tracy and Benjamin. Services were private.
Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com

Dell, Eugene S.
Eugene S. Dell, age 90, a 56 year resident of Park Ridge passed away February 17, 2010; beloved husband of Bettina (nee Venturini); loving father of Ronald (Mary Therese) Dell and Gina (Mark) Tappan; dear grandfather of Jacob, Adam, Mariah and Elizabeth Dell; fond brother of the late Michael Dellaria and Jean Molino; preceded in death by his parents, Marino and Lucia Dellaria. Born February 28, 1919, in New York City. Later a Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He went into the entertainment business teaching ballroom dancing to students throughout Chicago. He was the Master of Ceremonies for the TV program, Dance Party, in the 1960's. Later he worked as a sales rep. for Continental Envelope Co. His favorite pastime was creating memorabilia in his basement workshop. A memorial mass was held on Monday, February 22, at Mary Seat of Wisdom Church, Park Ridge. Visitation was held at the church. Interment was private. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Chicago are appreciated. Arrangements by Ryan-Parke Funeral Home.
Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com

Karlesky, Mary Ellen
Mary Ellen Karlesky, 90, of Morton Grove; at rest February 13th at Aiden - Northmoor Nursing Home in Chicago. Beloved wife of the late Peter; dear mother of Dolores (Daniel) Dougherty and the late Roger (Ann); loving grandmother of five; devoted great-grandmother of five; fond sister of Julia (the late Nicholas) Zahn and the late Margaret (the late William) Dwyer. Funeral Mass held Wednesday, February 17th at St. Martha Church in Morton Grove. Interment was in All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, IL. Visitation was at Simkins Funeral Home 6251 Dempster Street Morton Grove on Tuesday, February 16th.
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Performance edge makes Jaguar XF seem like a coupe

BY JEFF TAYLOR
 SearchChicago-Autos Correspondent

The 2010 Jaguar XF four door looks like – and performs like – a coupe. Some consumers, me included, prefer the smooth lines and performance of a coupe, but family obligations necessitate room and easy access to rear seats typically found in a sedan.

If you can cover the XF's sticker (\$61,800 to \$85,300), Jaguar has a sedan in the XF and XFR that might interest you. Performance and race-bred technology have played key roles in establishing the sporting character of Jaguars. This tradition continues in the XF sedans; they feature sophisticated 5.0-liter direct-injection V-8 engines delivering increased power and torque with comparable emissions and fuel consumption: 15-16 mpg city and 23-24 mpg highway depending on the version.

The 5.0-liter AJ-V-8 Gen III engines come in two forms: a 385-horsepower/380-pound-foot-of-torque naturally aspirated version and a 510-horsepower/461-pound-foot supercharged "R" screamer that brings a whole new layer of

performance to the XF line.

All Jaguar V-8 engines are built using aluminum blocks with cast-in iron liners and cross-bolted main bearing caps to help reduce noise, vibration and harshness. Jaguar engine blocks are high-pressure die cast to yield a superior finish and greater dimensional accuracy. The engines use aluminum heads with four valves per cylinder and spheroidal graphite, cast-iron crankshafts and forged steel connecting rods. The cylinder heads are specified with a secondary (recycled) aluminum alloy to help reduce the environmental impact involved in producing the engine.

Jaguar's V-8s were designed in-house and tight packaging is a key factor as engineers have developed more power using a smaller and lighter engine. Overall engine length has been reduced (by 0.94 inches) by relocation of the oil pump within the engine architecture. This length reduction improves engine bay packaging in support of enhanced safety cell performance.

Malcolm Sandford, Jaguar engine group chief engineer, explained, "The emphasis was on delivering efficiency, superior dynamic response and highly accessible low-end torque suited to real-world driving without compromising power at higher engine speeds."

Jaguar indicates performance has improved by 29 percent and 23 percent (87 and 94 bhp) on both naturally aspirated and supercharged engines. Even with these upgrades, both the

continued on page 4

today's homes

SearchChicago.com/homes



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 Residents enjoy modern amenities

Union Row
 Townhome prices mean savings

Don DeBat
 Observing the condo market downturn

Builders forecast more sales in 2010

See Today's Homes section insert >

Homebuilders who have weathered the recession are now forecasting better days ahead for buyers, sellers and the industry.

A recent round-table conference was attended by representatives of large national companies active in the Chicago market as well as independent and custom builders.

All are optimistic about 2010, and several are introducing new floor plans and new home communities.

Attending the conference were David L. Smith, vice president of sales and marketing for Cambridge Homes; Christopher P. Shaxted, executive vice president of Lakewood Home Building Solutions; Curt Langille, president of Lanco Development; Chris Naatz, Midwest area director of marketing for Pulte, Centex and Del Webb; Jeffrey L. Samuels, president of Samuels Homes; Andrew B. Konovodoff, president of Town and Country Homes, and Patrick Curran, president of West Point Builders.

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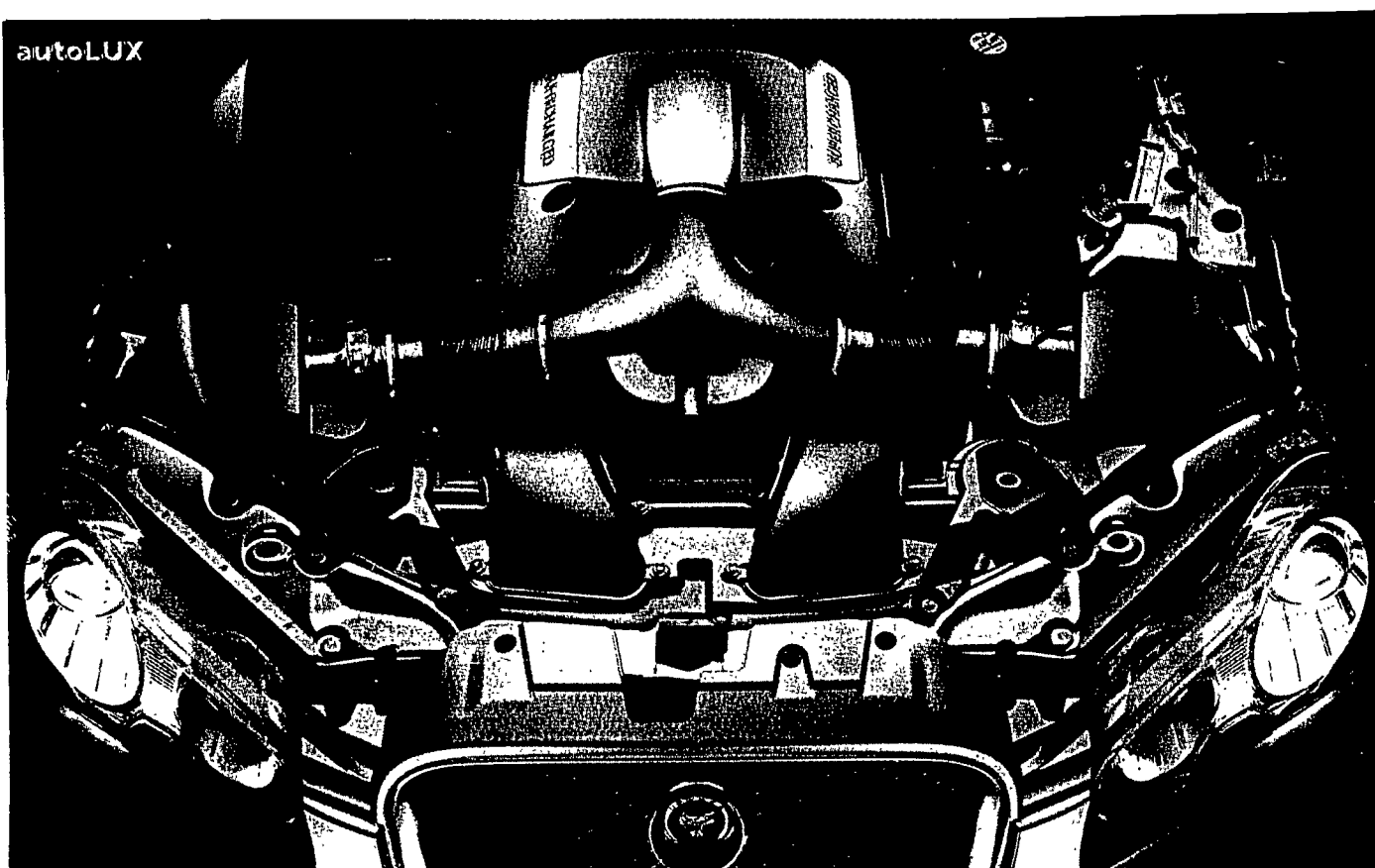
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autoLUX



Engine improvements give XF the edge

continued from page 1

naturally aspirated and supercharged engines meet U.S. ULEV II emissions regulations. Despite the significant increases in power, CO2 emissions of the naturally aspirated engine are comparable to the 4.2-liter V-8 and the supercharged engine produces 2 percent less CO2 than its predecessor.

Jaguar has developed an industry-first, centrally-mounted, multihole, spray-guided fuel-injection system. This system has a big effect on low-speed, dynamic response. The positioning of the injectors delivering fuel is precisely to the center of the combustion chamber, maximizing air-fuel mixing and improving combustion control. Fuel is delivered via dual, high-pressure fuel pumps that are driven via an auxiliary shaft in the engine block.

The charge-cooling effects of the direct-injection fuel system have allowed the compression ratio of the naturally aspirated engine to be raised to a high 11.5:1, which helps improve engine economy. The supercharged engine also benefits from an increase from 9.1:1 on the previous 4.2-liter version to 9.5:1.

During the engine warm-up phase, Jaguar indicates that the combustion system employs multiple injection mode strategies to deliver 50 percent more heat for fast catalyst warm-up and substantially reduced emissions.

The technology advances continue with a new type of variable camshaft timing system (VCT). Jaguar indicates that the four VCT units are activated by the positive and negative torques generated by opening and closing the intake and exhaust valves instead of by oil pressure. This has allowed the engine oil pump to be reduced in size, saving energy and reducing fuel consumption.

The response rate of the new VCT units is up to three times faster than before, with actuation rates in excess of 150 degrees per second. This means more of an immediate engine response to

driver demands.

Standard naturally aspirated engines are also equipped with camshaft profile switching (CPS) on the inlet camshaft. Depending on the engine's running conditions and the demands drivers might place on it, the CPS will switch between a profile that is set for low-speed driving and another that sets increased valve lift for high performance.

The variable inlet manifold (VIM) optimizes torque through the rev range. The VIM can vary the length of its eight inlet tracts to optimize power and torque throughout the rev range on the naturally aspirated engine. Vacuum-operated actuators open valves to select a longer, 27-inch inlet tract at low revs, increasing the rate of both the airflow and the engine torque. As the revs climb beyond 4,700 rpm, the actuators select a shorter, 14-inch path allowing a greater volume of air into the engine, again to optimize power.

If you want to improve fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, one area of concentration involves minimizing internal friction. All engine bearings received an extensive optimization program, reducing friction without compromising reliability. A diamond-like carbon coating has been used to reduce friction on the fuel pump tappets and a solid film lubricant has been used to coat the piston skirts.

Jaguar has developed a unique, intelligent oil-pump pressure relief valve that senses oil pressure deep in the engine's oil galleries to control the oil pump delivery. As a result, oil pump frictional losses are reduced during the warm-up period.

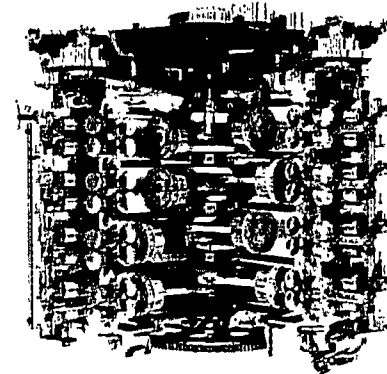
The slick R version features a sixth-generation, twin vortex system supercharger specified to give the XFR 510 horsepower. The supercharger is a compact Roots-type unit that feeds air through twin intercoolers that are water cooled by their own cooling circuit. The Root's high helix rotor design improves the supercharger thermodynamic efficiency by 16 percent. It also virtually removes

supercharger "whine" so that you have to really listen for it. The intercoolers reduce the temperature of the pressurized intake air and so optimize power and efficiency.

The R's new air intake has been radically redesigned compared to the previous V-8. The intake air path is a direct feed to the supercharger inlet from the centrally mounted front throttle body. Air is delivered through twin air boxes, which reduce flow loss and further increase efficiency.

Mechanically, the new supercharger and its intercoolers are efficiently packaged in the "V" of the engine to deliver a low overall engine height in support of pedestrian safety requirements.

The result of all this technology is that drivers will notice how good the XF moves in standard and R forms. The technology advances in Jaguar's engines allow drivers to step up to another level of instant responses, seamless power and smooth, refined performance with no compromise to fuel efficiency. And, of course, drivers are surrounded by all that rich Jaguar leather, high-quality interior components, interior gadgetry and comfort for four or five in a pinch.



autoNEWS

Consumers choose favorite cars from Chicago Auto Show

Consumers proclaimed their favorite vehicles in five categories in the Chicago Auto Show's fifth annual "Best of Show" balloting.

In voting conducted during the 10-day public run of the nation's biggest auto show, winners in the contest's five categories were:

- Best all-new production vehicle: Ford Focus (29 percent of vote)
- Best concept vehicle: Cadillac XTS Platinum (28 percent of vote)
- Best green vehicle: Chevrolet Volt (25 percent of vote)
- Best exhibit: Ford (41 percent of vote)
- "Vehicle I'd most like to have in my driveway": Ford Shelby GT500

"These are tough competitions that make a win really meaningful for our manufacturers and exhibitors," said show chairman John Phelan. "In a year when our attendance was about level with 2009, we're thrilled that everyone worked so hard to bring their best displays, concepts and production vehicles to a public whose optimism is returning."

Each of the first four winners beat out seven other vehicles. In the fifth category, "Vehicle I'd most like to have in my driveway," voters could choose from any of the nearly 1,000 vehicles on the show floor.

According to the results, almost one-third of the voters considered the 2011 Ford Focus the best all-new production vehicle at the 2010 Chicago Auto Show. This is the second year in a row the blue oval took the top spot in this category as the Ford Taurus took the honors in 2009.

General Motors also repeated for best concept with the Cadillac XTS Platinum taking the honors this year and the Chevrolet Corvette Sting Ray winning last year. Chevrolet's Volt outpaced the Fisker Karma for the top green vehicle at the show. The extended-range electric Volt will go on sale later this year at a price of approximately \$40,000.

For the second year in a row, Ford grabbed the honors for best exhibit with a commanding 41 percent of the vote. That's not a shock as Ford had more than a half dozen interactive displays throughout its booth.

In the tightest race of all, the 2010 Ford Shelby GT bested every other vehicle on the show floor to become the showgoers' pick for "Vehicle I'd most like to have in my driveway."

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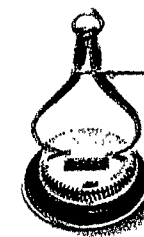
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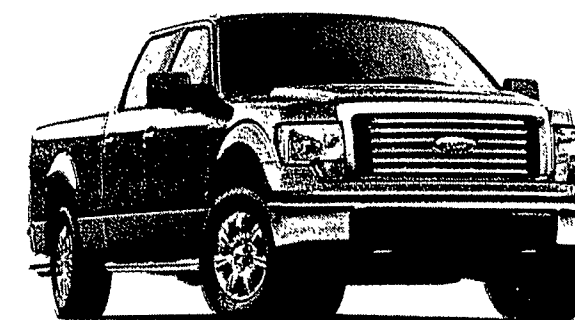
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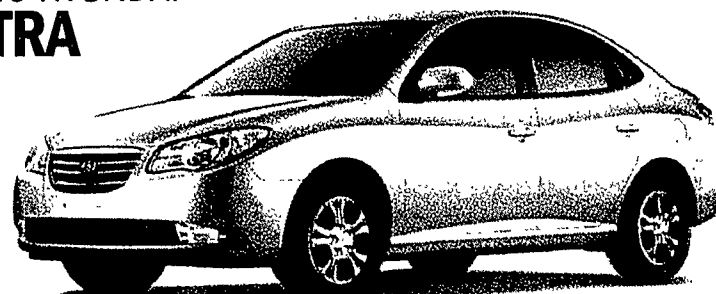
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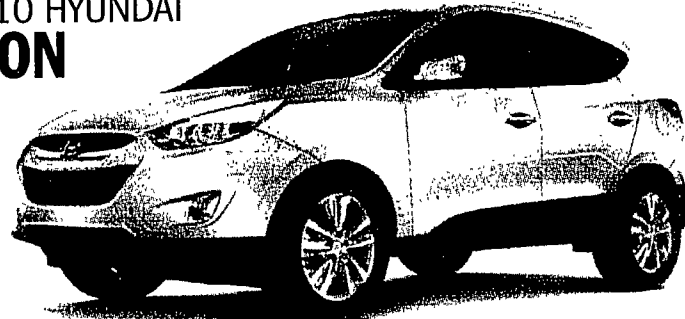
\$98

Per Mo. 24 Mo. Lease No Security Deposit

\$1,799 due at lease signing; plus tax, title, license and doc fee with approved credit.

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Per Mo. 36 Mo. Lease No Security Deposit

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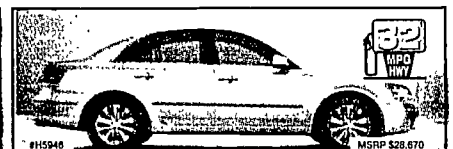
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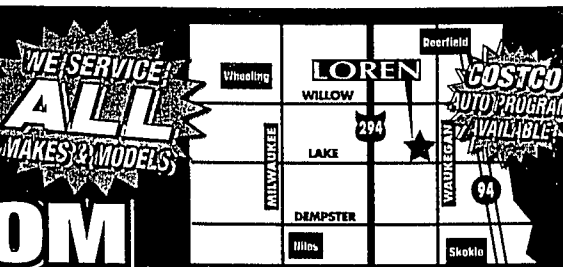
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H5971A	08 HYUNDAI TUCSON	\$16,888	HP111	04 GMC YUKON XL 4X4	\$14,888
HP089	08 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GLS AWD	\$17,488	HP084	03 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER 4X4	\$13,888
H5862A	07 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER LIMITED	\$9,888	HP875A	01 HYUNDAI ELANTRA	\$4,888
H5727A	06 ACURA TL NAVIGATION	\$18,488	H5899A	00 BUICK LESABRE	\$8,488
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H5877A	05 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GLS	\$8,888	HP095A	00 TOYOTA AVALON XLS	\$8,888
H5805A	04 HYUNDAI ELANTRA	\$8,888	H5872B	04 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4	\$3,888
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All factory rebates and incentives that are available to all buyers are applied to pricing. Cash back and financing varies by model. **0% APR for 60 mos in lieu of rebates & incentives with approved credit on select models. \$16.88 per \$1,000 financed with \$0 down. *Available on select models. *Based on highway EPA estimates. *Hyundai rebates vary by model in lieu of special financing. *MSRP may not be the price at which vehicle is sold in trade area. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this advertisement. Offer ends 3/1/10.

0% APR Available** REBATES FROM \$500-\$5000 NISSAN NOW

TOYOTA OWNERS GET AN ADDITIONAL \$1000 REBATE!

New 2010 Nissan Sentra SR

Lease For: **\$139** per mo/39 mos.*
\$2999 due at lease signing. Includes 1st mos. payment. No security deposit required.

OR **\$500 REBATE** + **0% APR** For 60 mos.**



New 2010 Nissan Altima Sedan

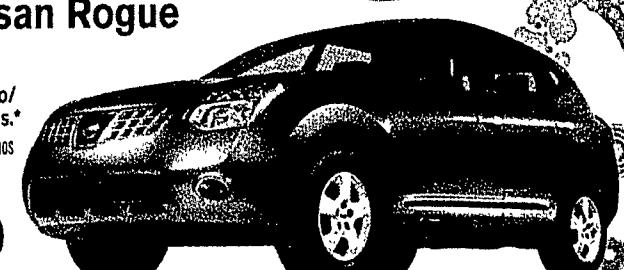
Lease For: **\$199** per mo/39 mos.*
\$2999 due at lease signing. Includes 1st mos. payment. No security deposit required.

OR **\$1000 REBATE**

New 2010 Nissan Rogue

Lease For: **\$199** per mo/39 mos.*
\$2999 due at lease signing. Includes 1st mos. payment. No security deposit required.

OR **\$500 REBATE**



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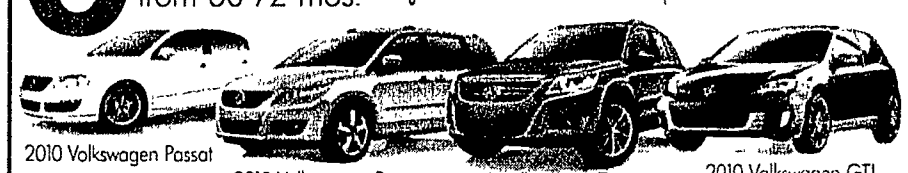
*Closed end lease w/approved credit. Security deposit waived w/approved credit. Lessee responsible for excess wear, tear and/or mileage. **0% APR for 60 mos. = \$16.67 per \$1000 financed w/approved credit. ***0% APR on select models w/qual. credit. **To qualified buyers w/approved credit. ***9 for 60 mos = \$18.37 per \$1000 financed on 2007 and newer Nissan's w/approved credit. All rebates & incent. voided. Add tax, title, license and doc fee.

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With great deals on all 13 models, our pain is your gain. Text PUNCH to VWCARS (892277)* to learn about the PunchDub game.

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2010 Volkswagen Passat 2010 Volkswagen Routan 2010 Volkswagen Tiguan 2010 Volkswagen GTI

2008 Volkswagen New Beetle Coupe \$16,997
2006 Volkswagen Passat 3.6L Sport \$16,997
2009 Volkswagen Routan \$18,997
2009 Volkswagen CC Sport \$23,997

PLUS \$500 AUTOSHOWCOUPON On 2010 GTI Expires 3/31/10.

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0% APR on ALL 2010 MAZDA3's & CX-9's for 60 mos.***

2010 Mazda CX-9

2009 MAZDA5 Sport Auto Trans, Stk #PM13581 Vin#JM1CR203390341935 Buy For **\$13,988**

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#1 Volume Mazda Store in IL for 2006, 2007 & 2008 according to MNAO

GURNEE



AUTO SHOW SPECIALS

0% APR Ford Financing + **\$1000 Auto Show Bonus Cash!**

2 years of no charge maintenance



NEW 2010 FORD ESCAPE

- + \$1000 FORD REBATE*
- + \$1000 AUTO SHOW BONUS*
- + \$1000 FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE*
- + 2 YR/25,000 MILES NO CHARGE MAINTENANCE*



NEW 2010 FORD EDGE

- + \$1000 FORD REBATE*
- + \$1000 AUTO SHOW BONUS*
- + \$1000 FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE*
- + 2 YR/25,000 MILES NO CHARGE MAINTENANCE*



NEW 2010 FORD FOCUS SE

- + \$1500 FORD REBATE*
- + \$1000 AUTO SHOW BONUS*
- + \$1000 FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE*
- + 2 YR/25,000 MILES NO CHARGE MAINTENANCE*



NEW 2010 FORD FUSION

- + \$1500 FORD REBATE*
- + \$1000 AUTO SHOW BONUS*
- + \$1000 FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE*
- + 2 YR/25,000 MILES NO CHARGE MAINTENANCE*

*All offers plus tax, title, license & doc fee w/approved credit. Ford financing on select new Ford models. 0% APR Ford financing for 60 mos. = \$16,678/\$1000 financed which is in lieu of rebates. Ford Bonus Cash & Auto Show Bonus Cash are manufacturer rebates (excludes Hybrids) on select new models w/approved credit. Ford Motor Credit Cash available to qualified buyers - must finance w/Ford Motor Credit. Trade-In Assistance is a manufacturer sponsored program to owners who trade a '95 or newer Toyota/Honda/Lexus/Scion/Acura. See dealer for details. No charge maintenance for 2 yrs/25,000 miles whichever occurs first on select new models. Offers expire 7 days from publication.

LINCOLN MERCURY

LINCOLN
New 2010 Lincoln MKT

0% APR FINANCING!

New 2010 Lincoln MKX

\$3000 CUSTOMER CASH* + **\$1000 AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH***

OR

0% APR FINANCING* + **\$1000 AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH***

*All offers plus tax, title, license & doc fee w/approved credit. Factory financing on select new models in lieu of factory rebate. 0% apr financing for 36 mos. = \$27,788/\$1000 financed which is combined with \$1000 rebate. Auto Show Bonus Cash is a mfr. Sponsored program on select new models. See dealer for details. Offers expire 7 days from publication.

MERCURY
New 2010 Mercury Mariner

0% APR FINANCING* + **\$1000 AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH***

OR

NO-CHARGE MAINTENANCE FOR 2 YRS*

\$1000 CUSTOMER CASH* + **\$1000 AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH***

New 2010 Mercury Milan

\$1500 CUSTOMER CASH* + **\$1000 AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH***

OR

0% APR FINANCING* + **\$1000 AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH***

*All offers plus tax, title, license & doc fee w/approved credit. Factory financing on select new models in lieu of factory rebate. 0% apr financing for 36 mos. = \$27,788/\$1000 financed which is combined with \$1000 rebate. Auto Show Bonus Cash is a mfr. Sponsored program on select new models. No Charge Maintenance for 2 yrs/25,000 miles whichever occurs first. See dealer for details. Offers expire 7 days from publication.

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FINAL DAYS! OFFERS END MONDAY!

<p>Model A4A</p> <p>NEW 2010 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5i</p> <p>\$16,579</p> <p>*500 SUBARU BONUS CASH*</p>	<p>Model AAA</p> <p>NEW 2010 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i</p> <p>\$19,225</p>
<p>Model AFA</p> <p>NEW 2010 SUBARU FORESTER 2.5x</p> <p>\$19,509</p>	<p>Model ABA</p> <p>NEW 2010 SUBARU OUTBACK 2.5i</p> <p>\$21,911</p>
<p>Model A4M</p> <p>NEW 2010 SUBARU IMPREZA WRX</p> <p>\$23,835</p>	<p>Model A1C</p> <p>NEW 2010 SUBARU TRIBECA 3.6R PREMIUM</p> <p>\$28,935</p>

JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF OUR USED SELECTION:

'06 Subaru Legacy Low Mi	\$16,995
'09 Subaru Forester	\$18,995
'09 Subaru Legacy	\$18,995
'07 Subaru B9 Tribeca LTD, 3.6R M.	\$22,995
'09 Subaru Impreza GT	\$22,995
'09 Subaru Outback LTD	\$23,945
'07 Subaru Impreza WRX	\$25,995

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Offers to qualified buyers. All applicable rebates and incentives applied to vehicle prices. *Plus tax, title, lic. & doc. fee. **Plus tax, title, lic. & doc. fee. These vehicles feature advertisements on them. *When you lease a vehicle from IMAC, 10% APR for 60 mos. on select models to qualified buyers (\$18.66 per \$1000 financed). **On new 2010 Altimas only. Offers cannot be combined. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. No prior sales. Offers end 3 days from pub.

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FINAL MONTH-END SAVINGS!

0% APR FOR 60 | **\$0 DOWN** | **\$500 NISSAN CASH BACK**

NEW 2010 NISSAN ALTIMA

\$16,999

\$219

488 base w/option, plus title, lic. & doc. fees. 10% APR for 36 mos. Residual: 12,269.

NEW 2010 NISSAN MAXIMA

\$299

LEASE FOR ONLY... 488 base w/option, plus title, lic. & doc. fees. 10% APR for 36 mos. Residual: 18,051.

\$0 DOWN! ILLINOIS TAXES INCLUDED!

OVER 500 NISSANS TO CHOOSE!

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MODEL 6219, 4 AT THIS PRICE. STOCK #2023

\$12,995

NEW 2010 NISSAN SENTRA

MODEL 1125D, 4 AT THIS PRICE. STOCK #2025, 1105

\$13,495

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MODEL 2210, 4 AT THIS PRICE. STOCK #2012, 1102

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MID CITY NISSAN USED OUTLET

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'06 Nissan Sentra Prose	\$6,995	'09 Nissan Sentra	\$10,995
'02 Toyota Camry SE	\$7,495	'05 Nissan Quest	\$11,495
'05 Honda Civic	\$7,595	'06 Scion xB	\$11,995
'01 Nissan Maxima GLE	\$7,795	'04 Honda Element	\$12,995
'07 Nissan Versa SV	\$7,995	'09 Nissan Altima SV	\$12,995
'06 Saturn Ion	\$7,995	'07 Acura TSX	\$19,995
'07 Kia Rio	\$7,995	'09 Nissan Maxima	\$21,995

STAR NISSAN USED OUTLET

'03 Ford Ranger	\$7,995	'05 Nissan Pathfinder SV	\$14,995
'06 Saturn Ion	\$7,995	'07 Jeep Commander Sport	\$15,995
'04 Chrysler Crossfire	\$9,995	'09 Nissan Rogue SV	\$15,995
'06 Volkswagen Passat	\$9,995	'05 Ford F-150 L4	\$17,995
'10 Nissan Altima	\$10,995	'09 Nissan Murano AWD	\$18,995
'08 Honda Civic	\$11,995	'09 Nissan Xterra	\$19,995
'07 Mitsubishi Eclipse	\$11,995	'07 Acura RL	\$25,995
'10 Ford Focus	\$13,995	'05 Infiniti QX56	\$27,995

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ALL OFFERS END MONDAY!

0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE*

NEW '09 INFINITI G37X COUPE

AWD, Premium Package

LEASE FOR ONLY **\$399** PER MO. FOR 36 MOS.

ZERO DOWN!

New 2009 Infiniti G37X Sedan

5th #1054, Model# 90619

\$7,300 OFF*

New 2009 Infiniti FX35

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\$11,400 OFF*

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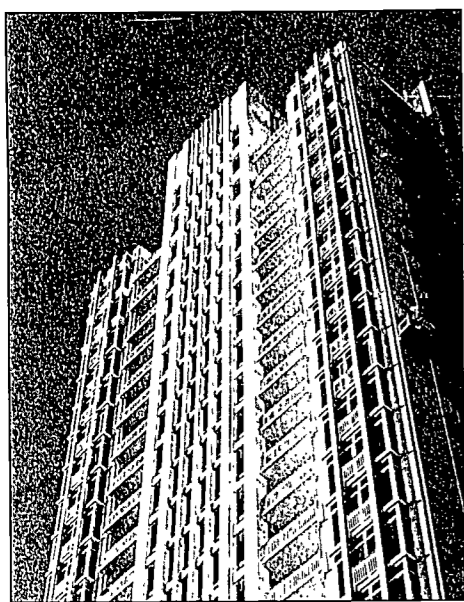
Model# 83210

\$12,000 OFF*

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Offers to qualified buyers. All applicable rebates and incentives applied to vehicle prices. *30 mos. lease. **30 mos. lease. 0 down - tax, title, lic. & doc. fee & 1st mo. payment. 10% APR for 36 mos. over MSRP. 42,675. res. 26,427. 0 to choose. 10% APR for 36 mos. on select models (\$27.78 per \$1000 financed). \$10 MSRP on select cars. Dealer will not honor errors in this ad. No prior sales. Offers end 3/7/10



About 20 condos remain at Michigan Avenue Tower II, a 257-unit high-rise at 1400 S. Michigan Ave.



Discount pricing starting at \$159,800 for a one-bedroom unit, and \$235,800 for a one-bedroom-plus-den, are attracting buyers to the 248-unit Astoria Tower at 8 E. Ninth St.

Condo market revival

Single first-time buyers spark sales in downtown Chicago

A whopping 96 million Americans are single, a people age 18 or older who have not yet married or are divorced or widowed. There now are more single-person households in the United States than married-couple households with children. Singles now account for 43 percent of the U.S. population, up from 28 percent in 1969.

As a result, downtown Chicago is teeming with thousands of singles, including 50,000 students, and many of them are part of a wave of first-time home and condo buyers flocking to downtown neighborhoods such as the Loop, River North and the South Loop.

These buyers are taking advantage of Uncle Sam's \$8,000 first-time buyer tax credit, which has been extended until April 30 on purchases closed by June 30, housing experts say.

Others are being lured by the availability of Federal Housing Administration-insured financing with down payments as low

as 3 1/2 percent, near-record low mortgage rates and the freedom from having to sell an existing residence.

Experts say the rising tide of first-time buyers caused a mini-revival in the downtown condo market in 2009. Appraisal Research Counselors recently reported that 632 new-construction residences, condo-conversion units and adaptive-reuse lofts were sold in downtown Chicago in the third quarter of 2009. Stronger sales, sparked by the federal government's incentives, brought total sales down to 1,372 units through the third quarter.

"The most active segment of the market appears to be the first-time buyer and many of them are singles," said Gail Lissner, vice president of Appraisal Research.

At 235 Van Buren, 40 percent of the purchasers are first-time buyers and many of them are singles, reported Colin Kilhuck, president of CMK Cos. Ltd., the developer of the 46-story contemporary-style high-rise on the southeast corner of Franklin and Van Buren in the downtown Financial District.

"Most of these buyers are between 25 and 35 years of age," Kilhuck said. "Many have rented in the area and work in

the city. Typically, the first-time condo buyer's price range is \$200,000 to \$300,000."

The Van Buren building is luring buyers with a myriad of attractions, including its sleek, contemporary architecture and affordable pricing, said Scott Hoskins, president and managing broker for CMK Realty.

Base prices start at \$179,900 for the most affordable studio and \$211,900 for one-bedroom, one-bath units. Two-bedroom, one-bath condos begin at \$259,900 and two-bedroom, two-bath layouts start at \$279,900. Penthouse residences are lease priced from \$349,900.

Sales have surpassed the 450-unit mark at the 714-unit condominium building and about 265 closings have been completed, Hoskins said. Fourteen professionally decorated contemporary-style models are on display.

The condos feature a stainless-steel appliance package, oak wood flooring, granite kitchen countertops, Euro-styled cabinetry, Grohe fixtures and 10-foot ceilings. Other features include 12,000 square feet of commercial space, a dog run, a 24-hour doorman, six high-speed elevators, thermal-pane aluminum-framed windows and a dramatic lobby with a 25-foot-tall ceiling and accented with slate, stainless steel and an imported German glass wall.

There are 522 secure indoor parking spaces priced from \$31,900 to \$36,900 and 50 tandem spaces, priced from \$51,900 to \$56,900.

The sales center is located on site in residence 3302. It is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, contact CMK Realty at 312-376-0600 or visit www.235vanburen.com.

Appraisal Research noted that several factors are sparking sales in the first-time buyer market, including sharply lower condo pricing downtown in

early 2010.

"Several buildings have undergone substantial re-pricing of their entire unsold inventory in order to quicken the sell-off of the property," Lissner said. "Other buildings have opted for individual loss leaders, testing the effects of particularly well-priced units on their sales pace." Samples of condo deals of selected downtown neighborhoods follow:

River North

At the Private Residences at Ontario Place, a 467-unit high-rise condominium conversion at 10 E. Ontario, aggressive pricing is an attractive incentive for singles and first-time buyers.

Eight upgraded one-bedroom units with 800 to 995 square feet of space are available for immediate occupancy at Ontario Place with recently reduced prices now ranging from \$219,000 to \$245,000, said Nicholas V. Gouletas, sales manager for American Invoce, the developer. A free parking space valued at \$40,000, is included with the next five units sold. Closings can be scheduled in less than 30 days.

Renovated units feature new kitchens with stainless-steel appliances, granite counters and maple cabinets, plus new baths, hardwood floors, new carpeting and a 150-square-foot balcony. Building amenities include an outdoor swimming pool, fitness center, party room and deck and a business center.

An open house is scheduled at Ontario Place for noon to 3 p.m. Sunday. The on-site sales center is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Call 312-543-6901 or visit www.ontarioplaccondos.com.

South Loop

Attractive discount pricing starting at \$159,800 for a one-bedroom unit and \$235,800 for a one-bedroom-plus-den layout is offered in the 78-unit final phase of condominium sales

at 1727 S. Indiana.

Aggressive pricing at Private Residences at Ontario Place, a 467-unit high-rise condominium conversion at 10 E. Ontario, is attracting single and first-time buyers.

under way at the 248-unit Astoria Tower, said Jim Psychogios of Weichert, Realtors — Frankel & Giles, the exclusive marketing agent. Astoria Tower's Spa Life Center offers more than 12,000 square feet that includes a swimming pool, a state-of-the-art fitness center, a sauna, a steam room, private massage room, nails and pedicures salon, men's and women's changing rooms and two landscaped terraces with more than 1,900 square feet.

Other amenities include a business center/conference room, a billiard/recreation room, a personal storage locker, a bike room, a library/business center, a golf simulator, private home theater and parking for 244 cars.

The sales center for Astoria Tower, 8 E. Ninth St., is open from noon to 5 p.m. daily or by appointment. Call 312-922-0650 or visit www.astoriatower.net.

An accelerated marketing program is generating strong closings at the 116-unit Prairie District Lofts, a timber-beam loft condo conversion at 1727 S. Indiana.

"We have sold more than a dozen units at greatly reduced prices in recent weeks and now only 18 units remain for sale," said Keith Giles, president of Weichert, Realtors — Frankel & Giles. Here is a sampling of the available deals:

- A one-bedroom, one-bath loft is priced at \$262,800, down from \$299,800.
- A two-bedroom, two-bath loft is priced at \$299,800, down from \$375,800.
- A three-bedroom, two-bath loft is priced at \$339,800, down from \$429,800.

Prairie District Lofts is approved for FHA-insured financing. The sales center at 1727 S. Indiana is open from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Monday and by appointment. Call

Forecast

FROM PAGE 1

of the tax credits must purchase a home before April 30, 2010 and close the transaction before July 1, 2010," Smith said. "Buyers should check federalhousingtaxcredit.com and learn more about how to qualify for the tax credits."

Housing prices having experienced a correction and have now stabilized, which make them more attractive to first- and second-time buyers.

"Today in many markets, people are able to own a home for a smaller monthly payment than they would pay in rent," Naatz said. "The current market is an ideal world for first- and second-time buyers, and will also help those who are coming to terms with the new pricing realities and are ready to move on with their plans for a different lifestyle."

Builder re-invention

With the expected increase in first- and second-time buyers, many companies are reinventing themselves and their product lines to appeal to budget-conscious buyers and those who have different design expectations. Pulte/Del Webb has acquired the Centex brand for a greater saturation of every segment of the marketplace. Town and Country has acquired a new joint venture partner and is focusing on land acquisitions at seven locations with approximately 1,000 homesites. Lakewood Homes has morphed into Lakewood Real Estate Solutions, a third party asset manager that works with banks to manage their acquired assets and is also building a shopping center in Long Grove.

"When financing dried up for our residential products, we developed a clean exit strategy, met our obligations to our homeowners and subcontractors, and are using what we've learned in the process to help others in the industry," Shaxted said. "We are planning to



The Edington model from the Signature Series at Cambridge Lakes, by Cambridge Homes, in Pingree Grove.

move back into the residential sector as well during 2010.

Several builders are planning to introduce affordable new floor plans in the coming year. Lakewood Real Estate Solutions anticipates opening a single-family community in Palatine, while West Point Builders will introduce a fourth product line at West Point Gardens in Elgin, a new series of townhomes with prices ranging from the \$170,000s to the low-\$200,000s. Town and Country Homes is adding Value-Line affordable single-family homes in several communities, including two models in the \$180,000s at Hunt Club in Oswego and two more affordable models at Churchill Club in Oswego. Cambridge Homes is also planning new designs and new communities.

"Generation X and Y buyers have very different needs from the more traditional floor plans favored by older generations," Smith said. "Many of them have little interest in dining rooms, living rooms are considered flex space and great rooms with adjacent kitchens and large breakfast areas fit more casual lifestyles. As the largest builder in the Chi-

ago marketplace, Cambridge Homes has homes for every generation, and designs are based on feedback from buyers in each group."

"Can the house change with a family's evolving needs?" is a key question that builders and buyers alike are asking," Shaxted said. "Builders and buyers also have to consider the costs of ownership, such as maintenance and energy efficiency, and how consumer costs can be minimized."

"Buyers today are more interested in quality, comfort and practicality," Langille said. "For example, they may want a hand-hewn timber mantle and other custom carpentry, but they prefer a 10-foot ceiling over a volume ceiling which they consider harder to heat and clean."

Challenging markets

The changing housing priorities of over-age-55 have been addressed by several builders.

"These customers' buying in Cambridge Homes adult communities focus on features that capture their imaginations, and they appreciate quality, durability and energy-efficiency," Smith said. "They may opt

for an attached home rather than a detached version of the same plan in order to have the luxuries and conveniences that matter most to them."

"The custom home market is affected in different ways from other real estate segments, and both Samuels and Langille agree that an upturn in consumer confidence will be crucial in more sales."

"The momentum of increased consumer confidence and a more active sales atmosphere helps every builder," said Samuels, a North Shore custom builder for more than 30 years. "In addition, depending on the location, buyers can take advantage of reduced land costs that typically range between 15 and 20 percent. However, the cost of labor and materials has not decreased, so choosing a reputable builder with a proven track record for quality, reliability and working responsibly within a budget is more important than ever."

"Custom home buyers can become confused by the many 'custom homes' on the market today, as well as new players who do not have the longevity or expertise to realistically price and build a quality

product. Most of our business comes from referrals from satisfied customers who know from personal experience that we deliver what we promise."

Curt Langille has been a McHenry County custom builder for 33 years and currently building \$500,000-plus upscale villas at The Village of Engleton Ponds in Geneva National, Fontana, Wis., as well as scattered-site single-family homes in the resort community.

"Having been through a few of these recessions, I have learned to be resourceful," Langille said. "Our biggest challenge has been financing, but I believe that banks are increasingly discovering that our problems are their problems too. During the past year, Lanco has provided an opportunity for our villa buyers to sell their existing homes. We take them as trade-ins, refurbish them and will hold them until the market improves. Banks have been supportive in this effort because we are adding value to these real estate assets."

Throughout the recession, Lanco has met its obligations and maintained an untroubled reputation, a key element in our continued success. "Though generally optimistic, predictions about the 2010 market are not without cautionary notes."

Notes of caution

"Many elements are in play in today's market," Konovodoff said. "Our recent sales were 30 to 35 percent first-time buyers, spurred by the tax incentives. I have a concern that we may be stealing from the future. I also believe that the tax incentives should be in effect for a longer period. Many builders have reduced their standing inventory and building a home takes an average of about five months, so timing may be tight. In addition, people with homes to sell may be competing with foreclosures that seem attractive, but may present many problems. Overall, though, there are more positives than negatives for today's buyers."

Changes being discussed on FHA standards could have a major effect on appraisals, mortgage insurance, mortgage underwriting and credit standards, builders agree.

"Standards for evaluating the credit risk each buyer presents were set aside in recent years but if these common sense standards were reinstated, the issue would be resolved," Naatz said. "To go beyond them would be unfortunate."

Dave Smith of Canbridge Homes summed up the prevailing mood.

"This is a fantastic time to purchase. Banks want to lend, and buyers want to buy. The combination of forces driving affordability will never happen again in our lifetimes."

Find out more

For more information about the above builders and their new home communities, visit their Web sites: mycambridgehomes.com, lakewoodhomebuildingsolutions.com, lancodevelopment.com, pulte.com, (also centexhomes.com, delwebb.com), townandcountryhomes.com, westpointbuilders.com, samuelshomes, 847-417-3170.

sellers and builders."

The number of foreclosures at all price points continues to be a problem, affecting consumer confidence, appraisals and pricing.

"Foreclosures, especially on higher-priced properties, require more government intervention because they continue to be a brake on the market recovery," Shaxted said.

Labor costs are another concern, as are possible changes to FHA financing. "We've seen savings on labor, but not as much as we expected," Curran said. "Both builders and labor have to adapt to the new realities. I'd rather have 75 percent of a loaf than nothing."

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Vol. 1, No. 20

Going high-tech in Glenview

Factory-built housing a bright spot in current market

"If you look at this home, with its 9-foot ceilings, crown molding, stunning upgrade cabinetry in an island kitchen configuration, two levels, you'd say nice! When you enter the master suite with its recessed tray ceiling, whirlpool tub, separate shower, you'd say 'hey, this really is nice!'"

"When you realize that this four-bedroom and three-bath home in the heart of Glenview goes for not \$600,000 like the 'average' home does around here, not \$800,000 like a new home this size goes for nearby, but for \$179,900 ... well, that is what makes people go WOW and rings our phones daily here."

So says Mike Qian, housing sales professional.

"We offer great American built energy saving homes for the people on the north side of Chicago, quality that rivals anything that is even double the price or more. We offer the best financing, and it is in-house so you don't have all those credit hassles and huge down payments the banks require," he said. "You can get the same \$6,500 to \$8,000 federal home purchase stimulus dollars here as you would on any other house, but with our homes, that money goes further because our prices are so much lower. If you have a nice tax refund coming, we'll make it simple to use refund dollars now, in advance with a certified tax service we'll provide. No one else does what we'll do, we do it better, and we do it for less."

"Let me sum it all up," said Qian. "From Europe to Asia, to the Middle East and Latin America, the trend towards using prefabricated off-site building techniques is accelerating," said Linda Beem, project manager at Capital First's redevelopment in Glenview. "Yet in many ways, this was — and still is — an American concept and an American industry."

She said that auto giant Toyota built some 10,000 homes last year in Japan, and is rumored to be heading to the U.S. housing market. While nations overseas have no problem literally buying

into factory-built housing, too many in the U.S. are mentally stuck in the 1960s to 1970s.

"Millions think if a home was built in a factory, it must be a trailer. Why don't more Americans people realize that just as their telephone has gone from a rotary to a touch tone to a cordless or a cell phone, so too the technology in home building has changed and evolved," Beem said. "Or to look at it differently, the way conventional site-built housing looked and lived in the 1950s and 1960s, is quite different than a house constructed in the 2000s. Just drive past a neighborhood built 40, 50 or 60 years ago, and the homes look quite different than one built in the last 10 years. Styles and methods change, and so has factory-built homes in America."

The run-away leader in the use of modern factory-built technologies in the Chicago area market is Capital First Realty, having placed and sold literally hundreds of homes in recent years. While conventional building has cooled during the current housing crunch, Capital First Realty's home closings have soared, with hundreds of homes closed last year alone, among the three subdivisions Capital First is redeveloping around Chicago.

"Seeing is believing," said Richard J. "Dick" Klarchek, president of family-owned Capital First Realty's new home division. "For people struggling to keep a roof over their heads due to high mortgage payments, high rental payments, high real estate taxes and the tough economy, we've got a solution that simply can't be beat. What people need is some eye wash and a new perspective. It isn't the 1960s anymore, it's 2010."

"I'm a 'seasoned' citizen myself, but I've got a laptop on my desk at the office, my cell is with me ... the point is that you have to move with the times. Regardless of the topic, you can't be stuck in yesterday's thinking; if you are you're going to be left behind. In this new economy, we need quality, affordable energy-saving homes that are greener by design. You want a multi-generational home and that's what today's factory built homes gives you. But if you think 'trailer,' are you out of step! They stopped building those back in the '70s."

"We need to keep and grow American jobs and put Americans back to work, and high-tech factory home building is a great



The home shown above has 2,400 square feet with the second level finished, plus an additional 400 square feet of attic storage space available. This hi-tech home is installed on a permanent concrete foundation, and is built by an Energy Star-rated builder. The home also boasts 9-foot ceilings, crown molding, upgraded cabinetry, an island kitchen, transom windows, a dream bath and more.

way of doing just that. We make "Made in America" something to feel good about."

While housing starts took a modest move up last month, what went under-reported is the fact that some 15 percent of all new housing starts nationally are built in factories and then finished on site. As Americans are searching for better homes that protect their budgets, the number of factory-built homes as a percentage of total housing starts has roughly doubled in the last two years.

"What we've done is taken an older location and updated it with hundreds of these quality new homes," said Beem. "We are now closing in on completion. Toyota should be jealous of us."

"Our homes are federally certified, third-party inspected. They come with a full warranty so there is no guess work or risk taking here. You can get a brand new, three-bedroom two-bath home starting around the \$100s, not the \$500s. You can get custom homes up to five bedrooms and three full baths. We offer the best financing on homes with features like 9-foot ceilings, crown molding, upgrade Merillit named-brand cabinetry, transom windows, energy saving features and an unparalleled safety record. You can get a single or two level home. Choices! That's what we offer you. Customized or ready to move into, it's your

choice."

"We are not knocking the older construction. I'm just saying ... compare," Klarchek said. "Take a look for yourself. If you like what you see, great, you can come home and be a winner

by living in style and living for less. We finance. We make it easy. We've got a program, for instance, that lets you use your federal home buying tax credits in advance for your down payment. So we have people that

can move in with say \$1000 cash out of pocket. You can see the future, right here, right now."

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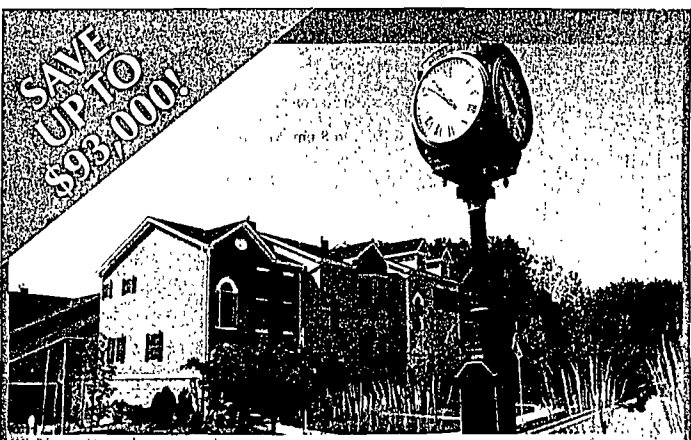
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Final 13 Prairie Pointe condos set for auction

At a premium with views of skyline, Soldier Field and Lake Michigan



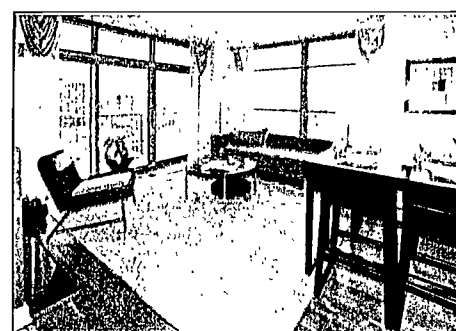
Astute home seekers and savvy real estate investors looking for primary residence or a spectacular weekend city retreat have an outstanding opportunity to own a new luxury condominium at Prairie Pointe at Central Station in Chicago that offers spectacular views of the skyline, Soldier Field and Lake Michigan.

Representing the last 13 homes to be sold in this 90 percent sold-out, architecturally significant glass and brick building in the City's hot new South Loop neighborhood, lucky bidders might snag the deal of a lifetime with bids beginning at less than half as much as homes previously sold in the building.

Homes in this 24-story building with indoor heated and deeded parking, 24-hour doorman, sun deck, fitness center, entertainment room and elegant lobby were priced originally from \$389,611 to \$1.82 million, but at the auction scheduled for March 14, interested buyers could pick up a new home for perhaps as little as \$189,000.

Spectacular views and well-equipped kitchens are just two of the many highlights of homes at Prairie Pointe at Central Station in Chicago. The last 13 homes will be sold at auction on March 14.

Interested parties looking for a great opportunity should attend one of Inland Real Estate Auction's open houses at Prairie Pointe at Central Station Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., March 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., March 10 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., March 13 from noon to 3 p.m. The building is at 1600 S. Prairie, which is two blocks east of Michigan Avenue, just north of 18th Street.



condominiums with both owner occupant and investor financing programs.

Whether a one-bedroom, 1½-bath home or a three-bedroom, three-bath penthouse, all condominiums at Prairie Pointe at Central Station include high ceilings, spacious private balconies/terraces and a wealth

Find out more

For more information about Prairie Pointe at Central Station or the auction call 630-990-5353 or visit www.inlandrealestate.com. The auction will be held on Sunday, March 14, at the Chicago Hilton Hotel at 720 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Registration will begin at 1 p.m., and the auction will begin at 2 p.m.

carbon monoxide detectors, in-home laundry hookups, dual pane insulated windows and fire sprinkler system.

Residents will also appreciate the community's proximity to outstanding transportation, shopping and recreational amenities. Residents of Prairie Pointe have entertainment opportunities galore just minutes from their front door. Grant Park and Millennium Park are just a few steps away, thus the opportunity to enjoy yearly music festivals and other events is effortless. Museum Park and Museum Campus are nearby as well, thus offering residents dozens of educational and cultural options. Adler Planetarium, the Field Museum, Art Institute and Shedd Aquarium provide more places to visit with family and friends. Of course, the famous Soldier Field hosts a variety of sporting and concert events throughout the year.

Due to Prairie Pointe at Central Station's proximity to Lake Michigan, Burnham Harbor and Monroe Harbor are just a short distance away, allowing residents the freedom to enjoy boating and sailing. The beaches along Lake Michigan are a great place to relax and catch some sun. The Central Station neighborhood has a variety of grocery stores, retail shops, restaurants and cafes, making daily life easy for all Prairie Pointe residents.

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HOUSE HOME

Industry experts answer your questions

FHA loan definitely a good choice to help get that new home

Q: I am a first-time home-buyer, and I was planning to apply for an FHA loan. I understand that some changes in FHA requirements will go into effect soon. What are the changes, and is an FHA loan still a good choice?



Dave Smith
CAMBRIDGE HOMES
www.MyCambridgeHome.com

A: With many conventional mortgages requiring a 20 percent down payment, an FHA loan, with a down payment as low as 3 1/2 percent, is not only a GOOD choice. For many first-time buyers who can qualify for an FHA loan, it's the ONLY choice. There are some new requirements going into effect soon, including a FICO score of at least 580, but because most lenders already require a score of 620 or higher, this won't be a change for most buyers.

The change that will affect buyers the most is an increase in the "upfront" portion of the mortgage insurance, from 1 1/4 percent to 2 1/4 percent. This amount is rolled into your loan, and will cause a small increase your monthly payment.

Here's the good news: this increase doesn't go into effect until April 5, so if you have a contract signed before that date, your loan will be configured using the old rules. Combined with the April 30 expiration date of the Federal Income Tax Credit, this change in FHA rules creates a powerful incentive to make your home-buying decision sooner rather than later.

Let's talk a little more about the tax credit. It's different from a tax deduction, which is an amount, like mortgage interest, charitable donations or child care, that you deduct from your taxable income, thereby reducing the amount of money on which you must pay taxes. A tax credit is directly subtracted from the amount you owe. And if you

are already getting a refund, the amount of the credit is added to your refund check.

So let's look at a couple of possible scenarios to show how this could work. (We're just giving general information here; if you would like more information about the tax credit, here's a great Web site: www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com. Consult a tax expert for specific advice.) Say you figure your taxes and find that you are due a refund of \$2,000. With the tax credit, you would get \$10,000. If instead you find that you owe \$1,000, that would come out of the tax credit, instead of your pocket, and you would get a refund of \$7,000. Either way, that's a nice chunk of change, right?

But in order to qualify, you must have a contract signed by April 30, and you must close on your home by June 30, 2010. The bottom line is you have been thinking of buying a home anytime in the next year or so, do it now, so you can take advantage of the tax credit AND avoid the increase in up-front insurance on your FHA loan.

Still not convinced? Here's another reason to buy now: many financial experts expect mortgage

Send your questions

In this column, real estate professionals will answer your questions about their industry and how you can be better prepared to participate in the buying and selling experience. Please address your questions via mail to: House To Home, Sun-Times Media, c/o The Beacon-News, 495 N. Commons Drive, Aurora, Ill. 60504, or by e-mail to NewHomes@scn1.com. Please include a contact name and a telephone number or email address so we may contact you as needed.

rates to start rising later in 2010, as the Federal government backs off from the policies that have kept rates low for the last few years. And if you have a \$200,000 mortgage, every percentage point that your interest rate goes up adds \$20,000 to the lifetime cost of your loan.

Luckily, those who are looking to buy now have a lot of choices, as builder inventories continue to be strong. Whether your dream home is an easy maintenance townhome or a single-family home with a nice yard for the kids and the dog, you will have many homes and many locations to choose from.

So do yourself a big favor. Today, at this week-end at the latest, visit a new home community, talk to a real estate sales agent or a mortgage banker... whatever you need to do to get the process started.

You may have heard it before, but right now it's really true: there's never been a better time to buy.



Save up to 30 percent on Union Row town homes and enjoy kitchens with hardwood floors, granite countertops and General Electric stainless-steel appliances.

Union Row offers 30 percent off on remaining townhomes

When you heard your father say, "Woulda, coulda, shoulda," he meant that he wished he had taken advantage of an opportunity that passed him by. The developers of Union Row have just introduced a huge price reduction — savings of up to \$200,000 — that could easily evoke that old phrase.

"This is one of those 'Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda' moments that come along only once or twice in a lifetime," said Alan Lev, president of Belgravia Group, the manager of 16th & Union LLC, Union Row's developer. "Experts say that the real estate market for new townhomes in the city has reached a low. It is practically impossible for new townhome developments to ever again offer prices like this."

Belgravia Group is offering remaining townhomes at discounts of up to 30 percent off their original prices. As the last homes are sold, everyone who lives at Union Row will win. And our last buyers will win the most.

A three-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath townhome can be had for as low as \$374,900, originally priced at \$535,000. A four-bedroom, four-bath home is now \$499,900 and was originally priced at \$699,900. Packed with upgrades, all of the remaining townhomes have private rooftop terraces, patios, hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless-steel General Electric kitchen appliances, Kohler fixtures, Ultracraft 42-inch cabinets, concrete block common walls and heated two-car garages.

Union Row is a community of 35 contemporary townhomes located where University Village and the Pilsen neighborhood come together. Nearly 70 percent of the townhomes are sold and more than 50 percent are occupied.

The building exteriors are modern in design, combining rich brick and limestone with steel elements. Interior layouts reflect the current trend of open living space that buyers are seeking. Kitchens flow into a combined living and dining space where homeowners spend a majority of their time. Unlike older townhome designs, Union Row is open from the front of the home all the way to the rear giving buyers the greatest sense of space possible.

Union Row is in the 500 and 600 west blocks of 16th Street in Chicago, just a short distance from a new Whole Foods, Home Depot, Icon movie theater and the many shops, galleries and restaurants along Roosevelt Road and Halsted Street.

The townhomes at Union Row are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The sales center is just east of Halsted at 622 W. 16th St. For information, call 312-820-1600 or visit www.UnionRowTownhomes.com.

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HARTZ HOMES

Unmatched prices, popular location, distinctive design

Yorkbrook Place residents also enjoy maintenance-free living, modern amenities

Real estate insiders call today's housing market a combination price war and beauty contest. Sellers needing to capture both value and condition to appease discerning homebuyers. At Yorkbrook Place in Lombard, Hartz Homes intends to win on both fronts, pairing distinctive home design with new two-bedroom condominiums starting at \$174,900.

Yorkbrook Place represents Hartz Homes at its finest... high-quality residences and value-oriented pricing in a first-rate location," said Phil Hartz of Hartz Homes, a residential homebuilder with over 50 years experience in Chicago and.

Yorkbrook Place homebuyers select from one of five two-bedroom models and one three-bedroom floor plan, choice rarely granted in a condominium community. Ranging in size from 1,323 to 1,775 square feet, the condominiums provide space rivaling single-family homes and townhomes. The all-brick, six-story condominiums include in-unit laundry, master bedroom suites, volume ceilings, elevator access, balconies, indoor heated parking and a clubhouse with outdoor pool.

"Pure maintenance-free living..." Hartz said. "These condominiums are spacious

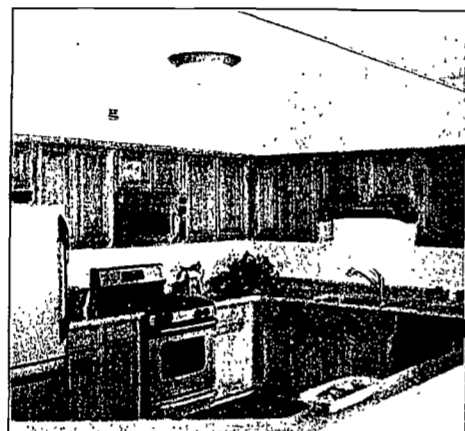


In the shadow of Lombard's Yorktown Center, Hartz Homes' Yorkbrook Place condominiums feature maintenance-free living in a clubhouse community. All units include indoor heated parking, in-unit laundry and a private balcony. At right: The units feature gourmet kitchens appointed with oak cabinetry, GE appliances and oak trim. Prices start at \$174,900.

and modern, and filled with amenities to make life easier and more enjoyable.

Prompted by Yorkbrook Place's aggressive pricing, renters have increasingly been pulled into the community. With 3 1/2 percent down, FHA-qualified buyers can get into a new condominium for as little as \$800 a month.

Turn to YORKBROOK, 12



TRANSACTIONS

Real estate transfer information is public record and is examined regularly by financial institutions. Realtors and companies that sell products to homebuyers.

This list includes residential transfers by city, including street address and approximate purchase price of the property.

Curious about more home sales in your neighborhood? For more Chicago area transactions, see "recent sales" at www.searchchicago.com/ homes. Search by address, county, ZIP code, price range or year of sale.

Barrington
322 W Lake St. Gray, Karl & Leslie; \$135,000

Bellwood
4608 Saint Charles Rd. Molina, Jose G.; \$103,500

Buffalo Grove
1127 Miller Ln 112; Makselan, Marek S.; \$71,000

150 Lake Blvd 105; Rothman, Margie; \$128,000
175 Lake Blvd 314; Dudzik, Edward W. & Pamela F.; \$115,000

800 Weidner Rd 308; Persons, Kerry M. & Kristin M.; \$237,000

Des Plaines
1240 Evergreen Ave; Wagner, Robert C.; \$265,000

1477 E Thacker St 309; Pawlicki, Bernadette; \$185,000

2500 S Scott St; Labyz, Adam; \$156,000

387 Cambridge Rd; Paolucci, Paolo & McCoy, Cherie A.; \$360,000

659 S River Rd 5B; Doulos, Marianne; \$81,000

755 Sanborn St 6; Vidal, Adelina; \$240,000

765 Sanborn St; Kokozoglou, Ioannis; \$250,000

774 Sanborn St; Burg, Christopher J.; \$245,000

80 W Bradley St; Gorny, James & Stefanie; \$247,000

8936 N Parkside Ave 310; Bakala, Ewa; \$95,000
9245 Aspen Dr; Patel, Varsha V.; \$104,500

Elmwood Park
2319 N 73rd Ct; Ferromino, John J.; \$70,000

3039 N 79th Ave; Krainz, Thomas & Knotts, Laura E.; \$250,000

Evanson
1708 Lake St; Fohd, Michael F. & Davis, Courtney B.; \$225,000

1801 Washington St; Mcneela, Jennifer & Wilson, Elizabeth; \$540,000

1917 Darrow Ave; Grant, Morris H.; \$160,000

2609 Lincoln St; Bald, Frederick W. & Elizabeth R.; \$800,000

3501 Church St; Miska, Jennifer J.; \$135,000

808 Judson Ave 26; Aronsohn, Robert; \$241,000

823 Ingleside Pl; Sentimi, Joseph & Ann; \$1,257,000

Franklin Park
2520 Westbrook Dr; Ayala, Jenny; \$99,000

Glenview
1717 Del Ogler Dr; Geimer, Ronald & Sara; \$709,000

2302 Blanco Ter; Yang, Benjamin P. & Patricia C.; \$530,000

2674 W Lake Ave; Botcher, Steven; \$575,000

3925 Trimmera Dr 9D; Rasol, Steve; \$85,000

4192 Cove Ln B; Vayman, Bons; \$92,000

526 Cherry Ln; Skinner, Joel & Menaghon, Rebecca; \$278,000

Hillside
504 Clayton Ave; Hubbard, Otha C.; \$115,000

Lincolnwood
6636 N Kilpatrick Ave; Habeebuddin, Shamaila & Chaudhry, Akram M.; \$457,500

1424 S 13th Ave; Media, Tanina; \$190,000

Maywood
80 W Bradley St; Gorny, James & Stefanie; \$247,000

Morton Grove
8612 Fernald Ave; Katchmar, Tamara A. & Jost, Robert J.; \$240,000

1103 S Hunt Club Dr 317; Skrupa, Kenneth J. & Paraiso, Ma Bolinda; \$130,000

1777 W Crystal Ln 308; Swiatkowski, Bonedyk; \$96,000

1800 E Basswood Ln; Mazurkiewicz, Michael T. & Kelly L.; \$327,000

Niles
8120 W Park Ave 304; Kim, Ok Heo & Minhee; \$315,000

Norridge
4424 N Osage Ave; Jones, Marc M.; \$245,500

Northbrook
1455 Sherman Rd 407C; Bowdon, Richard L. & Tammy; \$111,500

2020 Brentwood Rd; Matuszowski, Thomas & Brokaw, Robin; \$815,000

2026 Illinois Rd; Howard, Howell H. & Mimi F.; \$350,000

2104 Greenview Rd; Riad, Ihab & Maggio; \$235,000

Northfield
2151 Old Willow Rd; Penn, Daniel R. & Courtney M.; \$550,000

2370 Dorina Dr; Krause, Anthony & Audrey; \$800,000

Oak Park
729 S Harvey Ave; Moroney, Daniel S.; \$180,000

Park Ridge
1122 S Western Ave; Claussen, Edmond; \$350,000

1407 W Oakton St; Angelopoulos, Andreas & Peggy; \$236,000

Prospect Heights
668 Pinecrest Dr 104; Jarris, Michael W.; \$89,000

How to remodel in 2010 without losing your shirt

This seemed like a simple question, but like the recent movie, it's complicated.

"How much money should you spend to remodel, fix up, or add on to a house you might sell sometime in the next five years?"

A few years ago, it didn't really matter. You could count on getting your money back, and then some, since home prices were rising with the wind. In 2010, not so much.

Talking to three different professionals, though, brought back something like six different answers.

A couple of suggestions, however, were consistent. "Don't go into a remodeling project without doing lots of research. Find out what homes in your area are like on the inside, what they are selling for and how long it took to sell them. The old adage, don't over-improve, is more true than ever."

"If you think you might stay in that house, do what you want, within reason (see suggestion 1). Don't spend too much time worrying about what the next buyers might like, since they may well rip it out."

And that's about where the agreement ended. Dean Rousso, a broker with Prime Property Partners in the western suburbs, says he believes that, at least for the short term, older homes need to look updated to compete in today's buyer's market.

"We have a lot of foreclosures and short sales," he said, "and those homes are generally not in good shape. Therefore



Kay Severinsen
SUN-TIMES NEWS GROUP

they are deeply discounted. If your house is in fair shape, but not cosmetically pleasing, there is no motivation to buy yours over the competition."

For example, he explained, if the short sale has a kitchen that is best up, and yours has a 20-year-old kitchen with avocado green fixtures, to the buyer there is no difference. Both kitchens need to be completely redone. They will buy the cheaper property, all other things equal.

But if you are waiting for four to eight years to sell, he thinks you have two choices: Do what you want now so that you can enjoy it, but try to stick to neutrals and colors that would satisfy many buyers. This is probably not the time to experiment with that new shade of green that looks suspiciously like avocado. Or wait until you are about to move. Styles may change, the market could change. You might not need to remodel at all.

Pat Richter of Richter Builders in Libertyville, thinks customers have become more practical.

"We didn't used to do this, but we need to go back to basics, and say, what do you

really need?" he said. "Don't build what you don't need. Thinking you will get built on because the house will appreciate."

Sometimes it makes more sense just to move than to do a large addition, these experts suggested, but if you love your location and want to stay, then you have a little more wiggle room.

Unlike Rousso, who has had to sell outdated homes, Richter suggests that owners not invest too much into a home they plan to sell in the near future.

"If I had a 40-year-old home, I would make it clean, neat and orderly and let someone else buy it and fix it up," he said.

As an example, he says, if you could get \$350,000 for the home with no fixing up,

it may not be worth it to fix up the bath for \$15,000 and the kitchen for \$35,000 in the hopes of pushing the price up to \$450,000. You probably will not get more than \$400,000, the same as if you didn't do the work.

Sometimes a high remodeling bid is a signal not to do that at all. He currently is working with a family that had a beautiful home on one of the best lots in Libertyville. The bid for all the work they wanted to do was \$700,000.

"I pointed out that with the remodeling, they would be somewhat confined to the original shape of the home," Richter said. "And for about \$575,000, they could tear it down and build a new, 3,600-square-foot home with all new

everything and high efficiency everything. Good remodels are way more money than people think."

The one room of the house where it makes sense to spend is, as you might expect, the kitchen.

"It instantly increases the value of your home," said Bryan Nooner, chairman of Distinctive Remodelers in Orland Park. "The longer you wait (to sell) the more you get, but it probably earns back 80 percent immediately. The intangible here, is it might be the difference between making and not making a sale. In that case, you get back 100 percent."

Distinctive does a lot of kitchen remodeling, he said, and the things that people are getting rid of are flat panel cup-

board doors, slide-in ranges, and oak cabinets. And laminate countertops.

Overwhelmingly, all the men said, today's buyer wants granite kitchen countertops. Granite has come down in price, though those "35 a foot" ads don't translate to the savings you might think. Often apartment dwellers and first-time condo owners have been living with a granite kitchen, and they won't want to step down to a laminate.

So, most of this is pretty complicated.

Here are the easy parts:

1. Do lots of research
2. Don't go nuts
3. After you have read number 2 carefully, do what you like
4. Go with granite.

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2438 Spruce St; Tucker, James G. & Dayna E.; \$192,000

Skokie
4017 Grove St; Robinson, Dov & Jessica; \$800,000
8537 Hamilton Dr; Mensour, Nabhan A. & Kasha, Widad; \$190,000
9537 Keeler Ave; Slavatski, Mendel & Pessal F.; \$330,000
9655 Wood Dr 103; Murtagh, Susan J.; \$295,000

Westchester
10621 Preston St; Pona, Elvis A. & Adnana; \$173,000
11110 Nelson St; Walker, Carlotta; \$320,000

Wilmette
1420 Sheridan Rd 8 H; Madaj, Robert J.; \$595,000
1624 Lake Ave; Kapidzie, Elnv & Kapidzie, Lofja; \$390,000
1625 Sheridan Rd 202; Rutberg, Carol L.; \$195,000
2722 Birchwood Ave; Lai, Chunwen & Hsu, Wenchao; \$492,000

Winnetka
1078 Elm St; Smylo, Michael F. & Sara V.; \$600,000
1351 Scott Ave; Dietrich, Peter M. & Jessica A.; \$604,000
338 Fairview Ave; Neala, Ian & Angoleque; \$835,000

Source: Information provided by Record Information Services Inc., offering public record data for greater Chicago including foreclosures, new homeowners lists, new businesses, bankruptcies, mortgage recordings, building permits and tax liens. Access available at www.public-record.com, consumer-public-record.com, and wchc.public-record.com, or call 630-557-1000.

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1999 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500	\$4,999	2008 DODGE AVENGER	\$13,999
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1985 CHEVY CORVETTE	\$5,999	2004 GMC SIERRA 1500	\$13,999
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2006 CHEVROLET MALIBU	\$7,999	2008 SATURN AURA	\$14,700
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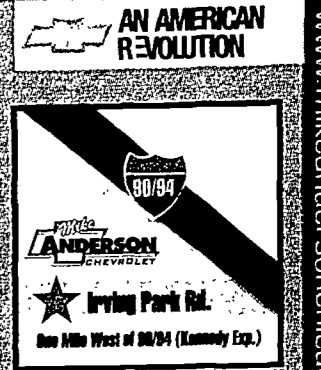
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IP10200A	2000 Chevy Cavalier	Rare Z24 package	\$5960
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CP1286A	1997 Infiniti QX4	4x4 Luxury	\$5884
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\$32,897*

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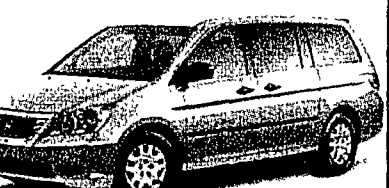
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CITY VOLKSWAGEN 5330 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago 866-717-6611 www.cityvwchicago.com
NORTH SHORE VOLKSWAGEN 1350 Park Ave. Highland Pk 847-433-7900 Northshorecars.com
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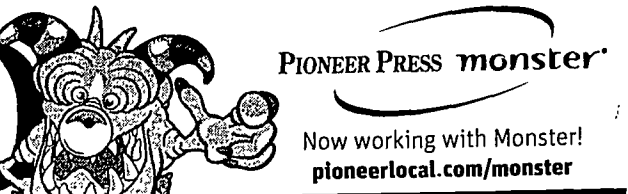
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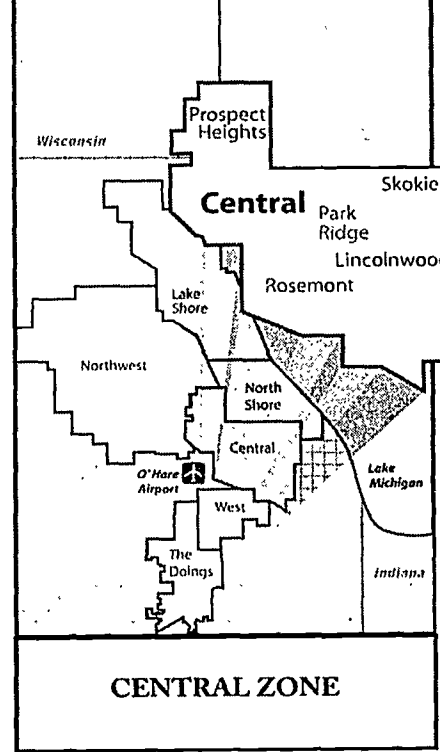
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 Private Party Ads:
 West: 2pm Tuesday
 Central: 2:30pm Tuesday
 Lake: 3pm Tuesday
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 North: 5pm Tuesday
 Legal Ads: 5:00 pm Monday
 Classified Display Ads: 5:00 pm Mon
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Terms
 Please check your ad: The publisher will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Pioneer Press Classified must be notified before the second insertion.
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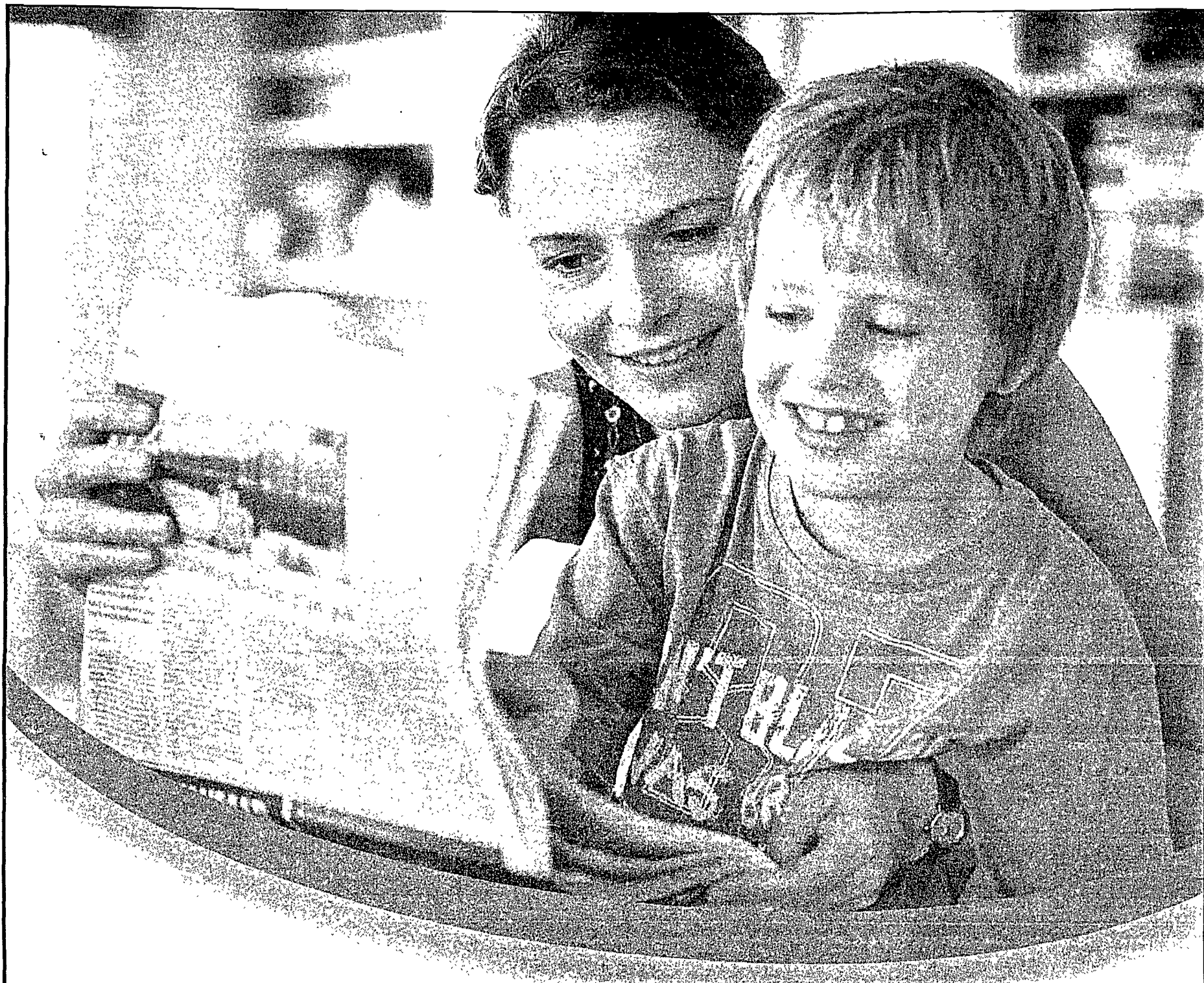
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<p>BUSINESS SERVICES</p> <p>CLASSIFIED AVENUE</p> <p>Classified Avenue provides Pioneer Press with advertising of a national appeal. To advertise in this category, please call Classified Avenue directly at (888) 486-2466. Pioneer Press recommends discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to Classified Avenue.</p>	<p>Halina's Maids, Inc. Team of 4 847-692-6754</p> <p>HOME DELIGHT, INC. Cleaning Service, Detailing, Oriented, Affordable, 15 Yrs. Exp. Ins./Bonded/Est. Refs. 312-961-0089 • 773-625-2676</p> <p>DRYWALL</p> <p>CANTIERI INC. Drywall • Taping • Plaster Comm./Res. • Bonded & Ins. Free Est. Mike: 708-456-7171</p>	<p>MOVERS (LICENSED)</p> <p>Illinois law requires movers to be licensed by the Illinois Commerce Commission. The ICC number and respective business license must appear in the advertisement in this column. Licensed movers must have insurance on file. For more information, contact the Illinois Commerce Commission</p>	<p>PLUMBING (LICENSED)</p> <p>AFFORDABLE REPAIRS By Retired Plumber Fully Insured Lic. #055-020762 Cell 708-814-6755 • 847-674-1584</p>
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<p>Express Service</p>	<p>The Doings PIONEER PRESS YOUR LOCAL SOURCE</p> <p>The Doings and Pioneer Press Newspapers</p>	<p>The Doings PIONEER PRESS YOUR LOCAL SOURCE</p> <p>The Doings and Pioneer Press Newspapers</p>	<p>HEALTHCARE & NURSING</p> <p>Attention Healthcare Advertisers: Let local healthcare professionals know about Healthcare & Nursing positions available within your company by taking advantage of some economical employment packages. Ads will publish the 1st Sunday each month in Chicago Sun-Times, SouthtownStar, Post-Tribune, Pioneer Press*, Lake County News-Sun, Herald News, Beacon News, Courier-News and Naperville Sun. Repeat ads are available on the 3rd Sunday of each month with a 15% discount. *Want to publish 3, 6 or 12 months during the year? Receive an extra 10% to 30% discount! Circulation is 638,000 with over 1.6 million readership!</p> <p>Packages starting at \$500</p> <p>To advertise please contact Sandy Gilbert at (630) 978-9225 or sgilbert@stng.com Dave Fontecha at (630) 978-8567 or dave.fontecha@suntimes.com</p> <p>monster Your calling is calling™</p> <p>*1st Sunday will publish in classified in a bannered Healthcare & Nursing section. 3rd Sunday will be a repeat rate ad that will publish in general classifieds. Pioneer Press publishes Thursday</p>

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<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012065 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of NBO at 9023 Lowell Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Ronald A. Janus, 9023 Lowell Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076, Nancy B Janus, 9023 Lowell Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076. Pub: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1751220)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012065 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of Mary Ellen Marketing at 839 West Sheridan Rd., #308, Chicago, IL 60613. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) David L. Burton, 839 West Sheridan Rd., #308, Chicago, IL 60613. Pub: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1751832)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012063 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of Bright Dental Lab at 2474 E. Dempster, Suite #202, Des Plaines, IL 60016. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Revere Mally, 8927 N. Washington, #F, Niles, IL 60714. Pub: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1751832)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012063 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of Avenue Hair at 919 Chicago Ave., Evanston, IL 60202. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) John A. Morici, 6915 W. Hobart, Chicago, IL 60631. Pub: 2/25, 3/4, 3/11/10 (1753912)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012063 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of R.N.L. at 5239 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60609. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Laura Luna, 5239 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60609. Pub: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1752281)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012063 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of 2010 Traffic Signal and Street Lighting Maintenance Contract INVITATION FOR BIDS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE President and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton Grove, Cook County, Illinois, that sealed bids will be received for the 2010 Traffic Signal and Street Lighting Maintenance Contract.</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012063 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of MPX Construction at 2735 N. Newland, Chicago, IL 60707. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Marcia Forzani, 2735 N. Newland, Chicago, IL 60707. Pub: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1751790)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012054 on February 3, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of Paired for Success at 304 East Cassini, Chicago, IL 60625. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Lorrann Aaron, 304 East Cassini, Chicago, IL 60625. Pub: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1751562)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012078 on February 19, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of SF Consulting Services at 4132 N. Sheridan Rd., 2E, Chicago, IL 60625. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Sarah Gray, 4132 N. Sheridan Rd., 2E, Chicago, IL 60625. Pub: 2/25, 3/4, 3/11/10 (1753626)N</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012061 on February 5, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of Chicago Express Delivery at 2821 W. Fletcher, #1, Chicago, IL 60618. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Marco Velazquez, 2821 W. Fletcher, #1, Chicago, IL 60618. Pub: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1751812)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012077 on February 16, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of Doclorpnet at 9236 Lehigh, Morton Grove, IL 60053. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Judy L. Kohn, David M. Pierce, 640 Haven Drive, Barrington, IL 60010. Pub: 2/11, 2/18, 2/25/10 (1750951)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012064 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of pklo.biz at 640 Haven Drive, Barrington, IL 60010. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Judy L. Kohn, David M. Pierce, 640 Haven Drive, Barrington, IL 60010. Pub: 2/11, 2/18, 2/25/10 (1750951)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012064 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of HALO STITCH at 4121 N. Maryland, Chicago, IL 60634. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Wendy Cabar, 4121 N. Maryland, Chicago, IL 60634. Pub: 2/11, 2/18, 2/25/10 (1751360)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012064 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of DOCTOR SONICS at 5339 S. Nashville Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Gary Scott Madaras, 5339 S. Nashville Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. Pub: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1751839)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012064 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2010 NILES NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY ACT, STATE OF ILLINOIS, REVISED STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ. Notice is hereby given that on March 9, 2010, U-HAUL Auctioneer, Executive Administrator, Storage Clerk for U-Haul Co. North Shore Chicago will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sales will be at the following location, 7444 N Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL 60714 and will be at or after 5:00pm and continue day by day until all units are sold. Robert Gomez - 4250 W Wrightwood Ave, Chicago, IL Unit 212 - loveseat and organizer Carol Singleton - P.O. Box 4772, Skokie, IL Unit 115 - clothing, luggage, bags and boxes LJ James - 7523 N Bell, Chicago, IL Unit 220 - dirt bike parts Pub: 2/25, 3/4/10 (1752471)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012064 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of MORTON GROVE NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY ACT, STATE OF ILLINOIS, REVISED STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ. Notice is hereby given that on March 9, 2010, U-HAUL Auctioneer, Executive Administrator, Storage Clerk for U-Haul Co. North Shore Chicago will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sales will be at the following location, 9009 Waukegan Ave, Morton Grove, IL 60053 and will be at or after 4:30pm and continue day by day until all units are sold. Scott Kokoszka - 21 W 131 Cornet, Lombard, IL Unit 211 - staging Paula Adams - 5141 Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL Unit 142 - mattresses, table, boxspring and stereo Jennifer Mahler - 5933 Crain Street, Morton Grove, IL Unit 358 - Mattress, boxspring, boxes, chairs, dresser and bags Vashon Banks - 138 Asbury, Evanston, IL Unit 406 - Amplifier and clothing Shusha Blankinship - 5701 Richmond, Chicago, IL Unit 169 - boxes and books Jack Isaha - 4517 Howard Ave, Skokie, IL Unit 155 - misc water plant growing equipment Lorraine Express - 845 Keystone Ave, Skokie, IL Unit 190 - chairs, table, boxes, totes and records Pub: 2/25, 3/4/10 (1752451)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012066 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of Podhale Enterprise Solutions at 5541 S. Moody Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Krzysztof Batia, 5541 S. Moody Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. Pub: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1751832)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012066 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of Podhale Enterprise Solutions at 5541 S. Moody Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Krzysztof Batia, 5541 S. Moody Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. 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Moody Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Krzysztof Batia, 5541 S. Moody Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. Pub: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1751832)C</p>	<p>ASSUMED NAME Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of a transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D1012066 on February 8, 2010. Under the Assumed Name of Podhale Enterprise Solutions at 5541 S. Moody Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) Krzysztof Batia, 5541 S. Moody Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. 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FIND YOUR PERFECT APARTMENT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

FIND YOUR PERFECT PET IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

PROBATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION

Estate of Jeroslaw Gerus.

No. 2009 P 7784

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Jeroslaw Gerus, of Mundelein, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on January 26, 2010, to Roman Gerus, 1806 Victoria, Mundelein, Illinois, whose attorney is THOMAS M. P. HANNIGAN, 111 W. Maple Avenue, Mundelein, Illinois 60060, (847) 566-8600. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Lake County, Illinois, at 18 N. County St., Waukegan, Illinois or with the representative or both on or before August 11, 2010, which date is not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within that time period is barred. Copies of any claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it is filed.

By Thomas M. P. Hannigan, Attorney

Pub: 2/11, 2/18, 2/25/10 (1753083) C

PUBLIC NOTICES

FIND MORE LOCAL JOBS AT PIONEERLOCAL.COM/MONSTER

PUBLIC NOTICES

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PROBATE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of Antonette Allotta.

Decedent.

Case No. 09 P 7260

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Antonette Allotta, of Chicago, Illinois 60630. Letters of office were issued on December 2, 2009, to Francis Murphy and Christine Frank, 4341 N. Ozonon, Norridge, IL 60706, whose attorney is Thruon Tullman & Co., Ltd., 111 E. Toussaint Ave., # 504, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. 847-255-6355.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Room 1202, Richard J. Daley Center, Chicago, Illinois 60602 or with the representative, or both, on or before August 18, 2010, which date is not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of any claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the attorney within 10 days after it is filed.

Pub: 2/09, 2/25, 3/4/10 (1751558) C

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS

On May 2, 2010, in accordance with the Illinois State Board of Education's rules and regulations governing school records and with the Illinois State Board of Education, Evonston Township High School will destroy the school records of the students who graduated in 2004.

To obtain copies of their records before the originals are destroyed, graduates of the class of 2004 or their legal guardians may call the Special Education office (847-424-7010) or visit Room 5100 of the high school, 1600 Dodge Avenue, Evonston, IL 60024, during school hours before April 26, 2010.

The ETHS Special Education Department reminds graduates and parents that students' special education records are frequently necessary for legal documentation of a disability.

If you do not provide a proper answer within forty (40) days of the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of any claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the attorney within 10 days after it is filed.

Pub: 2/23/09 (1753166)N, C4

PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY BRANCH FRANCOIS OIL COMPANY, INC.

128 West Main Street, Belleville, WI 53008.

Plaintiff.

v. Case No. 09 CV 018349 STAFFING ALA CARTE.

8872 Willow Pointe Parkway, Franklin, WI 53132.

MAHAH ENTERPRISES, INC.

8872 Willow Pointe Parkway, Franklin, WI 53132.

MHM OF WISCONSIN, L.L.C.

8872 Willow Pointe Parkway, Franklin, WI 53132.

MEHBOOB L. LALANI, 128 West Main Street, Belleville, WI 53008.

Defendants.

FIRST AMENDED SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO EACH DEF

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NOTICE OF HEARING ON ROAD & BRIDGE FUND TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

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NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN hereto that said Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 7833 W. Lawrence Avenue, Norridge, Illinois, from and after 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Thursday, February 25, 2010.

Following is a Tentative Budget Summary of the Road and Bridge Fund for said fiscal year.

Estimated Receipts	\$390,000.00
Taxes to be received during Fiscal Year	\$95,000.00
Interest on invested funds	\$5,000.00
Other income	\$49,000.00
ESTIMATED APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURES	\$272,100.00

DATED THIS February 25, 2010

THOMAS E. LUPO, SUPERVISOR
Rocco Secco, Town Clerk

Pub: 2/25/10 (1752800) C

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BIDDING AND CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 09030 - Advertisement for Bids

BID # 09030 - Advertisement for Bids

Niles Township H.S. District # 219

Capital Improvements Summer 2010

Sealed bids will be received by IHC Construction Companies, L.L.C. for the High School District # 219 on March 9, 2010 at 2:00 p.m., prevailing time of the Niles Township High School District Offices for the Summer 2010 Capital Improvements. Lump Sum Bid Proposals will be received until the scheduled time of closing the receipt of bids, and then will be publicly opened at that time for Bid Release #2. The Trade Packages included are:

Trade Package #1: General Trades - Re-Bid Bid security in the form of a bid bond, certified check, or cash in an amount equal to 10 percent of the total bid amount shall be submitted with the bid. Should a bid bond be submitted, the bid bond shall be payable to the Board of Education, Niles Township High School District # 219. Bids shall be submitted on or before the specified closing time in an opaque sealed envelope addressed to: Mr. Paul O'Malley, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Niles Township H.S. District # 219, 7700 Gross Point Rd, Skokie, IL 60077.

- Envelopes should be clearly marked, "Sealed Bid" and list the Trade Package Number.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, or waive any irregularities or informality, and to make an award that is in the Board's opinion is in the best interest of the District.

All bidders must comply with applicable Illinois Law requiring the payment of prevailing wages by all Contractors on the project. Bidders must comply with the Illinois Statutory requirements regarding labor, including Equal Employment Opportunity Laws.

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128 West Main Street, Belleville, WI 53008.

Plaintiff.

v. Case No. 09 CV 018349 STAFFING ALA CARTE.

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FIRST AMENDED SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO EACH DEF

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THOMAS E. LUPO, SUPERVISOR
Rocco Secco, Town Clerk

Pub: 2/25/10 (1752800) C

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7:10 P.M. - Public Hearing on Road and Bridge Fund Final action will be taken on the aforementioned Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of the Public Hearing on Friday, March 26, 2010.

Citizens attending this hearing have the right to provide written and oral comments and to ask questions regarding the Tentative Budget.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN hereto that said Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 7833 W. Lawrence Avenue, Norridge, Illinois, from and after 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Thursday, February 25, 2010.

Following is a Tentative Budget Summary of the Road and Bridge Fund for said fiscal year:

Estimated Receipts	\$390,000.00
Taxes to be received during Fiscal Year	\$95,000.00
Interest on invested funds	\$5,000.00
Other income	\$49,000.00
ESTIMATED APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURES	\$272,100.00

DATED THIS February 25, 2010

THOMAS E. LUPO, SUPERVISOR
Rocco Secco, Town Clerk

Pub: 2/25/10 (1752800) C

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING ON ROAD & BRIDGE FUND TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BIDDING AND CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 09030 - Advertisement for Bids

BID # 09030 - Advertisement for Bids

Niles Township H.S. District # 219

Capital Improvements Summer 2010

Sealed bids will be received by IHC Construction Companies, L.L.C. for the High School District # 219 on March 9, 2010 at 2:00 p.m., prevailing time of the Niles Township High School District Offices for the Summer 2010 Capital Improvements. Lump Sum Bid Proposals will be received until the scheduled time of closing the receipt of bids, and then will be publicly opened at that time for Bid Release #2. The Trade Packages included are:

Trade Package #1: General Trades - Re-Bid Bid security in the form of a bid bond, certified check, or cash in an amount equal to 10 percent of the total bid amount shall be submitted with the bid. Should a bid bond be submitted, the bid bond shall be payable to the Board of Education, Niles Township High School District # 219. Bids shall be submitted on or before the specified closing time in an opaque sealed envelope addressed to: Mr. Paul O'Malley, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Niles Township H.S. District # 219, 7700 Gross Point Rd, Skokie, IL 60077.

- Envelopes should be clearly marked, "Sealed Bid" and list the Trade Package Number.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, or waive any irregularities or informality, and to make an award that is in the Board's opinion is in the best interest of the District.

All bidders must comply with applicable Illinois Law requiring the payment of prevailing wages by all Contractors on the project. Bidders must comply with the Illinois Statutory requirements regarding labor, including Equal Employment Opportunity Laws.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish insurance equal to or greater than the specified amounts and conditions. The cost of the insurance will be included in each bidder's proposal.

PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY BRANCH FRANCOIS OIL COMPANY, INC.

128 West Main Street, Belleville, WI 53008.

Plaintiff.

v. Case No. 09 CV 018349 STAFFING ALA CARTE.

8872 Willow Pointe Parkway, Franklin, WI 53132.

MAHAH ENTERPRISES, INC.

8872 Willow Pointe Parkway, Franklin, WI 53132.

MHM OF WISCONSIN, L.L.C.

8872 Willow Pointe Parkway, Franklin, WI 53132.

MEHBOOB L. LALANI, 128 West Main Street, Belleville, WI 53008.

Defendants.

FIRST AMENDED SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO EACH DEF

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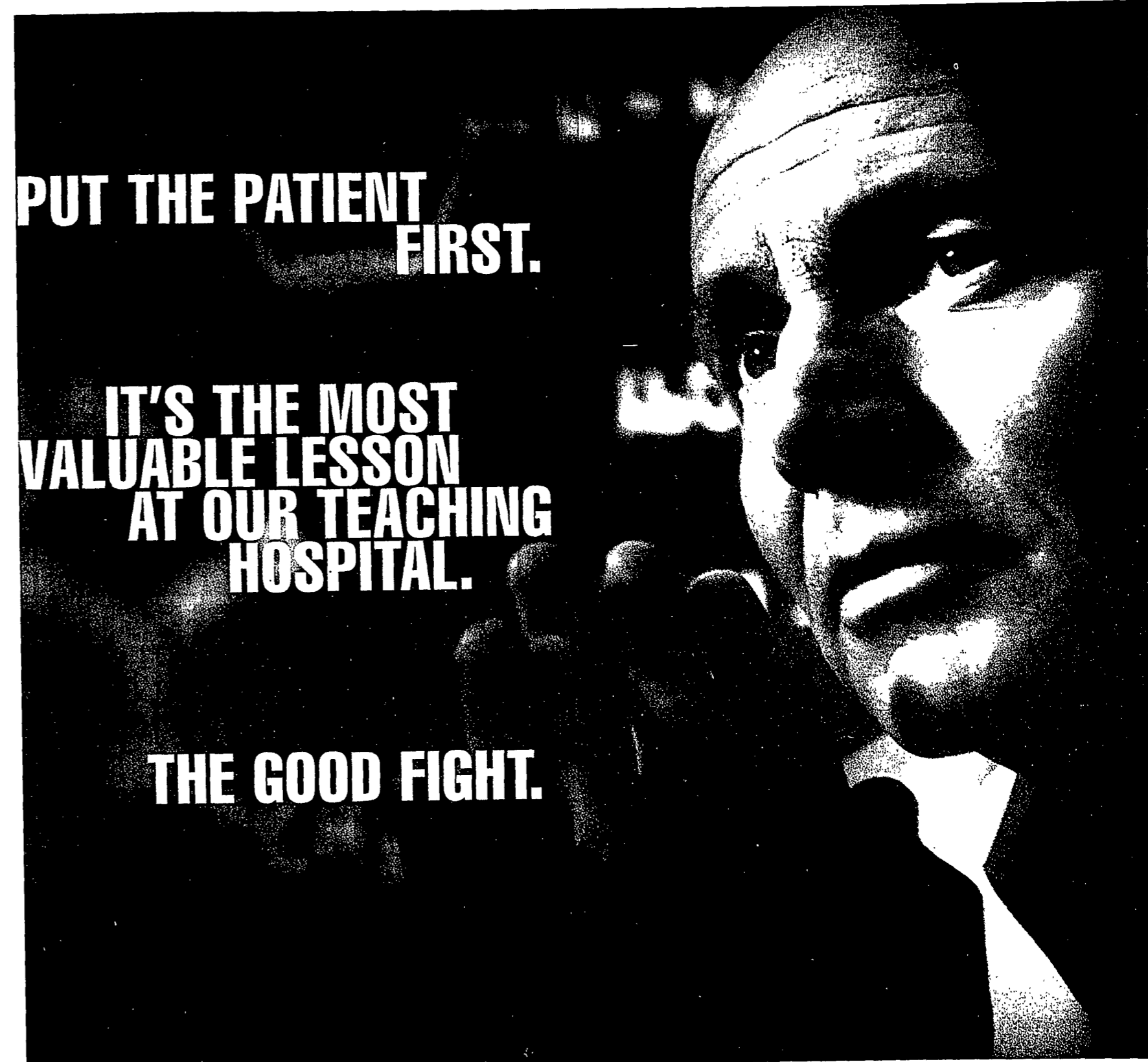
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Dan Kaitis, of Maine South High School, was one of three students selected as "207's Best" for February. (Photo courtesy of District 207)

DISTRICT 207

February's 'Best' named

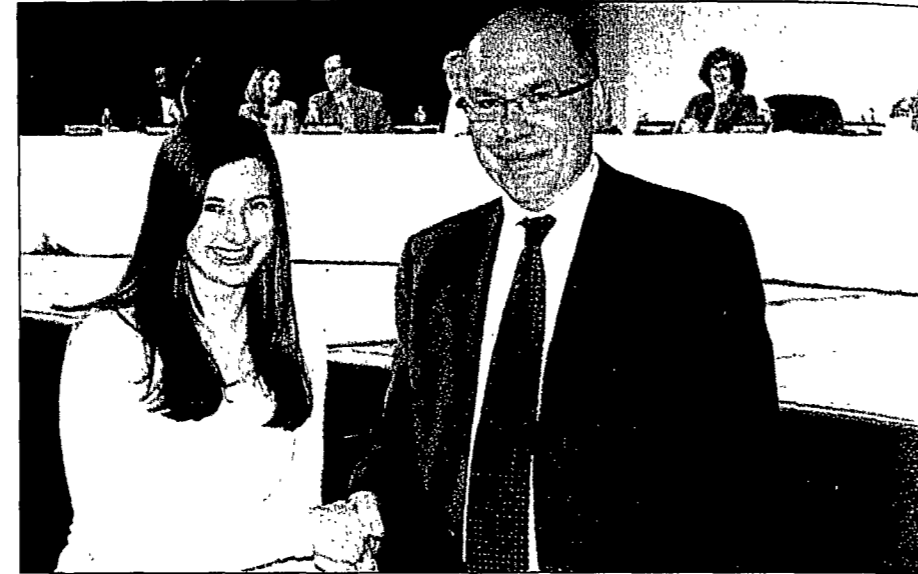
Three seniors have been honored by Maine Township High School District 207 as "207's Best" for February.

The honorees, cited for academic excellence and recognized during a recent board meeting, are Sean Hansen, of Maine West, Dan Kaitis, of Maine South, and Samantha Ann Stankowicz, of Maine

East. Hansen ranks third in his class of 510 students, with a GPA of 4.85. He scored a perfect 36 on the ACT, is a National Merit Finalist and has been selected as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. He excels on the West speech team and in stage productions and is a

featured writer for the student newspaper, the Westerner. Hansen is considering attending the University of Illinois.

Dan Kaitis has achieved a GPA of 4.95, scored a 35 on his ACT and earned a spot in the National Honor Society. He has compiled this record while making time to serve as senior class president and captain of South's Scholastic Bowl team. He also is a member of the Constitution Team, Mathletes and boys'



Samantha Ann Stankowicz, of Maine East High School, also was one of "207's Best" for February. (Photo courtesy of District 207)

track team. Kaitis has served as a National Honor Society tutor and as a volunteer at Children's Hospital.

In a letter to the board, South Principal David Claypool quoted Counselor Krista Clarke as saying of Kaitis, "He's in my all-time Top 10. He's one of those kids who is so genuine, so jovial, so caring, and so accessible to other students. The young man is brilliant, talented and humble." Kaitis hopes to attend St. Louis University and

study molecular biology in preparation for becoming a doctor.

Samantha Stankowicz is in the Gifted Lyceum program at Maine East, serves as a senior leader and is taking on a course load that includes Advanced Placement classes in English Literature and Composition, Statistics, Spanish and Physics.

In his letter to the board, East Principal Steven Isoyev quoted Lyceum Director Judy Tyler as saying that

"Samantha's primary mission since the day I met her as a Gifted Lyceum student in my freshman Theory class was to constantly strive to be the best that she could be. I always wanted Sam to be one of the first to present during project presentations because I knew that she would be the one to set the bar high for her fellow classmates."

Stankowicz will be attending Northwestern University, to major in English with an emphasis on creative writing.



Aylesworth brushes back his hair as he talks to the students. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)



Children's author Jim Aylesworth addresses sixth-through eighth-graders Feb. 16 at Mary, Seat of Wisdom School in Park Ridge. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

**MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM
Author visits
MSW**

Children's author Jim Aylesworth visited Mary, Seat of Wisdom on Feb. 16 to read and talk to children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Aylesworth is the author of a number of books including *The Mitten*, *Old Black Fly*, *Little Bitty Mousie* and *The Tale of Tricky Fox*.

The visit was made possible by a grant awarded to Mary, Seat of Wisdom teachers Nicole Slaboch and Lucie Dittmore, as well as grants from the Illinois Arts Council and the Park Ridge Cultural Arts Council.

SCHOOLS DIGEST

DISTRICT 219

Five students from Niles Township High School District 219 were named among approximately 15,000 Finalists in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. The District 219 National Merit Finalists are: **Jeremy Berman**, **Michael Paul** and **Ilya Raskin** from Niles West and **Isa Domin** and **Patrick O'Connor** from Niles North. They are now eligible to receive one of the 8,200 Merit Scholarships available through the program. The students attained Semifinalist status in September by scoring in the top one-half of one percent of more than a million students who participated in the PSAT/NMSQT exam. Finalist status was granted based on service, participation in activities at Niles North and Niles West, as well as academic achievement.

The District 219 Fresh Aire Flute Choir recently participated in the Columbia College Sherwood Conservatory Festival of Flutes Solo and Ensemble Contest. Fresh

Aire was given the highest score possible of 1-plus for outstanding performance in the ensemble category. The group competed in the top level of advanced playing, level 4. Each member of Fresh Aire received a certificate for Outstanding 1-plus. Due to its stellar performance at the Festival of Flutes Contest, Fresh Aire was selected to perform at an Honors Concert at 2 p.m. March 13 at the Sherwood Conservatory of Music at Columbia College Chicago, 1312 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Fresh Aire will also perform at 2 p.m. March 14 at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Joyce Oakes, director of Fresh Aire Flute Choir said: "The judges complimented the ensemble on their advanced level of rhythmic precision, maturity of ensemble playing and stage presentation. All of the students worked very hard to be extremely well prepared for the competition." The members of Fresh Aire — C flutes: **Edyta Cwiok**, **Hannah**

Lim, **Becky Traisman** and **Nik Roman** of Niles West; **Minji Jeong**, **Deepa Joseph** and **Phoebe Yeo** of Niles North; Piccolo: **Nik Roman** of Niles West; Bass Flute: **Rachel Heller** of Niles North; Alto Flute: **Holly Jensen** of Niles West; rehearsal assistant **Ken Mack** and director **Oakes**.

The Second Annual Niles North and Niles West High School Chinese Speech Contests were held recently. This year, the categories were first-year non-heritage speakers, second-year non-heritage speakers and heritage speakers. The winners qualified to compete in the Second Midwest Chinese Speech Contest held April 17 at Northside College Preparatory High School. Winners from Niles North: Freshman **Andrew Ardelean**, first-year non-heritage; Sophomore **Emmanuelle Asrow**, second-year non-heritage (also a winner last year); and Junior **Lisa Gu**, heritage. Other participants included: **Ayre Gomez**, first-

Digest, PAGE 29

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Not just for sipping

Tea makes appealing ingredient in recipes

By TOM WITOM
Contributor

Although average tea per-capita consumption may only be about half a cup a day, according to Joe Simrany, president of the Tea Association, a national organization based in New York, nearby Tea Lula, a 2-year-old Park Ridge shop run by Sheila Duda, is doing its best to attract more converts. Duda stocks more than 100 teas from the world's five major growing regions.

Growing regions

From China comes Dragon Well and Clouded Mist green tea and keemun black tea, regarded as the "Burgundy of tea" because of its distinct flavor. India is represented by Darjeeling and the maltier-flavored Assams; Sri Lanka, Ceylon tea; Taiwan, Oolong; and Japan, green tea.

"What's most important is that a person sample a number of teas," said Duda. "Many people insist that they don't care for green tea because of its bitterness. Most likely the reason they think along those lines is because their tea was improperly brewed. But once they do a tasting they discover how enjoyable it can be."

Key trends

Key trends driving tea consumption as identified by the Tea Association include:

- Health benefits. Its antioxidant content is just one of many

benefits distributed to regular tea users. Scientific studies also show anti-bacterial and immune-strengthening agents in tea.

- Ready-to-drink tea's convenience and availability. This has appealed to younger consumers and turned tea's image into a family-oriented drink. Once primarily associated as a drink of older females, tea now has a demographic similar to the soft-drinks market.

- The allure of specialty tea. Discerning drinkers are becoming more attuned to specific origins of teas. Consumers, accustomed to mass-market brands such as Lipton, a blend of many teas, are branching out and becoming more adventurous as they experiment with more exotic new products.

Healthfulness

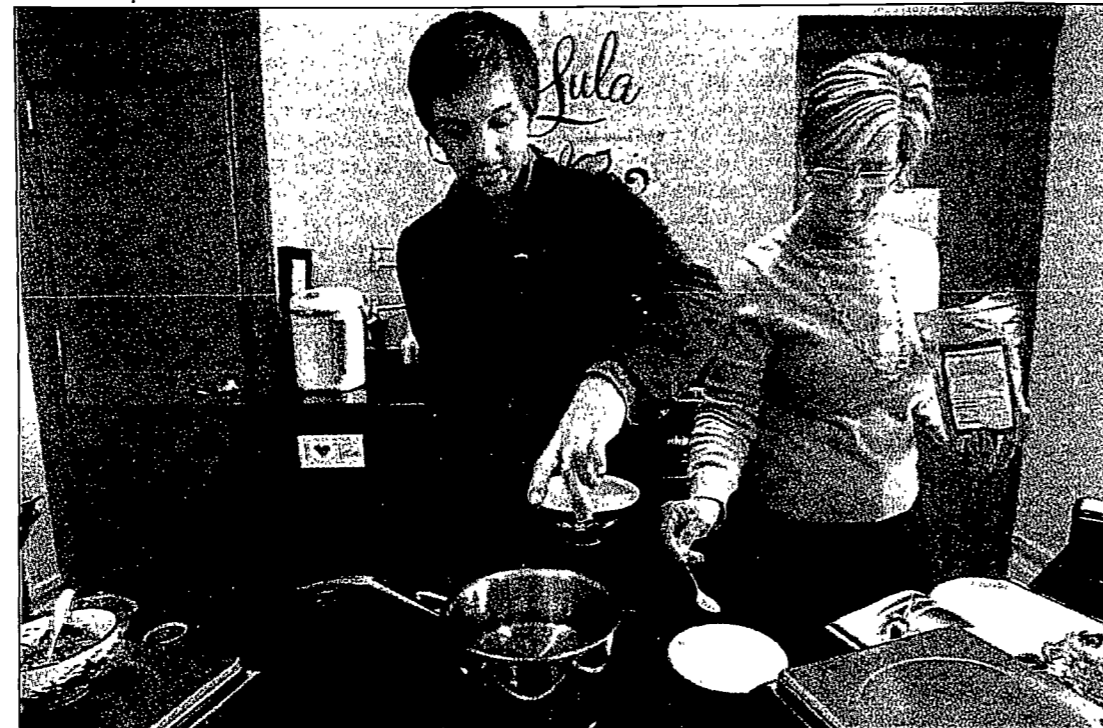
Duda recognizes the healthfulness of tea, citing its high polyphenol content and amino acid L-theanine which has a calming effect. But she steers away from trying to match it to a health condition. "That's not our job," she said.

While Tea Lula focuses on tea from the *camellia sinensis* plant (tea's botanical name), its inventory also includes herbal options such as rooibos and chamomile for those who can't handle caffeine.

In addition, it stocks fun-flavored teas, said Duda. The shop, which has tables that can accommodate a total of 12 tea drinkers, is open weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Thursday until 8 p.m.) and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Its shelves also are filled with brewing accessories and tea-related books.

Tonia George's *The Tea Cookbook* (Ryland, Peters & Small) covers everything from baked goods and desserts to savory dishes involving meats and spices. Duda said George's recipe for Green Tea Panna Cotta is a standout.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



Tea merchant Ryne Schraw with Tea Lula owner Sheila Duda make Green Tea Panna Cotta at the shop in Park Ridge.



Matcha or finely ground green tea is poured into a milk and sugar preparation at Tea Lula in Park Ridge. (Photos by Suzanne Tennant/Staff Photographer)

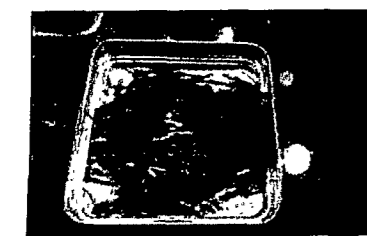
Green Tea Panna Cotta

- 1/2 T Matcha powder
- 6 T whole milk
- 2 tsp. powdered gelatin
- 2 C heavy cream
- 1/3 C sugar
- 4 (5-oz.) teacups or small round cooking molds

Gradually mix the Matcha powder with 1 to 2 tablespoons of the milk in a small bowl until smooth. Pour the remaining milk into a small heatproof bowl and sprinkle the gelatin over it. Set aside for about 5 minutes, then place the bowl over a shallow saucepan of hot water and stir until dissolved. Let cool.

Put the cream and sugar in a saucepan and heat over low heat until almost boiling. Remove from the heat and pour into a large glass measuring cup. Beat in the Matcha powder mixture, then the gelatin solution. Beat until fully blended. Pour the mixture into the teacups or cooking molds. Refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours until set. The panna cotta should wobble but it shouldn't look as though there's liquid in the center.

If you have made the panna cotta in cooking molds, dip the bases briefly in boiling water, then invert onto plates and give one short, sharp shake to loosen them. They should drop out easily. If you've made them in teacups, serve as they are. Serves 4.



This Japanese green tea can be finely ground into a powder called Matcha and used in recipes like Green Tea Panna Cotta.

Digest

Continued from PAGE 27

year non-heritage; **Minji Jeong**, second-year non-heritage; and **Hillary Chang, Cindy Hou and Wendy Hou**, heritage. Winners from Niles West: Sophomore **Mark Bibat**, first-year non-heritage; Senior **Jane Berdysheva**, second-year non-heritage; and Freshman **Kaylin Moy**, heritage. Other participants included: **C. J. Dimaano, Charis Guinto and Kimberly Mercado**,

first-year non-heritage; **Xyrelle Chachero and Sharon Devera**, second-year non-heritage; and **Lucy Chang and Richard Ng**, heritage. Contest judges were Niles North/Niles West Chinese teacher **Wileen Hsing** and Niles North Chinese teacher **Yan Qian**.

Niles West sophomore Sam Chao earned second place at the Poetry Out Loud Regional competition held Feb. 16 at the Sulzer Library in Chicago. Chao recited "Hate Poem" by Julie Sheehan and "The Nymph's Reply to the

Shepherd" by Sir Walter Raleigh to achieve second place against poetry declaimers from across the Chicagoland area. She qualified for the next stage of the competition, the state contest, will be held March 18 in Springfield. Chao represented Niles West at the Regional competition after winning the top spot over more than 40 other Niles West competitors at her school's contest last Friday. Students were judged on accuracy, style and delivery. Sophomore **Julie Zasso** won second

place, with a third place tie between freshman **Khadjah Cheema** and freshman **Rachel Kossy**. The Niles West competition was judged by English teacher **Dana DesJardins**, professional poet Janet Kelsey and Elizabeth Kahn, department chair at James B. Conant High School and educational theorist. Poetry Out Loud sponsors are English teachers **Paul Wack and Tamara Jaffe-Notier**.

On-line registration for District 219 Summer School and Athletics will begin at 10 a.m. April 5 for current

sophomores, juniors and seniors who reside in District 219. All other camp participants, current freshmen and eighth grade students may use the on-line registration process beginning April 6. In-person registration for Summer School classes will be held at the District 219 Administrative Offices, 7700 Gross Point Road, Skokie, on the following dates: 3-7 p.m. April 8, all grade levels; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. June 10, Niles North and West second semester failures; and 2-7 p.m. June 11,

all open classes. **The summer academic session starts** June 18 and runs through July 30. There is no school July 5. Classes will be held at Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler Ave., Skokie. For complete information on classes and cost, visit the District 219 Web site at www.niles219.org, click on the district Info tab and drop down to the Summer School and Athletics link. There will be a shuttle van available for Niles West

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Digest

Continued from PAGE 29

campers who need transportation to Niles North for the 8 a.m. academic classes. A special bus route from Niles North to Niles West after the 12:15 p.m. classes for those students attending athletic camps at Niles West will be available. A bus pass is required for both the morning and afternoon service. Students attending private or parochial schools who live in the District 219 attendance area may obtain a login and password to use the on-line academic registration process. Contact Donna Slabas at the District 219 Administrative Offices at (847) 626-3977, to set up an appointment. Bring a utility bill and a drivers license or state ID. After receiving a login and password, you may use the on-line registration process beginning April 5 (for current sophomores, juniors and seniors) or April 6 (for current freshmen and eighth-graders). The on-line registration URL is

http://register.niles-hs.k12.il.us. Payment for on-line registration can be made using VISA, MasterCard or Discover credit cards, or by bringing check/money order to the Main Office Drop Box at either Niles North or West. If payment is not received within four days, the registration will be cancelled. Questions should be directed to the Summer School office at (847) 626-3060.

Niles North and Niles West High Schools participated in the Millikin University School of Music 21st annual Vocal Jazz Festival beginning at 9 a.m. Feb. 20 at the Kirkland Fine Arts Center, in Decatur. The event featured some of the Midwest's top high school vocal jazz groups performing in a non-competitive format. The groups also had a chance to work with guest clinicians Gene Aitken, an internationally recognized jazz educator, clinician and inductee into DownBeat magazine's Educator Hall of Fame; Duane Davis, a well-known vocal jazz clinician, educator, and instructor at Western Michigan University; and Rosana Eckert, a jazz singer, songwriter and

arranger. In addition performing and working with clinicians during the day, the high school groups and general public had the chance to enjoy a vocal jazz concert by Millikin's award-winning vocal jazz ensemble OneVoice. "The annual Vocal Jazz Festival has become a cherished tradition in the School of Music, and is a wonderful way to showcase some of the finest young vocalists from throughout the Midwest," remarked Stephen Widenhofer, director of the School of Music. "It's a joy to welcome new talent to Millikin each year."

Other participating high schools included: Harry D. Jacobs High School, Algonquin; St. Viator High School, Arlington Heights; Limestone Community High School, Bartonville; Cary-Grove High School, Cary; Illinois Valley Central High School, Chillicothe; Kirkwood High School, Kirkwood, Mo.; Minooka Community High School, Minooka; Carmel Catholic High School, Mundelein; Naperville North High, Naperville; O'Fallon Township High School, O'Fallon;

Rochelle High School, Rochelle; Shelbyville High School, Shelbyville; Niles North High School, Skokie; Niles West High School, Skokie; Springfield High School, Springfield; and Tuscola High School, Tuscola. The festival is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.kirklandfinearts.com.

Two Niles West High School science teachers, Elizabeth Ramseyer and Richard DeCoster, and their students will conduct sophisticated astronomy research, make a presentation at an internationally renowned astronomy conference, and may publish their work in a scientific journal. Ramseyer and DeCoster will participate in the NASA/Infrared Processing and Analysis Center Teacher Archive Research Program.

They were two of only 14 middle school, high school, and community college faculty members selected for the program nationwide. Ramseyer will work with Dr. Varoujan Gorjian, a Spitzer Research Scientist, who has been studying active galactic nuclei for more than a decade. The emission

of AGN is thought to come from the accretion of matter onto supermassive black holes making them some of the most luminous objects throughout the universe. Two key wavelengths of emission from AGN are in the ultraviolet and in the infrared. With two very successful space missions currently studying these wavelengths of light, the Galaxy Evolution Explorer in the UV and NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope in the IR, a vast archive of high quality data is now available to help understand the details of the mechanism by which AGN produce their energy.

DeCoster has been teamed with Dr. Steve Howell, associate scientist with the National Optical Astronomy Observatory in Tucson, Ariz. The team will use archival Spitzer Space Telescope Infrared Camera observations to perform the first exploration of the variability of the universe at mid-infrared wavelengths. They will examine more than 1,000 archival Spitzer images obtained in the 3- to 8-micron range and produce photometric measurements for

each point source observed. The team will provide the astronomy community with the first study of the type and nature of variability of sources in the mid-infrared sky.

"This program allows teachers to have a real science experience and incorporate that into their classes — their students can also participate in this work," said Luisa Rebull, a Spitzer Science Center associate research scientist. "By influencing the teachers, we impact all the kids the teacher has this year, the kids they'll have next year and so on. It's hard to beat that multiplicative effect of changing the lives of all those kids the teachers come into contact with over the years."

The teachers and their students learn how real scientists spend their days and what tools they use. "This program breaks down a barrier of what a scientist does. The number one thing that these students learn is that astronomers are normal, nice people," said Rebull who coordinates the NITARP program. "They also learn about the process of science.

Sometimes you get a result and sometimes you don't."

While being a wonderful way to share science with science teachers and students, the program is extremely helpful in terms of making use of massive amounts of data that have been collected by astronomers, but have never been analyzed.

"There's so much data that even the original astronomers who requested that data can't use it all," said Rebull. "There's all sorts of interesting science just waiting to be done."

The program began at the American Astronomical Society meeting in January in Washington, D.C., where the teachers had a crash course in infrared astronomy, split up into four teams and learned about their general area of research for the project. The four teams are conducting the following research: seeking young stars in our galaxy, studying nearby active galaxies, studying Epsilon Aurigae (an eclipsing binary variable star — a star that dims when its partner obscures its light), and studying other stellar variability. They attended talks at the conference to gather ideas to narrow their project. Now each team is preparing a proposal as to what it hopes to find and how it plans to find it. In the spring they will learn to use the appropriate scientific software for their project and will begin the data analysis.

In the summer, each team (consisting of the scientist, the teachers and two students per teacher) will attend a workshop at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena where the Spitzer Science Center is located, and in the fall they will create a poster presentation for the 2011 American Astronomical Society meeting. They will make a presentation at the conference and they may publish their results in a science journal. The teachers will perform 12 hours of professional development to spread the word about NASA data and their astronomy research experiences. This could be in the form of a workshop for their fellow teachers at their school, at their district, or at a science teacher conference.

The form of professional development will vary by each teacher's location and situation.

Rebull hopes that if the participants have one take-home message from the program, that it is how science does not always give you a clear-cut answer. "Real science has a lot of dead ends as we struggle to find out what the 'right answer' is," Rebull said. "Science problems in textbooks have well-defined problems, specific methods you're supposed to use to solve them, and right (exact) answers. In scientific research the only way you know it's the right answer is if you know that everything you did to get there is right. That's a big paradigm shift from 'textbook science.' And that's one big thing that I hope the participants in this program learn."

ST. EUGENE
St. Eugene School has announced its second-quarter honor roll.

Fourth Grade
High Honors: Michael Campanile, Rebecca Coleman, Dominic DeVivo, Alexa DiBenedetto, Robert Fiorante, Michael Fitzpatrick, Olivia Glowacka, Danielle LaSusa, Christine Pikulski, Patricia Savino, Alea Sheffield, Matthew Takaki.
Honors: Margaret Ek, Graziella Guercio, Alexandria Kalamaris, Andrew Lesniak, Michael Lynch, Raymond Neylon, Samantha Pagan, Joseph Palmisano, Makenzie Payton, Francisco Perez, Charles Rizzo, Gianni Scavelli, Natalie Tomasik, Ryan Worthington.

Fifth Grade
High Honors: Jessica Briglio, Kyle Brown, Isabella Buscaglia, Joseph Cherman, Joseph D'Aloia, Jacob England, Thomas Kunzer, Cailey McIntyre, Jonathan Mendyk, Allison Moore, Alexander Pierson, Sean Rickert, Vincent Santore, Catherine Spanola, Michael Taylor, Luke Tomzik, Arthur Young.
Honors: Daniel Adams, David Clancy, Peter Farion, Matthew Kalinowski, Adam Sadko, Roc Salvo, Alyssa Thorne.

Sixth Grade
High Honors: Kyle Bujak, Allison Carleton, Briana DiBenedetto, Thomas Ferguson, Danielle Leveille, Jack McKermitt, Emily Mierzwa, Emily Nee, Sarah Sciaraffa, Nicholas Troiano, Alicia Wala.
Honors: Sean Ek, Katherine Lardino, Alison Meier, Amanda Stocchetti, Nicole

Class AA Championships, advanced to Illinois' Sweet 16 in 2009 and been named Conference Coach of the Year in 2006-07 and 2007-08. He was inducted into the Five-Star Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002.

Sports Faith International has established the Home-town Heroes Award in recognition of men who promote the development of Christian athletes by exhibiting exemplary leadership in their own personal and professional lives.

The induction ceremony was hosted by Catholic Knights and took place at Halas Hall, DePaul University, on Feb. 21.

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Honors: Sean Ek, Katherine Lardino, Alison Meier, Amanda Stocchetti, Nicole

Valde.
Seventh Grade
High Honors: Barbara Babicz, Owen Buscaglia, Angela Campanile, Nicole Campanile, Kaitlynn Dziadosz, Erin Kurtz, Bryan Schwaba, Thomas Szklarzewski, Aileen Young, Adriana Casali, Patrick Dillon, Haley Loquercio, Daniel Moore, Ryan Pierson, Andrea Romano.
Honors: Nicholas Briglio, Alex DeLeo, Dino DeVivo, Michael Ecklund, Sara Korhonen, Sebastian Lacala, Kevin Meier, Kelly Salvo, Kaitlyn Schmeda, Jessica Tam, Nicholas Bataglia, Robert Cesario, Bridget Fuller, Jacqueline Gariti, Jessica Lepley, Daniel Maleridino, Natalie Thome, Savannah Visor.

Eighth Grade
High Honors: Eliot Buscaglia, Taylor McKenna, Samantha Udzialak, Madeline Dineen, Eileen Kennedy, Sarah Manahan, Emilie McGuire, Brian Musolf, Sarah Young.
Honors: Sabrina Bonanno, Joseph Contacessi, Anthony Korhonen, Ben Kusinski, Emily Tomzik, Daniel Bartik, Adam Craeger, Patricia Kogut, Alexis Nino, Daniel Siman, Mark Tomzik.

ST. IGNATIUS
A number of seniors at St. Ignatius College Prep achieved the status of Finalists in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Competition. They are:

Nora Goebelbecker, Chicago 60646; **Oscar Lopez**, Chicago 60641; **Kyle Hutchison** of Clarendon Hills; **Paul Marsh** of Villa Park; **John Reidy** and **Bridget Van Breenem** of Elmhurst; and **Brent Terry-Penak** of Evanston.

ST. JULIANA
St. Juliana School students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade participated in the annual Science Fair. Students selected projects that were of interest to themselves as well as others.

In sixth grade, the first-place award for display board was given to **Christina Heylin** and **Guiliana Conte**; second place for display board, **Tom Murphy**; third place, **Izabela Giglione**; and honorable mention was given to **Ann**

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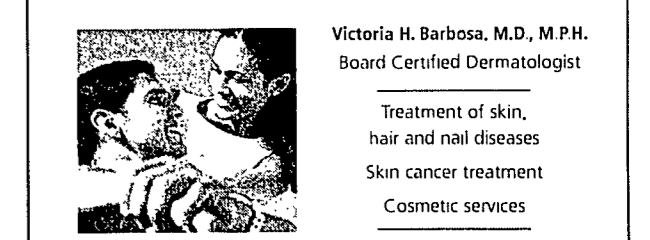
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Digest

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Martin. The awards for Over-All Performance in the Science Fair: first place, **Meghan Mackey** and **Brianna McGann**; second place, **Kyle Steffen**; third place, **Kayla Reardon** and **Eileen Mulroe**; with honorable mention to **James Oddo** and **Joseph Conte**. The award for knowing the most about their topic went to **Mark Smolinski**.

In seventh grade, the first-place award for display board was given to **Caitlin McEnery** and **Ann Prestigiaco**; second place for display board, **Patrick Gavin** and **Matthew Smith**; third place, **Trevor Rahlfs** and **Patrick O'Malley**; and honorable mention was given to **Mary Kate McInerney** and **Brianna Olivella**. The awards for Over-All Performance in the Science Fair: first place, **Elizabeth Soria**; second place, **Madelyn Ryder** and **Allison O'Malley**; third place, **Mathew Szafoni** and **Rory Fegan**; with honorable mention to **Molly Flynn** and **Ann Bradstrader**. The award for knowing the most about their topic went to **Brigid Broderick**.

In eighth grade, the first-place award for display board was given to **Collin Merk** and **Christian LaBuda**; second place for display board, **Mary Kate Herion**; third place, **Aran McDonald**; and honorable mention was given to **Martin Browne** and **Martin Durkan**. The awards for Over-All Performance in the Science Fair: first place, **Claire Murphy** and **Grace Moriarty**; second place, **Dan Proano**; third place, **Rachel Gotsch** and **Rory Cusack**; with honorable mention to **Kelsey Reardon** and **Blair Wallace**. The award for knowing the most about their topic went to **Martin Bargo**.

Science teacher is **Amanda Oh**.

St. Juliana Elementary School has named its second-quarter honor students.

Eighth Grade

Second honors: **Martin Durkan**, **Rachel Gotsch**, **Grace Moriarty**, **Claire Murphy**, **Alexander Nunes**, **Kevin O'Grady**, **Emily Okresik**, **Kevin O'Malley**, **Erik Pechnick**, **Daniel Proano**, **Kelsey Reardon**, **Blair Wallace**.

Seventh Grade

First honors: **Annie Brandstrader**, **Patrick Mulkerin**, **Robert Ryan**, **Elizabeth Soria**.

Second honors: **Emily Blomquist**, **Brigid Broderick**, **William Byrne**, **Matthew Curley**, **Mary Dillon**, **Daniel Ellingsen**, **Rory Fagan**, **Marie Fiorito**, **Carly Florine**, **Molly Flynn**, **Kerry Foley**, **Garce Kealy**, **Sean Kulinski**, **Shane Marti**, **Joseph McCormack**, **Maeva McCormack**, **Caitlin McEnery**, **Mary McInerney**, **Emily O'Donohue**, **Allison O'Malley**, **Brian O'Malley**, **Briana Olivella**, **Trevor Rahlfs**, **Madelyn Ryder**, **Kenneth Serwa**, **Matthew Smith**, **Mathew Szafoni**, **Katherine Weber**.

Sixth Grade

First honors: **Clare Broderick**, **Giuliana Conte**.

Second honors: **Isabella Bottalla**, **Erin Callahan**, **Joseph Cisneroz**, **Joseph Conte**, **Claire Donnelly**, **Christina Heylin**, **Christopher Kohl**, **Patrick MacGregor**, **Meaghan Mackey**, **Ann Martin**, **Brianna McGann**, **Hugh McGing**, **Eileen Mulroe**, **Thomas Murphy**, **James Oddo**, **Adam Okrzesik**, **Josephine O'Shaughnessy**, **Eric Pritt**, **Kayla Reardon**, **Bridget Schnoor**, **Amanda Smigla**, **Mark Smolinski**, **Kyle Steffen**, **Anne Sugrue**, **Neil Udelhofen**.

Fifth Grade

Academic Honor Roll:

Kaeli Abfall, **Kate Bazarek**, **Elyse Boldt**, **Conor Browne**, **Emily Browne**, **Susan Childers**, **Justin Cisneroz**, **Lauren Cox**, **Connor Dillane**, **Matthew Doherty**, **Madison Finneke**, **Aidan Flood**, **Thomas Flynn**, **Lauren Gawlinski**, **Michaela Gustaitis**, **Thomas Hackett**, **Thomas Herion**, **Elyse Kealy**, **Michael MacGregor**, **Quinn Martin**, **Jack Martinus**, **John Mayer**, **Sara McGann**, **Nicole McGlinn**, **John McInerney**, **Thomas Moran**, **Garrett Mulkerin**, **John O'Flaherty**, **Owen O'Malley**, **Brendan O'Shaughnessy**, **Desmond O'Shaughnessy**, **Neil O'Shaughnessy**, **Mark Pechnick**, **Emily Pfaller**, **Olivia Platz**, **Brendan Poznar**, **Richard Rabiola**, **Jacquelyn Regnier**, **Antonio Reyes**, **Natalie Ryder**, **Samantha Simonetti**, **Ian Skiersch**, **John Snarich**, **Lorena Soria**, **Michael Valdez**.

Effort Honor Roll: **Julia Russo**.

SAINT PATRICK

Saint Patrick High School's Stahl Family Theatre has announced the March 19-28 production of **Burt Shevelove's** and **Larry Gelbart's** "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" (music by **Stephen Sondheim**). Friday and Saturday performances will be at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday matinees will be at 2 p.m. Before the show on March 20, St. Pat's Parents' Club will host dinner and cocktails for \$50 a ticket. Regular tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students.

Cast will be led by **Mike Anglemire**, **Cedric Casuga**, **Jimmy Keating**, **Nick Peresin**, **Brian Rachmaciej**, **Paul Vaccaro**, **Cristina Aviles** (Trinity High School) and **Ariel Gonzalez** (Trinity).

The Stahl Family Theatre is located at 5900 W. Belmont Ave. Theatre is handicapped accessible. For more information on tickets, call (773) 286-8470 or visit www.stpatrick.org.

Boys and girls ages 4 to 14 can choose from more than 50 summer camps to be held at St. Patrick High School during June and July. Campers are encouraged to register early as many of the school's most popular offerings, like the "Pro Football Camp" and basketball's "Fundamentals" camp, fill up fast.

The school will also run a two-week "Science & Engineering" camp that will prepare sixth-through eighth-graders for high school science and introduce students to basic ACT and ISAT test-taking skills. Students will have a chance to receive one-on-one attention from science department faculty as they use St. Pat's Genetics Lab, digital microscopes, electronic balances, flex-cam cameras and computerized sensors.

To register a student, call (773) 282-8844. Detailed information regarding each camp will be posted at www.stpatrick.org.

Follow Saint Patrick High School on Twitter at www.twitter.com/saint-patrickhs. Receive up-to-the-minute alerts on school news and events, including updates on the 150th anniversary events. For a direct link, click the Twitter banner at www.stpatrick.org.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Eliminating the negative

By **STEVE BECKER**

Many deals offer declarer a choice of several lines of play. While it may not always be clear which approach is the best of the lot, it shouldn't be too difficult to decide which is the worst.

	NORTH	
South dealer	♠ 8 6 3	
North-South vulnerable	♥ 10 6 2	
	♦ A K 9	
	♣ A J 9 4	
	WEST	EAST
	♠ Q J 10 7 4	♠ 9 2
	♥ A 8	♥ Q 7 5 4 3
	♦ Q 7 3	♦ 10 8 4 2
	♣ 6 5 2	♣ K 7
	SOUTH	
	♠ A K 5	
	♥ K J 9	
	♦ J 6 5	
	♣ Q 10 8 3	

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
3♣	1♠	3♣	Pass
3NT	--	--	--

Opening lead -- ♠ Q

Today's deal from a duplicate game is of this type. At every table, South wound up in three no trump, and West led the ♠ Q after having overcalled in spades.

At some tables, declarer won the first trick and immediately tried a club finesse. East won and returned a spade, and it was then just a matter of time before West gained the lead with the A♥ to cash his spades and set the contract.

Other declarers decided that since at least one heart trick would be needed to score nine tricks, hearts should be attacked before clubs. This would force West to take the A♥ — possibly his only entry — before his spades became established.

So these declarers won the first spade, crossed to dummy with a diamond, led the 10♥ and let it ride. West took the ace and returned a spade, but South was now in full control. Even though the club finesse lost, East was out of spades and had to return another suit. A repeat of the heart finesse then brought declarer to nine tricks in the form of two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and three clubs.

Yet another variation was found at other tables. These declarers ducked the first spade lead entirely, won the spade continuation and then tried the club finesse. East won but could not return a spade, so declarer had time to finesse East for the Q♥. West won the heart with the ace, but since South still had a spade stopper, these declarers also finished with nine tricks.

The relative merits of the second and third lines of play may be debatable, but one thing is certain: Those who chose the first line, making no effort whatsoever to defuse the threat of West's spades, clearly adopted the worst approach.

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Calendar

Continued from PAGE 23

8800 Kathy Lane, Niles, from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Call (847) 297-3000. **The Golf Maine Park District** offers the community an opportunity to recycle paper products. A recognizable green-and-yellow container supplied by Abitibi Bowater was dropped off in the Feldman Park lot, 8800 Kathy Lane, near the corner of Western Avenue and Kathy Lane. Products that can be recycled in this container include: newspapers, magazines, office paper (fax and copy), shopping catalogs, mail and envelopes, catalogs, folders, colored paper and shredded

Religion

The Park Ridge Chapter of World Day of Prayer will present a World Day of Prayer service at 10 a.m. March 5 at Our Lady of Ransom Church, 8300 N. Greenwood Ave.

Niles. The service will last about 90 minutes and will be followed by a light Lenten lunch. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide organization of Christian women of many traditions who come together on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of prayer. Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer. For 2010, the World Day of Prayer Committee of Cameroon developed the theme "Let everything that has breath praise God." The community is invited.

Messiah Lutheran Church, 1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge, offers a Lenten study and worship on Wednesdays. The Community-wide Egg Hunt will be held March 27, the day before Palm Sunday. Children of

all ages are welcome to join the Easter egg hunt starting at 10 a.m. on the grounds of Messiah's childcare center. Children are grouped by age and are invited to bring their own baskets. Free. All are welcome. Call (847) 823-6984.

Messiah Lutheran Church, 1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge, holds a Christian-education hour at 9 a.m. each Sunday, with worship service at 10:15 a.m. During the hour, Sunday school is in church parsonage; children from preschool-sixth grade welcome. Childcare services are available during worship. Call (847) 823-6984.

St. John Brebeuf Adoration Chapel is observing its fifth anniversary. The

Calendar, PAGE 35

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GEMINI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Meijer makes \$5,000 donation to fund murals

Meijer, the "one-stop shopping center," recently opened the company's first grocery-focused store at 9000 W. Golf Road, Niles, and in keeping with their mission are giving back to the community they serve.

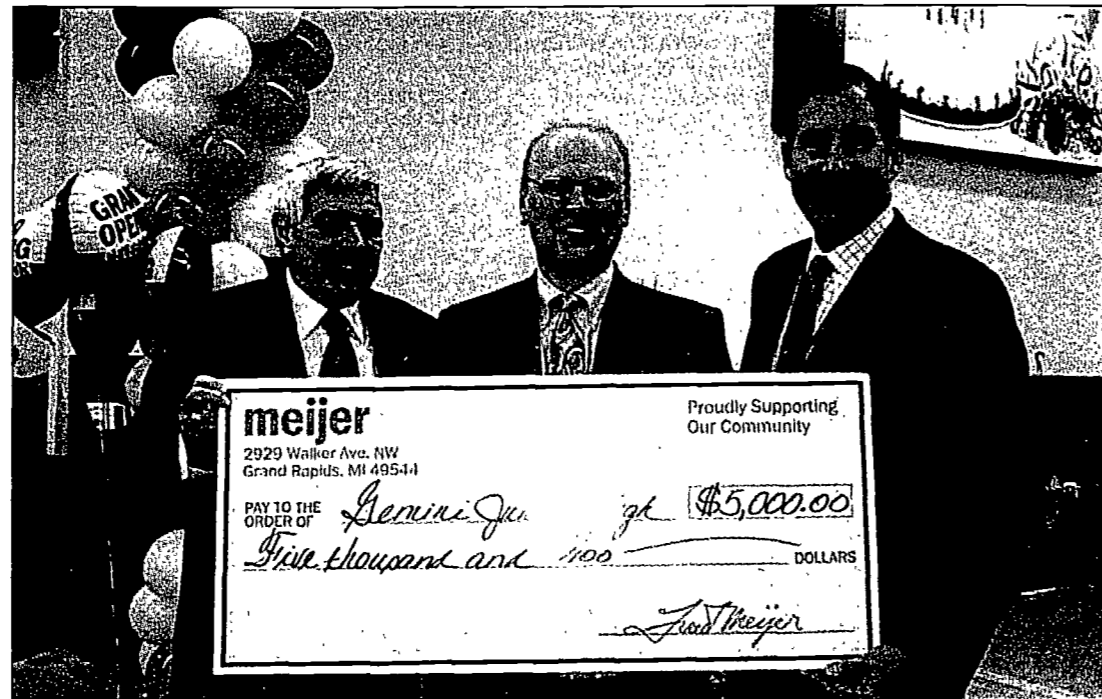
Niles Mayor Robert M. Callero recently joined Meijer President Mark A. Murray to extend Meijer's generous contribution to Gemini Junior High School, which

was accepted by Principal Scott Herrmann.

Meijer's donation will in part be applied to creating murals that support the school's principles to develop respectful, responsible learners who can adapt and contribute to a diverse and ever-changing world.

For more information on Meijer go to www.meijer.com.

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Niles Mayor Robert M. Callero (left) joins Meijer President Mark A. Murray (right) to extend Meijer's generous contribution to Gemini Junior High School, which was accepted by Principal Scott Herrmann (center). (Contributed photo)



Second-graders (from left): Jocelyn Beltran, Alex Cichon, Jake Wargo and Matthew Murphy "Chalk the Walk" during Red Ribbon Week at St. John Brebeuf. (Contributed photo)

ST. JOHN BREBEUF SCHOOL

Youngsters celebrate Red Ribbon Week in Niles

You know it's the final week of October when you pass St. John Brebeuf School. The campus is covered with red ribbons in celebration of Red Ribbon Week.

Red Ribbon Week is observed each year nationwide. This is a special week to remind all of us that we should be living drug-free lives. At SJB, students and teachers pledge to live drug-free and then celebrate their awareness through different activities each day.

Students celebrate "Sock It to Drugs" by wearing their craziest socks, "Shade Out Drugs" by wearing sunglasses, and

"Live the Sweet Life by Staying Drug Free" when the Student Council provides each student with a candy treat and red bracelet. Other fun days include "Living a Drug-Free Life is No Sweat" feature sweat clothes, and "Tie One on Against Drugs" by wearing their loudest ties with their uniforms.

A very special day during this week of awareness is "Chalk the Walk". The entire school celebrates together by chalking the walk in front of the school building with anti-drug artwork.

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Calendar

Continued from PAGE 33

chapel, in the Parish Ministry Center, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for spiritual devotion, prayers and meditation. **Ezra-Habonim**, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, offers Introduction to Judaism and beginning adult Hebrew classes on Sundays and monthly Yiddish. Members and nonmembers are welcome. Call (847) 675-4141, or go to www.ehnt.org.

Reunions

St. Robert Bellarmine Class of 1970 is holding a reunion April 10 at the Stonewood Ale House in Schaumburg. Alumni who would like to attend, or who might be able to help locate more teachers and classmates, may contact Rick Brandstatter at rbrandstatter@yahoo.com. More information will be posted on the Alumni Reunion page of the school Web site, srb-chicago.org, as it is available.

Niles East High School Class of 1960 is holding a 50-year reunion Oct. 1-3 at the Lincolnshire Marriott. See www.niles1960.com.

The St. Columbkille Alumnae Association will sponsor its annual reunion luncheon April 18 at the Fountain Blue, 2300 S. Mannheim Road (at Touhy Avenue), Des Plaines. Social

hour begins at noon with lunch served at 1 p.m. Cost is \$35. Proceeds benefit the retirement fund of the Sisters of Providence. St. Mary of the Woods, Ind. Call Charlene Swintek, (847) 427-1981.

Roosevelt High School Class of 1975 is having a 35th reunion July 10 at the Fountain Blue in Des Plaines. Contact information should be e-mailed to rhr1975@yahoo.com.

St. John Brebeuf is hosting its second annual Alumni Basketball games starting at 4 p.m. Feb. 28. Contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266 or ryder@sjschool.org or go to Facebook under the group of St. John Brebeuf Alumni.

St. John Brebeuf School in Niles is looking for graduates from the class of 1964. Contact Libby Ryder at ryder@sjschool.org.

Elmwood Park High School Class of 1970 is planning its 40th reunion for the fall of 2010. Classmates are asked to e-mail Christine Thomas Cowan (ctcowan@sbcglobal.net) or Janice Ryden Deaton (deaton_janice@yahoo.com) to place their information on the contact list.

St. John Brebeuf is looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail ryder@sjschool.org, and submit their name, year graduated, address, phone number, maiden name (if applicable) and e-mail address, and may share a story or tell how St. John Brebeuf made an impact on their life.

Scouts

Roughly 400 Girl Scouts from the northwest suburbs will celebrate World Thinking Day on Feb. 27 at Emerson Middle School, 8101 Cumberland Ave. in Niles. World Thinking Day not only gives Girl Guides and Girl Scouts a chance to celebrate international friendships, but is also a reminder that Girl Scouts of the USA is part of a global community - one of 145 countries in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The global theme for World Thinking Day 2010 is "Together we can end extreme poverty and hunger." Girls will learn what they and their families can do to help others across the world, or across town.

Seminars

State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias will host a financial literacy conference for women in Chicago's northwest suburbs March 18 at the White Eagle Banquets, 6839 Milwaukee Ave. Check-in will begin at 4 p.m., and the conference will follow from 4:45-8:30 p.m. Speaker will be Charlene Soby, vice president, Personal Financial Services, Northern Trust. Breakout topics include: "Stretching and Growing Your Money in Today's Economy," "Home Ownership, Entering/Re-entering the Work Force." Certified Illinois teachers may earn one CPDU for attending. A light dinner will be provided. The conference is free but pre-registration is required. Register online at <http://www.treasurer.il.gov> under the Smart Women Smart Money link.

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Dark - Uhrik Engagement

Dr. and Mrs. Foy Edward Dark, Jr., (Susan) are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Dark, to Matthew Joseph Uhrik, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Andrew Uhrik, (Mary Jo) of Morton Grove, Illinois.

Sarah will be graduating from the University of South Florida in May 2010, with her Bachelor of Art's Degree in Sociology. She is a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda and Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Societies. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honors Society. She will be attending law school in the fall.

Sarah is the granddaughter of Lt. Col. (ret.) Foy Edward Dark, Sr. and the late Margaret M. Dark of Cocoa, Florida, and Mr. Harold L. Earls, Sr. and the late Evelyn H. Earls of Crestview, Florida.

Joseph will be graduating from the University of South Florida in August 2010, with his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management. He is a member of Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology. He will be attending medical school in the fall.

Joseph is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Frank Uhrik (Mary Ann) of Berwyn, Illinois and the late Mr. Joseph Ambrose Maginot and the late Ms. Shirley Jane Gillick of Winnetka, Illinois.

A June 2010, beach wedding has been planned. After honeymooning in the Southern Caribbean, the couple plans to reside in Chicago, Illinois.



Spain - Kurtzke Engagement

James and Linda Spain and Deborah (Lobrace) Kurtzke are proud to announce the engagement of their children, Melanie Spain and Joseph Kurtzke both former Franklin Park residents. Both Melanie and Joseph graduated from Hester Junior High School in 1995.

Melanie, a 1999 graduate of East Leyden High School, attended Northwestern University and received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology. During her college years she spent six months in Australia studying abroad. After College she moved to California for three and a half years and spent four months in Africa volunteering at a wild animal preservation center. Melanie is currently an honors student pursuing a PsyD at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Joseph, a 1999 Fenwick High School graduate, attended Northern Illinois University to receive his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a Masters Degree in Taxation. He completed his jurist doctorate from John Marshall Law School in 2008. Joseph is currently employed as Chief Counsel at Jack Tuchten Wholesale Produce in Chicago.

Joseph and Melanie enjoy many common interests, are season ticket holders for the Chicago Blackhawks, and remain close to their families. An engagement party was given on Valentine's Day in their honor. The couple is planning a May 2011 wedding in Puerto Rico.

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The Doings

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

Team takes top prize in Future City contest

By **JENNIFER JOHNSON**
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The city of Celedon, located on the Australian coast, may not physically exist, but it's very much part of the lives of the St. Paul of the Cross students who created it.

The futuristic, environmentally friendly city earned St. Paul's team first place in the Chicago Regional Future City Competition held Jan. 16 at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The competition, open to 7th and 8th grade students, required teams to work with a teacher and engineering mentor to design a city of the future using the computer game SimCity4 Deluxe. The teams then created a tabletop model of the city, often using recycled materials, and write an essay based on a particular theme, said Robert Johnson, an engineer and

spokesperson for the Future City competition. This year's essay theme was "Providing an Affordable Living Space for People Who Have Lost Their Home Due to a Disaster or Financial Emergency."

St. Paul's model includes a university with a Green Roof, a bridge made out of a letter holder, and peculiar-looking structures made out of objects like a Christmas ornament, whiffle ball, and what appears to be a perfume dispenser.

By winning Saturday's competition, three St. Paul students will represent the team in the national Future Cities competition in Washington, D.C. Feb. 15-17, where, they will compete against 38 schools from across the country for the national title.

Coming in first place came as a surprise to science teacher Christine Stypka who oversees the

team. "I dropped my program and jumped up screaming, 'Oh my God, oh my God!'" Stypka admitted.

"It was extremely exciting because I didn't really think we'd win," she said. "I knew we'd probably get into the top five, but I didn't know we'd be number one."

This was the fourth year St. Paul took part in the competition which requires students to design a city at least 150 years in the future and show how "green" initiatives can be used in design. The name Celedon is actually a play on the word celadon, a variation of the color green.

In addition to winning first place overall in the regional contest, St. Paul also received an award from the Chicago Committee on High-Rise Buildings for design of the best skyscrapers, and an award from the

Structural Engineers Association of Illinois for most innovative model structures, Johnson said. The school also took home awards for best essay, best presentation and livable community.

Members of St. Paul's Future City team are Sam Anderson, Christopher Gloeckle, Eric Kohberger, Rachel Maurer, Meghan McErlean, Ben Paoletti, Theresa Rathslag, Michelle Sisco, Joseph Swoboda, Mary Vozenelik, Jack Whalen, Lauren Whalen and Caroline Zimmerman. Their teachers are Christine Stypka and Laurie Moran, and their engineering mentors are John Zimmermann and Phillip Spagnolo.

Students from Immaculate Conception Catholic School, 7263 W. Talcott Rd. in Chicago, also participated in the regional competition.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



Members of the St. Paul of the Cross Future City team pose with a model of their imaginary town Celedon during the Chicago Regional Future City Competition held Jan. 16 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Shown are Caroline Zimmermann, Benjamin Paoletti and Christopher Gloeckle. (Bob Johnson/for STM)



Pedersen - Murrin Engagement Announcement

Oscar H. Pedersen and Susann K. Pedersen, of Burr Ridge, IL are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Michelle Kathleen to Ryan Michael Murrin of Plainfield, IL.

Michelle is employed at TIC Financial Services in Naperville. Ryan is the son of Michael and Ute Murrin of Naperville and Dan and Pamela Hulthen of Joliet. HE is employed with the Village of Burr Ridge Public Works.

Michelle and Ryan will be married in June 2010 at Burr Ridge United Church of Christ.

They will honeymoon in Palm Beach Island, Florida.



Ossowski - Sands Engagement Announcement

Karoline K. Ossowski and Trenton Dale Sands, along with their parents are please to announce their engagement.

Karoline is the daughter of the late Andrew & Elizabeth Ossowski, Streamwood. She graduated with a B.A. from DePaul University, 2004 Juris Doctorate from The John Marshall Law School, 2009. She is currently employed as Associate Counsel at Acadia Insurance Company, in Westbrook, Maine.

Trent is the son of Dale & Debra Sands, Barrington. He earned an Industrial Engineering degree from Montana State University, 2005. Trent is working as an industrial engineer currently employed at Newell Rubbermaid in Gorham, Maine.

Karoline and Trent both graduated from Barrington High School.

The couple plan to be married October 10, 2010 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Barrington Hills followed by a wedding reception at Barrington Hills Country Club. They plan to honeymoon in Kauai, Hawaii.

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MAINE SOUTH

Orchesis dances bring Broadway to Park Ridge

Maine South's Orchesis Dance Company presented a Broadway-themed production for the group's annual show Jan. 8 and Jan. 9.

The primarily student-choreographed show featured music from various Broadway productions including "Chicago," "Footloose," "Dirty Dancing," the "Lion King" and "Singin' in the Rain."

Under the direction of Amelia Ecker, this year's Orchesis dancers are Jane Acker, Hope Alford, Breigh Carey, Nicole Christi, Paris Corvino, Colleen Cottrell, Catherine Cupp, Meghan Farrell, Maggie Fleita, Anna Graziano, Jenni Hanson, Megan Hinds, Hayley Jaffee, Katie Krone, Kate Makowski, Haley Mirabelli, Sara Phillips, Gaby Por-



Maine South's Orchesis dance company performs Jan. 7 during one of the final dress rehearsals before the annual show earlier this month. (René Edde/For STM)

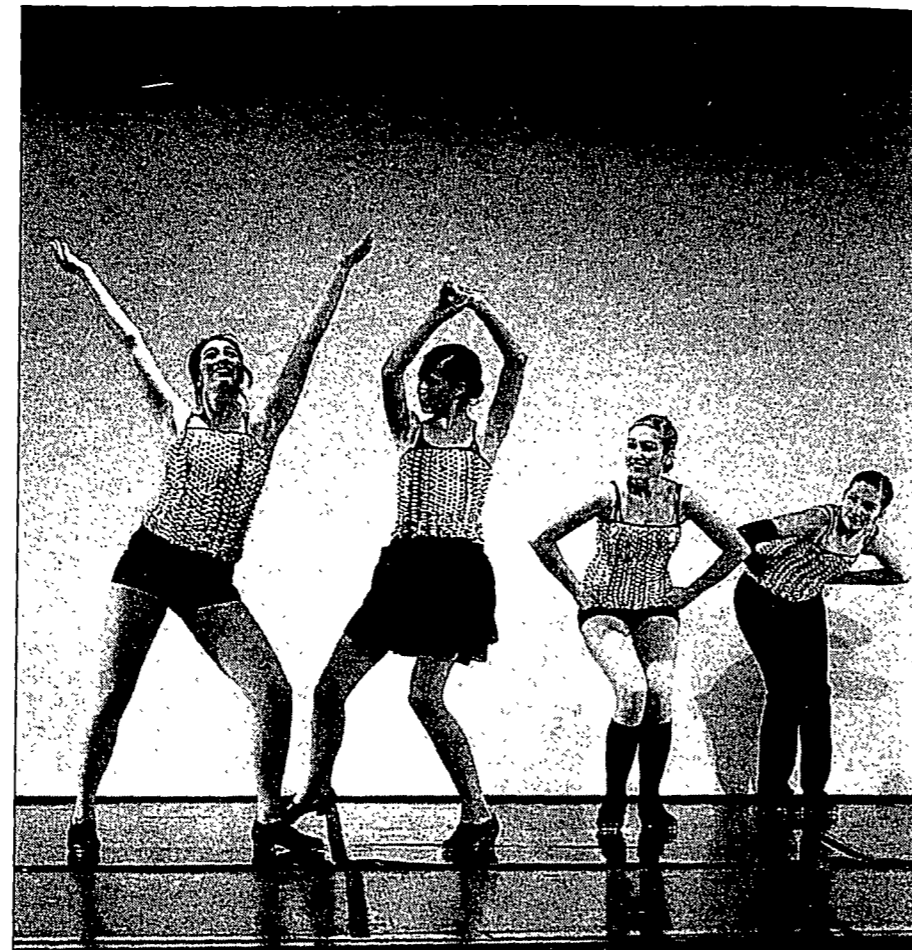
ras, Natalia Rog, Katelyn Ryan, Erin Self, Alana Sremac, Tamra Tarant, Liz Teahan, Dana Theel and Nicole Zawistowski.

In late-February the dance troupe will perform some of its show numbers at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. In addition to performing the dancers will

take part in a workshop with Disney choreographers and dancers, Ecker said.

"We are very excited because it has been a long time since the Orchesis Dance Company has had this kind of opportunity," she said.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



Maine South's Orchesis dance company performs Jan. 7 during one of the final dress rehearsals before the annual show earlier this month. (René Edde/For STM)

Your Local Worship Guide

<p>NORWOOD PARK</p> <p>Norwood Park Lutheran Church 5917 N. Nina Ave. Chicago, IL 773-631-2860 Fax: 773-631-0142 Sunday Service 10AM Sunday School 9AM (September thru May) Rev. Robert C. Johnson, Pastor</p>	<p>PARK RIDGE</p> <p>Park Ridge Presbyterian Church 1300 West Crescent Avenue 847-823-4135 office@parkridgepreby.org Sunday Service: 10:30am</p> <p>St. Mary's Episcopal Church 306 S. Prospect Ave., (847) 823-4126 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. Odderstol, Rector WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME! Check website for all activities.</p>	<p>SKOKIE</p> <p>Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church 4950 W. Pratt, 847-673-4441 www.cwupc.net Sunday Worship Services: Contemporary & CW Café 9AM Traditional 11AM & Fellowship 12PM Noon Sunday School (all ages) 10AM Michael Scott Porter, Sr. Pastor</p>	<p>SKOKIE</p> <p>Central United Methodist Church 8237 Kenton, Ave., Skokie (847) 673-1311 www.skokiecentralumc.org Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM</p> <p>Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue 7800 Niles Ave., Skokie 847-674-9146 www.devaremet.org Join us for Shabbat Services at 10am</p>	<p>SKOKIE</p> <p>St. Paul Lutheran Church 5201 Galitz St. (847) 673-5030 www.stpaulskokie.org Sat. 5pm, Sun. 10am</p> <p>Temple Beth Israel 3601 W. Dempster St. Skokie, IL 60076 847-675-0951 www.tbiskokie.org</p>
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15 yr fixed	4.375	0.000	\$1513	5%	4.513	5/1 ARM	Call for Rates					5/1 ARM	3.625	0.000	\$850	20%	3.324						
30 yr FHA	4.875	0.000	\$1768	4%	5.348	15 yr fixed	Call for Rates					7/1 ARM	4.000	0.000	\$850	20%	3.563						
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5/1 ARM	Call for Rates					15 yr fixed	4.250	0.000	\$1400	20%	4.377	15 yr fixed	4.375	0.000	\$1050	20%	4.470						
7/1 ARM	Call for Rates					5/1 ARM	3.875	0.000	\$1400	20%	3.276	15 yr jumbo ARM	4.250	0.000	\$1050	20%	4.320						
15 yr fixed	4.500	0.000	\$1800	20%	4.665	30 yr fixed refi	Call for Rates					5/1 ARM	3.750	0.000	\$1050	20%	3.820						
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NORTH POLLS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

1. Niles West
2. Glenbrook South
3. Maine South
4. New Trier
5. Evanston

BOYS BASKETBALL

1. Glenbrook North
2. New Trier
3. Maine South
4. Notre Dame
5. St. Patrick

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

BOYS BASKETBALL

Alex Dragicovich, Glenbrook North
Notre Dame-bound senior scored 18 points to go with five rebounds, three assists and two steals as Spartans beat Deerfield 54-34 on Friday to earn a share of the CSL North title.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Allie Roemer, Glenbrook South
Her 13 points on four three-pointers Friday led the Titans to their third regional title since 2004.

Michelle Maher, Maine South
Sophomore's 17 points paced the ninth-seeded Hawks to a 49-38 upset of top-seeded New Trier Friday in the Maine South Regional championship game.

WRESTLING

Jeffrey Brown, Evanston
Senior heavyweight won the Class 3A state championship Saturday by beating Hinsdale Central's Jack Allen 3-1 to finish the season 49-1.

BOYS SWIMMING

Jared DeGrazia, Maine South
Senior swam a pool-record 51.59 in the 100-yard backstroke Saturday at the Glenbrook North Sectional to earn a trip to the State Meet.

Dominik Cubelic, Glenbrook South

The Northwestern recruit broke his own pool records in the 50 and 100 frees, and was part of a pool-record 400 free relay, at the Glenbrook North Sectional Saturday.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Paula Papaioannou, Maine South
Senior finished fifth on the floor exercise (9.4) and seventh on the uneven parallel bars (9.325) at last weekend's State Meet.



Maine South's Nina Duric and Niles West's Jacklyn Gremley scrap for a rebound Tuesday during the Wolves' 52-33 sectional semifinal victory. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

Gremley's return a welcome sight

Niles West ends Maine South's Cinderella run

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

GIRLS BASKETBALL-

Niles West senior Jackie Gremley checked into Monday night's Niles North Sectional semifinal 3:43 in, and the Wolves were whole again.

Gremley, the team's second-leading scorer, had missed four games with a back injury, and there was some doubt whether she would return at all.

But against No. 9 Maine

South, Gremley (11 points) was one of three Wolves in double figures as No. 4 Niles West (26-5) cruised past the upstart Hawks 52-33.

It was the Wolves' third victory of the season over the Hawks, as West advanced to today's sectional final (7:30 p.m.) against No. 3 Glenbrook South, a 54-51 winner over No. 2 Von Steuben in Monday's second semifinal.

"Jackie Gremley made a big difference," Niles West head coach Tony Konsewicz said. "They have to get out of a junk defense when (Gremley) comes into the game. She is a scoring threat. She comes in and makes baskets. She makes

But against No. 9 Maine

a world of difference." Sophomore sensation Jewell Loyd led the Wolves with 24 points and 10 rebounds, though her priority for much of the game seemed to be getting her teammates involved. Senior Kelly Kleppin was a major beneficiary of Loyd's passing, finishing with 14 points.

Maine South (14-19) was coming off a 49-39 upset win over No. 1 New Trier in the regional final. But the Wolves, who start three sophomores, turned the ball over too often early in the game, which prevented them from taking advantage of Niles West's cold first-quarter shooting.

Niles West led 10-6 after one quarter and 23-13 at

halftime. Maine South got to within seven early in the third, but the Wolves countered with a 12-0 run. Loyd took over in the fourth, scoring 12 points in that frame.

"In the first half, we did a good job on defense. But we turned it over a lot early," Maine South head coach Mark Smith said. "Instead of being up six to eight because of good defense, we found ourselves down. When (Niles West) started hitting shots, that was a lot for us to overcome."

Senior Amanda Brait, playing her last game, led the Hawks with 11 points. Sophomore Nina Duric added seven.

Gremley, who added four

steals, had only resumed practice on Friday for the Wolves. She said nerves and focusing on the task at hand helped her block out any lingering back pain.

Kleppin said she believed the team responded well to Gremley's absence.

"When she was gone, we had to pick up the slack. Now that she's back, we still have that momentum, but she is there," she said.

Smith said the postseason run should be invaluable for his young Hawks.

"It's one more game in the belt and it's another deposit that we make with our young kids," he said. "Someday, we'll make big withdrawals."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Sarkisian dives back into State Meet

North senior qualifies a 4th time

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

BOYS SWIMMING - Niles North senior diver Arsen Sarkisian is heading back to the IHSA State Meet for a fourth time, and this year he'll be joined by a couple of teammates.

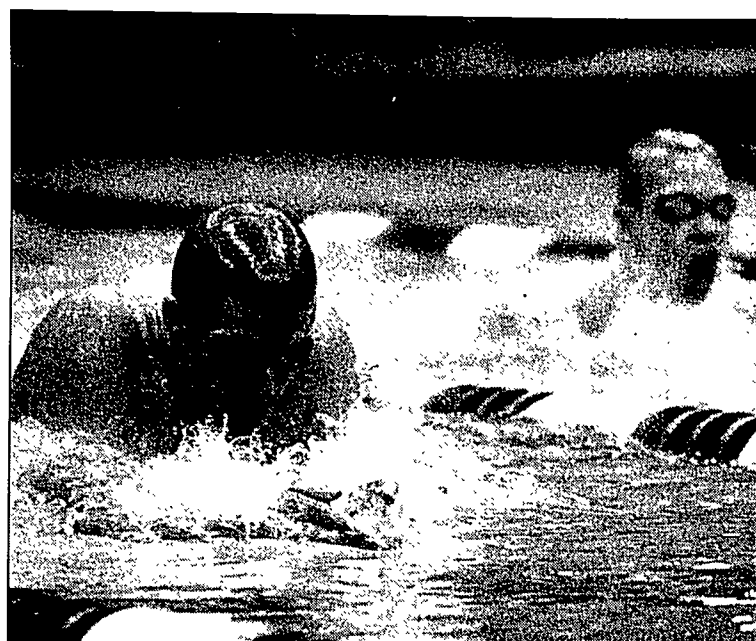
Sarkisian scored 493.4 points to win Saturday's New Trier Sectional.

"I felt good, physically, and felt more control over my body," said the diver. "I've been working on my lines and on correcting little mistakes."

Sarkisian takes the No. 3 seed into the State Meet, which will be held in Evanston Friday and Saturday. Sarkisian, who finished fifth last year after placing ninth the previous two seasons, said he's learned to treat State like it's any other meet.

"I will try to go through the week as if I don't have State this weekend," the diver said on Sunday. "I'll just go to practice and not think too much about what's going on."

Joining Sarkisian will be two Niles North swimmers competing in their first State Meet. Freshman Karol Mlynarski had hoped to qualify in the backstroke, but instead



New Trier's Sam Metz pulls ahead of Niles West's Konner Scott Friday in the 200 IM at the New Trier Sectional. Both swimmers advanced to this weekend's State Meet. (Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer)

did so in the 100-yard freestyle. At the sectional, he posted a fifth-place time of 48.55 in the 100 free; state cut was 48.69.

"This was the first time I swam the 100 free in a big meet. I was surprised I (qualified)," said Mlynarski who had eclipsed the state cut in the 100 back during the previous week's conference meet. "I was disappointed I didn't make it in the backstroke, but I can do it next year."

Niles North sophomore Richard Gomez qualified for State in the 500 freestyle. He placed fifth in 4:48.29 to beat the cut of 4:50.25. Gomez's time in the 500 exceeded his previous best by four seconds. The sophomore said he's improved his mental ability in recent weeks.

"Before, I was a mentally weak swimmer," he said. "I would psych myself out. In the first half of the season, my times were not consis-

tent. But I've been more focused on the mental side of the race, and it helps."

The Vikings ended up scoring 223 points and finishing fourth in the 12-team sectional.

Head coach Seth Orlove was pleased with the performance.

"I'm very happy. It was one of the best sectional meets we've had in a few years," the coach said. "It's a testament to our hard work this season. (It) was a celebration of our hard work."

At Niles West

Junior Konner Scott will be the Wolves' lone representative at Evanston this weekend.

In the New Trier Sectional, Scott finished second in the 200 IM (158.36), where the state cut was 2:00.68, and second in the 100 free (47.7), where the cut was 48.69. He enters State with the 11th-best time in the 100 free. The top 12 in Friday's prelims advance to Saturday's finals.

"Konner just needed to qualify. Next week is the big dance," said Niles West head coach Dan Vanderjeugd. "He'll rest more and (in practice) concentrate on clean turns and getting out of his turns. That's the big part of it. In between the flags, he's fast."

West (174) finished fifth at New Trier.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

THIS WEEK

NILES NORTH

Friday
Boys Track, New Trier/Notre Dame/RC/Barrington/Maine West at Niles West, 5 p.m.
Boys swimming State Finals, at Evanston Twp., 3:30 p.m.

Saturday
Girls Track, Titan Relays at Glenbrook South, 9:30 a.m.
Boys swimming State Finals, at Evanston Twp., 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Boys gymnastics, Palatine/RM, at Rolling Meadows, 6 p.m.
Boys basketball at Glenbrook S. Regional, vs. Prospect, 7:30 p.m.

NILES WEST

Friday
Boys swimming State Finals, at Evanston Twp., 3:30 p.m.

Saturday
Boys swimming State Finals, at Evanston Twp., 9:30 a.m.
Boys track hosts Suburban Meet, 9 a.m.
Girls track hosts DF, MW, St. Ign., and Loyola, 5 p.m.

Wednesday
Boys basketball at Addison Trail Regional vs. Lake Park, 7:30 p.m.

MAINE EAST

Today
Girls track Maine West, Niles North, Waukegan Quad

Friday
Boys swimming State Finals, at Evanston Twp., 3:30 p.m.

Saturday
Boys swimming IHSA State Finals, at Evanston Twp., 9:30 a.m.

Monday
Boys basketball at Loyola Regional vs. Mather, 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Boys gymnastics hosts Niles North, 6:30 p.m.

Boys basketball at Loyola Regional vs. Loyola (if necessary), 6 p.m.

NOTRE DAME

Wednesday
Boys basketball at Maine South Regional vs. Leyden, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

ALL CSL

North

Samantha Acosta (Maine West)
Megan O'Neil (Maine West)
Lena Munzer (Highland Park)
Emily Feldman (Highland Park)
Nichole Monhait (Highland Park)
Kristen Beierwaltes (Maine East)
Cathleen Forrest (Deerfield)
Mariyah Henley (Niles North)
Perlana DeGuzman (Niles North)

South

Jackie Schultz (Evanston)
Jannelle Flaws (Glenbrook South)
Geena Campobasso (Glenbrook South)
Michelle Maher (Maine South)
Molly Quirke (New Trier)
Maggie Lyon (New Trier)
Abbey Schmitt (New Trier)
Jewell Loyd (Niles West)
Kelly Kleppin (Niles West)
Amy Angelos (Waukegan)

Pieces in place for 2010-11 season



Niles North sophomore Mariyah Henley (right), guarding Deerfield's Kelly O'Connell, registered 19 points and 16 rebounds in the Vikings' 48-39 loss last week to Niles West that ended their season. (Joe Cyganowski/for STM)

Vikings feature solid nucleus returning

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

GIRLS BASKETBALL - After Niles North's season came to a halt on Feb. 16, the Vikings looked ahead, excitedly, to next winter.

With several key players eligible to return, North will have experience on its side in 2010-11. Players and coaches are just hoping the Vikings have a little more luck.

For North (8-22), the injury bug first hit in the summer when talented sophomore Mariyah Henley and senior Pearlana DeGuzman battled shoulder injuries. Henley, the team's leading scorer, eventually required surgery that forced her to sit out the first half of the season.

During her absence, several other Vikings missed time because of injury. There were stretches in December when North had just seven players available

for games. "You don't want to blame (injuries) and have excuses, but we went through a lot," said sophomore Ahissa Hirsh, already a two-year starter. "When your best player is out for half the season, it's difficult to get the chemistry together."

Hirsh and Henley highlighted the talented group of non-seniors who saw quality minutes this season. Juniors Kaitlyn Schlauder and Kunbi Adeieso, and sophomores Sorriyah Ranger and Annemarie Reid also are expected to be part of a solid nucleus next season.

"The foundation is there," Hirsh said. "I think we can get it done next year. I hope we can stay healthy. I really don't want to be dealing with all this again. I'm excited. We have a bright future."

The Vikings showed some of their potential during a 48-39 loss to Niles West in a regional semifinal last week. North led 9-1 before the Wolves exploded for 18 straight points.

After trailing by 11 at the

end of the third quarter, North cut West's lead to 41-36 with just under two minutes remaining. Four straight points by the Wolves' Kelly Kleppin helped restore a comfortable lead.

North head coach Dan Paxson was pleased with his team's effort.

"I think this was one of our better games of the year," Paxson said. "It wasn't one of our better shooting nights. But as far as effort and intensity, I think it was one of our better efforts of the year."

Henley, who had missed recent games and practices because of her shoulder injury, led the way with 19 points and 16 rebounds. Hirsh chipped in nine points and four steals.

West star Jewell Loyd finished with 26 points, but worked hard for everything she got. Vikings defensive spark plug DeGuzman, who gave up eight inches, kept the sophomore sensation under control.

DeGuzman and fellow senior starter Jenny Chacko will be North's biggest losses for next season.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Pazmino picks up pointers on trip to State

North junior sets table for future

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

WRESTLING - Niles North junior Chris Pazmino dropped both of his matches during Friday's IHSA Class 3A State Meet in Champaign.

But Vikings head coach Marlon Felton said the experience was a good one for the 140-pounder.

"It didn't turn out how he wanted it to. But he competed and got after it," Felton said. "There are a lot of things he needs to work on between now and next season to get better. But we'll do that. But it was a great experience for him and

for the team to have a guy go down."

Pazmino, who finished 32-6, dropped his opening match to Naperville Central's Andy Kovalsky 6-3. St. Laurence's Joe Wood defeated Pazmino 8-3 in the wrestlebacks.

"His first match was probably the better one," Felton said. "But he took both kids down. If he had gotten the first win, he would have had more confidence going into his next match."

At Niles West

Senior Ben Rosen lost his two matches in the 119-pound division at the State Meet.

Rosen opened the competition with a 16-6 loss to Providence's Eddie Klimara, who went on to finish second at Class 3A. Batavia's

Logan Arlis, who finished third, defeated Rosen 6-0 in wrestlebacks.

"(Rosen) worked really hard and got Downstate, and he gave it his best shot there," said Niles West head coach Anthony Genovesi.

Rosen finished the season with a record of 27-10.

At Notre Dame

Junior 145-pounder Jim Wallenberg had a tough draw at the State Meet and wound up 0-2 against the wrestlers who finished third and fourth in the Class 3A tournament.

The Don was pinned by Romeoville third-place finisher Donny Simpson in his opening match. The junior wrestled better against Plainfield's Joey Uccardi in his wrestleback, eventually losing 9-1.

Wallenberg wrapped up his fine campaign at 36-11. The three-year varsity wrestler will enter his final season just a few wins shy of 100 for his career.

"Jimmy could not have had two tougher matches," ND head coach Augie Genovesi said.

"He had 30-plus wins as a junior and 36 this year. He has a lot of experience and hopefully he can turn it up a notch next season. We'll need him to set the pace for the youngsters (in 2010-11)."

ND senior Brian Ridge dropped his only match at State, 13-3 to Glenbard East's Parker Settecase.

Ridge, a likely academic all-stater headed to the University of Chicago, finished his season with a 40-9 record. At 196 pounds, he was one of the lighter wrestlers in the 215-pound division.

Cuevas and Johnson close to reaching vaulting finals

North, West stars perform on vault

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

GIRLS GYMNASTICS - Niles North junior Citlali Cuevas and Niles West junior Katelynn Johnson are good friends and former club teammates, and they had similar experiences during Friday's prelims of the IHSA State Meet in Palatine.

Cuevas and Johnson each qualified for State on vault, entered as fairly low seeds and then exceeded expectations. For Cuevas, it marked the

second straight year when she went from being one of the last girls to qualify to one who almost reached finals. In fact, her sectional vault score of 9.325 was the lowest among the 35 state qualifiers. But her mark of 9.525 at State put her in 13th place, just missing the cut for finals.

"(Cuevas) is a really strong competitor," said North head coach Charlie Friedman. "In both years, even though she just made the cutoff, she really wanted to go to state finals, and she gave it all she had."

During Friday's competition, Cuevas substituted a layout Tsuk for her pike Tsuk. After hitting it, she stood in ninth place with seven gymnasts

still to compete. But Cuevas soon was bumped out of the top 10.

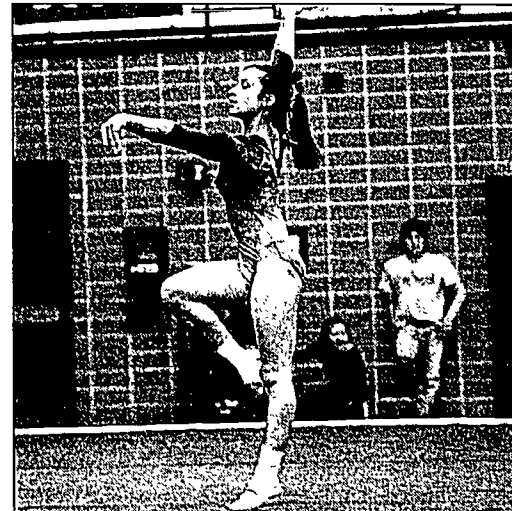
Cuevas had hoped to advance to State in all-around this year, or at least reach the competition in more than one event. But Friedman believes that the gymnast learned a few lessons this season, and expects big things from Cuevas next winter.

"This makes it obvious that you can't ride on the momentum from the previous year," the coach said. "Not that Citlali is not a hard worker. She is. But next year will be her senior year and her final chance (to make finals). She knows what it takes to be better and put it all together."

Johnson, who scored 9.35, entered the State Meet with the 30th-best mark. But her prelim score of 9.5 was a season-best, and good for 15th place in the state.

"It was (Johnson's) best vault of the year," said Niles West head coach Pam Foerch. "The experience was certainly a better one for Johnson than her first visit to State last season (when she was forced to pull out of the competition early after a spill)."

Foerch said it was important for the gymnast to erase that mishap from her memory. "We did our best to look forward, to take it day by day and hope for the best," the coach said.



Niles North junior Citlali Cuevas competed at the State Meet for the second-straight year and earned a 9.525 on vault. (Michael Jarecki/for STM)

Notre Dame dangerous on the road

One home game remains on schedule

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

BOYS BASKETBALL— Call them the Road Warriors.

Notre Dame (18-8, 9-3) won two more games last weekend away from Niles. With triumphs at Joliet Catholic and North Chicago, the Dons ran their win streak to five during their grueling road trip. ND extended its success away from home to seven wins in a row.

On Saturday, Notre Dame turned in an impressive 96-65 win at North Chicago, an offensive juggernaut that brought a 17-5 record into the contest.

The Dons led by 10 after one quarter then went on a second-quarter surge that built a 53-23 advantage at the break.

Junior Shawn Wallace guided the way with 29 points for ND. Junior Quinton Chievous had 24 points and 15 rebounds and senior Tim Hirsch tied his season-high with 19 points.

GAME BALLS

RESULTS

Saturday: Notre Dame 96, North Chicago 65
Friday: Notre Dame 58, Joliet Catholic 53

STAR PERFORMANCES

Shawn Wallace: 29 points vs. North Chicago
Quinton Chievous: 24 points, 15 rebounds vs. North Chicago
Tim Hirsch: 19 points vs. North Chicago

GAME DAY

UP NEXT

Notre Dame vs. Leyden, at Maine South Regional, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

"We were concerned because North Chicago has already put up 100 points four times this year," Hirsch said. "We knew that if we played the same kind of defense we played (Friday at Joliet Catholic), they would put triple digits up against us."

"But we did a good job getting back on defense and not letting them run the fastbreak. We mixed up the defenses and when they missed, we didn't give them second-chance points. We were able to run with them."

A night earlier, the Dons did not look particularly sharp, but

managed to pull out a 58-53 win over Joliet Catholic.

ND led 35-27 at halftime and built the advantage to 13 points in the third quarter. The Hilltoppers managed to narrow the Dons' lead to 50-49 in the fourth before ND applied the finishing touches.

Chievous had 26 points and 10 rebounds.

"You can't blame the long trip (to Joliet) for letting them blow by us. Our defense was not very good that day," Hirsch said. "(Offensively) we were settling for outside shots. We had a clear height advantage and should have taken it inside more."

The Dons were scheduled to close out the regular season on Wednesday at home against Benet. The Redwings, coming off a win over St. Joseph, were looking to clinch an outright ESCC title with a win.

It could be déjà vu for Notre Dame at next week's Maine South Regional. At 7:30 p.m. March 3, the No. 6 Dons open against No. 11 Leyden. The winner most likely will face No. 3 Maine South in the regional final.

Leyden and Maine South are the teams ND beat last year on the way to a regional crown.



Notre Dame's Shawn Wallace, slashing between St. Patrick's Jacob Williams (left) and Korney Darby, burned North Chicago for 29 points on Saturday. (Shaua Bittle/for STM)

Guiang answers call to ring up title

West senior nails winner in overtime

By DAN SHALIN
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GIRLS BASKETBALL — Chants of "We love Allie!" rang out through the old Evanston gym on Feb. 18 as Niles West gathered to lift the school's first regional title plaque since 1988.

With second-leading scorer Jackie Gremley out with a back injury, and star Jewell Loyd (10 points) battling double- and triple-teams, the Wolves needed a bigger offensive contribution from their role players.

Senior Allie Guiang gave them just that, pouring in a season-high 15 points. None were bigger than the final two, which came on a

game-winning layup with nine seconds remaining in overtime of West's 41-40 triumph over the host Wildkits (14-14). West, which advanced to this week's Class 4A Niles North Sectional, improved to 25-8 with the win.

Trailing 40-39, the Wolves drew up the final play for Loyd. But she was covered and passed it off to junior Nicole Moy. Moy found Guiang going to the basket, and the 5-foot-6 senior calmly laid in the biggest hoop of her career.

"I needed to flash (to the basket) and I was wide open," Guiang said. "The whole time I was thinking, 'This is for the championship, and I made it.'"

West head coach Tony Konsewicz has coached Guiang's on the varsity and sophomore levels, and said the player does have a bit of a flair for the dramatic. "I've coached her for four years

and she finds ways, sometimes in big games, to come up big," he said. "She was absolutely huge (in the regional final), made a huge difference."

Guiang's three-pointer midway through the third quarter gave the Wolves a 28-15 lead, their largest of the evening. But the Wildkits chipped away, holding West without a basket for the final 4:45 of regulation.

Evanston's Jackie Schultz's three-pointer with 34 seconds remaining tied the game at 36-36. Evanston did have a chance to win at the end of regulation, and again at the end of overtime, but missed shots both times.

The Wildkits held Loyd without a hoop in the final three quarters and in overtime. The sophomore still finished with 19 rebounds, two blocks, two steals and a handful of assists.

"You see the maturation and growth in (Jewell)," Konsewicz said. "A year ago, she might have gotten frustrated if she wasn't getting her looks or as many touches. But she did a tremendous job staying within the game plan. She played hard at the defensive end, got a couple of blocks and rebounded."

West's Kelly Kleppin (6 points) nailed a pair of three pointers and senior Michelle Poskrobko (6) delivered a big bucket in overtime. Two nights earlier, Loyd had 26 points and 16 rebounds in a 48-39 win over rival Niles North in the Evanston Regional semifinal. West trailed 9-1 before going on an 18-0 run.

Kleppin (7 points), Guiang (6) and Poskrobko (6) also contributed offensively.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

East sets school record at sectional

By MATT HARNESSE
mharnesse@pioneerlocal.com

BOYS SWIMMING — Despite not qualifying any team members for the 2010 State Meet, Maine East coach Megan Kamarchevakul couldn't have asked for a better ending to the season.

"Better than I expected," said Kamarchevakul after the Demons' performance in the Glenbrook North Sectional. "A very rewarding way to end the year."

The highlight was the 200-yard freestyle relay's program-record swim. Danny Ward, Steven Tom, Kevin Tom and Daniel Sieghart raced to a 1:34.15 for eighth place, surpassing the previous record of 1:34.21.

"That was really cool to see," Kamarchevakul said.

Even after a late-season lineup change, the Demons still managed to get the record.

"That speaks volumes, and that means a lot to us," the coach said. "That was a goal

from the beginning of the season."

Divers Sieghart and Jeremy Rohrman set the tone early at Glenbrook North. Sieghart finished seventh with 290 points, while Rohrman ended up 11th with 252.25. Glenbrook North's Jonathan Roby, a contender for the state championship, won the sectional title.

Sieghart capped his rookie season by being a part of four program records. He now owns the freshman mark in the 200 free relay, as well as the six- and 11-dive events. He etched his name into the varsity books with Saturday's record relay swim.

"Daniel is a talented athlete," said Kamarchevakul, who wants both divers to compete in the offseason at Glenbrook North with Jessica Roby, Jonathan's mother. "He has the ability to listen and do exactly what the coach instructs. He's one of the easiest athletes to coach."

Other top swimmers for the Demons included senior

Steven Tom's fourth-place finish in the 100 breaststroke (1:03.39). Freshman Kevin Tom took eighth in the 100 free (50.96), while Ward, a junior, finished ninth (51.30).

"We are definitely looking forward to next year," said Kamarchevakul, who could welcome back seven swimmers who competed at the sectional.

But the Demons might be without the services of assistant coach Andrew Kittrell. The girls varsity swimming coach and boys varsity water polo coach's name is on a list of teachers who won't be retained because of budget cuts by District 207. There remains hope that some, if not all, the teachers and coaches will be hired back.

"It was the middle of the season when we found out the news, but we chose to focus on the season," Kamarchevakul said. "That will be a huge loss for us. He's an excellent motivator, and he's very good for what Maine East needs. He's a

great role model. We definitely don't want to lose him, but a lot is still up in the air."

At Notre Dame

The Dons scored 12 points and finished last at the 11-team Glenbrook North Sectional, but head coach Doug Simkins was pleased with the performance by his young and inexperienced team.

"It was our best meet of the year, by far," the coach said. "Everybody had personal and lifetime bests. It was amazing for us."

The ND relay of juniors Dan Lyons, Jimmy Kukla, John Ries and sophomore Anthony Marzano dropped 11 seconds in the 200 medley (2:04.29).

Individually, freshman Kyle Collins clipped close to three seconds in the 200 free (2:16.25), Marzano posted a personal best in the 50 free (25.6), freshman Eric Collins registered a personal best in the 100 free (57.8) and senior Patrick Kelly dropped two seconds in the 100 breaststroke (1:20.56).

BOYS BASKETBALL

NILES WEST SECTIONAL

Who: No. 8 Niles West (11-13) vs. No. 9 Lake Park (12-12)

What: Addison Trail Regional semifinal

Where: 213 N. Lombard, Addison

When: 7:30 p.m. Monday

What to look for: Wolves finished CSL South 2-8 after Friday's 74-44 loss to Maine South. They dropped their final seven in a row in the league and entered this week 4-8 in 2010. Meanwhile, the Lancers have been the epitome of average. They have a winning streak of four games and a losing streak of four games. The difference-maker for this matchup could be the competition and coaching. Bob Williams led Schaumburg to a state championship, and the Wolves played in one of the toughest conferences around. The winner most likely plays No. 1 Glenbrook North on March 5 for the regional championship.

Who: No. 7 Prospect (16-8) vs. No. 10 Niles North (12-13)

What: Glenbrook South Regional semifinal

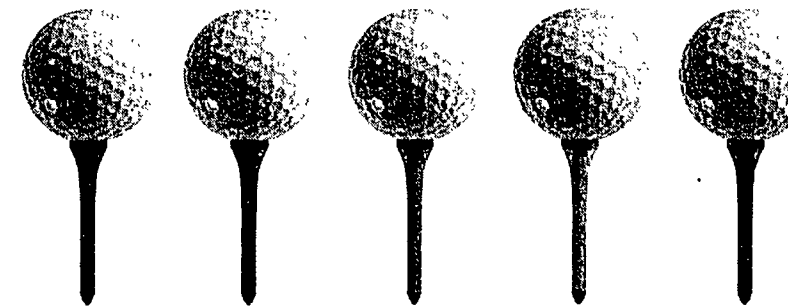
Where: 4000 W. Lake, Glenview

When: March 3, 7:30 p.m.

What to look for: First-year coach Glenn Olson, who came over from Maine East, has the Vikings playing competitive basketball. They lost 57-44 to Highland Park on Friday to finish 4-6 in the CSL North. Prospect won the MSL East title for a second consecutive season. In the teams' only other meeting this season, the Knights beat the Vikings 70-44 on Dec. 21 at Wheeling's tournament. Prospect played a month without starting point guard Joe LaTulip. Since the senior returned to the team Feb. 9, the Knights have gone 1-3. The regional semifinal winner most likely plays No. 2 New Trier on March 5 for the championship.

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Records deceiving in Maine East's regional opening game

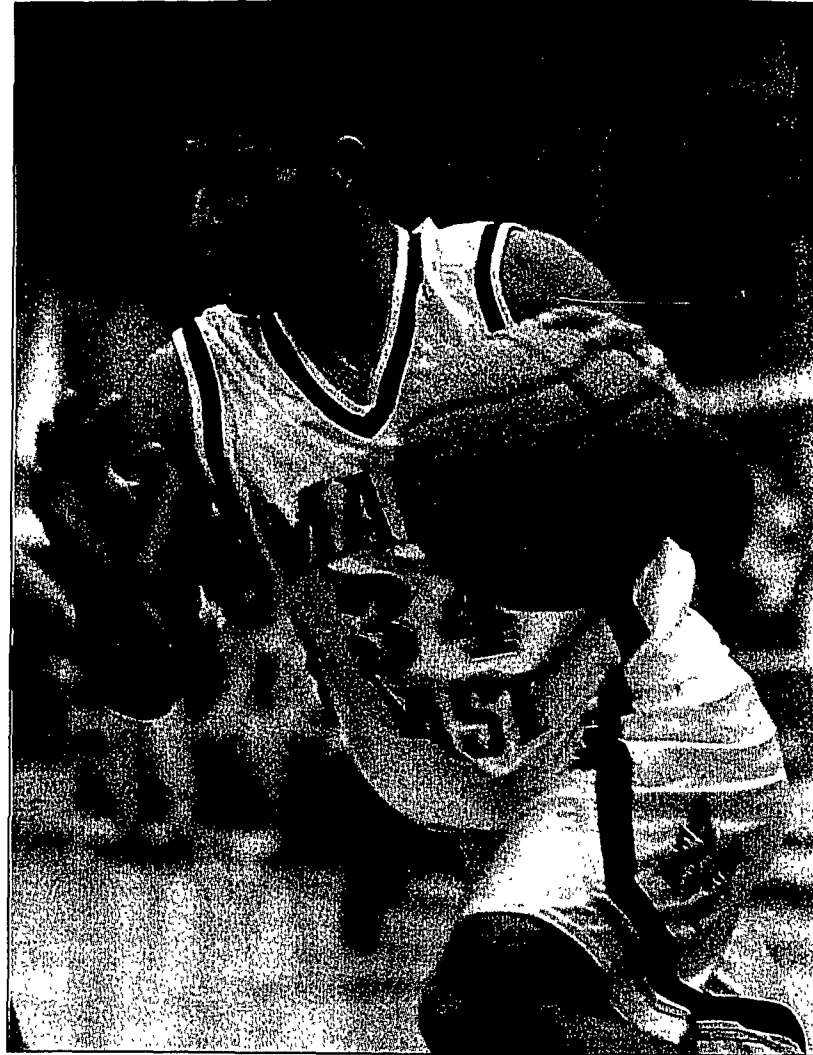
East to face coach's former team

By MATT HARNESSE
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

BOYS BASKETBALL – Maine East's first playoff game will be a homecoming, of sorts, for coach Huey Crawford. Crawford previously coached at Mather, and he will meet his former team and two former assistant coaches in the Loyola Regional on Monday. "It's kind of weird," said the first-year Demons coach. "We thought it might have been some inside joke. But I don't think that's so."

Maine East received the No. 20 seed in the 21-team Niles West Sectional, while the Rangers earned the No. 13 seed. An argument can be made that the Demons are better prepared for the playoffs after competing in the CSL North, where they faced both Glenbrook North and Deerfield twice. Mather (19-3) played in the Public League's Blue North, not a highly regarded conference, as evidenced by its low seed. "I've known some of those kids over there since the seventh grade," said Crawford, who coached with Mather assistants Ryan Ward and Armando Villanueva. "It's kind of poetic. Your bridges cross paths sometimes. I think it's going to be weird, but I think it will be fun."

The Demons ended their conference schedule on Friday with a 74-69 overtime loss to Maine West. East, which finished 0-10 in the CSL North and entered the week at 5-20 overall, was



Maine East's Zeeshan Rauf racked up 20 points Friday during the Demons' 74-69 loss to Maine West in overtime. (C. Jason Brown/for STM)

scheduled to end the regular season against New Trier, the No. 2 seed at the sectional, on Tuesday.

"I wasn't too concerned with our won-loss record," said Crawford, whose team was dealt a major body blow before the season when Abdel Nader transferred to Niles North and Charles McKinney moved out of state. "I wanted to expose the kids to good competition." Nuse Khan once again led the Demons on Friday. The senior guard scored a game-best 37 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter, before fouling out before overtime.

"I know it's been frustrating for Nuse," Crawford said. "He doesn't have a lot of pieces around him, and he's been seeing all kinds of crazy defenses. But he can flat-out score."

Zeeshan Rauf, a player who's improved throughout the season, added

20 points for the Demons.

Girls Basketball
Maine East ended its 2009-10 season with a 55-52 loss to Clemente in the play-in game of the Northside Regional on Feb. 16.

Kristen Beierwaltes scored 19 points and Joy Ocampo added 15 in the loss, the team's 11th in a row. Maine East didn't win a game after losing starting point guard Angela Jones to a knee injury.

"Goes to show you how important she is to us," said coach Karol Hanusiak, whose team finished 6-23 overall.

Beierwaltes capped her Maine East career by averaging 10.4 points and 8.4 rebounds a game. She recorded 14 double-doubles this season.

Ocampo paced the team with 49 assists.

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TO PLAY: Make your picks for the winner in each category and be sure to include the answer to the tie-breaker question. If you're right, you could win!

☆ = Roger Ebert's Picks

- Best Actor**
- Jeff Bridges "Crazy Heart" ☆
 - George Clooney "Up in the Air"
 - Colin Firth "A Single Man"
 - Morgan Freeman "Invictus"
 - Jeremy Renner "The Hurt Locker"

- Best Actress**
- Sandra Bullock "The Blind Side" ☆
 - Helen Mirren "The Last Station"
 - Carey Mulligan "An Education"
 - Gabourey Sidibe "Precious"
 - Meryl Streep "Julie & Julia"

- Best Supporting Actor**
- Matt Damon "Invictus"
 - Woody Harrelson "The Messenger"
 - Christopher Plummer "The Last Station"
 - Stanley Tucci "The Lovely Bones"
 - Christoph Waltz "Inglourious Basterds" ☆

- Best Documentary**
- "Burma VJ"
 - "The Cove" ☆
 - "Food, Inc."
 - "The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers"
 - "Which Way Home"

- Best Original Screenplay**
- "The Hurt Locker"
 - "Inglourious Basterds" ☆
 - "The Messenger"
 - "A Serious Man"
 - "Up"

- Best Director**
- James Cameron "Avatar"
 - Kathryn Bigelow "The Hurt Locker" ☆
 - Quentin Tarantino "Inglourious Basterds"
 - Lee Daniels "Precious"
 - Jason Reitman "Up in the Air"

- Best Supporting Actress**
- Penelope Cruz "Nine"
 - Vera Farmiga "Up in the Air"
 - Maggie Gyllenhaal "Crazy Heart"
 - Anna Kendrick "Up in the Air"
 - Mo'Nique "Precious" ☆

- Best Picture**
- "Avatar"
 - "The Blind Side"
 - "District 9"
 - "An Education"
 - "The Hurt Locker" ☆
 - "Inglourious Basterds"
 - "Precious"
 - "A Serious Man"
 - "Up"
 - "Up in the Air"

- Best Animated Feature**
- "Coraline"
 - "Fantastic Mr. Fox"
 - "The Princess and the Frog"
 - "The Secret of Kells"
 - "Up" ☆

- Best Adapted Screenplay**
- "District 9"
 - "An Education"
 - "In The Loop"
 - "Precious"
 - "Up in the Air" ☆

Tie-Breaker Q: Which film will win the most awards, and how many will it win?

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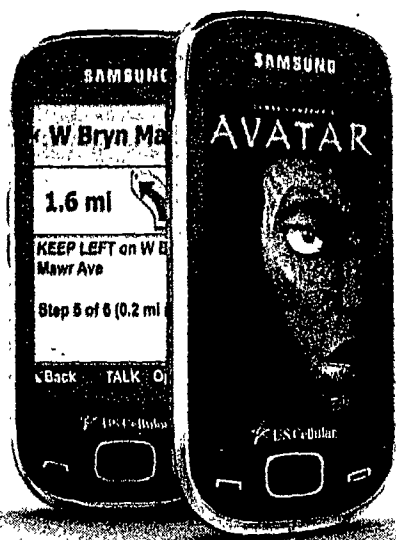
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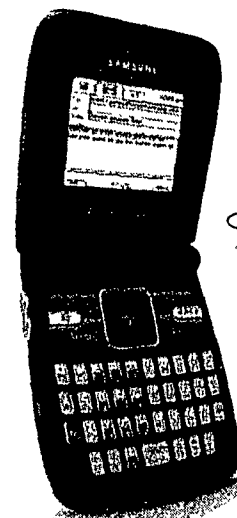
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