

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

MARCH 24, 2011 ★ A PIONEER PRESS PUBLICATION ★ WWW.NILESHERALDSPECTATOR.COM ★ \$2.00 An edition of the CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

THIS WEEK

DIVERSIONS



GIRL POWER
'Sucker Punch'
is in Film Clips
PAGE B4

FOOD



COCKTAILS REVISITED
Put some spice in
your beverages
PAGE 24

Inside!

today's homes

Look for it in the center of
SearchChicago-Autos

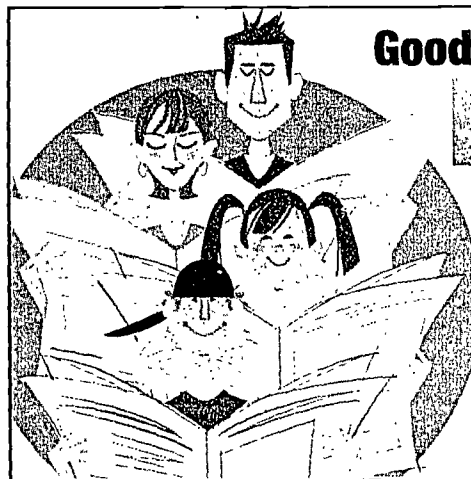


HEARTFELT HELP

Five- and 6-year-old students along with graduates of St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Japanese preschool in Niles performed Okinawan dances at a fundraiser hosted by the preschool on Sunday at Mitsuwa Market in Arlington Heights. PAGE 3. | Tracy Gruen~For Sun-Times Media

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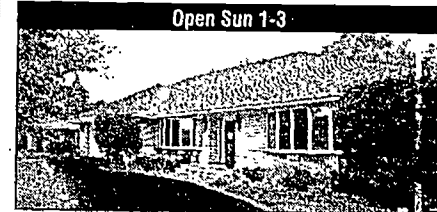
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6917 Lexington Ln, Niles \$799,000
Stately 3 br, 3.5 ba brick ranch on extra large lot w/circle drive. Updated kit & baths. Master suite. Library/office w/bookshelving.



Niles \$529,000
4 br, 2.5 ba 2-story Colonial on lrg lot. 6-panel oak doors, upgraded kit, sunny breakfast area, fam rm to fpic, patio, full fin bsmt.



9128 Mason Ave, Morton Grove \$499,000
3 br, 3.5 ba home w/fabulous finishes. Hdwd flrs. Crown moldings. Gourmet kitchen w/ssp appls. Master suite w/whirlpool. English basement.



Morton Grove \$399,900
3 br, 3 ba Georgian. Awesome addition & rehab in 2005. Hdwd flrs, mstr w/balc, island kit. Newer 2-car gar, roof, appl, furnace, air.

Debbie Domick CRS, GRI 847-724-5800

Tom Pomagler 847-384-7544

Marla Schneider 847-724-5800

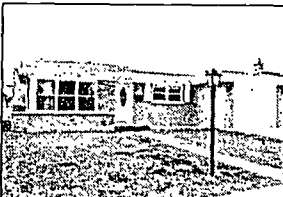
Douglas Slitt 847-222-6884



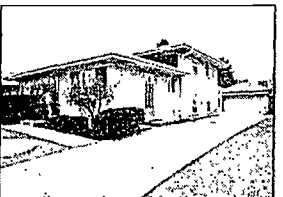
Niles \$392,000
Beautiful 3 br, 2.5 ba tri-level in golden acres on pro landscaped, fenced lot. Fabulous floor plan, new kitchen w/island. Hdwd flrs.



Niles \$349,000
Attractive 4 br, 2+ ba Colonial. Main flr fam rm, mstr w/walk-in closet, bsmt rec rm, new kit appl, hdwd flrs under carpet, new roof.



Morton Grove \$339,000
Updated 3 br, 2 ba home. New kitchen appl, cabinets, island w/granite countertop and wine chiller. Updated ba. New concrete floor in garage.



Morton Grove \$329,900
Updated 3 br, 2 ba home w/manicured lawn & spotless details abound. Eat-in kit, formal liv rm & din rm, spacious fam rm. Nice yard backs.



Morton Grove \$315,000
Well-maintained bi-level home in Park View School district. Spacious and bright, vaulted ceiling in living room, updated kitchen.



Morton Grove \$289,900
Updated 3 br, 1+2 ba split. Walk to forest preserve. Newer windows, c/a & heating system. New carpet in fin basement, remod kit, hdwd flrs.

Alicja Grzymala 847-384-7532

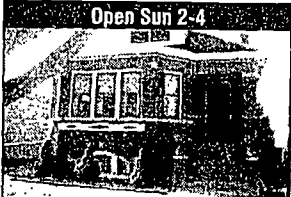
Bill Alston 847-384-5840

Zoran Denovich 847-384-7540

Norma LoPresti 847-724-5800

Joanne Toyama 847-866-8200

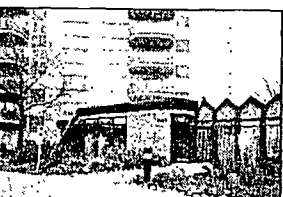
Linda Gotland 847-788-5520



7054 N Franks St, Niles \$274,000
Classic brick bungalow w/elegant vintage details. Well-maintained by long time owner. Original wood doors, trim & crown moldings.



Niles \$249,900
2 br, 2 ba brick ranch w/heated enclosed porch off kitchen, att 1-car garage w/storage. Fin basement w/storage space. Newer furnace, c/a.



Morton Grove \$245,000
2 br, 2 ba unit w/open floor plan. Eat-in kitchen & bright living/dining room w/new oak window casing. Large master suite & heated garage.



Morton Grove \$239,900
Desirable corner 5th flr 2 br, 2 ba condo w/forest preserve views. The Morton House was built w/exceptional quality. Commuter's dream loc.



Morton Grove \$220,000
Solid 3 br, 1.5 ba home near shops, restaurants, etc. Hdwd under carpet. Lots of nat light. New roof, newer furn & hwh. 2.5-car gar & more.



Morton Grove \$220,000
Large 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath 2-level corner unit! Master bathroom with double sinks. Great condition!

Eileen Hoban 847-724-5800

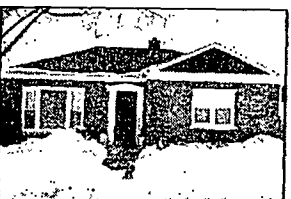
Elayne Weinberg Abr Sres 708-867-5757

Candace Kuzmarsi 847-866-8200

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Wendy Clarke 847-384-7507

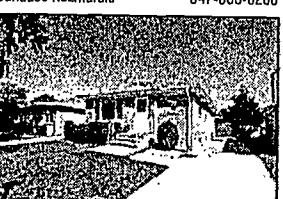
Patricia Furman 847-724-5800



Morton Grove \$215,000
Home in a great neighborhood and schools in Morton Grove! Updated w/new bath, newer windows, new 2-car garage & new fenced yard.



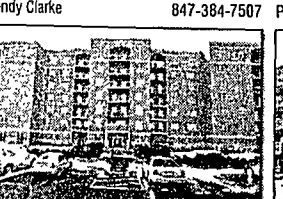
Morton Grove \$210,000
Sweet 2 br home w/newer kit, roof, windows furn & c/a! Nice light, lovely fenced yard and 1-car gar. Quiet cul-de-sac. Wonderful yard.



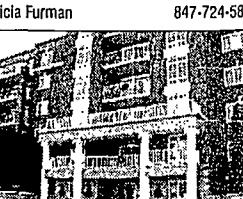
Niles \$209,500
Bright 3 br, 2 ba home. Good size brs, eat-in kit, hdwd flrs. Full fin bsmt w/wet bar, sep laundry rm. Close to schools, shopping & trans.



Niles \$169,500
4th flr 2 br, 2 ba condo w/lots of light & tree-top view. Din rm, newer windows, balc. In-unit full size w/d. Huge master w/walk-in closet.



Niles \$162,000
Conveniently located bright apt w/9' ceilings, eat-in kit, in-unit w/d, walk-in master closet, heated garage space and fabulous storage.



Niles \$139,000
Spacious unit w/western view from lrg balc overlooking park! Eat-in kit, mstr w/walk-in closet, full-size stacked w/d. Lots of closets.

Ruth Hagan 5747Main.info 847-753-8243

Catherine Leonard 847-866-8200

Pam Carmichael 847-384-7520

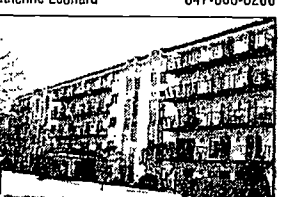
Sue Oleksy/Cam Denson 773-230-4143

Maureen Ryan 847-784-7360

Barbara Mundt 847-384-5805



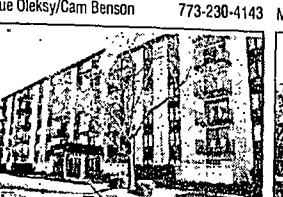
Morton Grove \$134,900
Beautifully maintained 2 br, 2 ba end unit w/southeast exposure! Large room sizes. Eat-in kit. Enormous master suite. Indoor heated garage.



Morton Grove \$127,900
Lovely 1 br condo w/private balc w/courtyard view. Newer appl, mstr w/sep dressing area. Close to shops & trans. 1 indoor + 1 outdoor prk.



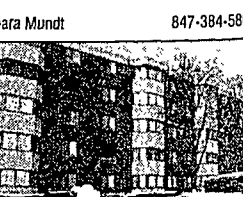
Niles \$109,000
Remod 1 br unit in great complex. Big kit, restore w/cust cabs, new counters, appl. Spacious liv rm, w/sliders to balc. New carpet & paint.



Niles \$104,900
Largest 1 br corner unit at Terrace Square. Freshly painted w/neutral decor. Eat-in kit. Spacious liv/din rooms. Large brs w/closet space.



Niles \$79,000
Bright 2 br, 2 ba end-unit w/formal dining room & balcony with grill allowed! Many windows. Same flr laundry and storage. Plentiful closets.



Morton Grove \$70,000
Bright top flr E facing unit w/open flr plan. 2 vast CA closets, pantry, 2 elevators, coin laundry on each flr, storage & hld covered gar.

Norma LoPresti 847-724-5800

Marzena Sassak 312-502-0411

Barbara Mundt 847-384-5805

Eileen Katz 847-560-6674

Wesley Walligora 847-272-9880

Bella Belcheva 5500Lincoln-514E.info 847-864-2600

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Local News

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THIS WEEK: MEET YOUR DISTRICT 64 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES | OBITUARY: SUN-TIMES' JAMES TYREE REMEMBERED | SCHOOLS: DISTRICT 63 EYES SALARY FREEZE | COURTS: EX-SWANCC CHIEF CHARGED

VILLAGE FINANCE Tentative Niles budget projects \$1.6M deficit

By TRACY GRUEN Contributor

The first of two public budget workshops for the tentative fiscal year 2012 budget that includes a proposed 7.5-percent increase in the water rate was held March 16.

In order to increase transparency this is the second year the village is holding open budget meetings.

The fiscal year 2012 budget covers May 1, 2011, until April 30, 2012. The proposed 7.5-percent increase in the water rate would amount to a \$46-per-year increase for the average homeowner in Niles. The draft of the budget includes a proposed \$5.7-million deficit.

"I think if there's ever a time not to raise rates it's now," said village Trustee Alan Weel. Trustee Joseph LoVerde was also concerned about raising the water rate during these tough economic times.

Projected revenues in the water fund are \$11,968,087 and expenses are \$13,194,898. Due to the historic blizzard the past winter there are several water-main projects that need to be done, including on Keeney from Harlem to Waukegan at a cost of \$500,000; Cleveland Street from Harlem to Waukegan at a cost of \$400,000; and Main Street from Harlem to Sherman at a cost of \$360,000.

The rate increase is expected to bring in about \$780,000 that will go toward funding projects in the water fund, such as the water-main projects.

In November, village staff began formal planning for the upcoming budget year and between December and mid-Jan-

ST. MATTHEWS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN JAPANESE PRESCHOOL Children hold fundraiser for earthquake, tsunami victims

By TRACY GRUEN Contributor

Students of St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Japanese Preschool in Niles gave a meaningful and heart-warming performance at Mitsuya Market in Arlington Heights on Sunday.

As part of the fundraiser hosted by the preschool, the young children sang songs in Japanese and the 5- and 6-year-olds along with graduates of St. Matthews performed Okinawan dances to show their support for Japan and those affected by the earthquake and tsunami tragedy.

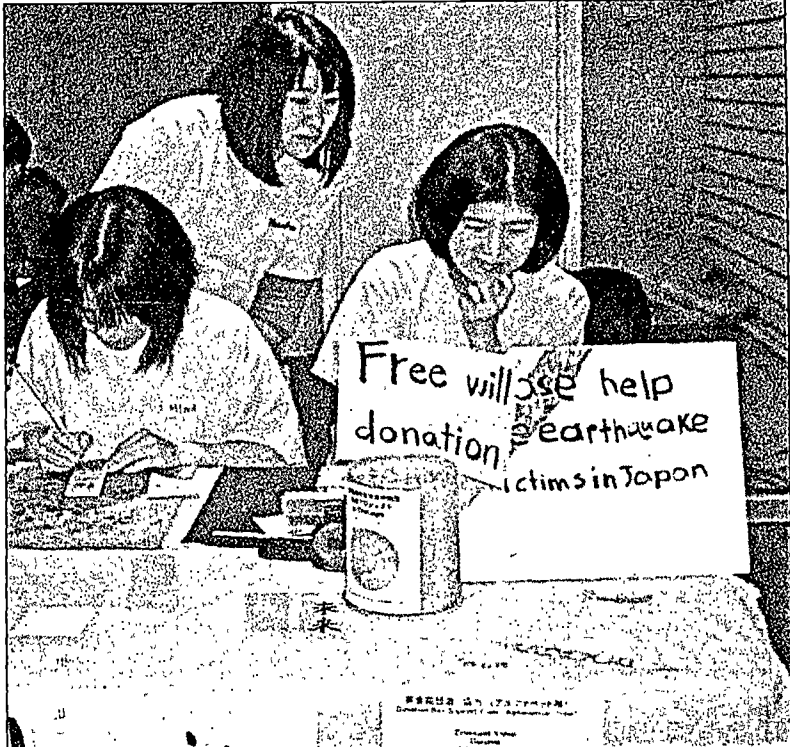
"Many of the students in Japan may have lost their schools," said Minori Yamaki, director of the Japanese preschool, to the large audience. "Today, my students are singing their graduation song for those who weren't able to graduate because of the tsunami."

Yamaki said that when the earthquake and tsunami struck Japan many of the parents of the students had a hard time contacting their relatives in Japan. To show the kids they can do something to help, the school set up a collection jar for donations to be sent to the Japanese Consulate.

St. Matthews offers a Japanese preschool that includes about 30 families, many of whom have one parent from Japan who is working at a company in the United States, and an English preschool.

When the school contacted Mitsuya Market about the fundraising event they were pleased to hold the event at their store. Throughout the store there were activities for children, such as making Origami cranes and balloon making. A Japanese artist was painting peoples' names on a piece of wood to give to those who made donations. At the main entrance, children were holding signs and asking for donations as people walked into Mitsuya Market.

"They know what happened," said



Parents of students who attend St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Japanese Preschool in Niles work at a table where a Japanese artist was painting people's names in Kanji on pieces of wood for those who made donations. | Tracy Gruen-For Sun-Times Media

Yamaki, who noted educators aren't emphasizing the tragic events that took place in Japan to young students. "We are more focused on what they can do."

Yamaki said she believes the students are learning an important lesson about coming together to help people in times of need.

Makiko Sato, a parent of a student at the school, said her hometown is only 18 miles away from a nuclear plant. She was very sad to hear that her elementary school and junior high were both destroyed in the tsunami. Luckily, her family who resides in a home on a hill was unharmed. She said her family saw the tsunami coming.

"My brother said it's a ghost town basically," said Sato, who noted that the situation was very difficult to accept.

"We're very devastated by the situation," said Marty Foley, of Chicago, whose 4-year old son performed at the event.

Foley said the parents of his wife, Mika, live in Tokyo.

"We're very worried about them and how they are handling the situation with the radiation," Foley said. Masako Mayahara also has a child in the Niles Japanese preschool program.

"Everybody was so devastated," Mayahara said. "I couldn't watch any more television because it hurt me so much."

Mayahara said Sunday's fundraiser was a "wonderful outlet" for the parents and community members to do what they could to help, despite being so far away.

Yamaki said she is very fortunate to have such kindhearted students.

Sun-Times Media, Mesirow Financial chief Jim Tyree

By Chris Fusco and David Roeder
Sun-Times Media



James Tyree in 2009 | Joseph P.Meier-Sun-Times Media

Services were held Monday and Tuesday for James C. Tyree, chairman and CEO of Mesirow Financial and the chairman of Sun-Times Media, who died March 16 after battling cancer for several months. He was 53.

"With a heavy heart, I am saddened to tell you that our leader and friend, Jim Tyree, has passed away," said Richard S. Price, president and chief operating officer of Mesirow Financial.

"Jim was truly one-of-a-kind; an amazing leader and great friend to so many," Price said. "He made an indelible impression on each one of us at Mesirow Financial, and our hearts are broken. We will honor him by continuing his legacy and following the tenets that he taught us. Because of Jim's leadership, he has prepared us well to band together and get through this difficult time."

Mr. Tyree announced in October that cancer had been found in his stomach and that he would undergo chemotherapy. Earlier this month, Tyree was hospitalized with pneumonia.

was listed as pneumonia, and metastatic cancer of the stomach.

The medical examiner said Tyree had been treated at University of Chicago Hospitals.

A lifelong Chicagoan with a history of civic involvement, Mr. Tyree, grew up in the Beverly neighborhood on the South Side, and attended St. Barnabas elementary school and Marist High School.

He took classes in the City Colleges of Chicago system in high school — a move he said enabled him to get a bachelor's degree in three years from Illinois State University, from which he also has an M.B.A.

Mr. Tyree paid his way through college, getting an academic scholarship and grants and working a summer job as a forklift operator. During the school year, he worked for the ISU campus recreation department.

He joined Mesirow, a diversified financial services firm, in 1980. Beginning as a research associate, he was named president of the firm in 1990, chief executive officer in 1992 and chairman and chief executive officer in 1994.

Under his leadership, Mesirow acquired some 50 firms, such as the U.S. Corporate Recovery practice from KPMG LLP, Dann Insurance and Boockford & Company, and Stein & Company, a real estate organization.

In 2000 — decades after he took City Colleges of Chicago courses in high school — Mayor Daley appointed him board chairman of the City Colleges system, a position he held for 10 years.

In October 2009, Mr. Tyree led an investment group that took the parent company of the Chicago Sun-Times and several suburban publications out of bankruptcy.

"In addition to being one of the most prominent businessmen in Chicago, Jim was a tireless supporter of Sun-Times Media and all of our newspapers," said Jeremy L. Halbreich, Sun-Times Media chief executive officer. "It was his vision and effort that brought our company out of bankruptcy and gave us all the bright future that we have today."

Survivors include his wife, Eve, a daughter, Jessica, 11, and twin 9-year-old sons, Matthew and Joseph.

MAINE TOWNSHIP

County vehicle stickers on sale

Cook County vehicle stickers for 2011-12 are now on sale for all residents of unincorporated Maine Township.

Stickers may be purchased at Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge.

Cost of the annual Wheel Tax

Sticker is \$40 for regular passenger vehicles, \$50 for larger passenger vehicles and between \$50 and \$115 for trucks, depending on size and weight. Motorcycle stickers are \$25 and stickers for noncommercial recreational trailers are \$30.

There is also a \$2 fee to cover

processing. Stickers for seniors and people who have disabilities are free.

Stickers must be purchased by unincorporated Maine Township residents and displayed on the windshield of their vehicles by July 1 to avoid tickets, which can be issued by Cook County Sher-

iff's Police.

The Maine Township Clerk's Office, which is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, will also be open from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays during June.

For more information call (847) 297-2510.

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

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LAST WEEK

TOP WEB STORIES

1. Woman's death not believed related to traffic crash

The death of an elderly northwest urban woman a day after she was involved in a traffic crash in Niles was not believed to be a result of the accident, police said.

2. Warren finishes off Niles North at Waukegan BOYS BASKETBALL

— The comeback kids from Niles North couldn't March 15 at Waukegan.

3. Field School: Variety show benefits student programs

The Parent-Teacher Organization at Field School in Park Ridge is presenting the 57th annual Variety Show during two weekends.

4. District 64: Parents rally around beleaguered daycare

Parents of children who attend Child Care with Confidence at Jefferson School in Niles have been sending e-mails to Park Ridge-Niles District 64 officials to urge them to allow the daycare to continue operating.

5. Niles Village Board Of Trustees

The April 5 election for Village of Niles Board of Trustees includes a race for three seats with a four-year term and a race for one seat with a two-year term.

Read these and other articles at pioneerlocal.com/niles

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DISTRICT 64 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

Two candidates are running for a two-year term on the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education, and five candidates are running for three four-year terms. The following are candidates' responses to a questionnaire from Pioneer Press.



Kristie Bavaro

2-year Term, One open seat

KRISTIE BAVARO

Personal information

Resident of Park Ridge for 25 years; parent of two children attending Emerson Middle School.

utilized to support District 64 in preparing children with competencies they need for future growth.

Knowledge of school finance

As president and owner of a company I understand the challenges that come with designing balanced budgets. I think it is important to maintain high standards of education for our children while creating measures for accountability.

SCOTT ZIMMERMAN

Personal information

Resident of Park Ridge for eight years; parent of children attending Washington School.

Civic involvement

Appointed to the District 64 School Board in August 2010; mentor through DePaul University's Alumni Association; youth and high school sports coach.

Why he's running

My primary reason is simply a desire to serve our schoolchildren, ensure they receive the best education possible and give back to my community. Also, as a homeowner and taxpayer I want to make certain that money is spent wisely and effectively on education. I also know how much time it takes the board to get a new member up-to-speed and effective.

I feel it is important for more female voices to be heard on the board. As mothers, we sometimes have a different intuitive sense of what is needed for our children. I am committed to listening to the community's needs with compassion and will be the voice of those who feel unheard. My work background is assisting public and private organizations create positive cultures, which enhance the productivity within their organizations. Many of these skills are transferable and can be

used to support District 64 in preparing children with competencies they need for future growth.

DAN COLLINS



Scott Zimmerman

officer and senior vice president of business processes for CenterPoint Properties. I've learned how to effectively communicate and work with people of different ages, experience levels, backgrounds and ranks within the organization. I am also a member of our company's investment committee, which must understand, analyze and vote upon every real estate investment, often totaling in the hundreds of millions of dollars. I have also served at the board level for several other organizations.

Knowledge of school finance

Since being appointed to the Board of Education last summer I have spent a substantial amount of my time learning school district finance. I've studied James Fritts' "Essentials of Illinois School Finance," read and reread the contents of our board books, pored through the district's annual budget and financial projection models and routinely communicated with the district's business manager. I would say that I am comfortable with the material and understand the major topics, but I have much to learn.

Knowledge of school finance

I have a bachelor's degree in finance and an MBA in strategy and marketing. I have spent time discussing the current board financial situation with both (Superintendent) Dr. (Philip) Bender and (Business Manager) Rebecca Allard. Based on my academic background, professional experience and district conversations, I will be fully prepared to immediately offer insight on budgeting and finance.

4-year Term, 3 open seats

DAN COLLINS

Personal information

Resident of Park Ridge for seven years; parent of two children at Roosevelt school.

Civic involvement

Served on the Development Board of Marillac House in Chicago and currently serves as a student

Skills he brings

I am the chief information



mentor there; served as a professional mentor at DePaul University's School of New Learning.

Why he's running

I want to ensure we continue to offer our children a "best-in-class" education in traditional academic courses while also introducing them to the arts, music and other courses that encourage higher order thought processes.

Skills he brings

The District 64 school board is going to need to prepare for some large capital expenditures for both technology and facility improvements. I have extensive professional experience in corporate strategy, planning and finance. I will assist District 64 in clearly articulating goals, prioritizing projects, establishing performance metrics and implementing financially sound budgeting to ensure we exceed the community's expectations.

Knowledge of school finance

I have a bachelor's degree in finance and an MBA in strategy and marketing. I have spent time discussing the current board financial situation with both (Superintendent) Dr. (Philip) Bender and (Business Manager) Rebecca Allard. Based on my academic background, professional experience and district conversations, I will be fully prepared to immediately offer insight on budgeting and finance.

JOHN HEYDE

Personal information

Resident of Park Ridge for 12 years; parent of one child at Franklin school; two older children now attend Maine South High School.

Civic involvement

Member of the District 64 school board since 2007 and currently serving as presi-

Knowledge of school finance

I bring a lawyer's training, a proficiency with financial issues, comfort in working with others to achieve common goals and a belief that even the best organizations always have room to improve. I also bring experience, including two years as board president.



Dan Collins



Marshall Warren



John Heyde



Eugenia (Genie) Taddeo

dent; past member of the District 64 Community Finance Committee; served on the steering committee for Citizens for Strong Schools which campaigned for a successful 2007 referendum.

Why he's running

I am running for a second term because I am still excited about improving education for our children. In the last four years we have kept the district financially sound despite the recession and we have launched a five-year strategic plan that will accelerate our use of technology, ensure that all of our children are asked to meet personally challenging goals, better differentiate instruction and work better with our community.

Skills he brings

I bring a lawyer's training, a proficiency with financial issues, comfort in working with others to achieve common goals and a belief that even the best organizations always have room to improve. I also bring experience, including two years as board president.

Knowledge of school finance

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I volunteered on the district's Community Finance Committee and as a board member I have paid close attention to finances and emphasized the need to review a long-term financial forecast every year as part of the district's budgeting process.

MARSHALL WARREN

Personal information

Resident of Park Ridge for seven years; also grew up in Park Ridge; parent of two children at Field School.

Civic involvement

Park Ridge soccer division coordinator and coach; park district basketball coach; secretary to Park Ridge Indian Princess organization.

Why he's running

Taxpayers deserve to have a choice when they vote for board of education members. I have had many conversations with district parents and taxpayers and we have agreed there is room for improvement on how our concerns are being represented. Serving as a member

Knowledge of school finance

I bring a lawyer's training, a proficiency with financial issues, comfort in working with others to achieve common goals and a belief that even the best organizations always have room to improve. I also bring experience, including two years as board president.

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SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF NORTHERN COOK COUNTY

Ex-waste agency chief stole \$900K, prosecutors allege

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The former director of a suburban agency that manages the removal of solid waste collected from 23 member communities has been charged with stealing more than \$900,000 from the agency by allegedly submitting tuition-reimbursement requests for courses at top universities he never attended.

Christopher Brooke Beal, 47, of Chicago, the former executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) was arrested earlier this month by Glenview police and charged with theft of government property, a Class X felony punishable by six to 30 years in prison, according to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

Beal, who led SWANCC from 1993 until his resignation the past fall, is accused of accepting nearly \$850,000 in payments from SWANCC by falsely claiming to have attended courses at several prestigious schools, including Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, the University of Chicago and the Harvard Kennedy School, the State's Attorney's Office stated. Beal also was reimbursed an additional \$102,764 in "general expenses," which turned out to be unauthorized payments for personal trips and his membership to a private social club, the office said.

The thefts were discovered when a routine audit in September 2010 showed

a "large spike" in monthly expenses paid to Beal, State's Attorney Anita Alvarez said at a press conference. During the 2009-10 fiscal year, Beal was reportedly paid \$317,900 in employee expenses for educational reimbursement.

When the auditor contacted Beal seeking documentation that he had received approval for the educational expenses, he allegedly supplied a fraudulent e-mail from a SWANCC executive. SWANCC officials subsequently contacted the State's Attorney's Office, which in cooperation with the Glenview Police Department launched an investigation and determined that Beal had never attended the schools from which he received tuition reimbursement, authorities said.

At Beal's bond hearing a Cook County prosecutor alleged that Beal admitted he had submitted bogus expense requests because he was angry with his employers. Some of the stolen money was given away to relatives, the prosecutor said.

SWANCC's funding is largely paid through taxpayer dollars from member municipalities. The not-for-profit agency operates a transfer station in Glenview, where commercial solid-waste companies dispose of waste in order for it to be delivered to a landfill.

SWANCC members within Pioneer Press' coverage area include the communities of Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Evanston, Glencoe, Glen-

view, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge, Skokie, South Barrington, Wilmette and Winnetka.

George Van Dusen, chairman of the SWANCC Executive Board and mayor of the village of Skokie, said the alleged thefts "will not result in any fee or tax implication" to the individual communities that are SWANCC members. SWANCC leaders will be pursuing civil action in an effort to receive full restitution of the stolen funds, Van Dusen said.

"We support all efforts to regain every single penny taken from our agency and the taxpayers we represent," he said.

Alvarez called the case a "sad example of public corruption."

Van Dusen said that when the suspicious reimbursements were discovered last year, Beal was suspended by the agency. He resigned from his \$160,000-per-year position a week later, Van Dusen said.

SWANCC has typically budgeted between \$25,000 and \$40,000 annually for professional development, Van Dusen said last year following Beal's suspension. The money is used to reimburse staff for education and courses at the executive director's recommendation and with the approval of the agency's treasurer.

Bond for Beal was set at \$500,000 by Cook County Circuit Court Judge Larry Axelrod. His next court date is April 1.

—Staff Writer Lynne Stiefel contributed.

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SCHOOL FINANCE

Salary freeze could follow staff, program cuts in District 63

By NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor

With more than two dozen jobs in jeopardy hundreds of teachers and other staff packed Nelson School's auditorium March 9 as the East Maine School District 63 Board of Education voted to eliminate programs and staff positions to alleviate some of its budget problems.

The board now seeks to freeze or reduce salaries to save an additional \$1.1 million.

At the recommendation of a special financial task force formed the past fall, the board unanimously approved changing the start times at three schools, eliminating the gifted program and reducing the staff of literary specialists, social workers, psychologists and speech-language pathologists.

Other approved cutbacks

include eliminating a disciplinary room at Gemini Junior High School, eliminating the technology-integration specialist position and cutting costs related to occupational/physical therapy, the state pre-kindergarten program, software, travel and lodging for trainings, and a staff-recognition event. The total savings would be \$1.6 million.

Some board members expressed anguish at the decisions they had to make.

"No school district should ever have to be put into this position," said member Sheila Urban. "But realistically, everybody here knows that's not the case because lots of school districts are dealing with it."

Administrators said staffing and program changes are necessary regardless of the district's financial conundrum.

"Service-delivery models need to change," said Mary Meduna, director of special services. Whether "we like it or not," she said, the economic downturn is forcing the district to look at its staffing according to its actual needs.

Regarding the elimination of the gifted program, administrators reassured the board that teachers will be trained on how to identify and work with students in the classroom who need additional enrichment. The gifted program now is based on a separate curriculum that students participate in outside their regular classrooms.

"It was never a program we were fully satisfied with to begin with," said Charlene Cobb, executive director of teaching and learning.

Before the motion for a roll-call vote, board president Jane Wojtkiewicz said:

"It's typical for both households and school districts to re-examine how you operate" when confronted with hardship.

Wojtkiewicz added: "It is a tough situation but it is good we're looking at this." She said it will be the responsibility of staff to advise whether program and staff changes work.

"We know that we won't let our kids flounder," Wojtkiewicz said. "We trust that our administrators will speak up to express the needs of their students."

The board separately voted in favor of increasing class sizes to an average of 28 students per room in the elementary grades and 30 at the junior high, which will result in \$700,000 in savings.

The task force had recommended not considering class-size increases until the 2012-13 school year but it was brought forward to

vote on for the upcoming year as a result of discussions during a Feb. 23 committee of the whole meeting.

Before the vote board member Janet Kaczowski said: "Increasing class-size ratios just literally makes me sick to my stomach."

"I really hope something can be done so we don't touch classroom size. It should be an absolute last resort."

Still, Kaczowski voted to increase class sizes. Board member Urban was the sole dissenting voice.

Much to the dismay of school staff and union representatives present at the meeting, the board also unanimously approved a request to the bargaining units of District 63 to reopen contract negotiations for the purpose of reducing or freezing salaries of all employees.

The district cannot change wages without first

reaching an agreement with the district's four bargaining unions for teachers, custodial and maintenance workers, teaching assistants and educational support personnel.

Teachers-union representatives felt particularly upset that the board voted to request reopening their contracts after approving to increase class sizes. Board member Walter Gluzkin had requested to amend the recommendation to reopen contract negotiations with the stipulation that the district would return to current levels of class sizes upon discussion with the unions.

"It was 'You do this or we do that,'" said Hilary Liese, president of the East Maine Educators Association. "There was a better way of doing it."

District 63, PAGE 8

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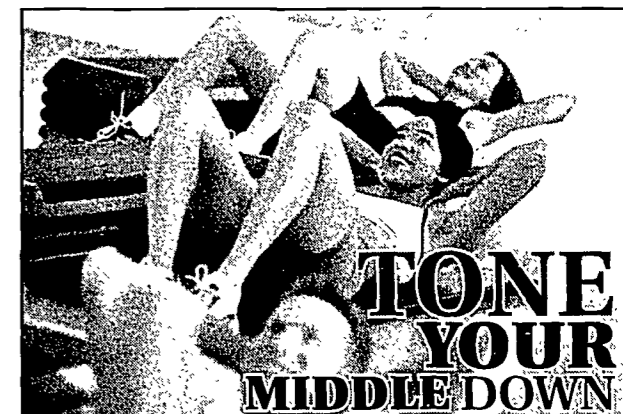
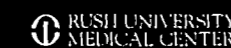
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DISTRICT 219

Positive signs, but no agreement on teacher cuts

By **PAT KROCHMAL**
pkrochmal@pioneerlocal.com

Both Niles Township District 219's Board of Education and the Niles Township Federation of Teachers representatives left last week's meeting, the latest in a flurry of talks designed to retain 10 tenured teacher posts slated for cuts, with positive things to say.

Superintendent Nanciann Gatta said the day's talks were "productive" and the discussions will continue. And Pankaj Sharma, union president and

a Niles North teacher, said they "made progress, but nothing is finalized yet."

The discussion has centered on the resolution of a difference of interpretation in the tentative contract agreement. When representatives of the district and the teachers union met March 8, their negotiations to save the jobs of 10 tenured teachers fell apart, leaving the proposal unsigned.

"The objective truth would be that there is a disagreement over the interpretation of one part of the agreement. It depends on

your perspective. There is a line written in there that we interpret one way and we feel we are right. They interpret it another way and they feel they are right. We have to come together and resolve this," he added. However, both sides declined to be more specific about the source of the disagreement.

Robert Silverman, the board's president, said March 8 that the board had scheduled that meeting with the full intention of agreeing to the contractual language and signing the agreement, but the union

was not ready to sign the contract.

"The change (the union) was asking to make was significant and it's not what we agreed to in the tentative agreement," Silverman added.

However, Sharma disagreed with that statement.

"I disagree with the part about us asking for significant change. They can say we're asking for significant change. We can say they are asking for significant change. We have a different interpretation of what we agreed to," Sharma said.

District

Continued from PAGE 7

Liese said officials should have talked to the unions before voting to increase class sizes.

EMEA Vice President Eva Peralgulut said District 63 teachers are paid less compared to neighboring districts. According to the Family Taxpayers Foundation, which collects and publishes data from the Illinois State

Board of Education on public-school employees' compensation, the average salary of District 63 teachers is \$57,969.

The district is in its third year of a five-year contract with teachers guaranteeing average annual salary

increases of more than 5 percent.

"We're people, too, but we're expected to give beyond the demands," Peralgulut, who teaches sixth grade, said. "We have families, we pay taxes and we have lives, too."



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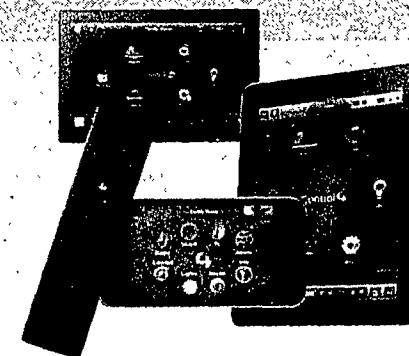
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DISTRICT 64 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE Q-AND-A

Two candidates are running for a two-year term on the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education, and five candidates are running for three four-year terms. The following are candidates' responses to a questionnaire from Pioneer Press.

Would you support going to referendum if the district's financial health takes a downturn?

TWO-YEAR TERM

Kristie Bavaro

To best serve the students' needs and the economic growth of our community, we need to maintain accountability and scrutiny to the budget and find creative solutions that will support where our schools are going. We must anticipate how education may change through the use of technology and adjust our strategic plan (and budget) based on that. If all other options were exhausted and I felt there was a significant risk to the quality of education, then I would consider going to referendum.

Scott Zimmerman

I'm committed to honoring the board's promise from the 2007 referendum to live within its means, and I have every confidence we can control spending and keep that promise. However, it is impossible to predict the future so I believe it is the board's primary responsibility to ensure the educational integrity of the district. People move here for the schools. It is the primary reason for our higher property values and, as such, the board must keep these priorities in mind when making any decision.

FOUR-YEAR TERM

Dan Collins

In recent years, the voters approved a referendum to improve our schools and District 64 made a commitment not to seek a referendum before 2017. By utilizing my finance and planning experience in the private business sector, I will ensure we honor that commitment while still exceeding residents' expectations. I plan to bring a process for clearly prioritizing projects, establishing a timeline for facility improvements, and better preparing for large capital expenditures to ensure we stay within our budget without an additional referendum.

John Heyde

During the 2007 referendum cam-



Kristie Bavaro

paigned, we told voters that we expected to keep the district in good financial shape for at least 10 years, and the district since then has committed to not return to the voters, absent "dire, unforeseen" circumstances, until 2017 or after. I support that commitment. The district is in sound financial shape, although continued strong management will be needed to keep it so.

Marshall Warren

I would only support a referendum to increase property taxes if the district's health takes a dramatic downturn. If such a downturn occurred, I would need assurances from the superintendent that the funds raised would go exclusively for a precisely defined set of needed physical-plant projects such as flooding remediation, boiler replacement, air-conditioning installation, roof replacement and blacktop repaving.

Eugenia (Genie) Taddeo

My duty as a board member is to measure the cost of every decision and its effect on the budget. With this vigilance, we will postpone the inevitable need for a referendum. At some point we will need to consider asking for a referendum and when that time comes I will know that I have done all I could do to forestall the need. Unfortunately, Illinois law has been structured to cause school boards to go to the public periodically for needed funding.

Anthony Borrelli

Without long-range financial planning, finances will force the board to go back to the well. It is essential to provide changes to the financial picture to anticipate no new referendum from the increasingly taxed populace in the future. I would operate under a worst-case scenario and not expect a referendum to pass in the future. Therefore, I would attempt to place the district in a sound fi-



Scott Zimmerman

nancial footing to be able to operate without one. **How do you feel about the effectiveness of current district policies regarding bullying and cyberbullying?**

TWO-YEAR TERM

Kristie Bavaro

Families and the school system must work together to stop this abusive behavior. Parents, teachers and administrators need to model that bullying is unacceptable behavior. We also need to empower and reward students who address bullying at the peer level. They can set the tone that it's "not cool" and not "acceptable." We have to better protect our children and we have to recognize that bullying does not just affect isolated or socially awkward children. It occurs at all levels of the social hierarchy.

Scott Zimmerman

This is a complex and quickly evolving issue, which makes it challenging for schools, parents, police and the community as a whole to keep up and respond effectively. The district has reasonable policies in place that are adhered to, but clearly there is room for improvement. A committee has been assembled with representatives from all constituencies and I eagerly await their findings and recommendations so we can collectively develop improvements to our policies.

FOUR-YEAR TERM

Dan Collins

Bullying in our schools should be taken very seriously and absolutely no form of it should be tolerated. I would like to see one person of the senior management team of District 64 responsible for identifying and coordinating anti-bullying activity. Through collaboration with the



District 64 board this senior leader will improve actions against cyberbullying through better understanding, educating the positive uses of technology, ensuring multiple, uncomplicated ways to report cyberbullying and evaluating and improving policies and practices.

John Heyde

District 64 has made civil behavior and educating the whole child cornerstones of its educational program for many years now. Eliminating bullying is part of the curriculum, as is appropriate use of technology. Our schools also actively watch for signs of bullying and we present programs for parents and students on these topics. We need to continue these active efforts and make clear that we will not tolerate bullying, even when it occurs online.

Marshall Warren

There does not appear to be a protocol in place for a rapid district response to allegations of bullying. When bullying occurs, parents and taxpayers need to have confidence that the district has a system for addressing grievances. Students grade 2 and up should receive annual instruction on the district's policy on bullying. Administration should partner with PTOs and other student-centered organizations to educate our children. Parents need to be fully engaged in this issue and take responsibility for their children's healthy use of electronic media.

Eugenia (Genie) Taddeo

District 64 has worked to educate parents, students and staff about technology and its safe use. There is curriculum to support that. We also have a vital and strong Civil Behavior program that is woven into the curriculum at all grade levels and includes the technology aspect. The district policy addresses these issues. It's important to review the effectiveness of the curriculum and be certain it is up to date with rapidly changing technology and to continue to educate our staff, children and parents.

Anthony Borrelli

After reviewing the District 64



Dan Collins



Marshall Warren

handbook, I feel that the district has a sound basis for evaluation of misconduct and bullying. However, there is no cyberbullying policy within its context. Cyberbullying policy must be added to the district handbook to encompass new technology, which serves as a conduit for potential misconduct. There are state laws regarding this occurrence and I insist these be added to district policy.

How should flooding mitigation be addressed at the schools that require it?

TWO-YEAR TERM

Kristie Bavaro

Flooding mitigation needs to be addressed in areas that are causing unhealthy or unsafe environments for students, staff and administration. In any area that affects the safety of individuals, we are required to take a proactive approach to mitigate future liability.

Scott Zimmerman

It should be viewed as one of our highest facility requirements and fixed immediately. It is simply unacceptable that we have rooms and auditoriums within our schools that go unused because of this problem, especially when space is at such a premi-



John Heyde



Eugenia (Genie) Taddeo

um, not to mention health issues related to mold, etc. The hiring of a new facility manager combined with the preliminary plans I've seen to address the issue, make me optimistic that we should see significant improvements soon.

FOUR-YEAR TERM

Dan Collins

We should prioritize flooding concerns by importance. It appears the most immediate issues of flooding occur in the parking lots at Carpenter and Franklin. Jefferson and Emerson should also be included on our list. The school board should hire a certified drainage engineer to recommend steps to correct the problems. Once approved by the board, requests to bid should be sent to experienced drainage contractors. The board and administration will then choose the most knowledgeable and price-competitive drainage contractor to correct the highest-priority projects.

John Heyde

District 64 spends between \$1 million and \$1.6 million each year on maintenance and other projects at our schools. This

Election, PAGE 11

DISTRICT 64

School officials offer to help daycare plead case to assessor

Tenant of 28 years hit with bill for \$50,000 in back taxes

By TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

The Park Ridge-Niles District 64 Board of Education will work with Child Care for Confidence to appeal the troubled daycare's \$50,000 tax bill.

The board on Feb. 28 voted to terminate its lease with Child Care with Confidence, which has rented space from the district at Jefferson School in Niles for 28 years.

Since that meeting many parents of children enrolled at Child Care with Confidence sent e-mails to the school district, urging officials to keep the daycare operating. Daycare director Lois Fisher was out of the country when the board made its initial decision so she approached officials at their meeting on March 14.

Board President John Heyde said the board would support the daycare in appealing its taxes. Cook County is requiring the daycare to pay more than \$50,000 in back taxes for 2008 to 2009; the daycare suddenly received its first tax bill in December.

"We've told our staff we want them to work with Child Care with Confidence, going to the assessor's office and seeing if we can convince the assessor that as a 501(c)(3) they

shouldn't pay any taxes," Heyde said after the meeting.

District 64 paid the daycare's first tax bill of \$7,200, but Fisher told the board at the March 14 meeting that she planned to pay the district back in a timely manner, giving two specific payment dates.

"We think it's a good gesture of faith on her part and we thank her for it," Heyde said.

"Never once have I not paid a bill," Fisher said. "We are an honest business."

Fisher said her tax return lists the daycare as a "full service day school," but the district listed it as a "special commercial structure."

The gym at Lincoln school was packed with parents of children who attend the daycare and want it to remain.

"I'm a wife, a mother, a grandmother and yet I devoted a large part of my life to these families and children," said Fisher, who applauded loudly after she was finished speaking.

Bobbi Potratz, who has a 20-year-old and 23-year-old who both attended the daycare from the age of six weeks to five years, said: "My children's successes are their (the daycare's) successes."

Potratz said there's no way she would have been able to keep her teaching job without Child Care with Confidence.

"I urge you to do whatever you can to keep them here," Potratz said.

APPOINTMENTS

New pair of principals join District 64

By TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

The Park Ridge-Niles District Board of Education confirmed the appointments of Susan Cahail as the new principal of Field School and James Morrison as the new principal at Emerson Middle School at a March 14 meeting.

Cahail is succeeding Kathy Creely, who is retiring at the end of the school year. Cahail has been the leader of Red Oak Elementary School in North Shore School District 112 in Highland Park since 2007. Before that she was a principal and assistant principal

at Scott Elementary School in Mannheim District 83, in Franklin Park, for three years.

"We believe Ms. Cahail's concentration on each student's personal growth will carry forward the Field School commitment to help children continually perform at their personal best," District 64 Superintendent Philip Bender stated in a news release.

Bender said in the release that he feels Cahail's use of technology to improve effective communication, as well as her emphasis on being open and transparent with the community, makes her just right for the

job. Cahail was also a mentor-teacher in the Chicago Public Schools system. She was selected among a pool of 76 applicants.

Morrison will succeed Vicki Mogil, who is retiring after being the leader of Emerson Middle School since it opened.

Previously, Morrison was the principal at Lincoln Junior High School for seven years. His career also includes being the assistant principal of Gemini Junior High School in East Maine School District 63 for three years. Before that he worked for Pennoyer School District 79 and

taught math, science and physical education, and was a coach and athletic director, as well.

Morrison created the Response to Intervention program at his school, which is a significant educational goal of District 64, as well.

"We believe Mr. Morrison's lengthy experience working with young adolescents and his active, energetic and visible style will be a good fit for Emerson, with its tradition of strong leadership and high educational goals," Bender said in a news release.

Morrison was selected from a pool of 77 applicants.

Election

Continued from PAGE 10

year, our superintendent has recommended that the district spend this yearly budget on projects to prevent flooding and water damage at Carpenter School and Franklin School, and I support those projects. In the longer term, the district will develop a facilities master plan that prioritizes the many important projects to our schools, from flood mitigation to heating to air-conditioning.

Marshall Warren

Expediently and with a long-term plan. The Board of Education should prompt school administration to work with the city of Park Ridge and the Park Ridge (Recreation and) Park District to develop a plan to address it.

Eugenia (Genie) Taddeo

Clearly flooding needs to be addressed. I am looking for a solution that cost-effectively gets to the problem and solves it. I don't want to just "try" something and hope it works. A survey of building needs is long-overdue so we can approach our aging facilities intelligently and not reactively and we are working on that now.

Anthony Borrelli

Flood prevention, mold elimination, adequate lighting and sufficient heating/cooling are all essential to quality of life and performance, whether at home, work

or school. I will not allow our children to function in what is potentially a hazardous situation. Like many other folks in this community, my home has flooded twice in the last eight years. Flooding is a problem in this area. Forethought and action by budget reallocation must be done to mitigate this negative natural event.

Do you support the strategic plan adopted by the school board and the cost associated with the activities to be implemented?

TWO-YEAR TERM

Kristie Bavaro

I would challenge the board to continue to be more innovative in visioning the changes ahead. We have added additional staff, but I would challenge whether this is what is needed. The strategic plan needs to be adaptable so it can respond to changes happening in our economy. It is important to look at all the expenses in the plan to assure taxpayers that the investment is what is needed. We need to make sure our curriculum truly prepares kids for the global workforce.

Scott Zimmerman

I was a member of one of the teams that developed the details for the plan. Therefore, it's fair to say that I am a supporter of the plan. It's important for a school district to periodically refresh its goals and objectives

Marshall Warren

The first line of the strategic plan's parameters section states: "We will always maintain safe, supportive learning environments." This academic year we have learned that this is not the case. The plan does not contain a section on addressing the district's eroding physical plant and this strikes me as a significant oversight. Until the district can ensure that our schools are free of flooding, mold infestation and poorly functioning heating and cooling, all other discretionary expenditures should be deferred.

Eugenia (Genie) Taddeo

Yes, absolutely. Following the passing of the referendum, I felt that the board had a responsibility to the taxpayers, children and staff to have a plan that reflects the Park Ridge-Niles values and expectations for public education. The strategic plan is a systematic means of delivering that by looking beyond doing things the way they've always been done. It is in keeping with the district philosophy of educating the whole child and will empower children to define and reach their dreams and aspirations.

Anthony Borrelli

Aside from continual development of the technology infrastructure, the strategic plan seems redundant to established policy. I would enforce the current policy to its full extent to achieve the same goals without the added expense.

FOUR-YEAR TERM

Dan Collins

I commend District 64 in creating an inclusive plan where groups throughout the community were able to contribute. However, I would like to see District 64 take the next step: stating the key growth initiatives and challenges that are imperative for success. I would like to see District 64 establish scorecards for tracking key initiatives, detailing the status and progress for each initiative. Each initiative would be assigned to a senior member of administration who would report on its progress on the district website.

John Heyde

I served on the team that crafted the strategic plan and I believe it provides the district with a good road map for the next five years. The plan focuses our efforts around key issues such as technology and differentiating instruction so each student can learn and be challenged. The board must make sure we achieve these goals in a cost-effective manner; not every goal has to involve spending money. The board must also balance work on these goals with the need to maintain our facilities.



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District 64

Continued from PAGE 5

ber of the school board would enable me to give voice to the parents and taxpayers who expect appropriate financial management.

Skills he brings

I am a seasoned manager in education administration at the university level. I have strong critical-thinking, financial-management and problem-solving skills. My management experience spans business and finance, human resources, physical plant and fundraising.

Knowledge of school finance

I have a solid understanding of District 64's financial picture. I have attended board meetings throughout the year and have participated in a school district educational session offered by Superintendent Bender and budget manager Allard on district financing.

EUGENIA (GENIE) TADDEO

Personal information

Resident of Park Ridge for 18 years; parent of a child at Emerson Middle School; an older child now attends Maine South High School.

Civic involvement

Member of the District 64 School Board for six years; served three years on the Field School PTO; past member of the Park Ridge Juniors.

Why she's running

I am passionate about a quality public-school educa-

tion. There is still more work to be done to stay an exemplary district. The strategic plan is a great path but it needs implementation and probably some adjustment. As a six-year veteran I will add continuity and memory of those board discussions and decisions for a largely "youthful" board.

Skills she brings

I am a good and thorough listener, use an analytical approach to decision-making, ask questions for thorough understanding, am open-minded and fair, have an understanding of community and understand good business practices.

Knowledge of school finance

I understand budgets and the high points of school finance. During the last two negotiations I learned about collective-bargaining agreements and am aware how new contracts are negotiated and the effect on district finances.

ANTHONY BORRELLI

Personal information

Resident of Park Ridge for 21 years; parent of a child at Field School and another at Emerson Middle School.

Civic involvement

Member of the Park Ridge Public Library Board of Trustees for three years; local and national leader with the Indian Scouts organization; team leader of the Park Ridge Mural Restoration Committee.

Why he's running

I have spent considerable time performing an analysis

of district finances and I have great concerns. For example, the adopted operating fund budget for 2010-11 shows revenues have increased 2.9 percent while expenditures have increased by 9.53 percent. Analysis of yearly budgets extending from 2003 to 2009 show an overall increase of 23.98 percent in expenses while the tax-cap-mandated revenue has increased by only 2.55 percent on average per year. It is obvious that normal functions of the district cannot continue at this rate. As a business partner in my medical practice I am acutely aware of the need for necessary cost constraints and a judicious eye for spending.

Skills he brings

The ability to critically digest and analyze information is part of my training as a podiatric physician. My goal with the school board is to provide the funding and materials to our students to obtain the expected high outcomes that should come with that cost. As a member of the Park Ridge Public Library Board of Trustees I have had three years of experience working through the process of developing a strategic plan as well as helping to formulate operations and capital budgets.

Knowledge of school finance

I have a working understanding of the current finances with regards to specific funds, expenses and revenue through hours of evaluation of public documents and reaching out to public and private citizens for background information.

The following incidents were listed in 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.

POLICE BLOTTER

similar incident on March 11. The offender was issued a ticket for disorderly conduct.

DRUGS

Earl Parrish, 47, of 7900 block of North Caldwell, was arrested Friday for delivery of a controlled substance, possession of a marijuana with intent to deliver and possession of drug paraphernalia. His court date is April 12.

SUSPICIOUS AUTO

A woman told police her daughter was jogging March 16 at North Park in the 8500 block of Western Avenue in Park Ridge when she noticed a white van driving at a slow pace and allegedly following her. The victim reported that she made eye contact with the driver, a man, who then left.

DISTURBANCE

Someone on March 14 entered the Niles Family Fitness Center on the 900 block of Civic Center Drive and began yelling and using racial slurs, police said. The man alarmed members of the fitness center. The complainant said he did not want the offender to return due to a

DOMESTIC BATTERY

Sheryl King, 45, of 7627 N. Oketo, was arrested March 17 for domestic battery after allegedly tackling her daughter to the ground, grabbing her arm and throwing her dog upstairs, according to police reports. Bond was set at \$5,000. She had a Tuesday court date.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Someone broke the windows of a vehicle Saturday on the 8800 block of Washington and poured beer all over the interior. The damage is estimated at \$2,000.

The victim told police he believes the subjects are his son's enemies, police said.

THREATS

Someone reportedly sent threatening text messages March 14; police listed the site of the incident as being on the 6200 block of Gross Point Road. The victim told police her ex-girlfriend sent multiple messages implying she was going to show up at her workplace. The victim told police the subject has shown up at her place of employment before.

THEFT

Someone removed an iPhone from a room between March 14 and March 15 in a nursing home on the 6600 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. The phone was valued at \$600.

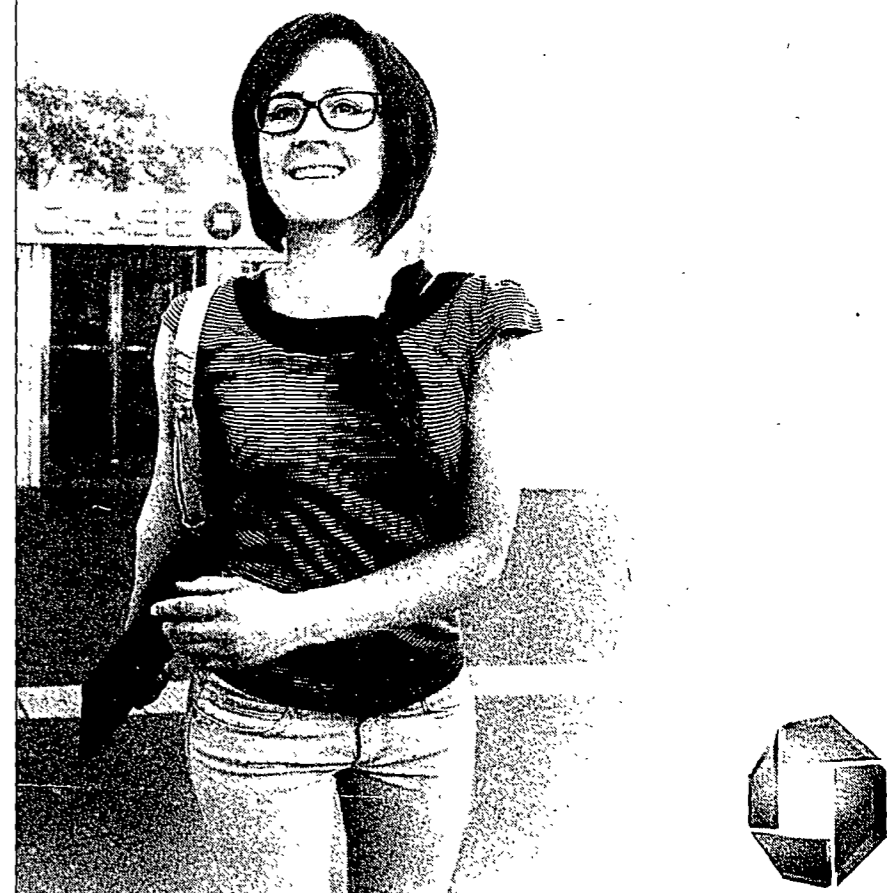
Someone removed 13 video games, a printer and a vacuum cleaner from a store March 15 on the 6100 block of Touhy Avenue without paying. The items were valued at \$1,368.86.

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Ivy May 847-913-3710	Jim Kontos 630-327-9136	John Dias 847-409-2382	Elena Dons 773-230-5985
4852 LAWDALE CHICAGO Motivated Seller! Nice, Large bright 3br/1.5 ba condo, in unit laundry. Dep util. close to train, bus, schools and restaurants. \$489,900	17046 BIRCHWOOD CHICAGO Completely renovated legal 4 unit building in a desirable rogers park neighborhood. All new kitchens with cherry cabinets. \$489,900	5155 MADISON SKOKIE UNBELIEVABLE PENTHOUSE UNIT with expansive living space and over 700 SF ROOFTOP TERRACE. \$320,000	11101 LAWDALE ELMHURST BRING YOUR PAINTBRUSH... House is being sold "As Is" and needs updating. but is a big home and is in a great center of town location. 3 Car garage with a Lol/office above.
Marius Dan 312-208-6034	Harris All 847-322-6277	Dan Florian 773-543-3500	Marius Dan Sylvana Monolascino 312-208-6034

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

DES PLAINES

105 Dover Drive Apt 1, Dusan Radic to Elisa T Hilario, \$50,000, Feb. 17
 1262 Evergreen Ave., Chicago Title Land Trt Co Ttee to Natalino Gicalone, \$216,000, Feb. 16
 1277 E Thacker St. Apt 202, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to David Drehobl, \$135,000, Feb. 18
 1715 Illinois St., Steven W Waecker to Deann M Thompson, \$125,000, Feb. 16
 2035 Pine St., Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Ttee to Anna Davydov, \$75,500, Feb. 16
 209 E Washington St., Oakleaf Investment Properties to Tammy L Marchetti, \$155,000, Feb. 16
 2219 Eastview Drive, Michael Vincent Heneghan to John Janusz Kallinowski Dorothy Kalinowski, \$530,000, Feb. 22
 290 Berkshire Lane, John Golat to Bhupinder S Saini Balwinder K Saini, \$575,000, Feb. 16
 379 Stratford Road, George J Wade to Chad M Wodskow Leena Wodskow, \$425,000, Feb. 22
 606 Berkshire Lane, Fannie Mae

to Rakesh R Patel, \$361,000, Feb. 22
 656 Pearson St. Unit 701, Chicago Title Land Trt Co Ttee to Jose L Henriquez, \$220,000, Feb. 17
 8904 Jody Lane Apt 2c, Fannie Mae to Robert Gorgy, \$49,000, Feb. 23
 9204 Bumble Bee Drive Apt 2h, Jacob A Mathew to Maqsood Mo-hiuddin Quratul Aini, \$90,000, Feb. 23
 926 S Westgate Road, Casimer Bialobrzewski to John Scott Steinfest Linda R Develasco, \$640,000, Feb. 17
 9356 Landings Lane Unit 303, Glynis Hirsch to Robert Iwanek, \$62,000, Feb. 16
 9402 Ironwood Lane, Pnc Bank Na to Meraj M Khan, \$111,000, Feb. 23
 9426 Bay Colony Drive Apt 3w, Fannie Mae to Aleksandra Muszynski, \$75,000, Feb. 18
 9463 Park Lane, Us Bank Na Trustee to Joseph T Dinkha Sandi Eshoo, \$70,000, Feb. 18
 9562 Park Lane Apt 1j, Richard M Taylor to Harsha Shukla Kirit Vyas, \$24,000, Feb. 23

GLENCOE
 572 Dundee Road, Fifth Third Mortgage to Dennis Straight, \$470,000, Feb. 16
 722 Redwood Lane, Michael L Kraut to Matthew R Hayes, \$717,500, Feb. 17

GLENVIEW

1220 Depot St. Apt 205, Lewandowski Trust to Bonnie Campbell, \$173,000, Feb. 17
 1698 Constitution Drive, Fifth Third Mortgage Co to James B Burke Heidi Burke, \$650,000, Feb. 22
 1771 Dewes St. Apt B, Matthew A Petersen to Brandon Berman Betsy Berman, \$427,500, Feb. 16
 2132 Rugen Road Apt C, Luz Maria Marquez to Naraharisetty Rao, \$158,000, Feb. 23
 2561 Central Road, Chicago Title Land Trt Co Ttee to Mark Seske Kristin Seske, \$245,000, Feb. 17
 805 Glenwood Lane, Walter J Bieszczad to Sanjay Mahandru Kimberly Mahandru, \$635,000, Feb. 17

EDISON PARK

6769 N Olmsted Ave. Unit 2 S, Alice L Martinka to Theresa Rior-dan, \$140,000, Feb. 22
 7340 N Harlem Ave. Apt 2w, Woj-

ciech Kitrys to Nicholas Gianfor-tune, \$69,000, Feb. 22

LINCOLNWOOD

6450 N Trumbull Ave. Unit 1, Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Ttee to Sara A Altinay, \$182,000, Feb. 16
 6839 N Kenton Ave., Webster Bank to Tony Zemlinsky Alissa M Zem-linsky, \$651,000, Feb. 22
 7010 N East Prairie Road, Us Bank Na Trustee to Manubhai M Desai Uma M Desai, \$263,000, Feb. 22

MORTON GROVE

7533 Churchill St., Edison Siscar to Steven T Fox Tetania E Fox, \$192,000, Feb. 23
 9237 Harlem Ave., Hauslein Trust to Patricia A Owens Joseph E Murphy, \$147,500, Feb. 17

MOUNT PROSPECT

1001 Arbor Court, Citibank Na to Nicole Hongnam Kim, \$165,000, Feb. 16
 1001 E Greenwood Drive, Schnei-derwind Trust to Catherine L Linaweaver, \$300,000, Feb. 16
 1210 N Hemlock Lane, Michael Hrycyk to Christine M Wall Michael E Bryant, \$270,000, Feb. 22

HARWOOD HEIGHTS

4833 N Olcott Ave. Unit 318, Skrzypczynski Trust to Piotr

Sadon, \$260,000, Feb. 16
 7504 W Ainslie St., Hcb Develop-ment 1 Llc to Christopher Kucmierz Alicja Lubinski Kucmierz, \$450,000, Feb. 22

NORTHBROOK

242 Red Coach Lane, Petitti Trust to Eric J Schwager Jill R Schwa-ger, \$270,000, Feb. 17
 242 Red Coach Lane, Petitti Trust to Eric J Schwager Jill R Schwa-ger, \$270,000, Feb. 17
 3035 Kayjay Drive, Asher Bronfeld to Bryan B Hoffman Christina M Hoffman, \$560,000, Feb. 17
 3219 N Parkway Drive Unit 3a, Us Bank Na Trustee to Chetan Mittal, \$68,000, Feb. 22
 3801 Mission Hills Road Apt 505, Earl W Allen to Marshall Schaeffer Sandra Schaeffer, \$190,000, Feb. 16
 3838 Bordeaux Drive, Frederick M Snow to Dina Tarter Barry Tarter, \$510,000, Feb. 22
 3855 Rutgers Lane, Aaron Seefeldt to Santino Caringella, \$462,500, Feb. 23
 3915 Snowbird Lane, Cheapest Llc 3915 Snowbird Nor to Zhongwen Huang Huiyang Liang, \$525,000, Feb. 22
 4705 Forest View Drive, Us Bank Na Trustee to Kenneth S Klass-man, \$230,000, Feb. 17
 541 Helen Drive, Anwar Moham-mad Mohiuddin to Andrey Lev Weissberg, \$1,010,000, Feb. 16
 201 S School St., Judith Braun to Joseph A Stupar Gwyneth M Stup-ar, \$194,000, Feb. 17
 250 W Parliament Placé Apt 311, Robin Facer to Edward J Kutta, \$47,500, Feb. 22
 411 N Maple St., Joseph Kabat to Anthony M Garcia Jennifer Garcia, \$380,000, Feb. 22
 802 S Robert Drive, Jerry W Evans to Andrea Evans, \$5,000, Feb. 16

NORWOOD PARK

5711 N Nottingham Ave., Parkway Bank & Trust Co Ttee to Natalia Vildziuniene, \$190,000, Feb. 16
 5951 N Nina Ave., Bank Of America Na Trustee to Kerin Bente Erling Rosseland, \$287,000, Feb. 23
 6244 N Harlem Ave. Apt 7b, Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Ttee to Arthur Terzian Sona Terzian, \$50,000, Feb. 23
 7545 W Hortense Ave., Johann Trust to Kristin M Cook, \$255,000, Feb. 16

NILES

7510 W Lawler Ave., Lilly Trust to Michael A Szczepaniak Catherine M Szczepaniak, \$238,000, Feb. 16
 7863 N Caldwell Ave. Unit 208, Constantinos Boucas to Gus Pani-nyrakis Diane Raucci, \$175,000, Feb. 17
 8143 N Grace Ave., Rwp0 Iii Llc to Krystyna Chlebek Billy J Van Can-non, \$428,000, Feb. 16
 8554 W North Terrace, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to John Ki-farkis, \$240,000, Feb. 23
 9343 N Western Ave., 2010 Real Estate Foreclosure L to Tetyana Yakymyshyna, \$280,000, Feb. 16
 9806 N Huber Lane, Shekhtman Trust to Rita S Ramirez, \$325,000, Feb. 18

NORRIDGE

5124 N Monterey Ave., Aneta Cwik to Monique Forbes, \$300,000, Feb.

23
 7606 W Irving Park Road Unit B, Peter Sliaj to Ryszard Raczek Elz-bieta Sarota Raczek, \$230,000, Feb. 17

PARK RIDGE

1000 S Greenwood Ave., Kenji Oya-su to Joy C Duncan-Bianchi, \$355,000, Feb. 17
 136 S Cumberland Ave., Chicago

PROSPECT HEIGHTS

108 Mandel Lane, Bieser Trust to Marlene Padovano, \$240,000, Feb. 17
 828 Mcintosh Court Apt 201, Fan-nie Mae to Dominick C Millic, \$59,000, Feb. 17
 926 E Old Willow Road Apt 104, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Saifeng Li, \$40,500, Feb. 17

SKOKIE

3827 Howard St., Janet L Bieber to Harshad A Gandhi Chetana H Gandhi, \$220,000, Feb. 17
 5251 Gallitz St. Apt 317, Levin Trust to Vassilen Vasevski, \$124,500, Feb. 17
 7612 Crawford Ave. Apt 301b, Tri-cia Defay to Olga Vachtchenko, \$85,000, Feb. 16
 7711 Kenton Ave., Magdalena Gheorghe to Maynard H Dubow, \$252,500, Feb. 17
 8330 Kildare Ave., Liebentritt Trust to Eli Brutt Renee Sophier, \$200,000, Feb. 17
 8626 E Prairie Road, Dendorbres Llc to Paul M Tran Sandra G Tran, \$298,000, Feb. 17
 9508 Keeler Ave., Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Pac Keong Tam Wa Peng Kou, \$203,000, Feb. 17
 9655 Woods Drive Unit 1304, Bank Of America Na to Kaspars Vilems, \$162,000, Feb. 16

WILMETTE

1041 Ridge Road Unit 214, Mallinckrodt Renaissance Llc to Robert F Furniss Adrienne B Fur-niss, \$480,000, Feb. 17
 1511 Washington Ave., Versino Trust to Brooks S Harding, \$390,000, Feb. 16
 2052 Old Glenview Road, Foy Trust to Marcus U Ludwig Elena Tribun-skaia, \$300,000, Feb. 17
 435 Ridge Road Apt 101, Ratajczyk Trust to Thomas H Bonner, \$115,000, Feb. 16



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This two-story Colonial comes with a beveled-glass front door and open floor plan throughout.
 Highlights of the kitchen include stain-less steel appliances, a breakfast bar, granite countertops and hardwood cabi-nets and cupboards. A fireplace is found in the family room, which comes with carpet-ed floors, built-in shelving units above the mantle and exposed lighting.
 There is also a study with wood trim, hardwood floors and storage space.
 The property comes with a two-car ga-rage and is a half-mile from the Gold Road Metra station.
Listing agent: Linda Lee, Century 21 Mc-Mullen, (773) 343-7119, lindalee@aol.com
Beds: 5
Baths: 2.5

ON THE MARKET

A ROUNDUP OF NEW LISTINGS

A four-bedroom, two-bath home at 5837 Monroe St. in Morton Grove is on the market for \$348,900. The home has been updated and is near the Metra, Aus-tin Park, shopping and ex-pressway. The home has an eat-in kitchen, and hard-wood floors are found throughout. Elena Malia-vina of Coldwell Banker Resi-

dential is the listing agent.

A three-bedroom, two-bath home at 5604 Church St. in Morton Grove is on the market for \$285,000. The home has a reduced price and a motivated sell-er. It is a split-level brick home in move-in condi-tion, and the large fami-ly room contains ceramic tile floors. Juanito Pasia of Net 1 Real Estate is the listing agent.

— Matt Pelc

MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

City	For sale	Median price	Foreclosure rate	# of sales	# of foreclosures
Des Plaines	2.69%	\$185,750	35.11%	732	257
Edison Park	1.54%	\$255,000	9.47%	95	9
Evanston	2.74%	\$310,000	16.39%	726	119
Forest Glen	0.22%	\$373,000	10%	20	2
Glenview	2.5%	\$397,500	14.75%	583	86
Lincolnwood	2.36%	\$280,000	14.49%	138	20
Morton Grove	2.46%	\$250,000	24.88%	217	54
Niles	2.21%	\$219,000	24.91%	269	67
Norwood Park	2.07%	\$279,000	20%	185	37
Park Ridge	2.07%	\$340,000	10.8%	389	42
Skokie	2.19%	\$247,000	28.94%	584	169
Wilmette	1.81%	\$617,750	5.18%	328	17

Source: ChicagoBlockShopper.com. Data tracks last 12 months of sales.



The kitchen includes a breakfast bar, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances.

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HOUSE BEAUTIFUL!
 Morton Grove...First Offer! Sensational custom built 12 rm Colonial! Block to Park View School, park & pool. All huge rooms. 6 brs & 3 full baths. Huge updated oak kitchen w/ Corian counters + adjacent main floor family rm w/fireplace. Finished bsmt rec rm with bar. Oak floors throughout. Custom Paver brick patio. Slate entry foyer. 2 car attached garage. Mint Condition!... \$475,000

WHY PAY RENT??
 Des Plaines...New Listing! Beautifully remodeled 4 rm condo in super convenient location! New kitchen with ceramic floor, new cabinets and appliances. New bath. New carpet throughout. Freshly painted. New windows. Very well maintained building with storage unit and laundry on same level. 2 parking spaces included. Near shopping, trans, restaurants & tollway... Absolute Move-in Condition! \$125,000

5 BEDROOMS-3 BATHS - \$297,000!
 Morton Grove...Huge 5 br-3 bath Tri-level in great location! Eat-in kitchen with oak cabinets. Lower level family rm w/fireplace & oak wet bar. Master br with full master bath. Huge 2 car heated garage with loft storage & high door + carport. Large 70' lot, fenced yard with dog run & cement patio. Near shopping, transportation, schools, park & more! Priced just slashed to SELL. See today & make offer!... Won't Last at \$297,000

How to reach us: We invite letters to the editor. Only signed letters, including address and daytime phone number, will be considered for publication. Limit length to 250 words or less; the Spectator reserves the right to edit for brevity and grammar.
 Mail to: Letters to the Editor, Niles Herald-Spectator, 1010 Lake St., Suite 104, Oak Park, IL 60301. E-mail to: mschmitz@pioneerlocal.com (no attachments)

Opinion

SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENTS

Stick with vets in 207

In the April 5 race for three four-year terms on the Maine Township High School District 207 Board of Education, we endorse **Donna Pellar-Ryden, Joann Braam and Sean Sullivan.**

Among them, these incumbents total nearly three decades of experience on the board though their time has not been without serious adversity. Few have forgotten the heartache of massive teacher layoffs that occurred last year to cope with a \$19 million budget deficit.

As the economic recovery remains elusive, the district would best be served by keeping last year's team intact. While this year's anticipated \$4 million budget hole is but a fraction of last year's doomsday deficit, the district will need the experience of the three incumbent candidates to see that the cuts are made judiciously without causing impacting student performance.

All have publicly committed to addressing persisting budget shortfalls without a referendum to raise taxes.

To generate new revenue to help close the gap, the three candidates support selling advertising at the three campuses. Also, student activity fees have been raised; district spending on extracurricular activities has been capped; a fund-balance policy has been put forth to ensure financial obligations are met; and officials are eyeing augmented facilities-use policies to potentially bring in rental revenue.

Challengers Marijo Bustos and Eric Poders could make strong board members, but the veterans are a wartime team serving during wartime and we want them to continue.

Referendum rejection rules in District 64

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 voters have a sizable lot of candidates before them.

Vying for a two-year seat on the board are appointed incumbent **Scott Zimmerman** and challenger Kristie Bavaro. A host of hopefuls for three four-year seats includes six-year incumbent Eugenia Taddeo and four-year incumbent **John Heyde**, and challengers **Anthony Borrelli, Dan Collins** and Marshall Warren.

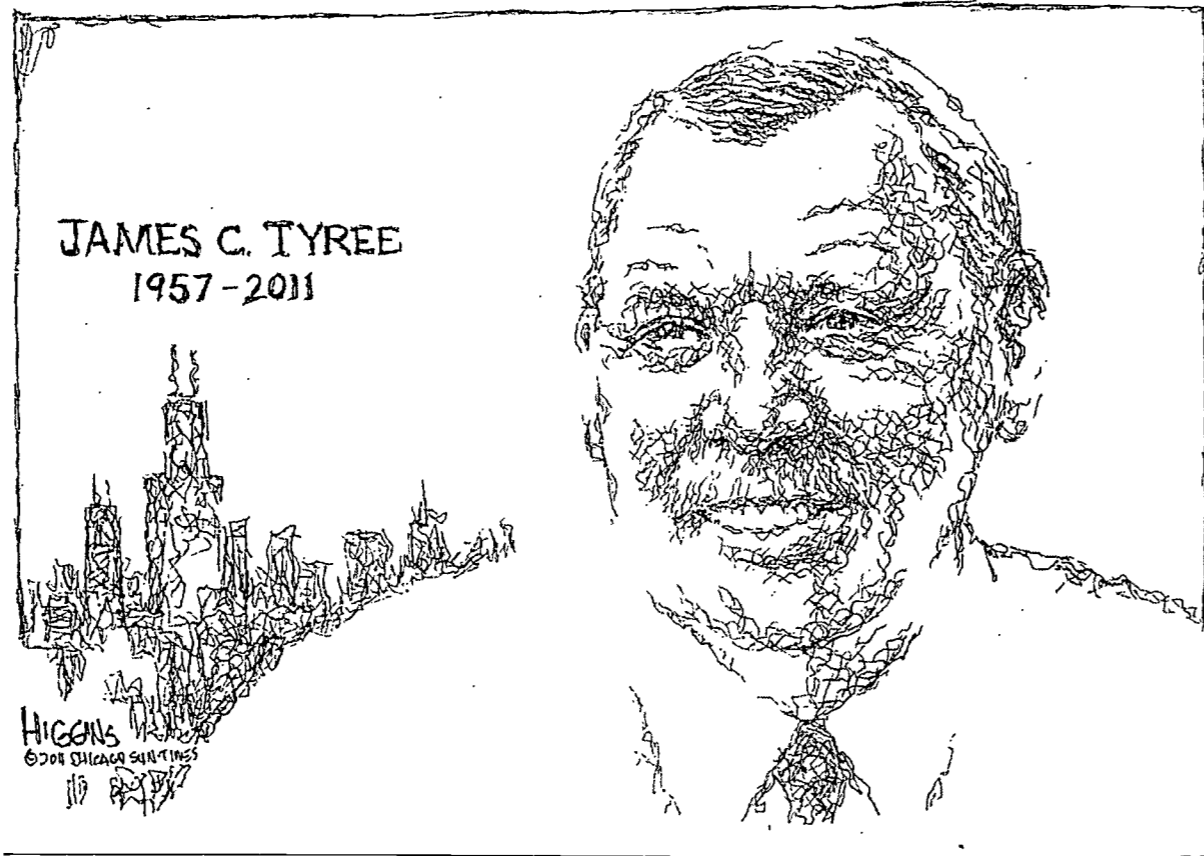
All appear to be competent and enthusiastic, but for us, if this isn't a one-issue election in the district, it's awfully close. Whoever is elected should keep the promise to voters during the 2007 referendum campaign that the district would not return to voters until at least 2017.

In the two-year race both Zimmerman and Bavaro are sort of wishy-washy on the referendum question. Both have indicated they would exhaust all other options before returning to the voters, but Zimmerman has vowed to keep a vigilant eye on district finance and plans to address aging buildings.

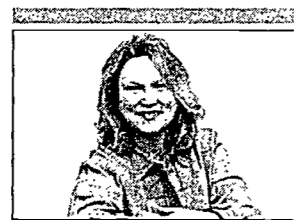
We endorse Zimmerman. In the four-year race we endorse Borrelli, Collins and Heyde. The latter two have vowed to keep the district's promise and not return to the referendum well. Borrelli, while less-steadfast there, has said he would operate under the assumption that a referendum would fail.

Taddeo's claim that a return to voters is "inevitable" doesn't bode well. Warren also is a bit too comfortable with going to referendum.

1000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS



Line forms here ... and then we wait



CHERYL O'DONOVAN

VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

Waiting in line. Oh, joy. No matter if you stand in line at the post office, a bank, a movie theater, a port-o-potty or in an ER, no matter if your child is about to soil himself, or you're limping from a flesh-eating infection, or you're cuffed and a police officer has you in custody and people recognize your "Wanted"

photo, your misery will go unnoticed, even as you collapse, begin convulsing and your mouth foams drool.

Commensurate with your misery is the observation of five inert clerks who cluster around one machine, say a cash register, and seem to marvel over whose nail polish dries faster. Only one clerk appears to actually work, and she operates on turtle time.

Inevitably, as the line advances one centimeter, the person who is right in front of you will decide to ship packages to 12 obscure destinations. He will insist angrily on a paper trail for each wrapped box. As he argues, voices raise. Faces

frown and contort with anger. At this point, the clerk summons the U.N. Security Council, but they're in Switzerland, drinking cocoa. Teeth grinding, you step forward and volunteer to hire a pilot and Cessna to personally deliver each package yourself, and if necessary, via parachute.

I have stood in line so long that one bank manager offered me employment as a company mascot, a woeful scrawny thing in the shape of a pyramid named "Ponzy."

Another time, I waited in line so long that my bones fossilized and a park ranger declared me a national treasure.

Headache commercials should depict an enraged person waiting in line and chomping on painkillers straight from the bottle. Sales would go through the roof.

Calling any "Customer Service" is a further exercise of delusion. We are routed through a maze of phone prompts, such as: "press 1 for white noise and press 2 for purgatory and press the pound key to completely terminate any hope of having this issue resolved."

I know it's going to be bad the second I hear, "this call may be recorded so we can later replay your desperate pleas for endless laughs."

Yumm! Plastic and paper cookies



STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN

THE FIXER - Chicago Sun-Times

Dear Fixer: Back in December, I got some of those ersatz Maurice Lenell cookies from Dominick's for the holidays to replace the buckets of past years, which were a Christmas tradition. I used to live by the Norridge factory, so the taste and smell are familiar to me.

Well, they don't even come close, but what's worse is I bit into some junk baked into one of the cookies. I had to pick brown paper and plastic thread out from between my teeth, possibly from an ingredient sack (I worked in a bakery in high school, so that thought seems to fit and is the least disturbing).

I called the company that bakes them and eventually found someone in quality control. I gave them the package code info they wanted. The lady promised to replace the cookies and offered a bonus pack if I would send them the stuff I found inside along with the bar code label and batch code.

I mailed it as instructed to Hearthside Foods in McComb, Ohio. It cost me a buck and a half extra at the post office. So in essence, I paid twice for a bad bag of cookies.

I just realized over two months have gone by with no replacement cookies or coupons.

Peter Hochfellner

Dear Peter: You have our sympathies. The only thing worse than biting into a defective Maurice Lenell pinwheel cookie is never

hearing back from quality control.

We got in touch with Carl Melville, a public-relations guy for Hearthside Food Solutions, parent company of Consolidated Biscuit Co., which resurrected the Maurice Lenell cookie brand after the Norridge operation shut down in December 2008. Melville passed it along to several Hearthside execs, who were upset to learn that your complaint had fallen through the cracks. The company promptly sent you a personal apology and five bags of cookies.

However, you told The Fixer you were disappointed that the letter blamed "carmelized sugar" as the culprit, when you're sure you saw brown paper and green thread. Unfortunately, the defective package appears to be long gone, so we may never know.

Dear Fixer: I have been getting harassed by a company that claims I owe \$300-plus for a payday loan. This is some sort of scam because I don't owe any payments on such a loan.

If you check their phone number online, you will see numerous people being called at home and work. This company sends no paper invoices and accepts no fax documents.

It's been the same Indian guy calling me each time; I recognize his voice. He uses different threats, such as an impending lawsuit, or he says two detectives will be at my front door to arrest me. Nothing has happened except for the embarrassment of being called at work.

Any help you give would be appreciated. Keep up the good work. We need you.

Larry Barber

Dear Larry: The Fixer took your advice and searched the phone number they'd been calling

you from and found piles of recent online complaints from consumers with very similar stories.

So we decided to call this supposed bill collector ourselves. A man with a very thick accent who claimed he was a supervisor named "Jack Williams" answered. We could hear lots of other phone conversations in the background as "Jack Williams" explained that he was a third party collecting what he admitted may or may not be a legitimate loan. (In your case, it is definitely not.)

In the verbal gymnastics that followed, "Jack" told us it was possible that someone stole the personal information of people such as you who filled out a loan application online, assuming their identities and making off with the loan money. "It is an unsecured payday loan. You have to be careful with your identity," he told us, adding, "We are not harassing them. ... We do it legally."

We then told "Jack" that whatever the case, they need to remove the name Larry Barber from their list. You called to follow up, and we don't expect you to receive any more calls.

And now a reminder: Besides watching out for scams, it's a good idea to keep an eye on your credit report by ordering your free copy at annualcreditreport.com. You can report online scams at ic3.gov.

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem?

Tell it to The Fixer at www.pioneerlocal.com/fixer, where you'll find a simple form to fill out. Or, you can mail a brief description of your problem, along with your name, address and telephone number, to: The Fixer, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Don't send original documents. Because of the large volume of submissions, The Fixer can't make personal replies. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

Tell Us What You Think...

Pioneer Press values your opinions. We want your feedback to find out what you like about our newspaper and how we can improve it. Please visit our Web site and click on the "Tell us what you think..." button, call us at (847) 486-9300, or go to pioneerlocal.com/survey.

Thank you for your readership.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Nile's 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.

Benefit

The Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation will host the 20th Annual Play for the Cure Golf Outing on June 20 at Evanston Golf Club, 4401 Dempster St., in Skokie. With proceeds going toward breast cancer research, the

event invites golfers of all skill levels to enjoy a day of fun in the sun as they "putt for pink." The 18-hole outing begins with registration at 11 a.m., followed by lunch. Tee-off is at 1 p.m., and the day is capped off with an evening cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception. The cost is \$900 per person, and sponsorships are available from \$2,500 to \$20,000. The first golfer/s scoring an ace on any of the four Par 3 holes at Evanston Golf Club will win a luxurious automobile. Call (312) 926-7133 or visit www.lynnstage.org.

Center of Concern

The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of

events includes: Mondays, through March 28 - Employment counseling, by appointment. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays - Income tax preparation, by appointment. Saturday, March 26 - Legal counseling, by appointment; Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed). Join the "Celebrate A Job Well Done," event honoring Mary Schurder, retired executive director of the Center of Concern, from 6-9 p.m. April 8 at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Cost for the dinner reception and benefit is \$50. Call Dawn at (847) 823-0453, Ext. 125. Low-cost income tax preparation will be available by appointment at the

Center of Concern on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. 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. The center's offices are at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite #310, in Park Ridge. 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 relief 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 long-time-occupant-homeowner property-tax exemption.

Preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also is available by appointment. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The Center of Concern also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, friendly visitors for the homebound, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.

Chamber

Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 8060 Oakton St. (847) 268-8180; March 24, 11:30 a.m. - Multi-Chamber Mega Connect Networking Lunch: The Buffalo Grove, Chicago Area Gay Lesbian, DBR, Des Plaines, Evanston, Glenview, Glencoe, Highland Park, Mount Prospect, Niles, Northbrook, Park Ridge, Skokie, Wheeling/Prospect Heights and Wilmette Chamber members will have the chance to promote their businesses to an expanded audience at this event at the Crown Plaza Chicago Northbrook, beginning with informal networking over a box lunch. After that, the group will be divided into small groups at assigned tables where everyone will give two-minute presentations on their companies followed by an additional presentation to a second group of participants. There is a \$25 fee for this event.

Civic

State Representative Rosemary Mulligan, R-65th, has opened her new 65th District office at the following address: 1420 Renaissance Drive, Suite 306, Park Ridge IL 60068. Her other contact information remains the same: Phone: (847) 297-6533; fax: (847) 297-2978; e-mail: repmulligan@usa.net; website and E-News sign-up: http://rep-mulligan.com. The 65th District includes all or portions of Des Plaines, Park Ridge, Mount Prospect, Rosemont, Norridge, Harwood Heights, Niles, Elk Grove Village, and the northwest corner of the 41st Ward of Chicago. Maine Township is accepting nominations for the first annual Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen's Award. Nomination forms are available at

Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, and will be accepted through March 22, 2011. A form can also be downloaded at www.mainetownship.com. The recipient chosen for the award will be a Maine Township resident who has demonstrated strong support and dedication to his or her community. The winner will receive a plaque and monetary award which will be presented at the Maine Township Annual Meeting April 12, 2011. Contact Maine Township Town Hall at (847) 297-2510.

A representative from the Niles Township Clerk's office will be available 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and evenings by appointment on the second and fourth Mondays of each month to accommodate residents with passport applications, voter registrations and temporary handicapped parking placards. To schedule an appointment at Niles Township in Skokie, call (847) 673-9300.

The Maine Township Neighborhood Watch meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month in the basement of Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road in Park Ridge. Meetings address issues within the unincorporated area of the township and all residents are invited. Reports from the Cook County Sheriff's Police, North Maine Fire Department, and the township's Code Enforcement Department are shared, and residents are invited to ask questions and report any concerns or problems in their neighborhood.

Classes

To strengthen your brain and learn about cognitive fitness, CogFit-Quest invites you to a free, 1-1/2 hour, interactive workshop on April 5 or April 8, in Skokie. Expert trainers at CogFit-Quest will guide you through a series of engaging and fun activities. You'll enjoy games that target long- and short-term memory, concentration, word recall, and other cognitive skills. For details, call (847) 674-8060 or visit Cogfitquest.com. Space is limited.

Niles Township Government Computer Training Center is offering computer classes. Computer Lab Sessions: Practice & tutoring one-on-one with an experienced teacher. (Optional for current and former students; recommended for all students). The Computer Lab fee is \$30 per student and is open noon-2 p.m. Fridays starting March 25-April 22. Course fees include an instructional workbook. Students must bring their own USB Flash Drive to save and transfer files needed for all classes. All ages are welcome. A Certificate of Completion is awarded last day of class. Call (847) 673-9300. 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 dking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

Clubs

A Genealogy Workshop, sponsored by the Twenty-first Star Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution,

will be held from 9 a.m.-noon April 2 on the third floor of the Park Ridge Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., across the street from the Pickwick Theater. Attendees will have the opportunity to work with one of the members of the lineage research team and receive assistance with application papers. This workshop is for women who are interested in joining the OAR. Bring along all your records and information; there will be reference books available for use. Call Betty Borman at (847) 818-9001.

The Sweet Singers of Congregation Ezras Israel which entertains at nursing homes, retirement facilities and charitable organizations, meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Rosenberg Auditorium of Ezras Israel, 7001 N. California Ave., Chicago. Those who enjoy singing are welcome to join. Call the Ezras Israel office at (773) 764-8320.

I Chiacchieroni 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. The next meeting will be April 14. This is a casual evening of conversation in Italian. Call Gabriella, (847) 292-0089, or e-mail: ichiacchieroni@yahoo.com.

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 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 jamesbond54762@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 Montclair-Leyden VFW Post, 6940 W. Diversy Ave. Call Joe Hennmueller, (773) 774-9671. Join the Catholic Women's Bowling League for Ladies Night Out at Classic Bowl, 8530 Waukegan Road, Morton Grove. Fee is \$15 per week. All skill levels welcome. Call Deanne Drozd at (224) 628-4009 or d.drozd@comcast.net.

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

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of the St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N. Caldwell Ave., in Niles, will hold its Spring Bake Sale from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. April 12 and 13 in the Community Center. The Bake Shop will feature sweet Tsoureki bread and Koulourakia. Also, for the Pascha celebration there will be lambethes dyed red eggs sold by the dozen, and Easter

gift baskets. Home-made Greek pastries, such as Baklava, Diples, Kataifi, Galaktoboureko, Kourambiethes and Melomakarouna will also be available for holiday entertaining. A Lenten lunch will be served both days and a Coffee Shop to sit and enjoy a pastry and coffee will also be featured. There is no admission and plenty of free parking. Call ahead to place a pastry order for pick-up. Contact the church office, (847) 647-8880.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, (847) 967-4800, www.illhoocaustmuseum.org, offers the following: A special exhibition: Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges: Exhibit tells the story of Jewish professors who fled Nazism and came to America in the 1930s and '40s, finding teaching positions at historically black colleges and universities. The exhibition explores the encounter between these scholars and their students, and their impact on each other, the Civil Rights Movement, and American society. Daily, through May 31. Free with museum admission. Book and Author Discussion: Women + Nazis: Perpetrators of Genocide and Other Crimes During Hitler's Regime, 1933-1945 will be presented by Professor Wendy A. Sartl from 1:30-3:00 p.m. April 10. Sartl discusses her recently published study of the participation of women in carrying out the Nazi program of persecution. O&A will be moderated by Dr. Leon Stein, Professor Emeritus of History, Roosevelt University. A book signing follows. Free with museum admission. Reservations rec-

ommended, call (847) 967-4889. Our Lady of Ransom Parish, 8300 Greenwood Ave., Niles, will hold its annual Rummage Sale from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. April 1 and 9 a.m.-noon April 2 with an early shopping opportunity from 6-9 p.m. March 31(\$2 admission fee is requested). There will be a variety of items available. Clothing, glassware, toys, tools, household items, jewelry, small appliances, exercise equipment, furniture, lamps, bedding, books and more. There is also a "Treasure Room" that will have items that are new or slightly used. The sale benefits the parish as a whole. Call Ruth, (847) 823-2550.

Twice As Nice Mothers of Multiples Society will present its Resale Event from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. March 26 at First United Methodist Church, 418 Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. Find unbeatable prices on children's clothing, toys and equipment. Cash only, bring box or laundry basket for purchases.

Half Price Books at 5605 W. Touhy Ave., Niles, is launching its annual Half Pint Library Book Drive. This 6-week program collects and distributes children's books to families and children in need through local non-profit and community organizations, and for the first time, Half Price Books will match each book donated during the drive. Books donated through the Half Pint Library program provide an escape from the challenges faced by children, while helping to boost literacy outside of school. Half Pint Libraries were created to give children and their families the chance to read and share books while staying at pediatric clinics and

community centers across the nation. The drive accepts any type of children's book, including Spanish language books, as long as they are in good condition. The drive runs through March 31. Visit www.hpb.com.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois will host Jeffrey Bockman with his program "No Birth Certificate, No Problem" at 2 p.m. March 27 at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. The JGSI meeting facilities at Temple Beth Israel will open at 12:30 p.m. to accommodate members/guests who want to use the library materials, get help with genealogy web sites on the Internet, or ask genealogical related questions before the main program begins at 2 p.m. Visit www.jewishgen.org/jgsi or phone (312) 666-0100.

The Polish Fraternal Organizations are again sponsoring the second Polish American Night with the Chicago Bulls April 5 at the United Center, 1901 W. Madison St., Chicago, available for the entire family. The Chicago Bulls will host the Phoenix Suns, beginning at 7 p.m. The Fraternal has a special discounted price on these tickets. Bulls game tickets can be purchased and picked up at the Polish National Alliance. Call the Polish National Alliance, Paul Odobina at (800) 621-3723, Ext. 316; visit www.pna-znp.org; information is in the "Events" section on the main page or call Polish Women's Alliance, Sharon Zago, (888) 522-1898, Ext. 208; Polish Roman Catholic Union, Anna Sokolowski, (800) 772-8632, Ext. 2601. St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 5000 N. Cumberland Ave.,

Chicago, hosts bingo on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Doors open at 5 p.m., and bingo starts at 7 p.m.; pull tabs, raffle, computers, food and refreshments. Handicap accessible; plenty of parking. Call (773) 625-4805.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County recently established a Battery Recycling Program for rechargeable and alkaline batteries, partnered with Interstate Batteries in Skokie to provide recycling at no cost to SWANCC communities. Common household batteries are no longer accepted at Illinois EPA-sponsored household chemical waste events and facilities due to their benign nature and high recycling costs. Batteries accepted in SWANCC's program: Alkaline: AA, AAA, C, D and 9V; rechargeable: NiCd, NiMH, lithium ion, lithium polymer. Before dropping off rechargeable batteries, residents need to tape the contact points on each battery or place in an individual self-locking plastic baggie to avoid sparks. Local drop-off sites include: Niles Public Services Department, 6849 Touhy Ave., (847) 588-7900, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; Niles Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-8000, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; Park Ridge Public Works, 400 Busse Highway, (847) 318-5240, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Additional drop-off sites are posted at swancc.org/recycling/batteryrecycling.html.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern

Calendar, PAGE 22

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Naveen Tipirneni, M.D., Pain Management, will discuss causes of low back pain and treatment options available. Light refreshments. Free.

TUESDAY • APRIL 5 • 6-7PM

DO YOU HAVE GASTRIC REFLUX?

Frederick Tiesenga, M.D., Surgeon, will discuss symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and surgical options such as Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication (TIF) for relief. Light refreshments. Free.

TUESDAY • APRIL 12 • 6-7PM

BREAST CANCER RECONSTRUCTION OPTIONS

Dealing with a diagnosis of breast cancer can be devastating. Sam Speron, M.D., Plastic Surgeon, discusses breast reconstruction options and alternatives. Light refreshments. Free.

TUESDAY • APRIL 26 • 6-7PM

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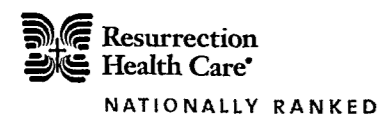
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4 For Your Consideration

A quartet of activities for
the coming week

1. Northwest Choral Society presents "Praise and Triumph" at 7:30 p.m. March 26 at Community Presbyterian Church, 407 N. Main St., Mount Prospect. Members of the Northwest Choral Society Chamber Orchestra will accompany the chorus in a program of works by Handel, Mozart and Franck, as well as Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass. \$18; \$15 for senior citizens and students. Visit www.nwchoral-society.org or call (224) 585-9127.

2. "A Number" will be presented as a staged reading at 8 p.m. March 26 and 2 p.m. March 27 at Oakton Community College's Studio One Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. \$8. Call (847) 635-1900 or visit www.oakton.edu/tickets.

3. Orthodox avant-garde musician Yoshie Fruchter's Pitom, 8 p.m. March 26 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com.

4. Alex de Grassi will perform his original score for the 1934 silent film "A Story of Floating Weeds," by Japanese filmmaker Yasujiro Ozu, at 7:30 p.m. March 31 at Block Cinema, in the Pick-Laudati Auditorium at the Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. \$8.

Local funny folks have an Edge in Skokie

The Edge Comedy Club
Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave.
8:30 p.m. Friday, April 1. \$15 at the door. (847) 677-7761 or www.skokietheatre.com.

By **MYRNA PETLICKI**
Contributor

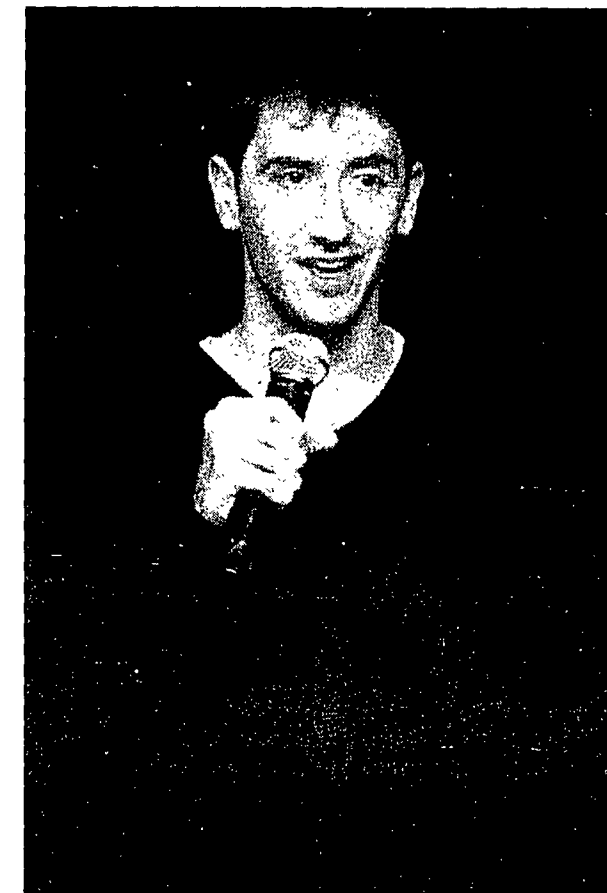
Skokie native Dave Odd thinks his hometown crowd could use a good laugh. For a year-and-a-half, the Chicago comedian has been providing that the first Friday of every month at the Skokie Theatre by showcasing other stand-up comics with north suburban roots.

"It's kind of a way to say to your friends and family, and everyone that doubted you or gave you a hard time when you were growing up, saying you were never going to be anything, 'Hey, look at me now,'" Odd joked. "It's kind of an ego thing, showing everyone what you're doing now while everyone else is slaving away in office cubicles."

Lots of talent

Odd has a wide talent pool to draw from for the monthly shows because he is the founder of The Edge Comedy Club based at the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts. He is also a very busy comic, who has performed extensively at comedy clubs throughout the Midwest, and has worked with such notable comedians as Dave Chapelle, Jeff Dunham, Tracy Morgan and Bob Saget.

In choosing talent for the Skokie shows, Odd first looks for Skokie natives, and then expands it to others from nearby towns. He particularly likes giving opportunities to new



Seth Davis



Mark Nabong

talents. "I've always been big on booking newer comics that are enthusiastic about comedy," Odd said.

Seth Davis certainly fills the bill. The Skokie native performed in the first Edge Comedy Club show at the Skokie Theatre, and most of the others since. He has served as host since the beginning of the year.

"I've been acting and doing a lot of improv comedy for a long time at a number of places in the city like Second City, ImprovOlympic, Play-ground Theater, Annoyance Theatre and Piven Theatre," Davis said. "I always admired people who

did stand-up comedy."

Several years ago, Davis attended a stand-up open mic performance at The Edge Comedy Club. "I found out that Dave Odd graduated from the same high school as me — Niles North."

About three years ago, Davis decided to give that Edge open mic a try. He said that some of his jokes got big laughs but others fell flat. He admitted that his first time out was "scary. One of the reasons why it's so scary is because you want it to be so perfect and it's not going to be perfect." Odd encouraged Davis to come back but he didn't for about a year —

and then only to watch.

After the show, Odd came up to Davis and invited him to perform at a stand-up comedy show he was putting together at the Skokie Theatre. Davis agreed. "I love my hometown," he explained.

Davis was determined not to disappoint family and friends so for the next month he performed at every stand-up open mic he could find. When the time came for the first Skokie show, he was prepared.

"It was an exciting show," Davis said. "It was packed. I had 30-something friends and family there to support me."

It's obvious that Davis

still relishes performing in his hometown.

Skokie special

"I think Skokie is a pretty unique town," Davis said. "I feel like people from Skokie have an understanding of each other — similar backgrounds or values. We know what it's like to grow up in a diverse cultural setting where we celebrate our different identities, and yet everybody gets along."

At press time, the lineup for the next show on April 1 also included Buffalo Grove native Julia Solomon, Niles West High School graduate Mark Nabong of Skokie and Skokie resident April Kaprelian.



MAX RAABE & PALAST ORCHESTER

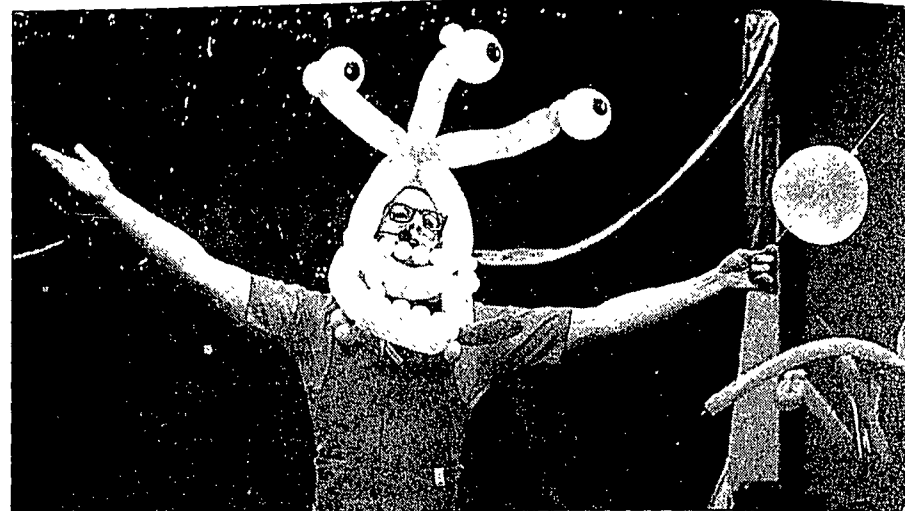
BERLIN NOCTURNE

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 8:00

Travel back in time to Weimar-era Berlin through an evening of nostalgic 1920s and '30s tunes with singer Max Raabe and his stellar 12-member band. The *New York Times* said, "They play with a stylishness, grace and vitality that do not call attention to their impressive virtuosity."

SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS

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Kids will meet a balloon Martian when SmartyPants takes them on a "Balloon Odyssey."

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Amazing balloons star in Smarty Pants funny show

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

We have it from a reliable source that Smarty Pants is hilarious. "He's incredibly funny," said his right-hand woman/wife, Miss Dena. Your family can laugh along with her at "The Smarty Pants Balloon Odyssey Show," 6 p.m. Monday, March 28 at Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo, Harwood Heights.

"It's a vaudeville-style show," Miss Dena said. "It's got comedy, magic, audience participation and all the props are balloons. It has a retro outer space theme." There is even a balloon Martian.

All of Smarty Pants' balloons are spectacular. "No one else in Chicago can make balloons like him," Miss Dena said. "We go to balloon festivals all over the country and some in Europe, and he practices all the time. He has a full collection of books and DVDs. He is a creative balloon genius."

Miss Dena stressed that although she assists her husband, the focus is on Smarty Pants. "I'm the straight man to his funny man," she said.

The show is targeted toward ages 4-8 but, "It's fun for the whole family," Miss Dena reported. Reservations are required.

For details, call (708) 867-7828 or visit www.eisenhowerlibrary.org.

Hoppy talk

Kids will help the bunny find his lost eggs at Bunny-time Brunch, 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 9 at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave. First, though, families will enjoy a catered breakfast buffet. The cost is \$16 per person for residents, \$29 for non-residents, which includes a professional photo with the bunny for each child. Early registration is encouraged.

For details, call (847) 692-5127 or visit www.parks.org.

Learning a trade

An average kid turns out to have above average potential in one area so he becomes, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice." He is guided by Balthazar Blake, a modern-day sorcerer who is trying to protect Manhattan from dark forces. The 109-minute, PG film will be screened at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 26 on the

big screen at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. A snack will be served. For details, call (847) 663-6623 or visit www.nileslibrary.org.

Longing for home

Two young wolves are taken from the home they love by park rangers in "Alpha and Omega." You can watch the PG-rated animated film, which features many celebrity voices, 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 30 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St.

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or visit www.skokieli-brary.info.

Double-header

Preschoolers and parents can have an hour of fun on Wednesday, March 30 at the Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. At 10 a.m., during Beginning with Books, you will participate in stories, songs and activities. At 10:30 a.m., you can enjoy Playtime at the Library with toys and snacks. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 677-5277, ext. 234 or visit www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

MOVIE Q & A

Road warrior on foot

By BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

Thirty years after graduating from Niles East High School, film producer Christine Redlin (former of Skokie, now of Beverly Hills (90210, baby) is back in town promoting the marathon-running message movie "My Run," a labor-of-love documentary she's been involved with the past few years.

In addition to co-producing the film, she performs as a voice talent. Redlin does voice-over commercial work now and then, but mainly her career has been on the production and development side of the entertainment industry.

"My Run" is the story of Terry Hitchcock, a Minnesota native who lost his wife to breast cancer in 1984, raised his family on his own, then decided, 12 years later at the age of 57, to run from the Twin Cities to Atlanta for the opening of the 1996 Olympics, 2,000 miles in 75 days — the equivalent of 75 marathons back-to-back. Hitchcock had never run a race longer than 5 kilometers before he completed the last part of the journey with stress fractures in his knees and ankles. If you've ever tried to run 20 miles, you'll have some idea of how he must have felt on day two.

The Billy Bob Thornton-narrated documentary, which won 10 awards during its festival run last year, will be simultaneously screened across the country at 7 p.m. Central Time March 31 as an event benefiting Lance Armstrong's Livestrong foundation.

PIONEER: What appealed to you about this project?
REDLIN: It was a natural



The producing team of "My Run" includes Christine Redlin, co-producer; Christian Pierce, co-producer; Mark Castaldo, producer; Carl Lewis, Olympic Gold medalist; Terry Hitchcock, the runner; and Tim Vandesteeg, producer. | Photo by Dana Ross

for me. This is the sort of film I love to do: It's entertaining and commercially viable, but it also has a positive message. At its core, "My Run" is a love story about family, about the human spirit, about a person doing something for the betterment of others. That's the sort of person I gravitate towards, personally and professionally. Also, on a personal note, I do have some friends who are breast-cancer survivors and some close friends who are single parents.

PIONEER: What's Terry like?
REDLIN: He's a wonderful, spiritually driven man who speaks from the heart. One thing I like about him is that he loves to tell stories — I could listen to them endlessly. He's just an all-around good person, as a man, a father, a business person and a husband.

The thing that amazes me about Terry is that he survived and thrived despite some severe hardships. His wife Sue died in 1984 when their kids were young and when he went back to work a week later, they let him go. So, he was a bereaved husband who had lost his job and he was also, suddenly, a single father. And he just had to figure out what to do as he went along. Before it was all Oprah-and-Dr. Phil to be a single dad and raise your kids at home, he was determined to figure out how to make that work. Because

SCREENINGS OF 'MY RUN'

"My Run" plays locally at 7 p.m. on March 31 at area theaters. Tickets are \$12.50. For tickets, see www.fathomevents.com/MYRUN, and for more information, see www.myrunmovie.com.

Evanston 18, 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston

South Barrington 30 with IMAX, 175 Studio Drive, Barrington

Yorktown 17 with IMAX, 80 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard

Showplace Naperville 16 with IMAX, 2815 Show Place Drive, Naperville

Century 16 Deer Park, 21600 W. Field Parkway, Deer Park

Elgin Fox Theatre, 111 S. Randall Road, Elgin

Gurnee Cinemas 20, 6144 Grand Ave., Gurnee

Lincolnshire 20 plus IMAX, 300 Parkway Drive, Lincolnshire

Showplace 16, 5000 Northwest Highway, Crystal Lake

River East 21, 322 E. Illinois St., Chicago

Showplace ICON at Roosevelt Collection, 150 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago

he felt that was something he really needed to do.

Another thing about Terry: He was a recreational runner, he'd participated in little 5K community races, but he was not a seasoned marathon runner by any means. His inspiration for the run to Atlanta was Terry Fox, the young man who lost a leg during his treatment for a rare bone cancer, and set out to run across Canada with one leg and a prosthetic to

Warrior, PAGE B14

steppenwolf

THE HOT L BALTIMORE

By LANFORD WILSON

Directed by ensemble member TINA LANDAU

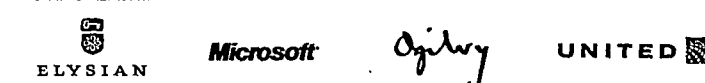
Featuring ensemble members ALANA ARENAS, KATE ARRINGTON, JON MICHAEL HILL, JAMES VINCENT MEREDITH, YASEN PEYANKOV and MOLLY REGAN with DE'ADRE AZIZA, JEREMY GLICKSTEIN, SEAN ALLAN KRILL, TARON PATTON, NAMIR SMALLWOOD, SAMUEL TAYLOR, ALLISON TOREM and JACQUELINE WILLIAMS

The Hotel Baltimore used to be the swankiest place in town—now it has a date with the wrecking ball. Eviction notices just went out to its residents, who live on the fringes of society and call the seedy hotel home. This acclaimed play from the author of *Balm in Gilead* is filled with everyday humanity—unexpectedly intimate and moving. Helmed by visionary director Tina Landau, *The Hot L Baltimore* reveals the private lives of an unconventional community about to be turned inside out. Landau's immersive story telling was last seen in recent productions including *The Brother/Sister Plays*, *The Tempest* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

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"Paul"



"Limitless"

FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAY:

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES

In this sequel to last year's surprise hit, wimpy Greg and his tormenting older brother Rodrick (Zachary Gordon and Devon Bostick) must cope with their parents' plans to make them bond. David Bowers ("Astro Boy") directed the comedy, based on the mega-selling series of young adult books.

SUCKER PUNCH

After being locked up in an asylum by her evil stepfather, a girl (Australian actress Emily Browning) retreats into an action-adventure fantasy world and discovers it may hold the key to her freedom. Zack Snyder ("300") directed the fantasy adventure. Rated PG-13 for thematic material involving sexuality, violence and combat sequences, and for language.

STILL PLAYING:

JANE EYRE

A young governess (Mia Wasikowska) moves to a mysterious estate where she uncovers disturbing secrets - and the possibility of romance with her brooding employer (Michael Fassbender). Cary Fukunaga ("Sin Nombre") directed this adaptation of the classic novel by Charlotte Bronte. (115 min.) Rated PG-13 for some thematic elements including a nude image and brief violent content.

LIMITLESS

Better cogitating through chemistry - with a sizable downside. Bradley Cooper plays failed writer Eddie Morra, who's given the chance to raise his brainpower beyond calculation with an experimental drug called NZT. Unfortunately, NZT's many dangerous side effects include addiction, extended blackouts, brutal withdrawal symptoms, murderous gangsters, ruthless corporate manipulators and general paranoia. On the other hand, you do get to enjoy unlimited

worldly success thanks to your clear-headed, confident, super-intelligence. That scenario gives "Limitless" a whiff, at least, of weighty moral/philosophical considerations (should we or shouldn't we NZT?). Director Neil Burger ("The Lucky Ones," "The Illusionist") keeps things moving stylishly and extremely quickly (blink and you'll miss something), emphasizing the wry humor of Eddie's almost omnipresent voice-over narration - while gradually upping the thrill quotient. Will our hero be able to resolve his increasingly dangerous predicament before the cops close in for a murder he may or may not have committed, or he's tortured or killed by one of a variety of bad guys, or done in by the NZT one way or another? Fortunately for Eddie, the message of "Limitless" is that there are few problems that can't be solved by extreme wealth and an off-the-charts IQ. (B) Rated PG-13 for thematic material involving a drug, violence including disturbing images, sexuality and language.

THE LINCOLN LAWYER

Matthew McConaughey rides in style as a cool, worldly-wise ambulance-chasing LA defense attorney who operates out of the back seat of his Lincoln Continental - until he gets mixed up in the case of a wealthy Beverly Hills lad (Ryan Phillippe) accused of rape and attempted murder. And begins to think his client might actually be innocent. "The Lincoln Lawyer" is fair-to-midlin' pulp, featuring characters who are vivid if not particularly original - our hero's streetwise chauffeur, his best-buddy investigator (William H. Macy), his adoring ex-wife with benefits (Marisa Tomei) - but there are funny lines here and there ("1989 ... I was high a lot that year") one sleaze says on the witness stand, the plot is tricky enough to keep you guessing and the pace never flags. You could do worse. (B) (119 min.) Rated R for some violence, sexual content and language.

PAUL

It sounded good in theory: Simon Pegg (a dedicated sci-fi nerd in real life) and Nick Frost following up on the spectacular "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz" as dorky fanboys helping a little green laid-back stoner alien named Paul (voiced by Seth Rogen, thank you very much) on the run from evil government agents. Somehow, though, the comedy never clicks. The main trouble is probably the substitution of Greg Mottola ("Superbad," "Adventureland") for the duo's previous director Edgar Wright (who most recently turned out the crazed "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World.") Pegg and Frost underplay in a way that begs for a hyperbolic director and Mottola can't oblige. There are other problems: Rogen's voice sounds disconcertingly out of place in the big-eyed, benign little alien, there are only a handful of so one-liners and a couple of decent sight gags, and the story runs out of imagination long before the contrived action finale, complete with automatic weapons and an exploding fireball. Kristen Wiig is a plus, though, as a former fundamentalist Christian girl with an enthusiastic fondness for highly imaginative cursing. (B) (104 min.) Rated R for language including sexual references, and some drug use.

BATTLE: LOS ANGELES

A marine sergeant (Aaron Eckhart) leads mankind's last stand in a war against alien invaders. Jonathan Liebesman ("Darkness Falls") directed the sci-fi action thriller. (116 min.) Rated PG-13 for sustained and intense images of war violence and destruction, and for language.

MARS NEEDS MOMS

A young boy (voice of Seth Green) learns to appreciate his mother after she is abducted by Martians. Simon Wells (the great-great grandson of H.G. Wells) wrote and directed the animated family comedy. Rated PG for sci-fi action and peril.

OF GODS AND MEN

A group of Trappist monks threatened by Muslim extremists in Algeria

must decide whether to leave or stay. Xavier Beauvois ("Le Petit Lieutenant") wrote and directed the fact-based drama. In French with subtitles. (122 min.) Rated PG-13 for a momentary scene of startling wartime violence, some disturbing images and brief language.

RED RIDING HOOD

In a medieval village, a young girl (Amanda Seyfried) who has fallen in love with a poor woodcutter travels through the woods to be with him - despite the fact that a werewolf is on the loose. Catherine Hardwicke ("Twilight") directed the fairy-tale drama. Rated PG-13 for violence and creature terror, and some sensuality.

THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

Supernatural forces attempt to separate a politician and a dancer (Matt Damon and Emily Blunt) who have fallen in love at first sight. Screenwriter George Nolfi ("The Bourne Identity," "Ocean's Twelve") adapted this romantic story by sci-fi writer Philip K. Dick for his directorial debut. Rated PG-13 for brief, strong language, some sexuality and a violent image.

BEASTLY

A rich, arrogant teenager (Alex Pettyfer) is transformed by a curse into a loathsome creature - a permanent situation unless he can convince a beautiful girl to love him as he is. Daniel Barnz ("Phoebe in Wonderland") wrote and directed this adaptation of "Beauty and the Beast." Rated PG-13 for language including crude comments, brief violence and some thematic material.

RANGO

A chameleon (voice of Johnny Depp) who yearns to be a hero gets his chance when bandits threaten the inhabitants of an Old West town. Gore Verbinski ("Pirates of the Caribbean," "Mousetrap") directed the animated comedy from a screenplay by Chicago playwright John Logan ("Gladiator"). Rated PG for rude humor, language, action and smoking.

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.

HIGHLAND PARK

Highland Park
445 Central Ave.
(847) 432-3300

THE LINCOLN LAWYER (R)
Fri, Sat: 1:15-4:15-7:00-9:30
Sun, Thurs: 1:15-4:15-7:00
Mon-Wed: 4:15-7:00

THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 1:30-4:15-7:00-9:30
Sun, Thurs: 1:30-4:15-7:00
Mon-Wed: 4:15-7:00

CEDAR RAPIDS (R)
Fri, Sat: 1:45-4:30-7:15-9:30
Sun, Thurs: 1:45-4:30-7:15
Mon-Wed: 4:30-7:15

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES (PG)
Fri, Sat: 1:15-4:00-7:00-9:30
Sun, Thurs: 1:15-4:00-7:00
Mon-Wed: 4:00-7:00

Renaissance Place
1850 2nd St.
(847) 258-7282

JANE EYRE (PG-13)
Fri-Sun: 11:30-2:15
4:30-5:10-7:15-8:00
Mon-Thurs: 2:15-4:30
5:10-7:15-8:00

THE KING'S SPEECH (R)
Fri-Sun: 11:10-1:45
Mon-Thurs: 1:45

CERTIFIED COPY (NR)
Fri-Sun: 11:45-2:30-5:30-8:10
Mon-Thurs: 2:30-5:30-8:10

BARNEY'S VERSION (R)
Fri-Sun: 11:00-1:50-4:40-7:40
Mon-Thurs: 1:50-4:40-7:40

OF GODS AND MEN (PG-13)
Fri-Sun: 11:15-2:10-5:00-7:50
Mon-Thurs: 2:10-5:00-7:50

MOUNT PROSPECT

Randhurst
101 Euclid Ave.
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NILES

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www.amctheatres.com

NORRIDGE

Norridge
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(888) 262-4386
www.amctheatres.com

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES (PG)
Fri: 2:15-4:50-7:25-9:55
Sat: 11:35-2:15-4:50-7:25-9:55
Sun-Thurs: 11:35-2:15-4:50-7:25

SUCKER PUNCH (PG-13)
Fri: 2:05-4:40-7:35-10:10
Sat: 11:25-2:05-4:40-7:35-10:10
Sun-Thurs: 11:25-2:05-4:40-7:35

LIMITLESS (PG-13)
Fri: 2:40-5:20-8:00-10:30
Sat: 11:55-2:40-5:20-8:00-10:30
Sun: 11:55-2:40-5:20-8:00
Mon-Thurs: 11:55-2:40-5:20-8:00

THE LINCOLN LAWYER (R)
Fri: 2:20-5:00-7:40-10:20
Sat: 11:45-2:20-5:00-7:40-10:20
Sun: 11:45-2:20-5:00-7:40
Mon-Thurs: 11:45-2:20-5:00-7:40

PAUL (R)
Fri: 1:45-4:15-6:45-9:10
Sat: 10:55-1:45-4:15-6:45-9:10
Sun: 10:55-1:45-4:15-6:45
Mon-Wed: 1:45-4:15-6:45
Thurs: 1:45-4:15

BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (PG-13)
Fri: 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:25
Sat: 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:25
Sun-Thurs: 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50

THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (PG-13)
Fri: 1:35-4:05-6:35-9:05
Sat: 10:50-1:35-4:05-6:35-9:05
Mon-Wed: 1:35-4:05-6:35
Thurs: 1:35-4:05

BEASTLY (PG-13)
Fri: 11:50-4:20-6:50-9:15
Sat: 11:00-1:50-4:20-6:50-9:15
Sun: 11:00-1:50-4:20-6:50
Mon-Wed: 1:50-4:20-6:50
Thurs: 1:50-4:20

RANGO (PG)
Fri: 1:55-4:30-7:15-9:45
Sat: 11:15-1:55-4:30-7:15-9:45
Sun-Thurs: 11:15-1:55-4:30-7:15

BIG MOMMAS: LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON (PG-13)
Fri: 1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
Sat: 10:45-1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
Mon-Wed: 1:30-4:00-6:30
Thurs: 1:30-4:00

PARK RIDGE

Pickwick
5 S. Prospect
(847) 604-2234
www.pickwicktheatre.com

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES (PG)
Fri-Thurs: 1:00-4:00-6:30-8:45

RANGO (PG)
Fri-Thurs: 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:15

THE KING'S SPEECH (R)
Fri-Thurs: 2:15-4:30-7:00-9:15

BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (PG-13)
Fri-Thurs: 2:15-4:30-7:00-9:15

ROSEMONT

Rosemont 18
9701 Bryn Mawr Ave.
(847) 447-1030

HOP (PG)
Thurs: 12:01 a.m.

INSIDIOUS (PG-13)
Thurs: 12:01 a.m.

SOURCE CODE (PG-13)
Thurs: 12:01 a.m.

TO CATCH A DOLLAR (NR)
Thurs: 7:30

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES (PG)
Fri, Sat: 11:15-11:50-1:50-2:25-4:25-5:00-7:05-7:35-9:40-10:10-12:10

SUCKER PUNCH (PG-13)
Fri, Sat: 11:45-1:20-2:30-4:10-5:15-7:00-8:00-9:45-10:45-12:30

LIMITLESS (PG-13)
Fri, Sat: 11:45-1:20-2:30-4:10-5:15-7:00-8:00-9:45-10:45-12:30
Sun: 11:45-1:20-2:30-4:10-5:15-7:00-8:00-9:45-10:45-12:30
Mon-Thurs: 11:50-1:20-2:30-4:10-5:15-7:00-8:00-9:45-10:45

PAUL (R)
Fri: 11:10-11:40-1:55-2:25-4:35-5:05-7:10-7:40-9:50-10:20-12:25-12:55
Sat: 11:40-2:25-4:35-5:05-7:10-7:40-9:50-10:20-12:25-12:55
Sun: 11:10-11:40-1:55-2:25-4:35-5:05-7:10-7:40-9:50-10:20
Mon-Thurs: 11:50-1:55-2:25-4:35-5:05-7:10-7:40-9:50-10:20

THE LINCOLN LAWYER (R)
Fri, Sat: 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:20-11:00
Sun-Thurs: 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:20

BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (PG-13)
Fri, Sat: 12:55-1:30-3:50-4:20-6:40-7:15-9:35-10:05-12:20-12:50
Sun: 12:55-1:30-3:50-4:20-6:40-7:15-9:35-10:05
Mon-Thurs: 12:55-1:30-3:50-4:20-6:40-7:15-9:35-10:05

MARS NEEDS MOMS (PG)
Fri-Sun: 11:05-1:45
Mon-Thurs: 1:45

MARS NEEDS MOMS IN 3-D (PG)
Fri-Thurs: 12:30-2:55-5:20-8:20-10:40

RED RIDING HOOD (PG-13)
Fri, Sat: 11:20-2:00-4:45-7:25-9:00-10:05-9:00-10:05-11:40-12:45
Sun: 11:20-2:00-4:45-7:25-9:00-10:05
Mon-Thurs: 2:00-4:45-7:25-9:00-10:05

BEASTLY (PG-13)
Fri-Sun: 11:00-1:25-3:55-6:30
Mon-Thurs: 1:25-3:55-6:30

CARMEN IN 3-D
Sat: 1:00 p.m.

RANGO (PG)
Fri, Sat: 10:55-1:35-4:15-7:20-10:10-12:50
Sun: 10:55-1:35-4:15-7:20-10:10
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THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (PG-13)
Fri, Sat: 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:25-12:05
Sun-Thurs: 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:25

HALL PASS (R)
Fri, Sat: 11:30-2:20-5:10-7:50-10:30-1:00

Sun: 11:30-2:20-5:10-7:50-10:30
Mon-Wed: 11:55-2:35-5:20-8:05-10:55
Thurs: 11:55-2:35-10:55

UNKNOWN (PG-13)
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Thurs: 12:01 a.m.

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Fri, Sat: 11:45-1:20-2:30-4:10-5:15-7:00-8:00-9:45-10:45-12:30
Sun: 11:45-1:20-2:30-4:10-5:15-7:00-8:00-9:45-10:45-12:30
Mon-Thurs: 5:15-7:00-8:00-9:45-10:45

LIMITLESS (PG-13)
Fri, Sat: 11:35-12:10-2:15-2:50-4:55-5:30-7:45-8:15-10:25-11:00
Sun: 11:35-12:10-2:15-2:50-4:55-5:30-7:45-8:15-10:25-11:00
Mon-Thurs: 4:55-5:30-7:45-8:15-10:25-11:00

THE LINCOLN LAWYER (R)
Fri, Sat: 1:40-4:30-10:20-11:00
Sun: 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:25
Mon-Thurs: 4:30-7:30-10:20

BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (PG-13)
Fri, Sat: 1:30-4:20-7:15-10:05-12:50
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DVD COLUMN

'Black Swan' is now on DVD

By BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

language and some drug use. (Fox)

NEW THIS WEEK:

BLACK SWAN
★ ★ ★ 1/2

An hysterical, often disturbing mix of "The Red Shoes," "All about Eve" and body-morphing Cronenbergian horror, the psychological thriller "Black Swan" sacrifices coherence for spectacular craziness. It's also guaranteed to make you think twice about buying your little girl her first pink tutu. Natalie Portman moves way, way out of her comfort zone, with impressive results, as Nina, a young dancer who has devoted her life to dance, to such an extreme degree that she has little identity of her own. So when her company's bullying, manipulative artistic director (Vincent Cassel) offers her the star-making dual role of the White Swan and Black Swan in "Swan Lake" and then challenges nice-girl Nina to release her inner darker, malevolent, passionate nature to dance the bad bird, things start getting seriously weird. Early on, director Darren Aronofsky ("The Wrestler," "Requiem for a Dream") suggests that Nina might be losing her fragile grip on reality, so it's possible to interpret all the horrific things that happen as figments of her imagination. Whether that's true or not, "Black Swan" is best appreciated as a filmmaker's tour de force. Aronofsky tells this story about an artist's self-destructive, obsessive devotion to her art and he does that in the most artfully extreme way imaginable. It's a sumptuous, gorgeous, challenging film that attempts to drive deep into the essence of dance and the essence of madness. (BI) Rated R for strong sexual content, disturbing violent images,

FAIR GAME
★ ★ ★ 1/2

Serious and straightforward right down the line, this engrossing political drama is a surprising change of pace for director Doug Liman ("Swingers," "The Bourne Identity," "Mr. and Mrs. Smith"), whose previous forte was stylish action and stylish comedy, or a combination of the two. Sean Penn and Naomi Watts are nicely matched (as they were in "21 Grams" and "The Assassination of Richard Nixon") as retired ambassador Joe Wilson and his wife, CIA agent Valerie Plame, who was outed by the White House in 2003 to discredit Wilson after he challenged the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Liman manages to keep things tense, despite the age and familiarity of the story, and to wring a fair amount of sympathy from the ensuing marital conflict — based on books written by both Plame and Wilson. The politics might be a little hard to handle, but that's mainly due to the way Penn's role fits his personal political agenda. (Summit Entertainment)

RECENT RELEASES:

HOW DO YOU KNOW
★ ★ ★

This generally quite enjoyable romance is smart, witty, sexy and sophisticated, but since it was written and directed by James L. Brooks ("As Good as It Gets," "Broadcast News," "Terms of Endearment"), it's a little disappointing by comparison. Reese Witherspoon plays a young woman trying to cope with her attraction to two suitors: commitment-phobic baseball star Owen Wilson and nice-guy big-league businessman Paul Rudd. (BI)



"Black Swan"

Rated PG-13 for sexual content and some strong language.

A SHINE OF RAINBOWS
★ ★ ★

In which a pale, unhappy, gap-toothed little boy is rescued from an orphanage by red-haired Irish colleen Maire (Danish actress Connie Nielsen) and spirited away to her rugged island home to live with herself and her dour husband Alec (Aidan Quinn). If you're not inclined to be cynical, the strong, understated performances and potent emotional sucker-punch of a little boy finally finding a home are likely to please. (BI) Rated PG for some thematic elements, mild peril and smoking.

ALSO NEW THIS WEEK:

ANYTHING GOES

Frank Sinatra and Ethel Merman made their TV debuts in this Colgate Comedy Hour production of the Cole Porter musical. Extras include a 20-page booklet. (Entertainment One)

CHARLTON HESTON PRESENTS THE BIBLE

How appropriate. Heston narrates four films on "Genesis," "The Story of Moses," "Jesus of Nazareth" and "The



"Fair Game"

Passion" — each with a 28-minute, behind-the-scenes documentary. Released in honor of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. (A&E)

MESRINE: PUBLIC ENEMY #1

The second installment of a two-part drama about the career of Jacques Mesrine, France's most famed and infamous gangster (Vincent Cassel). (Music Box Films)

THE RESTAURATEUR

A documentary following Danny Meyer, one of America's best-known restaurant owners, as he prepares to open two new dining establishments next to New York's Madison Square Park. (First Run Pictures)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Cecil B. DeMille's famous 1956 biblical epic featuring Charlton Heston as Moses and a famed special effects sequence in which he parts the Red Sea. Extras include DeMille's 1923 silent film of the same name. Also in Blu-Ray. (Paramount)

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STAGE

"Bus Stop" will be presented by The Guild Theater Company March 25-April 17 at the Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$18; \$15 for students and senior citizens. Reservations are recommended; call (847) 420-8079. Visit www.theguildtheatre.org.

"Hairspray! The Broadway Musical," April 1-10 at Wilbur Wright College's Events Theater, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave., Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. April 1-2 and April 9; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. April 7-8; and 2 p.m. April 10. Previews are at 2 p.m. March 30 and 7:30 p.m. March 31. Tickets are \$10, with discounts for seniors, students and children. Call (773) 481-8037 or e-mail StageWright@ccc.edu.

"Night and Her Stars," through April 24 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee, Chicago. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$25-\$30. Call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

North Riverside Recreation Community Theater presents "Murder in the Bingo Hall" on April 2 in St. Monica Parish's Beyenka Hall, 5105 N. Mont Clare, Chicago. Doors open at 5 p.m.; pasta buffet dinner at 6 p.m. \$25. For tickets, call (773) 631-7880.

"A Number" will be presented as a staged reading at 8 p.m. March 26 and 2 p.m. March 27 at Oakton Community College's Studio One Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. General admission tickets are \$8. Call (847) 635-1900 or visit www.oakton.edu/tickets.

"Sense & Sensibility" will be presented by Northlight Theatre through April 17 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Performances are Tuesdays (except March 29 and April 5) and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (except no 7:30 p.m. show on March 30); Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except no 7 p.m. performance on March 27 and April 17). Tickets: \$40-\$50. Tickets for those 25 and under are \$10. Salon Series, a panel discussion led by local experts for audience members to gain deeper insight into the play, will present "I Am a Jane Austenite" at 1 p.m. April 3. Reservations are required. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

CLASSICAL

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alan Heatherington, performs at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. www.arsviva.org. (847) 673-6300. \$35-\$70, with discounts for seniors and students. May 1, 4:30 p.m.: "A Rising Star," featuring violinist Alexandra Switla, the winner of the Music Institute of Chicago Young Artist Competition. The program includes James Stephenson: Concertino and Fanfare; Carl Maria von Weber: Overture and March from "Turandot"; and Paul Hindemith: Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes of Carl Maria von Weber.

Chicago a cappella performs in the Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$35 for preferred seating, \$28 for general admission, \$22 for seniors; and \$12 for students. For tickets, call (773) 755-1628 or see www.chicagoacappella.org. April 2, 8 p.m.: "Chicago, Chicago," a musical tour of the Windy City. The program includes a setting of Carl Sandburg's "Prayers of Steel"; Chicago-style gospel and blues, and more.

"Servant of Two Masters" will be presented by Piccolo Theatre through April 9 at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$25; \$20 for seniors; \$15 for students. Call (847) 424-0089 or visit www.piccolotheatre.com.

The Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 7 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on the Northwestern University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 866-6888. www.chicagophilharmonic.org. Tickets are \$20-\$75. April 17: "Going for Baroque," with David Schrader, guest conductor, and Alyce Johnson, piccolo.

The program includes James Vivaldi's Concerto for Piccolo and Strings in C Major and CPE Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in D minor. Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra will perform "Music of Spring" at 2 p.m. March 26 at Lincolnwood Place Retirement Community, 7000 N. McCormick, Lincolnwood. Conducted by Philip Simmons, the concert will include music of Grieg, Holst, Johann Strauss Jr. and Vivaldi. Free. Call (847) 673-7166 or visit www.americanmusicfestivals.com.

Lutkin Hall at Northwestern University, 700 University Place, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. April 10, 3 p.m.: Newberry Consort presents "Musica Secreta — Passion and Virtuosity at Court," the music of Luzzaschi, Peri, Monteverdi, Wert and da Gagliano. The concert will be preceded by a lecture at 2 p.m. \$30; \$5 for students. April 27, 5-9 p.m.: Menahem Pressler piano master class. Admission is free.

Alice Millar Chapel at Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. April 10, 5 p.m.: Alice Millar Chapel Choir and Wheaton College Conservatory Concert Choir in a performance featuring organists Eric Budzynski and Jacob Fuhrman. Free-will offering.

Music of the Baroque presents Handel's "Messiah" at 3 p.m. April 17 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra, conducted by Jane Glover, will be joined by Elizabeth Futral, soprano, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzo-soprano, John McVeigh, tenor, and Christopher Nomura, baritone. Tickets are

\$38, \$45, \$60. Call (312) 551-1414 or visit www.baroque.org.

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. March 27, 3 p.m.: The Cori-nah Duo — Chicago Symphony Orchestra first violinist Cornelius Chiu and his wife, MIC piano faculty member Inah Chiu — performs works by Beethoven, Strauss and Prokofiev. \$25; \$15 seniors; \$10 students. April 10, 3 p.m.: American bass-baritone Ryan McKinny performs Franz Schubert's "Winterreise," accompanied by pianist Elizabeth Bucherli. "Winterreise" (Winter Journey) is a cycle of 24 poems by Wilhelm Müller, which Schubert set to music for voice and piano. \$25; \$15 seniors; \$10 students. April 16, 7:30 p.m.: Pianist Alexander Djordjevic performs works by Schumann, Liszt, Faure, Rachmaninoff and Chopin. \$25; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. May 7, 7:30 p.m.: Cellist Wendy Warner and pianist Irina Nuzova will perform works by Nikolai Miskovsky, André Previn and Felix Mendelssohn. \$25; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. May 14, 7:30 p.m.: "Concerto Extravaganza." Pianist Maria Aznavoorian, violinist Desirée Rührstrat and cellist Wendy Warner perform the top three concertos of the 2010-11 season, as voted on by MIC audiences. The program includes works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky. \$25; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. May 21, 7:30 p.m.: Pacifica Quartet performs an all-Beethoven program. \$25; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students.

go., PAGE B9

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PLAY REVIEW

'Sense & Sensibility'
Northlight Theatre, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Through April 17. Performances are Tuesdays (except March 29 and April 5) and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (except no 7:30 p.m. show on March 30); Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except no 7 p.m. performance on March 27 and April 17). Tickets: \$40-\$50. Tickets for those 25 and under are \$10. Salon Series, a panel discussion led by local experts for audience members to gain deeper insight into the play, will present "I Am a Jane Austenite!" at 1 p.m. April 3. Reservations are required. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

By TOM WITOM
Contributor

Sense and Sensibility, published in 1811, marked Jane Austen's debut as a novelist and, to her legions of admirers, established her peerless reputation as a writer.

Now playwright and director Jon Jory has given Austen fans another way to enjoy their favorite author. Jory has done a masterful job of bringing "Sense and Sensibility" to the stage at Northlight Theatre with a contemporary adaptation that offers fresh insights into the classic. An old hand at such work, Jory previously adapted Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* as well as other literary gems including *Anne of Green Gables* and *The Gift of the Magi*.

In a program note to the play, Jory described how he imagined Austen cautioning him about inventing lines. "What a wonderful ear for dialogue she had, and how shrewdly she strings out and pays off her stories," he wrote.

Within about a two-hour span, Jory's adaptation manages to breathe life into the passionate characters that populate Austen's novel and capture its involving plot.



Heidi Kettinger (left), and Helen Sadler play two sisters with financial and romantic woes in "Sense and Sensibility."

The story, which takes place in various locations in England, focuses on Elinor and Marianne, two unmarried daughters of the widowed Mrs. Henry Dashwood. The women find themselves in financial uncertainty after old Mr. Dashwood died and left the bulk of his estate to John, his first wife's son. And neither John nor his parsimonious spouse are inclined to share much of the inheritance.

Elinor, the sensible sister, and Marianne, her more impulsive younger sibling, wonder how the lack of a family fortune would affect their chances for landing suitable husbands.

However, finding potential suitors doesn't seem to be a challenge. The problem each faces is connecting with an honest, unencumbered and decent would-be mate. In the end, their road to happiness proves bumpy and full of detours.

Jory has assembled a terrific cast, led by Heidi Kettinger, who infuses the role of Elinor with a quiet intensity, and Helen Sadler, as Marianne, a dewy-eyed romantic.

Complementing them are standout performances by Greg Matthew Anderson as the two-timing

Austen, PAGE B9

Austen

Continued from PAGE B8

Willoughby; Geoff Rice as the secretive Edward Ferrars; Jay Whittaker as the reticent but persistent Colonel Brandon; Jordon Brown as the opportunistic Robert Ferrars; and Diane Mair as Lucy, a gold-digger.

There's good work, too, by Si Osborne, V. Craig Heidenreich, Franette Liebow, Penny Slusher, Wendy Robie and Ginger Lee McDermott.

Give credit also to scenic designer Tom Burch for his wise decision to go with a minimalist set. On stage are benches, a freestanding door and few other props — just what's necessary to provide a suggestion of place and time. Such simplicity makes it easier for the script's well-chosen words to guide the audience's imagination in keeping up with the rapidly shifting scenes.

go.

Continued from PAGE B7

Northwest Choral Society presents "Praise and Triumph" at 7:30 p.m. March 26 at Community Presbyterian Church, 407 N. Main St., Mount Prospect. Members of the Northwest Choral Society Chamber Orchestra will accompany the chorus in a program of works by Handel, Mozart and Franck, as well as Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass. Soloists are Kathleen Van De Graaff, soprano, Theresa Brancaccio, mezzo-soprano, Kurt Hansen, tenor, and Peter Van De Graaff, bass-baritone. Tickets: \$18; \$15 for senior citizens and students. A free preconcert lecture will be presented at 6:45 p.m. For information, visit www.nwchoralsociety.org or call (224) 585-9127.

Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Paul Vermeil, music director, presents concerts at 3:30 p.m. Sundays in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. Pre-concert commentaries by Carolyn Paulin, a staff member of radio station WFMT, begin one hour prior to each concert. Tickets: \$20; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. Children under age 14 are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. www.northwestsymphony.org. April 10: "Russian Triumph," featuring bassoonist William Dawson. The program includes Mozart's Concerto in B-flat for Bassoon and Orchestra; Debussy's Petite Suite; and Shostakovich's Sympho-

go., PAGE B14

ny No. 5 in D minor. May 22: Pops concert, showcasing military, opera and Broadway themes. Featuring Stephanie Block, viola, winner of the Paul Verneil Young Artist Award.

The Orion Ensemble performs in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. \$26; \$23 for senior citizens; \$10 for students. Free for children 12 and younger. (630) 628-9591 or www.orionensemble.org. May 8, 3 p.m.: "Mahler's 150th Birthday," featuring Gustav Mahler's Piano Quartet in A Minor; William Bolcom's "Little Suite of Four Dances"; John Williams' "Air and Simple Gifts"; and Mozart's Quintet in G Minor.

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org or call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861. April 10, 2:30 p.m.: "Baroque Bash," with Victor Huls, cello soloist. The program includes Bach: Brandenburg #1 in F major; Boccherini: Cello Concerto (Gruetzmacher); and Haydn: Symphony #49 in F minor (La Passione). May 1, 2:30 p.m.: "Homage to Mozart," with Sarah Hibbard, soprano soloist, Jessye Wright, contralto soloist, Peder Reiff, tenor soloist, Peter Van De Graaff, bass soloist, and the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Chorus, the Park Ridge Community Church Chancel Choir and the Algoma Festival Choir of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. The program includes Mozart's Concerto in B-flat for Bassoon and Orchestra; Debussy's Petite Suite; and Requiem Mass in D minor.

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Rose's musical career is starting to bloom

Haroula Rose and Andrew Belle Schuba's, 3159 N. Southport Ave., Chicago. 7:30 p.m. April 8. \$12. (773) 525-2508. See www.schubas.com and www.myspace.com/haroularose.

By **LILLI KUZMA**
Contributor

Haroula Rose, a Chicago native and formerly of Lincolnwood, knows a thing or two about travel and living in different places. It's her openness to new experiences that has opened doors to a musical career just starting to bloom in a big way.

"Friends used to tell me it was 'just a matter of time' that I'd (achieve something) in music," said Rose, speaking by phone from her Los Angeles home.

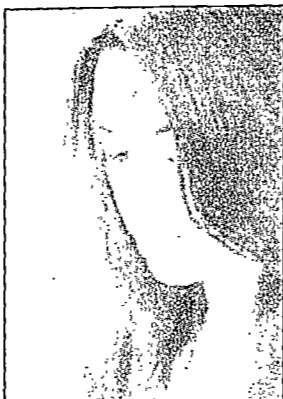
Rose is a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, who just released her first full-length album, "These Open Roads," produced by Andy Lemaster.

Budding career

With performances at venues like The Hollywood Café and having been selected as an official showcase performer at the prestigious South By Southwest Music Festival, Rose is at a turning point in her career.

"These Open Roads" presents contemporary folk/pop, with 11 Rose originals and a mesmerizing cover of Mason Jennings' "Duluth." With a sweet, lovely voice, and accompanying herself on guitar, Rose sings about love and break ups, life and its wishes, dreams and choices, nature, and time.

The excellent production includes 16 studio musicians adding diverse instrumentation, but with Rose's voice shimmering above the mix. The album is available on Amazon.com.



Haroula Rose

"I think songs should evoke emotion," said Rose. "I mostly write on a 1929 Martin parlor guitar. It might be haunted it's so old. I'm into music 100 percent now. If I didn't do music, I would have some regrets about things."

But, although she has always been musical (violin, piano, singing, and guitar) and enjoyed writing poems and lyrics, Rose did not originally plan on a music career.

Rose, who attended Loyola Academy and the University of Chicago, explained that her first singing job out of college was an accident:

"Fortunately, I met someone at a party in college from a Chicago production company called Earhole Studios, that does music for commercials, jingles. I had just taken my GREs, thinking of going to graduate school, maybe law school. But I was told, 'we should get you on a commercial campaign.'"

Rose spent the next two years singing in the recording studio, gaining experience interacting and collaborating with composers, musicians, writers, and filmmakers.

"It was a thrilling experience," she said. "I couldn't believe I was in a recording studio!"

Then a Fulbright Scholarship came through, and

Rose was off to Spain in 2005.

"I moved to Madrid for a year, but I loved Spain so much I stayed for an extra year, and took the time to travel to the Middle East, to Israel, and to Portugal, all round. I am fluent in Spanish, and was a teacher (of music and theater) in Madrid, where I also started to perform."

More luck

Upon her return to the states, Rose originally set out to work in film, and came to L.A. where she was employed with several different theater companies and worked on film sets.

She was also playing her music, at open mics then at shows in L.A., then all over the U.S. Soon she got another lucky break: a song from her EP, "Someday," was picked up by the hit CBS TV comedy, "How I Met Your Mother."

"I always paid attention to music in film and TV shows," she said.

Shortly after her song was licensed to TV, Rose was introduced to Lemaster and plans were made to record her music in Athens, Georgia at Chase Park Transduction Studio.

Said Rose: "Andy is a genius, and would come up with ideas that would stretch the limits of what I expected, but still kept true to the songs."

Chicago is high on her to-do list. "I want to do a bunch of shows in Chicago. I love Chicago so much!" said Rose. And it's home.

Given her career path, Rose's unusual first name becomes entirely appropriate.

"My family is from Greece, my parents moved here in the '60s," said Rose. "My name means 'joy.'"


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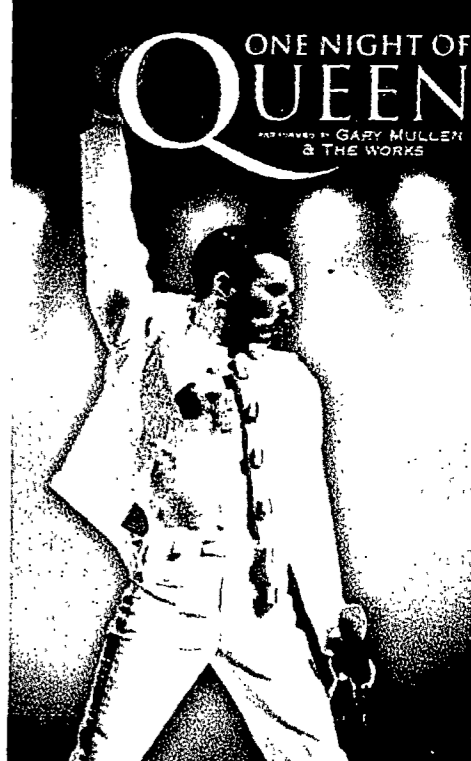


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Warrior

Continued from PAGE B3

raise money for cancer research. When our Terry heard about his story he decided he wanted to do something like that.

PIONEER: What are the plans for "My Run" after this one night event?

REDLIN: The event will be the only theatrical release for the film, because it's going to be shown simultaneously in 140 markets across the country. So, if you want to see it in a theater, it's now or never. We also have plans for a DVD release, probably in the fall of this year. And, of course, we're working on a feature film version of Terry's story. We've been thinking, "Who's our A-list to play Terry?" Maybe Philip Seymour Hoffman, maybe William Macy, maybe Robin Williams. You never know, right? As Terry demonstrated, anything's possible.

go.

Continued from PAGE B9

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. www.pickstaiger.org. March 30, 7:30 p.m.: Mark O'Connor String Quartet presents "An Evening of Strings." \$18/\$15/\$8. March 31, 10:30 a.m.: Grammy Award-winning violinist Mark O'Connor will lead a workshop with Bienen School of Music string students. Admission is free. April 1, 7:30 p.m.: "Road Trip: An Operatic Travelogue." Students from the Bienen School of Music will perform opera classics from Asia, Europe and America. \$14/\$12/\$6. April 15, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra performs Mahler's Symphony No. 7 in E Minor. \$9/\$7/\$5. April 16, 7:30 p.m.: Symphonic Wind Ensemble performs works by Ernest Toch, Wagner and Boris Blacher. \$7/\$5/\$4. April 18, 5:30 p.m.: Northwestern Concerto/Aria Competition. Admission is free. April 28, 7:30 p.m.: Contemporary Music Ensemble presents "A World of Song - A World of Color." \$7/\$5/\$4. April 30, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra performs works by Rossini, Debussy, Massenet and Beethoven. \$7/\$5/\$4. Regenstein Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 60 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. April 1, noon and 5 p.m., and April 2, 12:30 p.m.: Cello master class with Lynn Harrell. Admission is free. April 10, 3 p.m.: Violin Pedagogical Weekend Finale Concert. The program will include the world premiere of a new violin work by Northwestern professor Lee Hyla. Admission is free. April 14, 5:30 p.m.: Athens Saxophone Quartet. Admission is free.

Rembrandt Chamber Players will present "Getting Romantic" at 7:30 p.m. March 27 at S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, featuring works by Dohnanyi, Piere and Prokofiev. The concert will also feature the winners of the 16th annual High School Chamber Music Competition. Tickets: \$37.50. Call (312) 360-3145 or visit www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org. Segovia Classical Guitar Series, presented by the Northwestern University Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music and supported in part by the Chicago Classical Guitar Society. All Segovia series events will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Lutkin Hall, 700 University Place, on Northwestern's Evanston campus. For information, call (847) 491-5441 or visit www.pickstaiger.org. April 9: A program by the Beijing Guitar Duo, comprised of Meng Su and Yameng Wang, will conclude the Segovia series. \$22/\$19/\$10. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. March 27, 2 p.m.: Pianist Vladimir Leyetchikss presents music of Haydn and Schubert. 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 \$23-\$37; \$10 for children. Free pre-concert lectures begin at 1:45 p.m. For tickets, call (847) 673-6300 or visit

www.svso.org. May 15: "Strauss and Tchaikowsky," including the Pathétique Symphony.

POP/FOLK/JAZZ

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. April 19, 7 p.m.: Ricky Martin. \$40.50, \$60.50, \$90.50, \$126.50. May 6, 7:30 p.m.: Sugarland - The Incredible Machine Tour with guests Little Big Town and Matt Nathanson. \$36, \$46, \$66. May 10, 8 p.m.: Rammstein. \$49.50, \$69.50, \$89.50, May 14, 8 p.m.: Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band. \$75. May 25, 7:30 p.m.: News Kids on the Block and Backstreet Boys. \$29.50, \$49.50, \$69.50, \$89.50. June 3, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and June 4, 8 p.m.: "Glee Live!" \$49.50, \$89.50. July 8, 7:30 p.m.: Katy Perry - California Dreams 2011 world tour. \$35, \$45. Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.: Keith Urban and Jake Owen. \$25, \$59.50. Chambers, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. (847) 647-8282. www.thechambersonline.com. Sunday music is from 5-9 p.m.; Thursday music is from 7-11 p.m.; Friday-Saturday music is from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. March 25: Rick Lindy & The Wild Ones (rock). \$5 cover. March 26: The Renditions (oldies). \$5 cover. Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhumanist.org/coffeehouse. April 9, 8 p.m.: Chicago area folksinger/songwriter Andrew Calhoun

is joined in performance by his daughter Casey, adding vocals and interpretive dance. \$8 includes refreshments. InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. (847) 544-5300. Friday Nights Live, featuring music from 8:30 p.m.-midnight in the Montrose Room. Ticket prices for shows vary. For information, visit www.montroseroom.com. March 25: Imposter Radio. March 26: Alejandro Escovedo. \$20; \$25 VIP. April 8: The Ginige. April 15: Moose and Rabbit Children. April 22: August. April 30: Cathy Richardson and The Macrodots. \$20; \$25 VIP. The Lakeside Singers present "I'll Know It When I Hear It," songs by a variety of classical and popular composers, at 8 p.m. April 1 in Nichols Concert Hall at The Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets: \$30; \$20 for senior citizens and students; \$10 for children. Call (847) 382-5085 or visit www.lakesidesingers.com. North Shore Senior Center will host an all-ages concert by the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band at 2 p.m. April 3 at the Arthur C. Nielsen Jr. Campus, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield. A reception follows the performance. Tickets are \$10. Reservations required; call (847) 784-6030. The Park Ridge Chorale will present its annual spring program, "You Ask For It," a concert of music selected by audiences, at 7 p.m. April 9 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Tickets are \$14, \$12 for seniors, if purchased by April 2; and \$16/\$14 at the door. Call (847) 825-5499

or (847) 825-2216. Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. www.pickstaiger.org. April 2, 7:30 p.m.: The 10-piece Haitian ensemble Boukman Eksperyans will fuse traditional Haitian and Caribbean rhythms with rock and reggae. \$16/\$14/\$8. April 7, 7:30 p.m.: The Hot Club of San Francisco presents "Meet Me in Paris," a performance of gypsy jazz of 1920s and 1930s Paris. \$16/\$14/\$8. April 9, 7:30 p.m.: "If It Wasn't for the Irish and the Jews: A Tribute to Irish and Jewish Influences on Vaudeville and Tin Pan Alley," presented by Mick Moloney, Vince Giordano & The Nighthawks, Athena Tergis, Brendan Dolan, Billy McCormiskey, Susan McKeown and Niall O'Leary. \$18/\$15/\$8. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, unless noted otherwise. March 25, 8 p.m.: Bucky Halker presents "Folk Music in the Heartland: The Best of American Folk Songs." \$15. March 26, 8 p.m.: Orthodox avant-garde musician Yoshie Fruchter's Pitom. Guitarist Fruchter mixes grunge, jazz, noise-rock and surf music with Jewish modes and scales. \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. April 2, 8 p.m.: Cabaret singer Charlene Brooks presents "Life Stinks! And Other Things My Mother Taught Me." "Some Enchanted Evening: The Songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein" will be presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre through April 30 at the No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood (Rogers Park),

Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 7 p.m., Sundays. Tickets: \$25-\$30. Three-course dinner available for \$20 (plus beverages, taxes and tips). Visit www.theubique.org. S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.evanstonospace.com. (847) 492-8860. Shows at 8 p.m., unless noted otherwise. March 24: Patty Larkin (folk). \$17/\$20. March 25: Kaki King (indie). \$20/\$25. March 26, 7 p.m.: Sons of the Never Wrong (folk). \$17/\$20. March 29: The English Beat (ska/reggae). \$38/\$40. March 31: Julian Lage (jazz). \$15/\$20. April 2: Will Hoge. \$18/\$22. April 3: Steve Poltz. \$12/\$15. April 4: Glenn Tilbrook. \$20/\$25. April 5: Jesse Winchester and NEEMA. \$20/\$25. April 6: Junip, featuring José González (folk rock). \$18/\$20. April 8-9: David Bromberg (rock/folk). \$30/\$35. April 10, 7 p.m.: Guitarist Adrian Legg. \$17/\$20. April 11: Brad Mehldau (jazz). \$27/\$30. April 12: Brendan James and Matt White. \$12/\$15. April 13: Kim Richey. \$15/\$18. April 14: Lee Ritenour (jazz). \$25/\$30. April 15: The Dammwells with Harper Blynn (indie rock). \$15/\$17.

ART GALLERIES

Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. (847) 674-1500. Through May 3: Skokie Art Guild members' spring exhibit, "Nature's Palette." For more information, visit www.skokieartguild.org. Irish American Heritage Center Art Gallery, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. www.irish-american.org. Gallery hours are 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Through April 3: "The Old Neighborhood," paintings by Chicago area artist Tim McCarthy, and "The Photography of D. James Galbraith." Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visit www.lincolnwood.org/artgallery.cfm. Through April 30: "Pete's Lens," photographs by Peter J. Nussbaum. Artist's reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. April 7. Oakton Community College, Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2633. www.oakton.edu/museum. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Through March 25: "Clothing and Culture in South Asia" features the various outfits worn throughout history by people from the Indian subcontinent. Courtesy of the Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection, University of Wisconsin-Madison, the exhibition explores the intricate, intimate connections between clothing and culture. March 31-April 22: "OakArt 2011," paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, digital art and photography by student artists. Opening reception will be held from 5-8 p.m. March 31.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

MUSICIANS

The Music Institute of Chicago Audition Festival will be held from 1-6 p.m. April 17 at MIC's Evanston East Campus, 1490 Chicago Ave., and 1-3 p.m. April 17 at the Highland Park Community



Spring with strings

"An Evening of Strings" with Grammy-award winning violinist, composer and educator Mark O'Connor and his string quartet, takes place at 7:30 p.m. March 30 at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Tickets are \$18/\$15/\$8. Information: (847) 491-5441; tickets: (847) 467-4000. www.pickstaiger.org.

House, 1991 Sheridan Road, Highland Park. MIC is auditioning students entering second grade or higher who play strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, piano or guitar, as well as vocalists, for chamber music ensembles, jazz combos, orchestras and madrigal singers. There is no cost to audition. To schedule an audition appointment, call (847) 905-1500, ext. 180.

ARTISTS

Artists are invited to jury to be among the exhibitors in the 21st annual An Arts & Crafts Adventure, to be presented by the American Society of

Artists from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 7 on the grounds of Hodges Park, Prospect and Vine, Park Ridge. Visit www.americansocietyofartists.org. Call for artists for the Skokie Art Guild's 50th annual Art Fair, to be held July 9-10 on Skokie's Village Green, 521 W. Oakton. Fine art only; prizes and awards available. Visit www.skokieartguild.org or call (847) 677-8163.

MISCELLANEOUS

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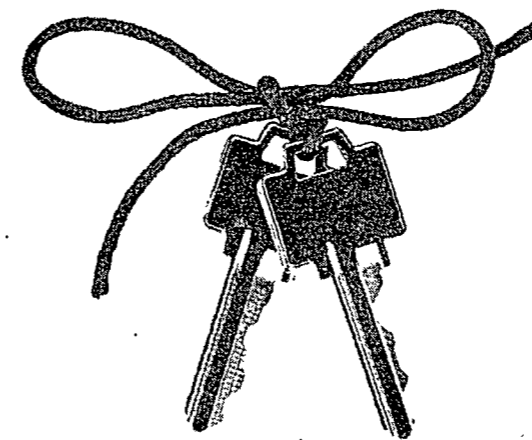
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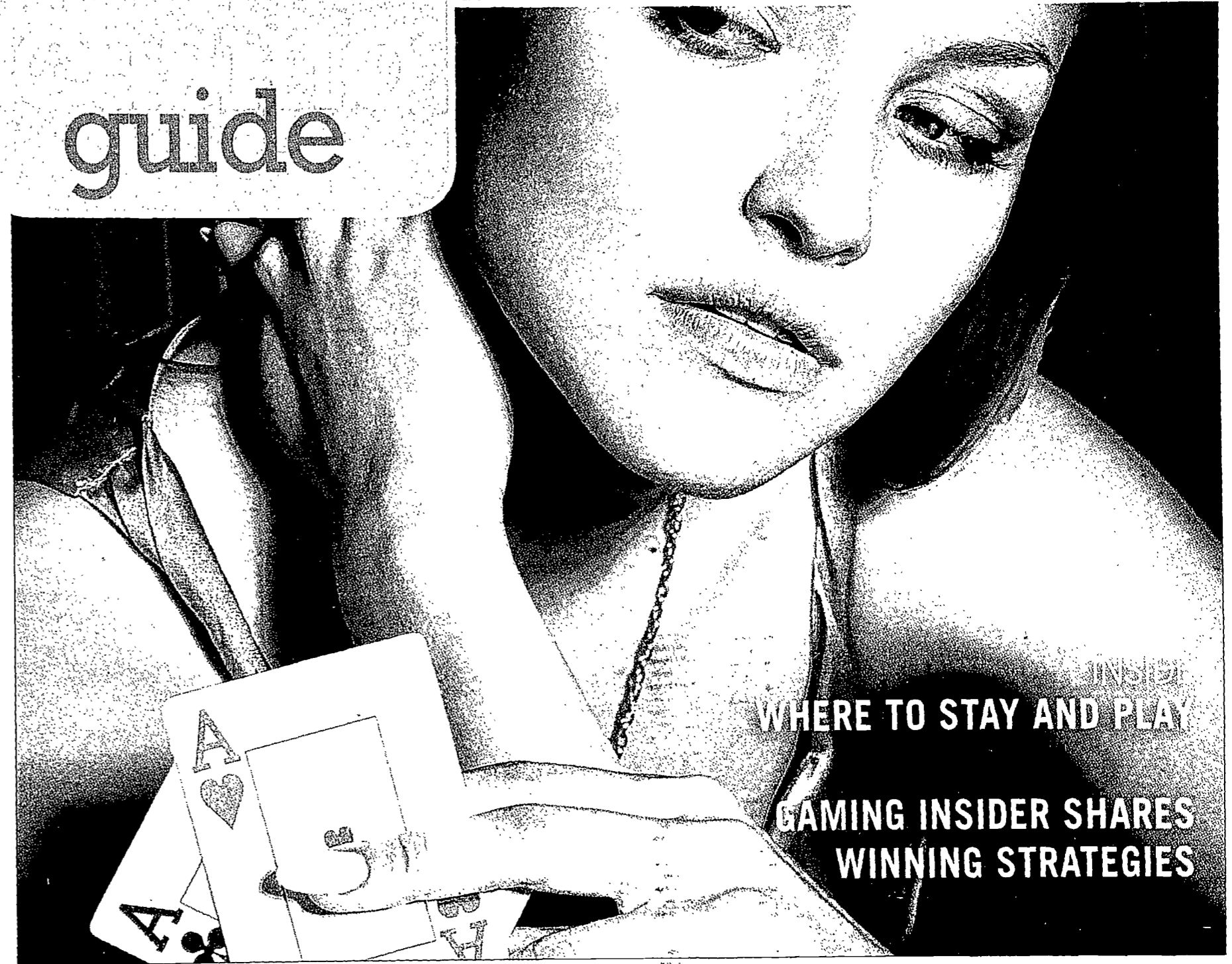
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By **DOROTHY ANDRIES**
Contributor

Philip Simmons, music director of the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra and founder of the American Music Festivals, may be one of the few musicians who regard the nation's battered arts budget as an opportunity rather than a disaster.

"Yes, opportunity," he said, when reached at his home on the Big Island of Hawaii, where he and his wife have lived since June of 2009. "because it challenges us to get out and form new relationships, look for new partnerships."

Simmons is scheduled to be in Lincolnwood Saturday afternoon to conduct Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra's ensemble of a dozen free-lance musicians in Edvard Grieg's "Elegaic Melodies," Gustav Holst's Brook Green Suite, "Voices of Spring" by Johann Strauss Jr., and a new arrangement of the well-known Japanese folk song "Sakura, Sakura," and "Ke Aloha O Ka Haku/He Shall Feed His Flock, which combines music of Hawaii's Queen Lili'uokalani and Handel.

The concert will also include "Spring" from Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" with Bernardo Arias, the chamber orchestra's long-time concertmaster. Juilliard-trained Arias has performed and toured with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and played with the Grant Park Symphony and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

Seasonal music
Inspired by the renewing promise of spring and the birth Feb. 10 of his first



Philip Simmons is the music director of the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra.

child, Penelope Jasmine, Simmons is determined to revitalize the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra. "I have new management, CHL Artists of Los Angeles, to build name recognition," he explained, "and to clarify the mission of the American Music Festivals, which presents these concerts."

The chamber orchestra now has a new manager, violinist Manoela Wunder, a native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who recently received a master's degree in violin performance from De Paul University. "She lives in Chicago," said Simmons, obviously pleased to have someone on site. Wunder will draw on her past experience as an arts administrator at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, where she worked with the New York Philharmonic.

This will be the ninth visit Simmons has made back to Chicago since moving to

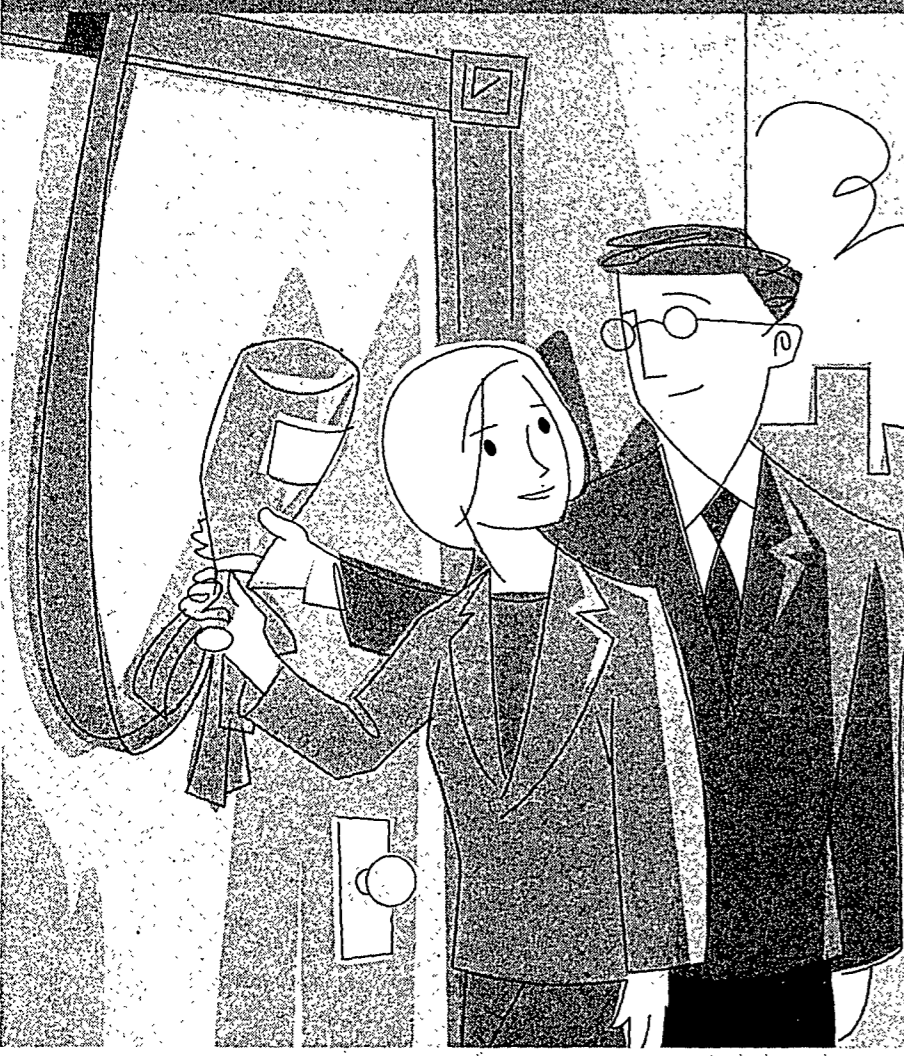


Bernardo Arias serves as concertmaster for the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra.

Hawaii, where he established the Orchestra of the Hawaiian Islands. The orchestra performs concerts titled "Pacific Moon Under the Stars," the most recent of which included Japanese and Western classical music. "The Orchestra of the Hawaiian Islands played music from Bernstein's 'West Side Story' last

Chamber, PAGE B17

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Your ace in the hole:

Perfect strategy is the secret to video poker

BY MARK PILARSKI
For Sun-Times Media

In video poker, only 21 percent of the hands dealt are winning hands of jacks or better and 79 percent are downright dogs. Herein lies the difference between the winning and losing player: what you do with those 79 percent of the hands that need to be groomed into winning greyhounds.

Every hand dealt has some value and potential of winning money, with the expected value predetermined accurately by past computer studies.

Savvy players will discard certain cards to optimize the "expected value" (win potential) of their hands. Herein lies the secret to winning at video poker — or another way of saying it, playing perfect basic strategy.

So what do I mean by "expected value?" Expected value is the average value of all the wins attainable (after the discards are replaced), assuming that the optimum cards are retained and each unique possible draw occurs.

In slots, no matter how adroitly you insert a coin and how expertly you pull the handle — the outcome is dumb chance. In video

poker, however, your well-honed skill makes it a game of proficiency. Besides, the pay is better. Knowledgeable players shop for 99 percent-plus machines, and certain video poker machines are even programmed to pay out, in theory, up to 100 percent when played at the expert level.

The reason the casino can be philanthropic with video poker is because the vast majority of players don't play anywhere near the expert level required to win, nor do most players have the slightest idea how to distinguish a good machine from a bad one.

For the standard game of Jacks-or-Better, strategy step No. 1 is to pick the game with the best payout table. How? By learning to distinguish between the "decent" and the "dogs." The higher the payouts, the greater the return. For example, on a Jacks-or-Better machine:

Machine return: nine for a full house/six for a flush
Machine payback: (with expert play) 99.5 percent

Machine return: eight for a full house/five for a flush



Machine payback: (with expert play) 97.4 percent

Machine return: seven for a full house/five for a flush
Machine payback: (with expert play) 96.3 percent

Machine return: six for a full house/five for a flush
Machine payback: (with expert play) 95.2 percent

These payout schedules are plastered in full view on every machine. Pick the right one.

This, along with learning perfect basic strategy for your machine of choice, will give you victory at video poker.

Mark Pilarski writes an internationally syndicated gambling column, is a university lecturer, reviewer and contributing editor for numerous gaming periodicals. He is the creator of the audio cassette series, "Hooked on Winning." Visit www.markpilarski.com.

GOOD TO KNOW

Mark Pilarski shares 10 tips that will turn the tables in your favor at specialsections.suntimes.com.

Experience first-rate gaming, dining at Four Winds Casino Resort

Four Winds Casino Resort is the premier gaming destination in the Midwest and offers an unparalleled gaming experience that is matched by its gourmet restaurants.

Four Winds Casino Resort is home to 3,000 slot machines and features a variety of table games including blackjack, Hi-Tie Blackjack, craps, No Way Craps, Bonus Craps, Mississippi Stud, three card poker, Pai Gow Poker, Crazy Four Poker, Let It Ride, mini and midi baccarat, World Poker Tour All-In Hold 'Em, roulette and electronic roulette.

Additionally, Four Winds has a smoke-free slot room, which provides an exciting alternative for guests that prefer a smoke-free gaming experience. The room is conveniently located adjacent to the hotel lobby and features more than 50 games in a variety of denominations. Four Winds Casino Resort also features wide-area progressives, which link to other Native American casinos around the country and produces some of the highest jackpots in the region.

Players can gain access to unique promotions and exclusive W Club jackpots through the W Club, which is the ultimate player loyalty club, offering more flexibility and more control of earned points and comps. Enrollment is free and player cards are available at any club booth in the casino.

Four Winds Casino Resort is also home to a World Poker Tour Poker Room, which offers Texas hold 'em, seven-card stud and Omaha, and holds eight PokerPro tables and four tables offering live dealer poker. Four Winds Casino Resort also features two Bad Beat Jackpots; one set for Omaha and the other for Texas hold 'em. More than \$913,000 has been paid out in Bad Beat Jackpots to date. Also available in the poker room is live keno, in which players can win up to \$100,000.

In addition to its gaming attractions, Four Winds also offers four restaurants including the Copper Rock Steakhouse, a white table cloth gourmet dining experience which is a three-time recipient of the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence. According to a recent review

by the Post-Tribune of Gary, Ind., Four Winds Casino Resort's Copper Rock Steakhouse offers a "fabulous dining experience" and "tableside service (that) is rarely offered in Northwest Indiana." Copper Rock Steakhouse also offers a "classics" menu featuring a fine dining experience at a great value that includes a choice of starters, entrée, side dish and dessert starting at \$35 per person.

The Buffet at Four Winds Casino Resort offers several menu options throughout the week. The International Buffet, featuring cuisine from around the world, including a new Mediterranean station, is offered Sundays through Wednesdays for \$16. The prime rib and shrimp buffet, which is available Thursdays and Fridays for \$24, includes delicious all-you-can-eat shrimp and more. On Saturdays, the signature seafood and prime rib buffet, which is available for \$28, features prime rib along with a bountiful seafood selection including Alaskan snow crab legs.

Other restaurants include the Willowbrook Café, which serves up comfort food in a relaxed, casual environment, and Timbers Fast Food and Deli, which guests can choose from an array of menu items including pizza, burgers, hotdogs and fries along side pastrami and rye and mile high deli sandwiches.

Four Winds Casino Resort's hotel features 165 rooms with 98 suites. Each room includes granite counter tops, leather-wrapped headboards, 14 1/2-inch deep pillow-top mattresses, flat-screen high-definition televisions, coffee makers and complimentary Starbucks coffee. All suites have a walk-in shower, whirlpool jetted bath tubs and a wet bar with a refrigerator and microwave.

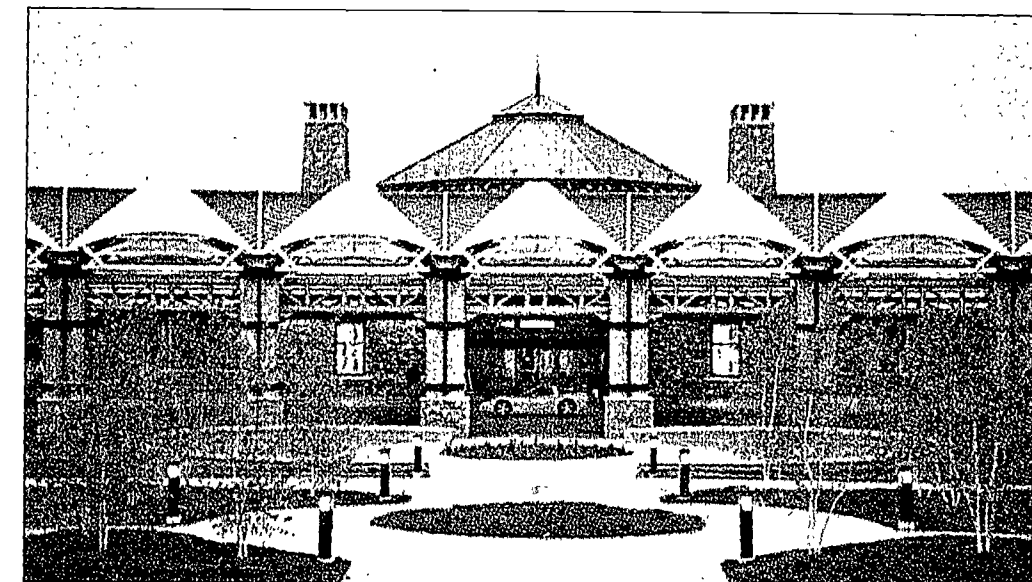
Round-trip chartered bus service to Four Winds Casino Resort is available from several locations in the Chicago area, northern Indiana and western and central Michigan. Schedules, bonus packages and directions are available by calling (866) 711-1997 or at www.fourwindscasino.com.

For more information on Four Winds Casino Resort or to make a reservation, call 1-866-4WINDS1 (866-494-6371) or visit www.fourwindscasino.com.

Provided by Four Winds Casino Resort



"Four Winds Casino Resort's Copper Rock Steakhouse offers a 'fabulous dining experience' and 'tableside service (that) is rarely offered in Northwest Indiana.'"



Winning combination: Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Mich., is home to 3,000 slot machines a variety of table games and four restaurants. The resort's hotel features 165 rooms with 98 suites. (SUPPLIED PHOTOS)



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Potawatomi Bingo Casino: celebrating 20 years as a gaming destination

It's time to celebrate. Potawatomi Bingo Casino, located in downtown Milwaukee, is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2011. The casino first opened its doors on March 7, 1991, as a modest bingo hall. In just 20 years, it has become one of the largest tourist attractions in the Midwest, with more than 780,000 square feet of gaming, dining and entertainment options.

There's never a dull moment on our casino floor — a floor that offers more than 3,100 slot machines with the latest in slot technology and themes to choose from. Almost 100 table games give our guests so many options — featuring everything from blackjack at one end of the floor, to the fast action of craps at the other end, with a variety of poker games, roulette, mini baccarat and Let it Ride Bonus Poker in between.

Guests can enjoy an exciting game of poker in the comfort of Potawatomi Bingo Casino's distinguished Poker Room, located on the third floor, just off the Casino's skywalk entrance. Guests can participate in popular games that include Texas hold 'em, Omaha and seven-card stud. Check out www.paysbig.com/gambling/poker for all the latest news regarding our tournament schedule.

Just next-door to the Poker Room, is the newly expanded Off-Track Betting Room. Guests can try their hand at betting on some of the largest horse or greyhound races from around the world. The 5,000-square-foot space, features 115 televisions, 80 carrels and seating for nearly 200.

Also located on the third floor of the casino, the game that started it all — bingo. Serving as the casino's first guest amenity 20 years ago, bingo still remains one of the casino's most popular entertainment options today. The 1,300-plus seats in the Nest of Life Bingo Hall fill quickly with guests

always ready with daubers in hand. Morning, afternoon, evening and night-owl sessions are offered. Daily payouts average \$75,000.

While casino guests love our gaming options, they've developed an appetite for the casino's diverse dining options. Potawatomi Bingo Casino cooks up a variety of ways to make guests' mouths water.

Be it a special occasion, or just a night out on the town, our award-winning Dream Dance Steak offers exceptional cuisine and a progressive wine list set at retail pricing. The fare features delicious, bold flavors and glorious regional ingredients, proudly inspired by the culinary history and traditions of a Wisconsin steakhouse.

RuYi, which means "as you wish," captures the time-honored traditions of Chinese, Japanese, Thai and Hmong cuisines. RuYi is open for lunch, dinner and late-night dining. Guests will feel as though they've been transported to the Far East when they visit this Casino favorite.

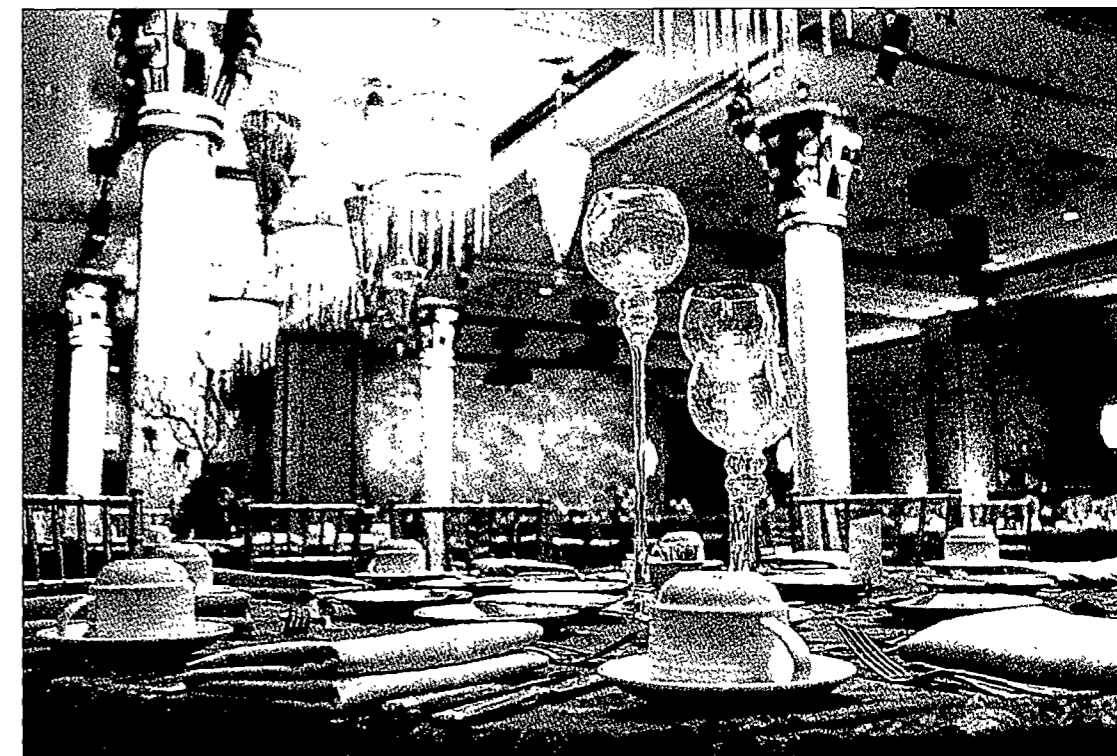
The Menomonee Valley Food Court has friendly, fast service. It offers four stations: Taco Del Fuego, Cream City Sweets, Trapper's Grille and Canal Street Deli. Guests can come for a quick snack, a meal or just a cup of coffee.

The Buffet continues to please guests with delicious food in a "classy, yet sassy" environment. The restaurant features action stations, six in all, with chefs preparing fresh, all-you-can-eat entrees right in front of guests' eyes. With Latin, Mediterranean, Asian, American and other cuisine, there's enough variety to satisfy even the most discriminating of tastes.

The Fire Pit Sports Bar & Grill is popular with many of Potawatomi Bingo Casino's guests. Highlighted with 27 big-screen televisions tuned to the best worldwide sporting events, grab a great bite to eat while watching the big game. Or swing into the Fire Pit's side bar, a new amenity that pumps up the energy with vibrant entertainment and lively music.

The Casino's Bar 360 is located in the center of Potawatomi Bingo Casino. Elevated from the gaming floor, the bar is a great place to catch all the action while skilled bartenders tend to your every whim. Bar 360 is the perfect place to take a seat with friends and take in the live entertainment and all the action on the casino floor.

Potawatomi Bingo Casino is a popular site for corporate functions and private events from throughout the United States. Intimate or grand;



Laid-back or lavish: Potawatomi Bingo Casino's event planning staff will help your corporate or social event hit the right notes. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

laid-back or lavish — whatever the vision for your corporate or social event, our skilled event planning staff

will work closely with you to customize your event and menu exactly the way you envision. Our meeting rooms

Serving as the casino's first guest amenity 20 years ago, bingo still remains one of the casino's most popular entertainment options today.

is poised to ensure the finest possible experience for you and your guests. At Potawatomi Bingo Casino, we know careful attention to detail is the cornerstone of creating a truly memorable affair. Our meeting planners

and banquet spaces have a unique personality of their own and offer a variety of layouts to accommodate your needs.

An intimate entertainment experience awaits guests at the newly reno-

vated Northern Lights Theater. Nationally known musicians and comedians entertain guests in the state-of-the-art 500-seat venue. The elegant theater is highlighted in rich and modern décor, set in deep natural tones.

Come celebrate Potawatomi Bingo Casino's 20th anniversary throughout 2011. From gaming to dining and everything in between, Potawatomi Bingo Casino truly is the Midwest's premier entertainment destination. Go to www.paysbig.com or call (800) PAYSBIG (729-7244) for more information.

Provided by Potawatomi Bingo Casino



Time to party: Potawatomi Bingo Casino, located in downtown Milwaukee, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. | SUPPLIED PHOTO



This craps 101 course is only two bets

BY MARK PILARSKI
For Sun-Times Media

Bellying up to a craps table and joining the euphoria of this fast-paced game need not be intimidating, even for a newbie.

Armed with the knowledge of just these two outstanding craps wagers, a Pass line bet and Placing the 6 or 8, you are not only going to step up to the table with the confidence necessary to play this game, but both of these wagers have house advantages of less than 1.5 percent, making them two of the best bets in the casino.

The Pass line bettor is betting with the dice, and is often called the "right bettor." When you have a wager on the Pass line on the come out roll, one of the following three things will occur:

■ The next roll will be a 7 or 11, in

which case you immediately win even money (1 for 1).

■ The next roll will be a 2, 3, or 12, in which case you immediately lose money.

■ The 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10 will roll, becoming YOUR and the roller's point.

If the shooter repeats the point on an ensuing roll, you win and are paid even money (1 for 1). If the "ugly 7" wields its face before the point repeats itself, you lose your Pass line wager.

When you make a Place bet, you are betting that a particular number will roll before the 7 appears. Place bets can be made on the following numbers: 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10, but only the 6 and 8 offer a low house edge.

To make a Place bet, put your chips in the center of the table and tell the dealer which numbers (remember, just the 6 and 8) you want to place. The dealer will then move your chips

to your number on the layout that geographically corresponds to the location on the table where you are standing. This is how the dealer knows whom to pay when there are multiple players placing the same number.

There are plenty of reasons why you should complement your Pass line wager with a Place bet on the 6 or 8; two quickly come to mind: First, it's a wager with a small casino advantage, 1.5 percent, and second, it's plenty cheap.

A Place bet can be made for as little as \$6. (Quick side note: When making a Place bet on 6 or 8, you should always wager in multiples of \$6. Why? 6 and 8 pay off at 7 to 6, so I win \$7 for every \$6 bet. A win on any bet under \$6 is spelled "shortchange," since the dealer will round down to the nearest dollar and pay you less

than you actually won.) With their low casino edge, a Pass line bet or Placing the six or eight are really the only wagers you want to make if you are just starting out on a craps table. Most players you find on a craps game are greener than the felt on the table, but by exploiting only the best bets the game offers, you join the less than 1 percent of players who truly understand dice.

One final caveat: Stay away from all those proposition bets in the center of the layout. The dealer who is barking their performance is doing nothing more than inducing play on wagers that are all "house bets," carrying a casino advantage as high as 16 percent.

Mark Pilarski writes an internationally syndicated gambling column, is a university lecturer, reviewer and contributing editor for numerous gaming periodicals. He is the creator of the audio cassette series, "Hooked on Winning." Visit www.markpilarski.com.

CASINO GUIDE

Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa: unlimited fun in Northwest Indiana

One of the premier entertainment destinations in Northwest Indiana, Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa, Michigan City, Ind., offers guests virtually unlimited fun, with gaming, dining, music, a spa, fitness center and salon as well as special events and exhibitions.

Just off the beautiful Lake Michigan shore and an hour's drive east of Chicago, Blue Chip features a 65,000-square-foot, one-level full-service casino, five restaurants, an entertainment lounge, a spa with full-service salon and fitness center, two gift shops, two hotel towers with a total of 486 rooms and the Stardust Event Center for conventions, meetings and special events.

The 22-story Spa Blu Tower, which has 272 guest rooms and 30 suites, adds a glittering distinction to the local landscape, with a facade constructed of varying shades of blue vision glass reflecting its lakeside location. Rooms feature contemporary décor, floor-to-ceiling windows and rich millwork in bold contemporary styling with soft cream and white organic textures and finishes. Guests also can stay at The Blue Chip Hotel, located on the other end

of the 30-acre property, with its 184 spacious and tastefully decorated rooms, including four grand suites and eight luxury suites.

Dining in style

Blue Chip's five restaurants are designed to suit every taste and occasion. With dining choices ranging from deli sandwiches, to an extensive buffet, to fine cuisine, to Vegas and sports-themed eateries, guests can savor tasty meals and snacks any time. The restaurants include:

- Options Buffet, a 333-seat restaurant featuring more than 180 items, including soups, salads, entrées, side dishes and desserts.
- William B's Steakhouse, a sophisticated restaurant serving prime steaks, fresh seafood and seasonal specialties, all prepared with Midwestern flair.
- Nelson's Deli, a casual diner serving breakfast, piled-high sandwiches and salads. Nelson's is open 24 hours a day.
- It's Vegas Baby!, a lively, Vegas-themed restaurant offering American classics and an extensive specialty drink selection.
- The Game serves up a delicious game-day menu, an unrivaled array of sports viewing options and servers in sports-themed uniforms.

Music, gaming and special events

Rocks lounge and It's Vegas Baby! feature



Eat your heart out, Vegas: It's Vegas Baby!, a restaurant at Blue Chip Casino, features the sights and sounds of Las Vegas and the flavors of American cuisine. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

popular local and regional bands, with musical selections ranging from country to rock to smooth pop to oldies. Guests can enjoy free live music at Rocks Friday through Sunday and It's Vegas Baby offers live music on Friday and Saturday. For more information on It's Vegas Baby!, visit www.itsvegasbaby.com.

For top national artists, Blue Chip recently opened the 1,300-seat Stardust Event Center. Recent headliners include Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Travis Tritt and Legends in Concert.

For gaming excitement, guests can play in a bright, friendly atmosphere. The spacious casino features 1,940 slot machines with denominations from one penny to \$100, 48 table games and an eight-table live poker room. Weekly pok-

er events, Texas hold 'em poker tournaments and slot tournaments round out the fun.

Spa blu for relaxation

At the beautiful 10,000-square-foot spa blu — the first casino-based spa in the greater Chicago area — guests can relax and rejuvenate with health and beauty treatments. Located on the second floor of Spa Blu Tower, it features nine spa treatment rooms, a salon and fitness room. Before and after spa services, guests can relax in individual men's and women's lounges with steam rooms, experiential showers and whirlpools highlighted by water walls.

For more information, visit bluechipcasino.com.

Provided by Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa

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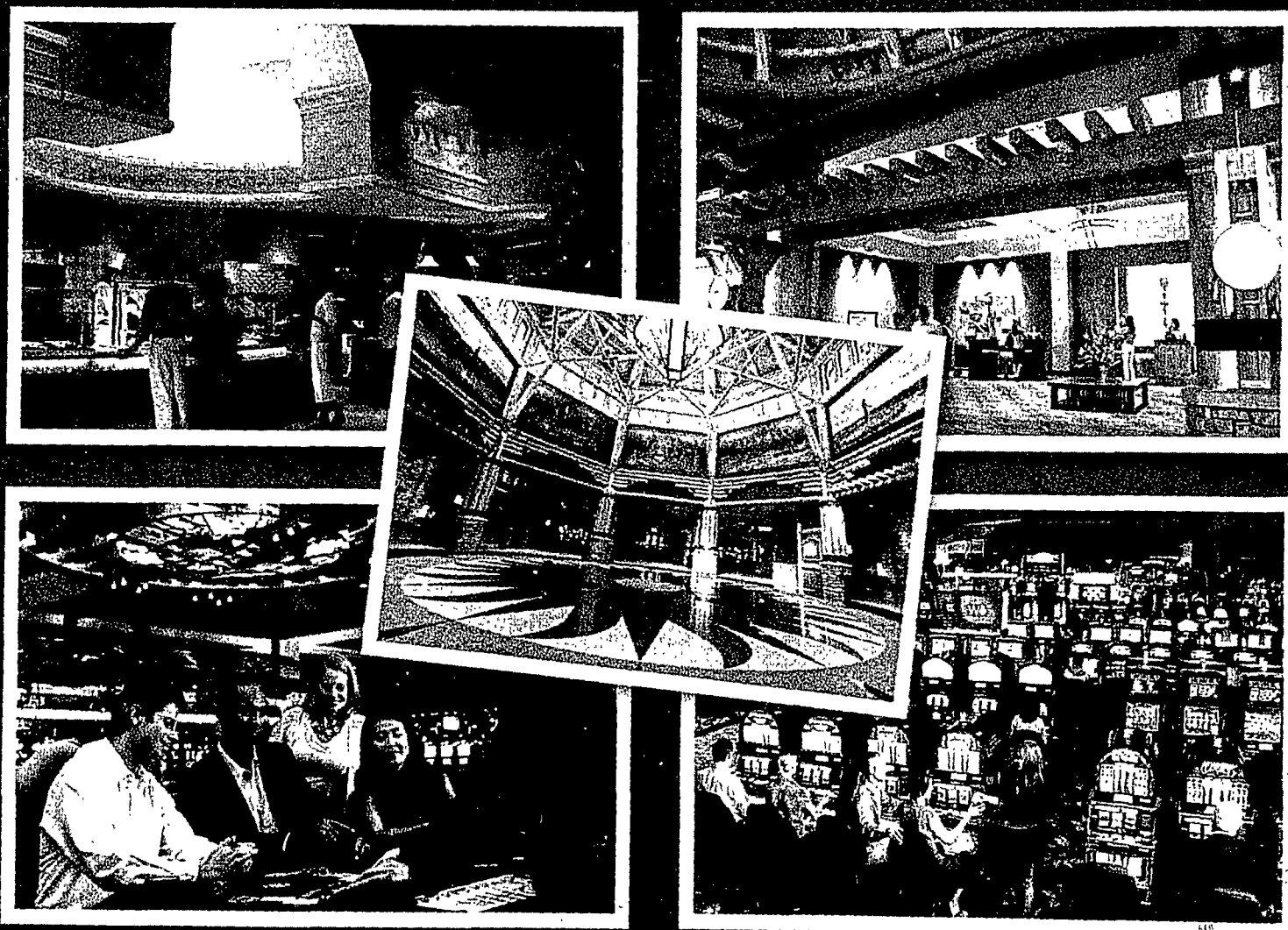
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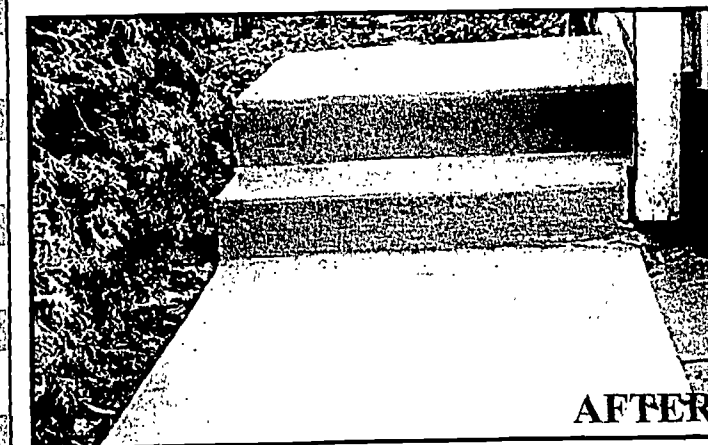
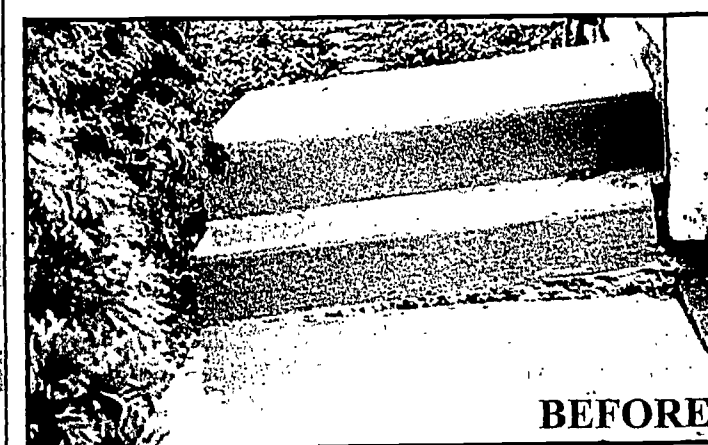
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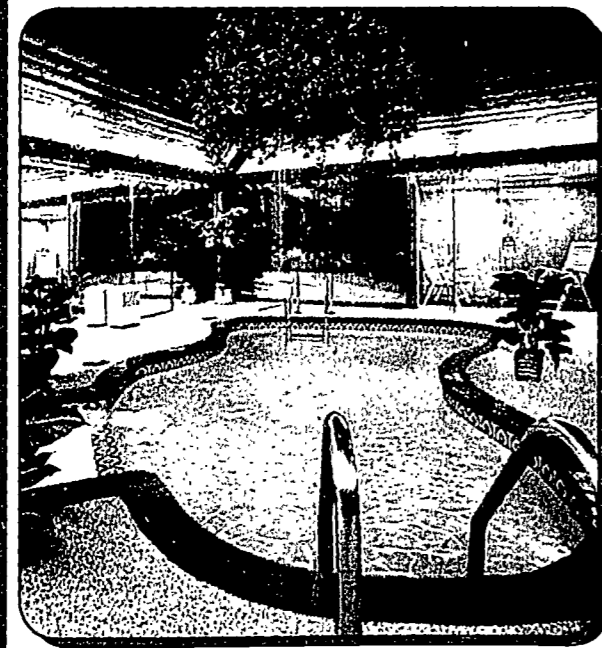
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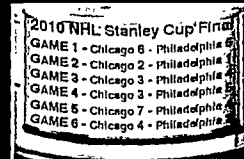


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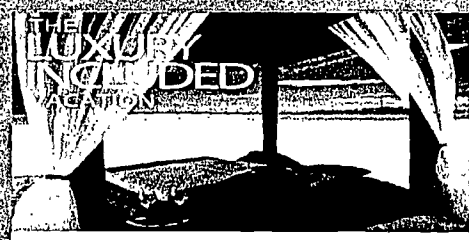
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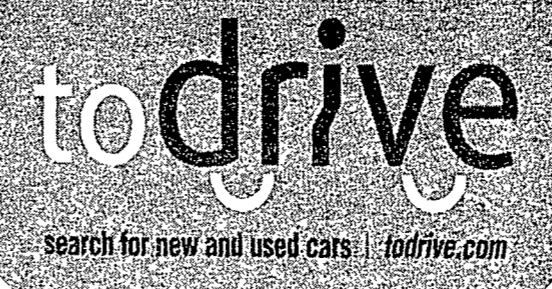
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2011 GMC ACADIA DENALI

ENGINE: 288-horsepower 3.6-liter V-6
TRANSMISSION: six-speed automatic
DRIVETRAIN: all-wheel drive
FUEL ECONOMY: 16 city/23 highway
BASE PRICE: \$45,220
AS TESTED: not available
WEBSITE: gmc.com

GMC'S DENALI PROVES TO BE A CAPABLE HAULER

BY IRA SIEGEL
For Sun-Times Media

GMC has added a new, premium Denali model to its Acadia lineup that brings distinctive exterior and interior styling cues, luxurious amenities and a higher level of refinement to GMC's large crossover SUV.

Additionally for 2011, the GMC Acadia features an updated OnStar system and there are two new color choices: Cyber Gray Metallic and Gray Green Metallic.

Acadia, which is built from General Motors' Lambda platform, features a carlike unitized construction. This helps provide Acadia with a more refined ride than you'd expect from a truck-based SUV.

The 2011 GMC Acadia comes in five trim levels: SL, SLE, SLT-1, SLT-2 and Denali. The SL and SLE feature cloth seats while the others include leather upholstery.

All models can be had with front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive and all models offer three rows of seating to accommodate seven or eight passengers.

Seven-passenger models feature two second-row captain's chairs, while eight-passenger models are equipped with a 60/40 split second-row bench.

Acadia's cabin is spacious and versatile, making it comfortable for hauling people or cargo.

Thanks to GM's Smart Slide feature, the second-row seats can be positioned fore/aft when desired, and flipped and slid out of the way when accessing the third row.

Access to the third row is further aided thanks to Acadia's wide rear doors. The third-row seats, which are typically a kid-friendly zone, are actually easier to get in and out of than most.

Acadia's cabin offers generous cargo room, including a whopping 115.9 cubic feet of space when the second- and third-row seats are folded flat.

While the cabin is accommodating and comfortable, some of the materials look cheap.

My Acadia tester was the new Denali model. While I was intrigued by its attractive exterior featuring awesome 20-inch, two-tone chrome-clad wheels, I was a tad disappointed with the cabin's level of luxury.

The interior was nice, but not as polished as I would expect from a vehicle with a price tag near \$50,000.

Still, I liked the heated and cooled leather seats, optional rear entertainment system and host of other amenities found in my Acadia Denali tester.

My tester's dual SkyScape sunroof system brought a lot of natural light in, adding to the roomy atmosphere.

All 2011 GMC Acadia models are powered by a sophisticated 3.6-liter V-6 engine (with gasoline direct fuel injection) mated to a six-

speed automatic transmission.

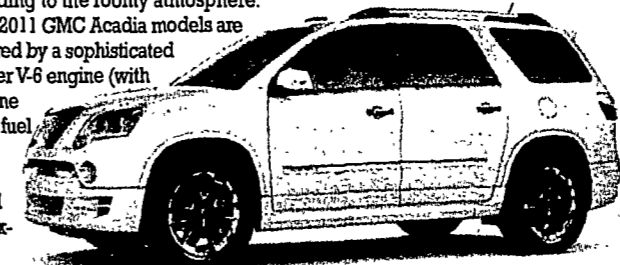
The V-6 in my tester was rated at 288 horsepower and 270 pound-feet of torque. I found the V-6 to be adequate when driving by myself or with one or two additional passengers; however, when loaded down my Acadia Denali felt a bit underpowered.

I can only imagine how weak the V-6 would feel if the vehicle was loaded down with passengers and was pulling a trailer. The Acadia, when properly equipped, is rated to tow up to 5,200 pounds.

Not only did I find the V-6 a bit weak, but the fuel economy wasn't as good as expected. My 2011 GMC Acadia Denali AWD tester was rated at 16/23, but I never came close to that during my weeklong test.

The good news, though, is that the suspension system does a great job of delivering a comfortable and enjoyable ride. The transmission provides smooth shifts and the AWD system provided sure-footed traction.

GMC's Acadia is definitely worthy of serious consideration for anyone needing a spacious and versatile cabin, low step-up height and smooth carlike ride.



Editor: John Stein jstein@suntimes.com Asst. Editor: Jennifer Burklow Design: John Lemein To Advertise: Mike Nathan 312.321.2975



Enclave offers single-level living, in luxury

Merit Homes offers five different ranch plans at The Enclave at The Reserve at the Merit Club in Libertyville priced from the upper \$400,000s.



In addition to the benefits of one-level living, buyers are attracted to the architectural design of the ranch plans, with high ceilings and open floor plans that have kitchens, family rooms and living rooms flowing into each. Large basements are perfect for creating a spacious recreational room, or turning into in-law quarters with a full bath.

At The Enclave, buyers can choose from seven homes; two are two-story designs featuring first-floor master bedrooms. With 1,900 to 3,000 square feet of luxury space, homes have two to four bedrooms and up to 3 1/2 baths and are priced from \$494,900 to \$625,900.

Every home at The Enclave offers upgraded luxury features standard, such as site-stained oak flooring, Kohler fixtures, maple, oak, cherry, and alder cabinets, granite countertops, all major appliances, full masonry fireplace, extensive trim details, Pella wood windows, cedar shake roofs, and zoned temperature control.

To customize their home, every buyer starts with a plan and can change the footprint of the house by eliminating or adding rooms. They can select from the same finish level as a custom home buyer.

Part of a gated community called the Reserve at the Merit Club, the 17-home Enclave is surrounded by semi-custom homes and one-acre custom homes on 100 acres of landscaped rolling terrain. A natural landscape of scenic rock gardens, ponds and wildflowers enhance the tranquil setting. Most residences have views of the Merit Club, an 18-hole private golf course that is ranked as one of the top 100 courses in the world.

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To visit The Enclave, take Interstate 94 to Route 137, go west to Route 21 (Milwaukee Avenue), then north 1 1/4 miles to entrance. Follow signs to the sales center, which is open Friday to Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 847 680-0090 or visit merithomes.net.

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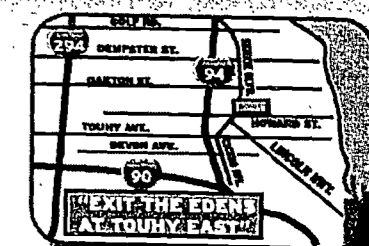
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 '10 NISSAN ROGUE S AWD \$17,980*	 '08 AUDI A4 S-LINE \$18,980*

- 1995 CHEVY CAPRICE SS CLASSIC #P126A... SAVE!
2007 NISSAN VERSA #B0037A... \$8,995*
2005 SAAB 9-2X #C1320A... \$10,980*
2008 VW JETTA #P123... \$10,980*
2006 VW PASSAT #P127... \$10,980*
2004 INFINITI G35 AWD #A0052-1... \$10,995*
2010 MITSUBISHI GALANT #Q367... \$12,980*
2006 NISSAN ALTIMA SR V6 #P140... \$13,980*
2005 BMW 325i #B0045A... \$13,980*
2010 FORD FUSION #P106... \$13,980*
2005 GMC ENVOY XL DENALI #Q372A... \$13,980*
2004 VW TOUAREG #P126... \$15,980*
2006 NISSAN MURANO SL AWD #P119... \$15,995*
2011 TOYOTA COROLLA LE... \$16,980*
2009 SUBARU IMPREZA #B0016A... \$16,980*
2010 NISSAN ALTIMA #P144... \$16,980*
2007 MERCEDES CLK350 #C1334... \$17,995*
2008 VW GOLF GTI... \$18,980*
2010 VW JETTA WAGON #A0050A... \$18,980*
2010 SUZUKI KIZASHI GTS #Q376... \$18,980*
2008 ACURA RDX #P118... \$22,980*
2008 JEEP WRANGLER X #P138... \$25,980*
2010 CADILLAC CTS #P143... \$26,980*
2008 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER HYBRID #P142... \$33,980*

DON'T LET YOUR BAD CREDIT GET YOU DOWN!
DRIVE A SUZUKI TODAY!
We'll Get You Approved!
For Pre-Approval Call:
(847) 702-6550

0% for 72 MONTHS*
AVAILABLE ON ALL SUZUKI MODELS

50 KIZASHIS IN STOCK!
0% APR FOR 72 MOS.
New 2011 Suzuki KIZASHI
\$16,978*

New 2011 Suzuki GRAND VITARA \$15,995*
0% APR FOR 72 MOS.
America's #1 Warranty
100,000 Miles / 7 yr Powertrain Limited Warranty - No Deductible - Fully Transferable

New 2011 Suzuki SX4 \$13,695*
0% APR FOR 72 MOS.



Suzuki of Glenview

630 Waukegan Rd., Glenview, IL 60025
847-832-1400
www.suzukiofglenview.com

Offers to qualified buyers. All applicable manufacturer rebates & incentives applied to vehicle prices. *Excludes tax, title, lic. & doc. fee. 1) May require down payment. 10% apr for 72 mos. to qualified buyers in lieu of rebates and incentives (\$13.21 per \$1000 fin.), \$10,000 max to finance. Buy down rate may affect final sales price. 110% apr for 24 mos. to qualified buyers on select models (\$41.67 per \$1000 financed), \$30,000 max to finance, may affect final sales price. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. Offers end 3 days after publication.

you Get It All! **MARCH MARKDOWN** **One Week to Save!**
EVENT

TOYOTA
0% FINANCING PLUS YOU GET THE REBATE!
Every Toyota is Marked Down to its **LOWEST PRICE!**

2010 & 2011 Prii AVAILABLE
OVER 60 Prii TO CHOOSE **plus goes plural \$1000 REBATE ON 2010 Prii**

NEW 2011 TOYOTA COROLLA \$14,695 or \$149*
NEW 2011 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$18,845 or \$189*

NEW 2010 TOYOTA YARIS \$139/mo. or \$12,595	NEW 2011 TOYOTA RAV-4 \$189/mo. or \$20,395	NEW 2011 TOYOTA SIENNA \$289/mo. or \$22,995	NEW 2011 TOYOTA VENZA \$269/mo. or \$25,795
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

OVER 300 TOP QUALITY USED VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM

'04 DODGE NEON \$6,995	'05 HONDA ACCORD SE \$12,995	'06 HONDA ACCORD SE \$12,995	'05 JEEP CR CRICKET \$13,995
'03 KIA SORENTO \$7,995	'08 TOYOTA COROLLA \$13,995	'08 CHEVROLET IMPALA \$15,995	'08 CHEVROLET IMPALA \$15,995
'08 TOYOTA COROLLA \$13,995	'08 SUBARU IMPREZA \$15,995	'08 FORD EXPLORER LTD \$15,995	'08 MINI COOPER S \$17,995
'08 SUBARU IMPREZA \$15,995	'04 HONDA ACCORD EX \$15,995	'08 DODGE CHARGER RT BLACK \$18,995	'08 CADILLAC ESCALADE \$18,995
'04 TOYOTA CELICA \$15,995	'08 INFINITI G35 \$18,995	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT \$18,995	'08 TOYOTA SOLARA \$22,995
'08 CHEVROLET AVEO \$11,995	'08 BMW 330i \$11,995	'08 AUDI A4 \$22,995	'08 NISSAN SENTRA \$11,995
'08 NISSAN SENTRA \$11,995	'08 DODGE JOURNEY SE \$12,995	'08 CADILLAC SRX \$24,995	

NEED CREDIT? WE CAN HELP! YOU CAN DRIVE A BETTER CAR TODAY IF YOU CALL OUR CREDIT HOTLINE: 800-989-0244

The Last Name You Need To Know
Grossinger TOYOTA NORTH
7225 N. Cicero Ave. Lincolnwood, IL 60712
800-989-0244
Scan to view our inventory.
GrossingerToyotaNorth.com

Offers to qualified buyers. All applicable rebates & incentives applied to vehicle prices. 10% apr for 60 mos. to qualified buyers on select models (\$16.67 per \$1000 fin.). On most new Toyota models. *Excludes tax, title, lic & \$156.08 doc. fee. 1) Based on EPA hwy estimates. Actual mileage may vary. 2) Rebate from Toyota. 3) Off MSRP, from Toyota. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. All offers end 3 days after pub. date.

KIA KIA MOTORS The Power to Surprise!
0% x 72 PLUS YOU GET THE REBATE!
Every KIA is Marked Down to its **LOWEST PRICE!**

NEW 2011 KIA OPTIMA \$179*
NEW 2011 KIA SPORTAGE \$19,490*
WHY BUY USED, DRIVE NEW FOR ONLY \$99 PER MO. OR 0% APR!**

NEW KIA SORENTO \$199	NEW KIA RIO \$11,495	NEW KIA SOUL \$149	NEW KIA FORTE \$149	NEW KIA SEDONA \$21,995
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SAVE BIG ON OUR GREAT SELECTION OF QUALITY USED!

2002 KIA SPECTRA \$3,995	2008 NISSAN SENTRA \$9,995	2010 KIA OPTIMA \$13,995
2000 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA \$4,995	2008 DODGE CARAVAN SXT \$10,995	2010 KIA FORTE EX \$13,995
2004 CHEVY MALIBU \$5,995	2008 CHEVY EQUINOX \$11,995	2008 FORD FOCUS \$13,995
2003 SATURN ION \$5,995	2007 KIA RONDO \$11,995	2009 KIA OPTIMA \$14,995
2005 PONTIAC VIBE \$8,995	2008 DODGE AVEENGER \$11,995	2009 NISSAN ALTIMA \$17,995
2008 CHEVROLET AVEO LT \$9,995	2007 CHRYSLER SEBRING \$11,995	2007 MERCEDES EQW \$24,995

NO CREDIT - SHORT TIME ON THE JOB - BAD CREDIT - SHORT TIME IN THE COUNTRY - GOT A JOB & \$199 DOWN? YOU'RE APPROVED! CALL 800-917-1267

The Last Name You Need To Know
Grossinger KIA LINCOLNWOOD
6750 N. Lincoln Ave. Lincolnwood, IL 60712
800-917-1267
SCAN HERE to view our inventory!
GrossingerKia.com

Offers to qualified buyers. All mfr. rebates and incentives applied. 10% APR for 72 mos. to qualified buyers on select models (\$13.89 per \$1000 fin.), \$10,000 max to fin., may affect final sales price. *Plus tax, title, lic. & doc. fees. **Example: \$60/mo. at 4.99% for 72 mo. w/\$2500 down (\$1500 per \$1000 fin.) 2) Lease with \$2000 down (\$3000 down on 2011 Sorento) plus 1st mo. rent, tax, title, lic. fee, sec. dep. & doc. fee (\$155.08) 12k mi/yr, 20k mi. over. Residual: Kia Forte \$7,895, Kia Soul \$7,897, Kia Sorento \$11,019 w/1st powertrain warranty. For details, see retailer or go to kiam.com. Photos for illustration only. All offers end 3 days after pub.

NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS!

Employee Pricing For Everyone! Every Vehicle In Stock at Employee Pricing!

0% APR Financing For 72 MOS!

FINAL WEEKEND TO SAVE!!!

TRUCK MONTH STRENGTH IN NUMBERS NEW 2011 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB 4X4 MSRP: \$39,580 #D5407 EMPLOYEE PRICE \$28,865 SAVE \$10,715 OFF MSRP! BIG HORN EDITION

DODGE NEW 2011 DODGE CALIBER MAINSTREET MSRP: \$19,235 #D5404 26/31 MPG \$179/month**

DODGE NEW 2011 DODGE NITRO HEAT MSRP: \$26,535 #D5418 \$289/month**

NEW 2010 DODGE JOURNEY SE MSRP: \$24,680 #D5358 SAVE \$5,920 OFF MSRP! Employee Price \$18,760

NEW 2011 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 4X4 MSRP: \$23,690 #J2834 SAVE \$2,740 OFF MSRP! Employee Price \$20,950

ALL BRAND NEW DESIGNS FOR 2011!

BRAND NEW 2011 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING #C620 36 Month Lease \$199/mo OR 1.9% x 60 MONTHS \$1900 due at signing, plus tax, title, license and \$155 doc fee.

BRAND NEW 2011 DODGE CHARGER RALLY EDITION #5409 19 Available at Employee Pricing! \$369/mo OR 1.9% x 60 MONTHS \$2500 due at signing, plus tax, title, license and \$155 doc fee.

BRAND NEW 2011 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4 #J2729 36 Month Lease \$369/mo OR 1.9% x 60 MONTHS \$2500 due at signing, plus tax, title, license and \$155 doc fee.



7255 GRAND AVE. 1 MILE WEST OF GURNEE MILLS MALL GurneeDodgeChryslerJeep.com 888-749-1242

HABLAMOS ESPANOL CALL MANNY TOLL FREE DIRECTLY AT 888-459-6957 MATRICULA OK. MANNY ARTEAGA

Prices plus tax, title, license and \$155 doc fee. All manufacturer rebates and dealer discounts applied to final price. Cannot be combined with other offers. Rebates in lieu of incentives. Amount of MSRP may not be price at which vehicle is sold in trade area. In lieu of special financing. Includes all applicable manufacturer incentives and/or dealer discounts. *0% APR financing for 72 months is on select models to qualified buyers with approved credit. \$13.89/\$1,000 borrowed. **MPG numbers are EPA fuel economy & estimates only. ***On select models to qualified buyers. \$3,000 customer cash down plus tax, title, license and \$155 doc fee at 0% APR financing for 72 months, on approved credit. *1.9% APR x 60 mos. is on select models to qualified buyers. \$1749/\$1,000 borrowed. +Lessee responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance & mileage. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this advertisement. Ends 3/31/11.

Currie Motors FORD of FRANKFORT WE'LL BEAT ANY DEAL ON ANY NEW FORD EVERY TIME!

VOTED ONE OF THE TOP 100 FORD DEALERS IN THE COUNTRY 7 YEARS IN A ROW!

68 NEW 2010 FORD FOCUS \$9,789* 94 NEW 2011 FORD FUSION \$12,795* 23 NEW 2010 FORD MUSTANG \$18,584* 121 NEW 2010 FORD ESCAPE \$14,797* 34 NEW 2010 FORD TAURUS \$22,974*

TRUCK MONTH Ranger: 0% APR x 72 months PLUS \$1000 Trade-in Assistance! F150: 0% APR x 60 months PLUS \$2500 Cash Incentive!

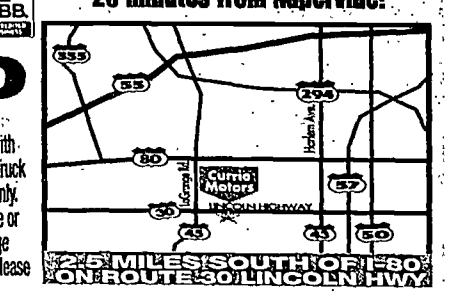
41 REDESIGNED 2011 FORD EXPLORER \$14,661* 41 NEW 2010 FORD RANGER \$14,795* 152 NEW 2009 FORD F-150 \$18,991* 44 NEW 2009 FORD F-250 Super Duty \$22,789* 62 NEW 2010 FORD EDGE \$11,588* 41 NEW 2011 FORD FIESTA SE \$11,588*

6 YEAR/100,000 mi WARRANTY Over 400 Pre-Owned Vehicles Available! 2.9% APR Financing Available on Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles!

Table with columns: UNDER \$9,000, TRUCKS, VANS & SUVs, CARS. Lists various vehicle models, years, and prices.

MADE MISTAKES? GET FORGIVEN AND DRIVE HOME TODAY! Call 800-ANY-CREDIT OR APPLY ONLINE AT www.fordoffrankfort.com

Currie Motors FORD of FRANKFORT 9423 W. LINCOLN HIGHWAY FRANKFORT, IL 60423 866-YES-FORD www.fordoffrankfort.com



*Plus tax, title, license & doc fee. Includes factory rebates when applicable in lieu of financing offers. **Availability can be on 2009, 2010 and 2011! Varying prices and models. *Available on select Ford Certified models to qualified buyers with approved credit. Photos for illustration purposes only & may not reflect the actual vehicle. Dealer not responsible for pricing errors in this advertisement. **Based on Executive Information System Dealer Ranking for Ford Division 41. All Retail Truck sales for 2005-2010. All vehicles subject to prior sale. Prices and offers expire 2 days from publication. See dealer for full program details and qualifications. ***For years 2004 - 2010. 6 year 100,000 mile warranty is a Ford warranty on CPO only. (Must be an identical equipped vehicle in stock. Dealer reserves the right to verify deal. All offers apply only to new retail deliveries taken from dealer stock within the applicable advertised time period. Offers do not apply to fleet, wholesale or prior sales. All vehicles subject to prior sales. -\$16.67 per \$1,000 financed. 0% financing for 60 months and \$2,500 cash incentive only on F-150 3.7L V6 and XLT EcoBoost, in lieu of factory rebates to qualified buyers. Prices subject to change without notice. -Vehicles include in stock and in transit units. ---\$13.89 per \$1,000 financed. 0% financing for 72 months on 2010 and 2011 Ranger in lieu of factory rebates to qualified buyers. ---To qualified customers that currently own or lease a 1995 or newer Ford/LM/Competitive Car, truck, or SUV who trade in or have a lease expiring by 3/31/11 will receive \$1,000 toward the purchase or lease of an eligible Ford Ranger. See dealer for details. Expires 3/31/11.

ToyotaArlington.com

SPRING SAVINGS EVENT!

OUR LOWEST PRICES!!!

AT ONE OF THE LARGEST TOYOTA STORES IN THE WORLD!!!



COLLISION CENTER
HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY
7:30AM-6PM
SATURDAY
8:30AM-12:30PM

ARLINGTON
TOYOTA | SCION
2095 RAND ROAD, PALATINE, IL
ON THE CORNER OF HICKS & RAND ROAD



A+ RATING
The highest rating possible assigned by the BBB.

ToyotaArlington.com • (800)589-8546




OUR GOAL IS
100% CREDIT APPROVAL!
CALL JEFF MARCUS FOR YOUR CREDIT NEEDS
800-589-8546

OUR **LOWEST PRICES**
ON OVER **650 NEW TOYOTAS**

0% x 60 MONTHS*
APR FINANCING
OR
\$2,750
FACTORY CASH BACK!

NEW 2010 TOYOTA YARIS 36 MPG
5 SPEED MANUAL, DR. LB. #22800

\$129/mo.
36 MONTH LEASE**
or
\$12,695 8 TO CHOOSE FROM!



Just Announced!


0.9% APR FINANCING
x 60 MONTHS*

NEW 2011 TOYOTA PRIUS 51 MPG
IN STOCK & READY TO GO!
35 TO CHOOSE FROM!




NEW 2010 TOYOTA COROLLA LE 35 MPG
AUTO #7717

\$139/mo. 45 TO CHOOSE FROM!
36 MONTH LEASE**




NEW 2011 TOYOTA CAMRY LE 32 MPG
DR. WAGON #2877

\$149/mo. 143 TO CHOOSE FROM!
36 MONTH LEASE**




NEW 2011 TOYOTA MATRIX 32 MPG
DR. WAGON # SPD MANUAL #3083

\$159/mo. 36 MONTH LEASE**
or
\$16,695 9 TO CHOOSE FROM!




NEW 2011 TOYOTA RAV4 28 MPG
AUTO #3083

\$179/mo. 36 MONTH LEASE**
or
\$20,895 49 TO CHOOSE FROM!



NEW 2011 TOYOTA SIENNA 24 MPG
BASIC AUTO #313

\$279/mo. 36 MONTH LEASE**
20 TO CHOOSE FROM!

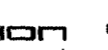


ARLINGTON
TOYOTA | SCION
2095 RAND ROAD PALATINE, IL
(ON THE CORNER OF HICKS & RAND ROAD)



A+ RATING
The highest rating possible assigned by the BBB.

TOYOTA moving forward >

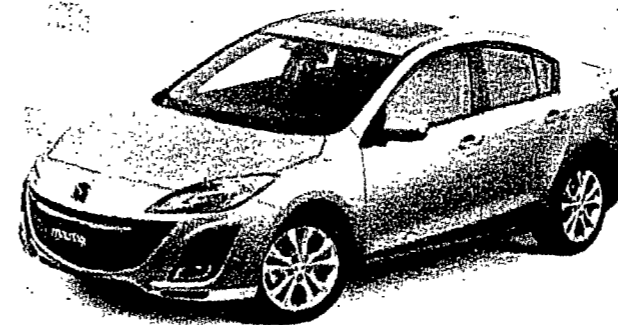


800.589.8546

*Prices are plus tax, title, license and \$156.08 due fee. All manufacturer rebates and incentives applied. **On select new Toyota models. #MPG numbers are EPA fuel economy estimates only. ***Payments are plus tax, title, license and \$156.08 due fee with \$2,500 customer down payment plus first month payment. Lessee responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance and mileage. 12K per year, \$2.25/mile overage fee. No security deposit. +0.9% & 0.9% APR financing for 60 months is on select new 2011 models to qualified buyers. 0% x 60 mos: \$16.67/\$1,000. 0.9% x 60 mos: \$20.5/\$1,000. Pictures are for illustration purposes only and may not reflect actual vehicle. Offers good through 3/31/11.



THE DRIVER'S ALTERNATIVE



2011 MAZDA3

LEASE for **\$129** for 42 months, **\$1,999** down or
PURCHASE for **0% APR** for **60** months*



2011 MAZDA6

LEASE for **\$239** for 42 months, **\$0** down or
PURCHASE for **0% APR** for **60** months*



2011 Mazda CX-7

LEASE for **\$289** for 42 months, **\$0** down or
PURCHASE for **0% APR** for **60** months*



2011 Mazda CX-9

LEASE for **\$299** for 42 months, **\$999** down or
PURCHASE for **0% APR** for **60** months*

the **Autobarn**
Mazda

COUNTRYSIDE
MAZDAGUYS.COM
6060 S LAGRANGE RD
708.354.2700

EVANSTON
MAZDAOFCHICAGOLAND.COM
1015 CHICAGO AV
847.866.9666

*0.9% APR for 60 months available to qualified buyers. Plus tax, title and delivery fees. Pictures are for description only and may not be actual vehicle trim or options. Exclusive limited time offer. See dealer for complete details. Must take delivery from dealer stock by 03/31/11. Dealer not responsible for pricing errors in advertisement. See dealer for complete details. No cash value. Limit one discount per customer per vehicle.



SPRING INTO SAVINGS AT PARK PLAZA

\$10,000 OFF MSRP!

0% NO PAYMENTS TIL SUMMER! FOR 60 MO.

2011 NO COST MAINTENANCE PLUS PACKAGE ON NEW VEHICLES*

6,000 Mile Service Intervals • Oil, oil filter changes, and lubrication • 3 month / 3,000 miles

INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL! CALL TODAY! 866-695-0018

BANK DIFFICULTIES? NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? LATE PAYMENTS? REPOS? \$79 DOWN PAYMENT! VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE • CURRENT UTILITY BILL •



ALL NEW 11 DODGE \$26,995

THIS IS JOE JOE KNOWS GREAT DEALS!

& JOE RUNS PARK PLAZA



ALL NEW 11 CHRYSLER



\$17,995

NEW 11 DODGE \$12,995

NO CHARGE HEMI! NEW 11 DODGE \$16,995

NEW 11 DODGE \$17,995

NEW 11 DODGE \$18,995

NEW 11 DODGE \$20,995

NEW 11 DODGE \$22,995



TRUCK MONTH 866-695-0017

PARKPLAZADODGE.COM

7911 W. Roosevelt Rd. • Forest Park (Just East of 1st Ave)

*New car prices applicable; manufacturer rebates & manufacturer incentives. Plus tax, title, license & doc fee. In lieu of cash. **With approved credit. On select models. Ex: 2010 Dodge Ram, #411020, MSRP=\$45,125-\$10,000=\$35,125. *With approved credit. Ex: \$13,000 financed with \$79 down at 9.9% apr x 60 months=\$210.30. **With a good down payment. May require a co-signer. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good 2 days from date of publication. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details.

YOUR CERTIFIED CHRYSLER JEEP HEADQUARTERS

Table listing various car models and prices, including Pontiac Grand Prix, Nissan Sentra, Dodge Charger, etc.

Park Plaza Dodge advertisement with contact info: 7911 W. Roosevelt Rd. • Forest Park (Just East of 1st Ave) 866-695-0017

0% APR AVAILABLE! Currie Motors NICE PEOPLE TO DO BUSINESS WITH HUGE REBATES!



We'll Beat Any Deal on Any New Chevy Every Time!

New 2011 Chevy Traverse, New 2011 Chevy Cruze, New 2011 Chevy Equinox

New 2011 Chevrolet Aveo, New 2011 Chevrolet Camaro, New 2011 Chevrolet Malibu, New 2011 Chevrolet Impala, New 2011 Chevrolet Silverado

Over 400 Pre-Owned Vehicles Available! All GM Certified Used Come with a 12 Month/ 12,000 Mile Bumper to Bumper Warranty PLUS a 5 Year/100,000 Mile Powertrain Limited Warranty

Grid of pre-owned vehicle listings with model, price, and mileage.

CALL TODAY OR SHOP ONLINE 24 HOURS A DAY www.curriechevy.com

Bad Credit/No Credit? Call our 24-hr Pre-Approval Hotline • 866-GET-A-CAR (866-438-2227)

Currie Motors advertisement with address: 8401 ROOSEVELT RD. (Roosevelt Just East of 1st Ave.) FOREST PARK, IL 888-294-3409



NOW

SALES EVENT

SAVE ON YOUR NEW NISSAN. NOW. ONLY AT THE AUTOBARN NISSAN OF EVANSTON



ST. PATRICK'S WEEKEND ONLY \$500 BONUS CUSTOMER CASH*



39 IN STOCK
2011 ROGUE S AWD
STOCK # N3449
LEASE FOR **\$145** PER MONTH
PURCHASE FOR **\$268** PER MONTH



15 IN STOCK
2011 MURANO S AWD
STOCK # N3332
LEASE FOR **\$277** PER MONTH
PURCHASE FOR **\$379** PER MONTH



51 IN STOCK
2011 SENTRA 2.0 SR
STOCK # N3140
LEASE FOR **\$79** PER MONTH
PURCHASE FOR **\$189** PER MONTH



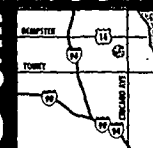
42 IN STOCK
2011 ALTIMA 2.5 S
STOCK # N3244
LEASE FOR **\$175** PER MONTH
PURCHASE FOR **\$278** PER MONTH



0% FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS!

the **Autobarn**
NISSAN
EVANSTON

WWW.THEAUTOBARN.COM
1012 CHICAGO AVE
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS
847.475.8200



SHIFT the way you move



DISCLAIMER: 39 MONTH LEASE THROUGH NISSAN MOTOR ACCEPTANCE CORP. 12,000 MILES ALLOWED PER YEAR. \$2000 CAPITALIZED COST REDUCTION DUE AT SIGNING. PLUS ALL APPLICABLE TAXES, ACQUISITION, DOCUMENTATION, LICENSE AND TITLE FEES. ALL TERMS WITH APPROVED CREDIT. STOCK NUMBER N3449; MSRP \$21,650, CAP COST \$10,874. STOCK NUMBER N3332; MSRP \$31,210, CAP COST \$15,605. STOCK NUMBER N3140; MSRP \$16,100, CAP COST \$8,050. STOCK NUMBER N3244; MSRP \$22,570, CAP COST \$11,285. ANY CUSTOMER PURCHASING OR LEASING AN ELIGIBLE VEHICLE FROM ANY AUTHORIZED NISSAN DEALER DURING THE PROGRAM PERIOD IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE CUSTOMER CASH INCENTIVE. THE CUSTOMER CASH INCENTIVE IS PAYABLE DIRECTLY TO THE ELIGIBLE CUSTOMER. THE CUSTOMER MAY, BUT IS NOT REQUIRED TO, ASSIGN THE CUSTOMER CASH INCENTIVE TO THE DEALERSHIP TO REDUCE THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE VEHICLE. CUSTOMER BONUS CASH PROGRAM VALID MARCH 16-21, 2011.

GOOD TO KNOW

CUSTOM MEDIA SOLUTIONS, A DIVISION OF SUN-TIMES MEDIA, LLC. | SEARCHCHICAGO.COM/HOMES | NORTH EDITION | NO

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011

today's homes

BUILDERS SHOWCASE WEEK 7

Ranches regaled

Single-level living in luxury offered from the upper \$400,000s

Single-level living is a top priority for "mature" adults, yet comfort and a relaxed lifestyle is equally important.

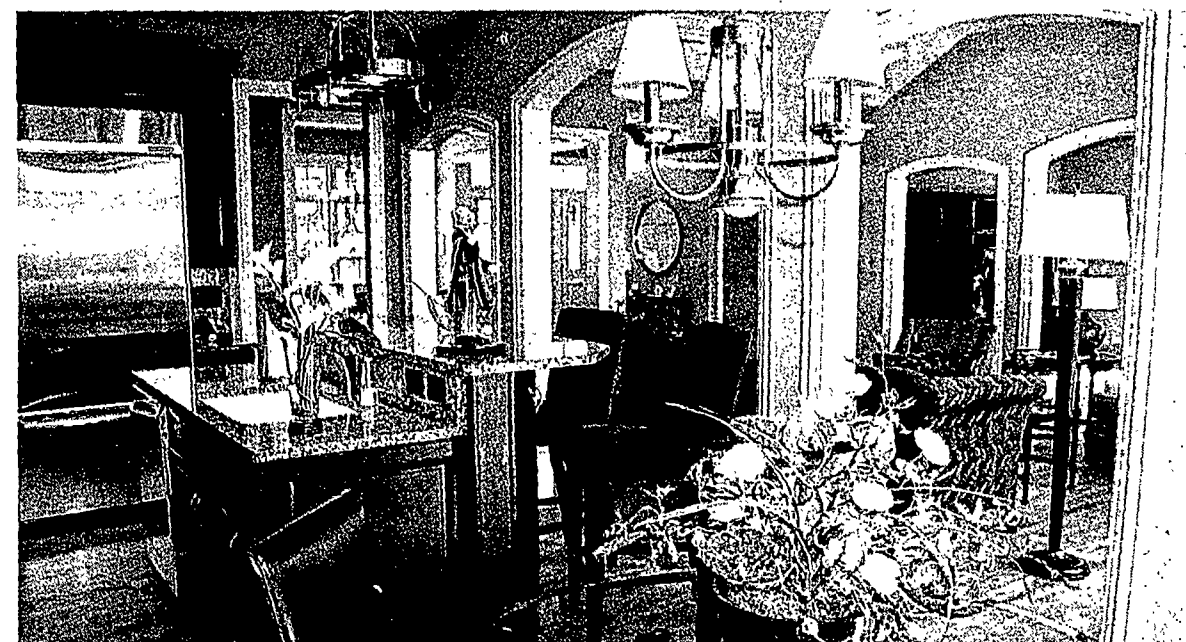
These homebuyers not only desire a ranch they can customize to their taste, but also want spare bedrooms for when their kids come home from college or need a home large enough to accommodate their grandchildren's visits.

That's why Merit Homes offers five different ranch plans at The Enclave at The Reserve at the Merit Club in Libertyville priced from the upper \$400,000s.

In addition to the benefits of one-level living, buyers are attracted to the architectural design of the ranch plans. High ceilings throughout the home and open floor plans establish a feeling of spaciousness. Kitchens, family rooms



Garden gem: Homes at The Enclave are surrounded by mature trees, sparkling ponds and stunning rock gardens.



Home at the ranch: Beautiful ranch homes at the Enclave at the Merit Club in Libertyville are priced from the upper \$400,000s.

SEE RANCHES, PAGE 3

Don DeBat, 3 | BlockShopper, 4 | Recent Home Sales, 8

PIONEER PRESS
YOUR LOCAL SOURCE

Lake County
News-Sun

CHICAGO
SUN-TIMES



High Quality, Low Prices at The Enclave FROM UPPER \$400s

- Downsize into a custom ranch or 2-story home that suits your lifestyle
- Tour upscale decorated model
- Granite counters, Pella wood windows and more
- 1,900-3,000 sq. ft., ground maintenance-free living
- Surround by stunning Merit Club golf course

THE ENCLAVE
AT THE RESERVE
AT THE MERIT CLUB

847.680.0090
merithomes.net

Interstate 94 to Route 137, west to Route 21 (Milwaukee Ave) north 1 1/2 miles to entrance. Follow the signs to the Sales Center. Open daily 10-5, closed Tuesday - Thursday.

Claim Your New Home Freedom Fund!

\$10,000
you're free
to spend your way.



Add options & upgrades • Cover closing costs
Lower your interest rate • Buy out your lease

It's just what you expect from the one homebuilder that offers you real freedom from high energy bills, tired floorplans, and inflexible designs. Come see for yourself at any William Ryan Homes community ... and claim your \$10,000 Freedom Fund on any home you choose!

Single Family Homes

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ELGIN
Sandy Creek Estates from the '230s
847.214.1387 | ELGIN
Highland Woods from the '230s
847.841.3891 |
| LAKEMOOR
Rockwell Place from the '170s
847.201.7952 | LIBERTYVILLE
Liberty Grove from the '550s
847.201.7952 |
| LINDENHURST
The Preserves from the '270s
847.201.7952 | NAPERVILLE
From the \$290s
847.789.1871 |
| SHOREWOOD
Estates of Hidden Creek from the '230s
847.789.1871 | VOLO
Autumn Grove from the '170s
847.201.7952 |



WilliamRyanHomes.com

Building energy-efficient homes throughout Chicagoland

TODAY'S HOMES

Clare at Water Tower a home for caring

With some of the most diverse and well-connected calendars in town, life in the center of urban Chicago is only the beginning for the spirited and community-minded residents of The Clare at Water Tower.

The Clare at Water Tower is home to a group of residents whose lives are social, active, built on the belief that life should be about new experiences and friends, and who are passionate about living just steps from the city's many restaurants, the Magnificent Mile, historical points of interest, educational opportunities, universities, museums and music and theater venues.

Tucked into the heart of downtown Chicago in a metropolitan, luxury skyscraper sits The Clare at Water Tower, which offers an array of amenities, a caring and supportive staff and dynamic in-house and group off-site events/activities, as well as complete access to different levels of high-quality health and Life Care.

The community offers a variety of features for residents



Caring for Chicago: The Clare resident Betty Bergstrom will be recognized by the Association for Fundraising Professionals with its Founders' Medallion for her commitment to fundraising and dedication to the Chicago community.

and their guests including multiple common spaces, rooftop garden, Marilyn Miglin Spa, theater, fitness and aquatic centers and casual and elegant fine dining venues. In addition, The Clare residents have access to numerous convenience services

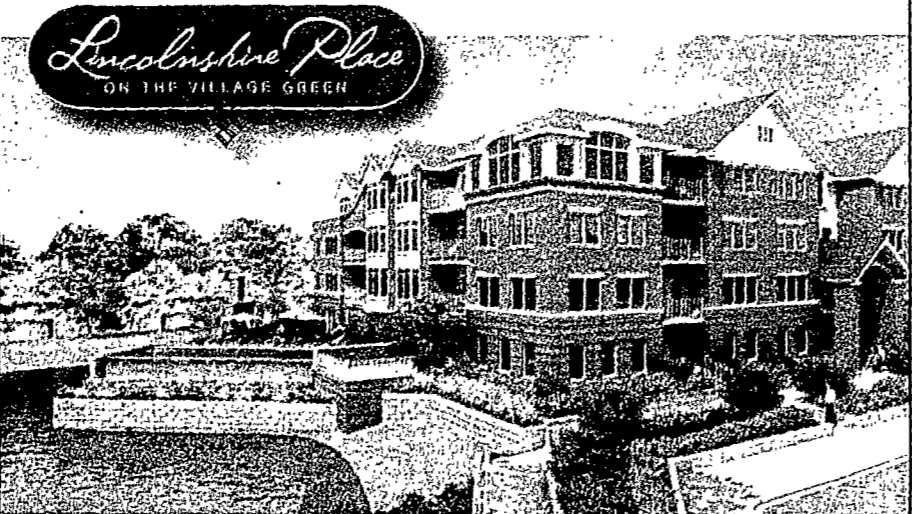
from concierge service and 24-hour security to transportation and housekeeping, to that most coveted of urban amenities: assigned parking in a common garage. These services are complemented by a community activities calendar that is overflowing with timely events, noted national and local speakers and performers, educational discussions, and special programs highlighting the community's love of music, history, food and art.

While The Clare provides its family with first class niceties and entertainment within its walls, it also advocates the rich community ties and diverse interests of its residents outside of The Clare.

Residents are involved in Chicago's many philanthropic and cause-related organizations, serve on boards of local business, health, civic and education institutions, as well as participate in various common interest clubs and groups. Many residents also maintain full-time or consultancy positions in their chosen

SEE CLARE, PAGE 7

It's the right time - choose the right place!



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Luxury condominiums in downtown Lincolnshire, now from the mid \$300s (only 5 remain*) for the best value in new construction!



Visit our Sales Center at 400 Village Green, Lincolnshire, across from Egg Harbor Cafe or contact us for more information at 847.276.2670 www.LincolnshirePlace.com

*Promotion prices subject to change without notice

TODAY'S HOMES

Federal mortgage modification program is looking weak

Uncle Sam's mortgage modification program, originally designed to help save 3 million to 4 million homeowners from foreclosure nationwide, is looking more and more like a failure, experts say.



ON THE HOME FRONT
DON DEBAT

The Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) is part of President Obama's comprehensive strategy to get the housing market back on track by helping cash-strapped American families refinance or modify their mortgage cost and lock-in a more affordable payment now and into the future.

Unfortunately, over the past two years, only 28,000 to 30,000 families each month have received permanent loan modifications, reports the Treasury Department. That's a total of only 300,000 to 360,000 families receiving modifications each year since President Obama detailed the program in March of 2009.

Since the national program started, nearly 1.5 million homeowners started trial loan modifications, but as of January, 2011, only 36 percent of the applicants were placed in active permanent payment plans.

Critics say HAMP's guidelines have repeatedly changed, along with its manner of dealing with mortgage servicers. Homeowners and housing counselors continue to complain that lenders are losing paperwork, not being responsive, not approving enough modifications and not being adequately penalized for poor results.

A loan modification results in permanent changes to one or more of the original mortgage terms, such as the interest rate or duration of the loan. A modification often can provide immediate resolution to the delinquency by adding back the delinquent payment to the account balance, or grants a temporary reduction in the interest rate to assist in bringing the account back to current status.

Homeowners may be eligible for a loan modification if they are having difficulty making their mortgage payments, or have already missed one or more payments.

Three banks with the highest number of troubled loans currently in trial modification are Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo Bank,

according to the Treasury Department. Here is a breakdown of the success ratio of the largest mortgage servicers through the end of 2010:

- Of the 352,869 Bank of America loans currently in trial modification, only 90,243 homeowners — or 25.6 percent — received permanent modification.
- At JP Morgan Chase only 66,441 homeowners — or 29.9 percent — of the total 222,582 applicants received permanent modification.
- Of the 213,241 Wells Fargo Bank loans in trial modification, only 70,139 homeowners — or 32.9 percent — received permanent modification.

The Treasury Department has defended HAMP in recent months, noting that some 560,000 homeowners who were turned down for the program are participating in lenders' in-house programs, or working on alternative modifications.

In the Chicago area, 7,500 homeowners were participat-

ing in trial modifications in January, and another 28,000 have received permanent HAMP modifications, the Treasury Department reported.

Here are some of the initial eligibility guidelines for the HAMP program:

- The home must be a primary residence financed with a loan that was originated before January 1, 2009.
- The unpaid principal mortgage balance must be equal to or less than \$729,750 for homes. Limits are higher for 2-flats to 4-unit properties.
- The mortgage payment (including taxes, insurance and home owner's association dues) must be more than 31 percent of your gross monthly income.

The mortgage payment is no longer affordable, perhaps because of a significant change in income or expenses.

The loan must be owned by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac or a participating investor. Check with your lender to see if your mortgage has been sold to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.

For more information on the Making Home Affordable program, call the Homeowner's Hope Hotline at 888-995-HOPE, or visit www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov.

Don DeBat's weekly real estate column is syndicated by DeBat Media Services. For more homebuying information visit his Web site at www.dondebat.net.

RANCHES | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and living rooms flow into each other making entertaining convenient, while separate bedroom areas provide privacy.

Large basements are perfect for creating a spacious recreational room for teenagers, or they can be transformed into in-law quarters with a full bath.

"When out-of-town guests remain for an extended stay, you can still maintain your privacy," said Jeri Szalko, listing for Merit Homes. "Ranches are also more suitable homes when in-laws need a temporary or permanent residence," she added.

"Since prices have been substantially cut by \$100,000 on all our stunning designs, we're seeing an increased interest in our homes and have chalked up four sales in the last month," said Szalko.

She said there is a large pent-up demand among young professionals who desire single-level living and "mature buyers" who are ready to downsize and that this major price reduction has helped stimulate sales.

At The Enclave, buyers can choose from seven homes; two are two-story designs featuring first-floor master bedrooms. With 1,900 to 3,000 square feet of luxury space, homes have two to four bedrooms and up to 3½ baths and are priced from \$494,900 to \$625,900.

The two-bedroom, two-bath Carrington model is open for touring and offers views of a nationally acclaimed golf course and groves of mature trees through a 9-foot rear window wall making this home unique.

Enter through the charming covered front porch into a foyer and straight ahead is an architecturally charming great room adorned with three arched openings on both sides. To the right is a large kitchen with cherry cabinets, a granite-covered island with a cozy eating nook, KitchenAid appliances and breakfast area. The deck is reached through French doors from either the kitchen or family room.

A cozy family room offers a granite fireplace and is modeled with an optional screened porch. Surrounded by windows, the master bedroom suite is adjacent to a master bath with a soaking tub, large walk-in shower and double bowl vanity. The second bedroom and laundry room with appliances and oak cabinets complete the home. Merit Homes offers finished basements and the Carrington showcases an English basement and third full bath.

Every home at The Enclave offers upgraded luxury features standard, such as site-stained oak flooring, Kohler fixtures, maple, oak, cherry, and alder cabinets, granite countertops, all major appliances, full masonry fireplace, extensive trim details, Palladian windows, cedar shake roofs, and zoned temperature control.

To customize their home, every buyer starts with a plan and can change the footprint of the house by eliminating or adding rooms.

Part of a gated community called the Reserve at the Merit Club, the 17-home Enclave is surrounded by semi-custom homes and one-acre custom homes on 100 acres of landscaped rolling terrain. A natural landscape of scenic rock gardens, ponds and wildflowers enhance the tranquil setting. Most residences have views of the Merit Club, an 18-hole private golf course.

To visit The Enclave, take Interstate 94 to Route 137, go west to Route 21 (Milwaukee Avenue), then north 1½ miles to entrance. Follow signs to the sales center, which is open Friday to Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 847 680-0090 or visit merithomes.net.

Home Auction

Saturday, April 16th, at 1pm at the Marriott Southwest, 1200 Burr Ridge Pkwy, in Burr Ridge, IL

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Bankrate.com

today's homes **MORTGAGE GUIDE**

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30 yr fixed	4.875	0.000	\$1995	20%	4.981
15 yr fixed	4.125	0.000	\$1995	20%	4.431
10/1 ARM	4.375	0.000	\$1995	20%	4.209
5/1 ARM	3.375	0.000	\$1995	20%	3.610
Certified Upright Lender Rates & GFE Online 24/7 (A) 4121 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108, NMLS#2390, M8575991					

\$165,000 loan amount		
Loan Program	Rate	Monthly Payment
1 yr ARM	4.64%	\$849.81
5/1 ARM	3.74%	\$763.20
15 yr fixed	4.12%	\$1,230.43
30 yr fixed	4.91%	\$976.70

\$435,000 loan amount		
Loan Program	Rate	Monthly Payment
30 yr jumbo	5.46%	\$2,458.98

Source: Bankrate.com

RATES & INFORMATION AVAILABLE DAILY AT @ <http://suntimes.interest.com>

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HOME FRONT BY BLOCKSHOPPER

Big, but cozy

WHERE WE LIVE | Fireplaces lend warmth to spacious 2009 2-story in Forest Glen

BY JEREMY SCHNITKER
blockshopper.com

Located north of Route 176 and east of St. Mary's Road outside of Libertyville, the Forest Glen subdivision in Green Oaks is primarily composed of homes built in the past decade. But the 37-home community does have some newer-construction homes for sale, including a five-bedroom, 5.5-bath property at 1150 Anderson Drive.



The 4,655-square-foot home, which was built in 2009 and has been occupied by its architect, is listed for \$1.295 million by agent Liz Anderson of Century 21 Kreuser & Seiler.

The English country-style home has a stucco exterior with brick and stone accents. Inside, it features hardwood flooring and a living room with a large brick fireplace.

The island kitchen has stainless steel appliances, while the master bedroom has a 12-foot vaulted ceiling, a fireplace, sitting room and a master bathroom with a jetted tub and walk-in shower.

There is also a walk-out lower level, patio and four-car garage.

"This property has a really unique floor plan, and for a home its size, it's not a very formal home; it's very comfortable," Anderson said.



Welcoming wood: The kitchen has stainless steel appliances, a center island and pendant and recessed lighting. Listed at \$1.295 million, this English country-style home is located just outside of Libertyville. | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

DATA POINT
KENILWORTH REAL ESTATE
BY THE NUMBERS

35

The number of sales in Kenilworth in 2010, up from 21 in 2009.

Realtor, spouse buy in Schaumburg

A Realtor and her spouse, a high school band director, have purchased a home in northeast Schaumburg.

Nancy S. Eisele and Elton L. Eisele bought the home in the 1500th block of Coventry Road in Schaumburg for \$420,000 on Feb. 4.

The previous owners, Diane M. Skrzypinski and Anthony J. Skrzypinski, purchased the property for \$418,000 in

May 2003.

The 3,230-square-foot house was built in 1978.

Nancy Eisele works as a realtor at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. She is a certified relocation specialist and a certified negotiation expert. Elton Eisele serves as the director of bands at Niles North High School.

— John Peyton

MARKET WATCH

City	For sale	Median price	Rate of foreclosure	# of sales	# of foreclosures
Barrington	3.16%	\$385,000	6.45%	155	10
Buffalo Grove	2.31%	\$235,000	14.56%	474	69
Des Plaines	2.69%	\$185,750	35.11%	732	257
Evanston	2.74%	\$310,000	16.39%	726	119
Gurnee	2.44%	\$219,950	3.77%	292	11
Highland Park	3.43%	\$402,500	5.32%	301	16
Lake Forest	3.98%	\$800,000	2.27%	176	4
Park Ridge	2.07%	\$340,000	10.8%	389	42
Skokie	2.19%	\$247,000	28.94%	584	169
Wilmette	1.81%	\$617,750	5.18%	328	17

Source: ChicagoBlockShopper.com. Data track last 12 months of sales.

Atwater offers lakefront living

Spring incentives offered at Racine condo community

Located steps from Lake Michigan in Racine, luxurious condos at The Atwater might be compared to lakefront living on Chicago's Lake Michigan shores.

"With prices as low as \$159,900, visitors have noted that our condo lifestyle resembles living on Lake Shore Drive, but at a fraction of the cost," said Chris Rintz, managing member for New England Homes.

The Atwater at Gaslight Pointe is on a triangular peninsula formed by the confluence of Lake Michigan and the Root River. This desirable location assures residents of picturesque water views from many remaining units.

From their balconies, homeowners can look west and see the Root River, a scenic bridge and historic clock tower, or to the north they enjoy views of the Wind Point Lighthouse, the North Beach and the Racine Yacht Club. When they turn south, there are panoramic views of Lake Michigan and a marina.

New England Homes is sweetening

the deal by offering a variety of special incentives. Rintz invites buyers to take advantage 12 months free from homeowners association fees, a one-year free boat slip, elegant upgrades at no cost, and other cash incentives.

"The reset in the housing market has taught us how to be very creative in structuring deals for our customers. We can tailor a transaction to fit the needs of just about anyone looking to buy," said Rintz.

Affordable pricing and some of the lowest interest rates in decades has allowed many Illinoisans to purchase a home at The Atwater, and they are now enjoying all the amenities that living on Lake Michigan offers. With reasonable drive time from Chicago, some owners have chosen The Atwater as their vacation getaway retreat, while others have made it their year-round residence.

"The Atwater is New England Homes second waterfront resort-like community with Lake Michigan views," said Rintz. "Our innovative condominiums reflect Racine's historic waterfront landmarks with its New England shingle-style architecture."

For example, the building is crowned with an architectural-shingled roof and has cedar shake siding and a stone water table, all natural materials

selected to blend seamlessly into the neighborhood, he said.

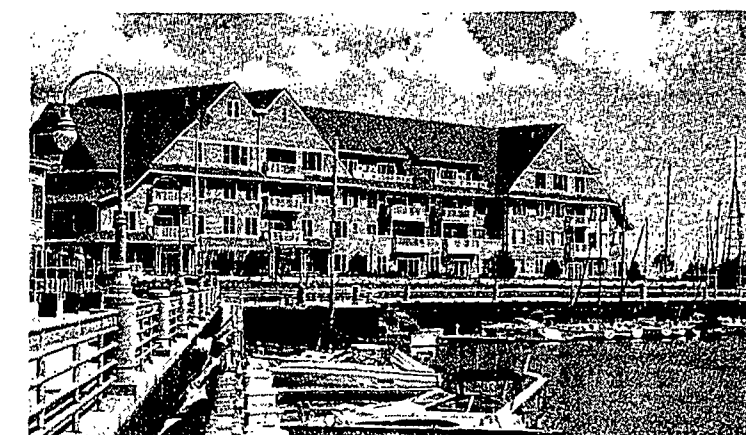
Featuring one- and two-bedroom condos previously priced from \$190,900 to \$413,900, units are now available from \$159,900 to \$372,500.

Currently two units remain that overlook the harbor, while eight units offer views of the lake and river from their balconies. For those who need a home for the spring season, there are three units available for immediate occupancy.

Buyers can choose from a variety of one-bedroom, one-bath to two-bedrooms-plus-den and 2½-bath homes with up to 1,836 square feet. There's still time to add personal touches by selecting the final finishes. Once final selections are made, residences are being completed in six to eight weeks.

Building amenities include spacious balconies or expansive paver terraces, heated underground parking with large, private storage, and secured lobby entry in a state-of-the-art elevator building. And the entertainment deck on the rooftop of the carriage house may be available for special functions or just taking in the views and sunshine.

Interior inclusions consist of 9-foot ceilings, porcelain or wood floors



Home away from home: Cape Cod shingle-style architecture graces the 40-unit Atwater at Gaslight Pointe, a condominium community within walking distance of downtown Racine. A condo at the Atwater is a year-round getaway, where residents enjoy spectacular harbor views from their balconies.

in foyer and kitchen, maple, oak or white cabinets, Corian countertops, Frigidaire stainless steel appliances, solid-core six-panel doors, soaker tubs or walk-in showers in master bath with porcelain tile surrounds, WeatherShield Proshield vinyl clad, double-hung wood windows with low-E glass, individual high-efficiency gas, forced air furnace and central air.

There is much to do and see in downtown Racine, including the historic shopping district, art galleries and museums, and even horse-drawn carriage rides. Many events feature

live local music at various locations, and folks are finding that there's always a festive atmosphere in Racine.

To visit the Atwater Sales Center, take Interstate 94 north and exit Route 20. Go east for 9 miles and bear right onto 14th Street (just after Washington Park) to the Lake. Go left on Main Street through downtown, then a right on Gaslight Drive. The sales center is open Friday and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday and Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 262-637-7801 or visit www.nebinc.com.

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TRANSACTIONS

Curious about more home sales in your neighborhood? For more Chicago area transactions, see "recent sales" at www.searchchicago.suntimes.com/homes/.

Antioch
317 Lakewood Dr: Bueche, Brian T & Donna L; \$157,000
39794 N Long Dr: Hellstern, Douglas A; \$260,000
26423 W Fair Oaks Cir: Ziarno, Peter & Peter J; \$98,000

Beach Park
13143 W Shannon Dr: Sacramento, Anthony & Lois; \$143,000

Deerfield
23306 Birchwood Ln: Shah, Dipeshkumar & Patel, Sheetal; \$780,000

Evanston
721 Dewey Ave: Molyneaux, Wesley & Boling, Richard C; \$325,000
1210 Florence Ave: Berry, Cinda Jo; \$70,000
2800 Isabella St: Michalski, John W & Kaiser, Hilde; \$521,500

Glencoe
417 Adams Ave: Gale, Marcus & Wendy; \$985,000
848 Grove St: Bander, Kevin & Halit; \$1,150,000
1171 Mayfair Ln: Davydov, Anna &

Igor; \$600,000
582 South Ave: Roberts, Jeffrey M & Michelle C; \$1,368,000

Glenview
1539 Central Pkwy: Pratt, Thomas & Sharon; \$1,550,000
10369 Dearlove Rd 2K: Yoon, Yun Ok & Henry; \$90,000
4140 Florence Way: Zerazon, Biniam T; \$275,000
2359 Iroquois Dr: Kellen, Kevin & Margarita; \$675,000
914 Queens Ln: Gluckman, Gordon R & Virginia; \$1,150,000

Grayslake
34128 N Wooded Glen Dr: Freda, Henry M & Susan A; \$346,000
1137 Popes Creek Cir: Olive, Joseph & Cassie Colleen; \$215,000

Highland Park
824 Broadview Ave: Glazer, Scott & Meredith; \$1,124,000
319 Hastings Ave: Magusin, Michael P & Lincoln, Ann Jeanette; \$308,000
1462 Sherwood Rd: Kider, Glen C & Candace; \$435,000
2254 Skokie Valley Rd: Pasquesi, Frank L & Yvonne M; \$1,050,000

Ingleside
205 Hollow Way: Geary, Jason A & Christine M; \$270,000

Lake Bluff
708 Garfield Ave: Allan, Andrew;

\$390,000
Libertyville
131 Brookhill Rd: Murphy, Karig Peterson; \$350,000

Lincolnshire
2 Stonegate Cir: Stark, Debra & Postiglione, Patrick; \$105,000

Morton Grove
8701 Austin Ave: Yoon, Soon A; \$170,000
8832 Menard Ave: Hufana, Dennis & Kristine; \$300,000
8839 Olcott Ave: David, Donald G; \$275,000
9315 Overhill Ave: Bergel, Timothy John & Madrigal, Jessica Marie; \$324,500

Mundelein
811 Ambria Dr: Goldstein, Michael S & Stehman, Jodi Lynn; \$390,000
2350 Creekwood Dr: Tyranski, Gary & Christine S; \$325,000
164 N California Ave: Orlik, Kristi Anne L; \$143,000
126 Racine Pl: Hernandez Castro, Nereida & Lisandro; \$100,000

Niles
7933 N Odell Ave: Trusiewicz, Pawel; \$122,500
7117 W Greenleaf St: Darji, Nilesh & Nisha; \$152,000

Northbrook
1331 Adirondack Dr: Giometti,

Gregory P & Stryker, Catherine E; \$317,500
2136 Maple Ave: Linz, Brian & Eileen; \$362,000
560 Pflingsten Rd: Potluri, Anjaneyulu S & Nagalakshmi; \$145,000
925 Spring Hill Dr 112: Kim, Kwanchul & Jang, Jin Won; \$97,000
1311 Wildwood Ln: Kirkpatrick, Kevin T & Geri A; \$630,000

Riverwoods
2000 Clendenin Ln: Koelle, John R; \$655,000

Round Lake
2180 S Arden Ln: Gundelach, Jeffery & Miedona, Steven J; \$122,000

Round Lake Beach
913 Ronald Ter: Guzman, Vidal; \$90,000

Skokie
8732 E Prairie Rd: Weiss, Andrea & Jonathan; \$550,000
3800 Harvard Ter: Layne, Tyra Darville & Tyrell; \$262,000
4943 Jarvis Ave: Ibrahim, Sabrina & Jwan; \$317,500
7914 Kenneth Ave: Bildires, Helen & Jacobs, Elana; \$240,000
8828 Niles Center Rd 508: Mohammed, Nizamuddin; \$152,000

Vernon Hills
710 Cherry Valley Rd: Meserole,

Jeremiah & Talia; \$225,000
10 Montebello Dr: Voeks, Joanna; \$234,000
1055 W Royal Oak Dr: Dahl, Richard W & Jennifer L; \$360,000

Volo
442 Bedford Ln: Yenamandra, Ashwin & Subbalakshmi; \$275,000
980 Richard Brown Blvd: Carolino, Jayson; \$254,000

Waukegan
1251 S Pleasant Hill Gate: Alvarez, Oscar; \$120,000

Wilmette
705 11th St 417: Saltzman, Linda R; \$233,000
2043 Beechwood Ave: Wilkinson, Simon & Mary; \$625,000
410 Greenleaf Ave: Glass, Melanie L; \$315,000

Winnetka
615 Cedar St: Evans, Andrew R & Brayman, Corinne; \$665,000
217 Woodland Ave: Sell, Sean P & Angela K; \$872,500
21 Woodley Rd: Lebakken, Kurt M & Khun G; \$1,775,000

Zion
2727 Bethel Blvd: Napshin, Jeremy H & Jarvis, Christina S; \$97,000
2022 Dawn Ln: Burks, Tiffany A & Aaron L; \$133,000
2119 Emmaus Ave: Barnes Jr, Lance

R & Skillen, Julia M; \$75,000
2825 Jethro Ct: Bailey, Brian R; \$124,000

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 and watch.public-record.com, or call 630-557-1000.

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<p>NEW 2011 BUICK LACROSSE</p> <p>MSRP: \$22,990</p>	<p>NEW 2011 GMC SIERRA</p> <p>MSRP: \$15,990</p>	<p>NEW 2011 CADILLAC CTS</p> <p>MSRP: \$28,990 - \$249</p>
<p>NEW 2011 BUICK LUCERNE</p> <p>MSRP: \$23,990</p>	<p>NEW 2011 GMC TERRAIN</p> <p>MSRP: \$21,990</p>	<p>NEW 2011 CADILLAC DTS</p> <p>MSRP: \$36,990</p>
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39 mos. lease (CTS & SRX, 24 mos.), \$2,500 down (CTS & SRX \$0 down) plus tax, title, lic., doc. fee & 1st mo. payment due at signing. 10,000 mi/yr, 25¢ over.

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<p>NEW 2011 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS</p> <p>MSRP: \$19,395 - \$189</p>	<p>NEW 2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE</p> <p>MSRP: \$20,875 - \$289</p>

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'99 Toyota 4Runner Ltd. 4x4	\$6,990	'07 Acura TL	\$18,990
'02 Infiniti G20	\$6,990	'09 Mini Cooper S	\$19,990
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'01 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4x4	\$7,990	'08 Buick Enclave CXL	\$19,990
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'07 Chevy Impala LS	\$9,990	'08 Volvo S60 3.5T	\$22,990
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'07 Cadillac DTS	\$17,990	'09 Infiniti G37X AWD	\$25,990

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'09 Seion xB	\$11,995	'09 Honda Accord	\$16,995	'09 Hyundai Santa Fe	\$25,995
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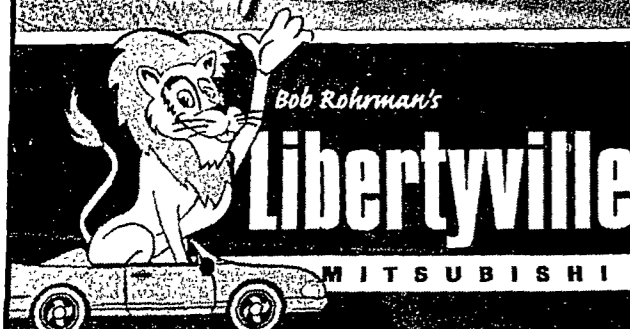
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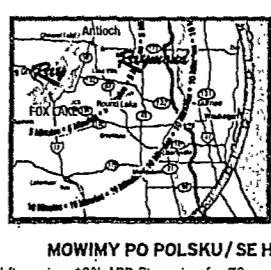
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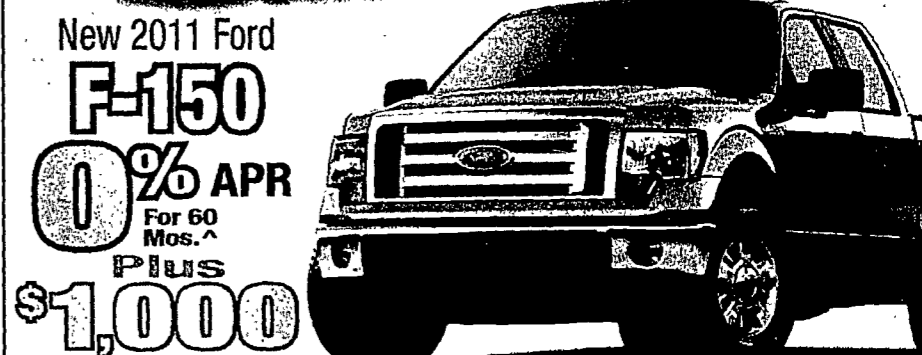
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Chamber

Continued from PAGE B16

December in Sendai, Japan," he said, and then added ruefully, "That's where the earthquake and tsunami hit so hard earlier this month."

Return visit

During his brief stay in the Chicago area, Simmons will reconnect with the Village of Lincolnwood and its Mayor Jerry Curry, as well as with School District 74.

"Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra is in a fortunate position" he said. "We have an advantage over the traditional subscription model. We can grow our support and give concerts when we have the funds for them."

Perhaps only an eternal optimist like Simmons would see that as an advantage. Still, when he went to Hawaii, he formed an orchestra. So why shouldn't his Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra become a household name?

go.

Continued from PAGE B15

ing teams working in pop, music theatre, hip-hop, folk, Latin and country music are encouraged to apply for a no-fee program presented by The Johnny Mercer Foundation and the American Music Theatre Project at Northwestern University this summer. The Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project will be held June 20-25 on the university's Evanston campus. The intensive weeklong songwriting program will be led by Craig Carnelia, Tony Award-nominated composer and lyricist; Andrew Lipa, Grammy-nominated artist and composer; and three-time Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter Lari White. Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 30; writing teams must include at least one member in that age range. For information or an application, visit www.mercersongwriters.org. Applications must be postmarked by April 10.

BOOKS & POETRY

Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. March 28, 7 p.m.: Discussion of *April & Oliver* by Tess Callahan. RHINO/the Poetry Forum invites all poets to its Poetry Workshop & Peer Exchange, to be held from 1:30-4:30 p.m. March 27 in Room 108 at the Evanston Public Library, Church and Orrington streets. Attendees bring 17

copies of a poem to be critiqued, and participate in a discussion of poetry and poetics. \$5. No registration required. The session will be led by Joanne Diaz, recipient of artist fellowships from the Illinois Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, who will discuss "Erasing and Making: The Pleasures of Erasure Poetry."

CHILD'S PLAY

Harand Camp of the Theatre Arts will hold open auditions for its 2011 summer season from 6-8 p.m. March 24 and 31; 1:30-3 p.m. March 26; and 4:15-7 p.m. March 28 at the North Shore Hotel, 1611 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Open to ages 7-18. Those auditioning should be prepared to sing a familiar song with music or a cappella, read from a script and do some basic choreography. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (847) 867-1356 or visit www.harandcamp.com.

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 information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. May 12-15: Sesame Street Live "I-2-3 Imaginell with Elmo & Friends." Performances at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$15, \$25 and \$30. \$40 Gold Circle seats and \$85 Sunny Seats are also available. Opening night, all seats (excluding Gold Circle and Sunny Seats) are \$15.

Three Cat Education will hold auditions open to children and teens, for "Cinderella" from 2-4 p.m. March 26 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Production dates are May 14 and 21. To schedule an audition, call (847) 461-3228 or e-mail jlueken@threecatproductions.com. For information, visit www.threecatproductions.com/education.

DANCE

Northwestern University's Marjorie Ward Marshall Dance Center, 10 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. April 14-16, 8 p.m.: "Sombros - Three Works by Joel Valentin-Martinez." A talk-back with the choreographer and dancers will follow the Friday performance. Tickets: \$15; \$5 for students. April 29-30, 8 p.m.: "The NU Group," work created, designed and performed by Northwestern alumni.

GROUPS & LESSONS

Chicago Barn Dance Company will host contra dance with East Coast band Perpetual E-Motion and caller Jack Mitchell from 8-11 p.m. April 16 at SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. All dances taught, no partner necessary. Admission is \$5-\$7. Call (224) 534-9173. Happy Twirlers Dance Club provides round and square dancing at 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, through May 14, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thacker and Lee streets, Des Plaines. \$6 per guest. For information, call (847) 698-5501 or (773) 685-8407.

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 28: "Back in the Saddle." April 11: "Step to a Wave - New Dancer Dance." April 25: "Showers and Flowers."

FILM

Block Cinema, in the Pick-Laudati Auditorium at the Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 491-4000. www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/block-cinema. March 31, 7:30 p.m.: Guiltarist-composer Alex de Grassi will perform his original score for the 1934 silent film "A Story of Floating Weeds" by Japanese filmmaker Yasujiro Ozu. \$8. April 8, 7:30 p.m.: "Silent Surrealism," silent films with live gypsy jazz by the Hot Club of San Francisco. \$8. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Friday Films at 1 p.m.: - March 25: "Robin Hood." Morning Matinees at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays - March 31: "The Social Network." Niles Public Library District, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. March 26, 2 p.m.: Screening of "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," rated PG.

The North Shore Movie Club will meet at 7:15 p.m. April 6 in the parish hall at

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 8201 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month for the showing of a thought-provoking feature film, followed by discussion. New members welcome. For information, call (847) 966-8445.

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgeli.org. "Legends of Laughter" film series, presented at 7 p.m. Thursdays, unless otherwise noted. All showings will be accompanied by a short talk and introduction by film historian Matthew Hoffman. Admission is free. March 24: "Sherlock Jr.;" and "The Navigator" (1924) starring Buster Keaton. March 31: "The Circus" (1928) starring Charlie Chaplin. April 7: "The Freshman" (1925) starring Harold Lloyd. April 10: "Speedy" (1928) starring Harold Lloyd. 6:30 p.m. at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. \$8. In addition to the film with live organ accompaniment courtesy of the Silent Film Society of Chicago, the Lloyd short film, "Never Weaken," will be shown. April 14: "Steamboat Bill" (1928) starring Buster Keaton. April 21: "City Lights" (1931) starring Charlie Chaplin. April 28: "The Kid Brother" (1927) starring Harold Lloyd. May 12: "The Cameraman" (1929) starring Buster Keaton. May 19: "Modern Times" (1936) starring Charlie Chaplin.

ORGANIZATIONS

North Shore Affiliates of the Museum

go., PAGE B18

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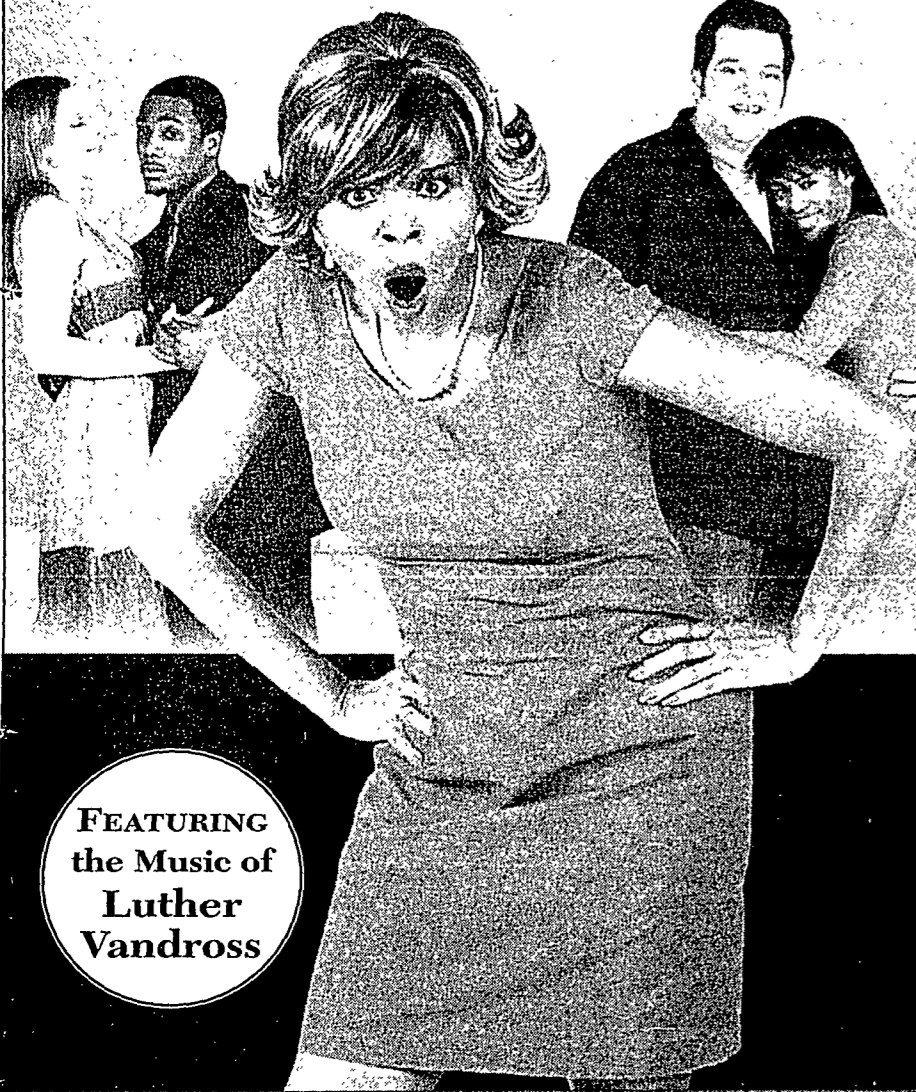
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Continued from PAGE B17

of Contemporary Art will celebrate "All Things Artful, Two" at its spring luncheon at 11 a.m. May 17 at Bryn Mawr Country Club, 6600 N. Crawford, Lincolnwood. Chicago artist Nick Cave will discuss his work and share his views on the importance of art in our lives. In addition, works by artists who create jewelry, accessories, ceramics and mosaics will be on exhibit and for sale. For reservations and information, call (847) 948-9222.

SINGLES

ComboSingles, open to singles 21-plus. RSVP two days before dinners. For information about the group and upcoming events, call (847) 757-1299 or (847) 331-1066, or visit www.combosingles.org. Bowling is held the second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month at the Brunswick Zone Mount Prospect, 824 E. Rand Road. No advance reservation required. Fee is \$20 for league members; \$25 for non-league members; \$10 cover for socializing without bowling. Upcoming dates are March 27, April 10 and 17, and May 1 and 15.

Spare Singles Sunday Evening Club holds ballroom dances from 7:30-10:30 p.m. the first and third Sundays of each month at the American Legion Hall, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. Admission is \$8 for members; \$9 guests. April 3: Music by Chuck and

Friends. April 17: Springtime dance, with music by The Music Men. Spare Club dinners are held at 4 p.m. on non-dance Sundays. For information, call Rosemary Bartley, (847) 806-0493. March 27: Jimmy's, 1440 Rand Road, Des Plaines. April 10: Andrew's, 2619 Dempster, Des Plaines. April 24: Easter Sunday, no dinner.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

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/emmeritus. Together Again: Great Teams from Hollywood's Golden Age (HUM E99-71) examines on-screen couples including Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers; Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland; and Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. Eight-week course meets from 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Fridays, starting March 25. Course fee is \$156. Mysterious Travel IX (HUM B29-71) explores the popularity of the mystery novel and the use of fiction to better understand other cultures. Eight-week course meets from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fridays, starting March 25. Course fee is \$150. Beethoven: His Life and Symphonies (MUS C35-71), an eight-week course, meets from 1-2:30 p.m. Fridays, starting March 25. Course fee is \$112. The New Yorker (HUM E93-72) analyzes selections from the sophisticated magazine that debuted in 1925. A subscription is required. Four-week course meets from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays, starting March 28. Course fee is \$84.

Rock Classics (MUS E61-71) focuses on music from the 1960s and 1970s by bands including Cream, Led Zeppelin and Iron Butterfly. Session meets 10-11:30 a.m. March 30. Course fee is \$20. Marvelous Mancini (MUS B55-71) journeys into the genius and creativity of composer Henry Mancini, responsible for memorable compositions including "The Pink Panther" and "Peter Gunn." Session meets from 10-11:30 a.m. April 6. Course fee is \$20. Four Plays (ENG E96-71) offers debate on the aesthetic and sociopolitical value of four of the hottest plays to hit the stages of Chicago and New York. Four-week course meets from 1-3 p.m. Thursdays, starting April 7. Course fee is \$60.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. www.iholocaustmuseum.org. Admission: \$12; \$8 for students and senior citizens; \$6 for children ages 5-11. Special exhibitions are free with museum admission. Through May 31: "Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges." The exhibit tells the story of Jewish professors who fled Nazism and came to America in the 1930s and 1940s, finding teaching positions at historically black colleges and universities. April 10, 1:30-3 p.m.: Wendy A. Sarti discusses and signs her recently published book, *Women and Nazis: Perpetrators of Genocide and Other Crimes During Hitler's Regime, 1933-1945*. Free with museum admission. Reservations recommended.

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Please email your submissions to nichepublications@pioneerlocal.com or mail them to:

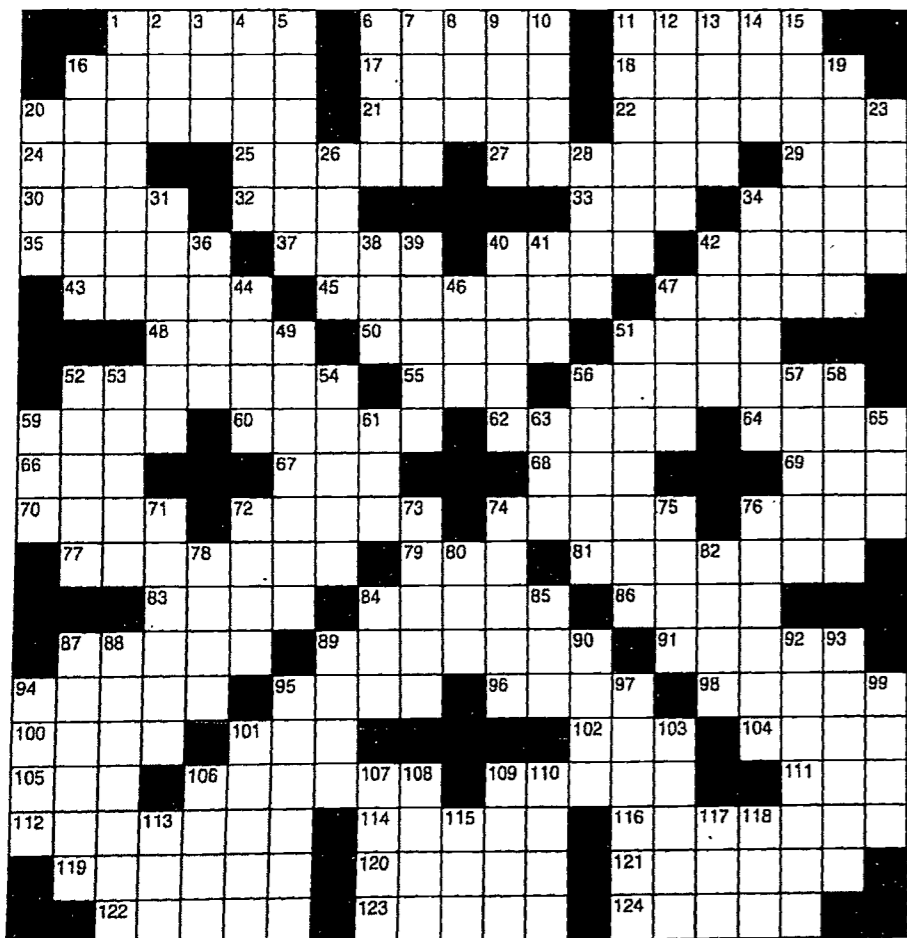
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In 250 words or less, tell us how a friend or a family member inspires you through community involvement, volunteering or charitable efforts. Please include a photo if possible. *Pioneer Press* will feature the most outstanding moms in its annual Mother's Day special sections on April 28.



Super Crossword TRIPLETS

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 55 Sound of 1952 | 11 Joyful | Wolfe's hobby | 90 Football |
| 1 Press | 56 Sound | 12 Fido's friend | 51 Apportion | 92 Watched Trains" (66 film) |
| 6 Press | 59 Nobelist | 13 Gopher | 52 Take the honey and run | 93 Kirstie Alley's birthplace |
| 11 Press | 60 Dundee denizens | 14 Place before place | 53 City, IA | 94 Kind of curtain |
| 16 Ramis or Robbins | 62 TV's "Incredible!" | 15 Yvonne of "The Munsters" | 54 "Sixteen" (60 song) | 95 Wrote |
| 17 Immature insect | 64 Trickle | 16 Flung | 56 Destruction | 97 Priest or rabbi |
| 18 -lhan-thou | 66 Sticky stuff | 19 Update a factory | 57 Tarzan, for one | 99 "Weak" (88 hit) |
| 20 Dressed down | 67 Tint | 20 Improve oneself, in a way | 58 It makes rye high | 101 Shake-spearan sprite |
| 21 Stage backdrop | 68 Broad st. | 23 Clammy | 59 Freud topic | 103 Singer Payne |
| 22 Displayed | 69 Fairy queen | 26 Tavern staples | 61 Pro (for now) | 106 Celtic |
| 24 TV's "The Patrol" | 70 Creative work | 28 Glum drop? | 63 Crone | 107 New York stadium |
| 25 Rock's — & the Juniors | 72 Terra — | 31 Contribute | 65 "Nova" network | 108 Pyramid, for one |
| 27 Triangular sail | 74 "What — boy am I!" | 34 Covers | 71 Tap | 109 Put the metal to the metal |
| 29 — later date | 76 Lowdown singer? | 36 Bill of Rights | 72 Baptism site | 110 "Understood!" |
| 30 Gung-ho | 77 Pop | 38 Catchall abbr. | 73 Descending, to Donne | 113 Onassis' nickname |
| 32 Cassowary kin | 79 Pop | 39 City districts | 74 Calculating reptile? | 115 1002, to Tiberius |
| 33 Muff | 81 Pop | 40 "Secret — Man" | 75 Olive — | 117 Augsburg article |
| 34 Startling at | 83 Charged atoms | 41 Singer Shannon | 76 Fit in | 118 Calendar abbr. |
| 35 Salami city | 84 Musical movement | 42 Autumn birthstone | 78 Plunder | |
| 37 Bouillabaisse or burgoo | 86 Sheep's shaker | 44 Greek vowels | 80 "Ask — Girl" (59 film) | |
| 40 "An apple —" | 87 Bar | 46 Computer abbr. | 82 Annoy | |
| 42 Deck type | 89 Bar | 47 Vast quantities | 84 Actress Charlotte | |
| 43 Reel | 91 Bar | 49 Nero | 85 Granada gold | |
| 45 Reel | 94 Move swiftly | | 87 North Pole sight | |
| 47 Reel | 95 Hammer part | | 88 Bouquet | |
| 48 Choir member | 96 Campus grp. | | 89 — majesty | |
| 50 "Don't Be —" (56 hit) | 98 Chou — | | | |
| 51 Have in mind | 100 Artist Benjamin | | | |
| 52 Sound | 101 Pres. candidate | | | |



Answers: Inside today's classified section

HOROSCOPES

For the week of March 30 — April 5

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Regarding your upcoming challenges, the Aries Lamb should very quickly size things up and allow you to make the best possible use of whatever resources you have on hand. Good luck.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You rarely blame others for missteps that worked against you. But this time you need to lay out all the facts and insist that everyone acknowledge his or her share of the mistakes. Then start again.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might want to start making vacation plans. And don't be surprised by unexpected family demands. Maintain control. Be open to suggestions, but don't get bogged down by them.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Work with both your Moon Child and Crab aspects this week to keep both your creative and your practical sides balanced. Your intuition sharpens, giving you greater insight by the middle of the week.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat finally should have all the information needed to move on with a project. If not, maybe you'll want to give everything a new and more thorough check before trying to move on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Too much emotional pain caused by someone you can't win over as a friend? Then stop trying to do so. You have other things you need to work on this week. Go to it, and good luck.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's a good time to reassess where and how your strengths can help you build, and where your weaknesses can hinder you. Remember to build on your strongest foundation.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) That personal matter that seemed so hard to deal with should be less confusing now. Don't rush. Let things happen easily, without the risk of creating even more puzzlement.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Change continues to be a strong factor in many important areas. Keep on top of them, and you won't have to worry about losing control. A personal situation takes on a new look.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A business offer sounds intriguing. But if you don't check it out thoroughly, you could have problems. Take a set of questions with you when you attend your next meeting.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your self-confidence should be coming back. That's good news. But it might be a bit over the top right now, so best to let it settle down before you start making expensive decisions.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your life, your decisions. Good enough. But be sure you have all the facts you need to put into the decision-maker mixing bowl and hope it will come out as it should.

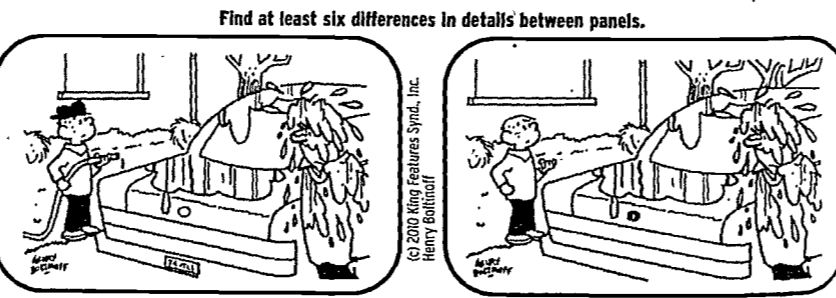
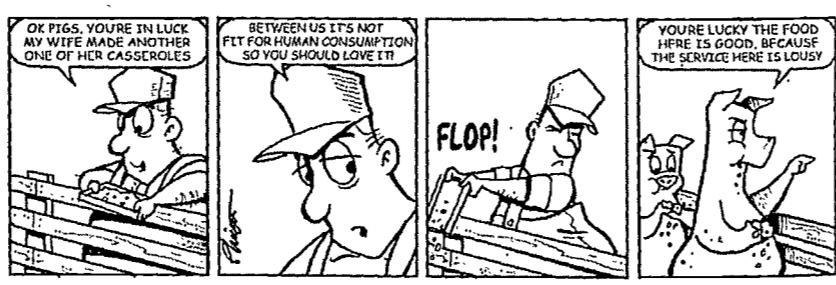
BORN THIS WEEK: You find much of your creativity with new people who give you much to think about.

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General Information Concerning The Death Notice Page

- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
- An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
- The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00pm.
- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
- A death notice, in memoriam or a card of thanks may be submitted in person from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday at the Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026.
- Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.

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Death Notices

Campbell, Martin S. Age 91, formerly of Skokie, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2011, in Rockton, IL, with his loving family at his side.

Martin is survived by his wife Dorothy, daughters Kathleen Campbell of Sunnyvale, CA, and Carol Anderson of Beloit, WI.



Funeral Home & Crematory Sign Guest Book at legacy.pioneerlocal.com/obituaries

Cant, A. Margaret Margaret Acacia Cant of Arlington Heights, was born on November 11, 1914 in Kirksville, MO to Dr. Clarence Wesley and Clare (nee Zimmerman) Snyder.



Margaret grew up in Oakland, IL. She married Dr. John "Jack" Cant on August 3, 1940 and after his return from WWII they resided in Park Ridge. She was a member of the Park Ridge Community Church.

Margaret is survived by her granddaughter, Lindsey (Lawrence) Azzaretti of Larchmont, NY; and many nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at Lutheran Home & Service, 800 W. Oakton, Arlington Heights.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to Eastern Illinois University, David Glenn Coon Scholarship Trust, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920 or to a favorite charity.

Information www.GlueckertFuneral.com (847) 253-0168.

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Death Notices

Slagg, Bruce M. Bruce M. Slagg, age 77, of Glenview, formerly of Park Ridge, beloved husband of Nancy Slagg nee Butler; loving father of Stephanie (Martin) Meehan, Christopher Slagg and Alexander (Veronica) Slagg; dear grandfather of Meaghan, Kiernan and Conor Meehan, Giselle and Lolah Slagg; brother of S. Dunbar Slagg, Janice Martin and Candace Wilke; uncle of many nieces and nephews.

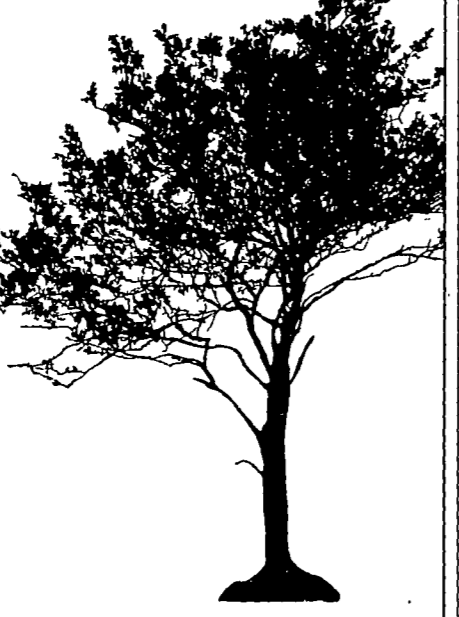
Funeral Mass March 24, Thursday 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1775 Grove St., Glenview. Interment All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Sr. Paulanne's Needy Family Fund, c/o Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Info: 847/675-1990 or www.donnellanfuneral.com.



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HYGIENIST FT. wanted for dynamic state of the art dental office in NW suburbs. Must be motivated & enjoy team work. Fax resume 847-624-7775. Call 847-824-7722

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Health Care

CAMBRIDGE NURSING AND REHAB CENTER Due to expanding services and programs, we are now accepting applications for: RN/LPN, CNA, Restorative Nurse

Health Care

Nurse Practitioner

Local companies are seeking people with all levels of experience for Nurse Practitioners.

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Help Wanted Full-Time

Medical Office Specialist/ Medical Assistant

M-F 8:30am - 5pm

Oncology practice in NW Chicago is seeking a Medical Office Specialist/ Medical Assistant to help with patient registration, booking appointments, helping prep patients for appointments with doctors, etc. One year medical office experience and basic computer skills required. Polish speaking preferred. Medical Benefits offered. Fax or email resume to-

Fax- 773-774-4133 E-mail- bwitek@progressivecare.com

Absolutely no calls or agencies. EOE

Health Care

Health Care

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Help Wanted Full-Time

Bus Driver/Custodian

12-Mo. Position. Duties incl: transport students to/from school; learn, scrub/latrine down/clean up; distnb. pkgs./supplies; meeting set-up/stake downs; snow removal; daily cleaning/maint. tasks. EOE

Also OTR - Will train. Toll Free: 888-399-0606 Ext. 1396 req'd. Sal. \$14,500/yr. Exc. benefits. Apply online: http://avocast37.org

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

College degree preferred in Advertising or Marketing and/or proven experience in advertising sales.

Outgoing, self-motivated, creative, detail & deadline oriented, excellent communication skills & the ability to listen & identify customer needs.

Competency with MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint are needed. Must have reliable transportation.

This position is responsible for outside advertising sales to local retail businesses. This position is based out of the Merrillville, Indiana office.

Please email resumes to: rcaine@post-trib.com or fax resume to: 219-646-3246.

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Judicial Sales-Real Est.

MORTON GROVE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... EVERHOME MORTGAGE COMPANY FKA ALLIANCE MORTGAGE COMPANY DBA AMC MORTGAGE CORP.

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... CITIMORTGAGE, INC.

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... EVERHOME MORTGAGE COMPANY FKA ALLIANCE MORTGAGE COMPANY DBA AMC MORTGAGE CORP.

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... GREEN TREE SERVICING, LLC

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... ONEWEST BANK, FSB

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... ASIF SALEEM, M.D.

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... BUFFALO GROVE

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Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... CITIMORTGAGE, INC.

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... CITIMORTGAGE, INC.

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

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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 Beverly D. Lee (Deceased) Case No. 2011 P 000356

Probate STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION In the matter of the estate of Alice A. Klos (Deceased) Case No. 2011 P 512

Public Notices ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO the legal voters, residents of the Township of NILES in the County of COOK, ILLINOIS, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Township will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Storage - Legal NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE TO Be Held At: The Lock Up Self Storage Centers 3366 N Kedzie Chicago, IL 60618 Date: 4/12/2011 Begins at: 10:00 AM

Foreclosures CHICAGO IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, County Department, Chancery Division, Father & Sons Home Improvement II, Inc. Plaintiff, vs. Santiago Navarrete, Almoroz Inc., Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants.

Foreclosures CHICAGO IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, County Department, Chancery Division, Father & Sons Home Improvement II, Inc. Plaintiff, vs. Boyce Sinsco, Lalaine Beard, Tamayo Financial Services, Inc., Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants.

Storage - Legal NOTICE OF AUCTION Life Storage Centers of Humboldt Park will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 770 ILCS 95/1 to 95/7, at 10:00 AM on Monday, April 11, 2011, at Life Storage Centers of Humboldt Park, 4014 West Grand Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60651.

Storage - Legal THIS ORDINANCE MAY BE CITED AS VILLAGE ORDINANCE NUMBER 11-3-P-3821 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE REAL ESTATE OF 105 ACRES OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 13, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Foreclosures CHICAGO IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, County Department, Chancery Division, Father & Sons Home Improvement II, Inc. Plaintiff, vs. Santiago Navarrete, Almoroz Inc., Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants.

Foreclosures CHICAGO IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, County Department, Chancery Division, Father & Sons Home Improvement II, Inc. Plaintiff, vs. Boyce Sinsco, Lalaine Beard, Tamayo Financial Services, Inc., Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants.

Storage - Legal NOTICE OF AUCTION Life Storage Centers of Hermosa will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 770 ILCS 95/1 to 95/7, at 10:00 AM on Monday, April 11, 2011, at Life Storage Centers of Hermosa, 4500 West Grand Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60639.

Storage - Legal U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2011 758078 Westside NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.

Storage - Legal REACH OUT TO MORE QUALIFIED LOCAL CANDIDATES IN CHICAGOLAND WITH MONSTER, CALL 847-998-3400 OR VISIT PIONEERLOCAL.COM/CLASSIFIEDS

Storage - Legal U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2011 758059 LINCOLN PARK NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.

Storage - Legal U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2011 758078 Westside NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.

Storage - Legal NOTICE OF AUCTION Life Storage Centers of Morton Grove will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 770 ILCS 95/1 to 95/7, at 1:00 PM on Thursday, April 14, 2011, at Life Storage Centers of Morton Grove, 6505 West Oakton Street, Morton Grove, Illinois, 60053.

Storage - Legal U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2011 758078 Westside NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.

Storage - Legal U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2011 758078 Westside NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.

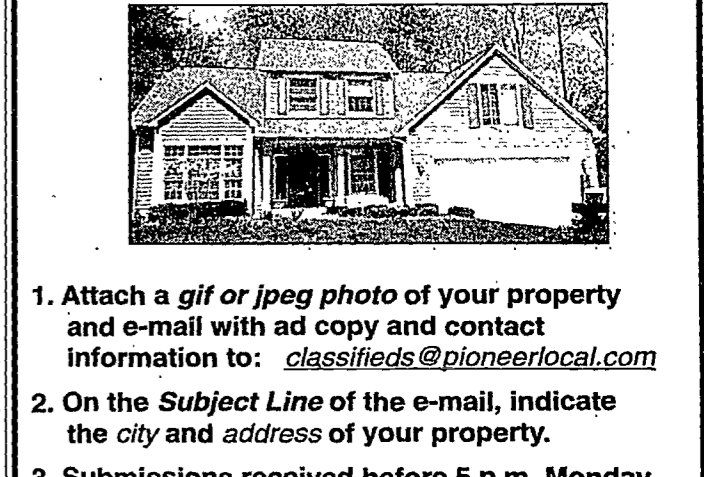
Storage - Legal REACH OUT TO MORE QUALIFIED LOCAL CANDIDATES IN CHICAGOLAND WITH MONSTER, CALL 847-998-3400 OR VISIT PIONEERLOCAL.COM

Storage - Legal U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2011 758086 Morton Grove NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.

Storage - Legal U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2011 758078 Westside NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.



Worth 1,000 Words



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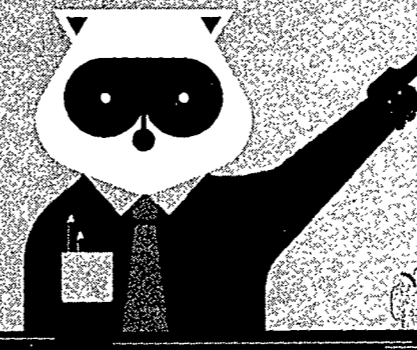
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TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

'In case of emergency' just a phrase until it happens to you



TERRI SCHMIDT

Imagine that you have gone to your library on a dreary winter morning and are quietly enjoying a good book. Suddenly the woman standing near you falls to the floor in a faint, gashing her head on the leg of your chair, and is now lying at your feet in a pool of blood. Sometimes there are worse things than being bored on a winter day. I know that because the fainter was me. After many years of being a health-care provider, I instantly became an emergency patient. Here are some things I learned that I

would like to share with you. The first thing to know is that ICE is very important. I don't mean "Apply ice to a bump on the head to reduce the swelling." ICE is an acronym for "In Case of Emergency." The idea was developed in the United Kingdom as way of easily notifying next of kin in case of an accident. Simply program your cell memory with ICE, followed by the names and phone numbers of those whom you would wish to be notified in an emergency. According to MedicineNet.com, "ICE-1 John Smith" as a saved contact entry in your phone would alert emergency-response personnel to contact Mr. Smith at the number listed. You can program as many numbers as you like using ICE-2, ICE-3, etc. Fortunately for me, once I woke up on the floor and realized that I wasn't dead, I became oriented and able

to provide contact information. That was lucky for me and my family, because I still hadn't gotten around to programming my cell. The second thing to know is that it is very important to understand all of the possible side effects of any new medication. My new medication stated that fainting had only rarely been reported as a side effect, so I hadn't paid much attention to that warning. Had my daughter not had the presence of mind to google the med's side effects once we were in the emergency room, it might have taken much longer to determine why this had happened. Another lesson is that even if you think you know what is wrong with you, you might be wrong. Just before going to the library, I banged my head on an open cabinet door (it really was one of those days!) I was absolutely sure that the two books to

the head were related — a delayed reaction to the first blow caused me to faint. I was wrong. A sudden drop in blood pressure, that "rare" side effect, occurred when I bent down to pick up a book, causing my fainting spell. So the next time you feel so great that you think you don't need to take your hypertensive med, or your insulin, take it anyway. You also could be wrong. Things do go better when you remain calm. Unless you find yourself alone in an emergency, there are people around who can help you. They can help you better if you try to keep your emotions under control. The best way that I know how to do this is to stay in the moment as much as possible. Try not to think about what might happen next. Try to pace your breathing, focusing on going to a place in your mind where you feel calmer and in control.

Sometimes it's hard to feel in control when so much feels out of control. I found myself focusing on the color scheme on the inside of the ambulance — I think I would have preferred pale blue instead of light beige. See, it's those little things you can focus on. I am very grateful for a number of things that happened that day, like the library patrons and staff who really made sure that things worked out smoothly, from calling up my family and the paramedics to saving the books I was going to check out. (I do have a somewhat offbeat sense of humor, so maybe you can understand why I thought it funny that I went down holding a book about psychopaths at work.) The Park Ridge paramedics took so many precautions that they banished my fears of doing a repeat of Natasha Richardson's fatal

"head bump." I am grateful that the emergency room staff at Lutheran General Hospital managed to avoid cutting my favorite sweater and shaving some hair so that could give me eight (!) staples. I am grateful that the pictures of me in my "turban" taken by my family didn't go viral. I am thankful that I was assigned to Dr. Douglas Propp, director of Emergency Services, who ensured that every possible reason for my condition was thoroughly explored and eliminated. Mostly I am glad to be writing this column right now. — Terri Schmidt, a licensed clinical social worker, writes "To Your Good Health" for the Park Ridge Health Commission. Send comments to terrin-schmidt@sbcglobal.net. If you would like to receive a monthly e-newsletter, contact Terri at terri@terrischmidt.com.

Calendar

Continued from PAGE 19

Cook County has established a location for residents to drop off electronics on a weekly basis at no cost at the Glenview Transfer Station, 1151 N. River Road, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Under the new Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2313), only the following items will be accepted: Computers - PCs and laptops, scanners, computer monitors, mobile phones, peripherals - mice, keyboards, zip drives, MP3 players, televisions, PDAs - printers, VHS players, fax machines, DVD players, video game consoles, and DVR/cable boxes. Electronics from businesses, institutions or schools will not be accepted. Visit swancc.org. **This year the Maine South Athletic Pass**, entitling bearers to admission to all home football and basketball games (except IHSA games), is available exclusively through the Maine South Athletic Boosters for \$30. See southmaine207.org, click on Organizations, then Hawk Boosters and then the membership link to obtain a membership/pass application - or call Laurie Kovalick, membership committee chairperson, at (847) 292-1665 or John Wolf, Booster president at (773) 935-5585 for more information or an application. Consider becoming a member

in addition to purchasing the pass for the good and benefit of all Maine South athletics. **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. **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 accepted 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing; broken or obsolete elec-

tronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues 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. **Food Drives** **The Maine Township Food Pantry** is in desperate need of nonperishable items, including: canned vegetables, canned fruit, jelly, peanut butter, hamburger/chicken helper, cookies, crackers, 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. **Fundraisers** **Children's Memorial Hospital** is joining forces with Jersey Mike's Subs restaurants throughout the Chicago area in a March "Month of Giving" fundraising campaign to serve children and their families. The campaign will culminate in a nationwide event, Jersey Mike's "Make a Difference Day," on March 28. During March, customers can make a donation to Children's Memorial Hospital at any area Jersey Mike's store. Customers making a \$5 donation will receive six specially

branded Jersey Mike's Silly Bandz and a coupon for free chips and a drink. One hundred percent of Silly Bandz sales will be donated to the charity. On March 28, Chicago area residents are invited to make a minimum contribution of \$1 to Children's Memorial Hospital in exchange for a free regular size sub; the hope is that customers will respond by giving even more. The hospital is currently engaged in the Heroes for Life campaign to raise a minimum of \$600 million to help create the state-of-the-art Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, opening in downtown Chicago in summer 2012. **Like New Auto Spa, Inc.**, 1050 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, has introduced a special fund-raising program that benefits Advocate Lutheran General Hospital/Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital. Anyone who visits Like New to have their car washed or detailed, or buys a gift card from the company - and also asks for the Lutheran General discount - will receive a price cut for the service, with a portion of the proceeds going specifically to benefit the Older Adult Services program of the hospital. Call AiMee Madden, Lutheran General Development Office, (847) 723-8518; Steve Radakovic at Like New Auto Spa, (847) 823-9274; or visit www.like-new-autospa.com. The fundraising program is featured on the home page with a link to a more detailed flyer containing the

discount and donation matrix. This offer is not valid with an outside wash only, or any other promotion/program. **Health** **The Wellness Source** of Glenview has teamed with The Vitamin Shoppe to present a free Health Workshop Series. Learn how to eliminate specific common toxins and habits from your life at two Detoxification Workshops from 12-1:30 p.m. March 26 at The Vitamin Shoppe - Skokie, 9410 North Skokie Blvd., Skokie, RSVP at (847) 673-5010; and 12-1:30 p.m. April 2 at The Vitamin Shoppe - Niles, 8600 West Golf Road, Niles, RSVP at (847) 759-9805. Dr. Nick and Dr. Lopez of The Wellness Source will interact with attendees to offer healthy ways to detoxify and regain optimal health. Refreshments, healthy snacks, gift bags and giveaways will be provided. All attendees will also receive valuable coupons and a no cost Digital Spinal-Pelvic Foot Scan. People of all ages may also register to attend one or both sessions by calling (224) 567-8580. **Pediatric developmental screenings** offered at no cost. LYNX Therapeutics, 9436 Ozark Ave., Morton Grove, provides specialized occupational therapy services and learning instruction programs to children with physical, social, emotional, and learning difficulties. Contact: Ingrid Kenyon at (847) 791-1631 or (847) 966-1505. **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 accepting new dialysis patients. Call (847) 581-0334. **Senior Advocate** of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital offers free blood-pressure screenings 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. **Historical Society** **The Niles Historical Society** will feature "All You Ever Wanted to Know about Television Commercials" with Bob Burton at 2 p.m. March 27 at the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave. For several years, Burton taught the fine art of TV commercials at Oakton Community College and brings an insight into this media. All ages are invited. Admission is free but donations are accepted; refreshments and dessert included. Tours are available with advance notice. Call (847) 390-0160.

Library

Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise. **Knights of Niles Chess Club** meets from 3:45-4:45 p.m. March 25; no registration. **The Thursday After-school Club**, kindergartners through third-graders, will meet from 3:45-4:45 p.m. March 24 for a snack and a chance to chat, listen to stories and create a project. Registration required. **Films** - March 26, 2 p.m.: "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" (PG). No registration required. **Teens can vote** for their favorite song or movie through March 31. Receive a small prize just for voting and be entered for bigger prizes at the end of the month. Results will be posted in April. **Turn your lawn or garden** into a dynamic low maintenance ecologically wise landscape. Naturalist Dennis Paige shows how to bring the native prairie to your landscape from 1:30-2:30 p.m. March 27. **Book Discussion: April & Oliver** by Jess Callahan from 7-8 p.m. March 28; no registration required. **Try out popular Xbox games** from 2:30-4:30 p.m. March 29. No registration required. **Reading Challenge** - Sixth- to eighth-graders who are up for a challenge and like to read can get together a team of 2-6 people, find an adult sponsor, and call (847) 663-6623 or drop by the Youth Services Department to register. Then get reading from the library list of 30 hand-picked books. Sixth-graders who participated in Battle of the Books may also register. Teams compete in April and May for the Reading Challenge Championship. Champions will be taken to lunch in a limousine. **Weekly, counselors** from the Chicago Chapter of SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, will be at the Library to help small business owners and anyone considering starting a small business. SCORE counselors are successful executives and business owners who can help with a wide variety of business issues. These experienced businesspeople offer private one-hour sessions of business coaching. SCORE is a nonprofit association of volunteers. Weekly sessions are held on alternating Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Sessions are free but an appointment is required. To set up an appointment online, visit the counseling page at www.scorechicago.org/. If there are questions, call (312) 353-7724 or e-mail info@scorechicago.org. **Sports Reading Clubs** - Stop by the Youth Services Department and pick up a reading log to win prizes from the Chicago Wolves, Chicago Bears or Northwestern University. **Youth programs** on a drop-in basis - **Babytime**, 11 a.m. Mondays, for babies age 2 and under. Continuous year-round drop-in program for children with an adult. Includes stories, songs, fingerplays and extended playtime afterward. **Rise & Shine Storytime**, 10 a.m. Thursdays, ages 2-6 with caregiver, enjoy stories, songs and more.


Maine Township

Maine Township's annual Senior Expo will offer new demonstrations, along with classic entertainment, informational booths and free health screenings. "Swing into Spring" will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 29. The MaineStreamers and Golf Mill Shopping Center are again joining forces for the annual event and exhibit spaces, available on a first-come, first-served basis, are selling fast. To reserve a booth, contact the Expo Office at (847) 698-5069. Jerry and Estella Hayes, at home winners of the TV reality show "Biggest Loser" Season 7 will share their story at "Swing into Spring." The day begins at 9 a.m. with Early Bird Bingo hosted by Liberty Bank for Savings. Bingo will be held until 10 a.m. in the Community Room. Admission is free. Prizes will be awarded. New this year, Sylvester Marshall, Tai Chi instructor, will demonstrate the art of Tai Chi at 11 a.m. in Center court. Tai Chi is a centuries-old Chinese exercise focusing on gentle, slow flowing movements that integrate inner-strength with meditation and breathing techniques. Tai Chi can tone muscles, improve flexibility and balance, and nurture physical, emotional and mental well-being. In a return engagement, the vocal trio, Legacy Girls, will entertain with their popular Andrews Sisters musical revue show, "America's Wartime Sweethearts." Authentic 1940s costumes, three-part harmonies and synchronized dance moves, and their comedic flair help to focus the audience on the significance of World War II veterans and their essential part in the history of the country. Call MaineStreamers at (847) 297-2510 or visit the www.mainetownship.com. **Maine Township's FISH** (Friends In-need 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 they wish to devote. Requirements include a current drivers license and proof of auto insurance. The program requires residents in need be mobile, or be able to use a cane or walker. FISH also asks that appointments be set three or more days in advance. To become a volunteer driver call Ed Oken, (847) 696-0761. To schedule a ride or for information call FISH coordinator Gloria Stepek, (847) 297-2510, Ext. 283.

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. MNARS 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** **Lunch with Bunny** - Kids up to third-grade and adults are invited to celebrate spring at a buffet lunch with Bunny April 9 at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St., with two sittings, 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. Special entertainment and craft project included.

Registration is required. Fees; children residents, \$10; nonresidents, \$12; adults, \$8. **Egg Scramble** - Bunny will scatter eggs filled with lots of goodies at 9:30 a.m. April 16 at Golf View Recreation Center, 7800 N. Caldwell Ave. Kids ages 1-8 are invited. There will be complimentary refreshments and goodie bags for registered children. Remember to bring a basket to collect treasures; \$8, residents; \$10, nonresidents. **Flashlight Egg Hunt** - Kids 8 years and older are invited to participate in this fun event at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course from 7:30-8:30 p.m. April 20. A pizza dinner will be served at Golf View Recreation Center before the egg hunt. Do not forget a flashlight and bag for eggs. Siblings not registered and parents will not be allowed to participate in the hunt or dinner. Fees: residents, \$10; nonresidents, \$15. **Registration** has begun for Niles Park District's Coach Pitch, an instructional league where the coach pitches, no hitting tees involved. This program is for girls and boys, ages 6 to 7 years. One week of indoor clinics is held April 16. Season play runs Saturdays, April 23-July 24, at Grennan Heights, 8255 Oketo Ave. Registration fees are residents, \$71; nonresidents, \$88. Call (847) 967-1529. Registration is taken at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. **Registration is under way** for Niles Park District Tee Ball, for girls and boys, ages 4 to 5 years. Tee Ball is an excellent introduction to baseball fundamentals and team play. Team shirts and Major League replica hats are provided. One week of indoor clinics is held April 23 at Grennan Heights, 8255 Oketo Ave. Season play runs Saturdays, April 30-June 25. Registration fees are residents, \$71; nonresidents, \$88. Call (847) 967-1529. Registration is taken at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. **Niles Park District** is accepting registration for Girls Softball Leagues for girls in first grade through high school (as of 2010-11 school year). Season play begins April 18. Girls will participate in the Opening Day Parade. Major League replica hats, jerseys and socks are provided by the Park District; each participant must supply pants, shoes and glove. Registration is accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Call (847) 967-1529. **New 3's Preschool** - This class offered at Niles Park District is for children who turned 3 after Sept. 1, 2010, missing the deadline for the regular 3-year-old preschool. Children will experience their first classroom experience. Classes are held Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30-2 p.m. at Howard Leisure Center. Session runs to May 20. Call (847) 967-6633. **Niles Park District** is offering private piano lessons (30-45 minutes) for beginning and intermediate students 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.



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{food} Spice on ice

Recipes update classic cocktails

By **VERONICA HINKE**
Contributor

From manhattans to margaritas, timeless cocktails are getting a flavor lift with infused simple syrups and botanical liqueurs.

At Viper Alley, a concert venue, nightclub and bowling alley that debuted in Lincolnshire in March, Nick Kuhns, director of operations, has inspired some spiced-up bar options. J. Hendricks is a gin-based cocktail made with rosemary-infused simple syrup; Venom is a margarita made with jalapeno pepper-infused simple syrup.

"A lot of people are using basil to infuse simple syrup, but we use rosemary in the J. Hendricks because we want a flavor that would be recognizable but not overpowering; light, fresh and refreshing," Kuhns said.

That it is. The simple syrup is made by bringing equal parts water and sugar to a boil on the stovetop. Next, fresh rosemary is added. The herb can be strained out after the syrup cools for a lighter flavor, or left in longer for a stronger flavor. The jalapeno syrup for Venom is made the same way.

"Take out all of the insides of the jalapeno peppers, including the seeds," Kuhns explained. "Put it (the jalapeno) in when the mixture boils and let it cool with the syrup and then strain it." When cool, it is ready to be

shaken or stirred, whatever your preference may be, along with tequila and cocktail sweet and sour mixer. Viper Alley mixologists make their own sweet and sour, mixing four parts simple syrup with three parts fresh lemon juice.

"The taste of Venom is very traditional right up front," Kuhns described. "As you consume it, you start to feel the heat from the jalapeno."

Gutterballs, meatballs on the appetizer menu at Viper Alley, pair well with either cocktail, but especially the J. Hendricks drink, because they are also made with rosemary.

At Topaz Café in Burr Ridge, bartender Serena Schneider infuses simple syrup with mint to make classic mojitos.

"By infusing the syrup with mint, you don't have to muddle the mint," Schneider explained, referring to the labor-intensive process of grinding fresh mint leaves for mojitos with a mortar and pestle.

She also infuses simple syrup with strawberries to enhance the flavor of her strawberry mojitos.

But her watermelon mojito, dubbed Hum Watermelon Mojito, gets a boost from a hibiscus liqueur that inspired its name: Hum. Hum is a botanical spirit made with hibiscus, a flower favored by hummingbirds. The recipe, which showcases hibiscus, ginger, cardamom and kaffir lime, was developed by Chicago mixologist Adam Seger.

The liqueur is made at North Shore Distillery in Lake Bluff. The distillery



Chris Seaverns finishes pouring a Venom cocktail, jalapeno-infused with a salted rim, and a rosemary-infused J. Hendricks at Viper Alley in Lincolnshire. Left, gutterballs, rosemary-accented meatballs, are a suggested appetizer/small plate pairing with either of the drinks. | Dan Luedert-Sun-Times Media

Venom
(adapted from Viper Alley)
2 ounces tequila
1 ounce jalapeno simple syrup
2 ounces sweet & sour mix for cocktails

J. Hendricks
(adapted from Viper Alley)
2 ounces gin
1/2 ounce ginger-flavored liqueur
1 ounce rosemary simple syrup
1/2 ounce fresh lime

Gutterballs (from Viper Alley)
1 pound lean ground beef
1/2 pound bulk Italian sausage (or remove from casings)
1/3 cup fine dry bread crumbs
3 medium cloves garlic
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup fresh basil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
1 large egg
1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/8 teaspoon black pepper, ground

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients to uniform consistency. Portion mixture into 1-ounce balls and place on roasting pan. Cook approximately 25 minutes until internal temperature is 160 degrees.

packages Hum in bottles that can be recycled to be used as hummingbird feeders.

Schneider muddles watermelon and mint and blends the mixture with rum, ginger ale and Hum.

"Hum can be used as a twist to any classic cocktail," Schneider said. "The hibiscus and ginger brings out the flavors in mojitos in summertime and can be used to replace vermouth in manhattans during winter."

She suggested adding small amounts of the botanical liqueur, which is very concentrated, to champagne or sparkling water.

Coco Passion, a ginger-infused simple syrup cocktail, bowed on the menu at four Illinois Big Bowl locations, including Lincolnshire, on March 10. The ginger syrup is blended with vodka, passion fruit, pomegranate and soda water. And the name is inspired by another rising trend: The drink is served

with a side of coconut milk. "The coconut milk is served on the side so people can add as much of it as they like," said Lettuce Entertain You Divisional Trainer Bobby Rogers.

"For those like Adam Schwartz, a manager of The Spice House in Evanston, who prefer more savory sips, infused alcohols are an option.

"I'm more of a martini drinker than a margarita drinker," Schwartz said.

He suggested infusing rum or brandy with curry or fenugreek, an ingredient in curry.

"Fenugreek has a taste that is reminiscent of maple," Schwartz said.

He suggested creating the flavor of aquavit, a Swedish liqueur, by infusing vodka with another Indian spice, garam masala. Place spices in a muslin bag and leave the bag in alcohol according to desired flavor strength.

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Golf Maine

Visit one of the Golf Maine Park District offices, Feldman Recreation Center, 8800 Kathy Lane (one block south of Golf Road on Western Avenue), Niles; or Dee Park, at the corner of Dee and Emerson Roads, De's Plaines; or call (847) 297-3000; www.gmpd.org.

Community Garage Sale - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. May 14 at Dee Park; reserve a 10-foot by 10-foot spot.

Ballet & Tap - Ages 3 years to adult. Ongoing classes year round. Dee and Feldman Parks.

4th-6th Grade Youth Floor Hockey League - Fridays and Sundays starting in April. Feldman.

Youth Baseball - Leagues available for participants ages 7-15. Register now. Dee Park.

Belly Dance Workshops - A series of one-day workshops learning the basic fundamentals of Belly Dance; April 11 at Feldman.

3rd Shift Indoor Adult Soccer League - Join this early morning indoor league Tuesday mornings. Feldman.

The Painting Studio classes for adults: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Feldman.

Tiny Tots Open Gym - Parents may drop in and supervise their 1-5 year-old any Wednesday or Thursday from 9-11:30 a.m. for a variety of gym games at Dee Park.

Jelly Bean Sports - Classes are geared for children ages 2-3 and include soccer, T-ball and sport shorts. Class days and times vary but next sessions begin in March. Dee and Feldman Parks.

Springing Up Cookies - Interactive cooking decorating workshop for Kids 4-10 years; 4:30-5:30 p.m. March 24. Feldman.

Over-the-Rainbow - Children ages 3-5 learn colors, read stories, sing songs and more in this eight-week class on Fridays starting April 1. Dee Park.

Preschool - There are still spots available for second-semester preschool (for 4-year-olds). Offered are morning (5 days per week) and afternoon classes (Mondays through Thursdays). All classes are at Dee Park.

Tae Kwon Do - Popular martial arts classes for children (ages 7-15) and adults offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at Dee Park.

Youth Soccer Leagues for children ages 4 to sixth grade are under way. Games are played at Prairie Lakes in Des Plaines. Practices at Dee Park.

Various rooms/gyms are available for rental for parties, meetings or ongoing activities. Call (847) 297-3059.

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, 8800 Kathy Lane, Niles, 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 paper (bagged); no cardboard or phone books. All money raised will fund the scholarship program, allowing children to attend summer camp and other programs. Call (847) 297-3000 or go to www.paperretriever.com/.

Religion

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 8201 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie, will hold Adult Christian Education classes following 10 a.m. Sunday services. Classes will be held on a variety of topics. A Fellowship Hour follows the 10 a.m. service each week with "Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch" the first Sunday of each month. Call the church at (847) 673-1434.

Temple Judea Mizpah and Agape Life Outreach Center, will co-host a blood drive from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 10 in T.J.M.'s social hall, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie. This event is open to the community. The American Red Cross will be sponsoring the drive. Call T.J.M. at (847) 676-1566.

Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, will host its annual fund-raising event at 6 p.m. May 7. The festive event will feature a performance by the T.J.M. Players, silent and live auctions, a program book, food, and lots of fun. The cost is \$36 per ticket. Call the temple at (847) 676-1566.

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 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. Call (847) 966-8145.

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

The Maine East Class of 1969 Reunion and 60th Birthday Bash will take place from 7-11 p.m. July 16 at Marriott Lincolnshire Resort, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. Cost is \$69 per person includes dinner and dancing with a cash bar. Visit the Facebook page: "Maine East Class of 1969 Reunion/60th Bday Bash" to respond (by April 8) and use easy pay - PayPal. Contact: Anita Pedersen, anitawarren@sbglobal.net, (630) 803-7593.

The St. Columbkille Alumnae Association will sponsor its annual reunion luncheon March 27 at the Fountain Blue, 2300 S. Mannheim Road (at Touhy) in Des Plaines. Social hour will begin at noon, with lunch at 1 p.m. Cost is \$35. Proceeds benefit the retirement fund for the Sisters of Providence, St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana. Call Charlene Swintek, president of the St. Columbkille Alumnae Board, (847) 427-1981.

Maine Township High South, Class of 1966, is spearheading a two-day "Mass Reunion" to be held Aug. 26 and 27. Accompanying classes that represented the first collective student body to attend the newly opened high school in 1964 as well as their spouses and guests are to be included. The nucleus of new students that celebrated the opening of Maine South High School migrated from both Maine East and Maine West and includes the classes of 1965, 1966 and 1967. The two-day event will be held in Park Ridge at the recently developed Uptown Plaza located at the intersection of Touhy and Prospect avenues and Northwest Highway. The Friday evening event will take place at Houlihan's Restaurant, which will be closed to the general public. The alumni festivities will reignite on Saturday evening, and the venues will include Houlihan's, Jason's Deli and various neighboring entities within the Uptown Plaza. Tickets for one or both evening events are on sale now and must be purchased in advance. For reservations, contact event coordinator, Glenn Woertz (Class of 1966), at MassReunion@gmail.com or (847) 757-8377. Maine South alumni can also subscribe to the "Hawk Droppings" dress to receive updates and ongoing information on classmates and relevant information.

St. Peter Canisius is sponsoring an all classes reunion at 7 p.m. March 25 at the Park Ridge VFW, 10 W Higgins Road, Park Ridge. Cost is \$40 per person. Call (847) 556-8655.

The 1966 Class of Ridgewood High School is planning a reunion and looking for graduates. Anyone with information concerning alumni is asked to e-mail haydelju@comcast.net or call (217) 352-7254.

St. John Brebeuf is looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail lryder@sjbschool.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.

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DELI					
MUENSTER CHEESE	ECKRICH BOLOGNA	SARA LEE OVEN ROASTED TURKEY BREAST	SARA LEE BLACK FOREST HAM		
\$2.99 lb.	\$2.29 lb.	\$3.99 lb.	\$2.99 lb.		
DAIRY					
BORDEN 2% OR SKIM MILK	ATHENS FILLO	LAND-O-LAKES SALTED & UNSALTED BUTTER	DUTCH FARMS EXTRA LARGE EGGS		
\$2.49 ea. 1 Gal.	\$1.99 ea.	\$3.49 ea. 1lb	99¢ ea. Doz.		
GROCERY					
ASSORTED WISHBONE DRESSING	HILLS BRO'S COFFEE	VG PICKLED CABBAGE	KRAFT MACARONI & CHEESE DINNER		
\$5.00 2 for	\$7.99 ea. 26 oz.	\$3.99 ea. 59 oz.	99¢ ea. 7.25 oz.		
MAMA FRANCESCA ARTICHOKE HEARTS	ALL VARIETIES 2 LITER, COKE, DIET, SPRITE, FANTA	DIFRATTELLI TOMATOES (ALL VARIETIES)	SOLE FILLETS WILD CAUGHT		
\$1.99 ea. 14 oz.	99¢ ea.	99¢ ea. 28 oz.	\$2.99 lb.		

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Schools

26
NIL • THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011

SCHOOLS DIGEST

CAMPUS

Jacklyn Gremley of Niles was named to the dean's list at Winona State University for the fall term.

Diana B. Okolita of Niles earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University.

Eleni Karahalios of Niles was recognized on the dean's list at Denison University.

Jennifer Cielinski of Niles earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics/middle/secondary education/mathematics, magna cum laude, from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.

Michael M. Gorski of Niles qualified for the fall-semester dean's list at Northern Michigan University.

Christina Varga of Niles was named to the dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University for the fall semester.

Kelly M. Plach, daughter of Kevin and Carrie Plach of Niles, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2010 semester at St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

Niles students Katherine Gembis, Martin Gembis, Colleen Kearns and Nicole Melfi made the dean's list at Marquette University during the winter term.

Colleen Kearns of Niles earned a bachelor's degree in athletic training from Marquette University.

Niles students Timothy Kosiba, Lisa Malinowska and Stephanie Veltri made the dean's list during the fall term at Northern Illinois University.

DISTRICT 207

Maine Township High School District 207 students excelled in recent state competition for business and marketing students, with 30 students from the District's three high schools qualifying for national competition at the International Career Development Conference, scheduled for April 29 to May 3 in Orlando.

District 207 students joined those from about 50 other Illinois High Schools



Monster mash Field School parents rehearse a musical number for the 57th Annual Field School Variety Show "For Better or Worse" in Park Ridge. | Rob Hart-Sun Times Media

in DECA's state competition in Decatur March 3 to 5. These students tested their knowledge in economics, solved business problems and presented and defended their written business plans.

Maine East High School had 15 national qualifiers, the third most in the state, making this the third consecutive year that Maine East has placed in the top three. Maine East students who qualified for Nationals are: **Junaid Ahmed**, in Retail Merchandising; **Alina W. Antony**, in Finance Operations; **Judyta Bielaga**, in Senior Management; **Ashley John**, in Business Operations; **Syed Matin**, in the LEADS program; **Deep Patel**, in Creative Marketing; **Monik Patel**, in Quick Serve Restaurant Management; **Sheil Patel**, in Finance Operations; **Jay Shah**, in Creative Marketing; **Jinal Shah**, in Finance Operations; **Nikesh Shah**, in Hospitality Operations; **Aman Tahliani**, in Finance Operations; **Dolly Tailor**, in Business Operations; **Pratik Vaidya**, in Finance Operations; and **Patrick Za-**

jac, in the LEADS Program. Maine East faculty sponsors for DECA are **Dale Lasky** and **John Schwan**.

For Maine South, 18 students finished in the Top 10 in their events and five qualified for National Competition. Maine South students qualifying for nationals are: **Danny Buranosky**, in Retail Merchandising; **Danny Poulos**, in Accounting; **Conor Daly**, in Sports and Entertainment Marketing; **Jack Purdy**, in Principles of Finance; and **Patrick Ruane**, in Quick Serve Restaurant Management.

Maine South DECA faculty and staff include **Cathy Glunz**, **Joseph Greguras** and **Johannes Beer**.

Maine East also received the Superstar Chapter award, given every year to the school with the highest membership status and the highest membership activity. With more than 170 members, Maine East has nearly 10 percent of the student body involved.

MAINE SOUTH

The following Maine South

High School students took home honors during the "German High School Day" competition at the University of Illinois at Chicago:

First-place trophy, German movie: **Allison Lifton, Samantha Petkofski, Lydia Ramsey and Stephanie Sremac**; first-place trophy, culture essay: **Joyce Hanck**; first-place trophy, skit: **Paul Ansani, Michael Dobben, Joyce Hanck, Anna Kinell, Katherine Kinell, Thomas Siwek and Nathan Wolf**; third-place trophy, poetry: **Heather Steiner**.

The competition is open to students in German language programs throughout the Chicago area.

NOTRE DAME COLLEGE PREP

Notre Dame College Prep, 7655 W. Dempster St., Niles, will hold its annual "Boxing Fight Night" on March 25. Doors will open at 6 p.m.; the first bout will begin at 7:15 p.m. General Admission is \$ 6; student seating (under 12 years old) is \$4.

Notre Dame students, matched by weight, age, and previous experience will en-

gage in 3-round boxing exhibition bouts. Each round lasts one minute. Forty-five Notre Dame students have been training since January. Head Coach **Jack Cook**, assisted by Coaches **Danny Romano** and **Anarbol Martinez** will match the pairs of boxers. The Friday evening card will feature 11 bouts.

Refreshments will be available at the Cross and Anchor Concession Stand. Chances in a "Split the Pot" raffle will be sold throughout the evening, with the drawing before the final bout. For more information, call (847) 779-8664 or visit www.nd-dons.org.

All alumni and fathers of current students of Notre Dame College Prep are welcome to attend the Alumni Association's Lenten Day of Recollection from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. March 26. The day will feature reflections on the Gospel of St. John and the Lenten season. To register, call (847) 989-4631 or e-mail jernst@gmail.com.

RESURRECTION

On March 5, Resurrection

College Prep High School Chamber Ensemble musicians attended the Illinois High School Association Solo and Ensemble Music Contest at Reavis High School in Burbank. The violin duet of senior **Emily Prochaska** and junior **Alyssa Carrillo** received a Division I, Superior rating, which is the highest rating possible.

The Resurrection College Prep Chamber Ensemble is directed by **Mike Longo** and members include the following students: **Alyssa Carrillo, Emily Prochaska, Alex Carley, Donna Gawron, Carolina Woloszyn and Shanice Caravette**.

RESURRECTION/NOTRE DAME

On Feb. 26, the Resurrection/Notre Dame Band took first place in its class, and second place overall at the Midwest Music Festival at Lemont High School. The band also brought home awards for the Best Brass and Best Percussion in the day's events.

On Feb. 19, the Resurrection/Notre Dame Band also participated in the State of the Art Band Contest at Marian Catholic High School, placing third, and received honors for Best Brass. The Resurrection/Notre Dame Band performed the piece "España Cani," composed by Pascual Marquina and arranged by Robert Longfield. They also performed "Legend of the Ancient Hero," composed by Benjamin Yeo.

On Feb. 14, the Resurrection/Notre Dame Band had the opportunity to participate in a "virtual band clinic" with composer Benjamin Yeo. During the clinic Yeo, who lives in Singapore, listened to the Res/ND Band perform his piece and offered feedback based on what he had in mind for his composition. The clinic was conducted via Google Video Chat.

The Resurrection/Notre Dame Band is directed by

Calendar

Continued from PAGE 25

Maine Seniors

The **Maine Township MaineStreamers** program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the MaineStreamers monthly newsletter, which details activities for the upcoming month. Most activities are at Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, unless otherwise noted. Contact the MaineStreamers, (847) 297-2510, or go to www.maintownship.com.

Day Trip - Chicago Pizza Tour, 10 a.m.-

4:30 p.m. April 12. Participants will ride through many of the Chicago neighborhoods stopping at Pilsano's, Crust and Gino's East, eating comfortably inside each location for approximately 30 minutes, tasting and learning what makes each one unique. A final stop at Bloomer's chocolate will cover desert. Cost is \$60, members: \$65, guests.

Maine Township is asking for assistance in locating good, reliable handymen in the area. If you know of someone and would like to submit a name, contact **Theresa Tully**, (847) 297-2510, Ext. 260, and she will forward a form to complete.

Maine Township, in cooperation with the Cook County Sheriff's Office, is collecting used cell phones to be converted for emergency 911 use for seniors. Donate phones at Maine Town Hall.

Mike Wallace, and band members include: **Matthew Bardelas, Harry Budge IV, Carl Carrabotta, Eric Carrabotta, Daniel Choi, Nick Couzin, Gabriel Cunanan, Christian Degalicia, Joelle Denver, Connor Fallon, Timothy Ferraz, David Fitch, Kyle Fitch, Nick Flannery, Ryan Flynn, Madelyn Grish, Hailee Higgins, Jennifer Hilger, William Hilger, Ann Marie Holmes, Ralph Joseph, Danielle Kawaguchi, Soo Han Kim, Steven Kim, Danielle Kolaczewski, Mateusz Krajewski, Lawrence Lajewski, Peter Lajewski, Nathan Lane, Sabrina Lujan, Ryan Martin, Siobhan McManus, Erin Mikrut, Massimo Montalbano, Kathryn Moro, Kira Mosthof, Matthew Nee, Kevin Neuhengen, Frank Patzke, Alaina Pluhar, Stefan Prokuski, Erin Raddatz, Michael Reyes, Christopher Ricciardi, Sean Rosochacki, Keith Ryan, Glerry Salvador, Colleen Santella, Peter Schiller, Nicholas Sero, Peter Sisto, Kevin Sudie, John Suk, Vincent Surdo, Tony Valvasori, Afani Vargas, Eugene Vilamater, Alexander Visor, Rebecca Wallace, Conor Williams and Hannah Zver.**

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE

LEGO Robotics is coming to St. Robert Bellarmine, 6036 W. Eastwood Ave., Chicago. A 10-week session of "Beginning Robotics I: Amazing Mechanisms and Wild Animals" is held from 2:45-3:45 p.m. Wednesdays through June 1. The program is designed for children new to LEGO Robotics in Grades K-2. Children will develop robotics knowledge while working collaboratively and learning the basics about gears, levers, pulleys, motors, and various sensors. Cost is \$65. Register online at <http://www.21stcenturykids.us/> or call (773) 463-5437 for more information.

Registration for the new Summer Program is now open. More information and all registration forms are available from the "Summer Program" page of the school website at <http://srb-chicago.org> or from the school of office, (773) 725-5133. Space is limited; register early.

The Sport Association is holding a Grilling and Games Day from 1:30-7:30 p.m. March 27. Support the school volleyball teams and enjoy grilled burgers, hot dogs, and other items at the concession stand.

On April 2, St. Pat's Academic Team will host an Acad-

Senior Center
The Niles Senior Center offers membership to Niles residents age 62 and older, and their spouses. Only center members may register for classes or trips, or purchase tickets. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420, for an application.

Seniors

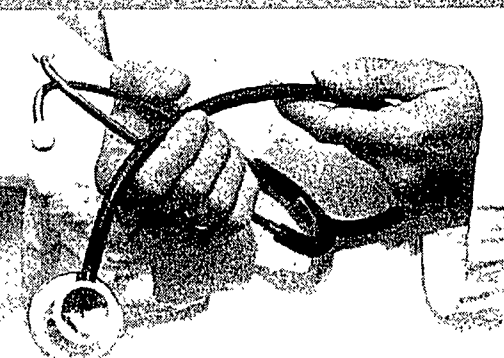
Saint Andrew Life Center, 7000 N. Newark Ave., Niles will host a trivia contest from 1-4 p.m. March 31. Organize a team of six to 10 players, or join one of the center's teams. Trivia contest questions are appropriate for players ages 55 years and older. Prizes and lunch are included. Call (847) 647-8332 to reserve a spot.

Mather's - More Than a Caf6, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., invites adults 55 and older to experience professionally taught, free-to-moderate-priced programs such as lifelong learning programs, fitness classes, free blood-pressure checks and health screenings, free consumer seminars, special-interest workshops, special events and day trips. Call (773) 774-4804 for more information, except where noted. **Chess Club** for checkmate champs and new people who want to learn the rules and basic strategies. Sessions are Wednesdays, at 1 p.m. **Jazzercise** - Jazzercise is a fitness program that combines aerobic exercises with elements of jazz dance. A series of dance routines is set to popular music while incorporating yoga, Pilates, cardio-kickboxing, and other fitness styles.

The classes move incrementally through different intensity levels, so anyone is welcome to join. Classes are held at 11 a.m. Wednesdays, \$5.35. **Line Dancing** is offered at 11:15 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Each class costs \$3. A variety of exercise classes fit for every level is available. Try the gentle-moderate exercise class, 11:15 Mondays and 10 a.m. Tuesdays that features a combination of seated and standing exercises for a complete cardiovascular workout. The moderate-high energy class is at 11 a.m. Thursdays and Fridays, giving more of a challenge with cardio, strengthening, stretching, and toning routines. Each class costs \$3. **10 Computer Classes** - All classes are four weeks and meet once a week for two hours. Begin with level one and

advance through to level four. Classes are regularly forming and are offered every month. **The art** of Polish paper-cutting will be taught from noon-1:30 p.m. March 26. Learn the history of "wycinanki" and view historical regional examples, then create two projects suitable for framing. Suggested donation is \$12 and includes supplies. **Lenten Special:** All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry every Friday. Fried cod or baked, breaded orange roughly with two sides. Choose from soup, salad, fresh-cut fries, or the side of the day. Cost: \$11.40; Mather Advantage Discount: \$9.12. **Estate Planning:** How to Leave a Legacy for Your Family and Protect Your Hard-Earned Money Legally and

Calendar, PAGE 29



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In honor of National Doctors' Day on March 30,
Saint Francis Hospital honors our dedicated staff of
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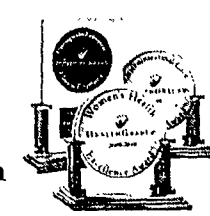
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355 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202
sfh.reshealth.org



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Your Local Worship Guide

Central Zone

CHICAGO

Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m. Evensong,
Sunday Worship
8:00 a.m. Traditions (Sept.-May)
9:00 a.m. Spirit Bridge, 10:30 a.m. Contemporary
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Parish Deacon
Matt Halder, Worship/Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street Level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM
St. Paul Lutheran Christian Day
School, Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD,
TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE

**All Saints Cathedral Parish
National Catholic Church**
9201 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631, 773-380-7131
Website: www.ascpncc.org
Sunday Masses 8:30AM & 11AM
Sunday School/Catechism
9:45AM
Weekday Masses at Noon
Bishop Anthony Kopka, Pastor

CHICAGO

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)
6201 W Peterson Ave.
Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship 5:30PM
Sunday Worship 10:00AM
Holy Communion Weekly
Pastors: Barbara Berry-Bailey
and Jeffery King

DEERFIELD

North Shore Unitarian Church
Deerfield, IL Phone: 847-234-2460
www.nsuc.org
Every Sunday at
9:15AM & 11:15AM

MORTON GROVE

**Morton Grove Community Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)**
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2982
www.mgcccpresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

NILES

St. John Lutheran Church
7429 Milwaukee Ave., Niles
847-647-9867
www.st-john-niles.org
Sunday Service 9:30AM

NORTHFIELD

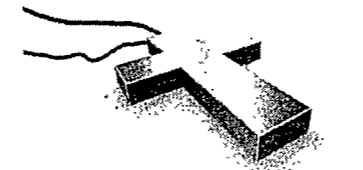
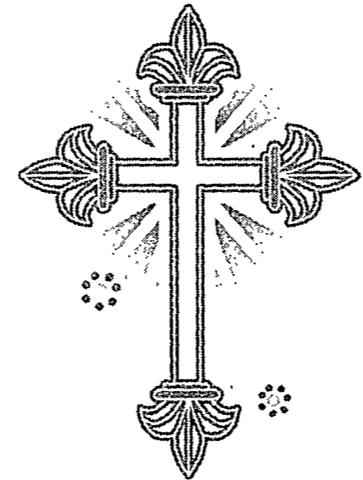
**Willow Creek Community Church
North Shore Campus**
315 Waukegan Road
847-441-6599
Sunday Services: 9 & 11 a.m.
Promiseland (Infants - Grade 5):
9 & 11 a.m.
Elevate (Grades 6 - 8): 11 a.m.
Impact (Grades 9 - 12): 6 p.m.
For more information visit
www.WillowCreekNorthShore.org

NORWOOD PARK

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

PARK RIDGE

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 West Crescent Avenue
847-823-4135
www.parkridgepresby.org
Sunday Service: 10:30 AM



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call 630-978-8290 or mgarrigan@stmedianetwork.com

Calendar

Continued from PAGE 27

Effectively with Attorney Chester M. Przybylo, at 1 p.m. March 30. A noted author and founding member of the Board of Governors of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys, Przybylo will cover the facts and dispel myths about wills, trusts, probate, taxes, guardianship, and nursing homes—all presented in easy-to-understand language. Free.

Saint Andrew Life Center, 7000 N. Newark Ave., has a new winter-time move-in special. Anyone who moves into Saint Andrew before March 31 will receive a free large button cell phone. The large buttons help make these new phones easier and safer to use. Saint Andrew offers affordable independent living, assisted living, intermediate nursing care and memory care. Call (847) 647-8332 to schedule a personalized tour.

Golf Mill Shopping Center is hosting "Feats of Fitness," a mall-walking program Mondays through Saturdays, to enable seniors to walk within an enclosed environment. The program is sponsored by Bethany Terrace, Golf Mill Shopping Center, Maine Township Mainstreamers and Partners in Health-care (North Shore Physicians Group). Health seminars and blood pressure screenings will be offered throughout the year every month on the second Wednesday. Call the Golf Mill management office, (847) 699-1070.

Senior Link Alliance, in collaboration with the City of Chicago Department on Aging, offers a free Home Repair Referral Service to all seniors residing in Park Ridge, Niles, Harwood Heights, Norridge, Schiller Park, River Grove and Elmwood Park. Program helps seniors over 60 find honest reliable workers to help maintain their homes. Seniors are given three names of pre-screened qualified handymen or contractors who are matched to the type and size of the job. Jobs include carpentry, plumbing, drywall, plastering, painting, gutter cleaning and repair, electrical work, roofing, washing windows, errand running, yard work, snow removal, furnace repairs, wallpapering, tuckpointing, tiling and more. Call Carol McDavid, (773) 777-0202.

CJE SeniorLife is accepting applications for its Robineau Residence, 7550 N. Kostner Ave., in Skokie. Robineau offers a residential community composed of 24 affordable units in a one-story building, in a warm, friendly setting designed to serve seniors, 62-years and older, who may need a helping hand. Staff is available on-site, 24 hours a day, in case of emergency. Additional supportive services are available through CJE. Applicants should qualify for subsidized housing under the provisions of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 program. An additional monthly service fee is required. Scholarships are available. For an application and tour of Robineau, contact Dorothy Levant at (847) 675-8580. **Super Seniors**, a Jewish Seniors group for people older than 60, meets

3-4:30 p.m. the first and third Sundays at the North Shore University Health System Skokie Hospital, 9600 Gross Point Road, Skokie. Topics include current events, books, jokes and Israel. Call (847) 583-9328.

Support

Weight No More, a friendly weight loss support group, welcomes new members. Discussions include weight loss tips, recipes, and helpful ideas to help participants reach their goals. Fees are \$5 monthly to defray the room rental costs, and small fines for weight gain. Meetings take place from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Fridays at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St., Niles (elevator accessible). Call (847) 679-4229.

Widowed Support Group is an ongoing support group that addresses losses faced by persons, as a general guideline, who have been widowed less than two years. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Hwy., Suite 145, Park Ridge; \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884 to register. **The Lutheran General Hospital Stroke Club** for stroke survivors and their caregivers meets from 3-4:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month (except January and July) at the Outpatient Therapy Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines; use south entrance. Contact Meg Potterfield, (847) 723-4765. **Catholic Charities** of the Archdiocese of Chicago invites those who have ex-

Calendar, PAGE 30

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Your Local Worship Guide

Central Zone

SKOKIE

Central United Methodist Church
8237 Kenton, Ave., Skokie
(847) 673-1311
www.skokiecentralumc.org
Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM

St. Timothy Lutheran Church
9000 Kildare Ave. Skokie
847-676-1300
www.StTimothySkokie.org
Worship: Sundays at 10AM

Congregation Bene Shalom
4435 Oakton, Skokie, (847) 677-3330
www.beneshalom.org
Friday Shabbat Services 7:30pm;
Family Shabbat 6:30pm, 3rd Fri./month
Kabbalistic Prayer Service 10:30am.
2nd Sat./month
Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhamer
Asst. Rabbi Shari Chen
Cantorial Soloist Charlene Brooks
Interfaith Families Welcome
All services voice & sign language

Evanshire Presbyterian Church
4555 Church Street
www.evanshirepresbyterian.com
Every Sunday at 11AM

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue
847-673-8166
www.stpeteruccskokie.org
Sunday Worship 10AM
Sunday School 9AM (Sept. thru May)
Rev. Richard Lanford
Childcare Provided
Air Conditioned Sanctuary

Temple Beth Israel
3601 W. Dempster St.
Skokie, IL 60076
847-675-0951
www.tbiskokie.org

Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue
7800 Niles Ave., Skokie 847-674-9146
www.devaremet.org
Join us for Shabbat Services at 10am
"A Community of Jews who believe and teach that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Promised Jewish Messiah"

SKOKIE

Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church
4950 W. Pratt, 847-673-4441
www.cwupc.org

New Lyfe Youth Group
Sundays 5:30-7:30pm

Assyrian Fellowship
Fridays 7:30-9:30 pm

Coffeehouse & Open Microphone
2nd Sat. Each Month 7:30-9:30 pm

Sunday Worship Services:
Contemporary & CW Café 9 am
Traditional 11 am

Sunday School (all ages) 10 am
Michael Scott Porter, Sr. Pastor

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation

You home for Jewish, Learning, Living and Loving
4500 Dempster St. Skokie, IL 60076
847-675-4141, Fax: 847-675-0327
www.ehnt.org
Weekly Shabbat Services -
Fri 8PM & Sat 9:30AM
Minyan Mon-Thurs 7PM;
Sat & Sun 6PM
Monthly Shabbat dinners at 6:30PM
Religious School Wed & Sat;
Cantor Benjamin Warschawski
Rabbi Neil Brief, Emeritus

WILMETTE

Beth Hillel Congregation
Bnai Emunah
3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213
www.bhcbe.org
Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays 6:00 PM
Shabbat Service - Saturdays 9:15 AM
Jr. Congregation, Tot Shabbat,
Torah Time 10:30 AM
Followed by Kiddush
Daily Minyan AM and PM
Rabbi Allan Kensky
Cantor Pavel Roytman
Dean Marshall Kupchan
A multi-generational egalitarian conservative congregation
"A Place to Grow as a Jew"

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call 630-978-8290 or mgarrigan@stmedianetwork.com

Calendar

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perienced the loss of a loved one to suicide to participate in its Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) meetings at its Northwest office, 1717 Rand Road, Des Plaines. The minimum age for the monthly meetings or eight-session groups is 18-years-old. If possible, call the LOSS office, (312) 655-7283, for an initial intake before the first meeting or visit www.catholiccharities.net/loss. Groups meet 7-9 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month and also on the second Wednesday of each month.

Families Anonymous is a support group for family members and friends who are concerned about and affected by the substance abuse or behavioral problems of a loved one. Group 831 meets at 10 a.m. every Friday at Carter Westminster Church, 4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie, in the basement; enter from parking lot in the rear. Group 173 meets at 7:30 p.m. every Monday (except holidays) at First United Methodist Church, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge in Parlor Room, south portion of main level; use entrance at rear (Grant Place), across from parking lot. No dues or fees required. First names only used at meetings to preserve individual anonymity. This is a nonprofessional and non-religious program. Call (773) 777-4442 or visit www.familiesanonymous.org.

Community Reinforcement and

Family Training Groups provide education on early intervention, tools for motivation and self-care techniques for families as they learn new ways to approach a loved one who misuses, abuses or has addictive behaviors 6:30-8 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Serenity Center, 29 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Fee is \$35 per group. Open registration required; contact Barbara DeHart, (708) 536-8775 or e-mail reffnews4u@gmail.com.

NorthShore Hospice will sponsor the following Grief Support Groups: **Soul Mates**, is an ongoing support group for those who have experienced the death of a spouse or life partner. This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month 6:30-8 p.m. at NorthShore University HealthSystem Home & Hospice Services office, 4901 Searle Parkway, Skokie. **Legacy** is an ongoing support group for adults who have experienced the death of a parent. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month 6:30-8 p.m. NorthShore University HealthSystem Home & Hospice Services office, 4901 Searle Parkway, Skokie. Handicap accessible and parking available. To preregister for the programs, call Thom Dennis, (847) 982-4364 or e-mail dennis@northshore.org.

TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), an international weight-loss network of support groups, holds a local meeting weekly on Monday beginning at 5 p.m. at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 West Howard St., Niles, on the lower level. The building is handicap accessible. TOPS has helped indi-

viduals live healthier lives since 1948 with a combination of sensible eating, regular exercise, and ongoing support to help members achieve and maintain their weight-loss goals. Women, men, teens and preteens committed to attaining and maintaining a healthy weight are all invited to join. Visitors are welcome to visit their first TOPS meeting free of charge. For more information about this meeting call (847) 966-4871 or, to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call 800-932-8677.

MOMS Club of Northern Chicago holds weekly activities (such as playgroups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly member meetings and Moms Night Out. Call (773) 853-2834 or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/momclubofnorthernchicago> or e-mail chicagomomsclub@gmail.com.

One Hope United, formerly Kids Hope United, is seeking foster, adoptive parents to provide homes for at-risk children. Call (847) 245-6543 or visit www.onehopeunited.org.

The Maryville Crisis Nursery, 4015 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, offers twice-monthly tours of the facility. Tours are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. and on the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. The Maryville Crisis Nursery, which opened in 2006, is a safe haven for children, newborn to age 6, whose families are experiencing crises in their lives, such as: job/medical issues, homelessness, domestic violence or other stressful situations. The nursery cares for children for up to 72 hours while parents concentrate

on resolving the problems that are the root cause of the stress. There are no charges for services. Children are cared for by professionals and skilled childcare volunteers. The Maryville Crisis Nursery is available to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 24 hour help line number is (773) 205-3637. For additional information, call (773) 205-3600.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Cook County North Suburban, invites the public to attend its "Family Support Group" for families of individuals with a mental illness. Program is free and meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Nessel Center, 1775 Ballard Road, north of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Free parking. Call (847) 716-2252.

The local TOPS Club chapter meets at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 W. Howard St., Niles, on the lower level (handicap accessible). TOPS meetings are open to women, men and teens. Cost is nominal. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. Call (847) 966-4871; to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call TOPS Headquarters at 1-800-932-8677.

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance-Greater Chicago has free support groups for people with mood disorders and support groups for their families. Meetings take place 6:30-8 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge, Evanston, in Rooms G952 and 954. Call Elaine at (847) 674-6376.

An Alzheimer's Caregivers support group, co-sponsored by Advocate Medical Group and the Alzheimer's Association, is offered monthly at the Nessel Pavilion on the campus of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Meetings are 1:30-3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the lower-level conference room of Nessel Pavilion, 1775 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Meetings are free and no registration is required. Contact Sandy Guarise, (847) 318-2501.

The Neptune Society, the largest independent cremation company in the nation based in Des Plaines, is bringing comforting teddy bears to Chicago area children who are hurt, frightened or alone. The Neptune Society Teddy Bear Program names a teddy bear in honor of every person whose death care is handled by Neptune on the one-year anniversary of their death. The teddy bears are then donated to organizations such as Rainbow Hospice in Park Ridge and local fire departments to be given to a child in need.

The Les Turner ALS Foundation Support Group meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. For directions, call (847) 675-0951. Those attending are asked to notify Claire Owen, director of patient services, (847) 679-3311 or cowen@lesturnerals.org.

Grandparents As Caregivers, a program sponsored by Children's Home-Aid, will offer grandparents an opportunity to meet other grandparents, share concerns and talk about interesting topics that will help them

care for their grandchildren. Meetings are 10-11:30 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Free child care is available with 24-hour notice. Meetings are monthly. Call Linda, (847) 640-9590.

The Stroke Club of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital meets 3-4:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Outpatient Therapy Center, Church and Potter avenues, Des Plaines. Call Megan Potterfield, (847) 723-6690.

Holding Onto Hope is a monthly daytime group for widowed people grieving the loss of a spouse. It meets 1-2:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 145, Park Ridge. Registration is required. Admission is \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884.

Life Transitions Group is an ongoing support group for anyone who, as a general guideline, has been widowed for one to four years, meeting 7-8:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 145, Park Ridge. The fee is \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884.

Good Mourning Program will meet 6:45-8 p.m. every third Monday of the month at Lutheran General Family Care Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines. The program is a support group for children, teens and families who have lost a loved one through death. Preliminary interview is required before registration. To register, call Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Bereavement Support, (847) 692-8884.

Demons make statement in opener

New coach doesn't wait for first win

By MATT HARNESH
mharnesh@pioneerlocal.com

BASEBALL - One game doesn't prove anything, but Maine East wanted to make a statement right away about changing its past.

In head coach Ron Clark's debut, the Blue Demons defeated Luther North 6-0 on Saturday. Twins Tyler and Andrew Glowacki combined on the mound for a three-hit shutout. Tyler struck out seven and allowed two hits in four innings before Andrew threw three scoreless innings to secure the victory.

"We played a pretty clean game, and the Glowacki brothers threw strikes and were in control," said Clark, who took over the coaching

post from Dan Dolney. Clark last coached baseball in 2008 before assuming control of the Demons last summer.

Rookie catcher and cleanup hitter Phil Papaianou drove in leadoff batter Corey Evans with a single in the first inning for all the runs the Demons needed. Nick Harloff collected two hits and two RBI in the win. "He works hard and has great hands," Clark said of the sophomore Papaianou. "He's only going to get better and better."

George Zakharia, the starting quarterback on the football team, and Greg Davis also lashed hits Saturday.

Maine East got some bad news early last week when Matt Perchess was lost for the season. Already with a history of injuries, the senior infielder tweaked his knee again on a routine play at third base.

"That's going to hurt us," Clark said. "It's disappoint-

ing, and I feel bad for him. He was one of our better hitters and one of our leaders. He will still be around."

Along with the Glowackis, Clark will work Evans and Davis into the rotation, as well as Rushi Shah. Davis and Shah are left-handers. The lefty-hitting Evans, a junior and versatile shortstop, is already in his third varsity season as a starter. "We don't have a true No. 1 (pitcher), but we have several who are good," Clark said.

Maine East will get in plenty of week early as the Demons continue rebuilding the program.

"We've talked a lot about goals," Clark said. "These guys want to turn it around and make this team respected and competitive in the area. But you have to earn that respect."

"I give a lot of credit to the guys because they are doing everything I've asked. They are doing everything in their power to improve."



Maine East head coach Ron Clark (right) greets his players as the lineup is announced prior to the Blue Demons' season opener Saturday in Park Ridge. | Shauna Bittle-for Sun-Times Media

Wolves may take time to develop confidence

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BOYS VOLLEYBALL - Drew Roche believes his second team at Niles West could be solid.

But the head coach knows it may take time to jell after just one of his players participated on a club team in the offseason.

"I expect us to get off to a slow start. There is a lot of rustiness," Roche said. "But I'm hoping we start clicking sooner rather than later, and that we'll come into our own by the end of the season and give top teams a run for their money."

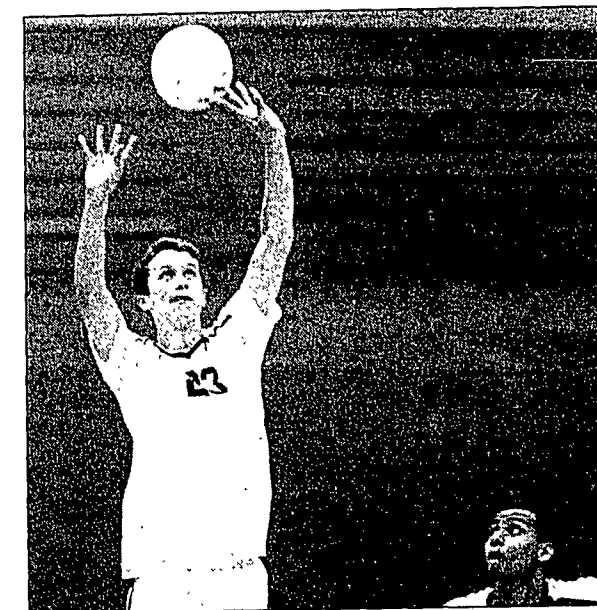
The Wolves, who finished 13-20 last season, are led by senior setter Patrick O'Connor, a starting forward on the basketball team. At 6-foot-3, O'Connor looks as if he should be playing up

front, but Roche believes O'Connor's height gives him an advantage as a setter.

"That height makes his passes look better, which makes hitters look better," the coach said. "With his size, Patrick can attack the defense or dish the ball. He's starting to realize his potential with that and how much more of a weapon he can be for us. He's also got a good vertical leap. There are not a lot of guys reaching higher than he is."

Roche thinks O'Connor can build on the confidence he gained during the basketball season when he was part of a Wolves team that captured an IHSA sectional.

"Last year, as a junior, Patrick was much more confident in volleyball than basketball," the coach said. "This year, his confidence



Niles West's Patrick O'Connor stands 6-3, but will set for the Wolves this spring. | Joel Lerner-Sun-Times Media

grew in basketball. So I'm really hoping (that) confidence rubs off on the other

guys and can get us a few extra wins." Joining O'Connor as tri-

captains are seniors Patrick Cristi, who will play libero, and Arben Cuca, who should replace the graduated John Kim as the team's No. 1 outside hitter.

Senior Paul Nasui played right side last year, and he will return to that position or switch to the outside. Senior Patrick Zelasko also will play at right side or outside.

Younas Tekeste, a 6-2 senior, has big-game ability and enthusiasm, Roche said.

"The game never gets too big for Younas," Roche said. "When we need a tough side-out and when it comes to crunch time and we need that kill, whether it's a pretty hit or the smart placement of a tip, he comes through for us. We expect him to come through. He boosts our morale and keeps us loose. With that

captains are seniors Patrick Cristi, who will play libero, and Arben Cuca, who should replace the graduated John Kim as the team's No. 1 outside hitter. Senior Ray Leguit and juniors Alvin Lee and Nick Hester are vying for the team's defensive specialist spot next to O'Connor.

needed to be serious, he's definitely focused."

"Though I will want them to (occasionally) set the ball, so we can use Patrick to hit a little bit," Roche said. "But the opportunity to set is minimal. We'll need their defense more than anything."

Senior Mikko Jimenez is an experienced defensive specialist who also could play an important role. Junior Jonathan Parrenas, a good leader, is versatile and scrappy.

The Wolves will compete with St. Patrick, Elgin, Vernon Hills, Lakes and the host Blue Demons in the Maine East Invite Saturday.

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Maine East jumpers capture indoor medals

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BOYS TRACK - The Maine East boys program lost one of its most talented performers when junior speedster Xavier Levy transferred to Evanston over the winter.

But the Blue Demons picked up a transfer of their own and still have skills in certain areas, according to head coach Chris Peters.

"(Losing Levy) was a bit of a blow. But we're going to be strong in jumps, hurdles and mid-distance," the coach said.

Peters also has been pleased to welcome former Niles West hurdler Rob Barroma, who comes from a program that finished seventh in the state last season. Peters said Barroma has made an immediate impact as a competitor and a leader.

"Many of our guys are so new to track, and they just don't know what's going on. (Barroma) is showing them what they need to be doing," Peters said.

Peters said that, like Barroma, junior jumper/hurdler James Shields is a student of the sport.

"(Shields) really has developed as a leader on our team, and as an athlete," the coach said. "I'm proud of the way he's developed."

Both Shields and Barroma performed well at the CSL North Indoor Meet Friday. Shields won the long jump (20-foot-1), finished second in the triple jump (43-11) and came in sixth in the 50 low hurdles (6.9), while Barroma took third in the 50 low hurdles (6.51).

The Blue Demons came in fifth (42 points) at the meet, which it hosted, while Deerfield (156) captured the title.

Another highlight for Maine East was the performance of senior Pedro Lopez, who came in third in the long jump (19-5.75) and fifth in the triple jump (43-3.5). Lopez earned all-conference honors during the outdoor season in 2010.

Maine East senior Robert Miszczyszyn finished sixth in the 800 (2:07.9).

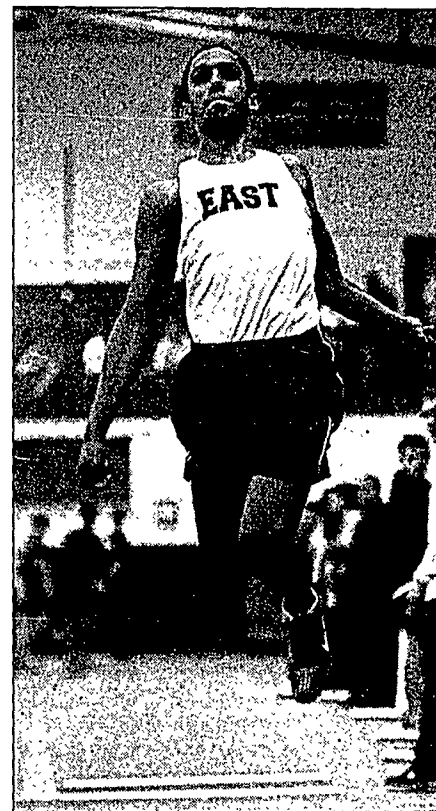
Other talented jumpers who will be counted on this season are sophomore Adrian Skorka, who competed in the JV indoor meet, junior Aaron Shannon and senior Arrington Porter, both of whom are getting into shape following the basketball season.

The team's pool of middle distance runners includes senior Matt McCullough and sophomores Jalen Lewis, Saul Lopez and Gabe Corey.

Girls

The Blue Demons may have finished last at the March 17 CSL Girls Indoor Meet, but head coach Nancy Lirette was not disappointed by her team's performance.

"I've got a really young team," she said.



Maine East's Pedro Lopez competes in the triple jump, where he took third, during the CSL North Indoor Championships. | Suzanne Tennant-Sun-Times Media



Niles West base runner Kyle Colletta dusts off after beating Calvin Thong's tag at second Saturday during the Wolves' 15-2 win in their season opener. | Joe Cyganowski-for-Sun-Times Media

Mather transfer adds to Wolves' solid junior class

Infield defense gains glove

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BASEBALL - After a senior-laden team won a school-record 28 games in 2009, Niles West underwent a rebuilding year last spring. The Wolves struggled with consistency while finishing a respectable 16-16.

But thanks to the return of several solid players, including young cornerstones Kyle Colletta and Jason Meeger, the addition of a topnotch transfer and the infusion of a talented junior class, Garry Gustafson expects Niles West to take a step forward this season. The head coach, entering his 20th season in charge, said his players have the right attitude.

"I couldn't be happier with the work ethic of these

kids. They are a good bunch with no bad apples," he said. "We have a bunch of young guys with a mix of seniors. They are all hard working and will get better as the season gets on. We've got the right pieces for the next couple years to play some good ball."

There were some pieces in place even before junior shortstop and pitcher Kevin Ross transferred in from Mather.

"Ross is a tremendous baseball player who works at it year-round. He's a big strong kid," Gustafson said. "As a junior, he could be one of the top kids in the area. He swings the bat well. He's a good, solid defensive player and he'll pitch for us. Swinging the bat, he has tremendous power, can hit for average and runs the bases well. He's basically a five-tool player, and he's only a junior."

The arrival of Ross means Colletta will shift to second

from shortstop. As a freshman last season, the lefty-swinging contact hitter batted .384.

Meeger, a junior, returns to third base after starting there as a sophomore, while junior lefty Max Markoff will start at first base, with senior Mike Leftakes providing backup. Kenny Blanchard also can play the corners. Juniors Evan Athanasios and Jordan Nianick provide depth in the middle of the infield.

Senior Ryan Olen is back in left field after a broken finger ended his 2010 season prematurely. Senior Nick Wheeler will play in center when he's not pitching. Harry Smyrniotes, another senior, could get the nod in right field.

Other players who will get

innings in the outfield are juniors Quinn Winkler, Michael Dawson, Christin Blanco and Trevor Talhami.

Athanasios figures to bat leadoff, with Colletta, Ross, Meeger, Olen, Blanchard, Markoff, Stojanoff/Zuckerman and Smyrniotes to follow.

Wheeler is expected to be the team's No. 1 starting pitcher, while Meeger will be No. 2 and Blanchard No. 3. Colletta also could start.

Athanasios should pitch relief. Winkler gives the Wolves a southpaw out of the bullpen. Olen, Ross and Markoff will get opportunities on the mound, while junior pitcher T.J. Brunning is slowly mending from off-season knee surgery.

"It's a solid pitching staff," Gustafson said. "I don't think we have a strikeout guy who can just get after you. But, for the most part, it's a solid pitching staff with some returners."

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State qualifiers stand out at CSL meet

Vikings capture six firsts indoor

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BOYS TRACK - Niles North finished second to Deerfield at Friday's CSL North Indoor Meet. But Vikings head coach Paul Swanson isn't feeling too bad about placing runner-up.

Though the Vikings have won six straight conference outdoor titles, success during the indoor season is measured more by the team's ability to build toward the late spring and stay healthy.

By that standard, this was a good winter, according to Swanson.

"We feel good where we're at. We're getting the players from the basketball team back (after the season) and things are in a good place to make a run in the outdoor season."

"Deerfield is a very good team and I'm impressed with their balance between the track and field events. We'll have our hands full (with them) when we get to outdoors. But we're not looking ahead that far. We're just going to keep on training in order to improve each and every week. Hopefully, when we get to outdoor (conference), we'll be in position to challenge for a title."



Niles North sophomore Lilly Wong extends her long jump at the CSL North Indoor Invitational at Maine East. | Dan Luedert-SunTimes Media

While proud of the Vikings' string of outdoor conference crowns, it's their performance at the sectional, where State Meet berths are up for grabs, that really counts.

Niles North's returning state qualifiers turned in solid performances at indoor conference, where Deerfield scored a 156 to Niles North's 125.

Senior Kosta Papazolou won the 3,200 (9.44.3), senior Devonir Casey topped the 200 (4:38.3) and

senior Zheng Fang doubled in the 50 high hurdles (6.5) and low hurdles (6.3), and finished third in the high jump (6-feet-2).

Also victorious were junior Tim Vasquez, in the 1600 (4:38.3), and the 1600 relay (3:38.9).

Swanson said he also was pleased with the performances of sophomore distance runners Micah Bellar and Randy Martell (5th in the 800, 2:05.9).

On Saturday, the Vikings will participate in the Prep Top Times

Meet in Bloomington. Casey was expected to compete Downstate in the 400, Feng could qualify in the hurdles and Niles North may run the 3200 relay. Papazolou, junior Aron Sebhat and Casey are expected to be in the relay mix.

Remaining Niles North runners will close out the indoor season at the Lewis University Invite, against such track powers as Thornton, Thornridge, Romeoville and Bolingbrook.

"I wouldn't take it away from

my seniors to go to the Prep Top Times. But it's just as competitive down (at Lewis)," Swanson said.

Girls

The Vikings girls finished third at the March 17 CSL North Indoor Meet at Maine East, behind Deerfield (125) and Highland Park (122).

"We didn't have anybody qualify (for Prep Top Times Meet in Bloomington) and that leaves us hungry for more," Niles North head coach Andy Swedberg said. "Deerfield and Highland Park are tough to catch. (During the outdoor season) we'll have our work cut out for us."

Swedberg also knows that a different sequence of events during the outdoor season will give the Vikings a better chance of competing with their rivals.

One pleasant surprise was the performance of sophomore Lilly Wong, who won the long jump (16-1.25) and finished third in the triple jump (32-1.75).

"She was someone we always knew had potential and she's finally realizing it and competing with the best in the CSL North in her event," Swedberg said.

Junior Clara Williamson finished second in the 800 (2:29), freshman Jenny Na was third in the long jump (15-7) and the Vikings captured the 3200 relay (10:34).

Veteran Warda leads North back into action

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BASEBALL - Niles North has a star in senior infielder Adam Warda, a fourth-year varsity player expected to sign with Southern Illinois University next month.

But the Vikings have had stars in the past and were unable to surround them with the talent necessary to win.

The 2011 team is different, according to Vikings head coach Ed Toledo, but many players still are young and unproven.

"In the past, we've had a frontline player and some great kids, but not anybody close to where that frontline guy was," Toledo

said. "Player-for-player, we're as good as we've been here. The question is, how will (our young players) mature and develop throughout the season? We definitely have the potential to do some good things. I'm excited about the possibilities that lie ahead."

Toledo said depth is a strength, and that he's excited about having several players who can cut it at multiple positions. He'll enter the campaign still looking to put the match players in the right spots.

Shortstop and No. 3 in the batting order are well-solidified, thanks to Warda. He has played third base for much of his career, but shifts to short after the grad-

uation of talented Tim Reichert. "Adam is such a great athlete, he just played third because that's where we needed him," said Toledo about Warda, who was limited last season with an injury.

The rest of the infield could consist of senior Bo Bradarich (first base), senior Mike Wilson (second base) and senior Joe Markus (third base). Sophomore Gabe Dwyer is penciled in as the starting catcher and will hit second in the order.

The outfield looks to feature Sergio Benitez in left field, junior Clark Fox in center, and sophomore lefty Elliot Mark and freshman righty Logan Kost platooning in right.

"(Kost) can hit; fielding-wise, he still has to work on things. But he can hit and compete at the plate at this level," Toledo said. "Elliot hits from the left and Logan from the right, so (the platoon) is a nice luxury to have. We're so right-side heavy."

Toledo said one of his big concerns entering the season is finding a leadoff hitter, and that he plans to experiment until he identifies the right guy for the job.

The coach is also looking for one of his pitchers to emerge as a No. 1 starter. He believes Markus has a good chance to be that guy, while senior Samron Mirza and junior Matt Simon will also challenge for that spot.

Senior lefty Nick Lumley missed last season with arm problems, but will join the mound mix this time around. The coaching staff has been stressing the importance of pitching to throwing strikes.

"Last year, we had over one man on base per inning, and we're trying to reduce walks," Toledo said. "We're trying to ingrain that we want them to get the ball over and not go deep into counts. It's not something we like to do, given our past history of high pitch counts. Pitching to contact makes defenses better. There is nothing worse than a lot of balls (instead of strikes) to let (fielders') minds start to wander."

Niles North develops recipe for success

By MATT HARNESS
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

TOP TEAMS AT NILES NORTH

2010-11: Boys basketball (sectional title)
2005-06: Girls volleyball (sectional title)
1994-95: Boys volleyball (third at State)
1979-80: Girls basketball (sectional title)
1979-80: Boys soccer (sectional title)

BOYS BASKETBALL - No matter how creative Glenn Olson is, the Niles North coach couldn't have come up with a better advertising campaign for the program than this past season.

The Vikings captured the program's first sectional title and CSL championship. They won a record 24 games, going 16-2 after a Dec. 30 loss to Notre Dame at Wheeling's tournament. It was Niles North's second winning season since 1984-85 when it finished 22-4.

Behind Abdel Nader, the Vikings then thrilled fans with one of the state's most captivating playoff runs.

"No doubt," Olson said. "It was exciting, and it validated a lot of the work we put in to being really good."

"This was the shot in the arm the program needed."

Olson arrived at the Skokie school via Maine East, and he hoped to sprinkle his magic dust on another long-suffering program. In his first season in Park Ridge,

the Rolling Meadows graduate guided the Demons to their first regional title since 1972.

"It was all about keeping it simple," he said. "Just get better every day as the season progresses. This team exceeded expectations."

Niles North never had played in a sectional final before going up against Schaumburg at New Trier. The Vikings then made it one of their most memorable games by erasing a 16-point deficit in the second half for a 53-52 win.

They couldn't pull the same trick against Warren at the Waukegan Supersectional. The Vikings again

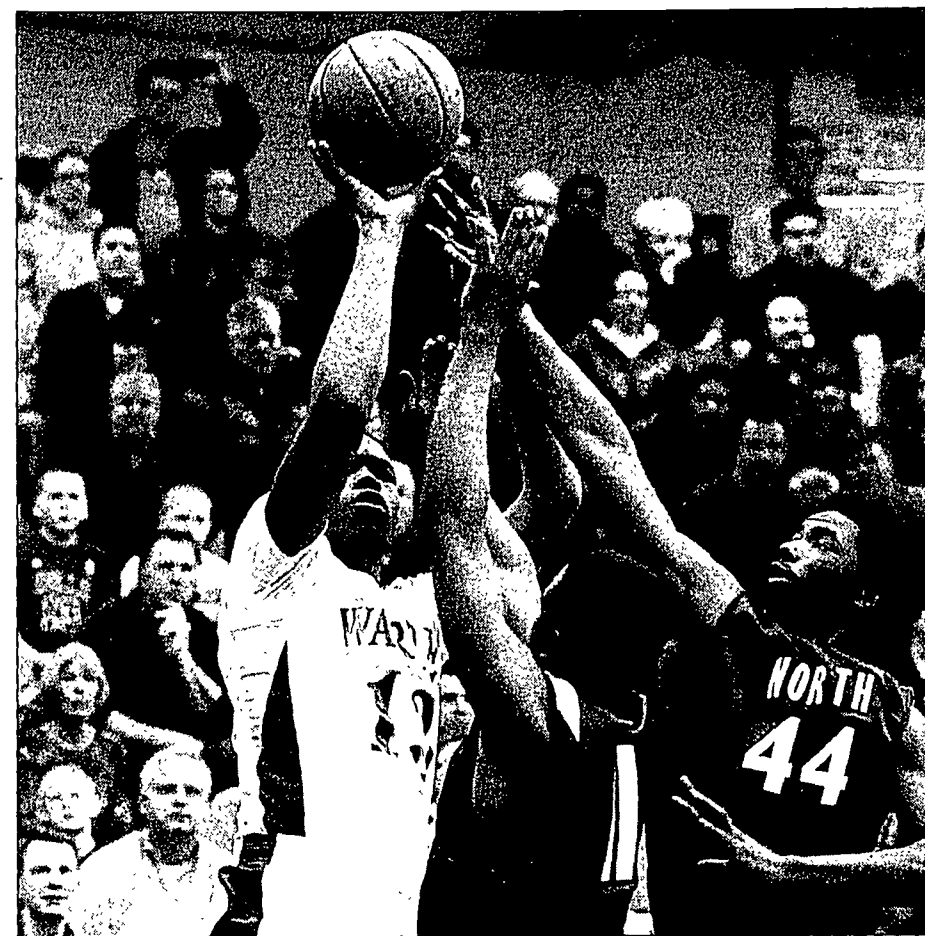
got behind early, but couldn't recover. Warren led from start to finish on its way to the 56-50 victory. The Blue Devils ended up second in the Class 4A tournament after losing to Simeon.

"It finally got to us," said Nader, who averaged 26 points during the five-game playoff run. "We didn't have it that game."

Nader is one of 11 seniors who will be missed.

But Olson understands this happens to every team. The trick is to keep winning despite the personnel turnover. The Vikings do welcome back junior Michael Henry and sophomore point guard Malachi Nix, one of the best in the CSL.

"This is something if you buy into what we are doing, we are going to be successful," the second-year coach said. "We are going to miss those seniors. I am going to miss those relationships, but the rest of the kids in the program are excited. There's a recipe for success now, and I am excited to move forward."



Niles North's Mychael Henley (11) and Cassius Bell (44) defend Warren's Darius Paul during the Blue Devils' win last week in the Waukegan 4A Supersectional. | Joel Lerner-SunTimes Media

Shaw, Vikings hope to create buzz of their own

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

VOLLEYBALL - Niles North head coach Carol Herlocker said that in her 23 years at the school, she can't remember a bigger sports buzz than sounded this winter.

The reason was the CSL North title and sectional crown won by the school's boys basketball team. The cagers' evolution from afterthought to powerhouse also gives hope to many of the school's other teams, including the boys volleyball squad.

Though it finished just 11-19 in 2010, North returns nearly all of its key players, and each has worked hard in the offseason, according to their coach.

"We have eight seniors and 10 returning players," Herlocker said. "At the beginning of the season, we are where we were three weeks into last season, and that's nice."

The 2011 Vikings also are led by senior Andre Shaw, one of the key members of the basketball team. The 6-foot-3 Shaw, a returning all-conference performer, also leads the volleyball team.

"(Andre) just got back into the gym (following basketball). He was a little rusty, but he'll get back," Herlocker said. "His power (at the net) stands out, and he has great character. He gets over and make sure they quit screwing around — even before the coaches see it."

Senior outside hitter Hershel Patt (6-2) also brings height and experience to the floor. Patt may be the team's best blocker.

Seniors Sam Sherman and Jed Nulud are other outside hitters who were ever-present last season.

Senior Jason Persaud should be the team's libero, and senior Edgar Rodriguez also plays that position. Seniors Eddie Kao and Eric Chan enter the season locked in a battle for the starting setter position.

Herlocker calls 6-4 junior Mike Rowen one of the pleasant surprises of the pre-season.

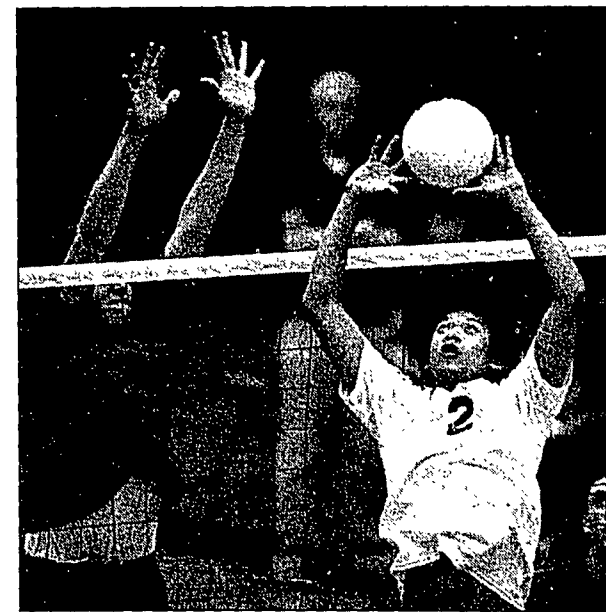
"He was backing up Andre and Hershel as a sophomore and didn't play much. But he's come a long way and put

on some weight," said Herlocker, noting that Rowen will play middle or right side. "I knew he had it in him. He was so skinny last year. But playing in (the summer league) and working out has really helped him."

Niles North's two sophomore newcomers are middle Raymond Truong and defensive specialist Justin Suh.

The Vikings open the season Friday in the Marist Tournament and on the first day faces a Waubonsie Valley team with a front row standing 6-7, 6-6 and 6-8.

"I have high expectations (for the season)," Herlocker said. "But the Marist Tournament will give us a good indication of where we stand and how we're going to be."



Niles North's Eddie Kao, lofting a set last year during regionals, is locked in a battle for the starting assignment this spring. | Brian Valentin-for SunTimes Media

ESCC again poses tough test

Defense should provide help for ND pitchers

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BASEBALL - Notre Dame may have lost staff ace Phil Kerber, valedictorian first baseman Matt Moser and salutatorian, trumpet-playing, utility player Sammy Bungum, but the Dons still expect to field another strong team this spring.

ND went 26-11 a year ago, placing second to Carmel in the ESCC and eventually reaching the sectional semifinal.

Among those returning are No. 2 pitcher Mark Angelini, slick-fielding shortstop Jeff Von Moser and sweet-swinging outfielder Jack Wietlispach.

On the mound, Angelini is effective without being overpowering. He allows hitters to put the ball in play, which should be OK because ND once again expects to field a solid defense.

"Mark has good off-speed stuff and finds a way to get

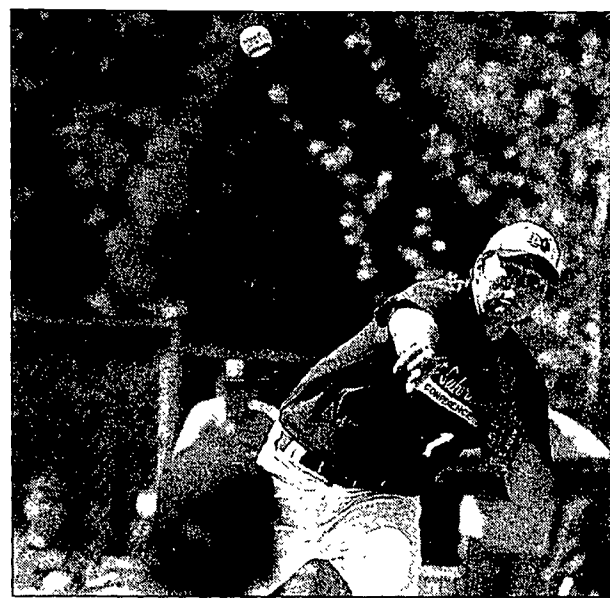
people out," head coach Bob Kostuch said. "He doesn't have a lot of strikeouts, but in a couple games we turned five double plays for him."

Junior lefty Charlie Jergler had a breakout campaign last spring and added muscle. Junior Nick Fiorito, senior lefty Andrew Gustafson, junior Kevin Stahmer, senior Cody Neidenbach, senior Ken Litton and junior Matt Walsh all should get chances on the mound, as well. Kostuch said 16 of the 29 players on his roster are capable pitchers.

Behind the plate, seniors Anthony Pope and Justin Sanetra return. Juniors Tony Marcellino, Walsh and Stahmer are battling for a backup catcher role.

Senior lefty swinger Brian Mercurio could take over for Moser at first, though the versatile Neidenbach and junior Sean Pavel also are in the mix.

Pope will play some second base, while senior Ken Litton could also find himself next to Von Moser in the infield. Junior Ryan Czachor was the sophomore team's shortstop last year and will play second and perhaps some short. Von Moser is a



Notre Dame senior Mark Angelini, who participated in the Stevenson Showcase last summer, will be the Dons' ace pitcher this spring. | Jerry Dallegre-for Sun-Times Media

team leader who Kostuch compares to former Joe Pauley, who went on to play collegiately at Butler and professionally for the Schaumburg Flyers.

"(Von Moser) is one of those players who runs, bunts, fields and is a leader and a captain," Kostuch said.

Sure-handed junior Keenan Connelly is expected to play third base with Stahmer and Neidenbach

coming off the bench.

Wietlispach, an all-ESCC pick last season, will play left field. He has committed to play college ball at Parkland JC.

"Jack's a good kid and another leader who works hard in the weight room. He's going to hit," Kostuch said.

Senior center fielder Alex Babusci can get after flyballs and looks strong at the plate.

There is competition in right field among juniors Joe Parrinello, Robbie Getty, Nick Pieruccini and Matt Livingston.

Expect Von Moser to lead off with Pope, Wietlispach, Babusci, Sanetra and Neidenbach filling out the top six.

The Dons went 13-5 in the ESCC last season, including two wins over Carmel. Kostuch believes the team should once again be in the conference title race.

"Nazareth is the preseason No. 1 and the team to beat this year," he said. "But when you have Benet, Carmel, Joliet Catholic beating each other, it's up for grabs. It comes down to matchups and (factors) like when you play teams, whether you play them in a Saturday doubleheader and (if so) whether a team has two good pitchers available."

Next week, the Dons travel to San Jose, Calif., for a four-game trip that will include a contest against San Jose Archbishop Mitty, one of the top-ranked teams in the nation. Another game will be played under the lights on the campus of Santa Clara University.

THIS WEEK

MAINE EAST

Today

Baseball at Streamwood, 4:30 p.m.
Boys gymnastics hosts Highland Park, 6:30 p.m.

Boys water polo at Evanston, 6 p.m.
Girls water polo hosts Evanston, 6 p.m.

Friday

Baseball at St. Laurence, 4:30 p.m.
Girls soccer hosts Von Steuben, 4:45 p.m.

Saturday

Badminton at Glenbard East Invite, 9 a.m.

Boys volleyball hosts Invite vs. Elgin, Lakes, Niles West, St. Patrick, Vernon Hills, 9 a.m.

Monday

Softball hosts Gordon Tech., 4:45 p.m.

Boys water polo hosts Hersey, 6 p.m.

Tuesday

Baseball hosts Rolling Meadows, 4:45 p.m.

Softball at Round Lake, 4:30 p.m.

Boys water polo hosts Walter Payton Coll. Prep, 6 p.m.

Girls water polo hosts Walter Payton Coll. Prep, 5 p.m.

Wednesday

Baseball at Elmwood Park, 4:30 p.m.

NOTRE DAME

Today

Baseball at Prospect, 4:30 p.m.
Volleyball hosts Maine West, 5 p.m.

Friday

Volleyball at Marist Invite, 5 p.m.

Saturday

Lacrosse hosts St. Rita, 1 p.m.
Volleyball at Marist Invite, 9 a.m.

Monday

Baseball at Hersey, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Baseball at San Jose, Calif., 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Baseball at San Jose, Calif. 3:30 p.m.
Volleyball hosts Niles North, 5 p.m.

RECRUITING

The Central Suburban League will conduct a college recruiting night for juniors, sophomores and freshmen from the 12 league schools at 7:30 p.m. today at the Cornog Theatre on New Trier's Northfield Campus, 7 Happ Road, Northfield. The event is intended to provide insight into the recruiting process, and present experts who will speak to families about college athletics.

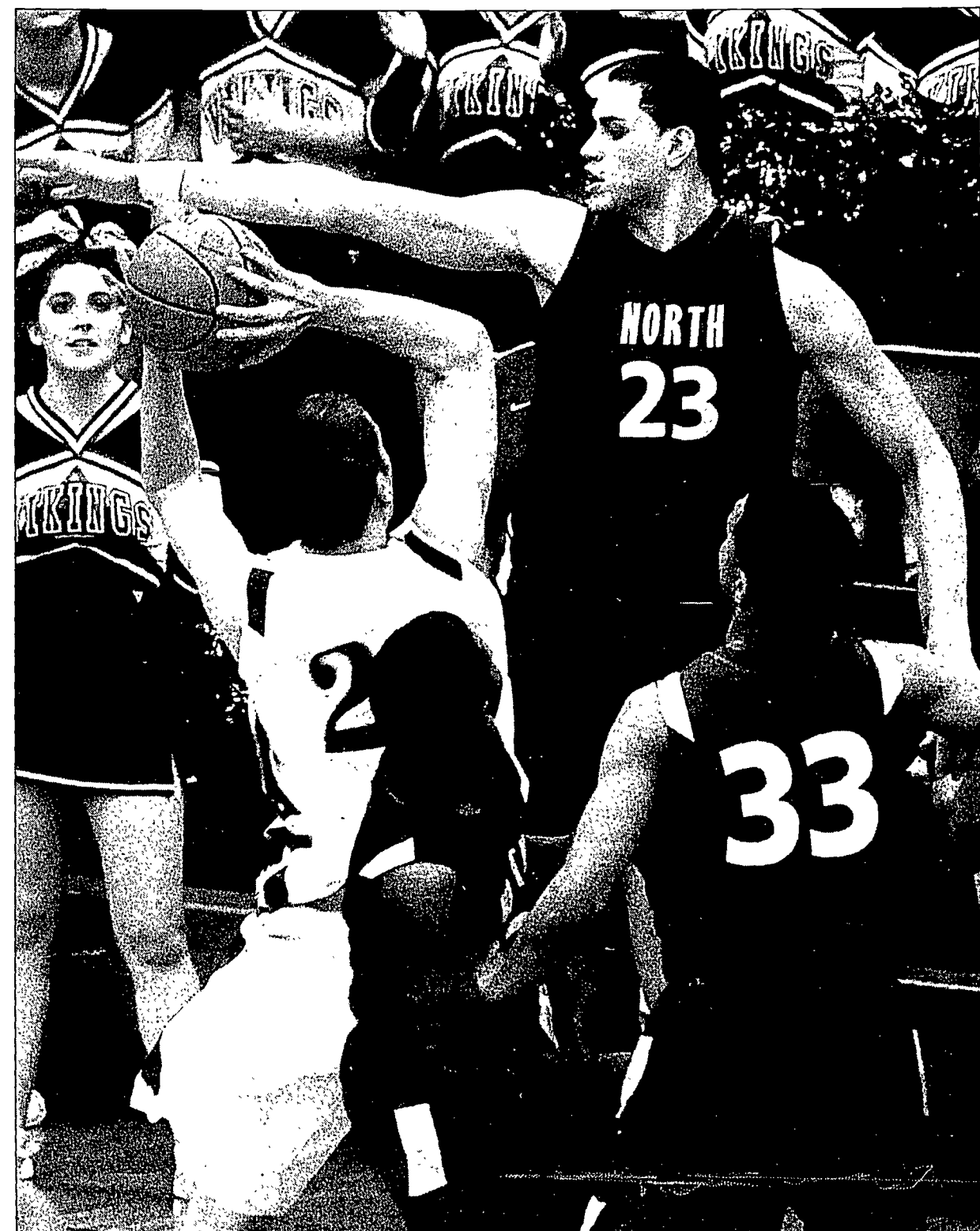
For more information, contact any of the CSL athletic offices.

NORTH STARS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Nader staged coming-out party

Vikings star keeping his options open

By MATT HARNESSE
mharnesse@pioneerlocal.com



Niles North's Abdel Nader (23) smothers Warren's Nathan Boothe during the Waukegan 4A Supersectional. | Joel Lerner-Sun-Times Media

BOYS BASKETBALL - Abdel Nader isn't thinking about his future right now.

After leading Niles North to its best-ever season, the senior is enjoying some well-earned time off. He then will play AAU ball in the offseason before heading off to a pre-college prep school.

Nader, the North Stars Boys Basketball Player of the Year, is in an enviable position. Once the 6-foot-6 wing player de-committed from New Mexico and re-classified to the class of 2012, his college choices multiplied. Among the schools expressing interest are Marquette, DePaul and Mississippi.

"He's just scratching the surface on what type of player he's going to be," said Niles North's Glenn Olson, who coached Nader at Maine East before both transferred to Niles North two seasons ago. "It will be a lot of fun to watch him play, hopefully, for the next 10 or 15 years, to see what he develops into as a player."

"He's a great scorer, but he will become a better scorer. And at his length, he can guard bigs and smalls. But what he found out this year is how he makes his team better."

Arguably the area's top all-around player and toughest matchup, Nader averaged 23.8 points, 8.6 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.8 blocks during the Vikings' 24-7 campaign that included their first sectional championship and a share of the CSL North title with perennial power Glenbrook North. The wins also established a single-season school record.

Nader then captured everyone's attention during the playoffs. In the New Trier Sectional semifinal 74-60 win against Notre Dame, he missed his first 10 shots before scoring 22

points over a nine-minute span that put the Vikings in control. Nader registered at least 22 points in all five playoff games and averaged 26 for the tournament. He rang up

a playoff-high 36 in a 69-65 win over Glenbrook North in the Glenbrook North Regional final. The Vikings beat the Spartans two out of three times this season. "I enjoyed this season

probably more than I thought I would," said Nader, who's looking at prep schools on the East Coast. "We definitely made a legacy that we hope future generations can keep going."

Returning Dons strike proper balance

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

- After Notre Dame lost 500 kills and two Division I players to graduation, head coach Pat Cole should ask for a little more time to mold his current squad into a winner.

But Cole believes the 2011 group has the talent to start the season strong, much like last year's squad that came out like gangbusters before sustaining key injuries and ultimately finishing 22-11.

"You spend however many hours before the season and you're still not 100-percent sure of the product you'll have from Day 1. But I

wouldn't be surprised if we started the season on a nice run like last year," Cole said.

"The talent is there, the motivation is there. The kids really put in the work to fill the big shoes that have been left empty and to take the program to a different level."

Gone are stars Peter Maniscalco, who missed much of his senior year with injury, and the towering Danny Podkowa. Both have moved on to play at Loyola University, though Maniscalco is redshirting this season.

The current Dons are made up of top-notch returning regulars, some newcomers and a talented group who were serving

their turn as varsity reserves last season. Cole repeatedly raved about the talent on the Dons' second unit in 2010.

Heading the list of veterans is senior Dan French, a 6-foot-4 outside hitter who will be playing his third year of varsity. Junior Kyle Krogstad was the libero last season, but will switch to outside hitter after growing six inches to 6-1 in the offseason.

"(Krogstad) should be one of the best defensive outside hitters in the state," Cole said. "He was an extremely good libero. But with the added height, there is no reason not to use him (outside). He's a good hitter,

though he's never played outside. But he's adapting well."

Seniors Alex Bielesch, an outside, and Kevin Fay, a middle, were varsity role players last year who are now expected to be more prominent performers. Both improved in the offseason, according to Cole.

Entering the season, three players were vying for the libero position vacated by Krogstad: senior Conor Maloney was a defensive specialist and serving specialist for the team last season; and juniors Mark Nadolny and Rafael Mora are new to the varsity, the latter a libero on the sophomore team in 2010.

Senior Joe Cantacessi and junior Evan Choate are being counted on to set. Cole said he was not sure whether the team would run a 6-2 or 5-1 attack.

Senior Kevin Regal is back at right side or outside. Cole said the lefty has improved every facet of his game, including athleticism, serving and swinging.

"This is hands down the hardest-working team I've had the pleasure to coach. They all do a fantastic job of motivating each other," the coach said. "If somebody is dogging it, coaches don't have the opportunity to speak up. One of the players will (speak up) before we get to."

Local Sports

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BOYS BASKETBALL: NILES NORTH'S NADER NAMED PLAYER OF THE YEAR | **BASEBALL:** NOTRE DAME RETURNS IMPORTANT PIECES | **TRACK:** DEMON JUMPERS CAPTURE INDOOR MEDALS

THIS WEEK
NILES WEST

Today
Baseball hosts St. Ignatius, 4:30 p.m.
Girls soccer at West Leyden, 6:30 p.m.
Softball at Leyden, 4:45 p.m.
Boys volleyball hosts Loyola, 6 p.m.
Boys water polo hosts Foreman, 5 p.m.
Saturday
Girls track at Illinois Wesleyan Illinois Prep Top Times, TBD
Boys volleyball at Maine East Tour., 9 a.m.
Boys water polo at Riverside-Brookfield Twp., 9 a.m.
Baseball (DH) hosts Mather, 11 a.m.
Boys gymnastics at Rolling Meadows Invite, 4:30 p.m.
Sunday
Softball at Walt Disney World Complex Tour.
Monday
Softball at Walt Disney World Complex Tour.
Tuesday
Baseball hosts Prosser, 4:30 p.m.
Softball at Walt Disney World Complex Tour.
Wednesday
Softball at Walt Disney World Complex Tour.

NILES NORTH

Today
Girls soccer hosts New Trier, 4:45 p.m.
Boys gymnastics at Glenbrook South, 6:30 p.m.
Friday
Softball hosts Hersey, 4:30 p.m.
Boys volleyball at Marist Invite, 5 p.m.
Saturday
Boys volleyball at Marist Invite, 8 a.m.
Baseball hosts Schurz (DH), 10 a.m.
Softball hosts Regina (DH), 10 a.m.
Boys track at Bolingbrook, 4 p.m.
Boys gymnastics at Rolling Meadows, 4:30 p.m.
Sunday
Softball at Walt Disney World Complex Tour.
Tuesday
Boys tennis hosts Northridge Prep, 4:30 p.m.
Boys gymnastics at Evanston Twp., 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday
Boys volleyball at Notre Dame, 6 p.m.

Wolves second at 26-team meet

Ochoa will be shut down until postseason

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BOYS TRACK - One major goal of the indoor track season is to emerge healthy for the more important outdoor campaign.

Niles West is looking at Plan B.

At the March 11 Evanston Invite, Wolves senior star Santiago Ochoa aggravated a hamstring injury that had given him problems last spring and during football in the fall.

Ochoa, a member of two state championship relays last spring, is expected to miss a good portion of the outdoor season as the Niles West medical staff looks to get him fit for another championship run.

"We had Ochoa going to see a physical therapist twice a week and thought we were getting on top of (his hamstring troubles). Then, all of a sudden — bam! — he pulled it," head coach Chris Vivone said. "We're going to shut him down all the way until May. He'll just rehab the hamstring and we'll see what we can do from there."

Ochoa ran on the 400 and 800 relays that won gold at the Class 3A State Meet, where he also finished fifth in the 100 and competed in the 200.

"(His absence) is really going to hurt us," Vivone said. "The younger guys have to step up."

The Wolves finished fifth at Friday's CSL South Indoor Meet. Junior Lavelle Jordan came in second in



Niles West's Lavelle Jordan wins his heat of the low hurdles at Friday's CSL South Indoor Meet at Evanston. | Joel Lerner-Sun-Times Media

the low hurdles (7.05), while the team of senior Seve Loubriel, junior Surin Patel, junior Mike Wright and Jordan took second in the 400 relay (1:16).

Niles West did win the CSL South sophomore title, and Vivone said the members of that squad will be considered for spots on the varsity toward the business end of the season.

"We're not going to bring them up right away," he said. "But come those last three weeks of the track season, it's about bringing the best guys no matter what. If they are sophomores, then they are sophomores. Numbers don't lie, and if those are the guys, we'll use them the last three weeks of the season."

Girls

The Wolves finished sec-

ond (66 points) at Saturday's 26-team Nelson-Daniels Indoor Classic at UW-Whitewater. The event, which was won by Arrowhead (Wis.) featured teams from Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

Niles West senior Kellion Gordon won the 400 (60.66) and 55 (meet-record tying 7.26) and was part of the 800 relay team that finished third (1:50.32). Gordon was named the "Female Athlete of the Meet."

Joining Gordon on the 800 relay were senior Rita Dawod, and sophomores Sunbright Simon and Sunshine Simon.

Sophomore Jasmine Townsend was West's other winner, capturing the shot put (36-feet-3). "The last three meets, Jasmine has been throwing five to eight inches farther

every meet. A couple weeks ago she was throwing 34 (feet), and now she's over 36," head coach Mark Medland said about the reigning conference outdoor champ.

Other highlights for West in Whitewater were: the 3200 relay of junior Annie Goudes, senior Lindsey Karp, sophomore Lily Chatman and junior Jessica Sutfin finishing second (10:28.44); and the group of Chatman, Sutfin, Sunshine Simon and junior Anna Ploszynski coming in second in the 1600 relay (4:18.68).

Chatman took fifth in the high jump (4-10), sophomore Sydney Hellwig was fifth in the 55 hurdles (9.29) and senior Vicki Barela came in sixth in the triple jump (33-1).

The Wolves took third (82 points) at the March 17 CSL North Indoor Meet at Maine East.

Winners for West were: Gordon in the 200 (26.2); Chatman in the high jump (4-10); and Townsend in the shot put (33-10.7). Barela was second in the triple jump (33-1).

The team of Chatman, Sutfin, Karp and Goudes came in third in the 3200 relay (10:29.2); the unit of Chatman, Sutfin, Sunshine Simon and Ploszynski finished third in the 1600 relay (4:22.6); and Dawod was third in the 55 hurdles (9.4).

Gordon qualified in three events for Saturday's Prep Top Times Meet in Bloomington. She advanced in the 55, 200 and 400, but might only run races, Medland said.

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5/1 jumbo ARM refi	3.625	0.000	\$850	20%	3.088	15 yr fixed	4.000	0.000	\$500	20%	4.045	7/1 ARM	3.750	0.000	\$1700	20%	3.448						
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(B) 1780 Maple Street, Suite 22, Northfield, IL 60093 MB.0006457						(B) One Oakbrook Terrace, Suite 210, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 MB.6760321						(B) 3100 Dundee Road, Ste 406, Northbrook, IL 60062 MB.0006777											
AVENUE MORTGAGE CORPORATION 630-470-6757 http://www.AvenueMortgage.com																							
30 yr fixed	4.750	0.000	\$1950	20%	4.890	30 yr fixed			15 yr fixed			5 yr ARM			LENDERS, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FEATURE CALL BANKRATE.COM SALES DEPARTMENT @ 800-509-4636								
15 yr fixed	4.125	0.000	\$1950	20%	4.302	This week			4.91			4.12									3.74		
5/1 ARM	3.375	0.000	\$1950	20%	3.450	Last week			5.04			4.32									3.88		
30 yr FHA	4.750	0.000	\$1950	4%	4.853	Last year			5.07			4.45			4.46								
(A) 1700 Park Street, Suite 106, Naperville, IL 60563 209849						Source: Bankrate.com, for more information visit www.bankrate.com . Bankrate national averages are based on 100 largest institutions in the top 10 markets in the United States.																	

Legend: The rate and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 3/17/11. © 2011 Bankrate, Inc. <http://www.bankrate.com>. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The fees set forth for each advertisement above may be charged to open the plan. (A) Mortgage Banker, (B) Mortgage Broker, (C) Bank, (D) S & L, (E) Credit Union, (BA) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (loans arranged through third parties). "Call for Rates" means actual rates were not available at press time. All rates are quoted on a minimum FICO score of 700. Illinois Mortgage Licensee. Conventional loans are based on loan amounts of \$165,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of \$435,000. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Lock Days: 30-60. Annual percentage rates (APRs) are based on fully indexed rates for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample used. Fees reflect charges relative to the APR. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. Bankrate, Inc. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates and fees in this table. All rates, fees and other information are subject to change without notice. Bankrate, Inc. does not own any financial institutions. Some or all of the companies appearing in this table pay a fee to appear in this table. If you are seeking a mortgage in excess of \$417,000, recent legislation may enable lenders in certain locations to provide rates that are different from those shown in the table above. We recommend that you contact your lender directly to determine what rates may be available to you. TO APPEAR IN THIS TABLE, CALL 800-509-4636. TO REPORT ANY INACCURACIES, CALL 888-509-4636. * <http://pioneerlocal.interest.com>