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NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

February 14, 2008

A PIONEER PRESS PUBLICATION

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The Maine East High School Chorus, under the direction of Pat Barnett, rehearses for its upcoming production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," Feb. 29 through March 8. Page 5

Photo by Dave Shields © For Pioneer Press



HEARTY COOKING

The Hearty Boys new cookbook includes recipes for retro dishes and comfort foods.

See Food, page 55



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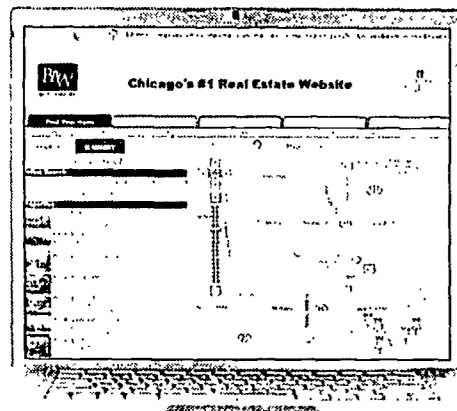
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Lincolnwood \$499,000
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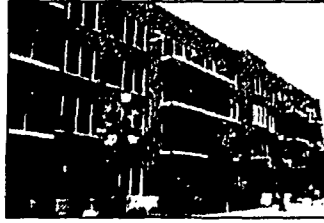
Skokie \$499,000
Rarely offered 3BD Forestview loaded w/upgrades. Jacuzzi, granite, Hdwd flr. ID#73107255 Mike Waller 847-491-1855



Lincolnwood \$480,500
Remodeled 6 yrs ago. 8rms/4bdrms/3bths conventional home. Hdwd flrs, 2C gar ID#74407309 Pauline Dreuth 773-775-1855



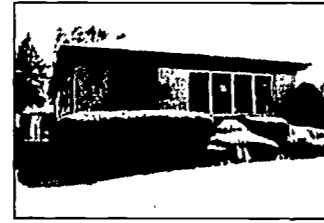
Lincolnwood \$479,900
Move in condition 3 bdrms/2 bath split-level. Everything new w/in past 5 yrs ID#74407164 Karolina Ljubic 773-775-1855



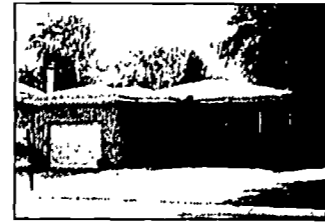
Skokie \$459,900
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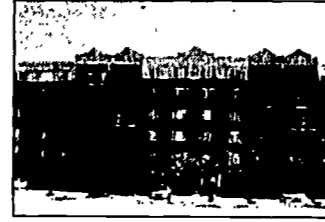
Park Ridge \$329,000
Newly dec 2br 2ba in the Gallery 1400 sq ft. Bal/Indy in unit. Also for rent ID#74717050 Nuhla Ayoub 847-823-1855



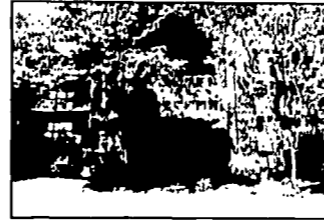
Skokie \$329,000
Very nice brick Ranch. 3BR, Hdwd flrs, LR+DR combo, Kit w/EA, 2Cgar. ID#73107211 Della Joyce 847-491-1855



Glenview \$299,900
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NEWS

NEWS

Read what local voters had to say about the presidential primaries. Page 6



NEIGHBORS

Oscar may live in Hollywood, but he's from Chicago. Page 53

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WHAT'S NEW AROUND TOWN THIS WEEK

Classes offered

Courses offered by the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at Oakton Community College are available evenings and weekends at various locations.

How to Fund College Without Going Broke (FIN E19-02), offering tips on how to save thousands of dollars on a college education, will meet 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today (Thursday) at Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie. The fee is \$29.

NIA for Seniors (PED C01-01) is designed to improve flexibility for those "aging with grace." Neuromuscular Integrative Action combines modern dance, martial arts and ancient healing forms. The five-week course will meet 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mondays starting Feb. 18 at the Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove. The fee is \$63.

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

WHAT'S NEXT UPCOMING NEXT WEEK

Special-needs targeted

On Feb. 21 the Maine Township District 207 Next Steps Committee will sponsor a presentation, Getting Ready: Planning for Life After High School, for parents of students with learning disabilities, from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Maine East High School, 2601 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge. Attendees should enter through the field house entrance and follow the signs to the Family Center. Several experts will be on hand to discuss options for special-needs students, including college, certificate programs, the trades and employment. Representatives will discuss necessary skills, and will work with parents to develop a plan that accommodates each child's abilities and interests. For more information contact Cristina Ramirez, (847) 803-4556, Marica Adelberg, (847) 692-8489, or Marybeth Sanchez, (847) 692-8103.

MAKE ROOM FOR GREEN TANGERINES



Keith Banaszak, 17, and Anthony Sanders, 15, of the band, "Green Tangerines" perform together at the Hungry-I Variety Show. See page 8 for more from the 45th Annual Mission Mardi Gras. — Brian O'Mahoney/Staff Photographer

Recycling options expand as village adds 'green' measures

By KIT KADLEC Staff Writer
kkadlec@pioneerlocal.com

Old gym shoes and light bulbs.

It's a strange combination, but those items are now sought for recycling in Niles. Specifically, the village is looking for compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and old athletic shoes, such as those used for tennis, basketball or running.

Starting this week residents have been able to drop the CFL bulbs off at the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, or the Niles Public Services building, 6849 Touhy Ave., and bring old gym shoes to a receptacle at the Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive.

It's one of the early steps in a growing effort by the Niles Environmental Committee to make the village

more "green."

And as Assistant Village Manager Steve Vinezeano said, the village has to start somewhere.

"We're trying to do our part," Vinezeano said. "Of those municipalities that do their part (environmentally), they always try to start with what's available, like grants."

The shoe- and bulb-recycling project won't cost the village anything, as efforts will be funded by grants applied for by Niles.

Other ideas include using more-efficient bulbs in the exit signs in village buildings to save on energy and costs, adding diesel retrofits on old village trucks to cut back on pollution, and encouraging residents to purchase a \$40 rain barrel through the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to make more efficient use of water in gardening and

outdoor cleaning chores.

Vinezeano said he's also making the push to encourage Niles businesses to consider changing their light bulbs and other such measures. But he realizes their motivation in doing so will likely be more about saving money than saving resources.

"The cost of power will go up, and although it's a green thought to reduce consumption, you'll find that most people in the business community will look at where the most money can be saved," he said.

Village Attorney Joe Annunzio, who heads the Environmental Committee, said he hopes to ask village trustees to add Niles into the Greener Compact soon.

The Greener Compact is an agreement between various suburbs in the Chicago area to do certain things to improve the environment.

Woman critical after blaze

By TONY BERTUCA Staff Writer
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

A 69-year-old Niles woman was still in critical condition Monday evening after suffering smoke inhalation from a fire that broke out in the bedroom of her condominium a day earlier.

Niles Deputy Fire Chief Steve Borkowski said firemen were called at about 12:35 a.m. on Sunday to the woman's building on the 9000 block of West Heathwood Drive.

"She was found laying on the floor in the middle of the living room," he said. "She was taken out of her apartment and put in an ambulance and sent to Lutheran General."

Borkowski said that the woman had suffered smoke inhalation but was not burned.

The woman was later transported in critical condition to Loyola Hospital in Maywood.

A spokeswoman from Loyola said that the woman was still in critical condition Monday evening.

Borkowski said state and local fire officials were investigating the cause of the blaze, which did not move past the woman's bedroom.

Sights and Sounds

For enhanced coverage of people and places in your community, check out Pioneer Press' videos at www.pioneerlocal.com.

Schakowsky trounces Nocita in 9th House District

By KATHY ROUTLIFF
Staff Writer
kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com

Jan Schakowsky, who last fought a primary battle in 1998 en route to winning her first term in the 9th Congressional District, won her second primary battle convincingly on Feb. 5 against attorney John Nocita.

With 350 suburban precincts tallied by the end of the week, Schakowsky received 55,018 unofficial votes — almost 89 percent of votes cast — to Nocita's 7,095, just under 11.5 percent of the votes cast. In Chicago, with 237 precincts reporting, Schakowsky had garnered 42,782 or just over 87 percent of the votes cast. Nocita collected just under 13 percent of the vote, with 6,317 votes. All vote totals are unofficial.

Schakowsky, speaking from Barack Obama headquarters in Chicago Feb. 5,

thanked Democratic voters in the district: "I'm very grateful for their vote of confidence in me."

The Evanston Democrat, an early supporter of Obama's who is part of his Illinois presidential campaign team, was more pleased about his primary win in the state.

"I actually think what happened tonight was great, everyone knew this was not going to be definitive, but we're in the midst of an Obama surge."

Nocita was matter-of-fact about his loss Feb. 5, and congratulated Schakowsky on the win.

"I thought she was going to win the race," he said. "I'm just pleasantly surprised that this campaign wasn't dirty, and was about issues."

"My message was about moderation, that taking the moderate road will solve more problems than coming at it from the extreme ends of the

political spectrum. I think my message will take time to evolve and sink in with voters, because it isn't a simplistic message."

Schakowsky, who is serving her fifth term in Congress, succeeded long-time Democratic Rep. Sidney Yates when he retired. Since then she has risen through party leadership and now serves as Chief Deputy Whip.

She has taken a high profile speaking out against U.S. involvement and policies in Iraq, including pressing for more Congressional oversight of prison operations in Guantanamo and of private contractors, and backing consumer protection laws, child safety and energy legislation.

Nocita, a Northwest Side Chicago resident who has supported both Democratic and Republican candidates, campaigned as a moderate Democrat who more accurately represented a majority

of the 9th District's constituents.

He promised a centrist philosophy and pledged to work with both sides of the aisle if he won the primary and, later, the general election. Like Schakowsky, he wanted to get the country out of Iraq and supported providing federal medical insurance for currently uninsured children.

However he opposed a quick pullout from the war. He also supported the U.S. Patriot Act, saying it, and the country's anti-terror policies — have put America's enemies on notice that the country will defend itself.

Nocita said he was surprised at what he called a low turnout. He had hoped for — and expected, with the high interest in the Democratic presidential primary race between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton — as many as 300,000 voters to go to the polls in the 9th District.

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FBI links TCF Bank robber to other bank heists

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
Staff Writer
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The Chicago division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation believes a man who robbed a Park Ridge TCF Bank two weeks ago may be responsible for committing as many as eight other robberies in the Chicago area.

Ross Rice, spokesperson for the FBI's Chicago division, said the suspect who robbed the TCF Bank at 1 W. Devon Ave. on the afternoon of Jan. 30 is believed to have

also robbed the Fifth Third Bank at 5950 Touhy Ave. in Niles on Jan. 24, escaping with approximately \$3,000 in cash. A majority of the other robberies the suspect has been linked to occurred in the southwest suburbs, Rice said. The robberies date back to November 2007 and, in each one, the suspect has removed a note from a large envelope and presented it to the teller. The note makes mention of a gun, and in some of the robberies, has included demands for specific denominations.

A reward of up to \$10,000 is being offered for information leading to the man's arrest.

On Jan. 30, at approximately 4:20 p.m., the man entered the TCF Bank at Devon and Canfield avenues, presented the teller with a note that had the word "gun" written on it and told the teller, "you can hand me the money, this is no joke," Park Ridge police said.

The teller handed over approximately \$6,000 in cash, police said. The man left the bank and entered a mini van that was driven by another in-

dividual.

The bank robber is described as approximately 40 years old, about 6-foot 2-inches tall, with brown hair and a mustache. He was wearing a blue and white checkered flannel coat, a baseball cap and jeans. He was also described as having "poor and missing teeth," police said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Park Ridge Police Department's Investigation Division at (847) 318-5276, or the Chicago division of the FBI at (312) 421-6700.

Maine East meets 'Beast'

Maine East High School, 2601 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge, will present the musical, "Beauty and the Beast," at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 29 to March 1, and March 7 to 8.

The show, featuring music by Alan Menken and lyrics by the late Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, was a 1994 stage adaptation from the award-winning 1991 Disney animated film. It brings its own challenges to produce the special effects live.

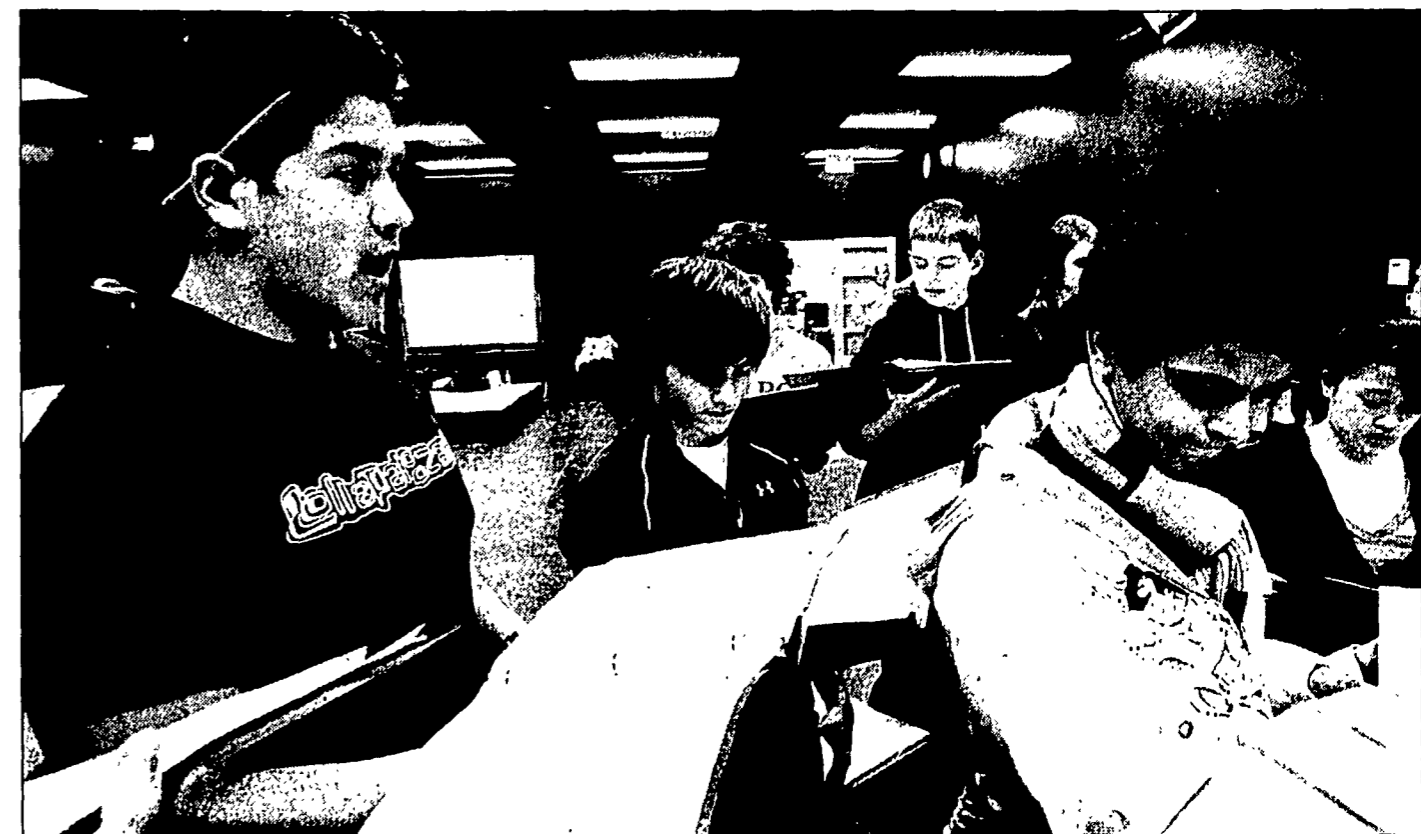
When her inventor father disappears away from their small French village, Belle finds him in an enchanted castle, captive of a monstrous beast, and agrees to take his place. Back home, the egotistical Gaston, having decided she is the bride he wants, sets new stumbling blocks for Belle and her family. The score ranges from the familiar title song and the rousing "Be Our Guest" to some of the Broadway additions, including the plaintive "Home."

"It's going to be a big production, it's going to be huge," said Maine East's Fine Arts Department Chairman Ed Eubank.

More than 100 students will be involved in putting the show together, he said.

"I like to tell them that they are the largest team at Maine East High School, and everybody is in the starting lineup," Eubank said of the cast and crew.

Behind the scenes will be Maine East's technical



Maine East High School Junior John Leynes, of Morton Grove (left), plays the local romantic bully, Gaston, in Maine East High School's performance of "Beauty and the Beast" with the Maine East Chorus. — Dave Shields/For Pioneer Press

"It's going to be a big production, it's going to be huge."

Maine East's Fine Arts Department Chairman Ed Eubank



Junior Anthony Sanders practices for "Beauty and the Beast" with the help of Choral Director Pat Barnett. — Dave Shields/For Pioneer Press

theater team, which has recently won the state championship at the Tech Theatre Olympics for the fourth year in a row.

For tickets, call Eubank's office at (847) 592-8500.

INDEX

- CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING C1
- CROSSWORD B20
- DIVERSIONS B1
- DIVERSIONS CALENDAR B3
- FILM CLIPS B8
- FOOD 55
- FORUM 10
- IMAGES 53
- OBITUARIES 60
- PEEK AT THE WEEK 54
- PAUL SASSONE 10
- POLICE BLOTTER 7
- SHOWTIME B7
- SPORTS 64



Don Esposito, an employee of R.S. Owens & Company, the Chicago factory that manufactures the Oscar statuettes, attended the Academy Awards in 2002. See page 53 — Jeff Krage/For Pioneer Press

Three named Dist. 207's BEST

By KIT KADLEC
Staff Writer
kkadlec@pioneerlocal.com

A senior from each Maine Township high school was selected Feb. 4 by their principals for the District 207's BEST Award for Academic Achievement.

Each month, the district has honored a senior from each school with a BEST award for excelling in areas such as community service, academic improvement and overall grades.

In February, Fahad Chaus of Maine East, Erin O'Connor of Maine South and Christopher Dadabo of Maine West were chosen for the BEST honor.

Chaus, who moved to Des Plaines from Saudi Arabia at the age of 13, ranks within the top 10 of his class with a 4.51 grade point average. He plans to be a pre-med and business double major in college.

But while Chaus himself excels in top math and science classes, he uses much of his free time helping others, his

teachers said.

"Many students of his caliber are quite competitive," said his advanced placement biology teacher Judy Tyler. "Fahad wants everyone to do well and does what he can to help others in class."

She said Chaus shows up 20 minutes early every day, but often sacrifices his own study time to help other students with other classes.

"Rare is the student that is not only extremely intelligent, but wants to share that intelligence with those around him,

unselfishly, altruistically and without arrogance," Tyler said.

At Maine South, O'Connor was praised for her "keen intellect and compassionate generosity," said Principal David Claypool.

A Park Ridge resident, O'Connor is a Spanish Club officer, Hawk Pride leader, hospital volunteer, Constitution Team member, COACH tutor, and recipient of several academic awards in various subjects.

"Erin's academic ability, strong work ethic, and inquisitive nature combine to make her a wonderful student and even better person," said her

school counselor, Terry Rausch. "She is special in so many ways."

O'Connor intends to study chemical engineering.

From Maine West, Dadabo of Des Plaines was described as a talented and passionate student by principal Audrey Haugan. Dadabo is currently ranked third in his class.

His math teacher, Heidi Leech, said Dadabo often looks for alternative methods for solving problems after finding the first one.

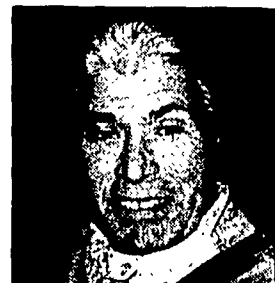
"Not only does the class benefit from his participation, I have learned some things myself," she said.

Voters weigh in

Reporter Kit Kadlec hit the streets on Feb. 5 to find out how people voted in the presidential primaries. Here's what they had to say:



Robert Rappel, of Park Ridge, voted for John McCain. **What issue influenced Rappel's decision in the presidential primary?** "We need to do something about the (Iraq) war, but we need to do it honorably."



Bill Mosler, of Niles, voted for Barack Obama. **What issue influenced Mosler's decision in the presidential primary?** "Obama reminds me of (President John F.) Kennedy in '63."



Megan Meyer, of Niles, voted for Barack Obama. **What issue influenced Meyer's decision in the presidential race?** "Health care."



Tomo Markolovic, of Niles, declined to say who he voted for. **What issues influenced Markolovic's decision in the presidential race?** "A lot of things, but first the economy."



Susan Guldo, of Niles, voted for Hillary Clinton. **What issues influenced Guldo's decision in the presidential race?** "Health care and the war."



David Cottrell, of Niles, voted for Barack Obama. **What issue influenced Cottrell's decision in the presidential primary?** "The war in Iraq."

Night of Roses seeks 2008 nominations

The Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry is accepting nominations through Feb. 15 for its fifth annual Night of Roses — A Tribute to Home Grown Success. The event honors outstanding members of the community who usually go unnoticed, because they work

and volunteer not for the recognition, but to enhance the quality of life in Niles. Nominations must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Friday to the Niles Chamber office. Awards will be presented at a dinner April 5 at White Eagle Banquets in 13 categories: Business of the Year, Bob

Wordel Living Legend Award, Coach of the Year, Dynamic Parent Volunteer, Fire Fighter "Hot Spot," Ken Scheel Chamber Member of the Year, Niles Citizen of the Year, Niles Golden Senior Award, Niles Good Neighbor, Police Officer "Special Agent," Teacher of the Year, Unsung Worker "Not

Enough Hours in the Day," and Youth of the Year. The Golden Senior Award, the newest honor, will recognize someone in their "golden years" who is dedicated to volunteering, giving back and helping others. Official nomination forms are available on the chamber

Web site at www.nileschamber.com or can be picked up at the Niles Chamber office, 8060 West Oakton St., Niles 60714 (Inside the NorthSide Community Bank). Winners will be announced to the community March 5. Call (847) 268-8180 for information.

POLICE BLOTTER

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

BURGLARY

■ A residence on the 6800 block of Lexington Lane was burglarized between Jan. 27 and Feb. 7. The owner told police he returned home to find his kitchen window pried open, and said he was missing a 27-inch flat-screen TV.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

■ Jose Martinez, 34, of 1620 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago, was arrested for disorderly conduct Feb. 10. Police said a witness saw Martinez brandishing a knife during an altercation outside a bar on the 6800 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Martinez's bond was set at \$75. He is scheduled to appear in court Feb. 28.

■ Paul Ethan, 52, of 6300 W. Touhy Ave., Niles, was arrested for disorderly conduct Feb. 6. Police said Ethan, who lives at the YMCA, placed a false 911 call to police and reported seeing a man wielding a butcher knife. Ethan's bond was set at \$2,000. He is scheduled to appear in court Friday.

DISPUTE

■ An employee at Work 'N Gear, 7210 W. Dempster St., told police a 78-year-old Skokie man attempted to grab her after he became angry while exchanging an item Feb. 8. The employee did not want to sign com-

plaints against the man, police said.

DUI

■ Allahuddin Ahmed, 35, of 9120 MacArthur Court, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence, improper lane usage and failure to wear a seat belt Feb. 5. He was taken into custody on the 8500 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Bond was set at \$1,000. He has a March 28 court date.

■ Guy Cates, 56, of 8200 W. Wilson Ave., Norridge, was arrested for DUI Feb. 7. Police said Cates' car was seen stuck in the snow near the corner of Touhy Avenue and Harts Road. Cates' bond was set at \$1,000. He is scheduled to appear in court March 10.

FORGERY

■ A 38-year-old Niles man became the victim of an Internet scam after he agreed to deposit money orders he received from strangers, and to make money transfers to other strangers in the United Kingdom, police said. After depositing more than 20 money orders mailed to his residence, and transferring \$8,763 overseas, the victim learned from his bank that the money orders were actually counterfeit, police said.

THEFT

■ A 16-year-old Niles boy was issued a local ordinance citation for retail theft Feb. 7 after he left Sears at Golf Mill mall without paying for an \$18 ring, police said. A fine was paid at the scene and the suspect was released to his mother.

■ Juan Ramirez, 28, of 8250 W. Dempster St., Niles, and Jaime Hernandez, 22, of 9427 Dee Road, unincorporated Maine Township, were charged with retail theft Feb. 10. Police said the men left JC Penney at

Golf Mill mall without paying for two wallets and two bottles of aftershave, all valued at \$182. Bond for each was set at \$1,000. They have an April 9 court date.

■ Blanca Vazquez, 36, of 8933 Washington St., Niles, was issued a local citation for retail theft Feb. 10. Police said Vazquez attempted to leave JC Penney at Golf Mill mall without paying for a bottle of perfume valued at \$21.50. A fine was paid at the scene and Vazquez was released.

UNDERAGE DRINKING

■ Police busted a teenage drinking party in a motel room on Jan. 26 at 11:57 p.m., ticketing nearly a dozen local residents mostly from Niles and Park Ridge. Responding to a call about the incident, an officer located the party in a room at the Traveler's Inn at 7247 Waukegan Road. The officer reported being able to see teens through the window smoking and drinking. Upon entering, the officer noticed some teens had bloodshot eyes and that there were empty beer bottles around the room. Police said all inside were issued tickets for possession and consumption of alcohol by a minor and three were issued tickets for violating curfew. Police listed the following 11 offenders: Niles residents Mario Akellian, 19, of 8315 Ballard Road, Jon R. Arundson, 19, of 7505 W. Keeney St., Carmen J. Decicco, 19, of 8260 N. Milwaukee Ave., George Konelis, 18, of 7546 W. Cleveland St., Matthew Okunowski, 18, of 8218 Ozark Ave., Alan J. Tortekson, 17, of 8017 Churchill Ave., and a 16-year-old girl; Park Ridge residents Iveta Sarieva, 17, of 2316 Oakton St., Matthew F. Schneider, 18, of 1428 Potter Road, and another 16-year-old girl; and Patryk Hoszkiewicz, 19, of 1217 Old Wilke Road, Arlington Heights. The two 16-year-olds and Sarieva were the teens who were also cited for violating curfew.

Niles man nabbed for robbery

A Niles man has been arrested for the armed robbery of a Des Plaines pizza parlor that took place in October.

Javier Martinez, 18, of 8135 N. Greenwood Ave., was charged with the crime Feb. 7, said Des Plaines Police Cmdr. Richard Rozkuszka.

According to a police report, Martinez entered Mama Maria Pizzeria, 590 Potter Road, about 9:30 p.m. Oct. 18 displaying a handgun. He reportedly ordered the cashier to turn over all the money in the cash register, then left before police arrived, the report stated.

When detectives disseminated a sketch of the robber to other police departments in the area, Niles Det. George Alexopoulos thought it resembled someone he knew. Des Plaines Det. John Rice followed up on the tip by locating the suspect who was in Cook County Jail on other charges.

During an interview Feb. 6, Martinez confessed to Rice that he committed the crime, police said. Martinez was to appear in District 2 of Cook County Court at Skokie Wednesday.

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Let the good times roll



Maggie Kane, 10, and Collin Jones, 11, do battle Feb. 5 during the Mardi Gras Carnival at Notre Dame High School. The carnival was part of the 45th Annual Mission Mardi Gras, held to benefit the Notre Dame High School scholarship fund and the Holy Cross Missions. The merriment also featured an Italian dinner and the Hungry-I Variety Show. — Brian O'Mahoney/Staff Photographer

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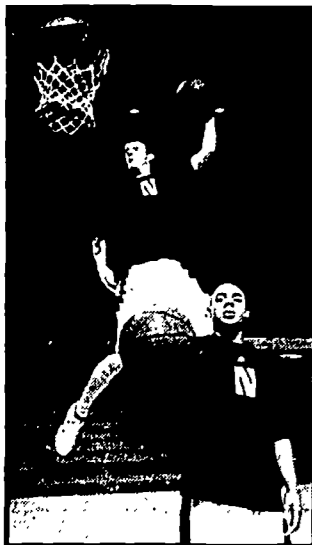
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Keith Banaszak, 17, of Niles, of the band Green Tangerines, performs Feb. 5 during the Hungry-I Variety Show at Notre Dame High School. — Brian O'Mahoney/Staff Photographer



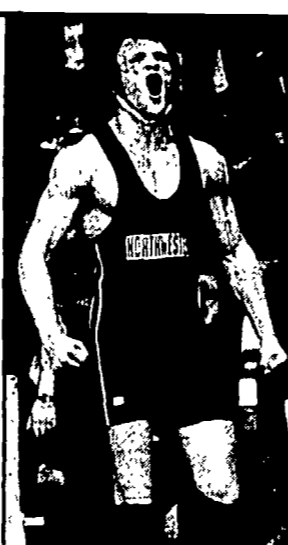
Tiffany Wallenberg, 10, on the "Bungee Run" during the Feb. 5 Mardi Gras Carnival at Notre Dame High School. — Brian O'Mahoney/Staff Photographer



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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13 VS. OHIO STATE - 8 P.M.
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FORUM

The school district has been wrestling with the food issues in light of many health concerns because it does not want any of its children to be at risk.

See editorial on this page

Dist. 64: Bye-bye homemade treats

One of the special treats for many of us, growing up, was when some moms or grandmas of our grade school classmates made enough treats for the whole classroom and we were allowed to nibble on them at our desks. Heart-shaped cookies were a staple of Valentine's Day. Pumpkins for Halloween or turkeys for Thanksgiving... made with love and savored by the recipients.

A health-conscious world has imposed itself in the meantime. Now people worry about whether the home kitchen is sanitary enough, or whether the ingredients include sugar or trans fats or one of many ingredients to which the younger generations are becoming sensitive or allergic. Nut allergies, especially to peanuts — which are used in many less obvious products as well as the visible nut ingredients — can be especially life threatening.

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 has taken several steps to reduce exposure to nut products this school year. The newest ban, announced last week just in time for Valentine's Day parties, goes along with changes to Park Ridge environmental health policy. All foods served to students at school are now affected — treats at classroom parties, snacks at events after school or on weekends, events sponsored by parent-teacher groups such as family nights or bake sales.

Starting this week, only foods prepared by a commercial establishment or pre-

pared in a commercial kitchen can be served — a commercial license is required for the facility. Home-made or homebaked foods can't be shared with anyone, but children may still bring items from home for their own consumption.

The new rules are well meant, trying to keep children from any types of food reactions, whether from allergies to spoilage. The school district has been wrestling with the food issues in light of many health concerns because it does not want any of its children to be at risk.

But it's a pity that, because the rules have to be so restrictive and protective, many children will end up depending more and more on pre-processed foods, often with extra salt or sugar or additives. There can be no more cultural evenings where families bring samples of recipes from their diverse ethnic heritages. And where moms could usually produce enough cookies for a classroom treat without spending a fortune, it costs more to buy these commercially.

TELL IT TO THE EDITOR:

We want to hear from you

The address for Letters to the Editor and Guest Essays is:

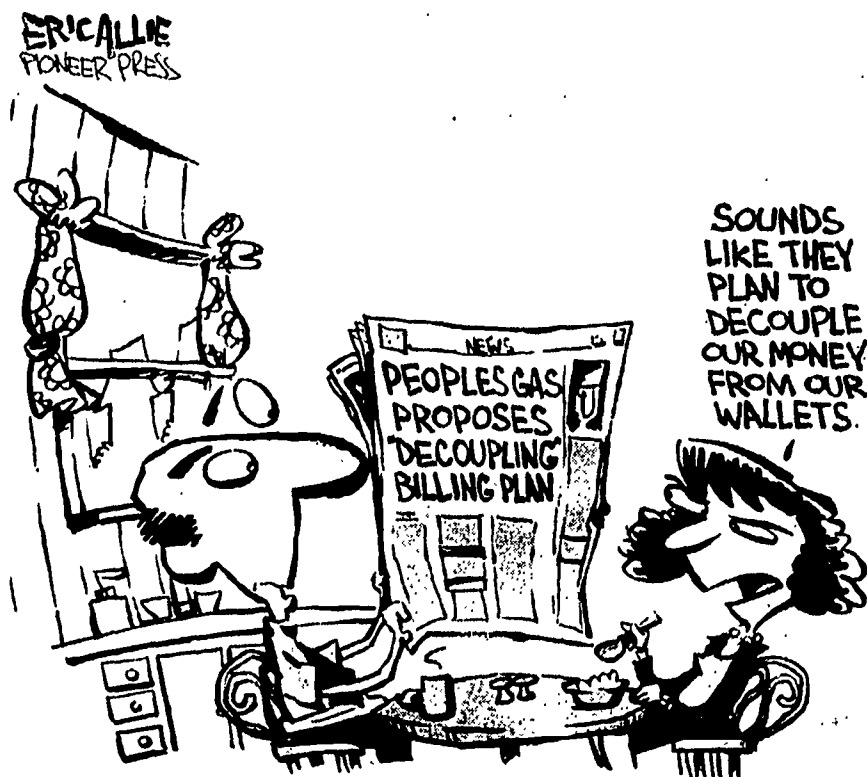
Nicole Wagner, Editor
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Letters may also be sent via e-mail to: nwagner@pioneerlocal.com
All letters and essays must be signed and must include the writer's address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes only. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. Letters should be about 200 words or

less; guest essays may run up to 900 words. The deadline for both is 9 a.m. Fridays. An outside mailbox is available at our office for weekend deliveries. The editor reserves the right to condense letters and essays and to edit for misstatements of fact, breaches of good taste and libel.
Letters will not be accepted from candidates for office in the midst of their election campaigns, although letters from their supporters are welcome.
Letters submitted for a given week may not run, due to space limitations, although every attempt will be made to give priority to letters with time value.

1000WORDS

ERIC ALLIE



Stop campaigning, right now



PAUL SASSONE

"No, I can't," the man in the brown coat replied when I asked him if he had voted and for whom in the primary.

I didn't know what he meant, but the light changed and I couldn't ask. I stuffed a few bills into his hand and drove off.

So, this guy didn't vote. I guess every Tuesday is "Tsunami Tuesday" for him. All he has between him and the elements is his brown coat and a cardboard sign that reads, "Homeless. Please Help."

Approximately 3.5 million Americans are homeless. And I imagine that number will grow as foreclosures increase.

The problem, of course, is money. Some people don't have it. Almost 35 million Americans don't have it and live in poverty.

The candidates running for president have it, though.

By the end of 2007, John McCain had raised \$41,102,178.

By the end of 2007, Hillary Clinton had raised \$115,652,361.

By the end of 2007, Barack Obama had raised \$102,170,668.

Plus, what other candidates raised. All of which totals about a half-billion dollars. And add in what the surviving candidates have raised this year and continue to raise.

Who gets this money? Not the poor. Not the homeless. Not the foreclosed.

TV stations and ad agencies get the money.

This is a waste, to say the least.

I suggest the campaign

for president stop today. Right now.

All the candidates are going to do with these millions is tell you — for more than eight months — what you already know:

Senator Obama = Change.

Senator Clinton = Experienced, tough.

Senator McCain = Hero, won't let anyone push us around.

We get it. We don't need eight months of TV commercials telling us this over and over and over and over.

And if anyone is interested in the issues, read a newspaper or magazine, look on the Internet. It's all there.

So, hold the election in November by all means, but cease campaigning.

That donated money? Give it to the poor and the homeless and the foreclosed.

Maybe even the man in the brown coat could hang up his sign.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By mail: The Niles Herald-Spectator, 130 Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068
By fax: (847) 696-3229 By e-mail: parkridge@pioneerlocal.com
Letters may be edited for space or content and must include name, address and a daytime phone number.

Thanks to park district for revising policy

I would like to thank the Park Ridge Park District for the recent update to their snack policy, no longer allowing snacks during park district classes. As the parent of a food allergic child I am relieved to see the park district change their policies to be more similar to the Park Ridge school district.

This policy, as the school district's does, protects the safety and health of all children with food allergies.

Very few people realize how increasingly prevalent and serious food allergies are in our community. Up to 7 percent of children have life threatening food allergies. As little as a pen tip size of a peanut can cause death in as little as 30 minutes in a peanut allergic child. The incidence of food allergies is increasing and is going to continue to an important safety issue in schools.

What is hard for people to understand about food allergies is that for the benefit and safety of a few kids, all kids must make a change. I un-

derstand why this is hard for some children and parents to understand and accept, since we live in a society where majority rules and decisions are made based on the best interest of the majority, not the minority.

What we, as parents, need to remember is that even if this policy only protects a small minority, that minority could just as easily be your child.

I feel it is also important as parents to teach your children to be accepting of children with food allergies, not to resent them for the snack they don't get to eat in their classroom. How badly did they really need that snack in their one and a half hour long class anyway?

Yes, the classes that are eliminating snack are no longer than one and a half hours. Give your child a snack at home before you leave or in "snack area" of their facility and give them lunch or dinner when they get home...they won't miss a thing.

Sarah Christopoulos
Park Ridge

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Salon Styles from the 70s
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Cooking Classes

Learn tricks of the trade from American Girl chefs. (ages 8 and up)

Mother/Daughter Dessert Decorating March 5

70s-Style Cooking April 16

Felicity's Cooking Class May 7

Tasty Treats for Special Occasions June 2

Historical Character Birthdays

Celebrate birthdays the historical way! (ages 8 and up)
Josefina March 16, Addy April 6, Felicity April 20, Molly April 27, Julie May 4, Kit May 18, Samantha May 25, Kirsten June 8

Memories with Mom

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March 25 & 26, April 12, May 9 & 11, June 21 & 29

"Be Your Best" Workshop

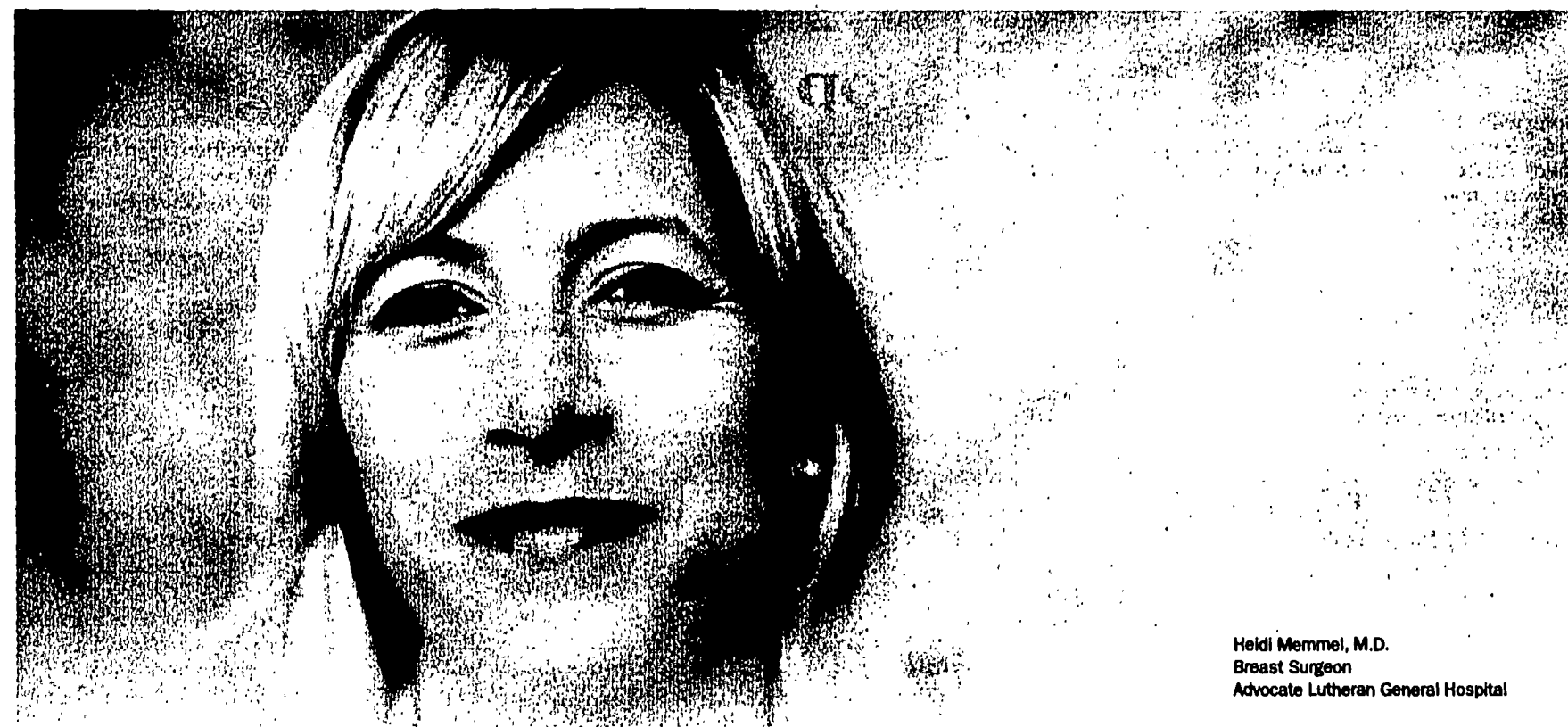
Stretch your mind—and body—as you learn "Ten Things Every Girl Needs to Know About Taking Care of Herself, Inside and Out" (ages 8 and up)
March 30, June 22

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Heidi Memmel, M.D.
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Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

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To learn more about the background and qualifications of Dr. Memmel and all of the physicians at the Caldwell Breast Center, visit www.advocatehealth.com/caldwell.

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QUICKTIPS HOMEWORK HELP

Don't know much about African-American history beyond Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth and Martin

Luther King Jr.? If you take some of the quizzes on www.brightmoments.com/blackhistory/ you'll realize there's a lot you don't know about black history. But it is important to know, so point your browser to that site and get educated.

PEACEMAKERS ST. MARY OF THE WOODS

This year, St. Mary of the Woods Elementary School introduced a new kind of award: the Peacemaker Award.

This award is given to students who exemplify the qualities of Christian living such as kindness and charity. This is a way to put what is taught into action. Students choose one of their peers, per classroom, who displays these traits of Christianity. This special and unique award is given during the monthly all-school Masses.

Peacemakers were recognized at the Ash Wednesday mass on Feb. 6. Students were called to the altar to receive a medal with an image of a handshake on it and a cross, as a symbol of their charitable actions.

Awardees at the Ash Wednesday Mass were: **Caroline Bolech, Jeffrey Bullock, Claudia Cassidy, Patty Gernady, Brandon Hash, Joe Imburgia, Megan Kerstein, Grainne Kirov, Catherine Loftus, Emily Molloy, Tessa Murray, Conor O'Rourke, Annie Otto, Jake Sepich, Anna Tomaszewski, Hope Walsh, Patrick Weber, and Madalyn Wilson.**

EASTERBUNNY RESURRECTION

Resurrection High School Alumnae Association will host its annual Afternoon with the Easter Bunny from 2 to 4 p.m. March 8 at the school, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. All are welcome to visit with the Easter Bunny, enjoy an ice cream social, arts and crafts and a Story Book Theatre presentation by Res theatre students. Each child will receive a gift from the Easter Bunny.

Advance reservations are required and tickets are \$5 per child and \$3 per adult. To make a reservation, call (773) 775-6616, Ext. 142, or visit online at www.reshs.org.

Hawk cheerleaders win state honors

A snowstorm in Bloomington, Ill., didn't discourage the Maine South Varsity Competitive Cheerleading Team as they headed for the third annual Illinois High School Association's competitive cheerleading state finals at the U.S. Cellular Coliseum.

Weather problems reduced the weekend event to a single day format, giving the top 25 state finalist teams one shot to win the title. While the Porters of Lockport High School won their second consecutive state championship, the Maine South Hawks were excited to meet their own goal of placing within the top 10.

They came home with ninth place in state. They qualified for the contest with a second place win behind Stevenson High School in the Lake Park sectionals.

"Our goal was to place in the top 10 at state," said coach Pati Coy. "The girls really stepped up when the state tournament competition began. Many of these girls have performed in major state and national cheerleading competitions since grade school, so they were ready when it really counted."

Coy is in her fourth year heading the Maine South



Maine South's varsity competitive cheerleading team placed ninth Feb. 2 in the Illinois High School Association's state championships in Bloomington, meeting their goal of making the top 10 among the 100 large varsity squads. Team members include (from left to right): front row, Kileen Casey, Gianna Bosco, Sam Sodini, Pam Lemperis, Kelsey Johnson and Emily Palolan; second row, Tara Lewensky, Colleen Keesey, Kristin Kelly, Lindsay Rogers, Amber Nordstrom, Nicki Steiner, Nicole Bertini and Katelyn Barabasz; third row, Markie Ignoffo, Lauren Rooney, Stephanie Hejza, Monika Kasulius, Claudia Pilati, Jillian Northfell and Alyssa Ribaldo; back row, Erin Barrett, Christina Coy; not shown, Michelle Apa. Coaches are Pati Coy, Tina Svigos, Lisa Calarco and Brittny Knight.

cheerleading program, which includes nearly 100 girls.

"Being among the top 10 teams in the state should give our program an even greater boost," she said. "We have a large number of underclassmen with strong

skills in our program so we're really looking forward to next season."

The Hawks cheerleaders also cheer at Maine South football, girls and boys basketball and soccer games, seasons which start in Au-

gust and continue through March.

The Varsity Competitive Squad also will receive IHSA's Team Academic Achievement Award for collectively earning a grade point average of 3.0 or more.

Oakton's internship program in demand

By JOANNA BRODER
Staff Writer
jbroder@pioneerlocal.com

Though only 12 Oakton Community College students were placed in internships between August and December 2007, nearly 100 students expressed interest in them.

This fact is according to Oakton's Internship Specialist, Shannon McKenzie, who gave a report about the internship program Jan. 22 to the college's board of trustees.

The internship program "is a really nice partnership

between and among the (Oakton Community College Educational) Foundation, our business institute and academic affairs," Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Nancy Prendergast told the board.

The internship program, which provides students with real world experience and helps them get "a foot in the door," works with students from a variety of academic programs, McKenzie said. Internships generally last between eight and 14 weeks, and students work between

10 and 20 hours a week. Their salaries range from \$9 and \$14 an hour with an average of \$12 an hour.

To qualify for an internship, students must have a minimum of a 2.5 grade point average and have completed at least 12 credit hours in their major. But many of the interested students have qualifications far above the minimum requirements, McKenzie said. Many have degrees from other institutions.


The college is able to reimburse companies that express interest in Oakton interns for

a portion of their salaries with money from a grant the college received from the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Last year when Oakton applied for the grant they set four goals: to provide at least 40 students with paid internships; to recruit at least 20 new employers; to create new collaborations between the college, employers and students and to encourage students to seek employment in Illinois upon graduation, McKenzie said.

See OAKTON, page 14



Thank You!



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SCHOOL DIGEST
NOTRE DAME

The second annual Athletic Club Fashion Show will be Feb. 21 at Beau Jolie Banquet Hall, 9950 Lawrence Ave., Schiller Park.

The theme is "Light the Passion, Share the Dream." The evening will begin with cocktails and raffles at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit the athletic program.

Tickets are \$45 each. Tables of 10 and 12 are available. Visit the Notre Dame High School Web site, <http://www.ndhsdons.org/students/athletics/athclub.htm>, for details or to download an invitation. For more information call Teresa Connelly, (847) 779-8651, or email her at tconnelly@ndhsdons.org.

The Notre Dame High School Jugglers will perform the classic American comedy, "The Man Who Came To Dinner." Performances will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 to Feb. 23, and 2 p.m. Feb. 24, in the Little Theatre, 7655 Dempster St., Niles. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for adults, in advance; \$7, at the door.

OAKTON

Learn recipes by enrolling in cooking courses offered by the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at Oakton Community College.

Cross Country Barbeque Road Trip (HEC E28-01) allows participants to experience the differences between the barbecue styles of Kansas City, Memphis and the Carolinas. Learn tips from an expert. Classes will meet from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Backyard Barbeque Store, 1147 Greeleaf Ave., Wilmette. Kansas City Barbeque will meet Feb. 21; Memphis, March 20; and Carolina, April 17. The discount cost of this series is \$130. Individual courses are \$49.

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

Manuel Scott, whose story is featured in the 2007 film, "Freedom Writers," will bring his message of sacrifice, hope, and love to Oakton's Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road, at

OAKTON
Continued from page 13

Students who became interns between August and December 2007 worked in the fields of accounting, engineering, graphic design, information technology and marketing, she said.

After the presentation during a discussion period, Trustee Jody Wadhwa suggested that students need to be taught how to come across in the interview. They should know how to

2 p.m. Feb. 21. The lecture is free and open to the public.

At age 14, Scott dropped out of school and turned to drugs and alcohol, which led to involvement in criminal activities. Through hard work and dedication he went on to earn degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Trinity International University.

Scott now travels the world speaking at colleges, high schools and religious institutions, inspiring others with his experiences. He is a contributor to *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them*. The book comprises essays by students from Long Beach, Calif., who wrote about the troubles of their past, present, and future.

For more information call the Office of College Advancement, (847) 635-1806.

Art, cinema and Buddhism are among the course topics offered this spring by the Emeritus Program. Featured courses meet at Oakton's Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

Edward Hopper and the Poetry of Ordinary Life (ART H04-71) explores the chilling visual impact of this artist's color-splashed compositions, informed by isolation, melancholy and loneliness. The course will meet 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 20. The course fee is \$20.

A Film Tribute to Cannes (HUM B45-71) celebrates the 60th anniversary of the world-famous festival by screening international favorites from years past. Films to be viewed and discussed include: "Brief Encounter," "The Lost Weekend," "Marty" and "The Pianist." The six-week course will meet 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Fridays starting Feb. 22. The course fee is \$100.

The Way of Oneness (PHL E76-71) examines basic Buddhist teachings and how to apply them to everyday life. This course will help explain the growing popularity of Buddhism. The six-week course will meet 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Fridays starting Feb. 25. The course fee is \$80.

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

make eye contact; how to talk to a potential employer; and how to prepare for the interview by doing Internet research.

McKenzie agreed. "I've been surprised at how much of my time has been spent with students getting them ready to even go to that interview," she said, "whether it be with their resumes, cover letters and ... most of them have not done much of this at all."

To learn more about Oakton's internship program visit www.oakton.edu/internships.

Bill that keeps on giving



Dear Fixer: When I moved from my old address last March, I called all my services to announce my moving. A long time went by, until one day I got an automated message asking me to call ComEd. I called, and they said I never closed the account.

I'm sure I did, but I didn't argue. I gave them my current information, and they sent me the bill.

To my surprise, they billed me for the nine months since I moved. I asked them to review my call back in March.

They say they have no records of it. There is another mystery.

Why did I never get any bills from ComEd the whole time this was going on? The post office still forwards me mail from my old address.

Also — after inspecting the bill, I noticed they were billing me at the wrong unit in the building where I used to live. That is probably why electric bills were piling up without my knowledge.

The post office possibly returned those bills to the

"A long time went by, until one day I got an automated message asking me to call ComEd."

sender. This is also quite possibly the reason they never confirmed my call to end my service. As documentation, I have ComEd's final bill with the wrong address and the lease con-

tract of the place where I lived with the right address.

Harry Pujols

Dear Harry: Wow, this is like CSI: The Fixer — first, the vanishing cancellation request, then the switched address (from Unit 3906 to Unit 2906), then the bills being sent to the wrong party.

Looking back, we can only hope the guy downstairs in 2906 wasn't leaving the lights on all night. You seem to have diligently canceled all your other utilities, like your cable TV and Internet service. And your lease proves you were out of there last March. We found a sympathetic ear at ComEd, who helped get this on the path to resolution.

The billing folks went over everything and not only canceled the bill; they're also refunding you \$222 for overcharges from before your move.

Dear Fixer: I signed up for Vonage phone service

last spring. But, after one week, the service was so bad that I called to cancel. My phone would ring twice and then stop, or ring and then go dead.

I was running my business out of my home at the time, and I couldn't get my calls. I called Vonage, and they tried everything to keep me. But I said "please cancel" and switched back to AT&T.

Just recently, I noticed a \$5.99 charge on my credit card from Vonage, and I found out they had been billing me since I signed up and had never canceled. I called and questioned it.

In so many words, they told me: Tough luck. I asked for a supervisor, and they said there wasn't one there. They told me it was a \$49.99 charge to cancel. I told them I wasn't paying it.

Finally, I received a call from a Vonage representative who said the company was canceling my account. That was fine for a month.

I just got a letter from a collection agency for \$49.99. I called and contested the charge. The agency said it

would contact Vonage again, but said it wouldn't help.

Wayne Anderson

Dear Wayne: You gotta love the collection agency's promise to contact Vonage on your behalf even though it wouldn't help. Now, there's honesty. We had a little better luck. We told your story to Vonage's Meghan Shaw, and she was able to get that pesky \$49.99 wiped off your account. They've also requested that this be removed from collections.

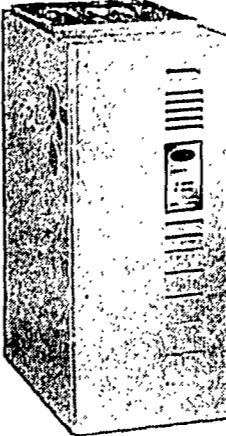
Getting the runaround about a consumer problem? Tell it to The Fixer at www.pioneerlocal.com, where you'll find a simple form to fill out. You can mail a brief description of your problem, along with your name, address and telephone number, to: The Fixer, 3701 West Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Don't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

Contributing — Piet Levy, Liza Roche

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STAGE REVIEWS
 Catey Sullivan reviews "Gee's Bend" at Northlight Theatre and "Deathtrap" at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre.

CONCERT REVIEWS
 Dorothy Andries appraises a "Romanticism and Rock 'n' Roll" concert by Chicago a cappella that's soon to be repeated in Evanston.

BLOGS
 Jennifer Thomas discusses Hollywood Ugly and remembers how Nirvana became her gateway band. Bruce Ingram takes another look at the Oscar nominees and bemoans the absence of Sidney Lumet. Visit <http://blogs.pioneerlocal.com/entertainment/> and reeltalk.com.

GAMES AND CDS
 Erik Stein reviews "Devil May Cry 4" and "Cutthroat SAGA." The 25th anniversary edition of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" is this week's featured CD review. Check Tuesday for Ray Davies' "Working Man's Cale."

MOVIE SHOWTIMES
 Titles and times at area theaters continue to appear in our papers, with additional listings available Fridays online.

BRUCE'S TAKE
 THE FILM REVIEW
 "That's all a ticked-off boy really needs to be happy, you know: A chance to save the world from an evil ogre. Preferably with goblins involved."
 SEE MOVIE REVIEW, PAGE B6



The Callipygian Players present a concert on Feb. 17 at Ezra Habonim Niles Township Jewish Congregation in Skokie.

Tackling Handel's 'Esther'

CALLIPYGIAN PLAYERS
 3 p.m. Feb. 17 at Ezra Habonim Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie. \$18/\$36. www.callplayers.org.

By ROBERT LOERZEL
Contributor

The Callipygian Players will present their biggest concert ever, a performance of Handel's "Esther" Oratorio on Feb. 17 in Skokie with 30 musicians and singers.

"It's a story of love and hate," says Skokie violinist and Callipygian director Martin Davids. "The (Persian) king is trying to annihilate the Jews, and Queen Esther saves her people. It's full of gorgeous arias and strong choruses. The finale is a 12-minute marathon chorus."

The concert will feature a star-studded vocal cast: opera singer and cantor Benjamin Warszawski as Ahasueros, Amanda Majeski as Esther, Jeffrey Strauss as Haman, Edward Zelnis as Mordechai and Israeli soprano Orna Arania as the Is-raelite woman. Martin Davids' wife, Julia Davids, will conduct a full orchestra of period instruments and a choir.

Free to improvise
 Martin Davids, who grew up in Downers Grove and moved back to the Chicago area several years ago after spending some time in Canada, says he finds early music so appealing because performers have more freedom to improvise than they do with later classical music. "It's a lot freer than later

music," he says. "It's not really highly notated." For example, in some pieces, "The slow movements are just an outline of what you can play. It's similar to jazz. You feed off each other."
 Each performance is a little different, and the players try out different ideas in rehearsal. "We go furthest out in rehearsal," Davids says. "Rehearsal is the time to try out things." But he adds that even after a piece has been rehearsed, it will sound different in concert. "We don't plan down to the note what we're going to do."
Distinctive name
 Of all the classical groups in the Chicago area, the Callipygian Players have one of the most unusual names.

The word callipygian is just obscure enough that many people will hear the ensemble's name without realizing what it means. Webster's defines the word quite simply: "having shapely buttocks."
 Davids sounds half-serious when he explains, "I had hoped I could hire people who have really beautiful buttocks." (Audiences will have to judge for themselves whether he succeeded.)
 He elaborates, "It sounded like some sort of artistic title that people would use, and yet it has a funny meaning."
 If you have trouble pronouncing Callipygian or you're a little embarrassed to say it, just call the group by its nickname, the Call Players.

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FAMILY FRIENDLY: WHERE TO TAKE THE KIDS



A cast of 97 kids, ages 8-18, teaches young audiences about friendship and self-confidence in "Honk!"

'Honk!' if you need self-confidence

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

It's hard to feel good about yourself when people call you Ugly. But the star of Christian Youth Theater's "Honk!" discovers that his name doesn't fit — he's just different.

"The show has a really important message for kids about accepting people that are different from us," said director Lindsey Branson, who leads a cast of 97 kids, ages 8-18. "Everybody has things that are unique and special about them.

"Kids are looking for acceptance, no matter what age they are," Branson continued. "They get to see the journey of this character who is very rejected, and then grows into his self-confidence. Then people come to accept him in the end. It's an important message of what makes up a family and what makes up friends, and how we can accept each other regardless of our differences."

The musical, based on Hans Christian Andersen's fable, "The Ugly Duckling," is "a bright and colorful show, and it's got a lot of great characters," Branson said.

"Honk!" runs from Feb. 21-Mar. 2 at Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines. Tickets are \$8-\$12 in advance, \$2 more at the door.

For details, call (847) 516-2298.

Learn about Lincoln

Civil War era folk songs and stories will introduce people of all ages to our sixteenth president, when award-winning folksinger Chris Vallillo presents "Abe Lincoln in Song," 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at

Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St. The program covers Lincoln's careers as a flatboatman, circuit lawyer and president.

For details, call (847) 253-5675.

Think on your feet

Theater games and brain teasers are part of the fun at "Improv for All Ages," 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. Debbi Brodsky leads the hilarious, spontaneous interactive program.

For details, call (847) 677-5277.

Two different worlds

He comes from a prestigious, moneyed family. Her dysfunctional family is ruled by a tyrannical step-mother. Yet, Prince Charming and Cinderella connect in the Chicago Kids Company Theatre for Children's musical, "Cinderella," 10 a.m. Saturdays, Feb. 16-Mar. 29, at Wilmette Theater, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette. And, according to Prince Charming (Peter Kelly), "We'll live happily ever after because we have each other." Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

For details, call (847) 251-7424.

Get the point

Kids can pet a porcupine, touch an alligator and see an ostrich up close, 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. Zoologist, teacher and author Dr. Robert James of Animal Encounters will bring a variety of animals to the library. Families can interact with the animals in a safe, non-intimidating way.

For details, call (847) 376-2839.

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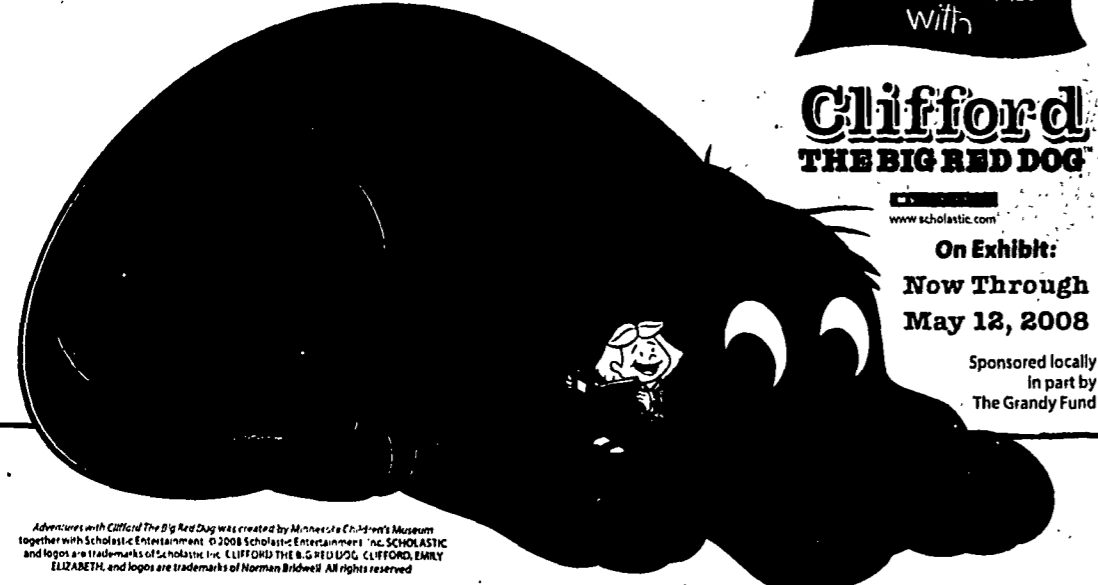
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STAGE REVIEW: RICH HISTORY DESERVES BETTER PLAY

Weak story limits strong actors

'GEE'S BEND'
Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 1 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays except Feb. 28, 8 p.m. Fridays, 2:30 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 2:30 and 7 p.m. Sundays through March 9, with some exceptions. \$35-\$55. (847) 673-6300. www.northlight.org.

By **CATEY SULLIVAN**
Contributor



Jacqueline Williams (from left) and John Stephen Crowley watch as Charlotte Speigner asserts her right to a drink in Northlight Theatre's "Gee's Bend."

From the American nightmare of slavery, the women of Gee's Bend, Alabama, wrested a glorious American dream. But their remarkable, rich story gets short shrift in "Gee's Bend," a frustrating drama that only glosses the surface of a true American epic and reduces authentic heroes to shallow composites.

Playwright Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder isn't the first to be drawn to the singular history of Gee's Bend. Settled in 1816 by slave owner Joseph Gee, the tiny Alabama peninsula was almost wholly isolated for the next

century and a half. Bordered on three sides by the Alabama River, it was accessible only by a single, dusty road often impassibly muddy and an intermittently running ferry. A paved road into town was laid in 1967, but even then the community's remote locale helped its cultural traditions remain vibrant and all but untouched by outside influ-

ences.

Chief among those traditions was quilting, an art the women of Gee's Bend passed down all those years. In 1998 when folk art collector William Arnett 'discovered' them, the quilts began to be exhibited at museums throughout the United States, got reproduced on postage stamps and were declared "some of the most

miraculous works of modern art America has produced" by the New York Times.

One can only begin to imagine the extraordinary journey of the elder matriarchs of Gee's Bend, women whose artistry not only survived but thrived through dire poverty and the unrest of the Civil Rights Era. Imagine is largely what one has to do given the thin sketch "Gee's Bend" offers.

Directed by Chuck Smith, "Gee's Bend" traces only the barest outline of one quilter's life. Sadly, Wilder skirts over years with an airbrush. One moment, Sadie Pettway is flirting with the older man her mother warned her about. The next, she's married with eight children. If you aren't versed in the community's history going in, the fleeting references to crucial aspects in the community's history, including a brutal 1932 foreclosure that left virtually everybody in the community with virtually nothing,

pass unnoticed.

Charlotte Speigner does fine work with limited material: Her iron-spined walk to drink from a "White's Only" fountain is a moment of amazing power.

Even so, the roles here are underwritten. Moreover, trying to pass off 40s-something actors as 70s-something characters simply by plunking white wigs on their heads is never a good idea.

Almost as frustrating as the survey-course style narrative is the music. The teasing fragments of rich, gorgeous gospel music and spirituals are just enough to make one yearn to hear at least one entire song. The quilts on stage suffer too. Folded, smoothed, sewn, packed and unpacked throughout the piece, they're never once shown in their entirety. For a story grounded in quilts both literally and as a metaphor for beauty, survival and a singular legacy, that's just wrong.

stage

"Cats," March 16-19 at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. \$25-\$55. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling Ticketmaster at (312) 559-1212.

The Experiment!, a new concept in theatre developed by Lori Howard and Aaron Preusse in conjunction with Stockyards Theatre Project, will be presented at 7 p.m. **March 5** at the Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo, Harwood Heights. Free. The evening will include scenes from three plays — "Suro Thing" by David Ives, "Three Days of Rain" by Richard Greenberg, and "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window" by Lorraine Hansberry, followed by improvisation by the actors. (708) 867-7828.

"Gee's Bend," through **March 9** at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Performances on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (except Feb. 19 and March 4); Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (except Feb. 28); 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 Feb. 17, March 2 and 9). Tickets: \$35-\$55. (847) 673-6300 or www.northlight.org.

"Honk!," a musical adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's "The Ugly Duckling," presented by Christian Youth Theater of Cook County **Feb. 21-March 2** at the Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines. Performances at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m. Feb. 21 and 26; 7 p.m. Feb. 22 and 29; 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Feb. 23 and March 1; and 2 p.m. Feb. 24 and March 2. Tickets: \$8-\$12 in advance; \$10-\$14 at the door. (847) 516-2298 or www.cytchicago.org.

"Superman," presented **Feb. 14, 16 and 17** at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400, for tickets and times.

"White People," through **March 1** at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee, Chicago. Performances at 7:30 p.m.

The 2007-08 Intorplay Series will introduce new plays by accomplished and emerging American playwrights at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. **Feb. 25:** "Three Italian Women" by Laura Maria Censabella. **April 21:** "Ground (A Play about Borders)" by Lisa Dillman. \$15 per reading at the door; \$10 for students. (847) 673-6300.

"The Laramie Project," presented by The James Downing Theatre, a project of the John Waldron Arts Center, through **Feb. 24** at Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant, Chicago. The play is created from 200 interviews with the people of Laramie, Wyo., after 21-year-old Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, was kidnapped and murdered. Not suitable for children. Performances at 8 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays; 1:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$15; \$10 seniors and students. For reservations, call (773) 792-3030 or visit www.edisonparkumc.com.

"Little Shop of Horrors" will be presented by Brillianteen at 7 p.m. **March 7-8 and March 14-15** and 2 p.m. **March 9** at the King Lab School auditorium, 2424 Lake St., Evanston. Tickets: \$10. (847) 475-7400, ext. 277, or www.brillianteen.org.

"Say Cheese," a musical show presented by performance troupe Still Acting Up! at 3 p.m. **March 2** at the Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. Free, but registration is required. Call (847) 376-2787 or visit www.dppl.org.

"The Callipygian Players will present Handel's oratorio, "Esther," at 3 p.m. **Feb. 17** at Ezra Hahonim, Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie. Tickets are \$18 and \$36, and are available at www.callipygian.org. For information, call (847) 502-7255.

Thursdays and Fridays; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays. Three characters wrestle with racism — America's and theirs — in a series of searing confessional monologues. Tickets: \$20 Thursdays and Sundays; \$25 Fridays and Saturdays. \$15 tickets are available at all performances for students, seniors, and industry with proper identification. For tickets, call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

classical

Arts Viva, conducted by Alan Heatherington, performs at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.arsviva.org. Single tickets: \$60 box seats; \$40 reserved; \$35 seniors; \$15 students. **March 2-3, 7:30 p.m.:** Milhaud: "La Creation du Monde"; Martin: Concerto for Seven Winds; Bizet: Symphony in C.

Baroque Band, a period-instrument orchestra, performs in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Single tickets are \$30 for general admission. Seniors receive a 10% discount and full-time students with photo identification are eligible for half-price tickets. Call (312) 235-2368 or visit www.baroqueband.org. **March 28:** An Evening at London's Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens.

Chicago a cappella performs at the See go, page B9

go.

What to do. This week and beyond.

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FILM CLIPS: MOVIES TO SEE AT THE THEATER

OPENING THIS WEEK

THE BUSINESS OF BEING BORN ★ ★ ★ 1/2

This poignant and powerful documentary clearly came into being with the intention of arguing almost entirely in favor of home birth and mid-wifery (in line with Europe and Japan) instead of hospital delivery. But it's honest enough to accommodate the premature birth of director Abby Epstein's baby via C-section — sidestepping the potential it had for becoming a polemical propaganda piece. Its depictions of childbirth (including executive producer Rikki Lake delivering her child at home in a bathtub) are graphic but joyous and they definitely help the film make its points memorably. Lake (the actress and talk show host) will be answer questions at screenings Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Epstein will join her Saturday and Sunday. (BI) (87 min.) No MPAA rating. At the Music Box Theatre.

DEFINITELY, MAYBE

A divorcing dad (Ryan Reynolds) tries to answer the questions of his daughter (Abigail Breslin) about how he met his wife and lashes back through their relationship. Adam Brooks ("The Invisible Circus") wrote and directed the romantic comedy. Rated PG-13 for sexual content, including some frank dialogue, language and smoking.

JUMPER

A young man (Hayden Christensen) with a genetic anomaly that allows him to teleport himself anywhere tears his way through a centuries-old war between jumpers and their enemies. Doug Liman "The Bourne Identity" directed the sci-fi adventure. (88 min.) Rated PG-13 for sequences of intense action violence, some language and brief sexuality.

THE RAPE OF EUROPA ★ ★ ★ 1/2

The pace is a little slow and the style is a little dry and academic, but "Rape of Europa" is nonetheless a fascinating documentary about a less-well-known Nazi war crime: The systematic looting of Europe's great art treasures. The film doesn't shy away from the horrors of war (somehow Hitler's plan to annihilate the Polish populace seems even more savage when you learn he sent his troops into the country with a wish list of artworks he coveted), but the emphasis is on the enormous and sometimes heroic efforts the people in invaded countries went to preserve their culture. Some of the stories are movie-worthy on their own, like the junior Louvre staller who risked her life to spy on the Germans as they stockpiled stolen art in the Jeu de Paume. Well worth a look. (BI) (117 min.) No MPAA rating. At the Wilmette Theatre.

GEORGE A. ROMERO'S DIARY OF THE DEAD

Film students run into the real thing while shooting a zombie movie. Written and directed by Romero ("Night," "Dawn," "Day of the Dead"). (95 min.) Rated R.

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES ★ ★ ★ 1/2

Freddie Highmore stars in an adaptation of the best-selling children's book series, reviewed in this section. Rated PG for scary creature action and violence, peril and some thematic elements.

STEP UP 2 THE STREETS

A rebellious street dancer (Briana Evigan) teams up with the coolest dancer (Robert Holtman) at the elite Maryland School of the Arts to compete in underground dance battles. (97 min.) Rated PG-13 for some language, some suggestive material and brief violence.

STILL PLAYING

ATONEMENT ★ ★ ★ 1/2

A sumptuous, intelligent, potently erotic adaptation of Ian McEwan's best-selling novel — brilliantly written, acted and directed. The 1930s and '40s period romantic drama details the terrible damage done when an over-imaginative 13-year-old English girl (Saoirse Ronan), who has a crush on the son of the groundskeeper (James McAvoy) of her father's estate, falsely accuses him of a shocking crime after learning he has become the lover of her older sister (Keira Knightley). Directed by Joe Wright ("Pride & Prejudice"). (BI) (130 min.) Rated R.

CLOVERFIELD

A monster attack on New York City is observed from the point of view of a small group of friends — and a camcorder. (85 min.) Rated PG-13 for violence, terror and disturbing images.

FOOL'S GOLD

A clue to the whereabouts of a lost treasure rekindles the taiting romance of a couple of married adventurers (Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson), Andy Tennant ("Hitch") directed the action/adventure. Rated PG-13 for action violence, some sexual material, brief nudity and language.

THE HOTTIE & THE NOTTIE

Paris Hilton stars as the titular babe, whose loyalty to her less-than-slunning lifelong best friend (Christine Lakin) has derailed her love life. Tom Putnam ("Shattered") directed the comedy. Rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content.

IN BRUGES

Two hit-men (Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson) cool their heels in the historic Flemish city after a botched job, where they soon become targets themselves. Irish playwright Martin McDonagh directed the dark comedy. (107 min.) Rated R.

JUNO ★ ★ 1/2

Pardon my ambivalence, but I can't help feeling conflicted about this smart, funny, well-acted but fundamentally irresponsible teenage pregnancy comedy. The script is admittedly clever, though, and performances are excellent across the board, particularly Ellen Page's wryly soulful turn as the pregnant high-school sophomore. (BI) Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material, sexual content and language.

MEET THE SPARTANS

A parody of the blockbuster hit "300" by the creators of "Dale Movie" and "Epic Movie." (84 min.) Rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content throughout, language and some comic violence.

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN ★ ★ ★

The Coen Brothers' tall-tail adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's novel generates considerable suspense and adding some welcome touches of dark humor, but it's still likely to frustrate anyone looking for a conventionally satisfying dramatic resolution. Javier Bardem steals the show as a philosophic/psychopathic hit man hard on the heels of a Vietnam vet (Josh Brolin) on the run with \$2-million in stolen drug money. Both are being pursued by an aging Texas sheiitl (Tommy Lee Jones) who trets that all the resulting carnage might be a sign that the world is beyond redemption. (BI) (122 min.) Rated R.

OVER HER DEAD BODY ★ ★ 1/2

"Tit death do us part" — and then some. Dying on her wedding day vexes an obnoxious bride-to-be (Eva Longoria) so much that she haunts the inept psychic (Lake Bell) who has fallen for her veterinarian fiancé (Paul Rudd). (BI) Rated PG-13 for sexual content and language.

RAMBO

Twenty years after his last one-man war, Rambo (Sylvester Stallone) leads a mission to rescue a group of Christian missionaries in Burma. Stallone also wrote and directed the action/adventure. (93 min.) Rated R.

THERE WILL BE BLOOD ★ ★ ★

The American Dream is writ large and strange in Paul Thomas Anderson's flawed, but still fascinating — and devastatingly powerful — portrait of ambition, greed and corruption in the California oil fields at the turn of the last century. Daniel Day Lewis is gives a must-see performance as Daniel Plainview, a pioneering California oil man driven by a single-minded desire for wealth and power — whose success eventually destroys him. (BI) (158 min.) Rated R.

27 DRESSES

After being a bridesmaid 27 times, a woman (Katherine Heigl) balks when her sister asks her to stand at her wedding to the man the frequent bridesmaid secretly loves. The romantic comedy is rated PG-13 for language, some innuendo and sexuality.

VINCE VAUGHN'S WILD WEST COMEDY SHOW

The title says it all in this documentary about a 30-city comedy tour Vaughn made with four stand-up comics. (100 min.) Rated R.

WELCOME HOME, ROSCOE JENKINS

A successful talk show host (Martin Lawrence) goes back to the deep south for a family reunion. Malcolm D. Lee ("Undercover Brother") wrote and directed the comedy. Rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content, language and some drug references.

—Reviews by Bruce Ingram

go.

From page B5

Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$35 for preferred seating, \$28 for general admission, \$22 for seniors and students. For tickets, call (773) 755-1628 or see www.chicagoacappella.org. Feb. 24, 4 p.m.: "Romanticism and Rock 'n' Roll." Gems from the 19th century Romantic tradition, including part songs from Brahms, Schubert, Schumann and the English Romantics, are paired with a cappella charts from the '50s and '60s.

Chicago Chamber Musicians. (312) 225-5226. www.chicagochambermusic.org. Concerts are held at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Stalger Concert Hall on Northwestern University's campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Single tickets are \$20-\$40. March 18: Bassoon soloist Milan Turkovic joins CCM for Mozart's Gran Partita and for a 6:40 p.m. pre-concert performance with Writers' Theatre. Guitar virtuoso Faraed Haque opens the program with György Kurtág's "The Little Predicament."

The Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra performs at Pick-Stalger Concert Hall on the Northwestern University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 866-6888. www.chicagophilharmonic.org. Tickets are \$70 on the main floor; \$60, \$50 and \$35 in the balcony. Student tickets are \$10, available in the lobby one hour before the performance. Feb. 17, 7 p.m.: Larry Rachleff, conductor, and Rachel Cheung, piano. "Don Juan," by Richard Strauss; Piano Concerto #1 in G Minor by Felix Mendelssohn; and Beethoven's Symphony #5 in C Minor.

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. Feb. 18, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.: Chicago Cello Society presents "Careers in Music," including a Careers in Music panel session, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; and "Preparing and Taking Auditions," 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. Pizza lunch available for \$5. Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.: Faculty and Friends concert with Rachel Barton Pine, violin, joined by MIC faculty and special guests. The program includes works by J.S. Bach, Vivaldi and Brahms. Tickets: \$15; \$10 seniors; \$7 students.

Society will present a Family Concert at 3 p.m. March 2 in Northwestern University's Alice Miller Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston. The program will include Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream Overture; three pieces for cello and strings by Victor Herbert, featuring the orchestra's principal cellist, Dennis Connor; and Schubert's Symphony #3. Admission: \$10; free for youth under 18 and all Northwestern University students. (847) 864-2288.

North Shore Choral Society. (847) 272-2351. www.northshorechoral.org. March 16, 2:30 p.m.: Concert at Northwestern University's Pick-Stalger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. The program includes Poulenc's "Gloria" with soprano Michelle Arayza and the Evanston Symphony Orchestra, as well as works by Bizet, Canteloube and Dukas. Tickets in advance are \$22; \$20 seniors; \$12 students.

Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago. (773) 442-4836. Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m.: Faculty recital — Mikhail Yanovitsky, piano, in the NEIU Recital Hall, Free. Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.: Faculty recital — Keven Keys, baritone, in the NEIU Recital Hall, Free. Feb. 28, 1:45 p.m.: NEIU String Orchestra. Joseph Glymph, conductor, in the NEIU Recital Hall, Free. Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.: NEIU Wind Ensemble, in the NEIU Auditorium, Free. March 4, 7:30 p.m.: NEIU Flute Showcase — Studio of Lyon Leifer, in the NEIU Recital Hall, Free. March 7, 7:30 p.m.: Women Composers Concert, featuring the music of NEIU's Shelley Foster Guin as well as Libby Larsen, Fanny Mendelssohn, Paule Maurice, Joan Tower, and Sophia Gubaidullina performed by NEIU music faculty and students. Free.

North Shore Chamber Orchestra. Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. Feb. 18, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.: Chicago Cello Society presents "Careers in Music," including a Careers in Music panel session, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; and "Preparing and Taking Auditions," 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. Pizza lunch available for \$5. Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.: Faculty and Friends concert with Rachel Barton Pine, violin, joined by MIC faculty and special guests. The program includes works by J.S. Bach, Vivaldi and Brahms. Tickets: \$15; \$10 seniors; \$7 students.

North Shore Chamber Orchestra. Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. Feb. 18, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.: Chicago Cello Society presents "Careers in Music," including a Careers in Music panel session, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; and "Preparing and Taking Auditions," 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. Pizza lunch available for \$5. Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.: Faculty and Friends concert with Rachel Barton Pine, violin, joined by MIC faculty and special guests. The program includes works by J.S. Bach, Vivaldi and Brahms. Tickets: \$15; \$10 seniors; \$7 students.

Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. Pre-concert commentaries by Carolyn Paulin, a member of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and a staff member of radio station WFMT, begin one hour prior to each concert. Individual concert tickets are \$20; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. Children under age 14 are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. www.northwestsymphony.org. March 18: The spring concert will feature cellist Benjamin Lash, winner of the Paul Vermeil Young Artist Award, playing Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Major. Also on the program will be Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A Major and John Corigliano's "Promenade Overture."

The Orion Ensemble performs at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$23; \$20 for senior citizens; \$8 for students. Free for children 12 and younger. (630) 628-9591 or www.orionensemble.org. March 18, 3 p.m.: The program includes Ludwig van Beethoven's Trio in G Major for Violin, Viola and Cello, Op. 9, No. 1; Ingrid Dahl's Concerto a Tre for Clarinet, Violin and Cello (1947); and Anton Arensky's Trio No. 1 in D Minor for Violin, Cello and Piano, Op. 32.

Pacific Quartet performs Beethoven string quartets at 3 p.m. Feb. 17 in Dominican University's Lund Auditorium, 7900 W. Division St., River Forest. Pre-concert talk by WFMT radio host Henry Fogel at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20; \$5 students. (847) 242-0775 or www.pacificbeethoven.com.

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Individual tickets are \$20 in advance; \$16 for students and senior citizens. Tickets at the door are \$25/\$20. Call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861. March 9, 2:30 p.m.:

Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Paul Vermeil, music director, presents concerts at 3:30 p.m. Sundays in the

"Lotsa Beethoven," with John Goodwin, piano, and the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Chorus.

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

Rembrandt Chamber Players perform in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets: \$30; \$10 students. (312) 360-3145. www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org. Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.: "Brahms Winter Delight." Works include Johannes Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34; Claude Debussy's Trio for flute, viola and harp; and Michael Haydn's Quartet in C major for English horn, violin, cello and bass.

Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. (847) 673-7774. www.skokieilibrary.info. Young Steinway Concert Series, a showcase for

See p. 8, page B11

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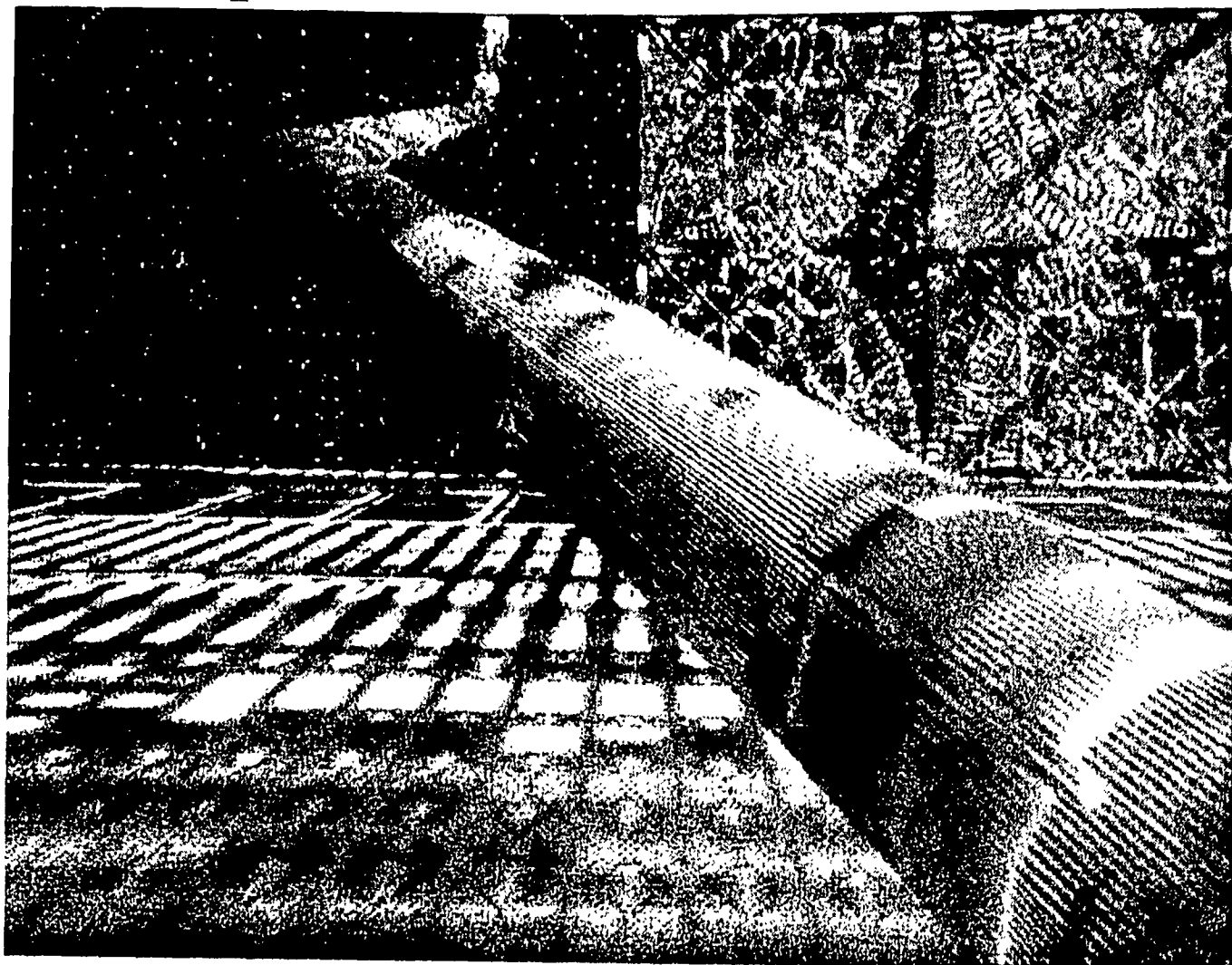
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Computer collaborations



David Em's cibachrome print, "Transjovian Pipeline," offers a three-dimensional perspective on computer art. — Photo by David Em

'IMAGING BY NUMBERS'
Through April 6 at the Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circle, Evanston. Free admission. (847) 491-4000; www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu.

By **ROBERT LOERZEL**
Contributor

For most people, computer art means using some software to simulate the sort of art traditionally created with pencils, paintbrushes and cameras. The computer art on display at Evanston's Block Museum goes deeper than that. A new exhibit reveals what can happen when artists

write computer code and algorithms — essentially creating a set of rules for a computer to create the art.

Senior Curator Debora Wood says the artists in this show are asking: "What is it you can do through a computer that wouldn't be possible through any other means?"

The earliest art in the exhibit, "Imaging by Numbers: A Historical View of the Computer Print," is from 1952. That's when Ben Laposky twiddled with an oscilloscope and photographed the screen.

Showing how computers and printing technology have evolved over the decades, the exhibit brings computer art up to the present day.

Wood says she often hears people questioning the worth of computer-art prints, saying things like: "If it's created on a computer, can there be thousands of them? Where's the value in that?"

But she notes that the pieces in the Block exhibit are very limited prints capturing moments when a computer created a specific image never seen again.

Lyrical logic

The exhibit features works both old and new by Manfred Mohr, a pioneering computer artist born in Germany who now lives in New York. Mohr says he began as an abstract expressionist, but in the 1960s he increasingly became interested in finding a way to apply logical principles to the creation of art.

His first attempt at logical art was painting geometric shapes, but he was dissatisfied. And then a jazz musician told him about writing music for computers, and Mohr became excited by the idea of doing the same thing with art. Mohr persuaded

a meteorological institute in Paris, where he was living at the time, to let him use its computer in the evening.

"I was just about the only artist in the world with access to the world's most powerful drawing machine," he says, explaining that the computer created images with a plotting device, that is, an arm moving a pen across paper.

Mohr has kept up with technological changes in the years since, but he still writes his own computer code rather than making art with commercially available software such as Photoshop.

Computer conversations

He describes the process as a "dialogue" between him and the computer. Mohr writes a program, sees what sort of art it generates, and then tweaks the program to bring the art closer to his idea.

"I look at the thing that happens, and a dialogue starts," he says. "The dialogue goes back and forth for a whole year."

When the computer creates art, it is answering a question Mohr poses with the code he has written. "It depends on what questions I put in," he says. "It's a philosophical question to solve."

In addition to the main exhibit "Imaging by Numbers," the Block will show animation and interactive computer art in a companion show: "Space, Color and Motion."

Knowing that the art was generated by computers in collaboration with human artists adds another dimension to the way people see it, Wood says.

"It doesn't diminish it because I know there's a formula behind it," she says. "It enhances the awesomeness of it."



"COPSE No. 2" by Harold Cohen is an inkjet print that is part of the "Imaging by Numbers" exhibition. — Photo courtesy of Harold Cohen University

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From page B9

talented performers of classical music who have not yet graduated from high school. The concerts are held at 3 p.m. the first Sunday of each month, October through June. In the library's Petty Auditorium. Admission to all events is free. **March 2:** Celine Reyes, violin, Burr Ridge; and Lauren Tu, piano, Glenview.

Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokiethatre.com. **March 2,** 3 p.m.: Orchestra of Exploration, \$10. **March 30,** 3 p.m.: Sinfonietta Arts, \$15.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra performs at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are \$22-\$30; \$8 for children. For performance information, call (847) 679-9501, ext. 3014, or visit www.svso.org. For ticket information, call (847) 673-6300. Free pre-concert lectures begin at 1:30 p.m. **March 16,** 3 p.m.: Rossini, La Gazza Ladra (The Thieving Magpie) Overture; Mahler, Lieder einer fahrenden Gesellen (Songs of a Wayfarer); and Mascagni, "Cavalleria Rusticana" (semi-staged one-act opera), featuring tenor Francesco Petrosi from Munich's Bayerischen Staatsoper, baritone Bill McMurray, soprano Sarah Garshore, and mezzo-sopranos Victoria McHale and Jessy Wright.

pop/folk/jazz

The Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago. (773) 478-4408. www.abbeypub.com. **Sundays:** Traditional Irish Session with Devin Shepherd, 4 p.m. **Tuesdays:** Open Mic Night with Nick Gonzales, 8 p.m. **Wednesdays:** Sweetwater Meltdown, 9 p.m. **Thursdays:** MHB Band, 8 p.m. **Feb. 16, 10 p.m.:** Nevermind, Alice In Chains, Green Holiday, \$8 in advance; \$10 at the door, 18 and over. **Feb. 21, 9 p.m.:** John Doe Band, \$15. **Feb. 22, 9 p.m.:** Solo, Telephone Jim Jesus, The Apes, \$12. 18 and over. **Feb. 23, 9 p.m.:** The Wolfe Tones, \$20.

Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information list is (847) 635-6601. **Feb. 22, 7 p.m.:** Jonas Brothers, \$49.50, \$39.50, \$29.50. **Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.:** Foo Fighters, \$45, \$38.50, \$25. **March 21, 7 p.m.:** Avril Lavigne with Boys Like Girls, \$35, \$45. **April 3:** Van Halen: Eddie Van Halen, David Lee Roth, Alex Van Halen, Wolfgang Van Halen, with special guest Ky-Mani Marley, \$149.50, \$79.50, \$49.50. **April 19, 7 p.m.:** Santana, Derek Trucks Band, \$100.50, \$50.50, \$40.50. **May 17, 7 p.m.:** The Cure, \$65, \$50.

Bill's Blues, 1029 Davis St., Evanston. (847) 424-9800. www.billbluesbar.com. Cover charges vary. **Tuesdays,** 8:30 p.m.: Blues Jam hosted by Two For The Blues. **Wednesdays,** 7 p.m.: Pro Jazz Jam with Mike Finnerty. **Sundays,** 4 p.m.: Lifest Open Mike. **Feb. 15, 5:30 p.m.:** Prohibition Orchestra of Chicago (jazz). **Feb. 15, 9 p.m.:** Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials. **Feb. 16, 4 p.m.:** Joe Filisco and David Evans (acoustic blues). **Feb. 16, midnight:** Lato Night Series, featuring Chicago-based collective Kick Bricks (rock, hip-hop). **Feb. 17, 7 p.m.:** Amy Dixon-Kolar and Marshall Hjortstedt. **Feb. 21, 7 p.m.:** Old Town Ensemble Show. **Feb. 23, 8:30 p.m.:** Melvin Taylor and the Slack Band. **Feb. 24, 7 p.m.:** Chris Walk. **Feb. 28, 7 p.m.:** Basil and Heller (folk rock). **Feb. 29:** Flynn, Lang and Taylor.

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

Blues Bar, 2 W. Busse Ave., Mount Prospect. (847) 788-9977. www.blues-bar.com. **Feb. 14:** Dunno & Vargas/Studebaker John. **Feb. 15:** Hip Pocket. **Feb. 16:** Cyrus Falcon/The Nevery Brothers. **Feb. 20:** Vito Zaito Show. **Feb. 21:** Eddie Shaw Band. **Feb. 22:** Nick Pontarelli/Stevie Satellite Band. **Feb. 23:** Dunno & Vargas/Nigel Mack. **Feb. 29:** Rodney Brown Duo/Chicago R&B Kings.

The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. (847) 854-1679. www.celticknotpub.com. No cover unless noted otherwise. **Mondays,** 8 p.m.-midnight: Bluegrass and roots music with the Mudlapps. **Tuesdays,** 7-10 p.m.: Irish music session. **Feb. 17, 5-8 p.m.:** Eric Lugosch. **Feb. 20, 9 p.m.:** Danny Burns & the Defectors. **Feb. 23, 10 p.m.:** Henhouse Prowlers. **March 8, 10 p.m.:** The Mudlapps.

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.centrecast.org. **March 1, 8 p.m.:** The Irish Rovers, \$55. **March 29, 8 p.m.:** Maureen McGovern, \$60.

Chambers, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. (847) 647-8282. www.thechambersonline.com. **Tuesdays and Wednesdays,** 7-10:30 p.m.: Buddy Charles, pianist/singer. **Thursdays,** 8:30 p.m.-midnight: Jazz Jam with John Bany, Charlie Braugham and Don Stille. Sunday music is from 5-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday music is from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. **Feb. 14, 7:30-11:30 p.m.:** Josh & the Empty Pockets. **Feb. 15:** The Crown Vics, \$5. **Feb. 16:** The Ronnie Ross Show. **Feb. 17:** Tom Muellner & Arlene Bardell. **Feb. 20, 9-11 p.m.:** Rick "Elvis" Saucedo, \$10. **Feb. 22:** Tony Smith Show, \$5. **Feb. 23:** Way Cool Band. **Feb. 24:** Sonny G Duet. **Feb. 29:** Incognitos, \$5.

Chicagoland Pops Orchestra performs at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, www.chicagolandpops.com. For tickets, call (847) 671-0300. **March 1, 8 p.m.:** "Distant Worlds: Music from Final Fantasy." The concert features the music of Japanese video game composer Nobuo Uematsu. Tickets: \$35-\$150. The \$150 VIP tickets include a meet and greet with Uematsu, a copy of the new Distant Worlds CD, and a special tour program book.

Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. (847) 376-2787. www.dppl.org. Advance registration required for activities unless noted otherwise. **Feb. 24, 2 p.m.:** Acoustic folk duo Patchouli.

Famous Freddie's Roadhouse, 1799 S. Busse Road, Mount Prospect. (847) 593-2200. Shows start at 9 p.m., Fridays and 10 p.m., Saturdays. **Feb. 15:** Alternative Nation ('90s), **Feb. 18:** American English (Beatles tribute). **Feb. 22:** 7th Heaven (hair bands to alternative). **Feb. 23:** Epic ('80s rock). **Feb. 29:** Infinity (classic rock).

The Hidden Cove, 5338 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. (773) 275-6711. Free juke box, free karaoke starts at 9 p.m. Free live music at 6 p.m. **Feb. 15:** Steve Levitt & the Bakers Decade. **Feb. 16:** Last Ghost Lounge. **Feb. 19:** CoKa Mo Jo & Friends. **Feb. 22:** 14 Miles to Empty. **Feb. 23:** Mel & the One Night Stands. **Feb. 26:** CoKa Mo Jo & Friends.

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. Entertainment at 9 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays in the Fifth Province Lounge, no cover. **Feb. 15:** Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore. **Feb. 16:** Paddy Homan. **Feb. 22:** Whiskey Remorse. **Feb. 23:** Dyed in the Wool. **Feb. 29:** Ray Coyle Trio Jazz Band. **Salon concert series**, held in the third floor theatre — **Feb. 21, 8 p.m.:** Chulua will perform jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, waltzes, slow airs and set dances from its newest CD, "The Sing Kettle." Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door.

Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago. (773) 442-4836. Free performances in the NEIU auditorium, unless noted otherwise. **Feb. 21, 1:45 p.m.:** **March 5, 7:30 p.m.:** NEIU Jazz Combos. **Feb. 28, April 10 and 24, 7:30 p.m.:** NEIU Varsity

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NOW SHOWING - CHECK DIRECTORIES FOR LISTINGS

Thursday, February 14, 2008

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From page B12

children. Musicians from Wunder Studios will provide pre-show entertainment. Reserved tickets are \$20 each; general admission tickets are \$15. Tickets are available at Wunder Studios, 3 S. Prospect (second floor), Park Ridge, online at www.wunderstudios.com, or by telephone at (847) 384-0581.

books & poetry

The Celtic Knot, 626 Church St., Evanston. Feb. 17, 3-5 p.m.: Anastasia Royal will read from and sign her book, *Undoing I Do*. The event is held in conjunction with Ulac Tree, an Evanston-based

nonprofit organization that provides resources to women going through divorce. (847) 328-0313.

Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. (847) 376-2787. www.dppl.org. Advance registration required for activities unless noted otherwise. **March 4**, 10 a.m.: Discussion of *The Ride of Our Lives* by Mike Leonard. **March 13**, 7:30 p.m.: Discussion of *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War* by Nathaniel Philbrick.

Irish American Heritage Center Library, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. Hours: 4-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 1-4 p.m. Fridays and Sundays; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. **Feb. 17**, 3 p.m.: Ellen Skerrett and Mary Lesch will read from *Chief O'Neill's Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago*. The book was written by Francis O'Neill and edited by Skerrett and Lesch. A book discussion group, **Great Irish American Books and Authors**, runs from September-May at 2 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month. Discussions are led by Virginia Gibbons, a teacher at Oakton Community College. **March 9**: *Ironweed* by William Kennedy. **April 13**: *Looking for Jimmy* by Peter Quinn. **May 4**: *Irish Fairy and Folktales*, W.B. Yeats, ed.

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

Shallots Bistro, 4741 Main St., Skokie. (847) 677-3463. **March 11**, 6:30 p.m.: Shallots Book Club will discuss *The Other Boleyn Girl* by Philippa Gregory. \$29 set menu, tax and tip included. Reservations required.

child's play

Center for Musical Development, 8201 N. Karlov, Skokie. Kindermusik classes offered are Village (0-17 months); Our Time (1 1/2-3 years); Imagine That (3-5 years); and Young Child (5-7 years). For information, contact Pat Heineman-Vernon at (847) 679-5121 or phvcfmd@aol.com.

Centre East's Youth Theatre, in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets to all performances may be purchased by calling (847) 679-9501, ext. 3100, or by visiting www.centreeast.org. **Feb. 15**, 10 a.m. and noon: "Buffalo Soldier," based on the true story of a veteran of the Spanish-American War. \$7. **Feb. 20**, 10 a.m. (kindergartners through second-graders) and noon (third- through fifth-graders): Super Scientific Circus. \$7.

Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines. (847) 827-5551. www.dppl.org. Registration required for programs unless noted otherwise. **Feb. 17**, 2 p.m.: Animal Encounters with Dr. Robert James, featuring zoo animals such as a porcupine, ostrich and alligator. **Feb. 18**, 3 p.m.: "George Washington: From Mount Vernon to Washington D.C.," presented by actor Terry Lynch. **Feb. 21 and March 6**, 4 p.m.: Stories & More, for children ages 5-7. **Feb. 28 and March 13**, 4 p.m.: Story Explorers, for grades 3-5. **March 1**, 11 a.m.: Junior League of Chicago's Mad Hatters will perform songs, skits and poems to promote reading to children ages 3-9 years old. No registration required. **March 16**, 2 p.m.: Emerald City Theatre Company will perform "How I Became a Pirate." **March 22**, 1-4 p.m.: Drop-in spring craft. Materials are provided.

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

Hodge Podge, 614 Lee St., Des Plaines, offers Mom and Tot arts and craft classes. Six-week programs are conducted from 9:30-11 a.m. **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. \$50 per child with discounts for more than one child; join with a friend and receive \$25 off; \$10 per child for walk-ins. (847) 297-3330.

Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview. (847) 832-6600. www.kohlchildrensmuseum.org. The museum is open during the school year from 9:30 a.m.-noon Mondays; 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sundays. From May to September hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sundays. Special members-only early admittance from 9-9:30 a.m. Monday-Saturday. Admission \$7.50; \$6.50 for senior citizens; free for children under 1. **Through May 12**: "Adventures with Clifford the Big Red Dog" exhibit.

Kolor Me Kid, 8 B. West Devon Ave., Park Ridge, offers a variety of art classes such as hand sculpting in ceramic clay and polymer clay, drawing/painting, cartooning and paper mache, for students K-eighth grade and young adult. "Artsy" birthday parties and Scouting events also available. Call (847) 692-3744.

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Bertha Gimbel leads a knitting class for ages 10 and older from 3:30-5 p.m. Fridays.

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston. (847) 475-1030. www.mitchellmuseum.org. Suggested donation is \$5 adults; \$2.50 senior citizens, students and children. Maximum suggested admission per family is \$10. **Kids Craft Mornings** are offered from 10:30 a.m.-noon on selected Saturdays. Museum staffers and volunteers lead informal workshops where children learn to construct simple versions of traditional Native American objects and engage in other hands-on activities related to native culture. Admission is included with an entrance donation to the museum. Kids Craft Workshops are recommended for children ages 5 and up, but there is no minimum age requirement. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. No pre-registration is necessary. **Feb. 23**: Inuit sunglasses. **March 8**: Ice fishing lures. **March 22**: Dreamcatchers.

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. **March 15**, 10 a.m.: Free concert for children, "The Little Train of the Calipra," from Bachianas Brasileiras No. 2 by Hector Villa Lobos. Members of Orquestra de Samba will introduce audience members to the unique instruments of Brazil, followed by the performance. The concert will be preceded by a special performance featuring 9-year-old violinist Elena Kawazu.

Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. (847) 663-6623. www.nileslibrary.org. "Babytime" offers stories, songs and play for children up to 2 years of age at 11 a.m. **Mondays**.

Northlight Theatre Academy, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 679-9501. www.northlight.org. **June 9-13**: Summer Audition Workshop, for youth in grades 7-12. Fee: \$675. Admittance by audition only. Call (847) 679-9501, ext. 3305, to schedule an audition. **June 16-July 11 and July 15-Aug. 8**: Performing Arts Camp. Students in grades 3-6 will train with professional artists in acting, improvisation and musical theatre and choose from electives such as on-camera skills, costume and set design, make-up, playwriting and more. Students in grades 7-9 will get hands-on experience in writing texts, choreography, vocal work, improvising, doing sketch comedy and

See go., page B16

Thursday, February 14, 2008

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From page B14

more. Sessions include workshops with guest artists, trips to see plays, backstage tours and more. Cost is \$835 for one session; \$1,620 for two sessions or two siblings in one session. Registration is in progress.

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, (847) 825-3123.
www.parkridgeilibrary.org, Feb. 15, 3:45 p.m.: Meet an American Girl, for grades 2-5, featuring crafts, games and food. Feb. 16, 3 p.m.: Family Magic Matinee, for all ages. Feb. 18, 1-3 p.m.: Dance Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero for all ages. Feb. 18, 4 p.m.: Brickton Art Center Classes for grades 2-5. Feb. 19, 4-5 p.m.: Dance Dance Revolution for all ages. Feb. 20, 3:30-5 p.m.: Dance Dance Revolution for grades 4 and up. Feb. 22, 3:45 p.m.: Just for Boys, for grades 2-5. The January topic will be spies and the February topic will be explosions. Feb. 27, 3:45 p.m.: After School Special, for grades 2-3, featuring stories and crafts. **Starbucks Book Discussion** — Meet at Starbucks on Northwest Highway in Park Ridge. Feb. 21, 5 p.m.: *How to Be Popular* by Meg Cabot.

Skokie Park District offers an indoor playground for children, the Explorium, at the Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie. It provides both physical and educational play in art, science and imagination-building, computer lab, children's performances with costumes, water play and more. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. **Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays** and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. **Saturdays**. Regular admission is \$4-\$5, depending on residency status; and \$1-\$2 for adults and children under 2. Call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2700.

Wunder Studios Performing Arts Conservatory offers group musical theatre, guitar and drum classes for children 5 and older, as well as private

music lessons for all instruments. There are also Musikgarten classes that build music and movement skills for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. All classes are in the Pickwick Building in Uptown Park Ridge, 3 S. Prospect Ave. Visit www.wunderstudios.com or call (847) 685-2030.

The YADI Club (Youth Arts/Dance International) holds dance classes for teens and younger students at the Jefferson Park Field House, 4822 N. Long. Classes meet at 1:30 p.m. **Saturdays** and 6:15 p.m. **Wednesdays** and are conducted by Tina Mangos Dance. Learn salsa, swing, cotillon dances, big band and more. Try out for the YADI dance team and perform at community events. (773) 282-5108 or www.tinamangosdance.com.

comedy

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

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300, www.centreeast.org, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.: Hal Sparks, \$45. **March 8, 8 p.m.**: The Smothers Brothers, \$75. **April 12, 8 p.m.**: Craig Ferguson, \$60.

Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100. **Feb. 14-17, 7:30 p.m.**: Chris Rock, \$75.50, \$55.50, \$45.50.

dance

PERFORMANCES

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300, www.centreeast.org, **April 26, 8 p.m.**: Thodos Dance Chicago, \$40. **May 3, 8 p.m.**: Jeffrey Ballet, \$65.

at **Navy Pier**

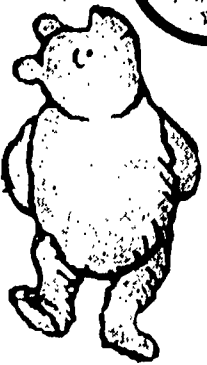
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Thursday, February 14, 2008

Chicago Cultural Center, G.A.R. Hall, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago. **Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.**: Dancing With Class Winter 2008 Dance-Off, a dance competition featuring elementary school children from the Chicago area. Among schools participating is Norwood Park Elementary School. Admission is free. For information, visit www.dancingwithclass.com or call (773) 635-3000.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300, www.northshorecenter.org, **March 7, 7 p.m.**, and **March 9, 2 p.m.**, and **7 p.m.**: Evanston Dance Ensemble, with 33 members ranging in age from 12 to 18, presents "FABI Evanston Dance Ensemble Dances the Beatles." Tickets: \$21; \$15 for children under 18, students and seniors.

Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago, (773) 442-4836. **March 15-16, 8 p.m.**: Repertory Dance Ensemble Concert, in the NEIU auditorium. Tickets: \$5; free for NEIU students, faculty and staff.

GROUPS & LESSONS

Chicago Dance Club, (847) 622-4466. Dance to DJ music from the '50s to today from 7:30-11:30 p.m. Saturdays. Mostly swing dancing, some ballroom, Latin and line dancing. Open to ages 21 and older. \$5 members; \$8 nonmembers. Upcoming dates: **Feb. 23**: At Knights of Columbus Hall, 15 N. Hickory St., Arlington Heights. **March 8 and 22; April 12 and 26; May 10 and 24; June 28; July 12 and 26; Aug. 9 and 23**: At American Legion Hall, 8664 W. Grand Ave., River Grove.

Chicago's Windy City Jitterbug Club holds dances to the music of the '50s, '60s and more, from 8 p.m.-midnight at the American Legion Hall, 9757 W. Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, unless otherwise noted. Admission to club dances is \$5 for members; \$8 for nonmembers. Proper attire required; no blue jeans or shorts allowed. Must be 21 or older. Call (773) 467-0177 or visit www.jitterbugchicago.com. **Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m.**: Valentine's dinner dance at Chevy Chase Country Club, Wheeling. Music by DJ Bill Matthews. Advance tickets required.

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

Lolkarrigan "Holmug" dancers welcome those age 16 and older interested in Scandinavian folk dance to join them from 8-9:30 p.m. **Wednesdays** at the First United Methodist Church of Des Plaines, 666 Graceland Ave. No prior dance experience or partner necessary. Call (847) 823-7596 or (847) 692-6616.

Maine East High School, 2601 Dempster (at Potter), Park Ridge, Oakton Community College is offering a spring nine-week ballroom dance course that will meet Tuesday evenings, beginning **April 8**, Intermediate, 7:30-8:45 p.m.; beginners, 8:45-10 p.m. The classes include cha-cha, fox trot, waltz, rumba and tango, and are taught by Alice Lowy. For information and registration, contact the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at (847) 982-9888 option 3, or Alice Lowy, (847) 825-2901 or (847) 825-6637.

Prairie Lakes Senior Center, 515 E. Thacker, Des Plaines. **Feb. 15 and March 14, 8-10:30 p.m.**: Alice Lowy hosts ballroom dancing to live music. Admission is \$25 per couple at the door. **March 1 and March 22, 8-10:30 p.m.**: Alice Lowy hosts ballroom dancing with taped music. Admission is \$15 per couple at the door. For information, contact Lowy at (847) 825-2901 or (847) 825-6637.

Square Spares & Pairs, a nonprofit square dance club, dances the second and fourth Mondays of the month all year long at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Rounds start at 7:30 p.m., with squares from 8-10 p.m. Admission: \$5 for members; \$6 for visitors. Square dance lessons are held from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Tuesdays at the Glen Park Center, Room 201, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview. First lesson is free. For information on lessons, call (847) 663-0116 or (847) 398-8087.

Square Wheels Square Dance Club dances the fourth Saturday of each month, through **May 24**, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 304 W. Palatine Road, Prospect Heights. Round dancing begins at 7:30 p.m. with Howard and Anna Hoffman, and square dancing starts at 8 p.m. with guest callers. Refreshments served. Banner available through April 26. Admission: \$6. (847) 392-5512 or (847) 253-3206. **Feb. 23**: Rick Allison. **March 22**: Special dance with the Fox Valley Mixers at Baker Community Center, St. Charles; Dale McRoberts, caller. **April 26**: Mike Argue. **May 24**: Chuck Jaworski.

Swing 'N' Country Dance Club offers dances and lessons in couples country western and swing dances. Dance lessons are offered on **Wednesdays** every month; 7:30 p.m. for beginners; 8:35 p.m. for intermediate dancers. Cost for monthly lessons \$30 for members; \$40 nonmembers. Dances are held the first and third Friday of every month. Doors open at 7:15 p.m.; open dancing from 9 p.m.-midnight. Admission is \$6 for members; \$12 for nonmembers. All lessons and dances are held at Centre at North Park, 10040 W. Addison, Franklin Park. For information, visit www.swingncountry.org or call (847) 638-7621.

Summit of Uptown, Touhy and Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. **Feb. 18, 7 p.m.**: Happy Twirlers Dance Club offers square dancing lessons. For information, call (773) 685-8407 or (847) 899-4075.

dining

Schaefer's, 9965 Gross Point Road, Skokie, (847) 673-5711. **Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m.**: Tasting class, "Syrah to Shiraz: Petit and Beyond." \$20. Reservations required; call (847) 677-WINE.

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/blockcinema. Admission is \$6; \$4 for Block Museum members, senior citizens, and students with ID, or as noted below. All films shown at 8 p.m., unless noted otherwise. **South Korean Series** — **Feb. 14**: "Oasis." **Feb. 21**: "Woman is the Future of Man." **Feb. 28**: "Memories of Murder." **March 6**: "The President's Last Bang." **March 13**: "Woman on the Beach." **Kanji Mizoguchi Series** — **Feb. 15**: "Sansho the Bailiff." **The Emotional Camera, Mikhail Kalatozov Series** — **Feb. 20**: "The Letter Never Sent." **Feb. 27**: "The Cranes Are Flying." **March 12**: "The Red Tent." **Akira Kurosawa Series** — **Feb. 22**: "Kiku." **Feb. 29**: "The Seven Samurai." **March 7, 9 p.m.**: "Throne of Blood." **March 14**: "Red Beard." **The Reeltime Independent Film and Video Forum** presents award-winning independent feature, documentary and short subject films and videos. Each screening is followed by discussions with the audiences. All Reeltime screenings are free. **March 5, 7:30 p.m.**: "The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo."

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

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgeilibrary.org, **Feature films** — **Feb. 21, 7 p.m.**: "Waitress," rated PG-13. **Travel films**, at 2 p.m. Thursdays — **Feb. 21**: Costa Rica. **Feb. 28**: Route 66.

Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, (773) 736-4050. www.portagetheater.org, **Feb. 15**: Bloody Valentine Film Fest with Svengoolie. The double feature includes "Happy Birthday to Me" at 8:45 p.m. and "My Bloody

Valentine" at 11 p.m. \$10. Svengoolie will sign autographs from 7-8:30 p.m. **Feb. 17, 2:30 p.m.**: Screening of Alfred Hitchcock's 1927 silent thriller, "The Lodger," accompanied by the Lake Forest College Orchestra. Tickets: \$13 in advance; \$15 at the door. For tickets, call (773) 205-7372 or www.silentfilmchicago.com.

lectures

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com, **Irish Heritage Library Lectures** — **March 2, 2 p.m.**: "Recollections of a Dublin Playgoer," presented by Patrick J. Casey, and "Social and Economic Aspirations of Irish Catholic Americans," presented by Peter Quinn, author of *Looking for Jimmy, The Search for Irish America*, \$10. **March 9, 2 p.m.**: "Why The Irish Speak English: Printing, Literacy and Education in Eighteenth-Century Ireland," presented by Peter K. Fallon, and "Irish Crime Connections," presented by Michael Cain, author of *The Tangled Web: The Life and Death of Richard Cain* — Chicago Cop and Mafia Hitman, \$10.

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

organizations

The American Jewish Artists Club is currently accepting new members. The group, founded in the early 1920s, focuses on the broad aspects of artistic performance and serves to enrich the cultural fiber of the Jewish community and contribute to the community at large. For information, contact Lore Slaw, (847) 272-0744 or lslaw@oakton.edu.

Park Ridge Art League meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Friday of the month in the South Park Fieldhouse, 833 Talcott Road, Park Ridge. Guest fee is \$3. Call Dorothy DuSold, (847) 825-3505.

Skokie Art Guild meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month in the Mary Radmacher Room at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Visitors welcome. **Feb. 26**: Michael Lalata, pastel and conte demonstration. **Skokie Photographic Society** meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 W. Oakton St. All levels of photographers welcome. Call (847) 677-8324.

workshops

& classes

Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Elinwood St., (847) 376-2787. www.dppl.org, **Inside Writing and Publishing Series** — **March 15, 10 a.m.-noon**: Author Stacey Klemstein will present "The Secret to a Good Query Letter." **March 19, 7-8:30 p.m.**: Writing coach Lisa Rosenthal will present "How to Create an Effective Writing Group."

et cetera

Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601. **Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.**: Smucker's Stars on Ice figure skating tour presents "Live and in Color," featuring Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen. Tickets start at \$25.

Central Community Center, 1000 W. Central Road, Mount Prospect. **Feb. 18, noon-5 p.m.**: Roller skating party to benefit the Mount Prospect Historical Society. Admission is \$5 per person. Skates may be rented for an additional cost of \$5 or skaters may bring in their own skates, which will be subject to inspection by park district personnel. Children in fourth grade and

See go., page B18



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From page B17

under must be accompanied by a parent.

The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox Ave., Chicago, offers three family-oriented St. Patrick's Day events. **March 14, 7 p.m.:** Irish Dance Chicago, a large-scale Irish dance concert featuring the Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance, the Mullane Champion Irish Dancers, The World Academy of Irish Dancing, Spiorad Damhsa and special musical guests, the Academy of Irish Music. Tickets: \$10; free for children under 12 with a paying adult. **March 15, 1 p.m.-midnight:** St. Patrick's Festival, following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. Festivities include traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. Live entertainment includes The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, Tim O'Shea and Jonathan Roche, The Dooley Brothers, The Academy of Irish Music, Anish and Finbarr Fagan's Band. Tickets are \$12 if purchased by March 14; \$15 at the door. Free admission for children 12 and under with a paying adult. **March 17, 11 a.m.-1 a.m.:** St. Patrick's Day party in the center's Fifth Province Lounge. Events include Irish dancing, traditional and modern Irish music and food. Entertainers include the Matt Stedman Band and the Chancey Brothers. Admission is \$10. For information on all events, call (773) 282-7035.

Portage Park Theater, 4050 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, **Feb. 23:** Sci-Fi Movie and Model Show. Model/Vintage toy show starts at 2:30 p.m.; screening of "War of the Worlds" (1953) at 7:30 p.m., followed by "The Golden Voyage of Sinbad" (1973) at 9:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10, available at the door only. (773) 875-7582.

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont, **March 8-16:** Chicagoland Flower & Garden Show, including a Home Lifestyle Expo and a two-day art show, March 8-9, with works by more than 70 artists. The event includes stylized gardens by Chicago-area landscapers and designers, Garden Marketplace of 100-plus exhibitors selling garden-related products and services, gardening seminars and more. Show hours are 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays through Wednesday; and until 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Adult admission is \$14 weekends, \$12 weekdays; for children ages 4-12, \$5 every day. All-day parking is \$11. To order tickets online, visit www.chicagoflower.com.

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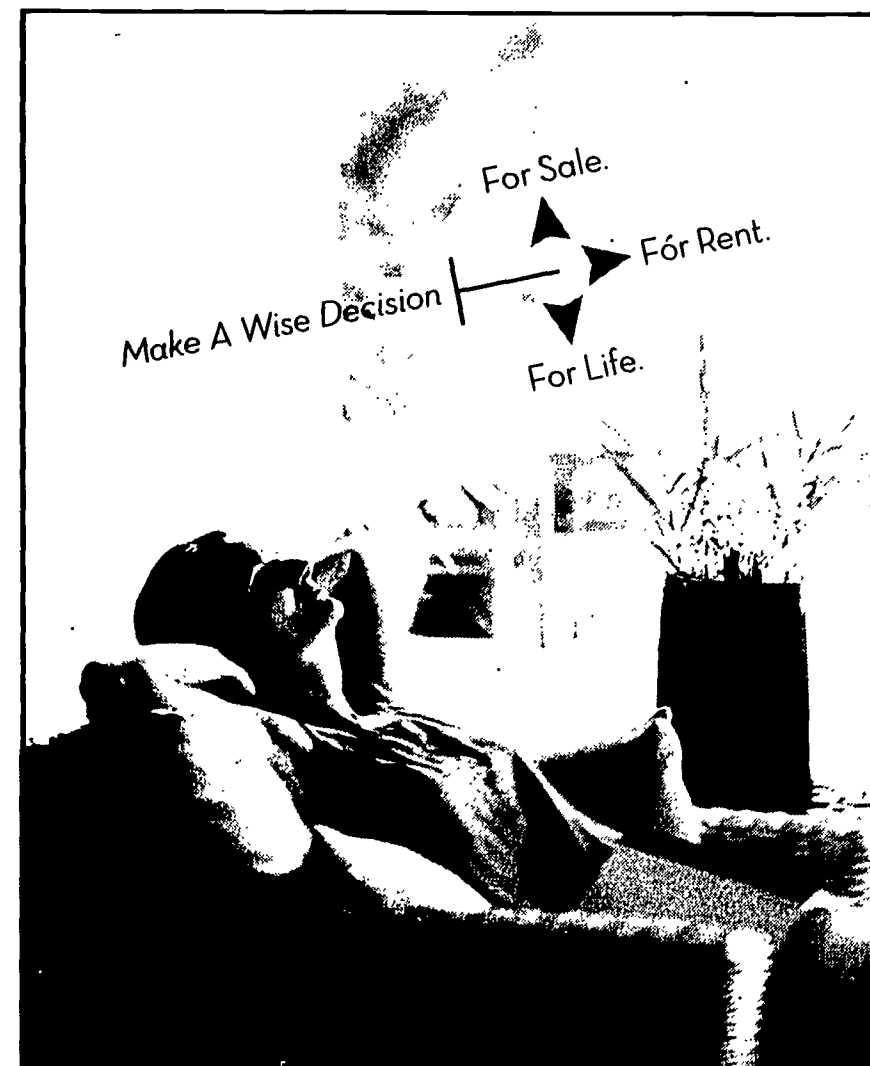
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Commedia dell'—
 - 5 One of the Mavericks
 - 9 Seraglio
 - 14 Telescope view
 - 19 Clark's co-worker
 - 20 "An apple ..."
 - 21 Catherine of "Home Alone"
 - 22 Mindful
 - 23 Start of a remark by John Yeck
 - 25 — button
 - 26 Neighbor of Nigeria
 - 27 Confused
 - 28 Artist
 - 30 Mondrian
 - 32 Apprehend
 - 30 Winter hazard
 - 33 Lincoln or Zumwalt
 - 35 Swerve
 - 38 Slavic soup
 - 42 Part 2 of remark
 - 47 Ring stat
 - 48 Pull the Trigger?
 - 49 — nez
 - 50 Western lake
 - 53 Fit for farming
 - 56 Patois
 - 58 Rag man?
 - 60 — lily
- DOWN**
- 1 See
 - 2 Carrot or parsnip
 - 3 Canterbury cans
 - 4 Value
 - 5 Humbug lead-in
 - 6 Fatty
 - 7 Punjabi princess
 - 8 Anklebiter

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19				20				21					22					
23			24					25					26					
27				28				29			30		31			32		
		33		34				35	36	37	38		39		40	41		
	42	43				44	45					46						
47				48				49					50		51	52		
53		54	55			56		57					58				59	
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	71	72				73				74	75			76				
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81				82				83		84			85		86	87	88	89
90			91					92		93				94				
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			100	101						102				103	104			
105	106	107						108					109					
110				111	112					113	114	115			116	117	118	119
120			121	122		123		124	125	126			127			128		
129						130							131					132
133						134							135					136

HOROSCOPE

Predictions for Feb. 18-24

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) — Stop being the wool-gathering Lamb, and start turning that dream project into reality. You have the ideas, the drive and the charisma to persuade others to follow your lead. So do it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) — You've scored some big successes. But remember that all hardworking Ferdinands and Ferdinandas need some time to restore their energies and refresh their spirits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) — You're gaining a stronger mental image of what you're trying to achieve. Now look for the facts that will help get this to develop from a concept into a solid proposal.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) — Some of you eager-to-please Moon Children might want to delay some decisions until midweek, when you can again think more with your head than your heart.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) — A new business venture seems to offer everything you've been looking for. But be careful that that rosy picture doesn't betray traces of red ink under the surface.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) — A volatile situation needs the kind of thoughtful and considerate care you can provide right now. There'll be plenty of time later to analyze what might have gone wrong.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) — Your loyalty to a friend in a tough situation earns you respect from people you care about. Those who criticize you don't understand what friendship is all about.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) — Your strong work ethic is rewarded with the kind of challenging opportunity you love to tackle. Now, go ahead and celebrate with family and/or close friends.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) — A legal matter you thought had been finally resolved could require a second look. But don't make any moves without consulting your lawyer.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) — Taking charge is what you like to do, and since you do it so well, expect to be asked to lead a special group. This could open an exciting new vista for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) — An important matter might wind up being entrusted to you for handling. The responsibility is heavy, but you'll have support from people able and eager to help.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) — A spouse or partner might make an important, even life-changing, suggestion. Consider it carefully. It could hold some of the answers you've both been looking for.

IF YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK: You always try to do the right thing, and for the right reasons. No wonder people have come to depend on you.

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NW

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Answers: inside today's classified section

2 | SEARCHCHICAGO AUTOS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008
NW | CHICAGO SUN-TIMES



autoBLOG
with Jill

These shoes aren't made for walking

I admit it's not the smartest move, but I do it every year, and I'll do it again next year. I spend the two media days at the Chicago Auto Show walking around the show floor in 2- to 3-inch heels. Men can complain about suits and neckties, but women get the shorter end of the stick with the high heels.

People ask why I don't wear flat shoes or tennis shoes for the media days, and the answer is simple. The event for a writer is business attire. That means a suit or something similar. My Brooks running shoes don't quite match up, and I don't own any flat-soled dress shoes. Not to mention the fact that all of my trousers are tailored for 2-inch heels.

So, for the time being I'm stuck in heels, and two days after the last media day, my feet still hurt.

On the first media day I walked more than 14,400 steps. On the second day, including the First Look for Charity, I walked 18,500 steps. I don't know what the mile translation is, but to give perspective, on a normal work day, I walk 5,000 to 6,000 steps.

Thus, my point (bringing it back to the show): Go early, but wear your tennis shoes. Trust me, when you have 1.3 million square-feet to cover, tennis shoes are the way forward if possible.

read more of Jill's blogs at SearchChicago.com/autos



Here is the opportunity to tell us what you think.

This week's topic is about the Auto Show. What were your favorite cars? What manufacturers had the best concepts? Tell us about it at yourturn@searchchicago.com.

Also, feel free to give us feedback on SearchChicago-Autos print edition at yourturn@searchchicago.com

We will print responses weekly and publish them online at searchchicago.com/autos.

autoWRITERS

Each week you will see some of these writers featured in this section. Find their stories and reviews every day at searchchicago.com/autos



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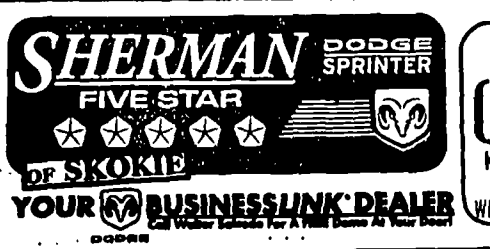
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#P13675

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#P13675

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06 EXPLORER #P13918 \$19,991 OR \$379/MO.
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LEXUS (3 TO CHOOSE FROM)

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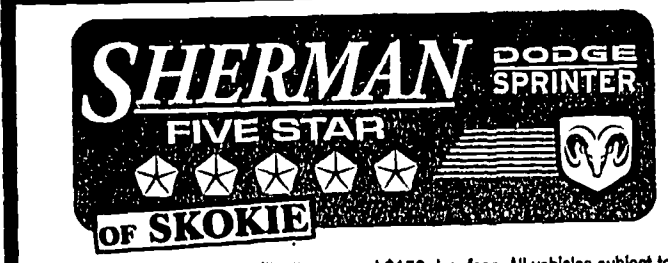
SUZUKI (2 TO CHOOSE FROM)

05 XL7 #P13862A \$14,991 OR \$279/MO.

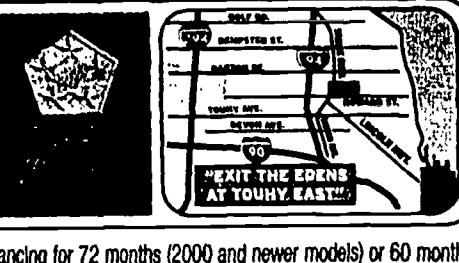
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6 | SEARCHCHICAGO AUTOS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008
NW | CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

autoREVIEW



by JEFF TAYLOR
contributor

NOW PLAYING

GreenTec showcases technology and eco-friendly cars at the Chicago Auto Show

There's a new group in town for a couple of weeks. No, it's not a musical act, but a collection of automotive manufacturers that are focusing heavily on technology and green environmentally friendly vehicles (most feature both), call it "GreenTec."

The Chicago Auto Show running through Sunday is the nation's largest consumer auto show. Because it's the largest show on the circuit the world's auto manufacturers want to know what you think, like, dislike and what you're ready for. The manufacturers exhibiting at the show will hype "GreenTec" harder than any concert promoter would for a big musical act.

This year GM has taken over the North Hall of McCormick Place with their largest exhibit measuring 186,000 square-feet to showcase all of their brands in one area for the first time. This year is also GM's 100th anniversary, but rather than celebrate some of their past success stories, GM states it will focus on what's relevant now and for the next 100 years.

In its North Hall display GM will have large 84-inch screen, third generation video kiosks set up. Visitors to the GM display can learn about all the current and coming GM technology via 72 different message presentations. As you might imagine the info is heavy on alternative fuel sources.

If you want to know what the difference is between a single-mode and a two-mode hybrid vehicle is you can find out in person in the North Hall. Throughout the course of the show GM executives, including GM Vice Chairman, Bob Lutz, will be online blogging with attendees during special sessions. If reading about technology is not your thing then check out the "green"

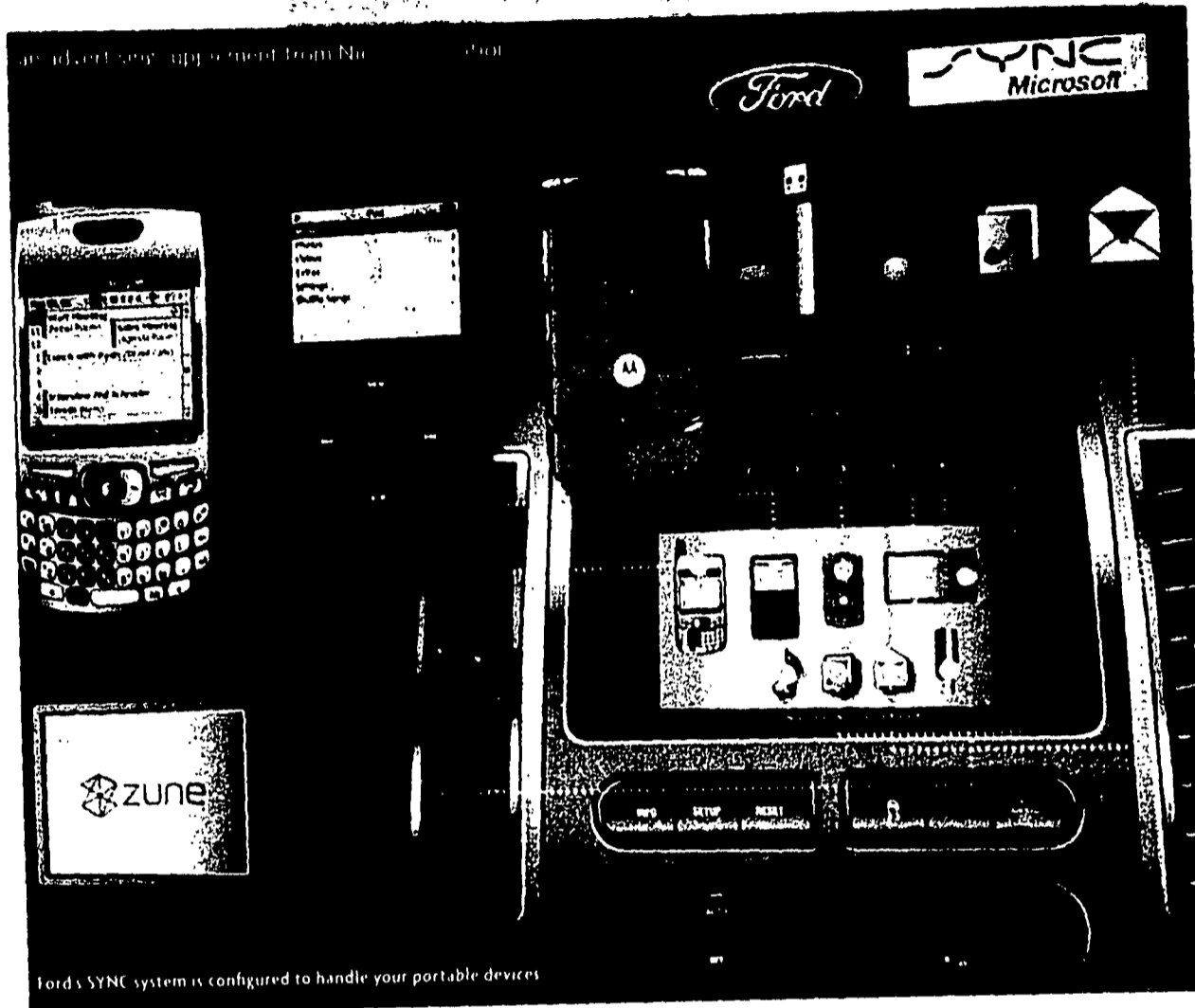
concept vehicles from Hummer, Cadillac, GMC, Saab's Bio-power turbo engine and Saturn's plug-in hybrid.

Oh, and for those who've asked: Yes the Camaro, ZR1 and CTS-V will be at the show along with some new worldwide production and concept reveals.

In addition to the much-anticipated Challenger introduction Chrysler LLC will have some "GreenTec" on display including its restyled Dodge Ram 1500 pickup with a two-mode hybrid powertrain that will appear in the 2010 model year.

The Dodge Ram HEMI Hybrid joins the Chrysler Aspen and Dodge Durango in the Chrysler hybrid vehicle lineup. The HEMI hybrid will feature Chrysler's Multi-displacement System (MDS), which allows the engine to seamlessly alternate between four-cylinder mode when less power is needed and V-8 mode when more power is in demand. The two-mode hybrid system provides assistance from electric motors allowing the HEMI V-8 to remain in four-cylinder mode more often than without a hybrid powertrain, improving overall fuel economy.

On FX an M models Infiniti is showcasing The Lane Departure Prevention system that builds on the Lane Departure Warning (LDW) system that is currently available. Applying a "Big Brother" approach, the LDP system goes beyond audible/visual warnings to employ the car's Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC) system to aid the driver in maintaining lane position if the vehicle inadvertently starts to drift outside of



Ford's SYNC system is configured to handle your portable devices

the intended lane parameters. SYNC up

Ford Motor Company would like you to Sync up your portable devices in their vehicles. Ford has taken the lead with Microsoft to develop the latest in, in-car communications. The Sync system is configured to handle your media player and Bluetooth-enabled mobile phones. Ford is adding some new features that will expand Sync's use using Sirius Travel Link.

Ford indicates that Travel Link will provide drivers and passengers with access to up-to-the-minute information and entertainment content through the vehicle's navigation system. This includes: current gas prices from an estimated 120,000 filling stations; local, real-time traffic information for 78 markets; coast-to-coast weather conditions with five-day forecasts; sports scores, and even local movie listings addresses and even movie ratings.

The all-new 2009 Lincoln MKS will be one of the first vehicles with Ford's full suite of new in-car communications technologies, including Sirius Travel Link.

"Consumers are increasingly demanding seamless connectivity between their house and office and car," said Sheryl Connelly, Ford Global Trends and Futuring manager. Watch those footprints

No, I'm not talking about getting the cars dirty. Rather it's your carbon footprint. With greenhouse gas emissions a growing concern Toyota is showing attendees how their current vehicle effects the environment through a carbon footprint calculator in their display. It works by asking you some information about your current vehicle and the mileage you put on it. It compares that data to that of a Prius Hybrid to give you the amount of energy and emissions savings achievable if you go green.

Also of note are the highly detailed vehicle cutaways that really open up hybrid vehicles for close inspection. Toyota even applied the "green" theme to their display by using repurposed materials and as natural items.

While "GreenTec" grabs all the headlines don't forget about all the supercharged, turbo and big liter engineering on display with some cars sporting more than 600 horsepower. Also transmissions have gone from four on the floor to six and seven gear changers. There are even some concepts that use solar power to operate lighting and other dashboard functions. Suspensions and safety systems have also been given equal attention so if you want this type of technology it's all there waiting for you to soak it in.

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Sik# C7388
Automatic, CD, A/C, P/W, P/L, Tilt & Much More!
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Power Everything, Tilt, Cruise, Keyless Entry!
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\$18,388*
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 48 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
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\$18,988*
\$324* PER MONTH W/\$500 DOWN

BRAND NEW 2008 FORD EXPLORER XLT
 59 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
 #80542, CD, PL, PW, TILT, CRUISE, ALLOY WHEELS, LOADED! FULLY FACTORY EQUIPPED!
\$20,741*
\$359* PER MONTH W/\$500 DOWN

BRAND NEW 2007 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB 4X4
 127 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
 #72210, V8, AUTOMATIC TRANS, 8 FT. BOX, HEAVY DUTY PAYLOAD PKG, TRAILER TOW GROUP, LOADED!
\$20,888*
\$359* 8FT. BOX! PER MONTH W/\$500 DOWN

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 47 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
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C-Class improves on an already great car



by JILL CIMINILLO
SearchChicago-Autos Editor
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The first look at the all-new Mercedes-Benz C-Class requires a double take. The large Mercedes emblem on the grille, sleek long lines and elegant jewel-like taillights speak of a car that should cost much more than \$31,975.

But that second look is definitive, and the clear C300 badging on the back doesn't lie. This sexy little sedan is actually the base offering from Mercedes. Interesting.

Since my sister owns a previous generation C-Class, I was impatient to get behind the wheel of the redesigned model so that I could report back to the home front. However, after a week in the 2008 C300 Sport, I did not hurry to make that phone call. I mean, how do you tell your sister that her shiny, well-cared-for Mercedes -- which she won't even let me drive -- pales in comparison to the newer model? If you're me, you do it in an article. (Sorry, Julie.)

While the previous generation was nice, this new model is, simply put, much better. From the exterior design to the interior styling to the ride and handling, it's all just ... better. Much better.

The first thing that really struck me about the new C-Class is the interior. In the previous generation, while the interior looked nice, it always came off feeling kind of cheap and plasticky. The buttons and dials weren't very solid, and the leather on the seats somehow felt stiff and fake. All that is gone with the new model, and the touch points feel as good as they look.

I liked the eight-way power adjustable driver's seat, which allowed me to get an optimal driving position. Plus, the adjustable lumbar support was perfect. From the cockpit, all the gauges and controls are easy to reach and easy to read. Well, all the gauges and controls except for the dial that accompanies the optional COMAND system.

Because of my far-forward driving position, I had to contort my wrist and arm as well as turn slightly sideways in the driver's seat to access the COMAND dial located between the gearshift and the armrest. I'm not a particular fan of the do-it-all-with-a-single-knob computer systems in cars anyway, but then to have the dial in a place that's difficult for me to reach ... well, I like it even less. Unlike the BMW iDrive and the Audi MMI, the COMAND system isn't terrible. It's not completely intuitive, but it is one of those systems you do get the hang of without having to read the owner's manual.

For 2008, Mercedes-Benz adheres to the Sport/Luxury lineup in the C-Class, with three different model offerings: C300 Sport, C300 Luxury and C350 Sport. The C300 is nicely equipped with a power sunroof, Bluetooth connectivity for cell phones, tilt/telescoping steering wheel, dual-zone automatic climate control and side-curtain airbags. The C350 adds heated front seats, garage door opener, SIRIUS Satellite Radio with a free six-month subscription, rain-sensing wipers, a seven-speed automatic transmission and the 4Matic all-wheel drive

system. The base engine in the C300 Sport and Luxury models is the 228-horsepower V-6 engine. The C350 Sport upgrades to the 268-horsepower V-6.

Since the test vehicle was the base C300 Sport, it had the lesser horsepower amount. But without having driven the C350 Sport, I'd be hard pressed to tell you if that model, which adds \$9K to the price tag, is any faster or smoother. The C300 Sport was pretty darn nice, and the engine power seemed more like a V-8 than a V-6. Mated to the optional seven-speed automatic transmission (\$1,440), the acceleration was quick and seamless, and I hardly noticed when the gears changed.

The fuel estimates in this sporty C-Class were OK for a midsize car, but not stellar. Under the new 2008 EPA ratings, the C-Class C300 Sport with the seven-speed manual transmission has a city/highway rating of 18/25 mpg.

It was actually the exterior of the new C-Class that I noticed last -- mostly because I was so enamored with the new interior. I was walking up to the test car in a parking garage when that double take kicked in. The rear of the vehicle is tailored and trim, and the taillight treatment is very reminiscent of the high-end S-Class. The grille on the Sport model has the large three-pointed star front and center, mimicking the sporty AMG roadsters. It took me a second to remember that this classy looking sedan was the test car du jour.

While I've only seen the C300 Luxury model in pictures, I have to say I prefer the looks of the Sport models. The C300 Luxury looks stodgy and conservative with the regular chrome grille and three-star hood ornament. It also retains some of the snooze on the inside with the regular four-spoke steering wheel and burl walnut trim. In contrast, the Sport models come with a three-spoke steering wheel and either aluminum or black Birdseye maple interior trim. It was the aluminum trim in the C300 Sport that really gave it a fresh new look.

The test vehicle at its most basic level was a phenomenal car, and I probably could have done without most of the pricey options that were included. The one I would be sure to keep, however, is that seven-speed automatic transmission. Though I've not driven a C-Class with a manual transmission, the Mercedes manual is typically anything but smooth.

Other options on the test vehicle included premium paint (\$710), TeleAid (\$650), panorama sunroof (\$1,000), Premium II Package (\$2,750) and Multimedia Package (\$2,950). The as-tested price of the 2008 Mercedes-Benz C300 Sport test vehicle was \$42,475.

So, the next time you spot a Mercedes on the road and think it might be way out of your price range, look again. It could be a \$31,975 C-Class that's packed with a ton of standard features. It might just be in your price range after all.

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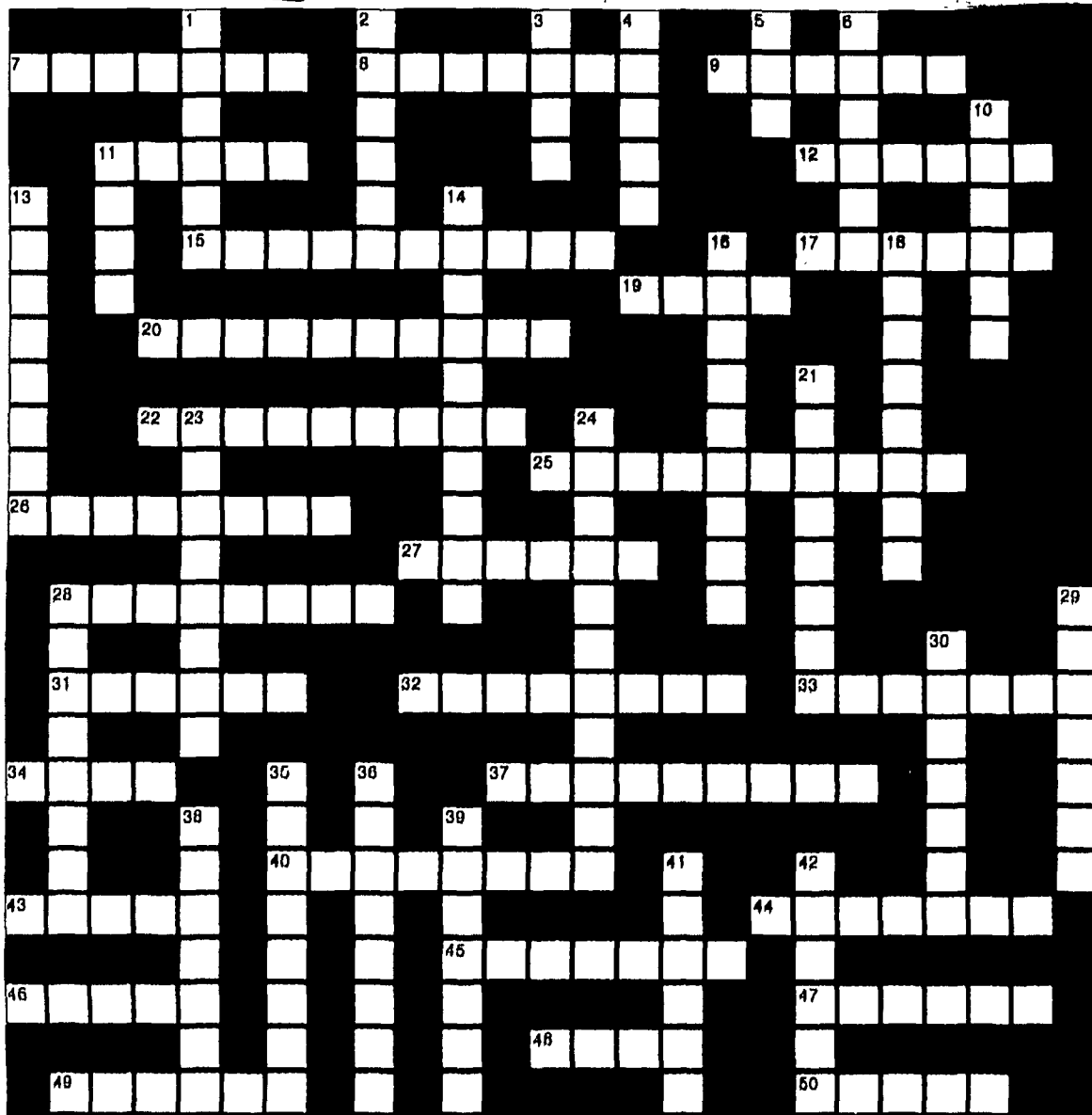
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autoCROSS will test your knowledge of cars, brand names and auto related people from all over the world.



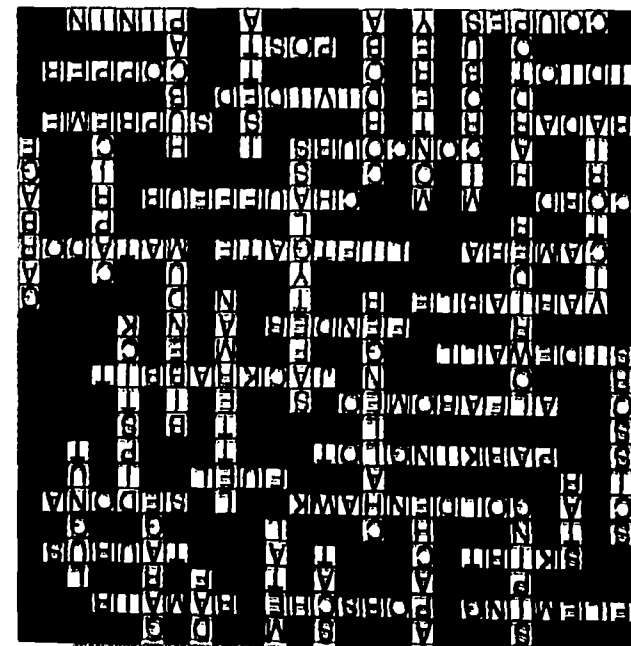
DOWN

- 1. Traction aid for tires
- 2. '60s Chev pickup model
- 3. Dodge's _____ Pack
- 4. Pedal to the _____
- 5. Dutch-built car
- 6. Covered storage
- 10. Joins wheel to hub
- 11. Mercedes-Benz three-pointed _____
- 13. Diablo door style
- 14. Dodge recreated for 2008
- 16. Talk-show host/race-team owner
- 18. Oil-level gauge
- 21. Michelin mascot
- 23. Hydraulic-suspension car
- 24. Window that breaks into tiny pieces
- 28. Model A Ford two-door
- 29. Trash truck
- 30. Pricier than an Impala
- 35. VW minivan
- 36. Mercury named for costal town
- 38. Coupe or sedan less the side pillar
- 39. '70s Chrysler coupe
- 41. BMW bubble car
- 42. Small wheel covering

ACROSS

- 7. Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang author
- 8. Seinfeld's brand
- 9. Firebird power option
- 11. Wheel-arch cover
- 12. Sedan retired after 20 years, now it's back
- 15. Sporty Stude
- 17. An Arizona Kia?
- 19. Line or pump
- 20. "They paved paradise, put up a _____"
- 22. Italian car company
- 25. A "jump" start
- 26. Usually black or white
- 27. _____ bender
- 28. _____ cam timing
- 31. Backup _____
- 32. Cargo door
- 33. Full-size AMC model, once
- 34. 1930s FWD car
- 37. Pro driver
- 40. Perfectly restored classic
- 43. _____ detector
- 44. Top Cutlass
- 45. Highway type
- 46. Slang for warning lights
- 47. Before chrome plating
- 48. Battery terminal
- 49. M-B CLS and Jag XF are four-door _____
- 50. Car stylist _____ Farina

ANSWERS



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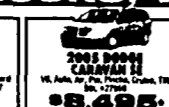









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TODAY'S
NEW HOMES
A PIONEER PRESS PUBLICATION
VOL 17/NO 7 FEBRUARY 13 14, 2008

Fill your home with love

Spice up your life with romantic accents

Although new homebuilders don't give prospective homebuyers flowers and candy for walking through their model homes, many of them are still romancing the buyer in very subtle ways. From lighting to fireplaces to a shower for two, numerous luxury features are incorporated into home designs to evoke a sense of romance and set the tone for a life of luxury.

Toll Brothers, the nation's leading builder of luxury homes, has always romanced its buyers with stunning model homes, not only with beautiful interior designs, but also filled to the brim with every luxurious inclusion imaginable. "We get an "A" in this department as witnessed by the many awards of excellence we have collected during the years for our first-class model homes," says Andy Stern, senior vice president.

Toll Brothers goes one step further by offering features that evoke warm feelings of hearth and home and help to rekindle that romantic spirit. For those couples that consider their bedroom a sanctuary away from the day-to-day activities of family life, a built-in refreshment bar provides a resource for fresh cup of espresso in the morning, without a trip to the kitchen.

Just sitting on a love seat in the bedroom's sitting area and watching a roaring flame from a cozy fireplace on a cold winter night can work magic in the minds of homeowners.

The luxurious master baths in Toll Brothers' homes provide a source of relaxation to help soothe the mind, body and spirit - and add a little romance to every day life. A two-way fireplace attaches the opulent bedroom to the bath to create an undeniable romantic retreat. Add in a whirlpool tub, large enough for two, with streaming jets to help relax those tired bones and release tension.

Another enticing option is the contemporary shower with double showerheads or a rain showers offering a chance for two to share in a luxuriant experience. Kohler square shower tiles produce adjustable body sprays, which are great for pampering, while the old-fashioned steam

SEE ROMANCE ON PAGE 2



ROMANCE FROM PAGE 1

shower is the ultimate bath experience.

For the couple that enjoys a touch of romance outdoors in the privacy of their own backyard, a brick paver patio with a built-in fire pit sets the stage for a pleasurable summer evening spent around the fire.

Proper lighting also plays an important role in setting the stage for an amorous evening. Create the right atmosphere with dimmer switches or even tray ceilings with cove lighting to set the mood during an intimate dinner for two in the dining room.

What's old is new again and chandeliers are back in

vogue. A sparkling crystal chandelier not only enhances a room, but also provides a refined atmosphere creating nostalgic charm in a modern design in the kitchen, bath or bedroom.

These features and many more are offered to buyers at Hawthorn Woods Country Club, a luxurious master planned community built around a picturesque Arnold Palmer Signature Golf Course in north-suburban Hawthorn Woods.

Hawthorn Woods Country Club features three collections of luxury homes. The Signature Collection features 297 upscale, luxury single-family homes priced from the mid-\$600,000s to over \$1 million. The Golf

Villa Collection features 123 low-maintenance single-family homes priced from the upper \$400,000s. The Tournament Collection features 113 luxury town homes priced from the upper \$300,000s.

More than 70 percent of the homes in this award-winning community have been sold, which makes now an ideal time to buy with a spectacular selection of home sites and floor plans to choose from in this highly sought-after gated neighborhood.

Signature Series homes sit on one-half acre sites featuring either golf course or conservancy area views. Buyers have a choice of 10 floor plans, ranging from 2,900 to 6,000 square feet, and featuring four bedrooms, two-and-a-half to four-and-a-half baths, standard three-car garages and full basements.

The low-maintenance town homes range from 1,900 to 2,400 square feet and feature three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, two-car garages and full basements. Many town homes have scenic golf course or lake views.

The low-maintenance golf villas range from 2,600 to 3,200 square feet and feature three to four bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and two-car garages. Three of the floor plans have a first floor master suite, while all of the home sites have golf course views.

The Sales Center is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To visit Hawthorn Woods Country Club, take I-94 and exit Route 22 West (Half Day Road), and go 5 miles to Route 83 North and turn right, then left on Gilmer Road and continue four miles west, turn left on Schwerman Road. Call (847) 847-7048 or visit www.hawthornwoodscountryclub.com

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Condominiums

The modern home often favors substance over style, such as bringing a television into the bedroom or bathroom for convenience rather than creating a retreat in those two sacred spaces. However, it's true what they say: home is where the heart is. This Valentine's Day, bring romance into every aspect of your life, beginning with your home.

The homes Susan Fredman Design Group designs for its clients are more than beautiful; they are inspiring. Whether you or an interior designer is creating your space, be sure that your passion is evident. Add colors, features and textures that connect with your soul rather than just fill a space or look pretty.

First, decide what colors you like best. Are you drawn to any particular color? Your home is your backdrop, and it should reflect colors that make you feel good. Creams and browns mixed with anything, pumpkin oranges, yellows and reds just make

Setting the mood

you want to curl up and relax. Try to work with contrasts. When juxtaposing opposites, rooms are infused with energy.

Susan Fredman designers look to nature to inspire creations. Consider your woodwork. Dark walnut finishes are warm and cozy or rich and supple. Light colored woods such as maple and pine can be clean and refreshing, or soft and calm.

What kind of environment do you want to create? Consider different kinds of stone for tiles, countertops and mantles. Wood and stone evoke a feeling of security and permanence. Together in one room, they relax you. You may feel that all is well,

and you are protected and safe. Incorporate these elements into the pinnacle of romance: the fireplace. More than any other architectural

detail, a fireplace can add warmth and romance to a room. Fireplaces come in many styles, sizes and colors to fit different personalities and aesthetics. Like romance, a fireplace need not be serious. Have fun with your choices of texture in the fireplace and the artwork that surrounds it. You do not need to follow suit by adding one dramatic piece above the mantle. Use the mantle as a space to display your favorite collection or family photos.

Working with a designer will allow you to bring romance into your home long after Valentine's Day passes. Visit www.susanfredman.com for more ideas on how to capture this look.

Suite romance

Home is where the heart is: local developers are taking this old adage, well, to heart, and building new homes with features and surroundings that set the mood for amore. Just in time for Valentine's Day, here's a look at the features that are serving up romance in these communities, from intimate master suites to locations that turn any night into date night.

Sweet dreams
Finding time for romance in an already hectic schedule can be a challenge for busy couples. That makes a master suite that doubles as a romantic oasis a popular feature among many buyers, according to Rolling Meadows-based Kimball Hill Homes.

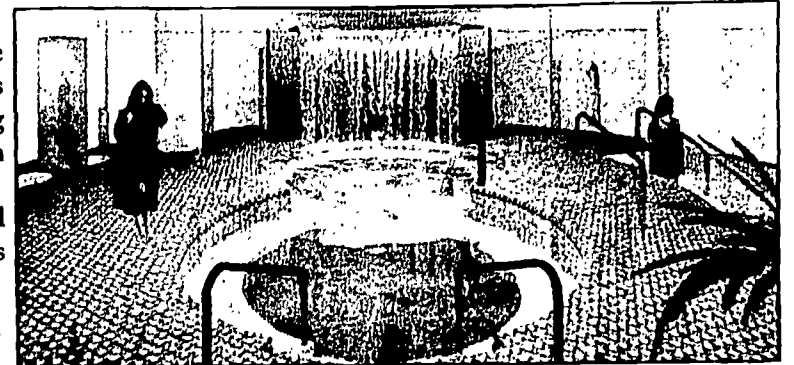
"A lot of couples want a private getaway where they can reconnect with each other after they've shut off their cell phones for the night and the kids have gone to bed," says Jack Wexelberg, regional president of Kimball Hill Homes. "With the master suite options we offer, they can really indulge and turn the space into a personal retreat they can enjoy together."

Buyers can opt to upgrade their master suite with features such as a sitting area or a spa-inspired deluxe bath complete with a whirlpool tub, volume ceiling and skylights.

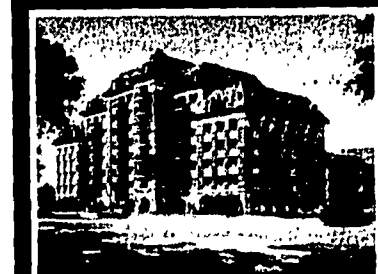
Additionally, select plans offer a private master suite balcony that Wexelberg says is the perfect escape for enjoying a morning cup of coffee or evening glass of wine with a spouse or significant other.

Deluxe master suites are available at all Kimball Hill Homes communities throughout the Chicago area.

SEE SUITE ON PAGE 6



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MORTGAGE NEWS

Bankrate mortgage update

By Holden Lewis • Bankrate.com

Mortgage rates fell this week, keeping a refinancing boomlet alive.

The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 10 basis points, to 5.78 percent, according to the Bankrate.com national survey of large lenders. A basis point is one-hundredth of 1 percentage point. The mortgages in this week's survey had an average total of 0.36 discount and origination points. One year ago, the mortgage index was 6.31 percent; four weeks ago, it was 5.88 percent.

The benchmark 15-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 7 basis points, to 5.31 percent. The benchmark 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgage fell 15 basis points, to 5.51 percent. The benchmark 30-year jumbo, for home loans greater than \$417,000, fell 6 basis points, to 6.97 percent.

The rate on the 30-year fixed has remained below 6 percent for more than a month now. Many homeowners applied a few weeks ago to refinance their mortgages, but latecomers continue to apply. According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, refinances accounted for almost 70 percent of applications last week, and brokers report a fresh round of inquiries this week.

Advice for refinancers

All this is happening while lenders are tightening credit standards, and while home prices in many markets are falling. As a result, landing a refinance can be tricky. Jim Sahnger, mortgage consultant with Palm Beach Financial Network in Stuart, Fla., dispenses some advice:

Be ready to document your income, debts and assets. "If your loan officer asks for a specific piece of information, provide it as quickly as you can," Sahnger says. A lot of people are preparing their taxes these days, he adds, so financial information is easily found.

Know your credit score. Sahnger recommends that homeowners get a good sense of their creditworthiness before they contact a broker or loan officer to refinance. One method is to buy a copy of one's credit score at myFICO.com. ■

Key definitions

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

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

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

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

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

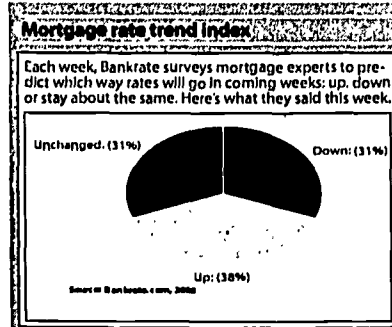
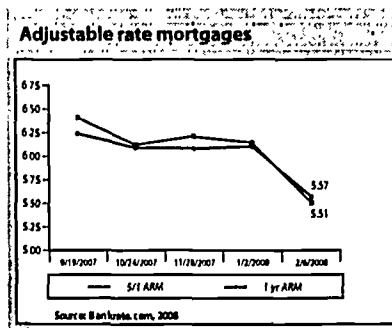
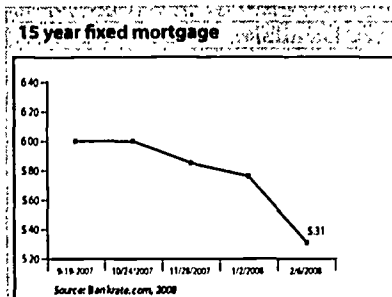
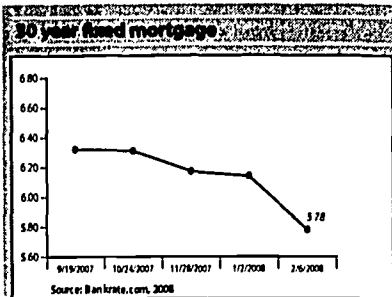
Fixed: The payment of a debt in installments over an agreed-upon period, during which principal and interest are paid off.

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

Mortgage tip:
Your lender doesn't want to lend money against a house that may have claims or other encumbrances upon it. That's why a title company performs a title search.

Bankrate National Index

	30 yr fx	15 yr fx	5 yr ARM
This week	5.78	5.31	5.51
Last week	5.88	5.38	5.66
Last year	6.31	6.09	6.17



Index

	Prime Rate	Fed Funds Rate	11th Dist. COF
This week	6.00	3.00	4.072
Last change	6.50	3.50	4.172
Last year	8.25	5.25	4.396

For more information please visit www.bankrate.com.

Mortgage Payment Calculator

Here's what the loan payment would be on a \$100,000 loan (with 20% down) for various programs at prevailing interest rates.

\$165,000 loan amount			
Loan program	Rate	Rate	Monthly payment
1 yr ARM	5.57%		\$944.11
5/1 ARM	5.51%		\$937.89
15 yr fixed	5.31%		\$1,331.61
30 yr fixed	5.78%		\$966.04
\$435,000 loan amount			
Loan program	Rate	Rate	Monthly payment
30 yr jumbo	6.97%		\$2,885.31
Home equity loan			
Loan program	Rate	Rate	Monthly payment
30K HEL	7.83%		\$605.85

For more information please visit www.bankrate.com.

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

40 percent hike in Chicago real estate transfer tax a knockout

Chicago's recession-battered real estate industry took yet another punch on the chin as the City Council passed a controversial hike in the real estate transfer tax.

The City Council voted 41-6 on February 6 to increase the transfer taxes a whopping 40 percent to \$10.50 per \$1,000 of sales value from \$7.50. The hike, effective April 1, means that the buyer of a \$250,000 single-family home or condo would pay a transfer tax of \$2,625 at closing, an increase of \$750 higher than the former rate.

However, developers say the higher transfer tax will put a damper on new-home sales in Chicago, where the most affordable new-construction single-family homes are priced at more than \$600,000. The transfer tax on this home would run a hefty \$6,300, up from \$4,500.

The \$3 increase satisfies the city's obligation included in the Mass Transit Funding and Reform legislation approved by the General Assembly last month. The \$3 increase will be used to pay for CTA employee pension and retiree healthcare costs.

Virtually every real estate and business trade group — including the Chicago Association of Realtors (CAR), the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Attainable Housing Alliance, the Home Builders Association of Greater Chicago, the Chicagoland Apartment Association and the Illinois Association of Realtors — fought passage of the transfer tax increase.

One small victory: the amended ordinance that was approved includes a refund for buyers at least 65 years of age who purchase property valued at \$250,000 or less and who live in the premises for at least one year. This might help seniors who are selling a home and moving down to a one-bedroom condo, experts said.

The transfer tax hike is expected to generate \$63 million in 2008 and \$84 million in subsequent years to fund CTA pension plans.

"The Chicago Association of Realtors and our allies in this cause do not feel Chicago's home buyers and sellers should bear the burden of funding CTA pension plans," said David Hanna, president-elect of the 15,000-member CAR.

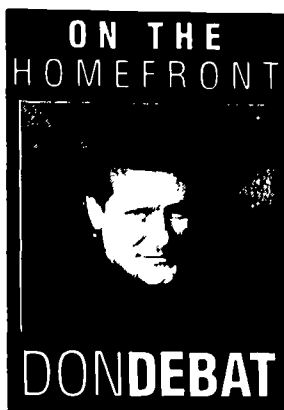
"The CTA's mismanagement is not the taxpayers' responsibility," Hanna said. "The people of Chicago deserve to know that this tax will not put a new bus on our streets, or a new train on our tracks," said Hanna.

Judith Roettig, executive vice president of the Chicagoland Apartment Association, said: "This is just one more tax on rental property owners in Chicago. Small and large owners of rental housing are reeling from staggering real estate taxes and utility cost increases in 2007 and 2008. Some are finding it difficult to hold onto their properties. City Council wants affordable housing in Chicago but they keep passing taxes that only make affordability more difficult."

Barbara Head, a sales agent in Rubloff Residential Properties' Lincoln Park office, noted that now is the "absolute worst time to raise taxes" on the housing industry. "The market is struggling with the fallout from bad loans, foreclosures and skittish buyers. And, now comes this higher tax on the sale of homes," Head said. "Historically, the real estate industry has carried the economy and created jobs in a variety of other sectors. This is not helping to start a recovery."

While Realtors and developers may be angry at aldermen and Mayor Richard M. Daley for the short sightedness of this action, Head noted that Gov. Blagojevich and the Illinois legislature bear much of the responsibility for pushing the transfer tax hike, analysts said.

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



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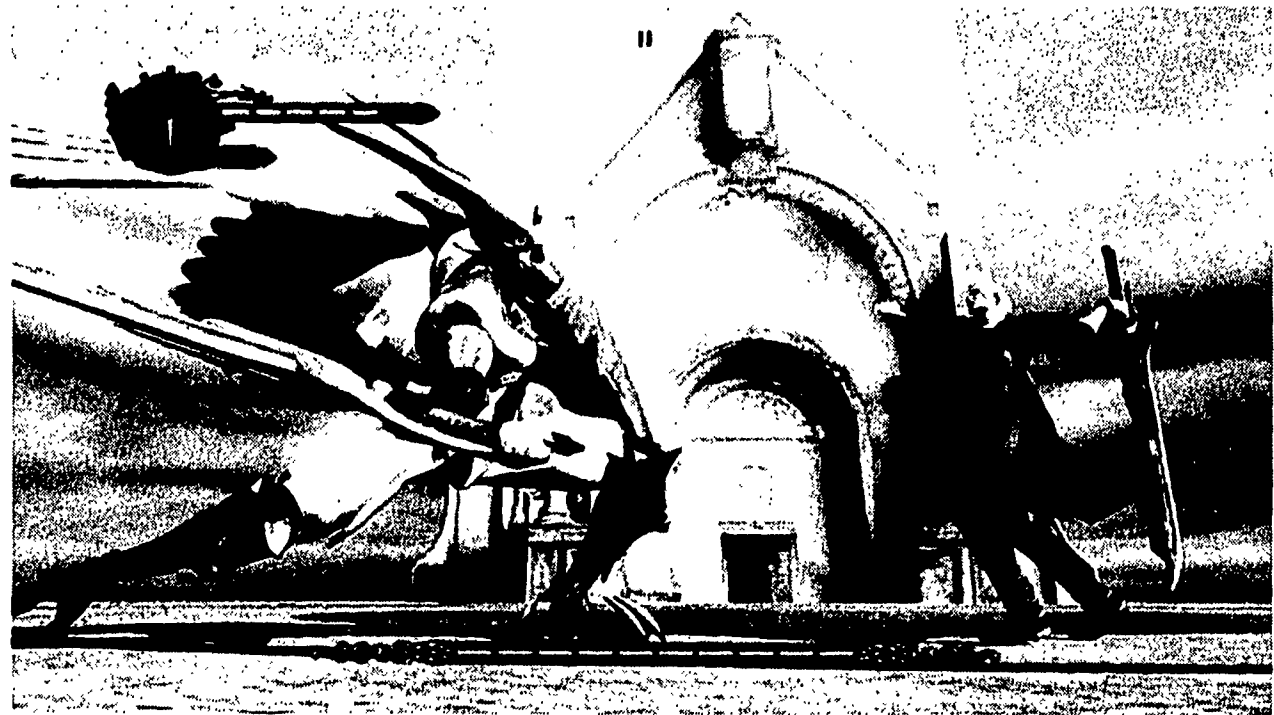
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In "Devil May Cry 4," Dante is joined by newcomer Nero to battle their way through hordes of demons.



Dante is back in 'Devil May Cry 4'

By ERIC STEIN
Video Game Reviewer

DEVIL MAY CRY 4
Xbox 360, PS3
\$59.99
Rated M for Mature
★ ★ ★ 1/2

GAMEROOM
VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

CULDCEPT SAGA
Xbox 360
\$39.99
Rated T for Teen
★ ★ ★

GAMEPLAY: The wise-cracking, demon-smashing son of Sparda is back, and he's brought a friend. The hack-and-blast gameplay of "Devil May Cry 4" is divided between time spent as Dante and as newcomer Nero. Each character adds their own relentless style of destruction to the mix. Dante can master several different fighting styles in addition to an extensive arsenal that is sure to please fans of the series. The new guy, Nero, has a demonic arm that makes for a whole new kind of mayhem. Using the strengths of each, this pair will carve their way through hordes of demons and some pretty tough bosses as well.

GRAPHICS/SOUND: "Devil May Cry 4" is the first installment of the popular series to debut on next-gen platforms. Visually, the series has always looked good. But when paired with the graphics capabilities of the Xbox 360 and Playstation3, this game is a sight to behold. Characters, enemies and effects all look fabulous. Detailed textures and impressive framerate keep the action fast, furious and beautiful throughout.

The voice acting in "Devil May Cry 4" is top shelf as are the sound effects and musical score. The blistering report from Dante's twin pistols and the clang of ridiculously over-sized blades are as satisfying as they are brutal.

GAMEPLAY: "Culdcept SAGA" is essentially a trading card/board game hybrid that plays like a cross between Monopoly and Magic the Gathering. The idea is to travel in laps around the game board conquering territories, battling monsters and earning magic points. To do this, the player will draw up to six cards consisting of spell, item, weapon, armor and creature cards. Each card has a different effect on play. For example, spell and item cards have specific effects like strengthening an individual creature or limiting the movement of another player. Over the course of the game, players build the value of their own territories while attempting not to land on their opponents'. Victory is achieved when any player has earned enough money (magic) to reach the goal set for that particular board.

GRAPHICS/SOUND: The character models themselves look good. Game boards are



"Culdcept SAGA" is a cross between Monopoly and Magic the Gathering.

fairly simple and the surrounding environments are mostly unremarkable. Action animations range from purely functional to pretty good-looking. However, almost every one of the hundreds of cards available is beautifully illustrated. Each card carries the name of the artist, and they are all a pleasure to collect.

Soundwise, "Culdcept SAGA" is competent if not particularly inspired. The voice acting is pretty good, and the background music could be worse. However, after a few hours of the same song, players might opt for their own music.

LOWDOWN: "Culdcept SAGA" is a very cool, strategic board game experience. It has a pretty steep learning curve, but once gamers really grasp how to play, it's pretty tough to stop. It can also be very frustrating at times. Some battles can take upwards of three hours, only to end in a last minute defeat. Even then, the gameplay shines throughout as unique and the thrill of sifting through newly acquired cards makes it worthwhile. This game will probably not appeal to the action crowd, but for those players who enjoy a solid board game and don't mind investing some time, "Culdcept SAGA" is a great game.

— Contact Erik Stein at erik.stein@hotmail.com.

RECENTREVIEWS

BURNOUT PARADISE

★ ★ ★ 1/2

Rather than follow the structured, linear race progression offered by earlier "Burnout" games, now players can cruise the streets of Paradise City at their leisure. Races can be initiated at almost any intersection and players can still engage in time trial and road rage events. Every race conveys an intense feeling of speed, and the crashes are amazing. *E for Everyone. Xbox 360, PS3.*

NO MORE HEROES

★ ★ ★ 1/2

"No More Heroes" is a wacky, funny and totally over-the-top violent action game from the creators of "Killer 7." As Travis Touchdown, players will hack and body slam their way through countless henchmen, eventually lacing oil against one of several boss-type bad guys. Heavily stylized visuals and excellent sound design make up a big part of the game's appeal. For adults who have been waiting for a mature-themed game on the Wii, this is a solid title that definitely deserves a look. *M for Mature. Nintendo Wii.*

ADVANCE WARS: DAYS OF RUIN

★ ★ ★ 1/2

"Days of Ruin" takes place on an Earth-like planet that has been nearly destroyed by a meteor storm. As Will, a military cadet, the player will join a band of heroes as they travel the scarred landscape looking for survivors. Visually, "Days of Ruin" sheds the more cartoonish look of its predecessors, and opts for a darker, grittier experience. The game is easy to learn, but as the stages progress, battles become epic and complex. *E for Everyone. Nintendo DS.*

ENDLESS OCEAN

★ ★ ★

In "Endless Ocean" there are no bad guys, time limits or high scores — it's about as peaceful and educational as it gets. As a scuba diver, most of the game is spent underwater, exploring the murky ocean depths. Movement is simple, and consists mainly of pointing the Wii remote and holding a button to swim. The game lets players train dolphins, collect fish and lead diving expeditions. The lack of conflict and slow pace may not be right for many gamers, but those willing to give it a look will find it different and impressive. *E for Everyone. Nintendo Wii.*

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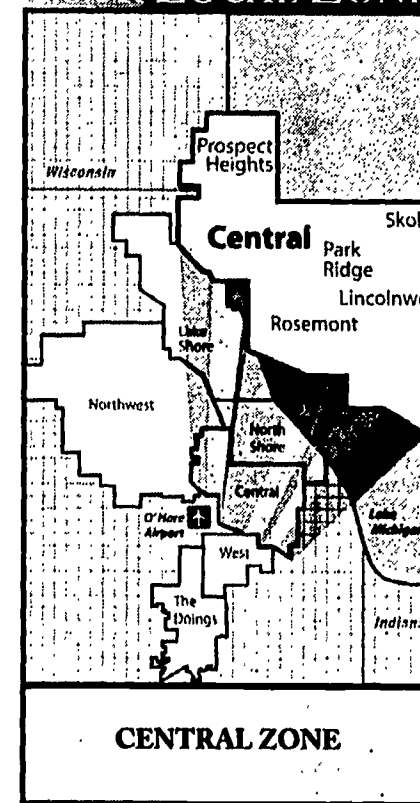
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INDEX

- Announcements100s
- Business Directory200s
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- Employment.....400s
- Rentals500s
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Sory SWF, 56, 5'4", 125lbs, brunet, brown eyes, NKids, outgoing, honest, romantic, good dancer, seeks SWM, 53-65, NIS, educated, loves to travel, good manners, for friendship possible LTR. **2213966**

LOVING WOMAN
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LOOKING FOR ME
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FRIENDSHIP AND FUN
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TAKE A CHANCE
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100s
Announcements.....101
Birth Announcements.....102
Car Pool & Rides.....103
Disclaimer of Debt.....104
Groomings.....105
In Memoriam.....106
Lost & Found.....108
Personals.....110
Adoption Services.....111
Just a Friend.....112
Single Scene.....113

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Table with columns: SPACE #, OCCUPANT, CONTENTS. Lists items like Mattress, couch, table, lamp, etc.

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid for at the time of sale...

Published in Pioneer Press 2/7, 2/14/08 (154711)C

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY... Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act...

Table with columns: Unit #, Name, Contents. Lists items like Mattress, couch, table, lamp, etc.

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid for at the time of sale...

Published in Pioneer Press 2/7, 2/14, 2/21/08 (154714) C, Cs

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY... Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act...

Table with columns: Space #, Occupant, Contents. Lists items like Mattress, couch, table, lamp, etc.

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Published in Pioneer Press 2/7, 2/14/08 (154761)C

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY... Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act...

Table with columns: SPACE #, OCCUPANT, CONTENTS. Lists items like Mattress, couch, table, lamp, etc.

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Published in Pioneer Press 2/7, 2/14/08 (154711)C

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Table with columns: SPACE #, OCCUPANT, CONTENTS. Lists items like Mattress, couch, table, lamp, etc.

1046- Liens

1062- Probate

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1062- Probate

1066- Public Notices

PUBLIC LIEN SALE... That on 2/13/2008, a sale will be held at 3:00 p.m. at: R&P Auto, 3652 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL 60641.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION... Estate of RUTH LOUISE ODOUGLASS, Deceased, No. 08 P 101

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, PROBATE DIVISION... In the matter of the estate of JOHN STROYER (Deceased)

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, PROBATE DIVISION... In the matter of the estate of MARIE FLIPPIN (Deceased)

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STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, PROBATE DIVISION... In the matter of the estate of MARIE FLIPPIN (Deceased)

NOTICE... Notice is given of the death of RUTH LOUISE ODOUGLASS of Chicago, Illinois.

NOTICE... Notice is given of the death of JOHN STROYER of Chicago, Illinois.

NOTICE... Notice is given of the death of MARIE FLIPPIN of Chicago, Illinois.

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PUBLIC NOTICE... To all owners and occupiers of lands lying within the boundaries of the North Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

Public Notice... Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Monday, 03 March 2008 at 7:30 P.M. at the Village Hall, 400 North Dearborn Avenue, Northbrook, Illinois.

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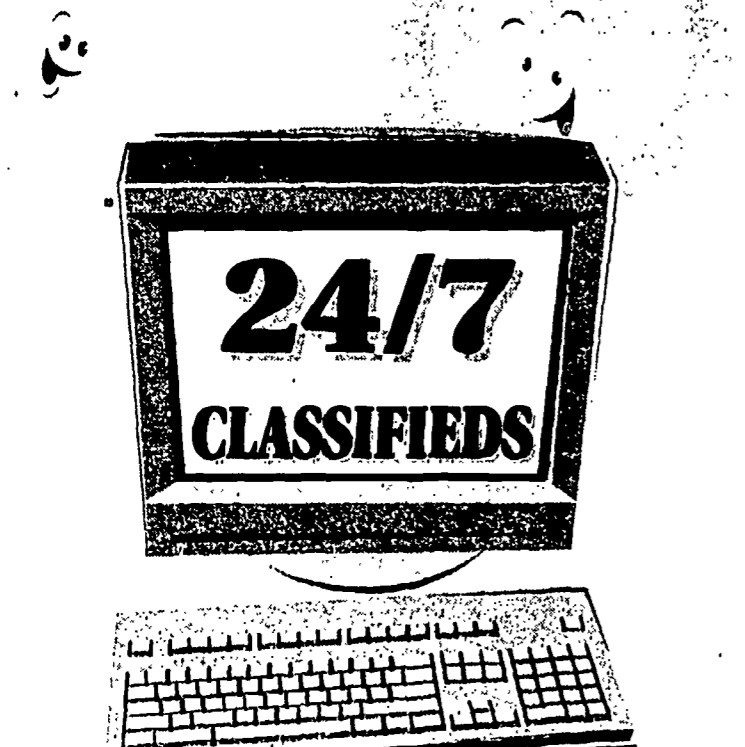
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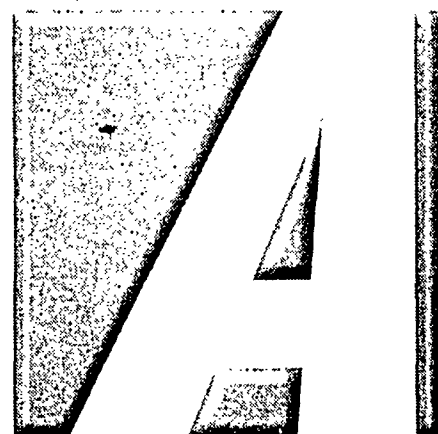
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AutoMotive

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newREVIEW



Jeff Taylor: Dodge Caliber is the new

measure for domestic compacts Page 6

autoBRIEFS

- Local BMW dealerships drive for a cure
- Detroit auto show expecting several Chinese makers

Page 3

fineLINES

Mazda had a new engine and a special wrapping to show it off

Page 9



nowBY THE

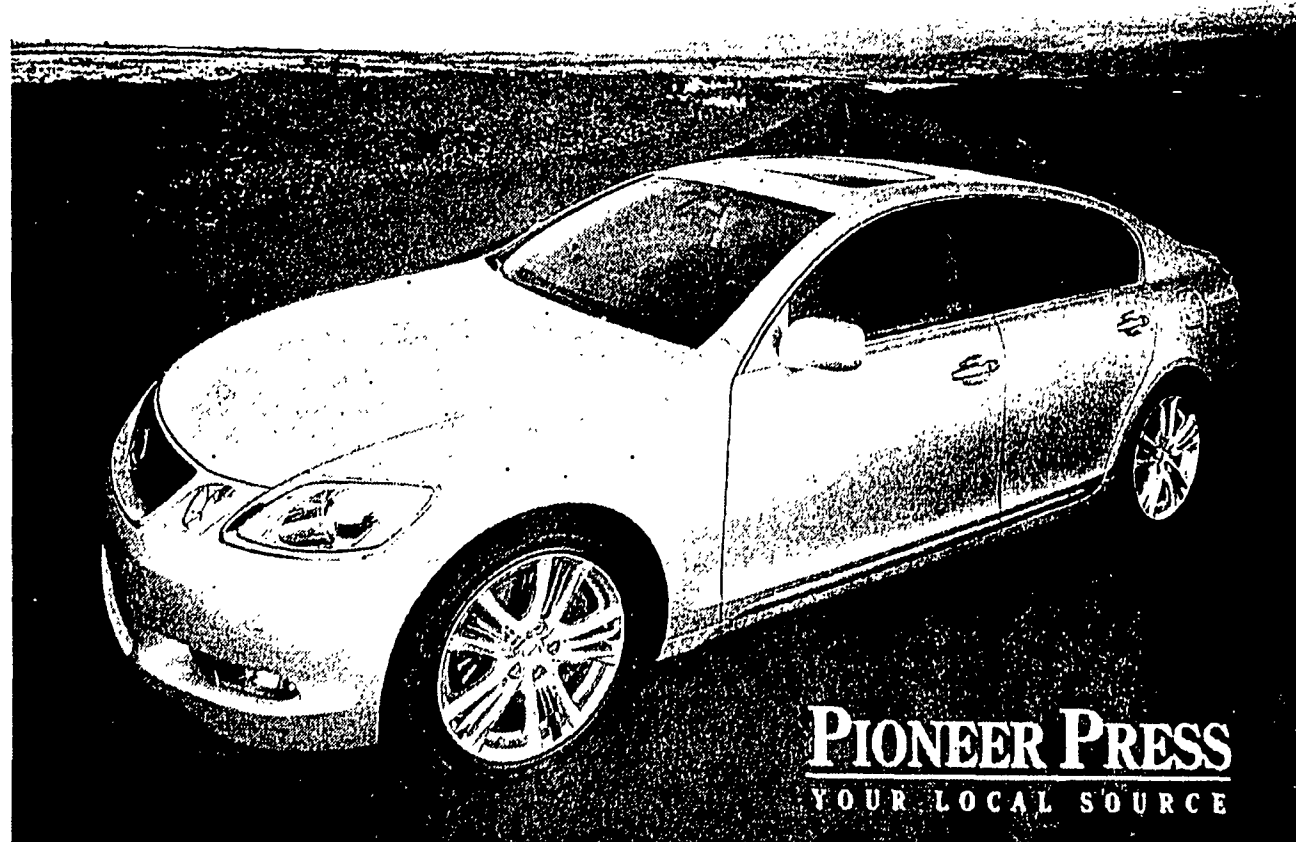
- Jill Anne Ciminillo reviews the Ford Mustang Convertible
- Jeff Taylor reviews the Toyota Avàlon

>> Comments on the redesign? automotive @pioneerlocal.com

Tale of two hybrids

[PAGE 8]

ONE AUTOMAKER HAS TWO VERY DIFFERENT HYBRID PHILOSOPHIES: POWER VS. EFFICIENCY



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It's your paper. We just put it together.

Send us your family photos, your kids' artwork and more, and we'll print them on our Bulletin Board page. E-mail alunde@pioneerlocal.com.

IF I WON AN OSCAR ...



Nick Cacciatore, 17, of Park Ridge, who takes tickets at the Pickwick Theatre, would start his Oscar-acceptance speech by thanking everybody who helped him along the way, including teachers in acting school and his director. "Even family that's given me inspiration," he added. "And even your agent that helped you land the role."



Is it truly an honor just to be nominated for an Academy Award? "No way," said Sharon Rizzo, of Palatine, who was out shopping in Park Ridge. "... Well I shouldn't say that," she said. "I guess it's an honor, but ... the true honor is in standing out among your peers."



If Anita Bloom, of Park Ridge, had her druthers, she would want to win an Oscar for Best Director. " 'Cause that's the guy whose vision makes the movie," she said.



R.S. Owens & Company employee Nunzio Giganti pulls an Oscar, freshly coated in 24-karat gold, out of the tank. — Jeff Krage/For Pioneer Press

'Da' Oscar factory 'over by dere'

Coveted little gold man may live in Hollywood, but he's from Chicago

By JOANNA BRODER Staff Writer jbroder@pioneerlocal.com

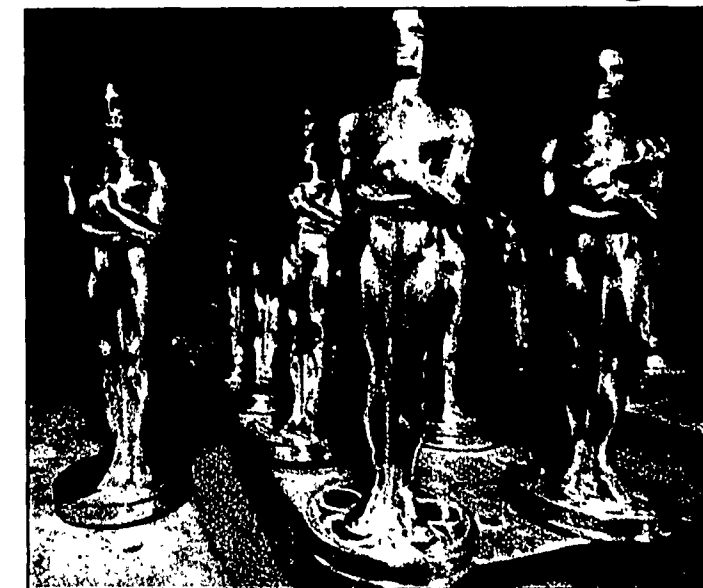
There is no red carpet outside Chicago's R.S. Owens & Company. And you won't see Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt strolling across the parking lot.

But thanks to this unassuming factory on the city's Northwest Side — 2,000 miles away and worlds apart from Hollywood — some of the most senior and hard-working employees of the company that manufactures the Academy Awards' Oscar statuettes will realize their dream of experiencing the

glitz and star power of the film industry's biggest night.

Every year, R.S. Owens sends one employee and a person of that worker's choosing to the famed Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, where the pair walk the red carpet near stars such as Jolie, Kate Winslet and Tom Hanks, and then take in the show.

Don Esposito, R.S. Owens' manager of information and technology, went to the Academy Awards in 2002 — the year "A Beautiful Mind" won for Best Picture — after being with the company for 32 years. He described the experience as "pretty surreal." It was the first ceremony in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and everybody had to pass through a metal detector, he said.



Oscars wait to be coated at R.S. Owens & Company in Chicago's Jefferson Park community. — Jeff Krage/For Pioneer Press

"And I mean everybody," Esposito said. "When I walked through the metal detectors the person next to me in line — just like this, rubbing elbows — was Kate Winslet. And Marisa Tomei was directly in line behind me."

There and back again
Walking down the red carpet was the best part of the night for Esposito. A rope divides the carpet into two sections: one side cordoned off for celebrities giving

See OSCAR, page 56

PEEK AT THE WEEK

DEADLINES

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 10 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Anne Lund, Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 130 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge IL 60068. Information may be faxed to (847) 696-3229 or e-mailed to alunde@pioneerlocal.com.

BENEFITS

The Monarch Ball, a black-tie benefit for Resurrection Health Care, will be at 6 p.m. March 1 at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. This evening of elegance will include a cocktail reception, a formal dinner, dancing to the sounds of Rich Daniels and the City Lights Orchestra, and a special guest appearance by Darrell Hammond of "Saturday Night Live." Proceeds will support patient services at Resurrection Health Care, including the new patient-care addition at Resurrection Medical Center. Tickets are \$300 per person and may be reserved by calling Anita Kopley at the Resurrection Development Foundation, (847) 813-3464. Resurrection Health Care is co-sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Sisters of the Resurrection.

"For the Love of our Children, the Red, White & Blues" casual winter ball to benefit the Midwest Children's Brain Tumor Center at Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight Feb. 23 at the Playdium, 1776 Glenview Road, Glenview. Attendees will enjoy tastes from local restaurants, enjoy three hours of the best of the blues, jazz and rock from SO-PRO Productions and have the chance to win great raffle items including a diamond and emerald necklace from Rafael Jewelers, tickets to Chicago Bulls, Blackhawks and Cubs games and more. Event planners hope to raise \$40,000 to help the MCBTC continue its pioneering efforts to combat pediatric brain tumors through education, research, the latest medical treatments, state of the art technology, and supportive family services. Tickets are \$20 for this adults-only event. For more

information, call (847) 723-5183.

Avenues to Independence is going Hollywood on Feb. 23, when its stars will be shining at the annual Love Affair dinner-dance gala to be held at the Donald L. Stephens Ballroom in Rosemont. Guests are invited to stroll the Avenues Walk of Fame, chat with a celebrity and sip a martini, or sit back and enjoy the musical entertainment while sharing a cappuccino with a friend. There will be silent and live-auction items to bid on and a chance to win big in the evening's grand raffle. Tickets are \$150 per person and include a champagne welcome, five-course gourmet dinner, dessert, martini and cappuccino bar and valet parking. All proceeds will benefit the Avenues No Place Like Home initiative, a project to update and renovate Avenues homes. Avenues is a not-for-profit agency serving adults with developmental disabilities in the Chicago area. Residences are in Park Ridge, Des Plaines and Niles. A work center is in Wheeling, where more than 160 men and women train and work as part of the agency's employment program. More than 70 additional people are employed in community jobs. For additional information contact Ann Marie Ehrlich, Avenues vice president of development, (847) 292-0870, Ext. 108.

The Wolff-Berger-Croft-Kolodny Chapter of the Leukemia Research Foundation will host the "Pre Leap for a Cure" benefit party from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 28 at Cheeseburger in Paradise, 1472 Market St., Des Plaines. Ticket price is \$25 per person, and includes appetizers, door prizes and a \$10 Cheeseburger in Paradise gift card. For tickets and information contact Bill Donets, (847) 657-8166, or e-mail VLDonets@yahoo.com.

CLUBS

Ronald Przyborski, well-known yo-yo entertainer, will bring history, stories, and demonstrate the magic of this well-known toy at 2 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 Milwaukee Ave., Niles. All programs are planned with the family in mind. Come early,

a docent will be on hand to provide a tour of the building to see exhibits and answer questions. Dessert and refreshments will be served. There is plenty of parking. Admission is free but donations are accepted. The Niles Historical Museum is open every Wednesday and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. If an appointment is needed at another time, call (847) 390-0160.

The Knights of Columbus is offering a 1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree Exemplification ceremony Feb. 24 at St. Thecla Parish, 6725 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, beginning at noon for 1st Degree, followed at 1 p.m. for 2nd degree and dinner at about 4 p.m. North American Martyrs will provide all Brothers the opportunity to progress in the Order. For new candidates to the 1st degree, an application is due. Be there at 11:30 a.m. to review paperwork and for a short introduction. For existing 1st and 2nd Degree Knights there is no cost to attend and experience the Exemplification ceremony. For 2nd and 3rd Degree candidates there is no charge. A meal is included in the package. Contact Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920, or Ken Lee, (847) 967-6234, to make reservations.

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

COMMUNITY

The Italian Cultural Federation, based in Des Plaines and Park Ridge, will present a performance of "Crazy For You," a Gershwin musical, at 8 p.m. Feb. 16 at Cutting Hall Theater, 150 Wood St., Palatine. Tickets are \$25 and may be reserved by calling (224) 636-3323 after 3 p.m. A reception and other events will follow the performance.

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 7534 W. Berwyn Ave., Chicago, will host its annual community Hawaiian Luau starting at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 23. The event will feature a Hawaiian potluck dinner, including roast pig and fish, and entertainment by the Barefoot Hawaiian hula dance group. All ages

are invited to join the fun and festivities. Tickets are available at no charge, but reservations are required; call the church office at (773) 631-8262 to register with name, phone number, and number of people attending. A free-will offering will be accepted at the event.

A performance of "High School Musical" will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Edgebrook School gym, 6525 N. Hiawatha Ave., by the after-school theater group. Tickets, at \$10 each, may be purchased at the Dance and Music Academy, 5347 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, starting Feb. 18. Call (773) 763-5759.

The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, will host writers Ellen Skerrett and Mary Lesch for a book launch and signing of the book, on Chief Francis O'Neill, on which they collaborated, at 3 p.m. Feb. 17. Chief O'Neill's Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago was written by O'Neill and edited by Skerrett and Lesch, and will be released in January by Northwestern University Press. Lesch is O'Neill's great-granddaughter. Lesch and Skerrett will read from the book, which will be for sale. O'Neill's story offers perspective on the inner workings of the police department at the turn of the 20th century. His memoir also brings to life the challenges involved in succeeding in a new land, providing for his family and integrating into a new culture. In 1901 he helped establish the Irish Music Club of Chicago, with himself as president, seizing every opportunity for the promotion, performance and education of Irish music. Admission is free. For more information call (773) 282-7035, or visit www.irishamhc.com.

CENTER

Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-8400, www.nilesfitness.com.

Zumba classes will be held from 10:20 to 11 a.m. Mondays, 5 to 5:50 p.m. Thursdays or 8 to 8:50 a.m. Saturdays beginning March 3, and each program continues for six additional sessions. Zumba is a new Latin-inspired dance class designed for all. The group class features aerobic/fitness interval

training with a combination of fast and slow rhythms that sculpt and tone the body. Cost is \$48 for members or \$61, nonmembers.

The Niles Family Fitness Center is offering a new Lunchtime Pilates Class from 11:30 to 12:15 p.m. Thursdays.

Group Cycling — Spinning is indoor cycling to motivating music; everyone rides at his or her own pace in a team atmosphere. Reservations are required at the service desk before each class. Bring a towel, heart-rate monitor and a water bottle to class. Classes are 45 minutes in length on a drop-in basis; fees are \$6, members; \$9, nonmembers. Times include: 6 a.m. Mondays; 9 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Tuesdays; 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursdays; 6 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Fridays; 8:05 a.m. Saturdays; and 7:45 a.m. Sundays.

FUNDRAISERS

The Service League of Advocate Lutheran General raises money through a number of programs to benefit areas of need throughout the hospital. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 14, a \$6 Jewelry Show will be held in the Special Functions Dining Room on the 10th floor of the hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge. The sale will feature rings, watches, bracelets, necklaces, scarfs, leather goods, belts and more. For more information, call (847) 723-6105.

Our Lady of Ransom Parish, 8300 Greenwood, Niles, will hold its annual St. Joseph's Sweet Table from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 9, after all Masses. The suggested Donation is \$5. All proceeds benefit the work of The St. Vincent de Paul Society of the community. For information call the Ministry Center, (847) 823-2550.

The Tamar-Modin Hadassah group invites members and their guests to participate in their Dining for Dollars Dinner fund-raiser from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 26 at Graziano's Restaurant, 5960 W. Touhy Ave., Niles. For reservations call (847) 647-4096. Mention you are a Hadassah guest and 25 percent will be donated to the organization.

See PEEK, page 56

FOOD

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

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DARING duo

HEARTY BOYS GO FROM COMFORT FOOD TO RETRO IN NEW COOKBOOK

By MISHA DAVENPORT
Staff Writer

You can always count on the Hearty Boys, Dan Smith and Steve McDonagh, to serve up a tasty dish. Sometimes it's gossip. Sometimes it's food.

The pair dish about the right and wrong way to throw the perfect party and share their favorite recipes in their new book *Talk With Your Mouth Full: The Hearty Boys Cookbook* (Stewart, Tabori and Chang, \$27.50).

In putting together the book, the dining duo took an unconventional approach.

"We were surprised to find out that a number of chefs don't actually write their own cookbooks," McDonagh said. "Every publisher we went to kept asking us who was writing the book," added Smith, McDonagh's partner in business and life.

The book contains recipes for comfort foods such as chicken pot pie and spaghetti pie to modern takes on retro dishes including deviled eggs topped with caviar.

Smith said the book is a reflection of the pair's culinary point of view.

"Our food has always been about accessibility with a twist," he said. "I didn't go to culinary school. These are things I learned along the way and sometimes simple is better."

Smith and McDonagh's preferred method of cooking is to do it themselves, of course.

But when it comes to their Food Network show, Party Line with the Hearty Boys, they definitely don't do it all themselves.

"There's something like 20 sous chefs doing all the work just so I can stir it in a pan for three minutes on camera," said McDonagh.

"It isn't easy for me to let go and let someone else do it," McDonagh admitted.

But "there has got to be a point where you work life into things and your career stops being your focus," Smith said. The two are spending more time with their 2-year-old son, who they say is a picky eater.

"It's embarrassing," McDonagh said. "We're TV chefs and I know people are silently judging me for all the cans of Chef Boyardee in my grocery cart."

—Sun Times News Group



Dan Smith, left, and Steve McDonagh stand next to food they feature in their new book, *Talk With Your Mouth Full: The Hearty Boys Cookbook*. Pictured are Lemon Asparagus Tart, Savory Pine Nut and Sun Dried Tomato Cheesecake with Black Truffle Oil and Chocolate Creme Fraiche Pot.

—Richard A. Chapman/Sun-Times News Group

BALSAMIC MUSHROOM CHICKEN BREAST

3 T vegetable oil
1 and 1/4 C unsalted butter (2 1/2 sticks)
8 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, about 8 ounces each
1 large onion, thinly sliced
4 cloves garlic, chopped
6 C sliced white mushrooms
2 pints cherry tomatoes, quartered
6 T balsamic vinegar
2 C Cabernet
2 tps. kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine the vegetable oil and 4 tablespoons of the butter in a large skillet over high heat. Once the butter and oil are bubbling, add the chicken breasts to the skillet four at a time. Sear on each side until the chicken is golden, about 2 to 3 minutes per side, then transfer them to a large baking dish. Repeat with the remaining breasts and set aside.

Melt the remaining 2 sticks of

butter in the same skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onions are soft, 15 to 20 minutes. Add the mushrooms, stir and raise the heat to high. Allow the mushrooms to cook until most of their liquid has evaporated, 15 to 20 minutes.

Add half of the tomatoes and cook, shaking the pan, for 10 minutes, or until the tomatoes begin to break down. Add the vinegar, wine, salt

and pepper, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and let simmer for 15 minutes.

Pour the mushroom mixture over the chicken and add the remaining tomatoes. Place the pan in the top half of the oven for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the chicken has just cooked through. Remove from the oven and serve each piece of chicken generously topped with mushroom mixture.

Makes 8 servings.

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SALE DATES FEBRUARY 14TH FEBRUARY 20TH

OSCAR

Continued from page 53

ing interviews, while the other side is for the rest of attendees. "Everybody on the left side of the rope is walking as slow as they can," Esposito said. "... You want to make the experience last as long as possible."

Walking into Esposito's workplace back in the Windy City, however, is considerably less spellbinding.

Inside R.S. Owens, the drab, 82,000-square-foot factory at 5535 N. Lynch Ave. that has been manufacturing the Oscars for the past 25 years — in addition to the Emmy, MTV and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame awards — a visitor is thrust into a world of absurd opposites. All that goes into creating Oscar's glamour — from the sole Oscar mold from which all statuettes are cast to the steaming furnaces heating up cauldrons of melting Britannia metal, the pewter-type alloy that composes each award (later plated with copper, nickel silver, silver flash and, finally, 24-karat gold) — commingles with old filing cabinets, a dorm-size refrigerator and scraped-up floors in the engraving department.

When Nancy Schowalter, a customer-service representative, learned she was the employee selected to go to the 2006 Academy Awards after more than 30 years of service — the year "Crash" won Best Picture — she said she literally sat at her desk and cried joyful tears for 15 minutes.

Almost famous

Schowalter chose her then-83-year-old mother, Dorothy, to accompany her to the show. As their town car pulled up to the theater, directly alongside that of Ben Stiller, a woman who had paid for a seat in the bleachers to watch the red-carpet procession shouted out to Schowalter: "Are you someone important?" A self-described comedian, Schowalter responded that indeed she was. When the star-seek-

ing spectator asked Schowalter's mother who the "important" woman with her was, Dorothy responded, "That's my daughter."

A little while later Schowalter stood on the red carpet, wondering why she was there, she recalled.

The first celebrity Schowalter and her mother encountered was Dolly Parton, who had just finished getting her picture taken when she turned to the pair and remarked, "Now ladies, don't you look lovely."

Schowalter and her mother walked into the awards alongside Nick Nolte. Later they had the opportunity to personally congratulate Robert Altman, who had received a special academy tribute that year.

For Schowalter the evening was something a person would have to experience for themselves to understand — "a dream come true," she said.

I'm with Oscar

For R.S. Owens President Scott Siegel, who attended the awards in 1998, what stands out most in his memory is not the actual awards but what happened later. After the show ended, Siegel and his friends were deciding what to do next when they noticed spotlights shining down the red carpet. Curious, the group decided to follow the spotlights to see where they led, and wound up at the Paramount Pictures and 20th Century Fox's party for "Titanic," which had won Best Picture among 10 other awards. Siegel gained admittance to the party without a hitch because he was carrying an Oscar, which he had brought with him from Illinois in order to do an interview. Parazzi snapped his picture. Once inside, Siegel saw director James Cameron, singer Celine Dion and various Victoria's Secret models.

When asked what you see at the Academy Awards when you are there in-person that you don't see on TV, Siegel, who plans to return this year, assuming the show goes on, responded: "The intense intoxication from the combination of glamour and power and fantasy."

PEEK

Continued from page 54

LIBRARY

Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., (847) 663-6434, www.nileslibrary.org. Learn how to get your credit report from the experts at Citigroup in Niles at a free seminar to be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Ample parking is available. Refreshments will be served. Registration is requested; stop at the library Information Desk or call (847) 663-1234. Registration can also be done online, where a complete schedule of all upcoming programs can be found.

PARENTING

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital and the American Red Cross will offer an Infant/Child CPR course. This five-hour course teaches participants how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in infants and children. It also includes information on how to prevent injuries to infants and children at home and in play areas. The next course will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 16 at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St. Park Ridge. The fee is \$50. Call 1-800-323-8622 or visit www.advocatehealth.com to register. The code for this class is 8C16.

See PEEK, page 58

ENGAGEMENTS

Wamser-Remijan

Norma and John Anderson, and the late Jim Wamser, of O'Fallon, Ill., announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelly Melissa Wamser, to Michael Joseph Remijan, son of Ann and Richard Remijan, of Park Ridge.

The bride-to-be earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics/secondary education from Millikin University in 1996 and a master's degree in educational administration from Southern Illinois University in 2000. She is a math teacher and assistant athletic director at O'Fallon High School, in O'Fallon.

Her fiancé is a 1999 graduate of the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in



Michael Remijan and Kelly Wamser

computer science and mathematics, and a 2005 graduate of the University of Phoenix with a master's degree in green in technology management. The couple will wed in May in St. Louis.

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Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Public Notice of the Proposed Issuance of a Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit to ITT Corporation, Residential and Commercial Water Division in Morton Grove

ITT Corporation, Residential and Commercial Water Division has requested that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency issue a federally enforceable state operating permit (FESOP) regulating the air emissions from its industrial pumps located at 8200 North Austin Avenue in Morton Grove. The Illinois EPA has made a preliminary determination that the application would comply with the environmental regulations and has prepared a draft permit for public review.

The Illinois EPA is accepting comments on the draft permit. Comments must be postmarked by midnight March 15, 2008. If sufficient interest is expressed in the permit, a hearing may be held. Requests for information, comments, and questions should be directed to Brad Frost, Division of Air Pollution Control, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, P.O. Box 19506, Springfield, Illinois, 62794-9506, phone 217/782-2113, TDD phone number 217/782-9143.

Persons wanting more information may obtain copies of the draft permit, and project summary at www.epa.gov/regions5/air/permits/online.htm (please look under All Permit Records, FESOP, New). These documents and the application may also be obtained from the Illinois EPA's offices at 9511 West Harrison in Des Plaines, 847/294-4000 and 1340 North Ninth St., Springfield, 217/782-7027 (please call ahead to assure that someone will be available to assist you). Copies of the documents will be made available upon request.

The 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act require potentially major sources of air emissions to obtain federally enforceable operating permits. A FESOP allows a source that is potentially major to take operational limits in the permit so that it is a non-major source. The permit will contain federally enforceable limitations that restrict the facility's emissions to non-major levels. The permit will be enforceable by the USEPA, as well as the Illinois EPA.

Published in Pioneer Press 2/14/08 (1546573) 32

PEEK

Continued from page 56

PARKS

Niles Park District's IceLand is gearing up for the spring hockey season. Once again Intro to Rookie Rangers, a two-week class for first-time skaters ages 4 to 13 will be offered. All required equipment is provided free of charge. Classes will begin Feb. 16 with class times on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. Rookie Rangers is the most basic hockey class for ages 4 to 13. Sessions will begin Feb. 16 and run eight weeks. Power Rangers is the next progression after completing Rookie Rangers. The session will run March 6 to April 3. Hockey registration is at IceLand Ice Rink, 8435 Ballard Road. For more information call (847) 297-8031.

Moms, aunts and grandmas are invited to join the Niles Park District's King of Hearts Ball with their favorite little guy in kindergarten through sixth grade for an evening of fun, dancing, games, prizes and refreshments from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 22. A DJ will lead the way to get everyone moving to the music in the Howard Leisure Center.

Fees are: residents, \$40; nonresidents, \$50/per couple; \$15 for each additional daughter. To register, come to the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard Street or call (847) 967-6633.

RELIGION

Mark Quinn, Ph.D., theology teacher and author of Finding God Everyday: Practical Spirituality for Lay People, will talk on the mystical experiences of the Cistercian monk, Thomas Merton, at 2 p.m. Feb. 17 at Immaculate Conception Parish, 7211 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. Merton was a 20th century voluminous writer on spiritual, social and political topics that revealed his wisdom and humanity. This event is sponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society. Free parking is available. A free-will offering will be accepted. For more information, call Mike Brennan at (733) 685-4736.

Registration is open for the 2008 summer and fall programs at Gan Yeladim, the early childhood program of Ezra Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie. The program serves children ages 2 to 5 and their

families. The program is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Half- and full-day programs as well as early morning drop-off, a lunch program and afternoon enrichment classes are offered. It integrates Judaica, literacy, math, science, art, music and drama into its developmental, play-based curriculum with a low teacher-child ratio. Interested families are invited to visit, talk with the director, Betsy Rotberg, and view the facility. Visiting hours are from 10 to 11:30 a.m., but call first at (847) 675-4152. Visit www.ganskokie.org.

MAINE SENIORS

The Maine Township MainStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the MaineStreamers monthly newsletter, which details activities for the upcoming month. Most activities take place at Maine Town Hall located at 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, unless otherwise noted. For information contact the MainStreamers at (847) 297-2510 or visit www.Mainetownship.com.

See PEEK, page 60

Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide from Bankrate.com

Table with mortgage rates from various lenders including Allstar Home Mortgage, Great Northern Financial Corp., Revere Mortgage Ltd., American Mortgage Specialists, Kenilworth Financial, Inc., The Glen Financial, Inc., Countrywide Home Loans, MSI III Division of First State Bank, Glenview State Bank, and Park Ridge Community Bank. Columns include Program, Rate, Disc/Orig Pts, Cr Ppt/Appr Fees, % Down, and APR.

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MORTGAGE UPDATE Mortgage rates fall, refi boomlet continues By Holden Lewis • Bankrate.com Mortgage rates fell this week, keeping a refinancing boomlet alive. The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 10 basis points, to 5.78 percent, according to the Bankrate.com national survey of large lenders. A basis point is one-hundredth of 1 percentage point. The mortgages in this week's survey had an average total of 0.36 discount and origination points. One year ago, the mortgage index was 6.31 percent; four weeks ago, it was 5.88 percent. The benchmark 15-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 7 basis points, to 5.31 percent. The benchmark 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgage fell 15 basis points, to 5.51 percent. The benchmark 30-year jumbo, for home loans greater than \$417,000, fell 6 basis points, to 6.97 percent. The rate on the 30-year fixed has remained below 6 percent for more than a month now. Many homeowners applied a few weeks ago to refinance their mortgages, but latecomers continue to apply. According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, refinances accounted for almost 70 percent of applications last week, and brokers report a fresh round of inquiries this week. Advice for refinancers All this is happening while lenders are tightening credit standards, and while home prices in many markets are

MORTGAGE RATES & INFORMATION AVAILABLE 24/7 ON THE INTERNET @ http://pioneerlocal.interest.com

OBITUARIES

Mona Golbach

Mona M. Golbach, 73, of Niles, died Feb. 7.

Preceded in death by her husband, Albert, she is survived by her children, Brenda (Jurgen) Viktor, Rhonda (Robert) Foster and Walter III (Tracey) Wicks; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren; and brothers, Charles (Iona) Neely and Robert (Polly) Neely.

Visitation was at Friedrichs Funeral Home, Mount Prospect. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 11 at St. John Brebeuf Church, Niles.

Memorials to the American Cancer Society or St. John Brebeuf Church, 8307 Harlem Ave., are appreciated.

Genevieve Janka

Genevieve H. Janka, 92, of Niles, died Feb. 5 at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge.

She had been self-employed as a dressmaker.

Preceded in death by her husband, Joseph, she is survived by: her sons, Mike, of Chicago, and Steve (Linda) Janka; a grandchild, Christi-

na Wagenknecht; and great-grandchildren, Catherine and Heather.

Visitation was at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home, Niles. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 9 at St. John Brebeuf Church, Niles. Burial was in St. Adalbert Cemetery, Niles.

Rev. Casimir Kozien

The Rev. Casimir J.



The Rev. Casimir Kozien

Kozien, 84, pastor emeritus of St. Dionysius Parish, in Cicero, died Feb. 4 at St. Benedict Home, in Niles, where he had lived since 2004.

Born Jan. 13, 1924, on the Near North Side of Chicago, he attended Holy Trinity and St. Helen schools, graduating in June 1943 from Quigley (North) Preparatory Seminary, and in May 1950 from the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. He was ordained a priest on May 3, 1950.

During his early career he was assistant pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, associate pastor of St. Pancratius Parish, assistant pastor of St. Joseph Parish

and St. Michael's Parish on the South Side, and at St. Ladislaus Parish on the North Side.

In June 1978 he became pastor of St. Dionysius Parish, in Cicero, where he served for 10 years. In December 1988 he became associate pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish on the city's North Side. Although he retired in 1994, Fr. Kozien continued to minister to St. Bartholomew parishioners, living there as a resident priest until he moved to St. Benedict Home in 2004.

Visitation was Friday at St. Bartholomew Church, 4949 W. Patterson Ave., Chicago. The Most Rev. Thad J. Jakubowski, D.D., retired bishop of Chicago, a classmate of Fr. Kozien's, celebrated the funeral Mass Saturday at St. Bartholomew Church. Interment was at St. Adalbert Cemetery, in Niles.

He is survived by a sister, Laura Szarek, of Niles.

Arthur Sitkowski

Arthur "Bud" M. Sitkowski, 85, of Niles, died Jan. 31 at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge.

Mr. Sitkowski was a pattern maker for a clothing firm.

He is survived by his wife, Emily (nee Dubinska); son, Paul (Marialisa); grandchildren, Joseph and Sarah; and niece, Patrice Heaton.

Visitation was in Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Home, Niles. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 4 at St. Isaac Jogues Church, Niles. Entombment was in St. Adalbert Mausoleum, Niles.

Emily Skrypek

Emily Skrypek, 94, of Niles, died Jan. 27 at her home.

She had been a postal employee.

She is survived by: her sons, Stanley (Connie) and James (Janice) Skrypek; grandchildren, Robert, Arlene Pope, Suzanne Clark and William Skrypek; great-grandchildren, Chase, Connor, Dylan and Hayden; and siblings, Helen, Bernice Feijt and John (Mary) Kolimas; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was at Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Home, Niles. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 31 at St. John Brebeuf Church, Niles. Burial was in Maryhill Cemetery, Niles.

See PEEK, page 61

PEEK

Continued from page 58

MainStreamers age 90 years and older are sought for a special birthday celebration which takes place during Older Americans Month in May. If you know of anyone, call so that an invitation can be sent.

A trip to Marcollo's Restaurant and the Victory Gardens Theatre to see the "Botanic Garden: A Walk in the Paradise of Marriage" is offered from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 2. Kate and Jake were married for more than 20 years. Now, recently widowed and faced with the daunting prospect of dating for the first time in decades, the memories of her marriage, some laughter and passion-filled, others frustration-ridden, surround Kate as she reevaluates her choices in this chapter of her life.

Olympia Dukakis directs. Lunch before the show will be a family-style meal of Caesar salad, chicken breast, basil mashed potatoes, with gourmet cookies and brownies for dessert. Cost: \$54 members/\$59 guests. All Day Trips depart from Golf Mill Mall in Niles.

See PEEK, page 61

PEEK

Continued from page 60

"Historical Extravaganza" trip to the Museum of Science and Industry and the Parthenon Restaurant will be featured from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 21. Visitors will see the real U-505 - the only German submarine in the U.S. Then it is off to the Parthenon Restaurant for appetizers of saganaki, gyros and taramosalata, Greek salad, and a combination plate of different Greek foods and baklava and galaktoboureko for dessert. Cost is \$48, members; \$53, guests. All Day Trips depart from Golf Mill Mall in Niles.

SENIORS

Joan Mau, RN, Lutheran General Hospital's heart failure care manager, will talk about ways to maintain and improve heart health at the Feb. 15 meeting of the Advocate Lutheran General Senior Breakfast Club. The session will be held from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, 8780 W. Dempster St., Niles. A continental breakfast will be served. Reservations are required. To sign up, call 1-800-323-8622, or visit www.advocate-

health.com/lutheran and enter class code 8S21B.

SENIOR CENTER

The Niles Senior Center offers free membership to Niles residents, age 62 and older and their spouses. To register for classes, trips or to purchase tickets, individuals must be members of the center. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420 for an application.

Qualified individuals may have their taxes prepared at no cost by an IRS/AARP certified tax counselor at the Niles Senior Center. This program is designed to assist middle and low-income seniors with their tax preparation; certain restrictions apply. To schedule an appointment or to find out if you qualify, call the Niles Senior Center Tax Line, (847) 588-8440. Appointments are available Monday through Friday mornings and a limited number for the afternoon.

"What I've Loved, What I've Learned ... Celebrate Your Life" workshop will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 27. Participants will reminisce about their lives and write down their memories to be shared.

A Diabetic Screening (fingerstick) will be available from 9 to 10 a.m.

Feb. 27. Fasting instructions will be given upon advance registration.

A Valentine's Day Luncheon will begin at noon Feb. 14. Lunch will include Greek chicken, potatoes, salad, rolls and dessert. The party will continue with fun activities, bingo, prizes and raffle. The cost is \$8.

SINGLES

Sparus Sunday Evening Club for seniors who enjoy dancing will sponsor a Valentine's dance from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the American Legion, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. The Music Men will be featured. Members pay \$8; guests, \$9. For more information, call the hotline at (847) 965-5730.

Thunderbird Singles will host a super dance at 8 p.m. Feb. 15 at the Diplomat West, 681 W. North Ave., Elmhurst. Admission is \$8. Call (847) 604-3446 for more information.

North Shore Singles will feature a dance at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 at Lamirage, 3223 W. Algonquin Road, Rolling Meadows. Dance instruction in jitterbug will be given at 6 p.m. by Shelley Gross. Admission is \$8. Call (847) 604-3518 for information.

See PEEK, page 62

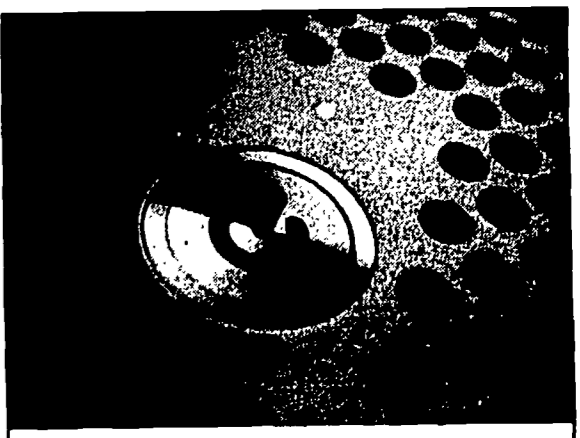
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Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Public Notice

of the Proposed Issuance of a Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit to Specialty Printing Company in Niles

Specialty Printing Company has requested that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency issue a federally enforceable state operating permit (FESOP) regulating the air emissions from its printing operations located at 8019 West Howard Street in Niles. The Illinois EPA has made a preliminary determination that the application would comply with the environmental regulations and has prepared a draft permit for public review.

The Illinois EPA is accepting comments on the draft permit. Comments must be postmarked by midnight March 15, 2008. If sufficient interest is expressed in the permit, a hearing may be held. Requests for information, comments, and questions should be directed to Brad Frost, Division of Air Pollution Control, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, P.O. Box 19506, Springfield, Illinois, 62794-9506, phone 217/782-2113, TDD phone number 217/782-9143.

Persons wanting more information may obtain copies of the draft permit, and project summary at www.epa.gov/region5/air/permits/online.htm (please look under All Permit Records, FESOP, New). These documents and the application may also be obtained from the Illinois EPA's offices at 9511 West Harrison in Des Plaines, 847/294-4000 and 1340 North Ninth St., Springfield, 217/782-7027 (please call ahead to assure that someone will be available to assist you). Copies of the documents will be made available upon request.

The 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act require potentially major sources of air emissions to obtain federally enforceable operating permits. A FESOP allows a source that is potentially major to take operational limits in the permit so that it is a non-major source. The permit will contain federally enforceable limitations that restrict the facility's emissions to non-major levels. The permit will be enforceable by the USEPA, as well as the Illinois EPA.

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The Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce and Industry would like to thank...

Our Photographers:
Bonnie Burnett

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847-965-2518

Our Entertainment:
Gemini Junior High School Jazz Band

National Anthem:
Rachel & Matthew Gliebe

...for helping to make the 2008 Awards Dinner a Success!

MORTON GROVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

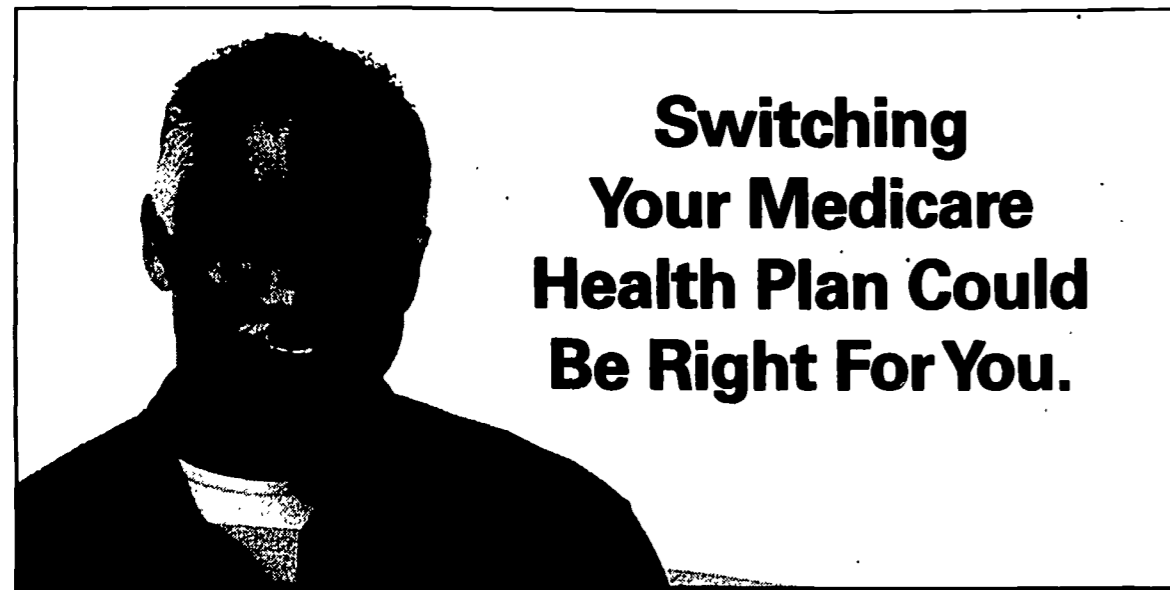
Nominate your community hero!

Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Business of the Year
- Bob Wordel Living Legend
- Coach of the Year
- Dynamic Parent Volunteer
- Fire Fighter "Hot Spot" Award
- Ken Scheel Chamber Member of the Year
- Niles Citizen of the Year
- Niles Golden Senior Award
- Niles Good Neighbor Award
- Police Officer "Special Agent" Award
- Teacher of the Year
- Unsung Worker "Not Enough Hours in the Day"
- Youth of the Year

Nominations must be submitted to the Niles Chamber office by February 15, 2008. Winners will be contacted four weeks before the event. All decisions made by the awards committee are final. All nominees must either reside in the Village of Niles or work at a Niles business. Judging is based on the quality of the nomination. The winners will receive a custom designed trophy at the Night of Roses event on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the White Eagle Banquets in Niles. For more information call the Chamber office (847) 268-8180.

visit www.nileschamber.com
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February 18 & 25, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Egg Factory
100 E. Kensington Rd.
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February 20 & 27, 2008
12:30 p.m.
Santiago Papasquiari Restaurant
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PEEK

Continued from page 61

SUPPORT

The Illinois Branch of the International Dyslexia Association presents workshops for teachers and parents seeking to help improve their struggling reader's reading, writing and comprehension skills. Upcoming workshops, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., include: March 7: "Connecting Reading and Writing Genres" by Kathi Grace, Garden Terrace Banquets, 1000 Wellington Ave., Elk Grove Village; \$115 IBIDA members, \$155 nonmembers. For more information, call (630) 469-6900, or visit www.readibida.org.

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- 7259 W. Lee St., Barbara Wierczon to Anne Marie Barda and William Hansen, \$356,000, Sept. 27.
- 8901 N. Washington St., Fanya Guberman to Michael Guberman, \$280,000, Sept. 27.
- 7125 W. Breen St., Krzysztof Mazur to Jawad O. Rabi, \$440,000, Sept. 28.
- 7748 W. Oakton St., Randall J. Nosalik to Kaleb Paulos, \$360,000, Oct. 3.
- 7041 W. Niles Terrace, Wojtyczka Trust to Lia Gerambia, \$205,000, Oct. 3.
- 8944 W. Heathwood Circle, Marek Taczyniec to Peter S. De Tarnowsky, \$296,000, Oct. 9.
- 8227 N. Washington St., Lester C. Danders to Eric A. Fak and Jennifer Mendoza, \$299,000, Oct. 9.

- 7061 W. Main St., Thomas M. Paluch to Maria I. Jamie, \$660,000, Oct. 9.
- 6755 N. Milwaukee Ave., John J. Devine Jr. Trustee to Grace Pidakala and Sunish Mathew, \$235,000, Oct. 11.
- 7139 W. Breen St., Shirlee Heneghan to Marty Piot, \$220,000, Oct. 11.
- 8137 N. Prospect Ave., Eleanor S. Bulatao to Maria N. Villaluz, \$399,000, Oct. 12.
- 7867 N. Caldwell Ave., Danielson Trust to William P. Arseneau, \$229,000, Oct. 15.
- 8401 W. Johanna Drive, Massong Trust to Marcio R. Fehrmann, \$365,000, Oct. 18.
- 8307 W. Park Ave., Oxford Bank & Trust to Rashid and Fatma M. Ansari, \$362,500, Oct. 18.
- 8248 N. Caldwell Ave., Eva Kunetka to Kathryn Kunetka, \$155,500, Oct. 22.
- 9074 W. Terrace Drive, Joy Czernicki to Timothy R. Stevens, \$139,000, Oct. 22.
- 9063 N. Grace Ave., Ramesh C. Gandhi to Ashish Gandhi, \$312,000, Oct. 22.
- 7725 N. Nordica Ave., Jacek Drozdziak to Jungsik Yoo, \$255,000, Oct. 23.
- 9118 W. Elmwood Drive, Celusta Trust to Michael Puchacz and Annette Buzgariua, \$194,000, Oct. 26.
- 8927 N. Washington St., Cristian Popa to Reveera Mally, \$235,000, Oct. 26.

- 8542 N. Oleander Ave., Leszek Kozik to Peter Costa, \$377,500, Oct. 16.
- 7021 W. Touhy Ave., Frank J. Kloiber to Edward L. and Mary Lou Mehmel, \$380,000, Oct. 16.
- 8815 W. Golf Road, HSBC Bank USA National to Robert Tomich, \$147,000, Oct. 31.
- 9737 N. Fox Glen Drive, Howard J. Cohen to Mariann Napolilli, \$187,000, Nov. 5.
- 8000 W. Foster Lane, Berardi Trust to Gordana and Sava Bosanac, \$287,000, Nov. 6.
- 9856 N. Lauren Lane, Angelina C. Pecak to Odisho and Jina Kena, \$408,000, Nov. 7.
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SPORTS

Robertson seeks perfect ending

By DENNIS MAHONEY
Staff Writer
dmahoney@pioneerlocal.com

There haven't been many tough times for Niles West wrestler Steve Robertson on the mat this year.

Not when you consider that not once during an undefeated season had an opponent even managed to score a single takedown against the West freshman.

But when bad things happen to good people — they respond just the way Robertson did last Saturday at the Class AA Fenton Sectional tournament.

Taken down — not once but twice — in the semifinals against Montini's Colton Rasche, Robertson stormed back for an 8-6 overtime win and then whipped Jimmy Nehls of Downers Grove North 17-6 in the title match at 112 pounds.

Robertson and teammate David Gould — who finished second at 119, arguably the toughest weight class in the sectional — will advance to

the individual state finals at the University of Illinois in Champaign this weekend.

Both grapplers have their sights set on the medal rounds and have the credentials to back that up. Robertson improved to 42-0 on the season while Gould, a senior, is making his second trip to State with an overall mark of 39-2.

"One coach asked me before the tournament started if I thought Steve could win it all, and I thought he was just talking about the sectional," said Niles West coach Bryan Wittersheim. "He wasn't. He was talking about State."

"Typically we don't look that far ahead and we just take it one week at a time. But Steve's doing better every week. He's in phenomenal shape and he just keeps pushing the tempo."

"There are guys every year who are happy just to get to State, because it's such a great accomplishment. But Steve and Dave are past that. They're going down there for one reason — and that's to get

medals."

Robertson earned a first-round bye thanks to his sectional crown and could meet the No. 2 ranked wrestler in the country in that weight class, B.J. Futrell of Mount

"Whether I'm winning or losing, I always feel like the third period will be mine. Still, I surprised myself when I didn't panic."

Steve Robertson

Carmel, in the finals.

Gould is matched against Johnny Brennan of Prospect (32-4) in Friday's opener, with the winner advancing to meet James Crone of Jerseyville (35-4).

Robertson wasn't quite sure how he'd react the first time someone took him to the mat.

"Usually my forte is wrestling on my feet, but he took me down twice in the

first period," Robertson said. "I thought I might panic when that happened."

"But whether I'm winning or losing, I always feel like the third period will be mine. Still, I surprised myself when I didn't panic. I didn't think I'd be able to bounce back like that."

"I've trained with him (Rasche) in the offseason and, when I found out we were in the same sectional, I knew we'd probably wrestle each other. But I also knew I'd worked hard enough this year to beat him. And getting taken down like that doesn't change my goals at all. My first goal is to get to the semifinals — guarantee myself a place — and go from there and give it my all."

"I think it was a wakeup call for Steve, that he can't let his guard down," added Wittersheim. "But he's about as mentally solid as anyone we've had here. It doesn't seem like things phase him. He stays with his game plan the whole match."

Gould, meanwhile, faced

three wrestlers with a combined won-loss record of 92-12 coming into the tournament. He lost to Fenwick sophomore Nick Dardanes by a 4-3 margin in the championship match after outscoring Maine South standout Joe Brewster 12-7 in the semis.

Neither grappler scored in the third period of the finale as Gould was unable to muster the takedown he needed.

"In the first couple of minutes Dave was able to wrestle his style, and then he stopped," said Wittersheim. "He learned a lesson, because he didn't stop coming in his other loss (against Futrell). It's uncharacteristic of him, but he let Dardanes come to him."

"He's been tested. Now, he just has to execute at State."

West senior Bud Hayes came closest to joining his teammates as a qualifier. After winning two decisions at 171, he was pinned by eventual champion Carl Foreside of Montini.

See **ENDING**, page 65

NOTRE DAME ROUNDUP

Wrestlers come up empty at sectional

By JIM EDISON
Staff Writer
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With some of the best wrestlers in the state participating, the Fenton Sectional promised to be a grueling experience.

It was. And for Notre Dame's athletes, like for many other competitors, the challenge simply proved to be too much. The Dons, who brought five regional contestants to the huge gathering in Bensenville Friday and Saturday, were unable to advance anyone to this year's state meet in Champaign.

For veteran coach Augie Genovesi, it was the first time in a decade that he was not bringing anyone to the University of Illinois campus.

"We just didn't wrestle," said Genovesi, who will be inducted into the East Suburban Catholic Conference Hall of Fame on March 6. "It's the

See **SECTIONAL**, page 65



Notre Dame's Vince Metzger and four of his teammates were unable to advance to the state wrestling meet during competition at the Fenton Sectional. — Ray Luna/For Pioneer Press

MAINE EAST ROUNDUP

Demons win regional play-in game

By JIM EDISON
Staff Writer
jedison@pioneerlocal.com

Strange things always seem to happen in the first round of the state basketball tournaments.

And Monday night's girls game between Maine East and Steinmetz at the Maine West Regional was a perfect example.

Leading by double digits for most of the contest, East seemed to have things under control as it played with both confidence and ease. Suddenly, however, the Steinmetz girls got on track and changed the complexion of the game.

The Silver Streak put together a solid spurt that actually gave it a momentary one-point lead. But thanks to some clutch play by several players, East was able to regain its dominance and went on to a 50-42 victory in Des Plaines.

"It wasn't easy," coach Linda Borchew said. "But we are certainly glad to get the win."

For the Demons (7-21), it was the second consecutive year in which they won their play-in game. By virtue of their victory, Borchew's athletes were scheduled to square off with the regional host Warriors in the semifinals on Wednesday (results are available at www.nilesheraldspectator.com).

For the first part of the game, East was clearly in charge. Megan O'Grady (13 points) hit a pair three-pointers and the Demons led 17-9 after one quarter. Cherish Scarpelli, a senior forward, tallied back-to-back baskets in the second period and Borchew's squad was ahead 26-14 at intermission.

The Demons still had a comfortable advantage midway through the third quarter at 33-21. But then things unraveled for the Park Ridge team. Led by Kiera Dye (14 points) and Shatea Rogers (12 points), the Silver Streak went on an impressive 13-0 run to take a 34-33 lead.

Scarpelli made a huge rebound and basket to snap the slide and Joy Ocampo hit back-to-back layups to give her team a 39-34 lead heading into the final quarter. From there, the Demons were able to hoist their lead to 50-38 and coasted the rest of the way.

"Scarpelli (13 points, 7 rebounds) had her best game of the year," Borchew said. "Tiffany (Jones, 5 rebounds) also had a nice game."

BOYS BASKETBALL

Last week was an up-and-down ride for coach Glenn Olson's squad.

The Demons got off to a solid start on Feb. 5 with a 63-56 nonconference victory over Rolling Meadows. But on Friday, East was upset by District 207 rival Maine West 61-54 in Des Plaines.

For Olson, who played his high school sports at Rolling Meadows, the trip back to his old school was one of mixed feelings.

"Going back did have some nostalgia for me," said Olson, who was a standout basketball and baseball player for the Mustangs. "But honestly, once the action started, it was just another game that we wanted to put in the win column."

As it turned out, the Demons had a solid offensive attack against RM with four players scoring in double digits. Danhi Wilson led the way with 20 points, while Avery Roche was close behind with 19, Charles McKinney had 15 and Dwight Davis added 10.

"At Maine West we faced a team that has been getting better and better," Olson said. "Looking at the film, I have to say that we did not actually play bad."

"But we were not boxing out. And they burned us with some easy layups. We are a young team and go through some growing pains at times. We have to play with intensity to be successful."



Senior Forward Cherish Scarpelli had her best game of the season, finishing with 13 points and seven rebounds during the Demons' victory Monday. — Jason Brown/Staff Photographer

SECTIONAL

Continued from page 64

first time in 10 years that we didn't get a kid downstate.

"I think we will be OK next year, though. But we have to work hard and get better in the offseason through our spring and summer wrestling."

Of ND's wrestlers that made the trip to Fenton, senior Bo Cisek came the closest to earning a ticket to Champaign. Cisek, a talented 215-pounder who was also a standout football player, finished fourth.

After receiving a bye in Friday night's first round, Cisek (33-5 overall record) lost an 11-3 decision to Glenbard East's Pat Walker. Cisek

did rebound in Saturday's wrestle-back rounds by defeating Maine West's Josh Gustafson 11-1 and Hinsdale Central's Pat Clegg 7-3. But in Saturday night's all-important battle for third place, Cisek was defeated by York's Dustin Bles 5-0.

"Bo just shut down for some reason," Genovesi said. "He let the other kid control the tempo and that cost him."

Notre Dame's other participants all lost their first-round matches and were eventually eliminated from the tournament. Vince Metzger (125) was pinned by Elk Grove's Dean DiMasio, Nick

Nowotarski (135) was pinned by Hinsdale South's Joe McGuire, Jim Wallenberg (140) lost by technical fall to St. Patrick's Jimmy DiNino and Denis Walsh (145) lost to Maine South's Matt Egan 9-4.

BASKETBALL

When Notre Dame hosts longtime rival St. Patrick Friday night in Niles, there will be more on the line than just local bragging rights.

The Dons (11-11, 5-5), who lost to St. Patrick in their first meeting in December, will be trying to even the slate for 2007-08 as well as gain some momentum for the state tournament.

Notre Dame, which had its game at St. Viator Feb. 6 postponed because of the snowstorm, was left with just one game last week. Unfor-

tunately for coach Tom Les, the Dons came out on the short end of a 52-51 game with Benet on Saturday night in Niles.

"Benet was up most of the first two quarters and we were down by four (points) at halftime," Les said. "Then, we scored the first nine points of the third quarter to go up by five."

"But later we missed some big opportunities in the fourth quarter when it was close and they converted at their end. They had two 6-foot-8 kids and were getting a lot of rebounds."

"It has just been the nature of our season. We have had a problem closing out games in the fourth quarter."

Zach Abraham led the Dons with 12 points and Dallas Moreland hauled down 14 rebounds.

ENDING

Continued from page 64

In the consolation bracket, Leyden's Nick Cassano scored a last-second reversal, enough for a 10-9 triumph that eliminated Hayes. Cassano then advanced with a win in the third place match.

"He was right there with him," Wittersheim said. "But you can't let up — and he did."

Niles North had two wrestlers in the sectional, both losing in the first round. Benz Limpan lost his 135-pound match to Tim Knowles of Hinsdale Central on a 10-3 decision and Michael Ayala dropped his 160-pound match to Quin Francis, also from Hinsdale Central, in a 8-6 decision.

SPORTS

GOOD START

The Maine East girls basketball team won the play-in game of the regional tournament Monday.

See page 65

END OF LINE

The Notre Dame wrestling team fails to qualify anyone for state meet.

See page 64

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Maine East's Chris Garvey "had the meet of his life," according to swimming coach Scott Guilfoil. Garvey had large time drops in the 200-yard freestyle and 500 freestyle events at the Central Suburban League North meet. — Brian Valentin/Staff Photographer

MAINE EAST ROUNDUP

Demons put in strong effort at league meet

By JIM EDISON
Staff Writer
jedison@pioneerlocal.com

It may not have appeared that way on the surface, but Maine East's boys swimming team had a rather good day at the Central Suburban League North meet.

Facing a number of powerful teams Saturday at Highland Park, the Demons could not escape the bottom spot in the final team standings. But Scott Guilfoil took solace in the fact that his athletes were hitting their peak at the right time.

"We did end up sixth (last

place)," Guilfoil said. "But I thought we had a decent day overall in that we had a good share of season-best times. That's where you want to be at this point in the season."

As expected, the team title was a classic battle between Glenbrook North and Deerfield. GBN emerged with 326 points and the championship. Deerfield was a close second with 313 points, followed by Maine West (234), Niles North (162), the host Giants (155) and Maine East (77).

While the Demons were denied any medals, (for top six finishers), they did have some solid performances.

"I thought Chris Garvey had the meet of his life," Guilfoil said. "He had big time drops in the 200-yard freestyle (2 minutes, 2.74 seconds, 10th place) and 500 freestyle (5:38.67, 11th)."

Other good efforts came from Steven Tom in the 100 breaststroke (1:07.99, 7th), Parthiv Patel in the 100 backstroke (1:08.72, 9th), Greg Skoczek in the 100 butterfly (1:05.40, 12th) and Brian Martin in the 50 freestyle (25.45, 12th).

WRESTLING

It was probably fitting that Maine East's wrestling season came to an end the way it did

last Saturday night in Bensenville.

The Demons, who were led all year by four talented seniors, had that foursome representing them at the highly competitive Fenton Sectional. And while none of the four were able to advance to this year's state meet in Champaign, they ended their careers in good fashion.

"We had a lot of our younger guys here watching our seniors," coach Emiliano Hernandez said. "And they set the good example they have all year."

Two of the four grapplers that qualified out of the Notre

Dame Regional a week earlier, reached the third-place match and came close to punching a ticket for downstate.

Adam Ttkarzewski (152-pounds) and Matt Dickman (160) both wrestled in the championship round Saturday night. But Ttkarzewski was beaten by Glenbard East's Jason Callahan 10-0 and Dickman was edged 4-3 by Proviso West's Khari Washington. Both finished with records of 2-2 at the tournament.

East's Maciej Makowski (189) went 1-2 for the weekend while Tom Boblett (125) lost his first match and was eliminated Friday night.

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CRESTWOOD 1404 Butterfield Rd. 630-953-8052
CRYSTAL LAKE NEW 1125 South Route 31 815-444-0080
DOWNS GROVE 6543 Grand Ave.* 847-855-6019
GURNEE 2201 S. Wolf Rd.* 708-947-2500
HODGKINS 9402 Joliet Rd.* 708-387-0554
HOFFMAN ESTATES (Also serving South Barrington) 2734 N. Sutton Rd.* 847-645-0190
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LAKE IN THE HILLS 290 N. Randall Rd. 847-458-2866
LINCOLNWOOD 3333 W. Touhy Ave.* 847-568-1554
NIA FRASER 4063 211th St. 708-748-7444
NAPERVILLE, ILL 401 W. 81st Ave. 219-736-8100
2109 Southlake Mall 219-756-7440
1 W. Rand Rd. 847-259-2627
111 E. Ogden Ave. 630-420-3299
9655 N. Milwaukee Ave.* 847-967-1150

209 S. LaSalle St.** 312-658-3900
1103 S. State St.* 312-291-0499
Chicago Ridge Mall* 708-346-9557
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1125 South Route 31 815-444-0080
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Northbrook Court 847-509-8527
235 Skokie Blvd. 847-272-7770
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NORTH AURORA NEW 1852 Towne Center Dr.* 630-907-2055
NORTH RIVERSIDE North Riverside Park Plaza* 708-442-0755
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CALUMET CITY 847-934-8113
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CRYSTAL LAKE 847-330-6010
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