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**101 Things To Do**

**24/7 COVERAGE**  
 Daily news from Your Local Source

**ENTERTAINING IDEAS**  
 Musings on pop culture and the arts

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 Reel Time blog with Bruce Ingram

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 Heard in the Halls athletics blog

# NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



## SEASON'S GREETINGS

Isabella Jacob, 3, greets Santa during a holiday breakfast Dec. 6 at Niles Park District. **PAGE 3.** PHOTO BY ALLISON WILLIAMS/PIONEER PRESS

### THIS WEEK DIVERSIONS



**CASUAL CLASSICS**  
 Mandy Patinkin performs in Skokie.  
**PAGE B7**

**BELL'S 'BOWERY'**  
 Des Plaines actress Susan Moniz stars in Marriott musical.  
**PAGE B1**

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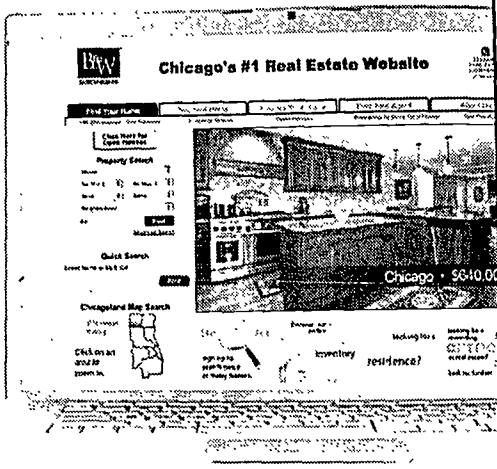
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 <p><b>Morton Grove</b> New const exquisite 4br/4bth brk home. Showcases finest high end products. George Nicosia ID#84408270 773-775-1855</p>	 <p><b>Lincolnwood</b> Must see this custom brick &amp; stone home "truly exceptional" one of a kind. Karolina Ljubic ID#84718246 773-775-1855</p>	 <p><b>Park Ridge</b> Beautiful 60x160 lot in Country Club area. Sold in "as is" condition. Shirlee Ehlers ID#84718246 847-823-1855</p>	 <p><b>Park Ridge</b> Charming brk English w/many improvements. Huge fam rm. Updated ba, hwd flrs. Lynda Castell ID#84718172 847-823-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> Spacious 3br, 2.1ba Georgian on huge park-like lot. Large rms. Remodeled kit. Nicole Flores ID#84408142 773-775-1855</p>
 <p><b>Chicago</b> 3BD Brk Georgian, hw fls, mouldings, Sep DR, Fam Rm overlooks yd. Charm Abounds! Christine Drimala ID#83158090 847-724-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> Bright corner unit w/1488 sf. 2br 2ba, heated in-door pkg, Pool, exercise rm. Richard Neswold ID#84718146 847-823-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> Immediate possession! Lovely brick ranch, 3BR/1.1BA beautiful hwdws, 2Cgar. Della Joyce ID#83108056 847-491-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> Luxury 3BD 2BA w/quiet forest views, granite, cherry, in dr pool, pets OK. Theo Shaw ID#83108127 847-491-1855</p>	 <p><b>Morton Grove</b> Open. Flowing. Bright. 3BR/2BA home. Walk-out to backyard. Hwd flrs. Matt Rose ID#83158171 847-724-1855</p>
 <p><b>Skokie</b> Cozy &amp; inviting brk ranch in Fairview sch dist. Eat-in kit w/doors to deck Diane Staton ID#84408271 773-775-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> New constr. 2BR/2BA condo close to town &amp; train. In-unit Indry. 2 gar spaces. Maureen Dunn ID#83158154 847-724-1855</p>	 <p><b>Lincolnwood</b> Charming brick Cape Cod nestled on tree lined street. Entertain in lge rms Pauline Dreuth ID#84408164 773-775-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> Solid well maintained 3br 1.1 baths fin bsmt. 1st time on mkt since 1950's. Bobbi Chasin ID#83108070 847-491-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> 3BR/1.1BTH all brick ranch. Finished basement almost doubles living space. Doug Wurtzel ID#83158157 847-724-1855</p>
 <p><b>Chicago</b> Contemporary 3BR townhse w/hwdwd flrs, new patio, lg Fam rm &amp; \$17/mo asses. Gordon Smith ID#83158107 847-724-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> Skokie brick Georgian - original cond with great potential &amp; curb appeal. Irene Yungerman ID#84408156 773-775-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> Fab newer 2br 2ba! Sunset view balcony, w/d in-unit, gar pkg &amp; fresh decor! Julie Naumiak ID#83108179 847-491-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> Skokie Home Shines 2 brdm, 2ba. HDWD Flrs, fplc, bsmt 2nd kitch, huge bsmt. Debbie Shore ID#83108170 847-491-1855</p>	 <p><b>Wood Dale</b> Amazing "Pottery Barn" condo. 2lg br/Pergo foyer &amp; kit 2 full baths. Balc. Gina Purdy ID#84718043 847-823-1855</p>
 <p><b>Glenview</b> Immaculate 2r 2ba condo. Full fin bsmt, private ldy, close to expressway &amp; bus Susan Bragg ID#84718033 847-823-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> 2 BR, 1.1 BTH top floor unit - newer w/updated decor. Near transportation. Georgia Pierini ID#83158086 847-724-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> Gorgeous and spacious condo. Newly remodeled kitchen with new appliances. Sargon Hajjy ID#84408250 773-775-1855</p>	 <p><b>Skokie</b> Huge 2BR 2BA in dntwn Skokie. Quiet quality bldg, lge terrace, fresh paint Julie Naumiak ID#83108101 847-491-1855</p>	 <p><b>Buffalo Grove</b> Well maintained 2br unit. Cozy w/8 frpl. Huge balcony w/access from mstr br. Sharon Curcio ID#84718100 847-823-1855</p>



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### FOOD



## Annunzio: Letterhead taken away from Blase

Endorsement by ex-mayor called 'unfortunate,' but not likely illegal.

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

The village attorney of Niles said Thursday that he found nothing illegal in his preliminary investigation into questions about the potential impropriety of letters that former Mayor Nicholas Blase sent out on village stationery, endorsing Acting Mayor Robert Callero and two trustees in the April 7 election.

Village Attorney Joe Annunzio characterized the situation as an "unfortunate mistake" that did not rise to the level of legal wrongdoing because the person who sent the letters out, Blase, was not a village employee. Fur-

thermore, the village did not pay for the postage and was in no way involved in the mailing. Annunzio said all of Blase's village stationery, which was given to him as a gift when he retired in August, has been taken away in response to the perceived indiscretion. "He was given very little stationery in the first place and it was only intended for him to write 'thank-you' notes," Annunzio said.

But Annunzio said he would also be consulting with an outside attorney on the situation.

The matter became public Tuesday when **Pioneer Press** reported that letters endorsing Callero for mayor and Louella Preston and Andrew Przybylo for trustee positions were being sent out on village stationery, signed by ex-mayor Blase. Annunzio then investi-

gated the matter and spoke with Callero, who said he didn't know about the endorsement letter until after it was already written.

Blase, in a subsequent media report, said the letter was not meant to be an official endorsement.

But the text of the letter seems to contradict that notion. The letter Blase wrote to supporters states: "You have been with me for many elections. Let's start together for one more to elect people that will carry further the policies that have made this community one of the best in the suburbs. Our candidate for mayor is Robert Callero. Our candidates for trustees are Louella Preston, Andrew Przybylo, (and) George Alpoianis."

It is signed "Nick," with Blase's full name typed below. The letter also invites supporters to a breakfast

Saturday at White Eagle, a Niles restaurant part-owned by Przybylo. Callero said Tuesday that the get-together is for the candidates and their supporters to plan a campaign strategy.

The letters also seem official in their appearance. They were sent out in envelopes marked "Office of the Mayor," they bear the village seal and quote the village motto, "Where People Count." Callero is listed in the margin as "Acting Mayor," Blase as "Retired Mayor," and the names of the village trustees, manager and clerk appear, as well.

Trustee Kim Biederman, whose name appears in the margin, said she was outraged by the letter, especially since she is considering entering the race for mayor against Callero. She has not said whether she would file an official complaint with the Illinois

State Board of Elections. Steve Sturm, Spokesman for Illinois State Board of Elections, told **Pioneer Press** state ethics law is loose in some areas and intentionally vague in others.

"A law was passed that local municipalities have to have ethics laws that are no less-restrictive than the state's," he said. "And the state law is vague in some places."

In Sturm's opinion, if taxpayer money wasn't misappropriated in the mailing or writing of endorsement letters, then nothing illegal had occurred. However, Sturm said people whose names appeared on the letter without their permission — like Biederman — might have a leg to stand on if they were to lodge complaints with the Illinois State Board of Elections.

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

### BLOGS

### SPORTS

Heard in the Halls athletic blog.  
[blogs.pioneerlocal.com/sports](http://blogs.pioneerlocal.com/sports)

### DIVERSIONS



### THE WEIGHT OF GUILT

Bruce Ingram reviews Will Smith in "Seven Pounds."  
[www.pioneerlocal.com](http://www.pioneerlocal.com)

### SUBURBODDITY CRAZY CRIMES

Find out about wacky crooks and their crimes.  
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## Police offer holiday safety tips

In response to a number of thefts — mainly stolen purses — the Niles Police Department has issued some holiday safety tips.

Police urge shoppers to be alert to what is going on around them, to park in well-lit spaces, to close and lock car doors and windows, and to place expensive items in their trunks.

Police also caution shoppers not to overburden themselves with packages, and to avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Men should wrap rub-

ber bands around their wallets and keep them in their front pockets, and women should never let their purses out of sight.

To avoid home burglaries, police say residents should use light timers and have trusted neighbors pick up their mail and check on their houses when they are away.

Police said homeowners should also lock their doors (even if they are home), and keep a car in the driveway when they are gone, to make it appear as if they are home. — *By Tony Bertuca*



**TINY TUNES** Gavin Teng, 2, mimics cardboard cutouts of Christmas carolers during a holiday breakfast Dec. 6 at Niles Park District.

ALLISON WILLIAMS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# Starters

## Announcement of Biederman mayoral run seems imminent

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

Niles Village Trustee Kim Biederman has moved a step closer to officially announcing her campaign for mayor by launching a Web page dedicated to her candidacy, **Pioneer Press** has learned.

The Web page, posted on the popular social-networking site Facebook, states that Biederman will run for mayor and invites her supporters to a Jan. 4 campaign event to help her gather signatures to get on the ballot.

"As you may know, Kim is running for Mayor of Niles in the April election," the site states. "In order to do so, she needs to get hundreds of signatures on a petition to have her name appear on the ballot. We hope you'll be able to join us as we walk door-to-

door to ask people to support Kim by signing a petition."

The site also shows a campaign logo that reads "Kim Sychowski Biederman for Mayor of the Village of Niles." Sychowski is Biederman's maiden name.

When asked about the Web site Monday, Biederman, who up until now has said only said she was considering a run for mayor, remained vague about her election plans.

"While I haven't made a final decision, I am taking the steps necessary in the event I do decide to run for mayor," she said. "In regards to a final decision, I'm a mother of two — I have to get through Christmas before I can make any final decision."

"I have been very encouraged by the feedback I've received from residents and community

leaders."

In the event Biederman does enter the race, she has given every indication that she will be running as a reform candidate against Acting Mayor Robert Callero.

Callero has received the endorsement of former Mayor Nicholas Blase, who led the village for 47 years before pleading guilty to federal charges of mail fraud and tax evasion in October. Blase will be sentenced Jan. 29.

"We all understand that we are entering a new era by electing a new mayor and it's important that we protect the issues we care about most — like low taxes and top-notch village services," Biederman said. "At the same time, we can do more to make our village government more open, honest and accessible to residents."

Both Blase and Callero were implicated last week in the use of village stationery for campaign purposes after **Pioneer Press** learned that Blase was using his retirement stationery to send out letters endorsing Callero for mayor, which prompted Village Attorney Joe Annunzio to investigate the matter. Annunzio called the potential conflict of interest an "unfortunate mistake" on Blase's part and said the former mayor's stationery has been taken away. Annunzio said he did not believe any election laws had been broken, but is consulting with an outside attorney.

Biederman, meanwhile, was outraged that village stationery was used to endorse her potential opponent. She was also upset

*Biederman, PAGE 8*

## LoVerde won't seek mayor's seat

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

The list of Acting Mayor Robert Callero's possible opponents in the race for Mayor of Niles keeps shrinking.

Niles Trustee Joe LoVerde, who said several months ago he was interested in running for mayor, announced Dec. 9 that he has decided to stay out of the race, and has thrown his support behind Callero.

"I met with Bob Callero several weeks before he announced his candidacy for mayor," LoVerde said. "I came away from that meeting very confident that Bob will do an outstanding

job." Trustee Louella Preston, who was rumored to be considering a mayoral run, and Trustee Andrew Przybylo, who said he was interested in the job, have also thrown their support behind Callero, and will be running with him on the same slate in April.

Trustee Kim Biederman, who said she is considering a run for mayor, is now the only person who has come forward publicly to possibly challenge Callero.

Biederman alleged Tuesday that Callero pledged to the board of trustees that he had no intention of running for mayor after they appointed him to replace

Nicholas Blase, who retired in August and has since pleaded guilty to corruption charges.

"It's unfortunate that Joe is supporting Bob Callero after Bob broke his commitment not to run when we selected him as interim mayor," she said. "Elected officials should not be handpicked by a select few insiders behind closed doors. The people of Niles deserve an open opportunity to choose our next mayor."

Biederman stopped short of announcing her candidacy, but said, "I'm giving it very serious consideration because the residents of Niles deserve strong, principled leadership, especially during this

economic crisis. We don't have the time or resources to mess around with the politics of the past. I hope to announce a decision shortly after the holidays."

LoVerde, like Preston and Przybylo, said he based his endorsement decision on the state of the economy and Callero's financial acumen as the retired head of a large accounting firm.

"I strongly believe it's very important that we send the correct message to our residents, that as their elected officials we will work together as a board and support Bob Callero as we work through the challenges we face during these difficult economic times," he said.

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## None hurt in Niles house fire

## Police announce Milwaukee Avenue DUI checkpoint

Nobody was injured when a fire started in a townhouse early Friday in Niles.

The fire started about 2:40 a.m. at a townhouse at 7895 N. Nordica Ave., Niles police Sgt. Ron Brandt said. The site is just west of the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course, 6700 W. Howard St., a part of the Niles Park District, according to the course's Web site.

Firefighters remained on the scene battling the blaze at 4:30 a.m., but the fire was under control, Brandt said.

Unconfirmed dispatch reports indicate the blaze was elevated to a second-alarm, but the Niles Fire Department was not immediately available to confirm that.

Everybody was out of the home when emergency crews arrived and nobody was injured or rescued, Brandt said.

The amount of damage and possible displacements were not immediately known.

The blaze caused the closure of Nordica Avenue between West Oakton and West Howard streets, Brandt said.

The fire department is investigating the cause. *Sun-Times News Group*

Route 21 between Gurnee and Chicago is being targeted for a holiday DUI enforcement campaign Friday and Saturday. A stretch of Milwaukee Avenue in Niles will be under surveillance, according to the Niles Police

Department. "Alcohol alone is a factor in over 40 percent of all fatal crashes, which averages out to one alcohol-related fatality every thirty minutes and one alcohol-related injury every two minutes," according

to a police statement. DUI saturation patrols will be conducted along Route 21 (Milwaukee Avenue) over a distance of 40 miles. Participating police agencies include Buffalo Grove, Chicago, Cook County Sheriff, Glenview,

Gurnee, Lake County Sheriff, Libertyville, Lincolnshire, Niles, Prospect Heights, Riverwoods, Vernon Hills and Wheeling. Illinois State Police are also joining the campaign this year. Police said data from

the patrols will be collected and shared with other agencies and, while DUI enforcement is the primary focus of the campaign, officers will also be conducting seat-belt and child-safety-seat checks. — *By Tony Bertuca*

## Office Depot latest in string of businesses to be closed

In order to cut costs during difficult economic times, Office Depot Inc. will close 17 stores in Illinois, one of them located in Niles, at 5757 W. Touhy Ave.

The store joins Circuit City and the Metaldyne

auto parts plant as the latest local business to announce it will be closing its doors.

Denise McCreery said the loss of Office Depot, which employs 15 people, would not have a significant impact on the vil-

lage's bottom line regarding sales-tax revenues. But she said the village is concerned about national economic tides that seemed causing local ripples.

"We are cumulatively concerned about businesses that have been closing," she said. "Office Depot isn't as big as Metaldyne, but again we're seeing nationwide issues hitting the local economy."

McCreery noted Niles has a second Office Depot located at 8315 W. Golf Road in Four Flags Shopping Center. — *By Tony Bertuca*

businesses, and explained that the village would announce details in January. McCreery noted Niles has a second Office Depot located at 8315 W. Golf Road in Four Flags Shopping Center. — *By Tony Bertuca*

## McCracken kids give 1,000 books to flood-damaged Gemini

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

Students from McCracken School in Skokie donated \$300 and more than 1,000 books to Gemini Junior High School in Niles on Friday to help the school recover from losses after a September flood damaged its library.

"We wanted to help out a fellow school in need and really do some community service that would resonate with the students here," said McCracken Principal Jason

Smith. "We wanted to help out a fellow school in need and really do some community service that would resonate with the students here."

**McCracken Principal Jason Smith**

Smith. "We spoke to them about the hardships that the students at Gemini were going through — having to go to makeshift classrooms in other buildings, losing their library, and the kids really responded."

Gemini Principal Scott Herrmann said he and his school were moved by McCracken's efforts.

"We were truly touched by this kind and generous gesture," he said. "It's obvious that the McCracken commu-

nity reaches out to assist others, and we are so grateful. Our students received not only a wonderful donation, but also a valuable lesson about reaching out to help others.

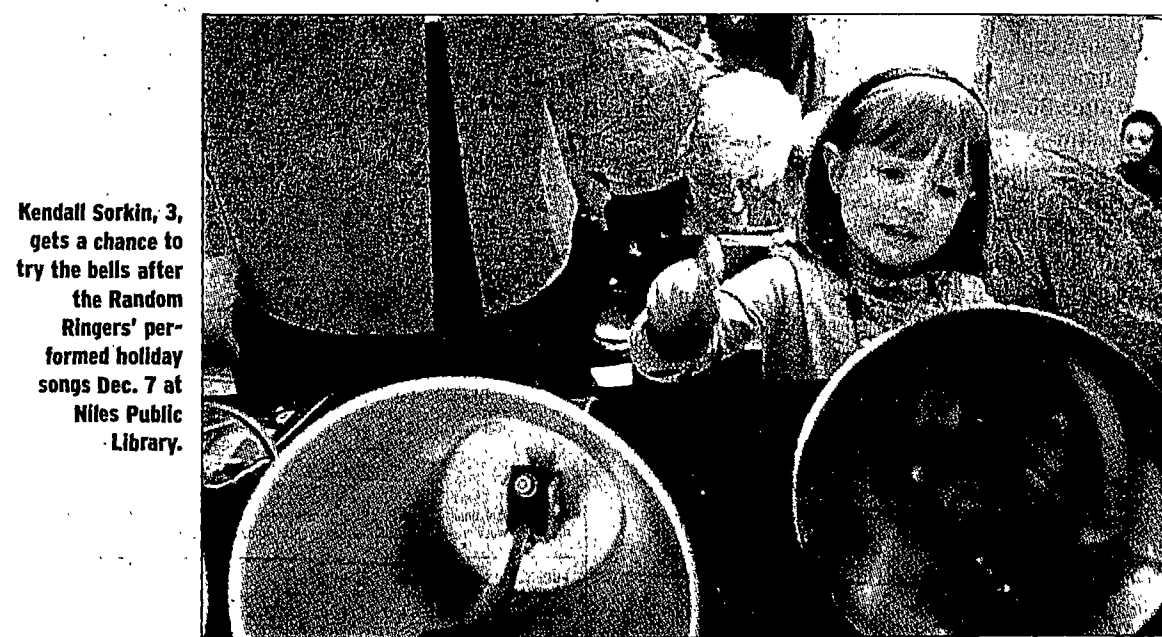
"With this donation, we can replace classroom libraries which were lost in the flood."

Like many places in Niles, Gemini was flooded due to severe storms in September. The school was then closed for several weeks when asbestos was discovered while

cleaning up after the flood. Students were scattered across the district and learned in makeshift classrooms in other school's gymnasiums while the asbestos was removed.

"They saw other kids in need and did not hesitate in wanting to help," Smith said. "What we did was very natural, given the climate here at school, and I couldn't be prouder of our staff and students."

**Comment: pioneerlocal.com**



**Kendall Sorkin, 3, gets a chance to try the bells after the Random Ringers' performed holiday songs Dec. 7 at Niles Public Library.**

ALLEN KALETA/FOR PIONEER PRESS



**RING BEARER Holly Anderson performs holiday tunes with the Random Ringers on Dec. 7 at Niles Public Library.**

ALLEN KALETA/FOR PIONEER PRESS





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Magazine ranks Maine South, East with best schools in U.S.

By TONY BERTUCA
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Both Maine South and Maine East high schools have been ranked among the nation's best by U.S. News and World Report, a weekly news magazine that analyzes more than 21,000 schools nationwide every year.

The rankings were released Dec. 10 and South and East were two of 37 Illinois high schools that earned silver-medal recognition. Two Chicago magnet schools won gold-medal honors.

Kenneth Wallace, Maine Township High School District 207 assistant superintendent for curriculum, said the honor was impressive.

"What is most remarkable about our silver-medal distinctions for East and South is that we've done this while signif-

cantly growing our advanced-placement programs in each building, which most often leads to lower mean scores on AP exams," he said. "Instead, we've been able to maintain student performance well above the state and national average, and that's a credit to our excellent instructional program, department chair leadership, principal leadership, and board leadership.

"Despite increasing the number of tests taken, our students scored a 3 or better on nearly 82 percent of all AP exams taken."

U.S. News & World Report's system of evaluating schools is "based on the key principles that a great high school must serve all its students well, not just those who are bound for college and that it must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to

show that the school is successfully educating its student body across a range of performance indicators," according to the publication.

Maine South Principal David Claypool said: "We are extremely proud to be named a silver medalist school by U.S. News & World Report for the second straight year. The combined efforts of our students and faculty yield remarkable success in our classrooms, and recognition such as this validates the hard work. Whether in the classroom, in our auditorium or on our playing fields, Maine South's students demonstrate a comprehensive level of success that is truly remarkable."

Attempts to reach Maine East Principal Steve Isoye were unsuccessful.

Comment: ploneerlocal.com

My story

"EDUCATION IS A LIFELONG EXPERIENCE, AND OAKTON HAS BEEN JUST WHAT I NEEDED."

WENDY RICE

With more than 20 years as a well-known radio DJ in Chicago, Wendy Rice is used to having a captive audience. But now she's the one listening attentively—in the classrooms of Oakton Community College. Though Rice has already achieved professional and personal success without a college degree, she recognizes the importance of a solid education. Using Oakton as a launching point, Rice plans to transfer to a four-year college and pursue a bachelor's degree in education.

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CASHMERE COLD WEATHER
ACCESSORIES FOR HER

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MEN'S CASHMERE SWEATERS
FROM BLACK BROWN TO RED

75% OFF

MEN'S COLD WEATHER ACCESSORIES
FROM BLACK BROWN TO RED

50% OFF

HOLIDAY TRIM, ORNAMENTS
WAGUEMENT

50% OFF

PLUS FRIDAY ONLY \$15 OFF ANY WOMEN'S OR
MEN'S FRAGRANCE PURCHASE OF \$10 OR MORE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH ONLY

\*This LORD & TAYLOR Savings Pass excludes: BRAND NAMES: All Juicy Couture & Ugg. DEPARTMENTS: Cosmetics, fragrances & beauty accessories; all Fine Jewelry & Fine Watches; men's Cole Haan; kids' toys/giftables. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Not valid on prior purchases. Bonus savings % applied to reduced prices. This Savings Pass must be presented at the register at time of purchase in order to receive Savings Pass discount. Valid through 1am Saturday, December 20th. Not valid on telephone or internet orders. Not valid in Levittown. PRESENT THIS SAVINGS PASS TO YOUR SALES ASSOCIATE BEFORE EVERY PURCHASE




Shop online at lordandtaylor.com †Excludes Ugg; cosmetics, fragrances and beauty accessories; all Fine Jewelry and Fine Watches, beauty salon, restaurants, alterations and gift cards; not valid on telephone or internet orders; not valid in Levittown. ††Excludes Swarovski ornaments. \*Savings Pass not applicable to fragrance offer. Sale ends 1am Saturday, December 20th. Savings off original and regular prices. No adjustments to prior sale purchases. Selected collections; not every style in every store. Our regular and original prices are offering prices only and may or may not have resulted in sales. Advertised merchandise may be available at sale prices in upcoming sale events. For the Lord & Taylor location nearest you, visit our website or call 1-800-223-7440.



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[hfmc.reshealth.org](http://hfmc.reshealth.org)

Call Keys to Recovery at 847-298-9355 (available 24 hours a day).

**Holy Family Medical Center**  
100 North River Road • Des Plaines



### POLICE BLOTTER

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

**BATTERY**

■ Joseph Schnur, 24, of 7004 W. Oakton St., Niles, was charged with battery Dec. 7 after he allegedly pushed a man on the 7000 block of West Oakton Street. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Dec. 26.

**THEFT**

■ Oscar Jovel, 30, of 10426 Michael Todd Terrace, Glenview, was charged with retail theft Dec. 9 after he allegedly stole \$180 of merchandise from a store on the 500 block of Golf Mill Center. He was released on \$2,000 bond and is due in court Jan. 9.

**BURGLARY**

■ A car was burglarized Dec. 9 on the 5900 block of West Touhy Avenue. A laptop computer valued at \$5,000 as reported missing.

■ A car was burglarized Dec. 8 on the 8400 block of North Oketo Avenue. A digital camera valued at \$360 was reported missing.

**DUI**

■ Pedro Santos, 30, of 2201 Cedar St., Des Plaines, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Dec. 8 near the intersection of Dempster Street and Western Avenue. He was released on \$2,500 bond and is due in court Dec. 23.

■ Stepan Husak, 25, of 2230 W. Rice St., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Dec. 7 on the 9100 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$3,000 bond

and is due in court Dec. 26.

■ Mario Munguia, 57, of 3005 N. Neenah Ave., Chicago, was charged with retail theft Dec. 9 after he allegedly stole \$286 of merchandise from a store on the 200 block of Golf Mill Center. He was released on \$2,000 bond and is due in court Dec. 23.

■ Gabriel Giron, 44, of 309 W. 59th St., Hinsdale, was charged with retail theft Dec. 9 after he allegedly stole \$250 from a store on the 200 block of Golf Mill Center. He was released on \$2,000 bond and is due in court Dec. 31.

■ Barbara Polinska, 38, of 9389 Bay Colony Drive, Des Plaines, was charged with retail theft Dec. 6 after he allegedly stole \$270 of merchandise from a store on the 200 block of Golf Mill Center. She was released on \$2,000 bond and is due in court Jan. 9.

**Biederman**  
Continued from PAGE 4

that her name, along with the names of the other village trustees, appeared in the margin of the official stationery.

"We have a unique opportunity to pick a new direction for Niles," Biederman said. "I believe I'll be able to honor the traditions that define our community and also focus on new areas to prepare us for tomorrow. Either way, it's clear that Niles residents, like the rest of Illinois, deserve a new leadership who will look out for the community at a time when we need it most."

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

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- Chocolate Dipped Pretzels and Brownies
- Fudge • Caramel Corn • Chocolate

**Rocky Mountain CHOCOLATE FACTORY**

31 S. Northwest Highway • Park Ridge • 847-318-6801



**Uncle Dan's PIZZA & PUB**

**Celebrate New Year's Eve**  
Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Family:** New Year's Eve Party 6:00pm-9:00pm  
Kids Balloon Drop 9:00pm

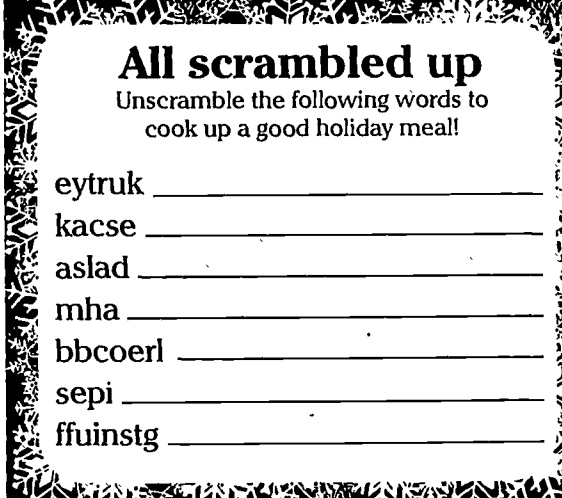
**Adult:** New Year's Eve Party 9:30pm-2:00am  
Live music by Doug James

27 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge, IL 60068  
**847.698.9800** Open Daily 11:30am



**All scrambled up**  
Unscramble the following words to cook up a good holiday meal!

eytruk \_\_\_\_\_  
kacse \_\_\_\_\_  
aslad \_\_\_\_\_  
mha \_\_\_\_\_  
bbcoerl \_\_\_\_\_  
sepi \_\_\_\_\_  
ffuinstg \_\_\_\_\_

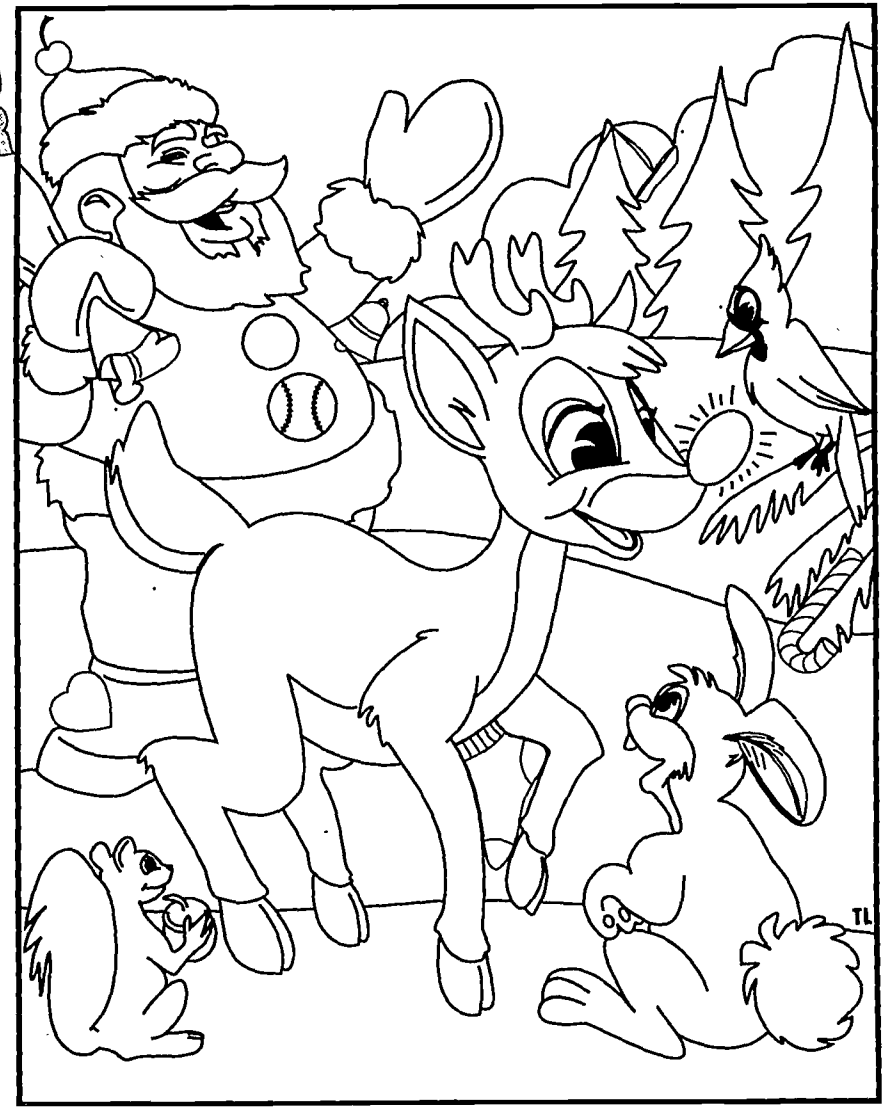


**PIONEER PRESS KIDS CORNER**  
winter 2008

**hidden picture search**

In the picture on the right, you will find all the listed items hidden. After you've found these items, color in the entire picture.

- Small Mitten
- Baseball
- Bell
- Cherry
- Sailboat
- Sock
- Heart
- Feather
- Candy Cane



- 37. Come Watch Chocolate Being Made at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory! Doors open at 10am 7 days a week 31 S. Northwest Highway Park Ridge (847) 318-6801 Enjoy the sweet smell of chocolate as you watch the talented candy makers create wonderful treats.
- 38. Throw a milk and cookie potluck party.
- 39. Create fun bookmarks.

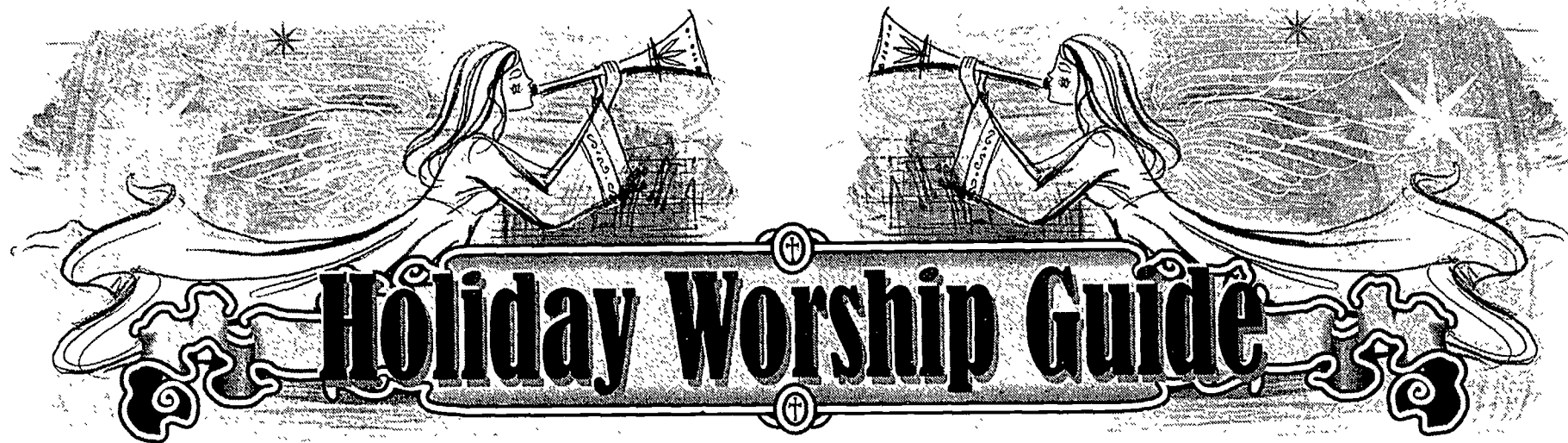
- 40. Make your own gift bag using brown paper grocery bags or lunch bags and decorations.
- 41. Uncle Dan's Pizza & Pub 27 S. Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge 847.698.9800 Celebrate New Year's Eve with Uncle Dan's Pizza and Pub in Park Ridge...starting at 6pm with a Kid's Balloon Drop at 9pm.
- 42. Make flavored ice cubes using fruit punch or your favorite juice - and spice up your drinks!
- 43. Make snow furniture.
- 44. Have a book-swapping party.

- 45. Figure Skating Lessons Oakton Ice Arena Open 7 days a week 2800 W. Oakton, Park Ridge (847) 692-3359 Discover the fun at [www.prparks.org](http://www.prparks.org)
- 46. Visit the local animal shelter and play with the animals.
- 47. Take pictures of your favorite things or people.
- 48. Create an indoor bowling alley using empty plastic bottles for the pins, a small ball, and line the lanes with toilet paper.

**101 things to do winter 2008**

**49. Countdown Celebration!**  
December 31, 2008  
5:00pm to 8:30pm  
Maine Park Leisure Center  
2701 W. Sibley Ave., Park Ridge  
Visit us at [www.prparks.org](http://www.prparks.org) for more details.  
All ages can ring in the New Year with us for fun, new activities & food!

Look next week for more things to do!



**Our Lady of Ransom Church**  
8300 N. Greenwood Niles, Illinois 60714  
Rev. Christopher Gustafson, Pastor 847-823-2550  
www.ourransom.org

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE: 2008**  
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION  
Saturday, December 20th, 11 a.m. to 12 noon  
(Individual Confessions in English and Polish)

**CHRISTMAS MASSES: 2008**  
(We welcome everyone to celebrate the Lord's birth with us.)  
Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24th  
4:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Mass (Carols at 10:00 p.m.)  
Christmas Day - Thursday, December 25th  
7:30-9:00-10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY**  
New Year's Eve - Monday, December 31st  
5:00 p.m.  
New Year's Day - Thursday, January 1st  
9:00 a.m.

**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
*Christmas Worship Schedule*

Dec. 24 @ 4 PM - Family Christmas Eve Service  
Our extremely popular Family Service. Kid-friendly worship and a convenient start time!

Dec. 24 @ 10 PM - Traditional Candlelight Service  
Traditional late-night Christmas Eve Service.

Dec. 25 @ 10:15 AM - Christmas Day Service  
Worship on Christ's birthday.

Messiah Lutheran Church  
1605 Vernon Avenue  
Park Ridge, IL 60068  
847-823-6984 (p) 847-823-6996 (f)  
www.messiahparkridge.org \* ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod

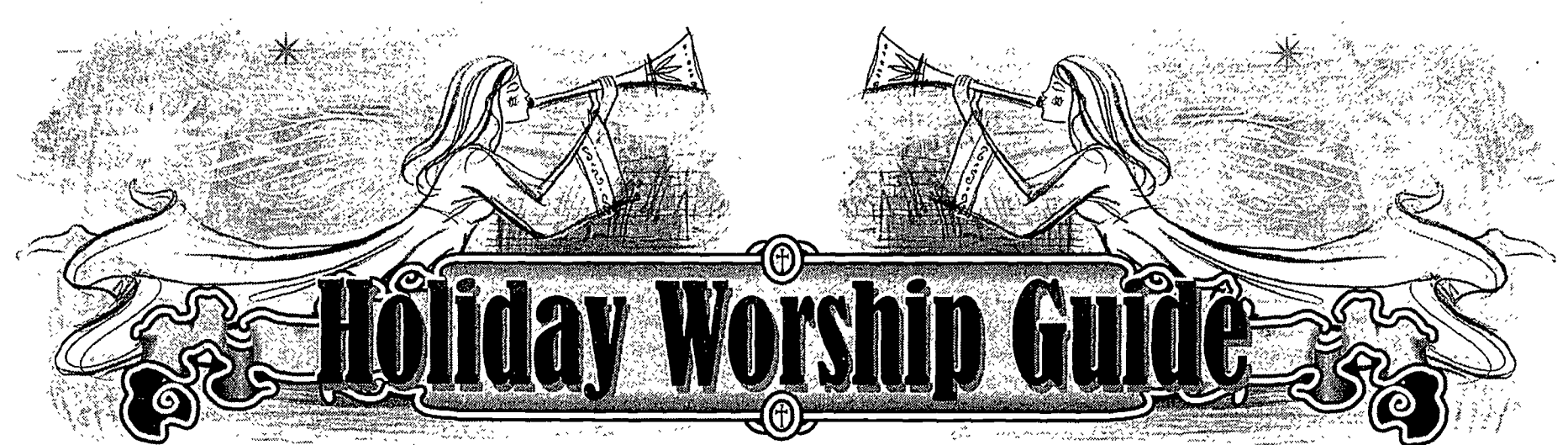
Park Ridge Presbyterian Church  
invites you to join us for our

**Christmas Worship Services**

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

5 pm Family Service  
10:30 pm Christmas Orchestral Music  
11 pm Candlelight Service

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church  
1300 W. Crescent Ave. 847-823-1135  
parkridgepresby.org



**Our Lady, Mother of the Church Parish**  
8747 West Lawrence Ave.  
(On Lawrence just east of East River Rd.)  
773-625-3369

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:**  
Dec. 24: 8:30 AM, 5:00 & 10:30 PM  
Carols begin at 10:00 PM  
Dec. 25: 9:30 & 11:00 AM  
Dec. 26: 7:00 PM Polish Mass  
Dec. 31: 8:30 AM & 5:00 PM

**NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE:**  
(Mary, Mother of God)  
Jan 1: 9:00 AM  
Jan. 6: 7:00 PM Italian Mass  
**HAVE A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
100 Courtland Ave., Park Ridge  
(847) 823-3164

December 24  
5:00 p.m. Family Service  
11:00 p.m. Traditional Service of Candlelight & Carols

December 25  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Skokie Valley Baptist Church**  
Invites You To Join Us This Christmas Season to Our Special Service:

Sunday, December 21—  
Corporate Prayer—2:00 A.M.  
Sunday School—9:30-10:30 A.M.  
Worship Service—10:30 A.M.  
featuring the Chicago Classic Brass

Wednesday, December 24—  
Candlelight Service—7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 31—  
New Year's Eve Service—  
7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.  
(with a special time of prayer for those impacted by the economy.)

Helping People Become Committed Followers of Christ  
Skokie Valley Baptist Church  
1050 Skokie Boulevard  
Wilmette, IL 60091  
Church Offices 847-256-1050  
Fax: 847-256-1701  
Website: www.skokievalley.org

**MORTON GROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Presbyterian  
8944 Austin Ave.  
847-965-2982

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
7:30 p.m. December 24th  
Pastor Douglas Bassler

All Are Welcome

**Sing We Now of Christmas!**  
Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 p.m. Family Worship with Carols and Candlelight  
10:00 p.m. Worship with Carols, Candles and Communion

glenview church  
727 Harlem Avenue, Glenview  
847/729-1015  
www.glenviewumc.com

**St. Martha Catholic Church**  
8523 Georgiana Avenue  
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053  
847-965-0262

Christmas Eve, December 24

Mass on Christmas Day  
7 a.m. in the small Church  
10 a.m. in the Auditorium Church

Family Mass  
4 p.m. in the Auditorium Church  
The 4 p.m. Mass will be focused towards the smallest of our parish families.

11 p.m. Mass in the Auditorium Church  
Caroling with the Choir begins at 10:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve, December 31  
7 a.m. - Small Church  
4 p.m. in the Auditorium Church

New Year's Day, January 1  
10 a.m. in the Auditorium Church

**"Come home for Christmas"**  
7:30 p.m.  
Festive Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion  
The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection  
8450 N. Shermer Rd., Niles, Illinois

**O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL!**  
Christmas Eve  
5:00, 7:00, 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day  
10:00 a.m.

ST. ANDREWS LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL  
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
260 N. Northwest Highway  
Park Ridge IL  
847-823-6656

**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
8237 N. Kenton (4600W)  
Skokie, IL  
(847)673-1311

Christmas Eve  
Wednesday, December 24  
5:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service (with Children Story)  
11:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service

VISITORS WELCOME  
Handicapped Accessible &  
www.skokiecentralumc.org



**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EVANSTON**

In all seasons our liberal religious community invites you with open arms, hearts, and minds.

Christmas Eve services:  
5 p.m. Candlelight Service: "Each Night a Child is Born is a Holy Night," The Rev. Ms. Connie Grant, Mr. Gregory Shiffrin, Pianist.  
9 p.m. Candlelight Service: "Once More... Fear Not," The Rev. Ms. Barbara Pescan, Rev. Grant, and the Choir, Mr. Bart Bradfield directing.

1330 Ridge Ave. (1 block north of Dempster) Phone 847-864-1330  
www.ucevanston.org

Thursday, Dec. 18  
Blue Christmas - An Advent Service of Prayer and Healing - 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21  
Advent IV - 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite I  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II  
3 p.m. - Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve, Wed. Dec. 24  
4 p.m. Christmas Eve celebration - Choral Eucharist - Rite II  
10 p.m. Pre-service music with choir, instrumentalists & organ  
10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve celebration - Choral Eucharist - Rite II

Christmas Day, Thur. Dec. 25  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II

Sunday, Dec. 28  
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite I  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II

NEW YEAR'S EVE, Wed. Dec. 31  
4:30 p.m. A Candlelight Taizé Service

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church  
www.stmarys.org  
parishadmine@stmarys.org

**All Saints Cathedral National Catholic Church**  
Rt. Rev. Jan Dawidziuk, Pastor  
9201 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631  
Phone: 847-698-3616

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Sunday, Dec. 14 4:00 p.m. Concert of English & Polish Christmas Carols  
Performed by Chicago Crete Choir & Da-Re-Mi Youth Choir

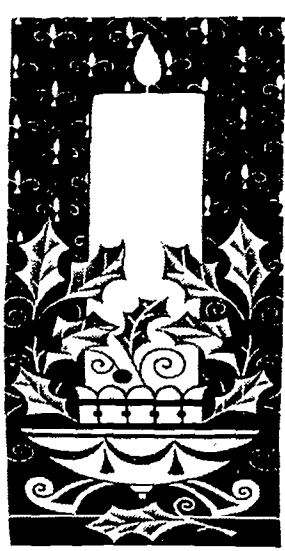
Wednesday, Dec. 24 Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord  
4:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Mass  
11:30 p.m. Congregational Caroling followed by Midnight Mass  
Midnight Mass (Pastor)

Thursday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Solemnity - Nativity of our Lord  
10:00 a.m. Mass of the Nativity

Sunday, Dec. 28 Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds  
8:30 a.m. Holy Mass (Traditional Rite)  
11:00 a.m. Holy Mass (Contemporary Rite)

Thursday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day  
10:00 a.m. Mass for God's Blessings (Contemporary Rite)

Sunday, Jan. 4 Solemnity of the Holy Family  
10:00 a.m. Mass for God's Blessing (Contemporary Rite)  
Children's Christmas Program



It's Christmas! The most wonderful time of the year.  
Come join us for the Greatest Story Ever Told and the best loved music ever written and sung!

**ST. LUKE'S CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Where Harlem Avenue and Shermer Road Come Together

Rev. Gordon Smith, Pastor  
9233 Shermer Road  
Morton Grove, IL 60053  
(847) 966-9233

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday Worship at 10:00 A.M.

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
3637 Golf Road  
Evanston, IL 60203  
847-673-8564  
www.trinityevanston.org  
Joel Benbow, Pastor

Come celebrate with us!

- Sun, Dec. 21 4th Sunday in Advent Services - 8:30 & 11 am
- Wed, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve  
- Candlelight Family Service - 4 pm  
- Candlelight Festival Service w/ Choirs & Brass - 11 pm
- Thurs, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service - 10 am

Handicapped accessible—Childcare available for Sunday Services

**Glimpses of Glory**

Advent Worship Services  
Sermon Series: Glimpses of Glory  
Sundays: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21  
9:15 & 11:00 am

Advent Study Series:  
The Community of Advent  
Sundays: Dec. 7, 14, 21; 11:00 am

Congregational Carol Sing  
December 21; 9:00 & 10:45 am  
Featuring Organ and Brass Quintet

Handel's Messiah  
Festival Choir with Chamber Orchestra  
December 21; 5:00 pm  
Childcare Available, please RSVP by  
Dec. 17 to 847-864-1472 ext. 237

Christmas Party (Sr. High)  
December 21; 5-8:00 pm  
See www.vintagehope.com for details

Christmas Eve Worship  
Family Service; 4:00 pm  
(Children's Choir, Heavy Paper & Love Gift Procession)  
Candlelight Service; 11:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Evanston: 1427 Chicago Ave. www.firstprevevanston.org



# No one needs virus as a holiday gift



STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN  
THE FIXER - Chicago Sun-Times

Dear Readers: Here's a scam that's happening right now and it's so plausible even The Fixer could have fallen for it.

Scammers are sending out e-mails that look as if they're from FedEx, UPS or Wal-Mart — all places you might be expecting to get holiday merchandise from — the Better Business Bureau warns. The e-mail states that the package they shipped was undeliverable because of a wrong address and instructs you to open and print out an attached invoice.

But if you click on the attachment, a virus may be downloaded

to your computer.

If you get one of these e-mails, don't open the attachment and delete the e-mail immediately.

Steve J. Bernas, president and CEO of the BBB, says shippers and retailers rarely include attachments with their notification messages. If you get something that you're unsure of, call the company's customer service department instead of clicking.

Dear Fixer: On Nov. 11, 2007, I ordered a subscription for the magazine "Disney & Me" as a gift for my grandson. He received a gift message telling him it had been ordered, but he never received any issues of the magazine.

I have tried numerous times to contact Magazine City, through its Web site and via phone.

Initially, I was told the subscription would begin in 10 to 12 weeks. I

waited well past that and contacted them again.

The last time I called, I was put on hold for more than 15 minutes. I tried the online customer service and received notification that they would look into it and get back to me. They have not.

I really want my grandson to receive the magazine because it appears to be one he would enjoy, but if that isn't possible, then I would at least like a refund of the \$26.86 I paid.

I know it's not a lot of money, but it's very disappointing that a gift I had purchased for my grandson turned out to be this frustrating.

Janet Algmin

Dear Janet: We hear ya' — and we definitely want your grandson to get that magazine while he's still young enough to enjoy it.

Team Fixer got in touch with Carol Powell of MagazineCity.net LLC in Charlottesville, Va., and she looked into what happened. Turns out that, for some reason unknown to her company, the check they sent to the magazine's publisher was never cashed, Powell said.

She said the matter would be taken care of, and that to make up for the hassle, your grandson will get an extra year's worth (six issues) of the magazine at no charge. Let us know when he gets them.

Dear Fixer: In July 2007 I closed my account with Capital One and destroyed my card.

On July 11 of this year, I was billed for a \$29 membership fee. I contacted Capital One and explained my situation to no avail.

I will be paying off my balance next month — except the \$29 — and I do not want any penal-

ties or late fees. Can you help me avoid that?

Oscar Boyd

Dear Oscar: What's in your wallet? A \$29 annual fee for a card you've destroyed? Yikes!

Luckily, this was an easy one. Within an hour of Team Fixer contacting Capital One spokeswoman Julie Rakes, your worries were over. The \$29 fee was taken off.

And now, we will consider this fixed.

### Good Guys wanted

Dear Readers: Thanks to everyone who sent in stories of the "anti-runaround" — tales of good business owners, clerks, service people and others who performed acts of kindness for consumers this year.

The Fixer had her own angel this summer — the guy from Discount Tire on West 159th Street in Orland Park, who repaired a flat for free. The Fixer smiled the entire drive home. It's

good to know it's not always a jungle out there. If you've got a story about someone who went the extra mile for you, there's still time to submit it for our annual feature, "The Fixer's Good Guys." E-mail your stories to [goodguys@suntimes.com](mailto:goodguys@suntimes.com). We'll run the best ones in the Sun-Times on Dec. 21 and 28.

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem?

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

Thanks to contributors Mike Nolan and Piet Levy.

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

# Opinion

## WE SAY

### It makes sense to shop locally

If you're looking for places to shop for the holidays, start with your local community. Your investment goes far beyond the actual purchase of items.

Many shopping areas have been promoting the concept of "Shop Locally" for years, but the siren song of distant malls can be a persuasive distraction.

Supporting local shops is important in these tough economic times. Without enough sales volume, businesses struggle and consider closing. Every community needs a healthy mix of retail establishments, but you may not find everything as conveniently located in the future. Consider the demise of dime (also known as variety) stores.

Buying locally has an added advantage. From every sales tax collected in your municipality, a portion comes back to assist your municipal government budget. Those dollars in turn — representing the annual aggregate — may make the difference between whether the city or village can afford to provide some services without raising other kinds of revenues, such as property taxes.

Having established businesses also benefits the community as owners or managers get involved in community organizations — chambers of commerce, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Jaycees, etc. — which assist with local events and leadership.

### Gifts from the heart

Still stumped in this gift-giving season for the perfect present?

Even if your budget is more limited this year, there may be some useful gifts that would really be appreciated.

Consider services that you can offer that others may need — providing rides for non-drivers to doctors' visits or grocery stores, or baby-sitting services for parents with young children, or polishing silver, or washing the car, or baking a favorite dessert or boxes of cookies for the recipient. These could include helping with snow shoveling on weekends, or raking leaves next fall or helping someone get their garden in shape in spring, or general helper hours that can be redeemed when needed.

If you know how to do something, can you offer tutoring? A student may need help understanding geometry or grammar. A senior citizen may need to brush up on computer skills for e-mail or Internet. Someone many need a good typist who can translate a written set of notes into a neatly formatted final report. Or help someone learn to knit or crochet or operate a sewing machine.

If you have friends who are shut-ins or in retirement communities or nursing homes, they may not have a chance to get out and visit as they once did. Greeting cards are a start, but live visits mean so much more, whether you come alone or several friends come for a visit together.

## YOU SAY

### Economy is everyone's burden

The majority of voters have spoken and now we have a new president, Barack Obama.

As in every other election some of us were disappointed but it is now time to move forward to support and work with him. There are huge problems in the economy, health care, immigration, the war, etc, and we have to trust the president to select good advisors for guidance. The federal spending has been out of control and now it will take many more dollars to get back on track.

We must resign ourselves to the fact that we ALL will have to pay and sacrifice before this economic problem is over. We cannot "soak the rich" who provide the jobs and who will stop producing if there is little reward or incentive. Lincoln truthfully said "you cannot help the poor by destroying the rich."

Some have estimated that about 40 percent of our people rely on government for some form of support or welfare, and this is a dangerous trend to rely on. A government that is strong enough to give all to everyone is strong enough to take it all back. Scottish professor A. Tyler in 1787 explained that history shows that once public officials learn that they can vote their own pay and gifts from public funds they become fiscally irresponsible, the people rely upon government for help and decision making which allows government to take over. In such circumstances democracy cannot long exist.

Most voters will reelect those officials that

Oh, I love my state and Chicago, and bemoan another scandal. I shuddered hearing the expletives in the transcript. Usually, I only hear that kind of swearing when my husband's changing lanes on the Kennedy. People are also bleeped on reality shows. So, was this the governor's national debut? Patti in "Bribezilla?" Or Gov. Blagojevich starring in "Rod's Big Give," or "Dancing Behind Bars?" One reality show already describes a few Illinois politicians, but they'd have to put a corruption spin on it. "The Biggest Loser."

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

## 1000 WORDS



### Nightmare or bad reality show?



CHERYL O'DONOVAN  
VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

to show my face in another state again.

After the palm greasing, back slapping and wheeler-dealing, we can no longer call ourselves "The Land of Lincoln." More like the "Land of Winkin'."

This story is headlining cable shows, from Larry King to Campbell Brown and Bill O'Reilly. Even Donder and Blitz were camped out near the governor's home via candy cane cam, with a live feed to the North Pole.

"I thought Louisiana was bad," says one pundit. "We won't even talk about Chicago politics," Wolf Blitzer says.

"Don't even howl there, Wolf."

"Better kiss that Olympic bid buh-bye." "Yep," quips another. "Rod's headed to the 'Big House on the Prairie.'"

As Obama staffers fielded questions from reporters, I took a heated call from Disney's Hall of Presidents. The Abe animatronic was out-

them, I will never be able

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GUEST ESSAY

# State needs to keep paying to help child development

By **NICOLE MOLINARO** and **GIANNA GIULIANI**

We are writing in regard to a topic that is very important to at least several thousand families in the state of Illinois.

After investigation and discussion with provider connections, the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Central Billing Office and the Governor's Office, it has come to our attention that all providers which provide Early Intervention services will only be paid for claims submitted through Nov. 12, and further payments will be based on funding as it becomes available.

The importance of these children continuing to receive the services they require is critical to

their continued development.

Early Intervention is a program that services children with developmental delays and various diagnoses. Diagnoses include but are not limited to: Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, premature birth, spina bifida, as well as children who have greater than a 30 percent delay in an area (physical, speech, occupational, etc.) of development.

The state does not have money in the General Revenue Fund, which means that it cannot pay the providers that have been providing services and seek to continue to provide services to these children.

Families that participate in Early Intervention pay a family fee each

month so the state can guarantee payments that are not covered by insurance providers.

However, as of Nov. 28, the state is currently not guaranteeing payments for past claims submitted after Nov. 12.

If the state will not pay the providers consistently, how are the providers expected to render the services these children need?

The purpose of the Early Intervention program is to enable children with developmental delays to receive the kinds of therapy they need — therapy that is necessary to enable them to develop.

The state is now cutting off funding to this program. It would be interesting to see what is happening to the money the families have paid in to

the program.

What "pet projects" are the governor and the state funding at the expense of the essential services the children require?

This is an urgent matter that needs to be addressed. People need to hear how the state is neglecting providers who service children with special needs.

People need to know, and we hope you will give us the opportunity to tell people. This is so important.

*Nicole Molinaro of Algonquin is a licensed physical therapist. Gianna Giuliani of Elk Grove Village is a licensed speech language pathologist. More information about the state's Early Intervention program is available online at [www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=31183](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=31183).*

## Burden

Continued from PAGE 13

promise and give them the most. In congress 95 percent of the incumbents are re-elected each time. Their claim is, "I can bring in 'x' dollars to our district, state, etc." Most scramble for more funds to benefit their district

and damn the cost. Legislation for the common good is overruled by lobbyists and other special interests. If you rob Peter to pay Paul, you can count on the full support of Paul.

Now we have to face these many problems, tighten our belts, and work together. It requires huge sums from our already out-of-control

spending before this is over. We must get jobs for the unemployed, we all need health care.

This is a crisis that will require big expenditures to solve. If labor is cheaper in another country their product is cheaper and customers will buy their products. Our living standard will suffer before this is over.

Once the economy is back on track we have to hope that the president and congress will keep in mind that our huge deficit must be faced and solved, and that common sense and working for the common good has to prevail.

Our children will be grateful.  
**William W. McNutt Sr.,**  
Des Plaines

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**For the store nearest you, visit us at carsons.com. Sale prices effective Friday, December 19 and Saturday, December 20, 2008.** No price adjustments for previously purchased clearance merchandise. Entire Stock offers exclude Clearance and Incredible Value merchandise. Regular and original prices reflect offering prices in effect through the 90 days before or after this sale, but not necessarily during the past 30 days. Savings may not be based on actual sales. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. Merchandise, style and color availability may vary by store and online. [20518A]

## PEEK AT THE WEEK

### DEADLINES

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

### BENEFITS

Local seniors who might be forgotten this holiday season will receive gifts and companionship through the fifth annual "Be a Santa to a Senior" program. Nonprofit organizations, senior agencies and area retailers are partnering with event sponsor Home Instead Senior Care of Skokie to brighten the lives of more than 600 seniors in Skokie, Wilmette, Winetka, Niles, Morton Grove, Park Ridge, Des Plaines, Evanston and Chicago. Through Dec. 19,

shoppers can select ornaments from "Be a Santa to a Senior" giving trees at Sears, Golf Mills Shopping Center in Niles, Dominick's locations at 6931 W. Dempster, Morton Grove, and 2748 Green Bay Road, Evanston, and at Jewel-Osco, 411 N. Green Bay Road, in Wilmette. Each ornament lists the first name of a senior in need, along with a gift request. Holiday shoppers can purchase gifts and return them unwrapped, along with the ornament, to the tree location. For more information about the program and tree locations, log on to [www.beasantoasenior.com](http://www.beasantoasenior.com).

For the eighth consecutive year, Harris Bank is sponsoring The U.S. Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" toy drive. The toy collections are taking place through Dec. 18. All Harris branches in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin will be accepting donations, with

the exception of limited service and stand-alone ATM locations. A new unwrapped toy can be dropped off at the nearest Harris location. For more information regarding Toys for Tots visit [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).

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

### CENTER OF CONCERN

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

The center will be closed Dec. 24 and 25. It will close at 1 p.m. Dec. 31.

Peek, PAGE 19

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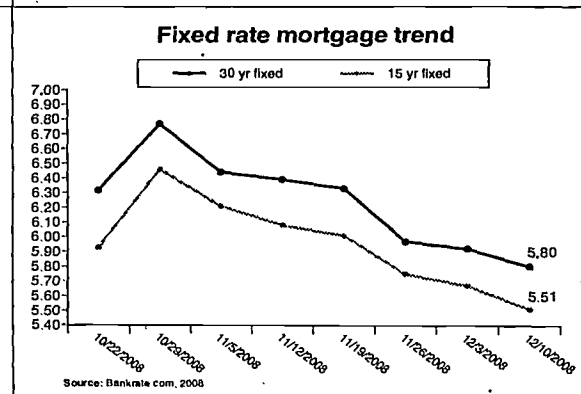
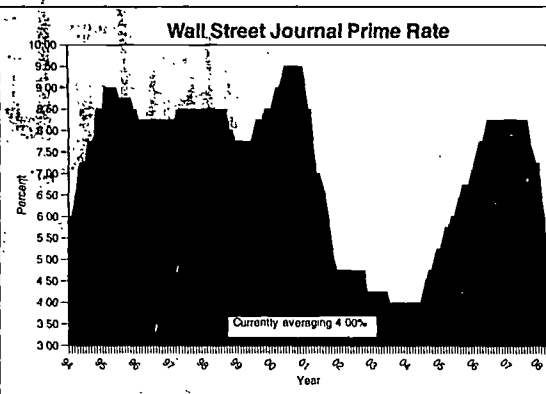
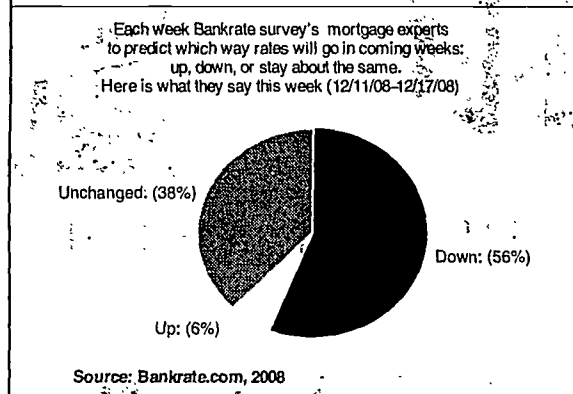
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15 yr fixed refi	Call for Rates					5/1 jumbo ARM	5.125	0.000	\$850	20%	3.901	5/1 ARM	Call for Rates				
5/1 ARM	Call for Rates					5/1 jumbo ARM (interest only)	5.250	0.000	\$850	20%	5.074	7/1 ARM	Call for Rates				
7/1 jumbo ARM	Call for Rates					7/1 jumbo ARM	5.375	0.000	\$850	20%	4.259	15 yr fixed	Call for Rates				
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30 yr fixed	5.000	0.000	\$400	20%	5.037	30 yr fixed	Call for Rates					30 yr fixed	5.000	0.000	\$850	20%	5.045
20 yr fixed	4.875	0.000	\$600	20%	4.933	5/1 jumbo ARM	Call for Rates					15 yr fixed	5.000	0.000	\$850	20%	5.078
15 yr fixed	4.875	0.000	\$600	20%	4.949	7/1 jumbo ARM	Call for Rates					5/1 jumbo ARM	Call for Rates				
10 yr fixed	4.875	0.000	\$600	20%	4.980	10/1 jumbo ARM	Call for Rates					7/1 jumbo ARM	Call for Rates				
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MORTGAGE UPDATE

**Mortgage rates fall again, refis rise** By Holden Lewis

Mortgage rates fell for the sixth week in a row, to their account for the shortest week, applications were down 7.1 percent than the national average. These days, almost all conforming mortgages are fixed-rate loans, and almost all new jumbo mortgages are adjustable.

The recent rate drop was a huge incentive for consumers to refinance. The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 12 basis points, to 5.8 percent, according to the Bankrate.com national survey of home. "As long as rates remain in this range, it's likely that strong mortgage activity will continue, as consumers take advantage of a holiday gift that comes in the form of lower or more secure mortgage payments."

It certainly looks like borrowers are looking for what Walters calls security and what consumers might call certainty. Just 1.1 percent of applicants were asking for an adjustable-rate mortgage last week. Homeowners with adjustable mortgages are refinancing into fixed-rate loans if they can, just to gain the peace of mind that comes from knowing that one's mortgage rate can't go up.

"It's like a mini refi boom," says Mitch Ohlbaum, president of Legend Mortgage Corp. in Los Angeles.

ARMs and jumbos

Ohlbaum does business in one of the country's most expensive housing markets, and that means he gets more ARM applications

The definition of a jumbo loan varies by county, but for mortgages closing in 2009, anything above \$625,500 will be a jumbo. (Although the jumbo limit is higher in Alaska and Hawaii.)

At this point in the evolution of the mortgage business, ARM rates for conforming loans are higher than fixed rates, and fixed rates for jumbo loans are higher than ARM rates.

That's not the only difference between conforming and jumbo mortgages. Conforming mortgages require down payments or equity of 20 percent or sometimes less. But jumbo mortgages generally require equity of at least 30 percent.

What if someone wants to refi a jumbo with less than 30 percent equity? "Goodbye, and thanks for playing," is Ohlbaum's response.

Loan officers and brokers hope for less restrictive rules on jumbo loans next year. In the meantime, most of the refi action belongs to fixed-rate, conforming mortgages.

Rates effective as of 12/11/08. © 2008 Bankrate, Inc. <http://www.bankrate.com>. 1. FGNDR (A) Mortgage Banker, (B) Mortgage Broker, (C) Bank, (D) S & L, (E) Credit Union. \*Call for Rates\* means actual rates were not available at press time. Illinois Mortgage Licensure. Conventional loans are based on loan amounts of \$165,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of \$435,000. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Loan Days: 30-60. Annual percentage rates (APRs) are based on fully indexed rates for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample used. Fees relate relative to the APR. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. Bankrate, Inc. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates and fees in this table. All rates, fees and other information are subject to change without notice. Bankrate, Inc. does not own any financial institutions. Some or all of the companies appearing in this table pay a fee to appear in this table. If you are seeking a mortgage in excess of \$417,000, recent legislation may enable lenders in certain locations to provide rates that are different from those shown above. We recommend that you contact your lender directly to determine what rates may be available to you. To appear in this table, call 800-509-4636. To report any inaccuracies, call 888-509-4636. <http://pioneerlocal.interest.com>

## Peek

Continued from PAGE 17

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays - Employment counseling, by appointment.

Wednesday, Dec. 31 - Grief and loss support group (call first).

Saturday, Dec. 20 - Legal counseling, by appointment.

Saturday, Dec. 27 -

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

**The community is invited** to donate gifts for area senior citizens and needy families during the holiday season. The center also needs volunteers to deliver the gifts. Among the gifts most appreciated by the center's clients: calendars; gift cards or gift certificates to local grocery or drug stores; stationery or greeting cards and stamps;

toiletries (hand creams, soaps, and the like); cookies, candy, and other snacks; assorted teas and cocoas; plants or silk flowers; picture frames or small photo albums; fruit baskets; and mittens, gloves, or slippers. Delivery times for volunteers are flexible and can be arranged to meet volunteers' schedules. To donate gifts or to volunteer to make a delivery, call the center's social workers at (847) 823-0453.

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

**Employment counseling** and preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also are

available by appointment. **Support groups** for Alzheimer's caregivers, those suffering from grief and loss, and seniors seeking to improve their nutrition are available at the Center of Concern in Park Ridge. The center also offers affordable personal counseling to adults of all ages. For more information call center social worker Myrna Fogarty, (847) 823-0453. The center is at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge. The

center also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, in-home health care referrals, friendly visitors for the homebound and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field.

**CHAMBER**  
The Niles Chamber of Commerce is currently active. *Peek, PAGE 60*

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# School celebrates its cultural diversity at assembly

St. John Brebeuf School ended the first quarter with a "Celebration of Cultures" assembly.

With "It's A Small World" playing, a representative from each homeroom paraded in with a flag from one of 18 different countries representing the school's student population.

The students, faculty and parents were treated to a dance performance by some of the students. The countries represented with dances were India, Ireland, Korea, Mexico and the Philippines.

After the dance performance, students were recognized for their different achievements. Honor roll, peacekeepers, scholastic-bowl team, cross-country team, altar servers and patrol teams were among those honored. Many of the students

were recognized for never being tardy in the first quarter.

Also honored were two students who won an essay on "Why America's Veterans Should be Honored." Steven Tarver and Sofia Lyskanowski were awarded a plaque, monetary gift and dinner at the VFW Post. Their essays will now go on to the state competition.

To end the assembly each grade shouted out "goodbye" in a different language.

**St. John Brebeuf School ended the first quarter with a "Celebration of Cultures" assembly. With "It's A Small World" playing, a representative from each homeroom paraded in with a flag from one of 18 different countries representing the school's student population.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JOHN BREBEUF

## SCHOOLS DIGEST

### ACT honor

The Illinois ACT State Organization and ACT this month recognized 47 Illinois high schools with one or more students in the class of 2008 earning a top composite score of 36 on the ACT college admissions exam.

"The schools recognized today have provided outstanding educational opportunities and these students have taken full advantage of these opportunities as they prepare for college," said Bob Murray, dean of enrollment management at the Illinois Wesleyan University, and ACT state representative. "Earning a top composite score on the ACT is a distinctive honor for the student, but also for the school where the student has learned. The Illinois ACT State Organization and ACT commend these schools and students for their accomplishments."

Only 428 of the more than 1.4 million 2008 graduates nationally who took the ACT earned a top score. In Illinois, 62 high school graduates out of more than 140,000 in the class of 2008 earned a top score on the ACT.

The ACT, a curriculum-based achievement test, consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. The average composite score for the national high school graduating class of 2008 was 21.1. Some students also take ACT's optional Writing Test, but the score for that test is reported separately and is not included in the ACT composite score. ACT scores are accepted by all major U.S. colleges and universities.

The Illinois ACT State Organization is composed of secondary and postsec-

ondary educators, agency personnel and leaders of statewide associations. The State Organization provides advice to ACT and support for ACT programs and services in Illinois.

High schools honored included: Buffalo Grove, Glenbrook South, John Hersey, Maine South, Notre Dame, Palatine and Rolling Meadows.

### Chicagoland Jewish

Chicagoland Jewish High School in Deerfield announced Dec. 2 that it is the recipient of a \$1 million gift from the Larry Goodman Family Foundation.

"Today, more than ever, we want to ensure the future and viability of Jewish education in Chicago," said Larry Goodman. "Chicagoland Jewish High School has created a culture of academic excellence that inspires young adults to think critically and achieve their full potential while preparing them to live Judaism as responsible and involved citi-

zens. Lillian and I are committed to doing everything to guarantee their future and our Jewish future."

On behalf of the CJHS community, Head of School Tony Frank expressed thanks for the Goodman gift. "Just seven years after the founding and one year after moving into our magnificent new state-of-the-art building, CJHS has attained nationwide recognition for the excellence of its academic program and staff, and the accomplishments of its students. With their generous gift, Larry and Lillian Goodman stand with us as partners in ensuring the future and viability of Jewish education in the Chicago region."

In appreciation of the Goodmans, who live in Highland Park and are members of North Shore Congregation Israel, CJHS will name its athletic field and athletic wing in honor of the Goodman family. A dedication of the newly named areas is being planned and will be an-

nounced to the community when final arrangements are completed.

Now in its eighth year the school offers general and Judaic studies in a co-ed, college-preparatory environment. Enrollment has reached an all-time high, with 150 students from more than 20 communities.

For more information contact CJHS, (847) 324-3723, or go to [www.cjhs.org](http://www.cjhs.org).

### District 64

Families of students and members of the Park Ridge-Niles community are invited to enjoy the upcoming traditional holiday sings and concerts at District 64 schools to celebrate the festive season.

Three elementary schools will hold their holiday sing concerts on Friday in the school gyms:

Carpenter School, 300 N. Hamlin, Park Ridge, will have its performances at 10 a.m. for Kindergarten

AM and grades 1, 3 and 5, and 1 p.m. for Kindergarten PM, grades 2 and 4, chorus and DRUM. Club.

Franklin School, 2401 Manor Lane, Park Ridge, will conduct its concerts in the gym. Families of students in all grades whose last names end in A - L and all Kindergarten AM families are invited to attend a 9:30 a.m. performance; prelude players will begin at 9:15 a.m. Families of students whose last names end in M-Z and all Kindergarten PM families are invited to attend the 1 p.m. performance, with a prelude at 12:45 p.m.

Washington School, 1500 Stewart, will hold concerts in the gym at 9:15 a.m. for grades 1, 3 and 5, and at 10:30 a.m. for Kindergarten (both AM and PM), and grades 2 and 4.

Holiday sing concerts at two elementary schools will be held over two days:

Schools, PAGE 58

# Diversions

MANAGING EDITOR: Michael Bonesteel  
mbonesteel@pioneerlocal.com | (847) 486-6854

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Patinkin

### » MUSIC »

Mandy Patinkin returns for performances Dec. 27 and 28 in Skokie's North Shore Center for the Performing Arts. The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band will perform holiday concerts at the North Shore Centre, the Botanic Gardens in Glencoe and Temple Shalom in Chicago.

### » STAGE »

The world-premiere musical "The Bowery Boys" runs through Feb. 15 at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire. Local storytellers assemble Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 20 and 21, for tales of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa in the "Tis the Season" holiday storytelling festival in Oak Park.

### » BLOGS »

In-Entertaining Ideas, Jennifer Thomas discusses format changes for the eighth season of "American Idol" and the Museum of Science and Industry's upcoming Harry Potter exhibit.

## BRUCE'S TAKE

"Director Gabriele Muccino, whose 'Pursuit of Happiness' yielded a Best Actor Oscar nomination two years ago for Will Smith, sets the hook in the opening moments of 'Seven Pounds' by having our tortured protagonist phone 911 to report his own suicide."

SEE MOVIE REVIEW, PAGE B3

# Evolving 'Bowery' set to music

## 'THE BOWERY BOYS'

1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sundays, through Feb. 15 at Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. \$45; \$5 student and senior discount for Wednesday and Sunday matinees; dinner packages available. (847) 634-0200 or [www.marriotttheatre.com](http://www.marriotttheatre.com).

By MYRNA PETLICKI  
Contributor

David H. Bell has written some 60 shows in his illustrious career, but he is particularly excited about his latest, "The Bowery Boys," receiving its world premiere at Lincolnshire's Marriott Theatre through Feb. 15. "It has been probably the single best and most productive process I've had with a world premiere," said Bell, who also directs. He wrote the book and lyrics for this musical inspired by Horatio Alger Jr.'s works; Jeremy Cohen created the music; and Des Plaines actress Susan Moniz has a role in the production.

Bell, who has worked on the show for more than two years, noted, "It was an idea in my mind even before that. I grew up reading the Horatio Alger books: The rags-to-riches stories set at the turn-of-the-20th century. It always intrigued me. There was an optimism of the era that really supports the inclusion of music in these stories."

The show, set in 1876 New York City, follows the adventures of "Bowery Boy" Dick and a young British heiress named Mary. "The Bowery Boys are orphans that live in the newsboys' lodging house," Bell said. "They pay a nickel a night."



The cast of "The Bowery Boys" perform in a musical inspired by the works of Horatio Alger at Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire.

The show was slotted for this season by the theater following a reading a year-and-a-half ago. "Of that reading, almost nothing is left," Bell noted. Many changes occurred following a three-week workshop production in July, 2008 at Northwestern University, as part of the American Musical Theatre Project. "About half of it has changed since then, with eight new songs, a lot of new characters and total re-conception," Bell said.

### Reality versus fantasy

Driving some changes was Bell's discovery of "The Other Half," photographs and writings by Jacob Riis about the "grim reality" of that period — in stark contrast to the rosy picture painted by Alger. "We've always in our evolution of this show tried to aim somewhere in the middle," Bell said. "It has been a really thrilling process."

Bell praised the contri-

butions of Marriott Lead Artistic Director Aaron Thielen and Producer Terry James throughout the development stages. He also saluted his Marriott cast. "It's a wonderful mixture of stalwarts like Susan Moniz — legends of Chicago theater — and these young kids," he said, referring to the dozen Bowery Boys, who range in age from 10 to the early 20s.

"Stalwart" Moniz is equally excited about the world premiere even though her character, Mother, has limited stage time. "It's a beautiful, beautiful show," Moniz said. "David Bell has done wonders bringing this to life. It's basically inspired by (George M.) Cohan music and then Jeremy Cohen is writing all this other music that has the flavor and essence of Cohan music in it." Moniz described Mother as "a pivotal role in the sense that she is im-



Des Plaines actress Susan Moniz: "It's a beautiful, beautiful show."

portant to one of the main characters. It's a great gig because I get to sing a beautiful song and have a nice little scene." That song is "Say Goodbye." "I've done a lot of shows with David, and this one is very special to me," Moniz said. "He's really brought these characters to life. The lyrics are lovely, the

music is lovely — and I don't say that about all the shows I'm in. Matt Raftery is choreographing it and it's very earthy and young, and very organic with the characters. And the costumes (by Nancy Missimi) are gorgeous. It's really coming together beautifully."

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PRODUCED BY DANIEL WALLACE  
WRITTEN BY NICHOLAS STOLLER AND JARRAD PAUL  
DIRECTED BY DANIEL WALLACE  
CASTING BY RICHARD D. ZANUCK DAVID HEYMAN  
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OPENING THIS WEEK

GRAN TORINO

★★★  
Dirty Harry goes geriatric. Miserable, cantankerous old SOB Walt Kowalsky (Clint Eastwood) isn't happy with the way things are going in his neighborhood or with the world in general - and when he gets sufficiently riled, he's got the gun power to back up his sense of right and wrong. Walt's recently buried his beloved wife and he has to contend with the fresh-faced young priest (Christopher Carley) she sicced on him. He despises his spoiled sons and their doubly spoiled children, the auto industry he worked in all his life has collapsed and the streets are filled with aggravating young punks who need to be shaken by the collar. And, as a Korean war vet and practicing racist, he isn't happy that he's surrounded by a community of Hmong refugees. He's even less thrilled when he has to become the unofficial protector of the sassy teenage girl next door (Ahney Her) and her hapless brother Thao (Bee Vang) when their family is threatened by gang-bangers. As director, Eastwood goes for loose, character-driven comedy for the most part in "Gran Torino," and it's often extremely funny. Nobody grimaces, growls and spits more contemptuously than Walt, except for the old Hmong grandma who lives next door. And the relationship that slowly develops between Walt and Thao when the boy is forced to work for Walt after attempting to steal his beloved Torino, is charming despite contrivances like the old man taking him over to the neighborhood barbershop to learn to speak man-talk. "Torino" shifts gears into melodrama a bit too abruptly, though, two-thirds of the way through, and ends with a spasm of over-the-top violence that feels very much out of character with the best things about the film - the warm (if not especially civil) relationships of its characters and its surprisingly appealing (if not particularly exemplary) sense of humor. (B) (116 min.) Rated R for language throughout, and some violence.

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX

The children's story about a heroic mouse with oversize ears who comes to the rescue of his kingdom gets the animated-adventure-comedy treatment. Rated G.

YES MAN

★★ 1/2  
A miserably unhappy loan offi-

cer (Jim Carrey), depressed because his wife left him, signs up for a life-improvement seminar that encourages him to say yes to any opportunity that presents itself - and takes the whole thing a bit too literally. There's not a lot going on here in the way of big laughs, but "Yes Man" is a pleasant-enough vehicle for Carrey, primarily revolving around his character's previously unlikely romance with a free-spirited artist type (Zooey Deschanel). And the modest comic tension that comes from the fact that if anyone tells our hero to go jump off a bridge, he'll do it. Underneath it all, it's a harmless little parable about embracing all of life's possibilities - even if that includes spending an afternoon in the head-removal room of a poultry processing plant. (B) (104 min.) Rated PG-13 for crude sexual humor, language and brief nudity.

THE WRESTLER

After being forced to leave the ring, a battered former wrestling star (Mickey Rourke) reevaluates his life. Directed by Darren Aronofsky ("Requiem for a Dream"). (109 min.) Rated R for violence, sexuality/nudity and some drug use.

STILL PLAYING

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

Keanu Reeves stars in this update of the 1951 sci-fi classic about an alien emissary sent to persuade mankind to stop its destructive ways - or else. (103 min.) Rated PG-13 for some sci-fi disaster images and violence.

DOUBT

★★★ 1/2  
John Patrick Shanley's award-winning play about questionable accusations and hidden truths in a New York City Catholic school in the early days of the 1960s has a thoughtful and provocative story to tell about the high-stakes struggle between a progressive priest and an authoritarian nun. But the real reason "Doubt" earns its Tony and its Pulitzer - and will doubtless be a major contender in the upcoming Oscars - is the way it makes the audience question its own assumptions. You're likely to begin this film with your sympathies neatly lined up in one direction, then change your mind completely by the time it's over. Threatened by the liberal ideas of the well-liked Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman), the fear-

some Sister Aloysius (Meryl Streep, obviously relishing the part of the old-school knuckle-rapper), requires no more than the mere suggestion that he might have made sexual advances to one of the boys in school before she sets out to destroy him. Which is not to say that Father Flynn is innocent of the charge. Shanley, who doesn't do much to open up his play cinematically (except for laying on the winds-of-change symbolism a bit too thickly), doesn't do much to trip himself up, either. He moves things along briskly, skillfully sets up our expectations and deftly handles a last minute shift of perspective that calls everything we've seen so far into question. And he's careful not to make it 100 percent conclusive one way or another whether there's a rat in the sacristy, though you're likely to feel that he does. (B) (104 min.) Rated PG-13 for thematic material.

FROST/NIXON

★★★ 1/2  
Screenwriter Peter Morgan ("The Queen") adapted his Broadway play about the epic series of post-Watergate interviews between disgraced former president Richard Nixon and British chat show host David Frost - which Nixon pointedly regarded as a duel - for this surprisingly suspenseful and funny adaptation by director Ron Howard. Some might find the first half of the film slow-going, but the tension mounts subtly as the charming Frost (well-played by Michael Sheen of "The Queen") gradually begins to realize he's out of his depth. Morgan succeeds in conveying several fascinating suggestions about Nixon (such as the possibility that some part of him wanted to confess his culpability), aided in large part by an Oscar-worthy performance by Frank Langella, who won a Tony Award last year for the same role on Broadway. (B) (122 min.) Rated R for some language.

FOUR CHRISTMASSES

A couple (Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon) struggles through Christmas at the homes of four divorced parents. (82 min.) Rated PG-13 for some sexual humor and language.

MILK

★★★ 1/2  
Director Gus Van Sant's moving biography of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in America, has a lot

going for it including a smart, funny, politically savvy script, but it's Sean Penn's uncharacteristically gentle, humorous, low-key performance that really makes it work. The film opens with a tape of Milk recording his memoirs because he was aware he was a target for assassination, and works its way through his political career, from the time he discovered his gift for organizing until the time he was shot by a disturbed fellow City Supervisor (Josh Brolin). (B) (128 min.) Rated R for language, some sexual content and brief violence.

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS

The members of the far-flung Rodriguez family reunite for Christmas to celebrate the return of the youngest brother (Freddy Rodriguez) from Iraq. Rated PG-13 for thematic elements including some sexual dialogue, and brief drug references.

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

★★★★  
The stakes couldn't be higher in this beautifully made film involving a Dickensian struggle against cruel poverty, the lifelong bond between two estranged brothers, true love that never dies, the resilience of hope and the workings of fate - and they couldn't be resolved in a more dazzling manner. Danny Boyle ("Trainspotting," "24 Days Later") directed this epic adventure about an uneducated 18-year-old slum kid named Jamal (Dev Patel), who's one correct answer away from winning a 20-million rupee jackpot on India's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" (B) In English and Hindi with subtitles.

TWILIGHT

★★★  
The movie closely follows the plot of Stephenie Meyer's best-seller as teenage Bella (Kristen Stewart) moves into a strange new town and falls in love with a teenage vampire (Robert Pattinson). Pattinson comes across like James Dean - intense, heart-breakingly gorgeous, moody and entrancing. And Stewart nails the character of Bella - her clumsiness, bravery, stubbornness and curiosity. Where the movie is a letdown is in its special effects. The vampire jumping and leaping looks silly and the sepia-tinted flashback scenes are straight out of a silent movie parody. (JT) (122 min.) Rated PG-13 for some violence and a scene of sensuality.

- Reviews by Bruce Ingram and Jennifer Thomas

Payback by the pound



BRUCE INGRAM

FILM CRITIC

Seven Pounds ★★★

You know the expression, "I could tell you, but I'd have to kill you"? Don't ask me what the title of this movie means. I could make a good guess (I'd say it has something to do with the pound of flesh from Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice"), but if I got it right it would spoil the big ending - and you'd have to kill me. Will Smith backs his way into a supercolossal tear-jerking finale in this mysterious melodrama about a man who is haunted by some un-

named but terrible sin from his past, who sets out to atone by saving the lives of seven strangers - most of them afflicted by major medical problems. One is a blind Internet order processor (Woody Harrelson) whose sightlessness is interfering with his musical aspirations and his love life. Another is a feisty lady named Emily (Rosario Dawson), whose heart condition has left her \$50,000 in debt to the IRS - which she won't have to worry about much longer if she doesn't get on the short list for a transplant. Then there's the benevolent hockey coach (Bill Smitrovich) who struggles with leukemia but still devotes himself to rehabilitating tough guys on ice. There's also a lung case, a liver case and a lady who's in danger of being beaten to death by her boyfriend. And I'm sure there's somebody else in there I

just can't remember. The one thing they have in common is that they're all good people. Our hero has a strict vetting process. If he comes to call and finds out you're not nice, well, whatever it is you need, you're not going to get it from him.

We don't know much about this guy, except that he goes by the name of Ben, flashes an IRS badge and is subject to flashbacks which reveal he was once a successful and happily married guy. And that he's now utterly tormented by something or other. We don't even know if he's really an IRS agent. Just to keep us alert, we're told he might also be a NASA engineer. Either way, he must have been very good at his job, because he can somehow afford a spectacular hill-top beach house which he admires for its soul-healing properties. We do



Man of mystery and melodrama: Will Smith in "Seven Pounds."

know he's a bit of a weirdo, because he keeps a deadly jellyfish, "the most lethal killer on Earth" in an aquarium in his living room.

Does all this seem a little backwards and meandering? Eager for me to get to the point? Well, get used to it, because that's what watching this movie is like.

Director Gabriele Muccino, whose "Pursuit of Happyness" yielded a Best Actor Oscar nomination two years ago for Smith, sets the hook in the opening moments by having our tortured protagonist phone 911 to report his

own suicide. Then we step back a few days for the melancholy events leading up to the call, including Ben's ironically ill-timed love affair with the nice gal with the bum ticker. Will true romance change the direction his life has been going? There's one very good reason why that could be a big problem ...

"Seven Pounds" is basically one for the ladies and it eventually delivers the emotional goods, but some might consider it to be a little slow and frustrating, the way it keeps a leash on forward momentum and delays the sobs until the very last mo-

ment. Think of it as tantric soap opera.

The mystery component is interesting though: The way the film keeps us wondering, idly, about who this guy is and what he possibly could have done that's worthy of so much self-inflicted suffering. It's also kind of cool, from an academic standpoint, to see a plot that's entirely driven by guilt instead of love or hate or greed or revenge or any of the usual, sexier, motivations.

It's nice to see one of the world's prime movers getting its due.

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# IT'S SHOWTIME

Movie times are effective Friday and are compiled from information available on Tuesday. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change.

## ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

**Arlington Theaters**  
53 S. Evergreen St.  
(847) 483-0123  
Call theater for titles and times.

## CHICAGO

**Lincoln Village 1-6**  
6341 N. McCormick at Devon  
(773) 604-4747  
The theater did not provide information. Call for titles and times.

## EVANSTON

**Evanston Century/Cinearts**  
1715 Maple Ave.  
(847) 491-9751

**DOUBT (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 12:00-12:25-3:55  
5:10-6:30-7:45-9:05-10:20

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 12:15-1:40-3:10-4:30  
6:05-7:30-9:00-10:25

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
Fri-Tues: 11:45-2:15-4:35-7:00-9:25

**YES MAN (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 11:40-1:10-2:15-3:45  
4:55-6:20-7:25-8:55-10:00

**AUSTRALIA (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 11:50-3:25-7:00

**BOLT (PG)**  
Fri-Tues: 11:35-2:05-4:40

**CADILLAC RECORDS (R)**  
Fri-Tues: 11:30-2:10  
4:45-7:35-10:10

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 11:55-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40

**MILK (R)**  
Fri-Tues: 1:15-4:15  
7:10-10:15-10:05-10:15

**NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 11:30-1:55-4:25-6:55-9:30

**QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 12:0-4:00-6:40-9:20

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
Fri, Sun-Tues: 11:35-1:05  
2:25-4:05-5:30  
7:05-8:30-10:05  
Sat: 1:05-4:05-5:30  
7:05-8:30-10:05

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 11:40-12:25-2:20  
3:00-4:45-5:35  
7:20-8:10-9:55

**METROPOLITAN OPERA: THAIS (NR)**  
Sat: 11:00

**ELK GROVE VILLAGE**

**Elk Grove**  
Biesterfeld & Arlington Hts. Rds.  
(847) 444-FILM #559  
Call theater for titles and times.

## GLENVIEW

**Glen 10**  
1850 Tower Drive  
(847) 729-9600  
www.Kerasotes.com

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:50  
Wed: 12:40-3:40

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
Fri-Tues: 1:30-4:00-6:40-9:20  
Wed: 1:30-4:00

**YES MAN (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 1:15-1:45-4:15  
4:50-7:00-7:30-9:40-10:10  
Wed: 1:15-1:45-4:15-4:50

**NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 2:30-5:00-7:40-10:15  
Wed: 2:30-5:00

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 2:00-4:30-7:10-10:00  
Wed: 2:00-4:30

**MILK (R)**  
Fri-Tues: 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30  
Wed: 12:30-3:30

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 2:15-4:40-7:20-10:20  
Wed: 2:15-4:40

**BOLT (PG)**  
Fri-Tues: 12:50-3:20

**THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 1:00-3:50-6:20-9:10  
Wed: 1:00-3:50

**QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 6:10-9:00

**HIGHLAND PARK**

**Highland Park**  
445 Central Ave.  
(847) 432-3300  
Call theater for titles and times.

**Renaissance Place**  
1850 2nd St.  
(847) 258-7282  
Call theater for titles and times.

**MOUNT PROSPECT**

**Randhurst**  
101 Euclid Ave.  
(847) 590-9788  
www.amctheatres.com  
The theater did not provide information. Call for titles and times.

**NILES**

**Show Place 12**  
301 Golf Mill Center  
(800) 326-3264, #1643  
www.Kerasotes.com

**MET OPERA - THAIS**  
Sat: 11 a.m.

**RAB NE BANA DI JODI (NR)**  
Fri-Sun: 1:00-4:15-7:15-10:15  
Mon, Tues: 12:30-4:30-8:30

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
Fri, Mon, Tues: 1:40-4:15-6:50-9:30  
Sat, Sun: 11:00-1:40-4:15-6:50-9:30  
Wed: 1:40-4:15

**YES MAN (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 10:20-11:15-1:10-1:50-4:00-4:40-6:40-7:20-9:20-9:50  
Mon, Tues: 1:10-1:50-4:00-4:40-6:40-7:20-9:20-9:50  
Wed: 1:10-1:50-4:00-4:40

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 10:10-1:00-4:20-7:10-10:10  
Mon, Tues: 1:00-4:20-7:10-10:10  
Wed: 1:00-4:20

**NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:10-1:45-4:30-7:00-9:40  
Mon, Tues: 1:45-4:30-7:00-9:40  
Wed: 1:45-4:30

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:50-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:20  
Mon, Tues: 2:45-5:20-7:50-10:20  
Wed: 2:45-5:20

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:40-2:00-4:45-7:30-10:00  
Mon, Tues: 2:00-4:45-7:30-10:00  
Wed: 2:00-4:45

**BOLD 3-D (PG)**  
Fri-Sun: 10:50-12:0-4:10-6:30-9:10  
Mon, Tues: 12:0-4:10-6:30-9:10  
Wed: 12:0-4:10

**BOLT (PG)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:20-2:20-5:00  
Mon-Wed: 2:20-5:00

**TWILIGHT (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 10:30-1:30-4:50-7:40-10:30  
Mon, Tues: 1:30-4:50-7:40-10:30  
Wed: 1:30-4:50

**QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 7:45-10:40

**MADAGASCAR 2 (G)**  
Fri, Sun: 10:40-1:15-3:50-6:20-9:00  
Sat: 3:50-6:20-9:00  
Mon, Tues: 1:15-3:50-6:20-9:00  
Wed: 1:15-3:50

**NORRIDGE**

**Norridge**  
4520 Harlem Ave.  
(708) 452-9000  
www.amctheatres.com  
The theater did not provide information. Call for titles and times.

**PARK RIDGE**

**Pickwick**  
5 S. Prospect  
(847) 604-2234

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
Fri-Tues: 1:00-3:45-6:00-8:15  
Wed: 1:00  
Thurs: 6:00-8:15

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 2:00-5:00-7:00-9:00  
Wed: 2:00

**BOLT (PG)**  
Fri-Tues: 1:45-4:15-6:30-8:45  
Wed: 1:45

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 2:15-4:45-7:00-9:15  
Wed: 1:30  
Thurs: 7:00-9:15

**MARLEY AND ME (PG)**  
Thurs: 6:30-8:45

**BEDTIME STORIES (PG)**  
Thurs: 7:00-9:15

**ROSEMONT**

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

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:35-2:00-4:30-7:20-10:10-12:35  
Sun-Tues: 11:35-2:00-4:30-7:20-10:10-12:35  
Wed: 11:35-2:00-4:30-7:20-10:10-12:35

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:35-2:00-4:30-7:20-10:10-12:35  
Sun-Tues: 11:35-2:00-4:30-7:20-10:10-12:35  
Wed: 11:35-2:00-4:30-7:20-10:10-12:35

**TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 8:10-10:45  
Wed: 8:10

## Ratings Guide

**G: General Audiences**  
All ages admitted.

**PG: Parental Guidance Suggested**  
Some material may not be suitable for children.

**PG-13: Parents Strongly Cautioned**  
Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**R: Restricted**  
Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

**NC-17: No One 17 or Under Admitted**

Ratings are determined by the Motion Picture Association of America's Classification and Rating Administration. For details, see [www.mpa.org](http://www.mpa.org).

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 1:00-1:45-4:00-4:45-7:00-7:45-10:00-10:45-12:55  
Sun-Tues: 1:00-1:45-4:00-4:45-7:00-7:45-10:00-10:45  
Wed: 1:00-1:45-4:00-4:45-7:00-7:45

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:25-11:55-2:05-2:35-4:40-5:15-7:10-7:50-10:20-12:50  
Sun-Tues: 11:25-11:55-2:05-2:35-4:40-5:15-7:10-7:50-10:20-12:50  
Wed: 11:25-11:55-2:05-2:35-4:40-5:15-7:10-7:50

**YES MAN (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:15-12:00-1:55-2:40-4:35-5:20-7:15-8:00-9:55-10:40-12:35  
Sun-Tues: 11:15-12:00-1:55-2:40-4:35-5:20-7:15-8:00-9:55-10:40  
Wed: 11:15-12:00-1:55-2:40-4:35-5:20-7:15-8:00

**DELGO (PG)**  
Fri-Tues: 12:55-3:10-5:30

**NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:00-11:50-1:30-2:30-4:10-5:10-7:25-7:55-10:05-10:35-12:40  
Sun-Tues: 11:00-11:50-1:30-2:30-4:10-5:10-7:25-7:55-10:05-10:35  
Wed: 11:00-11:50-1:30-2:30-4:10-5:10-7:25-7:55

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
Fri-Tues: 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:30  
Wed: 1:25-4:25-7:30  
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)  
Fri, Sat: 11:05-12:05-1:40-2:45-4:20-5:25-7:05-8:05-9:50-10:45  
Sun-Tues: 11:05-12:05-1:40-2:45-4:20-5:25-7:05-8:05-9:50-10:45  
Wed: 11:05-12:05-1:40-2:45-4:20-5:25-7:05-8:05

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:35-2:00-4:30-7:20-10:10-12:35  
Sun-Tues: 11:35-2:00-4:30-7:20-10:10-12:35  
Wed: 11:35-2:00-4:30-7:20-10:10-12:35

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:30-12:0-2:00-3:50-4:30-6:20-7:00-8:50-9:50-11:30  
Sun: 11:30-12:0-2:00-3:50-4:30-6:20-7:00-8:50-9:50  
Mon-Wed: 12:0-2:00-3:50-4:30-6:20-7:00-8:50-9:50

**BOLT (PG)**  
Fri-Tues: 12:10-2:50-5:35

**BOLT 3-D (PG)**  
Fri-Tues: 11:40-2:20-5:00-7:40-10:25  
Wed: 11:40-2:20-5:00-7:40

**TWILIGHT (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:50-3:45-6:45-9:45-12:45  
Sun-Tues: 12:50-3:45-6:45-9:45  
Wed: 12:50-3:45-6:45

**QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:35-10:15-12:50  
Sun-Tues: 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:35-10:15  
Wed: 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:35

**ROLE MODELS (R)**  
Fri-Tues: 7:55-10:30  
Wed: 7:55

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

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 1:00-1:45-4:00-4:45-7:00-7:45-10:00-10:45-12:55  
Sun-Tues: 1:00-1:45-4:00-4:45-7:00-7:45-10:00-10:45  
Wed: 1:00-1:45-4:00-4:45-7:00-7:45

**YES MAN (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:15-12:00-1:55-2:40-4:35-5:20-7:15-8:00-9:55-10:40-12:35  
Sun-Tues: 11:15-12:00-1:55-2:40-4:35-5:20-7:15-8:00-9:55-10:40  
Wed: 11:15-12:00-1:55-2:40-4:35-5:20-7:15-8:00

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
Fri-Tues: 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:30  
Wed: 1:25-4:25-7:30

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:05-2:45-5:25-8:05-10:50  
Sun-Tues: 12:05-2:45-5:25-8:05-10:45  
Wed: 12:05-2:45-5:25-8:05

**SKOKIE**

**Gardens 1-6**  
220 Old Orchard Center  
(847) 673-4105  
www.amctheatres.com  
The theater did not provide information. Call for titles and times.

**Gardens 7-13**  
175 Old Orchard Center  
(847) 674-0072  
www.amctheatres.com  
The theater did not provide information. Call for titles and times.

**Village Crossing**  
7000 Carpenter Road  
(847) 673-8486  
www.Kerasotes.com

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:20-1:00-3:30-4:20-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:20-12:15  
Sun-Wed: 12:20-1:00-3:30-4:20-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:20

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:30-12:0-2:00-3:50-4:30-6:20-7:00-8:50-9:50-11:30  
Sun: 11:30-12:0-2:00-3:50-4:30-6:20-7:00-8:50-9:50  
Mon-Wed: 12:0-2:00-3:50-4:30-6:20-7:00-8:50-9:50

**YES MAN (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:50-12:40-1:10-1:50-2:30-3:40-4:10-4:40-5:10-6:40-7:10-7:40-8:10-9:10-9:40-10:10-10:40-11:40-12:10-12:40  
Sun: 11:50-12:40-1:10-1:50-2:30-3:40-4:10-4:40-5:10-6:40-7:10-7:40-8:10-9:10-9:40-10:10-10:40-11:40-12:10-12:40

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:10-3:00-6:15-9:15-12:01  
Sun-Wed: 12:10-3:00-6:15-9:15

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:40-1:30-2:10-4:00-4:50-6:50-7:50-10:00-10:50-12:30  
Sun: 11:40-1:30-2:10-4:00-4:50-6:50-7:50-10:00-10:50  
Mon-Wed: 1:30-2:10-4:00-4:50-6:50-7:50-10:00-10:50

**NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 1:40-4:15-7:20-9:45-12:25  
Sun-Wed: 1:40-4:15-7:20-9:45

**CADILLAC RECORDS (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:20-11:55  
Sun-Wed: 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:20

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:50-3:10-5:30-8:20-10:35  
Sun-Wed: 12:50-3:10-5:30-8:20-10:35

**BOLT 3-D (PG)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:45-2:20-4:45-7:15-9:55-12:20  
Sun: 11:45-2:20-4:45-7:15-9:55  
Mon-Wed: 2:20-4:45-7:15-9:55

**TWILIGHT (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:30-3:20-6:10-9:00-11:50  
Sun-Wed: 12:30-3:20-6:10-9:00

**QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 7:45-10:15-12:45  
Sun-Wed: 7:45-10:15

**MADAGASCAR 2 (PG)**  
Fri-Wed: 12:00-2:15-5:00

**ROLE MODEL (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 2:40-5:20-8:00-10:25-12:55  
Sun-Wed: 2:40-5:20-8:00-10:25

**WILMETTE**

**Wilmette**  
1122 Central Ave.  
(847) 251-7411

**A CHRISTMAS TALE (NR)**  
Fri, Sun-Tues: 1:35-4:25-7:15  
Sat: 1:35-6:45  
Wed: 1:35

**THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (PG-13)**  
Fri-Tues: 6:15-4:40-7:00  
Wed: 2:15

**ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R)**  
Sat: 9:30 p.m.

**CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)**  
Thurs: 1:00-4:15-7:30

**DOUBT (PG-13)**  
Thurs: 1:30-3:45-6:05-8:15



★

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## MUSIC

# Musical mail from Mandy Patinkin

**MANDY PATINKIN IN CONCERT**  
8 p.m. Dec. 27 and 3 p.m. Dec. 28 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. \$85. (847) 673-6300 or visit [www.northshorecenter.org](http://www.northshorecenter.org).



By **DOROTHY ANDRIES**  
[dandries@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:dandries@pioneerlocal.com)

Mandy Patinkin was the Tony-Award winning Ché Guevara in the Broadway show "Evita," the Emmy-Award winning Dr. Jeffrey Geiger on "Chicago Hope," and he didn't need an award to etch the swordsman Inigo Montoya into the memory of everyone who saw the movie "The Princess Bride."

The versatile stage, screen and television actor will tap into his other talent next weekend when he brings "Mandy Patinkin in Concert" to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts. "It's a casual show," Patinkin said, when reached by telephone in his New York home. "We sing the old songs — we have a repertoire of 10 hours of standards and Broadway tunes! That's what people want to hear, but we also do some new material. We want to get them acquainted with what is being written for Broadway today."

You can catch a bit of Patinkin in concert on YouTube, singing "If I Loved You," from Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Carousel." He is accompanied by Paul Ford, his long-time colleague, who was the original pianist for the Broadway production of Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday in the Park with George" — the show in which Patinkin

time since "Evita," he said, referring to the Webber and Rice musical, for which LuPone also won a Tony in 1980. Patinkin grew up in Chicago and attended Kenwood Academy in Hyde Park before he went to The Juilliard School and enrolled in the Drama Division. He can't exactly explain why his career has gone in so many directions. He's made 20 films and 11 musical albums, appeared in seven television shows and done about 10 Broadway productions, plus working in other venues, including a run in an off-Broadway production of "The Tempest" this fall. "I guess I could have concentrated on one thing," he observed, "but I love them all. I love making movies, doing Shakespeare. I enjoy working on new pieces — I have something with Hal Prince coming up. So just doing one thing — that's not the way my life went. I think I've been very blessed to do a lot of different things." Those attending the concert will quickly realize that Patinkin makes the material his own. "I'm driven by the words, the content of the material," he explained. "We're doing an hour-and-a-half-show in which we celebrate some of the great geniuses of musical theater and film — I'm just the mailman who delivers their songs. "Our job is to keep these classic songs alive," he concluded, "and we can't do it without an audience. So come and hear us."

played the artist Georges Seurat. "I've never had a whole concert on TV," Patinkin explained. "I've never allowed the whole thing to be filmed. I want people to experience it in person." His program will include music by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Harry Chapin, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and others. **Four for the road** The show is one of four that Patinkin has produced and taken on the road. Others include "Mamloshen" (Mother Tongue), done entirely in Yiddish, which taps into his Jewish heritage, a program titled "Celebrating Sondheim," and his newest collaboration, "An Evening with Patti LuPone & Mandy Patinkin." "We're performing together again for the first

time since "Evita," he said, referring to the Webber and Rice musical, for which LuPone also won a Tony in 1980. Patinkin grew up in Chicago and attended Kenwood Academy in Hyde Park before he went to The Juilliard School and enrolled in the Drama Division. He can't exactly explain why his career has gone in so many directions. He's made 20 films and 11 musical albums, appeared in seven television shows and done about 10 Broadway productions, plus working in other venues, including a run in an off-Broadway production of "The Tempest" this fall. "I guess I could have concentrated on one thing," he observed, "but I love them all. I love making movies, doing Shakespeare. I enjoy working on new pieces — I have something with Hal Prince coming up. So just doing one thing — that's not the way my life went. I think I've been very blessed to do a lot of different things." Those attending the concert will quickly realize that Patinkin makes the material his own. "I'm driven by the words, the content of the material," he explained. "We're doing an hour-and-a-half-show in which we celebrate some of the great geniuses of musical theater and film — I'm just the mailman who delivers their songs. "Our job is to keep these classic songs alive," he concluded, "and we can't do it without an audience. So come and hear us."

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**HOLIDAY**  
"Do-It-Yourself Nutcracker," 10 a.m. Dec. 20 at Dance Center Evanston, 1934 Dempster Ave., in the Dempster

and Dodge shopping plaza. Children and their families are invited to participate. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, with proceeds to benefit the Evanston Dance Ensemble. There

will be a reception for all performers immediately following the dancing. To register, call (847) 328-6683.  
"Holiday Storybox," Dec. 20-21 at Piven Theatre, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Performances are at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday. The production is a collaboration of The Performance Lab of Piven, Chicago Improv Festival Production and Storybox Ensemble. An unscripted story erupts from a single audience suggestion and an ensemble of improvisational storytellers. Using only wooden sticks and colored pieces of cloth, the theatre artists will create a story about multicultural holidays. (847) 866-8049 or www.piventheatre.org.  
"Sing Joy" Christmas concert will be presented by the New Beginnings Chorus, under the direction of Mary Jane Robertson, at 8 p.m. Dec. 18-19 at the Church of the Incarnation, 330 W. Golf Road, Arlington Heights. Tickets are \$10. For information and tickets, call (847) 259-0189 or (847) 696-2954.  
Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra Family Holiday Special, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20 and 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. The program includes: "Brother Heinrich's Christmas," a musical fable by John Rutter, with narrator Peter Van De Graaff. The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band will also play in a program for all ages, faiths and musical tastes. Tickets: \$40-\$59. Visit www.arsviva.org.  
Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. (847) 965-4220. Dec. 21, 2 p.m.: Suzuki method violin and viola students of Rhona Reagan will present a holiday concert.  
Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S.

Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgellibrary.org. Dec. 18, 7 p.m.: "The Historic Christmas Tree Ship." Author Rochelle Pennington discusses one of the most famous shipwrecks of the Great Lakes. The presentation includes rare slides and actual artifacts from the ship. Dec. 30, 7 p.m.: "New Year's Eve with Marshall & Gabor." Jazz vocalist Connie Marshall and pianist Johnny Gabor present musical standards to ring in the New Year. *Holiday films at the library* - Dec. 23, 7 p.m.: "It Happened on Fifth Avenue." Prospect Heights Public Library, 12 N. Elm St., Prospect Heights. (847) 259-3500. www.phpl.info. Dec. 19, 12:30 p.m.: Screening of "Thomas Kinkadee's Christmas Cottage," rated PG.  
Christmas Spectacular at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Headlining the event is the 18-piece Revolutionary Swing Orchestra under the direction of Don Sadolsky with holiday big-band arrangements featuring vocalists Kus Folkers and Bob Duda. The Demaira Dancers will perform a special Christmas-themed dance routine, and soloist Jean-Marie Minton will team up with theatre organist Jay Warren to lead the audience in an old-fashioned sing-along with the lyrics to the songs and carols projected up onto the movie screen. The 1947 film classic, "Miracle on 34th Street," will be the screen feature. Tickets: \$12-\$9 for students and seniors; \$7 for children under 12. For information, call (773) 736-4050 or visit www.portagetheater.org.  
Skokie Theatre Music Foundation

go., PAGE B11

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## FAMILY FRIENDLY

# Mrs. Claus rescues Christmas once again

By MYRNA PETLICKI  
Contributor

There's a sure way to guarantee that your kids won't have coal in their Christmas stockings this year. Take them to see Chicago Kids' Company's "Mrs. Claus, A Holiday Musical" at Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. I have it on good authority — Mrs. Claus herself (actor Sharon Carr, who has played the role for 10 years) — that anyone who attends a performance will automatically be placed on Santa's "nice" list.

Mrs. Claus is put in charge of Santa's Workshop for a short time for reasons we can't reveal. We can tell you that a big problem occurs because watching elves is "kind of like supervising a bunch of high school kids," Mrs. C declared. "They have

great intentions, but they don't always negotiate very well. They leave the [naughty or nice] list alone and it gets taken by Mr. and Mrs. Fusspot, so we have to try to get the list back. The Fusspots always ruin everything."

Mrs. Claus eventually saves the season in this colorful, song-filled show. Performances are 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19 and 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. Tickets are \$10. For details, call (773) 205-9600.

### Something for everyone

Variety is the spice of Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra's "Family Holiday Special," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, and 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd. The orchestra and chorus will per-

form "Brother Heinrich's Christmas" by John Rutter, narrated by Peter Van De Graaff. In addition, the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band will perform Hanukkah and other Klezmer music. For details, call (847) 673-6300.

### Slick Sunday

Santa will get in shape for his Christmas Eve run at "Skate with Santa," 2-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21, at Oakton Ice Arena, 2800 Oakton St., Park Ridge. Regular skating fees apply for this special family event. Afterwards, you can watch a free exhibition by some of the ice arena's most talented skaters, starting at 4 p.m. For details, call (847) 692-3359.

### Fit for a king

The Skokie Public Library isn't content to create a gingerbread house.

They are inviting everyone to help them construct something much bigger during "Family Fun @ Your Library: Gingerbread Castle Family Craft," Tuesday, Dec. 23, in the Youth Services Craft Room at 5215 Oakton St. Drop in and lend a hand anytime between 10

a.m. 1 p.m. For details, call (847) 324-3149.

### Big shot

All Ralphie wants for Christmas is an official Red Ryder air rifle but everyone worries he will shoot his eye out in "A

Christmas Story." View the amusing holiday film at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 22, at Eisenhower Public Library, 4618 N. Oketo, Harwood Heights. For details, call (708) 867-7828.

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Mrs. Claus saves the season in Chicago Kids' Company's colorful, song-filled show "Mrs. Claus, A Holiday Musical" this weekend at the Copernicus Center.



MUSIC

Klezmer: Songs that burn with love of life

MAXWELL STREET KLEZMER BAND HOLIDAY CONCERTS

7:30 p.m. Dec. 20, 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Dec. 21 (including Ars Viva Orchestra performance) at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd. \$59 and \$40. (847) 673-6300 or www.arsviva.org.

6 p.m. Dec. 22, at Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Hanukkah dinner seatings at 4:30 and 7 p.m. \$28.95, adults; \$17.95, children 3-12; under 3, free. (847) 835-5440 or www.chicagobotanic.org.

7 p.m. Dec. 27, CD release concert with Rabbi Joe Black and live WFMT broadcast at 8 p.m. at Temple Shalom, 3480 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago. \$15, adults (\$18 at door); \$10 children (\$12 at door). (773) 435-1538 or www.sholomchicago.org.

By JACK BESS Contributor

Around 25 years ago, Skokie resident Lori Lippitz clicked on WFMT-FM's "Midnight Special" and heard music that changed her life.

She had associated "Jewish music" with the schmaltz of "My Yiddish Mama," but klezmer music was something else. Usually traced back to 15th century Europe, klezmer is a lively vagabond music reflecting the traditions of wherever the Jewish musicians travelled, be it a polka in Eastern Europe or jazz in 1920s America.

Uniting the disparate elements is the emotional and spiritual fire of Hasidic musical tradition. Think of Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof," whose yearning for tradition, wealth

and security is sung with the fervency of prayer.

"In its original form, the music is a spiritual shout," Lippitz said. "So if the music is true to its source, it's going to have a very driving, yearning, burning quality."

When Lippitz heard the radio show, "I was happy to find out that my roots were just as interesting and exciting as someone who had salsa roots or black spiritual roots," she said.

After Lippitz founded the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, many audiences here and abroad came to share her happiness. The band is celebrating its silver anniversary this month with its sixth CD, "Eight Nights of Joy," a host of local holiday concerts, and a live radio concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 27 on,



The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band came into its own with the addition of musical director Alex Koffman (front row center).

fittingly, WFMT 98.7.

Maxwell's musical metamorphosis

When Skokie resident Alex Koffman joined as musical director in 1990, everything changed for the klezmer band. A classically trained violinist from the Soviet Union, Koffman had resigned himself to studying com-

puter programming in the U.S. One night, driving home after a day of classes, Koffman heard a violin concerto by Tchaikovsky on the radio and was overcome with emotion.

"I just couldn't drive anymore. I had to pull over," he said. "I thought I would never be the same again."

Upon hearing the Maxwell Street band play at a café one evening, Koffman remarked: "I noticed how happy I was just listening."

Koffman's joining the band was transformative, Lippitz said. The band had been playing in a loose, jamming style until Koffman set a standard for musical structure and excellence, she said.

Ultimately, the band doesn't see itself as preserving a tradition, but rather as living the music and celebrating it. So do some audience members.

"Sometimes when we play, people spontaneously stand up and start dancing in the aisles," Koffman said.

You might say that they were moved by the music. Literally.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

go.

Continued from PAGE B8

presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokie-theatre.com. Concert tickets \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door, unless noted otherwise. Dec. 19, 8 p.m.: The Pinups present "I'll Be Home for Christmas." \$20/\$25.

The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. (847) 864-1679. www.celticknotpub.com. Dec. 21: Screening of holiday movies - Cartoons at 2 p.m.; "A Christmas Story" at 4 p.m.; "A Christmas Carol" at 6 p.m.; "It's a Wonderful Life" at 8 p.m.; "The Nightmare Before Christmas" at 10 p.m.

Kwanzaa celebration, 6 p.m. Dec. 29 at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St., Evanston. Designed for all ages, the event blends music, arts and crafts, and the spoken word. During the program, the history of Kwanzaa will be explained and symbolic candles lit. The evening culminates with an offering of soul food and conversation. Free. For information, call (847) 448-8254.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Dick's River Roadhouse, 702 N. River Road, Mount Prospect. (847) 298-7200. www.dicksriverroadhouse.com. Dec. 31: "Introducing 2009," featuring party favors, balloon blasts, video countdown to midnight and champagne toast. Free admission, based on space availability. VIP Package for \$35 per person includes four-

hour call open bar from 8 p.m.-midnight, buffet from 9-11 p.m. and guaranteed admission before midnight with access to the VIP Loft.

Famous Freddie's Roadhouse, 1799 S. Busse Road, Mount Prospect. (847) 593-2200. www.famousfreddiesroadhouse.com. Dec. 31: "Freddie's Rockin' Eve '09" featuring live music by Bad Medicine, a Bon Jovi tribute band, at 9 p.m. The downstairs club features "A Dance Party Worthy of 2008," with a DJ, light show, party favors, video countdown, balloon blasts and champagne toast at midnight. Admission is \$10, based on space availability.

Moretti's Ristorante & Pizzeria, 6727 N. Olmsted, Edison Park. (773) 631-4223. Dec. 31: "Jump in Confetti at Moretti's: A Kids New Year's Eve Party," with seatings at 4:30, 6:45 and 9 p.m. Featuring a kids' video countdown, balloon blasts, party favors, music by a DJ, and a special kids' menu for \$5.95 per child.

Finn McCool's Irish Sports Pub, 1941 E. Algonquin Road, Schaumburg. (847) 303-5100. www.FinnMcCoolsChicago.com. Dec. 31: "Irish Eve 2009," with music by a DJ, party favors, balloon blasts, multi-media countdown to midnight and champagne toast. \$45 package includes four-hour open bar from 8 p.m.-midnight and passed appetizers from 9-11 p.m. Special accommodations available at the Embassy Suites for \$99 includes a two-room suite, transportation, two-hour complimentary cocktail reception, breakfast and late checkout; call (847) 397-1313 to make reservations.

Moretti's Ristorante & Pizzeria, 1893 Walden Office Square, Schaumburg. (847) 397-4200. www.morettis-chicago.com. Dec. 31, 6 p.m.: "Jump

in Confetti at Moretti's: A Kids New Year's Eve Party," featuring a kids' video countdown, balloon blasts, party favors, music by a DJ, and a special kids' menu. \$5.95 per child. Dec. 31: "Arrivederci 2008," featuring a \$45 per person VIP Package that includes a three-course dinner, three-hour call open bar from 9 p.m.-midnight, party favors, music by a DJ, multi-media countdown and champagne toast at midnight. Special accommodations available at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1939 N. Meacham Road, Schaumburg; for \$99 receive a two-room suite, transportation, two-hour cocktail reception, late checkout and breakfast; call (847) 397-1313 for reservations.

Alumni Club, 871 E. Algonquin Road, Schaumburg. (847) 397-3100. www.alumniclubchicago.com. Dec. 31: "Extreme New Year's Eve 2009," with party favors, a balloon drop, video countdown and a champagne toast at midnight. \$20 general admission after 9 p.m., based on space availability. \$20 reserved general admission, with guaranteed seating and admission before 9 p.m., reservation required. \$69 VIP Package includes a four-hour premium open bar from 8 p.m.-midnight and a buffet from 8-10 p.m. Alumni Club is open until 3 a.m. on New Year's Eve. Special accommodations available at the Embassy Suites for \$99 per room includes a two-room suite, transportation, two-hour complimentary cocktail reception, breakfast and late checkout; call (847) 397-1313 to make reservations.

Chandler's Chophouse, at the Schaumburg Golf Club, 401 N. Roselle Road, Schaumburg. (847) 885-9009.

go., PAGE B12

Eli's Cheesecake's HOLIDAY SALE December 17th - 24th Save UP TO 30% this location only Spend \$25. and get a FREE 5" Cheesecake! Spend \$100. and receive a \$25 gift certificate to spend anytime in January (one per person, while supplies last) Eli's Bakery Cafe Has All of Your Holiday Desserts! Festive Cheesecakes, Cookies, Cupcakes, Ready-to-bake Cookie Dough and More Holiday Treats Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 11am-5pm Open Dec. 24th and 31st 8am-3pm - Closed Dec. 25th and 26th 6701 W. Forest Preserve Drive . Chicago (773) 308-7000 . www.elicheesecake.com

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Continued from PAGE B11

www.chandlereschophouse.com. Dec. 31: "Celebrate New Year's Eve in Style," featuring a \$79.99 per person (tax and tip included) five-course dinner with hors d'oeuvres, four-hour open bar from 8 p.m.-midnight, dancing to music by a DJ, party favors, video countdown, balloon drop and champagne toast at midnight. Special accommodations available at the Wingate by Wyndham for \$99 per room, which includes transportation, continental breakfast and late checkout: call (847) 882-5000 to make reservations. New Year's Eve Party, 7 p.m. Dec. 31 in the Fifth Province Lounge at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626

STAGE

"Grey Gardens," through Dec. 28 at Northlight Theatre, in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Performances on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (except Dec. 25); 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 Dec. 21 and 28). Extra show at 1 p.m. Dec. 26. Tickets: \$25-\$59. (847) 673-6300 or www.northlight.org. "Hizzoner: Daley the First," at 8

p.m. Feb. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 and 2 p.m. Feb. 8, 15 and 22 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Tickets: \$35. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokie-theatre.org. "The Music Man," presented by Light Opera Works Dec. 26-Jan. 4 at the Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Performances at 8 p.m. Dec. 27 and 31 and Jan. 2-3, with matinees at 2 p.m. Dec. 26-28 and 30 and Jan. 4. Recommended for ages 6 and older. Main floor tickets are \$95, \$65 and \$45; balcony tickets \$65, \$45 and \$29. Call (847) 869-6300 or visit www.LightOperaWorks.com. "Robinson Crusoe," Piccolo Theatre's sixth annual British-style holiday Panto, Dec. 19-20 at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston. Show times are 8 p.m. Friday; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday. Tickets: \$25-\$20 seniors; \$15 students and

children under 10. For ticket reservations, family and group rates, call (847) 424-0089 or visit www.piccolothatre.com. "Six Degrees of Separation," presented by Signal Ensemble Theatre at 8 p.m. Dec. 18-20 at Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division Ave., Chicago. The cast includes Park Ridge native Katie Gennaldi. Tickets: \$15-\$20. (773) 347-1350 or www.signalensemble.com. "Stark Raven Mad - An Edgar Allan Show," presented by Princeton University's Triangle Show troupe, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. The Broadway-style show features a cast of 22 actors, singers and dancers. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Tickets: \$30-\$10 students. www.triangleshows.com or (866) 811-4111.

CLASSICAL

Ars 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: \$64 box seats: \$45 reserved: \$40 seniors: \$16 students. Feb. 22, 4:30 p.m., and Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.: "Energy & Ecstasy," featuring David Taylor, violin, Bernstein; On the Town: Three Dance Episodes; Castelnuovo-Tedesco: Violin Concerto No. 2 ("The Prophets"); Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5, Op. 100. Chicago a cappella performs in the Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$35 for preferred seating, \$28 for general admission, \$22 for seniors and students. For tickets, call (773) 755-1628

or see www.chicagoacappella.org, Feb. 21, 8 p.m.: "Abundance," featuring Renaissance music, spirituals and jazz. 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. Tickets are \$20-\$40. Feb. 8: Prokofiev: Overture on Hebrew Themes; Debussy: Première Rhapsodie; Newman: String Quartet; and Mozart: String Quintet No. 3 in C Major, K. 515. The Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 7 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Stalger Concert Hall on the Northwestern University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 492-1100. Franchises available call: 617.778.4125

go, PAGE B14

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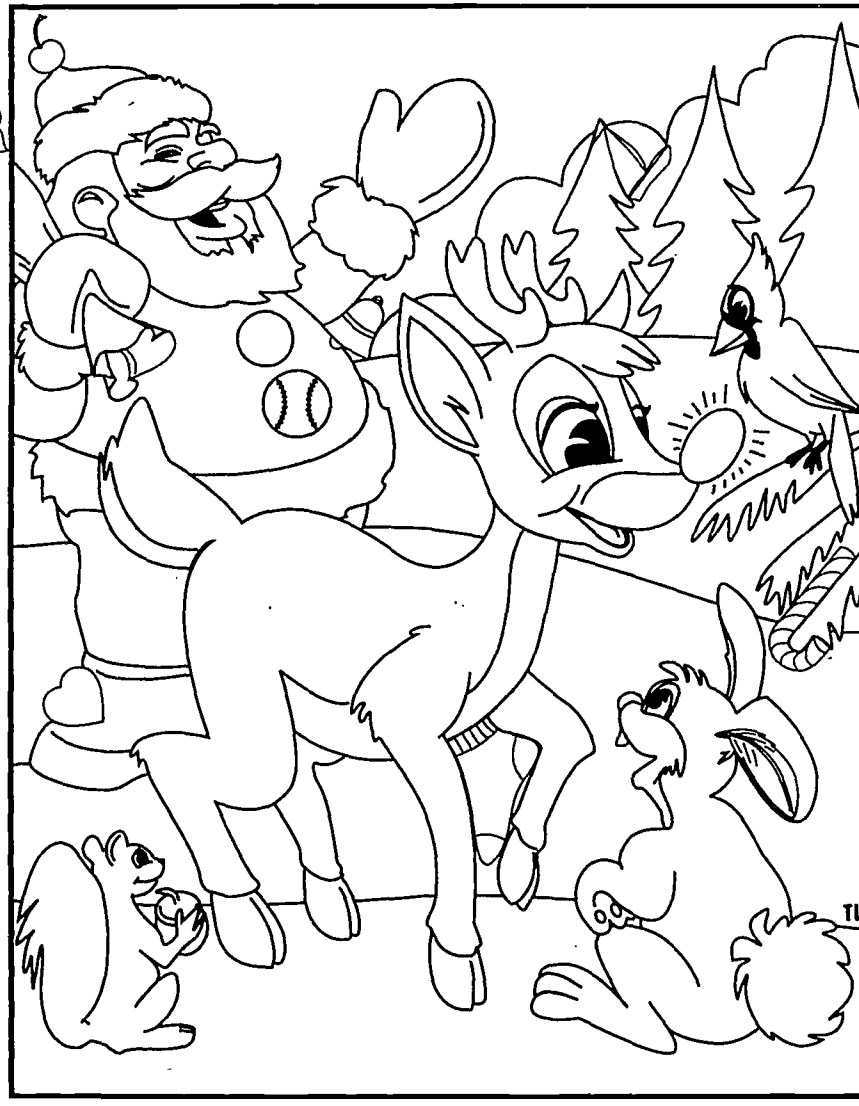
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Why should the kids get all the good gifts this season? FREE TICKETS for Mom & Dad for family events at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park! LIMITED TIME OFFER Now thru December 21 buy one kid ticket and get an adult ticket FREE! While supplies last! CALL 312-334-7777 Available by phone only. Use Source No. 3272. VISIT HarrisTheaterChicago.org for more information. PART OF THE KRAFT FAMILY SEASONS SPRING SEASON SPONSOR HARRY WINSTON OFFICIAL AIRLINE OF THE HARRIS THEATER UNITED FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SPONSOR Northern Trust

Uncle Dan's PIZZA & PUB. Celebrate New Year's Eve Wednesday, December 31st. Family: New Year's Eve Party 6:00pm-9:00pm Kids Balloon Drop 9:00pm. Adult: New Year's Eve Party 9:30pm-2:00am Live music by Doug James. 27 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge, IL 60068 847.698.9800 Open Daily 11:30am

All scrambled up. Unscramble the following words to cook up a good holiday meal! eytruk, kacse, aslad, mha, bbcoerl, sepi, ffuinstg. Small Mitten, Baseball, Bell, Cherry, Sailboat, Sock, Heart, Feather, Candy Cane.

PIONEER PRESS KIDS CORNER winter 2008. hidden picture search. In the picture on the right, you will find all the listed items hidden. After you've found these items, color in the entire picture.



- 37. Come Watch Chocolate Being Made at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory! Doors open at 10am. 7 days a week. 31 S. Northwest Highway Park Ridge (847) 318-6801. Enjoy the sweet smell of chocolate as you watch the talented candy makers create wonderful treats.
- 38. Throw a milk and cookie potluck party.
- 39. Create fun bookmarks.

- 40. Make your own gift bag using brown paper grocery bags or lunch bags and decorations.
- 41. Uncle Dan's Pizza & Pub. Celebrate New Year's Eve with Uncle Dan's Pizza and Pub in Park Ridge...starting at 6pm with a Kid's Balloon Drop at 9pm.
- 42. Make flavored ice cubes using fruit punch or your favorite juice - and spice up your drinks!
- 43. Make snow furniture.
- 44. Have a book-swapping party.

- 45. Figure Skating Lessons. Oakton Ice Arena. Open 7 days a week. 2800 W. Oakton, Park Ridge (847) 692-3359. Discover the fun at www.prparks.org
- 46. Visit the local animal shelter and play with the animals.
- 47. Take pictures of your favorite things or people.
- 48. Create an indoor bowling alley using empty plastic bottles for the pins, a small ball, and line the lanes with toilet paper.

101 things to do winter 2008. 49. Countdown Celebration! December 31, 2008 5:00pm to 8:30pm. Maine Park Leisure Center 2701 W. Sibley Ave., Park Ridge. Visit us at www.prparks.org for more details. All ages can ring in the New Year with us for fun, new activities & food! Look next week for more things to do!

# Today's New Homes

NORTH EDITION DECEMBER 17-19, 2008

## Quick move-ins

Homes offer opportunity to make the move

By Marcy Marro  
SPECIAL TO SUN-TIMES NEWS GROUP

If you are in need of a new home or townhome in a short amount of time, then you are in luck. The following communities have homes available for quick move-ins, many available for 30-day deliveries.

### Lake Ridge Townhomes, Mundelein

Lake Ridge Townhomes, a new community in Mundelein offering customization opportunities for each floor plan, recently opened its first fully furnished model and is now offering homes for 30-day delivery. Planned for only 50 maintenance-free homes, all are two-and-a-half stories with 1,600 to 2,000 square feet, rear-load, two-car garages, 9-foot tall ceilings, volume ceilings, fireplaces, appliances and much more.

The decorated model and sales center is open on weekends from noon to 5 p.m. or by appointment. Call Jeff Ohm at (847) 234-9800; visit [www.newlakeridge.com](http://www.newlakeridge.com).

### Liberty Trails, McHenry

Gerstad Builders is offering a new 1,888-square-foot ranch Lexington II model at Liberty Trails in McHenry. Base priced at \$263,990, this three-bedroom, two-bath home with corner lookout basement and numerous upgrades would normally be priced at \$329,250, and is now available for \$289,990.



Available for immediate occupancy, the Robin provides 1,995 square feet of living space and is priced to sell with its long list of material upgrades and options for \$320,000. Homebuyers will discover custom-made window treatments, upgraded light fixtures, fully landscaped home site and numerous custom touches.

Models are open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends from noon to 5 p.m. Call (815) 385-4495; visit [www.gerstadbuilders.com](http://www.gerstadbuilders.com).

### Symphony Meadows, Volo

Two Horizon series single-family model homes are now available at Cambridge Homes' Symphony Meadows in Volo. The community will include 746 single-family homes, attached single-family homes and townhomes. The community features 130 acres of nature areas with three lakes, basketball courts, soccer fields, tot lots, gazebos and a scenic walking and bicycle trail.

The two model homes currently available are

the 1,970-square-foot Aurora with four bedrooms plus a second floor family room for \$252,900 and the 2,799-square-foot Vista with four bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and full basement for \$307,900.

Daily office hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (noon to 6 p.m. on Friday). Call (847) 984-4934.

### Pheasant Ridge, Richmond

A professionally designed model home is for sale at Gerstad Builders' Pheasant Ridge community in Richmond. The two-story home features

Turn to MOVE-INS, 3

inside

## Delight your guests

A spacious, decked-out home can make for a picture-perfect holiday party.

Page 2

If you find you can't sell your home at a profit, refinancing to cut monthly payments

might be a good option, say experts.

Read **Don DeBat**, Page 3



### Gerstad Builders'

Bailey Estates offers affordable vacation homes near Lake Geneva.

Page 2

online

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

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In Pingree Grove: Take I-90 (Northwest Tollway) to Rte. 47 and exit south to Rte. 72. Turn left to the community entrance.  
To Condo Sales Center: Take I-90 to Rte. 47 and exit south (left) approx. 3 1/2 miles to Rte. 72 West (second stoplight). Turn right (west) to the entrance on the right.

\*Prices are inclusive of a Special Service Area credit. See sales representative for details. Prices subject to change without notice.



# Large homes can offer picture-perfect holiday entertaining

By Marcy Marro  
SPECIAL TO SUN-TIMES NEWS GROUP

Everyone has an idea of their perfect house to host family and friends for holiday parties. The holiday season is one of the most joyful events of the year, and elaborate custom homes are especially appealing decked out for celebrations.

North Shore architect Charles Page and his wife host parties in their 9,000-square-foot French style Winnetka home for anywhere from 25 family members to 200 people.

"A subtle aspect of architecture that really contributes to ease of entertaining and an inviting atmosphere is the way rooms flow into one another," Page said. "Visitors subconsciously feel they can move freely through the rooms, and plenty of opportunities exist to delight guests with holiday decorations on balconies, staircases and in quiet corners."

The Page home features a first-floor master suite with great room, formal dining room, library and expansive informal living area, in addition to a finished lower level.

"Regardless of how formal the party, our visitors always gravitate to the kitchen," Page said. "With a large island and breakfast bar, the huge dining table in the breakfast area and the comfortable furniture set around the raised hearth fireplace and built-in plasma television, guests find this room the most appealing place to be."

"Large homes offer the obvious advantage of having numerous large rooms to accommodate guests of various ages and interests," respected North Shore custom builder Jeff Samuels said. "In addition, dining space and conversation areas are divided between formal and informal spaces, and most custom homes include finished basements. These areas can include game rooms, home theaters and large recreation rooms with service bars and comfortable seating. Parties that include large groups of people will utilize all of these areas to ensure that guests can relax and maximize their enjoyment of the occasion."

The butler's pantry is a popular and convenient design element in custom homes today.

is typically party central, where everyone gathers to chat and eat.

"Custom kitchens typically boast the finest furniture-quality cabinets in warm-toned woods, with glass front accent cabinets, a variety of counter heights and built-in buffets," Samuels said. "Large expanses of granite countertops and imaginatively designed islands with breakfast bars are universally requested, and commercial grade appliances are popular. Many custom kitchens include two work stations including sinks, dish washers, warming drawers and refrigerators."

"The common elements that distinguish convenient yet beautiful kitchens include work areas arranged for maximum convenience, plenty of counter space featuring islands and peninsulas, abundant storage, easy-care materials and well-designed traffic patterns."

"The butler's pantry is a popular and convenient design element in custom homes today."

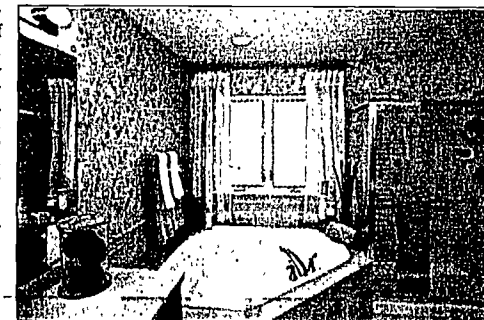


Pictured is the formal dining room in the Charles Page residence.

In most homes, the kitchen Turn to ENTERTAINING. 3

# Gerstad Builders offers affordable vacation homes near Lake Geneva

During the late 19th century and early 20th century, much of the Lake Geneva area in Wisconsin was settled as a vacation spot for wealthy Chicagoans. Today in the 21st century, Gerstad Builders is making it possible for everyone else to enjoy a vacation like lifestyle at its newest community, Bailey Estates, which is in the peaceful community of Williams Bay, nestled along the north shore of Lake Geneva.



The 2,637-square-foot, two-story Turnberry Bay at Gerstad Builders' Bailey Estates community in Williams Bay, Wis., has a beautiful master bathroom that includes a custom whirlpool tub set in the corner, separate glass shower, his/hers vanities and hidden water closet.

The Lake Geneva shoreline community of Williams Bay and the surrounding areas are appreciated for their natural beauty. Rolling hills, towering trees, grassy prairies and sparkling lakes set the backdrop for the best place to live and visit in Southern Wisconsin.

Situated between three lakes and hundreds of acres of protected wetlands and mature woods, Gerstad's Bailey Estates community is in the middle of this pastoral setting as well. Although this new community is not along the water, all the benefits of living near a lake are at a family's disposal for boating, skiing, fishing and swimming.

Gerstad Builders, a company that has gained a reputation of building high quality homes in the McHenry, Illinois, area over the past 40-plus years, has crossed the border and is bringing its value-driven homes to Wisconsin. Whether looking for a year round residence or a vacation home, this secluded community, surrounded by a nature preserve, features homes that provide 1,800 to 3,197 square feet of living space. Base price range from \$239,990 to \$307,990 these ranch or two story homes are set on lots that range from a 1/2 to 1 1/2 acres. Wooded home sites that can accommodate window basements are also available in limited supplies.

"According to Williams Bay residents, they are impressed with its small town atmosphere; proximity to Lake Geneva and quiet-peaceful lifestyle," said Roger Gerstad, president of Gerstad Builders. "These are exactly the reasons my father Donald purchased this gorgeous parcel of land many years ago, so that our company could offer homes with a lifestyle that has all but vanished in Illinois."

Bailey Estates' semi-custom homes will typically offer three, four or five bedrooms, two or 2 1/2 baths, spacious kitchens, breakfast areas, living rooms, family rooms, formal dining rooms, dens (per plan), master-bedroom suites and attached two- or three-car garages. Standard features include furniture-quality Aristocraft cabinetry, GE appli-

ance package (stove and dishwasher). Kohler bathroom fixtures and faucets and base-

ment (per plan). Optional amenities such as fireplaces, central air conditioning, full basements, three-car garages, skylights, imported ceramic tile, Corian or granite counter tops and hardwood flooring are also available.

Williams Bay is a small community of year-round and seasonal residents, who seek a retreat from the fast paced life-

## To visit this community

Bailey Estates' decorated model/sales center is located on Theatre Road, approximately 3/4 mile south of Route 50. It is open Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (262) 245-9750 or visit the Web site www.gerstadblders.com.

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styles of metropolitan areas, and search for spiritual renewal through outdoor recreation and contact with nature.

The community is served by Williams Bay Elementary School and Williams Bay Jr./Sr. High School.

Bailey Estates' decorated model/sales center is located on Theatre Road, approximately 3/4 mile south of Route 50. It is open Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (262) 245-9750 or visit the Web site www.gerstadblders.com.



Priced at \$765,892, the Danbury is a two-story, 3,872 square-foot home with a luxurious, first-floor master bedroom suite and a formal living room that is enhanced by a vaulted ceiling and a curved oak staircase with wrought iron spindles.

## Move-ins FROM PAGE 1

1,995 square feet; it is priced to sell with all of its options and upgrades for \$320,000. Available for immediate occupancy, the Robin model has three bedrooms, a loft, two-and-a-half baths, basement and three-car garage.

Gerstad offers nine other ranch and two-story home floor plans ranging in size from 1,559 to 2,844 square feet. Priced from \$233,490 to \$308,490, the homes include two to four bedrooms, two to two-and-a-half baths, breakfast areas, formal dining rooms and much more.

The sales center is open Monday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Phyllis Podraza at (815) 678-2222; visit www.gerstadblders.com.

## Timber Trails, Western Springs

Dartmoor Homes has four model townhomes for sale at Timber Trails in Western Springs. Available for 30-day delivery, the models include the Ashbrook, a two-story, 2,217-square-foot home with three bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths; and the Essex, a 2,618-square-foot home with two bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths for \$684,000.

Dartmoor Homes is offering 30-day delivery on four ultra luxury homes at Weatherstone Townhomes in Inverness. Offing 3,205 to 3,872 square feet of space, these two-story townhomes are priced from \$680,578 to \$870,400. The homes are almost complete, but buyers will still have the opportunity to choose carpet color and style in some of them.

Available homes include the 3,872-square-foot Danbury and the 3,592-square-foot Haverford. Weatherstone of Inverness is located on a 29-acre parcel of rolling property. The sales center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (847) 842-0400; visit www.dartmoorhomes.com.

rooms and two-and-a-half baths for \$684,000.

Dartmoor Homes offers seven floor plans ranging in size from 2,217 to 2,941 square feet with base prices from \$529,000 to \$699,000. Homes feature central air conditioning, full basement, fireplace, appliances, volume ceilings per plan, patios and two-car garages. Decorated models and sales center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (708) 783-1600; visit www.dartmoorhomes.com.

## Weatherstone Townhomes of Inverness

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# Home-loan refinance now may put cash in your pocket for the holidays

With long-term mortgage rates falling into the mid-5 percent range, and home resales moving at a snail's pace, the holidays may be a great time to lock in an affordable home loan and lower your monthly payments, experts advise.

With banks and mortgage companies quoting 5 1/2 percent or less on benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgages, now may be the best time in more than five years to get a deal on a refinanced home loan, assuming you have a job and good credit.

Experts say if you can't sell your home now at a profit, it may be a good idea to refinance and cut your monthly payments. Today, experts say a homeowner should refinance if he or she can save \$100 or more per month and break even within a year on closing costs, which can run up to \$2,000 on a typical home.

In early December, lenders were quoting an average of 5.33 percent on benchmark 30-year fixed-rate home loans, according to Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey. A week earlier, the average rate was 5.97 percent. Last year at this time, the 30-year loans fixed averaged 5.96 percent. Thirty-year mortgages have not been lower since Jan. 24, 2008, when rates fell to 5.48 percent.

With the recent declines, average 30-year home-loan rates are 0.32 of 1 percentage point above the 40-year historical rock bottom of the market, 5.21 percent in June of 2003, experts say.

"After the Federal Reserve actions to increase liquidity in the mortgage market, interest rates for fixed-rate mortgages took a dive," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac vice president and chief economist.

The decline in early December was the largest since the week of Nov. 27, 2008, Nothaft said. Thirty-year fixed-loan rates are now almost a full percentage point lower since the end of October.

"The recent plunge in rates contributed to the nearly 150 percent jump in conventional mortgage applications over the Thanksgiving week, led by almost a 300 percent surge in refinances, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. Roughly three out of four mortgage applications were for refinance transactions, up from around half during the



Don DeBat ON THE HOME FRONT

To fully appreciate how affordable home-loan rates really are, you need to know something about mortgage-lending history. Few of today's novice borrowers remember that only nine years ago in August of 1999, lenders were quoting 8.15 percent on a 30-year fixed mortgage.

Homebuying experts say home buyers need only to look back at what banks and mortgage lenders were charging during the last great recession in the early 1980s to understand what a great deal today's rates are.

According to Freddie Mac, benchmark 30-year mortgage rates peaked at a whopping 18.45 percent in October of 1981. Rates fell below 10 percent in April of 1986 during the recovery, and then bounced in the 9-percent to 10-percent range during the balance of the 1980s.

Archives of the now-defunct Federal Housing Finance Board show long-term mortgage rates were a very affordable 5.81 percent to 5.94 percent between 1963 and 1965. In 1966 and 1967, borrowers paid an average of 6.3 percent a week earlier. A year ago, the 1-year ARM averaged 5.46 percent.

Few of today's borrowers remember that only nine years ago, rates were at 8.15 percent.

In January of 1968, when the national average hit 6.41 percent. Between 1971 and 1977, the now-defunct Illinois usury law held rates in the 7.6-percent to 9-percent range.

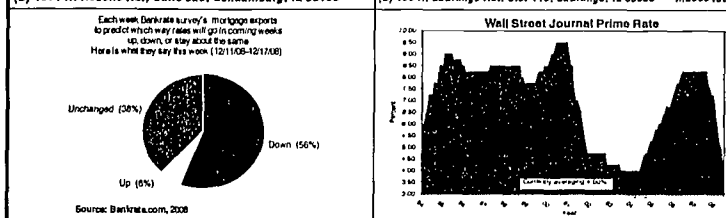
Through a series of dips and up-ticks, rates have averaged 5.21 percent during the past 12 years. The Home Front, Don DeBat's weekly real estate column syndicated by DeBat Media Services, unravels the complexities of home buying, mortgage shopping, homeownership, renting, building, renovation and remodeling. For more homebuying information visit his Web site at www.dondebatt.net.

# MORTGAGE GUIDE

Check rates daily at <http://suntimesinterest.com> Bankrate.com

Program	Rate	Points	Fee	% Down	APR
<b>ABI MORTGAGE</b> http://www.abimortgage.com					
30 yr fixed	5.000	1.000	\$1300	20%	5.159
20 yr fixed	4.875	1.000	\$1300	20%	5.090
15 yr fixed	4.875	1.000	\$1300	20%	5.149
5/1 Jumbo ARM	4.750	1.000	\$1300	20%	4.826
CASHOUT REFINANCE UP TO 95% via FHA!					
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Program	Rate	Points	Fee	% Down	APR
<b>PRESTIGE MORTGAGE CORPORATION</b> http://www.prestigemortgage.com					
30 yr fixed	5.000	0.000	\$575	5%	5.031
15 yr fixed	4.875	0.000	\$575	5%	4.928
10 yr fixed	4.875	0.000	\$575	5%	4.951
5/1 Jumbo ARM	5.450	0.000	\$575	20%	5.144
Celebrating 14 years. A select member of the BBB.					
(B) 130 N. LaGrange Rd., Ste. 110, LaGrange, IL 60525 M80094300					



	30 yr fixed	15 yr fixed	5 yr ARM
This week	5.80	5.51	6.17
Last week	5.92	5.67	6.14
Last year	6.17	5.89	6.29

Source: Bankrate.com, 2008

## Entertaining FROM PAGE 2

and provides another work station to help in the efficient organization of the party," Samuels continued. "Typically, this space features additional cabinets and counter space as well as a refrigerator and warming drawer. Wine coolers are popular, and can hold between 20 and 60 bottles of wine and are replacing the wine cellar as a more efficient use of space."

Charles Page has designed and built luxury homes in the Chicago area for more than 40 years. It is known for designing some of the most distinctive homes on the North Shore. For more information, call (847) 441-7860 or visit charlespagearchitect.com. For more information on Samuels Homes, call (847) 480-6476.

## Today's New Homes

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22 S Western Ave, Unit 2 D, Chicago IL 60612



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**Paulina Ave.**

**Luxury Condominiums and Duplexes**

4507 N Paulino Ave, Chicago, IL 60640



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**Scott Graden**  
**312-420-6211**

**Reba Place**

**Luxury Condominiums**

900 Rebo Place, Unit 3, Evanston IL 60202



Great location and tremendous value. Hardwood floors through-out, recessed lighting, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances, granite counters, 9 foot ceilings, and soaker tubs. All this for \$1,216\* a month! \*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

**Ivana Majic**  
**847-316-8500**

**Rogers**

**Gorgeous Glenview Home!**

1785 Rogers, Lot A, Glenview IL 60025



Stunning new five bedroom, six bath home on lovely lot! Travertine, Brazilian cherry floors. Open floor plan; huge granite kitchen open to grand family room. Three fireplaces, first level fifth bed/office, lovely master suite, all bedrooms en-suite, mud room. Basement with rec room, office/sixth bed, sauna! all this for \$4,253\* a month! \*with 30% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.

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**Gorgeous Glenview Home!**

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Gorgeous new five bedroom, five and one half bath Colonial in prestigious East Glenview. Travertine, Brazilian cherry floors. First level office or fifth bedroom. Granite kitchen with island. Five fireplaces, wet bars, steam shower, central vacuum. Huge basement has rec room, sauna, bath, sixth bedroom. Three-car garage. \$1,999,000 \*with 30% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.

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THURSDAY



inSIDE 

# Suzuki scores

XL7 crossover hits the right spot

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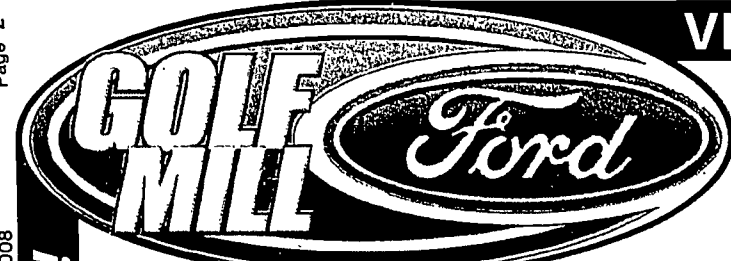
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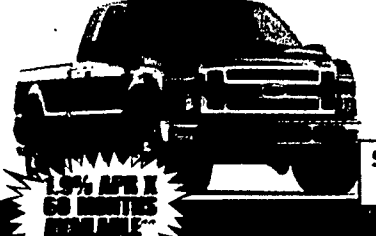
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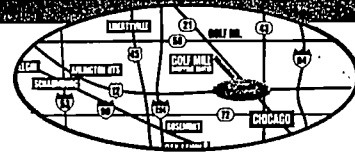
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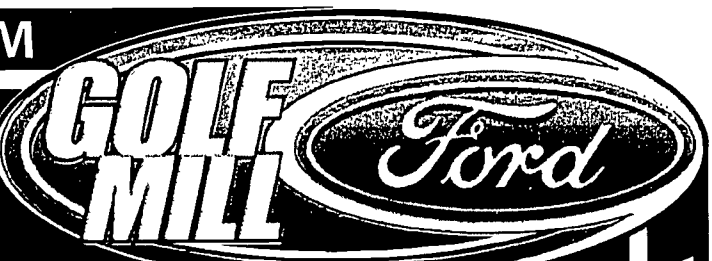
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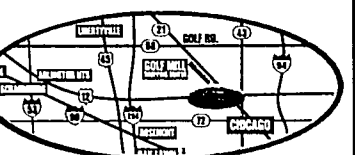
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## Suzuki marks the spot with comfortable XL7



by JILL CIMINO  
SearchChicagoAutos Editor  
jccimino@suntimes.com

Whenever my family gets together for the holidays, the challenge is being able to fit into one car. Granted there are only six of us, and five of us are pretty short. But at 6 feet, my brother-in-law needs some extra space. So six is more of a challenge than you'd think.

When I had the opportunity to drive the 2009 Suzuki XL7 home to Indianapolis for Thanksgiving, I was elated. Finally — an opportunity to test a seven-passenger crossover with enough people to fill it.

The first test: Black Friday.

We piled into the XL7 with relative comfort: two in the front, two in the middle and two in the rear. Leg room for front, middle and rear rows are 41.2 inches, 38.8 inches and 30.9 inches respectively. At almost 5 feet tall, I fit perfectly in the third row. I had plenty of knee room, and the seats were stiff but mostly comfortable. My sisters, however, who are 5 feet 2 inches and 5 feet 5 inches, respectively, were a bit cramped.

Ingress and egress to that third row are downright difficult, though. You have to flip the middle seat forward in a two-step process, climb up into

the cabin and then clamber through a narrow space into the back row.

The other thing my family and I noted was the difficulty of carrying on a conversation between the first row and third row. With the heat running full force it was virtually impossible, and a plethora of "whats" passed back and forth with the middle row serving as relays.

After a day of shopping, we were able to cram our holiday packages in the 14.0-cubic-foot rear cargo area and still seat six. We only hit one mall, however, and had a moderate amount of packages. On day two of holiday shopping, we were down two passengers and ended up using not only the rear cargo area, but also the rear seat to store our purchases.

The second test: a four-hour road trip to Toledo to visit my uncle.

My brother-in-law had to work, so we were down to five for this trip. I have to admit the XL7 is perfect for five as well: two in the front, two in the middle and one sprawled in the back.

My family slept most of the way to Toledo. So, sans radio, conversation and other distracting noises, I heard a couple of notable sounds from the driver's seat. The first was tire noise. As long as we were on freshly paved, smooth surfaces the XL7 was quiet and almost lulling. On rough-hewn surfaces there was some definite tire feedback on the pavement that came through to the cabin. The other was engine noise. At a constant speed it was nice and quiet, but with a hint of accelera-

tion, engine noise traveled into the cabin loud and clear.

The XL7 comes in three trim levels: Premium, Luxury and Limited. All trim levels are available in front-wheel and all-wheel drive configurations. The Premium model, with a base price of \$26,345, comes standard with automatic climate control, rear air conditioning with separate controls, auto on/off headlamps, cruise control and trip computer with driver information center.

The Luxury model has a base price of \$27,929 and adds standard features such as leather seating surfaces, heated front seats, steering wheel audio controls and sunroof.

The Limited model, with a base price of \$28,780, includes navigation, remote start, premium audio system, 17-inch chrome wheels and upgraded roof rack as standard fare.

The test vehicle was an all-wheel drive Luxury model with a base price of \$29,579. Since this model came pretty well stocked, it only had a few minor options: floor mats and cargo net (\$199), Pearl White paint (\$200) and front and rear brush plates (\$155). The as-tested price of the vehicle was \$30,133. Since the heated seats were standard, I really didn't need or want anything else and could have done without the options.

During the test period, I drove from Chicago to Indianapolis, Indianapolis to Toledo, back to Indianapolis from Toledo and then, finally, back to Chicago from Indianapolis. I didn't do a lot of city driving in the test car, especially not in Chicago, but I can report that the XL7 is comfortable for the long haul even if the fuel economy wasn't quite what I'd hoped it would be. With mostly highway driving, I only averaged about 18 mpg. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the AWD model should get city/highway mileage numbers of 15/22 mpg. I should point out that speed limits in Indiana are higher than Illinois and I was averaging 75 to 80 mph.

The last test: the drive back to Chicago. I began the trek back to Chicago Sunday night as snow and icy rain began to fall. Traffic was

moving pretty well on Interstate 65, but the slick spots were definitely there and the precipitation kept the windshield wipers moving.

The AWD test vehicle maneuvered well in the inclement weather, and when I saw others slowing down, I was able to maintain the speed limit safely.

The XL7 comes equipped with a 3.6-liter V-6 engine that delivers 252 horsepower and 243 pound-feet of torque. This was more than adequate for a vehicle weighing just more than 4,000 pounds. Acceleration was peppy, and I had no difficulty picking up the pace to pass in traffic.

The minimal Chicago driving that I did found the XL7 to be nimble enough for tight city driving and compact enough for city parking.

The XL7 is one of those perfect vehicles for a family of four or more. And with a total cargo volume of 95.2 cubic feet, there's plenty of space for trips to Ikea or Home Depot. Both the interior and exterior are well-styled, and other than noise issues, I'd be hard-pressed to spout anything negative about this vehicle.

### autoSPECS

#### 2009 SUZUKI XL7

ENGINE: 3.6L V-6, 252-hp, 243 lb-ft torque, V-6 DOHC

TRANSMISSION: six-speed automatic with manual control

DRIVE TRAIN: front-wheel drive, all-wheel drive

FUEL ECONOMY: 16 city/23 highway (FWD), 15/22 (AWD)

BASE PRICE: \$26,345

AS-TESTED PRICE: \$30,133

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'03 Hyundai Tiburon #95073A.....	<b>\$7,995*</b>	'08 Toyota Camry #9775A.....	<b>\$13,995*</b>
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'04 Honda Accord Cpe #97589A.....	<b>\$9,995*</b>	'08 Toyota RAV-4 4x4 #97877.....	<b>\$18,995*</b>
'01 Pontiac Grand Am.....	<b>\$4,995*</b>	'05 Nissan Altima #1030A.....	<b>\$9,995*</b>
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'04 Chevy Monte Carlo.....	<b>\$6,995*</b>	'05 VW Jetta #6586A.....	<b>\$12,995*</b>
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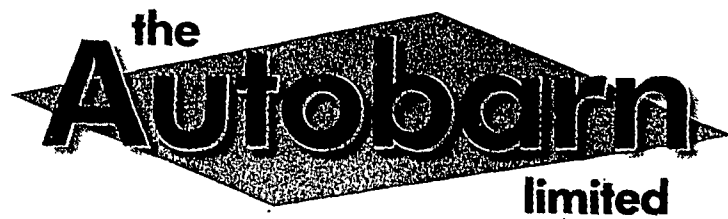


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S10N2450, N2276  
Lease for: **\$179** for 39 mos.\*  
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S10N1968, N1890  
Lease for: **\$189** for 39 mos.\*  
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Add tax, title, license and doc fee. \*Closed end lease with qualified credit. Security deposit waived with approved credit. Lessee may be responsible for excess wear, tear and/or mileage over 10K mi/yr. \*\*2.9% APR for 60 mos. = \$17.92 per \$1,000 financed with approved credit on 2008 Armada.

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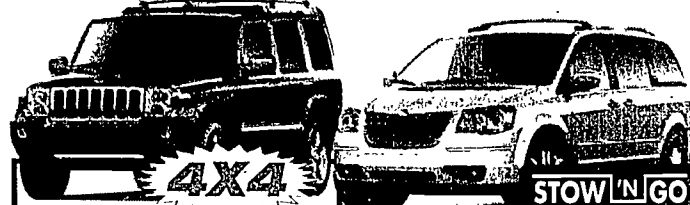


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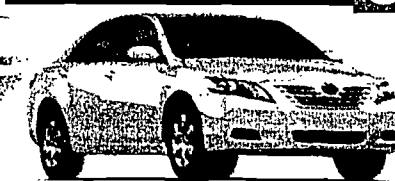
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 DEMO  
 #9R065518

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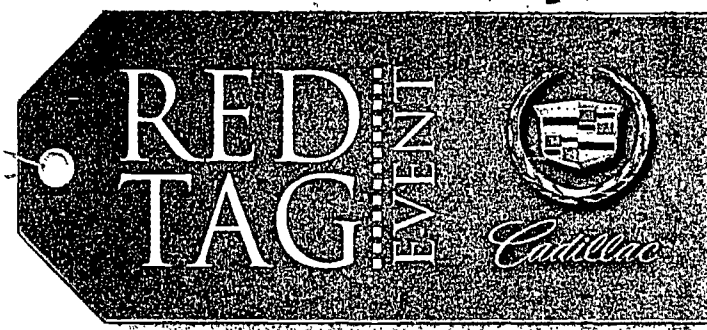
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TOYOTA '92 Camry LE, 4 dr automatic, 4 cyl, AC, 120K, extra clean, 1 owner, \$2150, 847-835-2835, Morton Grove
TOYOTA '92 Camry LE Auto 4 cyl, 111K, looks & rides great, \$2900 obo, 708-532-4658
Toyota 1992 Paseo "Runs Great" \$1400 o.b.o. Call (773)903-1059 ask for Mike

Volkswagen '05 Jetta #SP6155 \$11,995
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VW '05 Jetta #SP6155 \$11,995
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VW '05 Passat GLS Auto, MR, 4 cyl turbo, heated seats, CD, 60K, one owner, must see, \$10,995, 708-614-9334

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CHEVY '94 GT 20 Convert - sion, Black, full power, TV, VCR, alloys, Runs exc, must see, \$1700, Call 773-725-9639
Chevy '93 Astro ext. White, full power, Great runner, NICE, \$900, Call 773-907-2276
PLYMOUTH '98 Grand Voyager SE 3.3, 7 passenger, blue, lthr, CD, MP3, alloys, full pwr, alarm, cozy, comfortable, \$2200, 773-725-9639
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Dodge '01 Caravan #H20007A \$4,995
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Advantage Chevrolet: ADVANTAGE CHEVROLET LaGrange & Joliet Roads, Countryside Auto Mall 800-961-7609 www.advantagechevy.com

Bill Jacobs Chevrolet: Bill Jacobs Chevrolet 2001 W. Jefferson St., Joliet 800-507-6841 www.BillJacobsAuto.com

Currie Motors Chevy Forest Park: Currie Motors Chevy Forest Park 7901 W. Roosevelt Rd., 888-294-3409 www.curriechevy.com

Bredemann Chevrolet: BREDEMANN CHEVROLET 1401 W. Dempster St. Park Ridge 847-688-1234 Next to Lutheran General Hospital www.bredemann.com

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Phillips Chevrolet: PHILLIPS CHEVROLET Rtes. 30 & 45, Frankfort 866-238-4771 grossingerhyundai.com

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866-6888. www.chicagophilharmonic.org. Tickets are \$70 on the main floor; \$33 main front wings; \$60, \$33 and \$20 in the balcony; \$20 obstructed view. Feb. 15: "A Valentine From First Chairs to Music Lovers." Robert Kahn; Serenade in F Minor, Op. 73; Dvorak: Bagatelles, Op. 47; Mendelssohn: Quartet No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 3.

Music of the Baroque performs at First United Methodist Church of Evanston, 1630 Hinman Ave., unless noted otherwise. (312) 551-1414. www.baroque.org. Single tickets are \$30-\$75; \$25-\$30 students/seniors. Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.: "Glover Conducts

MOVIES

Mozart," featuring the Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra, Kimberly McCord, soprano, Jessye Wright, mezzo-soprano, Peder Reiff, tenor, and Peter Van De Graaff, bass-baritone.

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.: High school students of MIC's Academy program will present a chamber music concert. Free. Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.: High school students enrolled in MIC's Academy program will present solo performances. Free.

Northeastern Illinois University, Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago. (773) 442-4636. Dec. 19, 8 p.m.: "Slavic Wonders: Feasts and Saints in Early Russia, Poland and Bohemia." Rose Ensemble presents medieval, Renais-

MUSIC

sance and Baroque music. Tickets: \$25; \$15 senior citizens; \$10 students.

Northshore Concert Band performs at 3 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, unless otherwise noted. Individual tickets \$15; \$12 seniors; \$6 students. (847) 432-2263.

www.northshoreband.org. Feb. 15: Program includes Dana Wilson's "Shortcut Home" and Hindemith's Symphonic Metamorphosis.

Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Paul Vermet, music director, presents concerts at 3:30 p.m. Sundays in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. Pre-concert commentaries by Carolyn Paulin, a staff member of radio station WFMT, begin one hour prior to each concert. Individual concert

ART CLUBS

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. Jan. 18: "Happy Birthday, Mr. Lincoln," with Mel Zellman, former WFMT radio announcer, as narrator. Charles Ives: The Unanswered Question; Aaron Copland: A Lincoln Portrait. Other works on the program include Dudley Buck's Festival Overture on the Star Spangled Banner; Prelude to "Oedipus Tyrannus" by John Paine; George Chadwick's Noël and Jubilee; and Louis Gottschalk's A Night in the Tropics. The concert will include an appearance by the Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus. March 29: "Scotland and the Sea," with Iordanka Kissiova, violin. Mendelssohn: Fingal's Cave; Stephen Paulus: Sea Portraits; Bruch: Scottish Fantasy. May 31: Family Pops Concert with Allan Steele, cello. Offenbach: Ballet Parisien; Lloyd Webber: "Memory" from "Cats"; Williams: "E.T.," highlights; Williams: Pieces from "Schindler's List"; Dvorak: Cello Concerto.

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Individual tickets are \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861 or visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org. Feb. 8, 2:30 p.m.: Italian Opera at the Pickwick, with Sarah Hibbard, soprano, and James Cornelison, tenor. Featuring selections from Verdi's "I Vespri Siciliani," "Il Trovatore" and "Nabucco," Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," "La Bohème" and "Tosca," and Leoncavallo's "I Pagliacci." March 15, 2:30 p.m.: "Strings 'n Things," with Robert Hanford, violin. The Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Strings and the Maine South Chamber Orchestra Strings. Vivaldi: The Four Seasons; and Tchaikovsky: Serenade. April 26, 2:30 p.m.: The Spirit of Brahms: A German Requiem, with the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Chorus, the Park Ridge Community Church Chancel Choir, the Music Institute of Chicago Choral, Sarah Hibbard, soprano soloist, and Peter Van De Graaff, bass-baritone soloist.

Rembrandt Chamber Players perform in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets: \$30 in advance; \$10 students. Tickets are \$35 at the door. (312) 360-3145. www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org. Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.: "February Fantasy." The program includes Britten's Phantasy Quartet; Richard Wernick's Sextet for string quartet, bass and piano; and Shostakovich's Piano Quintet.

Segovia Classical Guitar Series, Feb. 14-May 1, will be held on Northwestern University's Evanston campus at Lutkin Hall, 700 University Place, or Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, as noted. Subscription to all four concerts is \$68; \$58 for Chicago Classical Guitar Society members, senior citizens, and Northwestern faculty and staff; \$29 for students. Call (847) 467-4000 or visit www.pickstaiger.org. Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.: Dale Kavanagh will play works by Berkeley, Diabelli, Domenico, Villa-Lobos, Milhaud and Kavanagh herself in Lutkin Hall. \$19/\$16/\$8. April 10, 7:30 p.m.: The Canadian Guitar Quartet will perform in Pick-Staiger Concert Hall. The program includes music influenced by old and new tango styles as well as works by Rossini and quartet member Trépanier. The performance will also feature a world

FESTIVALS

premiere by DanceWorks Chicago. \$24/\$21/\$11. April 18, 7:30 p.m.: Oscar Ghiglia performs in Lutkin Hall. The program includes works by Britten, Sor and Ponce. \$19/\$16/\$8. May 1, 7:30 p.m.: Baroque lute and guitar artist Hopkinson Smith will perform in Lutkin Hall. The program includes works by 17th century French lutenist and composer "le vieux Gaultier," as well as music by Weiss, Bach, Guerau, Santa Cruz and Sanz. \$19/\$16/\$8.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra performs at 3 p.m. Sundays at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are \$22-\$36; \$9 for children. Free pre-concert lectures begin at 1:30 p.m. For tickets, call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.svso.org. Jan. 18: Featuring the winners of the Young Artist Competition. Liszt: Totentanz; Schubert: Symphony No. 8 (Unfinished); Beethoven: Overture to "Fidelio"; Saint Saens: Violin Concerto No. 3. March 15: Featuring Karen Frost, flute, Jennifer Stucki, oboe, Noah Lambert, trumpet, and Rebecca McCulloch, violin. J.S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 2. Haydn: Symphony No. 104 ("London"); Glazunov: Symphony No. 3. May 17: Featuring the Ryan Opera Center Ensemble. Mozart: Overture to "Abduction from the Seraglio"; Symphony No. 38 ("Prague"); and opera scenes, semi-staged.

POP/FOLK/JAZZ

The Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago. (773) 478-4408. www.abbeypub.com. Sundays: Traditional Irish Session with Devin Shepherd, 4 p.m. Tuesdays: Open Mic Night with Nick Gonzales, 8 p.m. Wednesdays: Sweetwater Meltdown, 9 p.m. Thursdays: House band, 8 p.m. Dec. 19, 9 p.m.: ONWE, The Dynamos, The Stonelys, \$6 in advance; \$8 at the door. Dec. 31, 9 p.m.: Future Rock with Daedelus. Dark Party (featuring Eliot Lipp and Leo123) and Ben Silver. \$25 in advance; \$30 day of show; \$75 VIP includes open bar, and hors d'oeuvres.

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. Jan. 3, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.: Trans-Siberian Orchestra, \$48, \$38. Jan. 26-27, 7 p.m.: Metallica with Machine Head, The Sword, \$79.50, \$59.50. Jan. 30, 7 p.m.: Slipknot, Coheed & Cambria, Trivium, \$45, \$37.50. March 5: Fleetwood Mac's "Unleashed 2009 Tour."

Bill's Blues, 1029 Davis St., Evanston. (847) 424-9800. www.billbluesbar.com. Cover charges vary. Sundays, 4 p.m.: Lifest Open Mike. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.: Blues Jam hosted by The TFB Band. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.: North Shore Steppin' (D.J.). Wednesdays, 10:30 p.m.: John Nance Urban Dance Mix (D.J.). Dec. 18, 7 p.m.: The Bittersweet Christmas Band (folk). Dec. 18, 10 p.m.: Spraypaint Launchpad Event (D.J.). Dec. 19, 6 p.m.: St. Luke's Choir (classical). Dec. 19, 8:30 p.m.: Joe Filisco and Eric Noden (acoustic blues). Dec. 20, 3 p.m.: Big Time Entertainment (rock). Dec. 20, 8:30 p.m.: Hitsville USA (Motown). Dec. 20, 11:45 p.m.: TRC Events presents world music. Dec. 21, 7 p.m.: Jano (folk). Dec. 21, 10 p.m.: LOD/ORG presents hip-hop. Dec. 22, 8:30 p.m.: Mike Finnerty & the Heat Merchants (jazz). Dec. 26, 5:30 p.m.: Evanston Klezmer Band. Dec. 26, 8:30 p.m.:

SPEAKERS

Ron Prince Blues Band, Dec. 27, 3 p.m.: Big Time Entertainment (rock). Dec. 27, 8:30 p.m.: Sammy Fender Blues Band, Dec. 27, 11:45 p.m.: TRC Events presents world music. Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m.: Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater. \$25 general admission; \$75 premium package.

The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. (847) 864-1679. www.celticknotpub.com. No cover unless noted otherwise. Mondays, 8 p.m.-midnight: Bluegrass and roots music with the Mudflapps. Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m.: Irish music session. Dec. 20, 10 p.m.: Henhouse Prowlers.

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.centreast.org. Dec. 27, 8 p.m. and Dec. 28, 3 p.m.: Mandy Patinkin performs popular standards from Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Harry Chapin, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter, with Paul Ford on piano. Tickets: \$85. Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.: Elvis Birthday Tribute. \$49.50. March 14, 8 p.m.: "Get Back!" The cast of Beatlemania recreates the era and music of the Fab Four. \$42. May 9, 8 p.m.: The Rat Pack is Back, \$58.

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 Sillie. Sunday music is from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Dec. 19: Renditions ('50s-'70s), \$5 cover. Dec. 20: Rick Lindy & the Wild Ones (rockabilly), \$5 cover. Dec. 21: Marc Pompe, Dec. 27: Watt Filtz (rock). Dec. 28: Connie Marshall and Johnny Gabor. Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.: Second Hand Soul Band.

Famous Freddie's Roadhouse, 1799 S. Busse Road, Mount Prospect. (847) 593-2200. www.famousfreddiesroadhouse.com. Shows start at 9 p.m. Fridays and 10 p.m. Saturdays. Dec. 19: I.R.S. (Independent Rock Society). Dec. 20: 7th Heaven. Dec. 26: Alternative Past and The Antidote (party rock). Dec. 27: X-Side. Dec. 31: Bad Medicine (Bon Jovi tribute).

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 - Jan. 2: Celi dancing with Ceoltoiri Chicago. Jan. 3: Mulligan Stew. Jan. 9: Patrick Guiney Band. Jan. 10: Johnny Cash Tribute with entertainment by Bubby Creek and Iron Horse. Jan. 16: Gerry Haughey. Jan. 17: Dooley Brothers. Jan. 23: Joe Cullen and Kathleen Keane. Jan. 24: Joe McShane. Jan. 30: Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore. Jan. 31: Paddy Homan's Band.

Na Mele Aloha, the Hawaiian music ensemble from Oakton Community College, performs at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at The Tiki Terrace, 7597 Lee St., Des Plaines; and at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month at Cheeseburger in Paradise, 1472 Market St., Des Plaines. For information, call Earl Essig, (847) 272-0762, or e-mail earlessig@aol.com. 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. May 19-20: "An Evening with Il Divo." \$55, \$85,

MOVIES

\$125 and \$150. Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokie-theatre.com. Concert tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door, unless noted otherwise. Jan. 30, 8 p.m.:

"Welcome to Laborland" with Bucky Haliker. Jan. 31, 8 p.m.: "Pop Goes the Classics" Feb. 1, 2 p.m.: Kevin Moore presents "Score by Score: The Best of Broadway - Rodgers & Hammerstein," starring Anne Burnell, Laura Freeman, KT McCammond, Beckie Menzie, Tom Michael and Daryl Nitz. Feb. 25, 1:30 p.m.: "Rhapsody in Blue" with Adam Marks. \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Feb. 28, 8 p.m.: Anne and Mark Burnell present "Come Rain or Come Shine: The Harold Arlen Songbook."

S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 492-8860. www.evanspace.com. Dec. 18, 8 p.m.: Lubriphonic, \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Dec. 19, 8 p.m.: Dave Specter with Guy King, \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Dec. 20, 8 p.m.: Michael Johnson with the Al Day Trio. \$20. Jan. 8: Vocal Brew. Jan. 9: Nicholas Tremulis Orchestra. Jan. 14: Benefit for Koko Taylor's Band. Jan. 16: The Hard Lessons with Cavashawn. Jan. 17: Peter Mulvey with Tommi Zender. Jan. 19: Chicago Barn Dance. Jan. 22: Horse in the Sea with Scatterdirtrees. Jan. 23: Alfonso Ponticelli's Gypsy Jazz Tribute to Django Reinhardt. Jan. 24: Sons of the Never Wrong with James Curley. Jan. 26: Don Stille. Jan. 29: Bunker-town. Jan. 30: Chicago Catz R&B Dance Party. Jan. 31: Dolly Varden with Ingrid Graudins.

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MUSIC

ART GALLERIES

Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 491-4000. www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; noon-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission to the museum is free; unless noted, admission to all programs is also free. The Block Museum will be closed Dec. 15-Jan. 12 for winter break. Jan. 23-April 5: "From Michelangelo to Annibale Carracci: A Century of Italian Drawings from the Prado." This exhibition of 70 drawings explores the working methods of the most important artists active in Italy from 1520-1620. Feb. 5, 6 p.m.: Suzanne McCullagh, Anne Vogt Fuller and Marion Titus, Searl Curator of Earlier Prints and Drawings at the Art Institute of Chicago, will present "Connoisseurship and Scholarship in Italian Drawings: Two Cogent Collections Compared," a discussion of the exhibitions "From Michelangelo to Annibale Carracci: A Century of Italian Drawings from the Prado" at the Block Museum and "Drawn to Drawings: The Goldman Collection" at the Art Institute. Feb. 22, 1:30 p.m.: "Drawing Triptychs," recommended for children age 8-12 and their parents, grandparents or caretakers. Includes a close look at selected drawings from the exhibition "From Michelangelo to Annibale Carracci: A Century of Italian Drawings from the Prado," followed by a studio workshop focusing on three different drawing techniques. Cost is \$5 per family of four; free for Block Museum members. March 12, 5 p.m.: David Rosand, Meyer Schapiro Pro-

ART

fessor of Art History, Columbia University, will present "Things Never Seen: Graphic Fantasy and the Dreaming Draftsman." March 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.: Panel discussion on Renaissance drawing. Jan. 13-April 5: "Polaroids: Mapplethorpe" exhibition in the Alsford Gallery. The show brings together 100 works, including self-portraits, figure studies, still-lives and portraits of friends and lovers. Some material may be inappropriate for younger or more sensitive audiences. Feb. 26, 6 p.m.: Block Museum senior curator Deborah Wood will lead a gallery talk on "Polaroids: Mapplethorpe." March 7, 2-4 p.m.: Panel discussion, "Robert Mapplethorpe: Artist and Activist." Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge. (847) 823-6611. www.bricktonartcenter.org. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Through Dec. 19: Sale of antiqued brass ornaments designed and created by local artist Hermke Timm. The angel relief coins come with a red tie in a red velvet pouch and can be engraved before Christmas. \$10 each; \$15 with engraving. Proceeds benefit the Brickton Art Center.

Dittmar Memorial Gallery at Northwestern University's Norris Center, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston. (847) 491-2348. www.norris.northwestern.edu/dittmar.php. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Norris Center will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1 for winter break. Jan. 8-Feb. 8: "Petra Kralkickova: Silent Longing," a site-specific installation by Czechoslovakian-born and Ohio-based

go., PAGE B16

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Continued from PAGE B15

artist Petra Kralkickova. Opening reception from 7-9 p.m. Jan. 8. Elmhurst Artists' Guild Gallery in the Elmhurst Art Museum, 150 S. Cottage Hill Ave., Elmhurst. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; 1-8 p.m. Wednesdays; and 1-4 p.m. Fridays and Sundays. Admission to the Elmhurst Artists' Guild Gallery, including admission to Elmhurst Art Museum, is \$4; \$3 seniors; \$2 students; free for children under 12. Admission is free on Tuesdays. Through Jan. 2: "Awakening," contemporary oil paintings by Niles resident Leon Oks. The exhibit features

approximately two dozen oil paintings showcasing Oks' style in depicting women, landscapes and townscapes. Irish American Heritage Center Art Gallery, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. Gallery hours are 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Through Dec. 21: "The Young Artist's Eye," works by art students at St. Cornelius and St. Edward schools on the northwest side of Chicago. Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, (847) 475-1030. www.mitchellmuseum.org. Admission to events is included with an entrance donation to the Mitchell Museum. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults; \$2.50 for senior citizens, students and children. Maximum admission per family is \$10. Through Dec. 24: "Transcending Boundaries: American Indian Tra-

ditional and Contemporary Art from the June and Bernard Kleban Collection." The museum recently received a donation of more than 250 works in diverse media from the collection of June Kleban of Wilmington, Del., and her late husband Bernard. About 100 of these new acquisitions will be on display, including oils, watercolors, pottery, sculpture, jewelry, baskets, dolls and wood carvings. Through Dec. 24: "On the Plains: The Art of Potawatomi Artist Woody Crumbo," featuring oil paintings and prints by Woodrow "Woody" Crumbo (1912-1989), a Potawatomi from Oklahoma. Oakton Community College, Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, (847) 635-2633. www.oakton.edu/museum. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Dec. 18-Jan.

23: "Judy Langston: Post-Katrina Images" and "Davida Schulman: Self-Portraits." Opening reception from 5-8 p.m. Dec. 18.

**AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**STAGE**

Devonshire Playhouse, the Skokie Park District's community theatre, will hold auditions for "Murder on the Orient Express" on Jan. 11-12. Parts are available for ages 14 and older and will require reading from the script and/or a modern dialogue. Audition packets are available. Audition appointments can be made by calling (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400.

Evanston Children's Theatre will hold auditions Jan. 13-15 for its yet-to-be-announced spring 2009 production. Auditions are open to youth age 8-12. Three auditions will be held: from 4-6 p.m. Jan. 13 and 15 at the Levy Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston; and from 4-6 p.m. Jan. 14 at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St., Evanston. Appointments are not necessary, just arrive no later than 5:30 p.m. For those who are selected for the play, there is a cast fee of \$75. The spring show will be presented March 27-29 at the Levy Center. For information, call (847) 448-8250.

The Rising Stars Theatre Company will hold auditions for "The Wedding Singer" from 1-5 p.m. Jan. 18 and 7-9 p.m. Jan. 19 at 6850 W. Addison, Chicago. Seeking large cast of men and women ages 16 and up. Also seeking people who can do impersonations of '80s stars. Prepare 32 bars of a contemporary show tune or '80s pop song. Bring sheet music in your key; accompanist provided. No a cappella singing. Come prepared to dance. No appointment needed. All roles open. No pay. Performances are Saturdays and Sundays, April 25-May 10, at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. For information, visit www.risingstars.org or call (773) 736-2490.

Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre will hold auditions for its summer production of "Once on This Island" from 7-9 p.m. Feb. 5-6 and noon-4 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Actors, dancers and strong singers are being sought for this production. Those auditioning should prepare a cappella song of their choice and a one-minute monologue. Rehearsals begin March 1, and the show will be performed June 13-July 26. Audition appointments are encouraged; call (847) 448-8260, ext. 2519.

Seeking cast members for "And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank" to be presented April 11-12 at the Skokie Theatre. Roles available for one boy, 10-14 years of age; three men, 20-40 years of age; and three women, 20-30 years of age. For information, e-mail williampanek@gmail.com.

Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre, located at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center in Evanston, is seeking experienced and professional stage managers for the opening show of its 2009 season, "Once on This Island." All applicants must work well in team settings, and think quickly on their feet. Applicants must be prepared to make a commitment from February to July 2009. There is pay. For information, contact Raina Long, (847) 448-8260, ext. 2515, or rlong@city-of-evanston.org.

**ART CLUBS FESTIVALS SPEAKERS**

**MUSICIANS**

Still Acting Up!, a musical troupe of performers 60 years of age and over, is seeking a volunteer senior accompanist. Must be able to read a lead sheet for original music; be available for rehearsals on Tuesday afternoons, some Thursdays, and off-site performances; can transpose; and be available year-round with time off in January and July. Sight-reading a plus. The troupe is sponsored by the Skokie Park District and meets regularly at the Oakton Community Center in Skokie. Call (847) 998-8894.

Na Mele Aloha Hawaiian music ensemble seeks musicians who play ukulele or upright string bass. Rehearsals are held in Des Plaines. Call Earl Essig, (847) 272-0762, or e-mail earlessig@aol.com.

**SINGERS**

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

**ARTISTS**

Amdur Productions launches its 26th summer art festival season with its annual call for entries. Artists can visit www.amdurproductions.com, click "Apply Now," and then follow the prompts to submit their work electronically. Artists should submit four images of their work and one photo of their booth. Applicants may submit traditional slides and use a paper application for a small conversion fee. All applications must be received by Jan. 12. Art festivals include: Promenade of Art Arlington Heights, May 30-31 in Arlington Heights; Eastside Millennium Art Festival, June 5-7 on Michigan Avenue, Lake and Stetson streets just north of Millennium Park, Chicago; Cantigny Fine Art Festival, June 20-21 in Wheaton; Glencoe Festival of the Masters, June 21-22 in Glencoe; Lincolnshire Art Festival, July 11-12 in Lincolnshire; Buffalo Grove Invitational Fine Art Festival, July 18-19 in Buffalo Grove; North Shore Festival of Art, July 25-26 at the Westfield Old Orchard Shopping Center, Skokie; Gold Coast Art Fair, July 31-Aug. 2 in the River North neighborhood of Chicago; Art at the Glen Town Center, Aug. 8-9 at the Glen Town Center in Glenview; Port Clinton Art Festival, Aug. 29-30 in Highland Park; Joliet Starving Artists Festival, Sept. 26-27 in Joliet; Highwood Last Call Art Fair, Oct. 17-18 in Highwood.

Chicago's Cliff Dwellers Club is putting out a call for art to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. All interested artists are asked to submit a Lincoln portrait on canvas. The Lincoln portraits will be shown in the club's gallery which has been displaying works of art for more than 100 years. All portraits submitted will be hung. Portraits of Lincoln will be accepted only on canvas, and they do not have to be framed. Portraits can

be dropped off at the Frame Warehouse in Oak Park or Evanston anytime before Jan. 31. All artwork will be able to be picked back up at Frame Warehouse after March 1. For more information, contact Cliff Dwellers board member Paul Hamer at paul@wchicago.com.

**BOOKS & POETRY**

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. Great Irish American Books and Authors book discussion group meets at 2 p.m. the second Sunday of the month, unless noted otherwise. The discussion is led by Virginia Gibbons, a teacher at Oakton Community College. Jan. 11: *The Whistler* by Brendan Graham. Feb. 8: *Natural History* by Maureen Howard. March 8: *The Poor Mouth* by Flann O'Brien. April 12: *Roscoe* by William Kennedy. May 3: *The Snapper* by Roddy Doyle.

**CHILD'S PLAY**

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300. www.centreeast.org. Feb. 28, 1 and 3 p.m.: "School House Rock Live!" \$18. April 19, 1 and 3 p.m.: Junie B. Jones. \$18.

Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines, (847) 827-5551. www.dppl.org. Registration required for programs unless noted otherwise. Dec. 20, 1 p.m.: Drop-in Holiday Craft. All materials are supplied.

Light Opera Works is currently taking enrollment for its 2009 Musical Theater Summer Workshop. Students ages 8-15 will learn singing, dancing and acting in preparation for a public performance in a musical. Four separate one-week workshops will be offered, based on a hit musical. Each workshop meets from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with a final dress rehearsal at 1 p.m. Saturday, followed by the performance at 4 p.m. This year's workshops are Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," July 6-11; "Annie," July 13-18; "The Music Man," July 20-25; "Bye Bye Birdie," July 27-Aug. 1. There are no auditions for roles and every child enrolled in the workshop gets a part. Classes are held in Evanston. The fee is \$350 per student per workshop. Register online at www.lightoperaworks.com or call (847) 869-6300.

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.: Stories and More, for children ages 3-5. Each 45-minute session includes books, board stories, songs, finger plays and crafts. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.: Stories and More for children ages 3 and under, and their caregivers. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., (847) 965-4220. Dec. 20, 3 p.m.: Beads for Teens and Chainmaille Jewelry. Supplies and instruction will be provided. Dec. 27, 2:30 p.m.: Showing of "Wall-E," rated G. Dec. 29, 2 p.m.: Yo-Yo Man Barry North will entertain.

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. "The Princess and the Pea," presented by Chicago Kids Company Jan. 14-March 11 at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Performances at 10:30 a.m.

**MOVIES**

Jan. 14, 16, 20, 22-23, 27-30, Feb. 3-6, 10-13, 17, 20, 24-25, 27, March 2-5, 9-11: 1 p.m. Jan. 24 and Feb. 7, and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Feb. 16, 510. Call (773) 205-9600 or visit www.chicagokidscompany.com.

Wunder Studios Performing Arts Conservatory offers classes in the Pickwick Building in Uptown Park Ridge, 3 S. Prospect Ave. Offerings include group musical theatre, guitar and drum classes for children 5 and older, as well as private music lessons for all instruments. There are also Musikgarten classes that build music and movement skills for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Visit www.wunderstudios.com or call (847) 685-2030.

The YADI Club (Youth Arts/Dance International) holds dance classes for teens and younger students at the Jefferson Park Fieldhouse, 4822 N. Long. Classes are conducted by Tina Manos Dance. (773) 282-5108 or www.linamangosdance.com.

**COMEDY**

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300. www.centreeast.org. Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 23, 8 p.m., Jan. 24, 5 and 8 p.m., Jan. 25, 3 p.m.: The Capitol Steps. \$44-\$48. April 21-23, 7:30 p.m.: Jackie Mason. \$72.

Cornelia's Bistro and Cabaret Lounge, 750 W. Cornelia, Chicago, (773) 248-8333. Dec. 18, 7:30-9 p.m.: Skokie resident Debbie Sue Goodman presents a comedy performance based on her books. *Still Single* and *Still Dating*. No cover charge. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. Tickets are

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**MOVIES MUSIC ART CLUBS FESTIVALS SPEAKERS**

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Chicago's Windy City Jitterbug Club holds dances to the music of the '50s, '60s and more, from 8 p.m.-midnight at the American Legion Hall, 9757 W. Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, unless otherwise noted. Admission to club dances is \$5 for members; \$10 for nonmembers. Proper attire required; no blue jeans or shorts allowed. Must be 21 or older. Call (773) 467-0177 or visit www.jitterbugchicago.com. Dec. 20: Holiday Christmas buffet, \$13 for nonmembers.

DanceSport Center, 999 N. Elmhurst Road (Randhurst Shopping Center), Mount Prospect, offers ballroom and Latin dance classes for children age 5 and older and adults. No partner is necessary. Call (847) 342-0567 or visit www.chicagodancesport.com. Des Plaines School of Dance, 2222 Birch St., Des Plaines, (847) 391-5700. www.desplainesparcs.org. Offering beginning through advanced classes for ages 2 through 18 in jazz, tap, ballet, pre-pointe, pointe, modern and hip-hop, taught by professional working dancers. Call for a complete schedule and list of prices. 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) 895-7387. Happy Twirlers Dance Club provides round and square dancing at 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, September-May, in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thacker and Lee streets, Des Plaines. Call (847) 827-6500 or (773) 685-8407.

Kaleidoscope Dance & Movement Center, 3944 Church St., Skokie, offers classes in ballet, jazz, hip-hop, tap, and modern. Call (847) 679-7842 or visit www.kaleidoscopedance.com.

Karen's School of Acrobatics and Dance, 805 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, (847) 292-0255. Offering professional instruction in acrobatics, tumbling, jazz, hip-hop, ballet, tap, and musical theater. Competitive Dance classes and one-day "Flip" clinics for cheerleaders also available. Karen's is also offering adult group and private dance instruction for singles and couples. Professional ballroom dance instructor Patricia Kassanis offers group classes in social dance, salsa dance, ballroom dance and swing dance. Kassanis also specializes in preparing wedding couples for their "first dance" and is available by appointment for private or group instruction; call (630) 306-1761 or (630) 671-9407 for information. Lekarringen "Heimhug" 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.

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Sunday Dec. 28 2:30-3:45p	Monday Dec. 29 10:45-12:15p	Tuesday Dec. 30 10:45-12:15p 7-8:30p	Wednesday Dec. 31 10:45-12:15p 7-8:30p	Friday Jan. 2 10:45-12:15p 7-8:30p	Saturday Jan. 3 2:45-4p

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Principal Partner for A Christmas Carol. Photo of Larry Yards by Brian War-  
ling. Design and direction by Kelly Rickert.

go.

Continued from PAGE B17

**Lynette's School of Dance.** 517 Talcott Road, Park Ridge, offers classes in ballet, pointe, tap, hip-hop, jazz and tumbling, beginners to advanced, for ages 3 to adults. All teachers are certified degree instructors. Call (847) 823-7334.

**North Shore Dance Center.** 8401 Crawford Ave., Skokie. (847) 674-2216.

**www.northshoredancecenter.com.** Dec. 30, 6:30-8 p.m.: Jazz Funk Master class with Ruben Zapata, for ages 12 and up. \$18 per person. Registration required.

**Picture Us Different Dance Studio,** 1011 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. (847) 692-3600. Professional and nonprofessional classes for ages 3 to adult in tap, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical ballet and classical ballet/pointe.

**Squares Sunday Evening Club** holds ballroom dances from 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. Admission is \$8 for members; \$9 guests. Dec. 28: Pre-New Year's Eve Dance, with music by Chuck and Friends. Jan. 4: The Dick Elliot Orchestra. Jan. 18: The Music Men. **Square Spares & Pairs Square Dance Club,** a club for couples and singles, dances the second and fourth Mondays of the month all year long at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Rounds start at 7:30 p.m., with squares from 8-10 p.m. For information, call (773) 775-9427 or (708) 442-8646. Square dance lessons are held from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**Tuesdays** at the Glen Park Center, Room 201, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview. First lesson is free. Jan. 12: "We Will Be Fine in '09." Jan. 26: "Wheel & Deal in Winter" and Chili Nite.

**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 non-members. 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](http://www.swingncountry.org) or call (847) 638-7621.

DINING

**Schaefer's,** 9965 Gross Point Road, Skokie. (847) 673-5711. Dec. 27, noon-4 p.m.: Schaefer's 28th annual Champagnefest, featuring sparkling wines from Italy, Spain, France and California. In addition, a variety of caviars, cheeses, patés and hors d'oeuvres from Schaefer's food department will be served. \$10 donation at the door benefits the Skokie Fire Department's "Boot Day" to help needy local families.

FILM

**Morton Grove Public Library,** 6140 Lincoln Ave. (847) 965-4220. Dec. 19, 2 p.m.: "Young at Heart," rated PG. Dec. 22, 2 p.m.: "Eat, Drink, Man, Woman," rated R. In Chinese with English subtitles. Dec. 27, 1 p.m.:

"Toy Story," rated G. Dec. 27, 2:30 p.m.; "Wall E," rated G. Dec. 30, 11:30 a.m.; "The Ultimate Gift," rated PG.

LECTURES

**Morton Grove Public Library,** 6140 Lincoln Ave. (847) 965-4220. Dec. 23, 11:30 a.m.: "Biography of Sherrill Milnes." Jack Diamond presents a biography and musical excerpts from the life of Sherrill Milnes, an American operatic baritone most popular for his Verdi roles.

ORGANIZATIONS

**The American Jewish Artists Club** is currently accepting new members. The group, founded in the early 1920s, focuses on the broad aspects of artistic performance and serves to enrich the cultural fiber of both the Jewish community and the wider general community. For information, call Liva Ayal. (773) 743-0469.

**Des Plaines Art Guild** meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 Thacker St., Des Plaines. New members are welcome. For information, call Margaret Newman. (847) 824-8952, or visit [www.dpag.org](http://www.dpag.org). Jan. 13: Sylvia Westgard will present a colored pencil demonstration.

**Des Plaines Camera Club** meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, September through June, in the Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines. Call (847) 384-9487 or visit [www.desplainscameraclub.com](http://www.desplainscameraclub.com).

go., PAGE B22

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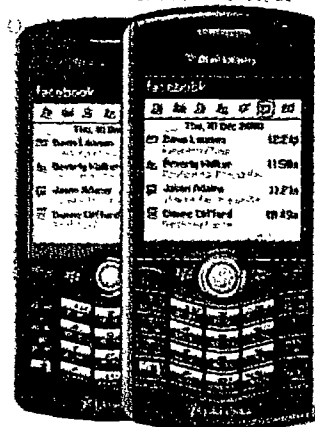
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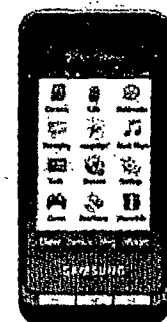


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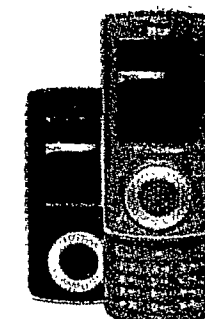
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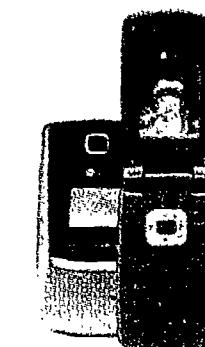


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**go.**  
Continued from PAGE B18

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 Festival of Cultures organizing committee meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday of the month at the Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie, November through February, and then every one to two weeks until the festival, to be held May 15-16. New members and cultural representatives are welcome. For information, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2715, or visit [www.SkokieCultureFest.org](http://www.SkokieCultureFest.org).

Skokie Photographic Society meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 W. Oakton St. All levels of photographers welcome. Call (847) 677-8324.

Weavers Guild of the North Shore meets at 10 a.m. the first Thursday of the month at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. New members are welcome. Call Lou Spedale, (773) 274-6505, or e-mail [manouli@people.com](mailto:manouli@people.com).

**TOURS & OUTINGS**

Norwood Park Historical Society, 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago, (773) 631-4633. [www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org). The Norwood Park Historical Society, a nonprofit organization, resides in the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, Chicago's oldest home. Hours are noon-4 p.m. Saturdays, or by appointment. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

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

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

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

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

**ET CETERA**

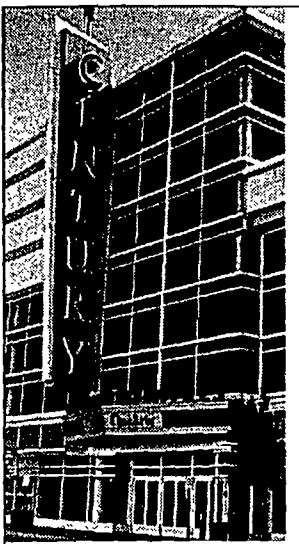

Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or (312) 559-1212; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601. Feb. 21, 3 p.m.: Smucker's Stars on Ice present "On the Edge," featuring Sasha Cohen and Evan Lysacek. Tickets start at \$25.

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

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, (847) 905-1500. [www.musicinst.org](http://www.musicinst.org). Jan. 4, 4 p.m.: "The Art of Survival: Portraits of Hope in Times of Tyranny," a concert and lecture. Learn about the art, music and poetry of the Holocaust, including the story of composer, conductor and former president of the Music Institute of Chicago, Herbert Zipper. Free. Jan. 11, 4 p.m.: "Power, Patriotism and Protest: Where Music and Politics Intersect," a look at music in response to various political events in history. Free. Jan. 18, 4 p.m.: "Voices Carry: The Strength of a Vocal Community." Explore the history and influence of songs from the civil rights movement in a free lecture and concert by the Brotherhood Choral of the Apostolic Church of God.

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  - 5 Decorate glass
  - 9 Tight Oven feature
  - 19 Hodgepodge
  - 20 "Star Trek" navigator
  - 21 Really big star?
  - 22 Florida city
  - 23 Legendary drummer?
  - 26 Boxer Roberto
  - 27 Alpha opposite
  - 28 Use the microwave
  - 29 — Pan Alley
  - 31 Cable channel
  - 32 Vote in
  - 34 Use a dagger
  - 38 Shadowy site?
  - 41 "La Traviata" tenor
  - 44 Musty
  - 45 Family car
  - 46 Dutch painter
  - 47 Spine start
  - 49 Fountain order
  - 51 Shoe measurement
  - 54 "Xanadu" rockers
- 55** Revolutionary War hero?
- 59** Nest egg
- 60** Madame Curie
- 62** Gelid
- 63** Rock's — Maiden
- 64** Word form for "center"
- 65** Wrapped up
- 68** Gymnast Korbut
- 71** Overdo a tan
- 72** Caravansary
- 73** Safe place?
- 75** Syndicated film critic?
- 78** Tizzy
- 79** Circle section
- 80** Paella ingredient
- 81** Wordy Webster
- 82** Actor Reeves
- 84** Sprawl on the sofa
- 85** Computer image
- 86** "Winter of Artifice" author
- 88** Terra —
- 91** Aspin or Paul
- 92** "It's Too Late" singer?
- 98** Letters of credit?
- 99** Move through mud
- 101** Part of NB
- 102** Literary contraction
- 103** A real Swede guy
- 104** Nick of "Cannery Row"
- 107** "The — Man" (72 song)
- 109** Most laconic
- 111** Vietnam's — Van Thieu
- 112** Painter Paul
- 113** Baker's appliance
- 114** Taradiddle
- 115** Fall behind
- 117** Coup d'—
- 119** Gary of "The Buddy Holly Story"
- 123** City on the Mohawk
- 126** "I Dream of Jeannie" star?
- 131** Flynn of films
- 132** Psychedelic
- 133** Poorly Timothy
- 134** Sundance's sweetie
- 135** Slick
- 136** Violinist Mischa
- 137** — majesty
- 138** Groucho's gaze
- DOWN**
- 1 Timber wolf
  - 2 Grad
  - 3 Lie low
  - 4 Hammerstein's partner
  - 5 Seer's gift
  - 6 Arnold or Brutus
  - 7 Influence
  - 8 Clean your ears?
  - 9 Alphabet sequence
  - 10 "Ben- —"
  - 11 Funnyman Phillips
  - 12 Be adjacent to
  - 13 Pocket flowers?
  - 14 Director Browning
  - 15 Hosp. area
  - 16 "Captain Ron" star?
  - 17 Serengeti springer
  - 18 Be bombastic
  - 24 81 Across' alma mater
  - 25 Gnat or brat
  - 30 Comic Louis
  - 33 — St. Vincent Millay
  - 35 Rpm indicator
  - 36 South African plant
  - 37 Composer Bartok
  - 39 "The Perfect Fool" comic
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  - 94 And more of the same
  - 95 Lion's pride
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  - 125 Kensington quaff
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Answers: inside today's classified section  
 See the Web for the horoscope, www.pioneerlocal.com

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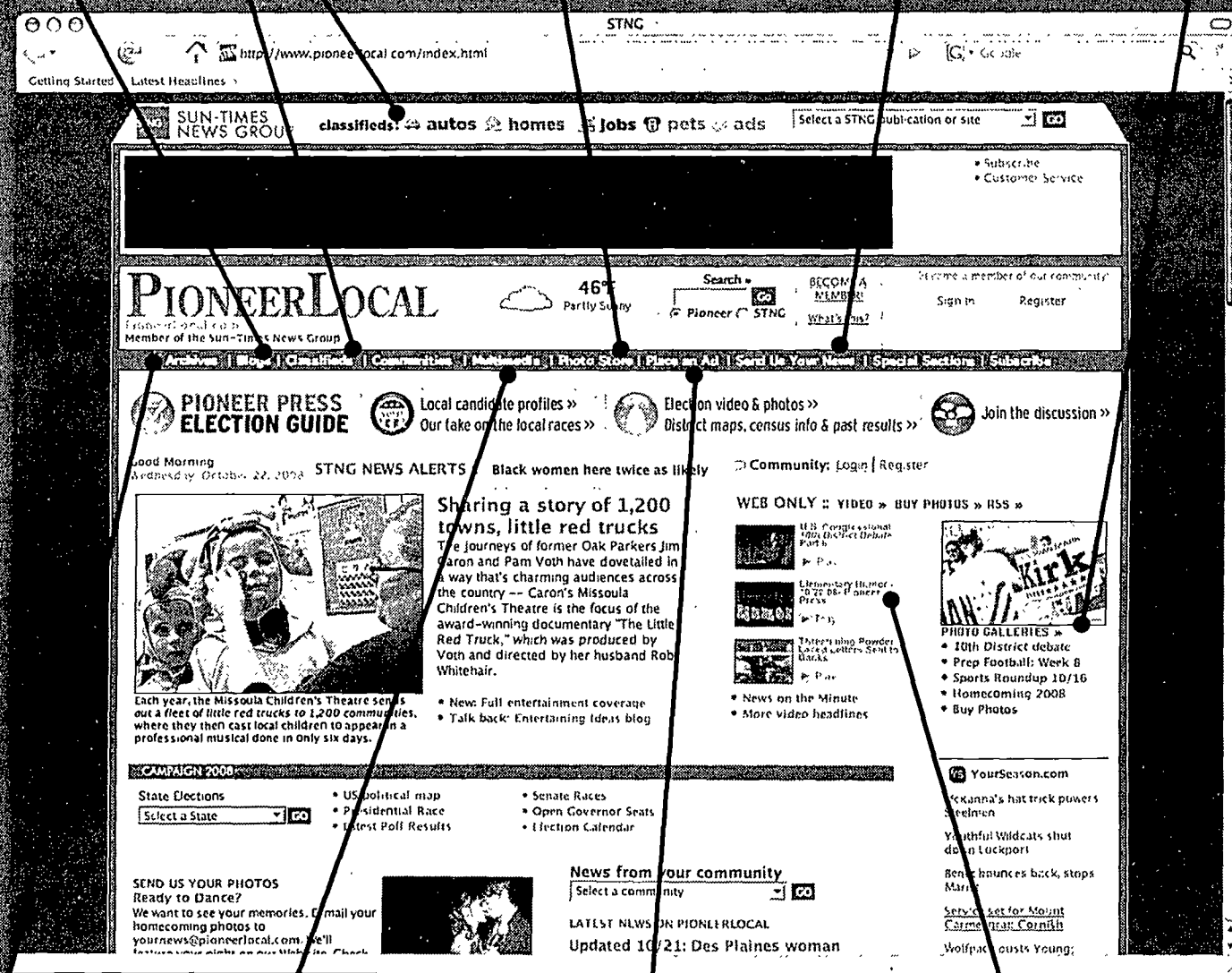
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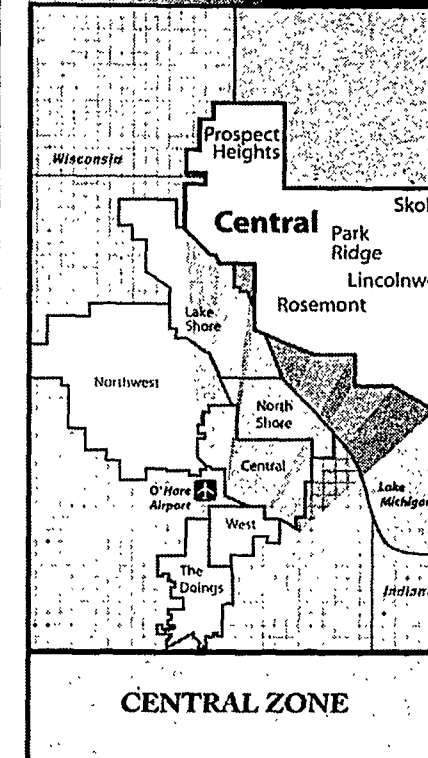
Legal Ads: 5:00 pm Monday  
Classified Display Ads: 5:00 pm Mon  
Logos or Artwork: 5:00 pm Mon  
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Please check your ad: The publisher will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Pioneer Press Classified must be notified before the second insertion.

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**SINGLE MOM**  
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**RETIRED SWF...**  
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NGUYEN KLEE MIXER
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ERROL LEARY ILLY ETTA
LODGE ELMAN LESE LEER

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for Issue December 24/25
Deadline Monday, December, 22
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1008- Assumed Name

Assumed Name

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to an Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of or transaction of business in the State, as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D0811536 on December 12, 2008. Under the Assumed Name of:

WINDY CITY EQUIPMENT with the business located at 1516 Elmhurst Rd. Suite #171, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Kelly Klingbeil, 1926 Prairie Square #221, Schaumburg, IL 60173.

Published in Pioneer Press 12/18, 12/25/08, 1/1/09 (1656504) C

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EXECUTIVE MEDICAL BILLING SERVICE with the business located at 241 Golf Mill Cntr, #729, Niles, IL 60714. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Monahan, Jane Stepien, 3500 Glenview, #203, Blaine, IL 60026.

Published in Pioneer Press 12/18, 12/25/08, 1/1/09 (1657665) C

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RT STUCCO PRO with the business located at 3922 N. Pittsburgh Ave., Chicago, IL 60634. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Rafal Tarowski, 3922 N. Fremont St. #49, Chicago, IL 60657.

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JDR SOLUTIONS with the business located at 2424 N. Mozart Apt. 1, Chicago, IL 60647. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Gerold J. De Los Reyes, 2424 N. Mozart Apt. 1, Chicago, IL 60647.

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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to an Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of or transaction of business in the State, as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D0811540 on December 12, 2008. Under the Assumed Name of:

DAREK CONSTRUCTION with the business located at 2156 W. Cullum Ave., Apt. 3, Chicago, IL 60641. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Nancy Nord, 5156 W. George Street, Chicago, IL 60641.

Published in Pioneer Press 12/18, 12/25/08, 1/1/09 (1656599) C

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1008- Assumed Name

Assumed Name

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PIT FLOORING with the business located at 722 W. Dempster, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Piotr Michalek, 722 W. Dempster, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056.

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1008- Assumed Name

Assumed Name

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to an Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of or transaction of business in the State, as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D0811542 on December 12, 2008. Under the Assumed Name of:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, the undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on December 29, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. on the premises where said property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage/PS Orange Co., 708 W. Central Rd., Mt. Prospect, IL 60056, the personal property described below, in the matters of:

Unit Name Contents

042 James Cook Couch, coffee table

061 Carlos Fernin Toys

183 Eric Palomara Floor lamp, tool box, portable tv, vacuum Table lamp, suitcase

Published in Pioneer Press 12/18, 12/18/08 (1652931) C

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, the undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on December 29, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. on the premises where said property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage/PS Orange Co., 5733 North Broadway St., Chicago, IL 60664-4301, the personal property described below, in the matters of:

SPACE # OCCUPANT CONTENTS

0167 Boslick, Michael Bags, boxes

0268 Buckner, Larry Boxes

0392 Cheryl, Balisa Boxes, clothing

0712 Smith, Errol Boxes

Published in Pioneer Press 12/18, 12/18/08 (1652931) C

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, the undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on December 29, 2008 at 1:00 P.M. on the premises where said property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage/PS Orange Co., 430 N. Clark, Chicago, IL the personal property described below, in the matters of:

SPACE # NAME CONTENTS

0044 John Sullivan Bicycle, headboard

0057 James Beulich Boxes, kitchen chair

0040 Chris Stewart Boxes, pictures, table

0152 Bill Kozlowski Boxes, pictures, table

0016 Casey Lock Table, office chair

C132 April Adams Bags, suitcase, table

C133 Rosie Jones Boxes, bags

D045 Michael Cashman Shelves, table

0045 Georgina Asare vacuum

D077 Shaban Babagala Bags, clothing, suitcase

A032 Andrew Grant Bicycle, dresser, TV, sofa

A047 Lisa Wallenstein Chair, couch, table

B015 Brian Shatone Boxes, boxes

D099 Velka Vlog Boxes, boxes

C008 Murry Duke Boxes, boxes

C164 John Edwards Boxes, boxes

C164 Philis Robinson vacuum

Published in Pioneer Press 12/18, 12/18/08 (1654020) C

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, the undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on December 30, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. on the premises where said property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage/PS Orange Co., 430 N. Clark, Chicago, IL the personal property described below, in the matters of:

Unit Name Contents

0001 Phillip Michelle Lamp, table, record player

2155 Srirand Theresa Kitchen chair, baby chair, boxes

2173 Hunter Lucius Air conditioner, boxes, boxes

3189 Mulvaney Elizabeth Bags, boxes, table

0136 Asotun Gbenga Bags, suitcase

3111 Martin Greg Fish tank, ladder refrigerator

3186 Masters Marky Boxes, dresser, office chair

5077 James Darrell Boxes, fish tank

0051 Smith Joseph Boxes

3028 Binder Lindsay Sofa, exercise bike, suitcase, kitchen appliances

3028 Pineda Luis Suitcase, kitchen appliances

0041 Girma Heran Boxes, mirrors

0114 Robertson Kenneth Boxes, boxes

0142 McCorkle Sheneeth Boxes, mattress, portable TV, sofa

0158 Wright Loues A. Boxes, fish tank, table

3046 Foodstuffs Piberman Jay Boxes, fish tank

3046 Lisa Lida Bike, suitcase, boxes, beach chair

0049 Brenda Whitmore Boxes, boxes, table

2036 Nguyen Tuvi Boxes

3032 Fehly Association Air conditioner, boxes

6010 Guerra Ann Marie Floor lamp, microwave, boxes

5079 Nishimoto Henry Boxes, sofa, table, ladder

3044 Brown Andre Bags, boxes, table

3070 Ade Floga George Mattress, refrigerator, boxspring

3090 Farris Harold Desk, boxes, sofa

0076 Edward Cornell Boxes, boxes, sofa

3158 Shaw Stella Desk, boxes, table

2166 Fahy Association Fan, bags, boxes

0044 Fohlin Kristin Boxes, boxes, table

4006 Shelton Delores Boxes

5011 Tuonadeo Paula Boxes, portable TV, boxes, table

5011 James Carol Boxes, bags, table

2190 Marquetta Marriell Boxes, radio, suitcase

4058 Murphy Hazel Boxes, folding chair

1048 Grace Cheryl Bags, microwave

3001 Borwin Sheila Boxes, boxes, table

2059 Myers Jennifer Boxes, bags, boxes

3001 Mitchell Paula Boxes

2197 Wessel Svele Boxes, bike, boxes, speakers

3012 Szekczak Kimerly Kitchen chair, sofa, boxspring, lamp, mattress

5055 Wexsell Natsenan Boxes, boxes, table

0147 McCullough Dorese Boxes, mattress, computer

5012 Joell Rebbecca Boxes, boxes, table

1064 Heit Eugene Boxes, boxes, table

Published in Pioneer Press 12/18, 12/18/08 (1653990) C

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Assumed Name

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to an Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of or transaction of business in the State, as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D0811546 on December 12, 2008. Under the Assumed Name of:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, the undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on December 30, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. on the premises where said property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage/PS Orange Co., 430 N. Clark, Chicago, IL the personal property described below, in the matters of:

Unit Name Contents

2155 Srirand Theresa Kitchen chair, baby chair, boxes

2173 Hunter Lucius Air conditioner, boxes, boxes

3189 Mulvaney Elizabeth Bags, boxes, table

0136 Asotun Gbenga Bags, suitcase

3111 Martin Greg Fish tank, ladder refrigerator

3186 Masters Marky Boxes, dresser, office chair

5077 James Darrell Boxes, fish tank

0051 Smith Joseph Boxes

3028 Binder Lindsay Sofa, exercise bike, suitcase, kitchen appliances

3028 Pineda Luis Suitcase, kitchen appliances

0041 Girma Heran Boxes, mirrors

0114 Robertson Kenneth Boxes, boxes

0142 McCorkle Sheneeth Boxes, mattress, portable TV, sofa

0158 Wright Loues A. Boxes, fish tank, table

3046 Foodstuffs Piberman Jay Boxes, fish tank

3046 Lisa Lida Bike, suitcase, boxes, beach chair

0049 Brenda Whitmore Boxes, boxes, table

2036 Nguyen Tuvi Boxes

3032 Fehly Association Air conditioner, boxes

6010 Guerra Ann Marie Floor lamp, microwave, boxes

5079 Nishimoto Henry Boxes, sofa, table, ladder

3044 Brown Andre Bags, boxes, table

3070 Ade Floga George Mattress, refrigerator, boxspring

3090 Farris Harold Desk, boxes, sofa

0076 Edward Cornell Boxes, boxes, sofa

3158 Shaw Stella Desk, boxes, table

2166 Fahy Association Fan, bags, boxes

0044 Fohlin Kristin Boxes, boxes, table

4006 Shelton Delores Boxes

5011 Tuonadeo Paula Boxes, portable TV, boxes, table





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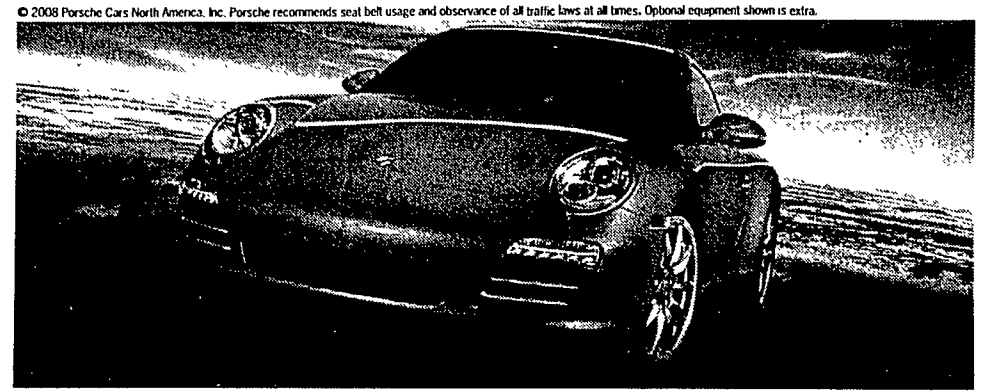
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# Schools

Continued from PAGE 20

At Roosevelt School, 1001 S. Fairview, Park Ridge, the first performance will be in the auditorium at 10:30 a.m. today (Dec. 18) for Kindergarten AM, grade 2 (Rooms 213, 217 and 219) and grade 5 (Rooms 312 and 317). At 1:30 p.m., students in Kindergarten PM, grade 2 (Rooms 211 and 212) and grade 5 (Rooms 309, 313 and 315) will perform. On Friday at 10:30 a.m., students in grade 1 (Rooms 105, 120 and 123), grade 3 (Rooms 202 and 204) and grade 4 (Rooms 305 and 306) will sing. The final concert at 1:30 p.m. will include students from grade 1 (Room 121 and 122), grade 3 (Rooms 201 and 203) and grade 4 (Rooms 301, 302 and 303).

At Field School, 707 Wisner, younger students in grades Kindergarten, 1 and 2 will perform today (Dec. 18) in the north gym. Families of students whose last names end in A - L and Kindergarten AM are invited to hear a prelude beginning at 9:30 a.m. leading to a 10 a.m. program. The afternoon program will begin at 1 p.m. for families of students whose last names end in M-Z and all Kindergarten PM students. On Friday, Field's older students in grades 3-5 will perform an environmentally minded musical, "Santa Goes Green." A 9:30 a.m. prelude leading to a 10 a.m. performance is offered for families of students whose last names end in A-L. Families of students whose last names end in M-Z are invited to a 1 p.m. prelude leading to a 1:30 p.m. performance.

District 64 middle school students offered a full schedule of evening performances. At Emerson Middle School, 8101 N. Cumberland, Niles, instrumental music groups performed Tuesday. A choral concert was slated for Dec.

11.

At Lincoln Middle School, 200 S. Lincoln, instrumental groups had a concert Dec. 11 and a choral concert on Wednesday.

Additional middle school instrumental performances have already been held.

◆ ◆ ◆

**Parents of children** enrolled in Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 schools can be informed of school closings due to inclement weather through the following means:

■ Parents will receive an Alert Now recorded phone message at the number they provided to their child's school.

■ District 64's web site, [www.d64.org](http://www.d64.org) will provide information of school closures, as will [www.weatherclosings.com](http://www.weatherclosings.com).

■ Parents can call District 64's main phone line at (847) 318-4300 for a recorded announcement.

■ Announcements will be broadcast on most local TV and news radio stations and web sites.

## District 207

**The Maine West Speech and Performance Team** performed well at its last meet Nov. 22 at Lake Forest High School. West's team placed first out of 24 teams competing. Students winning individual awards were Ben Enggas, Teresa Morrissey, Janice Kulka, Kyle Kolling, Shaif Yusuf, Mike Aryman, Eduardo Marquez, Jenna Payne, Katie Cullotta, Ha Khong, Joe Baumgartner, Sean Hansen, Shilpa Simon, Raquel Lopez, Caitlyn Garrett, Teddy Nykiel and Erin O'Hagan.

## Maine South

**Any Maine High School** South student who knows that guffaw means "heartily laugh" can — with a mouse click — donate 20 grains of rice to help alleviate hunger.

Twenty grains isn't much? No, but if scores of students are going online and applying their vocabulary knowledge, then the pile of grain — and the amount of hunger relief — quickly mounts.

That's what Matt Parrilli, Maine South English Department chairman, and South's English teachers and students decided, returning from Thanksgiving break to embark on a three-week-long campaign to fight hunger. They are doing so through FreeRice.com, sponsored by the United Nations World Food Program and the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University.

Those sponsors, along with Poverty.com have established FreeRice.com, whose mechanics are as simple as they sound. Every time a visitor answers a multiple-choice vocabulary question correctly, sponsors pay for an additional 20 grains of rice. Visitors may play as long as they choose; the site uses each visitor's answers to make adjustments and present a degree of difficulty that matches the visitor's skill.

"English teacher Alex Stathakis introduced me to the Web site last December and we decided to try it out with a modest goal of 500,000 grains of rice. By the end of the drive we shattered our goal by donating over four million grains of rice. The campaign also raised student awareness about hunger and just may have increased their vocabularies a bit," Parrilli said. "Since the drive has such a positive global and local impact, the English Department is excited to undertake it again this year and see if we can surpass last year's total donation."

Strong vocabularies, as FreeRice notes, benefit students in many and varied ways, from improving reading comprehension and boosting test scores to

improving their performance in class presentations and job interviews.

According to the Web site visitors to FreeRice have generated enough rice purchases to feed 2 million people since October 2007.

## Oakton

**Oakton Community College** will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 4 for winter break. Normal hours of operation for in-person registration and student services will resume Jan. 5 at the Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road, and Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

Students may register in-person for the spring 2009 semester 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays; and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Students also may apply and register at [www.oakton.edu](http://www.oakton.edu). Students with a current application, or who have attended Oakton in the past three years, may register at [myoakton.edu](http://myoakton.edu). Classes will begin Jan. 20.

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

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**Registration is open** for free English as a Second Language classes sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board. Offered through the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at Oakton, these classes teach listening, speaking, reading and writing skills to adults 16 years and older.

Day and evening classes will start the week of Jan. 5. Students must register in-person with proper identification and a Social Security number, if available.

Registration for evening ESL classes will be held: 7-9:30 p.m. Jan. 5 at Maine West High School, 1765 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines, and Niles North High

School, 9800 Lawler Ave., Skokie; 6:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 6 at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood; 6:30-9 p.m. Jan. 6 at Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston; 7-9:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at Glenbrook South High School, 4000 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, Maine East High School, 2601 Dempster St., Park Ridge, and Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie.

Registration for daytime ESL classes will be held: 8:50-11:30 a.m. Jan. 6 at First Congregational Church, 766 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines; 9:15-11:45 a.m. Jan. 6 at Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston; 12:20-3 p.m. Jan. 6 at Niles Community Church, 7401 Oakton St., Niles; 9:15-11:55 a.m. Jan. 7 at Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie; 2-4 p.m. Jan. 14 at Center for Professional Development, Old Orchard Mall, 34 Old Orchard Center, Suite E34, Skokie.

A complete schedule of ESL class days and times will be available at registration. For more information call (847) 635-1426.

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**Experience the flavor** and history of South America's wines on a travel/study tour offered by Oakton. The 10-day trip will depart Nov. 11. The tour is led by Paul Grosso, Oakton accounting instructor and treasurer of the Chicago Gourmet Club.

In Chile visit Colchagua Valley, a fertile expanse often compared to Napa Valley, and treat yourself to red wines created only in the climate of the Andean Valley. Go to Argentina's wine country and tour wineries featuring the country's most famous wine, Malbec. Finally, in Buenos Aires, visit the city where the tango was born.

For complete itineraries and information about upcoming 2009 tours, call Bea Cornelissen, (847) 635-

1812, or go to [www.oakton.edu/news/first/travel.htm](http://www.oakton.edu/news/first/travel.htm).

## Resurrection

The 2007-08 staff of the Resurrection High School student news magazine, The Res Banner, received an International Second Place Award from Quill and Scroll, an international honorary society for high school journalists. The Res Banner was awarded this achievement rating as part of the 2008 News Media Evaluation Service.

The Res Banner is a student publication distributed to all students, faculty and staff of Resurrection High School with a total print run of 1,200. The news magazine serves as a public forum for expression and communication for the school.

## St. Juliana

**St. Juliana Elementary School**, Chicago, has released its first-quarter honor roll.

### First Honors

**Eighth graders:** Emily Conway, Rose McBride, Molly Murphy.

### Second Honors

**Eighth graders:** John Buchanan, Jordan Burgos, Brianna Cirrincione, Daniel Curley, Christopher Florine, Justin Halloran, William Hirsch, Gino Jacobazzi, Brooke Kehoe, Veronica Kittle-Kamp, Teresa Lally, Cyril Lapinig, Jihye Lee, Theresa LoBianco, Nicholas Lodding, Michelle McGlenn, Kayleigh McInerney, Briana Rabiola, Sarah Udelhofen, Lindsay Welch, Elizabeth Wittenberg, Joseph Zaccagnini.

**Seventh graders:** Martin Bargo, Rory Cusack, Patrick Dillon, Martin Durkan, Rachel Gotsch, Mary Kate Herion, Christian LaBuda, Daniel Martinus, Aran McDonald, Grace Moriarty, Clair Murphy, Sarah Novosel, Alexander Nunes, Thomas

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# Food

HUNGRY FOR MORE? Find more recipes on the Web [www.pioneerlocal.com](http://www.pioneerlocal.com).

# cookbooks of 2008

## Top volumes to use and peruse for recipes and techniques

◆ **BakeWise: The Hows and Whys of Successful Baking** (Scribner).

Food writer Shirley Corriher's latest well-researched "tell all" does for bakers what her earlier volume, *CoolWise*, did for home cooks.

She gives readers the tools to get them on the path to excellent baking, whether the project involves cookies or cakes, pies or breads.

Corriher draws on her science background in order to help bakers avert common disasters, from fallen cakes to curdled sauces to unduly dry cupcakes. Recipes come with hint boxes, "What This Recipe Shows," that function as valuable problem solvers — before things get out of hand. This is a book to return to for its recipes (Memorable Silky Chocolate Meringue Pie) and techniques (the art of kneading bread or making the perfect egg-white foams and meringues).

◆ **Jacques Pepin: More Fast Food My Way** (Houghton Mifflin).

Though he holds France's highest cooking honor and has become a culinary icon in this country, Jacques Pepin is no food snob. His latest book, directed at neophyte cooks and those look-

ing to shave time at the stove, shows how simple is best. He wonders: As long as you're using fresh, high-quality ingredients in your recipes, why snub canned foods such as sardines and cannellini beans?

Pepin shares hints on speedily creating Lamb Curry with a pressure cooker versus more conventional methods. He touts the food processor for quickly slicing under-appreciated Brussels sprouts for a fricassee and explains the advantages of adding instant mashed potato flakes to his Cream of Leek and Mushroom Soup. And when unexpected company shows up, he tells how to get Roasted Split Chicken with Mustard Crust on the table within half an hour.

◆ **Simply Organic** (Chronicle Books).

California food writer and restaurateur Jesse Ziff Cool uses this book as a meditation on a time before processed foods reigned, when vine-ripened

tomatoes were pesticide-free and hormone-free milk and meats the norm rather than the exception. Cool offers practical insight on how home cooks might apply some of the healthy-eating principles of the past as they prepare meals for their families. Her book, organized by seasons, is full of handsome photography and appealing recipes like Curry Carrot Soup with Wasabi Cream, Vegetable Stew with Polenta and Asia Chicken Salad.

Among other noteworthy 2008 titles to tempt home cooks are:

◆ **Second Helpings of Roast Chicken** (Hyperion). This is the encore to English chef Simon Hopkinson's 2005 "Roast Chicken and Other Stories," which was deemed "the most useful cookbook of all time" by British food experts. The short essays are as engaging and entertaining as the recipes are useful, reliable and often inspired. No glitzy photos.

◆ **Art of the Slow Cooker** (Chronicle Books). Teacher, food writer and consultant Andrew Schloss casts the slow cooker in a new light, showing busy cooks its versatility not

only with soups, stews and braised dishes but with cassoulet, slow-cooked banana bread pudding and even meatloaf.

◆ **Bon Appetit, Y'All** (Ten Speed Press). Virginia Willis is a French-trained chef who hails from a long line of dedicated Southern cooks. Find in her book contemporary, refined recipes for buttermilk corn-

bread, spicy okra and tomatoes, Savannah-style marinated shrimp and seafood gumbo.

◆ **Market Vegetarian** (Ryland, Peters & Small). Ross Dobson, an Australian food writer, serves up more than 80 recipes ranging from tasty shareable bites (potato and parsnip croquettes) to Saturday night company fare (tagliatelle with portobello mushrooms, chestnuts and chives) that vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike can enjoy. It's enough to prompt cooks to head out in search of the best organic produce they can find.

◆ **Alinea** (Ten-Speed Press). Molecular gastronomist Grant Achatz dazzles foodies with pioneering, over-the-top fare at Alinea, his restaurant in Chicago. The costly (\$50), 396-page book, with some recipes going on for multiple pages and often requiring specialized equipment and ingredients, has more than 400 gallery-quality photos. Cookbook or coffee table book? You decide.

See Tom Witom's "What's Cooking" commentary on cookbooks appearing the first and third weeks each month at [www.pioneerlocal.com](http://www.pioneerlocal.com).

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

By TOM WITOM Contributor

Our love affair with food is fed by a staggering number of cookbooks churned out by publishers each year.

The ground they cover is all-encompassing, from ethnic and regional cuisines to single-subject volumes and bulky basic primers. The shelves sag with books dealing with casseroles and cupcakes, tarts and terrines, soups and spices.

Celebrity chefs, meat, vegetable, dessert, health, grill and other gurus get their say too.

Keeping up with the torrent is impossible. So any listing of 2008's "Best Cookbooks" is bound to be subjective — and this roundup is no exception.

The underlying criteria including usability, clarity and creativity all influenced which volumes made the cut. Here are five potential stocking-stuffers that stood out, along with a bonus five also worth knowing:

◆ **Home Cooking with Charlie Trotter** (Ten Speed Press).

Acclaimed Chicago chef Charlie Trotter is an undisputed master at making food reach esoteric heights. What he does in his restaurant is amazing, and best left to his well-honed professional skills. But in this book, Trotter maintains high standards with an assortment of ap-

proachable, straightforward recipes and readily available ingredients. Examples include crab cakes with sweet curry-red bell pepper sauce, apple-curry chicken and quinoa salad and warm apple-date tart with honey-caramel sauce. For those with more time on their hands, Trotter tells how to make a number of stocks and reductions.

◆ **O, The Oprah Magazine Cookbook** (Hyperion).

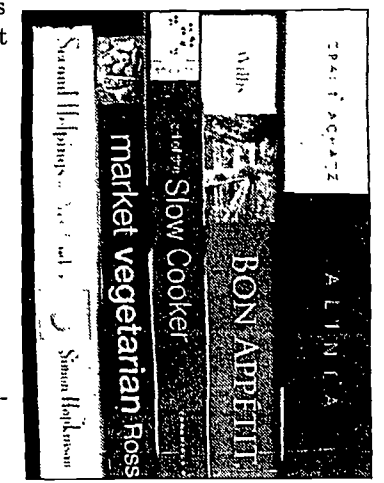
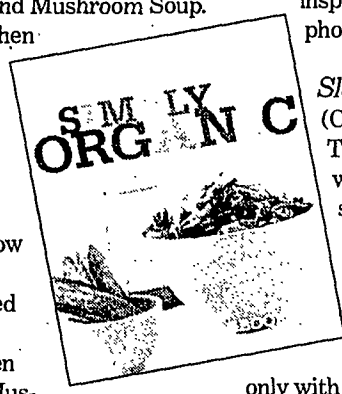
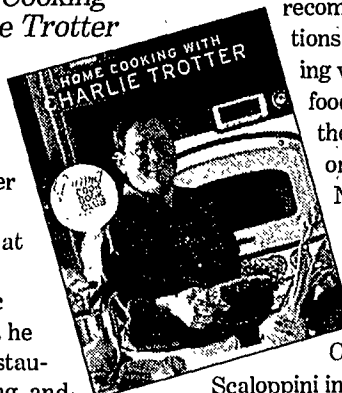
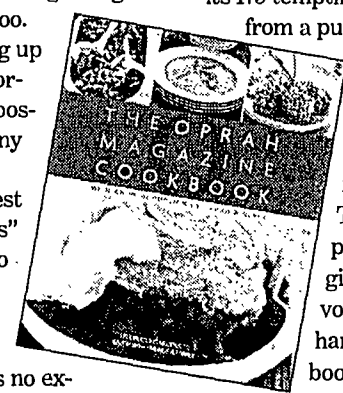
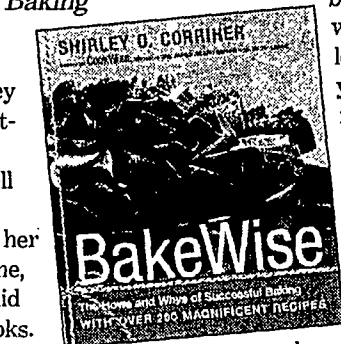
Drawing on another highly visible Chicago connection, this book draws its 175 tempting recipes

from a publication said to attract a monthly readership of some 16 million.

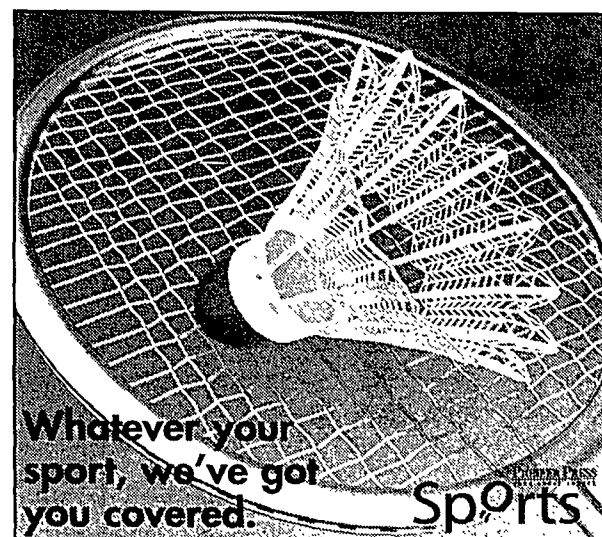
Though not part of that legion, we can vouch for the handsome cookbook with a foreword by Oprah herself, lush photography and a superb collection of everyday recipes for all occasions from more than 60 chefs and food writers.

In addition, the book includes interviews with successful culinary maestros, some sample menus and recommendations for pairing wine and food. Among the dishes is one from New York chef Rori Trovato for

Chicken Scaloppini in a Pine Nut-Parmesan Crust. He says it's "like chicken fingers for adults," a description that's right on the mark.







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Assorted Marconi Tomatoes \$1.29 Ea. 28 Oz.	Domino Sugar \$1.99 Ea. 4 Lb.	Diamond Shelled Walnuts \$4.99 Ea. 1 Lb.	Moshefilero Boutari Wine \$10.99 Ea. 750 ml

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### Peek

Continued from PAGE 19

cepting applications for the Board of Directors positions for the upcoming year. Board member terms are three years. Interested members should contact Katie DiMaria, Executive Director (847) 268-8180, for more information.

### CLASSES

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

### CLUBS

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

**LeTip International**, a business networking organization, recently opened a new local chapter. Area professionals seeking new leads, networking opportunities and valuable business tips are invited to join the group, which meets every Thursday at 7:01

a.m. at Omega, 9100 W. Golf Road in Niles. At each meeting, members exchange qualified business referrals, build professional relationships, create alliances, develop public speaking skills and take turns promoting their products and services. Fellow members serve as your sales force, providing access to clients you would not otherwise be able to contact. Also, in every LeTip chapter, each business category is represented by one member to prevent conflicts of interest (once you join, your competition cannot). To learn more about the Des Plaines/Mount Prospect/Niles chapter of LeTip, contact Janet Hansen at (815) 728-1483 or at jvhansen@letip.com. For more information on LeTip, visit www.LeTip.com.

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

**The Knights of Columbus** provides ways for members to help others in the community while trying to improve their family and

spiritual lives. During the next few weeks the North American Martyrs Council, Niles, will offer several opportunities to have a Catholic man or woman learn about membership in the organization. For more information contact Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920.

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

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

**The Jerseypine Cruisers** Motorcycle Touring Club meets at 7:45 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Des Plaines Elks Club, lower level, 495 Lee St. (two blocks north of Route 14), Des Plaines. Jerseypine Cruisers' Sunday Breakfast Rides leave

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### Schools

Continued from PAGE 58

O'Donnell, Kevin O'Grady, Emily Okresik, Kevin O'Malley, Erik Pechnick, Daniel Proano, Kelsey Reardon, Max Ryan, Brendan Staunton, Emily Toomey, Blair Wallace, Ryan Young.

**Sixth graders:** Emily Blomquist, Annie Brandstrader, Brigid Broderick, Morgan Browne, William Byrne, Matthew Curley, Mary Dillon, Daniel Ellingsen, Rory Pegan, Marie Fiorito, Carly Florine, Molly Flynn, Kerry Foley, Liam Gladwin,

Amanda Jacobazzi, Grace Kealy, Joseph McCormick, Maeve McCormick, Caitlin McEnery, William Moriarty, Patrick Mulkerin, Allison O'Malley, Brian O'Malley, Patrick O'Malley, Brianna Olivella, Trevor Rahlfs, Robert Ryan, Kenneth Serwa, Matthew Smith, Elizabeth Soria, Mathew Szafoni, Melissa Valdez, Katherine Weber.

### Academic Honors

**Fifth-graders:** Claire Broderick, Jessica Burgos, Nora Byrne, Erin Callahan, Olivia Canova, Joey Cisneros, Giuliana Conte, Claire Donnelly, Daniel Durkan, Mary Pat French, Madeline Ganz, Izabela

Giglione, Brendan Heneghan, Christina Heylin, Dylan Jaeger, Christopher Kohl, Michael LoBianco, Patrick MacGregor, Meaghan Mackey, Ann Martin, Brianna McGann, Hugh McGing, Daniel Mendoza, Melissa Miller, Eileen Mulroe, Thomas Murphy, James Oddo, Matt O'Donnell, Adam Olczesik, Josephine O'Shaughnessy, Michael Panico, Eric Pritt, Kayla Reardon, Matt Schaedel, Bridget Schnoor, Mary Farnes Schore, Thomas Simon, Amanda Smiglia, Mark Smolinski, Kyle Steffen, Anne Sugrue, Neil Udelhofen.

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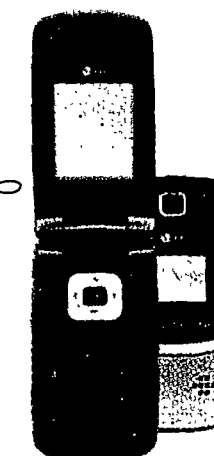
LG UX300 Camera and Bluetooth® Technology

UP TO FIVE 1¢ EACH

New 2-yr. agmts. required. \$30 act. fees may apply.

Save over \$150 each instantly.

Available in Blue or Silver.



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Let us help you find a location: visit [uscellular.com](http://uscellular.com) or call 1-888-BUY-USCC

Things we want you to know: Offer valid on plans of \$39.95 per month or higher. New two-year agreement (subject to early termination fee), credit approval and a \$30 activation fee required. 96¢ Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee applies; this is not a tax or government-required charge. Additional fees, taxes, terms, conditions and coverage areas apply and vary by plan, service and phone. Use of service constitutes acceptance of the terms of our Customer Service Agreement. See store for details or visit [uscellular.com](http://uscellular.com). Unlimited National Plan: Customers must have a billing address within U.S. Cellular's Wide Calling Area to be eligible. U.S. Cellular reserves the right to terminate your service if less than 50% of your overall minutes in each of three consecutive billing cycles is used in U.S. Cellular's Wide Calling Area. The Unlimited National Plan may not be used for conference calling. Call Forwarding, monitoring services, transmission of data, broadcasts or recorded material, or other connections that do not consist of uninterrupted live dialogue between two persons. The Unlimited National Family Plan requires a minimum of two lines at \$149.98 per month. Maximum of five lines per account. 30-Day Guarantee: Customer is responsible for any usage charges incurred prior to return. Phone must be returned undamaged in the original packaging. Contract Renewals: Customers who have completed at least 18 months of a two-year agreement are eligible for promotional equipment pricing. See store for eligibility. Promotional Phone subject to change. U.S. Cellular Visa Debit Card issued by MetaBank pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Allow 10-12 weeks for processing. Card does not have cash access and can be used at any merchant location that accepts Visa Debit Cards. Card valid for 120 days after issued. \$9.95 unlimited easedge access plan applies. Limited-time offer. Trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. ©2008 U.S. Cellular.

**Peek**

Continued from PAGE 60

at 9 a.m. from McDonald's Restaurant at Oakton and Lee streets in Des Plaines. Rides are usually 25 to 85 miles. Call Betty, (708) 366-3822, or Joe, (847) 217-5876, for more information. Visit [www.jerseypinecruisers.org](http://www.jerseypinecruisers.org).

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

**COMMUNITY**

**The Forest Preserve District of Cook County's 2009 calendar** is now available for free to the general public by pick-up or by mail. Interested individuals can pick one up in several ways: visit the FPDCC's Permits and Recreation

Department, 536 N. Harlem, Ave., Chicago, 60305; visit Hal Tyrell Trailside Museum, 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest or the Mathew Bieszczat Volunteer Resource Center, 6100 N. Central Ave., Chicago. Calendar seekers can also obtain a calendar by mailing a 9- by 12-inch self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$1.68 postage to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, 536 N. Harlem Ave., River Forest, IL 60305, ATTN: Calendar Giveaway. Allow five business days for internal processing of their request. For more information regarding the FPDCC, visit [www.soclose2you.org](http://www.soclose2you.org).

**FITNESS CENTER**

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

To ensure that a child is placed in the appropriate Learn-to-Swim class, all new participants must at-

tend a Placement Test. Children will be tested on their swimming skills and advised to which class level to register for. Participation in this class does not guarantee child a spot in the Learn-To-Swim program. Placement testing dates are 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 23 and 30; 9 to 11 a.m. Dec. 27; 7 to 8 p.m. Dec. 29. Fees are \$5, members; \$8, nonmembers.

**Friday Night Fun** for ages 5 to 11 will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 19. Kids will enjoy an evening filled with swimming, gym, crafts, snack and more. Cost is \$10, members; \$15, nonmembers.

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

**Cardio Fusion:** Cardiovascular workout with muscle shaping, using interval Step, plyometrics, Kickboxing or BOSU com-

binations with strength training. Finish with core work and stretch; intermediate to advance.

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

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

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

**Lite & Fit:** Perfect for the mature adult. Work at your own pace - a combination of low impact (with some high intensity) aero-

bics. May include basic step, stability ball work, and body toning with ab and back strengthening; beginner to intermediate.

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

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

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

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

Saturdays; and 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Niles Family Fitness Center**, 987 Civic Center Drive, is conducting registration for children's classes which begin the week of Jan. 18. For class schedule go to [www.nilesfitness.com](http://www.nilesfitness.com), or call (847) 588-8400.

**Aqua Antics**, 1 to 5 years. Play group in the pool! non-instructional swim class is designed to help children become comfortable in the water. Splash around while participating in active songs and circle fun. Water toys will be available. Parent/child. **Mini Picasso's**, 18 months to 3-years: toddler to explore their creative side with painting, play dough and bubbles. Class may be messy, so dress accordingly. Parent/child. **Romp, Stomp & Roll**, 10- to 20-months. This class is a social experience for both parent and child. Mats, balls, tunnels and age appropriate toys will be offered in this active free play class. Your toddler can climb, jump and roll around in our carpeted multi-purpose room. Parent/child. **Me Two 2 years.** Stories, music and art to ease fears and encourage independence in a semi-structured environment. Child only. **Mini Sportsters**, 2 to 4 years. An introductory sports class for your active toddler. Try out a different sport each week. Have fun while getting fit. Parent/child. **Tumble Bees**, 2 to 4 years. Introduction to basic tumbling skills by participating in activities that teach gross motor skills and organized movement. Basic introduction to the balance beam, floor and horizontal bar. Parent/child.

**Our Lady of Ransom** Parish in Niles is selling Entertainment 2009 Books for \$20. Discounts cover a variety of areas, including travel, restaurants, car rentals, movie theaters and hotel discounts. The sale benefits the parish. To get a book contact Josephine Bax, (847) 823-2550.

**Phyllis C. Sugar**, a certified Laughing Yoga leader; will lead "Laughing Yoga - It's Fun and Healthy!" at 1 p.m. Dec. 20 at Rush North Shore Medical Center, Kenton-Knox Building Conference Room 114, 9700 Kenton Ave., Skokie. She will guide participants in laughing and breathing exercises, which can remove negative effects of stress, increase oxygen supply to cells, boost the immune system and make one feel good. Admission is free. For more information, call Sugar at (847) 477-4784.

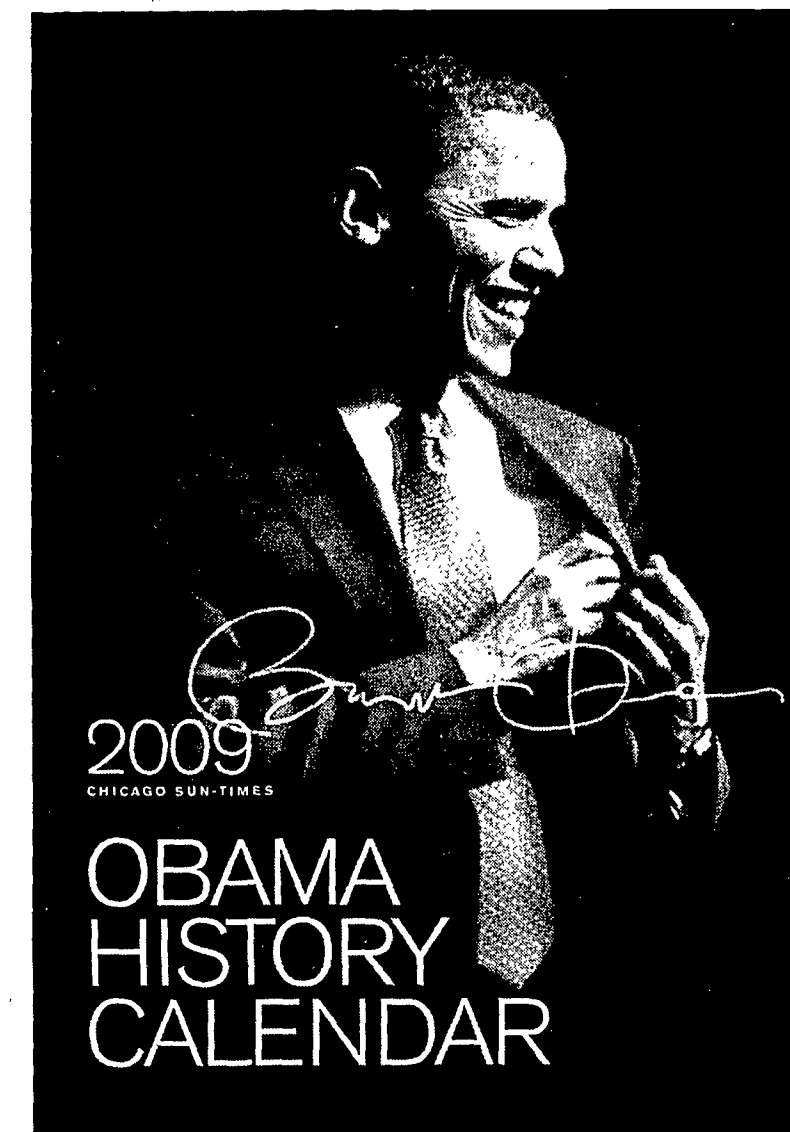
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Get yours today



Offer ends on December 23rd, 2008!

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2009 OBAMA HISTORY CALENDAR COUPON

Present this coupon at any of the Sun-Times News Group locations below Monday thru Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm and purchase your Obama History Calendar for only \$4.95\*!

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Beacon News/Naperville Sun 495 N. Commons Dr., Ste. 200 Aurora, IL 60504	Lake County News-Sun 2383 N. Delany Rd. Waukegan, IL 60087	Post-Tribune 1433 E. 83rd Ave. Merrillville, IN 46410	Pioneer Press 3701 W. Lake Ave. Glenview, IL 60026

\*PLUS TAX. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. Offer ends on December 23rd, 2008. Coupons may not be reproduced. One discounted calendar per coupon. Calendars may be purchased for \$9.95 without a coupon at the same locations, while supplies last. All calendar purchases are nonrefundable. Void where prohibited. Cash redemption value of this coupon is 1/100th of 1 cent.

Attention people with Medicare

**Beat the holiday rush!**

The end of the year is the time to select your Medicare plan for 2009. So don't delay! Make your choice now and join the plan that best meets your needs.

Not sure which Medicare plan is right for you?  
**Let Humana help.**

We offer a variety of Medicare Advantage health plans and prescription drug plans, and we can provide guidance to help you find the one that suits you best.

Call us today for information, or for a personal consultation in the convenience of your home  
**1-800-372-7216 • TTY 1-877-833-4486**  
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Medicare-approved HMO, PPO, PDP and PFFS plans available to anyone entitled to Part A or enrolled in Part B of Medicare through age or disability (for MA plans, individuals must have both Part A and Part B). Enrollment period restrictions apply; call Humana for details.

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# Weekly Worship

**CHICAGO**  
**Edison Park**  
**United Methodist Church**  
 6740 North Oliphant Avenue  
 Chicago, IL 60631  
 Phone: (773) 792-3030 Fax: (773) 792-3031  
[www.edisonparkumc.com](http://www.edisonparkumc.com)  
 Email: [pastor@edisonparkumc.com](mailto:pastor@edisonparkumc.com)

Worship Days & Hours  
 Sundays, 10:30 a.m.  
 Potluck, 11:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School for Preschoolers & Nursery Age Bible Study, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. & Fridays, 7:00 p.m.  
 Youth (HighSchool) Bible Study, Sunday 1:00 p.m.  
 Young Adults Bible Study, Sunday, 12:00 p.m.  
 Choir Practice: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.  
 Susannah Wesley Club (Women's Group) Meets once a month on 4th Tuesday of the month.  
 Youth Worship Sunday, 3rd Sunday of every month  
 Pastor, Rev. Jerry Miller Organist, Dana Samova Musical/Youth Director, Noralyn Baroja Senior Exercise Class, Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30 a.m.  
 Fellowship Hall James Downing Theatre Performances  
 Edison Park United Methodist Church is a church with Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.  
 Chair Lift Available Parking in Rear.

**The Edgebrook Church**  
 6155 W. Touhy Avenue  
 (773) 631-1155  
<http://edgebrookchurch.org>  
 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
 Ensemble Practice, Wednesday 6:30 p.m.  
 Praise, Prayer & Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 p.m.  
 Pastor Phil Ostwald

**Bethel Community Church**  
 7601 W. Foster Ave. (773) 775-2355  
[www.bethelcommunity.org](http://www.bethelcommunity.org)  
 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
 Encounter Gathering: Sunday 6:00 p.m.  
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study - 9:45 a.m.  
 Senior Pastor—Pastor Paul Jordan  
 Associate Pastor—Pastor Rob Bukowski  
 Student Ministries—Pastor Shawa Clarke  
 Music & Worship—Pastor Andy Clifton  
 Childcare available for all services.  
 Seniors & Women's Bible Studies September thru May.  
 Call for information or see the website.

**CHICAGO**  
**Norwood Park Lutheran Church—ELCA**  
 5917 N. Nina Avenue (at Nickerson)  
 (773) 631-2860  
 Sunday Services—10:00 a.m.  
 Holy Communion celebrated 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays  
 Service of the Word on 2nd & 4th Sundays.  
 Sunday Church School—9:00 a.m. (with Confirmation Ministry)  
 Unstaffed Nursery available Sunday from 9:45–11:00 a.m.  
 Rev. Robert C. Johnson, Pastor  
 Joyce M. Kissenger, Director of Music  
 Children's Sermons 2nd Sunday of the Month  
 "Celebrating God's grace and mercy for over 86 years in old Norwood Park."

**"Our Lady Mother of the Church"**  
 8701 W. Lawrence Avenue (773) 625-3369  
[www.ourladymotherchurch.com](http://www.ourladymotherchurch.com)  
[olmotherchurch@aol.com](mailto:olmotherchurch@aol.com)  
 Mass Schedule:  
 Weekdays Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.  
 Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11 a.m.  
 Sunday 11:00 a.m. Young People's Liturgy of the Word  
 Holy Days 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Perpetual Help Novena  
 Eucharistic Adoration First Fridays 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.  
 Saturday Confession 4:00—4:30 p.m.  
 Baptism 2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month  
 Rev. Richard J. Klajbor, Pastor

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Norwood-Park LCMS**  
 6099 N. Northcott Ave.  
 (at Nickerson & Hood Avenues)  
 (773) 631-1100 & (773) 631-1606  
[www.oslc3@sbcglobal.net](http://www.oslc3@sbcglobal.net)  
 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Wednesday  
 Worship Chapel Service at Norwood Crossing at 2:00 p.m.  
 6016 N. Nina Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631  
 Advent & Lenten Worship Services—Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
 Rev. Peter Berg

**St. Eugene Catholic Church**  
 7958 W. Foster Ave.  
 (773) 775-6659  
[www.st-eugene.org](http://www.st-eugene.org)  
 Daily Masses:  
 Mon thru Fri 6:30 & 9:00 a.m.

**CHICAGO**  
 Weekend Masses:  
 Sat-8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.,  
 Sun-7:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.  
 Confession: 4:00–5:00 p.m. Sat  
 Baptism:  
 1:00 p.m. 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month  
 Rev. George Koeune, Pastor;  
 Rev. Jerome Twarog, Associate Pastor;  
 Rev. Philip Grib, SJ, Resident

**St. James Lutheran Church**  
 7400 W. Foster Avenue  
 (773) 631-7666  
[www.stjamesonfoster.org](http://www.stjamesonfoster.org)  
 Sunday Morning Worship-10:00 a.m.  
 Call Church for Dates & Times for the Following Activities:  
 Jazzercise, Weight Watchers, Choir, Line-Dancing, A.A. Meetings, Girl Scouts  
 Pastor Susan Schneider

**St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church**  
 7033N. Moselle  
 (773) 763-0206  
[www.smow.org](http://www.smow.org)  
 Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m.  
 Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and noon  
 Weekday Masses  
 Mon-Fri 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.  
 Confession Saturday 3:30–4:15 p.m.  
 Holy Days Vigil 7:30 p.m.  
 Holy Days 6:30, 8:00, 9:00 am & 7:30pm  
 Rev. Gregory Sackowicz, Pastor  
 We have a Preschool (3yrs.Old) through 8th Grade School. And offer wonderful programs of Religious Education for Children and adults.

**St. Monica Catholic Church**  
 5136 N. Nottingham, (773) 763-1661  
[www.stmonicachicago.com](http://www.stmonicachicago.com)  
 Daily Mass: Mon – Fri 8:00 a.m.  
 Weekend Masses:  
 Saturday – 4:00 p.m.  
 Sunday – 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., and 12:00 p.m.  
 Polish Liturgy Mass: Sunday - 1:30 p.m.  
 Confessions: Saturday – 3:00 to 3:45 p.m.  
 Baptism: 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of the Month  
 Rev. Ted Schmitt, Pastor  
 Rev. Andrew Izyk, Associate Pastor  
 Fr. James O'Brien, In Residence  
 Fr. William Holbrook, In Residence  
[contactparish@stmonicachicago.com](mailto:contactparish@stmonicachicago.com)

**St. Eugene Catholic Church**  
 7958 W. Foster Ave.  
 (773) 775-6659  
[www.st-eugene.org](http://www.st-eugene.org)  
 Daily Masses:  
 Mon thru Fri 6:30 & 9:00 a.m.

**CHICAGO**  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
 5650N. Canfield, 60631  
 (708) 867-5044  
 Rev. Walt Schoenfuhs  
[www.stpaulcanfield.org](http://www.stpaulcanfield.org)  
 Street Level, Air Conditioned  
 Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.  
 Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30 a.m.  
 Saturday Worship 6:00 p.m.  
 St. Paul Lutheran Christian Day School  
 Pre-K—Grade 8  
 SHARING GOD, TOUCHING LIVES, EVERYWHERE

**Victory Worship Center**  
 3750 N. Neva  
 (773) 205-3787  
[www.victoryworshiponline.com](http://www.victoryworshiponline.com)  
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
 Friday Worship 7:30 p.m.  
 Youth Service Friday 7:30 p.m.  
 Christopher Lewis, Pastor  
 Rev. Ramona Dorsey

**Windy City Community Church**  
 6131 N. Newark Avenue  
 (773) 631-WCCC (9222)  
[www.windycitycommunitychurch.org](http://www.windycitycommunitychurch.org)  
 Sunday 10:00am Worship Service  
 Adult Sunday School 9:00a.m.  
 Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 Many Ministry Groups for All Ages  
 Senior Pastor Steve Story  
 Church Email—[wcccchgo@ameritech.net](mailto:wcccchgo@ameritech.net)

**DES PLANES**  
**St. Stephen Protomartyr Church**  
 1280 Prospect  
 (847) 824-2026  
 Hispanic Number (847) 824-7526  
[www.ststephen-desplaines.org](http://www.ststephen-desplaines.org)  
 Daily Mass—8:00 a.m.  
 Saturday Masses: 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Spanish Mass  
 Holy Day Masses:  
 7:00 & 9:00 a.m., 7:00 pm  
 Confessions: Saturday 4:00—4:30 p.m.  
 Rev. Gerald Rogala, Pastor  
 Rev. Flavio Gonzalez, Associate Pastor

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
 A reconciling in Christ Congregation Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 675 E. Algonquin Road (At Wolf Road)  
 847-827-6656  
[www.trinitydesplaines.org](http://www.trinitydesplaines.org)  
 Email: [trinityldp@ameritech.net](mailto:trinityldp@ameritech.net)  
 "In response to the love of Christ,

**DES PLANES**  
 all are welcome here."  
 Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.  
 Sunday worship 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
 Childcare provided during Sunday worship.  
 Sunday Adult Education 9:15 a.m.  
 Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
 Wednesday Trinity Activity Night offers Education, choirs and fellowship for all ages.  
 (please call for more information)  
 George M. Schelter, Senior Pastor  
 Leslie Williamson, Associate Pastor  
 Douglas S. Williams, Minister of Music  
 Cathy Williams, Sunday School Director

**MORTON GROVE**  
**St. Luke's Christian Community Church**  
 9233 Shamer Rd.  
 (847) 966-9233  
 Sunday Worship-10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School 11:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Teen Praise Band Rehearsal 11:00 a.m.  
 Choir Rehearsal Wednesday 7:30 p.m.  
 Youth Group Friday 8:00 p.m.  
 Praise Service Last Sunday of each month  
 Featuring our Praise B and Pastor Gordon Smith

**NILES**  
**Lutheran Church of the Resurrection**  
 8450 N. Sherman Rd. Niles IL, 60714  
 (847) 965-8210  
 Sunday (Sept.-June) 10:30 a.m.  
 (June-Sept) 9:30 a.m.  
 1st Sunday of Month: 7:30 p.m. - Jazz Vesper Service (Sept-June)  
 Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Anderson - Pastor  
 Carolyn N. Sanderson - Minister of Music  
 A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 St. Michael's Orthodox Church  
 7313 N. Waukegan Road, (847) 647-8398  
[www.stmichaelniles.org](http://www.stmichaelniles.org)  
 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Discover the ancient faith and rich traditions of the Orthodox Church—the first Christian Church—founded by the Lord Jesus Christ and described in the pages of The New Testament. Today her Apostolic doctrine, worship, and structure remain intact.

To List Your congregation please call Andrea Shumate at 847-486-7252  
 Changes can be faxed to her at 847-486-7456  
[ashumate@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:ashumate@pioneerlocal.com)

# Weekly Worship

**NORRIDGE**  
**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
 8600 W. Lawrence Ave.  
 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School 10:35 a.m.  
 Youth & Adult Bible Class Sunday 10:45 a.m.  
 Midweek Bible Study - Wednesday 10:30 a.m.  
 Luther John Bajus, Pastor  
 Communion service 3rd Sunday of every month  
 Choir practice Thursday 7:00 pm  
 708-453-3514 Fax 708-456-8818  
[www.zionnorrIDGE.org](http://www.zionnorrIDGE.org)

**PARK RIDGE**  
**First Baptist Church of Park Ridge**  
 1266 N. Northwest Highway  
 (Corner Potter Rd. and Northwest Hwy)  
 (847) 692-6101  
<http://fbch.park-ridge.il.us/>  
 Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. (Childcare provided)  
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
 Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
 Rev. Matthew K. Weber  
**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
 330 Touhy Ave. (847) 823-3329  
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 Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
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 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service  
 12:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour  
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[www.tbiskokie.org](http://www.tbiskokie.org)  
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 and Wednesdays 4:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
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 Hebrew School Grades 3 – 7  
 Tuesday 4:15 – 5:15 p.m.  
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Local Death Notices

Death Notices

Bonney, James E. Age 85, recently of Des Plaines, IL, formerly of Park Ridge, passed away December 8, 2008. Mr. Bonney was a 1947 graduate of Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He later worked at Maine South High School in Park Ridge as a guidance counselor and then became their Director of Guidance for 19 years. Before his tenure at Maine South High School he was a teacher and coach for 17 years at Crete-Monee High School, Crete, IL. Mr. Bonney was a World War II Veteran serving in the Army Air Corps. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Bette (nee Wells); Children: Jeanne Anne (Jim) MacDonald and Bill (Elaine) Bonney; Grandchildren: Scott MacDonald, Brooke Bonney, Kirsten and Vince Jones; Great-Grandchildren: Allison & Matthew Kleiner and Teegan MacDonald. A memorial service will be held on Monday, December 22, 2008, 11 a.m., at the First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, IL. Interment will be private. Memorials in lieu of flowers are appreciated to the First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge or the Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge, IL 60068. The Ryan-Parke Funeral Home, Park Ridge handled arrangements. Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com

Burval, Joseph S. Joseph S. Burval, age 97, a Park Ridge resident for 72 years, passed away December 8 in Park Ridge. He was born in Chicago December 31, 1911. Joseph was founder and a Blacksmith of JB Metal Works, Inc., in Des Plaines for over 70 years; member and past Americanism Chairman of Des Plaines Elks Lodge 1526; a member & Past President of the Rotary Club of Des Plaines; and active member of Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce. He loved bowling, fishing and car collecting - especially Ford Thunderbirds - during his retirement years. Loving husband to Evelyn Maria, nee Hasse; devoted father to Burdel A. Horner and Steven J. (Carole) Burval; dear grandfather of eight - Scott, Todd, Mark, Neal, Greg, Brent, Christopher, Heather & the late Gregory; loved nine great grandchildren; and had many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by siblings, the late Rose Bohatka, the late Charles (Hazel) Burval, and the late Frank (Gladys) Burval. Visitation and service were held Wednesday, December 10 at Oehler Funeral Home, 2099 Miner St., Des Plaines, 60046, with interment Friday, December 12, Evergreen Cemetery in Barrington. Memorial contributions to the Alzheimers Association, 8430 W. Bryn Mawr, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60631 appreciated. Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com

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Death Notices

Orr, Henry John Walton Henry John Walton Orr, age 72, of Skokie, formerly of Evanston, died December 9, 2008. He was born April 29, 1936 in Munford, Alabama, to Henry and Sarah Jamison-Orr. Henry served 1952-1961 in the United States Army where he studied and trained in the Military Police Unit. Henry traveled all over the world and served in the Korean War, before marrying Gethrell (Gaye) Roberts Orr from Belize, and making their home in Evanston. He is survived by his daughter and only child, Joani Orr Taylor of Skokie, and his beloved granddaughter Alexis Denise Taylor, 4 years old, whom he called his "Gucci Baby." Henry worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 31 years and was well-liked by everyone who knew him. Nicknamed "the captain" by his friends at the post office, Henry loved horse races, the outdoors, sporting events, and jazz and blues music. He was thrilled to become a grandfather in 2004. A private memorial service was held for family and friends on Sunday, December 14 at the Thompson Funeral Chapel in Evanston. The interment was private. A Celebration of Henry's Life will be held on Saturday, December 27, at 3:00 p.m., at the Ethical Humanist Society in Skokie. Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com

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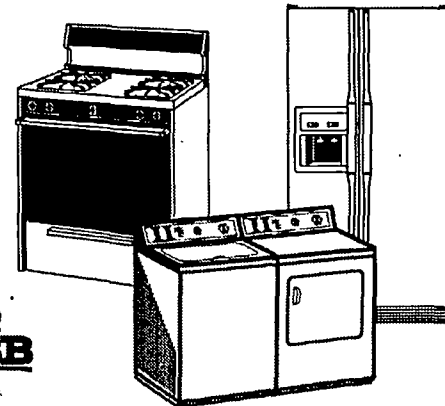
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### ICE HOCKEY

## Notre Dame freezes out pair of ranked foes

By **KEN KEENAN**  
kkeenan@pioneerlocal.com

The Notre Dame Ice Dons put two of its opponents into a deep freeze, defeating Prairie Ridge 2-1 and Fenwick 5-3 — and then forged a 2-2 tie with Crystal Lake South.

On Tuesday, the Dons played a nearly flawless game in nipping 10th-ranked Prairie Ridge. The win featured spectacular goaltending by **Ryan Maize** (32 saves) and a stifling defense, which cleared loose pucks from in front of the net.

Trailing 1-0 after the first period, Notre Dame scored on a rocket shot by **Kevin Orchard** — assisted by **Alex Murphy** and **Tom O'Brien**. The game-winner was scored by Murphy in the third period on a perfect pass from center

**Johnny Blas.**

Last Thursday, the Dons faced off against seventh-ranked Fenwick in a Catholic League tussle and were victorious 5-3. The Friars scored first on a power play goal and then watched Notre Dame take the lead and never give it up. **Jeremy Krautstrunk** was spectacular in net, moving side-to-side and exhibiting a quick glove and great leg-work in stopping 45 shots — many from point-blank range.

Scoring for the Dons were **Micah Orchard**, **Murphy**, **Tim VanDermeir** and **Kevin Orchard**, who had a pair of goals. Assists were credited to JV call-up **David Fabris**, **Orchard**, **Anthony Lupo**, **Mike Coca** and **Blas**, who had two helpers.

Playing in the Crystal Ice Palace Sunday night, the Dons skated to a 2-2 tie with favored Crystal Lake South on Senior Night. Notre Dame's goals were scored by **Blas** and **Coca**, with assists going to **Coca** and **Orchard**. **Maize** was outstanding in net, stopping 28 of 30 shots.

On Saturday, the Metro Central All-Star Game was played in Rolling Meadows. Representing the Ice Dons were **Krautstrunk**, **Lupo**, **Blas**, **VanDermeir** and **Kevin Orchard**.

The Dons play next with a rematch against Marist, in Orland Park on Friday, and at the South-west Ice Arena against fifth-ranked St. Rita on Sunday.

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### Dons

Continued from **PAGE 74**

sure defense with a lot of trapping. But our kids responded well. We had a 37-20 lead at halftime by playing pretty good defense ourselves."

**Mike DiGregorio** sparked the offensive attack with 20 points, which included 6-for-6 shooting at the free-throw line.

**Shawn Wallace** was right behind with 19 points, fol-

lowed by **Jimmy Martin** (15) and **Billy Hughes** (11).

On Friday night, the Dons lost a 60-57 overtime decision to East Suburban Catholic Conference and local rival St. Patrick.

"That was a tough one to lose," Les said. "We thought we had it (won) at the end of regulation. DiGregorio made a three-pointer to give us a (1-point) lead at the buzzer, but the officials waved it off."

The officials ruled that

DiGregorio had traveled, and regulation time ended in a 52-52 deadlock. In overtime, the host Shamrocks went ahead 55-52 when **Tim Traversa** scored and was fouled. Les protested and was hit with a technical foul. The Dons were then also given a bench technical.

**Hughes** led the way against St. Patrick as he poured in 25 points, while **Martin** added 11.

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### West

Continued from **PAGE 69**

and 17 from **Allie Guiang** off the bench.

The visit to the Titan Dome again brought out the best in **Guiang**, who scored 22 in a game there as a freshman but has

struggled offensively so far this season.

"I think **Allie's** really starting to find her shot," said **Konsewicz**. "But I'd love to know what **Glenbrook South** shot as a team. They were really on fire and they executed well. Even the girls agreed that we weren't focused that

night, not on the bus or in the pre-game warmups. I'm really amazed by that because we seemed like we were prepared."

"We didn't give up and we played hard right until the end. But we just can't keep chasing teams like this and expect to win."

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# Girls Hoops Beat West not surprising league foes early on

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Opponents  
clamping down  
with defensive  
pressure

By **DENNIS MAHONEY**  
dmahoney@pioneerlocal.com

Even though his team hasn't been a factor lately in the Central Suburban League South chase, **Niles West** head coach **Tony Konsewicz** knew that with heralded incoming freshman **Jewel Loyd** in the starting lineup, the Wolves weren't going to sneak up on anyone this year.

New Trier and Glenbrook South weren't taken by surprise last week. Against two well-coached conference foes, **West** suffered a 46-23 loss to the Trevians — mustering only two points in the entire second half — and also dropped a 57-44 decision at South.

Not exactly the kind of start **Konsewicz** was hoping for in league play.

"Did I think we were going to win every conference game? Absolutely not," said the **West** coach after his team (8-3 overall) started the season with seven straight wins but now stands 0-3 in the CSL South. "To New Trier's credit, they really turned up the defensive pressure

on us in the second half. And against **Glenbrook South**, we still had a hang-over from that Tuesday game. It was like we never got off the bus."

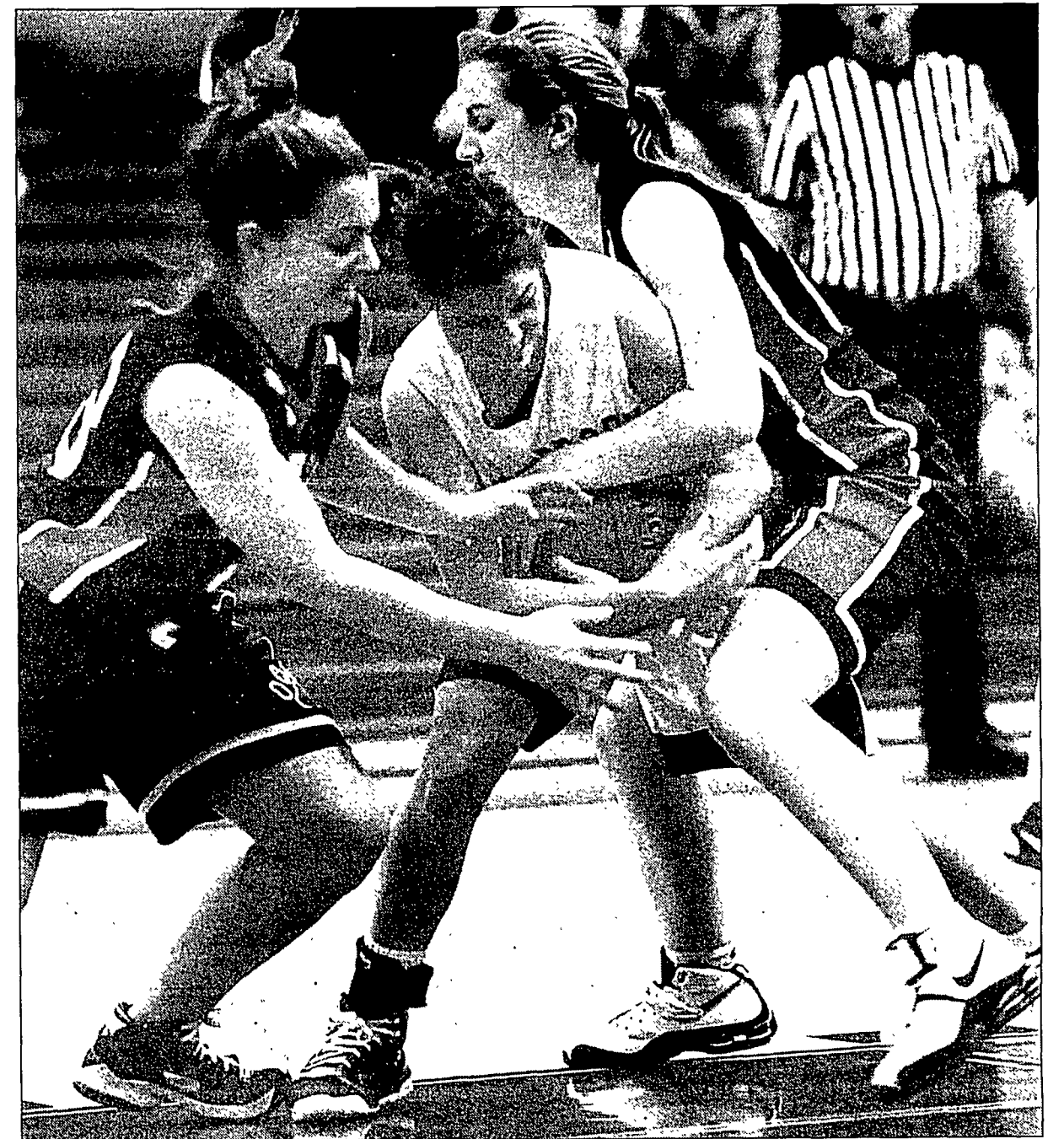
Coaches throughout the league take scouting seriously — unlike some in other girls basketball conferences who don't bother — and the fact that **New Trier** was able to take **Loyd** out of the scoring equation in the second half came as no surprise to anyone who watches the league closely.

**Loyd** did score nine points in the first quarter, but was limited to just one basket over the last three periods by **Trevian junior Molly Quirke**.

"I think **Quirke** is probably the best defensive player in the conference," said **Konsewicz**. "And for us to only score two points in the second half has to be a first. We turned the ball over and we took a lot of bad shots. They took us right out of our rhythm. We need to do a better job on offense and not hurry so many of our shots. Too many times we've settled for the first shot available — not the best shot."

At **Glenbrook South** on Friday, the Wolves fell behind 22-7 in the first half and never recovered despite 17 points from **Loyd**

West, **PAGE 68**



Glenbrook South's **Alex Massa** (center, with ball) tries to maintain possession as **Niles West's Jennie Dijohn** (left) and **Mary Cate Curran** close in during the Titans' 57-44 win Friday night.

ERIC DAVIS/FOR PIONEER PRESS

## Maine East's effort not lacking in loss to Niles North

By **JIM EDISON**  
jedison@pioneerlocal.com

The road continues to be a bumpy one for **East's** girls team.

The **Demons** (0-9) dropped two more

games last week as they fell at **Highland Park** 57-27 on Dec. 9 and then at **Niles North** 61-39 Friday. Coach **Karol Hanusiak** is hoping her team will start to jell as the upcoming **St. Viator**

Christmas Tournament approaches.

"We gave it a good try at **Niles North**," **Hanusiak** said. "North has been up and down this year, but they have a few very good players.

"We had outstanding play from **Laura Wise**. She was our scoring leader with 16 points and just made a lot of good decisions out there. And **Tiffany Jones** did a nice job of re-

bounding." The **Highland Park** game was simply a disappointing one in **Hanusiak's** opinion.

"We have a busy week and not a lot of time to get ready," **Hanusiak**

said. "We have two non-conference games and then host **Deerfield** (Friday at 7:30 p.m.) before we start the tournament on Saturday."

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# Swimming Beat

## Demons paddle to victory in final meet of 2008

www.pioneerlocal.com

By **JIM EDISON**  
jedison@pioneerlocal.com

It's fair to say that winning meets this winter will be no easy chore for Maine East's boys swimming team.

With the loss of numerous seniors from last year's lineup, the Demons are facing a clear case of rebuilding in 2008-09. So when coach Scott Guilfoil's squad toppled neighboring Notre Dame 126-32 in a nonconference meet in Park Ridge Friday,

is in the process of building up its program, was not a strong opponent, East's performance was dominating.

The Demons captured a slew of individual victories. Winners included **Steven Tom** in the 200-yard freestyle (2 minutes, 6.56 seconds) and 100 butterfly (1:10.60), **Danny Ward** in the 100 freestyle (57.25) and 100 backstroke (1:15.76), **Chris Scanlon** in the 200 individual medley (2:28.37), **Kyle Parker** in the 50 freestyle (28.32),



JEFF KRAGE/FOR PIONEER PRESS

"The guys were very happy to get one (a win). It kind of reaffirms the idea that hard work results in success."

Scott Guilfoil

there was much jubilation. "The guys were very happy to get one (a win)," Guilfoil said. "It kind of reaffirms the idea that hard work results in success."

While Notre Dame, which has a limited amount of swimmers and

**Derek Chavez** in the 500 freestyle (6:06.15), **Michael Cristino** in the 100 breaststroke (1:20.06) and **Jon Levinson** in diving (123.45 points).

East also swept the relay events with times of 2:07.08 in the 200 medley, 1:50.48 in the 200 freestyle

Maine East's Danny Ward competes in the 200-yard individual medley during a meet at Maine South Dec. 9.

and 4:10.65 in the 400 freestyle.

In their first dual meet of the campaign on Dec. 9, the Demons got thumped by crosstown rival Maine South 102-66. But while the host Hawks

won handily, East did have a few bright spots. Tom pulled out individual victories in the 50 freestyle (24.37) and 100 breaststroke (1:08.73). And the 200 freestyle relay team of Tom, Scanlon,

Ward and Chavez took first with a time of 1:41.30.

"We don't have another competition until after the first of the year when we go to the Elk Grove Invitational (Sat. Jan. 3)," Guil-

foil said. "So we have almost three weeks to practice. We'll work on our starts and turns and try to be ready for the second part of the season."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# Despite losing Ikeda, Vikings a deeper bunch

North sports veteran-laden crew

By **DAN CURRIER**  
dcurrier@pioneerlocal.com

Replacing a top swimmer such as **Will Ikeda** isn't easy. After all, the State finalist in the 100-yard breaststroke has his name all over the Vikings' record board.

Ikeda, who is now

swimming at the University of Illinois-Chicago and was recently named the Horizon League swimmer of the week, held six different school records in 2007-08. He was the top swimmer in the school's history, if not the top athlete in recent years.

"Losing Will was huge. We were a different team last year," said head coach **Seth Orlove**. "We had only a few solid individual swimmers with Will leading the way. This year,

we're deeper and more balanced."

Ikeda may be history, but Orlove welcomed back 14 swimmers, three with varsity experience. The other 11 came up from the JV squad.

"You can say we're a young team, but we have a new attitude and a bright future," Orlove said. "Our kids are motivated about the sport and our competitive level is much higher."

Niles North opened the

2008-09 dual-meet season with a 116-68 victory at Northside College Prep on Friday. On Saturday, host Zion-Benton edged Niles North 86-84.

This year's team will be led by senior **Courtney Berkowitz** and junior **Richard Gomez**. Throw in freshman **Ian Frendreis** and the Vikings have the beginnings of a team that's full of promise.

"We're setting a foundation," Orlove said. "They are working hard to set a

higher rate of success."

Berkowitz, who missed the State cut in the 50 freestyle, will again be featured in that event. Berkowitz also will swim in the 100 free, the 200 free relay and the 400 relay.

Gomez is targeted for the 100 butterfly, 500 freestyle and the 400 relay. Frendreis has been nursing a preseason leg injury. He has yet to swim competitively.

Other solid swimmers

expected to do well this season are **Jonathan Long** (50 free, 500 free), **Jeff deBettencourt** (100 butterfly), **Chris Moon** (100 free), **Alex Kite** (100 backstroke), **Matt Latin** (100 backstroke), and **Evan Hagedorn** (100 breaststroke).

Niles North will end 2008 with two home meets — against Niles West at 5 p.m. Friday and against St. Viator at 10 a.m. Saturday.

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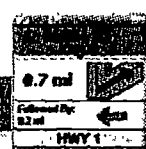
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# Wrestling Beat

ROUNDUP

## Demons pin down two wins in three matches

By **JIM EDISON**  
jedison@pioneerlocal.com

Emiliano Hernandez has been involved with the sport of wrestling for many years, both as a competitor and as East's coach.

So whether his team wins or loses, he knows when his athletes are turning in a good effort on the mat. That was the case this past week when the Demons notched wins against two out of three opponents.

On Friday night, East traveled to Niles North and beat the Vikings 56-30.

"Although we won," Hernandez said, "it was not a particularly good night for us. Niles North did not have a full lineup and forfeited 30 points (five weight classes).

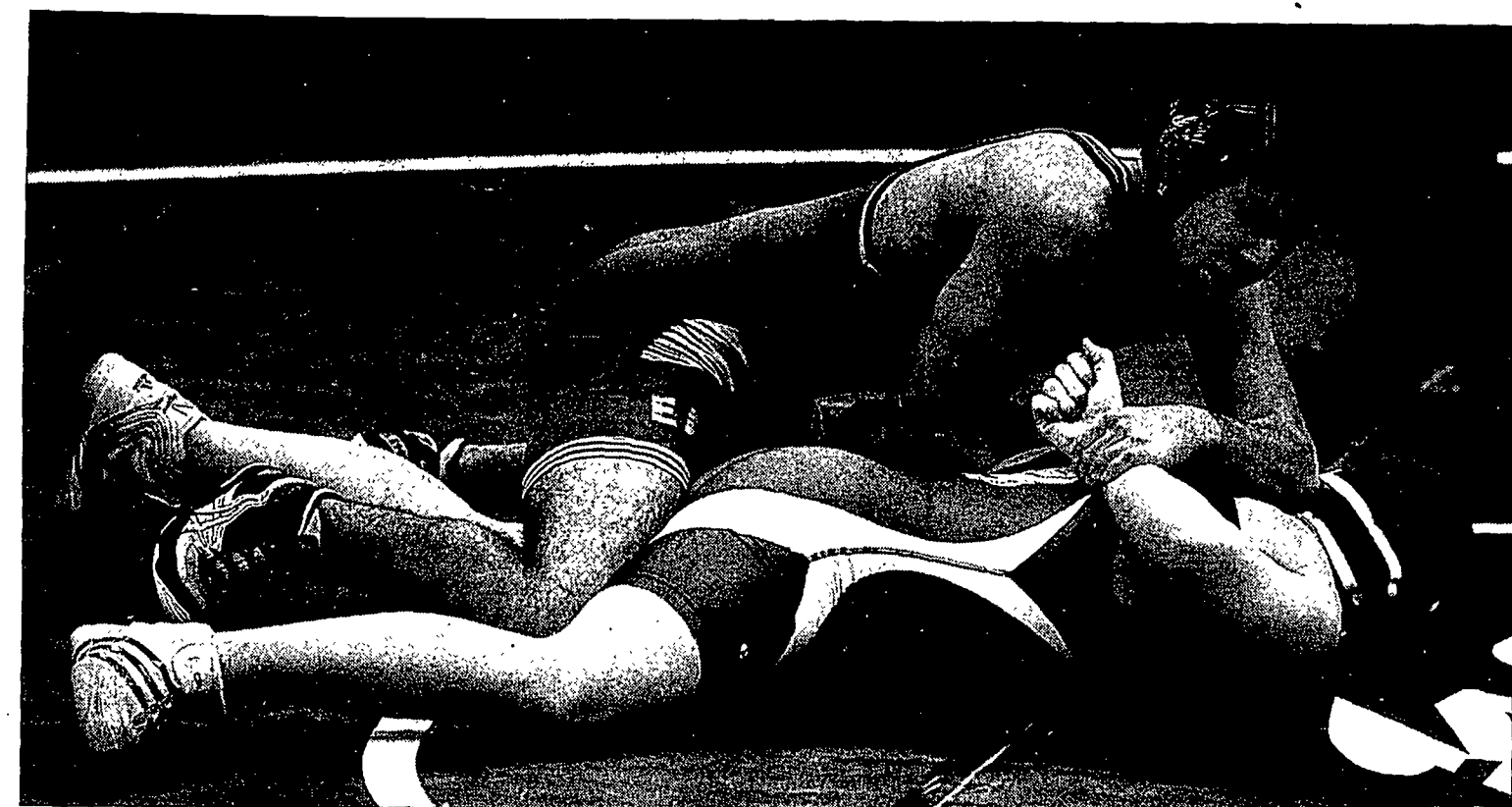
"On Saturday, even though we lost (49-27) to Riverside-Brookfield, we were very aggressive and competed well."

In the second round of Saturday's triangular meet in Park Ridge, the Demons crushed Lake View 82-12. Double winners for the weekend were **Jimmy Dickman** (119 pounds), **Cameron Davis** (145), **Louis Gomez** (152), **Jeremy Umansky** (171) and **Josh Myers** (189).

The Demons travel to Deerfield Friday for a 6 p.m. CSL North meet with the Warriors.

### NOTRE DAME

Veteran coach Augie Genovesi is patiently waiting for a little consistency from his team. So far, his squad has had more than its share of



Louis Gomez attempts to pin John Rosenberg at the Maine East wrestling quad meet at Maine East High School on Saturday.

ALLISON WILLIAMS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ups and downs.

"Here we are in the third week of the season and the rollercoaster ride is continuing," Genovesi said. "I thought we wrestled pretty tough Friday night at Joliet Catholic and was hoping we would have a little carryover for Saturday's Hoffman Estates Invite. But we only placed six wrestlers (out of 14 weight classes) at Hoffman. So needless to say, our coaching staff was not happy. I always mention my staff because I believe we are all equal. I am lucky to have Jim Cartwright here at ND, as well as Phil Chiowski and Ed Luety."

Following Friday's two-hour bus ride to Joliet Catholic, Genovesi's team got off to an impressive start as it crushed the host Hilltoppers 54-9. In the second

round of the ESCC double dual, however, things did not go as well as the Dons were edged by Marist 36-27.

On Saturday, at the 12-team HE tournament, Brian Ridge had the best result of the long day finishing second at 189 pounds. ND garnered fourth-place medals from Jim Wallenberg (140), Matt McNulty (145) and Eric Damlos (171). Other medalists were Denis Walsh (5th at 160) and Tim Donnelly (6th at 119).

### NILES WEST

**Bryan Wittersheim** would be the first to tell you not to be fooled by the standings in the Central Suburban League South chase.

Sure, the Niles West head coach is happy to be unbeaten in conference (2-0) after whipping

Waukegan 46-18 last week. But he also knows that the best teams in the league — Glenbrook South, New Trier and defending champion Maine South — are still looming on the schedule. Any momentum the Wolves might have had after handling Waukegan — thanks to three falls and three forfeits — stalled Saturday when the Wolves dropped decisions to Reavis 38-36, Rolling Meadows 30-22 and Mundelein 31-12, and plunged to 6-11 on the season.

West hosts Glenbrook South today at 6 p.m. with a chance to keep that conference record perfect. But Wittersheim said his squad will need a better effort than the one they turned in Saturday. "It was a massacre. It

was just ugly," said the West coach. "We had four guys out of the starting lineup (one injury, one disciplined, two for ACT testing) and we gave up 18 free points with forfeits to start with. That day was a reality check for us. We've got a heavyweight we can't depend on to make weight and some others we haven't been able to depend on, either. We did beat Evanston and Waukegan, but those aren't real good teams. We have to be realistic about it.

"GBS will be tough, but our scores against common opponents have been very similar. And we've got a shot to beat New Trier (Jan. 9), too. We have Maine South last and you never know what can happen by then."

Against Waukegan, pins by **Patrick Conrad** (140 pounds), **Michael Bahrmasel** (130) and **David Shields** (189) plus forfeit wins at 103, 119 and 125 made the difference.

On Saturday, the matchup with Reavis almost produced a come-from-behind win after the Wolves trailed 33-6 at one point in the dual. In the final bout, **Mustafa Salam** scored a 5-1 victory at 135 but the Wolves needed either a fall or a technical fall to pull out the team win.

After meeting GBS tonight, West will also participate in the Lake Park Invitational on Saturday.

Staff Reporter Dennis Mahoney contributed to this report.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# Sports

MANAGING EDITOR: Rick Hibbert  
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## CATCH THIS

### Baseball

Play Ball USA, 208 Graceland Ave. in Des Plaines, will hold two two-day holiday baseball camps.

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### Whiffleball

The first National Whiffleball Championship tournament will be held June 27-28, 2009 at the Skokie Park District's Channelside Park, a complex of 12 fields that is the largest in Illinois.

The Skokie Park District and the World Whiffleball Commission announced the formation of the tournament last summer. As a warmup, the Park District hosted the Chicagoland Whiffleball Championships in September.

The National Whiffleball Championship is a slow-pitch event, with the emphasis on defense, baserunning and the long ball. The tournament will lead up to the 30th annual World Whiffleball Championship, which will be played in Mishawaka (Ind.) the last weekend of July.

For recently updated World Whiffleball Championship information and news, visit the website at [www.whiffleball.org](http://www.whiffleball.org).

Tournament entry forms will be made available in February with the first 64 teams accepted. Contact Jim Bottorff at (847) 929-7171 or [JRBottorff@SkokieParkDistrict.org](mailto:JRBottorff@SkokieParkDistrict.org) for more information.

# Demons coast to 2 CSL North wins

By JIM EDISON  
jedison@pioneerlocal.com

Maine East's boys basketball players had the kind of week that only comes around once in a long while for most teams.

The Demons displayed outstanding defense, in addition to their impressive scoring ability, in a pair of Central Suburban League North games on their home court. East rolled over Highland Park 58-23 on Dec. 9 and then crushed Niles North 79-43 Friday night in raising its overall record to 5-2 and conference mark to 2-0.

The Demons, who will get back on the court Friday night at Deerfield in search of their third straight league victory, outscored their opponents 131-66 in the two contests. "It was a great way to start the conference season," Olson said of the win over HP. "And it was the lowest point score we ever held an opponent to since I have been coach (second year)."

East got out to a double-digit lead in the first quarter against Highland Park and increased its margin to 24-9 by halftime. The Demons then scored 20 points in the third period to put the game away. **Nuse Khan** sparked the offense with 15 points, while

## GAME MVP'S

Maine East 58  
Highland Park 23  
Nuse Khan: 15 points  
Shareq Khan: 14 points

Maine East 73  
Niles North 43  
Shareq Khan: 22 points  
Charles McKinney: 16 points  
Danhi Wilson: 13 points

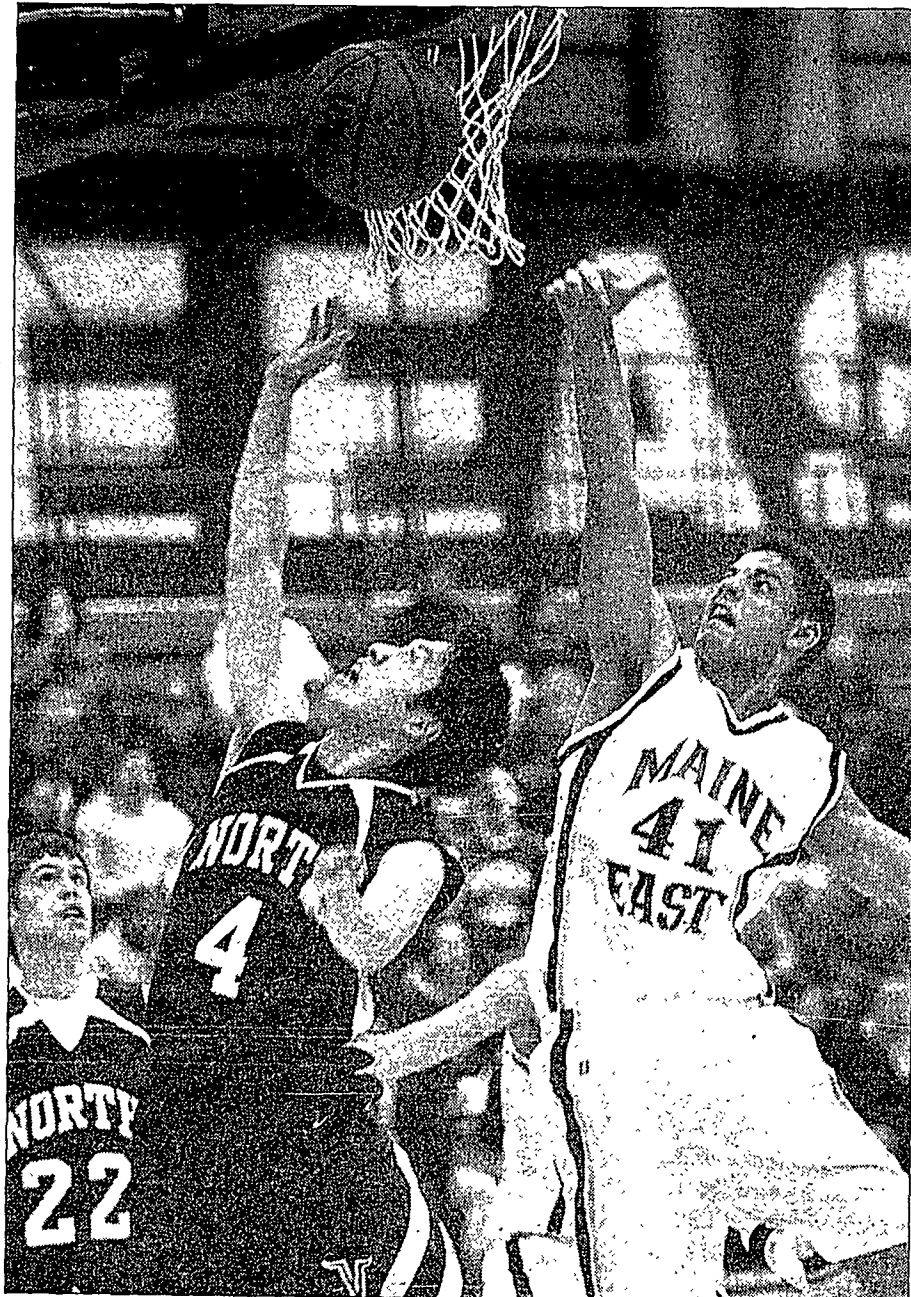
his brother **Shareq Khan** chipped in 14.

In Friday's meeting with Niles North, the Demons wasted no time in seizing control. The visiting Vikings were simply no match for East's offense and fell behind 26-8 by the end of the first quarter. Olson's team increased its lead to 40-19 at halftime and 59-29 by the end of three quarters.

Shareq Khan spearheaded the offense with 22 points, which included six three-pointers. **Charles McKinney** poured in 16 points, while **Danhi Wilson** added 13 and Nuse Khan had 11.

"The key tonight was unselfish shooting and moving the ball well," Olson said. "We were fighting for loose balls and getting a good share of the rebounds at both ends of the court."

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JERRY DALIEGE/FOR PIONEER PRESS  
Maine East's Ossama Anis blocks a shot during the Demons' victory over Niles North.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

## Notre Dame rebounds from OT loss

After falling to St. Patrick, Dons respond

By JIM EDISON  
jedison@pioneerlocal.com

Following a heart-

breaking loss at St. Patrick, Notre Dame bounced back with a solid victory in the Whitney Young Shootout Sunday afternoon.

The Dons, who hoisted their overall record to 5-1, will now focus their atten-

tion on the upcoming Wheeling Wildcat Hardwood Classic, which begins Monday and runs through Dec. 27.

Playing in the 16-team showcase event on Chicago's Southside, the Dons toppled Morgan

Park 70-62 Sunday as four players reached double digits in scoring.

"We were glad to come right back with a nice win," coach Tom Les said. "Morgan Park was very athletic and ran a pres-

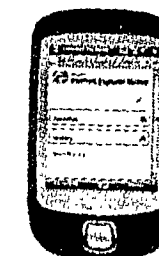
Dons, PAGE 68

## GAME MVP'S

Notre Dame 70  
Morgan Park 62  
Mike DiGregorio: 20 points  
Shawn Wallace: 19 points  
St. Patrick 60  
Notre Dame 57 (OT)  
Billy Hughes: 25 points, seven rebounds

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Sylvana Menolascino



Cherryette Hilton



CHICAGO

Designer granite gourmet kit that opens to family rm, fabulous master suite w/private deck, Jacuzzi, skylight, 2nd flr laundry, hdwd flrs, crown moldings, 2 trpic, lower level rec rm w/5th BR/office, utility rm & bath, Brick patio, 1 car gar & walking to park  
 www.danflorianreale.com

Dan Florian  
 847-208-7944

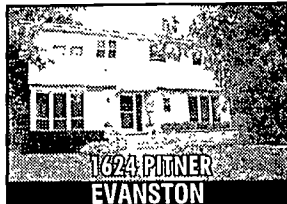


9741 N. KEDVALE  
 SKOKIE

Gorgeous new 5500 sq. ft. Home Custom Built to Perfection. 2nd level w/4 BRs Beautiful Master Suite Plus Open play rm. 1st level w/34 foot liv & din rm combo, library or office, main flr bed suite, huge open island kitchen w/sep eating area opens to main floor fam rm w/16ft vaulted ceilings.

\$890,000

Barry Benveniste  
 847-708-1149

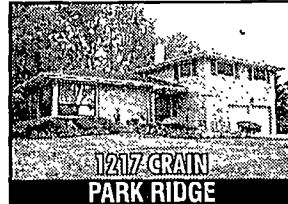


1624 PITNER  
 EVANSTON

Exceptional center entry colonial. Quality renovations include: new windows & doors, top of the line gourmet kitchen w/granite counters and breakfast bar, double oven, stainless steel appliances. New & refinished hardwood flrs on main lev. Lovely deck and yard. New garage

\$535K

Elizabeth Lindsay  
 847-630-3796



1717 GRAIN  
 PARK RIDGE

Just listed! The best deal in town. This large 4 bed/2.5bth split level home w/rare finished sub-bsm't is in immaculate condition. Hdwd flooring thru the home, spacious fam rm w/brck trpic & wet bar that leads out to professionally landscaped yard w/mature trees. Newer mechanicals & exterior.

Sam Trakas  
 847-921-8681

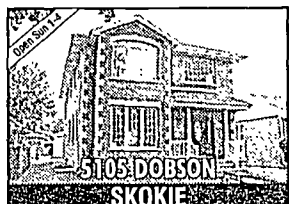


4906 KRUGER  
 CHICAGO

Luxury new construction! Amazing deal! 4br/3.5ba & 2.5c gar. 1st flr : eat in kit w/cooktop island, 42" walnut cabs, Granite clops, Ss appls. Hwd flr thru-out. 2nd flr: 3 br. 2 bths, master bth w/jazzi, sep Dble steam shower, jets & balcony. Quality all throughout.

\$609,900

Elena Dan  
 773-230-5985



5105 DOBSON  
 SKOKIE

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN FAIRVIEW DIST 4 BRS, 5 baths, 2 car gar Marble 2 story foyer, oak stairs Cherry cabs, granite counters & SS appls in kit Fam rm w/gas tp + large deck & patio Master suite w/corner jacuzzi/sep shower + balc. Full fin bsm't w/full b.a./5th br

\$679,900

Marius Dan  
 312-208-6034



8804 KEYSTONE  
 SKOKIE

Fabulous curb appeal Wonderful cared for in & out Big lot (52.5 x 123) Newer roof, furnace, washer dryer & hot water heater Updated hallrooms Very good school district & great location

Ivy Moy  
 847-913-3710



8456 EAST PRAIRIE  
 SKOKIE

Home is completely renovated on a oversized corner lot Beautiful Hdwd flrs throughout Recessed Lighting Gorgeous kit w/all new Oak cabs. All new ss appls. Granite ntrps Master bdrm w/1/2 bth Jacuzzi on main flr hall bath.

\$389,000

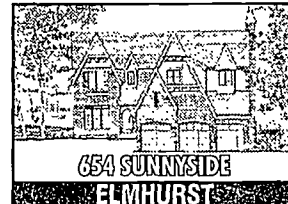
Don Keenan  
 708-744-8257



MORTON GROVE

Spectacular 5 Bedrm, 5 1/2 Bath, New Construction, Terret Stone Front, 10 Ceilings, 3 Fireplaces, SS Appls, 42 Inch Cherry Cabs, Cherry Butlers Pantry, Brazilian Cherry Hdwd Flrs, 4 Walk-in Closets, Granite Countertops, Steam Shower & Whirlpool in Master Bth, Brick Paver Driveway, Sprinkler System

Danny Kourouklis  
 847-409-4346



654 SUNNYSIDE  
 ELMHURST

Custom designed stone & brick almost 5000 sq ft. A rarely found walk-out bsm't! 62 x 300 backs to creek & woods, 9 ft clngs, archwys, trp crwn mldg & handsome raised panel study you just have to see. Imported antique vanities v.o. tucked away on a quiet street.

Sylvana  
 630-363-6059



9048 KEELER  
 SKOKIE

Gorgeous devonshire ranch w/all 2.5 car gar completely transformed w/new amenities new cherry cabs & kit w/top of the line appls & granite centers opens to main flr fam rm, 2 new main flr bthrm, finished bsm't w/rec rm, 4th br & new full bath. Nothing to do but move in

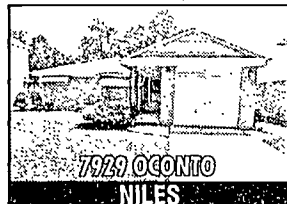
David Braun  
 847-686-2000



594 DAWN CT  
 DES PLAINES

Gorgeous custom built home. Curved island kit w/recessed & track lighting 2 story front foyer w/porcelain entry hallway. Dining area has slide doors to huge backyard w/deck. 2.5 Car heated gar. Plus more.

John Dias  
 847-409-2382

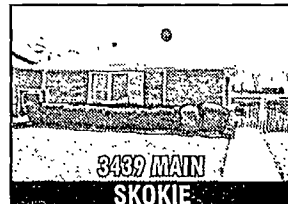


1929 OCONTO  
 NILES

Immaculate Well maintained Ranch in Dist. 641 Bright good-size rms ample closets & Mn Flr Fam Rm Large E/I kit New furnace, Wtr Htr, Humidifier, Cent. A/C! Some New windows, Good luckptg & Roof. 1C Alt Gar! Lg Lot w/fenced Yard.

\$299,000

Elhan Lewis  
 312-307-0400



3439 MAIN  
 SKOKIE

Ranch home in great location. Perfect home for a starter family. Featuring 3 bdr, 1 bath, and a full finished basement. Great landscaping with a beautiful 2 car garage.

\$255,000

Harris Ali  
 847-322-6277

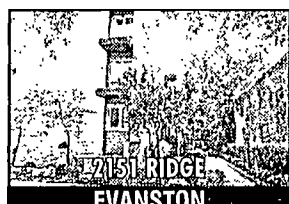


6148 KEYSTONE  
 CHICAGO

Builder owned and rehabbed with updates to the kitchen, baths, beds, & basement. Hdwd flrs, 2 fireplaces, large patio and a huge back yard.

\$325,000

Ashraf Memon  
 847-863-6169



2151 RIDGE  
 EVANSTON

New Condo Conversion Unbelievable Location at a great price! Spacious 2bed/1bath, in unit wash/dryer, Central air/heat! New spacious Eat in Kit! Marble/Slate bath w/jacuzzi tub! Free outdoor parking spot included in price. Prices Vary per unit please call.

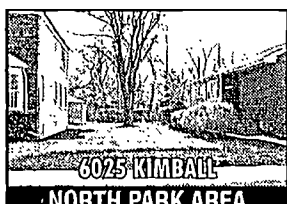
Jim Kontos  
 630-327-9136



2422 DEMPSTER  
 EVANSTON

Retail store for sale! Store is 4,935 sq ft. Parking area is approx. 5,000 Sq. Ft. Additional land might be available for development if city vacates or sells mcdaniels Currently napa auto supply. Dempster traffic count 21,000 cars daily!

Anthony P. Davidson  
 847-568-3111

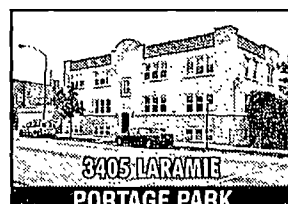


6025 KIMBALL  
 NORTH PARK AREA

Vacant lot 30' x 115'. Can be purchased with adjacent property at for a combined frontage of 60 feet.

\$260,000

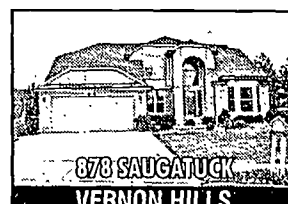
Markus Azadeh  
 773-230-4104



3405 LARAMIE  
 PORTAGE PARK

Excellent opportunity to own a corner building in a terrific Portage Park location. New windows, boiler, etc. gar doors tucked pointing & Indry rm. Units have been updated & are bright & spacious w/gleaming hdwd flrs. Two 5 rm 2 bdrms units, two 4 room 1 bedroom and one 4 room 2 bedroom unit.

Christina Ezzo  
 773-616-7653



7878 SAUGATUCK  
 VERNON HILLS

Cul-de-sac, 2 new bath rms, Hdwd flrs, 2-story fam rm, sky lights, Finshd bsm't Stone trpic, 3 Season room, Cathedral Ceiling, Earthstone conan countertops w/stand sink, Concrete driveway.

\$480,000

Ann Trandaf  
 847-219-9707



Liz Lindsay



Ivy Moy



Elena Dan



Ann Trandaf



Christne & Bonne Cozzens



Melanie Jane Javier



Domnick Gualberto



Don Keenan



Marc Shudnow



Ethan Lewis, CRP



Peter Kontos



Jim Kontos



Dino Bakas



Harris Ali



Sam Trakas



John Dias



Anthony Davidson



David Braun