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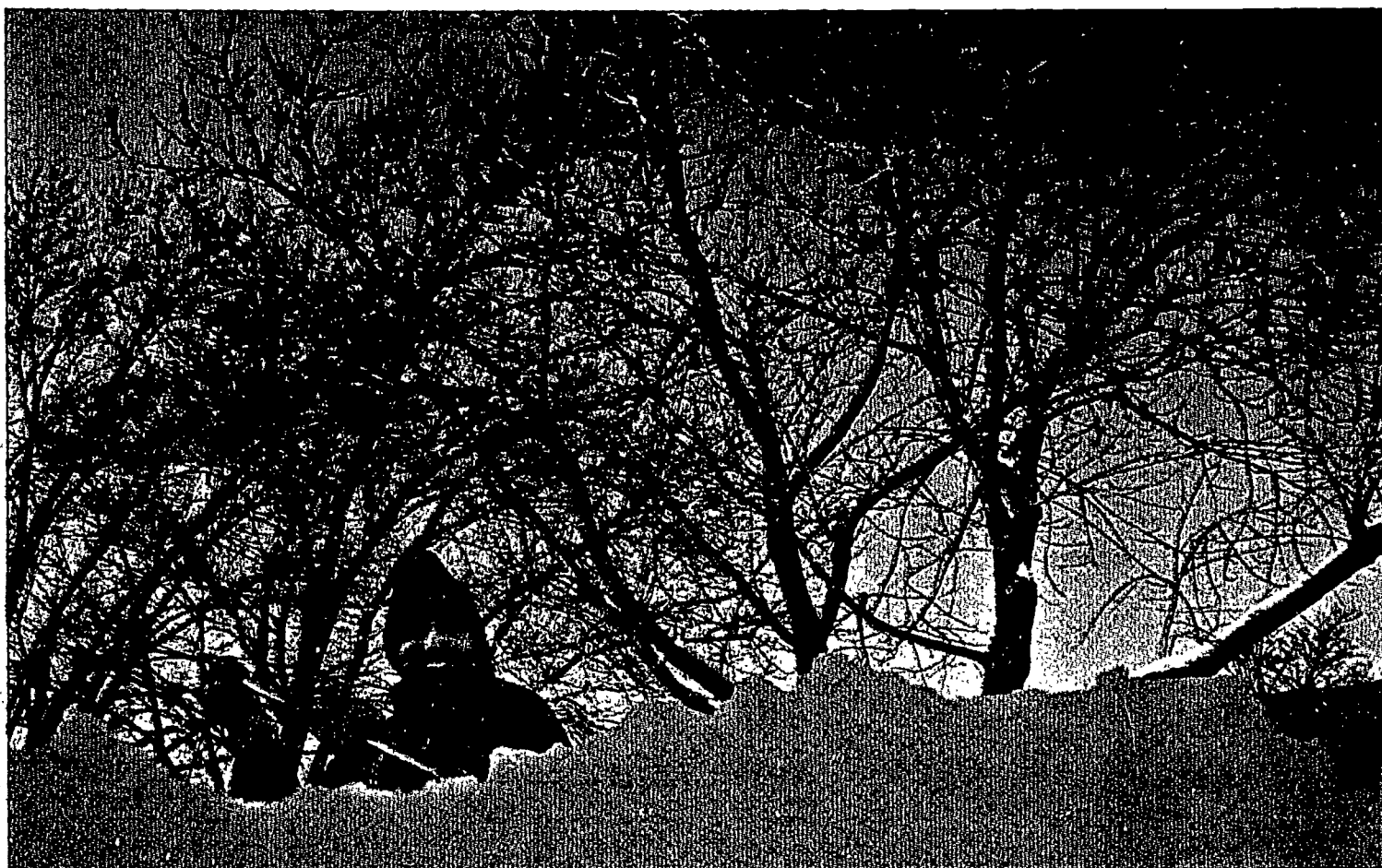
**MOVIES**

Reel Time blog with  
Bruce Ingram

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Heard in the Halls  
athletics blog

# NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



## DIGGING OUT

Unearthing his vehicle from a mound of morning snow, Alex Shilkrut of Niles was able to grin, but no one was smiling by the end of December as one storm after another made rush hour driving a long headache for commuters. **PAGE 8**

PHOTO BY SUZANNE TENNANT/PIONEER PRESS

### THIS WEEK

#### DIVERSIONS



#### COMING ATTRACTIONS

Film Critic Bruce Ingram offers a preview of 2009 movies.

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#### 2008 IN REVIEW

The stories that made the headlines in Niles.

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#### NEWS

#### WORDEL DIES

Robert Wordel Jr. was chamber leader.

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# The year in review

Niles in 2008 sees a village luminary's fall from grace, a flood of biblical proportions, displaced schoolchildren welcomed by peers and a foundering economy take its toll.

All stories  
by Tony Bertuca

## 2

### Mayoral race heats up early

For the first election nearly 50 years Nicholas Blase will not be running for mayor in Niles.

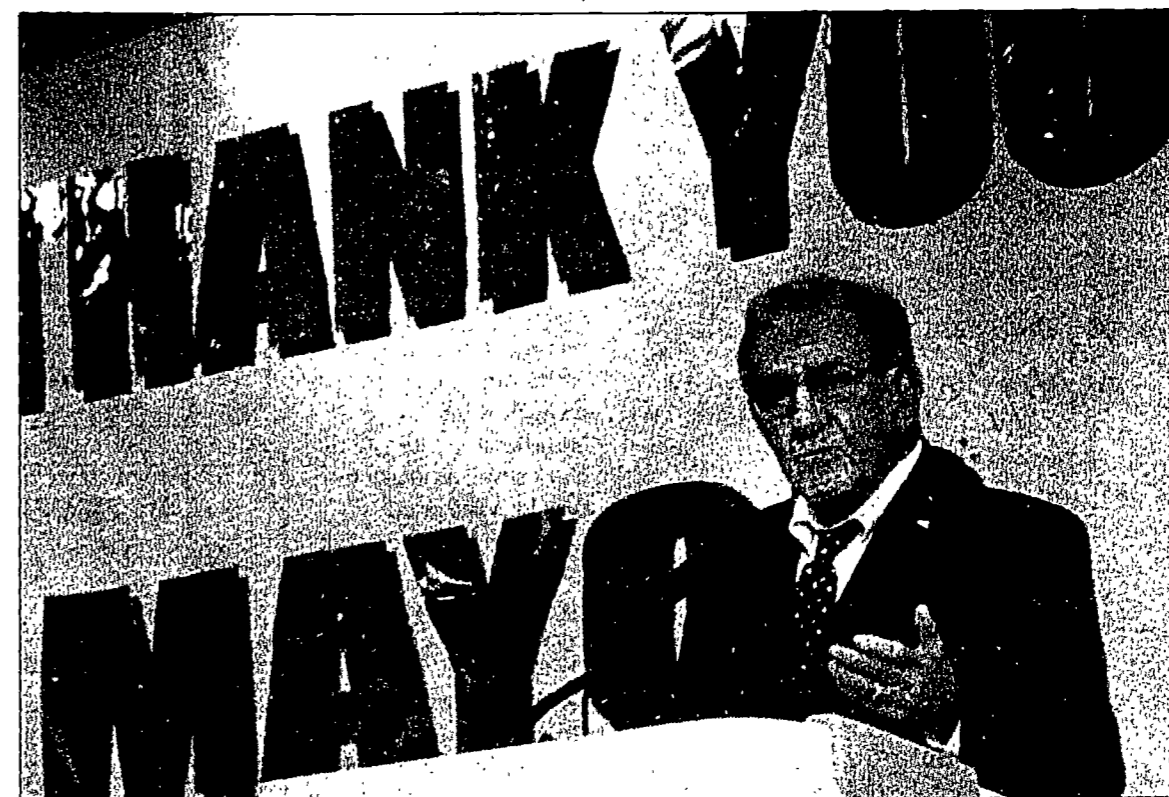
Acting Niles Mayor Robert Callero was elected by the Board of Trustees to replace Blase, who retired in August amid federal corruption charges. Callero decided he liked the job so much, he wanted to keep it for another four years.

On Dec. 1 the acting mayor announced he would run to retain his mayoral post in the April 7 consolidated election. He has been backed by Trustees Louella Preston and Andrew Przybylo, both of whom are running to retain their seats as trustees on the same slate as Callero. Local businessman George Alpagianis will run to replace Callero on the board. The slate is called the Continuing Economic Stability Party. Former Niles firefighter Dan Ryan also has announced a run for a trustee post.

Callero may not be alone in his quest for the mayor's chair. Trustee Kim Biederman, whose office is not up for re-election this year, has said she is considering running, and Trustee Joe LoVerde, who is also not up for re-election, has publicly stated his interest in being mayor.

The political plot continued to thicken Dec. 2

## TOP STORY



Nicholas Blase thanks the those who attended his retirement party in October at White Eagle banquet hall in Niles. Blase retired amid federal corruption charges to which he later pleaded guilty.

## Blase guilty in corruption case

The political and cultural foundation of the village of Niles was rocked by an earthquake this year when Nicholas Blase, who attained near-iconic status in his 47 years as mayor, retired amid scandal and pleaded guilty to federal corruption charges.

Blase, 80, made headlines when he stepped down in August and was replaced by Trustee Robert Callero.

While he had pleaded not guilty to charges of federal corruption shortly after he was arrested by the FBI at his home in 2006, the elderly politician changed his plea to guilty on two charges of tax evasion and

mail fraud in October amid speculation that he wanted to spare himself and his family a long trial.

During the October hearing Blase admitted to improperly using his elected office to steer business to a Wheeling insurance agency that paid him \$420,000 in kickbacks.

"I am here today because I made a mistake," Blase said at the hearing. "I have tried to do what I thought was right. I want to take this opportunity to apologize to those I let down — my family, my friends, and most of all, the people of Niles. We've been through a lot together. I was wrong and for that I

am very sorry."

In turn the federal government dropped nine additional corruption charges against Blase. Lawyer from neither side would comment on any deal that had been struck.

The federal judge, Wayne Andersen, was gentle with Blase after the veteran politician admitted his crimes and offered him consolation regarding his political legacy.

"What is wrong is deeply wrong," Andersen said. "The good things that happened, fortunately, will not be undone."

Blase is scheduled to appear before Andersen Jan. 29 to be sentenced.

when James Callero, the acting mayor's brother, announced he was resigning from his post as chairman of the zoning committee. In a farewell

statement he leveled serious charges against the Board of Trustees.

"In my opinion, at least three of the five trustees have their own

best interest at heart and not the people of Niles," he said. "All of the current trustees other than Bart Murphy have aspirations of being

mayor and if they thought they had a chance to win, would run in April. The newly elected mayor will have his hands full."

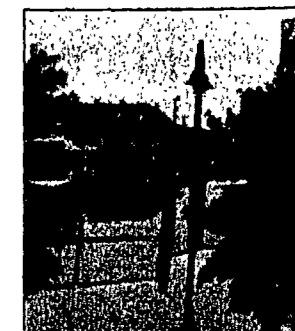


PHOTO BY JERRY DALIEGE/FOR PIONEER PRESS  
Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course and club house in Niles is pictured here Sept. 15, just after flooding wreaked havoc across the Chicago area.

## 3

### September floods wreak havoc

Howard Street was closed for the first time in history the past September when heavy rains caused the North Branch of the Chicago River to flood. Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course was underwater and the Niles Park District sustained \$100,000 in damage. Schools and streets were closed and basements flooded across Niles. Cook County was later declared a disaster area by the federal government, and residents became eligible to register with FEMA for grants and loans.

Some residents have complained that the village drainage system was to blame for their flooded homes. In turn the village has issued flood-water surveys to residents in an attempt to investigate any drainage problems.

## 4

### Gemini shut down for asbestos removal

In the aftermath of the September flood, cleanup

Review, PAGE 5

# Starters

## 'We've got it!'

### Des Plaines hits jackpot with last casino license

Groundbreaking on 20 acres at River Rd. and Devon Ave. could be in a year.

By PAT KROCHMAL  
pkrochmal@pioneerlocal.com

Des Plaines and Midwest Gaming on Dec. 22 won the 10th and last casino license in the state by a 3-1 vote of the five-member Illinois Gaming Board.

Casting their votes for Des Plaines were: Aaron Jaffe, a retired Cook County Circuit Court judge; James E. Sullivan, an attorney and retired Cook County Circuit Court judge; and Charles Garner, a semi-retired manager of a family-owned real-estate leasing company, said Gene O'Shea, the board's public-relations representative.

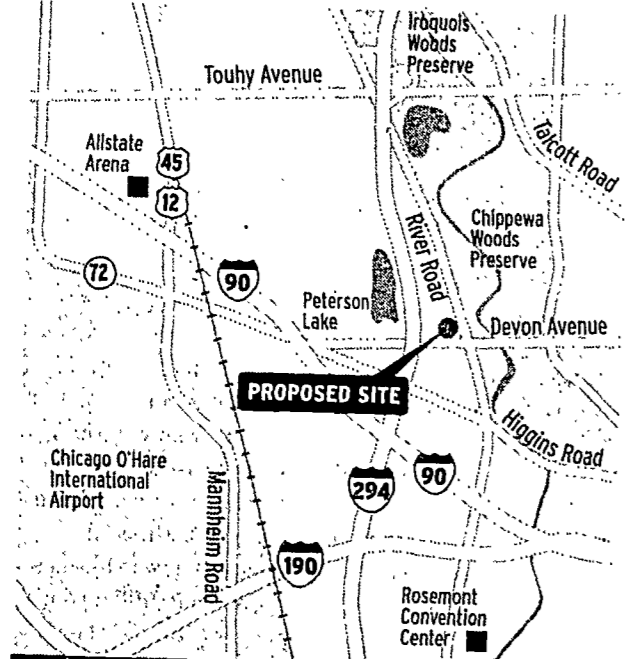
Joseph Moore, Jr., a retired Shell Oil community-relations manager, chose Waukegan, saying that its proposal was more in keeping with the spirit of the casino's purpose, because it was an economically disadvantaged community.

Rev. Eugene Winkler, a Methodist minister, refused to vote for any one of the Top 3 contenders, which included Rosemont, because he didn't like any of their proposals, O'Shea added.

"Some of the members said they couldn't vote for Rosemont because they had problems with its taint of organized crime,"

#### Proposed casino site

The developer of Des Plaines' planned casino hopes to break ground on a 20-acre site west of River Road and north of Devon Avenue on Des Plaines' south side in about a year.



the money, before you know it you're broke."

Bluhm said he was thrilled for Des Plaines, as well as for his company.

"We will have a great project," Bluhm said. "We are building not only a casino, but in different phases, adding hotels, restaurants and entertainment. It will mean revenue for the state and the city, as well as jobs for people in the area."

Bluhm hopes to break ground on a 20-acre site west of River Road and north of Devon Avenue on Des Plaines' south side — just blocks away from Rosemont's proposed site east of River Road and south of Devon — in about a year.

#### 'Trouble ahead'

Gary Mack, spokesman for Rosemont, which has been pursuing the casino license for about 15 years, issued a statement reacting to the news: "Naturally, Rosemont is disappointed by the decision, but the village congratulates Des Plaines. Rosemont now will move forward with other developments."

James Blue, a Des Plaines resident who heads Citizens Against Gambling Expansion, also said he was disappointed about the decision and wondered what he could have done differently to have achieved a different outcome.

"I see trouble ahead, especially for Des Plaines businesses like restaurants that may not be able to compete with casino

Casino, PAGE 8

O'Shea said.

Neil G. Bluhm, chairman of Midwest Gaming, who was at the Gaming Board session in downtown Chicago when the decision was announced Dec. 22, called Des Plaines Mayor Anthony Arredia with the news.

"Now you've got to get off your butt and start planning ... We've got it!" Arredia said Bluhm told him.

Arredia added that the casino means an economic windfall for the city, but comes with a lot of responsibility.

"Of course, I'm happy," he said. "But we have to sit down now and decide what to do with the money to make sure it is used in the best interest of Des Plaines. We have a lot of needs, but we have to decide those we have to do first and those we have to

plan for."

#### Spending plan needed

Arredia said he would like to see the money first finance the city's capital-improvement plan, which would address flooding problems by eliminating combined sewers and expanding sewer capacities across the community. The city already has received commitments from state and federal agencies to help decrease flooding at Big Bend Lake, and for the Levee 50 project, but needs \$19 million more to continue anti-flooding measures.

"Now we also have to start talking about handling social responsibilities because of all the people who will be coming into our city, security, etc. It's like winning the lottery," Arredia said. "If you don't plan how to spend

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JEFF KRAGE/FOR PIONEER PRESS  
Gemini Junior High School social-studies teacher Michele Raczowski makes her way back to her make-shift classroom the past fall at Washington School. It was one of four temporary classrooms inside the gymnasium housing displaced Gemini students.

### Review

Continued from PAGE 3

crews at Gemini Junior High School discovered asbestos beneath the building's first-floor carpeting. While the contaminant was not airborne the East Maine School District 63 School Board voted to close Gemini and remove the asbestos. The school was closed for several weeks and students were sent to buildings across District 63 while abatement crews worked to remove the asbestos. The school reopened in Nov. 5.

### 5 Nearly 200 jobs cut as Metaldyne closes

Metaldyne, a Japanese-owned auto-parts company headquartered in Plymouth, Mich., announced it would be closing its aluminum-die-casting plant in Niles, which employs 167 hourly, and 21, salaried employees.

The company first announced in July that it would try to sell the Niles plant. But Metaldyne's chairman and co-CEO of Asahi Tee (the Japanese parent company), released a statement in November saying it was time to close the facility.

Denise McCreery, spokeswoman for the vil-

lage's Department of Economic Development, said the closing of Metaldyne would surely have a negative impact on the local economy.

"Just the sheer size of the plant and the number of people being laid off," she said. "But this has been coming for a few months. They make products for the auto industry and we all know how badly the auto industry is doing right now."

McCreery also said the national credit crisis prevented potential buyers from obtaining the financing to purchase the Niles facility. "They had some interested buyers but it didn't work out," she said. "It's just this economy."

The Niles plant first started production in 1962 as Global Metal Technologies Inc. It was acquired by Metaldyne in 2001.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Michael Kosciesza and Arthur Swidzinski, both of Niles, skateboarded from Chicago to New York while filming their 850-mile adventure for a documentary, "Shred America."

### Niles skateboarders roll into NYC

Two 20-year-old film students from Niles got themselves in a New York "skate" of mind and traveled 850 miles to New York City — by skateboard.

Both Michael Kosciesza and Arthur Swidzinski made national news when they rolled all the way from Grant Park

in Chicago to Times Square while filming their documentary, "Shred America."

The Maine East High School graduates were accompanied on their journey by friends James Lagen, of Des Plaines, and Tony Michael, of Park Ridge, who followed on bicycles, towing carts with cameras and supplies.

While not wanting to give away too many stories about the adventure before the film is complete, Swidzinski said their journey thus was a lot like America itself.

"We've met a few nice people, we've met a few mean people," he said. "Sometimes, you get the finger."

Their film is scheduled to be completed sometime in 2009.

### 7 Assi Plaza expansion approved

A controversial plan to expand Assi Plaza into a Korean family vacation destination was approved by the Niles Village Board in July, despite the months-long opposition of residents who live near the site.

The board voted 4-2 to grant a special-use permit for the expansion with Trustees Kim Biederman and Louella Preston voting "no" — a rare occurrence on a board that tends to be of one mind.

"This project is just way too large for this site," Biederman said at the time. "I think it's going to be a nightmare."

Louella Preston said she voted against the development because the developer, Michael Kim, did not provide trustees with final plans for site. Other trustees said they were in favor of the project because of the revenue it would generate, and because they were impressed by Kim's efforts to accommodate the community.



BRIAN VALENTIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Ryan McEnerney, 14, of Niles, enjoys the water Aug. 20 at the Niles Park District Oasis Pool during Sister City Splash.

A group of residents who lived near the site opposed the project because of concerns regarding traffic congestion and aesthetics.

Acting Mayor Robert Callero, who was then only a trustee, said the development would generate an estimated \$170,000 a year in sales tax and \$70,000 a year in property tax for the village. Kim's lawyer, Paul Kolpak, said the development would also bring in \$1.5 million in tax revenue for local school districts.

Kim proposed an \$80-million expansion on the 12.1-acre site that would include a 200-room hotel, a 13,000-square-foot Korean family spa, a 13,000-

square-foot retail building, a seven-tier parking structure and a 300-seat banquet hall.

Kim's lawyer, Paul Kolpak, said the development would also bring in \$1.5 million in tax revenue for local school districts.

Kim proposed an \$80-million expansion on the 12.1-acre site that would include a 200-room hotel, a 13,000-square-foot Korean family spa, a 13,000-

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PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA MATZEN  
TRUE COLORS This Maine East student's portrait has the flag of her country of origin, Iran, superimposed on it. The picture is part of a master's-degree project by Maine East teacher Laura Matzen.

visitors from seven states, and make Niles a major tourist destination for them.

Trustee Joe LoVerde said he was in favor of the development because of the lengths Kim went to please the village and neighboring residents.

Kim has said he plans to widen Ballard Road to accommodate more traffic, as well as widen Washington Street to give residents 40 free parking spaces. A deal brokered with the Park District will also give residents 72 spaces at Washington Terrace Park, where they can park for free from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Altogether, Kolpak said, Kim will spend \$2 million in his efforts to accommodate the village.

### 8 Salt shortage costly

Like most municipalities in northern Illinois, Niles experienced a salt shortage last winter brought on by a heavy ice and snow, as well as a frozen Illinois River that delayed salt deliveries.

Niles' Public Services Department spent 5,211

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DAN LUEDERT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RIGHT Children dance and play amidst a bubble storm during Dave Rudolph's Beach Party at the Des Plaines Park District's Lake Park July 16.

BELOW Charlie Capozzoli (left) of Morton Grove slides into home under the tag from Arlington Heights pitcher Brendan King in American Legion Baseball held at Maine South High School.

BOTTOM RIGHT Kyle Alejandro, 6, of Niles, is about to be hit with a bucket of water at the Oasis Fun Center and Water Park in Niles. The facility, pool and water spray park area are brand new this year.

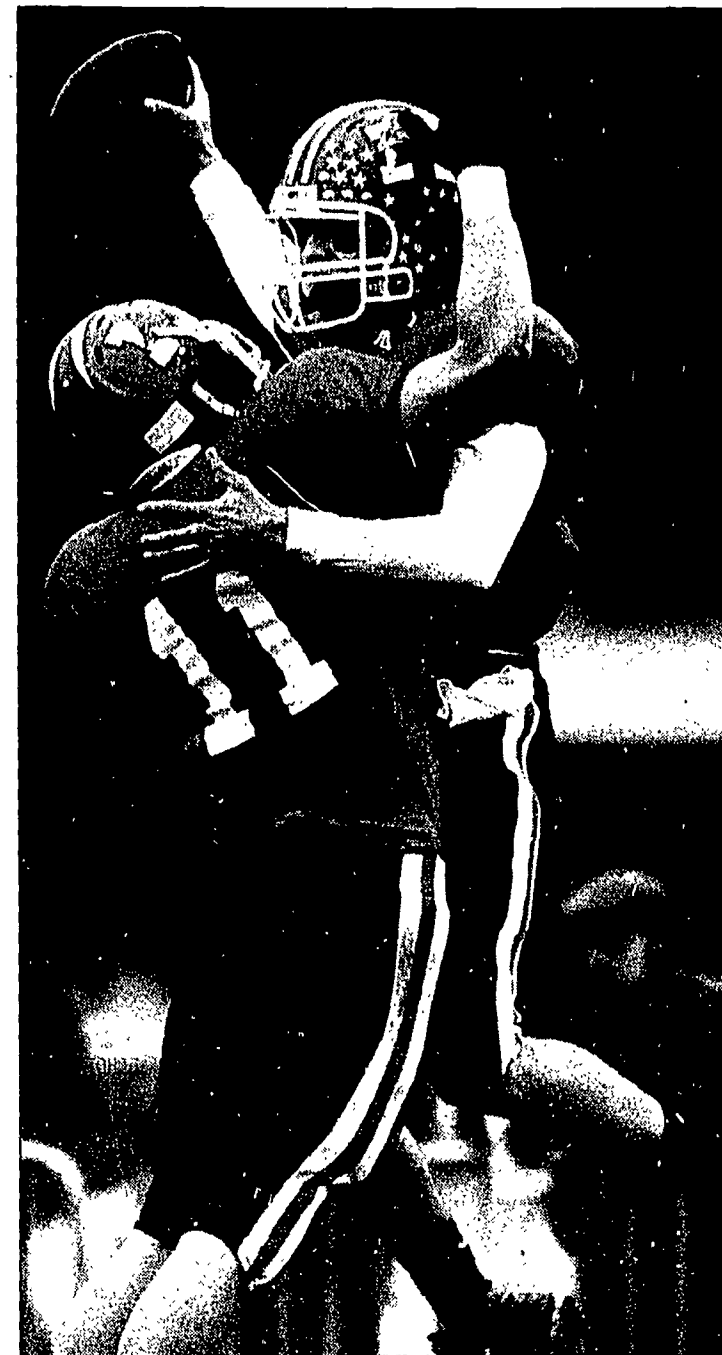


ROB HART/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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# 2008 PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE YEAR



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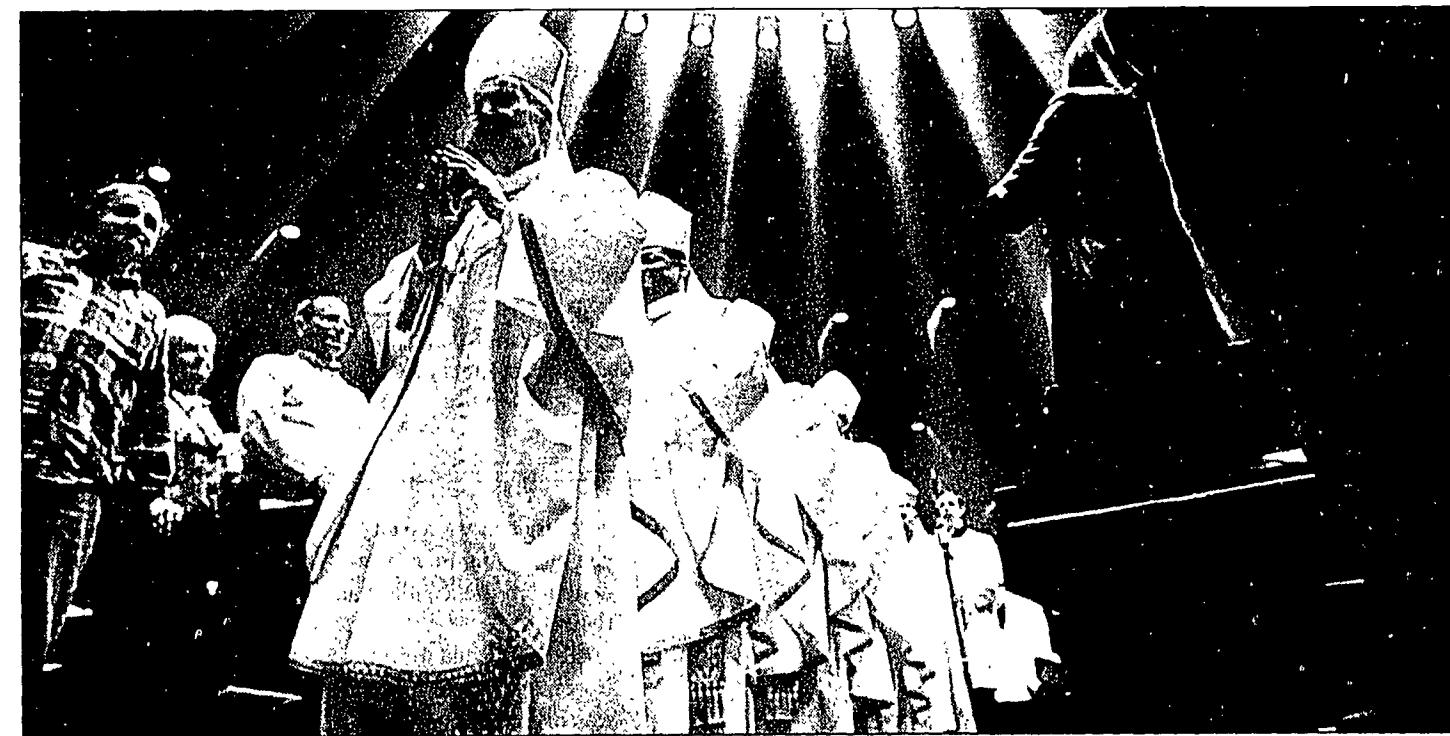
ROB HART/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LEFT Pablo Perdomo declares, "This is my MySpace picture," as he snaps a picture of himself in a mirror before graduation for the Class of 2008 at Ridgewood High School May 28.



JOEL LERNER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TOP LEFT Maine South's Charlie Goro (holding ball) celebrates with Brendan Cronin after Goro rushed for a touchdown versus Loyola in the Hawks 26-7 win in the Class 8A playoff in Park Ridge Nov. 8. Goro went on to become the hero of the title game against Hinsdale Central Nov. 29, as the Hawks claimed the Class 8A championship with a winning score of 41-21.



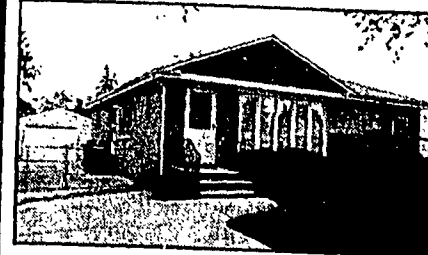
DAN LUEDERT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ABOVE Sister Marta, visting from Poland, receives a flower from St. Thecla student Dominick Fidanza during a Jan. 30 Mass at St. Thecla School in Chicago's Norwood Park community as Sean Nelson, Katie Morris and Ryan Nelson watch. The Sisters of the Resurrection, long associated with the parish's school, were honored as part of the ceremony.

LEFT A procession walks to the altar at the beginning of the Chrism Mass at St. John Brebeuf in Niles March 18.

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GIFT OF A CLEARED WALK Warren Unrath, 81, looks over part of his handwork clearing the path to his house in the 6900 block of Kenney as Niles residents started to dig out from the Dec. 19 morning snow storm. Snow and freezing rain returned to add new challenges during Christmas week.

ALLEN KALETA/FOR PIONEER PRESS

Casino

Continued from PAGE 4

restaurants," Blue said. "And also for other businesses that pay taxes and may not get the services they have been used to

getting because the city will be getting more revenue from the casino than them."

Trilliant's bid for a Rosemont casino, which was originally the highest, with \$435 million, was followed by Waukegan Gaming's bid of \$225 million.

Midwest Gaming, which initially bid \$100 million, tendered a final offer of \$125 million, with an additional \$300 million to be paid in \$10 million installments over 30 years.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Biederman Web site goes live

Can her mayoral run be far behind?

By TONY BERTUCA tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Niles Trustee Kim Biederman might say she isn't ready to proclaim her candidacy for mayor, but her actions show that she is inching toward an official announcement.

Biederman's mayoral campaign Web site, kim-biederman.com, went live last week and outlines her political intentions.

From the look of the site, it appears Biederman will be running for office as "Kim Sychowski Biederman." Sychowski is her maiden name.

Biederman's campaign slogan is, "Tradition, trust, and pride ... for Niles."

Attempts to reach Biederman Dec. 24 were unsuccessful.

Some of Biederman's campaign promises include protecting Niles' tradition of low taxes and quality services, ensuring open, honest and accessible village government, addressing flooding in the village and revitalizing Milwaukee Avenue, according to her site.

In a nod to her promise of accessibility, Biederman has also posted her cell phone number.

Biederman is the only candidate to emerge thus far to possibly challenge Acting Mayor Robert Callero in the race for mayor.

Joe LoVerde, a rumored candidate, has said he will not be running for mayor and has thrown his support behind Callero. Trustees Louella Preston and Andrew Przybylo also decided not to run for mayor, and to support Callero. Both Preston and Przybylo will be running, on the same slate as Callero, as well — the Con-

tinuing Economic Stability Party.

Callero has also received the backing of ex-mayor Nicholas Blase, who has pleaded guilty to federal counts of tax evasion and mail fraud, and will be sentenced Jan. 29.

Biederman made news Dec. 16 when Pioneer Press learned she had posted a Web page on the popular social-networking site, Facebook, in which she outlines her plans to run for mayor and invites supporters to help her gather signatures to get on the ballot at campaign events Sunday and Jan. 11.

Biederman's upstart Internet candidacy, when held up against Callero's promise of continuing stability and his backing from the current political establishment, could be positioning the board's youngest trustee as a reform candidate.

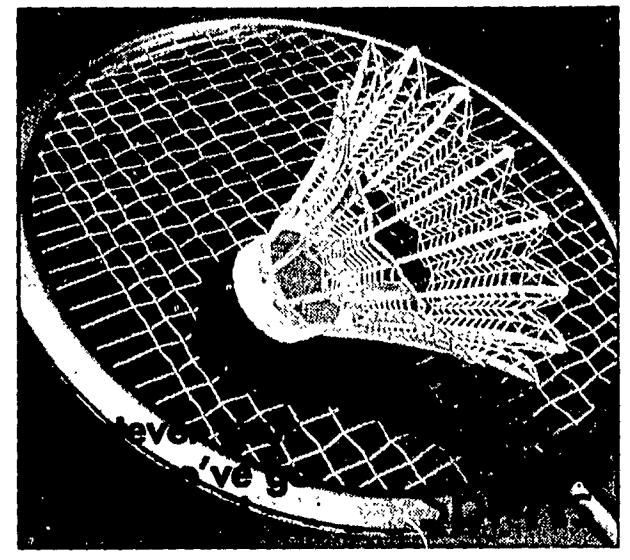
Biederman has said she is taking the appropriate steps to run for mayor in the event she decides to enter the race, but planned to postpone any official announcement until after Christmas.

Meanwhile, Callero is campaigning from a position of strength as the acting mayor during a time of economic stress. He and his supporters claim his financial expertise garnered from years as the co-head of a large Niles accounting firm (Callero & Callero) makes him the best candidate for the job.

The election will be April 7, 2009.

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# Robert Wordel dies — longtime leader helped found chamber

By TONY BERTUCA  
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Former Niles Chamber of Commerce president and "Lifetime Hero" Robert C. Wordel Jr., 87, has died.

Mr. Wordel, a World War II veteran and former director of community relations for Teletype Corp., was a founding member of the Niles Chamber of Commerce and is credited with its ascendancy as an organization. Though retired, Wordel still served

as a director emeritus. "Mr. Wordel was one of our founding members and biggest supporters of the Chamber," according to a chamber of commerce statement. "He worked tirelessly throughout his life to build the Niles Chamber of Commerce, we owe him our deepest gratitude and we will miss him dearly."

Wordel is also credited with helping to secure a separate post office for the village in 1970. He was named Niles' Citizen of the

Year in 1990. Wordel was also honored with the Silver Beaver Award in 1985 for his dedication to the Boy Scouts of America. In 2005, the Niles Chamber of Commerce created an award in his honor that is presented at their annual Night of Roses — the Bob Wordel Living Legend Award.

Visitation was held Dec. 22 and funeral services were held Dec. 23 at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home, Niles. Interment was at Acacia Park Ceme-

tery. Memorials were suggested to the Edison Park Community Church, 6675 N. Oketo Ave., Chicago IL, 60631, which his parents helped to found, or the Anchorage of Bensenville Home.

Wordel is survived by his wife Lois C. Wordel, nee Brehm, his children Paul (Michelle) and Todd (Susan), and his grandchildren Gregory, Coleen, Brett, Joshua, Jessica, and Carissa.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# Weel is appointed as interim Niles zoning board chairman

By TONY BERTUCA  
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Acting Mayor Robert Callero has appointed Alan Weel as acting chairman of the Niles Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, pending confirmation by the Board of Trustees, according to a Dec. 24 village state-

ment. Weel has been a zoning-board member for eight years. He will replace the acting mayor's brother, James Callero, who served as zoning chairman for 14 years before resigning Dec. 2.

The acting mayor said he consulted his brother when he picking Weel and

said his decision had the full support of the former chairman.

"My brother agreed that he (Weel) would be a good choice," Callero said. "I'm very happy to have Al Weel as chairman because of his experience on the board. He's been very active on the board."

Weel, who could not be

reached for comment, will begin his duties immediately and will serve as acting chairman at the zoning board's Monday meeting. His permanent appointment will have to be confirmed by the Niles Board of Trustees at its Jan. 27 meeting.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## 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.

### DUI

■ Evelin Rosado, 31, of 2632 W. Crystal St., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Dec. 21 on the 7200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. She was released on \$5,000 bond and is due in court Dec. 30.

■ Brian Santosusso, 29, of 1453 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Dec. 21 on the 7000 block of West

Touhy Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 5.

■ Chad Ballog, 30, of 1014 Old Orchard Court, Skokie, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Dec. 21 near the intersection of Lehigh and Gross Point roads. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 9.

■ Timothy Hauser, 28, of 8850 N. Root St., Niles, was charged with driving under the influence

of alcohol Dec. 20 on the 8700 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$3,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 2.

■ Tomasz Mozdziejz, 25, of 3838 N. Nora Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Dec. 20 near the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Keeney Street. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 2.

### BATTERY

■ Suzana Petrov, 28, of 8500 Waukegan Road, Morton Grove, was charged with battery Dec. 18 on the 7200

block of West Dempster Street. She was released on bond and is due in court Feb. 9.

### ASSAULT

■ Michael Valentin, 18, of 7524 W. Keeney St., Niles, was charged with assault Dec. 18 on the 7500 block of West Keeney Street. He was released on bond and is due in court Feb. 5.

### BURGLARY

■ A car was burglarized Dec. 19 on the 8400 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. The owner reported a GPS unit of unknown value missing.

# Opinion

www.pioneerlocal.com

## WE SAY

# It's time for Blago to go

Enough is enough. Gov. Rod Blagojevich must leave office. Make it a New Year's resolution if you insist, but he must either resign or step aside. It makes little difference to us or to the people of Illinois, but he can no longer govern.

Even before he was arrested Dec. 9 and even before the allegations outlined in the federal government's 74-page complaint were made public, Illinois was headed for trouble.

The state's budget deficit is now estimated at \$2 billion, even after the governor's budget cuts of about \$1.4 billion. On top of that budget deficit, the state has a backlog of bills totaling \$4 billion. The wait for vendors to be paid by Illinois now stretches to 12 weeks, putting these service providers in an extremely uncomfortable position with the tough economy already squeezing them. Will Illinois' deadbeat status cause

them to lay off workers? Billions of dollars in federal transportation money has been held up and is at risk of going away because this governor and the legislature can't agree on how to fund a capital plan.

cial election. The downward spiral of a state in chaos continues since the governor's arrest, the calls for his resignation, the impeachment proceedings in the state House and now, the latest episode in this psy-

"Enough is enough. Governor, we're hurting. We've been hurting. Stop the madness."

The state's bond rating has been downgraded by Moody's, costing the taxpayers money because it costs Illinois more to borrow.

Oh, and the appointment or election of someone to replace President-elect Barack Obama in the U.S. Senate is still a puzzle. The U.S. Senate has announced that if Blagojevich makes the appointment, it won't be approved. But state Democrats can't seem to agree on whether to have a spe-

chodrama, the governor's defiant statement that he will fight, fight, fight the charges with his last breath.

Enough is enough. Blagojevich's criminal attorneys said that if the people of Illinois are hurting, he would step down: Governor, we're hurting. We've been hurting. Stop the madness. Get out of office now, so we can move forward with the business of this state.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## YOU SAY

### Will casino's traffic snarl roads?

Okay, so Des Plaines, not Rosemont, gets the splashy new casino at I-294 and Devon. Terrific. At least for the city fathers, the casino owners, and the parking lot attendants. But it's that last item about the cars that grinces me as I tremble here one mile away from the new temple to all-things-tacky!

I perfectly well understand the idea of the-

greater-good in society, so one lonely voice of complaint can't stop progress. But here's my problem. And that of about 3,000 other residents along Devon Avenue here.

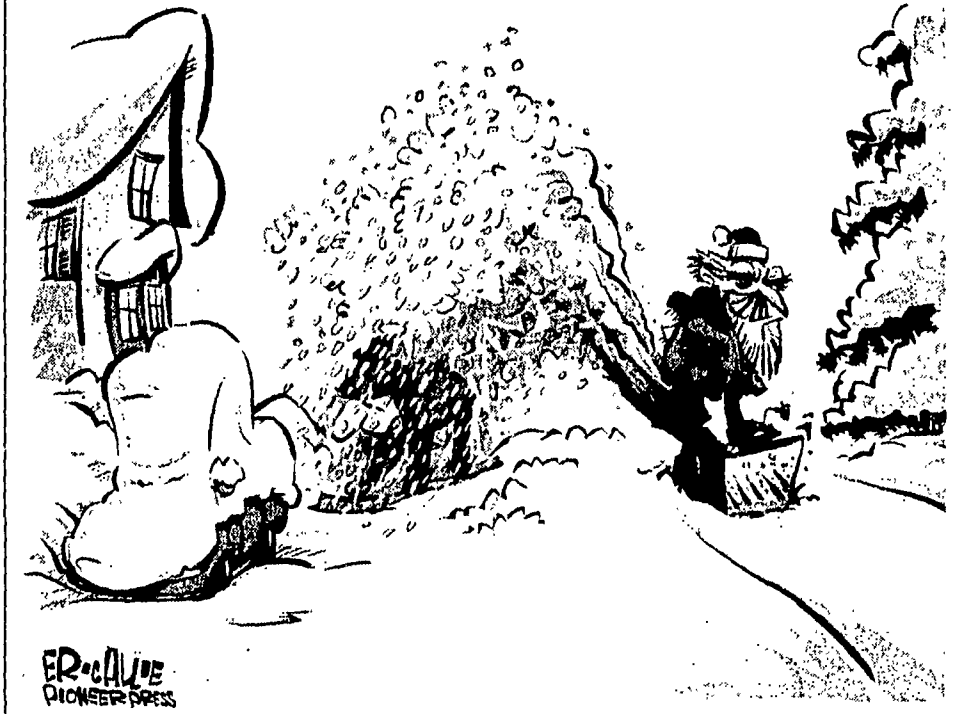
Once this thing kicks into high gear, getting onto Devon Avenue from our side streets will be like getting on an expressway during holiday rush hour. Come to think of it, Devon will be a rush hour 24/7 as happy hordes of winners and bitter hands of losers

crowd the road every 3-Card-Poker day of the week.

On the big scale of things, we poor 3,000 are a small matter. Still, we and our children may soon look upon Devon Avenue as our very own Berlin Wall or Mason Dixon Line — rarely if ever to be crossed again. Friends, families, churches, stores all so near and yet now so very far. I miss them already ...!

Jack Spatafora  
Park Ridge

## 1000 WORDS



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# New Year's resolutions, again



CHERYL O'DONOVAN

### VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

Everyone, it's that time again. If you're like me, it's also time to flub every single resolution.

My resolutions cover three main areas.

### Personal

I resolve to: Decide which is going to be my real wardrobe, once and for all — the skinny or the fat clothes.

Toss old make-up. The Kohl eyeshadow was used in the time of the pharaohs. My children also lost the make-up pencil sharpener (we used it more on No. 2 pencils). Since my eyebrow pencil is a dull nub surrounded by wooden shards, any attempt to darken my brows or

use a color eyeliner results in abrasions. Plus, given my nearsightedness and presbyopia, instead of creating the alluring "smoky eye," I end up "poking eye."

Stop wishing I had different hair. The 751 assorted hair products have not changed the texture, thickness, fluffiness or sheen. My husband sniffed the greenish hair thickener and thought it was turpentine.

### Errands

I resolve to: Grocery shop on a timely basis, so I'm no longer competing with Old Mother Hubbard in the NASCAR Empty Cupboard marathon.

Stop postponing going to the dry cleaners until my husband's out of business clothes and only has a 1989 Hooters Grand Opening T-shirt to wear.

No longer take the kids with me to the pet shop. Invariably, they want me to buy a gnash-

ing ferret or a glittery disco outfit that would look good on a microscopic puff of fur; not our 69-pound Davy Crockett dog that just killed a rabbit.

### Household

I resolve to: Write the toilet manufacturers and ask if any of the executives ever had children. Toilet flushes are sort of like dog years. The normal adult will flush once. The adult with children will flush six times that rate, especially if the kids are clutching stuffed animals. Toilet designers need to provide a turbo-flush model, one that packs the power of a whirlpool and rogue wave.

Form a peace treaty with the dust mites.

Pitch the brown gravy mix lodged near the spice rack, which was manufactured sometime in the early '90s. The package is glowing.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

**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**  
Come enjoy more than

250 wines from around the world, many of which will be poured by the vintners themselves, at the annual "d'Vine Affair: A Tasting of Fine Wines" from 2 to 6 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Union League Club of Chicago, 65 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago. The event features wine appreciation seminars, a silent auction of special wine offerings, wine accessories, and gift certificates for area fine dining. All

proceeds directly support Catholic Charities' Self Sufficiency Programs in Cook and Lake Counties. These innovative programs provide housing to homeless families and assist them in obtaining and retaining secure employment. Tickets are \$100 per person before Jan. 19 and \$120 for late ticket purchasers. To register, log on to [www.catholiccharities.net/dvine](http://www.catholiccharities.net/dvine) or call (312) 655-7912.

**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. 25 and Jan. 1. It will close at 1 p.m. Dec. 31.

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

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

Monday, Jan. 12 - Alzheimer's caregivers support group, 10 a.m.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays - Employment counseling, by appointment.

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 and 20 - Medicare and tax counseling, by appointment.

Wednesdays, Jan. 14 and 28 - Grief and loss support group (call first).

Saturdays, Jan. 3, 17 and 31 - Legal counseling by appointment.

Saturday, Jan. 31 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m. to noon (no appointment needed).

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

**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.

**CIVIC**

**Cook County Board of Review** Commissioner Brendan Houlihan will hold a joint seminar with Cook County Commissioner Liz Gorman and Maine Township Assessor Tom Rueckert on how to appeal a property assessment for those who believe they are over-assessed in Cook County. It will take place at 7 p.m. Jan. 7 at the Maine Township Building, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Attendees are asked to bring their tax bills in order to more effectively file an appeal should they feel their residence was wrongly assessed. There will be a short presentation, and staff from the Board of Review (property tax appeals board) will answer questions and help fill out complaint forms. The presentation will explain how to file an appeal, and how an appeal is granted. If there are any questions, contact Commissioner Houlihan's office at (312) 603-3644. For more information on how to file an appeal, go to: [www.cookcountyboardofreview.com](http://www.cookcountyboardofreview.com).

**District 64**  
Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 has prepared draft calendars for the next three school years.

The Board of Education will discuss these drafts at the Jan. 12, 2009 meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Hendee Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect). Public comment is invited.

At its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at Field School, 707 N. Wisner St., the Board will approve the 2009-10 school year calendar and the tentative calendars for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

**District 207**  
Complete calendar drafts may be viewed on the district's Web site at [www.d64.org](http://www.d64.org). For each of the years, Columbus Day is observed as a holiday, while schools are in session on Veterans Day.

**CLASSES**

**Resurrection High School** will offer an adult enrichment class entitled "Exploring Women's Spirituality" from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 6 to Feb. 10. Led by Resurrection Religious Studies teacher, Kelly O'Connell, participants will explore spirituality for women in a time of unprecedented change. The six-week course is based on the book, *Midwives of an Unnamed Future*, by Mary Ruth Broz, RSM,

Peek, PAGE 48

# District 219 approves \$127 million levy

By KATHY ROUTLIFFE  
[kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com)

Hard economic times call for fiscal restraint, a Skokie resident told members of the Niles Township High School District 219 board last month before they voted to approve the district's \$127-million 2008 tax levy. "People are losing

their homes. There are empty stores on Dempster Street," Andy Costas said, telling board members that people he spoke with were angry at the 18-percent figure. "They can't afford to pay real estate taxes. At some point we have to put forth some real restraint."

The board unanimously approved a \$122.6

million general purpose levy at the meeting, as well as a \$4.4 million debt service levy, bringing the complete request to \$127 million.

Board President Robert Silverman acknowledged Costas' unease, then took time to explain the 18-percent increase to him.

Despite that number,

the district will only get 4.1 percent more in tax receipts than was extended to it the previous year. Silverman said. "We increase it by 18 percent because we are trying to capture all the possible new property. For the individual homeowner, (taxes) won't go up more than 4.1 percent."

"Mr. Chairman, even

4.1 percent is too much," Costas — who was the lone speaker — replied, before thanking the board for allowing him to speak.

As approved, it includes \$89.8 million for the district's education fund; \$10.7 million for its operations and maintenance fund; \$3.6 million for transportation needs; \$2.5 million for the work-

ing cash fund; \$1.25 million each for municipal retirement and social security needs; \$599,615 for the fire, safety, energy and disabled accessibility fund; \$5 million for the special education fund and \$3.76 million for leasing of educational facilities.

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

**SCHOOLS DIGEST**

scheduled from 6:15-10 p.m. Jan. 8 and Jan. 13, and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Jan. 31 at Oakton's Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tutors should be able to pledge two to six hours a week, and assist teachers in the English as a Second Language and Learn to Read to Learn classes. VI-TA tutors may volunteer at a variety of locations on weekdays, evenings and weekends.

For more information go to [www.oakton.edu/cont\\_ed/al/vita.html](http://www.oakton.edu/cont_ed/al/vita.html), or call (847) 635-1426.

◆ ◆ ◆

**Students interested** in pursuing careers in health care are invited to attend a variety of free information sessions in January at both campuses of Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, and 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie.

Sessions showcase Oakton's degree and certificate programs in a variety of health-care fields. Faculty will be discuss course requirements and industry trends.

Upcoming health-care information sessions include: Medical Billing, Medical Coding and Medical Transcription, 1 p.m. Jan. 12 (Des Plaines); Physical Therapist Assistant, 3 p.m. Jan. 12 (Des Plaines); Massage Therapy, 5 p.m. Jan. 13 (Skokie); Pharmacy

Technician/Aseptic Pharmaceutical Preparations, 6 p.m. Jan. 14 (Des Plaines); and Nursing, 6 p.m. Jan. 15 (Des Plaines).

For more information, or to register, call (847) 635-1629.

◆ ◆ ◆

**Human-resources careers** get a boost in the spring at Oakton with evening and weekend courses for experienced HR professionals and students interested in a career in HR.

The program allows HR professionals to update skills and review for the national PHR and SPHR credential exams. Students may customize their course load to meet the needs of their current position. Classes will meet at the Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road.

Human Resources Management (MGT 165-050) covers the principles and practices of human-resources management impacting businesses today. The eight-week course will meet 6-10 p.m. Wednesdays, starting Jan. 22.

Human Resource Management Law (MGT 268-050) investigates federal and state legislative, judicial and administrative regulations in the workplace. Topics to be discussed include affirmative action, labor law, workers' compensation and employee pension benefits. The seven-week course will

meet 6:30-10:15 p.m. Wednesdays, starting March 25.

**Organizational Behavior** (MGT 205-050) emphasizes individual behavior and the impact of work teams within an organizational structure. The seven-week course will meet 6:30-10 p.m. Thursdays, starting March 26.

To learn more about the HR certificate program contact Sue Cisco, marketing chair, (847) 635-1872, or [scisco@oakton.edu](mailto:scisco@oakton.edu). For registration information go to [www.oakton.edu](http://www.oakton.edu).

◆ ◆ ◆

**Small-business owners** and anyone considering small-business ownership are invited to enroll in Oakton's Entrepreneur Series. Classes are available in the spring at the Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road.

Small Business Accounting Procedures (ACC 100-050) introduces students to accounting concepts and procedures. The 16-week course will meet 6:30-9:20 p.m. Mondays, starting Jan. 22.

Small Business Management (MGT 160-050) guides students through the development of a business plan while providing suggestions about financing. The 10-week course will meet 6:30-10 p.m. Tuesdays, starting Jan. 26.

For more information contact Sue Cisco, market-

ing chair, (847) 635-1872, or [scisco@oakton.edu](mailto:scisco@oakton.edu). For registration information go to [www.oakton.edu](http://www.oakton.edu).

**Resurrection**

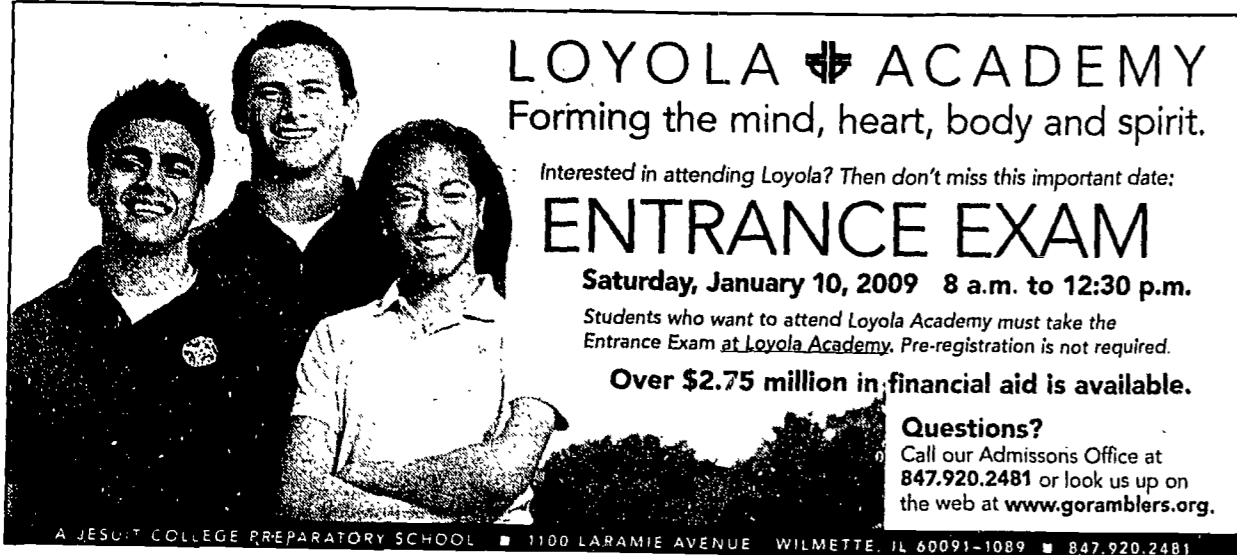
**The Resurrection High School** Entrance Exam will be given Jan. 10 for incoming freshman students. The exam is from 7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., and students must bring two No. 2 pencils, and a \$25 testing fee (cash or a check made out to Resurrection High School). Students may bring a calculator.

No pre-registration is required for the entrance exam. Pizza lunch will be served immediately following testing and a snack will be served during the exam.

Parents are invited to an informational session at 8 a.m. in the Resurrection cafeteria with an orientation on academics, transportation, financial aid, Parents Club and athletics.

Speakers will include Dr. Lynne Saccaro, president/principal; Biancha Schoonhoven, Parents Club president; Coach Lynn O'Linski, athletic director; and Heather Riggs, Strategies for Academic Success director.

For more information, call Debbie Gillespie at (773) 775-6616, Ext. 129, or visit [www.reshs.org](http://www.reshs.org). Resurrection High School is a Catholic, College Preparatory High School for young women.



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

**Resurrection Health Care**

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

# Diversions

## Fast-forwarding 2009

### Bruce Ingram scans top prospects for the coming movie year

By BRUCE INGRAM  
bingram@pioneerlocal.com

screen. And now, after years of false starts and dead ends, it's finally headed our way. Zack Snyder, who showed considerable visual flair two years ago with his adaptation of Frank Miller's "300," directs the action. And, if the trailers are any indication, the action looks spectacular.

**"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince"** (July 17) Unlike half the people on planet Earth, I have no idea who or what the Half-Blood Prince is (any relation to the Fresh Prince of

The great cinematic wheel of life has come full circle and it's time again to step out of the multiplex for a moment, readjust our eyes to sunlight, knock those rattling jujubes out of our skull cavities and take a moment to contemplate the pleasures of the coming movie year — before slinking back into darkness.

2008 wasn't bad by half, but 2009 is already shaping up to be even better, whether your personal taste runs to big-time blockbusters (we've got your "Harry Potter," your "Star Trek," your "Terminator" and more) or the more thoughtful, artful, indie stuff — like movies about nice ladies who clean up messy crime scenes.

It would be easy to point out a few dozen of the 400 to 500 films headed our way this year that appear to be promising, but we've got to draw the line somewhere. So here's a list of ten, divided into five long-anticipated, big-deal major-budget extravaganzas and five more comparatively reserved, modest (perhaps just a wee bit shy?) offerings you may not have heard about.

#### Box office big boys

**"Watchmen"** (March 6) Alan Moore's 1986 graphic novel about a once-revered group of costumed superheroes being persecuted by the government has long been high on the list of titles comic-book aficionados would most like to see on the big



"Watchmen"



"Where The Wild Things Are"



"The Wolfman"



"Terminator Salvation"



"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince"

2009, PAGE B3

# New Year Blowout Sale!

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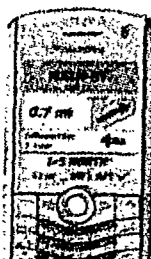
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**OPENING THIS WEEK**

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD**  
★★★ 1/2

Director Sam Mendes didn't do much to make a case for suburban living in "American Beauty," but here he makes it look about as appealing as the plague. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet are a 1950s married couple who had hopes, dreams and aspirations once - before having a couple of kids, buying a house and settling in for the American dream. Ten or so years into an increasingly unhappy union, their lives have devolved into unsatisfying work, unwanted children and near-constant bickering - poised to shift into all-out marital warfare. That may not sound like fun - trust me, it's not - but the performances are juicy, particularly Chicago actor Michael Shannon as an electro-shocked neighbor who loves to make sure everyone knows precisely how unhappy and wretched they are. This might not sound like much of a selling point, but it's hard to imagine a movie doing more to underscore how badly wrong a marriage can go - while making it clear, frustratingly clear, how simple it could be to make things right again. (B) (119 min.) Rated R for language and some sexual content/nudity.

**STILL PLAYING**

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON**  
★★★ 1/2

By far the most sanguine movie David Fincher ("Seven," "Fight Club," "Zodiac") has ever made, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" is still shot through with a strain of melancholy that comes from a constant preoccupation with mortality. After all, the title character (Brad Pitt, striking just the right note of bemused fatalism) is born one step away from the grave and his aging in reverse is a constant reminder to everyone heading the other way that time is limited. Ben Button takes that awareness and sets out to make every moment in life count, though, setting off to see as a young man in an old man's body, traveling the world like a wandering tourist, savoring the slightly odd acquaintances he makes every where he turns - and hoping to someday be with his soulmate Daisy (Cate Blanchett). Whom he meets when she's 8 and he's either 12 or 70-something depending on how you look at it. The special effects are inventive, the screenplay is charming, funny and unself-consciously philosophical and the romance is fresh and original. Well worth a look. (B) (159 min.) Rated PG-13 for brief war violence, sexual content, language and smoking.

**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 fearsome 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. (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. (B) (122 min.) Rated R for some language.

**GRAN TORINO**  
★★★

Dirty Harry goes geriatric. Miserable, cantankerous old SOB Walt Kowalski (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 siced 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

**FILM CLIPS**

(Vang) when their family is threatened by gang-bangers. (B) (116 min.) Rated R for language throughout, and some violence.

**THE READER**  
★★★

A strong performance by Kate Winslet as a middle-aged woman in post-World War II Germany, who clearly has a painful secret, highlights this initially erotic, ultimately troubling drama based on the international best-seller by Bernhard Schlink. Stephen Daldry ("The Hours," "Billy Elliot") directed the drama about the dour, distant Hanna, who begins a summer-long affair with a bookish 15-year-old boy (David Kross) based on his love for her and her desire to hear him read novels aloud to her in bed. An affair that effectively ruins his ability to love other women, even as an adult (played by Ralph Fiennes). "The Reader" is a simple story at heart, but it takes some surprising turns that ultimately pay off nicely, despite the pacing problems that arise as soon as Daisy and her young lover go their separate ways. (B) (123 min.) Rated R for some scenes of sexuality and nudity.

**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 unnamed but terrible sin from his past, who sets out to atone by saving the lives of seven strangers. (B) (118 min.) Rated PG-13 for thematic material, some disturbing content and a scene of sensuality.

**THE SPIRIT**

A rookie cop (Gabriel Macht) returns from the beyond to fight crime. Frank Miller ("Sin City") directed this update of the classic comic book adventure. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of stylized violence and action, some sexual content and brief nudity.

**VALKYRIE**  
★★ 1/2

Considering what's at stake here - a do-or-die effort to assassinate Hitler and bring World War II to a less disastrous end for Germany - there's an unfortunate lack of tension in "Valkyrie." Maybe the problem is that we already know that things aren't going to work out very well for our heroes. Maybe it's because it's hard to take Tom Cruise (giving an affect-less performance

as plot leader Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg) seriously when he's wearing an eyepatch. Director Bryan Singer ("The Usual Suspects," "Superman Returns") sets a slow, somber pace that rarely varies and matches it with bleak, gray cinematography that certainly conveys how dismal things were in Germany in 1944 - but also has a soporific effect on all the dramatic developments. (B) Rated PG-13 for violence and brief strong language.

**THE WRESTLER**  
★★★★

"The Wrestler" could have been a sentimental washout, with its story of a long-past-his-prime former superstar wrestler (Mickey Rourke in a must-see comeback performance) trying to find a way to fit into the straight world after a heart attack forces him out of the ring. But director Darren Aronofsky ("Pi," "Requiem for a Dream") simply doesn't go there. Whether he's trying to talk his way back into the trailer he's been locked out of for past-due rent, or coping with a deli counter job that requires him to wear an apron and a hairnet (no spandex tights allowed) or trying to rekindle his relationship with the long-ignored daughter (Evan Rachel Wood) who wishes he'd stop showing up, Aronofsky doesn't milk us for cheap sympathy for "The Ram" - or ignore the plain fact that 20 years of bad decisions are to blame for his situation. But he gives his hero a certain sort of dignity in difficult circumstances and makes his efforts to turn his life around heroic in a way that quietly underscores his stoicism in the ring - even in freak-show matches that force him to suffer attacks with barbed wire and staple guns. (Certain scenes are not for the squeamish.) You might think you can guess where "The Wrestler" is headed, but this is not "Rocky." A happy ending is not guaranteed. On the other hand, it's not a celebration of misery either. Aronofsky manages to make his film sad and triumphant at the same time. (B) (109 min.) Rated R for violence, sexuality/nudity, language and some drug use.

**YES MAN**  
★★ 1/2

A miserably unhappy loan officer (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). (B) (104 min.) Rated PG-13 for crude sexual humor, language and brief nudity.

**YE MAN**  
★★ 1/2

Reviews by Bruce Ingram

**2009**

Continued from PAGE B1

tooth there toward the end of the original series of "Star Trek" spin-off movies, so what could be more natural than pushing the old reset button and zapping the characters back to post-adolescence? Most of the particulars are fuzzy, but the general idea seems to be an old-fashioned origin story, as Kirk (Chris Pine) and Spock (Zachary Quinto of "Heroes") meet in Starfleet Academy and team up with their crew. It's encouraging that JJ Abrams (the risk-taking creator of TV's "Lost") is at the helm and if the rest of the movie is as smartly done as the casting of chief engineer "Beam me up" Scotty (British comic actor Simon Pegg), this could be a blast.

"Terminator Salvation" (May 22) Two out of the first three installments of the "Terminator" sci-fi ac-

tion series (including James Cameron's 1984 classic original) have been terrific, so I'm far from running out of patience with this franchise. This time Christian Bale signs on as John Connor, the ordained savior of mankind in the war against machines (more particularly, the unstoppable Terminator murder-droids). The machines get on the scoreboard early with a nuclear strike, but we are nothing if not tenacious. I'd say we're like the Ever-ready bunny, but the Ever-ready bunny is a machine and therefore must be destroyed. Pass me my photon cannon. Alright you little pink weasel. Let's see you keep on going after this.

"Public Enemies" (July 1) I'm not sure about Johnny Depp playing John Dillinger (but then again I wouldn't have thought much of him playing a pirate captain in a movie spun off from a Disneyland ride), but I'm still psyched about this gang-

ster *abundanza* about the efforts of the Feds (led by busy guy Christian Bale) to wipe out Big D, Baby Face Nelson and Pretty Boy Floyd during the 1930s. You know, back when that other depression we hear so much about was going on... My enthusiasm probably has a lot to do with the fact that "Public Enemies" was directed by macho-specialist Michael Mann, who's already produced one great movie about the life of crime in Chicago - 1981's "Thief."

Grosses of less than \$200-million acceptable

"Funny People" (July 31) Judd Apatow hasn't exactly been an unfamiliar name in movie comedy recently, having been attached one way or another to "Pineapple Express," "You Don't Mess with the Zohan," "Step Brothers," "Superbad" and "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story," but this is the first film he's written and di-

rected solo since "Knocked Up." Making a comedy about comedians sounds a little risky, but it wouldn't surprise me if Apatow's able to pull it off. Adam Sandler (another risky proposition) plays a star comedian who learns he has one year left to live and hires a struggling comic (Seth Rogen) to be his personal assistant and friend.

"Sunshine Cleaning" (April 9) So, you think you've got a tough job? Amy Adams ("Enchanted," "Junebug") and Emily Blunt (Meryl Streep's catty assistant in "The Devil Wears Prada") star as a couple of sisters who start a lucrative cleaning service - swabbing down the walls at grisly crime scenes. An audience favorite at last year's Sundance Festival, "Sunshine Cleaning" comes from the same production company that made "Little Miss Sunshine" and it even throws in Alan Arkin as another

colorful old guy bonding with a little kid. Hopefully not at a grisly crime scene.

"The Great Buck Howard" (March 20) Another audience fave from Sundance, "Buck Howard" gives us John Malkovich as a long-past-his-prime magician still clinging to his days of show-business glory and dreaming of a big comeback. It's a road movie, with the Great Buck and his personal assistant (Colin Howard) knocking around dismal venues in tiny towns awaiting that certain-to-come-but-somehow-delayed phone call from Leno's people. After all, he was on Carson 61 times...

"The Wolfman" (June 19) I thought Benicio Del Toro was pretty good as Che Guevara in Steven Soderbergh's upcoming "Che," but somehow I'm dead certain he's going to be a great wolfman. Don't ask me why, but this guy just seems to have wolfman written all over him.

In an update, more or less, of the 1941 Universal classic, he plays Lawrence Talbot, an American who returns to the family castle of his ancestral homeland (you know this guy's going to have monster trouble of some sort) and runs afoul of the local shapeshifters.

"Where the Wild Things Are" (Oct. 16) If you must make a movie version of Maurice Sendak's classic children's story, it's smart to hire someone like Spike Jonze ("Being John Malkovich," "Adaptation") to give it a crazy spin. Jonze and Dave Eggers ("A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius") adapted the story about a naughty boy who's sent to bed without his supper and dreams up a land of ferocious beasts who crown him king. Way to go, kid. That's definitely cooler than knuckling under and eating your broccoli.

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53 S. Evergreen St.  
(847) 483-0123

**MARLEY & ME (PG)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:40-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:20  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 4:30-7:00  
Wed: 2:00-4:30-7:00

**BEDTIME STORIES (PG)**  
Fri-Sun: 12:40-2:50-5:00-7:10-9:20  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 5:00-7:10  
Wed: 2:50-5:00-7:10

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:50-3:00-6:15-9:30  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 6:15  
Wed: 3:00-6:15

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 4:50-7:20  
Wed: 2:20-4:50-7:20

**YES MAN (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 12:45-3:00-5:15-7:30-9:45  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 5:15-7:30  
Wed: 3:00-5:15-7:30

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
Fri-Sun: 12:40-2:45-4:50-7:00  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 4:50-7:00  
Wed: 2:45-4:50-7:00

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 9:30

## CHICAGO

**Lincoln Village 1-6**  
6341 N. McCormick at Devon  
(773) 604-4747  
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## EVANSTON

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(847) 491-9751  
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## ELK GROVE VILLAGE

**Elk Grove**  
Biersterfield & Arlington Hts. Rds.  
(847) 444-FILM #559

**BEDTIME STORIES (PG)**  
Fri-Thurs: 12:20-2:35-4:50-7:05-9:20

**MARLEY & ME (PG)**  
Fri-Thurs: 12:00-2:25-4:55-7:25-9:55

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 12:00-3:20-6:40-10:00

**VALKYRIE (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 1:35-4:10-6:50-9:30

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
Fri-Thurs: 12:30-2:35-4:40-6:45

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 11:5-4:00-7:10-9:50

**YES MAN (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 12:25-2:40-5:00-7:20-9:40

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 12:45-3:00-5:15-7:30-9:45

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 8:50



Maybe not such a good idea? Jim Carrey in "Yes Man."



Bedtime stories: Kate Winslet and David Kross in "The Reader."

## GLENVIEW

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

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

## AUSTRALIA (PG-13)

Fri-Sun: 1:15-4:15-7:15  
Mon-Thurs: 4:15-7:15

## QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)

Fri-Sun: 2:15-4:45-7:15-9:15  
Mon-Thurs: 4:45-7:15

## I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG-13)

Fri-Sun: 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:15  
Mon-Thurs: 4:30-7:00

## MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG)

Fri-Sun: 2:15

## CHANGELING (R)

Fri-Thurs: 4:15-7:00

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**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
Fri-Thurs: 1:00-2:00  
4:00-5:00-7:00-8:00

## THE READER (R)

Fri-Thurs: 12:00  
2:45-5:30-8:20

## MILK (R)

Fri-Thurs: 12:15  
1:15-4:15-7:15-8:10

## THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG-13)

Fri-Thurs: 3:00-5:45

## MOUNT PROSPECT

**Randhurst**  
101 Euclid Ave.  
(847) 590-9788  
www.amctheatres.com  
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## NILES

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## ROSEMONT

## ROSEMONT

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Fri, Sat: 11:20-11:50-1:55-2:30-4:35-5:10-7:15-7:50-9:50-10:20-12:50  
Sun: 11:20-11:50-1:55-2:30-4:35-5:10-7:15-7:50-9:50-10:20

**MARLEY & ME (PG)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:50-1:30-3:50-4:30-6:50-7:30-9:40-10:30-12:30  
Sun: 6:50-7:30-9:40-10:30  
Mon-Thurs: 1:00-1:30-3:50-4:30-6:50-7:30-9:40-10:30

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 3:15-7:00-10:40

**THE READER (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10-12:55  
Sun-Thurs: 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10

**THE SPIRIT (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:5-2:00-4:40-7:25-10:05-12:45  
Sun: 11:5-2:00-4:40-7:25-10:05  
Mon-Thurs: 2:00-4:40-7:25-10:05

**VALKYRIE (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:10-12:55  
Sun-Thurs: 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:10

**DOUBT (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:45-2:25-5:00-7:35-10:25  
Mon-Thurs: 2:25-5:00-7:35-10:25

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 1:45-3:55-4:45-7:45-9:45-10:45

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:00-12:05-2:40-5:05-7:40  
Mon-Thurs: 2:40-5:05-7:40

**YES MAN (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:55-1:15-2:35-5:15-7:05-7:55-10:20-12:40  
Sun: 11:55-1:15-2:35-5:15-7:05-7:55-10:30  
Mon-Thurs: 1:15-2:35-5:15-7:05-7:55-10:30

**NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 10:15-12:40  
Sun-Thurs: 10:15

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

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

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:35-3:35-6:45-9:40-12:35  
Sun: 12:35-3:35-6:45-9:40  
Mon-Thurs: 1:00-3:55-6:50-9:45

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:5-4:00-6:55-9:35-12:10  
Sun-Thurs: 1:25-4:00-6:55-9:35

**BOLT (PG)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:10-1:50  
Mon-Thurs: 1:50

**TWILIGHT (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 4:25-7:25-10:20

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:5-4:00-6:55-9:35-12:10  
Sun-Thurs: 1:25-4:00-6:55-9:35

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 3:05-8:10

**BOLT (PG)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:10-1:50  
Mon-Thurs: 1:50

**TWILIGHT (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 4:25-7:25-10:20

**QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 12:20-5:30-10:35  
Mon-Thurs: 5:30-10:35

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**BEDTIME STORIES (PG)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:20-12:50  
Sun: 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:20  
Mon-Thurs: 5:10-7:50-10:20

**MARLEY & ME (PG)**  
Fri-Sun: 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30  
Mon-Thurs: 4:30-7:30-10:30

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:30-3:15-7:00-10:40  
Mon-Thurs: 4:15-8:00

**THE READER (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10-12:55  
Sun: 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10  
Mon-Thurs: 4:10-7:10-10:10

**VALKYRIE (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:10-12:55  
Sun: 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:10  
Mon-Thurs: 4:20-7:20-10:10

**SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**  
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Mon-Thurs: 4:45-7:45-10:45

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

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

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

# Kids take flight at holiday theater party

BY MYRNA PETLICKI  
Contributor

Grownups have dinner theater. Kids — accompanied by their parents — have the "Lifeline Holiday Party," a gala event that combines lunch, theater and theater-related activities. The party runs from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago.

Lifeline Artistic Director Dorothy Milne reported that from noon-2 p.m. participants will enjoy a kid-friendly lunch, do arts and crafts projects and participate in theater games. At 2 p.m., they will see, "Flight of the Dodo," a world premiere musical adaptation of Peter Brown's children's story about Penguin, who is upset that geese use his tuxedo coat as a target.

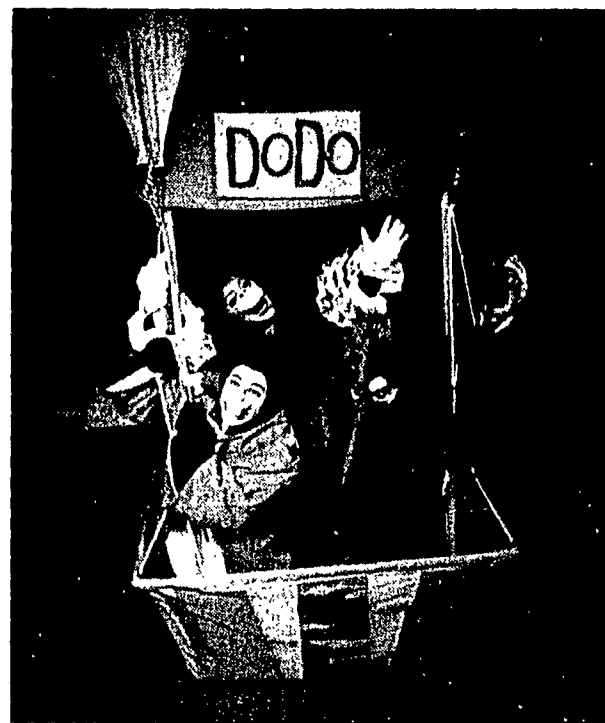
Kids will learn to imitate the movements of the four flightless birds who build a flying machine in "Dodo," — an ostrich, kiwi, penguin and cassowary.

"Anybody who wants to do a whole marathon theater day can also purchase a 'Snowflake Tim' ticket at an additional fee," Milne said. Tickets for lunch, activities and the "Dodo" performance are \$25 each, \$15 for Lifeline subscribers. For \$12 more per person, you can also see "Snowflake Tim's Big Holiday Adventure" at 11 a.m.

For details, call (773) 761-4477.

### More fun with food

Bring your own meal for a free adventure for ages 2-6 with an adult, Friday, Jan. 9, at Skokie



"Flight of the Dodo" is staged at Lifeline Theatre.

Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Register early to ensure a place at "Winter Preschool Picnic with

Morris the Magic Man." After participants eat lunch at noon, Morris will present a magic show de-

signed especially for preschoolers.

For details, call (847) 324-8149.

### Brrrrrr the kids

It may be chilly out but everyone ages 8 and up will still have fun at "Chili Open 2009" at Lake Park Golf Course, Lee Street, between Howard and Touhy, Saturday, Jan. 10. Tee times are between 10 a.m. and noon for this six-hole golf event. Lunch will feature chili with coffee or hot chocolate. Cost for lunch and golf is \$15 residents, \$20 nonresidents; \$8 for lunch only. Golfers will vie for prizes.

For details, call (847) 803-4653, ext. 25.

### Cheer here

The battle lines have been drawn. Kids representing the Morton Grove

Public Library will compete against the visiting Niles Public Library championship team in "Battle of the Books Showdown-Morton Grove vs. Niles," 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, at 6140 Lincoln Ave. Drop-in and cheer your favorite team. A repeat match will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. For details, call (847) 965-4220.

### Music to your ears

Violist Sarah Bloethe and pianist Trent Takaki are the featured artists at Skokie Public Library's next "Young Steinway Concert," 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, at 5215 Oakton St. Free tickets are available at 2:30 p.m. that day. For details, call (847) 673-7774.

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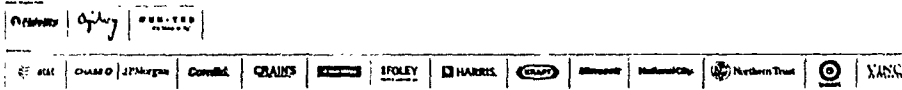
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- » **Entries must be typed.** We're sorry, but we can't take it over the telephone. We prefer e-mail submissions, please.
- » **go. listings are free.** Include brief description of the event, time, date, address, price and phone number.
- » **By mail:** go. go. c/o Pioneer Press, 291 Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights IL 60004. E-mail: [go1@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:go1@pioneerlocal.com). FAX: (847) 797-5151.

### STAGE

"The Music Man," presented by Light Opera Works through Jan. 4 at the Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Performances at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with a matinee at 2 p.m. Sunday, \$29-\$85. Call (847) 869-6300 or visit [www.LightOperaWorks.com](http://www.LightOperaWorks.com).

"Po Boy Tango," Jan. 7-Feb. 15 at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (except Jan. 27 and Feb. 10); Wednesdays at 1 p.m. (except Jan. 7 and 14) and 7:30 p.m. (except Feb. 4); Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. (except Jan. 10) and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 15). \$25-\$55. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit [www.northlight.org](http://www.northlight.org).

"Stop/Kiss," Jan. 15-March 15 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee, Chicago. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays. Special Sunday, Jan. 18, preview at 2:30 p.m. \$20 for Thursdays and Saturday matinees; \$25 for Friday and Saturday nights. \$15 tickets are available at all performances for students, seniors and industry with proper identification. Call (773) 823-7071 or visit [www.thegifttheatre.org](http://www.thegifttheatre.org).

### CLASSICAL

Music of the Baroque performs at First United Methodist Church of Evanston, 1630 Hinman Ave. (312) 551-1414. [www.baroque.org](http://www.baroque.org). \$30-\$75; \$25-\$30 students/seniors. Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.; "Glover Conducts 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](http://www.musicinst.org). Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.: High

school students enrolled in MIC's Academy program will present solo performances. Free.

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. Tickets are \$20-\$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. Children under age 14 admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. [www.northwestsymphony.org](http://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 Pain; George Chadwick's Noël and Jubilee; and Louis Gottschalk's A Night in the Tropics. The concert will include an appearance by the Arlingtones Barber-shop Chorus.

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Tickets are \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861 or visit [www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org](http://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." Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. (847) 673-7774. [www.skokieliibrary.info](http://www.skokieliibrary.info). Jan. 4, 3 p.m.: Trenton Takaki, an eighth-grade student at Wilmette Junior High School, will perform piano works by Bach, Haydn, Chopin and Prokofiev as part of the Young Steinway Concert Series.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra performs at 3 p.m. Sundays at the

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. \$22-\$36; \$9 for children. Free pre-concert lectures begin at 1:30 p.m. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit [www.svso.org](http://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.

### POP/FOLK/JAZZ

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. Jan. 3, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.: Trans-Siberian Orchestra. \$48, \$38. Jan. 26-27, 7 p.m.: Melajica with Machine Head, The Sword, \$79.50, \$59.50. Jan. 30, 7 p.m.: Slipknot, Coheed & Cambria, Trivium. \$45, \$37.50.

Centro 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. 8, 7:30 p.m.: Elvis Birthday Tribute. \$49.50.

Famous Freddie's Roadhouse, 1799 S. Busse Road, Mount Prospect. (847) 593-2200. [www.famousfreddiesroadhouse.com](http://www.famousfreddiesroadhouse.com). Shows start at 9 p.m. Fridays and 10 p.m. Saturdays. Jan. 2: Josh & the Empty Pockets (jazz, soul, country, rock). Jan. 3: Woogie (rock party tunes). Jan. 9: C-Factor (classic to current pop rock covers). Jan. 10: Jak-tripper.

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. [www.irishamhc.com](http://www.irishamhc.com). Entertainment at 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in the Fifth Province Lounge, no cover - Jan. 2: Ceili dancing with Ceoltoiri Chicago. Jan. 3: Mulligan Stew. Jan. 9: Patrick Guinee 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. Call Earl Essig, (847) 272-0762, or e-mail [earlessig@aol.com](mailto:earlessig@aol.com).

Northeastern Illinois University, Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago. (773) 442-4636. Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.: Ryan Cohen Jazz Sextet presents "One Sky." \$25; \$15 seniors; \$10 students. Jan. 16, 8 p.m.: Pablo Ziegler Trio for New Tango. \$25; \$15 seniors; \$10 students.

Prospect Heights Public Library, 12 N. Elm St., Prospect Heights. (847) 259-3500. [www.phpl.info](http://www.phpl.info). Registration for programs required, unless noted otherwise. Jan. 11, 2 p.m.: Die Lustigen Musikanten presents songs in English and German.

Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit [www.skokiethatre.com](http://www.skokiethatre.com). Concert tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door, unless noted otherwise. Jan. 30, 8 p.m.: "Welcome to Laborland" with Bucky Walker. 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.

### ART GALLERIES

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**go.**

Continued from PAGE B6

Artists Exhibition, which includes photography by Mirella Scully of Mount Prospect. An artists' reception will be held from 1-3 p.m. Feb. 21. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

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. Jan. 8-Feb. 8: "Petra Kratickova: Silent Longing," a site-specific installation by Czechoslovakian-born and Ohio-based artist Petra Kratickova. Opening reception from 7-9 p.m. Jan. 8.

Elmhurst Artists' Guild Gallery in the Elmhurst Art Museum, 150 S. Cottage Hill Ave., Elmhurst. Admission is \$4; \$3 seniors; \$2 students; free for children under 12. Through Jan. 2: "Awakening," contemporary oil paintings by Niles resident Leon Oks.

Elmwood Park Public Library, 1 Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park. (708) 395-1200. Jan. 5-April 6: Photographs by Mount Prospect resident Mirella Scully.

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston. (847) 475-1030. www.mitchellmuseum.org. \$5 for adults; \$2.50 for senior citizens, students and children. Through Jan. 4: "On the Plains: The Art of Potawatomi Artist Woody Crumbo." At 1 p.m. Jan. 4, collector Allan Niederman will give a gallery talk about the Crumbo prints loaned from his personal collection.

Oakton Community College, Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2632. www.oakton.edu/museum. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Through Jan. 23: "Jud Langston: Post-Katrina Images" and "Davida Schulman: Self-Portraits."

**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.

Wilbur Wright College will hold auditions, open to community residents, for its spring musical, "Little Shop of Horrors," from 5-8 p.m. Jan. 13-15 at the college's theater, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave., Chicago. Actors must prepare a short up-tempo song and a contemporary one-minute monologue. They should also be prepared to quickly learn a chorus from the show and to

do a reading from the script. Stage Wright, which is the college's theater troupe, is also looking for new stage crew members and musicians for the show. Contact Stage Wright at (773) 481-8037 or stagewright@ccc.edu.

Take Two Children's Theater will hold auditions for "Disney's Cinderella Kids" on Jan. 14 at the North Shore Dance Center, 8401 Crawford, Skokie. For information, call (847) 674-2216.

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 April 25-May 10 at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Visit www.risingstars.org or call (773) 736-2490.

**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.

**DANCE**

**PERFORMANCES**

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.

Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler Ave., Skokie. (847) 626-2122. Jan. 6, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.: The Theatre Department's Play Production class presents a comedy improvisation show, "Reflections: See for Yourself," in the Drama Performance Center. Tickets are \$5.

**GROUPS & LESSONS**

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.

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. 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. Jan. 12: "We Will Be Fine in '09." Jan. 26: "Wheel & Deal in Winter" and Chili Nite. 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.

**CHILD'S PLAY**

"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. 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. \$10. Call (773) 205-9600 or visit www.chicagokidscompany.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.

**DANCE**

**PERFORMANCES**

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.centreeast.org. Feb. 14, 8 p.m.: Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago. \$46.

Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler Ave., Skokie. (847) 626-2122. Jan. 23-24, 7 p.m.: The school's Auroris Dance Company will present "Synergy" in the auditorium. The company will showcase a variety of different styles such as ballet, hip-hop, jazz, modern and tap. The program will feature dances by students as well Chicago choreographers. Tickets are \$10. A free community performance will be presented at 10 a.m. Jan. 22.

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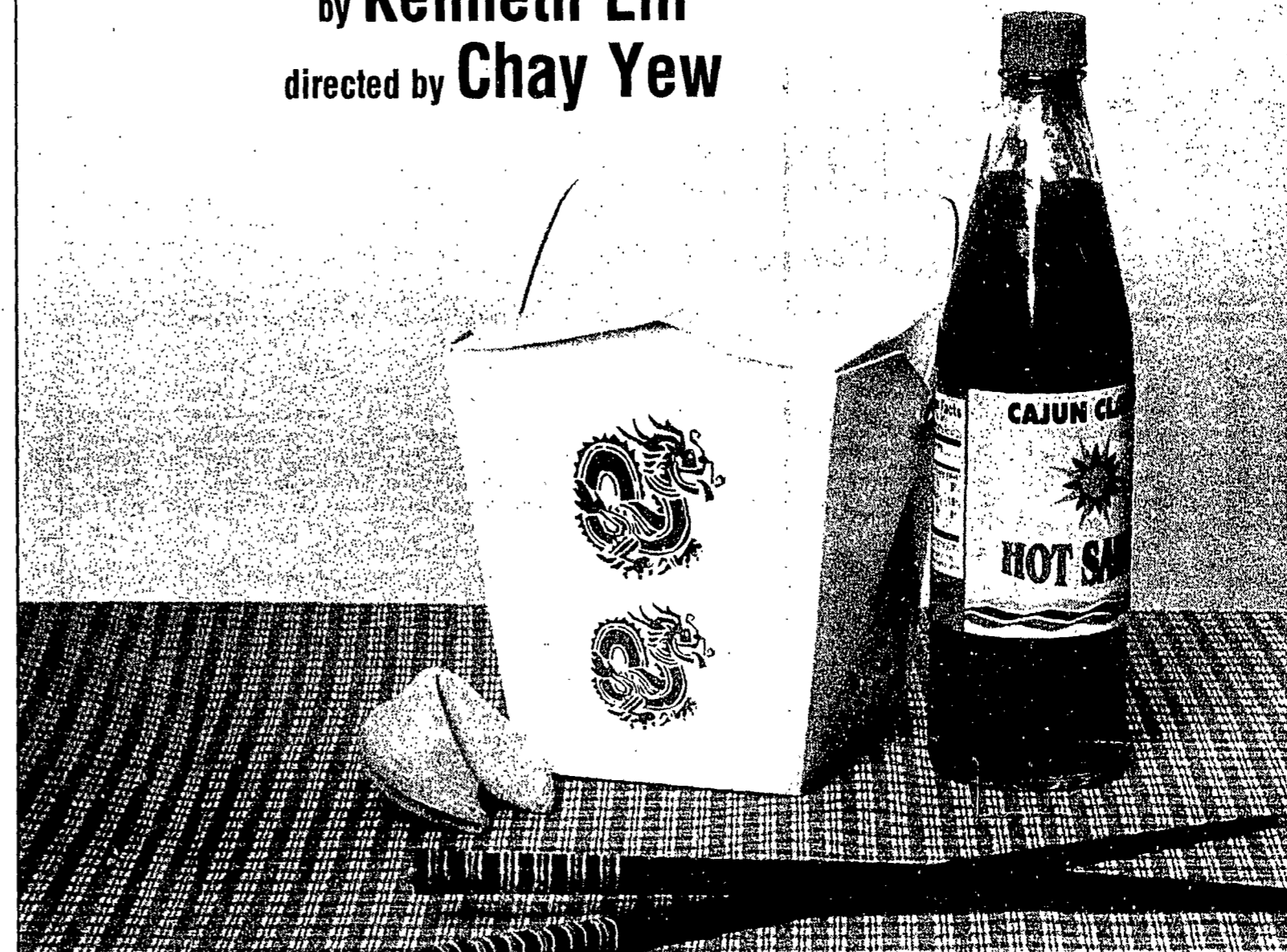
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5/1 jumbo ARM (interest only)	Call for Rates				
7/1 jumbo ARM	Call for Rates				
Contact Stuart L. Cohen, Mortgage Expert, at 847-772-1818 (B) 1161 Lake Cook Rd., Suite 1, Deerfield, IL 60015 60777					

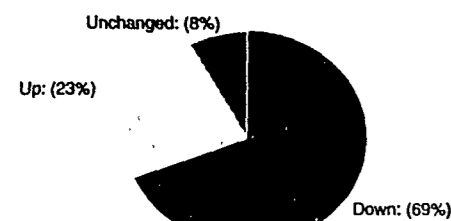
Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>UNITED HOME LOANS 708-531-8317</b> <a href="http://www.UHLoans.com">http://www.UHLoans.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	Call for Rates				
5/1 jumbo ARM	5.125	0.000	\$1195	20%	5.021
7/1 jumbo ARM	5.750	0.000	\$1195	20%	5.358
10/1 jumbo ARM	Call for Rates				
For a personal quote call Mike Dulla, President (B) 3 Westbrook Corp. Center, Westchester, IL 60154 MB. 6066479					

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>GLENVIEW STATE BANK 847-729-1900</b> <a href="http://www.gsb.com">http://www.gsb.com</a>					
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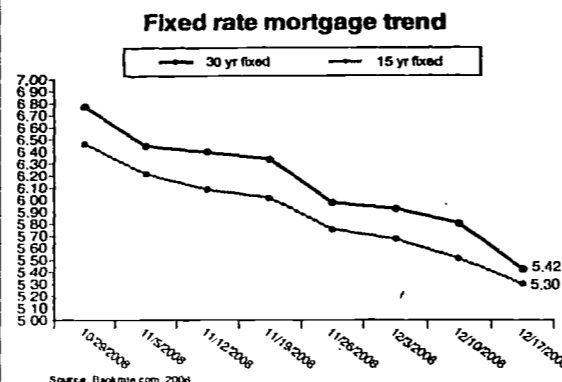
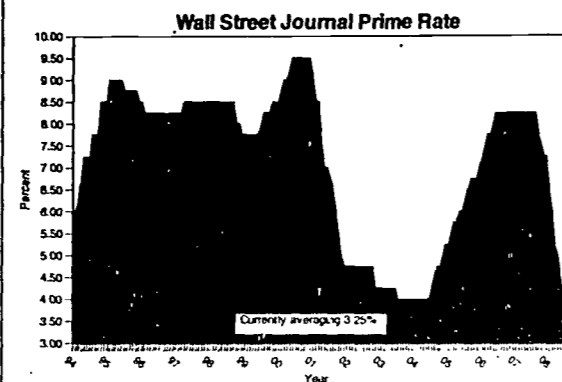
Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
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15 yr fixed	4.625	0.000	\$700	20%	4.689
10 yr fixed	4.625	0.000	\$700	20%	4.717
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Each week Bankrate survey's mortgage experts to predict which way rates will go in coming weeks: up, down, or stay about the same. Here is what they say this week (12/18/08-12/24/08)



Source: Bankrate.com, 2008



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

### MORTGAGE UPDATE

#### Benchmark rate at 4-year low By Holden Lewis • Bankrate.com

For a while on Wednesday morning, people were getting conforming mortgages at less than 5 percent.

Glenn Floyd, in Wilmington, N.C., grabbed a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage at 4.875 percent, paying half a discount point. He describes his conversation with his broker on Wednesday morning this way: "He said four, and I said, 'Lock,' before he finished saying seven-eighths."

The previous day, Floyd had been quoted a rate of 5.25 percent. It's a \$312,000 loan, and he saved about \$71 a month by waiting a day and getting the lower rate.

Across the country in California, Jeff Lazerson, president of online brokerage Mortgage Grader, was offering a conforming mortgage at 4.375 percent, with 1.125 discount points.

Has Lazerson ever seen mortgage rates that low? "No," he says. "Never. I'm starting on my 23rd year in the business. Never this low."

Rates didn't stay that low all day. By afternoon, they had gone up about a quarter of a percentage point. Dan Green, mortgage planner with the Mobium Group in Cincinnati, told his Twitter followers: "Today reminds us: The bird in the bush is ever-elusive. Lock mortgage rates when you have the chance."

There's reason to believe that borrowers will continue to have chances. The Federal Reserve made it clear Tuesday that it intends to push mortgage rates down and keep them low for a long time.

Bankrate's weekly rate survey didn't register as dramatic a decline in rates, for reasons that will be explained shortly. The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 38 basis points, to 5.42 percent, according to the Bankrate.com national survey of large lenders. A basis point is one-hundredth of 1 percentage point. The mortgages in this week's survey had an average total of 0.39 discount and origination points. One year ago, the mortgage index was 6.21 percent; four weeks ago, it was 6.33 percent.

The benchmark 15-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 21 basis points, to 5.30 percent. The benchmark 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgage fell 33 basis points, to 5.84 percent.

Bankrate has been surveying mortgage rates weekly since 1985. For the benchmark 30-year mortgage, the all-time low was set June 11, 2003, at 5.28 percent. This week it's 5.42 percent. In 23 years of weekly Bankrate surveys, the benchmark rate has been below 5.42 percent eight times. The last time it was lower than 5.42 percent was March 17, 2004, when it was 5.41 percent.

Volatile Wednesdays

In the last few months, it has been common for mortgage rates to have big up-and-down swings during the day — a phenomenon known as volatility. In a random quirk, rates have been particularly volatile the last four Wednesdays, which happens to be the day when Bankrate conducts its weekly survey. Because of this volatility, Bankrate's survey didn't capture the depth of the week's rate decline.

This week's survey shows that it pays to shop around. In Dallas, some lenders told Bankrate that they were offering the 30-year fixed at 4.75 percent, and one thrift was offering it at 6.375 percent. In Los Angeles, Lazerson would disclose the lending source of his 4.375 percent loan only upon sworn assurance of strict secrecy.

Refi madness continues

Hoping to take advantage of low rates, masses of homeowners are calling loan officers and brokers to inquire about refinancing. "We have noticed a marked pickup in refi inquiries, many of them born of misunderstanding about what the government's policy on the 4.5 percent rate is," says Dan Dowling, president of United Mortgage Capital Corp., near Orlando, Fla.

Ah, yes — the rumored plan by which the Treasury would do something to bring mortgage rates down to 4.5 percent. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson denied the rumor Wednesday. Dowling says the rumor served a beneficial purpose: It focused homeowners' attention on rates. "While

rates are not 4.5 percent on a refi, you sure as heck can get a 5," he says. Even as rates rebounded above 5 percent on Wednesday afternoon, few mortgage people doubted that they'll drop again, probably not long from now. On Tuesday, the Federal Reserve slashed the overnight rate to near zero percent, and promised to "employ all available tools" to stimulate the economy and keep prices from falling. The Fed mentioned its plan to buy mortgage-backed securities, which is likely to push mortgage rates downward.

Hope for the underwater

If all of this sounds too good to be true, you know what comes next: the word "but."

But only some refi applicants are able to qualify for these super-low-rate loans. The big problem: Homeowners owe more than their houses are worth, or they're on the way to owing more than their houses are worth, because of declining property values. They are "underwater" and can't refinance. Lazerson says about 70 percent of would-be refiners fall into this category.

Those people might find relief. James Lockhart, who heads the agency that regulates Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, says he is considering waiving appraisal requirements on refinances. If Fannie and Freddie stop requiring appraisals on refinances, then underwater homeowners would be able to refinance at lower rates — if they've been paying on time.

Lazerson hopes Fannie and Freddie do waive appraisals. It would be a way of rewarding homeowners who have been making their mortgage payments on time, at a time when it seems like only the irresponsible borrowers have been getting breaks.

"If they would waive appraisals for people who have demonstrated that they can pay, that would help the people that are thinking about mailing the keys back to the lender, and that will keep a lot of people in their homes," he says.

Rates effective as of 12/22/08. © 2008 Bankrate, Inc. <http://www.bankrate.com>. LEGEND: (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 \$150,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of \$415,000. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Lock Days: 30-60. Annual percentage rates (APRs) are based on fully indexed rates for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample used. Fees refer 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 or other financial product, you may be able to find a lender in your area who is not listed in this table. We encourage you to 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 800-509-4636. <http://pioneerlocal.interest.com>

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# Today's New Homes

DECEMBER 31, 2008 - JANUARY 2, 2009

## Crystal ball

Builder, real estate experts forecast trends for 2009

For even the most seasoned builder and real estate professional, 2008 was a challenging year. While none knows exactly when we'll see big improvements in the Chicago-area real estate market, several local developers and agents offered up predictions for 2009.

Fact is, there is mortgage money available to qualified buyers, there are many qualified buyers out there in the Chicago-area marketplace, and it being a "buyer's market" — with incentives, lowered prices, discounted options and a solid inventory in all types of housing — there really has not been such an attractive time to buy in a long, long time.

So where are the trends taking us? Homebuilders and real estate experts offer a few insights.

### Having more with less

Single-family homebuilders are predicting the continued movement toward smaller homes, with many buyers opting for less square footage as a way to save more, said Jim Chittaro, chief financial officer for Naperville-based J. Lawrence Homes.

"We've definitely seen an increase in buyers opting for the smaller home with the lower base price and then adding upgrades throughout," said Chittaro.

Chittaro added that tomorrow's buyers are also energy conscious, which is another reason why builders who offer smaller homes might find themselves more successful going forward.

In other words, downsizing space up-sizes value. In fact, a survey conducted by market re-



An artist's drawing shows Burr Ridge Village Center, a 20-acre lifestyle center in southwest-suburban Burr Ridge, developed by Opus North.

search firm Hanley Wood showed that as many as 58 percent of affluent baby boomers said they were very likely or somewhat likely to move to a smaller home within the next 10 to 15 years.

J. Lawrence Homes is joined by Rolling Meadows-based Kimball Hill Homes in acknowledging the trend, building communities in several Chicago-area locations designed to woo just this kind of buyer.

In McHenry, for example, Kimball Hill is building Legend Lakes, a community that includes townhomes ranging in size from 1,156 to 1,987 square feet and base-priced from \$148,990 to \$186,990. The townhomes come in seven different plans, with two to three bedrooms and 1½ to two baths.

According to Zillow.com, smaller homes like these have shown a greater rate of appreciation, 5.2 percent, in comparison to larger homes measuring over 3,000 square feet, at 3.5 percent. Smaller homes also require less energy for heating and cooling systems to regulate temperature, saving money on energy bills.

The townhomes at Legend Lakes are priced well below the average assessed value in McHenry County, which is at \$262,100, according to tax-foundation.org, yielding a much lower property tax bill.

"For retirees living on a fixed income, these savings really add up," said Jack Wexelberg, regional president of Kimball Hill Homes. "It frees up more money for travel and leisure, two things retirees should be able to enjoy."

For downsizers in Naperville, Kimball Hill Homes is building Mayfair, a community of courthouses and townhomes, measuring 1,935 to 2,205 square feet. They are base-priced from \$205,990 to \$308,990.

According to Wexelberg, the proximity of a shopping center may prompt some downsizers to sell one of their cars, another money-saver.

"The value of accessible amenities and a walkable lifestyle cannot be underestimated," said

Turn to FORECAST, 2

inside

## In with the new

It's a time of beginnings, and no start feels as exciting and fresh as a new home.

Page 3

Why is bailout money being pumped into ailing banks and not being applied to troubled assets



or saving our homes? Read **Don DeBat**, Page 2

Lakeshore East's six-acre park takes first place in mayor's landscape program.

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online

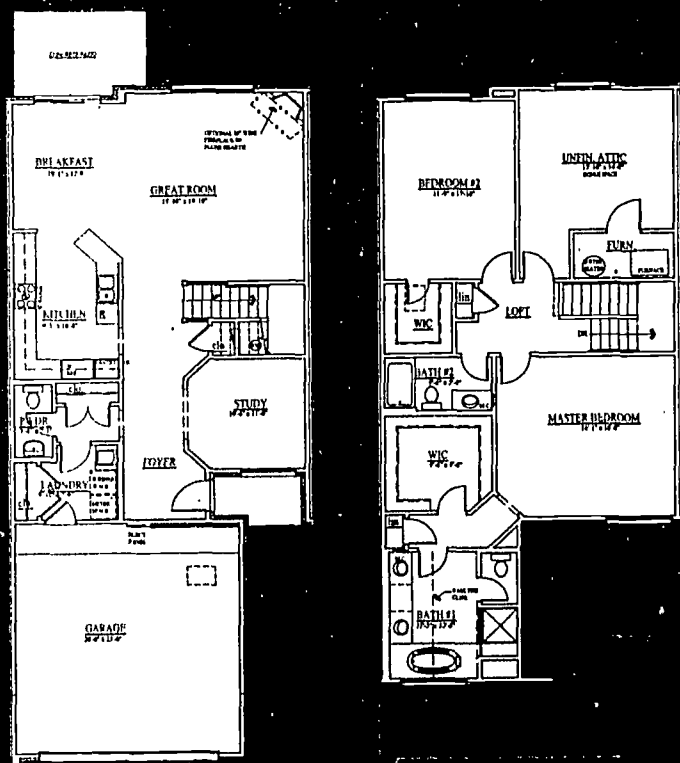
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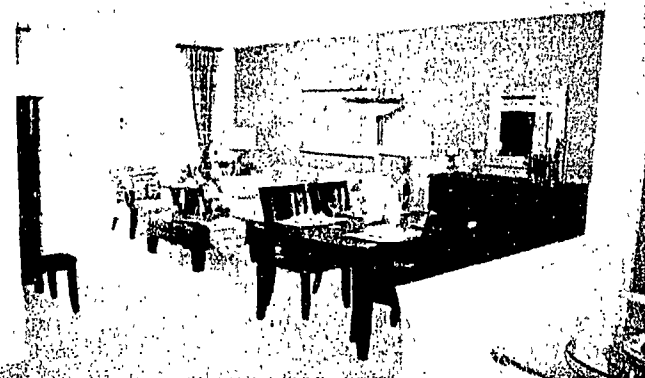


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# Lush Lakeshore East Park takes first place in mayor's landscape awards program

The lush six-acre park that is the nucleus of the blossoming Lakeshore East neighborhood in downtown Chicago has captured first place in the Specialized Garden category of Mayor Daley's Landscape Awards 2008 Program.

Dedicated to the Chicago Park District in 2005, this remarkable park, which has won numerous awards, is unlike any other park in Chicago. Designed with a pastoral motif that is neither open and sweeping like Lincoln Park nor filled with attractions like nearby Millennium Park, it forges a unique identity that has brought it recognition as the Best New Park in Chicago by Chicago magazine and the city's Best New Open Space by the Friends of Downtown.

It has also previously won a Builder magazine Builder's Choice Design Planning Award and the Building Stone Institute's Tucker Design Award, which honors design excellence in the incorporation and use of natural stone.

Created in advance of any residential construction for the 28-acre community by the internationally renowned landscape architecture firm of the Office of James Burnett of Houston/Solana Beach, Calif., in collaboration with Chicago's Site Design Group, this remarkable park features abundant seating for viewing and relaxing and a grand staircase.

Award-winning planning details ranged from zoning the park to taking advantage of ex-



The award-winning park at Lakeshore East has just won another award: first place in the Specialized Garden category of Mayor Daley's Landscape Awards 2008 Program in the city of Chicago.

isting views and topography to conducting shade and shadow studies to determine how to optimize comfort throughout the seasons.

Magellan co-CEO Joel Carlins noted that "aside from its self-evident beauty and appealing facilities to encourage play and enhance comfort, the park also conforms to high standards of safety and security. Mindful that

it was created to join the Chicago Park District public park system, it was designed as an enjoyable facility that is both functional and sculptural in form and yet practical to maintain and service as a public amenity."

Some 40 percent of the Lakeshore East site will remain vibrant open space. Among the many attractions of the Lakeshore East Park is free Wi-Fi or

DAVID SEIDE FOR LAKESHORE EAST

The award-winning park at Lakeshore East has just won another award: first place in the Specialized Garden category of Mayor Daley's Landscape Awards 2008 Program in the city of Chicago.

# Uncle Sam's bailout billions needed to target our hearths, homes

What ever happened to Uncle Sam's goal of saving the American Dream, our hearths and homes?

Here we are with one foot into 2009, and very few dollars from the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) — the Bush Administration's \$700 billion bailout master plan — have made it to my block on the North Side where more home-for-sale signs are popping up every day.

If you will recall, the TARP bailout plan was designed to pump billions into three sectors of the economy: banks, troubled home loans and mortgage-backed securities.

So far, experts say most of the \$350 billion in committed taxpayer dollars has been used mainly to recapitalize ailing banks. That's why many members of Congress are howling because they thought the goal of the TARP bailout was to buy troubled assets such as foreclosed mortgages, and not pump billions of bucks into banks.

On the positive side, the Federal Reserve Board has pushed down the federal funds rate to a range of zero to 0.25 percent from 1 percent, its lowest level in history. And benchmark 30-year fixed home-loan rates also have tumbled to the low 5 percent range, and some Chicago developers are offering buy-down 30-year loans ranging from 4.5 percent to 4.99 percent. So 2009 is going to be a great time to buy a home. Too bad more banks aren't lending to eager borrowers despite the attractive rates. Instead, weak financial institutions are hoarding cash and building their balance sheets while avoiding the risk of new loans, analysts say.

In Chicago, Trump International Hotel & Tower and several other major downtown condominium projects, including a few with more than 70 percent of the units already under contract, are seeking extensions on construction loans while they continue to market remaining residences.

Unfortunately, several well-located and architecturally attractive condo towers that have posted substantial sales but have not broken ground are hard pressed to attract construction financing as lenders pull in the welcome mat, reports Appraisal Research Counselors Ltd.



Don DeBat ON THE HOME FRONT

Experts say if American homeowners are going to benefit from the government's relief program, billions of TARP bailout dollars now must be targeted to reducing foreclosures.

Homeowners who are saddled with high-rate adjustable subprime loans are simply asking, "Why can't interest charges be adjusted downward to lower payments and let us stay in our homes?"

If bailout dollars were pumped into these troubled home loans instead of being targeted to the recapitalizing of ailing banks, the pain of widespread foreclosures likely would be eased and that would help boost the value of homes across the nation, economists say.

Home-loans funded by troubled mortgage-backed securities also are clogging the bleak financial pipeline. If government dollars were used to buy these securities, thousands of mortgages could be refinanced.

The Fed already is accelerating the purchase of mortgage-backed securities issued by Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, home-loan giants that earlier were seized by Uncle Sam.

With all these economic storm clouds on the horizon, soon-to-be President Barack Obama and his incoming cabinet will have their hands full in 2009. Obama says he is planning to unveil a massive stimulus package when he takes office on Jan. 20.

Let's hope Timothy Geithner, the new U.S. Treasury secretary, covers us all with the TARP.

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

# In with the new: In January, start your own trend

For those seeking a fresh start, consider a simple message from the homebuilders of the Chicago region: No new beginning is as fresh, or exciting, as a new home.

Whether the home is a condominium, a city townhouse or a single-family home in the suburbs, the satisfying adventure of ownership awaits those who step forward now.

At the Gates of St. John community in St. John, Ind., Magnolia Gate has a showcase of seven model homes, all offering extraordinary style and maintenance-free living.

Phillippe Builders, a 40-year-old family-owned company, is recognized for its adherence to stellar construction. Its one- and two-story homes range from 1,600 to 3,000 square feet. All blend the charm of traditional appeal with the freshness of modern architecture. According to the company, Magnolia Gate is where country benefits co-temporarily. Prices begin at \$199,900 (subject to change).

All of the models have two-car garages, generous master suites with walk-in closets, and exceptional kitchens and dining areas.

Standard exterior features include a combination cultured stone, decorative vinyl exterior and attractive landscaping. Internally, homeowners enjoy central air conditioning, ceramic entryways, natural wood trim, designer lighting fixtures, and Mohawk carpet.

Located in the heart of the Gates of St. John, this single-family neighborhood is especially appealing to starter home buyers who can take advantage of the government's new first-time home buyers tax credit up to \$7,500.

Phillippe Builders' current Customer's Choice promotion makes it even more attractive to buy now with a pick from a trio of savings offers.



The Sycamore model in the Gates of St. John community has four bedrooms, ideal for growing families and move-up buyers.

Models are open at Magnolia Gate in the Gates of St. John. To learn more, call the sales center at 219-608-6595 or go to [www.phillippebuilders.com](http://www.phillippebuilders.com).

The sales center is open Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m.

to 5 p.m. (closed Tuesday and Wednesday) and Sundays noon to 5 p.m. To visit the sales center, take I-94 to I-65 South. Exit at Route 231 West to Cline Avenue North.

In Joliet, Sherry Yezerki is a nice example of persons who bring exciting freshness to their lives through a home purchase.

Newly divorced and eager to start a new chapter, Yezerki yearned to be closer to friends and family. Now that she was single, Yezerki set her sights on a maintenance-free townhome or duplex, a new construction residence that didn't require all the upkeep of a detached home.

Country Club Villas, a community of 122 generously-equipped ranch villa townhomes

in Joliet, filled the bill. "Right away, I could tell the caliber of construction was high quality, particularly compared to what I had seen at other communities," said Yezerki. "The builder used good materials. These weren't cookie cutter homes by any means."

Yezerki's favorable first impressions increased after walking through the furnished models on display, including the Riviera ranch villa.

"I liked the open flow of the Riviera, the plentiful natural light from the windows and skylights and the airy, spacious volume offered by its cathedral ceilings," she said.

Buyers can choose from three distinctive ranch villa designs available at Country Club Villas.

The Riviera offers two bedrooms, two baths, a living room, and 1,569 square feet.

The Pinelure features three different layouts, each with two bedrooms, two baths (including two different luxury bath options), a den, a great room and 1,851 square feet.

The Belfair provides three bedrooms, three baths, a den, great room, an optional upper level (that includes a guest suite and loft) and 2,350 square feet.

Every home also includes a walk-in shower in the master bath, granite countertops, maple cabinetry, vaulted ceilings, ceramic tile, an upgraded trim package and handsome brick exteriors. Options (depending on the plan) include a full basement, sun room with brick walls,

screened porch, four seasons room, hardwood floors, a deluxe master bath and much more. Purchase prices at Country Club Villas range from \$234,900 to \$274,900.

Country Club Villas' three models and on-site sales center are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays or by appointment (closed Thursday and Friday). To reach Country Club Villas, take I-80 to the Briggs Street exit; head south on Briggs one mile to Spencer Road and turn right; head west on Spencer a half mile to the community (on the right). For more information, call 815-582-3081 or visit [www.countryclubvillasllc.com](http://www.countryclubvillasllc.com).

## Today's New Homes

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## Forecast FROM PAGE 1

Wexelberg. "Not only are there the benefits of financial savings, but the convenience of being able to walk to shops and the grocery store is priceless to many buyers."

Kimball Hill is also building downsizer homes at Huntington Chase in Montgomery, where one plan is priced more than \$50,000 below the median assessed value of a home in Kane County; at Whispering Meadows in Yorkville, where the Ashbury, starting at \$185,990, also below the median-assessed value of Kendall County homes.

"From savings on tax bills to energy costs, buyers considering downsizing are quickly seeing the move just makes sense. And when you factor in other benefits, like a walkable location or cutting out yard work, the downsizing move is even more appealing," said Wexelberg.

**Urban in suburbia**  
For years a new-construction home in the suburbs meant moving into a cookie-cutter subdivision. But according to many suburban developers, their focus going forward won't be simply building homes, but entire downtowns complete with residential, retail, restaurants and more.

In southwest suburban Lemont, the Lemont Downtown Redevelopment Project by Marquette Cos. is a \$250-million mixed-use development that includes the Front Street Lofts, four five-story buildings with 82 lofts above 24,000 square feet of first-floor retail space.

"Instead of contributing to suburban sprawl, our goal is to revitalize Lemont's historic downtown with new residential and retail offerings," said Bruno Bottarelli, partner of Marquette Cos.

Another is Gilberts Town Center in Gilberts, benefiting from the small town charm with a mix of acres of open space, winding streets, numerous cul-de-sacs, to lots, and bicycling/walking trails. Less than seven minutes from I-90, Gilberts Town Center offers a convenient lifestyle within a few miles of Randall Road and the Big Timber Metra Station in nearby Elgin.

Ryland Homes recently introduced a new collection of town-home designs ranging from 1,764 to 2,185 square feet and priced from \$229,990 to \$254,990.

Located on Route 72 (Higgins Road) just west of Randall Road in Gilberts, Gilberts Town Center is a community that will include both single-family homes and townhomes when complete.

Here are some other trends noted by homebuilding and sales experts.

**Condo-maximums**  
According to the National Association of Homebuilders, the average single-family home is 2,456 square feet. However, Chicago area developers have noticed buyers are looking for the same amount of square feet when buying a condominium.

This bigger-is-better mentality is clear at Ten East Delaware, a luxury boutique high-rise in the Gold Coast that offers plans as large as 2,910 square feet.

"There is no substitute for space," said Michael Reschke, chairman and CEO of the Prime Group, developer of Ten East Delaware. "At Ten East Delaware, we're seeing many young professionals who want homes that offer enough room to host dinner parties and one day raise a family."

**The sure thing**  
With the real estate market in turmoil, buyers will be betting on the sure thing, said Ibrahim Shihadeh, co-principal of Winthrop Properties, developer of Printers Corner in the South Loop. "With our building complete and immediate move-ins available, sales momentum has been strong," he said. "We're one of the few buildings in the area ready for move-in. Until things smooth out a bit, buyers will continue to opt for developments that are complete or nearly complete rather than risk something that won't come to fruition or won't be as it was promised."

Also seeing strong demand for its immediate deliveries is Lexington Homes. The Chicago-based developer has move-in ready townhomes at Willow Place in Wheeling and Lexington Park in Des Plaines. Offering special pricing, homes at both communities are base-priced from the high \$200,000s to the low \$300,000s.

"Many of today's buyers are drawn to immediate-delivery homes because they like knowing exactly what their home will look like and when it'll be ready for move-in—the idea of selecting hundreds of finishes and waiting a year or so for delivery will no longer be the norm," said Jeff Benach, co-principal of Lexington Homes.

**Creating community**  
Many developers today are taking strides to form a sense of community among new residents before their homes are built, a trend that is expected to continue into 2009. Two Chicago land communities — Park Place of Elmhurst, a new continuing-care retirement community sponsored by Providence Life Services, and Marquette Cos.'s Front Street Lofts in downtown Lemont — have distinctive ways to foster friendships among future residents before they move into their new community.

Park Place of Elmhurst enhances community growth with its monthly program Positively Park Place, which includes cultural outings and presentations for future residents.

At the Front Street Lofts, Marquette has partnered with the village of Lemont to establish the Institute for Community to create strong relationships between residents and merchants in the revitalized downtown Lemont business district. Under this Community of Commerce initiative, merchants and

business owners work together to help their mutual businesses thrive.

"Until the market corrects itself, it will be more important than ever before for buyers to feel good about their home purchase and their community," said Mike Vickery, executive director of the nonprofit Institute for Community.

Five miles northeast of Lemont, Opus North has developed Burr Ridge Village Center, a mixed-use development that integrates condominiums, retail shops, restaurants, office space and pedestrian-friendly features into a 20-acre town center.

"Burr Ridge residents love having a true town center with restaurants like Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant and Topaz Cafe, as well as more than 20 stores from both national and local retailers," said Kimberly Mans, assistant property manager for Burr Ridge Village Center.

"Plus, no matter the season, residents can take advantage of events at the village green, ranging from movie nights and a farmer's market to outdoor concerts and our annual holiday tree-lighting ceremony."

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**Ivana Majic**  
847-316-8500

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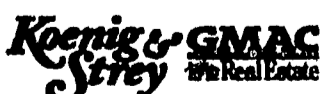
Great location and tremendous value. Hardwood floors through-out, recessed lighting, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances, granite counters, 9 foot ceilings, and soaker tubs. All this for **\$1,133\* a month!**  
 \*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

**Ivana Majic**  
847-316-8500

## 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 **\$4,530\* a month!**  
 \*with 20% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.



**Martha May**  
847-533-0559

## Gorgeous Glenview Home

710 Windsor, Glenview, IL 60025

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. All this for **\$4,507 a month!**  
 \*with 20% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.



**Martha May**  
847-533-0559

## Gorgeous Glenview Home

1555 Woodlawn, Glenview, IL 60025

Stunning custom designed new residence in E. Glenview. Lannon stone & brick 6BR/5.1BA home on lush grounds features exquisite workmanship. Wonderfully appointed main level w/gourmet kitch, family rm w/coffered ceiling, office & guest suite. Second flr offers spacious rms & impressive master ste. Private terraces. LL media/rec room, sauna. 4 fpl's. 3 car gar. All this for only **\$7,552\* a month!**  
 \*with 20% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.



**Dina Davis**  
847-239-0913

# SEARCH CHICAGO



## Five-door fun

Flexible Mazda3 hatchback makes a great city car



by **JILL CIMINILLO**  
SearchChicago-Autos Editor  
jcciminillo@suntimes.com

I was chipping away at the ice on my sidewalk when the 2009 Mazda3 five-door pulled into my driveway. Having just gotten out of an all-wheel drive vehicle, I was slightly skeptical about whether the front-wheel drive Mazda3 would be able to handle the weather conditions. Boy was I wrong.

For a compact package, the front-wheel drive Mazda3 did surprisingly well in snow. My alley is perpetually unplowed and icy. So the possibility of getting stuck is always a concern. The Mazda3 handled the slick conditions with aplomb, and I found during the rest of the test week that I had worried for naught.

Even with its 17-inch P205/50 R17 all-season tires, the Mazda3 five-door was pretty grippy as long as I observed

the basic rules for driving in snow: Don't tailgate, slow down and start braking early.

The base price of the Mazda3 Sport five-door is \$19,295. The test vehicle was a Grand Touring model with a base price of \$21,265. It was pretty well stocked with standard items such as leather seats, steering wheel audio controls, automatic climate control and traction control. Needless to say, it didn't need a lot of pricey options, and it only added the rear bumper guard (\$50) and the moon roof/six-CD/Bose package (\$1,335). Thus the as-tested price came in at a reasonable \$22,650.

The four-door Mazda3 always has been a favorite basic vehicle, and after my first stint in the five-door model, I'll add it to the list as well. It's a great city car because of its price, size and utility, but it also manages to be attractive in its hatchback form.

The exterior of the Mazda3 five-door maintains the Mazda family resemblance with the slightly flared front fenders, teardrop headlights and swoopy lines. I

like the rear profile of the five-door, and I'm a fan of the tri-circle taillights.

The interior styling borders on the minimalist side of things, and I like it that way. The piano black lacquered plastic accent on the center stack is attractive and modern, and all the buttons and dials are intuitively placed. I liked the red lighting at night, and I especially got a kick out of the flashing red light that skittered back and forth below the audio presets with volume and station changes.

The sporty seats are well-contoured and supportive, and everything about the interior is compact and comfortable. I especially liked that dials, knobs and gearshift were all in easy-to-reach locations. I had an excellent driving position without blind spots, and I liked the standard heated front seats in the Grand Touring model.

This is technically a five-passenger vehicle, but with 36.3 inches of rear-seat leg room we're talking about passengers of the petite variety. I fit fine in the back seat, and behind my far-forward driving position an average-size adult would be quite comfort-

able. But I still think five is pushing it.

The base engine in the Mazda3 is a 2.0-liter four-cylinder, but the five-door model only comes equipped with the up-level 2.3-liter, four-cylinder engine. It's a great little engine that delivers 156 horsepower and 150 pound-feet of torque at 4,500 rpm, not to mention that the city/highway fuel economy ratings ring in at 22/29 mpg.

The standard transmission is a short-throw five-speed manual. It's incredibly smooth, and unlike many entry model manual transmissions, I never had to hunt for gears. It always slid perfectly into place with each shift, and it's the kind of manual transmission that makes me think I could use a manual on my everyday driver – in Chicago-area traffic. Since a manual isn't for everyone – or even most people – an automatic upgrade is available, but it'll be a \$900 addition to the price tag.

Mazda in general has a great lineup of cars, with plenty of room for a buyer to step up. For a first taste, Mazda3 is a great place to start and an excellent intro

to the brand. And, as a city car or starter car, I don't think you can go wrong with the Mazda3 five-door. It handles well, it's not too expensive and it's attractive – like pretty much everything else in the Mazda family.

### autoSPECS

**ENGINE:** 156-horsepower, 2.3-liter DOHC 16-valve, four-cylinder with variable valve timing

**TRANSMISSION:** five-speed manual, five-speed automatic (optional)

**DRIVE TRAIN:** front-wheel drive

**FUEL ECONOMY:** 22 city/29 highway

**BASE PRICE:** \$19,295

**AS TESTED PRICE:** \$22,650

**WEB SITE:** www.mazdausa.com

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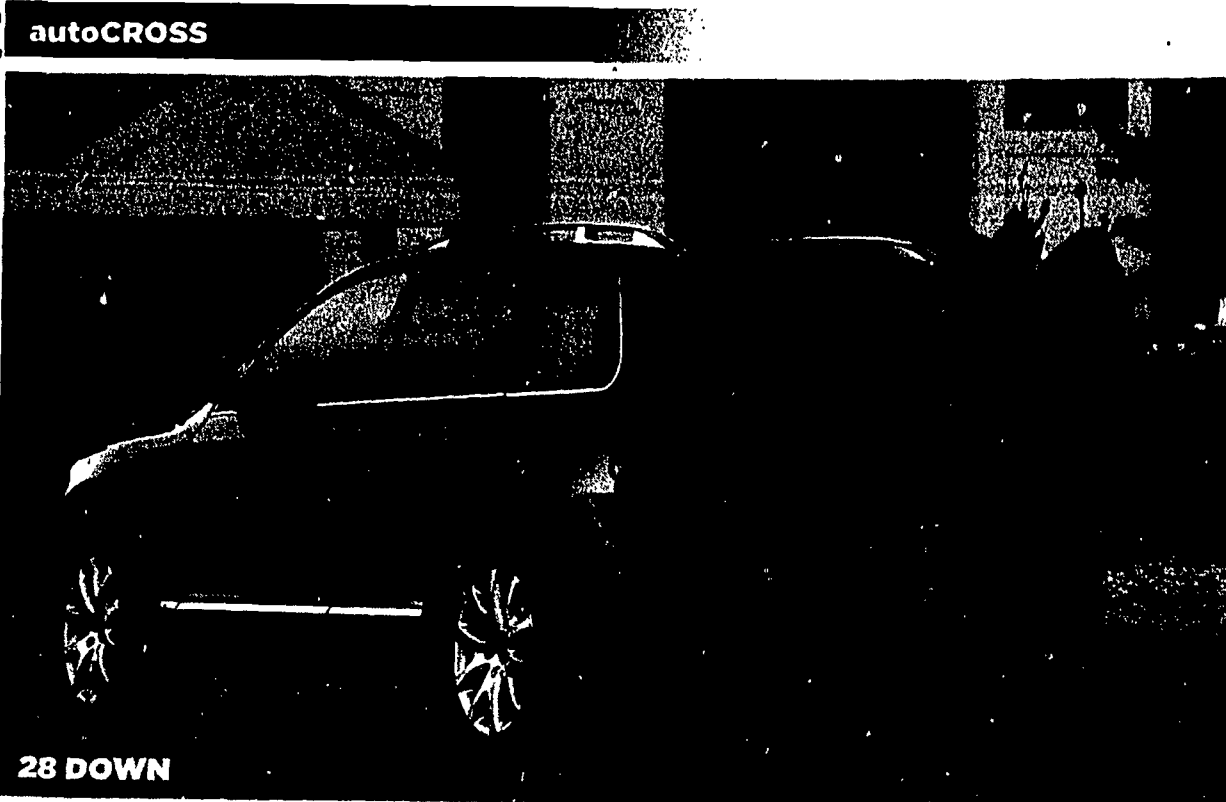
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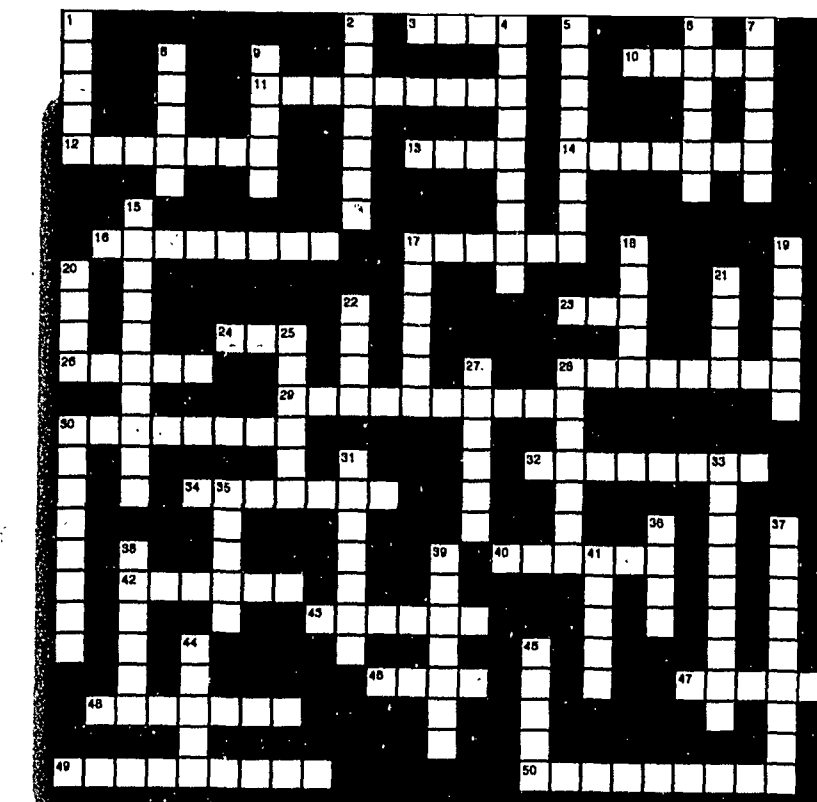
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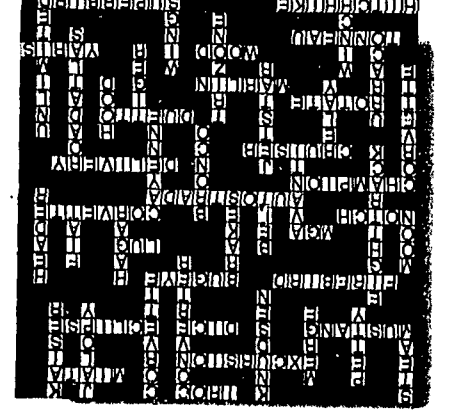
28 DOWN



**ACROSS**

- 3. International Race of Champions Camaro
- 10. Now simply called the MX-5
- 11. Giant-sized Ford sport-ute retired
- 12. Bond car in Diamonds are Forever
- 13. Rear-view-mirror gamble
- 14. "Solar" or "lunar" Mitsubishi
- 16. Pontiac's Camaro
- 17. Early Sprite nickname
- 23. Wheel nut attaches to this
- 24. Replaced the MG TF
- 26. Dipstick mark
- 28. Prince's "Little Red" auto
- 29. Italian motorway
- 30. ACDelco founder
- 32. A working van
- 34. Fallon, Queen Latifa car-chase flick
- 40. '60s Alfa Spyder
- 42. Tire maintenance
- 43. Rambler model or NASCAR ace
- 46. First Town & Country trim
- 47. Echo replacement
- 48. Convertible-top cover
- 49. Thumb travel
- 50. Plymouth featured a tall wing and pointy beak

**ANSWERS**



- DOWN**
- 1. Stanleys propelled by this
  - 2. Mustang "Boss"
  - 4. Torque or catalytic
  - 5. First fuel-injected U.S. car
  - 6. "Beater"
  - 7. Car maker Henry J.
  - 8. Last raced Nov. 15, 1992
  - 9. Freeway-entrance maneuver
  - 15. '70s car-audio feature
  - 17. a.k.a. binders
  - 18. He "can't drive 55"
  - 19. Exhaust-manifold upgrade
  - 20. "Kustom" hub cap
  - 21. Made the X1/9
  - 22. Serpentine, water pump or timing
  - 25. Supercharged Studebaker
  - 27. Sport-ute bogan in 1966
  - 28. Touareg's cousin
  - 30. Z06, C5, Sting Ray
  - 31. Olds 88 model
  - 33. A collection of road maps
  - 35. Saturn people-mover
  - 36. Usual scoop location
  - 37. Elongated Jeep
  - 38. Mid-engine, four-seat Lamborghini
  - 39. Driver, passenger and rear A/C
  - 41. Ford-powered Alpine
  - 44. Off-road helper
  - 45. Fenders in England

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Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center's Executive Director Torrie Flink (from left) accepts a check from the Chicago Automobile Trade Association's Saul Rosen, CATA Chairman John Phelan and Executive Vice President David Sloan.

### Charities benefit from CATA's Chicagoland Dealers Care program

The Chicago Automobile Trade Association donated \$1,500 to the Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center and to the Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association as part of its Chicagoland Dealers Care program. The CATA raises more than \$2.5 million for 18 charities at the annual First Look for Charity black-tie event held the evening before the Chicago Auto Show opens to the public (Feb. 13-22 at McCormick Place). The Chicagoland Dealers Care program began this year as an effort to donate to charities year-round.



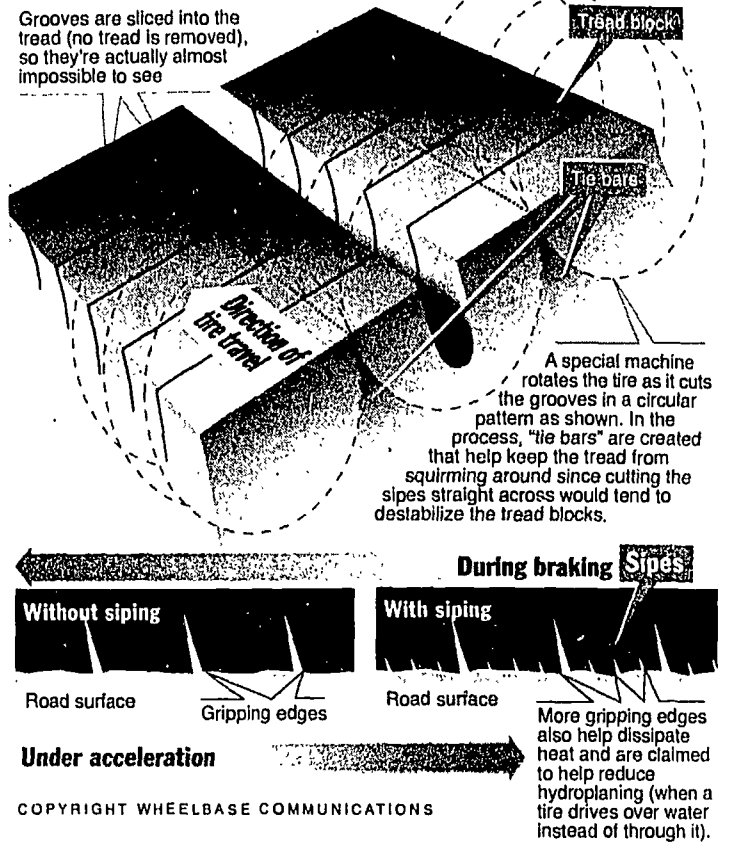
Chicago Automobile Trade Association Chairman John Phelan (from left) delivers a check for \$1,500 to the Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association's Executive Director Larry Reiner, who is joined by Larry Roesch Chevrolet owner/dealer principal Jeannine Roesch.

Rosen, owner and president of Rosen Motors, is a Zacharias board member and contributor to the charity. "Saul provides guidance and leadership while giving the Zacharias Center access to financial stability," said Torrie Flink, Zacharias Center's executive director. "For that, we are forever grateful to him." The Larry Roesch automotive group and family have a long-term relationship with NEDSRA. Jeannine Roesch, Larry Roesch Chevrolet owner/dealer principal, has continued that relationship. NEDSRA Executive Director Larry Reiner said, "The Roesch family has been committed to NEDSRA and people with disabilities for over 20 years and for as long as I can remember. The funds contributed by the CATA will go towards advancing

our services for children with autism," Reiner continued. "We are aggressively expanding our services to unserved and underserved people with disabilities and these funds will address the financial needs for expanding these services." Representing the CATA were Chairman John Phelan and Executive Vice President David Sloan. "We are impressed by both organizations' effectiveness and dedication to their mission," Phelan said. "Supporting organizations of this caliber is precisely what our Chicago Dealers Care fund is all about." Zacharias Center provides survivors of sexual assault or abuse with comprehensive and confidential services at no charge including medical and legal advocacy, emergency room and police sensitivity training, 24-hour crisis hotline and crisis intervention services, and counseling

## Tires with an edge

The process of improving traction by adding grooves to tires was invented and patented by John Sipes 80 years ago. The procedure has changed over the years, but the idea is the same: add more grooves — thus, more gripping edges — for added traction in most situations, even on ice. According to online tire dealer Discount Tire Co. (www.discounttire.com), siping can be done to new or used tires and can reduce braking distances, improve wet/dry traction and improve tire cooling and ride quality. While tire manufacturers sometimes mould sipes into their tires, it's common to cut in more at the dealer level as an optional process.



## Japanese carmakers face decreased demand at home

**BY YURI KAGEYAMA | Associated Press**  
TOKYO — Japan's production of cars, trucks and buses marked its steepest drop in at least four decades in November, an industry group said last week, as the fall-out from the U.S. slowdown cramped auto demand. Vehicle production in Japan, home to Toyota Motor Corp. and other major automakers, plunged 20.4 percent in November compared to the same month a year ago to 854,171 vehicles, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said. That marked the second straight month of on-year declines and the percentage slide was the biggest since the group began compiling such data in 1967, it said. Production of passenger cars in Japan decreased 20.3 percent in November from the previous year to 737,797 vehicles, while production of trucks here declined 20.9 percent for the month to 106,170. Japanese automakers, which also include Honda Motor Co., Nissan Motor Co. and several other manufacturers, have been hammered by the dwindling of demand in the U.S., the world's biggest auto market. But signs are growing the fallout is so serious that domestic sales are getting drastically damaged as well. Auto executives have expressed dismay at the fall in Japanese sales, which have worsened in the last two months. Japanese plants are being idled to reduce production, and thousands of assembly line workers have lost their jobs in recent weeks. "Even if we are doing our utmost, the global crisis is coming at us like a tidal wave," Teruyuki Minoura, president of Daihatsu Motor Co., a Toyota affiliate, told reporters. Earlier this month, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said it expected demand in Japan will dive next year to its lowest in about three decades. Sales of new autos are expected to stand at 4.86 million in 2009, down 4.9 percent from what it's projecting for this year at 5.11 million, the group said. New vehicle sales in Japan have not dipped below the 5 million mark since 1980. They reached 7.78 million in 1990 during this nation's heyday "bubble" economy. Vehicle sales in Japan stood at about

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2008	DODGE	MAGNUM	CP1002	\$16,834	\$224 mo
2008	CHEVY	MALIBU	CP1003	\$13,944	\$175 mo
2008	CHEVY	HHR	CP1004	\$13,823	\$173 mo
2008	CHRYSLER	SEBRING	CP1005	\$13,447	\$167 mo
2008	MITSUBISHI	GALANT	CP1006	\$13,941	\$175 mo
2008	CHEVY	AVEO	CP1007	\$11,492	\$133 mo
2008	CHEVY	COBALT	CP1008	\$12,431	\$199 mo
2008	CHEVY	HHR	CP1009	\$14,817	\$189 mo
2008	CHEVY	COBALT	CP1013	\$12,935	\$158 mo
2008	PONTIAC	G6	CP1015	\$12,824	\$156 mo
2007	DODGE	GRAND CARAVAN	CP1019	\$10,942	\$125 mo
2007	FORD	TAURUS	CP1021	\$9,933	Special
2007	CHEVY	COBALT	CP1022	\$10,944	\$125 mo
2007	CHEVY	COBALT	CP1024	\$10,948	\$125 mo
2006	CHRYSLER	PT CRUISER	CP1038	\$8931	Special
2005	KIA	SEDONA	CP1044	\$9,945	Special
2004	NISSAN	SENTRA	CP1052	\$6,933	WOW
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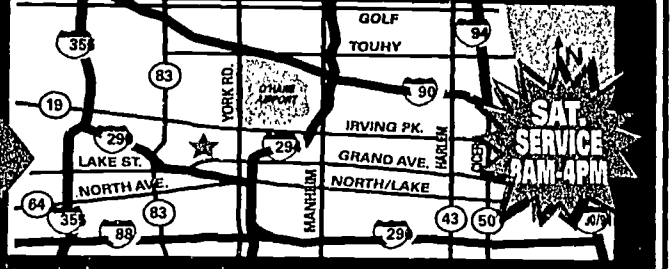
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Chevy '96 G2500 Cargo Vnn \$3,995 888-355-5031

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Ford '96 Windstar V6 3.8L 54k miles. 7 pass, Dual airbags \$3,995 888-355-5031

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GMK '00 Safari Convosion Van \$5,695 888-355-5031

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PLYMOUTH '98 Grand Voyager SE 3.3, 7 passenger, blue, lthr, CD, MP3, alloys, full pwr, alarm, cozy comfortable. \$2200. 773-725-9639

PLYMOUTH '95 Voyager V6, auto, looks & runs great. 112k, needs no repairs. \$1,600. 708-229-1442

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CHEVY '98 Silverado 2500 Ext Cab V8, ABS, Pwr brakes/stearing \$4,995 888-355-5031

CHEVY '92 Silverado 2500 Ext Cab V8, ABS, Pwr brakes/stearing \$4,995 888-355-5031

CHEVY '06 PT Cruiser 31k miles, AM/FM/CD, Rest spoiler \$8,995 888-355-5031

Dodge '07 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SL7 #P14552 \$16,850 or \$319/Mo CALL NOW! 888-695-7313

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FORD '93 Explorer 4x4, Loaded, 116k mi, exc in and out. \$1550 obo. 708-655-4417

Honda '98 CRV 4 dr. AWD, auto, red, CD/MP3, all pwr, exc. cond. \$5500. 773-503-5802

Jeep '06 Commander Ltd 4x4 Blk #P140784 \$14,950 or \$279/Mo CALL NOW! 888-695-7313

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Nissan '04 Murano SE AWO #P140784 \$14,950 or \$279/Mo CALL NOW! 888-695-7313

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CADILLAC '96 Fleetwood Brougham d'Elegance 34k orig mi, heated power seats, factory chrome wheels, Vogue tires, full vinyl top, blk w/ gorgeous blk lthr int, positively now, showroom cond, never driven in winter, must see! \$9700 obo. 773-719-0482

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FORD '96 Windstar 159k miles, very nice, clean, red. \$1,500. 708-623-9411

FORD '92 Taurus Extra clean, low mi, gar kept, 1 owner. \$950 firm. 708-698-3150

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OLDS '97 Cutlass, 90k miles, white, 4 dr, full power, gorgeous. MUST SEE! \$2000. 773-725-9639

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**ELMHURST BMW** 466 W. Lake St., Elmhurst 888-287-6555 www.elmhurstbmw.com

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**Cadillac of Naperville** 1507 W. Ogden Ave., Naperville, IL 630-355-2700 www.napervillecadillac.com

**GROSSINGER CADILLAC** 6900 N. McCormick Lincolnwood 866-670-2599 www.grossingercadillac.com

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**PATRICK CADILLAC** 526 Mall Dr., Schaumburg 877-749-9921 www.patrickcadillac.com

**RIZZA CADILLAC** 8425 W. 159th St., Tinley Park, 866-360-4574 www.rizzacars.com

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

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**GROSSINGER CHEVROLET** 151 E. Lake Cook Rd. Palatine 877-359-2438 www.grossingerchevy.com

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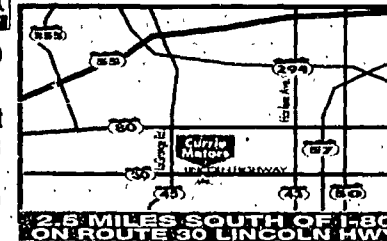
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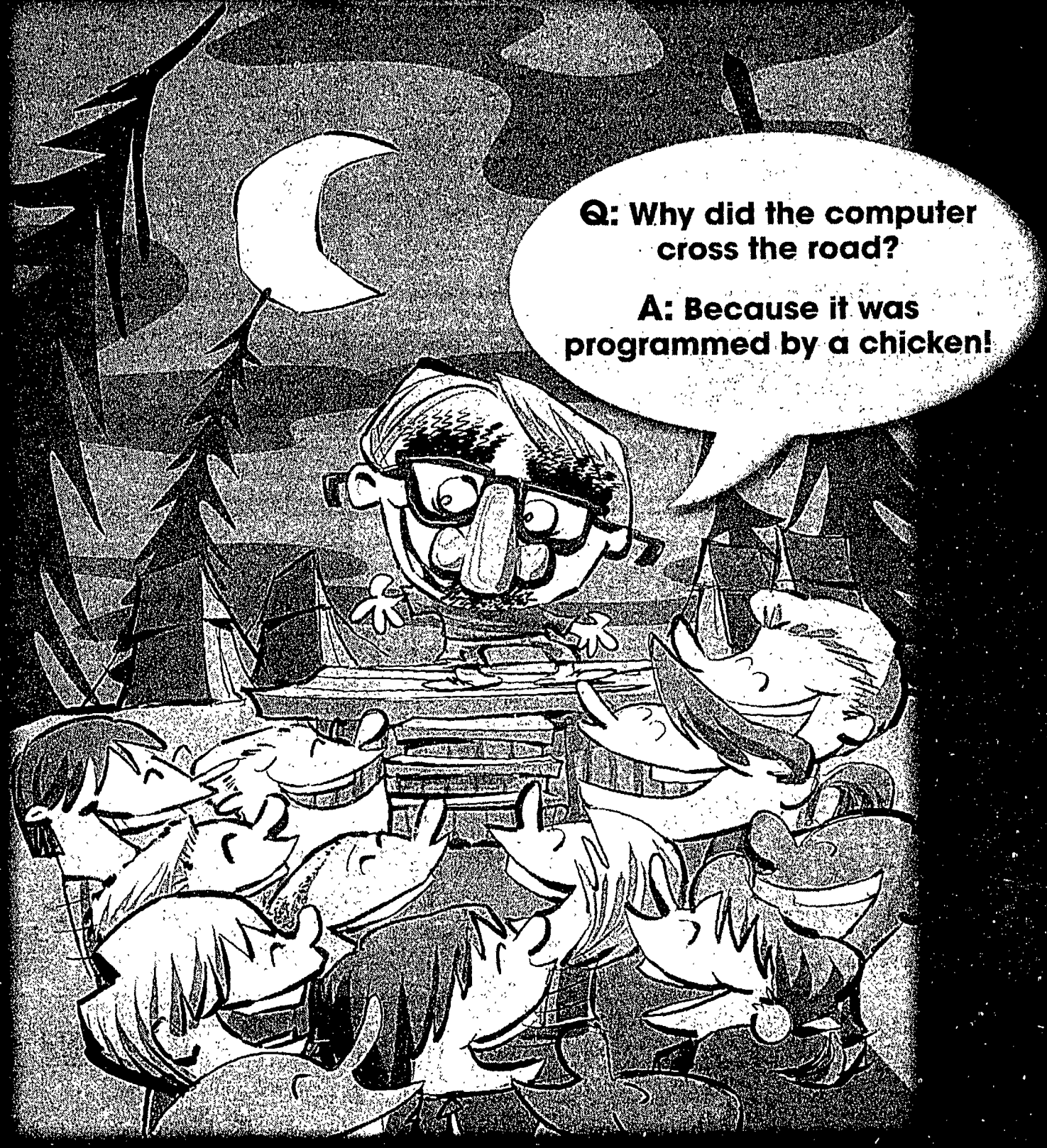
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# CLASSIFIED

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Address: 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview

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**Deadlines**  
Private Party Ads: West & Doings - 3:00 pm Tues  
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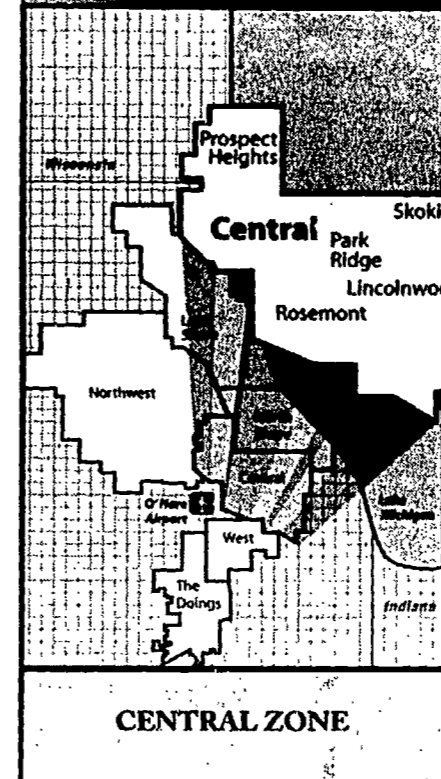
**Legal Ads:** 5:00 pm Monday  
**Classified Display Ads:** 5:00 pm Mon  
**Logos or Artwork:** 5:00 pm Mon  
**Commercial Ads:** May vary - consult your rep

**Terms**  
Please check your ad: The publisher will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Pioneer Press Classified must be notified before the second insertion.

**Acceptability:** The newspaper reserves the right to edit or reject any advertisement.

**Cancellations:** No classified ad can be cancelled after deadline. Display ads and ads containing artwork may incur a charge if cancelled prior to first insertion.

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to place ads call  
North Shore, Lake Shore...847 486-7254  
Northwest, Central...847 486-7252  
West, The Doings...847 486-7252

**Home Services**  
to place ads call  
847 486-7239

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- Private Party Self-Service Classifieds 24-7**
- Go to [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com), click the Classified link, and follow a few simple steps for placing your classified ad!
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Call: 847 998-3400 Email: [classified@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:classified@pioneerlocal.com) Fax: 847 486-7456

**TO PLACE AN AD FOR FREE, CALL**  
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**TO LISTEN AND RESPOND, CALL**  
1-900-226-1096

Call cost \$2.19/min. Must be 18+.

**TO RESPOND USING YOUR CREDIT CARD, CALL**  
1-888-491-5625

**IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DO...**  
It's who you do it with that makes it worth-while! SWF, 63, NS, seeks gentleman, 62-72, NS, for friendship, possible romance. **12263032**

**IS HE OUT THERE?**  
SF, 38, blonde, ISO SPM, 38-52, outdoors and active, NS, to share friendship fun and LTR. Hope to find you. Northern Suburbs. **12255977**

**LATINA LADY**  
Pretty SHF, 50s, 5'2", 120lbs, seeks honest, kind SWM, 55-63, tall, slim, good-looking, respectful, nice personality for friendship first maybe more. **12293158**

**GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY**  
Sincere, honest, caring, attractive SBF, 54, 5'11", 175lbs, NS, likes travel, sports, music, movies. Seeking attractive SM, 35-55, HW, proportionate, NS, caring, honest, friendship first, maybe more. **12735725**

**Easygoing WM, NS, likes horseback riding, dancing, dining out, good movies and more. Would love to meet a lady, 55-72, who would enjoy my company. 12270043**

**IS IT YOU?**  
Retired SWM, 64, 6'2", 240lbs, fit, NS, seeks nice woman, 40-60, NS, for friendship, possible romance. I like Jack Nicholson movies, dining, the White Sox. **12272280**

**FUN GUY**  
SHM, 45, 5'6", attractive, secure, stable income, hard-worker, spontaneous personality, medium-build, relationship minded. My hobbies are rollerblading, motorcycle riding, and skydiving. ISO attractive, fun-loving, single WH/WF, 35-45, for friendship and possible romance. **12277034**

**ATTRACTIVE...**  
professional, Widower WM, 67, 5'10", 180lbs, NS, likes dancing, walks, movies, music. Seeking woman to share the journey of life. **12281572**

**ISO SPECIAL LADY**  
45-year-old SBPM, teaches music on the side, classically-trained pianist. Loves life, very athletic and looking for a similar woman, 30-50, for friendship, dating and more. **12289050**

**Self Service Classifieds**

**TWENTY FOUR SEVEN**

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**WOMEN SEEKING MEN**

**TOTAL LOSER!**  
I have no looks, no interests, no talent, no IQ, no friends, no job, and haven't dated since 1982! OK, stop laughing and here is the truth: I am a S/PF, 47, 5'8", blonde, shapely, bright (advanced degree), fun, caring, passionate, and one of the nicest people you will ever meet. Among other things, I love great conversations, a great sense of humor, integrity, and great kissing. Seeking compatible male, late 40s to mid 50s, for permanent best friend/lover. **12249453**

**RETIRED SWF**  
75, attractive, 5'2", blonde/blue, ISO honest, special man, 60-70s, for dining, travel, movies, theater, downtown. **12280778**

**TOTAL LOSER!**  
I have no looks, no interests, no talent, no IQ, no friends, no job, and haven't dated since 1982! OK, stop laughing and here is the truth: I am a S/PF, 47, 5'8", blonde, shapely, bright (advanced degree), fun, caring, passionate, and one of the nicest people you will ever meet. Among other things, I love great conversations, a great sense of humor, integrity, and great kissing. Seeking compatible male, late 40s to mid 50s, for permanent best friend/lover. **12249453**

**SEEKING ASIAN FLOWER**  
SWM, 48, loves the outdoors, dining and traveling, music dancing, quiet evenings. Seeking SAF, 21-45, with similar interests to share life, love, happiness, LTR. **12243346**

**FUN-LOVING PERSON**  
BM, 44, 5'7", enjoys going to church. Looking for a woman, 30-45, who is honest and down-to-earth. **12254856**

**OLDER SEEK YOUNGER**  
SWM, 54, 5'8", 150lbs, humorous, successful, intelligent, seeks SWF, 30-40, for friendship, hanging out, and maybe party with. **12257491**

**WILLING TO LISTEN**  
Black male, 53, caring, sensitive, cool, 6'4", 235lbs, enjoys the good life. Seeking SF, 35-55, race is not an issue. Serious replies only. **12300251**

**HANDSOME ITALIAN SEEKING**  
SWM, 49, self-employed, Italian, 5'9", brown/brown, seeking full-figured BBW/slender woman, 30-48. Looking to go to movies, concerts, hopefully to settle down with the right person. **12292833**

**SEEK A BEST FRIEND**  
SWM, 51, 5'9", brown/blue, fit, very good job, laid-back, NS, likes bowling, live theater, painting, travel, cooking, ISO nice lady, 25-45, to spend time with. **12266644**

**WILL IT BE YOU?**  
SBPM, 52, 5'9", 195lbs, dark brown complexion, employed, outgoing, honest and independent, seeks trustworthy, caring, kind Christian woman respectful and communicative, for companionship, happiness, LTR? **12243307**

**NEED A BEST FRIEND**  
SWM, 51, 5'9", 200lbs, enjoys dining in/out, flea markets, outdoor activities, casinos, c&w music, seeking nice SWF, 50-60, Waukegan area. **12281889**

**FREE AD!** Free ads placed in this section are not guaranteed to run every week. Be sure to renew your ad frequently to keep it fresh. Guidelines: Persons are for adults 18 or over seeking monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses and have first meetings occur in a public place. This publication reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any advertisement at any time at its sole discretion and assumes no responsibility for the content of or replies to any ad. Not all ads have corresponding voice messages. To review our complete guidelines, call (617) 425-3530.

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FOR PRIVATE PARTY ADVERTISERS ONLY.

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RENE EDERLE TALKY ART
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BRONZE TAR IRONY
SIT INTIME SEA ICING
APASSAGETOINDIA
PEER KARATE DAIS TAP
ALLIED ACDC ROT AXE
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PACKRAT APRIL ARLEN
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OLIN TEMPO TAPIR GEL
OFF WRY AFAR TEEHEE
KAY HIES AMENRA ETRE
ROAD TO SINGAPORE
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Available at our production facility located at 275 Northfield Road in Northfield. The cost is \$200 per inch based on the depth of the paper on the roll. For more information, please contact Beth Jones 847-501-2196 or Marty Kroschel 847-501-2197.

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Harwood Heights 3BR/ABA apt, newly decorated, 2nd flr no pets call 847-467-5980

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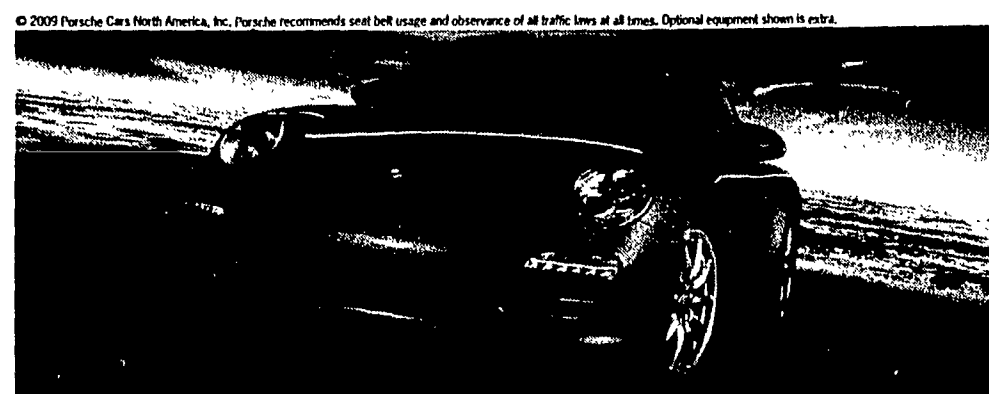
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## Challenge

Continued from PAGE 47

the dogs' paws with special "dog booties," cleaning their teeth, checking for cracks on the bottom of their paws, monitoring their weight and cleaning up after them.

"Everything in the dog sledding sport is about the care of the dogs and the care of the musher," Moon

said.

The dogs love taking new trails when they run and tend to run faster when they have new scenery to take in, Moon remarked. The lead dog is trained to respond to commands from the musher, like when to make a right or left turn, or when to stop.

Moon plans to be in Anchorage in March for the 2009 Iditarod to cheer on the mushers who are

taking part.

"The Iditarod is a commemoration of bringing medicine and supplies to Nome, so it has a real Alaskan, historic base," Moon said. "The Alaskan citizens embrace it. They love it, they love having people come up and watch it."

And in 2010, Moon hopes to be one of the mushers they come to see.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## Peek

Continued from PAGE 12

and Barbara Flynn. The fee is \$75 and registration is necessary by Jan. 5. The course will be held in Resurrection High School, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. To register, e-mail Kelly O'Connell at KOConnell@reshs.org or call her at (773) 775-6616, Ext. 509.

**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.nwseg.com](http://www.nwseg.com) or call (847) 818-9159.

**LeTip International**, a business networking organization, recently opened a new local chapter. Area professionals seeking new leads, networking opportunities and valuable business tips are invited to join the group, which meets every Thursday at 7:01 a.m. at Omega, 9100 W. Golf Road in Niles. At each meeting, members exchange qualified business referrals, build professional relationships, create alliances, develop public speaking skills and take

turns promoting their products and services. Fellow members serve as your sales force, providing access to clients you would not otherwise be able to contact. Also, in every LeTip chapter, each business category is represented by one member to prevent conflicts of interest (once you join, your competition cannot). To learn more about the Des Plaines/Mount Prospect/Niles chapter of LeTip, contact Janet Hansen at (815) 728-1483 or at [jvhansen@letip.com](mailto:jvhansen@letip.com). For more information on LeTip, visit [www.Letip.com](http://www.Letip.com).

### Join the Catholic

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

### The Knights of Columbus

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

**The American Jewish Artists Club** is accepting new members. The group, founded in the early 1920s, focuses on the broad as-

pects of artistic performance and serves to enrich the cultural fiber of the Jewish community. For more information call Lorre Slaw, (847) 272-0744, or e-mail [lslaw@oakton.edu](mailto:lslaw@oakton.edu).

**Audubon Society of Park Ridge** meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month in the Maine Park Leisure Center, Forestview and Sylvanwood. 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 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.

## FUND-RAISERS

**Our Lady of Ransom Parish** in Niles is selling Entertainment 2009 Books



**SOME VERY GOOD YEARS** Once a New Year's baby, always a New Year's baby. And the whole world celebrates on your birthday. Linda Louise Marek, born on New Year's Day in 1949, had all the props to pose. She grew up in Skokie, relocated to Niles, and has lived in Park Ridge for the past 30 years. Now Linda Kelly, she and her husband Larry have two children and are the grandparents of two.

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.

## HEALTH

**Resurrection Medical Center**, 7435 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, will offer the following health programs in January. Advanced registration is required, unless noted otherwise, by calling 1-877-737-4636. Parking is free.

**Beyond Waves Classes** is a moderate to high-intensity recreational water aerobic program that provides cardiovascular fitness and overall body toning. Classes meet every Monday and Wednesday beginning Jan.

5 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the ClubRes Fitness Center, Entrance B, ground floor. Fee: \$50 for 10 sessions or \$80 for 20 sessions.

**Moms In Motion Class** is a twice weekly prenatal and postpartum land and water exercise program. One day will be on land and one day will be in the pool, both incorporating toning, aerobic exercise, and light stretching. Classes begin Jan. 5, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Fee: \$7.50 per class.

**Walk-in blood pressure** screenings will take place from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Jan. 7 in the Club Res Fitness Center, Entrance B, ground floor. No registration is required for the free program.

Attend the Family Fitness

Camp Wednesdays beginning Jan. 9 from 5 to 6 p.m. in the ClubRes Fitness Center, Entrance B, ground floor. This fun program for children ages 8 to 14 and parents focuses on exercise and education, with a variety of exercises introduced each week. Nutrition, health and fitness will also be discussed. Weekly attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. The first Wednesday of each month is pool exercises. A card system will allow the purchase of 10 or 20 classes to be used at anytime for up to one year. Advance registration is required. Fee: 10 classes cost \$50 (\$5 per class) and 20 classes cost (\$4 per class). Call (773) 990-5600 for more information.

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## Food

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Find more recipes on the Web [www.pioneerlocal.com](http://www.pioneerlocal.com).

MANAGING EDITOR: Sara Burrows  
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# Crunch time

## The humble cracker gets a flavor lift and a healthy new outlook

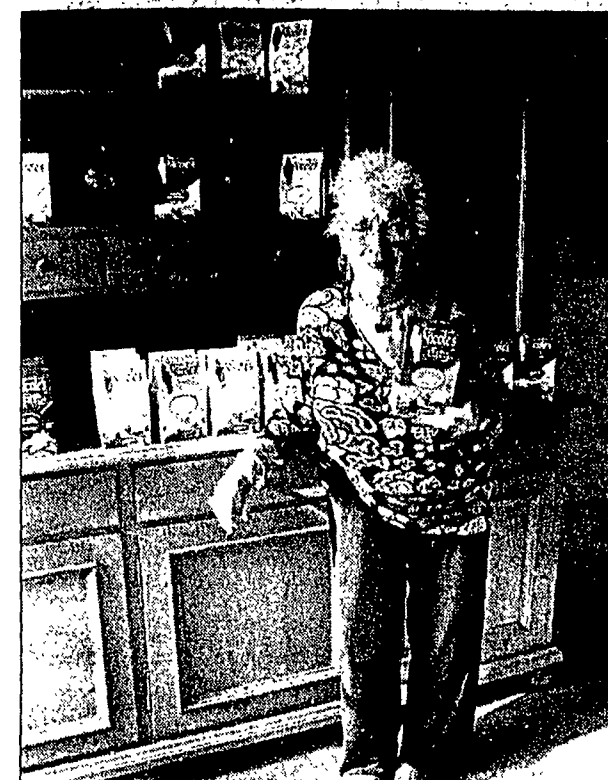


PHOTO BY JACLYN KOLBER

Nicole Bergere has been making exotically flavored crackers since 1984.

BY JACLYN KOLBER  
 Contributor

Crackers are more than just a support system for spinach dip or a dab of brie.

Now available in an array of unusual flavors and high quality ingredients, these popular party-goers are in a starring role as munchies for company and day-to-day eating.

"Lighter snacks like low fat crackers are growing at three times the rates of other snack foods," said TJ Tazioli, vice president of marketing for Highland Park-based Sunset Foods. "Natural, whole grains and organic is where we're seeing the most growth."

And there's Nicole Bergere, founder of Nicole's Divine Crackers, who describes her products as "the most 'out

there' crackers there are."

Quite possibly she's right. With 19 flavors such as "Chicago Fire Cracker," "Oh! For the Love of Herb," and "Love in the Afternoon," Bergere has taken crackers to new heights, infusing her spirit and vibrant energy into the Chicago-based cracker line.

"The flavorings are very unique and are part of the dough mixture, not sprayed on top. The finish is phenomenal, multi-layered," said Bergere.

### More flavors

These gourmet products have changed how the cracker crunches, replacing the dry, stale saltines of old with crackers made from interesting blends of herbs and spices, organic grains, and without additives or preservatives.

Also, most of their products are sourced locally throughout the Midwest and four flavors come in gluten-free versions.

Unlike ordinary crackers where the dip or cheese spread is the dominant flavor, gourmet crackers switch it around, choosing the dip based on how to best complement the cracker.

Nicole's even sells finely ground cracker crumbs that can be used in countless applications, everything from crusting a fish fillet to combining with grated cheese and eggs to make something resembling pasta for use in soups.

"We started in the cracker business with the Ritz Hotel in Chicago in 1984," explains Bergere, a former designer of high fashion. "Then we started getting calls from California and New York, from people who stayed at the hotel."

The business grew quickly, expanding to hotels and private clubs throughout Chicago, then nationwide and into retail stores. Locally, the crackers can be found at Whole Foods, Treasure Island, Sunset Foods, Binny's Beverage Depot, Sam's Wines & Spirits, as well as many small independent retailers.

Nicole's Divine Crackers have also achieved an international reputation in London where crackers, or biscuits, are taken very seriously: they won three gold medals in the Great Taste Awards for "Your Wildest Dreams," "Heaven is Lavender" and "Oh! For



PHOTO BY JACLYN KOLBER

Red Devil Dip

the Love of Herb."

### A new cracker

Flatbreads offer another twist on the traditional cracker.

One company at the forefront is Wheeling-based Chicago Flats, which has been making and distributing gourmet flatbreads for the past 13 years. The kosher, all-natural flatbreads are low in fat and cholesterol-free and come in a multitude of flavors, including traditional garlic and sesame to more unique offerings such as chipotle, Vidalia onion, and rosemary sea salt.

"The cracker and flatbread market has evolved of late, keeping in line with American palates," said Josh Harris, Proprietor of Chicago Flats. "Our product is different because it's more accessible and has a softer bite."

Chicago Flats are fresh baked with every order and can be found locally at Sam's Club and Costco.

### Red Devil Dip

- 1 1/2 medium red bell peppers, cored, seeded and cubed
- 16 oz. cream cheese
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 2 T unsalted butter
- 1 T minced garlic
- 1 T Dijon mustard
- 1/8 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and thinly sliced
- 3 green onions, white and some of the green, quartered, then sliced thin
- 20 medium-sized pimento-stuffed olives, drained and sliced

Combine the red pepper, cream cheese, sour cream, butter, garlic and mustard in a food processor. Blend until smooth.

Add the salt, cayenne pepper and lemon juice. Blend.

Transfer to a bowl and stir in the jalapeno, green onion and olives. Cover and refrigerate at least one hour. Adjust seasonings to taste.

Serve the dip at room temperature with rye, salt or black pepper crackers, or use as a spread on sandwiches.

Harris recommends eating the flatbreads plain as a snack, with a bit of European butter or with dips, hummus, salsa and cheese spreads.

"Flatbreads are evolving into more of a snack food with a healthy profile," said Harris.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# Wheelchair gets snagged in red tape



STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN  
THE FIXER - Chicago Sun-Times

Dear Fixer: I am disabled and can't walk because of problems from surgery.

I'm not asking for help on my legs. I'm asking for help to receive my special-order wheelchair through Medicare.

I was measured at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago in December 2007. The wheelchair came in at Apria Health-care several weeks ago. They called to deliver the chair and wanted a doctor present to accept it. But I could not get a specific time appointment with Medicare — only "morning or after-

noon" on a certain day. Apria accepted that and said they would deliver my chair to my house with no doctor present.

What I need is your help to get it delivered. I've called for several weeks, and my health professional has called, too. I never was able to talk to anybody, but just left messages. I did not receive any return calls.

The last message I left was that I would contact the media. I wonder if they are still in business.

Jack Culver

Dear Jack: Well, Apria is still in business, but the division that handled wheelchair issues is not. United Seating and Mobility acquired Apria's power and complex wheelchair division, and a company called Rehab Tech Inc. is now in charge of local cases.

From what we could

gather, the change-over had something to do with your chair's delay.

A few weeks went by and a chair came in, but it didn't fit correctly. We did get a happy ending, eventually: You got the chair about a month after that, and you told Team Fixer it's working fine.

Dear Fixer: AT&T has taken me to a collection agency for an installation fee — after I was told an installation fee would not be charged.

Here's what happened. On Aug. 19, I inquired into getting service with AT&T for local/long-distance telephone and high-speed Internet. I was told there were no installation charges for either service.

Admittedly, there was some confusion, because I canceled my order for the Internet and telephone service and then re-ordered telephone service.

After receiving a modem and returning it because it was not functioning, I repeatedly called AT&T for assistance. Each time, I waited at least 30 minutes before reaching someone who told me I had reached the wrong department. Several representatives and departments later, I decided that AT&T was not the company for me and canceled my second order for telephone service.

I received a bill for \$101. Again, I called AT&T, and after waiting 121 minutes, I was told that it was an installation charge. I was transferred to the repair department, at which time a recording indicated the repair office was closed and I should call back during normal business hours.

I would greatly appreciate your help in waiving this fee.

Christine Watt

Dear Christine: Even though it's the holidays, we can understand you not wanting to donate to the AT&T Canceled Service Charity Fund.

We took your problem to AT&T spokeswoman Megan Roskopf, who got this all sorted out. She said you already received a \$20 credit when you canceled the phone service. Now they're giving you a goodwill credit of \$90, which should cover the rest. They've also apologized for the inconvenience.

Because your account is now closed, they were unable to access notes to determine why the fee was applied in the first place. Roskopf speculated you likely needed additional wiring for the DSL service. At any rate, you're now officially off the hook.

### Lead paint for baby

Hey manufacturers, could you please stop painting children's products with toxic lead paint?

How hard is that?

The latest recall involves 3,000 cribs and 6,000 matching "Newport Rubbed Black" furniture pieces from Munire Furniture Inc. of Piscataway, N.J. The recall came after a child was diagnosed with lead poisoning.

The advocacy group Kids in Danger recommends that children who used this furniture be tested for lead.

If you have this stuff in your house, take it away from your children and contact Munire toll-free at (866) 586-9639 for a coupon for replacement furniture.

And, we might add, never do business with them again.

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem? Tell it to The Fixer at [www.pioneerlocal.com](http://www.pioneerlocal.com). Thanks to contributor Piet Levy.

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

# Peek

Continued from PAGE 48

### The American Red Cross

Babysitting Class will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 19 in the Health Management Classroom (Entrance C, first floor). This class will teach children ages 11 and above how to handle emergencies, prevent accidents and care for children while babysitting. A doll with moveable arms and legs needs to be brought by the student; Barbies are excluded. Fee: \$70.

### Jump start the New Year

by being the Resurrection Medical Center Biggest Loser. This 12-week contest will consist of weekly weigh-ins and short lecture/discussions beginning Wednesday, Jan. 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Personal training is available at reduced rates and highly

recommended for greater success. Prizes awarded to biggest losers. Class is held in the Club Res fitness Center. Fee: \$60.

### Win at Losing Weight

is a 10-week weight loss program meeting Mondays beginning Jan. 26 from 6 to 7 p.m. that teaches how to make healthy food choices for weight loss. The class includes behavior modification, exercise guidelines, nutrition assessment and a low-fat eating plan. Fee: \$100.

### Freedom from Smoking

Class is an American Lung Association program that teaches a variety of techniques to quit the addiction of smoking. Classes meet Tuesdays beginning Jan. 27 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and ending March 10. This program takes a step-by-step approach to unlearn the automatic behavior of smoking and includes various relaxation techniques. One

30-minute massage is included as well with tips for not gaining weight from a registered dietician and different ways to exercise from an exercise physiologist. A \$25 refund is given for attending all the sessions, whether or not quitting is achieved. Fee: \$150.

### "Everything You Want to Know about Fitness, but were Afraid to Ask"

lecture will take place from 2 to 3 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m. Jan. 23 in the Club Res Fitness Center. If you find yourself saying, "I'm exercising and not seeing any results," this class is for you. It is an open discussion about cardiovascular exercise, strength training, target heart rate, weight and body fat loss. Free.

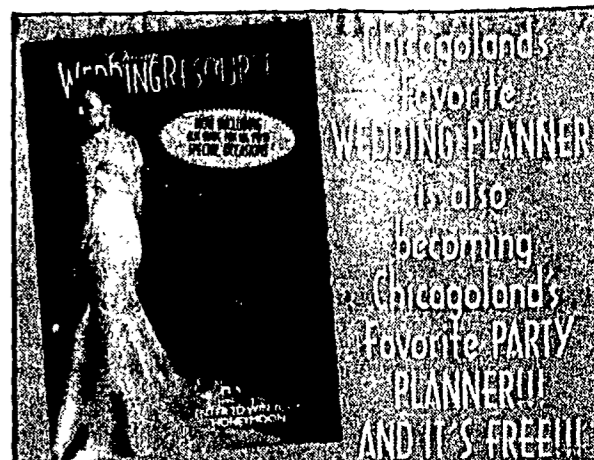
### Find out if you have a thyroid disorder

by participating in the thyroid screening from 9 to 11 a.m. Jan. 29 in the Health Management Department, En-

trance C, first floor. Results will be mailed. Fee: \$10.

### The American Cancer Society

Chicago office is seeking partnerships with faith-based organizations to outreach in various Chicago communities to provide resources involving cancer issues. In organizations where no health ministry exists, ACS will help the organization begin a ministry, or will provide health related information. Through this program, Churches Against Cancer (CAC), ACS will provide a comprehensive health awareness campaign within the organization to help build capacity, provide culturally appropriate resource materials and technical assistance to member churches. To participate, faith-based organizations must approve joining CAC. For more information about CAC, contact Desmond Konadu at (312) 279-7278 [desmond.konadu@cancer.org](mailto:desmond.konadu@cancer.org)

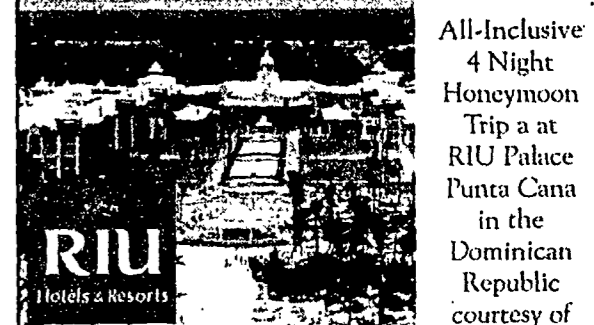


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SAMPLE AD

**It's a girl!**

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Gabby was welcomed to the world with love and excitement by her parents Mike and Tressie Brichta of Chicago. She is the first grandchild for both sets of proud grandparents: Rand and Maria Brichta of Northbrook and Liz and Ed Stefan of Minooka, IL. Gabby will be loved and adored by great grandparents: Sid Brichta of Northbrook, Otto and Teresa Stefan of River Forest, Desmond and Marta du Mont of Chicago, and Shirley Alper of Chesterfield, MO.

**Congratulations to her loving parents**  
**Mike and Tressie Brichta**

# Review

Continued from PAGE 5

hours clearing roads — nearly 3,000 more than the previous year.

The Village Board approved \$200,000 for emergency salt purchases in March. Niles usually buys 4,000 tons of salt to last the entire year, but by March crews had already burned through about 6,000 tons, far exceeding the yearly average.

The price Niles will pay for road salt has increased significantly this year due to shortages created by increased demand, record costs and last winter's extreme conditions.

In September the Village Board approved \$332,000 for the Public Services Department to purchase 4,000 tons of salt from Central Salt LLC of Louisville, Ky., nearly \$135,000 over the previously budgeted amount.

# 9

### Oasis Water Park opens

The Niles Park District in June opened the new \$4.7-million Oasis Fun Center and Water Park on Milwaukee Avenue.

While the new aquatic center was initially plagued by delays and a long winter, the facility was still able to open for its Memorial Day-weekend deadline.

The facility boasts a renovated swimming pool and drop slide, a 3,000-square-foot "spray ground" for children, a new parking lot and a new recreation center to house the lifeguard operation, administrative services, locker room facilities, concessions area and rental rooms.

# 10

### Milwaukee Avenue beautification OK'd

The Niles Village

Board unanimously approved plans to beautify Milwaukee Avenue at a March 25 meeting and, in doing so, gave project managers the OK to spend \$820,000 in grant money on the first phase of improvements.

The project, which has been in the works for four years, is scheduled to begin its first phase in 2009, according to Smith Engineering, the firm handling the design.

The entire beautification will run from Monroe Street to Albion Avenue, and is expected to cost \$1.9 million. The initial phase the trustees approved is projected to cost \$817,000, and will be funded by an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grant.

The first phase of beautification will focus on improving the appearance and pedestrian safety of intersections at Milwaukee and Touhy avenues and Waukegan Road. The initial phase

will also include painting existing light poles black from Monroe Street to Albion Avenue, installing a brick crosswalk at Harts Road and beautifying Veteran's Memorial Waterfall Plaza. Other amenities include adding custom-designed planters, benches, trash cans, brick pavers and decorative fencing along the street.

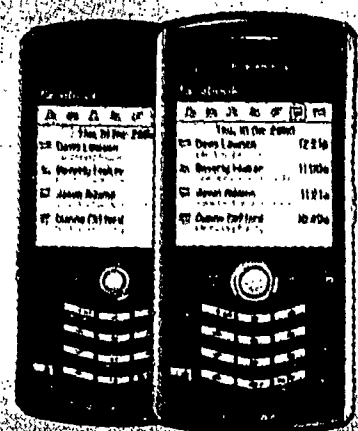
The second phase will address Milwaukee Avenue's intersections with Harlem and Howard avenues and Oakton Street. Crosswalk improvements will also be made near Jerry's Fruit Market, 7901 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The beautification will occur at the same time as a Milwaukee Avenue resurfacing project from Neva to Albion avenues.

Officials have said doing both at the same time will create overlapping efficiencies, and will reduce the disturbance to motorists, the public and businesses along Milwaukee Avenue.

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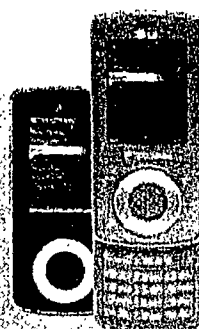


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Reflections.  
Remembrances.  
Condolences.

## Local Death Notices

### Death Notices

**Barry, Dorothy R.**  
Longtime resident of Park Ridge, passed away December 23, 2008 in the Rainbow Hospice Ark, Park Ridge. Her nephew, Greg Koehnke, a grand niece, Ashley Koehnke and a grand nephew, David Koehnke, survive her. A funeral mass was held at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church in Park Ridge on Friday, December 26. Burial followed in Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Hillside, IL. Memorials are appreciated to Rainbow Hospice, 444 N. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge, IL 60068. The Ryan-Parke Funeral Home handled arrangements.  
*Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)*

**Karlesky, Roger Peter**  
Roger, age 62, of Morton Grove, IL, passed away December 22, 2008 in Morton Grove. Born October 24, 1946 in Chicago, IL, Roger was married to Ann; father of Matthew (Lisa) and Kristin; son of Mary Ellen and the late Peter; grandfather to Joseph and Ryan; and brother to Delores (Dan) Dougherty. He served in the US Army. Visitation and service were held at Simkins Funeral Home, 6251 Dempster St., Morton Grove, IL. Cremation private.  
*Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)*

**Konopka, Frances**  
Age 91. Passed away on Dec. 20 in Venice, Florida. She lived in Park Ridge, where she was an active realtor until she retired to Fla. in 1987. Wife of the late Edwin (married 42 years); she is survived by two children, Robert (Madeline) and Patricia (Tom) Jones; two grandchildren, Holly (Scott) Parramore and Kelly Konopka; one sister, Jean Nowicki; also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral mass was celebrated Sat. Dec. 27 at St. Paul of the Cross Church. Interment followed in Maryhill Cemetery. Visitation was Fri. Dec. 26 at the Ryan-Parke Funeral Home, 120 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge.  
*Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)*

**Mc Kewen, George E.**  
Age 83. Passed away on Dec. 20. He was a Park Ridge resident. He is survived by two sons, Glenn (Dina) and Steve (Nancy); two grandchildren, Alexandra and Meredith; also survived by long time friend Marilyn Treend. Mr. Mc Kewen graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in engineering (1945) and business administration (1947). In 1973 he completed the Univ. of Chicago's Executive MBA program. Mr. Mc Kewen was formerly the Chairman and President of CRL, Inc. Under his leadership, CRL, Inc. grew from \$13 to \$224 million with 23 divisions and subsidiaries with over 1600 employees. He retired in 1991. Services and interment were private. Ryan-Parke Funeral Home 120 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge was in charge of arrangements.  
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## MAINE EAST BOYS BASKETBALL

# Demons win title at Luther North tourney

### Nusrath Khan named MVP

BY JEFF ZIMMERMAN  
Contributor

Last year, Maine East finished second to Zion-Benton at the Luther North Boys Basketball Holiday Classic. One year later, the Demons captured the championship trophy by defeating Immaculate Conception 59-48 Saturday night.

Maine East, spearheaded by **Shareq Khan** and **Nusrath Khan** made the four wins look easy in the 44th annual classic. Nusrath Khan was voted tournament MVP by the 16 coaches, leading all scorers with 82 points.

Immaculate Conception gave Maine East a battle for three periods, but the sharp-shooting of Shareq Khan, Nusrath Khan and **Abdul Nader** provided the necessary spark in the final quarter to increase the Demons' record to 10-3.

Maine East took the lead for good when Shareq Khan connected on a three-pointer at the horn to give the Demons a 36-34 lead entering the fourth quarter. That's when Maine East went on a tear

with six minutes left to play. Maine East opened up a 51-41 lead behind two threes by Shareq Khan and one by Nader. Maine East's final eight points of the game were scored by Nusrath Khan when he converted 8-of-8 free throws.

Nusrath Khan in the tournament opener in Maine East's 80-66 win over Mather, scored 32 points, converting 12-of-12 from the line. The junior was perfect from the foul line in the four games.

"Don Olson, the father of head coach of Glenn Olson, helped me a lot with my foul shooting by relaxing, bending my knees, with the release and follow through," said Nusrath Khan.

Throughout the tournament, Maine East was unstoppable from three-point range. The Demons in the win over Immaculate Conception hit 9-of-14 from the beyond the circle. The Knights made only 1-of-4 shots from three-point country. Maine East's **Danhi Wilson**, also a member of the all-tournament team, captured nine rebounds and poured in eight points in the championship game.

"I was extremely pleased with our overall

play throughout the four games," said Glenn Olson. "Nader in the championship game made key shots for us in the final quarter. Nusrath was tremendous; he works so hard, he can be classified a 'gym rat' and the hard work is beginning to pay off for him and us this season."

Maine East in the first round over Mather broke open the game in the second quarter, outscoring the Rangers 14-2 to take a 38-19 lead at the break. Mather trimmed the Maine East lead down to 10 in the second half, but could not get any closer. Senior guard **Dwight Davis** contributed 12 points and Shareq Khan added 13.

In the winners bracket the following night, Maine East cruised past Ridgewood 60-36.

Following a two-day break for Christmas, Maine East defeated Gordon Teah 63-47 in the semifinals. Maine East outscored the Rams 18-3 in the second quarter to pull ahead 39-17 with one minute left in the half. The Rams got no closer than the final margin after that. Nusrath Khan led all scorers with 21 points, Wilson had 14 and Shareq Khan added 12.

## ICE HOCKEY

# Notre Dame upsets St. Ignatius

The underdog Notre Dame JV Ice Dons pulled off the upset of the year in JV Catholic league play, slaying the unbeaten Wolfpack 4-1 behind the oftentimes sensational goalie **Kebyn Frost**, who made 44 saves in the victory.

While the Dons were outshot 45-36, they took advantage of their opportunities. Halfway through the first period, **Tyler**

**Zanon** scored the first goal and what turned out to be the game winner with assists from **Nico Lazzaroni** and **Peter Prestia**. Others scoring for the Dons were **Dino Loverde**, **Nico Lazzaroni** and **David Fabris**. Assists on the other three goals were credited to **Liam Healy**, **Loverde**, **Brandon Taylor** and **Bryan Gronset** who was credited with a pair of assists.

The JV Ice Dons had five players selected to the Metro Central All-Star team. They were **Fabris**, **Loverde**, **Nick Dziadosz**, **Prestia** and **Ryan Maize**. At the team Christmas party, Coach **Blake O'Keefe** awarded goalie **Kebyn Frost** the coaches' MVP award for the first half of the season.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

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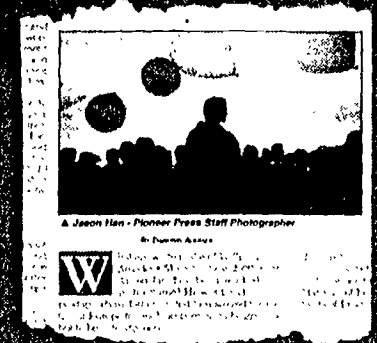
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# Maine humbled by Hornets in sled hockey

MAINEIacs no match for sled-savvy foe

BY KEN KEENAN  
kkeenan@pioneerlocal.com

Ever play sled hockey? It's exactly what the name suggests, playing hockey on sleds.

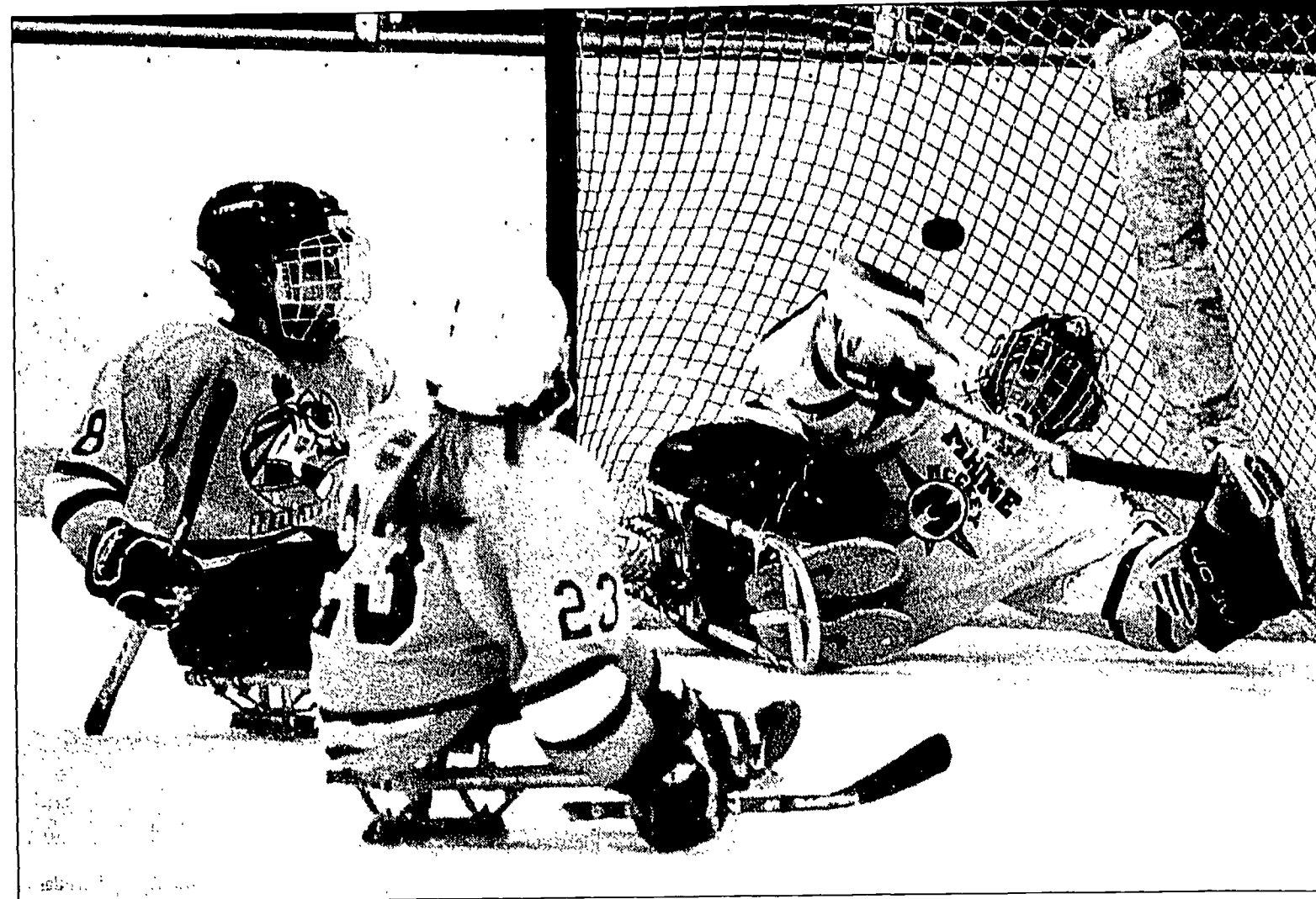
But you better watch out if you play against the Hornets, an area sled hockey team which took out the Maine Township MAINEIacs Dec. 14 at Iceland, in Niles, and won hands down 17-5.

The first 30 minutes of the game were played against Maine's JV team, with the Hornets bolting to a lead of 8-1. The final 30 minutes featured the varsity squad, and the Hornets won that portion 9-4.

Both the Hornets and Maine played with special short sticks, and the Hornets displayed their collective skill, running circles around the MAINEIacs' teams.

Each of Maine's goalies — **Max Krautwald, Allison Stankowicz and Ben Wade** — fell into the nets and could not right themselves, bringing a chorus of loud laughter from the Maine players' parents.

As the game wore on, the Hornets likely could



Erica Mitchell (No. 23) of the Hornets sled hockey team scores a goal over Maine Township goalie Ben Wade in the first period of an exhibition game between the two teams Dec. 14. The Hornets showed their mettle with a 17-5 win.

have pressed the attack even more, but it appeared as though they must have felt sorry for their less sled-worthy opponents.

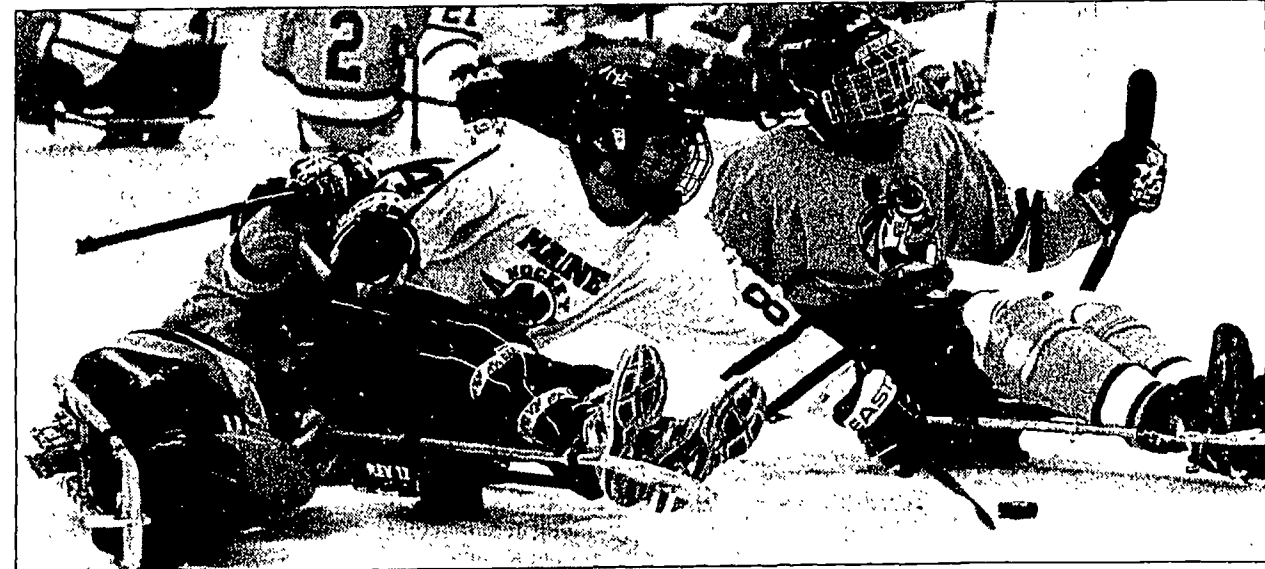
In addition to the action on the ice, the MAINEIacs held a bake sale, with proceeds going

to the Hornets' organization. In the end, the MAINEIacs presented a check to the Hornets Hockey Club for new equipment. Combined with the bake sale, the total came to about \$800.00.

Canned food donations

were also collected for the Maine Township Food Pantry, and the response was very generous as some community members offered entire cases of canned goods for the pantry.

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Maine Township's Justin Praznowski tries to move the puck between two defenders from the Hornets, a sled hockey team which took out the MAINEIacs in an exhibition contest at Iceland.



Allen Kaleta/For Pioneer Press  
Brody Roybal of the Hornets speeds across the ice on his specially made sled during an exhibition game against Maine Townships at Iceland. Roybal and company won the game in dominating fashion 17-5.

## Top 10 Continued from PAGE 58

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### Kellogg qualifies for state tournament

Both were three-time sectional qualifiers, but Chelsea Kellogg one-upped older sister Courtney by becoming the first Maine West girls golfer in the program's four-year history to qualify for the state meet.

Under intense pressure after a slow start, Kellogg recovered for an 85 in the sectional at demanding Cog Hill to make the cut. She nearly aced the par-3 17th for a clutch birdie. A National Honor Society member, Kellogg earned an athletic scholarship from University of Missouri-St. Louis.



FILE PHOTO

Chelsea Kellogg became the first Maine West girls golfer in the program's four-year history to qualify for the state meet.

goalkeeper, the Rebels had standouts **Marlo Navarrete, Marcin Zalewski, Anthony LaBarbara, Peter Soja, Randy Zepeda and Darek Misterka** to lead the attack.

7

### Ridgewood soccer team reaches sectional final

It turned out to be a very special year for coach Rob St. John and his team.

While the start of the season was not particularly successful, the Rebels intensified their play at the end of the season and made a superb run in the state tournament. Ridgewood's players combined to win the Metro Suburban Conference title, their own regional and made it to the finals of the Chicago Academy Sectional.

"We knew this group of players was special," said St. John, who also coaches the school's varsity girls team. "They were 18-2 as freshmen and many of them play club (soccer) in the offseason."

The Rebels did indeed have a talented core of players this fall. With **Patrick Boduch** as the

seven previous seasons, always touted his teams as one to watch out for. This year, however, it was true.

Led by All-State senior midfielder **James Kelly** and senior keeper **Milan Tijanac**, East won its first regional title in 24 years in late October. After disposing of Schurz 4-0 in the opening round of the Maine South regional, DiPrizio's team knocked off Von Steuben 3-0 as **Mike Guzzarde, Damian Lewandowski** and Kelly tallied goals.

"It's been a long wait," DiPrizio said. "But it was well worth it. I am so happy for our guys."

At the Niles North Sectional, the Demons continued to impress the so-called experts. While most people were expecting a New Trier-Loyola championship, East spoiled the plans with a stunning 1-0 upset of Loyola in the semifinals. East's goal was tallied by **Josh Swoboda**.

The Demons then faced nationally-ranked New Trier in the championship and lost to the eventual state champions 4-0.

DiPrizio, who had been the Demons' coach for

dated coming in here and played hard," DiPrizio said. "I was proud of how our guys played against a team of this caliber."

9

### Maine West swim relay heads to State

It was early in 1979. Jimmy Carter was President, Michael Jordan had been cut from his high-school basketball team and college drop-out Madonna struggled as a troupe dancer. No one knew what a PC, CD or cell phone was.

And Maine West qualified for the state boys swimming meet in a relay event for the last time. Until Feb. 16.

Warriors **Matt O'Hagan, Freddy Wittmann, Pat Cullen** and **Nick Weijhner** ended the 29-year drought by racing to first place in the 200-yard medley relay at the Glenbrook North Sectional, in a school-record 1 minute, 39.51 seconds.

For good measure, O'Hagan ran away with the 100 breaststroke to become the first West swimmer to make State in three consecutive years and only the second to qualify in any three seasons. The medley relay was the day's first swimming event. Two hours later, still-jubilant



FILE PHOTO

Mario Navarrete was one of the reasons Ridgewood's boys soccer team had success. He scored the game-winning goal in the fourth overtime against Elmwood Park in the sectional semifinal contest.



FILE PHOTO

Led by All-State midfielder James Kelly, Maine East enjoyed its best season in 24 years.

Warriors coach Ryan Claus fulfilled a preseason promise by jumping into the pool in his street clothes.

### 10 Hawks girls soccer returns to State

Even before the 2008 season began, members of South's girls soccer team had a dream — to return to the state finals.

And on May 26, the Hawks became the first soccer team at the Park Ridge school, either boys or girls, to make it to the state meet two straight years. Playing Hononegah in the Benedictine University Supersectional, the Hawks notched a 2-1 victory and punched their ticket to the Class AA state tournament in Naperville.

"I checked back (in

the records) and no other Maine South soccer team made it to the Elite Eight back-to-back," coach J.J. Crawford said back then. "The girls are very excited about accomplishing this."

After falling behind 1-0 early in the supesectional game, the Hawks scratched their way back. With less than a minute left in regulation **Jenna Shemky** blasted in a shot off a perfect pass from **Gabby Whittinghill**.

The game ended in a 1-1 deadlock and went to overtime. That's when midfielder **Elyssa Kulas** drilled a shot into the net and sent her team to North Central College. South lost in the quarterfinals, but finished with an overall record of 20-2-4.

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# Sports

TOP 10 STORIES OF 2008

## Big year for Maine South athletics

There were many high points in sports during the year. The following items are what the sports staff believes were the top stories of 2008.

1

### Maine South wins Class 8A State championship

Even before the 2008 season began, head coach David Inserra and his staff knew they had something special in the fall.

The Hawks, who had reached the state quarterfinals a year earlier, were bringing back the majority of their team, which included a strong contingent of seniors.

And probably the team's most lethal weapon was the highly talented quarterback **Charlie Goro**.

After completing an undefeated regular season, the Hawks ignited in the Class 8A tournament. Inserra's team battled back from a first-quarter deficit to crush Stevenson 63-29 in the first round of the playoffs. The Hawks turned in a solid defensive effort in the second round as they toppled Loyola 26-7.

In the quarterfinals, South's defensive unit took center stage once again in a 42-0 rout of Barrington. And in the semifinals, the Hawks punched their ticket to Champaign with a hard-fought 23-6 victory over No. 1-seeded Bartlett.

When they entered University of Illinois' Memorial Stadium on Nov. 29, South's players were determined not to

finish second as Inserra's teams had done in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Playing with relentless defense and using the running skills of Goro, who set a state record for rushing by a QB with 164 yards, the Hawks notched a convincing 41-21 triumph over Hinsdale Central.

2

### Tom Hoff wins Olympic gold medal

Like many youngsters, Tom Hoff had dreams of athletic glory when he was growing up in Park Ridge. And while it would take many years for those hopes to become reality, Hoff attained his goal and much more.

This past summer, Hoff, 35, was a member of the United States Olympic men's volleyball team, which captured a gold medal at the Beijing Games. It was the pinnacle of a long career in the sport that began at Maine South.

"There is no question that, for me personally, it was an awesome dream come true," Hoff said last summer in a visit to his former home. "It was something that I thought about for almost 20 years."

Hoff, who was one of the team's captains, is now married and makes his home in California. He had been in two previous Olympics as a member of the U.S. team and competed in Australia (2000) and Greece (2004).

After first trying basketball and track at

Maine South his freshman and sophomore years, Hoff found his true love with volleyball. He played for former Hawk coach George Sherman and became a top player as a junior and senior.

At 6-foot-8, Hoff went on to a successful collegiate career at Long Beach State University and was named All-American in both 1995 and 1996.

In the 2008 Olympics, Hoff, a middle hitter, was on the court Aug. 15 when the U.S. team defeated Brazil for the gold medal.

3

### Maine South relay team wins state title

When **David Chao**, **Chance Kuykendall**, **Brynnan Baccus** and **Charlie Goro** entered O'Brien Stadium on the campus of Eastern Illinois University, they didn't draw a lot of attention. After all, the foursome, which formed Maine South's 800-meter relay team last spring, were certainly not one of the favorites in the event at the Class AA state meet the weekend of May 23-24.

But when the race began, coach Brian Fee's four athletes summoned all their skill and determination in trying to prove the experts wrong.

"The baton (final) exchange between Brynnan and Charlie was as perfect as you will ever see," longtime assistant coach Jim Lonergan said. "With about 70 meters to go, Charlie was being reeled in by the Springfield Lan-



Maine South's Charlie Goro celebrates after crossing the finish line in first place in the Class AA 800-meter relay. He teamed up with David Chao, Chance Kuykendall, Brynnan Baccus to win the race.

phier runner.

"But Charlie hung on and put him (the challenger) away in the final 15 meters. That (winning) time (of 1 minute, 27.68 seconds) was a new school record.

"That was the story of the finals. No one in that stadium expected us to even be in the hunt (for a state championship). So for us to win, was truly something special."

4

### Maine West blows away CSL North field

It was one of the greatest team performances in Maine West history and certainly the best in Andy Trotter's 18

Warriors ran their fastest-ever races.

5

### Demons win regional basketball crown

To say that it had been a long time since Maine East had won a boys basketball regional title, would have been the classic understatement.

But in Glenn Olson's first year as head coach, the Demons ended a 36-year drought with a stunning victory in the finals of the Maine South Regional in February.

Amazingly, all three of Maine East's former head coaches (Paul McClelland, Ken Sartini and Roy Wasielewski) were in the stands that night in Park Ridge when East upset No. 3-seeded (of the Evanston Sectional) Von Steuben 70-65.

"The last time we won a regional was 1972," said McClelland, who coached the Demons from 1969-84. "It was great to see it finally happen again."

After a solid regular season in which they posted a record of 16-10 and placed third in the Central Suburban League North, the Demons began the playoffs against Northridge Prep. Olson's team cruised to an 84-66 victory and earned the right to play for the title.

In the upset win over Von Steuben, East had a tremendous effort from then-junior **Danhi Wilson**. The 6-3 forward racked up 32 points and 14 rebounds.

Top 10, PAGE 57

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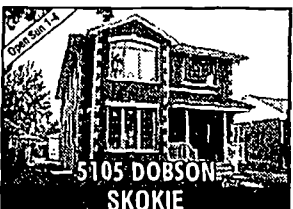


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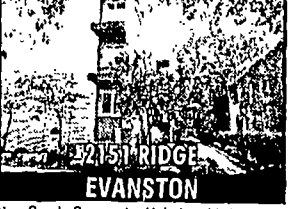
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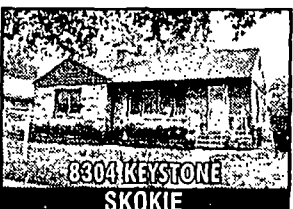


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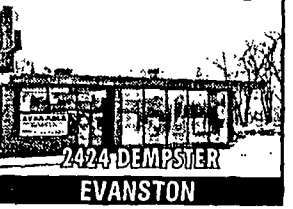
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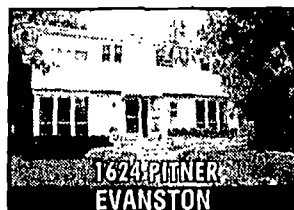


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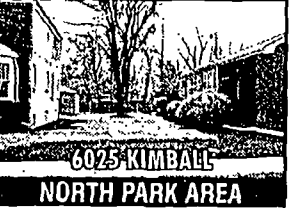
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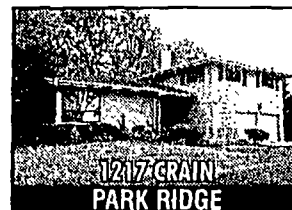


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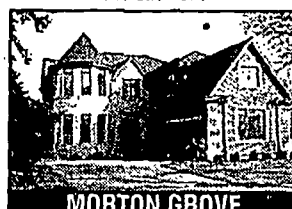


Melanie Jane Javier



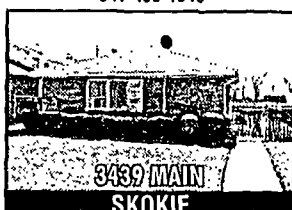
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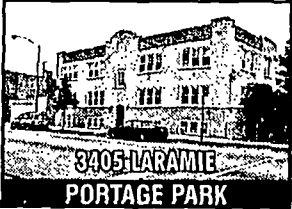
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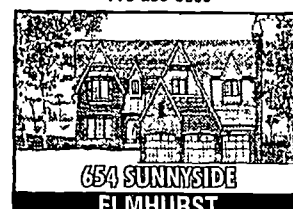


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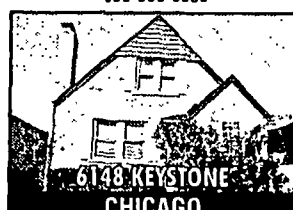
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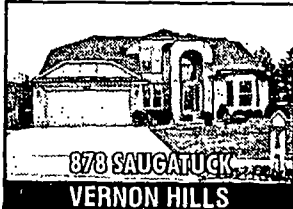
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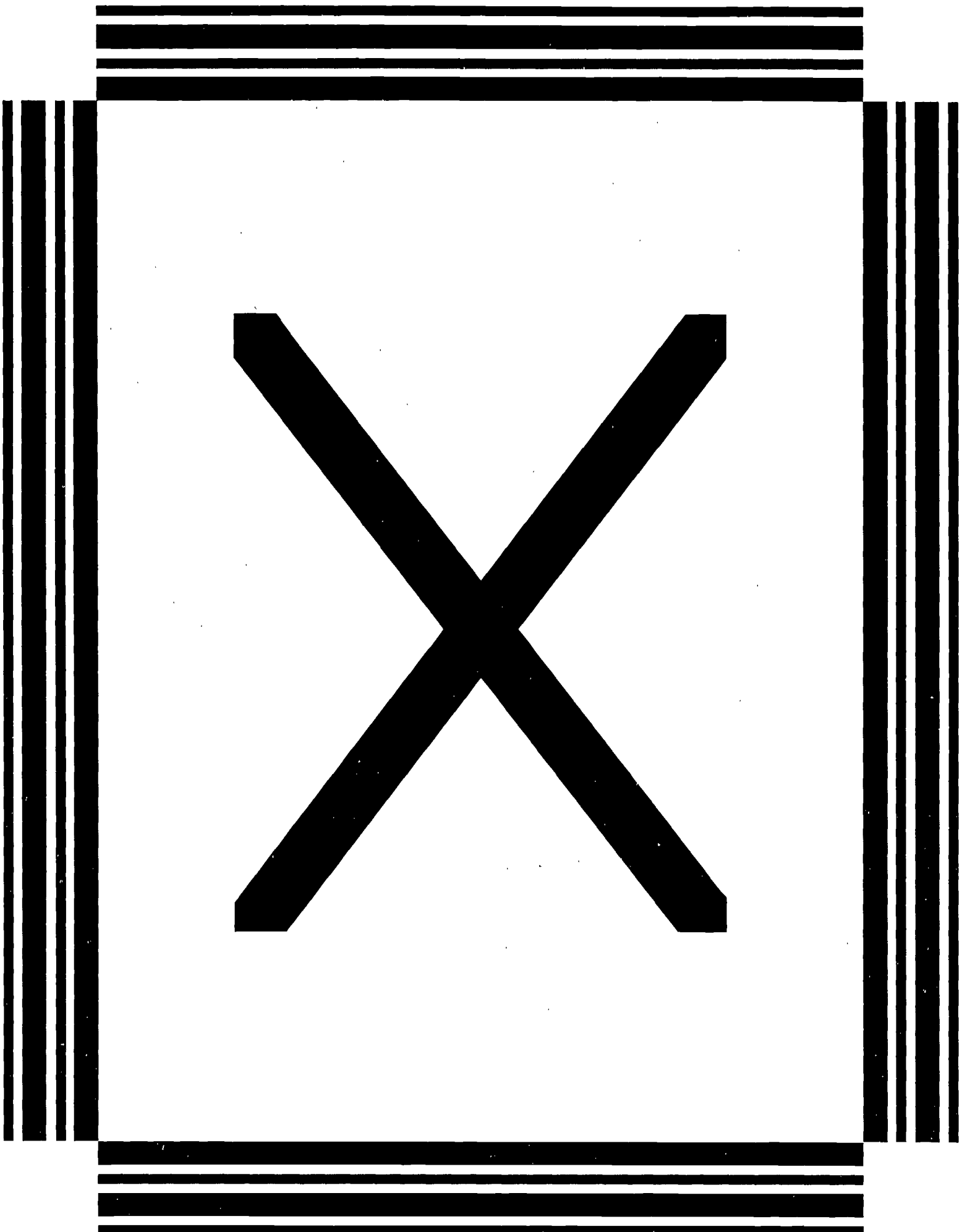
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## COMPET-TATER

Niles resident Steve Jankowski settles in for a long session of TV watching as he competes in the 2009 Couch Potato contest New Year's Day in downtown Chicago. **PAGE 3.** PHOTO BY ALLEN KALETA/FOR PIONEER PRESS

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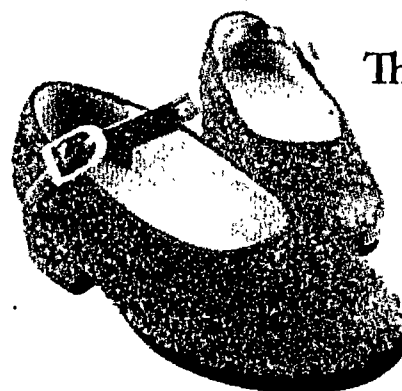
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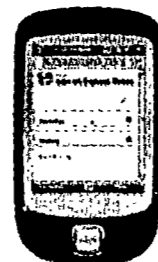
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## News

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# Niles man loses bid to become top sofa spud

Armchair athlete lost sight of goal in the backs of his eyelids.

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

In his quest for couch-potato glory, Niles resident Steve Janowski, 41, came up short by doing what a lot of people do in front of the tube on New Year's Day — he fell asleep.

But for Janowski, the shut-eye after came about 15 straight hours of watching TV and cost him the title of ESPN Zone's Ultimate Couch Potato and a prize package valued at \$5,000.

The contest, held annually on New Year's Day at Chicago's ESPN Zone, challenges four competi-



ALLEN KALETA/ FOR PIONEER PRESS  
Niles resident Steve Janowski (front) settles in for a long session of television watching as he competes in the 2009 Couch Potato contest New Year's Day at the ESPN Zone in downtown Chicago. Competitors can order anything they want from the menu, but they cannot fall asleep or leave the chair and are given one restroom break every eight hours.

tors to sit in leather recliners and watch as much sports TV as possible with one bathroom break every eight hours. There is also a strict "no sleeping" rule

that contestants must follow. "I couldn't keep my eyes open," a deflated Janowski said. "I fell asleep at about 2 a.m."

Janowski, a case manager for a financial-services company, was the first contestant ousted from the competition, which began at 10 a.m.

Before the competition, Janowski, an avid marathon runner, was counting on mental toughness to get him through the wee hours of the morning. But he knew staying awake would be challenging.

"I think the hardest part will be getting through the night when there's nothing really on TV," he said the day before the competition. "But when my body kicks in once the morning comes, I should have a shot. Mostly I'm concerned with only having one bathroom break every eight hours. But if I sip my Diet Coke slowly, I should be okay."

But only two contestants remained after 24 hours — police detective Marco Acevedo and reigning champion Jeff Miller, who set a record last year with 40.5 hours in front of

the TV. Acevedo eventually surrendered after 39 hours, and Miller took home the title once again.

Event organizer Kat Kirch said the idea for holding a couch-potato contest on Jan. 1 — a day when many people gather around their TV sets to watch college football — sprang from reality.

"Well, you figure it's what most people are doing on New Year's Day, anyway, so why not have a contest?" she said.

Even though he was eliminated from the competition, Janowski said he took solace in the fact he'd had a good time.

"Unfortunately, I did not do as good a job of representing Niles as I had hoped," he said. "But it was certainly fun."

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

# Chicago police arrest Maine East assistant principal

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

An assistant principal at Maine East High School in Park Ridge and a reported member of the Blue Man Group were arrested at a park along the lakefront in Chicago and charged with public indecency the night of Dec. 29, Chicago police said.

Michael Pressler, 48, of

the 1700 block of North Halsted Street and Darren Stephens, 45, of the 1400 block of West Leland Avenue, both of Chicago, were arrested without incident about 5:45 p.m. on the 4500 block of North Simonds Drive, police said.

Contrary to a previous report, Stephens "is not and never was" a member of the Blue Man Group,

according to Chicago Blue Man Group spokesman Nick Harkin.

Pressler, who is the assistant principal for instruction at Maine East High School in Park Ridge, and Stephens were both charged with public indecency, a misdemeanor, after they were found allegedly engaged in a sex act on Chicago Park District property, police said.

Dave Beery, spokesman for Maine Township High School District 207, said Pressler has been temporarily reassigned to work from home until the school board takes action.

"In general, the school district does not comment on these matters because they are personnel issues that the board must act upon," he said.

Beery said he expected

the District 207 school board would review the matter at its next regularly scheduled meeting, on Monday.

Beery said Pressler had been with the school district for 16 years, starting out as band director at Maine South High School before being appointed as assistant principal at Maine East four years ago. Pressler's assistant-princi-

pal salary was \$104,000 in 2005, according to minutes from a district school board meeting.

Both Pressler and Stephens are scheduled to appear in Misdemeanor Court, 2452 W. Belmont Ave., at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 6, Chicago police said.

Sun-Times News Group contributed to this report

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

# Niles man suffered heart attack before crash

A Niles man found dead in his minivan Sunday morning after the vehicle left the road and wound up in a group of shrubs had suffered a heart attack prior to the crash, an autopsy has revealed.

Carmelo Manzanilla, 52, of 6300 W. Touhy Ave. in Niles was found unresponsive in his vehicle at 830 E. Touhy Ave. in Des Plaines about 6 a.m. Sunday, a spokesman for the Cook County Medical Examiner's office said.

Manzanilla was driving a Ford minivan east on Touhy when the vehicle veered into both the other eastbound and westbound lanes, Des Plaines police said in a release.

The van eventually

came to rest in a large clump of shrubs, the release said.

Manzanilla was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge where he was pronounced dead at 6:40 a.m., according to the

medical examiner's office. An autopsy Monday found he suffered a heart attack and his death was ruled natural.

Sun-Times News Group

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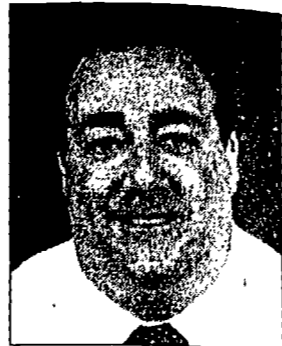
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## Sun-Times vet named Pioneer advertising boss



Spierling

The Sun-Times News Group today announced it has promoted Michael Spierling to vice president of advertising for the Pioneer Press effective immediately.

Spierling, 38, most recently had been senior director, Automotive and Builder Advertising for the Sun-Times News Group. In that position, he led print and online sales strategy for Today's New Homes, the Sun-Times News Group's vibrant, comprehensive real estate print publication launched in June, in addition to Spierling's automotive sales management duties.

In his new role, Spierling will spearhead online and print sales initiatives for the Pioneer Press' multiple newspaper titles and Web sites serving Chicago's premier suburbs.

"Mike is a hands-on, out-of-the-office and in-

the-field manager who aggressively works at business development and growth," said Larry Green, Pioneer Press president and publisher. "Mike has done an outstanding job leading key Sun-Times News Group initiatives including the successful Today's New Homes, skillfully working with our clients and helping them to meet their advertising goals," said Barbara Swanson, group vice president, Advertising and Marketing, for the Sun-Times News Group.

He joined STNG in 1995 as a local account manager. Mike has worked in New York and in Chicago on national accounts. He joined Pioneer in 2000 and for the next six years he was the West Group manager operating from Oak Park. While there, he was active in a number of community ini-

tiatives and served both on the board and as president of the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce.

Spierling joined the company in 1995. He has held a variety of sales and sales management roles, including local sales representative for the Chicago Sun-Times; national sales representative in New York; West Group sales manager in Oak Park and Sun-Times News Group director of Automotive Advertising. Spierling graduated from Bradley University and resides with his family in Northbrook.

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# Obama's 'Check Please!' visit was to Zia's Trattoria

By ANNE LUNDE  
alunde@pioneerlocal.com

Just in time for the presidential inauguration, Zia's Trattoria, at 6699 N. Northwest Highway, at Oliphant Avenue, in Chicago's Edison Park community, finds itself reflected in the Obama spotlight.

About seven years ago, when WTTW (Channel 11)

was just starting its "Check Please!" program with weekly restaurant reviews from an eclectic mix of ordinary citizens, Barack Obama, then a state senator in the Illinois General Assembly, was one of three people to visit Zia's.

The segment never aired — a different segment focusing on Italian restaurants featured Zia's

instead. The Obama segment was filmed so early in the show's run that the original host, Amanda Puek, was still leading the post-dinner discussion. Obama, Illinois' junior U.S. senator since 2004, is about to be sworn in as president of the United States.

Zia's co-owner and chef Joe Calabrese says he got a call from a Check Please!

show representative to report that the show will air after all, after all this time, on Jan. 16. The Thursday night show and its weekend rebroadcasts will appear just before the Jan. 20 inauguration. The show usually runs at 8 p.m. Thursdays, with repeats at 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and 10 p.m. Sundays.

Calabrese said that, although the episode had not

aired, Obama became a steady customer at Zia's, dropping in every couple of months for Italian food, before his U.S. Senate job and presidential campaign took him so far from the Chicago area.

Calabrese and his partner, Tom Penkala, Jr., opened Zia's in Edison Park in March 1997. Calabrese said that — while their business dropped

about 3 percent in the 2008 economic downturn — Zia's has done well since opening.

Their next venture will be the opening of Café Touché, a moderately-priced, classic-style French bistro, scheduled for April, in the former Nam Viet restaurant space, 6731 N. Northwest Highway at Oshkosh Avenue, one block northwest of Zia's.

# Niles seeks grant to open library branch at Golf Mill

By TONY BERTUCA  
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

The village of Niles and the Niles Public Library are teaming up in an effort to bring a library extension branch to the local teen center at Golf Mill Mall.

Assistant Village Manager Steve Vineziano said officials from the library were assisting him in writing an application to the

International City/County Management Association (ICMA), requesting a \$60,000 grant for the Niles Library Teen Center Branch Project.

"Anyone who touches the library improves their lives and that's what we're trying to do here," he said.

If the villages receive the grant money, Vineziano said the new library center will be outfitted with books, computer

equipment, and video conferencing technology. Whether the library center will be fit into the existing teen center or if an additional room will be created has not yet been decided.

Teen center director Mark Williams said he was crossing his fingers for the grant money.

"I think it's an awesome idea," he said. "The ability to be able to offer

library services through the teen center is incredibly innovative. We want to have books, movies, and a video conferencing system to conference with the library and with other educational agencies throughout the world."

Acting Mayor Robert Callero also supports the effort.

"We are totally behind this project," he said in a statement issued to the

press. "It is another innovation in our teen center that will increase the institutional aspects while also drawing in new members."

Librarian Barb Kruser reported the project is important because it can introduce children to library services who may not be likely to visit the library's actual building at 6960 W. Oakton St.

"Through this project, the village of Niles and the

Niles Public Library could provide services to a greater number of teens including those living further away from the main library," she said. "This grant could also allow us to introduce library services to a new population of teens who have not made the public library a part of their lives — those more apt to visit a shopping center over a library building."

## POLICE BLOTTER

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

### DUI

■ Jorell Diaz, 18, of 2157 W. Sprucewood Ave., Des Plaines, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Jan. 4 near Harlem Avenue and Oakton Street. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 5.

■ Horacio Baggio, 59, of 8733 N. Ozanam Ave., Niles, was charged with DUI Jan. 4 on the 8200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 18.

■ Povilas Zukauskas, 25, of 566 Byrd Road, Riverside, was charged with DUI Jan. 4 near Harlem and Touhy avenues. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in

court Feb. 5.

■ Chris Yoo, 33, of 5448 N. Kildare Ave., Chicago, was charged with DUI Jan. 3 on the 8700 block of West Golf Road. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 2.

■ Marcus Johnson, 27, of 5427 W. Kamerling Ave., Chicago, was charged with DUI Jan. 3 on the 9000 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 2.

### THEFT

■ Ulysses Bautista, 22, of 4276 Central Road, Glenview, was charged with criminal trespass and possession of drug paraphernalia, and Mark Hanna, 27, of

9854 Huber Lane, Niles, with theft and possession of drug paraphernalia, Dec. 30 after allegedly breaking into a vehicle on the 200 block of Golf Mill Center. Both men were released on \$1,000 bond and are due in court Feb. 9.

■ A woman's purse was stolen Jan. 4 from a shopping cart at a store on the 5600 block of West Touhy Avenue. The victim said she was missing \$700.

### CRIMINAL DAMAGE

■ In four separately reported incidents, four car windows were broken Jan. 2 on the 8000 block of Churchill Avenue.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# Sun-Times group, Monster form recruitment alliance

The Sun-Times News Group, the premier source of local news and information for the greater Chicago area, and Monster, the leading global online career and recruitment resource and flagship brand of Monster Worldwide Inc., have launched co-branded Web sites to offer combined online and print services using the Chicago Sun-Times (www.sun-times.com/monster), Pioneer Press and other Sun-Times News Group newspaper titles in the greater Chicago area and Northwest Indiana.

The combined sites will reach an audience of more than 3 million unique visitors a month, according to Nielsen/NetRatings NetView, November 2008. The Sun-Times News Group newspapers and Web sites combined reach more than 4 million read-

ers weekly in print and online.

The Web sites combine the service, convenience and local audience of the Sun-Times News Group's expansive reach with the powerful tools and career resources of Monster to match companies to the most qualified candidates.

"The Sun-Times News Group is pleased to form a partnership with Monster, the world's leader for recruitment advertising," said Barbara Swanson, group vice president, advertising and marketing, for the Sun-Times News Group. "This partnership combines the most local jobs in the Chicago area with the dominant national career site. This powerful alliance will make it easier for Chicago area and Northwest Indiana job seekers to find the best positions out there and our

advertisers will benefit from the greater number of job seekers who will see and respond to their job ads."

Through the Monster/Sun-Times News Group alliance, audiences reached by these respective outlets will get a comprehensive online career search and management solution, with a Chicago-area focus and industry-leading search and match technology. Chicago area job seekers will be able to find local job ads in a number of ways, including through links on individual newspaper Web sites and the searchchicago.com portal as well as Monster.com.

In addition, expert, award-winning career advice will be available to consumers, regardless of whether they are currently looking for new jobs.

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# Opinion

## WE SAY

### Will your TV be ready for digital transition?

"There's nothing on TV!" Those words usually are spoken by people frustrated with their choices of television programs, but some people undoubtedly will wake up Feb. 17 and literally find no stations that can be viewed on their televisions.

Unless they have a converter box or pay for cable or satellite television, TV viewers who don't own a digital television will be in trouble when analog TV broadcasts end at midnight Feb. 17.

The transition may cause surprises for some people who believe they have prepared sufficiently. People with a converter box for their television may not realize they need a separate box for their VCR if they want to watch one show while taping another, according to the federal government's Web site — [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov) — that is full of helpful information about the transition.

Supporters of the change say the benefits will be worth the frustration that some TV viewers initially experience.

Federal Communications Commission spokeswoman Mary Diamond told Pioneer Press the transition "will make valuable (broadcast) spectrum available that will be used for public safety such as police and fire departments. It will increase the quality of picture and sound to consumers."

The TV transition has its critics, however.

The nonprofit American Forum recently distributed an essay from Chicago-area residents Steve Macek and Mitchell Szczepanczyk who warn about the television transi-

tion's effect on senior citizens, non-English speakers and people living in poverty. Macek and Szczepanczyk wrote, "Outreach about the DTV conversion has been haphazard at best."

Perhaps the transition message has not reached some segments of the population as well as others, but broadcasters have worked to get out the message about the transition. After all, they want people to watch their programs.

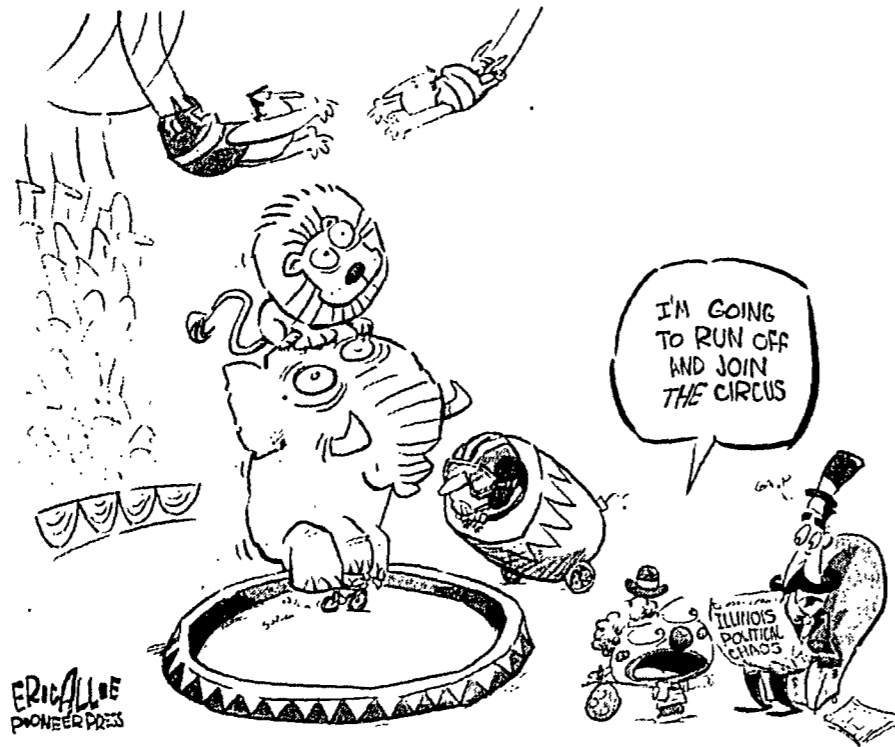
Now may be the time to trade in your old rabbit ears and TV set, or to subscribe to cable or satellite TV. If those options are too costly, help is available to get your older television ready.

Through March 31, households can request up to two coupons — worth \$40 each — for the purchase of up to two converter boxes. The coupons will expire 90 days after mailing. To request a coupon, call (888) 388-2009 or visit the coupon program's Web site at [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov).

The coupons will be helpful, but consumers should still be prepared to shell out some of their own money. Brian Perreault, general manager at Barretts Home Theater, told Pioneer Press each box costs about \$59.

The good news is that along with improving the quality of the images and sound, digital television allows each local television station to expand to several channels of programming at a time. Most Chicago-area stations already offer multiple digital channels, but unless you have a digital television, you're missing out.

## 1000 WORDS



### Greatest thingamajig ever



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

While I read, my husband watches the Military Channel, a show called, "The Greatest Helicopter Ever." Some gadget is being tested in an abandoned field. The narrator growls only viewers with security clearance and Chuck Norris can watch.

By the time the episode wraps, the testosterone level in our bedroom is so high, that I find I've grown a beard and a camouflage shirt. I bark at the dog to drop and give me 20.

A shaving commercial airs. A man strokes his face and a blonde coos in his ear. Next comes a Cialis ad, followed by the oily Bowflex guy who slides off the seat and

knocks over the camera. He brags he's giving away his fat clothes and tosses his smelly sweat pants at me.

"Wouldn't it be hilarious if they mixed up the TV commercials for the Military Channel with Lifetime?" I ask.

My four-star husband rolls his eyes.

Cable offers many choices, including the History Channel, TLC, Spike, HBO and National Geographic. We also tune into Twitch, for those who have OD'ed on technology, The Flossing Channel and Channel Moe, for 24/7 Stoooge antics and spring break eye-poking contests.

Hmm. What could be the Van Mom version of "The Greatest Ever?"

How about: "Walgreen's Best Knitted \$1.99 Gloves Ever," black stretch gloves that defy all odds by staying together for an entire winter, without ending up under a tire or dragged

outside by the dog.

Inspired by this helicopter show, I test my invention at an abandoned strip mall, creating mock situations, such as a child without snow pants, a child who forgot his animal cell project, a dog that needs to be airlifted from a neighbor's yard or a child remembering he needs a ruler with both inch and centimeter sides, after Office Depot has closed.

Flanking my invention are juice boxes and Goldfish for rapid snack deployment. On the roof is an ingenious set of blades. Now, I can swoop over the Kennedy and rescue my husband from a Road Rager, before he shears the railing. This baby can take on anything. I call it ...

The Apache Van.

E-mail Van Mom Cheryl O'Donovan at [cherylodonovan@comcast.net](mailto:cherylodonovan@comcast.net).

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

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## YOU SAY

### Learning from past mistakes

In January, most people toss their old calendars. For reasons I've not yet computed, I save mine....!

Why such a peculiar habit? Psychologists might suggest a fear of elapsing time ... evolutionary biologists are sure to calculate how my genetic code clings to a sense of survivorship ... environmentalists may argue it's the ignorant litterbug still hiding inside me.

My wife advises it's simply the masochist in there who can't let go of his old mistakes. As usual, she's closest to the truth. So here I am, doomed to struggle with this curse each new January. Don't laugh. Sicilians know that curses are real.

As I tuck 2008 away in my garage, among decades of other calendar mistakes, I can't help but recall how I wanted to buy a new Edsel ... how I wisely instructed my daughters that this Elvis guy was a flash-in-the-pan.... how I voted for Richard Nixon (twice!) ... how I advised my son to hold on to his Enron stock ... the worst curse of all, enabling my brother's pathetic belief that the Cub Curse was not a curse.

My 2008 mistakes were among the most staggering, and I hold on to them like the shocked poker player whose straight flush was just beaten by a royal flush. Strangely, masochists linger like this over their disasters for the sheer, purgative pain.

My biggest mistake was believing that Hillary — coming from right here in Park Ridge — would win, thereby doubling my real estate value. But then,

as my brother warned, anyone who turns their back on their Cubs like she did, catches a secondary curse. (I notice with a certain satisfaction that her Yankees didn't win either!)

Another mistake was relenting to my friends and grandchildren who said I needed a cell phone and a PC. They would make my life easier, they said. Easier to rant and rave, I say, still fumbling through pages of lousy Mo-

Letters, PAGE 9

# Thanks for sending us all of your letters

The airplane noise above your house. The slippery ice on your streets. The strange new Internet connection boxes on your block. Bigger tax bills and dwindling public service. When issues hit close to home, we hear from you.

Community news is a two-way street. You look to Pioneer Press for the latest news of what's happening in your city. We look to our readers to keep us abreast of what's important to you.

Community news can be a lively business. Leaders at many levels — in government, schools, business and civic organizations — each set their own set of goals for moving ahead, or maintaining a level of services.

Sometimes we agree, and sometimes we disagree with those goals or how they are being accomplished. Not everyone agrees with us, either, and that's where "Letters to the Editor" come into play.

You've spoken up — and spoken back — on whether you believed the leaders were aiming in the right direction, over-

stepping their bounds or fighting the wrong fights. There's room on our Forum pages and on our Web page for a healthy dialogue to take place and possible solutions to be suggested.

As we begin the New Year, we would like to thank the people who contributed ideas and opinions in letters in 2008:

Jonathan Adair, Mayor Tony Arredia, Rich Barnat, Gary Barnes, Alexander Barton, Ray Berry, Cindy Bork, Frank Bottigliero, Frank Capasso Jr., Tod Curtis, Hubert Dodge, Tara Downes, Katherine Ehlert, Jessica Fisher, Mary Ellen Fisher, Eva Gertzfeld, Dr. Kathleen H. Goepfinger, Donna Gully, Joan B. Hall, State Rep. Julie Hamos, Nancy Harkins, Lisa Honcharuk, Benton Howser, Jim Huenink, Mary Ann Irvine, Sandi Johnson, Richard Kolze, State Sen. Dan Kotowski, State Rep. Lou Lang, Nicole Larson, League of Women Voters, Cynthia Changyit Levin, Sue Liston, Barbara Marsh, Chip Marshall, Dr. Mary Maryland, State Rep. Karen May, William McNutt,

Joan Molitor, Laura Morask, Martha Moss, Marion Mott-Dodge.

Andrew Murphy, William Murphy, Tom Needham, State Rep. Elaine Nekritz, Margaret Newman, Charles O'Donnell, Mary Offen, Jim Olszynski, John Ostrowski, Manan Parikh, Mary Patrick, Barbara Perse-naire, Margaret Polovchak, Patricia Przisllicki, Penny Pullen, James Rademacher, Doreen Rodgers, Cong. Peter J. Roskam, State Rep. Kathy Ryg, Walter Salganik, Vicki Scalzitti, Dean Schott, Michael B. Schroeder, Agnes Schwartz, Jack Spatafora, Steve Spinell, John Strzelecki, Carol A. Teschky, Alex Thompson, Albert Tortorello, Jim Uszler, Tim Vana, Debra Walusiak, State Rep. Eddie Washington, Lloyd Weston, Mayor Irvana Wilks, Brad Wilson, Frank Wsol.

Communication is a vital tool when decisions need to be made about what the people in a community want. What do you think needs to happen to solve local problems? Please continue to send us your letters.

## Letters

Continued from PAGE 8

rean-into-English user guides.

Another tragic mistake was listening to a knowledgeable neighbor explicate the joys of hedge-fund investments. (Currently his instructions center around the joys of money in mattresses!)

The most haunting of my 2008 mistakes was once more buying and installing outdoor Christmas lighting. I clearly remember watching my father reach the brink each December as these accursed strings of lights sputtered out without ever betraying the Judas bulb that

needed to be replaced ...

Finally, the mistake I must never repeat — bargaining with God. Somehow I read those Old Testament stories about shooting dice with the Big Guy as a theological guide to getting what I wanted. So I bargained. With prayers, rosaries, candles, and contributions. You know what...? God doesn't shoot dice with anyone. Instead, I learned what I should never have forgotten... Que Sera Sera. What will be will be. Don't fight Him. Cooperate with Him!

Jack Spatafora  
Park Ridge



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### SCHOOLS DIGEST

#### Maine East

Maine East High School art student **Grey Blaszcak** won his school's annual holiday card design contest. His winning design features a blue background and blue holiday ornament bearing the school's Blue Demon logo.

The contest, supervised by art teacher **Mike Mastrolonardo**, is open to all art students. Entries were

judged by the school's executive committee, composed of the principal, assistant principals, student personnel services director and deans. The winning student receives a \$50 gift card for Golf Mill Shopping Center.

Maine East's soccer team, coached by **Vic DiPrizio**, has been recognized by the Illinois High School Association for exemplary sportsmanship.

The IHSA, acting on the recommendation of an official at one of the Blue Demons' games this fall, issued a certificate for "Sporting A Winning Attitude."

Maine East Principal **Steven Isoye** told team co-captains **James Kelly**, **Milan Tijanic** and **Cesar Yanez**, "This speaks volumes about your coach. This speaks volumes about your team. It also speaks well of your parents and friends who came to watch you play and

the respect they showed for your opponents and the game."

After each game, the Blue Demons would line up in front of the bleachers and applaud the fans who had turned out to watch them. "That was easier after a win than after a loss, but they did it every game, regardless," DiPrizio said.

The soccer team recorded a school record of 17 victories and made an impressive run in the post-season IHSA tournament.

advancing all the way to the sectional finals before being eliminated by eventual 3A state champion New Trier.

#### Oakton

Registration is open for spring 2009 classes at Oakton Community College. The spring semester begins Jan. 20. Spring semester class listings may be found online at [www.oakton.edu](http://www.oakton.edu), or in the Spring 2009 Credit and Noncredit Class Schedule, available at the Des Plaines campus, 1600

E. Golf Road, or Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

Students are encouraged to consult the Spring 2009 Credit and Noncredit Class Schedule for late-start course information.

In-person registration at either campus is 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday; and 9 a.m. - noon Saturday. Apply and register online at [www.oakton.edu](http://www.oakton.edu). Students with a current application

on file may register at [myoakton.edu](http://myoakton.edu).

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

A series of management and marketing courses geared to business professionals is available this spring at Oakton Community College. Classes meet evenings and weekends and may be applied to a degree

or certificate at Oakton.

**Fundamentals of Supervision (MGT 101-050)** examines the responsibilities and techniques related to managing employees. The seven-week course meets from 6-10:15 p.m. Thursdays starting Jan. 22, Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road.

**Introduction to Public Relations (MKT 240-050)** familiarizes students with the principles of public relations, including practices, theories, ethics, and integration of practical applica-

tions. Seven-week course meets 6:30-10:15 p.m. Wednesdays, starting Jan. 28 at Oakton's Des Plaines campus.

**Advanced Public Relations and Special Events (MKT 244-050)** focuses on the expanding role of today's public relations professional. Seven-week course meets 6:30-10:20 p.m. Wednesdays starting March 25, Des Plaines campus.

**Supervisory Development (MGT 140-050)** focuses on the training and de-

velopment of supervisors. Seven-week course meets 6-10:15 p.m. Thursdays, starting March 26, Des Plaines campus.

Other management and marketing classes available at the Des Plaines campus include **Principles of Management (MGT 121-050)** and **Introduction to Business (BUS 101)**. **Purchasing Management (MGT 130-050)** and **Time and Stress Management (MGT 106-050)** are available at the Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lin-

coln Ave. For more information, contact Sue Cisco, chair of marketing and management, at (847) 635-1872 or [scisco@oakton.edu](mailto:scisco@oakton.edu).

Enroll in a variety of classes offered by the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at Oakton Community College this spring. Courses meet at various locations.

**Bartending Certification (BAR T01-01)** prepares students for bartending oppor-

tunities in the public and private sectors. Graduates may qualify for job placement. Five-session class meets 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday starting Jan. 12, at ABC Bartending School, 1699 Wall St., Mount Prospect. Course fee is \$525.

**Early Garden History (BOT E61-01)** showcases how gardening and gardening design are intertwined with the development of civilization. The instructor is a

Digest, PAGE 14

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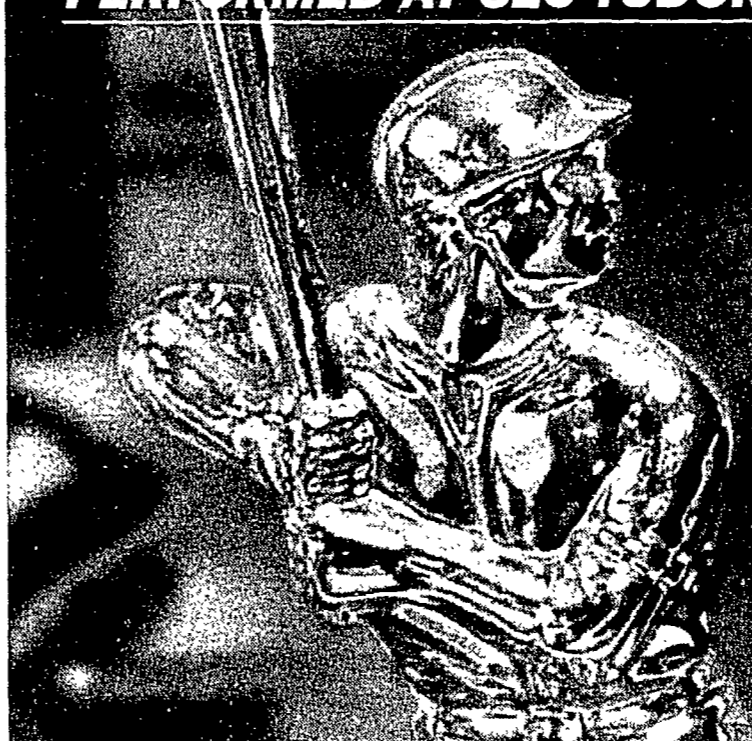
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# Maine high schools salute 207's best

The Maine Township High School District 207 Board of Education honored three students in its monthly "207's Best" awards program in December for exemplifying positive attitudes, leadership and work ethic that serve as an example for their peers.

These included: Amanda Czekaj of Maine West High School, Zach Timm of Maine South and Melvin Thomas of Maine East.

Czekaj ranks second academically in West's senior class of 498 students. Carrying a 4.84 grade point average, she has earned all A's throughout high school, including a heavy schedule of Advanced Placement classes.

Maine West Principal Audrey Haugan wrote, "Amanda is the kind of student we all wish to have in class. She starts



Maine High School District 207 honored three students as 207's Best in December (from left to right): Zach Timm of Maine South, Amanda Czekaj of Maine West, and Melvin Thomas of Maine East.

her projects the day she gets them, and she is not afraid to ask questions...she is considered a leader in her classrooms." Amanda's physical education teacher, Chris Hare, said "Amanda makes everyone else around her better because she is a tremendous leader."

Timm carries a 4.57 GPA, scored a 35 on his ACT and was a captain of

the Hawks' state championship football team. He also earned a spot on the Academic All-State team.

Maine South Principal David Claypool's nomination quoted Head Football Coach David Inserra, who cited Zach's "positive leadership and maturity" and called him "the perfect role model for the football program." Head Track Coach Brian Fee wrote, "I have not seen a

young man of Zach's qualities who can commit himself so tirelessly to the task at hand while remaining humble and modest at the same time."

Thomas is in Maine East's Lyceum program for gifted and talented students and is taking a full slate of advanced placement courses.

Maine East Principal Steven T. Isoye quoted Judy Tyler, coordinator of East's Gifted and Talented program, as saying of Melvin: "He is the type of student who stays ahead of the game and is incredibly adept at time management. He is one of the few students who will complete difficult lab reports a day ahead of time so that we can check it together to ensure he has mastered the concepts. He is also a very cool-headed individual; he does not spend time complaining or blaming; he just gets it done."

# Notre Dame, Resurrection musicians tour schools



JASON BROWN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Notre Dame/Resurrection Band director Mike Wallace conducts the holiday concert at Notre Dame.



JASON BROWN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Notre Dame/Resurrection band played kazoos for "Holly Jolly Christmas."

By WYNN KOEBEL FOSTER  
wfooster@pioneerlocal.com

Let no one doubt the maxim: The whole is greater than the sum of

its parts. Take musicians from Notre Dame High School, in Niles, and add musicians from Resurrection High School, in Chicago, and the result

is the big band sound of the Notre Dame/Resurrection Concert Band and the Notre Dame/Resurrection Jazz Band. Both bands are directed by Michael Wallace.

The combined bands performed on Dec. 9 for a holiday concert at Notre Dame. Subsequently, they took their show on the road, playing for students at the Catholic elementary schools in the area.

The Jazz Band led off the evening, playing "Spain" arranged by Victor Lopez, "Charlie Brown Christmas" arranged by Paul Murtha, "One for Daddy-O" by Cannonball Adderley, "I Hope in Time a



JASON BROWN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Notre Dame junior Christian Rivera sings along to "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer."



JASON BROWN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patrick Close (left) and Emily Harrington play alto saxophone during the Notre Dame/Resurrection band concert.

## Who's Who in combined Res/Notre Dame band

The Res/Notre Dame band roster includes the following musicians. Those whose names are followed by an asterisk (\*) play in both the Concert Band and the Jazz Band:

**Piccolo:** Danielle Kolaszewski; **Flute:** Kathleen Arens, Daniel Choi, Kyle Fitch, Thomas Marren, Kira Mostof, Steven Pelrine, Sue Russin, Colleen Santella and Rebecca Wallace; **Clarinet:** Matt Bardelas\*, Michelle Buch\*, David Fitch, Jennifer Hilger, Steven Kim,

Christopher Lee, Kevin Neuhengen\*, Stefan Prokuski, Gleery Salvador and Nicole Schaefer; **Bass Clarinet:** Jennifer Kawaguchi; and **Alto Saxophone:** Patrick Close, Emily Harrington\*, Larry Lajewski, Hilary Podgers and Andrew Diaz\*.

**Tenor Saxophone:** Meg Grish, Justin Park\* and Sean Rosochacki; **Baritone Saxophone:** Andrew Hogan; **Trumpet:** Harry Budge IV, Sammy Bungum\*, Eric Carrabotta, Peter Knud-

sen\*, Matt Nee, Ryan Rock\* and Peter Sisto; **French Horn:** Tony Guziak, James Moore and Alex Visor; **Trombone:** Nathan Lane\* and Joe Samuels; **Baritone:** Adam Chin and Mike Pelrine; **Tuba:** Tony Valvassori; **Double Bass:** Brendan Besetzny\*; and **Percussion:** Tim Dom-bai\*, Ryan Flynn, Ciaran Lynch, Katie Mayer, Christian Mueller, Eric Pearson, Christopher Ricciardi\*, Keith Ryan, Nicholas Sero and John Suk.

Change Will Come" and "The Funk Stomps Here."

The Concert Band played for the evening's second half, with "Carol of the Bells" arranged by Sean O'Loughlin,"

Theme from "The Nutcracker" arranged by Ed Hucakey, "Silent Night" arranged by James Swearingen, "Snow Day Celebration!" by Alan Stein, "The Nightmare Before Christmas"

arranged by Michael Brown, "The Chipmunk Song" arranged by Ted Ricketts and "Christmas Sing Along" arranged by James Ployhar.

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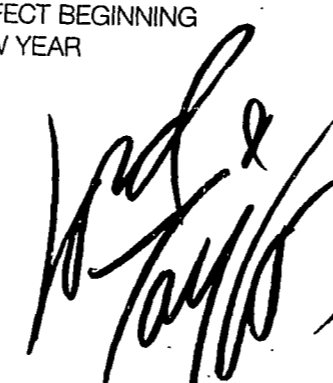
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# Digest

Continued from PAGE 11

landscape historian. Ten-week course meets 6:30-9 p.m. Monday starting Jan. 12 at Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, \$337.

America's Boating Course (REC E12-07) demonstrates boat safety and boat handling for experienced and novice sailing enthusiasts. Course is taught by officers of the U.S.

Coast Guard Auxiliary. A \$35 materials fee is due at the first class. Three-week course meets 7-9 p.m. Monday starting Jan. 12 at the Takiff Center, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe, \$15.

Sing, Sing, Sing: Creative Vocal Coaching (MUS S25-01) offers tips and techniques to create your own unique vocal style. Eight-session course meets at the Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road, starting Jan. 13. Lesson days and times are scheduled on an individ-

ual basis with the instructor, Eileen Berman, (847) 674-0035, \$180.

Other courses include: Sizzling Salsa, Meringue, Cumbia, and Bachata (PED E88-01); Practical Puppy Training (REC S08-01); and Knitting Adapted to Your Level (HEC S20-03).

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

Shuttle service between Oakton Community College campuses in Des Plaines and Skokie returns Jan. 20. Cost is \$2 each way, or 15 trips may be purchased for \$20. Tickets are available only at the campus bookstores. The shuttle departs from either campus at 8:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 2:15 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Shuttle service is provided through American Taxi.

Service will run through

Monday, May 18. This program is part of Oakton's strategic goal of developing eco-friendly practices. Every gallon of gas saved by using the shuttle prevents 20 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.

For more information, contact Carl Costanza at (847) 635-1784 (Des Plaines), (847) 635-1435 (Skokie), or [costanza@oakton.edu](mailto:costanza@oakton.edu).

Experience history, culture, and art on a two-week

travel/study tour of Italy offered through Oakton Community College. Trips in 2009 will depart in April, July and October.

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Rome, with visits to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum, and catacombs along Old Appian Way.

Along the journey, savor Italian culture through cuisine, art, and personal interaction. Lower cost versions of this learning vacation are available for the budget-minded traveler. Alternative trips include more modest accommodations and meal packages.

For complete itineraries and information about up-

coming 2009 tours, call Bea Cornelissen at (847) 635-1812, or visit [www.oakton.edu/news/first/tavel.htm](http://www.oakton.edu/news/first/tavel.htm).

### Notre Dame

Notre Dame High School, 7655 W. Dempster St., will hold its placement exam for eighth grade boys at 8 a.m. Jan. 10. Students should bring two No. 2 pencils and a non-graphing calculator to the test; there is a \$25 testing fee. Pre-registration is not necessary. Same-day registration will take

place in the library starting at 7:15 a.m. prior to the test. Students scoring in the 95th percentile or above on taking Notre Dame's test will receive at least a \$1,000 scholarship; other tuition assistance is available. Contact LaVerne Bontempo at (847) 779-8615 or [lbontempo@ndhsdons.org](mailto:lbontempo@ndhsdons.org).

The Alumni Dons of Notre Dame High School are invited to a variety of events during the month of January.

The annual Alumni Wrestling Reunion will be held Jan. 9 during and after the Notre Dame wrestling matches which will begin at 5 p.m. in the school's gymnasium, 7655 W. Dempster St. After the wrestling matches, the Wrestling Alumni will gather at The Baked Tomato at 4358 N. Elston Ave., Chicago.

A Texas Hold 'Em Tournament will be held at 5 p.m. Jan. 17 at Notre Dame High School's cafeteria. The buy-in amount is \$100 (with

an optional \$20 ad-on chip). Participants must be at least 18 years old. There is a \$10 entry fee for non-tournament players. Proceeds benefit the Young Alumni Association Scholarship fund and NDHS Athletics. This event is open to alumni and others.

For more information contact Augie Genovesi at (847) 779-8649 or [agenovesi@ndhsdons.org](mailto:agenovesi@ndhsdons.org).

During the holiday season, the Notre Dame Na-

tional Honor Society organized a drive to provide gifts for 175 children through the Adopt-A-Kid program. The Student Council also helped provide Christmas for a family in St. Sylvester Parish in Chicago.

"The Adopt-A-Kid program functions to collect and then distribute presents to children who are in poor conditions and would not receive presents for Christmas otherwise," said senior Sean O'Hara, who organized

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# Digest

Continued from PAGE 15

the efforts. "It works with schools all over Chicagoland to collect and sort gifts in order to make sure every child can have a happy Christmas. This year, 34 advisories participated along with about 20 faculty and staff members. This allowed Notre Dame to support 175 kids with two gifts for each child," O'Hara added.

Notre Dame's Student Council sponsored a family for Christmas this year. Working with St. Mary of the Woods Parish Ministry, the Council provided toys, clothing, and food for a family with two boys, ages 3 and 5. The family attends St. Sylvester Church in Chicago.

"The Council has overwhelmingly decided to make this an annual project," said Cheryl DeBoard, Student Council moderator.

### St. John Brebeuf

**On Dec. 12,** St. John Brebeuf students in kindergarten through eighth grade, performed in a holiday musical, "Miracle on Bethlehem Street."

The show tells the story of Bethlehem innkeeper Benjamin and his wife Rachel, played by seventh graders **Daniel Rogalski** and **Amanda Durava**. Benjamin had plans to make his inn a luxury hotel complete with valet camel hitching and a fig on every pillow in order to capitalize on the crowds arriving for Caesar's Census. After witnessing the miracle of Christ's birth, he proclaims "You're all welcome at our place! The Messiah has come!"

The show began with the third grade Bethlehem townspeople singing "Bethlehem is Busy." The fourth grade tax collectors sang "Dollars and Census," followed by sixth grade hotel entertainers singing "Everybody Wants to Stay." Durava and **Melody Beltran** led a group of seventh grade girls, singing "Make A

Place."

Second grade shepherds sang "Flock Watchers" and the first grade Kings sang "Chasing A Star." Kindergarten and eighth grade paired up as angels to sing "Away in a Manger" accompanied by students playing mallet instruments. As the Nativity scene took place, the fifth grade sang the title song, "Miracle on Bethlehem Street."

◆ ◆ ◆  
**About 340 children,** parents and other parishioners shared breakfast with Santa at St. John Brebeuf's May Parish Minister Center in December. Attendees enjoyed sausages, pancakes, and assorted pastries.

While waiting for Santa's arrival, the audience enjoyed Christmas Carols sung by the SJB Children's Choir. The choir's pre-taped performance was displayed on the large projector screen. The audience had an opportunity to buy the performance DVD. Visiting children also spent

time at the craft table, where they made cards, ornaments and other crafts.

After Santa's arrival the children lined up to express their wishes for Christmas as they offered their best smiles to their parents who captured the wonderful moment on film.

Attendees participated in the fourth annual toy drive and donated about 100 toys to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

◆ ◆ ◆  
**Fourth-graders** at St. John Brebeuf School got into the holiday spirit by participating in the WLIT Radio Kids Sing contest. The grand prize was a chance to sing on stage before a performance of the Rockettes in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular at the Rosemont Theatre.

While St. John Brebeuf did not win first place, the students came in a close second. Their rendition of "Must Be Santa" was played on the radio through Christmas.

## Art instructor leaves studio after 3 decades

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

Rhonda Popko, the artist who has taught the Des Plaines Park District's Young Artists Program for 29 years, held her last children's class there Nov. 19.

"It has been a wonderful, inspiring and joyous experience, and I will miss the enthusiastic and talented children I have met throughout my years here," Popko said. "But I think it's time for someone else to take over, and I need a little more time for myself."

Popko, who began her formal training at Northwestern University, studied art, printmaking and painting. She speaks to her students in advanced art terms so they learn the language of

artists.

She designed the Young Artists Studio Program for the Park District as a continuing class, where the basics in color theory, line, shape and drawing were emphasized, then built on in subsequent classes, she said.

Many of Popko's former students have been bringing their own children to her classes.

Popko, who also is certified to teach the gifted, is not giving up teaching all together. She will continue educating students at the Science and Arts Academy, as well as teaching an adult group after those sessions.

The artist, who now is focusing on a dye and resist method of painting on silk, was showing her work at Artisan 138 in



Rhonda Popko

Mount Prospect, and at the "Feminist Ecology: Women and the Earth" show at the Koehnline Museum of Art at Oak-

ton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, on the Des Plaines campus.

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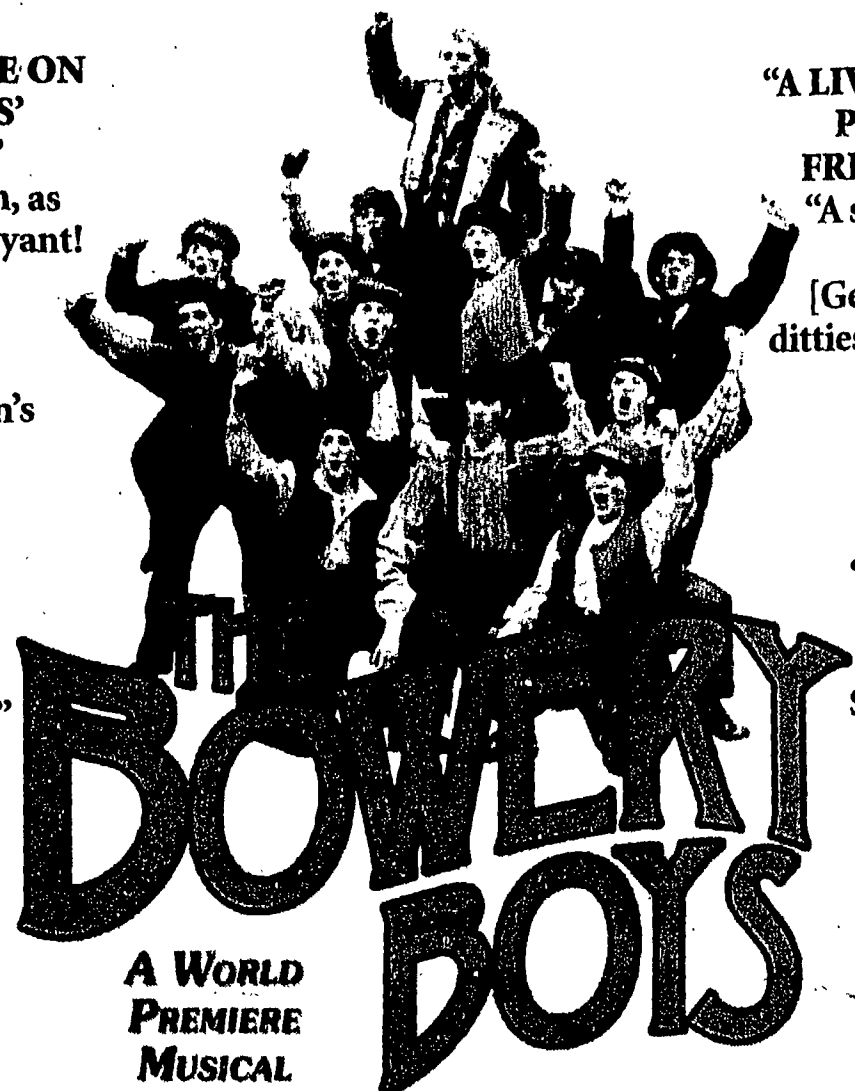
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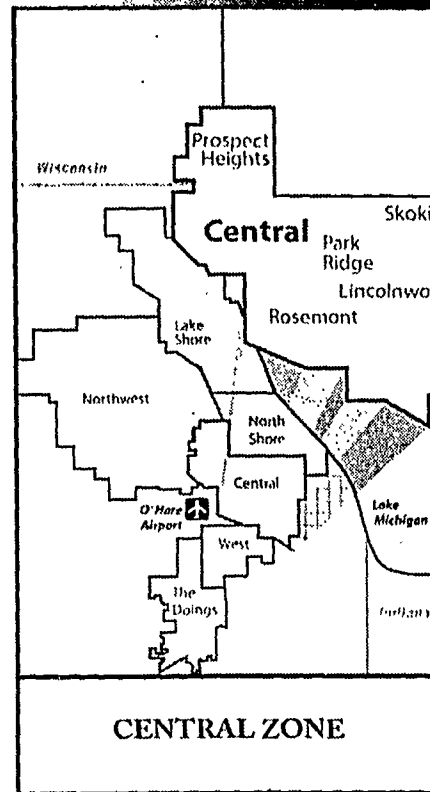
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## INDEX

- Announcements .....100s
- Business Directory .....200s
- Home Services .....300s
- Employment.....400s
- Rentals .....500s
- Real Estate For Sale...600s
- Marketplace .....700s
- Sporting Mart .....800s
- Automobiles .....900s
- Legal Notices .....1000s

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### WOMEN SEEKING MEN

**RETIREE SWF...**  
75, attractive, 5'2", blond/blue, ISO honest, special man 50-70s, for dining, travel, movies, theater, downtown. **2289978**

**TOTAL LOSER!**  
I have no looks, no interests, no talent, no IQ, no friends, no job, and haven't dated since 1982! OK, stop laughing and here is the truth! I am a SWF, 47, 5'9", blond, shapely, bright (advanced degree), fun, caring, passionate, and one of the nicest people you will ever meet. Among other things, I love great conversations, a great sense of humor, integrity, and great kissing. Seeking compatible male, late 40s to mid 60s, for permanent best friend/lover. **223665**

**TOTAL LOSER!**  
I have no looks, no interests, no talent, no IQ, no friends, no job, and haven't dated since 1982! OK, stop laughing and here is the truth! I am a SWF, 47, 5'9", blond, shapely, bright (advanced degree), fun, caring, passionate, and one of the nicest people you will ever meet. Among other things, I love great conversations, a great sense of humor, integrity, and great kissing. Seeking compatible male, late 40s to mid 60s, for permanent best friend/lover. **223665**

### LATINA LADY

Professional SWF, 50s, 5'2", 120lbs, seeks honest, kind SWM, 55-63, tall, slim, good-looking, respectful, nice personality, for friendship first maybe more. **2293188**

**GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY**  
Sincere, honest, caring, attractive SWF, 54, 5'11", 175lbs, NS, likes travel, sports, music, movies. Seeking attractive SM, 35-56, HWI-proportionate, NS, caring, honest, friendship first, maybe more. **22735725**

**ISO MR. RIGHT**  
50, SWF, seeking NS male, 50-62, that's ready to meet Miss Right, likes movies, dining in/out, travel. If this is you, let's make it happen! **22384219**

**IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DO...**  
It's who you do it with that makes it worthwhile! SWF, 53, NS, seeks gentleman, 62-72, NS, for friendship, possible romance. **2263832**

**IS HE OUT THERE?**  
SF, 38, blonde, ISO SWM, 38-52, outdoors and active, NS, to share friendship fun and LTR. Hope to find you, North Suburbs. **2255977**

### MEN SEEKING WOMEN

**SEEKS ASIAN FLOWER**  
SWM, 48, loves the outdoors, dining and traveling, music, dancing, quiet evenings. Seeking SWF, 21-45, with similar interests to share life, love, happiness. LTR. **2243346**

**FUN-LOVING PERSON**  
BM, 44, 5'8", enjoys going to church. Looking for a woman, 30-45, who is honest and down-to-earth. **2258856**

**OLDER SEEK YOUNGER**  
SWM, 54, 5'8", 155lbs, humorous, successful, intelligent, seeks SWF, 30-40, for friendship, hanging out, and maybe party with. **2257491**

**GIVE ME A SHOUT!**  
Widowed WM, 62, would like to meet a lady, 55-65, who enjoys car shows, flea markets, taking walks, malls, dining out. **2201937**

**WILLING TO LISTEN**  
Black male, 53, caring, sensitive, cool, 6'4", 235lbs, enjoys the good life. Seeking SF, 35-55, race is not an issue. Serious replies only. **22300251**

**HANDSOME ITALIAN SEEKING**  
SWM, 49, self-employed, Italian, 5'9", brown, brown, seeking full-figured BBW/older woman, 30-48. Looking to go to movies, concerts, hopefully to settle down with the right person. **2289332**

### ATTRACTIVE...

professional, Widower WM, 67, 5'10", 180lbs, NS, likes dancing, walks, movies, music. Seeking woman to share the journey of life. **2281572**

**ISO SPECIAL LADY**  
45-year-old SWM, teaches music on the side, classically-trained pianist. Love life, very athletic and looking for a similar woman, 30-50, for friendship, dating and more. **2289050**

**I'M YOUR MAN**  
SWM, 51, 5'9", brown/blue, tall, very good job, laid-back, NS, likes bowling, live theater, painting, travel, cooking, ISO nice lady, 25-45, to spend time with. **2266644**

**WILL IT BE YOU?**  
SBWM, 52, 5'9", 195lbs, dark brown complexion, employed, outgoing, honest and independent, seeks trustworthy, caring, kind Christian woman respectful and communicative, for companionship, happiness, LTR? **2243307**

**NEED A BEST FRIEND**  
SWM, 51, 5'6", 120lbs, NS, needs to find honest, intelligent, funny, sincere, caring and open SWF, 40-51, close to my size, to become best friends and all that goes with it, for sharing music, walks, bike rides, quiet times, nights on the town or whatever. Musically inclined a plus. Try me! **2230049**

**A GREAT GUY**  
Easygoing WM, NS, likes horseback riding, dancing, dining out, good movies and more. Would love to meet a lady, 55-72, who would enjoy my company. **2270043**

**IS IT YOU?**  
Retired SWM, 64, 6'2", 240lbs, fit, NS, seeks nice woman, 40-60, NS, for friendship, possible romance, I like Jack Nicholson movies, dining, the White Sox. **2272280**

**FUN GUY**  
SHM, 45, 5'6", attractive, secure, stable income, hard-worker, spontaneous personality, medium-build, relationship minded. My hobbies are rollerblading, motorcycle riding, and skydiving, ISO attractive, fun-loving, single WH/WAF, 35-45, for friendship and possible romance. **2277034**

**OLD COUNTRY BOY**  
SWM, 60, 6'4", 260lbs, enjoys dining in/out, flea markets, outdoor activities, casinos, c&w music; seeking nice SWF, 50-60, Waukegan area. **2281889**

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Table listing various cars and trucks with prices and features. Includes models like Kia Optima, Chevy Malibu, Ford Ranger, Ford Explorer, Dodge Dakota, Chevy Silverado, etc.

SUV'S LUXURY

Table listing SUVs and luxury vehicles with prices and features. Includes models like Ford Escape, Acura MDX, BMW X5, etc.

SPECIALS

Table listing special offers on vehicles with prices and features. Includes models like Cadillac Deville, Ford Explorer, Dodge Grand Caravan, etc.

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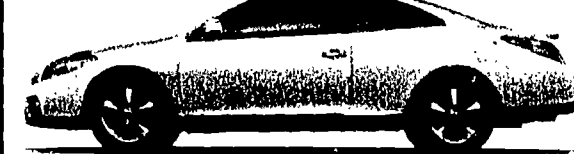


\*Prices plus tax, title, license and DOC fee. \*\*With approved credit on select certified used cars. Dealer buy down may affect final selling price. Maximum balance \$10,000 for 24 months. † Plus tax, title, license & doc fee. Used vehicles financing based on 60 months @ 7.9% apr with \$500 down, used vehicles \$17,000 or higher & 04 or newer financing based on 12 months @ 7.9% apr with \$500 down with approved credit. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good 2 days from date of publication. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details.

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5 SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, 16" ALLOY WHEELS, SPOILER, REMOTE KEYLESS WITH TRUNK RELEASE, AM/FM/CASS/6 DISC CD /SATELLITE RADIO CAPABILITY, 8 WAY ADJUSTED DRIVER SEAT, POWER LUMBAR SUPPORT, 60/40 SPLIT FOLD DOWN REAR SEATS, POWER WINDOWS WITH AUTO UP/DOWN FEATURE ON THE DRIVER SIDE, POWER LOCKS WITH ANTI-LOCKOUT OPTION, AIR CONDITION WITH CABIN AIR FILTRATION SYSTEM, CRUISE CONTROL, MULTI-INFORMATION DISPLAY WITH CLOCK, TRIP METER, MAINTENANCE INDICATOR LIGHT, POWER TILT AND SLIDE MOON ROOF, CARPETED FLOOR MATS, WHEEL LOCKS, STK# 23843



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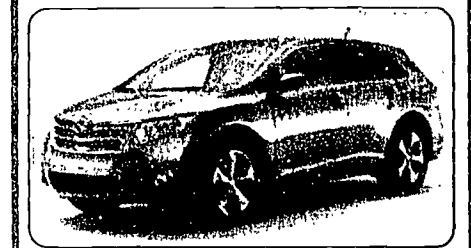
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<b>05 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 4X4</b> 4SPD AUTO, 2.4L STK# 6591P	<b>06 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER BASE</b> AUTO, V6, 3.3L STK# 6620P	<b>08 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 4X2</b> AUTO, V6, 3.3L STK# 6610P
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**3 In Stock** **Toyota Rav4s \$3,980** (stk# 25639A)

<b>06 TOYOTA RAV4 BASE 4X4</b> AUTO, 2.4L V6 STK# 6595P	<b>01 TOYOTA RAV4 BASE 4X4</b> AUTO, 2.0L V6 STK# 6615P	<b>06 TOYOTA RAV4 MID</b> 2.0L STK# 25639A
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07 TOYOTA COROLLA LE #6511P	\$9,000		
06 TOYOTA CAMRY #24723A	\$9,000		
03 MERCEDES-BENZ E320 #6553P	\$9,000		
08 NISSAN SENTRA #6492P	\$9,000		
03 TOYOTA COROLLA #24804A	\$9,000		
04 HONDA ELEMENT #6566P	\$12,770	05 NISSAN MURANO #6556P	\$18,000
07 NISSAN SENTRA #24462A	\$12,000	06 BMW 325I #24737A	\$18,000
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06 TOYOTA COROLLA 4DR #25125A	\$12,000	07 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER SUV #664P 2 TO CHOOSE!	\$18,000
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05 HONDA ACCORD EX #6498P	\$12,000	05 TOYOTA SEQUOIA 4DR SUV #6571P	\$18,000
09 TOYOTA COROLLA LE #6498P	\$12,000	07 TOYOTA CAMRY #6478P	\$18,000
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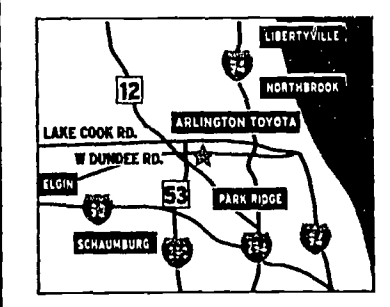
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4DR #2522866 Excellent Condition with 98K Miles  
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LESS 25% SAVINGS **\$12,995**

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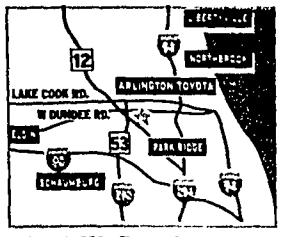
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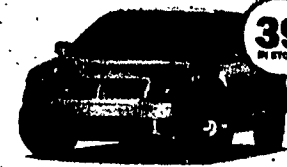


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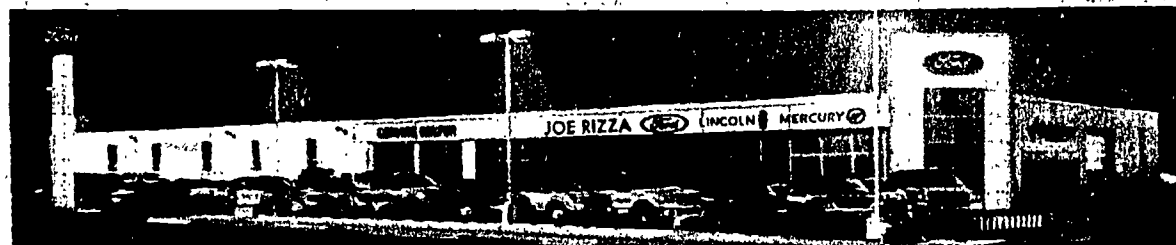


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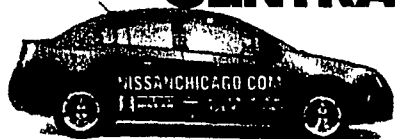
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NEW '08	SENTRA	MODEL 42258, STOCK #5305	\$17,380	\$14,399*	NEW '09	ALTIMA	MODEL 05615, †AT THIS PRICE	\$20,770	\$17,999*	NEW '08	ROGUE	MODEL 77318, STOCK #42424	\$23,850	\$19,998*
NEW '09	SENTRA	MODEL 42719, †AT THIS PRICE	\$17,590	\$14,597*	NEW '09	ALTIMA	MODEL 05519, †AT THIS PRICE	\$22,715	\$19,989*	NEW '08	ROGUE	MODEL 77219, DEMO, S1K #8920	\$24,650	\$20,495*
NEW '08	SENTRA	MODEL 42859, STOCK #5450	\$19,170	\$15,989*	NEW '09	ALTIMA	MODEL 05519, †AT THIS PRICE	\$24,865	\$22,545*	NEW '09	ROGUE	MODEL 77219, †AT THIS PRICE	\$26,040	\$22,505*

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'02 Nissan Altima #1923A	\$6,995*	'06 Honda Accord EX #1716A	\$12,995*
'04 Chevy Monte Carlo LS #1735A	\$6,995*	'06 Nissan Maxima #19111	\$13,995*
'03 Toyota Corolla #32132A	\$7,995*	'08 Nissan Altima #19211	\$14,995*
'01 VW Passat #1923	\$8,995*	'06 Nissan Pathfinder #19172	\$15,995*
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'98 Mitsubishi Montero #171A	\$3,995*	'05 Volkswagen Jetta #31155	\$10,995*
'02 Chrysler Town&Country #173A	\$6,995*	'07 Nissan Sentra #1919A	\$10,995*
'04 Nissan Altima #177A	\$6,995*	'05 Nissan Maxima #1925A	\$11,995*
'03 Hyundai Tiburon #1921A	\$7,995*	'06 Toyota Camry #175A	\$13,995*
'07 Toyota Yaris #19112	\$8,995*	'05 Toyota RAV-4 #19112A	\$14,995*
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# Today's New Homes

NORTH EDITION JANUARY 7-9, 2009

## A city of the world

### Chicago developers reach across the globe for condo buyers

**W**indy City condominium developers are reaching across the globe to foreigners who are seeking to buy a slice of Chicago real estate, experts say.

"Chicago is becoming discovered as an international real estate investment market," said Nicholas S. Gouletas, chairman and CEO of American Invsco, which has successfully developed, marketed and managed more than 45,000 condominiums nationwide valued at more than \$4.5 billion since 1969.

Since American Invsco International was launched in mid-2005, the division has generated more than \$101 million in foreign condominium sales involving 209 residences, and more than 70 percent of the action is in Chicago, said Nicole Pavisic, president of American Invsco International.

"Our strongest international sales are in Chicago," Pavisic said. "Chicago is attractive because of its diversified economy, income growth, and population growth from people migrating to the Windy City."

Gouletas noted that The Wall Street Journal recently named Chicago the most balanced economy in the nation, and Forbes has identified the Chicago



Pre-construction sales also are under way on the \$80-million Grand Imperial Hotel, a Chinese-themed 15-story hotel-condominium development.

Turn to WORLD, 2

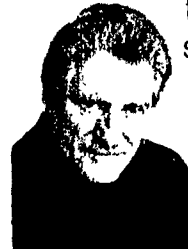
inside

### 'WINKs' find first homes

Printers Corner offers everything first-time buyers want!

Page 3

Mortgage rates haven't been this low in nearly half a century — just the thing to spark home sales in the new year, Realtors say. Read



Don DeBat, Page 3

Developers are offering onsite eateries to go with it's luxury condominiums.

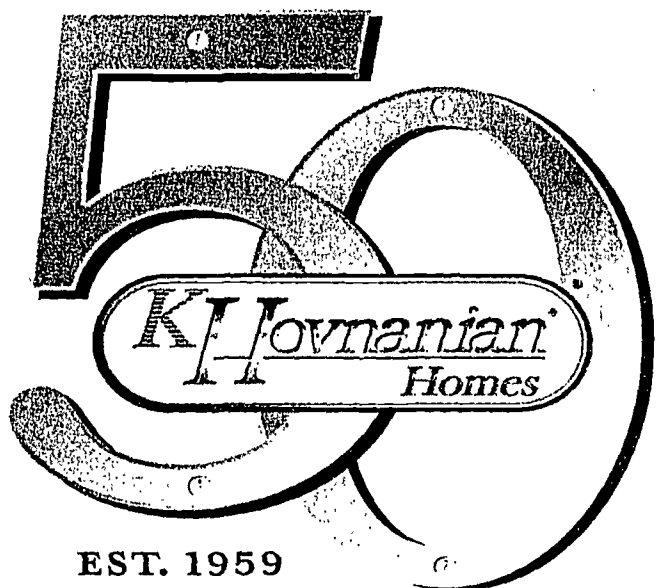
Page 3

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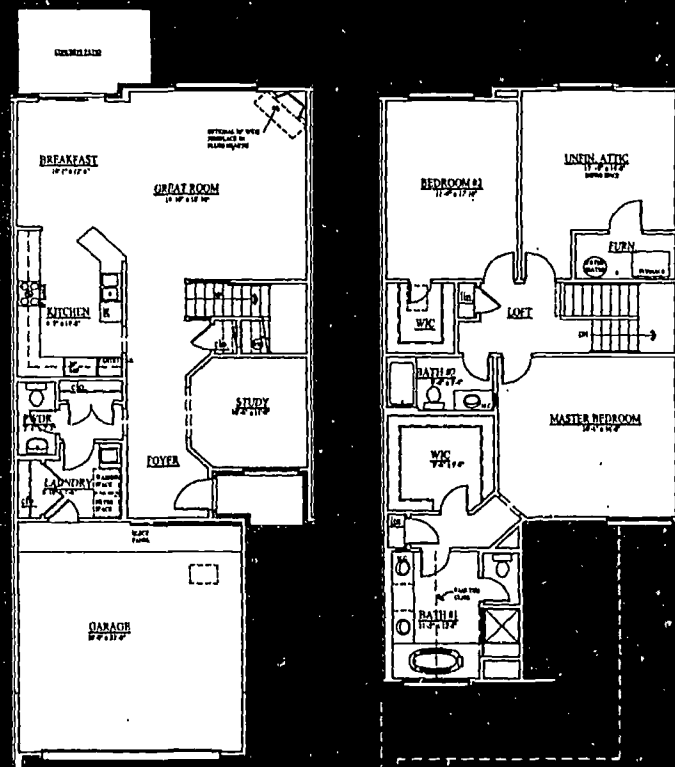
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# Chicagoans move from mudrooms to 'domestic studios'

By Marcy Marro  
FOR THE SUN-TIMES NEWS GROUP

Mudrooms are the latest must-have in new homes in the Chicago area, according to real estate agent Amy Bendigkeit of Koenig & Strey GMAC Real Estate's Glen Ellyn office. Some existing homeowners are even redesigning their first-floor laundry rooms to gain mudrooms or adding them to their existing floor plans.

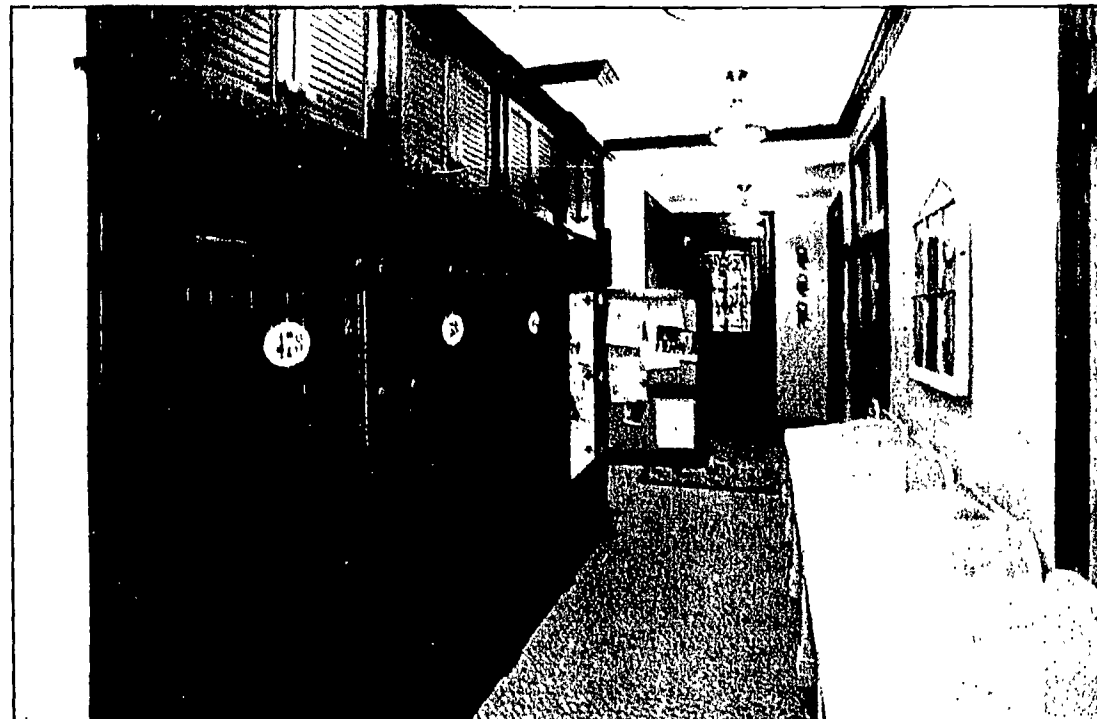
"This room, which was once just a discreet entrance at the back of a home, is becoming much more versatile — so much so that many homeowners view it as one of the highlights of their home," she said. "For example, I have a listing in Glen Ellyn that features a fabulous mudroom — it even provides each family member with their own coat rack, bench and cubby area perfect for storing everything from outerwear and umbrellas to boots and baseball gloves."

Mudrooms may evolve into domestic studios, including now only a place for family outerwear, but laundry centers, crafts and hobby areas, gift-wrapping closets and technology or writing niches.

"Now more than ever, families are on the go with active schedules. They're realizing the need for the extra space and the convenience of a mudroom, which helps keep them organized and get them out the door quickly," Bendigkeit said. "Some fancier mudrooms may even make life easier for the family pet by including a small tiled pet shower or built-in dog crates."

Several floor plans from Naperville-based J. Lawrence Homes include a mudroom directly off the garage. At Silver Leaf in Joliet, there are two single-family floor plans priced at \$200,000 or less that offer a mudroom. For more information on Silver Leaf, visit [www.jlawrencehomes.com](http://www.jlawrencehomes.com).

On the other hand, custom homebuilder Jacobs Homes feels that well-designed space is the key to having a more organized home. Homework stations, "mommy" offices for busy stay-at-home moms, kids' lockers and more are being incorporated into the design of the home to help keep things organized, said



Whether the space-saving solutions are time-honored inclusions such as butler's pantries or built-in cabinetry for extra storage or a bit more of a trend such as oversized, custom-built storage lockers in the mud room for the kids, usable space is definitely the trend.

Keith Jacobs, president of Jacobs Homes. "Our buyers are looking for innovative solutions to their space dilemmas, and we're offering some great solutions, whether you're purchasing one of our upscale townhomes or a luxury custom home."

"Each room in the home has become 'livable' space. No longer are the rooms of home barely used, such as formal living rooms versus a family room," Jacobs said. "Why have a room that rarely gets used? It just takes up space in the home."

From butler pantries to built-in cabinetry for extra storage, or oversized, custom-built storage lockers in the mudrooms for kids, usable space is definitely

the trend. Homework stations help keep kids organized and focused instead of turning on the television.

One of the custom space-saving touches Jacobs Homes offers is individual lockers and endless drawers in the mud area—including an extra one just for playdates.

"When the kids come in, they know that they have their own locker for their coat and special drawers for their shoes," Jacobs said. "We've even included a large cork-board on the inside of each locker where the kids can hang birthday invites, sports schedules and more to help keep mom organized."



Koenig & Strey GMAC agent Amy Bendigkeit expects to see mudrooms evolve into domestic studios, similar to the mudroom featured in her current listing at 298 Hawkinton in Glen Ellyn.

A "mommy inbox" or basket in the mudroom can provide a space for kids to drop permission slips and school updates that moms need to see.

"A lot of the families that we're building homes for are requesting the mommy office, because mommy tends to be the busiest person in the house," Jacobs said. "Organizing the kids' schedules, keeping tabs on upcoming events and more call for having a space just for mom."

For more information on any Jacobs Homes community, call 847-945-6500 or visit the online gallery at [www.jacobshomes.net](http://www.jacobshomes.net).

## World FROM PAGE 1

Loop as the best place to purchase residential real estate in the entire country.

Foreign Policy Magazine recently ranked Chicago number eight in a list of the Top 10 Global Cities. New York was ranked No. 1, and Los Angeles was No. 6 on the global list. The other Olympic finalists ranked Tokyo 4th, Madrid 14th, and Rio de Janeiro 47th. However, today, Chicago's ranking is on the rise.

Global cities "excel across multiple dimensions," according to the magazine. They are influential hubs of business, culture, sports and international policy debate.

The magazine said Chicago ranked second behind London as the best city to attain a college degree, and the Windy City was third in human capital, or "how well the city acts as a magnet for diverse groups of people and talent."

Despite these accolades, Chicago still may be the best-kept secret in America.

"Today, very few people outside Chicago are aware of the city's amazing livability, tremendous accessibility to transportation, and its intrinsic natural recreational amenities boasting 27 miles of lakefront parks and open space," Goulet said.

Goulet believes a new direction for the future growth of the Windy City as an excellent city is about to take shape because of Barack Obama, a Chicago resident, ascending to the Presidency of the United States.

"Many experts believe the 'Obama affect' will have an uplifting impact on Chicago's chances to host the Olympics. This scenario creates promise for new international recognition for Chicago."

The business growth the Olympics will bring also will have an immediate positive affect on the future of international real estate investment in Chicago, Goulet predicted. "President Obama likely will bring international attention to Chicago while directing the course of the nation from the White House."

"Real estate brokers worldwide are beginning to see the beauty and value of city," said Pavicic. "American Invsco has marketed its Chicago condos to buyers from England, Ireland, Mexico, Columbia and Venezuela."

"With more than 150 of 309 units at 200 N. Dearborn already under contract, nearly half of the building is already sold, but a nice selection of residences remains," said Pavicic.

A sales center is open on the 35th floor of 200 N. Dearborn, located at the corner of Dearborn and Lake, and eight professionally furnished and decorated model units are on

display. Current prices range from \$271,200 for the most affordable studio to \$591,100 for the most expensive two-bedroom, two-bath penthouse.

Almost all of the units have private balconies that face the lake to the east and the downtown to the west. "The incredible downtown views from 200 North Dearborn showcase the finest architecture in the country," Pavicic said.

The building includes a 24-hour door attendant, fitness center, heated indoor swimming pool, sundeck, party room, laundry facilities and a convenience store. The building also has same-day maintenance service, and dry-cleaning service.

The sales center at 200 North Dearborn is located on the 35th floor in Suite 3507. It is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and off-hours by appointment. Walk-in traffic is encouraged and welcome. For more information, call 312-558-1200 or visit [www.200NDearborn.com/event](http://www.200NDearborn.com/event).

Westchester County is also developing the 78-unit 1349 South Wabash Private Residences in the South Loop with construction financing obtained from a Cathay Bank. Site work and excavation has been completed for the 15-story high-rise.

The high-rise, now under construction on the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Cermak Road, features 297 residential units and the 7-story low-rise addition has 36 loft-style units. The two buildings are connected by a landscaped 15,000-square-foot terrace and parking.

Chief's success in Chicago has led the Limerick, an Ireland-based company, to sign a contract for a second South Loop development site at Harrison and Wells streets.

The Lexington Park sales center and model located at 2138 S. Indiana Ave. Sales center hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more

Sales at the 333-unit Lexington Park have surpassed the 50-percent mark and construction is moving at a fast pace, noted Sean O'Sullivan, chief operations officer and director of Ireland-based Chieftain Group, the developer. First loft closings are scheduled for January of 2009.

Buyers may choose from a selection of loft floor plans: one-bedroom, one-bedroom-plus den or bonus room, and two-bedroom and two-bedroom-plus den layouts with one or two baths. Lofts range in price from \$223,900 to \$379,900. Tower residences at Lexington Park range in price from \$239,900 to \$717,900.

Price savings of up to \$30,000 is available on a limited number of units at Lexington Park. In addition to the price savings on selected condominiums, for a limited time all buyers will receive a 50-percent discount on the price of a \$34,900 parking space, reducing the price of a space to \$17,450, said Britta Rivera, vice president of U.S. sales for Chieftain Group, the developer.

"Buyers of non-closeout residences also will receive an \$8,500 holiday closing credit to be used for moving expenses and closing costs," Rivera said.

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information, please call 312-842-2202 or visit [www.lexingtonparkcondos.com](http://www.lexingtonparkcondos.com).

Chinese Funding. See Y. Wong of Wabash Properties, developer of the 60-unit Canal Crossing condominium development at 2318-2328 S. Canal, noted that foreign financing and buyers have sparked success of the project, which now is under construction in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood.

"Canal Crossing is 80 percent sold, and 10 to 15 percent of the buyers are from Hong Kong and mainland China," Wong said. "These buyers represent solid contracts with down payments of 25 percent."

Remaining units range in price from the low-\$200,000 range to the low-\$300,000-bracket.

Wong obtained construction financing from California-based Cathay Bank, a Chinese-owned institution that recently purchased Chicago-based New Asia Bank.

Wabash Properties also is developing the 78-unit 1349 South Wabash Private Residences in the South Loop with construction financing obtained from a Cathay Bank. Site work and excavation has been completed for the 15-story high-rise.

The \$30-million project is 70-percent sold. Prices on remaining condo units range from \$223,500 to \$479,500. Completion is scheduled for mid-2010, Wong said.

Pre-construction sales also are under way on the \$80-million Grand Imperial Hotel, a Chinese-themed 15-story hotel-condominium development at 2150 S. Clark in the Chinatown neighborhood on the Near Southwest Side. Land acquisition for the project was financed by the Cathay Bank.

The planned red pagoda-styled hotel, which will have 10,000 square feet of retail space and 175 hotel rooms and executive suites, is being developed on the southwest corner of Clark Street and Archer Avenue by See Wong and Peter Siu of Emerald Homes, LLC.

"The \$50-million Grand Imperial Hotel development will expand the traditional boundaries of Chinatown

to the east," said Wong. "The condominium hotel will feature traditional Chinese décor, with different floors featuring custom furnishings and decorating from three ancient Chinese dynasties."

Other plans call for a sky lounge with a restaurant and spectacular views of the Windy City and Lake Michigan. The retail shopping area will be located adjacent to a Chinese garden.

"The Grand Imperial Hotel will be the tallest building in Chinatown and will become a neighborhood

landmark," Wong predicted. "This will be the first hotel like this outside of China. Chinatown is so close to McCormick Place, it needs a hotel," said Wong, noting that the development will attract convention-goers from Hong Kong, China and Japan.

For more information on Wabash Properties' developments, call 312-360-1318 or visit [www.1349SouthWabash.com](http://www.1349SouthWabash.com).

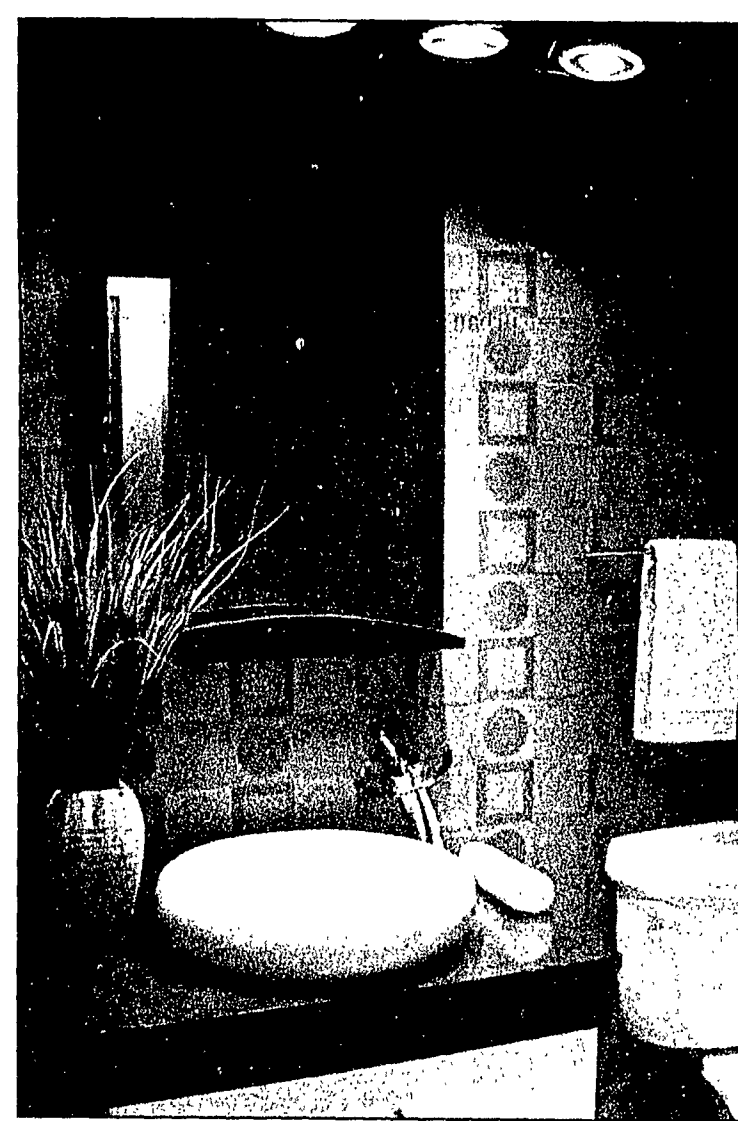
Upscale finishes like granite countertops and exclusive amenities such as private fitness clubs have become synonymous with today's luxury, new-construction condominiums. But some developers aren't satisfied with the status quo, so they're kicking luxury living up a notch by offering on-site restaurants that put residents just steps or an elevator ride away from some of the finest dining in Chicago.

One example is Ten East Delaware, a Parisian-inspired boutique high-rise developed by the Prime Group Inc. Residents will enjoy dining amenities that capture the essence of a European lifestyle. One of these amenities is the renowned Bice Ristorante, located on the building's first

floor. "For residents of the building, it is destined to become one of their favorite local spots," said Mike Reschke, chairman and CEO of the Prime Group.

Further hinting at the luxuries of European living, Bice will provide residents with 24-hour room service, catering services and poolside dining. Residents can combine these services with their access to the Ten Club, the building's exclusive rooftop-level clubhouse that includes a private dining room for dinner parties and social gatherings, a state-of-the-art fitness center and an outdoor rooftop swimming pool, sundeck and gardens.

"With the help of Bice's chefs and cater-



The 78-unit 1349 South Wabash Private Residences in the South Loop is 70 percent sold. Completion is scheduled for mid-2010.

ing team, the Ten Club will be the 'it' spot to host everything from elaborate holiday dinner parties to poolside luncheons," Reschke said.

Located on the northeast corner of State and Delaware and currently under construction, the condominium building will include one-, two- and three-bedroom floor plans ranging from 845 to 3,095 square feet. More than 75 percent sold, prices range from \$539,990 to \$2.6 million and climate-controlled, indoor parking is available starting at \$65,000.

For more information about Ten East Delaware, call 312-397-1010 or visit [www.teneastdelaware.com](http://www.teneastdelaware.com).

# 'WINKS' find first homes at Printers Corner

According to Big Builder magazine, Generation Y will have one of the biggest impacts on the nation's housing industry over the next four years. At 80 million strong, Gen-Y is twice the size of Gen-X and already influences as much as half of all spending in the U.S. economy.

But there is one Gen Y segment in particular that is leading the home-buying movement: WINKs, or "women with income and no kids."

Born between 1979 and 1996, Generation Y WINKs are determined and successful. They also know what they want, and what they want is to buy a home. In fact, by 2010, it is estimated that females will head more than 31 million households.

"We've been building homes for more than 12 years, and without a doubt, single women from Generation Y are much more confident and eager about buying a home than previous generations," said Bob Horner, co-principal of Evanston-based Winthrop Properties. "They're highly educated, have great jobs and don't want to wait for a lifestyle change like getting married or having a child to propel them into homeownership. They're setting the course for their lives and they know what a sound, financial investment it is to own a home."

"That's why for many of them, there's no smarter choice for a first home than Printers Corner," added Horner. "With one of the most walkable locations in the South Loop, efficiently designed floor plans, and attractive pricing, Printers Corner offers everything WINKs want."

Surveys certainly support Horner's statement. Data from real advisors Robert Charles Lesser & Co. and Big Builder indicates that nearly nine out of 10 WINKs prefer an urban setting where they can walk to work, shops, etc.; they'd rather have a well-designed, affordable home than a large home; and they want to be near outdoor activities.

Located at the northeast corner of Polk and Wells, Printers Corner ([www.printerscorner.com](http://www.printerscorner.com)) is a 17-story high rise consisting of 88 condominiums, all of which are corner units. Floor

plans measure 769 to 1,168 square feet and include one to two bedrooms with one to two baths. Prices range from \$319,000 to \$489,000 and deed parking is \$40,000. For a limited time, Winthrop Properties is offering free parking for the next 10 buyers.

"Most of our WINKs work downtown, so our proximity to the Loop and mass transit factors greatly in their buying decision," said Horner. "But they also wanted their first home to be within walking distance of their social circle and that's exactly what Printers Corner offers."

Horner cited the building's "walker's paradise" ranking at [walkscore.com](http://walkscore.com) as an example of its accessibility. With a score of 94, Printers Corner is just steps from numerous restaurants, parks, cultural attractions and the shops of Printers Row and State Street.

Inside homes at Printers Corner, WINKs will find one-and-a-half-inch granite kitchen countertops; imported Italian kitchen cabinetry; G.E. stainless steel appliances; hardwood flooring; floor-to-ceiling windows; a washer and dryer; Grohe bath faucets; marble baths; and a whirlpool tub.

"Printers Corner is definitely a case of quality over quantity,"



Printers Corner offers everything first-time buyers want from a great city location and open interior, to quality finishes and an affordable price. In addition to high-end standard features, each of the 88 condominiums is a corner unit.

said Ibrahim Shihadeh, co-principal of Winthrop Properties. "From the very beginning, we wanted a building that was more intimate in size so we could focus on offering efficiently designed floor plans with great views, the finest standard finishes and expert craftsmanship, all at a very attractive value."

Some of the standard finishes that speak to WINKs' desire for a well-designed home include 10-foot ceilings; kitchens with 42-inch cabinets and mirrored backsplashes; crown molding in the living/dining areas, hallways and bedrooms; and built-in tech centers. As an extra bonus, all homes also include a 42-inch plasma television.

"Because we offer such a high level of standard finishes, many of our buyers don't feel the need for upgrades, which is certainly a cost savings for them," said Shihadeh. "They also find themselves getting more for their money due to the unique architecture of the building, which allows each residence to be a corner unit boasting excellent views and ample natural light. First-time buyers in particular are impressed that they can live in a corner unit as their first home."

Shihadeh said WINKs also appreciate the safety and security measures that have been taken at Printers Corner, which not only include an intercom-entry security system, but also a key fob to access the elevators.

Winthrop Properties is a joint enterprise of developers Bob Horner and Ibrahim Shihadeh. Horner and Shihadeh share more than 40 years of real estate experience, during which time they have built and sold more than 5,000 homes, including new-construction loft buildings in Printers Row and the West Loop.

Find out more To reach Printers Corner sales center and models, take Lake Shore Drive to Balbo Drive and head west. Turn left onto State Street, then right at Polk Street. Continue west on Polk Street to Wells. The entrance to Printers Corner is located on the northeast corner of Polk and Wells. Parking is on the street across from the entrance. Use the call box to dial the sales center, located on the 16th floor. Sales center hours are Saturday to Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center is closed on Thursday and Friday. For more information, call 312-880-1800.

# Onsite eateries offer convenient dining

Upscale finishes like granite countertops and exclusive amenities such as private fitness clubs have become synonymous with today's luxury, new-construction condominiums. But some developers aren't satisfied with the status quo, so they're kicking luxury living up a notch by offering on-site restaurants that put residents just steps or an elevator ride away from some of the finest dining in Chicago.

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# Historically low home loan rates will help ease the credit crisis

Decades from now America's recession-battered homeowners will look back on 2008 as the "Year of the Great Credit Crisis," and likely compare it with the Depression years of the 1930s, analysts say.

In hard times such as these, it is important to remember that America struggled through — and survived — the Great Depression. In fact, history shows this great nation has rebounded from several depressions, recessions, financial panics, and stock market crashes.

We've also made it through World Wars I and II and other armed conflicts, including the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Cold War with the fear of nuclear attack. Now, we are involved in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, while battling the threat of worldwide terrorism.

While economists predict the credit crisis and housing recession likely will continue in 2009 and perhaps 2010, there is exceptionally good news to report. The recent downward shift in mortgage interest rates to the lowest levels American homeowners have seen in nearly a half century is an extremely positive turn of events, veteran analysts say.

According to the IAR's latest report on resale home sales in the Chicago area, the year-to-date median resale home prices were down 4.9 percent to \$242,000 compared to \$254,500 in the period January through November 2007. In the month of November, the median home sale price slipped 1.9 percent to \$207,745 from \$247,000 in November 2007.

Year-to-date January through November 2008 sales for the Chicago area were down 26.5 percent compared to 64,445 homes sold in the same 11-month period in 2007. In November, home and condominium sales totaled 3,910 units in November of 2008, down 32.3 percent from 5,774 units in November of 2007. The survey includes Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties.

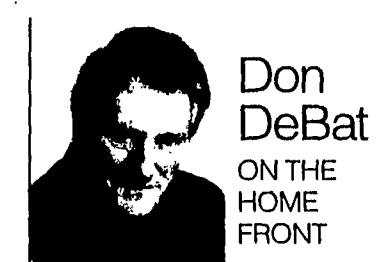
In Chicago, the median price of resale homes and condos in November was \$222,500, down 23.3 percent from \$290,000 in November 2007. Home and condominium sales were down 41.3 percent to 1,057 units in November of 2008 compared with 1,801 units in November of 2007.

"The housing market was stalled in November due to a deepening recession which hit our economy with blunt force this fall. No one should be surprised at these figures given what happened with the financial markets in the past few months," said Callan.

"The IAR has been calling for mortgage-rate reductions and recent action to drive down interest rates should be attractive to homebuyers who have been waiting on the sidelines to enter the market," Callan said. "With interest rates the best they have been in nearly 50 years and peak inventory levels, there are unique buying opportunities."

Dr. Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, director of the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL) of the University of Illinois, said: "The combination of lower mortgage interest rates and a major infrastructure investment program that is anticipated from President-elect Obama's administration offer the best hope for some turnaround in the housing market in the next year."

However, stringent lending and appraisal standards have slowed the flow of affordable mortgage money to eager home



Don DeBat ON THE HOME FRONT

shoppers, Realtors complain. "Realtors are urging the federal government and mortgage industry to address continuing problems that are impeding the delivery of mortgage credit to potential home buyers," noted David Hanna, president of the Chicago Association of Realtors.

"Mortgage insurers need to make sure they have not overcorrected and added unnecessarily strict underwriting standards preventing people from qualifying for a mortgage," Hanna said. "The lack of practical and affordable loans will continue to stymie the recovery effort."

"Now is not the time to limit mortgage availability if we want to see improvement in the housing market," Callan said.

Despite sharply lower home loan rates, resale home sales continue to slump in the nine-county Chicago area.

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

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\*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.



**RE/MAX Professionals WEST**

**Monika Carney  
847-813-9490**

## West North Shore Luxury Condominiums

1625 - 1629 West North Shore  
www.NewInRogersPark.com



Luxury Condominium conversion beautifully appointed with hardwood floors, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, in the heart of Rogers Park for as low as \$491\* a month!

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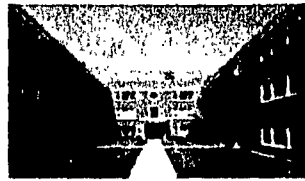


**RE/MAX Professionals WEST**

**Monika Carney  
847-813-9490**

## Ashton Place Luxury Condominiums

623 Brummel Street, Unit G  
Evanston IL, 60202



Evanston's newest condo conversion. 2 bedroom 1 bathroom have stunning deluxe kitchens, Stainless Steel Appliances, maple cabinets, granite countertops, plentiful parking, all for \$718\* a month!

\*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

**Ivana Majic  
847-316-8500**

## Western Ave. Luxury Condominiums and Duplexes

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



Stunning New Construction. All Brick and Limestone. 2 Bedroom / 2 Bath units have elegant finishes featuring cherry and maple cabinets with granite counter tops, Stainless Steel Appliances, oak hardwood floors, custom fireplaces, marble baths with Jacuzzi tubs, private balconies and indoor parking! All for \$827\* a month!

\*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

**Tony Creagh  
708-256-1136**

## Paulina Ave. Luxury Condominiums and Duplexes

4507 N Paulina Ave, Chicago, IL 60640



Beautifully restored all brick corner building with stunning architecture, cherry hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, custom mill work, extra tall bay windows, imported faucets, soaker jetted tubs, All this and more for \$1,057\* a month!

\*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

**@properties**

**Scott Graden  
312-420-6211**

## Reba Place Luxury Condominiums

900 Reba 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 \$1,133\* a month!

\*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

**Ivana Majic  
847-316-8500**

## 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 \$4,530\* a month!

\*with 20% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.



**Koenig & GMAC  
Strey Real Estate**

**Martha May  
847-533-0559**

## Gorgeous Glenview Home

710 Windsor, Glenview, IL 60025

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. All this for \$7,598 a month!

\*with 20% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.



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## Gorgeous Glenview Home

1555 Woodlawn, Glenview, IL 60025

Stunning custom designed new residence in E. Glenview. Lannon stone & brick 6BR/5.1BA home on lush grounds features exquisite workmanship. Wonderfully appointed main level w/gourmet kitch, family rm w/coffered ceiling, office & guest suite. Second flr offers spacious rms & impressive master ste. Private terraces. LL media/rec room, sauna. 4 fpl's. 3 car gar. All this for only \$7,552\* a month!

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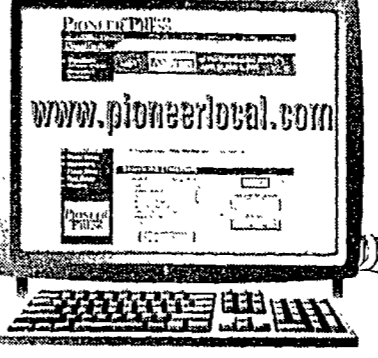
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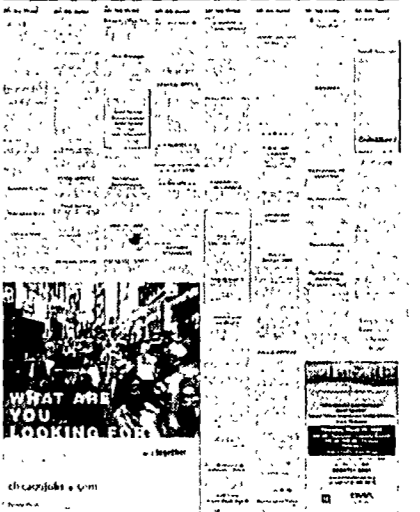
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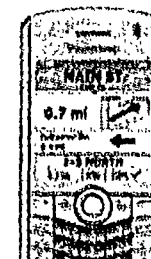
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- BATAVIA** 350 Randall Rd. 630-761-2160 ★
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- BLOOMINGDALE** Stratford Square Mall 630-582-4707
- BOLINGBROOK** 224 Weber Rd. 630-226-4660
- BOLINGBROOK** 697 E. Boughton Rd. 630-783-8966 ★
- BOURBONNAIS** Northfield Square Mall 815-936-7605
- BRADLEY** 840 Kinzie Ave. 815-929-0693
- CALUMET CITY** 1245 Torrence Ave. 708-862-0500
- CHICAGO NORTH** 6451 W. Diversey 773-836-4401 ★
- CHICAGO NORTH** 1652 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-6200 ★
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- CHICAGO NORTH** 810 W. North Ave. 312-397-5800 ★
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- CHICAGO CITY** 500 W. Madison 312-831-0127\*\*
- CHICAGO CITY** 500 N. Michigan Ave. 312-464-1390 ★
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- CHICAGO RIDGE** Chicago Ridge Mall 708-346-9557 ★
- CRESTWOOD** 13447 S. Cicero Ave. 708-396-9822 ★
- CRYSTAL LAKE** 1125 South Route 31 815-444-6080
- DOWNERS GROVE** 1404 Butterfield Rd. 630-953-8052
- GURNEE** 6543 Grand Ave. 847-855-6019 ★
- HILLSIDE** 2201 S. Wolf Rd. 708-947-2500 ★
- HODGKINS** 9402 Joliet Rd. 708-387-0554 ★
- HOFFMAN ESTATES** 2734 N. Sutton Rd. 847-645-0190 ★
- JOLIET** 3330 Mall Loop Dr. 815-439-5100
- LAKE IN THE HILLS** 290 N. Randall Rd. 847-458-2866
- LINCOLNWOOD** Lincolnwood Mall 847-568-1554 ★
- MATTESON** 4063 211th St. 708-748-7444
- MCHENRY** NEW 3501 Diamond Dr. 815-344-2177
- MERRILLVILLE, IN** 401 W. 81st Ave. 219-736-8400
- MERRILLVILLE, IN** 2109 Southlake Mall 219-756-7440
- MT. PROSPECT** 1 W. Rand Rd. 847-259-2627 ★
- NAPERVILLE** 111 E. Ogden Ave. 630-420-3299
- NILES** 9635 N. Milwaukee Ave. 847-967-1150 ★
- NILES** 5700 W. Touhy Ave. 847-647-7724 ★
- NILES** Golf Mill Mall 847-298-3047
- NORTHBROOK** Northbrook Court 847-509-8527
- NORTHBROOK** 235 Skokie Blvd. 847-272-7770
- NORTH AURORA** 1852 Towne Center Dr. 630-907-2055 ★
- NORTH RIVERSIDE** North Riverside Park Plaza 708-442-0755 ★
- ORLAND PARK** 9264 W. 159th St. 708-403-8200 ★
- ORLAND PARK** Orland Square Mall 708-403-3122
- PALATINE** 784 E. Dundee Rd. 847-934-8113 ★
- PLAINFIELD** 12632 S. Rte. 59 815-436-7388 ★
- SCHAUMBURG** 1249 E. Higgins Rd. 847-330-6010
- SCHAUMBURG** Woodfield Mall 847-619-0773
- SOUTH ELGIN** 596 Randall Rd. 847-695-1667 ★
- ST CHARLES** 124 S. Kirk Rd. 630-513-5326 ★
- VERNON HILLS** 701 N. Milwaukee Ave. 847-247-2300 ★
- WEST DUNDEE** Springhill Mall 847-426-2177
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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 (High School) Bible Study, Sunday 1:00 p.m.  
Young Adults Bible Study, Sunday, 12:00 p.m.  
Chair Practice: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.  
Susannah Wesley Club (Women's Group) Meets once a month on 4th Thursday 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 Oswald

**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 Shawna 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  
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.stjamesofoster.org](http://www.stjamesofoster.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. Maselle  
(773) 763-0206  
[www.smo.org](http://www.smo.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)

## 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

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 Shermar 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 Paster Gordon Smith

## NILES

**Lutheran Church of the Resurrection**  
8450 N. Shermar 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  
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.

## 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,

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.zionnorridgeoil.org](http://www.zionnorridgeoil.org)

## PARK RIDGE

**First Baptist Church of Park Ridge**  
1266 N. Northwest Highway (Corner Potter Rd. and Northwest Hwy)  
(847) 692-6101  
<http://fbcc.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  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Testimonial Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 p.m.  
Christian Science Reading Room, 13 N. Prospect Ave. in Park Ridge  
Hours: Tues—Fri 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Sat 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

## PARK RIDGE

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church & School**  
260 N. Northwest Highway (847) 823-6656  
[www.standrewsparkridge.org](http://www.standrewsparkridge.org)  
Sunday Worship: September through May 8:30 & 11:00 a.m., June—August 9:00 a.m.  
Contemporary Worship: Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Vespers: Monday 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday School & Adult 9:45 a.m. (September thru May)  
Christian Day School—Pre-Kindergarten thru 8th Grade  
**St. Luke's Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation  
205 N. Prospect Ave.  
(847) 825-6659

## PARK RIDGE

[www.stlukespr.org](http://www.stlukespr.org)  
Email: [office@stlukespr.org](mailto:office@stlukespr.org)  
Sunday Worship:  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. (School Year), 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. (Summer)  
Thursday Worship (Summer) 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday—Christian Education for all ages 9:45 a.m. (School Year)  
Child Care Provided  
Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Larson, Lead Pastor  
Rev. Kristina C. Weber, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Malcolm Minnick, Jr., Pastor Emeritus, Anne Krentz Organ, Director of Music Ministries  
Melinda Ramseth Hoiland, Director of Children's Choirs, Nancy Olson, Member Care Coordinator

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
306 S. Prospect Ave.  
(847) 823-4126  
[www.stmaryspr.org](http://www.stmaryspr.org)  
Sunday Services: 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Service: 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Nursery during worship, Youth Fellowship  
The Rev. Sarah D. Odderstol, Rector  
The Rev. Amity Carrubba, Curate  
WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME!  
Check website for all activities.

**Park Ridge Presbyterian Church**  
1300 W. Crescent Ave.  
(847) 823-4135  
[www.parkridgepresby.org](http://www.parkridgepresby.org)  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Nursery care during service  
Children's Programming for Ages 3—High School  
Adult Education 9:15 a.m.  
Rev. James P. McCracken

## PROSPECT HEIGHTS

**St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church**  
411 N. Wheeling Rd. (847) 255-7452  
[www.saintalphonsus.com](http://www.saintalphonsus.com)  
Worship Days & Hours:  
Monday-Saturday 8:15 a.m.  
Mass of Anticipation: 5:00 p.m. Saturday  
Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Pastor: Rev. Curtis A. Lambert  
Additional Information:  
School: Pre-3 thru 8th Grade - Before & After School Care  
Ongoing Faith Formation - Kindergarten thru 8th Grade  
High School Youth Ministry Program

## ROSEMONT

**Our Lady of Hope**  
9711 W. Devon Avenue  
(847) 825-HOPE (4673)  
[www.ourladyofhopechurch.com](http://www.ourladyofhopechurch.com)  
Rev. John Clemens, Pastor  
Saturday Mass 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Masses 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m.  
Eucharistic Services M-F 12:10 p.m.  
Confession Saturday 4-4:40 p.m.  
Holy Days 8 a.m., 12:10 and 7:00 p.m.  
Little People's Church ages 3-5,  
First three Sundays/mo. 10:45 a.m.-noon  
Religious Education Programs grades 1-8,  
Sacramental Programs also offered

## SKOKIE

**Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church**  
4950 W. Pratt, (847) 673-4441  
[www.cmupc.net](http://www.cmupc.net)  
Sunday Morning Worship Schedule:  
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School (for all ages)  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service  
12:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour  
Michael Scott Porter, Senior Pastor  
Alex Wickell, Director of Youth Ministries  
Office Hours: Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Temple Beth Israel**  
3601 W. Dempster St. 847-675-0951  
[www.tbiskokie.org](http://www.tbiskokie.org)  
Likrat Shabbat/Kabbalat Shabbat, first Friday of each month, 5:30 p.m.  
Light Nosh—6:15 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat service  
Shabbat Service Fridays 8:15 p.m.  
Shabbat Service Saturdays 10:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Katan, third Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. for families with children under the age of five.  
Morning Minyan Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m.  
Religious School Pre-K—7th Grade  
Sundays 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.  
Hebrew School Grades 3-7  
Sundays 11:10 a.m.—12:10 p.m.  
and Wednesdays 4:15 p.m.—6:00 p.m.  
Youth Groups Adult Education  
Koleynu—Volunteer Choir  
High Holiday Services  
Rabbi Michael A. Weinberg  
Cantor Pavel Roytman  
Lori B. Sagarin Director of Congregational Learning

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
5201 Gallitz Street,  
(847) 673-5030

## SKOKIE

[web.mac.com/stpaulskokie](http://web.mac.com/stpaulskokie)  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hour,  
Sundays 8:45—9:45 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Study Class,  
Sundays 9:00—9:45 a.m.  
Rev. Peter A. Zadeik,  
Jr. Vacancy Pastor John Schman,  
Minister of Music  
Dale Luksha, PK—8 Academy Principal  
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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue,  
(847) 673-8166  
[www.stpeterucskokie.org](http://www.stpeterucskokie.org)  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m. (September thru May)  
Rev. Richard Lanford  
Childcare provided.  
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**Congregation Bene Shalom**  
4435 Oakton,  
(847) 677-3330  
[www.beneshalom.org](http://www.beneshalom.org)  
Fridays 7:30 p.m.;  
Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 p.m.  
on 3rd Friday of the month  
Kabbalistic Prayer/  
Meditation Service 10:30 a.m.  
On 2nd Saturday of the month  
Special Kabbalistic Meditation  
Service Sunday, August 31st, 10:00 p.m.  
Esther Knapp Religious School  
Sundays 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
Hebrew School Sunday 12:00—1:00 p.m.  
Thursday 4:00—5:00 p.m.  
Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhamer  
Asst. Rabbi Shari Chen

**St. Timothy Lutheran Church**  
9000 N. Kildare, (847) 676-1300  
[www.sttimothyskokie.com](http://www.sttimothyskokie.com)  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Chair Practice, Thursday 7:30 p.m.  
Bible Study, Monday 10:00 a.m.  
Youth Christian Education  
3rd Sunday at 10:30 a.m.  
Rev. Erik Weber  
Birthday Sunday 3rd Sunday of each month  
Accessible Building

## SKOKIE

Studies for Adults and Youth  
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Club Maccabee  
Children's Club  
For K-5th Graders at  
Devonshire School in  
Skokie Kirk Gliebe  
Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue is a community of Jews who believe and teach that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Promised Jewish Messiah.

**Temple Judea Mizpah**  
8610 Niles Center Road,  
(847) 676-1566  
[www.templejm.org](http://www.templejm.org)  
Friday 8:00 p.m.  
Second Friday of the Month 7:00 p.m.  
Family Shabbat Religious School  
Grades K-7  
Sunday 9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
Hebrew School Grades 3—7  
Tuesday 4:15—5:15 p.m.  
Religious School Grades 8—12  
Sunday 11:45 a.m.—1:15 p.m.  
Religious School PreK

Two Sundays a month 10:15 a.m.  
Rabbi Amy L. Memis-Foler  
Cantorial Intern Beryl Bellows  
Sally Gold—Education Director  
Terry J. Kane—Executive Director  
Adult Education Multi-faith  
Families Welcome Community Theater  
High Holiday & Festival

**St. Timothy Lutheran Church**  
9000 N. Kildare, (847) 676-1300  
[www.sttimothyskokie.com](http://www.sttimothyskokie.com)  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Chair Practice, Thursday 7:30 p.m.  
Bible Study, Monday 10:00 a.m.  
Youth Christian Education  
3rd Sunday at 10:30 a.m.  
Rev. Erik Weber  
Birthday Sunday 3rd Sunday of each month  
Accessible Building

To List Your congregation please call Andrea Shumate at 847-486-7252  
Changes can be faxed to her at 847-486-7456  
[ashumate@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:ashumate@pioneerlocal.com)

# Still checking on that elusive check



STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN

THE FIXER - Chicago Sun-Times

Since then, he has been giving us the runaround. He will not answer his phone. He has made two appointments to bring us the check and has not shown up, nor has he called to cancel. He made a third appointment for us to come out and get a check, but then called and said he did not have it.

I feel he is not responding because we are two women whom he feels he can push around. I filed a complaint with the Better Business Bureau, and he also ignored that.

Any help you could give us would be greatly appreciated.

Pamela Walsh

Dear Pamela: If it makes you feel any better, Team Fixer got the same dose of stellar customer service.

When we got in touch

Dear Fixer: My mother and I placed a \$2,000 deposit on a town home at Lighthouse Pointe in Frankfort in late April. The contract stated that if we changed our minds within 30 days, the deposit would be refunded.

On May 11, a week before our one-month deadline was up, we decided not to purchase the unit. I told Bryant Ryan — the person we were dealing with — our intention. He said there wouldn't be a problem and that our money would be refunded. I followed up with a letter.

with Bryant Ryan at the end of September, he first claimed that the 30-day window was actually time for you to get additional financing. You disagree, but no matter because Ryan told us the company, Circle B, would cut you a check anyway.

However, he added that this had to be cleared by Circle B's owner. He said that would take at least a couple weeks, but you could expect your check before Halloween.

By early November you still hadn't gotten your check. So we called Ryan again and left a message. We didn't hear back, so we called again a couple weeks later. A few days after that Ryan left us a message, basically saying he was returning our call.

We followed up with more messages, but haven't heard another peep. Neither has the BBB. (Yo Bryant! If you're reading this, call us back!)

Dear Fixer: On Dec. 1, I went Christmas shopping at the Best Buy at 3262 W. Belmont Ave. in Chicago.

I bought a laptop computer that cost \$799.99 and I requested installation of anti-virus protection, Microsoft Word and to speed up the system, so the total was \$1,231.42.

I paid with my Best Buy credit card. I left the laptop at the store so they could install what I had requested. They told me it would take 45 minutes to an hour.

I decided to come back the next day. I picked up the laptop, but my mistake was that I did not check it at the store. They did not offer to show me what they did to it; they just made me sign and gave me the box and they just walked away.

When I got to my house, I noticed the screen was cracked on the inside — not the glass but the inside of the laptop. The only thing you

can see is black lines.

I went back to the store and talked to two managers, but they did not want to do anything about it.

I called Best Buy, the manufacturer and the credit card issuer and they all are not willing to help. I do not know what to do because I owe \$1,231.42 and I have to pay for somebody's mistake.

Can you help me out, please?

Oswaldo Magana

Dear Oswaldo: Well, this sure was a tough one. You had us convinced that you couldn't possibly have destroyed the laptop you had bought for your kids for Christmas. It had barely been in your hands, and after it was boxed up at the store all you did was drive it home.

You also had Father Thomas Croak of the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers at DePaul University, where you are employed, ready to vouch for

your credibility.

On the other hand, Best Buy's technician was claiming the unit was fine when it left the store.

We took your case to Jill Nezworski, senior executive resolution specialist at Best Buy, and crossed our fingers for a Christmas miracle.

We waited a day, then we got some good news. Though Best Buy says they'll probably never know what happened, they wanted to give you the benefit of the doubt. They've given you a replacement laptop with everything loaded — and Nezworski says she hopes you'll continue to shop there.

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem? Tell it to The Fixer at www.pioneerlocal.com, where you'll find a simple form to fill out. If you don't have a computer, mail a brief description of your problem to: The Fixer, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# Pea-pickin' princess

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

By MYRNA PETLICKI Contributor

You never know where you will find a real princess. That's why a Prince searches all around the world — well, actually in the audience at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., during Chicago Kids Company's world premiere musical, "The Princess and the Pea," Jan. 14-March 11.

All of the princess candidates will undergo tests because the Queen wants the genuine thing for her son. Word has it that she is reserving the most challenging test for Princess Penelope (actor Carol Rose), who suddenly turns up at the castle. Can she feel a pea under a pile of mattresses?

"We have this enormous almost 11-foot bed. It is so cool," reported director Jesus Perez, who designed the set and costumes, and co-authored the show with composer/lyricist Paige Coffman. He confided that Rose is "terrified to climb (the bed), but she'll be a pro in no time at all."

Audience members get into the act musically, too. "There are some really fun audience participatory songs," Perez said. There are also a couple of silly jesters sure to amuse everyone.

Tickets are \$10. For details, call (773) 205-9600 or see www.chicagokidscompany.com.

### Handy Craft

Infants through kindergartners will create a hand puppet from their own handprint at "Kids Create! Drop-in Craft," 11 a.m.-

noon, Thursday, Jan. 15, at Prospect Heights Public Library, 12 N. Elm St. Mom, dad or another adult must be on hand to help. For details, call (847) 259-3500.

### Believe it or not...

Bobby Hunt will ride the world's smallest bicycle (as seen on "Ripley's Believe It or Not") at the Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St., during "Super Saturday: The Incredible Stunts of Circus Boy," 11-11:45 a.m., Jan. 17. Registration is required to view the many acrobatic feats of Circus Boy, who has been entertaining and amusing audiences with his stunts for 25 years.

### Reading with Wolves

Families will learn all about ice hockey from Chicago Wolves' center

Matt Anderson, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. Anderson's visit is part of the "Winter Reading Program" sponsored by the Chicago Wolves. For details, call (847) 827-5551.

### Wolves, part 2: the real deal

John Basile, owner of the federally licensed non-profit Big Run Wolf Ranch, will bring a live wolf and a variety of other animals to the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., 2-3:30 p.m. Jan. 11 for a "Second Sunday Special." It's a great chance for families to learn about the rescued wildlife that lives at the ranch and why it's important to protect such animals. Program, for ages 5 and up, will be held in Meeting Room A and B. For details, call (847) 663-1234.



Princess Penelope (Carol Rose) is about to see if she can feel a pea under a pile of mattresses in "The Princess and the Pea."

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YOU WANT IN? HERE'S HOW.

» **Submit go. events** one week prior to the date of publication.

» **Entries must be typed.** We're sorry, but we can't take it over the telephone. We prefer e-mail submissions, please.

» **go. listings are free.** Include brief description of the event, time, date, address, price and phone number.

» **By mail:** go. go. c/o Pioneer Press, 291 Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights IL 60004. E-mail: [go!@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:go!@pioneerlocal.com). FAX: (847) 797-5151.

### STAGE

"On Golden Pond," presented by Big Noise Theatre Company in collaboration with Ouroboros Theatre Company. Jan. 16-Feb. 8 at the Prairie Lakes Theater, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines. Curtain at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays: 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$20-\$18 for seniors; \$12 for children 12 and under. Visit [www.bignoisetheatre.org](http://www.bignoisetheatre.org) or call (847) 604-0275.

### CLASSICAL

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. Tickets: \$20-\$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. Children under age 14 are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. [www.northwestsymphony.org](http://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. Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Tickets: \$25-\$20 for students and senior citizens. Call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861 or visit

[www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org](http://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 "Pagliacci."

### POP/FOLK/JAZZ

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. 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. Famous Freddie's Roadhouse, 1799 S. Busse Road, Mount Prospect. (847) 593-2200. [www.famousfreddiesroadhouse.com](http://www.famousfreddiesroadhouse.com). Shows start at 9 p.m. Fridays and 10 p.m. Saturdays. Jan. 9: C-Factor (classic to current pop rock covers). Jan. 10: Jak-Tripper. Jan. 16: Pen 15. Jan. 17: Infinity (classic rock). Jan. 23: Libido Funk Circus. Jan. 24: J.P. & the Cats (disco/MTV '80s). Jan. 30: Smackdown (party rock) with an opening set by Adrenaline (metal cover band). Jan. 31: I Pop. Prospect Heights Public Library, 12 N. Elm St., Prospect Heights. (847) 259-3500. [www.phpl.info](http://www.phpl.info). Registration for programs required, unless noted otherwise. Jan. 11, 2 p.m.: Die Lustigen Musikanten presents songs in English and German. Jan. 25, 2 p.m.: The John Hersey High School Band Small Ensembles will perform under the direction of Tom Beckwith and Scott Casagrande.

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.mwchoralsociety.org](http://www.mwchoralsociety.org).

### BENEFITS

"Hearts & Flowers" the eighth annual Park Ridge Civic Orchestra gala, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at Café la Cave, 2777 N. Mannheim Road, Des Plaines. Featuring cocktails, dinner, raffle, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the music of Joe Lil's Six of One. \$125 per person. Call (847) 692-7726 or visit [www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org](http://www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org).

### DANCE

#### GROUPS & LESSONS

Happy Twirlers Dance Club offers square dancing lessons at 7 p.m. Jan. 19, 26 and Feb. 2 at the Summit of Uptown, Touthy and Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. Call (773) 685-0407 or (847) 827-6500.

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.

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. Jan. 12: "We Will Be Fine in '09." Jan. 26: "Wheel & Deal in Winter" and Chill Nite. 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.

### ART GALLERIES

Elmwood Park Public Library, 1 Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park. (708) 395-1200. Through April 6: Photographs by Mount Prospect resident Mirella Scully. Oakton Community College, Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2633. [www.oakton.edu/museum](http://www.oakton.edu/museum). Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Through Jan. 23: "Judy Langston: Post-Katrina Images" and "Davida Schulman: Self-Portraits."

### LECTURES

Prospect Heights Public Library, 12 N. Elm St., Prospect Heights. (847) 259-3500. [www.phpl.info](http://www.phpl.info). Jan. 15, 7 p.m.: "Route 66: A Road Trip through History," presented by highway historian and author Dave Clark. Jan. 22, 7 p.m.: Lyric Opera lecture: "Tristan and Isolde."

### ORGANIZATIONS

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.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 "Pagliacci."

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[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.desplainescameraclub.com](http://www.desplainescameraclub.com).

### WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

#### MUSIC

Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Music instruction courses are available for students of all skill levels. Spring classes begin Jan. 20. Courses include Piano and Piano Ensemble. Contact Glenna Sprague. (847)

635-1905: Guitar (including classical, jazz and bass) and Guitar Ensemble. call (847) 635-1937: Voice. Fundamentals of Music, Conducting, Music Theory and Choir. contact Dan Detloff, (847) 635-1907: Brass, Percussion, Strings and Woodwinds. call (847) 635-1937: Performing Ensembles (jazz band, percussion and woodwinds). call (847) 635-1937.

### 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.



**GRANDPARENTS BRUNCH** Junior Danny Mueller (center) was joined by his grandparents, Don and Joan Smith, at Notre Dame High School's annual Grandparents Brunch and Mass on Nov. 25. In all, 340 grandparents attended the event at the high school in Niles.

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**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**

**A Night for Renee Fund-raiser** to benefit the WINGS program (Women in Need Growing Stronger) will feature music, dancing, live band, professional singers and entertainers. Jim Johnson of radio station WLS AM 890, the Roe Conn show, will be Master of Ceremonies. Appetizers, cash bar and raffles. The event will be held at 7 p.m. March 14 at the Meridian Banquets, 1701 Algonquin Road, Rolling Meadows. Tickets cost \$30 per person in advance, or \$45 at door. Call (847) 269-5409.

**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.

**CHAMBER**

**The Niles Chamber of Commerce** is currently accepting 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**

**Verizon Wireless**, 9635 N. Milwaukee Ave., will offer a free class on "20 Things Your PDA Can Do" at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 15. The event is open to Verizon Wireless customers and other PDA users (all brands/models welcome).

**PEEK AT THE WEEK**

Readers who do not yet have a PDA but would like to learn more about these devices are also welcome to attend. Coffee and pastries will be served. Interested readers can sign up online or call their local Verizon Wireless store to register: www.PDAWORKSHOP.nvsvzw.com.

**CLUBS**

**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.

**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.

**Niles Chapter Toastmasters** meets at 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednes-

days 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) 588-9328.

**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 FPDC'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 FPDC, visit www.soclose2you.org.

**FITNESS CENTER**

**Niles Family Fitness** is offering Boomer/Specialty Fitness specialty drop-in rates of \$9 per member and \$12, nonmember. **Aqua-Arthritis:** sanctioned by the Arthritis Foundation, this class provides an opportunity for people with arthritis and post rehab conditions to help improve flexibility, coordination and muscle strength. A doctor's note is required. Classes are offered from 10:15 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays through Feb. 17 or 10:15 to 11 a.m. Thursdays through Feb. 12. Cost per class is \$40 member or \$52 nonmember.

**Big Event Boot Camp** combines cardio drills with resistance training and ends with a stretch from

5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fridays Jan. 9 through Feb. 20. Cost is \$54 members or \$65 nonmembers.

**Zumba** class meets from 5:15 to 6:05 p.m. Thursdays to Feb. 19. Cost is \$48 for member and \$61 nonmembers.

**Core Strength and Balance** offers total body strength exercises using weights and the BOSU. Class meets from 3:15 to 4:05 p.m. Wednesdays through Feb. 18. Cost is \$54 for members and \$65, nonmembers.

**Niles Family Fitness Center: Youth special fitness** classes at the Niles Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-8400, www.nilesfitness.com, include the following: **A highly instructional**, highly competitive basketball program will be presented for ages 7 to 10 from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 13 to Feb. 17. The camp will address proper shooting mechanics, ball-handling, play-making skills, rebounding, defensive fundamentals, and offensive principles. Players will participate in tournaments as well as various jumping-shooting competitions. Fee includes Camp T-shirt. Cost is \$95, members; \$110, nonmembers; **Body Flex Kids** for ages 5 to 9 is a high energy exercise class to get a child moving and grooving, with the use of weights, steps, BOSU, and more. To cool down, the class will wind up with kid's yoga. It will be held from 3:45 to 4:35 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 15 to Feb. 26. Cost is \$38, members; \$47, nonmembers; **Youth Boot Camp** for ages 12 to 14 years is a cardio interval training combined with segments of weight training and conditioning in a kid-friendly environment, held from 4:20 to 5:15 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 9 to 30. Cost is \$25 (early bird pricing) for members or \$27; nonmembers pay \$31 or \$34; **Youth Cardio Medley** for

ages 12 to 14 years is designed to improve strength by working with the BOSU. Increasing core stability and strength will both enhance the athleticism of kids involved in sports and functionally train them for their daily activities. It will run from 4:20 to 5:15 p.m. Fridays, Feb. 6 to 27. Cost is \$25 (early bird pricing) for members or \$27; nonmembers pay \$31 or \$34; **Glamour Girls** 6 to 11 years will enjoy an evening of hair, nails, lotions, jewelry-making and more from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 26 to Feb. 9. 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 combinations with strength training. Finish with core work and stretch; intermediate to advanced; **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) aerobics. 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 advanced; **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.

programs for children to correspond with its popular aerobic classes. Instructors will even escort the children to and from the Clubhouse. A half-hour in the ClubHouse is included in all Funstastic class fees. Classes are held Mondays through Fridays: sports, fitness, art, science, cooking and more. Stop by or call; ask for Jenny or Joy at (847) 588-8400.

**Friday Night Fun** for ages 5 to 12 will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Jan. 16 and Feb. 13. Kids will enjoy an evening filled with swimming, gym, crafts, snack and more. Cost is \$10, members; \$15, nonmembers.

**The Fitness Center** has scheduled some Funstastic

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STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 9  
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES  
SORRY, NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT

# Peek

Continued from PAGE 39

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. **Just For Me**, 3 to 4 years. Designed for children who missed the Sept. 1 cut-off for preschool, but are ready to be on their own in a social environment. Letters, numbers and colors will be taught through active play. Daily gym time and snacks are provided. This class will be offered with a continuing curriculum through spring 2009. **Body Flex Kids**, 3 to 6 years and 5 to 9 years.

Scheduled during adult Body Flex, this high energy exercise class will get your child moving and grooving. Class ends with kid's yoga. Instructor escorts children to and from the Clubhouse. **Fantastic Fridays**, 3 to 6 years. Children play games, make crafts, swim and make new friends. Must be toilet trained. **Playtime Picasso's** 3 to 6 years. Arts and crafts, painting, play dough along with age appropriate play. Messy class. **Recipe for fun**. 3 to 6 years. Make simple recipes. Measuring, mixing, pouring and stirring. Each chef will get to eat or take home their own creations. **Silly Science 3 to 6 years**. Hands on science class is designed to combine learning and fun. Using everyday household items, kids become a silly scientist with simple experiments. **Sports Kids 4-6 years**. We introduce your child to a variety of sports: T-ball, basketball, bowling and more. Class is designed to improve listening skills, instill a sense of

teamwork and encourage physical development. **Glamour Girls 6 to 11 years**. Enjoy an evening of hair, nails, lotions, jewelry-making and more.

### FUND-RAISERS

**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.

### HEALTH

**Resurrection Medical Center**, 7435 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, will offer flu and pneumonia vaccinations for individuals over 18 years and older through December. Both vaccinations are free to Medicare Part B participants. A flu shot is \$25 and the pneumonia vaccination is \$50 for those who self-pay. Advance registration is required by calling 1-877-737-

4636.

**The American Cancer Society**, Chicago office is seeking partnerships with faith-based organizations to outreach in various Chicago communities to provide resources involving cancer issues. In organizations where no health ministry exists, ACS will help the organization begin a ministry, or will provide health related information. Through this program, Churches Against Cancer (CAC), ACS will provide a comprehensive health awareness campaign within the organization to help build capacity, provide culturally appropriate resource materials and technical assistance to member churches. To participate, faith-based organizations must approve joining CAC. For more information about CAC, contact Desmond Konadu at (312) 279-7278 [desmond.konadu@cancer.org](mailto:desmond.konadu@cancer.org)

### MAINE TOWNSHIP

Maine Township's FISH

(Friends Indeed Serve and Help) is in need of volunteer drivers to provide residents free transportation to medical facilities in and near Maine Township. Volunteers may choose how much time they wish to devote. Requirements include a current drivers license and proof of auto insurance. The program requires residents in need be mobile, or be able to use a cane or walker. FISH also asks that appointments be set three or more days in advance. To become a volunteer driver call Ed Oken, (847) 696-0761. To schedule a ride or for information call FISH coordinator Gloria Stepek, (847) 297-2510, ext. 283.

### PARKS

#### Niles

**A new 3's Preschool** program is for children who turned 3 after Sept. 1, 2008, missing the deadline for the regular 3-year preschool. Children will experience their first classroom

experience. Classes are held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays or Wednesdays and Fridays at the Howard Leisure Center. Session runs to May 21. Call (847) 967-6633 with any questions.

**Niles Park District** is offering a Junior Golf Clinic this winter for ages 7 to 11 who want to get a jump start on the golf season. Classes will be held at Golf View Recreation Center and special limited flight balls will be used. This program for beginners will focus on swing fundamentals while incorporating fun indoor games. The session runs Mondays, Jan. 12 to Feb. 2, from 5 to 6 p.m. Registration takes place at Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. For more information, call (847) 583-2735.

**Voters will elect** three Niles Park District commissioners when they go to the polls for the consolidated

Peek, PAGE 42

# Super Crossword SWEET GNAW-THINGS

**ACROSS**

- 1 Pugnistic poke
- 4 Silenced a squeak
- 9 Fuel source
- 13 "Turandot" tenor
- 18 Heady quaff
- 19 Savanna sight
- 20 Lhasa —
- 21 Arbus apparatus
- 22 Rodent's favorite
- 24 Lost in thought
- 25 Nuclear
- 26 Brimming
- 27 Join up
- 29 Take into account
- 31 Hook's mate
- 32 — reaction
- 34 Diva
- 36 Moon crawler
- 38 Relative of -ator
- 39 Rodent cheese-cake?
- 45 Laundry problem
- 47 Frigga's fellow
- 48 Young boxers
- 49 Relished a roast

**DOWN**

- 1 Secure spot
- 2 — mater
- 3 Rosary part
- 4 Speak freely
- 5 Roth —
- 6 Exist
- 7 Temptation location
- 8 Earl —
- 9 Biggers
- 10 Living room
- 10 Antipollution grp.
- 11 "The — Jungle" ("50 film)
- 12 Carry
- 13 Purrfect pet?
- 14 Grandpa
- 15 Rodent refreshment?
- 16 Pisces follower
- 17 Sapphire side
- 21 Future officer
- 23 "We've Only Just —" ('70 hit)
- 28 Hockey legend
- 30 Urban transport
- 33 Sugar ams.
- 35 Barbecue
- 37 Christmas visitors
- 39 Voling venue
- 40 Turn of phrase

**ACROSS**

- 51 "Taras Bulba" author
- 54 Emulate Pinocchio
- 55 Brandy cocktail
- 58 Protect with plastic
- 61 Resident
- 64 "Yours, Mine and —" ('68 film)
- 65 Keatsian creation
- 66 Redact
- 67 "The Bartered Bride" composer
- 70 Serenade accompaniment
- 72 TV's "South —"
- 74 Road curve
- 75 Rodent's educational level?
- 79 Dit's cousin
- 82 Read quickly
- 83 Actress
- 84 Peeper protectors
- 88 Omph
- 90 Tokyo, once
- 91 Like some cellars
- 93 It may suit you
- 94 Closet
- 96 Calculator features

**DOWN**

- 99 Winter hazard
- 100 Traction treat
- 101 TV chef
- 103 — Shuffle" ('77 song)
- 104 Seaweed product
- 105 Bobby's flashlight
- 108 Rodent's Olympic motto?
- 112 Broad st.
- 114 "Gotcha!"
- 115 Article
- 116 "— Night" ('58 hit)
- 117 Apt rhyme for squirrel
- 119 "L—, c'est moi!"
- 121 Malches
- 125 Inception
- 129 Cartoonist
- 131 Writer
- 132 Fictional rodent?
- 135 Rink rental
- 136 List ender
- 137 "Peer Gynt" composer
- 138 Psychic
- 139 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"
- 140 Surrender
- 141 Big revolver?
- 142 Slicky stuff

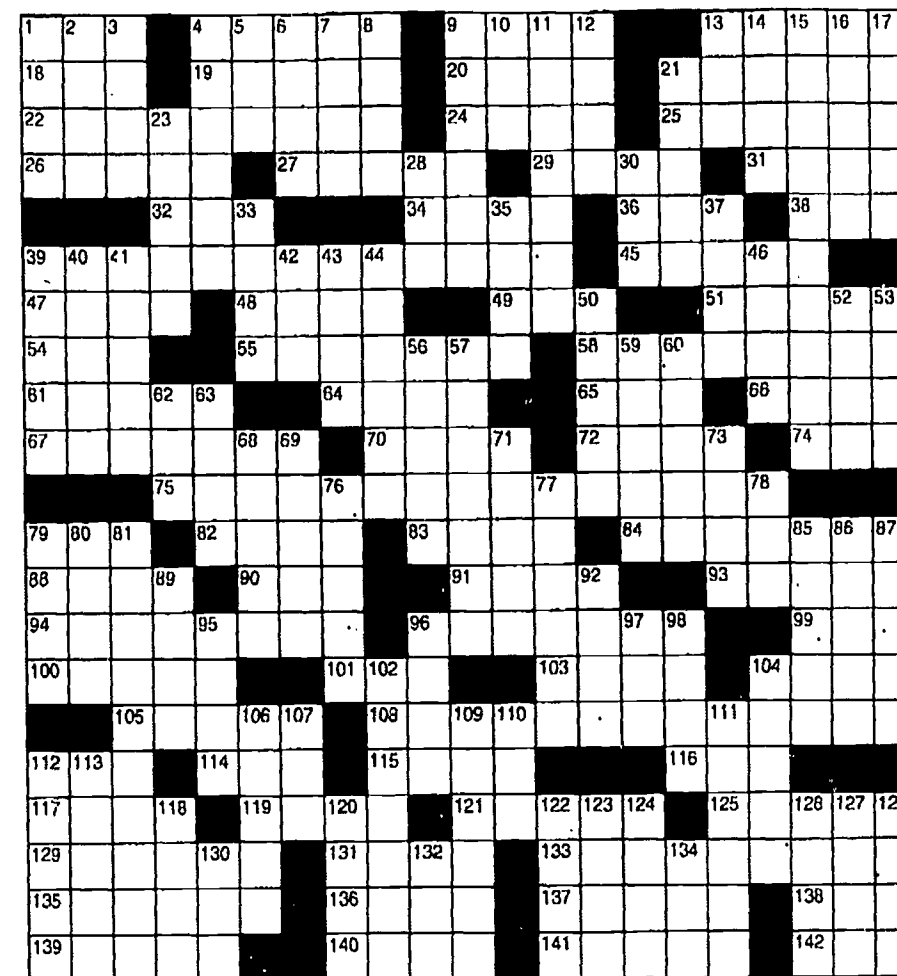
**DOWN**

- 41 Sib's kid
- 42 On the —
- 43 Summer
- 44 Tristan's tootsie
- 46 Actress
- 50 Take the honey and run
- 52 Mayberry town drunk
- 53 "Why don't we?"
- 56 Sadistic
- 57 In the saddle
- 59 Saying
- 60 Cheerful
- 62 Bk. convenience
- 63 Neighbor of Thailand
- 68 Used the microwave
- 69 Digression
- 71 Prose piece
- 73 Boat bottom
- 76 Atlanta campus
- 77 Indentation
- 78 Mintz or Whitney
- 79 Johnny of "Chocolat"
- 80 Soap additive
- 81 City of rodents?
- 85 Architect Jones
- 86 Window dressing?

**DOWN**

- 87 McCarthy's Inunkmate
- 89 West. alliance
- 92 Brace
- 95 Asta's mistress
- 96 Snarl
- 97 Banned pesticide
- 98 London district
- 102 Shake up
- 104 Actor's actor?
- 106 Spassky's game
- 107 Pillbox, e.g.
- 109 Bit of a beach
- 110 Medical grp.
- 111 TV's "Eight Is —"
- 112 About to sink
- 113 Screwdriver ingredient
- 118 Spouse
- 120 Composer
- 122 Prod
- 123 Binchy's —
- 124 Tend the sauce
- 126 Wallop
- 127 Architect
- 128 Small Saarinen
- 130 Gibson or Tiliis
- 132 Unbalancer
- 134 Wager

# Answers: Inside today's classified section



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SAMPLE AD

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5 pounds, 3 ounces • 17 inches

Gabby was welcomed to the world with love and excitement by her parents Mike and Tressie Brichta of Chicago. She is the first grandchild for both sets of proud grandparents: Rand and Marla Brichta of Northbrook and Liz and Ed Stefan of Minooka, IL. Gabby will be loved and adored by great grandparents: Sid Brichta of Northbrook, Otto and Teresa Stefan of River Forest, Desmond and Marta du Mont of Chicago, and Shirley Alper of Chesterfield, MO.

Congratulations to her loving parents  
Mike and Tressie Brichta

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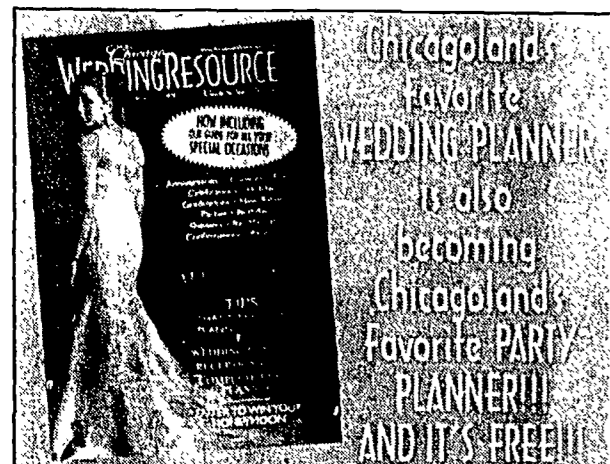
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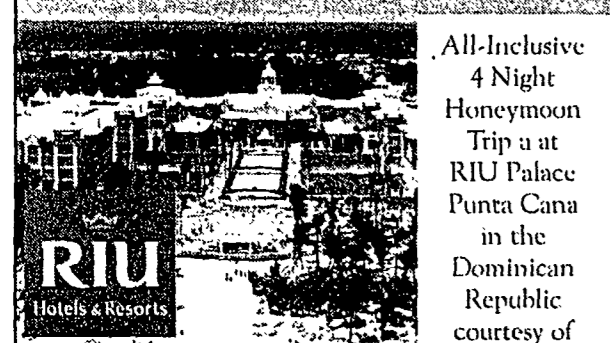


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## Peek

Continued from PAGE 40

lection April 7. Three individuals will be elected to serve four-year commissioner terms. Thomas Elenz, secretary of the Board of Park Commissioners, has begun distributing petitions for candidacy and other materials. Materials may be picked up between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays at the Niles Park District Administrative Office located at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Each candidate will be required to have a minimum of 87 signatures of registered Park District voters in order to file petitions for the Park District commissioner election. Candidates must be registered to vote and be a resident of the Park District at least one year prior to the election. The first day for filing candidacy petitions and materials will be Jan. 19, and the last day will be Jan. 26, 2009. Commissioners govern the Park District under Illinois statutes. The Niles Park District is an independent unit of local government to provide park and recreation services to the community. Commissioners serve without compensation. For more information, call JoAnn Raschillo at (847) 583-2712.

**Niles Park District** helps plan children's birthday parties. Party packages include: Tie-Dye, Crafty Creations, Rumble Jumble, Princess Party and Dora & Diego. Parties are 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays, and 10:30 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays. Call the Howard Leisure Center, (847) 967-6633, for more information.

**Resident and non-resident** registration for Niles Park District Bright Beginnings Preschool for 2008-09 is being taken. Spaces are available in the mornings and afternoons for 3- and 4-year-old classes. Registration will be accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St., until

classes are filled. For more information stop in the Howard Leisure Center, or call (847) 967-6633.

### Golf Maine

**Golf Maine Park District** is taking registrations for:

**Preschool.** Sign up now for the fall 2008 semester. Early registration is urged. A five-day morning program and four-day afternoon program are offered for children turning 4 years old by Sept. 1. For more information visit one of the Park District offices, Feldman Recreation Center, 8800 Kathy Lane (one block south of Golf Road on Western Avenue), Niles; or Dee Park, at the corner of Dee and Emerson Roads, Des Plaines; or call (847) 297-3000.

### Park Ridge

**The Park Ridge Community Center's** amenities include: new fitness equipment; indoor pools; running track; racquetball & basketball courts; sauna & whirlpool; child care services; fitness and spinning classes; private adult lockers; party rentals; personal trainers. Call (847) 692-5129 or visit [www.prparks.org](http://www.prparks.org).

### REUNIONS

**WMTH-FM, the high school** radio station owned and operated by the Maine Township High Schools, will celebrate 50 years of broadcasting in 2009. Broadcasting from a small studio at Maine East High School, the first program was aired December 20, 1959. Over the past 50 years the station has grown to include radio and television studios at each of the high schools. Plans are under way for an alumni gathering for students and faculty staff members to be held the weekend of Sept. 25 to 27, 2009 in the Park Ridge/Des Plaines area. A reunion committee has been formed to locate all former WMTH-FM alumni. Contact [reunion@wmthalumni.com](mailto:reunion@wmthalumni.com) for further information.

**St. John Brebeuf** is

looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail [lyder@sjschool.org](mailto:lyder@sjschool.org), and submit their name, year graduated, address, phone number, maiden name (if applicable) and e-mail address, and may share a story or tell how St. John Brebeuf made an impact on their life.

**Plans are under way** for the St. John Brebeuf class of 1978 (Niles) to hold a 30-year reunion. Many alumni still have not been found. Anyone who knows someone from the class may call Sandie Lindquist-Beirwaltes, (847) 965-6725, or e-mail [andiellb@hotmail.com](mailto:andiellb@hotmail.com).

### MAINE SENIORS

**The Maine Township MainStreamers** program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the MainStreamers monthly newsletter, which details activities for the upcoming month. Most activities are at Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, unless otherwise noted. For information contact the MainStreamers, (847) 297-2510, or go to [www.maintownship.com](http://www.maintownship.com).

**A day trip** is planned to view Those Fabulous 50's, Part 2 at the Fireside Theatre, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin Feb. 11. The excursion is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Enjoy the immortal greats like Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Holly, Dave Brubeck, Dizzy Gillespie and more. Lunch before the show. Trip Rate 1. Cost is \$86 members, \$91 guests. All Day Trips depart from Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles.

**Jazzercise** is offered from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, through March 3, at Golf Maine Park District, 8800 Kathy Lane, Niles. It combines dance moves with low-impact aerobics and toning work. Cost is \$70 for 16 classes or \$35 for eight

classes (no class Feb. 24). If interested in attending, call Therese at (847) 297-2510.

**A trip to see "Happy Days A New Musical"** at the Marcus Center in Milwaukee, Wis., is on tap from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 11. Prior to the show guests will enjoy a buffet at the Marcus Center that features garden greens with dressings, fresh fruit bowl, American potato salad, beef burgundy, tilapia fillet in lemon butter, garlic mashed potatoes, vegetables and assorted cheesecakes for dessert. Cost is \$92, members; \$97, guests. All Day Trips depart from Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles.

**Maine Township** is asking for assistance in locating good, reliable handymen in the area. If you know of someone and would like to submit a name, contact Therese Tully, (847) 297-2510, Ext. 260, and she will forward a form to complete.

**Maine Township**, in cooperation with the Cook County Sheriff's Office, is collecting used cell phones to be converted for emergency 911 use for seniors. **Donate phones at Maine Town Hall.**

### SENIOR CENTER

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

### SUPPORT

**A Widowed Support** Group is an ongoing support group that addresses losses faced by persons, as a general guideline, who have been widowed less than two years. It will meet at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month: Jan. 13 and 27, Feb. 10 and 24, March 10 and 24, at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N.

Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. Cost is \$5 per session. For more information, call (847) 685-9900.

**A Younger Widowed** Support Group for widowed persons 55 years of age or younger with dependent children, will meet at 7 p.m. Jan. 13, Feb. 10 and March 10 at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. Cost is \$5 per session. For more information, call (847) 685-9900.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meetings will take place from 9 to 10 a.m. Sundays, Jan. 11, 18 and 25, in Resurrection Medical Center, 7435 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, Health Management Classroom (Professional Building, Entrance C, first floor). This is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other to solve their common problem and help others recover from alcoholism. Family, friends and anyone interested are welcome to attend. No registration is required. There is no charge.

**An Alzheimer's Support** Group will meet from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 12 in the Health Management Classroom (Professional Building, Entrance C, first floor) of Resurrection Medical Center, 7435 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. Meetings take place the second Monday of each month. Everyone is welcome. No registration is required. Admission is free.

**Rainbow Hospice** and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, will present "Adult Loss of Sibling," a six-session group for adults grieving the loss of a sibling, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 17 and 31, Feb. 14 and 28 and March 14. Fee is \$90 for six sessions. For more information, call (847) 685-9900.

**Advocate Lutheran General's** Adult Day Care service will offer holiday help for caregivers while they go on holiday shopping, bake

cookies or get some work done. The program is filled with activities and good cheer. It is located at Advocate Lutheran General Family Care Center, 9375 Church St. in Des Plaines. Call (847) 824-5143 for more information.

**The Counseling Center** of Advocate Medical Group offers a free Healing Our Lost Dreams (HOLD) support group twice a month for people who have experienced pregnancy and infant loss. Meetings are from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the center, 1610 Luther Lane, Park Ridge. Parents, grandparents and other adult family members are invited. For more information call (847) 795-3100.

### TEEN CENTER

**The Niles Youth Council** is a group of teens from sixth through 12th grade who provide support and advice on Teen Center programming, develop leadership skills and work to serve the Niles community. They meet the first and third Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Stop to check them out. Call (847) 375-8949, for more information. The Teen Center is located at 373 Golf Mill Center in Niles.

**The Teen Center** is working with the Niles Senior Center to find teenagers willing to help senior citizens with leaf raking, snow shoveling and general yard work while earning money. Complete the Niles Teen Job Connection form available on the center Web site and return it to Mark at the center. Information will be shared with the director of the center and contacts will be made with residents in need of services.

**Register your bike** through the Niles Teen Center or Niles Police Department. Every year the Niles Police Department accumulates a number of lost or stolen bikes and is forced to sell them at an auction because their own-

ers cannot be identified. By registering your bike, you are issued a Village of Niles Police Department sticker and your bicycle's information is entered into a national database allowing the Police Department to reconnect you if it is ever lost or stolen.

### VOLUNTEERS

**Junior Achievement of Chicago** is a non profit organization focused on inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in the global economy. Volunteers from businesses are trained and given materials to go into a classroom and teach students from kindergarten through high school about financial literacy, and entrepreneurship work readiness skills. Partnerships have been formed with some teachers at Niles North, Central and West High Schools for JA programs this school year. But, volunteers are needed. Each program consists of five visits to the classroom for about 45 to 50 minutes each. If you are interested, contact Kristin Goodwin, operations manager, Junior Achievement of Chicago at (708)456-1400 Ext. 245, or e-mail: [kgoodwin@jachicago.org](mailto:kgoodwin@jachicago.org) or visit [www.jachicago.org](http://www.jachicago.org).

**Porchlight Counseling Services** is looking for volunteers to join its 2009 event committee. The group of local women and men donate their time and talents by organizing the annual fund-raising event. The committee meets the first Monday of every month in Wilmette. The atmosphere is friendly and fun. As a result of these efforts many young rape survivors are able to get professional counseling they need to heal and go on with life. For more information about Porchlight go to [www.porchlightcounseling.org](http://www.porchlightcounseling.org). For information about this committee contact Executive Director, Laura Sabino, [laura@porchlight-counseling.org](mailto:laura@porchlight-counseling.org), or call (847) 864-1557.

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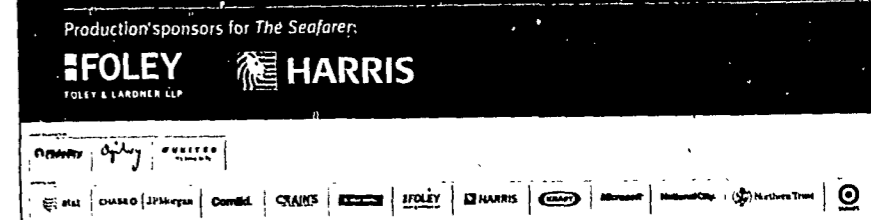
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# Local Death Notices

## Death Notices

**Faherty, Joan D.**  
Joan D. Faherty, age 74 of Park Ridge, was the beloved wife of the late Daniel A.; loving mother of Anne Faherty and Katie (Christopher) Arman; devoted grandmother of Matt and Joseph Arman; fond sister of Jim Dalley. Memorial visitation was held Monday, Dec. 29 at Ryan-Parke Funeral Home, 120 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date in St. Louis, MO. For further info, 847-823-1171.  
*Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com*

**Misener, Mildred Louise**  
Mildred Louise "Mid" Misener, age 94, a long-time member of the First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge, IL, was born in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. The beloved wife of the late Andrew Grant Misener, D.V.M.; loving mother of Kenneth (Beth), the late Robert (Gayle) and Andrew; devoted grandmother of David (Lena), Lynn, Melissa, and Robert and great-grandmother of Matthew, Aaron, Hannah, and Sarah. Visitation and funeral service were held Monday, Dec. 29 at Ryan-Parke Funeral Home, 120 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge. Interment Ridgewood Cemetery. Memorials to Midwest Palliative & Hospice Care Center, 2050 Claire Court, Glenview, IL 60025-2050.  
*Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com*

**Funeral Directors and Associated Services**

## Death Notices

**Stellar, Bernard M.**  
Bernard M. Stellar, age 92, a lifetime resident of Morton Grove, IL, passed away December 27, 2008, in Skokie, at the Midwest Palliative and Hospice Care Center. He was born in Morton Grove October 6, 1916. Visitation was Tuesday Dec. 30, 2008 and funeral was Wednesday, at Simkins Funeral Home, 6251 Dempster Street, Morton Grove, IL. Deacon Peter Meehan officiated. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery, Skokie. Loving husband to Irene, nee Huscher; father to Bernard (Deborah) Stellar, Jr., and Carlynn (the late Bill) Carey; grandfather to Merril (John) Lynch, Jeannine Carey, William (Theresa) Carey Jr., Victoria (Gary) Newrot and Jennifer (William) Stecker; and great-grandfather of four. Bernard was an Assemblist, and served in the U.S. Army during WWII, receiving a Purple Heart after being wounded at Guadalcanal. He was a member of the Skokie V.F.W. #3854, 132nd Infantry Regiment, and the Morton Grove Historical Society. The family suggests memorials to The Morton Grove Historical Society, P.O. Box 542, Morton Grove, IL 60053; or Midwest Palliative and Hospice Care Center, 9701 Knox Ave., Skokie, IL 60076.  
*Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com*

## Death Notices

**Stolle, Eileen**  
Eileen Stolle, 90, passed away on Dec. 30, 2008 in Toombsboro, GA. A Chicago native, she moved to Georgia in 2000. She is survived by sons: Wayne (Joy) Weber of Dublin, GA; Ron (Janet) Stolle of Hudson, OH; and Ernest (Christa) Stolle of Des Plaines; plus 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Sharon Smith, first husband Walter Weber who was killed in WWII, and second husband III. State Rep. Hellmut W. Stolle. For years, she & her husband operated Stolle's Bakery & Delicatessen on Chicago's northwest side. Also preceding her in death were parents Henry and Frieda Wray and only sibling, Naomi Swansbrough. Arrangements were handled by Townsend Bros. Funeral Home of Dublin, GA. Cremation has taken place with eventual interment at Eden Park Cemetery, Schiller Park, IL.  
*Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com*

## Death Notices

**Wochinski, Bruce Conrad**  
Bruce, age 69, a resident of Park Ridge. The beloved husband of Charlotte, nee Wolfinger; proud father of Todd (Becky), Kim and the late Jeffrey (Tammy); loving grandfather "Bob Bob" of Jeanette, Maegan, Greg, Lily, Nolan, and Kirsten; fond brother of Ron; dear friend to many. Uncle Bruce will be missed by many nieces and nephews. Founder of Conrad, Craig, and Martin, Chicago, IL. Visitation was Tuesday, Dec. 30. Funeral was Wednesday, Dec. 31 from Ryan-Parke Funeral Home, 120 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge, to St. Paul of the Cross Church for mass. Interment private.  
*Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com*

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# Sports

MANAGING EDITOR: Rick Hibbert  
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## NOTRE DAME ROUNDUP

# Dons bolt into new year with victory

By JIM EDISON  
jedison@pioneerlocal.com

After finishing 2008 with a pair of heart-breaking losses, Notre Dame bolted into 2009 in top fashion.

Playing at Joliet Catholic Saturday night, the Dons rolled over the host Hilltoppers 67-57. It was a solid ESCC victory and provides ND with some momentum for what will be a busy month.

Shawn Wallace sparked the attack with 28 points and seven rebounds. Mike DiGregorio added another 11 points.

With the victory, the Dons hoisted their record to 8-3 overall and 2-1 in the ESCC. Notre Dame also had a good performance a week earlier at the Wheeling Wildcat Hardwood Classic, finishing 2-2.

The Dons opened the 16-team tournament with a 78-74 victory over Steamwood Dec. 21. Wallace poured in 22 points

while Dallas Moreland scored 17 and DiGregorio had 16.

In the second round, ND squared off with league rival St. Viator and captured a hard-fought 53-52 triumph. DiGregorio took scoring honors with 18 points, while Jimmy Martin added 17.

Playing Naperville Central — the defending tournament champion — in the semifinals Dec. 26, the Dons were edged 70-69. Martin exploded for 27 points and Billy Hughes had 12.

In the battle for third place Dec. 27, the Dons lost a 81-80 duel with North Chicago. Wallace had 24 points and DiGregorio added 15.

The Dons will try to make it two in row over St. Viator when they travel to Arlington Heights for a 7:30 p.m. start on Friday.

## WRESTLING

Coach Augie Genovesi has to be hoping his

team will gain that all-important element of consistency as the season moves into its second half.

The Dons finished off 2008 in positive way when they hosted New Trier and captured a solid 42-27 victory in Niles Dec. 30.

On Saturday, Genovesi's squad opened the new year with mixed results at the Buffalo Grove Quad. The Dons lost to the host Bison 40-28 and the No. 2-ranked team in the state, Crystal Lake Central 49-9. The Dons did manage to salvage the day with a 67-8 win over Proviso East.

"We now have everybody at their correct weight classes," Genovesi said. "So I am confident we will be a better team overall. We are now 16-8 (in dual meets) and with nine duals and two tournaments left before the Glenbrook South Regional (Feb. 7)."

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



Notre Dame's Jake Everly (left) drives to the basket during the Dons' 80-58 win over Marian Catholic at home Dec. 5. After falling to St. Patrick in overtime Friday night, ND bounced back with a 70-62 victory over Morgan Park on Sunday.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Maine East picks up first win of season

By JIM EDISON  
jedison@pioneerlocal.com

It was a long wait, but when Maine East's girls basketball team won its first game of the season in late December, there was a giant sigh of relief and satisfaction.

Playing in the St. Viator Holiday Tournament in Arlington Heights Dec. 20-27, the Demons finally notched a win when they toppled Elmwood Park 44-42 in the second round of the eight-team tourney. It was, to say the least, a joyous occasion for coach

Karol Hanusiak and her squad.

"It was a close game," Hanusiak said. "We were actually down by four (points) with about 30 seconds left. They took a bad shot and we got the rebound and scored. Then we got a steal and scored

to tie. And they we scored again off a rebound.

"It was really nice to get that win (Dec. 23) just before the two-day break for Christmas. I know the girls were very happy and it seemed to give them a little more confidence when we came back.

"And even though we lost our last two games, we played very competitive."

According to Hanusiak, two players who have been sparking the team are **Laura Wise** and **Tiffany Jones**. Wise has been averaging 12 points and Jones has averaged 10 re-

bounds. The Demons returned to regular-season play Saturday when they visited Resurrection for a nonconference game. The host Bandits defeated East 58-38.

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

HIGH FIVES

Northridge wins title

The Northridge Varsity basketball team defeated Class 4A McHenry High School 31-27 in the championship game at the Third Annual Grant Holiday Tournament.

CATCH THIS

Baseball sign-up

The Niles Baseball League will begin registration for the upcoming season from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Golf View Recreation Center, 7800 N. Caldwell Ave.

MAINE EAST ROUNDUP

Demons place sixth at invite

By JIM EDISON
jedison@pioneerlocal.com
Longtime coach Scott Guilfoil wasn't sure what to expect from his athletes when they returned to competition after a two-week hiatus.

very good swimmers," Guilfoil said. "And we recorded a lot of season-best times. I was very encouraged by what I saw.
"And on Monday, we had a great practice. I think the guys are hungry to improve on how they started the new year."



Maine East's Sean Walker competes in the 200-yard freestyle during a meet with Maine South.

ICE HOCKEY

Ice Dons freezing out opposition

The two-week holiday break to rest and heal appeared to be just what Notre Dame needed as both the varsity and JV squads crushed their opponents last week.
The varsity Dons defeated St. Patrick 8-1 on Saturday and St. Viator 4-3 in overtime on Sunday, while the JV team beat Mount Carmel 7-3 and Joliet Catholic 6-0.

was St. Pat's goalie Giancarlo Bonfazi.
Notre Dame was led on offense by center Johnny Blas (2 goals, 3 assists), Tim VanDermeir, Mike Coca, Alex Murphy, Ben Pecoraro, Grant Robertson, Jeff Levar and Tom O'Brien also put the biscuit in the net. Matt Dunne, VanDermeir and Sean Corcoran each posted two assists, and Anthony Iovino had one helper. Ryan Maize was in net.

the game on a goal by Blas with assists from VanDermeir and Murphy. The Lions then scored on a power play goal to tie the game, and then took a 2-1 lead before Kyle Gronset scored on assists from Steven Leick and David Swearingen to make it 2-2.
Notre Dame regained the lead at 3-2 in the third period on a goal by Levar, assisted by Kevin Orchard and Leick. But Viator knotted the score at 3-3 to force overtime. With 2:45 remaining in OT, Orchard scored the game-winner from John Blas and Anthony Lupo.

thony Lupo.
Jeremy Krautstrunk, returning from a pulled groin muscle that occurred in mid-December, was the winning goalie with 32 saves. The Dons (40-9-3) have a home game set for 6:40 p.m. Saturday at Iceland in Niles.
Scoring for the JV squad against Mount Carmel were Jeff Levar (2 goals), Peter Prestia, David Fabris, Dino Loverde and Kyle Gronset. Assists were credited to Brandon Taylor, Kevin Flynn, Jerry Lauricella and Liam Healy. Loverde notched three as-

sists and Fabris had two. Kevyn Frost made 26 saves in goal.
Tallying goals in the win over Joliet Catholic were Fabris (2 goals, 4 assists), Vince Pergande, Loverde, Nico Lazzaroni, Nick Dziadosz and David. Assists were credited to Peter Prestia (2), Lauricella and Lazzaroni. Frost made 12 saves in the JV Dons' third consecutive league victory.
The JV Dons will face Maine Township Jan. 12 and Lake Zurich Jan. 13 at Iceland.

Soccer videos posted on Pioneerlocal.com

By Jon Yee Contributor
People first and soccer players second.
Although not officially the motto of the Grove United Soccer Club, the community-based organiza-

tion prides itself on the strong relationships it has developed among trainers, parents and athletes. Now in its third year, Grove United was formed from individual teams around Buffalo Grove and Long Grove and continues to grow each

season.
Several Grove United players from various age groups will soon have the opportunity to participate in a series of instructional skill-training videos that will be posted on the Pioneer Press Web site. The clips

will highlight specific skills that are important to soccer training and development, and the videos will also give the young players a chance to show off their burgeoning talents on film.
"The kids are really excited about filming the

videos," said Dave Hart, who serves as the boys director of coaching. "It will give the kids some exposure and it should be a lot of fun."
The club currently has boys and girls teams which run from the under-8 through the under-18 age levels and it also maintains an under-23 women's team.

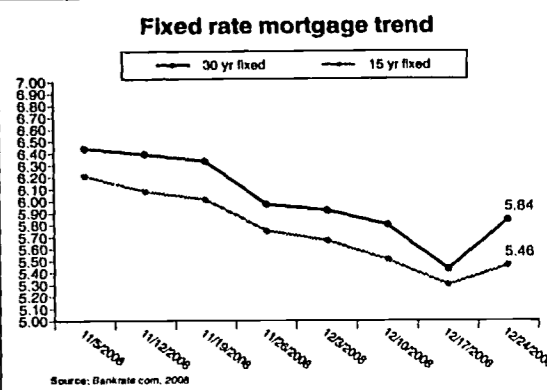
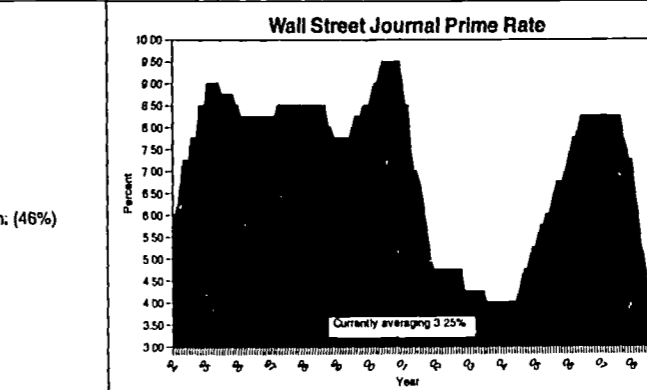
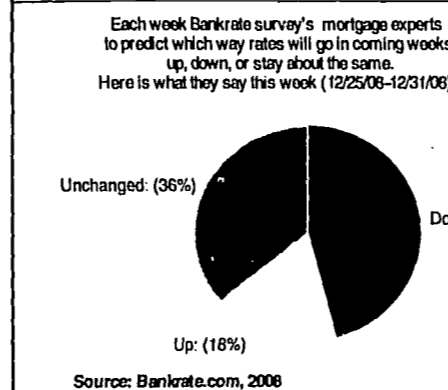
While Grove United sent 12 players (7 boys and 5 girls) into the college ranks last year alone, scholarships and wins and losses are not the club's primary aims.
To view the soccer training videos, visit www.pioneerlocal.com/video/.
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Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide

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Table with mortgage rates from various lenders including United Home Loans, Glenview State Bank, The Glen Financial, Inc., Park Ridge Community Bank, and Third Coast Mortgage LLC. Columns include Program, Rate, Points, Fees, % Down, and APR.



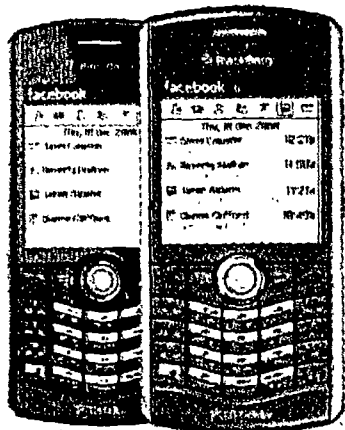
LENDERS, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FEATURE CALL BANKRATE.COM SALES DEPARTMENT @ 800-509-4636

MORTGAGE UPDATE

Mortgage refinances surge By Holden Lewis • Bankrate.com
Mortgage rates went up this week from near- Almost no one is getting an ARM nowadays. boom of 2003 and 2004, when almost everyone record lows as brokers and bankers scrambled Adjustable-rate mortgages accounted for 1 in with a mortgage refinanced, and a lot of people to keep up with an influx of applications. 125 loan applications last week, according to refinanced more than once. But now there are The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage the Mortgage Bankers Association. Not only fewer people in the mortgage business -- and, rose 42 basis points to 5.84 percent, according are initial rates on ARMs higher than those on therefore, fewer people to accept applications to the Bankrate.com national survey of large fixed-rate mortgages, borrowers are wary of and process the loan paperwork. lenders. A basis point is one-hundredth of getting loans with rates that could rise in the As loan applications pile up on brokers' and 1 percentage point. The mortgages in this future. loan officers' desks, it becomes important to week's survey had an average total of 0.39 Last week's surge in mortgage applications make sure that your application gets moved discount and origination points. One year ago, came mostly from homeowners who wanted to along instead of languishing near the bottom the mortgage index was 6.31 percent; four refinance their home loans. According to the of the stack of papers. That makes it important weeks ago, it was 5.97 percent. MBA, overall applications were up 48 percent to get the paperwork in as quickly as possible. The benchmark 15-year fixed-rate mortgage last week as refi applications grew almost 63 If the lender wants tax returns, deliver them rose 16 basis points to 5.46 percent. The percent and purchase applications rose about fast. Cooperate with the appraiser by returning benchmark 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgage rose 11 percent. phone calls and being flexible with your 11 basis points to 5.95 percent. This refi boomlet isn't on the scale of the long schedule.

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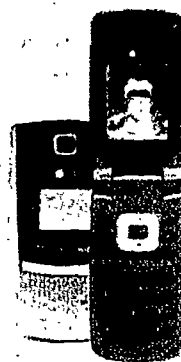


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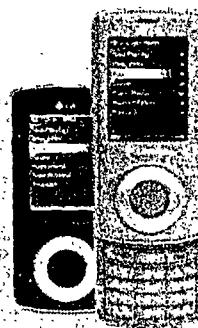


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