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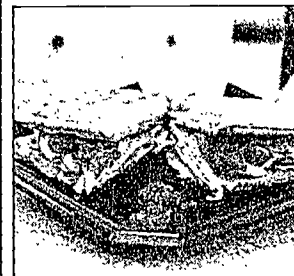
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BOXED INN

Marvin Bornschlegl, of Niles, adviser to the Oakton Community College Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter, and Jumi Lee, of Niles, co-president of the chapter, put up a "shanty" made of cardboard outside the Skokie campus to raise awareness about homelessness Nov. 10. PAGE 12. | RYAN PAGELOW-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

INSIDE



WAFFLING AROUND

Breakfast treat gets a savory reputation
PAGE 36



THINGS ARE HEATING UP

The Unemployee puts out fires at safety school
PAGE 13

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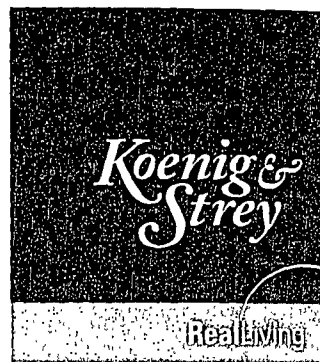
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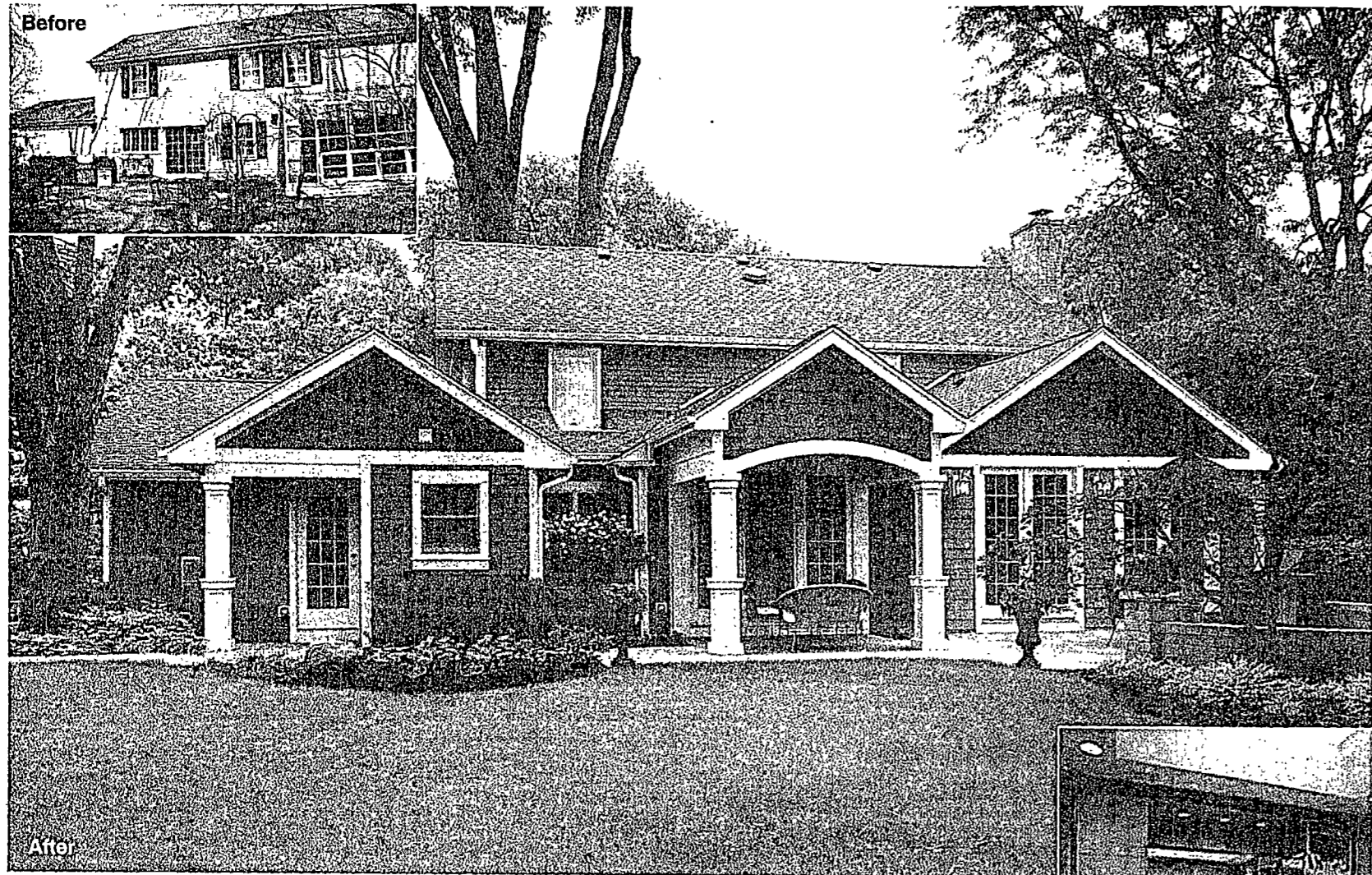
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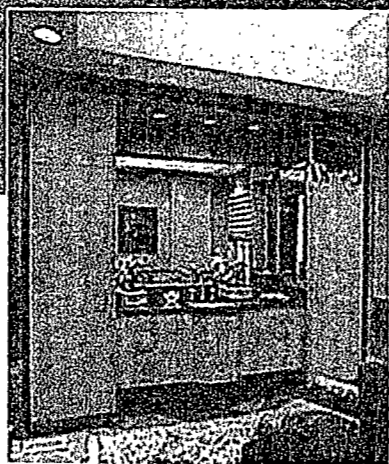


 Niles \$649,900 Stately 3 br, 3.5 ba brick ranch on extra large lot w/circle drive. Updated kit & baths. Master suite. Library/office w/bookshelving.	 Morton Grove \$559,000 Stylish 4-7BR, 4 1/2 BA offers hardwood flrs, gourmet maple & granite kitchen, 1st flr BR & BA, stunning master, finished lower level, & more	 Morton Grove \$375,000 3 br, 3 ba Georgian. Awesome addition & rehab in 2005. Hdwd flrs, mstr w/balc, island kit. Newer 2-car gar, roof, appl, furnace, air.	 Niles \$375,000 Multi-level 4 br, 2.5 ba. Lrg foyer, liv rm w/cath cell & fam rm. Sliders to patio. Wbrp. EA. Hdwd flrs. Furn&a/c 2005, roof 2002. 2-car gar.
Debbie Domic CRS, GRI 8917Lesington Info 847-724-5800	Marla Schneider 847-724-5800	Douglas Stitt 847-222-6884	Gilda Edelstein 847-446-4000 x1037
 Morton Grove \$359,000 Spacious 3 br, 1.5 ba home on tree-lined street. Main flr fam rm w/vaul cell, tpic. New roof, carpet & refin hdwd flrs. 2-car gar. Lrg mstr.	 Niles \$349,900 2,400 sq ft bungalow w/5 br, 2.5 ba, liv rm w/wbrp, updated kit w/stainless appl, fenced back yard w/patio & nice landscaping. Near park.	 Niles \$349,000 Attractive 4 br, 2+ ba Colonial. Main flr fam rm, mstr w/walk-in closet, bsmt rec rm, new kit appl, hdwd flrs under carpet, new roof.	 Morton Grove \$345,000 2 br, 2.5 ba townhome unit in a desirable location. Double vaulted & 9' ceilings. Huge finished bsmt. Master suite w/walk-in closet.
Eileen Hoban 847-724-5800	Jennifer Barcal 847-384-7503	Bill Alston 847-384-5840	Christina Zentner 847-866-8200
 Skokie \$259,900 Wonderful 5 br, 2 ba home w/versatile flr plan w/lots of space. Lovely liv rm w/tpic & lrg fam rm w/tpic & sliders to patio & lrg fenced yd.	 Morton Grove \$239,000 Charming 4 br, 1.5 ba home w/architectural details abound in the liv rm w/bay. Separate din rm, updated kit w/new counters & cabinets.	 Niles \$229,375 2 br, 2 ba brick ranch w/heated enclosed porch off kitchen, att 1-car garage w/storage space. Fin basement w/storage space. Newer furnace, c/a.	 Morton Grove \$229,000 2 br, 2 ba unit w/open floor plan. Eat-in kitchen & bright living/dining room w/new oak window casing. Large master suite & heated garage.
Alan Leibovitz 847-277-2275	Janis Pettier 6014GroveCt.info 847-425-3745	Elayne Weinberg Abr Sres 708-867-5757	Candace Kuzmarsi 847-866-8200
 Morton Grove \$215,000 Home in a great neighborhood and schools in Morton Grove! Updated w/new bath, newer windows, new 2-car garage & new fenced yard.	 Morton Grove \$215,000 Nicely-kept 2 br brick ranch across from park. Large eat in kitchen. Very large fam rm w/fireplace & 3 large picture windows. Liv din combo.	 Morton Grove \$215,000 Spacious 2 br, 2 ba condo w/many upgrades & open split flr plan. Mstr w/ba & lrg walk-in closet, eat-in kitchen, in-unit laundry, gar prkg.	 Morton Grove \$215,000 Solid brick 3 br ranch w/att gar. Hdwd flrs, kit/dinette. Full bsmt. Newer furn, c/a & windows. Security system. Close to bus & shopping.
Virginia Puchner 847-384-7549	Ruth Hagan 5747Main.info 847-753-6243	Sharon Dolezal 8400Calle404.info 847-361-0864	Barbara Mundt 847-384-5805
 Niles \$209,950 3 br solid brick ranch located in Park Ridge School District. 3rd br/sep din rm. Many recent appl. Extra-lrg 2.5-car gar. Deep yard w/shed.	 Skokie \$209,000 3 br 2 ba home w/eat-in kit w/new stove & micro. Full master ba w/some updates. New furnace, huge LL. fam rm. Pretty tree-lined street.	 Skokie \$200,000 Sunny & inviting 3 br, 1.5 ba Georgian w/hdwd flrs thru-out, sep din rm & fam rm on 1st flr, fin basement, gar & fenced yard. Quiet street.	 Morton Grove \$180,000 Rare 3 br, 2 ba contemporary rustic ranch w/exp wd beams. Gas flp, newer appl. Pro landscaped, huge fenced yard & large patio. Att carport.
Basil Paoulos 847-696-0700	Karen Long 847-866-8200	Peggy Beck 8221Kedvale.info 847-866-8200	Connie Redelsperger 773-467-5300
 Morton Grove \$149,000 Lovely 2 br, 2 ba condo w/neutral decor. Newer appliances & counter tops in kit & balcony from eating area & liv rm. Spacious master suite.	 Morton Grove \$145,000 Recently painted & carpeted updated bright 2 br, 2 ba 4th flr end-unit. Large liv/din w/loads of nat light, lrg mstr w/walk-in closet & ba.	 Niles \$124,900 Largest unit in complex 2 br, 2.5 ba unit feat new carpet, window treatments, fresh paint, newer a/c units. 2 balc. Ample closets & ba.	 Morton Grove \$122,900 Lovely 1 br condo w/private balc w/courtyard view. Newer appl, mstr w/sep dressing area. Close to shops & trans. 1 indoor + 1 outdoor prkg.
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LocalNews

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NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Prescription drug dangers on rise for youths

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

Prescription-drug use is an increasing concern and on Oct. 26 at Notre Dame High School, Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene gave a presentation to make parents aware of the related dangers.

Tornabene said some of the common prescription drugs youngsters are using include Vicodin, Xanax and Oxycontin.

According to Tornabene's report, one in 16 high school seniors abuse over-the-counter drugs. Statistics also show that every 14 minutes a life is claimed from prescription-drug overdose.

Tornabene said many children buy or steal drugs from a store, or get them from their friends or from their parents' bathroom cabinet.

"It's happening right at home," Tornabene warned.

"Visits to the ER have gone up dramatically," Tornabene said of prescription-drug overdose.

Locally, Tornabene said that although Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge did not disclose a specific number, it indicated that incidences are increasing.

During the talk Tornabene presented a slide show with pictures of famous actresses and actors who used drugs, and then showed the graphic realistic photos of people who use drugs and how it affects their appearance and health.

Tornabene said drugs can cause a variety of health issues, such as an irregular heartbeat, high blood pressure, weight loss, agitation, seizures and death.

Margaret Polovchak, of the Maine Community Youth

Association Foundation, said prescription-drug use in schools in Maine Township had increased slightly so she feels it's important to keep monitoring the situation.

Polovchak said it's important for youngsters making transitions, such as going from junior high school to high school, to have the support they need.

In a 2010 MYCAF survey of Maine Township students, participants were asked if they have used prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription within the past year. The results for 12th-graders revealed that 1 percent have used steroids once or twice; 2 percent have used "uppers" like Ritalin; 2 percent have used "downers" like Valium once or twice; and 3 percent used other prescription drugs such as Oxycontin once or twice.

"Kids have a misperception that, 'Everyone's doing it but me,'" Polovchak said.

Social worker Elisa Cisneros, who works with students at local schools through MCYAF, also attended the program.

"This was extremely helpful," Cisneros said. "I'm definitely concerned with the access of prescription drugs."

So what can parents do to help make sure their children stay away from prescription drugs?

Tornabene said they can tell their children never to share medicine; buy a locker for prescription drugs; monitor pills and keep track of refills; be a good role model; and stay connected with their children, know their children's friends and be their children's parent rather than a friend.

MAINE EAST VARIETY SHOW



Nick Levy and Randy Lawrence perform the song, "Lighters," for Maine East High School's V-Show, "Straight From the Console." The show ran Nov. 3-5 at the Park Ridge school. PAGE 6. | ROB HART-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Chicago library cuts may spell trouble for suburbs

BY IRV LEAVITT
leavitt@pioneerlocal.com

Cuts to the Chicago Public Library's budget may reverberate through the suburbs, where many Chicago residents use local libraries through reciprocal borrowing privileges.

Librarians expect those cuts, if they go through, to not only reduce the number of hours Chicago branch libraries are open, but also cut the number of books Chicago buys, and the ability to get borrowed books back to the suburbs after Chicagoans return them.

All three eventualities could affect how well also-burdened suburban libraries perform.

About 10 percent of the Niles Public Library's circulation goes to Chicago cardholders, who are among the library's best patrons, library Director Linda Weiss said. Few late fees, few unreturned books. But if hours go down and collections aren't kept up in nearby Chicago branches, that could bring new

Chicagoans into her big library on Oakton Avenue.

"I think it's a possibility it would be a bigger burden," she said Monday. "We may have to think about limits (to how many books non-residents could take out at one time). That's something we would be looking at."

In Lincolnwood, about 14 percent of the library circulation already goes to Chicago card-holders, Director Jack Hurwitz said. That's four times what moves to neighboring suburbs.

"Our Board will have a decision to make if it gets much worse," Hurwitz said.

"This is a decision the library makes: at what point do you reach the stage where Lincolnwood taxpayers are being asked to subsidize Chicago?"

"Frankly, I don't see how it couldn't" reach that point.

"We may very well take the step that Park Ridge and Skokie have."

Both towns no longer have reciprocal borrowing agreements with Chicago.

"What had happened years ago was that there was a large imbalance; there were many people from Chicago using Park Ridge's library, but not that many Park Ridge patrons using Chicago libraries," said Janet Van De Carr, Park Ridge library director.

"At the time the Board felt it was too much of a burden for so much of the Park Ridge library's collection going to one library system."

Similarly, Skokie hasn't allowed Chicagoans to take out its books for about two decades.

Skokie in September cut to three the number of items suburban non-residents can take out. Lincolnwood has a similar rule.

Though some suburban libraries are said to serve as de facto branches for Chicago residents, few have likely reached the point that Lincolnwood has.

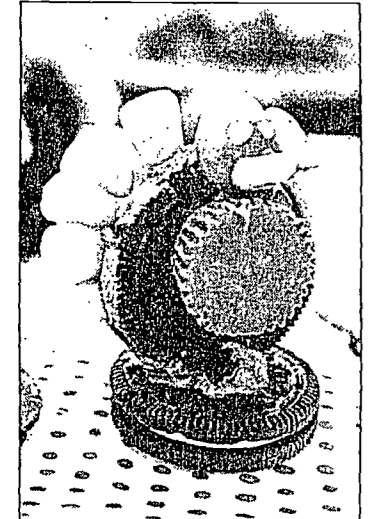
More often, suburban libraries re-

SEE CUTS, PAGE 17

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

THIS WEEK

Blockshopper21
 Calendar..... 25
 Diversions B1
 Family Friendly..... B2
 Film clips.....B4
 Fixer.....40
 Food.....36
 Maine township..... 8
 Photo feature 7
 Police blotter.....23
 Property transfers ..20
 Showtimes B5
 Sports46
 Suburboddy 13



MOMMY ON A SHOESTRING
 Thanksgiving treats you can't help but gobble up
PAGE 28

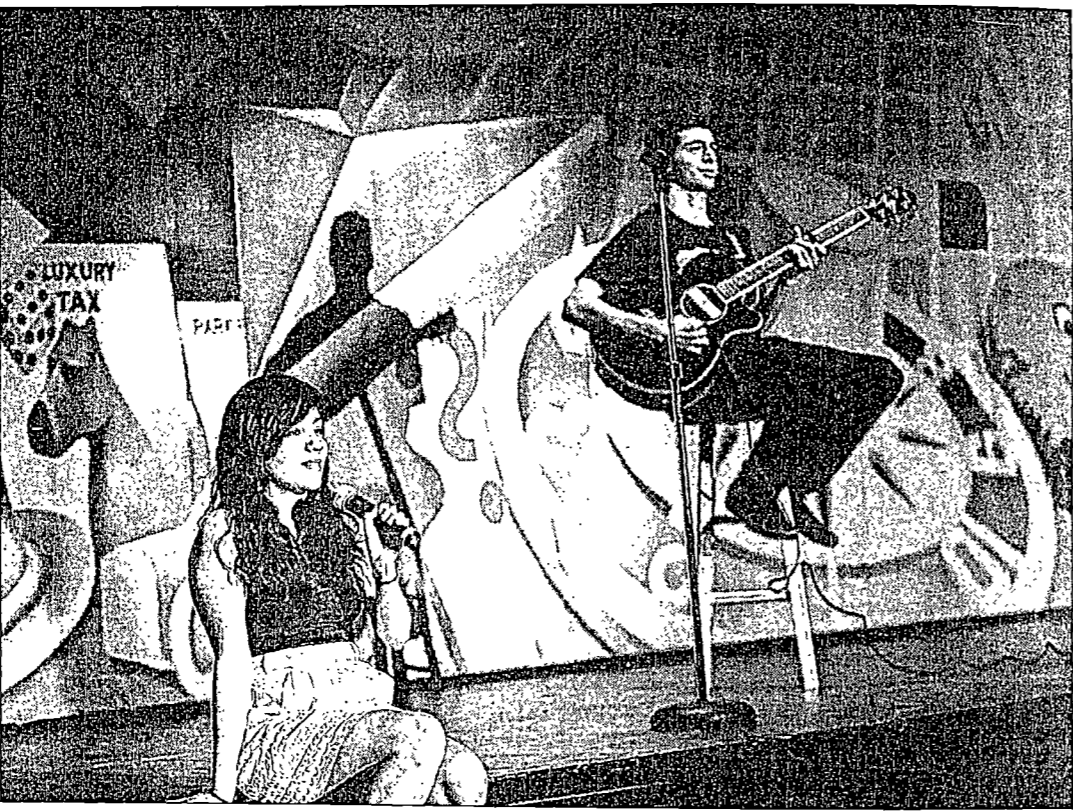
MAINE EAST

Variety show features talents of 200

Maine East High School in Park Ridge presented its annual variety show to audiences Nov. 3-5. The show, titled "Straight From the Console," featured a video-game theme. The cast included nearly 200 students performing songs, dances and acrobatics.



Marianna Veneri performs on the song "Lighters" for Maine East High School's V-Show, "Straight From the Console." | ROB HART-SUN-TIMES MEDIA



LEFT: The Demon Strings perform "Smooth Criminal" for Maine East High School's V-Show, "Straight From the Console," which ran Nov. 3-5. | ROB HART-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

ABOVE: Gaby Chavez and Marwan Abdellatif play "I Will Follow You into the Dark" for Maine East High School's V-Show. The show, entitled "Straight From the Console," ran Nov. 3-5 at the Park Ridge school. | ROB HART-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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NILES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Village ceremony honors service on Veterans Day

Members of Niles VFW Post No. 7712 held a ceremony Nov. 11 marking Veterans Day at the Niles Historical Museum. The annual ceremony to remember and honor Niles' military veterans had to be relocated this year due to landscaping work taking place at the Veterans Memorial Waterfall at Touhy and Milwaukee avenues.



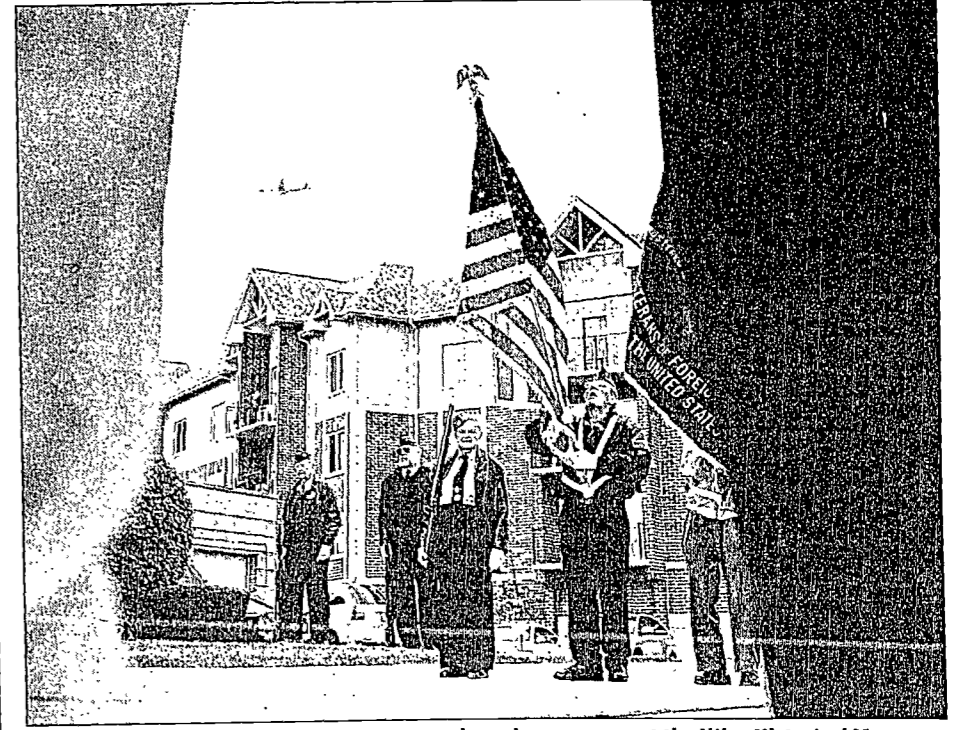
Members of the Niles VFW Post No. 7712 conducted a ceremony at the Niles Historical Museum in memory of Niles veterans. Bette Horstman is part of the color guard. She will be 90 years old next week. | TAMARA BELL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Members of the Niles VFW Post No. 7712 conducted a ceremony at the Niles Historical Museum in memory of Niles veterans. Navy Veteran Eugene Corr attends the event. | TAMARA BELL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Members of the Niles VFW Post No. 7712 conducted a ceremony at the Niles Historical Museum in memory of Niles veterans. Vietnam Veteran Eugene Kuffel attends the event. | TAMARA BELL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Members of the Niles VFW Post No. 7712 conducted a ceremony at the Niles Historical Museum in memory of Niles veterans. | TAMARA BELL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Maine Township's Teschky named Supervisor of Year

Maine Township Supervisor Carol A. Teschky was named Supervisor of the Year by the Illinois Township Association of Senior Centers Services Committee during the annual conference of Township Officials of Illinois on Nov. 8.

According to Maine Township, Teschky received the award based on her commitment to senior services.

Teschky was elected Maine Township trustee in 1989 and was appointed supervisor in 2007 upon the resignation of Supervisor Bob Dudyecz. She was elected supervisor in 2009 and is credited by Maine Township for developing and supporting a transportation service that subsidizes costs for seniors and the disabled. According to the township she has also advocated for Town



Maine Township Supervisor Carol A. Teschky (center) accepts an award from the Illinois Township Association of Senior Centers Services Committee, with MaineStay Director Evelyn Fennel and Mary Swanson, director of Mainstreamers. | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Board support of existing community senior programs and centers.

Established to address the need to enhance senior ser-

VICES for the growing number of seniors in Illinois communities, ITASCSC was officially recognized by the Township Officials of Illinois in 1982.

Maine Twp. trustee tabbed for state Civil Service panel

Maine Township Trustee Susan Moylan-Krey has been appointed a member of the Illinois Civil Service Commission by Gov. Pat Quinn.

Moylan-Krey has served as a township trustee since 2007 and before that she held the post of township collector. She is a liaison to the Maine Township Neighborhood Watch and is involved in organizing the annual National Night Out event at

Dee Park. A resident of Des Plaines, Moylan-Krey is also vice president of the Des Plaines Public Library Board of Trustees. She has worked as real-estate broker for 22 years.

The five-member Illinois Civil Service Commission hears and determines employee appeals of discharges, suspensions, transfers, layoffs and demotions, according to the state website.



Susan Moylan-Krey

BUSINESS

Maine Township bank taken over

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

A small bank in unincorporated Maine Township has been taken over by another financial institution.

All American Bank, 9380 W. Ballard Road, was closed Oct. 29 by the Illinois Department of Finance and Professional Regulation's

Division of Banking.

It has since reopened as International Bank of Chicago, which assumed All American Bank's deposits and purchased the failed bank's \$37.8 million in assets, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation stated in a news release.

All American Bank had just one branch, which was

the Maine Township location. It opened in 2006 and had been known for catering to the area's large immigrant population, in part by employing workers who spoke several different languages.

International Bank of Chicago has branches in Bellwood and Stone Park, and two branches in Chicago.

DISTRICT 207

School board OKs tentative 3.4-percent levy hike

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

The Maine Township High School District 207 Board of Education on this month approved a tentative tax levy that is 3.39 percent higher than the 2010 levy, despite a board member's call for no increase.

"I would like to propose a

tax freeze," board member Ed Mueller said.

Mueller said he would like to see a 10-year tax freeze, but his amendment was only for no increase in this year's levy.

District 207 taxes comprise about 25 percent of homeowners taxes. On a tax bill of \$6,000, District 207's levy accounts for \$1,500.

The proposed levy would

increase the amount by 1.5 percent, or \$22.50. The total amount expected to be generated by the tax levy is \$106,038,952.

Board Member Eric Leys also voted for no levy hike, while the other five board members supported the proposed increase.

Mueller said that, since he has been on the board, officials have levied the maximum amount and he doesn't see a reason for it.

"The whole thing is disconnected from reality," Mueller said.

The increase in the tentative levy is expected to bring in about \$2.7 million more each year.

Board President Sean Sullivan pointed out that the mon-

ey generated from the property taxes supports the students.

"We're very fortunate we've got the casino coming on board this year," said Mary Kalou, assistant superintendent for business services.

"We've estimated our new growth is going to be \$65 million in equalized assessed valuation; \$40 million of that is related to the casino," Kalou

said. Kalou said that of the \$2.7 million in additional revenue, \$1.2 million is because of new property.

The school district has a budgeted deficit of nearly \$1 million for the 2011-12 school year.

A public hearing for the tax levy will be held at the December board meeting.

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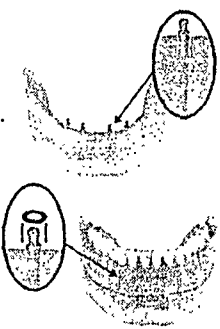
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REAL ESTATE

Nearly half of all Chicago-area homes worth less than is owed

A new report shows 46.2 percent of single-family homeowners in the Chicago metropolitan area in the third quarter had negative equity, meaning homeowners owed more on their mortgages than their homes were worth.

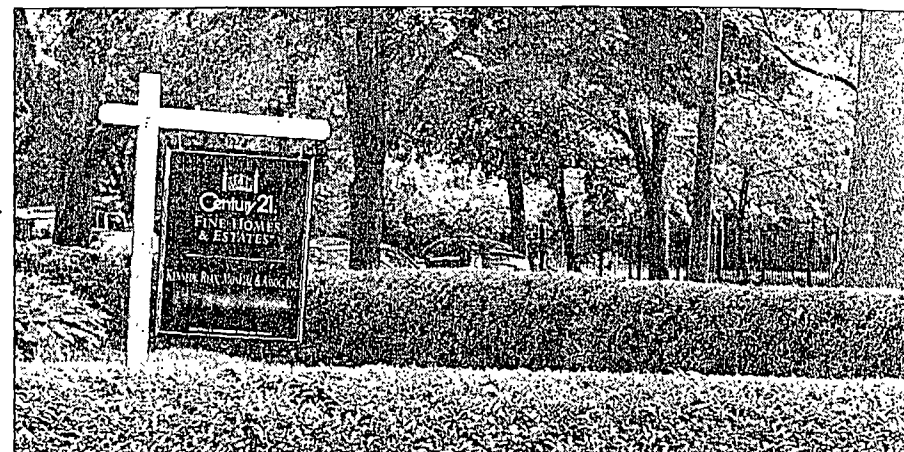
That represents an increase from 32.9 percent a year earlier, according to the report from Zillow Inc.

It also is up from 42.2 percent in the second quarter.

The report showed home values dropped 9 percent from the third quarter of 2010 and dipped 1.1 percent from the second quarter.

Home values have fallen 37.4 percent since their peak in July 2006 and are now back to the level they were in December 2000, according to Zillow.

The report showed 43.4 percent of all homes sold in



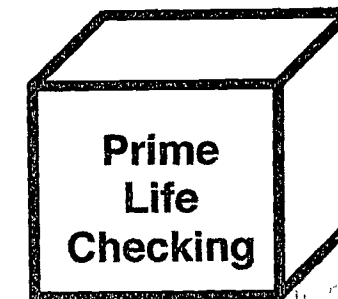
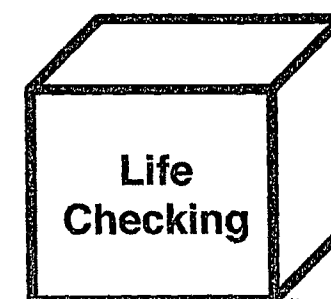
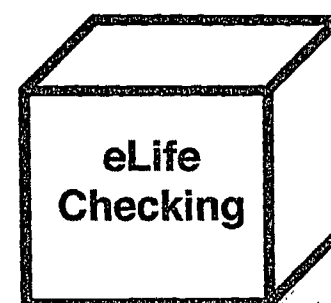
In September, 43.4 percent of all homes sold in the Chicago area sold for a loss, according to a Zillow report. (BRIAN JACKSON-SUN-TIMES FILES)

the area in September sold for a loss. Nationally, the report revealed 34.4 percent of all homes sold in September sold for a loss, and 28.6 percent of

homes had negative equity in the third quarter, up from 23.2 percent a year earlier and up from 26.8 percent in the second quarter. Prices are down 28.8 percent from their

peak in June 2006. Zillow has forecast the still struggling housing market won't hit bottom until next year at the earliest. —Sun-Times Media

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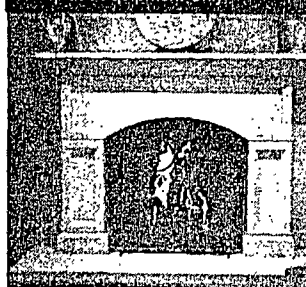


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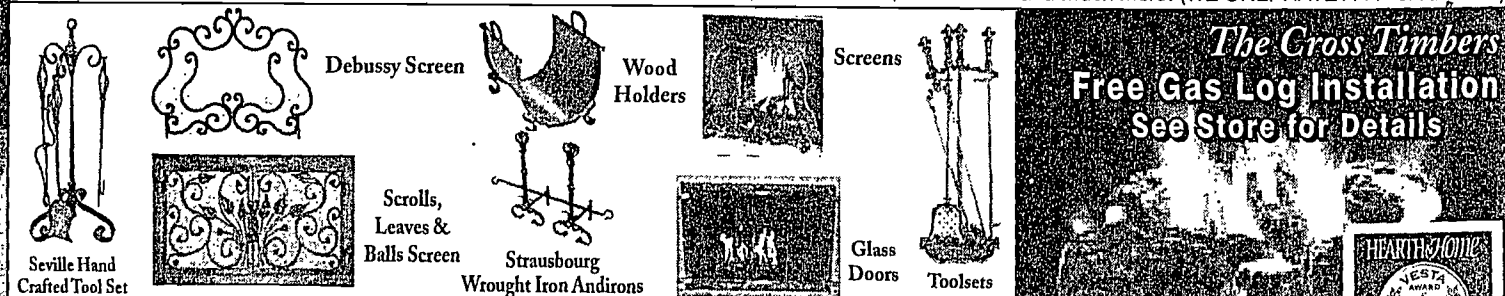
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OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Students brave cold for homeless

BY MIKE ISAACS
misaacs@pioneerlocal.com

If ever there was a night that reflected the uncomfortable and even miserable conditions that the homeless of this area have to endure, last Thursday was it.

Oakton Community College's Habitat For Humanity Campus Chapter had no way to know exactly what the weather would be like Nov. 10, when students and faculty lived overnight in homemade cardboard shanties that dotted the front lawn of the school's Skokie campus.

In fact, when the club advertised the project in September, setting up a demonstration shanty and talking to people outside the school's front doors, it was a gloriously warm and clear late-summer day.

But club advisor Marvin Bornschlegl, a part-time teacher and Morton Grove police sergeant, said then that there was no way one could predict conditions on project day.

"People that are homeless don't get to choose," he said. "They have to live through whatever the weather is."

What the weather was last Thursday was cold — skin-stinging cold — and there was rain and even whispers of possible snow in the forecast.

But students setting up their makeshift temporary homes that afternoon were not phased. The project was for a good cause — to raise awareness and money to help the homeless — and if that required an uncomfortable night, so be it.

Bornschlegl had an even more positive view of what turned out to be the coldest night of the season so far.

"It makes the lesson even better," he said.

A few people, Bornschlegl acknowledged, told him they were canceling because of the weather. Among the 40 or so who braved the elements — mostly students and a couple of faculty members — one went home during the night before the 7 a.m. end time.

"That's a lesson, too," Bornschlegl said. "These people knew they could choose not to be here but a homeless person can't choose. They learned that."

Habitat For Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian ministry founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live. The organization builds with the people in need and helps those of all races and religions.

Oakton began its chapter last



Jumi Lee, of Niles, co-president of the Oakton Community College Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter, works with student David Longaker, of Glenview, on her "shanty," which she planned to sleep in outside the Skokie campus to raise awareness about homelessness Nov. 10. | RYAN PAGEDLOW-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

year when a student, Nick Frankel of Evanston, inquired about starting one. Bornschlegl had been waiting for a student to step forward.

"As soon as the group was chartered," Frankel said, "we came up with this idea and now a year later, it's happening. That's pretty incredible."

Bornschlegl knew the kind of impact such a project could have.

"It's easy to drive by a homeless person with a cardboard sign that says, 'Help me, I'm homeless,'" Bornschlegl said. "But imagine tomorrow morning when these students are waking up, spending a night in this shelter where the temperatures will be 28 degrees. We've got snow, we've got hail, we've got blowing winds, we have everything Chicagoland has to offer."

Some participating students last week asked Bornschlegl what happens when it gets really cold at night. He had no answer for them — he wanted the students to think about that question and decide for themselves.

More than 30 different Oakton student clubs signed up for the project, surpassing expectations.

Bornschlegl's shanties — he built a few of them — had functioning doors and were well made. He and other students setting up their overnight homes in the afternoon assured they would make it through

morning.

"It will be cold, but it will be fun," said student Jumi Lee of Niles, co-president of Oakton's Habitat For Humanity club.

"A lot of homeless people have it much worse than this so it will be fine. We also have sleeping bags, and a lot of homeless people don't have sleeping bags," she said.

David Longaker of Glenview, a new club member, was there to help build shanties and take photos for the group even if he wasn't staying the night.

"I was looking forward to this because I like helping people," he said. "I'm pretty handy and have a wood shop in my garage so I thought

I could be of help. It's important to show that there are many people out there who don't have accommodations."

Frankel, the club's student founder, was part of a crew last Thursday building a corner shanty out of cardboard that somehow felt not too cold inside.

"The project has turned out great," he said, looking at a plethora of others on the lawn building their shelters. "It's really important for students to step away from their own comfortable situations and varying degrees of comfortability and take a look at life on the other side. That's what we're trying to do here."

New club member Saher Abukatab of Chicago viewed the project as an ideal opportunity to raise awareness about the homeless — even if she had no idea about the Shantytown when she first signed up for the school club.

"Building a cardboard box house sounded really interesting to me," she said. "A lot of us talk about the homeless all the time, but it's not really in our faces."

The number of Americans in need of shelter has been estimated at 1.5 million, an alarming statistic that has been on the rise in this difficult economy. Census data also reflects a spike in the suburban homeless population.

Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen, also a part-time instructor at Oakton, stopped by Shantytown for about 45 minutes to support the project.

"It's admirable that young people are recognizing what the Bureau of the Census reports — that there is poverty in the suburbs," he said.

"This is kind of like Oakton's own version of Occupy Oakton. These students are bringing attention to poverty and the need that we all have to do something about it."

Oakton also ran a "soup kitchen" inside its cafeteria, which was open to the community and overnighters for a couple of hours during the cold night.

"Holding the soup kitchen makes sense because Habitat For Humanity wants to incorporate as much about the homeless as possible," said

Princess Escudero who helped sell tickets. "Homeless people tend to go to places to try to get a nice warm meal so this was a reflection of that reality."

Escudero is also faculty advisor to the Student Leaders club, which set up its own overnight shelter outside.

Rabbina Bolbol of Skokie, a junior and a member of that club, viewed the project as "a once in a lifetime event" and urged her group to participate.

"I'm a thrill-seeker and I thought it was important to spread awareness about homelessness," said Bolbol, one of five members of Student

Leaders to stay overnight.

"If I can still feel my toes, I'll make it tonight," she said.

The community was invited to visit Shantytown and to donate money to the cause. Bornschlegl said that some people driving down busy Lincoln

Avenue also stopped and asked what was happening.

In the morning, when students woke up, more useful lessons were learned, he said.

One student emailed Bornschlegl to say that staying overnight was one challenge, but then came questions about brushing his teeth, cleaning himself and using the bathroom.

"It isn't just about the shelter," Bornschlegl said. "There's other issues about being homeless that students really had to think about."

In Oak Ridge, Tenn. last year, some of the Habitat For Humanity club members helped build a new house for a homeless single mother. Those who participated said it was an experience they will never forget.

The club will use funds raised from Shantytown to help pay for another home-building mission in the future. But the Shantytown itself was an experience students will never forget as well.

Bornschlegl said he was told by a higher-up at the college that many valuable lessons get taught at Oakton and many of them are forgotten by students as they get older.

But not this one.

"This was an experience of a lifetime that people will probably remember and tell their kids and their kids' kids," he said. "When I was told that, it made me feel that this project really means something."

A burning desire

Saving lives can be a tall order for short, overweight firefighter wanna-be

BY IRV LEAVITT
ileavitt@pioneerlocal.com

"Here, you carry this," fire academy instructor Tom Gaertner said as he handed me a Halligan tool, which looked like what the "Chainsaw Massacre" guy might use when he really wants to scare people.

It is a thick stainless steel rod with a prong on one end, and a sharp spike and a dull axe on the other. It is used to pry open locked buildings, and it's heavier than most television sets.

Its weight wouldn't matter, but I was already carrying about 70 pounds of equipment.

Big, heavy boots. Thick, fireproof turnout pants. Heavy bunker coat. Fireproof hood. Fireproof gloves. Helmet. Air tank. Breathing mask.

And I was 90 pounds overweight when I got up that morning.

So, I'd be learning how to put out fires that day at the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Academy in Glenview while carrying around what amounts to a second person big enough to play free safety in the NFL.

Quite a challenge, since you don't get as fat as I am spending a lot of time in the gym.

Crossing a grassy field to our first fire fight, I quickly fell far behind the rest of Fire Company No. 1.

I couldn't even walk like a fireman.

I got there about three minutes late, already breathing hard. A voice in my head shrieked, "We go home now!"

I let it go. No internal voice is trustworthy that speaks with such bad grammar.

My company commander, Lt. Kurt Harms of the Skokie Fire Dept., ordered us to haul hose up a flight of stairs into the second tier of big stacked railroad containers. We were to help put out a fire, and rescue fake unconscious people.

The thick smoke pouring from the door was not fake, however. Piles of lumber and bales of hay were blazing away in there.

I reached back and cranked my air tank all the way up. I took off my funny hat, and slipped the face-mask over my head, carefully getting a good seal on my face, despite my beard. (Verboten in the fire service. I had already left behind my glasses; they don't work with the mask, either.)

The hood went over the mask, and the helmet went back on, and I inhaled to get the air stream started. It made a raspy sound. "Luke, I am your father," I replied.

I hauled my 330 total pounds onto the first step, dragging a bulging 2-inch hose line with one hand and that stupid Halligan thing with the other.

By the time I got to the top, I was out of breath. I was supposed to go in second, but all my pals — the oldest being 25 — had to pass me while I recovered enough to go in.

Burning love

It was nuts inside. I couldn't see much in all the smoke, but knew when guys were near me because I could hear them yelling goofy firefighter things.

I had no idea what I was supposed to do, having only been a firefighter for 13 minutes.

We were all on our knees, because absolutely everything disappeared in smoke if you stood up, and it was beastly hot up there. Guys were dragging hoses and manikins past me, but I didn't help them.

I wasn't strong enough to crawl around and carry anything in addition to the Halligan. And I couldn't put it down because anybody who fell on it would get a free trip to the emergency room.

So I was pretty much just in everybody's way.

The alarm that sounds when you don't move kept going off, so I had to keep slapping it so the guys wouldn't think I'd died.

Just kneeling, however, I used up my air tank about five minutes before everybody else, all doing constructive things they had learned in the previous seven weeks.

Gaertner — a Broadview Fire Department captain whose only task that day was to prevent me from killing myself or others — led me out of there.

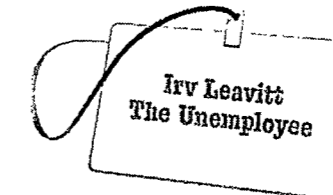
I tore off my air tank and collapsed like a beached whale.

"Did you have fun, sir?" one of the future firefighters asked. "I loved it," I said. "In a hateful sort of way."

Gaertner told me to drink some water because the heat of firefighting thickens the blood, making it harder for the heart to pump.

At this point, I was completely on board with the voice in my head.

But the stupid part of my brain said "Yes" when asked to do the sec-



Firefighter trainee
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Pioneer Press reporter Irv Leavitt keeps his eyes on the roof opening his company is working on during firefighter training at NIPSTA Nov. 4. | CURTIS LEHMUEHL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

ond job, so off we went, up a ladder to the 10-foot top of a single railroad container in the back of the stack. We were to cut a hole in the top to ventilate the fire blazing inside.

One of the recruits cut a big square in a thick sheet of plywood roofing with a huge power saw. I was handed a pike and told to hook the board and yank it off the nails that held it onto a pallet over the hole.

There was smoke all around us, but we weren't using our air tanks. Coughing and squinting and gagging a little, I managed to pull off the plywood.

Harms said something to the effect that I would be more efficient if I weren't prancing around in high heels.

Then one of the others went after the sturdy pallet with an axe, as I staggered around in the thickening smoke hoping he'd make shorter work of it.

Finally, he was done. But instead of just going back down the ladder, we had to climb up another ladder to the top of a higher container, and then down two stories on a third ladder.

I can't explain why. But anybody who's been in boot camp will understand.

Hot seat

I told Gaertner I'd sit out the next assignment. Fine, he said, but if I wanted, I could do my sitting in one of the containers connected to another one that was blazing, and watch the action.

Ten minutes later, I told Gaertner, "I believe my left ear is on fire."

He looked. "Nah, it's not." I let it go.

Fire rolled under the ceiling and blazed from the debris on the floor. Smoke billowed at our faces in the 900-degree heat as we knelt on the hot, littered steel.

The guys up top broke through the newly repaired roof, letting out a lot of the heat, and we left, because our air tanks were below the warning level.

Later, I told one of the fire re-

cruits about my ear. "Was your hood all sweaty?" he asked. It had been. "Well, the heat gets in there and kinda boils the moisture," he explained.

I reached up and touched my tender, but now dry, ear. I disturbed a fresh scab at the top, and some kind of fluid ran out.

I think it was gravy.

Airs above the ground

The next job was to walk up an aerial ladder to a four-story balcony, fight through fake "theater smoke" to put out a sofa fire, and haul out manikins. I demurred.

But instructor Scott Exo, Morton Grove battalion chief, sneaked me up the stairs, and we watched all the action while sitting on an old bed. The temperature was about 700 degrees, but it was very pleasant.

What a difference a miserable day makes.

The last job was in the same building, and I realized that I was almost finished, but hadn't done what everybody would expect to read about.

"Tom, I'll do this one," I said. "I want to put wet stuff on red stuff."

I put my gear on and headed for the ladder truck. But it takes a leap of more than two feet to reach the bottom step, and my legs couldn't vault all the weight that high.

"Here, sir," recruit Ryan Reid of the Arlington Heights Fire Department said. He knelt on his left knee and offered his right knee for me to step up on.

"Can't do that to you," I said, and tried hauling myself up by the handles. No go.

I looked down, and Tim Tesch of Richmond Township was now offering his knee. This time I took it, and somehow, made it up and onto the step, onto the apparatus, and onto the ladder.

I learned something then. If you want to conquer a healthy respect for/fear of heights, do it while distracted by exhaustion and pain.

Even better, without your glasses, so you can't see how doggone high in the air you are.

As I headed up, I heard someone say, "How's he gonna get over the rail?"

The rail is the chest-level top bar of the ladder's aerial platform. One corner was up against the patio railing, with a triangular gap in between that led 40 feet to the ground.

Harms was on the balcony. He took my Halligan. I stepped on the lower bar, looped my left leg over the rail, leaned over and grabbed the balcony rail, looped the right leg over, and repeated the process with the balcony rail, grabbing Harms with my right hand to keep from falling backwards.

That was the high point of my day. Once inside the building, I did another rotten job of firefighting, but you've had enough descriptions of failure, haven't you?

Back on the ground, I asked Deerfield/Bannockburn Battalion Chief Ken Koerber, the fire academy coordinator, What makes two kids volunteer to let a stranger step on their knees.

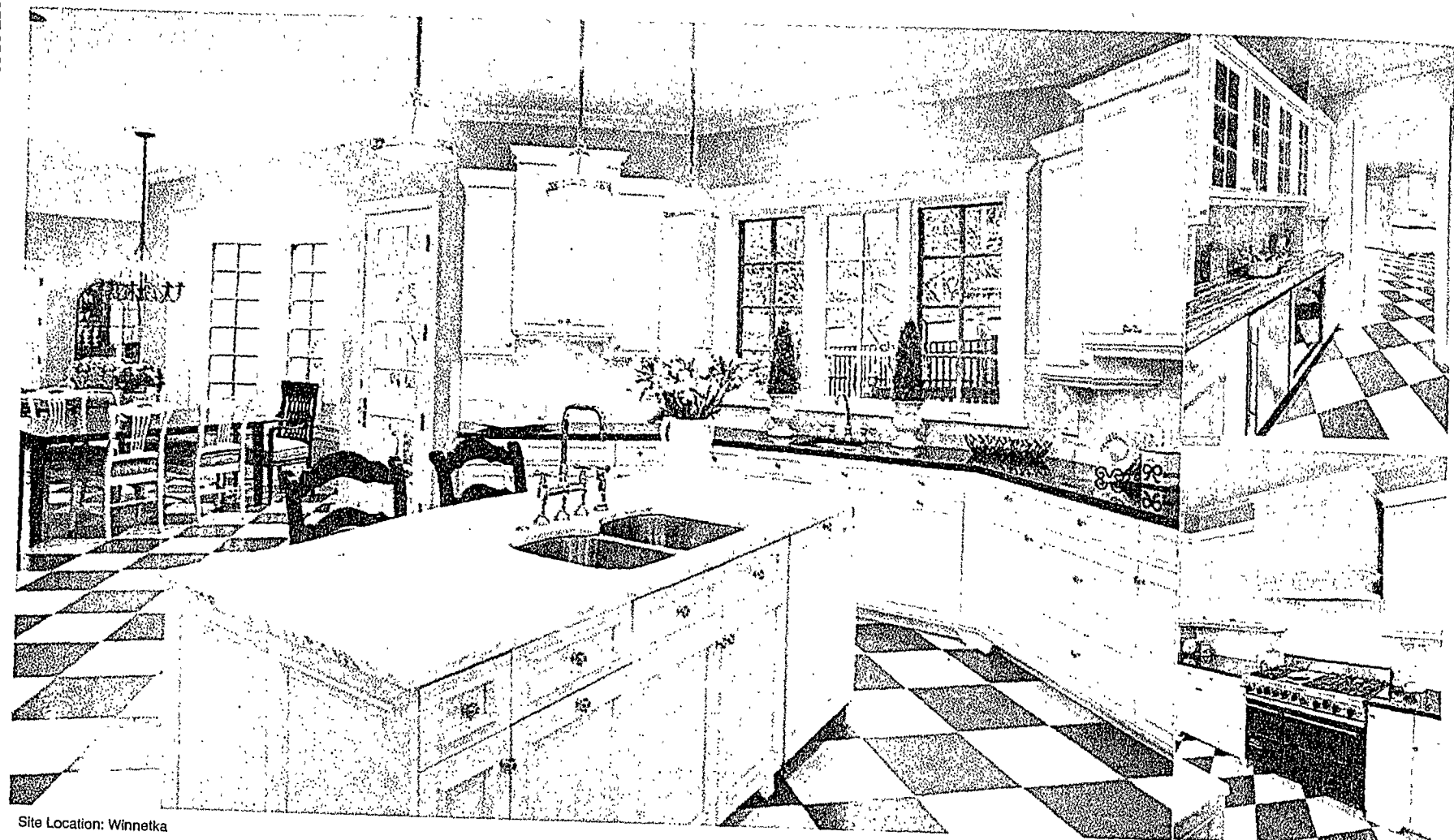
"The fire chiefs wanted us to do something about attitude" in new firefighters, he said. We watched the recruits stand at attention in neat rows after cleaning all the hoses and other equipment.

A recruit fetched a pump-can extinguisher and brought it back to the Company 4 ranks.

"They left a tool behind," Koerber said. "So they've got to carry that pump can around with them all week."

"Some of these kids had never been evaluated. Some of them have never had a job."

"From now on, they're going to be the ones who have to solve everybody's problem," he said. "They've got to be able to do that, and do it as good representatives of the community."



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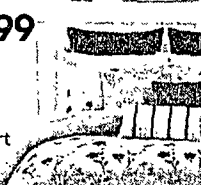
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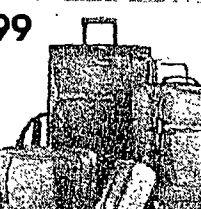
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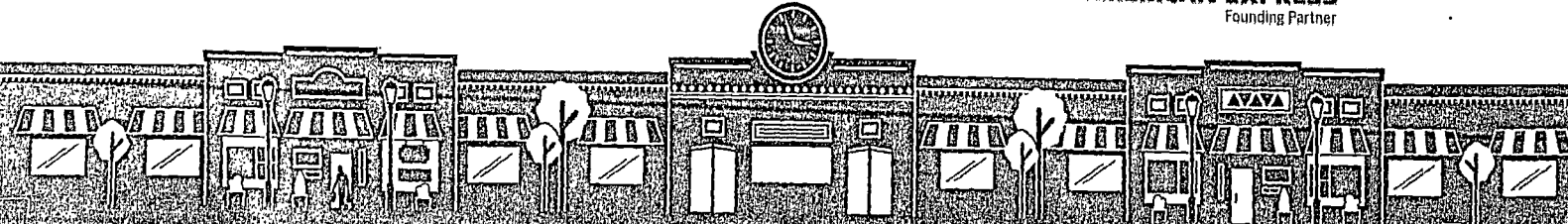
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CUTS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

port problems with getting books back after Chicago card holders borrow them and return them to their home libraries. Could that worsen?

"It can easily take three months for a book to get back here," Glenview Public Library circulation Head Maryann Bowler said. "We beg people to return them here."

A three-month wait is a big deal for a book to get back to Glenview, because that library — miles from the city limits — is often used by Chicagoans to borrow in-demand books.

"What we tell people is to please not return it to the Chicago Public Library, because in our experience, they just don't make it back here," said Ann Weston, 20-year circulation head at the Northbrook library. "At least, return it to another suburban library."

Weston said that a Chicago library system with a proposed 184 fewer employees will probably handle books less efficiently than it does now.

"They want to get our stuff back to us, but with less and less staff, it will certainly take longer and longer," Weston said.

Ruth Lednicer, Chicago Public Library director of marketing and press relations, agreed. Her library's cuts, as proposed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, would trim \$8.3 million — a fraction of 1 percent of the city's shortfall. A vote on the budget could come as early as this week.

"It's going to take longer to get items, with that many fewer people doing the work," Lednicer said.

After earlier cuts in 2009, employees from outside the circulation department have "pitched in" to try to move books out faster, she said. All books bound for the suburbs first go downtown to the Harold Washington Library Center.

The way library books are delivered all over Illinois is the subject of an official state study now underway, funded by the Secretary of State's office, which is charged with statewide library matters.

Lednicer, speaking of books said to have never arrived back in the suburbs, said she had asked around, and found it to be a rare occurrence.

"We know of just a few, like two," she said.

That's not the experience of Lincolnwood circulation manager Vandana Sehgal, who said her library sent an invoice to Chicago this fall for four books that never made it back.

She got a \$100 Chicago reimbursement check last week, however.

Unlike some other suburban circulation managers, she said "it takes a month to get it, but we always get paid." That's been the case since 2007, when she questioned an unpaid bill, and was told to send it to the library's finance department, not the circulation department.

"Because we're not right next to Chicago, we don't have a big problem" with slow book returns from the city, said Peggy Hamil, executive director of the Glencoe Public Library. "The (Chicago patrons) we have here, work here. And they come back and forth every day," so they can easily drop materials off where they got them.

Shawn Strecker, Elmwood Park Public Library executive director, has a library with a different patronage scenario but a similar bottom line. Many Chicago residents who used to use the Galewood-Mont Clare library branch, before it moved east and out of their neighborhood to a much smaller building, now visit her building regularly. "We are their neighborhood library," she said.

Because the Chicago residents just use her building, there's no slow-return problem, she said. And she doubts that her library will be overwhelmed by changes in the Chicago system.

For one, DVD-seeking patrons shun it, because they're charged \$2 out-of-district fees. And south side Elmwood Park residents don't visit their home library much, she added.

Slow trains tempt them to use their cards at the River Forest Public Library, which they can reach without waiting for crossing gates to rise.

Oak Park Public Library Executive Director Deirdre Brennan said Chicago users are plentiful but not a big burden.

"Every library has something to offer. Small libraries may collect something that others don't. Everything works out ... it just does," she said.

"Libraries are all about sharing."

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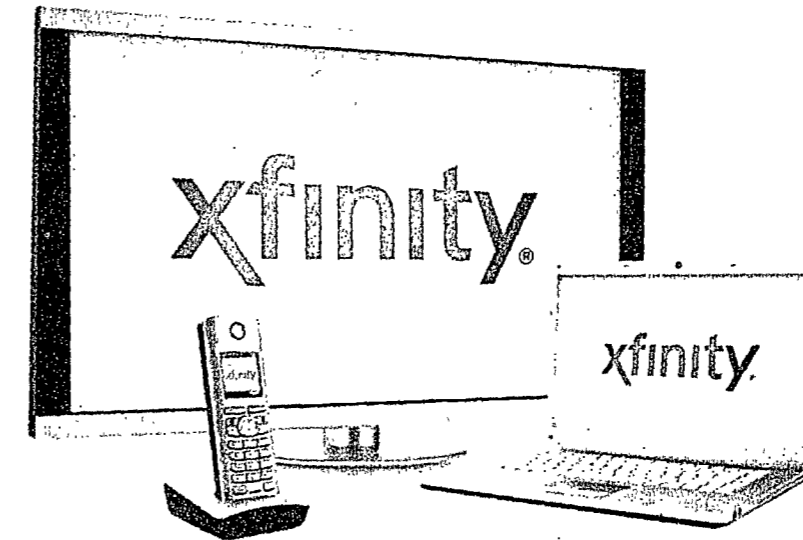
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DES PLAINES

1438 Jeannette St.: Faisal Amedin to Patricia M Tell, \$165,000, Oct. 24
1547 Woodland Ave.: Fannie Mae to Justin Mackinnon, \$107,500, Oct. 24
2684 Pearle Drive: Vassil Nankinov to Grzegorz Laskowski, \$165,000, Oct. 24
62 Dover Drive: Cordova Trust to Mohammed Ahsanuddin Razia Ahsan, \$217,500, Oct. 20
647 Metropolitan Way Unit L408: Fannie Mae to Murali Avula Srivevi Manne, \$146,500, Oct. 24
773 Mark Ave.: Paul A Tarenski to Wojciech J Klimkiewicz, \$190,000, Oct. 24
940 Beau Drive Unit 202: Us Bank Na Trustee to Bharat Sharthiya Kokila Sharthiya, \$53,500, Oct. 24

GLENVIEW

1341 Greenwillow Lane Apt D:

Quinlan Trust to Tamara Hatten, \$135,000, Oct. 20
1939 Linneman St.: 836 Surrey Inc to Christopher M Coughlan Jennifer L Coughlan, \$1,050,000, Oct. 19
2750 Commons Drive Unit 304: Toll II Iv Lp to Thomas R Goodrich, \$399,000, Oct. 24
748 Shermer Road: Stephen W Blayne to Alissa S Carlin, \$375,000, Oct. 24
915 Glenshire Road: Ridgestone Bank to Joseph Castronovo Adria Castronovo, \$780,000, Oct. 20

LINCOLNWOOD

6800 N Knox Ave.: Manuel Warda to Achour Esho, \$215,000, Oct. 24
7819 Central Ave.: Donald Keenan to Albert J Antar, \$135,000, Oct. 24
8925 Mansfield Ave.: Steven G Johnson to Ronald E Lundin Jr Julie L Lundin, \$385,000, Oct. 21
9108 Oak Park Ave.: Albina Greiss Estate to Michael S Cutler, \$180,000, Oct. 24

MORTON GROVE

1006 N Elmhurst Road: Deutsche Bank Tr America Ttee

to Theresa L Miller, \$257,000, Oct. 24
803 S School St.: Aaron J Wanek to Michael J Pour Sara J Pour, \$335,000, Oct. 24
1926 Birch Road: Michelle F Kaufman to Yan Xu, \$512,500, Oct. 24
1950 Cherry Lane Apt 216: Harvey Youngberg to Audrey K Nicoll Derek J Nicoll, \$70,000, Oct. 24
1971 Summerton Place: David L Lampert to Daniel B Merkin Melissa S Merkin, \$820,000, Oct. 20
2030 Maple Ave.: Maple Properties Development to Nimesh Patel Vinita Bhojwani, \$300,000, Oct. 19
2995 Maria Ave.: Fannie Mae to John Sciarretta Emerald Sciarretta, \$100,500, Oct. 24
4050 Dundee Road Apt 201: Harold Shapiro Estate to Martha L Drake, \$120,000, Oct. 20

NILES

6701 N Milwaukee Ave. Apt 410: Lahl Trust to Geraldine Grant, \$230,000, Oct. 24
7242 W Jonquil Terrace: Emilie M Kusmer to Terrence P Hansen Maggie E Pucher, \$230,000, Oct. 24
7728 N Oleander Ave.: Garby Trust to Robert E Wilhelm Emily S Wilhelm, \$249,500, Oct. 19
8021 N Ottawa Ave.: Pnc Mortgage to Linda R Stoops John Belmonte, \$195,000, Oct. 24
8136 N Odell Ave.: Marek Pyzik to Kenny Luong Julie Luong, \$543,000, Oct. 24

NORRIDGE

4136 N Odell Ave.: Kornel Ignacik to Jonathan Lin Kelly Lai, \$380,000, Oct. 24
4308 N Nordica Ave.: Krantz Trust to Johnny Gjrzynski Phyllis Gjrzynski, \$200,000, Oct. 24

NORTHBROOK

1801 Central Ave.: Dohring Trust to Yury Zelechonok Mikhail Altkhovsky, \$215,500,

Oct. 24
1850 Ellendale Drive: Robert Devries to Ming Kee Ng Hoi C Lee, \$590,000, Oct. 24
6505 N Nashville Ave. Apt 102: Chicago Title Land Trt Co Tee to Richard Hardt Nancy A Hardt, \$108,000, Oct. 24
6739 W Schreiber Ave.: Fullmer Trust to Matthew R Kuebrich Nerissa M Kuebrich, \$258,500, Oct. 24
8341 W Balmoral Ave.: Catherine Saporito to Kevin M Zator Kenneth W Zator, \$275,000, Oct. 24

PARK RIDGE

1 N Dee Road Apt 2c: Lantot Trust to James W Joslyn, \$265,000, Oct. 21
1220 Brophy Ave.: Robert Placzek to Stanislaw Motyka Anna Motyka, \$420,000, Oct. 19
1761 Elliott St.: Phyllis J Greenfield to Kenneth Johnson Jeanette Johnson, \$157,500, Oct. 19
2310 W Sibley St.: Daniel Umbach to Shavel Aivaz Jolanta Aivaz, \$145,000, Oct. 24
511 Hamlin Court: Sunil Cutinho to Thomas J Hartman Rosa M Hartman, \$402,000, Oct. 24
643 Oriole Ave.: Sexton Trust to Nina Taluc, \$175,000, Oct. 24

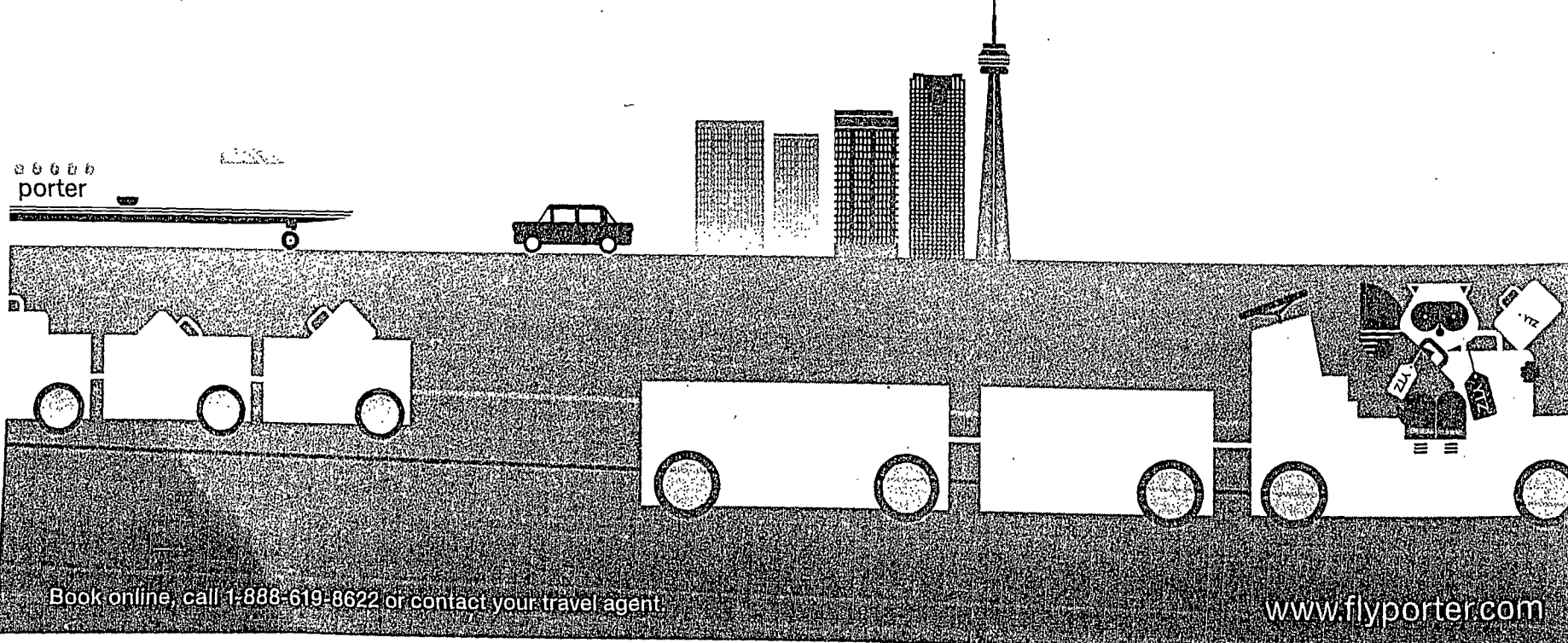
PROSPECT HEIGHTS
1012 Cove Drive Unit 148b: Marian Nowobilski to Anna Kucieba, \$100,000, Oct. 24
1082 Cove Drive Unit 142 Unit C: Fannie Mae to Miroslaw Hajduk, \$66,000, Oct. 19
216 Fairway Court: Michael A Broscio to Bradley Nolfi Christen Nolfi, \$400,000, Oct. 20

SKOKIE

10031 Bronx Ave.: Lucy A Maday to Jane Gervacio, \$225,000, Oct. 20
4600 Keeney St.: Trabaris Trust to Isagani Macalalad Jr Monina Robles, \$240,000, Oct. 20
4900 Foster St. Apt 301: Blumenthal Trust to Lina Shevchik, \$100,000, Oct. 24
5245 Arcadia St.: North Star Trust Co Trustee to John C Mreana, \$148,000, Oct. 24
8050 Lowell Ave.: Patrick A Hulne to Christopher Diehl Julie K Diehl, \$285,000, Oct. 21
9430 Karlov Ave.: Kevin Johns to Jack E Dehring Iii Deborah A Klos Dehring, \$305,000, Oct. 19
9722 Keeler Ave.: Henry L Wood Estate to Jonathon E Zuhr Erica C Zuhr, \$215,000, Oct. 24

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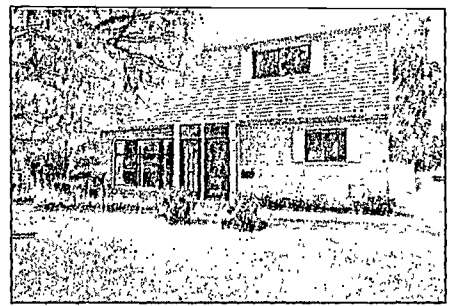


HOT PROPERTIES BY ROB PISKAC

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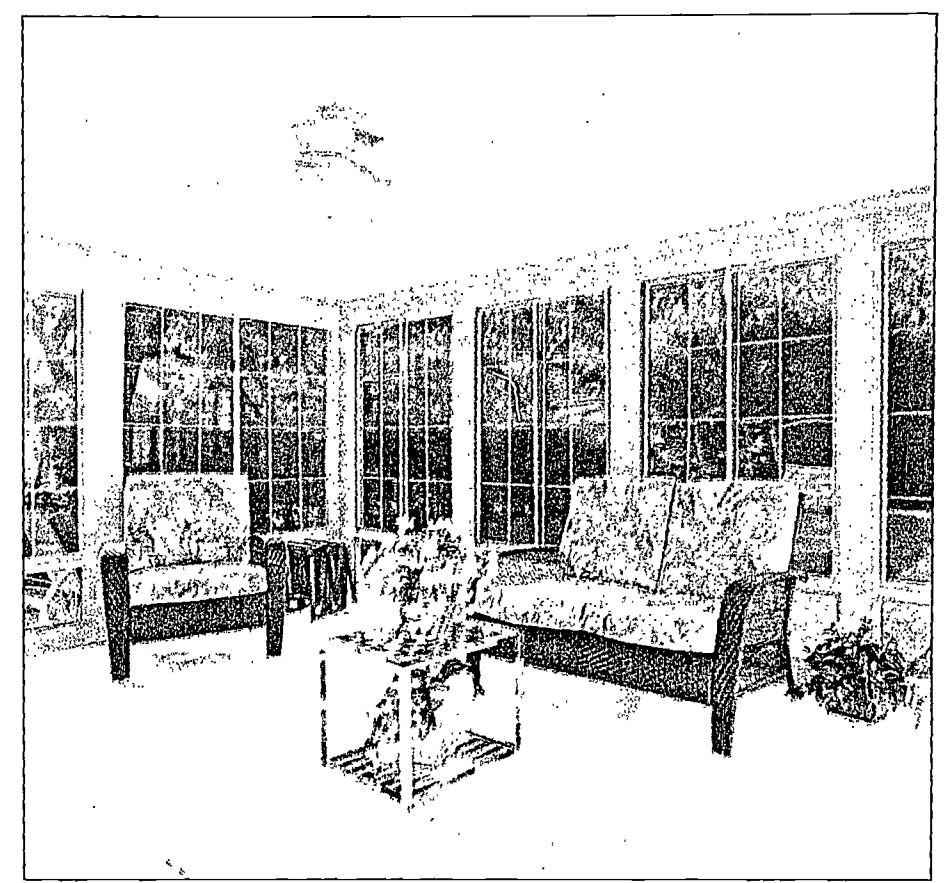
Tri-level comes with renovated basement and kitchen
 7339 Davis St., Morton Grove — \$289,500

Constructed in 1955, this tri-level property features a number of updates including a living room with a fireplace, carpeted floors and track lighting. Highlights of the kitchen include hardwood floors, a ceiling fan, built-in shelving units and modern appliances. Anchored by custom overhead lighting, the dining room features decorative crown molding and trim along with access to the kitchen. The master bedroom has carpeted floors, a ceiling fan and two large windows with trim. Other features of this property include a finished lower level, sunroom and office area. This home provides a two-car garage and is a mile southeast of the Golf Metra station. Listing agent: Helen Oliveri, Keller Williams Realty Partners, 847-967-0022, helen@helenoliveri.com



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ON THE MARKET

A ROUNDUP OF NEW LISTINGS

A four-bedroom, two-bath, 1,700-square-foot home at 5900 W. Main St. in Morton Grove is on the market for \$265,000. The brick ranch-style house, built in 1955, features an oversized corner lot, a two-car attached garage, remodeled hardwood floors, remodeled marble bathroom, private back yard with a wood fence, a finished basement and a battery-backup sump pump. Steven Nguyen of Vina Realty is the listing agent.

A three-bedroom, 2.5-bath, 1,700-square-foot home at 5423 N. Cleveland St. in Morton Grove is on the market for \$249,900. The split-level house, built in 1957, features hardwood floors under the carpet, a family room with a wood-burning fireplace, a three-car garage, new roof and fence and updated electrical and plumbing. Dorothy Zielinski of RE/MAX City is the listing agent.

A three-bedroom, two-bath, 1,282-square-foot home at 9440 Oliphant Ave. in Morton Grove is on the market for \$289,000. The split-level house, built in 1961, sits on an 8,254-square-foot lot and features Pergo and hardwood floors and a wood-burning fireplace in the family room. Nikolaos Kuruklis of Hometown Real Estate Group is the listing agent.

— John Fitzgerald

MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

City	For sale	Median price	Foreclosure rate	# of sales	# of foreclosures
Edison Park	1.89%	\$250,000	8.14%	86	7
Forest Glen	0.86%	\$378,500	0%	11	0
Norwood Park	2.37%	\$271,000	17.75%	169	30
Des Plaines	3.11%	\$165,500	31.99%	694	222
Evanston	2.99%	\$325,000	12.93%	634	82
Glenview	2.98%	\$395,000	14.68%	579	85
Lincolnwood	2.95%	\$297,250	15.56%	135	21
Morton Grove	2.52%	\$235,500	22.79%	215	49
Niles	2.44%	\$195,000	19.32%	264	51
Park Ridge	2.77%	\$336,750	14.67%	368	54
Skokie	2.46%	\$225,000	25.85%	561	145
Wilmette	2.26%	\$600,000	7.84%	319	25

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

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Des Plaines... Beautiful & renovated 4 rm Condo near shopping, transportation & more! Remodeled kitchen w/42" cabinet, Granite counters, ceramic floor & all appliances less than 2 yrs old. Bath features new vanity & cabinet. Bedroom with 8'x 8' walk-in closet. Private balcony. Complex features clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, exercise rm, storage & more! Low monthly assessment includes heat, water & gas. Won't Last at... \$64,900

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were listed in the weekly bulletin prepared by the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

VEHICLE THEFT

Someone stole a 2002 Chevy two-door vehicle Nov. 8 from the 7600 block of Neva. When the victim left to go to work, her vehicle was reportedly gone.

Someone stole a 1993 Honda four-door vehicle parked overnight Nov. 8 on the street at Ottawa and Grennan.

THEFT

Two aluminum risers were

stolen sometime between Nov. 4 and Nov. 7 from the dock of a business on the 6000 block of Touhy. The value of the risers is \$1500.

IDENTITY THEFT

A 20-year-old Niles man said that between Oct. 11 and Nov. 8 someone used his credit card at a retail store without his authority. The unknown person reportedly made a \$63.22 transaction at a store in Indiana.

Between March 2010 and Nov. 8, 2011, someone used the identity of a 32-year-old Niles woman to open a charge account at two retail stores.

A 43-year-old Niles man said someone used his identification to open a UPS shipping account on Nov. 9.

BATTERY

Ata Sherwani, 52, 2002 Palatine Road, Inverness, was arrested Nov. 8 and charged with battery after allegedly harassing a 17-year-old girl who worked at his store at Golf Mill Center. On Nov. 7, the girl alleged that the store owner put his hand on her left thigh, massaged her shoulders and touched her inappropriately while in his office. He has a Dec. 7 court date.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Someone between Nov. 8 and Nov. 9 forced their way into a building on the 7600 block of Milwaukee Avenue by breaking the window. The offender brought into the building property he was storing in the loading zone behind the building, police said.

CRIME

Brothers convicted of home repair fraud that targeted senior citizens

A federal jury on Nov. 9 convicted two men of engaging in a home-repair fraud scheme that targeted elderly victims on Chicago's South and West sides.

Six victims testified that John J. and Daniel J. Sullivan swindled them each out of tens of thousands of dollars by fraudulently promising to perform expensive home repairs, convincing them to refinance their homes to pay the costs, and then failing to perform or complete the projects, a release from the U.S. Attorney's office said.

They were found guilty of two counts of wire fraud each following a two-week trial in U.S. District Court.

John Sullivan, 49, of Surprise, Ariz., and formerly of Northbrook; and Daniel Sullivan, 45, of Niles, remain in federal custody without bond and

face up to of 20 years in prison each, the release said. They also face a potential forfeiture judgment of \$1.2 million in proceeds from the scheme, as well as mandatory restitution and a fine of \$250,000 each.

According to evidence at trial, the Sullivans owned and operated a series of home repair and home remodeling businesses: New Look Home Services, J & D Home Services, A-Z Home Services, and Contract Services, which were based in Chicago and Niles.

In 2004, the City of Chicago obtained a permanent injunction against New Look Home Services and John Sullivan, prohibiting them from participating in the home repair industry in the city, the release said.

Between 2002 and 2006, the defendants and others preyed upon elderly homeowners by

fraudulently convincing them to hire J&D to perform costly home repairs and to pay for them by refinancing their homes, according to the release. The Sullivans persuaded their victims to turn over a substantial portion of the refinancing proceeds directly to J&D.

After falsely representing that they would perform expensive repairs or remodeling, they failed to complete the promised repairs, instead engaging in a series of stalling tactics to avoid doing additional.

U.S. District Judge Blanche Manning has scheduled sentencing for noon on Jan. 26, 2012.

Another co-defendant, Patrick R. Rooney, 53, of Northbrook, an employee of J&D, was severed from the trial.

— Sun-Times Media

Boy egged, roughed up in iPod robbery

A group of teenagers had more on their minds than candy on Halloween night when they allegedly robbed a boy of his iPod in unincorporated Maine Township.

According to the Cook County Sheriff's Police the boy was walking in the area of Ballard

Road and Kennedy Drive north of Park Ridge when he was approached by a group of three boys and two girls about 7:30 p.m.

Members of the group allegedly threw eggs at the boy, whose age was not indicated, before pushing him to the

ground and stealing his iPod.

The suspects were described as being 12 and 16 years old and dressed in black, the Sheriff's Office said.

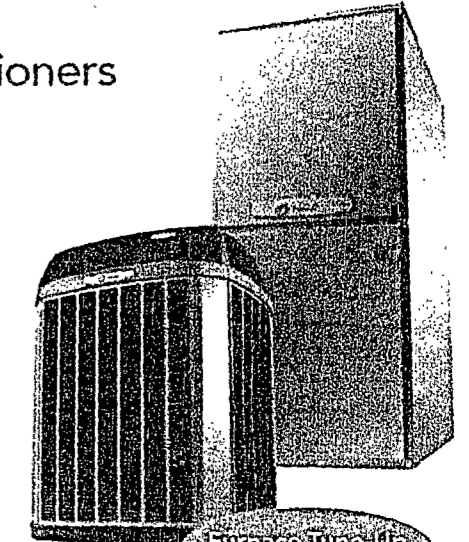
There was no indication in the police report whether the robbery was gang-related, a department representative said.



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what time's the show?

Turn to the diversions section in this edition for this week's

Show Times from your local source.

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Opinion

PIONEERLOCAL.COM | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011 | 24

Rooney rant: Inequities of ice cream



BY PAUL SASSONE
Columnist

This one is for the late Andy Rooney. You know what I don't like? Those packages of ice cream bars that only have three ice cream bars in them. There are two of us in my household, so what usually happens to that third ice cream bar is that I sneak into the freezer late at night, eat the bar and then stare at my reflection in the kitchen window in self-

More pills. Less plastic, please. People who, instead of pushing their shopping carts from the rear, drag them along with them from the side. Grocery store aisles are narrow enough without clogging the aisles further by some shoppers doubling their width. The plastic containers in which batteries are wrapped, no, more like embedded. Impossible to open without very sharp scissors. And heaven help you if you need new scissors because they also come entombed in impenetrable plastic. Pull tops on a quart of orange juice. The screw top isn't

"You know what I don't like? ... Those little plastic barrel-shaped objects that come in some pill bottles. I am told they eliminate moisture and keep the pills from sticking together. If so, why don't all pill bottles contain these little plastic barrels? No, these little plastic things displace and take the place of several pills."

revulsion and contempt for the gluttonous hog I that am. Or, my wife and I each become ice cream martyrs and refuse to take the last bar. Consequently, the ice cream bar becomes all freezer-crystally and has to be thrown out. Those little plastic barrel-shaped objects that come in some pill bottles. I am told they eliminate moisture and keep the pills from sticking together. If so, why don't all pill bottles contain these little plastic barrels? No, these little plastic things displace and take the place of several pills. It's like in "Treasure of the Sierra Madre." The bandits think that Humphrey Bogart's gold dust is just dirt and he's making the animal hides he has slung on his burros heavier and thus more valuable when sold.

enough. No, beneath that is the pull top. And when you pull it, there is an equal and opposite reaction. The result is sweet, sticky OJ on your shirt. Foil tops on yogurt. They leak. They get punctured. Foil as a product sealant is silly. My wife made me put in this gripe. Me, I wouldn't eat yogurt even if it came wrapped in steel. TV news readers who have to comment on every item they read. Yes, death and disaster are terrible. They don't have to say, "Terrible story, horrible, awful" after reporting on a tsunami. Pints of ice cream that aren't pints. (Yes, I'm back on ice cream. I like ice cream.) Look closely at the package. Some seeming-pints of ice cream are now only 14 ounces, not 16. These should be labeled in big, bold letters — faux pints.

1000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS

Some final words from Andy Rooney...



Higgins 2011/FRANCE - DORNE

Opening shot in the battle of the sexes gets fired early



BY CHERYL O'DONOVAN
Van Mom Strikes Again

triple cheeseburger and fries at a drive-through. Post-school, we're in the van, heading home: my teenage offspring, his buddy and me. His eyes will roll in the back of his head like a slot machine if I lecture. Hmm. He's interested in a new girl. "Sweetheart, if you always eat junk, you'll have problems with cholesterol. Someday your wife and kids will love you so much and plead with you to eat healthy." "Women!" My son taps the passenger window with a knuckle. "Yeah, you've got to pretend to listen in order to get one," his friend says.

I laugh. "I read a couple of studies. The top complaint from men is that women want to change them. And the top complaint from women is that men don't listen." The young Turks grunt and shake their heads. "You can't go on cruise control, either," my son, the new driver, says.

"I read a couple of studies. The top complaint from men is that women want to change them. And the top complaint from women is that men don't listen."

"If she says, 'Do you agree?' you'd better answer right. You have to make an occasional turn so they think you're listening." "Yeah," my son's friend says. "Best thing to do is project your

favorite movie in your head as she's talking about shoes." I've just gotten a glimpse into my husband's psyche. Last night, we watched HGTV's "House Hunters International." "Which of the three houses do you think they'll choose?" His eyes were glazed over. "I had a perfectly good seat out there. But now I'm strapped in here." "Huh?" "Get off the nuclear warhead." He was lip-synching "Armageddon." I reached for the remote. My turn to sigh. This male vs. female thing starts early. My son adjusts the visor on the windshield. "Try listening to a girl who's an animal-rights activist." "When all men want to do is eat," his friend says. I laugh. "Well, studies show that women talk three times more than men." "Feels like it's five times as much," my son says. "And they make you watch 'Twilight.'"

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or emailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern

The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:
Mondays, Nov. 21 and 28 - Employment counseling, by appointment.
Wednesday, Nov. 30 - Grief and loss support group (call first).
Saturday, Nov. 19 - Legal counseling, by appointment.
Saturday, Nov. 19 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

Preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also is available by appointment. All services are offered at the Center of Concern offices at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, # 310, in Park Ridge. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (The center is open only until noon on Fridays.) The Center of Concern also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, friendly visitors for the homebound, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.

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

Chamber

Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry, (847) 268-8180.

Civic

State Rep. Rosemary Mulligan, R-65th, has opened her 65th District office at the following address: 1420 Renais-

sance Drive, Suite 306, Park Ridge IL 60068. Her other contact information remains the same: Phone: (847) 297-6533; fax: (847) 297-2978; e-mail: repmulligan@usa.net; website and E-News sign-up: http://repmulligan.com. The 65th District includes all or portions of Des Plaines, Park Ridge, Mount Prospect, Rosemont, Norridge, Harwood Heights, Niles, Elk Grove Village, and the northwest corner of the 41st Ward of Chicago.

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

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

Classes

The Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School of the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, offers a variety of classes for the adults in the horticulture, garden design, nature studies and botanical arts by Garden staff and other experts. For information or to register, visit www.chicagobotanic.org/school or call (847) 835-8261.

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc., is now offering "Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy," dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is \$60. Contact Dorida King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

Clubs

The Chicago Stereo Camera Club, a local forum for 3-D photographic enthusiasts, is hosting its annual "Chicago Lighthouse International Exhibition of Stereo Photography." Through polarized glasses, audiences will see breathtaking photographic slides and digital images taken with antique and modern 3-D photographic equipment. This presentation will be held at 2 p.m. Nov. 19 at Oakton Community College, Hartstein Campus, Room A151, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. The public is invited. A minimum donation of \$6 is requested at the door. All funds raised will be donated to The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. Visit http://chicagostereocameraclub.org. For inquiries, e-mail info@chicagostereocameraclub.org or call Eugene Mitofsky at (847) 674-3749.

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 meet at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7680 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis in Niles on Howard Street). The Post is open also on Fridays 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernard Beverley, (847) 966-5479, e-mail jamesbond54762@yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890.

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

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 29

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Diversions

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4 For Your Consideration

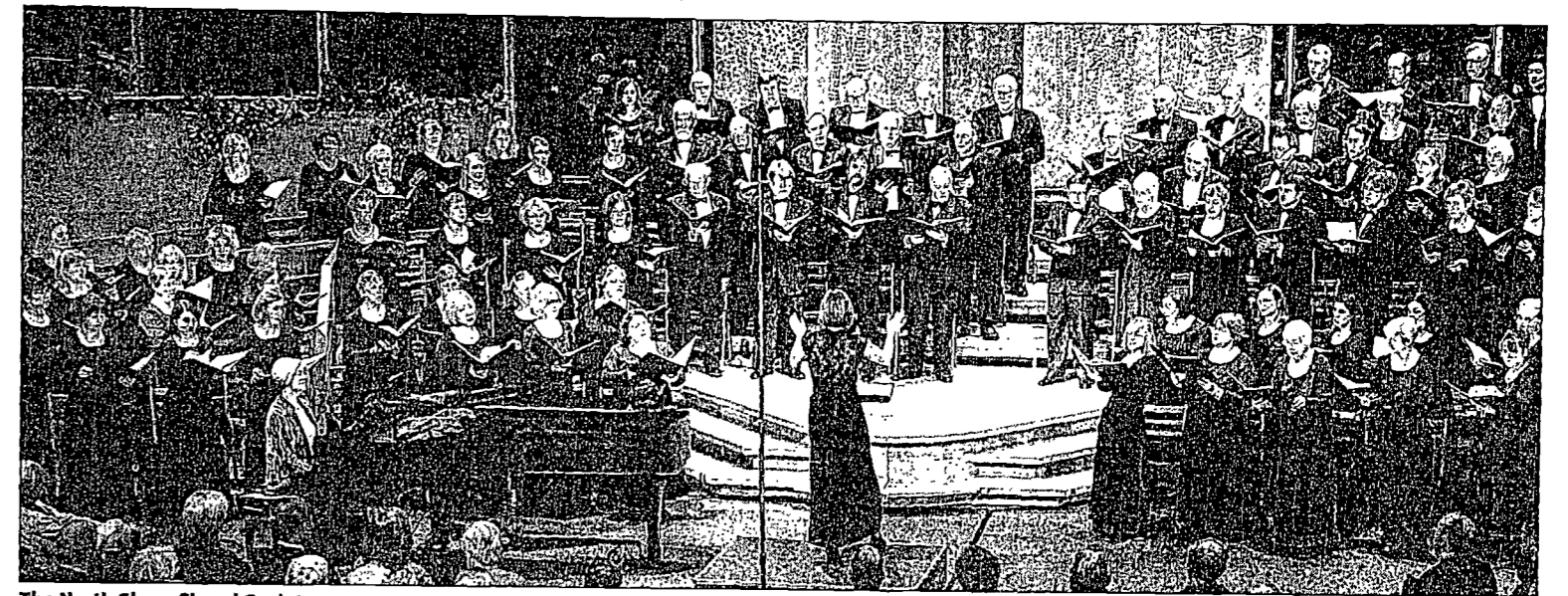
A quartet of activities for the coming week

1. "Chicago" will be presented by Rising Stars Theatre Company at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 19 and 2 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Tickets are \$16; \$14 for children 12 and under and senior citizens. Call (773) 736-2490 or visit www.risingstarschicago.com.

2. "The New" North Shore Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Anatol Lysenka, will open its 31st season at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Ave. The program includes the Grieg Piano Concerto with soloist Alexander Zintchenko, and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 — "From The New World." Admission is \$15; free for youth under 18 years old. Call (847) 864-2288 or visit www.thenewnorthshorechamber-orchestra.org.

3. The Chicago Stereo Camera Club will host its 63rd annual "Chicago Lighthouse International Exhibition of Stereo Photography" at 2 p.m. Nov. 19 at Oakton Community College, Hartstein Campus, Room A151, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Through polarized glasses, audiences will see photographic slides and digital images taken with antique and modern 3-D photographic equipment. Minimum donation of \$6 requested at the door. Proceeds benefit The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. For more information, visit <http://chicagostereocameraclub.org/>.

4. Mark Dvorak and Ed Trickett perform at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 19 at the Hogeve Folk Arts concert at Lake Street Church, 607 Lake St., Evanston. Doors open at 7 p.m. \$15 general admission; \$13 for senior citizens; \$5 for students; free for children under 12. For information, visit www.hogevefolkarts.org or www.brownpapertickets.com.



The North Shore Choral Society

Choral society strikes up the band for holidays

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Contributor

The North Shore Choral Society just may be the first musical organization holding its holiday concert this season, and their program includes another first. The Arlington Heights-based Prairie Brass Band will perform brass arrangements of seasonal music in the opening of the choral's 76th season.

"We've never done anything like this before," said Julia Davids, who has been music director of the 140-voice singing ensemble since 2009 and is director of choral activities at North Park University in Chicago.

Davids, who lives in Skokie, heard about the Prairie Brass Band from a band member who attends Trinity United Methodist Church in Wilmette, where she is director of music ministries. She quickly began doing research and liked what she discovered. "I went to the Web and found out that they are a remarkable group," she said.

"They invited us, so we accepted," said Dallas Niermeyer, conductor of the Prairie Brass and resident of Arlington Heights.

Array of horns

"We are a British-style band," he explained. "We limit the number of players to 35, and we use cornets instead of trumpets. We have flugel-horns, baritones, tenor and brass trombones, French horns, tubas and percussion.

"The band tradition in Britain goes back to the early 1800s," he continued, "so there is all kinds of great music for a band like ours."

Choral works to be performed include "Magnificat" by American composer Mark Gersham, arranged to highlight the talents of choral accompanist Sharon Rich Peterson on piano, and Julie Brueck, organist, and the Joyful Ringers Handbell Choir of Glenview Community Church.

There will be carols arranged for the Chicago Master Singers by Paul Langford, as well as Giovanni Gabrieli's "Gloria" and Robert Shaw's "Many Moods of Christmas."

Holiday favorites

"You'll hear all kinds of your favorite holiday music," Davids said, mentioning Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," as well as music from the score written by Hollywood composer John Williams for "Home Alone." That 1990 Christmas comedy was shot on the North Shore and features the exterior of — guess what? — Trinity United Methodist Church in Wilmette.

The Prairie Brass was established in 1997 and Niermeyer was one of the founding members. "I played in a brass band when I was in high school," he said. "Then I played trumpet during my years at Northwestern University," he said. "When the idea of forming a brass band came up, some people knew I had experience and invited me to be part of it."

On the principle that you can never have too much Christmas music, the North Shore Choral Society's next concert will also be holiday-centered. At 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, they will take part in "An Evanston Symphony Christmas" at Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave. in Evanston.



Julia Davids

A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

North Shore Choral Society and the Prairie Brass Band of Arlington Heights
Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St., Glenview

3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20

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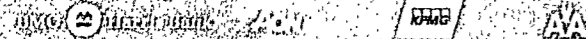
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The green ogre of the title, his sidekick Donkey and Princess Fiona come to life on stage when "Shrek the Musical" comes to the Rosemont Theatre Nov. 25-27.

Go green: 'Shrek the Musical' to Rosemont

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

A large, swamp-dwelling, green ogre is not Fiona's first choice for a love interest, but the princess is won over in "Shrek the Musical," 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 25, 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Nov. 26, and 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, at Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont.

"Fiona is fun," declared Liz Shivener, who plays the princess in the national touring company production. "She's a basket case. She's feisty when it's inappropriate. Today we live in a world of holding your tongue and worrying about what is expected and it's not in her to do that. She is completely 100 percent herself all the time."

Despite their differences, Shivener is convinced that Shrek and Fiona are a perfect match. "It's fun to see the awkward romance developing," she said. "Everybody can sympathize with that to some degree."

Tickets are \$22.50-\$87.50.
For details, call (800) 745-3000 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com.

A warm feeling

Kids ages 3-5, with an adult, are invited to wear pajamas and bring a pillow and blanket or sleeping bag to Fireside Storytime, 7-8 p.m. Saturday at Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. They will hear non-scary bedtime stories, sing nature songs and

enjoy snacks. Fee is \$8 per child for residents, \$10 for nonresidents.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500 or visit www.skokieparks.org.

Bop and bite

Audiences tend to sing along when Laura Doherty performs her original folk-pop music. She will be singing and strumming, noon-1 p.m. Saturday as part of the Boppin' and Burgers Family Music Series at the Blues Bar of Mount Prospect, 2 W. Busse Ave. A \$5 donation is suggested and burgers are \$5.

For details, call (847) 788-9977 or visit www.blues-bar.com.

Purr-formers return

The Amazing Acro-Cats are making a return engagement at 3 and 6 p.m. Sunday at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave. The fabulous felines will push carts, ring bells and jump through hoops. The Rock Cats will perform. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door for adults, \$10 and \$12 for children.

For details, call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com.

Gnomance is in the air

Shakespeare's tale takes some unexpected turns in the 84-minute animated PG film, "Gnomeo and Juliet." The Kid Flick will be shown at 3:30 p.m. Monday at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave.

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

MOVIE REVIEW

Goodbye, cruel world

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

MELANCHOLIA

★ ★ 1/2

It's the end of the world as we know it.

And Lars Von Trier feels fine.

The controversial Danish writer-director ("Breaking the Waves," "Dancer in the Dark") has always specialized in provocation — on-screen and off. Now, with the cold, contemptuous, occasionally beautiful, magnificently depressing "Melancholia," he has graduated to provocation on a grand scale.

"Melancholia" dramatizes events that precede the obliteration of the world when it collides with a runaway planet 10 times its size. To be precise, it is expressive of the catastrophic depression that has afflicted the director in recent years. It's less expressive of anxiety, though, or despair, than bitter longing for the end of pointless, empty existence.

Essentially, "Melancholia" contrasts the end of the world with an intimate chamber drama in which the approach of the giant planet Melancholia is viewed from the perspective of a wealthy family on a palatial estate. The film opens with a dazzling montage of surreal, sumptuously apocalyptic images, accompanied by music from Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde." It's a spectacular visual overture that easily outdoes a similar cosmic sequence in Terrence Malick's "The Tree of Life," which won the Cannes Palm d'Or in competition with "Melancholia."

After showing what he can do with formal, polished, heightened imagery, however, Von Trier quickly reverts to the sort of no-frills, handheld-camera realism he developed during his Dogme 95 avant-garde days for most of the remainder of the film.

"Melancholia" is divided into two sections dealing with two sisters, Justine and Claire.

In the first, Claire (Charlotte Gainsbourg) attempts to throw a lavish wedding party



Waiting for the end of the world: Kirsten Dunst stars as Justine in Lars Von Trier's "Melancholia."

for her little sister Justine (Kirsten Dunst, who won the best actress prize at Cannes). Justine shows her appreciation by showing up hours late with her new husband (Alexander Skarsgard) and refusing to participate in the evening's various rituals as her melancholic nature asserts itself — eventually ruining not only her marriage but her career after insulting her boss (Stellan Skarsgard). It's a monumental social disaster, the sort of thing that would resound for years in the family if there were years to come, but it serves primarily to introduce Justine, who functions as a stand-in for Von Trier. Justine's depression makes it difficult for her to fit into everyday life because everything seems meaningless and empty.

The second half of "Melancholia" shifts closer to Claire's point of view as she cares for Justine, who has suffered a total depressive collapse. The rogue planet Melancholia, which was glimpsed for just a second by Justine during the wedding party, is now a giant, looming presence in the sky. This makes Claire anxious despite the assurances of her rich, amateur-astronomer husband (Kiefer Sutherland) that it will fly by harmlessly.

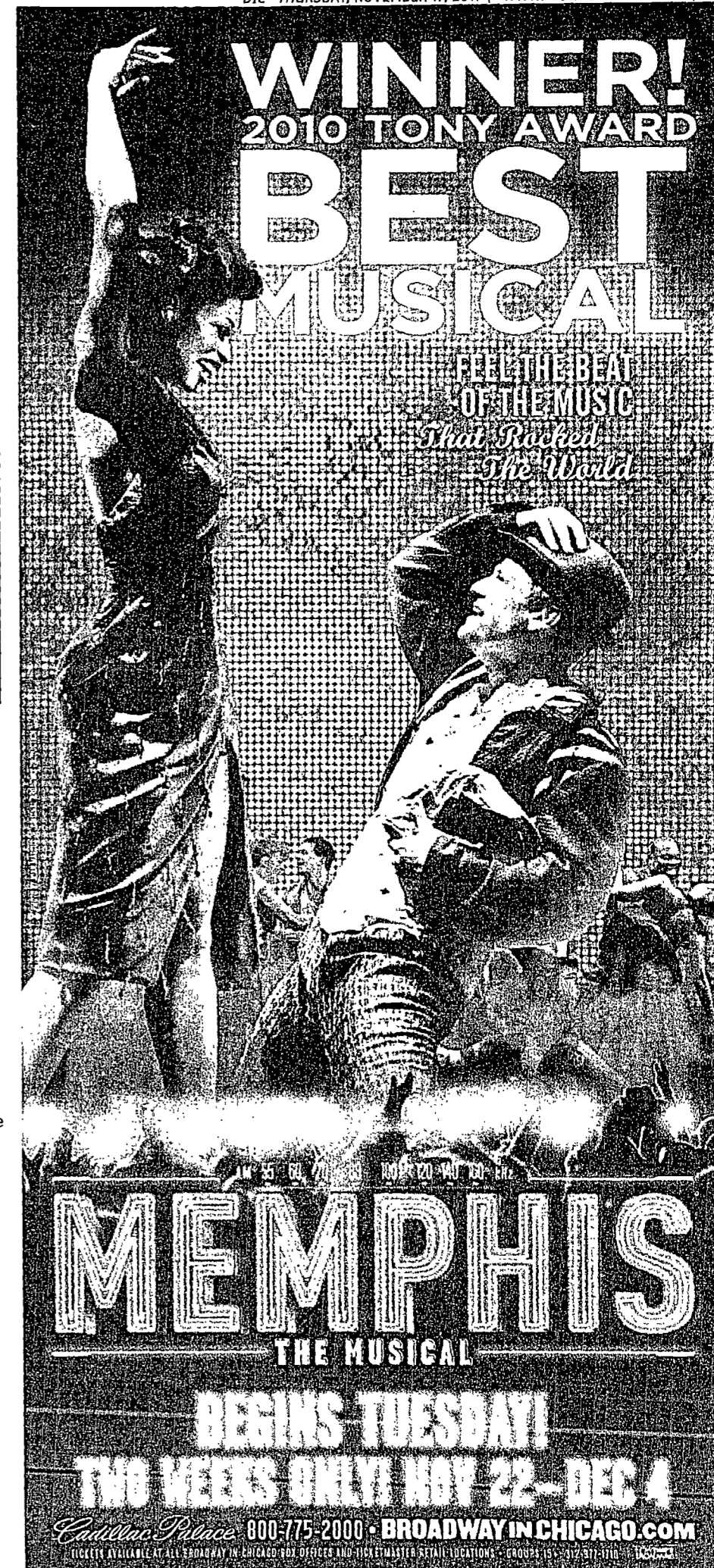
After all, as the normal, well-adjusted sister, Claire has a lot to lose and therefore becomes increasingly distraught. Justine, on the other hand, yearns for the arrival of Melancholia and becomes more stable and assured as the planet draws nearer. She has nothing to lose and little more than merciless disdain for her sister, telling her, "The Earth is evil. We don't need to grieve for it."

There are moments of haunting beauty in "Melancholia": The dark, dreamlike images of the prelude, Justine lying nude on a riverbank luxuriating in the combined light of the moon and Melancholia, and a final shot — for the film and for planet Earth — that makes a powerful and memorable impact. It has little to offer, though, in terms of its characters or its plot, aside from presenting Von Trier's misanthropic philosophical ideas. Which boil down to little more than a cross between nihilism and petulance. Love means nothing. Family means nothing. Life itself, essentially, means nothing. All human striving, suffering, hopes and dreams are ultimately rendered absurd.

Thanks, Lars; you have a nice day, too.

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NEW ON VIDEO

A case of 'Beginners' luck

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

BEGINNERS

★★★

Rated: R for language and some sexual content
Length: 105 minutes
Stars: Ewan McGregor, Melanie Laurent, Christopher Plummer
If you're allergic to preciousness and whimsy, you might want to let "Beginners" get started without you. But anyone who likes their romance warm, fuzzy, quirky and bittersweet is likely to find this heart-achy little comedy a charmer. McGregor pours on the lost-and-lonely charm as Oliver, the son of retired museum director Hal (Plummer), who comes out of the closet four months after the death of Oliver's mother and starts a new, flamboyantly gay lifestyle at 75 — a few years before dying of cancer. Writer/director Mike Mills ("Thumbsucker") keeps things interesting as Oliver works out his grief and his relationship issues while drawing closer to his dad in his final, lavender years and gradually falling in love with a mysterious French actress (Laurent). The dialogue is smart and amusing and we even get a few words of wisdom, via subtitles, from Hal's grieving Jack Russell terrier.

THE RULES OF THE GAME

★★★★

Rated: No MPA rating
Length: 110 minutes
Stars: Nora Gregor, Roland Toutain, Marcel Dalio, Jean Renoir
Now generally hailed as one of the greatest films ever made, Jean Renoir's 1939 masterpiece was almost completely lost. Crowds booed the film at its debut screenings, perhaps offended at the way Renoir undercut a romantic comedy of manners with tragedy and pointed a finger at corrupt morals in French society. The original distributor cut the film radically and then the original negative was lost during World War II — when the film was banned by the



Christopher Plummer and Ewan McGregor are a father and son making up for lost time in the warm, fuzzy, quirky and bittersweet "Beginners."

occupation government as a bad moral influence. Followers of Renoir restored the film in 1956, however, and it was instantly lauded as a classic. On one level, "Rules of the Game" plays like a light bedroom farce, in which a weekend retreat at the country estate of a wealthy aristocrat (Dalio) is the setting for a game of musical beds among the rich guests — and the estate's servants. The catalyst for tragedy is an aviation hero (Toutain), who falls in love with the wife (Gregor) of his host, and risks everything to claim her — with disastrous results. This Criterion Collection release features a hi-def digital restoration and numerous extras including an introduction to the film by Renoir and a booklet featuring writings by Renoir, Francois Truffaut and Bertrand Tavernier.

ALSO NEW

CRIME STORY:

THE COMPLETE SERIES
Michael Mann's 1986 Chicago-based series about a tough cop (real-life former cop Dennis Farina) who takes on the mob in the early '60s gets the 25th-anniversary treatment. This nine-disc box set features all 43 episodes plus the original pilot movie, directed by Abel Ferrara ("Bad Lieutenant").

IT TAKES A THIEF:
THE COMPLETE SERIES

This 18-disc box set contains all 66 digitally remastered episodes of the 1968 ABC-TV series starring Robert Wagner as a cat burglar who earns his freedom by breaking and entering for an American espionage agency. Extras include a feature-length version of the pilot episode, an interview with Wagner, a limited edition reproduction of a 35mm film frame from the series and a collectible booklet.

LARRY CROWNE

Director/co-writer (with "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" screenwriter Nia Vardalos) Tom Hanks stars as the title character, a down-sized middle-aged corporate veteran who decides to take a new start by getting a college degree — and makes the romantic acquaintance of burned-out teacher Julia Roberts. Rated PG-13 for brief strong language and some sexual content.

MY FAIR LADY

George Cukor's 1964 movie version of the Broadway musical features Audrey Hepburn, and Rex Harrison recreating his most famous role. Extras in this Blu-ray set include vintage footage and audio taken from the film's

original shoot, alternate vocals from Hepburn and photo galleries.

WEST SIDE STORY:
50TH ANNIVERSARY

Jerome Robbins' 1961 movie version of the Leonard Bernstein-Stephen Sondheim Broadway smash won a record-breaking 10 Academy Awards, including best picture. In addition to a restored, high-definition Blu-ray transfer, extras include documentaries on the film's famous dance sequences and a look at the impact of the film around the world, plus song-specific commentary by Sondheim.

OUT NEXT WEEK

Documentaries are a highlight of the coming week's releases, including "Making the Boys," about the impact of "The Boys in the Band," the first gay play to reach a mainstream audience in America; and "Those Amazing Shadows: The Movies that Make America," exploring the role of the National Film Registry. On the fictional side, look for "The Adventures of Tintin: Season One," the DVD debut of the animated 1962 French TV series based on Belgian artist Hergé's long-running series of graphic adventure novels.

PLAY REVIEW

Zany mayhem blasts off with Piccolo's panto

BY TOM WITOM
Contributor

The panto is a British-style entertainment especially popular around the Christmas holidays, but the loopy humor that is a hallmark of this theatrical format has connected with theatergoers far beyond the United Kingdom: outer space, to be precise. Evanston's Piccolo Theatre again is delighting its audiences with this unique diversion in the premiere of "Space Wars: The Panto!" by artistic associate Jessica Puller. Nicole Keating directs a well-tuned, unbridled 13-member cast in a zany show that appeals to young and old.

Two previous pantos by Puller — "Perseus and Medusa: It's All Greek to Me" and "Robin Hood" — graced Piccolo's stage in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Puller's latest farcical

adventure pokes fun at the science fiction genre. Its plot has all the requisite elements for panto: a hero (a young man played by a woman), in this case a lad named Mark Sleepwalker, (Bernier Taylor in the part), who falls in love with a beautiful princess (Ha-El). To win her hand, Mark must demonstrate worthiness as a champion by dethroning the evil Queen Livia and subduing her bedeviled son, Fenton. Mark's task is to retrieve the long-missing helmet of the legendary Lone Spaceman.

"Space Wars" offers a lot of laugh-inducing slapstick humor and double entendres, mistaken identities, cross-dressing and messy battles, including an obligatory scene during which buckets of creamy white goo are tossed with abandon.

An intergalactic skirmish is cleverly presented using glow-in-the-dark miniature spacecraft and weaponry ma-

nipulated by unseen hands. Meanwhile, projected images interspersed throughout the panto, such as Mark's "My Space Book Page," add to the hilarity. Taylor (who last appeared at Piccolo in "Comedy of Errors") excels as the venturesome hero, Mark, who must overthrow Lauren Goods, the villainous ruler, in order to win the hand of Sarah Mayhan, the princess.

Other hard-working performers include Andrew Puckett, as Mark's flamboyant mother Susie Sleepwalker, who harbors a closely guarded family secret; Adrian Garcia, as Livia's repressed Darth Vader-like son; Ben Muller as Ambassador Swoozie; a Star Trekian, Spock-like character; and Kate Black, as D.O.P.E., a digital stand-in for Princess Ha-El).

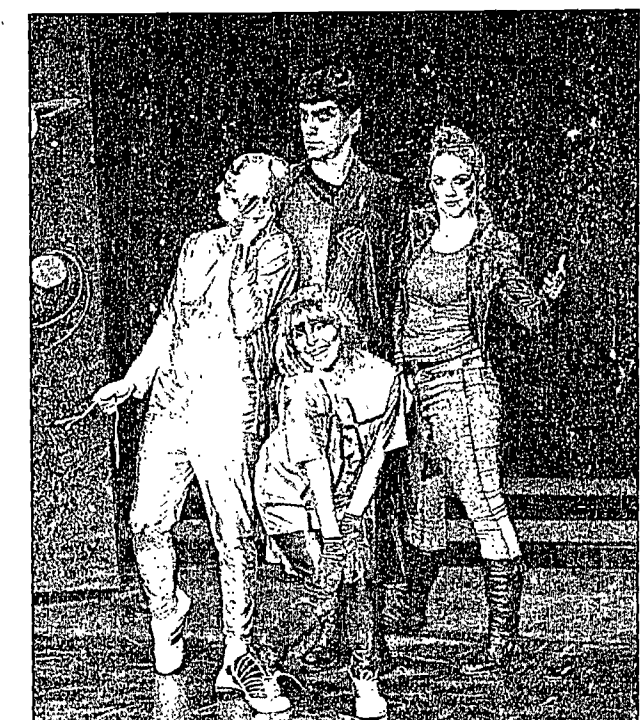
Other Piccolo stalwarts here include Joe Bianco, Yael Wartens, Cassandra Quinn, Kirk Osgood, Jared McDaris and Audrey Bertaux-Skeirik.

'SPACE WARS: THE PANTO!'

Piccolo Theatre, Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston

7:30 p.m. Fridays; 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; and 3 p.m. Sundays, through Dec. 17

\$25; \$22 seniors; \$15 students; \$10 for children 12 and under; family (two adults and two children) \$65. Call (847) 424-0089 or visit www.piccolo-theatre.com



"Space Wars: The Panto!" at Piccolo Theatre features (clockwise from front) Cassandra Quinn, Kirk Osgood, Ben Muller and Bernier Taylor.

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YOUNG MUSICIANS PERFORM



Christine Murphy, flutist, and Ian Pappas, percussionist, both of Park Ridge, will perform when the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras kicks off its 65th anniversary season with a concert by the organization's 130-member Symphony Orchestra at Chicago's Orchestra Hall, 220 S. Michigan Ave., 7:30 p.m. Nov. 20. Under the baton of Music Director Allen Tinkham, the orchestra will perform works by Strauss, Prokofiev, Barber and Scriabin. CYSO has an abundance of alumni who have gone on to hold key positions as part of acclaimed national and international orchestras. Concert tickets are \$20-\$40. Boxes are also available. For more information, visit www.cysy.org or call (312) 939-2207, ext. 31.



Allison Hendrix (left) plays accompanist Jimmi, a professor of ethnomusicology, to Rebecca Joy Fletcher's character Cat, a cabaret diva, in "Cities of Light."

PLAY REVIEW

Revue reveals extraordinary music of a provocative era

BY CATEY SULLIVAN
Contributor

With "Cities of Light," Rebecca Fletcher takes audiences on a time-tripping, cross-continental musical journey through Tel Aviv, Paris, Warsaw and Weimarer Berlin, punctuating the journey with songs from the Jewish cabaret tradition of the 1920s, '30s and '40s. It's an uneven yet intriguing journey, rich in music but slightly impoverished by some truly awkward audience participation and forced interaction between the two characters serving as cultural tour guides.

The two-person musicale begins on an unexpected (and comparatively dull) note, as Jimmi, a buttoned-up ethnomusicologist (Allison Hendrix) welcomes the audience to her scholarly lecture on cabaret. "I hope you're all in the right place," she says, and it is with such no-nonsense sincerity we wondered if we'd misread the press release, mistaking a professorial symposium for a musical revue.

Jimmi, however, soon turns out to be the straight man to the flamboyant, aggressively seductive chanteuse Cat (Fletcher), who bursts on the scene in a blast of flickering lights ("Cities of Light" needs higher production values to make Cat's spectral entrance

'CITIES OF LIGHT'

Piven Theatre, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston
7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays, through Dec. 11
\$25-\$30; \$23-\$28 for students and seniors
(847) 866-8049 or visit www.piventheatre.org

work effectively.) Cat is here to help Jimmi loosen up, and to liven up her enthusiastic but rather dry lecture on one of history's most salacious and provocative eras.

Unfortunately, the banter between the women feels contrived at best, as Hendrix pretends unconvincingly to be befuddled/flabbergasted/annoyed by the unexpected interruption to her "lecture," while Cat gambols about with exaggerated bonhomie that's more wide-eyed Romper Room hostess than mysterious siren.

The awkwardness reaches its apex when Cat starts flirtatiously stealing purses from women in the audience, chattering manically as if everyone she encounters is new best friend, while Jimmi knits her brows sternly and feigns anger at Cat's outrageousness. As far as the

purse-borrowing goes, it's a bit of shtick that makes no sense within the context of the show and serves to emphasize the phoniness of the presumed intimacy between Cat and her audience.

Directed by Marti Lyons, "Cities of Light" does far better when it abandons the cutesy-pie preciousness and simply puts the spotlight on the era's extraordinary music. Fletcher has packed the 80-minute show with 14 little-known treasures by the likes of Kurt Weill, Charlie Chaplin and Misha Spoliansky. She nimbly moves from German to Hebrew to Yiddish to English while Hendrix keeps pace on the piano.

For those who are familiar with cabaret culture only through Kander and Ebb's 1966 musical named for the art form, "Cities of Light" provides a context to the iconic musical's shimmering decadence.

With songs including the rollicking *Es Liegt in der Luft* (It's in the Air), the satirical *An Allen Sind die Juden Schuld* (A Jew to Blame!), and the lyrically delicate *Dos Bahsthl Kreln* (A String of Pearls), Fletcher goes beyond the top layers of sensuality and exposes the millennia of history that helped shape the music of the 1920s through the 1940s.

It's too bad one has to cut through a lot of dialogue clutter to get to that music.

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HOLIDAY
"Season's Greetings," through Dec. 18 at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. It's Christmas in the Bunker household - 'tis the season for bickering relatives, drunken mishaps, and an ill-conceived puppet show that no one wants to see. The production is recommended for ages 13 and up. Curtain times are Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (no show Nov. 29 and Dec. 13); Wednesdays at 1 p.m. (no show Nov. 30) and 7:30 p.m. (no show Dec. 7); Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (no show Nov. 24); Fridays at 8 p.m. (except opening on Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m.); Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (no 7 p.m. show on Nov. 20, Dec. 4 and 18). Tickets: \$25-\$60; Young Adult tickets (25 and under) are \$10. Opening night tickets are \$75 and include a post-show reception. Call (847) 673-6300

or visit www.northlight.org. Salon Series panel discussion will be held at 1 p.m. **Nov. 27**; reservations required at (847) 679-9501, ext. 3555.
"Mrs. Claus - A Holiday Musical" will be presented by Chicago Kids Company **Nov. 21-Dec. 21** at the Stahl Family Theater in St. Patrick's High School, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Tickets: \$10. For information, call (773) 205-9600 or visit www.chicago-kidscompany.com.
"The Nutcracker" will be presented by Salt Creek Ballet at 3 p.m. **Dec. 17-18** at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 N. Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets: \$31.50-\$39.50. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org.
"The Great Russian Nutcracker" will be presented by The Moscow Ballet at 3 p.m. **Dec. 10** at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. The performance features principals Karyna Shatkovskaya and Vladimir Tkachenko, along with 40 young dancers from Chicago's Southport Performing Arts Conservatory. \$26-\$86.50. For tickets, e-mail andy@

SEE GO, PAGE 12B

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nutcracker.com or call (847) 671-5100.

"Holiday Pops" will be presented by the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge, featuring Jessye Wright, mezzo-soprano, Larry Adams, baritone, and the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Chorus. Tickets are \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Visit www.parkridgecivicochestra.org or call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861.

"I Heard The Bells," the Lakeside Singers holiday concert, will be presented at 8 p.m. Dec. 2 in Nichols Concert Hall at The Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The program includes music from Argentina, Israel, Italy, France and America, as well as arrangements of songs made famous by "Glee." Straight No Chaser, Faith Hill and Kristin Chenoweth. Tickets: \$30; \$20 students and senior citizens; \$10 children under 12. Call

(847) 382-5085 or visit www.lakesidesingers.com.

"Holidays a cappella" will be presented by Chicago a cappella at 8 p.m. Dec. 3 in Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The program includes Renaissance treasures, Chanukah songs, carols from around the world, contemporary works and familiar holiday favorites. Tickets are \$35 for preferred seating; \$28 general admission; \$22 for seniors; \$12 for students. Call (773) 281-7820 or visit www.chicagoacappella.org.

"Gloria," the annual holiday concert of the North-west Choral Society, will be presented at 4 p.m. Dec. 4 at Edison Park Lutheran Church, 6626 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago. General admission \$20; \$15 for senior citizens and students. Visit www.nwchoralsociety.org or call (224) 585-9127.

"The Messiah" will be presented at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church, 4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie. The performance will include members of the Lyric Opera

and the Carter-Westminster Chancel Choir. Free admission. For information, call (847) 673-4441 or visit www.cwupc.org.

An Evanston Symphony Christmas will be presented at 3 p.m. Dec. 4 in the Evanston Township High School auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston. The Evanston Symphony Orchestra, under music director Lawrence Eckerling, will be joined by the North Shore Choral Society, the Evanston Dance Ensemble and the Evanston Children's Choir. The program

includes selections from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" ballet, the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah, and a sing-along of holiday carols. Tickets: \$25; \$10 for children. Discounted family packages available. Visit www.evanstonsymphony.org or call (847) 864-8804.

"Rejoice and Be Merry" will be presented by the Park Ridge Chorale at 7 p.m. Dec. 10 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Tickets

SEE GO, PAGE 14B

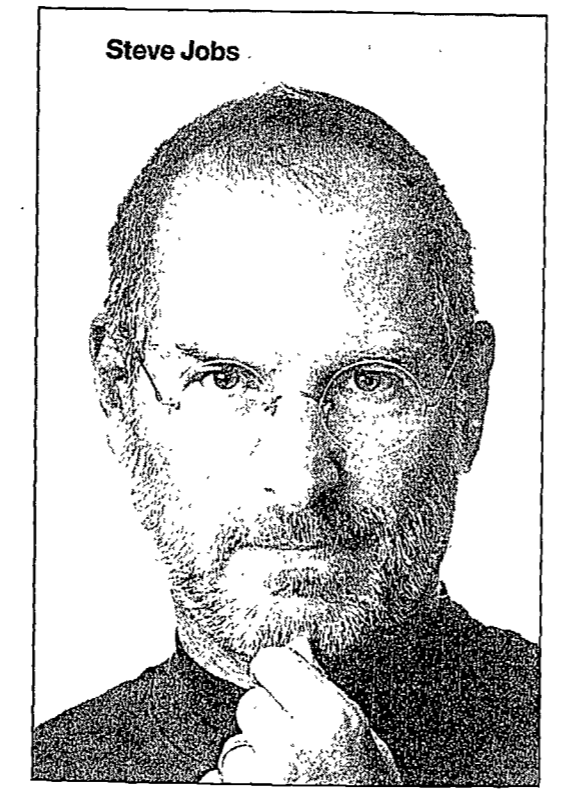


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BOOKCHAT



Chat about Jobs — Steve, that is

Join the Pioneer Page Turners Book Club as we take a bite out of the apple with the biography of *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson. Jobs, one of the founding members of the Apple empire (as well as an innovator in other mediums), was a genius when it came to technology and marketing, but was often lacking when it came to human interaction. Isaacson's biography of Jobs was the top-selling book in the country; this perhaps due in large part to the fact that it hit the shelves a few weeks after Jobs' death on Oct. 5. Isaacson is a former editor of Time magazine who's written books on Albert Einstein and Benjamin Franklin. Not bad company for Jobs to keep. The book is reportedly a well-rounded portrait, warts and all (with Jobs' blessing), of a complicated man. Should be interesting. Visit the blog at <http://pioneerlocal.suntimes.com/index.html> for more information and the date and time of the live chat.

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purchased by Dec. 2 are \$14; \$12 for seniors. Tickets at the door are \$16; \$14 for seniors. Free admission for youth under 18. Call (847) 823-3958 (847) 825-5499.

Bittersweet Christmas Band, with folk musicians and singers Phil Cooper, Kate Early, Margaret Nelson and Susan Urban, performs at 8 p.m. **Dec. 10** at the Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. \$8 includes beverages and pastries. Visit www.ethicalhu-

man.org/coffeehouse or call (847) 677-3334.

"**Holiday Delights**" will be presented by Bella Voce a cappella chamber chorus at 4 p.m. **Dec. 11** at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. Tickets: \$30; \$38 premium; \$15 students. Call (877) 755-6277 or visit <http://bellavoce.org>.

"**Holly Follies**" will be presented by the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus at 3 p.m. **Dec. 11** at the First Congregational Church of Evanston UCC,

1445 Hinman, Evanston. For tickets or more information, visit www.cgmc.org or call (773) 296-0541.

"**An Olde English Christmas**," featuring familiar carols in traditional and contemporary settings, will be presented by the Chicago Chamber Choir at 4 p.m. **Dec. 17** at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1509 Ridge Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. For information, call (312) 409-6890 or visit www.chicago-chamberchoir.org.

A **Christmas concert** will

be presented by the Chicago Grandstand Big Band from 4-6 p.m. **Dec. 18** at Edison Park Lutheran Church, 6626 N. Oliphant, Chicago. Admission is \$10; \$8 for students and seniors. Visit www.chicagograndstandbigband.com.

The **Evanston Chamber Music Group** will present a mini-concert and holiday celebration at 3 p.m. **Dec. 18** at the Evanston Masonic Temple, 1453 Maple Ave. Several chamber musicians will perform classical music, followed by a pianist/singer leading the audience in

holiday songs and Christmas carols. There will also be refreshments and tours of the historic Evanston Masonic Temple. Free-will donation of \$10.

Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont. **Dec. 31**, 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m.: New Year's Eve celebration featuring bands Modern Day Romeos and Jaktripper, pop singer Tony Ocean, and a dance club with DJ. A champagne toast, party favors, a fantasy casino, and an open bar available throughout the evening are included. \$75 per person. VIP upgrade available for an additional \$34 per person, which includes premium open bar and snacks as well as premium and private areas in both the Rosemont and Grand ballrooms. Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketweb.com.

STAGE
"Chicago" will be presented by Rising Stars Theatre Company at 7:30 p.m. **Nov. 19** and 2 p.m. **Nov. 20** at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Tickets: \$16; \$14 for children 12 and under and senior citizens. Call (773) 736-2490 or visit www.risingstarschicago.com.

"**Cities of Light**," presented by Piven Theatre through **Dec. 11** at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. The theatrical journey through Berlin, Paris, Warsaw and Tel Aviv in the 1920s and 1930s captures the spirit of Jewish cabaret of the era. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$25-\$30; \$23-\$28 for students and seniors. Call (847) 866-8049 or visit www.piventheatre.org.

"**Cloud 9**," through **Dec. 4** at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee, Chicago (Jefferson Park). Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. No performances on Nov. 18 or 24. Tickets: \$25-\$30. Call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

"**Maple and Vine**" will be presented by Next Theatre Company through **Dec. 4** at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Kathy and Ryu, a successful New York City couple, have become allergic to their 21st century lives. After meeting a charismatic man from a community of 1950s re-enactors, they forgo cell phones and sushi for cigarettes and Tupperware parties. Tickets:

\$30-\$40; \$15-\$20 for students and young adults under age 26. Call (847) 475-1875 or visit www.nexttheatre.org.

"**A Night With the Tonys**" will be presented at 7 p.m. **Nov. 19** and 3 p.m. **Nov. 20** at the Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie, featuring scenes from shows such as "Chicago," "Hairspray," "Our Town," "The Diary of Anne Frank," "Cabaret," "Annie" and more. Tickets: \$11; \$9 for students and senior citizens. Call (847) 674-1500 or visit www.skokieparks.org.

"**Pump Boys and Dinettes**" will be presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre **Nov. 27-Jan. 15** at No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood, Chicago (Rogers Park). Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 7 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$29-\$34, with discounts available for groups, students and seniors. Optional dinner package for \$20 excluding beverages, taxes and tips. Visit www.theoubique.org or call (800) 595-4849.

"**Shrek the Musical**," **Nov. 25-27** at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Performances are at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$22.50-\$87.50. Visit www.rosemonththeatre.com or call (800) 745-3000.

"**Space Wars: The Pantalo**," a family-friendly fairy tale of the future, will be presented by Piccolo Theatre through **Dec. 17** at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays; 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$25; \$22 seniors; \$15 students; \$10 for children 12 and under; family (two adults and two children) \$65. Call (847) 424-0089 or visit www.piccolothetre.com.

CLASSICAL
Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. (773) 381-4554. www.maynestage.com.

Nov. 26, 7:30 p.m.: Pianist Jamie Shaak and Friends present an evening of newly composed "Musical Gems." \$10. **Live from Mayne Stage**, a weekly Sunday morning series sponsored by WFMT. Performances are from 11 a.m.-noon. Admission: \$10. **Nov. 20**: Hershey Felder. **Dec. 3**: Piano quartet from the Lyric Opera of Chicago. **Dec.**

SEE GO, PAGE 16B

New Block director brings a global view

BY MICHAEL BONESTEEL
Contributor



Lisa Corrin is the new director of the Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University. (PHOTO BY ELIZABETH LEITZELL)

In the world of art museums, bigger is not always better. An institution's history and reputation can sometimes weigh it down and keep it from being flexible enough to change with the times. But smaller museums like Northwestern University's Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, with less historical baggage are more able to change as they need to.

"One of the roles of an institution like the Block Museum is to raise questions about art that are not possible to do at places like the Art Institute of Chicago or the Museum of Contemporary Art," said Lisa Graziose Corrin, former director of Massachusetts' Williams College Museum of Art, in a recent interview.

Born in Queens, New York, and raised on Long Island, Corrin has been named the next director of the Block Museum in Evanston. She takes her new post on Feb. 1, 2012.

"You could expect that a place like the Block Museum would challenge our definitions of art. I think that these definitions have shifted since the late 1980s," she said, citing the groundbreaking 1989 "Magiciens de la Terre" exhibition at the Pompidou Center in Paris that incorporated 50 professional artists from around Europe and 50 other artists from the margins of the "high" art world.

World travel

"I've traveled quite a bit and have a global perspective on the art of our time," said Corrin, who worked as a curator at London's Serpentine Gallery. She also spent a period of time studying art and culture in Turkey. "Modernism should be plural: It should be Modernisms. The responsibility of a curator is how to bring those parallel worlds together. I have intentionally chosen to work at places unlike each other. I am equally interested in museum structure and how it can be

pushed and prodded in different directions to create new models."

Although she is brimming with ideas, Corrin is reluctant to talk about implementing anything specific at this stage.

"I'm trying to avoid coming in with too much of an agenda," she explained. "The broad brush strokes of what I would like to accomplish would be an increasing collaboration with other institutions like, say, the [University of Chicago's] Smart Gallery has with the Art Institute of Chicago. And when I think about what might be done in collaboration with the Field Museum and the Shedd Aquarium, I'm like a kid in a candy store."

"On Northwestern's campus, I'd like to break down the boundaries between the museum and other institutions — like the Department of Journalism and the Engineering School. Working with other organizations can enrich everyone."

In addition to her curating work, Corrin is the author the 1994 Wittenborn Prize-winning book titled *Mining the Museum: An Installation by Fred Wilson*.

"My passion has always been for working with living artists," she said. "Fred Wilson is an African American artist whom I asked to reinstall and readdress the collection at the Maryland Historical Society. He brought an artist's perspec-

tive to a collection that was very 'white.' He took objects and re-presented them from his point of view."

New focus

In one case, Wilson took a historic painting that pictured black servants standing around the periphery of a scene that focused on the central figures of white landowners. Wilson lit the painting in an unprecedented fashion so as to spotlight the slaves.

"It got you to see how a work of art can be viewed from two different perspectives," Corrin recalled.

Northwestern University Provost Jean Shedd chaired the search committee that ultimately selected Corrin as Block's new director.

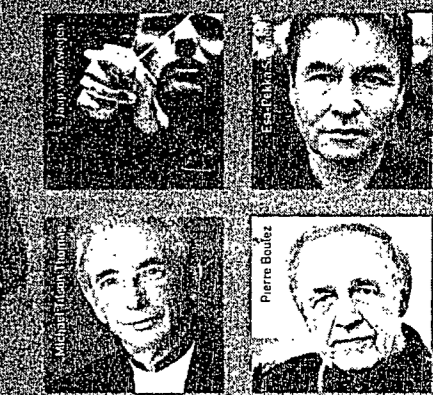
"One looks for a certain level of accomplishment, which Lisa certainly has," said Shedd. "Her interests in contemporary art and public sculpture are a plus. We also looked for someone who can reach out to surrounding communities to partner with the museum on projects."

"We drew a lot of good candidates — some very strong ones. But it was Lisa's experience, energy and enthusiasm in the end that got her the job."

More information on the Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, at (847) 491-4000 or www.blockmuseum.org.

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INTERSECTION OF DANCE AND ART



Classical Indian dancer Rama Vaidyanathan will use her art and dialogue to interpret the "Talk" paintings of Northbrook artist Chandrika Marla in a program at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Admission is free. Vaidyanathan, one of India's foremost classical dancers, will perform a Bharatanatyam dance accompanied by a traditional live, Indian orchestra. A reception to meet the dancer-artist duo and view the paintings follows the performance. Information on Chandrika Marla at www.chandrikamarla.com; information on Rama Vaidyanathan at www.ramavaidyanathan.com. Contact the library at (847) 673-7774 or see www.skokie.lib.il.us.

GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14B

11: Marie Alatalo, piano. **Dec. 18:** Kuang-Hao Huang, piano, and Anthony Devroye, viola.

The Met: Live in HD, the Metropolitan Opera's series of live performance transmissions into movie theaters, including Niles 12, 301 Golf Mill Center, Niles; and Randhurst Village 12, 200 Randhurst Village Drive, Mount Prospect. Tickets are available at the theater box offices and online at www.FathomEvents.com. **Nov. 19, 11:55 a.m.:** Philip Glass's "Satyagraha." **Dec. 3, 11:30 a.m.:** Handel's "Rodelinda." **Dec. 10, 11:55 a.m.:** Gounod's "Faust." **Jan. 21, 2012, 11:55 a.m.:** "The Enchanted Island," a showcase of arias and ensembles by Handel, Vivaldi, Rameau and others. **Feb. 11, 2012, 11 a.m.:** Wagner's "Gotterdammerung." **Feb. 25, 2012, 11:55 a.m.:** Verdi's "Ernani." **April 7, 2012, 11 a.m.:** Massenet's "Manon." **April 14, 2012, 11:55 a.m.:** Verdi's "La Traviata."

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. **Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.:** Vamos Family Concert. The program

includes Chopin's Cello Sonata in G Minor, Poulenc's Violin Sonata, and Bach's Concerto for Three Violins in D Major. \$25; \$15 seniors; \$10 students.

"The New" North Shore Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Anatol Lysenka, will open its 31st season at 3:30 p.m. **Nov. 20** at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Ave. The program includes the Grieg Piano Concerto with soloist Alexander Zintchenko; and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 — "From The New World." Admission is \$15; free for youth under 18 years old. Call (847) 864-2288 or visit www.thenewnorthshorechamber-orchestra.org.

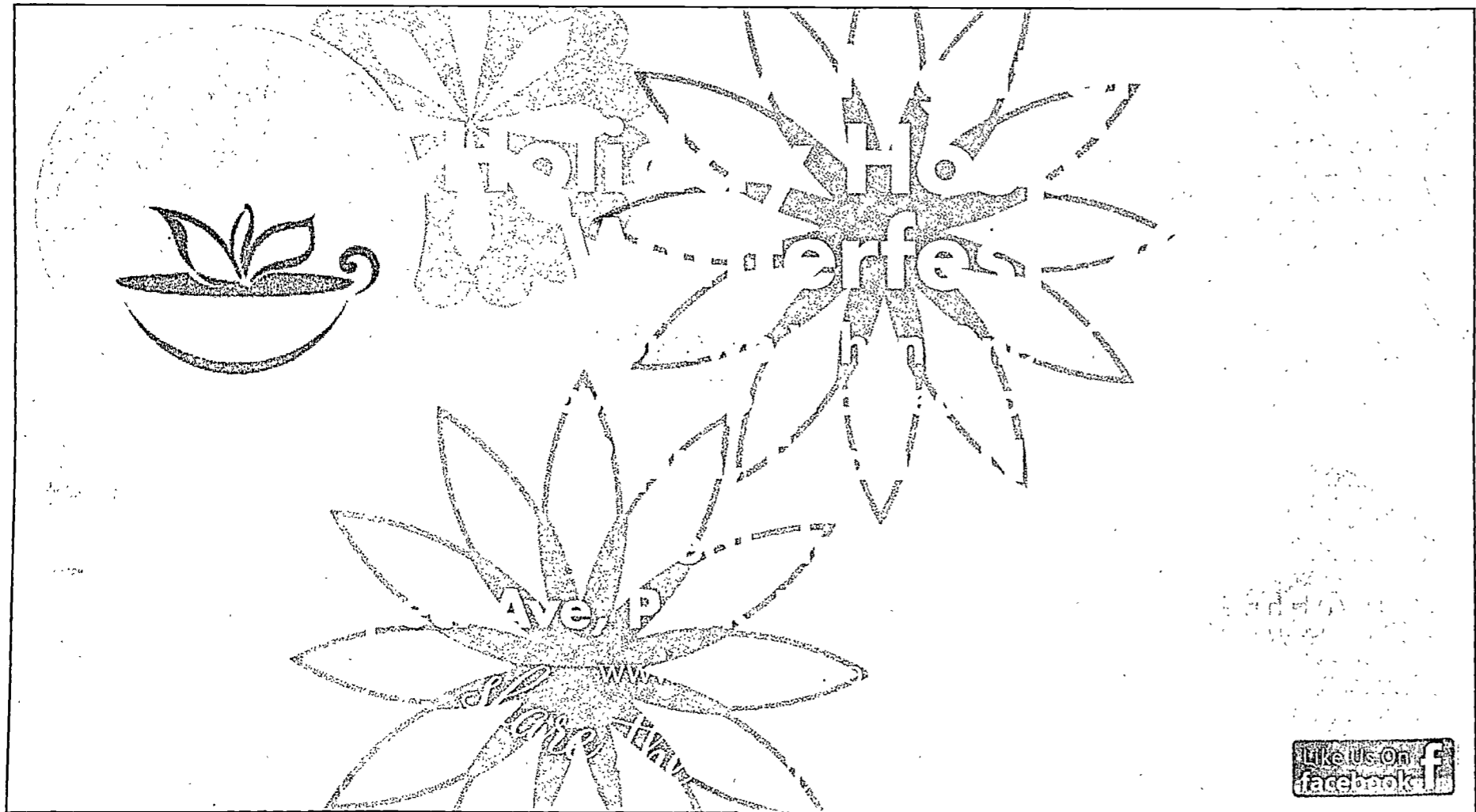
Northeastern Illinois University, Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago. (773) 442-4636. **Nov. 18, 8 p.m.:** Violinist Elena Urioste and pianist Michael Brown. \$25; \$15 seniors; \$10 students. **Dec. 16, 8 p.m.:** The Jasper Quartet. \$25; \$15 seniors; \$10 students.

Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Paul Vermel, 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. Visit www.northwestsymphony.org. **Nov. 20:** "Happy Anniversary," a celebration of the orchestra's 60th anniversary season. The program includes Aaron Copland's "Ceremonial Fanfare"; Daniel Steven Craft's "Entrance into the City of Proud Fancy"; and Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, with guest soloist Mio Nakamura. Rounding out the program will be the L'Arlesienne Suites I and II by Georges Bizet, which was presented at the NSO's first performance.

The Orion Ensemble performs in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$26; \$23 for senior citizens; \$10 for students. Free for children 12

SEE GO, PAGE 24B



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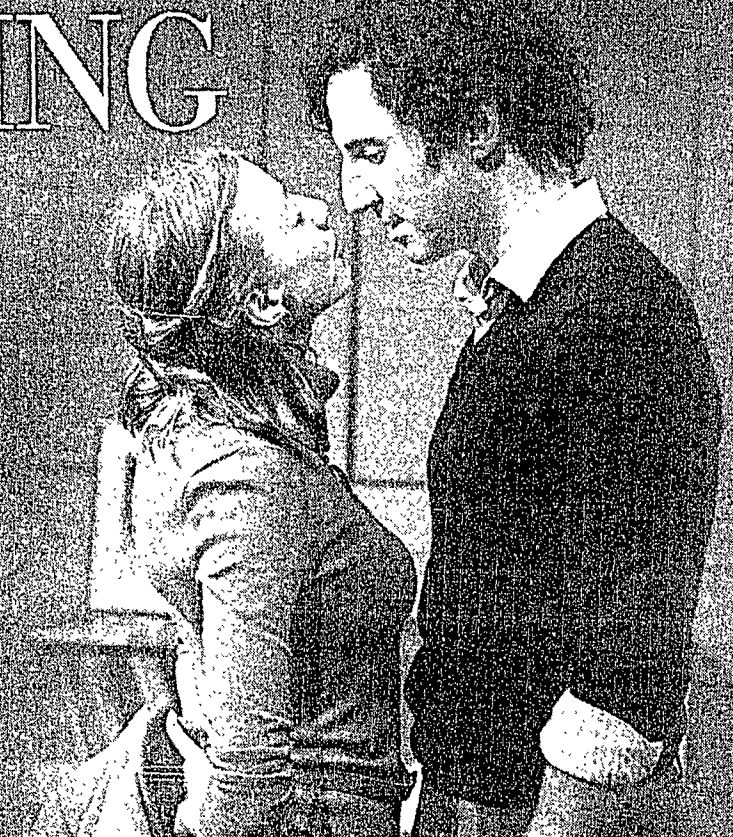
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William J. Norris and Anish Jethmalani in *The Caretaker*. Photo by Michael Broslow

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Storytellers have tales to spin for all

Evanston's Susan O'Halloran, Northbrook's Carol Kerman and Judith Heineman of Chicago will be on stage when the Chicago Storytelling Guild presents its "15th Anniversary Celebration of Stories," Sunday, Nov. 20, at The Experimental Station, 6100 S. Blackstone Ave., Chicago. Hear family stories from 3-5 p.m., an adult story concert from 7-10 p.m., and all day browse artists' work, and meet guild storytellers. Sign interpretation provided during events. Other storytellers will be: Jasmin Cardenas, Vickie Elberfeld, Irene Fahrenwald, Suzi Garfield, Kathryn Gauthier, Velma Gladney, Linda Gorham, In the Spirit, Mark Kater, Darlene & Larry Newman, Loren Niemi, Shanta, Jeff Solotoroff, Mike Speller, Sandi Sylvester, Megan Wells and other members of the Chicago Storytelling Guild. Admission is \$5. Information and reservations at (773) 288-7217; JuHeStories@aol.com; jeffro1165@sbcglobal.net.



Carol Kerman of Northbrook



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There are prizes, of course. Winners take home rewards worth \$50-\$100, while the super-winner of that final round can score \$150-\$200 worth of goodies. Various sponsors including some high profile bars and restaurants and other businesses, donate the prizes.

"I want the show to hit

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Fun is mandatory at 'The Game Show Show'

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN
Contributor

With wacky twists and turns that transform an old favorite TV standard into the crazy live event, "The Game Show Show...and Stuff!" brings its special madness to Chicago's Mercury Theater.

"We want the meat of the show to be intelligent and the frame of the show to be glitzy and fun," said the show's Northbrook native Noah Simon, director and co-creator of the show with And Stuff! Productions, a British organization. "So we've taken the stupid game show thing and wrapped it up in hopefully something that hits people on a higher intellectual level. Hopefully people have a good time and learn something. That's the ideal situation for us."

"The Game Show Show" began in 2006, the brainchild of three Straw Dog Theatre actors, and led a gypsy life around city venues. This gig at the Mercury is its first commercial outing.

Goofy games

"The Game Show Show...and Stuff!" is an upbeat game show made up of original trivia games, guessing games and physical challenge contests, with titles like "Annie Get Your Green Card," "Calorie Counter Attack," and "Toss the Salad." Audience members can become contestants by submitting entry cards into a tumbler prior to the show. At the show's start the host calls the selected contestants up onto the stage.

Each evening consists of four games, with the winners of each game progressing to the "Super Secret Ultra Mega Final Round."

There are prizes, of course. Winners take home rewards worth \$50-\$100, while the super-winner of that final round can score \$150-\$200 worth of goodies. Various sponsors including some high profile bars and restaurants and other businesses, donate the prizes.

"I want the show to hit



James Anthony Zoccoli (from left), Noah Simon and Anderson Lawfer of "The Game Show Show...and Stuff!"

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Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport Ave., Chicago
11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays
\$15
(773) 325-1700 or www.gameshowshow.com

people in waves," said Simon. "The first wave is simply have a good time. We want people to laugh, we want people to come and be a little naughty. At the next layer is we want to help them to be naughty in the most intelligent ways possible."

But there's more than games. The Show Show Showgirls are regulars onstage and special guests might include go-go or Polynesian dancers, magicians, burlesque acts, live animal acts "and stuff," a grab-bag, quirky talents.

Post show

The show doesn't end with the final curtain. Members of the cast often retire to the bar next door to continue the fun.

One who enjoys the socializing is Evanston actor James Anthony Zoccoli, a co-creator of "Game Show Show," who serves as the onstage announcer.

"Being able to actually complete a transaction with the audience and make a personal connection at the end is really kind of cool," he said.

"We do the show, we're out to have fun, but there's nothing more enjoyable than being on stage and being able to interact with the audience and look out into the crowd and see people laughing and spilling their drinks and having a really good time," he said. "It's nice to be a catalyst for that."

Simon explains that, "The goal of 'The Game Show Show...and Stuff!' is to give you an hour of entertainment that is full of more stuff and weirdness than should be legally allowed."

From his perspective, the show works. "It's been the most artistically, gratifying, exciting, frustrating, infuriating, and lovely experience of my entire career," he said. "I've never been as thrilled by a performance as I have been watching 'The Game Show Show' because for one thing it's different every time."

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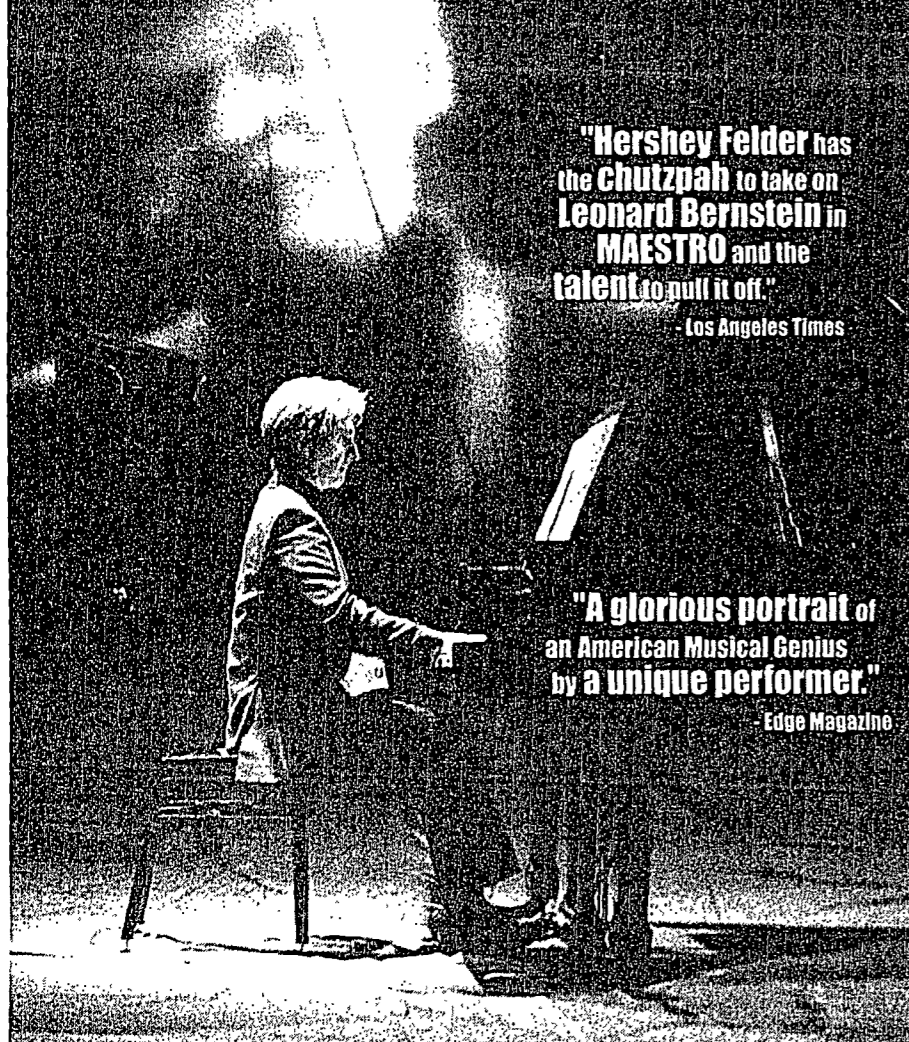
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— Los Angeles Times

"A glorious portrait of an American Musical Genius by a unique performer."
— Edge Magazine

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Civic Orchestra pipes up for the holidays

BY SARA BURROWS
Contributor



Victor Muenzer

Silver bells, angelic choirs, caroling children's voices — all what you'd expect as holiday music. So when the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents its "Holiday Pops" concert on Nov. 30 at the Pickwick Theatre, the audience might be surprised to find that the evening includes bagpipe music.

"I've learned more about bagpipes ... " said Victor Muenzer, with a sigh. He'll be conducting that evening, and explained that the pipes play a brief, but important role in "Orkney Wedding with Sunrise," a work by Peter Maxwell Davies.

It's the second piece on the program. The opener is Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet Overture Fantasia,"

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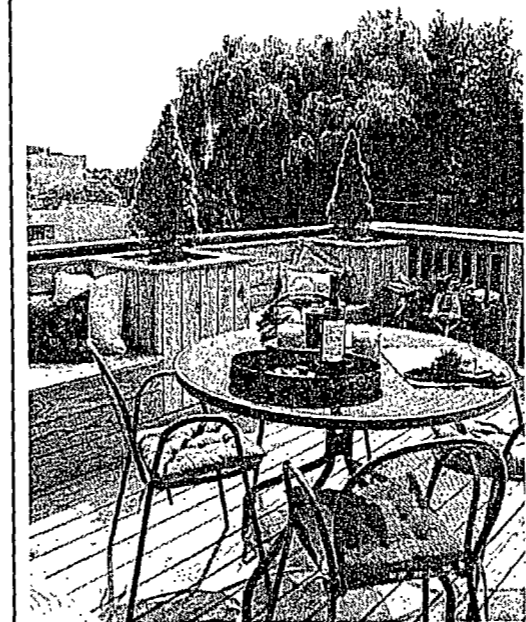
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today's homes

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On top: Buyers at Crossings at Morton Grove will enjoy the rooftop deck included at no extra cost. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

See the full story in the Today's Homes section inside

BOLDLY ELEGANT

Mercedes revamps ML350 SUV for 2012

BY ARV VOSS
Motor Matters

Mercedes-Benz introduces its third-generation M-Class for 2012. The M-Class takes to showroom floors loaded with new standard features and options, showcasing state-of-the-art safety technology.

The 2012 M-Class is 1 inch longer, 1/4 inch wider, 3/4 inch lower and boasts an improved coefficient of drag while tipping the scale at 22 pounds more than that its predecessor and providing an additional 6.8 cubic feet of cargo space.

The new M-Class has an overall persona and attitude that reflects a bolder, more athletic image with dynamic character lines, but retains the familiar signature C pillar or sail panel of the original M-Class. There is no visible exhaust outlet and there is a large integrated top rear spoiler along with a winged lower diffuser.

The 2012 M-Class delivers on the expected luxurious ambience with front seat controls located on the doors and with reclining rear seat backs. A 7-inch LCD screen displays navigation as well as monitors other vehicle functions, and large polished wood panels accent the doors, dash, instrument panel and substantial four-spoke steering wheel.

Cup holders now provide both a heating and cooling function with a temperature range from 56 degrees to 101 degrees. Addressing a long-standing issue, the multifunction stalk and cruise control stalk positions have been reversed and repositioned, eliminating the unintentional activation of one or the other.

Two powertrains are available for 2012: diesel and gasoline. Powering the ML350 BlueTEC is a 3.0-liter 24-valve diesel-fueled V-6 that produces 240 horsepower at 3,600 rpm along with 455 pound-feet of torque at 1,600-2,400 rpm.

Motive force for the ML350 is generated by an all-new 3.5-liter direct injection gasoline V-6 engine that delivers 302 horses at 6,500 rpm and 273 pound-feet of torque from 3,500 to 5,250 rpm. Both engines are coupled to a revised seven-speed automatic transmission. The transmission meters energy to all four wheels via Mercedes-Benz' 4Matic permanent all-wheel-drive system.

I spent a full day of motor-ing in the ML350 — both on and off-road. Its base price was set at \$48,990, but after adding an extensive list of optional extra features and equipment, the final sticker came to \$75,615. Yes folks,

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that's a ton of extra money. This particular ML350 was loaded to the hilt. In fact, the high-tech safety features represent the strong point of this latest M-Class Mercedes.

Some of the options were the dynamic handling package with adaptive damping system, active curve system, Airmatic air suspension system, 20-inch twin-five-spoke alloy wheels, panorama sunroof, trailer hitch, three-zone automatic climate control, night view assist, driver assistance package with active blind spot assist and active lane keeping assist.

The 2012 Mercedes-Benz ML350 with the 3.5-liter gasoline direct injection V-6 is an incredibly safe and capable SUV. It performs well in every possible application. Admittedly, most consumers will never

engage in off-roading activities more severe than a shopping mall parking lot, but if the urge emerges, the vehicle is ready when you are. It's not an extreme rock-crawler, but it's certainly capable of traversing snow-covered logging roads.

Acceleration is responsive, shifting gears is smooth, and the ride quality is ever changing to achieve maximum comfort. Steering is electromechanical rather than hydraulic, providing excellent handling characteristics.

The ML350 ensures a safe, relaxed and calm driving experience with optimized performance. It is now extremely elegant, but in a bold and athletic way. My test vehicle was priced on the high side of the equation, but it is also built to enjoy for considerably less.



Editor: John Stein
jstein@suntimes.com

Asst. Editor: Jennifer Burklow
Design: John Lemain

Director Automotive Advertising:
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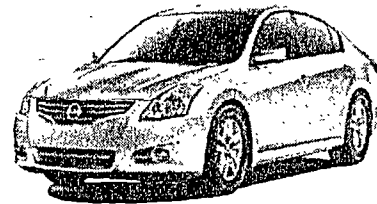
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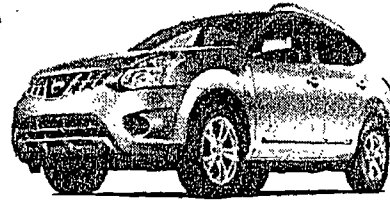
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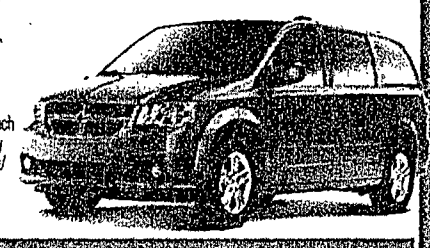


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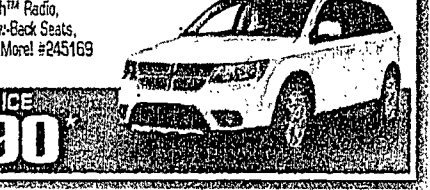
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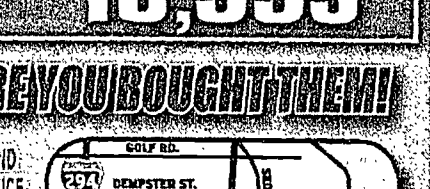
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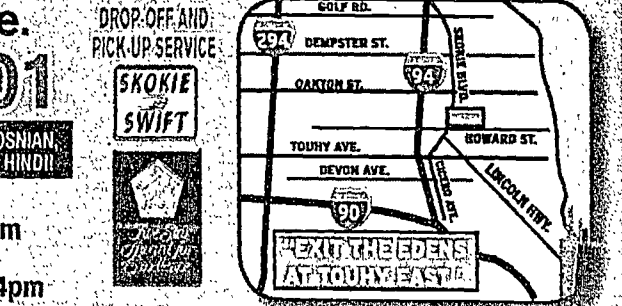
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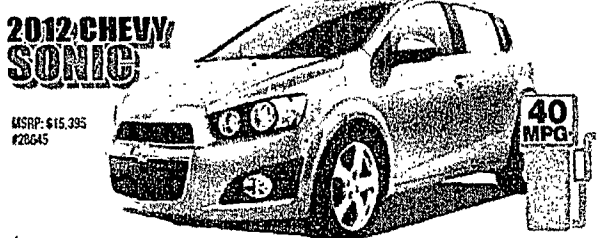


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1997 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4X4 #22525	\$2,996	2005 PONTIAC AZTEC #23224	\$5,771
2002 SATURN SL2 AVID #14274	\$3,774	2000 CHEVY CAMARO ONLY TRK MILES #23224	\$5,884
1999 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE GS #19242	\$3,887	2007 SUZUKI FORENZA #23214	\$6,881
2005 SUZUKI VERONA #22828	\$3,994	2001 NISSAN PATHFINDER 4X4 SE LEADER #22214	\$6,997
2000 GMC YUKON 4X4 XL #22828	\$3,996	2005 SATURN VUE ONLY 80K MILES! #22214	\$7,993
2001 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4 #22828	\$3,998	2002 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 EXT CAB 4X4 #22828	\$7,993
2003 SATURN ION #22828	\$4,773	2004 CHEVY COLORADO ONLY 80K MILES #22828	\$7,994
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2006 KIA SEDONA #22828	\$5,882	2009 CHEVY IMPALA #22828	\$12,886
2005 CHEVY MALIBU MAXX #22828	\$5,888	2002 NISSAN ALTIMA COUPE #22828	\$15,988
2005 CHEVY UPLANDER #22828	\$7,588	2008 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER #22828	\$16,987
2007 BUICK LUCERNE CXL #22828	\$8,547	2011 HYUNDAI SONATA #22828	\$17,987
2003 TOYOTA TACOMA #22828	\$8,987	2007 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED #22828	\$17,987
2003 HONDA CIVIC SEDAN #22828	\$10,477	2007 TOYOTA TACOMA #22828	\$18,987
2006 CHEVY COLORADO #22828	\$10,887	2009 NISSAN MURANO S #22828	\$22,986
2004 GMC SIERRA #22828	\$11,832	2008 CHEVY SUBURBAN LTZ #22828	\$28,974
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SPECIAL SECTIONS: SUNTIMES.COM

today's
home

Main Crossing

Rooftop views a big bonus at Crossings at Morton Grove

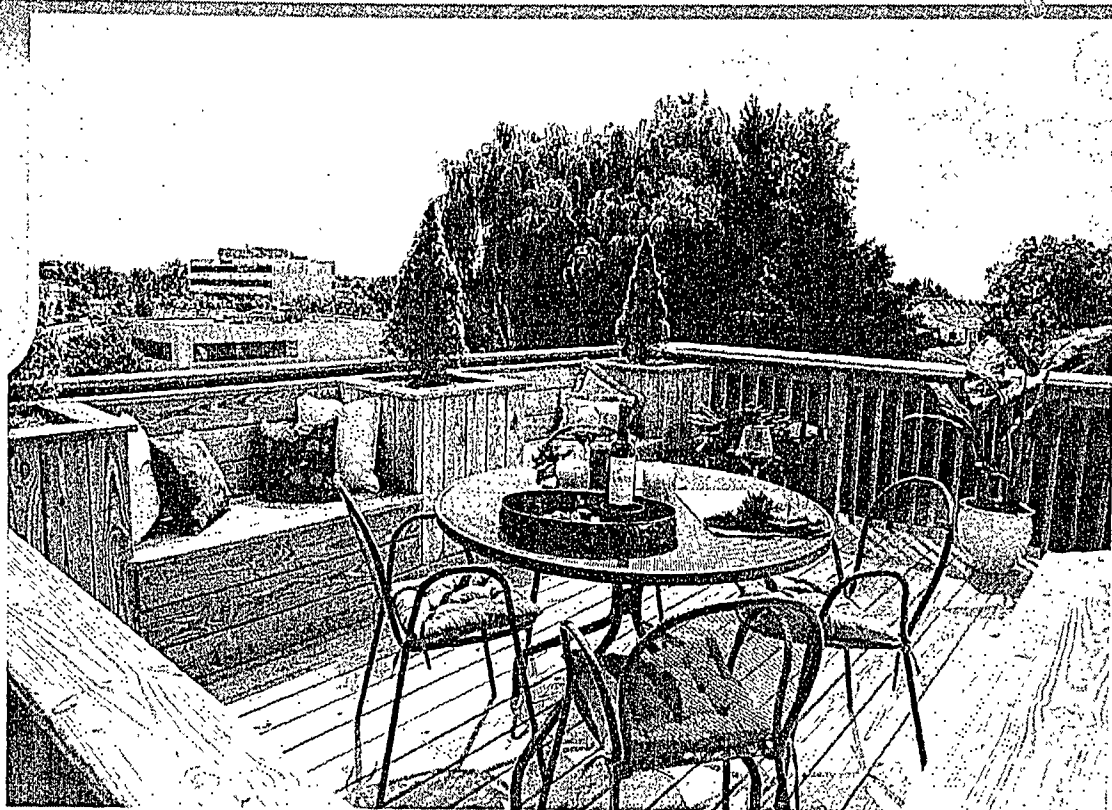
Finding the perfect mix of proximity to the city, must-have home features, and an affordable price is the goal of many home buyers these days.

City dwellers dream of bigger closets, a gourmet kitchen and a garage while staying close to downtown. Suburban commuters want less time on the highway and more time for themselves without giving up their spacious home or condo. If your requirements match this list, the place you need to see is The Crossings at Morton Grove by luxury home builder Toll Brothers.

"Nowhere else can you buy new construction with three levels plus a full basement, a two-car attached garage, and a private rooftop deck located so close to downtown and within steps from the metra at a price in the \$300,000s," said Brian Wulfestieg, Senior Project Manager for The Crossings at Morton Grove. "We have it all."

The Crossings at Morton Grove is an enclave of 64 three-level rowhomes, priced from \$289,995, within an established neighborhood in Morton Grove. Buyers are drawn to the stunning architecture and desirable location, just a few short blocks from the Metra station and 20 minutes from O'Hare airport.

Each home includes a long list of features, from granite countertops, 42-inch maple cabinets, and Whirlpool Gold stainless steel appliances in the kitchen to hardwood floors, signature trim details, Kohler plumbing fixtures, and a washer and dryer. Equally impressive are the 9-foot first-floor and second-floor ceilings, expansive living/dining room, and the luxurious master suite with walk-in



On top: Buyers at Crossings at Morton Grove will enjoy the rooftop deck included at no extra cost. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

closet and a private bath with a soaking tub and separate shower. A two-car attached garage and a full basement are also included. Another draw is the low-maintenance lifestyle with lawn care and snow removal provided by the homeowners association.

For buyers that need to move quickly, one final home is available for 2011 occupancy. The Webster, priced at \$337,995, offers 1,750 square feet of living space with two bedrooms and 2½ baths, formal living and dining rooms, and a family room or home office. This home overlooks a forest preserve and offers views from the private rooftop deck. Two bay windows and even more space and enhance the home's character on the inside and out.

"With today's rates, the monthly mortgage payments on this home will be lower than rent," said Wulfestieg. It's no surprise The Crossings at Morton Grove is approaching 80 percent sold out.

"Our location draws potential buyers in and then they see the quality of our homes and they don't want to leave," said Wulfestieg.

Visitors are invited to tour the rowhome available for immediate occupancy as well as the model. The sales center is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

The area surrounding The Crossings at Morton Grove features a variety of recreational opportunities. Beautiful Lake Michigan is only 15 minutes away offering boating and other water sports. Several local and state parks are nearby, including Harrer Park & Pool, the Linne Woods and St. Paul's Woods Forest Preserve, which provides swimming, hiking, and picnicking for the family. Owners who enjoy a morning jog or a week-end bike ride will find the North Branch Bike Trail close



Best Crossing: The model home at Crossings at Morton Grove, pictured here, is open every day 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

by, and all will enjoy an educational walk through the Botanic Gardens.

From I-94 Edens Expressway, exit Dempster St. west, proceed ½ mile, turn left on Ferris Avenue, go one block south on Hennings Court. For more information, call (847) 581-0888 or visit CrossingsatMortonGrove.com. For Facebook users, the community can be found by searching for "CrossingsAtMortonGrove."

For information on Toll Brothers communities in Bloomingdale, Elgin, Glenview, Hawthorn Woods, North Aurora, and South Barrington, visit TollBrothers.com/Illinois.

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TODAY'S HOMES

View from the top

Park Monroe offers stunning Lake views, 'standard'

Despite this time of economic uncertainty, there are potential purchasers looking for real estate in downtown Chicago.

Several luxury high-rise developments continue to enjoy steady sales volume in areas such as the Gold Coast, Streeterville and especially Millennium Park. Some of the people who are buying in these buildings are using their residence as a second home.

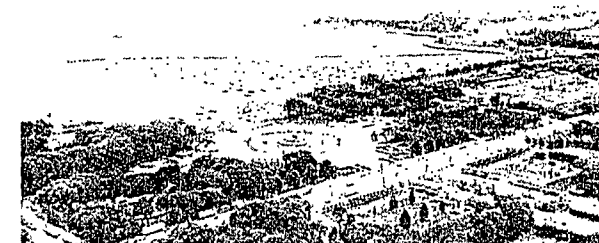
There are several reasons for second homebuyers who feel comfortable with their economic situation to purchase now. The prices in most buildings are sensible, the mortgage rates are low and there are still great tax incentives for owning an additional residence.

If an owner uses the home as a second home, the interest on the mortgage is deductible just as interest is on the mortgage of an owner's primary residence. An owner can write off 100 percent of the interest paid up to \$1.1 million. As rent prices continue to rise substantially in Chicago, purchasing a second home becomes an even more attractive alternative.

James and Elizabeth Caldwell had wanted to purchase a second home for some time. After looking at several options, James and Elizabeth decided that a two-bedroom, two-bathroom

GET MORE INFO

The models and sales center at 65 East Monroe are open seven days a week and those interested can call (312) 855-0550 or visit ParkMonroe.com for more information.



Lovin' the Lake: The vistas of Lake Michigan can be seen for miles and miles. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

residence at The Park Monroe would make the ideal second home downtown.

"My husband and I live in downstate Illinois full time. We come downtown almost every weekend. We had been looking for a second home for a while and happened to come across The Park Monroe. We are so happy that we did. We knew right away that we found what we were looking for at The Park Monroe," said Elizabeth.

The Park Monroe's central downtown location is ideal. The weekends provide a number of opportunities to enjoy everything the city has to offer.

"Every weekend, there is something to do at Millennium Park or downtown," said Jim. "My wife and I enjoy the theatre and the symphony. We also enjoy the various activities Millennium Park offers all year round. Our true favorites include The Lyric Opera, the Chicago Blackhawks and the

Bears."

Pat Young, the sales director at The Park Monroe, said, "Sales are really fantastic. It is amazing we have continued to sell approximately one home a week. These sales records are generally seen in a great real estate market but we are still selling in the East Loop at the park."

"I think the views at The Park Monroe really steal the show," said Young. "There are no other views that are as expansive as The Park Monroe's. In addition, the amenities make you feel like you live at a resort. The indoor pool, the entertainment suite with catering kitchen, the three-season sun terrace with garden and year-round spa, as well as the Blue Ray theatre room and sophisticated fitness center, are some of the resident's favorites."

James and Elizabeth are thrilled with their view.

"Our east-facing view of

Lake Michigan and Millennium Park is absolutely stunning. We can actually see all the way down to Indiana on a clear day in the spring and summer," said Elizabeth.

"The 49th floor offers an outdoor garden area that is perfect for reading or working on a laptop. The peaceful environment with the views of the lake and park is a wonderful place to focus and relax. I use it every chance I get," she said.

"We are so happy that we found The Park Monroe. With the pool, the theatre room, the garden, the location and the views, it is our home away from home on the weekends. We knew we would come downtown often when we found a second home, but we are here almost every weekend. In several years, we look forward to living at the Park Monroe full time."

Residences still available at The Park Monroe



Vantage point: The east view can be seen from every angle in the 01 tier at The Park Monroe. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

range from one-bedrooms, two-bedrooms, two-bedrooms-plus-den and up to two-story penthouses. Many of the homes feature private outdoor balconies and all have gourmet kitchens with European styling, luxurious baths and premium hardwood floors. Designer touches are evident throughout, with elegant details, fine appointments and premium fixtures.

It's now easier than ever to purchase one of The Park

Monroe's residences because prices are 20 to more than 30 percent below the building's previous pricing. The prices start in the upper \$200,000s for one bedrooms and the mid \$600,000s for east-facing two-bedrooms.

The models and sales center at 65 East Monroe are open seven days a week and those interested can call (312) 855-0550 or visit ParkMonroe.com for more information.

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today's homes **MORTGAGE GUIDE**

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Last week	4.23	3.48	3.18
Last year	4.46	3.84	3.62

Source: Bankrate.com. For more information visit www.bankrate.com. Bankrate's national averages are based on 100 largest metropolitan areas in the top 10 markets in the United States.

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December 15

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Chicagoland Home Builders Association, NFL players team up to help disabled vets

BY FRANK ABDERHOLDEN

fabderholden@stmedianetwork.com

Next year, a disabled veteran who needs housing is going to be in for a big surprise.

All because a group of local organizations, including the Chicago National Football Players Association, Chicagoland Home Builders Association, an anonymous donor and an architectural school, teamed up to break ground on a special home near Antioch.

"You always hear stories about the amazing sacrifices our soldiers make. You know you can never do enough to say thank you," said Reggie Smith, retired linebacker and president of the NFLPA's Chicago chapter.

On Saturday, the team met up for the ground breaking of the LIFE-house home in Newport Cove, a waterfront community on the Chain O' Lakes that will some day go to a military veteran wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq.

"We want to give back," said Smith, "It's our way of thanking the

men and women who put their lives on the line for our country."

"It's a lovely setting," said Rita Unzner, executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Greater Chicago. "The house is being designed to accommodate the special needs of the wounded veteran. It will not only be functional, but also beautiful, a place where the vet and his — or her — family can heal and grow.

"We hope it will be the first of several homes our groups create," she added. The project is part of Touchdown for Homes, a nationwide charitable outreach program of the National Association of Home Builders and the NFLPA that works to strengthen communities by building or renovating homes for children or families in need and veterans.

The products and labor for the home will be provided by the three Chicago area home builders associations (HBAGC, Northern Illinois HBA and Fox Valley HBA). The veteran home will be built by New American Homes, the developer of Newport Cove, which is a community of 67 homes located on 42 waterfront

acres along Bluff Lake that includes a private 100-slip marina and eight-acre waterfront park.

"The home-building industry has been suffering in this economy," said Susanne Tauke, president of New American Homes, "This is a way of turning lemons into lemonade.

"Thanks to a very generous donation of seed money and partners like the NFLPA and home builders groups, we are able to work together to create something that will be a wonderful gift for a wounded veteran," Tauke said.

The wounded veteran recipient will be chosen from recommendations by local veterans associations, hospitals and communities.

Tauke's company has some experience in creating universally designed homes, which can be used by the disabled or able-bodied without retrofitting. Her company teamed up with the Department of Architecture at State University of New York at Buffalo two years ago to create the first LIFEhouse.

There already is a LIFEhouse built at the community, a ranch home with



Touchdown home: Susanne Tauke, owner of New American Homes, Brian Glasgow, executive board member of NFL Retired Players Association, and Reggie Smith, president of Chicago Chapter of the NFL Retired Players Association, talk about the new home project for an injured veteran. They met in a floor model that will be similar to the vets home. JOE SHUMAN - SUNTIMES MEDIA

three or four bedrooms and three baths in 1,992 square feet, plus a full lower level that is open for viewing.

"Our home builders want to use their skills to do something valuable for the communities we live and work in," said Unzner of the Home

Builders group.

They still could use some cabinets, plumbing fixtures and carpeting.

"We'd also love to find someone to donate fishing poles — or a boat," she said.

TRANSACTIONS

Curious about home sales in your neighborhood? Below are some of the homes sold recently for \$150,000 and up. For a complete list of all Chicago area transactions, see "recent sales" at www.searchchicago.suntimes.com/homes/.

Antioch

614 Aspen Ct: Jacobsen, Randy S & Tina L; \$218,000

904 David St: Anderson, Allan & Debra E; \$160,000

40679 N Gridley Dr: Morgan, Brian K & Erika C; \$340,000

42877 N Lenora St: Carlson, Kevin C; \$187,500

40837 N Park Ave: Katz, Ira M & Jill; \$383,000

23820 W Grass Lake Rd: Rickel, Danielle; \$171,000

25739 W North Ave: French, Edward P & Stephen F; \$665,000

Beach Park

39386 Crofton Ln: Bautista, Maximo S & Marie C; \$245,000

39108 N Green Bay Rd: Janda,

Robert J; \$410,500

13418 Piceadilly Ct: Maxfield, John B & Lisa M; \$219,500

Deerfield

974 Bristol Dr: Nabhan, Chadi; \$660,000

865 Brookside Ln: Yang, Yan; \$250,000

343 Fairview Ave: Kotte, Vijay & Shiraz; \$1,200,500

340 Kerry Ln: Liss, Glenn & Sharon; \$620,000

502 Milford Rd: Stern, Steven & Abrahamson, Barbara; \$517,500

481 S Commons Ct: Mats, Alexander; \$288,500

Evanston

2423 Bennett Ave: Wilkinson, Warren R & Ann P; \$675,000

921 Brown Ave: Vanzant, James Graham & Molly N; \$204,000

2501 Central St 2E: Comins, Janet A; \$187,000

801 Central St: Smith, Christopher & Newman, Meagan; \$523,500

1210 Chicago Ave 309A: McNulty, John; \$150,000

519 Chicago Ave C: Lat, Eric J & Geronimo E; \$382,500

3334 Colfax St: Trass, Karl G; \$375,000

2309 Cowper Ave: Way, Christopher A; \$260,000

2210 Grant St: Fiegen, Christopher J; \$415,000

2300 Hartrey Ave: Feeny, Timothy & Emma; \$475,000

2513 Hastings Ave: Lund, Isaac M & Khania B; \$418,500

2706 Lawndale Ave: De Lara, Francois Corbier & Julie Corbier; \$600,000

1222 Lee St: Cahill, John J & Kristin; \$325,000

1720 Maple Ave 2440: Ahluwalia, Anil; \$331,000

2115 McDaniel Ave: Chapman, Kelly E & Julia S; \$556,000

1201 Michigan Ave 3: Burns, Teresa M; \$244,500

1400 Oak Ave: McNichols, Maureen; \$689,000

1521 Oakton St: Balachowicz, Anthony; \$161,000

2407 Park Pl: Harris, Cloyd M & Katherine Heid; \$715,000

2012 Seward St: Nelson, Bradley P & Kolling, Jean M; \$162,000

9261 Springfield Ave: Hicks, Mitch-

ell W & Yangarber Hicks, Natalia J; \$370,000

1739 Mclean Ct: Shroreihah, Alaa G & Jarad, Jehad A; \$415,000

1617 Meadow Ln: Nadolny, Dorothy; \$425,000

2528 Osage Dr: Anderson, Patrick R & Megan F; \$635,000

1632 Sequoia Trl: Idemoto, Patrick & Christie Ann; \$640,000

1919 Sunset Ridge Rd: Lee, Henry Y & Kelly C; \$495,000

235 Wilmette Ave: Kennedy, Matthew & Ioanna Skontos; \$450,000

400 Wilmette Ave: Friedman, Mark & Won, Sung Yun; \$615,000

18 Blossom Ln: Baumgartner, Steven F Chapman & Szpanka, Cynthia Baumgartner; \$812,500

29 Overlook Dr: Mcneela, Thomas & Kathleen; \$900,000

375 Banbury Ln: Teverbaugh, Jesse W; \$197,000

1349 Huber Ln: Suter, Steven & Boston, Sandra; \$181,000

2312 Iroquois Dr: Philip, Shelby N & Jincy N; \$588,000

647 Lehigh Ave: Michelotti, Paul & Laura Lacci; \$310,000

1739 Mclean Ct: Shroreihah, Alaa G & Jarad, Jehad A; \$415,000

1617 Meadow Ln: Nadolny, Dorothy; \$425,000

2528 Osage Dr: Anderson, Patrick R & Megan F; \$635,000

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375 Banbury Ln: Teverbaugh, Jesse W; \$197,000

1349 Huber Ln: Suter, Steven & Boston, Sandra; \$181,000

2312 Iroquois Dr: Philip, Shelby N & Jincy N; \$588,000

647 Lehigh Ave: Michelotti, Paul & Laura Lacci; \$310,000

1491 Arlington Ln: Duarte Jr, Angel;

\$257,500

7052 Bennington Dr: Enright, Brian P & Yuko; \$280,000

4891 Kings Way W: Katdare, Ajit S & Lindee M; \$255,000

36157 N Back Bay Ct: Sutton, Michael C; \$249,000

367 Deer Lake Dr: Lesinski, Neil D; \$170,000

330 Hunters Way: Hui, Julei Nei; \$200,000

640 Crofton Ave: Shapiro, Bruce & Janice R; \$515,000

1210 Forest Ave: Franke, Robert & Stephanie; \$325,000

2205 Kipling Ln: Pesce, Anthony D & Meghan E; \$610,000

255 Leslee Ln: Nguyen, Antoine & Lee, Sharon; \$440,000

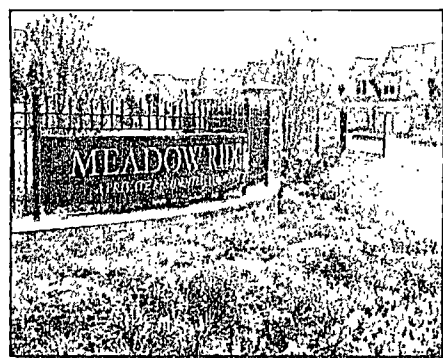
2130 Painters Lake Rd: Goldberg, Larry B & Cindy Dann; \$1,100,000

1869 Rosemary Rd: Luczkowiak, Matthew & Jennifer; \$330,000

24920 W Cedarwood Ln: Cramer, Kenneth & Marla; \$187,500

SEE TRANSACTIONS, PAGE 7

MEADOWRIDGE NORTHBROOK



Come see why Meadow Ridge is one of the top developments in Chicagoland.

Onsite model homes located in Northbrook at the corner of Techny and Founders Drive.



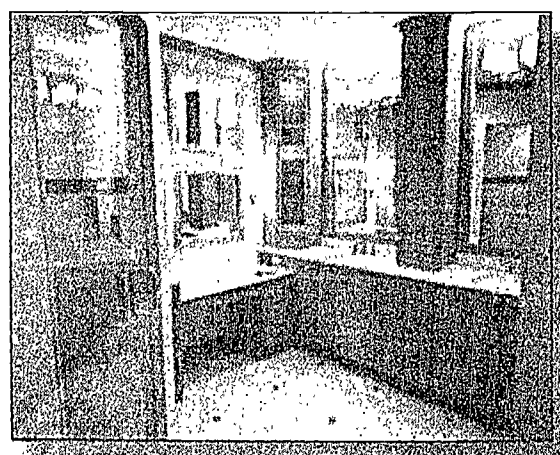
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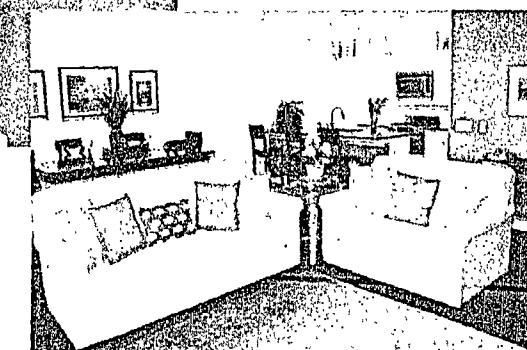
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BY HELENE ACHANZAR
blockshopper.com

Karrie Tashjian of Baird & Warner is listing an 1,800-square-foot stone and brick ranch-style home at 10270 Cindy Jo Ave. in Huntley for \$400,000.

The three-bedroom, three-bathroom home is located on a cul-de-sac in the Bakleys subdivision. It was built in 2009.

The home features a kitchen filled with granite countertops, hardwood floors and recessed lights. It also has a walk-in pantry, glass tile backsplash and stainless steel appliances.

In the family room, there's a wood-burning fireplace.

Other highlights include hardwood floors, recessed lights and trim.

Also included are an office and a dining room.

The master suite holds a bedroom as well as a bathroom with double sinks, a

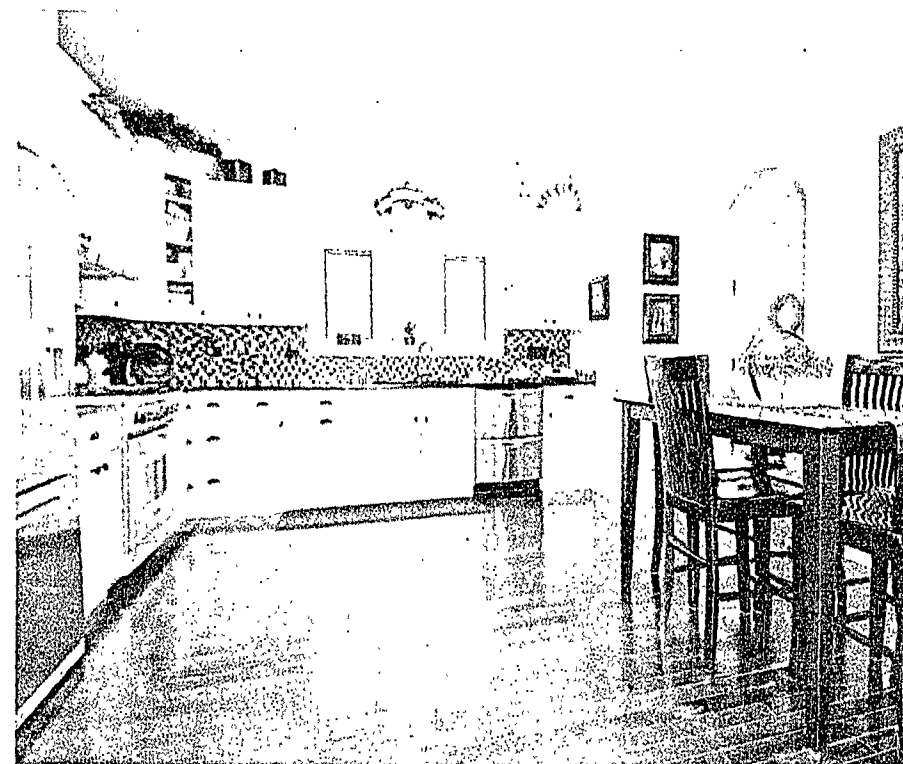


whirlpool tub and separate shower.

The property includes an unfinished attic and a finished basement.

A recreation room and workout room are situated downstairs.

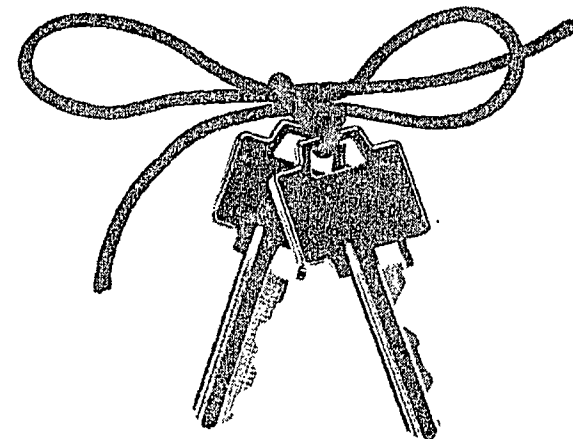
A heated and insulated three-car garage is attached to the home.



Striking: With its recessed lighting, crown molding, mosaic backsplash and stainless steel appliances, this kitchen is sharp and contemporary. An arched entry brings high style to the room. | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

New Weekly Feature

 **BlockShopper**



The key to real estate in
Oak Park and River Forest.

MARKET WATCH

City	For sale	Median price	Rate of foreclosure	# of sales	# of foreclosures
Barrington	3.55%	\$422,000	10.4%	173	18
Buffalo Grove	2.62%	\$221,000	20.16%	506	102
Des Plaines	3.2%	\$165,500	31.99%	694	222
Evanston	3.17%	\$325,000	12.93%	634	82
Gurnee	3.01%	\$185,000	18.06%	310	56
Highland Park	3.39%	\$407,000	9.58%	355	34
Lake Forest	4.83%	\$800,000	3.35%	209	7
Park Ridge	2.88%	\$336,750	14.67%	368	54
Skokie	2.5%	\$225,000	25.85%	561	145
Wilmette	2.35%	\$600,000	7.84%	319	25

Source: Chicago.BlockShopper.com. Data track last 12 months of sales.

TRANSACTIONS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Lake Bluff

125 Brierfield Ct: Cran, Gregory R & Kara; \$625,000

306 Weatherford Ct: Tanna, Angelo P; \$505,000

Lake Forest

733 Barat Ct: Okada, Shunichiro S & Irene F; \$985,000

570 Beverly Pl: Driscoll, Brian A & Laura A; \$500,000

734 Greenbriar Ln: Van Hyfte, Curtis H & Karen; \$1,508,000

1435 N McKinley Rd: Seagle, James M & Cranford, Elizabeth K; \$545,000

1791 Princeton Ct: Shovlin, Jeffrey J & Patricia N; \$768,000

1135 S Wilson Dr: Gulans, Robert J & Verrey, Gigi; \$440,000

Lake Villa

37148 N Bayshore Rd: Bargo, Vincent G & Denise M; \$300,000

Libertyville

430 Catalpa Ln: Fairbanks, Daniel C & Jennifer L; \$290,000

1306 Downs Pkwy: Ackley, Julie A; \$168,000

431 E Austin Ave: Reiche, Andreas; \$290,000

Lincolnshire

400 Village Grn 205: Mayer, Lynn R; \$320,000

Lindenhurst

696 Colony Ave: Heine, Jozlyn Michelle; \$180,000

533 N Beck Rd: Cherry, Douglas J & Dawn R; \$160,000

Morton Grove

8605 Austin Ave: Welch, Jennifer M; \$195,000

8300 Concord Dr 306: Olickal, Chinnamma Mathew; \$150,000

7301 Foster St: Fox, Cary A & Spina, Cynthia C; \$550,000

9109 Mango Ave: Salandanan, Vincent & Garcia, Shereilyn; \$305,000

9032 Oconto Ave: Dawoodi, Mohammed Khayyam & Tabinda; \$260,000

9006 Parkside Ave: Hussain, Mohammed I & Meher, Tayaba; \$220,000

Mundelein

322 Stonebridge Way: Verbruggen, Ryan D & Julie E; \$331,000

Niles

9284 N Maryland St: Malig, Monolo P & Rosemarie V; \$200,000

8108 N Osceola Ave: Bohling, Barbara A; \$225,000

7333 W Greenleaf St: Marrero Iii,

Euricle & Marrero, Isabella; \$210,000

7255 W Lill St: Langner, Magdalena & Nestorowicz, Tatiana; \$169,000

7081 W Touhy Ave 501: Martinez, Rodrigo & Velazquez, Claudia; \$247,000

Northbrook

640 Ballantrae Dr A: Schade, Marian B; \$181,000

1133 Blackthorn Ln: Spaniak, Michael & Augustyn, Beth; \$917,500

1048 Briarwood Ln: Dickson, Daniel L & Jenna; \$290,000

4522 Concord Ln: Natzke, Louis & Carol; \$212,500

4045 Evergreen Ln: Ju, Sang Jun & Sunny; \$525,000

2805 Manor Dr: Wang, Yaguang & Zhu, Ying Xue; \$330,000

1199 Shermer Rd: Emerson, Scott R; \$400,000

2500 Stonebridge Ln: Orleans, Andrea & James; \$525,000

1960 Thornwood Ln: Schubert, Matthew & Tina; \$240,000

1734 Tudor Ln: Jun, Adrienne & Eun Ja; \$370,000

1742 Tudor Ln: Bershadsky, Raphael; \$360,000

2834 Woodmere Ct: Tutunikov, Roman & Irina; \$825,000

Skokie

3416 Arcadia: Deshield, Harven V & Shani R; \$272,500

4681 Brummel St: Hild, James R & Julie R; \$166,500

5322 Conrad St: Spillman, Lisa R; \$184,000

4155 Davis St: Sarbagil, Amihay; \$415,000

5300 Galitz St: Butler, Patricia; \$400,000

9515 Kedvale Ave: Hanic, Mirel; \$230,000

8206 Keystone Ave: Polycarpe, Jean P & Elizabeth; \$210,000

8543 Lawndale Ave: Castellani, Scot W & Debra B; \$210,000

8340 Lockwood Ave: Wilson, Bradford & Foster, Courtney; \$254,000

9214 Lorel Ave: Kraatz, James M; \$202,500

3839 Louise St: Patel, Kapilaben D & Jyotsnaben; \$150,000

9360 Skokie Blvd 620: Maor, Arie; \$170,000

9655 Woods Dr 1005: Cheng, Son Ja & Victor W; \$185,000

Vernon Hills

2037 Inverness Dr: Callejas, Ber-

nardo N & Principe, Joana; \$395,000

3122 Chandler Ln: Giannetto, Sharon A; \$220,000

5042 Marshall Ct: Singh, Amarjot & Grewal, Gurpreet; \$296,000

3220 Mini Dr: Lund, Carissa L; \$175,500

Wilmette

1628 Central Ave: Mayer, Joshua D & Katharine K; \$794,000

2048 Central Ave: Walton, Edward A & Susan M; \$404,500

1428 Forest Ave: Meehan, Shane & Shives, Lisa; \$842,000

819 Lacrosse Ct: Fitzpatrick, Ryan M & Ivanova, Ekaterina G; \$435,000

432 Prairie Ave: Meyers, Thomas L & Ann J; \$290,000

1927 Thornwood Ave: Latimer, Christopher & Jennifer; \$575,000

1225 Washington Ave: Reiner, Jason & Jennifer; \$475,000

Winnetka

1108 Ash St: Yavitt, Jill; \$720,000

893 Ash St: Strange, Steven & Antonina; \$540,000

860 Burr Ave: Dahlstrom, Karl G & Sara J; \$493,000

1063 Cherry St: Geimer, Robert F & Rina; \$1,345,000

888 Cherry St: Walsh, Ryan A & Jennifer C; \$927,500

238 Mary St: Lumley, Stephen C; \$2,725,000

368 Ridge Ave: Todd, Stanton; \$625,000

1502 Scott Ave: Miralles Jr, Albert J & Miralles, Lori A; \$1,050,000

1245 Westmoor Rd: Segal, Robert G & Rosauer, Alicia; \$2,800,000

69 Woodley Rd: Gibori, Carrie Alisa Greenberg; \$1,550,000

Winthrop Harbor

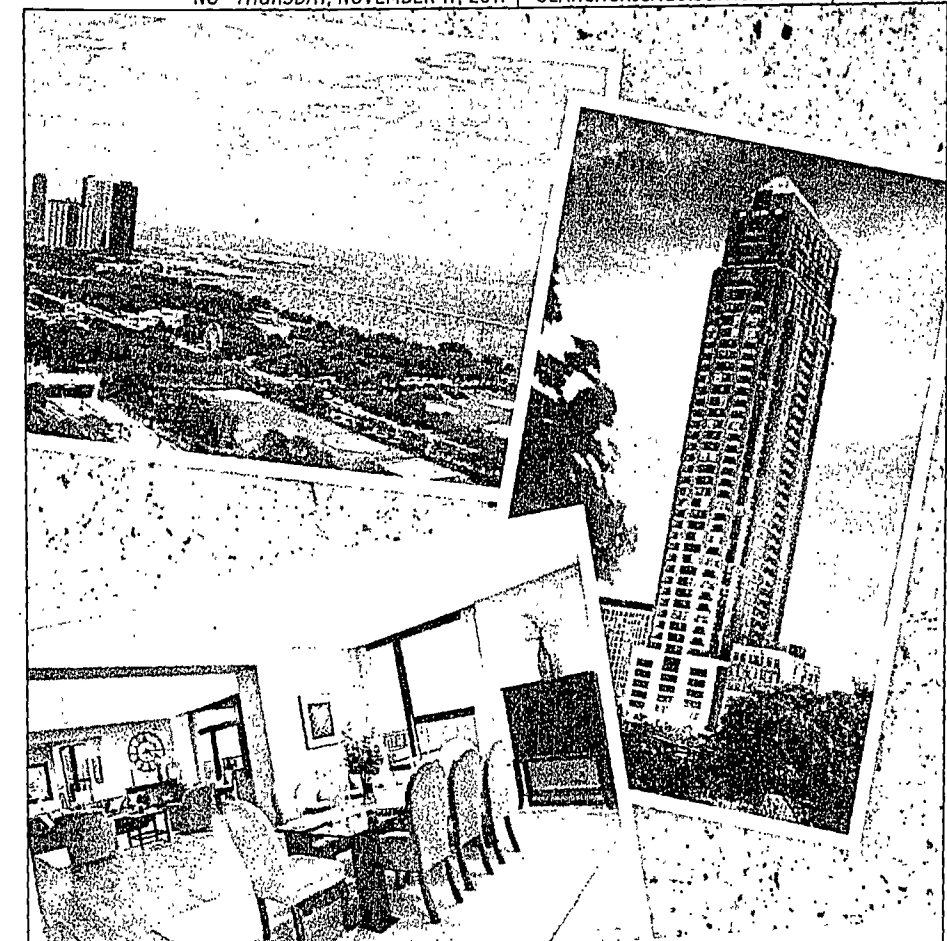
121 Kirkwood Ave: Puzek, Donald L & Margaret A; \$210,000

717 Kirkwood Ave: Bonora, Frank A & Marjorie A; \$187,000

Zion

3925 Foxglove Dr: Garcia, Edilberto I; \$197,000

Source: Information provided by Record Information Services Inc., offering public record data for greater Chicago including foreclosures, new homeowners lists, new businesses, bankruptcies, mortgage recordings, building permits and tax liens. Access available at www.public-record.com, consumer.public-record.com and watch.public-record.com, or call 630-557-1000.



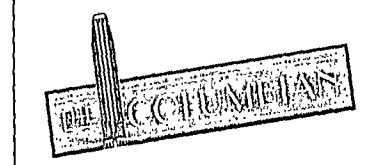
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Category

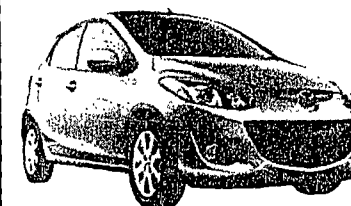
Public Relations Case Study.....	Taylor Johnson.....	Meritus Homes
Most Creative PR Campaign for a Builder.....	Taylor Johnson.....	J. Lawrence Homes
Most Creative PR Campaign for A Single Community City.....	Taylor Johnson.....	Van Buren Lofts
Most Creative PR Campaign for A Single Community Suburban.....	Taylor Johnson.....	Lexington Park
Corporate Brochure.....	Patrick Finn Builders.....	Patrick Finn Builders
Integrated Brand Marketing Suburban.....	Taylor Johnson.....	Meritus Homes

KEY AWARDS WINNERS

DIVISION 1 – Interior Design - GOLD Single Family Merchandising 2,501 – 2,800 sq. ft. K. Hovnanian Homes 208 Regency Court St. Charles Interior Designer Laura O'Connor Design, LLC Landscape Architect V3 Companies Land Planner V3 Companies	Production Single Family 2,801 – 3,100 sq. ft. K. Hovnanian Homes Regency Estates The Regency Interior Designer Laura O'Connor Design, LLC. Landscape Architect V3 Companies Land Planner V3 Companies Advertising Agency Stevens & Tate Marketing	DIVISION 3 – Excellence in Remodeling - GOLD Whole House under \$200,000 per unit Weiss Construction 336 Wabash Elgin Whole House \$200,001 – 500,000 per unit Patrick Finn Builders Veatch Residence N. Highland Arlington Hgts.	Custom Home 4,901 – 5,600 sq. ft. Riordan Signature Homes 4147 Grove Western Springs Custom Home 5,601 – 6,500 sq. ft. Anthony Perry Designs & Builds Private Residence Grove Glencoe Custom Home 6,501 sq. Ft. and over Environs Development 1735 Hough Ave. Chicago	Custom Home 5,601 – 6,500 sq. ft. Riordan Signature Homes 18 Cambridge Oak Brook Custom Home 5,601 – 6,500 sq. ft. Environs Development 1058 Altgeld Chicago Semi-Custom and Spec Home under 4,000 sq. ft. Hibernian Development 1004 Pine Tree Lane Winnetka
Single Family Merchandising 3,402 sq. ft. and over K. Hovnanian Homes 22W 101 Bush Rd. Glen Ellyn Interior Designer Laura O'Connor Design, LLC. Architect Design House Architecture Services Civil Engineer Engineering Resource Associates, Inc. Advertising Agency Stevens & Tate Marketing	Production Single Family 3,401 sq. ft. and over K. Hovnanian Homes Glenrise Grove The Morton Interior Designer Laura O'Connor Design, LLC Architect Design House Architecture Services Advertising Agency Stevens & Tate Marketing	Whole House over \$500,000 per unit Orren Pickell Designers & Builders 100 Abbingdon Kenilworth Kitchens Under \$75,000 per unit Patrick Finn Builders Tharp Residence Crandon Arlington Hgts. Kitchens over \$100,001 per unit Great Rooms Designers & Builders 2247 Southbridge Northbrook Baths, \$25,001 – 50,000 per unit Patrick Finn Builders Luxem Residence Pratt Dr. Palatine Baths Over \$50,001 per unit Great Rooms Designers & Builders 1005 Ashley Lane Libertyville	Custom Home 6,501 sq. ft. and over Meyer Homes, Inc. 1525 Parkview Libertyville Semi-Custom and Spec Home under 4,000 sq. ft. KF Walter Homes 968 W. Kenilworth Palatine Semi-Custom and Spec Home under 4,000 sq. ft. Oakley Home Builders 1120 Montana Chicago Specialty Design New American Homes LIFEhouse Newport Cove Antioch	Custom Home Design Environs Development 2040 Kenmore Whole House Remodel Design Weiss Construction 336 Wabash Elgin Special Projects Live Free Standing Vertical Garden Sage Botanical Media 730 Randolph Chicago Historic Bath Remodel Oak Design & Construction Smith Residence 224 Park Oak Park
Interior Design – Custom Whole House Provençal Construction 6447 Shady Lane Burr Ridge Favorite Interior Designer Rhonda Liesenfelt Interior Designer Rhonda Pennington Architect John Gross Landscape Architect Walsh Landscape Land Planner Ebla Enterprises Marketing Consultant Harold Liesenfelt Public Relations Provençal Construction	Custom Home 3,501 – 4,200 sq. ft. Orren Pickell Designers & Builders 25300 Nektosha Way Mettawa Landscape Architect Rocco Fiore & Sons Custom Home 4,201 – 4,900 sq. ft. Ferguson Architects 803 N. Lincoln Ave. Hinsdale Builder/Developer Montreux Custom Homes Interior Designer Jimmy Limparis	DIVISION 3 Excellence in Remodeling – SILVER Whole House Over \$500,001 per unit Montreux Custom Homes 440 N. Quincy Hinsdale Whole House Over \$500,001 per unit Anthony Perry Designers & Builders Private Residence Lakeland Dr. Lake Bluff Kitchens Under \$75,000 per unit Great Rooms Designers & Builders 533 Brainerd Ave. Libertyville	DIVISION 4 – Excellence in New Construction – SILVER Custom Home Under 3,500 sq. ft. Patrick Finn Builders 117 S. Evergreen Arlington Hgts Custom Home 3,501 – 4,300 sq. ft. Orren Pickell Designers & Builders 25300 Nektosha Way Mettawa Custom Home 3,501 -4,300 sq. ft. Oakley Home Builders 1400 Bonnie Brae River Forest Custom Home 3,501 – 4,300 sq. ft. Meyer Homes, Inc. 1228 Chicago Arlington Hgts.	DIVISION 6 – Crystal Key Technical Innovation and Use Meyer Home Builders Anderson-Gray Residence Libertyville Crystal Custom Home Orren Pickell Designers & Builders 25300 Nektosha Way Mettawa Crystal Custom Home Riordan Signature Homes 18 Cambridge Oak Brook Crystal Custom Home Provençal Construction Favorite Interior Designer Rhonda Liesenfelt 6447 Shady Lane Burr Ridge
DIVISION 2 – Architectural Design – GOLD Townhouse & Duplex 1,501 – 1,750 sq. ft. Lexington Homes, Lexington Park Bristol Townhouse & Duplex 1,751 – 2,000 sq. ft. Lexington Homes, Lexington Park Warrington Townhouse & Duplex 2,001 -2250 sq. ft. Lexington House, Lexington Park The Grant Townhouse & Duplex under 2,551 sq. ft. Premier Architecture, Inc. Townhouse & Duplex 2,251 and over Symphony Meadows, Daybreak Builder/Developer D.R. Horton/Cambridge Homes Townhouse & Duplex under 1,500 sq. ft. Premier Architecture, Inc. Richland Trails Twilight Townhouse & Duplex under 1,500 sq. ft. Richland Trails, Twilight Builder/Developer D.R. Horton/Cambridge Homes	Townhouse 2,001 – 2,250 sq. ft. Ferguson Architects 164 Briarwood Oak Brook Builder/Developer Montreux Custom Homes Interior Designer Jimmy Limparis Custom Home 5,601 – 6,500 sq. ft. Provençal Construction Favorite Interior Designer Rhonda Pennington 6447 Shady Lane Burr Ridge Interior Designer Rhonda Pennington Architect John Gross Landscape Architect Walsh Landscape Land Planner Ebla Enterprises Marketing Consultant Harold Liesenfelt Public Relations Provençal Construction	DIVISION 4 – Excellence in New Construction – GOLD Custom Home under 3,500 sq. ft. Patrick Finn Builders 925 N. Illinois Arlington Hgts. Townhouse and Duplex 2,001- 2,250 sq. ft. Montreux Builders 164 Briarwood Oakbrook Custom Home 4,201 – 4,900 sq. ft. Environs Development 1858 Leavitt Chicago Architect Kenneth Brinkman Custom Home 4,901 – 5,500 sq. ft. Great Rooms Designers & Builders 1050 W. Keswick Lake Forest Architect Troy Mock Architects	Custom Home 3,501 – 4,300 sq. ft. Orren Pickell Designers & Builders 25300 Nektosha Way Mettawa Custom Home 3,501 – 4,300 sq. ft. Oakley Home Builders 1400 Bonnie Brae River Forest Custom Home 3,501 – 4,300 sq. ft. Meyer Homes, Inc. 1228 Chicago Arlington Hgts. Custom Home 3,501 – 4,300 sq. ft. Riordan Signature Homes 126 Sunset LaGrange Custom Home 4,901 – 5,600 sq. ft. Great Rooms Designers & Builders 1050 W. Keswick Lake Forest Custom Home 4,901 – 5,600 sq. ft. Environs Development 1056 W. Altgeld Chicago Custom Home 5,601 – 6,500 sq. ft. Cesarino Builders 20 Tuscan Ct. Oak Brook Custom Home 5,601 – 6,500 sq. ft. Provençal Construction 6447 Shady Lane Burr Ridge	Crystal Custom Home Orren Pickell Designers & Builders 25300 Nektosha Way Mettawa Crystal Custom Home Riordan Signature Homes 18 Cambridge Oak Brook Crystal Custom Home Provençal Construction Favorite Interior Designer Rhonda Liesenfelt 6447 Shady Lane Burr Ridge Crystal Model Home Award Montreux Homes 803 N. Lincoln Hinsdale Crystal Key in Remodeling Orren Pickell Designers & Builders 100 Abbingdon Kenilworth Crystal Key in Remodeling Anthony Perry Designs & Builds 565 Lakeland Dr. Lake Bluff Crystal Key Vacation Home Anthony Perry Designs & Builds Private Residence Janette St. Antioch

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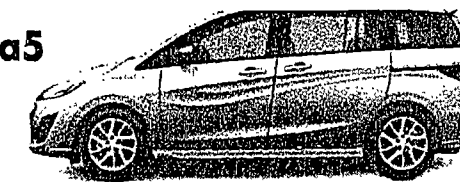
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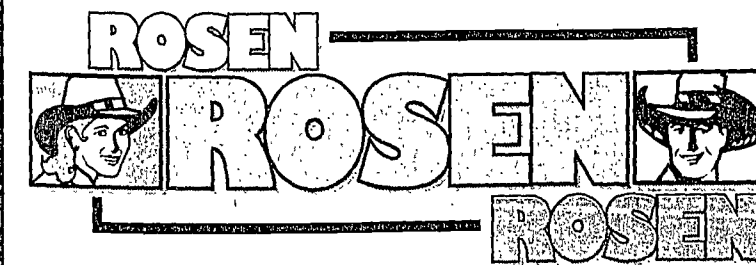


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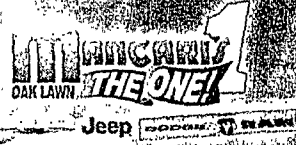
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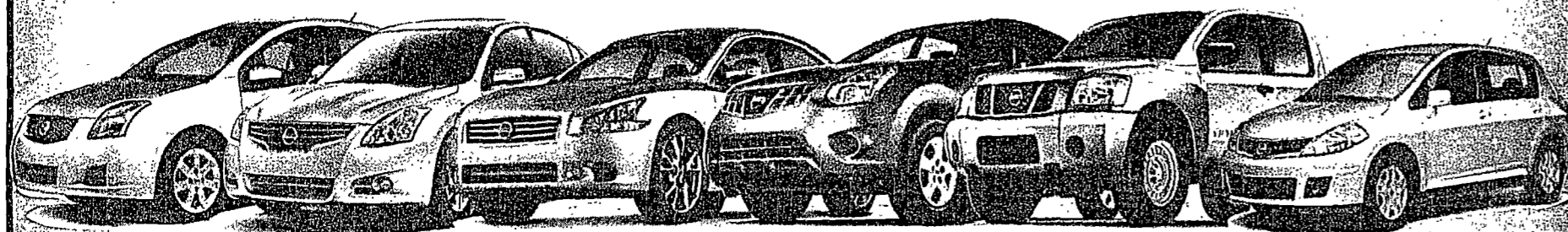
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which continues the orchestra's musical exploration of the theme of romance during its 2011-12 season. "It's classic, romantic music," said Muenzer of the sweeping, lyrical piece, and it includes the famous love theme. "Everyone's heard that," he added.

Storytelling music

The "Orkney Wedding" might not be so familiar. However, it comes with a delightful story that Muenzer will relate before the orchestra plays. "This is one of those pieces where you have to know what is going on," he said.

The musical tale is set on Hoy, one of the Orkney Islands, a windswept archipelago stretching northeast off the northernmost coast of Scotland.

"It was written as kind of a picture postcard of a wedding (Davies) actually attended," Muenzer said. The piece draws a musical picture of the festivities, in which copious whiskey is involved — it's cold in these islands, Muenzer notes, and it is Scotland, after all. Thus the celebration

progresses quickly from convivial to riotous, and finally to the wee hours of the morning. As the wedding guests stagger home at last, they're greeted by the full glory of the rising sun.

That would be the bagpipes, said Muenzer. And, in the grand tradition of this piece, the piper enters from the back of the auditorium, kilted and at full wail.

"It will be very colorful," he said.

Initially difficulties arose, he explained, because "bagpipes play in the key of B-flat, and we're playing in the key of A. And the bagpipes are fixed." They can't play any other key.

Fortunately, Muenzer said, "we were lucky in finding someone who can make the bagpipe play well with the orchestra. It's a very esoteric skill."

The concert will next feature a selection of carols. "White Christmas," "Silent Night," "Away in the Manger," everyone's favorites," said Muenzer.

This segment will showcase the talents of the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Cho-

'HOLIDAY POPS'

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra, Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge 7:30 p.m. Nov. 30

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Visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org or call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861



Larry Adams

rus and "our two wonderful soloists," said Muenzer.

Special guests

Jessye Wright, known for her rich, colorful voice and extensive concert and opera experience, and her husband, Larry Adams, taking the night off from his current role as Captain Von Trapp in Drury Lane's hit production of "The Sound of Music," will add their vocal talents to the evening.

The concert also includes the orchestra's "Armed Forces Salute," which includes themes from all the military services, and

recognizes past and present service men and women who are in the audience. "It's become a tradition," said Muenzer, "and it's something we're happy to do."

The Park Ridge Civic Orchestra season continues in February, a fitting month in which to again ponder the mysteries and music of romance, with Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet," paired with a suite from "West Side Story."

Clocking in at one hour, five minutes, the Prokofiev will be "the entire piece," said Muenzer. "And it's one of the most beautiful pieces in musical literature."



Jessye Wright

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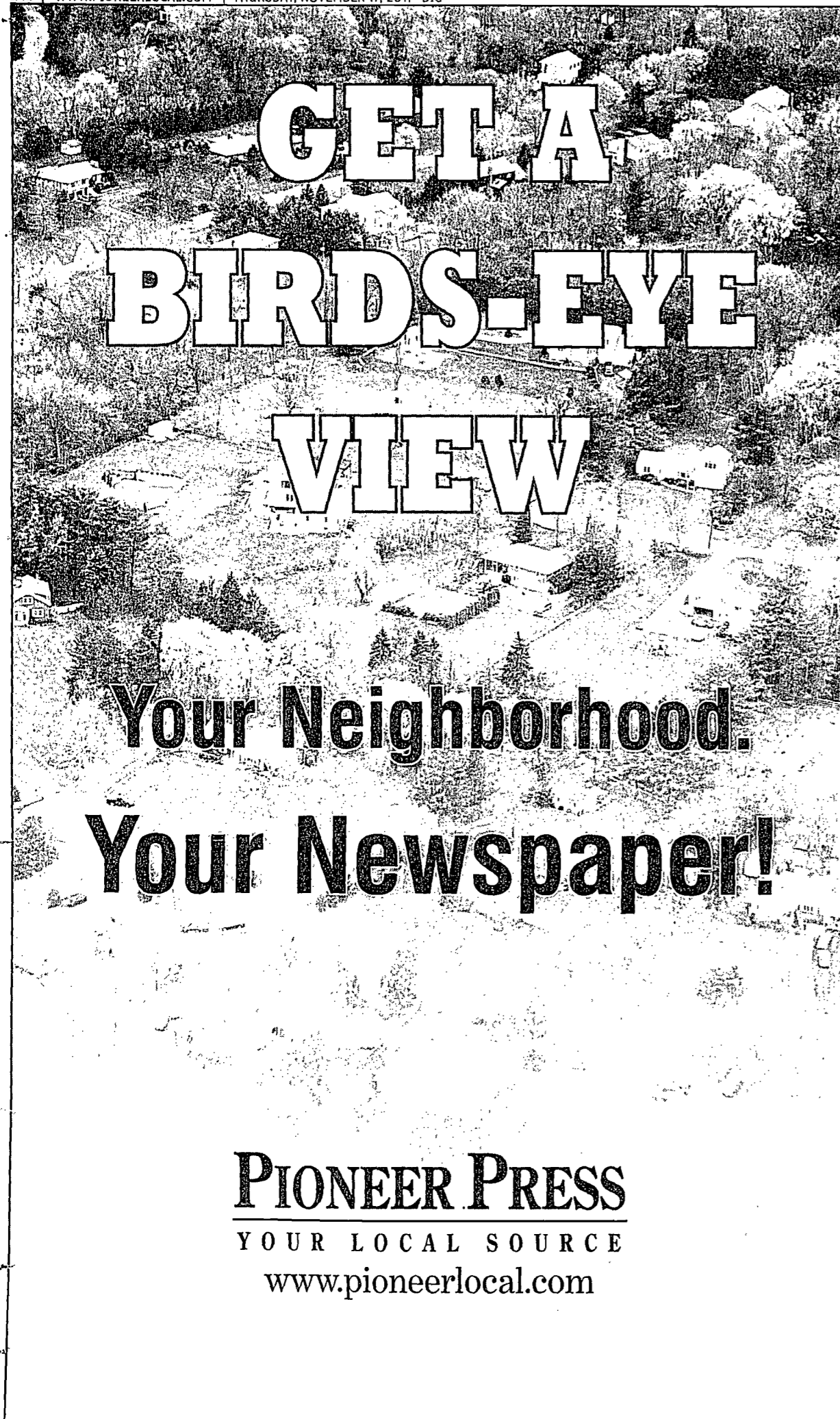
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and younger. (630) 628-9591 or www.orionensemble.org. **Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.:** "Classical Romance," featuring Trio in B-flat Major for Clarinet, Cello and Piano, Op. 11 by Beethoven; Trio in B-flat Major for Violin, Viola and Cello by Franz Schubert; and Trio in D Major ("Ghost") for Violin, Cello and Piano, Op. 70, No. 1 by Beethoven.

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra will host its 15th annual tea, A Tribute to Linda Lehman, at 12:15 p.m. **Nov. 19** at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. The event will include a program by Jenny Riddle — "It's Not About the Destination, It's the Journey," cocktails, a raffle and tea. \$45 per person. Call (847) 692-7726 or visit www.parkridgecivicochestra.org.

Rembrandt Chamber Players will present "Masterful Bach," with guest soloists Peter Van De Graff and Amy Conn, at 4 p.m. **Dec. 4** in Northwestern University's Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston. Tickets are \$35; \$25 for young adults. Call (312) 360-3145 or visit www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra performs at 3 p.m. Sundays at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are \$26-\$40; \$13 for youth 17 and under. Free pre-concert lectures begin at 1:45 p.m. For tickets, call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.svso.org. **Dec. 4:** The program includes works by Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert and Mendelssohn.

POP/FOLK/JAZZ
Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601. **Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.:** Furthur. \$39.50, \$49.50, \$59.50. **Dec. 3, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.:** Trans-Siberian Orchestra Winter Tour 2011. \$28-\$68. **March 9, 2012, 7:30 p.m.:** Lady Antebellum — Own the Night 2012 World Tour, with Darius Rucker and special guest Thompson Square. \$29.50, \$45, \$59.50.

Chambers, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. (847) 647-8282. www.thechambersonline.com. **Nov. 18, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.:** Kerry O. Tantillo

CD release show. No cover. **Nov. 19, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.:** The Meteors (oldies). \$5. **Nov. 20, 5-9 p.m.:** Music by LaVerne (oldies). **Nov. 22, 5-9 p.m.:** Pianist/singer Marc Pompe. **Nov. 23, 6:30-10:30 p.m.:** Connie & Johnny. **Nov. 25, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.:** Rick Lindy & the Wild Ones ('50s-'60s rock 'n' roll). \$5. **Nov. 26, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.:** The Ronnie Ross Show, no cover. **Nov. 27, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.:** Pianist Myles Greene, no cover. **Nov. 29, 6-9 p.m.:** Pianist/singer Jerry Owings. **Nov. 30, 5-9 p.m.:** Music by LaVerne (oldies).

Hogeye Folk Arts hosts concerts at Lake Street Church, 607 Lake St., Evanston. All concerts start at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m. \$15 general admission; \$13 for senior citizens; \$5 for students; free for children under 12. Admission may be paid at the door in cash or by check, or by credit card in advance from www.brownpapertickets.com. For information, visit www.hogeyefolkarts.org. **Nov. 19:** Mark Dvorak and Ed Trickett. **Dec. 3:** Larry Rand and Nicole Mendyk. **Jan. 14, 2012:** Bryan Bowers. **Jan. 28, 2012:** Mark Dvorak, Michael Smith, Barbara Barrow and Chris Walz. **Feb. 18, 2012:** Bill Staines.

InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. (847) 544-5300. Friday Nights Live, featuring music from 8:30 p.m.-midnight in the Montrose Room, \$5. Ticket prices for other shows vary. For information, visit www.montroseroom.com. **Nov. 18:** Mr. Blotto. **Dec. 2:** Instant Rewind. **Dec. 9:** The Cringe (benefit concert for the Children's Memorial Hospital). **Dec. 16:** Callaloo.

Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. (773) 381-4554. www.maynestage.com. **Nov. 23, 8:30 p.m.:** Family Groove Company with The Electric Boogaloo and Sneaky Gene (jazz/rock/funk). \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. **Nov. 25, 8 p.m.:** Henhouse Prowlers (bluegrass). \$12 general admission; \$18 reserved. **Dec. 2, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.:** 15-Year Anniversary Concert with Funkadesi. \$10-\$25.

Oakton Community College Performing Arts Center, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-1900. **Nov. 18, 8 p.m.:** Jazz Lounge, featuring the Oakton Jazz Band presenting an evening of jazz standards. \$5; \$3 for students and senior citizens.

Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. **Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.:** Straight No Chaser. \$27.50, \$37.50, \$47.50. **Dec. 11, 3 p.m.:** Celti Thunder Christmas. \$34.50, \$49.50, \$75.

Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. **Nov. 18, 8 p.m.:** Roxy Bellows. **Nov. 19, 8 p.m.:** Charlene Brooks sings "Bonnie, Bette and Brooks," featuring the music of Bonnie Raitt and Bette Midler. **Nov. 23, 1:30 p.m.:** Bucky Halker's "Great American Folksongs." **Nov. 23, 8 p.m.:** Johnny Rogers in Tribute to Johnny Cash and Friends. **Nov. 26, 8 p.m.:** Aqualung, a tribute to the music of Ian Anderson and Jethro Tull. **Nov. 27, 2 p.m.:** Johnny Rogers in "Buddy and Beyond." **Nov. 27, 7 p.m.:** Greater Chicago Jewish Festival: Rabbi Joe Black. **Dec. 4, 7 p.m.:** "Rocking for Limmud,"

featuring The Alte Rockers with Lori Lippitz, Ovadya and Mi Yodea in a diverse show of new Jewish music.

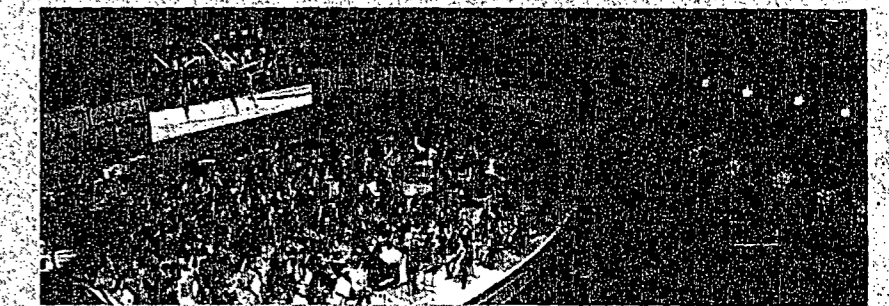
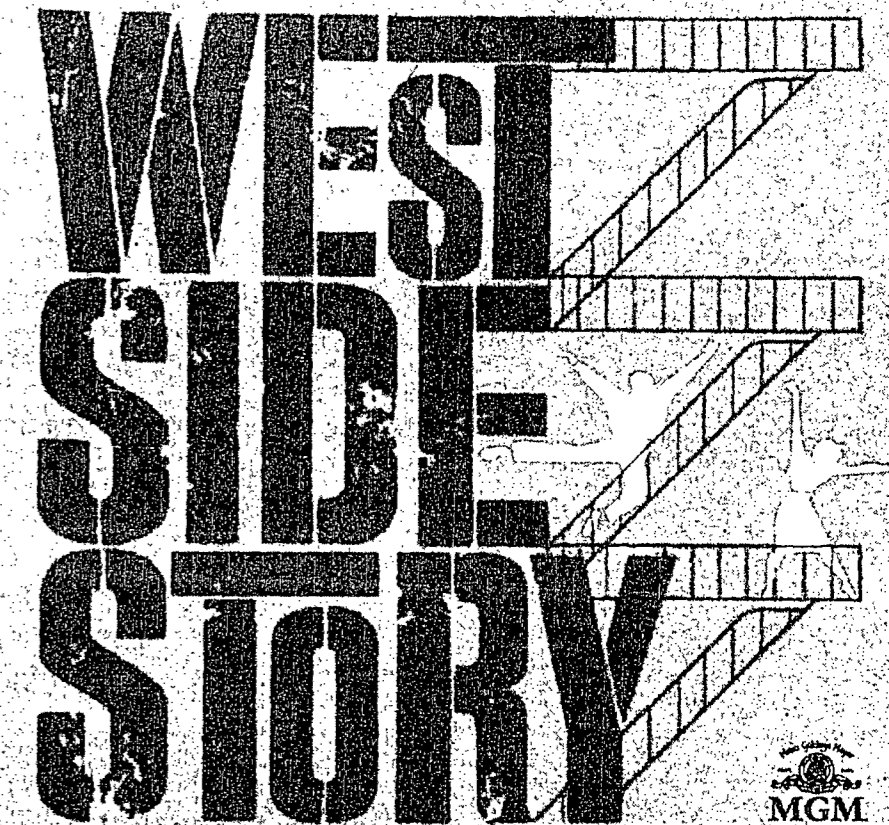
S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.evanstonospace.com. (847) 492-8860. Shows at 8 p.m., unless noted otherwise. **Nov. 17:** Eric Lindell (R&B/rock). \$18/\$20. **Nov. 18:** Charlie Musselwhite (blues). \$20/\$25. **Nov. 23:** Dolly Varden and Phil Angotti Band (indie rock). \$12/\$15. **Nov. 26:** Leo Nocentelli's "The Meters Experience." (funk). \$20/\$25. **Nov. 27:** Tommy Castro Band (blues). \$15/\$20. **Nov. 29:** Breathe Owl Breathe with Little Wings (folk/indie rock). \$12/\$15. **Nov. 30:** Edie Carey. \$12/\$15. **Dec. 1:** Stew and the Negro Problem (rock). \$24-\$40. **Dec. 2:** Brandi Carlile. \$36-\$56. **Dec. 3, 7 p.m.:** Webb Wilder Unplugged (roots rock). \$12/\$15. **Dec. 4, 7 p.m.:** Joel Frankel & Down Boy Down (folk rock). \$10/\$14. **Dec. 7:** Kinky Friedman (country/rock). \$22/\$32/\$42. **Dec. 8:** Jeffrey Foucault (folk). \$12/\$15/\$22. **Dec. 9:** Leo Kottke (folk). \$30-\$60. **Dec. 11, 7 p.m.:** JD Souther (country). \$22/\$25. **Dec. 14:** Dave Specter's

Adventures in Guitar Holiday Show with Jimmy Johnson (punk). \$12/\$15. **Dec. 15:** Tab Benoit (blues). \$24/\$28. **Dec. 16:** Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials (blues). \$12/\$15. **Dec. 17, 7 p.m.:** Emerson Hart of Tonic (pop/rock). \$18/\$22. **Dec. 18, 7 p.m.:** Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group (folk). \$25-\$40. **Dec. 30:** Ezra Furman. \$12/\$15. **Dec. 31, 6 p.m.:** The Jill & Julia Show (singer/comedy). \$20-\$25. **Dec. 31, 10 p.m.:** Otis Clay (R&B/soul). \$25-\$58. **Jan. 6:** American English (Beatles tribute). \$18/\$22. **Jan. 7:** Iris Dement (folk). \$25-\$45. **Jan. 8, 7 p.m.:** Astral Weeks: A Tribute to Van Morrison. \$12/\$15. **Jan. 13:** Griffin House. \$15/\$18. **Jan. 14:** Susan Werner with Seth Glier. \$20/\$25. **Jan. 19:** Mike Mangione & The Union with Dave Tamkin (indie/folk). \$12/\$15. **Jan. 25:** Christina Trulio. \$10/\$12. **Jan. 27:** Raul Midon (guitar/R&B). \$18/\$22. **Jan. 28:** Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater (blues). \$15/\$18. **Feb. 5, 7 p.m.:** Guy Davis (blues). \$12/\$15. **Feb. 9:** Marco Benevento (jazz/experimental). \$12/\$15. **Feb. 10:** Michael Tolcher (pop/rock).

SEE GO, PAGE 26B

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GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25B

\$12/\$15. **Feb. 11:** Zoë Keating (cello-rock). \$18/\$20. **Feb. 15:** Chris Thomas King (blues). \$12/\$15. **Feb. 16:** Lizz Wright (gospel/soul). \$28/\$32. **Feb. 17:** Jill Sobule, \$15/\$18. **Feb. 18,** 7 p.m.: Sons of the Never Wrong (folk). \$17/\$20. **Feb. 18,** 10 p.m.: The Pines with Sad Brad Smith (folk). \$10/\$14. **Feb. 25:** Livingston Taylor, \$22/\$25. **March 10:** Teitur (folk rock). \$15/\$18.

ART GALLERIES

Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge. (847) 823-6611. www.bricktonartcenter.org. **Nov. 18-Dec. 10:** Seventh annual art exhibition and silent auction, featuring works donated by professional artists. Bidding begins at 7 p.m. Nov. 18 and continues through 9 p.m. Dec. 10. Preview party will be held from 7-9 p.m. Nov. 18; free admission. Closing night gala, 7-9:30 p.m. Dec. 10; free admission. Also, Brickton has invited students from School District 207 to participate by submitting creations on 5"x5" canvas. Each will be sold for a flat fee, with proceeds to benefit a scholarship fund, which will be awarded to a participating student.

The Chicago Stereo Camera Club will host its 63rd annual "Chicago Lighthouse International Exhibition of Stereo Photography," a form of 3-dimensional photography, at 2 p.m. **Nov. 19** at Oakton Community College, Hartstein Campus, Room A151, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Through polarized glasses, audiences will see photographic slides and digital images taken with antique and modern 3-D photographic equipment. Minimum donation of \$6 requested at the door. Proceeds benefit The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. For more information, visit <http://chicagostereocameraclub.org/>.

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 9599 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. **Through Dec. 31:** Simply Chicago Art presents "Journey," photographs by Viral Joshi and paintings by Meredith Dytch, Wendy Segal and Joseph Taylor.

Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. (847) 674-1500. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sundays. **Through Dec. 29:** Anatomically Correct's "Wild in the City," works by Chicago

area artists portraying plants and wildlife in an urban setting. For information, visit www.anatomicallycorrect.org.

Oakton Community College, Koehline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2633. www.oakton.edu/museum. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. **Through Dec. 2:** "ID Show 2011," featuring paintings, photography, ceramics, and digital art by Oakton faculty members.

Services for Adults Staying in Their Homes, 1123 Emerson, Suite 200, Evanston. (847) 864-7274. www.SASlathome.org. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays or by appointment. **Through Feb. 3, 2012:** "Celebrating Experience: A Gallery of Art by Older Adults," featuring works by Chicago textile artist Mary Jo Bowers and painter Patricia Schuler of Park Ridge. All art is for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting SASI, a community nonprofit that helps adults in Chicago and the north/northwest suburbs who, due to aging, illness or injury, need assistance in the home.

Skokie Art Guild Members Only Fall Exhibit will be on display **through Dec. 2** at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. For information, visit www.skokieartguild.org.

BENEFITS

The American Zionist Movement's 19th annual benefit concert will feature Rami Solomonow, violinist, and Ben Solomonow, cellist, at 7 p.m. **Nov. 27** at Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie. Admission is \$60 per person. To register, call (847) 644-7872.

Empty Bowls, a fundraiser to benefit food banks and other meal programs for the hungry, will be presented by the Ceramics Club from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. **Dec. 3** at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Professional and student potters from the Chicago area have contributed hundreds of bowls for the annual event. For a donation of \$12, participants select a handcrafted bowl that is theirs to keep, and receive a simple meal of soup and bread. The event also includes a raffle drawing for ceramic artworks and a silent auction of sculpture and jewelry. For more information, e-mail emptybowls@oakton.edu or call (847) 635-1699.

"Celebration," a variety musical featuring Grammy award winner Sylvia McNair and international opera singer Nancy Gustafson, takes place at 7 p.m. **Dec. 4** at Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Tickets are \$75 and \$150; \$20 for students and children. Proceeds benefits the nonprofit Over the Rainbow Association, which provides housing for Illinois' physically disabled. Call (847) 424-5604 or visit www.otrasn.org.

COMEDY
Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. www.maynestage.com. (773) 381-4554. **Mayne Stage Comedy Series - Dec. 9,** 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.: The Sklar Brothers. \$20-\$25. **Dec. 14,** 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.: Patrice O'Neal.
Perla Café, 1813 Dempster St., Evanston. (847) 424-1382. **Nov. 19,** 7-8 p.m.: Skokie resident Debbie Sue Goodman presents a comedy performance based on her books, *My Husband the Stranger, Still Single and Still Dating*. No cover.

CHILD'S PLAY

"Annie Jr." will be presented by Take Two Children's Theatre of Skokie at 7 p.m. **Nov. 18** and 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. **Nov. 19** at Glenview United Methodist Church, 727 Harlem Ave. \$10; \$7 for children and seniors. For information, call (847) 674-2216 or visit www.northshoredanceanddrama.com.

Chicago Kids Company will present "Sleeping Beauty" at 10:30 a.m. **Nov. 18** at the Stahl Family Theater inside St. Patrick High School, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. \$10. Call (773) 205-9600 or visit www.chicagokidscompany.com.

"A Kite's Tale" will be presented by Blair Thomas & Company at 10 a.m. **Dec. 10** at Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The 40-minute interactive performance, appropriate for ages 4-12, combines theatre and puppetry and is set to Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," which will be performed by Music Institute of Chicago faculty pianist Sung Hoon Mo. Pre-performance activities at 9 a.m. include an instrument petting zoo, refreshments, early childhood demonstrations, student performances, and more. Tickets are \$10 per family. Visit www.musicinst.org or call (847) 905-1500, ext. 108.

Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. **Nov. 26,** 2 p.m.: Family movie, "Mars Needs Moms."

Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. **Nov. 19,** 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.: Three Cat Education presents "The Frog Princess." \$15; free for children 12 and under. **Nov. 20,** 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.: The Amazing Acro-Cats. Tickets

in advance are \$15, \$10 for children; at the door \$18, \$12 for children. **Nov. 26,** noon and 3 p.m.: The Singing Scientist Show starring Mr. Nicky. Tickets in advance are \$15, \$10 for children; at the door \$18, \$12 for children.

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DANCE
Happy Twirlers Dance Club provides round and square dancing at 7:30 p.m. **the second Saturday of the month, through May 2012,** at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thacker and Lee streets, Des Plaines. \$6 per person. For information, call (847) 674-2216 or visit www.northshoredanceanddrama.com.

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Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. **Nov. 21,** 7:30 p.m.: Lyric Opera lecture — "Ariadne auf Naxos."

ORGANIZATIONS
International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 43 will meet at 7:30 p.m. **Nov. 18** in the South Conference Room at Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston. Garrett Thomas will perform close-up magic and teach his tricks. \$15 guest fee, which may be applied to membership. Contact Robert K. Miller at (847) 272-3850 or magicmiller.com. For club information, visit www.ring43.org.

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ORION IN CONCERT

The Orion Ensemble presents "Classical Romance," a program featuring Trio in B-flat Major for Clarinet, Cello and Piano, Op. 11 by Beethoven; Trio in B-flat Major for Violin, Viola and Cello by Franz Schubert; and Trio in D Major ("Ghost") for Violin, Cello and Piano, Op. 70, No. 1 by Beethoven. The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. **Nov. 20** in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$26; \$23 for senior citizens; \$10 for students. Free for children 12 and younger. (630) 628-9591 or www.orionensemble.org.

singles 21-plus. For information, call (847) 757-1299 or (847) 331-1066, or visit www.combosingles.org. Bowling league at 6 p.m. **Nov. 27** and **Dec. 11** at Brunswick Zone, 824 E. Rand Road, Mount Prospect. \$25; \$20 for members.

Spare Singles Sunday Evening Club holds ballroom dances from 7:30-10:30 p.m. the first and third Sundays of each month at the American Legion Hall, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. Admission is \$8 for members; \$9 guests. **Nov. 20:** Music by Chuck and Friends.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Skokie Art Guild offers figure drawing workshops from 9 a.m.-noon **Saturdays** at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Live models; no instructor. Fee per session is \$20; \$12 for members. For more information, call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

ET CETERA

Tellaboration! Worldwide Celebration of Stories will be presented **Nov. 20** at The Experimental Station, 6100 S. Blackstone, Chicago (Hyde Park). Family program from 3-5 p.m.; adult program from 7-10 p.m. Participating storytellers include Park Ridge resident Vicki Elberfeld and Mark Kater of Skokie. \$5 per person for each session. Contact Judith Heineman at

60 years and NSO still plays for the love of it

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Contributor

It's been six decades since the Northwest Symphony Orchestra was created by a diverse group of classical musicians who pooled their talents because they loved to play.

That's pretty much the way things still are at the mostly-volunteer NSO, as it prepares for its 60th anniversary concert on Nov. 20, at Maine West High School in Des Plaines. Pre-concert commentaries by Carolyn Paulin, a staff member at WRMT Radio, begin one hour before each concert.

"It's an orchestra made up of folks from all walks of life," said music director and conductor Paul Vermel. "We have some professional musicians, some students and some amateur players, but they are all experienced and they all play very well. We are somewhat selective in that respect."

"But they all have one thing in common: They all love to play. That's why they're there. And we make some wonderful music together."

Second conductor

Vermel, an award-winning conductor whose five-decades-plus career includes developing and conducting orchestras around the country, became the NSO's music director in 1994 after the retirement of founding music director Perry Crafton.

Since he had spent the preceding 20 years teaching at the University of Illinois at Champaign, after previously teaching at the Aspen Music Festival School and Juilliard, where he studied after leaving Paris, Vermel knew little about the NSO. One of the things he came to enjoy and appreciate about it, though, was the way the orchestra's love of playing came through in performances.

"The orchestra has improved over the years, because we work very hard," he said. "We've achieved a sound that is cohesive and well-blended, one that always does full justice to the music we're playing. But we have always had that quality of enthusiasm and excitement that comes from people doing what they love to do."

The NSO is calling its 60th season "Celebrating the Past, the Present, and the Future," with the title of its season opener being, simply, "Happy Anniversary."

Vermel said he decided to begin the program with something of a celebratory nature: the "Ceremonial Fanfare" by Aaron Copland ("I wanted something brilliant to start



The Northwest Symphony Orchestra today



The Northwest Symphony Orchestra in 1951

'HAPPY ANNIVERSARY' 60TH SEASON OPENER AND CELEBRATION OF THE NORTHWEST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines

Paul Vermel, music director, presents concerts at 3:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$20; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. Children under age 14 are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. Visit www.northwestsymphony.org. **Nov. 20:** "Happy Anniversary," a celebration of the orchestra's 60th anniversary season.



Pianist Nio Makamura, guest soloist

the concert, but this one is surprising because it ends very quietly — very unusual for a fanfare").

Looking back

Following a reprise of Daniel Steven Crafts' "Entrance to the City of Proud Fancy," which premiered at the NSO's 50th anniversary concert, Vermel reached back to the program of the orchestra's May 3, 1953 debut concert for Georges Bizet's "L'Arlesienne, Suite I & II"

He calls that one "A beautiful piece of music, very brilliant with a lot of color and a wonderful flute solo."

The concert will conclude with a performance of Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23, featuring guest soloist Mio Nakamura, the principal pianist with the Chicago Youth Symphony. "I'm particularly excited about this piece," said Vermel, who will be conducting it with the NSO for the first time.

"It's very difficult to perform but very exciting. It requires virtuosic ability from the pianist. And, as always with Tchaikovsky, it's very beautiful, with lovely lyrical melodies."

Vermel said he hopes the occasion of this anniversary concert will attract music lovers who might

Paul Vermel, conductor of the Northwest Symphony Orchestra

not have had the opportunity to see what the NSO can do.

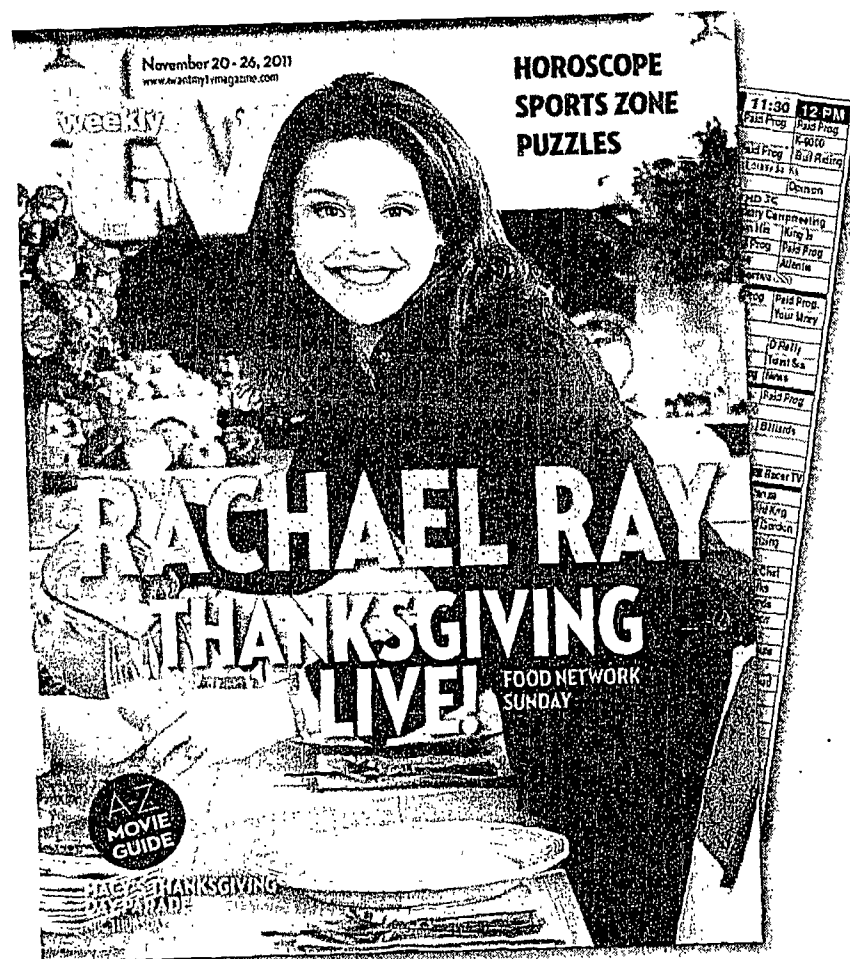
"We have a large group of loyal subscribers, but we would love to have more," he said. "For people who love classical music but don't go to the CSO because it's too far away or too expensive, we're the next best thing."

Vermel said he hopes the occasion of this anniversary concert will attract music lovers who might

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TABLEHOPPING Rosebud opens in Deerfield

BY ELIZABETH OWENS-SCHIELE
Contributor

Known for its overflowing portions of some of the most authentic Italian cuisine around, Rosebud has returned to the North Shore. "After the unfortunate closing of our Rosebud restaurant in Highland Park, we saw an outpouring of support and desire from the community for Rosebud to return to the area," said Chef Michael Ponzio, director of culinary operations at Rosebud Restaurants. "We felt Deerfield was the ideal location for our next restaurant, being reachable by Rosebud of Highland Park patrons as well as residents in the numerous neighboring suburbs."

Rosebud Italian Country House & Pizzeria opened in October at 560 N. Waukegan Road in Deerfield and offers lunch and dinner seven days a week serving a menu focused on regional dishes and fresh ingredients. Popular Rosebud specialties like homemade square noodles, fresh fish salad, and crispy brick chicken are on the menu along with a variety of pizzas hot from the brick oven, Ponzio said.

Lunch entrees average \$13, while most dinner entrees range from \$15-\$28. For those with special dietary needs, low glycemic, gluten-free, and whole wheat pastas are available upon request.

"Dishes like Halibut Milanese and the Skirt Steak Caprese Salad made with 8 ounces of Allen Brothers broiled and sliced steak, served with tomato, red onion, Buffalo mozzarella and fresh basil, drizzled with olive oil and balsamic glaze, are unique to this Rosebud restaurant," Ponzio said.

Owner Alex Dana opened the original Rosebud on Taylor Street back in 1975, featuring his signature chicken vesuvio and pappardelle pasta. More Rosebuds followed in the city and suburbs.

In 2007, Dana combined the best of his restaurants, including the sausage and peppers from Rosebud on Taylor Street, Mama's meatballs from Rosebud Trattoria and the popular linguine and clams from Carmine's with



Fresh fish salad is one of Rosebud's signature dishes.

ROSEBUD ITALIAN COUNTRY HOUSE & PIZZERIA

560 N. Waukegan Road, Deerfield
Open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
(847) 914-0900 or see www.rosebudrestaurants.com

the opening of Rosebud Old World Italian in Schaumburg. Soon after, he opened Rosebud Prime steakhouse in Chicago's Loop.

"Since the opening of the original Rosebud over 35 years ago in Chicago's Little Italy neighborhood, the Rosebud name has become synonymous with generous portions of hospitality and authentic Italian cuisine," Ponzio said. "Rosebud Italian Country House & Pizzeria is the restaurant where guests can count on classic Italian dishes made from recipes handed down through generations."

Rosebud Italian Country House & Pizzeria offers a family-friendly atmosphere with rustic wood floors, dining tables made from the wood of barns from the 1800s,

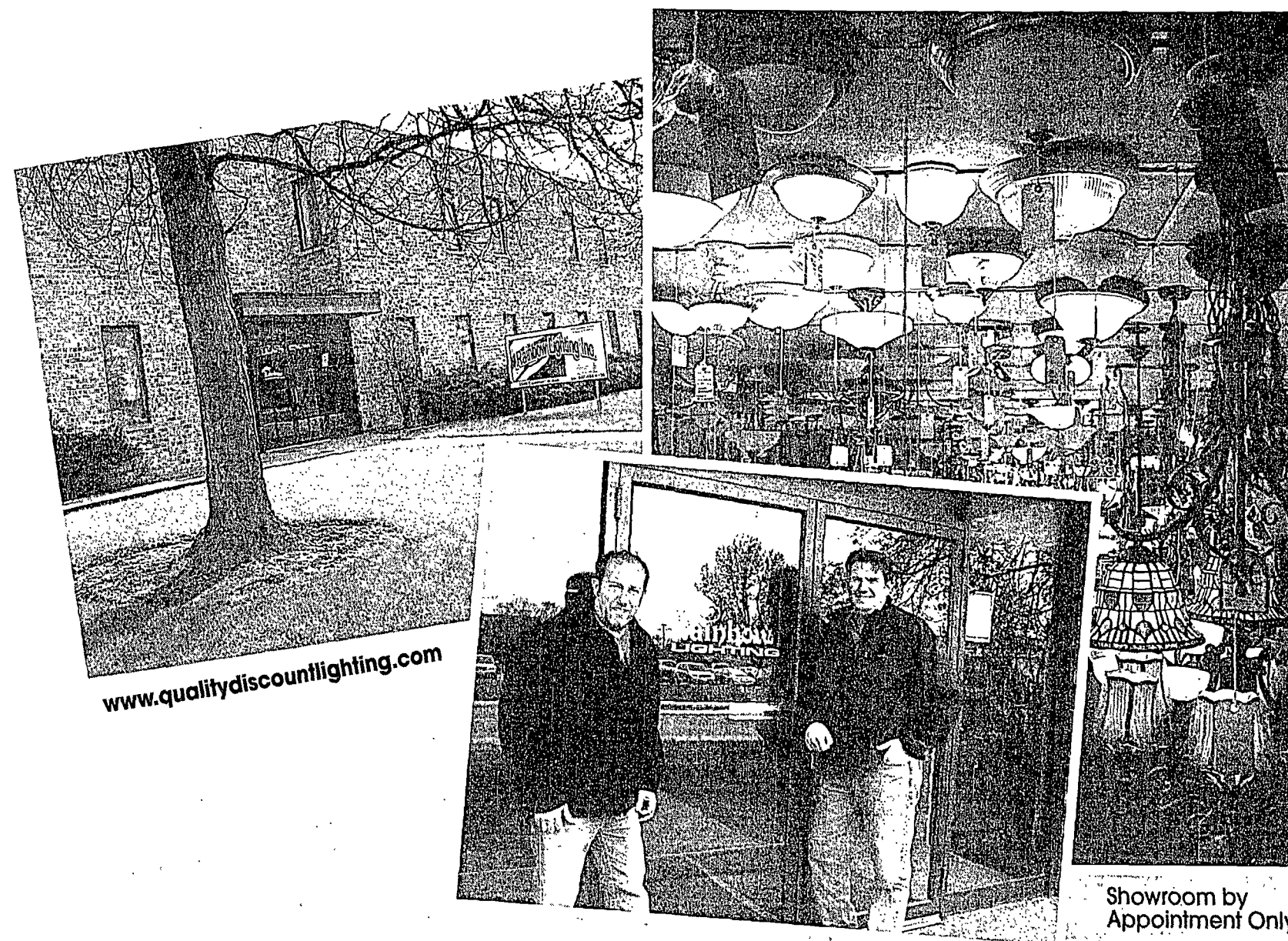
all with a view of the kitchen enabling guests to watch the passionate chefs as they create each culinary masterpiece. Soothing tones of red and brown create a relaxing, welcoming environment.

This Rosebud location is a low-key, no tablecloth country restaurant that seats a total of 100 guests in the dining room and bar. Two patios, each seating 25 guests, will be open in the spring.

"The casual environment, top-notch service, and creative Italian cuisine provide an enjoyable, quality dining experience that is unmatched," Ponzio said. "This restaurant crafts an unforgettable dining experience full of rich flavors and smiling faces that will have you instantly feeling part of the Rosebud family."

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| 31 Ecclesiastic | 78 Possessed | 132 The Brains | 29 Attempt | mono- | 114 100 dinars |
| 35 Evangelist | Goblet part | Bunch? | 30 Clubber | maniac | 115 Staff |
| Roberts | 83 Soporific | 133 Greases the | Lang's | 73 — a Kind | 116 Young of |
| 36 Mathemati- | substance | wheels | portrayed | of Hush" | "The Last |
| cian | 84 "I — Rock" | 134 Greases the | 31 — Amboy, | (67 hit) | Detail" |
| 39 '62 Tommy | (66 song) | DOWN | NJ | 75 '67 Peter | 117 — majesty |
| Roe hit | 86 — colta | 1 Fugue | 32 General's | Sellers film, | 118 Part of |
| 41 Hard wood | 88 Exist | composer | with "The" | 76 Homer's | M.A. |
| 44 Injured | 89 TRAIL | 2 "Dies —" | 33 Job opening | field | 121 Chemical |
| party | TRAIL | 3 Unwind a | 34 Billing | 79 Prepare for | ending |
| 47 Zeal | 94 New Deal | agency | 36 Public | combat | 122 Ford of |
| 48 Drink like a | 95 City in | 4 Chicago | 37 Sal of | "Giant" | football |
| Dandie | Kyrgyzstan | airport abbr. | 38 Pull off | 81 Comic Leon | 123 Common |
| Dinmont | 96 Baby butter | 5 Russian | 40 Novelist Lee | 82 Had in mind | appliance |
| 49 Hereditly | 97 Solitary | villa | 42 Bunyan's ox | 84 Related | 124 Swell |
| letters | | | | 85 Curative | place? |
| | | | | 125 — degree | |

Answers: Inside today's classified section

HOROSCOPES

For the week of November 23 — November 29

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Keep those sharp Sheep eyes focused on a hazy situation. As things begin to clear up, you'll find a sharper picture emerging, showing something you will need to know.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Watch your expenses through the end of the month. Later, you'll be glad to have extra money to pay for something that will make an acquisitive Bovine's heart beat faster.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're now ready to make that oft-deferred commitment, if you still believe it's what you want. Don't be afraid to change your mind if you feel you should go in another direction.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Now that you are moving on with your life after that recent disappointment, how about reactivating your travel plans and taking someone special along with you?

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Many new friends come into your personal life, which suits all of you social Lions just fine. However, one new friend might make demands that you could find difficult to deal with.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Communication doesn't exist unless it's two-way. So if you're getting no replies to the signals you're sending, it could be time to look for someone more receptive.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A workplace complication that you thought was ironed out develops new wrinkles that need attention. Meanwhile, expect continuing improvement in your home life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A tense personal problem needs to be talked out before someone decides to walk out. Resist making decisions until full explanations are offered from both sides.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A technological glitch that caused problems recently will soon be repaired, and life can return to normal. A colleague has a surprising message to deliver.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your partner might feel that you haven't been as open with him or her as you should be. Deal with this now, before it turns into something more difficult to handle.

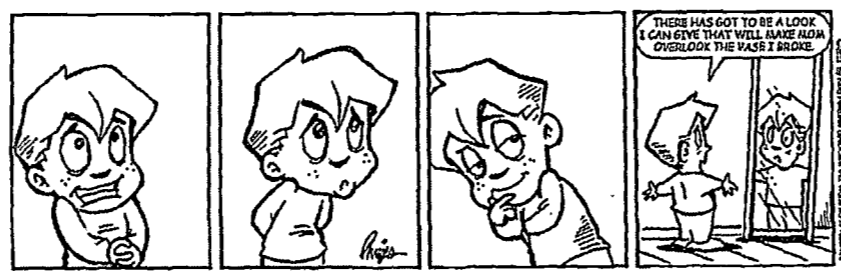
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Good news: Many of the stumbling blocks that affected the progress of some of your career projects are fading away. Things also start to look up on the home front.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You'll need that strong Piscean pluck to get through waters that will be turbulent for a while. A more positive aspect soon emerges, along with some welcome news.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are zealous in the pursuit of truth. You would make an excellent research scientist.

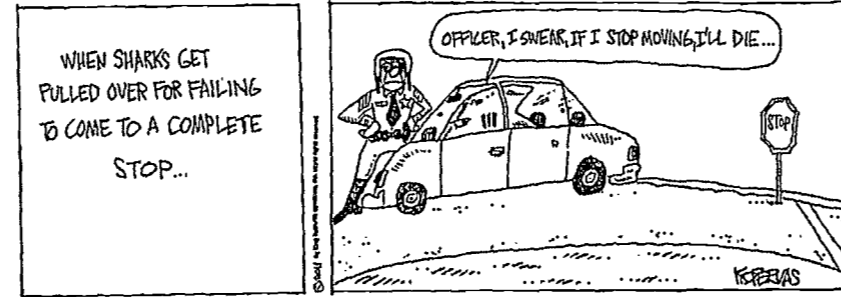
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AMBER WAVES

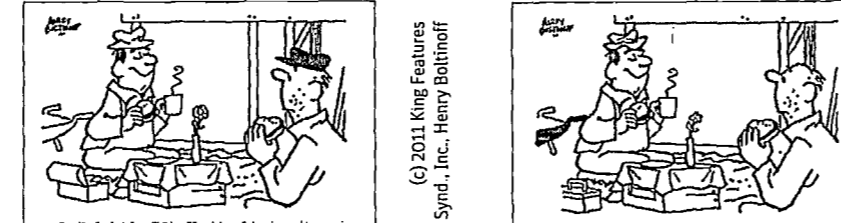


Dave T. Phipps

OUT ON A LIMB



HOCUS FOCUS



Differences: 1. Lunchbox is different. 2. Flower is different. 3. Hat is different. 4. Wheelbarrow is different. 5. Cap is missing. 6. Beam is missing.

Reflections.
Remembrances.
Condolences.

Cemetery Lots
Acacia Park Cemetery, 4 plots, \$1,000/each. Northwest Quarter. Call: 630-679-1506
ROSEHILL CEMETERY Section V, Lot 227, Graves 3 & 4, & Lot 228, Graves 1 & 2. Asking \$8,500 OBO. Call 312-670-1250
St. Lukes Cemetery, 2 plots, Circle of Hymns Section, retail value \$1,200 each, asking \$500 each. 828-665-4422

In Memoriam
Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday the deadline to submit Death Notices for the November 23rd edition is Monday, November 21st at Noon.

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Name _____ Cemetery of Interest _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Telephone _____ Best Time to Contact _____
E-mail Address _____
Personal information including e-mail address will be kept confidential and used only for responding to inquiries.
Catholic Cemeteries • 1400 South Wolf Road • Hillside, Illinois 60162-2197
708-449-6100 • 708-449-2340 Español • www.CatholicCemeteriesChicago.org

In Memoriam
General Information Concerning The Death Notice Page

- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
- An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
- The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00pm.
- Holiday deadline is 2:00 pm on the holiday for notices to appear in the following weeks publication, notices with photo by 12 noon.
- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm daily.
- A death notice, in memoriam or a card of thanks may be submitted in person from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday at the Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026.
- Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at www.chicagolandobits.com

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Catholic Cemeteries
lock in today's affordable prices
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a variety of burial options

Share your kind thoughts with the family and loved ones of those who have passed away by signing the online guest book:
www.legacy.pioneerlocal.com
PIONEER PRESS
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Thursday, November 17, 2011 Pioneer Press (DC) 31
Death Notices
Chisesi, Frank A.
December 25, 1928 - November 12, 2011.
Resident of Norridge since 1960. Active in the community and ran his insurance brokerage firm for 56 years in Norridge, Korean War Veteran.
Survived by his wife Marilyn of 56 years; also sons Robert and Vincent; daughter-in-law Cheri; and grandchildren Melissa, Martin, Keyli, and Addie.
Private Funeral. In lieu of flowers, donations to your favorite charity would be appreciated. May he rest in peace.
Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com
Michalko, Ruth R.
Age 84, formerly of Park Ridge, passed away Nov. 3, 2011. Services were held in Michigan and burial will take place at Town of Maine Cemetery in Park Ridge in the spring. Please contact son, Ben at michalko1@charter.net or daughter, Sylvia at skline3@hotmail.com if you wish to attend the burial. Full obituary is at www.harrisfhome.com.
Stoja, Mary Ann
(nee Lazar) Age 89 of Morton Grove. Beloved wife of the late Aurel Stoia. Loving mother of Leonard (Paula) Stoia and Raymond (Jean) Stoia. Proud grandmother of Cindy (Ron) Cuellar, Ryan Stoia and Jenna (Zak) Yoscovits. Great grandmother of Brooke. Dear sister of Amella (the late Paul) Baringer. Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews.
Services were private. Arrangements by DuPage-Cremations, Ltd. and Memorial Chapel at 800-588-1132
Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE →

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The Staffing Professional as Partner: Strategies to Gain Influence

By Peter Block, author of *Flawless Consulting: A Guide to Getting Your Expertise Used*, and founding partner of Designed Learning, Inc.

Every support person struggles with how to have influence when they do not have direct control. This is especially true of the recruiter or staffing person.

On one side, you have the hiring manager who wants magic. They want you to understand instantly who they are looking for and to find the perfect person without the manager having to spend much time looking or interviewing candidates.

On the other side you have candidates who are determined to present themselves in a way that they get an offer which puts their future in their own hands.

Facing this, as a job recruiter in the staffing function you have to make a choice: either find ways to gain more control over the process or figure out how to be more powerful in a consultative stance.

Staffing as Partnership

Here are some ways of making the consultant role more powerful and satisfying.

The process begins with thinking of the role as a partnership with the line manager, regardless of how you are treated. Whether the manager wants an expert or simply a pair of hands, you do not have to respond in any other way than as a partner.

The essence of partnership is that both sides have the right to make requests and express their wants of each other. This means every project begins with developing a social contract of how you are going to work together.

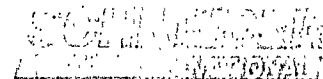
This contract should be completed before the work begins. Do this before you talk about the job description, the goals of the unit, or questions of employee compensation and level.

Here are some elements of this contracting process:

- Begin with a personal acknowledgement. Ask the hiring manager how the recruiting process has gone in the past. Do they have any concerns about how it will go this time?



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Special Event Staff November 24 & 25
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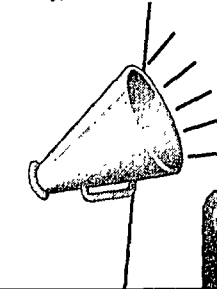
- Communicate an understanding of what the manager is up against. Ask what is happening in the business unit that has led to the hiring need. What kind of outcomes are they looking for?
- Ask what the manager wants from you. This is not about the job description. This is about finding out how they want you to work with them.
- State what you want from the manager. This is your moment to respond to any magical expectations the manager has. You can ask for the amount of time you will need with the manager. You can request clarity and patience in making the job description more useful. You want to be clear about the decision process and who will be involved. This is where the partnership is established.
- Summarize areas of agreement. Reiterate the areas where you agree. Note also where there is disagreement and say that these areas will be worked out as best you can. Stay with your wants, especially the ones you find essential.
- Ask the manager if there are any concerns about control or vulnerability in what you have agreed upon. This line of questioning goes against the culture, but you want to have the manager's concerns named, out loud, to you.
- Give support. Tell the manager what they have done in this contracting conversation that has been useful. You need to train your client managers in how to work with you. This begins when you tell them what went well.

After Contracting Comes Discovery

Now you are ready to begin what in consulting is called the discovery phase. This is the time to talk about the job description, the timeline, as well as strategies to find the right candidate.

One final word: you can use this same process with job candidates. Ask them their experience with the job-seeking process, listen carefully to better understand what they are up against, ask what they want from you, tell them what you want from them.

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Email address: hr@suntimes.com - Please note Account Executive in the subject line

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Answers to Super Crossword

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Help Wanted Full-Time

Fiscal Technician II Full-time

City of Park Ridge seeks applicants for the position of Billing/Receivable Specialist. Responsibilities include: 1-2 yrs related exp., knowledge of Word, Excel and MS Access. Exp. with MUNIS in plus. Duties include high volume customer contact, billing residents, selling vehicles/pet licenses, processing payments, balancing receipts, responding to billing inquiries, liaison to external collections/billing agencies, acts as a back up to the Utility Billing/Receivable Clerk and other duties as assigned. This position requires a strong attention to detail and the ability to multitask. Starting at \$39,794 + benefits. Deadline for application November 28, 2011. City of Park Ridge, 605 Butler Place, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

Help Wanted Full-Time

Manufacturing

Xylem - located in Morton Grove is a manufacturer of specialized pumps, valves and HVAC products. These positions require the applicants to pass a written qualification test. We currently have the following job opportunities available: Machine Repair. Applicants must have a minimum of three years experience in maintaining, troubleshooting, and repairing CNC production machines. Trade school or the equivalent required. Must have a working knowledge of machine mechanics, electronic/mechanical devices, hydraulic and pneumatic systems and the duties of a millwright. Welding experience is a plus.

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We offer a competitive wage and a comprehensive benefits package. Applications accepted M-F between 9 AM and 3 PM at Xylem, 8200 N. Austin Ave., Morton Grove, IL 60053. Resumes may also be submitted via fax to 847-966-0892, or e-mailed to tiffany.mendez@xylem.com. Phone calls not accepted. EOE M/F/D/V.

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Warehouse Cook Operations. Elec. Sign Systems Software, LLC, is expanding sub-contractors and qualified MWBE subcontractors/suppliers for Cook County. Request Proposal for Vote by Mail 11-28-2011. Services needed: Cook Operations (unloading trucks and moving freight to job site) After reviewing reference RFP, if your firm is interested and certified to provide any of the required services, please email your hourly rate to the below listed individual by 11/21/11: Jill Mresny, Corporate Sales, Election Systems Software, LLC jmresny@essvot.com.

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Garage Sales

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Garage Sales

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Child Care Wanted

Baby sitter JOB. We are looking for fun, creative baby sitter for 2 girls and 1 boy needed for immediate resumption(20-25 hrs/week) \$200 per week, please contact blackchildcare@yahoo.com for more details. Job seeker must be 18yrs and above.

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Air Conditioners

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Arts, Crafts, Hobbies

BJBE Holiday Boutique

November 20, 2011 9 am-3:30 pm We have over 30 vendors with clothing, jewelry, art, stationary home accessories, personalized items, & more. There is something perfect for everyone on your list. We also have kids activities & a bake sale. 1201 Lake Cook Rd. Deerfield

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Upright (Lyon-Healy), and bench. Used out good condition. \$1,500. Call 708-476-8613

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Cats
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German Shepherds - Pups \$350-\$1200. Trained dogs \$1000-\$3500. AKC. sir. bk. sable. bl. white. Labradoodle - puppies \$400-\$900. trained dogs. \$1000 + up. Calm. no shed. blond, red, blk. choc. Guar. M-chip. del. avail. 815-721-9090

LAES Pups \$350-\$600. Started dogs \$1000-\$2500. AKC. CFA. P.olar. yellow. choc. blk. Guar. M-chip. delivery avail. 815-721-9090

Purebred Maltese Very small \$650
Yorkiespos - \$400
Can hold for christmas
Call 608/344-0707

Standard Poodle Puppies. AKC Champion parents. New! Arranged. Call 847-565-9785. www.judgesstandardpoodles.com

Dogs

NEW TODAY!
AMERICAN BULL DOG PUPS. 3 mos old. M & F. reg with papers. family raised. eye checked. shots & wormed. \$600. 815-325-8344

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One Bedroom \$795
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Studio \$600
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Very clean 1 BR. heat & water incl. off st. parking, \$650/mo. + security. Call 773-783-1656

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SKOKIE - 4921 Crain 1BR for \$860
Available Now! Studio \$745:
Close to transportation and stores. Heat and water included. To see call Senada 847/324-8938

SKOKIE - 8250-60 NILES CENTER
RD. Lovely 1BR's \$875. Available Now. Larger modern kitchens & baths. Storage, laundry & parking. Heat included.
Anne 847-324-8972

Apartments, Unfurn'd.

Glenview, 1,2,3 Bds
LUXURY RESIDENCES
Valley Lo Towers II
1910 Chestnut Ave.
Call (847) 998-1800 x200
Mon - Fri 9:30 - 5pm
www.valleylo Towers.com

Maywood, 5rms, 2br, new decor.
Appls, Cing Fns, Xtra Lrg BA, Carpt'd, Enclosed Back Porch
Prking \$750-800. 708-848-2829

MORTON GROVE 8500-06 N
Waukegan Rd. 1 br. heat, carpet, blinds, a/c, laundry avail. Entry fee \$500, rent \$760. 847-677-1889

MORTON GROVE
Immed. Occ. 2BR, 2BA, elev. bldg. heated indr. pki. sp. All appls. incl. w/d in unit. No pets allowed. Near train station. 2 yr. lease. \$1450-\$1550 847-470-8100

NORRIDGE Lrg 1BR, \$730. len. says utl. Frig incld. No pets. New decor & carpet, a/c. Indry Available 708-453-4988

Oak Park 2BR Apt. Parking, Heat
included. Close to schools and shopping \$925/mo + 1mo Security Deposit. Call 708-259-9642

PARK RIDGE 1BR, 1BA, heat
included, garage, yard, newly decorated, no pets, close to De Rd train, \$850/mo. 847-825-2774

SKOKIE, 1, 2, 3 BR, 2 BA.
5240 W. Gale, Unit elev, prk, wtr & storage incl. Indry and w/d in unit. 1br/\$945, 2 br/\$1220 847-673-3224

Skokie, 2 BR garden apt. near
Church & Lawler, New BA & window, parking, avail now, near trans, \$745 + ht. 244-441-1027

SKOKIE - 4602-22 Grove
Outstanding Building
Spacious 5 Room - 2 Bedroom Light, airy/moderate, ceilings fans. Garage available. Heat included. Janitor on premises, close to Devonshire Park.
Call Gabby 847-933-0727 or Hallmark & Johnson 773-545-6160

Sicknon Location. 1 & 2 bdrm apts
available. Newly Decorated. Rent includes heat, stove & refrigerator. On Site Laundry Facility. Call Jim @ 708-987-1205.

Winnette Coach House, 2BR.
2BA, LR, Eat in Kitchen, Screened Porch, Quiet Setting, Washer, Dryer, \$1750 incl. water & electric. Imm. Occu. Andy @ 312-543-6657

Highland Park 2 bedroom.
1st floor apt. all electric, close to tow and train, no pets.
\$910 a month. Call 847-831-8080

CHICAGO HEIGHTS, REHABBED
1 OR 2 BEDROOM, GAS, ELECTRIC & APPLS INCLUDED. SECTION 8 OK. 708-822-4450.

Elmwood Park 1bdm apt. 1st Flr. Heat & Appls incl. Carpeted. Laundry Facil. No Pets. Close to transportation. Fran 708-453-4115

ELMWOOD PARK, 5.5 rms. 1.5BA
unheated, appliances, water and garbage included. \$950 + dep. No smoking/pets. 708-456-2007

Evanson, 2bdm, available now!
Internet & Cable. 1631 Madison Str. \$1080/mo + Utilities 773-703-5617

FOREST PARK 3 rms. 1BR, 1st flr
of 4 flr. on site indry, 1st est in kitchen. storage unit, heat & water incl. no pets. \$725/mo. 708-512-3549

Chicago, Edison Park, 1 bedroom
apartment, 2nd floor, heated, carpeted, appliances, water and gas. \$600/month. 773-774-1911

Chicago, Jefferson Park / Gladstone, 1 bedroom, near trans.
heat incl. no pets, \$750 + sec dep. 773-430-7550 or 773-633-4641

DES PLAINES - 1 Bdrm \$750.
2 Bdrm \$900, inclods heat, laundry & parking. Immediate Occp. GRE prop 847-324-8970

SKOKIE - 4901-16 Crain Lovely!!!
2BR for \$1010. Available Now!! Heat and water included. Spacious rooms and closets. Close to stores and transportation. To see call Senada 847/324-8938.

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americanheartlandhomes.net

Maywood, 5rms, 2br, new decor.
Appls, Cing Fns, Xtra Lrg BA, Carpt'd, Enclosed Back Porch
Prking \$750-800. 708-848-2829

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Gurnee - Beautiful upscale 2bdm
appt. Dishwasher, WD, Stove & Refrigerator, A/C, mini blinds, free heat. \$950. 847-623-6785

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home. Indge + stove included. central air, fenced yard with patio. \$950 + security. Sec 8 ok. 224-436-4164

Chicago 1145 N Lorel new remod 4
bd 2 ba. hwdwd flrs. mbl throughout, appls, tenant pays utls. \$1

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS... MORTGAGE OF THE MORTGAGEE'S ATTORNEY...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

Case # 11 CH 014776 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

CENTRAL IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION SOVEREIGN BANK...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

by the purchaser not to exceed \$500. In certified funds to be due within twenty-four (24) hours...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

N.A. ORALYUK REAL ESTATE, INC. 6571 WESTERLY DRIVE # 6 BURR RIDGE...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

HARWOOD HEIGHTS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

as Selling Clerk will be at 12:30 p.m. on October 29, 2011, at 205 W. Randolph Street, Suite 1200...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

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SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

Commonly known as 9555 Woods Oak Drive, Skokie, IL 60077. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE...

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

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40 Judicial Sales-Real Est.

to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 7722 N. BRIDGE AVE. (11/11/11, 11/24/11) #173396

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

At The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606. Public Auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 11111 N. WILSON ST. (11/11/11, 11/24/11) #173396

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

Reflet Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours of the date of the sale. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours of the date of the sale.

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

At The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606. Public Auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 8225 NILES CENTER DRIVE UNIT 102 SKOKIE, IL 60074. (11/11/11, 11/24/11) #173396

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

At The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606. Public Auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 4700 N. WILSON ST. (11/11/11, 11/24/11) #173396

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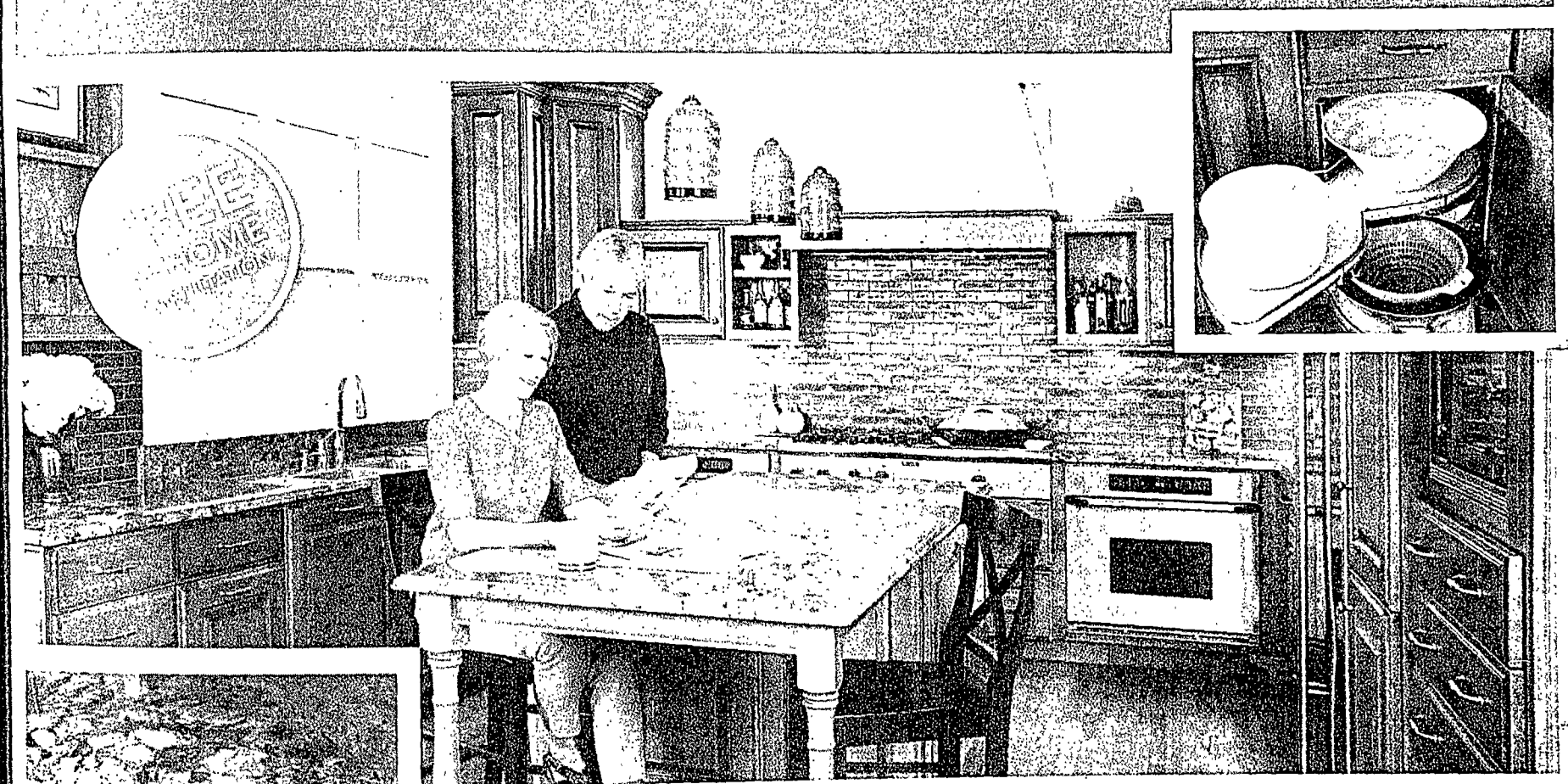
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BY BETH ENGELMAN
Mommy on a Shoestring

Thanksgiving treats to gobble up

Talking turkey, sort of: Giving thanks this year by making delicious treats that even a turkey would love



Turkey Cookies

These cookies are almost too cute to eat, which is why you might want to use them as a centerpiece or put them to work as place setting holders.

- You need:**
 Double Stuff Chocolate Sandwich Cookies
 Candy corn
 Malted milk balls
 Peanut butter cups
 Chocolate or vanilla frosting
 Yellow frosting
 Optional: red and black frosting
- Directions:**
 Give your turkey some "feathers" by adding candy corn to the top of one cookie. Use frosting as glue if desired.
 Put a dab of frosting on the opposite end of the cookie and secure it to the "base" cookie.
 Note: You might want to prop it up next to a wall until the frosting dries.
 Turn the peanut butter cup into a "turkey body" by cutting a tiny sliver off the end and attaching it with frosting to the cookie with "feathers."
 Add a "head" by gluing a malted milk ball on top of the peanut butter cup. Be sure to put frosting on the side of the malted milk ball that hits both the cookie and the peanut butter cup.
 To make the "beak," cut off the white tip of the candy corn and glue with frosting. Add yellow dots and sprinkles for eyes.

Pilgrim Hat Cookies

Perfect for the non-skilled chef, these no-bake cookies are easier to make than they are to mess up!

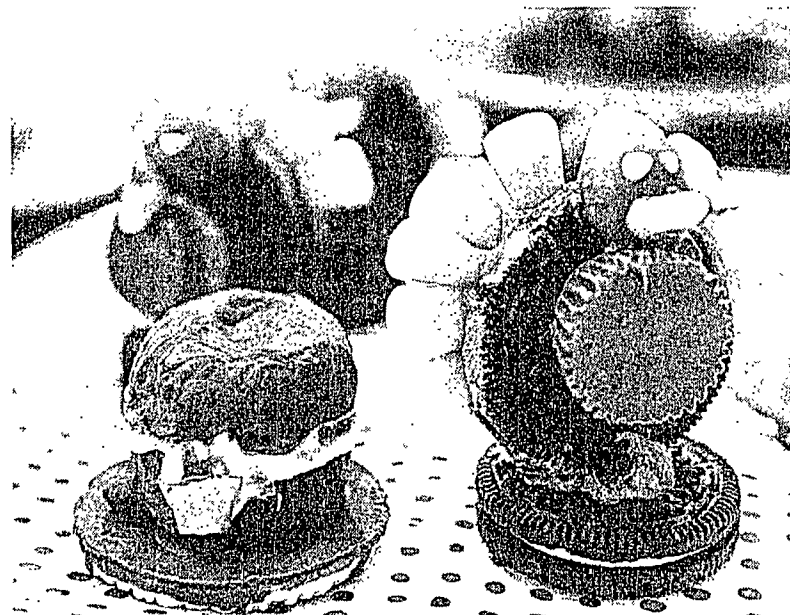
- You need:**
 1 bag chocolate chips
 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
 Marshmallows
 Yellow frosting
 Fudge-striped cookies
- Directions:**
 Place cookies (striped side down) on a piece of waxed paper.
 Melt chocolate and oil in microwave.
 Dip marshmallows in chocolate and place in the middle of each cookie.
 Wait an hour or two until dry.
 Add a buckle with yellow frosting.
 Thank you to Kate and Sara from www.ourbestbites.com for sharing the Turkey and Hat Cookie recipes!

Friendship Mix

Symbolism and food? No, it's not the latest Dan Brown novel, but rather a delicious mix that puts meaning in the munch. Perfect as a hostess gift, place setting holder or a special treat to send home with guests.

- You need:**
 Mini pretzels = hugs
 Raisins = old friends
 Chocolate = health
 Cranberries = love
 Pretzel M&M's = new friends
 Nuts = self-explanatory
 Banana chips = monkey around
- Directions:**
 Mix all ingredients in a bowl and add to a jar, bag or container of your choice.
 When gifting mix, be sure to include our "key" which tells what each ingredient means.

A trail mix recipe that can be used as a place setting.



Some edible Thanksgiving decorations: a Pilgrim Hat Cookie and a Turkey Cookie.
 PHOTOS BY DAN LUEDERT - SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Visit pioneerlocal.com/mommy for how-to videos and more photos

Grateful Cookies

Although technically not an edible treat, this game is "sweet" tradition the whole family can enjoy.

- You need:**
 Cookie jar (or bowl)
 Paper cookies (use clip art or ask your kids to help you make them with paper and markers)
 Pens or pencils
- Directions:**
 Give each guest a cookie and ask him or her to write one thing for which they are grateful. Remind them to NOT write their name on the cookie.
 Place all paper cookies in the jar.
 To play: During dinner read the "cookies" aloud while the rest of the guests try to guess who wrote it.
 Happy Thanksgiving!

CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

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

Community

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County and its member communities are offering a Holiday Light Recycling Program at no cost to residents. All holiday string lighting and extension cords can be dropped off at various locations throughout northern Cook County. Garland, live greens, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted in this program. SWANCC and the participating communities have partnered with Elgin Recycling Inc. to recycle the lights and cords. The strands are separated and baled and sent to be chopped or shredded and sold as a commodity to foundries and mills in the United States. In Niles, recycling program is in effect from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. weekdays, up to Feb. 29 at the Niles Public Services Department, 6849 Touhy Ave., (847) 588-7900; and at the Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive, through Feb. 29 - 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays, and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, (847) 588-7900. See www.swancc.org.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, (847) 967-4800, www.ilholocaustmuseum.org - Through Jan. 15: The Art of Gaman Exhibit showcases arts and crafts made by Japanese Americans in U.S. internment camps during World War II, free with museum admission. Nov. 17, 6:30-8 p.m.: In cooperation with the Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago, the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust in Lithuania will be commemorated. Author Nancy Wright Beasley discusses her book, *Izzy's Fire*, which spotlights one family's remarkable survival. Reservations required. Nov. 20, 12:30-3:30 p.m.: Film and Discussion of the "Judgment a Nuremberg," the 1961 classic starring Spencer Tracy centering on the trial of four German jurists accused of le-

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

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County has established a location for residents to drop off electronics on a weekly basis at no cost at the Glenview Transfer Station, 1151 N. River Road, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Under the new Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2313), only the following items will be accepted: Computers - PCs and laptops, scanners, computer monitors, mobile phones, peripherals - mice, keyboards, zip drives, MP3 players, televisions, PDAs - printers, VHS players, fax machines, DVD players, video game consoles, and DVR/cable boxes. Electronics from businesses, institutions or schools will not be accepted. Visit swancc.org.
 Any women interested in joining the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Threshold Singers can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900. Practices are held on two Thursdays each month starting at 6:45 p.m. in Park

Ridge. Threshold Singers are trained to sing in groups of two and three at the bedside of those who are sick and dying. The songs are generally traditional or simple rounds, chants, lullabies and hymns that can be chosen to respond to musical taste and spiritual direction. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

Avenues Thrift Shoppe offers great prices and specials on gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60 years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items. The main shop is located at 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago, and the "boutique" shop at 7700 Touhy Ave. features upscale clothing, outerwear, collectibles and finer merchandise. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Donations are accepted 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing; broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

Crafts/Arts

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, 2350 Dempster St., Des Plaines, featuring its Holiday Vendor/Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 10. Lunch available. Admission is \$1. Call (847) 827-5510.
 Norwood Park Historical Society holds its annual Holiday House Tour and Victoria's Craft Boutique and Holly Daze Café Dec. 1, 2, 3, 4. Homes are open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 3. There are five homes and a church on the tour. Tickets \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the tour. Tour begins at Norwood Park Senior Center, 5801 N. Natoma Ave., Chicago. Tickets may be purchased by sending a check made

SEE CALENADAR, PAGE 33

Congratulations!

to the 2011 McGruff® Coloring Contest Winners!!!

The following McGruff® Halloween coloring pages were chosen at random and the winners of the McGruff® Halloween coloring contest. Each winner has been sent a Stuffed Scruff® doll.

Aiden E. - 4 years old
Shorewood, IL

Lilly O. - 10 years old
Northlake, IL

THANK YOU!
to everyone who participated!
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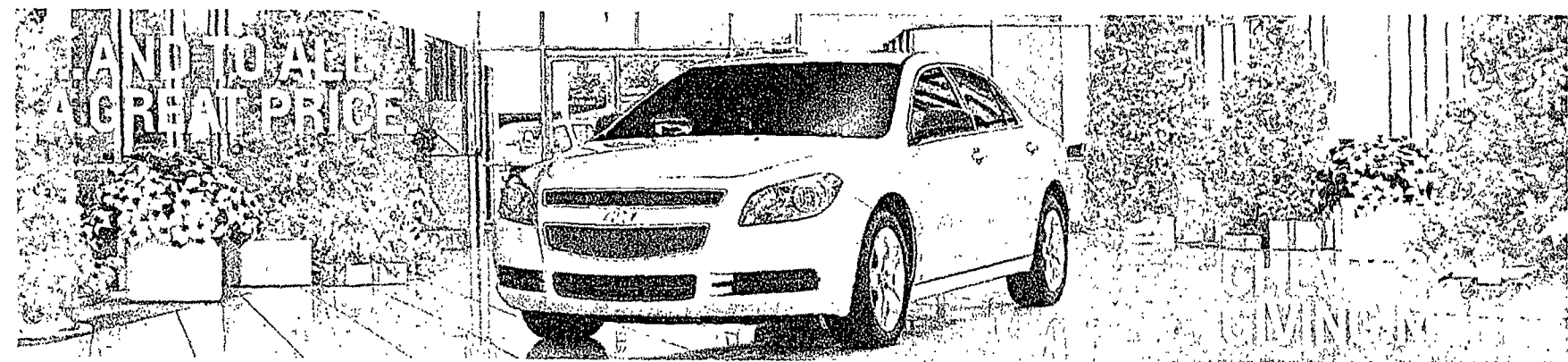
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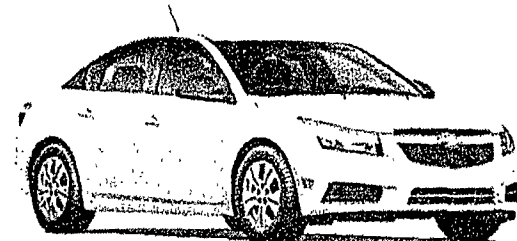
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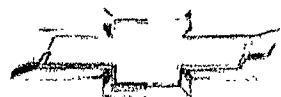
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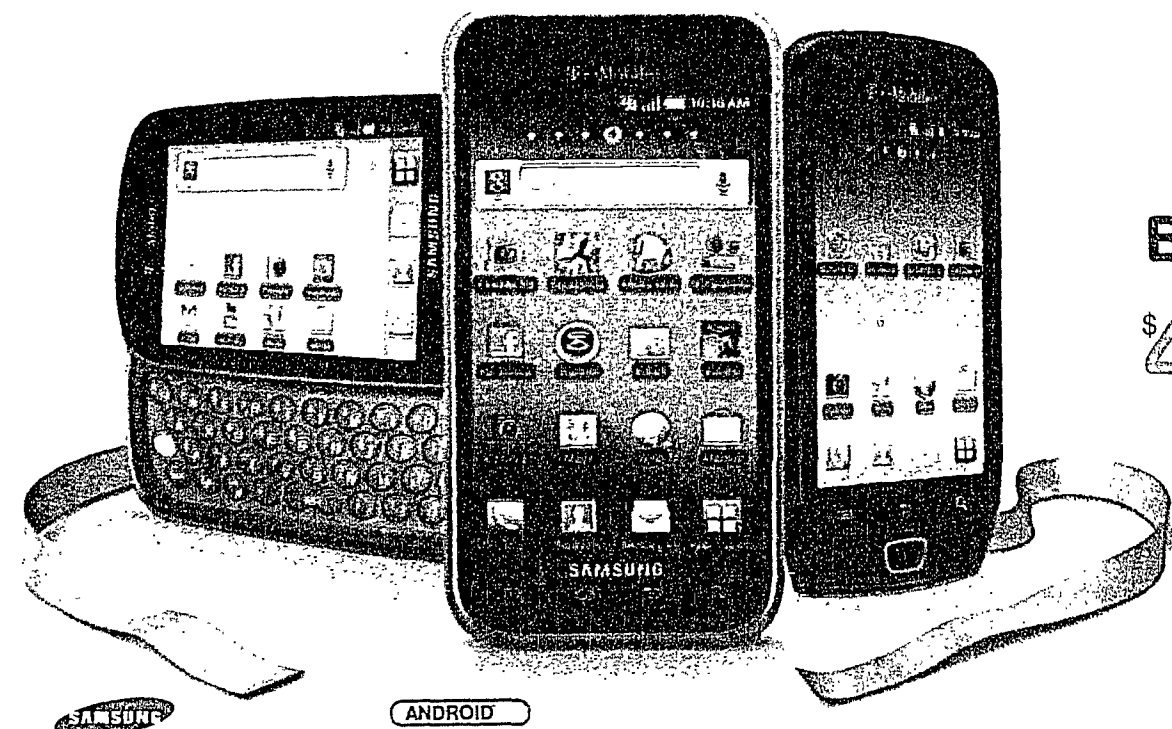
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CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

out to Norwood Park Historical Society to Shirley Rustemeyer, Attn: House Tour Tickets, 6067 N. Newburg Ave., Chicago IL 60631; from the website using PayPal; or by visiting the Victoria's Craft Boutique, Dec. 1 or 2 to purchase them. Victoria's Craft Boutique is held in Chicago's Oldest Home, 5624 N. Newark Ave., at the following times: Dec. 1, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donation to get in the Boutique is \$1; house tour visitors have admission included during tour hours. Call (773) 631-4633 or visit www.norwoodparkhistorical-society.org.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of the St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles, will hold "The Magic of Christmas" Bazaar and Holiday Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 18 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 19. The bazaar will feature Christmas gifts, floral arrangements, CDs, jewelry, raffle, a Coffee Shop. The Bake Shop will feature their famous homemade Greek pastries, such as Baklava, Diples, Kataifi, Galaktoboureko, Kourambietes and Melomakarouna. A special visitor from the North Pole will be there from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a Christmas photo, bring a camera. Lunch will be served both days from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and dinner will be served on Friday only from 5:30-9 p.m. There is no admission fee.

Donations

Village of Niles employees and Citibank are partnering for a food drive to ensure that no person in Niles goes hungry this Thanksgiving and holiday season. This community effort is held through Dec. 16. Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of the following locations: Niles Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive; Niles Fire Department, 8360 W. Dempster St. and 6611 W. Jarvis Ave.; Niles Police Department, 7000 W. Touhy Ave.; Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive; Niles Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive; Niles Teen Center, 373 Golf Mill Center; Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St.; Niles Public Works, 6849 W. Touhy Ave.; Citibank 8400 W. Dempster St.

The Village of Niles/Niles

Fire Department announces the official kickoff to the annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve/Village of Niles Toys for Tots Drive. Toys for Tots, run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, provides toys to children in need during the holiday season. The Niles Fire Department is collecting toys at both fire stations located at 8360 W. Dempster St. and 6611 Jarvis Ave. Collection boxes are also located at the following locations: Niles Village Hall, 1000 Civic

Center Drive; Niles Police Department, 7000 W. Touhy Ave.; Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive; Niles Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive; Niles Teen Center, 373 Golf Mill Center; Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St.; and Citibank, 8400 W. Dempster St. Per U.S. Marine Corps guidelines, all toys must be new and unwrapped. Used toys, stuffed animals, toiletries and candy cannot be distributed. Toys will be collected through 5 p.m. Dec. 16. Contact Bernadette Knapik, (847) 588-6800.

Food Drives

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Caldwell Breast Center at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is hosting a food drive for the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry. Anyone who brings a canned good or nonperishable item to the breast center is eligible for the second annual "I Can help" raffle for a variety of items. Individuals are invited to drop off their

nonperishable items during November and December at the center, 1700 Luther Lane in Park Ridge. All women who are in need of their yearly mammogram may call (847) 723-5050 to make an appointment. Contact Carol Dallmeyer, nurse navigator, (847) 723-3303 for information about donations.

Fundraisers

Our Lady of Ransom Parish, 8624 W. Normal Ave., Niles, is selling Entertainment 2012 Books at \$25. The

books offer a variety of values, mainly two-for-one deals at many restaurants and establishments. Discounts cover travel, restaurants, car rentals, movie theaters, hotel discounts and more. Proceeds benefit the parish. To order a book, call Josephine Bax, (847) 823-2550. Like New Auto Spa, Inc., 1050 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, has introduced a special fund-raising program that benefits Advocate Lutheran General Hospital/

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 34

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Holiday Worship Guide

Come Worship with us this Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 23 • 7:00PM
Sermon by Carole Edwards,
Parish Deacon

Thanksgiving Day Service
November 24 • 10:00AM
Sermon by Rev. Mike Housholder

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Norwood Park Lutheran Church
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CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital. Anyone who visits Like New to have their car washed or detailed or buys a gift card from the company and also asks for the Lutheran General discount will receive a price cut for the service, with a portion of the proceeds going specifically to benefit the Older Adult Services program of the hospital. Call AiMee Madden, Lutheran General Development Office, (847) 723-8518; Steve Radakovic at Like New Auto Spa, (847) 823-9274; or visit www.likenewautospa.com. The fundraising program is featured on the home page with a link to a more detailed flyer containing the discount and donation matrix. This offer is not valid with an outside wash only, or any other promotion/program.

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Center, 8856 N. Milwaukee Ave., is offering free hearing evaluations. All who come in will receive a comprehensive audiological evaluation. Call (847) 296-3344.

Pediatric developmental screenings offered at no cost. LYNX Therapeutics, 9436 Ozark Ave., Morton Grove, provides specialized occupational therapy services and learning instruction programs to children with physical, social, emotional, and learning difficulties. Contact: Ingrid Kenron at (847) 791-1631 or (847) 966-1505.

A local dialysis clinic, **Fresenius Medical Care Niles, 9371 N. Milwaukee Ave.,** has started a new night-time program for dialysis patients. The new service allows patients to receive treatments in the clinic at night, for eight hours, while sleeping or resting, usually three times a week. In addition to having their days free for other activities, patients often report having more energy and better dialysis results. Medicare-certified Fresenius Medical Care Niles is now accepting new dialysis patients. Call (847) 581-0334.

Health

Advocate Medical Group is now providing immediate care and occupational health services at the Advocate Medical Group Patient Center, 7255 N. Caldwell Ave. in Niles. This will provide

National Alliance on Mental Illness-Cook County North Suburban will hold NAMI Basics: Fundamentals of Caring for You, Your Family and Your Child with Mental Illness from 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays, through Nov. 15 at New Trier High School, Northfield campus, 7 Happ Road. The course is free. To register, call (847) 716-2252.

Senior Advocate of Advocate Lutheran General Hospi-

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

Historical Society

The Niles Historical Museum, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., is now open to the public on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Drop in, make arrangements for a tour, drop off artifacts and collections, or just come to visit. Week-day hours are 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Call (847) 390-0160.

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Niles Historical Society in an evening of food, friends, socializing, raffles, entertainment and fun, at \$20 per person, beginning at 4 p.m. Dec. 4. The party had to be moved to larger quarters and will be at the Niles Park District Oasis Fun Center, 7877 Milwaukee Ave. Make checks payable to the Niles Historical Society and mail to 8970 Milwaukee Ave. Call (847) 390 0160.

Library

Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

Book Buddies — Students entering eighth grade in the fall and adults can become Book Buddies. Buddies read and/or listen to children read once a week for an hour. The Niles Public Library provides all materials and training.

The Niles Public Library is open on Sundays from 1-5 p.m. all year.

Weekly, counselors from the Chicago Chapter of SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, will be at the Library to help small business owners and anyone considering starting a small business. SCORE counselors are successful executives and business owners who can help with a wide variety of business issues. These experienced businesspeople offer private one-hour sessions of business coaching. SCORE is a nonprofit association of volunteers. Weekly sessions are held on alternating Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Sessions are free but an appointment is required. To set up an appointment

online, visit the counseling page at www.scorechicago.org/. If there are questions, call (312) 353-7724 or e-mail info@scorechicago.org.

Youth programs on a drop-in basis — **Babytime:** 11 a.m. Mondays, for babies age 2 and under. Continuous year-round drop-in program for children with an adult. Includes stories, songs, fingerplays and extended playtime afterward. **Rise & Shine Storytime:** 10 a.m. Thursdays, ages 2-6 with caregiver; enjoy stories, songs and more.

Maine Township

Maine Township's 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

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

Niles Park District is offering private piano lessons (30-45 minutes) for beginning and intermediate students Wednesdays and Thursdays at Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Lessons will focus on the fundamentals of technique, music theory and good practice habits. Call (847) 967-6633 to reserve a lesson time.

Golf Maine
Visit one of the Golf Maine Park District offices, Feldman Recreation Center, 8800 Kathy Lane (one block south

of Golf Road on Western Avenue), Niles; or Dee Park, at the corner of Dee and Emerson Roads, Des Plaines; or call (847) 297-3000; www.gmpd.org.

Candy Cane Hunt & Santa — Find the candy canes Santa has hidden and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies and visit with Santa, 2 p.m. Dec. 17 at Dee Park.

Fourth-through sixth-grade basketball league — Games are on Fridays and/or Sundays at Feldman. Registration deadline is Jan. 21.

Over the Rainbow — Young children will have fun learning the colors of the rainbow through stories and songs at Dee Park on Fridays, for ages 3-5 years.

Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot — Win a turkey in a fun filled one-day basketball shoot-out event at Feldman Recreation Center, Nov. 19; one adult plus one child; for kindergartners to eighth-graders.

Before & After School Child Care — Children attending Mark Twain, Apollo or Stevenson schools in District 63 can sign up for child care. Call for details.

Zumba — Fun and easy Latin-inspired workout to get in shape. Ongoing classes at 7:15 p.m. Mondays or Tuesdays at Feldman (nine weeks).

Ballet & Tap — Ages 3 years to adult. Ongoing classes year round. Dee and Feldman Parks.

The Painting Studio classes for adults: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Feldman.

Tiny Tots Open Gym — Parents may drop in and supervise their 1-5 year-old any Wednesday or Thursday from 9-11:30 a.m. for a variety of gym games at Dee Park.

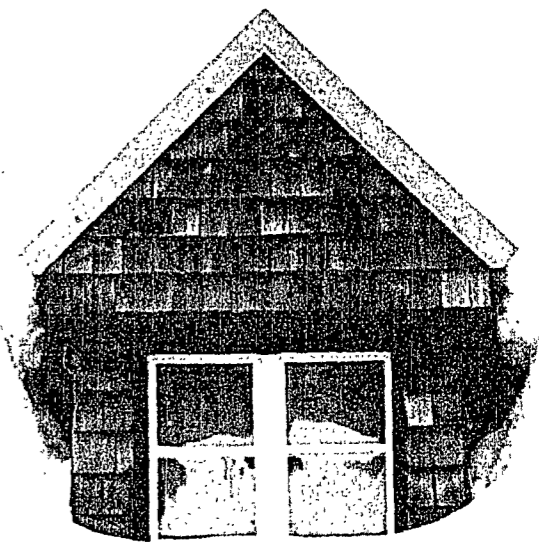
Preschool — There are still spots available for second-semester preschool (for 4-year-olds). Offered are morning (5 days per week) and afternoon classes (Mondays through Thursdays). All classes are at Dee Park.

Tae Kwon Do — Popular martial arts classes for children (ages 7-15) and adults offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays all year round.

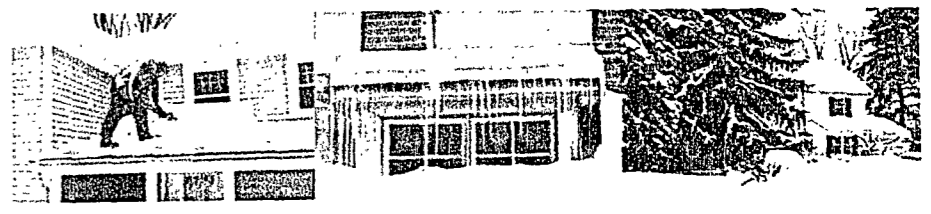
Various rooms/gyms are available for rental for parties, meetings or ongoing activities. Call (847) 297-3059.

The Golf Maine Park District offers a selection

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NOTT COATINGS DEALER

Hold the syrup! Waffles make their move to the dinner table

Waffle irony

BY VERONICA HINKE
Contributor

Crispy bacon strips and a hearty splash of maple syrup with your waffles — or a side of coleslaw?

Mention waffles and comforting thoughts of sweet, fluffy slabs slathered in butter and dripping with fragrant maple syrup come to mind.

But at the latest waffle eateries which seem to be springing up as rapidly as trendy cupcake shops were not long ago, chefs are making savory waffles and plating them with everything from lamb to short ribs. The breakfast classic has stepped up to the dinner table.

Owner Alex Hernandez, a native of Willowbrook, opened his waffle restaurant, Waffles, in July in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood. Traditional, sweet waffles are on the menu here, but they're on the menu with waffles topped with savories like short rib meat and chopped scallions. A light barbecue sauce, almost of the same consistency of thin maple syrup, tops the short rib waffle.

Just like mom's

Hernandez prefers a savory waffle called the Albondigas. Pork and lamb meatballs in a spicy tomato stew are presented with waffles. "It has the flavors of the Mexican soup my mother made me when I was a kid," he said. "It brings good memories for me."

At The Waffle Gourmet in Deer Park, balsamic drizzle is used just like maple syrup. Kildeer residents Tom and Shari Sorrells opened the eatery, which also offers sweet waffles, in October.

Sides of coleslaw come with waffle sandwiches here. "Everything you can make with bread or a tortilla, you can make with a waffle," Tom Sorrells said.

Ingredients like provolone cheese or corned beef are as popular with waffles here as breakfast sausage links or bacon. And bacon often

Waffles

(From The Waffle Gourmet)

- 1 egg
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup and 2 tablespoons milk
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 1 ½ teaspoons white sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat waffle iron. Beat egg in large bowl with hand beater until fluffy. Beat in flour, milk, vegetable oil, sugar, baking powder, salt and vanilla, just until smooth.

Spray preheated waffle iron with non-stick cooking spray. Pour mix onto hot waffle iron. Cook until golden brown. Serve hot.

makes its way into a waffle sandwich, like the Waffle Club. There's also a popular sandwich made with ham and buffalo sauce.

Waffle Gourmet offers a nod to Thanksgiving with another concoction: turkey meat and cranberry sauce stuffed between two waffles.

Making savory waffles requires a few simple adjustments to traditional waffle recipes. Sandwich waffles, which are ironed out thinner than sweet waffles, contain noticeably less sugar. "Sandwich waffles are made lighter, and are not as sweet, with just enough sugar to give them a crispy crust," Tom Sorrells said.

In some waffle batters, olive oils infused with savory flavors replace vegetable oil called for in standard waffle batter recipes. A popular oil choice for making savory waffles is a Tuscan herb blend, which includes garlic, basil, oregano and rosemary. "Tuscan olive oil makes the waffles mimic true Italian focaccia bread," Shari Sorrells said.

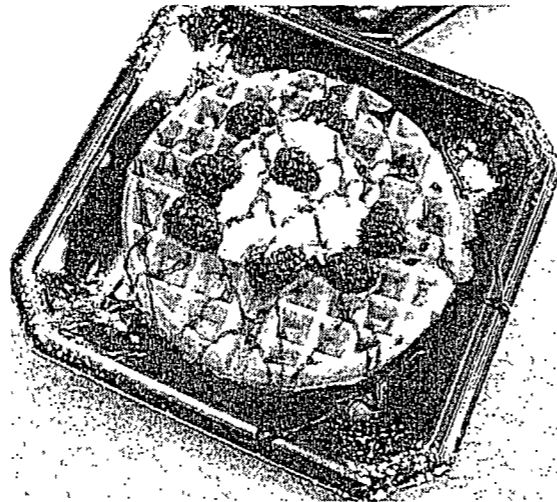
Rick Petrocelly, founder of



The Waffle Gourmet's Thanksgiving Harvest Turkey Waffle Sandwich features turkey and cranberries between two crisp waffles. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Tom and Shari Sorrells, owners of The Waffle Gourmet in Deer Park, with some of their popular waffle dishes. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



The Blackberry and Cream Sweet Waffle is a popular traditional sweet selection. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

The Olive Tap in Long Grove, suggested savory waffles enhanced with rosemary oil and topped with lamb. "People like to pair rosemary and lamb," he said.

Another Petrocelly idea: A Caprese salad waffle, made with layers of mozzarella and basil.

World waffles

"I view waffles as a canvas for painting, just like a crêpe," Petrocelly said.

The concept of savory waffles is no surprise to the local food expert. Petrocelly's

mother used to make waffles for him — smothered in creamed chicken. "Similar to what is inside a chicken pot pie," he explained.

Waffles can be traced back as far as medieval France, where peasants and nobility alike made flat cakes using two separate irons. At some point, the irons became joined by hinges. The waffle iron eventually assumed a honeycomb pattern that is recognizable in today's waffle makers. Around 1200, a guild was established to unify

Paris' waffle street vendors. The city's trademark snack stalls we know today were already in vogue.

Chefs like Thomas Bowman at iNG, a restaurant in Chicago's Fulton Market neighborhood, have taken the waffle from its Euro roots to the Middle East. He makes falafel waffles topped with baba ghanoush and seasoned with tahini and tabouli.

But the Sorrells, along with The Waffle Gourmet manag-

ing partner Ron Roberti, are planning a Charles Dickens-themed holiday toast to the waffle's European legacy: They'll make an English-style Yorkshire pudding with beef, with a waffle to replace the traditional pudding (which is much like a popover).

"Just when you think you've thought of everything, there's something else," Shari Sorrells said.

Merry waffle-making, one and all!

CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

of ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale to the public from a Lights for Learning kiosk. Proceeds from the sale of every bulb will directly fund the scholarship program sponsored by the district. The scholarship program allows children the opportunity to attend camp when they may not have the resources to do so on their own. The kiosk will also house the Lights for Learning teacher tool kits, designed for educators and organization leaders, to provide informational materials on the overall Lights for Learning Program. ENERGY STAR Activity Books for children, as well as ENERGY STAR home energy-conservation and electronics information, will also be available. A recycling bin for used CFLs will also be available. CFLs may be purchased at Feldman Park, 8800 Kathy Lane, Niles, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Call (847) 297-3000.

The Golf Maine Park District offers the community an opportunity to recycle paper products. A recognizable green-and-yellow container supplied by Abitibi Bowater was dropped off in the Feldman Park lot, 8800 Kathy Lane, near the corner of Western Avenue and Kathy Lane. Products that can be recycled in this container include: newspapers, magazines, office paper (fax and copy), shopping catalogs, mail and envelopes, catalogs, folders, colored paper and shredded paper (bagged); no cardboard or phone books. All money raised will fund the scholarship program, allowing children to attend summer camp and other programs. Call (847) 297-3000 or go to www.paperretriever.com/.

St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail lyrder@sjbschool.org, and submit their name, year graduated, address, phone number, maiden name (if applicable) and e-mail address, and may share a story or tell how St. John Brebeuf made an impact on their life.

Religion

Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, will offer its K'tonim Pre-School Program of Judaic Arts and Play, for children ages 2 and older. Children will enjoy Judaic arts and crafts, stories, games, singing, and snacks with their parents and/or grandparents. Siblings are welcome. Children under 2 are free. The 2011-12 classes will be held two Sundays per month from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Schedule to be determined. Tuition per semester will be \$60 and \$75, respectively, for mem-

bers enrolling one or two children; and \$85 and \$100, respectively, for nonmembers enrolling one or two children. Call the temple office at (847) 676-1566.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 8201 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie, will hold Adult Christian Education classes following 10 a.m. Sunday services. Classes will be held on a variety of topics. A Fellowship Hour follows the 10 a.m. service each week with "Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch" the first Sunday of each month. Call the church at (847) 673-1434.

Messiah Lutheran Church, 1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge, holds a Christian education hour at 9 a.m. each Sunday, with worship service at 10:15 a.m. During the hour, Sunday school is in church parsonage; children from preschool-sixth grade welcome. Childcare services are available during worship. Call (847) 823-6984.

St. John Brebeuf Adoration Chapel in the Parish Ministry Center, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for spiritual devotion, prayers and meditation. Call (847) 966-8145.

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, offers Introduction to Judaism and beginning adult Hebrew classes on Sundays and monthly Yiddish. Members and nonmembers are welcome. Call (847) 675-4141, or go to www.ehnt.org.

Reunions

St. John Brebeuf is looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail lyrder@sjbschool.org, and submit their name, year graduated, address, phone number, maiden name (if applicable) and e-mail address, and may share a story or tell how St. John Brebeuf made an impact on their life.

Maine Seniors

The Maine Township MainesStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the MainesStreamers monthly newsletter, which details activities for the upcoming month. Most activities are at Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, unless otherwise

noted. Contact the MainesStreamers, (847) 297-2510, or go to www.maintownship.com.

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 membership to Niles residents age 55 and older, and their spouses. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420, for an application. Visit www.vniles.com, click on Departments and then Senior. Registration required for most programs.

Annual Holiday Party at the White Eagle, 6839 Milwaukee Ave., takes place from 11:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 2, hosted by the Niles Senior Men's Club. Lunch will feature a family-style meal followed by the music of Sark Antaramian and the MidNite Express. Cost is \$30, members; \$35, nonmembers. Reservations required by Nov. 23.

Join in the Dazzling Christmas Tour from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 6. Start with a stop at Macy's, then tour the Lincoln Park Conservatory to see the annual display of holiday flowers. Then board a bus and head over to Daley Plaza for shopping at the Christkindlmarket (weather permitting). Lunch will be in Chinatown for a family-style meal. Last stop will be at the Museum of Science and Industry for a visit of the Christmas Around the World exhibit. Cost is \$73, members; \$78, nonmembers.

Featured in a multimedia presentation by Bob Levi are melodies from some of Gilbert and Sullivan's most memorable operas — "H.M.S. Pinafore," "Pirates of Penzance," and "The Mikado" from 2-3:30 p.m. Nov. 21. Cost is \$7.50, members; \$10.50, nonmembers.

A Thanksgiving Day Celebration featuring traditional turkey and pumpkin pie for those with families far away will be available beginning at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 24. Reservations are required by Nov. 17. There is no cost but food and monetary donations to the Niles Food Pantry are requested.

Niles Senior Center and the Niles Public Library are

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 40



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When companies act like divas of seventh grade ...



BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN

Dear Fixer: Last April, I was having a problem with a cell phone I had recently purchased. I was able to do an exchange through T-Mobile's warranty exchange program. They sent me a new phone, and

I was required to send back the defective phone in a pre-addressed box. If I didn't, I'd be charged a fee. The pre-addressed box had a UPS label, so I dropped the package off at a UPS store.

On my August T-Mobile bill, I was charged \$315.75 for the phone! I contacted T-Mobile and they told me they never received the package.

They said I would have to get UPS to contact them to verify that I did drop off the phone. UPS told me they can verify that I dropped off that phone, but that T-Mobile will have to contact UPS. I've contacted the UPS store, UPS' corporate office, the UPS store's corporate office, T-Mobile's customer service and even a T-Mobile store. All of them tell me that the other has to contact them.

That's the runaround I've been getting for the past month and a half. I'm not at all at fault for this phone being lost, so please help me get back this ridiculous fee.

Christopher Presnyk

Dear Christopher: Back in middle school, The Fixer knew a girl whose parting line was always "Call me." She said it with a hint of a threat that she might end the friendship if we didn't call her. Everyone knew she expected to receive phone calls, not make them.

Could these two companies be acting like the queen of seventh grade?

The good news is, Team Fixer was able to find a common-sense professional in T-Mobile's media relations department to cut through this silly red tape and determine that your old phone was, indeed, sent back to their company. They're refunding you the \$315 fee.

Dear Fixer: At the end of March, my mother, who lives on a fixed income, booked a hotel stay with CheapoStay.com to return to Chicago with her companion to celebrate her grandchildren's high school graduations. They planned on driving from Las Vegas, where they reside, to Chicago over a four-day period in May. Unfortunately, on the first day of the trip, my mother's companion got violently ill as they were descending through a mountainous area in southern Nevada. My mother changed course and got him to the nearest hospital, where he was diagnosed with extreme vertigo. After a three-day hospital stay, he was given strict instructions to return home.

While he was in the hospital, my mother contacted CheapoStay.com about a medical need to cancel their booking. She received an email stating that it would be canceled and she would be refunded her \$964.56; however, there would be a \$25 cancellation fee.

The \$25 cancellation fee hit her credit card bill June 1. Now it is November and we have yet to see the \$964.56 credit.

We have made numerous attempts to contact them. The two times my mother has actually gotten to speak to a human, they told her the credit has already been applied.

Please help. Close to \$1,000 is more than a month's wages for her and the holidays are approaching.

Theresa Caruso

Dear Theresa: Like many travel websites, CheapoStay and CheapoAir have pretty strict policies about not refunding reservations and tickets. Consumers need to be really careful about this. But CheapoStay does have a "compassion exception policy" for military service personnel, senior citizens, seriously disabled people, victims of natural disasters and people who've had a death in the family. Your mom and her friend, both age 70, fell under that policy.

You told The Fixer you suspected the screw-up originated with another reservation for the same trip — for a hotel in Tennessee. That was refunded, so it's possible the reps your mom spoke to saw that and thought it was all taken care of.

We were happy to put an end to your mom's travel fiasco. After The Fixer pointed out the problem to the people in charge of billing, CheapoStay sprang into action. A check for the refund is on its way.

Black Friday to-do list

Planning your holiday shopping can be like plotting a military campaign — especially now, when household budgets are so tight. The November issue of ShopSmart magazine — published by the nonprofit Consumers Union, the people behind Consumer Reports — has these tips to help you save:

Retailers are pushing Black Friday-style deals earlier, so look online for pre-holiday sales. Just make sure they don't have a short window for returns and exchanges.

Check these Black Friday sites: BFads.net, BlackFriday.info, BlackFriday.net and The-BlackFriday.com. And these Cyber Monday sites: CyberMonday2011.com, CyberMondayDeals.net, and DealsCyberMonday.org.

"Like" your favorite retailers on Facebook and follow them on Twitter to get insider info on special sales. Follow @DealCyberMonday on Twitter.

Check out Small Business Saturday sales at local merchants.

Find free-shipping deals at FreeShipping.org.

Looking for Mr. Good Guy

Or Ms. Good Gal. The Fixer is still taking submissions from readers about those businesses or employees who have truly gone out of their way for consumers. Do you have a consumer story that will warm The Fixer's heart? Please e-mail it to goodguys@suntimes.com and we'll publish the best ones next month.

Thanks to contributor Michael Sandler.

CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

Looking for volunteers to assist seniors and low-income residents in preparing 2011 taxes. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will receive free tax training at the Niles Senior Center in January and will help taxpayers at the Center as greeters and client facilitators/tax preparers beginning Feb. 7 to April 12. Niles Senior Center tax appointments are based on volunteer availability and generally are offered Monday through Friday mornings and afternoons. Volunteers choose the day(s) and time(s) they are available. Niles Public Library is also looking for volunteers for evening or weekend assistance. For more information, contact MaryAnn Borucki at the Niles Senior Center (847) 588-8420 or Judy McNulty at the Niles Library (847) 663-6431.

Niles Senior Center says "Thank you, Vets!" Niles Senior Center is preparing for a Fall Veteran Display of Honor. All members who served are invited to bring in pictures, memorabilia, medals, letters from home or from the front, etc., to be on display on the main floor of the center. Generally, copies can be made of most things submitted so items will be safe. Contact Jaymi at the center, (847) 588-8420.

The Sudoku Club meets from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Admission is free for members; \$12 for six months for nonmembers.

Seniors
Mother's—More Than a Cafe, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., invites adults 55 and older to experience professionally taught, free-to-moderate-priced programs such as lifelong learning programs, fitness classes, free blood-pressure checks and health screenings, free consumer seminars, special-interest workshops, special events and day trips. Call (773) 774-4804 for more information, except where noted. **Chess Club** for checkmate champs and new people who want to learn the rules and basic strategies. Sessions are Wednesdays, at 1 p.m. **Jazzercise** — Jazzercise is a fitness program that combines aerobic exercises with elements of jazz dance. A series of dance routines is set to popular music while incorporating yoga, Pilates, cardio-kickboxing, and other fitness styles. The classes move in-

crementally through different intensity levels, so anyone is welcome to join. Classes are held at 11 a.m. Wednesdays, \$5.35. **Line Dancing** is offered at 11:15 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Each class costs \$3.25. A variety of exercise classes fit for every level is available. Try the gentle-moderate exercise class, 11:15 a.m., Mondays and 10 a.m., Tuesdays that features a combination of seated and standing exercises for a complete cardiovascular workout. The moderate-high energy class is at 11 a.m. Thursdays and Fridays, giving more of a challenge with cardio, strengthening, stretching, and toning routines. Each class costs \$3.25. **Computer Classes** — All classes are four weeks and meet once a week for two hours. Begin with level one and advance through to level four. Classes are regularly forming and are offered every month. **Joe Cunniff** of DePaul University will discuss "The Island Empire: Japan" at 1 p.m. Nov. 17. Take a look at Japanese culture with a film and commentary. Suggested donation is \$8. **John Eskola**, vocalist, and Pat Rusk on keyboard will present "Songs of Thanksgiving" on Nov. 18. Enjoy a Thanksgiving meal at 4:30 p.m. with the show at 5:30 p.m. **A discussion** of Long-Term Care Insurance will be given at noon Nov. 19. **Laurie Samuels**, Retirement Income Consultant and attorney, will focus on "Your Retirement Dollars" at 1 p.m. Nov. 30. Learn how to protect and maximize retirement accounts and what happens to one's money after death. Light refreshments served; free. **Join a discussion** about fascinating women in the theatre, dance, fine arts and literary worlds in "Feisty Females" at 1 p.m. Dec. 1. Suggested donation is \$8. **Laugh your way** to good health at 9 a.m. Dec. 2 in Laughter Yoga, continuing on the third week of the month. Cost is \$2; discount \$1.60. **Heather Braoudakis**, soprano, will perform Christmas and holiday classics Dec. 2; enjoy a meal at 4:30 p.m., with the program starting at 5:30 p.m. Meal cost is \$10/\$8; entertainment donation is \$8.

Golf Mill Shopping Center is hosting "Feats of Fitness," a mall-walking program Mondays through Saturdays, to enable seniors to walk within an enclosed environment. The program is sponsored by Bethany Terrace, Golf Mill

Shopping Center, Maine Township, MaineStreamers and Partners in Healthcare (North Shore Physicians Group). Health seminars and blood pressure screenings will be offered throughout the year every month on the second Wednesday. Call the Golf Mill management office, (847) 699-1070.

CJE SeniorLife is accepting applications for its Robineau Residence, 7550 N. Kostner Ave., in Skokie. Robineau offers a residential community composed of 24 affordable units in a one-story building, in a warm, friendly setting designed to serve seniors, 62-years and older, who may need a helping hand. Staff is available on-site, 24 hours a day, in case of emergency. Additional supportive services are available through CJE. Applicants should qualify for subsidized housing under the provisions of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 program. An additional monthly service fee is required. Scholarships are available. For an application and tour of Robineau, contact Dorothy Levant at (847) 675-8580.

Support
Have Dreams — Wee Dreams Open House will be held from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Nov. 19 at 515 Busse Highway, Suite 150, Park Ridge. Learn information for Wee Dreams, a social skills program designed for newly diagnosed children with autism, ages 18 months to 4 years old. Call (847) 685-0250.

Weight No More, a friendly weight loss support group, welcomes new members. Discussions include weight loss tips, recipes, and helpful ideas to help participants reach their goals. Fees are \$5 monthly to defray the room rental costs, and small fines for weight gain. Meetings take place from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Fridays at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St., Niles (elevator accessible). Call (847) 679-4229.

The Lutheran General Hospital Stroke Club for stroke survivors and their caregivers meets from 3-4:30 p.m. on the

first Thursday of the month (except January and July) at the Outpatient Therapy Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines; use south entrance. Contact Meg Potterfield, (847) 723-4765.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago invites those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide to participate in its Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) meetings at its Northwest office, 1717 Rand Road, Des Plaines. The minimum age for the monthly meetings or eight-session groups is 18-years-old. If possible, call the LOSS office, (312) 655-7283, for an initial intake before the first meeting or visit www.catholiccharities.net/loss. Groups meet 7-9 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month and also on the second Wednesday of each month.

Families Anonymous is a support group for family members and friends who are concerned about and affected by the substance abuse or behavioral problems of a loved one. Group 831 meets at 10 a.m. every Friday at Carter Westminster Church, 4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie, in the basement; enter from parking lot in the rear. Group 173 meets at 7:30 p.m. every Monday (except holidays) at First United Methodist Church, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, in Parlor Room, south portion of main level; use entrance at rear (Grant Place), across from parking lot. No dues or fees required. First names only used at meetings to preserve individual anonymity. This is a nonprofessional and non-religious program. Call (773) 777-4442 or visit www.familiesanonymous.org.

NorthShore Hospice will sponsor grief support groups. Soul Mates is an ongoing support group for those who have experienced the death of a spouse or life partner. This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month 6:30-8 p.m. at NorthShore University HealthSystem Home & Hospice Services office, 4901 Searle Parkway, Skokie. Legacy is an ongoing support group for adults who have experienced the death of a parent. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month 6:30-8 p.m. at NorthShore University HealthSystem Home & Hospice Services office, 4901 Searle Parkway, Skokie. Handicap accessible and parking available. To preregister for the programs, call Thom Dennis,

(847) 982-4364 or e-mail dennis@northshore.org.

Tops Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), an international weight-loss network of support groups, holds a local meeting weekly on Monday beginning at 5 p.m. at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 W. Howard St., Niles, on the lower level. The building is handicap accessible. TOPS has helped individuals live healthier lives since 1948 with a combination of sensible eating, regular exercise, and ongoing support to help members achieve and maintain their weight-loss goals. Women, men, teens and preteens committed to attaining and maintaining a healthy weight are all invited to join. Visitors are welcome to visit their first TOPS meeting free of charge. For more information about this meeting call (847) 966-4871 or, to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call 1-800-932-8677.

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance-Greater Chicago has free support groups for people with mood disorders and support groups for their families. Meetings take place 6:30-8 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge, Evanston, in Rooms G952 and 954. Call Elaine at (847) 674-6376.

An Alzheimer's Caregivers support group, co-sponsored by Advocate Medical Group and the Alzheimer's Association, is offered monthly at the Nisset Pavilion on the campus of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Meetings are 1:30-3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the lower-level conference room of Nisset Pavilion, 1775 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Meetings are free and no registration is required. Contact Sandy Guarise, (847) 318-2501.

The Neptune Society, the largest independent cremation company in the nation based in Des Plaines, is bringing comforting teddy bears to Chicago area children who are hurt, frightened or alone. The Neptune Society Teddy Bear Program names a teddy bear in honor of every person whose death care is handled by Neptune on the one-year anniversary of their death. The teddy bears are then donated to organizations such as Rainbow Hospice in Park Ridge and local fire departments to be given to a child in need.

The Les Turner ALS Foundation Support Group meets

(847) 982-4364 or e-mail dennis@northshore.org.

MOMS Club of Northern Chicagoland holds weekly activities (such as playgroups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly member meetings and Moms Night Out. Call (773) 853-2834 or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/momsclubofnorthernchicago> or e-mail chicagomomsclub@gmail.com.

One Hope United, formerly Kids Hope United, is seeking foster, adoptive parents to provide homes for at-risk children. Call (847) 245-6543 or visit www.onehopeunited.org.

The Maryville Crisis Nursery, 4015 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, offers twice-monthly tours of the facility. Tours are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. and on the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. The Maryville Crisis Nursery is a safe haven for children, newborn to age 6, whose families are experiencing crises in their lives, such as: job/medical issues, homelessness, domestic violence or other stressful situations. The nursery cares for children for up to 72 hours while parents concentrate on resolving the problems that are the root cause of the stress. There are no charges for services. Children are cared for by professionals and skilled childcare volunteers. The Maryville Crisis Nursery is available to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 24 hour help line number is (773) 205-3637. For additional information, call (773) 205-3600. The National Alliance on

Mental Illness, Cook County North Suburban, invites the public to attend its Family Support Group for families of individuals with a mental illness. Program is free and meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Nisset Center, 1775 Ballard Road, north of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Free parking. Call (847) 716-2252.

The local TOPS Club chapter meets at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 W. Howard St., Niles, on the lower level (handicap accessible). TOPS meetings are open to women, men and teens. Cost is nominal. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. Call (847) 966-4871, to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call 1-800-932-8677.

MOMS Club of Northern Chicagoland holds weekly activities (such as playgroups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly member meetings and Moms Night Out. Call (773) 853-2834 or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/momsclubofnorthernchicago> or e-mail chicagomomsclub@gmail.com.

One Hope United, formerly Kids Hope United, is seeking foster, adoptive parents to provide homes for at-risk children. Call (847) 245-6543 or visit www.onehopeunited.org.

The Maryville Crisis Nursery, 4015 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, offers twice-monthly tours of the facility. Tours are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. and on the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. The Maryville Crisis Nursery is a safe haven for children, newborn to age 6, whose families are experiencing crises in their lives, such as: job/medical issues, homelessness, domestic violence or other stressful situations. The nursery cares for children for up to 72 hours while parents concentrate on resolving the problems that are the root cause of the stress. There are no charges for services. Children are cared for by professionals and skilled childcare volunteers. The Maryville Crisis Nursery is available to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 24 hour help line number is (773) 205-3637. For additional information, call (773) 205-3600. The National Alliance on

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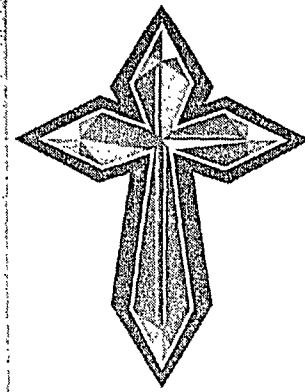
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Take me home from Target.
I'm 100% lovable, 100% huggable, and
100% of what you spend
goes to St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital.

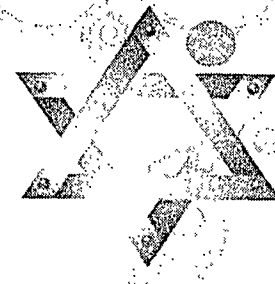


When you buy a limited-edition Holiday Bulldozer at Target and Target.com through December 31, 100% of the purchase price goes to St. Jude and the children they care for, up to \$375,000. Learn more about Target's partnership with St. Jude at target.com/StJude or visit stjude.org.





Your Local Worship Guide



Central Zone

CHICAGO

Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m. Evensong,
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Traditions
9:15 a.m. Spirit Bridge
10:30 a.m. Contemporary
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Parish Deacon
Matt Halder, Worship/Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street Level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM
St. Paul Lutheran Christian Day
School, Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD.
TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)
6201 W Peterson Ave.
Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship 5:30PM
Sunday Worship 10:30AM
Holy Communion Weekly
Pastors: Barbara Berry-Bailey
and Jeffery King

DEERFIELD

North Shore Unitarian Church
Deerfield, IL. Phone: 847-234-2460
www.nsuc.org
Every Sunday at
9:15AM & 11:15AM

MORTON GROVE

**Morton Grove Community Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)**
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2982
www.mgcccpresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

NILES

St. John Lutheran Church
7429 Milwaukee Ave., Niles
847-647-9867
www.st-john-niles.org
Sunday Service 9:30AM

NORTHFIELD

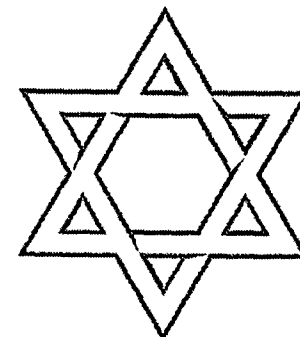
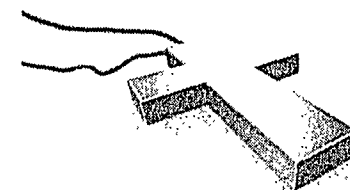
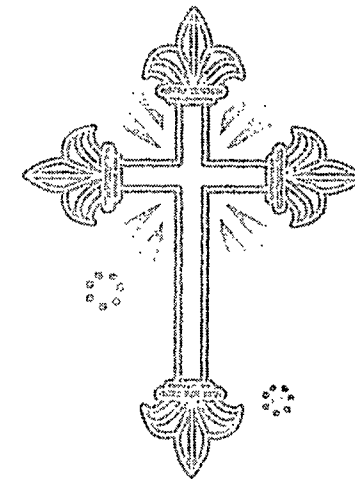
**Willow Creek Community Church
North Shore Campus**
315 Waukegan Road
847-441-6599
Sunday Services: 9 & 11 a.m.
Promiseland (Infants - Grade 5):
9 & 11 a.m.
Elevate (Grades 6 - 8): 11 a.m.
Impact (Grades 9 - 12): 6 p.m.
For more information visit
www.WillowCreekNorthShore.org

NORWOOD PARK

Norwood Park Lutheran Church
5917 N. Nina Ave.
Chicago, IL
773-631-2860
Fax: 773-631-0142
Sunday Service 10AM
Sunday School 9AM
(September thru May)
Rev. Robert C. Johnson, Pastor

PARK RIDGE

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 West Crescent Avenue
847-823-4135
www.parkridgepresby.org
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM



To showcase your House of Worship here
call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com



Your Local Worship Guide



Central Zone

SKOKIE

**Central United Methodist
Church**
8237 Kenton, Ave., Skokie
(847) 673-1311
www.skokiecentralumc.org
Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM

**St. Timothy Lutheran
Church**
9000 Kildare Ave. Skokie
847-676-1300
www.StTimothySkokie.org
Worship: Sundays at 10AM

Congregation Bene Shalom
4435 Oakton, Skokie, (847) 677-3330
www.beneshalom.org
No Service in July
Shabbat Services resume in August
Please call for more information
Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhamer
Asst. Rabbi Shari Chen
Cantorial Soloist Charlene Brooks
Interfaith Families Welcome
All services voice & sign language

**Evanshire Presbyterian
Church**
4555 Church Street
www.evanshirepresbyterian.com
Every Sunday at 11AM

**St. Peter's United
Church of Christ**
Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue
847-673-8166
www.stpeterucskokie.org
Sunday Worship 10AM
Sunday School 9AM (Sept. thru
May)
Rev. Richard Lanford
Childcare Provided
Air Conditioned Sanctuary

SKOKIE

Temple Beth Israel
3601 W. Dempster St.
Skokie, IL 60076
847-675-0951
www.tbiskokie.org

**Devar Emet Messianic
Synagogue**
7800 Niles Ave., Skokie 847-674-9146
www.devaremet.org
Join us for Shabbat Services at 10am
*A Community of Jews who believe and teach
that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Promised Jewish Messiah*

**Carter-Westminster United
Presbyterian Church**
4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie
www.cwupc.org 847-673-4441
WE'RE GROWING & MAKING CHANGES!!
10 am-Traditional Service with Choir
12 Noon - CW Café & Praise & Celebration
(Contemporary) Service
10 am-Sunday School (All Ages)
& Adult Bible Studies
(Adult Classes in English & Assyrian)
Fridays 7:30-9:30 pm - Assyrian Fellowship
Sunday Evenings 5:30-8:30 pm
New Lyfe Youth Group (for Jr&Sr High Youth)
2nd Saturday:
Monthly 7:30-9:30 pm-CW Café with
Open Microphone:
Guitar, Singing, Poetry, Comedy
All Positive Forms of Entertainment



SKOKIE

**Ezra-Habonim, the
Niles Township Jewish
Congregation**
You home for Jewish, Learning,
Living and Loving
4500 Dempster St. Skokie, IL 60076
847-675-4141, Fax: 847-675-0327
www.ehnt.org
Weekly Shabbat Services -
Fri 8PM & Sat 9:30AM
Minyan Mon-Thurs 7PM;
Sat & Sun 6PM
Monthly Shabbat dinners at 6:30PM
Religious School Wed & Sat;
Cantor Benjamin Warschawski
Rabbi Neil Brief, Emeritus

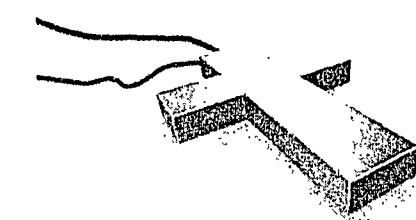
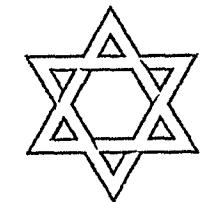
KEHILLAT SHALOM
An Egalitarian Conservative Congregation
Lay Led Shabbat Service, 9:45AM
8610 Niles Center Rd, Skokie
847-679-6513
www.kehillatshalom.org

SKOKIE CENTRAL TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

Traditional Service - Mixed Seating
Services led by:
Rabbi Dr. Michael Gottesman
Minyons: Mon. & Thurs. 8:00 AM
Kabbala Shabbos-Sept. to June at
candle lighting time
Saturday 9:00 AM Followed by Kiddush
Sunday 8:30 AM Followed by breakfast
Sanctuary handicapped accessible!
4040 Main Street, Skokie, Illinois
847-674-4117
www.wix.com/skokiecentral/shul

WILMETTE

**Beth Hillel Congregation
Bnai Emunah**
3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213
www.bhcbe.org
Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays 6:30 PM
Shabbat Service - Saturdays 9:15 AM
Jr. Congregation, Tot Shabbat,
Torah Time 10:30 AM
Followed by Kiddush
Daily Minyan AM and PM
Rabbi Allan Kensky
Cantor Pavel Roytman
Rabbi Michael Cohen, Ed. Dir.



To showcase
your House of
Worship here
call
630-978-8277
or
worship@Pioneerlocal.com

AUCTIONS

ZURKO ANTIQUE EVENTS
ANTIQUA FLEA MARKET
 SAT. NOV. 19th (8AM-3PM) / \$5
 COUNTY FARM & MANCHESTER
 DuPage County Fairgrounds
 WHEATON, IL • VENDORS WELCOME!
 • ANNUAL •
ANTIQUA MARKET & SALE
NOV. 26th & 27th
 HOURS: SAT. 11-5 • SUN. 9-3 / \$5
 • DuPage Expo Center •
 (45 Min. W. of Chicago on Rt. 64 - North Ave.)
St. Charles, IL
ZURKO 715-526-9769
 www.zurkopromotions.com

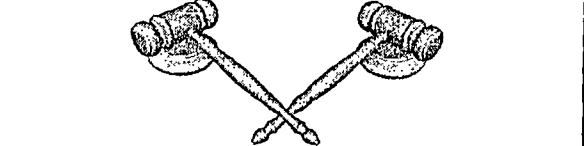
FINE ANTIQUES, JEWELRY, & HIGH END COLLECTIBLES AUCTION
 Saturday, November 19th, 2011
 at 10:00 a.m. (CST)
 106 S. Main St.
 Wanatah, Indiana 46390
 View all lots at
 www.engstromauctions.com
 Art, Art Glass, Rugs-Linens-Clothing, Furniture, Porcelain, Beer-Liquor Signs, Ephemera, Jewelry, Military Items, and much more...
 Engstrom Auctions - 219-326-6200
 AC30200060

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LAND AUCTION
Monday, December 19 • 6PM Central
312+ acres VALPARAISO, INDIANA PORTER COUNTY
 • Quality Irrigated Farmland
 • (2) Irrigation Pivots
 • Productive Soils
 • 4 Miles South of Valparaiso
AUCTION LOCATION: Porter County Expo & Fairgrounds.
TRACT 1: 160± Acres of level productive farmland featuring primarily Alida loam and Sebewa loam soils with 6-tower Valley center pivot system.
TRACT 2: 152± Acres of level productive farmland featuring primarily Alida loam and Sebewa loam soils with 7-tower Valley center pivot system.
 Seller: Owner of Record
 Sale Manager: Jim Hayworth • 888-808-8680 or 765-427-1913
800-451-2709 • SchraderAuction.com

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3236 Union Ave., Steger, IL 60475
708-755-2559

Retail Auction for Black Friday
Nov. 25th Preview 6:30pm Auction @ 7:00pm
New Merchandise, Toys, Knives, Swords, Football Jerseys & More..!!
Check Us Out At www.auctionzip.com

Monday, Nov. 21, 2011 at 12:00 Noon
WHOLESALE DEALER AUCTION
 Attention Dealers, Wholesalers, Retail Owners and Flea Marketers
 Huge selection of merchandise including seasonal, furniture and everyday items. Don't miss out on this great opportunity. Stock up and save!
What a Deal!
9930 W. 53rd Street
Countryside, Illinois 60525
708-203-9930



CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

7-8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. For directions, call (847) 675-0951. Those attending are asked to notify Claire Owen, director of patient services, (847) 679-3311 or cowen@lesturnerals.org.

Grandparents As Caregivers, a program sponsored by Children's Home-Aid, will offer grandparents an opportunity to meet other grandparents, share concerns and talk about interesting topics that will help them care for their grandchildren. Meetings are 10-11:30 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Free child care is available with 24-hour notice. Meetings are monthly. Call Linda, (847) 640-9590.

The Stroke Club of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital meets 3-4:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Outpatient Therapy Center, Church and Potter avenues, Des Plaines. Call Megan Potterfield, (847) 723-6690.

Holding Onto Hope - Rainbow Hospice is a monthly daytime group for widowed people grieving the loss of a spouse. It meets 1-2:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Park Ridge Non-Profit Center, 720 Garden St. Registration is required. Admission is \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884.

Rainbow Hospice's Life Transitions Group is an ongoing support group for anyone who, as a general guideline, has been widowed for one to four years, meeting 7-8:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Park Ridge Non-Profit Center, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge. The fee is \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884.

Good Mourning Program will meet 6:45-8 p.m. every third Monday of the month at Lutheran General Family Care Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines. The program is a support group for children, teens and families who have lost a loved one through death. Preliminary interview is required before registration. To register, call Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Bereavement Support, (847) 692-8884.

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation support group meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Thursday of the month at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Room 1063, Park Ridge. The focus is to assist patients with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, their families, significant others and friends in coping more effectively with the illness. Call (847) 827-0404.

Resurrection Medical Center sponsors a variety of free cancer-support groups for both patients and their family members. All support groups are free and meet in the Cancer Conference Room (ground floor, Entrance C). Contact Carol Flanagan, (773) 792-5116.

The Cancer Support Group for cancer patients, families and friends meets monthly 7-8:30 p.m. every last Wednesday.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Family Support Group for people with leukemia, lymphoma, myelodysplastic syndrome, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin's Disease and their families meets every first Wednesday of the month.

Hospital is forming a support network for women living with breast cancer. The Breast Cancer Networking Group will meet 2-3 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month. The support group provides breast-cancer survivors the opportunity to share information and experiences with other women. The group will be at Lutheran General's Center for Advanced Care, 1700 Luther Ln., Park Ridge, in the ground-floor conference room G104. Call (847) 723-8130.

Northwest Suburban Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome Support Group of Illinois meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge, Conference Room 1064. E-mail bzarnikow@aol.com to be added to the e-mail list for meeting announcements.

An area Alzheimer's support group for caregivers and family members of people with Alzheimer's Disease meets at 10:30 a.m. every second Saturday at Central Baptist Village, the Commons Theater Lounge, 4747 N. Canfield Ave., Norridge. New members are always welcome. Call Jessi Lenth, group facilitator, (708) 583-8509.

Queen of All Saints hosts a weekly meeting for female survivors of sexual abuse. The meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Benedict Center Chapel, 6275 N. Ionia. To participate in the confidential, 12-step program, call Queen of All Saints Rectory, (773) 736-6060. Additional meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. Fridays at St. Juliana Parish Center, 7200 Osceola Ave. Call Linda, (773) 271-2281.

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. The Teen Center is located at 373 Golf Mill Center in Niles.

The Teen Center is working with the Niles Senior Center to help 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 owners 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 allow-

ing the Police Department to reconnect you if it is ever lost or stolen.

Volunteers
 Volunteers are needed to serve as Court Watchers for Domestic Violence at the Skokie Courthouse. Being a Court Watcher is easy, convenient and rewarding. To volunteer for this very important program, contact Joanne Liberman at (847) 412-1577 or email Joanne at NonnyL@aol.com.
 Individuals who have a few hours to spare are urged to join the Avenues to Independence Thrift Shoppe Team of Volunteers. Avenues is looking for friendly, hard-working men and women to help staff at the Thrift Shoppe, 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago. Volunteers are needed on a regular basis 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, or 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Volunteers receive a discount. No experience is needed. All proceeds from the Thrift Shoppe help Avenues continue valuable programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Contact the store manager, Michael Frustini, (847) 292-0870, Ext. 771.
 The Men's and Women's Association of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is looking for new members. The community-based philanthropic and social organization raises funds for the hospital through a variety of events, including an annual golf outing, glove sale and concert. The organization's donations have assisted the hospital in expanding pro-

grams, purchasing state-of-the-art medical equipment, and pursuing research and education initiatives. Yearly dues are \$35. Call (847) 723-6105.

Many individuals have found themselves laid off or unable to find employment. Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care would like to respond by helping professionals stay current with their job skills (or gain experience if recently graduated) by offering professional volunteer opportunities. Possible opportunities include positions in medical records, human resources administration, community outreach, finance, marketing and admissions/customer service. Volunteers must have a willingness to make use of their professional skills and a positive attitude allowing them to take on a great deal of responsibility. Training and seminars for professional and personal development will be provided. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (847) 685-9900, Ext. 3128, or rparrow@rainbowhospice.org. Visit www.rainbowhospice.org.

Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide

Check rates daily at <http://suburbanchicagonewspapers.interest.com>

LIBERTY BANK FOR SAVINGS 888-542-2265
<http://www.libertybank.com>

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
30 yr fixed	3.990	0.000	\$1870	20%	4.085
30 yr jumbo	4.500	0.000	\$1870	20%	4.537
20 yr fixed	3.875	0.000	\$1870	20%	4.006
15 yr fixed	3.125	0.000	\$1870	20%	3.290

Local community bank since 1898 with exceptional personal service
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	30 yr fixed	15 yr fixed	5 yr ARM
This week	4.25	3.50	3.16
Last week	4.23	3.48	3.18
Last year	4.46	3.84	3.62

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5/1 ARM	3.16%	\$709.97
15 yr fixed	3.50%	\$1,179.56
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\$495,000 loan amount

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30 yr jumbo	4.76%	\$2,271.79

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2011 NORTH STARS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Durham develops into all-around talent

BY MATT HARNES

mharness@pioneerlocal.com

In most matches, Casey Durham was the most feared player on the floor.

For good reason, too. The 6-foot-4 Evanston senior dominated the net like no one else this season, finishing with 352 kills to become the team's all-time leader in that category. The Pittsburgh-bound outside hitter also earned the CSL South's player of the year, the first Wildit to achieve that honor.

A four-year varsity player, Durham worked her way into the starting lineup during her sophomore season because of her hard hitting. But she continued improving her game and ended her career as a complete player.

"Along the way, she gained all the other aspects of being a great player," Evanston coach Pam MacPherson said. "She's now able to run different sets and hit different shots. She also can read the blocks and know where to hit it. She's matured every step of the way of her career."

In her four seasons at Evanston, the Wildkits went 111-44 and advanced to the state tournament her freshman year. Durham is disappointed her prep career is over, but she's happy to have spent four years learning under MacPherson.

"She really shaped me into who I am today," said Durham, who trains out of Aurora-based Sports Performance. "She made me such a better all-around person and helped me prepare myself to go out into the real world."

"Evanston volleyball was a great experience, and I am going to miss it."

The Wildkits won their fourth regional title with Durham, before falling to upstart Glenbrook South in the sectional semifinals. The Titans went on to capture the sectional title, while Evanston finished 26-11.

In addition to her hitting stats, Durham contributed 169 digs, 45 total blocks and 35 aces this season. She was selected for the SportsTownChicago.com All-Star game Dec. 3 at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills.

MacPherson remembers back to when she saw Durham in middle school.

"She was very tall then," the coach said. "It was really about her being able to train her body, and she's worked hard on that. She improved her muscle memory and foot speed. She had to train in order to control her body."

Now that Casey Durham is done playing volleyball for Evanston, she can focus her energy on her future team.

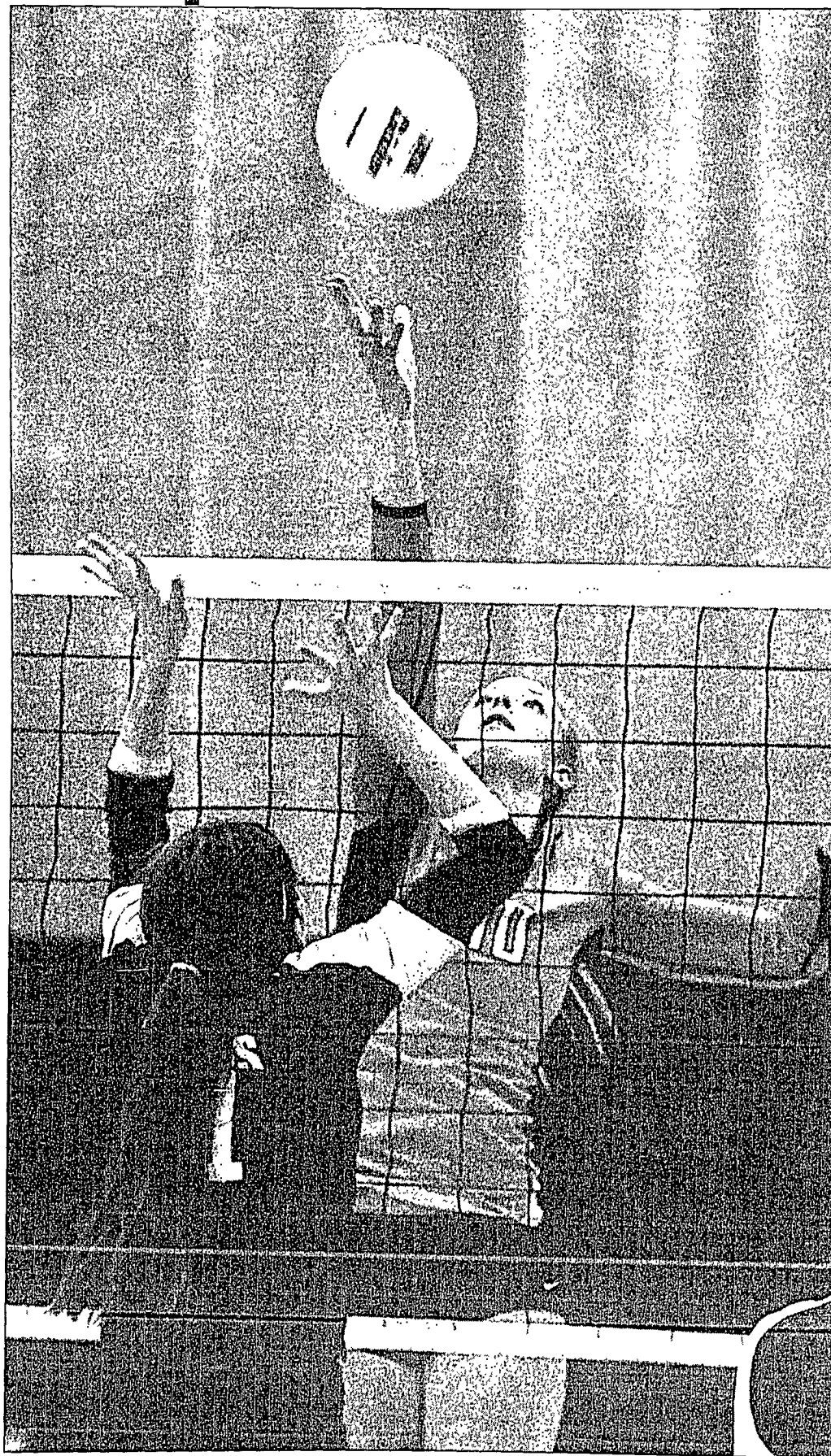
The future Panther plans to attend the Big East Championships on Friday, at Marquette, to cheer her new teammates when they take on Louisville in the first round.

Durham's former Evanston teammate Delaney Clesen starts at libero for the 18-12 Panthers.

"I am so excited to play for them," said Durham, who signed her letter of intent last week. "I can't wait. I can't wait at all."

MacPherson believes Durham has the talent to contribute right away at Pitt.

"There's still a lot of room for growth," MacPherson said. "But she progressed so much this year. She always was considered a right-side player in college, but now I think she can be a left-side hitter, which is the more all-around player."



Evanston senior Casey Durham (10) blasted 352 kills this season, the most in Wildkits' history. | BUZZ ORR-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CASEY DURHAM
Evanston senior

FIRST TEAM

- Hitter — CASEY DURHAM, Evanston senior
- Hitter — OLIVIA RUSEK, Niles West sophomore
- Hitter — BRITTANI STEINBERG, New Trier junior
- Middle — KAITLIN MOHR, Loyola senior
- Middle — BLAIRE FRETT, Evanston senior
- Setter — CARSON WEAVER, Glenbrook South senior
- Setter — TAYLOR TASHIMA, New Trier sophomore
- Libero — ALLISON VAN HORN, New Trier senior

HONORABLE MENTION

- JULIE CAPLAN, Glenbrook North senior libero
- ESME CONDON, Loyola senior setter
- JULIE DOMBAI, Regina senior hitter
- LAUREN EMMERT, Glenbrook North sophomore middle
- KATIE FAUNTLEROY, New Trier senior hitter
- MEGAN FRENCH, Regina senior hitter
- KATE GEBULTOWICZ, Maine East junior setter
- PATRICIA HARE, Glenbrook North junior hitter
- KATE KAMIN, Glenbrook North sophomore hitter
- ANDREA LOPEZ, Niles North junior hitter
- TAYLOR LOUIS, Niles North sophomore hitter
- MARTHA MURRAY, Evanston senior hitter
- KATHRYN POLKOFF, New Trier senior hitter
- ANNA PONTARELLI, Loyola junior hitter
- ABBY SHAMIS, Glenbrook North setter
- APRIL SIMPSON, Maine South junior
- MILENA ZALLONI, Niles West senior middle

Wolves' grooming period is over

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

Last season, the Niles West wrestling team loaded the schedule with 27 dual meets — too many according to head coach Anthony Genovesi.

While the third-year head coach has trimmed that number to 21 this season, Genovesi believes last winter's packed slate did have its benefits.

"Last year, we were very young and had some gaps in our lineup," Genovesi said. "But we did get a lot of kids varsity experience. A kid can only wrestle 21 duals. So, with the six extra duals, we had to sit kids. (Other) kids got experience they otherwise might not have gotten."

The 2010-11 campaign ended promisingly as Niles West captured the St. Patrick Regional, the program's first crown since 2003. Lane Tech eliminated the Wolves in the sectional.

Niles West piled up 10 individual sectional qualifiers, seven whom return this

season. Gone are the likes of Elias Shiheiber, David Shields and Ameen Salehitezangi.

Heading the list of returning sectional qualifiers are juniors Vaughn Monreal-Burner (170 or 182 pounds) and Steve Apple (113 or 120 pounds), who both came one match away from State.

"(Monreal-Burner) had a heckuva football season (this past fall) and wrestled a ton in the offseason," Genovesi said. "Apple had a very good year last year. He got (upset) a little bit (in the sectional), but he'll be back. He's gotten stronger, is a good kid and works hard."

Other returning sectional qualifiers include juniors Tommy Williams (132 pounds), Nick Yonan (145), Anthony Underwood (170 or 182) and Sam Conrad.

Genovesi said less-experienced varsity wrestlers poised for a breakout year could include senior Chris Blanco (120 pounds), junior Stokjo Bozic, sophomore Isaac Reinemann (both 126)

and sophomore Dennis Garovic (285).

The Niles West coach said he is excited about his team's depth, especially between 120 and 170 pounds.

"We'll have a lot of battles (for lineup spots) in the room, which is good," said Genovesi, who plans to stage challenge matches to determine spots in the lineup.

"We'll do it almost every other week," the coach said. "If a kid wants to challenge and has been consistent with his work ethic and coming to practice, we'll see where he's at and let him challenge."

While the quantity of Niles West duals this season is reduced, Genovesi remains committed to high-quality competition.

The Wolves next week will compete at the Hersey Quad, which will include powerhouse Machesney Park Harlem. A few days later, they travel to Lane Tech, before competing in the Lincoln-Way West Quad, with Joliet Central and Matea Valley, on



Niles West junior Anthony Underwood (top) is one of six returning Wolves who competed at sectionals last year. | MICHELLE LAVIGNE-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Dec. 3. During winter break, Niles West hits the road to Downstate Lincoln. "It's something

new for us. We'll stay overnight there, so it will be a good team-building trip," Genovesi said. Niles West was scheduled

to open the season with a double dual at Glenbrook South, with Fenton and Hoffman Estates, on Tuesday.

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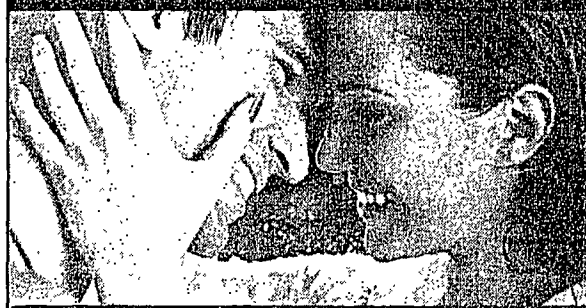
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Dons clearing out room in trophy case

BY DAN SHALINI
Contributor

Notre Dame head coach Augie Genovesi was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame late last month, in Stillwater, Okla.

A local dinner was held to honor the coach, in his 34th season at the Niles school, and four other inductees from the state.

Genovesi, who also is enshrined in the Illinois High School Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the East Suburban Catholic Conference Hall of Fame, is hoping this latest honor is the first of many the Notre Dame wrestling program will receive this season.

The Dons are coming off a 2010-11 campaign when they finished 29-2, won a regional, qualified 11 for sectionals and sent four wrestlers to the State Meet.

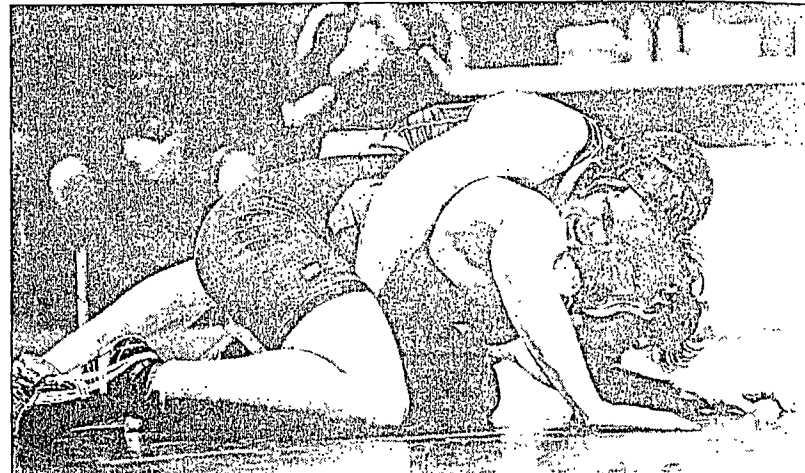
Three of the state qualifiers are among the 10 starters from that team who return for the Dons, who are ranked in the top 10 in the Illinois coaches poll.

About the only disappointment last season was the loss to Barrington in the Class 3A Team Sectional. Genovesi believes the Dons are capable of advancing farther this season.

"Our goal is to win the regional and sectional and place at the Team State Meet," he said. "Our goal is to bring home a (top four) trophy."

Though many of the faces on the Notre Dame varsity are familiar, several will be wrestling different weights than a year ago. For the first time in two decades, the IHSA revamped the weight classes. Brackets begin at 106 pounds, instead of 103, and skew heavier.

Genovesi said he's not a fan of the changes.



Notre Dame senior Kevin Stahmer (top) is one of three Dons returning to the lineup who advanced Downstate a year ago. | RYAN PAGEDLOW-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

"I don't think it's good," he said. "They took a weight out of the middle and added one in the upper weights. But much of the population falls in the middle weights. It doesn't make sense."

The coach predicts teams will count more forfeits than in past years because of a lack of numbers in the upper weights.

However, Notre Dame looks strong across the board. Leading the way should be the three returning state qualifiers: senior Kevin Stahmer (171 pounds), senior Scott Smith (112) and junior Joe Cortese (152).

"Stahmer is the real deal," Genovesi said. "He won sectional last year and lost two tough matches at State. He has the ability to place at State and we're excited about that."

Stahmer plans to wrestle and play baseball in college. Genovesi said he is one of many Dons who could start the

season at one weight and finish at another.

Among the other returning starters are: junior Brendan Moore (119 pounds); junior Sean Heneghan (125); senior Tim Donnelly (130); senior Jimmy Biancofiore (135); senior Colton Kelly (189); senior Rocco Fagiano (215); and senior Ryan Walsh (heavyweight).

Less-experienced varsity wrestlers expected to contribute include junior Roark Whittington (145 pounds), junior Chris Sommers (106), freshman Jimmy Galardo (106) and sophomore Jarrod Pozniak (113).

The Dons are scheduled to open the season on Wednesday in a triangular meet with Glenbard East at Willowbrook. Notre Dame will compete in the Hersey Quad, which also includes powerhouse Machesney Park Harlem and Niles West, which is coached by Genovesi's son, Anthony, on Nov. 26.

Vikes adjust to changes in weights, coaching staff

BY DAN SHALINI
Contributor

Across the state, high school wrestlers are adjusting to new weight classes this winter.

The changes don't stop there at Niles North, which also welcomes first-year head coach Chris Albandia.

Albandia, who replaces Marlon Felton, is quite familiar to the Vikings, however. A former head coach at Loyola Academy, Albandia has spent the last six years as an assistant in the Niles North program. Felton accepted an administrative position over the summer that restricted the time he would have to coach.

"I'm familiar with the athletic director, the (athletic) department and the returning athletes. That's going to make things smoother, transition-wise," said Albandia, a 1993 Loyola Academy grad, who wrestled at St. Olaf (Minn.) College.

Albandia said his main responsibilities under Felton, who was in charge for two seasons, were to run practices.

In his new role, Albandia said he will be responsible for administrative tasks and provide the face of the program. He also will offer individual instruction during training.

He will be assisted by newcomer RJ Young, once a standout wrestler at Kankakee McNamara and University of Missouri.

Albandia and his coaches are still adapting the new weight classes. The brackets now start at 106 pounds, instead of 103, and skew heavier. There are slightly fewer middleweight classes.

Niles North, which finished just below .500 last year, lost stalwarts Chris Pazmino and Danny Khouri to graduation. However, Albandia still believes his squad can be successful.

"It's going to be a young group. But they are tough, hard-nosed kids and love wrestling. They live it and breathe it," the coach said. "We're starting a lot of sophomores, but a lot of them did have varsity experience last year as freshmen."

The Vikings are blessed with a talent at the heavier weights. Junior Cameron Pascoe won more than 20 matches last season at 215 pounds and should wrestle at 220 this season. Talented junior heavyweight Eugene Edmond will be brought along slowly after missing the entire 2011 football season with a knee injury.

When ready to return, he might literally have to battle younger brother James for a spot in the lineup.

"They probably spent a lot of times butting heads in the household," the coach said.

Sophomore Mike Marek is another talented heavyweight. Other key returnees for Niles North are seniors Kin-Man Lee and Branden Ochoa, junior Erik Berkovich and sophomores Alex Cimmarusti, Sebastian Abonce and Futaim Ali. Junior Nick Lakhani is a talented performer, who missed significant time last season with a shoulder injury.

The Vikings was scheduled to open the season Tuesday with a home quad against New Trier, Loyola and Wheeling-

Vikings continue to drop times in final meet

BY DAN SHALINI
Contributor

For some swim teams, success at last Saturday's sectionals was determined by the number of state qualifiers.

By Niles North's expectations, Saturday's performance at Glenbrook South was a rousing success.

The Vikings scored 23 points and came in 10th at the 12-team sectional. While the Vikings had no state qualifiers, they saw many personal-best swims.

"You never know how it's going to go (at sectional)," Niles North head coach Paul Torres said. "We had a really good conference meet (the week before) and all dropped times. You hope they can have another good meet. That's how I planned it. But sometimes it doesn't go as planned. But (sectional) went exactly how we planned it."

For North seniors, the event represented a memorable sendoff; for returning Vikings, Torres hopes the sectional provided a springboard into a strong off-season.

A talented incoming freshman class set to arrive in 2012 lifts predictions for greater competition for starting spots next season.

One swimmer who no doubt will retain her important place in the lineup next season is freshman Megan Crane. An all-conference selection after taking third in the 100 fly at the CSL North Meet, Crane placed 12th at Glenbrook South in the 100 butterfly (1:02.95) and 13th in the 100 backstroke (1:03.89). Crane dropped a half second in the 100 fly and two seconds in the 100 back.

"Crane is the fastest on the team," Torres said. "She was going through some inconsistencies (during the season), but when it came down to conference and sectionals, she had



Niles North's Dasha Tumashov swims the breaststroke leg of the 200 IM during the Glenbrook South Sectional. | JOE CYGANOWSKI-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

big drops. The way she finished off is a really good sign and we're optimistic about the future with her."

Crane was part of the group that had tapered ahead of the sectional. Many who rested for conference still saw further time drops at sectional, the coach reported.

Senior Hallie Neuhaus dropped four seconds in the 200 free (19th, 2:16.01) after trimming two seconds a week earlier. She also slashed 11 seconds in the 500 free (18th,

6:00.94).

Vikings senior Vanessa Cadavillo dropped two seconds in the 200 IM (20th, 2:41.72) and three seconds in the 100 free (21st, 1:03.95). Younger sister Nicole also performed admirably in the 100 backstroke (23rd, 1:14.47).

Senior Marissa Rykowski enjoyed a three-second drop in the 100 breaststroke (11th, 1:13.31) and broke one minute in the 100 free for the first time (20th, 59.58). Senior diver

Haley Buble finished 28th (124.15).

After the meet, Torres praised his team, thanked the seniors and spoke about the importance of off-season training.

"We're going to have a different team and some of the girls on the team now are going to have to be faster or their spots might not be open for them," Torres warned. "I know the girls coming in, and at least five of them can go right onto the varsity. That might change

things up a lot. The (current swimmers) have the capability to (get faster). But they are going to have to swim and improve and will have to come back where they are now, or even a little faster.

"I think this makes some girls nervous. But they have the capability. (The added competition) is a good thing and it should push them. I'm hoping it's a motivating factor and they decide (to work hard). It will make our team that much stronger!"

Blue Demons plan how to build off sectional

BY DAN SHALINI
Contributor

Maine East may have finished last at Saturday's IHSA Glenbrook South Sectional, but that doesn't mean the Blue Demons did not exceed expectations.

Though the Park Ridge school gained all of its 12 points on relays, several Blue Demon individuals ended up finishing higher than their seeds.

Maine East head coach Peter Przekota was pleased with the way his team closed out his first campaign in charge.

"We really had a good meet and dropped (time) in every single

event," he said. "The girls were happy and excited and hopefully they use that and it fuels them to continue training, and they are ready for next year. We only have one girl graduating, so we're excited to see what will happen."

Junior diver Kathy Kolodziejski entered the sectional as the team's best hope for state-meet qualification. She did not make it, eliminated after completing eight of the 11 dives.

However, Kolodziejski's performance (18th, 258.30) was solid and something to build upon, according to the coach.

Maine East sophomore Sandra Kietlinska shaved time in all four

of her events. Most notable was her 14-second drop in the 500 freestyle (21st, 6:10.71).

"Her goal was 6:15 and a 10-second drop and she dropped more than that," Przekota said. "It's a good stepping stone and she should expect to do better (next season). She has the work ethic to do it."

Junior Neveen Habeeb registered a seven-second drop in the 100 butterfly (24th, 1:17.95); junior Medina Husejnovic took off five seconds in the 200 IM (22nd, 2:45.94) and a second and a half in the 100 breaststroke (19th, 1:20.62); and senior Joanna Gwizdz clipped nine seconds in the 200 free (23rd, 2:25.88) and a

second in the 50 free (20th, 28.44).

"That was cool for (Gwizdz's) senior year, for her to get out with good times," Przekota said. "The 200 free is the second event in the meet and (her performance) set the tone for the rest of the meet. She was excited and enthused and it spread to the rest of the team."

Przekota said that unlike at many area schools, Maine East has no off-season club, though he has been working to establish one.

Until then, the coach has urged his athletes to join other clubs. He's restricted from participating in many off-season activities with his swimmers, the Blue Demons still

have access to the school's pool and weight-training facilities.

"They have to go out there and do what they can to be ready for next year," the coach said. "Collectively, those who went to sectionals have to realize what it takes to go to the next level. Their next step is

"There are a lot of clubs out there and hopefully the girls will take advantage of them. Our captains are great leaders and they will organize that type of scenario, overseeing dry-land activities. It's up to the girls. We've had such a good experience to end the year, with the enthusiasm and the energy, and hopefully they are going to run with it."

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Hockey vs. Mt. Carmel at Southwest Ice Arena, 2:10 p.m.

Monday
Basketball vs. Lane Tech at Lane Tech Tourn., 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Basketball vs. Payton at Lane Tech Tourn., 5:15 p.m.

MAINE EAST

Today
Girls basketball at Vernon Hills Tourn., TBA

Friday
Girls basketball at Vernon Hills Tourn., TBA

Saturday
Girls basketball at Vernon Hills Tourn., 1 p.m.

Monday
Girls basketball at Vernon Hills Tourn., 6 p.m.

Boys basketball at Northridge Battle at the Ridge, TBA

Tuesday
Girls basketball at Vernon Hills Tourn., 6 p.m.

NILES NORTH

Friday
Girls basketball at Johnsburg Tourn., 7 p.m.

Saturday
Girls basketball hosts Proviso East at Niles North Tourn., 5:30 p.m.

Monday
Boys basketball at Palatine Tourn., 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Wrestling hosts New Trier, Loyola, Wheeling, 5 p.m.

Boys basketball vs. York at Palatine Tourn. 6 p.m.

Girls basketball hosts Fenwick at Niles North Tourn., 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Boys basketball vs. Wheaton North at Palatine Tourn. 4:30 p.m.

NILES WEST

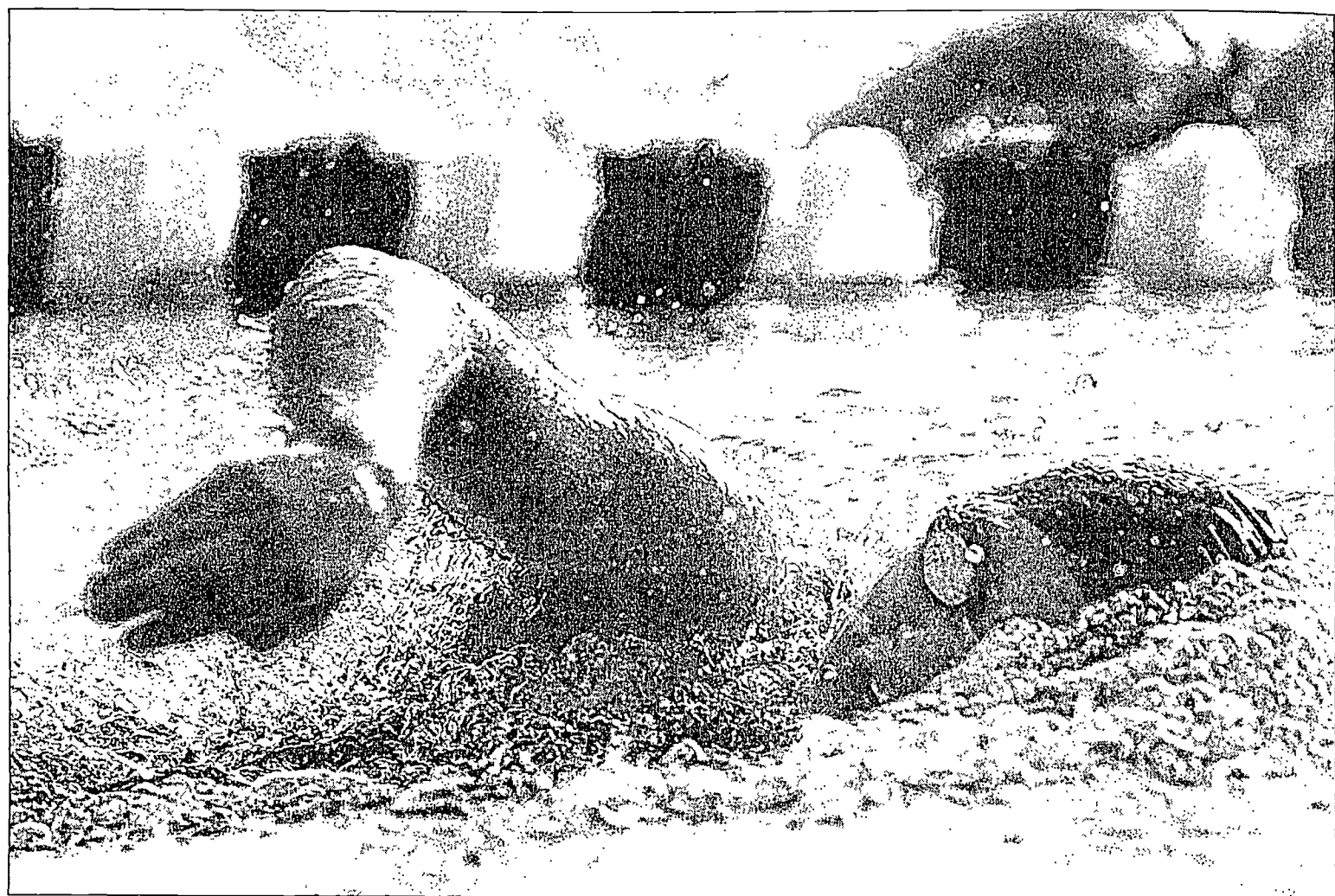
Today
Girls basketball vs. Deerfield at Deerfield Tourn. 7:30 p.m.

Friday
Girls swim at State Meet at New Trier, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday
Girls swim at State Meet at New Trier, 1 p.m.

Girls basketball vs. Evanston at Deerfield Tourn., 6 p.m.

Monday
Boys basketball hosts Kelly at 38th Bill Schnurr Tourn. 4:30 p.m.



Niles West's Emme Deamont swims the 200 freestyle at Glenbrook South. | JOE CYGANOWSKI-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Scott, Sanks to represent Wolves

BY MATT HARNESS
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

In an area filled with standout swimmers and top teams, Niles West appears ready to climb into the upper echelon.

The Wolves established five program records at the Glenbrook South Sectional on Saturday, in the process qualifying two team members for the State Meet, Friday and Saturday at New Trier. The sectional at GBS, one of 16 in the state, produced five of the top times in 12 events.

Defending state champion New Trier won the sectional title with 302 points, beating out Loyola (256) and Glenbrook South (213).

Edan Scott will compete in two events at State, after qualifying in the 50-yard freestyle (24.07) and the 100 free (52.86). As a freshman, Scott swam both the 50 free and 100 backstroke at the State Meet. Scott took sixth in the 50, and clocked the 22nd fastest time in the backstroke pre-

liminaries. This year, Scott is seeded fifth in the 50 and 18th in the 100. She will take on defending state champion Olivia Smoliga of Glenbrook South in the 50 free.

Niles West coach Jason Macejak believes Scott, who owns team records in both the 50 and 100 free, is poised for more success this season.

"This year, we have her rested for the State Meet, so we expect her to go faster," he said. "She's stronger and faster this year, and I expect her to have a good time drop. Anything can happen in the 50 free, but she's been pretty locked in on her turns. She will be ready to go fast."

Niles West diver Kelly Sanks earned an at-large bid to State after registering 383.40 points at the sectional. Sanks last year placed 20th at the State Meet.

"She's a heck of lot stronger," Macejak said. "She's a lot more confident up on that board, and a lot of good things come from that. I think she will perform a lot better this year."

The Wolves had more to cheer about on Saturday.

Emma Helgeson's time (1:59.54) in the 200 free set a Wolves record, and she also participated in the record-setting 200 free (1:42.12) and 400 free (3:48.78) relays. Helgeson was joined on the 200 free relay by Zoe Antonow, Madeline Wozny and Scott. The 400 free relay consisted of Abby Hegberg, Helgeson, Scott and Antonow — the only senior on both relays.

Next season, Niles West will attempt to be the first District 219 school to advance a girls relay to the State Meet.

Wozny wasn't even swimming varsity at the start of the season. In only her second year of competition, the sophomore began on JV before Macejak called her up to varsity a few weeks later.

"It's a pretty neat story," the coach said. "That says a lot about her. There's still a lot of room for improvement, but I think she's hooked now. That's good to see."



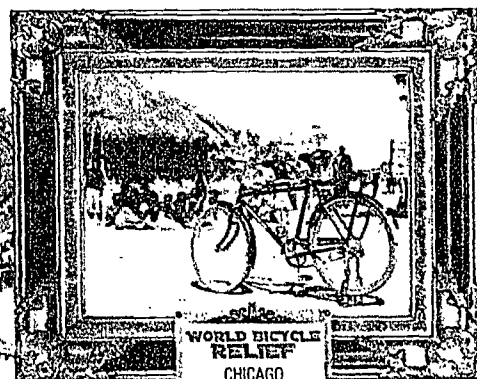
Niles West sophomore Edan Scott takes the medal stand after placing third in the 50 freestyle at the Glenbrook South Sectional. | JOE CYGANOWSKI-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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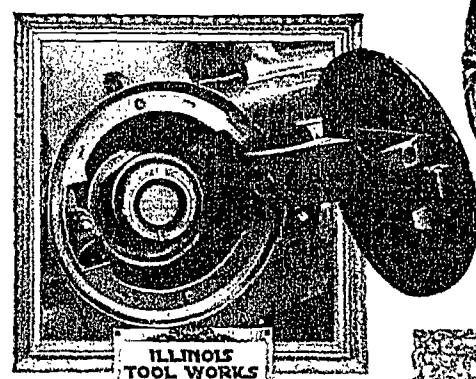
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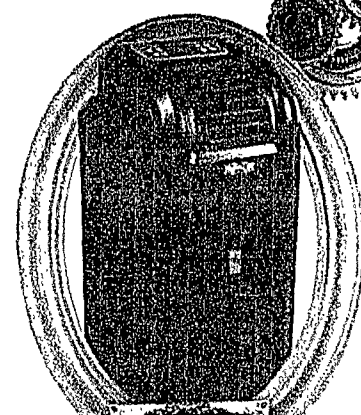
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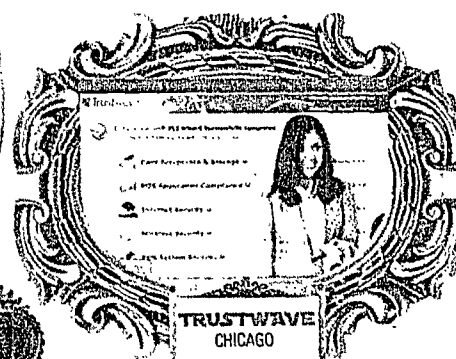
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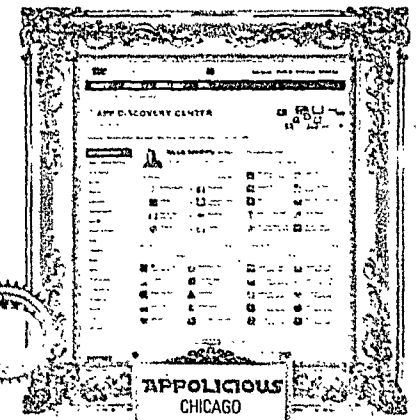
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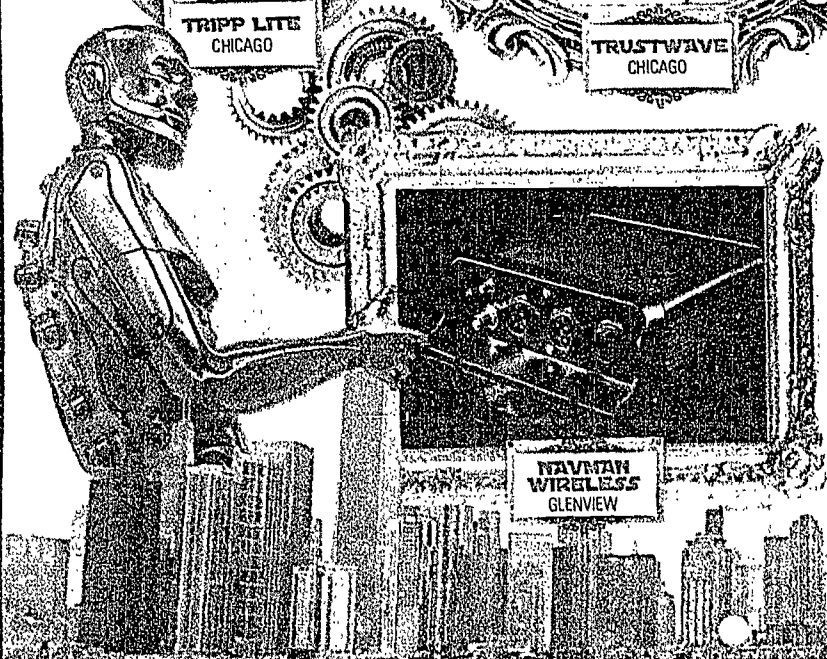
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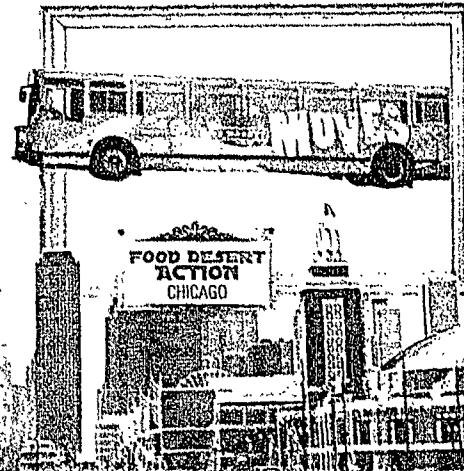
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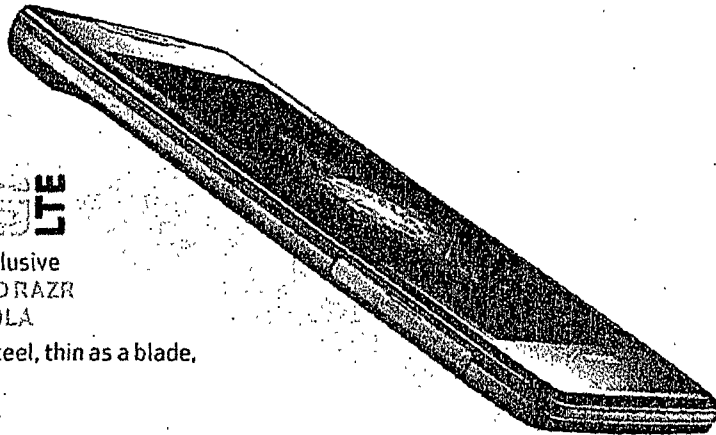
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