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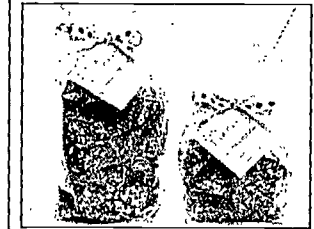


## WANT FRIES WITH THAT?

Maine East Spanish teacher Tomas Cintado takes orders at the Niles McDonald's Dec. 7. Teachers worked as a fundraiser to benefit the Maine Township Education Foundation School-Based Health Center at Maine East.

PAGE 10 | CURTIS LEHMKUHL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

## INSIDE



## SHOPPING LEFT TO DO?

Check our list of great last-minute holiday gifts  
IN DIVERSIONS



## FESTIVE ROOTS

Modern gratins find their way to holiday table

PAGE 26

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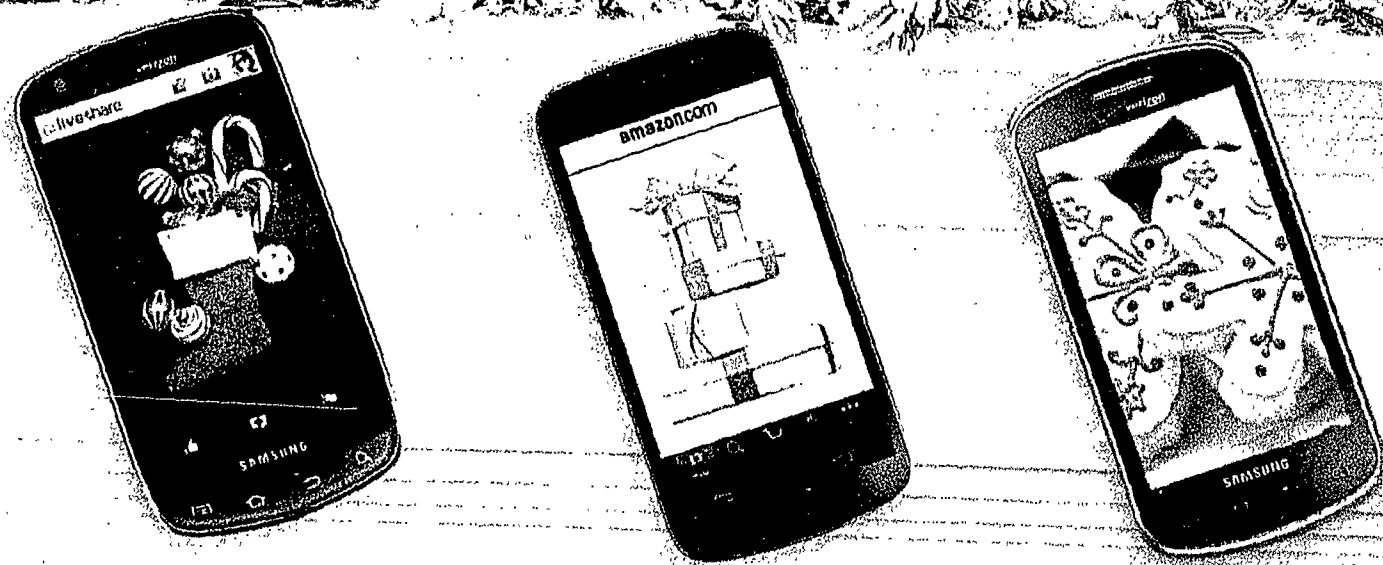
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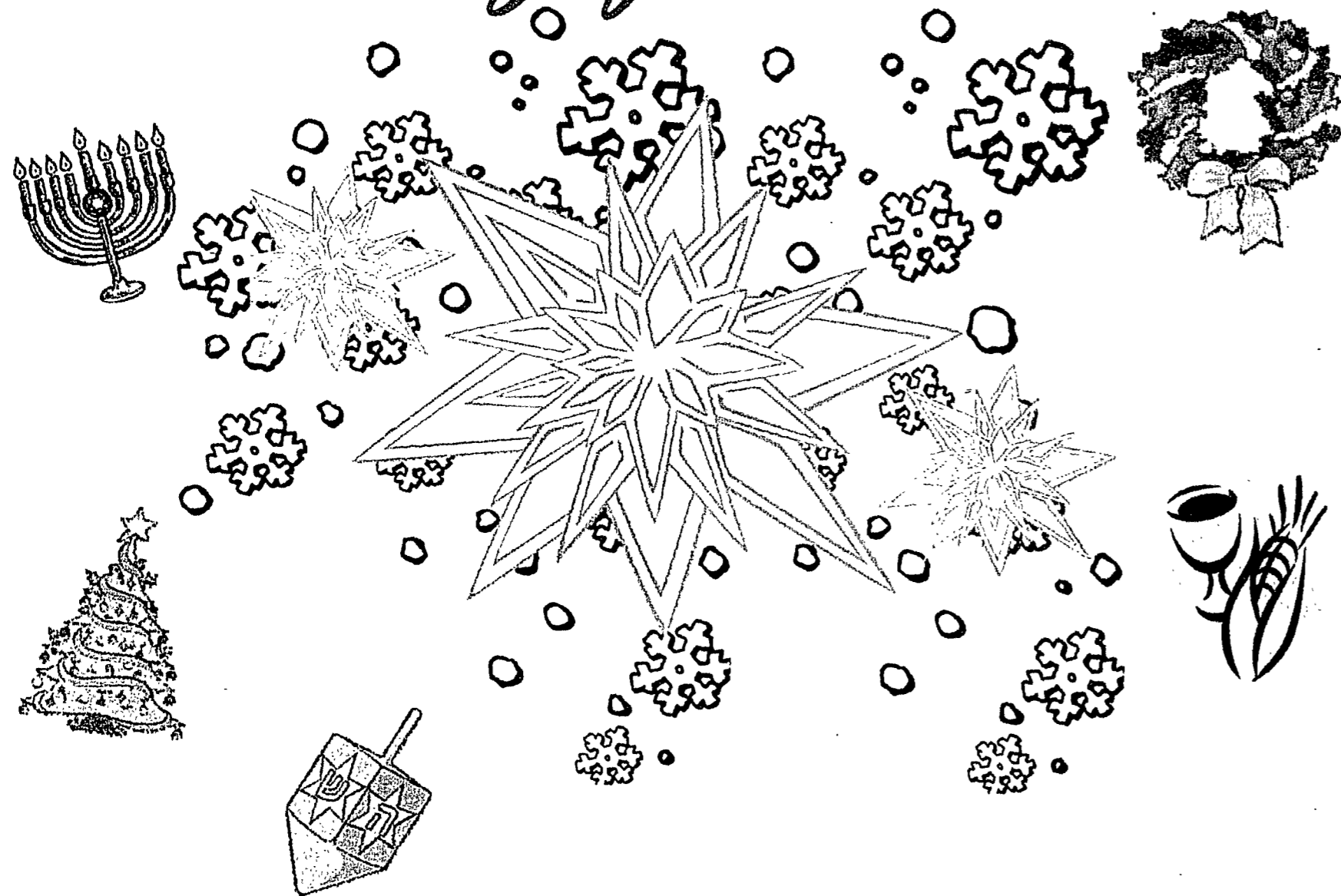


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# LocalNews

PIONEERLOCAL.COM | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011 | 5

Managing Editor: **Matt Schmitz**  
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## NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Chief disagrees with consultant's staffing recommendations

BY TRACY GRUEN  
Contributor

Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki shared some of the recommendations that resulted from a staffing study regarding changes within the Police Department during an informal village-board discussion Dec. 13.

One major recommendation of the study was to pull some of the Niles Police Department members from mutual-aid groups, such as NIPAS and NORTAF.

Employees of the Niles Police Department now are part of mutual-aid task forces, including a burglary task force, homicide/evidence technician for investigations and others.

"I'm very reluctant to pull guys from these task forces," Strzelecki said.

Strzelecki said the employees involved in the various task forces have gained "invaluable experience" that they have brought back to the Niles Police Department.

Trustees asked Strzelecki why

the consultant felt Niles should remove some employees from the mutual-aid groups.

Strzelecki replied that the consultant felt that members of other towns should get involved and be a part of the groups.

Another recommendation was to consider police accreditation, which is an ongoing quality-control program that continuously grades the department and challenges it to improve.

The initial cost of such a program is between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

The study also recommended having one person work at the front desk during off times, such as 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Strzelecki did not feel that was a good recommendation due to safety-and-security issues. He would like to see if he could get a part-time worker to be at the desk with the other employee during off hours.

The portion of the study regarding shifts and schedules was discussed at that evening's closed session.



Lucia DeBartolo, of Arlington Heights, instructor at College of DuPage, braids the hair of 8-year-old Destiny Garcia, of Des Plaines, while her mom, Gulsen Serifovski, watches at Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital. (ROB HART-SUN-TIMES MEDIA)

## ADVOCATE LUTHERAN GENERAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

### Day of beauty aims to help patients have a lovely stay

Patients at Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital had an opportunity to feel beautiful during their hospital stay when a professional hair stylist visited this month.

Lucia DeBartolo, an instructor

at College of DuPage, cut and styled hair and painted the nails of girls spending time in the Park Ridge hospital on Dec. 14.

DeBartolo donates her services frequently at the hospital, often bringing her students from College

of DuPage, said Camille Vicino, Advocate Lutheran General spokeswoman.

"The purpose is to help the kids get a distraction and feel good while they are in the hospital," Vicino said of the "Beauty Day" activity.

## NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Reading club hopes to ignite interest with Kindle Fire contest

With winter finally here, many people enjoy curling up next to the fireplace with a good book.

The Niles Public Library aims to make it more exciting to read with its "Reading is Snow Much Fun" Winter Reading Club running through Jan. 31, according to a news release.

Adult and teen patrons can participate in the club by reading and logging at least four books online or by picking up a log at the Reference or Fiction desks. The grand prize for adults and teenagers is a brand new Amazon Kindle Fire. The Kindle Fire is one of the latest gadgets to enter the tablet market, with features like social-media apps and reading ebooks on the go.

Children can also participate by completing activities such as lis-

tening to an audiobook or reading a "Tumblebook" on their computer. Every time a child completes three activities, they can come to the Niles library Youth Services desk and get a prize.

"The Winter Reading Club is a great way to keep the whole family reading during the winter months," the release stated.

For more information about the club and how to participate online, go to [www.nileslibrary.org/wrc](http://www.nileslibrary.org/wrc).

The Niles Public Library is at 6960 W. Oakton St., at the northeast corner of the Oakton and Waukegan intersection. Library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

## VILLAGE BOARD

### Trustees learn quality is key to meeting-broadcast viewership

BY TRACY GRUEN  
Contributor

Members of an ad hoc committee gave a presentation to the Niles Village Board of Trustees regarding video-recording recommendations for the live broadcast of board meetings during an informal session Dec. 13.

The committee is recommending a three-camera system as opposed to a one-camera system because it shows all the necessary angles of the board room. The meetings would be broadcast live and streamed on the Internet.

The committee shared a video clip that demonstrated how a single camera would not allow viewers to capture all of the action in the room, particularly in places such as the po-

dium, trustee seating area and the audience.

The cost of a sufficient system could come with an initial price tag of anywhere between \$48,700 and \$117,500, and have recurring costs of \$5,400 to \$33,000.

"We want to do it professionally and properly," Mayor Robert Callero said.

Callero asked the committee to come back to the board with further recommendations for a low-, medium- and high-priced system.

Through its research the committee learned that the "video must be compelling" in order to capture and keep viewers' attention.

An engineer evaluated the village's current audio-visual system and learned that there may be some acoustical, or echo, problems with

the existing system.

The committee recommended that the room have some branding on the wall so that people know they are watching a "Village of Niles" event.

Having skilled operators is also a necessary component of a new system, committee members explained.

The committee showed a video clip of the village of Mount Prospect board meeting. Mount Prospect has been broadcasting its meetings for several years and uses a high-quality system.

Emphasizing the importance of a high-quality audio-visual system, members of the committee said viewers of single-camera systems are in the 10s, while viewers of higher-quality systems are in the 1,000s.

**NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR**

**THIS WEEK**

- Blockshopper ..... 15
- Calendar..... 19
- Diversions ..... B1
- Family Friendly..... B2
- Film clips..... B4
- Fixer..... 12
- Food..... 22
- Mommy-Shoestring 22
- Photo feature ..... 10
- Police blotter ..... 17
- Property transfers .. 14
- Schools ..... 16
- Showtimes ..... B5
- Sports ..... 33



**MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM**  
**'The Nutcracker'**  
 returns for 36th year

The fourth-grade class at Mary, Seat of Wisdom School staged the school's annual production of "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 2.

It was the 36th year students performed "The Nutcracker" at the Park Ridge school.

The play also featured a nativity scene, which will be re-enacted by first-grade students during a Dec. 22 church service.

"The Nutcracker" was directed by kindergarten teacher Sandy Solari.

**Sugar Plum Fairy Izabella Wyszynski makes her grand entrance during Mary, Seat of Wisdom School's production of "The Nutcracker" Dec. 2 in Park Ridge.**

SHAUNA BITTLE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

**SUBURBODDITY**  
**Sure, it's a sleepy town, but this is ridiculous ...**

Free of charge, we offer tales of stupid criminals, strange crimes, odd news and otherwise silly stories from around the area.

**Grade them E for Extortion and T for Torture**  
 EVANSTON, DEC. 14 — An Evanston Township High School student group dedicated to raising money for Boocoo, a small avant-garde music venue, won permission to blast Justin Bieber's "Baby" over the school intercom during passing time until the agonized kids ponied up all the money they needed. The cash came in about twice as fast as predicted.

Lake man, 28, were caught masturbating in their cars at Rivertree Shopping Center.

**Be a mentor — help a youth get where you are**  
 FRANKLIN PARK, DEC. 8 — Police arrested a 46-year-old woman after an incident at Hester Junior High School. She had recruited a 17-year-old to punch a 12-year-old on the basketball court. They arrested him, too.



**He assumed all eyes would be elsewhere**  
 OAK BROOK TERRACE, DEC. 1 — An Elmhurst man, 26, was arrested and charged with theft and criminal damage to property for trying to pry artwork off the wall of The Tilted Kilt, the sexy-waitress-staffed eatery at 17W460 22nd St.

**At times, good driving is too much to expect**  
 SKOKIE, DEC. 5 — A Wheeling man, 40, was driving so erratically that a police officer curbed him on the 9800 block of Lawler Avenue and searched the car. He found Vicodin, methadone and heroin.

**The case of the bygone burglary**  
 GLENCOE, DEC. 9 — A Glencoe woman reported that her sport utility vehicle, parked unlocked in her driveway in the 100 block of Glenwood Avenue, had been burglarized Dec. 5. A \$360 list of lost items included two shopping bags full of new clothes, a coffee pot, a doughnut maker, and \$130 cash left in a wallet in the front seat. The reason for the four-day delay in reporting was that most of the lost items were gifts, and she couldn't remember if she had hidden them around the house to keep them out of the view of intended recipients.

**Police expect someone to rat on the culprit**  
 SKOKIE, DEC. 2 — A wallet stuffed with money and credit cards was taken from inside the pocket of a coat hanging on the back of a chair at Chuck E. Cheese in the Village Crossing shopping center.

**I hate the color, but I like the car**  
 ELMWOOD PARK, NOV. 29 — The paint finishes on four cars parked at the Metra station were carved by a vandal. On one of the cars, a VW beetle, the marks were in the form of a smiley face.

**They locked the door at 10:56 p.m. Nov. 17**  
 WESTCHESTER, LAST MONTH — A 12-pack of beer was reported stolen at 10:47 p.m. Nov. 5 from

**BP Amoco, 11201 Cermak Road.**  
 A 12-pack of beer was reported stolen at 10:52 p.m. Nov. 11 from BP Amoco, 11201 Cermak Road.

**No worries; they only steal 18 cars a year here**  
 WESTCHESTER, NOV. 14 — An unlocked 2005 Chevy Tahoe was reported stolen from a driveway on the 10800 block of Hastings Street. The keys had been left in the car's cup holder.

**Yeah, I always chain my trash up**  
 SKOKIE, DEC. 5 — A resident of the 9100 block of Skokie Boulevard heard a noise at about 10 a.m., and looked out a back window. He saw two men near his two chained-up \$6,000 snow plows, and they had a bolt-cutter. He asked what they might be doing, and one of them answered, "Garbage." By the time he got outside, they were gone. His garbage was still there.

**My peeps of sleep**

**NORTHFIELD, DEC. 3 — A patrol officer came upon a Nissan Altima idling in drive through three cycles of the stoplight at Happ and Willow roads. He found that not only was the driver drunk and asleep with his foot on the brake, but three others in the car were snoring, too.**

Eric Allie cartoon



**SUBURBODDITY**  
 A look through the wackiest items pulled from area police reports  
**PAGE 7**

**DISTRICT 219**  
**Residents offer support for canceled tennis camp**

**BY MICHAEL SEAN COMERFORD**  
 Contributor

Gerald Turry sat in the front row, in a controversy involving Niles High School District's facilities and two alleged "encounters" between Sacks and district staff.

"I don't admire his (Sacks') sometimes tenacious attitude," said Turry, whose parks and recreation department uses Sacks' program. "I know (he) can sometimes grate on people ... (but) he is an advocate for children."

Once having up to 400 students using the District 219 field house, Sacks' program was shut down at the district earlier this year.

"Their decision was very arbitrary and based on a couple of incidents that were very minor," Sacks said.

Neither the district, Sacks or his attorney, Allen Perl, would portray the incidents but school board members appeared frustrated by controversy.

The board agreed to revisit the issue of allowing the camps access to the district's field house after an the completion of an investigation.

"We are talking about a private enterprise using a district facility for free," Silverman said after the meeting. "Secondly, there were some alleged incidents with Mr. Sacks himself."

This year, between \$300,000 and \$400,000 was spent on 10 tennis courts at Niles West High School, Superintendent Nanciann Gatta noted. The expense, she said, is one example of the district's support of the sport of tennis. The outdoor courts will be open next summer, officials said.

"We are trying to grow tennis," Gatta said. "But there is a finite amount of time (at the fieldhouse)."

Several speakers came forward to testify to the effectiveness of Sacks' tennis camps, which has operations in Barrington, Downers Grove, La Grange, Lincolnwood, Mundelein, Lake Zurich and Rolling Meadows. The camps run programs for area clubs, municipalities, park districts and schools.

"I think it would be a great injustice to put roadblocks in front of this wonderful program," said Robert Rosman, of Skokie.

Sack's attorney, Perl, said he had been a school board member at Lincolnwood School District 74 and never witnessed a turnout like the meeting's crowd of more than 20 people.

However, his comments drew a response from board member Carlton Evans, who called them "disrespectful."

District 219 officials said the field house has a tight schedule and they want to investigate the latest "incident," dating back to spring. But even then, they reserved the right to decide who uses the facility, Silverman said.

"It has to do with a personality conflict, more than anything else," said Sacks, adding he has two children at Niles West High School. "We haven't gotten a fair shake there for three or four years."

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Caesar Augustus, played by Andy Bruch, decrees that the citizens of Judea participate in a census and pay a hefty tax during a Dec. 3 re-creation of the Christmas story at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Park Ridge. | SHAUNA BITTLE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

### ST. ANDREWS LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Bethlehem Walk visitors shepherded through a bunch of bible scenes



Eight-month-old Elsa Hoffmann and parents Anne and Matt Hoffman play Jesus, Mary and Joseph during the final stop of the annual Bethlehem Walk. | SHAUNA BITTLE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



With real animals, shepherd guides and campfires, St. Andrews Lutheran Church again recreated the town of Bethlehem as part of its annual telling of the Christmas story.

The Bethlehem Walk took place Dec. 3 at the Park Ridge church and school.

Visitors, assisted by shepherd guides, were invited to interact with costumed characters from the Christmas story, including the Holy Family, angels, King Herod, the innkeeper, Roman centurions, Old and New Testament prophets, and the Three Wise Men.

There was even a stable of live animals and a marketplace where visitors could sample foods and spices mentioned in the Bible.

Sydney Pappone, 8, and brother Alec, 11, tend the animals of the manger Dec. 3 during Walk to Bethlehem at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Park Ridge. | SHAUNA BITTLE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

### BOOBY'S RESTAURANT

## Live radio show highlights village of Niles

BY TRACY GRUEN  
 Contributor

WGN Radio broadcast live Dec. 16 from Booby's restaurant in Niles.

Village Manager George Van Geem, Mayor Robert Callero and Niles Chamber Director Katie DiMaria were interviewed as part of the Hometown Voices tour, which broadcasts live from a different town each month.

The interview included asking Van Geem about his career history.

Van Geem shared that he had been a WGN staffer and was the head of the WGN accounting department.

"We'll be focusing on core services more than ever," Van Geem said of the state of the economy and its effect on the needs of the community.

Van Geem also discussed major businesses and retail

areas in Niles.

Van Geem highlighted the village's recent Bloomberg BusinessWeek award as the No. 1 place to raise a family in the United States. The crowd applauded whenever the accolade was mentioned during the interview.

"You have to be very, very proud of the way this city is running and operating," said Bill Leff, who conducted the interview.

Callero talked about the great amount of diversity in Niles and he was asked to describe the difference between running a family and a city.

"In a family you can say, I am the boss, right or wrong, I'm your father," Callero said with a chuckle. "In a village we have six trustees and we have to pass everything through the trustees, and we have a very good village manager."

### OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### Spring registration

Register now for spring 2011 classes in more than 70 areas of study at Oakton Community College.

The spring semester begins Jan. 17. Spring class listings may be found online at [www.oakton.edu](http://www.oakton.edu) or in the Spring 2012 Credit and Noncredit Class Schedule, available at the Des Plaines and Skokie campuses, 1600 E. Golf Road, or 7701 N. Lincoln Ave. Students should also consult the schedule for late-start course information.

Register in person at either campus Mondays through Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon. Students with a current application on file may register at [my.oakton.edu](http://my.oakton.edu).

#### New this spring

*Food Deserts and Social Justice* (HUM 290-001) explores the social, political, and economic factors involved in many low-income urban neighborhoods and isolated rural areas known as "food deserts," which lack access to grocery stores, fresh produce and healthy eating options. This 16-week course meets 12:30-1:45 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, starting Jan. 18, at Oakton's Skokie campus.

For more information about spring classes, contact Advising and Counseling at (847) 635-1741 in Des Plaines, or (847) 635-1400 in Skokie or visit [www.oakton.edu/admission/register/index.php](http://www.oakton.edu/admission/register/index.php).

#### Find peace with Tai Chi

Take a vacation from

life's pressures by enrolling in peaceful fitness classes offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton. Clinical studies continue to validate the benefits of this ancient Chinese exercise: reduced stress, improved balance, increased bone density, lower blood pressure, and improved circulation.

Begin with this peaceful exercise by registering for *Tai Chi* (PED E30-61). Six-week class meets 1:15-2:15 p.m., Mondays, starting Jan. 9. Course fee is \$72.

Want to take the practice of "meditation in motion" to the next level? Then *Advanced Tai Chi* (PED E31-71) is the class to take. Twelve-week course meets 12-1 p.m., Mondays starting Jan. 9. Course fee is \$144.

The classes are scheduled at Oakton's Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

All registrants will be charged an \$8 nonrefund-

able processing fee at the time of registration. However, students who register online will only be charged once per semester for an unlimited number of courses. Those registering in person, by mail, or fax will be charged an \$8 fee with each registration form.

For more information about the Emeritus Program, call (847) 635-1414 or (847) 982-9888, press 3. For a complete list of Emeritus classes and events, visit [www.oakton.edu/emmeritus](http://www.oakton.edu/emmeritus).

#### Winter break schedule

Oakton will be closed Dec. 24, through Jan. 2 for winter break.

Normal hours of operation for in-person registration and student services resume Monday, Jan. 3 at the Des Plaines and Skokie campuses. Spring classes start Jan. 17.

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### SCHOOL HEALTH CENTER BENEFIT

## School volunteers team up for night of food, folks and fundraising

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The real test of a McDonald's crew member is mastering the art of the often-temperamental soft-serve frozen-yogurt machine.

Maine South football coach John Manchester was fairly confident he had.

"We've done it all so far," Manchester said from his spot behind the counter of the Park Ridge McDonald's at 1032 N. Northwest Highway. "Shakes, sundaes, McFlurries, everything."

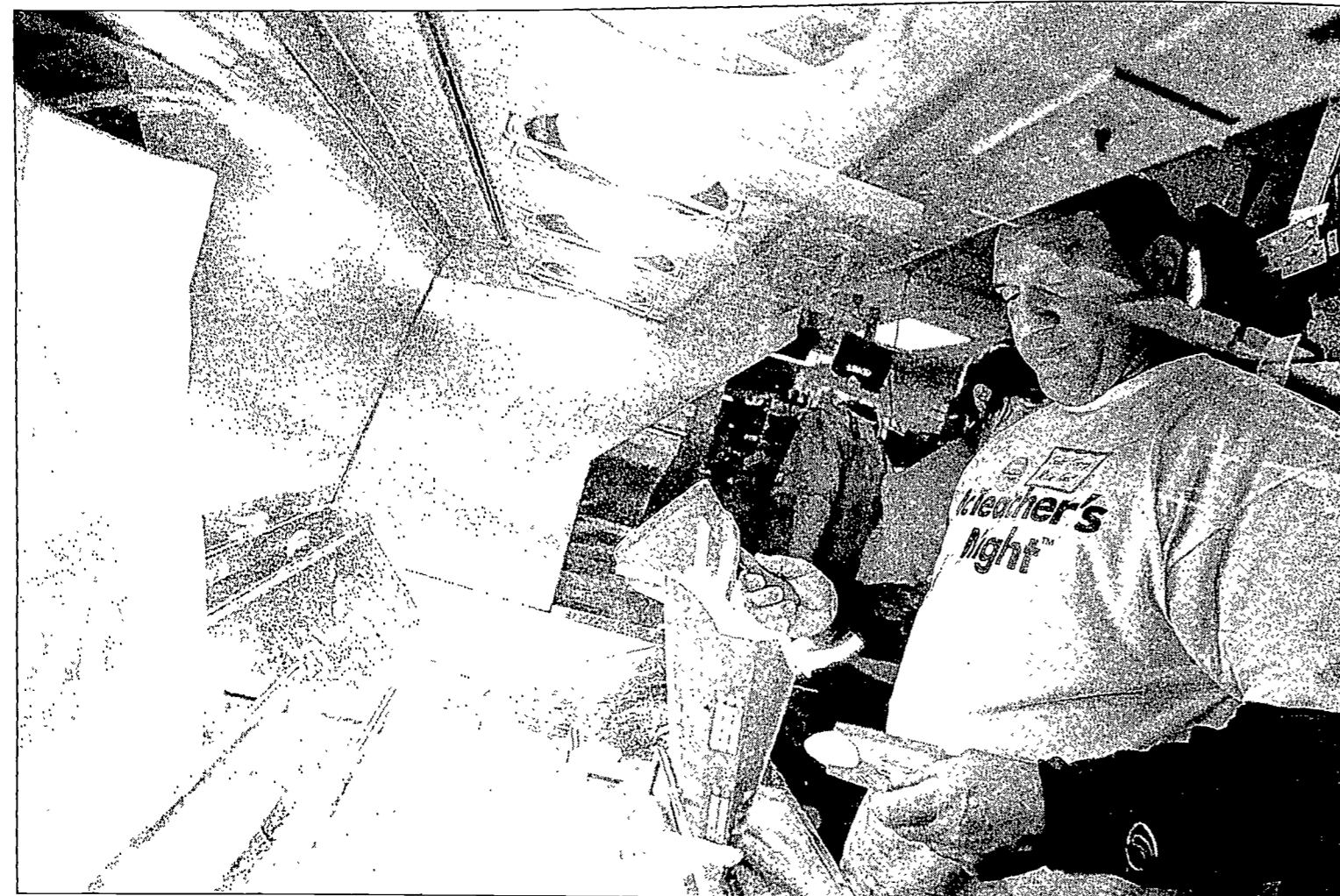
Manchester was one of about 80 coaches and teachers from Maine South, Maine East and Maine West high schools who volunteered three hours of their time on Dec. 7 to work alongside McDonald's employees and raise money for Maine Township High School District 207's School-Based Health Center.

Maine South staff members worked the counter and drive-thru at the Park Ridge McDonald's, Maine East was represented at 8460 W. Dempster St., in Niles, and Maine West staff served up treats at 1101 Oakton St., in Des Plaines.

The fundraiser, which took place between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., was organized by the Maine Teachers Association to help support the Health Center, which is at Maine East, but available to all District 207 students.

"This is our first (fundraiser) and we're hoping it's something that will continue," said Bernie Lewis, a teacher of French and Spanish at Maine East and chairman of the MTA's social committee.

For each "McTeacher's Night" coupon redeemed during the event, 15 percent of the purchase was donated



Maine East physical-education teacher and head football coach Gary Corey makes sure the fry containers are filled at the Niles McDonald's on Dec. 7. | CURTIS LEHMKUHL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

to the Health Center. Tip jars were also set up next to each register for people who wished to give an additional donation.

The MTA decided to partner with McDonald's after hearing about other McTeacher's Night events involving suburban school districts, Lewis said. Teachers representing each of the District

207 schools were competing to see which school would ultimately raise the most dollars for the Health Center.

District 207's School-Based Health Center provides medical and mental-health services for students who may not have access to such care. It is funded through a state grant and private donations.

Manchester, who had never

before worked in a fast-food restaurant, described the experience as "a lot of fun," as did some of his fellow coaches.

"They had me working at the drive-through, handling the food, greeting at the front door, and back here making the shakes, drinks and things like that," volunteer Matt Pater said.

Manchester, who had never

"always important to get involved and help out good causes," said he enjoyed interacting with customers and McDonald's staff.

"You get a better understanding of what they do behind the counter here, the pride they have in their job," he said.

Jason Kacprowski, another member of the Maine South

coaching staff, acknowledged that training for his new position was brief, but he caught on quickly.

"It's pretty hectic back here," he said. "It's a fast-paced world behind the counter."

Julie Travers, a McDonald's spokeswoman, noted:

SEE VOLUNTEER, PAGE 11

### DISTRICT 207

## McTeacher's Night benefit raises \$1,200K for school health center

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Maine East High School in Park Ridge was declared the winner of a recent fundraiser for District 207's School-Based Health Center.

The school brought in

the most contributions of all three Maine Township High School District 207 schools during a Dec. 7 McTeacher's Night held at McDonald's, 8460 W. Dempster St., Niles, according to co-organizer and Maine East teacher Bernie Lewis.

The restaurant, which included Maine East staff members volunteering their time behind the counter, donated \$340 from sales that took place between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. when diners presented a McTeacher's Night coupon. In addition, sup-

porters contributed \$836 in cash donations for a total of \$1,176 raised, Lewis said.

Across all three Maine Township high schools the event raised about \$1,700 for the School-Based Health Center, which is housed at Maine East but available to

all District 207 students. The center provides medical and mental-health services for students who may not have access to such care.

Maine South High School's McTeacher's Night, held at the McDonald's at

1032 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, raised \$245, while Maine West's event, at the McDonald's at 1101 Oakton St., Des Plaines, raised \$279.

The fundraiser was hosted by the Maine Teachers Association.



Maine East science teacher Pat Baldwin wipes off tables at the Niles McDonald's on Dec. 7. The teachers were working for a fundraiser benefitting the Maine Township Education Foundation School-Based Health Center at Maine East. | CURTIS LEHMKUHL-SUN-TIMES



Customers are served by Maine South staff at the Park Ridge McDonald's on Dec. 7. The teachers were working for a fundraiser benefitting the Maine Township Education Foundation School-Based Health Center at Maine East. | CURTIS LEHMKUHL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Maine South football Coach Matt Pater gets the drink orders at the Park Ridge McDonald's on Dec. 7. | CURTIS LEHMKUHL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

### VOLUNTEER | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

"The teachers are having a blast. That's the fun thing."

Many students, McTeacher's Night coupons in hand, turned out at the various McDonald's locations to support the fundraiser. At the Niles McDonald's, lines were out the door at one point during the evening as Maine East's Demon Strings

played Christmas music in the dining area. The school's Blue Demon mascot also made an appearance, while Ronald McDonald made the rounds at each of the three participating restaurants.

Teachers, coaches and staff members who volunteered as food servers and greeters included Tomas

Cintado, Michael Harper, Dori Ceisel, Gabe Corey, Greg Reuhs, Natalie Bourn, Eileen Murphy, Jamie Kumiega, Chris Magnuson, Gary Zielinski, and Pat Baldwin from Maine East; and Eric Novak, Anthony Colletti, Jason Kacprowski, John Manchester, Patrick Manning, Tom Mendez, Charlie Bliss, Matt Pater, Kevin Stock, Maureen Kudlik and Emma Visee from Maine South.

# You want a radio refund? We can't hear a sound!



BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN  
The Fixer

Dear Fixer: A month ago, for my 80th birthday, my daughter bought me a clock radio at Brookstone.

The sound was poor. I took it back to Brookstone four days after the purchase. The clerk, who was also the store manager, said he knew the quality was not good. However, even though I had the receipt, he refused to give me a cash refund.

He said the Brookstone policy was to issue a store credit. The information on the reverse of the receipt clearly stated otherwise. He gave me the store credit even though I have no interest in being forced to buy something else there.

I contacted Brookstone's "customer service" about a month ago and they have been ignoring my series of e-mails ever since.

Jack Cain

Dear Jack: The Fixer barely broke a sweat on this one. You were clearly in the right, as Brookstone's own website (not to mention the

back of the receipt you still had) states that returns made within 30 days with an original receipt are entitled to a cash refund.

We took this to Brookstone's public relations person and in less than an hour, you received a letter from the office of the president promising you a check in exchange for the \$87.39 store credit. Soon after, they voided the card and sent out the check.

Brookstone also told us they'd review the return policy with the store to make sure this doesn't happen again.

Dear Fixer: I responded to an ad on Craigslist for a two-bedroom apartment with hardwood floors. When I called the number, I got a company called Kelly Enterprises. The woman explained that I would pay an agency fee of \$99.95 and her reps would find me a place in 14 days. This was on Oct. 14.

I gave her the money in cash and signed a contract. The contract stated that if the company could not find a place for me in 14 days, I would get my refund. It stated that when requesting a refund, it must be submitted in writing 24 hours before the expiration date. Nowhere did it state that you could not fax or

e-mail your written request.

I asked when would I receive the listings of properties, and Danette Kelly said, "Oh, we will start e-mailing you the listings tonight." That did not happen. I got one e-mail on Oct. 16. One property was an old listing I had researched weeks before. I thought that was odd and was having second thoughts. The other properties were not of my interest. I got another e-mail with places that I was not interested in.

At this point, I saw no use in the services, but due to the contract, I had to wait until within 24 hours of the expiration date or else I would not get my refund, because it would be considered a cancellation. I received no other assistance.

I called on Oct. 27 because I had questions about the refund and was told by Danette that another woman, Jae, would need to assist me. Danette sounded irritated. I asked when Jae would be available and was told that she would be in the office at 10 a.m. I was given a number to reach her. I called at 10 a.m. and the voice mailbox was full. I called the office and spoke with Danette again. A few hours later, Jae called and I explained that I was trying to give her my written request for my refund. She told me

she couldn't meet with me that day. I asked what I should do and she said, "You can do same-day delivery at the post office; that's about \$2."

I went to two post offices and was looked at like I had a third eye on my forehead. They said that did not exist.

I went to their office Oct. 28 and handed Danette Kelly my request for a refund. She said Jae would get the letter Nov. 1, and that it takes two weeks to process. I waited a few weeks and was told my request was denied because it was received on the 28th, the contract expiration date.

I want my \$99.95 back! Stevie Wonder could have done a better job finding me a place than this company.

Ketty Charles

Dear Ketty: We don't know about Stevie Wonder, but once you started shouting from the rooftops about this, your full refund was signed, sealed and delivered ... at long last.

You wrote to The Fixer, filed a complaint with the Better Business Bureau and told your story on an online complaint forum. Team Fixer got on it right away and e-mailed Danette Kelly, the business's chief

executive, asking for a response. Soon after, you heard from Danette Kelly, who first offered half a refund and then apparently reconsidered and agreed to refund the full \$99.95. (Danette never did get back to us with the reason behind your run-around.)

Your experience shows that sometimes the squeaky wheel doesn't get the two-bedroom apartment ... but can get its money back.

### Score one for the feds

The Fixer hates hearing about already-overburdened homeowners sending their last penny to a fake "mortgage rescue" outfit who promised they'd help save their home. So we were happy to hear about last week's Federal Trade Commission settlement in which five defendants involved with U.S. Homeowners Relief will have to pay judgments totaling \$6 million and be banned for life from the debt relief industry.

The FTC said U.S. Homeowners Relief charged homeowners up to \$4,250 apiece to supposedly reduce their mortgage payments, interest rates and loan amounts. But consumers complained that after they paid, they got nothing.

Litigation continues. For more on this case and tips for consumers to avoid mortgage scams, check out FTC.gov.

Contributing: Mike Nolan.

THANK YOU FOR

# Believing

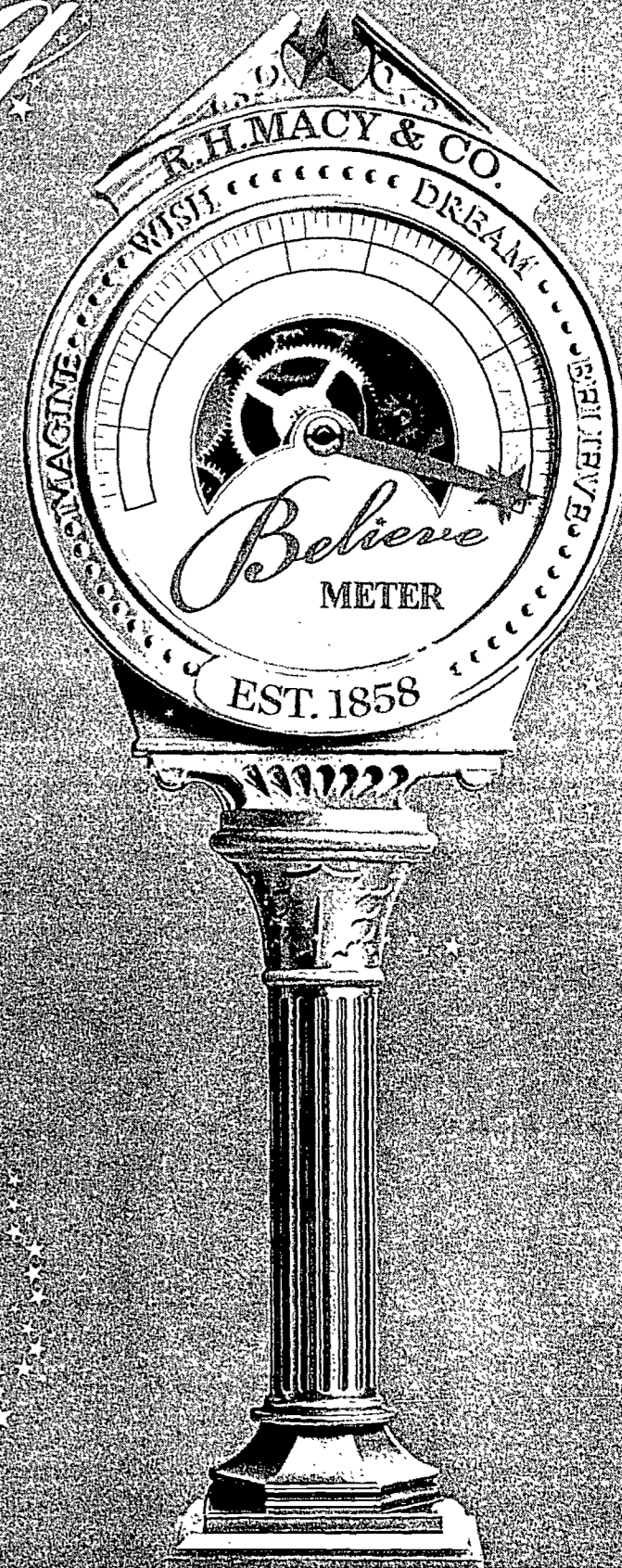
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Christmas Service:  
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**DES PLAINES**

- 1010 E Walnut Ave.:** James E Geever to Angelina G De La Cruz Violeta C Cirafici, \$220,000, Nov. 21
- 1250 E Washington St. Apt 9:** Mare Cunningham Estate to Yan Zhao, \$47,500, Nov. 22
- 1282 E River Drive:** Darleen L Struck to Elsi Sava Guillermo Vidal, \$185,000, Nov. 21
- 1288 Perry St. Apt 13:** Aneta Zylowska to Darshan Patel Pritty Patel, \$50,000, Nov. 22
- 1327 Brown St. Unit 408:** Jeffrey N Ebarb to Roseanne Chwal, \$145,500, Nov. 21
- 1362 S Cora St.:** Mirko A Lopez to Alfonso Hurtado Anna Hurtado, \$145,000, Nov. 22
- 1420 Heather Lane:** Kevin J Byrne to David Jun Christine Jun, \$345,000, Nov. 18
- 1443 Center St.:** Waters Trust to Marcelica Chis, \$110,000, Nov. 25
- 1765 Stockton Ave.:** Gregory

- F Carsten to Anna Bardega,** \$113,500, Nov. 18
- 1875 Howard Ave.:** John T Cronnelly to Melissa L Kilcoyne, \$238,000, Nov. 22
- 205 Michael Road:** Tom Zabron to Noah S Taylor, \$230,000, Nov. 22
- 2059 Fargo Ave.:** Deutsche Bank Natl Tr Co Ttee to Ralph Mito, \$128,000, Nov. 21
- 370 S Western Ave. Apt 301:** Stone Gate Of Des Plaines Lc to Edward Morgan Veronica Morgan, \$215,000, Nov. 22
- 40 E Fremont Ave.:** Audrey M Scherkenbach to Enrico E Cobarde Norma G Cobarde, \$204,000, Nov. 25
- 819 Graceland Ave. Apt 401:** Eustacio Berganos Jr to Shefali Patel, \$175,000, Nov. 18
- 910 Beau Drive Unit 306:** Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Marjan Stanojevic, \$59,000, Nov. 22
- 9332 Landings Lane Unit 403:** Agnieszka Piotrowska to Katarzyna Szewczyk, \$72,000, Nov. 22
- 3221 Sarah St.:** Johnson Trust to Noel Payan, \$148,500, Nov. 18

**GLENVIEW**

- 1107 Waukegan Road:** Ryszard Sala to Mary Sopci, \$175,000, Nov. 18
- 137 Stacy Court:** Andrzej Malinowski to Brian Shipkin Fabio Masini, \$374,000, Nov. 21
- 2121 Ammer Ridge Court Unit 302:** Daniel J Weinberger to Michael V Pytlinski Sharon M Kieffer, \$149,500, Nov. 22
- 2820 Commons Drive Unit 13:** Toll II Iv Lp to Herbert J Marros, \$529,000, Nov. 22
- 3022 Peachgate Lane:** Sabr Mortgage Loan 2008 1 Reo to Peter Chung, \$246,500, Nov. 22
- 3101 Mary Kay Lane:** Jinnie Woo to Jose C Karuthedam Simi Jose, \$335,000, Nov. 22
- 507 Huber Lane:** Ana Wagner to Philip George, \$336,000, Nov. 22
- 525 Hazelwood Lane:** Federal National Mortgage Assn to Laurie J Haughey Peter Stoyias, \$142,000, Nov. 18
- 605 Greenwood Road:** Right Residential Llc to Geoff N Fourman Lisa Fourman, \$231,500, Nov. 18
- 819 Echo Lane:** Zenon Cichon to Natalia Rachelson Vitaliy

**MORTON GROVE**

- 5807 Warren St.:** Chatee Wongjirad to Richard M Santos Maria Teresa A Santos, \$223,000, Nov. 22
- 6600 Foster St.:** Kittredge Trust to Sophia A Vrinios Thomas M Goepfrich, \$195,000, Nov. 18
- 7230 Church St.:** Abdulmas-sih Abdulmassih to Korshed Khan, \$117,000, Nov. 22
- 7618 Beckwith Road:** Hokin Trust to Lina Younan, \$255,000, Nov. 23
- 7662 Enfield Ave.:** Chicago Title Land Tr Co Ttee to Chetankumar Patel Kirtikakumari Patel, \$215,000, Nov. 18
- 8300 Callie Ave. Unit 308 Unit F:** Roma Stefanska to Sohail Iqbal Muhammad Hassan Iqbal, \$151,000, Nov. 21

**NORWOOD PARK**

- 4816 N Nagle Ave.:** Olga Schreiner Thorsson to Salvador Mendoza, \$120,000, Nov. 21
- 5227 N Newcastle Ave.:** Tomasz Gnidziejko to Leopoldo Marc Gomez Courtney L Brown Gomez, \$330,000, Nov. 18
- 6440 W Devon Ave. Apt 209:** Feit Trust to William A Carden, \$120,000, Nov. 18
- 6817 W Raven St. Unit 1d:** Gerald F Denotto to Eileen A Sergio, \$75,000, Nov. 22

**O'HARE**

- 7336 W Bryn Mawr Ave.:** Stanislaw Morawczynski to Michael L Kehoe Ashley Kehoe, \$220,000, Nov. 18
- 8421 W Gregory St. Unit 101:** Christopher B Vincent to Maria A Bahrin, \$64,000, Nov. 18
- 8455 W Lawrence Ave. Apt 2a:** Anthony N Kumiga to Vincent Rociola, \$125,000, Nov. 18
- 8711 W Bryn Mawr Ave. Apt 608:** Wojciech Trzos to Kamil Krol Michal Krol, \$167,000, Nov. 25

**PALATINE**

- 1221 W Talon Court:** Capital Homes Inc to Ravi Dhoopur Bhanu Kapoor, \$509,000, Nov. 23
- 1231 E Evergreen Drive:** Bernice Madey to Melissa Kathleen Bjornson, \$147,000, Nov. 18
- 1311 N Baldwin Court Unit 2d:** Tcf National Bank to Jacinto Jimenez Maria E Pelayo Jimenez, \$35,000, Nov. 22
- 151 N Maple St.:** Jon Kim to Holger H J Klotz Kaori Nakamura, \$300,000, Nov. 18
- 195 S Clyde Ave.:** Bmo Harris Bank Na to Panagiotis Kalantzis Spiros P Kalantzis, \$359,000, Nov. 25
- 2000 Bayside Drive Unit 108:** Wells Fargo Bank Trustee to Maria F Schodtler, \$41,000, Nov. 18
- 2248 N Baldwin Way Unit 1a:** Daniel Ju to Priyadeep Chawla Amardeep Singh, \$62,500, Nov. 18
- 245 S Park Lane Unit 319:** Vavra Trust to Judith A Holzer Dena M Holzer, \$83,500, Nov. 21
- 427 W Parkside Drive:** Marsh Trust to Kathleen Anne Marsh Lee M Marsh, \$110,000, Nov. 18
- 512 W Kenilworth Ave.:** Napientek Trust to Gerald Reuss Joanne B Reuss, \$218,000, Nov. 23
- 55 S Hale St. Unit 104:** Anne Berg to Anne E Kennedy, \$112,000, Nov. 18

**NORRIDGE**

- 4621 N Thatcher Ave.:** Emerson Nolasco to Ricardo Rostescu Brenda Rostescu, \$150,000, Nov. 25
- 7912 W Lawrence Ave.:** Prendergast Trust to David Scott Speaker, \$113,000, Nov. 21



**HOT PROPERTIES BY ROB PISKAC**

**Reliable ranch**

1-story comes with vaulted ceilings in family and living room

9346 Sayre Ave., Morton Grove — \$209,000

This 1,068-square-foot ranch, built in 1953, features a family room with a vaulted ceiling, carpeted flooring and a fireplace. Highlights of the kitchen include vinyl flooring, modern appliances and decorative trim. The carpeted living room features wood-paneled walls accompanied by a vaulted-beamed ceiling and glass doors to a patio. Carpeted floors are found in the master bedroom, which has two large windows with trim and exposed lighting. The lower level is equipped with a laundry room featuring a washer and dryer and abundance of storage space. This property provides a two-car garage and is near the Golf Metra station. **Listing agent:** Joseph Moll, Century 21 Marino, 847-967-5500, jmol34@aol.com



This three-bedroom ranch-style home is situated a half-mile southwest of the Golf Metra station.

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**ON THE MARKET**

A ROUNDUP OF NEW LISTINGS

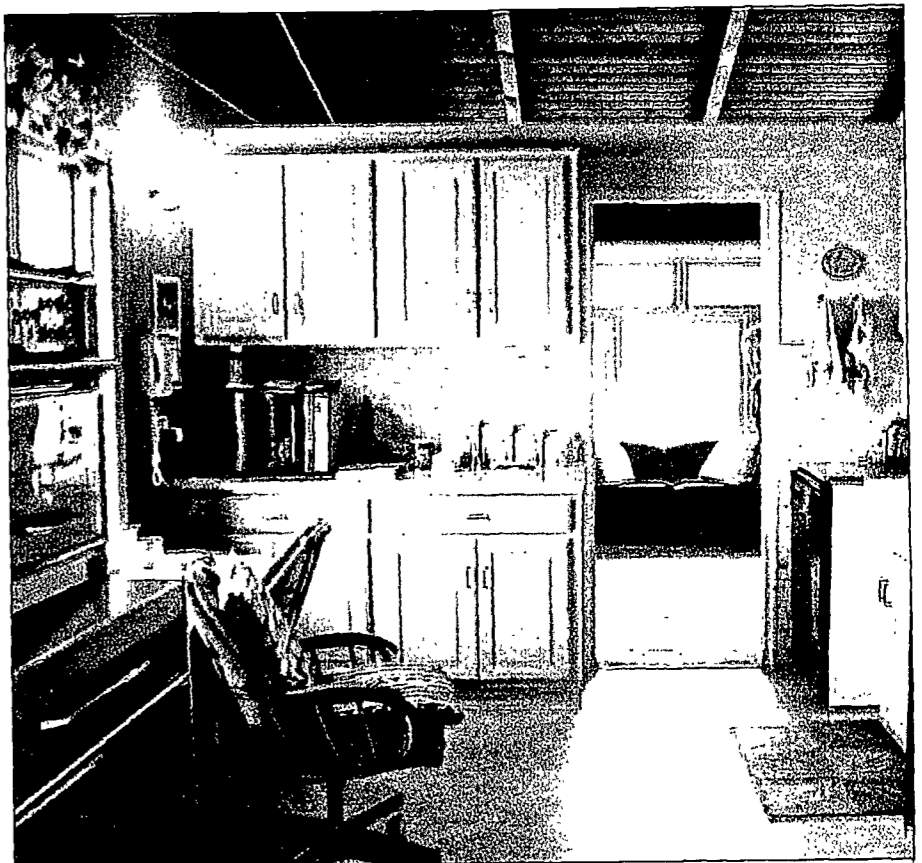
- A two-bedroom, two-bath** condo at 8680 Waukegan Road in Morton Grove is on the market for \$97,500. The condo, built in 1975, is a top-floor corner unit with a balcony and modern windows. It is close to the library, shopping and transportation. Alana Golubic of Coldwell Banker Residential is the listing agent.
- A four-bedroom, two-bath,** 1,700-square-foot home at 5900 W. Main St. in Morton Grove is on the market for \$255,000. The all brick ranch-style house, built in 1955, features an attached two-car garage, refinished hardwood floors, a newly remodeled marble bathroom, a kitchen with granite countertops, two fireplaces and a finished basement. Steven Nguyen of Vina Realty is the listing agent.
- A three-bedroom, 3.5-bath** townhouse at 8429 Callie Ave. in Morton Grove is on the market for \$365,000. The townhouse, built in 2005, features a patio, hardwood floors and granite countertops. Just 20 minutes to O'Hare and downtown, the home is within walking distance to the Metra, forest preserves and parks. Leo Eyber of Leo Eyber Realty is the listing agent.

— John Fitzgerald

**MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY**

City	For sale	Median price	Foreclosure rate	# of sales	# of foreclosures
Edison Park	1.75%	\$250,000	6.98%	86	6
Forest Glen	0.43%	\$320,500	0%	8	0
Norwood Park	2.04%	\$270,000	18.99%	158	30
Des Plaines	2.4%	\$165,000	30.84%	681	210
Evanston	2.76%	\$325,000	13.26%	611	81
Glenview	2.5%	\$385,000	14.18%	543	77
Lincolnwood	2.68%	\$293,500	15.57%	122	19
Morton Grove	1.94%	\$225,000	21.23%	212	45
Niles	2.11%	\$190,000	20.73%	246	51
Park Ridge	2.19%	\$340,000	15.21%	355	54
Skokie	2.1%	\$225,000	25%	544	136
Wilmette	1.98%	\$601,500	7.72%	311	24

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



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Morton Grove... Impeccable 10 room brick spacious English Bungalow located Near Forest preserve, Metra Train, shopping, park/pool & Park View School! Large living room with wood burning fireplace + formal dining room. Updated kitchen & baths. Main floor family room. Hardwood floors. finished basement with rec room & fireplace. Beautifully landscaped fenced yard with patio. 2 1/2 car garage... \$290's



DISTRICT 63

# School board finalizes \$3.7 percent tax hike

BY NATASHA WASINSKI  
Contributor

The East Maine School District 63 Board of Education approved a 3.7-percent property-tax hike at its Dec. 7 meeting. The 2011 levy will direct more than \$31.7 million in tax-capped funds to the seven-school district next year. District 63's primary reve-

nue has historically come from local property taxes. A majority of the 2011 levy funds — \$27 million — will be used for educational purposes. The district is also allocating \$2.5 million for operations and building-and-maintenance; \$1.7 million for transportation; \$315,000 for special education; \$100,000 for its working-cash fund; \$100,000 for Social Se-

curity; and \$50,000 for tort immunity. The school board made no changes to the tentative levy it adopted in November. No one spoke at a public hearing held before the board gave its final vote. In other business the District 63 Board of Education adopted a policy regarding concussions and head injuries

suffered by student athletes. The new policy requires the district to develop and implement a program that complies with regulations set by the Illinois High School Association. That includes removing student athletes from practices and competition if they exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, and requiring clearance by a

licensed physician before they return to the sport. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head that alters the way the brain normally functions. Under the program coaches, student athletes, and parents and guardians are to receive educational materials about the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries. Parents and students will also be required to sign a waiver stating they are aware of the district policy.

In addition, Superintendent Scott Clay presented information to the school board on education reform in Illinois. A law signed by Gov. Pat Quinn on June 13 revamps performance evaluations for teachers and administrators, as well as the process for earning tenure or receiving

dismissal. One of the starkest changes Clay pointed out is that teacher and principal performance will be based partially on student-achievement growth. Exactly how the data will be used in evaluations and how much it will affect their ratings "is something we have to figure out," Clay said. "We have a few years to do this." Clay gave the board a timeline of when the changes must go into effect.

Revised teacher evaluations based on a four-point rating scale and principal evaluations with student-growth requirements must both be in place by Sept. 1, 2012. New tenure procedures will be implemented during the 2013-14 school year. By Sept. 1, 2016, teacher-performance evaluations will also include a student-growth component.

# Resurrection

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[www.reshs.org](http://www.reshs.org)

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### DISTRICT 207

Students honored for community service  
Three seniors selected by Maine Township High School District 207 as "207's Best" for November were recognized during a Board of Education meeting Nov. 7. All three — Izaan DuToit, of Maine West, Milica Radanovic, of Maine East, and Allison Sawkowicz, of Maine South — were recognized for community service.

DuToit is ranked 39th in West's senior class of 519 and has earned a 4.2 grade point average. Her community service includes regularly volunteering at the Heartland Animal Shelter, and she is now completing an internship at a veterinarian clinic.

At West, she is in her third year as president of the service-oriented Key Club. She also has been a member of Amnesty International, French Club, History Fair, Tri M and Science Olympiad. DuToit plans to major in biology at Duke University.

Radanovic has been active in service-learning projects conducted by East's Lyceum Gifted Program, in which she has earned a 4.24 GPA that places her in the top 5 percent of the senior class. She performs volunteer work weekly for the inpatient hospice unit

at Midwest Palliative & Hospice Care Center in Glenview, where the director of Volunteer Services says Radanovic "provides a gentle presence, a calming smile, and a kind word to patients and families."

She also does volunteer work with autistic children. Last summer she earned the Islet Transplantation Summer Internship that had her working with doctors at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Chicago Diabetes Project. Radanovic has been accepted by Carthage College and the University of Illinois-Chicago and is awaiting word from Loyola University.

Sawkowicz ranks in the top 25 percent of her class and is a member of the National Honor Society, a Hawk Pride Leader and a STARS leader. She is a member of the Speech and Scholastic Bowl teams and plays varsity tennis and badminton.

As the country's youngest DONA-certified doula, she supports young mothers in the birth experience. She volunteers at Advocate Lutheran General's Mother/Baby Unit and at Northwest Community Hospital. She has been part of a program in Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 working with autistic children. Sawkowicz hopes to attend Wake Forest University and later go to medical school.

### POLICE BLOTTER

**THEFT**  
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.

**PROTECTION ORDER**  
Emad Awshana, 35, of 7869 N. Nordica, was arrested Dec. 9 and charged with violating an order of protection and resisting arrest. When a police officer was trying to take the suspect into custody, the suspect attempted to strike the officer. The suspect had a court date of Dec. 16.

**DOMESTIC BATTERY**  
Jose Bellido, 53, of 5647 W. Crain St., Morton Grove, was arrested Dec. 11 on the 9000 block of Terrace and charged with domestic battery. An officer reportedly heard the female screaming for help. Police reportedly saw blood on the victim's legs and elbow and on the floor. The suspect said it wasn't blood, but instead strawberry frosting. The suspect said he pushed the victim "on her butt" and she fell to the floor. Bellido had a Dec. 16 court date.

**VEHICLE THEFT**  
Someone stole a 1995 Honda four-door vehicle between Dec. 12 and Dec. 13 from a parking lot on the 9700 block of Fort Glen.

### NEWS BRIEF

**Win a trip to one of Niles' Sister Cities**  
Raffle tickets are being sold for the first annual Niles Sister Cities Grand Raffle. The winner will receive two round-trip airline tickets to, and hotel accommodations in, any one of the four Niles Sister Cities. The winner may choose a trip to Ireland, Poland, Greece or Italy. The estimated value of the prize is \$5,000. Raffle tickets are \$50 each and only 300 tickets will be sold. The winner will be randomly selected after every ticket is sold. The village of Niles website will post a running total of tickets sold

at the end of each week. Tickets may be purchased at the Niles Village Hall or online through PayPal. If purchasing through PayPal, cash payments should be sent to nilissistercities@gmail.com — no credit cards. Purchasers should include name, address and phone number for each batch of tickets purchased. A confirmation of the payment and a scanned photo of each raffle ticket will be emailed to the purchaser. An entire list of contest rules is available through a link on the village of Niles Home Page (Sister City Raffle).

### 'I MEANT TO HIT THE BRAKES'

#### Trio of crashes caused by three drivers damage 11 cars, 1 mailbox

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Accelerators mistaken for brake pedals were blamed for three separate accidents reported to Park Ridge Police late last month.

On Nov. 23 an 84-year-old Niles man told police he was in the parking lot of the Park Ridge Post Office, 333 Busse Highway, when he pressed the gas pedal and rear-ended

a 1996 Toyota Camry, causing the Camry to jump the curb and hit a mailbox. The man's 2002 Honda Accord then continued forward, rear-ending a second vehicle and driving across a sidewalk and parking area before colliding with a tree, police said. The man was ticketed for driving on the sidewalk and damage to city property, according to the accident report.

That same day, a 66-year-old Park Ridge woman was pulling into a parking space outside the Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., when her 2005 Volvo jumped the median separating the two spaces and struck the front of a 2012 Honda Odyssey, police said. The woman reportedly told police that she intended to step on the brake, but hit the gas pedal instead. No tickets

were issued. On the evening of Nov. 28 a Park Ridge woman, 66, was attempting to park her 2005 Audi in a lot at 2648 W. Dempster St. when she told police she pressed the accelerator instead of the brake. The woman's car then struck five vehicles parked in the lot, police said. No tickets were issued. No injuries were reported in any of the accidents.

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WE SAY

## Commit to spreading good will all year long

Is this going to be a good Christmas or a bad Christmas? Check the financial reports. Watch the news. A good Christmas is one in which retail sales meet, or exceed, what they were last year. And the way we reach a good Christmas is through Black Fridays and Cyber Mondays and Green Mondays.

Something seems to be missing in this definition of what makes a good Christmas. Not that the health of the economy isn't important. That health, or lack of health, translates into jobs and rent and food on the table for millions. And that is very important indeed.

But Christmas is more than that, it's more than getting a great deal on TV, on the Web, or at a store. Christmas teaches us to look outside ourselves, to be mindful and desirous of the well-being of others, and that our family is more than just our relatives. That's why charitable donations pick up at Christmastime.

And while the celebration of Christmas can be criticized as crassly commercial, it shouldn't be forgotten that commerce involves buying gifts for others and not for ourselves.

So, how should we view Christmas? Or, a more difficult question is:

How do we view the rest of the year? How can kindness and concern for others become a part of us in April and August and not just for a few days in December? Christmas offers us this challenge. The world should be better than it is. And we should, and can, be better.

How do we realize and live in the better angels of our nature? And how do we do it all the year and not just on Dec. 25? It's not as if we don't have examples before us. Just look around at your friends and neighbors who volunteer to help provide food and housing for those in want, who tutor children, who deliver meals to the homebound, who provide shelter for the abused ...

The honor roll of decency goes on.

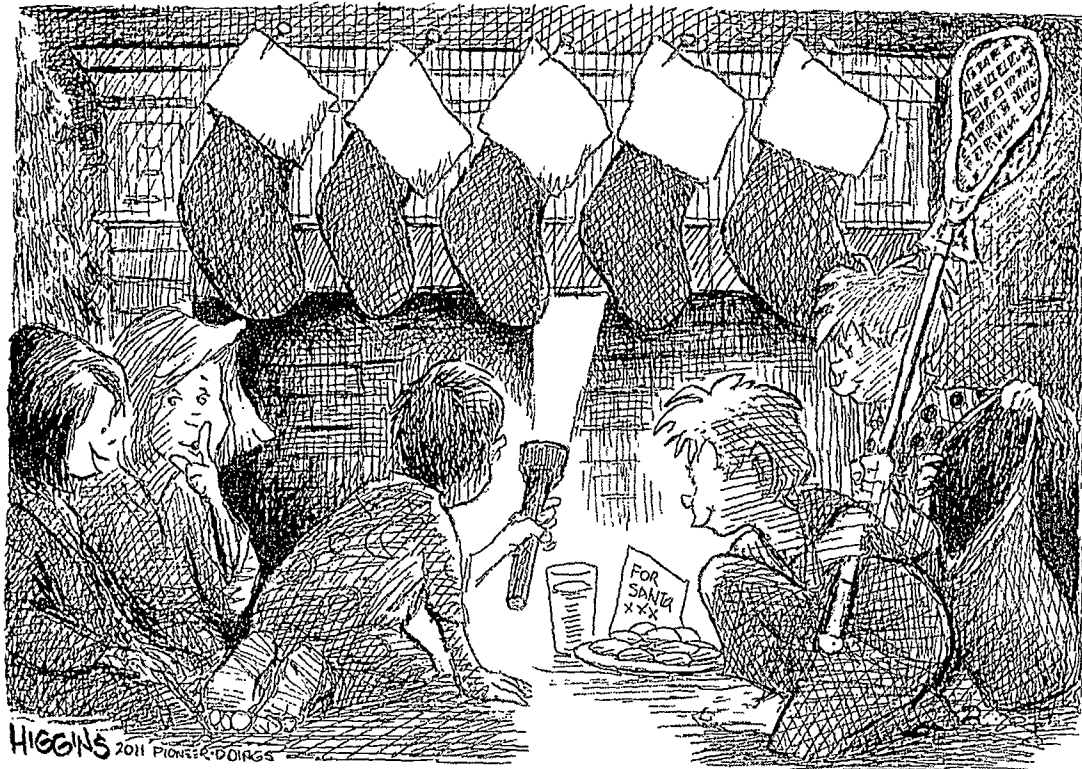
So, yes, there is commercialism and materialism and many other isms.

But there also is concern for others. Not as much as is needed. But it's there.

And there is hope for more. There is hope for us. And that is part of Christmas. And so, with hope, we wish you, and everyone everywhere, peace on earth and freedom from want. We wish you a Merry Christmas.

**Christmas teaches us to look outside ourselves, to be mindful and desirous of the well-being of others, and that our family is more than just our relatives. That's why charitable donations pick up at Christmastime.**

### 1000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS



HIGGINS 2011 PIONEER LOCAL NEWS

## Finding peace in hectic holiday season



BY CHERYL O'DONOVAN  
Van Mom Strikes Again

That December night, we had a bizarre electrical outage and I wound up showering in darkness. As the candle flickered, I prayed I wouldn't drop the soap. This is why castles were so dingy in medieval times, I mused. They couldn't see the filth.

Next, I ran out of Dawn dishwashing detergent. After ransacking the darkened house, I improvised with Finesse shampoo. Our chipped plates emerged with a lustrous sheen and the forks no longer had split ends.

Finally, I yelled for my youngest, wondering if we'd survive the night's Comedy of Errors. Through no fault of our own, we were double-booked. First, we had to get through my youngest's chorus performance,

then whisk him over to basketball practice. A cold rain flattened my hair as I accompanied my son inside the junior-high gym. We parents waited in metal folding chairs, sweating in itchy wool coats. Sprightly music began. About a hundred pairs of feet trudged to the makeshift stage. Standing in the upper tier, my youngest son fidgeted like a suspect in a police lineup.

"Then the kids sang a Christmas song. A chorus of voices sang: 'Peace for you and me.' Yes, peace. Peace from our frantic lives. ... I put down my pen and smiled, stopped worrying and treasured the moment, which soon would be gone."

Girls in Santa hats sang happy solos. As a grim contrast, most of the boys looked as though they'd been pushed out onto a skyscraper ledge. In my chair, I stared at the green holiday program in my hand. Stress ate at me. First chorus, then rush him over to practice. I scribbled

down each song's completion time, trying to estimate when they'd wrap. Vegas bookies couldn't have analyzed an outcome better. Then the kids sang a Christmas song. A chorus of voices sang: "Peace for you and me." Yes, peace. Peace from our frantic lives. The electricity would come back on. He'd make his practice. I put down my pen and smiled, stopped worrying and treasured the moment, which soon would be gone. Although I was still sweaty and itchy, my stress began to melt away. I listened to the song, one I'd always loved. Christmas carries a lovely, enduring message, pure and calming. Peace on Earth.

### 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:

Wednesday, Dec. 28 - Grief and loss support group (call first).

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](http://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, maintains her 65th District office at the following address: 1420 Renaissance Drive, Suite 306, Park Ridge IL 60068. Phone: (847) 297-6533; fax: (847) 297-2978; email: [rep.mulligan@usa.net](mailto:rep.mulligan@usa.net); website and E-News sign-up: <http://rep.mulligan.com>. The 65th District includes all or portions of Des Plaines, Park Ridge,

Mount Prospect, Rosemont, Norridge, Harwood Heights, Niles, Elk Grove Village, and the northwest corner of the 41st Ward of Chicago.

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, Glenview, 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](http://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](mailto:dhking4@yahoo.com) or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

#### Clubs

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](mailto: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 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

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Scary story in question

I read the story, "What the Sharks Caused to the Town," in your Scary Stories segment for Oct. 27. To say that my family found it disturbing is an understatement. This story was supposed to be about Halloween. There was nothing about Halloween in the story. There were knives and blood, a

drowned sister and parents being called slaves. What does that have to do with Halloween? We have a new baby at home. We were sickened by the end, which was a baby being stabbed in the eye followed by a chirp, "The End!!!" Please let me know how you chose this for first place. Kristen Durning Chicago

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# Diversions

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## 4 For Your Consideration

A quartet of activities for the coming week

1. "The Secret Garden," based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, will be presented by Light Opera Works Dec. 26-Jan. 1 at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson, Evanston. Performances are at 2 p.m. Dec. 26-28 and Jan. 1; 8 p.m. Dec. 29-30; and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 31. Recommended for ages 6 and older. Main floor \$48, \$68, \$77, \$92; balcony \$32, \$48, \$66, \$77. New Year's Eve main floor \$50, \$70, \$79, \$94; balcony \$34, \$50, \$70, \$79. Ages 21 and younger, half-price for 2 p.m. shows on Dec. 27, 28 and 31 only. Call (847) 869-6300 or visit www.lightoperaworks.com.

2. *Jewmongous*, starring Sean Altman, presents comedy songs at 8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Dec. 25 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$25 at the door. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com.

3. "Diva Moments" with cabaret artist Christina Bianco, Dec. 27-Jan. 1 at The Laughing Chameleon, located in The Glen Town Center, 1830 Tower Drive, Glenview. Shows are at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. New Year's Eve; and 7 p.m. New Year's Day. General admission tickets are \$25 and up, with a two-drink minimum. Call (888) 685-2844 or visit www.TheLaughingChameleon.com.

4. "The Vic & Paul Show," through Dec. 30 at Mayne Stage, 1828 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. Former Saturday Night Live writer Paul Barrosse and his wife, Victoria Zielinski — veterans of The Practical Theatre Company — present an evening of comedy, music, marriage and martinis. \$25 for reserved seats; \$20 for general admission. Visit www.maynestage.com or call (773) 381-4554.

# Finish with a flourish

Last-minute and local gifts to help you have a Merry Christmas

Holiday shopping not quite done yet?

You have started, right? To help you finish, Pioneer Press offers some suggestions we've found in our own pages for gifts you can find close to home or online.

### Tickets

Tickets to plays, performances and other special events are available online. Check out the many fine theaters, places like Drury Lane, Marriott, Writers' Theatre, and Theatre of Western Springs, as well as venues like Evanston's S.P.A.C.E. for ideas for just about everyone. Charity events often offer entertainment as well.

### Comedy for a cause

Jay Leno headlines when Buffalo Grove-based OMNI Youth Services celebrates its 40th anniversary at 8 p.m. April 28 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre in Chicago. "An Evening of Laughs with Jay Leno," with an opener from Second City, will benefit OMNI Youth Services, which provides services for youth in crisis in the north and northwest suburbs. Performance-only tickets are \$135-\$150. Tickets for the show and gala, which includes pre- and post-party events, are \$350-\$400. Tickets are available only at www.omniyouth.org.

### Music for kids

Jim Gill, Oak Park musician, author and child development specialist, recently released his new CD, "Music Play for Folks of All Stripes." It includes a bonus DVD where you can see how families have been inspired by "Hot Foot," "Cold Feet," "Foot Long," and even "Circus Feet," all to a bluesy beat. (708) 763-9864, business hours only, or see www.jimgill.com.

### Books

New titles by local authors. *Zombies for Christmas. The Walking Dead: Rise of the Governor.*

(St. Martin's Press), co-authored by Evanston's Jay Bonansinga and Robert Kirkman, creator of the award-winning pop-culture phenomenon "The Walking Dead," a zombie-apocalypse saga which began undead life as a comic book before being adapted into an AMC-TV series. This is the first in a planned trilogy exploring popular characters from the series. *Rise of the Governor* details the backstory of the sadistic despot who rules a walled town of desperate human survivors.

**Telling tales.** Psst... Have you heard what Joseph Epstein's up to now? The Evanston author, a lecturer emeritus at Northwestern University, wrote the book on gossip. His 23rd book — another one of his insightful essays exploring human behavior — is called *Gossip: The Unrival Pursuit* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt).

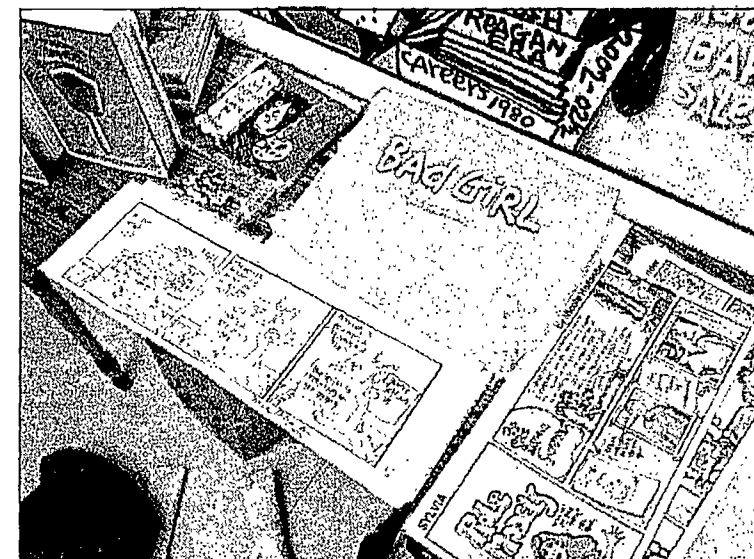
**Crime.** *Set the Night on Fire*, by North Shore writer Libby Fischer Hellmann, goes back, in part, to the late '60s in Chicago, when society was going through some dramatic changes. (Allium Press of Chicago.) Hellmann also writes two crime fiction series. *Easy Innocence* (2008) and *Doubleback* (2009) feature Chicago PI Georgia Davis. In addition, there are four novels in the Ellie Foreman series, which Libby describes as a cross between "Desperate Housewives" and "24."

### Memberships

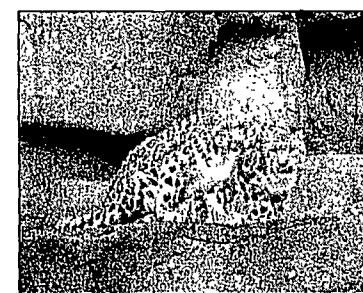
Major museums and institutions — think Chicago Botanic Garden, Morton Arboretum, Kohl Children's Museum, Chicago Children's Museum, Art Institute, etc. — in the Chicago area offer memberships that include free entry and parking year round. Great gift for kids and families.

### Snow leopards at Brookfield

In mid-October, the female and male juvenile snow leopards arrived at Brookfield Zoo, 3800 Golf Road,



Nicole Hollander wares at Gallery Pink.



Snow leopards at Brookfield Zoo. | PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKFIELD ZOO

Brookfield. Snow leopards are listed as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization. A leading snow leopard conservation organization, The Snow Leopard Trust, estimates population numbers of this elusive cat to be between 3,500 and 7,000 remaining in the wild. They inhabit high, rugged mountainous regions of central Asia, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, China, Mongolia and Russia. Currently, there are 144 snow leopards in 63 American zoos. Brookfield Zoo has exhibited snow leopards since 1936. The zoo offers memberships and animal "adoptions," either of which make fine family gifts, or a gift for any animal fan. Call (708) 688-8400 or see [czs.org](http://czs.org) for complete information.

### Art

Local galleries and art centers offer artwork for sale in a variety of styles and prices. Often, you'll find fine work by local artists, including glass art, photography, prints, paintings and comics.

Chicago's best known cat fancier, Nicole Hollander, will be selling prints of her snarky felines and other

items through Dec. 24 at Gallery Pink, 149 Harrison St., Oak Park. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. For information, call (708) 524-2231 or see [www.gallerypink-elkinsstudio.com](http://www.gallerypink-elkinsstudio.com).

### Shop in Town

For all the difficult-to-buy-for people on your list, let them do it themselves where they live. Some communities offer gift certificates through the chamber of commerce or business association that can be used at participating member stores. We found such gift cards available in: Western Springs, La Grange, Hinsdale, Park Ridge, Oak Park. Check the website of your chamber.

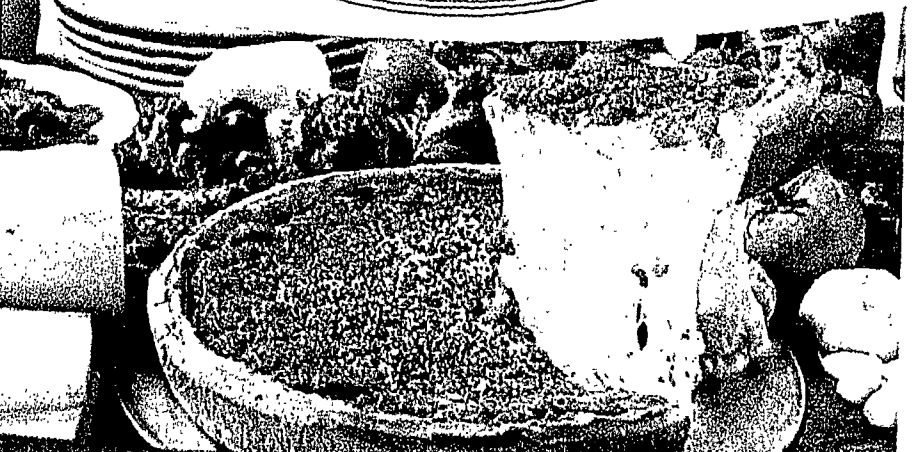
### DVDs

Something for just about everyone is available. Bruce Ingram, Pioneer Press film critic, has weeded out some of the best of the huge, new crop of DVDs and Blu-rays. For a complete list of his choices, see [www.pioneerlocal.com](http://www.pioneerlocal.com), and check the entertainment section of any edition.

### Baseball's Greatest Games: Collector's Edition

Quick: Name the 10 most exceptional and iconic games in major-league baseball history. No clue? Fortunately for you and the baseball fanatic on your gift list, A&E has tracked them down and included them all in this 11-disc set, from the Pirates vs. the Yankees in game seven of the 1960 World Series to the Red Sox vs. the Yankees in game four of the 2004 American League Championship Series. Extras include additional footage and interviews from all 10 games and an alternative audio track featuring local radio play-by-play.

SEE GIFTS, PAGE B9



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**FAMILY FRIENDLY**



The Skokie Park District will kick off New Year's Eve festivities early for kids when it presents the Exploritorium's Itty Bitty New Year Thursday. Performances and a balloon drop are planned.

**Exploritorium hosts kids New Year's Eve**

BY MYRNA PETLICKI  
Contributor

\$21 for ages 10-adults; nonresidents, \$27 and \$32. Advance registration is required. For details, call (847) 692-5129 or visit [www.prparks.org](http://www.prparks.org).

Little kids deserve a gala New Year's Eve celebration, too, and they'll get one at the Exploritorium's Itty Bitty New Year, 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 29 at 4701 Oakton St., Skokie.

"From 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., we have a slew of different activities," said Mary Grear, Exploritorium and special events supervisor for the Skokie Park District. There will be carnival games for candy, noisemaker and musical instrument prizes. Craft projects include decorating a hat and decorating a bag to hold those prizes. Other attractions include a balloon artist and free popcorn.

Those Funny Little People will perform at 11:30 a.m. "They look like miniature elves," Grear said.

At noon, there will be a balloon drop where kids can wear the hats they decorated and use the noisemakers they won as prizes.

The cost is \$12 per resident child over 2, \$14 per nonresident child, which includes use of the Exploritorium.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2700 or visit [www.skokieparks.org](http://www.skokieparks.org).

**Get down for the count**

Families can also mark New Year's Eve early at the Countdown Celebration Blast-Off, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Park Ridge Community Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave. There will be a dinner buffet, make-your-own cosmic sundae, a DJ for dancing and a professional family photo. Residents pay \$15 for ages 2-9,

**Triple treat**

Families can see a juggler, a magician and a balloon artist rolled into one when "Mike Mauthe Presents: Juggling, Magic and Balloon Sculpting Fun," 2-3 p.m. Wednesday at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Mauthe has presented humor-packed shows around the world.

For details, call (847) 965-4220 or visit [www.webrary.org](http://www.webrary.org).

**Panda power**

Po, the Dragon Warrior, continues to protect the Valley of Peace in "Kung Fu Panda 2." Your family can see the 2011 computer-animated action film sequel, 2-3:30 p.m. Dec. 30 at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave.

For details, call (847) 825-3123 or visit [www.parkridgelibrary.org](http://www.parkridgelibrary.org).

**Another animal act**

A clueless businessman inherits six penguins and life is never the same in "Mr. Popper's Penguins." The 94-minute, PG-rated 2011 film release, adapted from the award-winning classic children's book, will be screened in the Petty Auditorium at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., 7-8:45 p.m. Wednesday.

For details, call (847) 423-3149 or visit [www.skokieliibrary.info](http://www.skokieliibrary.info).

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**'Horse' only canters**

BY BRUCE INGRAM  
Film Critic

**WAR HORSE**  
★ ★ ★

There's no denying the misfortune of this metaphor, but "War Horse," Steven Spielberg's much-anticipated epic drama about the soul-connection between a farm boy and a thoroughbred stallion-turned-plow-horse-turned-war-time-beast-of-burden, is a bit of an odd duck.

That's not to say it's not beautifully crafted, grand in scope and deeply moving at its best. Of course it is. Spielberg is a master, after all, and at this stage of his career, with the resources he commands and his access to the world's greatest talents, it would be mystifying if he were ever to deliver a film that was less than well turned or without memorable dramatic moments.

Two things, though, prevent "War Horse" from achieving the sort of emotional impact Spielberg is famous for: a storyline that struggles to reconcile material best suited for young audiences, a la "E.T.," with hard-hitting anti-war statements, a la "Saving Private Ryan"; and a detached point of view that makes it difficult to closely identify with any of the characters, including the equine star.

"War Horse" first appeared as a 1982 young-adult novel by Michael Morpurgo that told the story of Joey, a thoroughbred horse born on the English countryside, purchased as a plow horse by a tenant farmer whose son fell in love with the colt at first sight, and sold into service in the First World War. During the war, Joey spends time in English and German hands before re-encountering his young master — from the horse's point of view.

When it was adapted for the stage in London in 2007 (a hit production that transferred to Broadway and won five Tony awards this year, including one for best play), Joey was transformed into a giant mechanical puppet that served as the dramatic focal point of the play. Spielberg's version, however, opens



Seeing eye to eye: Jeremy Irvine and the equine star of Steven Spielberg's "War Horse."

with a sweeping overhead shot of the verdant Devon countryside and maintains a similar distance, emotionally, throughout. Many powerfully dramatic events are observed during its two-and-a-half-hour running time, yet "War Horse" never gets much closer than arms-length to any of the numerous characters who are united by coming into contact with Joey — or to Joey himself.

That said, there is much to admire about the way Spielberg tells this story. For starters, "War Horse" is never less than visually dazzling (thanks to Oscar-winning cinematographer Janusz Kaminski of "Saving Private Ryan" fame), whether it is evoking the verdant English countryside in the manner of John Ford's "How Green Was My Valley" or the blasted landscape of trench warfare and No Man's Land in "All Quiet on the Western Front." The pace of the film is slow and also somewhat repetitive as Joey moves from one set of thinly drawn, kindly and often doomed characters to another, but it does build gradually to an emotionally affecting denouement. It is also generously stocked with memorable set pieces: farm-boy Albert (Jeremy Irvine making an impressive

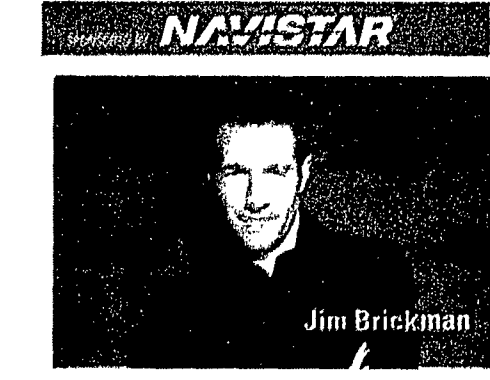
feature debut) struggling to save the family home by teaching Joey to plow a barren, rocky field; an old-fashioned English cavalry charge that turns into a slaughter; an English infantry attack against entrenched German troops firing machine guns across the hell of No Man's Land; a momentary battlefield armistice inspired by English and German soldiers sharing a moment of mutual concern involving Joey; and a final scene that closes the story on a note of near-abstract beauty — love, understanding and forgiveness writ large and triumphing over the horror of war.

The pacifist message of "War Horse" comes through loud and clear, along with the general idea that life is precious, regardless of class, nationality or species. And the film features effective performances across the board, particularly by Emily Watson, Peter Mullan, David Thewlis, Tom Hiddleston, Benedict Cumberbatch and Niels Arestrup.

The only thing missing is the sense that we're seeing these things, one way or another, from the perspective of our four-legged hero. Though Spielberg might have come as close as possible without having Joey talk like Mr. Ed,

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**An Evening with Jazz**  
Vibraphonist Brad Stirtz  
Friday, January 20, 8 p.m.

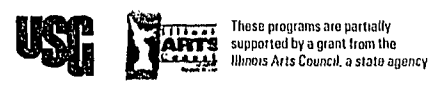
Philip Fortenberry  
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Sunday, January 22, 6 p.m.

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**"An Evening of Romance"**  
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FILM CLIPS

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

OPENING FRIDAY

THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN

Rated: PG for action-adventure violence, some drunkenness and brief smoking. Stars: Daniel Craig, Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis. A young adventurer (Bell) becomes involved in a race for maps leading to sunken treasure with the sea-captain descendant (Serkis) of a mariner who scuttled his ship to keep it from pirates.

THE ARTIST

Rated: PG-13 for a disturbing image and a crude gesture. Stars: John Goodman, Jean Dujardin, Berenice Bejo. A silent-movie star (Dujardin) worried about the effect sound movies will have on his career falls in love with a young dancer (Bejo).

THE DARKEST HOUR

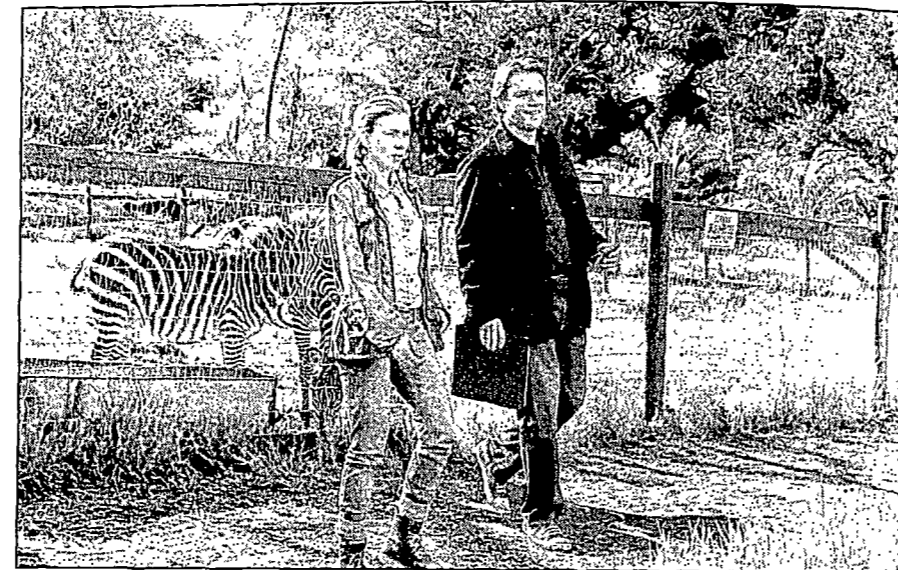
Rated: PG-13 for sci-fi violence and some action. Stars: Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, Max Minghella. In Moscow, five young friends lead the attack against an invisible alien race targeting Earth's water supply.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

Rated: R for brutal violent content including rape and torture, strong sexuality, graphic nudity and language. Stars: Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Stellan Skarsgard. A magazine publisher (Craig) joins forces with a computer hacker (Mara) to track down a serial murderer.

WAR HORSE

Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of war violence



Scarlett Johansson and Matt Damon star in "We Bought a Zoo," the new film from writer-director Cameron Crowe ("Jerry McGuire," "Almost Famous").

Stars: Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, Peter Mullan. When his beloved horse is sold into service during World War I, an English farm boy (Irvine) enlists to search for it.

WE BOUGHT A ZOO

Rated: PG for language and some thematic elements. Stars: Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church. A father (Damon) moves his young family to the countryside to take over the operation of a struggling zoo.

A DANGEROUS METHOD

Rated: R for sexual content and brief language. Stars: Viggo Mortensen, Michael Fassbender, Keira Knightley. It's not hard to imagine how this film got pitched. Sure, it's all about the complex relationship and eventual feud between Sigmund Freud and his one-time heir-apparent Carl Gustav Jung.

doctor Jung (Fassbender) has been waiting for the chance to try out the "method" of the title, Freud's "talking cure," on a suitable patient. Based on a stage play by Christopher Hampton, "A Dangerous Method" speculates on the rumored affair between Jung and Spielrein and the extent to which her case drew Jung and the aging Freud (Mortensen) together and eventually contributed to their estrangement.

HUGO

Rated: PG for mild thematic material, some action/peril and smoking. Stars: Asa Butterfield, Chloe Moretz, Jude Law. The most flamboyantly cinematic film in director Martin Scorsese's long career, "Hugo" is a gorgeous and dazzling film.

THE SITTER

Rated: R for crude and sexual content, pervasive language, drug material and some violence. Stars: Jonah Hill, Ari Graynor, Sam Rockwell. After being suspended from college, a student is forced by his mother to babysit some neighborhood children, with disastrous results.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL

Rated: PG-13 for sequences of intense action and violence. Stars: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Paula Patton. When they are shut down after being falsely accused of an attack on the Kremlin, the IMF team goes rogue to restore its reputation.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS

Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, and some drug material. Stars: Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Rachel McAdams. Holmes and Watson (Downey Jr. and Law) meet their greatest challenge from the evil Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris).

SHOWTIMES

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

RANDHURST 324 Theater Way, Mount Prospect (888) 262-4386 www.amctheatres.com

SHOW PLACE 12 301 Golf Mill Center, Niles (800) 326-3264 www.amctheatres.com

ARLINGTON THEATERS 53 S. Evergreen St. Arlington Heights (847) 483-0123

We Bought a Zoo (PG) Fri, Sun-Thu 11:30-2:40-7:30-9:30; Sat 11:30-2

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Fri, Sun-Thu 11:30-2:40-7:15-9:50; Sat 11:30-2

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri, Sun-Thu 11:10-1:10-3:10-5:10-7:10-9:10; Sat 11:10-1:10-3:10

New Year's Eve (PG-13) Fri 11:50-2:15-4:45-7:20-9:45; Sat 11:50-2:15

The Artist (PG-13) Fri, Sun, Mon 11:30-4:40-9; Sat, Tue-Thu 11:30-4:40-9:40

The Descendants (R) Fri, Sun, Mon 11:10-1:40-4:20-7:00-9:30; Sat, Tue-Thu 11:10-1:40-4:20-7

A Dangerous Method (R) Fri, Sun, Mon 11:20-1:45-4:10-6:50-9:15; Sat, Tue-Thu 11:20-1:45-4:10-6:50

My Week with Marilyn (R) Fri, Sun, Mon 11:30-2:40-7:10-9:40; Sat, Tue-Thu 11:30-2:40-7:10

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (R) Fri 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45; Sat-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45

The Darkest Hour in 3-D (PG-13) Sun-Thu 12:45-5:15-9:45. The Darkest Hour (PG-13) Sun-Thu 10:30-3-7:30

War Horse (PG-13) Sun-Thu 12:15-3:45-7:15-10:45. We Bought a Zoo (PG) Fri-Thu 10:50-1:50-4:50-7:50-10:50

The Adventures of Tintin in 3-D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:20-2:10-4:50-7:40-10:20. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (R) Fri-Thu 12:35-4:05-7:35-11:05

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu 2:15-5-8; Sat 2:15-5; Sun 8

We Bought a Zoo (PG) Fri, Mon-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-10:30; Sat 1:45-4:30; Sun 7-9:30

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu 1:30-4:15; Sun 7-9:30

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri, Mon-Thu 1-4-6:30-8:30; Sat 1-4; Sun 6:30-8:30

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

The Darkest Hour (PG-13) Sun-Thu 10:50-1:15. The Darkest Hour in 3-D (PG-13) Sun-Thu 3:35-6:20-10:50

War Horse (PG-13) Sun-Thu 11:35-12:20-2:55-3:40-6:25-7-9-45-10:20

We Bought a Zoo (PG) Fri 12:35-1:15-3:40-4:20-6:50-7:25-9:50-10:20-12:45; Sat 12:35-1:15-3:40-4:20-6:50-7:25

Sat 11:30-12:30-3-4-6-30-7:30; Sun-Thu 11:30-3-3-45-6:30-7-15-10-10:45

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri 12:15-12:50-2:35-3:15-4:55-5:35-7:55-10:15-12:30; Sat 12:15-12:50-2:35-3:15-4:55-5:35-7:55

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Fri 12:05-3:10-3:45-6-15-12:10-12:40; Sat 12:05-3:10-3:45-6-15-6:45; Sun-Thu 12:05-3:10-6:15-6:50-9:15-9:50

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows in DBox (PG-13) Fri 12:05-12:10-3:10-6:15-9:15; Sat 12:05-3:10-6:15-9:15

Young Adult (R) Fri 12:25-2:55-5:30-8-10:25-12:50; Sat 12:25-2:55-5:30-8; Sun-Thu 12:10-2:45-5-15-7:55-10:25

New Year's Eve (PG-13) Fri 1-4:05-7:05-9:55-12:45; Sat 1-4:05-7:05; Sun-Thu 11:10-2:05-7:50-10:55

The Sitter (R) Fri 11:05-1:20-3:35-6-8-15-10:30-12:50; Sat 11:05-1:20-3:35-6-8-15; Sun-Thu 10:50-1:05-3:25-6:05-8:25-10:40

Olivia: Wintertime Cheer (NR) Sat, Sun 11 a.m. Arthur Christmas (PG) Fri, Sat 1:15-10:45; Sun-Thu 10:55-1:20

Hugo (PG) Fri 4:25-7:25-10:35; Sat 4:25-7:25; Sun-Thu 7:35. The Descendants (R) Fri 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10-10:55-12:55; Sat 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:55; Sun-Thu 5

The Muppets (PG) Fri, Sat 11:1-4:5; Sun-Thu 10:45-1:25. The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) Fri 7:10-10:05-12:55; Sat 7:10; Sun-Thu 4:25-10:30

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### NEW ON VIDEO

# Woody Allen visits 'Paris'

BY BRUCE INGRAM  
Film Critic

### NEW THIS WEEK

#### BLACKTHORN

★★★

Rated: R for violence and language

Stars: Sam Shepard, Eduardo Noriega, Steven Rea

This melancholy, elegiac, but also hard-as-saddle-leather latter-day Western imagines that Robert Leroy Parker, a.k.a. Butch Cassidy, survived the climactic gun battle at the end of the 1969 classic "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," adopted the name James Blackthorn and lived to be 60-something and have one last outlaw hurrah. Shepard is ideally cast as the aging Western hero or antihero, take your pick, instantly believable as the quietly dignified old tough-guy with steel in his spine and a touch of sadness about him. When an ambush separates Blackthorn from the life savings he was going to use to retire in America, he reluctantly agrees to help a tenderfoot mining engineer (Spanish star Noriega) recover \$50,000 he has stolen in exchange for half the loot — though it comes at a high cost in human life. Spanish director Mateo Gil emphasizes the autumnal aspect of Blackthorn/Cassidy's return to crime. The pace is slow and there's a somewhat nostalgic tone throughout, particularly in the film's regrettable flashbacks to the glory days of Butch and Sundance. Not that "Blackthorn" is the equivalent of watching an old man snoozing in his rocker. Guns are drawn and people die and there's plenty of pain to go around, including a slow-motion chase across a salt-flat desert in which pursuer and pursued can barely summon the energy to move one more step.

#### MIDNIGHT IN PARIS

★★★ 1/2

Rated: PG-13 for some sexual references and smoking.

Stars: Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams

This enjoyable, lightly



Marion Cotillard and Owen Wilson star in Woody Allen's "Midnight in Paris."

comic, lightly romantic fable is one of those Woody Allen movies that come along every third or fourth effort these days, delivering a degree of satisfaction that reminds us why he has always been worth watching. Wilson (an awkwardly agreeable and upbeat fit in the Allen stand-in-role) plays a hopelessly romantic Hollywood screenwriter named Gil, who daydreams about Jazz-Age Paris while visiting with his cold, critical fiancée Inez (McAdams). Somewhat predictably, Gil gets his wish and is whisked off nightly to his ideal place and time, where he hobnobs with Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, Picasso, Bunuel, Dali, Man Ray, etc. and falls in love with a beautiful world-class art groupie (Marion Cotillard). "Midnight in Paris" is very funny at times, especially in conversations with Hemingway (Corey Stoll), who takes every opportunity to say something like "There's no honor in dying in the mud."

### ALSO NEW

#### DOLPHIN TALE

After losing her tail in a crab trap, a female dolphin is restored to health by a dedicated boy (Nathan Gamble) and the doctors at a marine hospital. Charles Martin

Smith ("Air Bud") directed the drama. Rated PG for some mild thematic elements.

#### GLEE: THE 3-D CONCERT MOVIE

A documentary on the TV show's 2011 summer tour, featuring concert performances and backstage antics. And hey, it's in 3-D. Rated PG for thematic elements, brief language and some sensuality.

#### MARGIN CALL

An entry-level analyst (Zachary Quinto) at an investment firm uncovers information that could lead to the company's downfall, propelling an internal crisis at the beginning of the 2008 economic meltdown. The drama also features Stanley Tucci, Kevin Spacey, Demi Moore and Jeremy Irons. Rated R for language.

#### STRAW DOGS

An L.A. screenwriter (James Marsden) relocates with his wife (Kate Bosworth) to her Southern home town, where they encounter thugs who threaten their marriage and their lives. Rod Lurie ("The Contender") adapted and directed the remake of Sam Peckinpah's controversial 1971 thriller. Rated R for strong brutal violence including a sexual attack, menace, some sexual content.

### THE TEMPEST

Julie Taymor ("Across the Universe," "Frida") directed this adaptation of Shakespeare's drama, featuring a gender switch in the lead role of the sorcerer Prospero (played here by Helen Mirren). Rated PG-13 for some nudity, suggestive content and scary images.

### WARRIOR

When the youngest son (Tom Hardy) of an alcoholic former boxer comes home to train for a mixed martial arts championship, his goal leads to conflict in the ring with his older brother (Joel Edgerton). Gavin O'Connor ("Pride and Glory") directed the drama. Rated PG-13 for sequences of intense mixed martial arts fighting, some language and thematic material.

### AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK:

Have a thing for horror sequels? Next week you have two options: reheated torture porn in "Hostel: Part III" or another round of doomed teens biting the dust in "Final Destination 5." Or you could roll the dice with something new (relatively) as Ving Rhames leads a group of survivors through the "Zombie Apocalypse." All, of course, are perfect for the holidays.

# Life and hope grow in 'The Secret Garden'

BY TOM WITOM  
Contributor

Light Opera Works has spent the past several weeks cultivating "The Secret Garden." Now it's ready to share the fruits of its labor with a production of the Tony Award-winning musical adaptation by Marsha Norman of Frances Hodgson Burnett's evocative children's novel.

Eight performances take place between Dec. 26-31 at Cahn Auditorium in Evanston.

"Though there's an element of darkness, the story is life-affirming," said director-choreographer Stacey Flaster. "It's a great family show with a wonderful message." A longtime associate of Light Opera Works, Flaster served in a similar capacity last season for its production of "Carousel."

Flaster said she has a talented group of actors. Because they work so well as an ensemble, she hesitates to single out individual performers.

### Young pros

But she notes that the two young leads — Sophie Thatcher as Mary and Matthew Schroeder as Colin — are especially well-suited for their roles. "They're completely prepared, on top of the material and totally professional."

Thatcher, a fifth-grader at Deerpath Middle School in Lake Forest, said she is "very excited" about her first professional theatrical role, calling it "a great experience."

To prepare, Thatcher said, "I spent a lot of time thinking about my lines and how to say or sing them. I also learned to drink plenty of water before going on stage." She has had two years of voice training, most recently with the Music Institute of Chicago at its Lake Forest branch. Thatcher last appeared in "Annie" with Actors Training Center at the Wilmette Theatre.

Schroeder, also debuting at Light Opera Works, has appeared in "Oliver!" at the College of Lake County,



Sophie Thatcher of Lake Forest is Mary in the Light Opera Works production of "The Secret Garden." PHOTO BY RICH FOREMAN

### 'THE SECRET GARDEN'

Light Opera Works at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson, Evanston

2 p.m. Dec. 26-28 and Jan. 1; 8 p.m. Dec. 29-30; and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 31

Recommended for ages 6 and older

Main floor \$48-\$92; balcony \$32-\$77. New Year's Eve main floor \$50-\$94; balcony \$34-\$79

Ages 21 and younger, half-price for 2 p.m. shows on Dec. 27, 28 and 31 only

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among other plays.

"Secret Garden" follows Mary Lennox, a 10-year-old English girl living in India, whose parents have died of cholera. She is sent from the tropical sub-continent, her home since birth, to live with relatives in the strange, cold world of Yorkshire, in the north of England. There Mary finds her formidable uncle Archibald still in the throes of grief over the passing of his wife Lily a decade ago. She also meets her 10-year-old cousin Colin, who is confined to a wheelchair. Mary's arrival brings

dramatic changes to the household. She discovers a sealed-off garden that was once lovingly nurtured by Lily and now lies in ruins. It's a grim reminder of long-lost happier times, and the child finds purpose in restoring the garden, a move that also improves her state of mind.

### Family healing

The garden also helps turn around the rest of the family, particularly for Colin, who has, it seems, unnecessarily relied on that wheelchair because of his father's fears that the boy would become, like him, a hunchback.

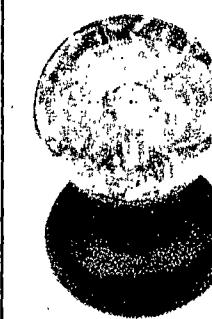
Flaster said symbolism in "The Secret Garden" reflects how Burnett was influenced by nature and its healing elements. "I've tried to convey the play's message about finding happiness and joy and about listening to yourself, accepting life's ups and downs without getting overwhelmed by personal grief," she said. "There's a lot of material audiences can relate to."

Audiences can expect a lot of flashbacks and dream sequences mixed in with reality — a crossover between the physical world and the spirit world.

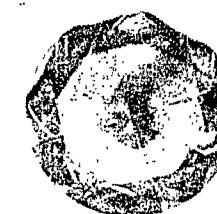
Flaster also has high praise for the play's music, which is directed by Roget L. Bingaman. "The score soars ... it never ends, just keeps moving."

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# go.

## What to do. This week and beyond.

### YOU WANT IN? HERE'S HOW.

» Submit go. events one week prior to the date of publication.

» Entries must be typed. We're sorry, but we can't take it over the telephone. We prefer e-mail submissions, please.

» go. listings are free! Include brief description of the event, time, date, address, price and phone number.

» By mail: go. c/o Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. E-mail: [go1@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:go1@pioneerlocal.com). FAX: (847) 486-7451.

### HOLIDAY

**New Year's Eve with E. Faye Butler**, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. **Dec. 31** at Northlight Theatre in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Butler and her musicians present jazz, pop, show tunes and blues. \$50 for the 5 p.m. show; \$60 for the 8 p.m. show. For information, call (847) 673-6300 or visit [www.northlight.org](http://www.northlight.org).

**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 Jaktrripper, 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](http://www.ticketweb.com).

**New Year's Eve Rock 'n'**

**Roll Ball**, 8 p.m.-2 a.m. **Dec. 31** at the InterContinental Chicago O'Hare, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. The evening includes live music from Old 97s, Hairbangers Ball, Cathy Richardson Band, Imposter Radio and DJ Roland. General admission tickets are \$75, which includes an open bar from 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., admission into all entertainment areas, and party favors. VIP tickets are \$115, which includes private open VIP premium bars. Hotel room packages available. Visit [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com) or [www.nye.ichohare.com](http://www.nye.ichohare.com).

**ABC7 Countdown Chicago to 2012** with R&B performer James Hunter, 10 p.m. **Dec. 31** at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. Tickets are \$50-\$75, and include a champagne toast at midnight. Drinks package available for an additional \$50. Visit [www.maynestage.com](http://www.maynestage.com) or call (866) 468-3401.

**"Come, Adore Him,"** a free concert of holiday music, will be presented by choirs and a cantor ensemble at 3

**"Pump Boys and Dinettes"** will be presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre through 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](http://www.theoubique.org) or call (800) 595-4849.

**"The Secret Garden,"** based on the the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, will be presented by Light Opera Works **Dec. 26-Jan. 1** at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson, Evanston. Performances are at 2 p.m. Dec. 26-28 and Jan. 1; 8 p.m. Dec. 29-30; and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 31. Recommended for ages 6 and older. Main floor \$48, \$68, \$77, \$92; balcony \$32, \$48, \$66, \$77. New Year's Eve main floor \$50, \$70, \$79, \$94; balcony \$34, \$50, \$70, \$79. Ages 21 and younger, half-price for 2 p.m. shows on Dec. 27, 28 and 31 only.

p.m. Jan. 8 at St. Isaac Jogues Church, 8149 Golf Road, Niles. Call (847) 967-1060.

**STAGE**

**"The Girl in the Yellow Dress,"** presented by Next Theatre Company **Jan. 19-Feb. 26** at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. When Pierre, a French-Congolese pupil, signs up for English lessons with Celia, a beautiful young white teacher, they both get more than they bargained for. Set in contemporary Paris, the play explores the ways in which class, race, and language continue to divide us. Tickets: \$30-\$40. Call (847) 475-1875 or visit [www.nexttheatre.org](http://www.nexttheatre.org).

## GIFTS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



### Doctor Who: The David Tennant Years

The 2005 re-launch of the venerable British sci-fi TV series about a time-traveling extra-terrestrial with a soft spot for the human race owes much of its new global popularity to classically-trained Scottish actor David Tennant (he also does a mean "Hamlet"), who became the 10th actor to play the Time Lord as the fulfillment of a childhood dream. This 26-disc box set features every Tennant episode from seasons two through four, eight specials and two animated spin-offs,

plus hours of extras including outtakes, deleted scenes, Tennant's video diary, commentaries and exclusive scenes. A guaranteed hit for "Who" fans.

### WWII in HD

You could watch "Saving Private Ryan" on Blu-ray, or you could go for the real thing with this History Channel collection of 10 documentaries covering the Second World War in its entirety. In addition to the innovation of viewing the war through the experience of 12 people who fought in it (voiced by actors including Rob Lowe,

Amy Smart, Steve Zahn and LL Cool J), ranging from the war correspondent who wrote "Guadalcanal Diary" to a Japanese-American medic whose family was being held in an American internment camp, "WWII in HD" features high-quality color footage, much of it shot by the U.S. government, remastered in high-definition. Gary Sinise provides the narration.

### Laurel and Hardy: The Essential Collection

Know somebody who can use a few laughs? This treasure trove of classic comedy is virtually guaranteed to get the job done. This 10-disc "Essential Collection" from Vivendi Entertainment features all the films made by Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy for the Hal Roach Studios during the duo's 1920s and '30s heyday including the Oscar-winning "The Music Box," "Brats," "Hog Wild," "Sons of the Desert," and many, many more. The bonus disc features appreciative interviews from Jerry Lewis, Dick Van Dyke and Tim Conway, foreign-language versions,

footage of Laurel and Hardy guest appearances, a film guide and an interactive tour of locations where the films were shot. Comical messes don't get finer than this.

### Barney Miller: The Complete Series

Keep your "Law and Order," "NYPD Blue" and "Hill Street Blues." For a look at police work that resonates with real cops, look no further than "Barney Miller." Starring Hal Linden and featuring an ensemble cast including Gregory Sierra, Abe Vigoda, Steve Landesberg, Ron Glass, Jack Soo and Max Gail, the Danny Arnold-Theodore J. Flicker-Noam Pitlik sitcom eschewed high-speed chases, focusing instead on the interaction of everyday cops in a dreary 12th Precinct station in New York, a city on the brink of chaos. Urban meets urbane in the 25 discs of "The Complete Series," which contains all 168 episodes of "Barney Miller," plus the first season of Vigoda's spinoff, "Fish." Involving, touching, quirky and always funny, "the old 1-2" is worth repeat visits.

Call (847) 869-6300 or visit [www.lightoperaworks.com](http://www.lightoperaworks.com).

### CLASSICAL

**Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by Alan Heatherington, performs at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. [www.arsviva.org](http://www.arsviva.org). Tickets: \$35-\$70, with discounts for seniors and students.

**Jan. 8**, 3 p.m.: "A Sunday Serenade." The program includes Dvorak: Serenade; Mozart: Serenade No. 12; and Brahms: Serenade No. 2.

**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](http://www.FathomEvents.com). **Jan. 21**, 11:55 a.m.: "The Enchanted Island," a showcase of arias and ensembles by Handel, Vivaldi, Rameau and others. **Feb. 11**, 11 a.m.: Wagner's "Götterdämmerung." **Feb. 25**, 11:55 a.m.: Verdi's "Ernani." **April 7**, 11 a.m.: Massenet's

"Manon." **April 14**, 11:55 a.m.: Verdi's "La Traviata."

**Music of the Baroque** performs at First United Methodist Church, 516 Church St., Evanston, unless noted otherwise. (312) 551-1414. [www.baroque.org](http://www.baroque.org). Tickets are \$30-\$75. **Jan. 29**, 7:30 p.m.: "Handel & Haydn," conducted by Nicholas Kraemer.

**Music Institute of Chicago**, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. [www.musicinst.org](http://www.musicinst.org). **Jan. 22**, 3 p.m.: Cantare Chamber Players perform Schubert's Trout Quintet and Brahms' Piano Quartet No. 3 in C Minor Op. 60. \$25; \$15 senior citizens; \$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.northwest-symphony.org](http://www.northwest-symphony.org). **Jan. 29**: "NSO Revisited," with guest soloist Michael Henoch, assistant principal oboe of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The program includes Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 in F-minor, Op. 68 ("Pastorale"); and Mussorgsky: "Night on Bald Mountain."

### POP/FOLK/JAZZ

**Allstate Arena**, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601. **March 9**, 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. **May 4**: Rammstein — "Made in Germany 1995-2011 Tour." **Chambers**, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. (847) 647-8282. [www.thechambersonline.com](http://www.thechambersonline.com). **Dec. 23**, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Rick Lindy & the Wild Ones ('50s-'60s rock). \$5. **Dec. 27**, 6-9 p.m.: Pianist Jerry Owings. **Dec. 28**, 6:30-10:30 p.m.: Connie & Johnny.

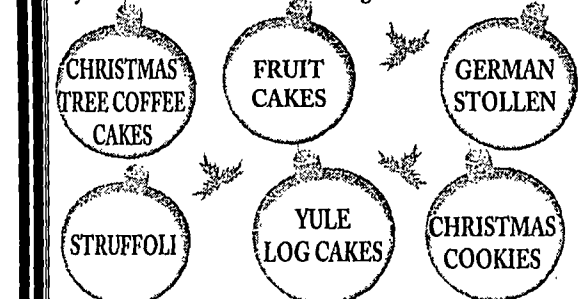
**Dec. 30**, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Way Cool ('50s-'70s rock). **Dec. 31**: New Year's Eve Bash featuring The Ronnie Ross Show and Jerry Owings.

**Ethical Humanist Society** Second Saturday Coffeehouse, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. [www.ethicalhumanist.org/coffeehouse](http://www.ethicalhumanist.org/coffeehouse). **Jan. 7**, 8 p.m.: Fiddle prodigy Rachel Baiman and Christian Sedelmyer perform Americana and old time ballads. \$8 includes refreshments. Due to the availability of the performers, the coffeehouse will meet the first instead of the second Saturday this month only.

**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](http://www.brownpapertickets.com). For information, visit [www.hogeyefolkarts.org](http://www.hogeyefolkarts.org). **Jan. 14**:

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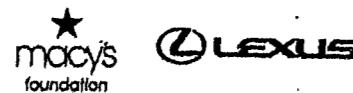
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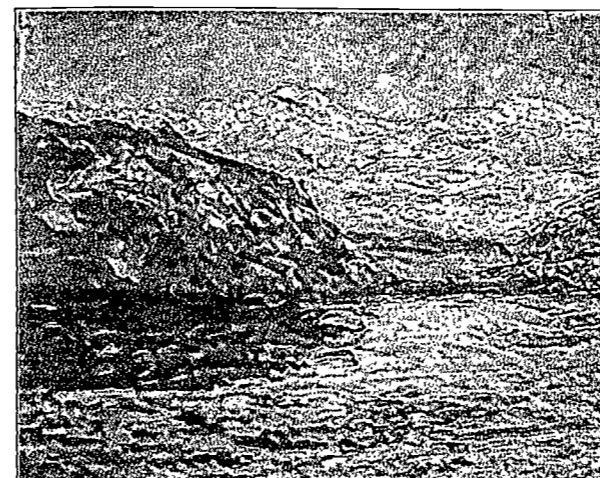


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Joffrey Dancers: Fabrice Calmel, Victoria Arlene. Photo by Heibert Myrold

# Passing on the vision



"On Monhegan, with a View to Manana," by Sharron Boxenbaum



Margo Berkson Berg's "Creation of the Universe"

## American Jewish Artists Club show explores creative influences

BY MYRNA PETLICKI  
Contributor

Twenty-nine visual artists reflect on their creative influences in "From Generation to Generation," the American Jewish Artists Club's exhibit at the Prairie Center for the Arts in Schaumburg through Jan. 2.

Club President Sharron Boxenbaum of Hoffman Estates said that members "were looking for pieces that were inspired by artists that came before, where you could learn from somebody else but still put your own original twist on it."

Buffalo Grove artist Margo Berkson Berg's contribution, "Creation of the Universe," is a 24" by 36" acrylic and mixed media work.

"Years ago, I envisioned the universe in a test tube," Berg said. "The universe was being created with chemicals." In Berg's work, the image of "a superior being" appears in the top left panel. Triangular shapes in the other panels represent test tubes, "with parts of the universe in it — humans, the earth, animals," the artist said. "There's a lot of symbolism in my paintings."

### Ancient inspiration

Berg's influence for this piece goes back many generations. "I had studied medieval legends," she said, "and I was inspired by the manuscript

'Illuminations in the Passover Barcelona Haggadah,' that was made in the 1350s." Berg viewed paintings from that work on the Internet. She noted, "Even though they were about Jewish subjects, they were painted by Christian artists."

Retiree Berg, who has painted her entire life, returned to school in 1993, earning a bachelor of arts degree from Northern Illinois University four years later, as a ceramics major.

A 20-inch terra cotta sculpture of an armless female torso is Boruch Lev's contribution to the exhibit. His inspiration was the model.

"I started sculpture when I was very young — it was modeling clay," the Skokie artist said. That was in Lev's native Russia, where he lived until immigrating to the United States in 1996 with his wife and two sons. Initially he lived in Atlanta, but Lev, who is a structural engineer, moved his family to this area in 2001 after accepting a position with a Chicago-area engineering firm.

In 2002, he began taking figurative sculpture classes with Sheila Oettinger at the Evanston Art Center and it rekindled his enthusiasm for the medium.

"This is what I love to do," he said.

Lev enjoys being part of

### 'FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION'

American Jewish Artists Club, Prairie Center for the Arts, 201 Schaumburg Court, Schaumburg  
Through Jan. 2  
(847) 432-6425 or visit [www.americanjewishartists-club.org](http://www.americanjewishartists-club.org)

the American Jewish Artists Club because "I like to hear different points of view," he said.

Mundelein resident Ellen Roth Deutsch's work, "Transformation Dream," is composed of four water-based oil paintings, mounted on a black background, that tell a story.

### Dream scenes

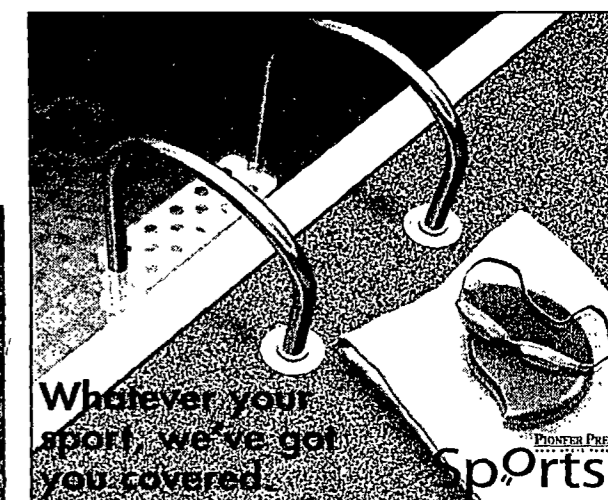
The piece was actually inspired by a dream Deutsch had. "It's called 'Transformation' because I'm handicapped because of bad spinal problems," she explained.

"In the story, the woman has crutches and bandages on her feet," Deutsch related. "She sees a 2-year-old run-

ning toward the water. She thinks, 'How am I going to save the child?' She throws away her crutches, jumps in the water and rescues the child. She gives the child back to the mother. Then she transforms into a tortoise and swims away."

The retired microbiologist took artistic inspiration from her cartoonist father, who worked under the name Irving Roir and had numerous cartoons in Esquire and the New Yorker in the '30s and '40s. (His three brothers were also syndicated cartoonists.)

"He was my main teacher," Deutsch said. "My style of drawing is influenced by the cartoon."



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**GO** | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9B

Bryan Bowers, Jan. 28: Mark Dvorak, Michael Smith, Barbara Barrow and Chris Walz. Feb. 18: Bill Staines.

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. Jan. 15, 5 p.m.: Eighth annual Martin Luther King Celebration, featuring the Brotherhood Chorale of the Apostolic Church of God performing traditional and contemporary gospel and jazz arrangements. Free-will contributions benefit the William Warfield Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Music Institute of Chicago.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.northshorecenter.org. Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m.: Elvis Tribute Artist Spectacular. \$19-\$49.50.

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. Feb. 4,

7 p.m.: ELVIS LIVES, featuring four finalists from Elvis Presley Enterprises' annual worldwide Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest. Bill Cherry, Ben Klein, Kevin Mills and Victor Trevino Jr. will each represent Elvis during different stages in his career. The Elvis tribute artists will be joined by a live band, back-up singers, dancers, and an Ann-Margret tribute artist, as well as iconic imagery made available from the Graceland archives. Tickets: \$24.50-\$49.50. Feb. 24: Big Time Rush — "Better With U Tour."

Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Dec. 25, 4 p.m.: Greater Chicago Jewish Festival: Kumsitz with the Rabbis. Dec. 27, 8 p.m.: Hanukkah concert by Soulfarm. \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m.: "DuBois at 80," a celebration of Phil Woods' 80th birthday. Dec. 31, 8 p.m.: Tony Bernard in "Rock Around the Clock." \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Dec. 31, 10:30 p.m.: Jack

Miuccio in "The One-Man Rat Pack," music of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door.

S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.evanstonospace.com. (847) 492-8860. Shows at 8 p.m., unless noted otherwise. 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. 10: Gabe Dixon & Leila Broussard, \$10/\$14. Jan. 12, 7 p.m.: Drake Bell (pop). \$25/\$30. Jan. 13: Griffin House. \$15/\$18. Jan. 14: Susan Werner with Seth Glier. \$20/\$25. Jan. 15, 7 p.m.: Eric Michaels Organ Trio (jazz/rock). \$10/\$15. Jan. 19: Mike Mangione & The Union with Dave Tamkin (indie/folk). \$12/\$15. Jan. 21: Todd Snider (alt country). \$25/\$28. Jan. 22, 7 p.m.: Jim Schwall & Eddie Holstein (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. 4: Mike Flynn's Crash Landing (rock). \$12/\$15. Feb. 5, 7 p.m.: Guy Davis (blues). \$12/\$15. Feb. 8: Jay Nash. \$12/\$15. Feb. 9: Marco Benevento (jazz/experimental). \$12/\$15. Feb. 10: Michael Tolcher (pop/rock). \$12/\$15. Feb. 10, 10 p.m.: Bonerama (funk). \$17/\$20. Feb. 11: Zoë Keating (cello-rock). \$18/\$20. Feb. 14: Andrew Belle with Sugar & the Hi-Lows and Peter Groenwald. 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. 23: Shawn Mullins. \$24/\$28. Feb. 24: The Flat Five, \$15/\$18. Feb. 25: Livingston Taylor, \$22/\$25. March 1: Commander Cody (rock/blues) \$17/\$20. March 2: Magic Slim & the Tear Drops (blues). \$15/\$20. March 9: Ryan Montbleau Band (folk/rock). \$17/\$20. March 10: Teitur (folk rock). \$15/\$18. March 16: Ellis Paul (folk). \$20/\$25. March 17, 7

SEE GO, PAGE 14B

**New vibe for Tony Ocean**

BY BRUCE INGRAM  
Contributor



Tony Ocean

If you're an ardent admirer of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tony Bennett, Bobby Darin and similar proponents of old-school cool, and you've been anywhere in the vicinity of Chicago the past 25 years, you've probably heard of Tony Ocean.

But you might not have heard what the retro-stylist singer been up to lately, adding more contemporary material to his arsenal of crowd-pleasing favorites. You can see for yourself, though, when Ocean brings his lush glamor to the New Year's Eve show at the Hyatt Regency in Rosemont. He'll be on stage with the Modern Day Romeos and Jaktripper for the festivities and countdown. And he's got several smaller shows with his own band in the works as well. Staying busy is not a problem for him.

Ocean, who adopted his stage name in honor of Sinatra's Danny Ocean character in "Ocean's Eleven," was born in Italy in 1962 and raised in a traditional Italian home in Cicero, where he experienced the conflict of cultures common to children of immigrants. His great-grandfather sang Italian opera around the house and his father indulged a taste for Sinatra, but Ocean always heard a different sort of music whenever he left home.

**Sinatra fan**

"I always liked Sinatra and the Rat Pack swing stuff, but the guys I was growing up with didn't think that was cool," he recalled. "They all thought it was old-man's music. With them, it was rock music all the time."

As a result, following training in choirs including one that sang for the Pope in Rome, when Ocean started thinking about a performing career, he opted for rock. After starting a band called Broken Heart, which changed names and directions a couple of times, including a stint playing Cheap Trick covers as The Dream Police, Ocean and the renamed Big Band Rodeo wound up on Ed McMahon's "Star Search" in the '80s.

"I did the rock stuff for a long time, but you get to a

**TONY OCEAN, MODERN DAY ROMEO AND JAKTRIPPER**

New Year's Eve, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont

8:30 p.m.-1 a.m., Dec. 31  
Also, 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. For more information, visit www.tonyocean.net

certain point where you say, 'Okay, I can't keep doing this forever,'" Ocean said.

Conveniently, when Ocean reached that point, he had the opportunity to put his old affinity for Sinatra and company to good use appearing as Dean Martin in "The Rat Pack," a tribute show which ran for years at Piper's Alley in Chicago. After that, Ocean found it easy to segue into a successful career interpreting the vintage classics of the Sinatra era — but even that reached its limits, eventually.

Bookings were not the problem. Ocean performed nearly 300 shows yearly, including a residency for the past 10 years at Jilly's Piano

Bar on Rush Street, offshoot of the famed New York club created by Sinatra confidante Jilly Rizzo. But Ocean wanted to do more.

He got his chance when he teamed with veteran Chicago music-business manager Phil Vaughan, who encouraged the singer to branch out and refresh his repertoire.

**New sound**

"Phil saw something in me that other people didn't," Ocean said.

In 2007, Vaughn arranged for the recording of "Pardon My Past," a CD that mixed vintage material with new songs by Grammy-winner Bonnie Koloc and Evanston producer/composer Jim Tullio. In 2009, Ocean released an entire CD of non-Rat Pack tunes including the soulful title track "Me and Mrs. Jones," with a music video that has racked up 35,000 views on YouTube.

"These days, my show isn't just about the Rat Pack," Ocean said. "It's more pop, more Motown, more rock, a little Rod Stewart, a little Joe Cocker, even a little disco — just more variety. We're also trying to come up with our own material, which is real cool. The first part of the show, I usually stick to the Sinatra/Dean Martin stuff, but then we open things up more. We get a little crazy later in the evening. We tear it up a little bit."

"We're not getting too far away from where my roots are, but we're reaching new fans because we're bringing in a different vibe — and people have been loving it. We're trying to get the message out: I'm not just the Rat Pack guy. There's a lot more to the Tony Ocean show."

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## GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12B

p.m.: Megan McDonough and Susan O'Halloran in "Pot of Gold: Irish Stories & Songs." \$18/\$20. **March 22:** The BoKeys (soul/R&B). \$14/\$18. **March 24:** Jackpierce (country/rock). \$27/\$30. **March 25,** 7 p.m.: California Guitar Trio, \$17/\$20. **March 30:** Janiva Magness CD release party (blues). \$15/\$18. **April 21,** 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.: Mason Jennings (folk). **April 26:** Jonathan Edwards, \$18/\$22. **April 27,** 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.: Dar Williams (folk). \$18/\$20. **April 28:** James Hunter (rock). \$27/\$30.

"The 3 Divas," a special one night-only Valentine's Day cabaret event with Susie McMonagle, Heidi Kettinger and Christine Sherrill, will be presented at 8 p.m. **Feb. 14** at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. \$35. Call (847) 673-6300.

### ART GALLERIES

**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](http://www.anatomicallycorrect.org).

**Oakton Community College,** Koehline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2633. [www.oakton.edu/museum](http://www.oakton.edu/museum). Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. **Through Jan. 20:** "Gems from the Koehline: 19th and Early 20th Century Vintage Prints," showcasing works from the museum's permanent collection. Artists include William Strang (English), Tavik Frantisek Simon (Czech), Dmitry Moor (Russian), Ando Hiroshige (Japanese), as well as Chicago artists Raymond Katz, Milton Horn, Nathaniel Steinberg and Frances Foy. In addition, popular reproductions published at the turn of the century by Currier and Ives will be on display.

**Services for Adults Staying in Their Homes,** 1123 Emerson, Suite 200, Evan-

ston. (847) 864-7274. [www.SASiathome.org](http://www.SASiathome.org). Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays or by appointment. **Through Feb. 3:** "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 benefiting 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.

### AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

The Music Institute of Chicago has established a Young Artist Division of the Emilio del Rosario Piano Concerto Competition. Pre-college pianists younger than 20 will compete for the opportunity to perform a complete concerto with Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra on March 11 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. Additional cash and scholarship prizes also will be available. A preliminary round will take place Feb. 12 at the Evanston East campus of the Music Institute of Chicago. Three finalists will compete Feb. 19 at Nichols Concert Hall in Evanston. Information regarding applications and repertoire requirements is available at [www.EDRpiano-competition.org](http://www.EDRpiano-competition.org). Application deadline is Jan. 14.

**Evanston Art Center** is seeking submissions for "Thread," a fiber arts show. Works should be constructed by methods traditionally associated with textile fibers, such as stitching, weaving and dyeing, and should celebrate texture, dimension and color. Non-functional works using sewing, knitting, crocheting, felting, weaving, spinning, surface design, basketry and paper making are acceptable. Submission deadline is Jan. 6. To submit, send an e-mail to [call4artists@evanstonartcenter.org](mailto:call4artists@evanstonartcenter.org) with "Thread" in the subject line, and include contact information, a cover letter, artist's statement (optional), CV, and 10-15 images (low resolution JPEGs) including a title, date, medium and dimensions for each individual artwork.

**BOOKS & POETRY**  
**Lincolnwood Public Library,** 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. [www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org](http://www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org). Jan. 10, 11

a.m.: Discussion of *Too Much Happiness* by Alice Munro.

### CHILD'S PLAY

**Kids Fare series,** featuring hour-long concerts for children ages 3 to 8 and their families, are held at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. [www.pickstaiger.org](http://www.pickstaiger.org). \$6; \$4 for children. **Jan. 21,** 10:30 a.m.: "Simply Sensational Symphonic Band."

**Piccolo Theatre** presents Winter Break Camp for youth ages 10-15 years from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. **Jan. 2-6** at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston. Participants will be introduced to sketch comedy, Shakespeare, character creation, mask acting and other genres. The week culminates in a field trip to Lifeline Theatre to see "How to Survive a Fairy Tale." \$225 for full week; single day registration available for \$50 per day. Call (847) 328-2204.

**Rosemont Theatre,** 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://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](http://www.rosemonttheatre.com).

**March 4,** 2 p.m.: The Fresh Beat Band, Nickelodeon's preschool music group and stars of the television series of the same name. Tickets: \$22, \$27, \$32. Fresh Beat Band Party packages, which include a meet and greet with the band, also available.

### COMEDY

**Mayne Stage,** 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. [www.maynestage.com](http://www.maynestage.com). (773) 381-4554. **Mayne Stage Comedy Series — Through Dec. 30:** The Vic & Paul Show. \$25 for reserved

seats; \$20 for general admission. **Jan. 6,** 8 p.m.: Dan Telfer, co-producer of Chicago Underground Comedy. \$15 general admission; \$20 reserved.

**North Shore Center for the Performing Arts,** 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. [www.northshorecenter.org](http://www.northshorecenter.org). (847) 673-6300. **Jan. 26-29:** Political satirists The Capitol Steps. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; and 3 p.m. Sunday. \$45.50-\$49.50.

**Rosemont Theatre,** 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. **March 10:** Gabriel Iglesias Stand-Up Revolution Tour, presented by Comedy Central.

**Skokie Theatre,** 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit [www.skokie theatre.com](http://www.skokie theatre.com). **Dec. 24,** 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.: Caryn Bark presents "Kosher Style Comedy." \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door.

### DANCE

**Mayne Stage,** 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. [www.maynestage.com](http://www.maynestage.com). (773) 381-4554. **Feb. 17,** 8 p.m.: Chicago Dance Crash KTF presents "Love is a (Dance) Battlefield." CDC's longest running production, Keeper of the Floor (KTF), is a dance competition that welcomes all comers, from breakdancers and ballerinas to belly dancers. \$10 general admission.

**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) 272-

6344 or (773) 685-8407.

**Line dancing** for all ages is held from 7-10 p.m. every Tuesday at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Beginner lessons are at 7:30 p.m. and new dance or review at 8 p.m. Admission: \$7; \$5 for ages 17 and under. For information, call (847) 965-6353 or e-mail at [somedaydd@att.net](mailto:somedaydd@att.net).

### FILM

**Lincolnwood Public Library,** 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. [www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org](http://www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org). **Friday Films** shown weekly at 1 p.m. — **Dec. 23:** "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides."

### 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 information, call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit [www.skokieartguild.org](http://www.skokieartguild.org).

### ET CETERA

**Rosemont Theatre,** 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or (800) 745-3000; ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit [www.rosemonttheatre.com](http://www.rosemonttheatre.com). **Jan. 15,** 3 p.m.: "A Tribute to Pine Valley," a fan event dedicated to ABC's soap opera "All My Children." The event includes question-and-answer sessions, behind-the-scenes stories, photos and autograph signings. Participating cast members include Walt Willey (Jackson), Cameron Mathison (Ryan), Vincent Irizarry (David), Darnell Williams (Jesse),

Alicia Minshew (Kendall) and Jacob Young (JR). \$35-\$125.

### MUSEUMS

**Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center,** 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. [www.ilholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org). Admission: \$12; \$8 for students and senior citizens; \$6 for children ages 5-11. Special exhibitions are free with museum admission. **Through Jan. 15:** "The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942-1946. **Jan. 8,** 1:30 p.m.: Screening of the documentary "Forgiving Dr. Mengele." A discussion with the film's director follows the screening. Free with museum admission; reservations required. **Jan. 15,** 12:30 p.m.: Reader's Theatre presents "Judgment at Nuremberg." A full dramatic reading will be performed by the original cast of Shattered Globe Theatre's award-winning 2003 production of the classic courtroom drama. Discussion follows with Peter Less, one of the interpreters at the Nuremberg Trials. \$14 (includes museum admission); \$6 for museum members. Reservations required. **Jan. 26,** 6:30 p.m.: "Memorialization and Memory," a program in recognition of the International Day of Holocaust Remembrance. In partnership with the Illinois Holocaust & Genocide Commission, the museum presents two leaders in the field of memorialization, James Young and Cliff Chanin. Young, a professor of English and Judaic Studies at the University of Massachusetts, served as a World Trade Center Site Memorial jury member. Chanin, the curator of the Illinois Holocaust Museum's Legacy of Absence galleries, is 9/11 Memorial Museum Education Director. Reservations required.

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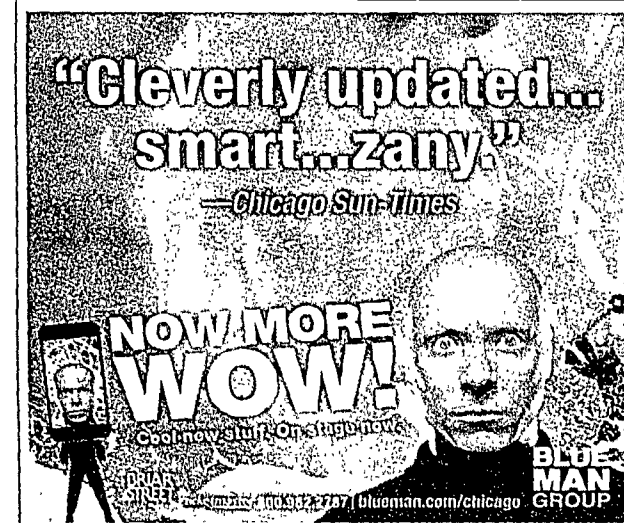
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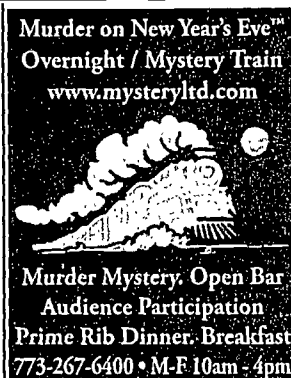
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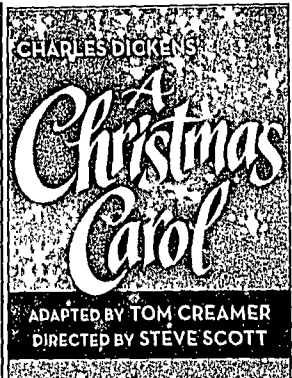
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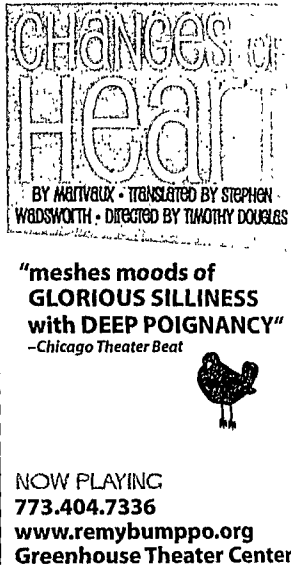
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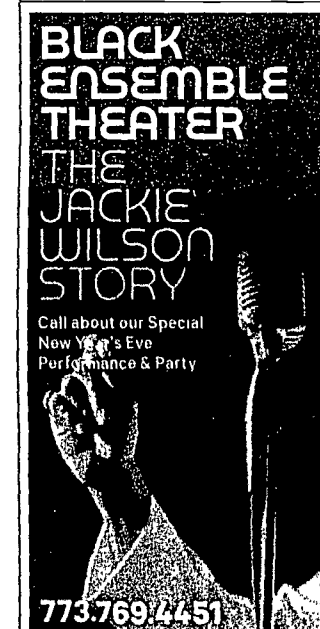
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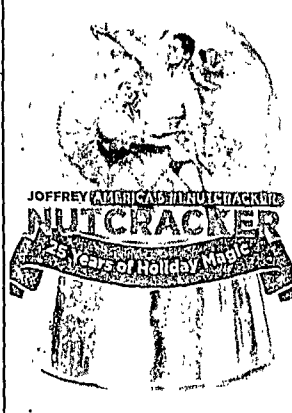
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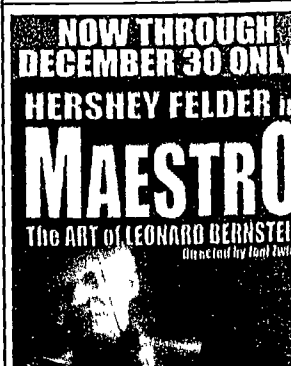
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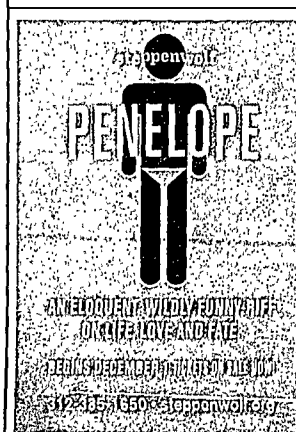
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**BY REX ROY**  
For Sun-Times Media

In 2001, Mercedes-Benz offered a huge panoramic sunroof on its M-Class SUV for \$2,450. With an option run rate of just 3 percent, the sunroof was a one-year option. Consumer tastes have opened up. Ford recently reported that 48 percent of customers are ordering 2012 Explorers with the Vista Roof multipanel sunroof. Order rates are 56 percent for the Ford Edge. When the Edge debuted in 2007, the Vista Roof found its way into only 40 percent of units. Three suppliers provide glass roofs for Ford. Webasto Roof Systems and Inalfa Roof Systems provide units for the Explorer, Edge, Flex, Lincoln MKT and Lincoln MKX. Pittsburgh Glass Works LLC supplies the Mustang's full-length glass roof. Prices vary for panoramic glass roof options. The Vista Roof retails for \$1,595 on Explorer and Edge Limited models as a stand-alone option. It must be equipped with an option group on lower trim levels. Webasto's Dan Prekup explained, "The increased strength of today's vehicle body structure helps make these bigger roofs possible while maintaining safety levels. Construction techniques and materials factor in, too." Webasto manufactures the Vista Roof for the Edge and MKX. "An even bigger factor is that manufacturers like Ford are bringing suppliers into the design phase earlier in the process so that the product can be integrated into platforms from the earliest design stages," Prekup said. On the SRX, Cadillac has made the Ultra-View roof standard on all but the base model. The glass section replaces 70 percent of the steel roof. Robyn Henderson of Cadillac Communications said, "The UltraView is such a strong selling feature. Adding it to all collections makes ordering more simple for customers and dealers." The Buick Enclave SUV and LaCrosse offer panoramic roofs that so far this year make up 55 percent and 47 percent of sales, respectively. Buick charges \$1,400 for the dual-pane option on the Enclave and \$1,195 for the LaCrosse roof. According to J.D. Power, traditional sunroofs are a longtime staple of luxury and near-luxury class vehicles with fitment rates trending more than 80 percent since the early 2000s. In addition to adding dollars to a vehicle's Monroney label, glass adds weight because it weighs more than steel. However, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, glass roofs don't necessarily compromise vehicle safety. The Cadillac SRX has a four-star rollover rating and it is an IIHS Top Safety Pick that includes a good rating for roof strength. Kia uses a large glass roof on the Optima in part to help differentiate the vehicle from its sister vehicle, the Hyundai Sonata. Look for rail-to-rail panoramic roofs to become a signature feature on future Lincolns.

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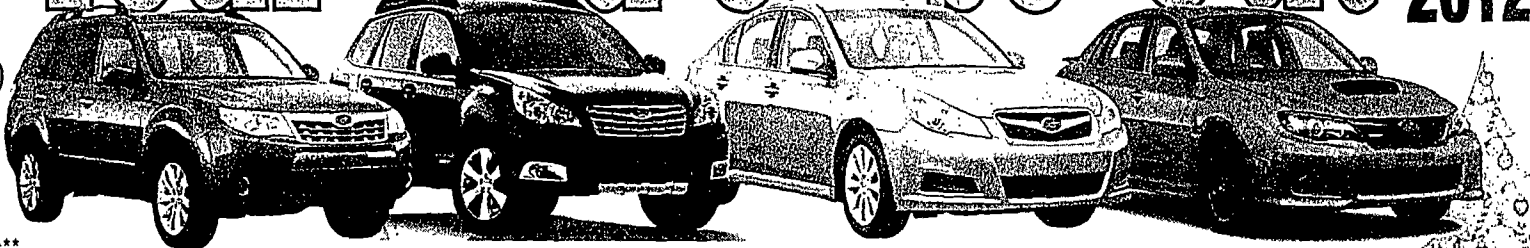


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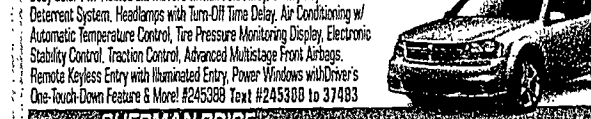
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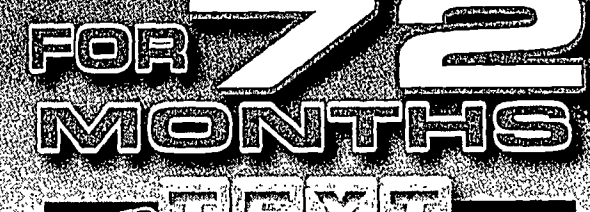


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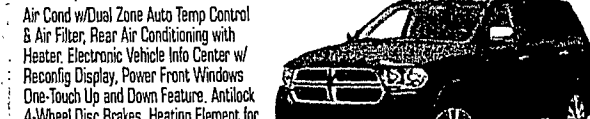
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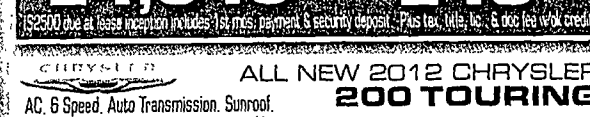
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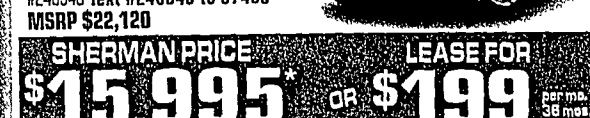
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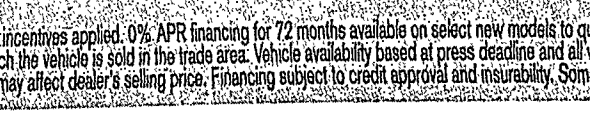
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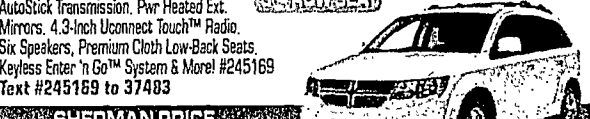
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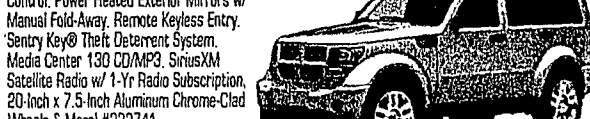
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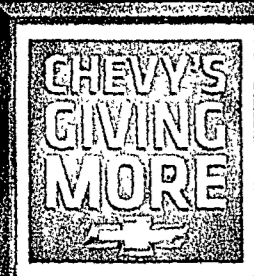
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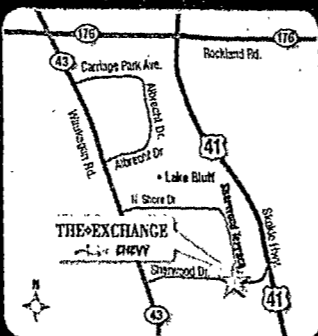
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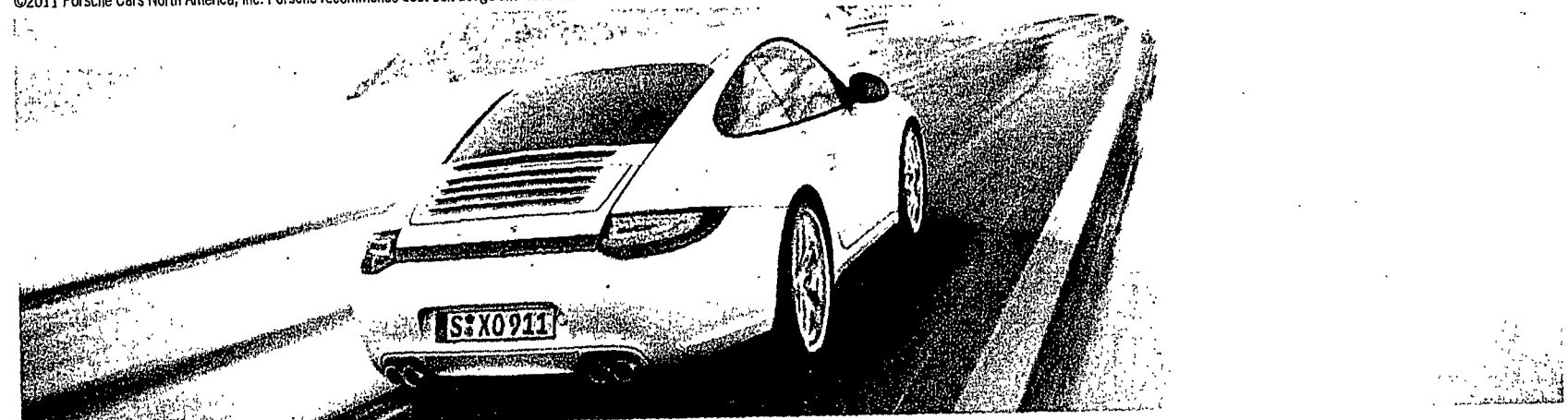
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## Evanston actor taps into spirit of 'Christmas Carol'

BY STEPHANIE FOSNIGHT REGENER  
Contributor

Since Charles Dickens published his novella "A Christmas Carol" in 1843, 167 Christmases have come and gone — soon to be 168. The story has never been out of print and, for last 34 of those years, you've been able to see it onstage at the Goodman Theatre.

It's no different in 2011, with nine shows a week of the blockbuster production featuring a large cast, musicians and songs, elaborate sets and special effects. Over the years, more than a million people have experienced Goodman's "A Christmas Carol," which has hosted six directors, eight Scrooges, 30 Tiny Tims and nearly 20,000 "Bah Humbugs!"

"Every year I say, 'It's so important this year,'" said Evanston actor Karen Woditsch, who's currently playing Mrs. Cratchit for the fourth time.

But what relevance does the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's personal resurrection have for Americans who continue to live amidst economic uncertainty, protests and political bickering?

**Good fit**  
"This year the news about the haves and the have-nots seems to be front and center," Woditsch said. "Redemption is always good to think about at the end of every year."

On Scrooge's journey through time and space, he sees his world of Victorian London's haves and have-nots — winners and losers of the Industrial Revolution — in a new way, one that challenges the traditional idea of what brings happiness.

"You expect if you have a load of money then you're happy, and if you're poor you're unhappy," Woditsch said. "But the Cratchits prove that loving each other, recognizing the joy and light around you, makes for a better life."

"A Christmas Carol" is such a powerful tale of redemption because it shows the contrast not just between



Evanston actor Karen Woditsch plays Mrs. Cratchit in "A Christmas Carol" at Goodman Theatre. (PHOTO BY ERIC Y. EXIT)

a much brighter quality, in contrast," she said.

Enjoy Gavino, who recently moved to the North Side of Chicago from Evanston, is making her "Christmas Carol" debut at the Goodman as the Cratchits' eldest daughter Martha, although she's been in other productions of the play. One thing the Goodman show does especially well, she said, is to represent the vast difference between Scrooge and the Cratchits' world.

"It's a grand production, so it makes the contrast between the rich, glamorous life and the poor scenes very well," Gavino said.

### Charitable aims

Dickens himself was moved by the plight between England's rich and burgeoning poor, and wrote "A Christmas Carol," in part so that there would be a Christmas story for all classes, especially child laborers. His lush descriptions of a merry holiday filled with family, friends and good cheer, alongside its strong theme of charity to the poor, was instantly popular, and quickly helped to define the Victorian Christmas.

Acting in the annual Goodman production has become a personal holiday tradition for Woditsch, as this is her fourth Goodman "Christmas Carol" season since 2006, but she said she feels a greater sense of gratitude while performing in the show this year, perhaps because of the uncertain times.

"As an actor it's very difficult to know when the next job is going to come. It makes you appreciate what you have even more, because you don't know if it's going to happen again anytime soon," she said. Perhaps it's just the Cratchit goodness rubbing off on the actors, but Gavino agrees.

"Of course, with the recession, the Bob Cratchits of 2011 have to work for the Scrooges because they have no other option," Gavino said. "It makes me grateful to be working, grateful to be in good conditions, both working and living, and just grateful to be around good people."

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the rich and the poor, but also between the darkness of Scrooge's miserly life and the brightness of the loving Cratchit family.

Director Steve Scott, who last masterminded the production in 1992, emphasizes the contrasts of the script, from Scrooge's terrifying encounters with the ghosts to the boisterous fun his nephew Fred has at his little Christmas party, Woditsch said. Scott's direction has also helped her find unexpected depths in the Mrs. Cratchit character she knows so well.

"In the Cratchit scenes, I am angrier at Scrooge than I have been in previous years and then more joyful when Bob Cratchit steers me in a happier direction. There is a darker quality that brings out

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Carlos and Debbie Nieto, with Chef Rimero Velasquez

## Auld Lang Syne at Carlos'

30-year-old restaurant takes final bow New Year's Eve

BY VERONICA HINKE  
Contributor

Times gone by. Their New Year's Eve "Last Hurray" dinner will close the era of opulence Carlos and Debbie Nieto have provided in Highland Park for 30 years. Known for its enduring tribute to classic French cuisine and fine dining, Carlos' Restaurant closes on Dec. 31.

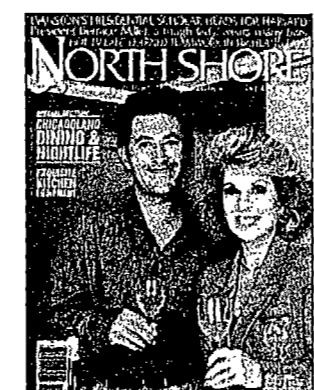
The closing will make way for a more casual restaurant they will open in the same location under their reputable name, Nieto's. Feb. 1 is the opening date targeted.

"I want to keep Carlos' torch burning. We're not closing, we're just changing the concept," said Carlos' Chef Rimero Velasquez. At Nieto's, Velasquez will maintain signature recipes like Lobster and Escargot Gratin with Saffron Cream Sauce.

"For many, the main ingredients won't be changing: they are the individuals running the restaurant. "The best recipe at Carlos' Restaurant, the one that truly

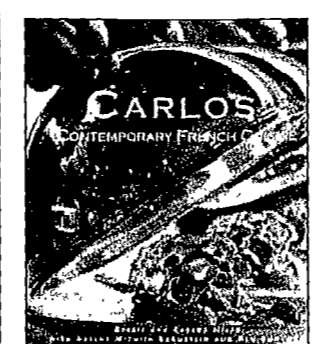


The interior of Carlos'



Carlos and Debbie Nieto on the cover of North Shore Magazine in 1989.

makes everything amazing there, is Carlos and Debbie," said Bob Macko. Carlos' Restaurant catered Edible Flower and Salmon



The Carlos cookbook

Carpaccio appetizers and beef tenderloin for Macko's 40th birthday dinner party at his home in Highland Park, where he lived until 2006. Carlos served guests; Debbie distributed party favors of assorted baked items, including her mandel brot.

### Keeping cool

"Debbie goes with the flow," Macko said. "One night she spilled red wine on her white Chanel suit. She wrapped a white table cloth around her and carried on, working throughout the evening, unaffected. We just kind of fixed her up and life went on. All I do is laugh when I am at Carlos'."

Gabriel Viti, chef and owner at Gabriel's Restaurant in Highwood, remembers the two years he ran Carlos' kitchen, 1989-1991, as among his happiest. He lived within walking distance of the restaurant, and it was around the time of the birth of his son, Gabriel. "A guy would come into the kitchen and sample appetizers. I would get so mad. One night, I stuffed wontons with extremely hot peppers." That put an end to the unwanted snacking.

Debbie and Carlos opened Carlos' Restaurant on Nov. 11, 1981.

She was a paramedic and lab technician; he had worked as a silversmith in Mexico City before mi-

grating to Illinois where he worked in restaurants. Debbie has been hands-on from the start. "I told Carlos I would help, and I'm still there, still helping," she said.

Her mother donated four sets of her china to support their dream. Debbie knew the dishes well, patterns of birds, mushrooms and flowers. She grew up with them in Highland Park. The china remained unused for 10 years. "I told Carlos my mother's china was too good to use in the restaurant," she recalled. But when her mother died at 65, Debbie began using the china in the restaurant.

She put to use pieces like Carlos' Beluga caviar bowls, and soft spoons, fish knives and other utensils that require her frequent tutorials on their usage. There are flamboyant silver domes for covering platters of food like Blood Orange Glazed Muscovy Duck Breast or Duck Trap Farm Smoked Trout. Debbie will miss the fine china.

The china and other warm touches will be missed by guests, as well.

Dorothy Parrott-Hughes,

a Kenilworth resident, hosted a 40th birthday party for her husband, Jim Hughes, in the library at Carlos'. "I wanted it to be in an intimate space," she remembered. "Carlos and I had everybody singing. It was truly the spirit of Carlos' Restaurant."

### Final feast

Debbie and Carlos will host "The Carlos' Last Hurray Wine Dinner" on Tuesday, Dec. 27. Wines will be paired with courses like Seafood Puff Pastry Empanada with Saffron Lobster Cream Sauce, Duck Leg Confit with Mushroom Fricassee. It will end with the restaurant's signature Symphony of Desserts.

"They usually have a crème brûlée, a flourless chocolate cake and something seasonal like a pumpkin spice cake," said Charlene Tatosian. She and her husband celebrate their wedding anniversary at Carlos' and attend Carlos' annual Christmas lunches, wine dinners and Passover Seder dinners, during which chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil are awarded to the child



Chef Gabriel Viti (center), with Carlos and Debbie Nieto in earlier days at Carlos'.

who finds a hidden piece of matzo.


Such traditions will continue at Nieto's, but the Passover Seder dinner service may close differently. Rabbi Susan Warshell of

Highland Park has led the service at Carlos' for the past 13 years. She also makes the matzo balls for the soup. Warshell traditionally concludes the annual service with:

"Next year, in Jerusalem, and if not in Jerusalem, at Carlos'!"

From now on, she'll have to say: "Next year, in Jerusalem, and if not in Jerusalem, at Nieto's!"

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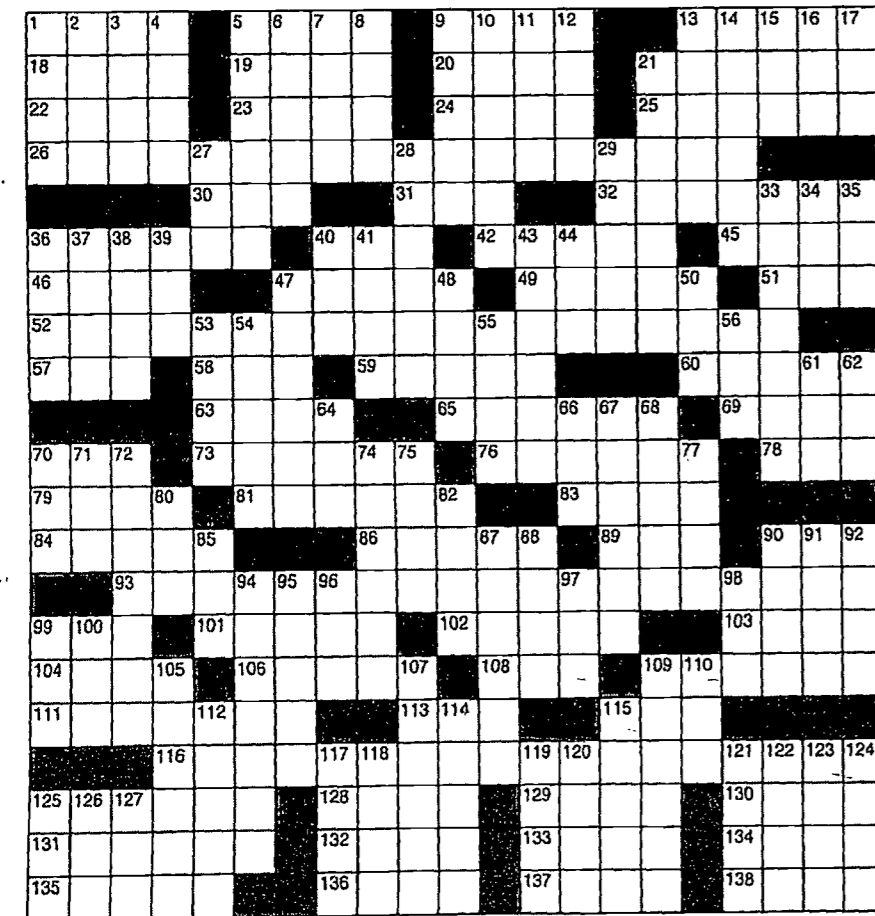
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| ACROSS | 1 Forum wear | 5 Wolf gang? | 9 Drive the getaway car | 13 Positive thinker | 18 Lipinski leap | 19 Deejay Freed | 20 Interoffice communique | 21 Hickman or Strawberry | 22 Canadian coin | 23 Ordinary | 24 "Trinity" author | 25 Kind of paint | 26 Start of a remark by Don Marquis | 30 Narcs' org. | 31 "Agnus—" sled | 32 Cinema | 36 Lineman's tool | 40 Seville shout | 42 Fenown | 45 Debut recording | 46 Atmosphere | 47 Discontinue | 49 Sharpens a skill | 51 Choose, with "for" | 52 Part 2 of remark | 57 Cartoon canine | 58 Part 3 of remark | 59 Delany and Wynter | 60 Time of your life | 63 Head line? | 65 Susann or Shake-... | 69 Entreaty | 70 Mrs. Eddie | 73 Prom date | 76 Gulliver's first name | 78 Portly | 79 Wattle's partner | 81 Speculation | 83 Conductor Klemperer | 84 Gold brick? | 86 Pageant prop | 89 Part 4 of remark | 90 Sixth sense | 93 Part 5 of remark | 99 Mellow | 101 Studio sign | 102 "Breath You Take" (83 smash) | 103 Computer image | 104 Man the bar | 106 Belarusian cly | 108 Cole cutie | 109 Bantered | 111 November 11th | 113 Silrup site | 115 Create a chemise | 116 End of remark | 125 Monastery bigwigs | 128 Tivoli's Villa d' | 129 Neighbor of Can. | 130 Concept | 131 He had things done by Friday | 132 — breve | 133 Unusual | 134 It's nothing | 135 Off the plate | 136 Basketball's prop | 137 Black | 138 Seth's son | DOWN | 1 Baja bite | 2 The yoke's on them | 3 Passed-on item | 4 Chofr member | 5 Whales | 6 Maul greeting | 7 Poltro's concern | 8 Handle rumber | 10 Wode-house's Wooster | 11 Send out | 12 Peter of reggae | 13 Dieter's discomfort | 14 Cleared the slate | 15 Cardigan part | 16 Pipe cleaner? | 17 Building wing | 21 Signifies | 27 HST's predecessor | 28 Crusader kingdom | 29 Persian, presently | 33 Early epic | 34 Flei | 35 Speck snake | 36 Talk-show pioneer | 37 Mechanic's offering | 38 Pressing need | 39 — de Cologne | 40 Above, to Arnold | 41 Installed tile | 43 Unsullied | 44 — Gatos, CA | 47 Basilica | 48 Italian rumber | 50 Diffident | 53 Kind | 54 Use a toboggan | 55 Handle harshly | 56 "Alley —" | 61 Indian export | 62 Toque or topee | 64 Piggy | 66 Medical grp. | 67 Uproar | 68 Price twice | 70 Infamous Amin | 71 Singer | 72 Enhance | 74 Generator parts | 75 Stumble | 77 Isolated | 80 Tropical snake | 82 Connecticut campus | 85 Spinks stat | 87 Go back | 88 — Good Men' ('92 film) | 90 Decorate glass | 91 Oxford, e.g. | 92 Await judgment | 94 As a group | 95 Canvas cover? | 96 Nuremberg numeral | 97 Cinnabar, for instance | 98 — the season ... | 99 Wilderness trans. | 100 "Holy smokes!" | 105 Unseat | 107 Poi | 109 Dairy cow | 110 Be | 112 Boca —, FL | 114 Winning | 115 Burning bit | 117 Have on | 118 Presque —, ME | 119 Mata — | 120 Dash | 121 — up (evaluate) | 122 Actress Barbara Wolfe | 123 Sleuth | 124 New Mexico resort | 125 Parker of football | 126 It may be padded | 127 Except |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|------|-------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|---------|---------------|--------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------|



Answers: Inside today's classified section

## HOROSCOPES

For the week of December 28 — January 3

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** The New Year brings challenges that can change many things in your life. You need to be prepared not only to confront them, but also to deal with what happens afterward.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** You have what it takes to set your goals quite a bit higher this year. Learn what you need to know and put what you learn into your efforts. A partner offers loving support.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** In true Gemini Twin fashion, you're conflicted about a decision you know you'll have to make in this New Year. Best advice: Get the facts before you make any commitment.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** A friend offers you an exciting opportunity for the New Year. Although your positive aspects are strong in most respects, caution is advised. Investigate before you invest.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** You can make this New Year a roaring success. Start by readjusting your goals to reflect the changes in the economy. Your den-mate offers both wise and loving support.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** The New Year brings new opportunities for change. But you need to be ready to move from the comfortable status quo to the challenging unknown. It's up to you.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Your most important New Year's resolution should be to work out problems with a family member in order to avoid continued misunderstandings. Do it soon, for both of your sakes.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** The New Year has much to offer the intensely determined Scorpion, who isn't afraid to take on challenges and stay with them until they surrender their rewards.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** You'll have many fine opportunities in this New Year. But be warned: Reject offers of "help." You work best when you're free to be your own creative self.

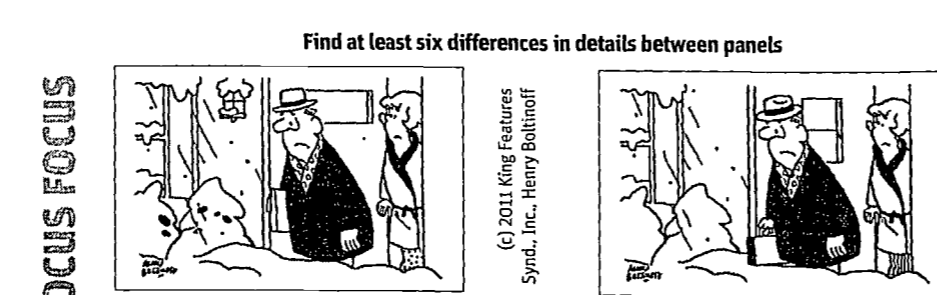
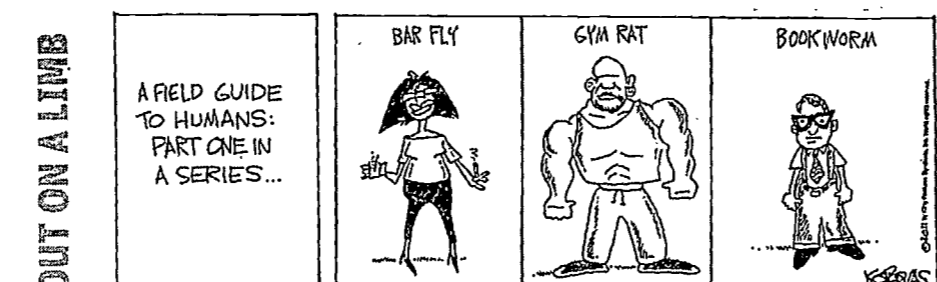
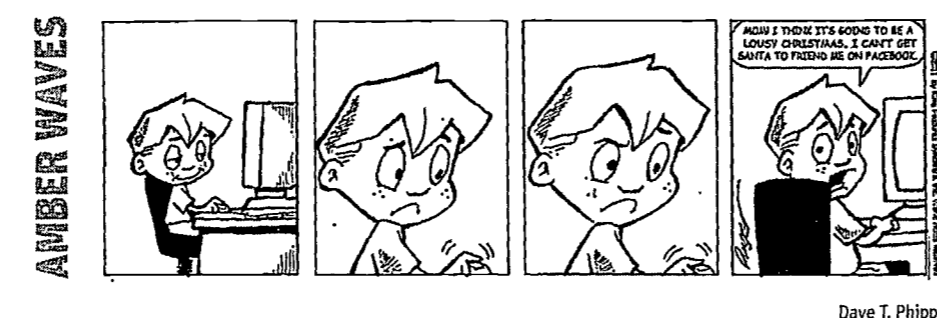
**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** The New Year offers changes that you might feel you're not quite ready for. Best advice: Deal with them one step at a time, until you've built up your self-confidence.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Travel is a dominant aspect of the New Year. This could mean relocating to another city (or even another country) in connection with your education or your career.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** This New Year brings news about a change you've been anticipating. You might have a problem persuading a loved one about your new plans, but he or she will soon go along with them.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a gift for making people feel safe and protected. You would make an excellent youth counselor.

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Differences: 1. Nightgown is striped. 2. Hat is different. 3. Spots on bushes are gone. 4. Light is missing. 5. Window is different. 6. Briefcase is different.

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Death Notices

**Fisher, Robert**  
Mr. Fisher, 91, passed away after a brief illness surrounded by family on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. Memorial services in celebration of his life will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at Bermuda Village in Advance, NC at 4:00 PM. Inurnment will be held on Friday, December 16, 2011 at All Saints Episcopal Church Columbarium in Hilton Head, SC.  
He was born January 3, 1920 in Sayre, PA. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in passing by his first wife of 45 years, Susan Fisher.  
Mr. Fisher attended Penn State University. He served as a Major in the Air Force flying B 25 Mitchell bombers during WW2. After leaving the Air Force, he started his career as a pilot for Continental Airlines. Mr. Fisher retired as Director of Marketing for United States Gypsum Company in 1981.  
Survivors include his wife, Jean Fisher of Advance, NC; daughters, Betsy Smentek (Paul) of Nashua, NH, Barbara Fisher of Charlotte, NC; grandchildren, Corey Smentek of Brookline, MA, Andrew Smentek of Nashua, NH and Doni Fisher of Charlotte, NC.  
Memorial Gifts may be made to, Presbyterian Hospice and Palliative Care, 324 N. McDowell St., Charlotte, NC 28207 or to the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 183 Fork-Bixby Rd., Advance, NC 27006.  
Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Funeral Home, Weddington Chapel. An online guestbook is available at www.heritagefuneral.net.  
Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

**Graf M.D., Carl N.**  
Carl N. Graf, M.D., 100, of Glenview, beloved husband of Ruby; dear father of Carl N. Jr. (Kathleen) and Sharon (Robert) Pusateri; loving grandfather of Jennifer Hendrickson, Katherine Werthman, Daniel Gac and Carl N. Graf III; cherished great grandfather of Dominic, Emily, Brooke, Andrew and Trevor; fond brother of the late John and Robert Graf and Ellen Hartman.  
Memorial visitation Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 2328 Central Rd. Glenview, IL 60025. Memorial service at 10:30 a.m. After serving as an Air Force Flight surgeon in WW 2, he opened a medical practice in Morton Grove which he operated until 1996. In lieu of flowers, donations to Shriners Children Hospital 2211 N. Oak Park Ave. Chicago, IL 60707 appreciated. Sign online guestbook at www.simkinsfh.com 847-965-2500.

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

**Turk, Marian**  
(nee Wiltgen), age 88, at rest December 13, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Frank J., Jr., loving mother of Joseph (Lucia) Turk, Kathleen Turk, Diane Kiolbasa, Maryrose (Timothy) Henebry, Frances Turk, Janet (Paul) Trudeau and Laura (William) LaVanne; loving grandmother of Lizeth Turk, Charlie Kiolbasa, Beth (Eric) Willis, Casey (Natalie) Henebry, Tyler (Blair) Henebry, Colette and Frank Trudeau, Katie (Paul) LaSusa, Scotty and John and David LaVanne; loving great-grandmother of Louis and Vivian LaSusa, loving sister of the late Robert Wiltgen, Rosemary Cordes and Virginia Lamich. Lifelong resident of Park Ridge, IL, lifelong member of St. Paul of the Cross Parish.  
Memorial mass December 29, 2011 at 10:30 AM with visitation immediately prior at 9:30 AM at St. Paul of the Cross, 320 S Washington Street, Park Ridge, IL 60068. In Lieu of flowers, donations to Lymphoma Research Foundation, 115 Broadway, Suite 1301, New York, New York 10006. Arrangement entrusted to the Cremation Society of Illinois.  
Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

In Memoriam

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- 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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## Minimize Costs by Reducing Time to Hire

By: John Rossheim, Monster Senior Contributing Writer

It's a hallmark of the dysfunctional organization: A requisition is opened for a new line-manager position, but it takes 4 months to make a hire. By which time thousands of dollars have been spent on misguided recruitment efforts, six figures of revenue have been lost, and the HR department and the hiring manager are barely speaking to each other.

Make no mistake about it: a prolonged time-to-hire means opportunities lost and resources wasted. How can your company reduce time-to-hire while containing recruitment costs and minimizing the expense of a critical position going vacant? Here are some of the best ideas we've heard.

### Get Active Consensus on the Job Profile

First things first: Get everyone to agree on what the job is. "Few companies have taken the time to write the profile and discriminate between what's desired and what's required," says Lee Salz, president of Sales Architects in Minneapolis. Even the nature of the core responsibilities of an open position can become an issue in today's organizational culture.

### Help Recruiters Source Qualified Candidates

If you want to hire in the shortest reasonable interval, don't doom your recruiters' initial efforts by expecting them to read your mind. "Managers are used to calling internal recruiters and saying, 'Hey, find me some great people,' with no further input," says Salz. "You have to give recruiters the tools they need to be successful in filling the position." If you don't, you'll waste time screening and interviewing candidates who shouldn't have made the first cut.

### Screen Applications in Bulk

It's tempting to manage the burden of screening hundreds of resumes and cover letters by dividing it into small batches that can be tackled as minor to-dos in 15-minute increments. But no matter how good a multi-tasker you are, you'll be more effective if you schedule an hour or more to wrap your brain around a complex field of applicants and get the job done in just a few days. Make resume screening an intensive, short-duration effort and you'll be able to reduce your time-to-hire by weeks.



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### Streamline High-Volume Phone Interviews

"When you conduct the phone interview, ask the questions in order of importance," says Tina Hamilton, president of HireVision Group in Whitehall, Pa. "You can end the call when it's apparent that the candidate doesn't qualify. Some calls will last just minutes, and few will last an hour."

### Get Managers Comfortable with Interviewing

For most people, putting interviewees on the spot – even for good reason – doesn't come naturally. "Managers need to be trained in behavioral interviewing," says Roberta Matuson, president of Human Resource Solutions in Northampton, Mass. "Often managers will put off interviews because they are uncomfortable conducting them. Great candidates are lost, recruitment dollars are wasted," and time to hire goes up.

### Consolidate First-Round Interviews

Consider introducing group dynamics – and economies of scale – to your initial interviews. "We interview between 6 and 10 candidates for a single position," says Cathy Chin, an HR manager for I Love Rewards in Toronto, Canada. "It's a great way to screen prospective employees for fit as you are building your corporate culture, and it lets you see how they interact."

### Consolidate Individual Interviews

Even when you've selected candidates for serious consideration, the interviewing process can stretch out by a month or more if you let it. "If you have to interview five people, try to get them to come in on the same day," says Jeff Whittenberg, a recruiter with Kaye Bassman International in Plano, Texas. "That can make it a one-day process instead of five weeks." Wouldn't you like to fill that revenue-producing sales job sooner rather than later?

### Wrap Up Recruitment Promptly

Buck up: Choosing the candidate to receive an offer is often a difficult and complex decision. But "sleeping on it" only makes the decision more tortured, as interviewers' impressions of the finalists begin to blur. Within a day of concluding interviews, summon the decision-makers to an end-of-day meeting and promise each other not to adjourn until you've agreed on the winner.

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**CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19**

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](http://www.swancc.org).

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, (847) 967-4800, [www.ilholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org). Museum admission prices: General Admission, \$12; seniors (65+), \$8; students (ages 12-22), \$8; children (ages 5-11), \$6. — **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.

**Jan. 8, 1:30-3:30 p.m.:** Film and discussion — "Forgiving Dr. Mengele" documentary relates how deadly medical experiments conducted in Auschwitz still affect survivor Eva Kor. A discussion with Bob Hercules, the film's director, follows the screening. Free with museum admission; reservations re-

quired; (847) 967-4889. **Jan. 15, 12:30-3 p.m.:** Reader's Theatre — "Judgment at Nuremberg," a full dramatic reading will be performed by the original cast of Shattered Globe Theatre's award-winning 2003 production of the classic courtroom drama. Discussion follows with eyewitness Peter Less, one of the interpreters at the Nuremberg Trials. Tickets are \$14, general (includes museum admission); \$6 (museum members); reservations required; purchase online, <https://tickets.ilholocaustmuseum.org/public/> or call (847) 967-4889.

**Jan. 26, 6:30-8 p.m.:** Special program — Memorialization and Memory in Recognition of the International Day of Holocaust Remembrance. The museum presents two leaders in the field of memorialization, James Young and Cliff Chamin. Young, a professor of English and Judaic Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, served as a World Trade Center Site Memorial jury member. Chamin, the curator of the Illinois Holocaust Museum's Legacy

of Absence galleries, is 9/11 Memorial Museum Education Director Free with museum admission Reservations required; (847) 967-4889.

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.

**Donations**  
The Polish National Alliance, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Polish Women's Alliance, the Polish Falcons of America, along with the affiliates of the PNA, the Polish Daily News (Dziennik Zwiazkowy), WPNA 1490 AM

Radio, and both PNA Bank locations, are joining in the support of the "Cell Phone for Soldiers" program. The donated phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone, enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad with prepaid calling cards. Local residents can support the collection drive by donating their phones at the following locations: Polish National Alliance, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, (800) 621-3723; Polish Roman Catholic Union, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, (800) 772-8632; Polish Women's Alliance, 6643 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago, (888) 522-1898; Polish Daily News, 5711 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, (773) 763-3343; PNA Bank, 7840 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, (847) 966-7900. Donations are accepted until March 1, 2012 during regular office hours.

**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 Town-

ship 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 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.  
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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23



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BY BETH ENGELMAN  
Mommy on a Shoestring

# 'Staycation' adventures

Turn winter break into an adventure with these off-the-beaten-path activities that are guaranteed to make time fly.

## Hidden gems

Mom of two, Elisa Kronish Drake believes you don't need to travel far to give your kids new opportunities and experiences. "The city and suburbs are filled with hidden gems," says Drake, author of *Day Trips from Chicago* (GPP Travel 2011) and the soon-to-be released *Insider's Guide to Chicago* (GPP Travel 2012). One such gem is the **Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration**, which is part of the Swedish American Museum in Chicago ([www.swedishamericanmuseum.org](http://www.swedishamericanmuseum.org)).

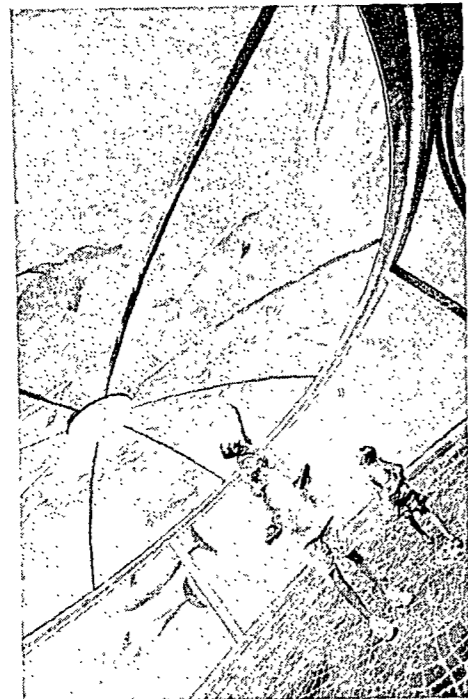
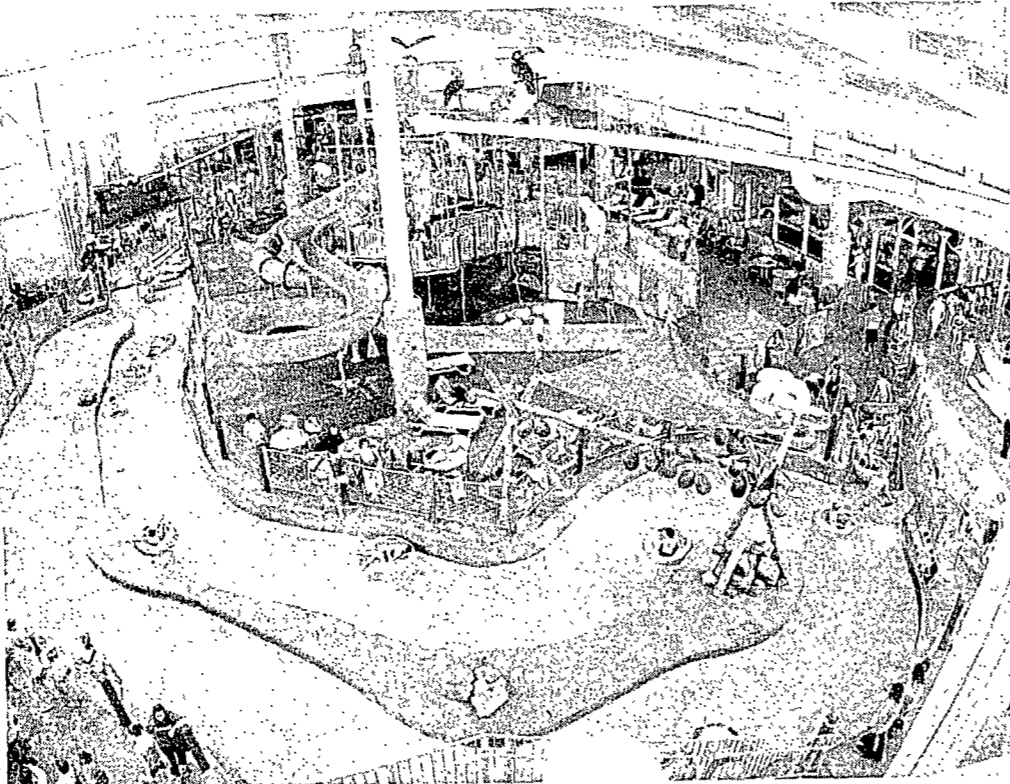
This interactive museum showcases Swedish American history with dynamic exhibits and kid friendly activities. Be sure to mark your calendars for their special Pippi Longstocking and Viking-themed breakfasts, which will take place later in 2012.

Drake is also a big fan of the **Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Visitor Center** ([www.jolietmuseum.org](http://www.jolietmuseum.org)). Visiting this museum is like going back in time as families can "drive through" Route 66 or land on the moon. (Did you know Joliet has a special connection to Apollo 11?) Currently the museum is featuring a holiday toy exhibit that features popular toys from yesteryear.

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**RIGHT** The indoor **Water Theme Park at CoCo Key Water Resort in Rockford** is just one of the family friendly destinations that Elisa Drake discussed with Beth Engelman for *Mommy on a Shoestring*. | CLOCK TOWER RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER/COCO KEY WATER RESORT

**BELOW** The **Underwater Viewing Dome at the Indy Zoo** is one of many family fun attractions in Indianapolis including **The Children's Museum of Indianapolis** and **the Rhythm! Discovery Center**. | INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION AND VISITORS ASSOCIATIONS/VISIT INDY



## Easy overnights

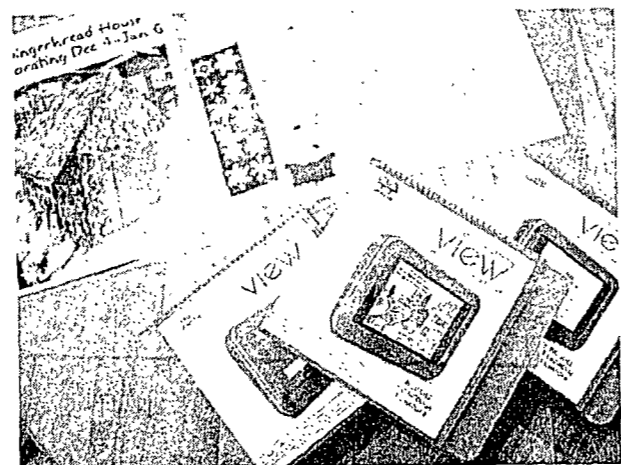
Who needs Florida when you have Rockford? This mid-sized city is home to the **Discovery Center Museum**, the **Burpee Museum of Natural History** and the **Rockford Icehogs** hockey team. While in Rockford you can also visit the **CoCo Key Water Resort** where your kids can frolic and play in the indoor water theme park. Another bonus? If you stay at the adjacent **Best Western**, you can get tickets to the park at a discount. As for dining, Drake recommends checking out **Lino's** for old school Italian food (and free ice cream for kids) or the **Stockholm Inn** for really good Swedish-style food. For more information about Rockford visit [www.gorockford.com](http://www.gorockford.com).

Another fabulous family friendly destination is Indianapolis. During the holidays the city is hosting a number of activities including Santa sightings, light shows and carolers. The city is also home to a fantastic **children's museum**, which is offering free admission on Christmas Eve from 10-2. Love dolphins? Then you'll love the **Indy Zoo**, which boasts the world's only underwater dolphin viewing dome. Be sure to check out the **Rhythm! Discovery Center** where kids can bang on drums and learn about instruments from other cultures (bring earplugs). For more information about Indianapolis visit [www.aroundindy.com](http://www.aroundindy.com).

## Best bargain

Short on time and money? Then I have the perfect place for you. Here, you can get free books, movies, museum passes, video games and more. Where's this wondrous place? Your local library. Besides being the best place to go for retail therapy, your local library is rich with boredom busting activities for kids and adults. I recently sat down with Sasha Vasilic and Shelley Sutherland of the **Niles Public Library** to discuss the resources and programs their library (as well as many other libraries) offer. These programs include drop-in story-times, movie screenings, workshops and reading incentive plans. In addition, Macy's has teamed up with local libraries to offer free passes to select museums around the area including the Brookfield Zoo and Chicago Botanic Gardens. For more information about this exciting program visit [www.museumadventure.org](http://www.museumadventure.org) and be sure to visit [www.pioneerlocal.com/mommy](http://www.pioneerlocal.com/mommy) to learn about other happenings that are likely taking place at a library near you.

The **Playaway View** is just one of many resources available at the **Niles Public Library**. | DAN LUEDERT-SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Have an idea for a great family fun adventure? We'd love to hear from you!

E-mail Beth at [Beth@engelmannriggs.com](mailto:Beth@engelmannriggs.com) or visit the Mommy on a Shoestring Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Mommy-on-a-Shoestring/118794533304](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mommy-on-a-Shoestring/118794533304).

Your idea might be featured in a future column.

## CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad with prepaid calling cards. Local residents can support the collection drive by donating their phones at the following locations: Polish National Alliance, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, (800) 621-3723; Polish Roman Catholic Union, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, (800) 772-8632; Polish Women's Alliance, 6643 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago, (888) 522-1898; Polish Daily News, 5711 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, (773) 763-3343; PNA Bank, 7840 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, (847) 966-7900. Donations are accepted until March 1, 2012 during regular office hours.

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## Fundraisers

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Like **New Auto Spa, Inc.**, 1050 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, has introduced a special fund-raising program that benefits **Advocate Lutheran General Hospital/Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital**. Anyone who visits Like New to have their car washed or detailed or buys a gift card from the company and also asks for the Lutheran General dis-

count 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](http://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.

## 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 community members with convenient, quality medical care including treatment for non-life-threatening illnesses such as: Cuts and burns, sprains and bruises, eye injuries, flu symptoms, sore throats, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, ear aches, respiratory and urinary tract infections. The center provides easy access to X-ray and laboratory services to assist in diagnosis and treatment of these and other ailments. In addition, the clinic provides international travel medical services including for those planning a trip out of the country. Office hours are 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays and Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call, 847-647-0355.

**Golf Mill Hearing Aid 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.

Senior Advocate of **Advocate Lutheran General Hospital** offers free blood-pressure screenings 10 a.m.-noon on the first Wednesday of every month at the hospital's **Patient Resource Center**, 8820 W. Dempster St., Niles (across from the hospital). No appointment is necessary. Call (847) 723-7277.

## Historical Society

The **Niles Historical 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.

## Library

**Niles Public Library**, 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at [www.nileslibrary.org](http://www.nileslibrary.org). Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

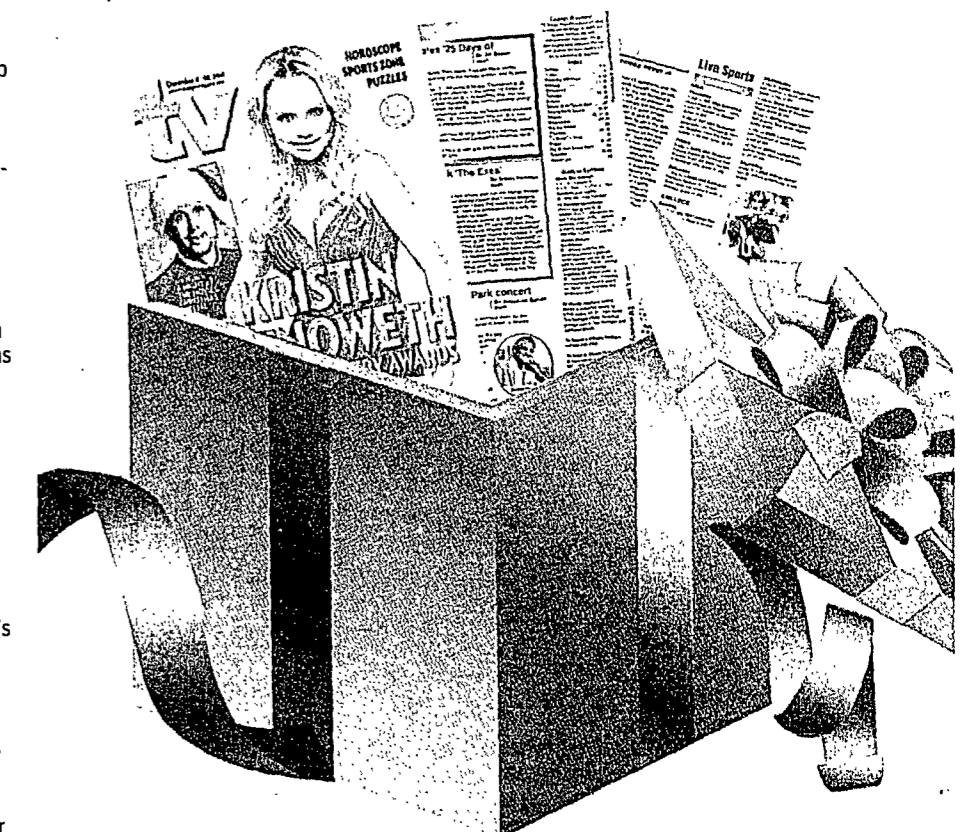
Creative individuals who love to write songs are invited to join the **Niles Public Library Songwriters' Group** from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 19, Feb. 16. All songwriters are invited to bring original songs to play live and get feedback from others in the group. This group is open to the newest songwriter, the seasoned professional or anyone interested in the songwriting process. Songwriters are asked to register by calling (847) 663-1234 or online at [nileslibrary.org/calendar](http://nileslibrary.org/calendar); for further questions, contact **Publicity & Graphic Design coordinator**, Sasha Vasilic, at (847) 663-6404.

For anyone who needs some help downloading eBooks, go to [www.nileslibrary.org/contactus](http://www.nileslibrary.org/contactus) and click on eBook Help or click on the **Overdrive Download** link on the homepage to find step-by-step instruction sheets for different eBook readers as well as how to get started on

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**CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23**

MyMediaMall. MyMediaMall titles are now available for the Amazon Kindle.

Help decorate the gingerbread house in Youth Services through Jan. 6.

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/](http://www.scorechicago.org/). If there are questions, call (312) 353-7724 or e-mail [info@scorechicago.org](mailto: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**  
Niles Park District New 3's Preschool is offered at Niles Park District for children who turned 3 after Sept. 1, 2011, meeting the deadline for the regular 3-year preschool. Classes are held from 12:30-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Howard Leisure Center. Session runs Jan. 10/12 to May 17. Call (847) 967-6633.

Niles Park District is offering private piano lessons (30-45 minutes) for beginning and intermediate students Wednesdays and Thursdays at Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Lessons will focus on the fundamentals of technique, music theory and good practice habits. Call (847) 967-6633 to reserve a lesson time.

**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](http://www.gmpd.org).

First- through third-grade Youth Basketball League — Introductory league for young participants to learn the skills of basketball. At Feldman Recreation Center. Fourth- to Sixth-Grade Basketball League — Games are on Fridays and/or Sundays at Feldman. Registration deadline Jan 21.

Winter Break Basketball Camp — Children ages 9-12 years can spend three mornings, 9 a.m. to noon, Dec. 26-28 or Session 2, Jan. 2-4, learning basketball skills. At Feldman.

Winter Break Baseball Camp — Children ages 7-14 can spend three afternoons, Dec. 26 to 28 or Session 2, Jan. 2-4, from 1-4 p.m. learning baseball skills. Feldman.

Family Movie Night — 7-9 p.m. Jan. 20 at Feldman. Free. Soda and popcorn will be sold.

Family Cosmic Bowl — Grab the family and sign up for an evening of bowling, pizza, music and games. Meet at Classic Bowl in Morton Grove. Jan. 14, 6-9 p.m.

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.

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 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/](http://www.paperretriever.com/).

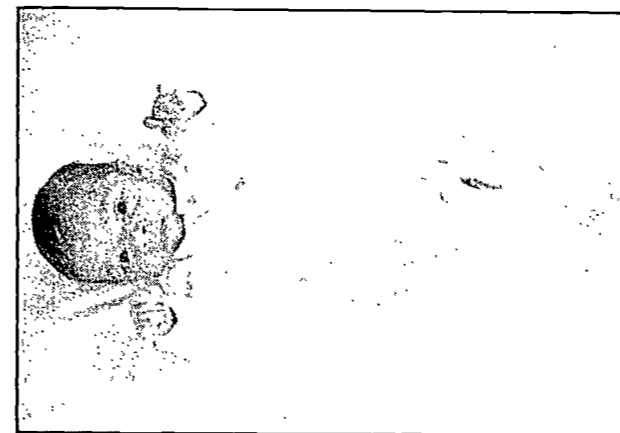
**Religion**

Beth Hillel Congregation

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 27

# Celebrations

**Josiah Patrick White**



Nicholas and Brenda White of Skokie are happy to announce the birth of their son. Josiah Patrick was born at 8:21 pm on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at Northshore UHS in Evanston. He weighed 6 pounds 9 ounces and measured 19 inches. He joins his brother Isaiah, 2. The paternal grandparents are Michael and Sharon White of Waukegan, IL. The maternal grandparents are Patrick and Clare Lobo of Lincolnwood, IL. The maternal great-grandmothers are Bastina Rodrigues of Melbourne, Australia and Agnes Lobo of Karachi, Pakistan.

**Hodgkinson — Priola Engagement**



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hodgkinson of Lake Bluff announce the engagement of their daughter, Jane Lyn, to Joseph Paul Priola, son of Phyllis and Joseph Priola of Lake Forest. The future bride is a graduate of DePauw University where she achieved All-American recognition as a volleyball player. She received her Master of Arts in Teaching and Master of Science in School Counseling from National-Louis University. She currently teaches at Lake Forest Country Day School. The future groom studied in Siena, Italy at the Università Per Stranieri and graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Italian Language. He is employed at Wisconsin Corporation as a sales executive. An August 2012 wedding is planned.

**Greve — Kruger Wedding**



Jeff and Susan Greve of Park Ridge, Illinois are proud to announce the marriage of their daughter, Larisa Greve, to Travis Kruger, son of Neil and Laurene Kruger of Grafton, Iowa. They were married on July 10, 2011 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge. The Maid of Honor was Shea Kruger, the groom's sister, and the Best Man was Eric Greve, the bride's brother. The bridesmaids were Katy Bratko, Melissa Hansen, Meghan McKelvey, Chelsea DeLong, Kelsey Lee, and Melissa Sechrist. The groomsmen were Daniel Henrich, Randy Mogk, Eric Johnson, James Juett. Larisa graduated from Maine South in 2006 and received a Bachelors in Chemistry and Math from Wartburg College in 2010. Travis received a Bachelors in Biology from Wartburg in 2010. The couple currently attend University of Michigan; respectively, Larisa, a student in Michigan's Ph.D. Pharmacology program, and Travis, a second year medical student at Michigan.

**To place your special occasion in the Celebration section, please send inquiries to [celebrates@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:celebrates@pioneerlocal.com)**

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## Root for gratins

### A classic side dish lightens up for the holidays

BY VERONICA HINKE  
Contributor

Potatoes won't be the only grungy vegetable dressed up in the casserole dish this holiday season. The tenacious tuber, the heart of traditional potato gratin (a luxury version of scalloped potatoes), will make room for an assortment of its earthy relatives at festive meals.

Rutabaga, turnips and celery root are just a few of the scruffy ingredients adding flavor, texture and variety to modern gratins.

"New gratin recipes are lighter and simple to make," said Yamandu Perez, owner/chef at Zak's Place in Hinsdale. "They literally take 15-20 minutes to prepare and about 45 to bake, and you have a great side for your holiday table."

Perez spruces up his rutabaga gratin with a few lightly resinous-tasting sprigs of rosemary. Roasted garlic adds another zippy flavor layer.

#### Lightening up

Less cream is used to make rutabaga gratin, because it is less starchy than potatoes. The difference is as flavorfully appealing as it is healthier. "You have to make sure you don't use too much cream," Perez explained. "Rutabaga doesn't absorb cream as well as potatoes."

And with less starch, his rutabaga gratin has a firmer texture without "that overly soft feel of potato gratin," Perez said.

On New Year's Eve, Zak's pairs rutabaga gratin with bone-in New York steak and caramelized leeks.

Flourless power is the key to lighter gratin recipes. By giving the boot to traditional, flour-based béchamel sauce, sides don't overwhelm the main course.

"Gratin is a supporting player; it's not the star," said Michael Lachowicz, chef/proprietor of Restaurant Michael in Winnetka.

Skipping the heavier

sauses also makes for a more balanced recipe. "Someone once told me a perfect gratin is an orchestration: If you have one ingredient that stands out, the dish has failed. There should be balance," Lachowicz said.

At his restaurant, which was expanded earlier this fall to include 40 more seats, Lachowicz makes gratins with hearty vegetables like turnips, cauliflower and celery root. "They're earthy, which means they lend themselves perfectly to the richness of cheeses and cream," he said.

He makes his celery root gratin with sweet potatoes to serve with lean meats like venison. "There is a synergy between lean meats such as venison and gratins, which are rich," Lachowicz explained.

To make the celery root gratin, he cuts both the celery root and the sweet potato into paper-thin slices and blanches them in lightly salted, heavily boiling water for just 30 seconds. He pats the slices dry with paper towels and layers the vegetable slices in a lightly buttered baking dish dusted with nutmeg.

#### Less is more

Doing that, Lachowicz said, "gives you the lovely perfume of nutmeg without the overwhelming quality nutmeg can have if you overuse it. If you withhold it, it has more impact."

He spreads out the vegetable slices in individual layers, separating each layer with cream, a sprinkling of brown sugar, salt and white pepper. "White pepper is much more delicate," he explained.

He tops the dish with a drizzle of cream and a little bit of brown sugar before pressing it all down a bit and baking it at 325 degrees. When a toothpick inserted meets no resistance, the gratin is ready to be removed from the oven and served.

A celery root gratin will be part of the New Year's Day brunch menu at Restaurant Michael.

Zak's Place in Hinsdale serves rutabaga gratin as a side for a double bone-in pork chop with a tamarind rosemary sauce and green beans.



A finished rutabaga gratin.

Zak's Place also serves a rutabaga dessert for the holidays. PHOTOS BY TAMARA BELL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA



At Zak's Place, Chef Pepe Martinez (left) and owner/Chef Yamandu Perez make a rutabaga gratin.

#### Rutabaga Gratin

(From Zak's Place)

- 1 large leek
- 3 large rutabagas
- 2 sprigs of rosemary
- 2 cloves garlic, roasted
- 1 cup grated Parmigiano cheese
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- Unsalted butter
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Clean and peel rutabagas; then slice approximately 1/8-inch thick, using Mandolin slicer.

Clean and slice leeks. Heat one tablespoon of butter in large skillet over medium heat. Once butter melts add leeks. Stir until caramelized. Lightly salt and pepper to taste.

Heat cream, rosemary and garlic in medium sauce pan. Let simmer in low heat for 15 minutes, stirring frequently. Strain cream with a fine mesh strainer. Discard waste.

Butter casserole pan using remaining butter on all sides and bottom.

Layer sliced rutabaga on bottom of dish, overlapping. Lightly top with caramelized leeks, cream and cheese. Repeat layers with remaining rutabaga, leeks, cream and cheese.

The cream should just about cover the top layer of rutabaga slices.

Top final layer with grated cheese and remaining leeks.

Bake uncovered for about 45 minutes or until the top is browned and the rutabaga can easily be pierced.

#### CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Bnai Emenah will feature a Menorah lighting at 5 p.m. Dec. 22 at the Serpent Play Area at Westfield Old Orchard Shopping Center in Skokie. The festivities will be led by Rabbi Allan Kensky along with Cantor Pavel Roytman and the BHCBE junior choir. Call (847) 256-1213.

The music ministry of St. Isaac Jogues Church, 8149 Golf Road, under the direction of Lisa Hall, will present a concert of holiday music at 3 p.m. Jan. 8. The adult choir, youth choir, teen choir and cantor ensemble will provide an entertaining afternoon of music and laughter. Free. Call (847) 967-1060.

Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, will feature a Chanukah Happening on Dec. 23 in the TJM Community Hall at 5:45 p.m. The event is open to TJM congregants, friends, and family. The cost is \$10 per adult (13 and over), \$5 per child, or \$25 per family. Bring your family chanukiah to light and one or two cans of tuna, spaghetti sauce, or veggies to donate to a just Harvest Soup Kitchen. Join in

the lighting of the chanukiah, singing, family games, homemade latkes, and fun. Ru'ach Shabbat service following dinner at 7:30 p.m. Call (847) 676-1566.

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 members 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 Fel-

lowship 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

The Roosevelt High School Athletic Fund is holding an

all-year reunion May 4 in the school cafeteria, 3436 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago. There will be a buffet dinner and musical entertainment. Cost is \$60 per person. Call Arnie Kamem, class of 1950, at (847) 432-2773; visit www.roosevelthschicago.org.

St. John Brebeuf is looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail lryder@sjbschool.org, and submit their name, year graduated, address, phone number, maiden name (if applicable) and e-mail address, and may share a story or tell how St. John Brebeuf made an impact on their life.

#### Maine Seniors

The Maine Township Main-Streamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the Main-Streamers 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 Main-Streamers, (847) 297-2510, or

go to www.mainetownship.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.

Registration is required for the following winter program sessions. There is no cost for members of the Niles Senior Center; nonmembers pay a \$12 fee for each group — Social Card Play of Billiards, Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m., 4:30 p.m.; Drop-in Art, Mondays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon; Sudoku Club, Mondays, 11 a.m. to noon; Choral Group, Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.; Social Mah-jongg, Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 1

p.m.; Social Bridge, Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m.; Line Dance, Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m.; Social Bunco, third Tuesday of the month, 1-3 p.m.; Computer Interest Group, every other Wednesday, 1:30-3 p.m.; All American, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon; Issues in the News, Thursdays, 9-11:30 a.m.; Social Mahjongg, Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Drop-in Ceramics, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; Drop-in Wood Carving, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; Social Scabble, Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon.

Celebrate 2012 with this first party of the new year from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 6. Lunch will feature a chicken kabob on a bed of rice, roll, veggie du jour and dessert plus a champagne toast. Enjoy the sultry sounds of Grete Pope and her band. Members pay \$13; nonmembers, \$19.50.

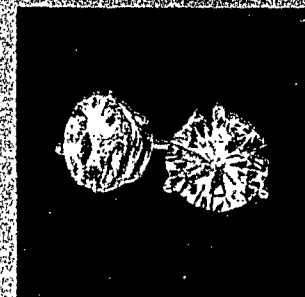
Hear the expressive music of the viola with Jim Kendros from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Jan. 4. Admission is \$5.50, members; \$8.25, nonmembers. Biography Film Series — "The Madness of a King," 2-4 p.m. Dec. 29: The dementia of King George III ignites a

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 30

## Jacqueline's Jewelers

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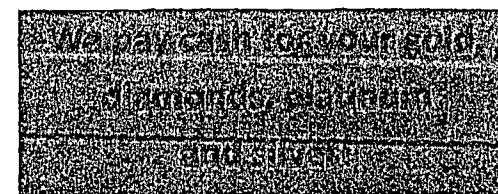
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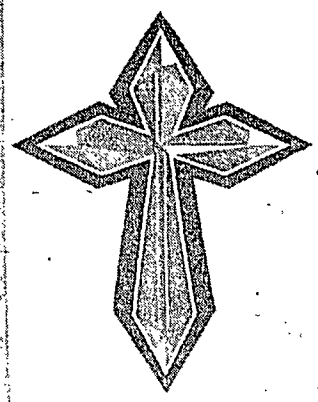
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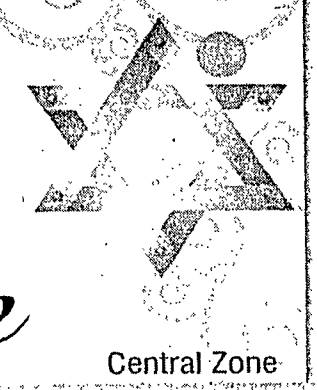


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# Your Local Worship Guide



Central Zone

### CHICAGO

**Edison Park Lutheran Church**  
 6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL  
 (Across park from Edison Park Metra)  
 773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com  
 Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m. Evensong,  
 Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Traditions  
 9:15 a.m. Spirit Bridge  
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary  
 Rev. Dr. Michael O. Sparby, Sr. Pastor  
 Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry  
 Matt Haider, 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.mgcppresbyterian.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

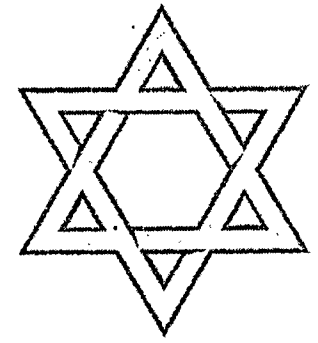
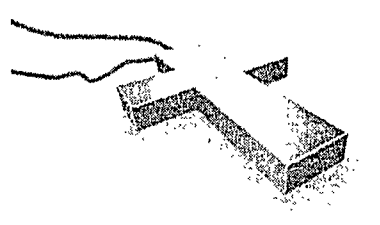
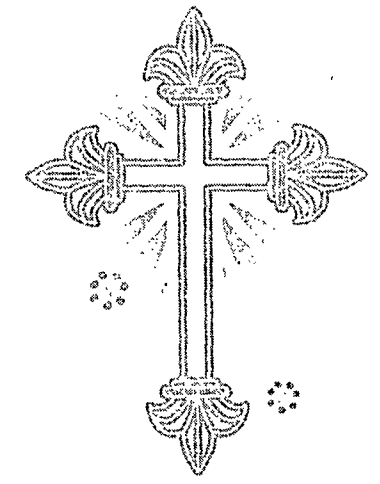
**Willow Creek Community Church  
 North Shore Campus**  
 315 Waukegan Road  
 847-441-6599  
 Sunday Services: 9 & 11 a.m.  
 Promiseland (Infants - Grade 5):  
 9 & 11 a.m.  
 Elevate (Grades 6 - 8): 11 a.m.  
 Impact (Grades 9 - 12): 6 p.m.  
 For more information visit  
 www.WillowCreekNorthShore.org

### NORWOOD PARK

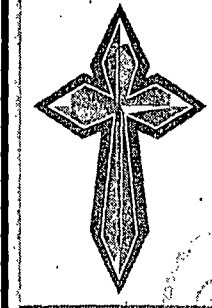
**Norwood Park Lutheran Church**  
 5917 N. Nina Ave.  
 Chicago, IL  
 773-631-2860  
 Fax: 773-631-0142  
 Sunday Service 10AM  
 Sunday School 9AM  
 (September thru May)  
 Rev. Robert C. Johnson, Pastor

### 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](mailto: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

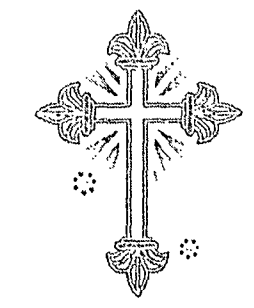
**St. Peter's United  
 Church of Christ**  
 Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue  
 847-673-8166  
 www.stpeteruccskokie.org  
 Sunday Worship 10AM  
 Sunday School 9AM (Sept. thru  
 May)  
 Rev. Richard Lanford  
 Childcare Provided  
 Air Conditioned Sanctuary

### 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

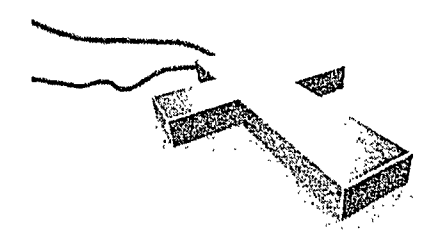
**KEHILLAT SHALOM**  
 An Egalitarian Conservative Congregation  
 Lay Led Shabbat Service, 9:45AM  
 8610 Niles Center Rd, Skokie  
 847-679-6513  
 www.kehillatshalom.org

**KOL EMETH**  
 Conservative Congregation  
 Rabbi Barry Schechter  
 5130 Touhy, Skokie  
 (1 block west of Eden's)  
 847-673-3370

**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 Emonah**  
 3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213  
 www.bhcbce.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.



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 630-978-8277  
 or  
[worship@Pioneerlocal.com](mailto:worship@Pioneerlocal.com)

**CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27**

**Mather'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 incrementally through different

intensity levels, so anyone is welcome to join. Classes are held at 11 a.m. Wednesdays, \$5.35. **Line Dancing** is offered at 11:15 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Each class costs \$3.25. 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. **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.

**Super Seniors**, a Jewish Seniors group for people older than 60, meets 3-4:30 p.m. the first and third Sundays at the North Shore University Health System Skokie Hospital, 9600 Gross Point Road, Skokie. Topics include current events, books, jokes and Israel. Call (847) 583-9328.

**Support**

**La Leche League of Des Plaines**, a breastfeeding support group, meets at 7 p.m. at Healthy Babies, Happy Families, 8267 W. Golf Road in Niles, (Four Flags Shopping Center). Upcoming meeting dates are Jan. 18 and Feb. 15. Expecting and nursing mothers are invited. Babies are always welcome. Accredited La Leche League Leaders will be on hand to answer questions and guide the discussion. Call 1-877-452-5324 or visit llii.org.

**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 Mon-

day (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.

**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 Nessel Center, 1775 Ballard Road, north of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Free parking. Call (847) 716-2252.

The local **TOPS Club** chapter meets at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 W. Howard St., Niles, on the lower level (handicap accessible). TOPS meetings are open to women, men and teens. Cost is nominal. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. Call (847) 966-4871; to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call TOPS Headquarters at 1-800-932-8677.

The **Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance-Greater Chicago** has free support groups for people with mood disorders and support groups for their families. Meetings take place 6:30-8 p.m. on the first Monday of every month

at Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge, Evanston, in Rooms G952 and 954. Call Elaine at (847) 674-6376. **An Alzheimer's Caregivers support group**, co-sponsored by Advocate Medical Group and the Alzheimer's Association, is offered monthly at the Nessel Pavilion on the campus of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Meetings are 1:30-3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the lower-level conference room of Nessel Pavilion, 1775 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Meetings are free and no registration is required. Contact Sandy Guarise, (847) 318-2501.

The **Neptune Society**, the largest independent cremation company in the nation based in Des Plaines, is bringing comforting teddy bears to Chicago area children who are hurt, frightened or alone. The Neptune Society Teddy Bear Program names a teddy bear in honor of every person whose death care is handled by Neptune on the one-year anniversary of their death. The teddy bears are then donated to organizations such as Rainbow Hospice in Park

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 32

# Holiday Worship Guide

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
Oakton St. & Laramie Avenue, Skokie  
Across from the Library

**Saturday, December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE**  
7:30 PM A traditional service of lessons, carols, Communion and Candlelight!  
**Sunday, December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Worship 10:00 AM with Holy Communion (We practice Open Communion)  
**Rev. Richard Lanford**  
(847) 673-8166 • www.stpeteruccskokie.org

**CARTER WESTMINSTER UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE, SAT., DEC. 24th  
4950 W. PRATT AVE.,  
Skokie, IL 60077

CHRISTMAS EVE Fellowship ~ Food & CONVERSATION: 4-5 P.M.  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: 5-6 P.M.  
TRADITIONAL CAROLS & CANDLELIGHT  
CELEBRATION WITH OUR CHANCEL  
CHOIR, PRAISE BAND & COPPER COINS  
CHRISTMAS DAY, SUN., DEC. 25th, 10AM  
TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST  
**Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship**  
7:30 on Saturday, December 24, 2011  
**Morton Grove Community Church Presbyterian**  
8944 Austin Avenue (Lake and Austin)  
Morton Grove, IL  
(847) 965-2982 • www.mgcccpcpresbyterian.org

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Saturday, December 24th  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES  
4:00 pm Family Candlelight Service  
Pre-service music begins at 3:50 pm  
10:30 pm Candlelight Service with Choirs & Brass.  
Pre-service music begins at 10:05 pm  
Sunday, December 25th  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
Service at 10:00 am  
3637 Golf Rd., Evanston, IL 60203  
847-673-8564  
www.trinityevanston.org  
Timothy Brown, Pastor  
Handicap accessible

OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL ...  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
5:00/7:00/10:30 p.m.  
Holy Communion celebrated at all services.  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion  
**ST. ANDREWS LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
260 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge IL  
847-823-6656  
www.standrewsparkridge.org

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CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

Ridge and local fire departments to be given to a child in need.

The Les Turner ALS Foundation Support Group meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. For directions, call (847) 675-0951. Those attending are asked to notify Claire Owen, director of patient services, (847) 679-3311 or cowen@lesturnerals.org.

Grandparents As Caregivers, a program sponsored by Children's Home+Aid, will offer grandparents an opportunity to meet other grandparents, share concerns and talk about interesting topics that will help them care for their grandchildren. Meetings are 10-11:30 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Free child care is available with 24-hour notice. Meetings are monthly. Call Linda, (847) 640-9590.

The Stroke Club of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital meets 3-4:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Outpatient Therapy Center, Church and Potter avenues, Des Plaines. Call Megan Poterfield, (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. 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.

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 Poterfield, (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. 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

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.

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Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide

Check rates daily at http://suburbanchicagonewspapers.interest.com

Mortgage rates table with columns for Program, Rate, Points, Fees, % Down, APR. Includes sections for Allstar Home Mortgage, Liberty Bank for Savings, United Home Loans, Evergreen Bank Group, Park Ridge Community Bank, AimLoan.com, and Kenilworth Financial, Inc. Also includes mortgage trends graphs and a 'Mortgage Rates & Information Available 24/7 on the Internet' section.

LENDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FEATURE CALL BANKRATE.COM SALES DEPARTMENT @ 800-509-4636. Legend: The rate and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 12/15/11. © 2011 Bankrate, Inc. http://www.interest.com. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The fees set forth for each advertisement above may be charged to open the loan.

Trevians win Niles West's A Star is Born

BY BILL PEMSTEIN Contributor

It's not that New Trier has never won the A Star is Born gymnastics meet before. It's more like the Trevians never even come close to winning it.

So it was certainly a surprise for New Trier coach Jennifer Pistorius that her team not only placed on Thursday night at Niles West, but actually went home in first place.

Led by youngsters Rachel Hoying and Katie Rake, the Trevians posted a 60.850 to win the annual meet. Each team entered two gymnasts in each event, and each competitor was limited to one apparatus.

"We have a lot of depth," Pistorius said. "It's nice to get a trophy."

Maine South placed second in this 12-team meet. The Hawks finished with a 60.150. Home-standing Niles West placed third (58.300).

This fun meet allows performers who average under 7.8 to have a chance to shine. That means plenty of underclassmen saw action in this event. "It kind of levels the playing field," said Niles West assistant coach Adrian Batista. "It gives them a chance at getting an award."

Following behind the top three were Deerfield (4th, 57.425), Mundelein (5th, 56.250), Niles North (6th, 55.300), Maine West (7th, 52.700), Evanston (8th, 52.100), Lake Forest (9th, 50.100), Highland Park (10th, 50.050), Maine East (11th, 47.550) and Fenton (12th, 46.100).

Standing out in this meet were both Hoying and Rake from New Trier who went 1-2 on floor exercise. Hoying captured first place (8.350), while Rake followed with a 8.250 and Lake Forest's Laura Blake was third (7.750).

On uneven bars, Highland Park's Emily Ablin took first (7.950). She was followed by Maine East's Kathy Kolodziejki (2nd, 7.750), and Niles West's Kelly Sanks (3rd, 7.650) and Susan McNichols (4th, 7.500). McNichols also placed third on the balance beam (7.250).

"We are happy with our girls," Batista said. "We had some juniors competing."

Pistorius was naturally pleased with the win but still watched her team hit a few bumps.

"It was a great meet," she said. "But we had a bunch of falls on beam."

Niles West

What a big bag of ice Niles West senior Jessica Sutfin was wearing. It certainly didn't look like she was ready for any athletic events.

The official diagnosis was hyper-extended elbow. But here she was at the annual A Star is Born gymnastics meet.



Niles West's Nicholle Fourkas competes on the balance beam at A Star is Born invitational. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

"I was bummed," Sutfin said. "I wasn't able to do bars."

So instead, she worked vault and placed third in the event (8.45).

"It's a great opportunity for people to show their stuff," she said. "Not everybody has a chance to do that."

Susan McNichols stood out with a fifth-place finish on floor exercise (7.650) and fourth place on uneven bars (7.500).

Niles North

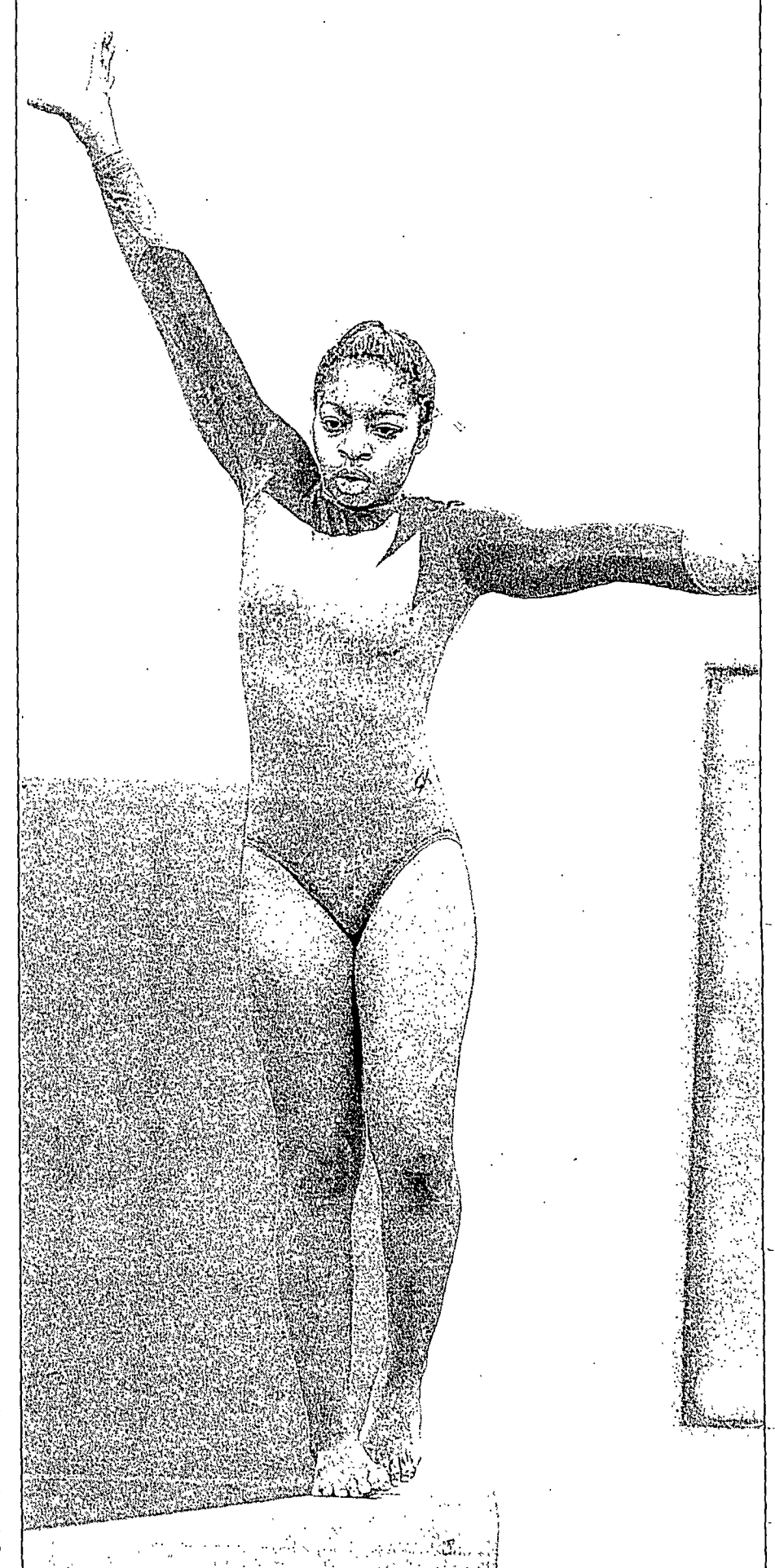
Niles North gymnastics coach Charlie Friedman used the A Star is Born meet to check out some of his promising new varsity performers.

Both Chinonso Ukeje and Katie Karlin competed on the JV level a year ago. But graduation took away six members of last year's team, so Friedman isn't shy about using these girls this season.

Ukeje was seventh on vault, while co-captain Karlin took seventh on floor.

"Both girls are hard workers," Friedman said. "And they are constantly pushing themselves to perform better at practices and competitions."

Also helping out was Elana Rusnak (6th on uneven bars).



Niles North's Chinonso Ukeje performs on the beam at Niles West. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



# Wolves searching for scorer who steps up

BY DAN SHALIN  
Contributor

The message Niles West coach Bob Williams sent to his team of late has been about the importance of perseverance — during games and throughout the season.

The inexperienced Wolves (2-7, 0-3) stayed in their last four contests, against Evanston, Notre Dame, Maine South and New Trier, but lost all four.

Williams related a story showing the importance of staying positive and moving forward.

"I told the kids about that woman who ran the Iron Man Triathlon and collapsed near the end. She couldn't finish," the coach said. "But when they went to help her, she wouldn't take the help. She crawled to the finish line because she was so focused on finishing."

"I said 'That's us. We're crawling right now, but we're going to finish. We're going to get this done.' When we start finishing games, good things will start to happen."

Williams said the Wolves have been undone by stretches of poor execution, especially offensively.

In Friday night's 48-42 loss to visiting Evanston (8-2, 2-1), the Wolves led 13-11 after one quarter. But Niles West then shot just 1-for-6 from the field in the second quarter and trailed 23-15 at the break.

A strong third quarter saw the Wolves pull to within 37-32. However, Niles West went without a field goal in the fourth.

Some of the Wolves' struggles were simply a consequence of missing shots — NW shot just 31.6 percent in the contest — which Williams knows is part of the game. The coach said he's more concerned about his team not running the offense correctly.

"Missing shots is going to happen, though the timing of those (cold streaks) has not been good," the coach said.

"But I'm not worried about that as much. What I'm worried about are the decisions we made to put ourselves in those bad positions."

"We've been in a lot of games, but that shot or that play you need at the right time is not happening. You go back and look at the video, and it's because of the decisions we're making."

Niles West's lack of varsity experience no doubt has been a factor. Injuries also have come into play. Senior guard Nathan Sagett and junior forward Alex Darville both recently returned to action after missing early games. The team's top returnee, senior forward Alek Biser, is still out because of leg problems. Biser also is the team's tallest player at 6-foot-5.

However, Williams said Evanston's 44-24 edge on the boards was not due simply to the fact the Wildcats featured players who were 6-9 and 6-6.

"The whole deal is that (Evanston) got a lot of rebounds that weren't high in the air; they were loose-ball rebounds. We can get those," the coach said. "When you don't, that's another opportunity that goes by."

Niles West continues to

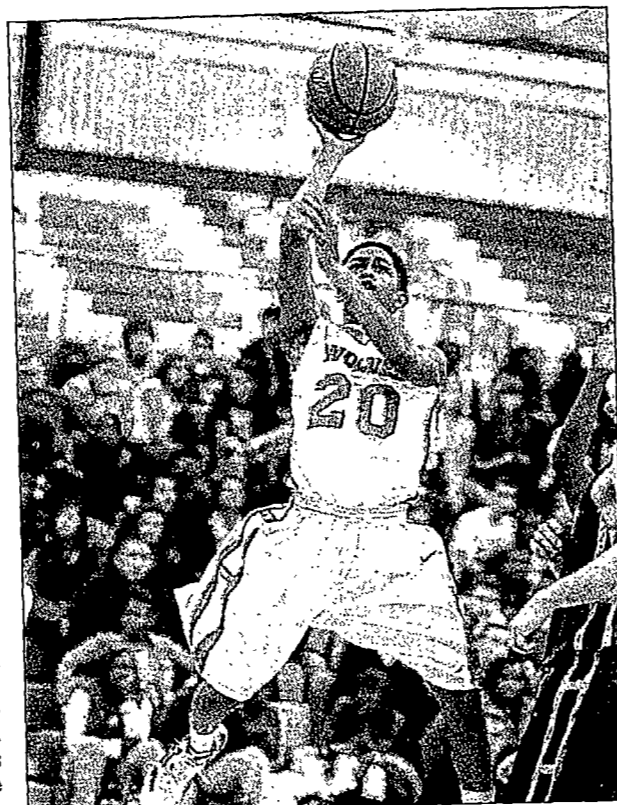
feature balanced scoring. Against Evanston, senior Cory Dolins, junior David McCoy and junior Mohammad Qureshi had eight points apiece.

However, Williams said he would like to see some of his players create more scoring opportunities.

"Some people have to put themselves in position more often to get good shots," Williams said. "At times, we're doing that, and it works well for us. Then, we stop the movement and stop putting in the work to get ourselves in those positions."

Junior Joe Younan has worked himself in position for three-pointers. In Niles West's 60-49 loss to Notre Dame on Dec. 13, Younan connected three times from behind the arc and finished with a team-high 18 points.

Niles West opens the Pontiac Holiday Classic on Dec. 28 against Curie. The Wolves face West Aurora or Danville the following day. Teams are guaranteed just two games in the prestigious tournament.



Niles West's Ahmad Gibson puts up a floating one-hander during the Wolves' loss to Evanston. | TRACY ALLEN-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

# Demons beginning to show spark of life

BY DAN SHALIN  
Contributor

There was a time in the first half of Maine East's 55-29 loss to Geneva on Saturday that Blue Demons head coach Dave Genis actually was feeling great about his team.

Maine East had opened a 15-6 lead by playing patient offense and solid defense. But the advantage — and Genis' good feelings — proved to be short-lived.

"During the first part ... I thought 'Oh boy, we look really good, we look like a legitimate, legitimate team,'" Genis said. "We were playing good basketball, hitting shots, rebounding, defending, everything that gets you a 15-6 lead."

Then, the wheels wobble and then they fall off. We put in a sub, and he takes a quick shot. Then we have another bad shot, and another. It's like falling dominoes."

By halftime, the Demons trailed 28-17. The second half was more of the same for the visitors. The Vikings hounded Maine East's top scorer, Aaron Shannon, and, rather than working the ball inside, the Demons settled for jumpshots.

Junior Evan Nazzal led Maine East with 11 points and sophomore guard Keith Brown-Stillwell had eight.

The contest was a disappointing one for the Blue Demons, who had shown improvement during their previous two games, including a victory over Streamwood Dec. 13 at home.

On Friday, Maine East (0-3, 2-7) held a second-half lead on Deerfield before going cold from the field and losing 57-46.

After trailing 25-24 at



Maine East's Aaron Shannon (5) rips a rebound away from Deerfield's Alexander Glantz during CSL North action in Park Ridge. | KEVIN TANAKA-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

halftime, Maine East hit a three-pointer shortly after the break to take a two-point advantage. Deerfield called a timeout and switched from zone to man-to-man defense. Maine East had trouble adjusting and went 5-16 without a basket and fell behind by 12 points.

"We had attacked their zone extremely well," Genis said. "When they went to man-to-man, we panicked. We stopped getting the shots we wanted and we were not moving the ball."

Shannon and Nazzal each contributed 15 points.

In its home opener, Maine East outscored Streamwood 10-7 in the overtime to post a 56-53 win. Shannon scored five of his team-high 18 points in the extra session, while senior teammate Adnan Kamencic contributed four in OT.

While Maine East took small leads in regulation and overtime, the Blue Demons too often pulled the trigger

on quick shots instead of running time off the clock.

"Part of it," Genis said, "is that these are young guys who haven't found themselves in these situations before where they have to floor manage. We had to understand what to do and how to do it. But it was a nice win. We got ourselves a lead and held on."

Streamwood had a chance to win in regulation, but missed a potential go-ahead free throw with 5.4 seconds left that would have snapped a 46-46 deadlock.

Genis called Shannon's 18-point performance "a monster game." Maine East freshman Ezeke Omeka collected 12 points and Nazzal contributed eight.

On Dec. 27, Maine East will face Guerri on the opening day of the Luther North Holiday Tournament. The Blue Demons defeated Guerri earlier this season.

Luther North and Taft also compete in the four-day, eight-team invite.

## Bandits blast St. Scholastica, Regina

Resurrection knocked over St. Scholastica Dec. 14 at Deerfield Brunswick Zone, 2,385 to 1,483.

It was the Sami Comiskey show, as she averaged 192 in leading the team to another GCAC win. Sophomore Joelle Denver (Park Ridge) and Lauren King were brought

up from the JV to fill in for team members who were ill. Comiskey rolled the high game of 220 and high series of 576, while teammate Joelle Denver (Park Ridge) finished with a 476 to lift the Bandits' record to 8-1.

Against Regina on Dec. 13, the Bandits rolled 2,711 to

2,034. Anastasia Marchiori (Morton Grove) averaged 204 for the day behind a high game of 211. Alicia Gamboa had a high game of 193 and Jennifer Voss (Niles) a 191 to go along with strong performances from Luisa Velez (Morton Grove) and Comiskey.

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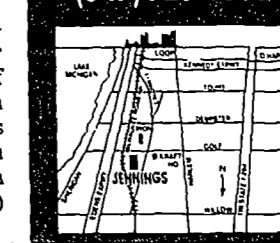
It's bowl season in college football, which can only mean one thing — insanity. In 2010, how many of the 120 NCAA Division 1-A schools do you suppose went to a bowl? The answer, incredibly, is 70. That's right, there were 35 Bowl games at the end of the 2010 season. A team has to win six games to be bowl-eligible. So explain this — the Big East representative in the BCS was Connecticut, which lost to Temple, which went 8-4 but did not get invited to a bowl. No wonder Temple coach Al Golden left for Miami.

Back in the early days of the National Football League, it was common for offenses to line up in what was called a "full house" backfield — one quarterback and three running backs. Can you name the only "full house" backfield with all four players enshrined in the NFL Hall of Fame? The San Francisco 49ers in the mid-1950s never won a league title, but they boasted the "Million Dollar Backfield" of quarterback Y.A. Tittle and running backs Hugh McElhenry, Joe Perry and John Henry Johnson — all in the Hall.

With Sidney Crosby attempting to come back from a concussion after almost a year away from the Pittsburgh Penguins, it's worth remembering that Sid the Kid turned a mere 24 in his seventh NHL season of 2011-2012. He was just 17 years, 11 months old when he was drafted number one in 2005. But surprisingly, four NHL number one picks were even younger — Joe Thornton (Boston, 1997, 17 years 11 months but younger than Sid), Barry Gibbs (Boston, 1966, 17 years 7 months), Pierre Turgeon (Buffalo, 1987, 17 years 1 month), and the youngest ever, Gary Monahan (Montreal, 1963, 16 years 7 months).

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# Henley's return carries Vikes to CSL North win

PATRICK KELLY  
Contributor

Mychal Henley's return from injury could not have come at a better time.

After a displaced pinky and broken hand kept the senior forward out of every game except for a limited stint against Niles West on Dec. 3, Henley was just the spark the Vikings needed Friday after suffering back-to-back conference losses to Glenbrook North and Highland Park.

Henley (6 rebounds, 2 steals) took scoring honors with 15 points as the Vikings claimed a 51-43 victory over Maine West in Des Plaines.

He came off the bench to score seven points in the first half, when Niles North opened up a 19-12 lead at the intermission. His only three-pointer at the start of the fourth quarter allowed the Vikings to take a 38-24 lead less than a minute into the period.

"I went out there; I did not worry about the pain," Henley said. "I work hard in practice on shooting. It felt like (tonight) it was getting back together and the shots were falling. I wish I could have hit more free throws, though."

"I was good with (coming

## STANDINGS

CSL South		
New Trier	3-0	9-1
Evanston	2-1	8-2
Maine South	2-1	6-2
Waukegan	2-1	3-5
Glenbrook S.	0-3	2-7
Niles West	0-3	2-6

CSL North		
Glenbrook N.	2-1	8-1
Highland Park	2-1	5-4
Maine West	2-1	3-4
Deerfield	2-1	4-4
Niles North	1-2	5-4
Maine East	0-3	2-7

(Records through Sunday)

off the bench). I am looking to start again, but today I wanted to fire my team up. The Maine West crowd fired me up a little bit. It helped our whole team to keep going to get this conference win."

Despite the Vikings' big lead midway through the final quarter, Maine West did not make it easy for the visitors to claim their first Central Suburban North win.

Tafari Beckford (8 points) drilled two three-pointers in the fourth quarter, the second giving Niles North a 43-26 lead with just over

five minutes remaining. The Warriors stormed back to slice their deficit to 46-43 with 45 seconds left on a basket by Conor Hart.

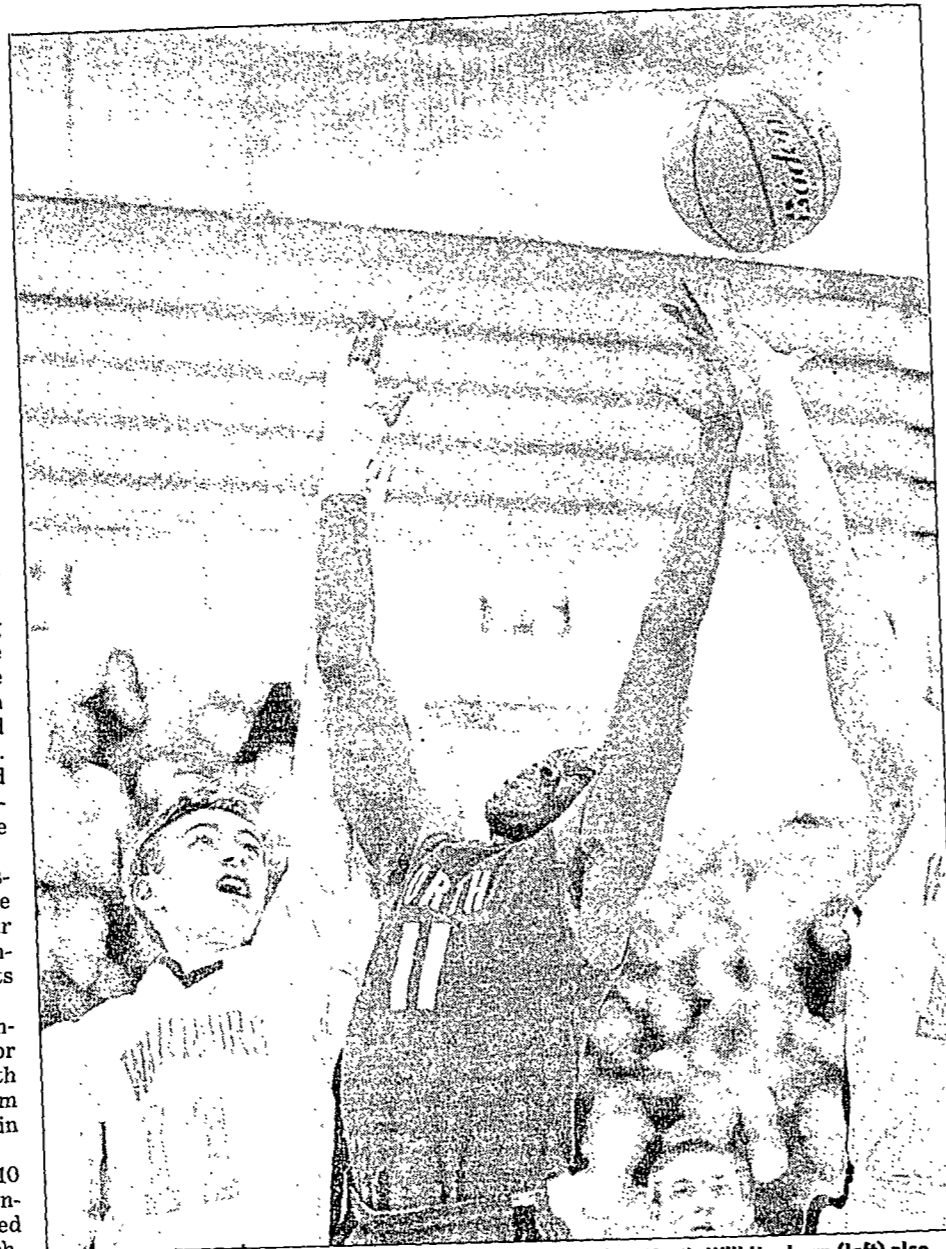
It took 3-of-4 free-throw shooting by Malachi Nix and Badral Enkh-Ulzii (6 boards) in the final 18 seconds, along with a goaltending call against Maine West at the buzzer, to finally give the Vikings some breathing room.

"When you are young and inexperienced, you are going to go through some growing pains in that area (closing teams out)," said Vikings coach Glenn Olson. "We stayed together. As bad as things got there, we maintained the lead and were able to close it out."

Nix, a junior guard, registered 10 of his 14 points in the second half, along with four assists. Jaylen White contributed all six of his points after the intermission.

Hart was difficult to contain all night, as the senior guard led Maine West with 25 points, on 10-of-15 from the field, including 4-for-4 in the closing minutes.

Despite missing 10 straight shots in the opening stanza, Niles North led the entire contest, stretching a 5-0 advantage into a 7-4 cushion at the end of quarter.



Niles North's Mychal Henley leaps for a rebound while Maine West's Will Hepburn (left) also reaches for the ball. | JERRY DALIEGE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

# Loyd delivers in clutch, after exploding for 50

BY MIKE CAMERON  
Contributor

Niles West has been a nonstop highlight reel during Jewell Loyd's four-year career, but last week was one for the ages.

The 5-foot-10 superstar thrilled her home crowd by scoring a career-high 50 points in her team's 67-47 victory over Maine West on Dec. 13.

The Wolves (12-1, 3-1) then visited Evanston (6-6, 1-3) on Friday and escaped with a 61-60 conference win on two free throws by Loyd (35 points). The three officials needed to huddle for a tension-inducing eternity before deciding she was fouled with a fraction of a second left on the clock.

The quick, improving Wildkits clawed back from a 42-34 deficit late in the third quarter to take a 60-59 lead with four seconds remaining. Loyd received an inbound pass from the end line, dribbled across midcourt and split two defenders, drawing contact and a whistle. Beardsley Gymnasium went from ear-splitting bedlam to pin-drop silence as the refs debated the game-turning verdict.

"I was not sure we would get the call," said West head coach Tony Konezewicz after exhaling. "I said even before the season to look out for Evanston. That's a dangerous team. Let's remember that Jewell made those last two free throws, which are a lot harder under that kind of pressure."

First-year Evanston head coach Elliot Whitefield was absolutely certain time had expired.

"It's tough when you have kids fighting for two hours and then you have adults taking away the outcome," he said.

The Wolves couldn't stop drives to the hoop by south-

paw guard Sierra Clayborn, who led the Kits' charge with 12 of her career-high 23 points in the final nine minutes. Alecia Cooley (15 rebounds), a 6-foot-2 junior center, and Sinclair Cunningham each scored 10 points. A five-point flurry by 6-1 senior Cunningham (16 ppg), a transfer from Whitney Young, helped the hosts to a 10-2 lead.

Loyd (32.8 ppg) amassed all 35 of her points in the last 23 minutes, bringing her team back to a 25-25 tie at half-time and a 44-39 lead through three quarters before the fingernail-chewing ending.

"I knew I could get up court in four seconds," said Loyd, also aware she would have had to take a 40-foot shot if she had not drawn the foul. "It's always a big game against Evanston. It's their Super Bowl. But that was terrible defense by us."

Dasha Shumate, Jackie Cardenas (9 rebounds) and Alex Galanopoulos each scored seven points. Liz Troyk (5 points) missed her first seven three-point attempts but hit a big one in the third period. Katherine DeLara, Jasmine Townsend, Lexi Leftakes, Janet Iqal and Michelle Karp played well off the bench. Junior co-captain Molly Kleppin (upper body injury) missed a fourth straight game and likely will be out for the next five.

Evanston, without Cunningham, was blistered by Niles West 56-36 in the Deerfield tourney Nov. 19. Gifted sophomore Seara Clayborn (knee), Sierra's twin, is on course to make her season debut Jan. 6, further bolstering the Wildkits.

Tied atop the ridiculously top-heavy CSL South are No. 13 Niles West, No. 10 Maine South (13-1, 3-1) and No. 20 Glenbrook South (10-2, 3-1), a game ahead of No. 14 New Trier (9-2, 2-2). The defend-

## STANDINGS

CSL South		
Glenbrook S.	3-1	10-2
Maine South	3-1	13-1
Niles West	3-1	12-1
New Trier	1-2	8-2
Evanston	1-4	6-6
Waukegan	0-4	1-11

CSL North		
Maine West	3-1	3-9
Glenbrook N.	3-1	8-4
Niles North	3-1	8-6
Deerfield	2-2	4-9
Highland Park	1-3	7-7
Maine East	0-4	1-9

(Records through Sunday)

ing champion Hawks notched the combatants' first big road win, a 45-39 decision over the Titans. The four teams are 33-1 combined in nonconference games.

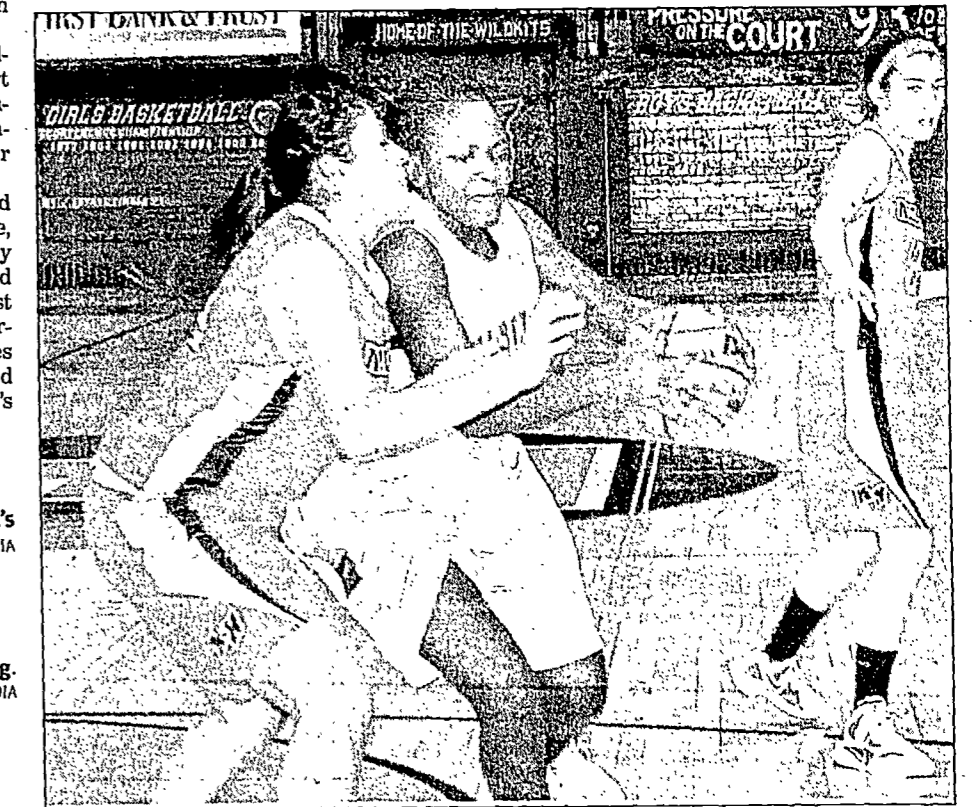
The Wolves led Maine West 57-40 after three quarters and maintained leads in the 16-point range into the final period. Loyd, whose previous career high was 46 last season, shot 19-for-34 from the field, including 10-for-19 on three-pointers. She started with a 22-point spree in the first quarter, shot 5-for-5 in the third period and scored all 10 of her team's points in the final stanza.

After juking three defenders, Loyd canned a short jumper to reach the half-century mark with 1:38 remaining, and Konezewicz pulled her with 1:09 left.

In the talent-drenched Suburban Holiday Showcase, Niles West was set to play Stevenson on Wednesday, and will host No. 18 Proviso East at 7 p.m. today and play Barrington on Friday. The Wolves could meet No. 4 Trinity and No. 19 Loyola in next week's semifinals and finals.



TOP RIGHT: Evanston's Sinclair Cunningham goes to the basket between Niles West's Liz Troyk (12) and Jackie Cardenas. | STACIA TIMONIERE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



RIGHT: Niles West's Jackie Cardenas guards Evanston's Brittany King. | STACIA TIMONIERE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

# Freshmen answer the call to Niles North varsity

BY MATT HARNESS  
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

Short on wrestlers to fill out the lineup for last weekend's tournament at Glenbrook South, Niles North coach Chris Albandia turned to two freshmen.

Hermez Abraham and Maykel Potros both made their varsity debuts at the Rus Erb, and Albandia was pleased with how each performed.

"They showed a lot of promise," the coach said.

Potros even won a match, beating Marian's Greg Litton in the first round at 120 pounds with a pin in the third period. He lost his next two matches.

Abraham fell in the first round at 106 by fall and also was pinned in the wrestle-backs.

Both Abraham and Potros never wrestled before this season and have a little more than a month of experience.

"They look like naturals, though," Albandia said. "But they are very, very raw."

"They just need more time on the mat the training at a high level. They already have shown they have the athletic ability, the heart and other intangibles you can't coach. They just need to learn the nuances of wrestling."

Albandia plans to keep both of the freshmen up on varsity for the rest of the season.

"Even if that means they will take some lumps," the coach said. "I think they will fall in love with the sport. It's not just about winning right now."

Camerin Pascoe was the top Viking at the Glenbrook South. The junior went 3-2 and took sixth at 220 pounds to improve to 11-6 on the season.

Niles North finished last in the 19-team field, which included four CSL clubs, with 21 points. Grant won the team title with 214 points.

"He wrestled OK," Albandia said. "He wrestled in spurts, and he showed spurts of greatness. But he hasn't wrestled a complete six minutes yet. When he does, he

will be dangerous." Niles North's last match of 2011 will be Thursday against Maine East. The Vikings, 0-3 in the CSL North, then are off until Jan. 7, when they host a quad.

"We are going to have some longer practices over the break," Albandia said. "We will scale back some of the hard-nosed wrestling and do a lot of technique work. We also will condition by running sprints and lifting weights."

Niles North's Camerin Pascoe reached the fifth-place match again at the Rus Erb Invite after competing for fifth place at 220 at the Mudge Memorial.

| BRIAN O'MAHONEY-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



# LocalSports

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Managing Editor: Rich Martin  
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## THIS WEEK

### NOTRE DAME

**Today**  
Wrestling at Harlem Dvorak Tourn., 9:30 a.m.  
**Friday**  
Wrestling at Harlem Dvorak Tourn., 9 a.m.  
**Monday**  
Hockey vs. Sacred Heart-Griffin at United Center, 4:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Basketball at Wheeling Hardwood Classic  
Bowling vs. Mather Tourn. at Waveland Bowl, 9 a.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Basketball at Wheeling Hardwood Classic

### MAINE EAST

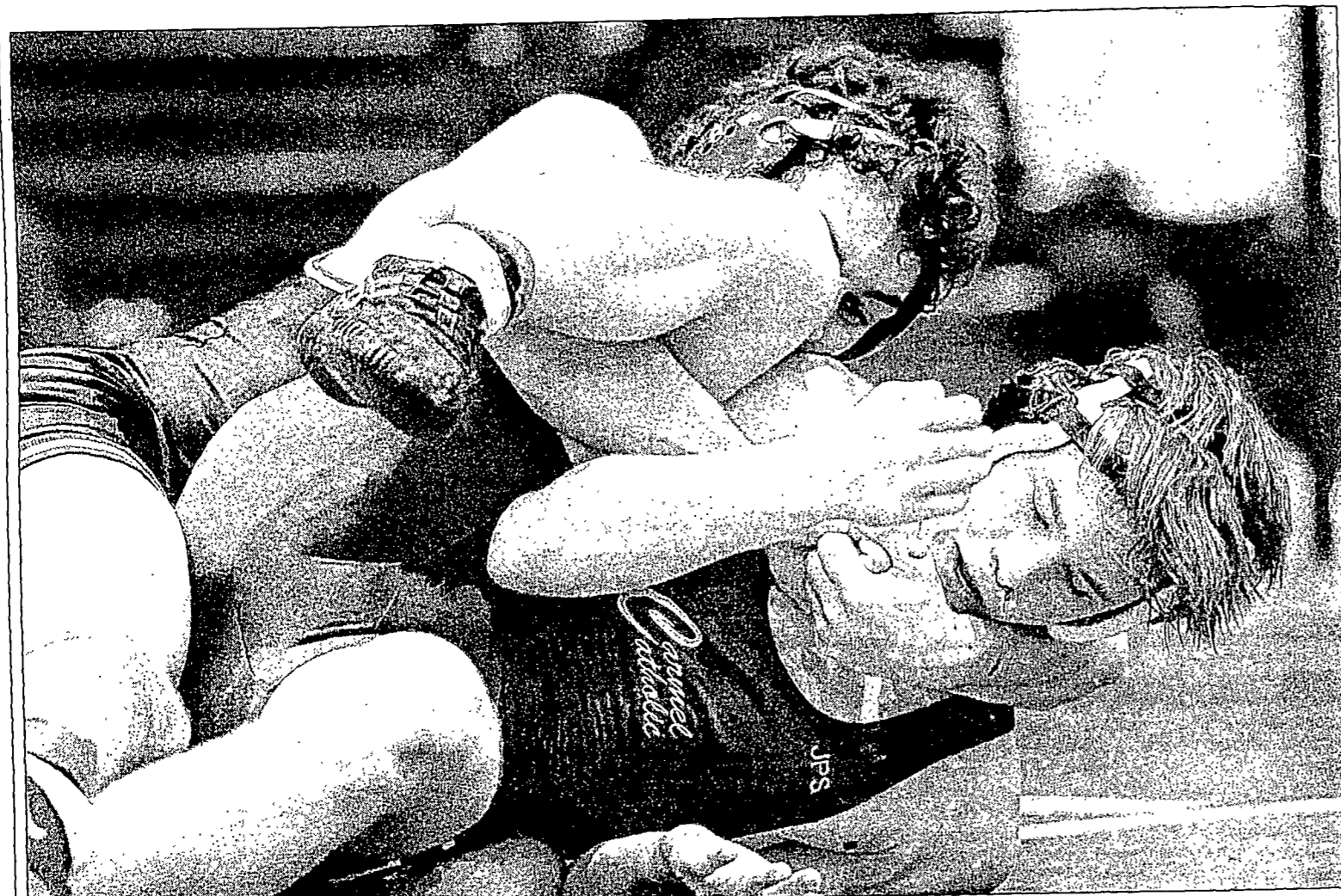
**Today**  
Girls gymnastics hosts Beach Meet, 6:30 p.m.  
Wrestling hosts Niles North, 7 p.m.  
Girls basketball at St. Viator Tourn., 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday**  
Girls basketball at St. Viator Tourn., 7:30 p.m.  
**Monday**  
Girls basketball at St. Viator Tourn.

### NILES NORTH

**Today**  
Girls basketball at Warren Holiday Tourn.  
Wrestling at Maine East, 7 p.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Boys basketball at Wheeling Hardwood Classic  
Girls gymnastics at Maine West Invite, 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Boys basketball at Wheeling Hardwood Classic

### NILES WEST

**Today**  
Girls basketball hosts Proviso East at Suburban Holiday Classic, 7 p.m.  
**Friday**  
Girls basketball vs. Barrington at Suburban Holiday Showcase at Proviso East, 2:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Girls basketball at Suburban Holiday Showcase at Stevenson  
**Wednesday**  
Boys basketball at Pontiac Tourn.  
Girls basketball at Suburban Holiday Showcase at Loyola



Notre Dame's Joe Cortese gets close to pinning Carmel's Jimmy Dandino during a 152-pound bout at the Glenbrook South Rus Erb Tournament. | ROB DICKER-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

## Dons jump from Erb into Dvorak Invite

BY MIKE CAMERON  
Contributor

A 44-pound difference in weight was all that separated Kevin Stahmer and Tim Donnelly in Glenbrook South's Rus Erb Tournament Friday and Saturday. The Notre Dame seniors claimed championships in dominating, almost identical fashion. Both Dons improved to 16-2 with four victories, including 7-4 decisions over Cary-Grove opponents in their second bouts sandwiched by easy first- and third-round wins. Stahmer secured the 182-pound title by solving Loyola's Michael Paloian 5-2. Donnelly (138) thrashed Grant's Devin Monroy 16-0 for a tech fall. Notre Dame, still battling injuries and trying to get down to optimal weights, took

fourth place in the 19-team tourney with 150 points behind Grant (214), Lane Tech (180) and Sycamore (170.5). The Dons entered with a No. 2 ranking in Class 2A by Illinois Matmen to Sycamore's No. 6. Grant was No. 18 in 3A to Lane's No. 13. "Things did not go as well as I would have liked, but we are getting closer to having our regular lineup," said Notre Dame head coach Augie Genovesi, whose team placed second in last year's Erb. "We had two more wrestlers go down to their descending weights and will have four more in the near future." Junior Joe Cortese (10-3) dropped from 160 — where he was ranked No. 2 in 2A — to 152 and rolled to the finals with two falls and a major decision. Sycamore junior Austin Cul-

ton (14-1), ranked No. 2 at 152 in 2A, edged Cortese 3-2. Also taking second place for the Dons was senior Ryan Walsh (14-3) in the 220 bracket. Walsh was pinned by Grant's Quinton Quarles (12-2) but not before advancing with a 7-2 win and a fall. Senior Colton Kelly (17-2) finally fell from the unbeaten ranks with a 3-2 showing good for fifth place. After pinning his first two foes, Kelly lost a pair of close matches 3-0 and 3-2, but came back with a vengeance, a 14-0 mauling in the fifth-place match. Seven Dons placed, including freshman Jimmy Gallardo and junior Roark Whittington, who each finished fourth. At 106, Gallardo (14-5) fought hard in a 4-2, second-round defeat to Metea Valley's Conrad Zaucha and then went 2-1. Whittington stepped up with a first-round pin and a pair of

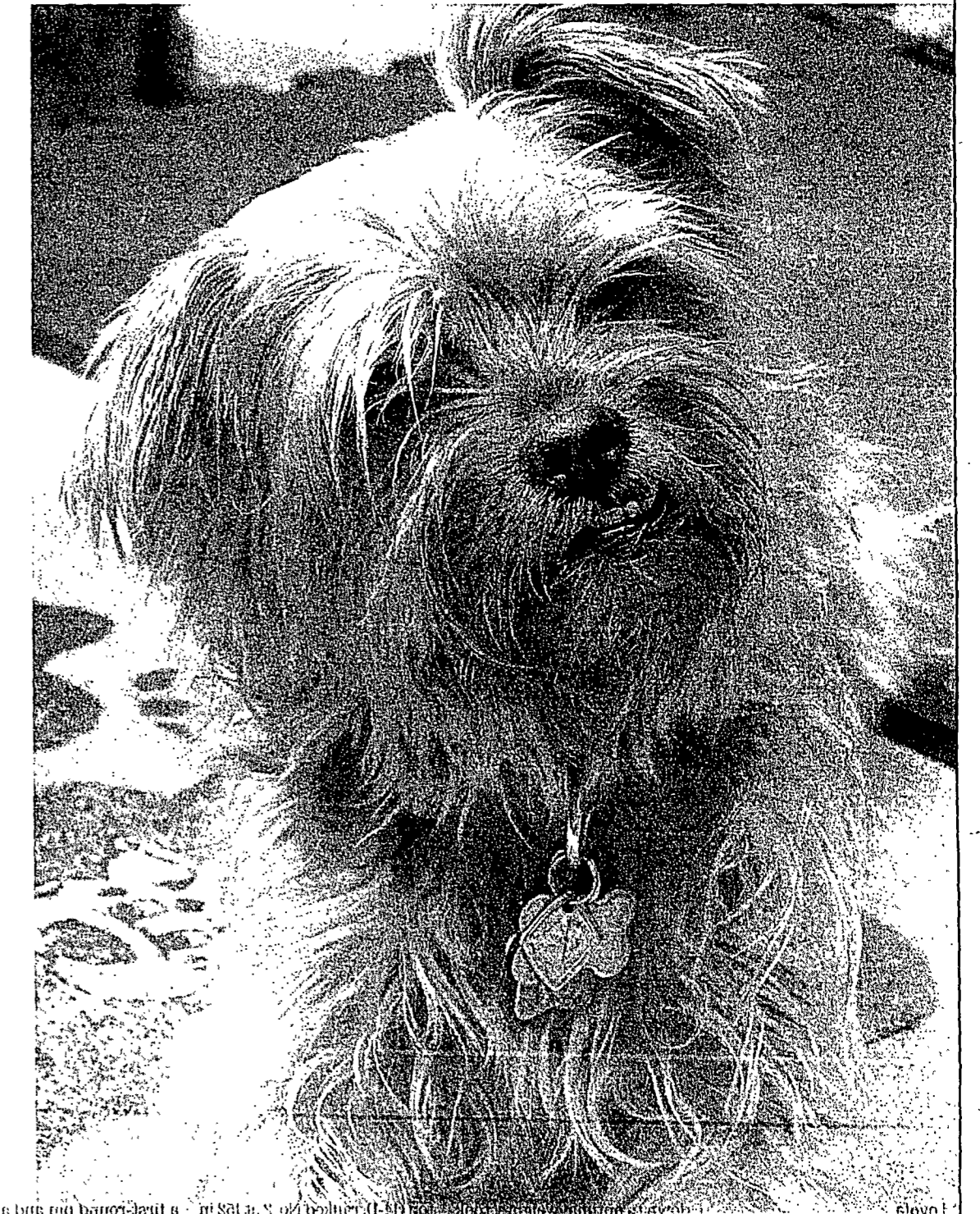
3-1 wins against two defeats at 145. Senior Scott Smith wound up 1-2 in a tough 120-pound field. Freshman Niko Pontakalis won one of three matches at 170 while cutting enough weight to start competing at 160. Gino Orlandi (285), Anthony McDermott (126), Jack Gavin (113) and Robert Hill (160) each went 0-2. Genovesi held out a bevy of injured talent in Brendan Moore, Jimmy Biancofiore, Sean Heneghan, Conner Gavin and Rocco Faggiano, who is close to making his season debut. The Dons coach is gradually getting his troops ready for a Jan. 12 visit to St. Patrick with Marist on the three-team ESCC card. Marist edged out Notre Dame for last year's conference crown.

Stahmer was ranked No. 2 in 2A before winning the Erb title. Donnelly figures to rise from No. 7 in his class. Smith was No. 10, while Gallardo had cracked the top 14 at 106. After a one-year absence, Notre Dame returns to the 24th annual Dvorak Memorial Invitational at Harlem today and Friday. The premier in-season tournament will feature 20 of the state's ranked teams — including No. 1 Montini from 2A and six of the top seven in 3A. Four out-of-state powerhouses fill out the 30-team field. The 182 bracket is particularly filthy with four of the state's five best: Wilbrook's Steven Congenie, Oak Park-River Forest's Sam Brooks, Nequa Valley's Connor Swier and Stahmer.

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